Archaeological Excavation
Digging Drumanagh, Season V
Preliminary Report

Drumanagh Promontory Fort
Loughshinny, Co. Dublin

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

By
Christine Baker
Heritage Officer
Fingal County Council

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council

Abstract

This report describes the preliminary results of Season V 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 14 - 28 May 2025.

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 2025 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 2025 excavation at Drumanagh Promontory Fort was to examine the effect of the topography and subsequent land use impact on the sub-surface 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 V of the *Digging Drumanagh-Fingal Community Excavation Project*. Excavation of a single trench took place over 13 days between 14 - 28 May 2025.

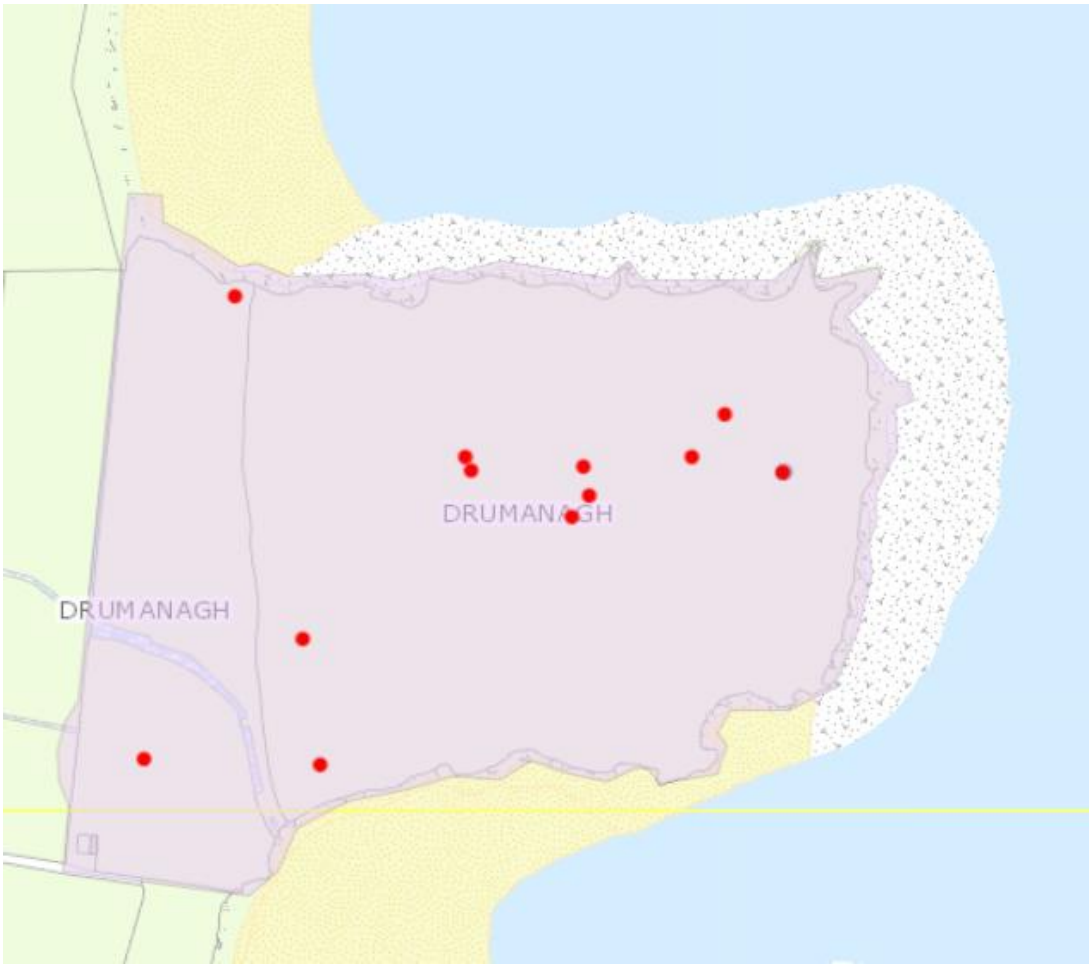
Plate 1: Trench 6 captured on 2025 Google Maps.

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.

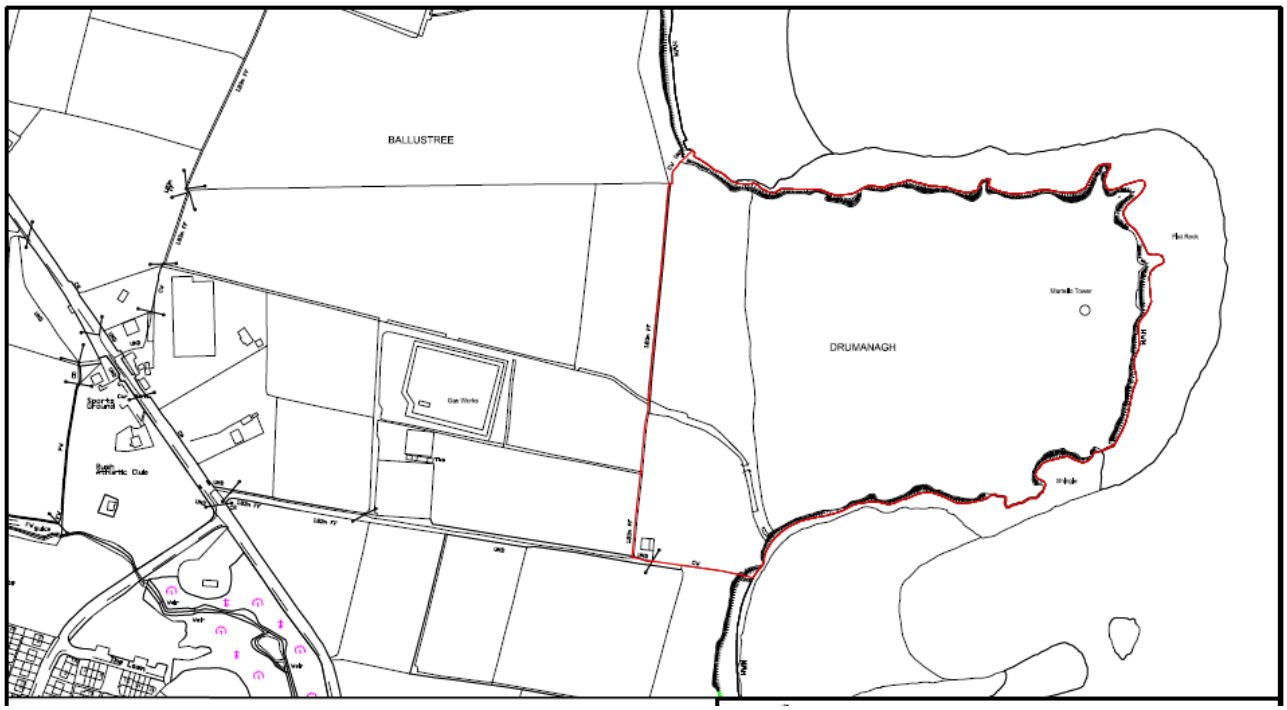


Fig. 1 Site Location Map (at scale 1:5000)

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).

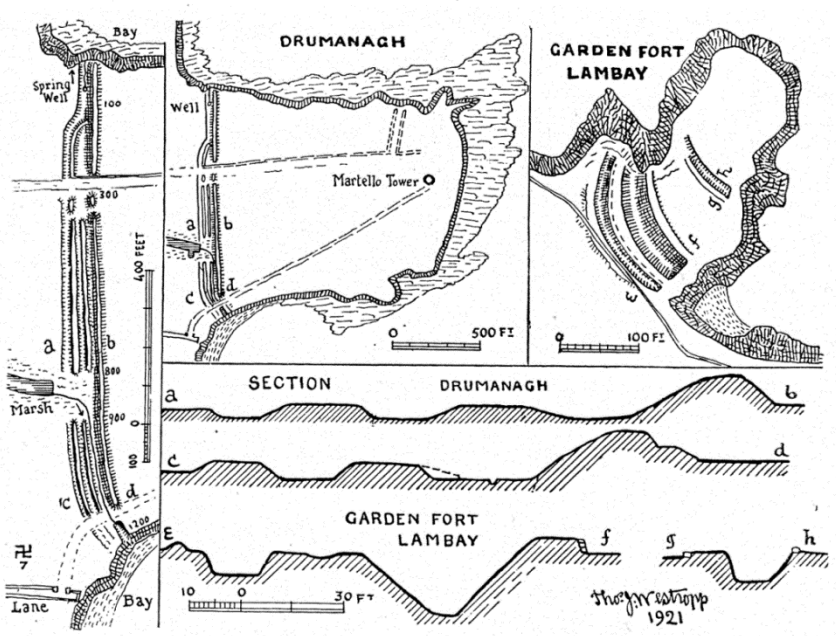


Fig.2 : Drumanagh and Lambay promontory forts (Westropp, 1921)

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 18th century Drumanagh was noted by naturalist John Rutty '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 11th 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 22nd 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.

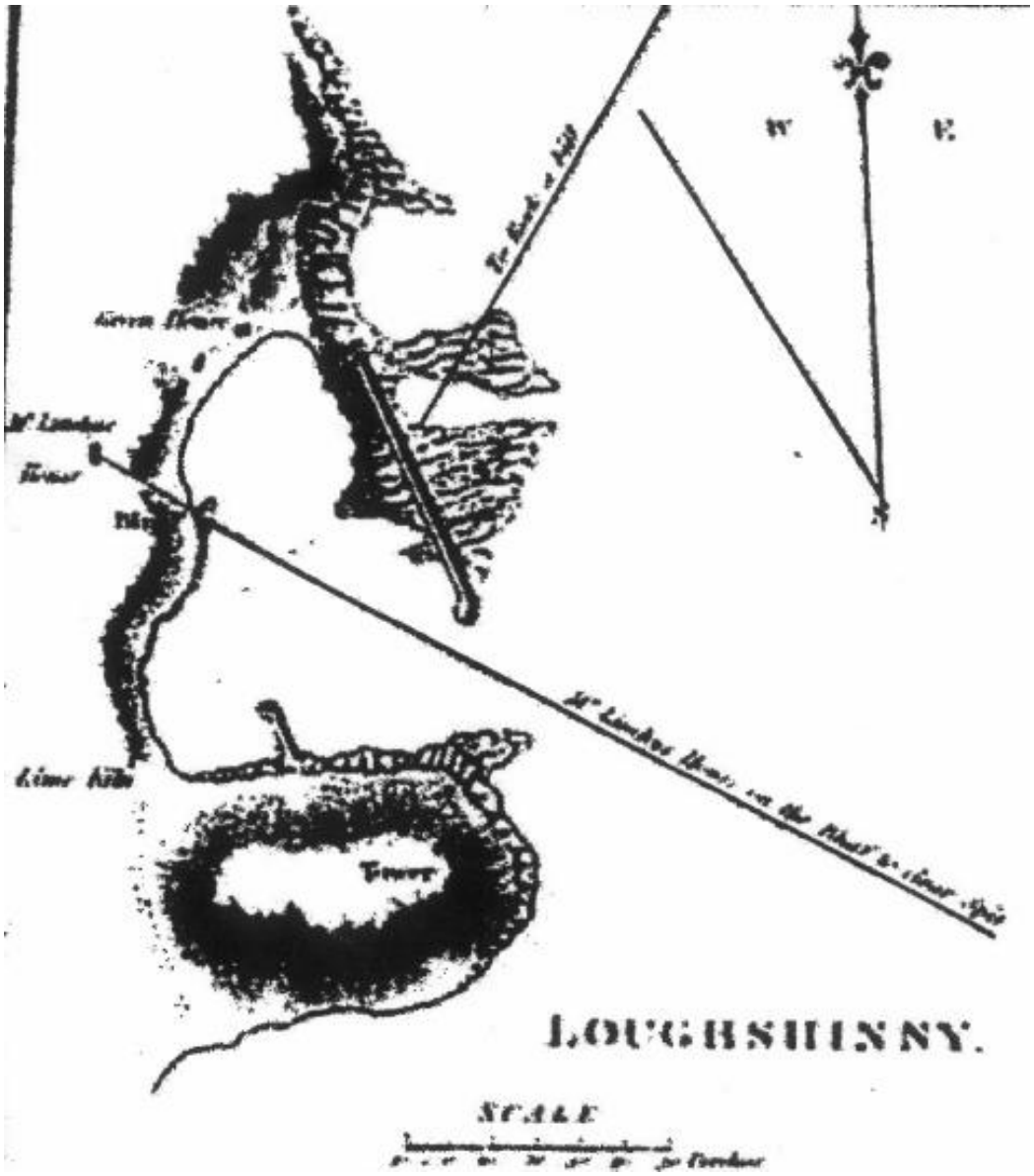


Fig.3: Fisheries Report 1822/23 courtesy of Rory McKenna

An examination of navigation, port and revenue maps of the 18th and 19th 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/

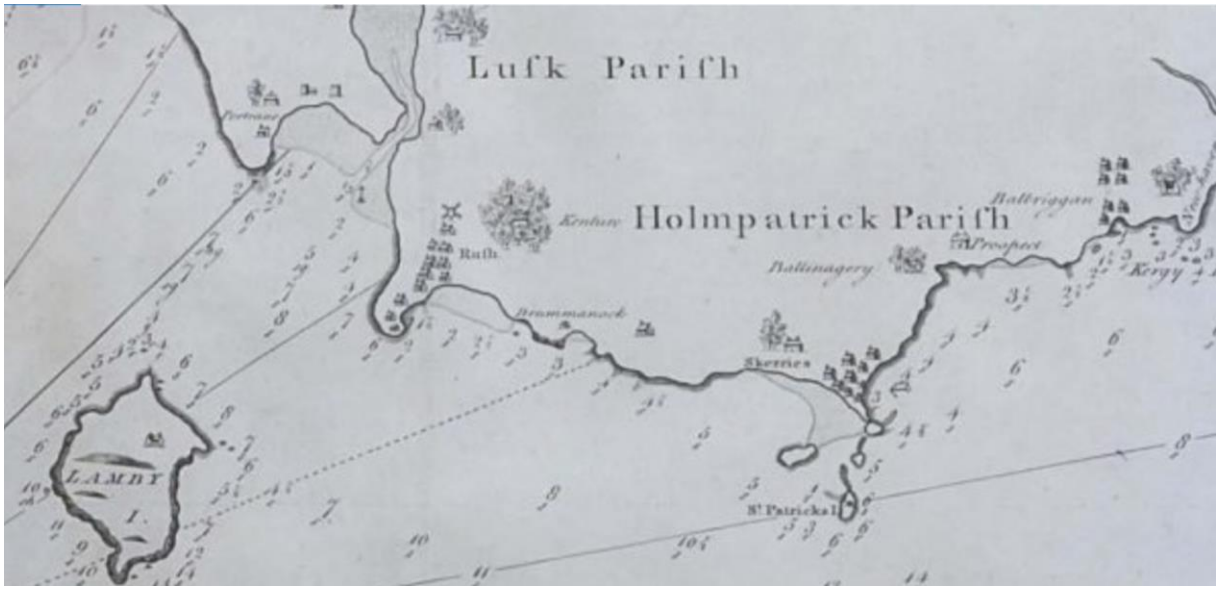


Fig.5 The East Coast of Ireland from Wicklow to Skerries surveyed by M. McKenzie c.1775
https://www.dublinportarchive.com/collection/historical-map-collection/

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).

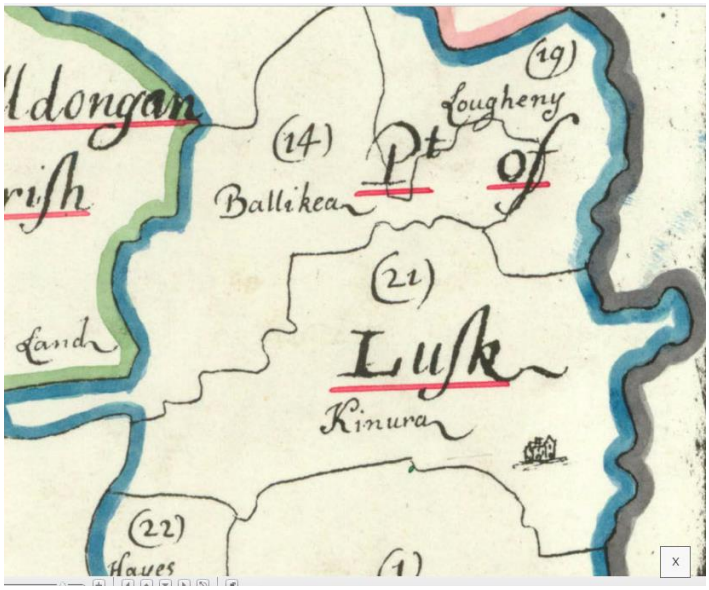


Fig. 6 Down Survey Barony Map c.1656

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.

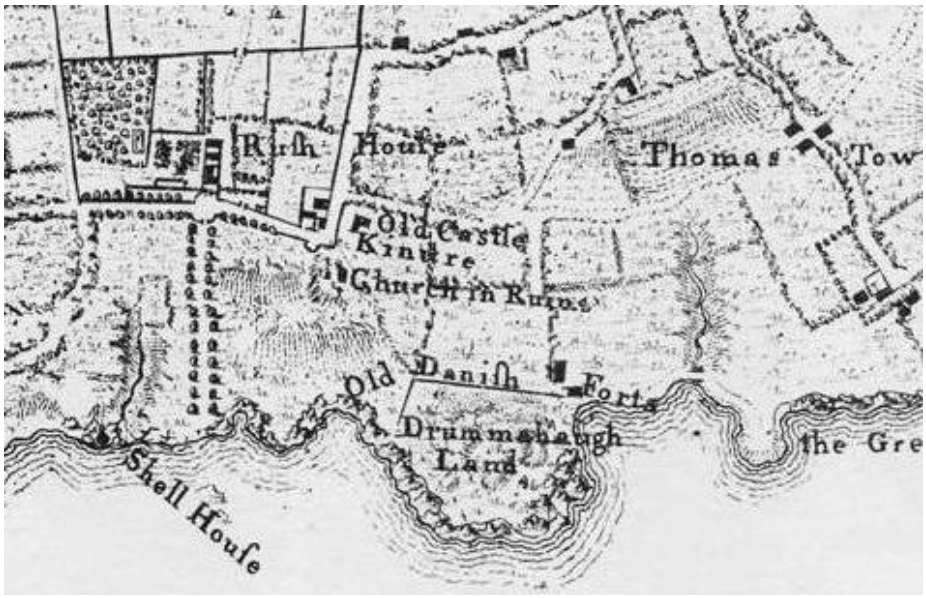


Fig. 7 Rocque's Map of County Dublin, 1760

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

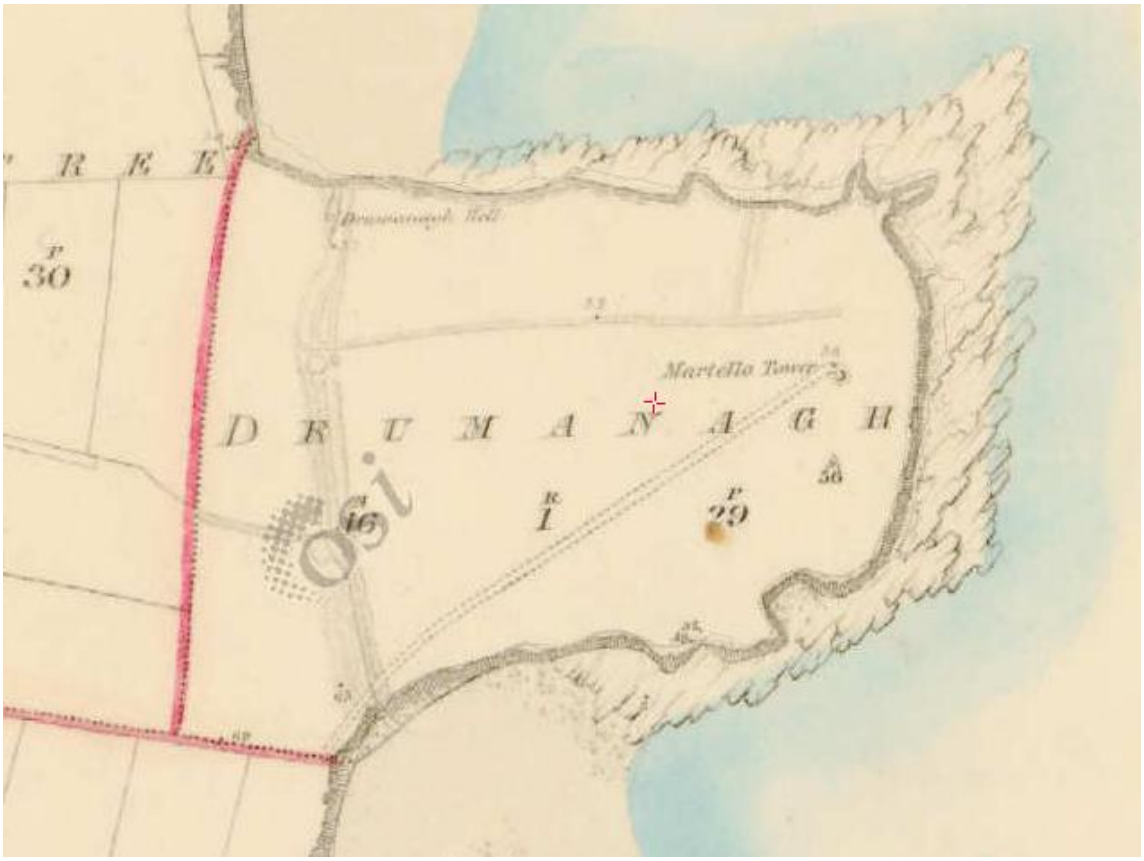


Fig. 9: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map.. Surveyed 1838, Published 1843

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 divison of the time. South of the intersection of ramparts and field boundary are two distinct circular features which may represent the truncation of the ramparts at this point. As the four banks head southwards they become less well defined and more compressed.

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

The manuscript of O'Donovan's survey which appears in less detailed form in the Name Books is headed 'Ancient Remains' and is scaled 12 inches to the mile (Fig. 8). It contains some additional information. Along the northern limit of the promontory the line of a wall is depicted. It is referenced as 'Wall apparently ancient'. It is not continuous perhaps a result of the condition of being 'ancient'. There is a very definite portion of the wall at the north-east point of the promontory where there is a lunular-

shaped inlet. There is a continuous although 'lighter' line that extends around the eastern and southern perimeter. It is unclear if this is a continuation of the apparently ancient wall. The stream pools within the outer banks of the ramparts before flowing within the ditch where it is traversed by the road to the Martello tower. Significantly there are two short parallel banks on the eastern side of the ramparts. These aren't depicted on previous or subsequent maps.

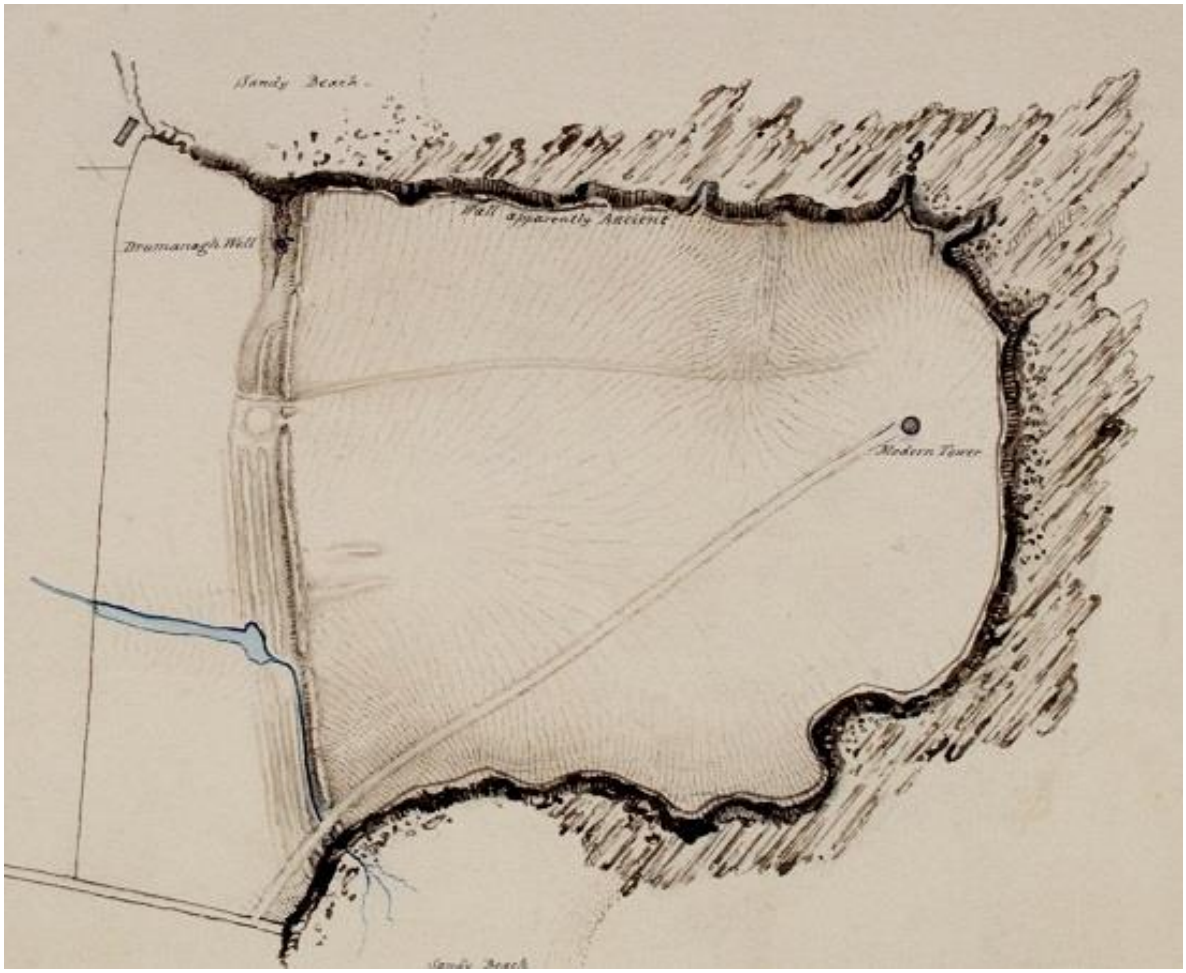


Fig. 10: Drawing 14 C 15(28) (1) Courtesy of the Royal Irish Academy ©

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.

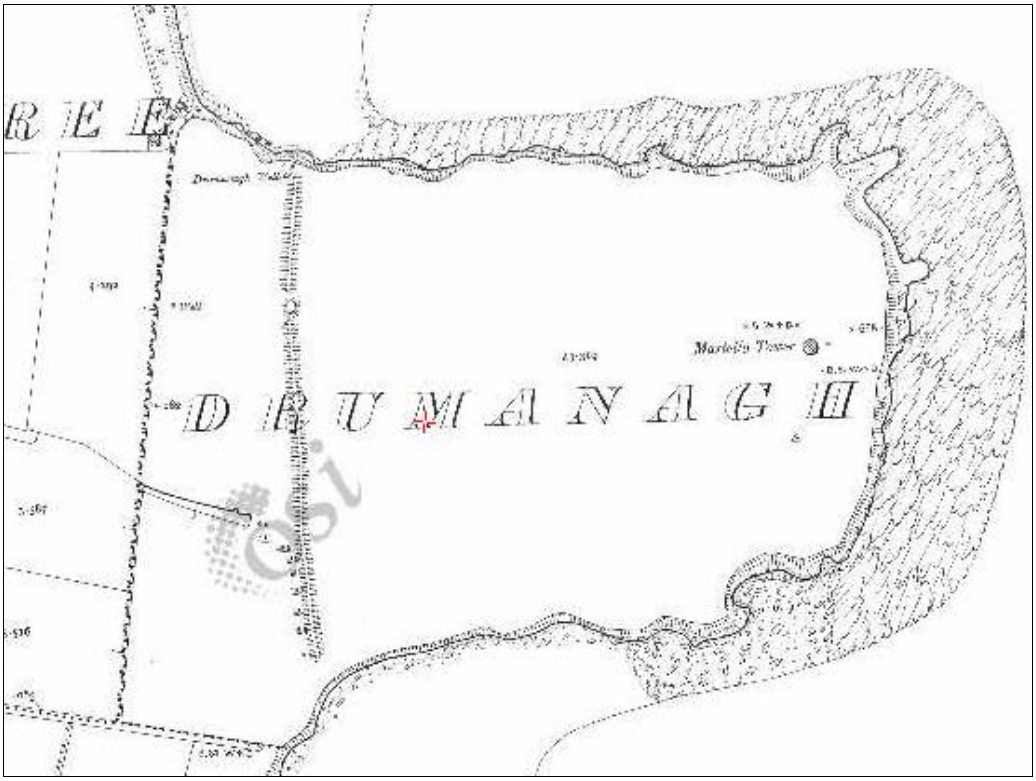
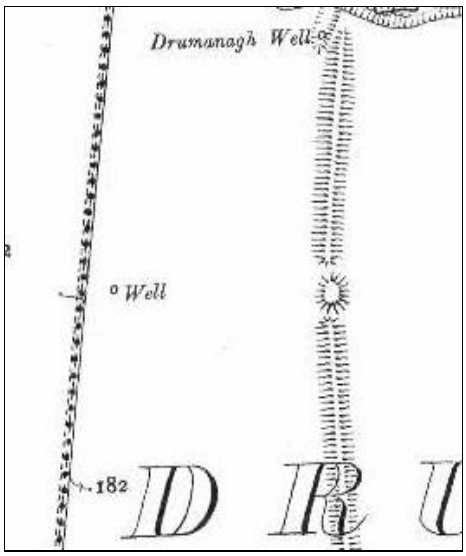
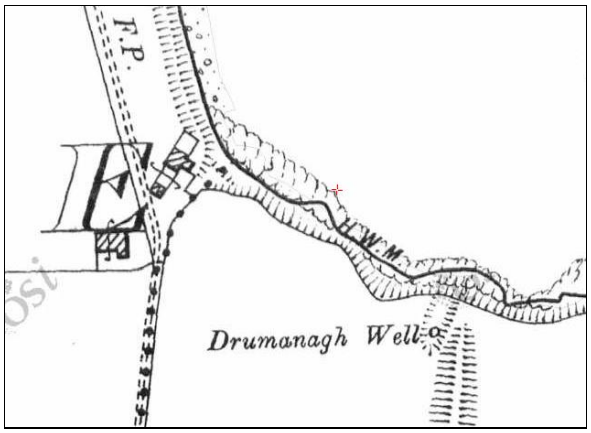


Fig. 11: 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map. Surveyed 1906; Published 1908

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

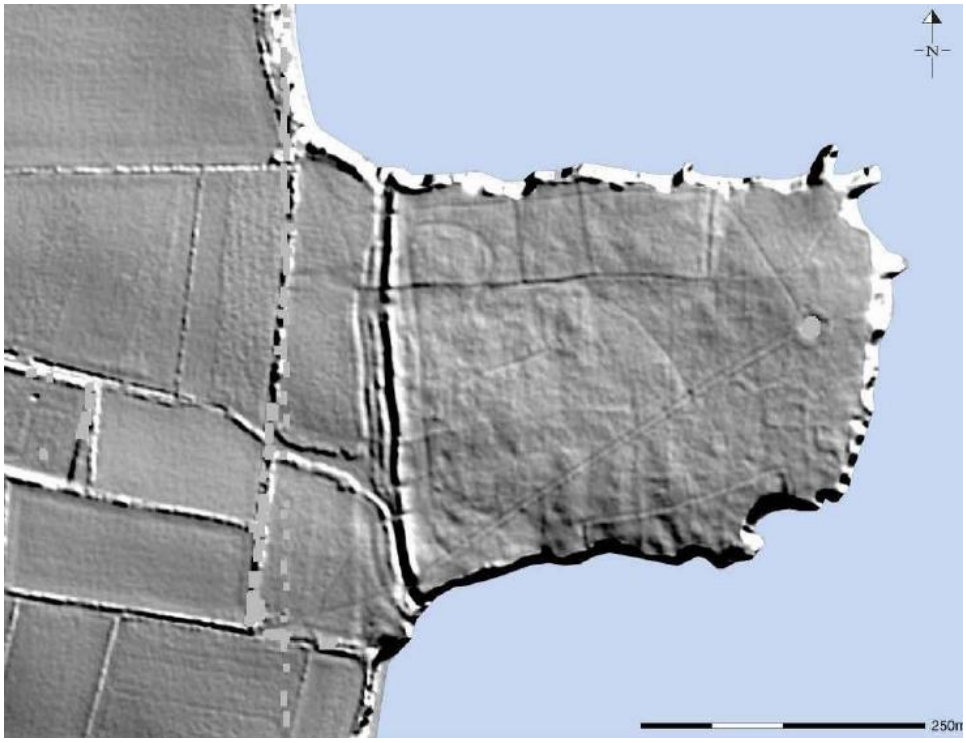


Plate 3: LiDAR image, Fingal County Council and The Discovery Programme 2014

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).

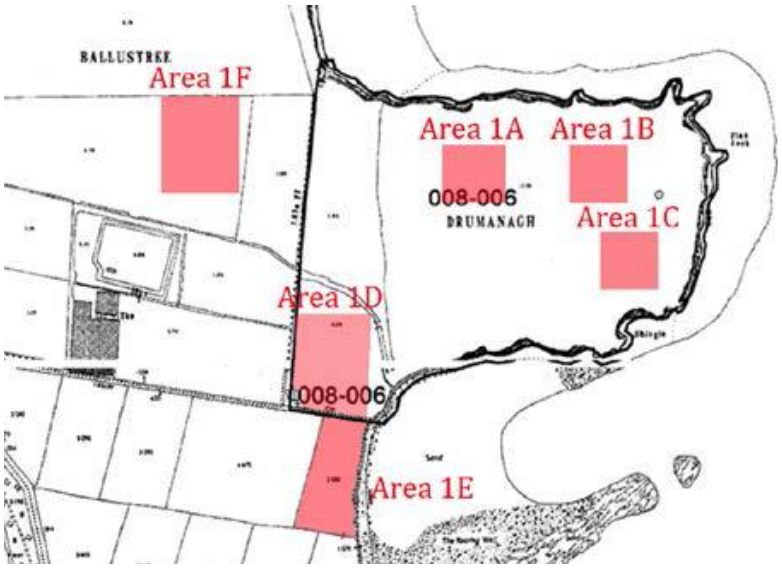


Fig.12: Layout of geophysical survey panels 2014, courtesy of the Discovery Programme

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).

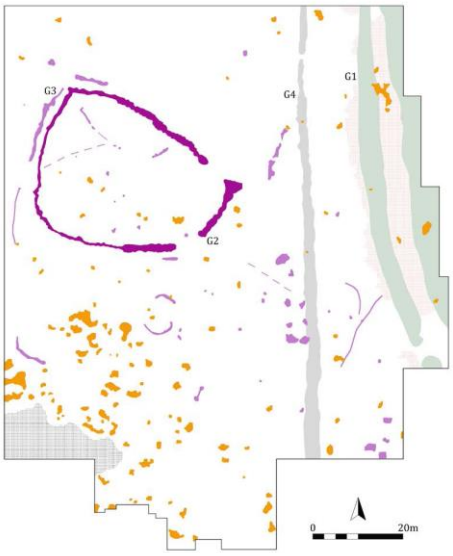


Fig. 13 Geophysical survey results, Area 1D, courtesy of the Discovery Programme

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

In September 2018 Dr James O'Driscoll, University of Aberdeen and Dr Paddy Gleeson of Queen's University Belfast undertook magnetometry over 2.1 hectares of the site. The survey area was located in the north-west of Drumanagh, outside the ramparts of the promontory. The area was surveyed in zig-zag mode with 0.5m traverse and 0.25m sample intervals using a Bartington 601-2 gradiometry system which incorporates two magnetometers stacked 1m apart. The survey revealed that the enclosing elements i.e. bank and ditches of the fort continue uninterrupted on its northern side, which is significant, as neither the historical mapping nor topographical survey suggested that the earthworks were complete on this side. Outside the fort, the survey recorded a number of possible relict field boundaries and other geological features. Of potential archaeological origin are a series of ephemeral circular anomalies that could represent hut structures or small, circular burial monuments such as ring-ditches. Furthermore, a series of curious oblong high magnetic responses running in a roughly north–south orientation could similarly be of archaeological significance.

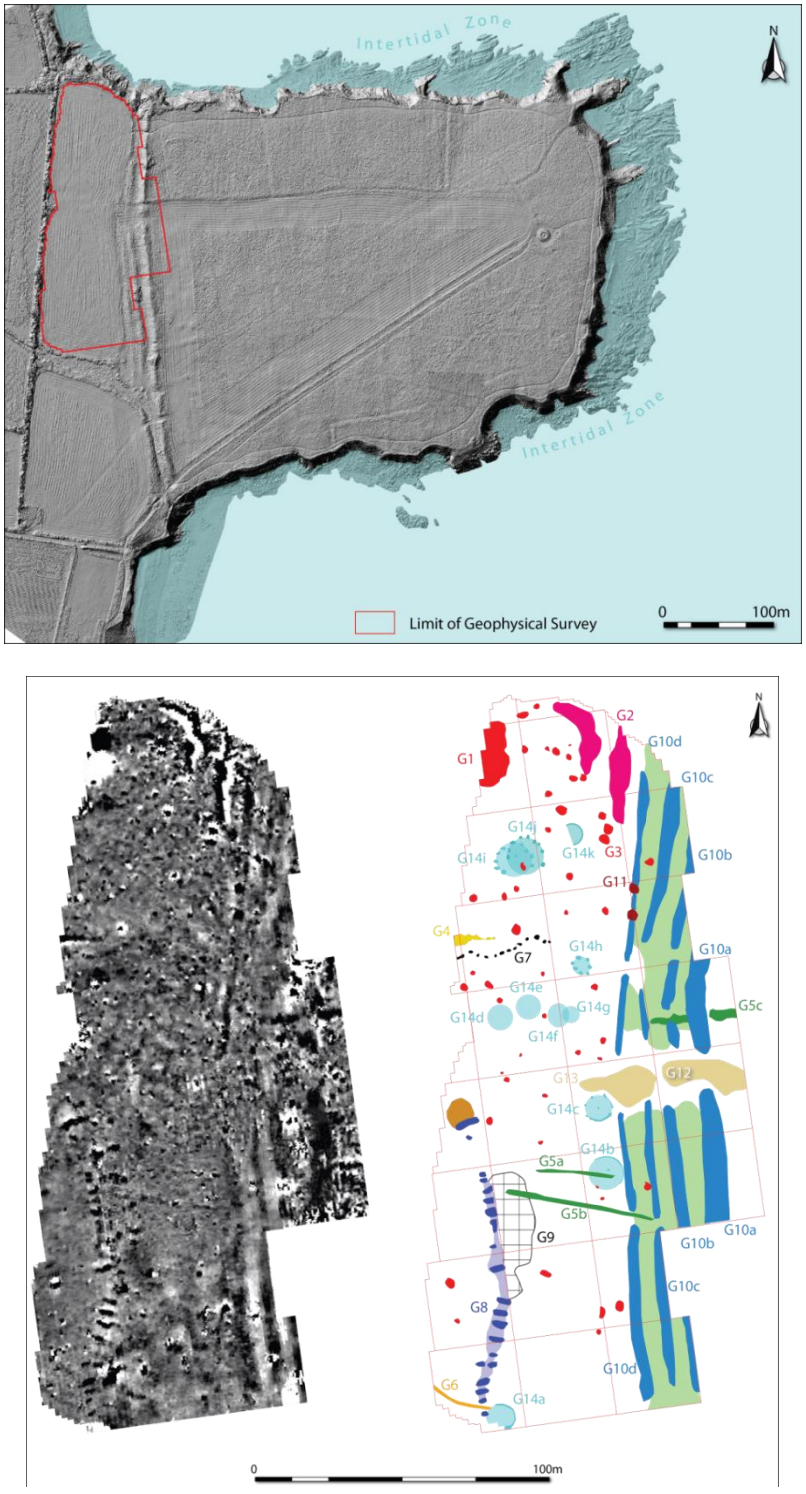


Fig. 14 Location and results of geophysical survey, courtesy of James O'Driscoll & Paddy Gleeson

In 2023 under an extension to C786 and Detection No.: R0000614 a study area of c.1ha was subject to high-resolution magnetic gradiometry survey and an Electromagnetic Induction Survey by Dr James Bonsall of AMS Ltd.. The former used a Five Sensys FGM650 fluxgate gradiometer with probes was spaced 0.25m apart achieving a spatial resolution of 0.1m

accuracy. Data were collected at ten times per second along the lines. The magnetic gradiometry survey identified eleven anomalies of possible archaeological origin including ditch and potential kiln, several pit-type anomalies, the 19th century field boundary and 20th century trackway.

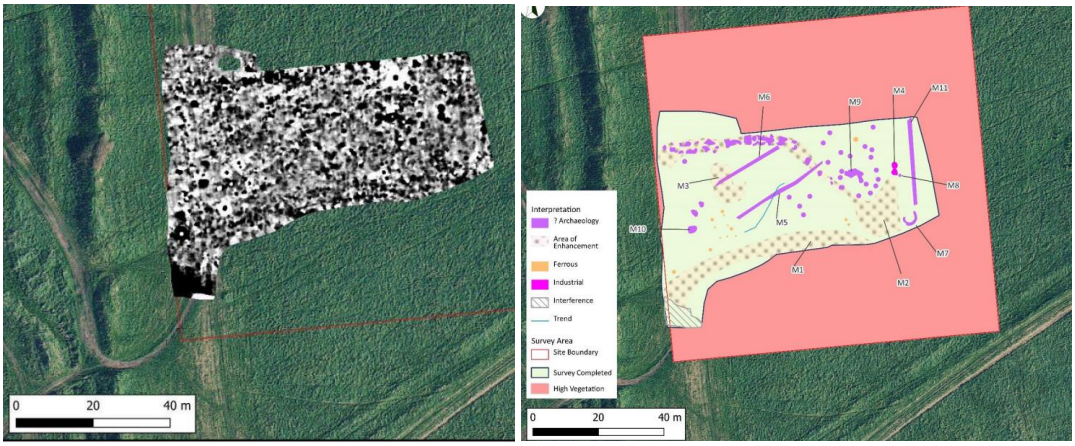


Fig. 15 Location and results of geophysical survey, courtesy of James Bonsall

The EMI uses the collection of inphase and quadrature data to characterise the magnetic and conductivity properties of the underlying soil. The depth range for the vertical dipole (recording data from three levels simultaneously), is 0.5m, 1.0m and 1.8m below the sensor and traverses spaced 0.5m apart, with data collected every 0.3 seconds along the traverse, achieving a spatial resolution of 0.1m accuracy.

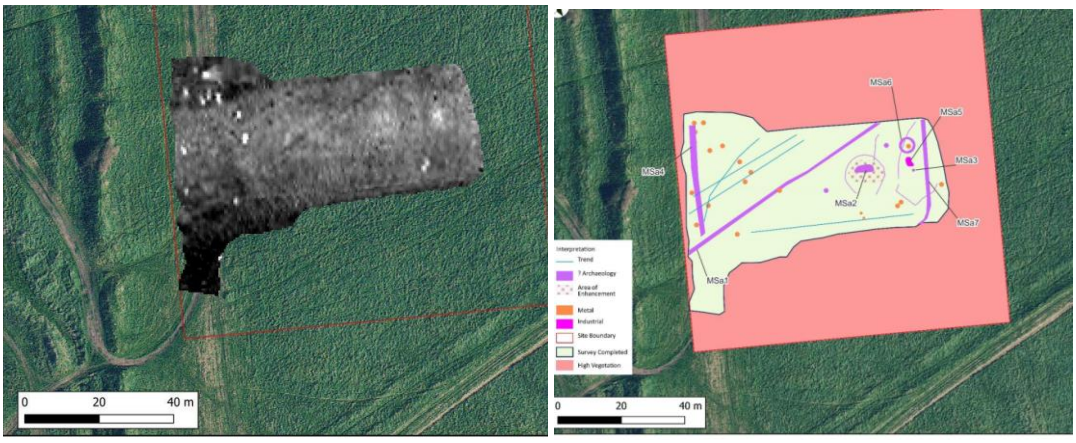


Fig. 16: Level 3 EMI Apparent Magnetic Susceptibility Data and Interpretation

A number of potential archaeological features were identified across the six EMI datasets and were generally reflective of those identified through the magnetometry survey.

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 (Raftery 1996, 19), as was a pin of early medieval date and medieval pottery. A range of artefacts of both native and Romano-British derivation were recovered through illegal metal-detecting.

2014 Ministerial Consent: C601/E4501

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

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

Plate 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.

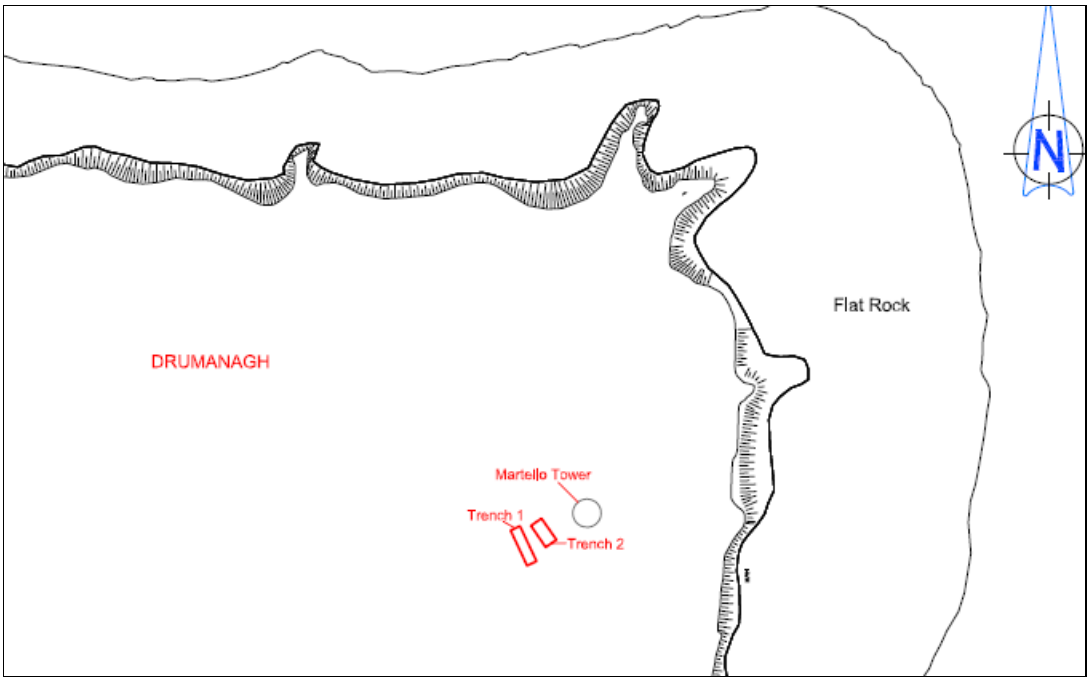


Fig. 17: Season I, Trench layout, at scale 1:2000

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 19th 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 1st and 3rd centuries AD in the Roman province of Baetica in Southern Spain. The hilt of a Raftery Type 2b/Rynne Ultimate La Téne 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 2nd-3rd 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 form 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. These 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 metalled 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.

Plate 11: Stone bird. Photo: John Sunderland

Plate 12: Trench 4, aerial photo post-excavation

2022 Ministerial Consent: C786/E4805

Excavation of a single trench during Season III of Digging Drumanagh community excavation took place over 13 days between 17 -31 August 2022. The focus of the 2022 season of excavation at Drumanagh promontory fort was to establish the nature of a potential trackway, that 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, identified on aerial photographs, geophysical survey and hill shade analysis. While there was little evidence of the trackway, a structure was identified and the stratigraphy in this area ascertained. 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 metalled 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 discovery of a 1977 aerial photograph subsequent to excavations, shows a linear area of ploughing that is contiguous with what was previously interpreted as a trackway.

Plate 13: Ploughing, October 1977, Fingal County Council Archive

Plate 14: Trench 5A, photo post-excavation, facing east

2023 Ministerial Consent: C786/E4805

An excavation trench, divided into Trenches 5A and 5B, was opened 9m apart on the same alignment in order to investigate the contrast between the geophysical survey results and the topography. Trench 5A measured 15m EW x 4m in width and was located to investigate the geophysical results which included a possible kiln and series of pits. The topography in this area also rose distinctly but gradually. On the same alignment 9m west Trench 5B measured 7m EW x 4m in width and although there were limited geophysical survey results in this area, there was a distinct hollow reminiscent of that in Trench 4 which on excavation transpired to be a structure. Similar to those structures identified in previous seasons, this activity was characterised by rectilinear cut (F139) with basal metalled surface (F137), cultural deposits (F136, F140, F110) and large stone flags (F109). Material of Iron Age date and artefacts of Romano-British origin were present in these deposits. To the east, the use of large stones and smaller stone deposits to cap or delineate and area of activity in Trench 5A where a number of closely set shallow pits were located immediately under the area defined by stone and cultural layers. Two bell-shaped or beehive-shaped pits were located towards the eastern limit of the trench and although originally used for grain storage had clearly been re-used as waste pits. Radiocarbon dating for Season 4 activity returned an average date range of 37-199 AD.

4 Archaeological Excavation

The location of north-south aligned Trench 6 (20m x 5m) at a relatively high point on Drumanagh headland was selected to examine;

- The topography of this area which is higher than that of previous seasons and slopes down to the north and east.
- The impact of the 'trackway'. Although found to have left little impact in Trench 4 (Season 3) the geophysical survey interpreted these as 'average 10m in width flanked by ditches….parallel lineation (G4) 2m in width' (LIARI p.66). Likewise the 1977 aerial photo records this area as an extended area of linear ploughing and to examine the impact of the 'trackway'/ploughing on a higher area of the landscape.
- Establish if impact of subsequent land use is comparable to that found in Seasons 3 & 4 (Trenches 4, 5A & 5B).
- Examine the stratigraphy and establish the level of natural subsoil in this area of the site.

Plate 15: Location of Trench 6 in relation to Trenches 5A and 5B, Season IV, Trench 4, Season III; Trench 3, Season II and Trenches 1 and 2, Season I

4.1 Excavation Stratigraphy

The overall stratigraphy consisted of light yellowish, orange, brown sandy silt subsoil overlain by occupation layers and truncated by the insertion of pits, postholes and a structure bounded or defined by linear and curved stone deposits. All were traversed by agricultural activity in the form of furrows. Topsoil comprised a medium brown friable silty clay with occasional stone and roots.

Trench 6

Trench 6 measured 20m NS x 5m EW. Subsoil average 0.60m below present ground level. Cultural activity was characterised by a series of shallow pits (F158, F161, F162, F163, F164, F166, F167, F174), posthole/stakeholes (F166, F170, F171, F172, F176, F180, F181, F182, F184) and depressions (F165, F168, F177, F178) overlain by occupation layers (F149, F151, F152, F153, F159, F160, F183) and interspersed with deposits (F156, F179) and linear and delineating stone deposits and dumps (F146, F147, F154, F155) F119. Evidence for later agricultural activity comprised a series of NNE/SSW aligned furrows (F143, F144, F145, F150). Topsoil averaged 0.20m across Trench 6.

Plate 16: Trench 6 post-excavation. Photo: Mark Broderick

Trench 6-Subsoil

Feature F157

The natural interface layer that extended across Trench 6 consisted of soft mottled yellow-orange-brown sandy silt with moderate unsorted stone. Directly overlying natural subsoil this layer was investigated with the excavation of two sondages. Sondage 1 was located in the north-west corner of Trench 6 and measured 2.5m NS x 1.2m EW. Excavated 0.2m into natural subsoil the interface layer averaged 0.1m in depth.

Sondage 2 was located along the southern baulk and extended for 1.5m EW x 1.1m NS. Excavated 0.25m into natural subsoil the interface layer measured form 0.1m to 0.2m in depth in this area. Mainly sterile a small amount of animal bone (#556; #575) and shell (#135)was retrieved during the sieving of this layer. A nail (157:1) and base of a stone lamp (157:2) were retrieved from sondage 1 where layer F148 interfaces with F157/natural subsoil.

Early Features:
The majority of these features were revealed at the removal of a rich cultural layer F153 or were cut through F153 into subsoil F157 and comprised, pits, stakeholes/postholes and depressions.

Pits
A total of eight predominantly shallow pits were located within the area delineated by large stone deposits F155 to the south and east and F146 to the north. The majority were cut through F153 into subsoil F157.

Plate 17: Pits, mid-excavation, Trench 6, facing north

Feature 161
This large oval pit was cut into natural subsoil and measured 1.6m NS x 2.18m EW x 0.7m in depth. Half sectioned 0.75m east of its western limit the cut was concave in section with a curved base. The pit had been re-cut (1m NS x 1.85m EW) and deliberately capped. The basal fill (F161:3) consisted of a very sticky, slightly mid-grey clay with mudstone and sub-rounded stone inclusions. Large animal bones (#502; #547) and traces of shell were also included. Above this was a loose mid-greyish brown silt (F161:2) comprising a large variety and quantity of shell (roughly 75%) (#42) and animal bone (#518; #531). Measuring 0.55m in thickness this deposit appeared to consist of mostly limpets with mussels and periwinkles also present. This fill 'bulged'

out at the top of the pit where it mingled with F153. The upper fill (F161:1) constituted a deliberate capping of the shell rich deposits. Consisting of a mottled grey-brown sandy clayey silt with ashy deposits and burnt clay inclusions this measured 0.98m EW x 0.85m NS and 0.15m in depth. Animal bone (#534; #557) was recovered from this deposit. This pit was recut , sloping down from the south side, overhanging the west side and dug into fill F161:3, suggesting this was dug from the south. The fill of the recut (F161:5) consisted of a loose reddish brown loamy silt with c.40% periwinkles (#42) located to the west of the pit (F161:4) , 0.6m diam. and 0.10m in thickness. Animal bone (#501) was also recovered from this deposit. Artefacts recovered from this shell rich pit comprised a fragment bone pin (161:1); bone pin (161:2); bone tool (161:3) and possible struck flint (161:4).

Feature 162

Located c.2.8m north of the shell pit F161, oval pit F162 measured 1.10m EW x 0.92m NS and 0.24m in depth. Cut into mottled layer F157, the pit was concave in profile and contained a basal fill (F162:2) of mottled dark silt clay and yellowish sandy clay which resembled the subsoil F157 but was much looser. The primary fill (F162:1) consisted of a dark grey black shell rich layer of silty clay, loosely compacted with infrequent stone inclusions. Two samples (#539; #566) of animal bone and one (#115) of shell were recovered from this pit. This feature was overlain by layer F153.

Feature 164

Shallow pit F164 was cut into F157 and natural subsoil. Steep sided with a flat base the sub-rectangular the pit extended 1.1m from western baulk. It measured 1.55m NS and 0.17-0.2m in depth. The fill consisted of a dark brown firm clayey silt with >5% small angular stones, occasional charcoal and moderate bone including fishbone (#564; #579; #580) and shell (#128; #138; 139). A fragment of possible struck flint (164:1) was also recovered. F164 was overlain by the ashy deposit F156 and by F153.

Feature 166

Extending under stone deposit F155 and cut into F157 this shallow pit was exposed for 1m EW x 1.2m NS and measured 0.06m in maximum depth. The fill consisted of a grey brown silt with frequent shell inclusions (#117; #129) and occasional animal bone (#535). Removal of fill exposed stakehole F182.

Feature 163

Interpreted as a stone lined storage pit with a 0.40m void in its eastern half suggesting organic contents, this oval pit measured 0.93m WNW/ESE by 0.7m NNE/SSW and 0.34m in depth. Flat bottomed and steep sided the pit cut posthole F184 and into natural subsoil. This was surrounded at north and south by a shallow but distinct circular cut 0.93m x 1.05m. The storage pit contained three distinct fills and stone

packing. The primary fill (F161:1) consisted of an almost pure very dark brownish grey/black silt with rare small (<0.1m) sub angular stones (0.2-0.3m diam.). This fill occupied the centre of the pit, produced the majority of the finds and was extensively sampled (#52) The fill (F163:2) of the upper portion of the cut extending over the stone packing consisted of a mid-grey-brown gritty silt with c.5% small-medium angular stones. Underlying 163:1 was a dark brown silt (F163:3) in and around the packing stones and to the west of the pit.

Plate 18: F163, mid-excavation.

The packing consisted of a stone lining that extended around three quarters of the pit. At the eastern side it was almost exclusively rounded/sub-angular stone (0.1m diam.) forming a single layer directly against the near vertical cut. The gap in the lining was c.0.25m long and coincided with the large stone angled down into the centre of the pit (0.3m x 0.2m x0.1m) suggesting it served a lining function. The quernstone (163:10) was directly opposite it to the south-west and similarly displaced. To the west the packing was several stones thick and consisted of more irregular stones, including unusually coloured stones (yellow, deep red) at the inner edge. These packing stones surrounded an unusual, mineralised object (163:2). Most notably this stone lining incorporated a range of artefacts. The ceramics (163:2 and 163:3) and stone lamps (163:6/7/8) and most strikingly the quernstone all served part of the lining, an

apparently intentional choice. The available volume of the storage pit was 0.4m in diameter and 0.35m in height which suggests an organic container may have occupied the space represented by fill 163:1, with some stone collapse, taking place after its decay. The thicker packing to the west may represent reinforcement of the soft edge caused by cutting through F184 or it may be deliberately surrounding 163:12, an unusual pale grey-white mineral object. Four samples of animal bone (#545; #559; #582; #586) and three of shell (#127; #137; #144). A bone pin (163:1) three rubbing/tracked tones (163:4/9/10) and a worked antler object (163:14) were also retrieved from pit F163.

Feature 158

Cutting through F153 into layer F157, this heat affected pit was sub-circular in plan and concave in profile. It measured 1.11m EW x 0.97m and 0.14m in depth. F158 presented as orange-red burnt clay (0.04m-0.1m in thickness) surrounding a shallow concave cut with gradual sloping sides. The basal fill (F158:4) consisted of an ashy light grey clay (possible overcut) over which was a charcoal rich deposit (F158:3), 0.02m to 0.06m in depth, which contained frequent animal bone (#549; #561; #588) and occasional shell (#113). Over this was a stony deposit (F158:2) while the upper fill consisted of a mix of orange clay and burnt clay (F158:1). A fragment of copper alloy (158:1) and small sherd of possible amphora (158:2) were recovered from this pit.

Feature 169

Located to the east of Trench 6, this was a shallow concave sided pit, that measured 0.46m NS x 0.38m EW and 0.04m-0.15m and was cut into F157. The south-facing section immediately adjacent showed that the feature had cut through F153, in particular the ash deposit, but is also overlain by shell deposits within F153. The pit fill consisted of dark greyish brown with some yellow mottling clayey silt with rare small sub angular 0.1m in diam. and occasional charcoal. Animal bone (#567) and shell (#130) samples were recovered from this feature. It is likely that pit F169 was part of the general activity of deposition of waste represented by F153. The similarity of stakehole F182 identified beneath shell deposit F166, also within F153 is noted. A possible interpretation is that shells deposited on top of the pits or markers for pits?

Feature 172

Located 0.1m north of shell rich pit F161, this truncated shallow oval pit measured 0.71m NS x 0.54m EW and 0.08m in depth. The cut had steep concave sides and a flat base with the slope more gradual to the north and sharper at south and east. The fill consisted of a dark greyish brown silty material with occasional stones and frequent charcoal and bone. A concentration of shell that formed part of the recut of pit F161 was visible immediately south extending slightly over the south-east edge of F172.

Feature 174

Located 0.1m north of large shell rich F161, this oval shallow pit measured 0.74m EW x 0.56m in width and 0.09m in depth. Cut into F157 this shallow pit with gradually sloping sides and concave base was filled with grey-brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks, animal bone (#537; #576) and shell (#140; #141) and frequent sub-angular stones. An iron nail (174:1) and iron object (174:2) were recovered from this pit.

Plate 19: Pits/Stakeholes F169, F170, F172, mid-excavation.

Stakeholes/Postholes

A series of stakeholes/postholes all of which were cut into subsoil F157 were identified upon the removal of layer F153, although some may have not been recognised at a higher level. A number of stakeholes appeared to be clustered together but no discernible pattern was evident and all were shallow in nature.

Feature 170

Located 0.27m south of F169, this sub-circular cut measured 0.25m NS x 0.2m EW and 0.08m in depth. The eastern edge of the cut is near vertical, other sides are more gently concave. The fill consisted of a dark greyish brown silty material with some grit and charcoal and contained animal bone (#563) and shell (#131).

Feature 171

Located c.0.1m south of shallow pit F169, F171 consisted of a shallow concave sided cut with a flatish base 0.27m NS x 0.25m EW and 0.08m in depth. The fill consisted of a light greyish brown silt with some grit, small stone and charcoal.

Feature 176

Located north of F161 this stake hole was circular in plan and measured 0.30m in diameter with a V-shaped irregular base and 0.10m in depth. The fill consisted of dark silty clay with small stone inclusions, charcoal and animal bone (#589).

Feature 180

This posthole was circular in plan measuring 0.37m in diameter and 0.24m in depth. Cut into F157, F180 had a defined break of slope at the top, gradual at base and relatively flat base. The fill consisted of a dark grey-brown rich silty clay with frequent medium sub-angular stone with occasional animal bone (#581). It appeared as if it may be in possible alignment with F182 which was located c.1.34m to the north-east.

Feature 181

Three stakeholes form a small cluster to the east of the base of furrow F143. F181awas the largest of the three stakeholes. Circular in plan in measured 0.20m in diameter. Cut to a depth of 0.14m into mottled material F157, it contained a grey-brown silt fill. F181b was also cut into mottled material F157 with a defined upper break of slope. Circular in plan it measured 0.1m in diameter and 0.1m in depth. The fill consisted of a grey-brown silt. Located 0.15m ENE of F181b, this stakehole F181c was also cut into mottled material F157 and contained a similar grey-brown fill. It measured 0.12m in diameter and 0.12m in depth.

Feature 182

A posthole in possible alignment with F180, this posthole F182 was circular in plan measuring 0.37m in diameter and 0.19m in depth. The fill consisted of a rich silty clay with frequent medium sub-angular stone.

Feature 184

Cut by storage pit F163 and underlying shell deposit F178, this stakehole was covered by a long flat angular stone (0.25m in length). This shallow stakehole measured 0.3m EW x 0.2m NS and 0.3m in depth. F184 was filled with a light mid grey slightly clayey silt with occasional small angular stones, periwinkles and flecks of charcoal. It was overlain by shell deposit F178.

Pits/depressions

Feature 165

Characterised as a sub-circular deposit that measured 0.6m EW and cut 0.04-0.06m into mottled layer F157. The fill is a dark grey-brown silt with moderate small stone (0.01m-0.04m diam.) inclusions and occasional shell (#116) and bone (#533). A fragment of blue glass (165:1) was recovered. The feature has been interpreted as probably comprising the remnants of layer F153 in uneven ground.

Feature 168

Sub-circular in plan this shallow deposit measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.07m in depth. Cut into F157 with a gradual break of slope at the top and base. The fill consisted of a dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and stone inclusions.

Feature 177

Located within the area unexcavated north-eastern area of Trench 6, F177 was originally investigated as an shallow pit that was irregular and an area 1.1m EW x 0.5-1mNS was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.15m). However after excavation it was interpreted as a depression within layer F153. A fragment of glass bracelet was recovered from this area.

Feature 178

A deposit of periwinkles (#133) within a shallow dished pit within F153, F178 was oval in plan and measured 0.5m EW x 0.4m NS and 0.1m in depth. The fill consisted of periwinkles in a gritty mid-brown loose silt with occasional small stone inclusions. Appears to have been cut by pit F163.

Layers & Deposits

Overlying the natural subsoil and early cut features were layers that were interspersed with dump and deposits events.

Feature 148

Layer F148 was located to the north of the trench outside the main area of activity, beyond linear stone deposit F146. The topography in this area also sloped downwards and compact layer F148 presented as patently different to the activity to the south of F146 indicating delineation of activity. F148 consisted of a compact yellowish brown silty clay with moderate stone (average 0.1m in diam.) inclusions that extended for 5m EW x 3.5/4m NS and averaged 0.14m in depth. The layer was cut by furrow F145 and overlay interface layer F157. Animal bone (#480; #551) and shell (#121) were recovered

from this layer as were possible struck flint; two possible stone handles (148:3, 148:5), an antler comb (148:6) and a fragment of blue glass (148:7).

Plate 20: Layer F149, pre-excavation facing east

Feature 149

This feature consisted of a firm surface with extensive red/orange oxidisation. Sub-oval in plan F149 measured 3.5m EW x 2.5m NS and 0.05m in depth. Characterised as a mixture of oxidised red/orange clayey silt and patches of charcoal, it contained angular and rounded moderate stones (<5%). The surface of F149 was initially identified in the line of the two furrows and thought to represent its cut. Later seen to extend to north/south and west. Its level and firm character suggest a surface that predates the layers F151/F152 and F154. It was cut by furrow F144. Animal Bone (#467; #524; #552) and shell (#60; #120) were recovered from this layer as were bone pegs (149:2, 149:7) bone beads (149:6, 149:8) a perforated bone object (149:5) an iron nail (149:9) and a possible sherd of amphora (149:3).

Feature 151

This stony transitional layer was exposed under stone tumble F154, across the width of the trench for approximately 10m, measured from 0.05m to 0.15m in depth and overlay layer F153. F151 consisted of stony silt with some clay and coarse sand. A greyish pale brown colour with a high concentration >10% of angular and sub-angular stones (0.05-0.15m diam.). It contained frequent animal bone including small mammal bone and fishbone, and very frequent broken shell inclusions. A copper alloy ring (151:1), fragments of three bone pins (151:4; 151:5; 151:10), a tracked stone (151:3) and

a burnt partial bone die (151:10) were among the artefacts recovered from this layer. Present across middle 10m of the trench, this layer maybe equal to F152 as they both occupied similar stratigraphic positions under stone F154 and above layer F153.

Feature 152

This stony transitional layer consisted of a stony gritty silt, pale grey-brown with a high proportion .10% of small stones, unsorted angular and rounded (0.05m diam.). Exposed across the width of the trench and for a maximum of 7m north-south F152 measured 0.1-0.2m in depth. F152 noticeably contains a higher proportion of rounded stone than F151. Like F151 it contained frequent animal including small mammal and bird bone, microfauna and fishbone and frequent fragmented shell. F152 was present across the south end of the trench and underlay the disturbed layer F154. On removal it was seen to overlie stone feature F155 but also pebbly layer F160 and layer 153. A large amount of mainly bone/antler artefacts (79) were recovered from this layer including bone gaming pieces, gaming pegs and dice as well as bone combs, spindle whorls, awls and tools. Given their similar stratigraphical position and inclusions, it is likely that F151 and F152 are contemporary and differences are due to underlying material.

Feature F153

An extensive deposit of waste material containing concentrations or dumps of shell, charcoal rich soil and shell and ash in shallow hollows, F153 extended for a minimum of 16m NS by 5m in width and 0.1-0.20m in depth. It consisted of a mid-dark brown slightly clayey silt with moderate inclusions of small sub-angular stones <5% and occasional medium sized stones (0.1-0.5m in diam.). With notably less stone inclusions than the overlying F151/2 layer F153 was generally soft to firm but with little evidence for compaction. It contained frequent inclusion of bone (fragmentary and large) and frequent inclusions of shell (periwinkle, limpets mainly), generally intact/in good condition. This deposit is characterised by spreads of ash and charcoal rich material and concentrated dumps of shell. Several individual features are best considered as elements of the waste material that make up this layer e.g. F166 a shallow pit of shells; F156 a deposit of ash and underlying charcoal rich soil.

F153 was an artefact rich layer with at least 78 objects recovered including evidence of bone and antler working, gaming pieces, bone combs, spindle whorls and a hilt guard (153:64). Several glass fragments and beads and a fragment of lignite bangle were recorded as well as iron nails, a stone gaming piece (153:44) and part of a quernstone (153:57). F153 generally overlies interface layer F157 directly but the deposit F179, shallow pit F164 and large pit F161were exposed upon its removal.

Feature F160

This finer pebble layer was identified under F149 to west of trench and under the remains of F152 in the east of the trench. Extending in a diagonal curve across the trench to the north of stone deposit F155, this material consisted of rounded pebbles <0.05m in diameter and small gravel (c.0.01m diam.). Irregular in plan it varied in width from 0.16m in the east of the trench to a maximum of 1.6m in the east of the trench and from 0.05m to 0.1m in depth. Animal bone (#538) and shell (#136) were recovered from this layer along with bone artefacts (160:2, 160:3, 160:4) a fragment of glass (160:1) and several sherds of potential pottery.

Feature F156

F156 comprised a deposit of ash and charcoal rich silt in two distinct layers within/under F153, a compact/hard layer of ash and coarse sand overlying charcoal rich silt. Sub-rectangular in plan F156 measures 1.56m NS x 1.55mEW and 0.17m in depth with a slightly dished base. The upper layer comprised a dirty white mottled with yellow 0.1m thick. The basal fill consisted of dark brown/black silt 0.07m in depth. Animal bone (#546) and shell (#112) were recovered from this feature. The deposit was truncated completely by furrow F143, splitting in to two halves. It extended into the baulk to the west. the southern edge was quite steep sided, suggesting it may have been cut by activity within F153. Despite the concentration of ash and charcoal there is no real indication of *in situ* heating and most likely interpretation is a dump of hearth waste in a shallow cut or depression. The dump appears to form part of F153 activity although early in the sequence sitting directly on top of F157 and f179.

Feature F179

Localised mottled green/brown deposit lying under cultural layer F153 and over interface layer F157, F179 was cut by pit F163 to the west and overlain by stones F156 and shelly deposit F166 to the east. F166. Measuring 1.1m NS x 0.9m EW and 0.1m depth it comprised mottled grey/greenish sandy silt deposit with frequent small charcoal and shell (#577). Although a notably shelly deposit/shallow pit (F166) overlay its eastern edge and an ash/charcoal deposit F156 overlay its western edge.

Feature F159

Characterised as the foundation layer for stone boundary F146, F159 was exposed only in the western half of the trench where F146/7 was removed and so extended for 2.5m EW x 3.3m NS and 0.12m in depth. F159 consisted of a slightly loose dark brown sandy silt directly below stone deposit F146 and above metalled surface F183. It contained angular stones and shell (#522) and was not dissimilar to layer F153.

Feature F183

F183 consisted of a spread of rough metalling identified primarily under stone deposits F146 and F147 in the north of the trench. Exposed for 3.62m NS and 1.32m EW, F183 was 0.05m in thickness and consisted of compacted sub-angular and rounded stones (<0.05m diam.) pressed into the interface layer F157. Traces of a similar deposit were also identified in the base of furrow F143.

Stone deposits

Trench 6 contained a number of linear stone deposits, and associated disturbed spreads of stone material that may have been contemporaneous and aligned on different axis.

Plate 21: Stone layer F154, mid-excavation, facing west

Feature 154

Located mid-way along Trench 6, this disturbed deposit of stone became visible upon removal of topsoil. F154 can be characterised as a linear stone deposit on an ENE/WSW alignment that extends across Trench 6. Much disturbed by ploughing on two axis the remnants of the faces of the linear feature were visible in two places with the tumble spread beyond their limits and cut through by furrows F143 and F144. Defined by a setting of large stones (average 0.5m diam./0.26m in thickness) that extends for 2.5m along its western face and a similar setting 1.30m in length consisting of large (average 0.4m diam.) set stones forming the remnant of an eastern face, located 2m south west,

this linear stone deposit was exposed for at least 6m ENE/WSW. Extending downwards from the eastern baulk, and contiguous with the highest point of the immediate topography was a concentration of smaller stone 'tumble' (3m NS x 1.75m EW) which consisted of angular and sub-angular stones 0.1-03m in diameter. This stone feature was removed onto layers F151/2.The spread of stone disturbance was relatively confined in the south-eastern quadrant and didn't extend beyond furrow F144. To the west it extended 1-2.5m where it was transected by furrow F143 into which some of the disturbed stone fell.

Plate 22: Stone deposit F155, facing west

Feature 155

Linear stone deposit F155 was aligned SW/NE and extended for c.6.4m diagonally from the south-west corner of Trench 6 and averaged 1.5m in width. Under layer F152 the stones are set into mixed waste layer F153. F155 consisted of sub-angular and rounded large stones of varying geology that averaged 0.4-0.8m in diameter and were not evenly laid.

Plate 23: Stone deposits F146 and f147, pre-excavation, facing west

Feature 146

Located to the north of Trench 6 this deliberate deposit of stone became visible upon removal of topsoil which was deeper as this part of the trench sloped downwards. Aligned WNW/ESE F146 was exposed for 5m and measured 1.2m in width and consisted of large (0.3m-0.6m diam.) angular and sub-angular stones. Comprising the northern boundary of activity in Trench 6 the linear deposit was abutted to the south by stone 'tumble' F147 and by layer F148 to the north. The western 2.5m was excavated and revealed the stones to be set in foundation deposit f159 and partially overlie rough metalled surface F183 immediately above interface layer F157. Animal bone (#456; #587) and shell (#93) was recovered from amongst the excavated portion of this feature as was a green glass fragment (146:2) and a potential stone object (146:1).

Feature 147

This spread of stone abutted linear stone feature F146 to the south and was exposed below topsoil and above layer F153. It was abutted to the south by layer F151. F147 consisted of subangular stones (0.14m-0.2m diam.) in a dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent animal bone and shell inclusions. Much like the adjacent layer F151 but with a higher concentration of stone F146 extends across the width of Trench 6 and extended between 1.5m and 2.3m north south. The western 2.5m was excavated and 17 artefacts were recovered from this spread including sherds of burnt Samian pottery; a copper alloy ring (147:9); stone objects and a fragment of red enamel (147:8).

Furrows

A series of furrows extend across site. Aligned NNE/SSW they are cut through the occupational layers and stone deposits. The result is a high degree of disturbance along much of the length of Trench 6 by this agricultural activity. Furrows are 2m apart with varying depths reflective of the topography.

Plate 24: Trench 6, furrows mid -excavation, facing north.

Feature 143

Aligned NNE/SSW F143 is one of a set of similarly aligned furrows. Exposed for 11.11m along the length of the trench, the furrow averaged 0.45m-0.54m in width. The concave cut was made to a maximum depth of 0.20m. The fill consisted of dark brown friable silty clay with moderate small stones and frequent inclusions of animal bone and shell, along its length. Cutting through artefact rich layers F151/2 at least 18 artefacts were recovered from this furrow, including seven sherds of amphorae, iron nails, possible struck flint, a bone gaming peg (143:18) and a fragment of human skull (143:12).

Feature 144

Aligned NNE/SSW furrow F144 was located 2m east of furrow F143. Extending from the southern baulk, F144 was exposed for 6.5m, averaged 0.5m in width and was cut to a maximum depth of 0.12m. The fill consisted of dark brown friable silty clay with moderate small stones and moderate inclusions of animal bone. Cut through layer

F152 artefacts recovered include three sherds of amphorae, an iron nail and bone objects.

Feature 145

Aligned NNE/SSW F145 is one of a set of similarly aligned furrows. Exposed for 2.2m in the north of the trench the furrow averaged 0.74m in width. The concave cut was made to an average 0.20m into layer F148. To the south of the linear feature the furrow was exposed for 6m and was less deep cutting into layer F151. The fill consisted of mid brown loose sandy silt with frequent animal bone (#471; #472) and shell (#62; #120) inclusions. An I shaped bone object (145:1) and sawn antler off cut were also recovered. This furrow was the westernmost of a series of furrows that traversed Trench 6.

Feature 150

Located approximately 2.05m east of similarly NNE/SSW aligned furrow F143, furrow F150 was exposed for 4m and cut into layer F152 and measured 0.5m in width and 0.19-0.25m in depth. The fill is very similar to overlying topsoil F1, a mid-dark brown clayey silt with <5% subangular and rounded stone inclusions (<0.1m diam.) with occasional lager stones (0.3m-0.4m diam.), occasional charcoal, frequent animal bone (#473; #481; #497) and shell (#61; #7; # 96) including a concentration of periwinkles that formed part of the fill 1m south from baulk at northern end. A complete parallelopiped die (150:2), possible stone counter (150:2) were among the artefacts recovered from this feature. This furrow was the easternmost of a series of furrows that traversed Trench 6.

Trench 5A-Topsoil

Feature 1

Topsoil within Trench 6 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 an enormous amount of animal bone (37 samples) and shell (25 samples). A total of 203 artefacts were retrieved from the topsoil the majority of which are amphorae sherds (93) and a large amount of bone artefacts including beads, dice, gaming pieces, handles and combs.

4.2. Samples & Finds

As there was no running water at Drumanagh animal bone washing and artefact processing took place during a Drumanagh Post-Ex week (09-13 June 2025) and again during Heritage Week (18-22 August) in Swords Castle.

Plate 25: Drumanagh Post Excavation week, Swords Castle

Soil Samples

A total of twenty 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 or rich cultural layers including from pits (#53, #54, #55, #56, #57) postholes (#59, #60, #61, #62), burnt clay (#48), deposits (#46, #47, #48, #52, #58) and associated layers (#49, #50, #51). These samples will undergo analysis for archaeobotanical remains and dating.

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 147 samples were registered from layers and features including a substantial amount of

cattle bone as well as small mammal bones and fishbones. Approximately 25% of the animal bone assemblage was retrieved from topsoil.

Shell Samples

The sampling methodology for shell was to hand-retrieve shell from all features and layers. Additional retrieval was from dry sieving of the layers. A total of 104 samples, a total of 32,903 shells (Erin Crowley Champoux pers comm.) were registered from layers and features including bulk samples from shell rich pit F161 and deposits within layer 153. Again c.25% of the shell assemblage was retrieved from topsoil.

Plate 26: Bone washing, Swords Castle

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 484 artefacts were registered with just over 40% retrieved from topsoil. This can be divided into antler (35), bone (97), pottery (140), metal (67), possible enamel (5), flint (26), glass (25) and stone (72) artefacts.

Plate 27: Riam and Simon with a sherd of amphora

Pottery:

A total of 127 sherds of imported pottery were recovered during the excavation. The vast majority of the ceramic recovered were sherds of amphorae., comparable to fragments Dressel 20 amphora recovered during Seasons I -IV. Dressel 20 amphorae were used for the transportation of olive oil and were produced between the late 1st-3rd centuries AD in the Roman province of Baetica, Southern Spain (Williams & Peacock 1983). In addition two thirds of these sherds were recovered from topsoil indicating a high level of disturbance.

Four sherds of burnt Samain, three of which appear to be from the same vessel were identified. Burnt Samian had been uncovered in Trench 5A in the previous season. These sherds were identified as being Central Gaulish from a heavily burnt dish of late Antonine form (Alex Croom pers comm). Just three rimsherds, have been preliminarily identified as Samian ware (Terra sigillata), a red-gloss pottery that was mass produced from the 1st-3rd centuries AD.

What were originally identified as part of the neck of an amphora vessel and a complete pot were recorded within pit F163. The latter had been placed upside down and appeared to contain original material, which was first X-rayed in the National Museum of Ireland. The staff at UCD Rosemount Environmental Research Station via liaison with Prof. Meriel McClathcie very kindly agreed to use their large capacity X-ray CT scanner which uses X-rays taken from multiple angles to non-destructively build-up a 3D image. Both non-destructive processes, confirmed that there was no metal present and the latter showed a basal layer of material. Excavated under laboratory conditions in UCD by conservator Susannah Kelly, it was noted that both 'amphora rim/neck' and 'pot' were in fact stone.

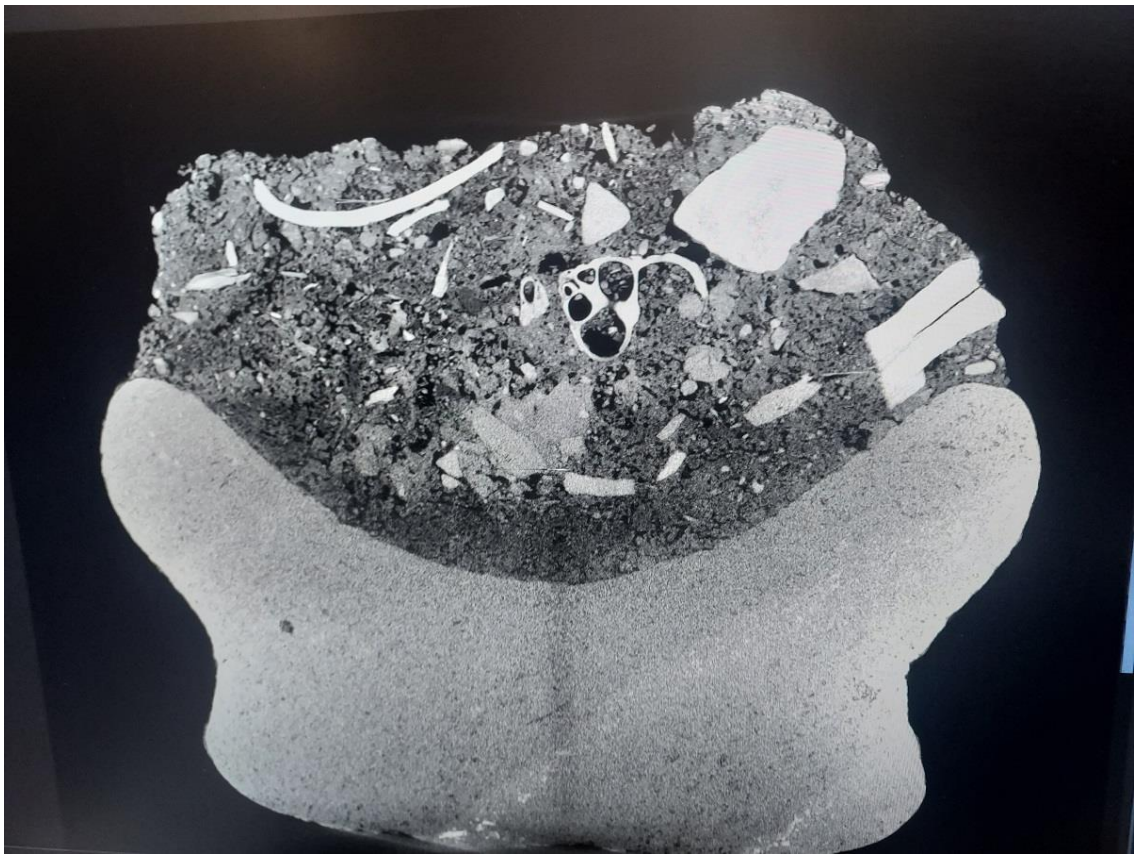


Plate 28: CT Scan of vessel.

Antler and Bone:

A total of 132 antler/bone artefacts were registered, a third of which were retrieved from topsoil. While the identification of antler offcuts, caput spindle whorls, both finished and unfinished, and a large amount of bone tools reflect the assemblage of artefacts recovered in previous seasons there were a number of more unusual bone finds. Two I shaped bone objects (145:1, 153:50) may relate to textile production. A total of 10 fragments of bone/antler combs were also identified. These were varied, some long handled and some decorated adding to the corpus of bone combs identified in previous seasons. A total of eight combs made from bone/antler had been recovered

from the Seasons I-IV excavations and could be divided into three groups defined by their shape. With an average thickness of 2.4mm, none are robust enough to be compared to weaving combs and an interpretation of personal or beard combs has been arrived at (Siobhan Duffy pers comm). The combs found in Season V follow this pattern and some are also decorated.

Plate 29: Bone die.

Of particular interest were the six dice and range of gaming pieces and pegs recovered. These included two complete parallelopiped dice (150:2, 152:68), the remainder partial, one of which is burnt (151:10). In addition at least 12 pegged gaming pieces were recovered as well as a number of heads/fragments of gaming pieces. Comparable material outside of Drumanagh seems to have been recovered from burial rather than settlement contexts. A notable comparison is that a late Iron Age double burial at Knowth where dice, gaming pieces and possible counters were found beneath two young adult males, radiocarbon dated to 40 BC-AD 121. The three dice were related to Iron Age parallelopiped dice known in Ireland, Scotland and the Western Isles but showed the influence of Roman gaming technology (Eogan 2012, 419). This hybrid nature was reflected in the die (108:4) recovered during Season IV at Drumanagh and may be the case for the most recent dice uncovered, once analysed.

Another interesting bone find is that of a hilt guard (153:63) which parallels that recovered during Season 1 (1:454) and was identified as the guard of Raftery's Type 2b and Rynne's 'Ultimate La Tène' swords.

To date analyses of the collection of bone and antler finds has shown a lack of obvious association with the Roman world in contrast to some of the assemblages of pottery, metalwork and glass. Instead comparison can be made with material found elsewhere in Ireland, Scotland and pre-Roman Britain (Siobhan Duffy pers comm.). It remains to be seen as to whether the antler/bone finds from Trench 6 will follow this pattern.

Plate 30: Warren with a bone gaming peg

Stone:

A total of 72 stone objects were registered. At least 24 are described as stone counters although some may be the result of natural processes. A total of six conical gaming pieces were identified. Again these have parallels at Knowth, with two (finds 66, 67) recovered from a burial. Similar objects were also found at 11 other sites including Freestone Hill co Kilkenny and the Rath of Synods, Tara (Eogan 2012, 149).

In line with previous seasons, rubbing stones, tracked stones and piddock stones have been identified. In contrast an unusual number of stone vessels/lamps have been identified. While one (152:29) was recovered from a find rich layer the remainder were from pit F163. Of different shapes these artefacts had been used to deliberately line the pit which also contained as yet unidentified potentially organic material.

Two fragments of quernstones (1:742; 153:57) indicate the processing of cereal on site while two stone spindle whorls reflect yarn production.

Plate 31: Stephen with a quernstone fragment

Flint

A total of 25 samples of flint were recovered mixed throughout the layers and features, including possible struck flint and debitage. Some appear to be field flint common along this coastline; other examples were of struck flints evident of processing. Analysis of the flint recovered from previous seasons had described the flint recovered as comprised of relatively poor quality raw material which was likely derived from shingle beaches in the vicinity. Some unworked material was present suggesting the transportation of this material to the site for processing and if more formal, carefully manufactured tools were being produced on the site, it appears that these were being removed and transported elsewhere (Brady 2024).

Glass:

A total of 25 glass artefacts were registered. The majority were thin fragments of blue or green glass while three were droplets of clear or blue glass which may indicate glass manufacture, or at the least glass finishing on site. Two glass beads (152:52; 152:57)

two fragments (152:37; 153:11) of blue decorated glass beads and a reddish elongated glass bead (1:722) have parallels in the Roman world.

Metal finds:

A total of 68 metal objects were recorded. Of that a total of 27 objects were of copper alloy, the majority of which were flakes or lumps of indistinct copper alloy. There were few readily identifiable artefacts, none of which were in good condition, due to the prevalence of copper disease on the site. Three rings of copper alloy (1:808; 147:9; 151:1) and a small fibula (152:5) were recovered form the upper layers of activity. The majority of iron finds were classified as nails, the reminder recorded as objects ahead of x-ray and conservation. A lead shot (1:892) was recovered from topsoil and lead weight from artefacts rich layer F153.

Plate 32: Deirdre with an 'I' shaped bone artefact.

5 Discussion

The focus of the 2025 season of excavation at Drumanagh promontory fort was to investigate the relatively higher ground that had been impacted by ploughing in the 1970s and was located relatively close to the excavations of Season IV. Stone deposits, defining artefact rich layers of waste deposits, stakeholes, and shallow pits were identified and the stratigraphy in this area ascertained.

Plate 33: Trench 6, post-excavation. Photo: Mark Broderick

Agricultural activity

The 2025 excavation unsurprisingly identified evidence for cultivation in the form of linear furrows aligned NNE/SSW reflecting the results of the previous seasons. 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.

Trackway

Barely visible on the ground a trackway traverses Drumanagh from 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).

Plate 34: Southern limit of 'trackway' traversing Trench 6, facing east

Excavation of Trench 6 which traversed the trackway had only identified it as a slight dip in the sod layer visible on the west facing section of Trench 6. This reflected what was found in Trench 4 which also traversed the 'trackway'. The 1977 aerial photo had shown the area of the trackway to be commensurate with a swathe of ploughing. The location of Trench 6 was partially chosen in order to test this in another area of the site. Again in Trench 6, it was shown that the 'ditch' features of the trackway were shallow most evidenced in the sod. However between the two ditches there was significant impact on the topsoil and stone material beneath that were highly disturbed. Both this area and the furrows had a high number of earlier material throughout, disturbed from the lower features by the agricultural activity. It is notably that there were no modern finds retrieved.

Earlier Activity

Prehistoric activity and artefacts dominate Trench 6. Unlike Trench 3, 4, and 5B no stone capped structures were identified. Instead the activity was more reminiscent of the shallow pit activity overlain by cultural material, on higher ground with Trench5A. Although perhaps more disturbed by later activity it appears that the use of large stones was to delineate rather than cap an area of activity as had been seen in previously excavated areas of the site.

In stark relief to previous seasons, where despite the proximity to sea and seashore, there was a noticeable paucity of evidence for seashell, Trench 6 contained an abundance of seashell. There had been a concentrated layer of shell (F136) within Structure 3 (Trench 5B, 2023) considered notable at the time. Returning a radiocarbon date range of 125-245 AD (UBA-54612) this layer included 86 limpets, 764 periwinkles, one blue mussel, one European flat oyster, and one common whelk. Most are considered edible and this suggests that the assemblage reflects shellfish consumption and contribution to diet (Erin Crowley-Champoux pers. comm.).

In contrast sea shell, totalling 32,903 shells, was present throughout the occupation layers in Trench 6, concentrated in localised pits and deposits and contained within a large pit (F161). Ahead of analysis periwinkle and limpets were noted during retrieval perhaps again reflecting consumption as part of diet.

Plate 35: John excavating shells from pit F161

A very considerable amount of animal bone was also recovered from Trench 6. It is expected, as in all previous seasons, that the main domestic herd animals of cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs will form the bulk of the assemblage. Although it will be interesting to see if variations emerge. In Trench 5, located nearest to Trench 6, high

levels of neonate cattle and neonate sheep/goat remains were recorded, in the assemblage recovered there. While the evidence from Trench 5 suggests a greater inclusion of food-related waste than in other trenches, perhaps reflecting a location closer to areas of habitation, if deliberate slaughter accounts for most, if not all, of the neonate remains then, the purpose of this must be considered to be outside of the norms of day-to-day life. The consumption of animals within a short time of birth is unproductive and wasteful when viewed through a purely pragmatic lens. The provisioning of food that appears wasteful, however, is a characteristic of high status and feasting: it is an ostentatious show of wealth, indicating an ability to disregard the practical (Duffy, 2025). Given the amount of bone will from Trench 6 will this assemblage represent feasting? Or the waste from a nearby habitation site? Or where processing and production of bone artefacts is taking place?

Plate 36: Stephen excavating pit F163

Shallow deposits and waste pits within the occupation layers dominate the earlier activity within Trench 6. One pit (F163) appears to have had a different purpose. Initially appearing as a post pit i.e. a circular area with packing stones it transpired that it contained at least four lamps/vessels, deposits of an as yet unidentified substance, which may constitute possible mineralised content of lamps, and a number of tracked/rubbing stones as well as a bone pin and the remains of a copper alloy

object. Unusually the lamp/vessels and stone artefacts were utilised as packing in the pit. There are two distinct types of lamps/vessels. The first type, of which there are two examples, are column like or high, the remainder being round or vessel like. At least one has the remnants of a handle. To date the closest parallels for the stone lamp/vessels is from Iron Age Scottish sites. In particular Clachtoll Broch, an Iron Age site located on the north-west coast of mainland Scotland, where investigations uncovered an unusually large number (10) of bowl shaped vessels made from steatite. These vessels have a hollowed bowl with a handle projecting from one side. No two examples were the same. Traditionally interpreted as lamps, residue analysis identified that at least two of the steatite vessels from Clachtoll were used for processing or storing dairy products. Although this may have been part of food preparation, it may have meant a butter like substance was used as fuel for 'butter-lamps'. Five of the Clachtoll lamps display clear evidence of sooting and staining consistent with use as a lamp. In addition beeswax-another source of fuel for a lamp-was identified in one of the steatite vessels. Although it was mixed with dairy products, perhaps indicating multiple uses for these vessels (Graves, 2022).

The use of large stones and smaller stone deposits to cap or delineate and area has been noted in Trenches 3, 4, and 5. The stone area in Trench 6 correlates most closely to that in Trench 5A, which was a relative high point within the surrounding topography, just as Trench 6 was. Likewise, the underlying activity-cultural layers and shallow pits-extended beyond the area defined by the stones. The exception to this was to the north of Trench 6 where the difference in soil indicates a distinct delineation of use, defined by the linear stone feature F146. While little modern ploughing has been undertaken at Drumanagh, there is photographic evidence from 1977 that shows ploughing in this area. Earlier furrows aligned ENE/WSW also traversed this trench. As with elsewhere the large stones with varied geology have similar dimensions across all areas which suggests deliberate selection. The movement of large stones in what may be extrapolated as large numbers from the shoreline would have involved deliberate effort to delineate or cap areas of former activity. In Trench 6 these stones have been profoundly disturbed.

6 Conclusions

The fifth season of excavation at Drumanagh promontory fort has built on the evidence recovered in the preceding seasons, identifying an area of waste clearance, potentially from a nearby habitation. 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 and that ploughing has had a severe effect on these deposits. 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 37: Some of Team Drumanagh 2025

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 113 volunteers on site and for post-excavation, including local people and those who have taken part in previous Fingal community archaeology projects.

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.

Christine Baker MA, MSc, MIAI
Heritage Officer/Archaeologist, Fingal County Council
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7 Post-Excavation Programme

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	TBP	TBP
Pottery	Alex Croom	Ongoing
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 twenty-two 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
143	T6	NNE/SSW aligned furrow.	11.11m/0.45m-0.54m width/ 0.20m depth	Cuts layers 152 and 151 and ashy deposit 156	F1	c.8 sherds of amphorae; bone scoop, peg gaming piece; iron nails, frag. Blue glass
144	T6	NNE/SSW aligned furrow.	exposed for 6m, 0.48-0.64m width/ 0.10m depth	Cuts layers 152 and 151 and ashy deposit 156	F1	3 sherds amphorae; antler handle; 2 iron nails; curved bone object; possible struck flint
145	T6	NNE/SSW aligned furrow.	2.2m/0.74m/0.2m	Cuts into layer F148	F1	I shaped bone object and sawn antler off cut
146	T6	Stone deposit	5m EW x 1.2m NS/ average 0.25m depth	F159	F1	Stone object; green glass fragment
147	T6	Stone deposit	5m EW x 1.5-2.3m NS x 0.14m	F159; F146; F153	F1. Cut by furrow F145	3x burnt Samian; Cu alloy ring; struck flint; bone pin fragment; stone object; iron nail
148	T6	Layer	5m EW x 3.5/4m NS x 0.14m	F157/Natural	Cut by furrow F145; F1	3 x struck flint; 2x stone handle; antler comb (148:6); blue glass frag.
149	T6	Ashy surface	3.5m EW x 2.5m NS x 0.05m depth	F155; F153	Cut by furrow F144; Under deposits F151/F152/F160	3 x bone pegs; perforated bone object; bone bead; iron nail
150	T6	NNE/SSW aligned furrow.	4m NNE/SSW 0.5m in width and 0.19-0.25m in depth	Cut into F152; F153	Topsoil F1	Die; antler tine; carved bone object; possible stone counter;

151	T6	Stony transitional layer	10m NS x 5m in width; 0.05-015m in depth	F149/F153	F154	3x frag bone pin; Cu alloy frags; tracked stone
152	T6	Stony transitional layer	7m NS x 5m EW; 0.1-0.2m in depth	F149/F155/F160	F144/F150/F154	79 objects including gaming pieces; gaming pegs; dice; bone combs; fibula; copper alloy; blue glass bead; enamel; stone lamp
153	T6	An extensive deposit of waste material containing concentrations or dumps of shell, charcoal rich soil and shell and ash in shallow hollows	16m NS x 5m EW; 0.1-0.2m in depth	F179; F164; F161	F155/F149/F152/F151	66 objects including hilt; spindle whorls, whetstones; gaming pieces; I shaped bone object; tracked stone, bone comb; glass frags; enamel
154	T6	Disturbed deposit of stone	6m ENE/WSW	F153	F1	
155	T6	Linear stone deposit	6.4m NE x 1.5m Width and 0.1m Depth	F153	F154/F152	
156	T6	Dump of ash within/under F153.	1.56m NS x 1.55m EW; 0.17m in depth	F179, F164	F151 Cut by F143	
157	T6	Natural interface layer that extended across Trench 6	20m NS x 5m EW; 0.1m-02m in depth	Natural	F153	Nail; Lamp
158	T6	Heat affected pit	1.11m EW x 0.14m in depth	Cut through F153 into F157	F151	Frag. Copper alloy
159	T6	Foundation layer for linear stone deposit F146	2.5m EW x 3.3m NS; 0.12m	F146; F147	F183	
160	T6	Pebble layer	5m EW x 0.16-1.6m NS x 0.05-0.10m in depth	F153	F149 and F152	2 frag. Bone pins; rounded glass

161	T6	Large oval pit	1.6m NS x 2.18m EW x 0.7m in depth	F153	Natural, through F157	Fragment bone pin (161:1); bone pin (161:2); bone tool (161:3) and possible struck flint (161:4)
162	T6	Oval pit	1.1m EW x 0.92m NS; 0.24 max. depth.	F157	F153	
163	T6	Stone lined storage pit	0.9m x 0.7m x0.34m in depth	Cut through F184/subsoil	F151 Cut by F143	Complete vessel; 4 x stone vessel/lamps; bone pin; tracked stone; possible rubbing stones; Cu alloy object; possible mineralised content of lamp
164	T6	Shallow pit	1.55m NS x 1.1m Ew; 0.11-0.2m in depth.	F157/Natural	F53/F156	Possible struck flint (164:1)
165	T6	Sub-circular deposit	0.6m diam/0.06m max. depth	F157	153	Blue glass frag.
166	T6	Shallow pit	1m Ew x 1.2mNS; 0.06m depth	166, 157	155; 153	
~~167~~	~~T6~~	~~Possible posthole~~				
168	T6	Shallow deposit	1m diam; 0.07m maximum depth	F157	F153	
169	T6	Shallow concave sided pit	0.46m NS x 0.38m Ew; 0.04-0.15m in depth	F153A/F157	F153	
170	T6	Shallow pit/stakehole.	0.25m NS x 0.2m Ew; 0.08m in depth	F157	F153	
171	T6	Shallow pit/stakehole.	0.27m NS x 0.25m EW; 0.08m in depth	F157	F153	

172	T6	Shallow oval pit	0.5m NS x 0.44m EW; 0.08m in depth	F157	F153	
~~173~~	~~T6~~	~~base of F143~~				
174	T6	Oval shallow pit	0.74m EW x 0.56m NS; 0.09m in depth.	F157	F152	Iron nail (174:1); object (174:2)
~~175~~	~~T6~~	~~Hollow under edge of F155~~				
176	T6	Stake hole	0.3m diam; 0.1m depth	F157	F153	
177	T6	Actually F153				Glass bangle frag.
178	T6	Shallow dished pit	0.5m EW x 0.4mNS; 0.1m depth	F184	Cut by F163	
179	T6	Localised mottled green/brown deposit	1.1m NS x 0.9m Ew and 0.1m depth	F157	F153, F156, F163, F166	
180	T6	Posthole	0.37m diam. 0.27m depth	F157	F153	
181	T6	Three stakeholes forming a small cluster	0.12-0.2m diam x 0.1-0.14m in depth	F157	F153	
182	T6	Posthole	0.37m diam. x 0.19m in depth	F157	F166	
183	T6	Spread of rough metalling	3.6m NS x 1.32mEW by 0.05m depth	F157	F146/7 F159	
184	T6	Stakehole	0.3m EW x 0.2m NS; 0.1m depth	F157	F178	