404

A55 Anglesey DBFO Scheme

Updated site interpretation for Ty Mawr, Melin y Plas and Penmynydd

Report No. 404

Prepared for
Richards, Moorehead and Laing

February 2001

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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By
George Smith and Jane Kenney
Illustrations by Andrew Dutton

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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Contracts Section
'Craig Beuno'
Garth Road
Bangor
Gwynedd LL57 2RT
Tel: 01248 352535
Fax: 01248 370925
Email: gat@heneb.co.uk

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Post-excavation programme
Contextual analysis report

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
GAT Project Number G1647

MELIN Y PLAS ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT, BRYNGWRAN

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Introduction

The evaluation excavations here identified a spread of stones associated with drainage features indicating the presence of at least one round house of presumed Iron Age or Romano-British date with the likelihood of more extensive settlement.

The area of the excavation lies on the south-facing slopes of a substantial but gently sloping ridge. 'Bryn Gwnan' (Fig. 1). This rises to a height of 39m OD just to the north of the site from a stream. the Afon Caradog at 12m OD, at its foot. The soils are developed over glacial clays and gravel are brown earths of the Sannan Series and one of the most productive in Anglesey (Soil Survey of England and Wales: Anglesey and MAFF Agricultural land capability map). The location has several features that made it attractive for early settlement. It is south facing, naturally drained, good soil, with a good vantage point and within easy reach of water.

No sites or finds of archaeological interest were known here or near by prior to the evaluation as part of the A55 road scheme. The nearest was a settlement of Romano-British date at Castellor, about 1km to the south-west (and in view of the site). The area in which the site lies was until recently a single large enclosure of improved pasture with occasional arable. Slight evidence of ridge and furrow showed it to have been arable in the past. The land itself formerly was part of the Plas Llechylched estate, the house of which lies about 500m to the south-west. This was fairly modest estate and there are no estate records to thrown light on earlier land use or field names.

The London to Holyhead post road was built over the Bryn Gwnan ridge between 1820-30. Prior to this the original road followed a circuitous route around the contours where it survives as a minor road. about 200m south of the excavation area. This may well continue the line of a much more ancient route with which the site may have been associated.

Methods

The area excavations were carried out by machine removal of the ploughsoil. The stony nature of the archaeological remains and their prior identification through the trial excavations made it possible to remove the topsoil without harming the archaeological remains and much of the lower topsoil remained to be removed by hand. Part of the site encompassed a slight artificial terrace where the remains were better preserved and where there was also a greater depth of topsoil. Slight soil shadow marks of Medieval or Post-medieval field ditches were visible in the exposed area of soil and recoverable from the aerial photographs taken of the newly exposed area.

The initial area opened was about 40m square (1600sq m) but when the extent of the remains was realised the area was extended to about 60m square (3600 sq. m). The great majority of features however, were concentrated in the central area of about 40m by 30m.

The excavation recorded about 950 contexts, comprising both structural features and their fills as well as various more widespread strata such as floors, silts and rubble. The recording did not, at that stage, apply interpretative or associational levels of context grouping although preliminary groups and phases were suggested for the assessment report. It is the task of the post excavation analysis to understand the overall stratigraphy and structural functioning of the various parts. At this stage it is necessary that the general groupings and stratigraphy be outlined. These can then later be drawn together more securely with consideration of the full details of the various features and layers in conjunction with evidence from artefacts, environmental samples and radiocarbon dating.

The majority of the 950 contexts here occurred within a relatively confined area and so the contextual evidence is complex. The actual depth of stratigraphy was, at the same time quite shallow so there was little vertical separation. There was much superimposition of structures and phases of activity.

The following description puts structures into groups as they reasonably occur by clear structural association, coherence, and stratigraphic relation or by horizontal proximity. It also provides a preliminary phasing based on stratigraphic analysis. Membership of a structural group (G1 – 23) does not mean that the features are necessarily related in all cases. Some are merely contiguous and it will be necessary to compare and interpret after more detailed analysis.

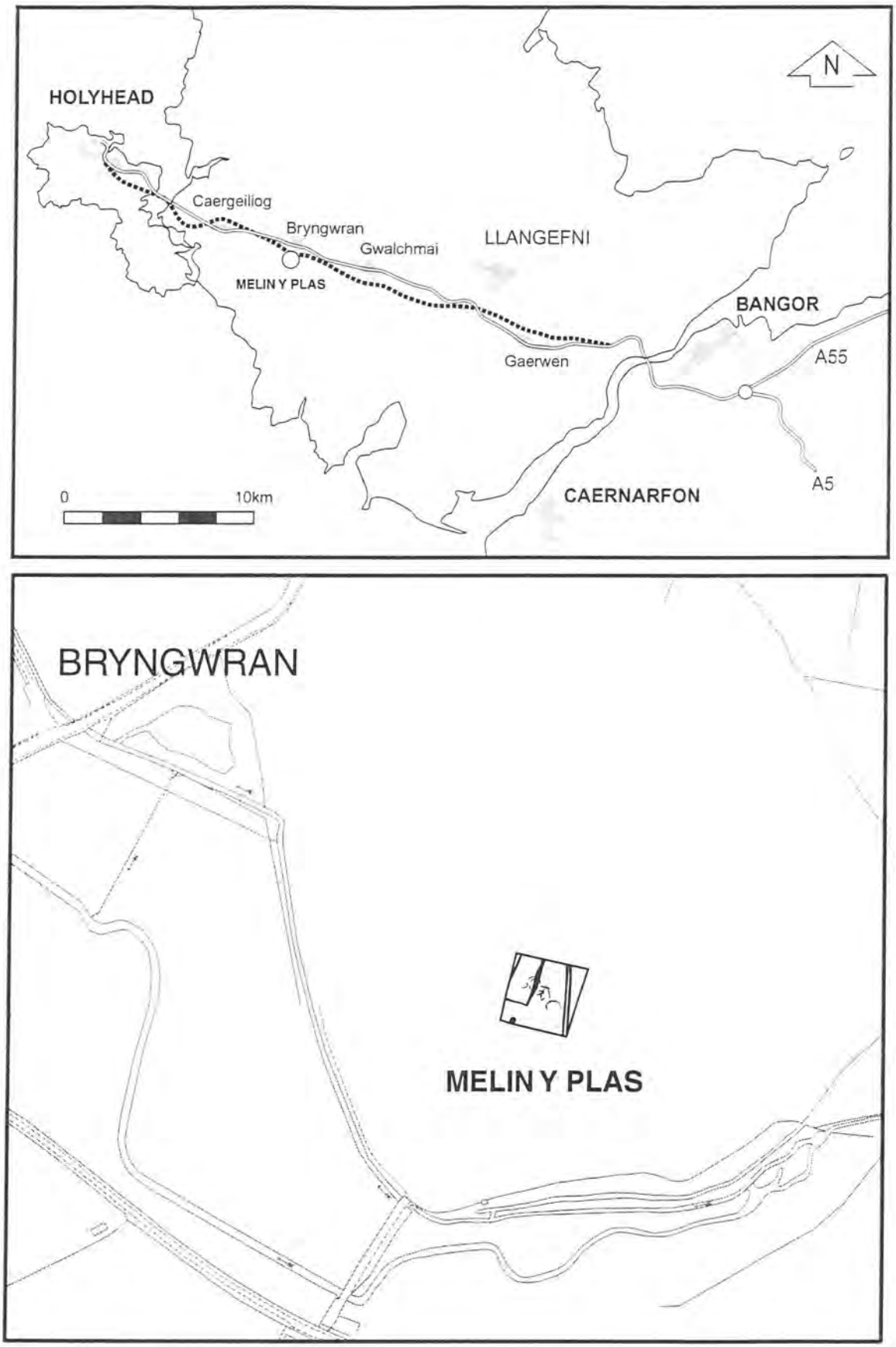

Fig. 1 - Melin y Plas : General location plan.

The description is made more comprehensible by the use of terms which themselves imply some interpretation, such as pit, building or posthole. Use of these terms then does not preclude the possibility of other interpretations. The truncation of most features by post-medieval ploughing means that many survive only partially and some may have gone entirely. Pits surviving as very shallow features are recorded as 'hollows' while all pits below about 0.5m diameter are recorded as 'postholes' or, if very shallow as 'posthole?'. Subsoil cut linear features are recorded as 'drains' if internal or 'gully' if external. The term 'ditch' is reserved for larger linear features above 0.5m width and 0.2m depth.

Melin y Plas: Structural groups

1	Building	1.1	
		1.2	
2	Building	2.1	Construction
		2.2	Use 0
		2.3	Use 1
		2.4	Use 2
		2.5	Collapse/Silting
		2.6	'Midden'
3	'Tank' pits		
4	Building?		
5	Building		
6	Pit group		
7	Pit group		
8	Pit group		
9	Pit group		
10	Pit group		
11	Pit group		
12	Pit group		
13	Pit group		
14	Isolated, unassociated pits		
15	External cobbling and path		
16	General stony layer		
17	Building?		
18	Posthole group		
19	Posthole group		
20	Posthole group		
21	Posthole group		
22	Isolated, unassociated postholes		
23	Disturbed stone spread F33/F500		
24	Medieval/post-medieval field ditches		

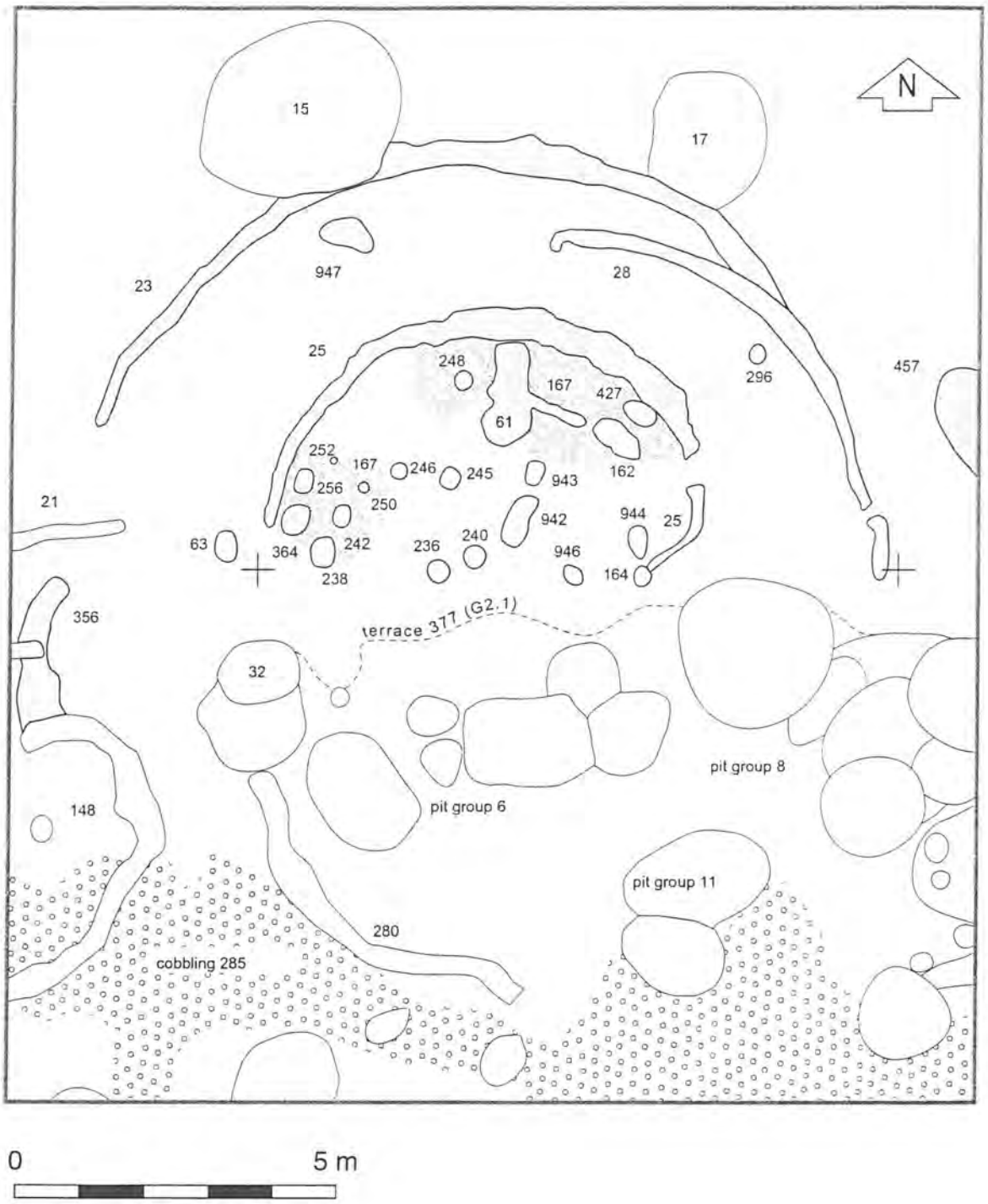

Fig 2. Melin y Plas : Building G1

Building G1 (Fig. 2)

Contexts bracketed are of uncertain association.

Consists of:
Drain 25
Floor 167
Gullies 23, 28, 61 and (280)
Hearth 942
Hollows 947 and (162)
Postholes 164, 289, (520, 63, 250, 236, 244, 246, 364, 240, 248, 427, 458, 252 and 256)
Postholes? (238, 242, 296, 943, 944 and 946)

Possibly associated:
Hearth (32)
Pits 30, 59, 457, 589 and 835.

Description:
This group of features at the north-west part of the site consists of the remains of a single roundhouse. Stratigraphically it represents the earliest recognisable phase of the settlement since its structural area was truncated by a terrace (F377) cut into the hillside as part of a later constructional phase (G2.1). Its southern extent was also subject to greater erosion as a result of plough action over the terrace scarp.

The structural remains are mostly isolated features truncated by post-medieval ploughing and with few stratigraphic relationships. They consist of curvilinear gullies and drains and a number of postholes which can reasonably be assumed to be part of the structure because of their horizontal proximity.

The main defining elements of the building are two concentric linear features, F23 and F25 which define a building about 6.8m diameter internally and 12.3m externally. F25 is a stone-capped drain and defines the limits of the interior face of the wall. F23 was an open gully and defines the limits of the outside face of the wall. Gully F23 had been re-cut at least once and had been replaced by another gully F28 on an arc with a slightly different centre suggesting that the building may have been totally rebuilt. If so, all other evidence of this second phase must have been removed by later ploughing.

In the area where gully F23 intersected with gully F28 the profile of F23 was steep-sided and flat-bottomed more like a structural feature like a plank-slot than just a gully. The rest of the gully's length however was of low profile and silt-filled. The small area of different profile of the gully survived because it was backfilled during the cutting of gully F28 while the rest was left open to erode and silt.

The inner drain F25 and outer gully F23 defined the wall area of about 2m width, where a clay or cob wall would have stood, comparable to known examples in north-west Wales where wall widths up to 2.5m occur.

The inner drain F25 lay approximately concentric to gully F23 rather than the later gully F28 but F25 itself cut two structural features, first a posthole F427 and a thin layer F167, probably a floor remnant. F25 may not have been the earliest part of the building. However, since such houses would have been frequently refurbished and repaired, floors would have been re-laid and additional timbers inserted. These features may therefore have been in contemporary existence, that is, butting against one another. The surface 167 was of a sandy consistency but with occasional patches of lighter coloured clay, which were interpreted as possible fragments of decayed, collapsed or demolished clay or cob wall.

The wall area between the inner drain F25 and the outer gullies F22 and F28 was largely devoid of features and there was no evidence of a break or of postholes which might mark an entrance. On comparative evidence the entrance would be situated lower down the slope in the south-east quadrant and this area had been removed by the later cutting of a terrace G2.1 and of a series of large pits, pit groups G6 and G8.

In the interior of the building defined by drain F25 were a number of features including several postholes and stakeholes. These averaged only about 10cm deep and did not form any obvious structure such as an inner ring to support the roof.

The other features comprise, first, a small area of burnt clay, F942, approximately central to the building, probably a central hearth, secondly a shallow pit of irregular outline, F162, and thirdly a larger feature of irregular outline, F61. Pit F162 had much charcoal in its fill and was linked to F61 by a narrow, shallow, linear feature. F61 seemed to have functioned as a drain with stone slab capping. These features all cut or were contemporary with the floor layer F167.

Outside building G1 were four features that could have been associated because of their proximity and position. At the west side was a shallow wandering gully F356, with stony fill. This survived only tentatively, cut by later features, and may have been a continuation of the outer building gully F23. On the north and east side of the building were three large pits, F15, F17 and F457. Pit F15 cut the fill of gully F23. These pits had uniform humic fills and were initially interpreted as tree-holes. They belong with a later structural group G13 (see below) which seems to deliberately respect the position of Building G1. Pit F457 was different and survived only as a remnant, cut by a later pit F30. It had remnants of a charcoal lining and was unlike any of the subsequent pits in the area and so may be the only external feature contemporary with G1.

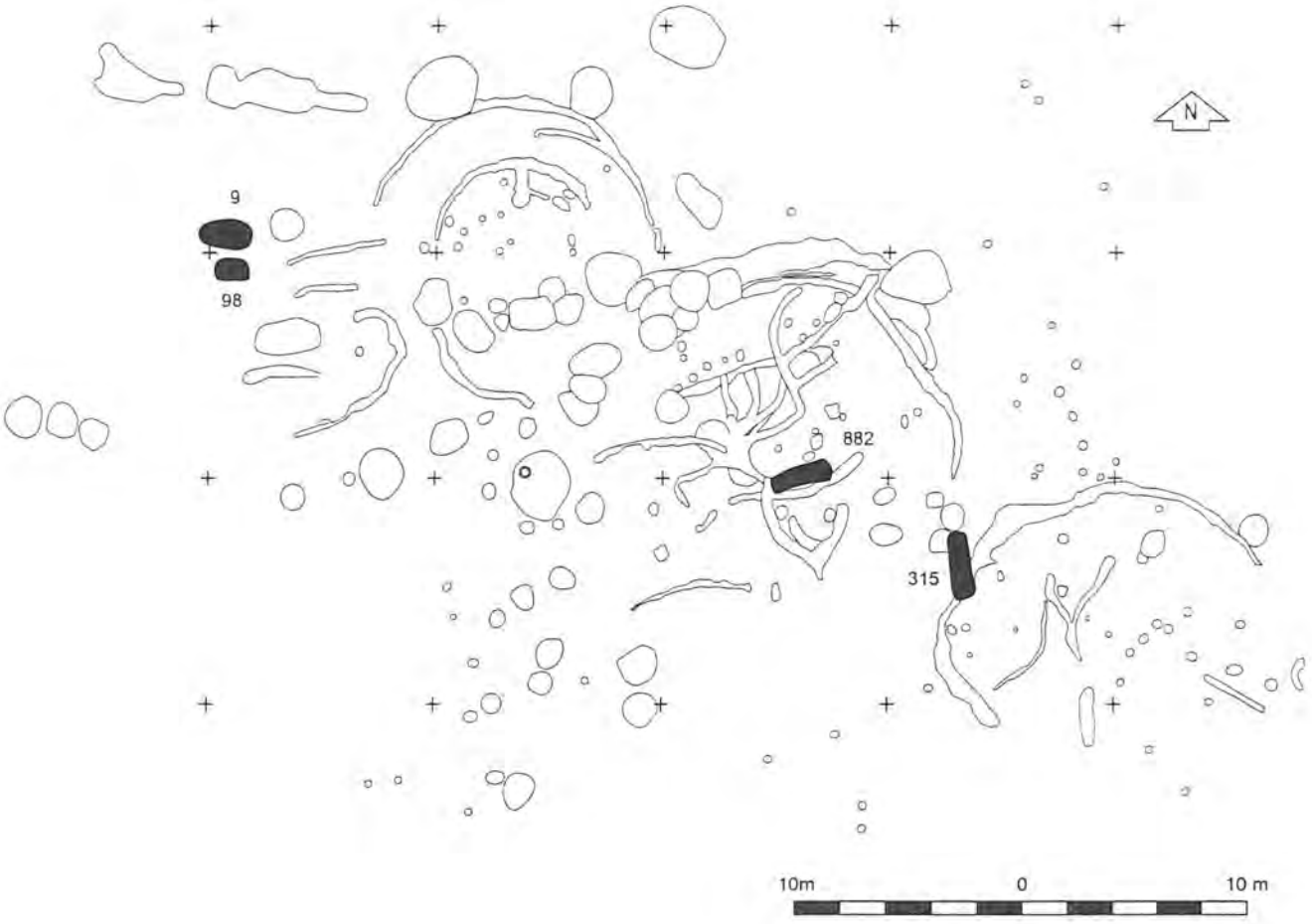

Fig 3. Melin y Plas : 'Tank' pits G3.

Pit Group G3 (Fig. 3)

Consists of:
Pits 9, 98, 315 and 882.

Description:
These pits were distinctive because of their sub-rectangular plans and flat bases. They are therefore included in a group even though scattered across the area. Two lie close to each other to the west of Building G1; one lies under the centre of Building G2 and the other 5m to the south-east. The latter two are particularly similar in shape, both narrow and rectangular in plan. The first, F882, predates Building G2 and the other, F315, predates Building G5. These pits have therefore been suggested to belong with the earliest phase of settlement activity represented by Building G1 and so possibly pre-Roman in date.

Pits F9 and F315 had a distinctive 'lining' of brown soil, quite different to the rest of the lighter coloured fill. The sharp outline of this 'lining' was taken to represent some kind of decayed timber structure within the pits. Pits F98 and F882, although of rectangular outline, did not have this 'lining' but both had notable amounts of charcoal low down in the fill. The pits were all rather varied in size. Pit F98 was 0.98m long and 0.70m deep while F882 was 3.2m long and 0.52m deep. The 'lined' pits resemble coffin burials in size and appearance but since this is unlikely for this period some industrial use has been suggested such as tanks for tannery, fibre 'retting' or even cooking pits like those found associated with 'burnt mounds'.

There was no direct dating evidence from these pits. F98 produced one piece of daub (SF 52) and F882 produced a pebble burnisher (SF 344). Charcoal identified as willow/poplar from pit F9 has been submitted for radiocarbon dating.

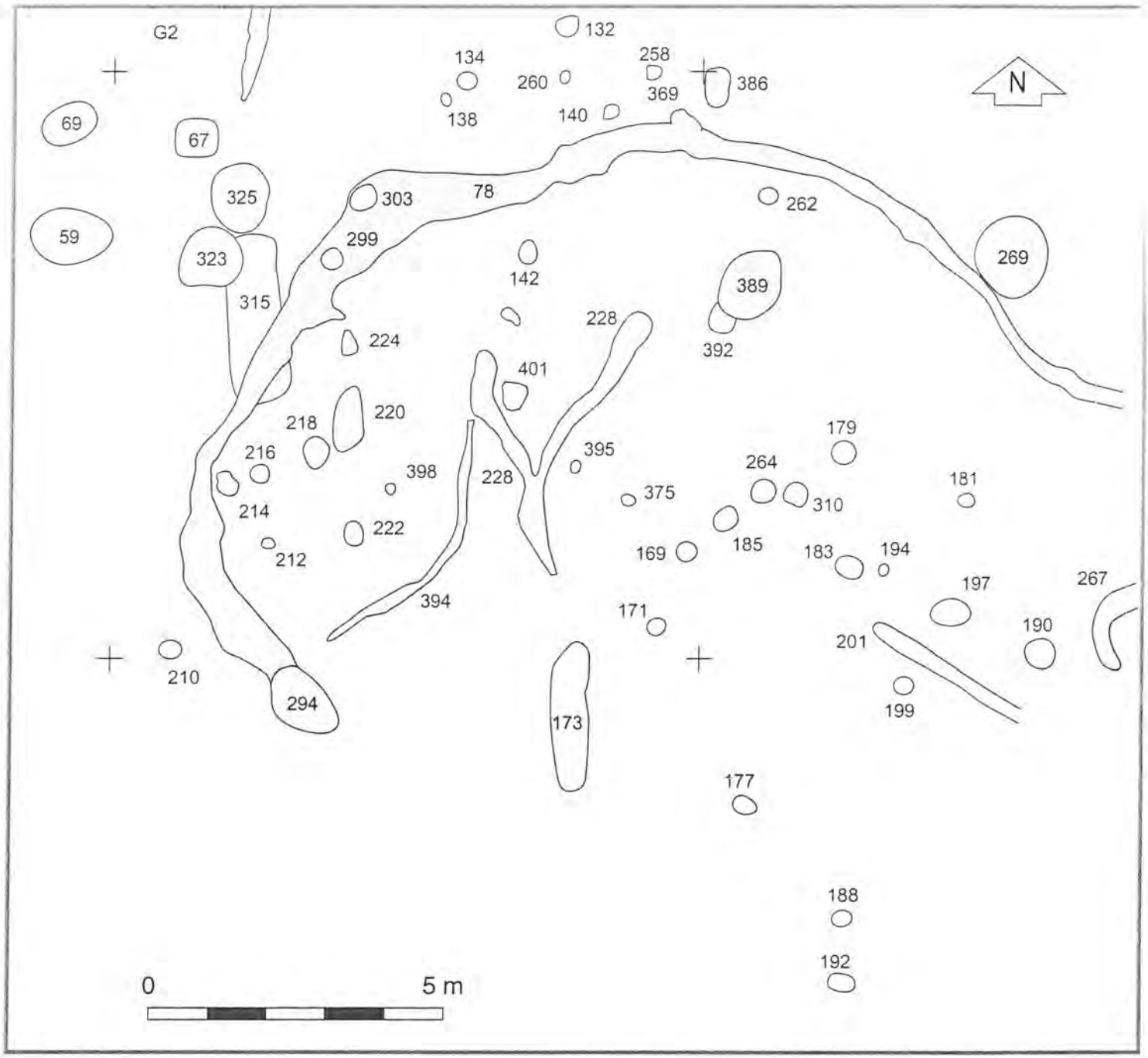

Fig. 4 - Melin y Plas : Building G5.

Building G5 (Fig. 4)

Consists of/Closely associated:
Layer 227
Drain 228
Gully 78
Pits 294, 310 and 389
Postholes 169, 171, 177, 181, 183, 185, 188, 197, 212, 392, 298, 401 and 722
Postholes? 142, 144, 179, 194, 216, 218, 220, 222 and 224
Hollows 190 and 264
Stoneholes? 192 and 199
Animal burrows? 201 and 394

Adjacent external features:
Layer 80
Pits 269, 303, 323 and 325
Postholes 67, 134, 136, 138, 260, 299, 369 and 386
Hollows 76 and 386
Gully 267

Description:
This area had been badly truncated by ploughing so that virtually all that was left was subsoil features, many of these remaining only to a very shallow depth. The principal feature is a rather irregular, curving gully F78, presumed to be an external drip gully for a roundhouse of *c.* 12.5m maximum external diameter. Within and close by but outside the gully are a considerable number of small pits and postholes. Without the benefit of clear horizontal structural relationship or of stratigraphy it is not possible to be certain which belong with the building or precede or succeed it. A group of small pits to the north-west – F59, F67, F323 and F325 seem more likely to relate to Building G2. The external postholes do not obviously intrude upon the extent of Building G5 and those at the north and the west may well be light structures, fence lines, etc., contemporary with G5 but they will be described as separate groups in G18-22 below. The features that lie within the arc of gully F78 seem likely to belong to it and so are treated as such.

Slight traces of a grey-brown silty layer (F227) were visible within the area of G5. This contained scattered charcoal flecks and was noticeably different to another layer, F80, lying to the north-west, which was associated with the occupation of Building G2. F80 was lighter in colour with burnt clay and burnt stone inclusions. It was considered that gully F78 cut layer F80 and that therefore Building G5 must post-date some of the occupation of Building G2. However, in plan it is evident that layer F80 simply respects the outline of gully F78 so they are more likely to be contemporary.

Within the presumed building area the main feature is a Y-plan drain F228 which was shallow and badly truncated but a few former capping stones survived, slumped into its fill. The drain had run off directly down-slope to the south where it had probably drained under the wall of the house since the entrance would be more likely to be at the south-east.

The circuit of the walls is nowhere visible but the large external diameter, similar to that of Buildings G1 and G2 suggests that this was another clay-walled building. Certainly the remaining postholes are concentrated in the central area but there are several within the area where the clay or cob wall would have been, for instance, F212, F214, F216, F222, F224, F142 and F262. Some or all of these could have formed part of an outer revetting of a clay wall, although they do not form a recognisable, circular plan.

In the interior area of the building some postholes and possible postholes may have formed part of a screen or internal portico – F169, F185, F264, F310, F375, F395. Four others fall approximately on a circle of about 6m diameter – F183, F179, F392 and F401 – and these are likely to represent an internal timber framework to the clay or cob wall, and defining the interior space.

At the south-east a substantial posthole F197, together with three slight truncated features, 190, 199 and 201 must be all that remains of an entrance structure. 201 which was shallow and irregular possibly the remains of a hollowed entranceway. Just beyond these features were the shallow,

truncated remains of a slight curving feature, possibly a trace of a gully taking surface water away from the entrance.

The remaining features were F294, F394 and F389. F294 was a shallow, oval pit that truncated the end of gully F78. Its fill was very similar to that of the gully although with a greater proportion of stones. It was therefore probably associated with the gully, perhaps as a drainage sump rather than being a later feature that intersected the gully by chance. F394 was a long shallow narrow wandering feature at the west side, thought to be an animal burrow and which would have been below the clay wall of the building. This may account for its occurrence and its survival. Pit F389 was unusual in that it was slab-lined and floored, a deliberate construction unlike most of the pits elsewhere which were simply deep quarry scoops. However, the pit was situated within the area of the presumed clay wall and it cut posthole F392 so must post-date Building G5.

Artefactual evidence was slight. It consisted of two pieces of iron, one piece of pot and one piece of daub. The daub, SF143, came from posthole F386, just to the north and only possibly associated. The iron objects came from gully F78, an indeterminate scrap (SF162) and from drain F228, a possible chain-link fragment (SF140). The pottery, SF 142, came from the thin, general, possible occupation layer, F227 and was spot identified as AD120-200.

The artefacts indicate that the building was in use in the second-century AD but could have begun earlier and continued later. A radiocarbon dating sample from the silt in gully F78 has been submitted and may provide a closing date for the building's use.

Building G2 (Figs 5-8)

Summary
The area in the centre of the excavated area provided the best preservation because a terrace had been cut into the slope to provide a building platform. This created a shallow linear hollow and the archaeological remains within this terrace had been protected to some extent from post-medieval ploughing. Within this area was one main structural feature, a building G2 comprising a roundhouse *c.* 13.5m in external diameter. An unusual feature was the provision of a gully-fed water supply into the building and this had necessitated a series of renewals of the internal drainage system.

The structural evidence shows that there were two main periods of use of the building. The earliest phase seems to have been pre-ceramic but on stratigraphic evidence post-dated the occupation of building G1, perhaps in the first-century AD. Most of the surviving structural evidence belongs to occupation in the second-century AD and the building was abandoned or dismantled by about the mid-third-century AD, possibly replaced by others nearby (see G4 and G17, below), of which most evidence has been lost because of post-medieval ploughing.

Introduction
The walls of this circular building, as with Building G1, had evidently been of clay, cob or turf and there were no traces of either stone or timber/wattle facing. Moreover, as with Building G1, there was no internal circular drain like in G1, to define the inside edge of the walls. These can only be inferred from the position of the external drip gullies and the generally feature-free band *c.* 2m wide within their circuit.

Building G2 was the most complex area of structural remains surviving on the site with a long series of renewed drains and a complex pattern of postholes that did not fall into any clear pattern. This is partly because of the better preservation here, which meant that many more details of structures survived. Nevertheless, there are still differences from the structural remains of buildings G1 and G5.

Building group G2 consists of:

G2.1 A terrace, cut as part of preparation of the building site.

G2.2 The earliest identifiable internal drain with associated floor deposits and postholes.

G2.3 The main occupation deposits with associated drains, postholes, floor levels and external gullies.

G2.4 Secondary occupation or renewal with further related drains, post-holes and re-cut external gullies.

G2.5 Abandonment/demolition with silting or collapse.

G2.6 Development of a humic rubbish or 'midden' layer over the levelled remains.

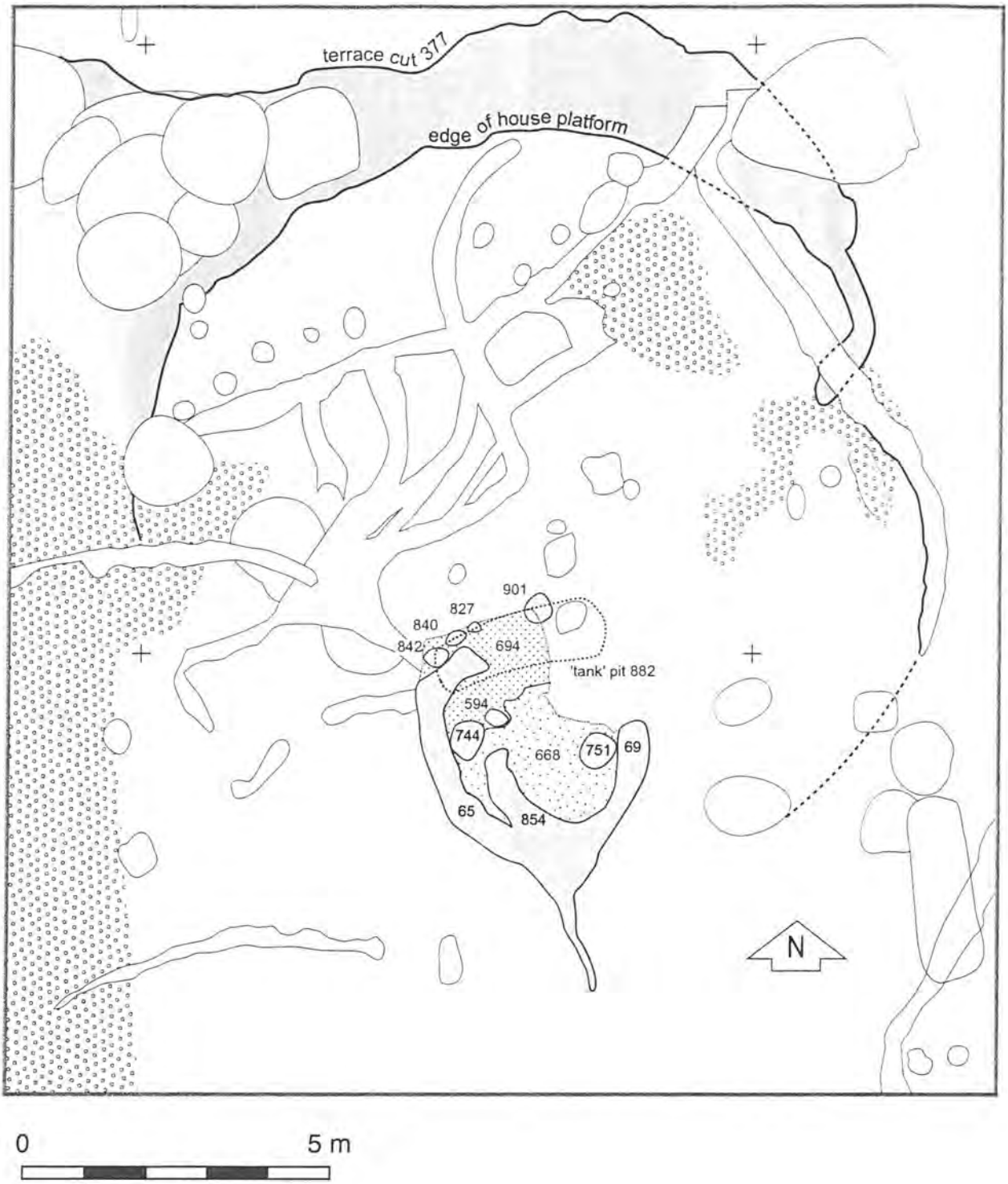

Fig. 5 - Melin y Plas : Building G2.1 and G2.2.

G2.1 (Fig. 5)

Consists of:
Terrace 377 containing layers 487 and 498.

Description:
This was a broad, shallow cut into the hill slope, about 20m long and up to *c.* 0.5m deep. Although Building G2 lay within its limits it extended some way beyond it and was probably a slight negative feature from the start, not simply a level terrace. It therefore provided a 'hood' drain for Building G2 not just a building platform and curved around it at the east side. The material from the terrace may have been used in house wall construction or it may have been used to create an uphill bank. Several shallow gullies were later cut into the base of the terrace to provide better drainage around the uphill side of building G2. The extension of the terrace further to the west of G2 suggests it was helping to drain a yard or working area, possibly with subsidiary buildings.

The approximately straight, linear nature of the terrace on the slope contrasts with the circular building G2 and hints at a boundary here, possibly a bank or a post-line of which some postholes in the area of Building G1 might be part. Some sort of enclosure to the settlement could be expected.

Cutting of the terrace clearly terminated the use of Building G1 and it can be presumed that the earliest identifiable phase of Building G2 was what replaced G1.

In a later phase of use a series of shallow gullies were dug into the base of the terrace as drip gullies for Building G2. Later still an extensive series of quarry pits (G6 and G8) were dug into the face of the terrace, probably to provide wall renewal material for Building G2.

The only artefact associated with the terrace was one flint flake (SF 149), just a residual find from much earlier activity.

Building G2.2 (Fig. 5)

Consists of:
Drain complex 65 and 854 with fills and stone slab cappings. 435, 648, 681 and 848
Hearth 594
Re-deposited clay layers 668 and 694
Postholes cutting or butted by layers 668 and 694: 744, 751, 827, 840, 842 and 901
External gully 74 (?)

Description:
The earliest activity within the area of structural group G2 was, stratigraphically, a single sub-rectangular pit, F882, see G3 below. However, this was sealed by layers and cut by features belonging to Building G2.2 and the pit is therefore believed to predate and be unrelated to the building.

The features in this group constitute only one element of the building and most likely were in use at the same time as other structural elements described later although in stratigraphic terms they were the earliest.

The main element of this group was a stone slab-paved drain (F65), Y-shaped in plan, which had partly replaced an earlier layout represented by drain F854. The two 'arms' of this drain joined together to exit into a smaller gully or plough-truncated drain at the south, down-slope side.

A few small postholes and two layers of floor-like material, F668 and F694 were stratigraphically associated with drain F65. In addition there was a small area of burnt clay, probably a hearth (F594). These features and layers were all in the immediate vicinity of the drain. The layers were therefore of quite limited extent and could not be correlated with any more general phase of use of Building G2. The layers, however, were of re-deposited clay and similar to more widespread floor layers found associated with later phases of Building G2. It seems likely that drain F65 was just part of the main occupation of the building despite its early stratigraphic position. The building had a series of internal drains and an outlet for the drainage would have been required. As a covered, sub-floor feature, the drain F65 could have continued to function when overlaid by subsequent floor levels. However, it must, at least, have been a primary element of the house.

Only one artefact belongs with this structural group, a stone bead, SF 252, from the fill of drain F854 and there was no direct dating evidence.

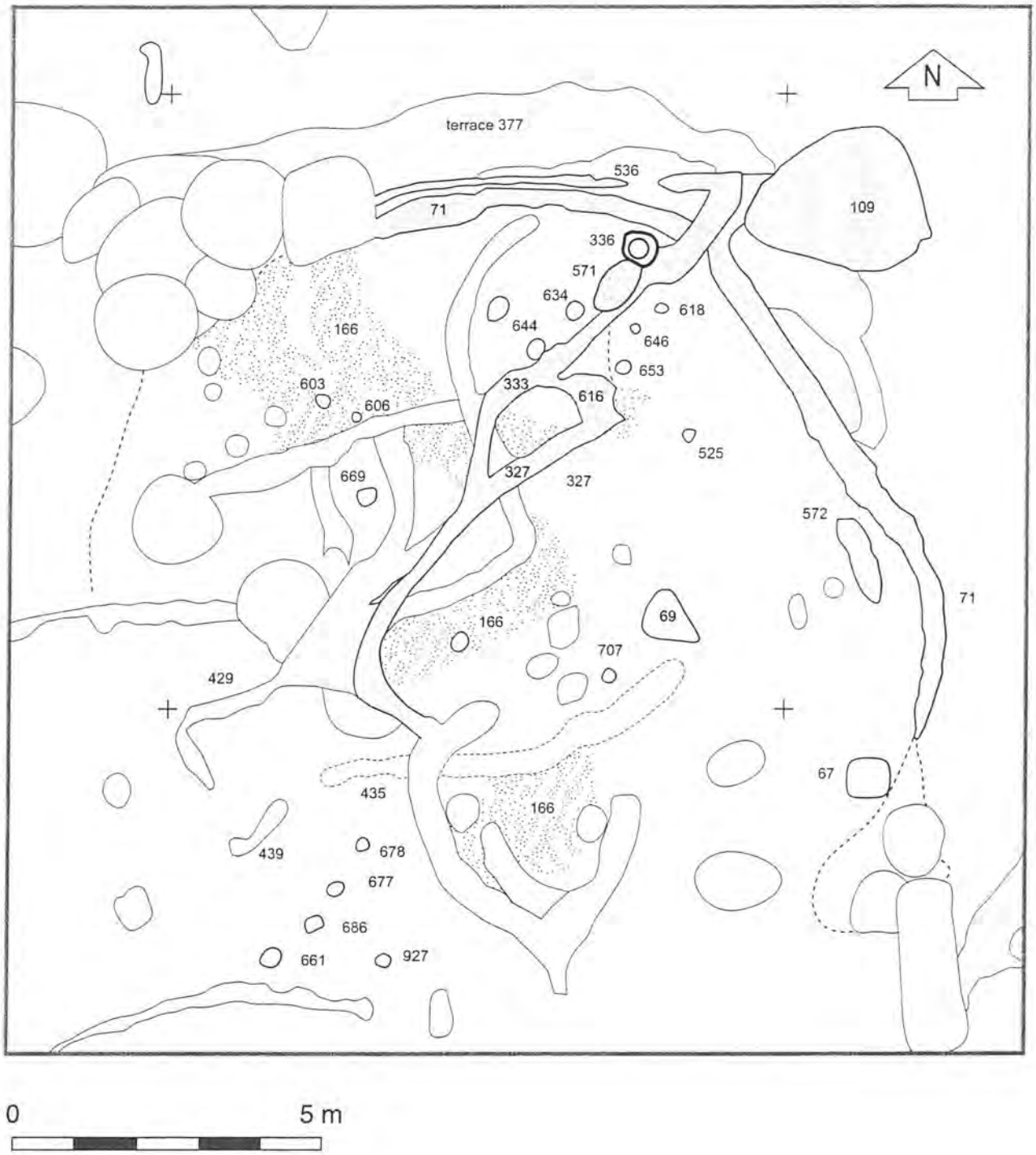

Fig. 6 - Melin y Plas : Building G2.3

Building G2.3 (Fig. 6)

Consists of:
Burnt clay layer 166
Clay layer 562, 923
Cobbles 561
Hearth? 69
Gully 379/536
Drains 327, 331, 333, 572, 581, and 616
Postholes 525, 603, 606, 618, 634, 644 and 669
Stakeholes 806, 808, 810, 812 and 814

Description:
This structural group provides the first general evidence of use of the building in the form of a scatter of small postholes, a group of stakeholes, a small hearth and a sequence of two main internal drains. In addition, outside the building two phases of gully were cut on the north and east sides.

The small group of stakeholes F806-814 are set between the 'arms' of the Y-plan drain F65, close to where a small hearth (F594) was recorded as part of G2.2 (fig. 5). The stakeholes were probably connected with use of the hearth.

The postholes are irregularly scattered and do not help to elucidate the plan of the building so seem to have had more to do with minor internal structures than being part of its basic structure.

The possible hearth, F69, was a shallow pit with a layer of charcoal and blackened soil lying under a stony fill. As there was no evidence of burning *in situ* it may have been just a remnant of burnt debris surviving in a hollow.

The building had the unusual feature of an internal, stone-paved, drain, F333, which did not just drain the 'interior' but introduced water into the building from outside. The drain collected water from the external gully F536, a re-cut of the main external gully F71. In order to introduce the water into the building a substantial slab lining was constructed to carry the water across the former line of gully 71. It then would have had to pass under the wall of the building and then became a stone-paved culvert. The wall of the house was stabilised alongside the culvert partly by means of a large horizontal slab and by a large, re-used broken mortar (SF 363). The water from the drain was directed towards the centre of the house but avoiding the central area of about 3.5m diameter, which must have been the working/cooking area. The northern branch of the drain F333 was designed to direct ground water from this area into the main drain F327. F327 had no identified exit so must have been linked with the Y-plan drain F65 described under G2.2.

Apart from the cut features, fragments of an associated layer F166 were recorded at the north edge of the building, in the centre and close to the Y-plan gully F65. Layer F166 was hard, clay with pink (burnt clay) mottles and charcoal flecks. It was interpreted as either a deliberately laid floor or as a collapsed clay or cob wall. Neither interpretation fully explains the facts. Part of the layer at the north, occurs where the wall of the building would have been so could have been a wall remnant but not floor. However, the other parts of the layer in the central area of the building could have been floor but unlikely to be eroded wall in that position. The layer could all be remnant wall material if the walls had been razed and re-used as flooring for the next and final phase of the building in which case the northern part could still be an *in situ* wall remnant.

The artefactual evidence from this group comprises one piece of pottery, one iron object, a piece of slag, a piece of daub and a flint. The pottery, SF 246, came from the fill of posthole F634 in the north-east part of the building. The iron object, SF 241, was a strip or blade fragment and came from the drain F616. The slag, SF127, came from a gully fragment F572 at the eastern edge of the building. The daub, SF 277, came from hearth F69. The flint, SF 245, an irregular fragment, also came from posthole F634.

The pottery, SF 246, was spot dated as 'Hadrianic or later' but the context is not very helpful since the pot could be residual in the posthole or have been incorporated during dismantling at a later stage in the

building's use. The end of this structural group was therefore no earlier than 'Hadrianic or later'. No radiocarbon samples from this group were included in the initial selection that has already been submitted. However, there is ample charcoal for a conventional date from hearth F69.

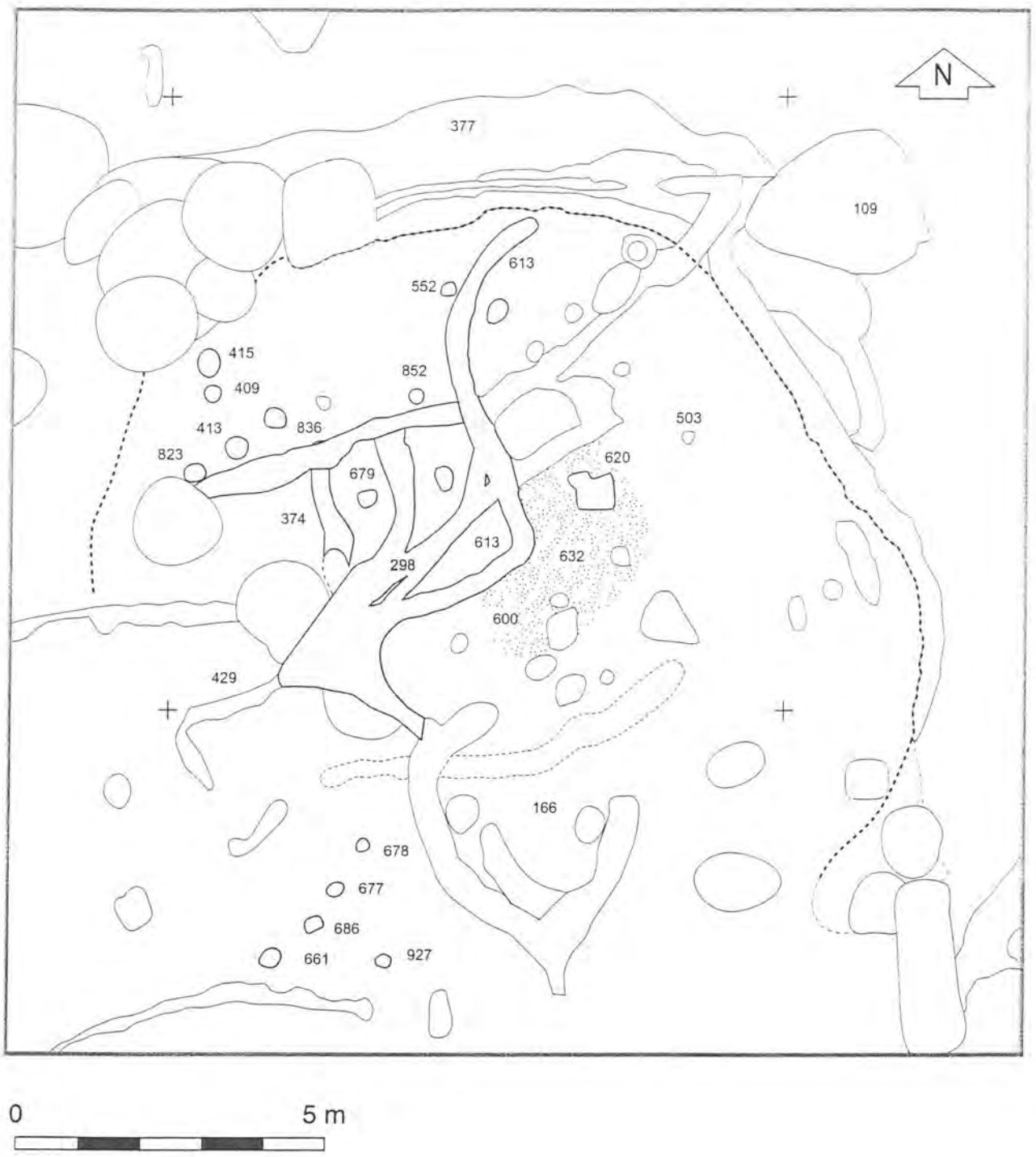

Fig. 7 - Melín y Plas : Building G2.4

Building G2.4 (Fig. 7)

Consists of:
Flooring layers 231/232, 610, 612, 632 and 683
Drains 298, 374, 581, 613 and 679
Pit/post pad
Hearth 620
Postholes 409, 413, 415, 503, 576, 600, 823, 836 and 852

Possibly associated:
Postholes 661, 678, 679, 686 and 927

Description:
This structural group succeeds group G2.3 and again the main element is a series of two internal stone-paved drains. These similarly served to bring water into the building but by a new route further north from that of G2.3. The line of the drain was first a gently curving feature, F298. This was later re-cut partly along the same line, partly on a new line as F613, which made a right angle turn to by-pass the central area of the building. Again, there was no apparent exit to these drains, down-slope both merging into the same area as the earlier drains F827 and F333. It has to be presumed that the Y-plan drain F65 continued to act as the outlet.

At the same time a network of drains F374, F581 and F679, drained the upper area of the house, directing the water towards that of F298/613.

A number of postholes lay scattered across the northern part of the building of which none form any clear pattern. Some, for example F409 F415 and F503 must have been below the wall of the building so may be much earlier. F823, F413, F836 and F852 all lie approximately alongside the drain F581. There were other postholes in a similar position, recorded as belonging to G2.3. Together, if all are contemporary, they represent some kind of structure associated with the drains. In plan this looks like a wandering fence-line.

A small hearth, F620, lay just east of the centre of the building. It was a shallow but neatly-cut feature filled with charcoal and burnt soil and capped with cobbles (burnt stone?) which showed clearly amidst the surrounding surface, F632, which was a clean yellow re-deposited clay. This layer F632 seemed to be a deliberately laid flooring and was the only extensive layer associated with this structural group (Fig. 7). When excavated it was believed that it had probably once been more extensive within the building. The other layers associated with this group were very localised of cobbling or re-deposited clay surviving in hollows or the tops of subsoil features.

At the south-west of the building was a small group of isolated postholes with no clear association. Four of these, F661, F686, F679 and F678 formed a line. These all lay within the area that would have been covered by the clay/cob wall of Building G2. They could have been internal revetting during construction of the wall but lacking stratigraphic proof they could equally have been later features cut after the house walls had been levelled.

The evidence for the building structure is minimal for this group of features. The postholes beneath the line of the clay/cob wall may show that the walls were constructed in sections. The wandering line of postholes, F823, F413, etc., may indicate the former inside face but does not correspond to any expected pattern. The construction of a new culvert/drain into the building must have meant that the clay cob wall was either totally replaced or, more likely, cut through and replaced locally. It may well have collapsed in the region of the original culvert 333 and that kind of wall structure may have required rebuilding rather than repair. Certainly, the interior pattern of drainage continued much the same.

Artefactual evidence
One chert core, SF210, came from layer F610, a localised area of floor levelling in the north-east quadrant. This was the only find associated with this group and so there is no direct dating evidence. Charcoal samples were retrieved from drain G298 (SF194 and SF196) and from the fill of hearth F620 (SF244). SF196 was selected for radiocarbon dating, and was mainly of willow but also including gorse/broom, oak, birch, hazel, holly and blackthorn.

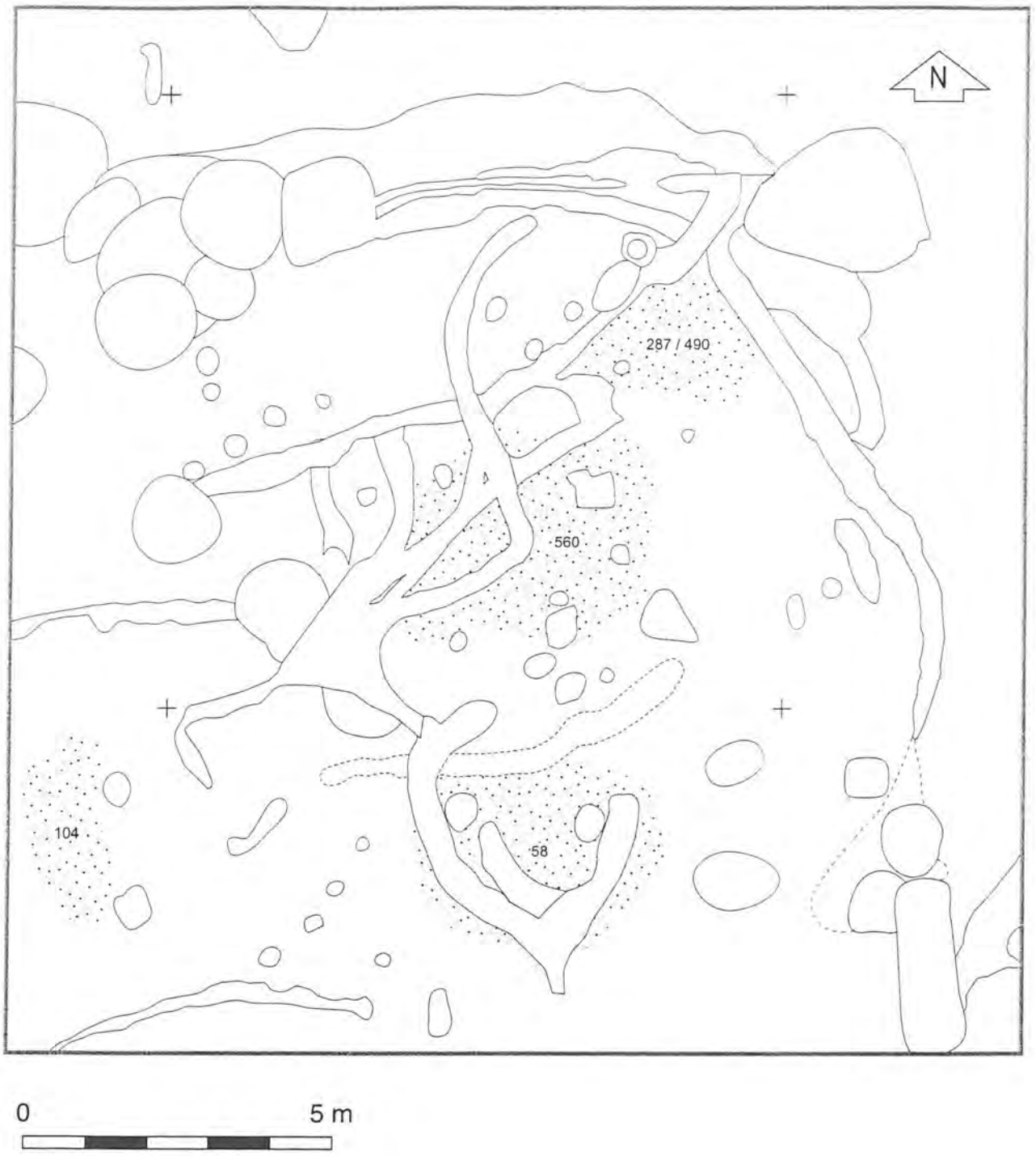

Fig. 8 - Melin y Plas : Building G2.5 and G2.6

Building G2.5 and G2.6 (Fig. 8)

Introduction:
G2.5 consisted of several areas of silt material lying over the structural remains of the building and these were considered to be the accumulation of naturally weathered silt over the eroding remains, possibly indicating a break in occupation on the site. G2.6 was quite different and consisted of several areas of accumulation of dark, organic-rich soil over the levelled building remains, indicating therefore that there was still occupation close by.

Building G2.5

Consists of:
Layers F100, F204, F287, F378, F490 and F560.

Description:
These were all gritty silts but varying in colour. F100 and F204 (not on plan) were grey and both lay over a cobbled surface immediately to the west of Building G2. F287 was brown and F490 greyish brown. These two layers were very localised patches around the drains in the north-east part of the building. F378 was a dark brown silt and filled the top of the terrace F377 and lay over the silted in gullies around the north side of Building G2. Layer F560 was the only extensive area of silt and covered a large part of the central area of the interior of Building G2. It was a dark brown silt and was the same as or similar to silt that filled the tops of all the subsoil cut features in this area.

Artefactual evidence:
As a silt this could be expected to be a fairly sterile layer, as it was, although the silt would have incorporated some objects already on the pre-existing surface. Layer F100 produced one fragment of burnt daub, SF 47. Two layers, F287/292 and F378 produced Roman pottery, spot-dated as of 'Hadrianic/Antonine', finds SF 114 and 150 respectively, while layer F560 produced pottery, SF 258, dated as 'Mid-Antonine'. F287/292 also produced a pebble burnisher, SF 112 and an iron nail, SF 115. F287/292 and F378 also produced small samples of charcoal.

Building G2.6

Consists of:
Layers F101, 104, 56 and 58.

Description:
F101 (not on plan) was somewhat different from the others, being a small ridge or dump of red-brown clay below a layer of cobbles, west of Building G2. The other layers were all dark and humic, interpreted as rubbish midden type material. F104 was of quite limited extent, filling a hollow just west of Building G2. It was dark brown/black charcoal-rich with frequent pieces of daub and 50% stones. Its position suggest that the hollow in which it lay may have been part of a slight drainage feature around the south-west part of Building G2, continuing that recorded around most of the rest of its circuit. F58 was also of quite limited extent, filling the area around the Y-plan gully F65. This layer was streaked and mottled in yellow and black clay with 25% stones, some burnt. It was recorded as 'giving the impression of flowing downhill'. This 'streaking and mottling' is reminiscent of the appearance of stacked peaty turfs in burial mounds where each turf has a thin layer of subsoil attached producing alternating streaks of black and yellow. However, if the walls of the building had been built of such turfs then the collapse of similar material should have been easily identifiable in the fill of the gully and terrace F377 for instance.

The most extensive layer in this group was F56 (not on plan), a dark brown/black, mainly as a result of organic matter, rather than charcoal. This was recorded as spreading over 'most of the interior area' of Building G2 but was only strictly identifiable around the drains in the centre of the interior and occupied an equivalent area to that of layer F560 (Fig. 8).

Artefactual evidence:
As an occupation/rubbish layer this group could be expected to have a high number of finds and this was the case.

F58 produced one copper alloy fragment, SF 90. F104 produced one potsherd identified as 'Hadrianic/Antonine', SF 268 and a bone fragment SF 103. Layer 56 was the most extensive and produced the most artefacts: an iron nail, SF 23, a lead strip, SF 28, a piece of slag, SF 25, a fragment of a stone mortar, SF 91, a hammer-stone SF 107 and five pieces of pottery, one, SF 30 unidentified and four of Roman date. SF 61, 66 and 136 were identified as 'mid second-century and SF 66 as 'Hadrianic/Antonine'. There is some structural evidence (G4 and G17, below) of buildings on the site after the abandonment/demolition of Building G2 and this would agree with the continued accumulation of rubbish. On the evidence of the pottery Building G2 had gone by the mid second-century.

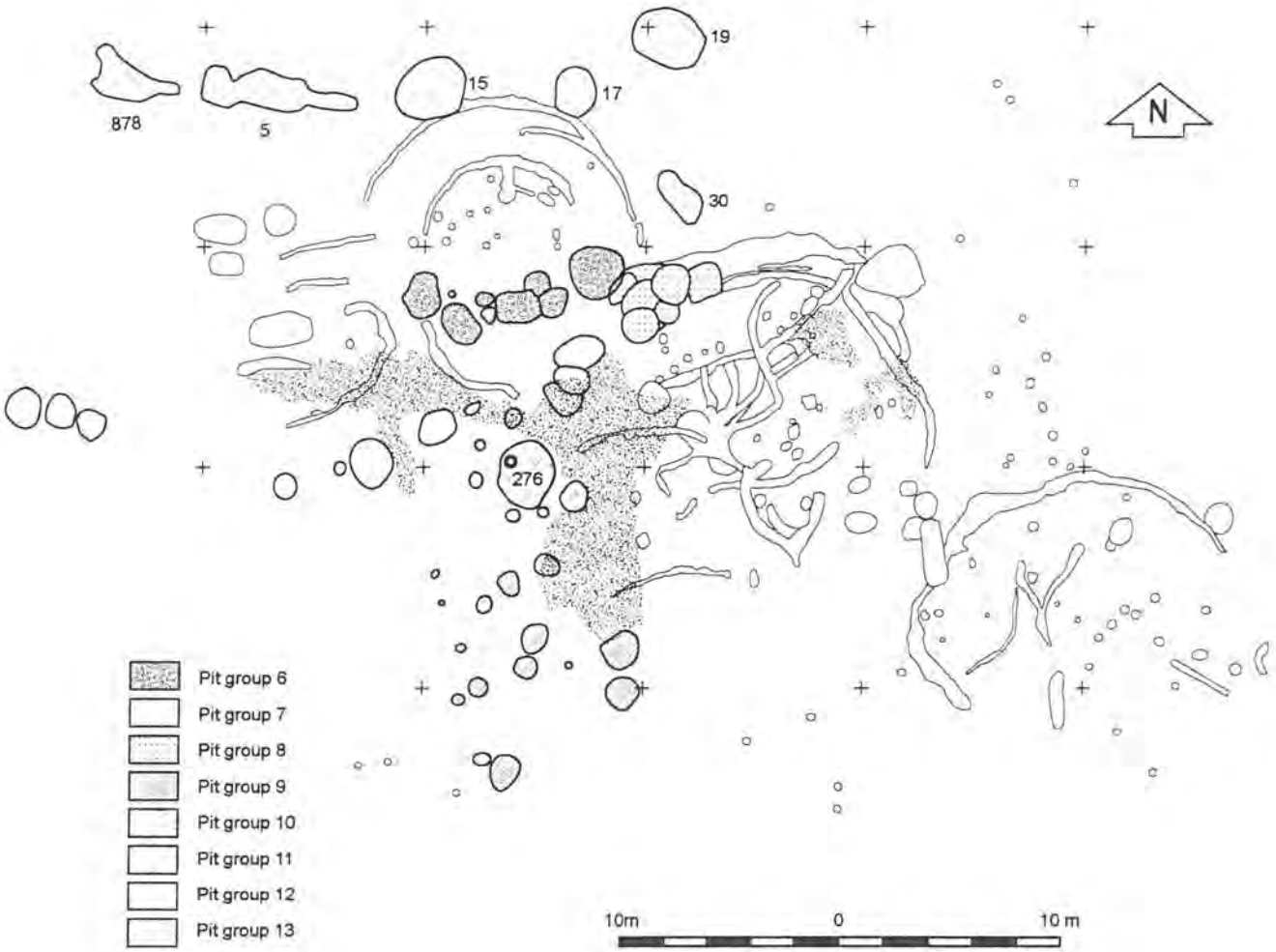

Fig. 9 - Melin y Plas : Pit groups G6 - 13

Pit Groups G6-13 (Fig. 9)

Pit Group G6

Consists of:
F32, F278, F305, F464, F472, F476, F499, F526 and F 835.

Description:
A small group of pits of generally sub-rounded plan and rounded profile which vary from 0.69m deep (pit F305) to 0.14m deep (pit F476). The fills suggest natural silting of open hollows except for F32 which contained a quantity of burnt clay.

The pits cut into the face of terrace F377 a feature cut prior to the construction of building G2. The pits therefore, stratigraphically, do not belong with the first phase of that building. The pits are similar to those of adjoining groups G8 and G11 and are interpreted as quarry pits for clay used in refurbishment or reconstruction of building G2. The interlocking nature of the pits derives from their sequential excavation as quarry holes. Pit F32 is different and cuts pit F835 so may derive from separate and somewhat later activity.

Artefactual evidence:
The artefactual evidence for the group consists of daub, SF 187, 200 and 205 from a late top fill of pit F526 and therefore deriving from activity later than the pit itself.

A charcoal sample, SF 161, from pit F464 consisted of mainly willow/poplar plus some oak and hazel and has been submitted for conventional radiocarbon dating.

Pit Group G7

Consists of:
F320, F362, F522, F642, F658, F741 and F 825.

Description:
A group of pits of rather irregular outline, varying from 0.82 to 0.13m in depth. The natural silting profiles and shape suggests that these were quarry pits similar to those in Group G6. Pit F320 was also cut by a later posthole F825 and overlain by the footings of a straight wall, F152. The wall belongs with the latest period of activity of the settlement and the pit therefore belongs with the main phase of use of building G2.

Artefactual evidence:
The artefactual evidence consists only of daub, SF 253, from pit F643 although several pieces of flint were found in a silt layer overlying these pits. There was nothing therefore to help with assigning a date to the pits. The pits have a linear layout that may reflect some boundary no longer identifiable. This boundary would reflect, to some extent, the orientation of the terrace, F377, of group G2.1, the cobbled footpath of group G15 (below) and boundary elements suggested by some of the groups of external postholes (G18-22, below).

Pit Group G8

Consists of:
F532, F548, F558, F786, F788, and F861

Description:
A small group of inter-cutting pits, all sub-rounded in plan with rounded profiles and averaging about 0.5m deep. The way these inter-cut each other suggests they were closely contemporaneous but separate activities, similar to that of the adjoining pits of G6 interpreted as clay quarry pits.

The group truncates one of the drainage gullies of Building G2 but respect its outline so must relate to a phase when it was already in existence, as G2.2 or G2.3.

The fills of these pits suggest natural silting, shortly after cutting, with no artefacts present in the primary fills. Two artefacts, a small whetstone, SF 83 and an utilised pebble, SF 126, came from a stony fill in the top of this group of pits. This stony layer belongs with a late phase of activity, G2.6, after the demolition of Building G2.

Artefactual evidence:
There was no artefactual or other dating evidence.

Pit group G9

Consist of:
F36, F38, F40, F42, F50, F52, F54, F451, F478, F482, F501 and F574.

Description:
A group of pits related by horizontal proximity. Of these, four – F50, F52, F54 and F451 – appeared to be just natural hollows or stone-holes. Four were larger, sub-rounded pits – F478, F482, F501 and F574 – of 1.0 to 1.2m diameter and *c.* 0.4m deep with rounded profiles. These are similar to the pits of groups G6 and G8 and so are also interpreted as clay quarry pits associated with refurbishment of building G2 and predating the construction of probable building G4. Four of the pits are different to the larger 'quarry' pits. These are F36, F38, F40 and F42. These are smaller with a charcoal-rich fill, that of F42 suggesting that the charcoal was formed *in situ* or placed in the pit while still hot. F38 was similar in dimensions but with a light brown loam fill. The charcoal-filled pits stood out as different to all other pits in the area and on excavation were interpreted as possibly belonging to a much earlier prehistoric phase on the site. Similar charcoal-filled features are typical finds on and around Bronze Age burial sites. However, there is no direct stratigraphic or artefactual evidence here to indicate this interpretation. In terms of horizontal disposition the pits of this group occupy the area that probable building G4 would occupy and the large pits at least probably belong with the main use of Building G2.

Artefactual evidence:
There was no artefactual or other dating evidence.

Pit Group G10

Consists of:
Postholes F46, F381, F520, Hollow F276, Pit F509, Stone mortar F291.

Description:
A group of postholes set in an arc possibly forming a curving shelter or building *c.* 4.5m diameter at the west side of Building 2. Within the arc of postholes was a large hollow, F276, *c.* 3m diameter and 0.2m deep, in the fill of which was a stone mortar SF 164.

Artefactual evidence:
In hollow F276, in addition to the stone mortar were also four pieces of Roman pottery, SF 86, SF 89, SF 102 and SF 116. These were provisionally identified as of 'Early third century'. The mortar was set into a stony fill lying over the hollow, a layer that could be associated with the main occupation of building G2. Together with the evidence of the pottery this suggests pit F276 was one of the later features on the site and in its position may respect the outer edge of gully F636 of probable late building G4.

Pit Group G11

Consists of:
F506 and F518.

Description:
Two large adjoining pits, sub-circular in outline with curving profiles and natural, artefact-free silting. F506 cuts the fill of 518.

Similar to the quarry pits of Groups G6 and G8 and probably also associated with the refurbishment of Building G2.

Artefactual evidence:
There is no associated dating evidence although pit F518 produced two small pieces of briquetage, SF 176 and SF 177.

Pit Group G12

Consists of:
F829, F831 and F833.

Description:
Three outlying adjoining sub-circular pits with natural silting profiles. Probable quarry pits.

Artefactual evidence:
No artefacts and no other direct or indirect dating evidence.

Pit Group G13

Consists of:
Pits F15, F17, F19 and F30. Linear hollows F5 and F878.

Description:
These are mainly large hollows rather than dug pits. The fills are homogeneous loam suggesting that these were plough-soil filled features associated with the medieval/post medieval field system (G 24, below). F5 and F878 may have been plough headland hollows while pits F15, 17 and 19 may have been quarrying for a field headland bank. Pit 15 cut the fill of gully F23 of building G1 but its position suggests it might have been respecting it. Alternatively, the site of the building may have survived as an upstanding earthwork feature that was respected by the medieval/post-medieval field adjacent to it.

Pit 30 was different to the others and had a deliberate backfill including numerous stones and much charcoal. This pit, although isolated, is perhaps more likely to be associated with building G1.

Artefactual evidence:
There was no artefactual or other dating evidence from these pits and hollows.

External Postholes, Groups G18 - G22 (Fig. 10)

Description:
These groups include all features identified as probable postholes that lay outside the area of identified buildings or not clearly associated with buildings. When identifying possible patterns it is important to recognise that the truncation of the surface by medieval/post-medieval ploughing and the shallow nature of the surviving postholes shows that quite a number will have been lost altogether.

Group G18: This is the largest surviving group with 14 postholes and at least four separate elements. Leading north from the external gully of building G5 is a line of 4 postholes, similarly spaced at about 1.5m apart forming a possible boundary fence associated with the building. Further to the north two isolated posts could form part of a continuation of the first boundary or another running east from the east side of building 2. There are also three pairs of posts, between 1.0 to 1.6m spaced. These are likely to be isolated structures such as drying racks or stack stands.

Group G19 is a line of three postholes at 3.2m and 3.8m spacing forming another probable boundary fence associated with the west side of building G5.

Groups G20 and G21 are outlying but apparently deliberately spaced pairs of posts at 1.0 and 1.6m spacings, similar to those in Group G19.

Group G22 includes several isolated outlying postholes with no identifiable associations or function.

There was no artefactual or other dating evidence from any of these features apart from one flint flake, SF 41 and presumably residual, in an isolated posthole.

Fig. 11 - Melin y Plas : Building G17

Building? G17 (Fig 11)

Consists of:
Drain 608
Gullies 22 and 358
Postholes 352 and 360

Possibly associated:
Wall 152

Description:
This group consists of a small number of features at the west edge of the settlement area. Its main element is a curving stone-paved drain F608. This cut through the cobbling of the yard associated with Building G2. It is therefore likely to represent activity contemporary with Building G4, which also post-dated the cobbled yard. South of drain F608 was the footings of a straight wall, F152. This bore no obvious relation to any of the other features, either as a free-standing boundary wall or as part of a former rectangular structure.

Drain F608 is in an unusual position if it was part of a building because it originates on the edge of the terrace F377 of G2.1. It is also of an irregular plan. Of the features associated with F608 only two can possibly be stratigraphically related – postholes F352 and F360, which also cut the cobbled surface. Charcoal-filled pit F918 lay under the cobbled surface, as did F349, which was a slight terrace, cut to accommodate the cobbled path F285. Pit F354 was cut by a linear feature that was probably a remnant continuation of drain F608. Pit 747 was also cut by drain F608. The two linear gully/drain fragments F22 and F358, just north of drain F608 were both full of natural silt similar to the fill of the gully 23 around Building G1, adjoining, and so may belong with it.

Altogether, the absence of associated structural evidence and the position of gully F608 on the edge of the earlier terrace suggests it may have been laid to drain water across the cobbled path F258 rather than being an internal drain of a building of which all other traces have gone. However, the slight nature of the remnants of wall F152 shows how much evidence has been lost.

Artefactual evidence:
There were no artefacts from these features but there was a small charcoal sample from gully F608 (SF 248).

Fig. 12- Melin y Plas : Building G4

Building? G4 (Fig. 12)

Consists of:
Drain 870
Gully 636

Possibly associated:
Drain 495
Hearths 36 and 40
Hollows 658 and 736
Pits 42, 276, 449, 478, 549, 574 and 734.
Posthole/Pits 754 and 790
Postholes 44, 46, 513, 520, 661, 664, 673, 677, 686, 716, 927 and 935
Rubble spread 816

Description:
This vestigial structure was identifiable mainly because of the presence of two well-defined curvilinear features, F636 and F870 that cut into the cobbled surface of the yard G15 associated with Building G2. The two features were on similar arcs but widely spaced, about 3m apart, so they seem unlikely to demarcate the inside and outside edge of a clay-walled house as such. However, F636 seemed to be an external gully while F870 was clearly an internal paved drain. Internal drains sometimes follow the internal plan of roundhouses but often are irregular in plan, as seen in Buildings G2 and G5. The external gully F636 therefore is likely to represent the outline of the former Building G4.

The building succeeded the cobbled yard and some of the pits associated with Building G2. Some of the remaining features in the immediate vicinity may belong with Building G4 but because of truncation by ploughing no relationship can be proved.

Artefactual evidence:
There were no artefacts from these two features although one piece of Roman pottery, SF 174, identified as 'Hadrianic/Antonine', came from a stony layer overlying gully F636, but part of the more general disturbed stony spread which incorporated residual finds. Pit F276 was a large feature that, like F636 and F870, post-dated the cobbling associated with Building G2. It therefore is probably associated with Building G4, just outside it and may have been a quarry pit. This may help to date the building therefore (see G10, above). The pit produced four pieces of Roman pottery, SF 86, 89, 102 and 116, all identified as of 'early third century'. In the top of the pit was set a large stone mortar, upright, possibly *in situ*, SF 164.

The associated dating evidence suggests that building G4 was in use, at least, in the early third-century AD although whether there was a break in occupation between use of Buildings G2 and G4 cannot be shown, nor how long settlement continued, although the pottery from Pit F276 is the latest from the site. Small charcoal samples were obtained from posthole F44 and from gully F636. The sample from gully F636, SF 291, which contained charcoal of birch, hazel, hawthorn, oak, willow/poplar and gorse/broom has been submitted for radiocarbon dating and may provide further evidence.

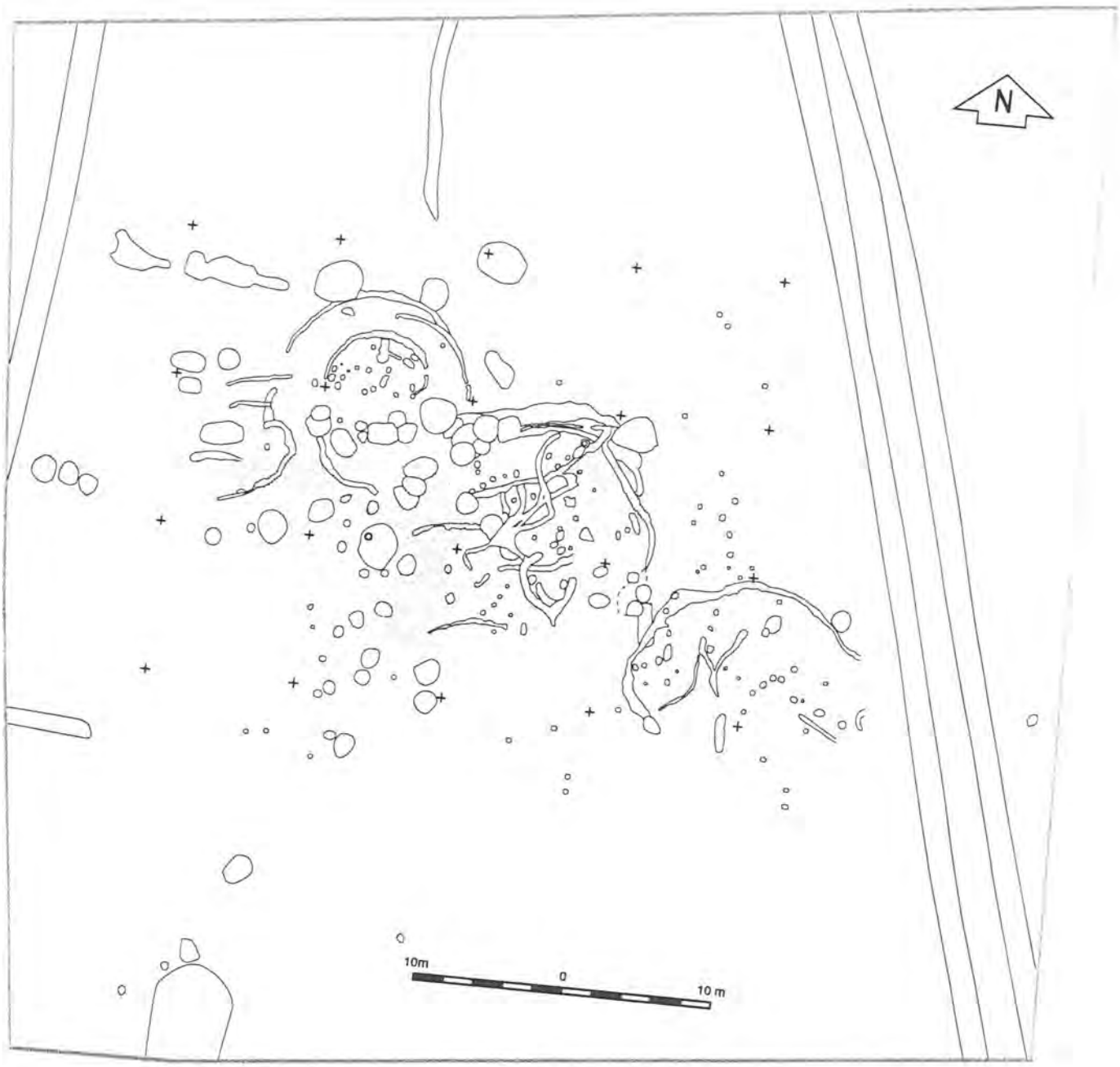

Fig. 13 - Melin y Plas : Cobbling G15 (F285)

External Cobbled Yard G15 and Stone Spreads G16 (Fig. 13)

Description:
A spread of well-packed stone lay to the west of Building G2 and better-preserved parts of this showed that it had been a deliberately laid, cobbled surface. It formed a yard contemporary with Building G2 since it respected the building outline in its original disposition and, as described under Group G2.5 and G2.6, some of the elements of the abandonment phase of the building lay over the cobbling. A hollow in the cobbled surface also respected the west side of the building, forming a continuation of the drip gullies around the north side.

The interpretation was made difficult because the cobbles were overlaid by some areas of stone dumping/demolition (G16) and there were also small areas of cobbling within Building G2. In addition, post-medieval ploughing over the whole remains of the settlement had resulted in a disturbed stony spread over most of the settlement area (G23).

Within the area of surviving cobbling lay a linear spread of smaller, more neatly laid cobbling, F285, which followed just down slope of the east-west line of the terrace F377. This was interpreted as a path and when complete may have continued south-eastwards towards the entrance of Building G2.

The cobbles were subsequently cut by a few gullies, which represent further building activity in the area after the end of Building G2 (see G4 and G17).

General disturbed rubble layer G23 and Medieval and Post-medieval field ditches G24 (Fig. 14)

Description:
Initial exposure of the excavation area after removal of the topsoil revealed an irregular stony spread. Layer F33. This had a fairly regular edge at the uphill side, which proved to be the line of the terrace, F377. At the downhill side it was irregular where ploughing had truncated it but it can be seen that it covered the area of the later structures on the site, G2, G4 and G17 but not of the earlier structures G1 and G5.

The stony layer may have partly been cobbling or yard consolidation material associated with the latest phase of the settlement. However, the quantity of stone, suggests that some of the structures had incorporated stone in their walls and the use of stone facing could be a normal development from simple clay/cob walls by comparison with similar buildings elsewhere in the region.

The stony layer F33 then was partly external flooring and partly collapse/demolition material and this all had been disturbed by post-medieval ploughing. It was therefore a composite layer and ploughing might have incorporated artefacts from several phases of the settlement's life.

Prior to medieval agriculture the area of the settlement probably consisted of an irregular hummocky area on the hillside in which some outline of the banks of the latest structures may have been visible. This hummocky area was largely left alone, probably as a marginal area of pasture when a first phase of fields were laid out in the area. This comprised three shallow ditches 855, 890 and 999 forming a long narrow field oriented up and down slope. Ditches 890 and 999 were only vestigial features in the excavated areas but their continuation around the former field area could be clearly seen in the freshly exposed surface on an initial aerial photograph.

The field delimited by these three ditches was an 'acre's' width, that is, about 22 yards (20m) and so this was fairly certainly a medieval strip field. Its southern end intruded on the former settlement area and this was probably found to be too stony and abandoned. This is demonstrated by the line of quarry pits G13, which are likely to be the result of the creation of a bank across the field strip here.

A subsequent field system is represented by the double ditches F207 and F229 at the east side of the excavated area. These are oriented on a quite different alignment to the strip field ditches. The boundary type too is one easily recognisable in post-medieval eighteenth to nineteenth-century agriculture in Anglesey. It represents the ditches dug to create a *clawdd* or hedge bank.

Artefactual evidence:
There were no artefacts from the earlier part of the field system, the elements of which were all very shallow features.

There were very few finds from the later ditches and no typical nineteenth-century pottery, for instance. However, only very limited areas were investigated. The finds comprised a fragment of dark pottery, unclassified, SF 84, a flint flake, SF 85, a pebble burnisher, SF 88, a fragment of copper alloy, SF 97 and a piece of iron slag, SF 90.

The general rubble spread G23 over the settlement remains and the remnants of the lower plough soil produced the largest number of finds from the excavation. The rubble spread produced four stone objects, five flints, one iron nail, one piece of daub and three pieces of Roman pottery identified as 'mid second century'.

The artefacts from the lower topsoil must include a variety of residual materials, from recent to prehistoric. There are several indeterminate piece of iron, glass and stone as well as 22 pieces of worked flint or chert.

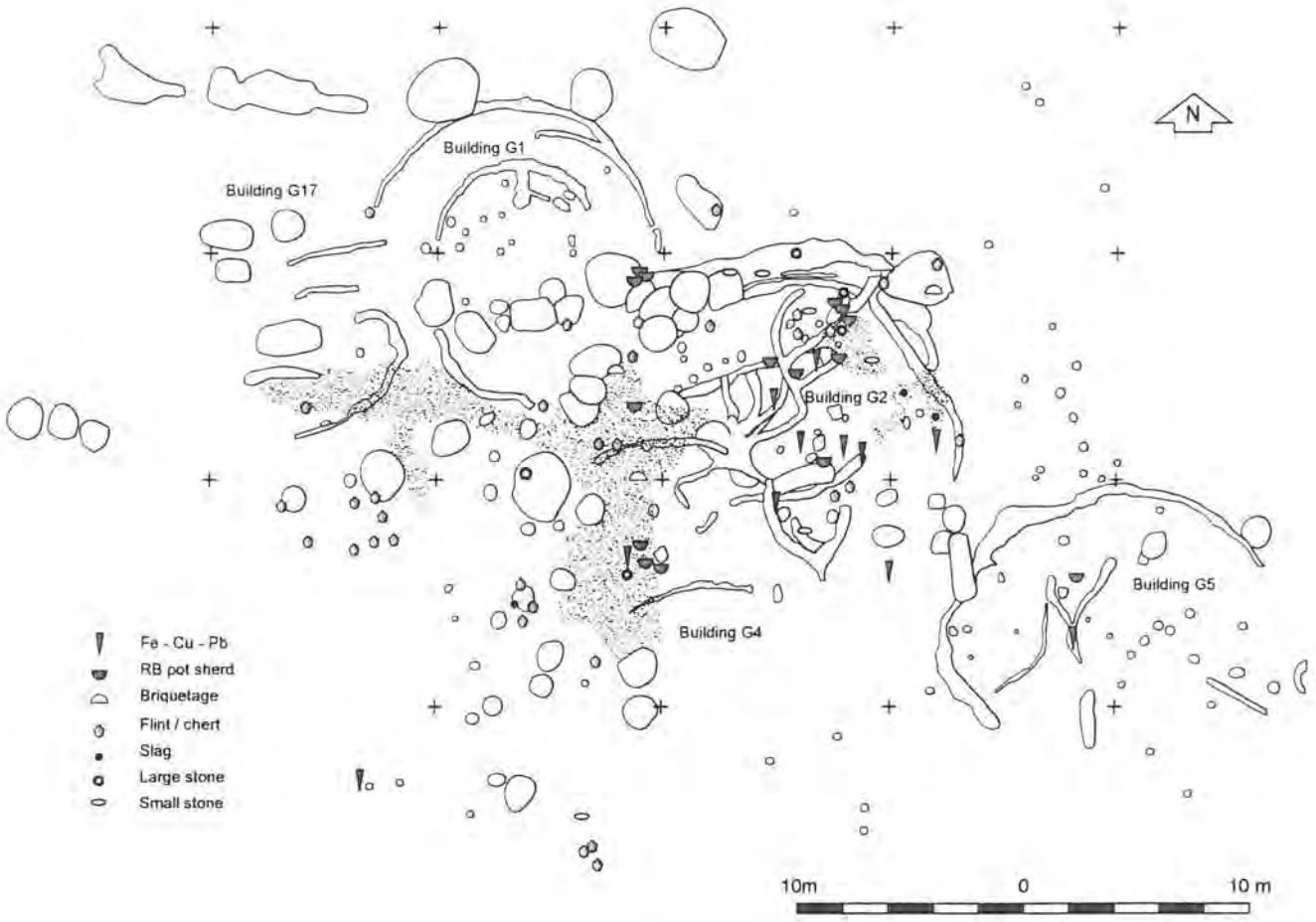

Fig. 15 : Artefact distribution.

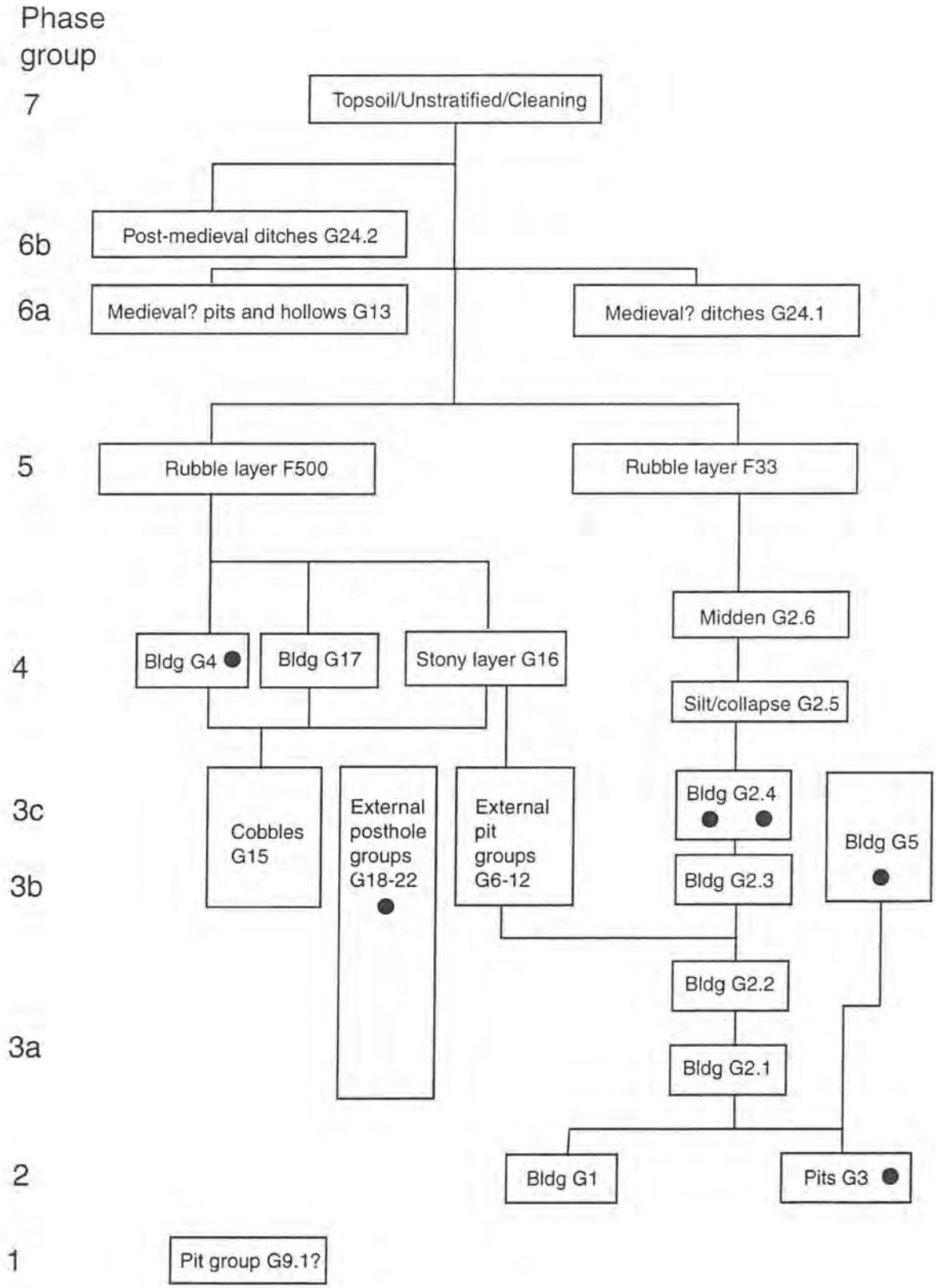

Fig. 16 Summary phase diagram (PHASES 1-7) Radiocarbon sample submitted: ●

Table 1 Melin y Plas: Summary of artefact contexts (*ital* = no further analysis required)

		Single find record							Single or Multiple find record						
Phase group	**Context group description**	**Flint/ Chert**	**Stone**	***Cu***	***Fe***	***Glass***	**Slag**	**Bone**	**RB Pot**	**Uncl pot**	***Pmed pot***	**Brique tage**	***Daub***	**Plant char.**	**Wood char.**
1	Pre-settlement														
2	Building G1														
2	'Tank' pits, G3		1										1		
3	Building G5 pits/phs/gully/occup layer				2				1				1		
3a	Building G2.1	1													
3a	Building G2.2		1												
3b	Building G2.3, early occupation				2		1								
3c	Building G2.4, later occupation	2	1	1	1		1	2	2	1			1		
3b/c	External cobbling, G15	2													
3b/c	External pit groups G6-12 and postholes G18-22	2	3	1	1		1		1			2	8		
4	Building G2.5 abandonment/collapse	7	3	1					5				2		
4	Late pit F276		1						4						
4	Buildings G4, G17	1													
5	Disturbed cobbling/stone debris	5	4		1				4			1			
6	Med/Post-Med field ditches	1	1	2			1			1					
6	Med/Post-Med pits/hollows		1												
7	Topsoil/unstratified/ subsoil cleaning	30	8	1	4	2					1		2		

SUMMARY INTERPRETATION

The main element of the site is a small settlement consisting of a nucleated group of roundhouses. The outlines of these houses are all discrete although there are several overlaid phases of activity and therefore of intercutting and recutting features, not all of which can be directly assigned to any particular phase. A provisional interpretation puts all the identified features into seven phases. This phasing developed from study of the structural groups and the stratigraphic relationships as a result of preparing a Harris matrix. Fig. 16 provides a synthesis of the phasing as it relates to the structural groups and of the groups from which radiocarbon samples have been submitted.

Many features cannot be securely fitted into this scheme because they are stratigraphically isolated. particularly numerous postholes and pits.

There were relatively few artefacts and the distribution of these within the phasing is shown in Table 1.

Phase 1: Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age

This phase is represented by a spread of flint and chert finds, mainly recovered from the lower topsoil but also occurring in a variety of features. No subsoil features have been identified that definitely belong with this phase although a straggling group of small, shallow charcoal-filled pits at the south side of the site, Group G9.1, stand out as being unlike any other pits found and just possibly much earlier than the rest.

Phase 2: First century AD?

This phase sees the construction of the first roundhouse and of four or possibly five rectangular pits. The roundhouse, Building G1, was *c.* 12m in external diameter with a clay, cob or turf wall of which all trace had been removed by later cultivation. This house was truncated by excavation of a terraced area for construction another roundhouse in phase 3. The rectangular pits were isolated features from the house but are included because two of them were stratigraphically later than buildings of phase 3.

There was no artefactual dating evidence from this phase but this is not surprising since the subsoil remnants of the house were quite slight. However, a charcoal sample from one of the rectangular pits has been submitted for radiocarbon dating (Table 2).

Table 2 Melin y Plas: Summary of radiocarbon samples submitted

Sample no.	*Context*	*Phase group*	*Structural group*	*Description*
130	79	3b/c	G5	Fill of gully 78 around building G5
161	465	3b/c	G6	Fill of pit F464 in pit group G6
189	351	3b/c	G2.3/2.4	External cobbled surface
196	535	3c	G2.4	Fill of drain F298, main drain in Building G2
291	844	4	G4	Fill of gully F636
357	10	2	G3	Fill of 'tank' pit 9

Phase 3: 2nd century AD

The first episode I this phase, 3a, was the construction of a second roundhouse, Building G2, that respected the position of Building G1but succeeded it because the terrace, G2.1, on which it was built

truncated the remains of G1. The earliest use of the house, G2.2, was represented by an internal, Y-plan paved drain.

The second episode, 3b, was marked by construction of a further series of paved internal drains or culverts within Building G2 that now brought water into the house, not just draining it away. The deliberate introduction of water suggests that activity in the building, possibly in the method of cooking, may have been similar to that of 'burnt mounds',. Significant amounts of burnt stone were found within the interior area of the building although nothing inside or outside to compare with the quantities found on burnt mound sites.

A third episode, 3c, was marked by replacement of the drains of 3b with others on a new plan, perhaps because the original drains had become dilapidated or because the whole house was the subject of refurbishment or rebuilding. During these episodes several recuts of the external gullies also took place.

This general phase also includes the construction and use of a third roundhouse, Building G5, and of a an extensive area of stone consolidated 'yard', west of G2, some of which can be regarded as deliberately 'cobbled' (G15). A number of shallow pits were also dug (pit groups G6-12) avoiding the cobbled areas, probably to provide clay for refurbishment of Building G2. There were also a number of external postholes (groups G18-22) impossible to relate directly to the phasing by stratigraphy although some were related in terms of layout with Buildings G2 and G5. Others formed pairs, possibly representing small free-standing structures such as drying racks.

A number of pieces of Roman pottery came from this phase, from Building G2 identified as 'Hadrianic or later' and from G5, identified as of 'AD120-200'.

Phase 4: Late 2nd – Early 3rd century AD

In this phase building G2 was abandoned or demolished (G2.5) when clay silt from the walls accumulated over the floors of the former building as well as over the external cobbled surfaces near by. There are traces of subsequent building in the 'yard' area, represented by gullies and two internal type paved drains. These represent at least one and possibly two subsequent buildings (G4 and G17) of which all other structural remains have been removed by ploughing. During this phase of occupation a dark organic 'midden' layer, G 2.6, accumulated over the site of the former house G2 and to some extent in the 'yard' area. A further stone spread, G16, also accumulated in the yard area either as a result of further consolidation or as the debris of demolition.

The 'midden' layer, G 2.6, produced a number of artefacts and as a whole this phase produced several pieces of Roman pot, some identified as 'Hadrianic-Antonine', some as 'mid second century' while a hollow adjoining possible Building G4 produced four pieces identified as 'early third century'.

Phase 5: Mid 3rd century AD?

This phase comprises the stone rubble, G23, remnants of the collapsed or demolished buildings for which episode there is no direct dating evidence although the absence of any pottery later than early third century suggests abandonment soon after this period. This time span accords with that of the settlement of Cefn Du, Gaerwen whereas the larger and more prosperous settlement at Cefn Cwmwd continued into the mid 4th century (BUFAU Updated site interpretation).

Phase 6: Medieval and Post-medieval field systems

In phase 6a part of a narrow strip field was placed at the west side of the former settlement area. The strip field was delineated by shallow ditches, at first incorporating part of the former settlement area. Then a series of shallow features, G13, were dug at the north edge of the former settlement area, possibly to create a boundary bank to separate off the stony area of the settlement which may have been hummocky and difficult to cultivate.

Although there is no direct dating evidence, the size and shape of the strip field suggests a medieval origin.

In phase 6b another boundary, straight and double ditched and banked was constructed on the east side of the settlement area. Such boundaries are a normal part of the Post-medieval landscape and probably originated in 18th century land improvements. It did not survive beyond the 19th century as early maps show that the hillside had all been merged into one large enclosure.

Phase 7: Modern ploughsoil

This includes all the finds in the ploughsoil, mainly residual, as well as unstratified finds and those deriving from the exposed subsoil surface.

Melin y Plas: Finds catalogue in material group order

MATERIAL *BONE*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
103	104	4b	Midden beneath cobbling? 203, central area			BUFAU	28/11/00
259	569	3c	Fill of drain F298 bldg G2			BUFAU	28/11/00

MATERIAL *CE*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
21	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	POST MED POTTERY	POST-MED	BUFAU	28/11/00
30	56	4b	Dark, midden? deposit over bldg G2 and to its W	2 SMALL BLACK FRAGS			
47	100	4a	Silt over cobbles in central area	FIRED CLAY		BUFAU	28/11/00
52	98	2	'Tank' pit, G3	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
55	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	ROMAN POT	MID 2ND CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00
59	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	ROMAN POT	MID 2ND CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00
61	159	4a	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg G2	ROMAN POT	MID 2ND CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00
66	159	4a	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg G2	ROMAN POT	HADRIANI C/ANTONI NE	BUFAU	28/11/00
72	168	7	Natural subsoil	BURNT CLAY			
74	159	4a	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg G2	ROMAN POT	MID 2ND CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00
82	187	3b	Fill of pit F109 just E of bldg G2	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
84	209	6a	Post-medieval field ditch	BLACK BURNISHED?			
86	277	4	Fill of hollow F276 just W of bldg G2	ROMAN POT	EARLY 3RD CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00
87	110	3b	Fill of pit 109 just E of bldg G2	FIRED CLAY		BUFAU	28/11/00
89	277	4	Fill of hollow F276 just W of bldg G2	ROMAN POT	EARLY 3RD CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00
98	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	ROMAN POT	MID 2ND CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00

102	277	4	Fill of hollow F276 just W of bldg G2	ROMAN POT	EARLY 3RD CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00
106	284	4b	Midden? layer, same as 104, just W of bldg G2	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
114	292	3b/c	Occupation deposit, NE int bldg G2	ROMAN POT	HADRIANI C/ANTONI NE	BUFAU	28/11/00
116	277	4	Fill of hollow F276 just W of bldg G2	ROMAN POT	EARLY 3RD CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00
136	159	4a	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg G2	ROMAN POT	MID 2ND CENTURY	BUFAU	28/11/00
142	227	3a/b/c	Occupation spread within bldg G2	INDET POTTERY	AD 120-200	BUFAU	28/11/00
143	388	3a/b/c	Fill of small pit N ext bldg G5	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
150	378	3b/c	Silt of drains within terrace cut for bldg G2	ROMAN POT	HADRIANI C/ANTONI NE	BUFAU	28/11/00
166	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
168	104	4b	Midden beneath beneath cobbling? 203, central area	ROMAN POT	HADRIANI C/ANTONI NE	BUFAU	28/11/00
174	488	5	Stony layer overlying gully F336, W of bldg G4	ROMAN POT	HADRIANI C/ANTONI NE	BUFAU	28/11/00
175	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	BRIQUETAGE		BUFAU	28/11/00
176	519	3b/c	Large pit W of bldg G2	BRIQUETAGE		BUFAU	28/11/00
177	484	3b/c	Large scoop W of bldg G2	BRIQUETAGE		BUFAU	28/11/00
178	203	4a/b	Stony area at W ext of bldg G2	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
187	527	3b/c	Late topfill of large pit F526 in pit group G6	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
200	527	3b/c	Late topfill of large pit F526 in pit group G6	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
205	527	3b/c	Late topfill of large pit F526 in pit group G6	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
246	637	3b	Small PH within bldg G2	ROMAN POTTERY	HADRIANI C OR LATER	BUFAU	28/11/00
253	643	3b/c	Westernmost pit in group G7	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00
258	560	4a	Widespread area of silt N int bldg 2, abandonment?	ROMAN POTTERY	MID ANTONINE ?	BUFAU	28/11/00
277	69	3b/c	Fill of unassigned pit	DAUB		BUFAU	28/11/00

310	789	3b/c	Large gully/pit in group G6	FIRED CLAY		BUFAU	28/11/00

MATERIAL *CE?*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
129	316	7	n/a	DISCARDED		discarded	

MATERIAL *CHERT*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
3	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	POSSIBLE CORE		GS	28/11/00
18	4	7	Lower ploughsoil			GS	28/11/00
26	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	POSSIBLE SCRAPER		GS	28/11/00
40	0	7	Unstratified	SCRAPER		GS	28/11/00
58	110	3b	n/a	DISCARDED		discarded	
68	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	POSSIBLE TOOL		GS	28/11/00
105	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	POSSIBLE BLADE		GS	28/11/00
223	580	4a	Widespread silt over pit group G7	STRUCK FLAKE		GS	28/11/00
271	610	4a	Small area of silt E int bldg G2	WORKED PIECE / CORE		GS	28/11/00
282	72	3b/c	Outer gully bldg G2	POSSIBLY NATURAL		GS	28/11/00

MATERIAL *COPPER ALLOY*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
29	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	RIM FRAG?		BUFAU	28/11/00
33	59	3b/c	Fill of unassigned pit			BUFAU	28/11/00
71	155	6a	Post medieval? boundary ditch	INDET		BUFAU	28/11/00
95	58	4a	Re-deposited subsoil and occupation deposit	RIVET?		BUFAU	28/11/00
97	209	6a	Post-medieval field ditch	INDET		BUFAU	28/11/00

MATERIAL *DELETED*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
64	0	7	n/a			deleted	
65	0	7	n/a			deleted	
77	0	7	n/a			deleted	
94	0	7	n/a			deleted	

141	0	7	n/a			deleted	
145	0	7	n/a			deleted	
186	0	7	n/a			deleted	
206	0	7	n/a			deleted	
210	0	7	n/a			deleted	
211	0	7	n/a			deleted	
240	0	7	n/a			deleted	
358	0	7	n/a			deleted	

MATERIAL *FE*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
13	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	INDETERMINATE		BUFAU	28/11/00
23	56	4b	Dark, midden? deposit over bldg G2 and to its W	NAIL		BUFAU	28/11/00
24	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	INDET		BUFAU	28/11/00
73	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	BLADE?		BUFAU	28/11/00
75	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	NAIL		BUFAU	28/11/00
76	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	INDET		BUFAU	28/11/00
115	287	3b	Lower occupation layer at NE int of bldg G2	NAIL/RIVET		BUFAU	28/11/00
140	385	3b/c	Silt in drain 228, bldg G5	CHAIN LINK?		BUFAU	28/11/00
162	78	3b/c	Outer gully bldg G5	INDET		BUFAU	28/11/00
182	512	7	Not recorded	INDET		BUFAU	28/11/00
216	577	4a	Silt in N int bldg G2	STUD/RIVET		BUFAU	28/11/00
241	617	3b	Short gully/slot, NE int bldg G2	BLADE FRAG?		BUFAU	28/11/00

MATERIAL *FLINT*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
1	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	POSSIBLE TOOL		GS	28/11/00
2	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	BURNT		GS	28/11/00
4	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	FLAKE		GS	28/11/00
5	4	7	n/a	DISCARDED		discarded	
6	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	WASTE FLAKE		GS	28/11/00

7	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	SMALL HONEY COLOURED CORE	GS	28/11/00
8	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	BROWN	GS	28/11/00
9	4	7	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
10	4	7	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
14	4	7	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
15	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	BROWN STRUCK	GS	28/11/00
16	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	DISCARDED	discarded	
17	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	POSSIBLE ARROWHEAD	GS	28/11/00
19	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	CORE	GS	28/11/00
22	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	FLAKE	GS	28/11/00
31	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	HONEY COLOURED CORE	GS	28/11/00
32	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	AMBER COLOURED, WORKED FLAKE	GS	28/11/00
34	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	WORKED FLAKE	GS	28/11/00
35	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	SMALL FLAKE	GS	28/11/00
36	0	7	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
38	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	BROWN, POSSIBLY RETOUCHED	GS	28/11/00
41	95	3b/c	Isolated unassigned PH	HINGE FRACTURED	GS	28/11/00
42	0	7	n/a	LOST/DISCARDED	discarded	
43	0	7	Unstratified	RED	GS	28/11/00
48	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	SMALL, STRUCK PIECE	GS	28/11/00
50	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	UNWORKED PIECE	GS	28/11/00
54	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	SMALL UNWORKED PIECE	GS	28/11/00
56	33	5	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
57	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	POSSIBLE CARNELIAN	GS	28/11/00
60	158	7	Unlocated OGS? remnant	STRUCK PIECE	GS	28/11/00
62	0	7	Unstratified	VERY FINE FLAKE	GS	28/11/00
63	0	7	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
70	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	SMALL ABRADED PIECE	GS	28/11/00

79	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains			GS	28/11/00
85	209	6a	Post-medieval field ditch	SMALL, ROUGH, OUTER FLINT PIECE		GS	28/11/00
100	0	7	Unstratified	SMALL PIECE		GS	28/11/00
119	0	7	Unstratified	UNWORKED FLAKE		GS	28/11/00
122	3	7	Subsoil	SINGLE, SMALL, ANGULAR, UNWORKED PIECE		GS	28/11/00
137	0	7	Unstratified	SINGLE BROKEN FLAKE AND CORTEX		GS	28/11/00
138	152	4	Wall footings at W side of site, bldg G17?	SINGLE BROKEN FLAKE AND CORTEX		GS	28/11/00
149	377	3a	Terrace cut for bldg G2	BLADE		GS	28/11/00
188	348	3b/c	Cobbled path SW of bldg G1	WORKED PIECE / WASTE?		GS	28/11/00
207	318	4a	Silty layer overlying pit group G7	POSSIBLE TOOL		GS	28/11/00
217	580	4a	Widespread silt over pit group G7	WASTE FLAKE		GS	28/11/00
218	580	4a	Widespread silt over pit group G7	STRUCK PIECE		GS	28/11/00
219	580	4a	Widespread silt over pit group G7	POSSIBLE TOOL		GS	28/11/00
220	580	4a	Widespread silt over pit group G7	STRUCK PIECE		GS	28/11/00
228	580	4a	Widespread silt over pit group G7	STRUCK FLAKE		GS	28/11/00
238	0	7	n/a	DISCARDED		discarded	
243	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	STRUCK FLAKE		GS	28/11/00
245	635	3b	Small PH within bldg G2	POSSIBLY NATURAL		GS	28/11/00
307	3	7	n/a	DISCARDED		discarded	
331	350	3a/b	Silt below cobbled path SW of bldg G1	POSSIBLE WASTE FLAKE		GS	28/11/00

MATERIAL *GLASS*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
37	4	7	Lower ploughsoil			BUFAU	28/11/00

MATERIAL *GLASS?*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
69	4	7	Lower ploughsoil			BUFAU	28/11/00

MATERIAL *LEAD*

SFNO	CONT	PHASE	COMMENT	DESCRIPTION	PERIOD	LOCATION	DATE
28	56	4b	Dark, midden? deposit over bldg G2 and to its W	WINDOW BEADING		BUFAU	28/11/00

MATERIAL *QUARTZ*

SFNO	CONT	PHASE	COMMENT	DESCRIPTION	PERIOD	LOCATION	DATE
27	4	7	Lower ploughsoil			GS	28/11/00

MATERIAL *RENUMBERED*

SFNO	CONT	PHASE	COMMENT	DESCRIPTION	PERIOD	LOCATION	DATE
249	609	7	n/a	RENUMBERED AS 362		renumbered	

MATERIAL *SLAG*

SFNO	CONT	PHASE	COMMENT	DESCRIPTION	PERIOD	LOCATION	DATE
25	56	4b	Dark, midden? deposit over bldg G2 and to its W	TAP SLAG		BUFAU	28/11/00
90	230	6b	Post-medieval? boundary ditch at E of site			BUFAU	28/11/00
127	572	3b	Short gully fragment E side of int bldg G2			BUFAU	28/11/00
289	793	7	Small pit at SW? location not recorded			BUFAU	28/11/00

MATERIAL *STONE*

SFNO	CONT	PHASE	COMMENT	DESCRIPTION	PERIOD	LOCATION	DATE
11	4	7	n/a	DISCARDED		discarded	
12	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	BLUE STONE		GS	28/11/00
20	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	DRESSED STONE		GS	28/11/00
39	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	POT BOILER FRACTURED STONE		GS	28/11/00
44	4	7	Lower ploughsoil	WITH PERCUSSION MARK		GS	28/11/00
45	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	WITH HOLES		SHED	28/11/00
46	33	5	n/a	DISCARDED		discarded	
49	33	5	n/a	DISCARDED		discarded	
53	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	WORKED STONE		GS	28/11/00

83	196	4a/b	Stony layer, top fill of pit group G8	HONE STONE BROKEN INTO 3 PARTS	GS	28/11/00
88	209	6a	Post-medieval field ditch	POLISHED PEBBLE	GS	28/11/00
91	159	4a	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg G2	FRAGMENT MORTAR	SHED	28/11/00
92	16	6a	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
93	16	6a	Post medieval? pit 17, N. ext H1	PERFORATED SLATE	GS	28/11/00
96	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	SMOOTH PEBBLE	GS	28/11/00
101	33	5	General rubble spread over occupation remains	SMOOTH RUBBER STONE	SHED	28/11/00
104	0	7	Unstratified	SMOOTH STONE	SHED	28/11/00
107	159	4a	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg G2	NARROW HAMMER STONE	GS	28/11/00
112	292	3b/c	Occupation deposit, NE int bldg G2	PEBBLE	GS	28/11/00
123	0	7	Unstratified	RUBBER?	GS	28/11/00
126	196	4a/b	Stony layer, top fill of pit group G8	POSSIBLE TINDER LIGHTING STONE	SHED	28/11/00
164	291	4b	Mortar in situ in top of hollow F276, W of bldg G2	STONE MORTAR	SHED	28/11/00
165	0	7	Unstratified	HAMMER STONE	GS	28/11/00
195	533	3b/c	Pit part of pit group G8	ORANGE FIRED	SHED	28/11/00
208	553	7	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
209	372	7	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
247	609	7	n/a	DISCARDED	discarded	
252	649	3a	Gully, an early phase of drain F65 bldg G2.2	POLISHED SHALE BEAD	GS	28/11/00
344	917	2	'Tank' pit, G3, beneath bldg G2	POLISHED PEBBLE	GS	28/11/00
363	336	3b/c	Mortar in situ in NE int bldg G2	MORTAR	GS	28/11/00

MATERIAL *UNUSED*

SFNO	*CONT*	*PHASE*	*COMMENT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*PERIOD*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
151	0	7	n/a			unused	
152	0	7	n/a			unused	
153	0	7	n/a			unused	
154	0	7	n/a			unused	

155	0 7	n/a	unused
156	0 7	n/a	unused

Melin y Plas: Finds catalogue in phase group order

PHASE *2*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
CE	52	98	'Tank' pit, G3	
STONE	344	917	'Tank' pit, G3, beneath bldg G2	

PHASE *3a*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
FLINT	149	377	Terrace cut for bldg G2	
STONE	252	649	Gully, an early phase of drain F65 bldg G2.2	

PHASE *3a/b*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
FLINT	331	350	Silt below cobbled path SW of bldg G1	

PHASE *3a/b/c*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
CE	142	227	Occupation spread within bldg G2	AD 120-200
CE	143	388	Fill of small pit N ext bldg G5	

PHASE *3b*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
CE	82	187	Fill of pit F109 just E of bldg G2	
CE	87	110	Fill of pit 109 just E of bldg G2	
CE	246	637	Small PH within bldg G2	HADRIANIC OR LATER
CHERT	58	110	n/a	
FE	115	287	Lower occupation layer at NE int of bldg G2	
FE	241	617	Short gully/slot, NE int bldg G2	
FLINT	245	635	Small PH within bldg G2	
SLAG	127	572	Short gully fragment E side of int bldg G2	

PHASE *3b/c*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
CE	114	292	Occupation deposit, NE int bldg G2	HADRIANIC/ANTONINE
CE	150	378	Silt of drains within terrace cut for bldg G2	HADRIANIC/ANTONINE
CE	176	519	Large pit W of bldg G2	
CE	177	484	Large scoop W of bldg G2	

CE	187	527	Late topfill of large pit F526 in pit group G6
CE	200	527	Late topfill of large pit F526 in pit group G6
CE	205	527	Late topfill of large pit F526 in pit group G6
CE	253	643	Westernmost pit in group G7
CE	277	69	Fill of unassigned pit
CE	310	789	Large gully/pit in group G6
CHERT	282	72	Outer gully bldg G2
COPPER ALL	33	59	Fill of unassigned pit
FE	140	385	Silt in drain 228, bldg G5
FE	162	78	Outer gully bldg G5
FLINT	41	95	Isolated unassigned PH
FLINT	188	348	Cobbled path SW of bldg G1
STONE	112	292	Occupation deposit, NE int bldg G2
STONE	195	533	Pit part of pit group G8
STONE	363	336	Mortar in situ in NE int bldg G2

PHASE *3c*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
BONE	259	569	Fill of drain F298 bldg G2	

PHASE *4*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
CE	86	277	Fill of hollow F276 just W of bldg G2	EARLY 3RD CENTURY
CE	89	277	Fill of hollow F276 just W of bldg G2	EARLY 3RD CENTURY
CE	102	277	Fill of hollow F276 just W of bldg G2	EARLY 3RD CENTURY
CE	116	277	Fill of hollow F276 just W of bldg G2	EARLY 3RD CENTURY
FLINT	138	152	Wall footings at W side of site, bldg G17?	

PHASE *4a*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
CE	47	100	Silt over cobbles in central area	
CE	61	159	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg	MID 2ND CENTURY
CE	66	159	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg	HADRIANIC/ANTONINE
CE	74	159	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg	MID 2ND CENTURY
CE	136	159	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg	MID 2ND CENTURY
CE	258	560	Widespread area of silt N int bldg 2, abandonm	MID ANTONINE?
CHERT	223	580	Widespread silt over pit group G7	

CHERT	271	610	Small area of silt E int bldg G2
COPPER ALL	95	58	Re-deposited subsoil and occupation deposit
FE	216	577	Silt in N int bldg G2
FLINT	207	318	Silty layer overlying pit group G7
FLINT	217	580	Widespread silt over pit group G7
FLINT	218	580	Widespread silt over pit group G7
FLINT	219	580	Widespread silt over pit group G7
FLINT	220	580	Widespread silt over pit group G7
FLINT	228	580	Widespread silt over pit group G7
STONE	91	159	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg
STONE	107	159	Water laid? silt over drain 298, centre of bldg

PHASE *4a/b*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
CE	178	203	Stony area at W ext of bldg G2	
STONE	83	196	Stony layer, top fill of pit group G8	
STONE	126	196	Stony layer, top fill of pit group G8	

PHASE *4b*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
BONE	103	104	Midden beneath cobbling? 203, central area	
CE	30	56	Dark, midden? deposit over bldg G2 and to its	
CE	106	284	Midden? layer, same as 104, just W of bldg G2	
CE	168	104	Midden beneath beneath cobbling? 203, centra	HADRIANIC/ANTONINE
FE	23	56	Dark, midden? deposit over bldg G2 and to its	
LEAD	28	56	Dark, midden? deposit over bldg G2 and to its	
SLAG	25	56	Dark, midden? deposit over bldg G2 and to its	
STONE	164	291	Mortar in situ in top of hollow F276, W of bldg	

PHASE *5*

MATERIAL	*FINDNO*	*CONTEXT*	*COMMENT*	*PERIOD*
CE	55	33	General rubble spread over occupation remain	MID 2ND CENTURY
CE	59	33	General rubble spread over occupation remain	MID 2ND CENTURY
CE	98	33	General rubble spread over occupation remain	MID 2ND CENTURY
CE	174	488	Stony layer overlying gully F336, W of bldg G4	HADRIANIC/ANTONINE
CE	175	33	General rubble spread over occupation remain	
CHERT	68	33	General rubble spread over occupation remain	

CHERT	105	4	Lower ploughsoil
COPPER ALL	29	4	Lower ploughsoil
DELETED	64	0	n/a
DELETED	65	0	n/a
DELETED	77	0	n/a
DELETED	94	0	n/a
DELETED	141	0	n/a
DELETED	145	0	n/a
DELETED	186	0	n/a
DELETED	206	0	n/a
DELETED	210	0	n/a
DELETED	211	0	n/a
DELETED	240	0	n/a
DELETED	358	0	n/a
FE	13	4	Lower ploughsoil
FE	24	4	Lower ploughsoil
FE	73	4	Lower ploughsoil
FE	76	4	Lower ploughsoil
FE	182	512	Not recorded
FLINT	1	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	2	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	4	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	5	4	n/a
FLINT	6	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	7	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	8	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	9	4	n/a
FLINT	10	4	n/a
FLINT	14	4	n/a
FLINT	15	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	16	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	17	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	19	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	22	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	31	4	Lower ploughsoil

FLINT	32	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	34	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	35	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	36	0	n/a
FLINT	38	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	42	0	n/a
FLINT	43	0	Unstratified
FLINT	48	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	60	158	Unlocated OGS? remnant
FLINT	62	0	Unstratified
FLINT	63	0	n/a
FLINT	70	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	100	0	Unstratified
FLINT	119	0	Unstratified
FLINT	122	3	Subsoil
FLINT	137	0	Unstratified
FLINT	238	0	n/a
FLINT	243	4	Lower ploughsoil
FLINT	307	3	n/a
GLASS	37	4	Lower ploughsoil
GLASS?	69	4	Lower ploughsoil
QUARTZ	27	4	Lower ploughsoil
RENUMBERE	249	609	n/a
SLAG	289	793	Small pit at SW? location not recorded
STONE	11	4	n/a
STONE	12	4	Lower ploughsoil
STONE	20	4	Lower ploughsoil
STONE	39	4	Lower ploughsoil
STONE	44	4	Lower ploughsoil
STONE	104	0	Unstratified
STONE	123	0	Unstratified
STONE	165	0	Unstratified
STONE	208	553	n/a
STONE	209	372	n/a
STONE	247	609	n/a

UNUSED	151	0	n/a
UNUSED	152	0	n/a
UNUSED	153	0	n/a
UNUSED	154	0	n/a
UNUSED	155	0	n/a
UNUSED	156	0	n/a

Melin y Plas: Sample catalogue in type order

SAMPLE TYPE *BONE*

SFNO	*CONTEXT*	*PHASE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONV*	*AMS*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
103	104	4b		SMALL FRAG. BURNT BONE, MIDDEN LAYER				
259	569	3c		SMALL BURNT FRAGMENTS, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00

SAMPLE TYPE *CHARCOAL*

SFNO	*CONTEXT*	*PHASE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONV*	*AMS*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
51	99	2	26.03G	FROM FILL OF PIT F98, BLG G3	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
67	163	2	12.92G	FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G1		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
78	33	5	4.89G	STONE SPREAD, G15		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
80	72	3b/c	4.74G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
81	110	3b	4.12G	FROM FILL OF PIT F109, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
99	79	3b/c		FROM FILL OF GULLY F78, BLG G5				
108	287	3b	1.12G	COBBLED LAYER, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
109	273	6b	1.51G	FROM FILL OF LINEAR FEATURE, G24		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
110	4	7	0.68G	BASE OF PLOUGHSOIL		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
111	43	4		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G4				
113	41	4		FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G4				
117	221	3b/c		FROM FILL OF HOLLOW F220, BLG G5				
118	300	3b/c	1.43G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F299, BLG G5		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
121	306	3b/c	4.43G	WATERLOGGED SAMPLE, FROM FILL OF PIT, G6		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
124	160	3a	4.32G	OCCUPATION LAYER, BLG G2.2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
130	79	3b/c	13.74G	FROM FILL OF GULLY F78, BLG G5		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
132	184	n/a	42.34G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F183, BLG G5	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
133	182	3b/c		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G5				
134	182	3b/c	3.57G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G5		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
135	77	3b/c	10.94G	CHARCOAL LAYER IN DEPRESSION BETW BLG G2 AND G5		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
139	318	4a	2.98G	LAYER, LOWER TOPSOIL		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
146	385	3b/c	7.19G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G5		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
148	163	2		FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G1				
157	380	3b/c	0.28G	FROM FILL OF DITCH F379, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00

158	324	3b/c	3.67G, 0.	FROM FILL OF PIT F323, BLG G5		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
159	279	3b/c	10.92G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G6		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
160	462	3b/c	22.98G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G6	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
161	465	3b/c	22.23G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F464, G6	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
163	471	3b/c	9.64G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G7		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
167	468	2?	2.12G	FROM FILL OF SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, BLG G1/G13		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
184	64	3b/c	96.17G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G1	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
185	47	4	9.77G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F46, BLG G4		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
189	351	3b/c	15.49G	FROM PAVING STONES, COBBLING	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
190	507	3b/c	8.82G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G6		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
191	530	n/a	9.15G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, RECORDS LOST		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
193	488	5	43.41G	FROM STONY LAYER OVER BLG G4	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
194	540	3b/c	7.69G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN F298, BLG G2.4		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
196	535	3b/c	17.94G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.4	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
202	112	n/a		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F111, RECORDS LOST				
204	281	3b/c	1.74G	FROM FILL OF GULLY F280, UNASSIGNED		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
213	867	3b/c	3.74G	FROM FILL OF GULLY, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
225	867	3b/c	8.92G	FROM FILL OF GULLY, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
226	575	4	0.33G	FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G4		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
229	37	4		FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G4			BUFAU	29/11/00
230	580	4a	24.68G	FROM STONY LAYER, G16	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
231	43	4		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G4			BUFAU	29/11/00
232	43	4		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G4			BUFAU	29/11/00
234	569	3c	1.53G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
236	72	3b/c	4.27G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
237	590	2	4.70G	FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G1		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
239	72	3b/c	2.37G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
242	617	3b	0.82G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
244	621	3b/c	0.46G	FROM HEARTH, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
248	609	4	0.63G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G17		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
251	645	v	2.01G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
256	334	3b	2.27G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.3		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
260	569	3c	27.32G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00

263	654	3b/c	13.26G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
264	663	3b/c	5.13G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
266	654	3b/c	117.77G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F653, BLG G2	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
267	676	3b/c	2.93G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
269	72	3b/c	2.25G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
273	667	3b	7.75G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.3		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
274	730	3b/c	1.02G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
275	743	3b/c	0.57G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
276	70	3b/c	17.52G	FROM FILL OF PIT F69, BLG G2	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
278	378	3b/c	2.83G	FROM FILL OF GULLY BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
281	649	3a	0.97G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
283	752	3a	1.65G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
286	562	3b/c	4.51G	REDEPOSITED NATURAL, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
287	72	3b/c	0.38G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
288	75	3b/c	0.61G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
290	794	3b/c	43.11G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G14	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
291	844	4	2.09G	FROM FILL OF GULLY F636, BLG G4		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
292	695	3a	0.89G	LAYER, BLG G2.2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
297	593	3a	7.03G	BURNT LAYER, BLG G2.2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
299	820	3b/c	3.13G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G6		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
306	826	3b/c	102.24G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G7	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
308	796	3b/c	5.67G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
312	839	3a	46.21G	FROM FILL OF STAKEHOLE F838, BLG G2.2	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
324	696	n/a	13.43G	CHARCOAL PATCH, UNASSIGNED		✓	BUFAU	29/11/00
325	859	3b/c		FILL OF POSTHOLE, G22			BUFAU	29/11/00
333	869	3b/c	32.05G	FILL OF POSTHOLE, G22	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
336	885	3b/c		FROM POSS HEARTH LAYER, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
337	119	3b/c	30.52G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, G22	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
338	885	3b/c	39.86G	FROM POSS HEARTH LAYER, BLG G2	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
345	919	2	15.74G	FROM BURNT LAYER PREDATING BLG G2	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
356	31	2?	286.14G	FROM FILL OF PIT F30, BLG G1/G13	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00
357	10	2	40.64G	FROM FILL OF PIT F9, BLG G3	✓		BUFAU	29/11/00

SAMPLE TYPE *SOIL*

SFNO	*CONTEXT*	*PHASE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONV*	*AMS*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
120	306	3b/c	1.5KG	WATERLOGGED SAMPLE, FILL OF PIT, G6			BUFAU	29/11/00
125	306	3b/c	1.5KG	WATERLOGGED SAMPLE, FILL OF PIT F317, G6			BUFAU	29/11/00
128	319	3b	1.2KG	FILL OF STONE MORTAR, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
131	184	3b/c		MISSING / DISCARDED			discarded	
144	387	3b/c	1.12KG	WATERLOGGED SAMPLE, FILL OF HOLLOW, BLG G5			BUFAU	29/11/00
147	404	3b/c	2.5KG	FILL OF STONE LINED PIT, BLG G5			BUFAU	29/11/00
169	423	2	1.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3			BUFAU	29/11/00
170	423	2	1.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3			BUFAU	29/11/00
171	423	2	1.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3			BUFAU	29/11/00
172	423	2	1KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3			BUFAU	29/11/00
173	322	2	1.15KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3			BUFAU	29/11/00
179	493	3b/c	1.15KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
180	500	3b/c	295G	FILL OF SHALLOW PIT, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
181	508	3b/c	332G	FILL SHALLOW PIT, G6			BUFAU	29/11/00
183	494	3b/c	605G	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
186	526	n/a		DISCARDED			discarded	
192	527	3b/c	130G	FILL OF PIT, G6			BUFAU	29/11/00
197	540	3b/c	1.15KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.4			BUFAU	29/11/00
198	541	n/a		DISCARDED			discarded	
199	527	3b/c	7.8KG	FILL OF PIT, G6			BUFAU	29/11/00
201	527	n/a		DISCARDED			discarded	
212	338	n/a	390G	NATURAL			BUFAU	29/11/00
214	540	3b/c	3KG	FILL OF DRAIN F298, 3 BAGS, BLG G2.4			BUFAU	29/11/00
215	867	3b/c	4KG	FILL OF GULLY F866, 2 BAGS, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
221	579	3b/c	2KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
222	867	3b/c	3.5KG	FILL GULLY F866, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
224	575	4	4KG	FILL OF PIT, BLG G4			BUFAU	29/11/00
227	75	3b/c	2KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
233	72	3b/c	1.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
235	569	3c	6.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00
249	609	4		RENUMBERED AS FIND 362, BLG G17			BUFAU	29/11/00

250	639	4	17.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G17		BUFAU	29/11/00
254	334	3b	11.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.3		BUFAU	29/11/00
255	361	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
257	649	3a	15.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
261	654	3b/c	7.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		BUFAU	29/11/00
262	655	3b/c	1.2KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		BUFAU	29/11/00
265	569	3c	18.6KG	FILL OF DRAIN, 2 BAGS, BLG G2		BUFAU	29/11/00
268	372	3a	12.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
270	582	3b/c	7.5KG	WATERLOGGED FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		BUFAU	29/11/00
272	671	3b/c	1.1KG	BURNT LAYER, BLG G2		BUFAU	29/11/00
279	745	3a	2KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
280	378	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
284	752	3a	1.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
285	777	3a	2KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
293	695	3a	7.5KG	CHARCOAL RICH SPREAD, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
294	701	3a	690G	CHARCOAL PATCH, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
295	819	3b/c	6.8KG	FILL OF PIT, G6		BUFAU	29/11/00
296	820	3b/c	8.5KG	FILL OF PIT, G6		BUFAU	29/11/00
298	796	3b/c	4.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		BUFAU	29/11/00
300	807	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
301	809	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
302	811	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
303	813	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
304	815	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
305	826	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
309	821	3b/c	8.8KG	FILL OF PIT, G6		BUFAU	29/11/00
311	828	3a	405G	FILL OF POSTHOLE F827, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
313	832	3b/c	15.5KG	FILL OF PIT, G14		BUFAU	29/11/00
314	843	3a	1.25KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE F842, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
315	841	3a	485G	FILL OF POSTHOLE F840, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
316	712	3b/c	1.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE F711, BLG G2		BUFAU	29/11/00
317	830	3b/c	14.9KG	FILL OF PIT, G14		BUFAU	29/11/00
318	834	3b/c	10KG	FILL OF PIT, G14		BUFAU	29/11/00
319	856	6	19.5KG	FILL BOUNDARY DITCH, G24		BUFAU	29/11/00
320	849	3a	5.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00

321	593	3a	19KG	BURNT LAYER, 2 BAGS, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
322	787	3b/c	6.8KG	RUBBLE FILL OF PIT, G8		BUFAU	29/11/00
323	534	3b/c	8KG	FILL OF PIT, G8		BUFAU	29/11/00
326	860	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
327	682	3a	6.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
328	864	3b/c	3.5KG	FILL SHALLOW PIT/POSTHOLE, G22		BUFAU	29/11/00
329	867	3b/c	4.5KG	FILL OF GULLY. BLG G2		BUFAU	29/11/00
330	668	3a	7.5KG	REDEPOSITED NATURAL, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
332	877	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
334	879	3b/c	16KG	FILL OF LINEAR FEATURE, BLG G2.3		BUFAU	29/11/00
335	881	3b/c	4.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, G22		BUFAU	29/11/00
339	899	2	1.3KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		BUFAU	29/11/00
340	902	3a	1.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
341	900	2	3.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		BUFAU	29/11/00
342	903	3b/c	12.9KG	FILL OF PIT, G14		BUFAU	29/11/00
343	917	2		FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		BUFAU	29/11/00
346	918	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
347	923	3b/c	4.8KG	COMPACT LAYER, BLG G2		BUFAU	29/11/00
349	700	3a	1.7KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
350	883	2	7.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		BUFAU	29/11/00
351	928	4	1.1KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G4		BUFAU	29/11/00
352	925	3a	8.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		BUFAU	29/11/00
353	421	3b/c	7KG	FILL OF STONE LINED PIT, BLG G5		BUFAU	29/11/00
354	937	3b/c	2KG	PRIMARY FILL OF STONE LINED PIT, BLG G5		BUFAU	29/11/00
355	936	n/a		DISCARDED		discarded	
359	249	2	100G	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G1		BUFAU	29/11/00
360	402	3b/c	2.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G5		BUFAU	29/11/00
361	60	3b/c	15.5KG	FILL OF PIT F59		BUFAU	29/11/00
362	609	4	0.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G17		BUFAU	29/11/00

SAMPLE TYPE *SOIL/CHARCOAL*

SFNO	*CONTEXT*	*PHASE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONV*	*AMS*	*LOCATION*	*DATE*
348	621	3b/c	2.8KG	FILL OF HEARTH, BLG G2			BUFAU	29/11/00

Melin y Plas: Sample catalogue in phase group order

PHASE *2*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
51	99	CHARCOAL	26.03G	FROM FILL OF PIT F98, BLG G3	✓	
67	163	CHARCOAL	12.92G	FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G1		✓
148	163	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G1		
169	423	SOIL	1.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		
170	423	SOIL	1.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		
171	423	SOIL	1.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		
172	423	SOIL	1KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		
173	322	SOIL	1.15KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		
237	590	CHARCOAL	4.70G	FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G1		✓
339	899	SOIL	1.3KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		
341	900	SOIL	3.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		
343	917	SOIL		FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		
345	919	CHARCOAL	15.74G	FROM BURNT LAYER PREDATING BLG G2	✓	
350	883	SOIL	7.5KG	FILL SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, G3		
357	10	CHARCOAL	40.64G	FROM FILL OF PIT F9, BLG G3	✓	
359	249	SOIL	100G	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G1		

PHASE *2?*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
167	468	CHARCOAL	2.12G	FROM FILL OF SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT, BLG G1/G13		✓
356	31	CHARCOAL	286.14G	FROM FILL OF PIT F30, BLG G1/G13	✓	

PHASE *3a*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
124	160	CHARCOAL	4.32G	OCCUPATION LAYER, BLG G2.2		✓
257	649	SOIL	15.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		
268	372	SOIL	12.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		
279	745	SOIL	2KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		
281	649	CHARCOAL	0.97G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		✓
283	752	CHARCOAL	1.65G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		✓

284	752	SOIL	1.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		
285	777	SOIL	2KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		
292	695	CHARCOAL	0.89G	LAYER, BLG G2.2		✓
293	695	SOIL	7.5KG	CHARCOAL RICH SPREAD, BLG G2.2		
294	701	SOIL	690G	CHARCOAL PATCH, BLG G2.2		
297	593	CHARCOAL	7.03G	BURNT LAYER, BLG G2.2		✓
311	828	SOIL	405G	FILL OF POSTHOLE F827, BLG G2.2		
312	839	CHARCOAL	46.21G	FROM FILL OF STAKEHOLE F838, BLG G2.2	✓	
314	843	SOIL	1.25KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE F842, BLG G2.2		
315	841	SOIL	485G	FILL OF POSTHOLE F840, BLG G2.2		
320	849	SOIL	5.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		
321	593	SOIL	19KG	BURNT LAYER, 2 BAGS, BLG G2.2		
327	682	SOIL	6.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.2		
330	668	SOIL	7.5KG	REDEPOSITED NATURAL, BLG G2.2		
340	902	SOIL	1.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		
349	700	SOIL	1.7KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		
352	925	SOIL	8.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		

PHASE *3b*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
81	110	CHARCOAL	4.12G	FROM FILL OF PIT F109, BLG G2		✓
108	287	CHARCOAL	1.12G	COBBLED LAYER, BLG G2		✓
128	319	SOIL	1.2KG	FILL OF STONE MORTAR, BLG G2		
242	617	CHARCOAL	0.82G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓
254	334	SOIL	11.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.3		
256	334	CHARCOAL	2.27G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.3		✓
273	667	CHARCOAL	7.75G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.3		✓

PHASE *3b/c*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
80	72	CHARCOAL	4.74G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓
99	79	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF GULLY F78, BLG G5		
117	221	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF HOLLOW F220, BLG G5		
118	300	CHARCOAL	1.43G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F299, BLG G5		✓
120	306	SOIL	1.5KG	WATERLOGGED SAMPLE. FILL OF PIT, G6		

121	306	CHARCOAL	4.43G	WATERLOGGED SAMPLE, FROM FILL OF PIT, G6		✓
125	306	SOIL	1.5KG	WATERLOGGED SAMPLE, FILL OF PIT F317, G6		
130	79	CHARCOAL	13.74G	FROM FILL OF GULLY F78, BLG G5		✓
131	184	SOIL		MISSING / DISCARDED		
133	182	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G5		
134	182	CHARCOAL	3.57G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G5		✓
135	77	CHARCOAL	10.94G	CHARCOAL LAYER IN DEPRESSION BETW BLG G2 AND G5		✓
144	387	SOIL	1.12KG	WATERLOGGED SAMPLE, FILL OF HOLLOW, BLG G5		
146	385	CHARCOAL	7.19G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G5		✓
147	404	SOIL	2.5KG	FILL OF STONE LINED PIT, BLG G5		
157	380	CHARCOAL	0.28G	FROM FILL OF DITCH F379, BLG G2		✓
158	324	CHARCOAL	3.67G, 0.56G	FROM FILL OF PIT F323, BLG G5		✓
159	279	CHARCOAL	10.92G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G6		✓
160	462	CHARCOAL	22.98G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G6	✓	
161	465	CHARCOAL	22.23G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F464, G6	✓	
163	471	CHARCOAL	9.64G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G7		✓
179	493	SOIL	1.15KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		
180	500	SOIL	295G	FILL OF SHALLOW PIT, BLG G2		
181	508	SOIL	332G	FILL SHALLOW PIT, G6		
183	494	SOIL	605G	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		
184	64	CHARCOAL	96.17G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G1	✓	
189	351	CHARCOAL	15.49G	FROM PAVING STONES, COBBLING	✓	
190	507	CHARCOAL	8.82G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G6		✓
192	527	SOIL	130G	FILL OF PIT, G6		
194	540	CHARCOAL	7.69G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN F298, BLG G2.4		✓
196	535	CHARCOAL	17.94G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.4	✓	
197	540	SOIL	1.15KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2.4		
199	527	SOIL	7.8KG	FILL OF PIT, G6		
204	281	CHARCOAL	1.74G	FROM FILL OF GULLY F280, UNASSIGNED		✓
213	867	CHARCOAL	3.74G	FROM FILL OF GULLY, BLG G2		✓
214	540	SOIL	3KG	FILL OF DRAIN F298, 3 BAGS, BLG G2.4		
215	867	SOIL	4KG	FILL OF GULLY F866, 2 BAGS, BLG G2		

221	579	SOIL	2KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		
222	867	SOIL	3.5KG	FILL GULLY F866, BLG G2		
225	867	CHARCOAL	8.92G	FROM FILL OF GULLY, BLG G2		✓
227	75	SOIL	2KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		
233	72	SOIL	1.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		
236	72	CHARCOAL	4.27G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓
239	72	CHARCOAL	2.37G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓
244	621	CHARCOAL	0.46G	FROM HEARTH, BLG G2		✓
261	654	SOIL	7.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		
262	655	SOIL	1.2KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		
263	654	CHARCOAL	13.26G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓
264	663	CHARCOAL	5.13G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓
266	654	CHARCOAL	117.77G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F653, BLG G2	✓	
267	676	CHARCOAL	2.93G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2.2		✓
269	72	CHARCOAL	2.25G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓
270	582	SOIL	7.5KG	WATERLOGGED FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		
272	671	SOIL	1.1KG	BURNT LAYER, BLG G2		
274	730	CHARCOAL	1.02G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓
275	743	CHARCOAL	0.57G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓
276	70	CHARCOAL	17.52G	FROM FILL OF PIT F69, BLG G2	✓	
278	378	CHARCOAL	2.83G	FROM FILL OF GULLY BLG G2		✓
286	562	CHARCOAL	4.51G	REDEPOSITED NATURAL, BLG G2		✓
287	72	CHARCOAL	0.38G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓
288	75	CHARCOAL	0.61G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓
290	794	CHARCOAL	43.11G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G14	✓	
295	819	SOIL	6.8KG	FILL OF PIT, G6		
296	820	SOIL	8.5KG	FILL OF PIT, G6		
298	796	SOIL	4.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		
299	820	CHARCOAL	3.13G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G6		✓
306	826	CHARCOAL	102.24G	FROM FILL OF PIT, G7	✓	
308	796	CHARCOAL	5.67G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✓
309	821	SOIL	8.8KG	FILL OF PIT, G6		
313	832	SOIL	15.5KG	FILL OF PIT, G14		
316	712	SOIL	1.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE F711, BLG G2		

317	830	SOIL	14.9KG	FILL OF PIT, G14		
318	834	SOIL	10KG	FILL OF PIT, G14		
322	787	SOIL	6.8KG	RUBBLE FILL OF PIT, G8		
323	534	SOIL	8KG	FILL OF PIT, G8		
325	859	CHARCOAL		FILL OF POSTHOLE, G22		
328	864	SOIL	3.5KG	FILL SHALLOW PIT/POSTHOLE, G22		
329	867	SOIL	4.5KG	FILL OF GULLY, BLG G2		
333	869	CHARCOAL	32.05G	FILL OF POSTHOLE, G22	✓	
334	879	SOIL	16KG	FILL OF LINEAR FEATURE, BLG G2.3		
335	881	SOIL	4.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, G22		
336	885	CHARCOAL		FROM POSS HEARTH LAYER, BLG G2		
337	119	CHARCOAL	30.52G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, G22	✓	
338	885	CHARCOAL	39.86G	FROM POSS HEARTH LAYER, BLG G2	✓	
342	903	SOIL	12.9KG	FILL OF PIT, G14		
347	923	SOIL	4.8KG	COMPACT LAYER, BLG G2		
348	621	SOIL/CHARC	2.8KG	FILL OF HEARTH, BLG G2		
353	421	SOIL	7KG	FILL OF STONE LINED PIT, BLG G5		
354	937	SOIL	2KG	PRIMARY FILL OF STONE LINED PIT, BLG G5		
360	402	SOIL	2.5KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G5		
361	60	SOIL	15.5KG	FILL OF PIT F59		

PHASE 3c

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
234	569	CHARCOAL	1.53G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		✓
235	569	SOIL	6.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2		
259	569	BONE		SMALL BURNT FRAGMENTS, BLG G2		
260	569	CHARCOAL	27.32G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G2	✓	
265	569	SOIL	18.6KG	FILL OF DRAIN, 2 BAGS, BLG G2		

PHASE 4

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
111	43	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G4		
113	41	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G4		
185	47	CHARCOAL	9.77G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F46, BLG G4		✓
224	575	SOIL	4KG	FILL OF PIT, BLG G4		

226	575	CHARCOAL	0.33G	FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G4		✓
229	37	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF PIT, BLG G4		
231	43	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G4		
232	43	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G4		
248	609	CHARCOAL	0.63G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G17		✓
249	609	SOIL		RENUMBERED AS FIND 362, BLG G17		
250	639	SOIL	17.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G17		
291	844	CHARCOAL	2.09G	FROM FILL OF GULLY F636, BLG G4		✓
351	928	SOIL	1.1KG	FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G4		
362	609	SOIL	0.5KG	FILL OF DRAIN, BLG G17		

PHASE *4a*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
139	318	CHARCOAL	2.98G	LAYER, LOWER TOPSOIL		✓
230	580	CHARCOAL	24.68G	FROM STONY LAYER, G16	✓	

PHASE *4b*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
103	104	BONE		SMALL FRAG. BURNT BONE, MIDDEN LAYER		

PHASE *5*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
78	33	CHARCOAL	4.89G	STONE SPREAD, G15		✓
193	488	CHARCOAL	43.41G	FROM STONY LAYER OVER BLG G4	✓	

PHASE *6*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
319	856	SOIL	19.5KG	FILL BOUNDARY DITCH, G24		

PHASE *6b*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
109	273	CHARCOAL	1.51G	FROM FILL OF LINEAR FEATURE, G24		✓

PHASE *7*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
110	4	CHARCOAL	0.68G	BASE OF PLOUGHSOIL		✓

PHASE *n/a*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*

132	184	CHARCOAL	42.34G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F183, BLG G5	✔	
186	526	SOIL		DISCARDED		
191	530	CHARCOAL	9.15G	FROM FILL OF DRAIN, RECORDS LOST		✔
198	541	SOIL		DISCARDED		
201	527	SOIL		DISCARDED		
202	112	CHARCOAL		FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE F111, RECORDS LOST		
212	338	SOIL	390G	NATURAL		
255	361	SOIL		DISCARDED		
280	378	SOIL		DISCARDED		
300	807	SOIL		DISCARDED		
301	809	SOIL		DISCARDED		
302	811	SOIL		DISCARDED		
303	813	SOIL		DISCARDED		
304	815	SOIL		DISCARDED		
305	826	SOIL		DISCARDED		
324	696	CHARCOAL	13.43G	CHARCOAL PATCH, UNASSIGNED		✔
326	860	SOIL		DISCARDED		
332	877	SOIL		DISCARDED		
346	918	SOIL		DISCARDED		
355	936	SOIL		DISCARDED		

PHASE *v*

FINDNO	*CONTEXT*	*TYPE*	*WEIGHT*	*DESCRIPTION*	*CONVEN*	*AMS*
251	645	CHARCOAL	2.01G	FROM FILL OF POSTHOLE, BLG G2		✔

A55 Anglesey DBFO scheme, archaeological investigations
Post-excavation programme
Contextual analysis report

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
GAT Project Number G1647

TY MAWR EARLY CHRISTIAN CEMETERY AND BRONZE AGE BARROW

INTRODUCTION

Holy Island, or Ynys Gybi, is an island located off the western coast of Anglesey. It has an on going tradition of sea faring and trade, which predates Christianity. This has influenced the material and social culture of the area, and is inevitably reflected in the rich archaeological record of the island. The name Holy Island, coupled with the density of early Christian sites, indicates a strong religious significance in medieval times.

The Ty Mawr site is located within the boundaries of Ty Mawr farm, east of the Kingsland district of Holyhead, Holy Island (see **figure 1**). The initial evaluation excavation revealed an Early Christian Cemetery with associated circular features. Full excavation showed this to be a small cemetery of 43 graves, including stone-lined cist graves and simple dug graves. The cemetery partly overlay a ring barrow of Bronze Age date. Worked flints and Peterborough Ware pottery beneath the barrow suggested earlier activity, possibly of a domestic nature.

The excavation at Ty Mawr was carried out as part of a series of archaeological excavations undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) on sites affected by the construction of the new A55 road across Anglesey. The work was commissioned by Richards Moorehead and Laing (RML) on behalf of UK Highways. The work was carried out between January and April 1999, and it conformed to an 'Outline Project Design' issued by the Welsh Office and a series of archaeological certificates prepared by RML.

A preliminary statement on the results of the archaeological excavations was presented in November 1999, along with an assessment of the potential of the archive and finds, followed by an updated project design for the post excavation work up to publication stage. This statement specified the next phase of the project as contextual analysis, and the present report is the result of that stage of the work. The excavation archive was checked, and data entry of the site records into appropriate databases was completed. The contextual information was analysed, resulting in the construction of a Harris matrix for the barrow area, and a reassessment of the site interpretation. This work conformed to the guidelines for the 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (MAP 2) prepared by English Heritage (1991). The work has been commissioned by RML on behalf of UK Highways.

Topographic Description

Geologically Anglesey is composed largely of Pre-Cambrian rocks, most notably the Mona Complex. These bedded rocks have undergone intense pressures leaving them deformed and folded, and volcanic events have resulted in their interbedding with lavas, ashes and tuffs. These make up much of the bedrock of Holy Island (Davies 1972).

The bedrock under the site is composed of pale green chlorite schists, part of the New Harbour Group of the Mona Complex (Keeley 1987), and it is overlain by boulder clay. The soils formed over these substrates are brown earths of the Rocky Gaerwen and Trisant types (Geological and soil survey maps). These soils can carry crops or excellent pasture, and were frequently chosen for settlement in the prehistoric period (Keeley 1987). The site was under grass before the excavation, but it is likely to have been intensively improved.

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

Archaeological and historical background

There is evidence of considerable Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the northern part of Holy Island. Two Neolithic tombs are located to the south of the site, and four Neolithic polished stone axes have been found in this part of the island (Lynch 1991). Those found closest to the site are two axes from the Graiglwyd axe factory, above Penmaenmawr, found when excavating a hole for a turntable railway near Kingsland in 1926 (PRN 2507, SH 2504 8165), and one axe of unspecified stone found at Penllech Nest (PRN 2506, SH 251 816).

The Trefignath burial chamber (SAM A11) lies c.1km to the south-east of the site (SH 2586 8055). It was excavated between 1977 and 1979, and proved to be composed of three chambers. These were built in succession from west to east, with the cairn enlarged as each new chamber was built. The earliest chamber resembled a simple passage grave. The central and eastern chambers were box-like structures with portal stones. The tomb overlay evidence of domestic occupation of the site dating to the early fourth millennium uncalibrated bc (HAR 3932 5050+/-70 BP) (Smith 1987).

Further south is another monument, which has been interpreted as a Neolithic tomb. The Trearddur monument (SH 2596 8004) survives as one large upright stone, with another slab at its foot, located on a low mound, at least some of which may be formed by a cairn. The monument has often been mistaken for a standing stone, but it has been traditionally known as a cromlech and called Coetan Arthur (Arthur's Quoit) (Baynes 1911, Smith 1987). Smith (1987, p19) suggests tentatively that this monument may have been a simple passage grave, like the first phase of Trefignath, but Lynch (1969) lists the site under her 'Monuments so ruined as to be unintelligible'.

Closer to the Ty Mawr site is the Ty Mawr standing stone (SAM A12). It lies c.400m SSE of the present site at SH 2539 8095. The stone is an attractive piece of schist with swirling bedding planes, and an almost anthropomorphic shape, standing c. 2.5m high. Baynes (1911, p71) states that it faces the summer solstice sunrise, and that an alignment from here to the burial chamber at Trefignath is within one degree of the winter solstice sunrise. Without the farm buildings the stone should be visible from the Ty Mawr barrow. The standing stone and the Trefignath tomb are intervisible, as probably are Trefignath and Trearddur, if some intervening trees were removed. This gives an important complex of monuments, spanning the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

Holyhead Mountain is very prominent from all these monuments, and it may be of significance that there were two Bronze Age barrows located on the summit (SH 219 829), though little can be seen of them now. Other barrows can still be seen at Garn (SH 211 825) and Gorsedd Gwlwm (SH 227 816), and there was a cemetery of three barrows at Porth Dafarch (SH 234 801).

There are also other standing stones in this part of Holy Island. There is one to the south, next to Stanley Mill (SH 2664 7888), and a rare pairing of two stones just over 3m apart, to the west at Plas Meilw (SH 227 809) (Lynch 1991).

Holy Island was of considerable importance in the early Christian period, with the *clas* site of Caer Gybi large enough to attract the attention of the Vikings in 961 (Edwards 1986, p24). The foundation of this monastic community by St Cybi is traditionally dated to the mid 6th century AD, and it was presumably located within the Roman fort; the present church on the site dates from the 13th century. There is an unusual concentration of early Christian sites known, or suspected, on the island. These include a cist grave cemetery, dating to approximately 6th to 8th century AD, at Tywyn y Capel, the site of a medieval chapel on the shore of Trearddur Bay (Edwards 1986, p31). There were early Christian

cist burials found at Porth Dafarch, and a possible early Christian site lies just to the north-west of Ty Mawr, where there are documentary and map references to Capel Ulo, and Fynnon Ulo. However, recent trial trenching in the area failed to reveal any archaeological evidence (GAT report 382).

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

The site may be divided into five phases, comprising pre-barrow activity, the construction and use of the barrow, its abandonment and possible deliberate decommissioning, the early Christian cemetery, and later post-medieval and modern activity.

Phase one

The construction of the barrow has preserved the original ground surface below it. Both A and B horizons of the original soil could be identified.
Context numbers

A horizon: 077, 181, 222, 319
B horizon: 201, 278

On the preserved soil were discovered several sherds of Neolithic pottery. These were mostly from two vessels, one probably an early Neolithic carinated bowl, the other a decorated, Peterborough ware bowl, in the Mortlake style. The sherds are all badly abraded, and may have existed on the ground surface for a long period before the barrow was constructed.

There were occasional flint flakes recovered from beneath the barrow, but there was also a loose concentration of flints amongst the graves to the north of the barrow. This may indicate that the zone of Neolithic activity extended beyond the area preserved below the barrow. However, the majority of the assemblage is consistent with a Bronze Age date, and may be related to the construction of the barrow itself. Of the 76 pieces of flint and chert recovered 11 were retouched tools, giving a high tool to waste ratio. This could be due to the high level of curation of the assemblage, but may indicate that much of the knapping was carried out elsewhere. The presence of some stone hammers demonstrates that some flint knapping did occur on site. (See figure 2)

Some of the lithic assemblage probably did relate to the Neolithic activity, particularly a fragment of a leaf-shaped arrowhead, although this could be an isolated find lost during hunting. A pebble modified into a spindle whorl is more suggestive of domestic activity in the area, and indicates an occupation phase before the construction of the barrow.

Within the preserved ground surface were the remains of several treeholes and hollows, one of the treeholes containing sherds of the Mortlake vessel. The trees were obviously removed before the barrow was constructed, but may represent Neolithic clearance of the area.
Cut numbers for treeholes and hollows: 092, 209, 291?, 293, 306, 364, 368, 385, 382

Phase two
(Figures 3 and 4)

This phase sees the construction of the barrow, which sat on top of a very low rise, and survived primarily as negative features, with only slight remains to identify an earthen mound. A circular, flat-based ditch [context 037] defined the monument, and an inner penannular structure [053] was probably contemporary. Over the treeholes, in patches, was a brown clay layer with charcoal (168), possibly initial levelling prior to construction of the barrow, or perhaps part of the body of the mound. The ring ditch [037] formed a circle nearly 13m in diameter, and ditch was 1.1-1.3m wide and up to 0.45m deep, with a broad, flat base, giving a wide U-shaped profile. The ditch was largely filled by a reddish brown, silty sand (contexts 190 and 187), very similar to the natural subsoil. This consistently sloped down the outer edge of the ditch, as if dumped into the ditch from outside. Its texture, and lack of contamination with other deposits, suggests that it was upcast from the ditch, deposited immediately outside it, and

then deliberately dumped back in. This implies the presence of a bank surrounding the monument, which was levelled into the ditch when the monument went out of use.

This interpretation presents a problem, as all the upcast from the ditch would be used to construct the outer bank, leaving insufficient for an inner mound. A dark brown stony layer (199 and 078) may be the remains of the mound, but it was just below the topsoil and severely disturbed by bioturbation. The penannular structure inside the monument cut through this layer, so there must have been some material deposited inside the ditch over the contemporary ground surface.

The other fill of the ditch (context 038) also provides evidence for a mound or bank inside the ditch. The barrow was first visible as a circle of stones. These were interpreted as the remains of a revetment of drystone rubble, which had collapsed into the partly filled ditch, after the abandonment of the site. There were no stones large enough to be kerbstones, so the structure is imagined as a drystone revetment wall to a mound or bank inside the ring ditch.

Inside the circle of the ditch was a trench [053], which was nearly, but not quite concentric, and probably penannular, rather than a complete circle. This inner ring was approximately 6.5m in diameter and the slot measured up to 0.65m in width, and varied in depth between 0.1 and 0.4m in depth. It contained at least three post-impressions in its base, and a complex of deposits best interpreted as the packing around posts of various sizes, thus suggesting upright posts forming a timber wall or structure. The south-eastern arc ended in a rounded terminus. The north-eastern quadrant of the ring was particularly shallow, and was removed before being identified during the machining of the evaluation trench. The other terminus was therefore lost, but the gap in the ring was probably orientated roughly towards the east. This ring of posts is most likely associated with the barrow, but because it cuts through the barrow mound material, the stratigraphy does not rule out the possibility that it is of an early Christian date. The fact that it cut this layer demonstrates that this structure could not have been a hut or other structure pre-dating the barrow. It was constructed after the ring ditch was dug and the inner mound at least started. This raises the possibility that the penannular structure was a later addition to the barrow, possibly representing a remodelling of the monument from a simple mound to a ring barrow.

Two internal structures may be associated with phase 2. One was a posthole [339], cut by a charcoal and ash filled pit [413] in the eastern quadrant. This was located adjacent to the terminal of the penannular trench. A stone slab (103), set in the old ground surface, and carefully packed round with smaller stones, was discovered in the western quadrant of the barrow. This seemed too level and carefully placed to be a natural stone. This feature is out of alignment with the later cemetery and too small even for an infant burial; it may therefore represent the base of a cremation burial, part of which would have lain within the fabric of the barrow. No other traces of cremation burials were discovered, but these may have been within the body of the mound, and never cut the preserved ground surface. The barrow seems to have been completely flattened by agricultural activity, probably quite recently, causing the loss of almost all the mound and anything within it.

Summary of contexts

Cut of outer ditch	037
Cut for inner ring	053
Mound layers	078, 199, 168?
Evidence for external bank	187, 190, 351
Evidence for revetment	038
Possibly associated features	103, 339, 413

Phase three

This phase represents the abandonment of the barrow. The outer ditch was open long enough for a thin layer of natural silting to have occurred (contexts 196, 352, 359), although this could have been produced by a single winter's erosion. The ditch was then deliberately in-filled with material from the outer bank. The stones of the revetment either fell naturally into the partly filled ditch, on top of the bank material, or were also pushed into the ditch. This seems to represent the deliberate decommissioning of the barrow relatively soon after it was constructed. The inner ring may also have

been demolished at this time. The packing stones (054) which fill the upper part of 053, were rather randomly positioned, and the actual location of the posts were not evident. This is probably due to the posts being removed, and the stones therefore being disturbed.

Phase four
(Figure 5)

This phase, separated from the former by some 2,500 years, sees the development of a small cemetery of 43 graves. Most of the graves were lintel graves, but the cemetery also included simple dug graves and graves with drystone, rubble linings. The graves were aligned roughly east-west, and arranged in six rows running roughly north to south. The orientation of individual graves varied slightly, but most tended towards a north-west to south-east alignment. The cemetery partly overlay the barrow, where the rows became disturbed. A single, isolated grave lay to the east of the main group. It was on the eastern edge of the investigated area, so it is not known whether there were further burials to the east, but the area to the west, north and south of this grave were intensively searched for graves, without success.

Long cist graves with an east-west alignment and an absence of grave goods are generally assumed date from the Early Christian Period (6th century to 8th century AD). However, they follow traditions originating in Roman and Iron Age cemeteries, and long cists were used later in the medieval period. The conventional interpretation has been followed in this report, but the final report will contain a full assessment of the development of this cemetery type, and, hopefully, a radiocarbon date on one of the coffins.

Bone survival was extremely poor, due to the acidity of the soil, and only two graves contained very fragmentary skeletal remains. However, in some of the slab-lined cists the enamel of the crowns of the teeth survived.

Grave types
Number of graves in each category of grave type:
Total cist graves 29
Cists with cap stones 23
Cists without cap stones 6

Total drystone graves 10
Drystone graves with coffin stains 5
Drystone graves without coffin stains 5

Cut graves, no lining of any sort surviving 4 (plus 1 doubtful)

Total number of graves 43 (plus 1 doubtful)

The lintel graves were constructed of local micaceous schist slabs, usually a vertical slab at each end, several side slabs, and three or four slabs each forming the floor and the lintel capping. The cists were built so that the western end was slightly raised, the eastern end was often slightly narrower and this, coupled with the occasional teeth found at the west ends, indicates that the bodies were buried facing the east in Christian fashion. The single exception to this was a child's grave [100] dug into the barrow. In this burial the cist was broader at the eastern end, suggesting that the body lay facing west.

A small number of cist graves had no evidence of lintels, and may have had wooden, rather than stone capping [008, 010, 064, 075, 097, 214]. Of particular interest are the ten graves, which were not constructed as cists, but had drystone rubble lining the edges of the grave cut. The stones were not carefully laid to imitate a cist in smaller stones, but appeared more like packing stones. In many cases they had slumped inwards, as if packing a wooden structure, which had subsequently decayed, causing the collapse of the stones. In grave 110 three slabs, too small to be lintels, had fallen in on top of the primary fills of the grave. Probably these had been placed on a wooden cover to the grave, and had fallen in only when this cover had decayed. The hypothesis that these drystone graves held wooden coffins was proved when the remains of coffins were discovered in 5 such graves [150, 216, 252, 283,

When the age of death is analysed for each grave type it can be seen that there is no significant bias towards one grave type for either infants or adults. People of all ages seem to have been buried in any grave type, though cist burials were most common.

Age of death and grave types

Grave type	Adults	% of each class	Infants/children	% of each class
Cist	19	68	9	32
Drystone	7	78	2	22
Cut grave	2	50	2	50

There appears to be some grouping within the cemetery which is suggestive of family plots. Infant graves are not isolated, but scattered amongst the adult graves. There is some indication of a pattern of groups of three graves; one large adult grave, one small adult, and one infant (e.g. 033, 049, 104; 110, 073, 108; 193, 165, 010). While the nuclear family may spring to mind as an explanation for this grouping, numerous other hypotheses could be put forward.

There is a group of 9 graves very neatly aligned in the north-western corner of the cemetery, which are all cist graves. Otherwise there seems to be no particular pattern to the distribution of grave types. This argues against a change of grave type over time. The rows of the cemetery were distorted where they crossed the barrow. Although the time gap is too great to argue continuity, it would appear that the barrow was still visible when the cemetery was in use. This implies that the barrow mound was removed after the early medieval period. The barrow is not indicated on the 18th and 19th century maps of the area, but low, eroded barrows are often not shown on the maps. The barrow may have been finally flattened in fairly recent times. If the area had been bulldozed to improve the pasture it would explain the lack of traces of the mound and absence of Bronze Age artefacts.

The ditch of the barrow must have been entirely in-filled by the Early Medieval period, and was probably not visible. Several graves cut through the ditch. The area between the ditch and inner ring was presumably still noticeable as a mound or ring bank. The graves that cut the ditch seem to be respecting the base of the mound. Those graves that do cut the mound seem to follow its curve, perhaps indicating that it was visible as a doughnut shape, rather than a bowl barrow. Only one grave was located within the central area of the barrow (grave 304). This grave was positioned to the south of centre, and resembles the other drystone coffin burials on the site, so there is no indication of a special status. It is, therefore, impossible to state whether there was a particular significance in its location, and no evidence that it was the primary grave on the site.

Other related features

(Figure 6)

Ditches

With the exception of grave 214, all the burials are restricted to a small area between the junction of two ditches, 006 and 159. There are numerous ditches, slots and furrows within the investigated area, several of which produced no dating evidence. Ditches 020, 055, 056 and 057 are probably related to the post-medieval field system (see below). The other ditches do not fit well with the map evidence, and contain no post-medieval finds. Ditch 159 is particularly significant. It was 1.2m wide and c. 0.4m deep, with a neat, U-shaped profile. It was parallel to the graves in the north-western corner of the cemetery, and did not cut any of the graves. The position of grave 299 in relation to the ditch is particularly striking. The grave seems to be so perfectly parallel to the ditch that it must have been aligned on it.

Ditch 006 is nearly, but not perfectly perpendicular to ditch 159. It was c. 1m wide and 0.45m deep, and also roughly U-shape in profile. Like 159 it did not cut any graves, and lay close to the eastern most graves in the cemetery, though the alignment of the graves changed slightly in the north-eastern corner of the cemetery, and none of the closest graves were perpendicular to the ditch. Although ditch 020 has confused the relationship between ditches 006 and 159, enough natural sub-soil survived to demonstrate that they had never actually joined, but that there was a gap between them.

159 continued well beyond the cemetery to the west, and 006 continued to the north. It probably also continued to the south, but was not followed to the limits of the excavated area. Therefore, if these ditches were Early Medieval, they were not originally constructed as a boundary to the cemetery.

Rather, the cemetery seems to have been situated in the corner of an existing enclosure, and designed to fill the area between the barrow and the enclosure's corner.

Other possibly related features include two parallel furrows (060 and 061) to the north of ditch 159. These are parallel to the ditch, suggesting they were furrows in a field defined by the ditch. In the 18th century the strip boundaries ran parallel to ditch 020, so it is unlikely that the furrows date from that period. Somewhat more enigmatic were two shallow ditches, 016 running at right angles from 018. The latter was parallel to ditch 006. These were only 0.6m wide, but 0.35m deep, and were initially thought to be foundation trenches. However, excavation failed to reveal traces of a built structure or stone robbing, although some lime mortar was recovered.

Postholes
Several postholes, many of them containing the remains of burnt posts, were discovered scattered amongst the graves. In no case did a grave cut one of these postholes. Although several postholes lay within the area of the barrow the shallowness of the deposits made their relationship with the barrow difficult to establish. However, two postholes did provide some stratigraphic evidence. Cut 331 is located far too close to the edge of the barrow ditch for the two features to be contemporary, and although the relationship was not clear the excavator was fairly sure that 331 cut the fill of the ditch. Posthole 344 cut layer 199, which may represent the barrow mound, suggesting it too was later than the barrow. What stratigraphic evidence that does survive therefore suggests that these postholes, if they are mostly contemporary, post-date the barrow. Many of them form lines which are nearly parallel to the lines of graves, and most are located within the proximity of at least one grave. It therefore seems most likely that these postholes relate to the laying-out or use of the cemetery, and are possibly best interpreted as grave markers.

Other features scattered amongst the graves seem to be related to the cemetery. A short slot ran perpendicular to the long axis of grave 161, at its eastern end. This slot [012] measured 1.8 x 0.4m and was up to 0.16m deep. It was filled with angled stones, some of which were grouped as if forming the packing round posts. It seems likely that this feature held several marker posts.

A bowl-shaped feature, with evidence for in situ burning [079] was interpreted as a hearth and may be related to the postholes, although it was cut by grave 064. Several of the postholes had the remains of charred posts surviving within them. *In situ* charred posts are often interpreted as the remains of structures burnt down. However this interpretation has been questioned, as it is impossible for timber to burn underground, where it receives insufficient oxygen. The alternative interpretation is that the bases of structural timbers were charred to preserve them from rotting in damp soil. If this is the case the hearth 079 may represent the site of this charring. This process suggests that the posts were intended to remain in place for a long period of time. The final dating and interpretation of the postholes must wait until the radiocarbon dates on samples from the posts are returned.

Summary of features possibly related to the cemetery
Boundary ditches: 006, 159
Other ditches or furrows: 016, 018, 060, 061
Linear cut: 012
Hearth: 079
Postholes: 121, 228, 234, 256, 264, 266, 310, 318, 331, 344, 398, 399, 400, 410
Doubtful postholes: 311, 408

Very few artefacts can be attributed to this phase. Some perforated slate fragments were recovered from the graves, though their significance is difficult to establish. Quartz pebbles were also found in the grave fill. These pebbles have been found associated with early Christian burials on other sites, but at Ty Mawr they are a natural component of the subsoil, and may be accident inclusions in the graves. A fragment of a bone comb found in the fill of the ditch running along the northern edge of the cemetery could be of early medieval date, and was probably residual to the context in which it was found.

Find No.	Ctxt No.	Description	Phase	Weight	AMS	Conven -tional date	Justification for dating
119	247	Sample from posthole amongst graves	Posts	12.93g		Yes	From dark stained post pipe, conventional date possible
140	38	Upper fill of ring ditch.	Barrow	1.34g	Yes		Dates abandonment of barrow and collapse of revetment
150	345	Fill of cut 344, posthole cutting barrow.	Posts	13.09g		Yes	From posthole cutting barrow. To test whether the posts in the barrow area are of the same date as those within the rest of the cemetery.
173	315	Fragment of coffin	Early Christian Cemetery	<1g	Yes		Surviving fragment of coffin, hopefully not too mineralised. Dates burial directly.
179/ 180	54	Sample from fill of inner penannular structure	Barrow	4.95g		Possibly	Dates filling of inner ring, possibly dates packing of postholes, i.e. construction
194	222	Sample from layer 222 below barrow	OGS	24.22g		Yes	Sample from old ground surface. Conventional date possible.

DISCUSSION

The Ty Mawr cemetery, with its surviving evidence of grave types, allied to a spatial and chronological sequence, provides important new evidence for the use and development of cist cemeteries. Similarly, the structural remains of the cairn demonstrate the chronological development, and use of the site, in different periods.

The early Christian cemetery

Edwards (1986) has stated that "there seems to be a remarkable affinity between the siting of long-cist graves and Bronze Age burials" (p31). The cemetery at Ty Mawr is clearly part of this tradition. The stratigraphic and structural evidence from this site allows a better appreciation of the relationship between the two phases of the site, and contributes to the understanding of why one should be so attractive to the other, despite a time gap of nearly 2000 years.

At Capel Eithin, near Gaerwen, Anglesey, a Bronze Age barrow also formed the focus of a group of graves within an early Christian cemetery. The barrow also had Neolithic pottery preserved below it. A group of urn burials, probably also under a barrow provided another focus in the same cemetery. This site also provided evidence of plank covers to cist graves, and possibly plank built wooden cists (White and Smith 1999). At Capel Eithin there was no evidence for grave markers, but another similar site at Arfryn, Bodedern, had postholes amongst the graves, as at Ty Mawr. This site too seems to have been dug around an earlier feature; this time probably the mounded remains of a Bronze Age clay-wall round house, possibly mistaken for a barrow by the founders of the cemetery. It was also surrounded by a circular ditch, but this one was much larger than at Ty Mawr.

The comparison of the Ty Mawr cemetery to other contemporary sites in Anglesey, and in Wales as a whole, should contribute considerably to the understanding of the site and to the period in general.

The Bronze Age barrow

The feature, so far interpreted as a Bronze Age ring barrow, needs further discussion. It is far from typical of barrows in Wales, and on Anglesey in particular. Surrounding ditches, berms and banks do not generally occur in Wales (Lynch F, 1991 p156). However, Bronze Age barrows can be very variable in style, even in one small area. The Brenig excavations (Lynch 1993) provide a variety of barrows of different designs as comparisons. The various designs in one area stresses the variety that can be found in barrows. Although none of the barrows are identical to Ty Mawr several have individual features in common with it. Brenig 47 has a circular spread of stones round the barrow, which has been described as a 'stone skirt'. This overlies a partial, shallow rock cut ditch. A section shows the stones tipping into the ditch in a way reminiscent of Ty Mawr. Brenig 42 was the only barrow in the group to have a real ditch; ditches seem to be very rare on Welsh, and especially Anglesey barrows. The ditch was 0.5m deep, between 0.8 and 1.5m wide, and had a neatly cut U-shaped profile. It also had a bank composed of the ditch material, dumped on the inside of the ditch. This was not exposed for long before being covered by the mound.

Stake circles, often numerous concentric ones, seem to be relatively common. Brenig 45 has an inner stake circle similar in size and rather irregular shape to Ty Mawr, but it is composed of discrete stakeholes. Most of these stake circles were found beneath mound material, and there is little evidence that they were ever inserted later through the mound. Brenig 45 also has a stone wall, which seemed to revette the mound. This had upright stones set in stone holes and smaller stones built over and around them. It is possible, that before it collapsed the outer stone ring at Ty Mawr resembled this wall. It also has a palisade trench forming a kerb. This appeared as a narrow ditch with traces of timber post sockets within it. Although it presumably performed a different function to the feature at Ty Mawr, the construction technique resembles the inner circle at Ty Mawr better than the stake circles do.

Other cairns in Wales can have external banks. One on the summit of Moel Hebog, near Beddgelert, is described as having 'the flattened remains of an encircling bank of stone' (RCAHMW p32). They can also have ditches, as that which surrounds the cairn on the summit of Mynydd Mawr, near Betws Garmon (RCAHMW, p35), and the orthostatic kerb can be replaced by a built revetment (RCAHMW plx). Further afield barrows and cairns in Ireland have ditches and outer banks, while these features are quite common in England, especially in Wessex (Ashbee 1960). A particularly close parallel to the Ty Mawr barrow is the platform ring cairn at Cocksbarrow, St Mewan, Cornwall. The outer edge of the ring was marked by a 'rough stone wall', and the inner edge by a circle of granite slabs. There was no ditch, but the collapsed wall of the outer circle appears remarkably similar on the plan to that at Ty Mawr. The inner circle had no posts, though the outer circle may have had, showing that posts may have been used in such a structure (Miles 1975).

The absence of burials or cremations does not rule out that the structure was a barrow. Although in most barrows cists are dug into the subsoil below the barrow, cremation burials can be placed within the mound itself, without disturbing the subsoil. A good example of this on Anglesey is provided by the Llanddyfnan barrow (SH 508 784), where all the urns discovered were within the barrow mound (Lynch 1991, p173). If this occurred at Ty Mawr, where almost all the mound has been subsequently removed, there would be no trace of the burials, even the sherds of the urns would have been removed.

When the results of the specialist reports, and the radiocarbon dates, are obtained it will be possible to make more effective comparisons with other sites. The final report is to include a more extensive search for parallels for both the barrow and the cemetery to aid the interpretation of this site.

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Cartographic sources

Penrhos estate maps c.1769: Penrhos II. 772

Penrhos estate maps c.1817: Penrhos II. 804

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), Solid and Drift geology sheets 92 and 93, and parts of 94, 105 and 106

Soil Survey of England and Wales, sheets 93 and 105, and parts of 92, 94, 106, 118 and 119

Figure 1: Plan of the site at Ty Mawr

Figure 2: Finds plot

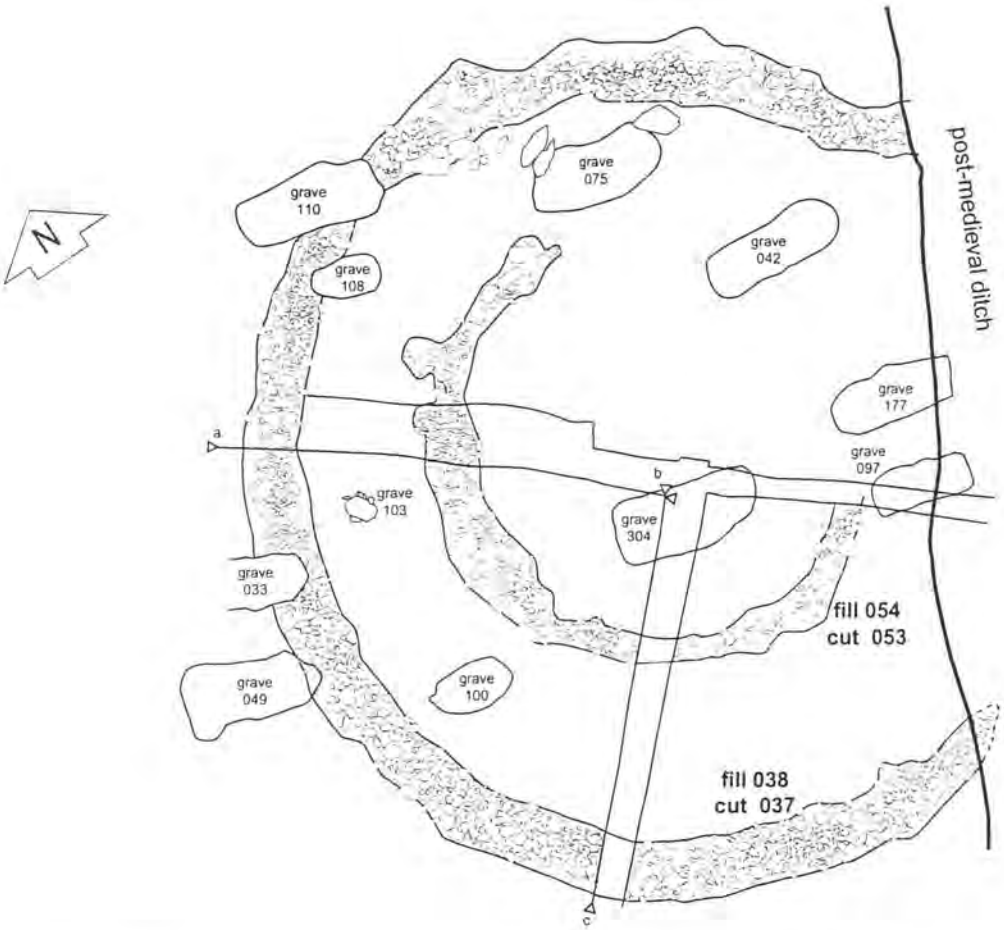
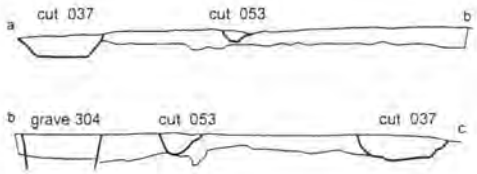


Figure 3A: Plan of barrow before excavation



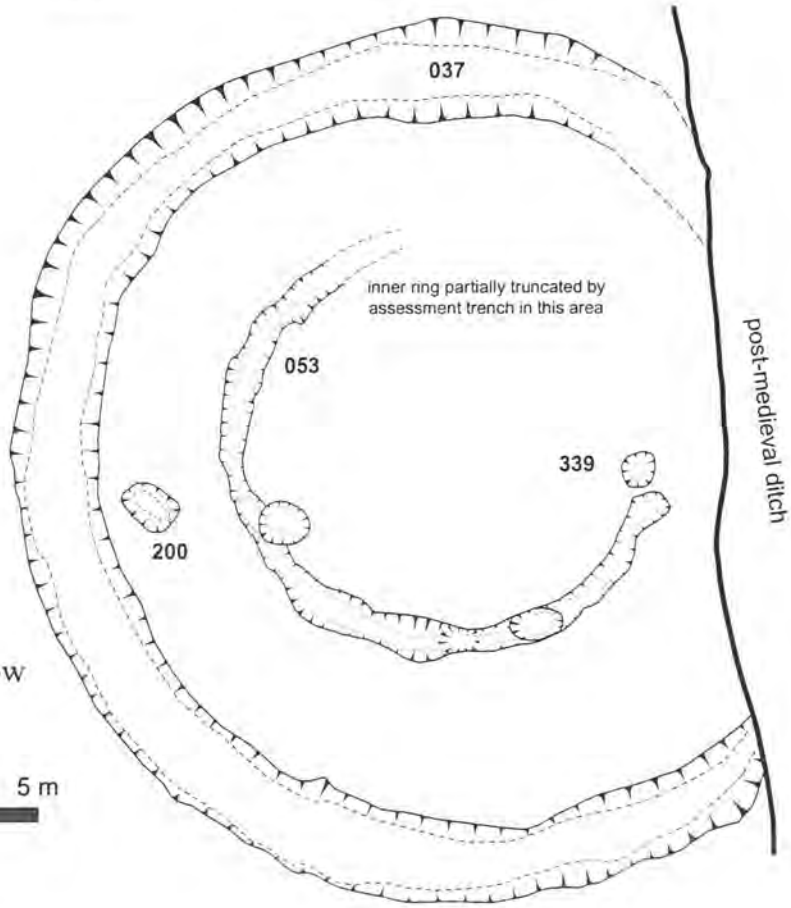
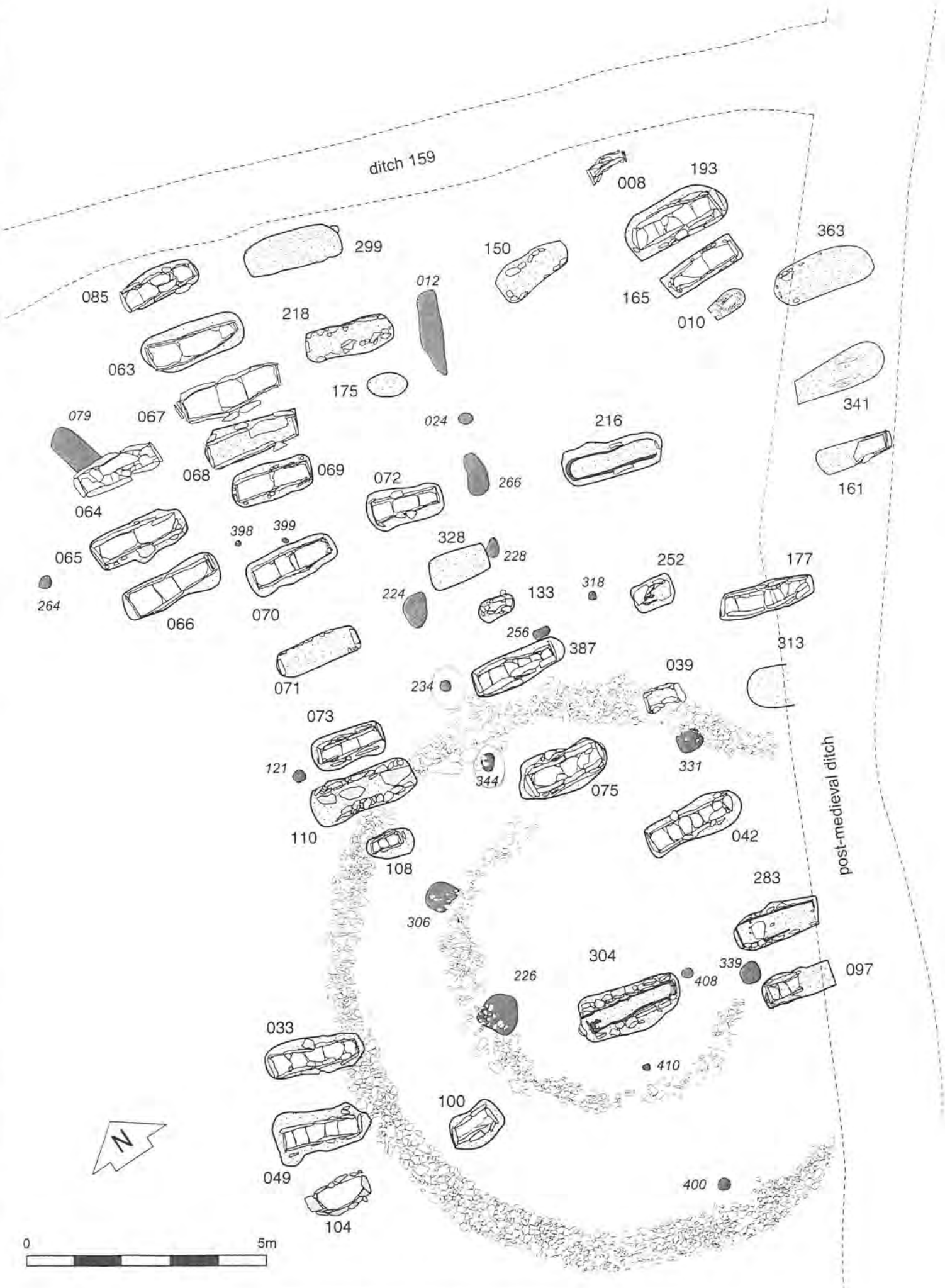
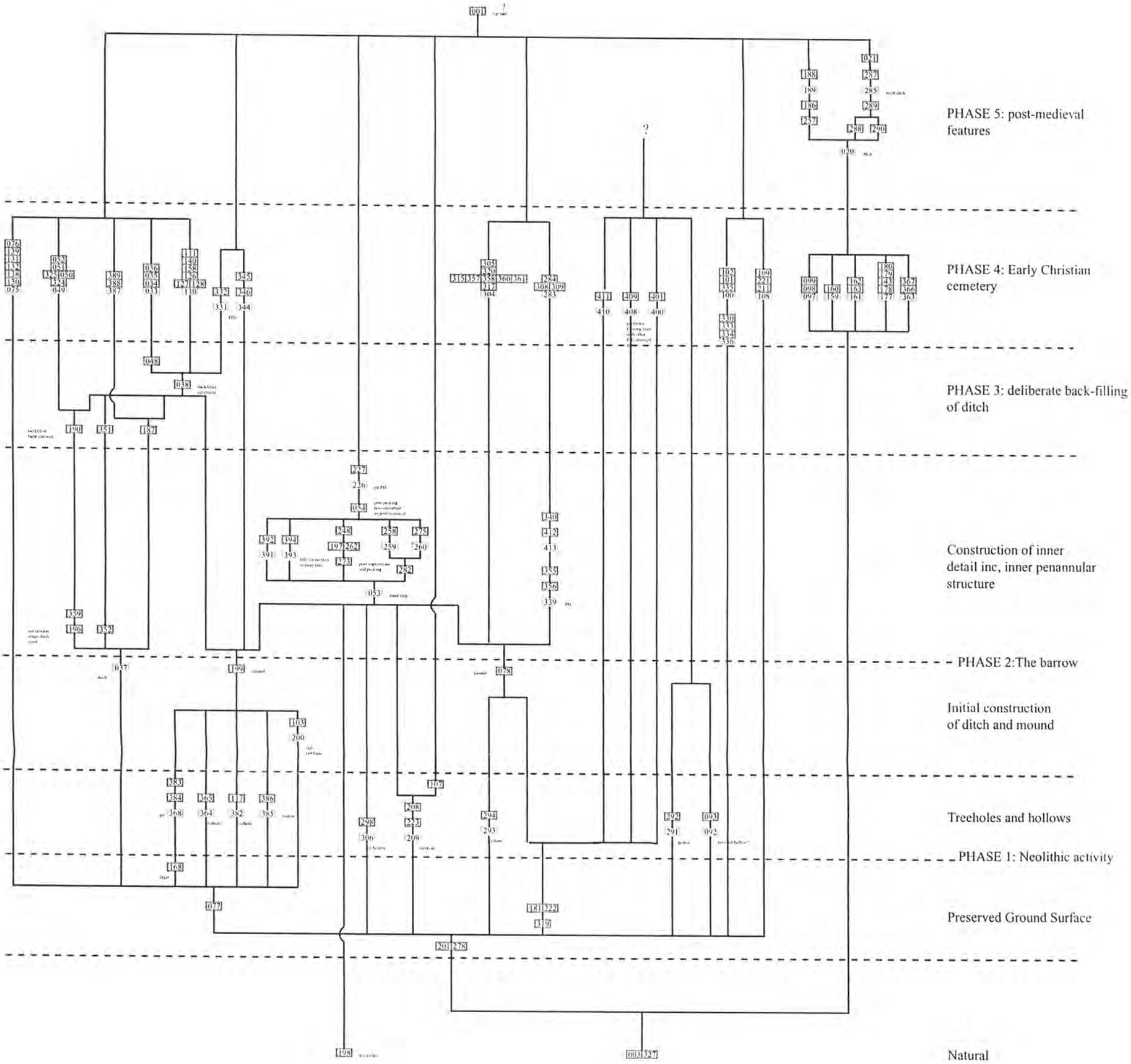


Figure 3B: Plan of barrow fully excavated



TY MAWR : Fig. 5 - The Early Christian Cemetery.



Harris matrix for area of the barrow, showing the stratigraphy of the barrow and the graves which cut it.

Finds from Ty Mawr, listed by context

CONTEXT 0

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
106	CE	3 SMALL PIECES OF POSSIBLE PREHISTORIC POT
110	CE	PREHISTORIC POT (SMALL FRAG)

CONTEXT 1

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
18	FLINT	BURNT FLAKE
26	FLINT	FLAKE

CONTEXT 3

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
121	FLINT	

CONTEXT 4

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
1	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE
2	COPPER ALLOY	METAL OBJECT POSSIBLE (BZ) STRAP FASTENER/CLIP
3	FE	IRON FRAG (POSSIBLE NAIL CHAIN LINK)
4	HORN /ANTLER	COMB FRAG(END PIECE)
5	FE	IRON FRAG
6	FE	NAIL
7	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE
8	FE	IRON FRAG
10	COPPER	NAIL
11	METAL	COIN
12	GLASS	FRAG
13	FE	FE FRAG
14	FE	FE FRAG
15	FE	FE FRAG
16	GLASS	DECORATIVE GLASS FRAG
27	CHERT	RETOUCH?

28	FE	FE OBJECT
29	SHALE	CUBIC PIECE OF SHALE(TOPSOIL)
35	FE	IRON SLAG?
37	FE	FE NAIL
38	FE	STIRRUP?
39	GLASS	GLASS FRAGMENT, MODERN
40	FLINT	WASTE FLAKE
41	FE	FE NAIL
42	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE RETOUCHED?
43	FLINT	FLINT TOOL
45	CHERT	WORKED CHERT
46	CHERT	WORKED CHERT
47	CHERT	WORKED CHERT (UNLOCATED)
48	COPPER ALLOY	SMALL STRIP OF COPPER ALLOY
49	FLINT	STRUCK FLINT
50	CHERT	STRUCK CHERT
51	FLINT	STRUCK FLINT
52	CHERT	FLAKE
54	FLINT	WASTE FLAKE
55	GLASS	GLASS FRAG
56	FLINT	CORE STRUCK
58	PEBBLES	GENERAL CLEANING IN CEMETARY
60	FE	2 SMALL FRAGS
66	CHERT	FLAKE RETOUCH
69	QUARTZ	QUARTZ LUMPS FROM GRAVE
82	FE	IRON RIVET FROM SPOIL
84	FE	FROM DITCH BY WALL
86	CHERT	POLISHED CHERT PEBBLE
88	FE	FROM DITCH BY WALL
105	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE
122	CHERT	SCRAPER
136	FLINT	FLINT OFFCUT
172	MORTAR	? <LIME MORTAR?>

CONTEXT 5

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
19	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE
20	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE
21	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE
22	CHERT	WORKED CHERT
23	FLINT	STRUCK FLAKE
24	FLINT	WORKED FLINT
25	FLINT	STRUCK FLINT
30	FLINT	WASTE FLAKE
31	CHERT	FLAKE
32	CHERT	FLAKE RETOUCHED
33	FLINT	FLAKE
34	FLINT	FLAKE
78	FLINT	ROUGH/OUTER PIECE
89	CHERT	FLAKE

CONTEXT 7

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
9	FE	FE OBJECT

CONTEXT 9

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
98	QUARTZ	FROM GRAVE

CONTEXT 16

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
90	MORTAR	LIME MORTAR FROM DITCH

CONTEXT 17

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
44	FE	FE NAIL FROM PROB. POST-MED LINEAR

CONTEXT 20

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
114	CHERT	WORKED

117	FE	SMALL SQ. NAIL FROM DITCH CUT POSS. POST-MED.
120	STONE	SHAPED STONE

CONTEXT 21

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
79	CHERT	FLAKE
91	VARIOUS	CHINA AND GLASS FROM DITCH
135	STONE	BURNT STONE
142	CE	POST MED POT

CONTEXT 27

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
116	CHERT	SMALL WASTE FLAKE

CONTEXT 28

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
36	VARIOUS	MIXTURE OF FINDS FROM DOG-GRAVE 028-CERAMIC/GLASS

CONTEXT 38

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
63	FLINT	BURNT FLINT FLAKE
64	FLINT	WORKED FLINT BROKEN BLADE
65	FLINT	WORKED FLINT TOOL ?
83	CHERT	WORKED BLACK CHERT
115	STONE	FLAT PEBBLE WITH BORED HOLE POSS. WHORL
126	STONE	HAMMERSTONE
138	STONE	HAMMER STONE
141	CHERT	CHERT FLAKE
143	STONE	HAMMER STONE
144	STONE	CARVED STONE
145	CHERT	CHERT FLAKE
146	CHERT	3 FLAKES
147	STONE	HAMMER STONE
155	STONE	BURNT STONE FROM OUTER CIRCLE SURFACE
156	STONE	HAMMER STONE FROM OUTER CIRCLE

157	CHERT	CHERT FLAKE
158	CHERT	CHERT FLAKE
167	CHERT	2 FLAKES AND 1 POSS. SCRAPER

CONTEXT 43

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
17	QUARTZ	QUARTZ PEBBLE

CONTEXT 48

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
53	FEO	FE OXIDE PLUS PSS. FE SHEETS

CONTEXT 51

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
99	QUARTZ	FROM GRAVE 050

CONTEXT 52

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
57	PEBBLES	QUARTZ FROM OVER GRAVE

CONTEXT 74

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
62	SHALE	WITH BORED HOLE(INCOMPLETE)
68	SHALE	FLAKE

CONTEXT 77

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
70	CE	PREHISTORIC POT
71	CE	PREHISTORIC POT
72	FLINT	TOOL
73	CE	PREHISTORIC POT
74	CE	PREHISTORIC POT
75	CE	POT POSS. BRONZE AGE
76	CE	PREHISTORIC POT
77	CE	PREHISTORIC POT
112	CE	VERY SMALL PIECE - PREHISTORIC
159	CE	SMALL PIECE OF PREHISTORIC POT

193	CHERT	SCRAPER

CONTEXT 78

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
111	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE POSS. BROKEN BLADE

CONTEXT 80

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
80	STONE	SHAPED 1/2 DISC WITH BORED HOLE

CONTEXT 87

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
192	CHERT	SCRAPER

CONTEXT 102

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
85	QUARTZ	QUARTZ FROM GRAVE CUT 100

CONTEXT 107

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
107	CE	PREHISTORIC POT

CONTEXT 146

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
93	QUARTZ	FROM GRAVE 068

CONTEXT 147

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
92	QUARTZ	FROM GRAVE 069

CONTEXT 161

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
96	CE	POTTERY FROM GRAVE 070

CONTEXT 166

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
101	QUARTZ	FOUND ON TOP OF GRAVE SLABS

CONTEXT 181

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
148	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE

CONTEXT 198

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
104	CHERT	CHERT PIECES POSSIBLY WORKED

CONTEXT 208

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
108	CE	PREHISTORIC POT

CONTEXT 223

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
113	CE	PREHISTORIC POT

CONTEXT 225

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
94	FLINT	FLINT FLAKE

CONTEXT 258

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
127	SAMPLE	FILL OF TIMBER IMPRESSION
128	FEO	IRON OXIDE? DEPOSIT AROUND TIMBER IMPRESSION

CONTEXT 284

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
129	FLINT	CORE IN FILL OF GRAVE

CONTEXT 304

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
177	CHERT	CORE

CONTEXT 325

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
137	STONE	WATER ROLLED STONE IN PACKING FILL AT SIDE OF GRAVE 050

CONTEXT 331

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
149	FLINT	STRUCK FLAKE

CONTEXT 340

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
166	CHERT	POSS. RE-TOUCHED

CONTEXT 389

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
181	SHELL	WHELK FROM GRAVE FILL

Ty Mawr: environmental samples listed by context

CONTEXT 4

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
59	BONE	BURNT BONE
185	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FROM STAKEHOLES
186	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FROM STAKEHOLES
187	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FROM STAKEHOLES

CONTEXT 38

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
61	BONE	BURNT BONE
140	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FOR DATING

CONTEXT 53

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
179	CHARCOAL	POSS. STAKEHOLES
180	CHARCOAL	POSS. STAKEHOLES

CONTEXT 74

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
133	CHARCOAL	FROM BEHIND CIST

CONTEXT 80

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
81	CHARCOAL	FRAGMENT FROM FILL OF GRAVE

CONTEXT 118

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
87	SAMPLE BODY	FROM GRAVE 118

CONTEXT 122

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
95	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FOR C14

CONTEXT **154**

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
100	BONE	FRAGMENTS OF TOOTH ENAMEL
102	BONE	FRAGMENTS IN SOIL INC. TEETH AND SKULL

CONTEXT **162**

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
190	SAMPLE BODY	BODY SHADOW

CONTEXT **168**

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
103	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FROM SPREAD

CONTEXT **169**

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
97	BONE	FRAGMENTS OF TOOTH ENAMEL

CONTEXT **210**

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
109	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FROM CUT 092 FILL 210

CONTEXT **222**

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
194	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FROM LAYER 222 - INNER RING

CONTEXT **228**

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
118	CHARCOAL	SMALL SAMPLE FROM BASE OF P/H

CONTEXT **236**

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
119	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FROM P/H

CONTEXT **258**

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
127	SAMPLE COFFIN	FILL OF TIMBER IMPRESSION

CONTEXT 274

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
123	SAMPLE COFFIN	SAMPLE FROM CUT 252 COFFIN STAIN

CONTEXT 276

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
132	SAMPLE COFFIN	COFFIN STAIN FROM CUT 216

CONTEXT 277

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
124	SAMPLE COFFIN	SAMPLE FROM CUT 252

CONTEXT 279

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
131	SAMPLE BODY	BODY SHADOW FROM CUT 216

CONTEXT 280

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
195	CHARCOAL	FROM CHARCOAL SPREAD ABOVE NATURAL

CONTEXT 281

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
125	SAMPLE SOIL	SAMPLE FROM P/H 264

CONTEXT 295

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
130	BONE	SKULL FROM CUT 216

CONTEXT 304

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
163	SAMPLE COFFIN	WOOD FROM COFFIN
164	BONE	JAW AND MOLARS
165	BONE	FILL AND BONES FROM SKULL
169	BONE	LEFT HAND AND LOWER ARM
170	BONE	LEFT FEMUR
171	BONE	SAMPLE FROM TORSO AND LEGS

173	SAMPLE COFFIN	TIMBER FROM COFFIN BASE
174	SAMPLE COFFIN	COFFIN SIDE

CONTEXT 309

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
139	SAMPLE COFFIN	COFFIN STAIN 309

CONTEXT 321

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
134	CHARCOAL	FROM TOP FILL OF 318

CONTEXT 340

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
152	CHARCOAL	SAMPLE FROM 339
154	CHARCOAL	CHARCOAL SAMPLE

CONTEXT 345

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
150	CHARCOAL	FILL OF CUT 344

CONTEXT 346

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
151	CHARCOAL	BOTTOM FILL OF CUT 344

CONTEXT 352

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
153	CHARCOAL	BOTTOM FILL OF 352 OF CUT 37

CONTEXT 358

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
160	BONE	SOIL AND BONE REMAINS MIXED
161	BONE	SOIL AND BONE REMAINS MIXED

CONTEXT 381

SAMPLE NO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
175	CHARCOAL	CHARCOAL FROM POSTHOLE
176	CHARCOAL	CHARCOAL FROM POSTHOLE

A55 Anglesey DBFO scheme, archaeological investigations
Post-excavation programme
Contextual analysis report

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
GAT Project Number G1647

THE EXCAVATION AT PENMYNYDD, BODEDERN PARISH

INTRODUCTION

The site below the farm of Penmynydd occupies a sheltered, south facing position at the foot of a low hill. This hill is one of a number of drumlins which typify this area of Anglesey, and around which settlements tend to cluster. The existence of a spring and a stream also made it a favourable location for settlement. Trial excavations were undertaken to try and locate a building marked on 18th century estate map. No building remains were found during the evaluation excavations, but the discovery of prehistoric features justified the excavation of a larger area.

The excavation commenced in early March 1999. An area 90m by 35m was stripped by machine, during which features were noted and marked, and subsequently excavated by hand. Long term cultivation had truncated all the remains and obliterated any horizontal stratigraphy, but partial remains of structures and pits survived, together with finds of worked stone and pottery suggestive of domestic occupation during the late Neolithic period.

A preliminary statement on the results of the excavation was presented in November 1999, along with an assessment of the potential of the archive and finds, followed by an updated project design for the post excavation work up to publication stage. This statement specified the next phase of the project as contextual analysis, and the present report is the result of that stage of the work. The excavation archive was checked, and data entry of the site records into appropriate databases was completed. The contextual information was analysed, resulting in a reassessment of the site interpretation. This work conformed to the guidelines for the 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (MAP 2) prepared by English Heritage (1991). The work has been commissioned by RML on behalf of UK Highways.

Archaeological background

There are relatively few archaeological sites within the vicinity of Penmynydd. An enclosure, referred to as Caer Elen, crowned a low hill to the south-east of Penmynydd (SH 3261 7808). Its date is not known, but is assumed to be Iron Age, or possibly Roman. A stone axe was found near the enclosure (SH 326 780), but is unlikely to be related to the activity there. To the north of Penmynydd at Bodowyr Farm (SH 321 794) a Bronze Age dolerite axe hammer was found, and to the east a bronze palstave was discovered, just to the north of the A55 (SH 3283 7829).

The other remains known from the area trace the development of the agricultural landscape. Faint traces on the flank of the hill crowned by Caer Elen (SH 3265 7826) may represent the ploughed-down remains of prehistoric lynchets. Other ridges (SH 3230 7830) are probably part of the medieval ridge and furrow field system.

In the 18th century the farm was part of the Penrhos estate, and appears on the 1769 estate map as Mynydd Machdun. The farm name was Penmynydd Machno by 1820, and Penmynydd by 1848. A building associated with two fields, called Tyddyn Bulkeley, is also marked at about (SH 3222 7851). No earthworks were visible, but some marks were seen in the correct location on the aerial photographs. A geophysical survey of the area was carried out in 1996, but failed to reveal any anomalies. An upright stone standing in the field at SH 3112 7845 may represent the southern corner of the Tyddyn Bulkeley holding (GAT Report No. 204).

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

Ploughing, which had removed all deposits above the glacial till, left very little stratified archaeology on this site. The majority of the features were, therefore, stratigraphically isolated from one another, and an understanding of their relationship relies on the interpretation of spatial distribution, morphology and chronology.

Two principal phases are proposed; prehistoric (probably late Neolithic) and post-medieval (18th century). See figure 1.

Phase one

This phase is tentatively assigned to the Late Neolithic period on the basis of the pottery and stone tools. The features belonging to this phase were widely scattered and difficult to interpret.

Tree clearance activity

Numerous irregular hollows, caused by the roots of trees, were scattered across the site. It is probable that most predated the post-medieval field system, but otherwise they are difficult to date. Some contained considerable quantities of charcoal, and occasionally the sub-soil had been altered by the heat, proving that the burning had occurred *in situ*. It is postulated that the burnt treeholes represent tree stumps burnt to aid their removal. The creation of a fire of sufficiently high temperature and long duration to burn the stumps could not have occurred accidentally, and it is likely that the burnt tree root holes indicate deliberate clearance of the land.

Before the invention of heavy plant machinery burning was the best way to remove stumps prior to cultivation. The burnt treeholes are, therefore, not necessarily of an early date, although similar features are found beneath prehistoric monuments. However, while no later finds were recovered from these features, two burnt treeholes produced sherds of Peterborough ware pottery, implying a late Neolithic date for the clearance.

Summary of clearance evidence

Burnt treeholes: 012, 014, 052, 056, 058, 068, 094, 108, 131, 137
Unburnt treeholes: 018, 020, 022, 024, 026, 046, 135
Treeholes containing Peterborough ware: 056, 058
Treeholes containing other prehistoric artefacts: 012, 022, 137

Occupation activity

Possibly related to the clearance activity were several features indicative of temporary occupation. Although the function of some features as unclear, others could be securely interpreted as postholes; some contained post-pipes where the post had rotted *in situ*, e.g. 100 and 102. The postholes include an isolated pair [100 and 102], and a group to the western side of ditch 008 [140, 064, 150, 152, 156, and possibly 148 and 158]. They vary in diameter from 0.23 to 0.39m, and in depth from 0.11 to 0.30m. Adjacent to the group of postholes was a large circular pit [060], 1.6m in diameter, and 0.42m deep. The group formed no clear pattern, and at best might be interpreted as supports for a windbreak, or possibly part of a fence line. If they were dug soon after the area had been cleared, the burnt material in some of the holes could have originated from the clearance activity, not from the burning of the posts.

The only pottery to be recovered from the postholes came from feature 133. This was a roughly rectangular posthole, measuring 0.49 x 0.21m, but only 0.1m deep. It was located just over 2m north-east of 102, and contained sherds from 2 vessels, one possibly Peterborough ware, the other a collared or cordoned urn.

There were a small number of other significant features; the most enigmatic of which was cut 028. This consisted of two shallow kidney-shaped depressions, aligned east to west, along the same general alignment as the adjacent ploughmarks. Cut into the eastern part of the feature was a trapezoidal feature 0.75m long, up to 0.17m deep, 0.2m wide at the narrow end and 0.38m wide at the broad end. This cut [129] was lined with charcoal (162) and filled with a hard stony deposit (130). The charcoal may represent the remains of the timber lining of a small trough. Approximately 1m to the south of 028 a

possible posthole was associated with several stakeholes. These were discovered in evaluation trench 148, and did not survive well to be investigated in the main excavation. They may have represented some slight stake built structure. Both 028 and the stakeholes were associated with a spread of red silt.

At the eastern end of the site was a shallow hollow [110] filled with a charcoal rich deposit (111). The sub-soil under the feature had been altered by heat, indicating that the burning had occurred *in situ*. This feature measured 1.15 by 0.98m, and was 0.12m in depth. It is interpreted as a hearth, but there were no other structures associated with it, except for a possible stakehole [120] cut into its edge.

To the north of 110 was a steep sided, sub-rectangular pit [112], measuring 1.6x1.6m, and up to 0.23m deep. A large stone rested upright against one edge, and it is possible it had contained other packing stones, since removed. However, there was not sufficient evidence to securely interpret this as a large posthole.

There was a small flint assemblage of 24 pieces, of which 22 are worked and of these 3 are secondarily retouched. Most of the pieces came from the interface of the subsoil with the overlying layers rather than in stratified layers or features so their context is uncertain, but one retouched piece came from pit 060, and 2 small flakes from 028. The assemblage contains no good diagnostic pieces, though there is nothing to contradict a late Neolithic date, excepting one possible Mesolithic core.

Of the 3 stone objects one is possibly a struck flake from a larger object, possibly a polished axe, but possibly just from a broken pebble. The other two are hammers, one heavy, one light and are likely to have been used in working the flint. The most interesting aspect of these finds is that they all came from the group of postholes; the polished piece from 152, and the hammers from 064. The latter supports the suggestion that the flints are related to the same activity that created the postholes.

The discovery of a lump of slag in possible posthole 158 suggests it is not contemporary with the others, although the slag might have been introduced later by animal activity.

Summary of possible occupation features
Definite posthole: 064, 100, 102, 133, 140, 150, 152, 156
Possible posthole: 030, 034, 048, 054, 078, 116, 148, 158, 177
Pits: 060, 070, 112
Possible pits: 016, 122, 167
Stakeholes: 120, 169
Other features: 028, 110, 129

Features containing prehistoric pottery: 133, 140
Features containing flint: 028, 060
Features containing daub: 070, 102
Features containing worked stone: 152, 064
Features containing slag: 158

Radiocarbon dating
Three charcoal samples large enough to obtain conventional radiocarbon dates were selected. These were sent to Beta Analytic Inc, Florida, for dating. They were chosen from the small number of well defined, undisturbed features on the site to provide an initial indication of the date of the site. If these prove useful further samples will be sent for dating.

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Weight	Justification for dating sample
008	111	Fill of possible hearth 110	268.15g	Feature shows evidence of *in situ* burning. Charcoal probably all originated from same burning episode.
009	103	Remains of possible *in situ* post	37.12g	Large pieces of charcoal, possibly from a post burnt *in situ*.
036	162	Charred timber lining	43.56g	Charcoal from timber lining of cut 129. *In situ* and integral part of the feature.

Phase two

The features of this phase were much easier to identify and interpret. Several, including ditch 008, contained post-medieval pottery and glass. Ditch 008 was large and well defined. It ran north to south across the site and broadened into a pond at the southern end. Running nearly perpendicular to 008, in the north-western corner of the site, was a smaller ditch [006]. Both of these are interpreted as field boundary ditches, which were probably contemporary. Both ditches had traces of furrows running parallel to them (006 had 004, and 008 had 010 and 080). The area to the west of 008 had no evidence for tradition ridge and furrow cultivation, but it did have plough marks scarred into the subsoil. These were perpendicular to, and therefore probably contemporary with, 008. It is likely that the remains of the ridges and furrows were removed during topsoil stripping, and only the deepest plough marks remained. A treehole next to 008 contained post-medieval artefacts, probably a tree planted next to the pond on the field boundary. There was no direct evidence for a post-medieval building, but window glass and domestic pottery indicated domestic occupation nearby.

The map evidence shows that the field layout in this area has remained remarkably consistent since the 18th century. The 1848 tithe map shows the layout to be much as it is today, and even the 1769 estate map shows the fields to be very similar. However, at this date, there was more subdivision of the fields south of the Penmynydd farmhouse, then called Mynydd Machdun. A north-south boundary, on which lay the cottage of Tyddyn Bulkeley, does not appear on later maps, and is, almost certainly, the large boundary ditch found in the excavation [008]. It appears that the cottage was just south of the road corridor, and was just missed in the excavation. The boundary seemed to be broadening out to create a small pond for watering livestock next to the cottage, though this is not indicated on the map. The estate map does indicate north-south orientated ridge and furrow in the field to the east of 008, which corresponds to the alignment of furrows 010 and 080. Ditch 006 is not shown on the estate map, and may represent a slightly earlier layout of the fields. The field to the west is shown as having ridge and furrow orientated east-west, and 006 may have been the boundary for an eastward extension of this field, accounting for the orientation of the ploughmarks 119 and 124.

Summary of Post-Medieval features
Boundary ditches: 006, 008
Furrows: 004, 010/076, 080
Plough marks: 119, 124
Others: 073, 074

DISCUSSION

Late Neolithic activity

Settlement sites of this period are extremely rare, not only on Anglesey, but throughout the United Kingdom. This is a period noted for the introduction of new ritual structures, but for which little evidence has been forthcoming for the everyday lifestyle of its inhabitants. The site at Penmynydd contains a number of features of interest, including post-holes, stake holes, pits, and a hearth. Their location at the foot of a glacial drumlin is of interest, and a re-examination of topographical locations for sites of this date could prove fruitful.

The interpretation of this site, given the lack of stratigraphy, is dependent upon being able to date the relevant features. When the radiocarbon dates are returned they will allow a greater understanding of the nature of the site and the date of the associated pottery.

The post-medieval field system

Unfortunately the cottage of Tyddyn Bulkeley was not exposed in the excavation, but developments in the field system were revealed, which can be approximately dated by the map evidence.

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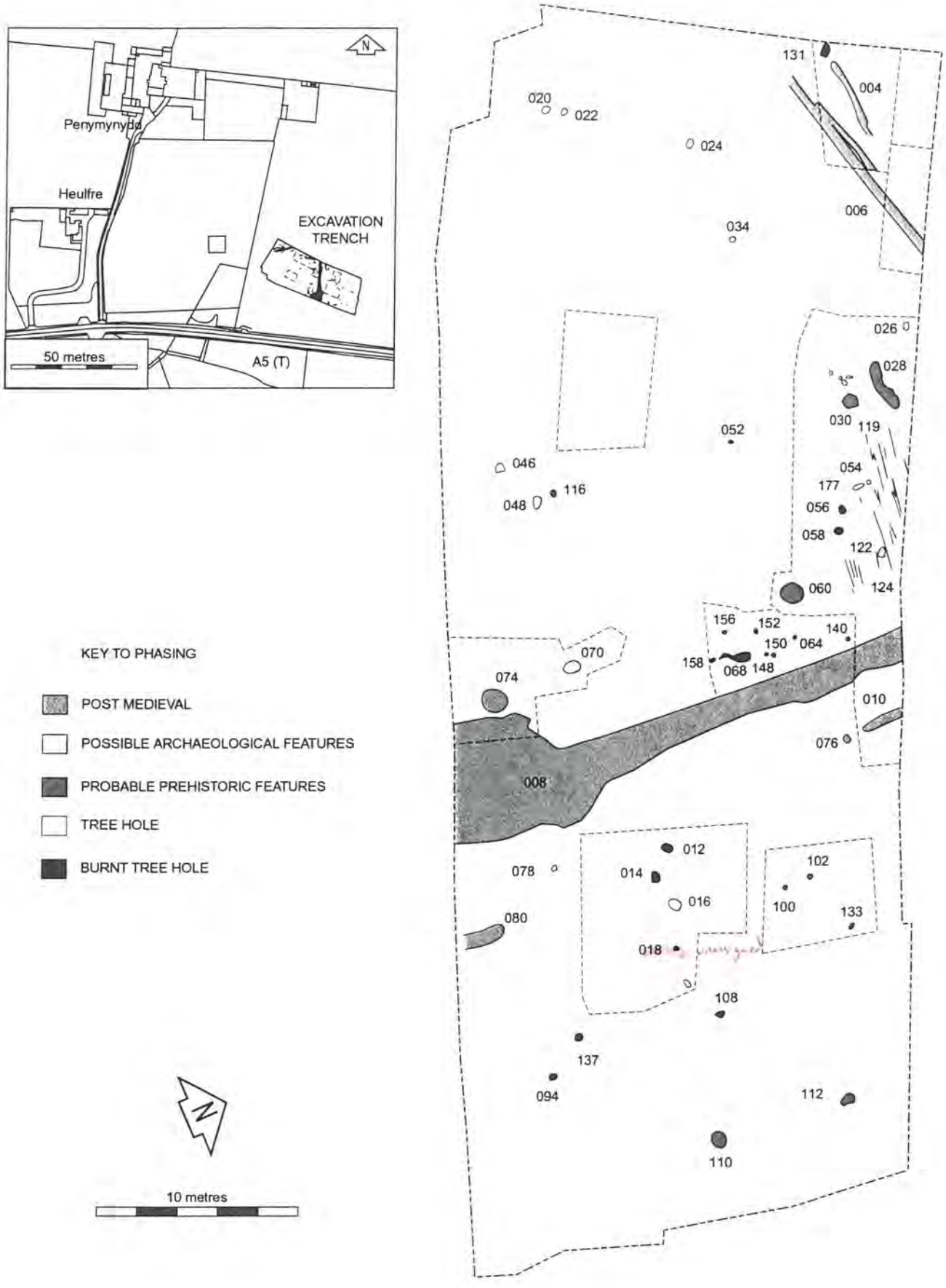

Figure 1: Penmynydd site plan

Penmynydd: Finds listed by context

CONTEXT 0

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
1	flint	
2	flint	large bowled piece of reddish flint, burnt
4	deleted	
7	deleted	
8	deleted	
27	flint	1 purple flake, burnt
28	flint	1 flake
43	charcoal?	1 lump

CONTEXT 1

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
3	flint	small bowled flake with concoidal fractures, pale amber

CONTEXT 2

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
13	flint	small flake
14	flint	tiny flake
15	flint	small bowled piece of flint with reddish marbling from outer edge, poss. retouch
19	flint	small red flint flake
25	flint	Meso? core
26	flint	1 flake
29	flint	1 flake
30	flint	burnt flake
31	flint	1 small piece
32	flint	one lump, core?
33	flint	1 rounded pebble
38	flint	worked flint
39	flint	worked flint
40	flint	flint chip, burnt
41	flint	tiny chip

48	flint	1 burnt flake, originally double numbered as 42

CONTEXT 13

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
5	nut shell	burnt hazelnut shell
6	ceramic	small lump of red pot?

CONTEXT 23

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
24	flint	1 flake

CONTEXT 29

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
46	flint	1 small flake
47	flint	1 small flake

CONTEXT 57

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
11	ceramic	prehistoric pot
16	nut shell	burnt hazelnut shell
21	flaked stone	poss. stone tool

CONTEXT 59

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
17	ceramic	decorated wall frag.
18	nut shell	burnt fragments of hazelnut shell
20	ceramic	decorated rim sherd.

CONTEXT 61

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
12	flint	retouched flake, poss. arrowhead

CONTEXT 65

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
42	stone	2 large rounded pebbles

CONTEXT 71

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION

45	daub	1 lump daub with charcoal

CONTEXT 103

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
22	daub	small bits from posthole. Now completely disintegrated

CONTEXT 127

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
23	ceramic	2 frags.

CONTEXT 134

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
35	ceramic	prehistoric pot
50	ceramic	prehistoric pot sherds

CONTEXT 138

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
36	ceramic	prehistoric pot?
37	charcoal	inclusions in fill

CONTEXT 141

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
34	ceramic	1 frag. Poss. tile

CONTEXT 153

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
49	stone	smoothed stone tool

CONTEXT 159

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
44	slag	1 lump

CONTEXT 171

FINDNO	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
9	ceramic	prehistoric pot
10	ceramic	prehistoric pot sherd

Penmynydd: Environmental samples listed by context

CONTEXT 5

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
32	soil	1 Bag	Fill of furrow

CONTEXT 13

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
2	Charcoal	1.73g	From fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 16

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
7	soil	1 Bag	Fill of possible pit

CONTEXT 21

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
14	soil	1 Bag	Fill of treehole

CONTEXT 23

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
18	soil	1 Bag	Fill of treehole

CONTEXT 25

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
25	soil	1 Bag	Fill of treehole

CONTEXT 31

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
57	soil	1 Bag	Fill of pit

CONTEXT 33

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
17	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 35

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
16	soil	1 Bag	Fill of possible posthole

CONTEXT 37

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
24	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 39

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
23	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 41

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
29	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 45

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
28	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 47

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
30	soil fill	1 Bags	Fill of treehole

CONTEXT 53

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
27	soil	1 Bag	Fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 57

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
12	soil	2 Bags	Fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 59

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
11	soil	1 Bag	Fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 61

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
6	soil	1 Bag	Fill of large pit

CONTEXT 62

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
40	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 65

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
37	soil	1 Bag	Fill of posthole

CONTEXT 66

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
41	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 69

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
53	soil	1 Bag	Fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 71

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
15	soil	1 large Bag	Fill of shallow pit

CONTEXT 79

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
13	soil	1 Bag	Fill of possible posthole

CONTEXT 81

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
26	soil	1 Bag	Fill of furrow

CONTEXT 93

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
22	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 95

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
19	soil	1 Bag	Fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 97

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
20	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 103

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
9	Charcoal	37.12g	From possible post burnt in situ
10	soil	1 Bag	Fill of posthole

CONTEXT 109

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
1	Charcoal	21.01g	From fill of burnt treehole
5	soil	3 Bags	Fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 111

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
3	Charcoal	268.15g	From fill of hearth
4	Soil	1 Bag	Fill of hearth

CONTEXT 123

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
8	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 128

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
21	soil	1 Bag	Second fill of shallow pit 070

CONTEXT 130

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
35	soil sample	1 Bag	Fill of possible timber lined trough

CONTEXT 134

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
31	soil fill (all)	4 Bags	Fill of possible posthole

CONTEXT 135

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
51	soil	1 Bag	Fill of animal burrow

CONTEXT 138

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
33	soil fill	1 Bag	Fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 139

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
34	soil fill	1 Bag	Fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 141

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
52	soil	1 Bag	Fill of posthole

CONTEXT 143

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
54	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 145

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
44	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 147

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
46	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 149

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
45	soil	1 Bag	Fill of posthole

CONTEXT 151

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
49	soil	Large sample Ba	Fill of posthole
55	Charcoal	1.46g	From fill of posthole

CONTEXT 153

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
42	soil	1 Bag	Fill of posthole

CONTEXT 155

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
43	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 157

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
39	soil	1 Bag	Fill of posthole
56	Charcoal	21.92g	From fill of posthole

CONTEXT 159

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
38	Charcoal	25.19g	From fill of possible posthole
47	soil	1 Bag	Fill of possible posthole

CONTEXT 162

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
36	Charcoal	43.56g	Timber lining of possible trough
59	soil	1 Bag	Lining of possible trough

CONTEXT 163

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
48	soil	1 Bag	secondary fill of posthole 152

CONTEXT 164

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
50	soil	ple bag included	secondary fill of posthole 150

CONTEXT 166

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
60	soil	1 Bag	Fill of posthole 064

CONTEXT 168

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
61	soil	1 Bag	Fill of burnt treehole

CONTEXT 176

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
58	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 179

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
62	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 183

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
63	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 184

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
64	soil	1 Bag	Fill of posthole 140

CONTEXT 187

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
65	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow

CONTEXT 189

SAMPLE NO.	SAMPLE TYPE	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
66	soil	1 Bag	Fill of hollow