

TRELAI PARK, CARDIFF: AN INTERIM REPORT ON THE 2023 EXCAVATIONS



By
O. Davis & N. Sharples

CARDIFF STUDIES IN ARCHAEOLOGY



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1. Introduction

This report details the initial findings from a second season of work at the Middle Bronze Age enclosure of Trelai Park, Cardiff (ST 14697 75875). Four weeks of excavation were carried out from 12 June to 07 July 2023. The work is part of a major community engagement project known as CAER Heritage which aims to provide a range of educational and other opportunities for local communities through archaeology. The background detail and research framework of the project was provided within the previous year's interim report (Davis and Sharples 2023, 3-12) and will not be repeated here. This report provides the results of the excavations and includes the stratigraphic sequences recorded in each of the trenches. Post-excavation analyses and conservation of the recovered artefacts is currently ongoing and therefore only basic lists and counts of finds are given here. A review

of the community engagement activities and analysis of the evaluation materials is also provided.

Funding for the work was provided by Cardiff University, the Royal Archaeological Institute and the Prehistoric Society and we are grateful to them all for enabling the investigations to take place. Trelai Park is in the ownership of Cardiff Council and we are extremely thankful to them for their permission to excavate in this location. In particular we would like to extend our thanks to Angel Tran and Mark Cummings and local councillors Peter Bradbury and Elaine Simmons for their support. Key logistical support was provided by Cardiff West Community High School and we would like to thank all of their staff and pupils for their help. We would also like to thank Viv Thomas, Helen McCarthy, Glyn Everett, Jerrod



Fig. 1. Location map of Trelai Park

Seifert, Naomi Hadfield and Tia Ryder for their expertise on site. Trench 1 Ext was supervised by Anna-Elyse Young and Trench 2 by Kelly Davies. Trench 4 was supervised by Tom Hicks, supported by staff from Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales, George Whatley and Chris Griffiths. We are very grateful to them for all their skill, knowledge and enthusiasm. Particular thanks should also go to staff at Action Caerau and Ely for their continued support and encouragement. We are also very grateful to Kirsty Harding for setting out this report in Adobe InDesign and Mark Lodwick for taking photos 23 and 24. Finally, we would like to thank all of the staff and students of Cardiff University for their help and to the numerous community groups and residents of Caerau and Ely who gave their time and demonstrated amazing passion and interest for their local heritage – none of this work would have been possible without their help and support.

2. Research Aims of the Work

Trelai Park is located on the floodplain of the River Ely, west Cardiff (Figure 1). Until around AD 1900 a network of streams crossed the area and the immediate environment was one of marsh and water meadow for the summer pasture of cattle. After the Second World War the land was acquired by Cardiff Council and converted into a leisure park. This included the levelling of field boundaries and the construction of a network of land drains.

In the centre of the park are the remains of a Roman villa which is contained within an unusual triple-ditched trapezoidal-shaped enclosure. The Middle Bronze Age enclosure described here is around 200 m south of the villa (Figure 2). Although smaller, and defined only by a single ditch, its trapezoidal shape is similar to the villa enclosure. A single entrance is evident on the southern side while internally there is a possible ditch serving to partition the interior and a circular feature, defined by nine magnetic anomalies. We originally assumed this

was a roundhouse though the imaging of the ‘posts’ is unusual, and must indicate that material with high magnetic susceptibility had entered these features.

The low-lying, marshy, environment may suggest that the area was unsuited to permanent settlement in the past, but both the villa and the Middle Bronze Age enclosure are actually situated in a slightly elevated, and presumably drier, position on the edge of the floodplain (around 10 m OD). A circular parch-mark possibly representing the ring-ditch of a barrow is also apparent on this raised area. Two Bronze Age axes were recovered from lower-lying ground by a metal detectorist in late 2022 (see Section 4.3).

The enclosure is significant for two reasons. First, it is morphologically similar to South Lodge on Cranborne Chase (Barrett *et al.* 1991), a type of Middle Bronze Age settlement common in southern England but currently unique in south Wales. Second, exploratory excavations

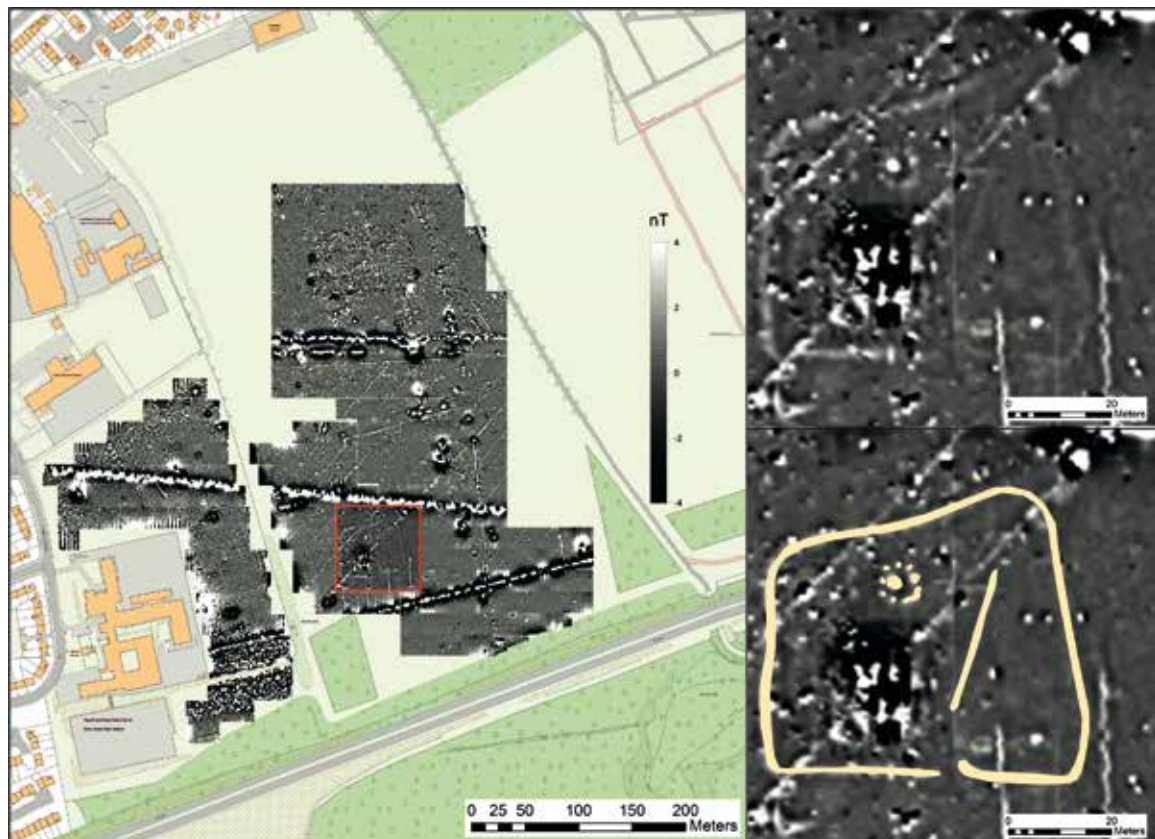


Fig. 2. Geophysical survey results showing close up of Middle Bronze Age enclosure and interpretation

in 2022 demonstrated that the park had never been subject to the destructive effects of deep ploughing. This means that occupation deposits survive in situ across the interior of the enclosure, including within the roundhouse. That is not without issues though. The soils within the park are clayey-silts which mean that animal bone does not survive well, unless burnt, and features can be very difficult to resolve, often visible for only a few minutes when drying after rain. Nonetheless, the site provides a rare and significant opportunity in southern Britain to examine a Middle Bronze Age settlement in considerable detail.

The overall aims of the excavation this year were:

1. To understand the pattern of occupation and organisation of activities within the interior of the enclosure and how this changed over time
2. To better understand the social and economic life of the inhabitants of the enclosure
3. To understand how the enclosure relates to the surrounding settlement landscape in south Wales

These aims directly address three of the research themes identified in the Later Bronze Age and Iron Age Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales (www1): Chronology, Settlement and land-use and Processes of change.

The project forms part of continuing CAER Heritage activity and therefore follows the same ethos in that there are both research and social impact objectives. The specific research objectives were to:

- Fully expose and excavate the roundhouses to understand their construction, use and abandonment
- Excavate a further section through the enclosure boundary to better understand its constructional sequence and architecture, particularly the earthwork bank which was not fully exposed in 2022
- Recover artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material in order to better understand the nature of the settlement activity, regional connectivity and the contemporary environment in which the site was located

The social impact objectives were to:

- Provide opportunities for local school children and adults to work alongside university students and archaeological professional in order to develop skills, increase social capital and break down barriers to HE
- Raise awareness of local heritage through participation in archaeological activity, positive media stories and the creation of a co-produced exhibition of results within the local community

3. Methods

A detailed methodology was provided in the previous interim report (Davis and Sharples 2023, Section 4). This was largely followed this year, although there were a few modifications which are detailed below.

3.1 Removal of overburden

A method statement was agreed in advance with the land-owners (Cardiff Council). Turf was removed by hand from Trench 1 Ext before a mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision, was used to remove clearly identifiable subsoil. All turf, topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine from Trench 2 Ext. Trench 4, by contrast, was entirely hand dug.

3.2 Sampling and excavation strategy

In 2022 it was recognised that there were preserved occupation deposits within the roundhouses. It was decided to grid out the interior of the houses into 0.5 m squares in order to obtain detailed information about the distribution of artefacts and ecofacts. During excavation, it was also observed that occupation deposits survived behind the enclosure bank in Trench 1 Ext, so an excavation grid (of 2 m squares) was established for similar reasons.

4. Excavation Results

The excavation conditions during June and July 2023 were extremely hot and dry which ‘baked out’ the archaeological deposits. This made hand excavation tough, but also meant that differentiation between contexts was extremely difficult to resolve. Features were visible for only limited time during a brief period of drying after rain and so we instigated a regular watering strategy and marking out of features with spray paint. Even so, we acknowledge that we have probably not been able to identify all of the surviving features and stratigraphic relationships were often very difficult to assign.

Overall, three trenches were opened (Trench 1 Ext, Trench 2 Ext and Trench 4) (Figure 3). All archaeological features were excavated by hand. A complete list of contexts is provided in Appendix A and bulk samples in Appendix B.

4.1 Trench 1 Ext

Trench 1 Ext was opened along the northern edge of Trench 1. It was rectangular in shape, 5 m north to south and 12 m east to west. A small extension, 1 m by 2 m was excavated into the subsoil at its eastern end as a training area for school children (Figure 4). The specific objectives of this trench were:

- To further investigate the enclosure ditch and specifically the bank, which had only been partially revealed in 2022
- To assess the nature of features and deposits that may exist at the rear of the boundary within the interior of the enclosure
- To recover artefactual evidence and palaeo-environmental remains to better understand the character and chronology of the site

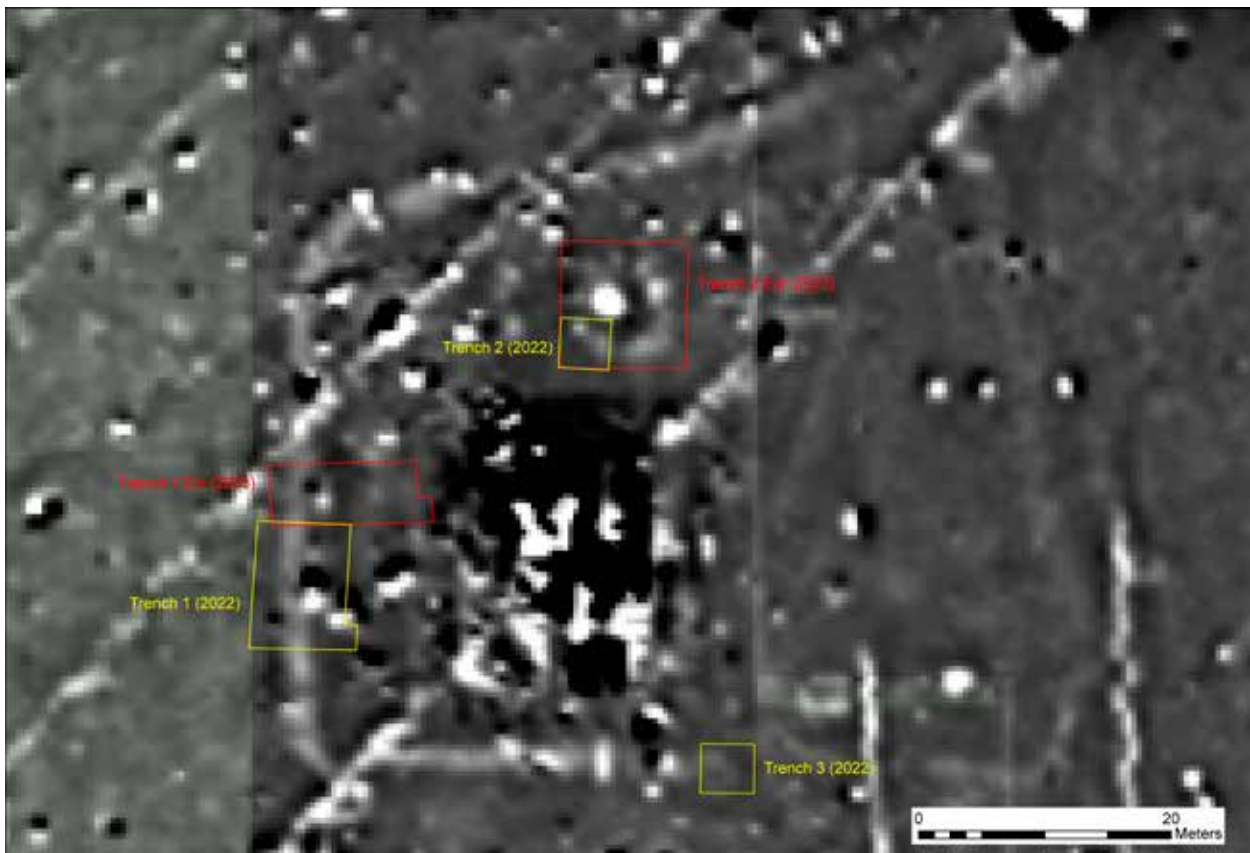


Fig. 3. Location of trenches

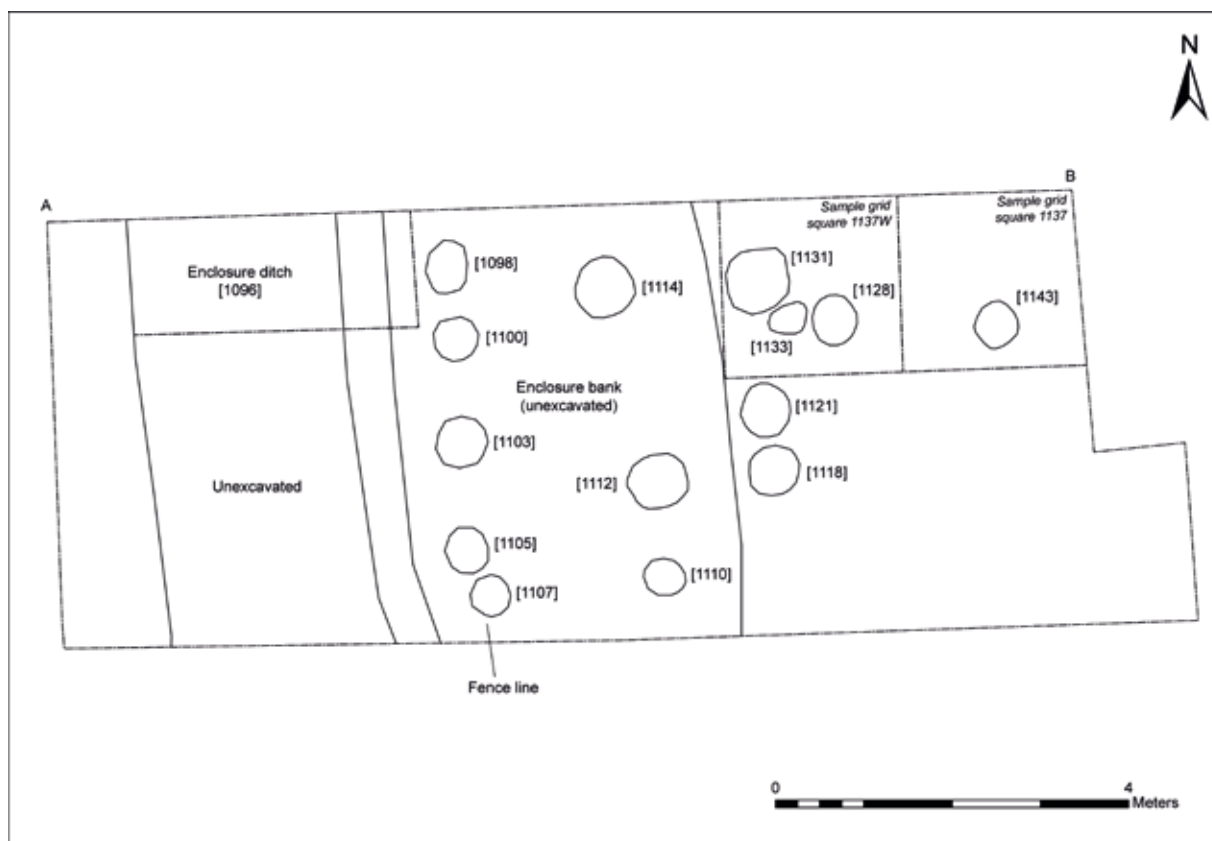


Fig. 4. Trench 1 Ext post-excavation plan

Below the modern turf and topsoil (1094) was a mid reddish-brown slightly sandy, silty-clay (1095). It is equivalent to 1002 and represents a heavily disturbed subsoil, possibly derived from the levelling of the park in the mid-20th century. The ditch and bank were visible after excavation of this deposit, although behind the bank, and beneath 1095, was a light brown silty clay (1140). This is probably the remnants of a soil that built up within the enclosure after its abandonment. Beneath this were a range of discrete archaeological features. Amongst this group, cutting diagonally across the south-western quadrant of the enclosure, was a narrow linear feature. Such features were observed in 2022 and shown to be 20th century cuttings containing ceramic drainage pipes. Its location was recorded on plan, but it was not excavated.

4.1.1 The enclosure ditch and bank

1096, 1097, 1124, 1126, 1127, 1138, 1140, 1140PalSoil, 1142, Bank

The earliest deposit identified above the natural was a dark brown clayey silt sealed beneath the enclosure bank. This is presumably a palaeosoil, equivalent to 1093 identified in Trench 1 during the previous year's excavations. It was numbered 1140 on the section drawing but it cannot be the same as the context given this number on the eastern side of the bank. Therefore, it will be referred to here as

1140PalSoil.

A 1.5 m cutting was made through the enclosure ditch (1096). This was shown to be 2.5 m wide and 1.0 m deep with a V-shaped profile (Figure 5). The morphology and fills were very similar to those identified within the cuttings placed across the ditch in 2022.

No primary silts were identified, but the soil conditions were very dry and this may have been missed. The earliest identified fill was a dark brown clayey silt (1142) that contained frequent charcoal flecks. It is equivalent to 1005/1048/1050/1051/1059/1063/1081/1085/1089 from Trench 1 and is presumably derived from occupation. A layer of small to medium-sized stones and a large sherd of pottery was noted at the top of this layer. This was sealed by a greyey-browny-yellow clayey silt (1126). This contained frequent charcoal flecks, small stones, flints (including a broken barbed and tanged arrowhead SF420) and some pottery sherds. This must also derive from occupation and is equivalent to 1004/1009/1012/1015/1017/1018/1080/1084/1088 from Trench 1. The final fill was a browny-grey firm silty slay (1097) that contained occasional charcoal flecks and stones.

The material quarried from the ditch was used to create the bank (1060) on its inside. This year, a narrow cutting 1.5 m wide was excavated part way through the bank. The dry conditions made identification of contexts difficult and it is clear from the section drawing that it was overcut. Therefore, context 1124 is best interpreted

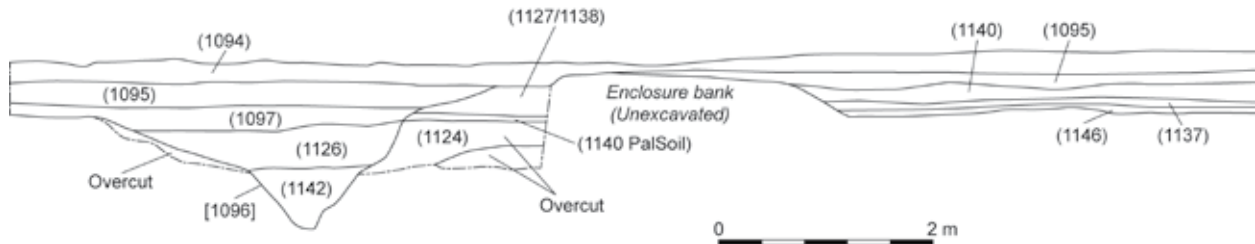


Fig. 5. South-facing section through enclosure boundary, Trench 1 Ext

as a natural deposit. However, the cutting was informative and showed that the bank was 4.0 m wide and survived to 0.4 m in height. No berm between the ditch and bank was observed this year, but a light brown silty clay (1127/1138) on the western side of the bank presumably derives from slumping of bank material into this space.

4.1.2 Features cut into the rear of the enclosure bank

1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1130, 1136

Eight discrete features were identified cutting through the enclosure bank (Figure 6). Five of these (1098, 1100, 1103, 1105 and 1107) formed a line of postholes on the western side of the bank. The most southerly was posthole 1107. This was circular in plan, 0.44 m in diameter and 0.50 m deep, with vertical sides and a concave base. The primary fill was a brown sandy-silty clay (1130) with occasional charcoal flecks. This was sealed by a light brown silty clay (1108). Around 0.2 m to the north was posthole 1105. This was oval in plan, 0.40 by 0.46 m, with vertical sides leading to a concave base 0.49 m deep. It possessed only a single fill of dark brown silty clay (1106). To the north was posthole 1103. This was circular in plan, 0.50 m in diameter and 0.47 m in depth, with vertical sides and a flat base. It also possessed a single fill of dark brown silty clay (1104). The next posthole to the north was 1100. This was also circular in plan. It was 0.46 m in diameter and 0.51 m in depth with vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a dark brown sandy, silty clay (1109) which was sealed by a light brown silty clay (1101) with occasional charcoal flecks. The final posthole in this arrangement was 1098. This was similarly circular in plan. It was 0.43 m in diameter and 0.58 m in depth with vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a dark brown silty clay (1136), which was sealed by a light brown silty clay (1099).

None of the postholes produced any significant or diagnostic finds, but they clearly represent a northwards continuation of a similar line of postholes recorded in Trench 1. These were previously interpreted as a revetment to the earth bank (Davis and Sharples 2023, 20), but that seems unlikely. All the postholes cut through the bank material and are best interpreted as a

contemporary fence-line (although it is conceivable that they may represent a later augmentation of the boundary).

To the east of this fence-line, also cutting through the bank, were three other postholes. The most northerly was posthole 1114. This was circular in plan, 0.54 m in diameter and 0.44 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a mid brown silty clay (1117). Above this was a light brown sandy silty clay (1115) that contained a struck flint (SF431) and a large iron nail (SF430). The nail was recovered from the interface between the fill and deposit above it (1095) and therefore may be intrusive. To the south was posthole 1112. This was also circular in plan, 0.55 m in diameter and 0.45 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a mid brown silty clay (1116). This was sealed by a light brown silty clay (1113). Adjacent to the southern trench edge was posthole 1110. This was circular in plan, 0.40 m in diameter and 0.31 m deep, with very steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a mid brown silty sandy clay (1111).

It is conceivable that these three features are part of structural elements of the enclosure bank. However, if this feature was a 'box rampart' one would normally expect to see horizontal pairs of postholes that could be used to create the timber boxes for infilling with earth. That is not the case here and therefore it seems more likely that these three postholes are associated with the cluster of postholes identified to the east (see Section 4.1.3).

4.1.3 Features and deposits behind and abutting the enclosure bank

1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1128, 1129, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1137, 1137W, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1146W

An area 5 m east to west and 5 m north to south was excavated behind the enclosure bank within the interior of the enclosure itself and revealed a number of features and deposits (Figure 7).

The earliest feature identified was a shallow pit (1143) 4 m to the east of the bank. This was circular in plan, 0.36 m in diameter and 0.31 m deep with vertical sides and a slightly uneven base. The primary fill was a black-



Fig. 6. Photograph of features, probably a fence-line, at front of bank. Looking south



Fig. 7. Aerial photograph of excavations in progress in Trench 1 Ext showing features behind the bank. North is to the right. Crown copyright RCAHMW

brown silty clay (1145) with frequent charcoal inclusions. This was sealed by another black-brown silty clay (1144) slightly softer in texture. This also contained large chunks of charcoal, but also some undiagnostic pottery sherds. Its function is not clear, but it was clearly used as the final repository of burnt material presumably deriving from some event within the area of the enclosure.

Pit 1143 was sealed by a light brown silty clay (1146) that covered the entirety of the eastern half of the trench and abutted the tail of the enclosure bank. This deposit contained frequent charcoal flecks, burnt stone and small fragments of abraded pottery and is best interpreted as an occupation layer accumulating up against the bank. This is significant for two reasons. First, it is presumably derived from contemporary occupation activity within the enclosure, possibly associated with Roundhouse 1. Second, it seals, and is therefore stratigraphically later than, pit 1143. The pit (1143) must then relate to a phase of activity before the occupation of the enclosure.

Completely sealing 1146 was a brownish black clayey silt (1137) that also contained frequent charcoal flecks, struck flint, burnt stone and small fragments of pottery. This is likely to represent another deposit derived from occupation, possibly associated with Roundhouse 2.

It is likely that such occupation deposits survive right across the interior of the enclosure and so it was necessary to devise a strategy to retrieve as much information as possible from these layers. We decided to excavate the deposits on a 2 m by 2 m grid so that finds could be systematically recovered and their distributions analysed. Bulk soil samples were also taken for flotation and xPRF analysis. For this year's purposes, the grid squares were given separate context numbers in order to distinguish them – the contexts in the western grid were labelled 1136W and 1147W and the same in the eastern grid were 1136 and 1147. In future seasons, we will need to assign a grid numbering system.

Five discrete features were identified cutting through these occupation deposits (1118, 1121, 1128, 1131 and 1133). The most southerly were a pair of adjacent postholes. Posthole 1118 was oval in plan, 0.63 m by 0.47 m. It was 0.39 m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a dark brown silty clay (1120). This was sealed by a mid brown silty clay (1119). Immediately to the north was posthole 1121. We had originally thought these features had a stratigraphic relationship, but after excavation it was clear that they did not intercut. Posthole 1121 was also oval in plan, 0.43 m by 0.34 m and 0.38 m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and an irregular base. The primary fill was a mid brown silty clay (1123) which was sealed by a slightly lighter brown silty clay (1122). To the north was a cluster of three postholes. The largest was posthole 1131. This was oval in plan, 0.64 m by 0.44 m and 0.30 m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. It was

filled by a reddish brown silty clay (1132). Posthole 1133 was also oval in plan. It was smaller, just 0.54 m by 0.38 m and 0.42 m deep. It had vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a reddish brown silty clay (1135). Above this was a mid reddish brown silty clay (1134). The final posthole (1128) was circular in plan. This was 0.37 m in diameter and 0.30 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It possessed a single fill of reddish brown silty clay (1129).

It is not entirely clear what this cluster of postholes represents or even if they are all contemporary with the Middle Bronze Age occupation within the enclosure. However, postholes 1118, 1112, 1114 and 1131 form a broadly rectangular arrangement 1.0 m by 2.0 m and could conceivably represent a four-post storage structure.

4.2 Trench 2 Ext

Trench 2 Ext was roughly square in plan 10 m by 10 m. It was located directly over the area of Trench 2 in order to completely reveal the ground-plans of Roundhouses 1 and 2 (Figure 8). Stratigraphically, Roundhouse 1 is the earlier and Roundhouse 2 the later. Contained 'within' the post-defined wall lines of the roundhouses was a thick, compacted, charcoal-rich floor surface which could be separated into an upper and lower layer associated with the occupation of each structure.

Recognising the research potential of the roundhouses to make an important contribution to our understanding of the Middle Bronze Age, we decided to excavate the floor deposits on a 0.5 m by 0.5 m grid (Figure 9). Finds were systematically recovered through intensive sieving on site and samples were taken from each square for flotation and xPRF analysis. This methodology has been useful, but problematic. It is slow and often makes it difficult to identify features and spreads which are rarely contained neatly within a single grid square. However, it has considerable benefits as it will enable us to examine in detail the distribution of artefacts and ecofacts inside the houses. By the end of the 2023 season, around 60 % of the house floors were excavated with sample processing and analysis still in progress. The key objectives this year were:

- To reveal the ground-plans of the roundhouses to better understand their nature
- To recover detailed information about the distribution of artefactual and palaeo-environmental evidence in order to elucidate the use and function of the houses
- To establish stratigraphic relationships and therefore phases of use and abandonment
- To ascertain whether occupation of the houses was the primary phase of activity on the site

The modern turf and topsoil (2046, 2047) and subsoil

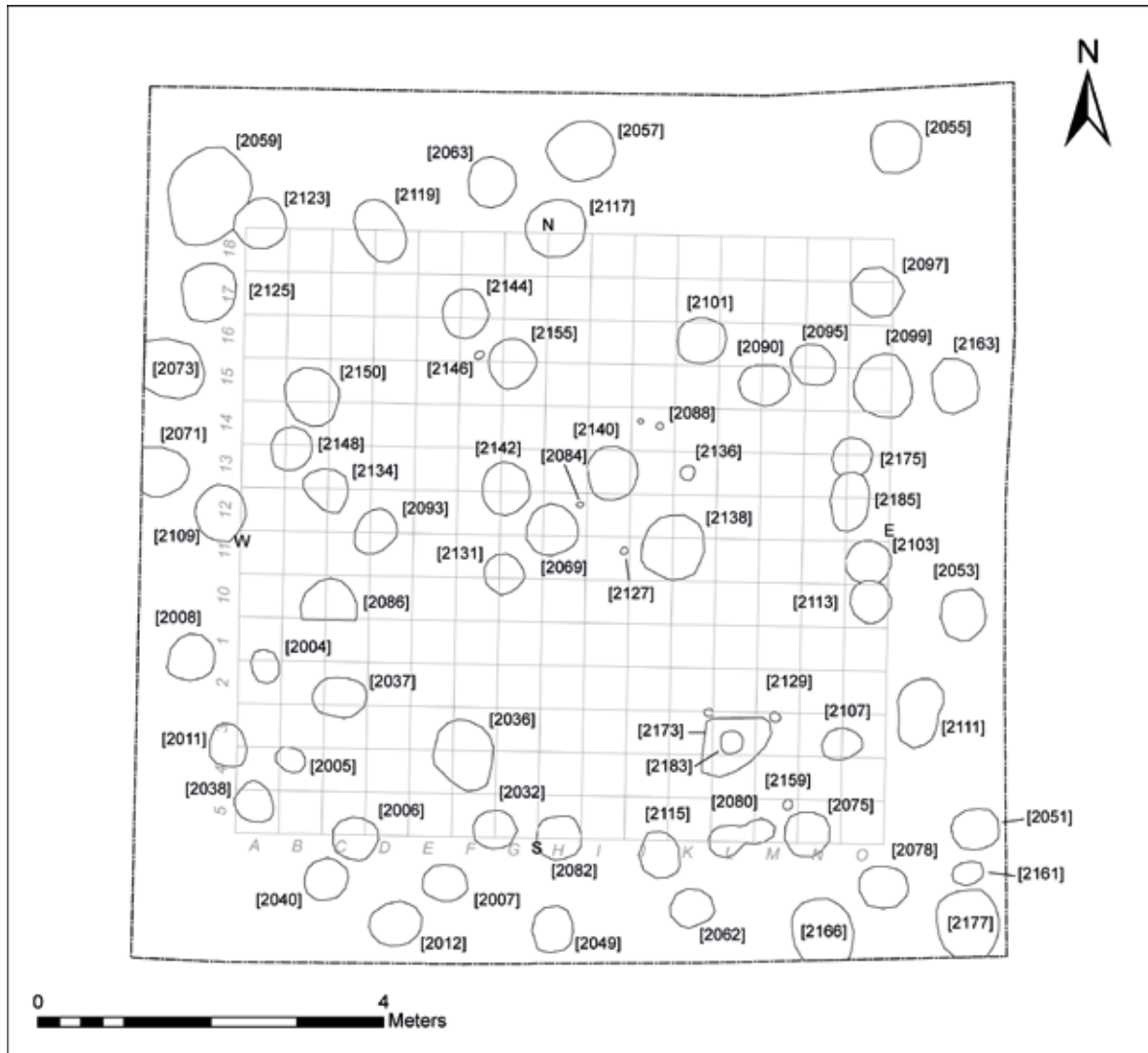


Fig. 8. Trench 2 Ext post-excavation plan showing all features

(2048) were removed by machine, before all other excavation was carried out by hand. On the southern side of the trench, a small area was overcut by the machine, but this was largely outside of the house interiors.

4.2.1 The pit circle

2035, 2036, 2043, 2044, 2057, 2058, 2066, 2068, 2086, 2087, 2092, 2099, 2100, 2103, 2104, 2119, 2120, 2150, 2151, 2154, 2173, 2174, 2181, 2183, 2184, 2187

In 2022 we had been intrigued as to why the postholes of the roundhouses did not contain the material of high magnetic susceptibility that would be necessary to produce the circular feature imaged on the geophysics. Through the course of this year's excavation, it became clear that the roundhouses in fact replaced an earlier feature. Sealed beneath the floor deposits was a circular ring, 7 m in diameter, defined by eight pits (a ninth is likely on the north-east side but was not identified this

year). The pits are evenly spaced around 2.1 m apart, except on the southern side where there is a 3 m wide gap (Figure 10).

One of the pits, 2036, was excavated in 2022. At the time, this was recorded on the context sheet as cutting floor surface 2003, but this cannot be the case. The section drawing and photograph (see Figures 11 and 12) show this beneath the floor and so it must belong to a stratigraphically earlier phase than the roundhouses.

To the north-west of 2036 was pit 2086. This was probably circular in plan, 0.65 m in diameter, but a small portion of its southern side lay within the previously excavated area of Trench 2. This was clearly missed during the 2022 excavations, but the photograph of the northern trench section shows part of the upper pit fill sealed beneath the roundhouse floor surfaces (Figure 13). The pit was 0.55 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a dark grey-brown clayey silt (2092) that contained very frequent inclusions of charcoal and burnt bone.



Fig. 9. Aerial photograph of Trench 2 Ext under excavation. North is to the right

Above this was a mid-grey brown clayey silt (2087) that also contained frequent burnt bone and charcoal, but also some very degraded pottery sherds.

To the north was pit 2150. Identified beneath 2003LF, this was circular in plan, 0.60 m in diameter and 0.60 m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base (Figure 14). During excavation, it was thought that the basal fill (2181) was the remains of a degraded pottery vessel (SF540), but during post-excavation this was clearly not the case – it was a mass of degraded fired clay fragments with no form. Sealing this was a dark brown grey clayey silt (2154) that contained frequent large charcoal fragments and burnt bone. A burnt cattle navicular from this fill was sent for radiocarbon dating (UB51946) and produced a date (95%) of 1365-1055 cal.BC. This must be either intrusive or unreliable as stratigraphically the pit is sealed by the roundhouse floor surfaces which are probably late 15th century BC. The final fill was a mid-grey brown silty clay (2151) also containing frequent charcoal flecks.

Around 2.1 m north-north-east of pit 2150 was pit 2119. The stratigraphic relationship of this pit to the floor surface

of the roundhouses (2003) is unclear as it either does not survive here, or is extremely thin and was removed during cleaning back. The pit was oval in plan, 0.67 m by 0.43 m in width and 0.64 m in depth. It possessed vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyey brown clayey silt (2120) which contained very frequent charcoal pieces and burnt bone, with a few fragments of struck flint and fired clay or pottery. Most of the burnt bone and fired clay clustered towards the base of the posthole and may represent a primary fill not identified in the field.

To the north-east was pit 2057. This was visible after the subsoil had been removed and so does also not appear to possess a stratigraphic relationship with the roundhouse floor surfaces (2003LF and 2003UF) which may not survive in this northern part of the trench. The pit was circular in plan, 0.65 m in diameter and 0.70 m in depth, with vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a dark grey brown silty clay (2068). This contained frequent charcoal fragments, burnt bone, some utilised stone and pottery sherds. It was sealed by a dark reddish silty clay (2066) which contained occasional charcoal and burnt bone fragments as well as a flint barbed and

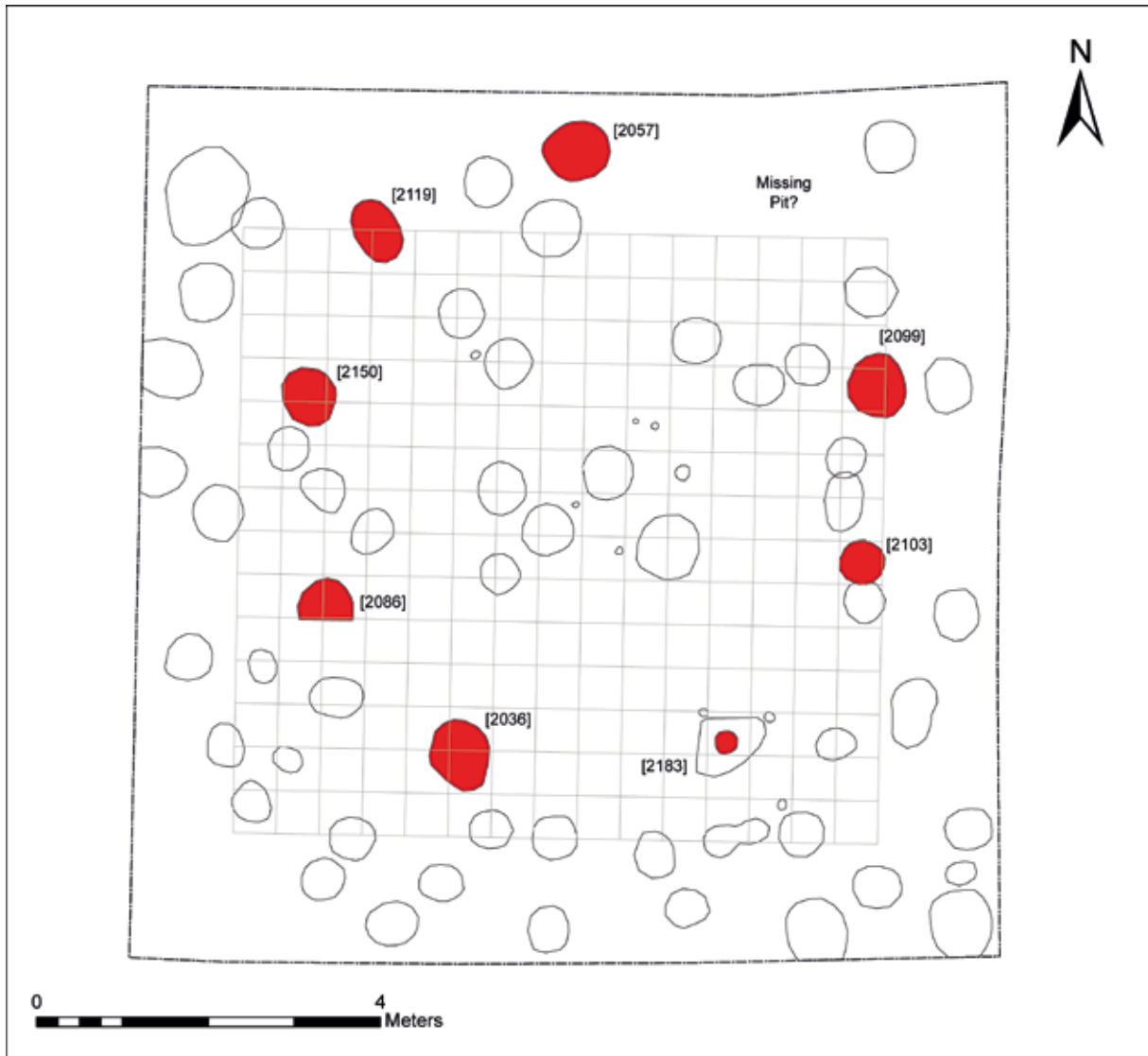


Fig. 10. Trench 2 Ext plan with features forming a pit circle highlighted red

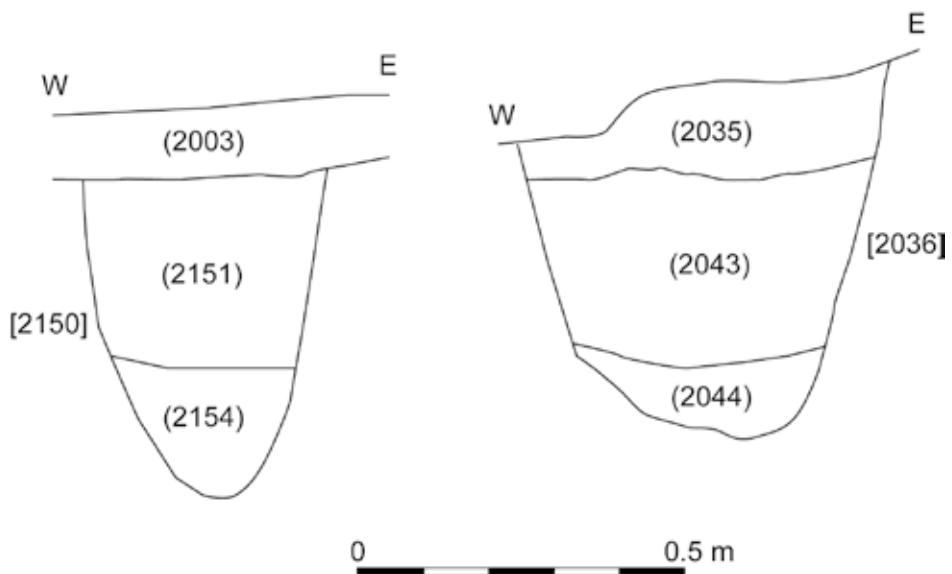


Fig. 11. Sections through pit circle features 2150 and 2036. Note 2150 is beneath, and therefore earlier than, floor 2003. Feature 2036 was excavated in 2022 and erroneously defined as cutting 2003. It is most likely that context 2035 was misidentified as floor surface 2003



Fig. 12. Photograph of excavations of Trench 2 in 2022, looking north. White arrow shows pit 2036 beneath later floor surface



Fig. 13. Photograph of excavations of Trench 2 in 2022, looking north. White arrow shows a 'missed' section of pit 2086 beneath later floor surfaces

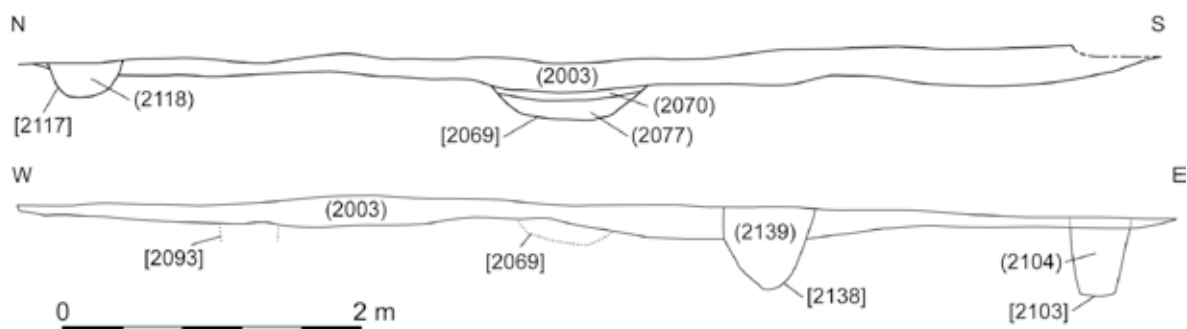


Fig. 14. Sections drawings through roundhouses

tanged arrowhead (SF317) at the interface with the final dark grey silty clay fill 2058.

Around 4 m to the south-east was another feature (2099). It is very likely that a ninth pit in this circle is located between 2057 and 2099, but this was not identified this year. Feature 2099 was not fully excavated. It was 0.65 m in diameter and 0.70 m deep and appears to be two intercutting features, but this was not entirely resolved. The earlier feature was not assigned a cut number and due to time pressure at the end of the dig it was not bottomed. The fill (2187) was a dark brown grey silty clay that contained sherds of pottery, frequent charcoal fragments and some burnt bone. It is likely that this is the structural element of the pit circle. The later feature (2099) was filled by a mid grey brown silty clay (2100). At the base of this fill was a complete pot base and it is possible that this had been originally placed in the earlier feature and had been truncated when the later feature was dug.

To the south was pit 2103. This was circular in plan, but the exact dimensions were not obtained as it was not fully excavated. It was filled by a yellowy-brown silty clay that contained frequent charcoal flecks, struck flint and pottery sherds. It was apparently cut by posthole 2113, but this was not excavated and the relationship is uncertain. On the section drawing (Figure 14) this pit is shown cutting 2003, but this has to be incorrect – the pit is not even in the section!

The final pit in this arrangement was 2183. This was 0.4 m in diameter and 0.4 m in depth, but had been massively disturbed and truncated by the later digging of a large pit (2173). It was filled by a dark black-brown clayey silt (2184) that contained burnt bone, very frequent charcoal fragments and a crushed pottery vessel (SF540).

All of the pits contained burnt material, including bone and timber. It is likely that this is the source of the high magnetic values picked up during the geophysical survey.

4.2.2 Features immediately pre-dating the roundhouses

2059, 2060, 2177, 2178

Two features were identified (2059 and 2177) that likely post-date the pit circle, but pre-date the roundhouses (Figure 15). In the north-west corner of the trench was pit 2059. This was oval in plan, 0.69 m by 0.58 m. It was 0.38 m deep with a U-shaped profile and rounded base. It was filled by a reddy-brown silty clay (2060) that contained 84.6 kg of rounded stone, some of which was heavily burnt. It had been cut by posthole 2123 which is a structural feature of Roundhouse 1 and so must therefore pre-date that structure. In the south-east corner of the trench was pit 2177. This was circular in plan, 0.78 m in diameter and 0.30 m in depth with vertical sides and a flat bottom. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay (2178) that contained some flecks of charcoal and small stones.

The function of these pits is unclear. Although pit 2177 does not possess a stratigraphic relationship with the roundhouses, its location, combined with that of pit 2059, is suggestive. The pits appear to be positioned at the front and back of Roundhouse 1. A line drawn between the two marks the point of axial symmetry, and it is possible that they were dug and in-filled as part of an activity immediately prior to the construction of Roundhouse 1.

4.2.3 Roundhouse 1

In 2022 two arcs of postholes were identified. The outer arc of five postholes (2008, 2011, 2012, 2038 and 2040) was shown to be stratigraphically earlier and argued to represent the south-west quadrant of a roundhouse approximately 7.0 m in diameter. This year, 13 more postholes were identified that continued this arc to the north-west and south-east, but indicated we were dealing with a larger structure (Figure 16). Time did not allow for postholes along the northern side of the roundhouse to be identified, but enough others were recorded and excavated to suggest they formed the outer wall of a roundhouse at least 9.4 m in diameter. The entrance is suggested to be orientated to the south-east, marked by the presence of an inward-flaring narrow porch, 1.2 m wide externally and 1.7 m wide internally (Figure 17). A large number of internal features were identified, as well as surviving floor deposits. Around 60 % of the interior was excavated by the end of the season.



Fig. 15. Photograph of possible 'foundation' pit (2059) during excavation. Note the large quantity of stone within its fill

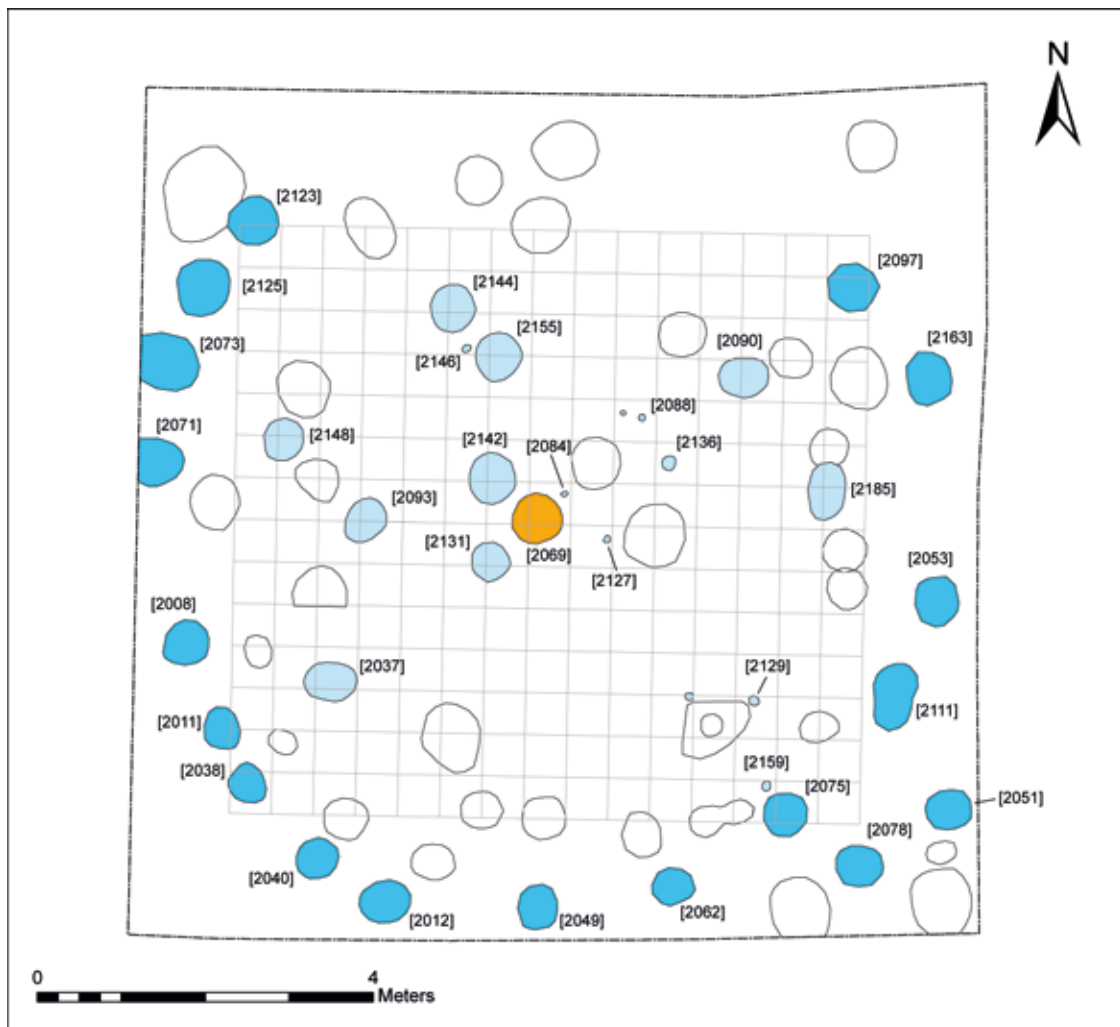


Fig. 16. Trench 2 Ext plan with features forming RH1 highlighted in blue. Internal features are highlighted in light blue



Fig. 17. Photograph of Trench 2 Ext looking north-west through the 'porch' entrance to RH1

4.2.3.1 Structural features of roundhouse 1

2008, 2011, 2012, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2027, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2061, 2062, 2065, 2067, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2075, 2076, 2078, 2079, 2097, 2098, 2111, 2112, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2170

The south-west quadrant of the outer wall was defined in 2022 and consisted of five postholes (2008, 2011, 2012, 2038 and 2040). This year, a further 13 postholes were identified that likely represent around three quarters of the wall circuit.

Immediately to the east of posthole 2012 was posthole 2049. This was oval in plan, 0.54 m by 0.40 m. It was 0.52 m in depth with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a greyey-green silty clay (2067). This was sealed by a reddish brown silty clay (2050) with occasional charcoal flecks. This was a large posthole and could have held a substantial post. It might be significant that this posthole is located immediately south of the possible entrance into the pit circle and it may have marked this important direction. Around 1.2 m to the east was posthole 2062. This was circular in plan, 0.50 m in diameter, and 0.50 m in depth with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a mid-dark brown silty sandy clay (2061) that contained occasional charcoal flecks.

To the north-east of posthole 2062 were four postholes that formed the entranceway. The internal threshold was marked by two large postholes (2075 and 2111). Posthole 2075 was only partially excavated, but shown to be circular in plan, 0.6 m in diameter and 0.31 m in depth. It possessed steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (2076) that contained frequent charcoal, pottery sherds and an utilised stone (SF429). Posthole 2111 was slightly irregular in plan, 0.82 m by 0.41 m, possibly indicating that the post had been removed by moving it backwards and forwards to loosen it. It was 0.62 m in depth and filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (2112) that contained charcoal flecks. The outer threshold of the porch was defined by postholes 2078 and 2051. Posthole 2078 was circular in plan, 0.45 m in diameter. It was 0.52 m in depth with steeply sloping sides and a flat base, and was filled by a firm grey-green-brown silty clay (2079) that contained charcoal flecks. The other posthole, 2051, was also circular in plan. It was 0.52 m in diameter and 0.48 m in depth, with vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a dark brown silty clay (2065) which was sealed by a mid grey brown sandy silty clay (2052) that contained charcoal flecks and an utilised stone (SF335).

To the north of the porch were three postholes that continued the wall arc (2053, 2163 and 2097) on the eastern side of the house. Posthole 2053 was circular in

plan, 0.53 m in diameter. It was 0.34 m in depth with vertical sides and a rounded base, and was filled by a red brown sandy silty clay (2054) that contained occasional charcoal flecks. Around 2.1 m to the north was posthole 2163. It is likely that another posthole that marks the line of the wall exists between 2053 and 2163, but this was not identified this year. Posthole 2163 was roughly circular in plan, 0.40 m by 0.57 m. It was 0.35 m in depth with vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was a mid brown silty clay (2170) that contained charcoal flecks and a struck flint (SF524). Above this was a dark grey brown silty clay (2165) that also contained charcoal and a struck flint (SF499). The final fill was a mid grey brown silty clay (2164) with occasional charcoal flecks. Adjacent to this was posthole 2097. This was circular in plan, 0.43 m in diameter and 0.40 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown sandy silty clay (2098). This contained charcoal flecks and another struck flint (SF432).

The north-western wall-line of the house is represented by four postholes (2071, 2073, 2125 and 2123). Posthole 2071 (filled by 2072) was not excavated, but immediately to the north of it was posthole 2073. This was Circular in plan, 0.57 m in diameter and 0.31 m deep. It possessed vertical sides and a flat base and was filled by a mid brown silty clay (2074) that contained charcoal flecks and a struck flint (SF534). Posthole 2125 was circular in plan, 0.51 m in diameter and 0.41 m in depth with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a mid grey brown silty clay (2126) with occasional charcoal flecks. The

final posthole identified this year was 2123. This was also circular in plan, with vertical sides and a flat base. It was 0.50 m in diameter and 0.76 m deep, although it may have been over cut. It was filled by a mid grey brown silty clay (2124) and cut pit 2059.

4.2.3.2 Internal features of Roundhouse 1

2034, 2037, 2069, 2070, 2077, 2084, 2085, 2088, 2089, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2136, 2137, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2155, 2156, 2159, 2160, 2185, 2186

A large number of pits, small postholes and stakeholes were identified within the roundhouse. Those recorded as sealed beneath or cutting through 2003LF have been interpreted as being contemporary with the occupation of Roundhouse 1. One or two other features which do not possess a stratigraphic relationship with 2003LF have also been assigned to this phase on the basis of probabilities. It should be noted that the distribution of internal features does not represent a coherent pattern, but this may be resolved after following seasons as many more features likely wait discovery after excavation of the remaining overlying floor deposits.

In the centre of the house was a circular pit, 0.60 m in diameter and 0.50 m in depth. It had vertical sides and a flat base and was filled by deposits that had been heat affected. The primary fill was a brownish red silty sandy



Fig. 18. Photograph of pottery spread

clay (2077) that contained frequent charcoal flecks. This was sealed by a dark reddish-brown clayey silt (2070) that contained large amounts of charcoal. It is likely that both deposits were the result of in situ burning and suggest this was a hearth pit. Covering the pit was a discrete spread of broken pottery (not given a context number), probably representing several deliberately broken vessels, and a ceramic loom-weight (SF526). This deposit was in turn sealed by the secondary floor surface (2003UF) suggesting the pottery spread may represent the deliberate destruction of several vessels at the point of abandonment of Roundhouse 1 (Figure 18).

Surrounding the hearth were six other small discrete features. To the east were four small stakeholes (2084, 2088, 2127 and 2136). Stakehole 2084 was 0.1 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep and filled by a mid brown grey clayey silt (2085) which contained frequent charcoal inclusions. Stakehole 2088 was similar in size, 0.09 m wide and 0.1 m deep. It was filled by a mid brown silty clay (2089). To the south was stakehole 2136. This was 0.15 m wide and 0.18 m deep and filled by a mid brown clayey silt (2137). The final stakehole in this cluster was 2127. This was 0.1 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep and filled by a mid brown clayey silt (2128). These four stakeholes form a rectangle in plan and may represent some kind of structure or furniture associated with the use of the hearth. To the west of the hearth were pits 2131 and 2142. Pit 2131 was circular in plan, 0.35 m in diameter and 0.40 m in depth with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. The primary fill was a mid brown grey silty clay (2133) that contained occasional charcoal flecks. Above this was a mid orange brown clayey silt (2132). Pit 2142 was at least 0.30 m wide and 0.35 m deep, but only one quarter of it was excavated. It was filled by a mid grey brown clayey silt (2143) with frequent charcoal flecks. Sealing both of these pits was the pottery spread.

To the north-west of this cluster were pits 2093, 2155 and stakehole 2146. Pit 2093 was 0.50 m wide and 0.45 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a mid grey brown clayey silt (2094), although only half of it was excavated. Pit 2155 was 0.30 m wide and 0.3 m deep, although only one quarter of the feature was excavated. It was filled by mid grey brown clayey silt (2156) with frequent charcoal flecks. Adjacent to this was stakehole 2146. This was 0.08 m wide and 0.14 m deep and filled by a light brown clayey silt (2147).

Adjacent to the entrance were stakeholes 2159 and 2129. It could not be determined if they cut or were sealed by 2003, but their position suggests that they are related to the occupation of Roundhouse 1. Stakehole 2159 was 0.09 m wide and 0.09 m deep and filled by a light brown clayey silt (2160). Stakehole 2129 was 0.1 m wide and 0.22 m deep. It was filled by a light brown clayey silt (2130). Its relationship to pit 2173 was not determined and it is suggested on the context sheet that it may be part

of that feature, although that seems unlikely. The position of this pair of stakeholes, just inside the entrance way, may indicate that there was a screen or other barrier in this location to direct the movement of people as they entered the house.

The final three internal features were positioned on the western side of the house (2037, 2148 and 2144). Feature 2037 was excavated in 2022. It was oval in plan, 0.4 m by 0.34 m and filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (2034). To the north of this was 2148. This was 0.30 m wide and 0.30 m deep with steep sides and a flat base, and filled by a mid grey brown clayey silt (2149), although only one quarter of this was excavated. Feature 2144 was similarly partially excavated, but shown to be at least 0.30 m wide and 0.35 m deep. It was filled by a mid grey brown silty clay (2145) with occasional charcoal flecks. The function of these three features is not clear, but it is noticeable that they are broadly concentric with the roundhouse wall and so could represent part of an internal post-ring, although this can only be speculative until all features from the house have been identified and recorded.

4.2.4 Roundhouse 2

Four postholes (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007) were identified in 2022 running concentrically to the east of the wall of Roundhouse 1. These were interpreted as representing the south-west quadrant of Roundhouse 2, and, as these could be seen to cut the floor surface (2003), it was argued that this roundhouse must be a later structure. During this season, a further ten postholes were identified that may represent around two thirds of the outer wall of this structure (Figure 19). The circuit is not complete however, and the proposed ground-plan of Roundhouse 2 is not entirely satisfactory especially on the northern and eastern sides where other structural features presumably await identification and recording. However, if correct, then the structure was approximately 8 m in diameter, slightly smaller than Roundhouse 1, but similarly orientated with a south-east facing porch.

4.2.4.1 Structural features of Roundhouse 2

2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2080, 2081, 2095, 2096, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2161, 2162, 2166, 2167, 2175

To the north-west of the arc of postholes recorded last year was posthole 2109. This was 0.62 m wide and 0.73 m deep, although it may have been overcut. It was filled by mid brown sandy, silty clay (2110). To the east of the arc was feature 2115. The relationship of this posthole to the floor surface (2003) was not determined as the trench had been slightly over-machined in this location during the removal of the overburden. However, its position is

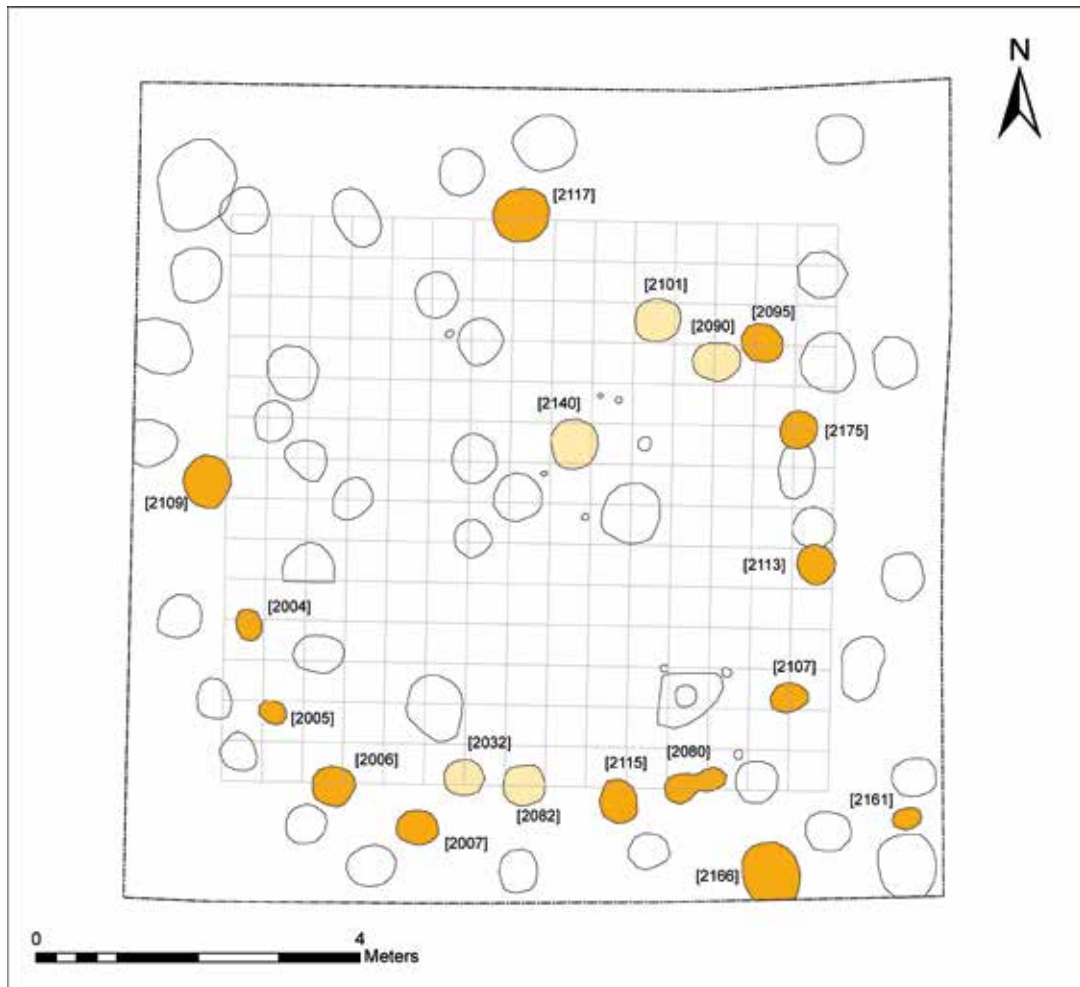


Fig. 19. Trench 2 Ext plan with features forming RH2 highlighted in orange. Internal features are highlighted in light orange

suggestive and it likely forms a continuation of the wall circuit of Roundhouse 2. Posthole 2115 was circular in plan, 0.42 m in diameter and 0.57 m deep with vertical sides and a flat bottom. It was filled by a dark brown sandy, silty clay (2116) that contained some charcoal flecks. Adjacent to this were four postholes that appear to define a projecting porch (2080, 2107, 2166 and 2161). Posthole 2080 marked one side of the internal threshold. It was irregular in plan and filled by 2081, but was not excavated this year. The other side was marked by posthole 2107. This was 0.30 m wide and 0.35 m deep with steep sides and a slightly rounded base. It was filled by a mid grey brown silty clay (2108). The outer threshold was marked by postholes 2166 and 2161. Posthole 2166 was 0.71 m wide and 0.46 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown sandy, silty clay (2167) that contained very frequent charcoal. Posthole 2161 was smaller, 0.48 m wide and 0.49 m deep. It was filled by a dark brown grey silty clay (2162) that contained a possible quern fragment (SF506) and two other clasts of utilised stone (SF511 and SF512). To the north of the porch was posthole 2113. This was filled by 2114, but not excavated this year. It is likely that it cuts pit 2103 (pit

circle), but that has not yet been demonstrated.

Three other postholes are suggested to be part of the wall of Roundhouse 2 (2175, 2095 and 2117), but this is by no means certain. Posthole 2175 was only half-sectioned, but could be shown to be 0.5 m in diameter and 0.40 m deep. It was filled by a dark grey brown clayey silt (2176). It cuts the shallow pit 2185, but there was some confusion whether the posthole cut, or was sealed by, floor surface 2003 and this needs to be checked in the field. If it is below 2003 then it must represent an internal feature of Roundhouse 1. In this case, then the outer wall of Roundhouse 2 may in fact be defined by feature 2099. Alternatively, if posthole 2175 cuts 2003 then it could mark the line of the wall which would be continued by posthole 2095. This was filled by 2096 but was not excavated this year. Finally, posthole 2117 is also located along this projected wall line. This was only half sectioned, but shown to be 0.51 m wide and 0.48 m deep and filled by a mid grey brown silty clay (2118). It was noted as below 2003, but this also needs checking in the field as the relationship is not clear on the section drawing.

4.2.4.2 Internal features of Roundhouse 2

2032, 2033, 2082, 2083, 2090, 2091, 2101, 2102, 2140, 2141

A small number of features were identified within the interior of Roundhouse 2 that cut the floor surface (2003UF) and therefore have been interpreted as contemporary with its occupation. No obvious hearth was identified, but one may exist within an unexcavated part of the house.

Pit 2140 was located broadly within the centre of the roundhouse. It was circular in plan, 0.47 m in diameter and 0.47 m in depth. It was U-shaped in profile and filled with a dark grey brown clayey silt (2141) that contained some degraded pot and burnt bone.

On the northern and southern sides of the house were two pairs of postholes (2032, 2082 and 2101, 2090). The southern pair (2032 and 2082) were 0.3 m apart. Posthole 2032 was half sectioned in 2022, but the excavation was completed this year. It was circular in plan, 0.58 m wide and 0.28 m deep. It was filled by a mid dark grey brown silty clay (2033). The context sheet shows this as beneath 2003, but the section drawing clearly demonstrates that it cuts the floor so I am more inclined to trust the section. Immediately to the east was posthole 2082. This was oval

in plan, 0.36 m by 0.43 m and 0.53 m deep. It was filled by a mid grey brown silty clay (2083). The northern pair (2101 and 2090) were similarly 0.3 m apart. Posthole 2101 was filled by 2102, but was not excavated this year. Posthole 2090 was oval in plan, 0.60 m by 0.46 m and 0.34 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark reddy brown silty clay (2091) that contained some flecks of charcoal. The function of these two posthole pairs is not clear. Each posthole within the pairs seem too closely positioned to support a loom, but such a function is possible. Alternatively, their proximity to the wall line may suggest they had some kind of function in the construction or repair of the house. Neither interpretation seems entirely satisfactory, and further excavation may elucidate the situation.

4.2.4.3 Abandonment features of Roundhouse 2

2138, 2139, 2173, 2174, 2179, 2180

Two other features (2138 and 2173) also cut the roundhouse floor (2003UF), but contained unusual deposits and have therefore been interpreted as abandonment features. The position of one (2173) within the entrance-way also suggests that it was unlikely to have been in use during the occupation of Roundhouse 2.



Fig. 20. Photograph of abandonment feature 2138. Note stones sealing charcoal of a timber at base

Pit 2138 was located in the south-eastern quadrant of the roundhouse. It was circular in plan, 0.75 m wide and 0.65 m deep, with steeply-sloping sides and a rounded base. The primary fill was a very dark brown clayey sandy silt (2179) that contained the large, but fragmented, remains of a burnt timber (SF538) (Figure 20). This was sealed by a dark brown grey clayey silt (2180) that contained a large number of medium-sized stones. At the interface of this deposit and the final greyish-brown silty clay fill (2139) was placed a ceramic loom-weight (SF449). The fills are intriguing. The burnt timber may have been a structural element of the house, but the presence of the loom-weight may imply it was part of the household loom itself.

Just inside of the entrance to the house was pit 2173. This was not fully excavated, but probably oval in plan at least 1 m wide and 0.5 m deep. It cut pit 2183 which has been interpreted as part of an earlier pit circle. Pit 2173 was filled by a mid brown grey clayey silt (2174) that also contained a ceramic loom weight (SF448) and several utilised stones.

4.2.5 Floor surfaces of the roundhouses

2003LF, 2003UF

Towards the end of the excavation season in 2022, soil conditions after rain clearly showed in section that floor surface 2003 was in fact split into an upper and lower layer. These were called 2003UF and 2003LF and presumably relate to the occupation of Roundhouse 1 (2003LF) and Roundhouse 2 (2003UF). The very dry

conditions in 2023 meant that the interface between these layers could not be identified in the field and therefore the floor was excavated in two 0.10 m spits. The extent of the floor surface was also impossible to identify in plan and this should be a priority in future seasons. However, it was clear that the deposit was not uniformly thick. It was much deeper in the centre of the trench, while much thinner towards the exterior. Presumably this is reflective of where the two houses intersect and where they do not, but it is also likely that towards the wall lines of each structure the floor was never particularly thick.

4.2.6 Unphased features

2055, 2056, 2063, 2064, 2134, 2135

The stratigraphic relationships of three features to the house floors could not be determined and they remain unphased. Feature 2134 was filled by 2135 but was unexcavated. It is possible that it is related to the occupation of Roundhouse 2, but the context sheet is vague and it is unclear if actually it exists, or was investigated and found not to be a feature. Feature 2063 was circular in plan, 0.50 m wide and 0.37 m deep. It was filled by a dark grey silty clay (2064). It is possible that it is an internal feature of Roundhouse 1, but this was not demonstrated. Finally, Feature 2055 was located outside of the ground-plan of the roundhouses in the north-east corner of the trench. It was circular in plan, 0.40 m wide and 0.45 m deep, and filled by a mid brown silty clay (2056). No notable finds were recovered from its fill and its relationship to the houses is unclear.



Fig. 21. Photograph of Migdale axe. Copyright Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales



Fig. 22. Photograph of flanged axe. Copyright Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales

4.3 Trench 4

In late 2022 a metal detectorist discovered two important finds from an area approximately 200 m north of the enclosure. These comprised a complete flat axe with rain-pattern decoration, dating to the Migdale phase of the Early Bronze Age, and a second flanged axe of Needham's Class 5A (Type Horncastle), dating to the Arreton phase of the Early Bronze Age (Figures 21 and 22). The Migdale axe was recovered from an area of tree roots, but the flat axe was found under grass within an open area of the park. Therefore, we decided to investigate the findspot of the flanged axe. Working together with the metal detectorist and colleagues from Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales, the specific aim was to identify, record and excavate any associated archaeological features and deposits in order to understand the broader context of the find.

From 15 June to 16 June a small 2 m by 2 m area was opened by hand directly over the findspot of the flanged axe. Beneath the turf and topsoil (4001) was a moderately compacted brownish red silty clay (4002) interpreted as the subsoil. This contained a range of material dating mainly to recent times including a Half Penny dated 1911 (SF331) and two iron objects (SF332 and SF333). Beneath this deposit was a compacted silty clay which is likely to be the natural. No features were identified and no other copper alloy objects recovered. This suggests that the axe was not in situ when discovered and may

have been disturbed and moved during the creation of the leisure park in the 1950s.

6. The Finds

The finds assemblage is large, although not yet fully recorded. There is a very large quantity of utilised stone with over 1,000 pieces recovered. This number is slightly misleading as 90% is fragmented and burnt, presumably seeing secondary use as pot-boilers or deliberate heating for some other reason. The pottery assemblage is also substantial with around 1,200 sherds from the site. The distribution of sherds is skewed by the pottery spread in the centre of roundhouse 1, but overall, it appears that most pottery is concentrated in the western half of the house. Flint is represented mostly by chips and flakes with a distribution to the rear and west of the hearth, although a few scrapers are present and a barbed and tanged arrowhead (SF317) was recovered from one of the pits of the pit circle (Figure 23).

Metal work is not common although a few small objects have been recovered including a copper alloy awl (SF552) (Figure 24). Evidence for metal-working is also limited. Proxy indicators are present in terms of hammer-stones, rubbers, hones, and a crucible fragment from roundhouse 2, but no moulds or casting waste have yet been identified.

Flotation has produced a small, but significant carbonised plant assemblage. Currently, only the analysis of the 2022 samples from the south-west quadrant of the roundhouse has been completed. This has produced evidence of wild foods such as hazelnut, but also naked barley and hulled wheat. Interestingly, chaff is not present suggesting it was either too valuable to burn or processed elsewhere.



Fig. 23. Photograph of barbed and tanged flint arrowhead



Fig. 24. Photograph of copper alloy awl

6. Discussion

It is not an exaggeration to say that the site is one of the most important Bronze Age settlements discovered in Wales in recent years and it is worth providing here some preliminary interpretations.

First, the date of the enclosure. The emergence of small, rectilinear, enclosures in Southern Britain has been a matter of some debate. In the 1990s John Barrett and colleagues reassessed the evidence from South Lodge and Down Farm on Cranborne Chase and provided the most influential model for their development (Barrett *et al.* 1991, 225-6). They argued that the enclosure ditches were short-lived features that overlay earlier field boundaries and open settlements and thus marked the final phase of activity at these sites. Unfortunately, the radiocarbon dates they obtained lacked precision and provided only broad Middle Bronze Age dates. The chronologies of the recently identified Somerset enclosures are better understood and Alex Davies (2020, 50-1) has argued that the establishment and occupation of these sites cluster in the 14th century cal. BC. The date of the Trelai enclosure requires more radiocarbon determinations to create a compelling case, but currently, four C14 dates have been obtained (Davis and Sharples 2023, 39). These suggest that its construction cannot be the final phase of activity on the site. Charcoal adhering to the surface of the complete vessel recovered from the ditch in 2022 produced a tight date of 1515-1430 cal. BC (95.4%). A similar date of 1610-1460 cal. BC was produced by a placed deposit within the ditch terminus. Both were derived from secondary fills and so an Early Bronze Age date of 2110-1890 cal. BC from charcoal deriving from the primary fill may not be completely unreasonable. Having said that, logically the construction of the enclosure ditch is most likely to be contemporary with the construction of Roundhouse 1 and so a Middle Bronze Age date is more probable.

Second, it is interesting to consider what the pit circle beneath the roundhouses represents. The pits are uniformly deep (c. 0.6 m) and narrow (c. 0.5 m) suggesting they may have originally held posts. They could therefore represent the remains of an earlier roundhouse, but there are no associated floor deposits which is odd given that such surfaces survive for the later structures. Since it is

stratigraphically earlier than roundhouse 1 and ‘off-set’ from the ground-plan of that building, it is also difficult to argue that it is a structural feature such as an inner ring of posts. A plausible interpretation then is that it may have been a timber circle in its initial phase which then saw subsequent modification and reuse after removal of the posts. It is not possible, currently, to claim this secondary use was for funerary activity like at Sarn-y-bryn-caled Site 1 (Gibson 1994, 146-59), but the deposition of burnt animal bones, pottery and flint artefacts within reused post-settings of timber circles can be paralleled at Site II and Site 3, Dorchester-on-Thames (Bradley and Chambers 1988).

Finally, let us consider the roundhouses. It has often been shown that Bronze Age barrows were sited on abandoned settlements. This may also be the case for other features. A possible Early Bronze Age timber circle in the Brenig Valley, Brenig 6, for instance, was replaced by a kerb cairn in the Middle Bronze Age (Allen 1993, 96-9). At Trelai, we appear to have a different sequence. Here, a possible timber circle was replaced by two successive roundhouses. This seems to be a major change in use – from a place of gathering and ceremony to a domestic dwelling of a household. A single radiocarbon date from an internal feature (2037) within Roundhouse 1 suggests it may have been constructed in the early 15th century cal. BC (Davis and Sharples 2023, 39). This corresponds with the date that the complete pot was placed within the enclosure ditch and its deposition could be interpreted as marking this important change. It is unclear how long the houses were in use, but there is little to suggest that it was particularly lengthy and an occupation of a generation or so for each is plausible. Both houses were associated with closing or abandonment deposits. The pottery spread over the hearth of Roundhouse 1 may represent the deliberate destruction of the household’s ceramic repertoire. Within Roundhouse 2 a quern was deliberately broken and deposited within the entrance while in the centre of the house a burnt timber, perhaps part of a loom, was placed within a pit with a loomweight. In these instances, the abandonment practices appear to be focussed on destroying the material assemblage of the household, a physical metaphor perhaps for the end of the relationship between the house and its resident group.

7. Community Impact

A vital ingredient of the work includes the engagement of the public. Participants are involved in the co-design and co-delivery of all aspects of the work from inception, to excavation, to post-excavation and exhibition. Evaluation has involved multiple methodologies, from basic quantitative counting of volunteers and hours to more complex qualitative surveys and peer-to-peer interviews. A summary of this data is presented here.

7.1 Overall results of the evaluation

The work can be separated into three distinct aspects; the excavation, post excavation and the exhibition. In total 1,104 people visited activities or events. Of these, there were 451 volunteers directly involved in the work with many people giving several days of their time. The total number of volunteers person hours involvement during the work was 3,783. This represents a diverse cross-section of local people including school pupils, young people and adults.

7.2 Schools participation

A total of five schools (Trelai Primary School, Riverbank Special School, Cardiff West Community High School, Fitzalan High School and St David's 6th Form College) and 159 pupils were actively involved in the work. Pupils were drawn from a range of ages and abilities (e.g. yr 3s, yr 7s, yr 12s) and included those with additional learning needs and severe learning difficulties (Figures 25 and 26).

7.3 Community groups, volunteers and visitors

Three community groups were involved in the works. These include the hyper-local (Love Our Hillfort and ACE Arts Youth Group) to those drawn more broadly from across the Cardiff region (e.g. Cardiff Archaeological Society). A large number of volunteers also attended, many returning each day. Over 200 visitors attended an open day (Figures 27-9). All volunteers and visitors were asked to give feedback through peer-to-peer interviews and a questionnaire. The results are presented below.

7.3.1 Community questionnaire

Participants were asked a variety of questions about their experience in the dig. All questionnaires were anonymised. The key findings were:

- 100% of respondents agreed that the experience had helped them understand the importance of the archaeology of Trelai Park
- 100% of respondents agreed that the experience had increased their interest in archaeology
- 92% of respondents agreed that the experience had changed the way they think about Caerau and Ely as a place
- 87% of respondents agreed that their overall experience as a volunteer was excellent; 100% agreed that it had been excellent or good

We also asked five questions about how their involvement had affected their well-being:

- 96% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they felt happier
- 77% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they felt less anxious
- 92% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they felt more active
- 88% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they felt calmer
- 87% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they felt more connected to their community

The survey results indicate strongly that the volunteer experience both positively affected people's well-being and also increased their knowledge of archaeology. Importantly, it also suggested that involvement changed people's perception of Caerau and Ely as a place.

7.3.2 Indicative feedback from peer-to-peer interviews

A small selection of anonymised interviews provided the following feedback:

"Such fun and wonderful to involve the whole community"

"Fantastic insight to local history"

"Wow, beautiful things and I learned a lot"

"I now want to be an archaeologist when I'm older"

"Look forward to being back next year"

"Very interesting and exciting"

7.4 Conclusion

This brief summary provides an indication of the power of archaeology to engage local people, but more importantly to have significant positive effects on health and well-being, aspiration and to challenge negative stereotypes about areas and communities.



Fig. 25. School children involved in excavation



Fig. 26. School pupils undertaking 'art-based' activity on site for the exhibition



Fig. 27. Visitors being shown around the site at the Open Day



Fig. 28. Young people engaged in activities during the Open Day



Fig. 29. Adult volunteers helping to clean finds on site

8. References

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9. Appendices

APPENDIX A: Context list of Trenches 1, 2 and 4

Trench 1

SITE	CONTEXT NO.	TRENCH	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
TP22	1001	1	Deposit	Turf and topsoil
TP22	1002	1	Deposit	Subsoil
TP22	1003	1	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch in slot 1. Equivalent to 1007, 1010, 1013, 1016, 1079, 1083, 1087
TP22	1004	1	Fill	Upper fill of enclosure ditch, slot 1. Equivalent to 1009, 1012, 1015, 1017, 1080, 1084, 1088
TP22	1005	1	Fill	Fill of enclosure ditch, slot 1. Same as 1048. Equivalent to 1050, 1051, 1059, 1063, 1081, 1085, 1089
TP22	1006	1	Deposit	Greyish brown sandy silt. Levelling deposit. Equivalent to 1008, 1011, 1014, 1062
TP22	1007	1	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch in slot 2. Equivalent to 1003, 1010, 1013, 1016, 1079, 1083, 1087
TP22	1008	1	Fill	Greyish brown sandy silt. Upper fill of ditch in slot 2. Probable levelling deposit. Equivalent to 1006, 1011, 1014, 1062
TP22	1009	1	Fill	Upper fill of enclosure ditch, slot 2. Equivalent to 1004, 1012, 1015, 1017, 1080, 1084, 1088
TP22	1010	1	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch in slot 3. Equivalent to 1003, 1007, 1013, 1016, 1079, 1083, 1087
TP22	1011	1	Fill	Greyish brown sandy silt. Upper fill of ditch in slot 3. Probable levelling deposit. Equivalent to 1006, 1008, 1014, 1062
TP22	1012	1	Fill	Upper fill of enclosure ditch, slot 3. Equivalent to 1004, 1009, 1015, 1017, 1080, 1084, 1088
TP22	1013	1	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch in slot 4. Equivalent to 1003, 1007, 1010, 1016, 1079, 1083, 1087
TP22	1014	1	Fill	Greyish brown sandy silt. Upper fill of ditch in slot 4. Probable levelling deposit. Equivalent to 1006, 1008, 1011, 1062
TP22	1015	1	Fill	Upper fill of enclosure ditch, slot 4. Equivalent to 1004, 1009, 1012, 1017, 1080, 1084, 1088
TP22	1016	1	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch in slot 5. Equivalent to 1003, 1007, 1010, 1013, 1079, 1083, 1087
TP22	1017	1	Fill	Upper fill of enclosure ditch, slot 5. Equivalent to 1004, 1009, 1012, 1015, 1080, 1084, 1088
TP22	1018	1	Fill	Upper fill of enclosure ditch, slot 5, below 1017, but probably the same
TP22	1019	1	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch in slot 1. Same as 1061. Equivalent to 1064, 1070, 1071, 1073, 1082, 1086, 1090
TP22	1020	1	Cut	Cut of land drain, slot 4. Same as 1065, 1067

TP22	1021	1	Fill	Fill of 1020
TP22	1022	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1023	1	Fill	Upper fill of 1022
TP22	1024	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1025	1	Fill	Upper fill of 1024
TP22	1026	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1027	1	Fill	Fill of 1026
TP22	1028	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1029	1	Fill	Fill of 1028
TP22	1030	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1031	1	Fill	Fill of 1030
TP22	1032	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1033	1	Fill	Fill of 1032
TP22	1034	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1035	1	Fill	Fill of 1034
TP22	1036	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1037	1	Fill	Fill of 1036
TP22	1038	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1039	1	Fill	Fill of 1038
TP22	1040	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1041	1	Fill	Fill of 1040
TP22	1042	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1043	1	Fill	Fill of 1042
TP22	1044	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1045	1	Fill	Fill of 1044
TP22	1046	1	Cut	Possible mis-numbering of posthole cut - Cancel?
TP22	1047	1	Fill	Possible mis-numbering of posthole fill - Cancel?
TP22	1048	1	Fill	Same as 1005
TP22	1049	1	Fill	Same as 1064
TP22	1050	1	Fill	Fill of enclosure ditch, slot 4. Equivalent to 1005, 1048, 1051, 1059, 1063, 1081, 1085, 1089
TP22	1051	1	Fill	Fill of enclosure ditch, slot 2. Equivalent to 1005, 1048, 1050, 1059, 1063, 1081, 1085, 1089. Contains complete pottery vessel
TP22	1052	1	Cut	Cut of land drain, slot 2
TP22	1053	1	Fill	Fill of 1052
TP22	1054	1	Cut	Cut of land drain, slot 3
TP22	1055	1	Fill	Fill of 1054
TP22	1056	1	Cut	Cut of land drain, slot 1
TP22	1057	1	Fill	Fill of 1056
TP22	1058	1	Fill	Primary fill of 1024
TP22	1059	1	Fill	Fill of enclosure ditch, slot 5. Equivalent to 1005, 1048, 1050, 1051, 1063, 1081, 1085, 1089
TP22	1060	1	Deposit	Enclosure bank
TP22	1061	1	Fill	Same as 1019
TP22	1062	1	Deposit	Greyish brown sandy silt. Levelling deposit. Equivalent to 1006, 1008, 1011, 1014
TP22	1063	1	Fill	Fill of enclosure ditch, slot 3. Equivalent to 1005, 1048, 1050, 1051, 1059, 1081, 1085, 1089

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TP22	1064	1	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch in slot 2. Equivalent to 1019, 1061, 1070, 1071, 1073, 1082, 1086, 1090
TP22	1065	1	Cut	Cut of land drain, slot 4. Same as 1020, 1067
TP22	1066	1	Fill	Fill of 1065
TP22	1067	1	Cut	Cut of land drain, slot 4. Same as 1020, 1065
TP22	1068	1	Fill	Fill of 1067
TP22	1069	1	Fill	Fill of pit 1078
TP22	1070	1	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch in slot 5. Equivalent to 1019, 1061, 1064, 1071, 1073, 1082, 1086, 1090
TP22	1071	1	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch in slot 3. Equivalent to 1019, 1061, 1064, 1070, 1073, 1082, 1086, 1090
TP22	1072	1	Fill	Primary fill of 1022
TP22	1073	1	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch in slot 4. Equivalent to 1019, 1061, 1064, 1070, 1071, 1082, 1086, 1090
TP22	1074	1	Deposit	Natural
TP22	1075	1	N/A	Cancelled
TP22	1076	1	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP22	1077	1	Fill	Fill of 1076
TP22	1078	1	Cut	Cut of pit (earlier than ditch 1013) in slot 4
TP22	1079	1	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch in slot 6. Equivalent to 1003, 1007, 1010, 1013, 1016, 1083, 1087
TP22	1080	1	Fill	Upper fill of enclosure ditch, slot 6. Equivalent to 1004, 1009, 1012, 1015, 1017, 1084, 1088
TP22	1081	1	Fill	Fill of enclosure ditch, slot 6. Equivalent to 1005, 1048, 1050, 1051, 1059, 1063, 1089
TP22	1082	1	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch in slot 6. Equivalent to 1019, 1061, 1064, 1070, 1071, 1073, 1086, 1090
TP22	1083	1	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch in slot 7. Equivalent to 1003, 1007, 1010, 1013, 1016, 1079, 1087
TP22	1084	1	Fill	Upper fill of enclosure ditch, slot 7. Equivalent to 1004, 1009, 1012, 1015, 1017, 1080, 1088
TP22	1085	1	Fill	Fill of enclosure ditch, slot 7. Equivalent to 1005, 1048, 1050, 1051, 1059, 1063, 1081, 1089
TP22	1086	1	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch in slot 7. Equivalent to 1019, 1061, 1064, 1070, 1071, 1073, 1082, 1090
TP22	1087	1	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch in slot 8. Equivalent to 1003, 1007, 1010, 1013, 1016, 1079, 1083
TP22	1088	1	Fill	Upper fill of enclosure ditch, slot 8. Equivalent to 1004, 1009, 1012, 1015, 1017, 1080, 1084
TP22	1089	1	Fill	Fill of enclosure ditch, slot 8. Equivalent to 1005, 1048, 1050, 1051, 1059, 1063, 1081, 1085
TP22	1090	1	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch in slot 8. Equivalent to 1019, 1061, 1064, 1070, 1071, 1073, 1082, 1086
TP22	1091	1	Cut	Cut of pit (earlier than ditch 1087) in slot 8
TP22	1092	1	Fill	Fill of pit 1091
TP22	1093	1	Deposit	Palaeo-soil beneath bank 1060
TP23	1094	1 Ext	Deposit	Turf and topsoil. Equivalent to 1001
TP23	1095	1 Ext	Deposit	Subsoil. Equivalent to 1002
TP23	1096	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch in Trench 1 Ext. Equivalent to 1003, 1007, 1010, 1013, 1016, 1079, 1083, 1087

TP23	1097	1 Ext	Deposit	Upper fill of enclosure ditch
TP23	1098	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP23	1099	1 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 1098
TP23	1100	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP23	1101	1 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 1100
TP23	1102	1 Ext	N/A	Cancelled
TP23	1103	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP23	1104	1 Ext	Fill	Fill of posthole 1103
TP23	1105	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP23	1106	1 Ext	Fill	Fill of posthole 1105
TP23	1107	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming front revetment of enclosure bank
TP23	1108	1 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 1107
TP23	1109	1 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 1100
TP23	1110	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole at rear of enclosure bank
TP23	1111	1 Ext	Fill	Fill of posthole 1110
TP23	1112	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole at rear of enclosure bank
TP23	1113	1 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 1112
TP23	1114	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole at rear of enclosure bank
TP23	1115	1 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 1114
TP23	1116	1 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 1112
TP23	1117	1 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 1114
TP23	1118	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole at rear of enclosure bank
TP23	1119	1 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 1118
TP23	1120	1 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 1118
TP23	1121	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole at rear of enclosure bank
TP23	1122	1 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 1121
TP23	1123	1 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 1121
TP23	1124	1 Ext	Deposit	Lower bank deposit(?), looks like an overcut through the natural
TP23	1125	1 Ext	N/A	Cancelled
TP23	1126	1 Ext	Deposit	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch
TP23	1127	1 Ext	Deposit	Enclosure bank, possible slumping
TP23	1128	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole at rear of enclosure bank
TP23	1129	1 Ext	Fill	Fill of posthole 1128
TP23	1130	1 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 1107
TP23	1131	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole at rear of enclosure bank
TP23	1132	1 Ext	Fill	Fill of posthole 1131
TP23	1133	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole at rear of enclosure bank
TP23	1134	1 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 1133
TP23	1135	1 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 1133
TP23	1136	1 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 1098
TP23	1137	1 Ext	Deposit	Upper layer of occupation deposit forming against back of enclosure ditch (east sondage)
TP23	1137w	1 Ext	Deposit	Upper layer of occupation deposit forming against back of enclosure ditch (west sondage)
TP23	1138	1 Ext	Deposit	Enclosure bank, lower, possible slumping
TP23	1139	1 Ext	N/A	Cancelled

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TP23	1140	1 Ext	Deposit	Palaeo-soil beneath bank. Equivalent to 1093. Does not exist on eastern side of bank
TP23	1141	1 Ext	N/A	Cancelled
TP23	1142	1 Ext	Deposit	Primary fill of enclosure ditch in Trench 1 Ext. Probably equivalent to primary and secondary fills from 2022 sections
TP23	1143	1 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole at rear of enclosure bank beneath occupation deposit
TP23	1144	1 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 1143
TP23	1145	1 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 1143
TP23	1146	1 Ext	Deposit	Lower layer of occupation deposit forming against back of enclosure ditch (east sondage)
TP23	1146w	1 Ext	Deposit	Lower layer of occupation deposit forming against back of enclosure ditch (west sondage)

Trench 2

SITE	CONTEXT NO.	TRENCH	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
TP22	2001	2	Deposit	Turf and topsoil
TP22	2002	2	Deposit	Subsoil
TP22	2003	2	Deposit	House floor, removed as single context but in section has upper and lower layer
TP22	2004	2	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2
TP22	2005	2	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2
TP22	2006	2	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2
TP22	2007	2	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2
TP22	2008	2	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP22	2009	2	Cut	Cancelled
TP22	2010	2	Cut	Cancelled
TP22	2011	2	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP22	2012	2	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP22	2013	2	Cut	Cancelled (renumbered 2040)
TP22	2014	2	Fill	Upper fill of posthole 2004 (RH2)
TP22	2015	2	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 2004 (RH2)
TP22	2016	2	Fill	Upper fill of posthole 2005 (RH2)
TP22	2017	2	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 2005 (RH2)
TP22	2018	2	Fill	Upper fill of posthole 2006 (RH2)
TP22	2019	2	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 2006 (RH2)
TP22	2020	2	Fill	Upper fill of posthole 2007 (RH2)
TP22	2021	2	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 2007 (RH2)
TP22	2022	2	Fill	Upper fill of posthole 2011 (RH1)
TP22	2023	2	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 2011 (RH1)
TP22	2024	2	Fill	Upper fill of posthole 2012 (RH1)
TP22	2025	2	Fill	Primary fill of posthole 2012 (RH1)
TP22	2026	2	Deposit	Cancelled
TP22	2027	2	Fill	Fill of posthole 2008 (RH1)
TP22	2028	2	Deposit	Cancelled

TP22	2029	2	Deposit	Cancelled
TP22	2030	2	Cut	Cancelled (renumbered 2037)
TP22	2031	2	Deposit	Cancelled
TP22	2032	2	Cut	Cut of pit (RH2)
TP22	2033	2	Fill	Fill of pit 2032 (RH2)
TP22	2034	2	Fill	Fill of pit 2037 (RH1)
TP22	2035	2	Fill	Upper fill of pit 2036 (PC)
TP22	2036	2	Cut	Cut of pit forming part of Pit Circle
TP22	2037	2	Cut	Cut of pit (RH1)
TP22	2038	2	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP22	2039	2	Fill	Fill of 2038 (RH1)
TP22	2040	2	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP22	2041	2	Fill	Fill of 2040 (RH1)
TP22	2042	2	Deposit	Deposit abutting exterior wall of roundhouses
TP22	2043	2	Fill	Fill of pit 2036 (PC)
TP22	2044	2	Fill	Primary fill of pit 2036 (PC)
TP22	2045	2	Deposit	Natural
TP23	2046	2 Ext	Deposit	Turf, equivalent to 2001
TP23	2047	2 Ext	Deposit	Topsoil, equivalent to 2001
TP23	2048	2 Ext	Deposit	Subsoil, equivalent to 2002
TP23	2049	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2050	2 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of 2049 (RH1)
TP23	2051	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of porch structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2052	2 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of 2051 (RH1)
TP23	2053	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2054	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2053 (RH1)
TP23	2055	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole outside of the houses
TP23	2056	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2055
TP23	2057	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit forming part of Pit Circle
TP23	2058	2 Ext	Fill	Tertiary fill of 2057 (PC)
TP23	2059	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit (pre-house feature)
TP23	2060	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2059
TP23	2061	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2062	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2061 (RH1)
TP23	2063	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, possibly internal feature of RH1
TP23	2064	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2063
TP23	2065	2 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of 2051 (RH1)
TP23	2066	2 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of 2057 (PC)
TP23	2067	2 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of 2049 (RH1)
TP23	2068	2 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of 2057 (PC)
TP23	2069	2 Ext	Cut	Hearth pit of RH1
TP23	2070	2 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of hearth pit 2069 (RH1)
TP23	2071	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1. Not excavated
TP23	2072	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2071 (RH1). Not excavated
TP23	2073	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1

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TP23	2074	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2073 (RH1)
TP23	2075	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2076	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2075 (RH1)
TP23	2077	2 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of hearth pit 2069 (RH1)
TP23	2078	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of porch structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2079	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2078 (RH1)
TP23	2080	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2. Not excavated
TP23	2081	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2080 (RH2). Not excavated
TP23	2082	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole or pit, internal feature of RH2
TP23	2083	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2082 (RH2)
TP23	2084	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of stakehole, internal feature of RH1
TP23	2085	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2084 (RH1)
TP23	2086	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit forming part of Pit Circle
TP23	2087	2 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of 2086 (PC)
TP23	2088	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of stakehole, internal feature of RH1
TP23	2089	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2088 (RH1)
TP23	2090	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH2
TP23	2091	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2090 (RH2)
TP23	2092	2 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of 2086 (PC)
TP23	2093	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH1
TP23	2094	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2093 (RH1)
TP23	2095	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2. Not excavated
TP23	2096	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2095 (RH2). Not excavated
TP23	2097	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2098	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2097 (RH1)
TP23	2099	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole that cuts pit forming part of Pit Circle
TP23	2100	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2099 (PC?)
TP23	2101	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH2
TP23	2102	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2101 (RH2)
TP23	2103	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit forming part of Pit Circle. Not fully excavated
TP23	2104	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2103 (PC). Not fully excavated
TP23	2105	2 Ext	Cut	Cancelled
TP23	2106	2 Ext	Fill	Cancelled. Same as 2174
TP23	2107	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2
TP23	2108	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2107 (RH2)
TP23	2109	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2
TP23	2110	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2109 (RH2)
TP23	2111	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2112	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2111 (RH1)
TP23	2113	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2. Not excavated
TP23	2114	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2113 (RH2). Not excavated
TP23	2115	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2116	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2115 (RH1)

TP23	2117	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2
TP23	2118	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2117 (RH2)
TP23	2119	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit forming part of Pit Circle
TP23	2120	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2119 (PC)
TP23	2121	2 Ext	Cut	Posthole in NW area of trench. Not excavated and 'lost'
TP23	2122	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2121. Not excavated
TP23	2123	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2124	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2123 (RH1)
TP23	2125	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2126	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2125 (RH1)
TP23	2127	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of stakehole, internal feature of RH1?
TP23	2128	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2127 (RH1?)
TP23	2129	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of stakehole, internal feature of RH1?
TP23	2130	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2129 (RH1?)
TP23	2131	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH1
TP23	2132	2 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of 2131 (RH1)
TP23	2133	2 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of 2131 (RH1)
TP23	2134	2 Ext	Cut	Posthole in western part of house. Not excavated and lost?
TP23	2135	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2134
TP23	2136	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of stakehole, internal feature of RH1?
TP23	2137	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2136 (RH1?)
TP23	2138	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit (abandonment feature RH2)
TP23	2139	2 Ext	Fill	Tertiary fill of 2139 (RH2)
TP23	2140	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH2
TP23	2141	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2140 (RH2)
TP23	2142	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH1
TP23	2143	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2142 (RH1)
TP23	2144	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH1
TP23	2145	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2144 (RH1)
TP23	2146	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of stakehole, internal feature of RH1?
TP23	2147	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2146 (RH1?)
TP23	2148	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH1
TP23	2149	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2148 (RH1)
TP23	2150	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit forming part of Pit Circle
TP23	2151	2 Ext	Fill	Tertiary fill of 2150 (PC)
TP23	2152	2 Ext	Cut	Cancelled. Same as 2103
TP23	2153	2 Ext	Fill	Cancelled. Same as 2104
TP23	2154	2 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of 2150 (PC)
TP23	2155	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH1
TP23	2156	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2155 (RH1)
TP23	2157	2 Ext	Cut	Cancelled. Not considered a feature
TP23	2158	2 Ext	Fill	Cancelled. Not considered a feature
TP23	2159	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of stakehole, internal feature of RH1
TP23	2160	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2159 (RH1)
TP23	2161	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of porch structure of roundhouse 2
TP23	2162	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2161 (RH2)

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TP23	2163	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 1
TP23	2164	2 Ext	Fill	Tertiary fill of 2163 (RH1)
TP23	2165	2 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of 2163 (RH1)
TP23	2166	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of porch structure of roundhouse 2
TP23	2167	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2166 (RH2)
TP23	2168	2 Ext	Cut	Cancelled
TP23	2169	2 Ext	Fill	Cancelled
TP23	2170	2 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of 2163 (RH1)
TP23	2171	2 Ext	Cut	Cancelled
TP23	2172	2 Ext	Fill	Cancelled
TP23	2173	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit (abandonment feature RH2)
TP23	2174	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2173 (abandonment feature RH2)
TP23	2175	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of posthole forming part of structure of roundhouse 2
TP23	2176	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2175 (RH2)
TP23	2177	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit (pre-house feature)
TP23	2178	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2177
TP23	2179	2 Ext	Fill	Primary fill of 2138 (RH2)
TP23	2180	2 Ext	Fill	Secondary fill of 2138 (RH2)
TP23	2181	2 Ext	Fill	Pot? In primary fill of 2050 (PC)
TP23	2182	2 Ext	Fill	Cancelled. Same as 2184
TP23	2183	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit forming part of Pit Circle
TP23	2184	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2183 (PC)
TP23	2185	2 Ext	Cut	Cut of pit or posthole, internal feature of RH1. Not fully excavated
TP23	2186	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of 2185 (RH1). Not fully excavated
TP23	2187	2 Ext	Fill	Fill of undefined pit (PC) (see 2099)

Trench 4

SITE	CONTEXT NO.	TRENCH	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
TP23	4001	4	Deposit	Turf and topsoil
TP23	4002	4	Deposit	Subsoil

APPENDIX B: Sample List

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No. or Sq No.	Feature type
83	2003	B.10.UF	FLOOR
84	2003	F.10.UF	FLOOR
85	2003	D.10.UF	FLOOR
86	2056	2055	PH
87	2068	2057	PH
88	2003	H.10.UF	FLOOR
89	2003	H.2.UF	FLOOR
90	2003	F.10.LF	FLOOR
91	2003	F.12.UF	FLOOR
92	2003	H.12.UF	FLOOR
93	2003	D.10.LF	FLOOR
94	2003	D.12.UF	FLOOR
95	2003	H.12.UF	FLOOR
96	2070	2069	HEARTH
97	2054	2053	PH
98	2003	B.10.LF	FLOOR
99	2003	H.10.LF	FLOOR
100	2003	G.3.UF	FLOOR
101	2003	J.2.UF	FLOOR
102	2077	2069	HEARTH
103	2003	J.10.UF	FLOOR
104	2003	G.1.UF	FLOOR
105	2003	G.3.LF	FLOOR
106	2003	J.14.UF	FLOOR
107	2003	J.12.UF	FLOOR
108	2003	H.14.UF	FLOOR
109	2003	J.2.LF	FLOOR
110	2003	J.10.LF	FLOOR
111	2003	F.12.LF	FLOOR
112	2077	G.1.LF	FLOOR
113	2087	2086	PH
114	2085	2084	SH
115	2076	2075	PH
116	2003	J.12.LF	FLOOR
117	2003	L.2.UF	FLOOR
118	2003	L.10.UF	FLOOR
119	2003	J.14.LF	FLOOR
120	2003	L.10.LF	FLOOR
121	1097	1096	DITCH FILL
122	2003	L.2.LF	FLOOR
123	2003	J.12.LF	FLOOR
124	2003	H.14.LF	FLOOR
125	2003	F.14.LF	FLOOR

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126	2003	G.11.UF	FLOOR
127	2003	D.12.UF	FLOOR
128	2003	F.14.LF	FLOOR
129	2003	N.10.UF	FLOOR
130	2003	I.3.UF	FLOOR
131	2003	N.2.UF	FLOOR
132	2003	O.13.UF	FLOOR
133	2003	F.14.LF	FLOOR
134	2094	2093	PH
135	2003	F.14.LF	FLOOR
136	2003	B.10.LF	FLOOR
137	2003	I.1.UF	FLOOR
138	2003	F.14.LF	FLOOR
139	2003	I.11.UF	FLOOR
140	2003	N.1.UF	FLOOR
141	2127	2128	SH
142	2003	M.3.UF	FLOOR
143	2003	N.12.UF	FLOOR
144	2003	N.12.LF	FLOOR
145	2062	2061	PH
146	2003	F.14.LF	FLOOR
147	2132	2131	PH
148	2130	2129	SH
149	2003	F.14.LF	FLOOR
150	2003	B.12.UF	FLOOR
151	2003	K.13.UF	FLOOR
152	2003	O.1.UF	FLOOR
153	2003	B.12.LF	FLOOR
154	2133	2131	PH
155	2003	I.3.LF	FLOOR
156	2003	K.8.UF	FLOOR
157	2135	2134	PH
158	2137	2136	SH
159	2098	2097	PH
160	2003	H.4.UF	FLOOR
161	2139	2138	PH
162	2003	K.3.UF	FLOOR
163	2003	G.13.UF	FLOOR
164	2141	2140	PH
165	2003	B.14.UF	FLOOR
166	2003	F.16.UF	FLOOR
167	2003	F.16.LF	FLOOR
168	2003	I.1.LF	FLOOR
169	2003	I.11.LF	FLOOR
170	2145	2144	PH
171	2148	2149	PH

172	2003	D.14.UF	FLOOR
173	2147	2146	SH
174	2003	E.11.UF	FLOOR
175	2003	C.11.UF	FLOOR
176	2003	K.1.UF	FLOOR
177	2151		PH
178	2003	J.4.UF	FLOOR
179	2143	2142	PH
180	2094	2093	PH
181	2153	2152	PH
182	2100	2099	PH
183	2003	I.3.LF	FLOOR
184	2003	M.13.UF	FLOOR
185	2003	G.15.UF	FLOOR
186	2003	D.16.UF	FLOOR
187	2003	K.11.LF	FLOOR
188	2108	2107	PH
189	2070	2069	HEARTH
190	2003	K.15.UF	FLOOR
191	2158	2157	PH
192	2156	2155	PH
193	2106	2105	PH
194	2120	2199	PH
195	2003	E.13.UF	FLOOR
196	2003	L.12.UF	FLOOR
197	2003	L.4.UF	FLOOR
198	2003	A.13.UF	FLOOR
199	2003	A.11.UF	FLOOR
200	2003	A.15.UF	FLOOR
201	2003	C.13.UF	FLOOR
202	2003	C.14.UF	FLOOR
203	2003	G.13.LF	FLOOR
204	2154	2150	PIT CREM?
205	2003	A.15.UF	FLOOR
206	2003	A.16.UF	FLOOR
207	2003	M.11.UF	FLOOR
208	2003	J.16.UF	FLOOR
209	2003	L.16.UF	FLOOR
210	2003	H.16.UF	FLOOR
211	2003	K.5.UF	FLOOR
212	2003	B.16.LF	FLOOR
213	2003	C.13.LF	FLOOR
214	2003	M.5.UF	FLOOR
215	2003	G.5.UF	FLOOR
216	2003	N.16.UF	FLOOR
217	2003	N.14.UF	FLOOR

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218	2003	C.15.UF	FLOOR
219	2003	K.17.UF	FLOOR
220	2003	?.?.UF	FLOOR
221	2003	E.15.UF	FLOOR
222	1108	1107	PH
223	1104	1103	PH
224	2003	L.14.LF	FLOOR
225	2003	M.17.UF	FLOOR
226	2003	K.15.LF	FLOOR
227	2078	2075	PH
228	2003	M.5.LF	FLOOR
229	2160	2159	SH
230	2003	O.3.UF	FLOOR
231	2003	?.?.UF	FLOOR
232	2003	C.17.LF	FLOOR
233	2003	I.17.UF	FLOOR
234	2003	F.18.UF	FLOOR
235	1130	1107	PH
236	2003	L.18.UF	FLOOR
237	2003	G.17.LF	FLOOR
238	2003	O.5.UF	FLOOR
239	2003	O.15.UF	FLOOR
240	2003	I.5.?	FLOOR
241	1101	1100	PH
242	1099	1098	PH
243	2003	H.12.UF	FLOOR
244	1129	1128	PIT
245	2003	J.18.UF	FLOOR
246	2003	E.17.UF	FLOOR
247	2003	N.18.UF	FLOOR
248	1109	1100	PH
249	2003	H.18.UF	FLOOR
250	2003	E.15.LF	FLOOR
251	2003	D.18.?	FLOOR
252	1119	1118	PIT/PH
253	1106	1105	PH
254	1120	1119	PIT/PH
255	1136	1098	PH
256	2116	2115	PH
257	1134	1133	PH
258	2162	2161	PIT
259	2164	2163	PH
260	1111	1110	PH
261	1135	1133	PH
262	1122	1121	PIT/PH
263	1115	1114	PIT/PH

264	2165	2163	PH
265	2167	2166	PH
266	1123	1121	PIT/PH
267	1113	1112	PIT/PH
268	1117	1114	PH
269	2003	H.13.UF	FLOOR
270	2003	F.13.UF	FLOOR
271	2003	N.13.UF	FLOOR
272	2110	2109	PH
273	1116	1112	PH
274	2003	C.10.UF	FLOOR
275	2003	C.10.LF	FLOOR
276	2106	2105	PH
277	2083	2082	PH
278	2124	2123	PH
279	2172	2171	PH
280	1132	1131	PIT/PH
281	2003	G.12.UF	FLOOR
282	2003	G.14.UF	FLOOR
283	1127 & 1138		BANK
284	2170	2163	PH
285	2126	2125	PH
286	1140		BANK
287	2140	2141	PIT CREM?
289	2167	2166	PH
290	2087	2086	PH/CREM?
291	2003	L.3.UF	FLOOR
292	2003	L.5.UF	FLOOR
293	2003	K.4.UF	FLOOR
294	2003	M.4.UF	FLOOR
295	2003	B.15.UF	FLOOR
296	2003	B.15.UF	FLOOR
297	2003	B.15.LF	FLOOR
298	2120	2119	PH
299	2074	2073	PH
300	2176	2175	PH
301	1144	1143	PIT
302	2174	2173	PIT
303	1145	1143	PIT
304	2003	A.14.UF	FLOOR
305	2003	?.?.UF	FLOOR
306	2100	2099	PH
307	2003	J.11.UF	FLOOR
308	2116	2115	PH
309	2162	2161	PH
310	2126	2125	PH

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311	2003	H.13.LF	FLOOR
312	2003	G.14.LF	FLOOR
313	2003	F.13.LF	FLOOR
314	2178	2177	PIT
315	2154		PIT CREM?
316	2003	G.12.LF	L FLOOR
317	2003	H.11.UF	U FLOOR
318	2070	2069	HEARTH
319	2174	2173	LOWER PIT
320	2003	H.11.LF	L FLOOR
321	2003	N.15.UF	U FLOOR
322	2003	N.15.LF	L FLOOR
323	1146W		SONDAGE
324	2079	2078	PH
325	1142	1096	DITCH
326	2179	2138	PH
None	2041	2040	
None	2091	2090	
None	2120	2119	
None	2003	G.17.UF	FLOOR
None	2003	J.11.LF	FLOOR
None	2141		

CARDIFF STUDIES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

A second season of excavation in Trelai Park during the summer of 2023 concentrated on the investigation of two well-preserved Middle Bronze Age roundhouses, as well as a potential earlier pit circle. This report summarises the findings and places them into their broader context. A short summary of the community engagement activity, a fundamental part of the project work, is also provided.

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