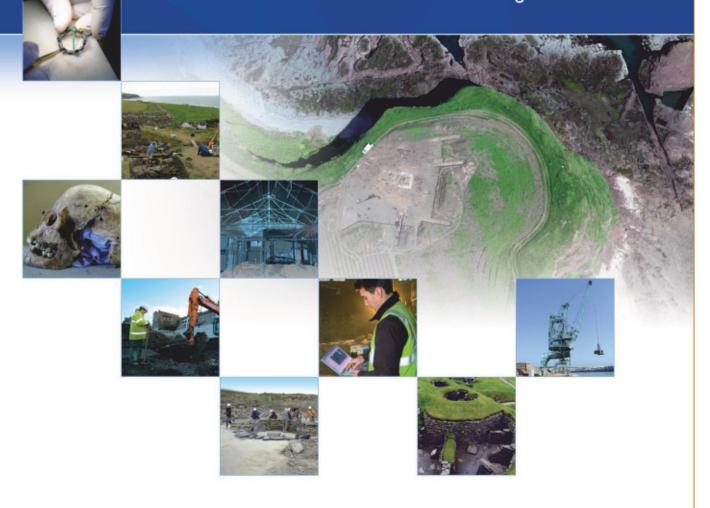
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Abstract

This report presents the results of archaeological works undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of Greenan, Ayr (NGR: NS 3140 1877).

The works consisted of a monitored top-soil strip and subsequent excavation undertaken from May – August 2015. This was a continuation of the Phase 1 top-soil strip initiated in 2012 and focused on the western end of the site.

A series of archaeological works has been ongoing at the development site since 2001. During this time a significant number of structures, features and artefacts have been uncovered relating to archaeological activity ranging from the Mesolithic to the Medieval/Post Medieval periods.

The current works revealed several prehistoric structures including three hut circles of Mesolithic date, a Late Bronze Age ring-groove roundhouse, a post-ring roundhouse and two further post rings all of late prehistoric date. In addition numerous other pit and post-hole features were recorded. Large associated assemblages of lithics and decorated and undecorated prehistoric ceramics were recovered.

In addition, numerous boundary ditches of probable post-medieval date were revealed, together with associated pits and post-holes. Small finds associated with these features included a gun flint and Scottish reduced ware ceramics.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of phased archaeological works were required as a condition of planning consent (09/00683/OUT) prior to and during the development of a residential area at Greenan, Ayr. The development area consists of a greenfield site covering approximately 30.34 ha and lies within the administrative area of South Ayrshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (Scottish Government 2011).
 - 1.1.2 A series of archaeological works has been ongoing at the development site since 2001. During this time a significant number of structures, features and artefacts have been uncovered relating to archaeological activity ranging from the Mesolithic to the Medieval/Post Medieval periods.
 - 1.1.3 This report details the results of a monitored topsoil strip and subsequent excavation undertaken within the development area from May August 2015. This was a continuation of the Phase 1 top-soil strip undertaken in 2012 and focused on the western end of the site.
 - 1.1.3 Several prehistoric structures were revealed including three hut circles of Mesolithic date, a Late Bronze Age ring-groove roundhouse, a post-ring roundhouse and two further post rings all of late prehistoric date. In addition, numerous other pit and post-hole features were recorded. Large associated assemblages of lithics and decorated and undecorated prehistoric ceramics were recovered.
 - 1.1.4 In addition, numerous boundary ditches of probable post-medieval date were revealed, together with associated pits and post-holes. Small finds included a gun flint and Scottish reduced ware ceramics.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development site is located immediately to the north of Dunure Road, Greenan, Ayr, south Ayrshire (centred NGR: NS 3140 1877). The site is bounded to the east by a residential development and to the west by utilised agricultural land. Greenan Castle and utilised agricultural land bounds the site area to the north (Figure 1). The majority of the site is low-lying, undulating ground with a high point of 25 m OD. A marked ridgeline runs across the western edge of the Phase 1 boundary.

1.2.2 The site is composed of undulating former agricultural land underlain by drift geology of marly shale and cementstone with occasional bands of sandstone (British Geological Survey 1949).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The development and the surrounding area have been subject to various archaeological investigations since 2001;
 - Desk Based Assessment: Thomson, L. 2001 Greenan, Ayr: archaeological desk based assessment. AOC Archaeology Group.
 - Fieldwalking Survey: Engl, R P & Cook 2001 Greenan, Ayr, South Ayrshire (Maybole parish), Fieldwalking. Discovery Excavation Scot. Vol 2 p 89.
 - 5% evaluation 2010, Engl, R P 2010 Greenan, Ayr: Evaluation Data Structure Report.
 Unpublished AOC Archive Document.
 - Targeted Topsoll Monitoring 2010, Engl, R P 2010a Greenan, Ayr, Phase 1 Area Evaluation (Secondary Works): Data Structure Report. Unpublished AOC Archive Document.
 - Targeted Topsoil Monitoring 2012, Engl, RP Greenan, Ayr, Phase 1 Monitored Topsoil strip: Data Structure Report. Unpublished AOC Archive Document.

In addition, an evaluation and excavation of a large enclosure immediately to the east of the development area was conducted by AOC Archaeology in 2011.

- 1.3.2 The four phases of archaeological investigation have identified lots of evidence for prehistoric occupation of the site. This evidence includes postholes forming possible structures, linear ditches and large pits. There were both fire pits and stone filled pits often found in isolation. This has so far generated between 800 and 1000 finds which includes a large assemblage of Mesolithic flints along with two hammer-stones, Neolithic ceramics and a Neolithic Langdale axe and axe fragment.
- 1.3.3 Linear features have also been uncovered which may relate to post-medieval farming and are possibly the remains of boundary ditches and stock enclosures.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
 - the identification, excavation, soil sampling and recording of all significant archaeological features within the identified zone of archaeological importance;

- ii. the retrieval of a representative artefact assemblage;
- iii. upon conclusion of the excavation, to prepare a post-excavation research design (PERD) to be agreed by WoSAS on behalf of City of South Ayrshire Council. This work may begin with an assessment stage, to establish the potential of the materials (soil samples & all artefact categories) recovered from the excavation. The post-excavation phase will address issues arising from the excavation. The PERD will be pertinent to the quantity, quality, character, date and condition of retrieved small finds and soil samples when considered against the series of research questions raised by the excavated features;
- the post-excavation analysis of recovered material;
- publication/dissemination plan for the results of the excavations bringing the findings into the public and academic domain.

3 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

3.1 Monitored topsoil strip

- 3.1.1 The archaeological works, laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), were designed fully to meet the requirements of WoSAS and are in keeping with the policies outlined in Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which were present within the development area.
- 3.1.2 Working in conjunction with the contractor the monitored topsoil strip covered the area in locations where the development necessitated a physical impact on existing ground levels. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.

3.2 Excavation of features within the topsoil stripped area

- 3.2.1 Following surface cleaning and identification of features the excavation process involved:
 - the excavation of structural elements including posthole, pit and ring ditch comprised the removal of 100% of archaeological sediment by hand;
 - the excavation of non-structural elements and isolated features including posthole and/or pits comprised the removal of 50% of archaeological sediment by hand unless finds/material inclusions dictate otherwise;

- large linear features was subject to excavation by hand sufficient (minimum 10%) to characterize their significance, form, function, condition and date at the same time retrieving a fully representative artefact/ecofact assemblage;
- standard palaeoenvironmental samples (minimum 20 litres) was recovered where possible from every significant soil context.
- 3.2.2 This process of excavation, recording and sampling continued until drift geology is met. See WSI Appendix 9 for detailed description of general procedures.
- 3.2.3 Given the large area of the investigation and the widespread nature of the archaeological remains the features were grouped and recorded by survey base lines.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological works were undertaken between the 8th May and 14th August 2015. The excavations were conducted in predominantly fine weather conditions allowing for good archaeological visibility. The various data gathered is presented as a series of appendices:
 - Appendix 1 the context register;
 - Appendix 2 the photographic record;
 - iii) Appendix 3 the drawing register;
 - Iv) Appendix 4 the finds register;
 - v) Appendix 5 the sample register;
 - vi) Appendix 6 reproduces the 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' entry
- 4.1.2 Overall weather conditions were generally fair and good archaeological visibility was present throughout the excavation. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-7, Figures 1-33 and Plates 1-12.
- 4.1.3 The excavation revealed topsoil comprising soft light brown slity clay with numerous small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. The top-soil ranged from 0.30 m to 0.50 m in depth and overlay pockets of colluvium within the lower areas of the site. This deposit consisted of red/brown silt sand and ranged from 0.20 m to 0.70 m in depth. Occasional sherds of modern white ceramic and glass were observed throughout the topsoil. Natural subsoil varied across the site with areas of sands and gravels interspersed with patches of boulder clay within the lower lying areas of the site.
- 4.1.3 Occasional field drains of both rubble and tile types were encountered across the site. The drains ran approximately west to east draining from the high ground. Several hand dug slots were excavated through these drains to confirm they were not of archaeological significance.

4.2 Archaeological Structures and Features

4.2.1 A1 - A2

- 4.2.1.2 Twenty-seven pit and post-hole features were recorded along this base-line situated along the southern end of the proposed access track. Twelve of the post-holes were associated with a post-ring structure [859]. The main structural element of the post-ring was an arc of eight truncated circular and sub-circular post-holes [025-029-031-035-037-047-049-051] approximately 8.5 m in diameter. The post-holes were 0.40 m to 0.50 m in diameter with depths ranging from 0.10 m to 0.22 m in depth. The cut features were relatively homogenous containing red brown sandy silts with occasional fragments of burnt bone and charcoal. A single flint flake (SF 08) was recovered from the fill of post-hole [023]. The post-holes [035-037] and [047-049] were conjoined with one of the pair being a probable replacement. On the northern inner side of the post arc lay several further post-holes [021-023-027-053] which were also probably part of the structure. These features were again truncated showing a similar range of restricted diameters and depths.
- 4.2.1.3 Several larger sub-circular pit features were located to the north of the post-ring [041-043-045-857-033-067]. The possible quarry pit [067] had dimensions of 1.30 m by 1.40 m, with a depth of 1.10 m. The feature contained a single fill (068) of a relatively sterile mix of redeposited sand and sandy silt. A single decorated body-sherd of prehistoric ceramic (SF 013) was recovered. Though not as large, the other pit features were similarly substantial with relatively steep sided concave profiles ranging from 023 m to 0.60 m and from 0.60 m to 0.90 m in diameter.
- 4.2.1.4 A further five circular post-holes [015-017-019-063-065] measuring 0.30 m to 0.70 m in diameter were located to the north-west of the post-ring. These features again appeared truncated with depths ranging from 0.10 m to 0.16 m.
- 4.2.1.5 Four slightly curvilinear features [055-057-059-061] were recorded to the south-east of the post-ring. These features ranged from 0.70 m to 1.60 m in length with widths of 0.30 m to 0.60 m. The features were again relatively shallow and truncated at 0.10 m with steep to gentle sloping sides and concave bases. The fills of these features appeared fairly loose and sterile. It is possible that these features may relate to later farming practices.

4.2.2 B1 - B2

4.2.2.1 A small group of pit, post-hole [071-073-078-080-082-084-086] and linear features [075] were recorded on the base-line B1-B2. The pit features were relatively substantial and ranged from oval to circular in plan. The pit [071] measured 2.30 m by 1.20 m with a depth of 0.22 m. the fill of this feature as with the majority of the other pit fills was a light brown sandy silt with numerous large sub-angular stones. The pits [078-080-082-] were circular or sub-circular in plan with diameters ranging from 0.80 m to 1.20 m and depths of 0.22 m to 0.40 m. The features had almost vertical sides and flat to gently concave bases. Pits [080-082] produced small finds of worked flint (SF 16, 17), worked stone (SF 19) and prehistoric ceramics (SF 15, 18).

4.2.2.2 The truncated remains of a possible linear prehistoric boundary ditch [075] were recorded to the east of the majority of the pit features. The ditch was 14.0 m in length with an average width of 0.50 m and a depth of 0.10 m. The ditch had a concave profile ending in rounded terminals. Two fills of red/brown sandy silt were present both containing flecks of charcoal. The ditch was abutted by two cut features along the western edge. These features were identified as a post-hole [073] situated near the northern terminal and a larger oval pit [084].

4.2.3 C1-C2

- 4.2.3.1 Area C produced two sub-circular conjoined pits [069-098] and four post-holes [088-090-092-094]. These latter features may have been part of an original superstructure associated with the pits. The largest of the conjoined pits [098] measured 1.54 m by 1.35 m, with a depth of 0.45 m. The feature had steeply sloping sides and a concave base, and was filled by three deposits including a primary deposit of charcoal rich dark brown slity sand (100). The smaller of the pits [096] abutted [098] to the north-west and was of similar form. The pit was filled by a single deposit of dark brown slity sand with charcoal flecks (097) identical to the upper fill of the larger pit (098). The smaller pit was 0.28 m in depth and is possibly an initial chamber for an oven.
- 4.2.3.2 The four post-holes associated with the conjoined pits were split with three features [088-090-092] forming a line to the south aligned east to west and a single post-hole [094] located to the north. The post-holes ranged from 0.32 m to 0.46m in diameter and from 0.20 m to 0.32 m in depth.
- 4.2.3.3 A single circular pit [013] was located 8.0 m to the west of the other features. The pit was 0.70 m in diameter with a maximum depth of 0.70 m. The feature had gently sloping sides leading to an uneven flat base. The pit contained a single fill of compact dark sandy silt (014). Several body sherds of prehistoric ceramic [SF 7] were recovered from the fill.

4.2.4 D1-D2 & E1-E2

4.2.4.1 Fourteen cut features of probable prehistoric date were recorded within these areas. Several of these were cut by a curvilinear dyke [144] which ran across the site from north-east to south-west. The dyke was visible in length for 52.0 m with a width varying between 1.15 m and 1.42 m and a depth between 0.36 m and 0.60 m. The dyke contained two fills consisting of a primary fill (154) created by the initial slumping of the ditch and an upper fill (145) of medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of charcoal flecks, flint (SF 29), prehistoric ceramics (SF 30) and handmade post medieval bricks. The central portion of the dyke was culverted by a mixture of brick and sandstone. The small finds of flint and ceramics were most probably introduced from the truncated pit [152]. The dyke also cut a further pit [155].

- 4.2.4.2 A curvilinear feature of prehistoric date was recorded north of the dyke [146]. This feature was aligned east to west and was extant for 4.30 m. The feature varied between 0.20 m and 0.56 m in width and between 0.15 m and 0.20 m in depth. The eastern end of the feature ended in a split rounded terminus. The feature was filled by a deposit of medium grey brown sandy silt with inclusions of small chunks of charcoal and some small ceramic fragments (SF 23). A large circular pit [142] was located to the immediate north. This was 1.10 m in diameter with a depth of 0.30 m. The pit was filled by an organic deposit of silty sand which contained numerous pieces of flint [SF22].
- 4.2.4.3 Along the eastern boundary of the area lay a scatter of sterile, truncated pits and post-holes [130-132-134-136-138-140-148].
- 4.2.4.4 A further two features were located at the western end of the area. These consisted of a spread of charcoal [163], and a shallow linear feature [159-161]. This latter feature was intermittent with a total length of 7.0 m and a width between 0.25 m and 0.40 m. The depth ranged from 0.07 m to 0.10 m.



Plate 1 Mesolithic Hut Structure [279] from north

4.2.5 F1-F2 (Mesolithic Hut [279] & Associated Features)

- 4.2.5.1 The stripping of the top-soil from the north-west of the site revealed a localised spread of dark, organic grey brown sandy silt (265) including numerous pieces of flint [SF 58] and charcoal fragments. The spread ranged from 0.02 m to 0.005m in depth and measured 5.0 m to 3.50 m in plan. The spread overlay a tight cluster of pits and post-holes forming a hut structure of Mesolithic date [279]
- 4.2.5.2 The hut was composed of 23 post-holes, the majority of which were arranged in two closely positioned arcs. Many of the post-holes were intercut and situated within a larger cut [864], suggesting a repeated re-positioning and replacement of the posts and therefore a reasonable longevity to the structure. The larger cut was 2.20 m east to west by 1.0 m north

- to south. The hut was approximately three metres in diameter with an entrance facing the south-east. The entrance was composed of three post-holes [275-860-862] set within two elongated cuts [274-203]. These features may represent the repeated movement of posts when erecting and taking down the structure.
- 4.2.5.3 The outer arc of the hut was comprised of six post-holes [205-211-213-247-257-259] arranged from south-east to south-west. The majority of these post-holes were slanted at around 60° towards the interior of the hut. The post-holes were sub-circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and flat to concave bases. Diameters ranged from 0.20 m to 0.60 m with depths ranging from 0.16 m to 0.48 m.
- 4.2.5.4 Eight post-holes formed the inner arc of the structure [270-272-255-253-227-225-219-275]. These were generally smaller in size ranging from 0.20 m to 0.40 m and with depths of 0.12 m to 0.28 m. Two sub-circular internal post-holes [207-268] were also recorded, with diameters of 0.45 m and depths of 0.23 m.
- 4.2.5.5 Two elongated cuts [203-274] formed the probable entrance of the hut aligned to the south-east. These features contained the post-holes [275-860-862] and may represent the repeated movement of the posts during the lifetime of the hut. The cuts were 1.20 m in length with widths of 0.30 m to 0.40 m respectively. Both of the features were steep sided and flat based. The cuts [203-274] contained post-holes [275-862] placed within the western end of the cuts [203]. A further post-hole [860] was recorded within the eastern end of [203] abutting the post-hole [221].
- 4.2.5.6 Two large, sub-circular, pit/post-holes [199-201] were recorded to the immediate east of the hut. These features were relatively shallow with gradually sloping sides and flat to gently concave bases.
- 4.2.5.7 The cut features of the structure were filled with relatively homogenous deposits of dark brown sandy silt. The majority of these produced lithic debitage including narrow blade/flake cores of late Mesolithic date.



Plate 2 Possible Windbreak [170] with Mesolithic Hut [279] in background from north-east

- 4.2.5.8 A large curvilinear cut feature [170] with steeply sloping sides and a flat base was revealed situated approximately two metres to the north of the hut structure, aligned south-west to north-east. The feature was 4.55 m in length and varied between 0.45 m and 0.60 m in width. The cut was filled by a deposit of medium brown sandy silt. This produced a small quantity of lithic material (SF 31) also of late Mesolithic date. A large, shallow pit [215] was situated at the south-western end of the curvilinear feature. This feature had concave sides and base and measured 0.47 m by 0.39 m, with a depth of 0.13 m. It is possible that the curvilinear feature is the remains of a wind-break associated with the Mesolithic hut.
- 4.2.5.9 A series of nine pit/post-holes [177-179-183-185-181-175-187-189-191] were revealed to the north of the possible wind-break. These were arranged in two linear arrangements eight metres in length. The remains of a further small curvilinear feature [193] and two stone lined fire-pits [167-172] were also recorded. The pit/postholes were roughly sub-circular in plan with [183] appearing stone lined. The pits ranged from 0.30 m to 0.85 m in diameter, with truncated depths of between 0.07 m and 0.33 m. The small curvilinear feature [193] was 'V' shaped in profile and measured 1.50 m north to south by 0.20 m east to west. The feature was shallow with a depth of 0.12 m. Flint fragments (SF 32) were retrieved from the fill.
- 4.2.5.10Two heavily truncated, stone lined fire-pits [167-172] were recorded to the east of the pit alignments. These features were sub-rectangular in plan with almost vertical sides and flat bases. The lengths of the features were 1.10 m and 1.20 m respectively with widths of 0.80 m and depths of 0.16 m and 0.42 m. Both of the pits were double-lined with fragmentary, flat rectangular sandstone slabs. The pits contained single fills of gravel and slity sand. These contained numerous fragments of burnt bone and charcoal. It is possible that these stone lined pits represent the truncated remains of short cist cremation burials.

4.2.6.1 Five linear [235-237-239-241-277] and two pit features [243-245] were recorded in this area. The linear features appear to be aligned and run in parallel south-east to north-west. Given their shallow depths, it is possible that they represent the segmented remains of two larger linear features. The features ranged from 4.10 m to 1.94 m in length and from 0.28 m to 0.48 m in width. The linear [239] was partially obscured by the western limit of excavation. The features were severely truncated with depths ranging from 0.02 m to 0.28 m. Several burnt lithics (SF 54) were recovered from the fill of linear [236]. The northern end of this feature was truncated by a large sub-circular pit [243] measuring 1.20 by 1.05 m, with a depth of 0.65 m. This was filled by dark brown sandy silt containing several large sub-rounded stones. Three flint fragments (SF 53) were also recovered from the fill.

4.2.7 H1-H2

4.2.7.1 A scatter of 10 sub-circular pits [249-005-007-003-261-263-051-009-011-266] of Neolithic date was recorded within area H1-H2. The pits ranged from 0.44 m to 0.80 m in diameter with depths of between 0.15 m and 0.28 m. The majority of the features were broadly 'U' shaped in profile. A fragment of decorated Neolithic ceramic (SF 57) was recovered from the fill of pit [261] alongside numerous charcoal fragments. Decorated ceramics (SF 2, 4, 7) and charcoal were also recovered from pits [005-007-011].

4.2.8 I1-I2

4.2.8.1 A widespread group of nine truncated, circular and sub-circular pit features [280-282-284-294-296-290-288-286-292] was recorded within area I1-I2. The majority of the features were again broadly 'U' shaped in profile with depths ranging from 0.06 m to 0.23 m and diameters ranging from 0.22 m to 0.52 m. Decorated ceramics of Neolithic date (SF 67, 68) were recovered from the pit [284].



Plate 3 Decorated Neolithic body-shard (SF 67)

4.2.8.2 A single linear ditch [306] of probable post-medieval date ran through the area aligned northwest to south-east. This feature was 8.50 m in length by 1.10 m in width with a depth of 0.15 m. The cut had a rounded base and was filled by a silty clay loam.

4.2.9 J1-J2

4.2.9.1 Four shallow, sub-circular pits [298-300-302-304] were recorded within this area. These features ranged from 0.06 m to 0.18 m in depth and were filled by single deposits of dark brown sandy silt. The pits were sub-circular in plan with vertical to concave sides and flat to concave bases. A single lithic (SF 66) was recovered from the fill of pit [298].







Plate 5 Ring-groove Roundhouse [308] from north

4.2.10 K1-K2 (Ring-groove Roundhouse Structure [308])

- 4.2.10.1The stripping of the top-soil from the south-western end of the site revealed a substantial ring-grooved roundhouse of probable Bronze Age date. The roundhouse was 9.0 m in diameter with an entrance located to the south-east. In addition to the outer ring-groove [329] an inner ring of nine structural post-holes [359-361-335-375-331-325-321-319-317] was recorded. The remains of five other internal post-holes [353-355-241-323-357] were also revealed together with three large pit features [335-337-333] located along the inner edge of the northern part of the ring-groove. A further cluster of five pit and post-hole features [309-311-313-339-315] was located around the southern terminal of the ring-groove. The remains of a further ring-groove [381] ran along the southern edge of the structure.
- 4.2.10.2The ring-groove [329] of the round-house was truncated in several places with a large modern pit cutting the feature to the south-west. Where present the ring-groove was 0.25 m in width with a maximum depth of 0.15 m. The cut had almost vertical sides and a gently rounded base. A 4.20 m entrance was located to the south-east with the ring-groove forming two rounded terminals 0.50 m in width. The remains of a fragmentary second ring-groove [381] was located along the southern perimeter of the structure. This feature survived to four metres in length and ended in a post-hole terminus [327]. The ring-groove was varied between 0.15 m to 0.20 m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.15 m.

- 4.2.10.3The post-holes of the inner ring were circular to sub-circular in plan substantial with steeply sloping sides and concave bases. The cuts ranged from 0.15 m to 0.53 m in depth, with diameters ranging from 0.33 m to 0.75 m. The post-hole [319] was cut by a replacement post [317].
- 4.2.10.4Two large pits [333-337] were revealed along the northern perimeter of the structures ring-groove. These shallow features were oval and sub-circular in plan with a depth of only 0.10 m. A further pit/post-hole [363] was situated along the western perimeter. This feature was sub-circular in plan with a depth of 0.25 m.
- 4.2.10.5A small cluster of pits and post-holes was also located at the south-east of the structure close to the terminus. The largest of these features [309] was possibly intrusive as its fill contained a stem fragment of clay pipe. The remaining features ranged from 0.33 m to 0.46 m in diameter, with depths of 0.20 m to 0.36 m.

4.2.11 L1-L2

4.2.11.1Two circular pits [345-347] and a fragmentary linear feature [349] was recorded within this area. The pits were 0.41 m and 0.70 m in diameter with gently sloping 'U' shaped profiles. The pits were filled with sterile deposits of sandy silt and gravel. The linear feature [349] was eight metres in length and appeared extremely truncated. The feature was aligned NE-SW and was 0.35 m in width with a flat, uneven base 0.05 m in depth. A similar deposit of sterile sands and gravels filled the feature.

4.2.12 M1-M2

4.2.12.1Features in this area were restricted to a single sub-circular pit [389] and a short linear feature [351]. The former measured 0.51 m by 0.45 m in plan, with a depth of 0.12 m. The small linear feature was 1.90 m in length with a width of 0.50 m and a depth of 0.12 m.

4.2.13 N1-N2

4.2.13.1Seven pits [391-393-395-399-401-403-405] were located within this area. The pits ranged from oval to sub-circular in plan with shallow depths ranging from 0.10 m to 0.17 m. All the features were sterile with the exception of [405] and [399]. The latter produced small quantities of burnt bone, whereas three shards of prehistoric ceramic (SF 79) was recovered from the fill of the former. The pit [405] was roughly oval, measuring 0.80 m by 0.70 m in plan. A single large sandstone slab was recorded within the pit set on edge. It is possible that the feature is the truncated remains of a cist burial.

4.2.14 01-02

4.2.14.1Three cut features [369-367-365] were recorded within the area. These consisted of two small pit/post-holes [367-365] measuring 0.30 m to 0.38 m in diameter and 0.20 m to 0.33 m in depth. A large, shallow oval pit [369] 0.10 m in depth was also identified.

4.2.15 P1-P2 (Medieval/Post-medieval field system and prehistoric pits)

- 4.2.15.1Fifteen pit features of probable prehistoric date [385-387-383-371-413-411-409-865-869-867-407-379-377-425-415-421-423-397] were spread out in small clusters across the north-east corner of the site, together with an intercutting network of medieval/post-medieval linear and curvilinear boundary ditches [427-429-431-433]. Three truncated parallel furrows of modern date were also recognised.
- 4.2.15.2Several lithics (SF75, 87, 80,) were recovered from the pits [378-415-425-] with several decorated prehistoric ceramics (SF 72, 82) being recovered from pits [865-869].
- 4.2.15.3The pits were relatively truncated and ranged from sub-circular to oval in plan with depths ranging from 0.09 m to 0.50 m.
- 4.2.15.4A fragmentary series of four interconnected curvilinear ditches were recorded within the north-west corner of the area. The largest of the trenches [433] was 1.20 m in width and was aligned north to south. The ditch appeared to split off into two separate features [429-431] running to the west. A further narrower ditch 0.30 m to 0.50 m in width [427] also ran off to the south where it turned at a right angle towards the east. All four of the trenches were truncated with depths ranging from 0.05 m to 0.25 m. The ditches contained single fills of grey brown sandy slit with patches of apparent burning. Several fragments of burnt flint (SF93) were recovered from the fill of [427]. The exact relationship of the linear ditches remains unclear with the probability that the ditches are relatively contemporary. It is likely that the ditches form the remnant of a larger field system of early post-medieval date.

4.2.16 Q1-Q2

- 4.2.16.1A further 14 truncated pits and post-holes [441-448-453-451-459-457-471-465-446-473-467-461-463-455] were recorded within area Q1-Q2. The pits [455-461-463] were oval in plan with lengths ranging from 0.59 m to 1.32 m and with widths of 0.38 m to 0.44 m. The pits produced a shallow profile with depths ranging from 0.03 m to 0.07 m. All three features had sterile fills of yellow brown sandy clay.
- 4.2.16.2The majority of the 11 post-holes were circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and concave bases. The post-holes ranged from 0.30 m to 0.38 m in diameter with depths of 0.06 m to 0.21 m. It is possible that four of the post-holes [441-448-457-451] form part of a post-ring roundhouse.

4.2.17 R1-R2 (Post- Medieval Field System & associated pits).

4.2.17.1A series of nine interconnected curvilinear and linear ditches were recorded within the south-east corner of the area. The largest of the trenches [490] was exposed for 50.0 m in length and was aligned east to west running into area A1-A2 and into the compound area. The ditch was 1.50 m in width and 0.40 m in depth with steep sides and a concave base. The ditch contained a deposit of dark brown sandy silt from which a glass bottle base (SF103) and flint

fragment (SF104) were recovered. The ditch appeared to cut three smaller ditches lying to the nort-east [492/496] and south-west [524-528]. A further substantial curvilinear ditch feature [536] appeared to conjoin with [490]. This feature was aligned to the south with a small branch off to the north-east. The ditch was 25.0 m in length and ranged from 0.50 m to 1.0 m in width. The feature had concave steeply sloping sides and a flat base 0.16 m in depth. A single rim-shard of post-medieval ceramic (SF 114) was recovered from the fill.

- 4.2.17.2Another curvilinear ditch [494] crossed the south of the area aligned roughly east to west. This feature was 19.0 m in length with a maximum width of 1.10 m and a depth of 0.40 m. The ditch had a similar profile to the other examples and was filled with a compact orange brown sandy silt, from which several shards of medieval/post-medieval ceramics were recovered (SF 99). This ditch feature was appeared to form a small enclosure with the ditches [490-536]. This enclosure was 17.0 m in diameter with a possible entrance situated to the south-east. A further associated curvilinear ditch [532] was situated at this entrance aligned north to south. This feature was 9.0 m in length and extended out-with the Phase 1 boundary to the south. The feature ranged from 0.20 m to 0.50 m in width with a depth of 0.35 m. Two fragments of medieval ceramics were recovered from the fill (SF112). The northern end of this feature ended in a rounded terminal abutting the eastern end of [494]. is likely that the ditches form the remnant of a larger field system of medieval or early post-medieval date.
- 4.2.17.2Two further linear features [502-506] were recorded within the area both aligned east to west. The latter ditch was curvilinear in plan with approximately six metres exposed by the excavation. This feature had a similar profile and dimensions to the other large ditches. A single lithic was recovered from the fill (SF102). The feature [502] was much straighter in form with almost vertical sides and a flat base. The feature cuts the post-hole [478] and is probably the cut for a modern pipe.
- 4.2.17.3Twenty-four oval and sub-circular pits and post-holes [542-504-496-498-500-518-480-508-516-510-514-482-484-486-488-526-534-538-522-540-520-512] were located within the area. These features ranged from 0.25 m to 3.5 m in length with shallow concave profiles. Medieval/post-medieval ceramics (SF109) and metal fragments (SF107, 116) were recovered from the fills of the features [510] and [516] respectively. It is likely that the features represent activity occurring within the enclosures associated with a field system of medieval/early post-medieval date.



Plate 6 Mesolithic Hut Structure [687] from south-east



Plate 7 Mesolithic Hut Structure [687] & Associated Features [710] from north-west

4.2.18 S1-S2 (Mesolithic Hut Structure [687] & Associated Features [710])

- 4.2.18.1Top-soil stripping revealed a localised spread of dark, organic grey brown sandy slit (687) including numerous pieces of worked flint [SF 141-149], burnt bone, charred hazel-nut shell and charcoal fragments. The spread ranged from 0.05 m to 0.20 m in depth and measured 4.0 m to 4.60 m in plan. The spread overlay a tight cluster of 16 pits and post-holes forming a hut structure [687] and associated features of Mesolithic date [710].
- 4.2.18.2The main structure [687] was composed of tight arc of seven post-holes [723-713-717-719-729-727-725]. A further pit/post-hole [721] was revealed within the interior of the arc. The structure was two meters in diameter and appeared open to the south-east. The post-holes ranged from 0.25 m to 0.40 m in diameter with depths of 0.18 m to 0.40 m. The post-holes

revealed a mixture of broad and narrow 'U' shaped profiles with [713-717-727-729] having almost vertical sides. Numerous lithics [SF 141-149] were recovered from the fills.

- 4.2.18.3A large sub-oval pit [715] was located to the immediate rear (west) of the hut circle [687]. This feature was set within a larger hollow. The pit had steeply sloping sides and a concave base and measured 0.70 m by 0.80 m with a depth of 0.36 m. Lithic material [SF 145] was recovered from the fill.
- 4.2.18.4Three further post-holes [690-711-872] were recorded to the immediate north of the pit [715] and hollow. These features were set in a concentric arrangement aligned south-west to north-east. The post-holes had a similar form and dimensions to those excavated within the hut structure and contained lithic material [SF 151]. It is probable that these features form a wind-break to the hollow. The post-hole [872] was set within a larger cut containing the pit/post-hole [683]. A smaller post-hole [681] was set to the north of the wind-break.

4.2.19 Medleval/Post Medleval Field System

- 4.2.19.1A fragmentary series of conjoined curvilinear ditches [620-626-628-548-528-636-634-611-613-601] was revealed to the south of the Mesolithic structure [687-710], together with a number of associated circular and sub-circular pits and post-holes [550-603-555-557-559-638-640-609-642-644-646-648-618].
- 4.2.19.2At the south-western end of the area three of the ditches [548-611-636] appeared to run together aligned to the south-east where they were joined by ditch [528] running from the south-west. The ditches varied in character with some of the features having almost vertical sides and flat bases to others with more concave profiles. The ditches were relatively shallow, ranging from 0.18 m to 0.28 m in depth. The ditches varied considerably in width with a maximum of 1.59 m and a minimum width of 0.60 m. The ditch [528] was joined by a short curvilinear spur [601] aligned to the north. The ditches contained single fills of light to dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and medium to large sub-angular stones. Small finds consisted of pieces of residual flint [SF 119-117].
- 4.2.19.3To the north-east of the area ran a further three conjoined ditches [620-626-628] aligned south-east to north-west. These ditches probably joined with [611-636] however due to modern truncation this remains unclear. It is likely that the ditches form the remnant of a larger field system of medieval or early post-medieval date.
- 4.2.19.4Thirteen circular and sub-circular pits and post-holes [550-603-555-557-559-638-640-609-642-644-646-648-618] were excavated around the curvilinear ditches. These features ranged from 0.37 m to 0.96 m in diameter with profiles ranging from steep sided and flat based to concave. The features were generally shallow with depths of 0.06 m to 0.23 m. The majority were filled by single deposits of dark brown sandy silt. Small finds were recovered including a piece of corroded metal (SF 120) and flint (SF 119).

4.2.20 U1-U2

4.2.20.1Four isolated sub-circular pits were recorded within the area. These features had steep sides and concave bases and ranged from 0.35 m to 0.70 m in diameter. The pits were relatively shallow with depths ranging from 0.16 m to 0.20 m. All four features were filled with single deposits of sterile dark brown sandy silt.

4.2.21 V1-V2

- 4.2.21.1Four isolated sub-circular pits [762-766-775-764] and a narrow, truncated linear feature [703] were recorded within this area. The linear feature was aligned north-east to south-west and produced a concave profile. The feature was visible for 29.0 m crossing area Y1-Y2, with a width of 0.50 m and a depth of 0.23 m. The feature ended in a pointed, rounded terminus. Two flint blades and a flint core (SF 139) were recovered from a fill of dark brown sandy silt.
- 4.2.21.2The four pits varied in size and profile. The pits appeared truncated with depths of 0.09 m to 0.25 m. The features varied widely in size ranging from 0.35 m to 1.70 m in diameter.



Plate 8 Post-ring Structure [757] from north

4.2.21 W1-W2 (Post-ring Structure [757])

- 4.2.21.1Eleven post-holes [733-735-737-739-741-743-745-747-749-751-753] and a central pit feature [755] were associated with the probable post-ring structure [757].
- 4.2.21.2Seven of the post-holes [733-735-737-739-741-743-751] formed a partial arc 9.5 m in diameter. The post-holes were highly truncated, with depths ranging from 0.06 m to 0.40 m and diameters of 0.25 m to 0.40 m. All of the features provided concave profiles and were filled with deposits of grey to dark brown silty sand. These fills appeared largely sterile, although charcoal fragments were recovered from post-hole [737] together with a single shard of undecorated prehistoric ceramic (SF 150) from post-hole [741].
- 4.2.21.3Three other post-holes [745-747-749] were possibly associated with the structure. These features were of similar dimensions and form.

4.2.21.4An oval pit feature [755] was centrally located within the structure. This feature measured 0.90 m by 0.65 m with a depth of 0.23 m. The pit had concave sides and a flat base and was filled by a single deposit of mottled orange brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal. This feature may represent the remains of a fire pit or hearth.

4.2.22 X1-X2 (Post-medieval Field System)

- 4.2.22.1This consisted of two post-medieval linear boundary ditches [658-650] and a further cluster of five inter-cutting linear features [669-671-677-679-675]. Four sub-circular pit features [660-662-664-673] were also recorded.
- 4.2.22.2The linear boundary ditch [658] was 26 m in length and aligned north to south. The feature was variable in form with widths ranging from 0.46 m to 0.93 m. The feature was shallow with depths running from 0.06 m to 0.22 m and ended in an irregular rounded terminus. The ditch had a concave profile with a flat base. Three deposits (659-667-668) of sterile sandy clay were recorded infilling the ditch.
- 4.2.22.3The second boundary ditch [650] was more substantial with a maximum depth of 0.50 m and a width of 1.20 m. The ditch was aligned south-east to north-west and was recorded running for 25.0 m. The ditch had a similar profile to [658] and was again filled by three deposits of sandy clay (651-652-657). A single sherd of Scottish reduced ware (SF 124) was recovered from the upper fill (651). The ditch was cut by several modern agricultural features.
- 4.2.22.4The cluster of five inter-cutting linear features [669-671-677-679-675] was situated to the north of the area with the feature [669] being a possible northerly extension of the ditch [658]. The linear features were exceedingly shallow ranging from 0.06 m to 0.09 m in depth. All of the features had relatively homogenous fills of sterile grey brown sandy silt.
- 4.2.22.5Four pits [660-662-664-673] were recorded in possible association with the linear features. These pits ranged from 0.25 m to 1.10 m in diameter and 0.05 m to 0.40 m in depth. The excavation of the pits revealed fills of dark brown sandy slit with charcoal fragments and ceramic shard (SF 126) of post-medieval date being recovered from the fill of pit [660].

4.2.23 Y1-Y2 (Post-medleval Field System)

- 4.2.23.1Six truncated, inter-cutting linear features [731-685-707-709-679-703] were revealed within this area together with two curvilinear ditches [696-698] and a single pit feature [700]. The linear features were set on several differing alignments.
- 4.2.23.2The linear features were fairly regular in form with concave profiles and shallow depths ranging between 0.05 m and 0.12 m. All six had homogenous, sterile fills of dark brown sity sand. Two of the linears [679-703] appear to cut through the curvilinear ditches [698-696].

These latter features are thought post-medieval in date. It is likely that the majority of the linear features represent the remains of improvement period drainage.

4.2.23.3The two curvilinear ditches [696-698] appear to conjoin forming a 'gull wing' in plan. The ditches were again truncated with depths varying between 0.05 m and 0.40 m. The features were gently 'U' shaped in profile with widths ranging between 0.30 m and 1.10 m. A single large body shard of post-medleval reduced ware (SF 137) was recovered from the primary fill of pit [696]. A small sub-circuar post-hole [760] 0.30 m in diameter was cut throught the ditch [698]. A single isolated fire pit [700] was situated to the west of the ditches. This feature contained a significant amount of charcoal and fire-cracked stone. It is probable that the ditches represent the truncated remains of an early post-medieval field system.

4.2.24 Z1-Z2 (Post-medieval Field System)

- 4.2.24.1Four curvilinear ditches [788-796-780-782] were recorded in this area. The ditches were 'U'shaped in profile and though truncated and fragmentary ranged from 0.10 m to 0.38 m in depth. The majority of the features were filled with deposits of dark brown sandy slit. These deposits produced animal bone (SF 178, 161) and shards of Scottish reduced ware. It is probable that the ditches represent the truncated remains of an early post-medieval field system.
- 4.2.24.2Two oval pits were [815-817] were also recorded. Pit [817] being a fire-pit measuring 0.70 m by 0.30 m with a depth of 0.27 m. This pit was filled by a deposit of dark brown organic silt with patches of discolored sand.

4.2.25 AA1-AA2

4.2.25.1Four small pits [807-809-811-813] of probable prehistoric date were recorded within this area. The pits had a gentle 'U' shaped profile with depths ranging from 0.14 m to 0.18 m. The pits were sub-circular to oval in plan with widths of 0.28 m to 0.42 m. The pits were filled with deposits of dark brown sandy silt with flecks of charcoal and burnt organic matter.



Plate 9 Pit/Post-ring Structure [853] from west

4.2.26 BB1-BB2 (Pit/Post-ring Structure [853])

- 4.2.26.1Twelve substantial post-hole features [837-831-833-847-851-849-839-841-843-845-829-855] were recorded forming a circle with two outliers [798-827]. The structure was seven metres in diameter and situated to the immediate east of the ring-groove roundhouse [??] with which it may be associated.
- 4.2.26.2The post-holes were largely sub-circular in plan and ranged from 0.40 m to 0.80 m in diameter. The majority of the features had a broad 'U' shaped profile with almost vertical sides and flat bases. Depths ranged from 0.18 m to 0.47 m and the post-holes were filled with single deposits of light grey to dark brown sandy silt. Three hammer-stones (SF 172-173-174) and a burnisher (176) were retrieved from the post-holes.



Plate10 Mesolithic Hut Structure [928] post-excavation from south



Plate 11 Mesolithic Hut Structure [928] post excavation from north

4.3 The compound (Mesolithic Hut Structure [928])

- 4.3.1 Top-soil stripping within the area of the proposed site compound revealed a tight cluster of 15 pits and post-holes [943-945-922-920-918-916-949-914-912-955-951-947-953-926-924] forming a hut structure [928] of Late Mesolithic date.
- 4.3.1.2 The majority of the post-holes formed a rough circular structure [928] with the features [924-955-914] probably representing internal supports. The structure was five meters in diameter and unlike the other two Mesolithic structures excavated on site did not appear open to the south-east. With the exception of the oval pit [920] the post-holes were circular or sub-circular in plan ranged from 0.30 m to 0.80 m in diameter with depths of 0.12 m m to 0.30 m. The post-holes revealed a mixture of broad and narrow 'U' shaped profiles with almost vertical sides and gently concave bases. Numerous lithics including narrow blade debitage and a scalene triangle microlith [CSF 1-7] were recovered from the fills.

4.3.2 Pit Series [904-906-908-910]

4.3.2.1 A series of four substantial circular pit features were recorded to the east of the Mesolithic structure. The pits ranged from 0.75 m to 1.20 m in diameter, with depths of 0.12 m to 0.25 m. The pits had gentle concave profiles and were filled with deposits of dark brown sandy silt with lenses of burnt organic material and fire-cracked stones. A single flint narrow blade (CSF 8) was recovered from pit [906]. The features are possible fire pits associated with the Mesolithic hut [928].

4.3.3 Pits [900-902]

4.3.3.1 Two further sub-circular pits were recorded within the central area of the compound. These features had gently sloping edges and flat and concave bases. The pits were 0.60 m and 0.70 m in diameter with depths of 0.12 m and 0.14 m. The pits were filled with deposits of red brown sandy slit with inclusions of charcoal and burnt organic material. A large quantity of decorated and undecorated prehistoric ceramics was recovered from pit [902].

4.3.4 Post-medieval Ditch [929]

4.3.4.1 A large linear ditch [929] cut through the northern edge of the compound area aligned east to west. This ditch continued across the site into the eastern edge of excavation. The ditch had concave sides and a flat base, with a width of 1.50 m and a depth of 0.46 m. The ditch was filled by a single deposit of light brown sandy silt with large quantities of gravel inclusions. A single gunflint (CSF 11) was recovered from the fill. The ditch appeared to cut the palisade structure [931] on its southern edge.



Plate 12 Palisade [931] post-excavation from west

4.3.5 Pallsade [931], Ditch [933] & Pits/Post-holes [937-939-935-941]

- 4.3.5.1 A curvilinear feature aligned east to west was recorded within the north-eastern corner of the compound. The feature ended in a rounded terminus to the east and was cut by the post-medieval ditch [929] to the west. Upon excavation the feature was revealed as a palisade of possible post-medieval date with the remains of 12 concave post-hole bases. The palisade was 10.20 m in length with a maximum depth of 0.30 m.
- 4.3.6 A second curvilinear feature [933] was recorded to the immediate east of the palisade aligned north to south. This feature cut the large post-medieval ditch [929] to the north. The curvilinear measured 5.0 m in length and had a maximum width of 0.70 m and depth of 0.20 m. A single shard of Scottish post-medieval reduced ware was recovered from the fill.
- 4.3.7 Four pit features were recorded in association with the linear features excavared within the compound area. With the exception of the kidney bean shaped pit [941] situated between the features [933-929], the features were circular in plan. The pits [937-939-935] ranged from 0.40 m to 1.0 m in diameter with depths of 0.10 m to 0.30 m. All of the features had broad 'U' shaped profiles and were filled with single deposits of sterile light brown sandy silt with gravel inclusions. The shape and position of pit [941] possibly suggests that it may be structurally related to the two linear features relating to stock management.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The archaeological works at Greenan has succeeded in producing a series of nationally significant archaeological remains. The three Mesolithic 'huts' add significantly to the exceedingly small number of such structures currently identified and excavated within Scotland. Similarly, the post-medieval field system evidence revealed at Greenan adds to the small number of such sites investigated in Lowland Scotland. Together with the later

prehistoric evidence provided by the post-ring and ring-groove structures and the significant quantities of decorated Neolithic ceramics, the material at Greenan provides a rare opportunity to study the almost complete chronological development of a Scottish archaeological landscape.

In order to ascertain a more in depth knowledge of the excavation results, a post-excavation research design will be prepared for approval by the planning authority's archaeological advisor. This will describe all necessary and appropriate assessment processes and consequent post-excavation analyses together with publication proposals for the final report. This report will integrate the stratigraphic, contextual and descriptive data from the excavation with specialist post-excavation analyses covering dating, palaeoenvironmental and economic issues, culminating in an article fit for academic publication.

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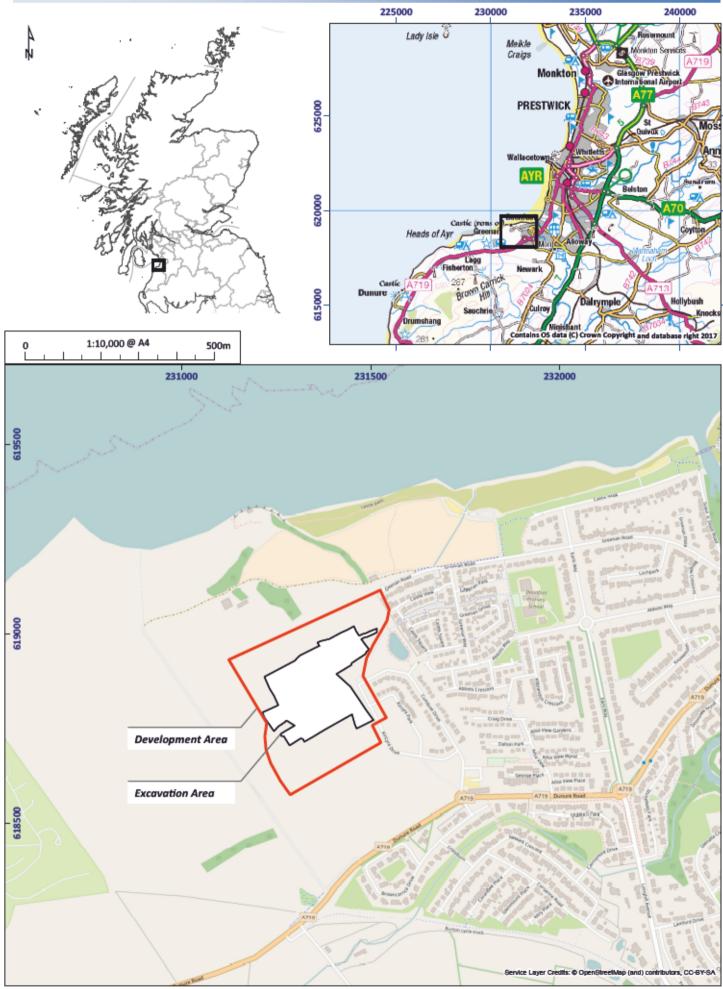
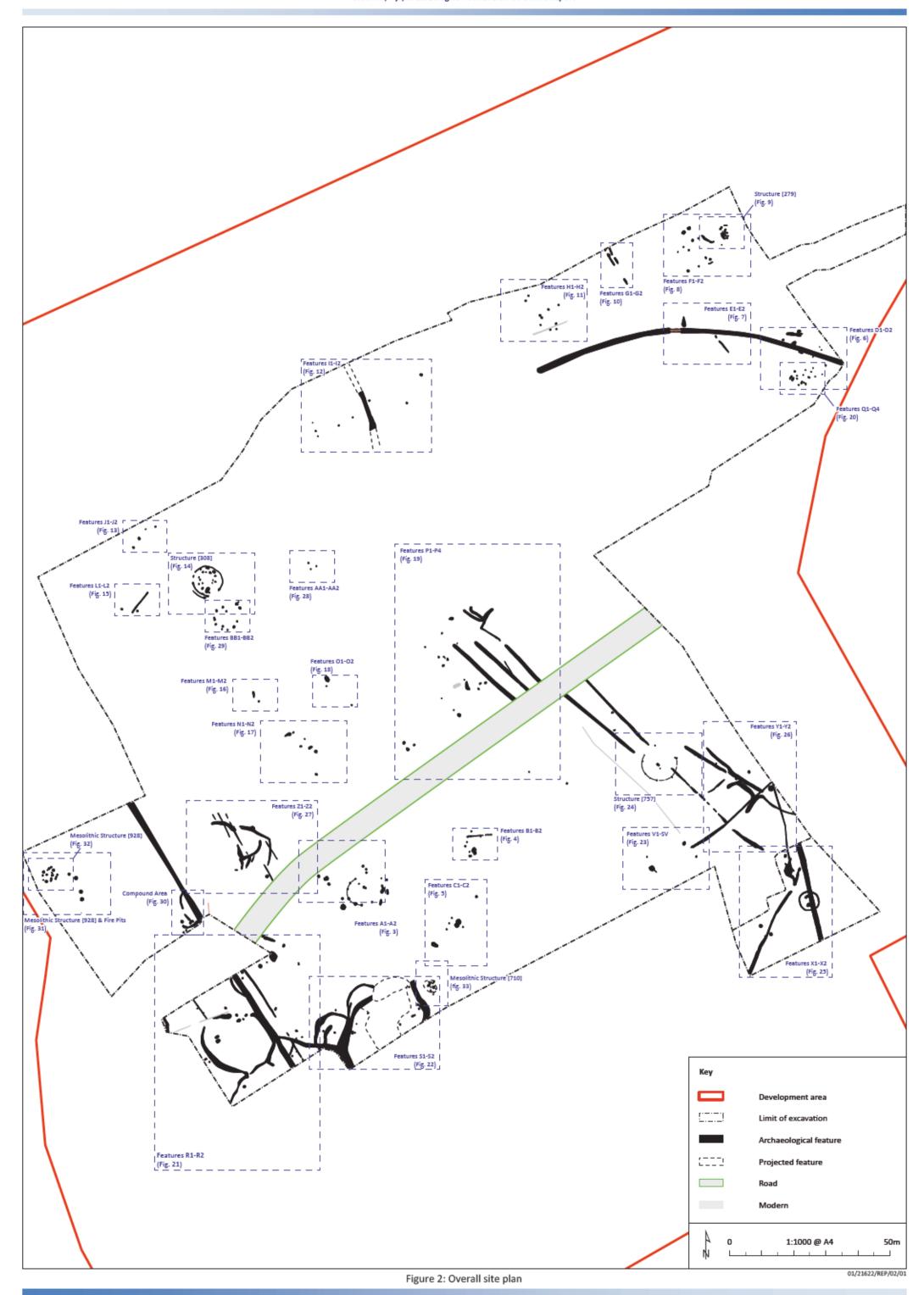


Figure 1: Site location plan

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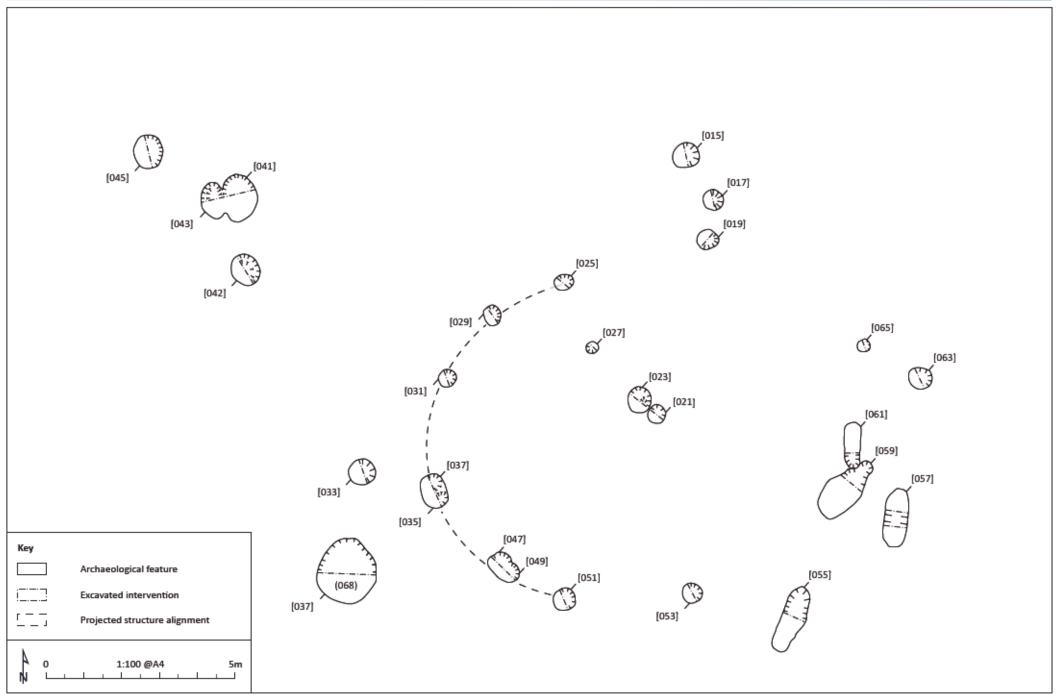


Figure 3: Area Plan of Features A1-A2

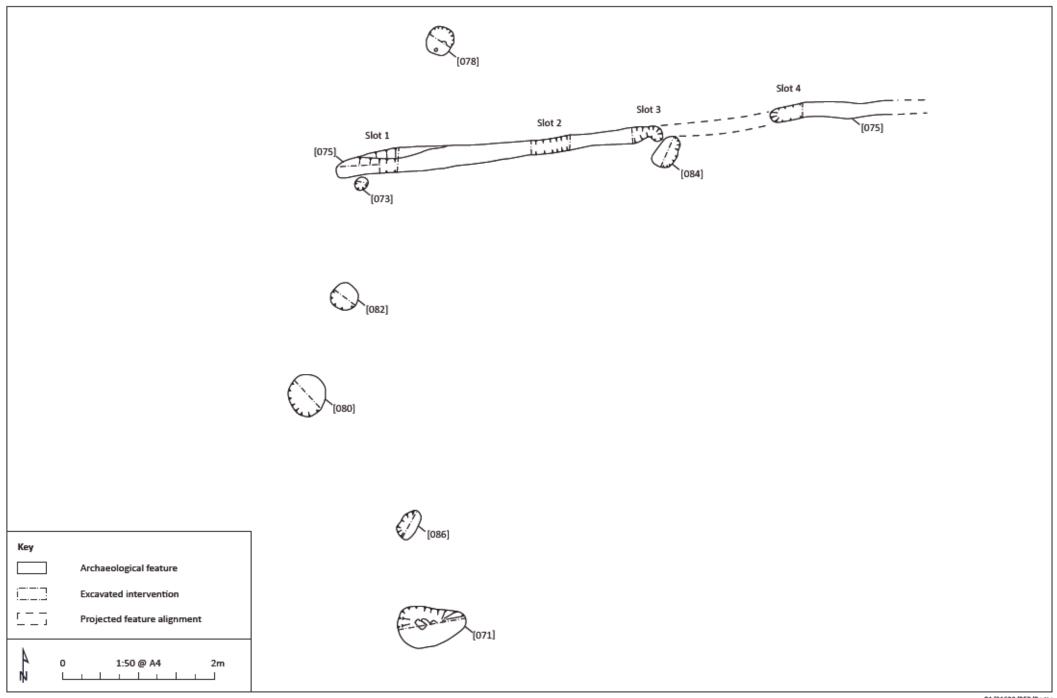


Figure 4: Area Plan of Features B1-B2

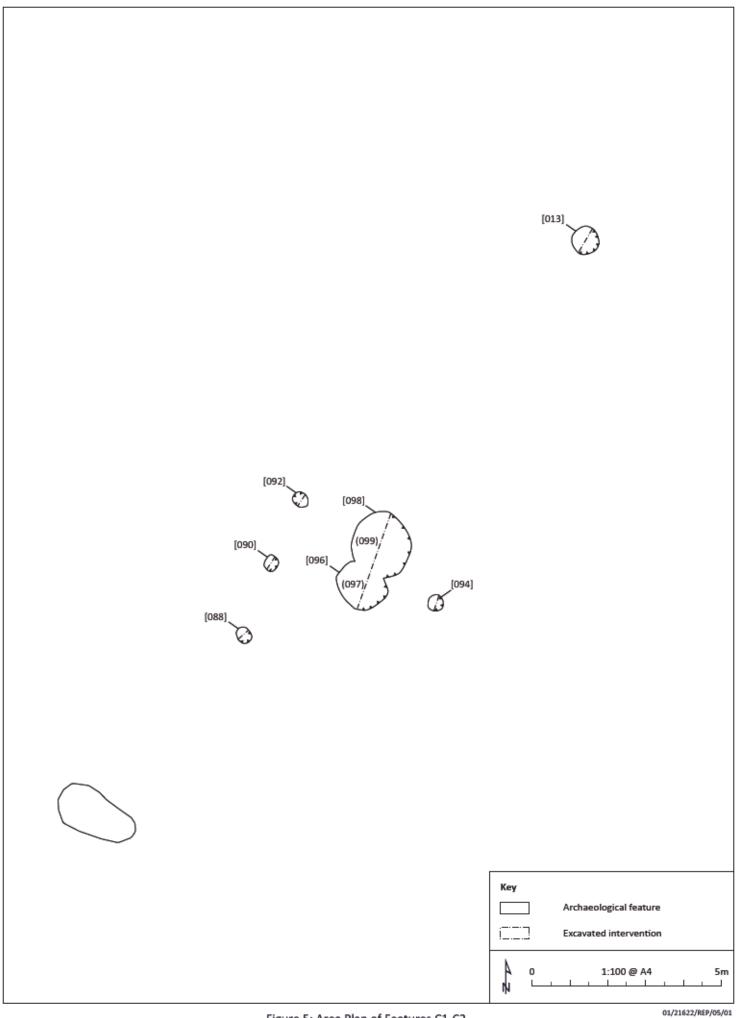
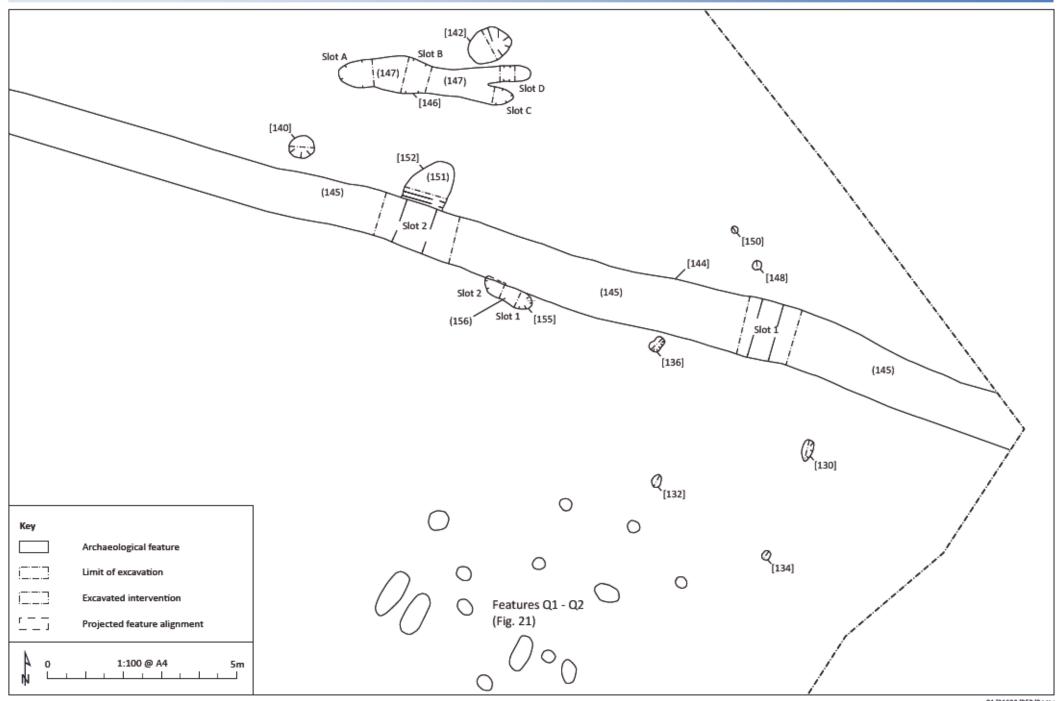


Figure 5: Area Plan of Features C1-C2



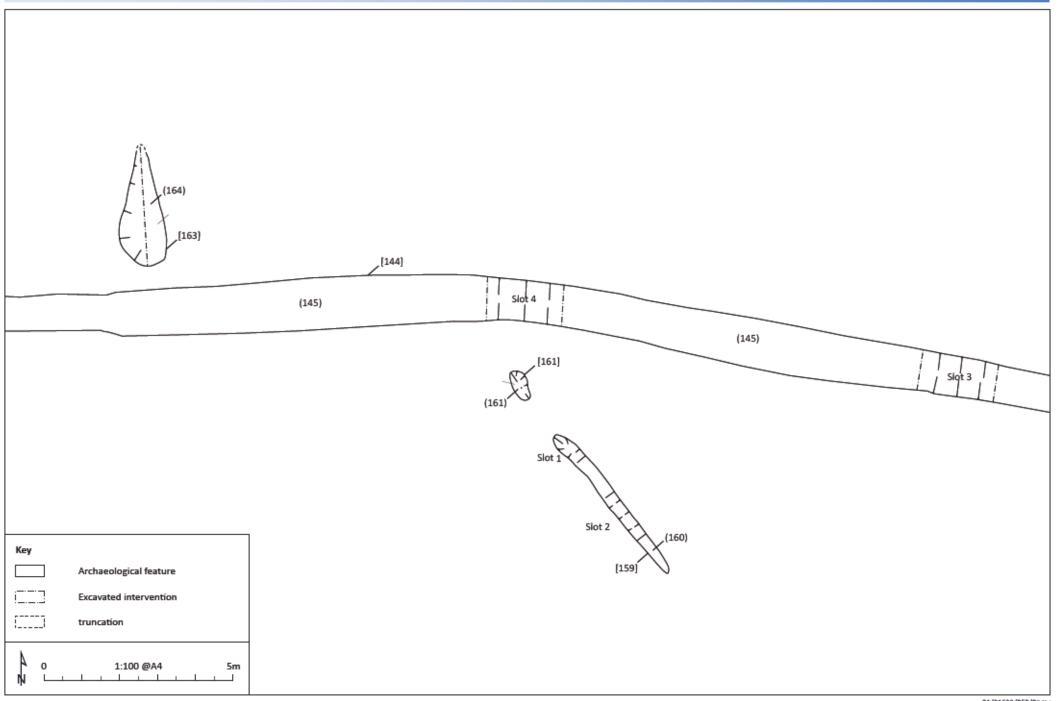


Figure 7: Area Plan of Features E1-E2

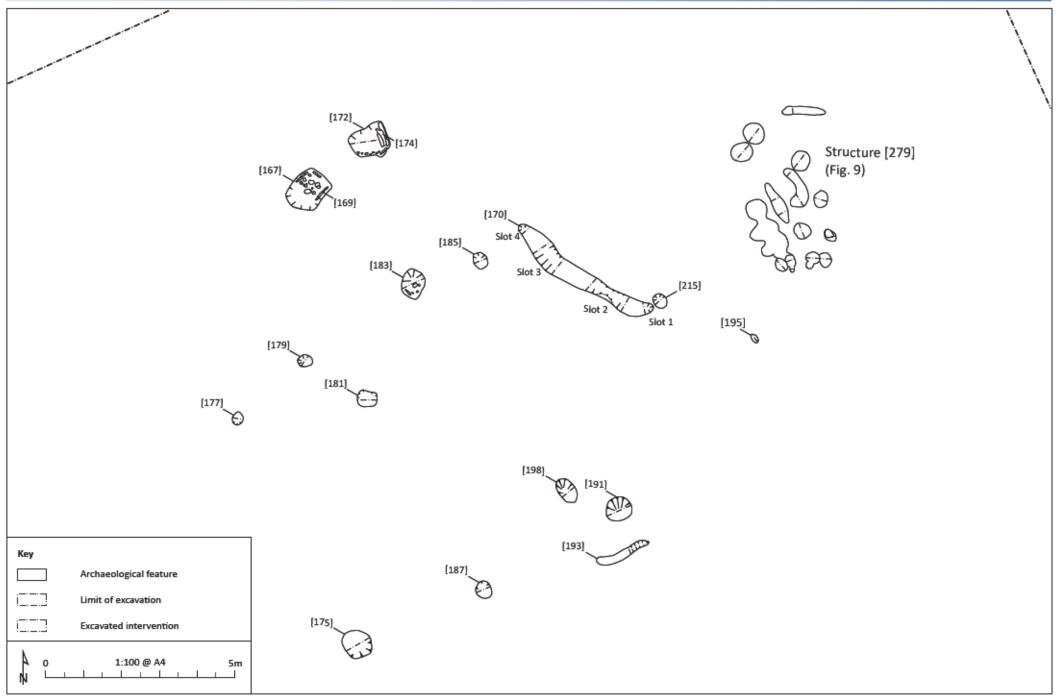


Figure 8: Area Plan of Features F1-F2

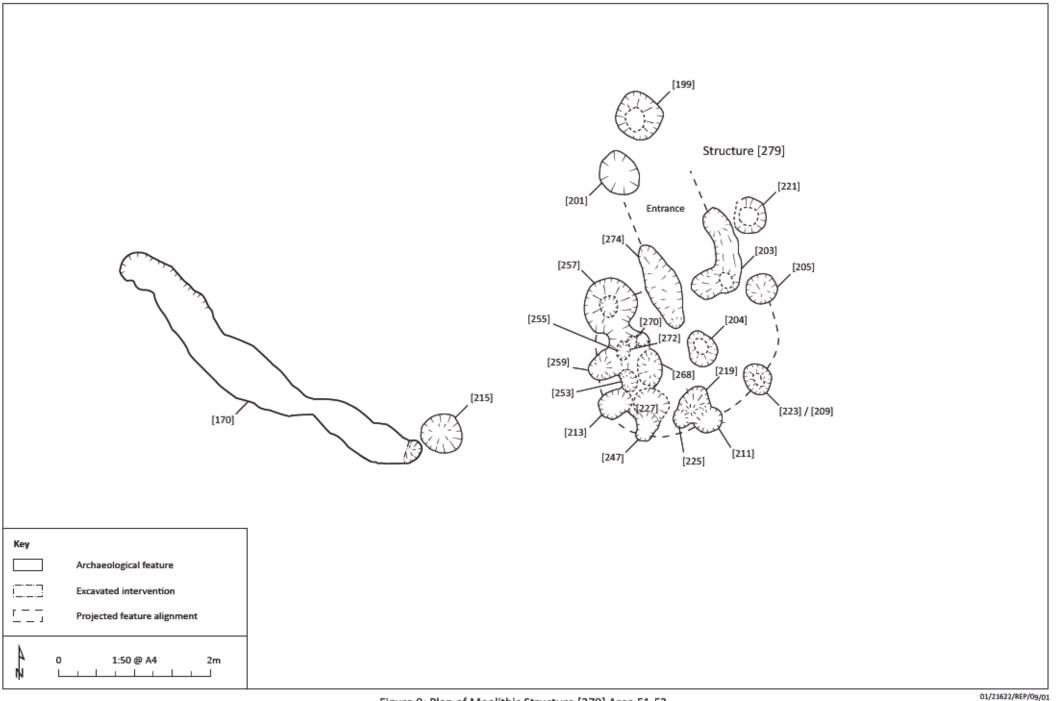
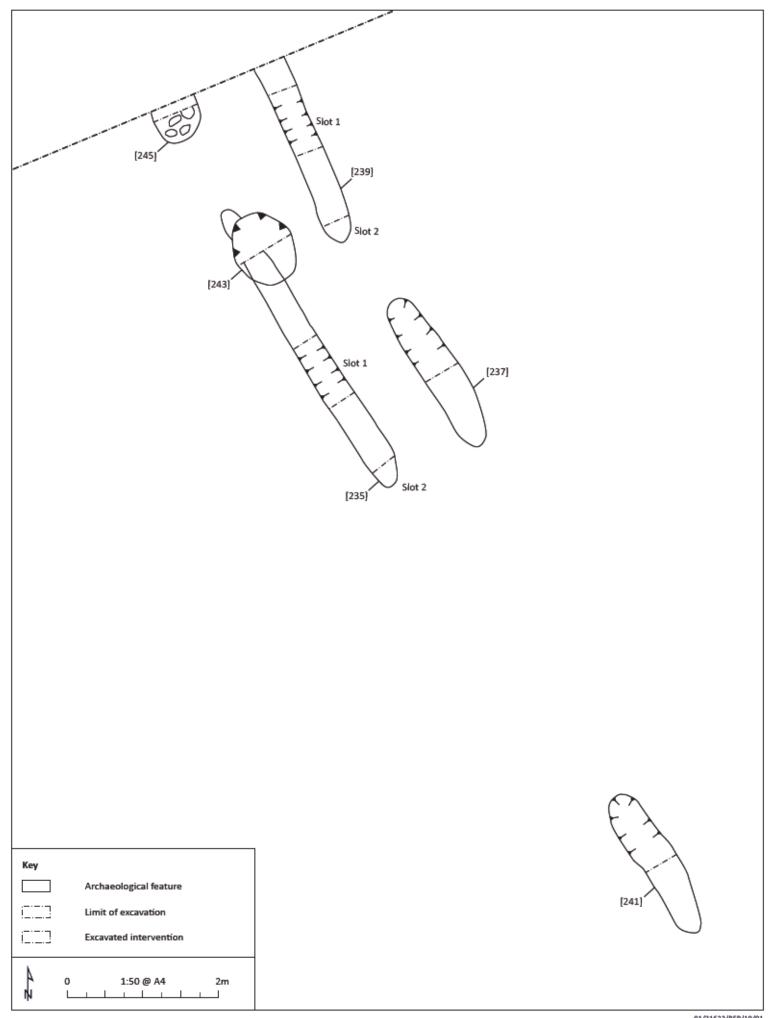


Figure 9: Plan of Meolithic Structure [279] Area F1-F2



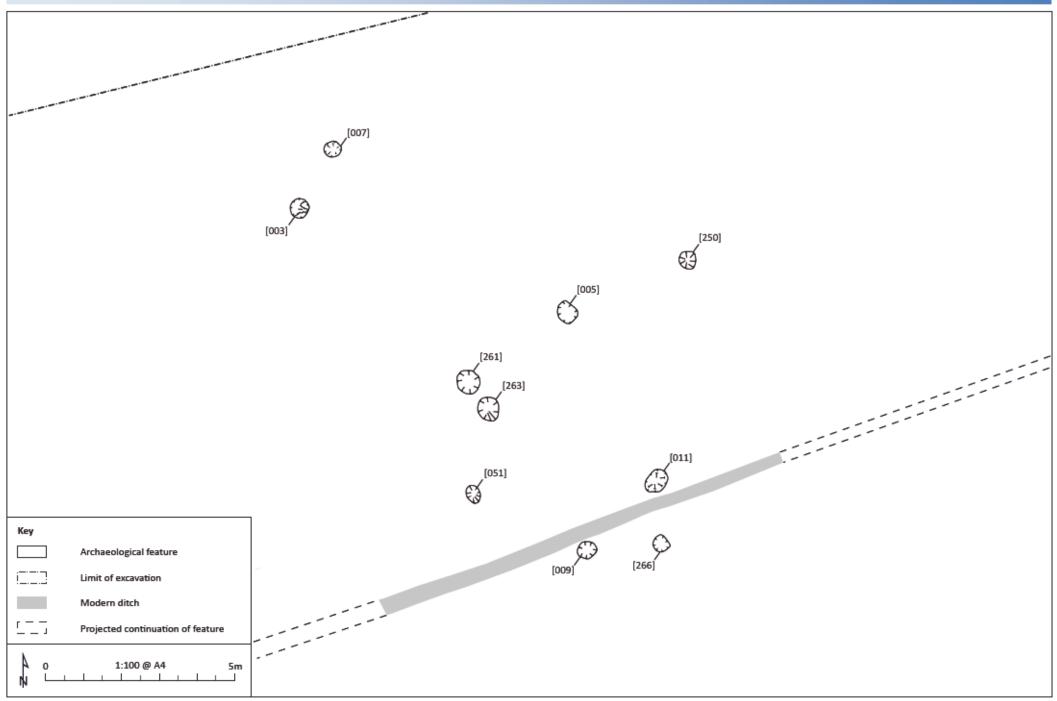


Figure 11: Area Plan of Features H1-H2



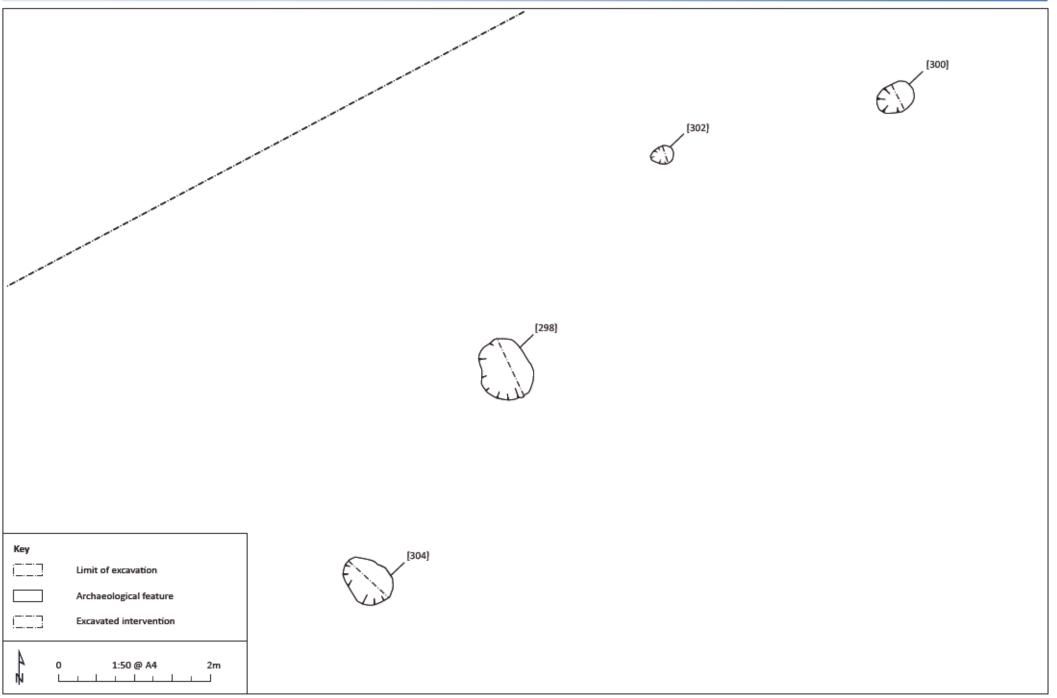


Figure 13: Area Plan of Features J1-J2

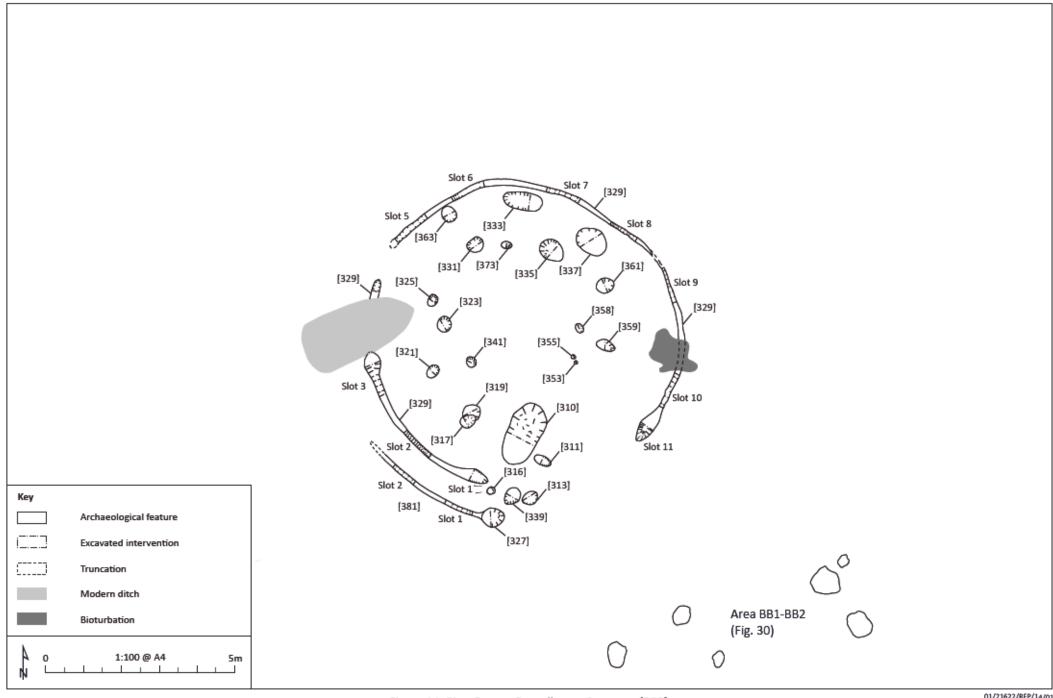


Figure 14: Ring Groove Roundhouse Structure [308]

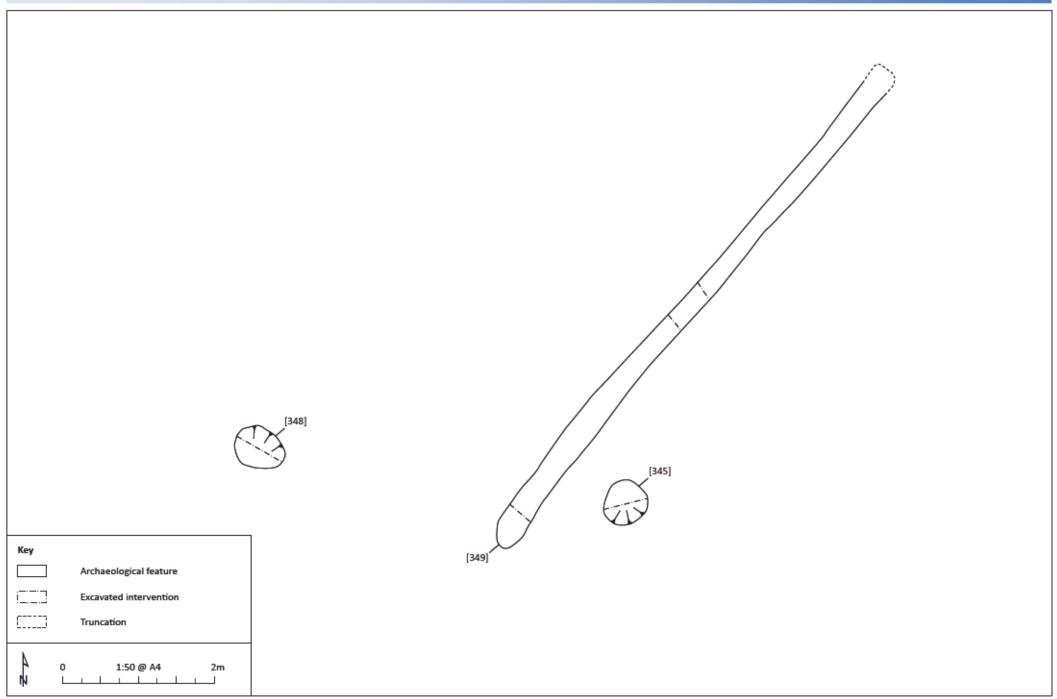


Figure 15: Area Plan of Features L1-L2

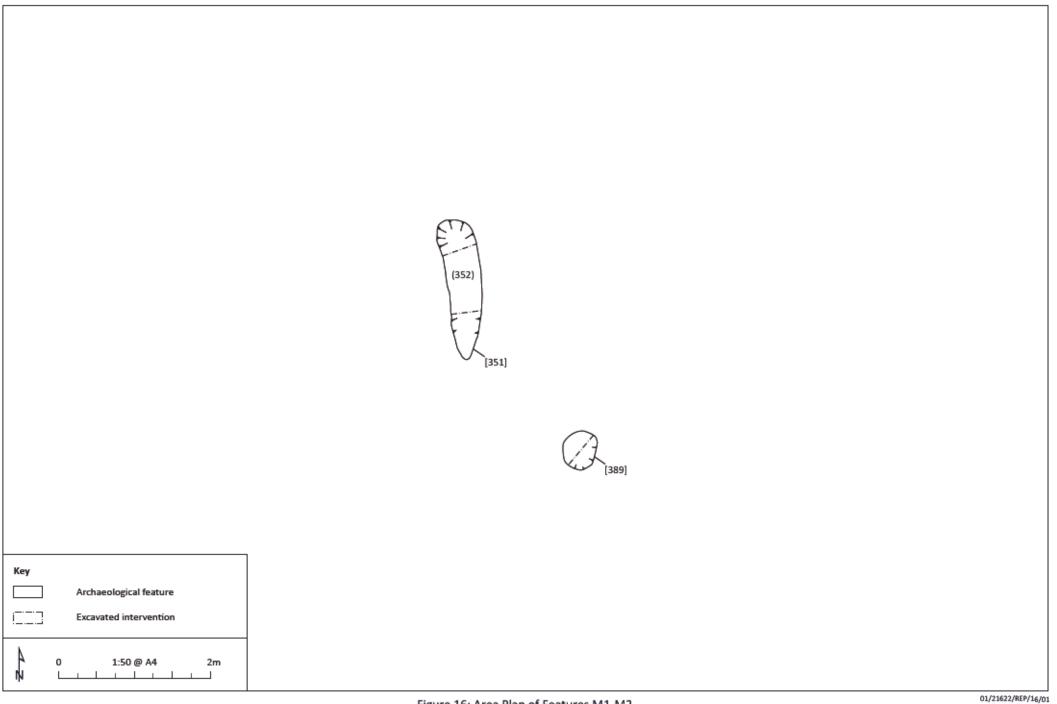


Figure 16: Area Plan of Features M1-M2

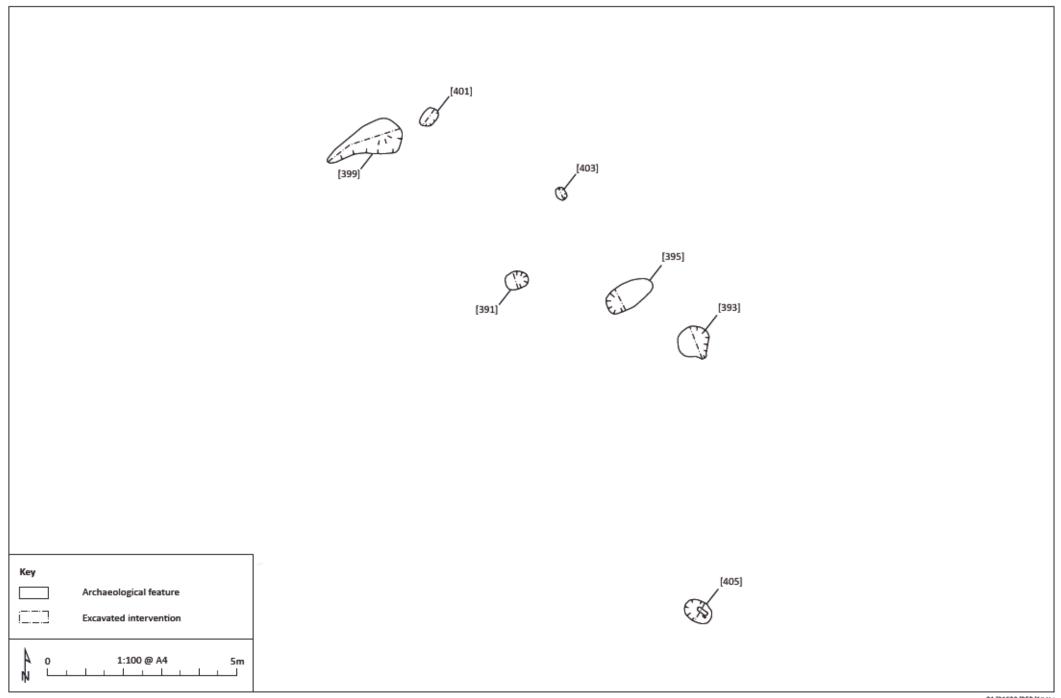


Figure 17: Area Plan of Features N1-N2

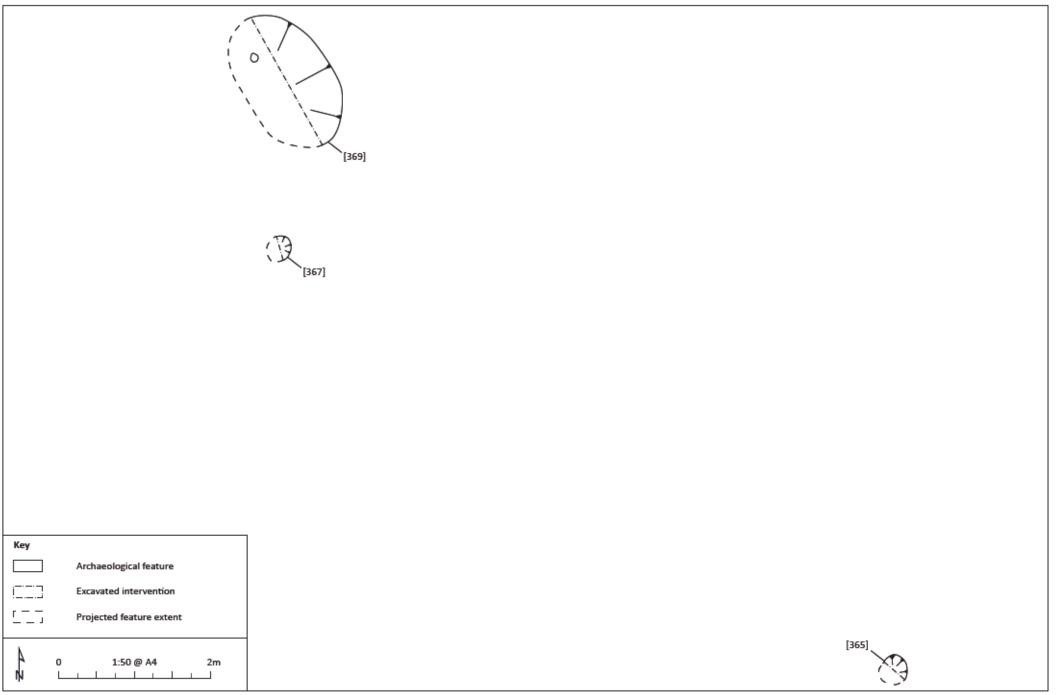


Figure 18: Area Plan of Features O1-O2



Figure 19: Medieval and Post-medieval Field System & Prehistoric Pits Area Plan of Features P1-P4

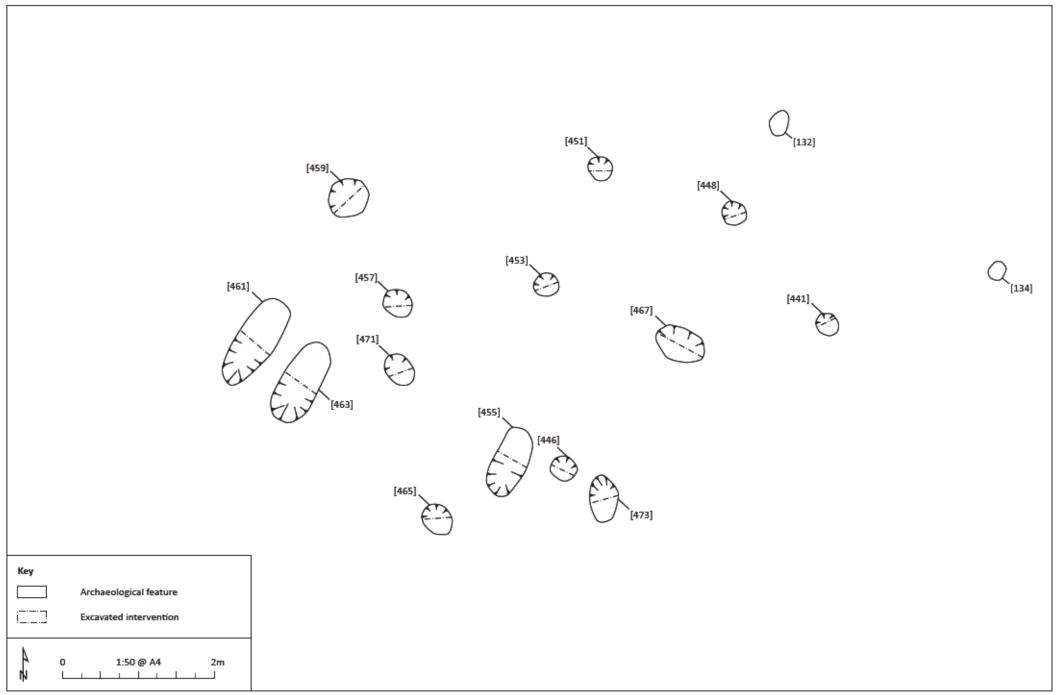
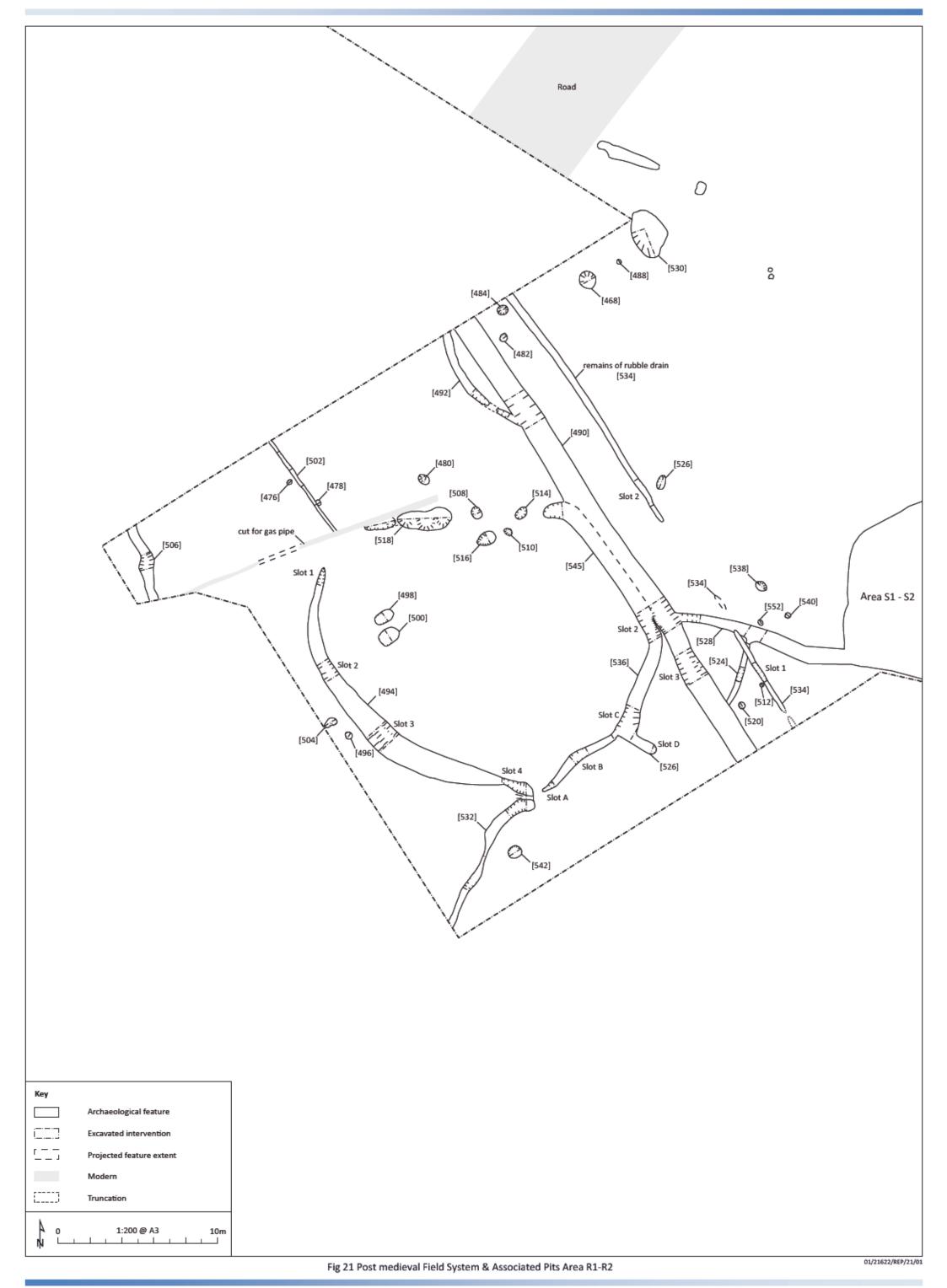
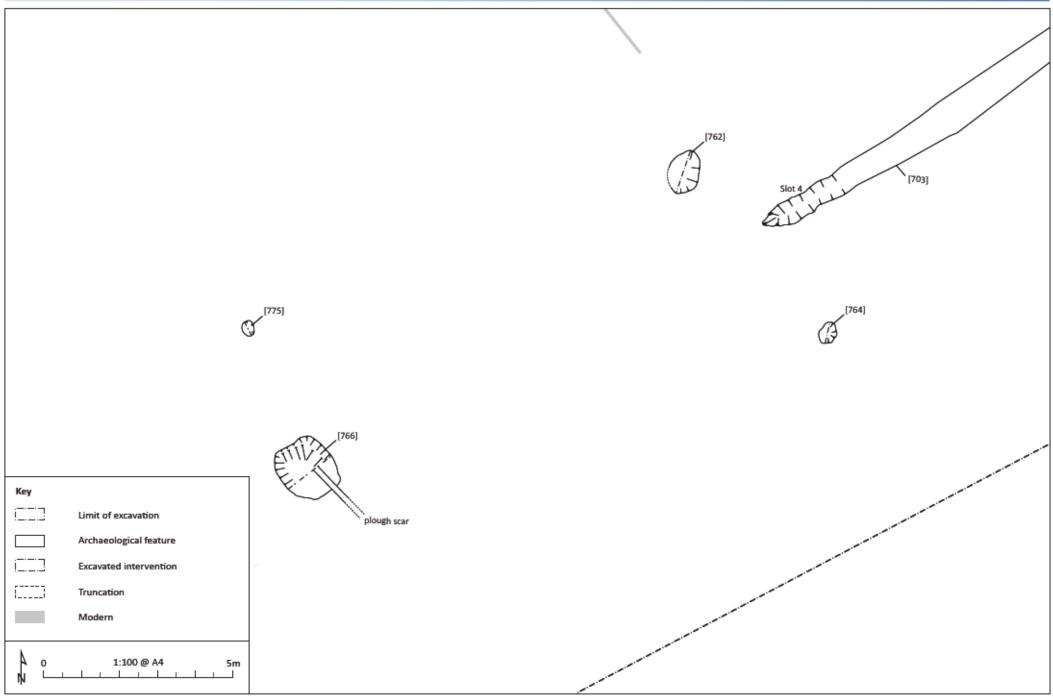
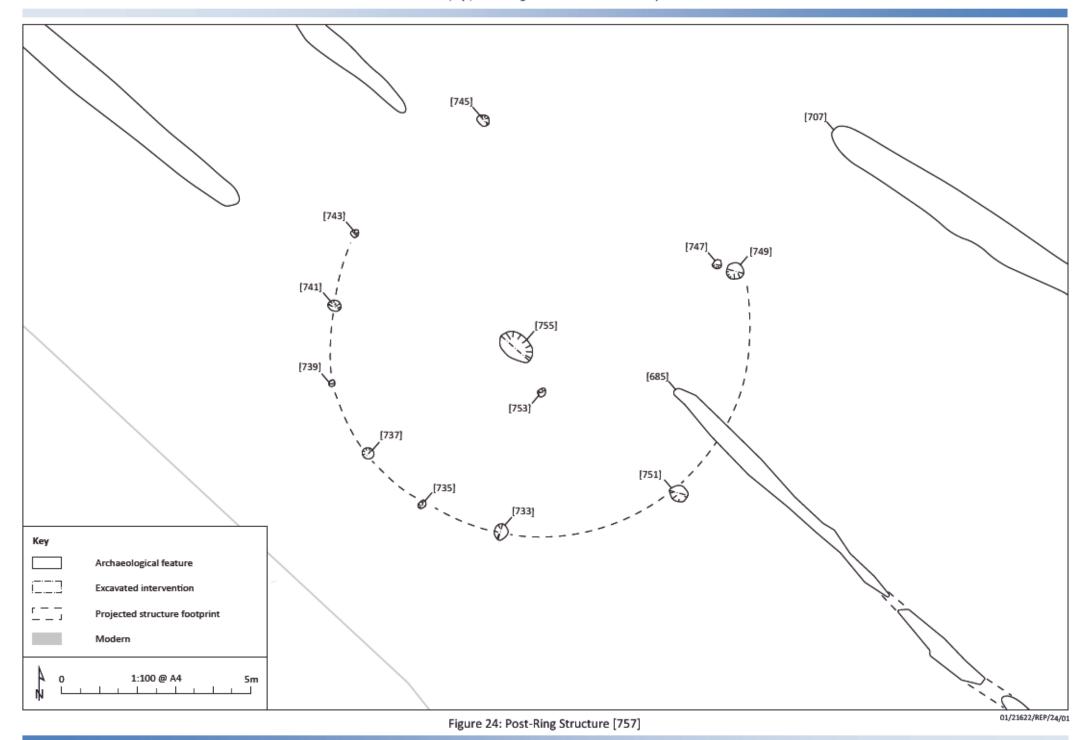


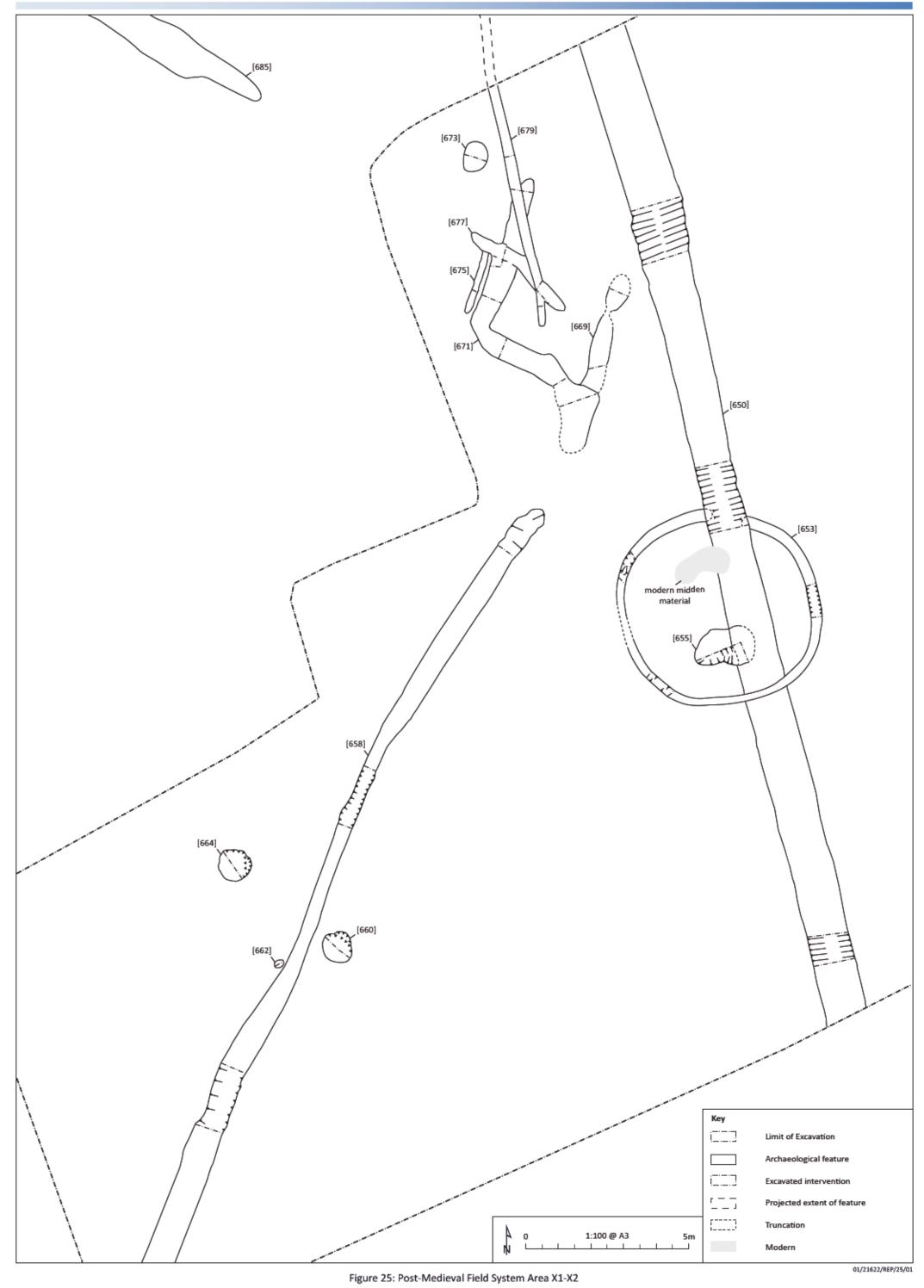
Figure 20: Area Plan of Features Q1-Q2











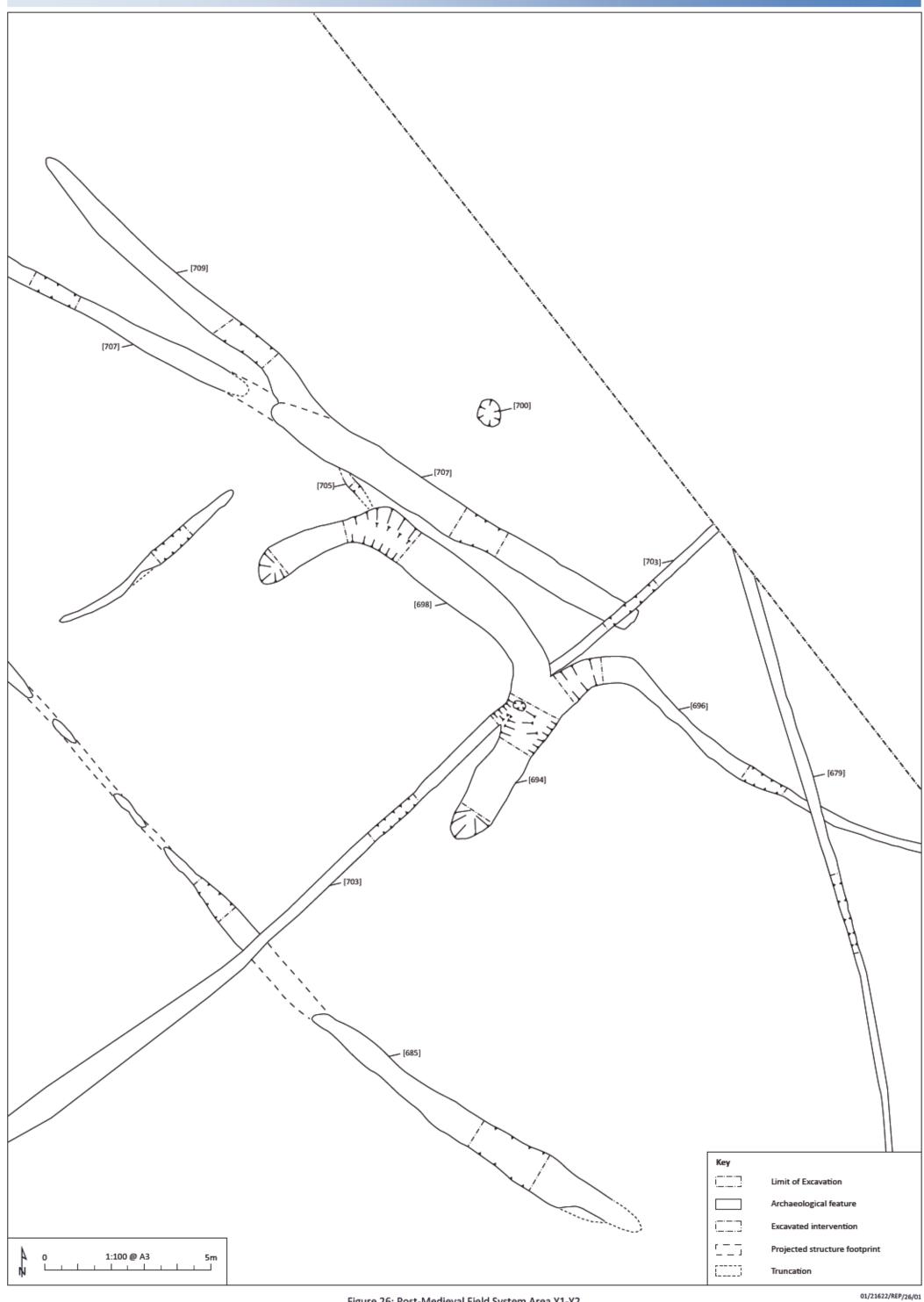


Figure 26: Post-Medieval Field System Area Y1-Y2

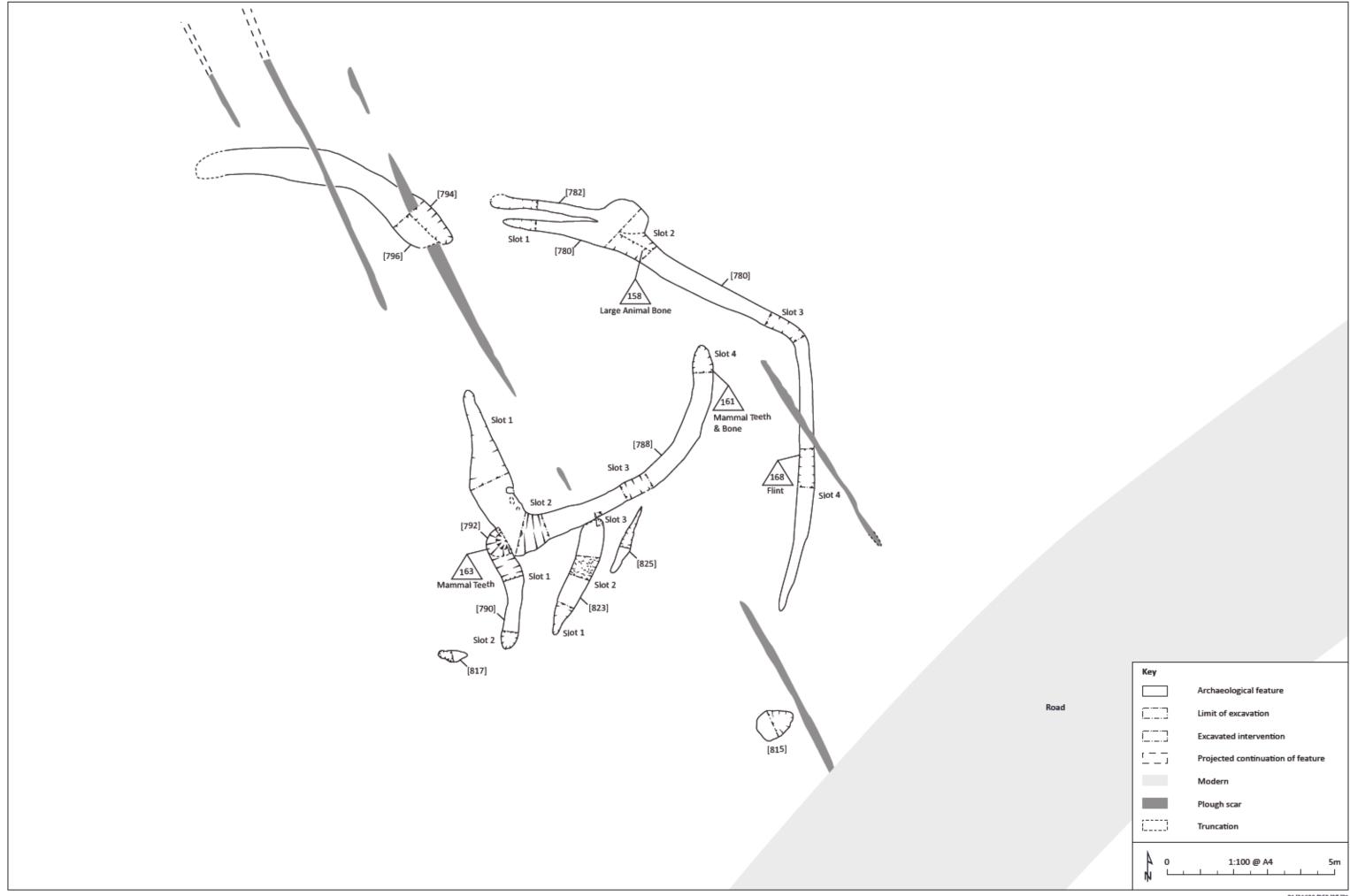


Figure 27: Post-Medieval Field System Area Z1-Z2

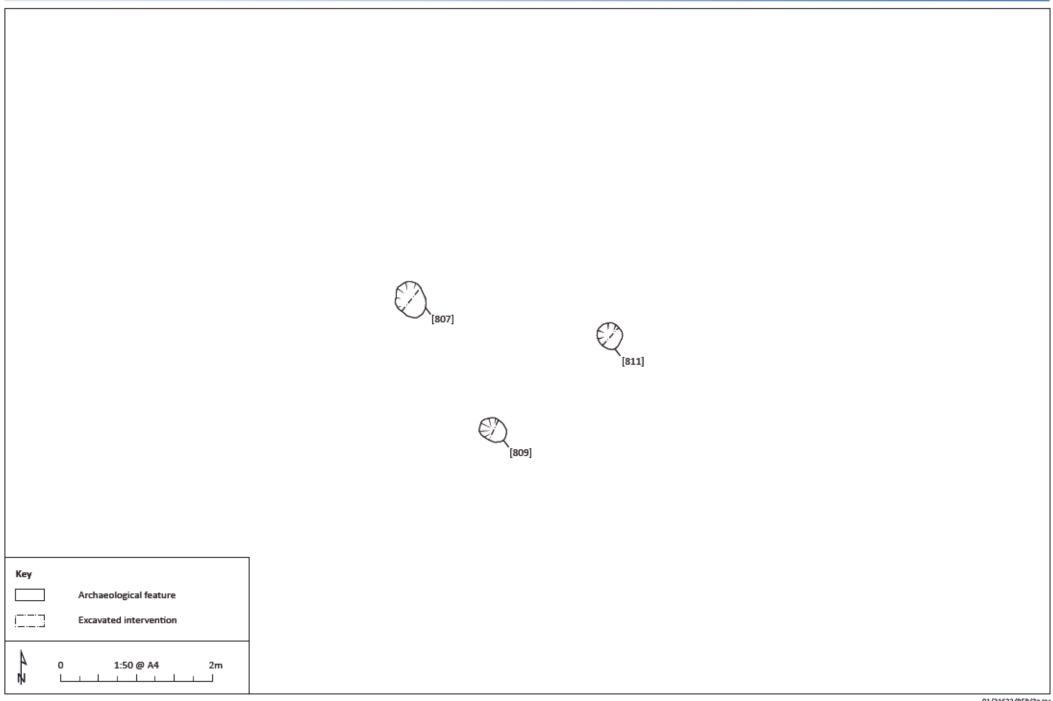


Figure 28: Area Plan of Features AA1-AA2

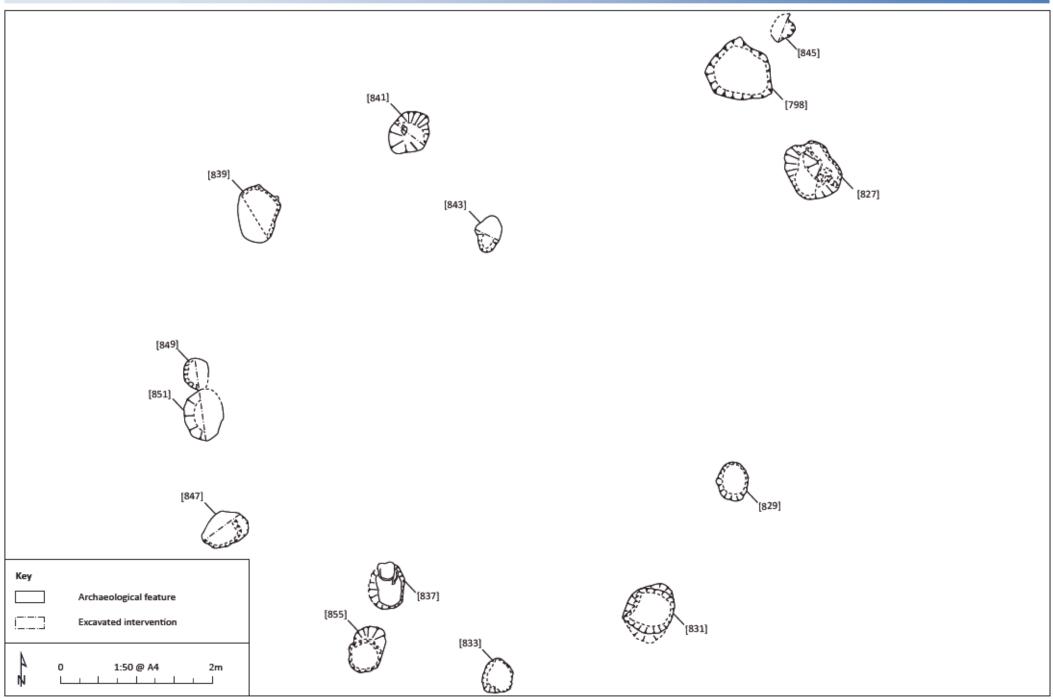
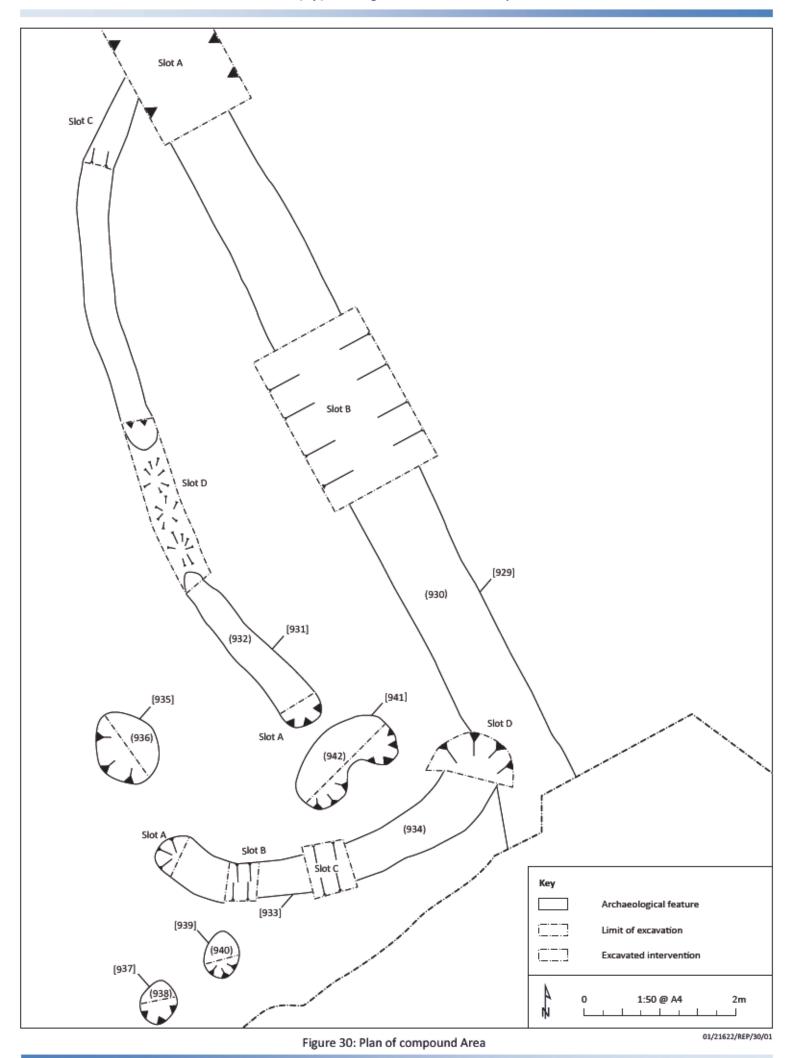


Figure 29: Area Plan of Features BB1-BB2



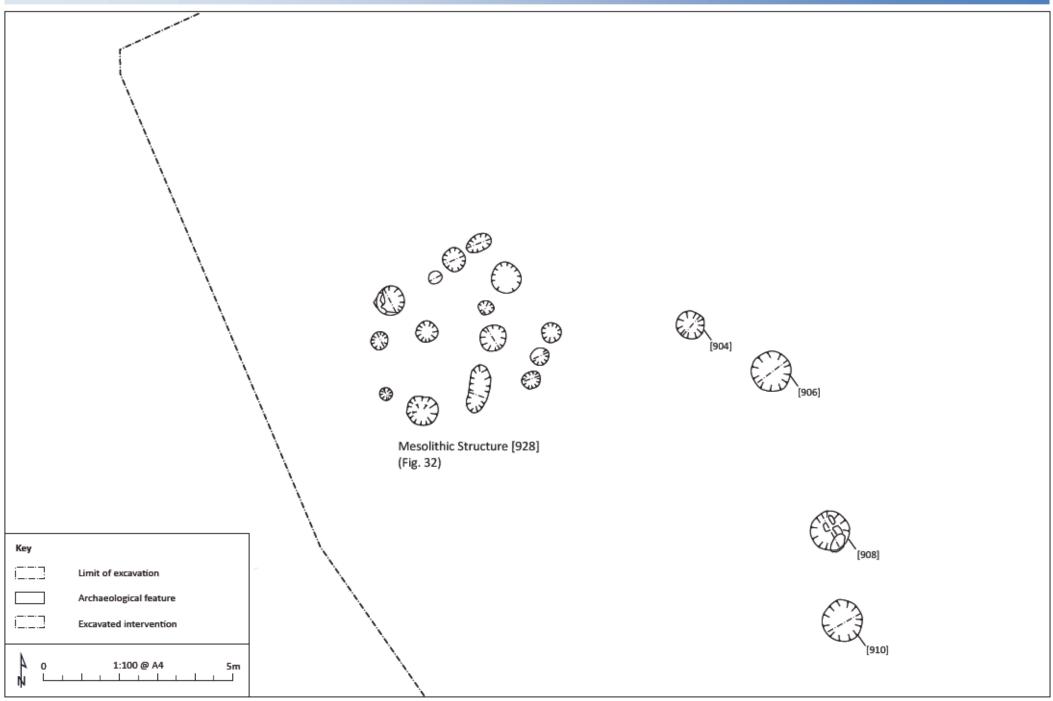


Figure 31: Plan of Mesolithic Structure [928] & Fire pits Compound Area

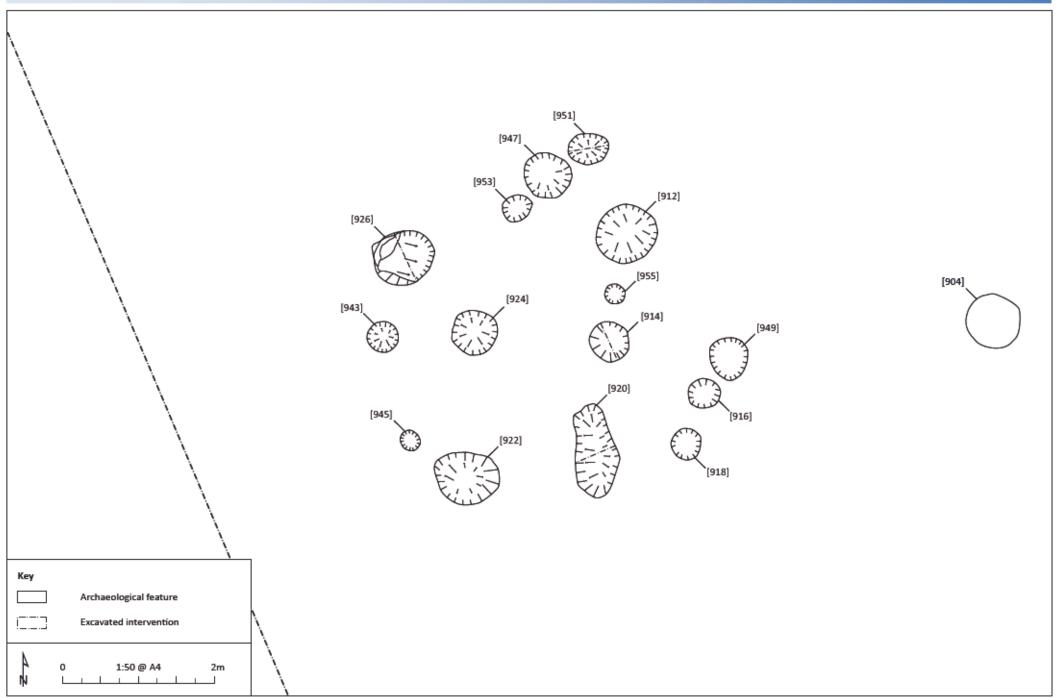
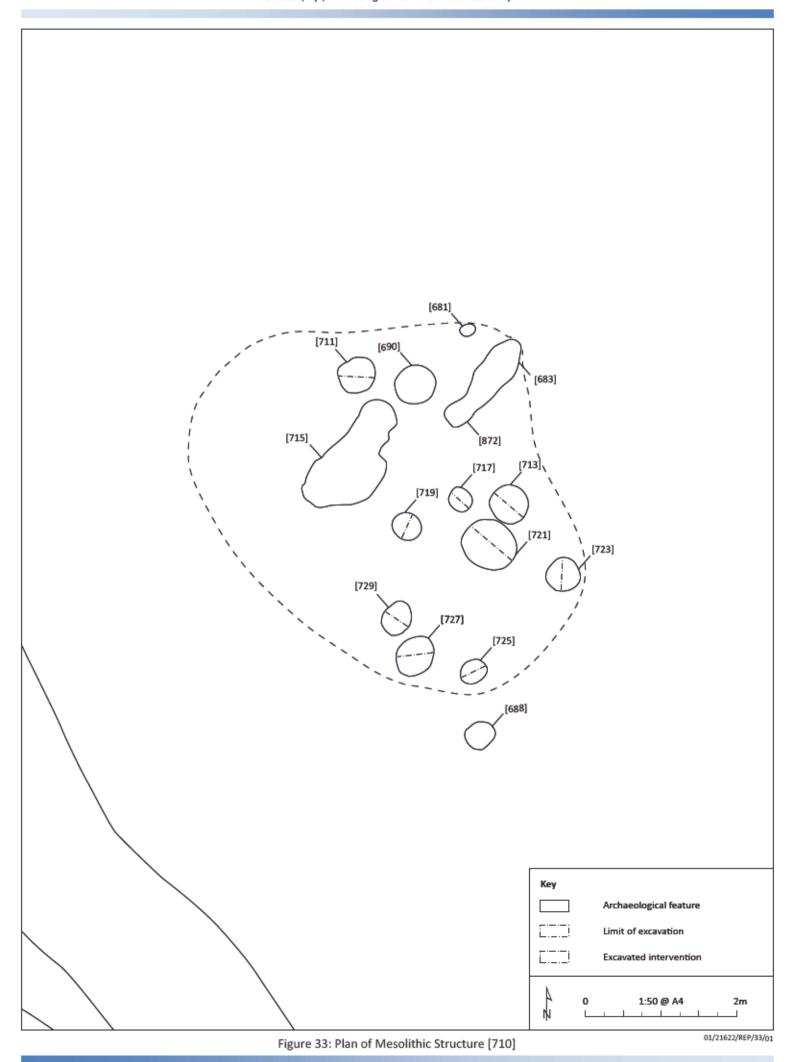


Figure 32: Plan of Mesolithic Structure [928] Compound Area



Greenan, Ayr, Archaeological Works: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

