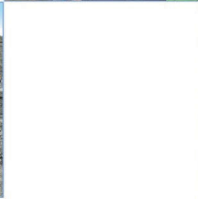
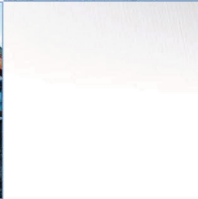
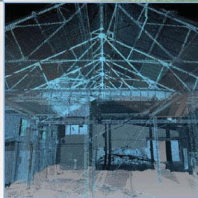
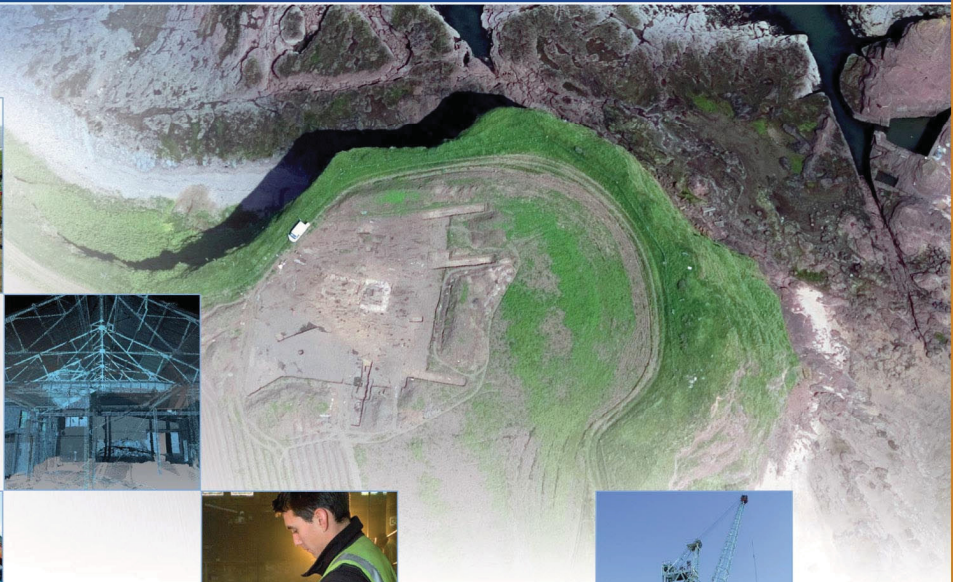
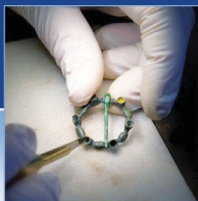


Cults Loch Promontory Crannog: Season Three Data Structure Report

20238-4
29th January 2010



Cults Loch Promontory Crannog: Season Three

Data Structure Report

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National Grid Reference (NGR):	NX 1203 6058
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Abstract

A third season of excavation was carried out at the promontory crannog in Cults Loch, Wigtownshire in August/September 2009. Further evidence for the wooden structures that stood on the promontory was revealed, including a large number of upright posts, jointed horizontal timbers and flooring. Two probable hearths or hearth bases relating to secondary phases of activity were excavated, one in association with well-preserved flooring material and floor timbers. Small finds included a range of coarse stone tools, worked lithics, a blue-white glass bead and a carefully carved wooden ard stilt, found within floor deposits.

1 Structures and Stratigraphy

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A third season of excavation was carried out between 24th August and 11th September 2009 at the promontory crannog known as Cults Loch 3, (NMRS No.: NX16SW 110, NGR: NX 1203 6058) following on from evaluation in 2007 and excavation of the E side of the promontory in 2008. Previous seasons of excavation had established that the promontory is probably largely artificial, with a range of piling and possible planking features lying within in organic layers beneath the superficial stone and gravel layers visible on the promontory. Excavation in 2008 encountered a large number of vertical piles in a swathe running in a broad arc across the N area of trench 3, while fewer piles but many horizontal timbers were recorded in the S area of the trench. The former features were interpreted as a possible palisade ring around the site, while the latter timbers seemed likely to derive from internal structures. An oak and alder pile were radiocarbon-dated to 2240 ± 25 BP (GU-18317) and 2375 ± 30 BP (GU-18318); these dates are comparable to that from a pile (2340 ± 50 BP - GU-12138) retrieved from the waters around the promontory and support the thesis that the promontory was entirely surrounded by a swathe of piling.
- 1.2 Excavation of a narrow slot trench across the neck of the promontory in March 2009 had confirmed that the promontory had been joined to the land with dumps of inorganic gravel, perhaps in a late phase of use since these deposits overlay large vertical posts, which may have comprised the original timber access onto the site. Although these trenches had demonstrated that the well preserved remains of a timber structure had stood on the promontory, the archaeology recorded could not be interpreted as a coherent ground plan, and as such the precise character of this structure was unclear.

2.0 Excavation aims and methodology

- 2.1 Excavation in 2009 aimed to clarify the nature of the building on the promontory, and to elucidate the nature of the possible perimeter palisade found in the N end of trench 3 in 2008. An area totalling 125 m^2 was opened on the W side of the promontory (trench 5), on the opposite side of the 2007 evaluation trench from trench 2. A second slot trench was opened across the neck of the promontory (trench 4), to the north of that excavated in March 2009 (trench 3), aiming to locate the interface between the artificial dumped deposits and the loch shore, which was not located in the March 2009 trench, and to excavate the timbers beneath the inorganic gravel layers (see figure 1). Both trenches were stripped using a JCB to remove the upper inorganic layer [400] and [500], before being excavated by hand. The excavation was carried out by student and local volunteers, under the supervision of AOC staff.

3.0 Excavation results

3.1 *Trench 4b*

- 3.2 Beneath c.25cm of gravelly topsoil [400], trench 4b encountered the same inorganic gravel layers found in trench 4a, c.0.5m in depth and petering out to the NW end of the trench (**plate 1**). These deposits were removed using the JCB, but the peat deposits below could not be excavated due to the rapid flooding of the trench. Unlike in trench 4a, no large timbers were observed below the gravel

layers. Flooding prevented any further work in trench 4b, and the trench yielded no further information than was recorded in trench 4a; the location of the junction between the promontory and the shore has not yet been clearly identified.

3.3 Trench 5

- 3.4 Trench 5 was excavated in six rectangular boxes, referred to as 5A to 5F, with baulks running between (see figure 2).
- 3.5 Under the upper inorganic gravel and pebble layer [500], several large oak timbers were immediately uncovered, lying within amorphous and homogenous peat layers [505] and [506]. Contained within [505] and [506] were several inorganic deposits [501], [502], [503] and [504], appearing as sub-circular spreads of material and containing frequent charcoal and burnt bone inclusions. The largest of these deposits was [501], a yellow-grey sandy gravel containing regular inclusions of charcoal and burnt bone and with a high ash content (see figure 2 and **plate 2**). Within [501] near the centre of the deposit was a discrete patch of greasy black sandy gravel [504], 1.5cm in depth. It seems probable that contexts [501] and [504] represent the location of one or more hearths, with the inorganic sandy gravel deposited on the site surface as a non-flammable base for a fire. Although deposits [502] and [503] were less substantial than [501]/[504], it seems probable that they too relate to hearths on the site. This interpretation of these inorganic gravel spreads is enhanced by a better preserved focal point of activity in the S of the trench, described below.
- 3.6 These hearths do not relate to the primary construction and use of the site, however, and are likely to have been constructed in a period when the original structure had become dilapidated. This is suggested by the presence of fallen structural timbers [507] in trench 5A, which ran into and were overlain by the inorganic gravel [501] (figure 3, **plates 3 & 6**). These timbers were variable in length and diameter, but appeared to represent a fallen structure; one, T9, was mortised at both ends and at several points along its length, suggesting that it had formed part of the superstructure of the site. This impression was heightened by the presence of a vertical post surviving in the mortise at the SW end of the timber. The timbers [507] did not comprise any clearly discernible plan, and it was not obvious whether they represented internal or external walling; it seems most likely that they represent a combination of walling and other fallen superstructural timbers (**plates 4 & 5**). One group of timbers in 5A appeared to represent a substantial wall, however, comprising slumped piling including the large oak pile T47 and large horizontal timbers, including T55. Many of the timbers had been charred on both their upper and lower surfaces indicating that they must have been erect when burnt and collapsed afterwards. A thick spread of large charcoal fragments [513] extended over much of the western edge of the trench and may relate to the same burning event, as may the occasional deposits of fragmented charcoal in the surrounding matrix [505],
- 3.7 In the NE corner of trench 5, a group of horizontal parallel chord-cut timbers [508] were encountered, relatively shallow in comparison to [507], at the base of the stony layer [500]. These almost certainly represent a continuation of the horizontal plank-like timbers encountered in the evaluation trench 1 and may represent further fallen walling. Although it had been anticipated that in trench 5 we would encounter the swathe of piling excavated in the N area of trench 2 in 2008, this was not seen, apart from a concentrated group of oak and non-oak piles [509] of varying diameter in the NW corner of the trench, which may represent the continuation of this feature (**plate 7**). If the interpretation of these piles as a perimeter enclosure or stockade is correct, then trench 5 must have been located almost entirely within the site interior.

- 3.8 All of these timbers were contained within an organic peaty matrix [505] and [506], a mid-brown/orange organic silt containing regular small-medium sized stones and occasional charcoal lumps and burnt bone fragments, which averaged less than 1cm in size. There were also occasional fire-shattered pebbles throughout, averaging 5-8cm in diameter. Several stone finds were recovered from these deposits, including flints (SF10, SF15, SF16) rubbers and hammer stones (SF18, SF7), and a discrete patch of fire-cracked stones [514] was found in the NE corner of area 5B. These deposits are interpreted as the decayed upper layers of the site, subject to the greatest erosion and decay, where organic preservation was relatively poor. The gradient of organic survival on the site, as noted in 2008, was reflected in the distribution of deposit [510], a hard, compact laminar deposit containing visible bark, reeds and brushwood fragments. [510] was found in several places in trench 5, in various states of preservation ranging from near total decomposition of the organic contents to near-complete survival. [510] was typically found in close association with areas interpreted as focal points of activity; a discrete deposit was encountered near [501] in the NW corner of the trench, but also in area 5B, between the upper decayed organic layer [505] and the better preserved organic layer [515] beneath. In areas 5A and 5B deposit [510] overlay timbers [507] and as such appeared to relate to the secondary phase of activity indicated by the hearth deposits described above.
- 3.9 Aside from in area 5A, the distribution of horizontal timbers in most of trench 5 did not appear to represent any coherent structure, and seem most likely to relate to collapsed superstructure; several timbers in area 5D had mortise joints at their ends. The distribution of piling was similarly uninterpretable, and the few vertical posts encountered in the areas south of 5A and 5D were insubstantial, more suggestive of internal divisions than substantial external walls. Very little sense could be made of the timbers excavated in areas 5B and 5E, other than the impression that many of them seemed likely to be fallen superstructure rather than laid flooring. Several vertical posts in 5B had Y-shaped ends, suggesting that this was how they supported cross-beams in the upper areas of the building. The peaty matrix [515] surrounding the timbers in area 5E was very charcoal rich, and lay beneath the large deposit of charcoal lumps [513] described above (figure 4, section 3). None of the timbers in this area had been burnt and there was no ash which suggests that this deposit did not represent in situ burning but was dumped debris deriving from a conflagration. A saddle quern (SF13) was found in area 5E in deposit [512] (**plate 8**).
- 3.10 Aside from the probable hearth bases in 5A and 5D, the other main area which seems likely to represent a focal point of activity was located to the S of trench 5, in areas B, C and F. This area was only partially excavated during this season so some of the inter-relationships between the deposits are not fully resolved. A mound of coarse sandy gravel [520]/[523] containing regular lenses of ash and charcoal, at least 0.25 m high was laid over horizontal timbers [525] which included large logs, small round wood and plank-like timbers (**plate 15**). Overlying this mound and around its edges a surface of timbers, [519], was laid down within a roughly rectangular framework, at least 1.8 m wide (figure 3, **plate 9**). The timbers in [519] were mainly planks, several of which had redundant mortise joints and notches, suggesting that they had been recycled, and the surfaces of many of the planks were charred. This framework lay at an angle down one side of the mound and this slippage must have occurred in antiquity because attempts had been made to level out the surface. Directly overlying [519] was a thin charcoal-rich deposit [522] which in turn lay beneath another surface of timbers, [518], which had been laid over and at right angles to the planks of [519]. [518] consisted of roundwood logs around 2m in length and up to 0.1 m in diameter. They lay parallel to and abutted a large oak log, T1 which thus appears to define the northwestern edge of the complex (figure 3, **plate 9**).
- 3.11 Surrounding this central complex was a very well preserved organic deposit [521], very similar to the laminar deposit [510] encountered elsewhere but much better preserved. It consisted primarily of leaf litter, bark and reeds in which individual holly leaves, seed pods, bracken fronds and other plant

remains were clearly identifiable. In several places there were discrete lenses of charcoal and burning within [521], and small fragments of burnt bone were also observed. Its highly laminar nature suggests that it was flooring material. To the N of the oak log, T1, in area 5B the deposit lay directly over large planks such as T53. Several cut stakes were driven into the deposit, with the upper parts chopped off at the level of the top of the deposit. Lying within [521] and between the cut stakes was a well-preserved carved wooden object, probably an ard stilt (SF22) (figure 3, **plates 11 & 12**). To the S and W of the central complex the extent of [521] was not fully exposed. It clearly overlies the gravel mound [520] in this area and extends at least 3m S from the mound. It could be seen extending to the W and on the final day of excavation stakes were beginning to emerge in this area, perhaps defining its perimeter and hinting at a superstructure.

- 3.12 Another extensive deposit of yellow-grey sandy gravel, [511], very similar to the hearth base deposits in areas A and D and containing regular thick lenses of ash, charcoal and burnt bone (figure 4, sections 2 and 5), lay over the leaf litter floor [521] and over the mound of the central complex. It lay over the oak log, T1 and at this junction there were numerous lenses of ashy deposits with frequent inclusions of charcoal and burnt bone (**plate 10**). [511] was overlain by a firm peaty deposit [517] which contained charcoal and burnt bone. A blue/white glass bead (SF19) was recovered from [517].

3.13 *Lower levels*

- 3.14 Sondages cut in areas 5A and 5D showed that, as observed in 2008, the timbers encountered on the surface of the site were not indicative of the ground plan of the structure and the piles observed lying horizontal or at a shallow angle at the surface were often bent and deformed through decay, and as such it is very difficult to discern ground plans from the excavated timbers. The timbers in the lower levels of the site, [526] observed in the sondage cut in 5A were large, with substantial piles up to 40cm in diameter fallen outwards towards the NW of the site. Although a limited area of these lower levels was uncovered, it appeared that these piles may have been arranged in lines, radiating out from the centre of the site (see **plates 13 and 14**). As in area 5B, several of these piles had Y-shaped ends (**plate 14**).
- 3.15 Coring in transects across the site indicated that the lowest levels excavated in the 5A sondage were only c. 0.5m above the loch bed, indicating that these lower layers were close to the original foundation of the site. Below the timbers was a homogenous brown peat, the uppermost layers of which contained numerous wood chips and the occasional horizontal timber.

4.0 **Small finds**

- 4.1 Small finds were largely restricted to coarse stone tools- several hammer stones, rubbers and grinders were recovered- the majority from the decayed upper levels of the site. A range of worked flints was also recovered, most of them fresh and sharp; there can be little doubt that these were in use on the site and casual incorporation from elsewhere seems improbable. The presence of significant quantities of worked lithic tools tallies with the finds from the Whitefield Loch excavations, as well as from other Iron Age and even Early Historic excavations in the area, suggesting that flint use may have been important in the later prehistoric period and later in Wigtownshire. This aspect of Iron Age material culture in SW Scotland deserves further attention.
- 4.2 A more conventional Iron Age find was the blue-white glass bead, SF19 recovered from deposits overlying the floor in area 5C. Glass beads, like the shale bracelet fragment found in 2008 are among the few finds that can be said to be typical of Iron Age crannogs in SW Scotland, with several examples found during antiquarian investigations in the 19th century (e.g. from Dowalton Loch (Stuart 1866; Munro 1885), Rough Loch, Airyolland (Munro 1899) and Castle Loch, Mochrum (Raleigh-

Radford 1951)). Precise classification of the bead is still pending, but initial inspection would suggest that it belongs to Guido's pre-Roman classes, similarly to other local examples, and as such does not contradict the current dating for the site based on radiocarbon assays.

- 4.3 Perhaps the most notable find from the 2009 excavations is the wooden object found in context [521]. The object is almost certainly the stilt from a composite ard, although it is fresh and seems to have never been used. This fact, combined with its location, beneath the flooring deposits surrounding the hearth in area 5C strongly suggests that the item was never intended for actual use as an ard, and may well have been placed beneath the floor as a symbolic gesture. Such votive offerings beneath domestic occupation surfaces were apparently common in Iron Age structures and links to agriculture seem to have been important in the character of these deposits. The Cults ard stilt bears a remarkable similarity- both in form, size and context- to the one recovered from beneath floor timbers of Milton Loch crannog (Piggott 1953), hinting that the practice may have been common in later prehistoric society in SW Scotland.

5.0 Provisional Interpretation

5.1 *Structures and phasing*

- 5.2 It is clear that the archaeology in trench 5 derives from several phases of use on the site. The superimposition of the gravel hearth bases in the north end of the trench over timbers which probably relate to the upper parts of a building (i.e. not foundation or flooring) indicates that hearths were constructed on the site after at least some of the original construction had become dilapidated and incorporated into the foundation levels of the site. This construction may have been abandoned after the conflagration hinted at by the charred surfaces of many of the timbers and the extensive charcoal deposit [513]. As noted above, several timbers in areas 5A and 5D had mortised ends, though only T9 had a tenon that appeared to be in-situ. The lack of in-situ jointing in the mortised timbers would support the interpretation that they had fallen to their current positions, or been moved out of their intended locations and reused as flooring beneath a secondary phase of activity. This certainly seems to be the most likely explanation for the worked and jointed timbers in area 5C, re-used as flooring planks around the gravel hearth base. Although it would be difficult to demonstrate that these timbers came from an earlier phase of construction on the same site (they could equally have been scavenged from a dilapidated structure elsewhere) this does seem the most probable source.
- 5.3 Other timbers displayed features which also suggest the use of recycled timber, or the superimposition of occupation levels on ruinous earlier structures. As noted above, some timbers displayed Y-branched ends, suggesting a supporting function in the superstructure of a building. Several timbers, however, displayed features that seem likely to relate to some structural purpose but which could not easily be explained: five or six horizontal timbers in areas 5A and 5B had notches cut across them, not quite halfway through the timber. It seems improbable that these cuts could be structurally important if the timbers were upright and would have weakened upright posts; it may be more likely that they secured horizontal cross timbers in their horizontal position, perhaps as part of a floor.

- 5.4 The gravel mound in area 5c may prove to have been the central focus of activity on the crannog and the sequence of deposits around the mound suggest that there may have been at least two phases of activity there, the first consisting of the complex of gravel mound [520], timber surfaces [518] and [519] and plant litter floor [521], and the second consisting of the resurfacing of this area with the gravel spread [511]. It is thus possible that [511] is part of the same phase of activity which saw the gravel spreads [501], [502] and [503] laid down in the N of the site.
- 5.5 Multiple phases of hearth construction and refurbishment are also apparent in the north end of trench 5, where the gravel deposit [501] overlies the jointed timbers [507] that seem likely to have comprised superstructure. Although [501] should therefore relate to a relatively late phase of activity on the site, the structural timbers resembling a wall, comprising the oak piling and alder horizontals, overlay [501], suggesting that although [501] may be later than timbers [507] there may have been upstanding structure on the site at the time of this secondary activity.
- 5.6 *Further work*
- 5.7 A further season of excavation is scheduled for summer 2010. During this phase it is hoped that the extents of the activity area investigated in area 5C may be fully examined, and evidence for the nature of the superstructure of this building located.

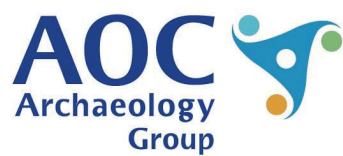
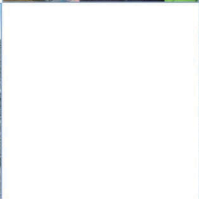
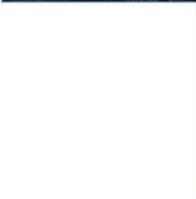
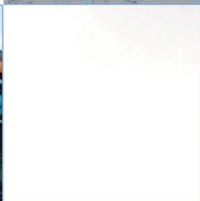
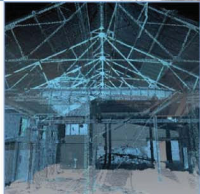
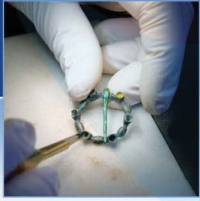
6.0 Excavation on Cults Loch II

- 6.1 In addition to the trenches described above, a small exploratory trench was excavated on the small natural island in the marshy area to the NE end of Cults Loch, known as Cults II. It has previously been suggested that the island is artificial, although coring in 2008 had established that it was natural. Owing to its proximity to the other sites, however, it seemed highly likely that the island had been used in prehistory, and as such a small, L-shaped exploratory trench measuring 11m by 4m was excavated over the S slope of the island. The trench encountered very little to suggest that the island had been used, although a small cut feature measuring approximately 0.4m by 0.4m and 0.3m deep was clipped by the W edge of the trench, possibly a small pit or posthole (**plate 16**). As such, although there was very little archaeology in the exploratory trench, the presence of further archaeological features cannot be ruled out.

Cults Loch Promontory Crannog, Season Three

Data Structure Report

Section 2: Registers



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Plate 1: Gravel deposits overlying peats on the neck of the promontory, in trench 4.



Plate 2: Inorganic gravel deposit [501], containing burning deposit [504], from the E. It seems likely that these deposits derive from a hearth relating to a secondary phase of use on the site.



Plate 3: Timbers [507] overlain by hearth base deposit [501] in area 5A, from the E.



Plate 4: Timbers [507] after removal of [501], in area 5A, from the W.



Plate 5: Timbers [507]; lattice of timbers and SW end of timber 9 with vertical post in tenon joint, from SW.

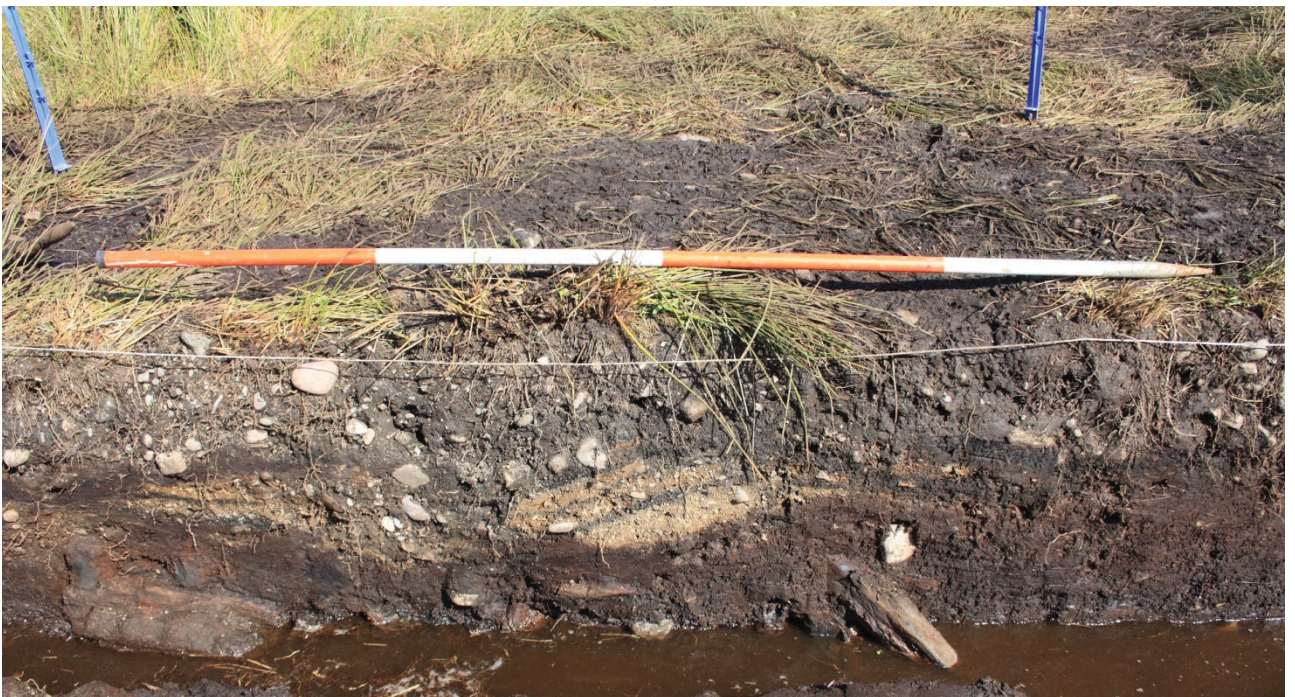


Plate 6: Ashy gravel deposit [501] overlying organic peat and timbers [507], S-facing baulk of 5A, from S.



Plate 7: Area B, with timbers [507] and piles [509] at bottom left, from W.



Plate 8: Saddle quern (SF13) in deposit [512], from W.



Plate 9: Floor timbers and large oak timber around hearth deposits in area 5C, from NW.



Plate 10: Ashy gravel deposit [511] overlying roundwood timbers [518] in area 5B/5C, from E.



Plate 11: Deposit [521] surrounding timbers in area 5B, with ard stilt (SF22) in situ, from W.



Plate 12: Ard stilt (SF22) in situ, from W. Note cut stakes driven into surrounding deposit.



Plate 13: Piling in a line, radiating from the centre of the site in lower levels of area 5A, from NE.



Plate 14: Fallen pile with Y-shaped end in lower levels of area 5A.



Plate 15: the mound of coarse sandy gravel [520]/[523] in Area 5C after removal of timbers [518].



Plate 16: Small cut feature in exploratory trench on Cults Loch II.

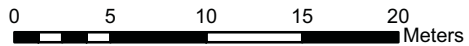
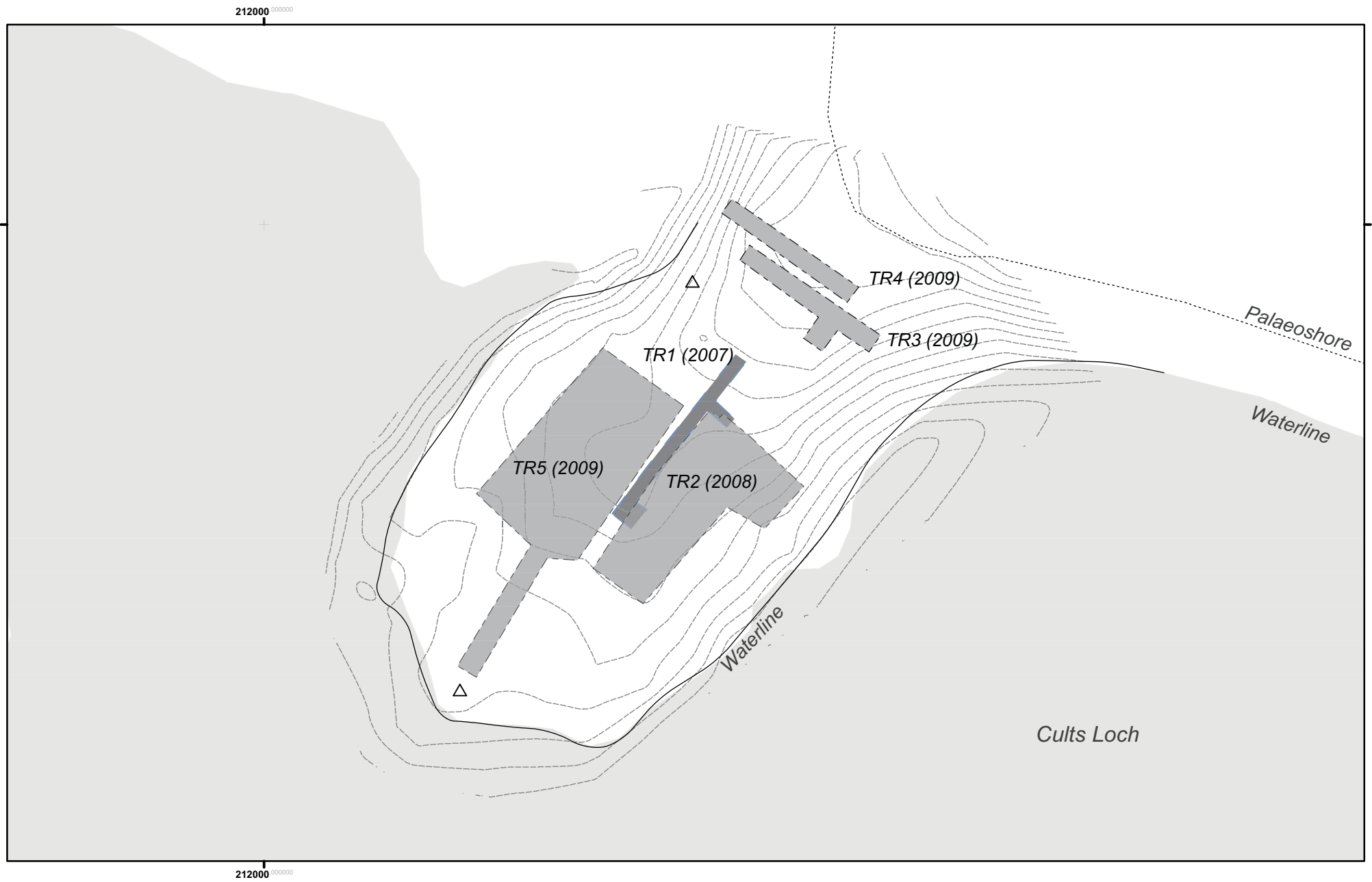
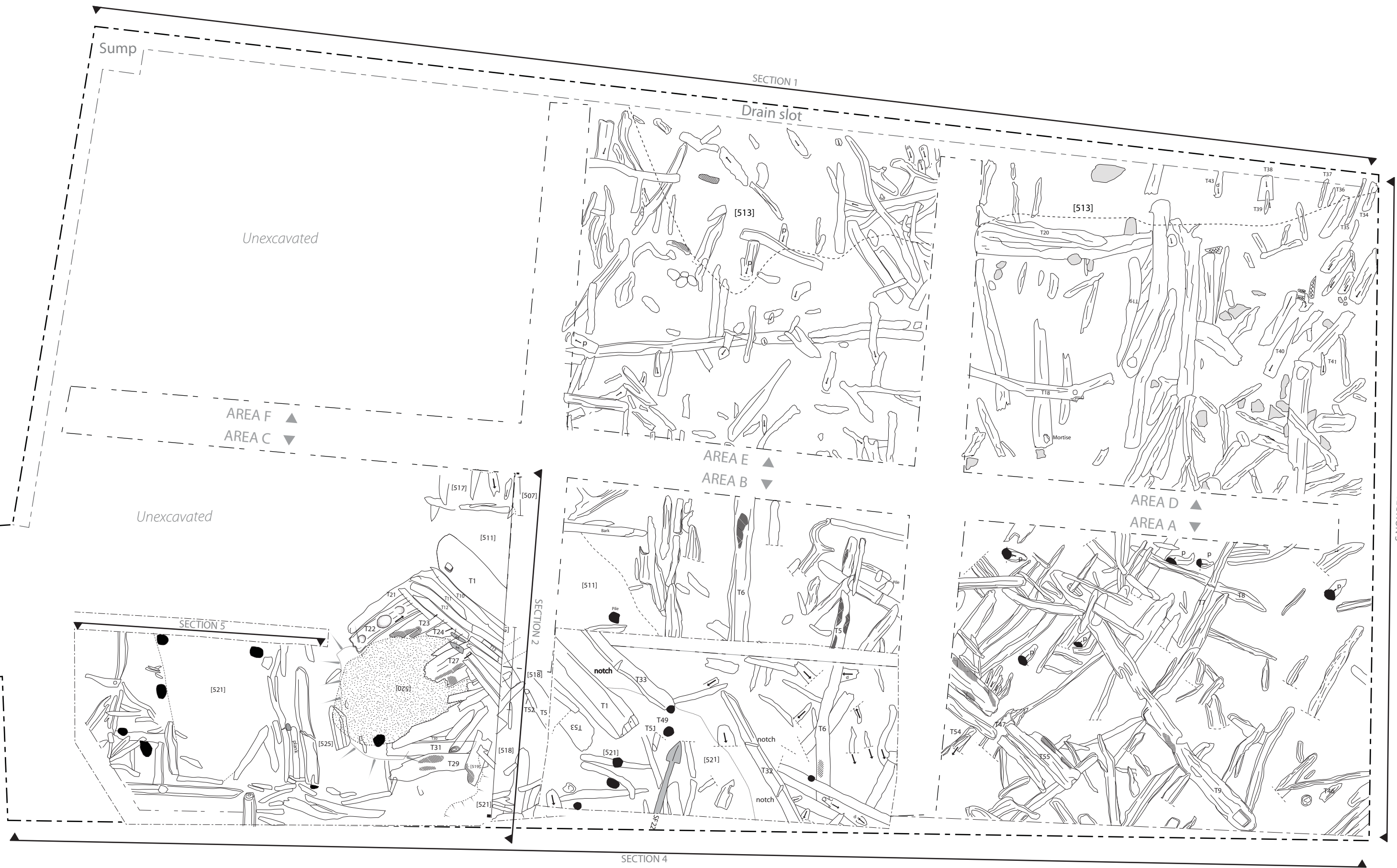


Figure 1: Cults Loch Promontory: Trench Locations



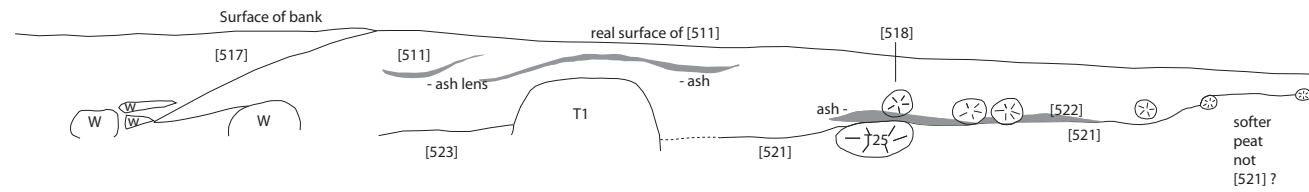
Cults Loch
 2009 Season, Trench 5
 Figure 2: Plan 1



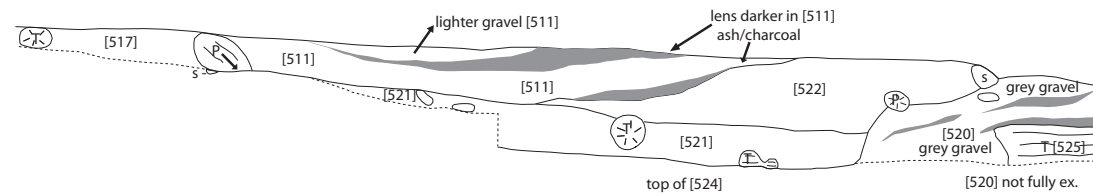


Cults Loch
 2009 Season, Trench 5
 Figure 3: Plan 2

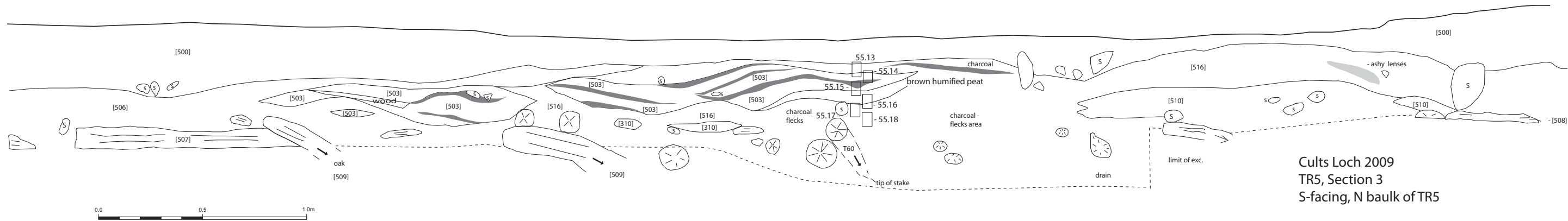
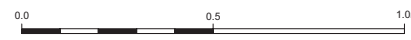




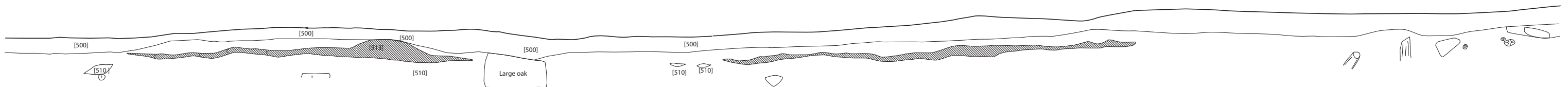
Cults Loch 2009
TR5, Section 2
S-facing, baulk of TR5 B/C



Cults Loch 2009
TR5, Section 5
E-facing, central baulk of TR5 C



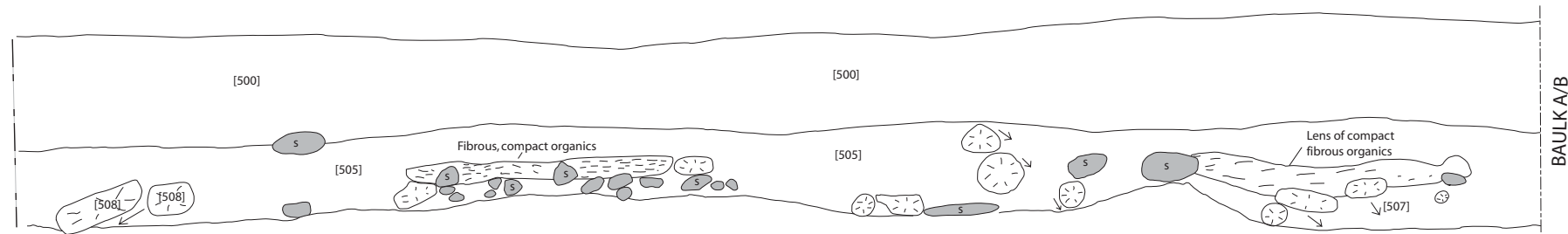
Cults Loch 2009
TR5, Section 3
S-facing, N baulk of TR5



Cults Loch 2009
TR5, Section 1
E-facing, W baulk of TR5



Figure 4



Cults Loch 2009
 TR5, Section 4
 W-facing, E baulk of TR5

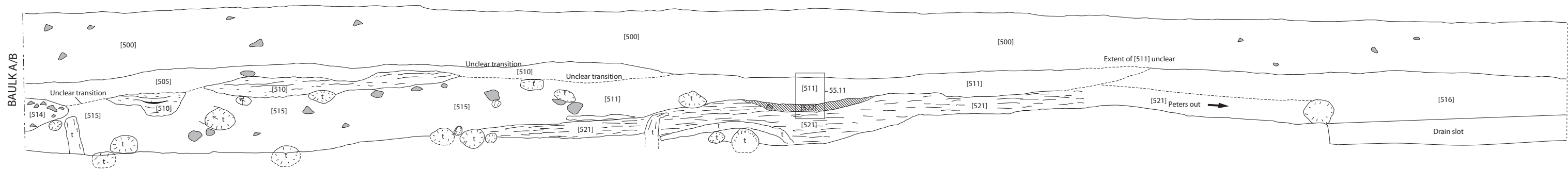


Figure 5

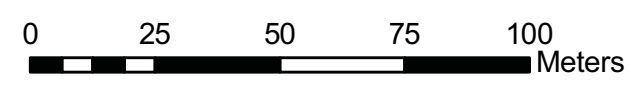
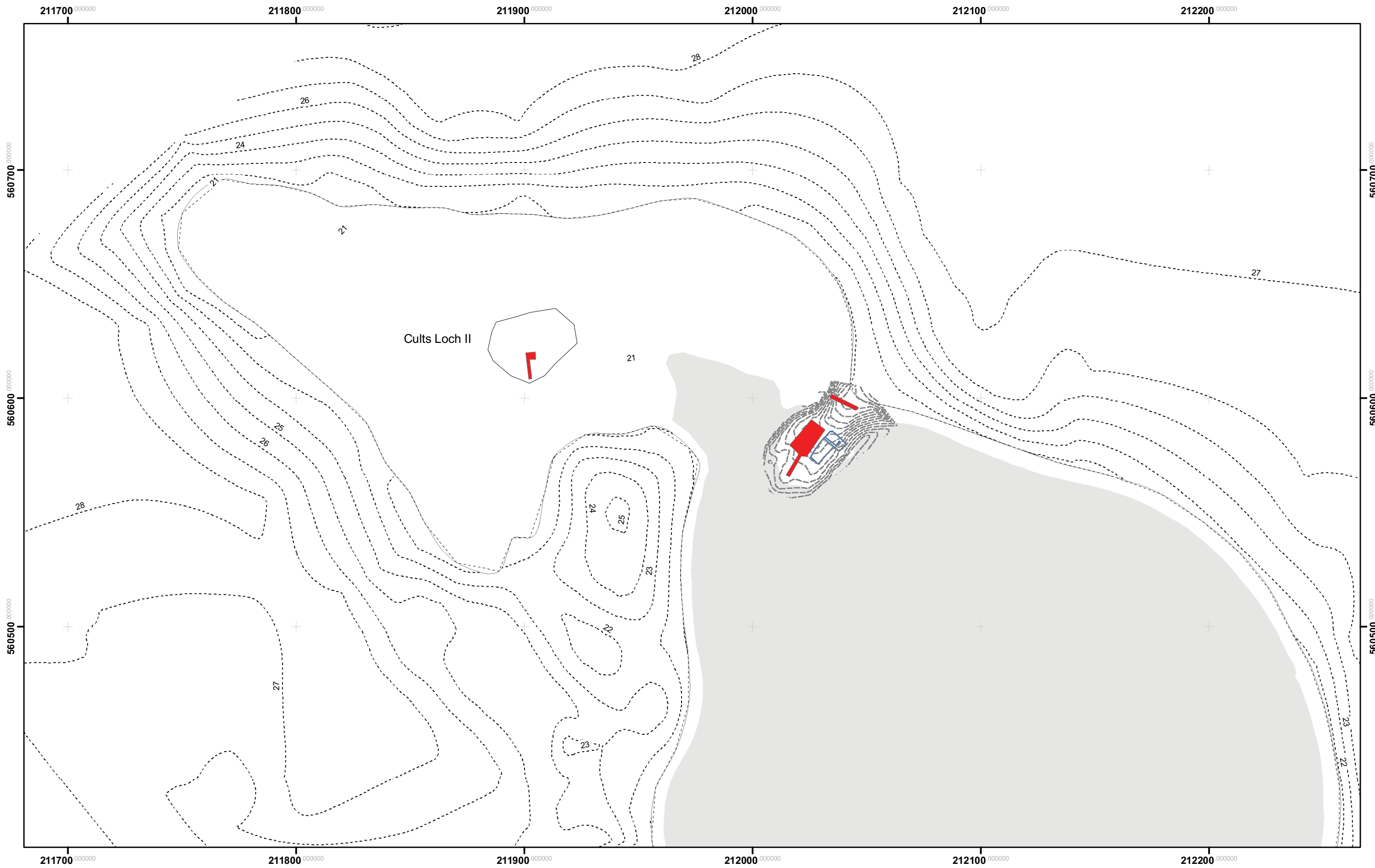


Figure 5: location of Cults II trench, 2009, in relation to crannog promontory

Context	Type	Over	Cuts	Fill Of	Under	Cut By	Filled By	Same as	Within	Encloses	Description	Interpretation	Drawing	Photo No.s
500	Deposit										Upper 'cobble' layer over site, comprising rounded boulders averaging 5-10cm in diameter, in a matrix of dark brown-black peaty organic silt. Averages 0.3m in depth across trench.	Upper overburden representing decayed upper layers of site.		11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
501	Deposit			500, 504					505, 506		Yellow-grey sand-gravel, forming a discrete patch in N end of TR5, 2.2m by 4m. Underlies a discrete patch of greasy black sand/gravel [504] near centre. High ash, charcoal and burnt bone content: regular flecks of burnt bone and occasional fragments up to 2cm in size. Deposit is max 0.2m in depth, and contains occasional large stones (0.1 to 0.2m in diameter) and a few angular boulders (up to 0.4m in diameter).	Possible levelling deposit or hearth base relating to secondary phase of activity, post-collapse of structure in 5A.	1	10-11, 43-53
502	Deposit			500					505, 506		Discrete patch of yellow-grey sand and gravel, containing much evidence of burning- ash, charcoal and burnt bone. 2.5m across by 1.5m visible in trench. Intermingled lenses of greasy black gravel/sand. Very similar to [501], but not connected.	Similar to [501], possible hearth base or levelling deposit, late in occupation sequence.	1	4-5
503	Deposit			500					506		Discrete patch of yellow-grey gravel/sand with intermingled greasy black material. Similar in composition to [501] and [502], containing high ash, burnt bone and charcoal content. Maximum depth of deposit 0.2m. Overlies and surrounds timbers [507] in N area of trench; may have lain within square setting of timbers (T18 to T20).	Possible hearth base	1	4-5
504	Deposit	501		500							Discrete patch of grasy black gravel/sand, overlying the centre of [501]. High ash and charcoal content. Dimensions 1.0m by 0.6m by 0.15m deep.	Burning debris- possible hearth remains; probably uppermost lens of burning within 501, similar to other lenses of hearth debris within that deposit.	1	10-11

Context	Type	Over	Cuts	Fill Of	Under	Cut By	Filled By	Same as	Within	Encloses	Description	Interpretation	Drawing	Photo No.s
505	Deposit				500			506		507, 503, 501, 502	An organic deposit on E side of TR5, containing small-medium sized stones and horizontal timbers [507] as well as occasional charcoal lumps and occasional burnt bone fragments, averaging less than 1 cm in size. Occasional regular fire-shattered pebbles averaging 5-8cm in diameter; occasional other stones averaging 0.1 - 0.2m in diameter.	Decayed upper organic layers forming general matrix	1, 14, 16	43-53
506	Deposit	512, 513			500			505		503, 501, 502, 507	An organic deposit forming a fibrous brown peat on west side of TR5 containing small-medium sized stones, and horizontal timbers [507]. Probably same as [505]. Patches of charcoal throughout.	Decayed upper organic layers, forming general matrix of site	1, 11, 13, 14	106-8
507	Structure				510				505, 506, 501		Horizontal timbers lying within [505] and [506]; variable in length and diameter. Uppermost timbers are in poor condition and very soft, while lower timbers are better preserved. In S areas of trench several timbers are carbonised on surface, and were surrounded by charcoal fragments.	Structural timbers, several demonstrably not in-situ and probably related to superstructure of an early phase of construction. Several phases of deposition apparent.	2, 9, 15	143-45, 106-8, 109-13, 119-122, 163-72
508	Structure	500							505		Group of parallel horizontal plank-like timbers in NE corner of trench, resembling planking found in N end of TR1 [2007]. Relatively high in comparison to [507]. Planks cut as chords.	Planking; possible fallen walling	1, 14	52-53
509	Structure				500				506		Cluster of stakes in NW corner of TR5. Mix of oak and non-oak species, ranging in diameter from c.0.15m to 0.25m. Relative depths of point tips vary from 0.3m below surface of 506 to > 1m below.	Possible continuation of palisade pile swathe encountered in TR2	1, 3	4-8, 106-8,
510	Deposit				500						Hard, compact layer of laminated organic material: bark, reeds, brushwood. Extends over much of area B and E, but a discrete lump of this material also protrudes from the N bulk of TR5. Discontinuous lumps were found interspersed with a loose fibrous brown peat and occasional lenses of charcoal in area A; in area B this deposit was up to 0.12m thick.		14	10-11; 39-42; 56-8; 82-3

Context	Type	Over	Cuts	Fill Of	Under	Cut By	Filled By	Same as	Within	Encloses	Description	Interpretation	Drawing	Photo No.s
511	Deposit	511, 519, 520, 521									Yellow-grey gravel and sand appearing in S half of trench and forming a discrete boundary around a large oak timber- T1. 511 forms a mound in 5C onto which a series of reused planks were laid [519]. Deposit is rich in charcoal and burnt bone, and contains discrete lenses of ash and small roundwood charcoal. The deposit is moderately-very compact and provides a hard surface on the site.	Flooring/hearth base material associated with planks 519.	8	126-9
512	Deposit				506					507	Loose, crumbly peat, flecked with charcoal, forming the matrix around [507] in area E.		4	88-90, 102-5
513	Deposit	515			510, 506						Thick layer of roundwood charcoal fragments averaging 1 cm3 in size. Charcoal also found in base of deposit [506], which overlies [513]. Deposit extends to cover much of W area of TR5D and 5E	Possible destruction layer or spread of hearth waste.	11	
514	Deposit				505				515		Patch of fire-cracked stones in NE corner of 5B, composed of shattered rounded pebbles averaging c.10cm in diameter.	Deposit of broken pot-boiler stones.		
515	Deposit	521			513, 505						Firm brown, crumbly peat containing large quantities of small roundwood twigs. Contains shattered pot boiler stones [514]. Organic preservation is better than in overlying layers, with better preservation of timbers.			
516	Deposit				501						A firm brown amorphous peat containing embedded lengths of roundwood. Deposit is very smooth, almost clay-like & plastic. Small deposits of hazelnut shells contained within deposit, along with scatters of branchwood in no regular pattern.			146-7; 162-6
517	Deposit	511, 507			500						Firm brown peaty layer, flecked with charcoal fragments and burnt bone, lying over and around horizontal timbers [507]	Poorly preserved outer areas of occupation deposit surrounding hearth base [511]	19	126-9
518	Structure	519			500						Group of parallel aligned logs lying over [519], abutting and aligned with large oak log T1. Roundwood lengths averaging c.6cm in diameter.	Levelling deposit, possibly as compensation for slumping of plank timbers [519] and underlying deposits.	7, 17, 19	126-9; 137-42

Context	Type	Over	Cuts	Fill Of	Under	Cut By	Filled By	Same as	Within	Encloses	Description	Interpretation	Drawing	Photo No.s
519	Structure	520			518, 511						Group of planks, dipping NW and lying within ashy gravel layer [511]. Timbers have eroded at both ends, several timbers are charred on their upper surface. Two timbers contain mortise holes and carved depressions- these timbers appear to be reused.	Flooring and consolidation of possible hearth mound.	7, 8	137-9, 140-2
520	Deposit				519, 511						Mound of grey-yellow gravel, containing pebbles (unlike [511]) and no charcoal or ash lenses. Contains fragments of poorly preserved timbers.	Lower deposit of hearth foundation/flooring around activity area in 5C.	8	137-9, 140-2
521	Deposit				511, 522						Layers of well preserved leaf litter, reeds and ferns containing lenses of burnt reeds and bracken, c.2cm in depth. Holly leaves and patches of ?seed pods are visible throughout the deposit. In area 5B, deposit lies directly over large planks. Forms an extensive layer in area 5C, but less well preserved towards S of trench. Several cut stakes are driven into deposit in 5B, with upper parts chopped off at level with top of deposit.	Flooring material associated with hearth/activity area in 5C. Extent of deposit appears to encircle hearth.	10, 17	130-6
522		521			518						Loose textured, crumbly mix of organic and mineral soils, charcoal rich giving an grey-black colour. Extent of deposit unknown, may have been removed as a lens of [511]. Seen in section 2 as thin lens under [518] and over [521].	Possible burning layer- related to charring of timbers 519?	12	
523	Deposit				511						Loose grey silty-sand found to W of T1; coring indicates deposit is up to 45cm deep.			
524					521						In 5C, a smooth homogeneous brown peat, no anthropic inclusions visible; otherwise very similar to [516].			
525	Structure				520, 523						Lower timbers underlying gravel mound in areas 5B and 5C, comprising roundwood logs as well as smaller brushwood.	Foundation timbers beneath floor level of activity area in 5B/5C		

Context Type Over Cuts Fill Of Under Cut By Filled By Same as Within Encloses Description Interpretation Drawing Photo No.s

526 Structure

Substantial piles in lower levels of sondage in 5A, fallen outwards almost to horizontal in NW direction. Average diameter of timbers is c.20cm, some up to 40cm, with some surviving up to 3m in length.

Piling related to early phase of construction on site.

Drawings

Drawing Register

Dwg No.	Area	F.No.	Details	Scale	Drawn By	Date
1	TR5A/B	501-5	Plan of contexts 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, pre-ex	1:20	MGC	25/08/2009
2	TR5A	507 & 501	Plan of areas 5A and 5B, timbers 507 and deposit 501	1:20	MGC	25/08/2009
3	TR5D	Timbers 5D	Plan of area 5D timbers	1:20	ST	27/09/2009
4	TR5E	516 & 512	Plan of area 5E, timbers 516 and deposit 512	1:20	KM	27/08/2009
5	TR5A	516	Overlay of plan 2, showing timbers under 501	1:20	MGC	28/08/2009
6	TR5A, 5B	516	Overlay of plan 2 and 5, showing extent of timbers	1:20	MGC	28/08/2009
7	TR5C	518	Plan of timbers 518	1:20	BAC	29/08/2009
8	TR5C	519	Plan of timbers 519	1:20	BAC	30/08/2009
9	TR5A	507	Plan of 507, second layer	1:20	TP	08/09/2009
10	TR5B	521	Plan of deposit 521 and SF22 (ard)	1:20	MGC	09/09/2009
11			Section 1: east-facing W baulk of TR5	1:10	ST	09/09/2009
12			Section 2, S-facing baulk between TR5B & 5C	1:10	BAC	09/09/2009
13	TR5F		Continuation of section 1, S end of E facing section	1:10	ST	10/09/2009
14			Section 3, S-facing N baulk of TR5A & 5D	1:10	KM	10/09/2009
15	TR5A		Trench 5A, level 3 plan	1:20	TP	10/10/2009
16			Section 4, W-facing E baulk of TR5	1:10	ST	10/10/2009
17	TR5C & 5B		Level 3 plan, showing extent of deposit 521 in 5C	1:20	TP	10/09/2009
18	TR5B		Level 3 plan of TR5B	1:20	TP	10/09/2009
19	TR5C		Section through 511 and 522, area 5C, plus 517	1:10	TP	10/10/2009
20	TR5C		Level 4 overlay of drawing 17	1:20	TP	11/09/2009

Finds Register

Finds Register

Find No.	Context	Material	Description
1	500	ST	Rubber stone
2	500	ST	Rubber stone
3	500	ST	Broken hammer stone
4	500	ST	Rubber stone
5	500	ST	Hammer stone
6	500	ST	Flint chunk
7	506	ST	Hammer stone
8	510	ST	Burnt flint
9	510	BO	Fragments of burnt bone
10	505	ST	White flint blade
11	501	ST	Rubber stone
12	502	ST	Large flint flake
13	512	ST	Possible saddle quern
14	501	ST	Flint
15	506	ST	Flint scraper & flint flake
16	506	ST	Lump of white lithic; ?chert
17	506	ST	Hammer stone
18	505	ST	Flat, degraded rubber stone
19	517	VI	Blue/white glass bead
20	520	ST	Flint
21	520	ST	Hammer stone
22	521	WO	Carved wooden object: ard stilt
23	516	ST	Flint flake with cortex
24	521	ST	Lithic flake
26	521	ST	Flint flake
27	521	WO	Worked wooden offcut
28	516	ST	Flint, worked
29	521	ST	Rubber stone
30	521	ST	Flint chunk
31	516	ST	Pebble flake
32	516	ST	Chert/flint chunk, worked
33	516	ST	Flint

Find No.	Context	Material	Description
34	521	ST	Flint chunk
35	501	ST	Large flint flake; fragment of charcoal; fragment of tooth

Photos

Digital Photographic Register, prefix "P1000"

From	To	Area	F. no	Subject	From
1 to 3		TR5		Working shots	NE
4 to 5		TR5	501	Contexts 501 to 505, N end of trench, pre-ex	E
6 to 7		TR5	501	501 photoplan shots from E	E
8 to 9		TR5	501	501 photoplan shots from W	W
10 to 11		TR5	510	Area S of baulk, 510 pre-ex	E
12 to 22		TR5		Working shots of mound trench	
23 to 24		Mound TR1		Mound, TR1 after initial cleaning	NW
25 to 26		Mound, TR1		Mound, TR1 after initial cleaning	SW
27 to 28		Mound, TR1		Mound, TR1 transect after initial cleaning	NW
29 to 30		Mound, TR1		Mound, TR1 transect after initial cleaning	SE
31 to 32		Mound TR1	201	Possible posthole 201, half section post-ex	NW
33 to 38		TR5A		Working shots	
39 to 42		TR5A	510	Section through 510, part-ex	N
43 to 49		TR5A	507	Timbers 517, part-ex	E
50 to 51		TR5A	507	Timbers 507, part-ex	E
52 to 53		TR5A	507	Timbers 507, part-ex	N
54 to 55		TR5B	510	Deposit 510 overlying timbers in 5B	E
56 to 58		TR5A	507	Timbers 507 and deposit 510	E
59 to 61		TR5A	507	Timbers 507 and deposit 510	N
62 to 65		TR5A		Photoplan shots, targets 7-12	E
66 to				Working shot	
67 to 70		TR5B		Area B timbers	E
71 to 75				Working shots	
76 to 77		TR5E		Fibrous material, lying on side, in 510	S
78 to 81				Working shots	
82 to 83		TR5E	510	Fibrous material, lying on side in 510	S
84 to 86		TR5B		Photoplan shots, TR5B timbers	E
87 to				Working shot	
88 to 90		TR5E	512	Quern stone (SF13) in 512	W
91 to 101				Finds shots for web diary	
102 to 105		TR5E	512	Area 5E timbers and deposit 512, post-ex	W
106 to 108		TR5D		Area 5D timbers	W
109 to 113		TR5A		Area 5A, timber lattice and jointing	W
114 to 117		TR5D		Area 5D, photoplan shots	W
118 to				Working shot	
119 to 122		TR5A		Area 5A timbers	W
123 to 125		TR5A		Photoplan shots, area 5A	

From	To	Area	F. no	Subject	From
126 to 129		TR5C	511	Record shots, timbers under 511	NW
130 to 136		TR5B	521	Ard (SF22) in 521 and associated stakes	W
137 to 139		TR5C	518	Timbers 518 and 519 after removal of 511	NW
140 to 142		TR5C	518	Timbers 518 and 519 after removal of 511	NW
143 to 145		TR5B		Notched timber	W
146 to 147		TR5A	516	Y-shaped timber in 516	W
148 to 150		TR5B		Double notched timber	S
151 to 152		TR5A,D	501	S-facing section of TR5, showing 501	S
153 to 155		TR4		S-facing section of TR4	S
156 to 159		TR5A		Brushwood and large timbers in 5A sondage	W
160 to 161		TR5D		Brushwood and timbers in 5D sondage	W
162 to 166		TR5A	516	Level 3 timbers and 516, post-ex	N
167 to 168		TR5A		Level 3 timbers and 516, post-ex	S
169 to 171				Level 3 timbers and 516, post-ex, photoplan shots	N

Special Samples

Sample Register

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Square</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reason</i>
510	5E		1	Bag	Insect/plant ID
521	5B		2	Bag	Macroplant recovery
Core 5/2	5A		3	Bag	Charcoal rich deposit of 108-122cm
Core 5/3	5A		4	Bag	Charcoal rich deposit of 152-154cm
Core 5/4	5A		5	Bag	Charcoal rich deposit of 101-116cm
Core 5/9	5C		6	Bag	Basal peat from core
Core 5/10	5C		7	Bag	Basal peat of core
521	5B		8	Bag	Woodchips- species ID
516	5D		9	Bag	Bone ID
521	5C		10	Bag	Identification
500, 511, 522, 521	5B		11	25cm peat box	Pollen
506, 513, 515	5E		12	25cm peat box	Pollen
500, 506, 503	5A		13	Kubiena box	Stratigraphy, micromorphology, pollen
506, 503, charcoal	5A		14	Kubiena box	Stratigraphy, micromorphology, pollen
503, charcoal, peat	5A		15	Kubiena box	Stratigraphy, micromorphology, pollen
peat, 516	5A		16	Kubiena box	Stratigraphy, micromorphology, pollen
517	5A		17	Kubiena box	Stratigraphy, micromorphology, pollen

