Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork
School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology
Queen’s University Belfast

Data Structure Report: No. 23.

Excavations at Drumadoon, Co. Antrim
AE/03/105

On behalf of
Data Structure Report: Drumadoon, Co. Antrim
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Contents

1. **Summary**  2 - 3
2. **Introduction**  4 - 13
3. **Excavation**  14 - 29
4. **Discussion**  30 - 35
5. **The Drumadoon Bell-shrine** by Cormac Bourke  36
6. **Recommendations for further work**  37 - 39
7. **Bibliography**  40 - 42

Appendix One: Context log  43 - 45
Appendix Two: Harris Matrix  46 - 48
Appendix Three: Photographic Log  49 - 56
Appendix Four: Field Drawing Register  57 - 58
Appendix Five: Finds Log  59 - 63
Appendix Six: Sample Log  64
Photographic plates  65 - 75
1. Summary

1.1 The archaeological investigations at Drumadoon, Co. Antrim, focused on the remains of a small mounded hilltop settlement on a natural gravel mound overlooking the Carey River. The archaeological structures are recorded in the SMR as ANT 9:42 and are located at Irish Grid Co-Ordinates 1674 4046 (Figure 1 & 2; Plate 1).

1.2 The mound was first recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1838/9, when it was noted to be in a state of partial collapse. A survey of the site carried out by the Environment and Heritage Service in the early 1980s, identified that it was at risk of further damage. In 2003 a survey by Barrie Hartwell students from the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen’s University Belfast, showed that additional collapse had occurred at the site, exposing part of a souterrain wall. Due to the risk of complete collapse, Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage decided to fully excavate the site.

1.3 The excavation was directed by Dr. Brian Williams of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage, and Cormac McSparron of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen’s University Belfast. The excavation was carried out under licence number AE/03/105.

1.4 The investigation of the mound was aimed at achieving preservation by full excavated record. A number of phases of occupation were identified during the excavation, including the initial construction of an enclosing bank and souterrain, and three periods of occupation and modification. Finds recovered during excavation suggest that the site was in use from the Early Christian period until the early 14th century. Finds included substantial amounts of pottery, fish and animal bone, iron and copper alloy objects, metalworking debris, and a 12th/13th century bell-shrine.

1.5 It is recommended that a programme of post-excavation is conducted in order to complete the excavation and bring the project to final publication.
Figure 1: Site location map
2. **Introduction**

2.1 **General**

The following report details the results of the excavation undertaken from 12th May to 15th August 2003 at Drumadoon, Ballyvoy, Co. Antrim, by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, in conjunction with the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. The project was funded by the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage.

2.2 **Background**

The site is located on a gravel mound in Drumadoon, just over 1km from the village of Ballyvoy. It overlooks the Carey River (Grid Ref: 1674 4046) at an altitude of approximately 90m OD. There are good views in all directions with commanding views east and west along the river valley. The land use around the site is mostly pasture with little or no tree cover (Figures 2, 3 & 4).

The placename Drumadoon, meaning the “ridge of the fort”, is first recorded in 1620 (Mac Gabhann, 1997, 41). The Ordnance Survey surveyed the Drumadoon area in 1838/9. It was recorded in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs (Day & McWilliams, 1994, 51-52) that the site had been almost circular with a diameter of 25 yards, but that almost half of it had collapsed. The Ordnance Survey noted the presence of a souterrain which was “many yards long” and, at the time of writing, blocked up (ibid). The monument was visited during a survey by the Environment and Heritage Service, in 1982. At this time it was noted that the monument was under threat. A visit in 2003 by Barrie Hartwell and students from the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queens University Belfast, showed that recent collapse had occurred at the site, leading to the exposure of part of the souterrain wall in the collapsed section. Further, possibly complete collapse, seemed likely. Consequently, a decision was taken by the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage to excavate the site.

2.3 **Historical Background**

Drumadoon was situated within the kingdom of Ulaid. Ulaid emerged into history reduced from the ancient province to the area that now encompasses the modern counties of Antrim, Down and north (and possibly south) Louth (Byrne, 1973, 106).
Ulaid was split into a number of dynastic areas; the Dál Fiatach and Uí Echach Cobo in Down; the Conailli Muirtheimne in north Louth; the Dál nAraidi of south and north-west Antrim and the Dál Riata of north-east Antrim (ibid., 107). Drumadoon is located in what was the territory of Dál Riata.

The kingdom of Dál Riata had, since the Convention of Druim Cett in 575, been closely allied to the powerful northern Uí Neill. By 637 the over-king of Ulaid, Congal Cláen, king of Dál nAraidi, persuaded Domnall Brecc, king of Dál Riata, to renounce their alliance with the northern Uí Neill and engage with him in battle at Mag Roth against Domnall mac Áedo, the Uí Neill high-king. The Ulaid forces were heavily defeated (ibid., 112-113). The intention of Congal Cláen probably had been to revive the fortunes of the Ulaid and recover lost territory but its actual effect was to greatly weaken the Dál Riata and Dál nAraidi and make the Uí Neill dominant in the north of Ireland. (ibid., 114).

In the late 8th century the Uí Tuitre, part of the Airgialla, who had been resident in what is now modern Co. Tyrone, came under increasing pressure from the Cenél nÉógain, of the northern Uí Neill. The Uí Tuitre began to move east of the Lower Bann into west Antrim, the territory of the Eilne, a branch of the Dál nAraidi. By the 10th century the Uí Tuitre possessed the territory of the Eilne, and their client kingdom the Fir Li had also moved east of the Bann (ibid., 125–126). The fortunes of the Uí Tuitre advanced through the 11th and 12th centuries and they became the dominant power in Co. Antrim having possibly conquered the Dál nAraidi (McNeill 1979, 5). Large parts of north Antrim, including the area around Drumadoon may have been within the territory of the Fir Li (ibid., 4).

In 1177 John de Courcy, an Anglo-Norman, invaded Ulaid. Initially an alliance of the Ulaid and Cenél nÉógain effectively resisted de Courcy but this alliance collapsed in 1181 and by 1182 de Courcy’s position was established in five bailiwicks: Antrim, Carrickfergus, Ards, Blathewic and Lecale (ibid., 12). These are all concentrated in south Antrim and east Down. John de Courcy did build a castle at Cill Santain (Mount Sandel), Co. Derry, although its function seems to have been as a raiding post rather than a castle with defensive or administrative functions (ibid.).

In 1205 John de Courcy was removed by King John and Hugh de Lacy was created Earl of Ulster. He was himself expelled in 1210 by King John and in 1211-12 grants of land in Ireland were made to Alan, Thomas and Duncan de Galloway. The grant to Alan de Galloway was the largest, encompassing all of Dál Riata, Rathlin, Twescard,
Larne and other territory east and west of the Bann for a fee of 140 knights (Oram, 2001, 116). This was in return for Alan’s support for the 1212 treaty between England and Scotland, and his assistance in breaking the support being given to Gofraid macDomnaill in the north and west of Scotland by Áed Méith ua Néill of the Cenél nÉógain (ibid.).

The repetition of Alan’s grant of lands in Ireland by King John in 1215, but for the much lower Knights Fee of 10 knights, may suggest that the original grant had been speculative and that the fee was reduced to encourage Alan to take it up (McNeill, 1979, 15). However, the reduced knight’s fee may have been an attempt to ensure Alan’s loyalty in King John’s conflict with his barons (Oram, 2001, 121). Thomas de Galloway built a castle at Coleraine in 1214 (McNeill, 1979, 15) and obtained the keepership of the royal castle at Antrim in 1215 (ibid.).

Domestic difficulties caused problems for Alan de Galloway and his brothers. After adopting a shifting political position during King John’s quarrel with his barons in the negotiations leading up to Magna Carta, they slipped into open rebellion against John during the civil war of 1216-18, siding with Alexander II, the Scottish king. When John died they were keen to make homage to the new king, Henry III, who was still a minor, in return for a confirmation of their grant of lands in Ireland. They were frustrated, however, by William Marshal, the Regent, who was sympathetic to the cause of Hugh de Lacy (Oram, 2001, 120). They did point out in a letter to the king, in 1217, that they received little benefit from their lands in Ireland (ibid., 121). Alan, Thomas and Duncan all eventually had their grants recognised and paid homage to the king after William Marshal died in 1219.

Their security in their lands, however, was short lived. In 1223 Hugh de Lacy, in alliance with Áed Méith ua Néill, revolted in an attempt to regain the earldom of Ulster. They caused considerable destruction in the earldom, captured Thomas de Galloway’s castle at Coleraine, attacked Duncan de Galloway’s land at Ballygalley, and laid siege of Carrickfergus Castle (McNeill 1979, 18). Eventually the rebellion was defeated by the newly appointed Justiciar, William Marshal, the Younger, who raised the siege of Carrickfergus in a daring sea raid in August 1224 (ibid.). Soon the Justiciar was negotiating with Hugh de Lacy but when de Lacy broke the terms of the peace and seized the earldom in 1227 the government took no action (Oram, 2001, 123).
It is likely that Hugh de Lacy was unwilling to accept the de Galloways holding land directly from the Crown once he was secure in his earldom again (McNeill 1979, 21). The ease with which de Lacy and Alan de Galloway seem to have become reconciled, with the marriage of Alan to Hugh’s daughter, may suggest that the actual land secured, as opposed to speculatively granted to the de Galloways, was probably small (ibid., 23). The balance of probability is that Drumadoon, while inside the area granted to Alan de Galloway by King John, probably lay outside the area effectively brought under his control.

The main settlement by the Anglo-Normans in north Antrim occurred under Hugh de Lacy (ibid., 22). By the 1260s a large part of north Antrim, known as the Twescard County, was stable and profitable (ibid.).

When Hugh de Lacy died in 1243 his lands were escheated to the Crown (ibid., 29). The earldom was given by the Crown to Walter de Burgh, the lord of Connacht, in 1264 (ibid., 30).

A dispute broke out over who held Twescard on the death of Walter de Burgh in 1271. Henry de Mandeville refused to surrender Twescard to the King's seneschal nominee William FitzWarin. This dispute involved both Irish and Anglo-Normans and resulted in the murder of Henry de Mandeville. The dispute did not end until the minority of Richard de Burgh, Walter’s heir, had ended in 1280 (ibid., 31).

Drumadoon appears to have been inside Twescard, although it was quite close to its eastern frontier, demarked by the boundary of the Deanery of Turtrye, an area within the Diocese of Connor demarked for the native Irish inhabitants (ibid., 33 & 35).

Twescard appears to have remained reasonably peaceful until the 15th century (ibid., 120) despite the fact that Irish pressure on the earldom as a whole was increasing from the mid-14th century. There may have been much devastation carried out in Twescard during the Bruce Invasion, 1315, but if there was the area seems to have recovered quickly (McNeill 1979, 122). Twescard was under the control of Robert Savage from at least 1327 (ibid., 118). By the opening years of the 15th century the former lands of the Úi Tuitre were in the hands of the Clann Aedhe Buidhe and Marjory Byset, Heiress of the Glens, had married John MacDonnell of the Isles (ibid., 119).
In the later 15th century the MacQuillans emerged in control of Twescard. The MacQuillans remained in control of the area until the MacDonnells gained it from them in the later 16th century by which time Drumadoon had probably been abandoned for at least two hundred years.

2.4 Archaeological Background

A number of monuments within the Carey Valley and the adjoining lands can be seen as broadly contemporary with the excavated site at Drumadoon. This includes ringforts, church sites and souterrains (Figure 2).

In Drumadoon there is a graveyard, associated with a souterrain (ANT 9:16) and located some 400m east of the excavated site. This site is known as Kilpatrick and there is a low bank to the north of the graveyard. Locals report the use of the graveyard as a cillin within living memory.

There are two possible ringforts located on the northern side of the Carey Valley, in Ballyvennaght, and recorded in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs (Day & McWilliams 1994, 51-52), some 800-900m to the south-east (ANT 9:14 and ANT 9:15). Only a short trace of one of the earthworks now remains. Further north are a further two ringforts in Ballyreagh Upper (ANT 5:05) and Craigfad (ANT 5:14). The former is recorded in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs (ibid.) and lay 900m north of the site. No trace of this fort now exists. The latter, (ANT 5:14), 24m in diameter, is located 1.36 km north of the site. A terrace, with the remains of two rectangular structures, extends 15m from the bank. An oval enclosure in Dunmakelter (ANT 9:17), 23m by 25m, with internal house platforms, is located circa 900m north-east of the site. An oval cashel in Ballyreagh Lower (ANT 9:10) measures 17m by 21.5m, with the remains of a possible house in the south of the enclosure. This site is located circa 900m north-west of the site. There is a crannog (ANT 5:11) in Lough na Cranagh, located about 2km from the site at Drumadoon. The crannog is sub-circular, 30m by 25.5m, with a dry stone outer facing. It has a small harbour at the north, composed of two lines of boulders extending from the crannog.

The only other archaeologically investigated site in the immediate area is in Cross townland, at Doonmore, excavated by Gordon Childe (1938). The site is on top of a natural rocky knoll (ANT 5:07) and it is located 1.8km from Drumadoon. It is oval in shape, 17m by 12.4m, and in many respects similar to Drumadoon. The excavation at Doonmore showed that it was enclosed by a dry-stone wall and that it had internal
paved areas and hearths similar to those found at Drumadoon. Finds included decorated Souterrain Ware, glazed pottery and Everted Rim Ware.

A number of ecclesiastical sites also lie on the northern side of the Carey valley. There is a graveyard (ANT 9:11) in Drumnakeel to the north-west, consisting of a low platform 12.0m by 8.7m. A crude stone cross now stands in the centre of the platform. According to the Ordnance Survey Memoir (ibid.) in 1839 this cross was located 15m northwest of the platform. The graveyard is circa 550m from the site at Drumadoon and is circa 400m from a souterrain at (ANT 9:41). The church site, graveyard and souterrain (ANT 5:09), is located about 1.8km from the site at Drumadoon and is, some 400m east of the fort at Doonmore. The church and part of the graveyard were destroyed by the construction of a barn. A cross (ANT 5:10), now lost, was located some 80 m from this church and graveyard site.

The only contemporary site in the immediate area on the southern side of the Carey Valley, is a souterrain (ANT 9:41) in Drumnakeel, circa 500m to the south-west of the site. It has two passages and a chamber. There was no trace of an enclosure surviving.

2.5 **Reason for Excavation and Research Aims**

The site at Drumadoon had been under threat of destruction both from natural collapse and deliberate quarrying on the north side of the mound for a considerable time. In 2003 it became apparent after a site visit by Barrie Hartwell, School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queens University Belfast, that collapse was ongoing and that complete collapse of the mound and the destruction of the remaining archaeology was likely. In light of this the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage took a decision to excavate the site.

The research aims of the excavation were to:

1. *Preserve the site by record.* The site was under immediate threat and it would be extremely difficult to prevent its eventual destruction. It was imperative, therefore, that the monument was recorded as completely as possible. The record consists of a drawn record, photographic record, written record, sample record and artefact record.

2. *Identify the nature, function and date of the site.* The exact nature of the site was uncertain. The suggestion from written sources and Barrie Hartwell’s site visit was
that the site was a ringfort, since it appeared to contain a souterrain. Its form however was similar to that of a motte. In addition a collection of struck flints from the collapsed area had also led to speculation that the site might have been built on, or utilised, an earlier prehistoric structure.

2.7 A copy of this report has been deposited with the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. All site records and finds are temporarily archived within the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

2.8 Credits and Acknowledgements

The excavation was directed by Dr. Brian Williams, of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage and Cormac McSparron of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork. Much directorial assistance was provided by John ÒNeill.

Assistance during the course of the excavation and the preparation of this report was provided by: Dr. Colm Donnelly, Keith Adams, Janet Bell, Nick Beer, Ruth Logue, Dr. Phillip Macdonald, Peter Moore (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork), Cormac Bourke (Ulster Museum), Dmitry Chistov (Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg), Harry Welsh and Thom Kerr.

The illustrations in this report were prepared by Bronagh Murray and Keith Adams of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queens University Belfast.

Thanks are due to the landowner, Mr. Niall McKeague, who facilitated the excavation on his land and to Mr. Ronnie McDonnell, who allowed the use of his land adjacent to the site for the parking of vehicles and placing of site huts and roll-a-ongs.
3. **Excavation**

3.1 **Methodology**

A total of seven trenches were initially opened at the Drumadoon excavation. Of these Trenches 1, 5, 6 and 7 were combined after the removal of the topsoil to form a single Main Trench, which occupied the entire summit of the mound. Areas around the base of the mound were investigated by Trenches 2, 3 and 4 (Figure 3 & 4).

Excavation was carried out by hand. All excavated archaeological features and layers were recorded using the standard context recording system (for details of contexts see Appendix One). Individual features were photographed and included in a series of overall plans (Scale 1:20) and, where appropriate, section drawings (Scale 1:20) For details of site photography see Appendix Three and for field illustrations see Appendix Four. In addition to the photography and illustration, the principal site records were augmented by separate registers for small finds (Appendix Five) and samples (Appendix Six). Following the completion of the site recording, the excavation trenches were back filled and levelled to the satisfaction of the landowner.

Recording was carried out in accordance with the techniques set out in the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology’s *Excavation Manual* (School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, 2003) and the Environment and Heritage Service’s *Excavation Standards Manual* (Archaeological Excavation Unit, 2001).

The Harris Matrix for the site (Appendix 2) should be referred to whilst reading the account of the stratigraphic sequence.

3.2 **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was 2m by 1m in dimension and was located to the north-west of the mound, in an area which had been much disturbed by quarrying. No archaeological features were uncovered. The layers consisted of mid-brown sandy loam topsoil (201/2) above orange/brown sandy gravel subsoil (203). The topsoil contained a few pieces of coarse pottery of Early Christian and Mediaeval date.
3.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was “L” shaped in plan. It was composed of a rectangular area 4m by 4m orientated northwest-southeast with a 1m wide strip running for 20m to the east from the south-east corner of the 4m by 4m area. There were no archaeological features in this trench. There was an area of small stones (305) sitting below topsoil (301) and above subsoil (310) but it was not judged to be a surface.

3.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was 2m by 1m in dimension and was located to the north-west of the main mound, in an area which had been disturbed by quarrying in the past. No archaeological features were found. The sandy loam topsoil (401) was immediately above sterile gravel subsoil (402).

3.5 Main Trench

This area was originally laid out as Trenches 1, 5, 6 and 7. On removal of the sod it was decided that it would be more appropriate to carry out an open area excavation of the mound and the areas in between the laid out trenches were de-turfed so as to make one single trench occupying the entire summit of the mound. The excavations revealed a series of phases of construction and occupation that can be summarised as follows.

i) Pre-bank deposits
ii) Construction of the bank and the souterrain
iii) First occupation phase (Phase I)
iv) Second occupation phase (Phase II)
v) Later occupation (Phase III)

Pre-bank deposits (Figure 10; Plate 2)
A dark brown clay loam appeared to represent a buried sod layer (1016) and was present beneath the primary bank layer (1015). It contained a few pieces of struck flint. It was immediately above the gravel subsoil (1044). The presence of a human femur, found in the gravel (1028) capping the souterrain, may indicate the presence of an earlier burial or burials which were disturbed during the construction of the bank and souterrain.

Construction of the bank and the souterrain (Figure 3, 5, 6, & 10; Plate 2, 3, 4, & 5)
The surviving primary bank deposits were only 1m in height but, as will be described below, there had been a continual process of slumping and reinforcement through all
Figure 5: Construction of bank and souterain
the periods of use of the site and it is to be envisaged that the bank would originally have been higher. A stretch of c.7m of the bank survived in the north and north-east sectors of the trench and a further 1m of bank survived at the extreme west of the trench. The greatest recorded dimensions for the interior of the enclosed area are c.14m by 5m.

The remainder of the bank had collapsed or eroded in the centuries following the abandonment of the site. A gap in the bank at the eastern end of the trench was considered to be an original entrance.

The primary bank consisted of three separate layers. The basal layer (1015), which rested on the old sod layer (1016), was an orange/grey, sandy silty clay (1015). Above the basal layer there was a thin lens of more silty orange/grey clay (1014), which lay below a light orange silty clay (1011). These three layers were retained by a stone revetment (1047) on the inner face. The internal revetment was composed of medium sized stones (0.20 to 0.60m in diameter). The surviving revetment was 5m long and 1.1m in height. There was also an external stone façade (104) which was originally noticed during excavations at the east of the mound in the entrance area.

The external façade could be followed around an unexcavated section of the surviving bank, where the stones projected through the modern ground surface. Close to the entrance area the external façade (104) consisted of large stones, up to 1m long by 1m high and 1m deep.

A small lens of the basal bank material (1015) extended on both sides of the revetment and ran for a few centimetres to the south-west and into the interior of the fort. The entrance area and much of the interior of the site had a gravelly clay (1038) as primary flooring material.

A layer of cobbling (107) ran up to the stone revetment (104) at the entrance area at the east of the trench. It was approximately 2m long and 1m wide and was composed of a single layer of cobble sized stones set into a light brown sandy loam bedding layer (108) which was above the buried sod layer (1016).

The entire souterrain was set into a cut (1017) in the subsoil (1044), the basal bank material (1015) and possibly in places the bank material (1013). The cut could not always be clearly identified, due to the loose gravels on which the site was constructed.
The souterrain (1005), as excavated, was 15.5m in length. An unknown length of a perpendicular section, that extended towards the southern portion of the site, had been lost due to the erosion of the mound in this area. The nature of the souterrain’s dry-stone construction and the mound of loose gravels on which the site was constructed meant that rigorous health and safety protocols had to be enforced during investigations. Where shoring and props could not safely be put in place, excavation was discontinued. This is noted below, where appropriate.

In its surviving form, the souterrain was comprised of two restricted passages (running west and south) and a possible chamber (running east). The west passage was c.7m long, between 0.6m and 0.8m wide at its floor and 1.20m in height. It had a pit-drop entrance at its west end. The south passage, 2.0m long, could only be traced as far as the collapsing edge of the mound. Due to its position at the edge of the mound it was not possible to fully excavate this passage because of health and safety considerations.

The chamber ran c. 7m eastward from the point where the two passages joined it. The chamber could only be safely excavated to its base at one point where the chamber was 1.6m in height and 0.7m wide at its floor. Access between both the west and south passages and the chamber was controlled by two constrictions.

The constructional styles of the west and south passages were similar. The dry-stone walling was mostly composed of carefully chosen and sorted medium sized, often slightly flattened, stones. The lintels were micaceous schist flags. The chamber had noticeably different stones chosen for its construction, and the dry-stones walling was composed of larger and rounder stones than the passages, while the lintels were very large and heavy basaltic boulders, with the gaps between them filled by many smaller basaltic rocks.

The souterrain was filled by a number of separate deposits. The basal fill of the souterrain was a very dark grey, charcoal rich sandy loam layer (1049). At the western end of the passage it was overlain by a thin layer of light brown soft clay (1048). Both of those layers were sealed by a mottled orange / brown sandy loam (1042). A considerable number of large, well-preserved, Souterrain Ware pottery fragments were recovered from the lower fills of the souterrain. In the west passage some of the lintels had been removed, and in those areas the upper fill of the souterrain was a mid-brown sandy loam (1008). From the east end of the west
passage and above the chamber the lintels remained intact. A layer of gravel (1028) covered the lintel stones of the souterrain and above this gravel layer was a grey/brown silty gravelly clay (1038) which also functioned as a levelling or flooring layer for the first occupation phase, Phase I.

First occupation phase (Phase I) (Figure 3, 7, 10, 11; Plate 6 & 7)

At the west of the trench, immediately above the subsoil (1044) was a spread of gravel (1081). It was overlain by a grey-brown loam layer (1078) which contained Souterrain Ware pottery and bone. Features associated with this phase of occupation included Hearth I (1068), Paved Area I (1034) and a depression for a possible disturbed bowl furnace (1082). These features were all set into the loam layer (1078).

Hearth I (1068) (Figure 11) was almost square, measuring 0.9m by 0.92m and built from long flat micaceous schist rocks lain on their longer axis. There was one smaller stone in the south corner of the hearth and a corresponding gap at the north corner where it is likely that a small stone completed the hearth's kerbing. The hearth was up to 0.7m deep and at its base was a grey brown sandy loam (1052). This loam was probably a heat-affected variant of 1078, into which the hearth stones were set. Above the grey brown sandy loam (1052) was a brownish yellow loamy ash (1051), which was below a dark grey charcoal rich layer (1050) and a black layer of charred twigs (1067). These two latter layers were contemporary and spread beyond the confines of the hearth, making up part of a complex of charcoal and ash spreads which formed a sub-circular patch of burnt material, with a diameter of circa 2m, to the immediate south-west of Hearth I (1068). Above the charcoal layer (1050) and the charred twig layer (1067) was a layer of pink/grey ash (1066) which also spread over Paved Area I (1034). Above the pink grey ash (1066) was a mottled yellow/pink ashy sand (1065) which was below a layer of black charcoal (1069). The charcoal layer (1069) was below a pink ash (1070).

Paved Area I (1034) was approximately 1.2m by 1.2m in dimension. It was composed of rounded flat rocks, typically 0.2m to 0.3m in diameter, set into the grey brown loam layer (1078) and it was covered by the pink/grey ash (1066). South-west of Paved Area I was post-hole (1087), 0.35m in diameter and 0.20m deep, which had been cut into the loam layer (1078).

The furnace depression (1082) (Figure 11) was badly disturbed but was probably 0.5m in diameter and 0.30m deep. It cut into the loam layer (1078) and had as its
Figure 6: Construction of bank and souterrain showing lintels
basal fill a charcoal layer with slag (1060). Above this was a similar charcoal layer (1058), located below a deposit of clay (1059) which may have originally been annular in form. The clay deposit (1059) and the charcoal (1058) were both below the dark grey charcoal rich layer (1050) which spread out of the confines of Hearth I.

Cut through some of the lower layers of Phase I was a depression (1056), which ran along the length of the southern edge of the west passage of the souterrain. A light brown sandy loam (1057) filled the depression (1056).

There was a limited amount of slumping of the Primary bank during this phase, with the spoil spilling into the interior of the site to the south of the revetment. The slumping took the form of a thin orange-brown silty clay (1039) and a second similar yellowish sandy clay slump layer (1018).

To the north of the trench, tucked inside the revetment (1047) was a wall footing (1027). The stones of the wall footing were placed into a cut (1037), which cut the bank slump (1039). The wall footing was 1.8m long, running approximately north-east to southwest, and 0.4m wide. It was composed of irregular, rounded stones up to c. 0.2m in diameter. The wall footing was covered by the second bank slump layer (1018).

Contemporary with Hearth I, Paved Area I and the wall footing (1027) was a small, sub-circular structure, Hut I, c. 2m in diameter. It consisted of a sub-circular, black and orange mix of burnt clay and charred wicker (1075). Within this charred layer there were the remains of several wicker wands (1089, 1090 and 1091), two patches of burnt wicker (1084 and 1086) and a concentrated deposit of woven straw or grass which contained quantities of burnt bone (1083). The layer of charred clay and wicker (1075), which defined Hut I, ran into the section baulk to the west. Its overall shape was slightly irregular. The charred layer (1075) was beneath a mottled grey / brown / orange sandy clay layer of bank slump (1074), which was similar to, and underlying, the second bank slump layer (1018).

A layer of mid-brown sandy loam (1024), which varied from 10 to 15cm in thickness, separated the layers and features of Phase I in the south and west of the trench, from the layers and features associated with the second occupation phase, Phase II. This layer probably resulted from a mixing of occupation material and bank slippage materials. This may have been part of a deliberate act of levelling before construction of the second occupation phase on the site.
Figure 7: Phase I occupation
Second occupation phase (Phase II) (Figure 3, 8, 10; Plate 8)
Features associated with this phase of occupation included Hearth II and Paved Area II. There was also a reinforcement of the bank (1012) and additional revetment to stop the bank slumping (1076 and 112).

Hearth II (1035) was set into the mid-brown sandy loam (1024). Only half of the hearth survived. The rest had been disturbed, probably when the south side of the mound had collapsed. On the surviving north-east/south-west axis it was approximately 0.90m in length and 0.40m deep and was composed of long flat rocks lain on their long axis. The hearth was filled by a slightly burnt brown sandy loam (1032), which was similar to the occupation material (1024) and it may have been a heat-altered variant of this loam, into which the hearth stones had been set. The upper fill of the hearth was a yellowish burnt clay (1026). The disturbed cut where the hearth had collapsed was designated as Context 1031 and its hearth derived fill as Context 1033.

During Phase II an occupation deposit of mottled brown / yellow clay loam (1007) up to 0.20m deep accumulated over much of the central and western parts of the interior. This occupation material was in part derived from the bank slump material (1018) mixing with occupation waste. As a consequence of this slumping the bank was reinforced with the addition of a grey brown silty clay (1012), which both sat on top of the bank and around the upper portion of the revetment (1047). At this stage the revetment appears to have been extended around to the entrance area with the addition of a stone setting (1076) of which two courses survived. At the same time a revetment (112) was added to the outer face of the bank possibly to stop soil slippage over the façade.

Within the loam occupation layer (1007) there was a deposit of flat paving stones, designated as Paved Area II (1071). There was also a small section of stone-wall footing (1077), 0.3m wide, running east-west for 0.8m within the occupation layer (1007). It was composed of two courses of irregularly sorted stones.

Later (Mediaeval) occupation (Phase III) (Figure 3, 9, 10; Plate 9)
In the final occupation phase, Phase III, the entrance gap at the east side of the trench was filled in by the deposition of a gravel layer (1004), some of which was also backed up against the exterior of the bank. A layer of mid to dark brown silty loam (1006), 0.20 m deep, was probably deliberately spread over most of the interior trench as a deliberate levelling in advance of the new construction phase. Above this
Figure 8: Phase II occupation
levelling layer there was a sub-circular setting of stones (1092), 4m in diameter, which was probably the footing of a hut, Hut II. The sub-circular stone setting (1092) was cut by a linear stone setting (1009), which was judged to be the remains of a later field wall.

A number of small patches of burning (1020, 1029 and 1030) sat on top of the dark brown silty loam (1006).

The bank was further enhanced during this phase with the addition of the mid-brown, loamy clay (1010), which was 0.4m in thickness. The bank was reveted on its inside by a stone setting (1093).

The occupation material (1006), the stone footing (1092), the entrance infill (1004), the patches of burning (1020, 1029, 1030), the bank enhancement (1010) and the field wall (1009), were all located below the dark brown sandy loam topsoil (1001). A few patches of a greyish brown sandy loam (1002), slightly more gritty than the main topsoil material (1001), lay beneath the topsoil and above the bank enhancement (1010).

3.6 Artefactual Dating

The finds from Phase I consisted of plain Souterrain Ware, metal slag, a number of undiagnostic metal fragments, and animal bone. Souterrain Ware can be dated from the 7th or 8th century (Edwards 1990, 74) and continued in use into the 13th century, although assemblages of plain Souterrain Ware pottery without cordons or decoration date to the earlier part of the souterrain ware sequence (Ryan 1973, 628) before c. 1000AD. A large quantity of Souterrain Ware was found within the fill of the souterrain. In the primary fill of the souterrain (1049) there was a large amount of Souterrain Ware, with many large fragments of vessels including one complete profile. In addition, there were quite thick residues adhering to the interiors of some vessels. This residue is appropriate for further analysis. A bone identified as a human femur by Dr. Eileen Murphy, School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB, was found in the gravel (1028) which capped the souterrain. It may be a part of an earlier burial disturbed by the construction of the souterrain. It will be suitable for C14 dating.

The finds from Phase II were similar to Phase I and included Souterrain Ware, metal objects and animal bone. Cordoned and decorated Souterrain Ware first appears during this phase at Drumadoon, as well as unusual variants such as the small flared
Figure 9: Phase III occupation
Figure 10: Section of baulk running north-south across Main Trench
rim cup with a sagging base which was found in the Phase II bank slump material (1019).

Phase III had the most varied assemblage of finds. Amongst the finds were a silver half-penny of 13th century date, iron objects including an arrowhead and spearhead, a decorated, non-ferrous mount, and a 12th century bell-shrine with an added 13th century figure of the crucified Christ. This assemblage of finds suggests that the site continued in use into at least the later 13th century. In addition to Souterrain Ware pottery, glazed pottery and sherds of Everted Rim Ware pottery were also uncovered. The glazed pottery is similar to that suggested by McNeill as coming from a kiln in the Antrim Town area (McNeill, 1979, 22). Similar to the situation at Drumadoon, this glazed pottery has also been found at sites where there was native Irish presence well into the 13th century, such as Doonbought, Co. Antrim. The Antrim Type pottery could have made its way into the area while Thomas de Galloway held both Coleraine and Antrim Town castles. Similar pottery has been found at Castle Carra, at Cushendun, Co. Antrim. This area was certainly outside the de Lacy conquests in north Antrim, although the dating of the Castle Carra pottery has not yet been refined.

A silver half-penny was found in the upper souterrain fill (1008). The coin appears to be a long-cross silver penny of Henry III dating from 1247 to 1272. The bell-shrine appears to corroborate the impression of activity at the site in the later half of the 13th century. The bell-shrine itself has been dated to the last quarter of the 12th century but the figure of Christ is believed to date from the later part of the 13th century and originate in Limoges in France.
Figure 11: Section through Hearth I (1068) and furnace depression (1082)
4. Discussion

4.1 Discussion

The pre-bank deposits

Beneath the bank there was a layer of ancient sod material (1016). The bank, and possibly much of the rest of the ringfort had, therefore, been constructed without the removal of the pre-existing sod. It also implies that the top of the mound was already relatively flat before the construction of the ringfort and it was not necessary to substantially level the mound before work commenced. There was some struck flint in the pre-existing sod layer, although finds of waste flint would not be an unusual discovery in this part of north Antrim.

The construction of the bank and souterrain.

The bank was the first part of the ringfort to be constructed. There was no ditch associated with the bank, and it appears that the bank was constructed from material scarped from the area around the mound. To the east of the mound there is a flattened area, which may have been caused by scarping the earth to build up the bank. The absence of a ditch may be viewed as unusual, although a total of 43% of the ringforts in Co. Louth show no evidence for ditches (Buckley and Sweetman, 1991, 207). It must be questioned, however, whether this is because of a genuine absence of ditches associated with the ringforts or if it is the case that the ditches have silted up completely (Stout, 1997, 17). The interior of the bank was reveted with a stone wall. This is quite a common feature and has been found during the excavation of a number of ringforts including Ballymacash, Co. Down (Jope and Ivens, 1998) and Ballynarry, Co. Down (Davison, 1961-2). The exterior of the bank was reveted by a façade of large stones. These would have had both a structural function in stopping soil slip downwards but would also have made the bank seem more imposing.

The souterrain was constructed after the bank, although given the absence of any occupation layer separating them it seems likely that they were constructed during the same episode of construction. This does not, however, preclude the possibility that there was a considerable gap between the construction of the souterrain and the
bank and that occupation layers were destroyed during the souterrain’s construction. The souterrain was composed of two restricted entrance passages (one largely collapsed) leading to an undifferentiated passage / chamber. This type of chamber is quite common in the west of Ireland but relatively uncommon in the rest of the country (Clinton 2001, 122). It is possible that the reason that there appears to be two entrance passages leading to a single chamber is that each passage served a different area of the ringfort, with one possibly serving the interior of a house and the other serving the interior of the site such as was the situation at Darrara (Lisnagun), Co. Cork (O’Sullivan, 1998). Double entrance souterrains are rare (Clinton 2001, 105) with only three being known, and all discovered as a result of excavations: Garryntemple, Co. Tipperary (Hurley, 1987); Darrara, Co. Cork (O’Sullivan 1990, 227) and Knowth, Co. Meath (Clinton 2001, 105).

The lintels of the souterrain’s west passage appear to have been removed, probably towards the end of the first occupation phase, Phase I. The yellowish clay layer (1043) appeared to separate the primary fill of the western passage from the mixed yellowish brown clay / loam layers (1042 and 1048) that built up after the removal of the lintels but during the first period of site occupation.

Large amounts of Souterrain Ware sherds were found close together in the base of the souterrain suggesting that the vessels were deposited there whole, but that they fractured because of the weight of build-up of earth above them. This strongly suggests that the Souterrain Ware vessels were deliberately placed in the souterrain probably as part of a deliberate act of storage.

The west and south passages had neater, more visually pleasing constructional styles, with small well-sorted stones for the walls, and flat, micaceous schist lintels. This contrasted with the larger ill-sorted wall stones of the east chamber, and its large basaltic lintels. Isolated by two constrictions, the east chamber had more potential for use as a refuge.

The dating of the construction of the bank and souterrain would appear to be dated by the Souterrain Ware pottery within the primary deposit (1049) at the base of the west passage of the souterrain. This was plain, undecorated Souterrain Ware which can be dated to the 7th century or later (Edwards 1990, 74). By the later part of the Early Christian period (c. 1000AD) cordoned and decorated Souterrain Ware vessels were beginning to emerge (Ryan 1973, 628). The limited number of dates which are available for the construction of souterrains would broadly agree with the dating
evidence from the pottery, and would suggest that the site was probably constructed after 600AD but before 1000AD.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Lab no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Dendrochronolgy</td>
<td>813 - 831</td>
<td>QUB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killanully, Co. Cork</td>
<td>CAL C14</td>
<td>783 - 980</td>
<td>UB-3649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisnagun, Co. Cork</td>
<td>CAL C14</td>
<td>894 - 991</td>
<td>UB-3178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raheennamadra, Co. Limerick</td>
<td>CAL C14</td>
<td>649 - 938</td>
<td>Uppsala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raheennamadra, Co. Limerick</td>
<td>CAL C14</td>
<td>655 – 975</td>
<td>Uppsala</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Table I: after Stout, 1997)

The dating of souterrains is evidently unrefined but it is possible that the sequence could be further refined by C14 dates from Drumadoon. For example, a patch of charcoal rich soil (1030) which sat directly on top of the souterrain levelling material (1038) should provide material for dating the construction of the souterrain.

**The first occupation phase (Phase I)**

The first occupation phase, Phase I, was typical of many Early Christian settlement sites. Hearth I, Paved Area I, and single remaining post-hole (1087) are probably the surviving elements of a house. The house was probably rectangular and would have had four postholes and wall footings, possibly of stone. It has been suggested by Lynn that rectangular houses in rural Ireland date to the 10th century and later (Lynn 1994, 86). The combination of paved area, hearth and footings in close proximity is known from a number of Early Christian houses. At White Fort, Drumaroad, Co. Down (Waterman, 1956) two phases of a house were superimposed, one on the other, within a ringfort. The later phase had a sub-rectangular house, defined by an earthen footing reveted with stones externally. Internally it had an almost square, stone-built hearth and was paved with flat stones, with ash derived from the hearth covering much of the paved area. Roof support was provided by four post-holes. At the Marshland Habitation Site, Antiville, Larne, Co. Antrim, an unenclosed house was excavated (Waterman, 1971). The house was composed of a stone-footed wall, with an internal rectangular stone hearth and a paved area. A souterrain led from the south-west corner of the house. Similar hearths and paved areas were also found at Doonmore, Co. Antrim which is only a short distance from Drumadoon(Childe, 1938).
The small hut, Hut 1, to the east of Hearth I and Paved Area I, of which the surviving remains were just over 2m in diameter, may have been too small to have been a dwelling and it seems likely to have functioned as an outbuilding. Outbuildings are known from a number of ringfort excavations such as Ballymacash (Jope & Ivens, 1998) and Ballywee (Hamlin & Lynn, 1988, 32-35), both in Co. Antrim.

The second occupation phase (Phase II)
The archaeological features and finds from Phase II were similar to those identified for Phase I, thereby suggesting continuity of occupation. The layer (1024) that separated Phase I from Phase II was probably the result of levelling carried out during the replacement of one or more dwellings. As with Phase I there was a hearth (Hearth II) and a paved area (Paved Area II). There were traces of wall footings (1077), but nothing that could convincingly be identified as the remains of a house. There was no trace of a hut in this phase and Paved Area II lay above where Hut I had been located.

Later (Mediaeval) occupation (Phase III)
The distinction between the archaeological features and artefacts of Phase II and Phase III is considerable. During Phase III the entrance to the site was blocked up. Although there had been ongoing slumping of the bank and build-up of material in the interior of the ringfort (1018 and 1019) during the previous two phases, it seems that the interior of the ringfort was now levelled and a layer of mixed loam (1006) was spread over the site. A sod bank (1010) was erected around the perimeter of the mound on top of the existing bank. A small, round, stone-footed structure (Hut II) was constructed on the flattened surface (1006). There was no evidence of a hearth or paving. The size of the hut and its evident insubstantial nature would suggest that it could not have functioned as a permanent residence. It may have been a temporary structure or else an ancillary building.

The artefacts found within the Phase III layers suggests a Mediaeval date for these deposits. Drumadoon is not unusual in showing continuity of occupation, although not necessarily ownership, from the Early Christian period through to the Mediaeval period. At Ballyfounder Rath, Co. Down, Waterman found evidence for the 13th century occupation of a ringfort (Waterman, 1958), with the site levelled, and then built up by about 0.30m, before occupation. At Ballynarry Rath, Co. Down, there was a substantial 13th century stone-footed house constructed over Early Christian period deposits (Davison, 1961-2). The site had been levelled with 0.30m to 0.60m of yellow clay which was also used to construct a bank around the summit of the flat mound.
Both Ballyfounder and Ballynarry share with Drumadoon the levelling of the site prior to Mediaeval occupation. In both of these cases, however, the levelling deposit was much more substantial and leading to a more profound division between the Early Christian and Mediaeval phases of each site. Drumadoon shares with Ballynarry the addition of a bank around the perimeter of the mound.

Among other raths to show continuity of occupation, although again not necessarily ownership, from the Early Christian to Mediaeval Periods are Dunsilly (McNeill 1991-2) and Rathmullan (Lynn 1981-2). These differ, however, in that they both had very large amounts of material added to the original raths which raised the interior of each monument by circa 3m and 2m respectively, to create mottes on pre-existing ringforts. In the case of Drumadoon, Ballynarry and Ballyfounder this importation of material does not happen. It could be argued for Drumadoon however that the location and morphology of the site as it already existed would have enabled it to be modified into a motte with little work.

Who built and used Drumadoon?

The builders of the ringfort at Drumadoon are uncertain. It is argued above that the site was constructed between the years 600 AD and 1000 AD. This is quite a wide date range, but it is hoped that the dating of the site can be improved upon with C14 dating and further examination of the finds. However, even if this date range could be tightened (perhaps to between 750 AD and 1000 AD) it would still leave the date for the construction of the site straddling the periods when the surrounding area may have changed hands between the Dál Riata and the Fir Li. It is likely that the de Galloway brothers did not make substantial inroads into the territory of the Fir Li early in the 13th century and it seems more probable that it was Hugh de Lacy who made the Anglo-Norman presence effective in north Antrim (McNeill, 1979, 22). It must be assumed, therefore, that the native occupation of the site probably continued until de Lacy gained his control of the area, probably sometime between 1227 and 1243. This may suggest that the end of Phase II and the beginning of Phase III may date to around the time of the de Lacy conquest of the area.
The end of Drumadoon

There is no evidence from the archaeological record to suggest that the fort continued in use after the late 13th century. All the finds appear to date to this period or earlier so even allowing for a certain amount of lag in the manufacture, use and disposal of artefacts it seems that the site must have been abandoned in the early 14th century at the latest. There are a number of possibilities which can be suggested to account for the abandonment of the site.

a) Physical collapse of a portion of the mound into the Carey River Valley
b) Political turbulence leading to the destruction of the site or its abandonment
c) Abandonment of an old type of fortification

Abandonment of the site may have been caused by its partial collapse. The site was prone to subsidence and it is notable that the site had largely collapsed by the time the Ordnance Survey surveyed the area in 1838/9 (Day & McWilliams, 1994, 51-52).

Political turbulence, such as that caused by the dispute over the ownership of Twescard during the minority of Richard de Lacy (1270–1280) or the invasion of Edward Bruce in 1315 may have led to the conditions in which the site was abandoned but there is no destruction layer indicative of an attack on Drumadoon.

It is possible that the site was abandoned simply because it was an obsolete type of fortification. It is difficult to date exactly when mottes ceased to be used in Ireland from the evidence contained in the archaeological record. Documentary evidence indicates that in many areas mottes were not built more than 10 years after those areas had been brought under Anglo-Norman control (McNeill, 1997, 72). This suggests that no mottes were built in Ireland after the mid 13th century at the latest. This may effectively be taken as the period that marks their obsolescence. It seems reasonable that a number of decades after a monument type becomes effectively obsolete many will begin to be abandoned. This would allow for an abandonment, at Drumadoon in the late 13th or early 14th centuries which would fit in with the dates for the artefacts recovered from the Phase III activity.
5. **The Drumadoon Bell-shrine, by Cormac Bourke (Plate 10 & 11)**

The Drumadoon bell-shrine was designed to house a hand-bell which was revered as the relic of a saint. Such shrines are confined to Ireland and Scotland and reflect the role of bells as cult accessories. Bells were associated by tradition with miracle-working; they were attributed to the saints and were among the emblems of office of their successors. The Drumadoon shrine presupposes such a context in north Antrim.

The Drumadoon bell-shrine is to be understood, further, as an example of 12th-century metalwork which is without exact parallel and which enlarges our knowledge of the Romanesque. Its construction is of technical interest, and the apparent lack of provision for closing the base calls for explanation. An applied figure of the crucified Christ determines the character of the piece and is itself of some significance. A product of 13th-century Limoges, the figure is one of a handful of such imports to Ireland. Its association with the shrine indicates refurbishment and bespeaks long-distance contacts through trade and pilgrimage.
6. **Recommendations for further work**

*Introduction*: There are seven main areas of recommendation for further work on the post-excavation programme for the Drumadoon excavations in 2003.

(1) It is suggested that the soil samples collected during the excavation be processed by wet sieving and flotation.

(2) It is suggested that a programme of radiocarbon dating be undertaken to attempt to refine the chronology of the site.

(3) It is suggested that all bone remains be examined.

(4) It is suggested that all macro-flora be examined and identified.

(5) It is suggested that an examination of the pottery is undertaken.

(6) It is suggested that the metalwork be examined.

(7) It is suggested that a more in depth examination of the bell-shrine be undertaken.

(1) **Soil sample processing**: It is suggested that all the soil samples taken at the Drumadoon be sieved and floated. It is possible that much environmental, agricultural and dietary information could be obtained from soil sample processing and subsequent processing of the finds obtained. It is also anticipated that soil sample processing may provide seed / grains which may be used for C14 dating after identification and analysis. A total of 63.85 Kg of samples needs processed. It is suggested that this processing be carried out by John Davidson of the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB.

(2) **Radiocarbon dating programme**: It is suggested that a comprehensive programme of radiocarbon dating be carried out. This should be targeted to date the main structural features of the excavation. The primary targets for dating are:

(a) The building of the souterrain

(b) Phase I occupation
(c) Phase II occupation

(d) Phase III occupation

Although soil sample processing has not yet been carried out, it is suggested that a minimum of five Accelerator Mass Spectrometry dates should be obtained to date the four phases identified above, and to date the human bone found on the site. Accelerator Mass Spectrometry dates may be preferable to conventional radiometric dates as this will allow the dating of small amounts of seeds, hazelnut shells or other materials not affected by old wood effect. It is suggested that the radiocarbon dating is carried out at the Radiocarbon Laboratory, School of Archaeology & Palaeoecology, QUB.

(3) Analysis of bone remains: Large amounts of animal bone and one human bone were found during the excavation at Drumadoon. These bones may contain important information about Early Christian and Medieval agriculture and economy. It is suggested that the human bone be examined by Dr Eileen Murphy of the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB and that the animal bone be examined by Dr Emily Murray of the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB.

(4) Macro-floral remains: It is possible that macro-floral remains will be found during soil sample processing, especially of hearth material. If these remains are found they will provide an excellent chance to obtain information about the environment and agriculture of the immediate area as well as being potentially datable material. It is proposed that, if found, the seeds and grains be analysed and identified by a specialist. It is suggested that this is carried out by Dr Gill Plunkett of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Archaeology, QUB.

(5) Pottery Examination: A large amount of pottery, including Everted Rim Ware and Medieval wheel-thrown pottery was found at Drumadoon. In particular a large and very well preserved assemblage of Souterrain Ware was recovered. It is suggested that further examination of the pottery is undertaken. This should involve a number of forms of examination;

   a) An examination of the forms and decoration of the different pot types should be undertaken. It is proposed that this is carried out by Cormac McSparron of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Archaeology, QUB.
b) A selection of the coarse ware sherds should have Organic Residue Analysis carried out on them. This involves having residues remaining within pots, or absorbed into their fabrics analysed so as to ascertain the function / functions of the vessels in question. It is suggested that six sherds be used for this type of analysis. It is proposed that this analysis is carried out by the Organic Geochemistry Unit, Biogeochemistry Research Centre, School of Chemistry, University of Bristol.

(6) Examination of Metalwork: In addition to the bell-shrine a substantial amount of bronze and iron metalwork and slag was recovered during the excavation. It is suggested that this material is examined by Dr. Philip Macdonald of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Archaeology, QUB.

(7) Examination of the Bell-shrine: Although a preliminary piece on the bell shrine is included in this report a more in-depth study is required. It is suggested that Cormac Bourke of the Ulster Museum examines the bell-shrine in more detail. This will involve description and illustration of the bell and an account of its place in the wider corpus.
7.0 Bibliography


Hill, G., 1873: *An Historical Account of the MacDonnells of Antrim*, Belfast.


Mac Gabhann, F., 1997: *Place-names of Northern Ireland, Volume 7, County Antrim II, Ballycastle and North-East Antrim*, Institute of Irish studies, QUB.


### Appendix 1: Context Log

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<th>Context no.</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Topsoil layer immediately beneath the sod</td>
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<td>102</td>
<td>1/Main</td>
<td>Bank slump mixed with topsoil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1/Main</td>
<td>Deleted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>1/Main</td>
<td>Kerb of large stones at edge of bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>1/Main</td>
<td>Subsoil layer</td>
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<td>106</td>
<td>1/Main</td>
<td>Slump from the bank</td>
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<td>107</td>
<td>1/Main</td>
<td>Cobbling running towards entrance</td>
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<td>108</td>
<td>1/Main</td>
<td>Levelling deposit for cobbles</td>
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<td>1/Main</td>
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<td>Stony surface (top of subsoil)</td>
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<td>306</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sub-circular depression (natural)</td>
</tr>
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<td>307</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Circular depression (natural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sub-circular depression (natural)</td>
</tr>
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<td>309</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Circular depression (natural)</td>
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<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Orange brown sandy gravel (natural variant)</td>
</tr>
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<td>311</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gravel / chalk (natural variant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>312</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>More compact gravel (natural variant)</td>
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<td>Gravel subsoil</td>
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<td>Dark loam layer beneath the sod (topsoil)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1002</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Transitional layer at base of topsoil and above firm archaeology</td>
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<td>1003</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Light brown sandy loam late bank slump, same as 1019</td>
</tr>
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<td>1004</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Later bank material, used to in fill entrance gap</td>
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<td>1005</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>The souterrain stonework</td>
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<tr>
<td>1006</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Phase III occupation layer</td>
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<td>1007</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Later Early Christian occupation layer</td>
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<td>Disturbed upper souterrain fill</td>
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<td>1009</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Late field wall</td>
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<td>1010</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Phase III (Mediaeval) sod bank enhancement</td>
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<td>1011</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Layer within the bank</td>
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<td>Main</td>
<td>Layer which formed naturally around the revetment stones (1047) and on top of the Phase I bank</td>
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<td>Layer within the bank</td>
</tr>
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<td>1014</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>A lens within the bank</td>
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<td>1015</td>
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<td>Layer at base of bank</td>
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<td>1016</td>
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<td>Old sod layer</td>
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<td>1017</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Cut for souterrain</td>
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<td>1018</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Earlier bank slump material</td>
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<td>Layer</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>-------</td>
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<tr>
<td>1019</td>
<td>Later bank slump material</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1020</td>
<td>Small burnt patch</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1021</td>
<td>Gritty layer around souterrain entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>1022</td>
<td>This is 1015 at the extreme west of the site (mostly quarried away)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1023</td>
<td>Same as 1007</td>
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<td>Occupation layer separating the Phase I from Phase II occupation</td>
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<td>1025</td>
<td>Collective number used to describe Phase I occupation deposits and layers derived from Hearth I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1026</td>
<td>Upper fill of Hearth II</td>
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<tr>
<td>1027</td>
<td>Wall footing</td>
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<td>1028</td>
<td>Post-souterrain construction gravel “cap” layer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1029</td>
<td>Patch of burnt soil within / above 1006</td>
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<tr>
<td>1030</td>
<td>Charcoal concentration within 1029</td>
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<tr>
<td>1031</td>
<td>Disturbed area south of Hearth II (close to collapsing south face of mound)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1032</td>
<td>Lower fill of Hearth II</td>
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<td>1033</td>
<td>Material “filling” disturbed area 1031 (probably disturbed Hearth II fill)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1034</td>
<td>Paved Area I</td>
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<td>1035</td>
<td>Hearth II</td>
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<td>1036</td>
<td>Charcoal and burnt clay deposit above souterrain levelling layer (1038)</td>
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<td>1037</td>
<td>Cut into 1038 and 1039 containing wall footing (1027)</td>
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<td>1038</td>
<td>A levelling / floor layer above the gravel souterrain “cap” (1028)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1039</td>
<td>A thin silty bank slump layer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1040</td>
<td>Similar to 1036</td>
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<tr>
<td>1041</td>
<td>Same as 1078</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1042</td>
<td>Souterrain fill layer</td>
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<td>1043</td>
<td>Souterrain fill layer</td>
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<td>Subsoil</td>
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<tr>
<td>1046</td>
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<tr>
<td>1047</td>
<td>Inner revetment to bank</td>
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<td>1048</td>
<td>Souterrain fill found only at extreme west of souterrain</td>
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<td>Souterrain fill layer</td>
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<td>1050</td>
<td>Charred twigs surrounding Hearth I</td>
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<td>1051</td>
<td>Fill of Hearth I</td>
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<td>1052</td>
<td>Material in base of Hearth 1 probably derived from 1078</td>
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<td>Material in base of hearth 1 probably derived from 1078</td>
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<td>1054</td>
<td>Number originally given to some stones later found to make up part of Hearth I (1068)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Number originally given to some stones later found to make up part of Hearth I (1068)</td>
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<td>1056</td>
<td>Voiding at side of souterrain in west of site</td>
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<tr>
<td>1057</td>
<td>Material filling voiding at side of souterrain</td>
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<td>1058</td>
<td>Charcoal deposit, part of disturbed bowl furnace (1082)</td>
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<td>Clay layer, part of disturbed bowl furnace (1082)</td>
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<td>Lower charcoal rich fill of disturbed bowl furnace (1082)</td>
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<td>1062</td>
<td>Variant on the bank material (1011)</td>
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<td>1063</td>
<td>Slight slumping of bank material into entrance area</td>
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<td>1065</td>
<td>Sand / ash, Hearth I derived, rich occupation material, Phase I</td>
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<td>Deposit of ash rich occupation material derived from Hearth I, Phase I</td>
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<td>Charred twigs derived from Hearth I, Phase I</td>
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<td>Main</td>
<td>Charcoal layer derived from Hearth I, Phase I</td>
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<td>Pink ash derived from Hearth I, Phase I</td>
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<td>Paved Area II</td>
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<td>Sandy stony layer, possible collapse of Hut I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Burnt wicker and clay layer, Hut I</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Later revetment across entrance way</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Short stretch of wall footing</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Occupation material, Phase 1</td>
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<td>Voiding at the side of the souterrain cut, same as 1056</td>
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<td>Main</td>
<td>Sandy gravel filling void 1079, running along side of souterrain</td>
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<td>Main</td>
<td>Layer of gravel, possibly cast up during construction of souterrain</td>
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<td>Disturbed bowl furnace</td>
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<td>Main</td>
<td>Concentrated burnt organic deposit, part of Hut I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Section of burnt wicker, part of Hut I</td>
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<td>Section of burnt wicker, part of Hut I</td>
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<td>Main</td>
<td>Post-hole beside Paved Area I</td>
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<td>Fill of post-hole (1087)</td>
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<td>Charred wicker stave, within 1075, Hut I</td>
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<td>Burnt wood upright, within 1075, Hut I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Burnt wood upright, within 1075, Hut I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Sub circular stone setting in 1006, Hut II</td>
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<td>Stones revetment at base of Phase III sod bank enhancement (1010)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Depression, possibly a pit or voiding into the souterrain</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Fill of depression or pit, the Bell-shrine was found in this layer</td>
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</table>
Appendix Two: Harris Matrix
**Appendix Three: Photographic Log**

The photographic record from Drumadoon is completely digital. In a conventional photographic archive the photographs are listed by film number and photo number. In the absence of film the digital archive lists the photographs by the downloaded batch number as well as by photo number.

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<th>Photo No</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Disturbed stones from souterrain after removal of topsoil</td>
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<td>Disturbed stones from souterrain after removal of topsoil</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Disturbed stones from souterrain after removal of topsoil</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Under exposed</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>View of Carey river at base of river valley from west</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>11</td>
<td>View of Carey river at base of river valley from north</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>View of Carey river at base of river valley from east</td>
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<td>View of Carey river at base of river valley from east</td>
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<td>View of cobbling (107)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>View of cobbling (107) and kerbing (104)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>View of cobbling (107) from north</td>
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<tr>
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<td>19</td>
<td>View of Trench 1 from east showing cobbling (107) and kerbing (104)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>20</td>
<td>View of Main Trench from west showing Phase III and later features</td>
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<td>View of Main Trench from west showing Phase III and later features</td>
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<td>View of Main Trench from west showing Phase III and later features</td>
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<td>View of Main Trench from west showing Phase III and later features</td>
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<td>View of Main Trench from west showing Phase III and later features</td>
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<td>View of Main Trench from west showing Phase III and later features</td>
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<td>View of Main Trench from west showing Phase III and later features</td>
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<td>Wicker wands from Hut I</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Incorrect exposure</td>
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<tr>
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<td>35</td>
<td>View of main trench from east after removal of 1001 showing modern wall footing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>View of main trench from east after removal of 1001 showing modern wall footing</td>
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<td>Top end of Trench 3 after removal of topsoil from north</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Top end of Trench 3 after removal of topsoil from north</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Stones below topsoil at west end of Trench 1</td>
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<td>Stones below topsoil at west end of Trench 1</td>
</tr>
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**1 42** Top end of Trench 3 after removal of topsoil from north  
**1 43** Top end of Trench 3 after removal of topsoil from north  
**1 44** Top end of Trench 3 after removal of topsoil from north  
**1 45** Possible feature in Trench 3, later dismissed  
**1 46** Possible feature in Trench 3, later dismissed  
**1 47** Top end of Trench 3 after removal of topsoil from north  
**1 48** Possible feature in Trench 3, later dismissed  
**1 49** Possible feature in Trench 3, later dismissed  
**1 50** Trench 1 extension showing kerbing (104) and collapsed stone  
**1 51** Trench 1 extension showing kerbing (104) and collapsed stone  
**1 52** Trench 1 extension showing kerbing (104) and collapsed stone  
**1 53** Excavations on mound summit, removal of topsoil from southeast.  
**1 54** Excavations on mound summit, removal of topsoil from southeast.  
**1 55** Excavations on mound summit, removal of topsoil from southeast.  
**1 56** Excavations on mound summit, removal of topsoil from southeast.  
**1 57** Excavations on mound summit, removal of topsoil from southeast.  
**1 58** Excavations on mound summit, removal of topsoil from southeast.  
**1 59** Excavations on mound summit, removal of topsoil from southeast.  
**1 60** View of Trench 1 from east showing kerbing and possible entrance gap.  
**1 61** Excavations on mound summit, removal of topsoil from northeast.  
**1 62** Excavations on mound summit, removal of topsoil from northwest.  
**1 63** View of stones eroding from north face of mound  
**1 64** View of main trench from west during topsoil removal  
**1 65** Incorrect exposure  
**1 66** View of main trench from west during topsoil removal  
**1 67** View of late phase III bank enhancement (1010)  
**1 68** View of late phase III bank enhancement (1010)  
**1 69** View of late phase III bank enhancement (1010) after removal of box section  
**1 70** View of late phase III bank enhancement (1010) after removal of box section  
**2 1** General view of main trench under excavation from west  
**2 2** View of removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from souterrain  
**2 3** View of removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from souterrain  
**2 4** View of removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from souterrain  
**2 5** View of removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from souterrain  
**2 6** Removal of box section through bank  
**2 7** View of late phase III bank enhancement (1010) under excavation  
**2 8** View of west end of souterrain, from west, after removal of some disturbed collapse material (1008)  
**2 9** View of west end of souterrain, from east, after removal of some disturbed collapse material (1008)  
**3 1** View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from west.  
**3 2** View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from west.  
**3 3** View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from west.  
**3 4** View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from west.  
**3 5** View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from west.  
**3 6** View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from east.  
**3 7** View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from east.  
**3 8** View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from east.  
**3 9** View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from east.
3 10 View of west end of souterrain after removal of disturbed upper fill (1008) from east.
3 11 View of occupation layer (1007) after removal of (1006) from west
3 12 View of occupation layer (1007) after removal of (1006) from west
3 13 View of occupation layer (1007) after removal of (1006) from east
3 14 View of collapsing face of mound showing inner revetment 1047
3 15 View of collapsing face of mound showing inner revetment 1047
3 16 View of upper portion of inner revetment (1047) and wall footing (1027)
3 17 Photo of hearth 2 and Paved Area I
3 18 Photo of hearth 2 and Paved Area I
3 19 Dr. Brian Williams holding bell-shrine just after discovery
3 20 Dr. Brian Williams holding bell-shrine just after discovery
3 21 Dr. Brian Williams holding bell-shrine just after discovery
3 22 Dr. Brian Williams holding bell-shrine just after discovery
3 23 Dr. Brian Williams holding bell-shrine just after discovery
3 24 Dr. Brian Williams holding bell-shrine just after discovery
3 25 Dr. Brian Williams holding bell-shrine just after discovery
3 26 Photo of back of bell-shrine showing trefoil mount
3 27 Photo of back of bell-shrine showing trefoil mount (detail)
3 28 Photo of back of bell-shrine showing trefoil mount (detail)
3 29 Photo of side of shrine showing decorated mounts for cord
3 30 Photo of back of bell-shrine showing trefoil mount (detail)
3 31 Photo of back of bell-shrine showing trefoil mount (detail)
3 32 Photo of back of bell-shrine showing trefoil mount (detail)
3 33 Photo of front of bell-shrine showing figure of Christ (detail)
3 34 Photo of front of bell-shrine showing figure of Christ (detail)
3 35 Photo of front of bell-shrine showing figure of Christ (detail)
3 36 Photo of front of bell-shrine showing figure of Christ
3 37 View of charcoal rich 1036 / 1040
3 38 View of charcoal rich 1036 / 1040 with shrine void at top right corner
3 39 View of Phase I occupation levels, with Hearth II (Phase II still to be removed)
3 40 View of Hearth II and earlier Paved Area I
3 41 View of Hearth II and earlier Paved Area I
3 42 View of Hearth II and earlier Paved Area I
3 43 View of Hearth II and earlier Paved Area I
3 44 View of Hearth II and earlier Paved Area I
3 45 View of Hearth II and earlier Paved Area I
3 46 View of Hearth II and earlier Paved Area I
3 47 View of Hearth II and earlier Paved Area I
4  1 View of box section through Hearth 1
4  2 View of box section through Hearth 1
4  3 View of box section through Hearth 1
4  4 View of box section through Hearth 1
4  5 View of box section through Hearth 1
4  6 View of box section through Hearth 1
4  7 View of box section through Hearth 1
4  8 View of box section through Hearth 1
4  9 View of interior of souterrain viewing roof lintels
4 10 View of interior of souterrain viewing roof lintels
View of interior of souterrain viewing roof lintels

View of interior of souterrain viewing roof lintels

View of east of main trench showing tail of bank and entrance infill material 1063

View of in filled entrance showing infill (1063 / 1012), dark gravel 1004 and added revetment (1076)

View of east of main trench showing tail of bank and entrance infill material 1063 and external late revetment (111)

View of east of main trench showing tail of bank and entrance infill material 1063 and external late revetment (111)

View of east of main trench showing tail of bank and entrance infill material 1063 and external late revetment (111)

Portion of 111 discovered eroding from mound at non excavated section to north-east

Portion of 111 discovered eroding from mound at non excavated section to north-east

View of in filled entrance showing infill (1063 / 1012), dark gravel 1004 and added revetment (1076)

View of in filled entrance showing infill (1063 / 1012), dark gravel 1004 and added revetment (1076)

View of in filled entrance showing infill (1063 / 1012), dark gravel 1004 and added revetment (1076)

View of Hearth I, Paved Area I and Phase I occupation material derived from Hearth I from east

View of Hearth I, Paved Area I and Phase I occupation material derived from Hearth I from north

View of Hearth I, Paved Area I and Phase I occupation material derived from Hearth I from east

View of cut through bank

View of Hearth I, Paved Area I and Phase I occupation material derived from Hearth I from east

View of Hearth I, Paved Area I and Phase I occupation material derived from Hearth I from east (detail)

View of Hearth I, Paved Area I and Phase I occupation material derived from Hearth I from west

View of Hearth I, Paved Area I and Phase I occupation material derived from Hearth I from east

Stone socket

Stone socket

Stone socket

Excavation of cut through bank

View of cut through bank from east

Hearth I from east, showing internal fills and stone kerbing

Hearth I from east, showing internal fills and stone kerbing (detail)

Hearth I from east, showing internal fills and stone kerbing (detail)

Hearth I from east, showing internal fills and stone kerbing

Hearth I, Paved Area I and Phase I occupation material derived from Hearth I from west

Hearth I, Paved Area I and Phase I occupation material derived from Hearth I from west

View of disturbed furnace area (1082)

View of disturbed furnace area (1082) (detail)

View of excavation of charred wicker layer (1075) of Phase II, Hut I from north

View of wicker wands comprising part of wicker (1075)

View of wicker wands comprising part of wicker (1075) possibly showing charred grain

View of wicker wands comprising part of wicker (1075) possibly showing charred grain

View of wicker wands comprising part of wicker (1075) possibly showing charred grain
5 5 View of tip of bank emerging from south section and (1004) and (1063) filling entrance gap
5 6 View of tip of bank emerging from south section and (1004) and (1063) filling entrance gap
5 7 View of section through entrance area from south
5 8 View of section through entrance area from south (detail)
5 9 View of section through entrance area from north
5 10 View of section through entrance area from north
5 11 View of section through entrance area from south
5 12 Hearth I fully excavated
5 13 Hearth I fully excavated
5 14 Hearth I fully excavated
5 15 Hearth I fully excavated
5 16 Hearth I fully excavated
5 17 Post-hole (1087)
5 18 First signs of souterrain east chamber
5 19 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
5 20 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
5 21 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
5 22 Photo of possible plough coulter found in gravel above souterrain
5 23 Photo of possible plough coulter found in gravel above souterrain
5 24 Photo of burnt wicker found within charred (1075), part of Hut I
5 25 Photo of burnt wicker found within charred (1075), part of Hut I
6 1 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
6 2 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
6 3 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
6 4 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
6 5 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
6 6 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
6 7 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
6 8 Site visitors
6 9 Over-exposed image
6 10 View of section through entrance area from north
6 11 Section through entrance showing entrance infill
6 12 Section through entrance showing entrance infill
6 13 Photograph of bank at south edge of site
6 14 Photograph taken by a camera lowered into souterrain east chamber prior to excavation
6 20 Section through bank
6 21 Section through bank
6 22 East running chamber showing roofing lintels prior to their removal, from west
6 23 East running chamber showing roofing lintels prior to their removal, from west
6 24 East running chamber showing roofing lintels prior to their removal, from west
6 25 Photograph of east running chamber showing roofing lintels prior to their removal, from west
6 26 East running chamber showing roofing lintels prior to their removal, from west (detail)
6 27 East running chamber showing roofing lintels prior to their removal, from west (detail)
6 28 East running chamber showing roofing lintels prior to their removal, from east
6 29 East running chamber showing roofing lintels prior to their removal, from east
6 30 Close-up of main baulk from east
6 31 Close-up of main baulk from east
6 32 Close-up of main baulk from east
| 6  | 33 | Close-up of main baulk from east |
| 6  | 34 | Close-up of main baulk from east |
| 7  | 1  | Remnant of bank and internal revetment at extreme west of the site close to eroding face |
| 7  | 2  | Remnant of bank and internal revetment at extreme west of the site close to eroding face |
| 7  | 3  | Remnant of bank and internal revetment at extreme west of the site close to eroding face |
| 7  | 4  | Photograph of main baulk from west |
| 7  | 5  | Photograph of main baulk from west |
| 7  | 6  | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 7  | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 8  | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 9  | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 10 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 11 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 12 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 13 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 14 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 15 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 16 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 17 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 18 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 19 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 20 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 21 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 22 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 23 | Photograph of main baulk from west (detail) |
| 7  | 24 | Photograph of main baulk from west |
| 7  | 25 | Photograph of main baulk from west |
| 7  | 26 | Detail photograph of stonework of inner revetment (1047) |
| 7  | 27 | General view of main trench after removal of Phase I archaeology |
| 7  | 28 | General view of main trench after removal of Phase I archaeology |
| 7  | 29 | West passage of souterrain |
| 7  | 30 | General view of main trench after removal of Phase I archaeology |
| 7  | 31 | West passage of souterrain |
| 7  | 32 | East chamber of souterrain under excavation |
| 7  | 33 | East chamber of souterrain under excavation |
| 8  | 1  | West passage of souterrain from east |
| 8  | 2  | West passage of souterrain from east |
| 8  | 3  | West passage of souterrain from north |
| 8  | 4  | West passage of souterrain from north |
| 8  | 5  | West passage of souterrain from east |
| 8  | 6  | West passage of souterrain from east |
| 8  | 7  | West passage of souterrain from south |
| 8  | 8  | West passage of souterrain from south |
| 8  | 9  | West passage of souterrain from south |
| 8  | 10 | West passage of souterrain from south |
| 8  | 11 | West passage of souterrain from south |
| 8  | 12 | West passage of souterrain from south |
| 8  | 13 | West passage of souterrain from north showing wall collapse |
8 14 West passage of souterrain from south showing wall collapse
8 15 West passage of souterrain, approaching constriction, from south.
8 16 West passage of souterrain, approaching constriction, from west.
8 17 West passage of souterrain, approaching constriction, from west.
8 18 West passage of souterrain from east
8 19 West passage of souterrain from east
8 20 West passage of souterrain from east
8 21 West passage of souterrain from east
8 22 West passage of souterrain from east
8 23 West passage of souterrain from west
8 24 West passage showing constriction from west
8 25 West passage showing constriction from west
8 26 East chamber of souterrain under excavation, from west
8 27 East chamber of souterrain under excavation, from west
8 28 East chamber of souterrain under excavation, from west
8 29 East chamber of souterrain under excavation, from west
8 30 East chamber of souterrain under excavation, from west
8 31 East chamber of souterrain under excavation, from west
8 32 East chamber of souterrain under excavation, from west
8 33 South passage from north
8 34 South passage from north
8 35 South passage from west
8 36 South passage from west
8 37 South passage from east
8 38 End of south passage
8 39 East chamber terminal viewed from above
8 40 East chamber terminal viewed from above
8 41 East chamber terminal viewed from above
8 42 East chamber terminal viewed from above
8 43 East chamber of souterrain under excavation, from above
8 44 East chamber of souterrain under excavation, from west
8 45 West passage of souterrain from east
8 46 West passage of souterrain from east
8 47 View of constriction leading to south passage from north
8 48 View of constriction leading to south passage from north
8 49 South passage from north-east
8 50 South passage from north-east
8 51 Constriction between west passage and east chamber viewed from east
8 52 View of constriction leading to south passage from north
8 53 East chamber under excavation from west
8 54 East chamber under excavation from west
8 55 East chamber under excavation from west
8 56 Constriction between west passage and east chamber viewed from west
8 57 Constriction between west passage and east chamber viewed from west
8 58 Constriction between west passage and east chamber viewed from west
8 59 Constriction between west passage and east chamber viewed from west
8 60 Photograph of internal stone revetment (1047) from south
8 61 Photograph of internal stone revetment (1047) from south
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>62</th>
<th>Internal stone revetment (1047) and west passage, approaching constriction, from south-west</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Photograph of south &quot;section&quot; detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Photograph of south &quot;section&quot; detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Photograph of south &quot;section&quot; detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Photograph of south &quot;section&quot; detail</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Photograph of south &quot;section&quot; detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Photograph of south &quot;section&quot; detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Photograph of south &quot;section&quot; detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Merged images of south &quot;section&quot; 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>Merged images of south &quot;section&quot; 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix Four: Field Drawing Register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drawing No.</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Description / Contexts Shown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Trench 1 plan: 102, 103, 105, 109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Trench 1 section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Trench 2 after excavation: 201, 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Trench 3 after excavation: 301, 302, 304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5a</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>“Section” of collapsing face of mound: part a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5b</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>“Section” of collapsing face of mound: part b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5c</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>“Section” of collapsing face of mound: part c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5d</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>“Section” of collapsing face of mound: part d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Trench 3 upper extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Trench 1: 104, 105, 111, 112, 113, 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Trench 5: 501, 502, 503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of box section through disturbed material above souterrain in centre of Main Trench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench – late bank towards: 1002, 1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of Trench 1: 101, 102, 105, 106, 107, 108, 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Trench 1:104, 107, 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13a</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: West end after removal of topsoil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13b</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: East end after removal of topsoil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Sod bank (1010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: West passage of souterrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: West passage of souterrain and west part of trench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Bank and souterrain: 1006, 1008, 1011, 1019, 1020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Bank and souterrain: 1004, 1006, 1008, 1019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Deposit 1011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Plan of west of Main Trench showing souterrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Area to east of baulk after removal of most of 1001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: 1005, 1006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Composite phase plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Section through Hearth I and associated charcoal and ash spreads: 1025, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Section through Hearth II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: East end of site, revetment and bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: East end of site revetment and bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Paved area II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: South west of trench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Section of stone-hole below Paved Area II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Burnt charcoal and clay (1075) of Hut I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Burnt wicker (1084), Hut I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Burnt wicker (1084), Hut I (second part)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Main Trench: Section of burnt wicker and clay layer (1075), Hut I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Phase I occupation material (1078)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Phase I occupation material (1078) and post-hole (1087)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Phase I occupation material (1078) and post-hole (1087)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: South facing bank section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: West facing bank section, 1001, 1004, 1011, 1013, 1016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Scale</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Section through entrance area, 1004, 1028, 1038, 1044, 1074, 1075, 1092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Section Main Trench: East facing section of baulk (partial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Section of bank material at west end of site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Souterrain base plan and sections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Plan Hut I area after removal of burnt wicker (1075)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Souterrain fill and wall footing (1027)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Incomplete plan showing internal revetment stones (1047)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Souterrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Souterrain under baulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Souterrain east chamber before removal of lintels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Souterrain east chamber, south passage and portion of west passage after removal of lintels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Drawing of souterrain “cap” (1028) and cut (1037) for wall footing (1027)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Plan of removal of baulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Plan and elevations of constriction area between west passage and east chamber of souterrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Plan of Main Trench: Plan of west passage of souterrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Section of Baulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Section through souterrain, 2m from west end</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 5: Finds Log

Large amounts of finds were made during the excavations at Drumadoon. There were large quantities of pottery, metalwork, slag, bone and flint. Since specialist identification of bone is required individual bones or collections of bone were not given individual find numbers and were simply bagged by context. Likewise the flint, which almost completely came from topsoil and the fossil topsoil beneath the bank, was bagged by context and not given individual finds numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Find No.</th>
<th>Context No.</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Coarse body sherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Coarse body sherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Coarse body sherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Souterrain ware rims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Coarse body sherd</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Coarse body sherd</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Wheel thrown sherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Wheel thrown sherd and Coarse body sherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Assorted souterrain ware, wheel thrown and post-modern wares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Wheel thrown glazed and unglazed sherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Everted rim ware and coarse body sherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Assorted souterrain ware, wheel thrown and post-modern wares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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## Appendix Six: Sample log

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**Total weight**: 63.85kg
Plate 1: Drumadoon from the north, prior to the excavation and showing collapsing north face.
Plate 2: Section through bank, from east.
Plate 3: View along west passage of souterrain, from east.
Plate 4: View of east chamber of souterrain, from east, before removal of lintels.
Plate 5: View of external façade (104) and stone setting (112), in the eastern sector of the Main Trench, from the east.
Plate 6: View of Hearth I and Paved Area I (Phase I).
Plate 7: Close-up of Hearth I, after excavation.
Plate 8: Hearth II (Phase II) under excavation, showing its position, stratigraphically above Paved Area I (Phase I).
Plate 9: View of main Phase III features including field wall (1009), Hut II (1092) and spread of occupation material (1006).
Plate 10: Photo of bell-shrine immediately after being found.
Plate 11: Photo of bell-shrine after cleaning and conservation (Photo by Gail Pollock, EHS: Built Heritage).