

Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork
School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology
Queen's University Belfast



Data Structure Report: No. 056

**Site Evaluation and Excavation
at**

Crew Hill (Cráeb Telcha), near Glenavy, County Antrim 2007

AE/07/36

On behalf of



***Data Structure Report: Site Evaluation and Excavation at
Crew Hill (Cráeb Telcha), near Glenavy, County Antrim 2007***

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(CAF DSR 056)

(Licence No. AE/07/36)

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1 Summary

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A desk-based evaluation and a small-scale programme of excavations were undertaken on Crew Hill, near Glenavy, Co. Antrim in order to facilitate the proposed expansion of Northern Ireland Water's facilities on the hill. Analysis of the place-name evidence demonstrates that Crew Hill is the probable Gaelic inauguration site of *Cráeb Telcha*, which historical and literary evidence indicates was an assembly place of the Ulaid, as well as the site of a sacred tree. The identification of Crew Hill as a place of Gaelic inauguration is supported by local tradition and the presence upon the hill's summit and its southern slopes of a glacial erratic known as the Crew Stone, a 'stone chair', a bivalent rath, and an apparently 'ancient' mound. All of these features have previously been identified, with varying degrees of probability, as elements of an inaugural landscape. In addition, nineteenth century accounts of the discovery of stone-lined burials, and the partial excavation of an apparently Neolithic feature during a recent episode of evaluative excavation on the hill's summit undertaken by Gahan and Long Ltd, suggest that Crew Hill may have been the focus of other, potentially unrelated, episodes of prehistoric and early medieval activity.

1.1.2 The principal aim of the desk-based evaluation and excavation programme was to verify whether or not Crew Hill was a place of Gaelic inauguration. Given the methodological difficulties inherent in archaeological studies of essentially non-material subjects such as inauguration and kingship, from their inception, the investigations were intended to make a contribution towards developing an archaeology of Gaelic inauguration. The desk-based evaluation addressed the issues of the site's historical background, place-name evidence, antiquarian reports of ancient burials on the hill, as well as an assessment of the extant features that may have formed elements of the inaugural landscape of Crew Hill. As a result of the evaluation, four specific objectives were identified for excavation. These were, on the summit of the hill (Site A): the Crew Stone, two anomalies identified in a previous geophysical survey, and a field quarry; and on the hill's southern slope a mound located within a second field quarry (Site B).

1.2 Excavation

1.2.1 The potential elements of the inaugural landscape of Crew Hill which were selected for excavation are situated within two general locations. Site A (SMR No. ANT 063:057; Grid Reference J181703) is a near rectangular-shaped field on the summit of Crew Hill and contains the Crew Stone, the two geophysical anomalies selected for investigation, and the field quarry which had been identified as the possible site of the disturbed burials. The Crew Stone was excavated in three trenches arranged in a T-shaped pattern with arms to the southwest (Trench 1), northeast (Trench 3) and southeast (Trench 4) of the monument. The three trenches had similar stratigraphic sequences which indicated that the stone was physically overlying a large, rock-cut pit that was interpreted as having been dug by treasure-hunters probably in the eighteenth or nineteenth century. The original excavation of this pit would have destroyed any archaeological horizons associated with the Crew Stone's use for inauguration rites. The two trenches (Trenches 5 and 6) excavated across the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey established that the anomalies were the product of variations in the surface of the underlying bedrock and not a reflection of archaeological features. The field quarry, which was thought to possibly be the site of the nineteenth century discovery of stone-lined graves on the hill's summit, was investigated in Trenches 7 and 8. Their excavation uncovered no traces of additional, undisturbed burials, but did recover artefactual material consistent with the cartographic evidence which suggests that use of the quarry was abandoned by the mid nineteenth century.

Site B (SMR No. ANT 063:101; Grid Reference J18237017) on the southern slope of Crew Hill included the mound located within an apparent quarry that had been previously identified as a feature probably associated with inauguration.

The mound was investigated in a single cutting (Trench 9) which extended part way across the northeastern end of the feature. Excavation demonstrated that the mound was an upstanding area of bedrock within a quarry of post-medieval date – a finding which was consistent with the cartographic evidence that suggested the quarry dated to the eighteenth or nineteenth century.

1.3 Discussion

- 1.3.1 The excavations demonstrated that the archaeological identification of elements of inaugural landscape is a problematic exercise. Technically, the excavations were successful; closely datable artefacts from diagnostic contexts were recovered from relatively small trenches enabling a detailed understanding of the excavated stratigraphic sequences on Crew Hill to be confidently produced. Historically, however, the results were disappointing in that no fresh insights were gained into the character of Crew Hill as a place of royal assembly and probable Gaelic inauguration. The evaluative exercise can be considered a failure in as much as it was not possible to verify whether or not Crew Hill was a place of Gaelic inauguration. As was anticipated prior to the excavations, developing an archaeological methodology for addressing Gaelic inauguration is a significant challenge and the scope for developing an archaeological approach to the subject of Gaelic inauguration appears to be limited.

1.4 Recommendations

- 1.4.1 The investigations carried out at Crew Hill have clarified our appreciation of the inaugural landscape of the hill. Despite the limited historical value of the excavation, the results of the archaeological investigations at Crew Hill justify wider dissemination and it is recommended that a report on the site is prepared for publication in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*. The paucity of finds recovered during the excavations means that no further specialist analysis is required to facilitate publication. It is anticipated that a report on the evaluation and excavations at Crew hill is submitted for publication by March 2008.

2 Introduction

2.1 General

2.1.1 This report details the preliminary results of the desk-based evaluation and small-scale programme of excavations on Crew Hill (*Cráeb Telcha*), Co. Antrim undertaken by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast (Licence No. AE/07/36). Both the evaluation and excavation programme were directed by Philip Macdonald. The excavations were undertaken episodically between the 12th February 2007 and the 7th March 2007 on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage who funded the investigations.

2.1.2 Crew Hill (Grid Reference J1870) is a broad, flat-topped hill (193.5m OD) with panoramic views, especially west across Lough Neagh and south to the Mourne Mountains. A compound located upon the hill's summit contains a subterranean reservoir with associated facilities that are maintained by Northern Ireland Water (formerly the Water Service), as well as two cellphone masts. The hill is assumed to be the inauguration site of *Dál Fiatach* and *Dál nAraide* (Byrne 2005, 859). Its identification as a probable Gaelic inauguration site is based upon annalistic references (which indicate the site was an assembly place of the Ulaid and that a sacred tree was present at the site), local tradition, place-name evidence and the presence of a mound (SMR No. ANT 063:101), a glacial erratic known as the Crew Stone (SMR No. ANT 063:057) and the nearby location of a chair-shaped monolith (SMR No. ANT 063:058) and a bivalent rath (SMR No. ANT 063:020). This evidence is critically reviewed in detail in Chapter 3. Following a magnetometry survey of a large part of the hill's summit (Noel 2004), a desk-based assessment of the probable inauguration site at Crew Hill was prepared (Macdonald 2007). Consequently, a small number of dispersed archaeological sites on Crew Hill were identified as potential elements of an inaugural landscape (see Figure One). In order to facilitate the proposed expansion of Northern Ireland Water's facilities on the summit of the hill and expand upon the desk-based evaluation, the small-scale programme of excavation undertaken by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork was requested by Paul Logue of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage.

2.2 The Archaeology of Gaelic Inauguration

2.2.1 Developing an archaeological methodology for investigating the subject of Gaelic inauguration is problematic. Studies of inauguration have previously given primacy to historical evidence. For example, in order to identify with certainty an inauguration site, FitzPatrick considered that it must be explicitly described as a venue for inauguration in the early historic or literary records. In order to be able to confidently identify the specific location of the historically-attested inauguration site on the ground, FitzPatrick considered it necessary to undertake a detailed study of the available place-name evidence and possibly an assessment of any surviving archaeological remains (for full details of her methodological approach cf. FitzPatrick 2004, 13-40). Given the difficulties inherent in archaeological studies of essentially non-material subjects such as kingship (for example, kingship and inauguration are not addressed in Edward's excellent survey of the archaeology of early medieval Ireland cf. Edwards 1990), this evidential bias is inevitable. It is not obvious how Gaelic inauguration sites could be recognised archaeologically.

2.2.2 Despite the sophistication of her approach, few sites can be identified with certainty using FitzPatrick's method. In her recent study of the subject only thirty inauguration sites were identified in the documentary sources and of these only twenty-three could be closely located (FitzPatrick 2004, 34, fig.1a). Given that during the early medieval period there was estimated to be at least 150 kingdoms in Ireland (Byrne 1973, 7) and that by the sixteenth century there was approximately sixty Gaelic and thirty Gaelicised lordships (Duffy, Edwards and FitzPatrick 2001, 39), the total of thirty definitely-identified examples must represent only a fraction of the total number of inauguration sites (FitzPatrick 2004, 34). Identifying historically-unattested inauguration sites presents a significant methodological challenge which is best met

by using in conjunction a diverse range of historical, onomastic, folkloric, topographical, cartographic and archaeological evidence. The request to undertake evaluative investigations on Crew Hill provided an opportunity to assess the potential for developing an archaeological approach to identifying inauguration sites.

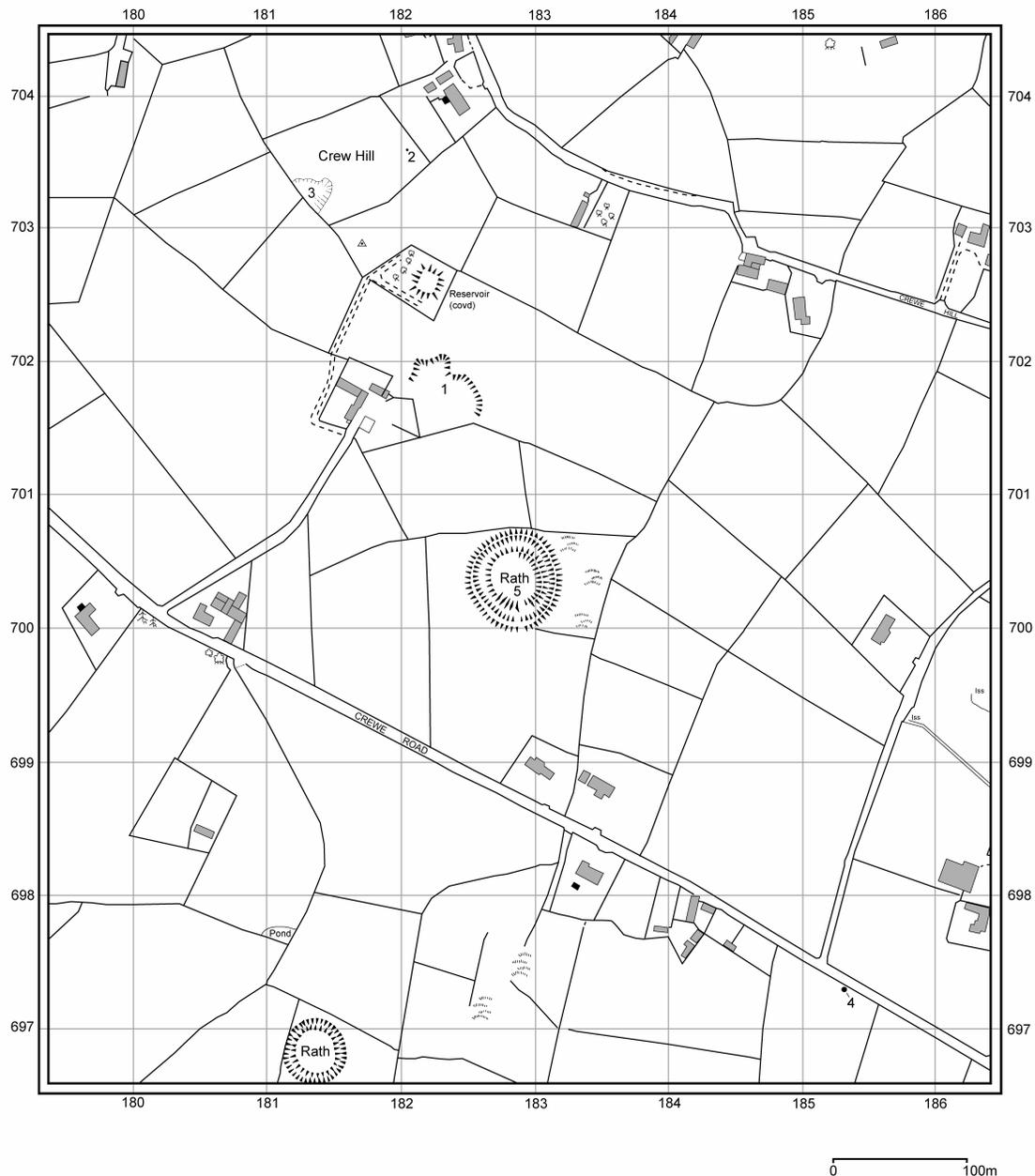


Figure One: Location map of sites mentioned in the text. [1: mound (SMR No. ANT 063:101; J18237017); 2: the Crew Stone (SMR No. ANT 063:057; J18207035); 3: the relict quarry possibly associated with the burials noted by O'Lavery (1880, 295) (SMR No. ANT 063:057; centred upon J18137033); 4: The 'stone chair' (SMR No. ANT 063:058; J18536973); and 5: The bivallate rath (SMR No. ANT 063:020; centred upon J18297004)].

2.2.3 In the absence of an explicit historical reference to an act of inauguration, a number of factors can reasonably be assumed to be indicative of the presence of an inauguration site. These include: references in the early historic and literary sources to a royal site or place of assembly, place-name evidence, a local tradition of inauguration at the site, the proximity of a

high-status settlement, and the presence of potential inauguration 'furniture' such as a mound, stone or even stone 'chair'. It is the qualitative assessment of these varying strands of often disparate evidence for any given site which can lead to its identification as a possible inauguration venue. By adopting such an approach FitzPatrick has identified a further thirty-eight possible inaugurations sites, including Crew Hill or *Cráeb Telcha* (2004, 37-38, fig.1b).

2.3 *Research Objectives and Excavation Methodology*

- 2.3.1 The desk-based evaluation and excavation programme undertaken by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork and reported upon here, were intended to make a contribution to the general evaluation of the archaeological potential of Crew Hill in advance of development of the hill's summit by Northern Ireland Water. Other elements of this general evaluation of the site included the magnetometry survey undertaken in September 2004 by Geoquest Associates (funded by the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage) (Noel 2004) and the mechanical excavation of four evaluative trenches immediately to the north of the subterranean reservoir in March 2007 by Gahan and Long Ltd (funded by the Northern Ireland Water) (Licence No. AE/07/61). The results of the magnetometry survey were of limited value (see Section 3.6). The excavations undertaken by Gahan and Long Ltd uncovered a number of negative features of relatively recent date and the terminal of a possible constructional slot trench associated with a single sherd of possibly middle Neolithic pottery (A. Gahan pers.comm.). Whilst demonstrating the potential long duration of activity on Crew Hill, the results of the Gahan and Long Ltd excavations do not bear directly upon the results of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork's desk-based evaluation and excavation programme. Consequently, they are not considered in any further detail in this report.
- 2.3.2 The principal research aim of the desk-based evaluation and excavation programme reported on here was to verify whether or not Crew Hill was a place of Gaelic inauguration. From their inception, the investigations were intended to make a contribution towards developing an archaeology of Gaelic inauguration. The desk-based evaluation addressed the issues of the site's historical background (Section 3.2), place-name evidence (Section 3.3), antiquarian reports of ancient burials on the hill (see Section 3.7), as well as an assessment of the extant features that may have formed elements of the inaugural landscape of Crew Hill. As a result of the evaluation, four specific objectives, consisting of five separate sites, were identified for excavation. These were the Crew Stone (SMR No. ANT 063:057; see Section 3.5), two of the geophysical anomalies identified by Noel (f4 and f5 cf. Noel 2004, fig.4; see Section 3.6), the field quarry near the summit of the hill (Section 3.7), and a mound located within an apparent quarry on the southern slope of the hill (SMR No. ANT 063:101; see Section 3.10).
- 2.3.3 The potential elements of the inaugural landscape of Crew Hill which were selected for excavation are situated within two general locations. Site A (SMR No. ANT 063:057; Grid Reference J181703) is a near rectangular-shaped field on the summit of Crew Hill and contains the Crew Stone, the two geophysical anomalies selected for investigation, and the field quarry which has been identified as the possible site of the disturbed burials (Figure Two). Site B (SMR No. ANT 063:101; Grid Reference J18237017) incorporates the mound located within an apparent quarry on the southern slope of Crew Hill that had been previously identified as an inaugural feature (Figure Three). These features were all investigated by manual excavation within a number of small trenches. The Crew Stone was excavated in three trenches arranged in a T-shaped pattern with arms to the southwest (Trench 1), northeast (Trench 3) and southeast (Trench 4) of the monument. A fourth trench (Trench 2) was laid out to the northwest of the stone, however, because of the relative uniformity of the stratigraphic sequences uncovered in the three other trenches it was decided not to be cost effective to undertake the excavation of this trench. Two of the linear anomalies (f4 and f5 cf. Noel 2004, fig.4) identified in the magnetometry survey were investigated in separate trenches (Trenches 5 and 6 respectively) that were aligned perpendicular to the direction of the anomalies. The field quarry was investigated in two trenches, one located towards the base of the quarry (Trench 7) and the other located on its southern edge (Trench 8). At Site B, the mound was investigated in a single cutting (Trench 9) which extended part way across the northeastern end of the feature.

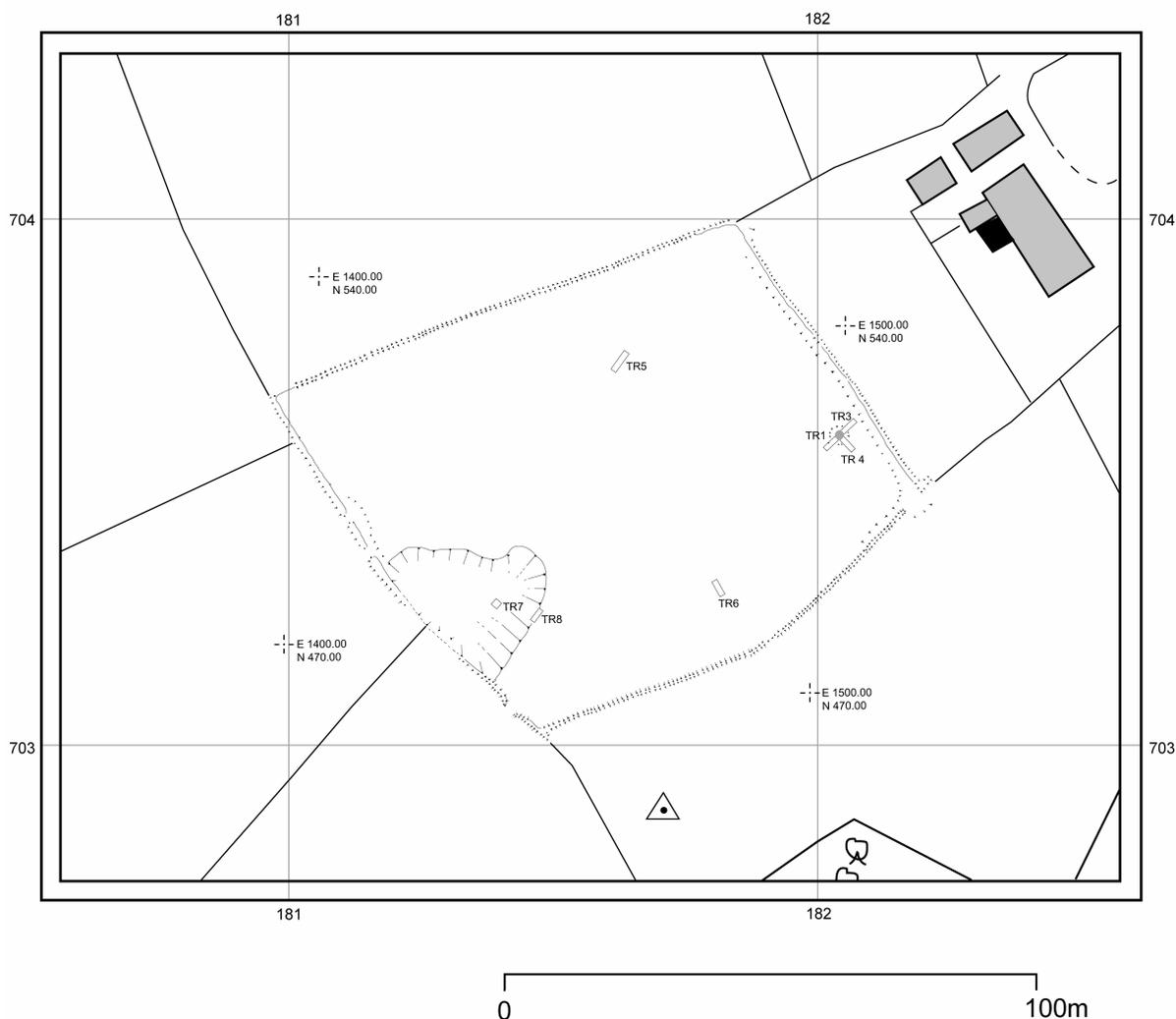


Figure Two: Location map of Site A showing the position of Trenches 1, 3-8.

2.3.4 As it was not anticipated that the stratigraphic sequences of the various trenches would be particularly complex, the Single Context Planning method of site recording was not considered appropriate. The context record for the sites were created using the standard context recording method. Individual features were planned (Scale 1:10) and photographed both prior to, and following, excavation. Individual negative features were be excavated by being half-sectioned and drawn (Scale 1:10) before the remainder of their fills were removed. Overall plans (Scale 1:20) of significant horizons of individual trenches were prepared during the course of the excavation. In addition to photography and illustration, the principal site records consisted of context sheets augmented by a supervisor's diary. Separate registers of small finds and samples were also be maintained. All excavation trenches were tied into the Irish Ordnance Survey Grid using an EDM. Following the completion of recording, the trenches were all manually backfilled.

2.4 *Recent and Current Land Use*

2.4.1 The fields around the summit of the hill, which includes Site A, are currently used for the grazing of stock. Flanagan stated that Crew Hill had been cultivated across its top (1970, 31) and her observations are confirmed by the site's landowner who recalls Site A being ploughed and cultivated for barley in the past (G.Adams pers.comm.). Site B, which incorporates

the mound investigated in Trench 9, is located within an apparent relict quarry on the southern slope of Crew Hill. Although previously identified as a possible inaugural feature, the site is explicitly marked as a quarry on the first edition Ordnance survey 6" map (surveyed 1832, engraved 1833) and excavation demonstrated that this was indeed the case (see Section 3.10). With the exception of the mound, the entire area was planted with saplings at some point in the last seven years (F.McCorry pers.comm.). Prior to the establishment of this plantation Site B had formed an area of waste ground.

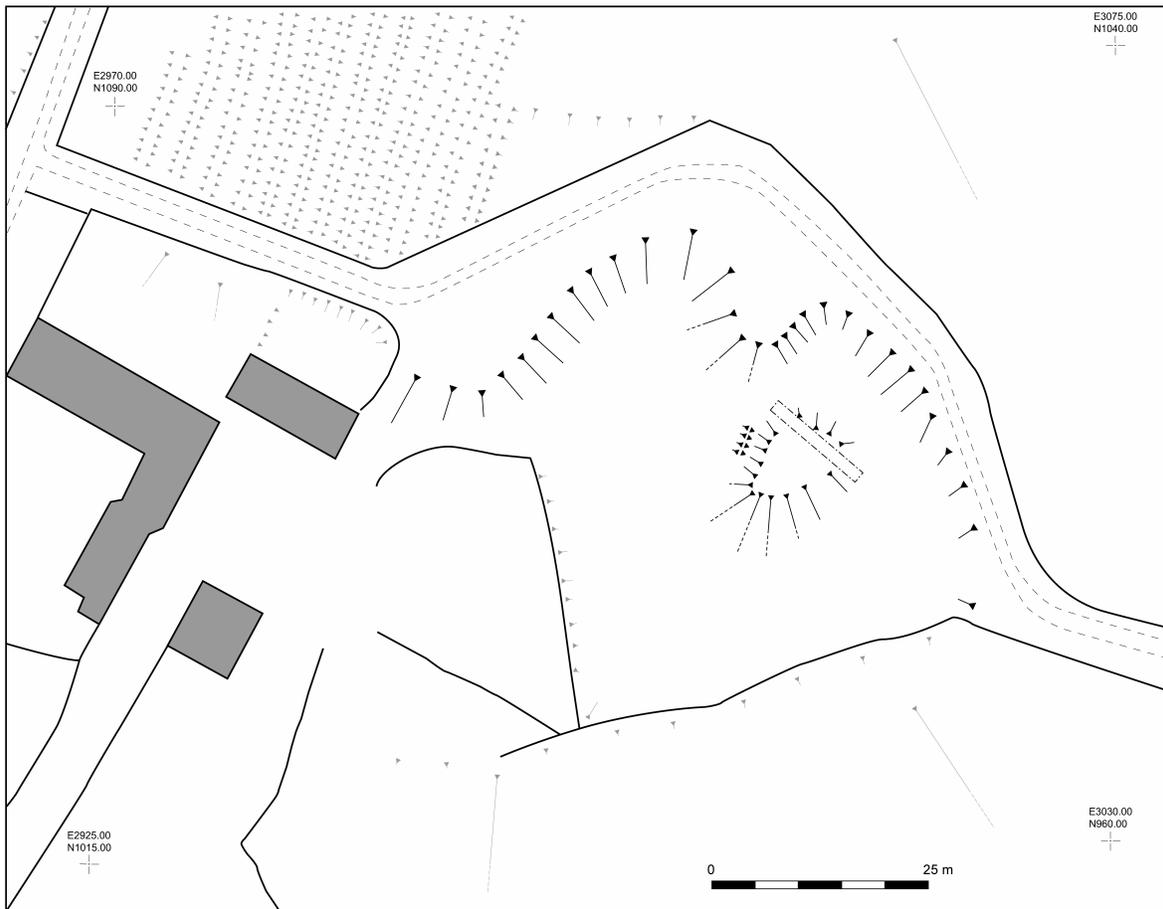


Figure Three: Location map of Site B showing position of Trench 9 across the mound located within the relict field quarry.

2.5 *Format of the Data Structure Report*

2.5.1 The arrangement of the report differs slightly from the usual format of a Data Structure Report prepared by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork. The accounts of the excavated trenches are not presented as a single block of text, but are dispersed within Chapter 3 of the report, having been incorporated into the relevant sections dealing with each particular strand of evidence or potential element of the inaugural landscape of Crew Hill. This deviation from the normal layout of a Data Structure Report is intended to facilitate the meaningful integration of the findings of the desk-based evaluation with the results of the excavation programme. This slightly unusual format should make the report more readable, eliminate unnecessary repetition and reduce the amount of editing necessary to prepare an account of the investigations on Crew Hill for publication. Following normal practice, the 'raw data' recovered during the course of the excavations is presented

as a series of appendices (see Appendices One to Six) and it is recommended that the relevant Harris matrix for each trench is referred to whilst reading the individual accounts of their stratigraphic sequences (see Appendix Two).

2.6 *Archiving*

- 2.6.1 Copies of this report have been deposited with the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. All site records and finds are temporarily archived with the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

2.7 *Credits and Acknowledgements*

- 2.7.1 The excavations were directed by Philip Macdonald. The digging team who undertook the excavations consisted of Samantha Jones, Ruth Logue, Clare McGranaghan, and David McIlreavy. A topographic survey of the site was undertaken by Ronan McHugh. Assistance during the course of the excavation and the preparation of this report was kindly provided by: Roy Adams, John Davison (Queen's University Belfast), Colm Donnelly (Queen's University Belfast), Audrey Gahan (Gahan and Long Ltd), Declan Hurl (formerly Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage), Paul Logue (Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage) and Henry Phillips. The report's illustrations were prepared by Naomi Carver and Philip Barratt of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.
- 2.7.2 The author's especial gratitude is extended to the landowners, George Adams and Frank McCorry, for their kind permission to excavate at Crew Hill.

3 Evaluating the Inaugural landscape of Crew Hill

3.1 Evaluating whether Crew Hill was a site of inauguration and identifying potential elements of the inaugural landscape involves the assessment of several different strands of evidence. Primacy is given to both the historical and literary evidence (Section 3.2), but the following review also considers the place-name evidence (Section 3.3), references to a sacred tree at the site (Section 3.4), the glacial erratic known as the Crew Stone (Section 3.5), two of the anomalies detected in the 2004 magnetometry survey of the hill's summit (Section 3.6), O'Laverty's report of the discovery of stone-lined graves on the hill (Section 3.7), the 'stone chair' now located on the southeastern slope of the hill (Section 3.8), the bivallate rath on the hill's southern slope (Section 3.9) and the mound situated within a second field quarry also situated on the southern slope of Crew Hill (Section 3.10).

3.2 *Historical and literary background*

3.2.1 None of the historical references to Crew Hill (Cráeb Telcha) contain a definite, unequivocal description of the hill being used as a venue for inauguration. The early references to Crew Hill were first summarised by O'Laverty (1880, 294-299) whose account has been repeated in various levels of detail by Watson (1892, 52-53), Beckett (1929, 11), Lucas (1963, 25), McKavanagh (1968, 9) and Warner (1991, 40); however, the most useful account of the early historic and literary references to Crew Hill is that contained within Flanagan's review of the site (Flanagan 1970). The available references reduce themselves to annalistic records of four historical events and a topographical sequence recorded within a slightly earlier literary source. Collectively they indicate that Crew Hill was an important assembly site with royal connections during a period which extended from at least either the ninth or tenth century to the twelfth century AD.

3.2.2 The earliest reference to the site is its inclusion in a topographical sequence recorded within the *Immacallam in dá Thuarad* (or, The Colloquy of the Two Sages). This is a complex literary work, purportedly concerning a contest of poetical skill between the poets Néde and Ferchertne at the court of Conchobhar during the first century AD, but also containing a prophetic passage heavily influenced by the apocalyptic literature of later Christian tradition (Jackson 1934, 69). Although the tale is set at an earlier date, it was composed in either the ninth or tenth century and is preserved in various twelfth-century and later manuscript copies (Stokes 1905, 4-5; Jackson 1934, 67). The passage containing the topographic sequence places *Craeb Selcha* (Crew Hill) en route to *Emain* (Navan Fort, Co. Armagh) (Stokes 1905, 10-11) and suggests that during the ninth or tenth century the site was of high enough status to be considered suitable to receive a poet of Néde's standing.

3.2.3 The earliest annalistic record dates to 1004 and records the battle of Cráeb Telcha which formed a significant defeat for the Ulaid. The translated account reproduced below is derived from the *Annals of Ulster*, but closely comparable accounts are also recorded in other annalistic sources (for a full bibliographical list of references to this event cf. Flanagan 1970, 29-30).

The battle of Craeb Tulcha between the Ulaid and the Cenél Eógain, i.e. on Thursday the 18th of the Kalends of October [14th Sept.], and the Ulaid were defeated; and therein fell Eochaid, son of Ardgar, King of Ulaid, and his kinsman Dub Tuinne, and his two sons, Cú Duilig and Domnall; and there was also a slaughter of the army, both noble and base: Gairbíth king of Uí Echach, and Gilla Pátraic son of Tomaltach, and Cumuscach son of Flathrói, and Dub Slánga son of Aed, and Cathalán son of Étrú, and Coinéne son of Muirchertach, as well as the elite of the Ulaid; and the combat ranged as far as Dún Ehdach and to Druim Bó. Thus in the Book of Dub dá Leithe. Moreover, Aed son of Domnall ua Néill, king of Ailech, fell there in the 29th year of his age and in the tenth of his reign, and others also; but the Cenél Eógain claim that he was killed by themselves.

(trans. MacAirt and MacNiocaill 1983, 432-435)

- 3.2.4 Warner noted that that such a significant battle was fought at, or near, a sacred spot such as Crew Hill is not unexpected (1991, 40). The place-names *Dún Echdach* and *Druim Bó* are usually identified as Duneight and Drumbo in Co. Down (Hennessy 1887, 512, fn.2-3), located approximately 13.5 and 15.0 kilometres respectively from Crew Hill. If correctly identified, this suggests that the 'slaughter of the army' was a significant rout which extended over a large area.
- 3.2.5 The next historic reference is recorded in the saga element of the *Cogadh Gáedhel re Gallaibh* (the War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill), which was probably composed in the first half of the twelfth century (Hughes 1972, 289). The relevant extract, reproduced in translation below, describes the visit of the high king Brian Borúma (Brian Boru) to Cráeb Telcha as part of a circuit of Ireland in 1006.

Brian was then at Craebh Tulcha, and the Ulaidh with him getting provisions there. They supplied him with twelve hundred beeves; twelve hundred hogs; and twelve hundred wethers; and Brian bestowed twelve hundred horses upon them, besides gold, and silver, and clothing. For no purveyor of any of their towns departed from Brian without receiving a horse or some other gift that deserved his thanks.

(trans. Todd 1867, 137)

- 3.2.6 The historical accuracy of this passage, written between approximately a hundred and a hundred and fifty years after the events it records, is questionable. Although the author of the saga element of the *Cogadh Gáedhel re Gallaibh* probably followed a contemporary (and now lost) annalistic source, the style of the text is prone to exaggeration and the emphasis on Brian's honour and generosity reflects an observance of the heroic conventions (Hughes 1972, 290-291). If the account of the visit to Cráeb Telcha is not derived from a contemporary annalistic source, but is rather a later fictitious invention, then the passage indicates that the significance of the royal site at Crew Hill was still appreciated, if not maintained, in the first half of the twelfth century.
- 3.2.7 The next annalistic reference to Crew Hill records an incursion into the territory of the Ulaid by the king of the Cenél Eógain in 1099. Once again, the following translated excerpt is taken from the *Annals of Ulster*, but comparable passages also occur in several other annalistic sources (for references see Flanagan 1970, 30).

An expedition [was made] by Domnall ua Lochlainn and the North of Ireland over Tuaim into Ulaid; the Ulaid, however, were in camp at Craeb Telcha. Their two forces of horsemen meet, the force of the Ulaid is defeated, and ua hAmráin is killed there. The Ulaid then leave their camp and Cenél Eógain burn it and cut down Craeb Telcha. Two hostages are given to them thereafter, and the successor of Comgall as surety for two other hostages:

*The hostages of the Ulaid were taken by force,
Witnesses state distinctly,
By Domnall grandson of Flann like a lion,
And the descendants of generous Eogan.*

*Two stout hostages were given
Just now by the warriors of the Ulaid;
The third of them was Comgall's abbot,*

To make a king of Domnall ua Néill.

*The ninety-ninth year
And the thousandth in fame
From the birth of the unwithered Christ,
It is then that that was beheld.*

(*trans.* MacAirt and MacNiocaill 1983, 432-435)

- 3.2.8 As a consequence of their unsuccessful engagement with the host of the Cenél Eógain, the incursion of 1099 had significant consequences for the Ulaid when the settlement or camp at Cráeb Telcha was burnt and the sacred tree at the site was destroyed. The symbolic significance of the loss of the sacred tree cannot be overemphasised (cf. Lucas 1963, 25). Indeed, the memory of this humiliation may have prompted the retaliatory attack, also recorded in the *Annals of Ulster*, against Tullaghoge, Co. Tyrone in 1111, during which the sacred trees at the O'Neill's inauguration site were destroyed (see the translated extract below). That the Ulaid lost a thousand cattle in a swift reprisal for their retaliatory raid emphasises the scale of outrage prompted by such desecrations of inauguration sites.

An expedition [was made] by the Ulaid to Telach Óc, and they cut down its [sacred] trees. A raid [was made] by Niall ua Lochlainn, and carried off a thousand or three thousand cows in revenge for them.

(*trans.* MacAirt and MacNiocaill 1983, 552-553)

- 3.2.9 The final annalistic reference to Crew Hill occurs in the *Annals of the Four Masters*. In the year 1149 a number of concerted incursions into the territory of the Ulidians were made in support of Cú Uladh the overking of the Ulaid who had been expelled by Muirchertach MacLochlainn, the king of the Cenél Eógain. One of these incursions is described thus:

An army was also led by Tighearnan Ua Ruairc and Donnchadh Ua Cearbhaill into Ulidia, as afar as Craebh-Tealcha; and they plundered the country, and placed Cuuladh in his kingdom again; however, he was immediately expelled by the Ulidians themselves.

(*trans.* O' Donovan 1856, 1086-1087)

- 3.2.10 Warner has argued that this entry indicates that Cú Uladh may have been re-inaugurated at Cráeb Telcha during this episode (1991, 41). Whilst being an interesting suggestion, such a reading is far from certain. The need for a 'restored' king to be re-inaugurated is not obvious and, given that an inauguration ceremony would have required Cú Uladh to have been acclaimed by the very people recorded as immediately expelling him, it seems unlikely that such an event did take place. Whatever events did occur during Cú Uladh's brief restoration, the reference cannot be considered a definite description of Cráeb Telcha being used as a venue for inauguration.

3.3 *Place-name evidence*

- 3.3.1 The historic sources cited above contain the earliest place-name evidence relating to Crew Hill (*Cráeb Telcha*) (for the numerous Gaelic variants of the name cf. Flanagan 1970, 29-31). Although Crew Hill has long been identified in local tradition as a place of inauguration and assembly, O' Lavery was the first to explicitly identify the historic Cráeb Telcha with Crew Hill (1880, 294). Although, O' Lavery cited no conclusive evidence to justify this assertion, more recently Flanagan has comprehensively reviewed the place-name evidence and demonstrated, with particular reference to

cartographic evidence, the onomastic link between the Cráeb Telcha of the Irish annalistic sources and the modern place-name of Crew Hill (1970).

- 3.3.2 Cráeb Telcha has been variously translated as ‘the spreading tree of the hill’ (O’Donovan 1856, 750; O’ Lavery 1880, 295), ‘the tree of the mound’ (Lucas 1963, 25), ‘the tree of the small hill/hillock’ (Warner 1991, 40), and ‘the branch of the hill’ (FitzPatrick 2004, 37-38). Lucas has identified the place-name element Cráeb, although literally meaning ‘branch’ is sometimes used as a synonym for *bile* (sacred tree) (1963, 19-20). In modern Irish the term *tulach* (of which *telcha* is the genitive) can also mean ‘(artificial) mound’ as opposed to ‘(natural) hill’ (Warner 1991, 40), however, the Old Irish *tulach/tilach* implies a ‘hill of assembly’ and is often found in legal phrases (Wagner 1970, 38, fn.46; FitzPatrick 2004, 30-31). The place-names of several inauguration sites contain the element *tulach*, or its anglicised variants ‘tully’ and ‘tulla’ (FitzPatrick 29-31). Consequently, the place-name evidence suggests the potential presence of an artificial mound as well as sacred tree at Crew Hill, and is consistent with, although not definitive proof of, the site’s identification as an inauguration site.
- 3.3.3 Interestingly, the representation of Crew Hill (*K:Crewhollage*) on a map of Ulster dated to circa 1590 in the Greenwich Maritime Museum shows it as a two-peaked hill (Figure Four). Flanagan suggested that the second peak probably indicates Cairn Hill, north of the Crew Hill (Grid Reference J192715; Flanagan 1970, 32, fn.20), however, it is possible that the second peak is a representation of an inauguration mound.



Figure Four: Representation of Crew Hill (*K:Crewhollage*) on a map of eastern Ulster dated to circa 1590 (National Maritime Museum P/49 (25)).

3.4 The sacred tree

- 3.4.1 As well as being implicit in the Gaelic form of the site’s name, the presence of a sacred tree at Crew Hill is attested in the annalistic references to the site where it is described as having been uprooted or cut down during a raid by the king of the

Genél Eógain in 1099 (see above). Lucas has reviewed the evidence for sacred trees in Ireland, including their apparent association with inauguration sites (1963, 25-26). FitzPatrick noted annalistic references to the destruction of sacred trees (*bileda*) at several sites in Ulster and Connacht which were also recorded as inauguration places (2004, 57-58). Although sacred trees are invariably only referred to in annalistic sources when they are destroyed, the known examples suggest a strong association between the sacred tree (*bile*) and inauguration venues. The precise relationship, if any, between sacred trees (*bile*) and inauguration ceremonies is not fully understood. Citing an account of the inauguration of the ling of Bréifne in the twelfth century *Life of Máedóc of Ferns*, FitzPatrick has plausibly suggested that *slat na ríge* (the rod of kingship) may have been cut from a *bile* growing at the inauguration site (2004, 58). The absence of annalistic references to sacred trees specifically associated with inauguration and assembly sites after the first half of the twelfth century AD may reflect a change in the nature of inauguration rituals at this date (FitzPatrick 2004, 148-149).

3.4.2 The precise location and setting of the sacred tree at Crew Hill is not known. From annalistic references to the cutting down of a sacred tree at Roevehagh, Killeely, Co. Galway and the demolition of its stone fort (*caiseal*), Lucas suggested that the sacred trees at inaugural sites may have stood within specifically built circular dry-built stone walled enclosures (1963, 25-26). Even if this speculative interpretation of the annalistic sources is correct, it does not necessarily follow that a similar arrangement would have been in place at Crew Hill. The sacred tree at Crew Hill could plausibly have been either planted in an isolated position on the hill or associated with the Crew Stone (SMR No. ANT 063:057; see Section 3.5), the burials recorded on the summit of the hill, especially if they were associated with a now destroyed mound (SMR No. ANT 063:057; see Section 3.7), or even the nearby bivallate rath (SMR No. ANT 063:020; see Section 3.9).

3.5 *The Crew Stone (SMR No. ANT 063:057; J18207035) (Site A: Trenches 1, 3 and 4)*

3.5.1 O'Lavery recorded the local tradition that the large basalt boulder, known locally as the Crew Stone, was used for the purposes of inauguration (1880, 295). Early literary sources suggest that standing upon an inauguration stone (*leac* or *lecc*) formed a significant part of the procedure of legitimising the authority of a king (FitzPatrick 2004, 99-100). The primary meaning of *leac* is a flat slab of rock, flagstone, paving stone or even bedrock, and inauguration stones probably had a variety of forms (FitzPatrick 2004, 104-105). The use of hallowed stones in inauguration ceremonies is not restricted to just medieval Gaelic societies and its origins may be connected with wider concerns and taboos of a king not being able to touch the mundane earth in his royal condition (FitzPatrick 2004, 100).

3.5.2 The Crew Stone is a glacial erratic whose upper surface slopes markedly and which is set within a small, but marked, hollow formed by cattle using it as a rubbing stone (see below). The surface of the stone contains several areas of greasy polish consistent with its continued use by cattle, and a photograph published in 1980 shows that the hollow around the monument had not formed at that date cf. Totten 1980, 30. These observations suggest that the development of the erosional hollow is both of relatively recent date and still on-going.

3.5.3 Writing in 1892, Watson noted that the stone was no longer 'in its original position' (1892, 52), however, it is uncertain whether he meant that the stone had been moved a significant distance or had simply fallen over. McKavanagh offered some explanation for Watson's comments, derived from an anecdote told to Canon McEvoy by Francis McCorry in 1935. Apparently by 1880 the stone had sunk so much that little of it was visible. Consequently, a number of youths raised it and placed supporting stones underneath the erratic. Subsequently, youths from Stoneyford visited the spot and when they had left it was observed that the supporting stones had been removed (McKavanagh 1968, 8).

3.5.4 The Crew Stone was investigated in three narrow trenches arranged in a T-shaped pattern with arms to the southwest (Trench 1), northeast (Trench 3) and southeast (Trench 4) of the monument. A fourth trench (Trench 2) was laid out to the northwest of the stone, however, because of the relative uniformity of the stratigraphic sequences uncovered in the three

other trenches it was decided not to undertake the excavation of this trench. Figure Five illustrates the relationship between the four trenches, the Crew Stone and the erosional discontinuity surrounding the stone.



Plate One: The Crew Stone prior to excavation (looking northeast).



Plate Two: The Crew Stone prior to excavation (looking southeast).

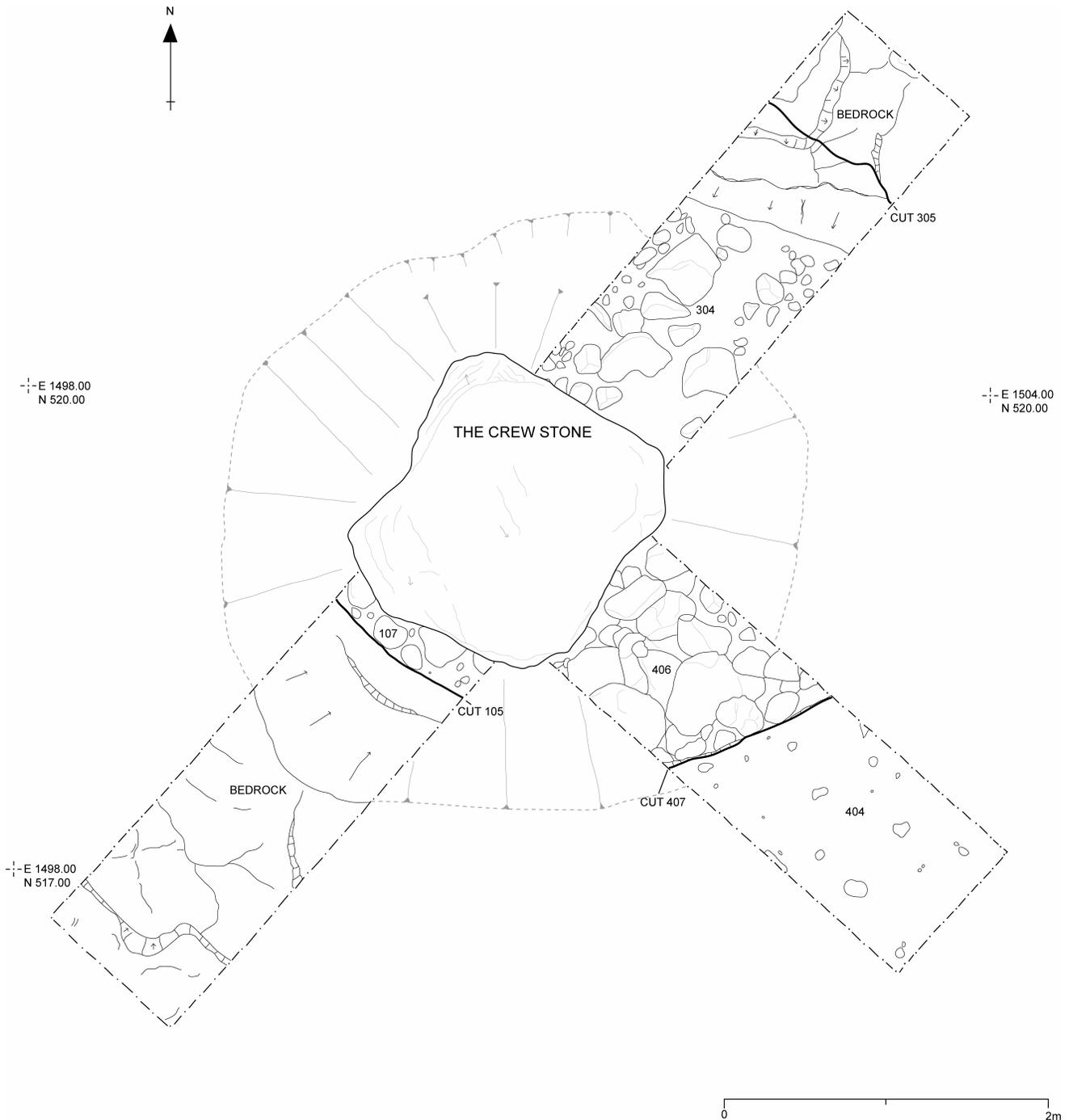


Figure Five: Plan showing the relationship between Trenches 1, 3 and 4, the Crew Stone and the erosional discontinuity surrounding the stone.

3.5.5 **Trench 1** was aligned approximately southwest – northeast with its northeastern end adjacent to the Crew Stone. The trench was 3.0 metres long and 1.0 metre wide. Prior to excavation a number of small stones located underneath the

Crew Stone were observed protruding from the topsoil (Context No.101) in a position which suggested that they may be examples of the 'supporting' stones placed under the monument and reported by Francis McCorry to Canon McEvoy in 1935 cf. McKavanagh 1968, 8 (see Plate Three). A humic topsoil (Context No.101) extended throughout the trench and stratigraphically overlay a thin, compact light brown loam (Context No.102; maximum thickness 0.08 metres) that was located within the erosional hollow immediately adjacent to the Crew Stone. In terms of its compositional matrix this deposit was identical to the less compact, underlying soil (Context No.103) and it is interpreted as a product of the cattle trampling around the monument which created the erosional hollow.



Plate Three: Area underneath the Crew Stone in Trench 1 following the removal of the turf and topsoil (Context No.101) looking northeast. The photograph shows a number of small stones which may be examples of the 'supporting' stones placed under the monument and reported by Francis McCorry to Canon McEvoy in 1935 (McKavanagh 1968, 8). The deposit through which the stones are protruding is the compact loam (Context No.102) which is interpreted as a product of cattle trampling.

- 3.5.6 Underlying the compact loam deposit created by cattle trampling (Context No.102) was a mid brown loam deposit (Context No.103) that extended throughout the length of the trench (maximum thickness 0.24 metres). This deposit probably represents a cultivation soil. In the southwestern part of the trench the deposit physically overlay bedrock, however, in the northeastern part of the trench it overlay the upper fill (Context No.104) of a rock-cut feature (Context No.105) which extended beyond the northeastern edge of excavation and underneath the Crew Stone. The feature's upper fill (Context No.104) had an identical soil matrix to the overlying mid brown loam (Context No.103). Consequently, the difference between them was not recognised during the course of the excavation and the context number 104 was awarded retrospectively. The upper, mid brown loamy fill (Context No.104; maximum thickness approximately 0.30 metres) overlay a thin (thickness 0.02-0.03 metres) deposit of yellowish brown clay (Context No.106) which in turn overlay the lower fill (Context No.107) of the feature which consisted of large stones within a loose soil matrix of mid brown loam that contained a large number of air voids (maximum exposed thickness 0.20 metres). The air voids between the stones indicate that the layer was rapidly deposited and in the relatively recent past. The deposit is interpreted as the deliberate backfill of part of a pit (Context No.105) which was excavated from a distance 1.05 metres adjacent to the current position of the Crew

Stone. The feature was not fully excavated within Trench 1 but demonstrably extended underneath the Crew Stone. It was cut through the bedrock to a depth of approximately 0.45 metres below the undisturbed surface of the bedrock. No evidence for tool marks was observed within the exposed part of the feature in Trench 1.



Plate Four: The northeastern end of Trench 1 following the excavation of the middle fill (Context No.106) of the cut feature extending under the Crew Stone (Context No.105). The photograph shows the feature's lower fill (Context No.107) of large stones within a loose soil matrix of mid brown loam. A number of the air voids that defined the deposit are visible.

3.5.7 A similar stratigraphic sequence to that excavated in Trench 1 was recorded in **Trench 3**. Trench 3 was arranged upon the same southwest – northeast alignment as Trench 1, but with its southwestern end located immediately adjacent to the Crew Stone. The trench was 3.0 metres long and 1.0 metre wide. Underlying the humic topsoil (Context No.301) which extended throughout the trench was a localised deposit of thin, compacted loam (Context No.302; maximum thickness 0.08 metres) whose position immediately adjacent to the Crew Stone coincided with the erosional hollow created by cattle trampling around the monument. Stratigraphically, underlying the compact trample deposit (Context No.302) was a mid brown loam deposit (Context No.303) that extended throughout the entire length of the trench. This deposit is interpreted as a cultivation soil and overlay, in the northeastern part of the trench, the uneven surface of the bedrock. Within the mid brown loam (Context No.303) set in the area immediately adjacent to the Crew Stone was a concentration of small to medium sized stones which appeared to have been deliberately thrown on to the soil presumably in an attempt to counteract the effects of erosion (Plate Five). In the southwestern end of the trench the loam deposit (Context No.303) sealed the apparently sole fill (Context No.304) of a rock-cut feature (Context No.305) which extended beyond the southwestern edge of excavation underneath the Crew Stone. The fill (Context No.304) consisted of large stones (maximum dimension 0.55 metres) within a loose soil matrix of mid brown loam that contained a large number of air voids (Plate Six). The air voids and the near vertical arrangement of some of the stones suggest that the layer was rapidly deposited and in the relatively recent past. The deposit is interpreted as the deliberate backfill of a pit which was excavated from a distance of 1.30 metres adjacent to, and underneath, the current position of the Crew Stone. The feature itself was cut through the bedrock to a depth of at least 0.5 metres below the undisturbed surface of the bedrock. No evidence for tool marks was observed within the exposed part of the feature in Trench 3. It was not possible to



Plate Five: Trench 3, concentration of small to medium sized stones within the mid brown loam (Context No.303) in the area immediately adjacent to the Crew Stone, looking southwest. These appear to have been deposited in an attempt to counteract the effects of erosion around the monument.



Plate Six: Primary fill (Context No.304) of cut feature (Context No.305) prior to excavation in southwestern end of Trench 3, looking northwest.

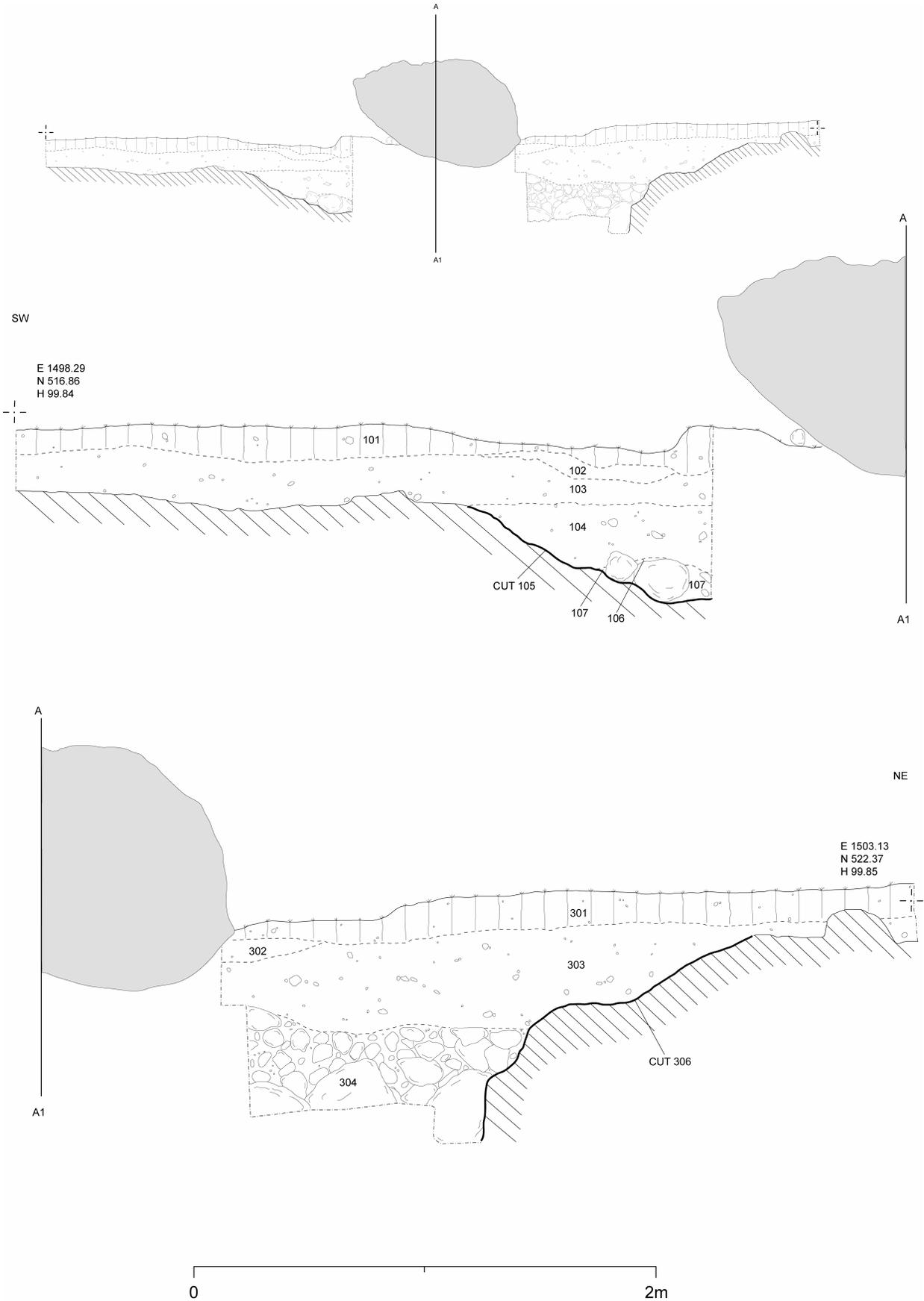


Figure Six: Southeast-facing sections of Trenches 1 and 3 conjoined through a cross-section of the Crew Stone.

complete the excavation of the feature's fill (Context No.304) as the stones which made up the deposit were too large to safely remove from the trench. Although it was not completely excavated the deposit appeared to be the primary fill of the feature (Context No.305). It is reasonable to assume that the feature (Context No.305) and its fill (Context No.304) were part of the same pit (Context No.105) and its primary fill (Context No.107) observed in Trench 1.

3.5.8 Again, a similar stratigraphic sequence to that recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 was uncovered in **Trench 4** (Figure Seven). Trench 4 was arranged perpendicular to Trenches 1 and 3, extending in a southeasterly direction from the Crew Stone on a northwest – southeast alignment. The trench was 3.0 metres long and 1.0 metre wide. Underlying the humic topsoil (Context No.401), which extended throughout the trench, was a localised deposit of thin, compacted soil (Context No.402; maximum thickness 0.1 metres) whose distribution broadly coincided with the erosional discontinuity caused by cattle trample immediately adjacent to the Crew Stone. Stratigraphically underlying the localised deposit of compacted soil (Context No.402) was a layer of mid brown loam (Context No.403; maximum thickness 0.3 metres), which extended throughout the trench and probably represents a cultivation soil. As in the comparable deposit in Trench 3 (i.e. Context No.303), a concentration of small to medium sized stones within the loam, which appeared to have been deliberately laid down to counteract the effects of erosion, was located immediately adjacent to the Crew Stone. Excavation of the cultivation soil (Context No.403) exposed the upper fill (Context No.408) of a feature (Context No.407) that was located in the northwestern part of the trench adjacent to the Crew Stone and cut through a sequence of loamy orange brown subsoils (excavated as Context Nos.404 and 405). The feature's upper fill (Context No.408; maximum thickness 0.40 metres) was similar in character to the overlying mid brown loam cultivation soil (Context No.403) and was not recognised as a separate deposit until after its removal. Its context number (408) was awarded retrospectively and it was excavated as part of Context No.403. The primary fill (Context No.406; maximum excavated depth 0.42 metres) of the feature consisted of medium sized stones (maximum dimension 0.35 metres) within a loose soil matrix of mid brown loam that contained a large number of air voids. The air voids and the near vertical arrangement of some of the stones suggest that the layer was rapidly deposited and in the relatively recent past. Although cut through a sequence of loamy subsoils (Context Nos.404 and 405), which were not present in the other two trenches (i.e. Trenches 1 and 3) excavated around the Crew Stone, the lower part of the feature was cut through the bedrock and extended beyond the northwestern edge of excavation and passed underneath the Crew Stone. As with the comparable deposits in Trenches 1 and 3 (i.e. Context Nos.107 and 304) the lower fill is interpreted as the deliberate backfill of a pit which was excavated from a distance of approximately 1.30 metres adjacent to, and underneath, the current position of the Crew Stone. The loamy orange brown subsoils (Context Nos.404 and 405; maximum depth 0.6 metres) through which the pit (Context No.407) was cut, were in part derived from the more organic overlying soil (Context No.403) and the weathered, near horizontal surface of the underlying bedrock.

3.5.9 It is reasonable to assume that the negative features (Context Nos.105, 305 and 407) partially excavated in all three trenches were all part of a single pit which extended below the current position of the Crew Stone. The character of the feature's primary fills (Context Nos.107, 304 and 406) suggested that it was deliberately backfilled, presumably with stones derived from cutting the feature through the bedrock. The feature's relatively recent date was confirmed by the *terminus post quem* provided by the recovery of two sherds of post-medieval pottery, provisionally dated to the seventeenth or eighteenth century, from two of the excavated primary fills (Context Nos.304 and 406) (Small Find Nos.5021 and 5029). The broken blade of an iron reaping hook (Small Find No.5106), apparently deliberately placed in a near horizontal position, was also recovered from within the primary fill (Context No.406) of the pit. Establishing the original dimensions and extent of the pit is difficult, but given the alignment of the feature's edges in each of the trenches it appears to have been elliptical in shape and the Crew Stone appears to be located physically above the feature in an off-centre position (Figure Five). Considerable effort would have been required to excavate the pit through the bedrock, only for it to be deliberately backfilled prior to the opportunity for any natural silting to occur in its base. This suggests that the pit was possibly dug by individuals, or at least the labourers they employed, hunting for treasure deposited beneath the

Crew Stone. That the Crew Stone is physically located above the feature, and in an off-centre position, suggests that it is no longer quite in its exact original location. Presumably, the pit was dug in at least two parts and the Crew Stone was

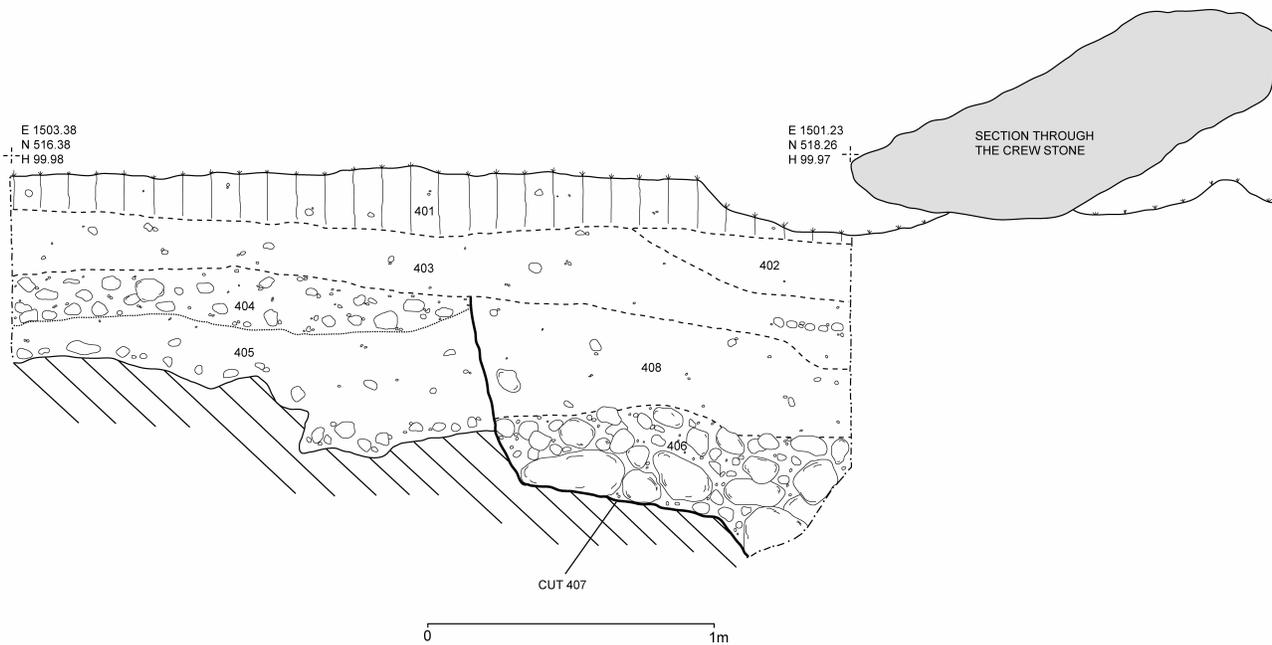


Figure Seven: Northeast-facing section of Trench 4 and cross-section through the Crew Stone



Plate Seven: Primary fill (Context No.406) prior to excavation of cut feature (Context No.407) in Trench 4 (northeast at top of frame).

levered out of its original position, possibly slightly to the east of its current location, in order to safely excavate beneath it. Although it is unlikely that the pit (Context Nos.105, 305 and 407) was dug in the 1880 episode of restoration recorded by McKavanagh (1968, 8; see Paragraph 3.5.3), it is possible that the subsidence that prompted local youths to raise the Crew Stone in 1880 had been caused by the settling of the pit's loose, primary fill (Context Nos.107, 304 and 406). Regrettably, the digging of the pit (Context Nos.105, 305 and 407) would have destroyed any earlier archaeological layers or features associated with the Crew Stone that may have provided an insight into the stone's use for either inauguration or other purposes.

3.6 *Geophysical anomalies (Site A: Trenches 5 and 6)*

3.6.1 In 2004 GeoQuest Associates carried out a magnetometry survey of part of the summit of Crew Hill on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service (Noel 2004). Unfortunately, the results of the magnetometry survey were disappointing. Magnetometry can be a difficult technique to apply over areas of igneous geology and subsoils of glacial origin which contain igneous erratics. Owing to the thermo-remnant magnetism of igneous rocks, these kind of geological conditions tend to produce survey results with 'noisy' background signals which dominate and obscure anomalies whose origins are of archaeological significance (Clark 1996, 92-94; Gaffney, Gator and Ovenden 2002, 8, 16; Gaffney and Gater 2003, 79). Prior to excavation it was considered probable that the anomalies detected in the 2004 survey were a product of the thermo-remnant magnetism of the underlying igneous rocks, rather than a reflection of any underlying archaeological features. Consequently, it was decided to select only two of the linear anomalies (f4 and f5 cf. Noel 2004, fig.4; see Figure Eight) identified in the magnetometry survey for excavation (Trenches 5 and 6 respectively). These anomalies were investigated using two separate trenches (Trenches 5 and 6) which were aligned perpendicular to the direction of the anomaly. Excavation demonstrated that the anomalies were indeed the product of variations in the underlying geology rather than being archaeological in origin. Although resistivity may prove to be a better geophysical technique to apply to the site and its immediate environs, given both the close proximity of the bedrock to the ground surface on Crew Hill and the bedrock's probable uneven surface, it is unlikely that a resistivity survey would produce particularly valuable results.

3.6.2 **Trench 5** was laid out perpendicular to geophysical anomaly f4 cf. Noel 2004, fig.4. The trench was aligned approximately north – south and was 5.0 metres long and 1.0 metre wide. Removal of the humic topsoil (Context No.501; average depth 0.15 metres) revealed a mid brown loam deposit (Context No.502) that extended throughout the length of the trench. This loam deposit was interpreted as a cultivation soil and excavation revealed that in the southern part of the trench it directly overlies the near horizontal surface of the bedrock, whilst in the northern part of the trench it overlies a loose, orangey natural subsoil (Context No.503) which was derived from the weathered surface of the underlying bedrock. Excavation of this subsoil demonstrated that the surface of the bedrock dipped down a distance of approximately 0.45 metres through a series of step-like graduations in the northern part of the trench (Figure Nine). It is probable that it was this marked change in the level of the bedrock's natural surface which caused the geophysical anomaly (f4) recorded by Noel in 2004.

3.6.3 **Trench 6** was laid out perpendicular to geophysical anomaly f5 cf. Noel 2004, fig.4. The trench was 3.0 metres long by 1.0 metre wide and was laid out on an approximate southeast – northwest alignment. Removal of the humic topsoil (Context No.601; depth 0.15 metres) revealed the top of a bedrock ridge running across the trench on a near southwest – northeast alignment which separated two areas of a mid brown loam (Context No.602 in the southeast of the trench and Context No.603 in the northwest of the trench) that probably represents a cultivation soil. These areas of cultivation soil varied in depth (both had an average thickness of 0.1 metre), but both overlies a sterile, loose, orangey natural subsoil (Context No.604 in the southeast of the trench and Context No.605 in the northwest of the trench) which was derived from

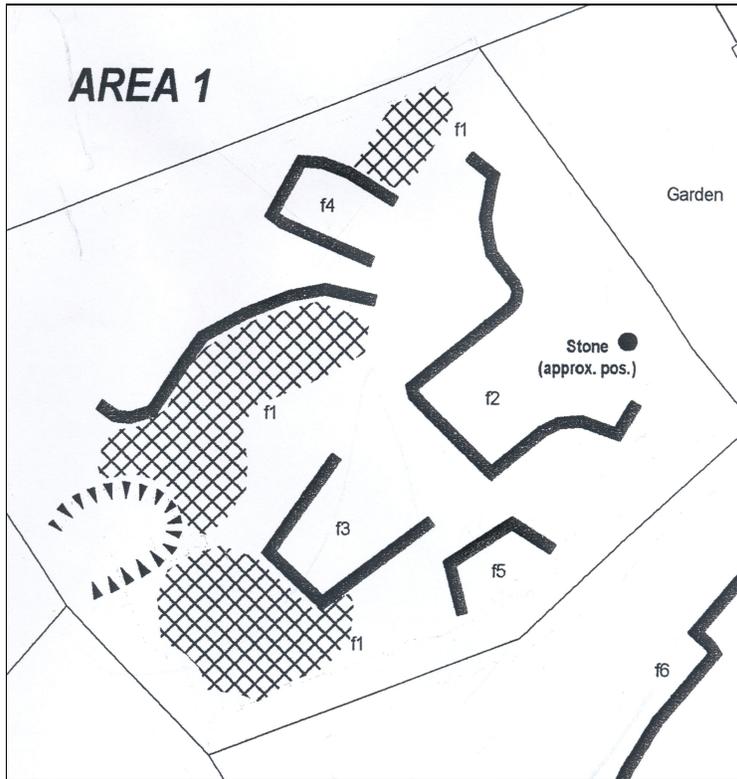


Figure Eight: Results of magnetometry survey of part of the summit of Crew Hill on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service (taken from Noel 2004, fig.4).

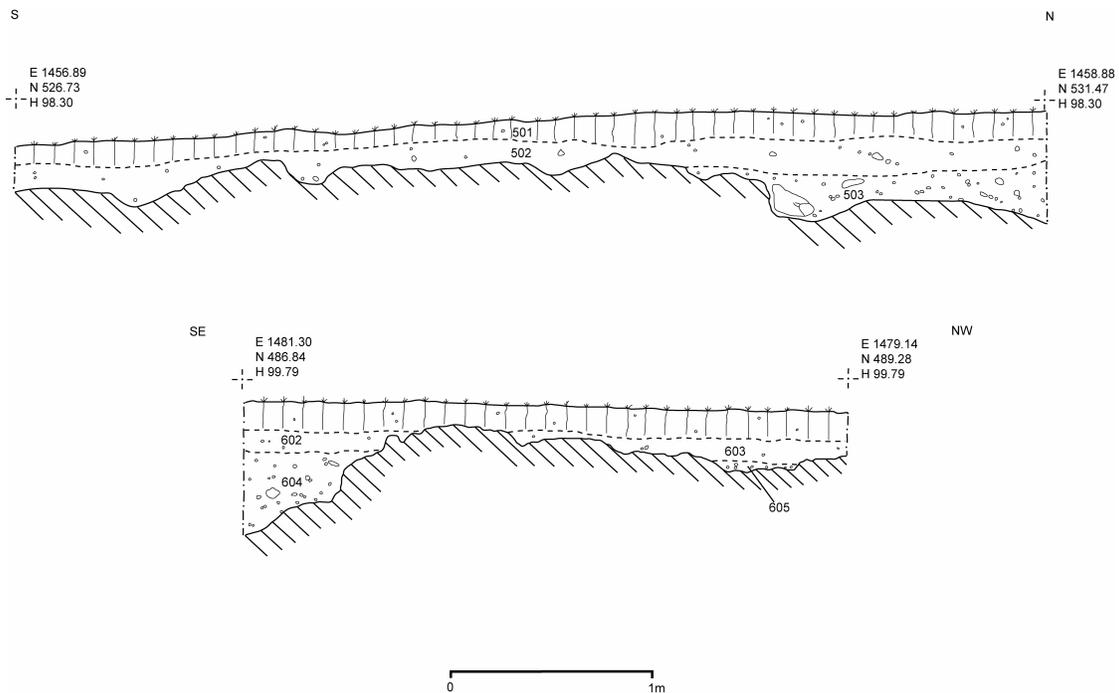


Figure Nine: East-facing section of Trench 5 and northeast-facing section of Trench 6.

the weathered surface of the underlying bedrock. Excavation of the natural subsoils in a sondage placed against the trench's northeast-facing edge of excavation further exposed the bedrock ridge demonstrating that it formed a significant feature. The bedrock ridge was about a metre wide and was raised, through a series of natural step-like graduations on its southeastern side, at least 0.5 metres above the height of the surrounding bedrock (Plate Eight). It is reasonable to assume that this natural ridge in the bedrock was the cause of the anomaly (f5) in the magnetometry survey.



Plate Eight: Part of the sondage cut against the northeast-facing edge of Trench 6 showing the depth of the bedrock ridge which is probably the cause of the anomaly (f5) in Noel's 2004 magnetometry survey.

3.7 *First Field Quarry / Burials (SMR No. ANT 063:057; J182703) (Site A: Trenches 7 and 8)*

3.7.1 O' Lavery recorded that 'on the summit of the hill a few stone-lined graves belonging to the Pagan period have been discovered' (1880, 295). There is no evidence on the summit of the hill to suggest whether the burials were associated with a mound or formed part of a flat cemetery (FitzPatrick 2004, 38). Apart from not being associated with a known Christian site or cemetery, it is not clear why O' Lavery identified the burials as pagan - stone-lined graves of early Christian date are not uncommon in Co. Antrim (Warner 1991, 41). It has previously been considered likely that the burials came to light during either the quarrying activity represented by the small, relict quarry at the western end of the field containing the Crew Stone (a possibility first noted by Claire Foley in 1978 (information derived from the Sites and Monuments Record SM7 File ANT 063:57) and subsequently supported by FitzPatrick cf. 2004, 38), or as a result of cultivation. This relict field quarry (Plate Nine) is marked as a 'quarry' on the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (surveyed 1832, engraved 1833) suggesting that it was being actively exploited at this date. That the quarry is not marked on the revised 6" survey of 1859 suggests that it had been abandoned some time before this date. At the request of the

landowner a small trench (Trench 7) was excavated near the base of the field quarry. It was considered that excavation of the undisturbed edge of the quarry on the hill's summit might uncover evidence of further, undisturbed burials. Consequently a second trench was excavated on the southern edge of the field quarry (Trench 8). Neither of the trenches contained any deposits, features or finds of archaeological significance and the precise location of the cist burials recorded by O'Lavery remains unknown.



Plate Nine: The relict field quarry prior to excavation on the summit of Crew Hill (looking northwest).

3.7.2 **Trench 7** was located near the base of the field quarry at the western end of the small field in which the Crew Stone was located. The trench was 1.5 metres square with its corners approximately aligned on the cardinal points. The poached surface of the dark brown humic topsoil (Context No.701; depth 0.1 metres) overlay a compact grey loam deposit (Context No.702; thickness 0.03 – 0.08 metres) that extended throughout the trench. This deposit in turn overlay a compact orangey brown loam (Context No.703; thickness 0.30 – 0.45 metres) that extended throughout the trench increasing in thickness towards the base of the field quarry. The orangey brown loam (Context No.703) directly overlay the quarried surface of the underlying bedrock (Plate Ten). It is probable that the thin grey loam deposit (Context No.702) represents the leached surface of the underlying deposit (Context No.703). A sherd of blackware pottery (Small Find No.5024) of eighteenth to twentieth century date and part of a clay pipe (Small Find No.5089) from the orangey brown loam (Context No.703) indicated that it was a silt of relatively recent date. This would be consistent with the cartographic evidence, noted above (Paragraph 3.7.1), which suggests that use of the quarry was abandoned by the middle of the nineteenth century.

3.7.3 **Trench 8** was located on the southern edge of the relict field quarry, was 3.0 metres long and 1.0 metres wide and was laid out on a southwest- northeast alignment. Underlying the humic topsoil (Context No.801; maximum depth 0.15 metres) was a thin mid brown loam (Context No.802; maximum thickness 0.1 metre) that extended throughout the trench and was interspersed with exposures of the underlying bedrock. The loam (Context No.802), which probably represents a cultivation soil, was removed to reveal an uneven bedrock surface. No archaeological features, associated with burial or otherwise, were present beneath the cultivation soil.

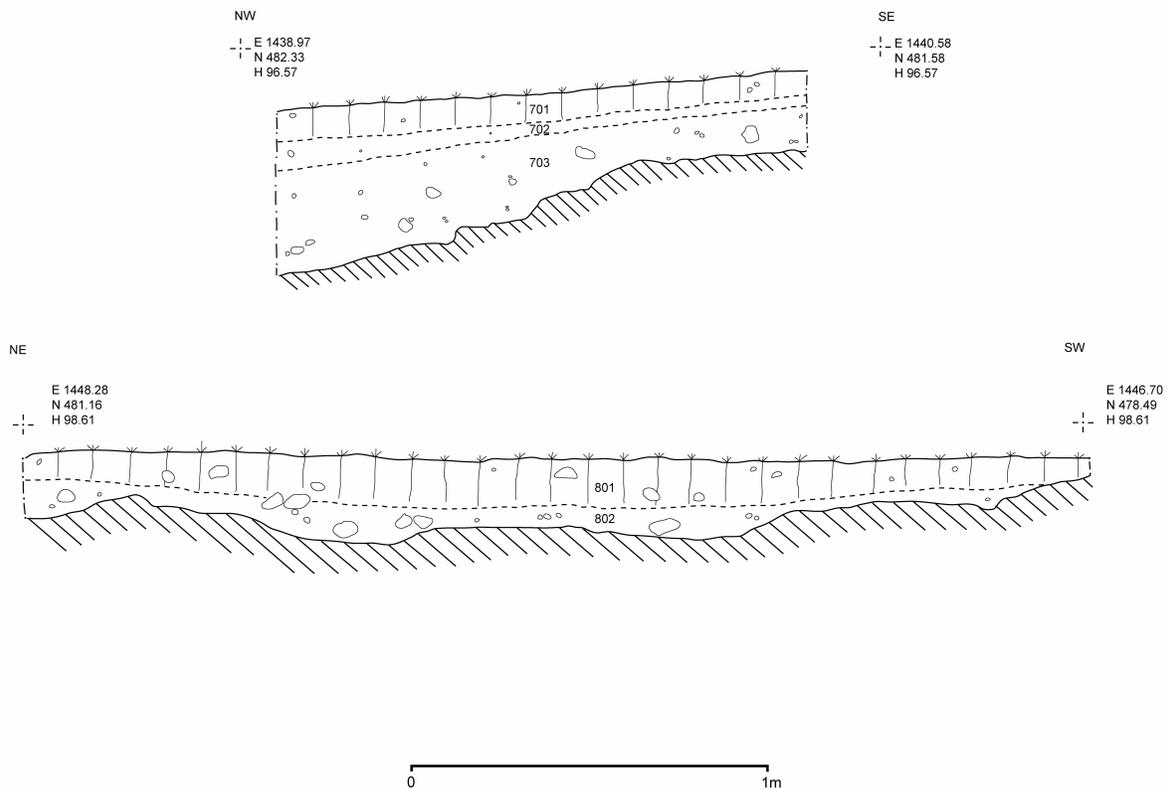


Figure Ten: Northeast-facing section of Trench 7 and northwest-facing section of Trench 8.



Plate Ten: Trench 7 following the excavation of the orangey brown loam (Context No.703), looking northeast. Note that a block of the loam deposit located in the southern corner of the trench was not excavated.



Plate Eleven: Trench Eight following excavation of mid brown loamy cultivation soil (Context No.802), looking northeast.

3.8 The 'stone chair' (SMR No. ANT 063:058; J18536973)

3.8.1 Local tradition maintains that a 'stone chair', a large monolith with a rough depression, now located in a ditch beside The Crew Road on the southeastern slopes of the hill (SMR No. ANT 063:058; Grid Reference J18536973) was originally associated with the site (Flanagan 1970, 31). The Environment and Heritage Service's record on the monument (SM7 File ANT 063:058) states that following receipt of a request to remove the stone in November 1969, it was moved, under supervision, to its current location in January 1970. Unfortunately, the file does not record precisely where the 'chair' was located prior to its removal in 1970. O'Laverty did not explicitly mention the 'chair' in his account of Crew Hill (1880, 294-295) suggesting that the chair-shaped stone was not located on the summit of the hill in his day. FitzPatrick claims that the chair-shaped stone was originally situated on the 'southeast downslope' of Crew Hill (2004, 38), however, her authority for this assertion is not obvious. The compiler of the SM7 File suggested that O'Laverty's references to the great stone on Crew Hill (1880, 295), usually taken to be the glacial erratic (SMR No. ANT 063:057), could actually be a reference to the chair-shaped stone, however, this is unlikely. An old woman who formerly lived in a cottage near Crew Hill recounted the story 'that in the last battle fought there, the Ulidians were defeated and as the victors were taking the chair away they were surprised by another force and dropped it at the place where it remains today' (Totten 1980, 31). This is apparently consistent with the tradition recorded by Flanagan that the 'chair' had 'been moved a little from its original site' (1970, 31). A review of the evidence for inauguration 'chairs' in northeast Ireland and beyond suggests a frequent association with low mounds or earthen platforms (FitzPatrick 2004, 137-172).

3.8.2 The tradition and original location of the stone chair is relevant because during the medieval period crude stone chairs were an element of some Irish inauguration rites (Hayes-McCoy 1964, 8; Warner 1991, 41). The concept of 'chair' in Irish folk-landscape traditions can be applied to a diverse range of natural and man-made features; it can mean a place that was a seat of authority, a height, mound or an unusual rock formation (FitzPatrick 2004, 132). Chair-shaped rocks, both natural and modified, are more usually associated with the installation of ecclesiastics and poets (*ollamhna*), as well as

judges (*breitheamhna*) and Otherworld figures, than with kings (FitzPatrick 2004, 132-137). The realisation of the concept of a seat or throne as a symbol of power and sovereignty in Ireland, and in particular the open-air ceremonial throne, may be a relatively late development (FitzPatrick 2004, 137-138). It is not obvious whether this apparent late date is genuine



Plate Twelve: The 'stone chair' (looking southwest).

or simply a product of the lack of detailed early historic references and the growing interest in, and concomitant recording of, Gaelic practices by the Tudor authorities in the second half of the sixteenth century. Interestingly, there are more alleged 'coronation' chairs in Ulster than any other part of Ireland (FitzPatrick 2004, 138-139). FitzPatrick has suggested that the apparent replacement of an inauguration rite involving standing upon a *leac* with one involving sitting upon a 'chair', albeit one potentially incorporating a *leac*, combined with the northern bias in their distribution, may reflect a renaissance of kingship in Ulster based upon the late medieval European model of the enthroned king. FitzPatrick plausibly suggests that the catalyst for this development, apparently first witnessed at Tullaghoge, Co. Tyrone, might have been the vigorous pursuit of a kingship of all Ulster by successive O' Neill kings from the fourteenth century onwards (2004, 154).

3.9 *The bivallate rath* (SMR No. ANT 063:020; Grid Reference J18297004)

3.9.1 On the southern slope of Crew Hill is a bivallate rath, known locally as '*The Forth*' (Flanagan 1970, 31). Flanagan recorded that in 1970 the tree-lined rath was well preserved (1970, 31). Today its form and state of preservation is difficult to assess as it is overgrown with near impenetrable gorse. Multi-vallate ringforts are typically associated with high status sites, and where they occur elsewhere in close proximity to places of assembly and inauguration, such as the trivallate ringfort or enclosure called *Ráith na senad* at Tara, Co. Meath, they have been identified as the residences of the keepers or caretakers of the inauguration site (Warner 1988, 57; see also Warner 1991, 41). The hereditary stewardship or guardianship of inauguration sites was a position of considerable prestige in Gaelic society (FitzPatrick 2004, 141).

3.10 *Second Field Quarry / The Mound (SMR No. ANT 063:101; J18237017) (Site B: Trench 9)*

3.10.1 Located on the southern slopes of Crew Hill, approximately 180 metres to the south of the Crew Stone (SMR No. ANT 063:057) and approximately 190 metres to the northwest of a bivallate rath (SMR No. ANT 063: 020), is a feature that is recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (ANT 063:101) as a circular enclosure which surrounds a mound and which has previously been identified as potentially being associated with inauguration rites. Identified as a suitable site for investigation, excavation demonstrated that it was a field quarry of probably eighteenth or early nineteenth century date.

3.10.2 Today, the site consists of a low, flat-topped, oval-shaped mound (maximum height approximately 1.5 metres; maximum length approximately 15 metres), aligned approximately southwest – northeast, which is set within a fan-shaped area of level ground (approximately 45 metres by 35 metres in size). The area of level ground is partly encircled to the north and east by an artificial, curved scarp slope (which extends from a maximum (estimated) height of 2.5 metres at its western end to a height of less than 0.1 metres at its eastern end). The site is explicitly marked as a quarry on the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (surveyed 1832, engraved 1833). A 'ramp', bordered on one side by a large thorn tree, forms a route of access down the scarp slope and into the northern part of the quarry's base. The scarp slope is bordered by a curving track whose far side is delimited by a wire fence. To the west and south the area of level ground surrounding the mound is bordered by field boundaries that are first depicted on the 1933 edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" map. A farmyard (marked on the first edition 6" map) lies immediately beyond the western field boundary. The area of level ground has been planted in the last seven years with a relatively dense covering of young trees, although the mound and the area immediately around it have not been disturbed by planting. The site is presently the site of a colony of rabbits.



Plate Thirteen: the mound at Site B prior to excavation, looking southwest.

3.10.3 Past study of an aerial photograph (Ordnance Survey H46A/29926-29927 [14.4.62]; not presently available to the authors) suggested that the quarry may have been enclosed by a bank with breaks through it to the north, east and west through

which farm tracks ran (information derived from Sites and Monuments Record SM7 File ANT 063:101). Although slight traces of a small length of earthen bank, which follows the line of a field division marked on the Ordnance Survey's third edition 6" map (1933), remain on the northeastern edge of the site (Plate Fourteen), no evidence for a bank which encloses the whole of the quarry survives to the present day. It is possible that the 'enclosure' recorded in the 1962 aerial photograph was destroyed during landscaping works associated with the recent plantation of the site. As noted above, the feature is marked upon the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" map (surveyed 1832, engraved 1833) as being a quarry which appears to be conjoined with the adjacent farmyard. The second edition 6" map (1857) represents the feature as a small, irregular-shaped field or paddock planted with trees on its western side. The planted trees suggest that the quarry was no longer active by the mid-nineteenth century. Only the feature's scarped western and northern edges are represented on the third edition 6" map (1933) which depicts it located at the western end of a rectangular-shaped field whose longest axis is aligned northwest/southeast.



Plate Fourteen: Surviving traces of a small length of earthen bank, which follows the line of a field division marked on the Ordnance Survey's third edition 6" map (1933), on the northeastern edge of the quarry (Site B).

3.10.4 The landowner, whose family has owned the site since the mid nineteenth century, has always understood the site to be a quarry, the stone from which was used, in part, to build the adjacent farm buildings (F.McCorry pers.comm.). This tradition is consistent with the annotation on the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" map and was confirmed by the results of the excavation in 2007. Although local tradition and the cartographic evidence indicated the site was probably a quarry, prior to excavation it was considered that the presence of a substantial mound within the feature, and the level character of the ground which immediately surrounded the mound, were not characteristics typical of a relict field quarry. Two authors had previously identified the central mound of the feature as being associated with the inauguration rites at Crew Hill (Totten 1980, 30; FitzPatrick 2004, 38). FitzPatrick's identification of the mound as being 'the most significant monument on Crew Hill' was partly based on her appreciation that the place-name element *tulach* might signify the presence of an assembly mound in the immediate vicinity (2004, 38). The mound is recorded as having been destroyed in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record and was apparently never visited by FitzPatrick, who presumably based her assessment on the contents of the site's SM7 file held by the Environment and Heritage Service. Although both local tradition and cartographic evidence suggested that the site was a quarry, give its identification as a potentially significant monument within the inaugural landscape of Crew Hill and the on-going threat to the site's integrity by rabbit disturbance and the

plantation, limited archaeological investigation of the site was considered merited. In the event excavation of a single trench (Trench 9) demonstrated that the mound was almost certainly an area of relatively undisturbed ground within a relict field quarry.

3.10.5 **Trench 9** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was 1.5 metres wide and 9.8 metres long. It was situated across the northeastern end of the mound perpendicular to its long axis (Figure Three). The southeastern end of the trench was located on the summit of the mound, whilst the northwestern end of the trench extended to beyond its base. Underlying the humic topsoil (Context No.901; maximum depth 0.15 metres) was a complex of deposits as well as two discrete exposures of the underlying bedrock, which demonstrated that the mound was not a cairn or artificially raised feature but formed by a block of upstanding bedrock. The most recent deposits sealed by the topsoil (Context No.901) were two localised layers of redeposited light grey coloured clay (Context Nos.904 and 906) located in the northwestern part of the trench and a small deposit of redeposited clay (Context No.908) at the southeastern end of the trench. Of the two deposits (Context No.904 and 906) located on the slope of the mound in the northwestern part of the trench, one contained part of a brick (Context No.906) and both contained fragments of clay pigeon and sealed traces of a remarkably well-preserved old turf-line (recorded and excavated as part of the underlying deposit of mid brown gritty loam i.e. Context No.903/905). The presence of the clay pigeon fragments, the brick fragment and the preservation of a relict turf line, indicated that these were deposits of relatively recent date. The deposit of clay at the southeastern end of the trench (Context No.908) was small in extent (dimensions 0.35 x 0.40 metres, thickness 0.08 metres) although it extended beyond the southeastern edge of excavation. No artefacts were recovered from this small area of exposed clay (Context No.908). The deposits of clay are interpreted as dating to the episode of landscaping which immediately preceded the planting of the trees at the site around the year 2000 (F.McCorry pers.comm.). One of the patches of redeposited clay (Context No.904) had a maximum depth of 0.19 metres and extended across the trench on an approximately east-west alignment, in a band approximately 0.40 metres wide located between 1.6 and 5.4 metres from the northwestern end of the trench. The second spread of redeposited clay (Context No.906) was located in the northwestern-most metre of the trench, again on an approximately east-west alignment and had a maximum depth of 0.10 metres.

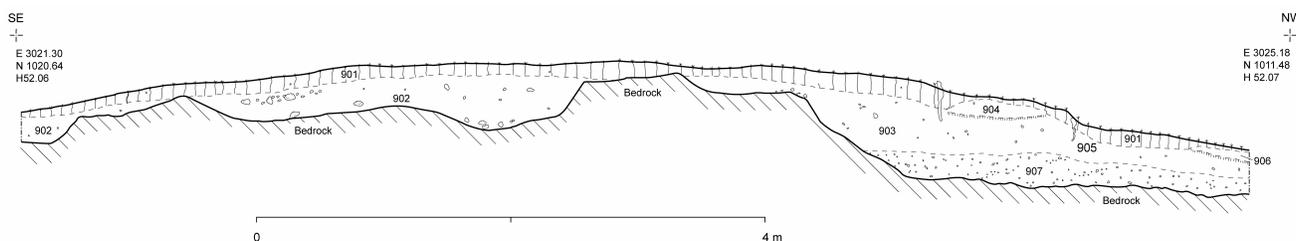


Figure Eleven: Northeast-facing section of Trench 9.

3.10.6 One of the two bedrock exposures, revealed by the excavation of the topsoil (Context No.901) and located towards the centre of the trench, separated two identical deposits of mid brown gritty loam (Context Nos.902 in the southeastern part of the trench and 903/905 in the northwestern part of the trench). These deposits formed part of the soil profile overlying the upstanding ridge of bedrock which forms the mound and the adjoining base of the quarry. On the summit of the mound they directly overlay the uneven surface of the bedrock and had a maximum thickness of 0.45 metres. The bedrock face of the mound had an artificial, stepped character formed by drops of up to 0.3 metres in depth (Plate Fifteen). On the mound's northwestern slope excavation of the gritty loam exposed the quarried edge of the bedrock and in the northwestern most 3.0 metres of the trench a deposit of gravelly silt (Context No.907) with inclusions of local stone chippings apparently derived from quarrying activity. The lack of humic material in this deposit suggests that it had accumulated relatively rapidly in the base of the quarry soon after it was abandoned as a site of extraction. Excavation

demonstrated that the deposit had a maximum depth of 0.25 metres and overlay the horizontal quarried surface of the bedrock.



Plate Fifteen: Part of the northeast-facing section of Trench Nine showing the stepped, quarried face of the underlying bedrock which formed the core of the mound within the quarry.

- 3.10.7 Directly dating the quarrying activity that formed the mound is problematic; stratigraphically the extraction of stone was only represented by the discontinuity represented by the quarried surface of the bedrock. However, given that the deposit of gravel-rich silt (Context No.907), which directly overlay the quarry's base and had accumulated against the quarried face of the bedrock, was probably near contemporary with the abandonment of quarrying at the site, then any artefactual material recovered from the deposit would provide an approximate indication of the quarry's date. A 100% sieving strategy resulted in the recovery of a single sherd of post-medieval pottery from the deposit (Small Find No.5017); a relatively thick body sherd of red earthenware decorated with a light coloured slip underneath a yellowish glaze. Although not closely datable the sherd is consistent with the approximate late eighteenth or early nineteenth century date suggested by the cartographic evidence for the quarry's abandonment.
- 3.10.8 Combined, the cartographic evidence and the sherd of post-medieval pottery recovered from the gravel-rich silt (Context No.907) at the base of the quarry both suggest that the mound should not be considered a feature which forms part of the inaugural landscape of Crew Hill (*pace* Totten 1980, 30; FitzPatrick 2004, 38). The mound is almost certainly the product of differential quarrying at the site prior to the middle of the nineteenth century. Why an area should be left upstanding to create a mound within a field quarry is not obvious, although two possibilities suggest themselves. The exposed surface of the bedrock within Trench 9 showed no evidence for tool marks, although the stepped character of the bedrock surface which formed the mound's edge appears artificial (Plates Fifteen and Sixteen). The exposed surface of the bedrock on the summit of the mound appeared flat and may have been subject to a limited degree of quarrying which was abandoned due to the poor qualities of the rock in this one area, which then led to the creation of the mound. Another potential explanation, based purely on cartographic evidence, is that the mound is the result of piecemeal development of the field quarry. Study of the 1933 Ordnance Survey 6" map suggests that the quarry and adjacent farmyard may have been

superimposed over a junction of pre-existing field boundaries. It is possible that the northwestern scarped edge of the mound respects the line of one of the lost field boundaries. If the quarry was developed episodically then the mound may be a product of the piecemeal development of the quarry which respected the pre-existing field boundaries. Piecemeal development that respected no longer extant field boundaries, initially to the west and then the north of the mound could have led to the creation of the raised feature within the base of the quarry. The validity of this suggestion was strengthened by the discovery, during the pre-excavation topographic survey of the site, of a low, linear feature, which may be the relict trace of a boundary, respecting the northwestern edge of the mound in the base of the quarry (see Figure Three).



Plate Sixteen: Trench 9 following excavation and showing the exposed, step-like quarried surface of the bedrock, looking southeast.

4 Concluding remarks

- 4.1 The review of the different strands of evidence (Chapter 3) has significantly refined our appreciation of the inaugural landscape of Crew Hill, but has not provided any additional insights into our understanding of the site. The historical and literary evidence indicates that Cráeb Telcha was a place of Royal assembly which was probably used for the purposes of inauguration, and Flanagan's analysis of the place-name evidence demonstrates that Cráeb Telcha and Crew Hill are one and the same place (Flanagan 1970). The elements of the site's place-name which indicate that it was associated with a sacred tree and possibly a mound are consistent with it being used for the purposes of inauguration, although they do not prove it. The presence of the Crew Stone, 'stone chair' and a bivallate rath on either the summit or the slopes of Crew Hill are also all consistent with, but not definitive proof of, the use of the site for inauguration.
- 4.2 The evaluative excavations demonstrated that the archaeological identification of elements of inaugural landscape is a problematic exercise. Technically, the excavations were successful; closely datable artefacts from diagnostic contexts were recovered from relatively small trenches enabling a detailed understanding of the excavated stratigraphic sequences on Crew Hill to be confidently produced. Historically, however, the results were disappointing in that no fresh insights were gained into the character of Crew Hill as a place of royal assembly and probable Gaelic inauguration. Excavation around the 'Crew Stone' confirmed the accuracy of Warner's observation that the stone 'has been much dug around' (1991, 40). The level of disturbance within the erratic's immediate environs was considerable; evidence of both the historically-attested nineteenth century re-setting of the stone and an earlier unrecorded episode of destructive treasure hunting was recovered. If any archaeological levels or features associated with the use of the stone for inauguration or other purposes had survived, these would have been destroyed in the act of digging the treasure hunter's pit. No evidence was retrieved to cast any light on the use, or otherwise, of the stone during inauguration rites. Another example of the negative character of the excavated evidence is that the site of the mound, previously identified as being a possibly significant element of inaugural rites at Crew Hill, was demonstrated to be the product of relatively recent quarrying. Although this demonstrates that Totten's (1980, 30) and FitzPatrick's (2004, 38) identification of the mound as a possible element of the inaugural landscape of Crew Hill is incorrect, it does not invalidate the identification of Crew Hill as a probable place of inauguration. The evaluative excavations also demonstrated the limited value of geophysical survey for the identification of features associated with inauguration, or other past activity, on Crew Hill. The evaluative mechanical excavation of parts of the hill's summit undertaken by Gahan and Long Ltd, whilst uncovering some negative features cut into the hill's natural subsoil, also proved to be of limited value in identifying elements of the inaugural landscape.
- 4.2 The evaluative exercise can be considered a failure in as much as it was not possible to verify whether or not Crew Hill was a place of Gaelic inauguration. As was recognised prior to the excavations, developing an archaeological methodology for addressing Gaelic inauguration was always going to be challenging. The scope for developing an archaeological approach to the subject of Gaelic inauguration appears to be limited. Although it is possible to add to our appreciation of known, historically-attested inauguration sites using archaeological methods, it would appear, at least from the results of the recent investigations at Crew Hill, to not be possible to demonstrate from archaeological evidence alone whether a site identified as probably being used for inauguration on historical evidence was definitely an inauguration site or not.

5 Recommendations for further work

- 5.1 In addition to contributing to the evaluation of the archaeological potential of Crew Hill, the investigations carried out at the site have clarified our appreciation of the inaugural landscape of the hill. Despite the limited historical value of the excavation results, the archaeological investigations at Crew Hill justify publication. The work detailed in this report would make a significant contribution to the study of Gaelic inauguration and the development of archaeological approaches to the subject. The paucity of finds recovered during the excavations means that the amount of specialist analysis required to facilitate publication is minimal. No specialist analyses or finds reports will be required for the purposes of publication.
- 5.2 It is recommended that a comprehensive report on the excavations is prepared for publication in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*. The final report will be authored by Philip Macdonald and David McIlreavy and will incorporate an account of both the desk-based evaluation and the excavations, which will form a detailed discussion of the site and its surrounding inaugural landscape.

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Appendix One: Context List

Site A

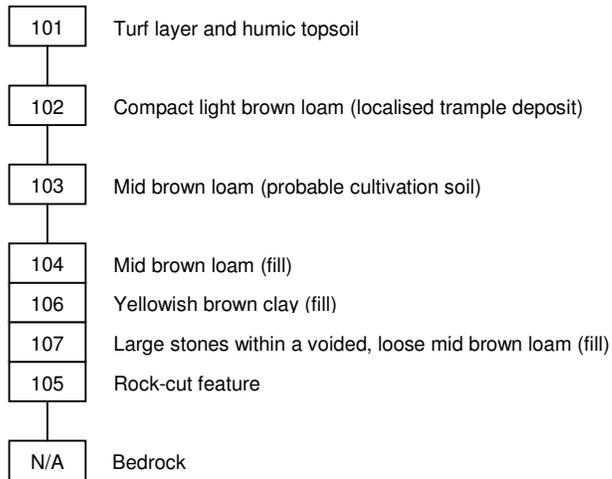
Context No.	Description
101	Turf layer and humic topsoil
102	Compact light brown loam (localised trample deposit)
103	Mid brown loam (probable cultivation soil)
104	Mid brown loam (fill of Context No.105) (retrospectively awarded)
105	Rock-cut feature
106	Yellowish brown clay (fill of Context No.105)
107	Large stones within a voided, loose mid brown loam (fill of Context No.105)
301	Turf layer and humic topsoil
302	Compact light brown loam (localised trample deposit)
303	Mid brown loam (probable cultivation soil)
304	Large stones within a voided, loose mid brown loam (fill of Context No.305)
305	Rock-cut feature
401	Turf layer and humic topsoil
402	Compact light brown loam (localised trample deposit)
403	Mid brown loam (probable cultivation soil)
404	Orange brown 'loam' subsoil
405	Orange brown 'loam' subsoil
406	Large stones within a voided, loose mid brown loam (fill of Context No.407)
407	Rock-cut feature
408	Mid brown loam (fill of Context No.407) (retrospectively awarded)
501	Turf layer and humic topsoil
502	Mid brown loam (probable cultivation soil)
503	Loose, orangey brown natural subsoil
601	Turf layer and humic topsoil
602	Mid brown loam (probable cultivation soil)
603	Mid brown loam (probable cultivation soil)
604	Loose, orangey brown natural subsoil
605	Loose, orangey brown natural subsoil
701	Poached surface of dark brown humic topsoil
702	Compact grey loam (probably leached surface of Context No.703)
703	Compact orangey brown loam
801	Turf layer and humic topsoil
802	Mid brown loam (probable cultivation soil)

Site B

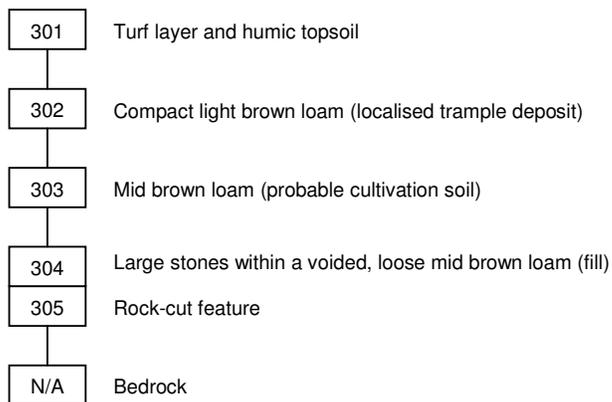
Context No.	Description
901	Turf layer and humic topsoil
902	Mid brown gritty loam
903	Mid brown gritty loam (same as Context No.905)
904	Redeposited light grey clay
905	Mid brown gritty loam (same as Context No.903)
906	Redeposited light grey clay
907	Sterile, gravelly silt with inclusions of local stone chippings
908	Redeposited light grey clay

Appendix Two: Harris Matrices

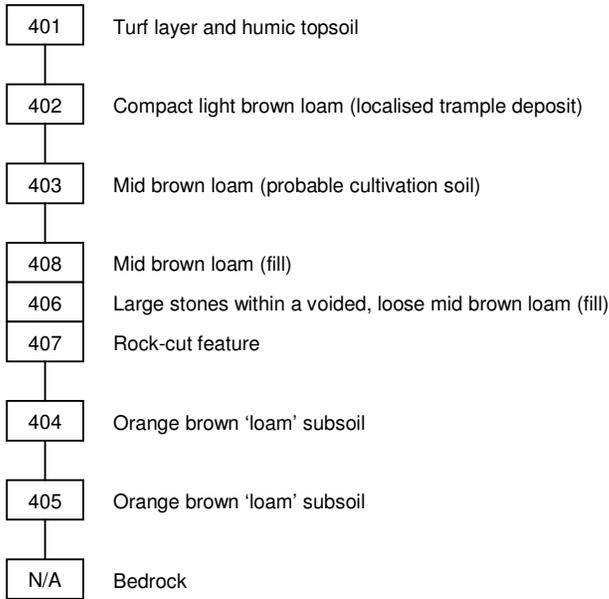
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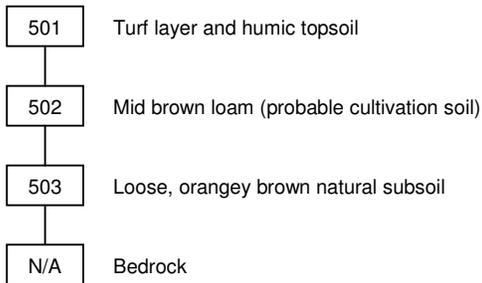
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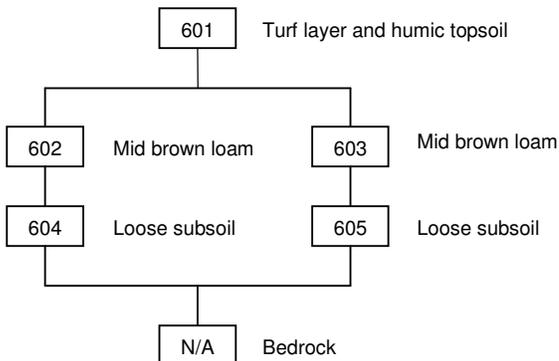
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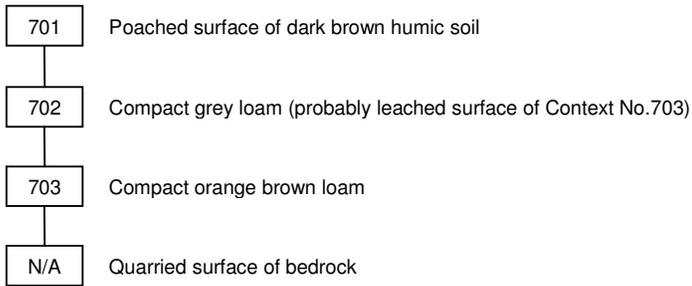
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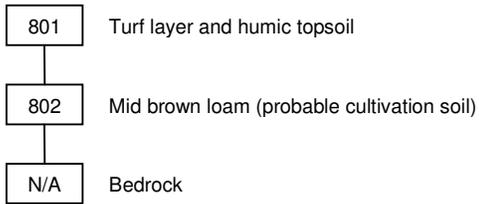
Trench 6



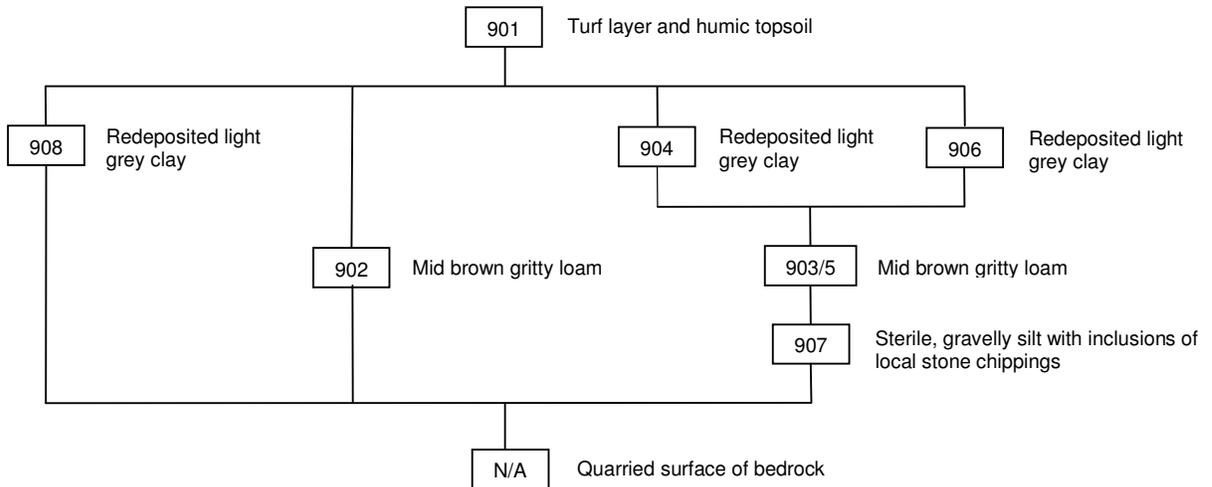
Trench 7



Trench 8



Trench 9



Appendix Three: Photographic Record

[All images taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera]

12th February 2007

- 1 The Crew Stone prior to excavation, looking northeast [DSCN3346]
- 2 The Crew Stone prior to excavation, looking northwest [DSCN3348]
- 3 The Crew Stone prior to excavation, looking southwest [DSCN3349]
- 4 The Crew Stone prior to excavation, looking southeast [DSCN3352]
- 5 Supporting stones under western corner of Crew Stone, looking east [DSCN3353]
- 6 Supporting stones under western corner of Crew Stone, looking east [DSCN3355]
- 7 Trench 1, prior to excavation, looking northeast [DSCN3356]
- 8 Trench 2, prior to excavation, looking southeast [DSCN3357]
- 9 Trench 2, prior to excavation, looking southeast [DSCN3358]
- 10 Trench 3, prior to excavation, looking southwest [DSCN3359]
- 11 Trench 4, prior to excavation, looking northwest [DSCN3360]
- 12 Trench 6, prior to excavation, looking northwest [DSCN3361]
- 13 Trench 6, prior to excavation, looking northwest [DSCN3362]
- 14 Trench 5, prior to excavation, looking northeast [DSCN3363]
- 15 Trench 5, prior to excavation, looking northeast [DSCN3364]

13th February 2007

- 16 Trench 6, following removal of topsoil (601) exposing cultivation soil (602 and 603) and exposed bedrock ridge, looking northwest [DSCN3365]
- 17 Trench 6, following removal of topsoil (601) exposing cultivation soil (602 and 603) and exposed bedrock ridge, looking northwest [DSCN3366]
- 18 Trench 6, following removal of topsoil (601) exposing cultivation soil (602 and 603) and exposed bedrock ridge, looking northeast [DSCN3367]
- 19 Trench 6, detail of exposed bedrock ridge, following removal of topsoil (601), looking southwest [DSCN3368]
- 20 Trench 6, detail of exposed bedrock ridge, following removal of topsoil (601), looking northeast [DSCN3369]
- 21 Trench 6, detail of exposed bedrock ridge, following removal of topsoil (601), looking northeast [DSCN3370]
- 22 Trench 1, following removal of topsoil (101) exposing trampled deposit (102) and cultivation soil (103), looking northeast [DSCN3372]
- 23 Trench 1, following removal of topsoil (101) exposing trampled deposit (102) and cultivation soil (103), looking northeast [DSCN3373]
- 24 Trench 1, following removal of topsoil (101) showing 'supporting' stones within trampled soil (102), looking northeast [DSCN3374]
- 25 Trench 1, following removal of topsoil (101) showing 'supporting' stones within trampled soil (102), looking northeast [DSCN3375]
- 26 Trench 6, following removal of cultivation soil (602 and 603) showing possible feature (607), exposed bedrock ridge and subsoil (604 and 605), looking northwest [DSCN3376]
- 27 Trench 6, following removal of cultivation soil (602 and 603) showing possible feature (607), exposed bedrock ridge and subsoil (604 and 605), looking northwest [DSCN3377]
- 28 Trench 6, following removal of cultivation soil (602 and 603) showing possible feature (607), exposed bedrock ridge and subsoil (604 and 605), looking southeast [DSCN3378]

- 29 Trench 6, following removal of cultivation soil (602 and 603) showing possible feature (607), exposed bedrock ridge and subsoil (604 and 605), looking southeast [DSCN3379]
- 30 Northwestern end of Trench 6, following removal of cultivation soil (603) showing possible feature (607) [top of frame to southwest] [DSCN3380]
- 31 Northwestern end of Trench 6, following removal of cultivation soil (603) showing possible feature (607) [top of frame to southwest] [DSCN3381]
- 32 Northwestern end of Trench 6, following removal of cultivation soil (603) showing possible feature (607) [top of frame to southwest] [DSCN3382]
- 33 Northwestern end of Trench 6, following removal of cultivation soil (603) showing possible feature (607) [top of frame to southwest] [DSCN3383]
- 34 Northwestern end of Trench 6, following half-sectioning of possible feature (607), looking northwest [DSCN3384]
- 35 Northwestern end of Trench 6, following half-sectioning of possible feature (607), looking northwest [DSCN3385]
- 36 Northwestern end of Trench 6, following half-sectioning of possible feature (607), looking northwest [DSCN3386]
- 37 Northwestern end of Trench 6, following half-sectioning of possible feature (607), looking northwest [DSCN3387]

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- 38 Trench 4, following removal of topsoil (401) exposing trampled deposit (402) and cultivation soil (403), looking northwest [DSCN3388]
- 39 Trench 4, following removal of topsoil (401) exposing trampled deposit (402) and cultivation soil (403), looking northwest [DSCN3389]
- 40 Trench 6, following partial excavation of natural subsoil (604 and 605), looking northwest [DSCN3390]
- 41 Trench 6, following partial excavation of natural subsoil (604 and 605), looking northwest [DSCN3391]
- 42 Trench 6, following partial excavation of natural subsoil (604 and 605), looking southeast [DSCN3392]
- 43 Trench 6, following partial excavation of natural subsoil (604 and 605), looking southeast [DSCN3393]
- 44 Trench 6, northeast-facing section excavated to bedrock, looking southwest [DSCN3394]
- 45 Trench 6, northeast-facing section excavated to bedrock, looking southwest [DSCN3395]
- 46 Trench 6, southeast end of northeast-facing section showing height of bedrock ridge, looking southwest [DSCN3396]
- 47 Trench 6, southeast end of northeast-facing section showing height of bedrock ridge, looking southwest [DSCN3397]
- 48 Trench 6 following excavation of possible feature (607) [top of frame to southwest] [DSCN3398]
- 49 Trench 6 following excavation of possible feature (607) [top of frame to southwest] [DSCN3399]
- 50 Excavation in progress [DSCN3400]
- 51 Excavation in progress [DSCN3401]
- 52 Excavation in progress [DSCN3402]
- 53 'Fairy' thorn tree in adjacent field [DSCN3403]
- 54 'Fairy' thorn tree in adjacent field [DSCN3404]
- 55 'Fairy' thorn tree in adjacent field [DSCN3405]
- 56 'Fairy' thorn tree in adjacent field [DSCN3406]
- 57 'Fairy' thorn tree in adjacent field [DSCN3407]
- 58 Trench 1, following excavation of cultivation soil (103) and upper fill (104) of feature (105), showing bedrock and lower fills (106 and 107) of feature (105), looking northeast [DSCN3408]
- 59 Trench 1, following excavation of cultivation soil (103) and upper fill (104) of feature (105), showing bedrock and lower fills (106 and 107) of feature (105), looking northeast [DSCN3409]
- 60 Northeastern end of Trench 1, following excavation of upper fill (104) of feature (105), showing lower fills (106 and 107), looking northeast [DSCN3410]

- 61 Northeastern end of Trench 1, following excavation of upper fill (104) of feature (105), showing lower fills (106 and 107), looking northeast [DSCN3412]
- 62 Northeastern end of Trench 1, following excavation of upper fill (104) of feature (105), showing lower fills (106 and 107) [top of frame to northwest] [DSCN3413]
- 63 Northeastern end of Trench 1, following excavation of upper fill (104) of feature (105), showing lower fills (106 and 107) [top of frame to northwest] [DSCN3414]
- 64 Excavation in progress [DSCN3415]
- 65 Trench 1, following excavation, looking northeast [DSCN3416]
- 66 Trench 1, southeast-facing section following excavation, looking northwest [DSCN3419]
- 67 Trench 1, southwest-facing section following excavation, looking northeast [DSCN3420]
- 68 Trench 1, detail of southwest-facing section following excavation, looking northeast [DSCN3422]
- 69 Trench 1, detail of southwest-facing section following excavation showing fill (107), looking northeast [DSCN3423]

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- 70 Trench 3, stone spread adjacent to Crew Stone within cultivation/subsoil (303), looking southwest [DSCN3424]
- 71 Trench 3, stone spread adjacent to Crew Stone within cultivation/subsoil (303), looking southwest [DSCN3425]
- 72 Trench 4, following excavation of cultivation/subsoil (403), exposing surface of stone-rich orange subsoil (404), looking northwest [DSCN3426]
- 73 Trench 4, following excavation of cultivation/subsoil (403), exposing surface of stone-rich orange subsoil (404), looking northwest [DSCN3427]

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- 74 Trench 3, following excavation of cultivation/subsoil (303), exposing bedrock and surface of fill of large stones with voids (304), looking northwest [DSCN3461]
- 75 Trench 3, following excavation of cultivation/subsoil (303), exposing bedrock and surface of fill of large stones with voids (304), looking southwest [DSCN3462]
- 76 Trench 3, following excavation of cultivation/subsoil (303), exposing bedrock and surface of fill of large stones with voids (304), looking southwest [DSCN3463]
- 76 Trench 7 prior to excavation, looking northwest [DSCN3464]
- 78 Trench 7 prior to excavation, looking northwest [DSCN3465]
- 79 Trench 5, following excavation of cultivation/subsoil (502), exposing bedrock and surface of orange subsoil (503), looking south [DSCN3466]
- 80 Trench 5, following excavation of cultivation/subsoil (502), exposing bedrock and surface of orange subsoil (503), looking north [DSCN3467]
- 81 Trench 4, following excavation of cultivation stone-rich orange subsoil (404), exposing surface of orange subsoil (405), looking northwest [DSCN3468]
- 82 Trench 4, following excavation of cultivation stone-rich orange subsoil (404), exposing surface of orange subsoil (405), looking northwest [DSCN3469]

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- 83 Trench 7, following excavation of orange/brown subsoil (703), exposing surface of bedrock, looking south [DSCN3470]
- 84 Trench 7, following excavation of orange/brown subsoil (703), exposing surface of bedrock, looking south [DSCN3471]
- 85 Trench 7, following excavation of orange/brown subsoil (703), exposing surface of bedrock, looking north [DSCN3472]

- 86 Trench 7, following excavation of orange/brown subsoil (703), exposing surface of bedrock, looking north [DSCN3473]
87 Trench 7, following excavation of orange/brown subsoil (703), exposing surface of bedrock, looking west [DSCN3474]
88 Trench 7, following excavation of orange/brown subsoil (703), exposing surface of bedrock, looking west [DSCN3475]
89 Trench 5, section of trench, showing the northern end of the east-facing section [DSCN3476]
90 Trench 5, section of trench, showing the middle of the east-facing section [DSCN3477]
91 Trench 5, section of trench, showing the southern end of the east-facing section [DSCN3478]
92 Trench 5, following excavation of orange/brown subsoil (503), exposing surface of bedrock, looking north [DSCN3479]
93 Trench 5, following excavation of orange/brown subsoil (503), exposing surface of bedrock, looking south [DSCN3480]
94 Trench 7, following excavation to bedrock, looking northeast [DSCN3481]
95 Trench 7, following excavation to bedrock, looking northeast [DSCN3482]
96 Trench 7, following excavation to bedrock, looking northeast [DSCN3483]
97 Trench 7, following excavation to bedrock, southwest-facing section, looking northeast [DSCN3484]
98 Trench 7, following excavation to bedrock, southwest-facing section, looking northeast [DSCN3485]
99 Trench 7, following excavation to bedrock, looking southwest [DSCN3486]
100 Trench 7, following excavation to bedrock, looking southwest [DSCN3487]
101 Trench 4, following excavation of orange subsoil, exposing large stones with voids (406), looking northwest [DSCN3488]
102 Trench 4, following excavation of orange subsoil, exposing large stones with voids (406), looking northwest [DSCN3489]
103 Trench 4, following excavation of orange subsoil, exposing large stones with voids (406), northeast to top of frame [DSCN3490]
104 Trench 4, following excavation of orange subsoil, exposing large stones with voids (406), northeast to top of frame [DSCN3491]
105 Trench 3, following partial excavation of mid brown silty loam (304), showing depth of cut through to bedrock, northwest to top of frame [DSCN3492]
106 Trench 3, following partial excavation of mid brown silty loam (304), showing depth of cut through to bedrock, northwest to top of frame [DSCN3493]
107 Trench 3, following partial excavation of mid brown silty loam (304), showing depth of cut through to bedrock, northwest to top of frame [DSCN3494]
108 Trench 4, following excavation of cut feature (407), looking northwest [DSCN3495]
109 Trench 4, following excavation of cut feature (407), looking northwest [DSCN3496]
110 Trench 4, following excavation of cut feature (407), looking northeast [DSCN3497]
111 Trench 4, following excavation of cut feature (407), looking northeast [DSCN3498]
112 Trench 4, following excavation of sondage through the base of orange subsoil (405), looking northwest [DSCN3499]
113 Trench 4, following excavation of sondage through the base of orange subsoil (405), looking northwest [DSCN3500]
114 Trench 4, following excavation of orange subsoil (405), looking northeast [DSCN3501]
115 Trench 4, following excavation of orange subsoil (405), looking northeast [DSCN3502]
116 Trench 3, final excavation photograph, looking southwest [DSCN3503]
117 Trench 3, final excavation photograph, looking southwest [DSCN3504]
118 Trench 3, northwest-facing section [DSCN3505]
119 Trench 3, northwest-facing section [DSCN3506]
120 Trench 8, following excavation of turf layer and topsoil (801), facing south [DSCN3507]
121 Trench 8, following excavation of turf layer and topsoil (801), facing west [DSCN3508]
122 Trench 8, following excavation of turf layer and topsoil (801), facing west [DSCN3509]
123 Trench 8, following exposure of bedrock, facing north [DSCN3510]
124 Trench 8, section following the exposure of the bedrock, northern end of east-facing section, facing west [DSCN3511]
125 Trench 8, section following the exposure of the bedrock, middle of east-facing section, facing west [DSCN3512]
126 Trench 8, section following the exposure of the bedrock, southern end of east-facing section, facing west [DSCN3513]

127 Trench 8, close up of southeast corner of trench following exposure of bedrock [DSCN3514]

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- 128 Trench 9, prior to excavation, looking northwest [DSCN3653]
- 129 Trench 9, prior to excavation, looking southeast [DSCN3654]
- 130 Trench 9, prior to excavation, looking southwest [DSCN3655]
- 131 Relict field boundary (A) respecting the scarp slope of mound, looking northeast [DSCN3656]
- 132 Relict field boundary (A) respecting the scarp slope of mound, looking southwest [DSCN3657]
- 133 Relict field boundary (A) respecting the scarp slope of mound, looking southeast [DSCN3658]
- 134 Relict field boundary (B) around eastern edge of 'quarry' feature, looking southwest [DSCN3659]
- 135 Relict field boundary (B) around eastern edge of 'quarry' feature, looking west [DSCN3660]
- 136 Relict field boundary (B) around eastern edge of 'quarry' feature, looking south [DSCN3661]

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- 137 Trench 9, following the removal of turf layer and topsoil (901), looking northwest [DSCN3662]
- 138 Trench 9, following the removal of turf layer and topsoil (901), looking southeast [DSCN3663]
- 139 Trench 9, following the removal of turf layer and topsoil (901), looking south [DSCN3664]

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- 140 Trench 9, following exposure of sterile gravelly silt deposit (907) at northwestern end of trench, looking southeast [DSCN3665]
- 141 Trench 9, following exposure of sterile gravelly silt deposit (907) at northwestern end of trench, looking northwest [DSCN3666]
- 142 Trench 9, following exposure of bedrock, final photographs, looking southeast [DSCN3667]
- 143 Trench 9, following exposure of bedrock, final photographs, looking southeast [DSCN3668]
- 144 Trench 9, following exposure of bedrock, final photographs, looking southeast [DSCN3669]
- 145 Trench 9, following exposure of bedrock, final photographs, looking southeast [DSCN3670]
- 146 Trench 9, northeast-facing section, photographs running southeast to northwest [DSCN3671]
- 147 Trench 9, northeast-facing section, photographs running southeast to northwest [DSCN3672]
- 148 Trench 9, northeast-facing section, photographs running southeast to northwest [DSCN3673]
- 149 Trench 9, northeast-facing section, photographs running southeast to northwest [DSCN3674]
- 150 Trench 9, northeast-facing section, photographs running southeast to northwest [DSCN3675]
- 151 Trench 9, northeast-facing section, photographs running southeast to northwest [DSCN3676]
- 152 Trench 9, northeast-facing section, photographs running southeast to northwest [DSCN3677]

Appendix Four: Field Drawing Register

<i>Drawing No.</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	1:20	Plan	Pre-excavation plan of Trenches 1, 3 and 4 showing erosional discontinuity around the Crew Stone
2	1:20	Plan	Trench 6, following removal of cultivation soil (602 and 603), showing subsoil (604 and 605)
3	1:10	Section	Trench 6, southeast-facing section of possible feature (607)
4	1:10	Section	Trench 6, northeast-facing section
5	1:20	Plan	Final plan of Trench 1
6	1:10	Section	Trench 1, southwest-facing section (includes cross-section of the Crew Stone)
7	1:10	Section	Trench 1, northwest-facing section (includes elevation of southeastern face of Crew Stone)
8	1:10	Section	Trench 7, southwest-facing section
9	1:20	Plan	Final plan of Trench 7
10	1:20	Section	Trench 5, west-facing section
11	1:20	Plan	Trench 5, plan following the excavation of cultivation/subsoil (502)
12	1:10	Section	Trench 3, southeast-facing section
13	1:20	Plan	Final plan of Trench 4
14	1:10	Section	Trench 4, northeast-facing section
15	1:20	Plan	Trench 3, following partial excavation of mid brown silty loam (304)
16	1:500	Plan	Site A, overall plan
17	1:10	Section	Trench 8, northwest-facing section
18	1:20	Plan	Final plan of Trench 8
19	1:20	Plan	Trench 9, following removal of turf layer and topsoil (901)
20	1:20	Plan	Final plan of Trench 9
21	1:20	Plan	Trench 9, northeast end only, following removal of sterile gravelly silt (907), overlay to Drawing No.20

Appendix Five: Small Finds List

<i>Small Find No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Context No.</i>
5001	Burnt bone	907
5002	Burnt bone	402
5003	Burnt bone	403
5004	Burnt bone	404
5005	Pottery	101
5006	Pottery	501
5007	Pottery (modern)	501
5008	Pottery (modern)	403
5009	Pottery (modern)	403
5010	Pottery (modern)	405
5011	Pottery	904
5012	Pottery	502
5013	Pottery	403
5014	Pottery (modern)	901
5015	Pottery (modern)	402
5016	Pottery	404
5017	Pottery	907
5018	Pottery (modern)	101
5019	Pottery (modern)	102
5020	Slag	403
5021	Pottery	406
5022	Pottery (modern)	603
5023	Pottery	103
5024	Pottery	703
5025	Pottery (modern)	301
5026	Pottery	303
5027	Pottery (modern)	702
5028	Pottery (modern)	601
5029	Pottery	304
5030	Pottery	401
5031	Pottery	902
5032	Pottery (modern)	701
5033	Pottery (modern)	702
5034	Plastic	401
5035	Copper alloy	103
5036	Plastic	402
5037	Graphite rods	101
5038	Cigarette filter	302
5039	Pottery (modern)	402
5040	Coal	401
5041	Foil	402
5042	Clay pipe - stem	301
5043	Iron	301

Small Find No.	Description	Context No.
5044	Brick	101
5045	Iron	101
5046	Coal	101
5047	Flint	907
5048	Flint	404
5049	Flint	406
5050	Flint	307
5051	Flint	904
5052	Flint	501
5053	Flint (burnt)	908
5054	Flint	405
5055	Slag	402
5056	Flint	405
5057	Flint	906
5058	Flint	101
5059	Flint	401
5060	Flint	301
5061	Flint	103
5062	Flint	402
5063	Flint	501
5064	Flint (burnt)	902
5065	Flint	304
5066	Flint	403
5067	Flint - scraper	303
5068	Flint (burnt)	703
5069	Flint	901
5070	Glass	101
5071	Glass	102
5072	Glass	303
5073	Glass	601
5074	Glass	301
5075	Glass	404
5076	Glass	403
5077	Glass	402
5078	Glass	302
5079	Glass	302
5080	Glass	401
5081	Glass	603
5082	Glass	403
5083	Brick	901
5084	Brick	906
5085	Clay pigeon fragment	301
5086	Clay pigeon fragment	904
5087	Clay pigeon fragment	906
5088	Clay pipe stem	901

Small Find No.	Description	Context No.
5089	Clay pipe stem	703
5090	Clay pipe bowl	403
5091	Clay pipe stem	303
5092	Nail	901
5093	Slag	403
5094	Slag	303
5095	Sickle - blade	408
5096	Slag	404
5097	Charcoal	403
5098	Charcoal	403
5099	Charcoal	403
5100	Charcoal	501
5101	Charcoal	101
5102	Pottery	401
5103	Burnt bone	102
5104	Organic (bark?)	403
5105	Beetle pieces	304
5106	Iron reaping hook	406

Appendix Six: Samples Register

Sample No.	Context No.	No. of bags	Purpose	Retained ?
1	606	1	Extraction of charcoal	No
2	302	1	Comparison with Context No.303	No
3	303	1	Comparison with Context No.302	No
4	702	1	Comparison with Context No.703	No
5	703	1	Comparison with Context No.702	No