



Excavations at Struell Wells, Co. Down
on behalf of
The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

by

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1 Summary

A research excavation and undergraduate (UG) student training excavation took place over five weeks at Struell Wells, Co. Down (Figure 1) from the 9th June 2014. The main research aim was to try and locate the early medieval church. Previous investigations at the site in 2012 (AE/12/60; Trenches 1-4, Figure 2), uncovered several features of interest including articulated human remains (partial remains of two skeletons in Trench 4) and an extensive ‘burnt mound’ deposit. However, the site stratigraphy indicated that the site had been significantly landscaped and built up prior to the construction of the church, now ruinous, in the eighteenth century (probably in response to flooding and waterlogged conditions). Much of the material uncovered in 2012 was redeposited and the C14 dates returned from the site reflected this (Murray and McCormick 2013).

The site was revisited in 2014 in the hope of locating *in situ* medieval horizons. Three trenches were opened (Trenches 5, 6 and 7; Figure 2) and these were located further away from the stream in an attempt to avoid the extensive stone levelling deposit encountered in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 in 2012.

Trench 5 (8m x 5m) was located just outside, and to the southeast of, the ruinous eighteenth-century church in the hope of locating the medieval church and *in situ* medieval deposits. The trench was de-sodded revealing a series of superimposed compacted stony paths/metalled surfaces which ran across the eastern two-thirds of the trench (running roughly northeast-southwest, parallel to the church) and clearly linked-up the post-medieval settlement at Struell which had buildings located on either side of the stream (Figures 3-7). These metalled paths also aligned with the metalled surfaces found in Trench 2 in 2012 and modern finds of nineteenth- and twentieth-century date were recovered (ceramics, glass, metal and plastic). The stone-built wall of a house (now buried within the raised area to the southwest of the church) was exposed in the northeast-facing section of the trench with associated collapse within the trench. The wall (i.e. house) and paths were clearly contemporary.

Below the metalled surfaces a sequence of stony loams was uncovered, and the finds present indicated they were of a post-medieval date. In the north-western quadrant of the trench three pits and a linear cut also post-medieval in date were uncovered. One of these pits, at the north-western corner of the trench, contained the semi-complete articulated remains of an adult/young adult (poorly preserved).

These cut features respected an extensive flagged surface to the east which, on excavation, was revealed as a sub-rectangular area extending across much of the trench and continuing beyond the eastern baulk. This appeared to be the floor of a building. It had a threshold, or doorsill, located at the north-eastern gable (i.e. facing towards the Drinking Well) represented by a pair of large rectangular stones with the largest of the two measuring approximately 1m in length by 0.3m wide. If this was located centrally, which seems probable, this would give overall dimensions for the building's footprint of roughly 5m by 7m. This has been identified as the floor of the medieval church, orientated roughly north northeast-south southwest.

Many of the flags were disturbed, especially towards the southern end and no remains of the building's wall survived. The only indication of a wall that was identified was a linear cut at the southern gable end but this was not investigated due to time constraints. Some of the stone flags had been lifted and replaced to inter two adults. In addition to the adult burials, at the southern end of the trench the stone flags, and part of the robbed-out gable wall were reused to build an informal hearth. Two pieces of cut sandstone and two quernstone fragments were also recovered from amongst the disturbed flag stones. Apart from the pieces of masonry (broadly datable as medieval, thirteenth-fifteenth century) no dateable finds were recovered from these lower horizons.

Occupation deposits overlying the flagged surface appeared to derive from an abandonment phase. Multiple (No. 15) juvenile human burials had been interred into these occupation deposits and the cuts for two of these cut through and disturbed the underlying flagged surface. Sherds of glazed pottery were found associated with some of the juvenile burials suggesting a probable post-medieval date for their interment.

A box trench (1m wide and approx. 3.5m in length) was opened at the north-western corner of the trench to investigate the lower stratigraphy below the flags. This uncovered a charcoal-rich stony 'burnt mound' material comparable with the burnt mound material previously recorded in 2012 in Trenches 4 and 2. This lay above a voided boulder/stone layer (natural substrate?) and the water table. Samples of this charcoal-rich loam were taken for C14 dating.

A single fragment of coarseware, identified as medieval Ulster coarseware of probable fourteenth century date (Cormac McSparron pers comm.), was recovered from a charcoal-rich deposit external to the church. No other medieval finds or artefacts were recovered from the trench. Notably no Souterrain Ware pottery was found, sherds of which were recovered in the 2012 excavations (McSparron 2014). A copper alloy

coin, a French double tournois (mid-seventeenth century; R. Heslip, pers comm.), was also recovered when cleaning back one of the sections of the trench ('unstratified').

Trench 6 (2m x 4m), was opened to investigate the raised mound area and probable location of a post-medieval building (seventeenth-eighteenth century) as indicated by the early nineteenth-century OS maps (Figures 4-7). The trench was de-sodded exposing an extensive rubble layer. Excavation down through this revealed a drystone wall, 0.56m in width, running across the width of the trench (2m; NNE-SSW), with rubble collapse to either side of it. Below the rubble subsoil was exposed to either side of the wall and another length of wall, perpendicular to the wall uncovered, was exposed in the north western section-face of the trench. The trench was extended (1m x 1.5) to the north to expose this wall fully in plan. No occupation deposits were uncovered suggesting that the building had been comprehensively cleared out prior to being levelled, probably when the site was brought into State Care.

Trench 7 (= Trench 8 in the research design and excavation licence application), was located over a geophysical anomaly and possible location of a former penitential cairn (1m x 3m) twelve metres south of the Drinking Well. Below the sod a sequence of stony loams was excavated overlying the subsoil with no features of archaeological interest found.

A fourth trench was proposed in the excavation licence application (i.e. Trench 7 in the licence application). This was located on the opposite side of the stream to try and locate the northern gable wall of the church. Due to the extent of vegetation growth it was decided not to open it.

The church

The excavation of Trench 5 identified the location of the medieval church as represented by a sub-rectangular, stone-flagged floor (5m x 7m) indicating that this was a stone-built building. This is also supported by the recovery of the dressed sandstone fragments found amongst the disturbed flagstones, and which are comparable with fragments found previously on the site (see McCormick 2009). The latter include parts of two medieval carved stone windows which were recovered between the church and Drinking Well during DoE works at the site in the early 1960s (see McCormick 2009, figure 12). Fragments of carved sandstone mouldings also survive built into the Drinking Well and ladies bathhouse all of which can be dated to sometime between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries (McCormick 2009, 46 and 48).

The tenth century saw the gradual movement towards the replacement of wooden churches with stone-built churches which references in the annals would suggest accelerated in the eleventh century (Ó Carragáin 2010, 87). The stone-built church at Struell is likely therefore be of tenth century date at the earliest. The moulded architectural stone fragments would, however, suggest a later date sometime between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. The main body of the church would have employed local rubble stone and after the church fell into ruins it seems probable that these stones were reused in the penitential cairns built by pilgrims to the site. The stones were presumably then recycled wholesale when the site was heavily landscaped and ‘levelled up’ (as indicated by the stratigraphy recorded in the 2012 excavations) and in the building of the eighteenth-century church.

The alignment of this medieval building, as represented by the flagstone floor, is the same orientation as the standing eighteenth-century church, northeast/southwest. This would explain the latter’s orientation, i.e. replicating that of the medieval church it replaced. Most early medieval churches are traditionally orientated east-west which the medieval church at Struell does not respect. The entrance does face towards the Drinking Well, presumed to be the original well at the site, and this may have dictated its unusual orientation.

Just one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered in 2014 and has been identified as medieval Ulster coarseware of a probable fourteenth century date (Cormac McSparron pers comm.). The dating of this would concur with that for the architectural stone fragments. The potential to identify a more secure date lies with radiocarbon dating and specifically dates for the adult burials should provide a *terminus ante quem* for the church, while samples from the underlying charcoal layer should provide a *terminus post quem* for its construction. Together these should help to narrow-down the date range for the building’s construction and use.

The burials

Adult burials were interred below the floor of the church. It seems probable that this occurred after the church had gone out of use but the evidence for this is equivocal. The juvenile burials, in contrast, were interred within the primary post-abandonment occupation layers that sealed the disturbed flagged floor. There therefore appears to be at least two phases of burial. The discovery of juveniles within the occupation deposit overlying the flags, would suggest that the ruins and outline of the church is likely to have been visible when they were buried. They were also sealed by the metallised surfaces and therefore must predate the clachan settlement at Struell.

Post-medieval settlement

The wall uncovered in Trench 6 was unmortared and built of mostly flat stones and is comparable with the short length of wall uncovered in the section face of Trench 5 at the opposing, northern end of the raised area. No contemporary floor surfaces or other deposits were found associated with the walls in Trench 6 which would suggest that the ruins were cleared out before the site was landscaped when taken into State Care. The walls were also levelled to an even height and the rubble collapse spread out either side of the wall to create the mound. The alignment of the wall does not coincide with the outline of the building immediately to its south. Map evidence, however, would suggest that these latter walls were probably built by the DoE when the site came into State Care and are contemporary with the main wall that encloses the Green.

The metalled surfaces uncovered in Trench 5, and in Trench 2 in 2012, are contemporary with these buildings. At least three superimposed paths were discovered in Trench 5 suggesting that it was easier to spread out another dump of stones rather than repair older surfaces. Presumably the paths were compacted through use over time. This was evident on excavation with the earliest path being the most compacted and hardest to excavate while the uppermost path was relatively loose and uneven. The source of the stone is not known but perhaps it derived from the quarry that overlooks the Struell river valley immediately to the north. The purpose of the pair of vertically set stones set along the edge of the path is not evident. They do not appear to align with any of the surviving upstanding features at the site such as the entrance to the church or wells, nor do they directly overlie burials.

2 Introduction and background

2.1 *Brief overview of the site*

Struell Wells is a complex of wells, bathhouses and a church (ruinous) located in the townland of Struell approximately 3km east of Downpatrick (J5117044220; Figure 1). The site occupies a roughly triangular area of relatively flat land within a small narrow valley. It is bordered along its north-eastern extent by a stream which terminates in a pond some 400m north-east of the site. Immediately adjacent to and west of the stream and contained within a modern stone wall are four stone-built buildings – the Drinking Well, Eye Well and two bathhouses, men’s and women’s (Figure 3). Northwest of the Drinking Well and wall are the ruins of a church and to either end of it, and also to the south of the main complex, are the footings and ruins of eighteenth/early nineteenth-century cottages. The area enclosed by the stone wall, along with the church, is owned by the NIEA and is in State Care (since 1936).

On the steep slopes of the hill to the south of the site, is a natural rock outcrop known as St Patrick’s chair. This is referred to in early literature on the site and has only been recently relocated. The chair is decorated with carved graffiti including various crosses and inscriptions.

2.2 *Historical and archaeological background*

The site has recently been the focus of detailed historical research by Finbar McCormick (2009 and 2011). The earliest reference to the wells is in a ninth-century hymn or poem which refers to St Patrick visiting the site, and the site has been the focus of pilgrimage, centred on midsummer, throughout the medieval period and into the nineteenth century. There is, however, strong evidence that the origins of Struell date back to pre-Christian times (McCormick 2009) and one of the main aims of the recent fieldwork was to try and locate early features and finds at the site.

The Drinking Well is considered the main well and the one principally associated with St Patrick. The wickerwork impressions on the internal mortar of the corbelled roof suggests a late rather than early medieval date for the construction of the present building while the door mouldings indicate a thirteenth- to fifteenth- century date range (McCormick 2009, 46-7).

The Eye Well, located towards the centre of the site and fed by an inflow culvert from the Drinking Well is probably eighteenth-century in date (McCormick 2009, 47) while the largest building in the complex, the men’s bathhouse can be dated to *circa* 1700 and has been attributed to Lady Elizabeth Cromwell (McCormick 2009, 50). The ladies bathhouse, is situated perpendicular to the men’s bathhouse and like

the Drinking Well, also has carved sandstone door mouldings which date to sometime between the thirteenth and fifteenth century (McCormick 2009, 48).

North of the Drinking Well are the unroofed walls of a plain rectangular-plan church with two entrances – one in the western gable and one midway along the southern side-wall. The eastern gable wall is missing and the two side-walls end just to the west of the stream. This could suggest that the church once straddled it with the eastern gable set on the opposite side of the water which would have placed the altar above the stream. Alternatively the altar may have been located against the windowless ‘longside’ of the church as in the style of contemporary Presbyterian churches which this appears to mimic (F.McCormick pers comm.). It is also the earliest known surviving Catholic Church in Ulster.

The 1306 record of taxation indicates that Struell was then a separate parish and it therefore seems probable that it had a church (McCormick 2009, 51). The ruins of a chapel at Struell are mentioned in 1643 by Father MacCana (quoted in O’Lavery 1878, 249) and in the mid-eighteenth century by Harris ‘... All these vaults seem to be very ancient, and near one of them are the ruins of a small chappel [sic.] dedicated to St. Patrick’ (Harris 1744, 25). O’Lavery also notes that the Catholics repaired ‘the ruins of this chapel’ in 1750 (O’Lavery 1878, 248). The unroofed church at Struell must post-date MacCana, Harris and O’Lavery’s references to chapel ruins at Struell and therefore date to 1750 at the earliest. As the ruined church is all of one build O’Lavery’s remark of ‘repair’ could be taken as meaning a complete ‘rebuild’ and therefore date it to *circa* 1750. The OS Memoirs from 1836 record that local tradition held that the church was never completed and was left unroofed (quoted in McCormick 2011, 23). Hardy’s early nineteenth-century illustration of Struell, which depicts an unroofed church but with an upstanding eastern gable (Figure 9), may therefore be an accurate representation of the ‘completed’ building.

The church that now stands must have replaced an earlier medieval church, the ruins of which these references allude to, and which was probably much smaller. Fragments of two medieval carved stone windows (thirteenth-fifteenth century), were recovered during DoE works at the site in the early 1960s and which most probably derive from this earlier building (Jope 1966, 310). These architectural fragments were subsequently built into the boundary wall adjacent to the Drinking Well (see McCormick 2009, figure 12).

2.3 The post medieval settlement at Struell Wells

There are the remains of a post-medieval settlement or ‘clachan’ at Struell comprising both dwellings and agricultural buildings and some of these still survive in a ruinous state at the south-eastern end of the site.

The footprints of these structures are illustrated on the nineteenth-century OS maps (Figures 4-7). On the first and second edition maps the footprints of these house are the most distinctive buildings illustrated (in-filled rectangular boxes) at Struell with their removal and ruinous condition (as indicated through the depiction of a rectangular box with no infill) tracked in the later two maps (Figures 6 and 7). A couple of the cottages are also shown in Hardy's 1836 illustration of the site (Figure 9) and in photos taken by W.A. Green in the early twentieth-century (see McCormick 2011). The exact date for the establishment of this settlement at Struell is not recorded – the OS maps are the primary source of dating information. Hardy's early nineteenth century interview with a pilgrim, Lalley, suggests that he may have resided in one of the houses at Struell when on pilgrimage to the site (in McCormick 2011, 20-22) while Jonathan Binns' account in 1837 specifically refers to the houses stating that the wells "lie in a triangular field, having a road on two sides of it and a few mean looking houses by the side of the road. At these houses the visitors procure lodgings and refreshments" (quoted in McCormick 2011, 24). These accounts and the OS maps indicate the houses were present in the 1830s though it is unclear how long they had existed in advance of this documentation.

2.4 Previous archaeological investigations

The 2014 excavations at Struell Wells follow on from previous investigations at the site in 2012. The 2012 excavation was also run as a QUB UG training excavation and was preceded by a geophysical survey (resistivity) of the site undertaken by Sapphire Mussen of the CAF (in Murray and McCormick 2013; McCormick and Murray forthcoming).

Four excavation trenches were opened in 2012 – two inside the church (Trenches 1 and 4) and two either side of the Drinking Well (Trenches 2 and 3 - Figure 2). In addition to the excavation of the four trenches, the interior of the Drinking Well was cleaned out. This yielded an exclusively modern collection of finds, including many coins (dating from 1955-2009), indicating that the well must have been cleared-out on at least one occasion relatively recently. Both the trenches inside the church and in particular the trenches either side of the Drinking Well demonstrated that the land adjacent to the stream has been radically remodelled from the medieval period onwards (McCormick and Murray forthcoming). Large amounts of soil, stone and gravel appear to have been dumped to level up the site at the time of the building of the well, and again during the construction of the church in the mid-eighteenth century. Indeed, most of the levels found beneath the relatively recent metalled pathways appear to have been soils that have been re-deposited from somewhere else. Some of these re-deposited soils, particularly in Trench 1, included Souterrain Ware. This assemblage has been examined and tentatively dated to the late eighth century (McSparron 2014). Trench 4, inside the eighteenth-century church, produced articulated medieval burials

(one was radiocarbon dated to the twelfth century AD), cut into re-deposited burnt mound material. The first season therefore failed to produce any *in situ* early medieval or prehistoric strata, without which the site cannot be understood.

3 The excavation

3.1 Introduction

The 2014 excavation was carried out over four weeks - June 9th to July 9th and was run as QUB's undergraduate training excavation, supported by the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency (NIEA). Permission from the landowners (Mr and Mrs Turley, Down District Council and the NIEA) was sought in advance of the excavation. The site was reinstated on completion of the excavation with the backfilling of Trenches 5 and 6 being undertaken by machine under archaeological supervision (July 8th, 2014). The trenches were then re-sodded by hand (July 9th). A permeable membrane was laid out across all three trenches before backfilling commenced.

3.2 Archaeological method statement

All excavations were conducted by hand. The site context record was created using the standard context recording method. Features were planned (scale 1:10cm, 1:20cm and 1:50cm where appropriate) and photographed. Individual negative features were excavated by putting a box-section through the feature to recover information about its profile and fill and were recorded with a section drawing (scale 1:10cm and 1:20cm where appropriate). In addition to the photography and illustration, the principal site records consisted of context sheets augmented by a site diary. Registers of contexts (Appendix 2), field drawings (Appendix 3), bulk samples (Appendix 4), photographs (Appendix 5), and finds (Appendix 6) are reproduced here in the Appendices.

On the discovery of human bone it was first established if the fragments were articulated by excavating around the bones. If the remains were articulated they were then exposed in plan, photographed, planned, recorded and then lifted and bagged. A bulk sample was taken after lifting the skeleton in order to recover any small bones or other associated materials (see sample register, Appendix 4).

Temporary fences were erected around the excavation trenches and signage warning of an open excavation was displayed. Secure steel containers were hired to store tools and finds on site. Open Days were held on Friday afternoons as part of NIEA's 'Archaeology Days' programme of events which runs

for the month of June. The Downpatrick branch of the YAC also visited the site and took part in the excavation.

3.3 Stratigraphical account of the excavation

An account of the 2014 excavation is given below by trench – Trench 5, 6 and 7. Hot and sunny conditions and the prevalence of a clay-rich loam meant that the site was prone to drying-out making features difficult to identify.

3.4 Trench 5

Trench 5 was the main trench (8m x 5m) and was opened south of and parallel to the ruinous eighteenth-century church (Plate 1; Figure 2) in the hope of locating the medieval church and *in situ* medieval deposits. It was located south of Trench 2 excavated in 2012 (Figure 2), and further south of the stream in the hope of moving away from the extensive levelling-up deposits encountered in Trenches 2 and 3 in 2012, both of which were located adjacent to the stream (see Murray and McCormick 2013).

The trench was de-sodded (C500; 0.08-0.3m thick) by hand with the sod being thickest at the southern edge of the trench adjacent to the mound south of the church. Patches of pea gravel (C564; 0.04-0.6m thick) were exposed below the sod along the western and northern edges of the trench and presumably the gravel derives from the recent landscaping and conservation of the site by the DoE. Patches of pea gravel were also identified towards the northern end of Trench 2 in 2012 (Murray and McCormick 2013). The pea gravel and loose gravelly loam below the sod (C501: 0.08m thick) was cleaned back (Plate 2) producing sherds of nineteenth and twentieth century pottery, glass, metal, plastic (comb, bottle tops and crisp packets), brick and render, flint, a ceramic bottle stopper, a religious medal and coins (including a 1928 Irish penny and a 1923 George V sixpence).

Paths

Excavation of the sod (C500), pea gravel (C564) and topsoil (C501) revealed an extensive metallated surface (C503) with a stone path (C502) set above it (Plate 3). This path (C502), one layer of stones deep, extended across the full length of the trench (8m) on the eastern side, widening from south (0.85m wide) to north (2.2m). It had a pronounced western edge demarcated by medium to large angular shaped stones (0.08m-0.45m in size). The stones forming this path were less well set, looser, more angular in shape and less compacted than the more extensive metallated surface below it (C503).

The lower metalled surface, C503 (0.1-0.15m thick; Plate 3) extended right across the trench, north south (8m), and westwards from the eastern edge for approximately 2.8m to 3m. The western extent of this layer was patchy and irregular. The surfaces of the stones that formed the metalled layer (C503) appeared worn and 'rounded' and the setting of the stones was much more compacted than the path C502 above it. This is probably due to greater wear and travel across its surface. The eastern side of the trench falls within the line of the path that leads from the main site across the stream where other post-medieval houses are also located (see OS maps, Figures 4-7). This can therefore explain why the paths/metalled surfaces are better defined and show greater evidence of wear in the eastern rather than western section of the excavation trench. The line of this path was also identified in the results of the geophysical survey (Figure 8).

Towards the middle of the trench a pair of vertically set stones were uncovered (C515 and C516, northern and southern respectively; Plates 4, 5 and 6). These measured approximately 0.16m-0.2m in diameter and were both associated with lenses of loose light brown sand (possibly decayed/degraded mortar). The settings each comprised three or four angular stones (up to 0.3m in length), grouped together and set on end. Their arrangement suggests that they were forcibly inserted into the ground rather than set into a cut, and no evidence for cuts were found. The function of these stone settings is unknown. They may have acted as jostle stones towards the edge of the more formal, compacted path, C503 (and C507 below it). Alternatively they could have acted as markers of some sort and could have been fixed by pilgrims or occupants of the houses.

Following the excavation of C502 and cleaning back over C503 it was clear that the eastern two-thirds of this stony layer, C503, was much more compacted and levelled compared to the western side of the trench which was looser and more irregular with evidence for some disturbance (Plate 7). The latter was differentiated as C505. Four human teeth were recovered from this horizon (C503/505).

The excavation of C503 revealed another metalled surface below it, C507 (0.03-0.05m thick; Plate 8), corresponding in its extent with C503 above it (approx. 2.8m-3m east-west) and it also had an ill-defined and irregular western edge. The small and medium-sized stones and gravel that made up C507 (Plate 9 - typically smaller on average than those employed in C503), were set in a hard clay loam, giving it a 'cemented' consistency and it was excavated with mattocks with some difficulty. It produced fragments of glass, glazed pottery, animal bones and teeth, fragments of brick and clay pipe stems. Another less stony loam deposit extended west of C507, below C505 (Plate 8), and was differentiated as C508. Upon

further excavation and removal of C507 it was found that C508 extended right across the trench below C507 where it was differentiated as C514 (C508 is therefore equivalent to C514).

House

The stone-built wall (C504) of a house (now buried within the mound to the south of the church) was uncovered in the north-facing section of Trench 5 below the sod (C500). A length of 1.7m was exposed (Plate 10) though it extended further west beyond the edge of the trench. It was of dry stone construction, two to three courses high (0.12m in height) and built of laminated stone (shale?) set horizontally. A vertically set rounded boulder formed the western quoin or corner stone (Figure 14).

Below the sod (C500) and topsoil (C501) immediately north of the wall (C504) was a discrete lens of a light to mid-brown clay loam, measuring 0.95m in length east-west by 0.8m north-south (C506). This appeared to be collapse associated with the house and mound (earlier sod collapse?). It abutted the wall (C504) and partly overlay the metalled surface C503 and looser stony loam, C505.

Pit C541

Although it was not identified until a later stage of the excavation, pit C541 was cut from this level, and sealed by the upper path C503/5 (Figure 15). The pit (C541) was located at the northern edge of the trench and continued beyond the edge of the excavation trench. The pit (C541) was an irregular sub-circular cut (0.7m N/S; >0.32m E/W) with almost vertical sides (0.7m deep), more gently sloped to the north and with an irregular base. It was filled with a sterile stony clay loam (C540) with flecks of mortar and an increasing content of clay towards its base, presumably through natural water percolation (Plate 11). The stones within the main fill, C540, were small, flat and angular (0.08-0.1m in diameter). The pit had a shallow basal fill of a sticky black-brown clay loam (C539; 0.02-0.05m thick).

Deposits below the metalled surfaces

The metalled surface C507 and stone settings C515 and C516 were excavated which showed that C508 extended right across the trench, below C507 where it was differentiated as C514 (C508 = C514). This deposit (C508/514: 0.07-0.09m thick) was a dark greyish brown loam with flecks of charcoal, small stones and gravel and some larger medium sized stones (Plate 12). Finds from this heterogeneous deposit included clay pipe stems and bowls indicating a post medieval date. It also yielded a small collection of disarticulated human remains (SK513: teeth and mandible fragments) towards the north-western corner of the trench.

Below C514 in the south-western quadrant of the trench there were two ill-defined spreads of looser, sandier loams - a mid-orange brown gritty, sandy loam containing small stones and flecks of mortar (C518; Plate 13) and a mortar-flecked light-brown loam (C519; 2.6m x 1.26m) which produced sherds of modern glazed pottery, animal bone and shell (from decayed mortar?).

At this juncture, the trench was divided in two and these deposits (C514, C518 and C519) were matted off across the northern half of the trench (Plate 14). Below C514 was a dark brown soft and sticky loam (C520; 0.3m thick) with occasional large stones and flecks of mortar and which produced clay pipe stem fragments, glass, disarticulated animal and human bone, glazed pottery and a George V coin (early twentieth century). On excavation of C520 a series of features emerged including an area of stone flags (C527) towards the centre of the trench and the mid-trench baulk (Plate 15) and in the north eastern quadrant a series of three pits (C532, C538 and C541) and a linear feature, C543 (Plates 14 and 15). Although identified after the excavation of C520, it was clear from the trench section that these features had been cut at a higher stratigraphical level and were sealed below C505; their stratigraphic relationship with C508/C514, however, could not be precisely determined.

The sub-circular pit, C532, was identified in the north-eastern corner of the trench, and continued beyond the western edge of the excavation trench. The pit was filled with a dark brown sticky clay loam (C531; 0.08-0.22m thick). It was half sectioned (Plate 16) and human bone was identified in the south-facing section face. Isolated human teeth and other small fragments of bone were also recovered from the pit fill (C531). On further excavation of the northern half of the pit, the bones seen in section proved to be the partial remains of an articulated adult/sub-adult skeleton (SK547- Plate 18) comprising ribs, vertebrae and left arm and it was orientated southwest/northwest. Some of the pelvis also survived but it was very poorly preserved and disintegrated on excavation. There was no sign of the lower limb bones or the left arm. Metapodials/phalanges were recovered from the section face suggesting that the right arm was flexed with the hand placed on the left shoulder which, given its burial in a pit, is not unsurprising as the skeleton must have been flexed to fit into it. The base of the pit was irregular and poorly defined and cut into both the underlying burnt black layer (C565: originally thought to have been a lower fill of the pit) and the voided large boulder layer (C565) below it.

Pit C541 was also identified and excavated at this level (see above) which cut into a linear feature (C543), aligned northeast-southwest and filled by a light-brown mortar-flecked loam, C536 (Plate 16). The linear feature ran across the north-western corner of the trench for a length of 4.03m and a width of 1.15m. The cut (0.19-0.2m deep) was quite shallow with a near vertical eastern edge and relatively flat but uneven

base due to the presence of underlying stones and large boulders. It cut through C544, a compact dark brown stony clay deposit containing small reddened stones (burnt?), lumps and flecks of charcoal and both angular and rounded (water worn?) small stones and pebbles. This was excavated in plan only and appears to be an occupation surface composed largely of re-deposited subsoil.

A third pit was also identified in the east-facing section, between pits C541 and C532 (Plate 16) and sealed by C505: a round-bottomed pit C538, 0.34m in depth and 0.63m in width, with a stony charcoal-flecked fill (stones 0.1-0.15m in diameter), C537, not dissimilar to the stony fill (C540) of pit C541 (Figure 15). It was unclear if it cut C508/514.

Concentrated areas of charcoal (C528 and C534) were also identified on excavation of C520 and C518 towards the southern end of the trench. C528 was an irregular spread of a charcoal-rich black-grey sticky clay loam which overlay an area of large relatively flat stones at the edge of the flagged area (C527). Excavation of this ill-defined spread (C528) exposed a skull, and mandible (suggesting articulated remains) of an adult skeleton (SK548) that was interred below one of the stones. On investigation, the second spread of charcoal C534 (0.47m x 0.43m; 0.02m thick) partly obscured an informal stone-built hearth (C555): this is discussed further below.

As outlined above, the western half of the trench was excavated (Plates 14 and 15) which exposed the series of pits, linear feature, charcoal rich spreads and an area of stone flags towards the centre of the trench. The eastern half of the trench was then excavated in thirds with the north-eastern third excavated first followed by the south-eastern third then the two were joined up and the complete trench was excavated to the same level. Given this dis-jointed sequence of excavation the deposits excavated below C520 in the two areas were differentiated.

At the northern end of the trench, excavation of C520 uncovered several juvenile burials interred into a thin charcoal-flecked sticky clay loam (C521; 0.05-0.06m thick) which overlay an area of stone flags (C527) that emerged towards the centre of the trench and was found to continue eastwards on excavation of the eastern half of the trench. In the southern end of trench the excavation of C518 and C519 revealed a charcoal rich, black occupation surface C551 (= C521) with lenses of ash and degraded lumps of mortar.

Juvenile burials

A collection of juvenile burials, complete and partial, were uncovered contained within this charcoal-rich clay loam (C521/C551). These comprised SK522 (skull fragments; Plate 19 and Figure 14), SK523 (feet

bones; Plate 20), SK524 (skull, mandible and loose teeth, humerus, tibia, pelvis), SK525 (Plate 21), SK526 (skull fragments including the orbit; may be part of the same skull as SK522; Plate 22), SK529 (skull fragments, Plate 23), SK533 (semi-complete articulated juvenile; Plate 24), SK549 (articulated semi complete juvenile, partially overlying the hearth, C555; Plates 25 and 26) and SK550 (skull and other limb bones; Plate 27). Where several parts of the skeletons survived, notably SK533 and SK549, they appeared to suggest a north-south orientation. The juvenile skeletons were buried in a heavy clay loam making their preservation, and excavation, poor.

In the south-east quadrant a lower blackish-brown clay loam (C560) was identified below C551 and overlying the flags C527. This was a much more mottled and heterogeneous deposit with a higher content of mortar, sand and patches of pinkish sand (degraded sandstone?). This deposit contained two juvenile skeletons; SK557 (articulated and supine with the head to the south-west; skull, torso and arms were present but only one femur appeared to survive; Plate 28) and SK562 (articulated, supine and orientated north-south with its head to the south and the skull lying on its left side, with an overall length of 0.6m. The skull was partly obscured and damaged by a stone; Plate 29 and Figure 10).

Two other juvenile skeletons were recorded, the cuts for both disturbed the underlying stone flags (C527); SK569 (partial remains, juvenile, orientated northeast-southwest, with its skull to the north east, and very poorly preserved and fragmented. Only the upper torso and arms appeared to be present; Plate 30) in cut C575 and SK556 (juvenile, supine and orientated roughly north-south with its head located to the north/northeast. The legs were partly flexed with the right leg overlying the left; Plates 31 and 32) an irregular sub-rectangular cut (C561; 0.65m x 0.54m) that cut through and disturbed the stone flags, C527.

Flagged surface

The juvenile skeletons and dark loam deposits C521/C551 and C560 overlay and sealed an area of large flat stones forming a relatively level flagged surface (C527). The stones extended across the eastern half of the trench covering an area of roughly 6.5m by 3.7m (Plate 33) and have been identified as the floor of a building, presumably the medieval church. At the north eastern end there was a pair of long rectangular stones that were identified as the threshold or doorsills, the largest measuring 1m in length by 0.3m in width. This faced towards the Drinking Well. The area of flagging continued 'outside' of these stones to the north east. If the doorsills were located in the centre of the northern gable then the projected width of the building can be estimated to be around 5.7m.

At the south eastern corner of the trench an area of subsoil (C558; hard compacted clay, investigated with a 0.5m sondage) was uncovered which had been cut by a linear feature, C563, which contained the flags C527 and with some stones clearly set against the edge of this cut and a loose sandy loam fill C571. This was exposed in plan but not investigated. Probing, however, suggested that it was at least 0.12m in depth and it extended westwards for approximately 2m from the eastern edge of the trench. Its western extent was obscured by the informal hearth (C555, see below) and the cut did not appear to continue west of the hearth. Instead, on the same alignment there was a linear outcrop of bedrock (originally identified as a possible wall, C535).

A cluster of vertically-set stones, C559, associated with a very loose sandy mortar were uncovered to the east of the hearth and close to the eastern edge of the trench (Plate 35). The feature had overall measurements of 0.54 east/west by 0.35m north-south and comprised three principal stones and a couple of other smaller stones, all angular and set on end. The largest measured 0.3m in width. Like C515 and C516 the stones appeared to have been driven into the ground rather than set within a cut. The associated sandy mortar deposit and its proximity to cut C563 might suggest that it represents collapse from the wall.

Informal hearth

The excavation of one of spreads of charcoal, C534, and one of the juvenile skeletons (SK549), revealed an informal stone-built hearth (C555) filled with a red clay layer of burning (C552; 0.06m thick) overlying a lower black charcoal lining, C553 (0.01-0.03m thick; Plate 36 and Figure 13). The upper layer contained charcoal flecks and shallow lenses of charcoal within it which were not differentiated. Some disarticulated human bone, juvenile, was also recovered from this basal fill (C553). The hearth (C555) was apparently constructed by reusing large stones from the flagged surface (C527) to define an irregular box-like structure (Plate 37). The stones employed comprised four or five large stones (0.57 x 0.36m; 0.46m x 0.35m; 0.55m x 0.33m) with a particularly long slab forming a flue-like adjunct to the west (0.98m x 0.19m), with smaller stones (0.3m x 0.3m) employed in between. It had an elongated sub-rectangular shape in outline, measuring roughly 1.8m by 1.33m, externally, with the internal hearth area measuring 0.37-0.35m by 0.88m and 0.15-0.2m deep. It was roughly flagged across the base with medium-sized flat stones and slate.

Adult skeletons

Cleaning back over the flagged area also revealed the partially obscured remains of two adult skeletons (SK548 and SK568) which had been buried below the flagstones. Skeleton SK548 (Figure 11) was supine, with its arms and hands by its side and its legs straight and side by side. It was orientated

northwest-southeast with its head to the north (Plate 38). No cut was identified but there was clearly an interface between the skeleton and the flagstones, identified here as C572. There was also a discrete lens of a light brown orange clay (C546) that partially overlay the skull and lower limbs possibly representing a sod or backfill when the body was interred. The second adult skeleton, SK568 (Plates 39, 40 and 41; Figure 12) was more dramatic in appearance. It was supine and orientated roughly northeast southwest with its head to the south. A large rectangular stone had been laid on top of the skeleton along its central spine which, on its removal exposed the complete articulated skeleton which partly overlay other stones. No cut was identified but there was evidently an interface between the skeleton and the flagstones, identified here as C570.

Other features

Apart from the flagstones (C527) that had been previously disturbed through the interment of the adult burials, none of the other flagstones or the building's foot print was investigated (Plate 42). Along the western extent of the flagged area, C527, the stones appeared to be set above the stony clay deposit, C544 (which was also cut by the linear C543). Towards the southern end of the trench, at the base of the hearth and in an area west and north-west of it there appeared to be a cobbled or metalled surface (differentiated as C554). However, further excavation suggested that this was less regular than originally thought and a variation of the stony deposit C544, which possibly represents a redeposited subsoil.

Two pieces of broken quern stone and two cut and dressed pieces of sandstones were also found in amongst the disturbed flags (discussed further below).

At the south-western corner of the trench a small exploratory box-trench was excavated through a loose section of this deposit (C544) which exposed a soft, blackish-brown clay loam, C567, which produced a single sherd of coarseware (identified as Everted rim ware, C. McSparron). The full extent of this deposit was not investigated. At the opposite end of the trench in the north-western corner, a box section (0.5m wide) was opened extending the cut for pit C532. Excavation through C544 uncovered an extensive sticky, blackish-brown silty clay loam with a high content of small angular and rounded stones, including burnt stones (C565; Plate 43). It was much stonier and more extensive than C567 and similar to the 'burnt mound' deposits excavated in Trenches 2 and 4 in 2012. It extended for a depth of 0.18-0.2m and overlay large boulders and bedrock (C566) and the water table. Excavation ceased at this depth.

3.5 Trench 6

Trench 6 (2m x 4m) was opened across the slope (roughly east-west) of the raised mound area, south of the church, to investigate the nature of any structural remains that may once have been built on it, or, buried within it (Figures 2, 17 and 18). The sod (C600; 0.05-0.07m thick) was removed and the underlying loose stony loam (C601: 0.02-0.12m) was cleaned back. These layers produced sherds of glazed pottery and glass, plastic, fragments of brick, shell, corroded metal, clay pipe stems, a discarded battery and a piece of rock crystal. Excavation of the topsoil C601 revealed a loose stony rubble deposit (C602; 0.05-0.13m) with some larger angular stones present (some up to 0.5m in greatest length) and occasional roots and pieces of mortar, but no discernible built features identifiable. It produced the same range of finds as the overlying deposits along with some animal bones (including rabbit, possibly intrusive).

On removal of C602 a number of contexts were revealed including a wall (C603), 0.56m wide and running north-south across the trench (i.e. >2m in length) located towards the trench's western end (Plate 44). The wall appeared to be unmortared (though see discussion below) and built of lamellar rough angular stones. West of this were two discrete deposits; C605 (0.5m thick), a loose, stony light-brown mortar-rich sandy loam and C604 (0.08-0.12m thick), a dark brown stony clay-loam, forming a discrete lens (1.07 x 1.55m) in the northwestern corner of the trench. The sandy loam (C605) produced some fragments of decayed mortar or render/plaster as well as lumps of clay, clay pipe stem fragments and sherds of glass and pottery. East of the wall (C603), two layers of stone rubble were differentiated; C606, a loose angular stone deposit closest to the wall and extending eastwards for just over a metre (1.1m; 0.1-0.3m thick) and C607 (0.2m thick; 2.1 x 2m in extent) east of this which was initially identified as a possible metal surface (Plate 45).

Excavation of C604 and C606 demonstrated that they were upper collapse layers and both were stratified above the mortary stone rubble layer, C605, which extended across the trench both sides of the wall. Excavation of C605 west of the wall unveiled a compact gritty loam (C608) and east of the wall excavation of C605 demonstrated that C607 extended further west, under C606 and C605 as far as the wall C603. It comprised large stones and an irregular uneven surface and its initial suggestion of a metal surface was dismissed (Plate 46).

C608 was a light orange brown gritty loam, possibly a redeposited subsoil, and was identified as a potential floor surface (i.e. to the interior of the structure). It abutted the western face of the wall (C603) and was sterile. Removal of C608 (0.1m thick) revealed a compacted orange brown deposit (C609)

identified as the subsoil on which the wall was built (Plate 46). In the south-facing section of the trench, west of the wall another wall (C610), running perpendicular to wall C603 (i.e. aligned east-west) was recognized and this corner of the trench was extended northwards (1m x 1.5m) to expose the width of the wall (C610) in plan (Plate 47). Excavation of the sod and loose topsoil (C600 and C601) exposed a layer of loose loam and rubble, C614, equivalent to C602 in the main trench. It produced modern finds comprising plastic, glass bottles (including a small empty bottle of cognac), gun cartridge casings, glazed pottery and clay pipe stems. On exposing the wall in plan, no further excavations of the extension-trench were undertaken.

Excavation of the stone layer C607 revealed a dark brown loose loam deposit (C611) abutting the base of the wall (C603) on its eastern side and which yielded sherds of pottery, glass corroded metal including a pin, and fragments of clay pipes. Below this was another layer of stone/rubble collapse (C612: 0.83m thick) which did not extend right across the trench as far as the wall, where a compacted orange brown clay appeared (C613) below C611 (Plate 48). Excavation of C612 demonstrated that C613 extended eastwards and was the subsoil, equivalent to C609 west of the wall and on which the wall, C603, was built (Plates 49 and 50). The surviving wall height measured 0.3-0.35m (Plate 51).

3.6 Trench 7

Trench 7 (1m x 3m) was opened over a geophysical anomaly which was thought may have represented the site of a former penitential cairn (Figure 19). The trench was aligned north-south parallel to the nineteenth-century wall, and within the enclosed area owned by the DoE (Figure 2; Plate 52). The sod (C700; 0.05-0.07m thick) was removed to reveal a dark greyish-brown loose stony loam (C701; 0.14m thick), with small to medium sized angular stones, roots and small patches of charcoal present but no discernible features (Plate 53). The sod (C700) produced a few bits of plastic and three coins – two French francs and one old five-penny piece, and the stony loam (C701) yielded sherds of creamware and bottle glass. Excavation of C701 revealed a stony blackish-brown sticky clay loam (C702) of variable depth (0.06-0.29m thick), which extended across the full length and width of the trench (Plate 54). Finds from this deposit included sherds of bottle glass, creamware, clay tobacco pipes and corroded metal. This overlay the subsoil (C703).

3.7 The finds

A wide range of finds were recovered from the three trenches. These are catalogued in Appendix 6 and include disarticulated animal bones and teeth, coins (all post-medieval), corroded iron metalwork, bottle glass, clay tobacco pipe stems and bowls, ceramics (mostly glazed and post medieval in date; one sherd of

medieval coarseware pottery), architectural masonry debris (mortar, perforated slate and brick), moulded sandstone, worked bone and two quernstone fragments.

The worked bone included a perforated bone object (Plate 56) which may be a toggle or a 'buzz disc' (P. Macdonald pers comm.). The latter usually consist of a disk or flat, but symmetrical, piece of material with two closely set, central perforations. A cord is threaded through the perforations and then repeatedly twisted by being swung in a circular motion. By then pulling the cord the threaded object rotates at high speed creating a humming sound. These were a relatively common British toy until a generation or two ago but it has also been proposed by Lawson that they may not all be children's toys and he suggests the possibility of adult uses either as hunting lures or for ritual purposes (P. Macdonald pers comm.).

Architectural sandstone

Two moulded sandstone architectural pieces were recovered from amongst the flagstones (C527); one is roughly square in shape (Plate 57) and the other rectangular (Plate 58 and 59). The latter has been identified as being of Scrabo sandstone (J. McKinley, QUB, pers comm.). The former is less definitive in its provenance and may also be of Scrabo sandstone or possibly from Ballyalton due to the presence of shale banding (J. McKinley pers comm.) and thin sectioning would be required to accurately provenance the piece. The form of the 'square' stone with a shallow rebate is identifiable as deriving from a door frame (M. Gardiner, QUB, pers comm.). The function of the rectangular piece of dressed stone is not obvious. Both pieces have damaged sections which in the case of the latter in particular, makes it more difficult to determine its original form and function.

Quernstones

Two pieces of disc or rotary quernstones were also recovered from amongst the flags and both have been identified as being of a hard, coarse sandstone or 'gritstone' (A. Ruffell, QUB, pers comm.). One is more substantial than the other and represents approximately one quadrant of a complete disc which, extrapolating from the section that survives, would have measured around 40cm in diameter (Plate 60). It is of uneven thickness being thicker towards the central perforation (60mm-58mm) and thinning out to 31mm at the edge. These overall dimensions fall within the recorded range for rotary quernstones in Ireland (O'Sullivan and Downey 2006, 25). The stone has both a flat and convex side with an oblong shaped tapering depression (3mm x 2.6mm and 15mm in depth) in the surface of the convex side. This is a handle hole indicating that this is part of the upper mobile stone. The second piece is much smaller (115mm x 104mm and 59mm-40mm thick; it also tapers in thickness from the inside outwards). It is

identifiable as the fragment of a quernstone due to the presence of an arc of the central cylindrical perforation.

Rotary or disc querns were in use in Ireland from the last centuries BC down until the nineteenth-century in some places (McErlean and Crothers 2007, 191) when mechanisation of mills took over. Although they are one of the most common finds on early medieval sites (*ibid.*), given their longevity of use they are unfortunately not closely dateable.

4 Discussion

Eight phases can be identified based on the stratigraphy for which suggested date ranges are proposed. These are provisional and await verification following an analysis of the pottery and the submission and return of radiocarbon dates;

- Phase 8: State Care (1936 to present)
- Phase 7: secular occupation – ‘clachan’ (18th to early 19th century)
- Phase 6: building works including the levelling-up of the site, construction of the church and men’s bathhouse and also the Eye Well (c.1690-1750)
- Phase 5: interment of juvenile burials (16th to early 18th century; pre-1750)
- Phase 4: abandonment and decline of the medieval church; informal secular occupation of the ruins
- Phase 3: construction and use of the medieval stone church (13th-15th century)
- *Horizontal discontinuity?*
- Phase 2: burnt layer (*medieval?*)
- Phase 1: voided stone layer (*glacial subsoil?*)

Phase 8: State Care (1936 to present)

The uppermost deposits, the sod, topsoil and pea gravel (in Trenches 5 and 2), can be assigned to this phase. It also seems probable that the deposition of the rubble and landscaping of the mound as excavated in Trench 6 also date to this phase. The absence of occupation deposits to either side of the wall (C603) excavated in Trench 6 would also suggest that the site may have been comprehensively cleared before the walls were deliberately levelled to an even height and the rubble spread out to either side to create the mound.

Phase 7: secular occupation – ‘clachan’ (18th to early 19th century: post 1750?)

The cartographic evidence (OS maps) is the best evidence for the ‘clachan’ at Struell which dates it to the early nineteenth-century (Figures 4-7) at the latest though it is probably earlier and eighteenth-century in date. The antiquity of clachans has not been established but are present on some early eighteenth-century maps though this does not include Struell. The numerous accounts of the pilgrimages to the site in the nineteenth century make little if any acknowledgement of this secular settlement or the people that lived there except to note that they occasionally provided food and shelter for the pilgrims (see Section 2.3 above).

The wall uncovered in Trench 6 was unmortared and built of flat flags and is comparable with the short length of wall uncovered in the section face of Trench 5 at the opposing, northern end of the raised area south of the church. The second wall uncovered in Trench 6 (wall C610) that runs perpendicular to wall C603, demarcates either the end of a building or an internal subdivision. On the OS maps a single long rectangular outline is depicted in this location measuring approximately 35m in length by 5.9m in width. Such a long building is highly unlikely to have been unicellular and it might have been assumed that its depiction as such was schematic; the discovery of wall C610 confirms this suspicion and provides evidence for at least one subdivision towards its southern end.

The alignment of wall C603 does not coincide with the outline of the building immediately to its south. Map evidence, however, would suggest that these latter walls were probably built by the DoE demarcating an earlier car park, probably after the building uncovered in Trench 6 had been levelled and buried.

The metalled surfaces uncovered in Trench 5, and in Trench 2 in 2012, are contemporary with these buildings. At least three superimposed paths were discovered in Trench 5 suggesting that it was easier to spread out and compact another dump of stones rather than repair older surfaces. Presumably the paths were compacted through use over time. This was evident on excavation with the earliest path being the most compacted and hardest to excavate while the uppermost path was relatively loose and uneven. Perhaps the stone derived from the quarry that overlooks the Struell river valley immediately to the north. The purpose of the pair of vertically set stones in Trench 5 (C515 and C516) is not evident. They do not appear to align with any of the surviving upstanding features at the site (e.g. entrance to the church or wells) or with underlying burials.

The edged path (C502) set above the more extensive stony metalled surface (C503) correlates with the path and stone layers (C2004) uncovered below the sod in Trench 2, opened in 2012 and located to the north of Trench 5. These paths and metalled surfaces, also identifiable in the geophysical survey results (Figure 8), clearly linked up the late-eighteenth and early nineteenth century settlement at Struell. As with the deposits excavated in 2012, modern finds of nineteenth- and twentieth-century date were recovered from these stony surfaces (C502 and C503) and included glass, modern glazed pottery, fragments of brick and corroded iron objects.

Phase 6: levelling-up of the site, construction of the church & men's bathhouse (1690-1750)

None of the archaeological strata excavated in 2014 can be clearly assigned to this phase of building works at Struell except to suggest that the deposits that accumulated immediately below the metalled surfaces probably date to this phase. There are, however, documentary references to indicate that there was some considerable building activity at the site during this period.

The construction of the men's bathhouse has been attributed to Lady Elizabeth Cromwell (d. 1709) who succeeded her father as the owner of the manor of Downpatrick in 1687 (McCormick 2009, 50). Although there are no contemporary records, its construction can therefore be dated to sometime in the last decade of the seventeenth century. The construction of the church is also assumed to date to a few decades later *circa* 1750 (see Section 2.2 above) and the excavations in 2012 demonstrated that much of the raising up and levelling of the site preceded the construction of the church. There must therefore have been extensive landscaping undertaken to accompany both buildings as the bathhouse would have required the culverting of the stream. It seems probable that the ladies bathhouse, immediately adjacent to the men's bathhouse, may also have been remodelled and/or repaired at this time along with the paths that directed people around the site (one such path was uncovered in Trenches 2 and 3, either side of the Drinking Well, in 2012). McCormick (2009, 47) has also suggested that the Eye Well may be a late addition to the site as it is noted in the mid-eighteenth century but it is not mentioned in earlier mid-seventeenth accounts. Its construction might therefore also belong to this general phase of building works at the site *circa* 1690-1750 (i.e. the construction of the men's bathhouse and the church, the extensive levelling up of the site along with the insertion of a network of culverts and paths).

It could be suggested that some of the deposits (C508/514, C520 and C518) in Trench 5 date to this period and represent the levelling-up and landscaping of the site in advance of the construction of the mid-eighteenth century church. Some of the stones from the medieval church may also have been robbed-out at this time which could explain the incompleteness of some of the juvenile skeletons where

only partial skeletons appeared to survive. The finds however, which include two George V coins (C514 and C520) would argue against this on dating grounds unless the deposits were disturbed at a later date and these represent intrusive artefacts.

Phase 5: interment of juvenile burials

Fifteen juvenile burials, both complete and partial, were interred within the early post-abandonment occupation layers (C521/551 and C560) that sealed the disturbed flagged floor (C527). Some glazed pottery sherds were found in association with the juvenile burials indicating they are a post-medieval date (see Appendix 6). Given the apparent concentration of burials within the deposit overlying the footprint of the medieval church it would suggest the burials were interred when the ruins were still visible and therefore before the post-medieval church (which still stands) was erected. This would give the burials a *terminus ante quem* of circa 1750. The fact that the majority of the juveniles also lay above the flagged surface might suggest that when they were being buried and the pits were being cut to inter them that on reaching the hard stony surface the diggers stopped – therefore explaining why all of them are found at much the same depth.

Cilliní, or ‘children’s burial grounds’ are a recognised class of monument and are found across the island of Ireland (Donnelly and Murphy 2008, 191). They are recorded on the SMRs in both jurisdictions though are probably heavily underestimated (Colm Donnelly pers comm.). They are identified as ‘the designated resting places for stillborn and unbaptized children and other members of Irish society who were considered unsuitable for burial in consecrated ground’ (Donnelly and Murphy 2008, 191). The locations for these monuments are diverse and include abandoned churches and graveyards (*ibid.*). The location and date range would suggest that Struell fits into this monument type and this use of the site was previously unknown and apparently unrecorded.

Donnelly and Murphy (2008) have evaluated the dating of cilliní based on the evidence obtained through excavation (No. 16 sites). Excavations at the early medieval monastic sites of Reask, Illaunloughan and Caherlehillan all in Co. Kerry and Inishcelatra, Co. Clare demonstrated that all four were reused as cilliní and that the latter could be dated to the post-medieval period (*ibid.*, 202-5). The dating evidence for their re-use suggested a date range of *c.* AD1500 to 1800 for Reask, post-seventeenth century for the Illaunloughan burials, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries for Inishcelatra and post-medieval and early modern for Caherlehillan (*ibid.*, 202 and 204). Other excavated ecclesiastical sites reused as cilliní include St Vogue’s church at Carnsore, Co. Wexford and Kilrush Church, Co. Limerick both of which

were also assigned to the post-medieval period (*ibid.*, 203), and the Derry churches in Co. Down (Waterman 1967).

In their overview of these and other excavated cillíní, Donnelly and Murphy (2008, 219) concluded that the archaeological dating evidence suggests a sixteenth or possibly seventeenth century date for the origin and use of cillíní in Ireland which they argue is directly associated with the Counter-Reformation. The submission of samples of bone from the Struell juvenile burials will therefore be of interest to see if they are also of sixteenth or seventeenth century date and to see how they compare with other excavated cillíní sites. Radiocarbon dates for these burials would also augment the relatively poor corpus of directly dated cillíní.

In addition to the dating evidence, an evaluation of the age range of the juveniles represented will be of importance. A range of ages was evidently represented at Struell based on the size of the bones. More recent research into cillíní suggest that they can be divided into different class types including those in which unbaptized infants and still-borns only were interred (C. Donnelly pers comm.).

Phase 4: abandonment of the medieval church and informal occupation of the ruins

Charcoal rich loams, with patches of mortar and concentrated areas of burning (C528, C534, C552/553, C521/551, C560), extended across the stone flagged area (C527) excavated within Trench 5. This has been identified as an occupation soil which accumulated after the abandonment of the church, possibly when it was no longer roofed. Associated with these deposits was an informal stone-lined hearth (C555) built using some of the flags from the floor of the church. Apart from some clay pipe stems and glass recovered from C521 no other datable artefacts were recovered from these deposits and its dating therefore relies on the return of radiocarbon dates for the adult and juvenile burials which preceded and succeeded these deposits respectively.

Dudley Waterman observed a similar sequence of activity in his excavations of the early medieval churches at Derry, Co. Down. He recorded the presence of ‘secular’ occupation deposits which sealed the floors of both churches with associated pits and postholes and this phase of activity was also succeeded by the burial of infants (Waterman 1967, 62-3). The early medieval oratory on Illaunloughan, Co. Kerry was also later reused for habitation in the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries, for industrial purposes between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries and for the interment of baby burials (White Marshall and Walsh 2005, 45-6).

Phase 3: construction and use of the medieval church

The excavation of Trench 5 identified the location of the medieval stone-built church which was represented by a sub-rectangular, stone-flagged floor (C527), with a stone-built threshold or doorsill.

Design and scale

Not much can be said about the design of the church given how little survives. The plan of the church as demonstrated by the flagstones indicates a small one-cell rectangular-plan church with no evidence for internal partitions or supports for the roof. The roof must therefore have been supported by the walls and the span of the building (5m) would allow this. A small number of slates were recovered during the excavation of the post-medieval deposits in Trench 6 in 2014 and in 2012, including the use of slate within the drain in Trench 3. These could be residual and relate to the medieval church, or, derive from the post-medieval buildings on the site either the well buildings or houses. Both Hardy's illustration (Figure 9) and Green's photos (McCormick 2009, figure 5) of Struell would suggest, however, that the houses of the clachan were thatched. The post-medieval church was never finished and was left unroofed so any slate found on site cannot derive from it. Given that little slate or nails were found, in particular in the early post-abandonment deposits it seems more likely that the medieval church would have been thatched or roofed in shingles.

The estimated internal dimensions of the stone church at Struell, as represented by the flagged surface, are 5m by 7m (35m²) which gives a ratio of 1:1.4. Ó Carragáin (2010, 113 and figure 12) has demonstrated that there is quite an even spread of length to breadth ratios among early medieval mortared stone churches in Ireland and that using internal dimensions most churches have internal ratios of between 1:1.3 and 1:1.8. Struell therefore falls within this range. As a comparison, the early medieval stone church at St John's Point has internal dimensions of 3.9m x 6m (Ó Carragáin 2010, 314) and one of the Derry stone churches, also in Co. Down, has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 4.9m (*ibid.*, 308).

Walls

The main fabric of the church building would have employed the local shale and, as the walls do not survive and little collapse or rubble was found, they have presumably been since robbed-out. The stones could have been reused in the penitential cairns built by pilgrims to the site. The stones were presumably then recycled wholesale when the site was heavily landscaped and 'levelled up' (as indicated by the stratigraphy recorded in the 2012 excavations) and in the building of the eighteenth-century church. It is possible that this activity may have disturbed the juvenile burials therefore explaining the partial survival and disturbance of many. The flagged surface was not thoroughly investigated but at least one linear cut

(C563) was identified at the south eastern gable end. This was not excavated but could represent a wall slot or foundation for the gable wall.

Dressed sandstone

In addition to the flagged floor, the presence of a stone-built structure is further supported by the recovery of the fragments of dressed masonry found amongst the disturbed flagstones, and which are comparable with fragments found previously on the site (see McCormick 2009). The latter include fragments of two medieval carved stone windows which were recovered during DoE works at the site, between the church and Drinking Well, in the early 1960s (i.e. in the area where Trench 5 was located). These were subsequently built into the boundary wall adjacent to the Drinking Well (see McCormick 2009, figure 12). Fragments of carved sandstone door mouldings also survive in the Drinking Well (Plate 61) and ladies bathhouse (Plate 62) all of which can be dated to sometime between the thirteenth and fifteenth century (McCormick 2009, 46 and 48).

Two moulded sandstone architectural pieces were recovered in 2014 from amongst the flagstones (C527); one is roughly square in shape (Plate 57) and the other rectangular (Plate 58 and 59). The latter which is noticeably red in colour (approx. measurements: 310mm in length x 103mm in height x 155mm in width) has been identified as being of Scrabo sandstone (J. McKinley, QUB, pers comm.). The second piece may also be of Scrabo sandstone or possibly from Ballyalton. Given that both sites (Scrabo and Ballyalton) are adjacent to one another at the northern end of Strangford Lough, the question of how the stones arrived on site, i.e. their supply and transport, is essentially the same. This also applies to the other dressed sandstone pieces at Struell.

The form of the 'square' stone (approx. 260mm x 230mm by 90mm in height) with a shallow rebate is identifiable as deriving from a door frame (M. Gardiner, QUB, pers comm.) and can be closely matched with the carved sandstone quoins employed in the doorway to the ladies bathhouse (Plate 62). It is also not dissimilar from the moulded sandstone piece set into the door frame of the Drinking Well (Plate 61), and it is possible that these, and the piece recovered from Trench 5 all derive from the one medieval building, probably the church. The carved sandstone employed in the Drinking Well and ladies bathhouse may therefore have been recycled when extensive repairs and building works were taking place at Struell in the late seventeenth – early eighteenth centuries (i.e. 'Phase 5', above). The ladies bathhouse clearly existed in the early sixteenth century as it is described in a report of a papal nuncio who visited the site in 1515 (McCormick 2009, 50) and MacCana and Dobbs also all make reference to it in the seventeenth

century (McCormick 2011, 16-17). The function of the rectangular piece of dressed stone recovered in 2014 is uncertain.

This use of local stone for the principal fabric of a building and importing stone employed for the jambs, quoins and/or windows is recorded in other medieval buildings. The fabric of the early medieval church at St John's Point Co. Down, for example, is of local shale while all the dressed stone is of granite (Ó Carragáin 2010, 314), which was presumably sourced in and around the Mourne and transported by sea across Dundrum Bay. Quarrying is a comparatively late aspect of masonry construction and implies a degree of industry. It does not appear in England before the church building boom of the mid-eleventh century. Before that builders used whatever stone they could lay their hands on at or near the surface in the near vicinity. A later date seems appropriate in Ireland given the lack of need for fine stone for mouldings and quoins before the Anglo-Norman period, and quarried stone is unlikely to have been moved any distance before c. 1180 (Mark Gardiner pers comm.). Scrabo sandstone was also found, reused, in the construction of the post-medieval mortuary house at Saul which was also investigated in June 2014.

Alignment

The alignment of the stone church at Struell is northeast-southwest, i.e. the same orientation as the standing eighteenth-century church. This would explain the latter's orientation, i.e. replicating that of the medieval church it replaced, and if the medieval stone built church replaced an earlier, early medieval timber church it too may have been on this same alignment.

Early medieval churches are traditionally orientated east-west which the medieval church at Struell does not respect. In *The life and acts of St Patrick* (Jocelin 1809, 42) St Patrick reputedly built his church at Saul 'having its aspect against the north, and looking toward the southern point' (i.e. orientated north-south) while O'Donnell's sixteenth-century *Life of Columcille* (O'Kelleher and Schoepperle 1918, 84-5) suggests that the saint orientated his church not in the usual manner with the altar in the east but with the altar facing east, so as not to cut down too many trees. These two references indicate that not all medieval churches were necessarily orientated in the traditional manner.

Ó Carragáin (2010, 68) has noted several other examples of surviving early medieval churches that do not respect an east-west alignment. These include Temple Ciarán at Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly which is aligned on a north-east to south-west axis replicating the earliest burials that were excavated there, while Teach Molaise on Inishmurray, Co. Sligo also follows this pattern (i.e. north-east to south-west

alignment, corresponding with the earliest burials). Both of these are 'shrine chapels' i.e. small chapels built to house relics (Ó Carragáin 2010, 66). The excavated medieval church at Derry, Co. Down also had its axis on a north-east alignment (Waterman 1967, 55). Ó Carragáin has suggested that greater care may have been taken to follow the regular accepted Christian alignment (i.e. east-west) in the later centuries of the period (2010, 111) but he discounts using alignment as a robust dating tool for medieval churches (*ibid.*).

Dating evidence

The spread of stone construction in Ireland, including church building, was primarily a tenth- and eleventh-century phenomenon (Ó Carragáin 2010, 5). The stone-built church at Struell must therefore be of tenth century date at the very earliest. The moulded architectural stone fragments would however suggest a later date sometime between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries (M. Gardner pers comm.). Hamlin (Kerr 2008, 399) dates these sandstone pieces from Struell to the thirteenth century.

A considerable amount of church building took place in Ireland in the early part of this time period, in particular in the thirteenth century (Stalley 2012, 3) although unfortunately there is a lack of documentation that might provide any sort of useful information on ecclesiastical building schemes (Stalley 2012, 17). The medieval church at Struell, and possibly also earlier guises of the Drinking Well and ladies bathhouse, may therefore belong to this period. The inclusion of Struell in the 1306 record of taxation would certainly suggest that it had a church at that time (McCormick 2009, 51).

Radiocarbon dates for the adult burials should provide a *terminus ante quem* for the church, while samples from the underlying charcoal layer should provide a *terminus post quem* which together should help to narrow-down the date range for its construction and use.

Adult burials

Two adult burials were excavated in 2014 (SK548 and SK568). These had been buried within the stone flagged area. One was orientated roughly east west (head in the west) and the other, north south with its head to the south. The outliers to this distribution are the two poorly preserved partial skeletons (adult) recorded in Trench 4 opened within the church in 2012, and the skeleton (SK547) found in the pit (C532) at the edge of Trench 5. A sample from one of the former (SK4009) returned a twelfth-century date (945±29 BP, which calibrates at the 2-sigma range (95.4%) to cal. AD 1025-1156 (UBA-22411) and was stratified directly above the burnt charcoal layer.

These adult burials and the later juvenile burials can all be identified as ‘informal’ and they do not constitute a formal burial ground. The burial ground that presumably accompanied the medieval church is unlocated although there is a suggestion from the geophysical survey that it could be located in the field to the north of the church. Human bones were also sometimes unearthed during ploughing in recent years which has led to local tradition of a graveyard lying immediately northwest of the ruined church (McCormick 2009, 53).

Phase 2: burnt layer

The ‘burnt mound’ material was uncovered at the northern end of Trench 5 (C565), presumably a continuation of the material previously encountered in Trench 4 in 2012 (C.4005: 0.3m in depth). The deposit (C565) was only given a cursory examination but small reddened and burnt stones were present: heat-shattered stones and concentrations of charcoal were also discovered in 2012. Traces of this material were also found to extend southwards into Trench 2 as far as the Drinking Well suggesting that it is quite an extensive deposit. The possible interpretations of this as deriving from burnt mounds or ‘*fulachta fiadh*’ is discussed elsewhere (Murray and McCormick 2013; McCormick and Murray forthcoming). Unfortunately radiocarbon dates returned from the burnt material excavated in 2012 were confused so it is hoped that material recovered in 2014 will yield suitable dating material to help resolve the date of this deposit.

Phase 1: voided stone layer (glacial subsoil?)

The burnt material lay above a horizon of large angular stones and bedrock. This was not investigated, either in 2012 or 2014, as the water table was reached at this point. It is uncertain if this represents the natural substrate or, is a deliberately laid boulder layer possibly to manage the movement of water around the site. The stones were, however, associated with a sticky blue/grey pure clay suggesting the former.

5 Conclusions

The 2014 excavations were successful in locating the medieval church at Struell, represented by a stone-flagged floor. No direct dating evidence was recovered but radiocarbon dating of organic material deriving from deposits stratified above and below the church floor should provide some chronological constraints for its period of construction and use. The recovery of dressed sandstone mouldings found amongst the stone flags adds to the corpus of architectural pieces from the site which arguably may all derive from the same building- the medieval church.

Burials had previously been excavated in 2012 and the discovery of human skeletal remains had also been recorded during ground works at the site in the 1960s. The discovery of further human remains in 2014 was therefore not unexpected. However, the presence of a form of cillin at Struell, as represented by the horizon of juvenile burials, was previously unknown. The stratification of these which were interred above an earlier phase of adult burials (x 2) is also interesting. It was unclear if the adult burials were contemporary with the use of the church or postdate it though given the disturbance of the flagstones, the latter seems most likely. These burials were sealed by occupation deposits and a hearth indicating secular occupation of the church ruins before its use as a cillin. Excavations by Dudley Waterman of the early medieval churches at Derry, Co. Down also uncovered a similar sequence including deposits indicating secular occupation of the ruins of the medieval church followed by the burial of infants (Waterman 1967, 63).

The only definite evidence for early medieval activity at Struell is represented by the assemblage of Souterrain Ware (dated to the eighth century) recovered during the 2012 excavations (McSparron 2014). No additional sherds were found during the 2014 investigations. Only one piece of coarseware pottery was recovered - a sherd of medieval ulster coarseware of a probable fourteenth century date (Cormac McSparron pers comm). As in 2012, no definitive evidence for pre-Christian use of the site was uncovered.

6 Recommendations

6.1 *Specialist analysis and reports*

Specialist reports on the human bones, worked stone (architectural fragments) and the animal bones are all recommended. The worked stone will require illustration (x 3). The submission of six samples for C14 dating is also recommended. Short notes on the animal bones and the clay tobacco pipes are also recommended.

Human bone

The 2014 excavation yielded an assemblage of human remains, both adult (2) and juveniles (15) that will require specialist examination and a report by a human osteologist. In particular the ageing of the juvenile skeletons will be of significant interest in identifying the nature of the site within the corpus of cillini burial site types (see above). Bulk samples of deposits associated with these burials were also taken in order to recover small bones and any other potential finds of interest (e.g. shroud pins). The human remains have been washed and the associated samples processed to recover any small bones present. This material is therefore ready for specialist analysis.

Architectural stone

Two pieces of architectural stone, moulded sandstone were recovered. The pieces will require a report describing them and placing them in context. This should be a comprehensive report on the medieval architectural stone from Struell in which the other carved sandstone fragments at the site are considered which comprise the pieces that are built into the Drinking Well (sandstone moulding at the doorway – Plate 61), ladies bathhouse (Plate 62) and the window fragments built into the DoE wall adjacent to the Drinking Well (illustrated in McCormick 2009).

Radiocarbon dates

No datable artefacts were found in association with the adult human burials or with the flagged stone floor of the church. The only associated artefacts were the architectural stone pieces and broken quernstone fragments but these cannot be tightly dated. In order to identify a date range for the church, C14 dates for the adult burials (SK568 and SK548) that are either contemporary with or post-date the church (early post-abandonment) are recommended along with at least two C14 dates for the burnt deposit (C566) that predates the church. This will provide a *terminus ante quem* and *terminus post quem* and a date bracket for the construction and use of the church.

The dating of the juvenile burials is also of importance as outlined above. It is recommended that at least two of the juvenile burials are dated.

Animal bones

An assemblage of hand-collected animal bones (approx. 2kg) was recovered and these have been washed and quantified (Table 6.2). Given that the bulk of this material derives from post-medieval deposits with poor contextual integrity the material does not require a detailed report. It is, however, recommended that the material is given a cursory overview to record the range of species present and to note anything unusual with a short note then prepared to document this assessment.

Clay tobacco pipe stems and bowls

148 clay pipe fragments were recovered Struell (Table 6.3) the majority of which are represented by broken stems and these will require analysis and a short report.

Miscellaneous finds

The majority of the other finds were of relatively modern date and do not require specialist analysis. The catalogue of these finds (Table 6.1) – bottle glass, corroded metalwork etc. is considered a sufficient account of the range of miscellaneous objects found.

Pottery

The 2014 excavations produced an assemblage of 1629 sherds of post-medieval pottery which has been washed, quantified and catalogued (Table 6.5). An UG QUB student, Raymond Wilson, is currently undertaking an analysis of the post-medieval ceramic assemblage from the 2012 excavations (submission in spring 2015) which should provide a good overview of the post-medieval ceramic assemblage present at the site.

Unlike the 2012 excavations, just one sherd of medieval coarseware was recovered which Cormac McSparron (CAF) has identified as being of Medieval Ulster Coarseware of probable fourteenth-century date.

No further work on the pottery assemblage is therefore required.

6.2 Publication

A research article on the site (by McCormick and Murray *in press*), which includes a discussion of the results of the 2012 excavation, is in press and will be published early in 2015 in a Four Courts Publication *The Early Church in Ireland* (eds. M. Potterton and C. Corlett). The discovery of the church and burials this year, however, merits additional publication of these new discoveries and it is recommended that an article is submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal after the radiocarbon dates have been returned and the specialist reports, in particular the analysis of the human remains, have been commissioned and completed.

7 Acknowledgements

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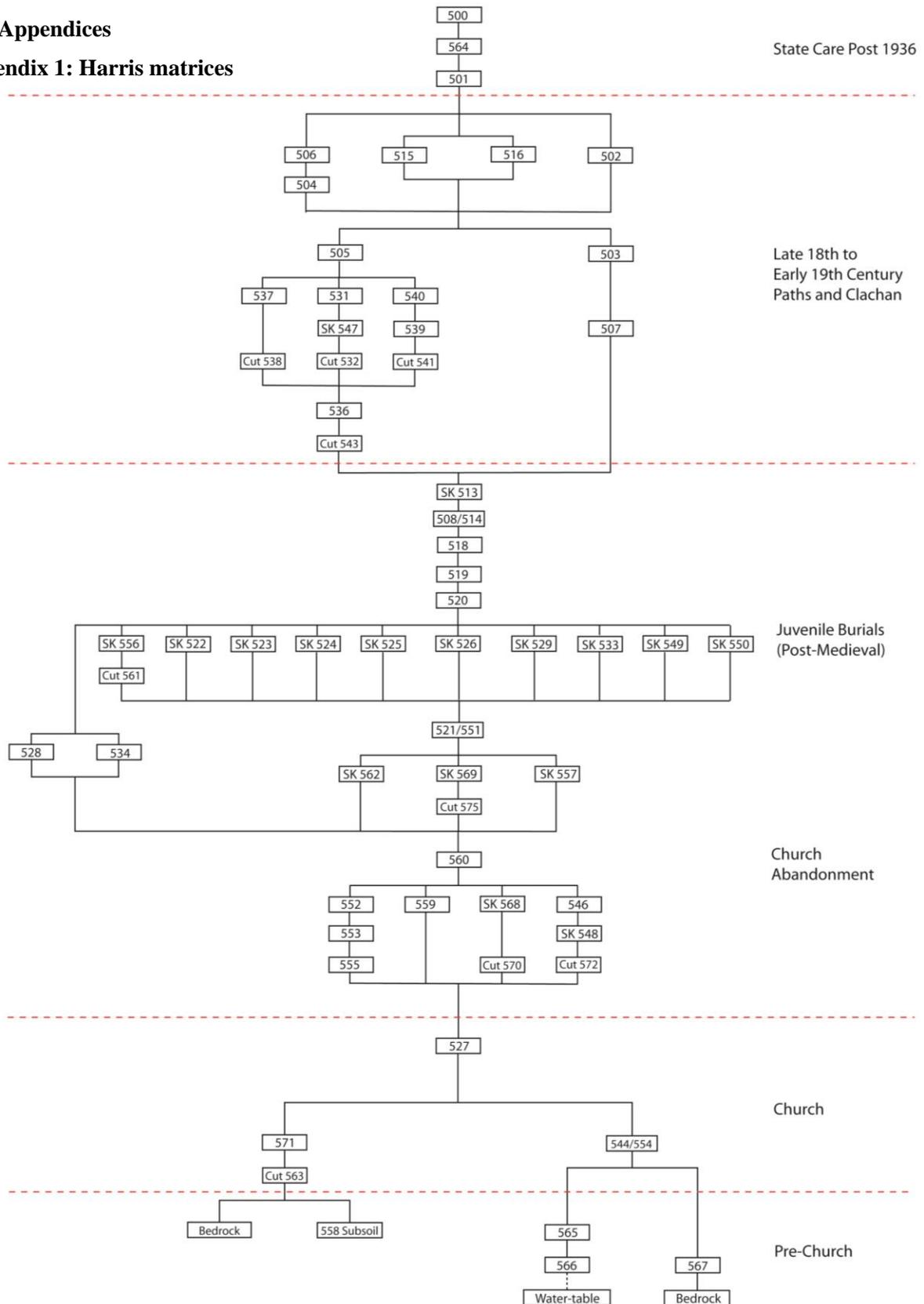
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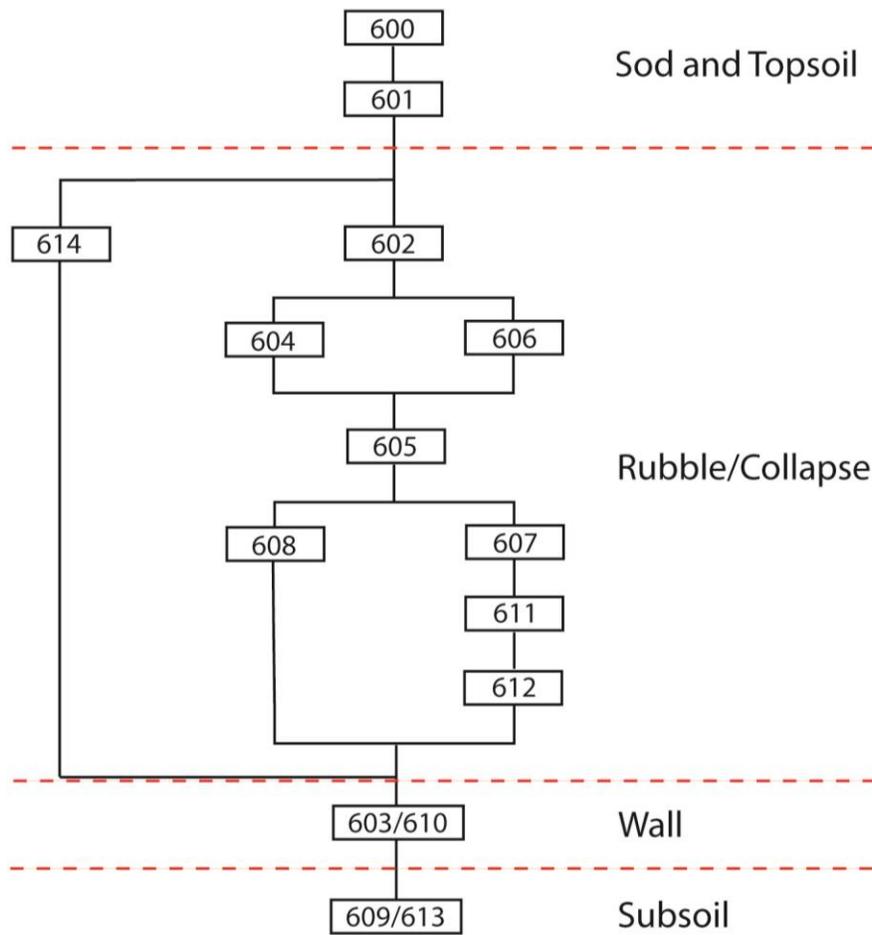
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9 Appendices

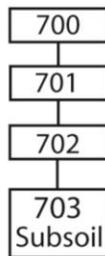
Appendix 1: Harris matrices



Trench 5 matrix



Trench 6 matrix



Trench 7 matrix

Appendix 2: Context register

Context	Description
500	sod
501	loose topsoil
502	path
503	metalled stony surface
504	stone-built wall
505	loose stony/loam deposit; contemporary with metalling 503
506	sandy loam associated with, and later than, wall 504
507	metalled stony surface, below 503
508	<i>loose stony/loam deposit = 514</i>
509	<i>Not used</i>
510	<i>Not used</i>
511	<i>Not used</i>
512	<i>Not used</i>
513	juvenile skeletal remains
514	loose stony loam deposit below 503 and above 520 (=508)
515	vertical stone setting; one of a pair
516	vertical stone setting; one of a pair
517	<i>Not used</i>
518	a mid-orange brown gritty, sandy loam containing small stones and flecks of mortar
519	a mortar-flecked light-brown loam
520	brown clay loam deposit; below 514
521	blackish-brown clay loam
522	juvenile skeleton
523	juvenile skeleton
524	juvenile skeleton
525	juvenile skeleton
526	juvenile skeleton
527	stone flagged area (interpreted as the floor of the medieval church)
528	lens/spread of charcoal
529	juvenile skeleton
530	<i>Not used</i>
531	fill of pit 532
532	pit
533	juvenile skeleton
534	spread/lens of charcoal
535	<i>discarded (identified a possible wall; excavation demonstrated it was a linear outcrop of bedrock)</i>
536	light-brown mortar-flecked loam; fill of 543
537	stony fill of pit 538 [identified in trench section only]

Context	Description
538	pit
539	clay loam basal fill of pit 541
540	stony sterile fill of pit 541
541	pit
542	<i>not used</i>
543	linear cut; filled by 536
544	compact dark brown stony clay deposit containing small reddened stones (burnt?), lumps and flecks of charcoal and both angular and rounded (water worn?) small stones and pebbles
545	<i>Not used</i>
546	Clay loam lens
547	articulated (?)adult skeleton; in pit C532
548	articulated adult skeleton
549	articulated juvenile skeleton
550	articulated juvenile skeleton
551	charcoal-rich blackish-brown occupation deposit (= 521)
552	red ash layer within hearth 555; above 553
553	black charcoal layer within hearth 555; below 552
554	a cobbled or metalled surface at the southern end of the trench (= 544): possibly a re-deposited subsoil
555	stone-built hearth; filled by 552 and 553
556	articulated juvenile skeleton
557	articulated juvenile skeleton
558	hard compacted clay; cut by 563 (= subsoil?)
559	vertical setting of stones in southeast corner of trench
560	dark brown loam with lumps/flecks of charcoal and mortar; overlying 527
561	irregular sub-rectangular cut (0.65m x 0.54m) through the stone flags, C527, for SK556
562	articulated juvenile skeleton
563	linear cut in southeast corner of the trench (exposed in plan only)
564	lenses of pea gravel below the sod, 0.04-0.6m thick
565	blackish-brown silty clay loam with a high content of small angular and rounded stones, including burnt stones
566	layer of large boulders and bedrock (subsoil?); not investigated as at level of the water table
567	soft, blackish-brown clay loam; produced 1 sherd of Ulster coarseware
568	articulated adult skeleton
569	articulated juvenile skeleton
570	Cut for SK568
571	Fill of cut C563
572	Cut for SK548
573	<i>Not used</i>
574	<i>Not used</i>
575	Cut for SK569

Context	Description
600	Sod
601	Topsoil
602	Stoney rubble layer
603	Stone-built wall; running north-south
604	Lens of loam and stone in SW corner of the trench
605	Light-brown loam with mortar and stones
606	Stone rubble and loam – possible collapse
607	Stoney layer – possible metallated surface?
608	Orange brown gritty loam; west of wall 603
609	Orange-brown stony and gritty loam – under wall 603
610	Stone-built wall; perpendicular to 603
611	Loam deposit between 611 and 612
612	Stony deposit east of wall 603
613	Lens/patch of clay; east of wall 603
614	Rubble to north of wall 610
700	Sod
701	Stoney loam deposit
702	Blackish-brown gravelly loam
703	Dark blackish brown clay loam

Appendix 3: Drawing register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Type	Scale	Site Sub-Division	Drawing Title and Context Numbers	Date
1A	1	plan	01:20	Tr 5	North-eastern half of trench after removal of C501, showing C502 and C503.	11/06/14
1B	2	plan	01:20	Tr 5	South-western half of trench after removal of C501, showing C502 and C503.	12/06/14
2	3	plan	01:50	Tr 5 and environs	Plan of trench outline, church, part of enclosure wall and raised mound to south-west of trench.	12/06/14
3	2	section	01:10	Tr 7	South-east-facing section of trench, showing C700, C701 and C702.	13/06/14
4	4	plan	01:50	Tr 7 and environs	Plan of trench outline, Drinking Well, enclosure wall and gated entrance.	16/06/14
5	1	plan	01:20	Tr 6	Plan of trench showing C603, C606, C607 and C609.	18/06/14
6	7	plan	01:20	Tr 5	Plan of south-west end of trench after excavation of C514, C517, C518, C519 and C520	23/06/14
7	13	section	01:10	Tr 6	North-east-facing section of trench, showing C600 to C606 and C608, C605.	20/06/14
8	5	plan	01:20	Tr 5	Plan of trench showing C506 to C510.	18/06/14
9	6	plan	01:10	Tr 5	Skeleton Sk533	25/06/14
10	6	section	01:10	Tr 5	South-west-facing section of pit C532	26/06/14
11	6	plan	01:20	Tr 5	Mid-excavation plan of C532	26/06/14
12	6	section	01:10	Tr 5	South-west-facing section of C542 and/with C528.	25/06/14
13	8	plan	01:10	Tr 5	Skeleton Sk547.	30/06/14
14	10	plan	01:20	Tr 5	Plan of trench showing C527, C543, and positions of skeletons.	30/06/14
15	8	plan	01:20	Tr 5	Plan of south corner of trench showing C555 and C552, C554, C558, C560	30/06/14

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Type	Scale	Site Sub-Division	Drawing Title and Context Numbers	Date
16	2	section	01:10	Tr 5	North-west facing section of hearth C555 and fills C552 and C553.	30/06/14
17	8	plan	01:10	Tr 5	Skeleton Sk557.	01/07/14
18	8	plan	01:20	Tr 5	Skeleton Sk556.	02/07/14
19	9	section	01:20	Tr 5	South-east facing section of trench.	02/07/14
20	9	section	01:20	Tr 5	North-east facing section of trench.	03/07/14
21	2	section	01:20	Tr 5	South-west-facing section of trench, C500, C514, C520, C521, C565.	03/07/14
22	8	plan	01:10	Tr 5	Skeleton Sk562.	03/07/14
23	11	plan	01:10	Tr 5	Skeleton Sk569	04/07/14
24	12	plan	01:10	Tr 5	Skeleton Sk586.	04/07/14
25	13	section	01:20	Tr 5	South-west-facing section showing C500, C520, C521, C544 and C565, and metallated layers C502, C503 and C507	07/07/14
26	11	plan	01:10	Tr 5	Skeleton Sk548.	04/07/14

Appendix 4: Sample register

Sample	Context	Site Sub-Division	Sample Type
1	533	Tr 5	Small bones of juvenile skeleton.
2	534	Tr 5	Charcoal and grains
3	528	Tr 5	Charcoal rich lens.
4	533	Tr 5	Sampling after the excavation of juvenile skeleton.
5	549	Tr 5	Sampling after the excavation of juvenile skeleton.
6	552	Tr 5	Hearth C555
7	(545) = 531	Tr 5	From pit with Sk547.
8	552	Tr 5	Upper fill of hearth C555
9	553	Tr 5	Lower fill of hearth C555.
10	557	Tr 5	Bulk sample taken after skeleton lifted.
11	560	Tr 5	C14 dating, occupation deposit.
12	556	Tr 5	Bulk sample after excavation of SK556
13	559	Tr 5	Mortar sample from stone setting.
14	567	Tr 5	C14 dating; black burnt layer containing medieval pottery sherd
15	565	Tr 5	Black layer from south-west-facing section.
16	586	Tr 5	Soil surrounding skeleton.
17	562	Tr 5	Soil surrounding skeleton.
18	574	Tr 5	Mortar sample.
19	544	Tr 5	Bulk sample for flotation and C14 dating
20	518	Tr 5	Mortar sample.
21	565	Tr 5	Charcoal-rich black material.

Appendix 5: Photo register

Number	Trench	Description
1767	5	Pre-excavation
1768	5	De-sodding; working shot
1769	5	De-sodding; working shot
1770	5	De-sodding; working shot
1771	5	cleaning back after de-sodding
1773	6	Pre-excavation, looking west.
1775	5	After removal of C500 and C501, looking north-north-east.
1776	5	After removal of C500 and C501, looking south.
1778	5	Cleaning up surface of C502, looking north.
1779	-	site vandalism
1780	-	site vandalism
1781	-	site vandalism
1782	7	Pre-excavation, looking north-east.
1783	7	Pre-excavation, including Drinking Well, looking north-east.
1784	5	Working shot: looking north. C502 & C503
1787	6	Working shot: looking south
1788	6	Surface of C602 after removal of C601, looking west.
1789	6	Surface of C602 after removal of C601, looking east.
1791	5	Planning surface of C502 and C503, looking north-east.
1793	5	Planning and trowelling surface of C502 and C503, looking south-west.
1795	5	Surface of C502 and C503, looking northeast.
1796	5	Surface of C502 and C503, looking west.
1797	5	Surface of C502 and C503, looking south.
1798	5	Surface of C502 and C503, looking south.
1800	5	Plane table survey prep.
1801	5	Planning surface of C502 and C503.
1802	5	Planning surface of C502 and C503.
1804	7	C701 mid-excavation, looking north-east.
1805	7	C701 mid-excavation, looking south-south-west.
1806	7	Surface of C702 after removal of C701, looking north-east.
1807	7	Surface of C702 after removal of C701, looking south-south-west.
1808	-	Working shot: lunch & the men's bathhouse
1809	-	Working shot: lunch & the men's bathhouse
1810	7	Working shot: Ruth and Michelle.
1812	-	Working shot: plane table, Jodie and Daniel.
1813	-	Working shot: plane table, Jodie and Daniel.
1814	-	Working shot: plane table, Jodie and Daniel.
1815	6	Wall C603, looking north.
1817	6	Wall C603, looking south.

Number	Trench	Description
1819	6	C603 to C607 on removal of C602, looking west.
1820	7	Surface of C703 after removal of C702, looking north-east.
1821	7	Surface of C703 after removal of C702, looking south.
1823	5	C503 and upright setting of stones, C515 & C516
1824	5	Upright setting of stones C515 & C516
1825	5	Surface of C503, looking north-east.
1826	5	Surface of C503, looking west
1827	5	Surface of C503, looking south-west & wall 504
1828	6	Wall C603 and surface of C605, looking south.
1829	6	Wall C603 and surface of C605, looking south.
1830	6	Wall C603 and surface of C605, looking north.
1831	6	Wall C603 and surface of C605, looking west.
1833	6	Surface of path C607, looking east.
1834	5	Working shot.
1835	5	Working shot.
1836	5	Working shot.
1837	6	Working shot.
1840	6	Working shot.
1841	6	Working shot.
1843	5	Working shot.
1846	-	Working shot- plane tabling
1848	-	Working shot- plane tabling
1849	-	Girls at lunch.
1850	-	Girls at lunch.
1851	5	Working shot.
1852	6	Surface of C607 and wall C603.
1853	6	Trench on removal of C605, showing C603, C607 and C608, looking south.
1854	6	Trench on removal of C605, showing C603, C607 and C608, looking south.
1855	6	West face of wall C603, looking east.
1856	6	West face of wall C603, looking east.
1857	6	East face of wall C603, looking west.
1858	6	surface of wall C603, looking south.
1859	6	C607, looking west.
1860	6	C607, looking south.
1861	-	Working shot: finds washing.
1862	-	Working shot: finds washing.
1863	6	Working shot.
1864	6	Working shot - Paul Owens
1865	5	Working shot - Ross & Joss
1866	5	Working shot.
1867	5	Working shot.
1868	6	C607 and wall C603, looking west.

Number	Trench	Description
1869	6	C607 and wall C603 looking west.
1870	6	C607, wall C603 and adjacent building to south, looking west.
1871	6	Wall C603 and C609, looking north-north-east.
1872	6	Wall C603, C604 and C609, looking east.
1873	6	Wall C603, C604 and C609, looking south-south-west.
1874	6	Wall C603, C604 and C609, looking north-north-east.
1875	6	Wall 610 in south-facing section, looking north-north-east.
1876	-	View of site from St. Patrick's chair.
1878	-	View of site from St. Patrick's chair.
1881	-	View of site from St. Patrick's chair.
1883	-	View of site from St. Patrick's chair.
1884	-	View of site from St. Patrick's chair.
1885	5	C507 and C508, looking north-east & C515 & C516
1886	5	C507 and C508, looking north-east & C515 & C516
1887	5	C507 and C508, looking west.
1888	5	C507 and C508, looking south-west.
1889	5	C507 and C508, looking south-west.
1890	5	Northern third of trench: vertical stone settings, & C515 & C516, looking east.
1891	5	Surface of C507
1893	5	Working shot: wetting the site.
1894	5	Working shot: wetting the site.
1896	5	C507 and C508 wetted, looking west.
1897	5	C507 and C508 wetted, looking south-west.
1898	5	C507 and C508 wetted, looking north-east.
1899	5	C507 and C508 wetted, looking ENE
1900	5	South end of trench, C508 and stones, looking north-west.
1901	5	C507 and vertical stone setting, looking north-east.
1902	6	C612 and C613, looking west.
1903	6 Ext..	Wall C610, looking north.
1904	6 Ext..	Wall C610, looking south.
1905	5	Stone setting C515 pre-excavation, looking east-south-east.
1906	5	Stone setting C515 pre-excavation, looking south-south-west.
1907	5	Stone setting C515 pre-excavation, looking east-south-east.
1908	5	Stone setting C516 pre-excavation, looking east-south-east.
1909	5	Stone setting C516 pre-excavation, looking south-south-west.
1910	5	Stone setting C516 pre-excavation, looking east-south-east.
1911	5	Stone setting C515 post-excavation, looking east-south-east.
1914	6	Wall C603 and subsoil
1915	6	N-facing section of trench looking south
1916	6	Wall 603 and subsoil looking west
1917	5	Post removal of C514, looking north-north-east.

Number	Trench	Description
1918	5	Post removal of C514, looking north-north-east.
1919	5	South-west corner post removal of C514, looking south-west.
1920	5	South-west corner post removal of C514, looking south-west.
1923	5	Post removal of C514, looking south-south-west.
1924	5	Northern end of trench post removal of C514, looking east
1926	5	North end of trench post removal of C514, looking west-north-west.
1928	5	Stones at east side of trench post removal of C514, looking south-south-west.
1929	5	Mortar feature at south-west corner, looking north-north-east.
1930	5	South end of trench post removal of C514, looking west
1931	5	Possible clay features west side of trench looking east-south-east.
1932	5	General view post removal of C514, surface of C520 looking north-north-east.
1934	5	Juvenile skeletal remains, semi-articulated, C523, looking west-north-west.
1935	5	Juvenile skeletal remains, semi-articulated, C523, looking west-north-west.
1936	5	Juvenile skeletal remains, semi-articulated, C522, looking west-north-west.
1937	5	Juvenile skeletal remains, semi-articulated, C522, looking west-north-west.
1938	5	Juvenile skeletal remains, semi-articulated, C525, looking east-south-east.
1939	5	Juvenile skeletal remains, semi-articulated, C525, looking east-south-east.
1940	5	Juvenile skeletal remains, semi-articulated, C525, looking west-north-west.
1943	5	Juvenile skeletal remains, semi-articulated, C525, looking from south
1945	5	Juvenile skeletal remains, semi-articulated, C526, looking west-south-west.
1947	5	Western half of trench after excavating C520, looking north
1948	5	Western half of trench after excavating C520, looking north
1950	5	general shot facing SW after excavation of C520
1949	5	NW corner of trench after excavating C520, looking north
1952	-	Perforated bone object from C521.
1953	-	Perforated bone object from C521.
1954	-	Perforated bone object from C521.
1955	5	Skeleton C533, looking vertical.
1956	5	Skeleton C533, looking vertical.
1957	5	North half of trench, looking north-east after further clearing off of C520
1958	5	Flags, C527 and C536, looking south-west.
1959	5	C527 and pits C541 and C532 in section, looking west.
1960	5	General photo of trench, looking south-west, half-sectioned
1961	5	General photo of trench, looking north-east, half-sectioned
1962	5	East half of trench, looking north-east, surface of c520
1963	5	Skeleton C529
1964	5	Skeleton C533, looking north-east.
1965	5	Skeleton C533, looking east, south-east.
1968	5	Working shot -looking west
1969	5	C534 half-sectioned, looking south-east.

Number	Trench	Description
1970	5	C534 half-sectioned, C504 in section, looking south-west.
1971	5	C528, looking south-east.
1972	5	Pit C541, and fill C540, post-excavation in south-east-facing section, looking north-west.
1973	5	Pit C541, and fill C540, post-excavation in south-east-facing section,
1974	5	Working shot: looking north-east.
1975	5	Working shot: looking north-east.
1976	5	C528 half-sectioned, looking south-east.
1977	5	C526 half-sectioned.
1978	5	Pit C532, and fill C531, half-sectioned, looking vertical.
1979	5	Pit C532, and fill C531, half-sectioned, looking north-west.
1980	5	Pit C532 - vertical photo
1981	5	Pit C532 facing west
1982	5	Pit C532 facing west - half-sectioned
1983	5	SW quadrant: C527 and C554 and with the hearth just visible
1984	5	SW quadrant: C527 and C554 and with the hearth just visible
1985	5	Working shot: with Finbar McCormick.
1986	5	After removal of C521, looking north-east.
1988	5	NW quadrant: wall C504 in section and hearth C555 in baulk
1989	5	Flagged surface C527 in box extension, and pits C532 and C541
1990	5	Flagged surface C527 in box extension
1991	5	Flagged surface C527 in box section, facing west-north-west.
1992	5	Skeleton C549, looking vertical.
1993	5	Skeleton C549, looking vertical.
1994	5	Skeleton C549 overlying hearth, general shot to show location within the trench
1995	5	Skeleton C550, looking vertical.
1996	5	Skeleton C550, looking vertical.
1997	5	Skeleton C550, showing location within trench, looking north-west.
1998	5	Skeleton C547 in pit C532, looking south-south-west.
1999	5	Skeleton C547 in pit C532, facing south-south-west.
2000	5	Skeleton C547 - close-up
2003	5	Skeleton C550.
2005	5	Skeleton C547, looking south, southwest
2006	5	Skeleton C547, looking south southwest
2007	5	Skeleton C547, looking west/vertical
2008	5	Skeleton C550, with scale, looking east.
2009	5	Skeleton C550, with scale, looking east.
2011	5	Skeleton C550, looking west
2012	5	SE quadrant showing C559 and hearth C555; looking NE
2013	5	SE quadrant showing C559 and hearth C555; looking W
2014	5	SE quadrant showing C559 and hearth C555; looking W

Number	Trench	Description
2015	5	Working shot: looking north
2016	5	SE Quadrant C559 and C551
2017	5	SE Quadrant C559 and C551
2018	-	Working shot: Downpatrick YAC washing finds.
2019	-	Working shot: Downpatrick YAC washing finds, Trench 5 in the background
2020	5	Working shot: Downpatrick YAC excavating.
2021	5	Working shot: Downpatrick YAC excavating.
2022	5	Working shot: looking north-east.
2023	5	Working shot: looking west, southwest
2024	5	Cut C555, fills C552 and C553, looking east, south-east.
2025	5	Cut C555, fills C552 and C553, looking south-west.
2026	5	Cut C555, fills C552, C553, and north-east-facing section in background, looking south-west.
2027	5	Hearth section face showing red ash C552 overlying C553
2028	5	Hearth section face showing red ash C552 overlying C553
2029	5	Hearth section face showing red ash C552 overlying C553
2030	5	Hearth section face showing red ash C552 overlying C553
2031	5	Skeleton C556 - vertical
2033	5	Skeleton C556, showing its location in the north-east corner of trench, looking east.
2034	6	Working shot: Jessica and Gemma, looking north west.
2035	6	Working shot: Jessica and Gemma.
2036	5	Skeleton C557, looking south.
2037	5	Skeleton C557, looking south.
2038	5	Skeleton C557, close-up.
2039	5	Skeleton C557, close-up.
2040	5	Skeleton C557, close-up.
2041	5	Skeleton C557, showing in context of trench, looking south.
2042	5	Hearth C555, C559, C558 (mid-excavation) , C560 and cut C563, looking east.
2043	5	Hearth C555, C559, C558, C560, and cut C563; looking east
2044	5	Hearth C555, C558 and C560, looking south-east; looking west
2045	5	C559 - vertical
2046	5	C559 stone setting C560, and cut C563vertical.
2047	5	C558 and C560 after removal of C551, and cut C563; looking east.
2048	5	Skeleton C556 and cut C561, looking vertical/south.
2049	5	Skeleton C556.
2050	5	Skeleton C556 - close-up
2051	5	Skeleton C556 - close-up
2052	5	Skeleton C556 - close-up
2053	5	Hearth C555 and C527, looking north-north-east; general view of the trench

Number	Trench	Description
2054	5	Hearth C555 and C527, looking north-north-east; general view of the trench
2055	5	C527, looking north-east.
2056	5	Flagging C527, C55 and cut C563, looking west
2057	5	Flagging C527, C55 and cut C563, looking west
2058	5	Flagging C527, looking south-west.
2059	5	Flagging C527, looking south-west - general view of the trench
2060	5	Flagging C527, looking south-west - general view of the trench
2061	5	Flagging C527, looking south-west - general view of the trench
2062	5	Flagging C527, looking west; N end of trench
2063	5	Flagging C527, looking east; N end of the trench
2064	5	Flagging C527, looking east; N end of the trench
2065	5	Skeleton C556 - vertical
2066	5	Skeleton C556.
2067	5	Hearth C555, looking north-east/vertical - post-ex
2068	5	Hearth C555, looking east.
2069	5	Hearth C555, looking east.
2070	5	Hearth C555, looking west.
2071	5	Hearth C555, looking north-east/vertical.
2072	5	Sk562, looking east.
2073	5	Sk562, looking east.
2074	5	Sk562: legs.
2075	5	Sk562: head.
2076	5	Sk562: lower torso.
2077	5	Sk562: cranium.
2078	5	Sk562 and north-facing section of the trench; looking SW
2079	5	Sk562 legs
2080	5	South-facing section of trench, looking north; box trench C565
2081	5	South-facing section of trench, looking north; box trench C565
2082	5	South-facing section of trench, looking north; box trench C565
2083	5	South-facing section of trench, looking north; box trench C565
2085	5	Double tournois from cleaning N section face
2086	5	Double tournois from cleaning N section face
2087	5	Double tournois from cleaning N section face
2088	5	Skeleton C568, looking south-west.
2089	5	Skeleton C568, looking south-west.
2090	5	Skeleton C568, looking south-west.
2091	5	Skeleton C568, looking south-west.
2092	5	Skeleton C568, looking south-west.
2093	5	Skeleton C568, looking north-west.
2094	5	Skeleton C568, looking south-west.
2095	5	Skeleton C569, looking south-east.
2096	5	Skeleton C569, looking north-east.

Number	Trench	Description
2097	5	Skeleton C569, looking north-east.
2098	5	Skeleton C569, looking north-east showing SE quadrant of the trench
2099	5	Skeleton C548; looking west
2100	5	Skeleton C548, looking west/vertical
2101	5	Skeleton C548; looking east
2102	5	Skeleton C548: upper torso, looking east
2103	5	Skeleton C548, looking northeast/vertical
2104	5	SK548, looking east
2105	5	Skeleton C568, after right side of body exposed at other side of long stone, looking south-west.
2106	5	Skeleton C568, after right side of body exposed at other side of long stone, looking south-west.
2107	5	Working shot: Skeleton C568 during excavation.
2108	5	Working shot: Skeleton C548 during excavation, looking southwest
2109	5	Working shot: last day of excavation, looking north-east.
2110	5	Skeleton C568 fully exposed, looking south-west.
2111	5	Skeleton C568 fully exposed, looking south-west.
2113	5	Skeleton C548 fully exposed, looking west.
2114	5	Skeleton C548 fully exposed, feet, looking east.
2115	5	Skeleton C548 fully exposed, looking south.
2116	5	South-west -facing section of trench, looking north-east
2117	5	South-west -facing section of trench, looking north-east
2122	5	NW quadrant: vertical photo showing C527 and C544
2123	5	NW quadrant: vertical photo showing C527 and C544
2129	5	vertical photo C527
2130	5	vertical photo C527
2131	5	vertical photo C527
2132	5	vertical photo C527
2133	5	vertical photo C527
2134	5	vertical photo C527
2135	5	vertical photo C527
2136	5	dressed sandstone fragment in situ within C527 - vertical
2137	5	dressed sandstone fragment in situ within C527 - looking south west
2138	5	dressed sandstone fragment in situ within C527 - looking
2139	5	dressed sandstone fragment in situ within C527 - looking west
2140	5	dressed sandstone fragment in situ within C527 - looking west
2141	5	after excavation of SK548 - facing SE
2142	5	quernstone <i>in situ</i>
2143	5	quernstone <i>in situ</i>
2144	5	sill stones, C527, vertical
2145	5	general view facing west
2146	5	general view facing south west

Number	Trench	Description
2148	5	C527, vertical
2157	5	C527, vertical
2158	5	C527, vertical
2160	5	Whole trench post-excavation, looking north-west.
2161	5	Whole trench post-excavation, looking south-east.
2162	-	View through church window from interior, looking south-east.
2163	5	Whole trench post-excavation, looking north-east.
2164	5	Close-up of C527, S end after excavations of SK; looking north-east.
2165	5	Trench covered in terram prior to back-filling, looking north-east.
2166	6	Trench covered in terram prior to back-filling, looking north-east.
2167	-	Site back-filled and re-sodded, looking east, northeast
2168	-	Site back-filled and re-sodded, looking west, southwest
2179	-	Site back-filled and re-sodded, looking north.
2180	6	Trench back-filled and re-sodded, looking north, north-west.
2181	5	Trench back-filled and re-sodded, looking east, northeast
2182	7	Trench back-filled and re-sodded, looking north, north-east.

Appendix 6: Finds registers

<i>C</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No.</i>
605	Base of a Shotgun Shell Cartridge	1
519	Blue Glass Bead Fragment or Glass Slag	1
501	Brick	15
503	Brick	4
507	Brick	1
514	Brick	1
519	Brick	1
602	Brick	6
603	Brick	2
604	Brick	1
606	Brick	1
614	Brick	1
601	Brick	1
505	Button	1
514	Button	1
514	Button	1
516	Button	1
520	Button	1
501	Clay Bottle Stopper	1
503	Clay Bottle Stopper	2
514	Clay Bottle Stopper	3
606	Clay Bottle Stopper	2
612	Clay Bottle Stopper	1
520	coin: French double tournois, 1640	1
501	coin: English Penny	1
501	coin: 1918 George V Penny	1
501	coin: 1920 George V Penny	1
501	coin: 1923 George V Sixpence	1
501	coin: 1928 Irish Penny	1
700	coin: 1951 French Franc	1
700	coin: 1953 French Franc	1
700	coin: 1968 English Five Pence	1
520	coin: George V?	1
501	coin: 1971 English Half Penny	1
514	coin: George V Penny	1
601	Complete Shell	1

Table 6.1 Miscellaneous finds quantified by type and context

<i>C</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No.</i>
550	Copper	1
503	Copper alloy	1
602	Copper Alloy Button	1
560	Cut Stone	1
602	Cut Stone	1
500	Glass	8
501	Glass	140
503	Glass	36
505	Glass	126
507	Glass	23
510	Glass	53
514	Glass	33
516	Glass	4
520	Glass	27
521	Glass	3
600	Glass	4
601	Glass	112
602	Glass	123
605	Glass	17
606	Glass	8
608	Glass	1
609	Glass	4
611	Glass	4
612	Glass	17
614	Glass	15
701	Glass	6
704	Glass	32
Unstrat.	Glass	8
514	Half a Blue Glass Bead	1
605	Horse Shoe	1
602	Iron Metalwork	5
605	Iron Metalwork	17
606	Iron Metalwork	4
611	Iron Metalwork	1
612	Iron Metalwork	2
702	Iron Metalwork	2
Unstrat.	Iron Metalwork	5

Table 6.1 continued

<i>C</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No.</i>
301	Iron Metalwork	1
501	Iron Metalwork	48
502	Iron Metalwork	2
503	Iron Metalwork	12
505	Iron Metalwork	8
507	Iron Metalwork	2
514	Iron Metalwork	10
520	Iron Metalwork	3
601	Iron Metalwork	6
525	Iron Metalwork Associated with SK	1
702	Leather Fragment	1
611	Metal Pin	1
600	Modern Find - Tent Peg	1
601	Modern Finds - Battery and Plastic	2
702	Modern Finds - Black Plastic Bead	1
500	Modern Finds - Comb, Crossbow Bolt, Plastic, etc.	8
606	Modern Finds - Plastic and Fabric	8
501	Modern Metal Fittings	2
501	Modern Plastic	12
520	Mortar	26
551	Mortar	1
602	Plastic - Pen Lid	1
525	Quartz Pebble Found with SK	1
501	Religious Medallion	1
520	Shell Fragments	9
614	Shotgun Shell Cartridge	1
602	Slate	1
501	Stone	1
501	Struck Flint	1
514	White Bead	1

Table 6.1 continued.

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No. / Weight (kg + g)</i>
5	503	Bone	0.18kg
5	506	Bone	0.098kg
5	507	Animal Teeth	0.002kg
5	514	Bone	0.234 kg
5	518	Bone	0.036kg
5	519	Bone	0.024kg
5	520	Bone	0.876kg
5	520	Bone Artefact	1
5	521	Bone	0.126kg
5	521	Bone or Horn Artefact	1
5	527	Bone	0.098kg
5	528	Bone	0.024kg
5	531	Bone	0.52kg
6	602	Bone	0.002kg
6	605	Bone	0.002kg
6	607	Fish Vertebrae	1.2g
6	609	Bone	2.1g
6	Unstrat	Bone	0.018kg
Unstrat	Unstrat	Bone	0.43kg

Table 6.2 Animal bone by context

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No.</i>
5	503	Clay Pipe Stem	3
5	503	Half Clay Pipe Bowl	1
5	505	Clay Pipe Bowl Fragments	2
5	505	Clay Pipe Stem	2
5	507	Clay Pipe Stem	1
5	514	Clay Pipe Bowl Fragments	9
5	514	Clay Pipe Stem	74
5	515	Clay Pipe Bowl Fragments	1
5	515	Clay Pipe Stem	1
5	516	Clay Pipe Stem	1
5	519	Clay Pipe Bowl Fragments	1
5	520	Clay Pipe Bowl Fragments	2
5	520	Clay Pipe Stem	34
5	521	Clay Pipe Stem	1
5	527	Clay Pipe Stem	2
5	Unstrat	Clay Pipe Bowl Fragments	1
6	601	Clay Pipe Stem	1
6	601	Complete Glass Bottle	1
6	602	Clay Pipe Stem	1
6	602	Complete Clay Pipe Bowl	1
6	605	Clay Pipe Stem	1
6	606	Clay Pipe Stem	1
6	607	Clay Pipe Stem	2
6	611	Half Clay Pipe Bowl	1
6	614	Clay Pipe Stem	1
6	614	Complete Glass Bottle	1
7	702	Clay Pipe Bowl Fragments	1

Table 6.3 Clay pipe fragments by context.

<i>Tr</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No. / Weight (kg + g)</i>
5	SK513	Human remains possibly disarticulated	0.066kg
5	521	Human remains misc.	0.58kg
5	SK522	Human remains misc.	0.03kg
5	SK523	Juvenile human remains	0.062kg
5	SK524	Human remains misc.	0.116kg
5	SK525	Juvenile Human Remains associated with iron and Quartz	0.048kg
5	SK526	Juvenile human remains semi-articulated	0.046kg
5	527	Human Remains misc.	0.35kg
5	SK529	Juvenile human Remains semi-articulated	0.02kg
5	SK533	Human Remains misc.	0.06kg
5	560	Human Remains misc.	0.014kg
5	SK562	Human Remains misc.	0.014kg
5	SK547	Human Left Arm Bones	0.068kg
5	SK547	Human Left Rib Bones	0.006kg
5	SK547	Human Pelvis Fragments	0.008kg
5	SK547	Human Remains misc.	0.02kg
5	SK547	Human Right Rib Bones	0.016kg
5	SK547	Human Vertebrae Bones	0.028kg
5	SK548	Human Left Clavicle and Scapula	0.022kg
5	SK548	Human Left Foot Bones	0.06kg
5	SK548	Human Left Hand Bones	0.016kg
5	SK548	Human Left Leg Bones	0.328kg
5	SK548	Human Left Rib Bones	0.052kg
5	SK548	Human Pelvis Fragments	0.184kg
5	SK548	Human Remains misc.	0.42kg

Table 6.4 Human remains by context

<i>Tr</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No. / Weight (kg + g)</i>
5	SK548	Human Right Leg Bones	0.278kg
5	SK548	Human Right Rib Bones	0.064kg
5	SK548	Human Vertebrae Bones	0.158kg
5	SK556	Infant Left Femur	3.5g
5	SK556	Infant Left Scapula Bones	0.8g
5	SK556	Infant Left Tibia and Fibula	3.5g
5	SK556	Infant Remains misc.	21.4g
5	SK556	Infant Rib Bones	6.1g
5	SK556	Infant Right and Left Pelvis Bones	3.1g
5	SK556	Infant Right Arm and Hand Bones	1.6g
5	SK556	Infant Right Clavicle Bones	0.3g
5	SK556	Infant Right Femur	3.0g
5	SK556	Infant Right Tibia and Fibula	1.4g
5	SK556	Infant Skull Fragments	8.7g
5	SK569	Human Left Arm Bones	0.002kg
5	SK569	Human Remains misc.	0.002kg
5	SK569	Human Rib Bones	0.02kg
5	SK569	Human Right Arm Bones	0.03kg
5	SK569	Human Skull Fragments	0.046kg
5	SK586	Human Left Arm Bones	0.078kg
5	SK586	Human Left Leg Bones	0.162kg
5	SK586	Human Right Arm Bones	0.17kg
5	SK586	Human Right Leg Bones	0.182kg
5	SK586	Human Skull Fragments	0.42kg
5	SK548	Human Left Arm Bones	0.108kg
5	SK549	Human Remains misc.	0.3kg

Table 6.4 continued

<i>Tr</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No.</i>
5	500	Pottery	5
5	501	Pottery	274
5	502	Pottery	16
5	503	Pottery	211
5	505	Pottery	106
5	507	Pottery	54
5	514	Pottery	310
5	515	Pottery	15
5	516	Pottery	12
5	519	Pottery	3
5	520	Pottery	117
5	521	Pottery	1
5	567	Ulster coarseware	1
5	Unstrat	Pottery	10
6	600	Pottery	2
6	601	Pottery	50
6	602	Pottery	116
6	604	Pottery	1
6	605	Pottery	73
6	606	Pottery	84
6	608	Pottery	1
6	611	Pottery	19
6	612	Pottery	21
6	614	Pottery	12
6	Extension	Pottery	2
7	700	Pottery	2
7	701	Pottery	18
7	702	Pottery	9
7	704	Pottery	68
Unstrat	Unstrat	Pottery	16

Table 6.5 Pottery sherds (number) by trench and context

10 FIGURES

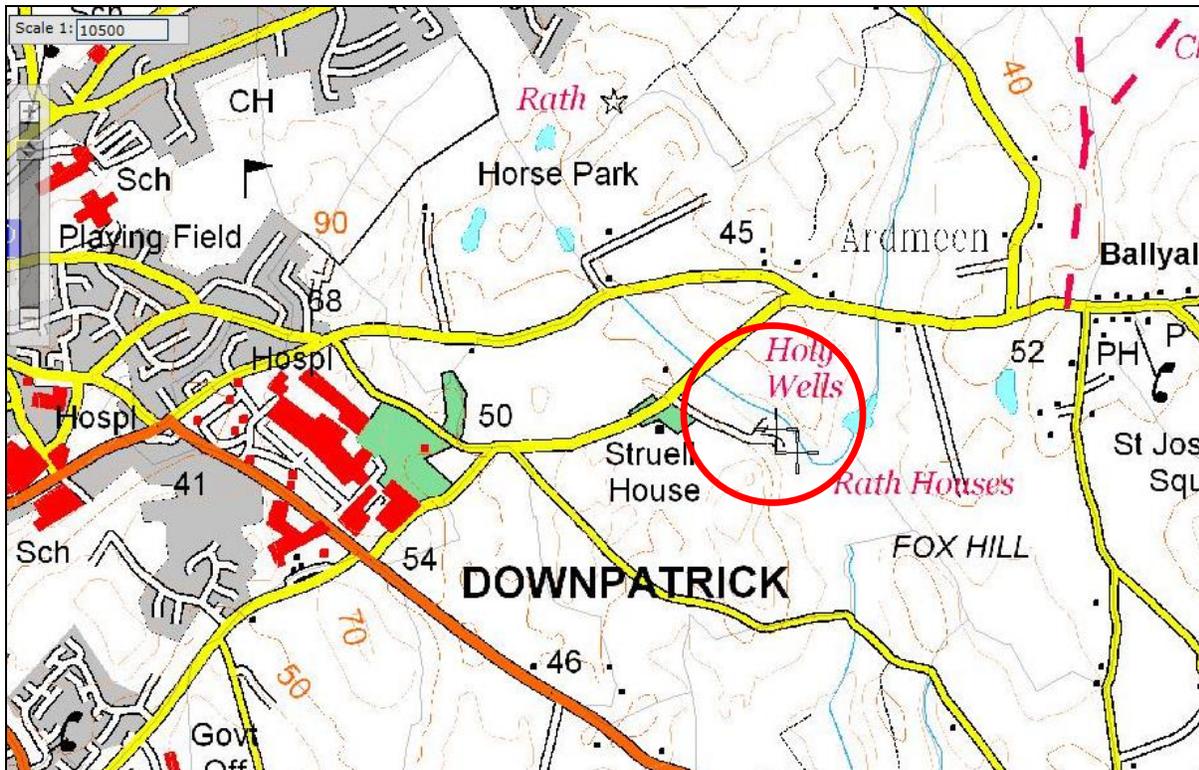


Figure 1 Map showing the location of Struell Wells, east of Downpatrick, Co. Down.

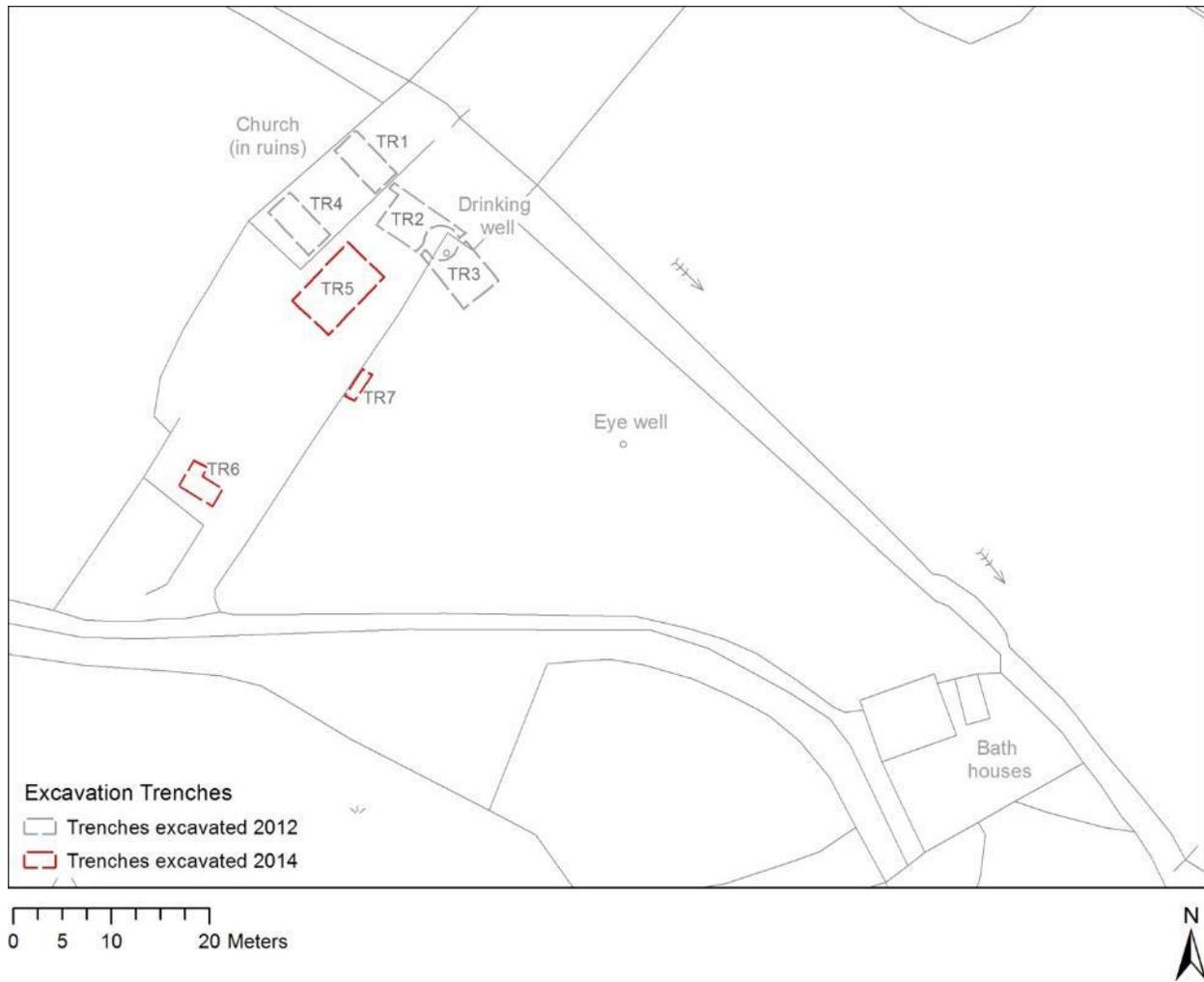


Figure 2 Map showing the location of the 2012 and 2014 excavation trenches.

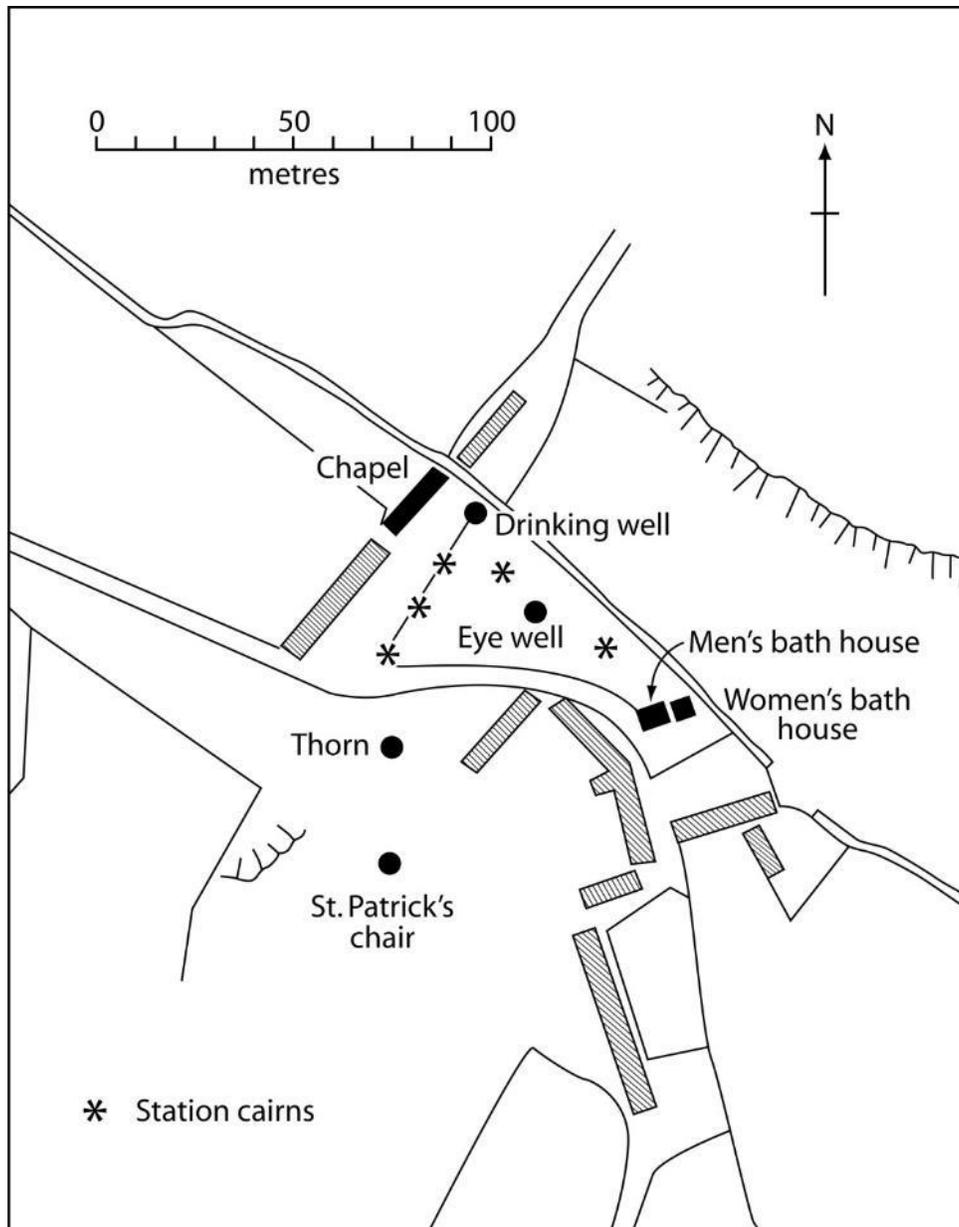


Figure 3 Map of the main features at Struell Wells based on the OS 1st edition map, 1st edition revision and O'Laverty, 1878 (from McCormick 2011, 6).

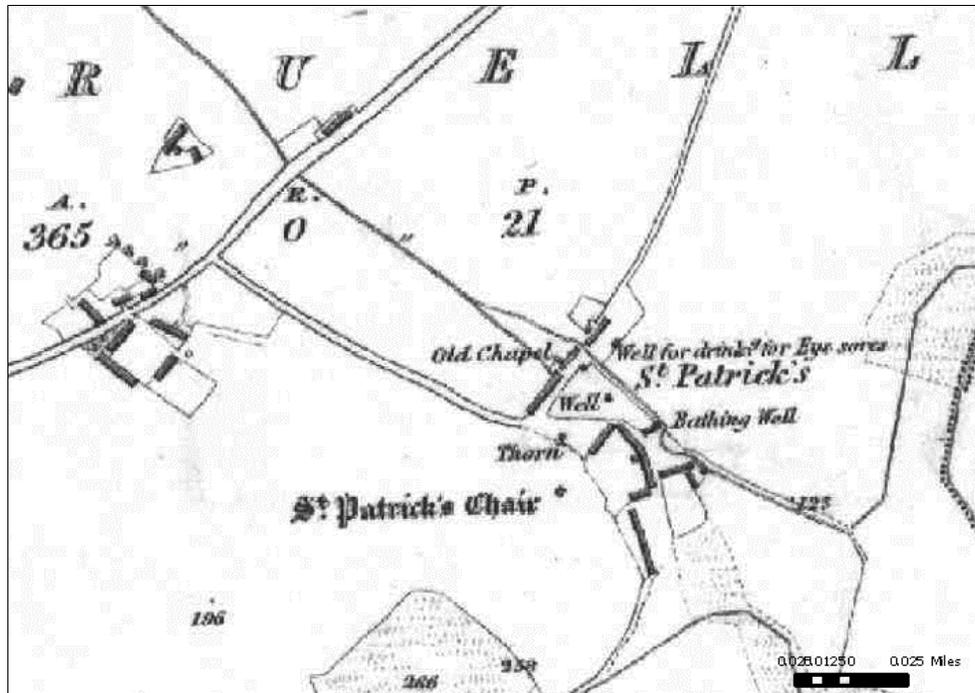


Figure 4 Detail from the Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch 1st Edition map of Struell Wells 1829-1835 (from NIEA Mapviewer).

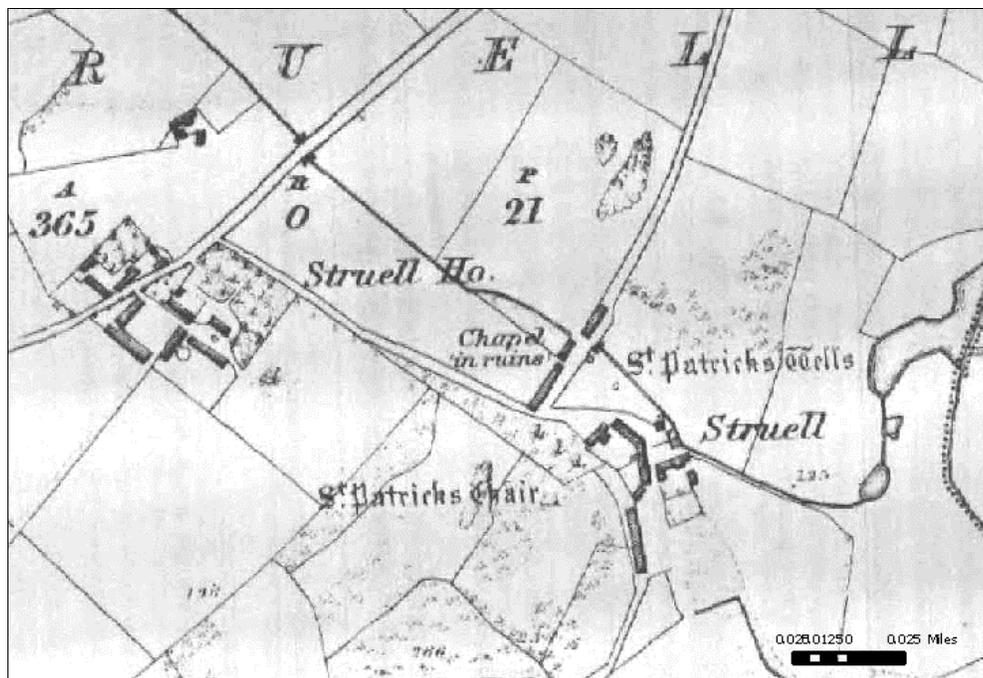


Figure 5 Detail from the OS 6-inch 2nd Edition map of Struell Wells 1831-1904 (from NIEA Mapviewer).

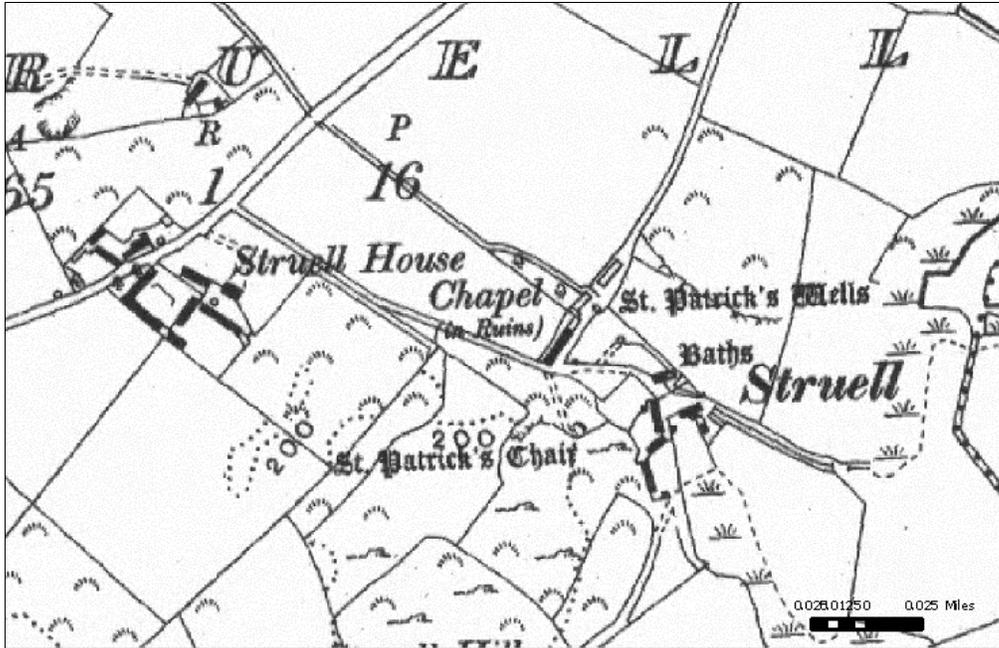


Figure 6 Detail from the OS 6-inch 3rd Edition map of Struell Wells, 1857-1932 (from NIEA Mapviewer).

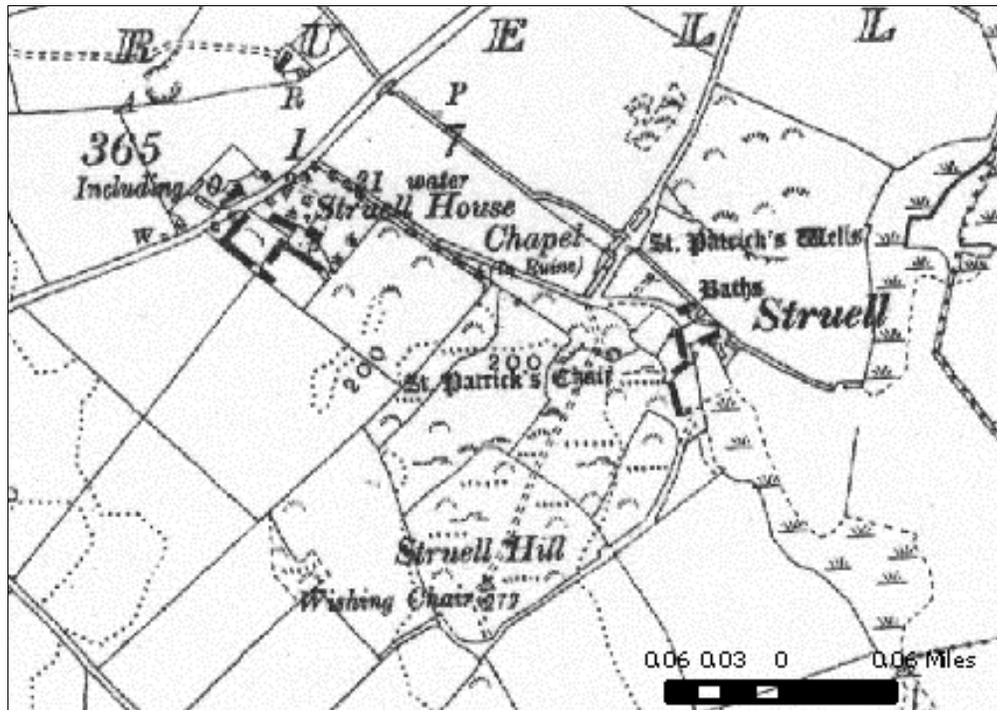


Figure 7 Detail from the OS 6-inch 4th Edition map of Struell Wells, 1901-1957 (from NIEA Mapviewer).

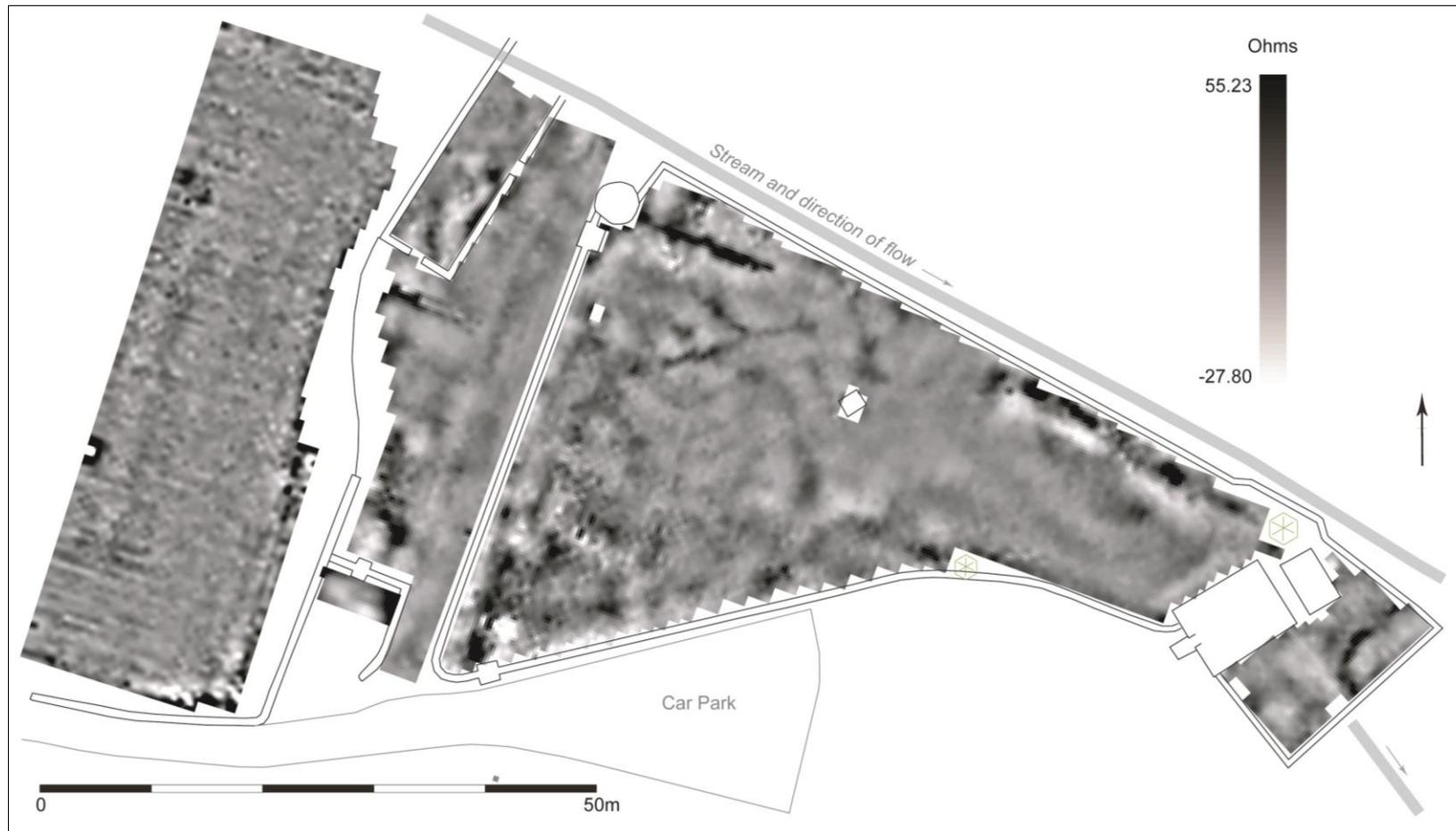


Figure 8 2012 geophysical survey: shade plot of resistance data following the application of High Pass Filter. This has the effect of filtering out broad trends and emphasises the detail of smaller and fainter anomalies (Mussen in McCormick and Murray)



Figure 9 An illustration of the church, Drinking Well and Eye Well at Struell from Hardy's 1836 *The Holy Wells of Ireland* (copied from McCormick 2009, 51).

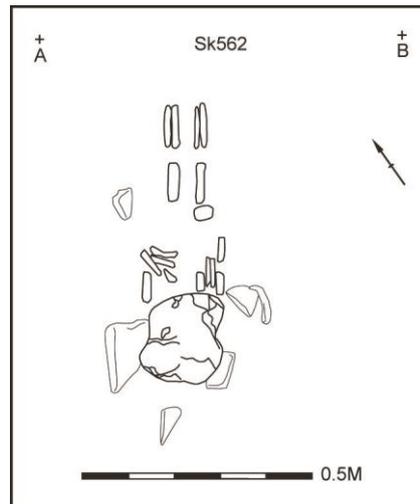


Figure 10 Skeleton SK562

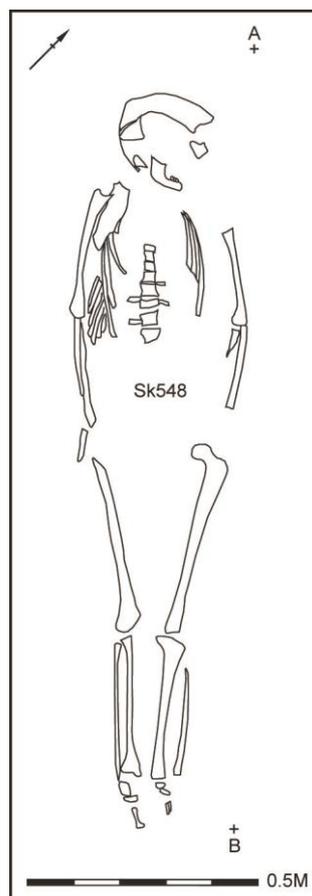


Figure 11 Skeleton SK548

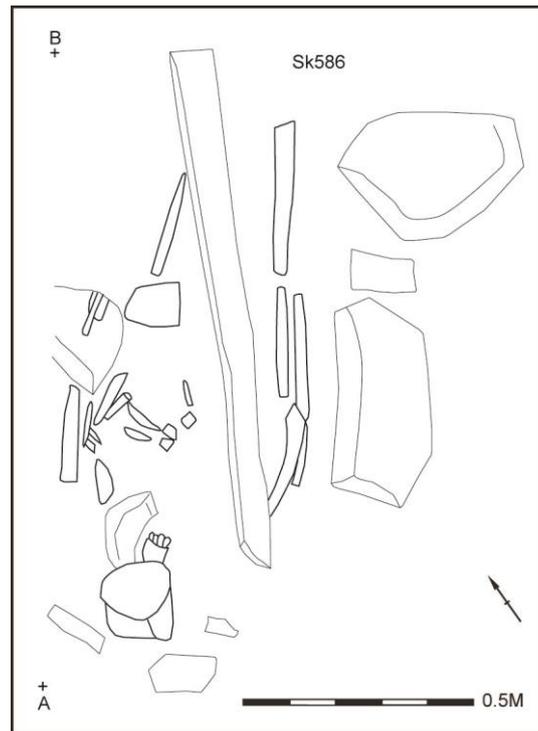


Figure 12 Skeleton SK568

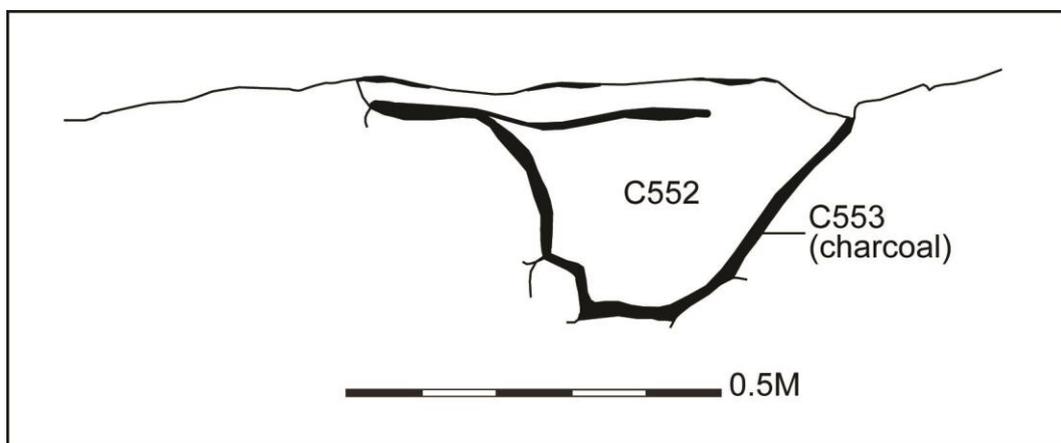


Figure 13 Hearth (C55) section drawing

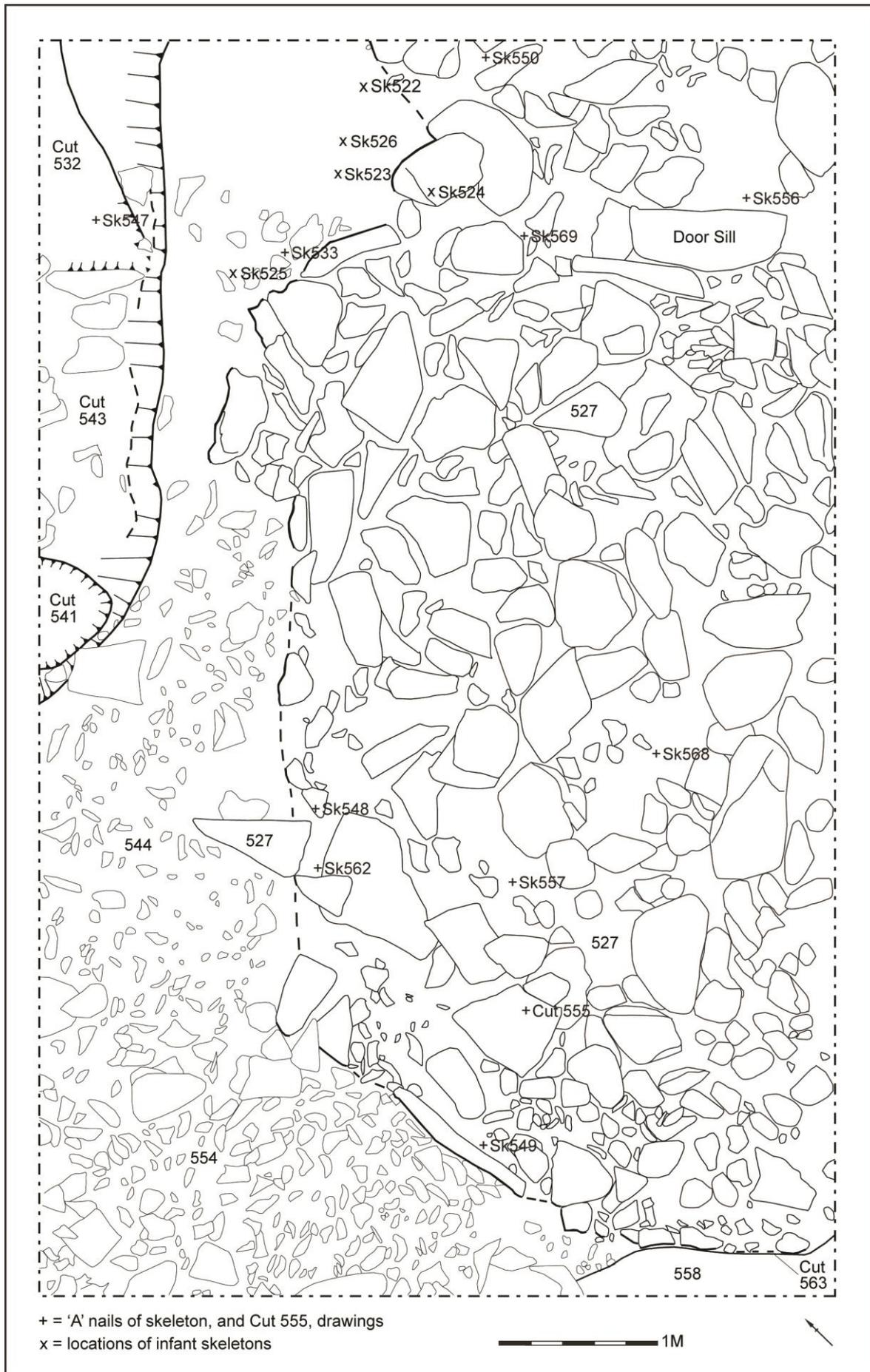


Figure 14 Trench 5 post-ex plan

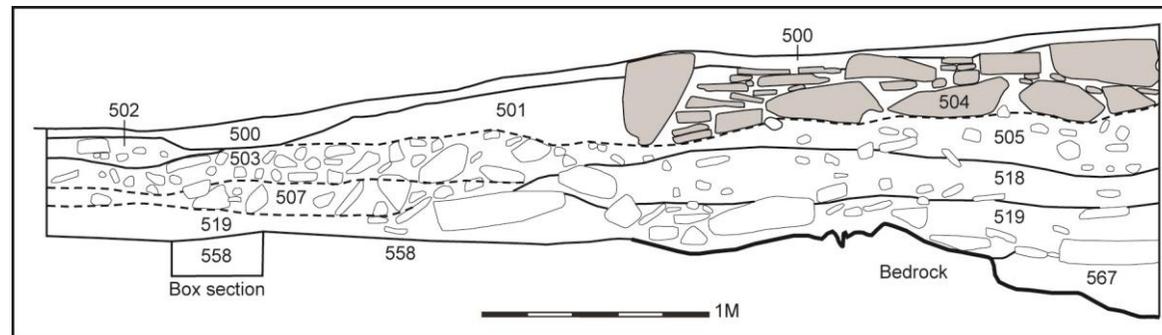


Figure 15 Trench 5: north-east facing section

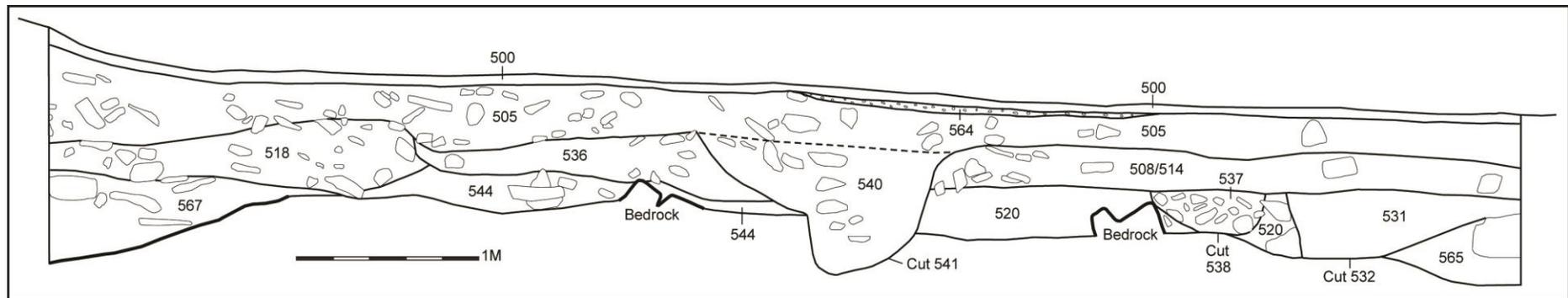


Figure 16 Trench 5: south-east facing section

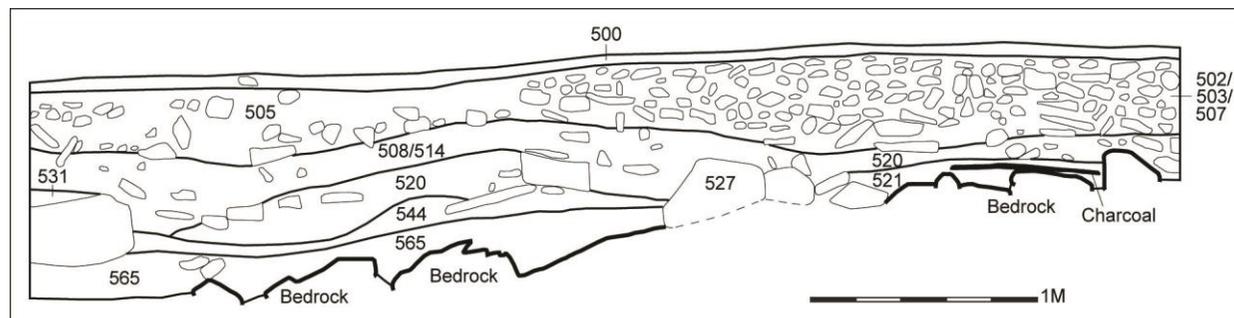


Figure 17 Trench 5: south-west facing section

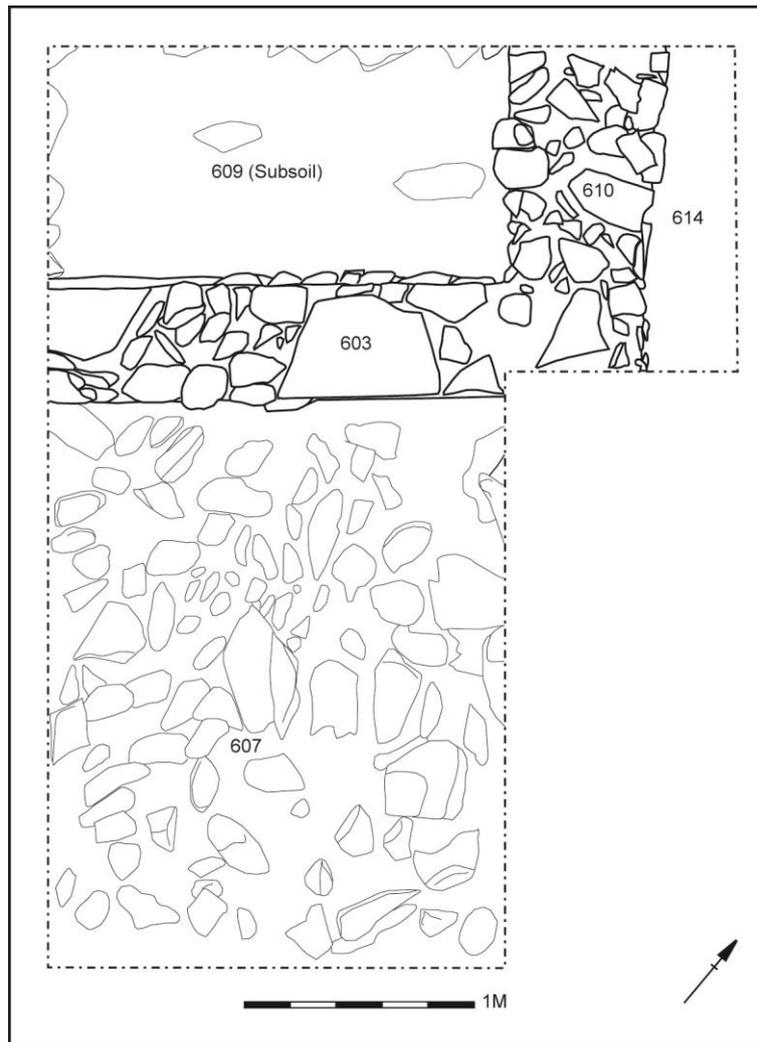


Figure 18 Mid-excavation plan of Trench 6

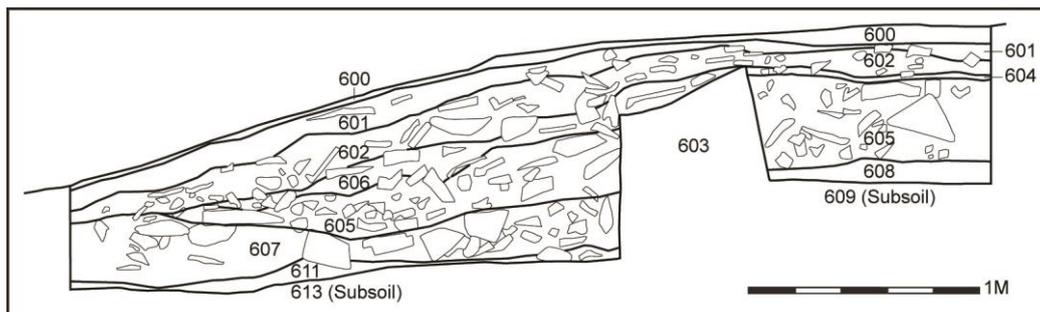


Figure 19 North-facing section of Trench 6

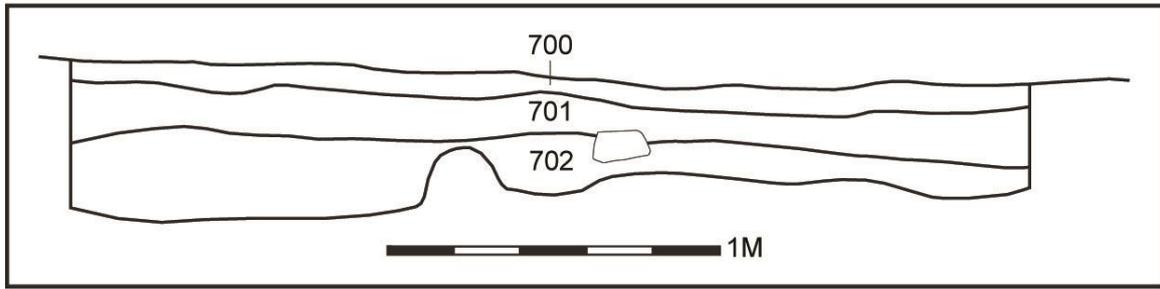


Figure 20 Trench 7 east-facing section

11 PLATES



Plate 1 Pre-excitation photo of Trench 5 with the eighteenth-century church (left) and the Drinking Well and DoE wall (right); facing northeast.



Plate 2 Trench 5 after de-sodding (C500), with C502 and C503 emerging.



Plate 3 Trench 5 after the removal of the topsoil (C501) exposing the path C502 and metallised surface, C503. The vertical stone settings are also visible north of the ranging rods.



Plate 4 Surface of C507 and C508 with the pair of stone settings, C515 and C516, clearly visible (looking east).



Plate 5 Stone setting C515.



Plate 6 Stone setting C516.

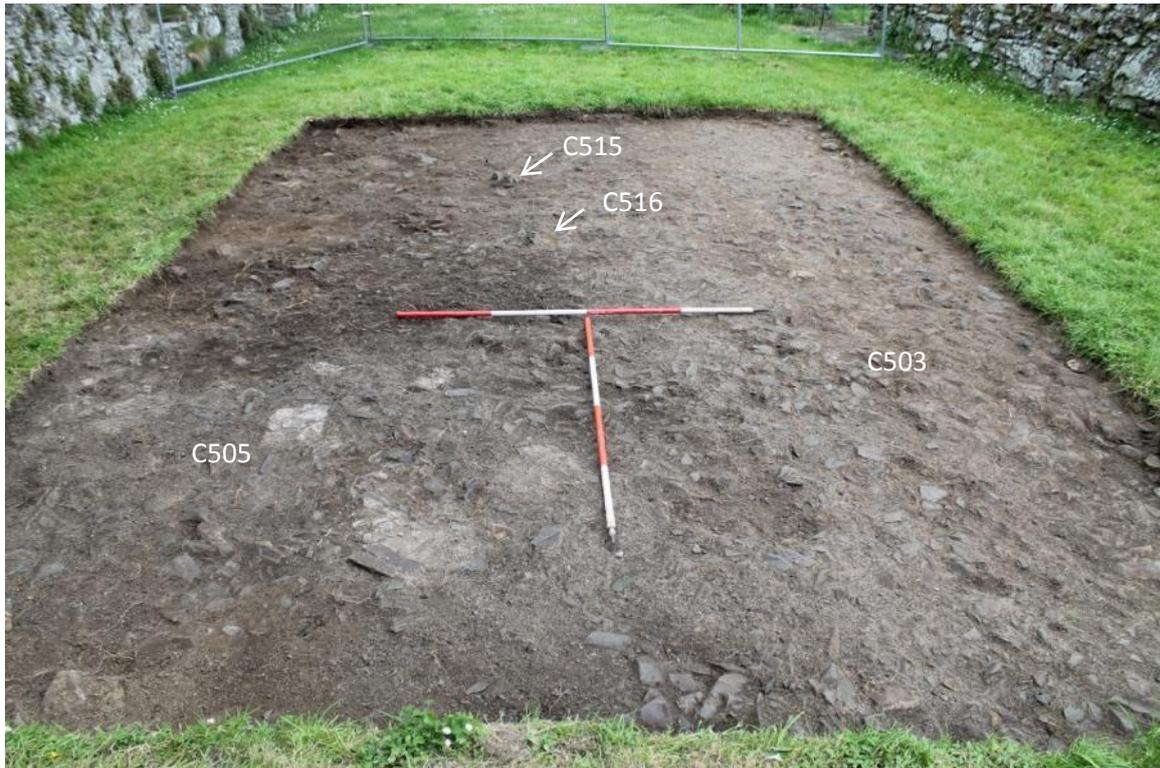


Plate 7 Metalled surface C503 after removal of C502, and contiguous deposit C505. Stone settings, C515 and C516 also visible.



Plate 8 Trench 5 after the removal of the metalled surface C503 showing C507, C508, C515 and C516.



Plate 9 Surface of C507, illustrating the compacted nature of the stones and their worn/rounded surfaces.



Plate 10 North-facing section of Trench 5 with the wall C504, visible in section; Trench 6 is in the background.



Plate 11 Pit C541 and stony fill C540 (scale measures 0.5m).



Plate 12 Trench 5 after the removal of C514 showing the extent of C520.



Plate 13 Trench 5, south-western quadrant after the excavation of C514 showing the ill-defined mortar-flecked lens C518.



Plate 14 Trench 5, 'half sectioned' (western half) after removal of C520.



Plate 15 Trench 5, western half, after excavation of C520.

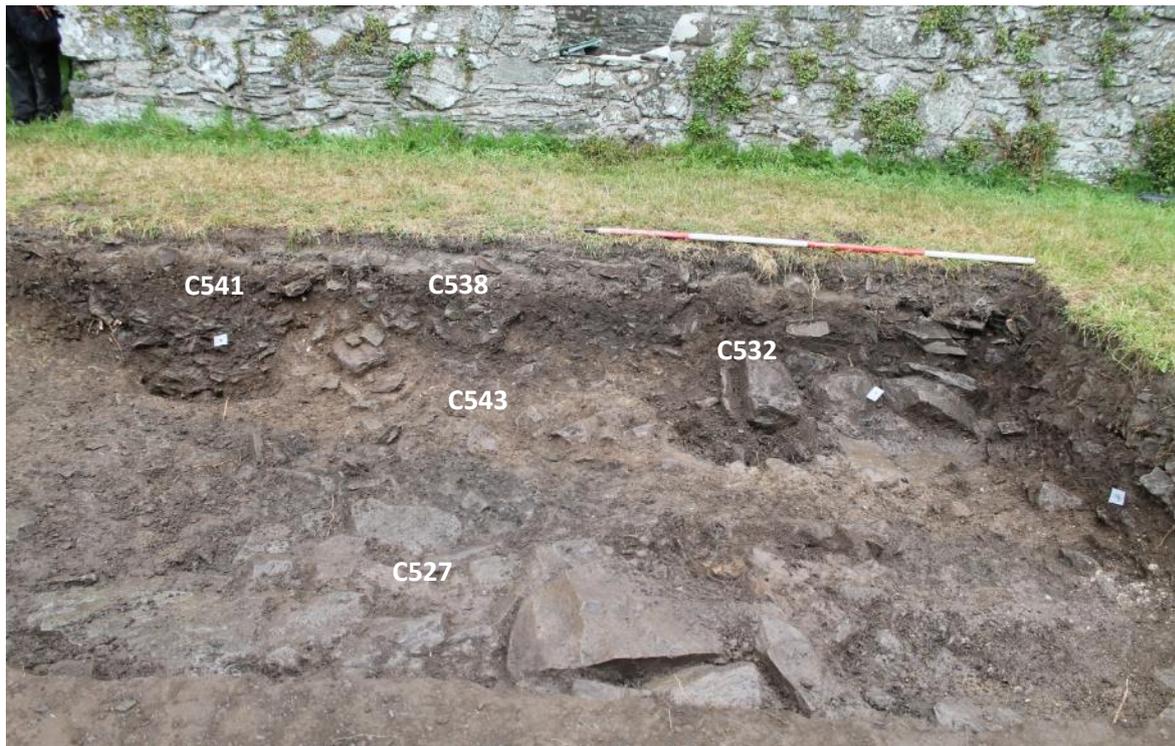


Plate 16 West-facing section of Trench 5 showing pits C541 and C532 and linear feature C543.



Plate 17 Pit C532 half-sectioned showing boulders, C566, below.



Plate 18 Skeletal remains, SK547, within pit C532.



Plate 19 Skeletal remains, SK522.



Plate 20 Juvenile skeletal remains, SK523.



Plate 21 Juvenile skeletal remains, SK525



Plate 22 Skeletal remains, SK526.



Plate 23 Skeletal remains, SK529.



Plate 24 Skeletal remains, SK533.



Plate 25 Juvenile skeletal remains, SK549, discovered overlying the hearth, C555



Plate 26 Skeletal remains, SK549 (overlying the hearth C555).



Plate 27 Skeletal remains, SK550.



Plate 28 Juvenile skeleton, SK557.



Plate 29 Juvenile skeleton, SK562.



Plate 30 Skeleton SK569 inserted into the flagged surface, C527, in cut C575.



Plate 31 Skeleton SK556 in cut C561.



Plate 32 Skeleton SK556



Plate 33 Flagged surface C527 and occupation deposits C551 and C560.



Plate 34 Cut C563 at the southeastern corner of Trench 5.

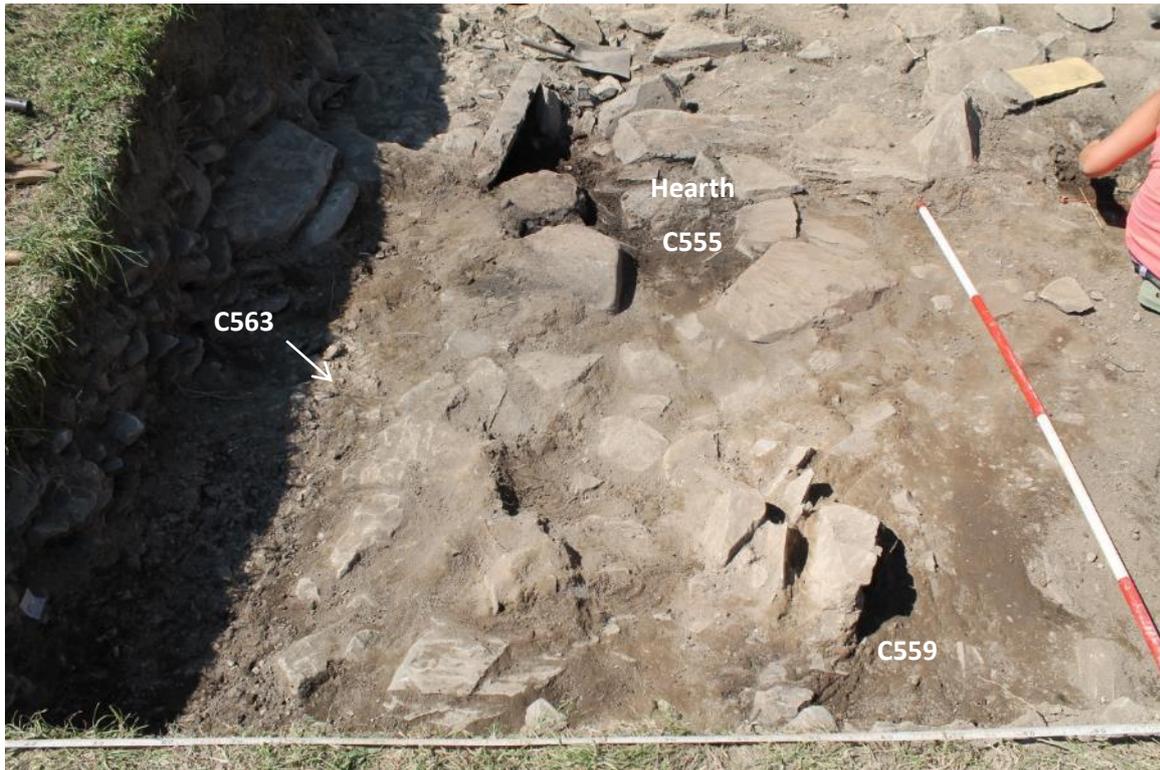


Plate 35 Trench 5, south-eastern quadrant showing stone setting C559, hearth C555 and cut C563 (looking west).



Plate 36 Hearth C555 half-sectioned showing fills C552 (red upper fill) and C553 (black lower fill), looking east.



Plate 37 The hearth, C555, after the fills have been excavated.



Plate 38 Skeleton SK548



Plate 39 Skeleton SK568, mid-excavation.



Plate 40 Skeleton SK568 mid-excavation



Plate 41 Skeleton SK568.



Plate 42 Post excavation photo, before back-filling, showing the extent of the flagged surface C527 after the excavation of skeletons SK548 and SK568 (approx. locations marked), the hearth, C555, and surface C544.



Plate 43 Box section showing the black burning deposit, C565 and water table.



Plate 44 Trench 6 after the excavation of C602 showing C603 to C607



Plate 45 Trench 6 (facing north-east) showing the surface of the wall, C603, and rubble deposits C605.



Plate 46 Trench 6 showing the wall, C603, and lower layers of rubble to the east (C607), and subsoil to the west (left)



Plate 47 Trench 6 extension showing the surface of wall C610



Plate 48 Trench 6 (facing west) showing C612, C613 and wall C603.



Plate 49 Trench 6 post-excitation photo showing subsoil in the foreground, the east facing aspect of wall C603, and the trench extension with the second wall, C610, also visible.



Plate 50 North-facing section of Trench 6 showing the layers of rubble east of the wall, C603.



Plate 51 The west face of wall C603, looking east



Plate 52 Trench 7 pre-excitation with the Drinking Well



Plate 53 Trench 7 showing the surface of C701 (facing NE).



Plate 54 Surface of C702 after excavation of C701, looking NE.



Plate 55 C702, mid-excavation, looking NE.



Plate 56 Bone toggle or 'buzz disc' from C521.



Plate 57 Dressed sandstone found among the disturbed flagstones (C527) in Trench 5 showing the rebate and shale banding. Identified as probable Scrabo or Ballyalton sandstone (J. McKinley pers comm.).



Plate 58 Dressed Scrabo sandstone ('sub-rectangular' piece), recovered from amongst the disturbed flagstones (C527) in Trench 5.



Plate 59 Dressed Scrabo sandstone from Trench 5 (C527).



Plate 60 Quernstone (gritstone) fragment with a handle-hole, recovered from amongst the disturbed flagstones (C527) in Trench 5.



Plate 61 Fragment of a carved door-frame in the Drinking Well at Struell (photo F. McCormick, QUB).



Plate 62 Carved sandstone door mouldings in the women's bathhouse at Struell (photo F. McCormick, QUB).