

# CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST



DATA STRUCTURE REPORT: No. 123

AE/17/84

EXCAVATIONS AT STONE CIRCULAR COMPLEX AND BURIAL CAIRN, DIVIS, COUNTY ANTRIM

Henry Welsh, Ruairí Ó Baoill and Ruth Logue

© 2019 Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's  
University Belfast BT7 1NN

**Data Structure Report: Divis Stone Circular Complex and Burial Cairn, Divis, County Antrim**

Henry Welsh, Ruairí Ó Baoill and Ruth Logue

Grid References: Stone Circular Complex: J 2700 1050; Burial Cairn: J 2747 7456

CAF DSR 123

Licence No. AE/17/84

SMR References: Stone Circular Complex: ANT 060:083; Burial Cairn: not in SMR

## Background

Between 12 and 23 June 2017, small-scale excavations took place at two sites in Divis townland, in the parish of Shankill and within the National Trust Divis and Black Mountain property. These were at a stone circular complex and a burial cairn. Both sites were in unimproved grassland. The stone circular complex, known locally as *Divis Cashel*, was located 167m to the north-north-west of the present Warden's Base and Visitor Centre, also known as the *Long Barn*. The stone circular complex was recorded in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as ANT 060:083 and was located at National Grid Reference J 2700 1050. The burial cairn, originally thought to be part of a settlement cluster, was located 280m to the east-north-east of the Warden's base. It was not recorded in the SMR, but was located at National Grid Reference J 2747 7456.

The excavations were part of a wider project undertaken by the Belfast Hills Partnership, in association with the National Trust, the Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (HED) and the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Natural and Built Environment at the Queen's University of Belfast (CAF). The project was funded by the Big Lottery Fund. The aim of the project was to provide local people with an opportunity to participate in an archaeological excavation and in doing so, encourage greater awareness of the archaeological resource in the Belfast Hills area, while investigating two of the most enigmatic sites in the Belfast Hills. A total of 593 people participated in the excavation, including 16 schools, community groups and members of the general public. While the excavation was on-going, an archaeological survey training course was held and 18 members of the public attended. Three evening field trips were carried out, attended by 69 people and it is estimated that approximately 250 members of the public visited the site. The dig attracted widespread media attention, including BBC radio and local newspapers. The principal excavation crew was composed of members of the Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS) and post-graduate archaeology students from Queen's University, Belfast.

## Summary

At the stone circular enclosure, the excavation revealed the presence of a previously unknown vernacular building at the south-east of the enclosure and a substantial amount of prehistoric flints and pottery. No evidence of occupation during the medieval period was recovered, but an initial inspection of artefacts recovered from sub-surface contexts and a subsequent radiocarbon date of 701-397 BC (calibrated to 2 sigma; Appendix G) was obtained, suggesting that there was significant prehistoric activity in the area.

At the site previously thought to be a hut site and part of a settlement cluster, it quickly became apparent that it was instead the remains of a burial cairn, of probable late Bronze Age date. However, while an initial study of recovered flint artefacts and coarse pottery sherds seemed to confirm this, the recovery of modern several bullet cases and a subsequent radiocarbon date of AD 772-967

(calibrated to 2 sigma; Appendix 7) suggests that the monument had been disturbed over an extensive period. A programme of post-excavation analysis would be required in order to bring the project to completion and publication and a detailed costing for this will be submitted to the funders for consideration.

During the excavation, a geophysical survey (earth resistivity) was undertaken of the site by members of the Survey Group of the UAS, under a separate licence (AE/17/94G). The results of this survey are the subject of a separate report (Welsh and Craig 2017).

## **Report methodology**

For the purposes of this report, the two excavation sites will be treated as individual monuments and the report is therefore in two parts. Part 1 will report on the excavation at *Divis Cashel* and Part 2 will report on the excavation at the burial cairn. A combined bibliography is provided at the end of the report.

## **Reason for excavation and research objectives**

Following an initial survey of the Divis and Black Mountain property by National Trust staff, it was realised that the property contained many archaeological monuments, ranging from prehistoric burial cairns to vernacular houses and military buildings. Archaeological surveys carried out by the Survey Group of the Ulster Archaeological Society since 2006 have recorded many of these, but it is clear that much remains to be discovered there. From these surveys, it was observed that a cluster of monuments was evident within a radius of 450m based on the current Warden's Office. These include two circular stone enclosures (known locally as *Divis Cashel* and the *Cell-bay enclosure*), a prehistoric settlement site, stone field boundary walls, a long cairn or clearance cairn and a quarry.

Of these monuments, the quarry, long or clearance cairn and field boundary wall have not been subject to any archaeological survey. Preliminary investigations suggest that these monuments are constructed of basalt boulders of similar dimensions and that these may have been quarried from a single outcrop nearby (the quarry referred to above). The initial hypothesis was that the Cashel, Cell-bay Enclosure, habitation site and Long Cairn, or clearance cairn, were contemporary and therefore related to a community based here, possibly during the prehistoric period. Much later, after these monuments fell out of use, stone from them was re-used in the construction of the boundary wall. One of the main aims of the excavation was to identify phases of construction and obtain possible dating evidence from these structures. The 2017 excavations have revealed that the pattern of human activity here is much more complex than was previously thought and that further investigation will be necessary in order to obtain a clearer understanding of this.

## **Credits and acknowledgements**

We would like to record our appreciation for the help given by the Ulster Archaeological Society for the duration of the excavations. We would also like to thank the staff of the National Trust, particularly Malachy Conway and Dermot McCann, for facilitating the excavations and the welfare of the excavation crew. We would also like to thank Dr Lizzy Pinkerton and Jo Boylan of the Belfast Hills Partnership for all their efforts to ensure the smooth working of the excavations and the many hundreds of visitors and volunteers who took part. Thanks also to Ken Neill of HED for his help and understanding with regard to the requirements of the excavation licence.

**PART 1: STONE CIRCULAR COMPLEX (DIVIS CASHEL)**

<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>Introduction to Trench 1</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Summary</i>	
<i>Recording methodology</i>	
<i>Archiving</i>	
<b>Excavation</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Background</i>	
<i>Account of the excavation</i>	
<i>Phasing of the stratigraphic sequences</i>	
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Recommendations for further work</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Programme of post-excavation analysis of the materials recovered</i>	
<i>Further investigation at the site</i>	
<i>Publication</i>	
<b>Appendix A: Harris Matrix</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Appendix B: Context Register</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendix C: Field Drawing Register</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix D: Small Finds Register</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix E: Samples Register</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Appendix F: Photographic Register</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Appendix G: Radiocarbon date certificate</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Figures</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Plates</b>	<b>36</b>

## Introduction to Trench 1

### *Summary*

The excavation at *Divis Cashel* consisted of one trench, initially proposed to be 3m in width and 12m in length, with the long axis of the trench aligned north/south over the visible footprint of the monument, at the south of the enclosure. It was decided to initially open two parts of this trench, as the number of volunteer excavators throughout the duration of the excavation could not be confirmed. The larger part of the trench (Trench 1 North) was 10.5m in length by 1.5m in width and aligned north/south, with an extension 1.5m in length, by 0.50m in width, at the southern end. Another part of the trench (Trench 1 South) was opened at the southern end and used by school groups and members of the public who participated in the excavation. It measured 3m in length by 3m in width. Trenches 1 North and South were excavated manually. Two broad sequences of human activity, prehistoric and 19th century, were identified across the site (see Appendix A: The Harris Matrix). A subsequent radiocarbon sample from the excavation returned a date of 701-397 cal. BC [UBA-36431; Appendix G], confirming that some human activity was taking place at or near the monument during the late Bronze Age, but without leaving any structural or artefactual evidence within the excavated area.

### *Recording Methodology*

The context records for the excavation were created using the standard context recording method: all built features and deposits were assigned a unique context number and pro-forma (Context sheet) was completed for each. All features were photographed prior to and following excavation and a series of plans and sections were completed throughout the excavation at scales of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. A field notebook was also maintained. The Harris Matrix is presented in Appendix A and the Context Register is detailed in Appendix B. The Field Drawing Register is presented in Appendix C and the Small Finds Register in Appendix D. The Samples Register is contained in Appendix E. The Photographic Register is catalogued in Appendix F. The Radiocarbon Date Certificate is presented in Appendix G.

### *Archiving*

Copies of this report have been deposited with the HED, National Trust and Belfast Hills Partnership. All site records and finds are temporarily archived with the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast.

## Excavation

### *Underlying geology*

The underlying geology of the site is predominantly clay and volcanic bedrock, mainly basalt. Subsoil was not conclusively reached in any area of Trench 1 North as many of the later, nineteenth century, substantial features were left *in situ* after they were uncovered and this meant that only small areas of strata were available for further investigation.

### *Possible prehistoric strata*

Evidence of possible prehistoric activity at the site was uncovered in Trench 1 North, between the sections of various nineteenth century masonry remains and their associated features such as flagged and metalled surfaces and drains which occupied much of the area within the trench (see below). It is possible that some of the prehistoric horizons were contemporary and although given different numbers in the various parts of the trench where they were separated from each other by the *in situ* Victorian features it is possible that these were, in fact, the same horizons. None of the layers underneath the horizon of nineteenth century masonry and associated features yielded any artefacts other than prehistoric flint or pottery.

### *The strata to the north of Trench 1 North*

The earliest strata in the northern end of Trench 1, beyond wall and drain C.102 and drain C.111, was mottled dark and bright orangey-brown compact clay that contained many small stones. No artefacts were uncovered from the small area archaeologically investigated. Because of the sterile appearance of the horizon it was initially interpreted as subsoil and no further excavation of the deposit took. But the discovery of deeper prehistoric horizons elsewhere within the trench suggests that the layer may, in fact, be also a prehistoric horizon and future, larger scale, investigation may yet yield datable finds. Directly above this horizon in the north of the trench was moderately compact, red-brown and orange clay containing roots and small-medium-sized stones (C.117). Small fragments of flint were recovered from it. It was later used as the bedding layer for a metalled surface (C.104), probably in the Victorian period when there was substantial re-use of the monument.

### *The strata to the east of Trench 1 North*

In the triangular area between the junction of walls C.106 and C.102 and the eastern edge of the trench, further prehistoric strata were uncovered below nineteenth century levels. Subsoil was not reached in the small area available for investigation. The earliest of these strata was a layer of moderately friable and compact red-orange clay which contained occasional charcoal fragments, roots

and small stones (C.119). Flint and pottery were recovered from this horizon. Directly above this was a layer of moderately loose red-brown clay containing some mostly small but also some medium-sized stones, occasional roots and charcoal flecks (C.114). There was much flint found in this layer. Above this was a layer of moderately compact orange-brown clay that contained roots and small stones (C.113). It was directly below a layer associated with masonry construction that took place in the Victorian period (C.112) and may have been the same prehistoric horizon as C.120 on the other side of wall C.106.

#### *Strata to the south of Trench 1 North*

At the southern end of the trench several strata were encountered. The earliest of these was a friable and soft dark-brown mix of clay and soil with occasional small stones (C. 130). Only a small area was investigated, due to time constraints. Some of the area investigated had been disturbed by a modern animal burrow (C.124) had caused disturbance close to the inside face of the enclosure wall of the monument (C.107). Above C.130 was a mottled brown (with occasional lenses of red clay) mixture of clay and soil (C.123), containing large lumps of charcoal and occasional small stones. Struck flint recovered from this horizon. Above this, and representing the latest of the possible prehistoric strata, was a layer of crumbly, almost sandy, mottled orange clay (C.120). It contained little flecks of charcoal and lots of small and occasional medium-sized stones that were less angular than in other layers in the trench little flecks of charcoal. Much struck flint and some sherds of Neolithic pottery recovered from this horizon. It was immediately below the Victorian stone surface or platform (C.116). Several thousand years appears to have elapsed from the period of prehistoric occupation at the site until its re-use in the Victorian period. The stone-built monument known as *Divis Cashel* may well be an Early Medieval structure, constructed on ground that had been settled in the prehistoric period, but no archaeological evidence in terms of strata, features or artefacts were uncovered during the 2017 excavation to show that the monument dates to the Early Medieval period. A number of Victorian features appear to have been cut through the latest prehistoric horizon C. 120 in the south of Trench 1 North. A foundation/ bench cut (C.125) for the inner face of the enclosure wall that was only 0.02-0.03m wide ran parallel to the face of the wall. In the south-west corner of the trench it had been removed by the later animal burrow (C.124) but was visible in the centre of the trench and in the west-facing section face.

A distance of 1.5m north of the inner face of the cashel a linear cut (C.121) was revealed. This was aligned roughly north-west/south-east and it ran parallel, but immediately south of, dry stone wall C.108. The cut was filled with a dark brown soil (C.122) which produced a number of flints. The feature may have been a drainage gully for both wall C.108 and also for the 19th century stone platform/surface C.116, that later occupied the area between wall C.108 and the enclosing wall of the cashel C.107 in the south of Trench 1 North. It also ran east under wall C.106 into the area between walls C.102 and C.106 where it was cut through the prehistoric layer C.113 on the other side of wall C.106. [Note: a possible posthole, given the context number cut C.126, was initially identified within cut C.121 but was not clearly defined. The fill of this possible feature, C.127, was also identical to fill C.122 and

so these context numbers have been voided]. Within Trench 1 North, there was no other evidence of human activity at the monument until it was re-used in the Victorian period.

### *Nineteenth century activity at the monument*

During the excavation, a series of walls, surfaces and other features were uncovered that occupied most of the area within Trench 1 North. Some of these were undoubtedly constructed in the nineteenth century when activity took place at the monument and some of these were earlier structures re-used, repaired and added to at this time. In the middle of the trench were the remains of two walls that clearly made the corner of a stone structure (or part of a larger stone structure). The most substantial of these (C.106) was aligned north-west/south-east. Within the trench it was a recorded maximum length of 2.23m by 0.37m wide and 0.32m high. The wall was constructed of two courses of medium and large stones and was heavily mortared than the second wall (wall C.102). It was founded on possible prehistoric surface C.113. The last 0.50m of masonry between its south-eastern end and the eastern edge of the trench showed evidence being a deliberate block up with medium-sized stone. This may suggest that an entrance way in the wall was later blocked up. The fact that this section was founded on brown soil and not C.113 suggests the blocking up was a later phase of activity. More substantial and mortared section of wall C.106 was butted by wall C.102 to the north-east, by a dry stone wall C.108 to the south-west and by a flagged stone surface C.109 to the west. The second, and wider, wall (C.102) that made up the other side of the structure within the trench was constructed of medium and large stones. Within the trench, it was a recorded maximum length of 1.53m by 0.47m wide and 0.47m high. The wall was a maximum of three courses high and was two courses wide. It was heavily mortared on both external and internal faces and on its surviving top course. The course of the wall curved north-east/south-west.

Immediately adjacent to the northern/ outside face of wall C.102 was a stone drain (C.111) set in a clay matrix. The drain was aligned north-east/ south-west and was a maximum length of 2.13m by 0.41m wide. It was composed of mostly rounded pebbles (c.0.08m by 0.06m) but its two long edges were made up of a single line of slightly raised more angular stones set on their long sides. The base of the drain was 3-4 pebbles wide. The drain was also contemporary with a metalled surface (C.104) that filled up the northern third of Trench 1 North and which ran from the northern edge of the drain to beyond the limits of the trench. Amongst the stones of the drain were found fragments of slate, mould-blown bottle glass, red brick, iron nails, slag/clinker and burnt chalk. All of these presumably date to the period of Victorian activity on site. The metalled surface (C.104=C.105) was very compacted and relatively uneven. It was constructed of small and medium-sized, irregular-shaped, stones and brown soil. A third, rougher, wall (C.108) was located immediately west of wall C.106 and it butted this wall mid-way along its western face. Of dry stone construction, within the trench it was a recorded maximum length of 0.90m by 0.42m wide and 0.20m high. The wall consisted of a line of three large un-mortared stones aligned south-west/north-east. It butted wall C.106 to the east and together they contained a flagged stone surface (C.109). Running off from the junction of walls C.102 and C.106 was a dry stone wall (C.128). This was visible only in the west-facing section face in the middle of Trench 1 North, where it was recorded as being 0.45m wide and 0.25m high. The wall

abutted the western end of C 106 and ran in an arc beyond the trench to form an inner enclosure wall within the monument. Aerial photographs taken during the 2017 excavation clearly indicate that walls C.102/C.128, C.106 and C.108, uncovered in Trench 1 North, are part of a complex of curving internal walls that sit within the limits of the circular stone enclosure (as defined by outer wall C.107). A flagged stone surface (C.109), contained by walls C.106, C.108 was revealed in the western half of the middle of Trench 1 North. This surface was a maximum recorded length of 1m, north-south and was 0.65m wide. It consisted of mostly flat, irregularly-shaped, large stones with some medium-sized stones filling the gaps between the larger stones. There was mortar in the soil between the stones and also evidence of tar on the stones, perhaps reflective of the light industrial activity taking place on site in the nineteenth century. In the south of the trench, between the southern face of wall C.108 and the internal face of enclosure wall C.107 there was a rough surface (C.116) composed of medium sized and large stones to create a platform. The last stratum associated with all of this Victorian activity at the monument was a horizon (C.112), located below abandonment-phase rubble (C.103). It consisted of compact brown clay-soil with high mortar content that also contained roots and small stones and was located in the middle/east of the trench. The mortar content would suggest that this would appear to be the original surface connected with the construction of the Victorian building investigated within the trench (walls C.102 and C.106, etc). From this horizon were also recovered fragments of red brick, slate, burnt clay, slag/clinker, mortar and pieces of iron including the fragment of the hinge of a gate.

#### *Later horizons*

At some point, the building constructed in the nineteenth century collapsed or was deliberately slighted and the site was abandoned. This was reflected by a layer of loose rubble (C.103) consisting of a mixture of dark brown soil, medium-sized stones, mortared slate, red brick and roots which was found over and around walls C.102 and C.106. Finds from the rubble included bottle glass, fragments of mortar, burnt stone, slag/ clinker, quartz, (?) lignite and a fragment of glazed black earthenware ceramic from a large crock. Iron finds included nails and as fragment of a possible horse shoe. The fact that the rubble was observed to be mounded around and between the walls in the centre of the trench could also reflect a conscious effort to level up the area within the monument once activity there had ceased, perhaps to prevent livestock from being injured. Modern topsoil on site (C.101) was a light brown compact soil containing small stones, roots, occasional charcoal flecking. Finds included prehistoric flint, Post-Medieval bottle glass, glazed ceramic pipe, red brick, mortar, burnt limestone, slag/clinker, shell, coal and iron nails and wire. A fragment of a .22 shell casing was also found, evidence of the intense military activity that took place on Divis during World War Two and between 1953 and 2004 when the Ministry of Defence leased Black Mountain and Divis for use as a training area, with a small arms range. Fragments of shotgun cartridges were also uncovered in the topsoil and probably reflect sporting (or poaching) activity taking place on the mountain.

### *The wall enclosing the monument*

The wall (C.107) enclosing *Divis Cashel* is of dry stone construction and roughly circular. The portion excavated at the south of Trench 1 North was approximately 0.80m wide and is composed of two parallel courses of stones, each roughly 0.35m wide. The face of the inner course is heavily rendered with white mortar (C.115). The space between the two courses of the enclosure wall is filled with small and medium-sized stones and soil. It is possible that the outer face represents the earliest phase of construction and that the inner face was added in the 19th century which would also explain the mortar render. A narrow foundation or bench cut (C.125) for the inner course of the enclosure wall was observed during excavation. This cut was very narrow, only 2-3 centimetres wide and was filled with brown soil (C.129). The cut for the inner course of the enclosure wall was made from the level of layer C.120, the same level as the gully or drain (C.121) that was associated with wall C.108. This suggests that the foundation cut probably also dates to the nineteenth century and adds more evidence that the inner course of the enclosure wall may be a much later addition, perhaps to give stability to the platform within which activities were taking place.

### *The external path*

A path, comprising of a metallised surface, which may run around the outside of the monument, was located in the very south of Trench 1. It extended south from the outer face of the enclosing wall (C.107) for a distance of 1.90m and was uncovered directly below topsoil (C.101). The surface was composed of mostly medium-sized and some larger sized stones. The surface lay immediately below topsoil (C.101). The stones of the path were noticeably bigger than those used to construct the metallised surface (C.104) in the north of the trench. A similar feature was observed during the excavation of Ballyaghagan Cashel (ANT 056:019), on nearby Cave Hill in 2011 (Welsh 2011(a) and (b)).

### *Trench 1 South.*

Trench 1 South was located immediately 2.5m south of the main Trench 1 North and it measured 3m by 3m. This trench was used as the public outreach excavation trench, where children from various schools and members of the public who had volunteered gained experience of excavating on an archaeological site, under instruction from the professionals. Excavation within Trench 1 South did not get below the surface of topsoil (C.301), a brown soil containing small stones and roots. Finds recovered from this topsoil included flint, slate, iron nails, strips and wire and other miscellaneous metal artefacts as well as a fragment of a glazed ceramic pipe that was virtually identical to the fragments found in topsoil (C.101) in Trench 1 North.

## Discussion

The short excavation at *Divis Cashel* revealed that there were significant *in situ* archaeological features and strata extant across all the area of the monument and probably also beyond it (based on the number of artefacts recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1 South). The evidence recovered within Trench 1 North would appear to date from two widely separated periods of human activity on Divis Mountain; the prehistoric period, more specifically the Bronze Age and Neolithic, and the nineteenth century. Only a very small area of the monument was archaeologically investigated in 2017 and the decision to preserve *in situ* most of the nineteenth century features, or features re-used in the nineteenth century, meant that only small areas under this horizon was available for deeper archaeological examination. Despite this, the 2017 excavation was a major success. Aerial photographs and visible above-ground remains also suggest that the monument substantially remains intact and that the internal walls uncovered within the area of the Trench 1 North excavation were part of this structure that the Victorians re-used or adapted for their activities on site in the 19th century. The nature and date of the enclosure wall of the monument and the external path around it, uncovered during the 2017 excavation, as well as the walls exposed in the middle of the trench, still remain to be resolved. As it stands, there is no structural evidence to prove that the stone monument known as *Divis Cashel* actually dates to the Early Medieval period.

### *Prehistoric settlement at the site*

Evidence of substantial prehistoric activity at the site was uncovered in Trench 1 North, between the sections of the various later walls and their associated features such as flagged and metalled surfaces and drains which occupied much of the area within the trench. It is possible that some of the prehistoric strata were the same and although given different numbers in the various parts of the trench where they were separated from each other by the *in situ* Victorian features it is possible that these were, in fact, the same horizons (C.120=C.113=C.117?; C.123=C.114=C.117?). None of the strata underneath the horizons of later masonry and associated features yielded any artefacts other than prehistoric flint or pottery, so it is very possible that these were *in situ* prehistoric strata rather than material brought in from around the site to level up the interior of the 'cashel' prior to the 19th century activity taking place. No evidence of prehistoric structures or other features were uncovered during the 2017 excavation but their lack of discovery probably only reflects the small areas available for investigation within the trench.

### *The enclosure wall of the monument*

The enclosure wall (C.107) currently consists of two parallel courses of dry stone construction with the space between these two courses filled by small and medium-sized stones and soil. The fact that a deep foundation cut was discovered close to the inside face of the wall and that mortar render had been applied roughly to this face raises the question of whether or not the inner course is a later addition, perhaps to stabilise the activities that were taking place inside the monument in the

nineteenth century or whether it is part of the original wall that has been repaired and rendered during the nineteenth century. The dates of the outer face of the wall and the external metalled path (C.110) immediately adjacent are also still uncertain. The surface of the path was uncovered but not further investigated so that the date of its construction is unknown.

### *Nineteenth century activity at the site*

The fact that mortar was uncovered on top of internal curving wall C.128 within the monument also calls into question the date of this part of the monument. It also lines up with wall C.102 within the excavated trench and aerial photographs show them both to be part of a circular inner enclosure wall in the monument. The same can be said for dry stone wall C.108 that curves off to the west roughly parallel but in between the lines of walls C. 128/ C.102) and enclosure wall C.107. Given the poor quality of the walls uncovered within the trench, the strong suspicion has to be that in the nineteenth century there was re-use and rendering of walls from an earlier monument. It is hard to believe that if the whole monument had been erected in the Victorian period that the masonry would not have been of better construction. The picture was muddled for the archaeological investigation in that if the earlier walls were re-used and re-rendered and some genuine nineteenth century features were constructed, such as drain C.111, determining the exact sequence within the trench was always going to be difficult without a larger section of the monument, especially the masonry remains, being completely excavated to subsoil. The small area available for excavation in 2017 means that exact sequence of the 19th century activity uncovered during the investigation is also unclear. The narrow distances between the walls and the rudimentary surfaces uncovered might suggest parts of the monument were being used as animal pens. The fact that it nestled into the slope of Divis Mountain would have given these animals a certain amount of protection from the elements. The discovery of slag and other by-products of metalworking in virtually all of the Victorian strata (C.101, C.103, C.104 and C.112) suggested that a blacksmith was at work here, or that some other type of light industry was taking place at the site, perhaps associated with the nearby quarry. Due to the lack of surviving courses of masonry the original height of the buildings when they were being used in the nineteenth century is unknown. That they were originally roofed when the site was being occupied is heavily suggested by the discovery during the excavation of nails, roof slates and red brick. It is distinctly possible that when the site was being abandoned, or at some later period, that the upper courses were demolished and the material taken away for use elsewhere on the estate. The monument is located very close less than 100m south of a now disused stone quarry, of uncertain date, cut into the side of Divis Mountain. A relationship between the quarry and *Divis Cashel* has not been established, or if the stones used to construct the monument were actually hewn from there. But the close proximity of both is very suspicious and the quarry also requires further investigation. Although the monument within which the 2017 excavation took place is known as *Divis Cashel*, no structural evidence was uncovered during the archaeological investigation to show that the monument actually is a cashel or dates to the Early Medieval period. Only prehistoric and Victorian-period artefacts were recovered within the excavated trench. It could be that the very small area targeted for excavation in 2017, along with the substantial nature of the 19th century remains on site, are factors in this ambiguity. It is, therefore, possible that we might be dealing with a prehistoric structure that was substantially re-used in the 19th century. Or perhaps the re-use of an Early Medieval period stone

monument built over land that which has seen extensively settlement in the prehistoric period. Further excavation of a larger area of this enigmatic monument will be necessary to find definitive evidence of when it was constructed.

### **Recommendations for further work**

#### *Programme of post-excavation analysis of the materials recovered*

If funding can be obtained, a programme of post-excavation analysis will be carried out in order to obtain the maximum amount of information from the excavation. A costing for this work will be presented to the owners of the monument, the National Trust, for consideration. Subsequent to the excavation, a radiocarbon date was obtained from the monument, which returned a date 701-397 BC (calibrated to 2 sigma. See Appendix G).

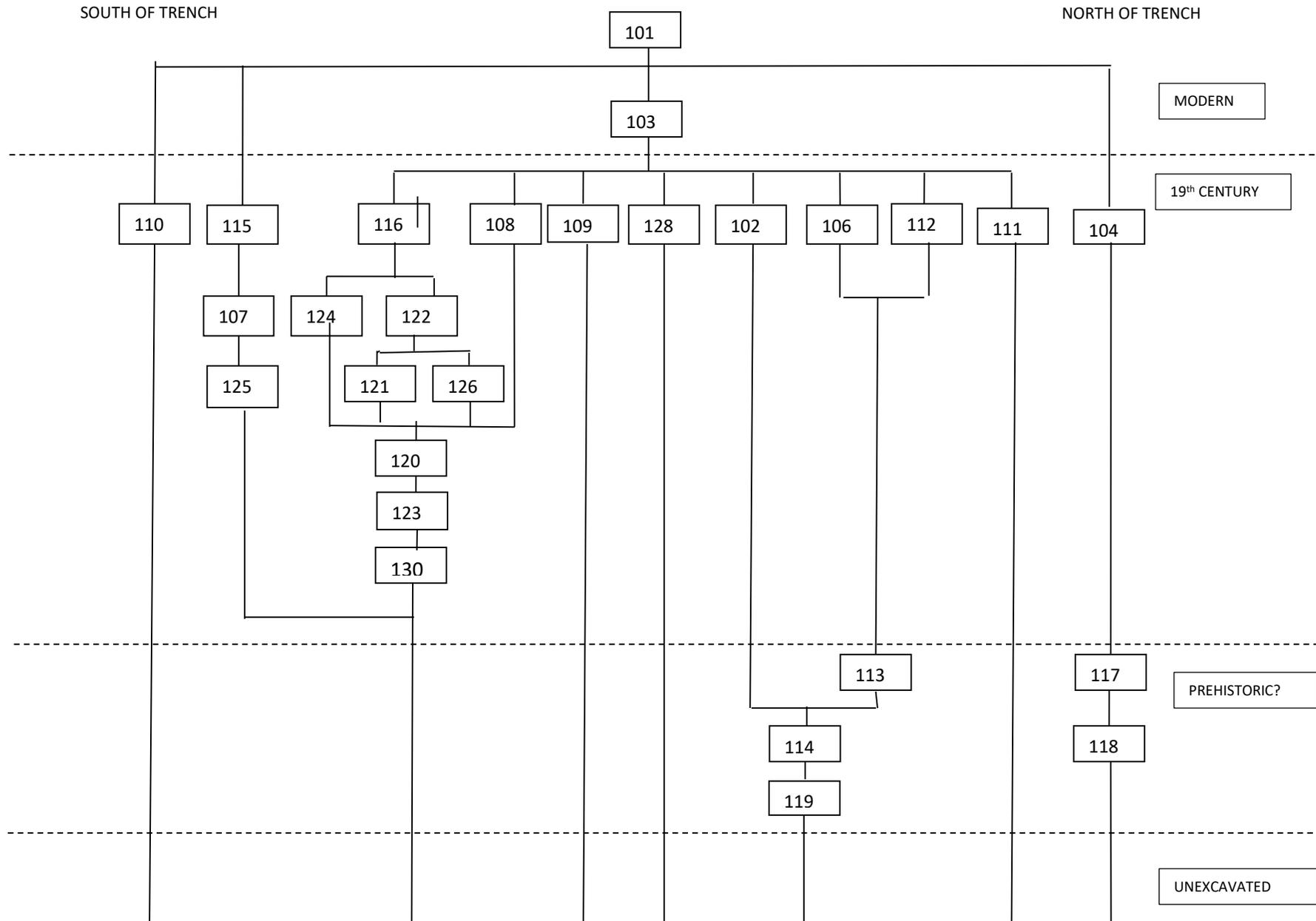
#### *Further investigation at the site*

The 2017 excavation revealed much information about this enigmatic monument, but time constraints, combined with the requirement not to remove any in-situ archaeological features, prevented a full excavation of the small area involved. It is considered that a larger-scale investigation, involving excavation and geophysical survey, be carried out at this monument, along with the field walls associated with it and the quarry nearby, in order to obtain a fuller picture of the date and use of the different phases of activity here.

#### *Publication*

It is hoped that the results of the excavation, along with information obtained from any post-excavation analysis, can be published in an academic journal, such as the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* in due course. A brief summary of results has been published in *Archaeology Ireland* (Welsh *et al.*, 2017).

### Appendix A: Trench 1 - Harris matrix



## Appendix B: Trench 1 - Context Register

Context Number	Description
101	Topsoil. Compact light brown soil containing small stones, roots, occasional charcoal flecking as well as prehistoric flint. Post-Medieval glass, red brick and metal.
102	Wall. Maximum length 1.53m, width 0.47m and height 0.47m. Constructed of medium and large stones. It was a maximum of three courses high and was two courses wide. Heavily mortared on both faces and surviving top. The course of the wall slightly curved NW/SE.
103	Layer. Loose rubble. A mixture of dark brown soil containing stone, mortared slate, red brick and roots.
104	Surface. Compact, uneven, metalled surface. Same as C.105. Located in the middle of the trench. Composed of small and medium-sized, irregular-shaped, stones and brown soil. Located in the northern half of the trench.
105	Same as C.104.
106	Wall in middle of trench. Maximum length 2.23m, width 0.37m and height 0.32m. Constructed of two courses of medium and large stones. Heavily mortared (more than wall C.102). Wall aligned NW/SE. Butted by wall C. 102 to the NE., dry stone wall C.108 to the SW and flagged stone surface C.109 to the west. The last 0.50m section of the wall between the SE end of wall C.106 and the eastern limit of the trench shows evidence of deliberate blocking up with medium-sized stones.
107	Dry stone wall enclosing 'cashel'. The wall is roughly circular. The portion excavated at the south of Trench 1 North was approximately 0.80m wide and is composed of two parallel courses of stones, each roughly 0.35m wide. The face of the inner course is heavily rendered with white mortar (C.115). The space between the two courses of the enclosure wall is filled with small and medium-sized stones and soil.
108	Wall. Dry stone construction. Maximum length 0.90m, width 0.42m. Wall consisted of three large un-mortared stones aligned SW/NE. It butts wall C.106 to the east and together they contain flagged stone surface C.109. Between the western end of the

	wall and the western limits of the trench, either the wall has been added to or rebuilt with medium-sized stones.
<b>109</b>	Surface. Flagged stone surface. Maximum length 1m, N-S and width, 0.65m. The surface consisted of mostly flat, irregularly-shaped, large stones with some medium-sized stones filling the gaps between the larger stones. There was mortar in the soil between the stones and also evidence of tar on the stones.
<b>110</b>	Surface. Metalled surface. Path or berm around the outside of the 'cashel', located in the very south of Trench 1. Extended south from the outer face of 'cashel' wall C.107 for a distance of 1.90m. Surface composed of small and medium-sized irregularly shaped stones. Immediately below topsoil C.101.
<b>111</b>	Drain/gully set in a clay matrix. Maximum length 2.13m, NE/SW and width 0.41m. Composed of mostly rounded pebbles (c.0.08m by 0.06m). Either edge has a single line of slightly raised more angular stones. Base of feature is 3-4 pebbles wide. Drain aligned NE/SW and is associated with adjacent wall C.102 and contemporary with metalled surface C.104 north of it.
<b>112</b>	Surface. Compact brown clay-soil with high mortar content. Also contained roots and small stones. Latest or original surface connected with the walls of the Victorian building (C.102 and C.106) in the east of Trench 1. At the base of the layer much metalwork was discovered. Below rubble layer C.103. Above C.113.
<b>113</b>	Layer/ surface. Moderately compact orange-brown clay. Also contained roots and small stones. Same as C.120 on the other side of wall C.106 and C.117?
<b>114</b>	Layer. Moderately loose red-brown clay. Contained some mostly small but also some medium-sized stones, occasional roots and charcoal flecks. Lots of flint in this horizon.
<b>115</b>	Render. White mortar applied to the inner face of the enclosure wall of the 'cashel', C.107.
<b>116</b>	Surface. Composed of medium sized and large stones to create a platform between wall C.108 and the enclosure wall C.107 in the south of the trench.

<b>117</b>	Layer. Moderately compact mottled (red-brown-orange) clay. Contained some mostly small to medium-sized stones and fine roots. Some small pieces of flint recovered from this horizon. Bedding for surface C.104? Same horizon as C.113 and C.120?
<b>118</b>	Very compact mottled (dark and bright orange) clay containing very many small stones. No finds in the small area where it was uncovered. Initially interpreted as subsoil but now thought to be the one of the prehistoric horizons encountered in the areas of Trench 1 where strata could be investigated.
<b>119</b>	Layer. Moderately friable and compact red-orange clay. Contained occasional charcoal fragments, roots and small stones. Flint and pottery from this horizon.
<b>120</b>	Layer. Crumbly, almost sandy, mottle orange clay. Contained lots of small and occasional medium-sized stones that were less angular than in other layers in the trench and little flecks of charcoal. Much struck flint and some sherds of Neolithic pottery recovered from this horizon. Located in the south of the trench between walls C.106, C.108 and the inside face of wall C.107. Same as C.113 on the other side of wall C.106 and also C.117 in north of trench?
<b>121</b>	Cut. Cut running parallel but south of wall C.108 in the south of the trench. May have been a gully and not a foundation trench for wall C. 108 as it ran east under wall C.106 into the area between walls C.102 and C.106. Seems to have been cut from the level of C.120 (C.113 on the other side of wall C.106). Filled by C.122.
<b>122</b>	Fill. Fill of cut C.121. Soft and very friable dark brown soil. Some flint recovered from this. Fill identical to the fill of possible posthole, C.126.
<b>123</b>	Mottled brown (with occasional lenses of red clay) mixture of clay and soil. Contained large lumps of charcoal and occasional small stones. Struck flint recovered from this horizon.
<b>124</b>	Modern animal burrow in south-west corner of trench, adjacent to the inner face of enclosure wall C.107. Cuts layers C.120 and C.123.
<b>125</b>	Cut. Cut for inner face of enclosure wall C.107. Very narrow, 2-3 centimetres wide. Cut from the level of C.120. Filled by C.129. Victorian?

<b>126</b>	Possible posthole within cut C.121. Not totally convincing as feature and its fill, C.127, was identical to C.122, the fill of C.121. Not recorded.
<b>127</b>	Fill of possible posthole. Same as C.122.
<b>128</b>	Wall. Stone wall butting wall C.106 in the middle of Trench 1 North at its western limit. Not excavated. This wall runs west of the trench to form an inner enclosure wall. Several small cuttings were excavated across the line of this wall within the interior of the enclosure west of Trench 1 down to the top of the structure (see sketch on page 13 of the site diary). Mortar was found on some of the exposed sections of the wall. Does this mean that the inner enclosure wall is Victorian?
<b>129</b>	Fill of bench/ foundation cut C.125 for inner course of enclosure wall of "cashel", C.107. Moderately compact brown soil with occasional small stones and fragments of mortar. Victorian?
<b>130</b>	Layer. Friable and soft dark brown mix of clay and soil. Occasional small stones. Below C.123.

**Appendix C: Trench 1 - Field Drawing Register**

<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>
1				Duplicate number allocated. Unused and Voided.
2	1 North	Plan	1:20	Northern section of Trench 1. Links to Drawing 3. Preliminary plan of trench after de-sodding. Shows surface C.104, rubble C.103, wall C.102, stone platform C.116 and enclosing wall of 'cashel ' C.107.
3	1 North and 1 South	Plan	1:20	Southern section of Trench 1. Links to Drawing 2. Preliminary plan of trench after de-sodding. Shows stone platform C.116, enclosing wall of 'cashel 'C.107 and path/berm C.110. Also shows location and outline of Trench 1 South.
4	1 North	Section	1:10	Links to Drawing 5. East-facing section of trench, post-excavation.
5	1 North	Section	1:10	Links to Drawing 4. East-facing section of trench, post-excavation.
6	1 North	Section	1:10	Links to Drawing 7. West-facing section of trench, post-excavation.
7	1 North	Section	1:10	Links to Drawing 6. West-facing section of trench, post-excavation.

**Appendix D: Trench 1 - Small Finds Register****Trench 1 North**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
101(topsoil)	Pottery fragments	2
101	Burnt bone fragments	3
101	Coal/lignite	9
101	Glass fragments	2
101	Bone/shell (small mollusc)	1
101	Burnt flint fragments	19
101	Brick fragments	3
101	Flint	86
101	Metal objects	96
103	Pottery fragment	1
103	Glass fragments	5
103	Quartz pebble	1
103	Timber fragments	1 small bag
103	Coal/lignite	9
103	Metal objects	17
103	Burnt flint	32
103	Brick fragments	14
103	Burnt stone (miscellaneous)	17
103	Flint	44
104	Clay tobacco pipe stem (two pieces now con-joined)	1
104	Glass fragments (two pieces now con-joined)	1
104	Slate fragments	2
104	Stone pebbles (1 worked)	2
104	Burnt flint	12
104	Lignite/coal	3
104	Flint	57
104	Metal objects	11
111	Glass fragments	5
111	Flint	6
111	Burnt flint	8
111	Slate fragment	1
111	Metal objects	5
112	Slate fragments	2
112	Flint	2
112	Brick fragments	6

112	Slag	2
112	Metal objects	3
112	Burnt clay	8
113	Flint	6
113	Pottery (mid-Neolithic?)	1
114	Flint	94
116	Charcoal	1
116	Flint (including 1 scraper)	8
116	Metal object	1
117	Flint	1
119	Flint	41
119	Fragment of decorated pottery (mid-Neolithic?)	1
120	Flint	33
120	Worked stone fragment	1
120	Bone (small animal tooth)	1
120	Pottery fragments (prehistoric?)	2
Interface of 120 and 123	Pottery fragments (misc. prehistoric?)	2
122	Flint	1
123	Flint	8
130	Charcoal	10
130	Flint	32

### Trench 1 South (Public Outreach trench)

Context Number	Description	Quantity
301 (topsoil)	Slate fragments	2
301	Quartz pebble	1
301	Pottery fragment	1
301	Metal objects	14
301	Flint	348
301	Burnt flint	6

**Appendix E: Trench 1 North - Samples Register**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Number of bags</b>
116	Charcoal: Stone platform in south of trench. Victorian.	
130	Charcoal: Earliest of the prehistoric strata in the south of the trench.	
101	Mortar: Topsoil. Sample presumably from Victorian deposits directly below.	
103	Mortar: Rubble over walls in middle of site. Directly below topsoil. Relates to the abandonment of the site in the 19th century.	
112	Mortar: Layer associated with Victorian activity and construction/ re-use of the walls in the middle of the trench.	
115	Mortar: Samples taken from the mortar adhering to the inner face of the inner course of the 'cashel' enclosure wall (C.107).	

**Appendix F: Trench 1 - Photographic Register**

<b>Photo No.</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Taken From</b>
050-063	Tr1 N	General shots of Trench 1 North after trench was de-sodded.	12/6/17	<b>N:</b> 51-52. <b>E:</b> 52-53, 56-59. <b>S:</b> 54-55. <b>W:</b> 60-61. <b>NW:</b> 62-63.
064-067	“	Metalwork in the topsoil in the NW of trench.	“	<b>S:</b> 64, 66-67. <b>W:</b> 65.
68-84	Tr1 N Tr 1 N and S.	People shots, showing photos of preliminary clean-up. Shots 79-80 also shot Trench 1 South (“children’s trench”).	13/06/17	<b>N:</b> 60-70. <b>NE:</b> 71-77. <b>SE:</b> 78. <b>S:</b> 79-90. <b>W:</b> 81-83.
85-90	Tr1 N	Detail of the preliminary cleaning up of wall C.102 and rubble layer C.103	“	<b>SW:</b> 85-86. <b>NW:</b> 87. <b>NE:</b> 88-89. <b>SE:</b> 90.
91-110	“	Wall C.102, metalled surface C.104 and rubble layer C.103 after preliminary clean up. Shots C.101-110 also show stone surface C.116 in south of trench.	“	<b>N:</b> 91-96, 98. <b>NE:</b> 97, 108-110. <b>NW:</b> 99. <b>W:</b> 100. <b>SW:</b> 101-103. <b>S:</b> 104-105. <b>SE:</b> 106-107.
111-123	“	Enclosure wall of “cashel” C.107 and stone surface/ platform C.116.	“	<b>NE:</b> 112. <b>E:</b> 111, 113-116. <b>S:</b> 118-120, 122, 123. <b>SW:</b> 121. <b>SE:</b> 117.
124-129	“	Southern half of the trench with ranging rods, showing enclosure wall of “cashel” C.107 and stone surface/ platform C.116.	14/06/17	<b>S:</b> 124, 127. <b>SE:</b> 125, 126, 128. <b>SW:</b> 129.
130-136	“	Southern half of the trench with ranging rods, showing metalled surface C.104 during excavation, wall C.102 and rubble layer C.103.	“	<b>N</b>

137-146		Middle and southern half of the trench, with ranging rods, showing metalled surface C.104 during excavation, wall C.102 and rubble layer C.103, stone surface C.116 and enclosure wall C.107.	“	<b>NE:</b> 136, 137. <b>SE:</b> 138-140, 146. <b>S:</b> 143, 144. <b>E:</b> 145.
147-150	“	Southern end of Trench 1 with ranging rods, showing rubble layer C.103, stone surface C.116 and enclosure wall C.107.	“	<b>N</b>
151, 153	“	Northern half of the trench, with ranging rods, showing metalled surface C.104 during excavation, wall C.102 and drain/gully C.111 adjacent to wall C.102 starting to be uncovered.	“	<b>S</b>
152, 154, 156	“	Detail of metalled surface C.104 during excavation.		<b>S, E, N and W</b>
157-159	Tr 1 S	Trench 1 South with children from Oakgrove Integrated School getting experience of archaeological excavation.	“	<b>N, W and NW.</b>
160-167	Tr 1 N	Wild horses that arrived at the trench unexpectedly.	“	
168-187	Tr1 N	David Craig taking aerial images of the excavation using a drone.		<b>SW:</b> 168-171. <b>W:</b> 172-177. <b>NW:</b> 180-184. <b>N:</b> 185-186. <b>NE:</b> 187.
188-193	Tr1 N and S	Shots of the protective fencing put by CAF around Trenches 1 N and S nightly, on completion of excavation.		<b>S:</b> 188, 189. <b>N:</b> 190-191. <b>SW:</b> 192-193.
194-204	Tr1 N	“The Big Dig” at Divis. Lovely weather and lots of people shots. Northern half of Trench 1 N showing metalled surface C.104 nearly fully exposed, wall C.102 and drain/gully C.111 adjacent to wall C.102 under excavation, and walls C.106 and C.108.	Saturday 17/06/17	<b>N:</b> 194-195, 197-199, 202 <b>NE:</b> 196, 200, 201. <b>SW:</b> 203. <b>W:</b> 204.
205-206, 214-217	Tr 1 S	“The Big Dig” at Divis. Trench 1 S with volunteers, school children and Lizzy and Jo.	“	<b>NW:</b> 205-206. <b>SW:</b> 214. <b>S:</b> 215-216. <b>SE:</b> 217.
207-209,	Tr 1 N	“The Big Dig” at Divis. Southern end of Trench 1 N showing enclosure wall of “cashel” C.107, external berm C.110 and stone surface/ platform C.116.	“	<b>SW</b>

210-212	“	“The Big Dig” at Divis. Middle and northern half of Trench 1 N showing metalled surface C.104 nearly fully-exposed, walls C.102, C.106 and C.108, flagged stone surface C.109 and stone platform C.116.	“	<b>SW:</b> 210. <b>NE:</b> 211-212.
213	“	“The Big Dig” at Divis. Southern end of Trench 1 N showing enclosure wall of “cashel” C.107, external berm C.110 and stone surface/ platform C.116.	“	<b>S</b>
218-220	“	Walls C.102, C.106, C.108, flagged stone surface C.109 and surfaces C.112 and C.113.	19/06/17	<b>E, NE and SE</b>
221-222	Tr 1 N and S“	Southern end of Tr 1 N showing enclosure wall C.107 and berm C.110 and beyond it in Tr 1 S Lagan College school kids getting excavation experience with Lizzy.	20/06/17	<b>N</b>
225-226	Tr 1 S	Lagan College school kids getting excavation experience with Lizzy.	“	<b>NW</b>
227-228	Tr 1 N	Walls C.108, C.106 and C.102 and flagged stone surface C.109.	“	<b>SW</b>
229	“	Wall C.102, drain/gully C.111 and metalled surface C.104.	“	<b>SW</b>
230-232	“	Metalled surface C.104, drain/gully C.111 and wall C.102.	“	<b>N</b>
233	“	Metalled surface C.104, drain/gully C.111, walls C.102, C.106, C.108 and surface C.114.	“	<b>NE</b>
234	“	Walls C.102, C.106, C.108, flagged stone surface C.109 and surface C.114.	“	<b>NE</b>
235-239	“	Walls C.102, C.106, C. 108, flagged stone surface C.109 and surface C.114.	“	<b>E:</b> 235, 237 <b>NE:</b> 236,238 <b>SE:</b> 239
240-245	Tr 1 N	General shots of people excavating in Trench 1 N.	20/06/17	<b>NW</b>
248	“	Site in its setting. Shot of the site from the carpark of Divis Barn coffee shop.	“	<b>SE</b>
250-254	“	Southern end of trench. Cut C.121, fill C.122, wall C.108, wall C.106 and layer/ surface C.120 (=C.113?)	“	<b>S:</b> 250, 253, 254 <b>E:</b> 251-252
255-266	“	Southern end of trench. Inner face of enclosure wall of “cashel” C.107, cut C.125, fill C.129 and mortar render C.115.	“	<b>N:</b> 255, 256, 262-266 <b>NW:</b> 257 <b>W:</b> 258 <b>E:</b> 259-261

267-268	“	Working shots with people in it. Also shows walls C.102, C.106, C.108, flagged stone surface C.109, mortar render C.115, bench cut C.125/ fill C.129 and surface C.120.	“	<b>SW</b>
269-272	“	Middle/ east of trench, between walls C.102 and C.106, showing west-facing section, baulk left at level of C.113 and C.114 pre-excitation.	“	<b>W and SW</b>
273	“	General site shot. Shows metalled surface C.104, walls C.102, C.106, C.108 and C.107.	“	<b>SW</b>
274	“	As 273, but more of southern end of trench shown.	“	<b>SW</b>
275-278	“	Enclosure wall of “cashel” C.107 and external path/berm C.110.	“	<b>SW: 275-276 NE: 277-278</b>
279-281	“	Walls C.102, C.106, C.108 and flagged stone surface C.109.	“	<b>SE</b>
282	“	Flagged stone surface C.109.	“	<b>E</b>
283	“	Wall C.108.	“	<b>E</b>
284-287	“	Walls C.102, C.106, C.108, drain/gully C.111 and baulk left at level of C.113 and C.114, pre-excitation.	“	<b>E: 284-285 NE: 286 SE: 287</b>
288-292	“	Wall C.102 and drain/gully C.111.	“	<b>NE</b>
293-295	“	Wall C.102 and drain/gully C.111.	“	<b>NW: 293-295 SW: 295</b>
296-297	“	Walls C.102, C.108 and flagged stone surface C.109.	“	<b>W</b>
298-299	“	Walls C.102, C.108, C.107, flagged stone surface C.109 and surface C.120.	“	<b>NW and W</b>
300, 303-305	“	Metalled surface C.104 and subsoil C.118 below it after a section of the surface was removed.	“	<b>SW: 300 N: 303-305</b>
301	“	Metalled surface C.104 and layer C.118 below it after a section of the surface was removed. Also shows drain/ gully C.111, walls C.102 and C.106.	“	<b>NE</b>
302	“	Drain/ gully C.111, walls C.102, C.106, C.108 and C.107.	“	<b>NW</b>
306-313	“	Sondage through metalled surface C.104 showing (bedding) layers C.117 and C.118.	21/06/17	<b>W: 306-308 N: 309 E: 310-312 NE: 313</b>
314- 330, 339- 352,	Tr 1 N	Southern end of trench. Enclosure wall of “cashel” C.107 and external berm C.110. Shots 326-330, 351-352 and 361-362 also show layers C.120 and C.123 and animal burrow C.124 in SW corner of trench. Mortar on internal face	“	<b>SE: 314, 317- 319, 341-344 S: 315, 320, 321, 339, 340, 366, 367</b>

366, 367		of enclosure wall running below layers C.120 and C.123 which have been deposited against it, so these appear to have been later re-depositions.		<b>SW:</b> 316, 326, 327 <b>W:</b> 322,323, 346, 347 <b>NW:</b> 324, 325 <b>NE:</b> 328-330, 348-350 <b>E:</b> 345
333	“	UAS Survey Group surveying around the “cashel”	“	<b>SE</b>
334	“	General shot of the trench while waiting for John Meneely, QUB, to start his laser scan of the trench.	“	<b>N</b>
335, 337, 338	“	Shots of John Meneely, QUB, during his laser scanning of the trench.	“	
353-360	“	SE corner of the trench showing west-facing section adjacent to inner face of wall C.107, surface C.120 and gully C.121/ fill C.122, during excavation, under wall C.106 which appears to stop close to the section face.		<b>W:</b> 353-355, 358, 364, 365 <b>S:</b> 356, 357, 371 <b>E:</b> 359-360
363	“	Enclosure wall of “cashel” C.107 and mortar render on the inside face C.115.	“	<b>E</b>
368-370	“	SW corner of the trench showing east-facing section adjacent to inner face of wall C.107, animal burrow C.124 and surfaces C.120 and C.123.	“	<b>E</b>
372-374	“	Shot of trench showing surfaces C.120 and C.123, gully C.121/ fill C.122, walls C.108, C.106, C.102, flagged stone surface C.109 and metalled surface C.104.	“	<b>SE</b>
375	“	Walls C.106 and C.106 and surface C.119.	“	<b>SE</b>
376- 381, 389	“	Walls C.108, C.106, C.102, flagged stone surface C.109, gully, C.121 fill C.122, surfaces C.119 and C.120.	“	<b>SE:</b> 376-378, 381 <b>NW:</b> 379, 380
382- 385, 388-395	“	Flagged stone surface C.109, walls C.108 and C.106.	“	<b>W:</b> 382, 383 <b>S:</b> 384 <b>SE:</b> 392-393 <b>NE:</b> 385 <b>NW:</b> 388, 390, 391,394, 395
386, 387	“	Wall C.108, flagged stone surface C.109, wall C.106, gully, C.121/ fill C.122 and surface C.120.	“	<b>SW</b>

396-398	“	Detail of eastern face of wall C.106 and surface C.119.	“	<b>NE</b>
399-400	“	Detail of eastern/ southern faces of walls C.106, C.102 and surface C.119.	“	<b>E</b>
401-403, 407, 408	Tr 1 N	Detail of southern face of wall C.102 and surface C.119.	22/06/17	<b>SE</b>
404-405, 409, 410-412, 452-458	“	Detail of wall C.102 and drain gully C.111. Also shows junction of walls C.102 and C.106.	“	<b>NE:</b> 404, 405, 409, 410, 452, 453, 455-458 <b>SW:</b> 411-412, 418, 419, 455 <b>NW:</b> 454
406	“	As 404-405, but also showing walls C.108 and C.107.	“	<b>NE</b>
413-415		Middle of trench. Detail of west-facing section between walls C.102 and C.106. Shows C.101, C.103, C.112-C.114 and C.119.	“	<b>W</b>
416-417	“	Middle of trench. Detail of east-facing section between walls C.106, flagged stone surface C.109, and walls C.108 and C.128. Shows C.101 and C.103.	“	<b>E</b>
420-421	“	Shots of cuttings excavated down onto the surface of wall C.128, running south-west of Trench 1 North.	“	<b>SW</b>
422-426	“	Detail of the northern face of wall C.102 and its junction with wall C.106 and drain/ gully C.111.	“	<b>NW</b>
427-430	“	As 422-426, but also showing walls C.108 and C.107.	“	<b>NW</b>
431	“	Junction of walls C.102 and C.106 and flagged stone surface C.109. Also shows walls C.108 and C.107.	“	<b>NW</b>
432-432	“	Drain/ gully C.111, walls C.102. C.106, C.108 and C.107.	“	<b>NW:</b> 432, 441-443 <b>N:</b> 433-435, 440 <b>NE:</b> 436-439
444, 448-451	“	Walls C.108, C.106, C.102, flagged stone surface C.109, metalled surface C.104 and surfaces C.119 and C.120.	“	<b>SE</b>

445-447	“	Walls C.107, C.108, C.106, C. 102, flagged stone surface C.109, gully C.121/fill C.122 and surfaces C.119 and C.120.	“	<b>SE</b>

**Appendix G: Radiocarbon date certificate**

## CHRONO Radiocarbon Database

UBANo	Sample ID	Material Type	<sup>14</sup> C Age ±	F14C ±
UBA-36431	Divis130		2387 ± 26	0.7430 ± 0.0024

<http://35.178.89.161/radiocarbon/certificate/certificate.php?UBNo=36431>

Cormac McSparron  
Centre for Archaeological  
Fieldwork  
Queens University Belfast  
School of Archaeology and  
Belfast BT7 1NN  
UK  
Customer No. 0



<sup>14</sup>CHRONO  
Centre  
Queens University  
Belfast  
42 Fitzwilliam  
Street  
Belfast BT9 6AX  
Northern Ireland

**Radiocarbon Date Certificate**

Laboratory Identification: UBA-36431  
Date of Measurement: 2018-01-16  
Site: Divis  
Sample ID: Divis130  
Material Dated: charcoal  
Pretreatment: AAA  
Submitted by: Cormac McSparron

Conventional <sup>14</sup> C Age:	2387±26 BP
Fraction corrected	using AMS $\delta^{13}\text{C}$

## Information about radiocarbon calibration

### RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION PROGRAM\*

CALIB REV7.0.1

Copyright 1986-2019 M Stuiver and PJ Reimer

\*To be used in conjunction with:

Stuiver, M., and Reimer, P.J., 1993, Radiocarbon, 35, 215-230.

Annotated results (text) - -

36431

UBA-36431

Radiocarbon Age BP 2387 +/- 26

Calibration data set: intcal13.14c

% area enclosed	cal AD age ranges	# Reimer et al. 2013 relative area under probability distribution
68.3 (1 sigma)	cal BC 483- 438	0.532
	435- 402	0.468
95.4 (2 sigma)	cal BC 701- 700	0.001
	540- 397	0.999

#### References for calibration datasets:

Reimer PJ, Bard E, Bayliss A, Beck JW, Blackwell PG, Bronk Ramsey C, Buck CE, Cheng H, Edwards RL, Friedrich M, Grootes PM, Guilderson TP, Hafliðason H, Hajdas I, Hattala C, Heaton TJ, Hogg AG, Hughen KA, Kaiser KF, Kromer B, Manning SW, Niu M, Reimer RW, Richards DA, Scott EM, Southon JR, Turney CSM, van der Plicht J.

IntCal13 and MARINE13 radiocarbon age calibration curves 0-50000 years calBP Radiocarbon 55(4). DOI: 10.2458/azu\_js\_rc.55.16947

#### Comments:

\* This standard deviation (error) includes a lab error multiplier.

\*\* 1 sigma = square root of (sample std. dev.^2 + curve std. dev.^2)

\*\* 2 sigma = 2 x square root of (sample std. dev.^2 + curve std. dev.^2)

where ^2 = quantity squared.

[ ] = calibrated range impinges on end of calibration data set

0\* represents a "negative" age BP

1955\* or 1960\* denote influence of nuclear testing C-14

NOTE: Cal ages and ranges are rounded to the nearest year which may be too precise in many instances. Users are advised to round results to the nearest 10 yr for samples with standard deviation in the radiocarbon age greater than 50 yr.

<>



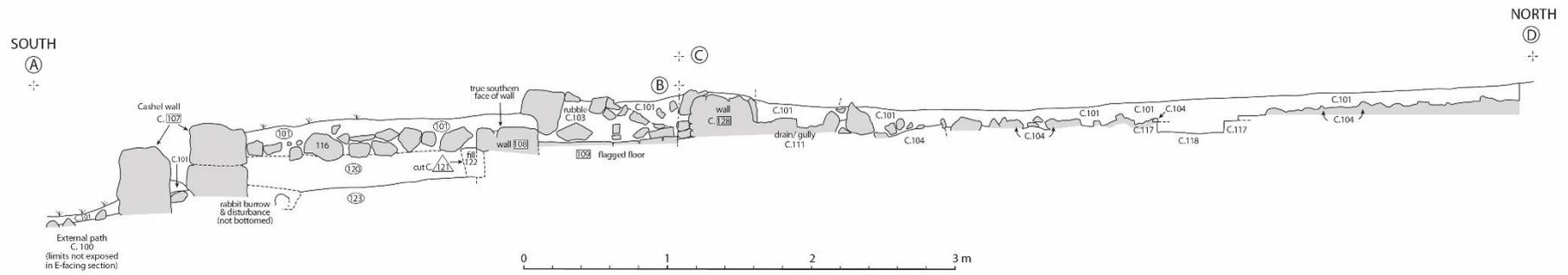


Figure 2. Divis Cashel 2017. Trench 1 North. East-facing section of trench.

**Trench 1: Plates**



Plate 01: Aerial view of monument and excavation trench



Plate 02: Pre-excitation view of walls C.103 and C.106, viewed from south



Plate 03: Detail of metalled surface C.104 at the extreme north of trench, viewed from east



Plate 04: Excavation of wall C.102 and rubble C.103, viewed from north-east



Plate 05: Pre-excitation view of stone surface C.116 at the south of the trench, viewed from north



Plate 06: Wall C.102 and drain C.111, from north-east



Plate 07: Wall C.102 and rubble C.103, viewed from south-west



Plate 08: Wall C.106, wall C.108 and flagged stone surface C.109, viewed from north-east



Plate 09: Wall C.107 and external path, viewed from south



Plate 10: Wall C.107, with mortar C.115 and external path C.110, viewed from north-west



Plate 11: Walls C.102, C.106 and C.108, flagged surface C.109 and drain C.111, viewed from east



Plate 12: Walls C.102, C.106, C.107, C.108 and drain C.111, viewed from north-east

**PART 2: BURIAL CAIRN**

<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>Introduction to Trench 2</b>	<b>43</b>
<i>Summary</i>	
<i>Recording methodology</i>	
<i>Archiving</i>	
<b>Excavation</b>	<b>44</b>
<i>Background</i>	
<i>Account of the excavation</i>	
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Recommendations for further work</b>	<b>48</b>
<i>Programme of post-excavation analysis of the materials recovered</i>	
<i>Further investigation at the site</i>	
<i>Publication</i>	
<b>Appendix 1: Harris Matrix</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Context Register</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Field Drawing Register</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Appendix 4: Small Finds Register</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Appendix 5: Samples Register</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Appendix 6: Photographic Register</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Appendix 7: Radiocarbon date certificate</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Figures</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Plates</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>65</b>

## Introduction to Trench 2

### *Summary*

The excavation at the burial cairn consisted of one trench, initially proposed to be 2m in width and 2m in length, but following consultation with an inspector from HED, this was later extended to 3m in width and 3m in length. It was centred on what was initially thought to be the south-eastern quadrant of a prehistoric hut platform. As the excavation progressed, it soon became apparent that this was not a hut site, but the remains of a prehistoric burial cairn. Two sequences of human activity were represented, prehistoric (pottery and flint) and twentieth century (rifle bullet cases). (See Appendix 1: The Harris Matrix). The trench was given the title Trench 2, in order to minimise confusion with Trench 1, described above. Only one trench was excavated here. Following the excavation, a radiocarbon date of AD 772-967 (calibrated to 2 sigma) was obtained [UBA-36431; Appendix 7], suggesting some activity in the area during the medieval period.

### *Recording Methodology*

The context records for the excavation were created using the standard context recording method: all built features and deposits were assigned a unique context number and pro-forma (Context sheet) was completed for each. All features were photographed prior to and following excavation and a series of plans and sections were completed throughout the excavation at scales of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. A field notebook was also maintained. The Harris Matrix is presented in Appendix 1 and the Context Register is detailed in Appendix 2. The Field Drawing Register is presented in Appendix 3 and the Small Finds Register in Appendix 4. The Samples Register is contained in Appendix 5. The Photographic Register is catalogued in Appendix 6. The Radiocarbon Date Certificate is presented in Appendix 7.

### *Archiving*

Copies of this report have been deposited with the HED. All site records and finds are temporarily archived with the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast.

## Excavation

### *Background*

A trench was opened over one of several features presenting as slightly raised sub-circular areas, [most of them] concave in the middle, with stones visible protruding through the vegetation in places. The features were first noted by a UAS survey team member (following a survey at the nearby cellular structure ANT 060:082) in May 2008 (Gillespie 2011(a)) and were called by them the *Divis Settlement Site*; a number of circular anomalies were noted on the eastern bank of a tributary of the Colin River adjacent to where the tributary flows under Mast Road. Following foliage clearance these circular anomalies were interpreted by the UAS survey team as a collection of hut sites, possibly prehistoric. The remains of seven were found to be in close proximity to each other, with a further two located a short distance downstream (Gillespie 2011(b)). The summit of Divis Mountain is to the north-east of the site (Plate A).

### *Account of the excavation*

The trench was sited over the south-east quadrant of a circular platform referred to as Hut 2 by Gillespie in 2011. The site was later surveyed by students from Queen's University, when the circular platforms were re-numbered. Hut 2 was referred to as Hut 4 by them (Figure A). The trench had originally been proposed to measure 2m by 2m, but following discussions with an archaeological inspector from HED, it was agreed to extend to 3m (north/south) by 3m (east/west). The trench was de-sodded and excavated by hand, and backfilled and re-sodded upon completion.

The sod and topsoil layer was C.201. This was spaded off in turfs and what remained was trowelled off. It was a dark brown peat, a maximum of 10cm deep and contained flint finds. C.202 was material which had built up between the topsoil and the remains of the monument. It was a dark-brown loamy-peat with a maximum depth of 0.27m. Finds included flint and worked quartz. Stones present within this layer were probably dislodged from the main body of the cairn C.207 (see Figures B and C). Immediately underneath this layer (C.202) were three spreads of dark material, namely C.203, C.204 and C.206 (see Plate B), visible after removal of C.201. These spreads were of very dark brown loamy peat, and C.204 contained moderate charcoal flecking. C.203 was at the east of trench; C.204 at the south-west; and C.206 at the northern edge of the trench around a large boulder. C.205, near the north-west corner of the trench was the fill of an animal burrow C.115. C.207 was a curved setting of stones, the circularity of which could be seen on the ground surface pre-excavation, with some stones jutting through the vegetation and some visible as humps covered by vegetation. This was interpreted as being the remains of the main body of the burial cairn. It came out of the west-facing section looking like a roughly built wall, rubble-built with no obvious coursing, a maximum of 95cm wide, extending for a distance (east/west) of 0.21m. There was then a gap in the stones, of just over 0.2m at its narrowest on the other side of which was a large stone (over 0.5m in length) against the south-facing section [when this section was drawn it was found that only a very small bit of this stone actually went

into the section]. This gap may have been created by the monument builders, or could be where stones from the structure have dislodged and fallen away. C.207 rested on C.213, the surface on which the monument was constructed (see Plates E, F, G, H and I).

Cut C.208 was linear feature along southern edge of the trench. It was filled by C.209, a dark brown silty loam, but also contained a large percentage (c.65%) of stone, and had uneven angular stony edges; the fill also contained flint. It appeared to be cut through C.213, though some of the stones of its fill were at a physically higher level than C.213 and were actually in C.202; the fill also sat below some of the stones of the arc C.214. Although it ran the whole length (i.e. 3m) of the trench, we do not know its actual length or width. This may be a drainage feature associated with the monument, or an accumulation of material into a natural linear depression in the adjacent bedrock (see Plates C, D and E). Cut C.210 was initially thought to be a possible post-hole, but on excavation was found to be an animal burrow, it was filled by C.211.

C.212 was clay material which was present inside the monument, i.e. within C.207, and therefore in the north-west quarter of the trench. It was a mid to dark brown clayey loam, a maximum of 0.35m deep and was interpreted as a clay bonding matrix used to consolidate the stone cairn. C.212 had evidence of burning that presented as patches of orange burnt earth, areas of concentrated charcoal (some associated with the orange burnt areas, some not), and charcoal flecking (Plate F). Presumably these deposits accumulated during the use of the monument, perhaps representing several occurrences. Stones present within this layer had been dislodged from C.207. Found in this layer were prehistoric pottery sherds (possibly Neolithic in date) and flint including blades, a scraper and flakes. Also found were parts of two bullet cases near the inside face of one of the stones of C.207, possibly due to the action of burrowing animals.

C.213 was the surface on which the stones of the monument, C.207, and the outer arc of stones, C.214, had been set. It was a mid-grey-orange silty loam, containing small gritty stones and with light charcoal flecking; in the north-west area, within C.207, it had medium charcoal flecking. The context sloped slightly upwards in a northerly direction, following the incline of the surrounding landscape. Due to time constraints C.213 was not excavated, apart from a very small test-hole in the north-west corner of the trench where a soil sample was taken. The surface was present over most of the trench running below C.207 and C.214. It was not present along the southern edge of the trench, where it appeared that C.208 was cut through C.213. It is not known how far C.213 extended, if at all, to the eastern side of the trench as excavation only went as far as C.202 and stone here. C.214 (Plates G, H and I) appeared to be an arcing setting of stones, which curved concentrically with C.207; it therefore rested on C.213 and consisted of one layer of flattish stones. It is also possible that this feature is coincidental.

A sample of charcoal was recovered from C.212 which returned a date of AD 772-967 [calibrated to 2 sigma; UBA-36424. See Appendix 7]. This early Medieval date suggests the presence of burning in the area of the cairn during the early Medieval period and is inconsistent with the interpretation of the monument as a prehistoric burial cairn. However, this result also suggests that the upper layers of

cairn material had already been removed when the burning occurred. In addition, there is evidence of animal-burrowing here, which may have introduced later material into earlier layers.

## Discussion

During the course of the excavation it became more plausible that the structures originally considered to be the remains of hut platforms were more likely to be the remains of burial cairns. The small size of the monuments seemed to preclude them from being used as hut platforms and the probable remains of a cist are visible in one structure (Hut 3) immediately to the north-west of the excavated monument.

As there are several of these monuments in close proximity to each other in this area, it is likely that they collectively represent a small cairn cemetery (Figure A). The pottery found in the trench was considered by Cormac McSparron of CAF to be definitely prehistoric, and probably Neolithic, although also possibly Early Bronze Age. Barrie Hartwell, QUB, was also of the opinion that it was Neolithic; speculating that it could possibly be Grooved Ware (which is Late Neolithic in date). A flint blade and two pieces of worked quartz were considered by Brian Sloan, CAF, as being Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age.

The presence of Neolithic material at this excavation raises a number of questions. First, along with the discovery of Neolithic pottery and flint during the excavation at the nearby *Divis Cashel* (described above), it seems that there was significant prehistoric activity in this area, most likely during the middle to late Neolithic period. This is the first evidence of Neolithic activity to be found in this area of the Belfast Hills and the obvious question is what were these people doing here? There are no recorded Neolithic burials in the area, so presumably there was a habitation site somewhere nearby.

Eighteen burial cairns have been recorded to date within the Divis and Black Mountain National Trust property:

NISMR No.	Townland	Local name	IG Reference
ANT 060:015	Altigarron/Divis	Yellow Jack's	J 2690 7560
ANT 060:061	Divis	Burial cairn	J 2935 7481
Not in SMR	Black Mountain	Cairn 2	J 2857 7490
Not in SMR	Black Mountain	Black Hill	J 2740 7386*
Not in SMR	Black Mountain	Black Hill	J 2740 7386*
Not in SMR	Black Mountain	Black Hill	J 2740 7386*
Not in SMR	Divis	Cairn 3	J 2735 7445
Not in SMR	Divis	Summit Cairn	J 2808 7558
Not in SMR	Divis	Original summit cairn	J 2845 7554*
Not in SMR	Divis	Satellite cairn	J 2803 7545*

Not in SMR	Divis	Johnstons Green	J 2813 7462*
Not in SMR	Divis	Ballygillespie	J 2747 7456
Not in SMR	Divis	Ballygillespie	J 2747 7456*
Not in SMR	Divis	Ballygillespie	J 2747 7456*
Not in SMR	Divis	Ballygillespie	J 2747 7456*
Not in SMR	Divis	Ballygillespie	J 2747 7456*
Not in SMR	Divis	Ballygillespie	J 2747 7456*
Not in SMR	Divis	Ballygillespie	J 2747 7456*

\* = not precisely located

#### Table of burial cairns in National Trust Divis and Black Mountain property

Of these eighteen burial cairns, three are clustered together at the summit of Divis Mountain, three are clustered together at the summit of Black Hill and seven are clustered together at the 2017 excavation site. The remainder are located in isolation. Those that are clustered together may be considered as small cairn cemeteries, similar to those found at Broughderg (Welsh and Craig 2017), but it is as yet unclear why the others were situated in isolation. It is presumed that these are not contemporary, representing changes in funerary practices over time. Only further investigation will resolve this.

When the monuments stopped being maintained by the builders and their descendants, the cairn material would have been subject to degradation. Stones would have been dislocated by weathering, by vegetation growth, by animals and by humans, therefore the upper cairn material (including possibly small stones) would have been removed down to the height that the monument stands at now. What remains, up to the present time, are the stones forming the base or kerb of the cairn. The surface of C.202 may also have been disturbed if it was exposed to the elements, leaving what remains today and then topsoil accumulated on top. Depressions at the centre of this monument, the adjacent monuments and others in the Divis and Black Mountain property (see Rutherford 2009 and McShane and Cooper 2012), may represent robbing by treasure hunters, possibly shortly after they were abandoned.

Parts of two bullet cases were found in the top level of C.212, against the side of one of the stones of C.207. One was identified as a military type .303 calibre, in use from 1941, but the other could not be identified during the excavation. As the Ministry of Defence had control of the Divis area for a number of years (1953 until 2004) and were using it for training, it is to be presumed that the cases were dropped there when soldiers were using the depression in the middle of the monument as cover when doing fire-arms training. This demonstrates the re-use of the monument in the twentieth century.

## Recommendations for further work

### *Programme of post-excavation analysis of the materials recovered*

If funding can be obtained, a programme of post-excavation analysis will be carried out in order to obtain the maximum amount of information from the excavation. A costing for this work will be presented to the owners of the monument, the National Trust, for consideration.

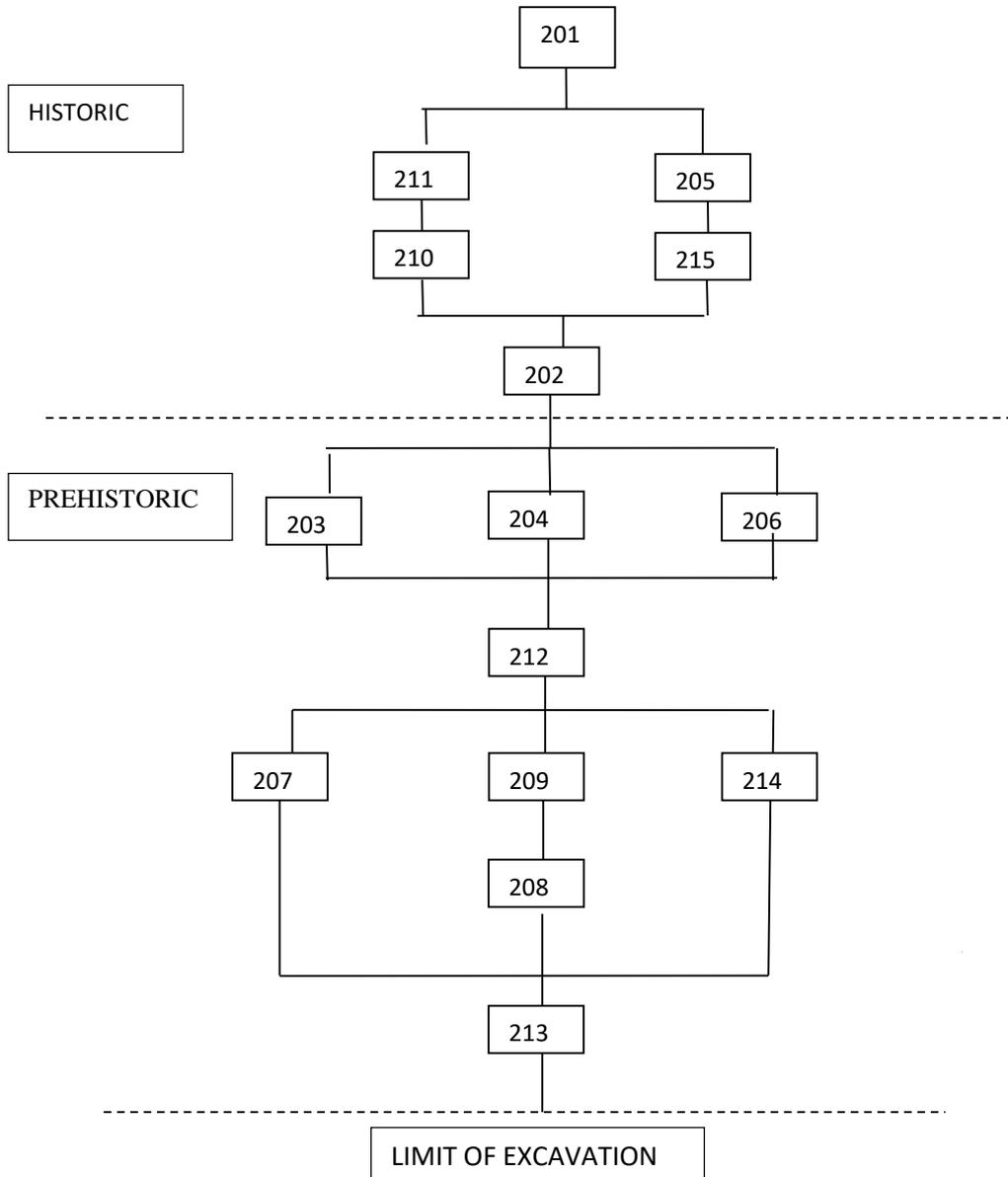
### *Further investigation at the site*

The 2017 excavation revealed the interesting prospect that this site is not, as previously thought, the remains of a prehistoric settlement site, but rather the remains of a small cairn cemetery, usually dating to the Bronze Age. The discovery of what appears to be a Neolithic presence here is unusual and is worthy of further investigation. It is recommended that a larger-scale investigation, involving further excavation and geophysical survey, be carried out at this, or adjacent monuments, in order to obtain a fuller picture of the date and use of the different phases of activity here.

### *Publication*

It is hoped that the results of the excavation, along with information obtained from any post-excavation analysis, can be published in an academic journal, such as the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* in due course. A brief summary of results has been published in *Archaeology Ireland* (Welsh *et al.*, 2017).

### Appendix 1: Harris Matrix



**Appendix 2: Trench 2 - Context Register**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
201	Layer. Sod and topsoil layer
202	Layer. Material which built up outside monument
203	Spread. Very dark brown material, within topsoil
204	Spread. Very dark brown material, within topsoil
205	Fill. Fill of animal burrow C.215
206	Spread. Very dark brown material, within topsoil
207	Stone feature. Setting of stones constituting monument
208	Cut. Linear feature
209	Fill. Fill of C.208
210	Cut. Animal burrow
211	Fill. Fill of C.210
212	Layer. Material which built up in interior of monument
213	Layer. Surface on which monument was built
214	Stone feature? Possible arc of stones [around outside of monument]
215	Animal burrow into C.202

**Appendix 3: Trench 2 - Field Drawing Register**

<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Plan	1:20	Plan of trench after removal of sod layer, showing C.201 (topsoil), C.203, C.204, C.205, C.206 and C.207
2	Plan	1:10	Post-ex plan of part of trench (6 x 1m by 1m squares), showing contexts C.207, C.208, C.209 and C.213 – [joins to plan No. 3]
3	Plan	1:10	Post-ex plan of part of trench (3 x 1m by 1m squares), showing contexts C.202, C.207 and C.213 – [joins to plan No. 2]
4	Section	1:10	East-facing section of trench, showing contexts C.201, C.202, C.204, C.207, C.209, C.210, C.211, C.212 and C.213
5	Section	1:10	South-facing section of trench, showing contexts C.201, C.202, C.207, C.212 and C.213

**Appendix 4: Trench 2 - Small Finds Register**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
201	Flint	5
202	Quartz (worked)	2
202	Flint (struck pieces including blade)	295
204	Flint (including struck pieces)	12
207	Flint	5
209	Flint (including struck pieces)	62
211	Flint	3
212	Flint (some struck pieces including scraper and 2 blades)	159
212	Pottery (prehistoric, undiagnostic body sherds)	5
212	Metal (parts of 2 bullet cases)	2
213	Flint	21

**Appendix 5: Trench 2 - Samples Register**

<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
1	C.204	Charcoal	1 small bag
2	C.206		1 bag
3	C.212	Charcoal	2 bags

**Appendix 6: Trench 2 - Photographic Register**

Photo No.	Trench	Description	Taken From
01	2	Trench 2 after removal of sod and initial trowel, with C.204 (in south-west quarter) and C.206 (around stone at south-facing section)	South
02	2	Trench after the trowelling off of some topsoil, showing C.204 (in south-west quarter), C.206 (around large stone at right of photo) and C.203 (at east side of trench)	East
03	2	Trench fenced off at end of 13 June with other monuments to left and right of it, stream channel in foreground, Divis mountain in background	South-west
04	2	UAS member flying drone over trench (capturing image of trench after removal of sod and initial trowel). Mast Road visible running through landscape	North-west
05	2	Working shot at end of 14 June, showing stones C.207, with cuts C.208 and C.210 visible in bottom right corner	West
06	2	Trench at end of 15 June, showing C.202, C.207, C.208, C.209, C.210, C.211 and C.212. Stream channel visible in background	East
07	2	Southern end of trench, showing cut C.208 with fill C.209 (right), and cut C.210 with fill C.211 (left)	West
08	2	Southern end of trench, showing cut C.208 with fill C.209, and cut C.210 with fill C.211	East
09	2	Working shot of three UAS members excavating in trench	
10	2	Interior of monument in north-west quarter of trench, showing C.212 with charcoal and patches of burnt soil, and stones C.207; from above	West
11	2	Interior of monument in north-west quarter of trench, showing C.212 with charcoal and patches of burnt soil, and stones C.207 (without scale)	North
12	2	Trench 2 at end of 16 June, with cuts C.208 and C.210 (in top left corner) half-sectioned, and stones C.207 nearly fully exposed	East
13	2	South-west corner of trench with cuts C.208 (left) and C.210 (right) half-sectioned	East
14	2	South-west corner of trench with cuts C.208 (right) and C.210 (left) half-sectioned; from above	West

15	2	Cut C.210 excavated, between cut C.209 and stones C.207; from above	West
16	2	Charcoal-rich area within C.212 (without scale), north-west corner of trench; from above	South
17	2	Whole trench, with stones C.207 and C.214; the circular impression of the monument can be seen in the grass curving around the top left corner of the trench, with another monument visible to the north	South
18	2	Whole trench, with stones C.207 and C.214; the circular impression of the monument can be seen in the grass curving around the top right corner of the trench, beyond the trench can be seen the channel of a stream which flows to the west of the site	East
19	2	Outer face of stones C.207, and some of stones C.214	South
20	2	South-facing section of trench, with unexcavated part of monument visible beyond the section, and another monument visible to the north	South
21	2	West-facing section of trench	West
22	2	North-facing section of trench	North
23	2	East-facing section of trench, with stream channel in background	East
24	2	Working shot of UAS members section drawing.	
25	2	UAS members after back-filling.	
26	2	UAS members and member of CAF staff after back-filling.	

**Appendix 7: Radiocarbon date certificate**

## CHRONO Radiocarbon Database

UBANo	Sample ID	Material Type	<sup>14</sup> C Age	±	F14C	±
UBA-36424	DivisCashel212	Short lived wood charcoal	1165	31	0.8650	0.0033

<http://35.178.89.161/radiocarbon/certificate/certificate.php?UBNo=36424>

## CHRONO Radiocarbon Database

Cormac McSparron  
Centre for Archaeological  
Fieldwork  
Queens University Belfas  
School of Archaeology an  
Belfast BT7 1NN  
UK  
Customer No. 0



<sup>14</sup>CHRONO  
Centre  
Queens University  
Belfast  
42 Fitzwilliam  
Street  
Belfast BT9 6AX  
Northern Ireland

**Radiocarbon Date Certificate**

Laboratory Identification: UBA-36424  
Date of Measurement: 2018-01-09  
Site: Divis Cashel  
Sample ID: DivisCashel212  
Material Dated: charcoal  
Pretreatment: AAA  
Submitted by: Cormac McSparron

Conventional <sup>14</sup> C Age:	1165±31 BP
Fraction corrected	using AMS $\delta^{13}\text{C}$

### Information about radiocarbon calibration

RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION PROGRAM\*  
CALIB REV7.0.1

Copyright 1986-2019 M Stuiver and PJ Reimer

\*To be used in conjunction with:

Stuiver, M., and Reimer, P.J., 1993, Radiocarbon, 35, 215-230.

Annotated results (text) - -

36424

UBA-36424

Radiocarbon Age BP 1165 +/- 31

Calibration data set: intcal13.14c

% area enclosed	cal AD age ranges	# Reimer et al. 2013 relative area under probability distribution
68.3 (1 sigma)	cal AD 777- 792	0.151
	802- 844	0.356
	856- 895	0.389
	928- 940	0.104
95.4 (2 sigma)	cal AD 772- 905	0.798
	916- 967	0.202

References for calibration datasets:

Reimer PJ, Bard E, Bayliss A, Beck JW, Blackwell PG, Bronk Ramsey C, Buck CE, Cheng H, Edwards RL, Friedrich M, Grootes PM, Guilderson TP, Hafliðason H, Hajdas I, Hattala C, Heaton TJ, Hogg AG, Hughen KA, Kaiser KF, Kromer B, Manning SW, Niu M, Reimer RW, Richards DA, Scott EM, Southon JR, Turney CSM, van der Plicht J.

IntCal13 and MARINE13 radiocarbon age calibration curves 0-50000 years calBP Radiocarbon 55(4). DOI: 10.2458/azu\_js\_rc.55.16947

Comments:

\* This standard deviation (error) includes a lab error multiplier.

\*\* 1 sigma = square root of (sample std. dev.^2 + curve std. dev.^2)

\*\* 2 sigma = 2 x square root of (sample std. dev.^2 + curve std. dev.^2)

where ^2 = quantity squared.

[ ] = calibrated range impinges on end of calibration data set

0\* represents a "negative" age BP

1955\* or 1960\* denote influence of nuclear testing C-14

NOTE: Cal ages and ranges are rounded to the nearest year which may be too precise in many instances. Users are advised to round results to the nearest 10 yr for samples with standard deviation in the radiocarbon age greater than 50 yr.

<>

**Trench 2: Figures**

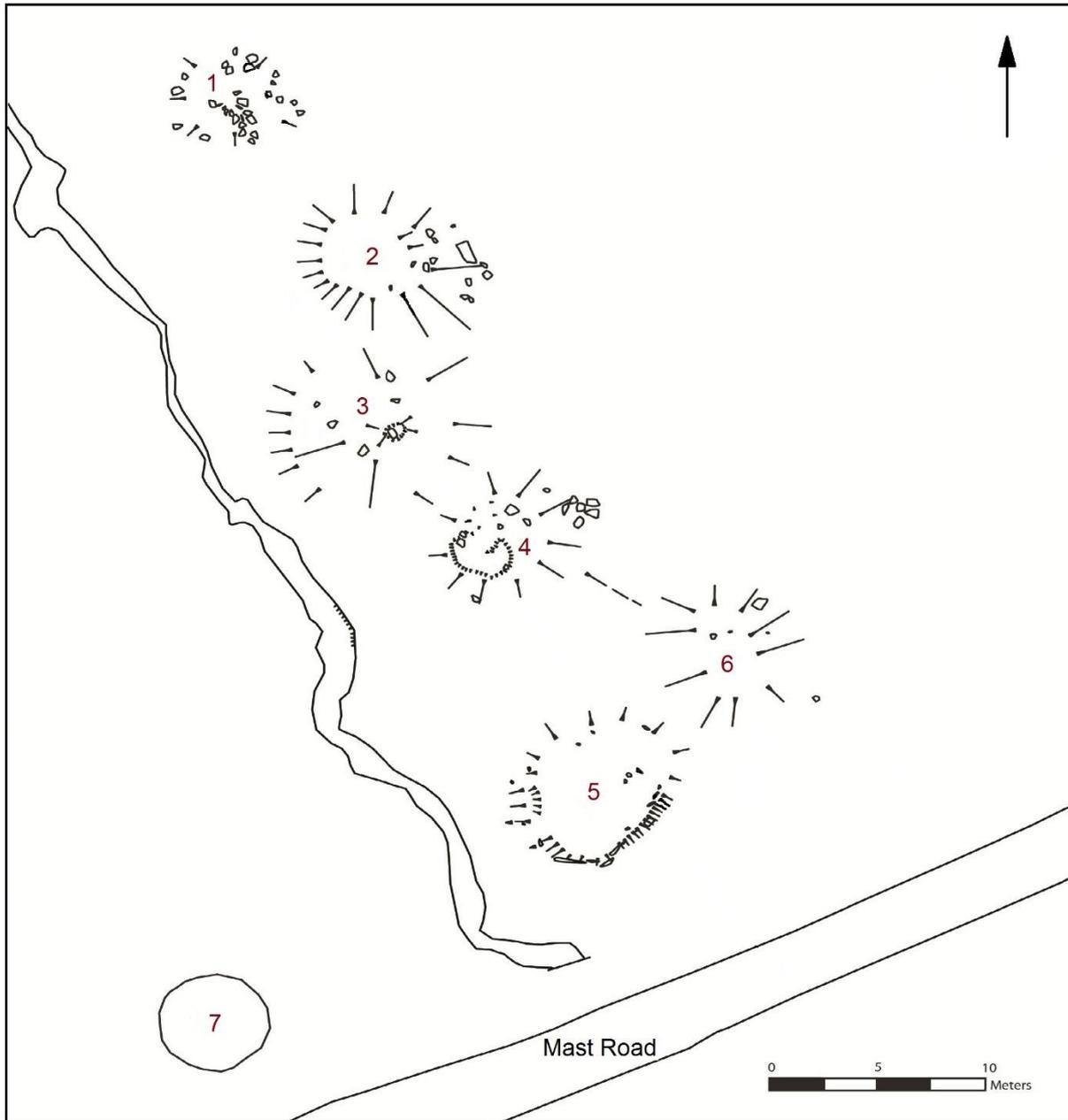


Figure A: Plan of Divis Settlement Site

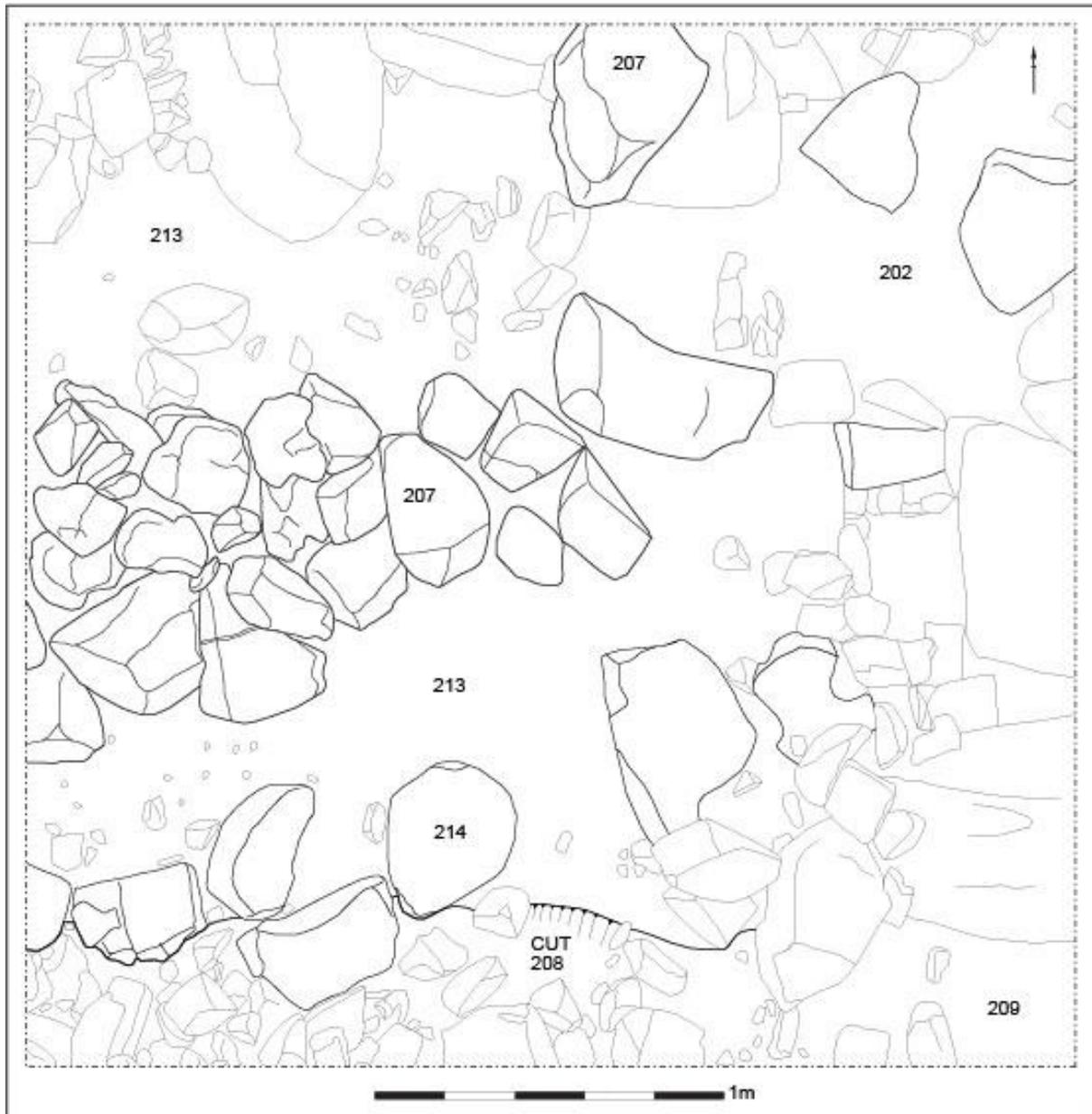


Figure B: Plan of Trench 2 showing contexts C.202, C.207, C.208, C.209 and C.213

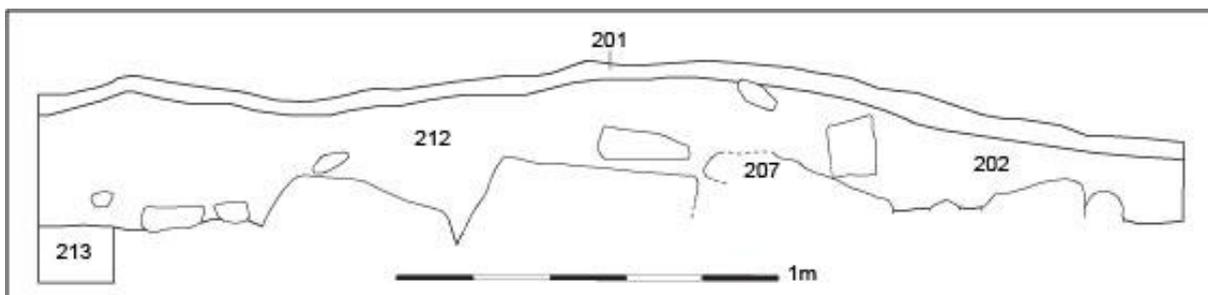


Figure C: South-facing section of trench

## Trench 2: Plates



Plate A: Post-excavation view of site, with Divis Mountain in background, viewed from south-west



Plate B: Mid-excavation view, with stones C.204, C.206 and C.203, looking east



Plate C: Southern end of trench, showing cut C.208, looking west



Plate D: South-west corner of trench, with stones C.207 and C.214, looking west



Plate E: Mid-excitation view of trench, looking east



Plate F: North-west part of trench, showing patches of burnt material C.212, looking north



Plate G: View of trench, showing C.207 and C.214, looking south



Plate H: View of trench, showing C.207 and C.214, looking east



Plate I: Outer face of stones C.207 and C.214, looking south



Plate J: UAS members after back-filling

## References

- Brannon, N.F. 1984. 'A small excavation in Tildarg Townland, near Ballyclare, County Antrim', *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 3: Vol. 47, 163-170.
- Catney, M. 2016. *Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td, Co. Antrim*, Survey Report No. 54, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Edwards, N. 1990. *The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland*, London: Batsford.
- Ó Baoill, R. 2011. *Hidden History Below Our Feet, the Archaeological Story of Belfast*, Belfast: Tandem.
- Dunlop, W. and Catney, M. 2009. *House Site 1, Black Mountain, Belfast*, Survey Report No. 11, Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Gillespie, I. 2011(a). *Survey of Divis Cell Bay Enclosure*, Survey Report No. 12, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Gillespie, I. 2011(b). *Survey of Divis Settlement Site*, Survey Report No. 16, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- McAlister, G. 2012. *Survey of Divis Cashel, County Antrim*, Survey Report No. 36, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- McDonald, J. and Catney, M. 2013. *Divis Farm, Belfast*, Survey Report No. 25, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- McShane, L. 2014. *Survey of Johnston's Green at Divis, County Antrim*, Survey Report No. 39, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- McShane, L. and Cooper, C. 2012. *Survey of Burial Cairn 3 at Divis, County Antrim*, Survey Report No. 31, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- McShane, L. and Catney, M. 2015. *Divis Lodge, Divis Townland, Co. Antrim*, Survey Report No. 49, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Rutherford, G. 2009. *Survey of Yellow Jack's Cairn, Divis, County Antrim*, Survey Report No. 9, Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Scott, R. 2013. *Survey of Reavy House Site at Divis, County Antrim*, Survey Report No. 40, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Welsh 2011(a), *Survey of Ballyaghagan Cashel, County Antrim*, Survey Report No. 35, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Welsh, H. 2011(b) *Excavation at Ballyaghagan Cashel, County Antrim*. Data Structure Report No. 78, Belfast: Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork.
- Welsh, H. 2013. *Survey of Vernacular House at Divis Barn, Divis, County Antrim*, Survey Report No. 41, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Welsh, H. and Pinkerton, L. 2011. 'The Hills are Alive – with the Sound of Digging', *Archaeology Ireland*, Vol. 25, No. 4, Winter 2011, 33-35.
- Welsh, J. and Welsh, H. 2007. *Survey of Cairn 2, Black Mountain, County Antrim*, Survey Report No. 2, Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Welsh, J. and Welsh, H. 2007. *Survey of Summit Cairn, Divis Mountain, County Antrim*, Survey Report No. 3, Ulster Archaeological Society.
- Welsh, H. and Welsh, J. 2014. *The Prehistoric Burial Sites of Northern Ireland*, British Archaeological Reports British Series 106, Oxford: Archaeopress.
- Welsh, H., Ó Baoill, R., Logue, R., Conway, M. and Pinkerton, L. 2017. 'Big Questions at the Big Dig', *Archaeology Ireland*, Vol. 31, No. 4, 44-47.

Welsh, H. and Craig, D. 2017. *Geophysical Survey, Divis Cashel, County Antrim, Excavation Licence AE/17/94G*, Geophysical Survey Report No. 2, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.

Welsh, H. and Welsh, J. 2018. *Sites of Prehistoric Life in Northern Ireland*, Oxford: Archaeopress Archaeology.

*Websites*

HED Sites and Monuments Record.