Characterising the Double Ringwork Enclosures of Gwynedd: Meillionydd Excavations

June and July 2014

Interim Report

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Cover image: Working shot of the 2014 excavations.

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Introduction

Excavations at the 'double ringwork' enclosure of Meillionydd started in July 2010 and have since been carried out for four to eight weeks each summer. The settlement, which dates to the first millennium BC, is located at NGR SH21902905 near the village of Rhiw, on the south-western end of the Llŷn Peninsula in Gwynedd, northwest Wales (Figure 1). Previous reports described the overall research context and objectives for this project (Waddington 2010; Waddington and Karl 2010, 3-4; Karl and Waddington 2011) as well as the location and the site in detail (Waddington and Karl 2010, 4-5). Therefore, these will not be repeated here.

This report focuses on the 2014 excavation season, which took place in June and July 2014. For further information on the first four excavation seasons please refer to the previous interim reports (Waddington and Karl 2010; Waddington and Karl 2015a; Waddington and Karl 2015b and Waddington and Karl 2015c).

In 2014 the excavations continued with two new trenches (trench 4 and 5) on the eastern side of the enclosure, to finish the work on the entrance-way to the site. These trenches were situated adjacent to trenches 1 and 2 and connected these with trench 3, thereby creating a completely excavated area of c. 800m^2.

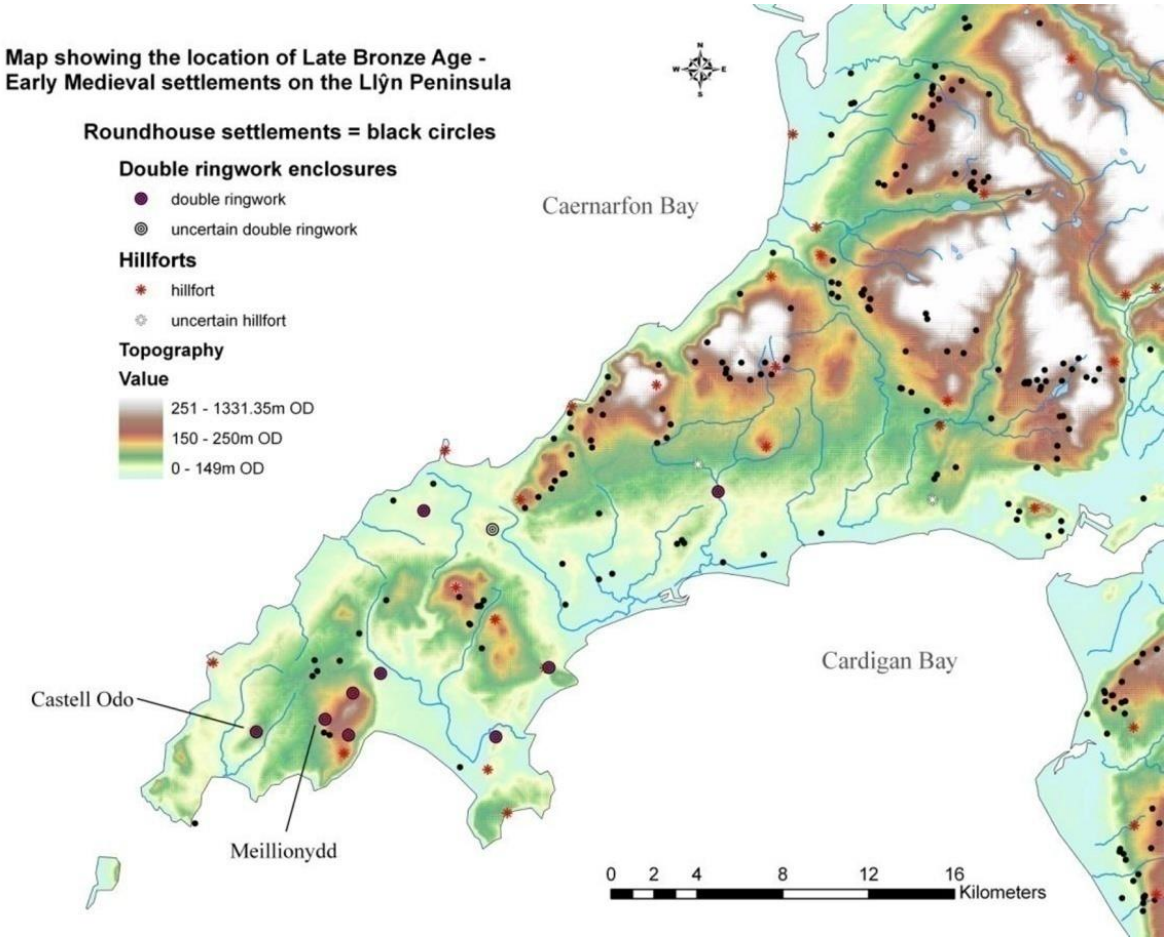

Figure 1: Map of the Llŷn Peninsula, showing the location of the site as well as all other later prehistoric hillfort and settlement sites in the area. The double ringwork enclosures are shown in purple circles, hillforts are shown in red stars and roundhouse settlements are shown in black dots (image: K. Waddington).

The objectives of the 2014 excavations

During the fourth excavation season in 2013 the work in trenches 1 west extension and 2 west extension had been completed and an extension (trench 4) had been opened to the north of trench 2 west extension to further investigate the cobbled road which was found in trench 1 west extension in 2012. However, trench 4 was not fully excavated and subsequently covered to be reopened in the following season.

Therefore, in 2014 trench 4 was reopened and enlarged to c. 10x20 m, to cover the whole of the entrance through the outer bank. In addition, the area between trench 4 and trench 3 (c. 75 m^2) was opened up to connect all current and previous trenches. This extension was labelled trench 5. Overall, this created a completely excavated area of c. 800 m^2.

The overall objectives were to continue to collect data on the construction and phasing of the enclosure boundaries and buildings and to produce more datable materials or short-lived charcoal samples to build up a chronological sequence for these monuments in Gwynedd. The new trenches aimed to:

- Expose and excavate the entrance through the outer bank and any remains of the bank itself;
- Expose and excavate the metalled surface leading from the entrance through the inner bank in trench 1 to the entrance through the outer bank in trench 4;
- Expose and excavate the northern terminal of the inner bank;
- Assess whether the earlier u-shaped ditch that runs underneath the quarry hollow in trench 2 west extension continues in trench 4 and whether it continues to the north of this trench;
- Assess whether the quarry hollow continues to the north of this trench;
- Assess whether the palisade found in trenches 1 and 2 continues in this trench;

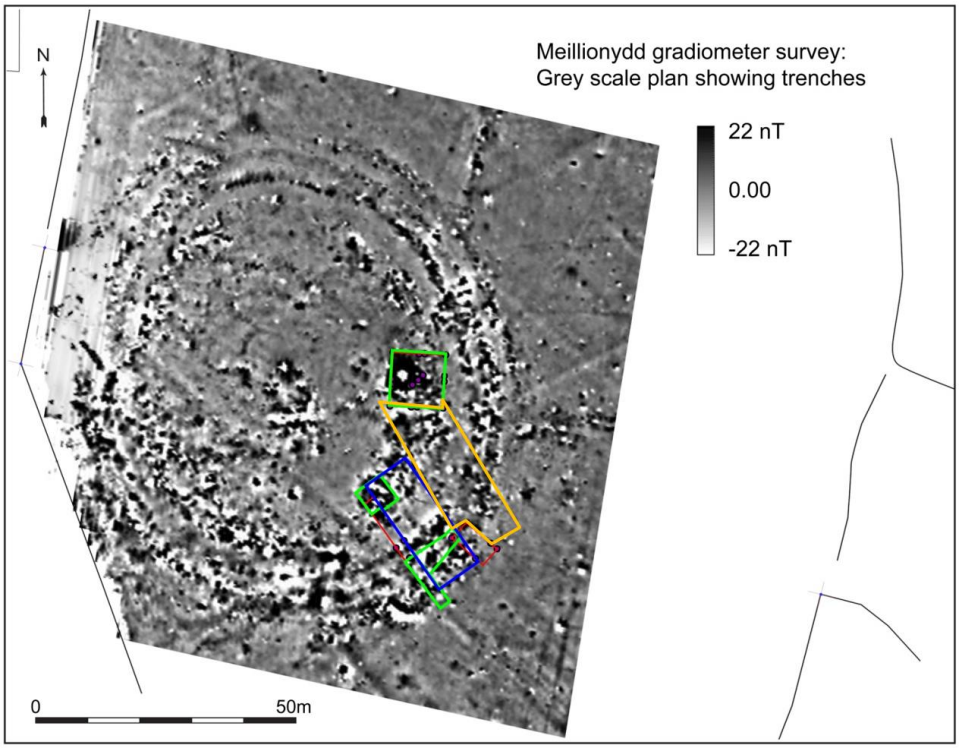

Figure 2: Geophysical survey of Meillionydd, showing (in yellow) the position of the 2014 trenches (adapted from Smith and Hopewell 2007, fig 11). The trench reopened in 2013 are shown in blue, the 2011 trenches are shown in bright green, and the 2010 trenches are shown in red.

Methodology

The excavations were carried out in the stratigraphic method (Harris 1989; Harris et al. 1993). All contexts were recorded in single context recording on standard context record sheets, as were small find and samples. In addition, where appropriate, single and multiple context plans and sections were drawn on permatrace. Digital documentation photographs of features and quadrants / trenches were taken in RAW and JPEG format using a Nikon D5100 digital SLR camera with an AF-S DX 18-55mm F3.5-5.6G lens at 16.1 Megapixel and 6 Megapixel resolution. In addition, digital photographs for three-dimensional photographic recording were taken with the same camera and processed using Agi Soft Photo Scan Standard Edition for creating 3D renderings. The trenches were recorded as 3D survey points using a Leica GPS 1205 Smart Pole with +/- 1.5 cm accuracy, averaged out of 4 independent measurements. All records, plans, photos and 3D measurements were taken by staff, students and volunteers under guidance and supervision of the excavation directors, who also checked the records for correctness and completeness. All students, and almost all volunteers, performed all these tasks (with the exception of surveying) at least once, in most cases repeatedly over the course of several days. Finds were recorded using standard finds record sheets, with individual team members responsible for finds recording. Furthermore, a site diary was kept and updated daily by a designated member of the excavation team under guidance and supervision of the excavation directors.

The excavations: preliminary results

Trench 4

Figure 3: Trench 4 at the beginning of the 2014 season, following deturfing with the black 2013 plastic sheeting still in place.

Trench 4 was reopened and enlarged in order to cover the entrance through the outer bank and the metalled surface running through the enclosure entrance-way. The c. 10x20 m trench was divided into 8 quadrants, each roughly 5x5 m. However, quadrants 7 and 8 where slightly extended into the area of former trench 2 to remove the black plastic sheeting from 2013 and finish excavating features which were left in situ during the previous season until they could be excavated fully in 2014.

Furthermore, in quadrant 1 a c. 5x1.5 m bulk of backfill from trench 1 west extension was left in place (Figure 3) and due to the shape of the adjacent trench 2 quadrant 6 had the shape of a trapezium with the bases being c. 3 m and 1 m and the legs c. 5 m and 5.5 m long.

There were a few features in quadrants 1 and 2 of the trench which could not be assigned to a certain phase within the stratigraphic sequence. Four of these, postholes [1069], [1070], [1083], and [1086], form a rectangle in the border area of the two quadrants. Posthole [1069] is circular in shape and has a diameter of c. 60 cm and a depth of c. 35 cm. It was filed with light brown silty loam (1012) and contained packing stones (1068). Posthole [1086] was filled with dark brown sandy clay (1084). It had a diameter of c. 56 cm, a depth of c. 28 cm and a circular shape. It contained packing stones (1085), some of which were between 20 and 30 cm long. Posthole [1083] was circular, c. 52 cm wide and c. 27 cm deep. It was filled with dark brown sandy clay (1081) and contained large packing stones (1082). Posthole [1070] had a width of c. 42 cm and a depth of c. 40 cm. It was nearly oval in shape and contained packing stones (1071). It was filled with light brown silty clay (1005), which was slightly grittier than the surrounding material. These features might be the remains of a four-poster, which measured c. 2.20 m at the north end, c. 2.30 m at the south end and c. 2.40 m in length. However, since the building does not intersect with other features it is uncertain to which building phase it belongs. Next to this feature is another posthole, feature [1067]. With c. 27 cm in diameter and only 12 cm in depth, this circular feature is relatively small compared to the other postholes in the area. It is filled with dark brown clay (1013).

Three features in the western corner of quadrant 1 could not be assigned to a specific building. Posthole [1091] is situated right at the end of the inturn of the northern terminal of the quarry hollow [1089]. It is circular, c. 47 cm wide and c. 46 cm deep. It contained a dark brown silty clay loam (1006) and two packing stones (1090). Posthole [1088] was circular and measured 85 cm in width and c. 24 cm in depth. It was filled with dark brown silty clay (1079) and contained packing stones (1087). Feature [1078] was a wide (c. 93 cm) but very shallow (c. 14 cm) circular feature, possible the remains of a posthole or pit, filled with a dark brown silty clay (1076) which contained a lot of charcoal and some larger stones.

The earliest feature in this trench was the northern terminal of the u-shaped ditch [1064], a feature which's southern terminal had already been observed in trenches 1 and 2 in previous years ([22] and [23]). The northern terminal started in the middle of quadrant 8 and ran through the western corner of quadrant 3 and the eastern corner of quadrant 2 where it continued past the trench edge (Figure 4). It was filled with layer (1053), which represents intentional backfill at a later stage of building activity on site. Within (1053), the badly corroded remains of three iron objects were found (FNs 550, 678 and 680). Find 680 could be identified as a hewing knife. At a later stage, the u-shaped ditch was partially dug out when earth was dug out to create the outer bank. What remains has a max. width of c. 1.78 m and a depth of c. 32 cm at the northern trench edge. Towards the end of the terminal the ditch became smaller and shallower with a width of 80 cm and a depth of 17 cm.

In quadrants 2 and 3 two postholes ([1060] and [1058]) were later dug into the western side of the ditch. Both features were roughly oval in shape. Feature [1058] was 64 cm wide and 21 cm deep. It was filled with dark brown silty clay (1036) and contained packing stones (1059) which were up to 15 cm long. Posthole [1060] was c. 22 cm deep and c. 65 cm wide and contained orange light brown sandy clay loam (1037) as well as packing stones (1061) and a very large chunk of charcoal (sample no. 536, see appendix 2). These postholes are thought to have been part of the wooden palisade

which was erected after the settlement had been surrounded by the ditch. The same goes for double posthole [1062] which is located to the inside of the u-shaped ditch/quarry hollow in the northern corner of the trench. It is filled with light brown silty clay loam (1054), contains packing stones (1063) and measures max. 94 cm in length, 68 cm in width and 15 cm in depth. Another posthole which was excavated in trench 1 and 4 in 2013 and only slightly extends into trench 4 is feature [663]. This was identified in the 2013 excavation as one of the gateposts of the palisade gate.

Figure 4: Post-excavation shot of the u-shaped ditch [1064].

The primary layer of the metalled surface (1044 = 1031 = 1033) was first recorded next to the southern terminal of the inner bank in trench 1 in 2013, where it was originally called (656). From there it ran through the northern corner of trench 2 and into trench 4 where it continued past the outer bank, which in fact was built over it at a later stage. This layer of metalling consisted of small stones which were pressed into the dark brown loamy sand which surrounded them. It covered part of the u-shaped ditch and thus belongs to a later building phase than the ditch, but was in place before the outer bank was build.

During a later building phase the entrance area was restructured. A quarry hollow [1089] was dug starting at the inner side of the u-shaped ditch in quadrants 1 and 2 and continuing to the outer bank in quadrants 3 and 4. The latter was erected with the material from the quarry hollow. In the process, the u-shaped ditch was partially dug out. The quarry hollow, which was c. 2.60 m wide and c. 32 cm deep, was filled with various layers [(1046), (1038), (1028) = (1015), (1011), and (1010)] and was later partially covered by the upper metalled surface (811).

After the quarry hollow had been dug, gullies were built in the entrance area. One of them ([1066]) was between 20 and 50 cm wide, 8 cm deep and filled with light orange brown sandy loam (1093), which contained a lot of stones in the upper part of the feature. It ran from roughly the outside of the former u-shaped ditch, where two arms merged, through the entrance passage, to just outside the outer bank where it widened to up to 1.74 m in width and merged with a loose light orange brown sandy loam fill (1035) which was max. 11 cm deep, before it finally connected to gully [1057]. The latter (Figure 5) originated on the inside of the stone roundhouse excavated in 2012 and 2013, continued underneath the bank and ended right outside the entrance passage. It was max. 52 cm wide and 15 cm deep and filled with light brown silty loam (1041) which covered a layer of green clay (1077). This bottom layer was interpreted as possible organic material and sample no. 593 was taken. In some areas facing stones (1039) and (1040) remained in situ and underneath the bank some of the gully's capstones (1056) were preserved.

Figure 5: Shot of gully [1057] with remains of the primary metalling (1044) and the remains of the outer facing of the southern bank terminal which were left in situ.

Under the northern terminal of the outer bank two postholes were found. Both were circular in shape and while [1099], which had a diameter of c. 35 cm, was c. 18 cm deep, contained packing stones (1098) and was filled with light brown sandy clay (1095), was fully covered by the bank, [1100]

was only covered half way. The latter posthole was filled with light brown sandy clay (1094) and with a diameter of c. 40 cm and a depth of c. 32 cm slightly bigger.

In quadrants 7 and 8 the last remains of roundhouse [338] were excavated. This feature had previously been excavated in trench 2 in 2012 and 2013. The entrance lay just inside trench 4 and was remodelled at a later stage, when part of it was covered by the upper metalled surface (811). Just inside the entrance lay gully [1074] (mislabelled on Fig. 7 as [1047]), which was max. 24 cm wide and contained roundhouse fill (827), a dark grey clayey soil. While in previous years it looked like the roundhouse had been built into the bank at a later stage, drainage gully [1057] which continued underneath the outer bank proved that the roundhouse had been built prior to or more or less at the same time as the bank.

Aside from the metalled surface (1044), the southern terminal of the outer bank covers three additional features; postholes [1104] and [1102] as well as sinkhole [1092] which sits at the end of gully [1047], which in turn is located in the entrance of the stone build roundhouse. Hence, all these features need to be older than the bank. Furthermore, [1102] and [1092] cut away some of the metalled surface (1044) and, therefore, must be younger than the primary metaled surface. The stratigraphic relationship between [1104] and (1044) is unknown, but it seems likely that this posthole was dug wile either the roundhouse or the bank were built. [1104] is circular in shape and had a max. diameter of c. 38 cm and is 21 cm deep. It is filled with dark brown sandy clay loam (1096) and contained packing stones (1105). Posthole [1102] was filled with dark brown sandy clay loam (1097) and contained packing stones (1103). It was c. 50 cm wide and c. 22 cm deep. Sinkhole [1092] was filled with light brown silty loam (1075). It was c. 60 cm wide and c. 30 cm deep.

The southern terminal of the outer bank (Figure 6) was built shortly after or most likely together with the roundhouse. The bank body (1026) consisted of orange dark brown silty clay loam and contained a significant amount of stones (ca. 25%). The lowest layer of facing stones (1023) remained in situ and at the end of the southern terminal layer (1042) containing nearly linear stones was found, which might relate to another building phase of the outer bank. However, too little of it was preserved to draw any conclusions. The bank body of the northern terminal was called (1048) (mislabelled as 1046 on plan) and consisted of light brown loamy sand and contained many stones (c. 80%). The lowest layers of facing stones (1017) remained in situ. Furthermore, it could be observed that the ground had subsided due to the weight of the wall. The entrance passage as well as the area in front of the two bank terminals was filled with various layers of bank tumble [(1016), (1020), (1021), (1022), (1024), and (1043)]. One of these layers, (1043), was originally thought to be a wall facing repair which had become necessary when gully [1957] was cut. However, it turned out later, that the gully was older than the bank. Thus, (1043) cannot be a repair phase, but must be part of the bank tumble. The topmost bank layer (1025), an orange dark brown silty loam containing no stones at all, covered both bank terminals.

When the outer bank was built, an intermediate layer of the metalled surface [feature (1045 = 1034 = 1030 = 1029)] was constructed. It covers the previous layer (1044) and part of the u-shaped ditch and runs along the outer bank and the entrance of the roundhouse. Amongst the stones a small stone bead (FN 525) was found.

Figure 6: Shot of the partially excavated quarry hollow, the metalled surface and the partially excavated bank terminals in trench 4.

In the northern corner of quadrant 1 under the inner bank (1204) posthole [1107] was found. It contained fill (1080) and packing stones (1106) and was c. 23 cm wide and c. 14 cm deep.

Feature (811), a third layer of metalling, which partially covered the southern terminal of the outer bank (1026), the roundhouse entrance and the previous two layers of the metalled surface [(1044) and (1045)] as well as the u-shaped ditch and the quarry hollow, was the last sign of building activity in trench 4. In the area of the quarry hollow, it was covered by (1011) the top fill of the quarry hollow. In other areas it was covered by topsoil 01.

Finally, topsoil 01 covered the entire trench.

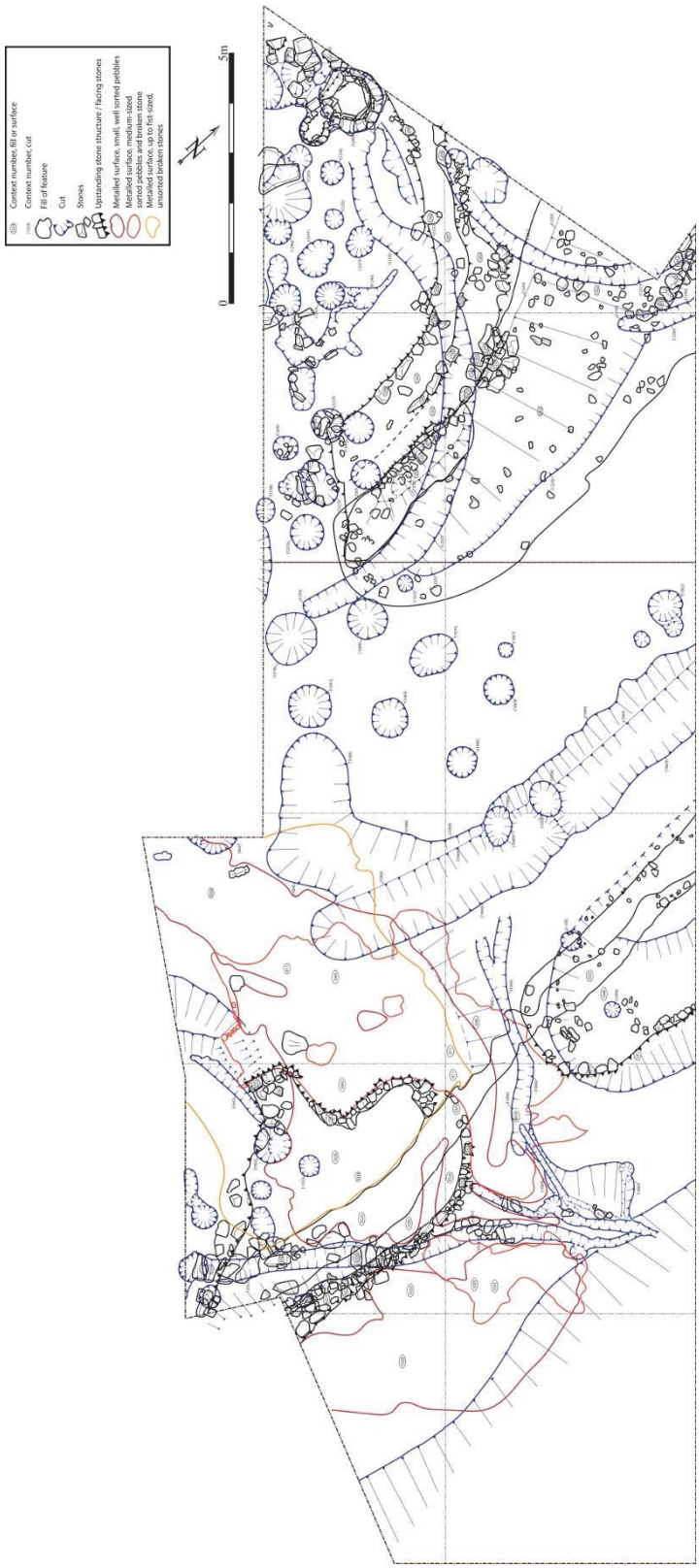

Figure 7: Plan of all features in trenches opened in 2014. The entrance through the outer bank is visible in the middle of trench 4. On the inside of the outer bank, the northern terminal of the u-shaped ditch can be seen. The edge of the primary metalled surface (1044) is shown in red line, the intermediate metalling (1045) in orange, and the upper metalled surface (811) is shown in yellow line. The remains of the northern terminal of the inner bank and various roundhouses are visible in trench 5 and the stone lined pits can be seen in the upper left-hand edge of the trench.

Trench 5

Figure 8: Pre-excavation shot of trench 5.

Trench 5 was divided into 5 quadrants of varying size, due to the shape and location of trench 3 in relation to this trench. Quadrant 1 was a triangular area of c. 0.8 m^2 located in the western corner of the trench. It connected to Quadrant 5, which was a rectangle of c. 5x3.60 m with the northern corner cut off. Next to quadrant 5 was quadrant 2, which was nearly triangular in shape and c. 14 m^2 in size. Quadrants 3 and 4, which were rectangular in shape and connected to trench 4, were 5x5 m and c. 5x3.60 m in size.

Quadrants 4 and 5 contained a number of unstratified features, mainly postholes. Some of these might belong to the inner post ring of either roundhouse [1253] or (1207), but it is not possible to say which. Postholes [1223], [1258], [1227], and [1226] were situated in the southern corner of quadrant 4. [1223] is circular in shape and filled with dark brown sandy clay (1216). It contained packing stones (1222) and was 70 cm wide and 27 cm deep. The oval feature [1258] was only partially excavated in 2014, because it was situated in the trench edge and continued in what would be trench 6 in the 2015 excavation. It contained dark brown silty clay (1215) and was 48 cm wide and 14 cm deep. Posthole [1226] was circular in shape and filled with dark brown silty clay (1213). It was 53 cm wide and 11 cm deep. Feature [1227] is a triple posthole that was filled with dark brown silty clay (1214). It contained some larger stones (c. 60%) and was max. 66 cm wide and 28 cm deep. All of these features were later covered by (1203), the top roundhouse infill.

During excavation an area of dark brown sandy clay called (1232) was exposed, which later turned out to cover four postholes [1241], [1242], [1243], and [1246]. [1241] was a double posthole, which was roughly oval in shape and 82 cm long, 66 cm wide and c. 20 cm deep. [1242] was max. 1.24 m long, 66 cm wide and c. 15 cm deep, [1243] max. 58 cm wide and c. 15 cm deep and [1246] c. 54 cm wide and c. 20 cm deep. All these postholes were filled with (1232) as there was no visible difference between that layer and the posthole fills. Posthole [1243] connected to gully [1244] which was filled with dark brown sandy clay (1234). It was max. 60 cm wide and 5 cm deep. The stratigraphic

relationship between these two features in unclear. The same goes for gully [1244] and feature [1221], which was filled with a dark brown or black sandy clay (2017), which was rich in charcoal, as well as posthole [1246] and pit [1245].

Three additional postholes were located roughly in the middle of quadrant 5. Posthole [1235] was 38 cm wide and 5 cm deep. It contained (1203), the top fill of the last roundhouse built in this part of the site. The second feature, posthole [1256], was 48 cm wide and 5 cm deep. It contained fill (1254) and lay underneath (1203). Posthole [1257] was located adjacent to gully [1253]. However, their stratigraphic relationship is unknown. The posthole was filled with dark brown silty loam (1255) and was 62 cm wide and ca. 30 cm deep.

Feature [1245], which sat in the southwestern trench edge next to [1246] was a sizable pit with a length of c. 1.58 m, a width of c. 1.02 m and a depth of 25 cm. It was filled with dark brown sandy clay (1231) which contained medium sized stones, flecks of charcoal and a layer of burnt clay. This could indicate a possible hearth or ash pit. The pit was covered by layer (1212), a compact, almost black silty clay, which in turn is covered by (1208), which represents wall tumble of the last roundhouse in the area, and 1209, an area of dark soil which was mostly free of stones.

The oldest features on site are the wall gullies and postholes of two wooden roundhouses. Cut [1253] is the wall gully of a wooden roundhouse which's north-eastern half was excavated in trench 5. It was filled with dark brown sandy loam (1219) and 65 cm wide and 17 cm deep. At a later stage this feature was partially covered by the inner bank and a stone roundhouse. Therefore, it must belong to an earlier building phase. Of the second feature part of two wall gullies remained. Gully [1236] was filled with light brown silty sand (1229) and was 40 cm wide and 21 cm deep. Gully [1251] contained dark brown sandy loam (1230). It was 44 cm wide and 21 cm deep. It is unclear whether the latter two concentric wall gullies belong to the same house or whether they indicate two different building phases in roughly the same spot. In any case, features [1253] and [1236] intersect and thus could not have been standing at the same time. However, at this point it is impossible to say which of the two features is older.

Inside roundhouse [1253] were a few postholes, two of which were later fully and one partially covered by the wall of a stone built roundhouse (feature 1207) and thus must be older. Feature [1250], which was also covered in part by the inner bank (1204), was filled with dark brown sandy clay (1249) and contained packing stones (1259) as well as quite a few small stones (c. 20%). It was circular in shape and max. 60 cm wide and c. 30 cm deep. The second fully covered posthole, the circular feature [1248], was 60 cm wide and 30 cm deep. It was filled with dark brown silty loam (1247) and contained packing stones (1260). Together with the partially covered feature [1225] it forms a double posthole. The latter was filled with dark brown sandy clay (1218) and contained packing stones (1224). It was c. 63 cm wide and c. 20 cm deep.

Only little of the inner bank [1220] remained. The bank body (1204) consisted of dark brown loamy sand and contained many stones (c. 80%), some of which were quite sizable (up to 40 cm in length). It was preserved up to a width of 2,60 m and a hight of 30 cm. Remains of the outer faceing (1205) could be located in varios spots along the site of the bank. Of the inner facing (1237) only five stones remained in situ with four other stones called (1201) which had tumbled down, but remained right in front of the bank. Layer (1002), a max. 15 cm thick layer of ochre loamy sand with many stones of variable size which was originally found in trench 4, and layer (1202), an orange brown sandy loam

which contained many stones of up to 20 cm in length (c. 50%), represent further tumble from the inner bank.

In quadrant 4 remains of a stone roundhouse wall were found (Figure 9). The wall core (1207) consisted of orange brown sandy loam which contained a sizable amount of stones (c. 50%). A few stones of the inner faceing (1206) and the outer facing (1200) remained in the northern corner of the quadrant. The feature fully or partially covers postholes [1225], [1248] and [1250] as well as part of the earlier gully [1253] and was thus built later.

Figure 9: The remains of the roundhouse wall (1207) with inner facing (1206) and outer facing (1200) partially in situ.

Figure 10: Stone lined pits [1240] during excavation.

The earliest feature in trench 5 are the two stone lined pits [1240] (Figure 10) and the remaining inner wall facing of a roundhouse which was only preserved well in the trench edge in the western corner of the trench and continued into trench 6, where it was excavated in 2015. The stone lining (1239) of the larger pit was clearly build at the same time as the facing of the roundhouse wall, because it was constructed as one. The bigger of the two pits was max. 1.30 m wide and c. 60 cm deep. It had a dark grey sandy clay bottom fill, which was called (1238). It was covered by (1228), a dark brown silty clay, which contained some sizable stones. While excavating this layer two small blue glass beads were found close to the top. Therefore, a full sample of the fill was taken.[1]

(1228) was also the fill of the smaller stone lined pit, which was not given a separate context number except for the stone lining (1252). It was c. 68 cm wide and c. 20 cm deep. The fill of the pits (1228) in turn was covered with a layer of loosely infilled large stones and dark brown silty clay called (1210). The layer was so loosely infilled, that between the stones hollow spaces remained. In the area next to the stone lined pits and in the trench edge, deposits of shells survived in these pockets (Figure 11), because they were not surrounded by the accidic soil. (1210) was partially covered by (1211), a dark brown sandy clay, which contained a sizable amount of medium sized stones and was in turn covered by (1203), a dark brown sandy clay which contained stones (c.42%) and represents the top infill of the roundhouse. Various layers of the infill of the roundhouse were preserved in quadrants 4 and 5.

Aside from part of the inner facing in the northern trench edge of quadrant 1 only little remained of the roundhouse itself. A few larger stones in quadrant 4, which were called (1233) during excavation, could be part of the wall facing and layer (1208), a dark brown silty clay which contained a high number of stones (c. 62%) might be interpreted as wall tumble. It covered (1212), a layer of black silty clay in part, which in other areas was covered by (1209), a dark brown nearly black silty loam. The top fill of the roundhouse is layer (1203), a dark brown sandy clay which contained roughly (42%) of stones, most of which were under 10 cm in size.

Finally, the whole trench was covered by topsoil (1).

Figure 11: A deposit of shells which was preserved in one of the hollow pockets between stones in layer (1210) in the western corner of trench 5.

[1] Not all soil samples have been processed, yet. However, a third blue glass bead has been found during wet sieving of one of the samples from pit [1240] in 2015.

Preliminary conclusions

The 2014 season was a successful excavation season, allowing us to fully excavate two trenches and thus creating a continuously excavated area of c. 800m^2. The work has expanded our knowledge of the entrance-ways to the enclosure and confirmed our findings from previous excavation seasons. It also allowed us to finish the excavation of the metalled surface which we first encountered in the 2012 excavation season.

In trench 4 the entrance through the outer bank could be excavated. Considering the u-shaped ditch, the palisade found in trench 1 as well as the three layers of metalling, two of which were first observed in trench 1 and 2 and continued in trench 4, it is clear that the entrance changed over time. At first there seems to have been an unenclosed settlement, possibly with a paved area consisting of the oldest layer of the metalled surface (1044), which was later surrounded by a u-shaped ditch and a wooden palisade. Once the outer bank had been built and the u-shaped ditch had been mostly dug out in the process, the intermediate layer of metalling (1045) was laid down. At a later stage, possibly towards the end of its use, the remains of the outer bank was partially covered by metalling. This final layer of metalling called (811) is associated with a building phase that included at least a remodelling of the entrance area of the roundhouse which was excavated in trench 2 in 2012 and 2013.

Furthermore, the discovery of gully [1057], which was a drainage gully originating in roundhouse [338] and continued underneath the southern terminal of the outer bank (1026), proved that the roundhouse was built prior to the bank and not as originally thought at a later stage. Since the features must have been constructed roughly at the same time, it seems reasonable to assume that they had a similar function. Considering the position of roundhouse [338] at the end of the southern terminal of the inner bank and the fact that the entrance of the roundhouse was leading directly to the entrance of the bank, it seems likely that the roundhouse might have been used as a guardhouse.

The various features on the inside of the inner bank (1204) suggest that there was a lot of building activity going on in that part of the site. So far, there seem to have been at least three roundhouses standing just inside the entrance at one point or another. While the wall gully of the timber roundhouse [1253] is cut by the bank and must thus be older, the two stone built roundhouses are either contemporary or younger than the bank. Considering that roundhouse (1207) would most likely have at least partially blocked the entrance it was most likely built later than the bank. In fact, the bank was severely slighted in this area, probably when the roundhouse was constructed.

Finds

The majority of the small finds recovered this year consisted of utilised stones, such as hammer-stones and smoothers, along with Mynydd Rhiw stone and a few examples of possible metal slag and fired clay (see Appendix 1). The most interesting finds are two blue glass beads (FN 633) from the fill of the stone lined pit [1240] (Figure 11), as well as a stone bead (FN 525) from the intermediate layer of metalling (1045) and the badly corroded remains of the hewing knife (FN 680), which was found at the bottom of the northern terminal of the u-shaped ditch [1064]. Due to the good preservation conditions, several deposits of shells (see Fig. 10) could be excavated in quadrant 1 of trench 5. They

survived in hollow pockets between the stones of layer (1210) where they were safe from the acidic soil which usually decomposes organic material quite quickly.

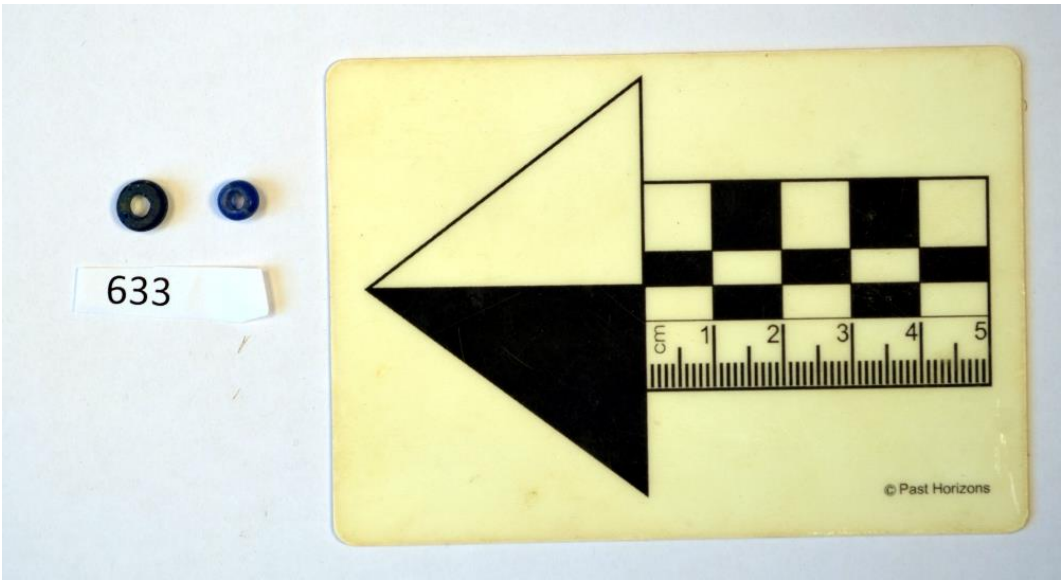

Figure 11: The two blue glass beads found in layer (1228) in trench 5.

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Appendices

Small Finds Register

SF No.	Trench	CN	Category	Description
395	4	1	Pottery	Shard of Buckeley Ware
396	4	1	Stone	Mynydd Rhiw, Pos Mini Core
397	4	1	Glass	Shard of modern glass, Green
398	4	1	Stone	Pos Smoothing Stone
399	4	1	Iron??	Hammerite Pos Mangan
400	4	1	Pottery	Shard of Buckeley Ware
401	4	1	Pottery	Buckeley ware
402	4	1	Slag	Slag
403	4	1	Slag	Slag
404	4	1	Stone	Flint
405	4	1	Stone	Pos. Hammer Stone
406	4	1	Pottery	Glassed Ware Pos. Bulkeley Ware
407	4	1	Stone	Hammer Stone
408		Stray Find	Stone	Hammer Stone
409	4	1	Plastic	Pipe Mouth Piece
410	4	1	Slag	Slag
411		Stray FInd	Stone	Mynydd Rhiw, Core
412		Stray Find	Stone	Flint
413		Stray Find	Stone	Hammer Stone
414		Stray Find	Stone	Hammer Stone
415	4	1	Iron	Square Nail
416	4	1	Slag	Slag
417	4	1	Iron??	Corroded Iron
418	4	1	Pottery	Black Glazed Pottery
419	4	1	Iron??	Corroded Iron
420	4	1	Slag	Slag
421	4	1	Glass	Shard of modern glass
422	4	1	Slag	Slag
423	4	1	Slag	Very Heavy Slag
424	4	1	Pottery	Buckeley ware
425	4	1	Pottery	Small piece of glazed pottery
426	4	1	Glass	Piece of green modern glass
427	4	1	Iron??	Corroded Iron, Small pieces

SF No.	Trench	CN	Category	Description
428	4	1	Slag	Slag
429	4	1	Iron??	Corroded Iron, Small pieces
432	4	1011	Stone	Worked Stone
433	4	1010	Bone	Fragment of Bone
436	4	1024	Stone	Hammer Stone
439	4	1024	Stone	Whetstone
443	4	1010	Stone	Fragment of Rotary Quern
444	4	1024	Iron??	Corroded Iron
445	4	1010	Iron?	Iron/Slag
447	4	1010	Stone	Hammer Stone
448	5	1	Glass	Modern Glass
449	4	1020	Stone	Hammer Stone
450	4	1010	Stone	Hammer Stone
452	4	1020	Slag	Slag
454	5	1	Metal	Metal Button
457	5	1	Iron	Iron Nail
459	4	1020	Slag	Slag
460	4	1025	Iron??	Corroded Iron
461	4	1025	Iron??	Corroded Iron
462	5	1	Stone	Rotary Quern Pos. Part of 443
463	5	1	Glass	Modern Glass
464	5	1	Slag	Slag
465	5	1	Slag	Slag
466	5	1	Pottery	Modern Glazed Pottery
467	4	1010	Stone	Slingshot Stone
468	5	1	Iron	U-Shaped Iron Nail
470	5	1203	Iron??	Corroded Metal
471	5	1	Stone	Mini Mynydd Rhiw Scraper
472	5	1	Slag	Slag
473	4	1010	Stone	Mynydd Rhiw Scraper
474	5	1	Stone	Pos. Polishing/Slingshot
475	5	1002	Stone	Flint Scraper
477	5	1	Slag	Slag
478	4	1	Stone	Hammerstone
479	5	1	Glass	Modern Glass
480	5	1	Glass	Blue Modern Glass
481	5	1	Slag	Slag
485	5	1	Iron	Square Nail
486	4	1020	Stone	Whetstone
487	4	1028	flint	Worked Flint Flake
488	5	1002	Pottery	Glazed Pottery
489	4	1020	Slag	Slag

SF No.	Trench	CN	Category	Description
490	5	1002	Stone	Hammerstone
493	4	1028	Stone	Slag
496	4	1020	Stone	Rubbing Stone
499	4	1020	Slag	Slag
502	5	1203	Slag	Slag
503	4	1020	Stone	Fragment of Whetstone
508	5	1203	Clay	Burnt Clay
509	4	811	Stone	Quern Stone Fragment
510	5	1203	Slag	Slag
511	5	1203	Stone	Smoothing Stone
524	4	1052	Bone?	Three Small Bone Fragments
525	4	1045	Stone	Bead, small, shale?
538	5	1208	Stone	Whetstone
539	5	1208	Flint	Small Flint Scraper
542	4	1025	Stone	Smoothing Stone
543	4	1054	Stone	Fragment of Smoothing stone
545	5	1210	Shell	Shell Fragments
549	4	1025	Stone	Smoothing stone
550	4	1053	Iron??	Pos. Coroded Iron
551	4	1046	Stone	Hammer Stone
552	4	1025	Stone	Pos. Lamp
553	4	1046	Stone	Pos. Scaper
555	4	1025	Stone	Smoothing stone
559	5	1210	Bone	Bone Fragments
560	4	1025	Stone	Smoothing/Hammer Stone
561	4	1025	Stone	Pos. Smoothing Stone
563	4	1026	Stone	Pos. Mynydd Rhiw Stone 'Core'
564	4	1026	Stone	Smoothing Stone
565	4	1026	Stone	Hammer Stone
567	4	1026	Stone	Smoothing Stone
568	4	1026	Stone	Smoothing Stone
569	5	1210	Shell	Shell Fragments
573	4	1055	Stone	Smoothing Stone
574	4	1055	Stone	Whetstone/Smoother
575	5	1210	Shell	Shell Fragments
578	5	1210	Bone	Animal Tooth
581	4	1012	Stone	Smoothing Stone
586	4	1041	Stone	Whetstone Fragment
590	5	1204	Stone	Whetstone
594	5	1204	Stone	Hammerstone (TR4)
596	5	1204	Stone	Smoothing stone
597	4	1010	Stone	Mynydd Rhiw Flake

SF No.	Trench	CN	Category	Description
598	4	1076	Stone	Whetstone
599	5	1204	Stone	Hammerstone
601	5	1203	Stone	Smoothing Stone
604	5	1204	Stone	Hammer/Smoothing Stone
609	5	1203	Stone	Smoothing Stone
612	5	1203	Stone	Remains of Mynydd Rhiw Core
614	5	1203	Stone	Hammerstone
615	5	1203	Stone	Mynydd Rhiw Core
626	5	1228	Stone	Spindle Whorl
627	5	1212	Stone	Hammerstone/Smoothing Stone
629	5	1212	Stone	Hammerstone
632	5	1202	Stone	Stone
633	5	1228	Glass	Bead, blue, 2 complete and one fragment
636	5	1228	Bone + Shell	Fragments of Bone and Shell
638	4	1023	Stone	Smoothing Stone
640	5	1202	Stone	Smoothing Stone
642	5	1228	Stone	Smoothing Stone
645	5	1228	Stone	Spindle Whorl
647	5	1223	Bone	Burnt Bone
651	5	1228	Stone	Mortar
652	5	1228	Stone	Smoothing Stone
654	5	1238	Stone	Pos. Gaming Piece
666	4	1044	Stone	Pos. Smoothing Stone
668	4	1044	Stone	Smoothing/Hammer Stone
678	4	1053	Iron	Iron Fragments
680	4	1053	Iron	Iron Fragments (knife)
681	4	1	stone	Hammer Stone
682	4	1	stone	Mynydd Rhiw, 2 fragments
683	4	1	pottery	modern pottery

Sample Register

Sample No.	Type	Trench	CN	Description
430	Soil	4	1011	Soil Sample S. of Baulk 20LTRS
431	Soil	4	1011	Soil Sample N. of Baulk 20LTRS
434	Charcoal	4	1025	Charcoal Sample
435	Soil	4	1025	Soil Sample
437	Charcoal	4	1024	Charcoal Sample
438	Charcoal	4	1024	Charcoal Sample
440	Soil	4	1024	Soil Sample 2 Bags
441	Charcoal	4	1016	Charcoal Sample
442	Charcoal	4	1016	Charcoal Sample

Sample No.	Type	Trench	CN	Description
446	Soil	4	1010	Soil Sample 20LTRS, 2 Bags
451	Charcoal	4	1010	Charcoal Sample
453	Charcoal	4	1010	Charcoal Sample
455	Charcoal	4	1028	Charcoal Sample
456	Soil	4	1010	Soil Sample
458	Charcoal	4	1028	Charcoal Sample
469	Charcoal	4	1028	Charcoal Sample
476	Charcoal	4	1035	Charcoal Sample
482	Charcoal	4	1028	Charcoal Sample
483	Charcoal	4	1034	Charcoal Sample
484	Charcoal	5	1	Charcoal Sample
491	Soil	4	1020	Soil Sample 20LTRS, 2 Bags
492	Soil	5	1002	Soil Sample 20LTRS, 2 Bags
494	Charcoal	4	1020	Charcoal Sample
495	Charcoal	5	1002	Charcoal Sample
497	Charcoal	5	1203	Charcoal Sample
498	Charcoal	5	1203	Charcoal Sample
500	Charcoal	4	1031	Charcoal Sample
501	Charcoal	5	1202	Charcoal Sample
504	Charcoal	5	1203	Charcoal Sample
505	Charcoal	5	1203	Charcoal Sample
506	Charcoal	5	1203	Charcoal Sample
507	Charcoal	4	1045	Charcoal Sample
512	Charcoal	5	1202	Charcoal Sample
513	Soil	4	1038	Soil Sample 20LTRS, 2 Bags
514	Charcoal	5	1002	Charcoal Sample
515	Charcoal	5	1203	Charcoal Sample
516	Charcoal	5	1204	Charcoal Sample
517	Soil	5	1204	Soil Sample
518	Charcoal	4	811	Charcoal Sample
519	Charcoal	5	1204	Charcoal Sample
520	Charcoal	4	1022	Charcoal Sample
521	Soil	4	1048	Soil Sample 20LTRS, 2 Bags
522	Charcoal	4	1041	Charcoal Sample
523	Soil	4	1041	Soil Sample 8LTRS, 1 Bag
526	Charcoal	4	1029	Charcoal Sample
527	Charcoal	4	1044	Charcoal Sample
528	Charcoal	4	1026	Charcoal Sample
529	Charcoal	4	1026	Charcoal Sample
530	Charcoal	4	1036	Charcoal Sample
531	Charcoal	4	1036	Charcoal Sample
532	Charcoal	4	1036	Charcoal Sample

Sample No.	Type	Trench	CN	Description
533	Soil	4	1036	Soil Sample 10LTRS, 1 Bag
534	Charcoal	5	1208	Charcoal Sample
535	Charcoal	4	1037	Charcoal Sample
536	Charcoal	4	1037	Charcoal Sample
537	Soil	4	1037	Soil Sample
540	Soil	5	1208	Soil Sample 20LTRS, 2 Bags
541	Charcoal	4	1026	Charcoal
544	Soil	4	1025	Soil Sample
546	Charcoal	4	1053	Charcoal Sample
547	Charcoal	4	1053	Charcoal Sample
548	Soil	5	1210	Soil Sample 20LTRS, 2 Bags
554	Charcoal	4	1053	Charcoal Sample
556	Charcoal	4	1025	Charcoal Sample
557	Soil	4	1053	Soil Sample
558	Charcoal	4	1035	Charcoal Sample
562	Soil	4	1026	Soil Sample
566	Soil	4	1035	Soil Sample
570	Charcoal	5	1210	Charcoal Sample
571	Charcoal	5	1204	Charcoal Sample
572	Charcoal	5	1210	Charcoal Sample
576	Soil	4	1012	Soil Sample
577	Soil	4	1005	Soil Sample
580	Charcoal	4	1012	Charcoal Sample
582	Soil	5	1212	Soil Sample
583	Charcoal	5	1212	Charcoal Sample
584	Charcoal	4	1041	Charcoal Sample
585	Soil	4	1041	Soil Sample
587	Charcoal	4	1041	Charcoal Sample
588	Soil	4	1076	Soil Sample
589	Charcoal	5	1204	Charcoal Sample
591	Charcoal	4	1077	Charcoal Sample (from grey gully filling)
592	Charcoal	4	1204	Charcoal Sample (TR4)
593	Soil	4	1077	Soil Sample
595	Charcoal	4	1076	Charcoal Sample
600	Charcoal	5	1218	Charcoal Sample
602	Soil	5	1217	Soil Sample
603	Soil	4	1073	Soil Sample of 107g
605	Soil	4	1081	Soil Sample
606	Soil	5	1216	Soil Sample
607	Soil	4	1084	Soil Sample
608	Charcoal	5	1218	Charcoal Sample
610	Soil	5	1218	Soil Sample

Sample No.	Type	Trench	CN	Description
611	Charcoal	5	1203	Charcoal Sample
613	Soil	4	1217	Soil Sample
616	Charcoal	4	1006	Charcoal Sample
617	Soil	4	1006	Soil Sample
618	Charcoal	5	1213	Charcoal Sample
619	Soil	5	1214	Soil Sample
620	Charcoal	4	1089	Charcoal Sample
621	Soil	5	1214	Soil Sample
622	Soil	4	1075	Soil Sample
623	Soil	4	1006	Soil Sample
624	Charcoal	5	1214	Charcoal Sample
625	Charcoal	5	1214	Charcoal Sample
628	Charcoal	5	1231	Charcoal Sample
631	Charcoal	5	1228	Charcoal Sample
634	Charcoal	4	1075	Charcoal Sample
635	Soil	4	1075	Soil Sample
637	Charcoal	5	1228	Charcoal Sample
639	Soil	5	1228	Soil Samples
641	Charcoal	5	1232	Charcoal Sample
643	Soil	5	1232	Soil Sample
644	Charcoal	5	1228	Charcoal Sample
648	Charcoal	5	1232	Charcoal Sample
649	Charcoal	4	1041	Charcoal Sample
650	Charcoal	5	1228	Substantial piece of Charcoal Sample
653	Charcoal	5	1238	Charcoal Sample
655	Charcoal	5	1238	Charcoal Sample
656	Soil	5	1238	Soil Sample
657	Charcoal	4	1093	Charcoal Sample
658	Charcoal	4	1231	Charcoal Sample
659	Charcoal	5	1231	Charcoal Sample
660	Soil	5	1231	Soil Sample
661	Soil	4	1095	Soil Sample
662	Charcoal	4	1035	Charcoal Sample
663	Charcoal	5	1240	Charcoal Sample
664	Soil	5	1219	Soil Sample
665	Soil	5	1230	Soil Sample
667	Charcoal	5	1240	Charcoal Sample
669	Soil	4	1097	Soil Sample
670	Soil	4	1094	Soil Sample
671	Charcoal	5	1218	Charcoal Sample
672	Soil	5	1249	Soil Sample
673	Charcoal	4	1053	Charcoal Sample

Sample No.	Type	Trench	CN	Description
674	Soil	4	1080	Soil Sample
675	Soil	5	1255	Soil Sample
676	Charcoal	4	1096	Charcoal Sample
677	Soil	4	1096	Soil Sample
679	Soil	5	1247	Soil Sample