Archaeological Excavation Report
E0625 - Bricketstown, Co. Wexford

Post and stake row
December 2009

Stuart Elder and Penny Johnston

Written by: Stuart Elder and Penny Johnston
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Acknowledgements

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This project was funded solely by Wexford County Council under the National Development Plan.
1. Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
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<tr>
<td>Townland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Whitechurchglynn</td>
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<td>Barony</td>
<td>Bantry</td>
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<td>Site Type</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
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2. Introduction

Archaeological investigations were carried out in advance of the N25 Rathsillagh to Harristown Little, Realignment Scheme in Co. Wexford. Eachtra Archaeological Projects were under contract to Wexford County Council to carry out this work. At Chainage 6280, topsoil stripping of the 50 m road take revealed what appeared to be the remains of a structure. This was excavated under excavation licence number 00E0625. Truncation of the site during topsoil stripping by bulldozer may account for the shallow nature of the features recorded, and also for the limited number of structural features remaining.

3. Description of Development

The N25 is the main southern east to west route, traversing the counties of Cork, Waterford, Kilkenny and Wexford (Figures 1 and 2). It links the port of Rosslare Harbour with Cork City, via New Ross, Waterford City, Dungarvan and Youghal. A section of the N25 route between the townlands of Rathsillagh and Harristown Little was selected for upgrading, as the old road comprised a single carriageway in either direction, with several ‘blind’ junctions, and in many cases only a hedge separating farmland from the road. The new route sought to straighten and level out the N25 and to provide a wider single carriageway with hard shoulder in either direction, in keeping with the Barntown scheme completed in 1998.

4. Background to the excavation area

The 8.5 km route of the new road crosses a series of low, undulating hills, to the south of the old N25 route, and is situated at a height of between 45 m and 80m above sea level. The landscape here is characterised by small hills, interspersed with many small streams; these eventually flow into the River Corock to the southwest, into the Slaney to the northwest, as well as feeding into Ballyteige Bay to the south. From its western beginning in Rathsillagh townland the routeway climbs gently, running parallel and to the south of the old N25. It then continues through Assagart, Ballyvergin, Shanowle, Camaross, Carrowreagh, Dungeer, Bricketstown and through into Harristown Little, eventually exiting in Harristown Big townland and tying into the Barntown improvement which opened in 1998.

The higher ground was lush pasture, well drained, and gave spectacular views all around. Sites on this
part of the route included prehistoric settlement activity and a series of medieval kilns. Conversely, the lower ground in Camaross, Carrowreagh and Dungeer was quite marshy and prone to growth of gorse. Sites traditionally associated with low-lying ground were found in these townlands, for example a burnt mound at Dungeer and a moated site at Carrowreagh.

5. Archaeological & Historical Background

There are thirteen recorded archaeological monument sites within 1 km either side of the development; one is a church and graveyard site, nine are listed as enclosure sites of between 30 m and 60 m in diameter and three are moated sites (two of which are destroyed). The ecclesiastical site apparently dates to the medieval period as there is a fragment of a medieval grave cover in the graveyard and the site was originally surrounded by a circular bank (Moore 1996, 129). The enclosures most likely represent the *raths* and ringforts of the early medieval period (Moore 1996, 28). Prior to these excavations, the known archaeological remains in the locality were all medieval and post-medieval but several prehistoric sites were identified during the course of this programme of excavation along the N25 route-way, including Neolithic material at Harristown Big, Bronze Age sites at Dungeer, Ballyvergin and Harristown Big and Iron Age activity at two sites in Bricketstown.

5.1 Mesolithic 7000-4000 BC

The earliest known human occupation of Ireland dates to the Mesolithic period (c. 7000-4000 BC). Lithic scatters from the period have been found along the banks of the Barrow river in counties Wexford and Waterford (Green and Zvelebil 1990). Some diagnostic Mesolithic stone artefacts were also found in Camolin, in north Wexford, and along the eastern coastline between Carnsore and Kilmichael point (Stout 1987, 3). However, most activity is identified in resource-rich locations by riversides and coastlines and there is no known evidence for Mesolithic activity within the area affected by the roadtake.

5.2 Neolithic 4000-2500 BC

There is piecemeal evidence for Neolithic occupation in County Wexford. Stout’s (1987) distribution map of Neolithic remains includes evidence for one single burial site, fifteen find spots for flint and stone artefacts, two portal tombs and seven other possible megalithic tombs. Work on the Archaeological Survey of Ireland reduced the number of other possible megaliths from seven to five (Moore 1996). Subsequent excavation work has increased the extent of knowledge concerning Neolithic settlement in the county. Early Neolithic pottery was found by McLoughlin (2004) at Kerlogue (02E0606) and at a pit and a hearth excavated under licence 00E0630 at Courtlands East (Purcell 2001). Later Neolithic activity in the county is indicated by Sandhills ware, discovered during an excavation (02E0434) in a pit at St. Vogues (Purcell 2004). An undated excavation at MacMurroughs (1985:59) also uncovered a number of flints and a ground stone axe, associated with a hearth and pit may also be Neolithic in date (Cotter 1986). Some evidence for Neolithic activity was found as part of this project at Harristown Big (00E0424) where Neolithic pottery was discovered at a site where various pits and stakeholes were excavated. Early Neolithic and possible Middle Neolithic wares were found.
5.3 Bronze Age 2500-500 BC

Some of the earliest Bronze Age finds from Co. Wexford are three chance finds of Beaker gold discs (only one with a provenance). Other Bronze Age metal finds from the county includes hoards of both Early and Late Bronze Age artefacts, e.g. at Cahore Point, a cave at Nash, Ballyvadden, Enniscorthy, Forth Commons and New Ross (Stout 1987, 9-10, 22). At Ballyvadden the Late Bronze Age metal objects were found within a ceramic container, a unique feature in Irish hoards, but apparently common on the continent during the period (Stout 1987, 22).

Burnt mounds are the most common Bronze Age site-types found in Ireland and sixty-three such sites were identified in the Archaeological Inventory for the county (Moore 1996) and since the survey work several have been excavated in the county; examples were found at Strandfield (McCarthy 2004) and along the routes of the N30 (Enniscorthy to Clonroche) and the N11 (Arklow to Gorey) roads (www.nra.ie/Archaeology/LeafletandPosterSeries). Only one burnt mound was excavated during works on the Rathsillagh-Harristown realignment of the N25; this was found at Dungeer 00E0474.

Much of our evidence for Bronze Age activity in Wexford to date has come from burials. There is a recognised concentration of cist-type burials in Co. Wexford; these are commonly thought to date to the Early Bronze Age. Stout (1987) identified more than thirty-seven identified but many were not well documented and Moore (1996) could only pinpoint the locations of only twenty-five cist and pit burials in total. Several other burials with diagnostic Bronze Age pottery have since been found during excavation: there was a cordoned urn burial at Ballintubbrid, vase urn burials at Coolnaboy, Gorey Corporation Lands and Kilmurry, a cist with a tripartite bowl at Knockbrack and a ring ditch with cremation burials at Ferns Lower (Bennett 2004-5). Another ring-ditch was found at Kerlogue Sites 4 and 5 and a large round house excavated at Kerlogue Site 2 was probably also of Bronze Age date (McLoughlin 2004). The excavations from the Rathsillagh-Harristown road scheme included one Early-Middle Bronze Age site at Ballyvergin where hot-stone technology was used in association with metalworking. Another metalworking site was found at Harristown Big (00E0425) where a series of Late Bronze Age metalworking pits and crucibles were found and the Late Bronze Age burnt mound site at Dungeer (00E0474).

5.4 Iron Age 500 BC-500 AD

In common with much of Ireland there is very little evidence for Iron Age activity in Co. Wexford. Hillforts and promontory forts have possible construction dates in the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age and there are two hillforts and five promontory forts in the county (Moore 1996). The artefactual evidence for this period in Wexford includes two pins that are of probable Iron Age date and two possible Iron Age stone heads recovered from Duncormick (Stout 1987, 29-30). Two of the sites excavated along the route of the Rathsillagh-Harristown road produced Iron Age radiocarbon dates, both were from Bricketstown and one was a small cremation cemetery (00E0623), the second was a small hearth (00E0624).
5.5 Early Medieval 500 AD-1169 AD

The beginnings of Christianity are evident in the remains of seventeen early ecclesiastical sites in Co. Wexford (Moore 1996). One of the earliest excavated examples from Co. Wexford was at St. Vogues, at Carnsore, where a wooden church preceded a stone building (O’Kelly 1975). One of the closest known early church sites to the roadtake is located approximately 2 km to the south at the church of Poulmarl/Taghmon, the monastery founded by St. Munna in the seventh century. The list of abbots from this site continues to the end of the tenth century and there is a record of a Viking raid in 917 AD (Moore 1996, 160). By this time the Norse town of Weisford, later to become Wexford, was already established, having been established by the end of the ninth century (Colfer 1990-1991).

Evidence for settlement in the county during the early medieval period comes from ringforts, typical monuments of the period. These were circular or subcircular enclosures made from earthen banks that surrounded areas roughly between 25 and 40 metres in diameter. Excavated examples have demonstrated that they generally surrounded single farmstead-type settlement sites. One hundred and fifty-three examples are known from the county (Moore 1996). Of these only two were located within close proximity to the area of the new Rathsillagh-Harristown road (at Haystown, c. 3 km to the north of the new road and at Cullenstown c. 2 km to the south). There are also numerous circular enclosure sites that probably represent ringforts; thirteen of them appear on the RMP Sheet 36 (covering the area of the new road-take) for Co. Wexford.

5.6 Later Medieval 1169 AD-1600 AD

The Anglo-Normans first landed in Ireland in Co. Wexford in 1169. The county was within their initial land-grab zone between AD 1169 and AD 1190 (Mitchell & Ryan 1997, 305) and was sub-infeudated in the early stages of Anglo-Norman activity in Ireland (Colfer 1987). Wexford county was one of the first twelve counties created by the English Kings in the 12th to 13th centuries, from the original Provinces and lesser Territories of the Irish Tuatha (Howarth 1911, 161). By the thirteenth century much of the area covered by the Rathisillagh-Harristown road-take was a frontier zone and the archaeological landscape of these areas is characterised by moated sites: there are ten known sites on RMP Sheet 36 for Co. Wexford, the area covered by the new road, and one moated site at Carrowreagh was found along the line of the new road. Moated sites were distributed at the peripheries of the colonial organisation centres and probably represent an attempt at secondary colonisation (O’Keeffe 2000, 73-75).

There are almost 130 moated sites known in County Wexford (Moore 1996, 95). However, by the end of the fourteenth century, much of the Anglo-Norman settlement in Co. Wexford had retreated to a southeastern stronghold in the baronies of Forth and Bargy, a pattern that Colfer (1987) suggests was reminiscent of the “Pale of county Wexford”. Excavations of medieval sites in the county include the remains of a medieval house were excavated at Ballyanne (Moran 2000), with pottery indicative of occupation in the 12th to 14th centuries, and excavations at Ferns, Hook Head, Newtown, Tintern, Taghmon, New Ross and Wexford town all produced medieval archaeological remains (Bennett 2004-5). Along the route of the Rathisillagh-Harristown road the moated site at Carrowreagh (excavated under licence no. 00E0476) was the largest medieval site excavated. A spread of medieval occupation material was also excavated at Bricketwtown (00E0476) and this was rich in the remains of medieval pottery.
It is also possible that the limekilns at Bricketstown (00E0476) and Harristown Little (00E0417) were in use at the very end of the medieval period.

5.7 Post-Medieval (after 1600 AD)
A few excavations of post-medieval archaeological sites have been carried out in Wexford county, including Brideswell Big, Duncannon Fort, and excavations in Wexford and Ennisorthy town (Bennett 2004-5). Some of the excavations from the Rathsillagh to Harristown road scheme were probably used during this time, in particular the limekilns at Bricketstown (00E0476, 00E0626) and Harristown Little (00E0417) were probably in use at this period. There is Jacobean house site in Dungeer, one of the townlands affected by the roadtake. References to the house/castle date to the early seventeenth century (Moore 1996).

6. Methodology
The sub-contractor stripped the sod and topsoil by mechanical excavator (and later by bulldozer), working along the line of the road. Natural subsoil appeared at c. 0.3 m below the sod. Removal of the subsequent spoil bank was also by mechanical excavator, loading into articulated 6-wheeled dumpers for stockpiling in designated areas off-site.
All works were conducted using experienced archaeologists and co-ordinated by the licensee. The archaeological deposits were investigated by cleaning the immediate and surrounding area with hoes and trowels, in order to ascertain the nature and extent of the site.
When the extent of the archaeological deposits was identified, the area was cordoned off using wooden fence poles and hazard tape, both to protect the site from intrusion, and to comply with health and safety practices. A pre-excavation multi-context plan was made of the site, with pre-excavation photographs of individual features, followed by full excavation and preservation by record under licence, as per instruction from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, formerly Dúchas – The Heritage Service).

7. Results
The site comprised three postholes (C.6, C.12 and C.14) and four stakeholes (C.2, C.4, C.8 and C.10) that potentially formed the corner of a structure. There was also an isolated pit 4.2 m to the west of the structure (Figure 5). The context register contains descriptions of all the contexts excavated at the site (Appendix 1) and stratigraphic relationships are described in the matrix (Appendix 2).
Four post and stake holes (C.2, C.4, C.6 and C.8) formed a row aligned northwest-southeast and were possibly one wall of a structure. C.2 was the stakehole found at the northwestern end of the row. It measured 0.15 m x 0.1 m x 0.08 m and it was filled by C.1. The next stakehole in the row was C.4, which measured 0.17 m x 0.08 m x 0.05 m and was filled by C.3. The next feature in the row was a posthole (C.6) with dimensions of 0.29 m x 0.25 m x 0.2 m and a fill (C.5) of sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. The easternmost feature in the row was a double stakehole (C.8) which measured 0.26 m x 0.09 m x 0.09 m and was filled by C.7. The posthole and all of the stakeholes in this row had evidence that they were pushed over or dragged out of their original placements; C.2 was convex at its
western side, C.4 was convex at the northwest, C.6 was convex at the western side and the base of C.8 sloped towards the north. This may indicate that the structure collapsed, or that they were dismantled or pulled out by agricultural activity subsequent to falling into disuse.

The second row of features was aligned southwest-northeast and it comprised two postholes (C.14 and C.12) and a small stakehole (C.10) located to the western side of C.12 (Plate 1). This stakehole (C.10) was 0.09 m x 0.08 m x 0.08 m and it was filled by C.9. Immediately southeast of this there was a posthole (C.12) that measured 0.23 m x 0.21 m x 0.14 m and was filled by C.11 (Plate 2). The final posthole at the site was C.14, which had dimensions of 0.5 m x 0.39 m x 0.13 m and was filled by a silty clay deposit (C.13).

These two rows of features may have formed the corner of a rectilinear structure, with a gap at the northeast possibly indicating an entrance. However, the site was heavily truncated and there were no other structural features in the vicinity to confirm this suggestion.

A shallow oval pit (C.17) measuring 1.2 m by 0.76 m by 0.07 m deep (Plate 3) was situated 4.2 m to the west of the possible structure (Figure 5). It contained two fills (C.16 and C.15). Reddening of the sides of the feature suggest that it represented a hearth or fire-pit of some kind, although there were no obvious links between this pit and the potential structure. It is possible that the upper fill (C.15) was thrown on the fire to douse it before abandonment of the site.

8. Artefacts

No artefacts were retrieved during excavation of the site.

9. Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were examined from the truncated deposits excavated at this site.

10. Discussion

This site probably represents evidence of domestic occupation. Based on comparative evidence and the absence of any artefacts it has been assigned a prehistoric date. It may form either a corner from a fence line or may form part of a more complex structure such as a dwelling house. Rectangular houses are known from the Neolithic through to the Bronze Age, and from the early historic period onwards. In prehistory, rectangular houses are most characteristic of the early Neolithic and these are generally constructed of slot trenches, augmented by posts (Kiely, 2000, 97; Purcell, 2000, 103-104; Waddell, 1998, 30-42). Although rectangular Bronze Age houses are known, the typical examples tend to be circular.

However, one of the closest parallels for the Bricketstown site was a site at Lough Gur, Co. Limerick; a series of eight postholes was unearthed during excavations at this extensive prehistoric settlement and they were interpreted as a rectangular structure with likely dimensions of c. 3.8 m by c. 2.9 m (Waddell, 1998, 208). This compares favourably with the Bricketstown example, which appears to have dimensions of c. 3 m by c. 2 m. Excavations of a Late Bronze Age site at Chancellorsland near Emly, Co. Tipperary, revealed that two structures at the site (Structures 5 and 6) may have been rectangular, and were of similar proportions to the Lough Gur example (Doody, 1996, 16).
The site does not appear to have been used for a long period of time. None of the stakeholes or post-holes show any sign of re-cutting, and most of the stakes and posts appear to have been dismantled. There is only one fill of the hearth and potential evidence to suggest that the fire was dampened down before abandonment of the site. Therefore, the remains excavated under excavation licence number 00E0625 appear to be the remains of a domestic temporary house and hearth, of prehistoric date, which was deliberately dismantled before it was abandoned.

11. Summary
Four postholes were aligned northwest to southeast, terminating in a possible double stakehole, and three others were found in a cluster to the south. Most of the post and stake holes were oval in plan, ranging in size from 0.09 m by 0.08 m by 0.05 m deep, up to a maximum of 0.5 m by 0.39 m by 0.13 m deep. While these may merely have acted as a fence line, truncation at the site was severe and it is likely that some archaeology was destroyed prior to excavation. The remains that were found have been interpreted as the partial remains of a rectilinear post and stake-built structure aligned roughly northeast to southwest. Overall, the structure measured 2 m northwest to southeast by 3 m northeast to southwest. There was a break in the walls at the northeast corner of the structure, possibly representing an entrance. No material suitable for radiocarbon dating was retrieved from the site, but it is likely that the structure was prehistoric in date.
12. Bibliography


13. Figures

Figure 1: Extract of Ordnance Survey Discovery series No. 77 showing the route of the new road and the excavated sites.

Permalink: http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/e0625-bricketstown-co-wexford/
Figure 2: Extract of Ordnance Survey First Edition showing the route of the new road and the excavated sites
Figure 3: Extract of Ordnance Survey RMP map sheet 36 showing the route of the new road and the excavated sites.
Figure 4: Route of the new road with the excavated site displayed
Figure 5: Post-excavation plan of all the archaeological features at Bricketstown, Co. Wexford (00E0625)
14. Plates

Plate 1: Post and stake row after excavation

Plate 2: Context 12 after excavation
Plate 3: Possible hearth deposit C.16 prior to excavation
### 15. Appendices

#### 15.1 Appendix 1: Context Register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C. #</th>
<th>Dimensions (length x width x depth)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.15 m x 0.1 m x 0.08 m</td>
<td>Mid brown soft sandy silt containing moderate fine sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles, and measuring. Fill of stakehole cut C.2. The lack of charcoal in the fill suggests that the stake was removed then became backfilled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.15 m NE-SW x 0.1 m x 0.08 m</td>
<td>Sub-rectangular cut. It had rounded corners, steep to vertical sloping sides and a concave base. The north and south sides were concave, the east vertical, and the west side convex. Stakehole cut containing a single fill, C.1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.17 m x 0.08 m x 0.05 m</td>
<td>Mid brown soft sandy silt, containing occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded fine pebbles. Single fill of stakehole cut C.4. The absence of charcoal suggests that the stake was removed then backfilled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.17 m NW-SE x 0.08 m x 0.05 m</td>
<td>Oval cut with rounded corners, gradual top and bottom breaks of slope, and a concave base. The gentle to steep sloping sides were concave, except for the northeastern side, which was convex. Stakehole cut containing a single fill, C.3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.29 m x 0.25 m x 0.2 m</td>
<td>Mid brown soft sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks, moderate fine and small sub-angular pebbles, and five medium-sized stones. Single fill of posthole C.6. The five stone inclusions may represent packing material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.29 m N-S x 0.25 m x 0.2 m</td>
<td>Oval cut with rounded corners, gradual top and bottom breaks of slope (except for the eastern side which was sharp), and moderately sloping to vertical sides, giving way to a tapered blunt point base. The north side was concave, the eastern and southern sides smooth, and the western side convex. The base was orientated east to west, as opposed to north to south like the rest of the cut. Posthole cut, containing a single fill, C.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.26 m x 0.09 m x 0.09 m</td>
<td>Mid brown soft sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and moderate fine to small sub-angular pebbles. Single fill of stakehole C.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.26 m N-S x 0.09 x 0.09 m</td>
<td>Irregular-shaped elongated stakehole. The corners were rounded, the top break of slope gradual (sharp at southern end), as was the bottom break of slope, and the base was concave, sloping at c. 45° to the north. The sides were gently sloping at the north end, steep to the east and southwest, and vertical to the southeast. The eastern side was convex, whereas the remainder were concave. Cut of a stakehole, filled by C.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.09 m x 0.08 m x c. 0.08 m</td>
<td>Light orangey brown soft silty clay containing occasional fine pebbles. Single fill of stakehole cut C.10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.09 m N-S x 0.08 m x 0.08 m</td>
<td>Circular cut with rounded corners, the top and bottom breaks of slope were gradual (except top break of slope on the NE side, which was sharp), and the sides had a smooth moderate slope everywhere except at the NE where it was vertical and irregular. The base was a tapered blunt point. Stakehole cut, filled by C.9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.23 m x 0.21 m x 0.14 m</td>
<td>Light yellowish brown firm silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks. Single fill of posthole C.12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. #</td>
<td>Dimensions (length x width x depth)</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.23 m N-S x 0.21 m x 0.14 m</td>
<td>Sub-circular cut. The north and east sides were smooth and vertical with a sharp break of slope, the west side was smooth and moderately sloping with a gradual break of slope, and the south side was smooth and slightly stepped with no perceptible break of slope top. The bottom break of slope was gradual throughout, giving way to a tapered blunt point base. Most northerly of two postholes in the cluster to the south of Context Groups I-IV. This posthole was filled exclusively by C.11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.5 m x 0.39 m x 0.13 m</td>
<td>Light greyish brown soft silty clay containing moderate fine sub-angular pebbles, occasional medium pebbles, and occasional charcoal flecks. Single fill of shallow posthole C.14.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.5 m E-W x 0.39 m x 0.13 m</td>
<td>Oval cut. The southern and western sides were smooth and gently sloping with a barely perceptible top break of slope, whereas the northern and eastern sides were moderately sloping and concave with a gradual break of slope. This was largely mirrored in the bottom break of slope also, which gave way to an oval, concave base. Cut of a shallow posthole filled with C.13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.16 m N-S x 0.82 m x 0.05 m</td>
<td>Light greyish brown firm silty clay with frequent fine and medium sub-angular pebbles, moderate coarse sub-angular pebbles, a solitary large sub-angular stone of 0.26 m x 0.18 m x 0.1 m, and moderate charcoal flecks. Upper fill of C.17, overlying fill C.16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.2 m N-S x 0.76 m x 0.07 m</td>
<td>Light reddish brown firm sandy silt containing moderate fine and medium sub-angular pebbles, occasional coarse sub-angular pebbles, and occasional charcoal flecks. Lower fill of shallow pit cut C.17, over lain by C.15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1.2 m N-S x 0.76 m x 0.07 m</td>
<td>Irregular sub-ovoid cut with smooth, gently sloping sides with gradual top and bottom breaks of slope, and a flat base. A slight oxidation of the sides and base suggests at least one in situ burning episode. Shallow pit containing a two fills, C15 and C.16. The oxidation of the sides suggests use as a hearth or similar cooking pit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15.2 Appendix 2: Stratigraphic Matrix

![Stratigraphic Matrix Diagram]