Archaeological Excavation Report
E3637 - Greenhills 2, Co. Tipperary
Burnt Mound
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Greenhills 2
Co Tipperary

Burnt Mound

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Project: N7 Castletown to Nenagh (Contract 1)
E No: E3637
Excavation Director: Jacinta Kiely
Written by: Jacinta Kiely
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Co Tipperary

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Summary

The excavation of the site in Area 1 at Greenhills 2 comprised a mound of burnt material. The mound was located on the eastern side of a shallow boggy hollow. Four troughs, 18 pits, five post-holes and 52 stake-holes were recorded in the area of the mound. The site was truncated by modern ditches and field drains. A flint scraper, four pieces of flint and chert debitage and a quartzite rubbing stone were recovered from the topsoil and the fills of the trough, modern post-hole and ditch. Two Early Bronze Age dates were returned from the fill of a trough and the fill of a pit.

Area 2 was located 60 m to the east of Area 1. The archaeological material in this part of the site comprised ex-situ layers of burnt mound material and two pits. The site was truncated by modern ditches and drains.
Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Laois County Council and was funded by the National Roads Authority under the National Development Plan (2000-2006). The project archaeologist was Niall Roycroft. Kildare County Council supervised the archaeological contract with RE staff of Pat Dowling and Colum Fagan. Kildare County Council Senior Executive Engineer was Joseph Kelly and Kildare County Council Senior Engineer was John Coppinger. The senior archaeologist was John Tierney and the post-exavation manager was Jacinta Kiely. Illustrations are by Maurizio Toscano, photographs by John Sunderland and Eagle Photography and aerial photography by StudioLab. Specialist analysis was carried out by Mary Dillon, Penny Johnston, Margaret McCarthy, Farina Sternke and the 14 Chrono Centre at Queen’s University Belfast.
1 Scope of the project

Eachtra Archaeological Projects were commissioned by Laois County Council and the National Roads Authority to undertake archaeological works along 17.1 km (Contact 1) of the 35km N7 Castletown to Nenagh (Derrinsallagh to Ballintotty) national road scheme (EIS approved in November 2005). The scheme runs from the eastern junction of the present N7 Nenagh Bypass, North Tipperary a tie in to the M7/M8 Portlaoise-Castletown scheme to the south of Borris-in-Ossory in County Laois. The scheme is approximately 191 hectares. Contract 1 comprises the western half of the scheme and runs from Clashnevin to Castleroan passing along the Tipperary North and Offaly county border regions. The Ministers Direction Number is A38.

It was funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006. The total archaeological cost was administered by the National Roads Authority through Laois County Council as part of the Authority’s commitment to protecting our cultural heritage. The purpose of the archaeological services project was to conduct archaeological site investigations within the lands made available for the scheme and to assess the nature and extent of any new potential archaeological sites uncovered.

Phase 1 of the project (archaeological testing of the route) was carried out in 2007 under licence E3371, E3372 and E3375-8 issued by Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The principal aim of this phase of the project was to test for any previously unknown sites by a programme of centreline and offset testing and to test sites of archaeological potential identified in the EIS.

Phase 2 of the project (resolution) involved the resolution of all archaeological sites identified within the proposed road corridor prior to commencement of the construction of the road. This phase of the project was carried out from June 2007 to February 2008 and excavations were conducted under the management of a Senior Archaeologist. A total of 27 sites were excavated during this phase of works under separate licences issued by DoEHLG.

A post-excavation assessment and strategy document was prepared in Phase 3 of the project to present a management strategy for dealing with post-excavation work arising from archaeological works along the route of the new N7 Castletown to Nenagh. It included a proposal for post-excavation and archiving work and a budget for the works.

2 Route location

The route of the N7 Castletown to Nenagh road is located in Counties North Tipperary and Offaly (OF) (Figure 1). The project (Contract 1) involves the construction of c. 17.5 km of the N7 from Clashnevin east of Nenagh to Castleroan south-east of Dunkerrin. It passes through the townlands of Clashnevin, Derrybane, Newtown, Lissanisky, Killeisk, Garavally, Derrycarney, Garrynafanna, Gortnadrumman, Kilgorteen, Falleen, Knockane, Clash, Park, Rosdremid (OF), Clynoe (OF), Cullenwaine, Moneygall, Greenhills,
Figure 1: Portion of map of Ireland showing the route of the N7 Castletown to Nenagh (Derrinsallagh to Ballintotty) Road Scheme (Contract 1).
Drumbaun, Busherstown (OF), Drumroe (OF), Moatquarter, Loughan (OF) and Castleroan (OF). The townlands are located in the parishes of Ballymackey, Cullenwaine, Castletownely, Rathnaveoge, Finglas and Dunkerrin and the baronies of Upper Ormond, Ikerrin and Clonisk.

The route begins at the eastern end of the Nenagh bypass at Clashnevin c. 5 km east of Nenagh and continues eastward on the northern side of the existing N7 in Co. Tipperary. It crosses a number of third class roads to the north of Toomyvara and 0.7 km east of Clash crossroads crosses the Ollatrim River. It extends into County Offaly directly east of Park. From here it crosses the R490 0.6 km north of Moneygall. It extends back in County Tipperary and through the demesne of Greenhills before crossing the existing N7 at the junction of Greenhills and Drumbaun townlands. It crosses back into County Offaly and climbs east into Busherstown and Drumroe. It crosses the Keeloge Stream into Moatquarter in County Tipperary and extends northeast back into County Offaly through the townlands of Loughan and Castleroan 1.4 km southwest of Dunkerrin.

3 Receiving environment

North Tipperary is bounded on the west by the River Shannon and Lough Derg with the Silvermines, to the south, and small hills extending towards Devilsbit and Borrisnoe Mountains to the east. The mountains are composed largely of Silurian strata and Old Red Sandstone. Copper, silver and lead deposits have been mined in the Silvermines. The geology of the lowlands consists of Carboniferous limestone covered by glacial drift in addition to tracts of raised bog.

The western portion of the study area is drained by the Ollatrim River which flows westwards into the River Ballintotty which in turns drains into the River Nenagh. The eastern portion is drained by the Keeloge Stream and other small water sources. These rise in the foothills of the Silvermine Mountains and flow north. The Keeloge drains into the Little Brosna River c. 1 km south of Shinrone, Co Offaly. The Brosna turns north and drains into the Shannon south of Banagher.

The largest population centre in the area is Nenagh. The smaller population centres, are Toomyvara, Moneygall and Dunkerrin.

The soils on the route are characterised by 80% grey brown podzolics, 10% gleys, 5% brown earths and 5% basin peat. They are derived from glacial till of predominantly Carboniferous limestone composition. These soils occur in Tipperary and Offaly and have a wide use range being suitable for both tillage and pasture (Gardiner and Radford 1980, 97-99). Land use along the route was a mix of grassland devoted to intensive dairying and cattle-rearing and tillage.
4 Archaeological and historical background

Archaeological sites of numerous periods were discovered along the route of the new road (Figure 2). The periods are referred to as follows: Mesolithic (c. 8000 to 4000 BC), Neolithic (c. 4000 to 2000 BC), Bronze Age (c. 2000 to 600 BC), and Iron Age (c. 500 BC to AD 500), early medieval period (c. AD 500 to 1100), medieval period (c. AD 1100 to 1650), post-medieval period (c. AD 1650 to the present).

Mesolithic (c. 8000 to 4000 BC)

The earliest known human settlement in Ireland dates from the Mesolithic period (c. 8000 BC - 4000 BC). The majority of the evidence (flint scatters) for Mesolithic occupation has come from the river valleys. No evidence for the Mesolithic was recorded on the route.

Neolithic (c. 4000 to 2000 BC)

The Neolithic Period is characterised by the introduction of agriculture and the beginnings of the clearance of the woodlands. The population increased and became more sedentary in nature. The most important Neolithic site in the vicinity was at Tullahedy recorded on the route of the Nenagh by-pass. It was a specialist chert arrow manufacturing site.

No evidence for a Neolithic site was recorded on the route but stone tools dating to the Neolithic were recorded at Busherstown E3661, Clash E3660, Cullenwaine E3741 and Greenhills 2 and 3 E3637 and E3658. Stone tools dating to the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age were recorded at Busherstown E3661, Castleroan E3909, Cullenwaine E3741, Derrybane 1 E3585, Drumroe E3773, Greenhills 1 E3638 and Moatquarter E3910

Bronze Age (c. 2000 to 600 BC)

The Bronze Age is characterised by the introduction of metallurgy and an increase in settlement and burial sites. Copper ores were mined and copper, bronze and gold items manufactured. The range of burial site types includes cist graves, pit and urn burials, cremation cemeteries, barrows, ring-ditches and wedge tombs. Stone circles and standing stones also date to the Bronze Age. Both enclosed and unenclosed settlement sites are known. The most prolific Bronze Age site type is the fulacht fiadh. These monuments survive as low mounds of charcoal rich black silt, packed with heat-shattered stones, and generally situated close to a water source. Fulacht fiadh are generally classified as ‘cooking places’, whereby stones were heated in a hearth and subsequently placed in a trough of water, the water continued to boil with the addition of hot stones and wrapped food was cooked within the hot water. The trough eventually filled with small stones, ash and charcoal that were removed, forming the basis of the familiar mound.
Figure 2: Discovery series OS map showing the route of the N7 Castletown to Nenagh (Derrinsallagh to Ballinton) Road Scheme (Contract 1) and the location of all excavation sites.
Two new *fulacht fiadh* / burnt mounds were recorded at Clashnevin 1 E3586, Cullenvaine E3741 and six at three separate locations in Greenhills, E3638, E3637 and E3658. Evidence of nine roundhouses or partial round structures were recorded; two at Castleroan E3909, Derrybane 2 E3591 and Drumbaun 2 E3912 and one at Clash E3660, Drumroe E3773 and Moatquarter E3910.

**Iron Age (c. 500 BC to AD 500)**

Upto recently there was little evidence of a significant Iron Age presence in Munster. Settlement sites are few and far between as well as being difficult to identify (Woodman, 2000) while the material culture of this period is limited. Linear earthworks, believed to have marked tribal boundaries, and hillforts are two of the most visible monuments of the period. Ten percent of sites excavated on NRA road schemes in recent years have produced Iron Age dates. The dates have led to the identification of 30 new Iron Age sites in Munster from road schemes in counties Cork, Limerick and Tipperary (McLaughlin 2008, 51). These include a ditched enclosure in Ballywilliam and a wooden trackway in Annaholty Bog excavated on the route of the N7 Nenagh-Limerick (Taylor 2008, 54).

Evidence of domestic activity dating to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age was recorded at Clashnevin 2.

**Early medieval period (c. AD 400 to 1100)**

The early medieval period is characterised by the arrival of Christianity to Ireland. The characteristic monument type of the period is the ringfort. Ringforts are the most numerous archaeological monument found in Ireland, with estimates of between 30,000 and 50,000 illustrated on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 6” maps of the 1840’s (Barry 1987). As a result of continued research, the construction of these monuments has a narrow date range during the early medieval period between the 7th and 9th centuries AD. Although there are some very elaborate examples of ringforts, they often take the form of a simple earth or stone enclosure functioning as settlements for all classes of secular society (Stout 1997).

North Tipperary is rich in early ecclesiastical sites and the remains of these religious centres are at the core of some of the towns and villages. Roscrea, for example, was chosen by St Cronan as a location for his monastery in the seventh century as it was located at the crossroads on the Slighe Dála, an important roadway in early medieval times (NIAH 2006, 4-8).

A possible early medieval enclosure and associated road way was recorded at Killeisk E3587. A denuded ringfort (OF046-013) was excavated at Clynoe 2 E3774.

**High and later medieval periods (c. AD 1100 to 1650)**

This period is characterized by the arrival of the Anglo-Normans and the building of tower houses. The Anglo-Normans obtained charters in the thirteenth century for the towns
of Nenagh, Roscrea, Thurles and Templemore and established markets. Nenagh grew rapidly in the aftermath of the granting of the lands of Munster to Theobald fitzWalter in 1185 (ibid. 8). Moated sites represent the remains of isolated, semi-defended homesteads in rural areas. They were build mainly in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries in counties, such as Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipperary, mid-Cork and Limerick, that were colonised by English settlers (O’Conor 1998, 58). The Archaeological Inventory for North Tipperary lists 39 moated sites (2002, 298).

A newly recorded moated site was excavated at Busherstown E3661.

Post-medieval period (c. 1650 to the present)

The post-medieval period is characterised by mills, limekilns, workhouses, country houses and associated demesnes, vernacular buildings and field systems (Figure 3). A small demesne associated with a county house was recorded in the townland of Greenhills.

5 Site Location and Topography

Greenhills 2 was located within the grounds of the former Greenhills Demesne, 30 m to the north-east of the complex of courtyard buildings, which were located to the north of the main dwelling house (Plate 1). The Demesne covered a total area of 204 acres in the 19th century. The estate extended on the north-west side of the Limerick to Roscrea road with the county boundary between Offaly and Tipperary curving around the western sides. The site at Greenhills 2 is located on undulating lowland on the eastern edge of a
Figure 3: Portion of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map TN22 showing the location of Greenhills 2.
hollow where peat had formed over a clay subsoil. No water course is located in the vicinity but a number of modern field drains intersected in the area of the hollow suggesting that ground water would have been available at this location.

6 Excavation methodology

The site was mechanically stripped of topsoil under strict archaeological supervision. Stripping was done with a tracked machine with a flat toothless bucket. Topsoil stripping commenced in the areas of identified archaeology and continued radially outward until the limit of the road take was reached or until the limit of the archaeological remains was fully defined. A grid was set up in the excavation area(s) and all archaeological features were sufficiently cleaned, recorded and excavated so as to enable an accurate and meaningful record of the site to be preserved. The excavation, environmental sampling, site photographs, site drawings, find care and retrieval, on-site recording and site archive was as per the Procedures for Archaeological works as attached to the licence method statements for excavation licences.

The site was excavated from 18 August to the 15 September 2007. Only areas within the LMA (lands made available) were resolved. The site was divided into two separate areas located 60 m apart. The full extent of Area 1 measured 1852 m sq and Area 2 measured 1134 m sq (Figure 4).

The full record of excavated contexts is recorded in the context register (Appendix 1) and the stratigraphic matrix (Appendix 2). Detailed stratigraphic descriptions are found in the groups and sub-groups text (Appendix 3). The context register and site photographs maybe viewed in the EAPOD (Eachtra Archaeological Projects office database) in the accompanying CD.
Figure 4: Location and extent of Greenhills 2 E3637 on the N7 Castletown to Nenagh
7 Excavation results

Area 1 at Greenhills 2 comprised a mound of burnt material (Figure 5). The mound was located on the eastern side of a shallow boggy hollow. The hollow was drained in the recent past (Plate 2). Four troughs, 18 pits, five post-holes and 52 stake-holes were recorded in the area of the mound. The site was truncated by two ditches and a modern field drain. A flint scraper, four pieces of flint and chert debitage and a quartzite rubbing stone were recovered from the topsoil and the fills of the trough C.58, modern post-hole C.101 and ditch C.11.

Area 1

Layers of burnt mound material

A total of 11 layers were recorded in the mound of burnt material. Six of the layers (C.4, C.5, C.6, C.7, C.8 and C.15) were dark silty clay with inclusions of pebbles, stones and charcoal. The other five (C.22, C.23, C.102, C.103 and C.104) layers were a mix of grey silt and re-deposited natural. The mound measured c. 20 m by 15m and the maximum depth was 0.4m (Plate 3). It was truncated by the excavation of land drains. The land drains interested in the low ground on the south-western side of the site. A fragment of chert debitage (3637:32:1) was recovered from one of the layers.

The Troughs

The layers of burnt mound material overlay three troughs (C.27, C.41 and C.58) and a fourth C.89 was located 4.5 m to the south-west. They were similar in size and plan. The fills were derived from layers of burnt mound material.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trough</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Capacity (volume in litres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.27</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.41</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.58</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.89</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Dimensions of troughs

The trough C.27 was sub-rectangular in plan (Plate 4). It cut the northern side of trough C.58. The fills were dark peaty silts with inclusions of stone and charcoal. Flecks of organic material were recorded in the basal fill. It was too degraded to be identified but it is possible that the trough was lined with wattle. An Early Bronze Age date of cal BC 1889-1748 (UB 12355) was returned from one of the fills of the trough. The trough C.58 was oval in plan. The fills were dark grey silty clays. A fragment of flint debitage 3637:57:1 was recovered from one of the fills of the trough.

A total of 52 ((C.114 - C.116, C.119 - C.122, C.139 - C.146, C.148 - C.160, C.168 - C.171 and C.173 - C.192) stake-holes were excavated to the east of troughs C.27 and C.58, in an area measuring c. 4 m sq (Figure 6). The average diameter of the stake-holes...
Plate 2: Pre-excavation view of Area 1 Greenhills 2 from west.

Plate 3: View of layers of burnt mound material from south-east.
ranged from 0.04m to 0.11m and the depth of the stake-holes range from 0.075m to 0.2m. All the cuts were oval in shape. The majority were located on the east side of the troughs and would have formed hearth-side furniture associated with the troughs. Six of them (C.192, C.191, C.189, C.187, C.186, C.188) formed an arc to the north and east of pit C.111.

The trough C.41 was sub-circular in plan (Figure 7). It was located 4 m to the south-west of the pair of troughs. The fills were a mix of grey sands. The trough C.89 was oval in plan. It was located 3.5 m south-west of trough C.41. The three fills were a mix of silty clays.

**Pits**

A total of 18 pits were located in vicinity of the troughs, though none to the north of the group (Plate 5). The pits were generally small and shallow in depth. 13 of the pits (C.28, C.35, C.55, C.59, C.75, C.77, C.85, C.98, C.108, C.109, C.111, C.124 and C.147) were associated with the mound of burnt material and were filled with the mound material.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pit</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.28</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.35</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.55</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.59</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.75</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.77</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.85</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.98</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.108</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.109</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.111</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.124</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.147</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Dimensions of pits associated with the burnt mound

Not all of the 13 pits were covered by the actual mound. For example two (C.28 and C.147) were located east of trough C.89 to the west of the main mound. Two opposing pits (C.77 and C.111) were located c. 1 m to the west and east of the pair of troughs C.27.
Figure 5: Post-excavation plan of Area 1 Greenhills 2 E3637.
Figure 6: Post-excavation plan of troughs C.27 and C.58 and associated stake-holes.
Figure 7: Sections of troughs C.27, C.38, C.41 and C.89 and pit C.28.
and C.58. An Early Bronze Age date of cal BC 2561-2536 2492-2299 (UB 12356) was returned from the fill of pit C.35.

Five of the pits (C.45, C.47, C.60, C.65 and C.84) are likely to be modern and could be associated with the Greenhills Demesne service road or the land drains. Fragments of modern metal were recovered from pit C.65. Three of these pits (C.45, C.47, and C.60) were not filled with burnt mound material.

Modern activity

A service road which was part of the former Greenhills Demesne was recorded within the area of excavation. The service road, as illustrated on the 1st edition OS map, extended from the eastern estate boundary to the courtyard buildings at the rear of the dwelling house (Figure 3). A section 5 m long by 1 m wide was excavated between the line of the service road and a retaining wall on the south-eastern side of the service road. The retaining wall was part of a field boundary. The ground (or verge in front of the wall) was 4.7 m wide and sloped from the service road towards the wall. The decrease in height over the 4.7 m distance was 0.4 m. The area had been in-filled and levelled in the recent past. Seven layers (C.129, C.130, C.131, C.132, C.133, C.134 and C.135) were recorded in the section (Figure 8). The layers were a mix of silty sands and included lumps of mortar. The wall C.136 was 0.9 m high and was constructed of rubble limestone (Plate 6).

An interesting assortment of modern finds was recorded in the layers; for example fragments of iron nails and miscellaneous metal objects including a copper alloy locket (E3637:129:1) (Plate 7) and sherds of stoneware, transfer printed ware, creamware and
Figure 8: Sections of layers of burnt material and drain C.20 and retaining wall C.136 and associated layers.
black glazed ware 18\textsuperscript{th}/19\textsuperscript{th}, 19\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th}/20\textsuperscript{th} pottery.

A number of modern ditches and drains were recorded within the area of the excavation. Some of the features maybe associated with the former Greenhills Demesne and some with 20\textsuperscript{th} century agricultural works including drainage.

Ditch C.11 was a shallow modern U-shaped ditch. It cut the mound of burnt material. It was parallel to the drain C.20 to the north and the demesne wall C.136 to the south. A quartzite rubbing stone (E3637:14:3) dating to the Bronze Age and fragments of modern pottery, clay pipes and glass were recovered from the fills.

The linear C.81 maybe related to the ditch C.11. It was 3.3m by 0.3m and had a maximum depth of 0.3m. It was cut by the modern pit C.65.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature type</th>
<th>Cut No.</th>
<th>Dimensions (l x w x d in m)</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ditch</td>
<td>C.11</td>
<td>43 x 1 x 0.3</td>
<td>NE-SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch</td>
<td>C19</td>
<td>26 x 2.6 x 0.6</td>
<td>NW-SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drain</td>
<td>C.20</td>
<td>25 x 0.3 x 0.3</td>
<td>NE-SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch</td>
<td>C.24</td>
<td>5.5 x 1 x 0.3</td>
<td>NE-SW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 Dimensions of ditches and drains

Ditch C.19 was a modern U-shaped ditch which cut the layers of burnt mound material. It was associated with the land drain C.20. Modern pottery and fragments of metal were recovered from the fills. It was not marked on the 1\textsuperscript{st} edition OS map.

Drain C.20 was a modern land drain full of stone. It was parallel to two other drains, of similar length and width, which were located to the north-west outside the area of excavation. The land drains were connected to ditch C.19.

Ditch C.24 was a modern U-shaped ditch which was perpendicular to ditch C.11. It was the same size and depth as ditch C.11.

The ditches C.11 and C.24 were contemporary and may have been associated with the former demesne. The ditch C.11 may have been located on the north-western margin of the former service road. The ditch C.19 and drain C.20 were contemporary and may have been associated with agricultural activities, including drainage works that took place in the 20\textsuperscript{th} century.

Five postholes were located in the area of the excavation.
They were square in plan with vertical sides and flat bases. Fragments of modern posts were recorded in the fills of C.87 and C.113 (Plate 8). Some modern metal fragments and sherds of pottery were recorded in the fills of post-holes C.54, C.67 and C.101. All the post-holes are likely to be modern in date and may have been associated with agricultural activities, including drainage works that took place in the 20th century.

Area 2

Area 2 was located 60 m to the east of Area 1. The archaeological material in this part of the site comprised ex-situ layers of burnt mound material, two pits, modern ditches and drains and the edge of the former service road and retaining wall (Figure 9).

The three layers of burnt mound material (C.217, C.218 and C.219) were recorded overlying the topsoil in Area 2. The burnt mound material on this part of the site was probably re-deposited and brought to this area of the site from elsewhere, possibly from Area 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-hole</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.54</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.67</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.87</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.101</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.113</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 Dimensions of post-holes
Plate 8: Wooden post in situ C.87.

Plate 9: View of Area 2 Greenhills 2 from north-east.
Figure 9: Post-excavation plan of Area 2 Greenhills, 2E367.
Two pits underlay the layers of burnt mound material. Pit C.206 measured 2m by 2m and had a maximum depth of 0.6m (Plate 10). A flint retouched artefact (E3637:205:1) was recovered from the fill. Pit C.216 was located over 4 m to the south. It measured 0.92m by 0.55m and had a maximum depth of 0.2m. It was truncated by the modern ditch C.200.

Four ditches and drains were recorded in the area of excavation. The drains C.193 and C.200 were located 1.7 m apart and parallel to one another. They were cut by the field boundary ditch C.196.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature type</th>
<th>Cut No.</th>
<th>Dimensions (l x w x d in m)</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ditch</td>
<td>C.193</td>
<td>21 x 1.3 x 0.26</td>
<td>NE-SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch</td>
<td>C.196</td>
<td>40 x 1.9 x 0.5</td>
<td>NW-SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch</td>
<td>C.200</td>
<td>29 x 1.45 x 0.45</td>
<td>NE-SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drain</td>
<td>C.210</td>
<td>2.5 x 3.75 x 0.9</td>
<td>NE-SW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 Dimensions of ditches and drains

A section was excavated between the former demesne service road and a retaining wall. The section measured 2.5m by 1m and had a maximum depth of 0.7m. Three layers were recorded in the section. The retaining wall C.136 was the same as that recorded in Area 1. It was 0.5 m high and constructed of rubble limestone. The area between the former service road and retaining wall was in-filled in the recent past and re-cut by a drainage ditch C.210.
Lithic finds
The lithics were examined by Farina Sternke (Appendix 4). The lithic finds from Greenhills 2 are an end-of-blade scraper (E3637:1:1), a miscellaneous retouched artefact (E3637:205:1), four pieces of debitage and a quartzite rubbing stone (mano). The assemblage is technologically and typologically diagnostic. The end-of-blade scraper and the retouched artefacts as well as the debitage pieces may date to the Middle Neolithic period, while the rubbing stone is most likely Bronze Age in date. The presence of the four pieces of debitage (two flints and two cherts) suggests that knapping, or at the very least tool resharpening took place at the site.

Plant remains
The plant remains were identified by Penny Johnston (Appendix 5). Charred seeds were absent from all the samples. The absence of seeds from samples associated with burnt mounds is a relatively common phenomenon.

Animal bone report
The animal bone was identified by Margaret McCarthy (Appendix 6). A very small quantity of bone was recovered from two of the burnt mound ayers C.33 and C.39, the only identified specimen being an adult cow tooth from the former and nine fragments of bone from a large-sized animal such as cow and ten indeterminate specimens from the latter.
Charcoal

The charcoal was identified for radiocarbon dating by Mary Dillon. Hazel charcoal was identified from the fill of trough C.27 and the pit C.35.

Radiocarbon dates

Radiocarbon analysis was carried out by the 14 Chrono Centre in Queen’s University Belfast. Dates were calibrated using Calib Rev5.0.2 (©1986-2005 M.Stuiver & P.J. Reimer) and in conjunction with Stuiver & Reimer 1993 and Reimer et al. 2004.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab code</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Un-calibrated date</th>
<th>δ 13 C</th>
<th>1 sigma calibration</th>
<th>2 sigma calibration</th>
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<tr>
<td>UB 12355</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Hazel charcoal from layer of burnt mound material associated with trough C.27</td>
<td>3497 +/- 25</td>
<td>-26.1</td>
<td>BC 1880-1865</td>
<td>BC 1889-1748</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>1849-1837</td>
<td>1833-1773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1827-1763</td>
<td>1748-1708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UB 12356</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Hazel charcoal from pit C.35</td>
<td>3930 +/- 35</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>BC 2475-2400</td>
<td>BC 2561-2536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2382-2347</td>
<td>2492-2299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 Radiocarbon date
8 Discussion

Middle Neolithic

The lithic stone tools, flint and chert, and debitage recovered from both Area 1 and Area 2 may date to the Middle Neolithic period. The presence of debitage suggests that tool re-sharpening took place at the site. The chert was available locally but the flint used at the site was probably introduced in the form of beach pebbles from the coast. The recovery of the scrapers and the associated re-sharpening debitage suggests that hide-processing and wood- and/or bone-working were some of the activities that could have been carried out at these sites (Sternke 2009, 31). The evidence suggests that the water-side location at Greenhills was used in the Neolithic and continued in use into the Early Bronze Age.

Bronze Age

A fulacht fiadh / burnt mound were recorded in Greenhills. The layers of burnt mound material were associated with four troughs, 18 pits and over 50 stake-holes. Many theories speculate as to the actual use of burnt mound/fulacht fiadh sites (e.g. O’Kelly 1954; Ó Drisceoil 1988). We recognise the sites archaeologically by the remains of charcoal and heat shattered stones but as Ó Néill (2004) points out, these are the remains of a technology (the use of hot stones known as ‘pyrolithic technology’), rather than specific indications of the aims of the process. The four troughs and smaller pits indicate that there was extensive use of hot stone technology at this site and that it was probably used for heating water.

Burnt mounds are the most common Bronze Age sites found in Ireland. Estimates suggest that at least 4,500 examples are known. The characteristic site-type is found in low-lying and damp ground and consists of a mound of charcoal-rich black sediment that is packed with heat shattered stones and forms a horse-shoe shape around a pit or trough that filled with water. In many cases all that survives to the present day are black charcoal rich deposits with fragments of shattered stones visible in ploughed fields.

These sites are associated with the process of roasting stones to heat water. The remains of these ‘pyrolithic technologies’ (terminology follows Ó Néill 2004) produce the tell-tale deposits rich in charcoal and heat-affected stone. Debate continues about their use, as hot water is required for many processes including cooking, brewing, washing, dyeing and, most recently it has been argued that some burnt mounds were primarily used to boil and cure meat for long term storage (Roycroft 2006).

Traditionally these sites have been interpreted as ancient cooking places, where large stones were heated in fires and then added to the water filled trough the extreme heat of the stones eventually heating the water in the trough until it reached boiling point. Experimental cooking at reconstructed sites such as Ballyvourney (O’Kelly 1954) has demonstrated that meat wrapped in straw and placed into a boiling trough can be cooked quite effectively. The perceived lack of any animal bones from these excavated sites has been used as an argument against this theory. More recently however there is a growing
corpus of sites which have produced animal bone (Tourunen 2008) including, though the amounts are small, all of the burnt mounds sites on the N7 (Contract 1).

The traditional perception of the burnt mound site is that they are isolated features on the landscape situated on marginal ground away from settlement. Recent studies however are requiring a re-evaluation of this perception. It can be regarded as certain that the settlement sites and associated burnt mounds are only one part of a wider prehistoric landscape which also includes lithic production and metalworking sites as well as burial sites (Sternke 2009). Each of the six sites excavated on the N7 was located with a 1km radius of a Bronze Age settlement site, Clashnevin within 1 km east of Derrybane 2 E3591, the site at Park E3772 was one of complex of burnt mound sites in the vicinity of Park 1 E3659 and the three sites at Greenhills (E3638, E3637, and E3658) within 1 km east of Drumbaun E3912.

The inventory for North Tipperary lists 77 burnt mounds (Farrelly 2002) and the inventory for Offaly lists 14 (O’Brien 1997) (Figure 10). Many more sites have been recorded since the inventories were published. A total of six burnt mounds including Greenhills were excavated on the N7 Castletown to Nenagh (Contract 1). At least 15 burnt mound sites were excavated on the N7 Castletown to Nenagh (Contract 2) with a concentration of 11 sites in the townland of Camlin. Burnt mounds were also excavated on the route of the Nenagh by-pass and the Limerick Ring Road. A further five sites were recorded in Park and Rosdrehid townlands during the testing of the service area site (Frazer 2009).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>E No.</th>
<th>Radiocarbon date 2 sigma calibration</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<td>Clashnevin 1</td>
<td>E3586</td>
<td>BC 1262-1110 1103-1072 1068-1056</td>
<td>Middle Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clashnevin 1</td>
<td>E3586</td>
<td>AD 982-1040</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cullenwaine</td>
<td>E3741</td>
<td>BC 2462-2294</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhills 1</td>
<td>E3638</td>
<td>BC 2133 - 1950</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhills 2</td>
<td>E3637</td>
<td>BC 1889-1748</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhills 2</td>
<td>E3637</td>
<td>BC 2561-2536 2492-2299</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhills 3</td>
<td>E3658</td>
<td>BC 1125-975 954-943</td>
<td>Middle Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhills 3</td>
<td>E3658</td>
<td>BC 2465-2286 2246-2243</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhills 3</td>
<td>E3658</td>
<td>BC 1876-1841 1823-1797 1781-1683</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 2</td>
<td>E3772</td>
<td>BC 1508-1422</td>
<td>Middle Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park 2</td>
<td>E3772</td>
<td>BC 1527-1433</td>
<td>Middle Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7: Radiocarbon dates from the burnt mound sites on the N7 Castletown to Nenagh (Contract 1)

Most dated burnt mound sites have a focus of activity in the Middle to Late Bronze Age (Brindley and Lanting 1990; and see graph of dates in Ó Néill 2003/2004). In all ten radiocarbon dates were obtained from the burnt mound sites on the route of the N7 Castletown to Nenagh. The majority of the sites are Early Bronze Age in date.

There are six main types of archaeological features encountered at burnt mound sites; wells/springs, layers/deposits, hearths, trough/boiling pits, smaller pits, and stakeholes/postholes. Five of the six feature types were recorded at Greenhills 2. The mound overlay three of the troughs, the majority of the 18 pits and over 50 stake-holes. There is no water course in proximity to the site but the site is located on the edge of a low boggy area.
Figure 10: Prehistoric sites on and in the environs of N7 Castletown to Nenagh.
During the course of the excavation ground water rose in this low boggy area and it was criss-crossed with modern land drains.

The mound at Greenhills survived to a height of 0.4 m. Several burnt layers were identified within the mound. No formal hearth was identified in association with the mound. Four troughs were recorded at the site, two of the troughs may have formed a pair. They would have functioned in food processing. They may have held containers made from organic material such as baskets or wooden buckets. Tiny fragments of organic material were recorded on the edge of trough C.27. Over 50 stake-holes were located to the east of the pair of troughs. It is envisaged that the trough and the trough-side furniture constructed from the stake-holes and the pair of opposing pits, may have functioned in unison in food processing. A similar type of trough-side furniture was recorded at one of the troughs at Clashnevin 1 E3586 and Park 2 E3772. The smaller pits may have functioned as boiling pits. They may have held containers made from organic material such as baskets or wooden buckets and would have functioned in conjunction with the other elements at the site in food processing.

There were six burnt mound sites recorded on the route of the N7 (Contract 1). All of the sites conformed to a general common design but there were a number of differences that distinguished one site from another. The water source that was used at each site was different. All of the sites at Greenhills and Park were located on the edge of a wet boggy hollow. A substantial well was recorded at Clashnevin, a less substantial well was recorded at Park. There was no obvious water source at Cullenwaine. No stone tools were recovered from the burnt mound at Clashnevin. In contrast they were recovered from four of the other five sites, including a flint scraper and four pieces of debitage from Greenhills 2. But the stone tools are often technologically diagnostic of an earlier time period. The presence of the flint and chert scrapers suggests that hide-processing and wood- and/or bone-working were some of the activities that could have been carried out at these sites.

Post-medieval period

Greenhills Demesne was marked on the 1st edition OS map sheet 22. William Minchin of the Busherstown family purchased the Greenhills estate in 1703 (McQueen 2008). According to the OS Name Books, the estate was a moderate size, part of which was a Demesne containing a Gentleman’s seat and several ornamented plantations (O’Flanagan 1930, 69). Greenhills Demesne covered a total area of 204 acres in the 19th century. In modern day terms this would be the size of a medium to large farm. The estate extended on the north-west side of the Limerick to Roscrea road with the county boundary between Offaly and Tipperary curving around the western sides. According to the Valuation Office House books (1848, vol. 1592) the Greenhills estate comprised of the main dwelling house, with a basement dwelling and the following associated buildings: one stone house (herdsman), one garden house (gardener), one coach house, one car house (smaller carriages), three workhouses, three piggeries, three stables, two forges, four cow houses, two sheds, one workshop and one store house.
An elliptical shaped pond is depicted on the first edition map with a canal or drain feature extending from its north-east corner. The pond is located to the north-west of the boggy area which was the source of water for the burnt mound in the Bronze Age.

Greenhills Demesne was divided amongst the local landowners by the Land Commission in March 1935. All the small land holders of Moneygall village were allotted land and the Fanning family received 12 acres. The Fannings increased their holding of the old Greenhills estate when they purchased 80 acres in 1982 and a further 15 acres in 1990 (Edward Fanning landowner pers. comm.).

The retaining wall, service road, ditches and drains located within both the areas of excavation were associated with Greenhills Demesne and with agricultural activities that took place after the Land Commission divided the estate into smaller holdings.
9 References


Sternke, F. (2009) More than meets the eye; an appraisal of the lithic assemblages from the route of the N7 Castletown to Nenagh (Contract 1). Seanda. Issue 4, 30-31, National Road Authority, Dublin.


Appendix 1  Stratigraphic index

Please see attached CD.
# Appendix 3  Groups and subgroups text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Subgroup No.</th>
<th>Area No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Context No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>Natural deposits</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td>C.1, C.2, C.3, C.25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Subsoil</td>
<td>C.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2</td>
<td>Troughs and associated features</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Troughs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>Pits that maybe modern?</td>
<td>C.45, C.47, C.60, C.65, C.84</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Layers underlying the layers of burnt mound material</td>
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<td>Group 5</td>
<td>Modern features</td>
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<td>Ditches and drains</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Curvilinear slot trench</td>
<td>C.81</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Section between former Greenhills Estate service road and retaining wall</td>
<td>C.137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Modern postholes</td>
<td>C.54, C.67, C.87, C.101, C.113</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Ditches</td>
<td>C.206, C.216</td>
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<td>Modern features</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>C.213, C.214</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group 10</td>
<td>Tree boles</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tree boles</td>
<td>C.201, C.201, C.207, C.219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Group 1 Natural deposits

Topsoil C.3
A firm, dark brown peat, which overlay layers of burnt mound material.

*Interpretation*

The topsoil formed when the burnt mound had gone out of use. A fragment of flint debitage 3637:3:1 was recovered from the topsoil.

Topsoil C.25
A spongy, dark brown peat, which underlay the layers of burnt mound material.

*Interpretation*

C.25 had formed before the burnt mound activity.

Subsoil C.2
C.2 is the natural subsoil which occurs across the site.

General interpretation of Group 1
Peat was recorded above and below the main layers of the mound of burnt material.

Area 1

Group 2

Subgroup A Troughs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trough</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Capacity (volume in litres)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>C.27</td>
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<td>1.12</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.788</td>
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<td>0.609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.58</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.89</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trough C.58 (fills C.57 and C.68)

*Description*

The trough was oval in plan. The fills were dark grey silty clays with inclusions of pebbles and charcoal.

*Interpretation*

Cut of trough. It was cut by trough C.27 on the western side. A fragment of flint debitage 3637:57:1 was recovered from the fill.

Trough C.27 (fills C.36, C.44, C.56 and C.61)

*Description*
The trough was sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners. The cut was filled with C.3, C.36, C.44, C.56 and C.61. The fills were dark peaty silts with inclusions of stone and charcoal. Fragments of organic material were recorded in the basal fill.

Interpretation
Cut of a trough which truncated trough C.58 on the northern edge. The trough may have been lined with wattle.

Trough C.89 (fills C.64, C.88 and C.93)
Description
The trough was oval in plan. The three fills were a mix of silty clays.
Interpretation
Cut of a trough. It was not overlain by the layers of the burnt mound material.

Trough C.41 (fills C.39 and C.40)
Description
The trough was sub-circular in plan with rounded corners. The fills were a mix of grey sands.
Interpretation
Cut of a possible trough.

Subgroup B
52 Stakeholes
Description
In total 52 stakeholes were excavated just east of troughs C.27 and C.58, in an area measuring 4 m sq. The average diameter of the stakeholes ranged from 0.04m to 0.11.5m while the depth of the stakeholes range from 0.075m to 0.2m. All the cuts were oval in shape.
Interpretation
The stakeholes were associated with troughs C.27 and C.58. They were for the most part located on the east side of the troughs and formed some furniture associated with the troughs. Six of them (C.192, C.191, C.189, C.187, C.186, C.188) formed an arc to the north and east of pit C.111.

General interpretation of Group 2
Most of the stakeholes were located to the east of the pair of troughs.
Group 3 Pits

Subgroup A Pits associated with mound of burnt material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pit</th>
<th>No of fills</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.28</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.35</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.55</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.59</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.75</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.77</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.85</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.98</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.108</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.109</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.111</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.41</td>
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<td>0.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.124</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.147</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pit C.28 (fills C.29, C.33 and C.34)

*Description*

The pit was oval in plan. It measured 0.65m by 0.47m and had a maximum depth of 0.31m. The upper two fills were grey sands, the basal fill was a clayey sand.

*Interpretation*

C.28 was the cut of a pit. The pit was not covered by the layers of the burnt mound.

Pit C.35 (fill C.31)

*Description*

The pit was circular in plan with rounded corners. It measured 0.68m by 0.64m and had a maximum depth of 0.10m. The fill was a light greyish black sand with pebbles and charcoal.

*Interpretation*

Cut of possible shallow pit. The fill was similar to layers that comprised the mound of burnt material.

Pit C.55 filled with C.53

*Description*

The pit was oval in plan with rounded corners. The NW side was truncated by posthole C.54. It measured 0.42m by 0.32m and has a maximum depth of 0.20m. The fill was a dark brown sandy silt.

*Interpretation*

Cut of a small pit truncated by modern posthole C.54. The fill was the same as the layers of burnt mound material. The function was likely to be related to trough C.27/C.58.

Pit C.59 (fill C.49)
Description
The pit was oval in plan and measured 0.8m by 0.6m and had a maximum depth of 0.18m. The fill was a compact, dark black silty sand with pebbles.

Interpretation
Cut of small pit. The fill was similar to layers that comprised the mound of burnt material.

Pit C.75 (fills C.70, C.73 and C.74)
Description
The pit was circular in plan and was truncated by modern ditch cut C.11 in NW half. The pit measured 0.5m by 0.52m and had a maximum depth of 0.32m. The upper fill was a mid grey sand, the middle fill a dark black silt and the basal fill a grey clay.

Interpretation
Cut of pit with possible clay lining. May be related to pit C.59.

Pit C.77 (fill C.76)
Description
The pit was circular in plan. It had a maximum depth of 0.20m and measured 0.35m by 0.30m. The fill was a loose, dark greyish brown silty sand.

Interpretation
Cut of possible posthole/pit. The fill was similar to layers that comprised the mound of burnt material.

Pit C.85 (fill C.78)
Description
The pit was oval in plan and measured 0.61m north south by 0.44m and had a maximum depth of 0.19m. The fill was a compact, mid greyish brown silty sand.

Interpretation
Cut of small shallow pit.

Pit C.98 (fills C.92 and C.97)
Description
The pit was circular in plan and measured 0.97m by 0.91m and had a maximum depth of 0.4m. The upper fill was a mid yellowish grey sandy silt. The basal fill was a soft, dark greyish black silt.

Interpretation
Cut of pit. The fill was similar to layers that comprised the mound of burnt material.

Pit C.108 (fill C.105)
Description
The pit was irregular in plan. It measured 0.6m by 0.4m and had a maximum depth of 0.14m. The fill was a soft, dark yellowish brown silty clay.

Interpretation
Cut of possible shallow pit. It was located east of pit C.65.

Pit C.109 (fills C.100 and C.110)
_Description_
The pit was circular in plan. It measured 0.65m by 0.62m and had a maximum depth of 0.25m. The upper fill was a mid yellowish grey sandy silt. The basal fill was a mid grey sandy silt.
_Interpretation_
Cut of pit. It was truncated by modern ditch C.24.

Pit C.111 (fill C.107)
_Description_
The pit was circular in plan and measured 0.41m by 0.40m and had a maximum depth of 0.21m. The fill was a dark greyish black sand.
_Interpretation_
Cut of pit filled with burnt mound material. It was very similar to pit C.55. The function was likely to be related to trough C.27/C.58.

Pit C.124 (fill C.123)
_Description_
The pit was sub-circular in plan. It measured 0.43m by 0.35m and had a maximum depth of 0.24m. The fill was a mid grey clayey silt.
_Interpretation_
Cut of small pit filled with burnt mound material.

Pit C.147 (fill C.138)
_Description_
Oval in plan with rounded corners. The fill was a mid grey pebbly sand.
_Interpretation_
Cut of small pit, possibly related to burnt mound activity and trough C.89. It was truncated by ditch C.11.

**Subgroup B Pits that may not be associated with mound of burnt material**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pit</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.45</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.47</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.60</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.65</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.84</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pit C.45 (fill C.42)

Description
The pit was sub-circular in plan. It measured 0.64m by 0.59m by 0.17m in depth. The fill was a brown sand.

Interpretation
Cut of a shallow modern? pit. The fill of the pit was not burnt mound material.

Pit C.47 (fill C.46)

Description
The pit was oval in plan. It measured 0.6m by 0.4m and reached a maximum depth of 0.2m. The fill was a mid brown sandy silt.

Interpretation
Cut of a shallow modern? pit. The fill of the pit was not burnt mound material.

Pit C.60 (fill C.50)

Description
The pit was oval in plan. It measured 0.5m by 0.3m and had a maximum depth of 0.3m. The fill was a mid yellowish brown clayey silt.

Interpretation
Cut of a shallow modern? pit. The fill of the pit was not burnt mound material.

Pit C.65 (fill C.62)

Description
The pit was oval in plan. It measured 0.7m by 0.5m by 0.5 deep. The fill was a soft, dark brown clayey silt.

Interpretation
Cut of modern pit. Two fragments of modern metal 3637:62:1 & 2 were recovered from the fill. The pit cut the slot trench C.81.

Pit C.84 (fill C.82)

Description
The pit was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.5m by 0.4m and had a maximum depth of 0.3m. The fill of the pit was a dark brown sandy silt.

Interpretation
Cut of possible modern pit.

General interpretation of Group 3
A total of 18 pits were located in vicinity of the troughs, though none to the north of the group. 13 of the pits (C.28, C.35, C.55, C.59, C.75, C.77, C.85, C.98, C.108, C.109, C.111, C.124 and C.147) were associated with the mound of burnt material. Not all of the 13 pits were covered by the actual mound. For example two (C.28 and C.147) were located
east/in proximity to trough C.89 to the west of the main mound. Two other pits C.77 and C.111 were located west and east of the pair of troughs C.27 and C.58. Five of the pits (C.45, C.47, C.60, C.65 and C.84) are likely to be modern associated with the land drains or the Greenhills Demesne service road. Fragments of modern metal were recovered from pit C.65. Three of the pits (C.45, C.47, and C.60) were not filled with burnt mound material.

**Group 4 Layers of burnt mound material**

**Subgroup A**

**Layer C.4**

*Description*
Soft, dark greyish black stony silt with frequent pebbles and stones and charcoal. It measured 12m by 4.4m and had a maximum depth of 0.3m.

*Interpretation*
Dumped layer of burnt mound material. Similar to layer C.22.

**Layer C.5**

*Description*
Firm, mid brownish grey clayey silt with moderate pebbles and stones and charcoal. This layer measured 5m by 5m and had a maximum depth of 0.1m.

*Interpretation*
Re-deposited layer in mound of burnt material, comprised mix of natural and burnt mound material. It may have originated from excavation of modern features or land drains.

**Layer C.6**

*Description*
Firm, mid grey clayey silt with moderate pebbles, stones and charcoal. This layer measured 10m by 5m and had a maximum depth of 0.3m.

*Interpretation*
Layer of burnt mound material, dumped by man. Inclusions of fire-cracked stone and charcoal, but more silt/clay and less charcoal than layer

**Layer C.7**

*Description*
Stiff, light grey silt with moderate pebbles and stones. It measured 2m by 0.7m by 0.08m in depth.

*Interpretation*
Layer of burnt mound material.
Layer C.8
Description
Stiff, light grey silt with moderate pebbles and stones. The layer measured 8m by 1.2m and had a maximum depth of 0.2m.
Interpretation
Layer of burnt mound material, related to layer C.7.

Layer C.15
Description
A firm, light yellowish brown sandy silt. It measured 0.6m by 0.2m and had a maximum depth of 0.03m.
Interpretation
Redeposited natural in between the layers of burnt mound material.

Layer C.22
Description
A very soft, mid black clayey silt with frequent pebbles and stones. It measured 6.6m by 6.1m and had a maximum depth of 0.4m.
Interpretation
This layer comprised a dump of burnt stones from the trough C.27

Layer C.23
Description
Compact, mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional pebbles.
Interpretation
Possible upcast from excavation of features in prehistory.

Layer C.102
Description
Loose, mid black silty sand with frequent pebbles and charcoal.
Interpretation
Layer of burnt mound material.

Layer C.103
Description
Loose, light grey silty sand with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks.
Interpretation
Layer of burnt mound material.

Layer C.104
Description
Soft, dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal.
Interpretation
Layer of burnt mound material.

Subgroup B

Layers that accumulated in hollows under the layers of the burnt mound material

Layer C.10
Description
Layer of mid grey silty sand. It measured 1.08m by 0.91m by 0.21m in depth.
Interpretation
A layer of stony sand that accumulated in a hollow under the layers of burnt mound material.

Layer C.32
Description
A small layer of dark grey black sand with pebbles, stones and charcoal. It measured 0.41m by 0.35m by 0.23m in depth.
Interpretation
A layer of burnt mound material that accumulated in a hollow. A fragment of chert debitage 3637:32:1 was recovered from the layer.

Layer C.38
Description
Layer of dark grey black stony silt with pebbles, stones and charcoal. It measured 1.7m by 1.45m by 0.28m in depth.
Interpretation
Layer of burnt mound material that accumulated in a hollow.

General interpretation of Group 4

11 layers were recorded in the general mound of burnt material. Six of the layers were dark silty clay with inclusions of pebbles, stones and charcoal. The other five were a mix of grey silt and re-deposited natural. The mound measured c. 25 m by 14 m and the maximum depth was 0.4m. It was truncated by the excavation of land drains. The land drains intersected in the low ground to the immediate west of the mound and associated features. This area was likely to have been the source of water. The mound was located on the edge of a shallow hollow/low ground which was drained by land drains in the recent past. The hollow may have filled with water during the wet season. The pond which formed part of the Greenhills Demesne in the mid 19th century was located to the immediate north in the area of low ground.
The excavation record refers to Spread 1 (mound of burnt material). The spread was composed of layers C.4, C.5, C.6, C.7, C.8 and C.15. Spread II was composed of layers C.22 and C.23 and Spread III of layers C.102, C.103 and C.104.

Group 5 Modern features

Subgroup A Modern Ditches

Ditch C.11 (fills C.12, C.13 and C.14)

Description
The ditch was U-shaped in plan and orientated NE-SW. It measured 43 m by 1 m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.30 m within the area of excavation. Three fills were recorded in the ditch. All the fills were silts.

Interpretation
A shallow modern ditch. It cut the layers of burnt mound material. It was parallel to the drain C.20 to the north and the demesne wall C.136 to the south. The silty fills and backfills suggest that the ditch was open for a period of time. A quartzite rubbing stone 3637:14:3 and fragments of modern pottery, clay pipes and glass were recovered from the fills.

Ditch C.19 (fill C.16, C.17, C.18 and C.21)

Description
The ditch was U-shaped in plan and orientated NW-SE. One section was excavated through the ditch. The sides sloped gradually to the flat base. The ditch measured 26m by 2.6m and had a maximum depth of 0.6m, within the area of the excavation. Four fills were recorded in the ditch.
The upper three fills were silty sands with inclusions of stones and charcoal. The basal fill was a stony silt.

Interpretation
Cut C19 was a modern ditch which truncated the layers of burnt mound material. It was part of a land drainage system which included drain C.20. Modern pottery and fragments of metal were recovered from the fills. It was not marked on the 1st edition OS map.

Modern drain C.20 (fill with C.21)

Description
The drain had vertical sides and a flat base. It was orientated NE-SW. It measured 25m by 0.3m and had a maximum depth of 0.7m within the area of excavation. The fill was a soft, dark brownish grey stony silt with 70% stones.

Interpretation
Drain C.20 was a modern drain. It ran parallel to two other drains, of similar length and width, located to the NW outside the area of excavation. They drained into ditch C.19

Modern ditch C.24 (fills C.12 and C.14)
Description
The ditch was U-shaped in plan, with steep sides and a flat base. The ditch measured 5.5m by 1m and had a maximum depth of 0.3m. The fills were silts.

Interpretation
Cut of a modern ditch. It was perpendicular to ditch C.11. The fills and dimensions were the same as those of ditch C.11. Both were contemporary drainage ditches.

Subgroup B Slot trench
Curvilinear slot trench C.81 (fills C.79 and C.80)

Description
The slot was linear in plan. It measured 3.3m by 0.3m and had a maximum depth of 0.3m. The upper fill was a dark black silt. The basal fill was a mid grey clayey silt.

Interpretation
Cut of man-made slot. It was cut by pit C.65. It maybe related to the ditches C.11 and C.24.

Subgroup C
Section between former Greenhills Estate service road and retaining wall C.137 (layers C.129, C.130, C.131, C.132, C.133, C.134 and C.135)

Description
A section was excavated between the former service road and a retaining wall on the SE side of the road. The section was 5m long by 1m wide. Seven layers were recorded in the section, they were a mix of silty sands. Lumps of mortar were recorded in some of the layers.

Interpretation
The former service road or trackway is marked on all editions of the OS maps. The area between the road and a retaining wall was filled in the recent past. Modern pottery and fragments of metal were recovered from the layers.

Retaining wall C.136

Description
The wall was recorded in a narrow section. It measured 0.9m high. It was constructed of rubble limestone.

Interpretation
The wall was a retaining wall and the ground (or verge in front of the wall) to the NW sloped from the service road towards the wall. It was 4.7m from the edge of the service road to the wall and the decrease in height over that distance was 0.4m. The wall was a retaining wall associated with a field boundary marked on the 1st and 2nd editions of the OS maps.
Subgroup D Modern Postholes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-hole</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>0.31</td>
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<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.67</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.87</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
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<td>C.101</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.113</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Posthole 1 C.54 filled with C.48 and C.52

Description
The posthole was sub-circular in plan with rounded corners. It measured 0.31m by 0.3m and was 0.3m deep. The fills were sandy.

Interpretation
Cut of a possible posthole, which cut the pit C.55. The posthole maybe modern in date, as the fill included one sherd of modern pottery 3637:48:1.

Posthole C.67 (fills C.63 and C.66)

Description
The posthole was square in plan. It measured 0.56m by 0.52m by 0.5m in depth. The upper fill was a black sandy silt and the lower a yellow sand.

Interpretation
Cut for modern, square post. Three fragment of modern metal 3637:63:1-3 were recovered from the fill.

Posthole C.87 (fill C.83)

Description
The posthole was sub-circular in plan. It measured 0.4m by 0.3m and reached a maximum depth of 0.4m. The fill was a dark brown sandy silt and included the remains of a wooden post.

Interpretation
Cut of modern posthole. It maybe related to C.67 and C.45.

Posthole C.101 (fill C.95)

Description
The posthole was sub-circular in plan with a flat base. It measured 0.39m by 0.39m and had a maximum depth of 0.3m. The fill was a loose dark yellowish brown sand with inclusions of pebbles and wood.

Interpretation
Cut of a modern posthole. A fragment of chert debitage 3637:95:1 and a modern metal bolt were recovered from the fill. Maybe related to modern pit/possible posthole C.67 and C.87.

Posthole C.113 (fill C.112)
Description
The posthole was circular in plan. The posthole measured 0.19m by 0.19m and reached a maximum depth of 0.28m. The fill was a soft, mid brown clayey silt with inclusions of wood.

Interpretation
Cut of a modern posthole. It was similar to posthole C.87.

General interpretation of Group 5
The five postholes maybe modern in date, some of them are square in plan and all are regular in plan. Post C.54 is the only one that maybe associated with the burnt mound phase of the site. A sherd of modern pottery was recovered from the fill, but it was only a single sherd. The other four posts included fragments of modern wooden posts and metal fragments in the fills.

Group 6 Tree boles

C.118 (fills C.126, C.127 and C.128), C.162 (fills C.161 and C.172) and C.165 (fills C.106, C.163, C.164 and C.166)

General interpretation of Group 6
A number of mature lime trees were recorded in the same field as Greenhills 2, they were located within and outside the LMA. The trees are marked on all editions of the OS map. They were associated with the former Greenhills estate. The three hollows were located in close proximity on the edge of the LMA. They are probably the remains of trees.

Area 2
Area 2 was located 60 m east of Area 1.

Group 7 Layers of burnt mound material
Layer C.217
Description
A dark grey sandy silt with frequent pebbles, stones and charcoal. The layer measured 3m by 2.5m and had a maximum depth of 0.2m.

Interpretation
Layer of burnt mound material. It is possible that this layer is ex-situ and was brought to this part of the site from Area 1 or is associated with another mound of burnt material located outside the LMA.

Layer C.218
Description
A mid grey sandy silt with frequent pebbles and stones. It measured 14.5 m by 5m and had a maximum depth of 0.08m.

**Interpretation**
Layer of burnt mound material underlying layer C217. It is possible that this layer is ex-situ and was brought to this part of the site from Area 1 or is associated with another mound of burnt material located outside the LMA.

**Group 8**

**Pit C.206 (fill C.205)**

**Description**
Circular in plan. It measured 2m by 2m and had a maximum depth of 0.6m. The fill was a compact, mid brown silty sand.

**Interpretation**
Cut of pit. A flint retouched artefact 3637:205:1 was recovered from the fill.

**Pit C.216 (fill C.208)**

**Description**
Oval in plan. It measured 0.92m by 0.55m and had a maximum depth of 0.2m. The fill was a mid greyish yellowish brown silt.

**Interpretation**
Cut of pit. The pit was truncated by the modern ditch C.200.

**Group 9 Modern features**

**Subgroup A**

**Ditch C.193 (fill C.194)**

**Description**
The ditch was U-shaped in plan. It measured 21m by 1.3 wide and had a maximum depth of 0.26m. The fill was a mid to dark brown peaty sand.

**Interpretation**
Cut of possible drainage ditch, probably related to parallel ditch C.200.

**Ditch C.196 (fill C.195)**

**Description**
The ditch was U-shaped in plan. It measured 40m by 1.9m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.5m. The fill was a firm, mid brown sandy silt.

**Interpretation**
Cut of possible field boundary ditch, which truncated ditch C.200.

**Ditch C.200 (fills C.197, C.198, and C.199)**

**Description**
The ditch was U-shaped in plan. It measured 29m by 1.45m and had a maximum depth of 0.44m within the area of excavation. The upper fill was a firm, mid brown sandy silt. The middle fill was a strongly cemented, mid grey/light yellow silty sand and the basal fill was a spongy, dark brown peat.

**Interpretation**
Cut of possible drainage ditch. The ditch was truncated by boundary ditch C.196.

Drain C.210 (fill C.209)

**Description**
The feature was V-shaped in plan. It measured 2.5m by 3.75m and had a maximum depth of 0.9m within the area of excavation. The fill was a dark grey stony silt.

**Interpretation**
Modern field drain with drainage pipes at the base. It was backfilled with pea gravel and rubble. The drain was in the area between the former Greenhills estate service road and the retaining wall.

**Subgroup B**

Section between former Greenhills Estate service road and retaining wall C.214 (layers C.211, C.212 and C.213)

**Description**
A section was excavated between the former service road and a retaining wall. The section was 2.5m by 1m and had a maximum depth of 0.7m. The upper layer was a grey stony sand. The middle layer was a firm, dark brown peat. The basal layer comprised stones and mortar.

**Interpretation**
This feature was the same as C.139 in Area 1. The former service road or trackway is marked on all editions of the OS maps. The area between the road and a retaining wall was filled in the recent past and re-cut by a drainage ditch C.210.

Wall C.213
Retaining wall C.136

**Description**
The wall was recorded in a narrow section. It measured 0.5m high. It was constructed of rubble limestone.

**Interpretation**
The wall was a retaining wall associated with a field boundary of the former Greenhills estate marked on the 1st and 2nd editions of the OS maps.

**Group 10 Natural hollows and/or tree boles**

Tree bowl fills C.201 and C.215
Natural hollow C.203 (fill C.202)
Natural hollow C.207 (fill C.204)
Natural hollow C.219 (fill C.217)

*General interpretation of Group 10*

A number of mature lime trees were recorded in the same field as Greenhills 2, both within and outside the LMA. The trees are marked on all editions of the OS map. They were associated with the former Greenhills estate. The three hollows were located in close proximity on the edge of the LMA. They are probably the remains of trees.
Appendix 4  Lithics report

Farina Sternke

Introduction

Eight lithic finds from the archaeological investigations of a prehistoric site at Greenhills 2, Co. Tipperary were presented for analysis (Table 1). The finds are associated with two *fulachta fiadh*, pits, a circular feature of unknown purpose and two linear features.

<table>
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Table 1  Composition of the Lithic Assemblage from Greenhills 2 (E3637)

Methodology

All lithic artefacts are examined visually and catalogued using Microsoft Excel. The following details are recorded for each artefact which measures at least 2 cm in length or width: context information, raw material type, artefact type, the presence of cortex, artefact condition, length, with and thickness measurements, fragmentation and the type of retouch (where applicable). The technological criteria recorded are based on the terminology and technology presented in Inizan *et al.* 1999. The general typological and morphological classifications are based on Woodman *et al.* 2006. Struck lithics smaller than 2 cm are classed as debitage and not analysed further, unless they are retouched or of specific significance, e.g. cores etc. The same is done with natural chunks.

Quantification

The artefacts are four flaked pieces of flint, two flaked pieces of chert and one modified piece of quartzite (Table 1). In addition, one natural chunk of chert was also presented for analysis.
Three artefacts are larger than 2 cm in length and width and were therefore recorded in detail.

Provenance
The finds were recovered from the topsoil, three pits (c. 32, 57 and 95), and a circular feature (c. 205).

Condition:
The recorded lithics survive in patinated (E3637:1:1) and burnt (E3637:14:3 and E3637:205:1) condition. Two artefacts (E3637:1:1 and E3637:14:3) are incomplete and two (E3637:1:1 and E3637:205:1) bear the remnants of cortex.

Technology/Morphology:
The lithics are four pieces of debitage (E3637:3:1, E3637:32:1, E3637:57:1 and E3637:95:1), two retouched artefacts (E3637:1:1 and E3637:205:1) and a macro tool (E3637:14:3).

Debitage
The presence of four pieces of debitage (two flints and two cherts) suggests that knapping, or at the very least tool resharpening took place at the site.

Retouched Artefacts:
The two retouched artefacts identified in the assemblage were both produced on single-platform cores. The artefacts are an end-of-blade scraper (E3637:1:1) and miscellaneous retouched artefact (E3637:205:1).

The end-of-blade scraper is not a classic Early Neolithic textbook example. It is missing its proximal end and measures 42 mm, 22 mm and 9 mm thick. This artefact dates to the first half of the Neolithic period.

The miscellaneous retouched artefact was most likely used as a natural concave scraper. It measures 27 mm in length, 24 mm in width and 9 mm in thickness. This artefact may date to the Middle Neolithic period.

Macro Tools:
The macro tool is a rubbing stone (E3637:14:3) which was most likely used as a mano in connection with a saddle quern. It is loaf-shaped and smoothened on one side and on a small portion of its edge. The rubbing stone measures 200 mm in length, 163 mm in width and 64 mm in thickness. It most likely dates to the Bronze Age period.
Dating:

The assemblage has to be regarded as technologically and typologically diagnostic and can be divided into two groups: (1) the end-of-blade scraper and miscellaneous retouched artefact may be contemporaneous and may date to the Middle Neolithic period (they may represent a residual element at this site); and (2) the large mano most likely dates to the Bronze Age period.

Conservation

Lithics do not require specific conservation, but should be stored in a dry, stable environment. Preferably, each lithic should be bagged separately and contact with other lithics should be avoided, so as to prevent damage and breakage, in particular edge damage which could later be misinterpreted as retouch. Larger and heavier items are best kept in individual boxes to avoid crushing of smaller assemblage pieces.

Conclusion

The lithic finds from the archaeological excavation at Greenhills 2, Co. Tipperary are an end-of-blade scraper, a miscellaneous retouched artefact, four pieces of debitage and a quartzite rubbing stone (mano). In addition, a natural chunk of chert was also presented for analysis.

The assemblage is technologically and typologically diagnostic. The end-of-blade scraper and the retouched artefacts as well as the debitage pieces may date to the Middle Neolithic period, while the mano is most likely Bronze Age in date.

This site makes a minor contribution to the evidence for prehistoric settlement in Co. Tipperary.

Bibliography


Appendix 5  Plant remains report

Introduction
This report details the results of preliminary assessment work carried out on sieved samples from Greenhills 2, Co. Tipperary (E3637). The site comprised a burnt mound/fulacht fiadh and associated troughs, pits and post-holes. Portions of Greenhills House and Greenhills Demesne wall were also excavated.

Methodology
The samples were collected on site as bulk soil and were processed using machine-assisted floatation (following guidelines in Pearsall 2000). The floating material (or ‘flot’) from each sample was collected in a stack of geological sieves (the smallest mesh size was 250μm).

When all the carbonised material was collected the flot was then air-dried in paper-lined drying trays prior to storage in airtight plastic bags. The samples were scanned under low-powered magnification (x 10 to x 40) using a binocular microscope. The results of preliminary scanning are presented in Table 1 at the end of this report. A total of 25 samples were scanned. One sieved sample from this site did not produce a flot; C103 (S.50).

The report deals only with the samples that produced flots. The words ‘flot’ and ‘sample’ are interchangeable throughout the text of this report.

Recommendations for further analysis of charcoal
Charcoal was present in all of the flots from this site. In total, 20% (5 samples) of the flots had a high frequency of charcoal, 36% (9 samples) had a medium frequency and 44% (11 samples) had a low frequency of charcoal. In order to select material with a good potential for further analysis, it is recommended that samples with a high frequency of charcoal are chosen, unless charcoal from other contexts is required for radiocarbon dating.

Recommendations for further analysis of plant remains
There were no charred seeds in the samples from this site. This is a relatively common occurrence in samples from burnt mound/fulacht fiadh sites (Johnston 2007, 70). A similar result was obtained from burnt mound sites excavated at Greenhills 1. No further work is required in these samples.
### Table 1: Scanned samples from Greenhills 2, Co. Tipperary (E3637)

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### References

Johnston, P. 2007 ‘Analysis of carbonised plant remains’ in Grogan, E., O’Donnell, L. and Johnston, P. *The Bronze Age Landscapes of the Pipeline to the West*. Bray, Wordwell, 70 – 79.

Appendix 6  Animal bone report

An Early Bronze Age burnt mound with an associated pit was excavated at Greenhills 2. The bone was recovered from three separate contexts; the peat overlying the mound, the fill of a pit that underlay the mound and the fill of a modern ditch. An eroded fragment of a cow metatarsus was recovered from the peat (C3) overlying the area of the trough. This belongs to an adult individual and is chopped horizontally. The fill of a pit (C206) associated with the burnt mound produced the midshaft portion of a cow metatarsus and again it displays traces of crude butchery. Later activity at the site survived in the form of a modern ditch (C19) from which a number of animal bones were recovered including two cattle metapodia, a portion of a cow skull, a horse pelvis and a fragment of a long bone from a large mammal, probably horse or cattle. This bone is totally calcined from being in contact with intense heat for a considerable period of time.
## Appendix 7  Finds catalogue

### Metal Finds

**Nail** (E3637:16:1) Fe. L. 54.26 mm., Th. (of shank) 4.86 mm., D. (of head) 15.13 mm. Complete. Shank straight, square in section. Flat circular head. Corroded. Cfr. **Scully 1997**, Fig.74:35, pag.166.

**Nail** (E3637:16:2) Fe. L. 40.45 mm., D. (of shank) 7.27 mm. Incomplete. Headless. Shank straight, circular in section. Corroded.


**Nail** (E3637:63:1) Fe. L. 46 mm., Th. (of shank) 4.5 mm. Complete? Shanks apparently straight and rectangular in section. Very corroded.

**Nail** (E3637:131:1) Fe. L. 76.7 mm., Th. (of shank) 5.28 mm., D. (of head) 8.9 mm. Complete. Shank slightly bent, sub-rectangular in section. Flat circular head. Slightly corroded. Cfr. **Scully 1997**, Fig.74:38, pag.166.

**Nail** (E3637:132:1) Fe. L. 57.66 mm., Th. (of shank) 5.45 mm., Th. (of head) 12.7 mm. Complete. Shank straight, square in section. Flat rectangular head. Corroded. Cfr. **Scully 1997**, Fig.74:35, pag.166.

**Nail** (E3637:132:2) Fe. L. 82.4 mm., Th. (of shank) 5.48 mm. Complete? Shank straight, rectangular in section. Head and upper part of shank not visible. Very corroded.

**Nail** (E3637:133:2) Fe. L. 58.1 mm., Th. (of shank) 6 mm., D. (of head) 10.81 mm. Complete. Shank bent to the end, probably rectangular in section. Circular head. Very corroded.

**Nail** (E3637:135:1) Fe. L. 42.5 mm., Th. (of shank) 6.8 mm. Complete? Shank straight, rectangular in section. Head and upper part of shank not visible. Very corroded.


**Nail** (E3637:194:2) Fe. L. 47.98 mm., Th. (of shank) 7.5 mm., D. (of head) 11.66 mm. Complete. Shank straight, section not visible. Flat circular head. Very corroded.
Other Objects

U-shaped bolts (E3637:1:2) Fe. Average L. 45.51 mm., average W. 21.98 mm., average D. 6.98 mm. Two ‘U’-shaped bars, both circular in section. Complete. Taper to a rounded point at both end. Slightly corroded.

U-shaped bolt (E3637:62:1) Fe. L. 45.68 mm., W. 24.2 mm., D. 6.11 mm. ‘U’-shaped bar, circular in section. Incomplete. One end missing, tapers to a rounded point at the other end. Corroded.

U-shaped bolt (E3637:63:2) Fe. L. 51.7 mm., W. 30.9 mm., D. 5.9 mm. ‘U’-shaped bar, circular in section. Incomplete. One end missing, tapers to a rounded point at the other end. Very corroded.

U-shaped bolt (E3637:129:2) Fe. L. 56 mm., W. 22.6 mm., D. 5.85 mm. ‘U’-shaped bar, circular in section. Complete. Tapers to a rounded point at both end. Very corroded. Cfr. Carroll & Quinn 2003, Fig.5.2:5, pag.262.

U-shaped bolt (E3637:129:3) Fe. L. 46.43 mm., W. 22.3 mm., D. 5.8 mm. ‘U’-shaped bar, circular in section. Incomplete. One end missing, tapers to a rounded point at the other end. Corroded.

U-shaped bolt (E3637:95:2) Fe. L. 52.19 mm., W. 23.16 mm., D. 6.92 mm. ‘U’-shaped bar, circular in section. Complete but very corroded.

U-shaped bolt fragments (E3637:1:3) Fe. Average L. 48 mm., average D. 5.84 mm. Two ‘U’-shaped bar fragments, both circular in section. Incomplete. Taper to a rounded point end. Slightly corroded.

Fish hook (E3637:63:3) Fe. L. 45.55 mm., Th. 5.48 mm. Incomplete. Barb missing. ‘U’-shaped hook, circular in section. Corroded. Cfr. Carroll & Quinn 2003, Fig.5.7:2, pag.270.


Bar (E3637:132:3) Fe. L. 66.4 mm., W. 33.1 mm., Th. 0.39 mm. Incomplete. Sub-rectangular in shape, flat surface. Corroded.

Bar (E3637:16:3) Fe. L. 250 mm., W. 30 mm., Th. 0.55 mm. Incomplete. Bent. Rectangular in shape. Possible part of a wheel rim. Corroded.
Tool (E3637:14:1) Fe. L. 188.38 mm., W. 51.85 mm., Th. 9.26 mm. Incomplete. Probable terminal part of a ploughing tool. Slightly bent. Rectangular in shape, point-tapered to one end. Corroded.

Tool (E3637:133:1) Fe. L. 165.3 mm., W. 161 mm., Th. 16.36 mm. Apparently complete. Probable terminal part of a ploughing tool, most likely a rake. ‘T’-shaped, with both ends lifting to a right angle. Corroded.

Rod fragment (E3637:129:5) Fe. L. 188.4 mm., W. 105.1 mm., D. (of section) 10.5 mm. Incomplete. Hook-shaped, circular in section. Corroded.

Rod fragments (E2414:129:8) Fe. Average L. 134.88 mm., average D. 5.4 mm. Ten fragments, circular in section. Slightly curved. Corroded.

Fragment (E3637:129:6) Fe. L. 136.2 mm., W. 74.5 mm., Th. 0.41 mm. Incomplete. Bent. Irregular in shape. Possible part of a ploughing tool. Corroded.

Fragments (E3637:129:7) Fe. Average L. 115.04 mm., average W. 53.27 mm., average Th. 5.26 mm. Two fragments, rectangular in shape. Possible parts of a tool. Corroded.

Wire fragments (E3637:133:3) Fe. Average L. 76.21 mm., average D. 4.14 mm. Ten fragments, circular in section. Corroded.


Clay Pipe
Bowl Fragment (E3637:12:4) L. 29.4 mm., W. 18.51 mm., Th. 4.58 mm. Incomplete. Half part missing.

Modern Glass
A total of 29 glass fragments – all modern in date – were found on site. They all are bottle fragments in different shades of green, apart from ten window fragments from C.133.
Modern Pottery
Thirty-three modern pottery sherds were recovered from site.

Black glazed ware
Two sherds in total.
  One body sherd from C.12. One everted rim sherd, probably belonging to a small basin (E3637:132:5).

Glazed red earthenware
Seven sherds in total.
  One rim and one body sherd from C.12 and one rim sherd from C.132, all belonging to large basins. Two body sherds from C.194, one rim sherd from C.195. One rim sherd belonging from a handled jug (E3637:197:3).

Unglazed red earthenware
Two body sherds from C.16

Porcelain
One base sherd (E3637:197:2), belonging to a tea cup, decorated in blue.

Pearlware
Only one body sherd from C.201.

Creamware
Five sherds in total.
  One plate rim sherd from C.12, another rim sherd – probably from a small basin – from C.16. One base and one body sherd from C.131. A cup base sherd from C.132.

Slipware
Plate body sherd (E3637:194:4) with a partial flower decoration in blue. Two sherds in total.

Stoneware
Three sherds in total.
  Two base sherds of small containers (E3637:131:3 & E3637:132:8) and one body sherd (E3637:129:9).

Transfer printed ware
Twelve sherds in total. They all belong to plates.
Two rim sherds from C.16, one rim sherd from C.48, one rim sherd from C.129, one rim and two base sherds from C.132, one rim and one body sherd from C.197. All the sherds mentioned above are blue-printed.

Two rim sherds (one from C.129 and the other from C.132) are decorated in brown. One body sherd (E3637:131:4) is printed in purple.

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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. List of modern pottery by context

References
