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Data Structure Report No. 034

**Carravindoon, Rathlin Island**  
Rathlin Island Research Project  
AE/04/97



**Carravindoon  
Rathlin Island**

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CAF DSR 034

**AE/04/97**

**Grid Ref: D 1567 4901**

## 1. Summary

### 1.1. Background

1.1.1 Archaeological excavations were undertaken within a complex of hut circles and field systems at Carravindoon as part of the Rathlin Island Research Project from the 24<sup>th</sup> May to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2004 (Figure One). The project was undertaken by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (Queen's University Belfast) in partnership with the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (University of Ulster Coleraine) on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage.

1.1.2 The excavation at Carravindoon represented part of the second phase of work on the island, designed to augment the results of earlier fieldwork carried out by the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (UUC) over the course of two years. In this particular case the main aim was to retrieve dating evidence for the complex.

### 1.2. Excavation

1.2.1 Three test trenches were opened, all lying within the landscape of curvilinear field boundaries, enclosures and circular huts which stretches across an area approximately 250m<sup>2</sup>. Situated towards the southern extremity of the field system was a sub-triangular enclosure, 27m north - south by 25m east - west, bounded partly by low linear banks, and partly by the natural topography. Within this enclosure are four apparent hut sites, the largest of which measures 2.3m north-south by 2.9m east-west internally, defined by a bank 1.9m wide and 0.65m (maximum) high.

#### 1.2.2. Trench One

A trench 8m long (east-west) by 1m (north-south) was opened across the west bank of the largest feature within the enclosure. Apart from a few fragments of flint, one of which was worked, no archaeological features were identified.

#### 1.2.3. Trench Two

Trench Two was opened in the second of three potential hut circles, and was located approximately 150m north-west of Trench One. This was a circular hut site visible as a low bank with some stones protruding through the topsoil. It measured 7.8m externally, 3.0m internally in diameter, and 0.45m in internal height before excavation. A trench 5m long (east - west) by 1m (north - south) was opened across the west bank. This trench also included a small portion of an adjacent field boundary (1.3m wide and 0.3m high),

which terminated close to the hut wall. On removal of the topsoil the wall of the hut was exposed, revealing tumble on both sides.

#### 1.2.4. Hut Interior

Three main phases of activity were recorded in the interior of the hut. The earliest was represented by a cobbled surface, from which two sherds of coarse pottery and some flint fragments were recovered. The pottery has been assigned a Bronze Age date, with one sherd considered to be possibly part of a Neolithic Globular Bowl (Roche, *pers comm.*). A hearth was associated with these deposits and close to the wall. Finds associated with the hearth feature comprised flint fragments and two further sherds of coarse pottery.

#### 1.2.5. Field Boundary

The field boundary crossed the south-west corner of the trench diagonally and was formed by an irregular arrangement of natural field boulders. Charcoal and burnt orange earth was recorded in the soil between the stones.

#### 1.2.6. Trench Three

A 2 x 1m trench was opened south-west of Trench One to investigate one of the smaller hut sites within the Carravindoon Complex. The trench was orientated to maximize the potential of uncovering archaeological remains, with the northern half of the trench opened within the hut interior and over the structural wall, and the southern half located to investigate the hut exterior.

#### 1.2.7. Hut Interior

On the removal of topsoil a structural wall feature was uncovered. This was similar to the wall recorded within the upper strata of Trench Two. However, the wall within Trench Three had easily definable edges (particularly on the east side). The upper deposits within the hut interior did not produce any artefacts or features of archaeological significance. However, the base deposit was situated on top of a possible metalled surface and contained several struck flints – the most significant of which was a thin blade that possibly dates to the late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic (McCarten *pers comm.*).

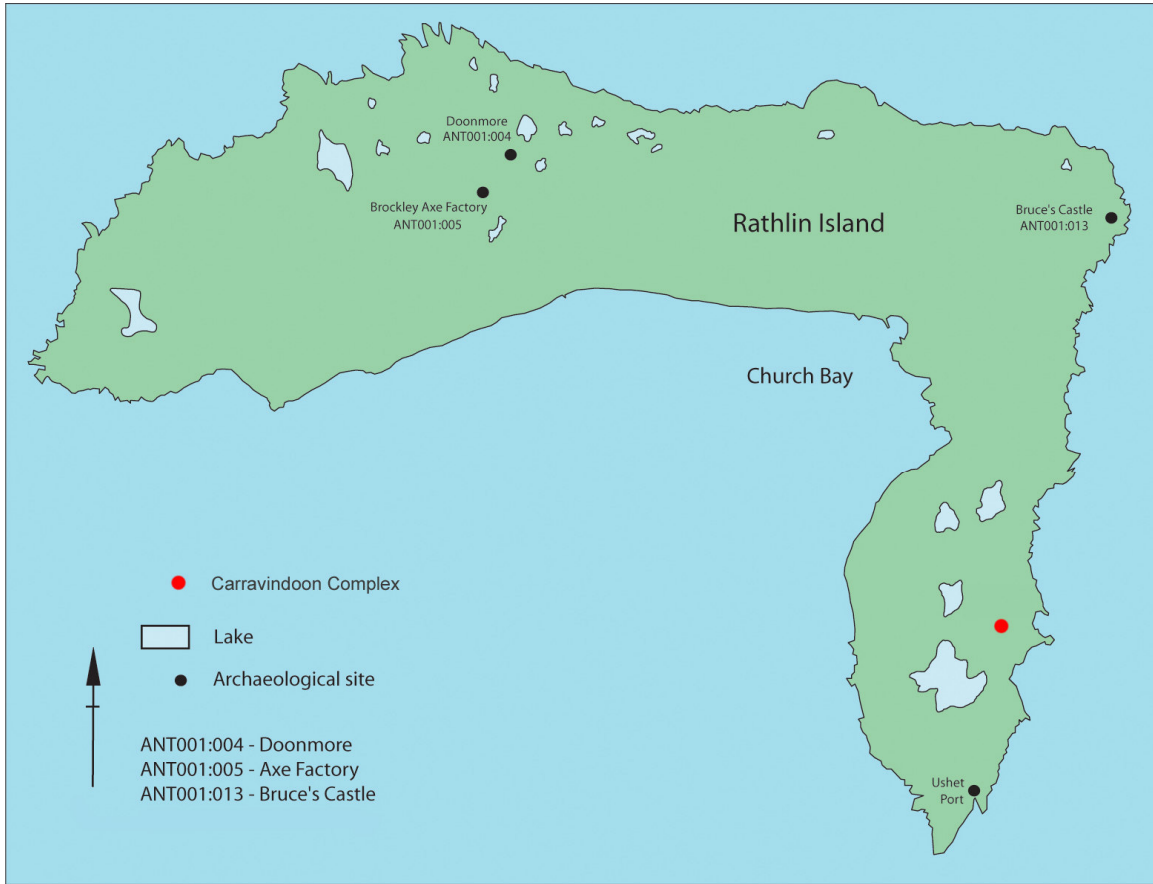


Figure One: Rathlin Island location map

## **2. Background**

### *2.1 General*

2.1.1 The following report presents the results of the archaeological excavation within the Carravindoon complex, Rathlin Island. The excavations were undertaken as part of the Rathlin Island Research Project from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2004, by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (Queens University, Belfast) in partnership with the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (University of Ulster Coleraine). The Rathlin Island Research Project was commissioned by Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage.

### *2.2 Background*

2.2.1 Two previous field seasons involving a coastal survey had been undertaken by the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (UUC), during which approximately 200 sites were mapped and documented around the shores of the island. The project aimed to examine the whole island from a maritime perspective, and as a consequence a number of sites were targeted for investigation. The excavation at Carravindoon represents a second phase of research, designed to augment existing knowledge of the maritime environment. Other sites investigated within this second phase of work were:

- Oweyberne Cave (AE/04/96: CAF DSR 026).
- Oweydoo Cave (AE/04/93: CAF DSR 033).
- Portcastle (AE/04/92: CAF DSR 032).

2.2.2 The three test trenches opened within the Carravindoon Complex lie within a landscape of curvilinear field boundaries, enclosures and hut circles stretching across an area of land approximately 250m<sup>2</sup> (Plate One). Although a hut circle and two small enclosures (SMR No. ANT 001:018) had been noted during previous fieldwork, the recent survey identified the complex as much more extensive, apparently pre-dating the relic fields shown on the Ordnance Survey maps. The complex is sited on rough grazing land with intermittent rock outcrops and damp, boggy hollows. The land slopes gradually down towards the shore c.100m to the east, which consists of coarse shingle along the upper beach level, and rock towards High Water Mark. Three potential hut sites were chosen for small-scale investigation. Huts One and Three were located within a sub-triangular enclosure at the southern extremity of the field system, in which a total of four possible huts were identified. The enclosure, measuring 27m north – south by 25m east – west, was bounded by a low linear field bank of earth and stone on the north side, a natural ridge (apparently augmented by a low intermittent bank) on the south-east, and a natural rock outcrop at the south-west. Three of the possible huts lie along the south-western

side, at the base of the outcrop. Trench three was laid out across the middle hut. A fourth, slightly larger, hut (Trench One) was sited at the north-eastern end of the ridge.

2.2.3 Approximately 150m north-west of Trench One, and within the wider field system, is a circular hut, 7.8m in external, and 3.0m in internal diameter. Before excavation it stood to a maximum (external) height of 0.46m at the west, and 0.9m at the east, beyond which the ground continues to slope down towards the shore. The internal bank height was recorded as 0.45m. Trench Two was placed east - west across the western bank of this hut. The remnant of a curving field boundary c.1.3m in average width and 0.3m in height, initially appeared to abut the edge of the hut on the western side. It continues for 4.3m approximately west-south-west, before curving south-west, merging with a natural rocky ridge, at which point it becomes difficult to detect.

### 2.3. *Other Sites in the Vicinity*

2.3.1 The coastal strip along this part of the island has been used extensively during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries for the draining and burning of kelp, two rectangular kelp kilns (\*MRA 3:45 and 3:47) were recorded at proximity to the field system, just above the beach. In addition, a small boat shelter (MRA 3:46) of uncertain date was identified a short distance (c.50m) to the south of the complex. Some later stone boundaries and field enclosures have been superimposed on the earlier field system.

2.3.2 A D-shaped enclosure, traditionally believed to be an ancient graveyard known as Kilvoruan (SMR No. ANT 001:017) is located approximately 300m to the north-west of the complex, and within the same townland.

### 2.4. *Research Objectives*

2.4.1 The main aim of the excavation at Carravindoon was to attempt to recover secure dating evidence for the site, and, if possible, to retrieve any additional information regarding the nature of settlement. Originally it had been hoped to establish the relationship between the hut at Trench Two and the adjacent field boundary; however, this was not possible within the limitations of the investigation. It was also hoped to ascertain if the huts had been built over successive periods, or if they constituted a larger contemporary settlement.

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\* MRA: Maritime Record Antrim - presently held by the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (UUC)

## 2.5. Archiving

2.5.1 Copies of this report have been deposited with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. All site records and finds are temporarily archived within the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology (Queen's University Belfast), and the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (University of Ulster at Coleraine).

## 2.6. Credits and Acknowledgments

2.6.1 The excavation was directed by Peter Moore and Rosemary McConkey. The excavation team consisted of Keith Adams, Brian Sloan, Clare McGranaghan, Eamon Donaghy and Naomi Carver.

2.6.2 Assistance during the course of the excavation and preparation of this report was kindly provided by: Dr Colm Donnelly and Ruth Logue (CAF), Dr Colin Breen, Tom McErlean and Wes Forsythe (CMA), Sinéad McCartan (UM), Dr Brian Williams (EHS: Built Heritage) and Helen Roche.



**Plate One:** Aerial photograph with the enclosures and hut sites marked.  
(Surveyed and produced by James Patience and David Wilson, EHS: Built Heritage)



### **3. Excavation**

#### *3.1. Methodology*

3.1.1 The programme of work at Carravindoon involved 3 separate test trenches, all of which were located across potential hut structures.

3.1.2 The excavation of the archaeological strata was undertaken by hand using standard context recording methods. The principal site records consisted of context sheets, field notes and a drawn record. Individual features were photographed and planned, both prior to and following excavation. A series of overall plans (Scale 1:20) were prepared, with section drawings (Scales 1:10 and 1:20) made on completion of the excavation. For details of site photography see Appendix Three and for details of field illustrations see Appendix Four. In addition, separate registers were kept for small finds (Appendix Five) and samples (Appendix Six). It is recommended that the Harris Matrix for the trench is consulted when reading the account of the excavation (see Appendix Two). The unique site code used to identify the records generated during the excavation was 'CI 04'.

#### *3.2. Account of the excavations*

##### **3.2.1 Trench One**

Trench One measured 1m north - south and 8m east - west across the western bank of a potential hut site. Immediately below the topsoil (C.101) was a mid-brown humic loam (C.102) containing many tightly-packed small to medium sized stones, with some larger boulders also located at this level. Fragments of natural flint and one worked piece showing retouch were the only finds recovered from this context. Towards the base of C.102 the mid-brown loam appeared darker in colour and contained fewer roots. Although otherwise similar to C.102, it was given a separate context number (C.103). Situated beneath C.103 was natural subsoil (C.104: Figure Two) containing many stones. No occupation level was detected, and the tightly-packed natural beach stones continued to a depth of c.2m, when excavation was stopped.

##### **3.2.2 Trench Two**

Trench Two measured 5m north - south and 1m east - west, and was positioned to include the western bank of the hut-site and part of the adjacent field boundary (Plate Two). The excavation can be sequenced into three phases:

- Phase One appears to date to the later Middle Bronze Age.
- Phase Two represents deposits dating to the Later Bronze Age, and is associated with a hearth and two sherds of pottery.

- Phase three is characterized by evidence of burning above Phase Two, and is of uncertain date.

### 3.2.3 Hut Interior

On removal of topsoil (C.201) a layer of mid-dark brown silty loam (C.203) containing stones, charcoal, burnt orange flecks and some flint fragments was recorded. The surface of C.203 sloped towards the east, and a thin lens of light brown silty loam (C.207), partially overlay C.203 at the eastern side of the trench. This layer (C.207) contained some stones but no finds, and may represent soil which had filtered down from the upper level (some animal burrows were noted at the edges of the trench).

Situated beneath C.203 was a layer of compacted, dark brown, silty loam (C.213) containing small stones, burnt earth and charcoal flecks. It was similar in colour and content to C.203 but was more compacted. A sub-angular hearth (C.212 and C.214) 0.47m in length, 0.20m (maximum) width and with a varying depth of 0.03 to 0.14m was situated within C.213. The hearth was clearly visible as bright orange burnt earth with charcoal (c.40%: Plate Three). Although some stones were situated around the edges of the hearth, especially at the north-eastern and south-western ends, they did not appear to represent a formal setting. A struck and possibly worked flint was recovered from between two of the stones beside the hearth (Small Find No. 2: Plate Four), and two sherds of pottery were also recovered from this context (Plate Five). Small Find No. 3 was a sherd of coarse pottery with large inclusions, recovered towards the eastern end of the trench. It was subsequently assigned a Later Middle Bronze Age date. Small Find No. 4 was a sherd of coarse pottery recovered from a slightly higher position than Small Find No. 3 towards the north-eastern corner of the trench. Based on the fabric, this sherd was considered to be from a globular bowl belonging to the Neolithic period (Roche, *pers comm.*). However, its position in the trench poses obvious problems with this interpretation. In addition some pieces of rough natural flint were collected from this layer.

- 3.2.4 Situated below C.213, was a layer of closely-spaced rounded stones (C.218). These stones were typically c.70mm in length and formed a reasonably level cobbled surface (Figure Three: Plate Six). The stones (many of which were beach stones) were compacted in mid-brown silty soil. Two sherds of pottery (Small Find Nos. 5 and 7: Plate Seven), together with a struck flint fragment (Small Find No. 6) were recovered from the surface of the cobbled floor. Small Find No. 5 and Small Find No. 7 have both been dated to the Later Middle Bronze Age (Roche, *pers comm.*). Situated beneath C.218 was a thin layer of compacted gravelly loam (C.221) and more gravelly layer (C.222). The trench within the hut interior was excavated to the natural bedrock (C.228).

### 3.2.5 Hut Wall

The substantial hut wall (C.202) was formed by medium and large-sized natural boulders, with fairly loose silty soil between them. A number of boulders to the east and west of the wall represented collapse. Tumbled stone was cleared in the process of excavation on both sides of the wall, but the stones comprising the central core of the wall were left *in situ*. No facing stones could be identified, and the wall appears to have been constructed by piling the stones and boulders to form a dry-stone rubble wall. The foundation course was most apparent in section on the interior side of the hut (Figure Four).

### 3.2.5 Field Boundary Wall

The low field wall (C.219) running across the south-western corner of the trench was formed by an irregular arrangement of natural field boulders (Plate Eight). Context 215, containing charcoal and burnt orange flecks, was found to run between and under the stones in the field wall.

### 3.2.6 Hut Exterior

Directly below topsoil (C.201) a layer of fine orange-brown silty loam containing very occasional charcoal flecks and natural flint fragments was recorded (C.204). One struck flint (Small Find No. 8) was recovered from this layer, found between the stones on the outer side of the hut wall. Two lenses were recorded in C.204: C.205 and C.211, it is possible that these deposits represent the remains of truncated post-holes. Context 215, an orange-brown silty loam containing charcoal and burnt orange flecks lay below C. 204 – the more frequent charcoal inclusions within C.215 comprised the main difference from C.204. Rough pieces of flint were recovered from throughout C.215.

Two contexts (220 and 225) were recorded immediately beneath C.215 and above the natural bedrock. The only distinguishing feature between these was the notably higher stone content in C.220. Context 225 was located adjacent to the (exterior) hut wall, while the relatively stone free C.220 lay beside it further west. The stones in C.220 were generally small and loose, but some larger ones were firmly embedded. Situated beneath C.220 was a small cut feature 0.16m long, 0.08m wide and 0.01m in depth (C.227), filled with an orange-brown silty loam (C.226), this feature may represent the truncated remains of a post-hole. A small oval feature (C.223 and C.224), 0.16m long, 0.07m wide and 0.03m in depth was recorded within C.225, below the hut wall tumble. This may also represent the truncated remains of a post-hole or a footprint for an upright (Figure Five).

### 3.2.7 Trench Three

Trench Three measured 1 metre (approximately north – south) and 2.2 metres (approximately east – west), and was situated to the south-west of Trench One.

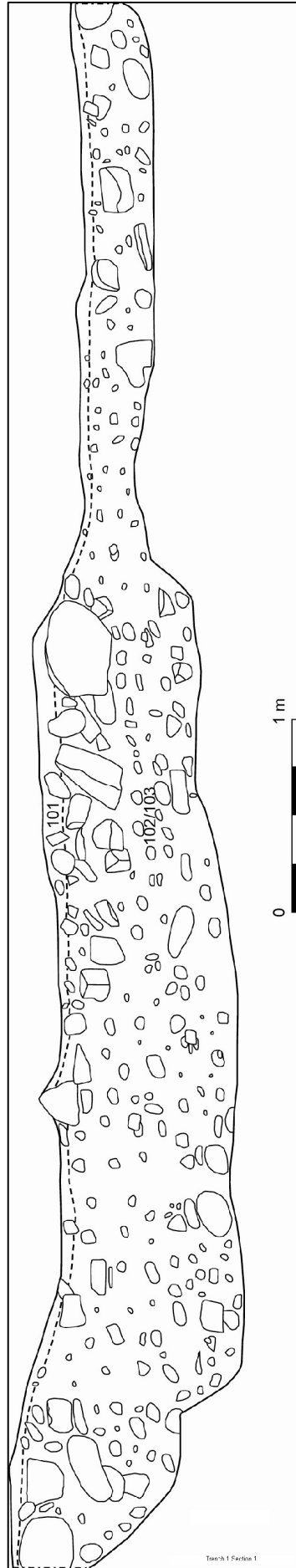
### 3.2.8 Hut Interior

Despite the small size of the test trench, a series of archaeological deposits were recorded that provided evidence for prehistoric activity. Situated immediately above the subsoil layer (C.310), was a layer 0.05m in depth of small rounded and sub-rounded stones (C.309). It is possible that this deposit represents a metalled surface, similar to the cobbling recorded in Trench Two. Situated immediately above C.309 was a dark brown slightly sticky loam with charcoal inclusions 0.20m in depth (C.308). This deposit yielded all of the small finds – six artefacts, all of which were flint – associated with the excavation of Trench Three (Plate Nine). Small Find No. 4 was a long flint blade with a possible retouched edge, and Small Find No. 6 was a scraper which also had a retouched edge. The rest of the flints are probably debitage, however, it is possible that they date to the Early Neolithic (McCarten, *pers comm*). Context 305 was situated immediately above C.308 and was 0.16m in depth. Context 305 was also a dark brown loam with charcoal inclusions. However, this deposit was more friable, but there were no artefacts associated with its excavation. Situated within C.305 was a lens of orange clay (C.304) and charcoal (C.303). However, when excavated these deposits were millimeters in depth and were not visible in section. It is likely that they have an association with an episode of burning, but they are unlikely to represent an *in situ* hearth.

3.2.9 All of the lower deposits described above were contained within a roughly circular alignment of large stones forming the wall of the hut (C.302; Plate Ten; Figure Six). The largest of these stones was 0.92m (north – south) and 0.38m (east – west). This wall was situated immediately beneath the topsoil layer (C.301) which was approximately 0.46m in depth.

### 3.2.10 Hut Exterior

A layer of stones - slump material associated with the main hut wall – was situated beneath the topsoil layer (C.301) on the hut exterior (south end of the trench). This was situated above C.307, an archaeologically sterile deposit similar in nature to topsoil 0.42m in depth. Context 307 was situated immediately above subsoil (C.310).



**Figure Two:** West section of Trench One.



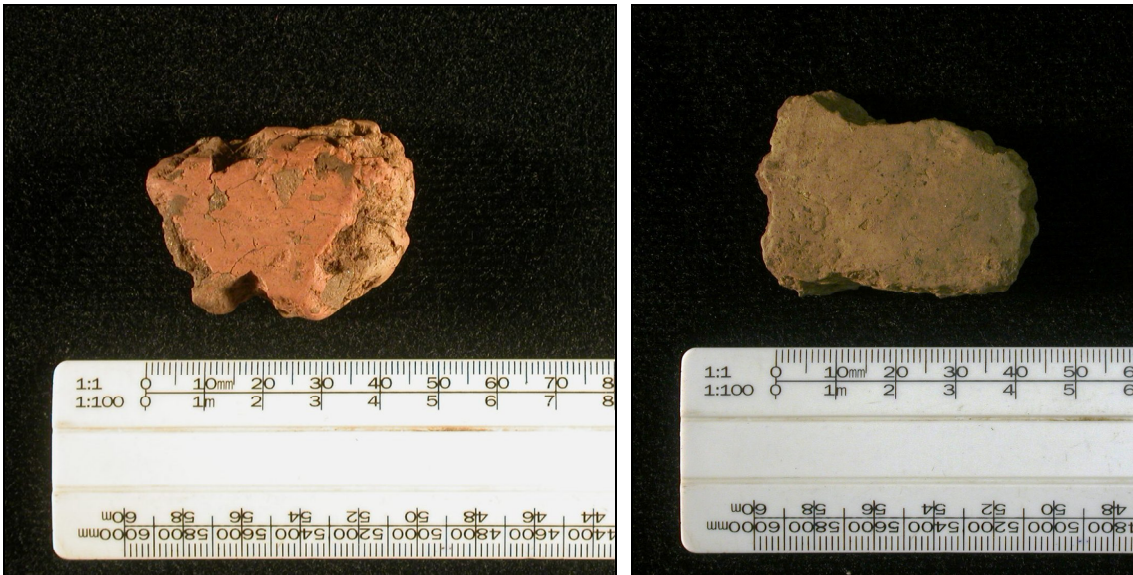
**Plate Two:** Trench Two before excavation.



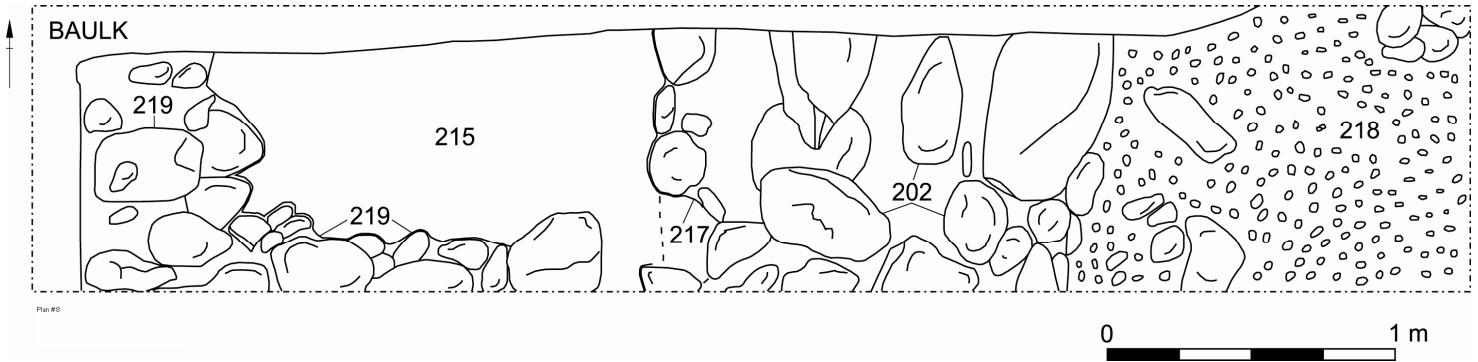
**Plate Three:** Hearth (C.212) within Trench Two.



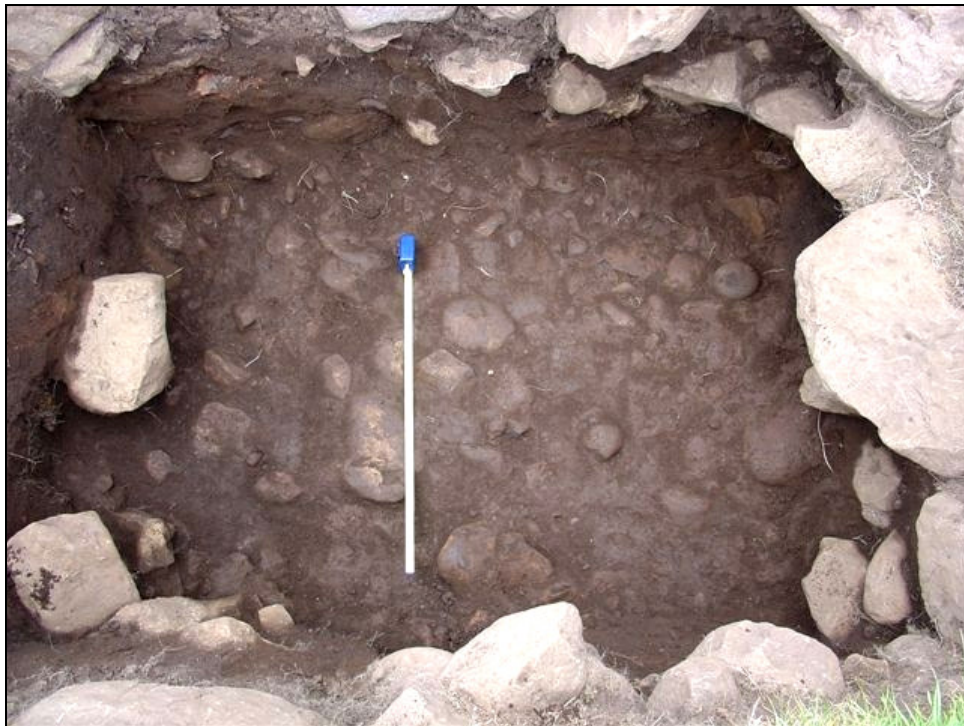
**Plate Four:** Small Find No. 2 - flint recovered from beside the hearth (Trench Two).



**Plate Five:** Pot sherds recovered from beside the hearth (Trench Two).  
*Left* – Possible Neolithic Globular Bowl. *Right* – Pot sherd from the Later Middle Bronze Age.



**Figure Three:** Plan of Trench Two showing the cobbled floor surface.

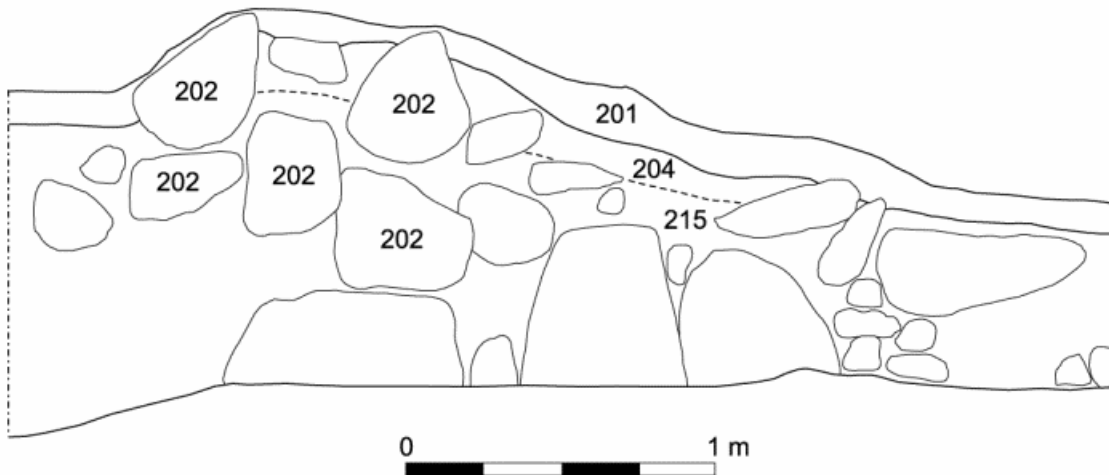


**Plate Six:** Cobbled floor surface (C.218: Trench Two).





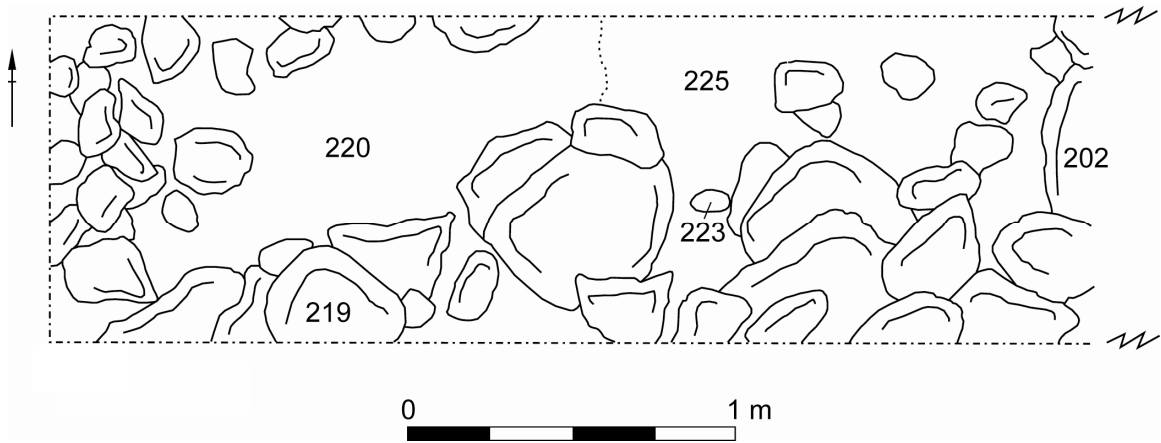
**Plate Seven:** Pot sherds recovered from the cobble surface (C. 218: Trench Two).



**Figure Four:** Trench Two south section showing the hut wall (C.202).



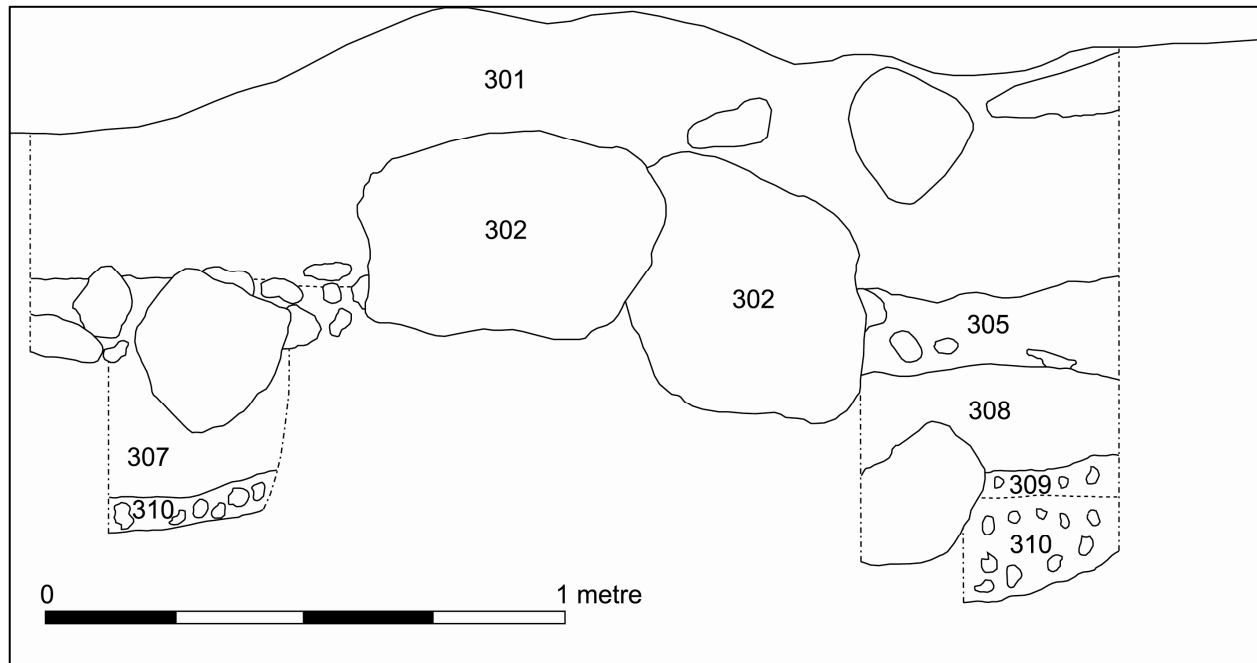
**Plate Eight:** The field boundary wall.



**Figure Five:** Plan showing the hut exterior and possible upright footprint.



**Plate Nine:** Flints recovered from the hut interior (Trench Three).



**Figure Six:** Trench Three east facing section.



**Plate Ten:** Hut wall (C.302) in Trench Three.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. Conclusion

#### 4.1.1 Trench One

Traces of a circular bank, partially overlapping the enclosure ridge, were superficially apparent before excavation. However, apart from one struck flint, no evidence for occupation could be found. The few larger stones noted in the upper part of the trench were considered to possibly represent the last remnant of a wall structure, but on the basis of this test trench little can be contributed to the overall evaluation of the complex.

#### 4.1.2 Trench Two

The excavation of the hut in Trench Two revealed a sequence of occupation. However, the periods between successive phases may not have been long. Indeed, it is suggested by the dating of the pottery that a relatively short time may have elapsed between the occupation levels represented by C.213 and C.218.

#### 4.1.3 Pottery

An obvious problem arises from the proposed Neolithic date for the pottery sherd found in C.213. This context is evidently later than C.218, and yet the two sherds found in the latter belong to the later Middle Bronze Age. One possibility is that the anomaly reflects disturbance of the site, but the stratigraphy was otherwise clear-cut throughout the eastern portion of the trench, and, apart from some rabbit burrows noted in the upper levels, there was no evidence of disturbance. The sherd attributed to the Neolithic period is coarse, and its identification tentative. Given the circumstances of the find, it seems more plausible that it actually belongs to a later period.

#### 4.1.4. Hut Interior

Based on the pottery evaluation, the earliest occupation in the area inside the hut was during the Middle Bronze Age, as was the second phase. The fact that both these horizons occurred at a level below the apparent base of the hut wall would suggest that either the floor level in the hut was deliberately lowered - possibly to provide more shelter or insulation – or that the two earlier phases of occupation pre-date the construction of the hut wall. This might explain the position of the hearth which was located close to the side of the hut, rather than the more usual central setting. The question then arises whether any of the possible post or stake-holes found outside the hut area might relate to one of these earlier phases. Certainly, C.205, 208, 210 and C.211 would seem to be at a relatively high level, either contemporary with or later than the use of the stone-built hut. The position of C.223/224 might be more feasibly argued. None of the potential stake-

holes could be seen to form a regular arc or consistent pattern, which might be more indicative of a hut or shelter.

#### 4.1.5 Hut Exterior

Some evidence for early activity was identifiable in the small shallow spread (C. 226 and C.227) containing flecks of charcoal, just above the natural bedrock to the west of the hut. This feature was too small to have been the remains of a fire, and its relationship, if any, to the sequence in the hut interior is unknown. Its date, function and significance remain uncertain. While admittedly the trench was limited in extent, it may be possible to obtain an estimate for the lowest original height of the hut wall using the drawing and photographic record of the tumble in the trench. The position of the potential stake-holes, i.e. on the outside of the hut wall and removed from it, rather than against the interior wall, would suggest that they were not used to support any form of superstructure connected with the hut. Such a detached external structure would seem very flimsy and vulnerable to the elements, although this would perhaps be less of a problem if occupation was limited to summer seasons.

#### 4.1.6 Trench Three

The deposits excavated in Trench Three suggest that this slightly smaller structure would also have functioned as a hut site. The upper levels within the hut interior were archaeologically unproductive. However, the small finds recovered from the lower levels suggest a possible Neolithic construction date. If this is the case, it is possible that the remains of the structure recorded in Trench Three pre-dates the hut site recorded in Trench Two. The layer of cobbling uncovered (C.309) would indicate that there was a sunken floor level. This construction technique could have provided additional shelter in what can still be a harsh island environment. There was no evidence for a hearth contemporary with the hut structure, although it is possible that the trench did not penetrate deep enough into the hut interior to record any such feature.

#### 4.1.7 Hut Exterior

The deposits recorded on the hut exterior (south end of the trench) were archaeologically sterile. Evidence for slump associated with the stone wall was recorded beneath the topsoil layer. However, there does not appear to have been any associated activity located around the hut perimeter.

#### 4.1.6 Carravindoon Complex

Looking at the complex as a whole, if the flints recovered from Trench Three are Neolithic in character, the enclosure containing the cluster of huts to the south of Trench Two would probably not have been occupied at the same time as the latter. This might be

more in keeping with small-scale sporadic occupation over a long period, rather than a larger contemporary settlement. It is tempting to suggest that occupation at Carravindoon was seasonal, perhaps involving summer grazing or intermittent farming. The small size of the huts would seem to argue for short-term, rather than permanent habitation. In the context of the whole island, however, it should be noted that there is evidence of long-term settlement during the Bronze Age elsewhere. This appears to date mainly to the Early Bronze Age, in the form of at least four possible round cairns and a cist cemetery. One of the round cairns that contained bones was located in Carravindoon townland. Other Bronze Age finds, including two Late Bronze Age gold ornaments from Ushet and Ballynagard, and some flat-rimmed pottery, also point to settlement on the island. Coarse pottery dating to the Bronze Age was recovered from Knockans (Shandragh) further to the north-west, among a range of material attesting to settlement there from the Neolithic period. Recent excavation in Oweyberne Cave also uncovered Bronze Age pottery fragments, together with possible Bronze Age occupation levels (CAF DSR 026).

## **5. Recommendations for Future Work**

### *5.1 Introduction*

5.1.1 The results of the 2004 excavation within the Carravindoon Complex justify detailed and full publication. However, it is important that this is undertaken in conjunction with the findings of the preceding field surveys, together with the findings of the other excavations undertaken in 2004 as part of the Rathlin Island Research Project. Consequently, it is recommended that a programme of post-excavation analysis is undertaken.

5.1.2 In order to satisfactorily complete the post-fieldwork analysis and prepare publication, the following tasks have been identified, (an outline of the anticipated costs for the completion of this work can be seen in the Costed Assessment [CAF CA 031] that accompanies this document).

### *5.2 Programme of radiocarbon dating*

5.2.1 Given that there appears to have been little disturbance of the archaeological strata within Trench Two and Three, it would be worthwhile pursuing radiocarbon dates for several of the deposits. The hearth from Trench Two (C.212), together with charcoal samples obtained from the upper levels (C.203) would clarify the dates for the phases of occupation on the site. The charcoal from the lower deposit within Trench Three (C.308) would provide an ideal sample for dating the second hut structure that was excavated. It is therefore recommended that three radiocarbon dates are ascertained to give secure dates for the structures within the Carravindoon Complex.

### *5.3 Environmental analysis*

5.3.1 The sample taken from the hearth in Trench Two should be floated and analyzed in order to ascertain whether there is evidence for charred grain, seeds or other environmental remains that may augment the information obtained through the excavation programme.



## Appendix One: Context Log

### Trench One

Context	Description
Context 101	Mid-brown humic loam (topsoil)
Context 102	Stony layer below topsoil
Context 103	Probably the same as context C.102, but slightly darker
Context 104	Dark brown soil containing stones - subsoil

### Trench Two

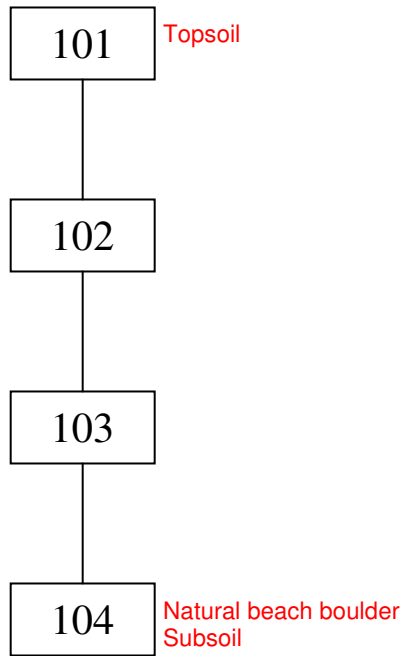
Context	Description
Context 201	Upper soil layer below sods
Context 202	Stones comprising hut wall
Context 203	Mid – dark brown silty loam.
Context 204	Layer below C201 on the exterior (W side) of the hut wall. Orange-brown silty loam
Context 205	Mid-brown feature in C.204. This is a cut filled by C.208. It is triangular with a rounded base – possible stake-hole. 130mm long, 105mm wide and c.10mm deep
Context 206	Mid-brown feature in C.204. Irregularly-shaped cut filled by C.209.
Context 207	Mid-brown lens in hut interior
Context 208	This is the fill from C.205 above. Mid – light brown loam
Context 209	The fill from C.206. Brown silty loam
Context 210	Fill of a small dark oval feature - C.211 in C.204. Dark brown silty loam, small amounts of burnt orange flecks and charcoal.
Context 211	The cut filled by C.210. Oval shaped cut with rounded base, 160mm by 135mm across, and c.85mm deep
Context 212	Fill of Hearth (C.214) near the interior hut wall. Contains compacted burnt orange earth and charcoal in a solid sub-angular block.
Context 213	Similar to C.203, but more compacted, in interior of hut. Charcoal, pottery & flint from this level.
Context 214	Cut containing fill C.212 – hearth in interior of hut. It is 47cm long, 20cm wide at NE and 13cm wide at SW. The depth is 6cm at NE and 3cm at SW. Hearth looks angular, but the cut is more sub-oval in plan.
Context 215	Underneath C.204, and is similar in consistency, contains charcoal and burnt orange flecks.
Context 216	This is the fill of C.217. Brown silty loam.
Context 217	Cut of C.216. Roughly U-shaped, 50cm N-S by 35cm E-W.
Context 218	Cobbled floor in hut interior, below C.213. Occasional charcoal flecks, coarse pottery and flint came from this level.
Context 219	Low stone field wall, located at the W. end of the trench, extended down to the base of C.215.
Context 220	Mid-dark brown fairly loose silty loam below C.215. Frequent small stones.
Context 221	Thin layer of compacted gravelly soil between C.218 and C.222.
Context 222	Layer of compacted gravelly soil below C.221
Context 223	Fill of cut C.224, an oval feature in C.225. Darker (possibly charcoal stained) soil.
Context 224	Cut containing Fill C.223. It is shallow, oval, 16cm long, 7cm wide and 3cm deep.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
Context 225	Mid-brown silty loam to W. of hut wall. At same level, but to E. of C.220
Context 226	Fill of C.227, below C.220. Shallow spread of orange-brown, silty loam with charcoal flecks
Context 227	Cut containing fill C.226. 16cm long, 8cm wide and 1cm deep.
Context 228	Natural bedrock

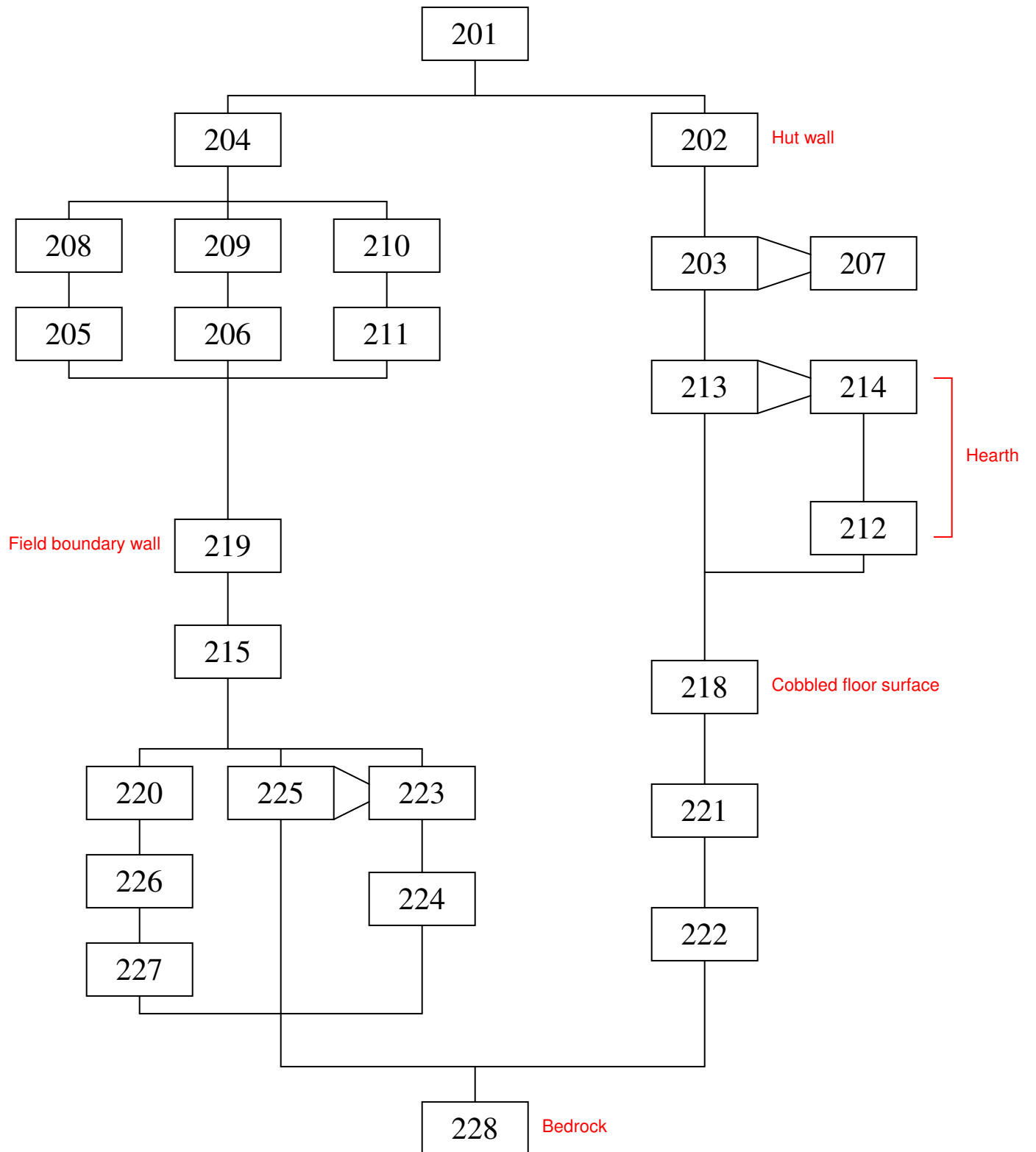
### Trench Three

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
Context 301	Mid brown loam – topsoil layer
Context 302	Large stones forming the core of the hut wall (also slumped towards the interior and exterior of the hut)
Context 303	Charcoal concentration associated with orange clay and located within C.305
Context 304	Orange clay (burnt earth) associated with charcoal and located within C.305
Context 305	Dark brown loam 0.20m in depth
Context 306	<i>Deleted</i>
Context 307	Archaeologically sterile deposit (similar to topsoil) located on the hut exterior
Context 308	Dark brown slightly sticky loam situated immediately above C.209. Contained all the artifacts recovered within Trench Three
Context 309	Closely packed stones probably forming a metalled floor surface
Context 310	Natural subsoil layer

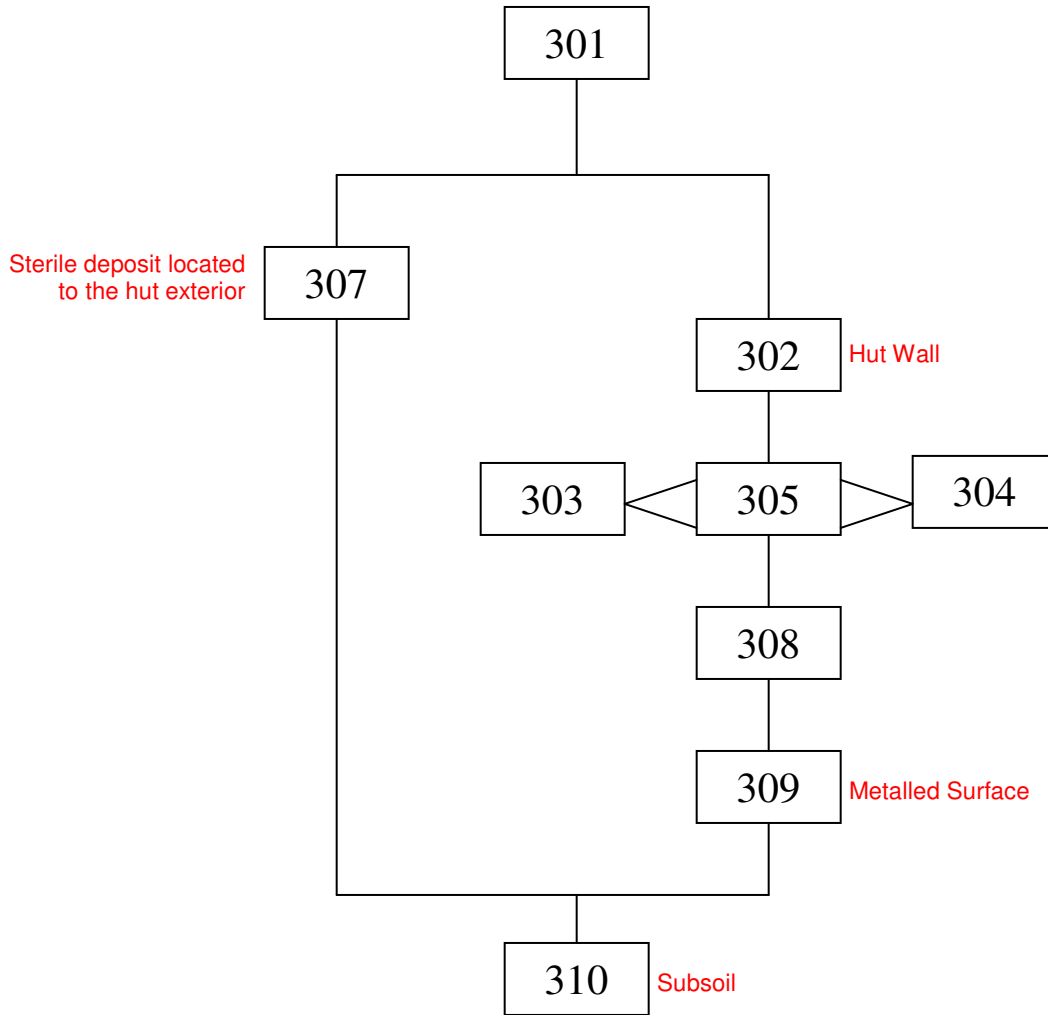
**Appendix Two: Harris Matrix (Trench One)**



Appendix Two: Harris Matrix (Trench Two)



**Appendix Two: Harris Matrix (Trench Three)**



### Appendix Three: Photographic Record

Photograph No.	Trench	Description
01	One	Trench position across the bank & hut site
02	One	Hut site looking west
03	One	Carravindoon enclosure from W. looking east
04	One	Carravindoon enclosure from W. looking E. (N. bank visible on left)
05	One	Sod-removal
06	One	Topsoil removed – looking at C.102 stony layer
07	One	Looking seaward from E side of enclosure
08	One	Surface of context C.102
09	One	As above
10	One	As above
11	One	Sondage in upper, east part of trench
12	One	1.3m deep after excavation
13	One	Section showing possible base of hut wall
14	One	As above
15	One	Natural stones – raised beach
16	One	Natural stones – raised beach
17	Two	Hut site. Trench position before excavation
18	Two	As above
19	Two	As above
20	Two	As above
21	Two	As above
22	Two	Context 201
23	Two	As above
24	Two	Context 202 – hut wall
25	Two	As above
26	Two	As above
27	Two	As above
28	Two	Stones in trench, and in the field wall
29	Two	Field wall running towards hut
30	Two	View from the west
31	Two	Detail of field wall and edge of hut
32	Two	Field wall
33	Two	Detail of hut wall and collapse
34	Two	Detail of hut wall & collapse interior (E.)
35	Two	Edge of hut interior wall from E.
36	Two	Floor of interior of hut
37	Two	Floor of hut (context C203) lower level
38	Two	As above
39	Two	Exterior of hut (C.204) with 2 small possible stake-holes
40	Two	As above
41	Two	As above
42	Two	Sub-rectangular hearth at/below the base of the hut wall (interior)
43	Two	As above
44	Two	As above
45	Two	As above
46	Two	Hearth just inside the hut wall
47	Two	Small sub-circular hut built against a field bank
48	Two	As above
49	Two	Field wall - diagonally across the SW corner of trench

Photograph No.	Trench	Description
50	Two	Field wall - diagonally across the SW corner of trench
51	Two	As above
52	Two	Hut wall from E.
53	Two	Interior of the hut after the hearth (C.212) was removed
54	Two	C.213 at the E end
55	Two	Small find No. 3 from C.213
56	Two	E. end – top of layer C.218 before some tumbled stone was removed
42	Two	As above
57	Two	As above
58	Two	As above
59	Two	C.217 & fill C.216 Section after half of the feature was taken out
60	Two	As above
61	Two	As above
62	Two	As above
63	Two	Small find No. 7 - Sherd of coarse pottery found among stones in C.218 (cobbled floor)
64	Two	As above
65	Two	As above
66	Two	Cobbled floor C.218
67	Two	As above
68	Two	Field wall (C.219) exposed & continuing to run N.W.
69	Two	As above
70	Two	C.219 after the top stones were removed
71	Two	As above
72	Two	As above
73	Two	Interior of hut when C.218 (cobbled floor) had been removed
74	Two	As above
75	Two	C.220 under C.215
76	Two	As above
77	Two	As above
78	Two	E. end showing C.222
79	Two	As above from E.
80	Two	As above
81	Two	Section of the E. end of trench, S side, showing C.201, C.203, C.207, C.213, C.218, C.221, C.222.
82	Two	As above
83	Two	Top of section of the E. end
84	Two	Section of hut wall from E.
85	Two	As above
86	Two	Section N-S showing the hut wall and the hearth
87	Two	As above
88	Two	Interior of hut wall
89	Two	W. end of trench
90	Two	C.226 and C.227
91	Two	C.226 and C.227 – bedrock exposed around the feature
92	Two	Middle section of trench from N showing hut wall
93	Two	As above
94	Two	W. end of trench after excavation of feature C.226 / C.227
95	Two	W. end of trench cleaned up with bedrock exposed
96	Two	Section of trench (N. side)
97	Two	Final section (N. side)

Photograph No.	Trench	Description
98	Two	As above
100	Two	Final section (S. side)
101	Two	As above
102	Two	As above
103	Two	Final section W. end
104	Two	Final section N. side
105	Two	As above
106	Two	Final section E. end
107	Two	As above
108	Two	Final section across trench N.–S.
109	Two	Final section (S. side)
110	Two	Natural
111	Two	Plan just W. of hut wall
112	Two	As above
113	Two	Base section W. of hut wall
114	Two	Plan of W. end of trench
115	Three	C.302 (after topsoil removal)
116	Three	As above
117	Three	As above
118	Three	As above
119	Three	C.305 – interior of hut
120	Three	As above
121	Three	C.307 – exterior of hut
122	Three	As above
123	Three	C.302 – after stones have been cleaned
124	Three	C.302 – facing stones (E.)
125	Three	As above
126	Three	C.308 – before excavation
127	Three	C.308 – after excavation
128	Three	C.309 – metallised surface
129	Three	C.310 – natural subsoil



## Appendix Four: Field Drawing Register

### Trench One

Trench	Drawing Type	Description
1	Plan	Plan of Trench after excavation
1	Section	Section of trench

### Trench Two

Trench	Drawing Type	Description
2	Plan	Plan of C.201 and C.202
2	Plan	Plan showing C.202, C.203, C.204 and C.207, with features C.205 and C.206 cleaned up
2	Plan	Plan showing C.210/C.211 the small stake-hole on the W. side of the trench, outside the hut
2	Plan	Plan showing the E. end of the trench, C.212/C.214, the hearth inside the hut, against the W. wall
2	Plan	Plan showing the metalled floor (C.218) in the interior of the hut, and the rest of the trench outside the hut (C.202, C.216/C.217, C.215, C.219
2	Plan	Plan showing C.222
2	Plan	Plan showing C.220 and C.225 which lie at the same level; also the wall
2	Plan	Plan showing C.226/C.227 feature – patch of orange-brown soil with orange flecks & charcoal under C.220 and above bedrock
2	Section	Profile taken N.-S. across the trench, showing the position of the hearth (C.212/C.214) in relation to the top of the trench
2	Section	Profile E.-W. across the trench, showing the position of the hearth (C.212/C.214) in relation to the end of the trench
2	Section	Profile of feature C.216/C.217 after the fill had been taken out
2	Section	Profile S.-N. across C.218 cobbled floor
2	Section	Profile E.-W. across C.218 cobbled floor
2	Section	Profile S.-N. across C.218 cobbled floor after further cleaning up
2	Section	Section of E. side of trench, showing stratigraphy from the top to natural at the base
2	Section	Interior of hut wall drawn from E. looking W. across the wall. N.-S. section across the trench showing wall & hearth
2	Section	North-facing Section showing hut wall (especially W. side)
2	Section	South-facing Section showing western end of Trench

### Trench Three

Trench	Drawing Type	Description
3	Plan	C.308 (hut wall) also showing C.305 and C.307
3	Section	W. section showing C.301, C.302, C.307, C.308, C.309,C.310
3	Plan	Base of trench showing subsoil

## Appendix Five: Finds Register

### Trench One

Trench	Context	Small Find No.	Description
1	C.102	N/A	Flint fragments - mostly from the W. half (hut exterior) One rough piece from E. side
1	C.103	N/A	Flint pieces, some very rough; possibly struck; one worked piece
1	C.103	N/A	Small, worked flint with some retouch visible

### Trench Two

Trench	Context	Small Find No.	Description
2	C.201	N/A	Mixed Flint throughout this layer
2	C.203	N/A	Charcoal from darker soil near the interior hut wall.
2	C.203	N/A	Flints from the area containing charcoal
2	C.204	Small Find # 1	Flint
2	C.213	Small Find # 2	Struck flint from C.213 between two stones beside the hearth, and at the hearth level
2	C.213	Small find # 3	Sherd of coarse, thick pottery with inclusions –
2	C.213	N/A	Flints – 2 bags
2	C.213	N/A	Charcoal
2	C.213	Small Find # 4	Sherd of coarse pottery from the side of the trench, at a slightly higher level than Small find # 3
2	C.215	N/A	Charcoal (Sample # 10) from the area of the field wall (C.219)
2	C.216	N/A	Piece of rough flint from the fill of feature C.217 under wall tumble (outside hut)
2	C.213/C.218	Small find # 5	Sherd of coarse, undecorated pottery with cordon, from between stones at the interface between C.213 and C.218, hut interior.
2	C.218	Small find # 6	Flint from among the stones on the surface of the cobbled floor
2	C.218	N/A	Flints from the surface, and within C.218, hut interior.
2	C.218	Small find # 7	Sherd of coarse undecorated pottery from the surface of the cobbled floor, hut interior.
2	C.215	N/A	Flints from throughout C.215
2	C.204	Small find # 8	Flint found in C.204
2	C.219	N/A	Flints from the field wall C.219, at the level of C.204
2	C.219	N/A	Flints from the field wall (C.219) at the level of C.215.
2	C.219/C.215	N/A	Flints from between the stones in the field wall (C.219) at level of C.215.

Trench Three

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Small Find No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
3	C.308	Small Find # 1	Struck flint fragment
3	C.308	Small Find # 2	Possible flint scraper
3	C.308	Small Find # 3	Possible small flint blade
3	C.308	Small Find # 4	Long flint blade – possible retouch
3	C.308	Small Find # 5	Worked flint fragment
3	C.308	Small Find # 6	Flint scraper - retouched

## Appendix Six: Soil Sample Register

### Trench Two

Sample No.	Context No.	Description
01	C.208	Mid-light brown loam
02	C.203	Charcoal derived from within C.203
03	C.209	Brown silty loam – fill of C.206
04	C.203	Mid-dark brown silty loam
05	C.210	Dark brown silty loam
06	C.212	Burnt earth and charcoal – derived from the hearth
07	C.216	Brown silty loam
08	C.218	Charcoal from the top of the cobbled layer
09	C.216	Brown silty loam
10	C.215	Charcoal and burnt earth from C.215

### Trench Three

Sample No.	Context No.	Description
01	C.304	Orange burnt earth
02	C.305	Dark brown loam (hut interior)
03	C.308	Dark brown slightly sticky loam (charcoal inclusions)