ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT LUGDUFF TOWNLAND, UPPER LAKE, GLENDALOUGH, CO. WICKLOW 2012

STRATIGRAPHICAL REPORT

Ministerial Consent C536. Excavation No. E4431. Metal Detection No. R310

Graeme Warren
Conor McDermott
Kim Rice
Neil Carlin

UCD School of Archaeology

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Graeme Warren, Conor McDermott, Kim Rice & Neil Carlin

UCD School of Archaeology

graeme.warren@ucd.ie/conor.mcdermott@ucd.ie
UCD School of Archaeology
Newman Building
Belfield
Dublin 4

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Introduction

In 2009 the UCD School of Archaeology initiated a broad research and teaching project focusing on the Glendalough Valley with a specific initial focus on the landscapes in the Upper Valley. The aim of this broader project is to integrate teaching and research, especially at undergraduate level. In 2012 this involved *c*. 25 students in a two week teaching project which included geoarchaeological survey, environmental sampling, geophysical survey, drawn and electronic survey, excavation and public outreach.

From 2009 to 2011 the project included geoarchaeological survey, environmental sampling, geophysical survey, drawn and electronic survey and excavation (McDermott *et al*. 2011, 2012). Previously in 2009 we excavated charcoal production platforms to the south of the Lake (Warren *et al*. 2012) (09E0380; WI023-029002-, 003-, 004-) and conducted geophysical and topographic survey near the caher. In 2010 and 2011 we tested geophysical anomalies near the caher (10E0311; WI023-025). These excavations have revealed the presence of paths, paved surfaces, post holes and a range of agricultural/horticultural features. None of the excavated features are likely to be earlier than the post-medieval period, although small quantities of medieval ceramics demonstrate earlier activity.

The extent of nineteenth and twentieth century modification of this landscape is very considerable; and demonstrably includes the impacts of agriculture, forestry, tourism and industry as well as the well-meaning activities of antiquarians in tidying up and reconstructing ruined features of the landscape. Comparison of historical maps for this region demonstrates that key features may vanish or change relative location (see below for detail). As such, serious questions must be posed about the antiquity of some of the upstanding monuments in this area of Glendalough and the extent to which their current form results from comparatively recent interventions. At the same time, little solid evidence exists for the earliest phases of monastic activity in the Upper Valley. Against this background, our aims in 2012 were to investigate some of the recorded monuments at the Upper Lake, in order to establish their antiquity and the extent to which later activity has modified and/or created these features. Specifically these included:

1) The southern-most cross base (WI023-026) (Trench 5)
2) The location of a possible enclosure, surveyed on the first edition Ordnance Survey Map, but now lost (WI023-023) (Trench 6)
3) The low grassy bank visible underneath the stone wall of the caher (WI023-025) (Trench 7)

Excavations took place from August 20th–31st 2012. All excavations were carried out by hand. De-sodding and re-instatement were carried out with the collaboration of a landscape gardener, as per NPWS requirements. Ministerial Consent C536 was obtained for project with excavation number E4431 assigned for use on finds and the archive. In accordance with the ministerial consent a metal detection survey was undertaken under registration number R310 and geophysical survey was completed under registration number 11R103.

Figure 1: Location of all trenches 2010–2012. Trenches 5, 6 & 7 were excavated in 2012.

Trench 5

Background

This monument (WI023-026) is the southern-most of the three cross bases that lay along the old pilgrim's road and have been speculated to represent leachts, although their antiquity is noted as questionable (Harney 2011). It comprises a simple Latin cross, set in a rudimentary stone cairn. No kerbing is visible and the cross itself is set in concrete. This cross base and a second immediately to the north (WI023-02501) together with the caher appear on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, but their relative position has changed by the completion of the 25" map and given the margins of error associated with rectification of these early maps it is difficult to be certain which features have moved. Trench 5 was 8 x 9m with a 1m wide cross baulk forming four areas: 5A, B, C and D (Figure 2).

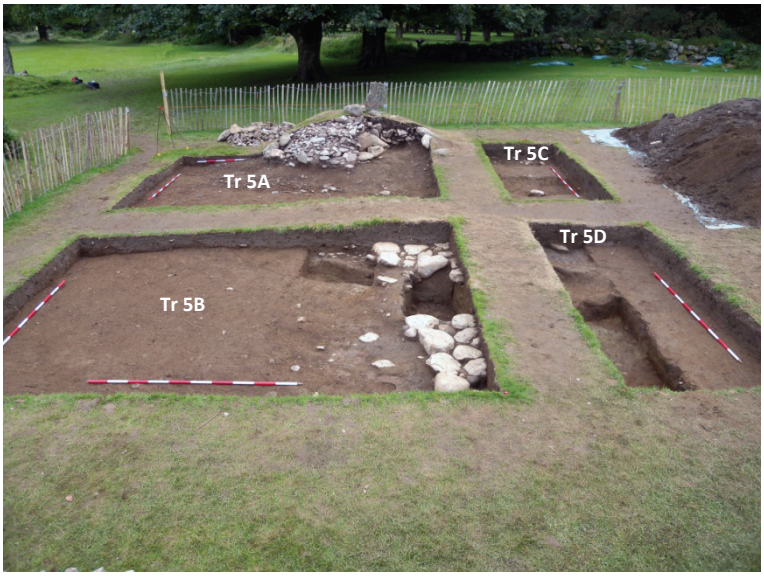

Figure 2: LUG12, Trench 5; end of excavation facing NE

Results

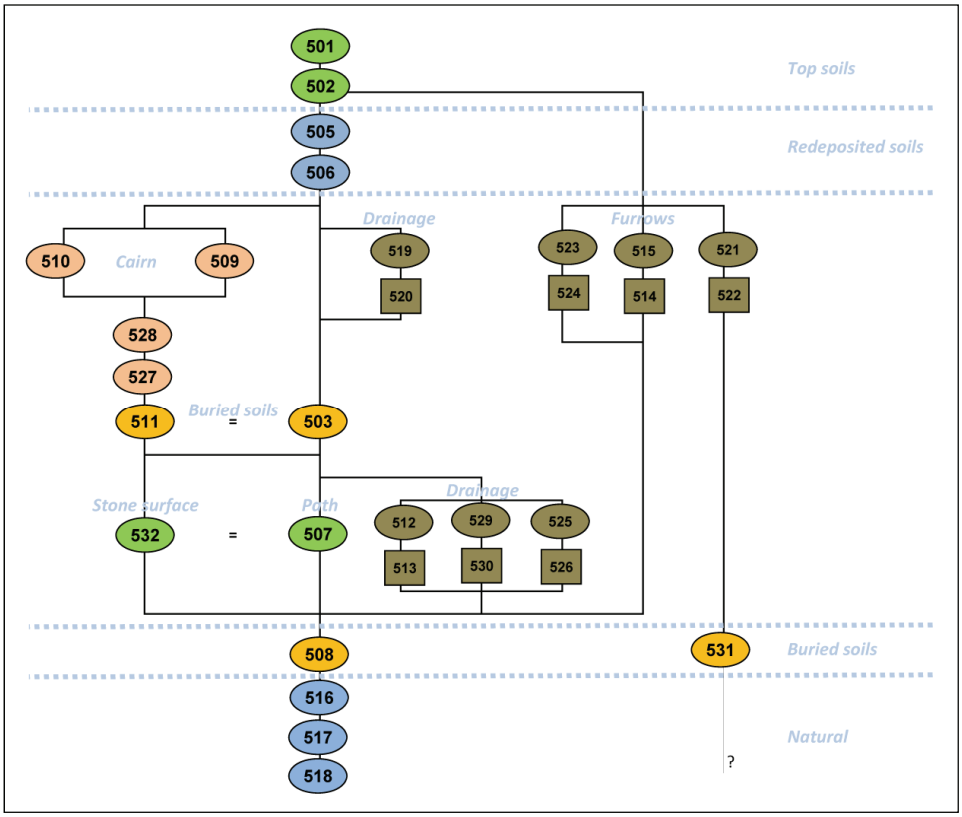

Figure 3: LUG 12, Trench 5, stratigraphic matrix (see also *Appendix 1: Context Register*).

Topsoil and deposit at base

C.501 was the sod, which immediately overlay **C.502**, the topsoil (Figure 3). The topsoil was a friable brown silty sand, ranging between *c*. 0.15–0.20m in depth. It extended across the whole of the

excavated area with the exception of the cairn (which was associated with redeposited/disturbed topsoil (**C.506**, see below). It is equivalent to **C.201** and **C.251** in the immediately adjacent Tr. 2 (McDermott *et al*. 2012). Finds from the top soil were of recent date.

C.503 was a dark-grey, compact, sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal with a diffuse upper boundary with **C.502** and a sharper boundary with **C.508** below. It was a maximum of *c*. 0.15m in depth. It contained numerous finds, mainly of recent date, but including two pieces of medieval pottery. The very diffuse upper boundary of **C.503** may have contributed to it not being identified in all sections (e.g Figure 4), it had not been identified as being as widespread in 2011. It is probably equivalent to **C.254** and **C.295** and may have been discontinuous across the areas excavated.

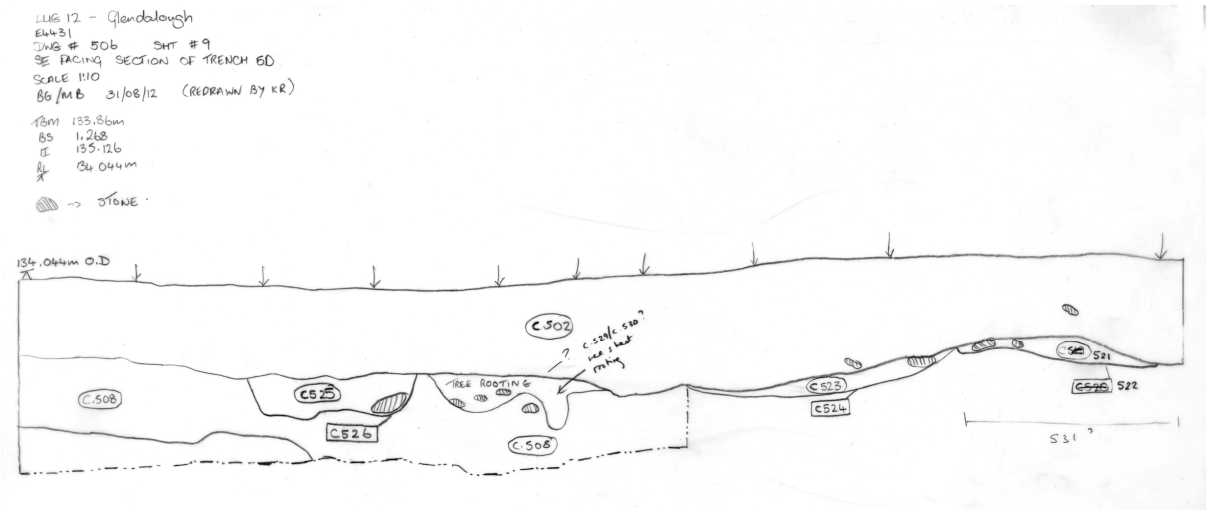

Figure 4: LUG 12, Trench 5D (Dwg#509), southeast facing section

Ditches and furrows

A variety of negative features were identified. These are divided here by convenience into those sealed by **C.502** and those by **C.503**. (**C.295=254** in 2011 also sealed some features and was cut by others.)

Sealed by C.502

C.514 was a linear feature partially uncovered in Tr. 5C and not fully excavated because of the location of baulks. It probably had a concave profile and gently sloping sides and was *c*. 0.20m in maximum depth. The fill (**C.515**) was a greyish-brown clayey-silt with few inclusions.

Features **C.521/522**, **C.523/524** and **C.531** were difficult to define in the field, and remain poorly understood. They were located in the NE corner of Trench 5D, but no extension of them was recognised in 5A. **C.524** was a north–south oriented shallow ditch, not fully excavated, with a maximum width of c. 0.75m and depth of *c*. 0.10m. It had a very shallow gently sloping sides and a flat bottom. It was filled by a moderately compacted, weakly blocky, dark-brown silty-clay with sand with a few charcoal inclusions (**C.523**). The feature is most likely an agricultural furrow. **C.522** was a very shallow feature – only *c.* 0.10m in maximum depth. It was filled with a moderately compacted, yellow-brown silty-clay with occasional angular stone inclusions (**C.521**). This directly overlay **C.531**, which was not fully excavated. It was a blue-grey clay with inclusions of burnt bone, charcoal and highly degraded ferrous materials. This context was sampled, but its full extent or characteristics are not well understood. It is possible that this is comparable in stratigraphic position to **C.508**.

Sealed by C.503

C.512/513 was a shallow linear ditch (**C.513**) identified in Tr. 5C with a N–S orientation. It was *c*. 1.15m wide and 0.15m in depth with straight sides. The fill (**C.512**) was comprised of a friable, brown clayey-silt with limited inclusions including charcoal. A sherd of probable Neolithic pottery was recovered from this feature. The ditch ran directly towards the stone cairn but, surprisingly, was not identified on the other side of the baulk (Figure 5).

Figure 5: LUG12, Trench 5C; end of excavation facing NW showing ditch **C.512** in Tr. 5C running towards cairn in Tr.5A (top).

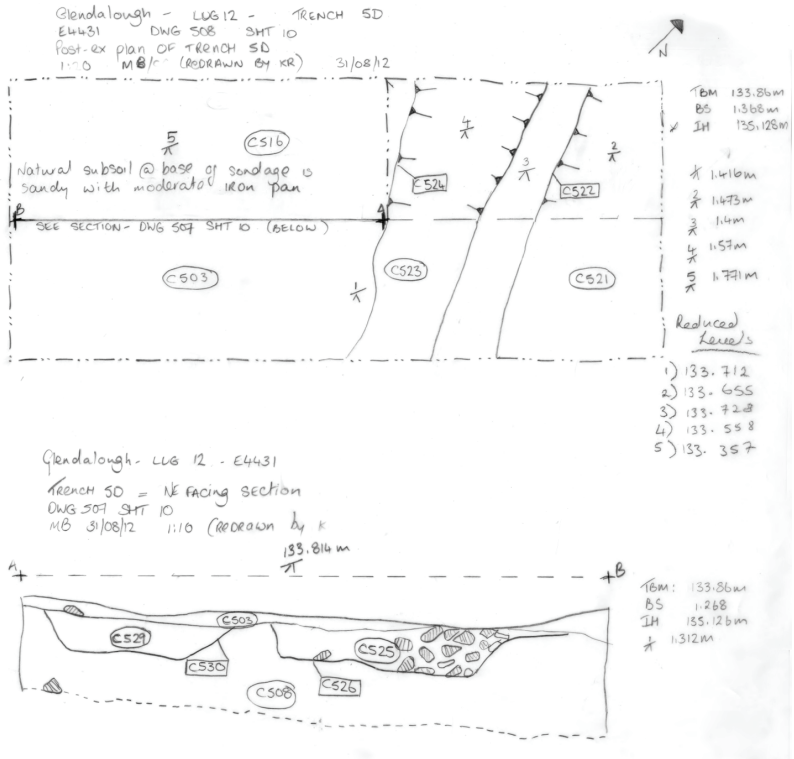

Figure 6: LUG12, Trench 5D (Dwgs# 507 & 508) showing furrows **C.524** and **C.522** and drainage features **C.526** and **C.530** identified in section.

C.519/520 was a narrow 0.65m wide u-shaped ditch (**C.520**) in Tr. 5B that was 0.22m in maximum depth. It had straight sides and a flat bottom. The fill (**C.519**) was a dark-brown silt with fine sand with a very weak blocky structure and moderate compaction. It was associated with a break in the path (**C.507**) (Figure 7) and is presumed to post date it and, probably **C.503**. This ditch is very comparable in size and alignment with those excavated in 2011, and also shares an alignment with **C.514/515**, **C.525/526**.

C.525/526 and **C.529/530** were both hard to identify in plan in Trench 5D and were only reconstructed from section following the excavation of a sondage (Figure 6 bottom). **C.503** was clearly identified overlying both features to the south of the sondage but not to the north (Figure 6). **C.525/526** was a flat bottomed, straight sided ditch (**C.526**) with a N–S orientation, *c*. 0.50m wide and 0.15m in depth, with a fill (**C.525**) of moderately compacted dark grey-brown soft silty-sand with some gravel. **C.529/530** was a shallow ditch (**C.530**) with slightly curved sides and a flat bottom, about 0.60m wide and 0.10m in depth. The fill (**C.529**) was of loosely compacted dark yellowish brown silty sand. It was disturbed on the northern side by tree rooting.

Built structures

Path

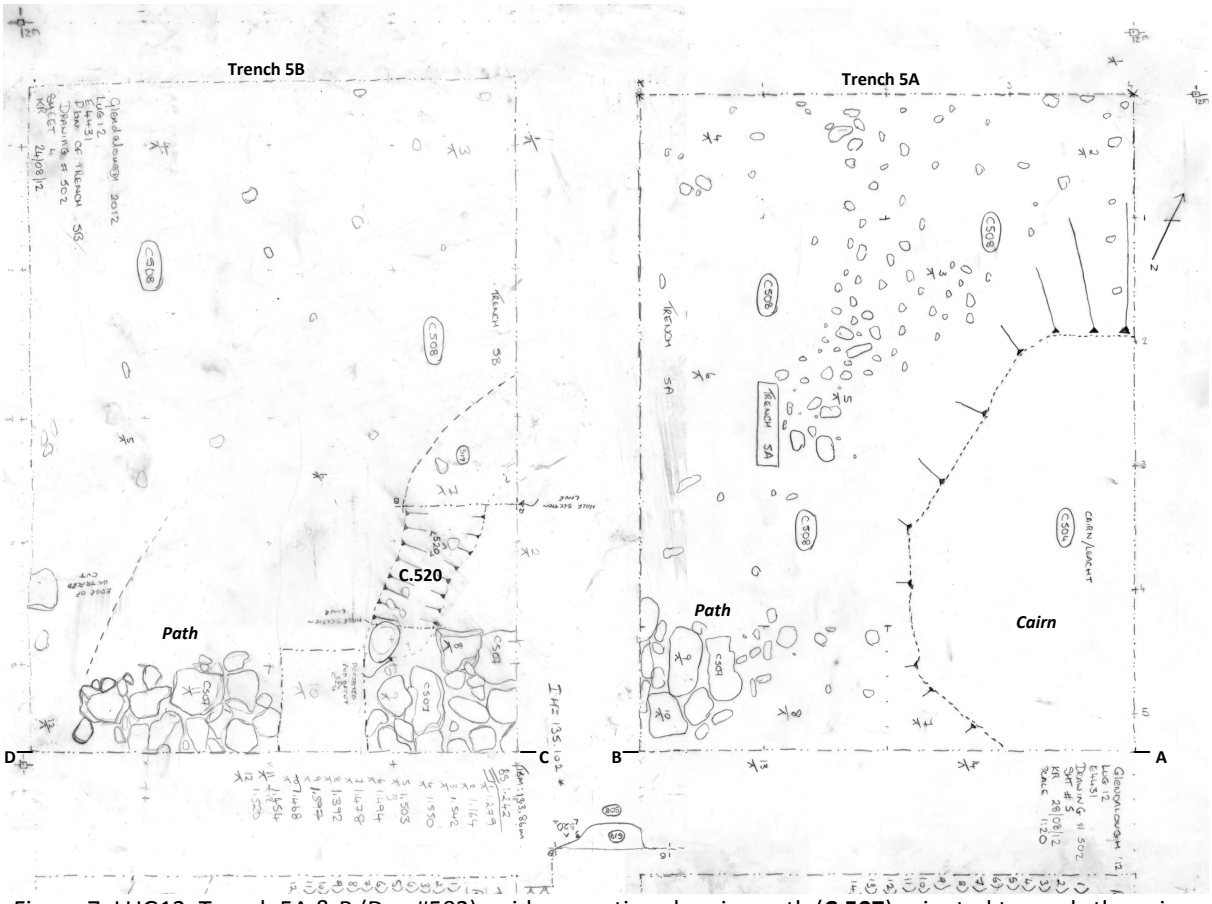

Figure 7: LUG12, Trench 5A & B (Dwg#502); mid-excavation showing path (**C.507**) oriented towards the cairn (**C.504**) and the intersection of the path and drainage feature **C.520**. See Figure 9 for sections A-B & C-D.

The stone path (**C.507**) was previously identified in Trench 2 in 2010 and 2011 (**C.202**). It was orientated NE–SW, varied in width from 0.70m–1m and a maximum of 0.2m in depth. The path was composed of a single course of flat slabs of schist (50%), granite (30%) and quartz. The main structure of the path was regular, with smaller stones and cobbles being placed in the interstices of

the larger slabs (Figures 7, 8, 9 & 10). There was no evidence that the stones had been set into a bedding matrix and the stones instead appeared to have been set directly onto the ground surface (**C.508**). There were a number of locations where the feature was truncated by later agricultural features. The path ended close to the stone cairn and may have been identified under the cairn (see **C.532** below and Figure 10). It is probable that sections of the path were robbed-out in order to facilitate construction of the later cairn.

Figure 8: LUG12, Trench 5; mid-excavation facing NE, showing path (**C.507**) oriented towards cross.

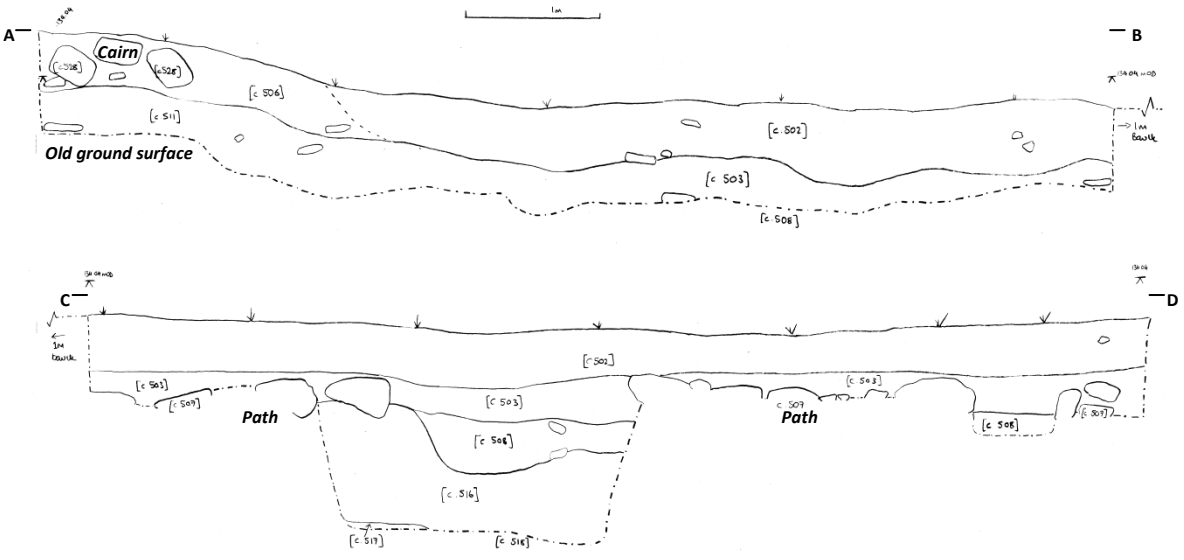

Figure 9: LUG12, Trenches 5A and 5B, composite north facing section (See Figure 7 for locations of A-B & C-D).

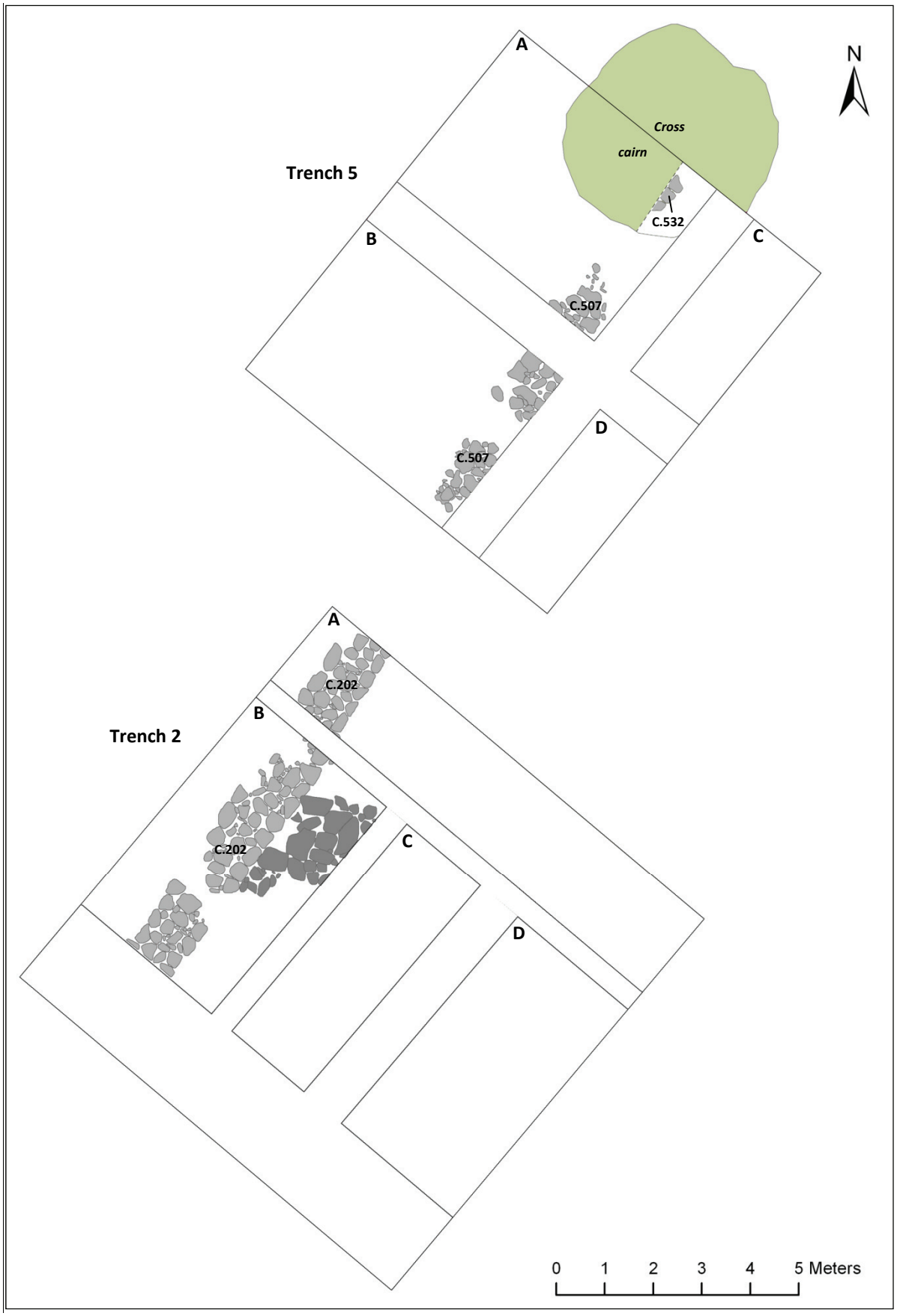

Figure 10: LUG12, Trench 5 (excavated 2012) and Trench 2 (excavated 2010–2011) showing the line of the stone path (**C.202** & **C.507**) leading towards the cross base and continuing below the cairn (**C.532**).

Cross base

The lowest level with in the cairn **C.532** was only uncovered in a small sondage, these slabs had been set directly on **C.508**, were of granite or schist and averaged 0.30 x 0.30m in size. The width of the structure could not be established as only a small amount had been uncovered. Two interpretations of this feature are possible. It may have been laid as an initial stage in build in the cairn by placing flat slabs on the ground (**C.532**) — possibly to create an elevated area, later sealed by **C.503/C.511** (see below). We consider it more likely that **C.532** is a continuation of **C.507** (Figures 10 & 11). The stones are of the same character and the features share an alignment.

Beneath the cairn this is sealed by **C.511** (a continuation of **C.503)** a mid greyish-brown silty clay of moderate compaction with inclusions of occasional charcoal and post-medieval and modern finds reaching a maximum depth of 0.30m (Figure 9). It is very important to note that the old land surface **C.508** rises by *c*. 0.20m in this area (Figure 9: upper). Due to time constraints this rise was not investigated further during our excavation.

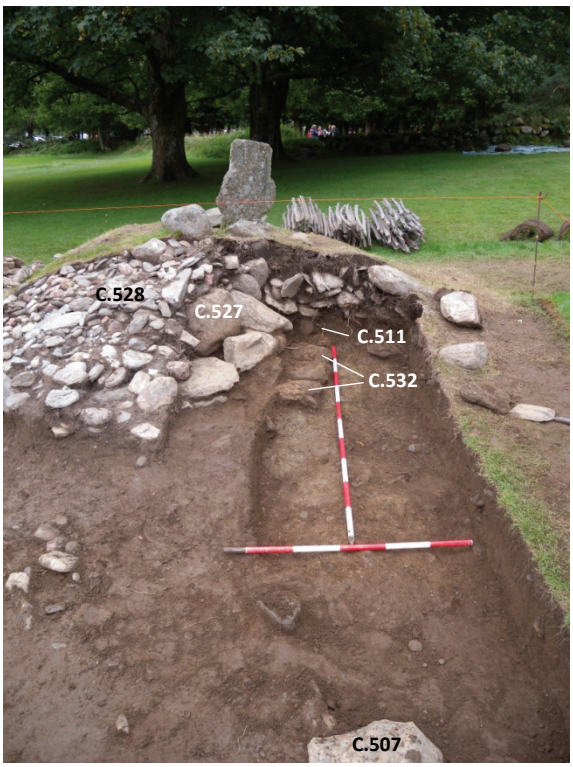

Figure 11: LUG12, Trench 5; end of excavation view of cross base, facing NE. Possible path **C.532** visible beneath **C.511**, large stone slabs **C.527** and rubble **C.528**.

Very large slabs (>0.50m in maximum dimension) of schist, quartz and granite (**C.527**) were then centrally placed on top of layer **C.511** (Figures 11 & 12). A rubble/cobble mantel (**C.528**) was placed above and beyond the extent to the slabs to increase the size and height of the cairn. This layer was mainly comprised of sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles (*c*. 0.15m maximum dimension) of local lithology, but there were also examples of other lithologies in addition to some red brick in the upper horizon (Figures 11, 12 & 14). A bullaun stone was recovered at a low level within this context sitting on **C.511**, in association with two filter tips from cigarettes (Figure 15). Finally a small number

of large flat stone slabs (*c*. 0.30–0.50m in max dimension) of local lithology (**C.510**) were placed on top of the rubble cairn and a stone facing/kerbing (**C.509**) was placed along the exterior of the cairn. It was composed of a series of large (*c*. 0.30m in max dimension) slabs of granite, schist and quartz.

Figure 12: LUG12, Trench 5; Mid excavation view of cross base, facing NE, showing slab core of the cairn (**C.527**), the cobble mantel (**C.528**), kerb (**C.509**) and stone capping (**C.510**).

The cairn was covered by and immediately surrounded by a disturbed layer of collapsed stone, mainly small cobbles of local lithology (**C.505**). A disturbed dark brown silty sand (**C.506**) was found throughout the upper layers of the cairn; this appears identical to topsoil in the area (Figure 13).

Figure 13: LUG12, Trench 5: Cairn, after removal of the top soil, showing **C.505**, facing NW.

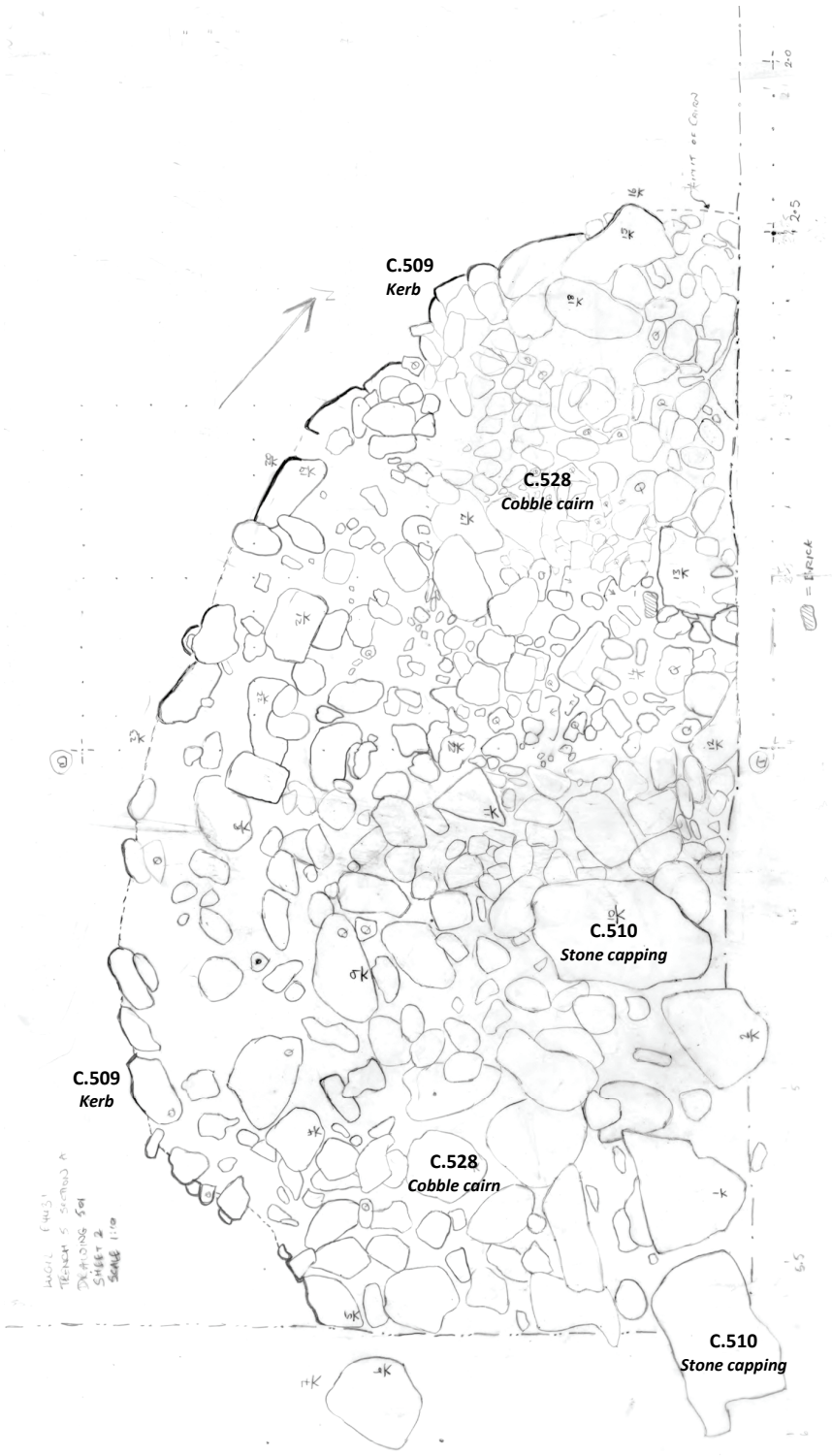

Figure 14: LUG12, Trench 5A; mid-excavation plan of cross base showing the cobble mantel (**C.528**), kerb (**C.509**) and stone capping (**C.510**).

Buried land surface and the subsoils

C.508 was a buried land surface, comprising a moderately compacted silty sand of mottled yellow-orange colour. It immediately underlay the stone path (**C.507**) which had been laid directly on top of

it. As in previous years, this surface was heavily influenced by ongoing soil processes. **C.516** was a layer comprised of varied layers of fine water-lain sands: grey sands with iron and manganese staining, fine brown sands and medium yellow sands. **C.517** was a grit layer, dipping to the south, and **C.518** a layer of coarse gravel/fine cobbles partially exposed in a sondage (Figure 9: lower). These confirm observations of previous years that soils profiles at depth are related to water deposition.

Finds

Most of the finds recovered were of nineteenth–twentieth century date and included numerous fragments of ceramics, broken glass and iron objects. In **C.503** in Trench 5B two sherds of medieval pottery (SF.571 & SF.827) were recovered in addition to an iron dining fork and associated wooden handle (SF.588-589) which were block lifted. A single sherd of probable Neolithic ceramic, possibly carinated bowl (SF.817), was recovered from **C.512.** A bullaun stone was recovered from the lowest level of **C.528** on the surface of **C.511,** clearly in a secure context within the cairn, and in close association with two cigarette filters (SF.828).

Figure 15: LUG12, Trench 5; mid-excavation view of cross base, facing NE, showing bullaun (SF.829) in corner of cairn at the lower levels of **C.528** and overlying **C.511**.

Several very recent finds were located in key contexts. Deep within the make-up of the cairn (**C.528**) the base of a modern pint glass was recovered (SF.831), and a donkey shoe (SF.830) was located at the base of **C.511**. These finds, and the cigarette filters, help confirm that the cairn in its current form at least, is a twentieth century monument.

Figure 16: LUG12, Trench 5; mid-excavation view of cross base, facing NE, showing recent pint glass (SF.831) *in situ* deep in body of cairn (**C.528**)

Discussion

The excavations in Trench 5 this year have been very successful. We have been able to demonstrate that the cairn at the base of cross WI023-026-- is, in its current form, a very recent monument, or at least, a monument that has suffered very serious disturbance recently. The presence of cigarette ends and a pint glass suggests this may have been as recent as the mid-twentieth century. Healy (1972, 21) describes this monument as located southeast of the Caher and as being 'an irregularly shaped cross of mica-schist fixed in a cairn of stones', presumably recording the situation in the late 1960s/early 1970s. He records all three crosses on the lawn as being associated with cairns. He does not raise any question of the antiquity of these cairns, which *may* suggest that they had not been (re)constructed shortly before his work.

As noted earlier, the antiquity of the cross itself is not in question, but in its current location the cross and cairn are demonstrably later than the stone path **C.507** and appear to have been built when this path was out of use and barely visible on the surface. This suggests that they are not of substantial antiquity. The path is undated – it is clearly disturbed by recent (nineteenth–twentieth century) agricultural activity. Small quantities of medieval ceramics have been found near the path in 2010–2012, but are likely to be residual and do not support a medieval date for the structure. Taking the early maps at face value it is possible that the cross has moved some time between the mid-nineteenth and the early twentieth century – precisely the time period when Grants Lake Hotel was very active, monuments in the area were being reconstructed (Wilde 1873) and agriculture was clearly removing and altering other features (see below). However, it is not possible to be certain about this, given that survey error between different maps editions and may have been significant.

We do not think that the placing of the cairn and cross base directly on the line of the path is coincidence, which raises the possibility that some other feature or marker stood here. In this regard the slight rise in the buried soil **C.508** beneath the cairn is of possible interest (see Figure 9: upper). As noted above, there was not time during our excavation to explore this feature, which may be nothing more than a natural rise in the land surface. This topographic feature may have been a significant point in the landscape and the surface could indicate a constructed feature.

The recovery of a bullaun within the cairn is very interesting. To our knowledge this is the first example recorded from the Upper Lake, Healy (1972) records 32 bullauns from Glendalough, and none from the Upper Lake. Regardless of the function that bullauns may have served, they appear to have an association with pilgrimage and provide some further evidence of the importance of the Upper Lake in the early medieval/medieval period. The bullaun was placed upright in the cairn, and well buried within it. It must have been recognised as an unusual stone by those constructing the cairn, but it was hidden. It is also worth noting that the presence of a bullaun here gives some further support to the argument that something of significance was located in this area, hence explaining the orientation of the path.

Trench 6

Background

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows two circular enclosures standing in this area, of which only one now remains. Colles records that: "The ancient 'Pilgrim's Road' extended northward across the valley from the Righfeart church to the river which connects the two lakes, and was bordered by a laine of carns and crosses, which still remain, as do a couple of *caiseals*, apparently sephulchral enclosures, in the adjoining fields. But the southern half of the road has been destroyed, and its site ploughed over in the last few years; and unless some protector arises the carns and *caiseals* will be cleared away one of these days" (1870, 198).

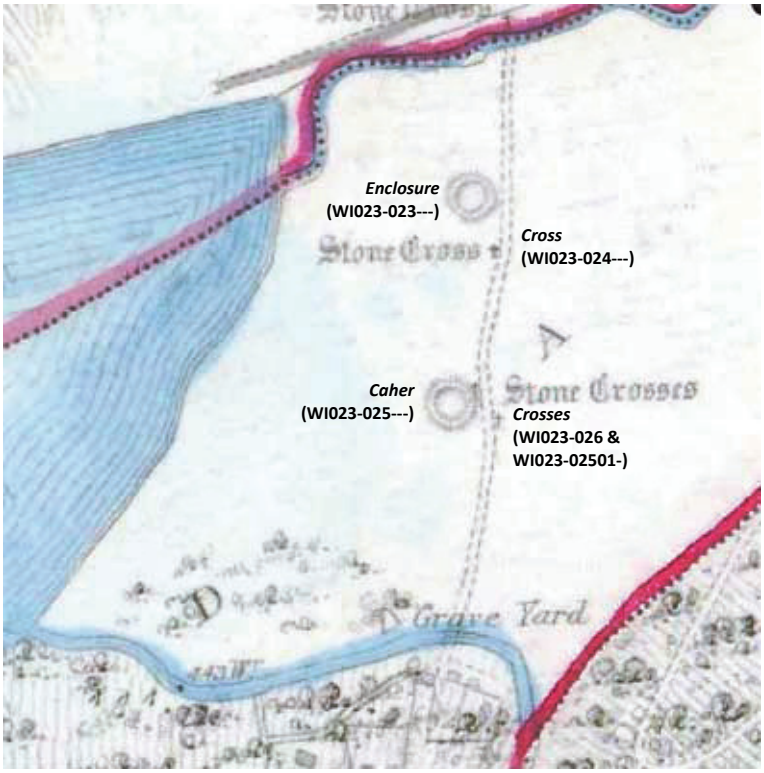

Figure 17: LUG12, extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey six inch map depicting the area of the caher (WI023-025---) and the enclosure that can no longer be located (WI023-023---).

By 1910, unfortunately, the 'caiseal' has vanished and does not appear on the 25" map. It was to some degree still visible on the surface in 1981, but not by the early 1990s (Grogan & Kilfeather 1997, 63). Our Trench 6 attempted to identify this feature, based on rectification of early maps, geophysical survey and field observations. Geophysical survey from 2010 and 2011 does not identified a particular anomaly corresponding to the enclosure, but some anomalies are present in this area, which has been significantly disturbed by modern landscaping and recent tree growth. The final trench location was very sensitive to the location of trees and wetland (Figure 18). Our trench did not locate any evidence of the second caher, but did uncover a range of relict agricultural features. Trench 6 was initially 12 x 2m in dimension with a small later extension to the south.

Figure 18: LUG12, Trench 6, pre-excavation facing west after the cutting of surface vegetation.

Results

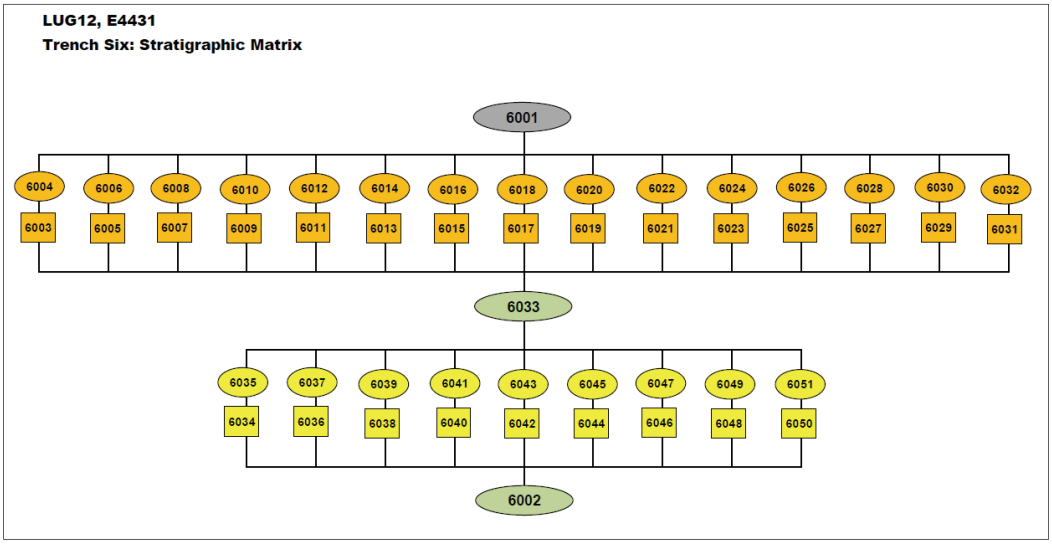

Figure 19: LUG12, Trench 6, stratigraphic matrix (see also *Appendix 1: Context Register*).

Topsoil

The site was sealed by a thin topsoil/sod layer (**C.6001**); a moderately compact and extremely moist dark-brown silt layer averaging 0.21m in depth with a diffuse lower boundary. Finds included recent ceramics, miscellaneous iron objects, glass and clay pipe frgmants.

Upper furrows

Immediately beneath the topsoil 15 parallel features were identified (**C.6003/C.6004**, **C.6005/C.6006**, **C.6007/6008**, **C.6009/C.6010**, **C.6011/C.6012**, **C.6013/C.6014**, **C.6015/C.6016**, **C.6017/C.6018**, **C.6019/C.6020**, **C.6021/C.6022**, **C.6023/C.6024**, **C.6025/C.6026**, **C.6027/C.6028**, **C.6029/C.6030**, **C.6031/C.6032**) (Figures 20 & 21). These varied very slightly in dimensions, but were generally very consistent: 0.05–0.21m in depth and 0.20–0.40m in width. All had a NNE/SSW orientation and gently sloping straight sides with a concave base. The fills were a moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions of fine gravel (1%). The upper boundary with **C.6001** was diffuse and its lower boundary with **C.6033** was quite sharp. Finds from these features were all of post-medieval date.

Figure 20: LUG12: Pre-excavation photograph of all furrows in Trench 6, facing west. **C.6003/6004** in foreground

These features may be the remains of plough furrows, in which case a substantial depth of topsoil has been removed from the area. Alternatively, they are remnants of cultivation ridges, with silt forming in the furrows of the system. Seamas Ward (pers. comm.) recalls that the occupant of the forestry hut used to grow potatoes on ridges here over 50 years ago.

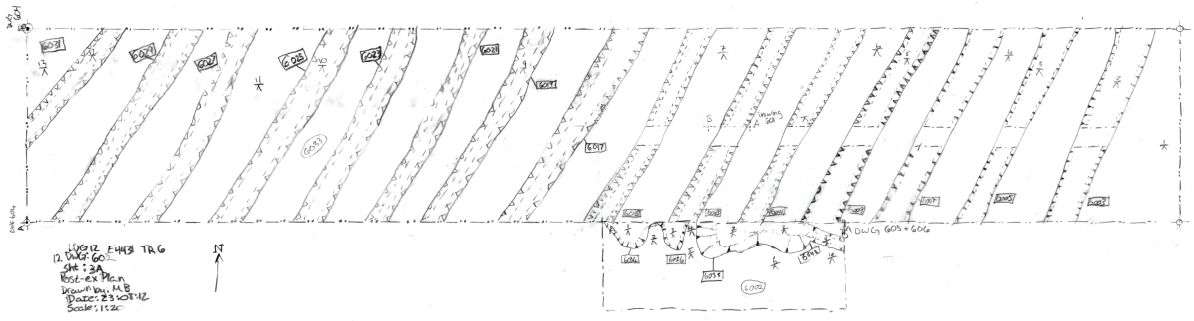

Figure 21: LUG12, Trench 6 (Dwgs#602 & 603); post excavation plan of furrows in the main trench cut into cultivation soil **C.6033** and cultivation features **C.6034**, **C.6036**, **C.6038** & **C.6042** at a lower level cut into natural **C.6002** exposed in the small extension to the south of the trench.

Cultivation soil

All of the features discussed above were clearly cut into **C.6033**, a moderately compact, dark-brown clayey-silt with frequent inclusions (40–50%) of fine rounded and sub-rounded gravel (6–20mm). Its upper and lower boundaries were very sharp. This context contained frequent post-medieval finds including ceramics, glass, iron nails, brick and clay pipe fragments and a horseshoe. It represents a mixed cultivation soil formed by adding household waste and organic materials to the underlying gravelly natural subsoil **C.6002**. It is notable how poor the soils here must have been.

An open furrow system and plough furrows?

Lying underneath the cultivation soil (**C.6033**) were a number of other features, also likely of agricultural origin. These features were much more inconsistent in character than the furrows discussed above, and in many instances were only identified in section. It is possible, perhaps even likely, that these represent more than one phase of activity, but we do not have the stratigraphic relationships to confirm this. Recording of these features was also complicated by the collapse of water-logged sections.

Several features were uncovered in plan in a small 2 x 1m extension to the south side of Trench 6 (Figure 21). These features were very irregular in appearance and are believed to be significantly truncated.

The largest of these was **C.6038/C.6039** which is an amorphous/sub-oval shaped feature (1.2 x 0.6 x 0.22m) with gently sloping straight sides and a concave base. It was filled with a moderately compact, grey silty-clay with 5% gravel inclusions with some iron and ceramic finds and some iron panning at base of feature (Figures 21, 22 & 23). **C.6042/C.6043** is an extension of this context. The silty nature of this fill suggests that it is water borne material that was deposited into an open furrow, which has then been truncated significantly by later ploughing (see **C.6034/C.6035**, **C.6036/C.6037**, **C.6044/C.6045**, **C.6046/C.6047** and **C.6048/C.6049**).

C.6034/C.6035 and **C.6036/C.6037** were visible in section and in truncated form in plan. Their sections show gently sloping straight sides and a concave base and their fills were moderately

compact, grey silty-clay with 20% gravel inclusions and some iron panning (5%) at base. In section these appear to be plough furrows, but the absence of linear extent throws some doubt on this, although significant truncation is likely.

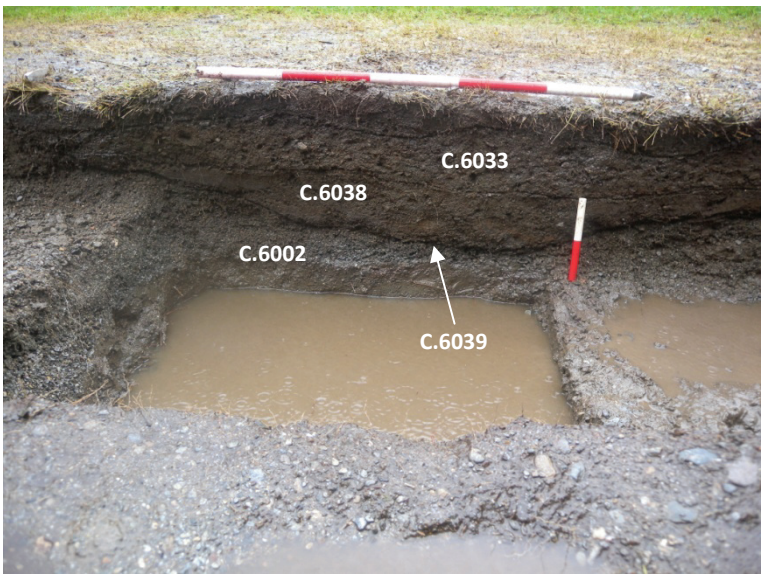

Figure 22: LUG 12, Trench 6; mid-excavation view of section facing south showing **C.6038/C.6039** cut into **C.6002** and sealed by **C.6033**.

Figure 23: LUG 12, Trench Six: view facing south showing **C.6038/C.6039** (left), **C.6038/C.6039** (middle) and **C.6038/C.6039** (right) cut into **C.6002**.

Other features were only visible in the north facing section and their orientation and extent cannot be clarified – not least given the evident truncation of features discussed above. **C.6040/C.6041** was a concave based cut with straight sides, 0.43m wide and 0.07m in depth. It was filled by a moderately compact, grey silty-clay with 1% gravel inclusions and some iron panning (5%) at base of feature. Its upper and lower boundaries were sharp. The presence of a stratigraphically inverted silt deposit in this fill suggests that it results from soils being turned over in the context of ploughing, possibly disturbing **C.6037**.

C.6050/C.6051 also had concave, gently sloping sides and base with a gentle break of slope at top and bottom. It was 0.85m wide and 0.12m in depth. Its fill was a grey-brown silty-clay with <10%

gravel inclusion. The overall extent of this feature is not understood, but it may relate to the **C.6034/C.6035** discussed above and most likely relates to agricultural activity.

C.6044/C.6045, **C.6046/C.6047**, and **C.6048/C.6049** were only identified in the eastern facing section (Figure 24). The cuts are uniformly concave based with straight or gently sloping sides, and they varied from 0.31–04.6m wide and 0.06–0.07m in depth. They were filled by a moderately compacted, grey silty-clay with 7–10% gravel inclusion. The lower boundary was sharp, sometimes demarcated by iron pan and elsewhere by a lens of very fine gravel. They appear to be a group of plough furrows, possibly oriented more east–west than the other furrows discussed, although it is not possible to confirm this.

Figure 24: LUG 12, Trench 6; post-excavation view of section showing **C.6044/C.6045**, **C.6046/C.6047**, and **C.6048/C.6049** (from left to right) cut into **C.6002** and sealed by **C.6033**. Facing West.

These amorphous and ill-defined features most likely relate to cultivation activity. It is possible that the earliest phase is of open ridge cultivation (**C.6038/C.6039**) which is then disturbed by possibly two phases of ploughing (if the indications of orientation from the sections are reliable) although the stratigraphic relationship to confirm this were not uncovered.

Natural Gravels

Underlying the archaeological contexts is a loosely compacted, fine, grey gravel of small rounded pebbles (2–6mm in diam.) with infrequent (10–15%) sand and silt inclusions (**C.6002**). This appears to be a natural, water-lain deposit.

Finds

All finds from this trench were post-medieval in date. They include quantities of iron, ceramics, glass, bricks, clay pipes and a roofing slate.

Discussion

The excavation of Trench 6 has recovered no evidence for the presence of the second caher, although given the difficulties in rectifying the early maps, this does not mean that the feature is not nearby. The trench has further demonstrated the extent of agricultural activity in the post-medieval period at the Upper Lake. The potential evidence for open furrow agriculture is interesting, and is corroborated by a post card of *c*. 1896 showing the general area under ridge cultivation (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Postcard of the Upper Lake area of Glendalough Valley looking west *c*. 1896 showing the caher covered in trees (indicated by arrow) and cultivation ridges to the south. Trench 6 is immediately to the bottom right of this view.

This nineteenth century activity was followed by several phases of ploughing (also seen in Trench 4 in 2011; McDermott *et al*. 2012) and the seemingly truncated surface features. The area was cultivated for potato by the inhabitant of the forestry cottage (now the National Park information centre) *c*. 50 years ago, and it is possible that this is the final phase of activity visible in the trench. The possibility of truncation has been outlined above, and may relate to landscaping at some stage.

It is interesting to note the relative poverty of the soil that is being cultivated in this area. Today the area is very wet and boggy and, only a short distance below the surface, the subsoils are sterile gravels with no organic component. The 'cultivated gravel' most likely indicates middening of these deposits in order to promote soil fertility. The decision to cultivate these soils may reflect the scarcity of better land in the immediate vicinity or that better soils were reserved for other purposes.

The extent of agricultural evidence is an important reminder of the potentially destructive cultivation of this area. This is alluded to in Colles' 1870 report (see above) and our field

investigations over the last four years confirm the significance of the plough and agricultural processes in shaping the survival of archaeological features at the Upper Lake.

Trench 7

The caher is an enigmatic monument, combining an unusual suite of architectural features, and in its current form is a product of OPW reconstruction. A heavily reconstructed stone wall sits atop, but not centrally located over, a low bank visible around much of the external circumference. Internally arcs of stone kerbs are present, but are not concentric to the main wall.

Cochrane (1911–1912, 8) described the caher as follows:

> "Near the eastern shore of the upper lake, not far from Reefert church, and about midway across the valley, are the remains of a stone fort very similar in construction to those in the west of Ireland. It is much dilapidated owing to the usual causes — removal of stones, growth of trees and the depredations caused by rabbit hunters. It was built in dry masonry composed of thin slabs of stone of the mica schist formation laid horizontally and carefully fitted in the manner now seen at Staigue and elsewhere. The walls vary from 8 to 10 feet in thickness and are now about 4 feet in height. The outside diameter is 67 feet. On the east side four or five small flags may be noticed set vertically in the face of the wall. The position of the entrance is not evident, the only gap is in the south–east side. This caher and the circular stone huts, of which there are traces, are evidence of a very early occupation of the valley."

Leask (1963, 15) updates this while drawing on Cochrane for detail:

> "Evidence of an early occupation of the valley are the remains of a circular stone fort or caher, much dilapidated and tree grown, which stands near the eastern shore of the Upper Lake, about midway across the valley not far from Reefert Church. Its walls of 8 to 10 feet in thickness are built in dry masonry, carefully fitted after the manner of the cahers of Kerry and Clare. The outside diameter is 67 feet. On the east side four or five small flags may be noticed set vertically in the face of the wall. The position of the entrance is not evident but the only gap in the walls is to the south–east"

Neither description mentions the low bank now visible on the surface. Indeed, neither description really matches the form of the monument as now reconstructed.

The original form and function of the monument is unclear. Sweetman undertook limited excavation in Sept 1983, and did not recover any evidence that the structure was of any antiquity. It is possible that the overall monument is comparatively recent in date (e.g. Hamlin 2001, 33) and formed part of the pilgrimage route, with its function being to control movement around a cross in its centre (Tadhg O'Keeffe pers. comm.). Regardless of the function of the caher, the earthen bank on which the stone wall sits seems architecturally anomalous and may be evidence of an earlier phase of activity

The excavations in Trench 7 focused on a small area (2 x 2.5m) of the bank external to the stone wall of the caher on the northeast side of the site (Figure 26). We aimed to assess its composition, the landscape on which it was constructed, and to see if any dating evidence could be obtained. The excavation did not impact on the stone wall of the caher or any structural features and was carried out in consultation with architects from the Office of Public Works.

Figure 26: LUG12; recording the bank on the exterior of the caher wall at the north-eastern side of the site in advance of excavation of Trench 7.

Results

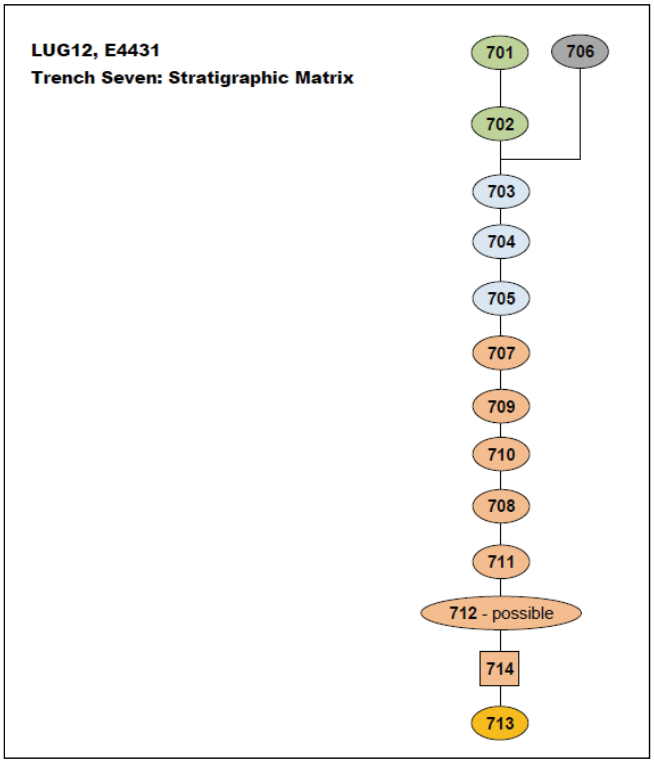

Figure 27: LUG12, Trench 7, stratigraphic matrix (see also *Appendix 1: Context Register*).

Topsoil

The trench was covered by sod (**C.701)** and a thin (max 0.10m deep) deposit of topsoil (**C.702**) of moderately compact, light brownish-grey fine-sand with sharp upper and lower boundaries. Both contained large amounts of very recent material culture.

The bank

The low bank visible prior to excavation was found to be made up of a small number of archaeological layers all of which contained post-medieval and modern material. The bulk of the bank is comprised on **C.703**, a compacted dark-brown silty-sand with 50–60% small to large (0.10–0.50m) sub-rounded stones of local lithology (see Figure 28). This overlay a loosely compacted, dark-brown silty-sand with occasional fine gravel and medium to large gravel inclusions (**C.704**), which contained modern beverage can ring pulls. These deposits appear to indicate considerable disturbance of a pre-existing stone and earth bank during OPW reconstruction. A number of records from the early twentieth century suggest a substantial stone bank in a ruinous condition stood in this location (see discussion below). In places, the wall of the reconstructed caher (**C.706**) sits directly on top of the stone content of **C.703** (Figure 29). This suggests that an existing bank was scarped to provide a level surface on which the monument was (re)constructed (Figure 26).

Figure 28: LUG12, Trench 7; mid-excavation facing west after removal of sod **C.701** and topsoil **C.702**, showing bank component **C.703**.

Ditch fills and cut

Underlying the recently disturbed bank material were a sequence of deposits which demonstrate the presence of a cut ditch (**C.714**). Due to time constraints, these deposits were only examined in a very narrow sondage and we are not certain that we have reached the base of the feature. As such,

many of our observations are provisional and we have erred on the side of caution in identifying discrete fills. Many of the deposits described below may be subdivided further when a larger area is exposed for analysis.

The overall orientation, shape and size of the ditch **C.714** remains ill-defined due to the very limited nature of the excavation and we have not identified the full extent of the ditch nor its base. The sides were straight and gently sloping (30 degree angle).

Figure 29: LUG12, Trench 7; end of excavation facing SW showing the caher wall (**C.706**), the composition of the bank (**C.703**) and sondage on the eastern side exposing the ditch (**C.714**).

Sealed immediately beneath the bank was **C.705**, a well defined layer of horizontal large slab-like stones of local lithology (average size of 0.30 x 0.20 x 0.10m). A greater number of smaller stones were present at the upper levels, while the lower ones were noticeably larger (up to 0.50 x 0.30 x 0.20m) and were mainly lying flat over deposit **C.708**. The discovery of the lower larger stones lying flat suggests that these may have been laid and could therefore represent the lowest layer of a heavily disturbed bank, however, it is more likely that these represent stone which collapsed from a stone-faced bank to the SW of trench.

These in turn overlay **C.707**, a loose, dark-brown sandy-silt with a crumb structure and up to 0.27m in depth with occasional inclusions of well-rounded fine–medium sized gravel (5–10%), most of which was horizontally laid. It had frequent inclusions of burnt bone (*c*. 5%) and charcoal (5%). This appears to have been truncated to the north, possibly through later agricultural activities. This directly overlaid **C.709**, a thin layer of single small–medium sized sub-angular stones (0.10 x 0.05 x 0.03m to 0.20 x 0.20 x 0.10m) located at the interface between deposits **C.707** and **C.710** (Figure 30).

These were found lying horizontally suggestive of a laid stone surface, however, the thinness of the deposit (< 0.10m), combined with its position in the ditch fill suggests that it represents stones that tumbled into this feature while it was still open, presumably from the stone-faced bank of the caher.

Figure 30: LUG12, Trench 7; mid-excavation view facing south of **C.709**, layer of flat stones within the ditch fills.

Figure 31: LUG12, Trench 7; post-excavation view of sondage section facing south showing the profile of the bank, ditch fills and cut of the ditch (**C.714**).

C.710 immediately underlay **C.709** and was a highly compacted, greyish-brown silty-clay up to 0.6m in depth with inclusions (10%) of fine gravel (Figure 32). It displayed a weakly blocky structure and sharp upper and lower boundaries. This may represent the primary infilling/weathering of a recut of the ditch in which case deposits **C.707** and **C.709** would also be fills of this recut, however, a recut could not identify with confidence.

C.708 was a moderately compact, dark greyish-brown silt up to 0.33m in depth with occasional inclusions of fine well-rounded gravel (Figure 32). The stone content of this deposit increased sharply to 35% towards the south-western edge of the ditch where the gravels were quite angular and poorly sorted. Its upper boundary with **C.707** was diffuse but was quite sharp with **C.710**. Its lower boundary was sharp. This layer may represent two or more contexts but this could not be established given the limited extent of the excavation. The increased stone content on the south-western edge probably resulted from the adjacent bank. **C.710** sealed **C.711** a loose-moderately compacted, dark-brown silt with a weakly blocky structure up to 0.32m in depth and with occasional inclusions of fine gravel (<5%) and charcoal. The silt may indicate some degree of natural infilling of the ditch through siltation.

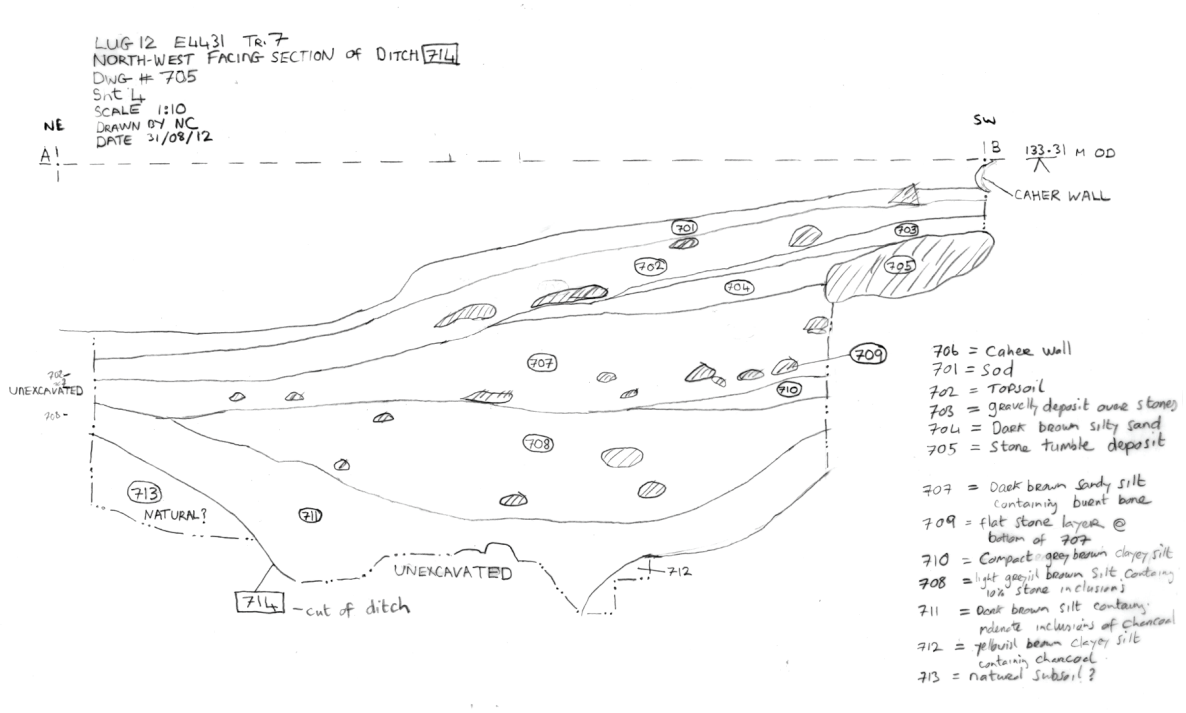

Figure 32: LUG12, Trench 7; post-excavation drawing of north-facing section showing ditch fills and bank.

The lowest deposits in the trench are poorly understood. In the centre of the ditch, **C.711** overlay **C.712**, a loosely compacted yellowish-brown clayey-silt with a weakly blocky structure and fine gravel inclusions (25%) with some large flecks of charcoal. This was initially considered to be a natural subsoil although the presence of significant charcoal may indicate that this is redeposited. It was not possible to resolve this question in the small area excavated.

Sub soils.

The subsoil (**C.713**) in to with the ditch had been cut comprised a very compact brown silt with grey-orange mottling and very few inclusions and a sharply defined upper boundary (Figure 32). Some very minor charcoal flecking may be present in this deposit, but this requires investigation and may merely represent an interface with the overlying deposit.

Finds

Finds from the upper layers of the bank were exclusively of recent, and sometimes very recent, material. The ditch fills included three contexts with charcoal: **C.707**, **C.711** and **C.712**. Burnt bone was identified in **C.708**. No other finds were made in the ditch. Given how frequently modern materials have been found in our excavations at Glendalough this absence of recent material suggests these lower strata are of some antiquity. Samples from **C.707** and **C.711** have been sent for radiocarbon dating.

Discussion

Trench 7 has thrown up some surprising results and the area will repay further investigation. As noted above, neither Cochrane nor Leask discuss a low earthen bank or a ditch. It should be noted that the intervening time period saw continued agricultural and horticultural activities near the caher. It is not clear how well the caher survived at the time of reconstruction and it is likely that it had continued to collapse. Our interpretation is that OPW reconstruction work in the 1980s involved substantial modifications to the dilapidated earth and stone bank including clearing mature trees which had over grown the site. This seems to have included scarping the bank associated with the collapse of the original structure; removing topsoil to reveal/create a rubble and earth core (**C.703**) and depositing gravel-rich soils (**C.704**), presumably to make a flat surface. Both of these deposits contain modern materials. The materials used to construct the wall (**C.706**) of the caher appear to have been partially sourced from this bank and probably also from field boundaries in the vicinity and are in keeping with the materials described by Cochrane. Given the size of Trench 7 we are unable to assess the composition of the bank beyond the influence of modern disturbance.

Neither of the early descriptions of the caher discusses a ditch and it is possible that this was not visible on the surface given the dilapidated status of the monument. The ditch appears truncated to the east, presumably by agriculture in this area, and it's full extend and orientation cannot be confirmed. The association with what appears to be collapsed bank material suggests that it is circular in form, but further research is necessary to confirm this hypothesis.

The ditch is relatively substantial and may include evidence for recutting. It is also noteworthy that the ditch was free of finds. In our 2010–2012 excavations almost all recent features have contained significant amounts of full of post-medieval and modern material. Their absence from these ditch fills may indicate an early date. Charcoal and burnt bones from low within the ditch have been sampled and charcoal from **C.707** and **C.711** has been sent for radiocarbon dating.

Metal Detection

In accordance with the terms of the Ministerial Consent (C536) the use of a metal detector on the excavation was required under Metal Detection No. R310. A metal detector was therefore used on the spoil excavated in Trenches 5, 6 & 7 separated by context and was also used to assess selected archaeological strata in advance of excavation. As all excavation was undertaken by hand very few finds were recovered by metal detector (all of modern date) and these were incorporated in the excavation finds registers.

Overall Discussion

Our excavations in 2012 have been successful and raise many questions about the archaeological monuments on the lawns of the Upper Lake at Glendalough.

We have demonstrated that in its current form the cross base (WI023-026--) is a recent construction and that it clearly overlies a stone path which we had thought was aligned on it. This raises the possibility that something else stood in, or very near, to this location. The lack of antiquity of the cross base raises questions about the age of the other cross bases on the lawns and confirms the extent to which the landscape has been shaped by the actions of well-meaning Victorian antiquarians and associated tourist infrastructure (see Ní Cheallaigh 2011). The presence of a bullaun is an important addition to the distribution of these stones in the valley.

The recovery of a sherd of Neolithic pottery is also notable. Lithics have been recovered from Temple na Skellig (F. Henry excavation archive UCD) and near the main monastic complex (Manning 1983–4) but there was no clear indication of prehistoric activity on the fan between the two lakes. The feature containing the pottery is unlikely to be Neolithic, but the presence of the sherd does suggest some early activity in this area. St Kevin's Bed has sometimes been discussed as a possible prehistoric tomb or mine (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997), but is poorly understood.

We did not find any evidence for the second caher however this cannot be taken as a firm indication that it did not exist. The location of Trench 6 was dictated partly by interpretation and rectification of earlier map sources which is subject to error and partly by access limited by tree growth, paths etc. In addition the excavation demonstrated the significance of agriculture in shaping this landscape in recent years. The potential remains that the location of the site has not been correctly identified or that it was substantially removed by late nineteenth and twentieth century clearance and agriculture.

The Trench 7 excavation has demonstrated the presence of a ditch, seemingly associated with the caher. This has not been recorded in any topographical survey of the site or published account and was not apparent in our geophysical survey. The presence of the ditch is not in keeping with Sweetman's observations that the caher lacked evidence of antiquity. The absence of recent finds from the ditch suggests that this may be an early feature and the results of radiocarbon determinations are anticipated. It is possible that this feature may provide some of the earliest structural evidence for settlement in this area.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix One: Context Register

Incorporating Trenches 5A, 5B, 5C & 5D (Tr. 5), Trench 6 (Tr. 6) and Trench 7 (Tr. 7). Trenches 1–4 excavated 2010-2011 under licence 10E0311 (McDermott *et al*. 2011; 2012)

Context No.	*Feature*	Dimensions	Trench
Trench 5			
Context No.	***Feature***	**Dimensions**	**Trench**
C.0502	*Topsoil*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D 0.10m-0.20m	Tr. 5
Description: A brown silty-sand with mottling of grey, friable in compaction with crumb structure. The deposit contained occasional charcoal and was largely stone free, there was also some redeposited subsoil. Interpretation: Topsoil			
C.0503	*Buried soil*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D 0.25mm	Tr. 5
Description: This was a dark grey compact sandy silt that contained inclusions of charcoal and manganese. There was a diffuse boundary between it and the topsoil C.502, and a sharper boundary between it and the subsoil C.508. Interpretation: Buried topsoil horizon. Equates to C.511 beneath the cairn.			
C.0504	*Cairn*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5A
Description: This was the generic number given to the stone cairn containing a stone cross. The cairn was constructed by placing a number of flat slabs on the ground (C.532) - possibly to create an elevated area. An earthen mound (C.511) was then constructed on top of these. Large stone slabs (C.527) were then centrally placed on top of the mound and then a rubble core/cobble layer (C.528) was placed on top of and around these and the mound to increase the height of the cairn. Finally large flat stone slabs/cladding (C.510) were placed on top of the rubble infill and a stone facing/kerbing (509) was placed along the exterior of the cairn. Interpretation: Cairn			
C.0505	*Cairn*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5A
Description: The collapse comprised stones and cobbles of various lithologies and sizes. Interpretation: Collapse from cairn			
C.0506	*Topsoil*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5A
Description: Dark brown silty sand of friable compaction with grey mottling and moderate amounts of charcoal. The deposit was identical to the charcoal, except that it occurred in association with the collapse from the cairn C505. The deposit had formed in hollows, surrounding the stones and was heavily rooted. Interpretation: Deposit associated with collapse from cairn			
C.0507	*Stone surface*	L 6mm, Wth 1m, D 0.2m	Tr. 5A & 5B
Description: The stone path was also identified in Trench 2 in 2010 and 2011 (C.202). It was orientated NE-SW, varied in width from 0.70–1m and displayed a maximum length of 6m as exposed in Trenches 5A and 5B, however this does not include those unexcavated sections under the central baulk or those extending beyond the limit of excavation. The path was composed of a single course of flat slabs of schist (50%), granite (30%) and quartz. The main structure of the path was formal and regular, with smaller stones and cobbles being placed in the interstices of the larger slabs. There was no evidence that the stones had been set into a bedding matrix of either sand or gravel, and the stones instead appear to have been set directly onto the ground surface. There were a number of sections where the feature was truncated by later agricultural features. The path came to a stop close to the stone cairn [504], although it is probable that sections of the path were robbed-out in order to facilitate construction of the later cairn. Interpretation: Stone path			
C.0508	*Natural*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5
Description: This was the generic number allocated to the natural subsoils, of which there were a number of different horizons. The upper horizons were mainly composed of mottled yellow-orange fine silty sand of moderate compaction. There were other variations in the natural, which included grit sized gravel (C.518), water lain sand influenced by later podzolisation (C.516) and a bluish grey sedimentary clay layer (C.531). Interpretation: Buried soil			
C.0509	*Cairn*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5A
Description: The formal stone facing of the cairn revealed following the removal of collapse (C.505). It was composed of a series of large slabs of granite, schist and quartz. These varied in size from 0.35 x 0.15m – 0.24 x 0.22m. Interpretation: Formal stone facing in cairn			

Context No.	*Feature*	Dimensions	Trench
C.0510	*Cairn*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5A
Description: This was the formal stone cladding in the cairn, which comprised large flat slabs of granite, schist and quartz. The slabs overlay the rubble infill C.528. Interpretation: Formal stone cladding in cairn			
C.0511	*Cairn*	L 1.3m, Wth 1.4m, D 0.3m	Tr. 5A
Description: Mid-greyish brown silty clay of moderate compaction with inclusions of occasional charcoal and some post-medieval and modern finds. The deposit comprised a mound, on top of which a series of stones and slabs were placed to construct the cairn. Interpretation: Mound material underlying cairn. Equates to C.503.			
C.0512	*Drainage*	L 1.7mm, Wth 1.15mm, D 0.15mm	Tr. 5D
Description: Cut of N–S feature with a linear shape in plan, straight sides and a u-shaped shallow profile. Interpretation: Cut of shallow linear feature, possibly associated with drainage			
C.0513	*Drainage*	L 1.7mm, Wth 1.15m, D 0.15mm	Tr. 5D
Description: Brownish clayey silt, friable in compaction with 2% inclusions. Interpretation: Fill of linear feature C.512			
C.0514	*Drainage*	L 1.1m, Wth 0.75m, D 0.2m	Tr. 5D
Description: Cut of N–S feature with a linear shape in plan. The feature extended under the baulk, so the full extent or depth was not revealed. Interpretation: Cut of linear feature, possibly associated with drainage.			
C.0515	*Drainage*	L 1.1m, Wth 0.75m, D 0.2m	Tr. 5D
Description: Fill of C.514, was a greyish brown clayey silt of friable compaction with 2% inclusions. Interpretation: Fill of linear feature C.514			
C.0516	*Natural*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D 0.28m	Tr. 5
Description: This natural subsoil was composed of fine layers of water lain sand. The layers were mixed and included lenses of mottled grey sand with iron panning, fine brown sand and medium yellow sand. Interpretation: Natural subsoil of water lain sand, influenced by later podzolisation.			
C.0517	*Natural*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D 0.28m	Tr. 5
Description: This was a grit layer exposed under the sands C.516, that tipped to the south. Interpretation: Natural subsoil: water lain sediment, grit sized gravel.			
C.0518	*Natural*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5
Description: This was a cobble layer that dipped to south. It was typified by a collection of small and moderately sized pebbles, stones and cobbles, which were sub-angular, rounded and sub-rounded in shape. The geology of the stones was predominantly schist, but also included examples of granite, quartz, quartzite and mudstone. The deposit was poorly sorted and the stones were patinated and battered. They ranged in size from small pebbles occurring in concentrations, to larger cobbles up to 0.20m in diameter. Interpretation: Natural subsoil: water lain cobble layer.			
C.0519	*Drainage*	L 2.2m, Wth 0.65m, D 0.22m	Tr. 5B
Description: Dark brown moderately compacted silt with some fine sand and no inclusions. It had a blocky structure, with an indeterminate upper boundary and a sharp lower boundary. Interpretation: Fill of linear feature C.520, possibly associated with drainage.			
C.0520	*Drainage*	L 2.2m, Wth 0.65m, D 0.22m	Tr. 5B
Description: Cut of possible linear feature orientated SE–NE. It displayed straight sides and a pronounced flat base. Interpretation: Cut of linear feature, possibly associated with drainage.			
C.0521	*Drainage*	L 1.65m, Wth 0.68m, D 0.07m	Tr. 5D
Description: Yellowish brown silty clay with some sand and occasional angular stones (<4cm) (c.5%). The deposit was moderately compacted, partly blocky with a diffuse upper boundary and a sharp lower one, contained fine rootlets. Interpretation: Fill of a shallow cut feature C.522, directly below and sealed by the layer C.522. Possible shallow cultivation or drainage feature.			
C.0522	*Drainage*	L 1.65m, Wth 0.68m, D 0.07m	Tr. 5D
Description: This was the cut of a linear feature that extended beyond the limit of excavation. There was a gradual break of top slope, with sides that inclined to a 45° angle and a gradual break to a flat base. Interpretation: Cut of shallow feature, possibly associated with drainage, cultivation or agriculture.			

Context No.	*Feature*	Dimensions	Trench
C.0523	*Furrow*	L 1.65m, Wth 0.75m, D 0.11m	Tr. 5D
Description: Dark brown silty clay with inclusions of sand, occasional charcoal and small angular stones. It was moderately compact with a blocky structure and diffuse upper and lower boundaries. Interpretation: Fill of shallow feature C.524			
C.0524	*Furrow*	L 1.65m, Wth 0.75m, D 0.11m	Tr. 5D
Description: A linear feature orientated N-S, with a gradual break of top slope, gradually sloping sides (45°) and a gradual break to a flat base. Interpretation: Cut of shallow agricultural feature with fill C.523, possible furrow.			
C.0525	*Drainage*	L ---m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.15m	Tr. 5D
Description: Very dark greyish brown soft silty sand (very silty), with rare fine gravels. One patch was very gravelly, with a medium gravel. It was moderately compact with well defined boundaries and a blocky/crumb structure. The deposit was only identified in section and was impossible to identify in plan. It was removed in the sondage. Interpretation: Fill of possible cut feature C.526			
C.0526	*Drainage*	L ---m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.15m	Tr. 5D
Description: This was a flat bottomed, straight sided cut of a linear feature, aligned N–S. It was only visible in section. Interpretation: Cut of linear feature, possibly associated with drainage.			
C.0527	*Cairn*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5A
Description: This structure comprised a series of large upright stone slabs in the interior of the cairn. The slabs underlay the rubble infill, were centrally located and would have been placed there as a sub-structure to support the overlying rubble. The stones were predominantly of schist, quartz and granite. Interpretation: Large stone slabs in inner-core of cairn			
C.0528	*Cairn*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5A
Description: The main structure of the cairn comprised a rubble infill/cobble layer, which overlay the earthen mound and underlay the stone cladding. The sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and cobbles were predominantly schist, granite and quartz, but there was also examples of other lithologies in addition to some red brick. Interpretation: Stone cobbles/rubble infill in cairn			
C.0529	*Drainage*	L ?m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.15m	Tr. 5D
Description: Dark yellowish brown silty sand, loosely compacted with a crumb structure. There was a clear lower boundary, except where rooted. This feature was not identified in plan, but was removed in the sondage. There was a slight mis-match between the north and south sections, possibly due to rooting which was visible to the northeast. Interpretation: Fill of shallow linear feature C.530			
C.0530	*Drainage*	L ?m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.15m	Tr. 5A
Description: A shallow N-S linear feature excavated in sondage and only identified in section. It had slightly curving sides with a flat bottom. It was disturbed by root action. Interpretation: Cut of linear feature, possibly associated with drainage.			
C.0531	*Buried soil*	L ---m, Wth 0.2m, D 0.05m	Tr. 5
Description: This was a layer of bluish grey pure clay. The deposit was only identified in section and partly in plan, so was not excavated, but was sampled. The deposit is either a natural subsoil indicative of gleying due to leaching of minerals or an anthropogenic soil with inclusions of burnt bone and charcoal. Interpretation: Natural subsoil?			
C.0532	*Stone surface*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 5A
Description: These slabs were indicative of the first building episode in the cairn and comprised a series of centrally located long, flat stone slabs upon which the mound (C.511) was constructed. Only a few of the stones were uncovered, as the remainder extended beyond the limit of excavation. The slabs uncovered had been set directly on the natural subsoil, were of granite or schist and displayed average dimensions of 0.30m x 0.30m. The width of the structure could not be established as only a small amount had been uncovered. Interpretation: Inner core of large upright slabs in interior of cairn. Possibly continuation of stone pathway C.503			

Trench 6

Context No.	*Feature*	Dimensions	Trench
C.6001	*Topsoil*	L 12m, Wth 2m, D 0.21m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact and extremely moist dark-brown silt with no upper boundary and diffuse lower boundary.
Interpretation: Topsoil.

C.6002	*Natural*	L 12m, Wth 2m, D ?m	Tr. 6

Description: A loosely compacted, fine grey gravel comprising small rounded pebbles (2-6mm in diam.) with infrequent (10-15%) sand and silt inclusions. The upper boundary is quite sharp.
Interpretation: Natural subsoil.

C.6003	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.37m, D 0.15m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6004.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6004	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.37m, D 0.15m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with very occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6003.

C.6005	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.39m, D 0.16m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6006.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6006	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.39m, D 0.16m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6005.

C.6007	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.38m, D 0.17m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6008.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6008	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.38m, D 0.17m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6007.

C.6009	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.4m, D 0.2m	Tr. 6

Description: Narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6010.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6010	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.4m, D 0.2m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6009.

C.6011	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.16m	Tr. 6

Description: Narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6012.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6012	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.16m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6011.

Context No.	*Feature*	Dimensions	Trench
C.6013	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.34m, D 0.08m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle Contains fill C.6014.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6014	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.34m, D 0.08m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6013.

C.6015	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6016.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6016	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6015.

C.6017	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.38m, D 0.21m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6018.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6018	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.38m, D 0.21m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6017.

C.6019	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.28m, D 0.12m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6020.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6020	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.28m, D 0.12m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6019.

C.6021	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.26m, D 0.16m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6022.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6022	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.26m, D 0.16m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6021.

C.6023	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.18m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6024.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6024	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.18m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6023.

Context No.	*Feature*	Dimensions	Trench
C.6025	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.14m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6026.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6026	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.14m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6025.

C.6027	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.28m, D 0.12m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6028.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6028	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.28m, D 0.12m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6027.

C.6029	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.06m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6030.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6030	*Furrow*	L 2.4m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.06m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6029.

C.6031	*Furrow*	L 1.7m, Wth 0.2m, D 0.05m	Tr. 6

Description: A narrow linear feature with gently sloping straight sides and concave base, orientated SW-NE. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6032.
Interpretation: Cut of furrow. One of at least 15 parallel furrows with very similar characteristics that were identified within Tr. 6 and seem to represent a single period of cultivation.

C.6032	*Furrow*	L 1.7m, Wth 0.2m, D 0.05m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-grey silty-clay with occasional inclusions (1%) of fine gravel. Its upper boundary with topsoil C.6001 was diffuse, while its lower boundary with C.6033 was quite sharp.
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6031.

C.6033	*Archaeological soil*	L 12m, Wth 2m, D 0.42m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact, dark-brown clayey-silt with frequent inclusions (40-50%) of fine rounded and sub-rounded gravel (6-20mm). Its upper and lower boundaries were very sharp.
Interpretation: A mixed cultivation soil formed by adding organic materials to the underlying gravelly natural subsoil C.6002

C.6034	*Furrow*	L 0.58m, Wth 0.28m, D 0.1m	Tr. 6

Description: An amorphous/sub-oval shaped feature with gently sloping straight sides and a concave base which seems to be oriented N-S. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6035.
Interpretation: The section and fill suggest this is a cultivation furrow but the unclear linearity leave this uncertain.

C.6035	*Furrow*	L 0.58m, Wth 0.28m, D 0.1m	Tr. 6

Description: A moderately compact grey silty clay with 20% gravel inclusions and some iron panning (5%) at base of feature. Its upper and lower boundaries were sharp
Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6034. The silty nature of this fill suggests that it is water borne material that silted into an open furrow. The presence of small pieces of gravel in the fill exclusively along the base and sides of the cut are indicative of material falling from a traction device such as a plough.

C.6036	*Furrow*	L 0.36m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.1m	Tr. 6

Description: An amorphous/sub-oval shaped feature with gently sloping straight sides and a concave base which seems to be oriented N-S. Break of slope at top and base is gentle. Contains fill C.6037.
Interpretation: The section and fill suggest this is a cultivation furrow but the unclear linearity leave this uncertain.

Context No.	*Feature*	Dimensions	Trench
C.6037	*Furrow*	L 0.36m, Wth 0.3m, D 0.1m	Tr. 6
Description: A moderately compact grey silty clay with 20% gravel inclusions and some iron panning (5%) at base of feature. Its upper and lower boundaries were sharp Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6036. The silty nature of this fill suggests that it is water borne material that silted into an open furrow. The presence of small pieces of gravel in the fill exclusively along the base and sides of the cut are indicative of material falling from a traction device such as a plough			
C.6038	*Furrow*	L 1.2m, Wth 0.6m, D 0.22m	Tr. 6
Description: An amorphous/sub-oval shaped feature with gently sloping straight sides and a concave base which seems to be oriented E-W. Contains fill C.6039. Interpretation: The section and fill suggest this is a cultivation furrow.			
C.6039	*Furrow*	L 1.2m, Wth 0.6m, D 0.22m	Tr. 6
Description: A moderately compact grey silty clay with 5% gravel inclusions and some iron panning (5%) at base of feature. Its upper and lower boundaries were sharp Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6038. The silty nature of this fill suggests that it is water borne material that silted into an open furrow.			
C.6040	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth 0.37m, D 0.06m	Tr. 6
Description: Only visible in north-facing section of the baulk. It had a sharp break of slope at top and gradual at base. It displayed gently sloping straight sides. Contains fill C.6041. Interpretation: The size, shape, fill and similarity to other features suggest this is the cur of a plough furrow.			
C.6041	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth 0.43m, D 0.07m	Tr. 6
Description: A moderately compact grey silty clay with 1% gravel inclusions and some iron panning (5%) at base of feature. Its upper and lower boundaries were sharp Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6040. The presence of an 'inverted' silt deposit in this fill suggests that it results from ploughing, possibly disturbing C.6037			
C.6042	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 6
Description: An amorphous/sub-oval shaped feature with gently sloping straight sides and a concave base which seems to be oriented E-W. Contains fill C.6043. Interpretation: The section and fill suggest this is a cultivation furrow.			
C.6043	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D ---m	Tr. 6
Description: A moderately compact grey silty clay with 5% gravel inclusions and some iron panning (5%) at base of feature. Its upper and lower boundaries were sharp Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6042. The silty nature of this fill suggests that it is water borne material that silted into an open furrow.			
C.6044	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth 0.31m, D 0.07m	Tr. 6
Description: Only seen in east facing section. Straight, gently sloping sides with a gentle break of slope at top and bottom. Concave base. Iron pan at base of feature. Contains fill C.6045. Interpretation: Furrows, possibly post dating C.6034-6038 because of different alignment.			
C.6045	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth 0.31m, D 0.07m	Tr. 6
Description: Grey silty clay with iron pan running at base. Moderately compacted with c10% gravel inclusion. Diffuse upper boundary and sharp lower boundary, which is also demarcated by lens of very fine gravel. Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6044.			
C.6046	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth 0.46m, D 0.07m	Tr. 6
Description: Only seen in east facing section. Straight, gently sloping sides with a gentle break of slope at top and extremely gentle at bottom. Concave base. . Contains fill C.6047. Interpretation: Furrow, possibly post dating C.6034-6038 because of different alignment.			
C.6047	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth 0.46m, D 0.07m	Tr. 6
Description: Grey brown silty clay with iron pan running at base. Moderately compacted with c7% gravel inclusion. Moderately compact and blocky. Diffuse upper boundary and sharp lower boundary. Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6046.			
C.6048	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D 0.06m	Tr. 6
Description: Only seen in east facing section and not completely revealed in this section. Straight, gently sloping sides with a gentle break of slope at top and bottom. Concave base of feature. Contains fill C.6049. Interpretation: Furrow, possibly post-dating C.6034-6038 because of different alignment.			
C.6049	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth ---m, D 0.06m	Tr. 6
Description: Grey brown silty clay with iron pan running at base. Moderately compacted with c7% gravel inclusion. Diffuse upper boundary and sharp lower boundary. Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6048.			

Context No.	Feature	Dimensions	Trench
C.6050	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth 0.85m, D 0.12m	Tr. 6
Description: Concave, gently sloping sides with a gentle break of slope at top and bottom. Concave base of feature. Only seen in east facing section. Contains fill C.6051. Interpretation: Furrow.			
C.6051	*Furrow*	L ---m, Wth 0.85m, D 0.12m	Tr. 6
Description: Grey-brown silty-clay with <10% gravel inclusion. Interpretation: Fill of furrow C.6050.			

Trench 7

Context No.	Feature	Dimensions	Trench
C.0701	*Sod*	L 2.5m, Wth 2m, D 0.04m	Tr. 7
Description: A very dark greyish-brown, soft silty-sand with no inclusions and grass roots. Interpretation: Sod.			
C.0702	*Topsoil*	L 2.5m, Wth 2m, D 0.1m	Tr. 7
Description: A moderately compact ,light brownish-grey fine-sand with sharp upper and lower boundaries. Interpretation: Topsoil, very disturbed in places.			
C.0703	*Bank*	L 2.5m, Wth 2m, D 0.05m	Tr. 7
Description: A compacted, dark-brown silty-sand containing small to large (0.10-0.50m) sub-rounded stones of local lithology which formed 50-60% of the context. This had a poor upper and a sharp lower boundary. It displayed a crumb structure and fine gravel inclusions. Interpretation: Heavily disturbed upper layer forming part of "bank". This may relate to the construction of the caher by the OPW.			
C.0704	*Bank*	L 2.5m, Wth 2m, D 0.07m	Tr. 7
Description: A loosely compacted, dark-brown silty-sand with few (10-20 %) fine gravel and occasional medium to large sized gravel inclusions. It displayed sharp upper and lower boundaries. Interpretation: The presence of ring-pulls and other modern debris within this context combined with its location over the stone tumble (C.705) suggests that this either represents a heavily disturbed deposit associated with the collapse of the bank or a relatively recently formed horizon relating to OPW activity in this location.			
C.0705	*Bank*	L 2.5m, Wth 2m, D 0.3m	Tr. 7
Description: A well defined horizontal layer comprising numerous large stone slabs (average size of 0.30 x 0.20 x 0.10m) of local lithology. A greater number of smaller stones were present at the upper levels, while the lower ones were noticeably larger (c. 0.50 x 0.30 x 0.20m) and were mainly lying flat over deposit C.708. Interpretation: While the discovery of the lower larger stones lying flat over the underlying context suggests that these may have been laid and could therefore represent the lowest layer of a heavily disturbed bank, it is more likely that these represent stone which collapsed from a stone-faced bank of the caher on the SW side of the trench. This could also account for the stones lying in a flat position.			
C.0706	*Bank*	L 2.5m, Wth 0.5m, D ---m	Tr. 7
Description: Reconstructed caher wall: double faced stone wall comprising roughly coursed slabs (0.30-0.50m) of mica schist. Interpretation: Wall of enclosure rebuilt by OPW in 1970's.			
C.0707	*Ditch*	L 2.5m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.27m	Tr. 7
Description: A loosely compacted, dark-brown sandy-silt with a crumb structure and infrequent (5-10%) inclusions of well-rounded fine-medium sized gravel, most of which were horizontally orientated. It had frequent inclusions of burnt bone (5%) and charcoal (4%). It had a sharp upper and a diffuse lower boundary. This deposit may represent two separate context but that could not be established in the scope of the excavation. Sampled for 14C dating. Interpretation: Upper fill of ditch C.714, may have been truncated to the north.			
C.0708	*Ditch*	L 2.5m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.33mm	Tr. 7
Description: A moderately compact, dark greyish-brown silt with occasional inclusions of fine well-rounded gravels. The stone content of this deposit increased sharply to 35% towards the north-eastern edge of the ditch where the gravels were quite angular and poorly sorted. The deposit had a weakly blocky crumb structure. Its upper boundary was diffuse where it met with C.707, but was quite sharp with C.710. Its lower boundary was sharp. It may have been possible to sub-divide this deposit into at least two distinct contexts, but this requires a greater level of excavation. Interpretation: Fill of ditch C.714. The higher stone content towards NE edge may suggest the collapse of bank material into ditch while open. Presumably from the stone-faced earthen bank documented to have been located on the inside to the SW of the ditch.			

Context No.	*Feature*	Dimensions	Trench
C.0709	*Ditch*	L 2.5m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.1m	Tr. 7

Description: A thin layer of small to medium sized single sub-angular stones (0.10 x 0.05 x 0.03m to 0.20 x 0.20 x 0.10m) located at the interface between deposits C.707 and C.710. These were found lying flat in a horizontal position. This deposit had very sharp upper and lower boundaries.
Interpretation: Fill of ditch C.714. Initially, the horizontal nature of this deposit seemed indicative of a laid stone surface. However, the thinness of the deposit combined with its occurrence within the ditch suggests that it represents stones that have tumbled into this feature while it was still open. Presumably this came from the stone-faced earthen bank documented to have been located inside to the SW of the ditch.

C.0710	*Ditch*	L 2.5m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.06m	Tr. 7

Description: A highly compacted, greyish-brown silty-clay with occasional inclusions (10%) of fine gravel. It displayed a weakly blocky structure, as well as sharp upper and lower boundaries.
Interpretation: Fill of ditch C.714. This is comprised of very fine sediment suggesting that it may represent some form of siltation into the ditch. This may represent the primary infilling/weathering of a recut of the ditch. If so, then deposits C.707 and C.709 would also be fills of this recut.

C.0711	*Ditch*	L 2.5m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.32m	Tr. 7

Description: A loose-moderately compacted, dark, brown silt with very occasional inclusions of fine gravel (<5%) and charcoal. Its structure was weakly blocky and crumby. It displayed sharp upper and lower boundaries, though this context was not fully excavated within the sondage. Sampled for 14C dating.
Interpretation: A lower fill of ditch C.714. Its silty nature suggests some degree of natural infilling through siltation.

C.0712	*Ditch*	L ---m, Wth 0.5m, D ---m	Tr. 7

Description: A loosely compacted, yellowish-brown clayey-silt with inclusions of fine gravels (25%) and some large charcoal flecks. It had a weakly blocky structure and was identified a low level in section on the bank (SW) side of the ditch (C.714).
Interpretation: Difficult context to interpret in the absence of fuller excavation. It may represent the natural subsoil in the SW lower side of ditch, however, the presence of the charcoal within this deposit suggests it is a redeposited 'natural' that has slumped down from the sides of the ditch.

C.0713	*Natural*	L 2.5m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.2m	Tr. 7

Description: A very compact, brown silt with grey-orange mottling and very few inclusions. Some very small charcoal flecking may be present in this deposit but may be residual an interface with the overlying deposit. Its upper boundary was sharply defined. Its lower boundary was not identified in the course of this excavation.
Interpretation: This seems to represent the natural subsoil into which the ditch C.714 was cut.

C.0714	*Ditch*	L 2.5m, Wth 0.5m, D 0.8m	Tr. 7

Description: The orientation, shape and size of this cut feature remains ill-defined due to the very limited nature of the excavation. Break of slope at top and bottom is undefined as this was outside limits of excavation. The sides were straight and gently sloping (30 degree angle). The base was not identified.
Interpretation: This appears to be the cut of a ditch containing fills C.707-C.712.

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