

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES IN AREA 1

Area 1 contained six roundhouses (Roundhouses 1–6), a ring ditch (Ring Ditch 824), two six-post structures (Six-post Structures 1 and 2), a lightweight post-built structure (Structure 1), a post- and post-trench structure (Structure 2), a four-post structure (Four-post Structure 1), and numerous other isolated pits and groups of pits (Other features).

4.1 Roundhouse 1

Roundhouse 1 (Illus 4) consisted of a post ring of thirteen post holes (Contexts 128, 126, 120, 118, 116, 114, 078, 076, 074, 072, 068, 062 and 070), and two larger pits (066 and 136). The post ring measured 10.8m east to west by 8.4m north to south. The post holes measured between 0.22m (078) and 0.7m (128) in diameter and between 0.07m (114) and 0.25m (062) in depth, while Pits 066 and 136 measured 0.9m by 0.7m by 0.06m deep and 1.2m by 1.15m by 0.15m deep respectively.

Beyond the post ring there were an additional two pits (132 and 134) and one post hole (154) located on the south-eastern side. Pits 132 and 134 measured 2.67m by 2.06m by 0.19m deep and 1.5m by 1.1m by 0.11m deep respectively, while Post Hole 154 measured 0.3m by 0.23m by 0.08m deep. Two body sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from Pit 132. A small quantity of alder and birch charcoal and hazelnut shell was recovered from Post Holes 074 and 128, and Pits 132 and 136.

4.2 Roundhouse 2

Roundhouse 2 (Illus 4) comprised a partial post ring consisting of seven post holes (080, 082, 084, 086, 088, 090 and 092). This post ring had a diameter of 6.4m. The post holes measured 0.26m (090) to 0.45m (084) in diameter and had depths of 0.08m (084 and 092) to 0.2m (082). Outside the post ring there were two pits (094 and 096) measuring 2.36m by 1.3m by 0.16m deep and 0.91m by 0.63m by 0.15m respectively. There was no evidence of any kind of entrance structure, but a modern test pit close to the south-eastern edge may have removed all trace of this. Trace amounts

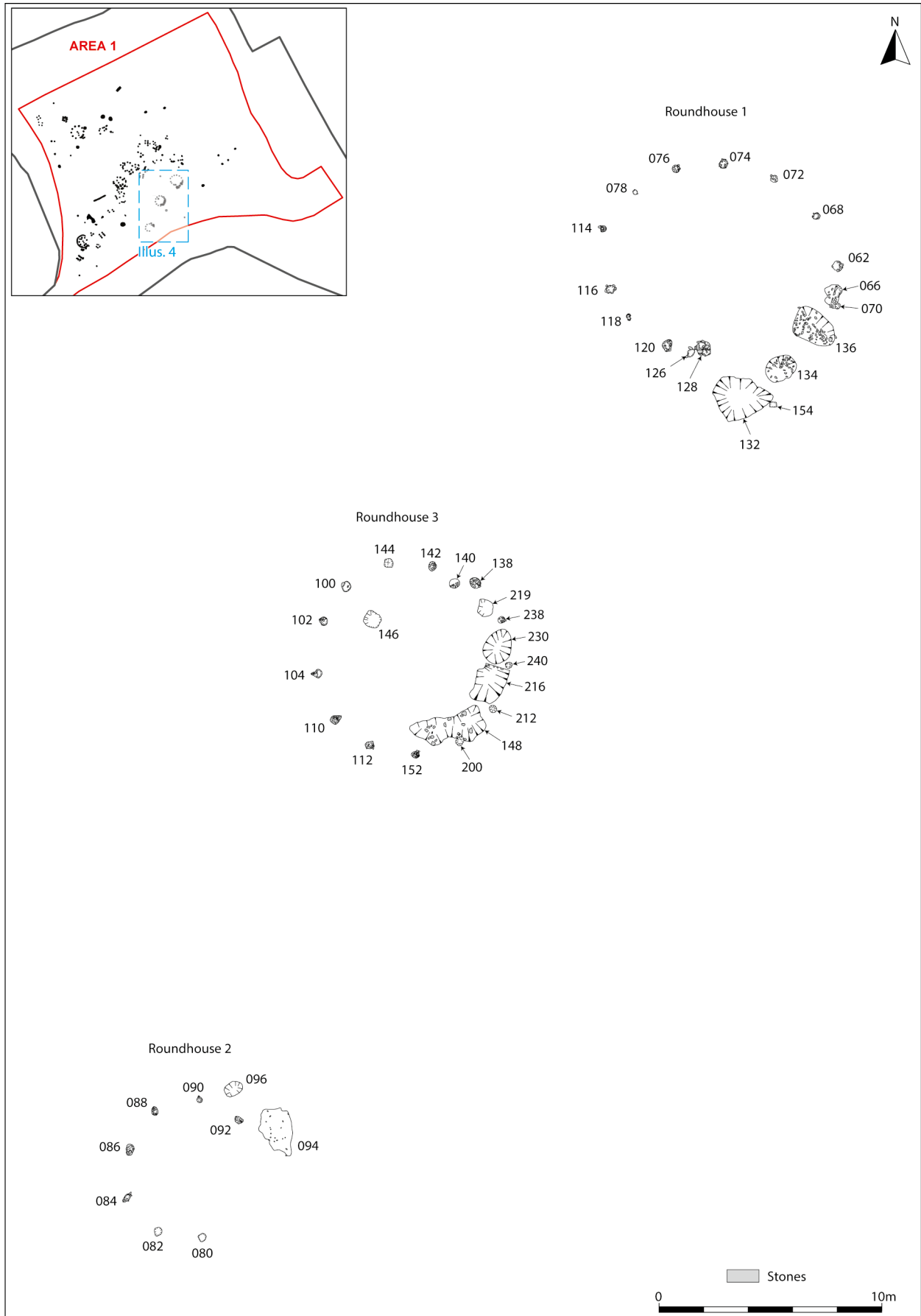
of degraded charred remains and indeterminate cereal grain were found in Post Holes 082 and 096, with a single fragment of hazelnut shell from 096.

4.3 Roundhouse 3

Roundhouse 3 (Illus 4) consisted of a post ring of thirteen post holes (152, 112, 110, 104, 102, 100, 144, 142, 138, 238, 240, 212 and 200). This post ring had a diameter of 8.4m. The post holes typically measured 0.4m in diameter by 0.15m deep, varying between 0.3m (238) and 0.5m (138 and 212) in diameter and 0.09m (152) to 0.24m (200) deep. Post Hole 140, situated just outside the line of the post ring between Post Holes 138 and 142, was of the same dimensions as the other post holes and is thought to represent a replacement for Post Hole 138. Between Post Holes 138 and 238 there was a larger shallow pit (219) measuring 0.78m by 0.7m by 0.1m deep. Finds from the roundhouse included undiagnostic later prehistoric pottery from Post Holes 100 and 104, and these two features also produced a few grains of barley and emmer wheat along with oak charcoal and hazelnut shell. Post Holes 138 and 144 contained some charred hazelnut shell and the former also included some barley grain.

Three shallow pits (148, 216 and 230) were situated just on the inside of the post ring on its south-eastern side. These are possibly the remains of a ring ditch or entrance structure. Pit 148 was radiocarbon dated to the Late Bronze Age (1220–1000 cal BC, 95% probability; 2923±22 BP SUERC-99178, 2894±24 BP SUERC-99179), and contained thirteen sherds of undiagnostic later prehistoric pottery as well as a deposit of hazelnut shell, along with small amounts of barley grain. Pit 216 also produced a concentration of well-preserved hazelnut shell, as well as alder and birch charcoal and a scatter of barley grains, along with a coarse stone pounder/grinder and a hammerstone, while Pit 230 also contained alder charcoal and hazelnut shell.

A sub-square pit (146) was located in the north-west of the interior, containing fire-cracked stone, hazelnut shell and alder charcoal, indicating possible use as a fire pit.



Illus 4 Plans of Roundhouses 1, 2 and 3



Illus 5 Plan of Roundhouse 4

4.4 Roundhouse 4

Roundhouse 4 (Illus 5) consisted of a post ring of ten post holes (160, 164, 166, 064, 168, 228, 172, 174, 176 and 050). This post ring had a diameter of 9m. The post holes measured between 0.44m by 0.5m (162) and 0.61m by 0.72m (160), and had depths ranging between 0.06m (228) and 0.21m (064 and 160). A small stake hole (225) situated adjacent to Post Hole 164 may also have been associated with this post ring. The stake hole measured 0.1m in diameter and had a depth of 0.09m. A possible porch structure forming an entrance on the south-east side may have been formed by Pits 156 and 158 along with Post Holes 160 and 050.

Internally, there were two pits or post holes

(162 and 222). These measured 0.5m by 0.44m by 0.16m deep and 0.55m by 0.37m by 0.17m deep respectively. Three sherds of undiagnostic later prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fill (C223) of Pit 222.

Iron slag and five body sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from Post Hole 050, and three body sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from Post Hole 160. The discovery of iron slag indicates evidence of possible metalworking within the vicinity of this roundhouse. A saddle quern was recovered from the topsoil overlying this roundhouse during the soil-stripping phase of works. A concentration of hazel charcoal, oak charcoal and a cache of mixed cereal waste including grain and chaff from emmer wheat, spelt wheat

and barley grain was recovered from Post Hole 160. Radiocarbon dates from Post Hole 160 dated to the Late Bronze Age (910–800 cal BC, 95% probability; 2705±26 BP SUERC-99869, 2713±26 BP SUERC-99870).

Outside the post ring to the north-west were a subcircular pit (226), measuring 0.59m by 0.52m by 0.27m deep, and a circular post hole (170), measuring 0.45m in diameter by 0.7m deep. Three sherds of later prehistoric pottery, including a base, were recovered from the fill of Post Hole 170 along with trace amounts of charred remains, and one shoulder sherd of later prehistoric pottery was recovered from Pit 226. A further five pits were recorded to the east of the roundhouse (621, 651, 634, 632, 338).

4.5 Roundhouse 5

Roundhouse 5 (Illus 6–8) consisted of a post ring of eight post holes (694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 706, 708 and 710) and the partial remains of a ring groove (C731). The post ring had a diameter of *c* 6.5m, while the post holes measured between *c* 0.5m diameter (694) and 1.1m by 0.66m (706) and had depths ranging between 0.13m (706) and 0.26m (700) (Illus 7). The elongated shape of some of these post holes in plan suggests that they were replaced during the lifetime of the roundhouse, however, there was no evidence for this in the fills. One of the fills (697) of Post Hole 696 contained one body sherd of later prehistoric pottery along with degraded charred grain.

Within the post ring there was a line of three internal posts (C727, 729 and 735), which likely would have supported the roof. These measured up to 0.54m by 0.34m and had a maximum depth of 0.2m. A later prehistoric base sherd was recovered from Post Hole 729 along with degraded charred grain.

The purpose of a ninth post hole (C704) within the circumference of the ring groove was unclear as it lay outside the post ring. It was generally smaller and shallower than the post ring post holes, with a diameter of 0.5m and a depth of 0.09m.

The ring groove had a width of up to 0.4m but survived intermittently to a depth of only *c* 0.03m. It curved around the western and northern edge of the post ring but was not present along its eastern

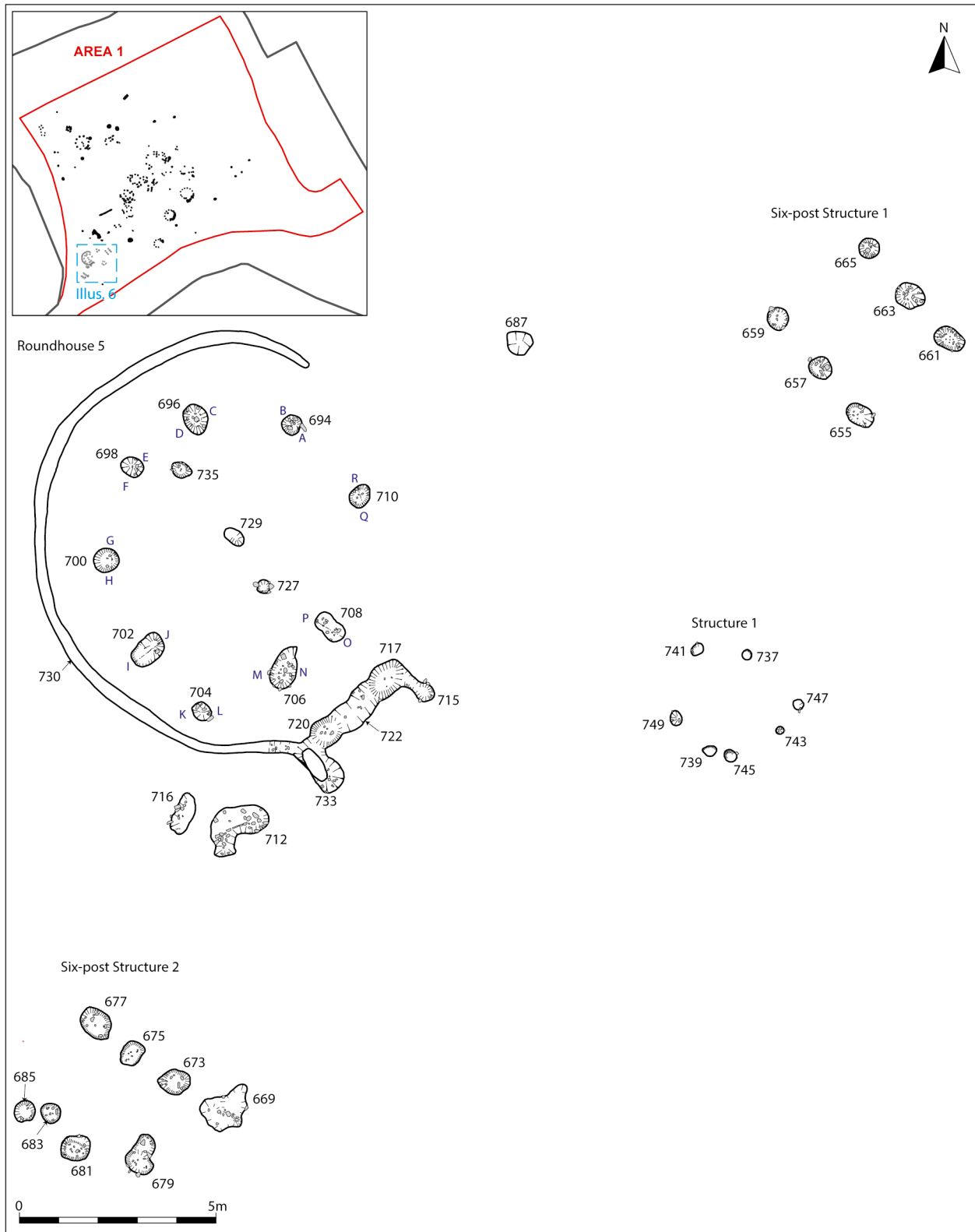
edge. Along its southern edge it broadened out into a deeper ditch (C722) thought to represent the remains of the entrance structure; Ditch 722 contained a few fragments of oak and hazel charcoal. The remains of the ring groove would suggest that the roundhouse had an overall diameter in the region of 10m.

Ditch 722 measured 2.9m long by 0.7m wide by 0.17m deep and had a post hole located at either end (Post Holes 717 and 720). Post Hole 717 measured 1m by 0.8m by 0.28m deep, while Post Hole 720 measured 0.8m by 0.7m by 0.29m deep. The gap between these posts would indicate that the entrance was within the region of 1.3m in width. Two linear pits (C715 and 733) set perpendicular to Ditch 722 appear to form some kind of porch around the entranceway. These measured 0.9m long by 0.45m wide by 0.18m deep and 1.46m long by 0.72m wide by 0.14m deep respectively. Post Holes 706 and 708 could also relate to the entrance structure.

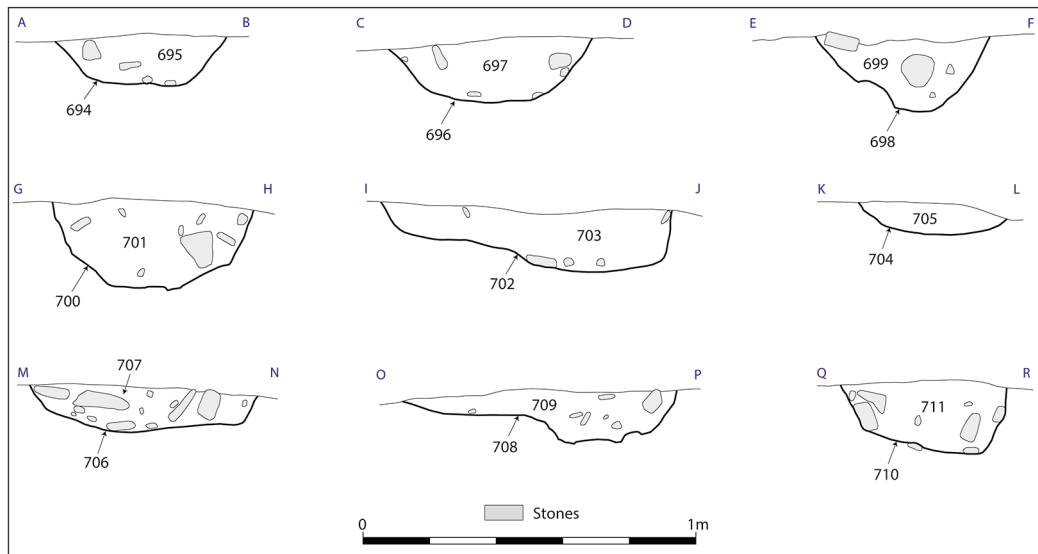
4.6 Roundhouse 6

Roundhouse 6 (Illus 9 and 10) consisted of a post ring of ten evenly spaced post holes (776, 761, 769, 755, 751, 757, 774, 771, 767 and 769) situated *c* 2m apart, with three additional post holes (795, 783 and 793) located between Post Holes 769 and 776, which are thought to represent part of an entrance structure. This post ring had a diameter of 11.2m. Radiocarbon dates from Post Holes 776 and 751 date to the Late Bronze Age (930–800 cal BC, 95% probability; 2687±22 BP SUERC-99190, 2731±24 BP SUERC-99191: 1060–840 cal BC, 95% probability; 2830±26 BP SUERC-100358, 2801±26 BP SUERC-100359). A single body sherd of later prehistoric pottery was found in Post Hole 776. Small quantities of hazelnut shell, barley and emmer wheat were recovered.

The post holes forming the post ring varied in size from 0.7m by 0.6m (C771) up to 1.11m by 0.81m (C774) and had depths varying between 0.25m (C769) and 0.48m (C774) (Illus 13). Clear evidence of packing stones and a post pipe were identified within Post Holes 751 (Illus 11) and 757. The post pipe (C752) in Post Hole 751 measured 0.52m by 0.48m by 0.38m deep, while the post pipe (C758) in Post Hole 757 measured 0.4m by 0.3m by 0.4m deep. Charcoal within the post holes



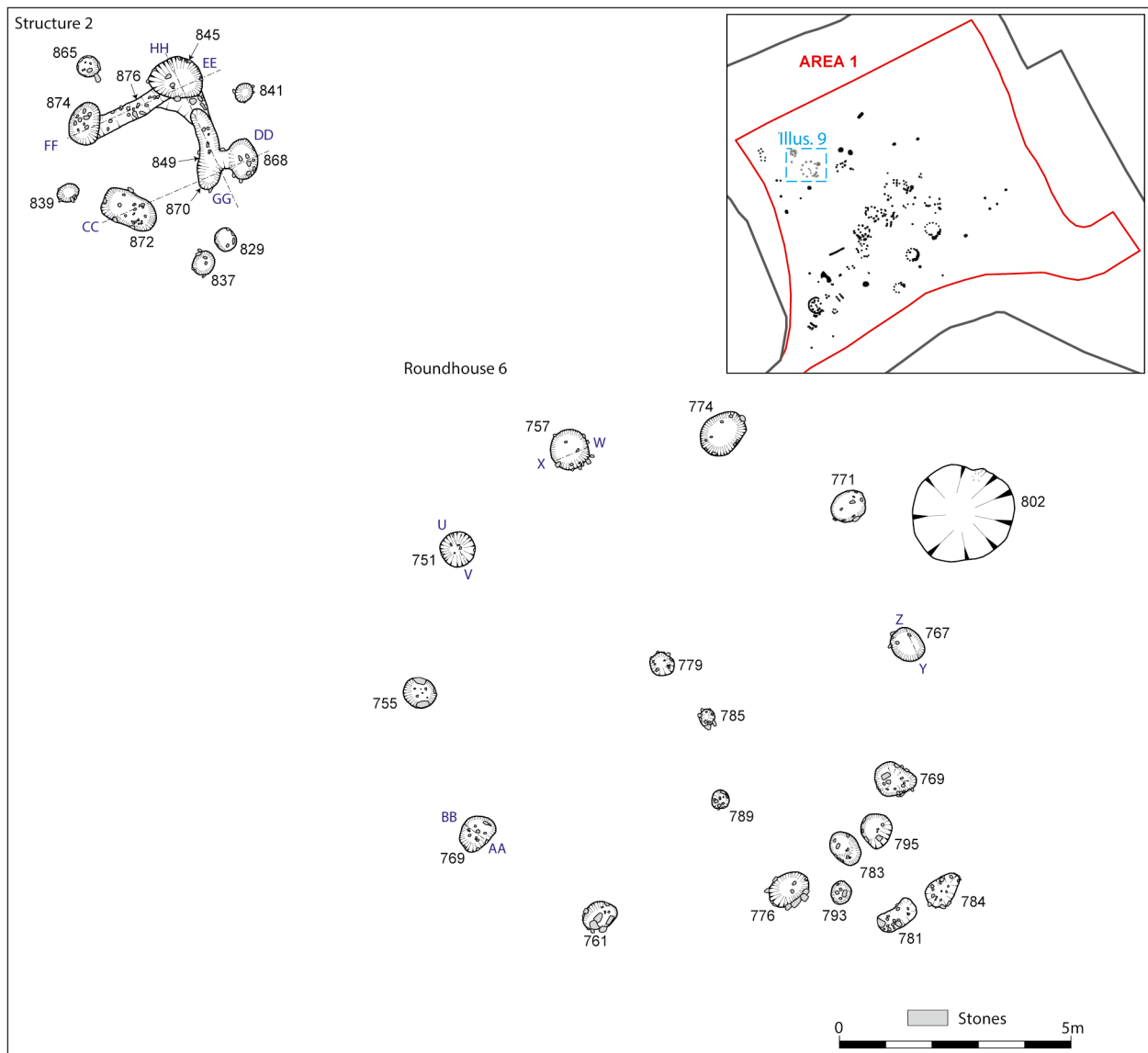
Illus 6 Plan of Roundhouse 5, Six-post Structures 1 and 2, and Structure 1



Illus 7 Roundhouse 5, sections of post holes forming post ring



Illus 8 Roundhouse 5 pre-excavation



Illus 9 Plan of Roundhouse 6 and Structure 2

may indicate a burning event. Three body sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from Post Hole 783.

Three additional post holes (C781, 784 and 793) were located outside the ring ditch on its south-eastern side. Along with Post Holes 783 and 795, these post holes are thought to represent the remains of an entrance structure. The surviving remains suggest that the entrance structure would have measured 1.6m by 1.6m.

Internally, there were three post holes (C779, 785 and 789) identified. Post Hole 779, measuring 0.6m by 0.5m by 0.15m deep, was located within the centre of the post ring and may indicate that the structure had a large central post. The remaining two post

holes (C785 and 789) were roughly in line with the central post extending in a south-easterly direction. They measured 0.32m in diameter by 0.1m deep and 0.38m in diameter by 0.09m deep respectively.

4.7 Six-post Structure 1

Six-post Structure 1 (Illus 6 and 12) (Post Holes 655, 657, 659, 661, 663 and 665) measured 3.8m–3.95m north-west to south-east and 3.5m–3.6m south-west to north-east. The post holes measured between 0.5m by 0.45m (C665) and 0.8m by 0.63m (C663) and had depths ranging between 0.14m (C655) and 0.18m (C663). Four sherds of later prehistoric pottery, including one everted rim, were recovered from Post Hole 657, along with barley



Illus 10 Roundhouse 6 post-excavation



Illus 11 Packing stones in Post Hole 751

and wheat grains and oak charcoal; radiocarbon dates from this feature produced a Late Bronze Age date (920–800 cal BC, 95% probability; 2726±24 BP SUERC-99188, 2694±24 BP SUERC-99189). Traces of cereal remains were also present in Post Hole 665.

4.8 Six-post Structure 2

Six-post Structure 2 (Illus 6) consisted of Post Holes 673, 675, 677, 679, 681 and 683 or 685. Overall, it measured 3.3m–3.6m south-east to north-west and 3.5m–3.6m south-west to north-east. The post holes measured between 0.68m by 0.36m (C675) and 1.1m by 0.79m (C679) and had depths varying between 0.15m (C683) and 0.34m (C673).

It is unclear if irregular Pit 669 identified immediately to the south-east was associated with this six-post structure, making it an eight-post structure if both Post Holes 683 and 685 are also included as part of this structure.

Twenty-three sherds of later prehistoric pottery,

including one base, were recovered from Post Hole 673, three sherds, including a rim, were recovered from Post Hole 677, seven sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from Post Hole 679, and seven sherds, including a base, were recovered from Post Hole 681. A small quantity of oak charcoal was recorded.

4.9 Structure 1

The outline of this lightweight post-built structure (Illus 6) was defined by Post Holes 745, 739, 749, 741, 737, 747 and 743. This structure measured 3.2m north-west to south-east by 2.8m south-west to north-east. All of these post holes were very small, varying in size from 0.23m diameter (C737) up to 0.43m by 0.4m (C745), and with depths ranging from 0.06m (C743) up to 0.29m (C745). This would suggest that it was a fairly lightweight structure. Its proximity to Roundhouse 5 suggests that it may have been an outbuilding associated with that structure.



Illus 12 Six-post Structure 1 post-excavation

4.10 Structure 2

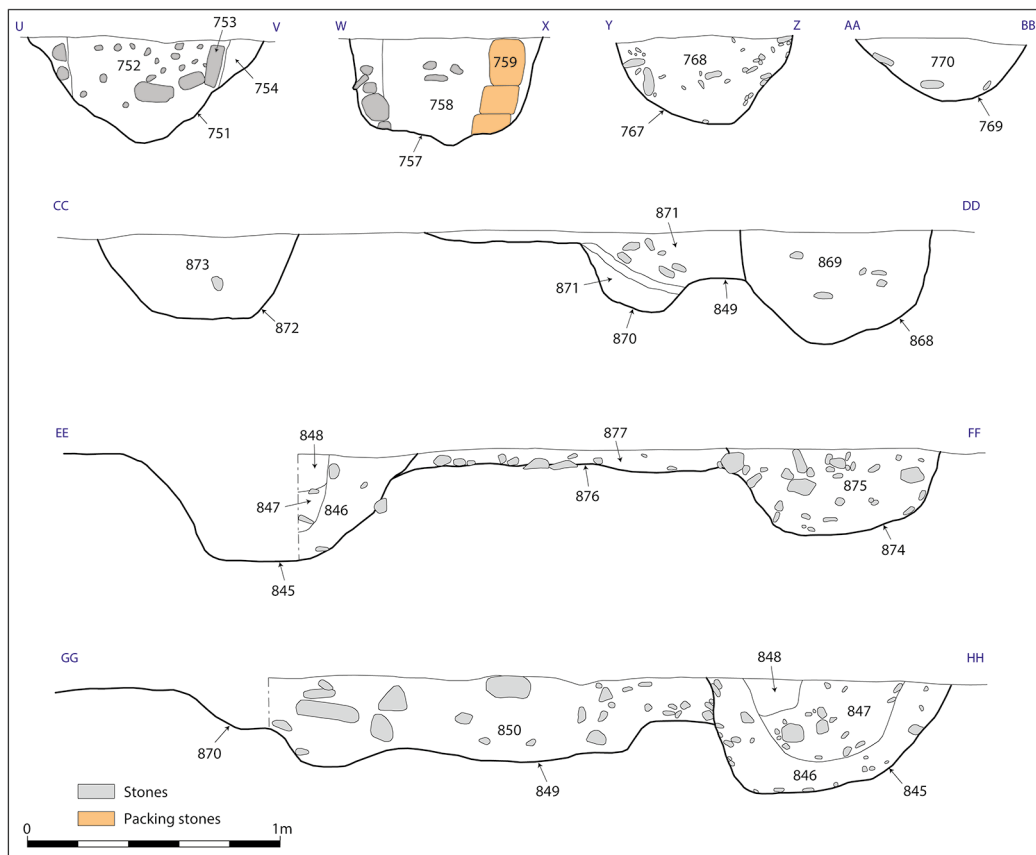
This post and post-trench structure (Illus 9, 13 and 14) consisted of four large corner posts (C845, 868, 872 and 874), with two possible post trenches (C849 and 876) running between Post Holes 874 and 845, and 845 and 868 respectively. It measured 3.1–3.6m south-west to north-east by 3.1m south-east to north-west. The post holes measured between 0.85m by 0.6m (C868) up to 1.2m by 0.9m (C845) and had depths ranging between 0.32m (C872) and 0.45m (C845) (Illus 13). Evidence of a possible post pipe was identified within Post Hole 845, but the remaining post holes contained only a single fill.

Post Trench 849 measured 1.6m by 0.4m and had a maximum depth of 0.36m. A large quantity of oak charcoal was recovered from this feature. A slightly deeper hollow (C870) at the southern end of this feature suggests that there had been a post in this location. Post Hole 870/Post Trench 849 were cut by Post Hole 868, suggesting that the latter was a replacement for the former.

Post Trench 876 was shallow, measuring 1.8m long by 0.4m wide by only 0.05m deep. Single post holes (C839, 841 and 865) were identified outside the south-west, north-west and north-east sides of this structure respectively, while twinned Post Holes 829 and 837 were identified outside the south-eastern side. These post holes measured between 0.35m in diameter (C841) up to 0.55m by 0.45m (C829) and had depths ranging between 0.3m (C841 and 865) up to 0.52m (C839). It is thought that these posts may have been reinforcing members associated with the structure. There were no finds from this structure.

4.11 Ring Ditch 824

Ring Ditch 824 (Illus 15) is thought to represent the surviving remains of a roundhouse. It appeared broadly crescent-shaped in plan, although its exact shape at the north-western end could not be determined because it had been cut by a modern test pit (C791). Overall, it measured 8.7m north-west



Illus 13 Selected sections of Roundhouse 6 and Structure 2



Illus 14 Structure 2 post-excavation

to south-east by 3.05m south-west to north-east and had a maximum depth of 0.25m. A perforated cobble was recovered from the fill of this feature. A large deposit of crushed charcoal and hazelnut shell along with a small amount of barley cereal grain was recovered. Two samples from the fill were radiocarbon dated to the Middle Iron Age (200–40 cal BC, 95% probability; 2104±24 BP SUERC-99192, 2105±22 BP SUERC-99193).

Two possible post holes (C887 and 893) which may be associated with this ring ditch were identified. These were subcircular or oval in plan and measured 0.34m by 0.32m by 0.18m deep and 0.29 by 0.26m by 0.13m deep respectively.

Due to the survival of this roundhouse being confined to the features mentioned above, the original overall dimensions of this structure could not be determined.

4.12 Four-post Structure 1

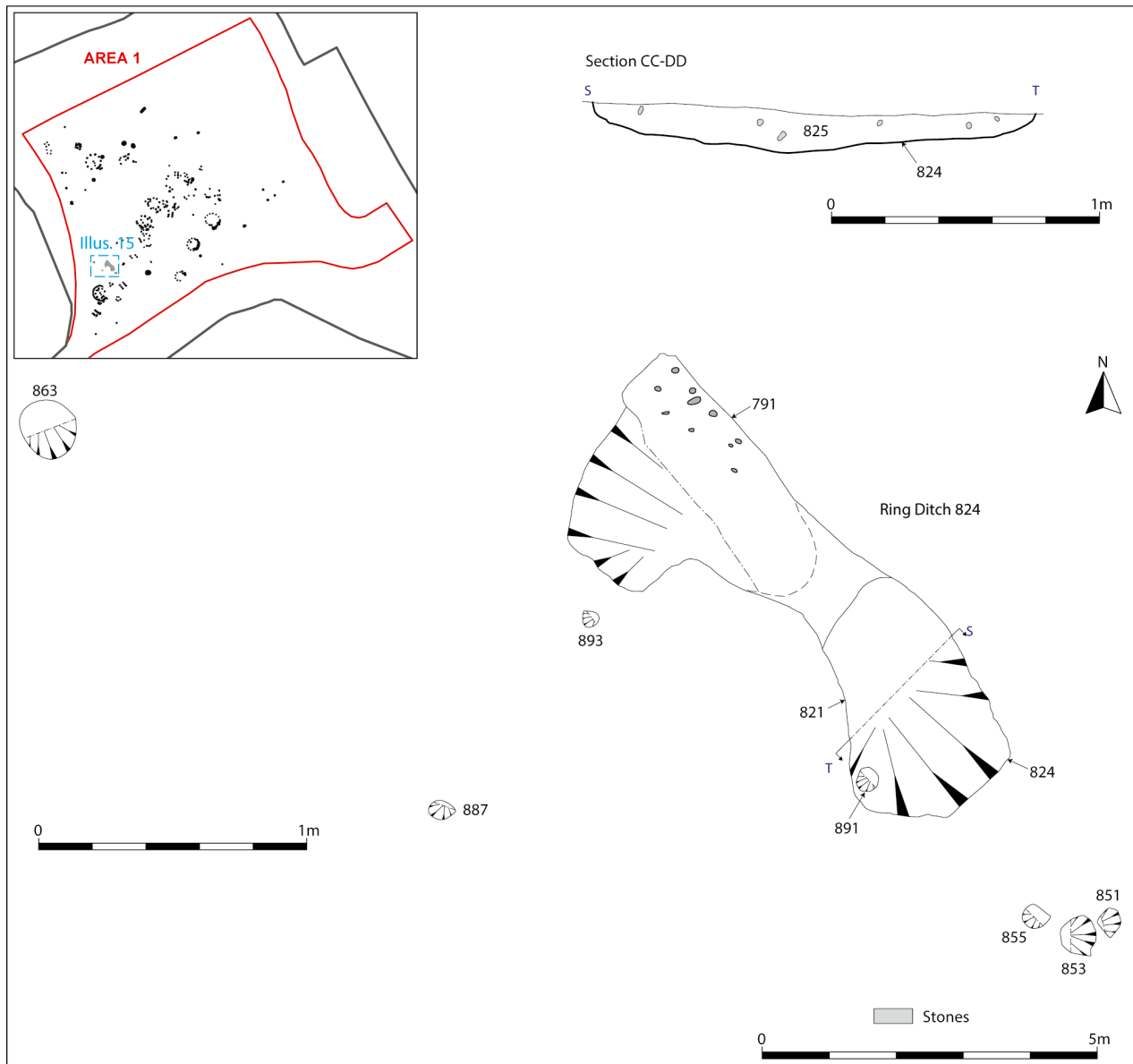
Four-post Structure 1 consisted of Post Holes 007, 014, 016 and 018 and measured *c* 2.5m south-east

to north-west by 2.3m–2.5m south-west to north-east (C016 to 014 and 007 to 018 respectively) (Illus 22). All the post holes had a diameter of *c* 0.4m, with depths ranging between 0.25m and 0.45m. There were no internal features and no finds from this structure apart from traces of degraded hazelnut shell.

4.13 Other features in Area 1

Numerous isolated pits, post holes and groups of pits were identified within Area 1. Detailed plans of these features are available in the site data structure report (Kirby 2019, Figs 2e and 2d). The features were particularly concentrated towards the centre of the area, around Roundhouse 4 and to the north of Roundhouse 1. It is possible that other post-built structures are present in these pit groupings which cannot be readily identified.

The majority of these pits tended to be fairly small and shallow, suggesting that they had been heavily truncated. Three larger pits (C802, 831 and 835) (Illus 16) were identified to the north-east of Roundhouse



Illus 15 Plan and section of Ring Ditch 824

6 and one (C826) immediately to the south of Roundhouse 6. The largest of these (C835) measured 3.2m by 2.84m by 0.8m deep. Another very large pit (C867) was identified approximately mid-way between Six-post Structure 1 and Roundhouse 2. This pit measured 3.6m by 3.17m by 0.63m. A linear feature (C214) measuring 10.88m WSW to NNE by up to 0.52m wide by up to 0.15m deep was identified to the north-east of Ring Ditch 824, and evidence of in situ burning was identified within a number of pits throughout the area. Although some of the pits and post holes do appear to align with one another, none of these pit groupings displayed any clear evidence of having been structural remains.

A number of finds were recovered from pits within this area. Iron slag indicating possible metalworking was recovered from Pits 234 and 260 to the north of Roundhouse 1, both dating to the early medieval period, and Pit 260 also contained rye, hulled barley and oat: radiocarbon dates from Pit 234 were 770–1000 cal AD (95% probability; 1121±26 BP SUERC-100342, 1189±26 BP SUERC-100343) while grain from Pit 260 was 770–1000 cal AD (95% probability; 1140±24 BP SUERC-99180, 1111±22 BP SUERC-99181).

Later prehistoric pottery was recovered from Pits 028, 038, 170, 230, 271, 338, 380, 626, 636, 639 and 643. Pairs of radiocarbon dates from Pit 271 and



Illus 16 Pit 831, south-west-facing section

Pit 380 all dated to the Late Bronze Age (910–810 BC, 95% probability; 2692±22 BP SUERC-99182, 2701±24 BP SUERC-99183, 2706±24 BP SUERC-99184, 2697±26 BP SUERC-99871). Charred remains included oak charcoal, naked and hulled barley with spelt chaff in Pit 271 and barley in Pit 380. Possible anvil stones/rests were recovered from Pits 264 and 880, burnt animal bone was recovered from Pit 108, and a perforated cobble was recovered from Pit 399, which cut Pit 384.

Two additional features which contained no finds were dated during post-excavation analysis. A post hole (C273) from the cluster of features immediately north-east of Roundhouse 4 was radiocarbon dated to 780–480 cal BC (95% probability, 2501±26 BP SUERC-100347, 2481±26 BP SUERC-100348), and a small round pit (C649) was dated to 790–470 cal BC (95% probability, 2475±26 BP SUERC-100353, 2522±26 BP SUERC-100357), placing both within the Early Iron Age.