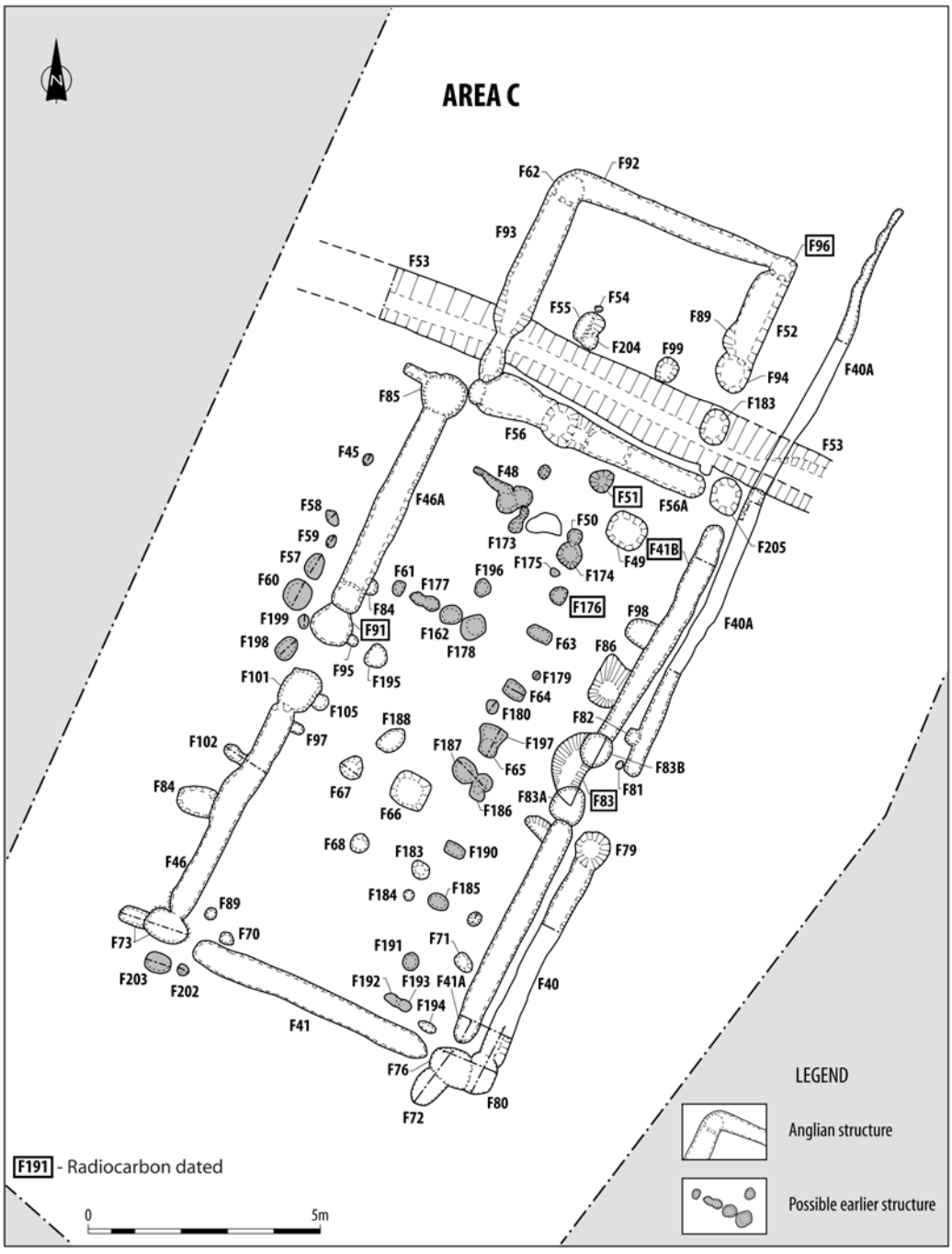
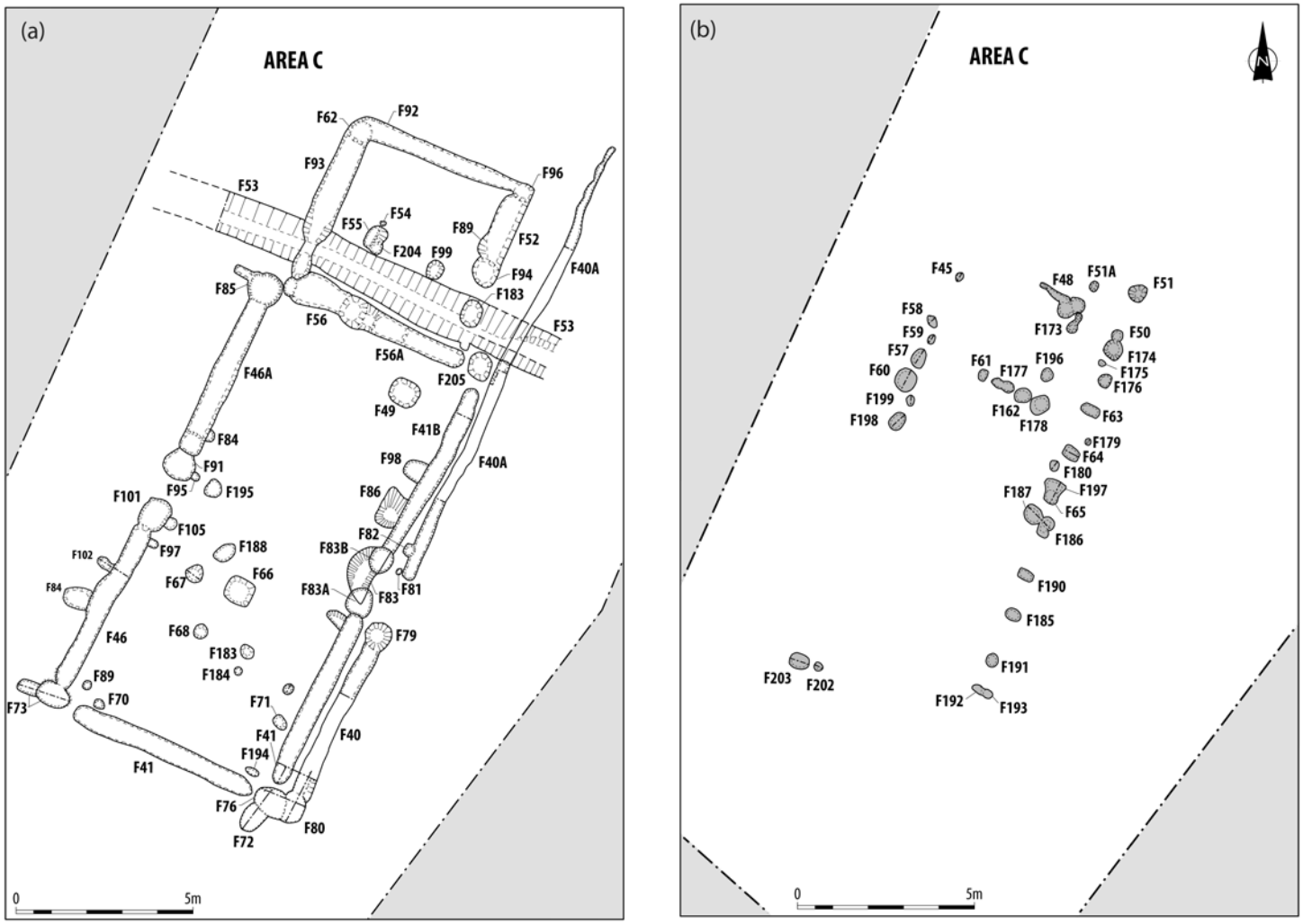
5 EARLY HISTORIC TIMBER HALLS (Area C)

5.1 Introduction

The Anglian hall (illus 18–22) was situated on low-lying ground immediately to the north-west of the small knoll with the Bronze Age cemetery at the summit. This area of the field would not have been a particularly prominent one as it was overlooked not only by the knoll, but also by the flat plateau to the north, where the Neolithic structure was situated, and by rising ground to the south and west. The hall was orientated approximately NNE to SSW and was defined by massive post-holes and construction trenches. Two parallel lines of post-holes were also identified, one cutting across the interior of the



Illus 18 Plan of Area C: Anglian hall and earlier structure

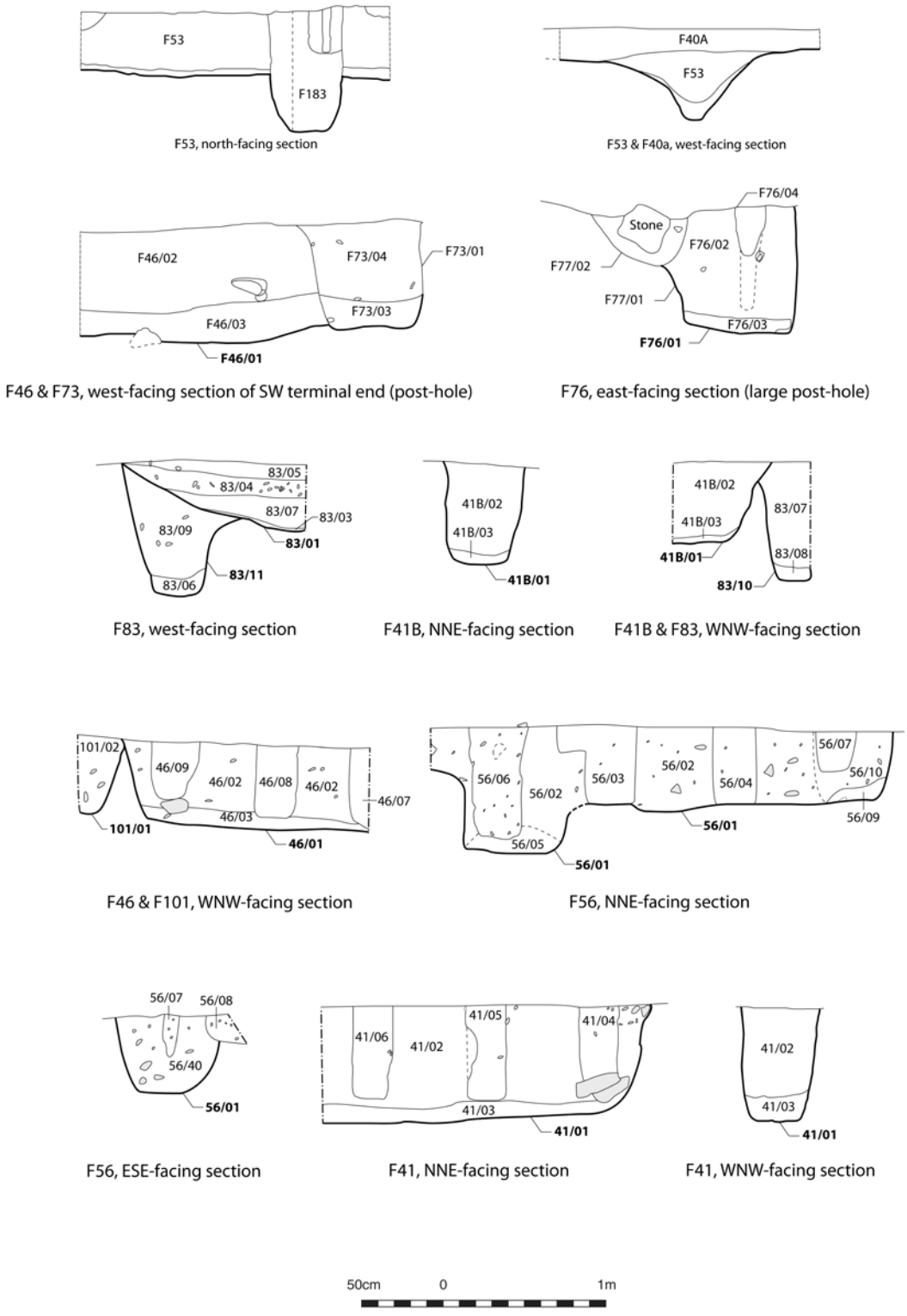


Illus 19 Separated plans of the Anglian hall and earlier structure

Illus 20 Anglian hall and earlier structure from north

Illus 21 Anglian hall and earlier structure from east

Anglian hall and the other just outwith the line of its western wall. Although broadly on the same alignment, the lines of post-holes ran at a slight angle to the Anglian hall, suggesting that they may have been a separate and unrelated structure of a similar scale. All the features associated with these timber halls were 100% excavated and 130 samples, giving a good spatial spread across the structures, were taken for the retrieval of archaeobotanical evidence. Although a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the Anglian hall, the weight of evidence provided by the radiocarbon dates and the typology of the principal structure are sufficient to dismiss the possibility that this was a Roman building and the sherd is likely to have been residual. Torwood Roman Camp (NY18SW 11.00) is



Illus 22 Anglian hall, selected sections of post-holes and construction trenches

situated *c* 1km to the west of Lockerbie Academy, indicating Roman influence within the area.

5.2 Anglian hall

The Anglian hall (illus 19.1) measured 19m NNE to SSW by 7m overall and comprised a main structure with a single small annex to the north. The main structure was rectangular in plan, measuring 14m NNE to SSW by 7m and the annex, which was almost square, measured 5m NNE to SSW by 5.5m. Apart from a single sherd of possible Roman pottery identified within construction trench F40, no artefacts were recovered from this structure and its interpretation as a hall of Anglian type is

based on a combination of its radiocarbon dates and known comparable examples from elsewhere in the country.

The walls of the main hall were defined by four large corner post-holes (F73, F76, F85 and F205), linked by construction trenches (F41, F41A, F41B, F46, F46A, F56 and F56A). The corner post-holes were all *c* 0.8m in diameter and survived to a depth of *c* 0.65m. One possible post-pipe measuring 0.2m in diameter was identified in post-hole F76. Additional slots projecting outwards from post-holes F73, F76 and F85 could represent the foundations of close-set buttresses (illus 22).

The construction trenches defining the walls of the structure typically measured *c* 0.5m wide by 0.75m deep and had sides that were vertical. The southern wall and the northern wall were defined by single construction trenches running between the corner posts, but the construction trenches defining the longer western and eastern walls were in two sections, divided by centrally located entranceways. Several post-pipes were identified within the construction trenches, indicating that they had once held timber uprights. The vertical nature of the sides of the construction trenches suggests that they were backfilled as soon as the uprights had been inserted. Typically, the post-pipes measured *c* 0.25–0.3m in diameter by 0.5m in depth and were located 0.45m apart. However, others appeared more sub-rectangular in shape, measuring *c* 0.2m by 0.3m. Overall, the number of post-pipes identified was low, possibly suggesting that they had been pulled out after the abandonment of the structure and either used elsewhere or burnt as firewood.

The two entranceways were centrally located along either side of the main axis of the building and were positioned directly opposite each other. The western entrance was defined by post-holes F91 and F101 (illus 22), which were *c* 0.9m in diameter by 0.5m deep and were situated *c* 0.7m apart. Four small post-holes (F84, F95, F97 and F105), two on either side of the doorway along the inner face of the wall, suggest that there may have been some kind of inner framework embellishing the doorway.

The eastern entranceway was defined by post-holes F83A and F83B, which measured 0.7m in diameter by 0.75m deep and were situated 0.5m apart (illus 22). Both post-holes had been cut by pit F83, which appears to have been inserted at a later date, possibly after the entranceway had gone out of use. Pit F83 measured *c* 2m north to south by 0.8m east to west and had a depth of 0.4m. The lower fill of the pit contained a large quantity of burnt daub with wattle impressions.

A shallow linear feature (F40, F40A) measuring *c* 0.6m wide by 0.25m deep was identified running parallel with the eastern edge of the building. This feature was divided into two sections, with a gap of *c* 1.3m directly opposite the entranceway in the eastern wall. This may have been a drainage gully, designed to channel away water from the roof of the structure.

The remains of the annex abutted the northern end of the main structure and were defined by three conjoined construction trenches (F52, F92 and F93). The construction trench that defined the northern wall of the annex (F92) measured 0.55m in depth by 0.5m in width and those defining the eastern (F52) and western (F93) walls were wider and shallower, with a depth of 0.3m and a width of 0.7m. Post-holes (F62 and F96) with a diameter of *c* 0.5m and a depth of 0.55m were located at the north-west and north-east corners and a further two post-holes (F94 and F183) defined a possible entranceway set within the eastern wall. These post-holes measured 0.6m in diameter by *c* 0.7m deep and were situated 0.4m apart. A possible internal division on an east to west axis is represented by post-holes F55/F204 and F99. A flint chip was recovered from post-hole F55 (G Warren in archive).

5.2.1 Phasing of the hall, annex and V-shaped ditch

A large ditch (F53; illus 22) identified running parallel with the northern wall of the main hall at a distance of *c* 0.2m might indicate that the main hall was constructed first and that the annex was added at a later date. This ditch had a V-shaped profile with a width of *c* 1.3m and a depth of *c* 0.55m. The fact that the ditch appeared to respect the northern wall of the main structure suggests that the main hall and ditch may have been contemporary. However, two of the features (F93 and F183) associated with the annex were cut into the ditch fill, indicating that the annex post-dated the deliberate back filling of the ditch. The case for the main hall pre-dating the annex appears to be supported by construction trench F93 cutting construction trench F56, but the degree of overlap between these two features was too small for the relationship to be determined with any great degree of certainty. Possible drip gully F40A also cut the fill of the ditch (illus 22) suggesting that it may have been a later addition. The scope of the mitigation measures did not allow the full extent of the ditch to be determined, but it is possible that it may have been an enclosure such as that identified at Doon Hill. Radiocarbon dates obtained for both parts of the structure were inconclusive in relation to determining the phasing as they indicated them to be broadly contemporary.

5.3 Post-built structure

The ground plan of the possible post-built structure (illus 19.2) was very hard to decipher from the surviving remains, but a straight line from NNE to SSW could be drawn between post-holes F51, F50, F174, F175, F176, F63, F179, F64, F180, F197, F65, F186/F187, F190, F185, F191 and F192/F193, possibly representing a 12m length of the alignment of the eastern wall. This post alignment

was set at a slight angle to that of the Anglian hall and consequently it was considered unlikely to represent an associated internal feature. A further line of post-holes (F45, F58, F59, F57, F60, F199, F198 and F203) running parallel with the first at a distance of *c* 5m is likely to represent the alignment of the western wall. Post-holes F84 and F102 might also have been part of this wall, although they were slightly out of alignment with the others. There was no clear evidence of the southern and northern walls, although these might be represented by post-holes F202 (south) and F51A (north). Attached to the western wall was a possible internal division represented by post-holes F61, F177, F162, F178, F196, F173 and F48. The possible internal division was almost square in plan, measuring *c* 3.5m by *c* 3m. The largest of the post-holes forming the post-built structure measured up to 0.8m in diameter, but the majority survived to a depth of less than 0.2m indicating that they had been heavily truncated.

5.4 Internal features

A number of apparently random features (F49, F66, F67, F68, F70, F71, F89, F161, F162, F175, F177, F178, F179, F180, F183, F184, F187, F188, F193, F194 and F195) were identified within the footprint of the Anglian hall. These all consisted of small pits or post-holes. Pits F49 and F66 were very similar in size and shape, being sub-square with a measurement of *c* 0.7m across, and both had a charcoal-rich fill containing burnt bone. Given the position of pit F66 along the north–south central axis of the Anglian hall, it is probable that it was a hearth and pit F49 may have served the same function. It is unclear whether the remaining features were associated with the Anglian hall or the post-built structure. Features F86, F98 (eastern side), F97 and F84 (western side) cut the main construction trenches and might represent internal buttressing that was inserted at a later date.

5.5 Radiocarbon dates

Three paired samples and four single samples were submitted for dating (Table 8). The three paired samples were charred barley and the single samples were birch charcoal (2), hazel charcoal (1) and willow charcoal (1). Three samples came from post-holes thought to be associated with the earlier post-defined structure and seven samples came from the Anglian hall. An earliest date of 430–620 cal AD (2σ) was obtained from F96, which was associated with the Anglian hall annex. This early date for the annex is at odds with the phasing of the site, which suggests that the annex is the latest feature, and can be explained by problems relating to the accuracy of radiocarbon dates from this period. The dates for the post-defined structure and the Anglian hall are broadly contemporary, suggesting the destruction of the former immediately prior to the construction of the latter.

5.6 Roman pottery, by R M McBride

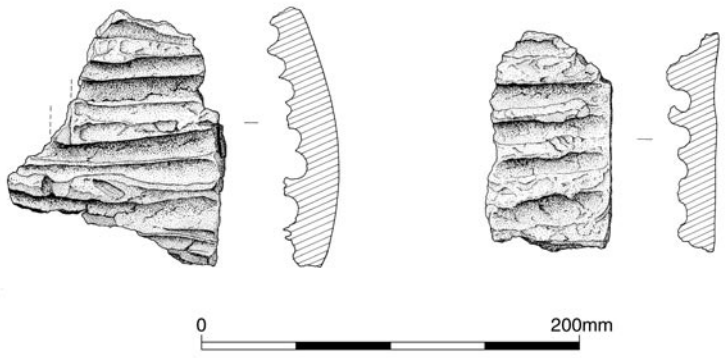
F40/02 produced a single curved, flange fragment from a bowl, probably a mortarium. The sherd is made in a gritty orange fabric, with common quartz and occasional rounded sandstone inclusions and is likely to have been of local or regional manufacture. Acidic conditions in the soil have detrimentally affected the surface of the sherd. The profile is too small to form any firm conclusions, but the fabric is consistent with mortaria from the north-west of England, dating from the late first century, when local production replaced the dwindling imports from Verulamium and France, into the 2nd century.

5.7 Fired clay, by Sue Anderson

A very large quantity of fired clay, 1631 pieces weighing 19,621g, was recovered. The majority of this (1375 fragments, 17,400g) came from pit

Table 8 Radiocarbon dates for the post-built and Anglian structures

Lab No.	Context	Type	Species	Date BP	Calibrated 1σ AD	Calibrated 2σ AD
19265	F51/02	Charred grain	Barley	1410±30	610–655	590–670
19266	F51/02	Charred grain	Barley	1390±30	620–665	600–675
19267	F91/04	Charred grain	Barley	1400±30	620–660	595–670
19268	F91/04	Charred grain	Barley	1425±30	605–650	575–660
19269	F41B/04	Charred grain	Barley	1490±30	545–605	460–650
19270	F41B/04	Charred grain	Barley	1430±30	605–650	570–660
19810	F176/02	Charcoal	*Salix* sp.	1455±35	580–645	550–660
19811	F96/02	Charcoal	*Corylus* sp.	1520±35	440–600	430–620
19812	F91/05	Charcoal	*Betula* sp.	1495±35	540–610	430–650
19813	F83/02	Charcoal	*Betula* sp.	1450±35	580–645	550–660



Illus 23 Fired clay

F83, which cut the post-holes forming the eastern entrance of the Anglian structure.

All fragments were in a uniform fabric comprising a fine, soft matrix with small voids, which probably represent a filler such as grass. Most fragments were buff to orange in colour, but fragments which had been exposed to greater heat were dense and reduced to a dark grey. Fragments like these were occasionally vitrified or warped.

Although many pieces were small and abraded, several more complete fragments were present, allowing the character of the material to be reconstructed. The majority of fragments had one smoothed surface, generally flat, and an underside with impressions of woven withies and staves. The withies were made of roundwood stems, most likely hazel (although a fragment recovered from F83 for radiocarbon dating was identified as birch (Table 6)), and varied in diameter between 10mm and 16mm. Occasional impressions of cleft, squared laths were also found interspersed with the withies. Upright staves generally appeared to be roundwood of slightly greater diameter (18–20mm being most common). No pieces were large enough to include the impressions of two staves, so the distance between these is unknown, but one fragment with a single upright was 118mm long from the edge of the stave, suggesting a gap of at least this size. One fragment had a stave running parallel at 75mm from the panel edge. Potentially the remains of burnt oak (Hastie below) recovered along with the daub could represent the remains of the staves.

Several panel edge fragments were recovered, all of which had withy impressions running at right-angles to the edge (illus 23), suggesting that they were pressed against vertical timbers. In general the daub had been applied to the wattle framework up to a thickness of *c* 10mm, although one fragment was 25mm thick. Edge fragments were sometimes thicker where they had been pressed against the timber, presumably to ensure a tight fit here, since the clay might be expected to shrink slightly as it dried. There is a possibility that some timbers may have been slightly chamfered.

The smoothed surfaces of the daub had been finished off with a thin layer of finer clay, usually around 1–1.5mm thick. In many cases this layer was grey, suggesting that it had been fired in a reducing atmosphere and was therefore probably internal. Some fragments showed evidence of thicker layers of clay externally, possibly representing repairs to eroded surfaces. Some of these showed signs of cracking and shrinkage due to burning.

Whilst most surfaces were approximately flat, suggesting that they came from a square-framed structure, there were a few examples with slight concavities, and one example in particular was noticeably convex (illus 23). It is possible that this shape was a result of warping due to firing as the piece was relatively highly fired. Whilst convex pieces could have been used in the formation of an oven dome or similar structure, this fragment was an edge piece and is therefore more likely to have formed part of a square panel than a rounded structure.

Whilst there is no definite evidence for the use of wattle and daub infill in the main construction of high-status timber buildings during the Anglian period, daub has been recovered from contemporary sites. At the large rural Middle Saxon settlement at Brandon, Suffolk (Anderson forthcoming), large quantities of daub were thought to be related to later (post 10th-century) structures on the site, but fragments were occasionally recovered from features which suggested the material was more likely to have been used in internal partitions. Certainly there is more evidence for wattle and daub construction in urban centres such as Anglian York (Lane 2005) and Middle Saxon London (Cowie & Whytehead 1989), where lower status and industrial buildings were less likely to be built entirely of timber and there were readily available sources of clay.

Charcoal recovered from amongst the daub suggests that the material belongs to the Anglian period. Distribution on the site is largely confined to features close to pit F83, from which the majority of the material was recovered. Features which formed part of the structure of the Anglian building produced small quantities, particularly the two post-holes either side of F83, and the slot trenches and associated features to the south (F41A, F40, F90). Another large pit, F86, to the north of F83 contained

Table 9 Anglian hall: summary of carbonised cereal remains by feature type

		Structure	Early structure	Annex	Main building							
		Feature type	PH	WP	CT	CP	DG	EE	PIT	PH	UPF	HP	WE
Wild taxa	*Plant part*	*Common name*											
Corylus avellana	nutshell	hazel				+	+						
Polygonum sp.	nutlet	persicaria								1		3	
Potentilla sp.	seed	cinquefoil			1								
Calluna vulgaris	florets / buds	heather/ling			++	++			++				
Bromus / Lolium	caryopsis	brome/rye-grass										1	
Carex sp.	achene	sedge						2					
cf. *Carex* sp.		sedge			1								
Indeterminate	seed	indeterminate	1		1								
		Rhizomes	+		+								
Cereal grain													
cf. *Triticum* sp.	caryopsis	wheat	1										
Hordeum sp.	caryopsis	barley	14		2			6	18	7		4	7
cf. *Hordeum* sp.	caryopsis	barley			2			1	1	1			
Hordeum hulled	caryopsis	hulled barley	3						14	7		11	
Hordeum naked (TW)	caryopsis	naked barley						1					
Avena sp.	caryopsis	oat			1	1			7	1	1		
Cereal indet	caryopsis	indeterminate		1	5	1			1	3		3	

Key: PH = post-hole, WP = wall posts, CT = construction trenches, CP = corner posts, DG = drainage gullies, EE = eastern entrance, PIT = pits, UPF = unphased features, HP = hearth pit, WE = western entrance; + = rare, ++ = occasional

125 fragments; this feature cut slot trench F41B. Small fragments were also collected from F39, F49, F55 and F87. This may indicate that the material was deposited during the demolition of the Phase 2 structure. However, its origin remains a mystery as there is no evidence that the structure burnt down.

5.8 Slag, by Dawn McLaren

Two fragments of non-magnetic vitrified material were recovered: one a small nodule of fuel ash slag from a post-hole (F197, 0.5g), the other a heavily vitrified amalgam of earth, sand, gravel and distorted clay fragments (F87, 834g). This came from the fill of a possible pit cutting the Anglian structure and may be related to the fired clay also recovered from this feature.

5.9 Bone, by Sue Anderson

Fragments of heavily calcined bone, with a total weight of 7.9g, were recovered from three features (F48, F49 and F83), two in association with burnt daub which may represent material which was accidentally burnt at the same time. Fragments were too small to identify to species, although one piece was probably bird and there were pieces of a large mammal.

5.10 Charred plant remains, by Mhairi Hastie

5.10.1 Composition of plant remains

One hundred and thirty samples were retained from deposits associated with an Anglian timber hall and a possible earlier structure. Of these, 110 samples were processed for the retrieval of palaeobotanical remains and artefacts. No floor surfaces survived, and all the plant remains recovered were from negative features, primarily post-holes and construction trenches.

Thirty-four samples contained very small quantities of carbonised cereal remains (summary, Table 9). Samples generally contained no more than five grains per sample, the majority of which were much abraded, indicating that the material is likely to be intrusive and does not relate to the original function of the feature from which they were recovered. Increased numbers of cereal grains were recovered from the fill of a pit (F86) and a hearth (F66). Barley was the most common cereal grain recovered from the cereal assemblages, a few grains of which were identified as the hulled variety. One grain of naked

barley was recovered from the fill of a pit (F83) located at the east entrance to the hall. One possible grain of wheat was present in the fill of a post-hole (F180) associated with a structure that is believed to pre-date the Anglian hall. Preservation of the wheat grain was poor and it could not be identified to species level.

The wild taxa recovered from this area were very sparse. Poorly preserved remains of knotgrass (*Polygonum* sp.), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), brome/rye-grass (*Bromus/Lolium* sp.) heather florest/buds (*Calluna/Ling* sp.) and sedge (*Carex* sp.) were recovered along with the cereal grain.

Charcoal was recovered from the majority of samples. Thirty-four samples contained sufficiently large fragments of charcoal for species identification (4mm or greater). The wood assemblage consisted of a mixture of species including oak (*Quercus* sp.), alder (*Alnus* sp.), birch (*Betula* sp.) and heather (*Calluna* sp.). A high concentration of well preserved burnt oak timber was recovered along with fragments of wattle from the fill of a pit (F83) situated at the eastern entrance.

5.10.2 Cereal processing

Very little pertinent evidence is known for the Early Historic period in north Britain. This is to a large degree a reflection of the small number of settlements attributable to this span that have been excavated over the years. Smith (1991) does, however, argue that the lack of archaeobotanical remains from such sites may be the result of general house-keeping, with domestic refuse swept from buildings on a regular basis and carted away either to be spread on fields or deposited in rubbish pits and middens.

Where botanical remains have been identified – for instance Easter Kinnear (Driscoll 1997), Whithorn (Hill 1996), Hoddom (Holden 2006), Buiston (Holden & Boardman 2000), Edinburgh Castle (Boardman 1997), and Ballingarry Down, Liher and Lisleagh (Monk 1990) – they indicate that barley was the main cultivated crop along with smaller amounts of oats, bread/club wheat and rye. The cereal assemblage recovered from Lockerbie, comprising hulled barley with occasional grains of oat and wheat, therefore fits within an established pattern.

Given the low frequency of plant material recovered from the structures, any context-related variations are difficult to interpret, although slightly more cereal remains were recovered from a firepit (F66) located towards the centre of the southern end of the hall. The presence of grain within the firepit may suggest that corn processing was being carried out near to the fire. Grain accidentally burnt during such drying activities would have found its way into many different features through sweeping and trampling of hearth ash throughout the building. Similar spreads of material have been identified from settlement sites from the Bronze Age to the medieval period, and are probably a result of continual drying and processing of corn on a day-to-day basis.

5.10.3 Exploitation of local woodland

Small roundwood and amorphous fragments of alder, birch and heather were present throughout pits, post-holes and beam-slots of both the Anglian hall and possible earlier structure. The charcoal assemblage is very similar in composition to other sites of this period, including Easter Kinnear (Driscoll 1997) and Whithorn (Hill 1996). All species present would have been locally available. Alder and willow could have been collected from wet areas close to the Dryfe Water and River Annan while the other species probably derived from local deciduous woodland.

Large quantities of oak charcoal were recovered from five deposits, F78, F83, F87, F100, F180, the highest concentration of oak being present in the fill of pit F83, located next to the eastern entrance of the hall. In this case, fragments of oak timbers and wattle were recovered together. Large quantities of burnt silicate were also present suggesting that the material in the pit had been subjected to high temperatures and burnt in situ. This pit is believed to post-date the eastern entrance and it has been suggested above that the feature was a demolition pit used to dispose of waste material from a phase of replacement of this entrance. Certainly this explanation would correspond with the large quantities of oak timber and wattle recovered from this feature, and the high concentration of silicate suggests that the timber and wattle were dumped into the pit and then deliberately set alight. However, the presence of large quantities of daub, already fragmented (and therefore 'fired') when it went into the pit, would appear to refute this evidence (S Anderson pers comm).

5.11 Discussion of the Anglian hall and earlier structure

Features that are thought to be typical of Anglian or Anglo-Saxon buildings include doors in the middle of the long sides, weak corners, annexes and internal partitions (Marshall & Marshall 1991). Other features often encountered include post or plank-in-trench construction and buttressed corners. The example excavated at Lockerbie Academy appears to have been fairly typical. It had opposing entranceways positioned in the long sides of the main structure and a small annex abutting the northern end. There was no evidence of weak corners (corners that cut across diagonally rather than the walls meeting each other at right angles, often defined by two diagonally positioned post-holes), with the corners being defined by four large post-holes with evidence of buttressing placed close in against them. The church excavated at Brandon, Suffolk (Carr *et*

al 1988) had single post-holes containing abutting planks that had been placed at right angles to one another, but these post-holes were elongated and cut diagonally across the corners, whereas those at Lockerbie were much more circular and appeared to create a right-angled corner.

The lack of surviving timbers or stains at Lockerbie makes it hard to determine the construction method used, but the size and shape of the post-holes would suggest that the corners were defined by substantial posts rather than abutting planks. The posts were linked by continuous bedding trenches, which had timber uprights set into them. Impressions left by the timber uprights generally appeared to be circular in shape, with a diameter of *c* 0.3m, suggesting post-in-trench rather than plank-in-trench construction. However, some of the post-pipes identified in F41A measured *c* 0.3m long by 0.2m wide, possibly suggesting that a degree of squaring of the timbers had been undertaken. The type of corner identified at Lockerbie Academy is broadly paralleled at Castle Park, Dunbar (Phase 8, Building 3; Perry 2000), which also appeared to have had the same post-in-trench construction method. However, the Dunbar example had been damaged by later phases of construction, making overall comparisons between the two structures difficult. The size of the timber uprights at Lockerbie Academy suggests that they would have made a significant contribution to the structural integrity of the building.

Analysis of data relating to the size of excavated Anglo-Saxon buildings (Marshall & Marshall 1991) suggests that the Lockerbie Academy Anglian hall at 14m × 7m (excluding annex) was at the very top end of the normal building size range. Larger buildings have been identified at Sprouston (up to 28m × 9m; Smith 1991, although Sprouston is known from cropmarks only and has never been excavated) and Yeavering (up to 25.3m × 14.7m; Hope-Taylor 1977), but otherwise, the majority of these structures are not more than the 14m length of the Lockerbie example. The 7m width of the Lockerbie example is also at the top end of the normal range. Sizes seem to have been determined by the availability of timber suitable for use as a single beam that would have had the structural integrity to span the building. When the data relating to the size of Anglo-Saxon buildings was analysed in 1991 (Marshall & Marshall 1991) only five excavated Anglo-Saxon sites had buildings with widths over 7m. These were Yeavering (nine structures), Cowdery's Down (five), Doon Hill (one), Thirlings (two) and Cheddar (one). Marshall & Marshall (1991) have observed that the lengths and widths of the majority of Anglo-Saxon structures are multipliers of 3.5m, while Huggins (1991) has argued the case for them having been laid out using 4.65m rods, giving the Lockerbie example a length of 3 rods and a width of 1.5 rods.

The palaeobotanical evidence from the Lockerbie Academy Anglian hall, combined with the presence of two possible hearths, suggests a possible domestic function, although this should in no way be taken to imply that it was anything along the lines of a large, permanently occupied farmhouse. Alcock (2003) has suggested that Doon Hill A may have been a lesser royal centre, which was visited periodically by the royal court, with the majority of the court perhaps being housed in temporary accommodation. Recently obtained radiocarbon dates now suggest that Doon Hill A is actually Neolithic in date, but Alcock's suggestion might be equally applicable to the later Anglian Doon Hill B. With the Lockerbie Academy Anglian Hall being of similar size to that excavated at Doon Hill, this hypothesis might be equally applicable, with the use of the aforementioned temporary accommodation explaining the lack of any other structures of Anglian date within the vicinity. The lack of any material culture is perhaps also in keeping with periodic occupation, with all possessions possibly being removed when it was not occupied. A rarity of occupation material from the larger halls was also noted by Hope-Taylor (1977) at Yeavering, who suggests that this was as a result of careful sweeping, presumably of wooden floors. Great or royal halls are portrayed in *Beowulf* as places for banqueting and wine-drinking (Alcock 2003), but other probable uses were for holding council and as lordly or kingly residences. Hope-Taylor (1977) has suggested that the annexes such as that identified at Lockerbie may have been sleeping chambers.

Many of the characteristics of the Lockerbie Anglian hall broadly parallel those of Hope-Taylor's 'Yeavering Style IIIA' timber halls (Hope-Taylor 1977). These generally had a 2:1 ratio, were defined by deep construction trenches with evidence of sophisticated up and down wall construction and had entranceways centrally placed on the long sides only. The later Style IIIB halls were broadly the same, but with the addition of doors in the end walls, and the earlier Style II halls had simple palisade-type walls set within a shallow foundation trench. Hope-Taylor has attributed the Type II–IIIAB halls to the reign of Aethelfrith of the Bernician dynasty (AD 593–616), probably to the period AD 605–16. Aethelfrith was the ruler singled out by the venerable Bede for his great successes over the British. It may have been Aethelfrith who destroyed a British army near Catterick *c* AD 600 in a battle described in the early poem *Gododdin*, and his defeat of Aedan MacGabhran of the Dalriada Scots at the Battle of Degsastan (possibly Liddesdale) in AD 603 indicates a northward expansion into what is now south-west Scotland.

The halls with annexes at Yeavering belong to Hope-Taylor's Style IV, which had less substantial walls than the Style IIIAB type. The lighter construction of the walls was compensated for by the placement of large ridge-posts, which meant that the doors in the end walls had to be placed asymmetrically. Hope-Taylor has attributed this style to the reign of Oswald (AD 634–641) and has cited possible Dalriadic/Irish influences resulting from the time

that Oswald spent in exile in Dalriada during the reign of Edwin (AD 616–33).

Hope-Taylor's attempts to relate the chronology of Yeavering to known historical kings have now been called into question. No radiocarbon dates were obtained for the site and the only two datable items recovered were an iron buckle-loop dated to between *c* AD 570–80 and *c* AD 630–40, and a gold-washed copper-alloy copy of a Merovingian coin of the mid–late 7th century (Alcock 2003). The historical evidence relating to Yeavering is also rather patchy, coming from small snippets of information provided by Bede. Based on Hope-Taylor's tenuous chronology for Yeavering, the apparent phasing at Lockerbie Academy does fit in nicely with the postulation that the main hall was constructed in the reign of Aethelfrith during an initial Northumbrian advance into the British-held territories of what is now south-west Scotland, with the annex being a later addition, possibly during the reign of Oswald. However, in reality there is insufficient evidence to be able to tie it down to individual rulers.

The presence of post-built structures on the same site is paralleled at Yeavering (Hope-Taylor 1977), Sprouston (Smith 1991) and Doon Hill (Hope-Taylor 1980). Hope-Taylor (1977) has attributed the post-built Style IA and shallow foundation trench built Style IB to a period predating Anglian influence. However, these were small squat buildings of wattle and daub construction and appear to bear little resemblance to the large post-built structure at Lockerbie Academy. Large post-built structures comparable in size to the major halls of Yeavering Style IIIC were identified at Sprouston, but here the phasing suggests a mid seventh century date (Smith 1991). Smith has suggested that they might represent the visible expression of what is essentially a British vernacular tradition that was more long-lasting at Sprouston than it had been at Yeavering. However, the idea that all Anglian structures were post- or plank-in-trench-built and that all post-built structures belong to a native British tradition is a gross oversimplification of the evidence. Anglian post-built structures are known from Brandon, Suffolk (Carr *et al* 1988) and from Catholme, Staffordshire (Losco-Bradley & Kinsley 2002), raising the possibility that the post-built structure might simply have been an earlier Anglian hall that was replaced due to decay.

Alcock (2003) has given some credence to the idea of the Angles taking over existing British settlements through the suggestion that the important Anglian settlements of Yeavering and Milfield have British-derived names. There has also been some speculation that the great enclosures identified at sites such as Sprouston, Yeavering and Doon Hill may have been derived from palisades erected by the Britons during the Roman and early post-Roman period (Alcock 2003), giving a degree of credibility to the suggestion that the origins of these sites predated the Anglian period. The dates obtained for the Lockerbie Anglian hall would suggest that this structure relates to a period of very early Northumbrian influence in south-west Scotland, possibly suggesting that the earlier post-built structure related to an earlier British tradition, but a very shortlived post-built Anglian Hall is not beyond the bounds of possibility.

Although there is a significant amount of documentary evidence concerning the Northumbrian occupation of south-west Scotland, the archaeological evidence is comparatively sparse, making the discovery of the Lockerbie Academy hall particularly significant. Previous archaeological finds from this period have tended to take the form of items such as sculptures and carved crosses, the best known example being the Ruthwell Cross, which has been dated to the late 7th/early 8th century AD. However, placename evidence suggesting Anglian influence has been documented extending well into Galloway and Carrick (Brooke 1991), and Northumbrian ecclesiastical sites have been excavated at Hoddom (Lowe 2006) and Whithorn (Hill 1996).

Hoddom has long been renowned as a place that has produced a large quantity of Anglo-Saxon sculpture, and work carried out in advance of an area of quarrying led to the discovery and excavation of an ecclesiastical site. Laing (1969) has stated that there were pagan Angles in the Hoddom area about AD 600 and the earliest phase of the Hoddom ecclesiastical site excavated by Lowe was radiocarbon-dated to *c* AD 650, placing it only slightly later than the Lockerbie Academy hall. The structures dating to this earliest phase consisted of two large timber buildings (S6.1 and S10) measuring 16.2m long by 4.6–6.75m wide and 14m long by 6–6.6m wide respectively. Although of similar size to the Lockerbie hall, these structures were both post-built, with post-in-trench construction being notable by its absence (Lowe 2006). There also appears to have been an absence of opposed doorways in the long sides and of the types of annexes identified at Yeavering. Bruce Walker (Lowe 2006, 184) has suggested that the Hoddom structures employed the use of curved principal rafters (ie cruck blades) to form a series of 'Highland' or 'Celtic couples'. Analogies with later Hebridean blackhouses possibly suggest that the Hoddom structures might contain aspects of British architecture, and there was certainly no evidence of the overtly Anglian architecture of the Lockerbie Academy hall. This might be taken to imply that the incoming Northumbrians were adopting aspects of vernacular architecture. A possible post-built Early Historic timber hall measuring *c* 17m by *c* 5.5m was also identified at Kirkconnel (Reynolds 1980), but it is unclear if it was a British or Northumbrian structure. Direct comparisons between the excavated structures at Hoddom and the post-built structure at Lockerbie Academy were not possible, due to the poor survival of the latter.

The implication of the possible retention of aspects of the vernacular architecture is perhaps that although the south-west of Scotland was under Northumbrian political control, the number

of incomers was comparatively small and many vernacular traditions survived even within areas of significant Northumbrian influence. Harding (2004) has suggested that the appearance of Anglian crosses and sculptures and the establishment of monastic settlements represent changes brought about by intermarriage and the conversion of ruling elites, and this argument certainly seems to be supported by the apparent retention of aspects of the vernacular architecture. One possible explanation for the overtly Anglian architecture of Lockerbie on a site that possibly contained a native British hall might be that it was constructed during a time of conflict, when a clearly visible display of Northumbrian dominance was deemed necessary.