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## 6 Conclusions by *Lindsey Collier, Bruce Hobbs, Tim Neighbour and Richard Strachan*

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The programme of fieldwork at Capo Long Barrow has considerably enhanced our knowledge of this monument. Topographical survey, conducted in 1998, has provided the first detailed record of the barrow and its environs. Resistivity survey, carried out in summer 1999, has been successful in revealing key elements of the structure of the barrow, including side revetment walls, a flat frontal façade and possible mortuary structures, confirming that the barrow at Capo is of a similar morphology to the nearby barrow at Dalladies, excavated by Piggott (Piggott 1974).

Topographical survey demonstrated that the barrow was built with its southern side along the edge of a low ridge, presumably to make it appear taller when viewed from the south. The careful placement of barrows in relationship to natural features is commonplace in the Neolithic (Bradley 1993; Lynch 1997; Kinnes 1992).

At most depths the side revetments are clear as high resistivity anomalies (Illus 15, 16 & 17). The revetments at the lower, rear of the barrow can only be seen on the lowest horizontal slice (Illus 16). The resistivity of the material contained by the revetment walls is consistent with interpretation as a similar earth and rubble core to that discovered at Dalladies (Piggott 1974, 27–28 & fig 4). At least some of the breaks which have been recorded in the revetments at (64,28), (56,8) and (36,26) and the frontal façade at (74,24) are likely to be entrances into

mortuary structures within the barrow. The break in the northern side revetment at (64, 28), close to the front of the barrow, is in a similar position to the mortuary structure discovered at Dalladies (Piggott 1974, fig 3). A further convincing mortuary structure, measuring c.8m by 4m has been revealed on the northern side of the barrow, closer to the rear at (36,26). The possibility that a further chamber lies at (20,20) at the rear of the barrow should not be discounted.

The resistivity survey has demonstrated that rabbit burrowing and the roots of the tree stumps that covered the barrow have had little effect on the integrity of the major structural elements of the monument (the revetments and façade). However, it is not possible to assess the more subtle damage, such as mixing of archaeological layers, which may have been caused.

Resistivity imaging at the survey density employed at Capo Long Barrow is time-consuming and would not generally be appropriate if excavation were to be carried out. However, as a management tool and as a means to explore sites that are unavailable for excavation, such as scheduled ancient monuments, it has been demonstrated here to be of considerable value. Area resistivity or gradiometry, as traditionally applied to archaeological sites (Clark 1996), would not have attained the depth penetration that was achieved by resistivity imaging and would have been logistically difficult in the terrain at Capo.