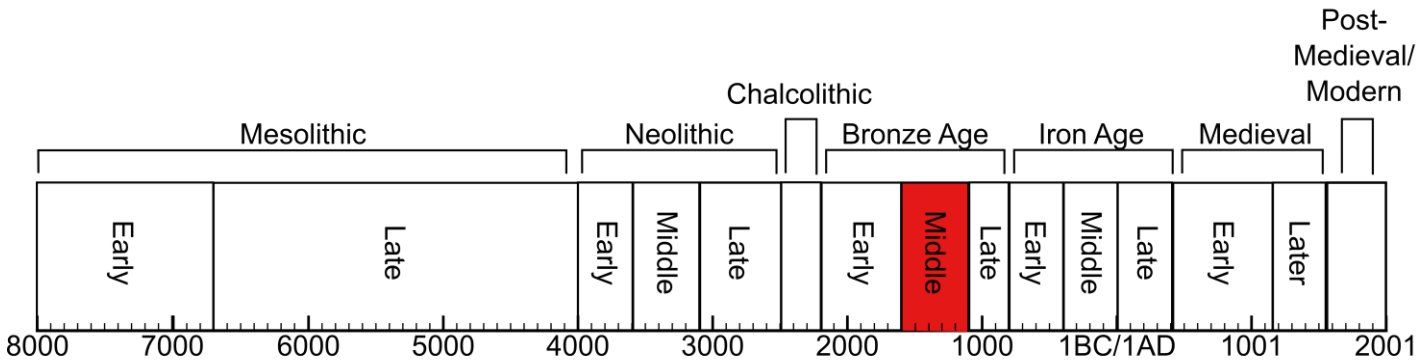
Fiery Death and Memorials on New Frontiers

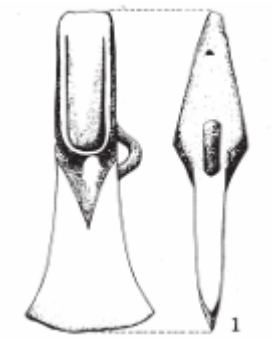
Dr Ben Spillane

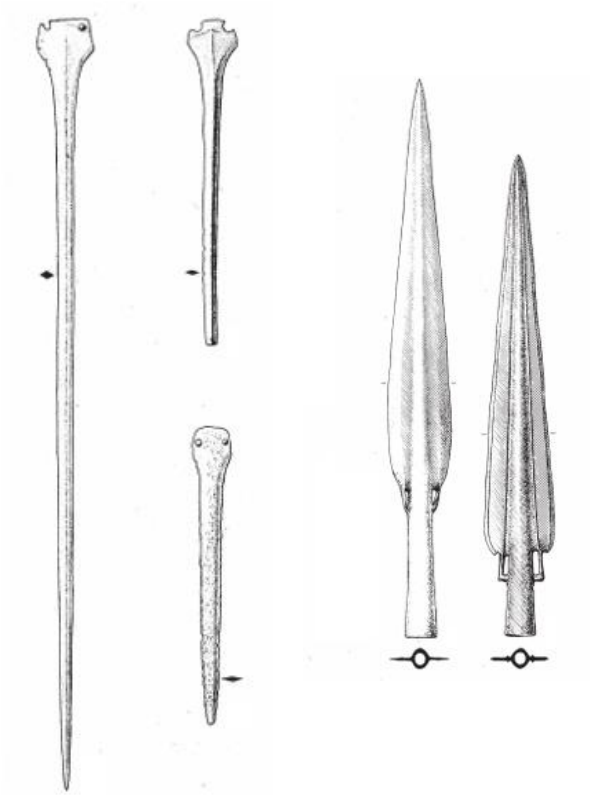
Bonneagar Iompair Éireann
Transport Infrastructure Ireland

RIA

Setting the Scene: Middle Bronze Age Ireland







Bronze palstaves, rapiers and spearheads (Waddell 1998)

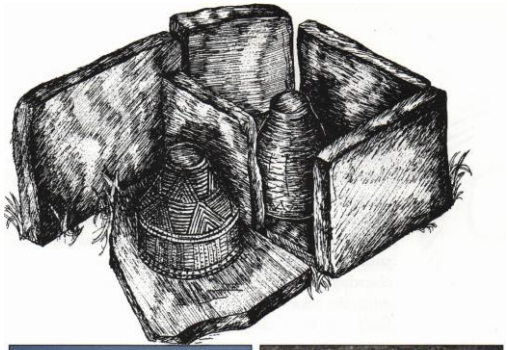
Wexford gold torcs

Enniscorthy (top)

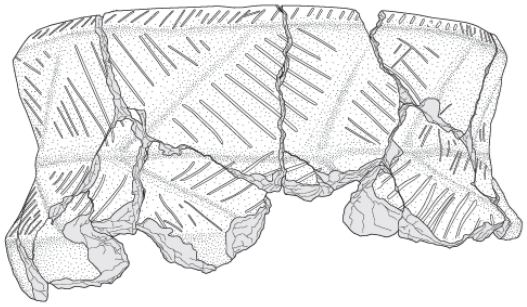
Toberduff (bottom)

© NMI

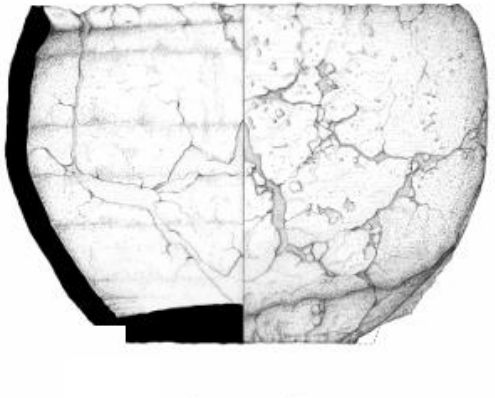
Funerary Practices: From Early Bronze Age Finery to Middle Bronze Age Coarseness and Tokenism



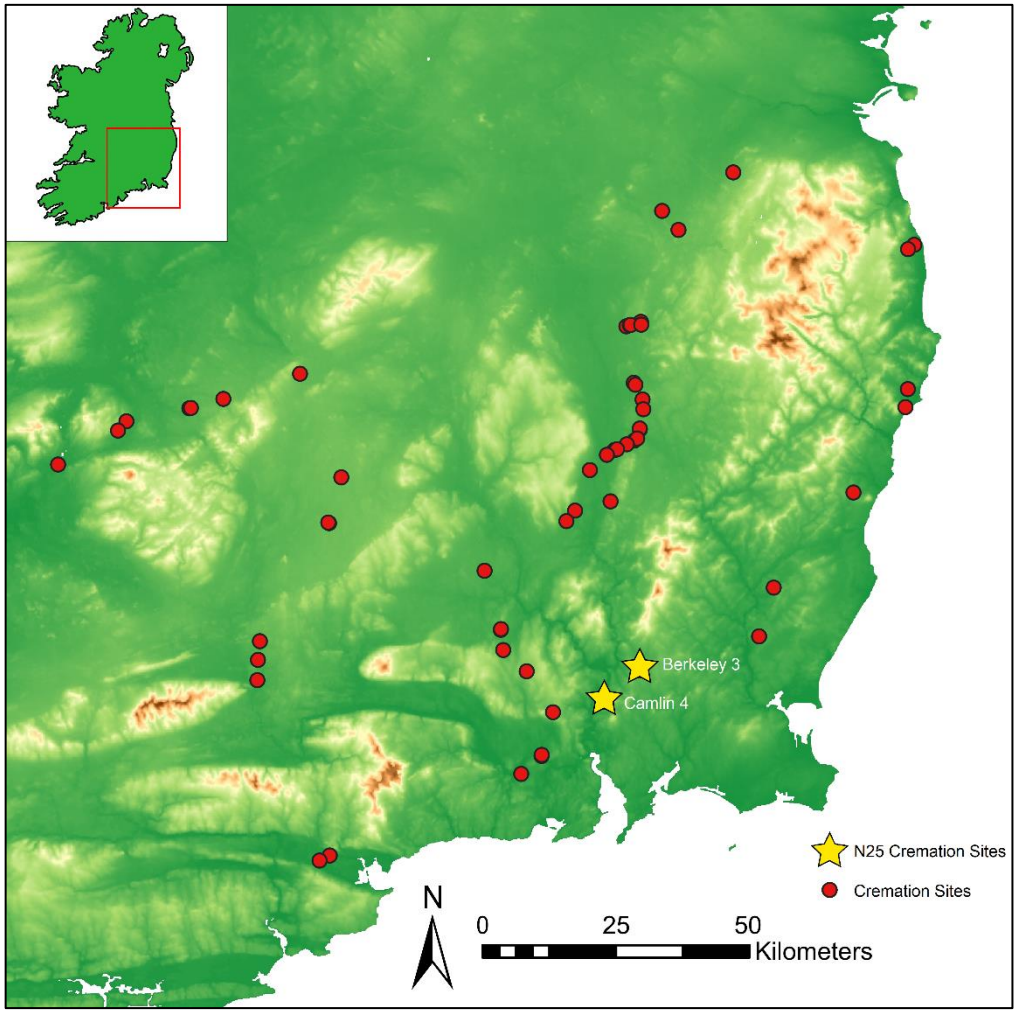
Left: EBA urns and a crouched inhumation (Ryan 1991; Stephens & Hourihan 2014)



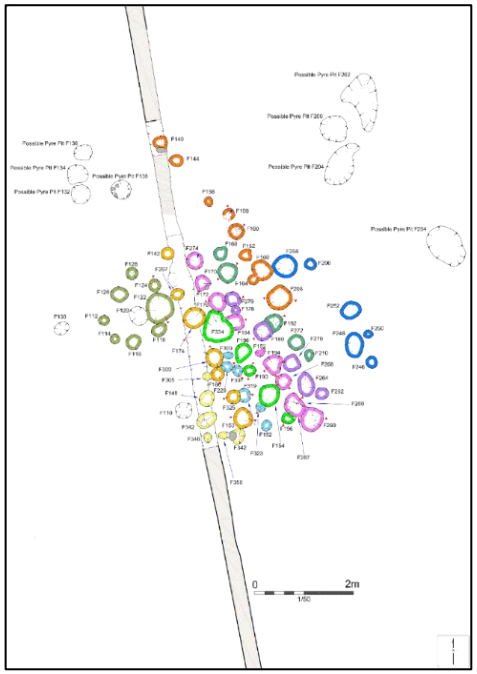
Right: MBA token cremation pits and a coarseware cremation vessel (Doody 2008; Stevens 2011)



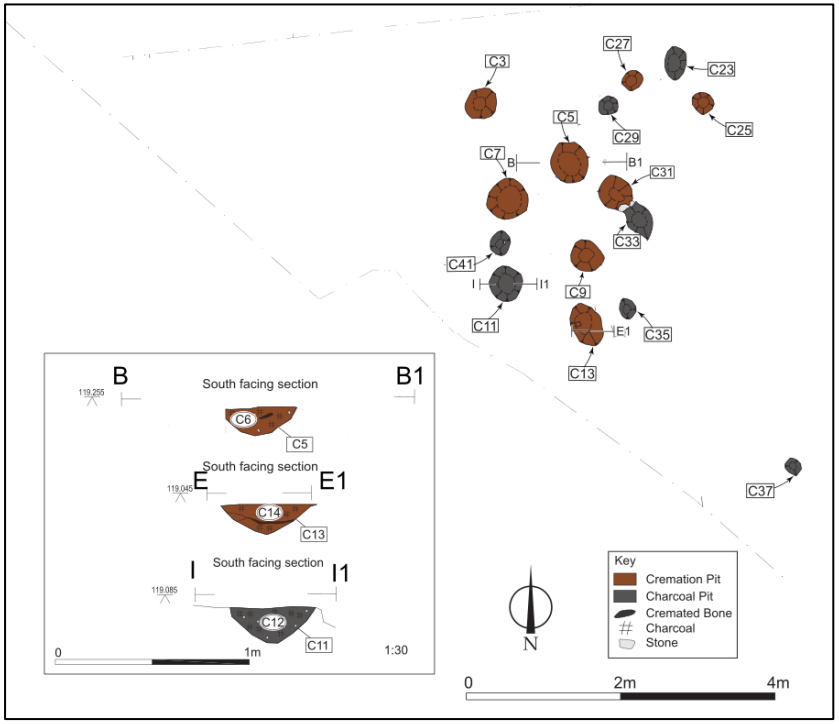
Token Cremation in Middle Bronze Age Ireland



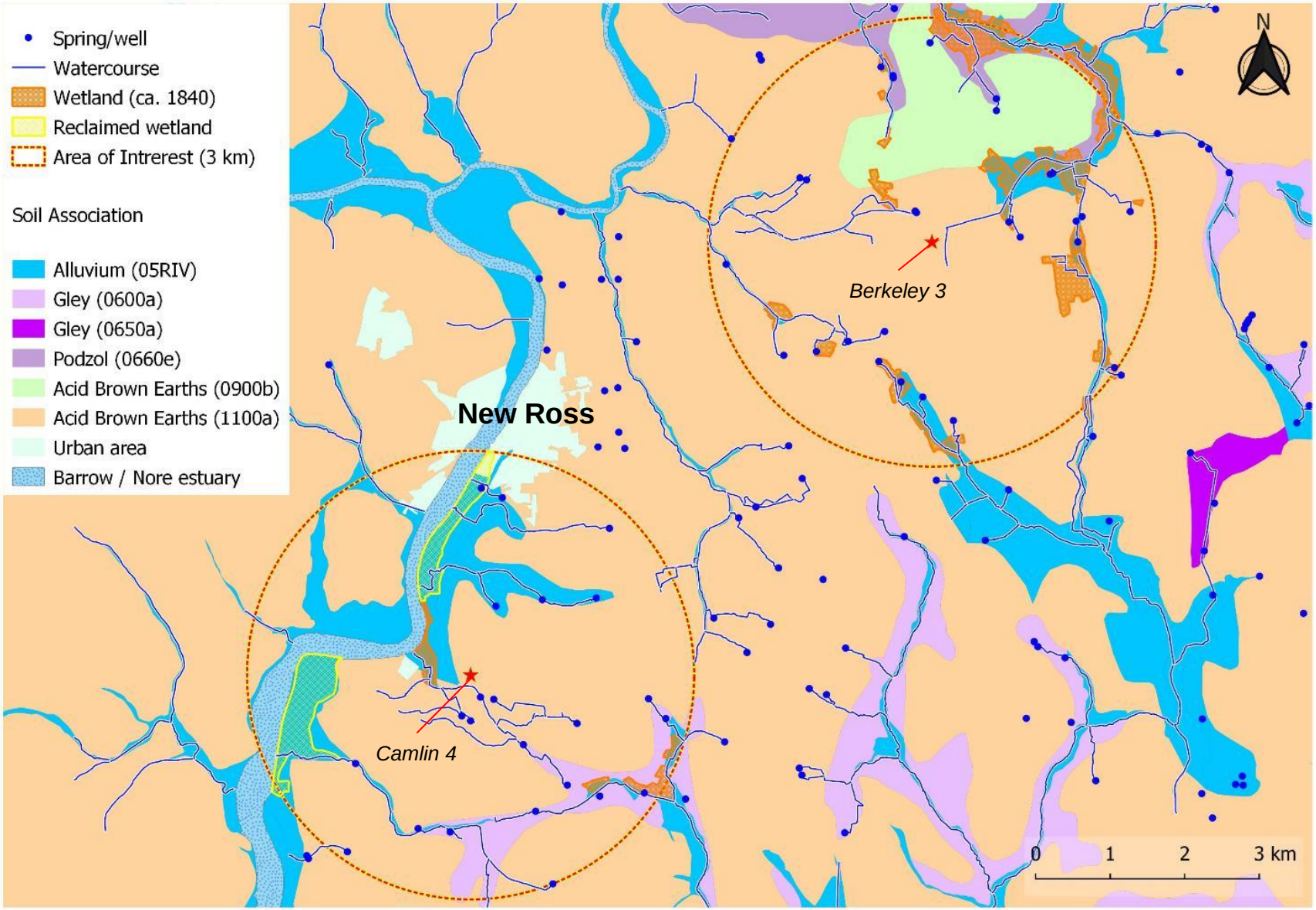
Borris, Co. Tipperary
(Conboy *et al*. 2008)



Templenoe,
Co. Tipperary
(Doody 2008)

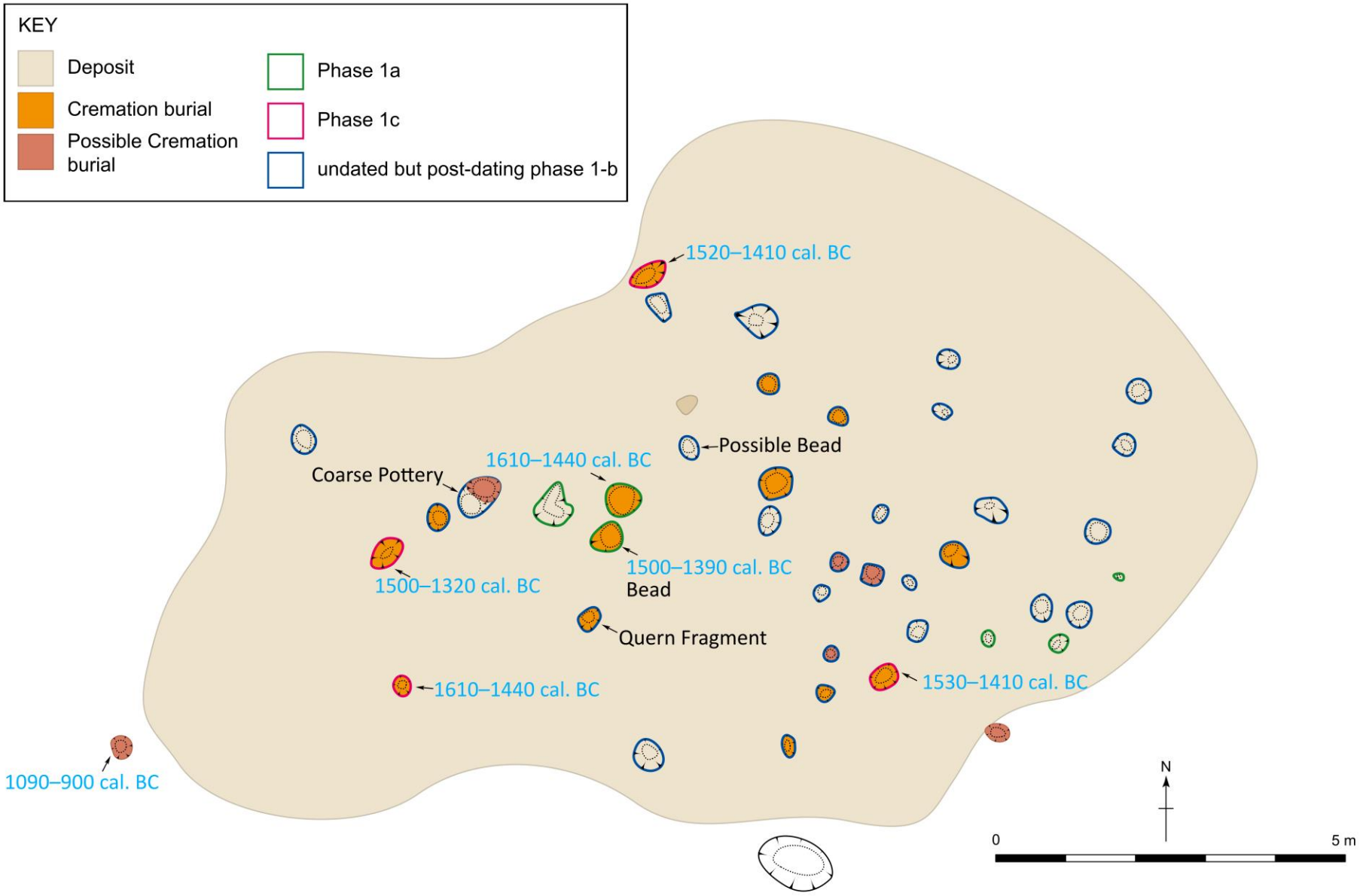


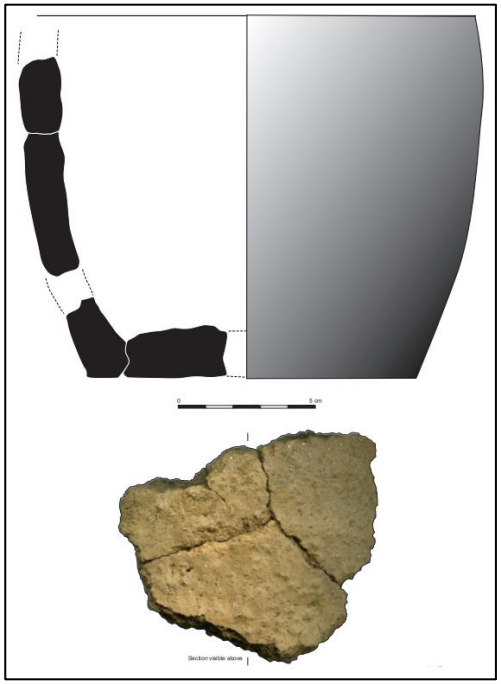
Local Environmental Context: Soils & Drainage

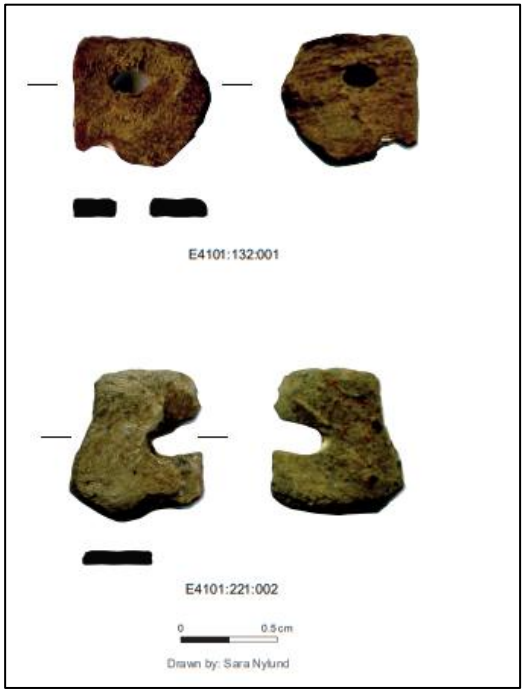


Soils dataset: Irish Soils Information System (EPA); Drainage & wetland datasets: digitised from OS 6-inch 1st edition mapping (surveyed 1838 – 1839)

Camlin 4 (E4101)

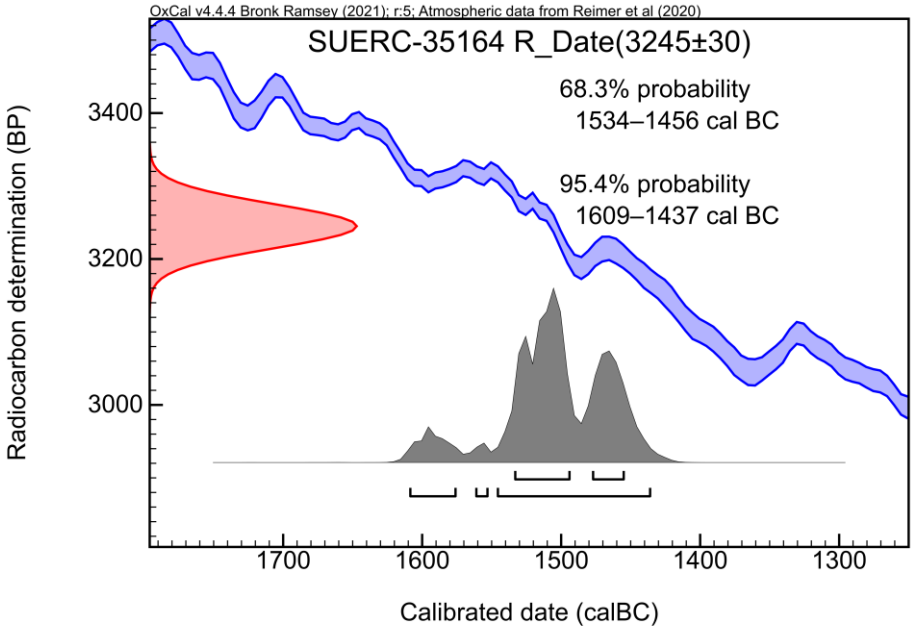


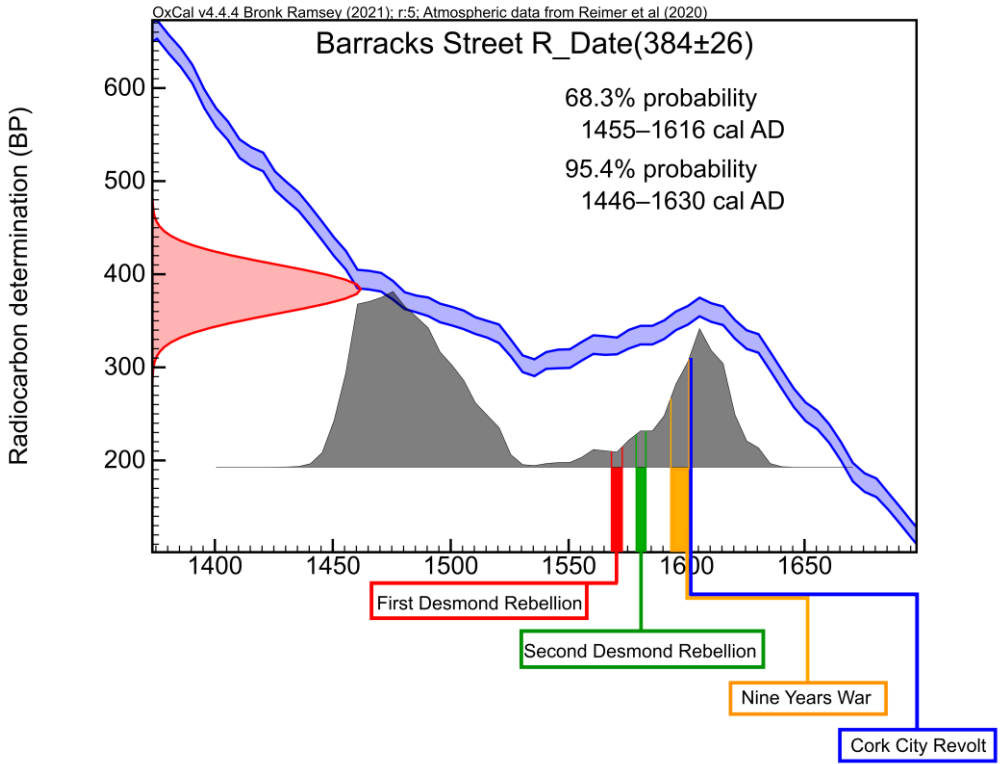

0
5 cm
Section visible above


E4101:132:001
E4101:221:002
0
0.5 cm
Drawn by: Sara Nylund

The Problem with Radiocarbon Dates

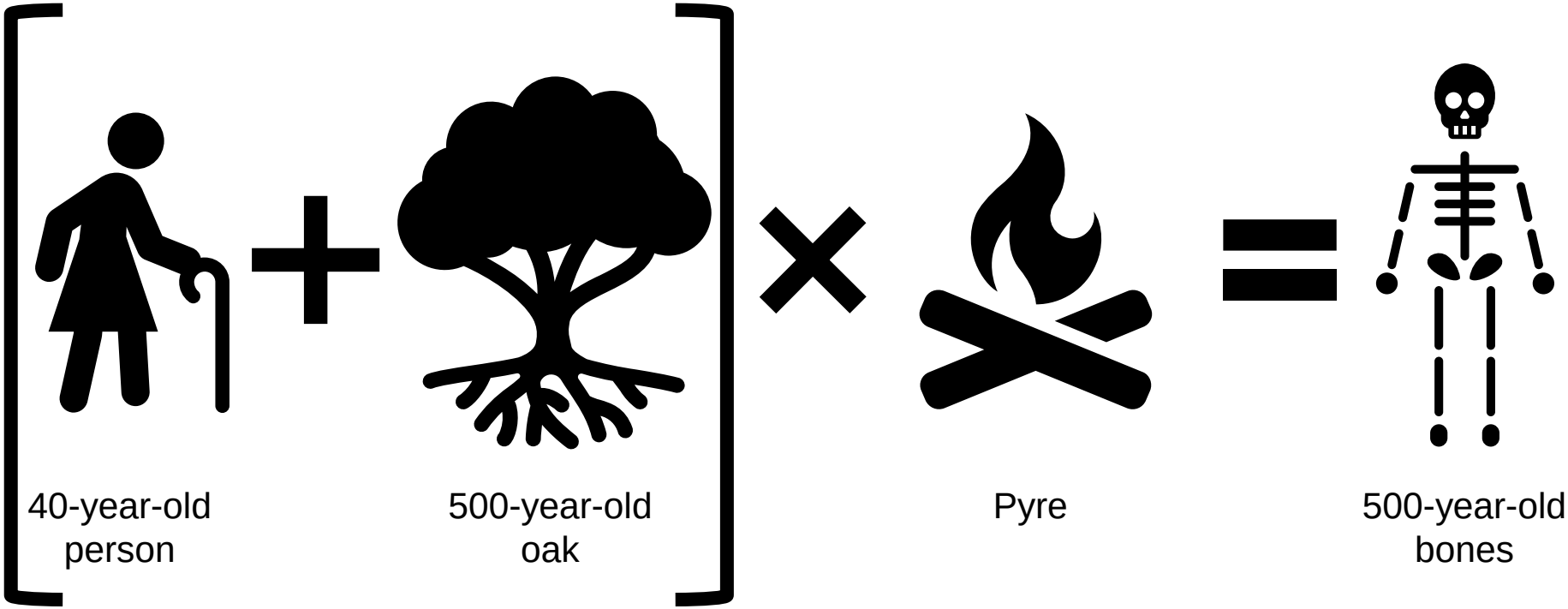
Kelleher, O. 12 Jun 2022 (www.journal.ie)





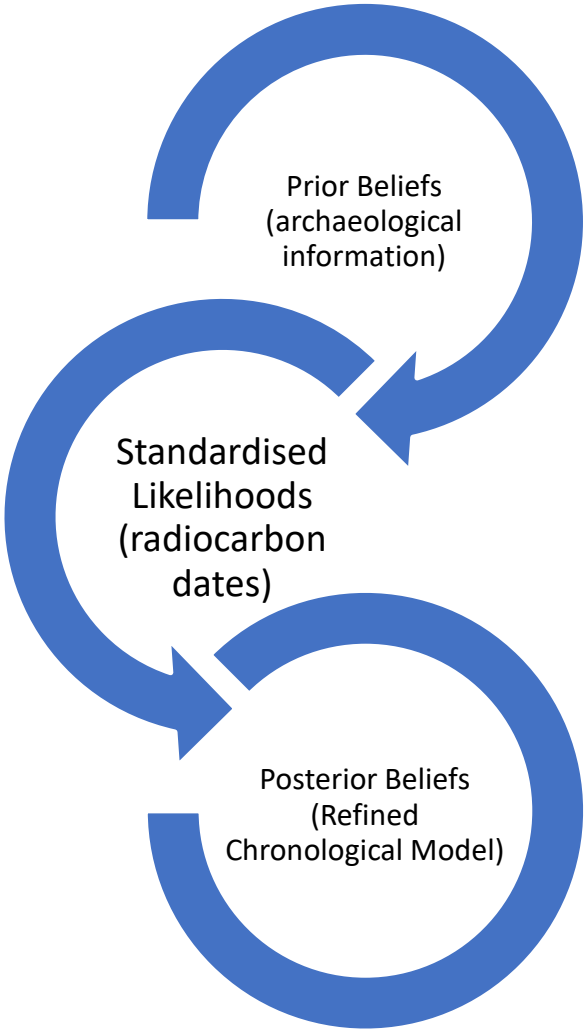
The Problem with Radiocarbon Dates from Cremated Bone

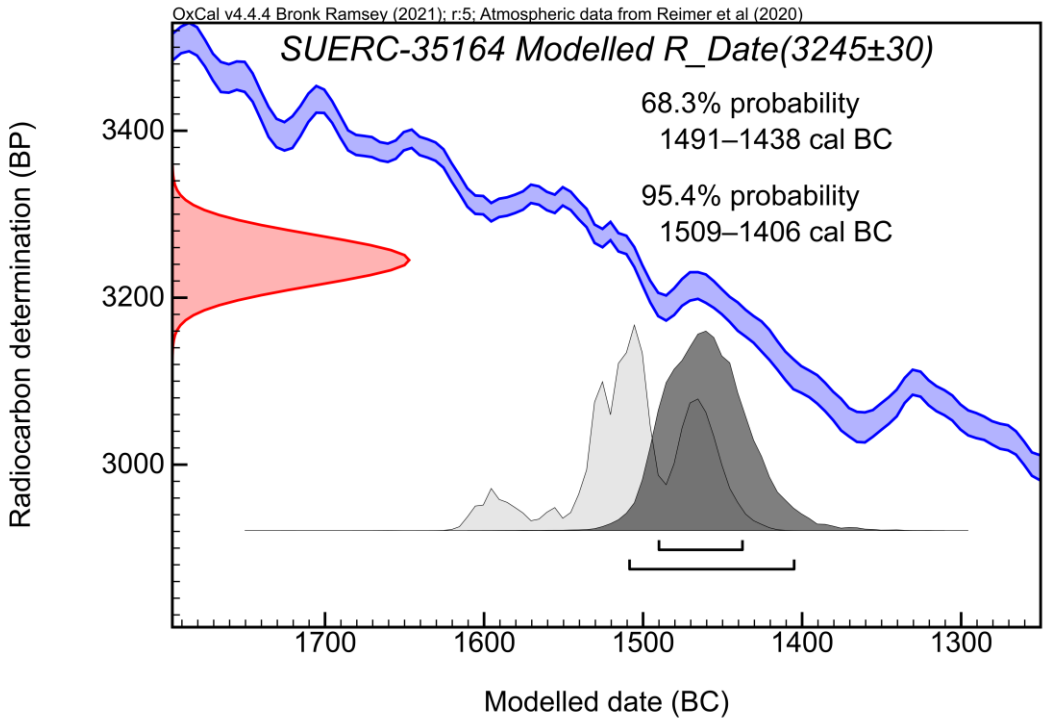
Cremated Bone and the Old Wood Effect



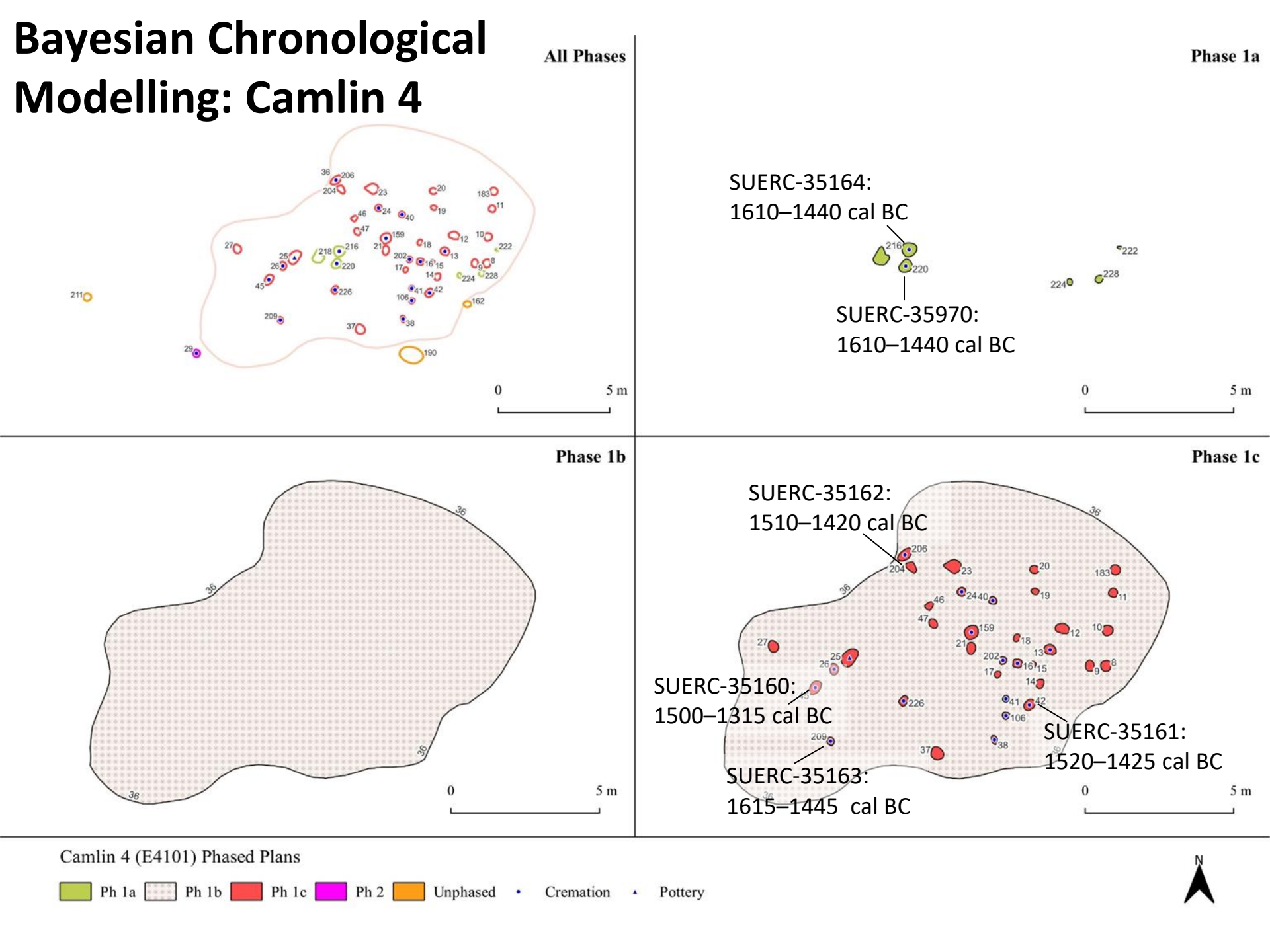
Bayesian Chronological Modelling

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{y}) \propto p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{t})p(\mathbf{t})$$

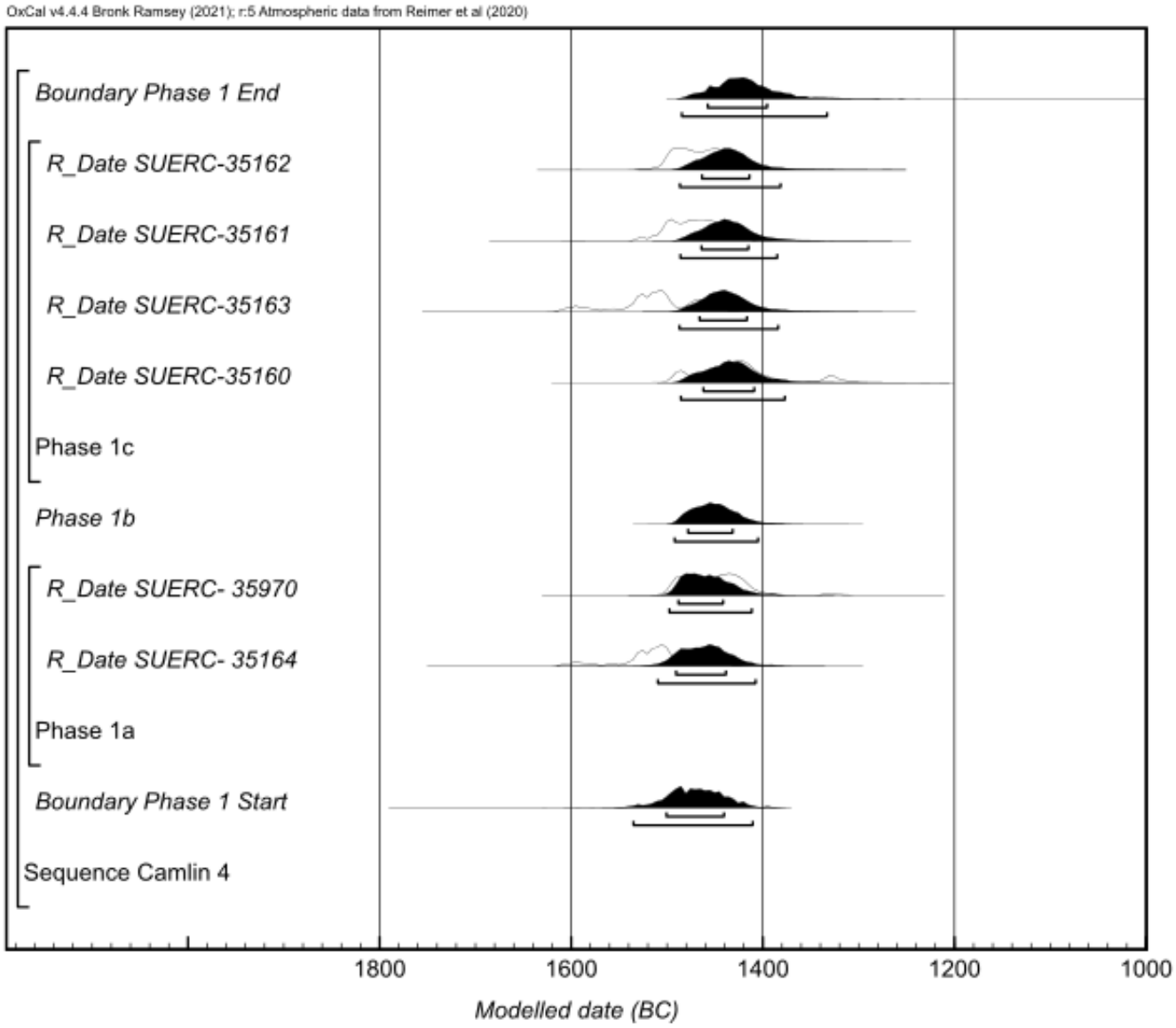




Bayesian Chronological Modelling: Camlin 4



Camlin 4: Bayesian Modelling Results



Phase 1 End

1490–1330 cal BC
(95.4% probability)

1460–1390 cal BC
(68.3% probability)

Phase 1b

1500–1400 cal BC
(95.4% probability)

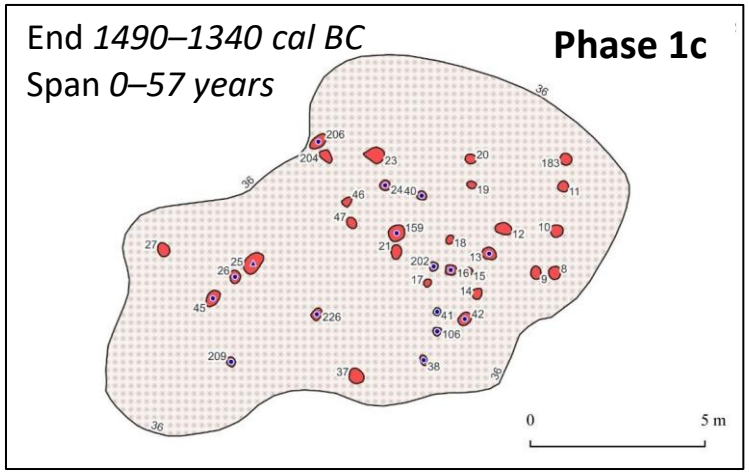
1480–1430 cal BC
(68.3% probability)

Phase 1a

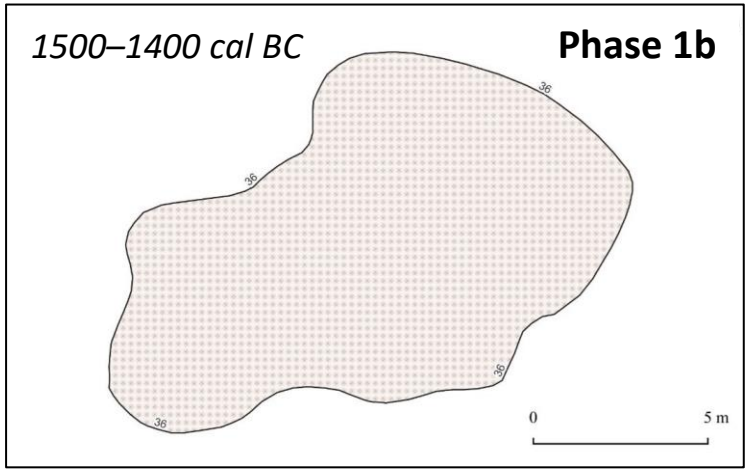
1540–1410 cal BC
(95.4% probability)

1510–1440 cal BC
(68.3% probability)

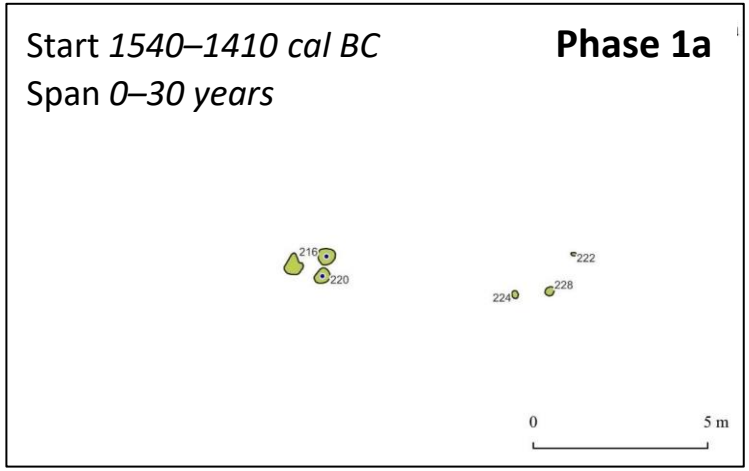
The Temporal Sequence of Activity at Camlin 4



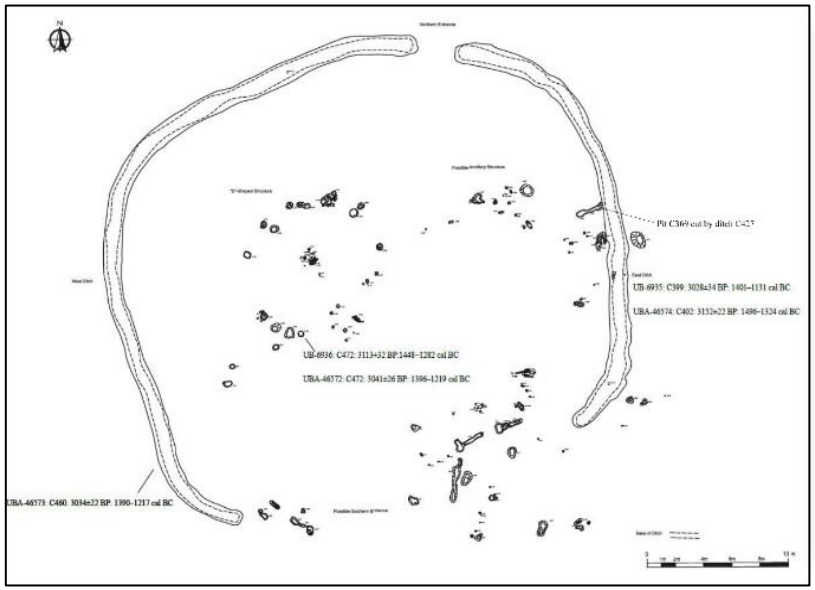
0-94 (probably 41) years later



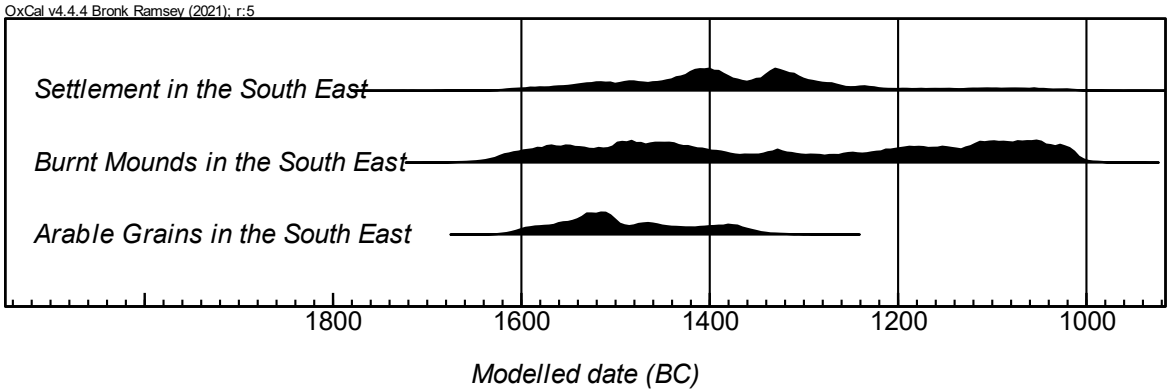
0-67 (probably 25) years later

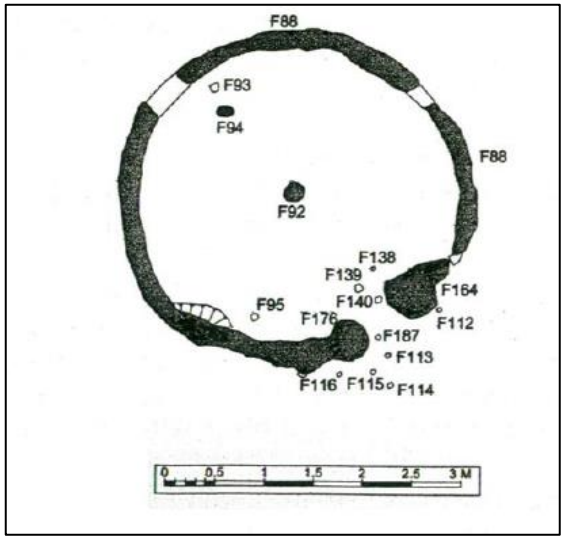


New token frontiers? Comparisons with the contemporaneous developments.



Knockhouse Lower Enclosure (left) and roundhouse (bottom right), *Fulacht Fiadh* Trough at Berkeley 2 (Johnston 2006; McQuade 2005; Clark 2016, Plate 2).





Lough Cullin Core
(Kearney *et al.* 2022)

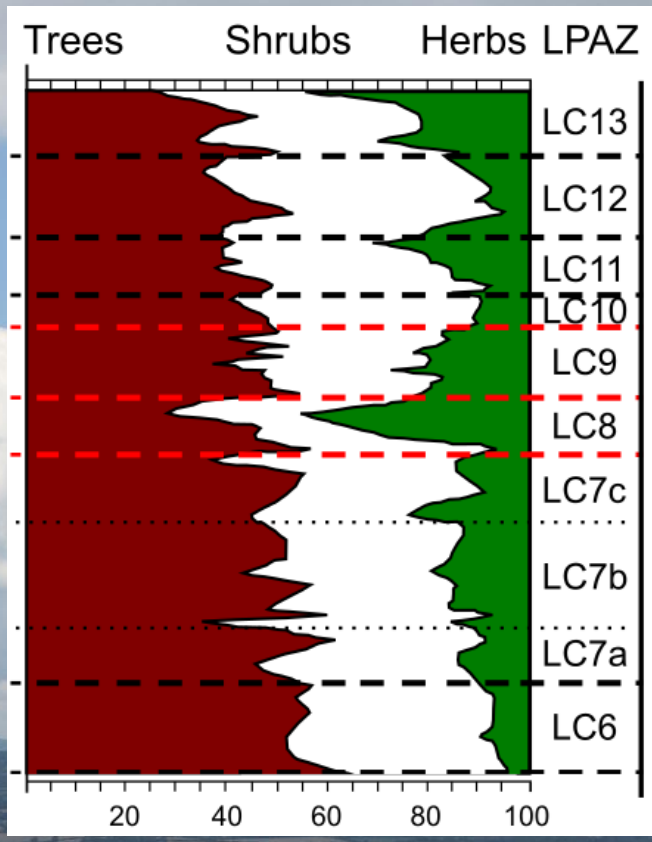
780–1035 cal AD

820-680 cal BC

1280-1000 cal BC

1500-1410 cal BC

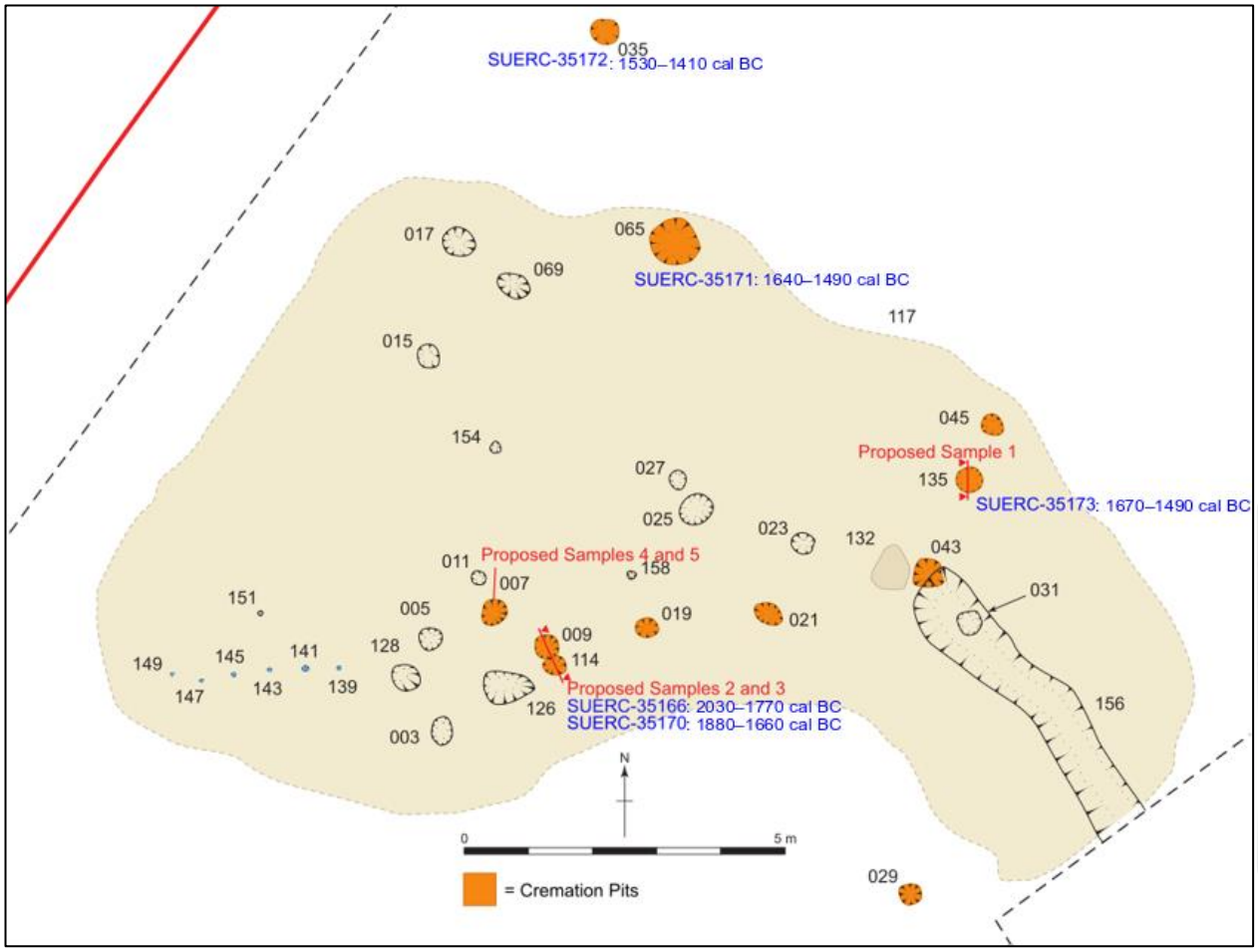
2960–2525 cal BC



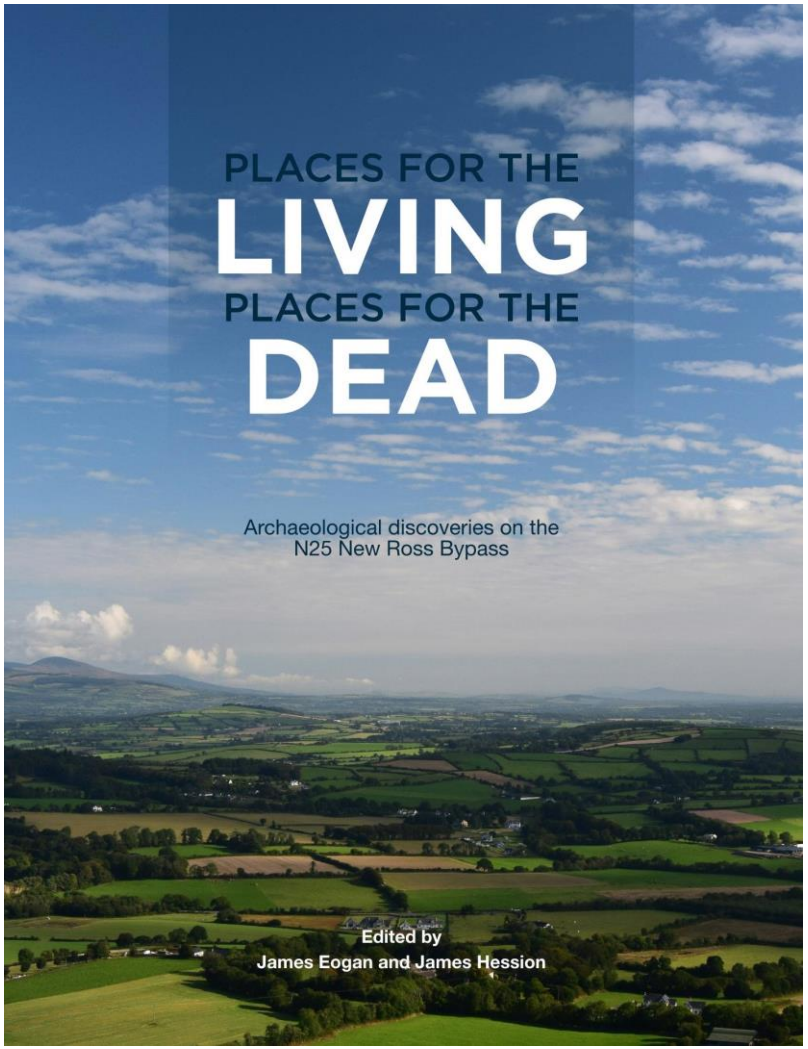
Lough Cullin

Camlin 4

Berkeley 3 (E4122): Royal Irish Academy-funded Project for the Acquisition of New Radiocarbon Dates



Publication



Book available for purchase at: www.wordwellbooks.com.
Available as an EPUB at: **https://www.tii.ie/technical-services/archaeology/publications/tii-heritage/**

Acknowledgements

Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd.
James Hession
Trish Long
Carmelita Troy
Hannah Sims
Ewelina Rondelez

Transport Infrastructure Ireland
James Eogan
Rónán Swan
Bernice Kelly

Royal Irish Academy
Niamh Dowdall

National Museum of Ireland
Sharon Weadick
Dr Róisín Nic Cnáimhín

Specialists
Dr Clare Mullins
Dr Ellen O'Carroll

University College Cork
Dr Katharina Becker
Dr Ben Gearey
Prof William O'Brien

SUERC
Prof Derek Hamilton