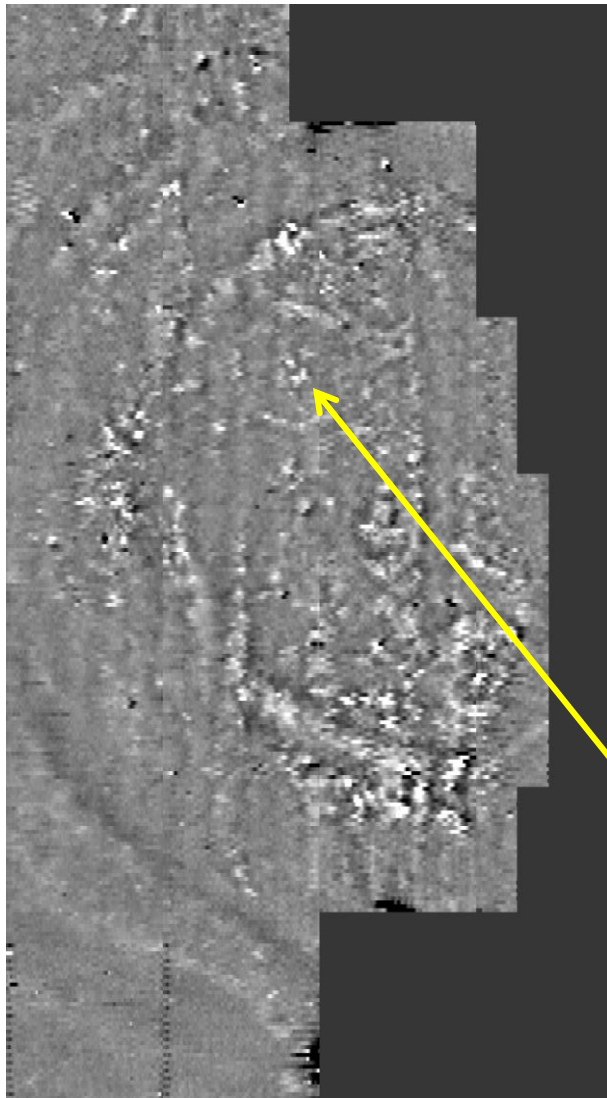


Results from Archaeology Dig at Hunting Hall Bottom Dene led by Dr Kristian Pedersen in June and July 2019.

Geophysics overview of the site showing visible features and dig site

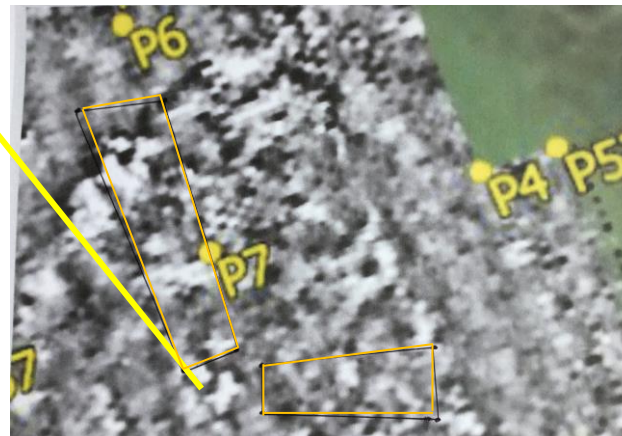


Geophysics image showing the Hunting Hall site within the visible banks. Location of the trenches on the right. June 2019: Alistair McKenzie.

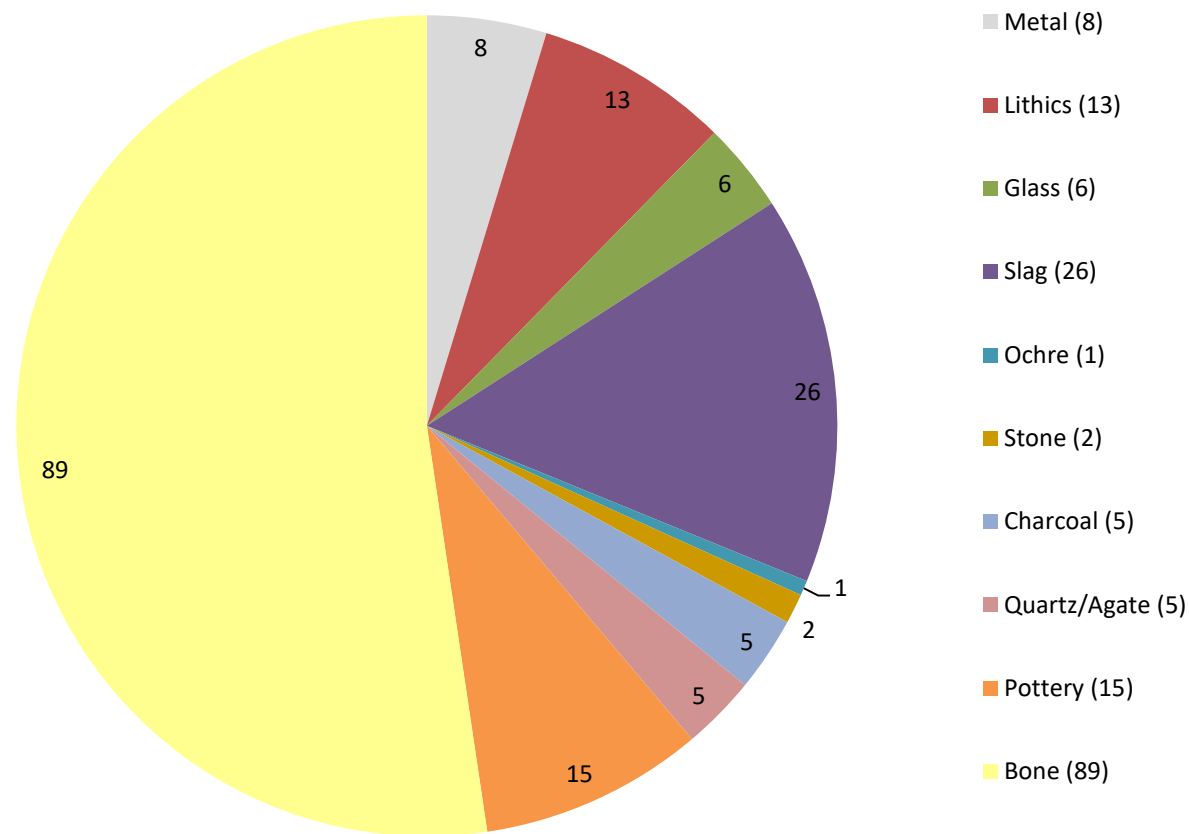


Trench 3 on final day of dig July 2019.
Jaunting angle of drone photo
parallels the geophysics image

Trench 3 (left) and 4 (right) overlaid on the geophysics

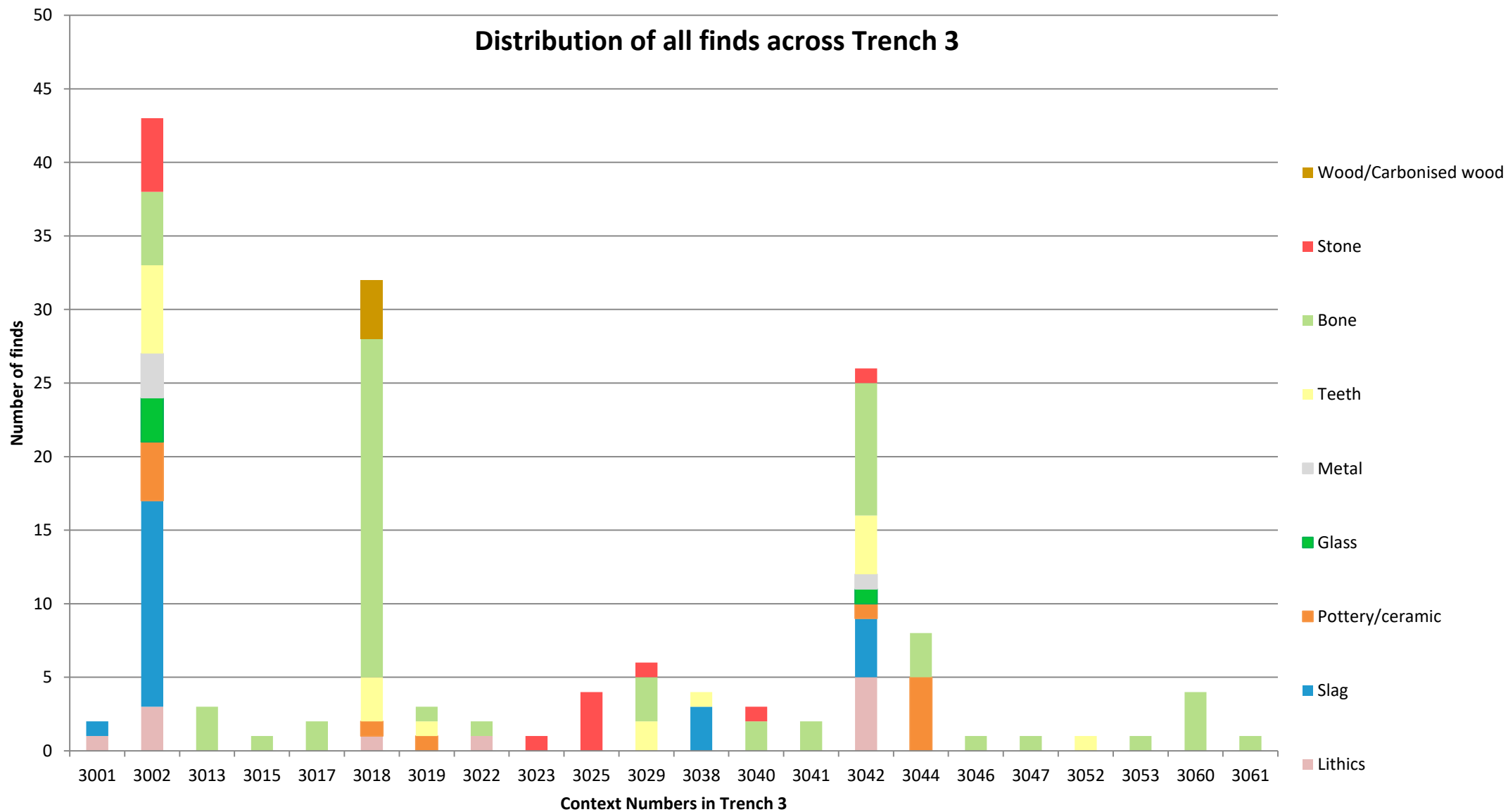


**The following chart represents a summary of the 170 finds during the dig from trenches 3 and 4.
The figures show the numbers of finds.**



The following documents are a summary of some of information collected during the dig and will detail;

the location of the finds using drone photos and digitalised scans of detailed drawings;
the aerial photo which outlines the initial interpretation of the site;
the initial analysis from specialists in bones and pottery and
the soil sample results following the process of soil flotation and microscopic analysis of the finds.



Location of the context number is detailed on the scanned drawings and drone photos that follow later.

Interpretation and details on the drone photo are based on initial evaluation at the time of the dig.

Location of general finds. Pottery and Bones locations detailed separately

(3042) Fill of roundhouse

Flint x 5
Slag
Glass
Iron
Agate

(3018) Surface with primary stone set ring

Flint
Charcoal

(3040) fill of stone socket

Quartz

The numbers on the aerial photo relate to the potential phases of the trench.

(3060) Cut of hearth

Wood

**2 Bronze Age
Ring Ditch**

Trench

3 Ditch

**4 Notional
5 Ring Ditches**

N

6 Latest Phase

Linear feature

1 Bronze Age Ditch

(3022) fill of linear ditch/across cobbled surface

Flint
Quartz

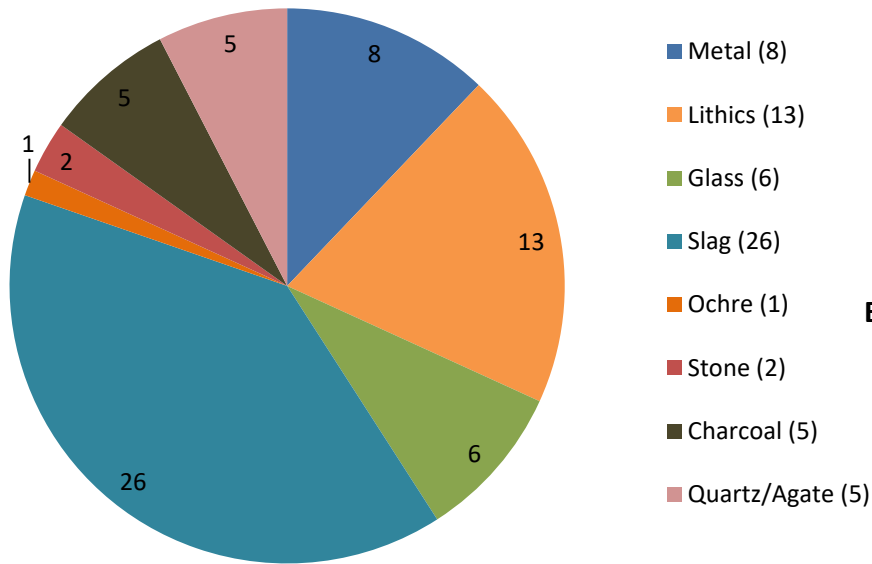
(3029) Fill of Curvilinear ditch

Quartz

(3002) Top Soil

Flint x3, Quartzite, Ochre
Glass. Slag
Stone shot, possible rubbing stone
Metal, hand crafted nail,

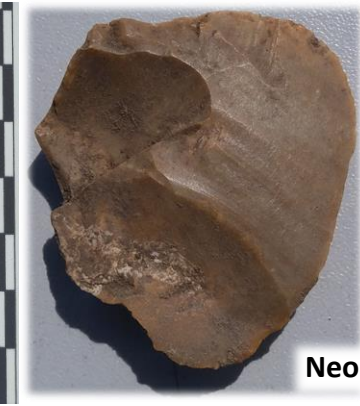
The chart below shows the breakdown of the general finds (excluding pottery and bones) in total 170 finds were recorded from Trenches 3 and 4



Early Medieval Brooch



Neolithic flint flake



Worked stone



Pottery expert Graham Taylor from Rothbury analysed the 15 pottery finds on visits to Hunting Hall in 2019 on site in the summer and December. He thought it was “A wonderful site and really important to see Iron Age Pots from Northumberland”



Pottery finds: Location of finds on scanned drawing of Trench 3

Review of Pottery by Graham Taylor

3002 Top Soil



3018 Surface with primary stone set ring

Sample 012 was probably Northumbrian Glacial Clay which was quite gritty. It is black at the core which implies carbonisation has occurred.

3038 Cut of pit

Sample 106 has an uneven surface implying that it was quickly made. It has a smooth surface which was probably a result of scraping out the inside of the pot. There is a small curve on it.

			87	3019	Pottery
001	3002	Ceramic Sherd	110	3018	Pottery
008	3002	Pottery			
009	3002	Rim Sherd	109	3042	Ceramic
75	3002	Ceramic Handle			
			82	3044	Pottery
103	3038	Pottery	83	3044	Pottery
106	3038	Pottery	86	3044	Pottery
112	3038	Charred Pottery	88	3044	Pottery
			90	3044	Pottery

3042 Fill of roundhouse

Trench 3

3019 Surface

3044 Cut of Pit

N

Graham Taylor's conclusion about the pottery found during Hunting Hall dig from Trench 3 was, that it was Iron Age.

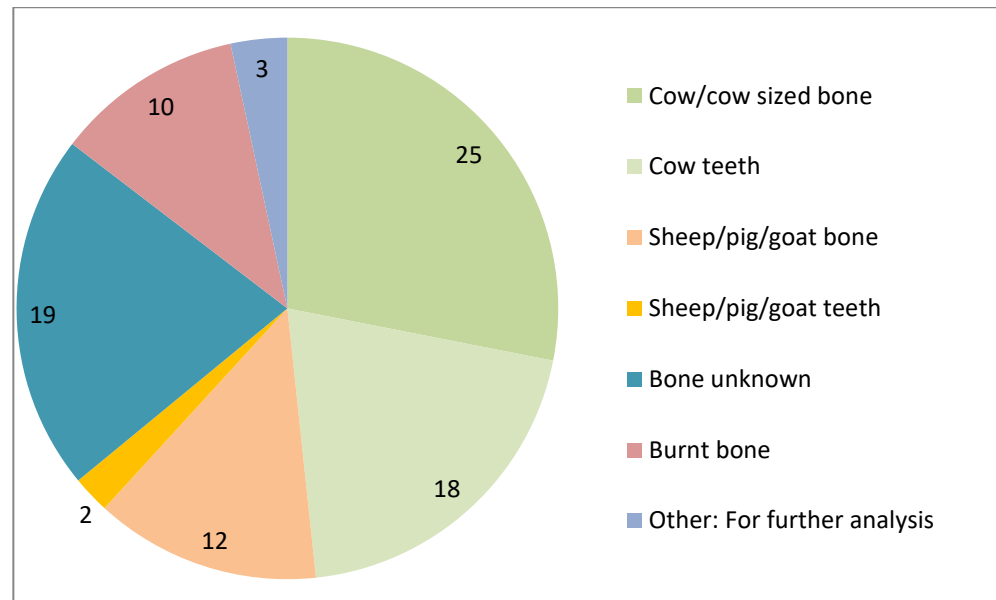
The pots were straight sided and bucket shaped that were very poorly made but functional. Usually made by someone in the household and fired in a domestic fire in the hut. The pots would be placed beside the fire for hours before being put into the fire. Bigger pots would have been fired in larger fires built outside.

Unlike the Bronze Age, The Iron Age people didn't bury their items with the body. When they had been used and were broken, they would throw the pots outside where the pots would be susceptible to wreathing and frost damage.

Insects would get into them to nest; birds would then go after the insects and scatter fragments of pots around.

**Peter Rowley-Conwy Professor of Archaeology at Durham University visited Hunting Hall
on 20th February 2020 to review the 86 finds of bones and teeth 2019**

The following chart shows the breakdown of the finds with full details listed on the following sheet.

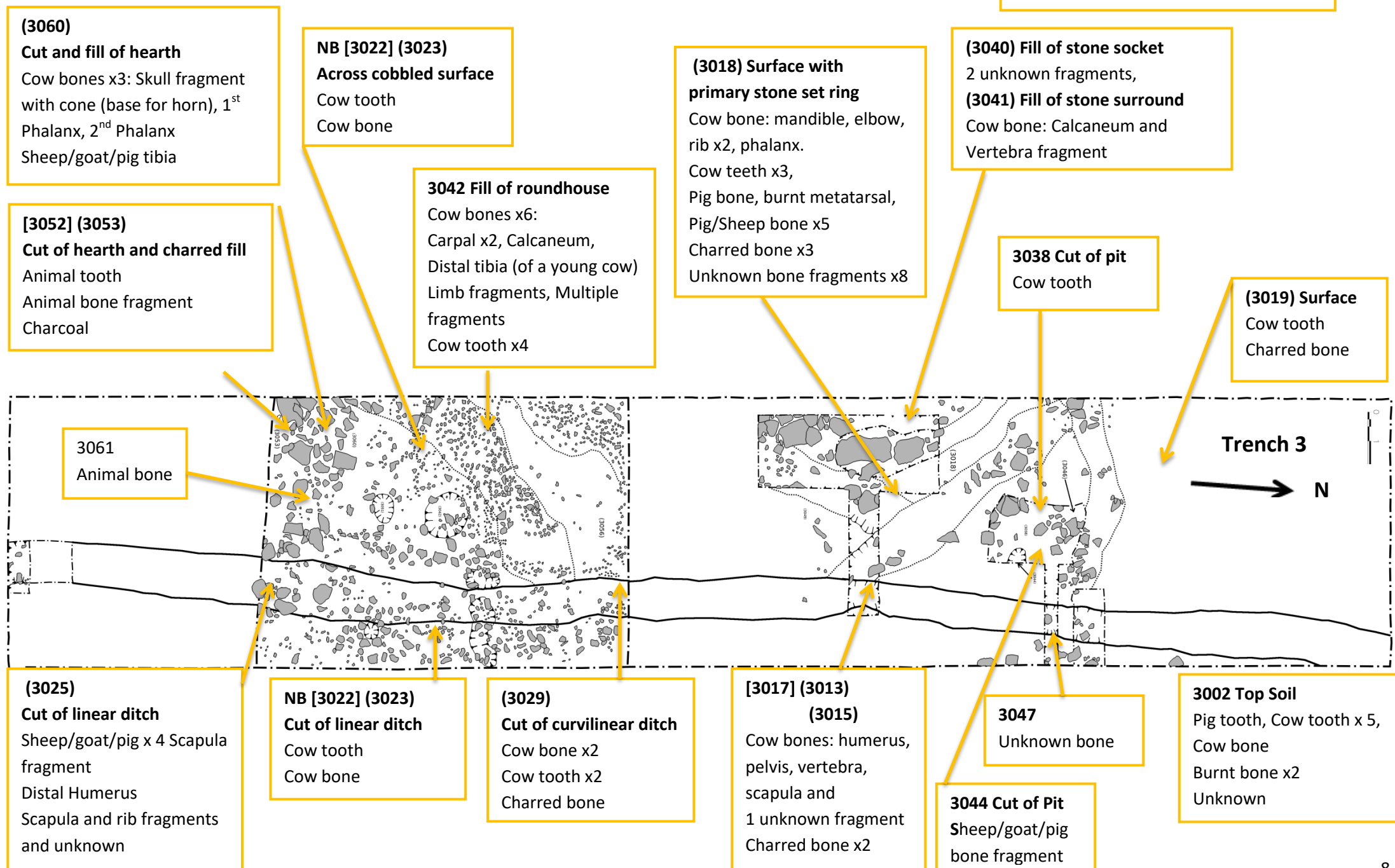


**The most exciting find was an artefact which was a cow's 1st phalanx which had a drilled hole
and was probably used as a handle for something.**



Photos Carole McKenzie

Location of bones and teeth from 86 finds in trenches 3 and 4.



Soil Sample results: Flotation of 189 bags of soil from 27 areas in trench 3 and 2 areas in trench 4.

The following images show the stages of soil sampling from collection in the field, to the process of fresh water flotation where the soil from 189 bags collected from different sections of the trenches was put through a stack of 8 sieves reducing in mesh size from 2mm to 45microns.



The collected samples from the soil are then dried and sorted for analysis visually and then into petri dishes for Macroscopy and onto slides for Microscopy.



Paul Langdale, also Secretary of the Lowick Heritage Group, was our lead Consultant Microbiologist. He was able to supply expertise, microscopes and essential equipment to allow the analysis to take place at the Hunting Hall Site. Other group members had essential skills, experience and equipment in the field which proved invaluable. Other members of the group were volunteers and learnt as they went along.

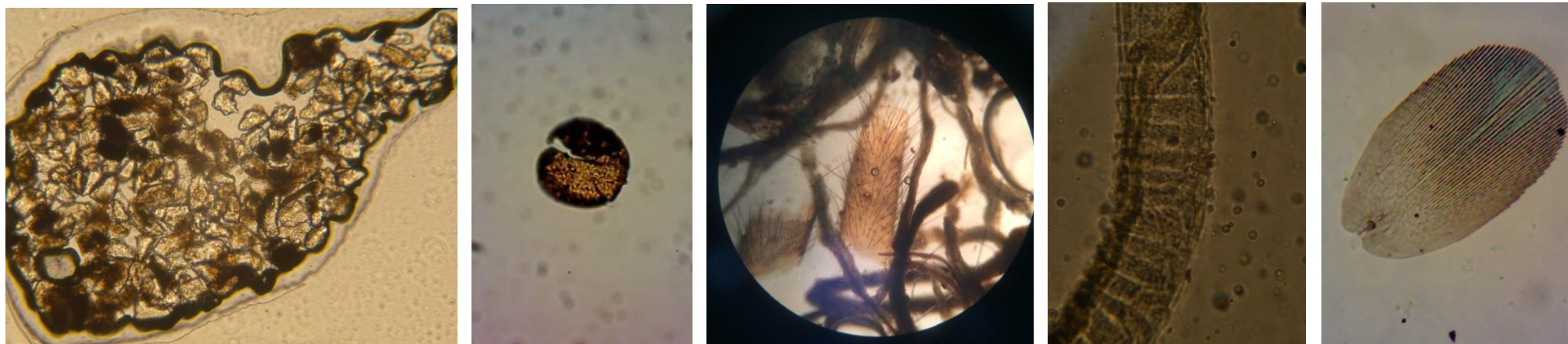
This was a unique opportunity and a huge learning curve for us all, as this was not a practice usually carried out by an archaeology dig team.



The following table shows the breakdown of the initial soil analysis of the residue and finds following the floatation process

	3005	3009	3011	3016	3018	3023	3025	3029	3032	3038	3040	3041	3042	3049	3055	3056	3058	3060
Seed	✓✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Seed Casing	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Insect	✓			✓✓✓	✓✓		✓			✓✓✓✓		✓✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓✓✓
Wood/Charcoal	✓						✓	✓							✓			
Carapace	✓✓	✓				✓	✓								✓			
Phytolites					✓	✓												
Other	✓				✓													

A few examples of the finds are below and further analysis is required.



The compilation of this document is as a result of all the hard work created by so many members of the archaeology team at Hunting Hall 36 volunteers gave over 1000 hours of their time, during the dig alone. So a huge thank you to everyone involve.

So far these finds suggest that there's been a working farm at Hunting Hall for more than 4000 years.

The next dig in May 2020 will build on what we have discovered so far and help us in the further analysis of this very unique site.