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# The Lands of Ancient Lothian

## Interpreting the Archaeology of the A1

Olivia Lelong and Gavin MacGregor

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*This volume is dedicated to  
Patrick Ashmore.*



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Olivia Lelong and Gavin MacGregor

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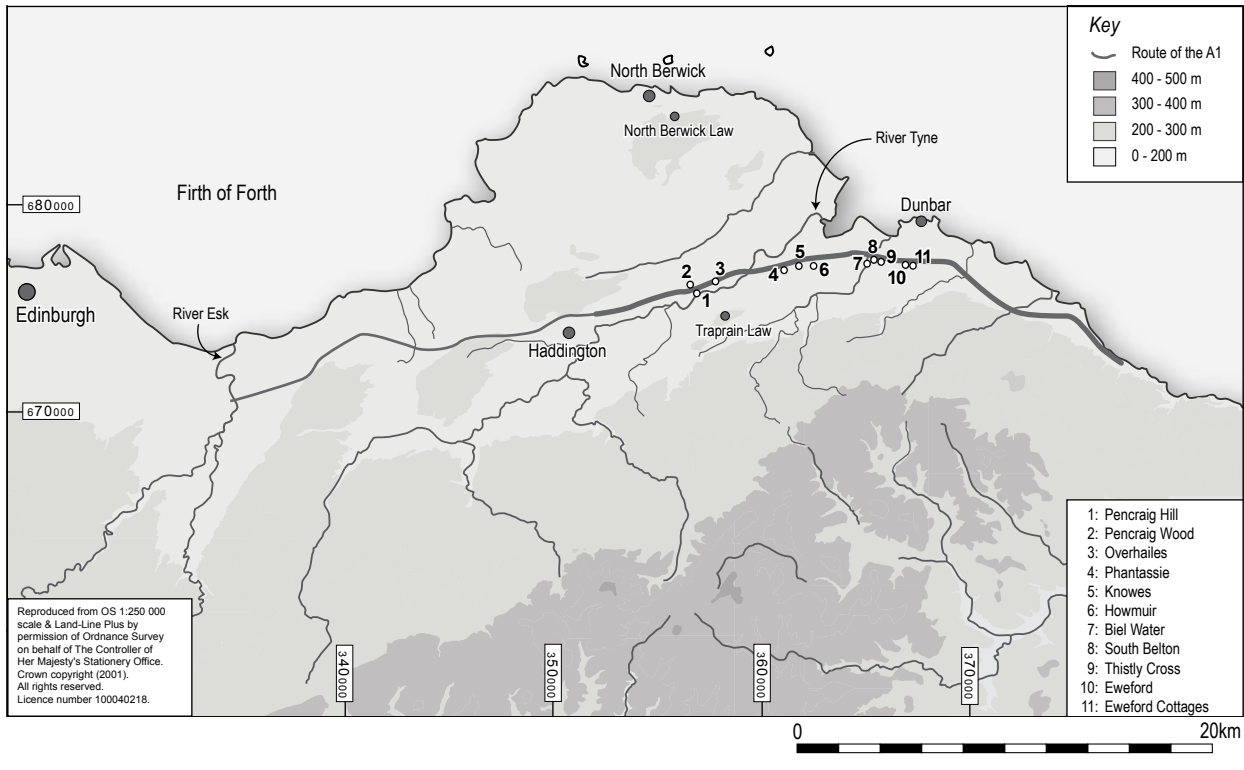
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1.1 Location map of the A1 in East Lothian.

## Abstract

From 2001 to 2004, a programme of archaeological work was conducted during upgrading of the A1 road to dual carriageway between Haddington and Dunbar in East Lothian. The work involved trial trenching, monitoring of topsoil stripping and excavation of 11 archaeological sites, carried out by Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD). The sites ranged chronologically over a period of 5,000 years, from the early fourth millennium BC to the early first millennium AD. The work was funded by the Scottish Executive Trunk Roads Design and Construction Division and monitored by Historic Scotland.

Five of the sites yielded evidence of activity as early as the ninth millennium BC, in the form of microliths, or small stone points that made up composite tools used for hunting, while three produced radiocarbon dates ranging from the fifth to the eighth millennia BC. Two sites had securely dated evidence of use in the early fourth millennium BC. At Eweford West, between 3960 and 3370 BC, people brought human remains and Carinated Bowl pottery to the site; they also built and rebuilt a large mound capped with a stone cairn, and constructed a timber enclosure and successive mortuary structures, eventually destroying them by fire. During the same period (3950–3380 BC) at Pencraig Hill, another group built a mortuary structure and a large, trapezoidal, timber enclosure; they also brought the remains of their dead and burnt them on a pyre inside the enclosure.

Around the time that this phase of activity came to an end at both sites (3370–3190 BC), a line of pits was dug at Knowes, and Impressed Ware pottery and charcoal were packed into three of them. This division of space using pits later found much more complex expression at Eweford East where, between 2880 and 2230 BC, several generations built and elaborated two parallel lines of timber posts and a post-defined enclosure. These might have been used to channel or gather people or animals, perhaps for ceremonial processions or stock gathering.

Several of the excavated sites produced evidence for activities in differing social arenas during the second and third millennium BC, all involving the deposition of artefacts and human remains. Communities returned to the mound at Eweford West numerous times between 3020 and 1890,

modifying the cairn, leaving stone tools and Beaker pottery and scattering huge quantities of burnt cereal at the site. At Overhailes, a light structure and possibly a yard stood at some time between 3340 and 2900 BC, and people dug two large pits and filled them with sherds of Fengate Ware pottery and imported stone tools. A thousand years later, between 2340 and 1740, a later generation built a timber building or circle at the same spot. Eweford West saw another sustained phase of ceremonial activity during the second millennium BC: human remains were cremated on a pyre at the site, burnt bone and charcoal were scattered on the ancient mound, a cairn and arcs of stone were built and cremated human bone was buried on over 20 occasions in a variety of arrangements – sometimes in pits, sometimes in or under large, elaborate urns, sometimes with fine objects such as a stone axe-hammer. Radiocarbon dates show people's activities here continued until about 1120 BC. The site of Pencraig Wood also saw at least sporadic activity during the second millennium BC: two pairs of pits holding cremated human bone and charcoal were dug and filled between 1500 and 1250 BC, along with other pits and post-holes.

The A1 excavations found evidence for various kinds of settlement, agriculture and ritual activity during the mid-second and first millennium BC. At Howmuir, post-holes and ditches, probably for field systems relating to nearby settlement, were used between 1910 and 1410 BC. Scoops were dug and filled with midden material at South Belton between 760 and 400 BC, and at some point during the same time span a cist was dug into the ancient, fourth-millennium BC mound at Eweford West and human remains were placed inside it. Between 410 and 200 BC a small homestead stood nearby at Biel Water, while at Eweford Cottages a large settlement enclosed by a ditch was established. This endured until perhaps AD 210, with the ditches filled in and the settlement becoming unenclosed after 40 BC. During this period, another cist was dug into the fourth-millennium BC mortuary site at Pencraig Hill, and again human remains were put inside it. Meanwhile, a farmstead sprung up at Phantassie as early as 210 BC, and it continued to develop into a crowded farming hamlet until it was abandoned by AD 340.

The different excavations produced evidence for widely varying arenas of social practice, from highly structured architectural forms linked to ceremony and mortuary ritual, to farming settlements that have left traces of the everyday lives of their inhabitants. In spite of these differences in the character of the evidence, certain common threads have also emerged from the disparate site, concerns that were expressed and manifested in different ways across more than four millennia. Some of these threads were concerns with sustaining life through farming and with the materials, such middens, querns and grain, and methods, such as sowing and midden spreading, that communities used to ensure the survival

of each successive generation. Others were beliefs in the symbolic potency of fire and of certain objects, through their associations and resonances. The strongest thread to run throughout the evidence was the enduring perceived significance of certain places in the landscape, as generations returned to places that previous ones had created, altered and made their own.

The range and the quality of the evidence from the A1 sites allows a long-term themed approach to their study. This volume attempts to populate the excavated sites by presenting the story of human practice at each one and to place them in the context of their contemporary inhabited landscapes.

## Résumé

De 2001 à 2004, un programme de fouille a été réalisé à l'occasion de travaux d'aménagement routier sur l'A1, entre Haddington et Dunbar dans la région d'East Lothian, Ecosse. Les travaux ont permis à GUARD (Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division) d'effectuer un contrôle systématique du décapage des sols, d'entreprendre des sondages sous forme de tranchées et de fouiller onze sites archéologiques. Les fouilles ont révélé des niveaux d'occupation couvrant une période de 5000 ans, du début du IV<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C. jusqu'aux prémices du début du I<sup>er</sup> millénaire. Les opérations de fouilles ont été financées par *Scottish Executive Trunk Roads Design* et la *Construction Division* et contrôlées par *Historic Scotland*.

Les fouilles de cinq sites ont manifesté plusieurs témoignages d'occupation attribués au IX<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C., sous la forme de microlithes, ou petits projectiles en pierre utilisés sur des outils de chasse. Les fouilles de trois sites ont permis d'obtenir des dates radiocarbone s'échelonnant du V<sup>e</sup> millénaire au VII<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C. Deux chantiers ont confirmé une occupation datant du début du IV<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C. Le site de Eweford West témoigne d'une activité datant de 3960 à 3370 av. J.-C. qui s'est concrétisée par la présence: de restes humains; de mobilier céramique de type-*Carinated Bowl*; d'un tertre surmonté d'un large cairn qui semble avoir été reconstruit plusieurs fois; d'un enclos circulaire composé d'une rangée concentrique de trous de poteaux; d'autres structures à vocation funéraire détruites par incendie. Au cours de la même période entre 3950 et 3380 av. J.-C., une phase d'activité à Penraig Hill a fait apparaître les vestiges d'une structure funéraire et d'un large enclos composé de rangée de trous de poteaux en plan trapézoïdale et aussi la découverte de restes humains ayant été incinérés sur un bûcher au centre de l'enclos.

Au cours de la période de 3370 à 3190 av. J.-C., qui voit la fin de l'occupation des deux sites, un alignement de fosses, contenant du mobilier céramique de type-*Impressed Ware* et des charbons de bois, a été édifié à Knowes. Cette division de l'espace par des fosses a été observée de manière bien plus complexe sur le site de Eweford East où, entre 2280 et 2330 av. J.-C., plusieurs générations ont construit

et élaboré deux alignements parallèles de poteaux et un enclos délimité par des poteaux. Ces structures auraient pu être utilisées dans le but d'acheminer ou de regrouper des personnes ou animaux, et ce à l'occasion de processions rituelles ou de rassemblement de bétail.

Les fouilles de plusieurs sites ont mis en évidence une diversité d'activités de caractère social au cours du II<sup>e</sup> et III<sup>e</sup> millénaires av. J.-C.; mais, tous les sites comprenaient du mobilier et des dépôts mortuaires. Différentes communautés indigènes sont retournées sur le site d'Eweford West à de nombreuses occasions entre 3020 et 1890 av. J.-C., modifiant le cairn, abandonnant du mobilier lithique et céramique de type-*Beaker* et disséminant en grande quantité des céréales calcinées. Sur le site d'Overhailes, de 3340 à 2900 av. J.-C. une structure légère ainsi qu'un enclos furent implantés; deux larges fosses y ont été creusées dans lesquelles étaient placés des tessons de céramique de type-*Fengate Ware* et du mobilier lithique importé. Un millénaire plus tard, entre 2340 et 1740 av. J.-C., un bâtiment de bois sous forme d'enclos circulaire a été construit au même endroit. Eweford West a connu une nouvelle phase d'activité cérémoniale intense au cours du II<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C. Elle s'est caractérisée par la présence d'ossements humains incinérés sur un bûcher, des ossements calcinés et des charbons de bois disséminés sur l'ancien tertre. Un cairn et un enclos circulaire en pierre y aussi ont été construits. Des ossements humains semble y avoir été incinérés, puis enterrés de manière éparses sur tout le site, ce, à une vingtaine d'occasions. Ces dépôts sépulcrales étaient soit disposés au fond d'une fosse, soit à l'intérieur ou sous une urne funéraire présentant des décorations détaillées. Le dépôt se composait en général de mobilier lithique (hache de pierre, marteau). Les dates radiocarbone ont montré que cette période d'activité s'est étendue jusqu'en 1120 av. J.-C. Le site de Penraig Hill a démontré une activité sporadique au cours du II<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C. Elle est marquée par l'existence de deux séries de fosses contenant des ossements humains incinérés avec charbons de bois datés de 1500 à 1250 av. J.-C. Ces incinérations sont accompagnées de fosses et trous de poteaux.

Les fouilles ont permis de découvrir diverses occupations du sol, agricole et rituelle, dans une période qui va du milieu du II<sup>e</sup> au I<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. J.-C. Sur le site d' Howmuir, un système de drainage, composé de fosses et trous de poteaux, a pu être associé à un habitat de proximité datant de 1910 à 1410 av. J.-C. Les fouilles sur le site de South Belton ont révélé plusieurs emplacements utilisés pour l'enfouissement de déchets domestiques ayant pu servir d'engrais (*midden*). Cette activité s'échelonne sur environ 340 ans, de 760 à 400 av. J.-C. Durant la même période, un ciste a été édifié sur le tertre d'Eweford West dans lequel des ossements humains ont été placés. Entre 410 et 200 av. J.-C., un petit hameau s'est établi près de Biel Water, tandis qu'à Eweford Cottage, les traces d'une large habitation cernée d'un fossé ont été découvertes. Le remplissage du fossé a confirmé l'arrêt d'activité sur le site autour de 210 ap. J.-C. Un réaménagement du fossé provoquant une ouverture de l'enceinte qu'il créait s'est effectuée dans une période de 40 années avant J.-C. A la même période, un autre ciste a été découvert sur le site funéraire de Pencraig Hill, là aussi, avaient été placés des ossements humains. La fouille du site de Phantassie a mis en évidence l'existence d'un habitat agricole daté de 350 av. J.-C. Ce dernier s'est progressivement transformé en un large hameau agricole jusqu'à son abandon autour de 340 p. J.-C.

Les opérations de fouille ont permis l'identification de différentes pratiques sociales, prenant des formes

architecturales complexes, associées à des rituels funéraires et cérémoniaux. L'occupation des sites a aussi laissé des traces de la vie quotidienne des communautés y vivant. Malgré la diversité des témoignages révélée sur chaque site, les fouilles ont aussi permis de mettre en valeur des points communs qui se sont exprimés et manifestés de manière différente pendant quatre millénaires. Un des points communs identifiable est la nécessité de subsistance qui s'est manifestée par la présence de mobilier agricole, comme les moulins à bras, des céréales et des traces de *midden*, et, par des techniques et méthodes agricoles comme les semailles ou l'utilisation de *midden*; ce, afin que chaque communauté puisse assurer la survie des générations futures. Un autre point commun liant ces communautés est l'importance symbolique attribuée au feu et à l'association et résonance de certains objets. Mais le point commun le plus fort, démontré au cours des fouilles, est l'influence considérable et constante de certains lieux où plusieurs générations retournent, là, où leurs ancêtres ont créé, construit et changé un paysage devenu le leur.

L'abondance et la qualité des données recueillies sur les sites ont permis d'alimenter un programme d'étude basée sur une approche thématique. Ce volume tente de réhabiter les sites fouillés en présentant leur histoire et pratiques et de les replacer dans un paysage contemporain.

## Zusammenfassung

Von 2001 bis 2004 wurden beim Ausbau der A1 Landstraße zwischen Haddington und Dunbar in East Lothian archäologische Arbeiten durchgeführt. Dieses Programm umfaßte Versuchsgräben, Analysen der Bodenoberflächen und Ausgrabungen von elf Fundstellen und wurde von Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) ausgeführt. Diese Stellen boten eine zeitliche Skala von 5 000 Jahren dar, vom frühen vierten Jahrtausend v.Chr. bis zum frühen ersten Jahrtausend n.Chr. Die Arbeit wurde vom Scottish Executive Trunk Roads Design and Construction Division finanziert und von Historic Scotland überwacht.

Fünf der Fundstellen ergaben Aktivitätsbeweise bis ins frühe neunte Jahrtausend v.Chr., wie Mikrolithen oder kleine Steinspitzen für Jagdgeräte, während drei davon C14 – Daten vom fünften bis zum achten Jahrtausend v.Chr. ergaben. Zwei Fundstellen hatten fest datierte Gebrauchsspuren vom frühen vierten Jahrtausend v.Chr. Bei Eweford West wurden zwischen 3960 und 3370 v.Chr. menschliche Überreste und Carinated Bowl Keramik zu der Fundstelle gebracht. Die Menschen bauten wiederholt einen großen Hügel, gekrönt von einem Steinhäufen, und errichteten eine hölzerne Einfriedung und aufeinanderfolgende Grabstrukturen, die sie schließlich durch Feuer zerstörten. Während desselben Zeitraums (3950–3380 v.Chr.) errichtete bei Pencraig Hill eine andere Gruppe eine Grabstruktur und eine große hölzerne Einfriedung, wohin sie ebenfalls die Überreste ihrer Toten brachte und sie auf einem Scheiterhaufen verbrannte.

Als diese Aktivität an beiden Orten zu Ende kam (3370 –3190 v.Chr.), wurde eine Grubenreihe bei Knowes gegraben, und drei der Gruben wurden mit Impressed Ware Keramik und Holzkohle vollgepackt. Später wurde diese Raumteilung mit Gruben auf komplexere Weise bei Eweford East gefunden, wo zwischen 2880 und 2230 v.Chr. mehrere Generationen zwei parallele Reihen von Holzpfehlern und eine von Pfehlern begrenzte Einfriedung bauten, vielleicht zum Zweck des Hindurchleitens oder Versammelns von Menschen oder Tieren, vielleicht für zeremonielle Prozessionen oder für Viehherden.

Einige der ausgegrabenen Stellen zeigten Spuren von verschiedenartigen sozialen Bereichen aus dem zweiten

und dritten Jahrtausend v.Chr., alle hatten jedoch die Einlagerung von Artefakten und menschlichen Überresten. Der Hügel bei Eweford West wurde zwischen 3020 und 1890 v.Chr. vielfach von einzelnen Gruppen besucht, die den Steinhäufen veränderten, Steingeräte und Beakerkeramik und außerdem große Mengen von verbranntem Getreide hinterließen. Bei Overhailes fand sich ein leicht umzäunter Bau, möglicherweise ein Lagerplatz, irgendwann zwischen 3340 und 2900 v.Chr. Zwei große Gruben wurden ausgehoben und mit Scherben von Fengate Ware und importierten Steinwerkzeugen verfüllt. Tausend Jahre später, zwischen 2340 und 1740, baute an derselben Stelle eine spätere Generation einen Bau oder Kreis aus Holz. Eweford West erlebte während des zweiten Jahrtausend ein weiteres anhaltendes Stadium zeremonieller Aktivität: menschliche Überreste wurden dort auf einem Scheiterhaufen verbrannt, verbrannte Knochen und Holzkohle wurden auf dem alten Hügel verstreut, und ein Steinhäufen und Steinbögen wurden errichtet. Verbranntes menschliches Gebein wurde bei mehr als 20 Anlässen in verschiedenen Anordnungen vergraben, teils in Gruben, teils in oder unter großen, kunstvollen Urnen, manchmal mit Beigaben, wie Steinäxte. C-14 Datierungen weisen eine kontinuierliche menschliche Tätigkeit bis ca. 1120 v.Chr. auf. Bei Pencraig Wood war während des zweiten Jahrtausend v.Chr. zumindest sporadische Aktivität sichtbar: zwei paarweise angeordnete Gruben mit verbrannten menschlichen Gebeinen und Holzkohle wurden ausgehoben und verfüllt zwischen 1500 und 1250 v.Chr., neben anderen Gruben und Pfostenlöchern.

Die A1 – Ausgrabungen fanden Anzeichen von verschiedenen Besiedlungsarten, ebenso landwirtschaftliche und rituelle Aktivitäten während der Mitte des zweiten und ersten Jahrtausend v.Chr. Bei Howmuir waren Pfostenlöcher und Gräben vermutlich für landwirtschaftliche Zwecke für naheliegende Siedlungen in Verwendung. Bei South Belton wurden zwischen 760 und 400 v.Chr. Höhlungen ausgegraben und mit Abfallmaterial verfüllt, und während dieser Zeitspanne wurde ein Höckergrab mit menschlichen Überresten in den alten, aus dem vierten Jahrtausend stammenden



Grabhügel bei Eweford West eingegraben. Zwischen 410 und 200 v.Chr. stand nahe bei Biel Water eine Wohnstätte, während bei Eweford Cottages eine große, von einem Graben umringte Siedlung errichtet wurde. Sie bestand bis vielleicht 210 n.Chr., nachdem nach 40 v.Chr. die Gräben zugeschüttet wurden, wodurch die Siedlung uneingezäunt war. Während dieser Zeit wurde ein weiteres Höckergrab in den alten Grabhügel bei Pencraig Hill eingegraben, wiederum mit menschlichen Überresten. Inzwischen entstand schon um 350 v.Chr. ein Gehöft bei Phantassie, das sich zu einem dicht besiedelten Weiler entwickelte, der dann um 340 n.Chr. aufgegeben wurde.

Die verschiedenen Ausgrabungen ergaben Hinweise auf sehr unterschiedliche soziale Nutzungen, angefangen von komplizierten, strukturierten Architekturformen, verbunden mit Zeremonie und Begräbnisriten, bis zu landwirtschaftlichen Siedlungen, mit Spuren des alltäglichen Lebens ihrer Einwohner. Trotz dieser unterschiedlichen Befunde zeigten sich an den ungleichartigen Fundstellen Gemeinsamkeiten, Bedenken

und Überlegungen, die auf verschiedene Weise über mehr als 4000 Jahre ihren Ausdruck fanden, wie das tägliche Leben in der Landwirtschaft mit dem Material, den Abfallhäufen, den Mahlsteinen und Cerealien und mit den Methoden, wie Aussaat und der Streuung von organischem Material (midden spreading) zu bewältigen war, sodaß nachfolgende Generationen überleben konnten.

Andere Überlegungen waren Glaubensbezeugungen an die Macht des Feuers und gewisser Objekte durch ihre Beziehungen zueinander. Das stärkste Motiv an allen Stellen war die anhaltende Bedeutung für die immer wieder kehrenden Generationen von gewissen Landschaftsteilen, die von früheren Geschlechtern geschaffen, verändert und in Besitz genommen wurden.

Das Ausmaß und die Qualität der A1- Fundstellen gewährt uns einen thematischen Forschungsansatz auf die lange Sicht. Dieser Band versucht, den Fundstellen ein menschliches Antlitz zu verleihen anhand der Geschichte der menschlichen Gewohnheiten, und sie in den Kontext ihrer zeitgenössischen Landschaften zu stellen.

## Abstracto

Entre el 2001 y el 2004 un programa de trabajo arqueológico fue realizado durante las obras de mejora en la A1 entre Haddington y Dunbar en East Lothian. El trabajo supuso una serie de catas, control de la extracción de la superficie y la excavación de 11 yacimientos arqueológicos, realizados por la *Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division* (GUARD). Los yacimientos indican un periodo cronológico superior a los 5000 años, desde los inicios del cuarto milenio a.C. hasta los inicios del primer milenio d.C. Todos estos trabajos fueron fundados por la *Scottish Executive Trunk Roads Design and Construction Division* y supervisados por *Historic Scotland*.

Cinco de estos yacimientos muestran evidencias de actividad tan tempranas como el noveno milenio a.C., en forma de microlitos o pequeñas puntas de piedra que forman instrumentos compuestos para la caza. Otros tres yacimientos han producido fechas de carbono radiactivo entre el quinto y octavo milenio a.C. Dos yacimientos han dado evidencias fehacientes de su uso en los inicios del cuarto milenio a.C. En Eweford West, entre el 3960 y el 3370 a.C., restos humanos y cerámica *Carinated Bowl* fueron trasladados al yacimiento. Asimismo se construyó y reconstruyó un gran túmulo cubierto por un *cairn* de piedra y se edificó un vallado de madera y sucesivas estructuras mortuorias, quemándolo todo después. Durante el mismo periodo (3950–3380 a.C.) en Penraig Hill, un grupo construyó una estructura mortuoria y un largo cercado trapezoidal; ellos también transportaron los restos de sus muertos y los quemaron en una pira dentro del cercado.

Durante el tiempo en que esta fase de actividades terminó en ambos yacimientos (3370–3190 a.C.), una línea de fosas fue excavada en Knowes, siendo tres de ellas rellenadas de Cerámica Impresa y carbón. Esta utilización de fosas para la división del espacio encontró una expresión más compleja posteriormente en Eweford East, donde entre el 2880 y el 2230 a.C., numerosas generaciones construyeron y elaboraron dos líneas paralelas de postes y un vallado definido por postes. Estos podrían haber sido usados para canalizar o reunir personas o animales, tal vez para procesiones ceremoniales o acumular existencias.

Numerosos de los yacimientos excavados produjeron hallazgos de actividades en distintos aspectos sociales durante el segundo y tercer milenio a.C., todos ellos relacionados con la deposición de artefactos y restos humanos. Durante el 3020 y el 1890 las comunidades regresaron en numerosas ocasiones al túmulo situado en Eweford West, modificando el *cairn*, dejando herramientas de piedra y cerámica *Beaker* y dispersando largas cantidades de cereal quemado. En Overhales, alzaron una estructura ligera y un posible patio entre el 3340 y el 2900 a.C., asimismo la gente excavo dos grandes fosas y las rellenaron con fragmentos cerámicos del tipo *Fengate Ware* y herramientas de piedra importadas. Mil años más tarde, entre el 2340 y 1740, una generación posterior edificó una construcción de madera o un círculo en el mismo lugar. Eweford West vivió otra fase continua de actividad ceremonial durante el segundo milenio a.C.: restos humanos fueron incinerados en una pira en el yacimiento, hueso quemado y carbón fue esparcido en el antiguo túmulo, un *cairn* y arcos de piedra fueron construidos e incineraciones humanas fueron enterradas en más de 20 ocasiones siguiendo distintas prácticas – en fosas, en o debajo de grandes y elaboradas urnas, o con objetos finos como hachas/martillo de piedra. Las fechas del carbono radiactivo indican que las actividades humanas continuaron hasta el 1120 a.C. El yacimiento de Penraig Word también vivió una actividad esporádica durante el segundo milenio a.C.: dos pares de fosas que incluían cremaciones humanas y carbón fueron excavadas y rellenadas durante 1500 y 1250 a.C., junto con otras fosas y agujeros de poste.

Las excavaciones de la A1 han encontrado evidencias de varios tipos de asentamientos, actividades agrícolas y rituales durante la mitad del segundo y primer milenio a.C. En Howmuir, agujeros de poste y zanjas, probablemente relacionados con el sistema agrícola del asentamiento cercano, fueron usados durante 1910 y 1410 a.C. Hoyos poco profundos fueron excavados y rellenados con residuo doméstico en South Belton entre 760 y 400 a.C., durante el mismo periodo una cista fue excavada en el antiguo túmulo del cuarto milenio en Eweford West y restos humanos fueron introducidos en la misma. Entre el 410 y 200 a.C.

una pequeña granja se alzo cerca de Biel Water, mientras en Eweford Cottages se estableció un gran asentamiento rodeado por una zanja. Este proceso perduró quizás hasta el 210 d.C. Después del 40 a.C. la zanja fue rellenada y el cercado del asentamiento fue desmantelado. Durante este periodo, otra cista fue excavada en el yacimiento mortuorio del cuarto milenio a.C. en Pencraig Hill, y de nuevo restos humanos fueron enterrados en él. Mientras tanto, en el 350 a. C., un conjunto de granjas surgió en Phantassie continuando su desarrollo hacia una aldea agraria hasta su abandono cerca del 340 d.C.

Las diferentes excavaciones han producido evidencias de prácticas sociales muy variadas, desde complejas formas arquitectónicas relacionadas con ceremonias y ritos mortuorios, hasta asentamientos agrícolas que han dejado rastros de la vida cotidiana de sus habitantes. A pesar de las diferencias en el carácter de los hallazgos, se han encontrado ciertos rasgos comunes en los distintos yacimientos; las mismas preocupaciones fueron expresadas y manifestadas en diferentes formas

durante más de cuatro milenios. Algunos de estos puntos comunes eran las preocupaciones vinculadas con el sustento a través de la agricultura, vinculada con materiales tales como el residuo domestico, *querns* (piedras de moler) y grano, y métodos como la siembra y la dispersión del abono, que las comunidades usaron para asegurar su supervivencia por generaciones. Otras similitudes eran las creencias en la fuerza simbólica del fuego y de ciertos objetos a través de sus asociaciones y propiedades. El vínculo más fuerte entre todos los hallazgos es la importante perdurabilidad de ciertos lugares del paisaje, ya que generación tras generación volvieron a sitios creados y alterados por generaciones previas haciéndolas suyas de nuevo.

La variedad y calidad de los hallazgos de la A1 permite un estudio a largo plazo. Este volumen pretende poblar los yacimientos excavados presentando la historia de la actividad humana en cada una de ellas y situándolos dentro del contexto formado por sus contemporáneos paisajes habitados.