

# Site 3-J-12

## *Location*

The mound at site 3-J-12 was located towards the centre of Mis Island; it was roughly 300m south of cemetery 3-J-11 and 300m west of the church at site 3-J-18. The area was gently undulating, sloping down from the centre of the island and rising again to the north where there were bedrock outcrops. The ground was composed of a silt/sand deposit with angular gravel across its surface.

## *Description of the cemetery prior to excavation*

The site consisted of a single mound (MDASP type SS11) composed of silt/sand, gravel and stones, 5m in diameter and 650mm high. The mound was roughly circular in shape with sides sloping at an angle of approximately 30° from the horizontal and with a slight depression in its top, possibly the result of wind erosion. The surface of the mound had been covered in angular stones generally between 100mm and 200mm in size.

## *Brief methodology*

In an attempt to elucidate the purpose of the mound it was initially half sectioned to reveal its construction and the material from which it was made. Following that, the remaining half of the mound was removed and the surface underlying it was 'cleaned' in order to reveal any features present.



Plate 1. General view looking north west before excavation.

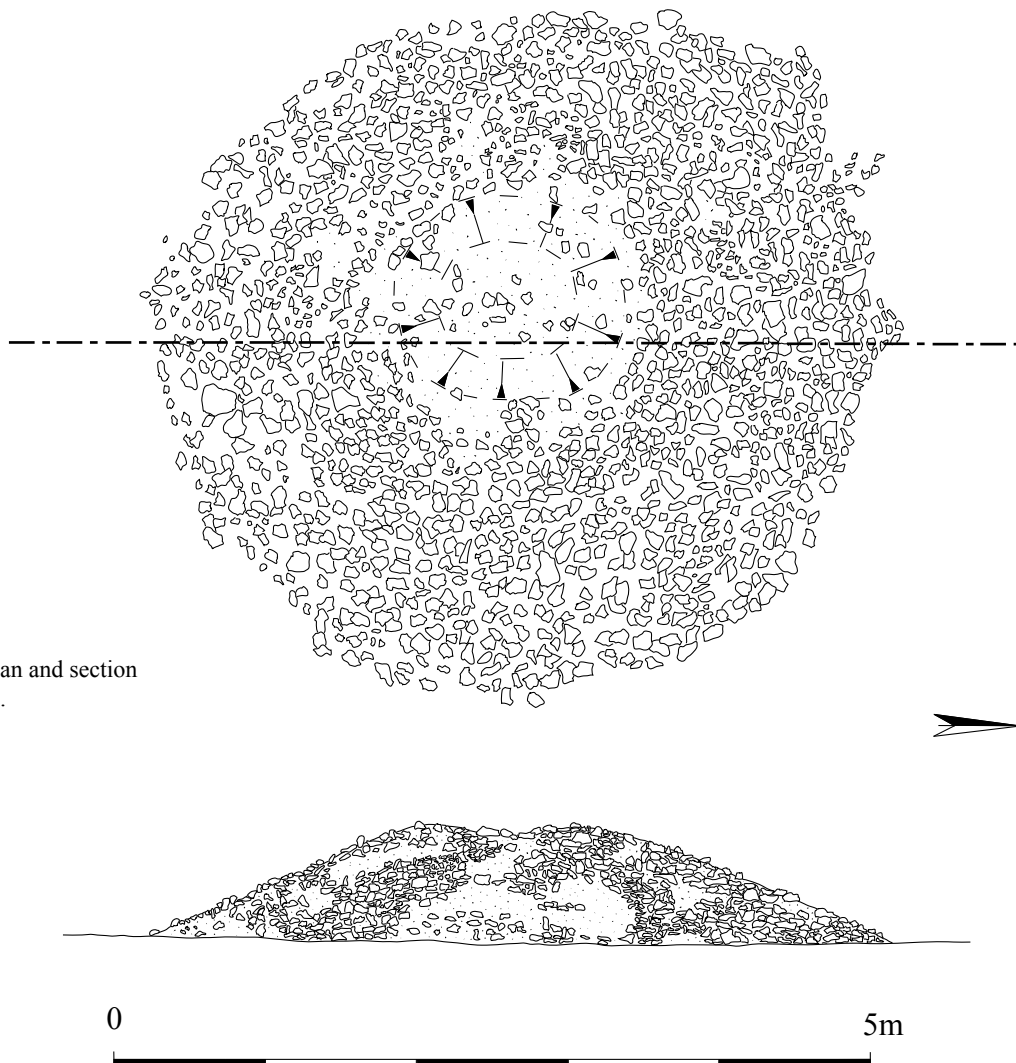


Figure 1. Plan and section (scale 1:50).



Plate 2. East facing section of the mound.

### *Results*

The mound had been constructed of a sand/silt matrix incorporating gravel and angular stones up to 200mm in size. The density of the stones relative to the silt/sand was not constant throughout the mound. Parts where few stones were present contrasted with others where the make-up was mainly gravel and stones. The mound had been constructed in one event, no distinct layers were present in its make-up. The differing proportions of stones and silt/sand reflected the poorly sorted nature of the material. The surface of the mound had been covered with a single layer of angular stones, a necessary addition in order to protect the bulk of the feature from wind erosion. Within the body of the mound were two fragments of red brick and several sherds of pottery. These provided a *terminus post quem* of **Late Christian** date.

The mound was built directly onto the silt/sand natural horizon. Upon that horizon and under the mound, no archaeological features or cuts were present. The mound was thus a discrete feature, the exact purpose of which is unknown, it did not mark the position of a burial or any other deposit. It could have been a marker within the landscape, but this would seem unlikely considering its location within a small island.

### *Small finds from the excavation*

SF 2342

SF 267 1002 oyster shell

SF 268 1002 black material fragment