

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

At NY 1898 7525 an artificial bank measuring 2m wide and up to 1m high was found running along the top of the SW bank of the river under heavy tree cover.

At NY 1914 7527 there are the well-preserved remains of a rectangular stone-built structure measuring 10m by 4m and standing up to 1.8m high. It is situated at the bottom of a natural gully and may be an ice house.

At NY 1920 7516 two parallel darker stripes could be seen in the lawn. They are 1.5m wide and are set 15m apart. They run from NW to SE down towards the A74 and are visible over a distance of about 35m. They had the appearance of buried drainage ditches but could be contemporary with the tower.

40. Langshaw House

At NY 2405 7298 two parallel banks set close together were found running SW to NE from the present A74 for approximately 40m before becoming undetectable. They are set approximately 3m apart and measure 1.5m wide and up to 0.25m high.

41. Robgill

At NY 2481 7170 a stone-lined well 1m in diameter was found covered by a concrete slab. It may be contemporary with Robgill tower nearby.

42. Blackyett

At NY 2528 7103 a roughly linear setting of worn stones was found aligned N to S towards the large cairn at NY 2527 7108.

43. Brownknowe

At NY 2542 7092 there is a raised rectangular platform measuring approximately 12m by 8m. The owner indicated that there had been a smithy on the land somewhere. The platform may well represent this.

44. Annanlea

At NY 2533 7134 an L-shaped section of bank was found measuring 20m by 5m long, 1.5m wide and 0.4m high. The ground surrounding this was also very uneven suggesting other buried features.

45. Oaks Cottage

At NY 2638 7121 an L-shaped section of bank containing large stones was found in the corner of the field. It measures 6m by 5m long, 1m wide and 0.4m high. It is not visible in surrounding fields. Inside the small patch of ground delimited by the bank was a short length of curving bank some 2.5m long forming a 120 degree arc.

NITHSDALE DISTRICT

High Street/Irish Street/Bank Street, Dumfries

(Dumfries parish)

Medieval and post-medieval pits

NX 972 760 Five trial trenches were excavated prior to the development of buildings on the site and in accordance with a brief supplied by the Department of Physical Planning, Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council.

The site was characterised by deep stratigraphy, most of which was clearly of 20th-century deposition. A cobbled surface, located beneath the modern rubble overburden was observed in most trenches. Although some of this cobbled surface was *in situ*, much of

it had clearly been removed and relaid over modern service trenches. Pottery from layers below the cobbles would suggest that it was originally laid sometime in the mid-19th century.

The earliest archaeological features were a group of five sub-circular pits cut into the natural subsoil in the middle of the development area. These ranged in size from about 1.5m in diameter and 0.3m deep to over 3m in diameter and 2m deep. Their fills were datable by potsherds and glass fragments.

The earliest pit contained fragments of three vessels, all dated to the 14th century. A second pit contained 15th-century potsherds and fragments of glazed roof tile, suggesting a broadly post-medieval date. Another pit contained an abundance of glazed and non-glazed roof-tile, probably of 16th or 17th-century origin. The fourth and fifth pits were of larger size. The fourth was dated, by pottery, to the 17th century. It contained the remains of charred oak beams, rough hewn sandstone blocks and other dumped deposits, some of which contained seeds, mostly barley and oat.

The foundations of a wall, constructed of rough-hewn sandstone blocks, were set in a trench cut into the top fill of this pit. The wall survived as an isolated stretch less than 4m in length. The fifth pit could not be excavated due to time constraints. A further pit, located several metres to the W of the main group, was filled with large sandstone boulders, dated by potsherds between the stones to the early 19th century.

All the pits appeared to be sealed by a layer of mid-brown soil, which contained pottery from the late 18th or early 19th century. It is suggested that the pits were either horizontally truncated before the deposition of the soil, or that the later pits were cut through this layer, but that their top fills had blended with the surrounding soil.

The group of pits most probably represent activity in the backlands of burgage plots. The finds and the nature of the fills do not provide any evidence for industrial or domestic processes. However, the dating of the finds does suggest continued occupation from the 14th century onwards.

Sponsor: Scarborough and Edinburgh Property Company Ltd.

Ellisland Farm (Dunscore parish) J Atkinson, I Banks, T Pollard Farmstead

NX 929 838 A small-scale trial excavation was carried out in an attempt to locate the site of an earlier farmstead at Ellisland Farm. The farm tenancy was held by the poet Robert Burns in the period 1788–91, and the present farmhouse was his home during the prolific period which saw the composition of various works including *Tam O'Shanter*. The farm is currently owned by the Ellisland Farm Trust and it was at their behest that this work was carried out.

It has been suggested to the Trust by representatives of Historic Scotland that an enclosure wall may have at one time formed the wall of an earlier farmhouse. Excavation revealed that this was not the case and that the wall had originally been built in order to enclose an orchard and kitchen garden. The trenching of a bank within the enclosed area revealed a natural build-up of soil beneath what was interpreted as a former fence-line. The later discovery of a photograph of the site taken in the 1930s clearly showed a fence running across the area now occupied by the bank.

The results of this work were therefore negative and no evidence for an earlier farmhouse was identified. A full report on this work has been lodged within the NMRS.

Sponsor: Ellisland Farm Trust.

Durisdeer (Durisdeer parish)

Roman disc brooch and enamelled stud

NS 892 033 A Roman enamelled stud and a highly worn disc brooch were found by a metal detectorist from the area of the Roman temporary camps at Durisdeer. They have been claimed as Treasure Trove, but have not yet been allocated to a museum. Daybook no: DB 1992/69b-c.

NMS

Irongray Road, Newbridge (Holywood parish) D J Maynard
Henge monument

NX 952 785 A possible henge monument has been identified on a Bord Gais Eireann vertical air photograph (AF/91/COL/50) taken in May 1991 at a scale of 1:10,000. The feature shows as a soil mark in what was then a ploughed field but is now permanent pasture. The mark shows as a circular soil mark enclosure with broad banks, approximately 60m in diameter. There is no trace of an entrance. The northern edge of the site has recently been built over. A site visit showed that part of the site remains as a large ploughed down bank on the S side of the feature.

The monument is located on the edge of a gravel terrace overlooking the Nith flood plain and would have formed part of the complex of sites including the Twelve Apostles and the Newbridge cursus.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

33.1 Birkhall (Holywood parish)

Burnt mound

NX 9419 8061 A large burnt mound was located during pipeline construction, the mound was about 12m in diameter, roughly oval and up to 1m deep. The mound was not visible prior to construction as it was set in a slight fold in the contours of the slope. This opened to the NE where there is a large wet area.

Surviving under most of the body of the mound was a well-developed turf layer, consisting of a light grey silty sand. This was broken in two places by the position of pits filled with burnt stone and charcoal. Pit 1 was only a shallow depression cutting through the turf being about 0.6m wide. Pit 2 was 0.5m wide and 0.4m deep; it had steep sides and an asymmetrical base.

No other features were seen in the vicinity and no artefacts were recovered. A sample of charcoal has been submitted for identification and carbon dating.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

Clonehead (Keir parish)

Burnt mound

NX 8249 9122 This mound lies in an area of rough grassland and is situated above a wet marshy area draining to the N. It is roughly circular with a diameter of about 10m and maximum height of 0.5m. There is an area of damage on the NW side caused by sheep within which burnt stones in a matrix of black soil can be seen.

The upper part of the mound is partly truncated by a slight trench that might be the results of attempts to level the feature. This mound was identified by a passenger in a car and subsequently verified on a field visit.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

35.1 Carzield (Kirkmahoe parish)

Prehistoric pottery

NX 9703 8212 Bank erosion on a small stream has exposed a number of features on the side of a low gravel ridge.

The earliest of these consists of a water sorted deposit of charcoal and black soil mixed with grey clay. This layer is covered by a yellow clay, probably of fluvial origin. The deposit of charcoal is seen on both sides of the stream.

To the N of this is a pit, approximately 1m deep cut into gravel. The pit contains charcoal and several large stones. From the base of this pit came a large sherd of pottery. The vessel from which it came was hand-made and roughly burnished. It is dark grey in colour and contains many quartz grits including iron pyrites. Dr Alison Sheridan has provisionally identified it as being Neolithic.

The pipeline easement was routed some 40m to the N of this location, so a number of trial trenches were opened to establish the nature of any features along the gravel ridge. No clear picture was gained by this as there appeared to be heavy disturbance associated

with clearing out and improving the flow of the stream, which obscured any archaeological features. No further information was obtained in this area during pipeline construction.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

Shaw's Moor, Dalswinton (Kirkmahoe parish)

CFA

Pre-afforestation survey

The following sites were recorded in December 1992 within the c150 ha area of a proposed conifer plantation. Full details are lodged with the NMRS.

NX 9568 8692 Cairn.

NX 9571 8696 Possible annular enclosure.

NX 956 870 Cairnfield.

NX 956 870 Bank.

NX 9569 8709 Sub-rectangular structure c9m by 5m, with two chambers.

NX 9571 8718 Bank.

NX 9569 8719 Penannular enclosure c16m in diameter, described in NMRS as cremation cemetery (NX 98 NE 2).

NX 9555 8725 Cairnfield: 36 cairns recorded, nine with hollowed centres and possibly structures, also detailed by NMRS as NX 98 NE 2.

NX 9571 8733 – NX 9567 8744 Track.

NX 9579 8740 Banks (possible enclosure).

NX 9680 8745 Five cairns and clearance spread.

NX 9597 8740 Cairn.

NX 9537 8820 Mound.

NX 954 887 Two mounds.

Sponsor: HS

45.1 Ross Mains (Kirkmichael parish)

D J Maynard

Fire pit

NY 0691 8824 During topsoil removal on the Southwest Scotland Pipeline, a pit was revealed on a gravel bluff above an abandoned meander of the Kinnel Water. The pit was oval in shape being 1.7m by 1.1m in diameter. The pit was filled with broken, angular stones and charcoal. No other features or artefacts were noted in the area. A sample of charcoal has been submitted for identification and carbon dating.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

30.4 Collochran (Terregles parish)

Burnt mound

NX 9118 7588 An area of burnt stone and charcoal was identified at the edge of the pipeline easement, mostly buried beneath the undisturbed topsoil heap. The exposed area was roughly 3m by 1m. No other features were seen in the stripped area.

The mound lay to the NW of an extensive badly drained area at the base of a steep slope. Material washed down from this slope appears to have completely buried the mound.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

40.1-3, Blairhall Burn, Amisfield (Tinwald parish)

Burnt mound

NX 997 847 The following group of burnt mounds was located during the survey of the pipeline route.

40.1

NX 9973 8476 A circular mound of 12m in diameter and 0.5m height lies W of a ditched stream. The mound contains burnt stones and black soil; it has apparently been ploughed.

40.2

NX 9974 8472 This mound is 10m in diameter and 0.4m high. It lies directly on the W bank of the stream and is roughly circular in shape. A field drain passes through the body of the mound, within which can be seen burnt stones and black soil.

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40.3

NX 9975 8472 This mound lies on the E side of the stream. The shape of the mound is unclear as part of it is buried beneath material ploughed from the slope above and also part of the mound is disturbed by cattle tracks approaching the stream. The surviving extent of the mound covers an area of about 8m in diameter and up to 0.2m in height.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

40.4 Blairhall Burn, Amisfield (Tinwald parish)

Burnt mound

NY 0005 8491 During pre-construction survey of the pipeline, a burnt mound was identified close to the route of the pipeline. It stands as a low oval mound 0.2m high 7m long by 3m wide. The route of the pipeline was changed slightly to avoid the structure of

the mound. A small excavation was carried out on the new alignment, but no features were identified. No further information was gained about this site during the watching brief on construction through this area.

See also the other burnt mounds, 40.1-3 and Prehistoric settlement located through the project in this area.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

Blairhall Burn (Tinwald parish)

CFA

Burnt mounds, post-built structures and a metal-working area

NX 997 846 During the topsoiling of Section 40 of the Southwest Scotland Pipeline Gas Interconnector Project a concentration of archaeological features was located by the Project Archaeologist, and CFA were contracted to excavate them in May - June 1993. These remains included two burnt mounds, two post-built structures

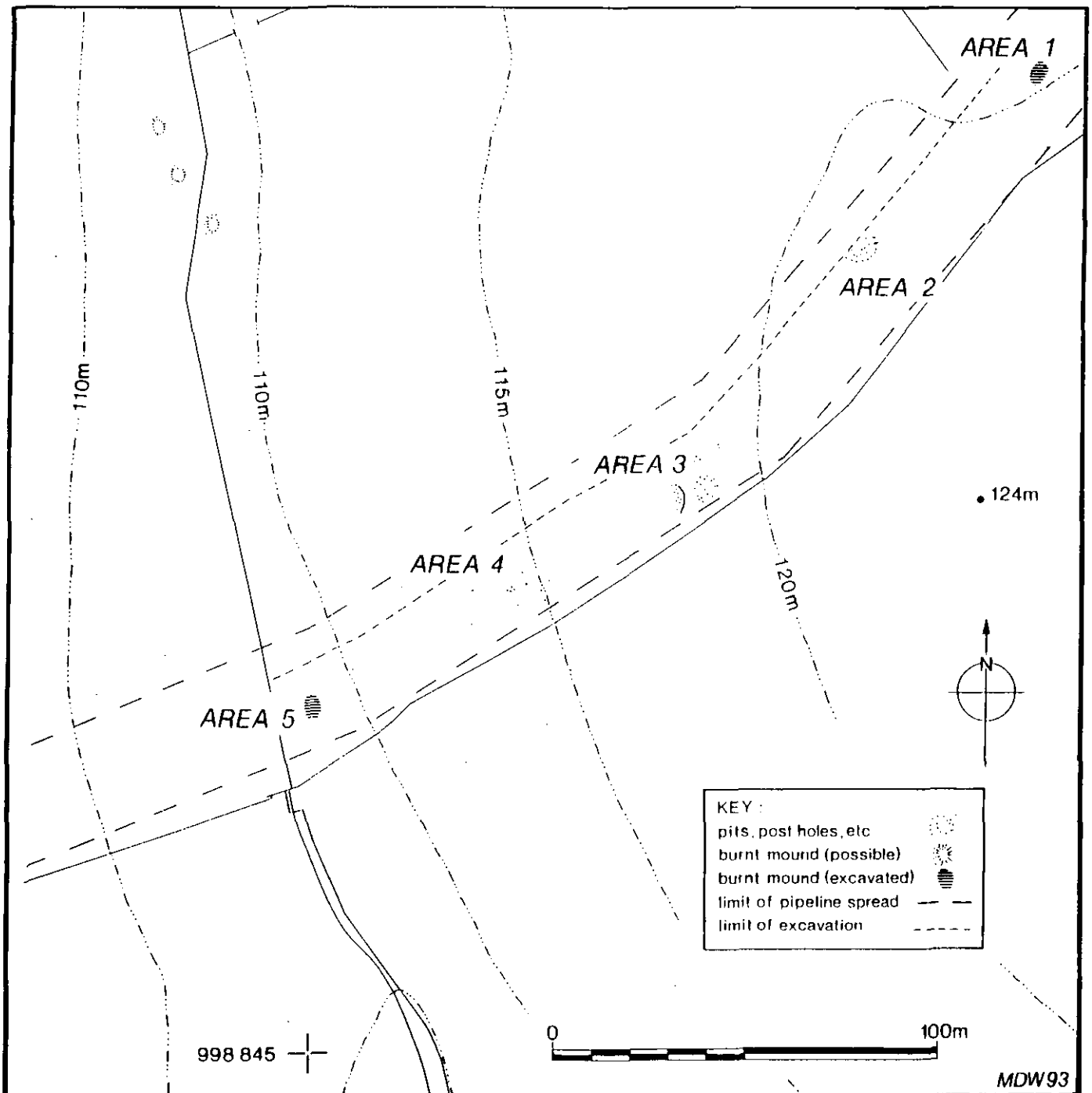


Fig 3. Blairhall Burn.

and a metal-working area. Excavation concentrated on five principal areas of activity (Areas 1–5 on the accompanying plan, see Fig 3). Stratification was generally vestigial in all but Area 5.

The burnt mound in Area 1 measured approximately 7m by 8m, was badly truncated by the topsoiling machinery and had been cut by field drains. The burnt mound in Area 5 measured approximately 8m by 6m and was partly preserved beneath hillwash. The mound comprised up to c0.35m of burnt deposits overlying an old ground surface. Both burnt mounds consisted of a mix of medium-sized angular sandstone and charcoal pieces. No structural features or significant artefacts were recovered.

In Area 2 approximately two-thirds of a post-built structure was exposed (the remaining third being under the topsoil heap). It consisted of two concentric rings of post holes (many containing packing stones) with an external diameter of approximately 10m and a porch entrance on its E side. A shallow, oval pit was the only substantial internal feature recorded and diagnostic artefacts were limited to a surface find of worked cannel coal (provisionally identified as an Anglo-Saxon belt fastener), the occasional sherd of pot and a few worked flints. A discontinuous series of shallow, curvilinear depressions were located to the NE of this structure, but the lack of stratification and datable artefacts means that it is impossible to say whether they are related features.

In Area 3 a second post-built structure was almost completely exposed within the topsoiled spread. It consisted of an elliptical ring of post holes (many with packing stones) with a length of 8m. No entrance was evident. A shallow, oval pit, containing burnt seeds, was present on the eastern side of the interior. Diagnostic finds were limited to the occasional sherd of pottery, a few worked flints and a polished stone axe flake.

Immediately to the SW of this elliptical structure, a further possible structure was severely truncated by quarrying for hard-core prior to its identification as an archaeological site. It consisted of a curvilinear slot containing packing stones, with shallow, oval pits and post holes cut into the bedrock within the area defined by it. Although excavated remains are insufficient for a convincing interpretation it would appear to be some form of structure. Finds from this area consisted of numerous body sherds of pottery and a saddle quern.

The metal-working area consisted of four shallow, oval pits containing pieces and fragments of slag, ash and the occasional pot sherd. They were surrounded by an incoherent pattern of pits and post holes, and a shallow bowl-shaped hearth.

An extensive post-excavation programme is currently under way and on its completion a further report will be compiled.
Sponsor: Irish Gas.

STEWARTRY DISTRICT

Laggan 4 (Anwoth parish)

Rock carvings

NX 5449 5241 E of the road to Mossyard farm is an outcrop, partially exposed with six plain cups, four dots and some pecking; one curved groove partially enclosing one of the cups; one irregular 'ring' without cup but with a faint groove running S; a small but very faint horseshoe device with possibly its ends cupped with midglets.

Laggan 5 (Anwoth parish)

Rock carvings

NX 5462 5240 Outcrop on top of long ridge E of Laggan 4. Four small plain cups.

M van Hoek

High Auchenlarie 3 (Anwoth parish)

Rock carvings

NX 5355 5346 Large isolated outcrop or boulder with horizontal upper face. Situated a few yards E of the high W wall of the first field W of Auchenlarie Burn. Two faint and shallow single cups; all other depressions are probably natural.

Bardistane 3 (Anwoth parish)

Rock carvings

NX 5300 5351 Small boulder in rough field, 670m due (grid) N of Bardistane farm. Four small cups.

Brighouse Bay dune system (Borgue parish)

D J Maynard

Shell middens

NX 6378 4580 Observations during the construction of the land-fall of the pipeline revealed a number of features in the sand dunes and beach of Brighouse Bay.

The main stratigraphic features within the dune system consisted of two soil horizons both buried by wind-blown sand. The earliest of these contained the slight remains of four furrows about 1.5m apart, which could be evidence for a cord rigg type of cultivation. At present there is no dating evidence for this horizon.

After the deposition of up to a metre of wind-blown sand a period of stability ensued. During this phase a number of small shell middens were deposited at different points over the dunes. Two of these middens contained a number of Roman period items. These consist of an iron spearhead, part of a coin mould for producing false denarii using original coins dated to 220 AD and 222 AD and several pottery sherds of Roman form. One of the middens' areas has the remains of a number of ploughmarks, which may originate from a later period when humic soil formed over the top of the middens.

The soil horizon was buried by a final episode of sand deposition that created the present-day dune system.

Below both of the soil horizons some evidence was obtained in trenching operations of the formation of earlier storm beaches and within the bay itself evidence was recorded of the formation of peat from the immediate Post Glacial period.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

500.1 Brighouse Bay (Borgue parish)

Burnt mound

NX 6393 4607 This was a small burnt mound lying on the edge of a rock outcrop. The site was located after the area had been topsoil stripped and an amount of damage to the area which prevented the full extent of the mound being determined. The excavated extent was 4m by 3m.

A trench was excavated along the downhill side of the outcrop which revealed that part of the burnt material had eroded downhill towards the stream. This material and the rest of the burnt mound was covered by a silty clay deposit to a depth of up to 0.5m.

This silt clay also covered an adjacent area of peat that was revealed during trenching operations. A peat column was taken from the deposit and is currently being studied.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

500.2 Brighouse Bay (Borgue parish)

Burnt mound

NX 6399 4616 Following topsoil stripping, a small area of burnt stones was located close to a stream on the edge of the pipeline easement. Examination of the bank of the stream showed an area of burnt stone and black soil approximately 1.5m wide and 0.5m thick. It appears that this mound is almost completely buried beneath a silty clay alluvium, which masks the full extent of the features and any associated elements.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

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500.3 Brighthouse Bay (Borgue parish)

Burnt mound

NX 6403 4618 Following topsoil stripping, a small area of burnt stones was located close to a stream on the edge of the pipeline easement. A pit was dug into the subsoil that revealed a denser concentration of burnt mound material. It appears that this mound is almost completely buried beneath a silty clay alluvium, which masks the full extent of the feature and any associated elements.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

500.5 Clash Cottage, Brighthouse Bay (Borgue parish)

Cremation

NX 6459 4582 During topsoil stripping at the Brighthouse Bay compressor station, a small pit filled with cremated bone was located. The feature lay in a small hollow between two outcrops of rock.

The cremated bone lay in a small oval pit, 0.4m long, 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep. The cremated bone lay in a matrix of black soil. No other features were seen in the vicinity, and no artefacts were found.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

500.4 Clash Cottage, Brighthouse Bay (Borgue parish)

Fire pits

NX 6472 4620 A total of four pits containing charcoal, or burnt stone and charcoal were located in this position beside a wet area with a stream. Charcoal samples have been submitted for identification and to determine a radio carbon date.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

Clauchendolly (Borgue parish)

Spindle whorls

NX 644 471 Mr A Sproat of Rock Vale, Brighthouse Bay has in his possession two spindle whorls of stone. One, without decoration, came from a stone dyke near Clauchendolly. The other is decorated by a series of five pits around the central hole. Mr Sproat cannot remember the findspot for this object, but it is in the Brighthouse area.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

Buittle Castle Bailey (Buittle parish)

A Penman

Motte and bailey

NX 819 616 This site is situated in the valley of the River Urr in the grounds of Buittle Tower, a fortified L-shaped tower of the late 16th century. Formerly part of a farm complex, this site is being investigated at the invitation of the owner, Jeffrey Burn, to determine the amount of damage done to the bailey courtyard and moat of Buittle Castle by agricultural operations. The castle was built by Alan of Galloway during the first quarter of the 13th century. One of the four Norman castles of Galloway, it was probably the natural successor to a timber-built tower surrounded by palisaded fortifications which stood half a mile upstream from Buittle, on the site now referred to as Motte of Urr. Besieged by Edward Bruce from 1308–12, during the War of Independence it was the site of the royal courts of both King John Baliol (1292–96) and his son King Edward Baliol (1332–56). It was in the adjacent castle that the Lady Devorgilla Baliol endowed Baliol College, Oxford, the grant being dated *Apud Botle*, 1283. The castle was presented to the *Good Sir James Douglas* by King Robert The Bruce in 1324 subject to the yearly tribute of one pair of spurs.

To date three trenches have been dug, one 5m by 10m in size opposite the main entrance to the castle and two on the outer defence of the bailey, 3m by 5m and 2m by 5m respectively, directly above the waters of the River Urr and all have yielded evidence of extensive plough damage down to natural. A very battered silver penny of King Edward III ('bust with bushy hair', 3rd coinage, 1344–51) and an iron hunting arrowhead of the 12th/13th century were found in one trench and some sherds of yellow-green glaze

pottery in the others above what would appear to be the remains of robbed wall footings. The pottery, by comparison with other examples found locally on motte and bailey sites, is dated to the 13th/14th centuries. Some small fragments of human bone have also been found which may relate to a period of siege at the complex.

This is an ongoing excavation and eventually it is hoped to examine a section of the moat prior to its being integrated into a landscaped garden and also the riverbank for evidence of harbour/landing place, traces of which are visible.

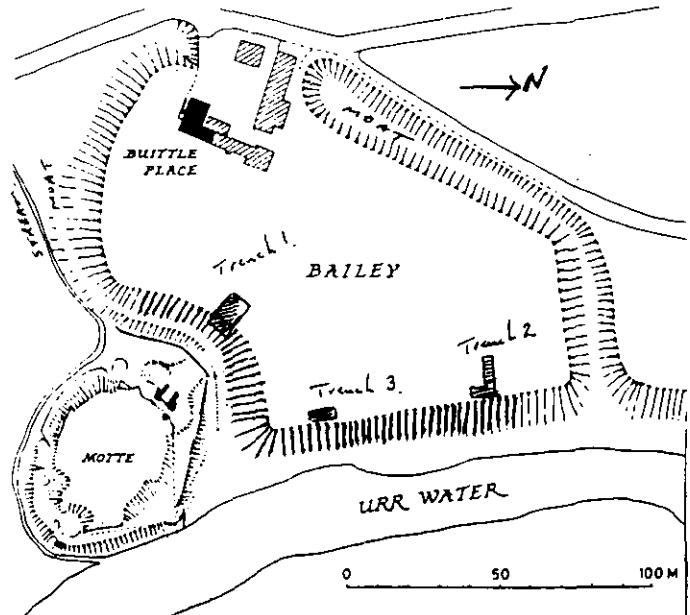


Fig 4. Buittle Castle.

West Auchensheen Farm (Colvend & Southwick parish) NMS EBA flat axehead

NX 858 550 An EBA bronze flat axehead was found by a metal-detectorist on West Auchensheen Farm, near the bank of Clonyard Loch. It has been claimed as Treasure Trove and acquired by Stewartry Museum.

Daybook no: DB 1993/1.

17.7 Greenlaw (Crossmichael parish)

D J Maynard

Fire pit

NX 7507 6448 A small pit filled with fire-cracked stone was located during topsoil stripping. The pit had dimensions of 1.1m deep and 0.9m wide and was 0.2m at its deepest. The site was in an unusual position for such a feature being on the side of a low hill. No other features or artefacts were recovered. A charcoal sample has been submitted for identification and carbon dating.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

16.1 Bow Hill, Greenlaw (Crossmichael parish)

Fire pits

NX 7470 6395 A total of four pits filled with burnt stone and charcoal were located after topsoil stripping. They lay in an area of level ground close to a stream draining towards the wetlands around Threave.

Two pits were fully excavated as they were directly threatened, while the others were recorded. There were no other features present. A sample of charcoal has been submitted for identification and radio carbon dating.

Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

Clenrie and Drumbuie (Kells parish)

J Rideout

Post-Medieval farmsteads and related structures

NX 54 82 (centre) A short notice forestry survey was carried out by AOC (Scotland) Ltd covering approximately 7.2km² of land on the former farms of Clenrie and Drumbuie 9km ENE of New Galloway. Two archaeological sites had been recorded previously within the survey area. NX58SW 1 (Deil's Dyke) and NX58SE 1 (hut circles; enclosures). Fifteen sites were recorded, all associated with post-Medieval farming in the area. The monument recorded as part of the Deil's Dyke (NX58SW 1) proved to be a march-dyke. The hut-circles and enclosures (NX58SE 1) could not be located. The original manuscript note on this monument places it on the right bank of the burn between Clenrie and Drumbuie and is probably referring to the farmstead at NX 5613 8231.

List of Sites Recorded

- 1 NX 5548 8075 to NX 5489 8182 March-dyke (NMRS NX58SW 1).
- 2 NX 5342 8190 to NX 5375 8235 Dyke.
- 3 NX 5500 8211 Enclosure, cultivation ridges.
- 4 NX 5525 8217 Farmstead.
- 5 NX 5530 8230 Enclosure, cultivation ridges.
- 6 NX 5533 8225 Enclosure, cultivation ridges.
- 7 NX 5538 8235 Enclosure, cultivation ridges.
- 8 NX 5542 8242 Enclosure, cultivation ridges.
- 9 NX 5549 8231 Enclosure, cultivation ridges.
- 10 NX 5558 8235 Enclosure, cultivation ridges.
- 11 NX 5567 8237 Enclosure, cultivation ridges.
- 12 NX 5546 8254 Enclosure.
- 13 NX 5554 8261 Enclosure.
- 14 NX 5613 8231 Farmstead.
- 15 NX 5630 8161 Enclosure.

Sponsor: HS [6]

Corby Slap, 128–130 High Street, Kirkcudbright

(Kirkcudbright parish)

J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

Medieval town defence wall

NX 682 507 Trial excavations were conducted in July 1993, in advance of a housing development, within the angle of the SE corner of the medieval burgh defences. Two trenches, c1m by 6m, were machine excavated. Trench A, aligned E to W, revealed the western side of a rubble dyke cut into mid-grey-brown clay subsoil, c0.5m below ground surface. The dyke appeared to be constructed of roughly hewn stone blocks and rounded beach cobbles bonded in a clay matrix.

Trench B, aligned N to S, revealed c0.7m below ground surface, the northern side of a similar rubble dyke overlying an earlier back-filled ditch. This ditch appeared to cut through the subsoil into natural yellow-brown clay. No direct dating evidence was recovered from either trench. The position of the walls appears to confirm the line of the town defences as recorded in the historical record. No evidence of backland activity was encountered in either trench.

Sponsor: HS [6]

Tanpits Lane, Kirkcudbright (Kirkcudbright parish)

Medieval town defences

R Cachart (SUAT)

NX 683 509 Three trenches were machine excavated, in a limited investigation, to locate the town's defensive wall and ditch and examine an area of backlands in advance of development. Two trenches, A and C, revealed evidence relating to the town's early defences.

Wall features were found in Trenches A and C. They both abutted natural on the W side and had deposits representing infilling over their eastern faces. This arrangement suggests retaining walls fronted by a ditch. The sections of wall are on what has historically been considered to be the line of the town defences, so in all probability they

represent the remains of the town's defensive walls. Positive dating evidence for the construction of the wall features was not found. There was a difference in construction between the two sections which may have been the result of two building phases, or could perhaps indicate that separate teams were responsible for the construction and upkeep of different parts of the defences.

The best evidence for a ditch or foss came from Trench A, where a cut in the natural on the eastern side of the wall was interpreted as being the eastern edge of a ditch. All the ditch infilling deposits in both trenches contained abundant 19th or early 20th-century pottery, indicating relatively recent infilling of this feature. Residual medieval sherds in the bottom fill of Trench A may have originated from a much earlier phase of the ditch.

No specific evidence of early backland activity was encountered in Trench B.

Sponsors: HS [6], Stewartry District Council.

Balmae (Kirkcudbright parish)

M van Hoek

Rock carvings

NX 686 447 The entries of Balmae 2 have been checked by the author in October 1992 in favourable light. All cups proved to be quite shallow and only visible in low sun. Balmae 2B to 2H are part of the same outcrop as Balmae 2A and Balmae 1, whereas 2I to 2L are on separate outcrops NW of this knoll.

- Balmae 2B Two single cups just SE of 2A.
- Balmae 2C Two single cups directly SW of 2A.
- Balmae 2D Three single cups SW of 2C.
- Balmae 2E Four single cups directly SW of 2D.
- Balmae 2F Three single cups SW of 2E.
- Balmae 2G Two small curved grooves.
- Balmae 2H Two single cups just NW of and below 2D and 2E.
- Balmae 2I One large single cup on outcrop N of the knoll.
- Balmae 2J Four single cups on outcrop NW of Balmae 1.
- Balmae 2K Six single cups on outcrop NW of 2J.
- Balmae 2L Two cups on outcrop W of Balmae 1.
- Balmae 11 NX 6884 4496 Outcrop, W of disused quarry, seven dots or midget-cups, possibly natural.
- Balmae 12 NX 6883 4496 Outcrop N of rock 11 with three small and shallow single cups; one small pecked area; two rather broad grooves lightly pecked out.
- Balmae 13A NX 6883 4497 Outcrop on slight scarp N of the quarry. Three single cups; one very deep and large cup surrounded by faint partial ring (20cm in diameter); many possible peckmarks of which one group seems to form a circle; one faint lightly incised (?) small square of doubtful origin.
- Balmae 13B Outcrop 1m E of 13A. One rather large cupmark clearly pocked with peckmarks around it at random; one smaller single cup just SW of this.
- Balmae 13C Outcrop bit immediately E of 13B. A number of short but rather deep strokes. Of doubtful origin. Trial-marks?
- Balmae 13D Outcrop immediately NE of rock 13C. A small, clearly pecked area forming no pattern.
- Balmae 13E Outcrop 1m SE of rock 13D. One clear single cup.
- Balmae 13F Outcrop 2m E of 13D. One possible long straight groove, three distinct grooves, possibly incised, in the form of a footprint of a bird. Of doubtful origin.
- Balmae 14 NX 6885 4498 Covered outcrop, 20m NE of group 13. A number of possible peckmarks; a group of miniature-carvings: one possible cup with remains of a single ring (5cm in diameter); one single groove; a groove enclosing five small marks.
- Balmae 15 NX 6865 4460 Very long outcrop spine in gorse. A large system of enclosing grooves, possibly the remains of a set of rings or perhaps a spiral. Much weathered.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Torrs 1B (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 6802 4586 Re-discovered. Small outcrop 70cm E of rock 1A. Two cupmarks connected by a groove. Weathered.

Torrs 1C (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 6802 4586 Re-discovered. Small outcrop, about 90cm S of rock 1B. A very faint nearly complete ringmark without central cup, however enclosing a few indistinct dots.

Torrs 2C (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 6802 4586 Re-discovered. Outcrop with three small cups surrounded by eight 'dots'.

Torrs 3A (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 6794 4522 Extended (see *DES* 1986, 8). Large partially exposed outcrop ridge. About 58 extra single cups, one cup with tail, two cups with one (incomplete) ring, one cup with two rings, the very faint remains of a set of four or five rings (no central cup?) with a number of the single cups superimposed.

Torrs 4 (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 6807 4519 Large outcrop knoll. One large and one small single cup; one small cup surrounded by nine complete rings.



Fig 5. Torrs 4. NX 6807 4519 (October 1992).

Torrs 5 (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 6808 4524 Five single cups on outcrop.

Torrs 6 (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 6805 4526 Small part of a long outcrop ridge. Two single cups.

Torrs 7 (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 6805 4534 Large domed outcrop immediately NE of disused quarry. At least seven single cups and two doubtful ones.

Blackhill 3 (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 6924 4662 Exposed outcrop at the base of the knoll SW of Blackhill Cottage, facing the small pool. One certain single cup and one doubtful; one cup-and-one-gapped-ring; one cup with the remains of possibly three gapped rings. Almost weathered off.

Townhead 15 (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings

NX 701 467 Outcrop ridge nearer the wall, SE of rock 14 and covered by gorse. Three small single cups.

Townhead 16 (Kirkcudbright parish)

Rock carvings


NX 701 467 Outcrop table, largely grass-covered, S of rock 14. One single cupmark. Weathered.

Dundrennan Abbey (Rerrick parish)

G Ewart

NX 749 474 Elements of the S range of this Cistercian Abbey were excavated in June 1993, during which the W half elaborate undercroft beneath the latrine block/reredorter at the extreme SE corner of the claustral circuit, was cleared of robbing collapse. The evidence so far, clearly shows that the structure and the adjacent Novices' Day Room were part of an integrated complex of high status chambers dating from the early 13th century. The two rooms were built from the same artificial terrace and were linked by an extremely finely constructed ornamental archway implying easy access and possibly allied function. One possible explanation for the newly discovered chamber is that it was the abbey infirmary as in Margam Abbey, Glamorgan.

Over 130 fragments of moulded stone – mainly from the vaulted ceiling of the chamber, were retrieved during the excavation – apparently discarded when the site was robbed regularly from the late 17th century. Clear evidence was also found of a period of subdivision and structural repair within the S range, with the blocking of the W door and infill of the massive garderobe slots in favour of smaller garderobe pits. All this is indicative of a reduction in the communal occupation of this area of the cloister, perhaps in response to subsidence or partial collapse of the southern walls of the range, which necessitated reinforcing the S walls by blocking redundant garderobe chutes.

Sponsor: HS 

High Barend (Rerrick parish)

J Brann

Grave slab

NX 742 487 The grave slab bearing a full length sword, reported in *DES* 1991, 17, was removed from the cottage and returned to Dundrennan Abbey prior to renovations.

Sponsor: Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council.

Bombie 2G (Rerrick parish)

M van Hoek

Correction: *DES* 1992, page 25, this was incorrectly printed as 26.

11.1 Culquha (Tongland parish)

D J Maynard

Burnt mound

NX 6977 5863 This site lay at the base of a steep slope above an area of springs and wet ground bordering a S-flowing stream. The feature was first identified following the excavation of a drainage trench, this was then extended to record the archaeological features fully.

The mound had apparent dimensions of 7m long by 4.8m wide and was about 0.2m thick. It had formed at the base of the steep slope, but parts of the mound material had eroded downhill apparently during the period of use of the feature as further burnt mound material had formed over the top of the silty material. After the abandonment of use of the site up to 0.5m of hillwash had collected over the mound completely concealing it.

No other features or artefacts were noted in the area. A charcoal sample has been submitted for identification and carbon dating.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

Compstonend (Twynholm parish)

Burnt mound

NX 6644 5243 A small spread of burnt stones lay on the side of a small rock outcrop beside a stream draining to the SW. The stones were exposed on the course of a new roadway being constructed by the landowner. The area observed was a maximum of 3m by 2m.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

4.1 Sourhill (Twynholm parish)

Burnt mound

NX 6684 5304 An area of burnt stones and soil approximately 2m by 2m was located during topsoil stripping on the edge of the pipeline easement. It would appear that this is the edge of a larger feature to the W of the pipeline.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

4.3 Sourhill (Twynholm parish)

Burnt mound

NX 6671 5279 During topsoil stripping operations, burnt stones and soil were found on the western edge of the pipeline easement. This is a large wet area in a hollow to the E of the pipeline. Much of the burnt material was very gritty and silty and looked as if it had eroded downhill from a possible burnt mound to the W. There is a vague mound in the pasture field just outside the pipeline fence.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

Fell Farm, Crocketford (Urr parish)

Burnt mounds

NX 829 709 A group of burnt mounds lies on either side of a small stream draining northwards within an area that has recently planted with a small wood. There are three definite mounds and one possible site. The site was identified by a passenger in a car and subsequently verified.

The southernmost mound is seen as a low mound against the valley side 5m long and 3m wide. The other two areas consist of burnt stone identified within the furrows cut by a forestry plough. The possible site consists of an irregularly shaped mound with several large boulders. Burnt stone has not been identified within its structure.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

25.10 Spottes Burn, Haugh of Urr (Urr parish)

Burnt mound

NX 8070 6837 Topsoil stripping revealed a large spread of burnt stone and black soil. This was irregular in shape having an area of 20m by 12m. A similar area of 6m by 4m was seen 10m to the N.

A machine was used to excavate a trench across the feature. This showed that the material was 0.35m thick. Beneath the body of the mound was a pit filled with burnt material. The pit was oval in shape, 0.9m and 0.3m deep. A sample of charcoal has been submitted for identification and radio carbon dating.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

25.8 Barr of Spottes (Urr parish)

Burnt mound and areas of burnt stone

NX 8140 6853 During the survey of the pipeline route, a burnt mound was located beside a small stream. The mound is roughly circular in shape, being 7m and 0.5m high. In the ploughed field to the W a 2m long spread of burnt stone was seen in the ploughsoil. As this was close to the pipeline easement a number of trial trenches were excavated to determine if features would be affected by the

pipeline. The trenches all produced negative information, nothing further was noted during earthmoving in the vicinity.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

26.3 Meikle Culmain (Urr parish)

Burnt mound

NX 8342 6956 A number of burnt stones and charcoal were seen in a heavily disturbed area pushed up between vehicle ruts. The material appeared to be fairly deeply buried beneath material washed down from the slope above. No other features could be seen. The site lies on the E side of a small stream flowing to the S.

There must be some element of doubt over this site as subsequent visits failed to find any trace of the burnt stone.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

26.4 Burnfell (Urr parish)

Burnt mound

NX 8415 7036 This feature was revealed in a drainage trench as a quantity of burnt stones and black soil. It lay on the E side of a small stream running to the S. The feature extended for about 3m having a maximum thickness of 0.2m. The highest point of the feature was at about 0.3m below ground level. No other features were identified.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

27.5 Deanston Burn (Urr parish)

Burnt mound

NX 8551 7236 A scatter of burnt stone and charcoal covering an area of about 7m by 4m was located after topsoil stripping on the W bank of the Deanston Burn. The material was no more than 0.1m thick and covered two small circular pits filled with burnt material. A charcoal sample has been submitted for identification and carbon dating.
Sponsor: Irish Gas Southwest Scotland Pipeline.

Chapelton (Urr parish)

CFA

Two ditches, pits and a Northumbrian *styca*

NX 7969 6748 During the topsoiling of Section 24 of the Southwest Scotland Pipeline Gas Interconnector Project a series of stone spreads and negative features was located by the Project Archaeologist, close to the site of a Pre-Reformation chapel. The stone spreads had accumulated in the upper fill of a ditch (Ditch 2), and may have been transported there by ploughing.

Two lengths of ditch were uncovered. Ditch 1 was 12m long, 0.6m to 1.5m wide and up to 0.43m deep, and Ditch 2 was 19m long, 1.1m wide and up to 0.5m deep. It is possible that Ditch 1 filled up before Ditch 2 was cut. The date and function of these ditches remain unknown.

A series of pits was also recorded and it is clear that they were not all contemporary. A large pit in the NE part of the site contained a charcoal rich fill. This fill included a copper alloy coin, which has provisionally been identified as a later, debased form of Northumbrian *styca*, dating to the 8th–9th centuries AD.

Other finds include chipped stone, a piece of worked shale, a few sherds of pottery, a sherd of glass, quantities of slag, iron and lead objects, and an unstratified sherd of samian pottery.

The excavated remains are evidently part of a more substantial site. The relationship of this site to the supposed Pre-Reformation chapel remains unknown. A programme of post-excavation work is currently under way.
Sponsor: Irish Gas.

Edingham (Urr parish)

J Brann

World War II munitions factory

NX 845 630 The site comprises an extensive complex of earthworks, concrete and brick built structures, and ponds, representing all stages of the manufacture of munitions. Pill boxes overlook the complex.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

A road is soon to be constructed along the SW side, impinging on the area of magazines. In advance of this, a detailed photographic record has been made of the total complex from the air, and of the area affected, from the ground. This, together with annotated plans, will be placed in the NMRS.

Sponsors: RCAHMS, (air photograph grant), DGRC, Department of Water and Sewerage.

WIGTOWN DISTRICT

Balcraig 4 (Glasserton parish)

M van Hoek

Rock carvings

NX 3754 4440 Large exposed outcrop ridge. Possibly up to 11 cups (some natural?) and a groove (natural?) from a large cup/basin. On another part are up to six single cupmarks and one cup surrounded by three faint concentric rings. (See also *DES* 1986, 7.)

Cairnholy 4G (Kirkmabreck parish)

Rock carvings

NX 5157 5458 Large outcrop, triangular in section. E face: Sixteen small cups, some relatively deep, and one possible groove. S face: Some 24 small cups, relatively deep, forming two long rows, partially parallel.

Kirkmuir 1B (Kirkmabreck parish)

Rock carvings

NX 513 541 Further excavation yielded one extra cup and one cup with one ring. (*DES* 1992, 27.)

Kirkmuir 2 (Kirkmabreck parish)

Rock carvings

NX 5140 5404 Re-discovered and extended. Outcrop, now covered up. Two single cups; two cups perhaps on grooves; one long groove; nine cups with one ring, possibly all gapped and some with possible tails; two cups with two rings, one rather irregular.

Barhobble (Mochrum parish)

W F Cormack

12th-century church on earlier ecclesiastical site

NX 310 494 Investigation of further graves, total now over 120, under and around the church has delayed completion of this dig. One grave had two stone side slabs, possibly reused, with 3 and 8 compass-inscribed circles respectively, c13cm diameter. Below the end of the church and oriented parallel with and over the underlying charcoal burials (see *DES* 1990, 11) is evidence of a lightly built timber or wattle oratory or chapel destroyed by burning, width about 3m – length unknown. A further cross slab of the general 'celto-norse' period was found in demolition rubble from the church.

Kirkmadrine (Sorbie parish)

Compass-inscribed circles on church wall

NX 475 482 Julia Muir-Watt of Whithorn and her husband Ehrich noticed and reported to the contributor a circle-inscribed stone built into the outside of the N wall of this ruined church (RCAHMS Inventory No 418). Triangular in shape about 0.45m long, it is situated c1.4m above present ground level and 2.3m from the NE corner. There is an upper, slightly curved, row of four interlocked circles 6cm in diameter – the centre of each circle being on the circumference of that adjoining. There is a lower row of four circles of similar size but placed 0.5cm apart. One of these lower circles has a few faint radial lines, and another, at least one faint arc between the centre and the circumference.

Eggerness 2B (Sorbie parish)

M van Hoek

Rock carvings

NX 4872 4737 A few metres NW of rock 2(A) is a dike-shaped outcrop with smooth top with one possible single cup and two 'dots'.

Whithorn Priory (Whithorn parish)

D Pollock

Structures and Northumbrian graveyard

NX 444 402 In a 13-week season, the unfinished length of the 1992 trench (*DES* 1992, 27–8) was reopened and extended a further 15m southwards, over the flat hilltop towards the 1986–91 trench.

Almost the entire extension fell within a Northumbrian graveyard bounded by a wall foundation. A currently undated fire (probably 9th century) had destroyed wicker and daub buildings representing one of the encroachments on the graveyard. Most graves have not yet been excavated.

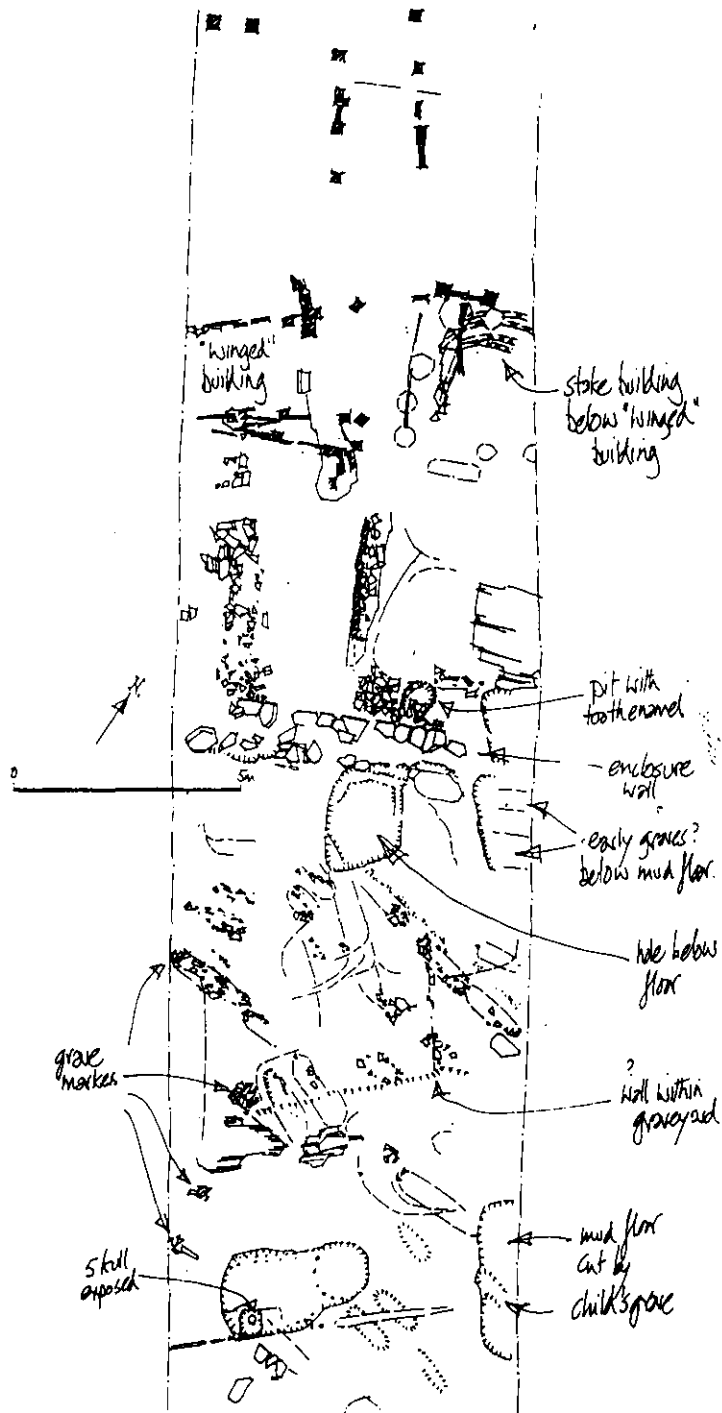


Fig 6. Whithorn Priory. Phase 2 excavation, August 1993.

N of the graveyard traces of stake-walled, wicker-walled and plank-walled buildings provide a long sequence of occupation, originating well before the walled enclosure. The sequence contains little datable material. Excavation is likely to resume in 1994.

Sponsors: Whithorn Board of Management, Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council, Wigtown District Council, Friends of Whithorn Trust, The Mouswald Trust, The Jennie S Gordon Memorial Foundation, The Russell Trust, The Hunter Trust, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

FIFE REGION

DUNFERMLINE DISTRICT

The Industrial Archaeology of West Fife: Pilot Project

P Yeoman, S Farrell

S Farrell was commissioned for a period of two months to examine the future potential for a full survey of industrial archaeology in Fife, with particular reference to gaps in the Fife Sites and Monuments Record. This was essentially an assessment of the range of sites in Fife, to give an idea of the resources required for a full survey. During the process of this exercise over 50 new sites were identified and entered in the FSMR. These included various mills, bleach-fields, harbours, furnaces, net factories, mines, railway stations, viaducts, collieries, laundries, warehouses, limekilns, factories, distilleries, linen works, generating stations, maltings, linoleum works, engineering works, dye works, and industrial housing.
Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

Inchcolm (Aberdour parish)
Hogback stone

M Dalland

NT 1888 8260 To protect the hogback stone from weathering it was decided to move it indoors. In connection with this operation, archaeologists from AOC (Scotland) Ltd excavated an area 5m by 6.5m around the stone. A 16th-century reference mentions a stone cross situated near the hogback. The purpose of the excavation was to determine whether evidence for the cross survived and to examine the immediate environs of the hogback for signs of any associated features.

The stone was lying on subsoil 10cm thick, overlying bedrock. Around the stone were four pits filled with human bones, probably representing reburial of bones found during recent construction work on the island. No features were found which could be related to the monument.

Sponsor: HS ■

Hawk Craig (Aberdour parish)
Flint arrowhead

P Yeoman, B Manson

NT 199 849 A rare chisel-shaped flint arrowhead, of late Neolithic date, was found by B Manson and reported to the Fife Archaeological Service. NMS Daybook no: DB 1993/71.

Sponsors: Fife Regional Council, NMS.

Kirkhall, Lochore (Ballingry parish) P Yeoman, E Henderson
Stone circle?

NT 1770 9580 This site has now been destroyed by tree planting, although a plan was made in c1940 by E Henderson, and is held in the Fife Sites and Monuments Record.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

Loch Ore (Ballingry parish)
Crannog?

NT 1692 9547 Identified by E Henderson of Dunfermline in c1930s. The exact site is no longer known as the level of the loch has been raised.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

The Clune, Lochore (Ballingry parish)
Dug-out canoe

NT 16 95 A dug-out canoe was recovered from Loch Ore during the General Strike of 1926 and identified by a local teacher. It was sawn up for firewood by miners, and nothing now remains.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

Lochore Golf Course (Ballingry parish)
Cairn (possible)

NT 1746 9607 The site was destroyed in the course of golf course construction sometime ago. Mr E Henderson made a site plan c1940, and a copy is held in the Fife Sites and Monuments Record (Ref: NT19NE037).

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

Culross Palace (Culross parish)
17th-century coin

NTS

NS 985 859 Copper-alloy 'turner' of Charles I or II (1642-50 or 1663), found while digging the gardens at the rear (N) of the late 16th/early 17th-century Palace.

Sponsor: NTS.

Preston Island (Culross parish)

G Ewart

18th-century salt pan and coal mine complex

NT 007 852 As the initial phase of an extensive restoration and clearance scheme for the site on behalf of Fife Region and Scottish Power, one of the 18th-century salt-pan houses was excavated in August 1993.

The building was generally well preserved with clear structural evidence of the details of the salt extraction process still visible, as well as indications of multiphase usage of the salt pan.

Dunfermline Abbey (Dunfermline parish)

A Barlow

NT 089 872 A watching brief was undertaken by Scotia Archaeology Limited during the excavation of narrow trenches to accommodate the cables of an external lighting system at the abbey. To the N of the church several recumbent post-Reformation grave slabs were uncovered, as were two possible walls and what appeared to be a paved area comprising mainly fire-reddened, sandstone flags. Trenching on the S side of the church, along Monastery Street and just inside Pittencrieff Park was all through recently disturbed ground and nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered in those areas.

Sponsors: Lighting Design Partnership, Dunfermline District Council.

Gask (Dunfermline parish)

R S Will

Post-medieval/modern


NO 103 927 A series of trial trenches were excavated by GUARD in and around the upstanding derelict farm buildings at Gask, over a three-week period in June 1993.

Two of the farm buildings are to be converted into a dwelling house and some of the others are to become gardens and garages. Historical research by Dr P Torrie, (Scottish Medieval Burgh Survey), had uncovered references to a farming community at Gask dating back to the 12th century, and it was hoped to recover material from this earlier period of occupation. It was also the intention to try and gain a better insight into the layout and function of the upstanding buildings. The present buildings would appear to date from the late 18th/early 19th century.

FIFE

Once the main buildings to be renovated were cleared of rubble, a series of trenches were excavated within and around the courtyard arrangement, the access road, outwith the N range and by the river to the N. The farm layout appears to be fairly standard for the 18th and 19th century with the house range and dairy to the S, the granary and byre to the N with cattle pens to the E and barn to the W. Trenches within these ranges failed to uncover any evidence for medieval occupation although four sherds of post-medieval green-glazed pottery were uncovered from the demolition layers of the house which also contained a cobbled surface, possibly from an earlier road. A trench outside the granary uncovered the base for a steam engine to power machinery within the granary. Another trench beside the river uncovered a series of walls and structures including a flue arrangement presumably relating to a possible industrial use for that part of the site.

In this instance excavation failed to support the historical evidence relating to the medieval period which refers to the Gask estate rather than specific buildings. Presumably these buildings are elsewhere on the estate and not beneath the upstanding buildings.

Sponsor: HS , Fife Regional Council.

New Row & Priory Lane (Dunfermline parish)

Urban medieval R Coleman (SUAT)

NT 093 871 Trial excavations were carried out during January 1993 on the W side of New Row and to the N of Priory Lane, the site of old Lauder College. The site crossed the suggested line of the eastern precinct wall of the Dunfermline Abbey. It also included part of the New Row frontage, which by the 15th century had developed into a thriving suburb.

Excavation revealed the precinct wall of the abbey 0.50m below the modern ground surface running N to S. There was also a distinct difference in the archaeological sequence on either side of the wall. On the eastern side were the backlands of the properties extending westwards from the New Row frontage producing 15th-century pottery. On the western side of the wall, and therefore within the abbey precinct, were garden soils containing building debris, possibly from structures built against the precinct wall.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

Roman Road, Inverkeithing (Inverkeithing parish)

Urban medieval D Hall (SUAT)

NT 128 828 A watching brief on test pits on this site, close to the W port, revealed that 19th-century development had eradicated any archaeology relating to the medieval development of the burgh.

Sponsor: HS 

KIRKCALDY DISTRICT

The Industrial Archaeology of West Fife Pilot Project

P Yeoman, S Farrell

See Dunfermline District.

Kiers Brae Old Burial Ground (Auchterderran parish) CFA

Resistivity survey: site of chapel
NT 2391 9458 In accordance with a specification produced by the Regional Archaeologist, resistivity survey was conducted on an area of 550 square metres over an old burial ground, enclosed by low walls, in a recently created clearing in Kiers Brae plantation, in order to locate the remains of a chapel, presumed to have once occupied the site. Full details are in a report lodged at the NMRS. The assistance provided by Mrs Edwina Proudfoot is gratefully acknowledged.

The survey located a small zone of high resistivity, roughly in the

middle of the site, possibly reflecting structural remains. This impression is supported by the results from a number of test pits excavated over the area. At one point, a layer of angular stones edged with larger kerbstones, possibly the remains of a platform, was discovered. However, further excavation would be required conclusively to demonstrate the presence of any remains of the presumed chapel.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

Pettycur Harbour (Kinghorn parish) P Yeoman, S Grossett

Cannon and harbour wall
NT 2648 8622 Mr Grossett found and excavated the barrel of a cast-iron cannon, from rocks in Pettycur Harbour. The cannon survives to a length of 1.3m and is broken off in front of the trunnion. The breech end was broken in antiquity. A triple groove was noted close to the muzzle end. Other than this there were no visible markings. D Caldwell has suggested this is possibly a 3-pounder dated to the early 19th century.

The cannon was found 5m to the S of the face of a curving masonry structure. This would appear to be the base of an old harbour wall, which like the cannon has been exposed during recent removal of sand and stone from the beach for building purposes. The cannon is now in the possession of Mr Grossett.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.


The Promenade, Kinghorn (Kinghorn parish)

Medieval inhumation R Cachart (SUAT)

NT 270 868 A watching brief during contractor's groundworks noted human bone in the loose spoil. The source of the bone was identified as coming from the exposed face of the excavation, between a deep sand layer and the natural rock, at a depth of 1.30m. The inhumation was covered by the mixed deposits of loose sand and stone. Below the bone was sand and large stone which lay on the natural rock. What appeared to be part of a grave cut was identified in section on the S side.

The skeleton formed an extended inhumation on an E to W alignment with the head at the western end. Much of the right side of the skeleton had been disturbed and what could easily be removed was recovered, including the pelvis, which had a large stone resting on it. The remainder was left in the section where no further disturbance was to take place.

The alignment of the skeleton and one tiny fragment of medieval pottery and a crumb of mortar which were found in the loose deposits around the bone would suggest a medieval date for the burial.

Sponsor: HS 

15 The Esplanade, Kirkcaldy (Kirkcaldy & Dysart parish)

Medieval backlands

NT 282 916 Two trenches were opened up in advance of development in former backlands running W from the High Street. Deep deposits of 19th–20th-century infilling and remains of 19th-century building were encountered. Natural was reached at 2.25m to 2.50m.

Sponsor: Kingdom Housing Association Ltd.

Christ's Kirk on the Green, Leslie (Leslie parish)

Church R Coleman (SUAT)

NO 255 020 An assessment was carried out in advance of a proposal to convert the church into residential flats.

Trial work revealed the extent of the 1820 T-plan church as well as the precinct wall of the graveyard that runs E to W across the middle of the church. To the N of the graveyard wall, the remains of at least four complete burials were found together with much disturbed skeletal material. Although medieval pottery was recovered from the graveyard soil, shroud pins associated with the graves

suggest a 17th or 18th-century date for some of these burials. These were left *in situ* and probably seal earlier medieval burials.
 Sponsor: Fraser Gray Contracts.

Mountfleurie (Scoonie parish) M Dalland
 Cropmarks

NO 367 010 In preparation for development of a 39-acre site W of Mountfleurie, the bedrock conditions were examined by drilling a series of boreholes. In advance of the drilling, AOC (Scotland) Ltd investigated the borehole locations in February 1993. The eastern half of the development area contained linear and circular cropmarks (RCAHMS 1983: NO30SE20/F/11486). Sixteen test areas were investigated; six of these contained archaeological features. Two of the cropmarks were identified: a large circular feature at NO 3676 0107 is likely to be an old mine shaft; and a linear feature running NE to SW at NO 36785 01027 was a ditch, 1m wide and 0.3m deep. The test areas also revealed archaeological features not showing up as cropmarks: a ditch running NNW to SSE at NO 36817 01066, 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep; and a pit over 3m wide and 0.4m deep at NO 36810 01005. The pit contained green-glazed potsherds, probably dating from the 16th or 17th century. Other test areas contained a pit and a small curving gully.

In July 1993, a further assessment was carried out, revealing six large, unidentified features; three field drains, two ditches and three mine shafts. Estate maps held at Durie House, together with information in the *Old Statistical Account* suggest that the mine shafts stem from the mining of the Banbeath coal field, dating from the late 18th to the mid-19th century.
 Sponsor: Addison, Fairfull & Briggs.

Wemyss Caves (Wemyss parish) P Yeoman, D Provan
 Skeleton

NT 3451 9718 A single extended inhumation was exposed by tidal erosion and reported to the Fife Archaeological Service. The

burial was located in sand, 1.4m beneath modern ground surface, 50m W of Jonathan's Cave. Young adult extended inhumation, head slightly propped at W end. Legs slightly twisted to S, so that left leg was resting on top of right leg. Right hand resting below pelvis. Located in sand 5m to N of burial dated cAD1000, reported in DES 1988 and 1991 by E Proudfoot. A small cemetery may have existed here.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

NORTH EAST FIFE DISTRICT

Isle of May Environmental Interpretation Project
 (Anstruther Wester parish) H James, P Yeoman
 Monastery, medieval settlement, post-medieval village

NT 6585 9901 St Adrian's Priory: the second season of excavations on the Isle of May took place during August 1993. Two main areas were excavated, within the S range and the 12th-century priory church. The latter was found to measure internally 13.0m by 5.2m. In places up to 1m depth of sealed deposits were excavated and removed, including disturbed floor surfaces containing pottery ranging in date from 12th–14th centuries. Three burials were found originally under the floor surfaces. One burial, quite centrally located close to the high altar at the E end, was found with part of a scallop shell in its mouth. This individual has been identified as a young adult male. Examples have been found elsewhere in Europe where adult shells have been buried with those who made the pilgrimage to the shrine of St James the Great at Santiago de Compostela in NW Spain. Burial in the church seemed to have ceased in the 14th century when the evidence suggests that the church was demolished. A stone-built two-roomed workshop was inserted, probably in the 16th century, while the walls were partly ruinous but still standing to

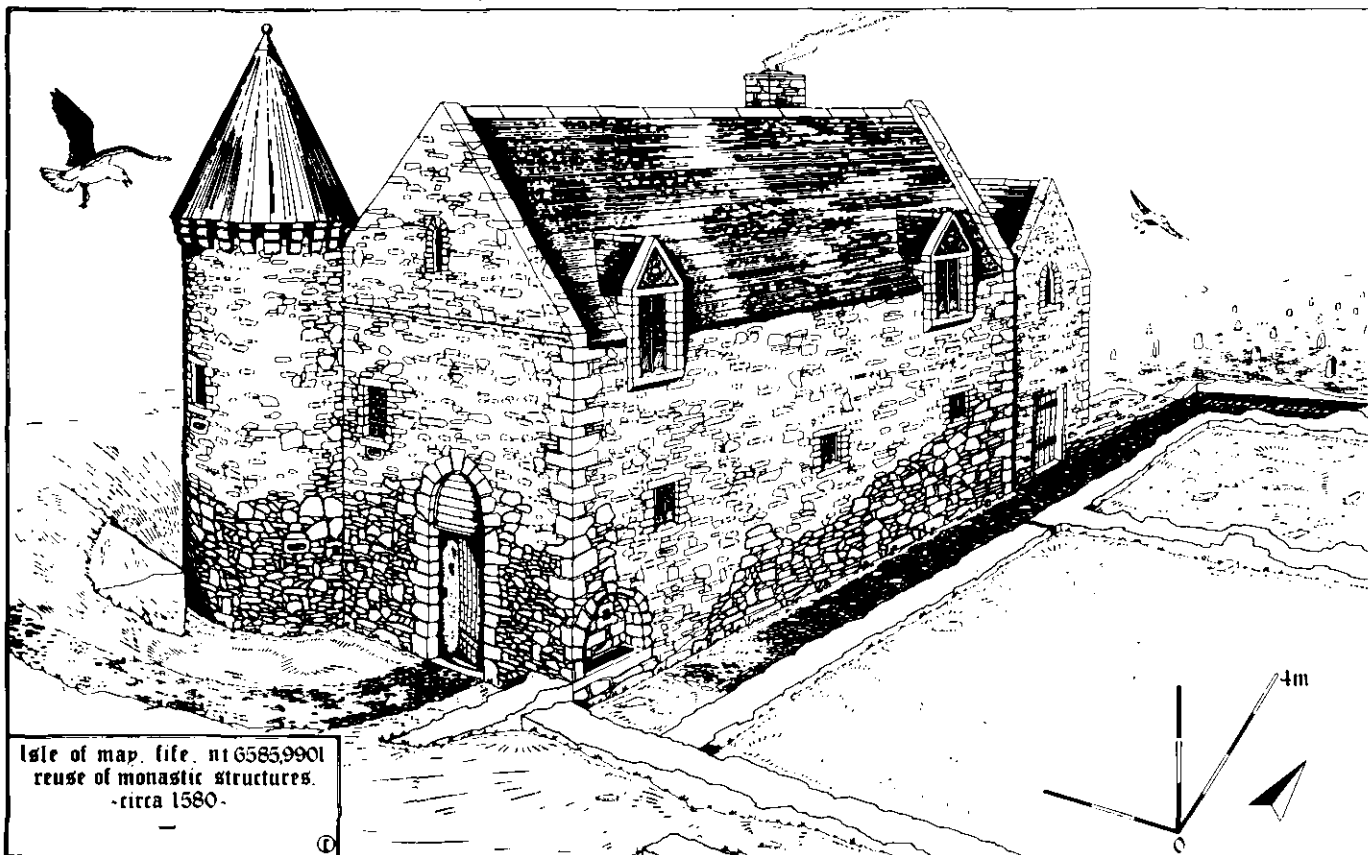


Fig 7. Isle of May, Fife. NT 6585 9901. Reuse of monastic structures, c1580.

FIFE

a reasonable height in places. The W room of the workshop contained an iron furnace and quenching trough. The S wall of the church was robbed to provide construction material for the workshop. The workshop was in use at the same time as the standing W range of the priory was converted into a strongly defended private house (see Fig 7).

First evidence of existence of an E range was found with walls abutting the SE part of the monastic church.

In the S range up to 2m depth of the rubble was removed to reveal mortared surfaces and drains. The complete extent of the S range is yet to be revealed.

NT 658 991 Possible medieval settlement on Kettle Hill to NW of Kirkhaven Harbour. Limited investigation took place on the site of one of the medieval pottery scatters recorded by the University of Bradford team in 1992 (*DES* 1992, 34). More medieval pottery was recovered, and traces of mortared structures were observed.

NT 6592 9895 Post-medieval village site. Further geophysical survey work was undertaken by GUARD on the area where the 16th-century village is believed to be located. The results consisted of very low readings but some anomalies were indicated, and these will be investigated in 1994.

Palaeoenvironmental reconnaissance was carried out during the 1993 season by Dr R Tipping. Two small peat basins have been identified for future sampling to enable palynological reconstructions of vegetation and land use history.

This project is led jointly by Fife Regional Council and Scottish Natural Heritage. The Archaeological Team and post-excavation facilities are provided by Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division.

Sponsors: Fife Regional Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, North East Fife District Council, HS [A]. The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, The Russell Trust, The Hunter Archaeological Trust.

Bondgate, Auchtermuchty (Auchtermuchty parish)

Roman temporary camp J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

NO 238 120 Within the confines of the Roman temporary camp, close to its NW boundary, one engineers' inspection trench was observed prior to potential development. Circa 0.4m of a dark, sandy clay, garden soil was revealed overlying c0.7m of a mid-orange-brown clay subsoil. Natural pinkish, light-brown clay was encountered c1.1m below ground surface. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were discovered.

Sponsor: HS [A].

Balmerino Abbey (Balmerino parish)

NTS

Photographic survey

NO 358 246 Prior to the conservation of the nave of the abbey church, NTS conservation volunteers removed and sorted fallen debris from the walls. This was followed by a photographic survey of the fabric before the inevitable alterations arising from the restoration work. Similar recording will take place as the conservation of the buildings proceeds.

Sponsor: NTS.

Collessie Stone, Halhill Farm (Collessie parish) M Lines

NO 2927 1324 The standing stone with incised carving, as reported in *DES* 1989, 17, was re-examined to reveal a second symbol beneath the arch/horseshoe symbol previously described next to the profile male figure. This is identified as the Pictish 'Beast' symbol. It appears as characteristic in form facing right (E) with conventional spirals and scrolls. This second symbol indicates a 'paired symbol' relationship between the symbols and the Pictish figure, and due to the similarity with certain E Wemyss Caves' carvings, an early date of 5th century AD is possible. The inclusion of two Pictish symbols together with a characteristic Pictish male figure

makes this stone unique in the Pictish repertoire of symbol stones with incised figures. The paired symbols may further indicate the genealogy of the figure.

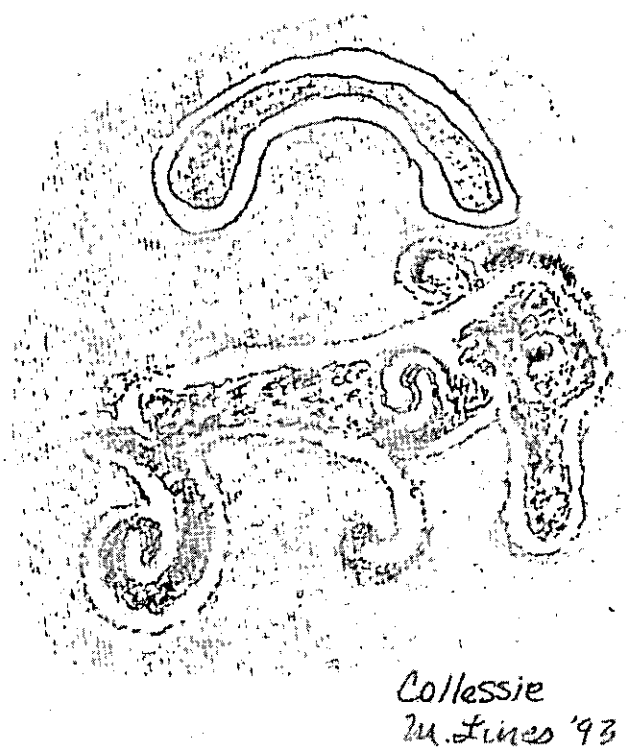


Fig 8. Collessie Stone.

The Maltings, Crail (Crail parish)

P Yeoman

Well

NO 611 075 Mr McKenzie of The Maltings, Westgate, Crail, reported a collapse in the Maltings' courtyard to the Fife Archaeological Service. On inspection this was discovered to be a large well, circular in plan, of stone construction approximately 1m in diameter.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

Dairsie Castle (Dairsie parish)

E Proudfoot

NO 413 160 A rescue excavation was carried out in advance of the rebuilding of this ruinous castle. An area 5m wide was excavated around the ruins and the interior was also examined.

Numerous architectural features were uncovered, including the lower courses of a NW stair tower, a water inlet with an ogee lintel, an oven in the corner of the SE wall, within the blocked up fireplace and two garderobe chutes, both with built sumps. Garden rigs and an oval paved area, possibly for a statue or a sundial were uncovered on the S of the castle. Finds were numerous, including pottery and bottle glass. Quantities of window glass, many pieces still with lead adhering, others large enough to show the panes had been diamond-shaped were recovered along with many lead fragments.

A Photographic Survey of the upstanding remains was carried out by NMRS.

A report has been prepared for the owner. Archive with FAI. Record no: FAI/14/5.

Sponsors: Mr C Ruffle, St Andrews Heritage Services.

Old Forgan Churchyard (Forgan parish) A Barlow, D Reed

Post-medieval graveyard
NO 445 259 A watching brief was kept by Scotia Archaeology Ltd during the demolition of the walls and their foundations on the N, E and W sides of the Berry family enclosure, located on the S side

of the churchyard. There was no evidence of structures pre-dating the ?late 19th/early 20th-century walls or of inhumations within the 0.65m-wide and 0.30m-deep trenches that resulted from the removal of these structures.

Sponsor: NE Fife District Council.

Kilrenny (Kilrenny parish)

E Proudfoot

Carved stone fragment

NO 580 043 (approximately) A carved stone found some time ago on the beach at Kilrenny by Mr G Jones of Cellardyke was reported to FAI by Paul Bibire, once it was realised that the stone was carved. It was removed for recording and it is at present with the Fife Archaeological Index.

The stone is a fragment of a cross slab 55.3cm high by 32.4cm wide and 9.5cm deep. One arm of the cross is complete and part of another survives as do parts of the central roundel and the ring around the cross. The cross is decorated with interlace; a spiral extends from each corner of the entire arm.

The stone will be donated to Crail Museum when it has been recorded.

Photographed by Tom Gray. Drawn by Jack Burt.

FAI Record no: FAI 46/35.

Sponsor: Fife Archaeological Index.

Largo Church (Largo parish)

P Yeoman

Burial vault

NO 4236 0350 A test pit was dug within the N transept of the church to find a suitable location for the erection of the Largo Pictish stone currently in the churchyard. A large brick-lined burial vault was broken into once the modern floor surfaces had been revealed. This is close to the supposed location of the family burial vault of Sir Andrew Wood, the 16th-century Admiral of the Scottish Fleet.


Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

North Straiton (Logie parish)

S Carter

Cultivation furrows, field boundaries

NO 418 236 An archaeological assessment was undertaken by AOC (Scotland) Ltd of a 4 ha arable field, 300m NW of North Straiton Farm. Cropmarks within this field form part of NMR site NO42SW 73 (see DES 1987 and 1988 for excavations at North Straiton by the Scottish Field School). The assessment consisted of cropmark transcription, a magnetometer survey and sample excavation. Linear cropmarks were found to be created by ice-wedge casts; a rough alignment of pit-type cropmarks had been largely destroyed by quarrying after the aerial photographs were taken in 1989. The one excavated feature on this alignment was a shallow irregular oval pit 3.3m by 2.8m containing charcoal and some carbonised seeds. The magnetometer survey did not identify any archaeological features but revealed anomalies caused by the underlying fluvioglacial sediments. Sample excavation revealed a number of man-made features that are provisionally assigned to three periods. The earliest appear to be fragments of a system of rectilinear ditched enclosures of unknown date. There is an area of broad ridge and furrow cultivation at the E end of the field (closest to North Straiton) enclosed by a ditch which was identified running N to S for at least 170m. A number of regular linear features appear to relate to 19th century and later agricultural activity.

Sponsor: HS 

Monimail Castle (Monimail parish)

CFA

Probable corner tower and barmkin wall

NO 298 142 An evaluation was conducted of the area to the immediate N and NW of Monimail Castle, in accordance with a specification produced by the Regional Archaeologist for Fife Region. The upper part of the structure is dated to 1578, although the lower part may be earlier. Full details are lodged at the NMRS.

A previously unrecorded, probable corner tower (NO 2983 1412) was discovered, mostly buried in a substantial depth of topsoil and located about 20m to the NW of the tower house. The remains appear to have been exposed recently. The structure has a gun-loop clearly visible on its SE side, facing towards the tower house. The remains of a joining wall are clearly visible on the S side of the probable corner tower, suggesting that a curtain wall joined the corner tower with the NE of the tower house, with the gun-loop positioned to provide enfilading fire.

Resistivity survey conducted over an area of about 1250 sq m was unsuccessful in detecting archaeological remains, mainly due to the excessive depth of topsoil (over 1.5m in most places). Small trial trenches placed on the basis of extant structural remains produced evidence for possible wall foundations running SW from the corner tower. A trial trench excavated across the proposed line of the wall running between the tower house and corner tower produced no evidence for its existence.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

Pitcairnie (Newburgh parish)

P Yeoman

Ice house?

NO 2379 1476 The discovery of an underground brick-lined structure with brick channels leading off was reported to the Fife Archaeological Service by Mrs Summersgill. This is in the grounds of Pitcairnie House, close to the old walled garden. The structure is believed to be an ice house.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

St Nicholas Farm, St Andrews

C Maloney (SUAT)

(St Andrews & St Leonards parish)

Medieval leper hospital complex

NO 5170 1580 Trial excavations to the W and SW of the area excavated in 1986-7 was undertaken in advance of the sale of the land for a housing redevelopment. Further stretches of the hospital's western boundary wall were located along with substantial amounts of extra-mural activity, apparently of medieval date.

Sponsors: St Andrews University, Fife Regional Council.

St Andrews Preservation Trust Museum

E Proudfoot


12 North Street, St Andrews (St Andrews & St Leonards parish)

NO 5124 1672 From October to mid-December a preliminary excavation, only 4m by 3m in area, was carried out on behalf of the Trust at this important site in the oldest part of St Andrews, where an extension to the Trust's Museum is to be built.

The John Geddy map, 16th century, shows small buildings behind the frontage and traces of these were anticipated. Below more than a metre of black earth parts of several features, including a paved floor were uncovered, below that a double pit had been dug deep into the sandy subsoil, to 3m below the modern surface. Near the top of the pit a shallow bronze bowl was found. The purpose of the pit could not be ascertained, but it had been filled with dirty ashy soil and sand among which were quantities of animal bones and pottery, some of it early, eg 13th-15th century in date. A bone tuning peg was found.

An interim report has been prepared. Archive with FAI.

FAI Record no: 16/107.

Sponsors: St Andrews Preservation Trust, HS , NE Fife District Council, Fife Regional Council, Dr M Anderson, St Andrews Heritage Services.

St Monance Salt Pans (St Monance parish)

CFA

Resistivity survey: waggon-way and workers' cottages

NO 533 017 In accordance with a specification produced by the Regional Archaeologist, resistivity survey was conducted on a narrow strip of land, of about 1 ha, bordered by a steep slope up to the N and a sharp drop to the S. A windmill is located above the

FIFE/GRAMPIAN

N slope and associated salt pans can be seen to the S, many eroding out on the cliff face. Documentary evidence suggests that the salt pans were in operation between the mid-1770s and 1823. Full details are lodged at the NMRS.

A sewage pipe running roughly NE to SW across the survey area produced a very strong signal which may have obscured any archaeological features present in its vicinity. A series of apparent structural remains, possibly workers' cottages, were detected at the western end of the survey area. A waggon-way is known to have linked a colliery on the site of the present Coal Farm with the salt pans. Its route is visible descending the N slope, but no trace was visible on the survey plot.

Seven test pits were placed over selected anomalies. Two of these were placed on the cutting for the waggon-way, and exposed deposits of compacted rubble. Test pits excavated at the W end of the survey area all contained layers of compacted rubble, which are probably associated with the traces of structures indicated by resistivity survey.

Sponsor: Fife Regional Council.

Devil's Burdens, West Lomond Hill (Strathmiglo parish)

Lithic scatter

A Saville, P Yeoman

NJ 193 062 Over 100 items, mainly flint, but including two bladelets of pitchstone, have been found by Mr G Erskine and others, scattered over a wide area on the eroding southern slopes of West Lomond. Mr Erskine reported his discovery to the Fife Archaeological Service. The presence of microliths, and leaf-shaped and chisel arrowheads indicates Mesolithic and Neolithic activity. A single sherd of coarse pottery, probably prehistoric, was also found.

NMS daybook nos: DB 1993/2, 8 and 64.

Sponsors: Fife Regional Council, NMS.

GRAMPIAN REGION

CITY OF ABERDEEN DISTRICT

St Nicholas Triangle (Aberdeen parish)

A Cameron

Medieval pits

NJ 941 062 The development of the St Nicholas Triangle has permitted an assessment to be made of an area adjacent to St Nicholas Church, the Green and Netherkirkgate. The area on Parson Gordon's map of 1661 contained both St Thomas' Hospital (1459) and The House of Correction (1636). Much of the area was disturbed by 18th and 19th-century activity and many features of this date were recorded. Under the Church Hall on St Nicholas Lane however, the bottoms of three medieval pits were excavated. No other activity of that date remained, but the medieval topography of the area has been clarified.

Sponsors: HS , Scottish Amicable Investment Managers Ltd.

Moss-side (Nigg parish)

H Smith

Cropmark

NJ 937 002 An assessment excavation of a large circular cropmark (approximately 100m diameter) at Moss-side Farm, Aberdeen, was carried out by GUARD prior to proposed industrial development of the site. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered and it was clear that the circular cropmark was caused by differential drainage through glacial deposits of gravel and till.


Sponsor: RMC Properties.

Dubford (Old Machar parish)

G Barclay, A Miles

Standing stone

NJ 940 130 This scheduled standing stone fell during the early part of 1993. The area Inspector and Warden of Historic Scotland re-erected it, after excavating the socket (which was featureless), in May.

Sponsor: HS 

Aberdeen City District

M Greig

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Newleuchar (Peterculter parish)

NJ 790 044 Area of rig and furrow.

Moss-side (Nigg parish)

NJ 937 002 A large circular enclosure around a low rise. This feature proved to be natural on trial trenching (see above).

BANFF & BUCHAN DISTRICT

Cowfords Farm, New Aberdour (Aberdour parish)

NMS

Neolithic and EBA arrowheads

NJ 871 607 Around 35 flint arrowheads were found in the 1920s during ploughing on the farm of Cowfords. They include both Neolithic leaf- and lozenge-shaped arrowheads, and EBA barbed-and-tanged ones. With finder's family – details with NMS.

Daybook no: DB 1993/65.

Castle Street, Banff (Banff parish)

R Cachart (SUAT)

Urban medieval

NJ 688 640 In the western part of the site deep garden soil, in two layers, overlay natural sand. Medieval features were revealed cut into the natural sand at an average depth of 1.20m below the present surface. Both the garden soil and fills for the cuts contained medieval pottery.

The middle section of the site contained rubble infilling covered by garden soil containing 19th-century pottery. A rubble-built box drain or culvert, probably dating from the 19th century and aligned N to S was found on the eastern edge of this area.

On the eastern part of the site, close to the frontage, two layers of demolition rubble separated by a thin layer of garden soil were recorded. Below the rubble at a depth of 1.10m was a linear stone feature running E to W which contained medieval pottery and was interpreted as being an early boundary. The linear feature was cut through what appeared to be the remains of an earlier surface of mixed natural sand and dark silty sand which also contained medieval pottery.

The trial excavation was important because it demonstrated for the first time that archaeological features and deposits dating from the medieval period do survive in this part of Banff.

Sponsors: Grampian Regional Council, Department of Roads Banff and Buchan Division.

Sandyhill Road, Banff (Banff parish)

J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

Medieval rural

NJ 680 630 An extensive field survey was conducted over an area of 4.625 hectares in January 1993. This was over the possible site of a Carmelite friary. A series of hand and machine excavated test pits and trenches were opened, paying particular attention to putative earthwork features. The first, a linear feature close to the southern boundary was found to be natural. The second, a platform area c0.30m², located in the central area of the field, was also found to be natural. The northern edge being defined by a natural channel.

No archaeological deposits were encountered, although a small number of residual medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered, possibly representing midden material scattered as fertiliser. Natural sand and gravels occurred at an average depth of 0.7m below ground surface.

Sponsor: Grampian Regional Council.

Bogengarrie (Cruden parish)

A Saville

Test-pits

NK 018 389 A machine-dug test-pit showed the presence of flint-rich Buchan Ridge Gravel at this location. The Gravel immediately underlies peaty topsoil without any intervening glacial till and was proved to a depth of 5.7m, which was the limit of excavation. There is no indication that flint was ever exploited at Bogengarrie.

Sponsor: NMS.

Banff and Buchan District

M Greig

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Hill of Blackford (Fyvie parish)

NJ 704 346 Large area of rig and furrow.

Hill of Little Folla

NJ 715 337 Area of rig and furrow.

Air Photographs

As the result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Bridge of Eden (King Edward parish)

NJ 693 580 Two small irregular-shaped enclosures with traces of rig and furrow. New planting on top.

Banff and Buchan District

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Backhill of Clunie (Marnoch parish)

NJ 632 510 Faint traces of rig and furrow on E slopes of hill.

Muiryfield

NJ 634 512 Cropmark of possible enclosure.

Black Law/Castlebrae

NJ 638 546 A possible ditched and embanked, double enclosure on summit of hill.

Skelmuir Hill (Old Deer parish)

A Saville

Flint extraction site

NJ 986 414 Four machine test-pits were dug to investigate the geological and archaeological deposits at this location, where previous archaeological excavations took place in 1918. One test-pit was placed so as to partially re-excavate one of the 1918 trenches and samples of knapping debris and anvilstones were recovered. Further work at this site is planned.

Sponsor: NMS.

South Auchmachar (Old Deer parish)

NMS

Neolithic carved stone ball

NJ 951 493 A neolithic carved stone ball was found in 1981 during potato-picking. It has now been claimed as Treasure Trove and acquired by the Marischal Museum. Daybook no: DB 1992/70.

Den of Boddam (Peterhead parish)

A Saville

Flint extraction site

NK 113 415 Following a survey of the Den by RCAHMS in May (see below page 116), a third season of research excavation in June – July examined an area of c130 sq m immediately SW of the 1992 excavation (see DES 1992, 35).

Machine-stripping revealed the presence of seven extraction pits, two of which – Pits 46 and 101 – were wholly within the cleared area and work was concentrated on these. Pit 46 was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of c4m and a depth of 3m below the modern surface; Pit 101 was oval in shape, c5m by 4m, and 2.7m deep. Excavation has made it clear that the pits were originally bell-shaped, being much narrower at the surface when first dug. The present shapes result from collapse of the unstable upper edges which had been undercut when the lower flint-rich deposits were extracted. The pit floors were also irregular, the base of Pit 46 having a pronounced step on its SW side.

A buried soil was well-preserved over the N sector of the excavation area, where it had been protected by surviving upcast, but proved to be archaeological sterile.

Field-walking on the NW side of the Den produced clear evidence for the limits of extraction beyond where pitting is visible at the surface, and has also helped document the variability in flint colour related to changes in the nature of the Buchan Ridge Gravel.

Radiocarbon dates obtained from samples of the buried soil and from initial peat formation have indicated a late Neolithic (late 3rd millennium uncal BC) bracket for the flint extraction at Boddam.

Sponsors: NMS, Grampian Regional Council.

Banff and Buchan District

M Greig

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Mains of Bodychell (Pitsligo parish)

NJ 944 634 Cropmark of a circular enclosure.

NJ 946 633 Cropmark of a circular enclosure.

Bodychell

NJ 956 629 Area of rig and furrow.

32–46 High Street, Turriff (Turriff parish)

Urban medieval

J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

NJ 723 497 A trial trenching investigation was conducted, in advance of the development of a supermarket complex located within the historic core of the burgh of Turriff. The site extended to c440m². Three trenches, c1m by 12m, aligned E to W, were machine excavated in close proximity to the High Street frontage. Trench A revealed two foundation walls, aligned N to S, cut into the natural coarse sand and gravels, found c1m below ground surface.

The first wall appeared mortared and had a 19th-century date of construction. The second wall appeared clay-bonded. No direct dating evidence was recovered in association with this wall, but it may relate to a 17th-century town house, known as The Lodging that stood on the site. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered from Trenches B and C.

Sponsor: Safeway plc.

GORDON DISTRICT

Gordon District

M Greig

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Wardhillock (Belhelvie parish)

NJ 925 206 Cropmarks of possible enclosures with rig and furrow over the hill.

Sponsor: GRC.

School Road, Ruthven (Cairnie parish) J R MacKenzie (SUAT)
Medieval rural

NJ 506 469 Trial excavations and a resistivity survey were conducted in May 1993, in advance of a proposed housing development, in close proximity to the church and churchyard of St Carols.

GRAMPIAN

An average dark silty clay ploughsoil, 0.5m in thickness, was revealed across the site. Close to the churchyard wall, on the N side of the site, a lighter sandy clay deposit, c0.3m in thickness, was encountered. This deposit thinned out to the S where ploughsoil directly overlay natural sand and gravels. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were discovered.

The resistivity survey did not indicate the presence of any possible archaeological features.

Sponsor: Grampian Regional Council.

Gordon District M Greig
The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Glack Wood (Cluny parish)
NJ 738 110 Area of rig and furrow.

Braeneil
NJ 728 121 Area of rig and furrow.

Standingstones (Echt parish)
NJ 787 040 Long, thin rectangular embanked enclosure with area of rig and furrow.
Sponsor: GRC.

Whitestone Hill (Ellon parish) A Saville
Test-pits
NJ 979 389 Five test-pits up to 3.5m deep were machine excavated in search of flint-bearing Buchan Ridge Gravel, without success.
Sponsor: NMS.

Air Photographs M Greig
As a result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Millhuie Hill (Glenbuchat parish)
NJ 405 162 A sinuous bank running up side of hill.

Dunbennan (Huntly parish)
NJ 499 418 Remains of a circular enclosure plus foundations of longhouses and other enclosures.
NJ 500 415 Grass-covered footings of longhouse and enclosure.

Brownhill
NJ 537 475 Three small circular soil marks showing as lighter patches in ploughed field.

Coniecleugh
NJ 540 426 Denuded mound with two semi-circular ditches on E, emphasised by growth of broom. Traces of possible rig and furrow overlying it.

Brownhill Wood
NJ 540 475 Remains of large stone-walled, circular enclosure, one half filled with stone clearance, the other half denuded; ? sheep-fold.

80-86 High Street, Inverurie (Inverurie parish)
Urban medieval R Cachart (SUAT)


NJ 777 210 Five trenches were opened up in advance of development. Three trenches in the backlands revealed deep garden soil and subsoil over natural sand. A large pit, cut into natural, contained modern burials of two heavy horses. A small pit cut into the subsoil contained a large quantity of 19th or early 20th-century pottery sherds. Of the two trenches on the frontage, the first revealed a recently backfilled cellar, while the second showed a shallow deposit of disturbed ground over natural sands.

Sponsor: James Laing and Sons.

63 Market Place, Inverurie (Inverurie parish)
Urban medieval J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

NJ 776 215 Monitoring of contractor's foundation trenches, c0.30m to the rear of the modern street frontage, revealed c0.5m of

20th-century make-up deposit. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were discovered.


Sponsor: HS .

Gordon District M Greig
The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Middleton (Inverurie parish)
NJ 741 220 Cropmark of a ring ditch.

Lauchintilly (Kemnay parish)
NJ 736 125 Area showing faint traces of rig and furrow.
Sponsor: GRC.

Gordon District R A Feilden
The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Middleton (Inverurie parish)
NJ 742 225 Cropmark of possible ring ditches.
Sponsors: HS , GRC.


Gordon District M Greig
The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Coulburn (Kildrummy parish)
NJ 425 183 Remains of longhouses and part of an enclosure.

Chapelhill
NJ 433 171 Remains of longhouses and enclosure.

Sauchenbog
NJ 443 162 Remains of four longhouses.
Sponsor: GRC.

Gordon District R A Feilden
The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Cairnhall (Kintore parish)
NJ 783 179 Line of pits to W of stone circle remains; curve round to N.
Sponsors: HS , GRC.

Cairnhall Farm, Kintore (Kintore parish) CFA
Probable post hole and field boundaries

NJ 786 177 Evaluative excavation of eleven trenches, of total area c575 sqm, was carried out in consultation with Grampian Regional Council, in advance of proposed gravel extraction. Full details and a plan are lodged with Grampian Regional Council.

Removal of topsoil and the upper surface of gravel/sand subsoil revealed one probable post hole and a suite of probable field boundaries, but no indication of major archaeological structures and no identifiable artefacts were recovered. Further excavation is intended should quarrying proceed.

Sponsor: Smith Milligan, Chartered Surveyors.

Allanshaw (Kintore parish) M Greig, A N Shepherd
Short cist

NJ 779 194 A short cist was discovered while digging in a garden, c10.75m NE of one of the avenue stones leading to Broomend of Crichtie Henge. A large cracked capstone 1.40m by 1m by 0.16m thick overlay the cist. This in turn had been covered by a small cairn of water-rounded stones. The cist was well built with clay luting in the corners, forming tight joints. No artefacts or skeletal material were found within the infilled cist.
Sponsor: GRC.

Mill of Lumphart (Meldrum parish) P C Desmond
Possible incised stone

NJ 968 272 This stone 2m high now stands besides a late

18th-century mill, but has been removed from its original setting in a local field (exact location unknown). The incised outline of a face is visible on the lower half of the stone.

West Skilmafilly

NJ 893 396 Area of rig and furrow.
Sponsor: GRC.

Air Photographs

As a result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

New Merdrum (Rhynie parish)

NJ 463 292 Area of rig and furrow.

Gordon District

M Greig

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Meldrum House (Meldrum parish)

NJ 809 290 Circular enclosure with slightly raised bank; possible adjoining enclosure.

Sessnie (Methlick parish)

NJ 875 370 Area of rig and furrow.

Skelmonae

NJ 887 395 Faint traces of rig and furrow.

Dalrossach Hill (Towie parish)

CFA

Pre-afforestation survey

The following sites were surveyed in October 1992 in a c50 ha area proposed for afforestation. Full details are in a report lodged

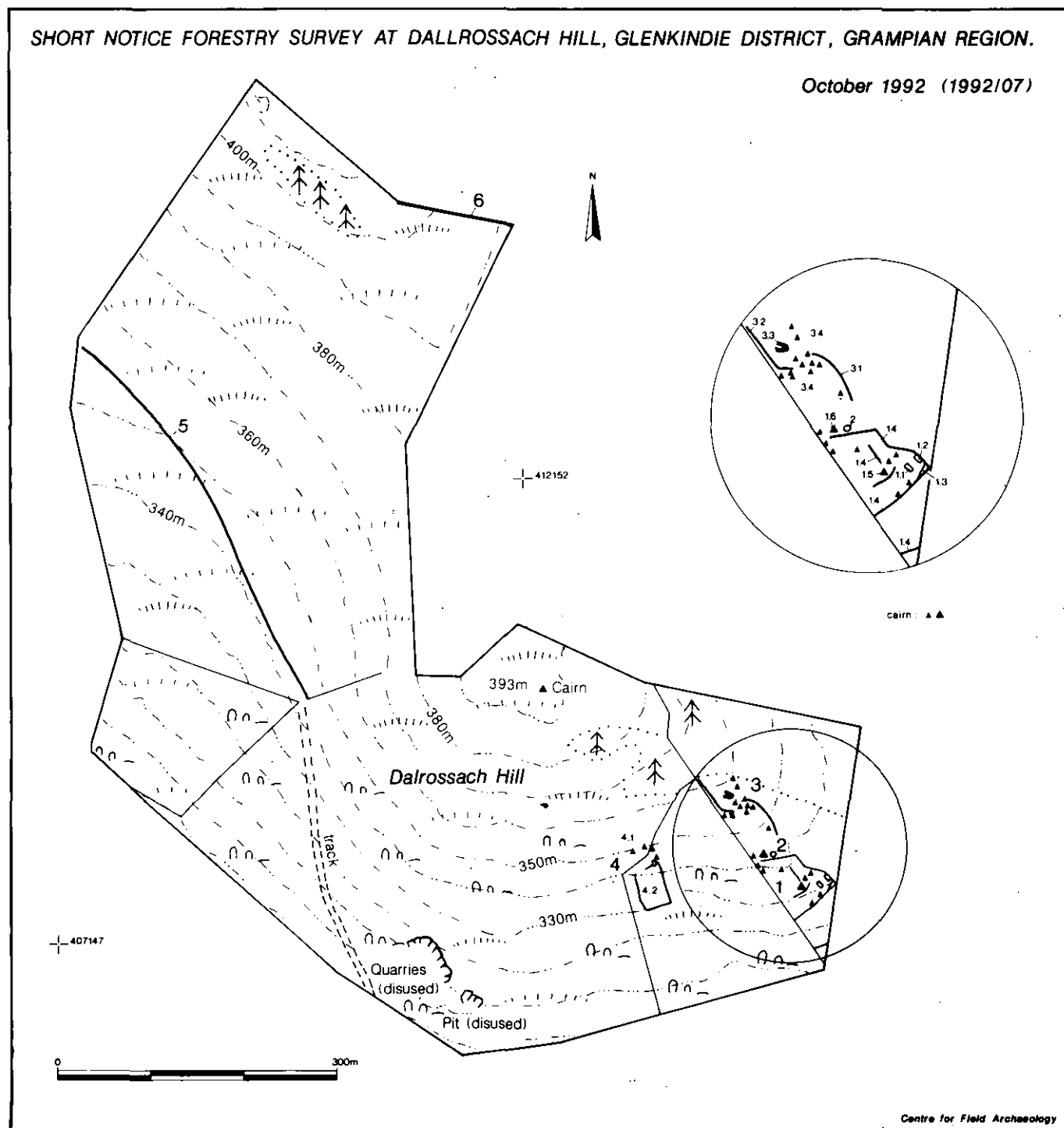


Fig 9. Dalrossach Hill.

GRAMPIAN

at the NMRS. Monument numbers refer to those shown on the accompanying plan (see Fig 9).

01 NJ 415 147 (area) A series of three stone-built structures lay within a series of lynchets and field banks, surviving as low partially overgrown stone foundations. At least eleven small to large cairns, comprising probably both prehistoric burial cairns and more recent field clearance, were also located within this area.

02 NJ 4148 1479 A 6m diameter stone circle comprising seven stones and a gap for a possible eighth. A more detailed report on this new monument is currently being produced.


03 NJ 414 148 Two dilapidated and overgrown drystone dykes, a large rubble pile (10m by 6m) with traces of wall faces within, possibly a collapsed building or enclosure, and twelve small grass-covered cairns (typically 4m in diameter) lie at this location. The cairns may represent either prehistoric burial or field clearance activity.

04 NJ 4134 1475 Three sides of a dilapidated rectilinear drystone enclosure survive at this location. Four stone cairns (2m to 7m in diameter) lie to the N of the enclosure.

05 NJ 4072 1533 to NJ 4097 1497 Field bank.

06 NJ 4105 1549 to NJ 4119 1547 Footings of a drystone dyke.

07 NJ 4122 1497 Conical memorial to General Sir Alexander Leith, erected in 1908, annotated as 'cairn' on plan.

Sponsor: HS 

Air Photographs

M Greig

As a result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Millhuie Hill (Towie parish)

NJ 408 163 A small circular bank ? hut circle/sheep stell.

NJ 410 160 Area of rig and furrow with earthen banks.

NJ 411 159 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

NJ 409 162 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

Dalrossach

NJ 411 153 Small rectangular enclosure.

NJ 413 151 Remains of a circular, ditched enclosure.

Ardler Wood

NJ 414 156 Remains of longhouses and enclosure.

NJ 416 155 Remains of longhouses with enclosure.

Allt Dobhrain

NJ 417 153 Remains of a longhouse and enclosure.

Roman Hill

NJ 419 178 Embanked enclosure; sub-oval shape; lies on a shelf on the S shoulder of the hill.

Corrie of Morlich

NJ 442 155 Remains of longhouses and an enclosure.

NJ 443 155 Sub-rectangular enclosure in marshy area. May be remains of a homestead moat; possible internal feature.

Gordon District

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Millhuie Hill (Towie parish)

NJ 403 169 Remains of a longhouse and part of an enclosure.

Craig-na-Gour

NJ 402 170 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

NJ 400 171 Remains of longhouses and enclosure.

Cradle Howe

NJ 400 174 Remains of longhouses and enclosure.

Allt Dubhrain

NJ 412 155 Remains of longhouse and part of an enclosure.

Dalrossach

NJ 411 154 Sub-circular enclosure showing as a cropmark.

Sponsor: GRC.

Montgarrie (Tullynessle & Forbes parish)

S Carter

Site of souterrain

NJ 5756 1779 An archaeological assessment, undertaken by AOC (Scotland) Ltd in Mill Field, Montgarrie failed to locate any features of archaeological interest. The field extends to within 15m of the reported site of a souterrain (NMRS site NJ51NE 13).

Sponsor: Michael Gilmour Associates, 32 Albert Street, Aberdeen.

AB1 1XR

Pitmedden Great Garden (Udny parish)

NTS

Evaluation

NJ 885 280 Historical sources suggest an upper pair of parterres between the present lower formal garden and Pitmedden House. This evaluation attempted to locate these features in advance of new planting, but neither of the main trenches contained any direct evidence of previous parterres.

Sponsor: NTS.

KINCARDINE & DEESIDE DISTRICT

Air Photographs

M Greig

As a result of a summer flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified. Full details in GRC SMR.

Tomachallich (Aboyne & Glentarn parish)

NO 477 997 Remains of possible enclosure showing as irregular banks forming a rough circular shape.

Duchery Beg

NO 511 940 Small multi-vallate oval enclosure with at least seven banks. May be folly or unusual forestry ploughing.

Mount St Ternan (Banchory-Ternan parish)

I Shepherd

Flint point

NO 693 961 Triangular point of red flint, with steep retouch on two long edges and a curved break across distal end; 35mm long by 19mm width.

Air Photographs

M Greig

As the result of a summer flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified. Full information in GRC SMR.

Cairneywhin (Banchory-Ternan parish)

NO 710 993 Circular cropmarks; either ring ditches or possible feed bin stands.

Anniston (Bervie parish)

NO 805 721 Small ring ditch cropmark.

NO 803 722 Linear cropmarks; also possible rig and furrow.

Seaview Terrace, Gourdon (Bervie parish)

Long cist

NO 830 708 Remains of a long cist; badly damaged by JCB while trench cutting. Substantial part of skeleton was lifted prior to archaeological examination. After cleaning, a few small basal slabs could be seen, enough to give a length of c1.60m. All that remained of the body *in situ* was part of the spinal column and a scapula. The body had been placed with head at W end facing E. The skeleton was that of a male between 25 and 35 years old, 5ft 5in to 5ft 6in tall. The bones are deposited in Anatomy Department, Marischall College, Aberdeen.

Sponsor: GRC.

Air Photographs

M Greig

As the result of a summer flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified. Full information in GRC SMR.

Northbrae (Birse parish)

NO 571 970 Large rectangular cropmark; possible wide ditch of a homestead moat, with gap in NE side.

Northbrae Croft

NO 578 974 Possible ditched circular enclosure.

Mains of Midstrath

NO 590 954 Possible pit alignment; also a circular.

NO 590 953 Cropmark in field to S.

Kincardine and Deeside District

R A Feilden

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Upper Tillygarmond (Birse parish)

NO 630 940 Remains of a depopulated settlement.
Sponsors: HS [] GRC.

Air Photographs

M Greig

As the result of a summer flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified. Full information in GRC SMR.

Allanmore (Crathie & Braemar parish)

NO 131 918 Remains of at least three longhouses along foot of steep slope.

NO 134 918 Wide trace of possible large circular enclosure.

Castleton

NO 155 920 Grass-covered footings of depopulated settlement on lower slopes of Creag Choinnich.

Kelloch

NO 185 915 Semi-circular earthen bank; uncertain origin.

Balnoe

NO 212 939 Remains of enclosures and longhouses.

NO 214 938 Remains of farmstead, longhouses and enclosures.

Creag a' Chlamhain

NO 268 957 Remains of a sub-circular, stone-walled enclosure on hill top. Possible remains of a rampart enclosing crag to S.

Air Photographs

M Greig

As the result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Bogton (Drumoak parish)

NO 811 992 Cropmark of a ring ditch with faint trace of a larger circular enclosure immediately to N.

West Mulloch (Durriss parish)

CFA

This settlement site was surveyed in March 1993 within a c3 ha area in advance of the construction of a platform of hard standing. The complex of archaeological remains is recorded in the NMRS as NO 79 SW 26. Full details of the present survey are lodged with the NMRS. Monument numbers refer to those on the accompanying site plan (see Fig 10).

01 NO 7263 9204 A sub-rectangular enclosure defined by turf-covered stone banks is present at this location. It is 16m long and 12m wide and is bounded by two opposed L-shaped banks 1m to 2.5m wide and 0.5m high.

02 NO 7262 9202 This is a rectangular structure, 11m long, and 4m to 4.5m wide. It has two chambers, and the S chamber has a possible entrance 1m wide on its W side.

03 NO 7264 9199 This is a C-shaped structure 6.6m long N to S, and 5m wide. It is bounded by turf-covered stone banks 1m wide, and 0.3m to 0.4m high and has a possible entrance, 1m wide, in the centre of its E side. A structure on the other side of

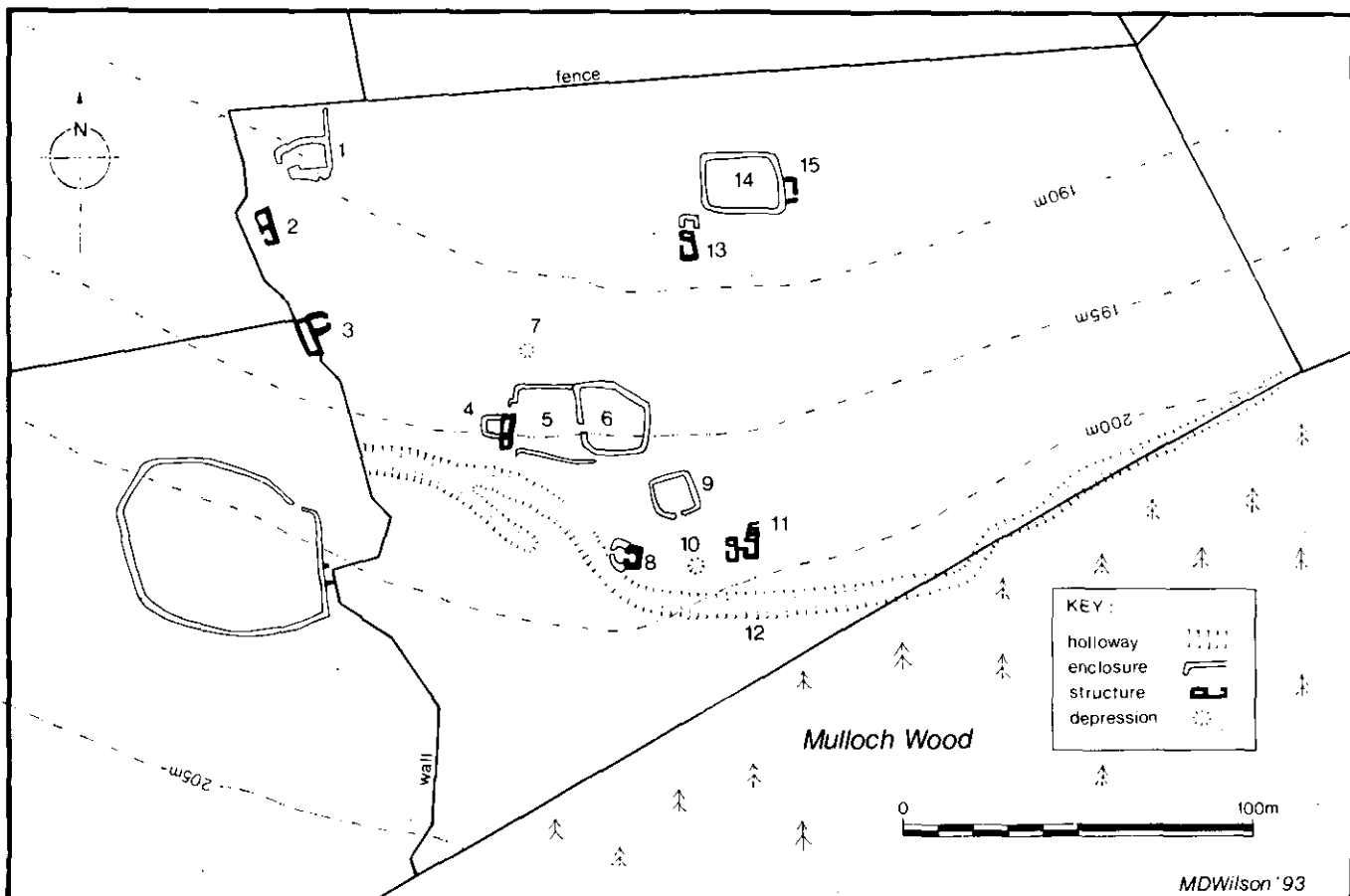


Fig 10. West Mulloch.

GRAMPIAN

the modern dyke appears to have been a rectangular building, 13m long.

04 NO 7269 9196 This is an L-shaped, tripartite structure which forms the W side of enclosure (05). It consists of a rectangular building 10m long N to S, and 3m to 4.5m wide, divided into two parts, with a possible entrance in the W side. Immediately W of this entrance there is another structure, 6m long N to S, and 4m wide.

05 NO 7270 9196 This yard is 20m long N to S, and 19m wide. It consists of two drystone banks, 0.5m to 1m wide and 0.5m high, which form the N and S sides of the area between structure (04) and enclosure (06).

06 NO 7272 9196 This is a large sub-rectangular enclosure 22m long N to S, and 20m wide. It is bounded by a drystone wall 2m wide and 0.5m to 1m high. There is a 2m wide entrance in the W side, which leads into the yard (05).

07 NO 7269 9198 This is a circular depression, 3m to 3.5m in diameter and 1m deep, which may be stone lined. Its function is unclear: it could be either a well or a kiln.

08 NO 7272 9192 This is a sub-rectangular structure, 7m long and 4m wide, which has a small enclosure 8m long and 5m wide attached to its W side.

09 NO 7273 9194 This is a square enclosure with sides 13m long. It is bounded by a drystone dyke 1m to 1.5m wide and 0.5m to 0.8m high. There is an entrance, 1.5m wide, in the centre of the S side.


10 NO 7274 9191 This is a depression 3m to 4m in diameter and 1m deep which may be stone lined. A large natural boulder forms part of its S side. Its function is unclear: it could be either a well or a kiln.

11 NO 7276 9193 These are two sub-rectangular structures which lie beside each other and may be joined. The eastern one measures 11.5m long and 3m to 4.5m wide and is divided into three parts. The eastern structure is 7m long by 3m wide and is divided into two parts.

12 NO 7265 9195 – NO 7291 9199 This is a length of hollow-way which runs E to W across the area. It is 3.5m wide and is between 1m to 1.5m deep for the majority of its length, although to S of the yard (05) it forms a terrace rather than a gully.

13 NO 7274 9201 This is a sub-rectangular structure 7m to 8m long and 4m to 4.5m wide. It is constructed of drystone walls 0.5m to 1m wide and 0.7m high and is divided into two. To the N of this structure there is an associated enclosure formed by a C-shaped bank, 1m to 2m wide and 0.5m high.

14 NO 7275 9203 This is a rectangular enclosure with rounded corners, bounded by a drystone bank 1m to 2m wide and 0.5m high. It measures 25m long, E to W, and 18m wide.

15 NO 7276 9203 This is a rectangular structure, 7.5m long and 3.5m to 4m wide. Its W wall is formed by the E end of enclosure (14). There is an entrance, 1m wide, at the SE corner, on the E side. Sponsor: HS 

Air Photographs

M Greig

As the result of a summer flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified. Full information in GRC SMR.

Dallyfour (Glenmuick, Tullich & Glengairn parish)

NO 357 950 Thin dark trace of circular enclosure with internal features.

Torphantrick Wood

NO 419 974 Small depopulated settlement.

Kincardine and Deeside District

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Cossack Burn (Glenmuick, Tullich & Glengairn parish)

NO 267 998 Remains of longhouses and enclosure.

Megen Burn

NO 312 908 Remains of depopulated settlement.

Air Photographs

As the result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Choc Chalmac (Glenmuick, Tullich & Glengairn parish)

NJ 262 005 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

Glen Cairn

NJ 264 015 Remains of at least three longhouses.

Remicras

NJ 266 003 Remains of at least three longhouses and enclosures.

Choc Chalmac

NJ 269 004 Remains of longhouses and enclosure.

NJ 269 006 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

Rineten

NJ 272 004 Remains of longhouses.

NJ 273 000 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

Loinahau

NJ 277 009 Remains of longhouses.

Rineten

NJ 277 004 Remains of farmstead and row of longhouses.

Tullochmacarrick

NJ 280 011 Remains of farmstead, longhouses and enclosures.

Morven Lodge

NJ 333 031 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

NJ 336 034 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

NJ 339 027 Footings of a small rectangular building/enclosure.

NJ 340 030 Footings of longhouses.

Morven Burn

NJ 343 027 Remains of longhouse.

NJ 344 028 Remains of a longhouse.

Air Photographs

As the result of a summer flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified. Full information in GRC SMR.

Wester Micras (Glenmuick, Tullich & Glengairn parish)

NO 281 955 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

Torgalter

NO 288 959 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

Spittal of Glenmuick

NO 308 849 Depopulated settlement. Remains of at least 15 longhouses and enclosures.

Craggan Hill

NO 310 859 Remains of two longhouses, a small rectangular enclosure attached to a sub-oval enclosure.

Bealachodhar

NO 316 870 Remains of a depopulated settlement.

Aucholzie

NO 343 903 Remains of longhouses.

NO 340 905 Denuded remains of an enclosure.

NO 348 905 Denuded remains of an enclosure in area of new felling.

Glenbardy

NO 351 997 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

The Shiels (Garvock parish)

NO 747 723 Area of rig and furrow.

Burnieshag (Fordoun parish)

NO 705 812 Remains of large rectangular lime kiln with ramp on W and three arched entrances on E side.

Bogheadley (Fetteresso parish)

NO 807 894 Remains of longhouses.

Bank Hill

NO 811 915 Remains of longhouses and enclosures.

Bawdy Craig

NO 818 920 Remains of farmstead and longhouses.

Smallburn

NO 827 910 Remains of longhouses and enclosure.

Trees

NO 827 945 Remains of longhouses, a circular enclosure and rectangular enclosures.

Hawkhill Wood

NO 833 945 Area of rig and furrow with sub-rectangular enclosure overlying part of rigs.

Hill of Mains

NO 830 911 Remains of field banks.

Berry Top

NO 859 960 Area of rig and furrow.

Air Photographs

As the result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Townhead (Kincardine O'Neil parish)

NJ 578 012 Complex of irregular fields with central area containing remains of circular, stone-walled enclosure/?hut and traces of other circular structures beside it.

Kincardine and Deeside District

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Craigenhigh (Kincardine O'Neil parish)

NJ 617 084 Field system and enclosure: a complex series of banks with a large sub-circular enclosure.

Air Photographs

As the result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Law of Lumgair (Dunnottar parish)

NO 853 817 Cropmark of two parallel lines.

NO 851 815 Cropmark of a possible ring ditch.

NO 852 816 NE angle of a large rectilinear enclosure, with gap in NW side; showing as a thin trace.

NO 853 814 Cropmark of a possible souterrain.

Uras (Dunnottar parish)

NO 869 819 Thin dark trace of a sub-circular enclosure.

NO 870 816 Wide trace of a rectangular cropmark with possible internal features ? homestead moat.

Muirtown of Barras (Kinneff parish)

NO 837 815 Cropmark of a possible ring ditch or henge; showing as a slightly raised bank with gap on NE and SW sides. Possible internal feature.

Mains of Haulkerton Wood (Laurencekirk parish)

Late medieval castle J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

NO 712 731 A resistivity survey and trial excavations were carried out in July 1993, prior to potential development of an area c2 hectares.

In the NW corner of the Mains of Haulkerton Wood, under a shallow topsoil profile of c0.3m, fragmentary foundation wall remains were located cut into the natural clay. From documentary evidence, the remains correspond to the supposed location of the late medieval Castle of Haulkerton. They demonstrate that the castle was extensively robbed out in the late 18th century and also partially disturbed by 20th-century dumping. The shallow foundation remains of a possible barmkin wall were also found.

Three 19th-century linear agricultural field banks were observed in the southern half of the wood.

Sponsor: Mr J Medlock (Landowner).


Kincardine and Deeside District

R A Feilden

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Balmakewan (Marykirk parish)

NO 663 668 Circular enclosure just within or overlain by rampart of Roman Camp.

Sponsors: HS , GRC.

Air Photographs

M Greig

As the result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Hilton (Peterculter parish)

NO 820 990 Cropmark of a ring ditch.

Air Photographs

As the result of a summer flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified. Full information in GRC SMR.

Burn of Rhoda (Strachan parish)

NO 682 919 Possible double-ditched circular enclosure cut by later fence.

Broomhill of Morphie (St Cyrus parish)

NO 725 641 Linear and small rectilinear cropmarks.

Kincardine and Deeside District

R A Feilden


The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Pitdelphin (Strachan parish)

NO 651 912 Rectilinear cropmark: ? possible homestead moat.

Scolty

NO 676 934 Large rectilinear enclosure lying E to W.

Sponsors: HS , GRC.

MORAY DISTRICT**Air Photographs**

M Greig

As the result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Torniechelt (Cabrach parish)

NJ 380 280 Remains of farmstead, longhouses and enclosure.

Auchmair

NJ 390 281 Square enclosure (? reservoir) plus a large sub-rectangular enclosure with possible internal features.

Bank of Corinacy

NJ 390 293 Remains of farmstead, longhouses and enclosures.

Burn of Hillock

NJ 404 321 Large circular, stone-walled enclosure/sheepfold.

Tomnaven

NJ 410 331 Large circular, stone-walled enclosure/sheepfold.

Moray District

C Sangster

The following artefacts have been reported to Grampian Regional Archaeologist by Elgin Museum. Full details in GRC SMR.

Duffus Castle (Duffus parish)

NJ 190 673 Two coins found by metal detector. A John Balliol 1/2d (2nd coinage) and a Robert III half-groat (heavy coinage 2nd issue, Edinburgh).

GRAMPIAN

Moray District


R A Feilden

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Easter Manbeen (Elgin parish)

NJ 190 585 Ring ditch.

NJ 190 584 Semi-circular ditch with possible internal feature: other circular feature to the SE.

Sponsors: HS  GRC.

Moray District

M Greig

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.


Bilbohall Farm (Elgin parish)

NJ 207 617 Cropmark of a circular enclosure with faint trace of a possible ditch round base of low rise.

Thunderton House, Elgin (Elgin parish) R Cachart (SUAT)

Urban medieval

NJ 214 627 A watching brief, on a foundation trench for a wall, revealed remains of a former cobbled surface containing 19th-century pottery. A drain which appeared to be contemporary with Thunderton House was observed at the eastern end of the trench. It was constructed of channelled slabs covered by flat slabs. Natural was reached at a depth of 0.55m below existing surface. It was concluded that the 0.40m depth of deposit over the natural may preserve archaeological evidence elsewhere along the S side of the High Street.

Sponsor: HS 

A96 East Road, Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin (Elgin parish)

Site of medieval leper hospital R Coleman (SUAT)

NJ 226 627 An assessment was carried out in advance of major roadworks on the A96 Aberdeen to Inverness trunk road.

The threatened area lay outwith the medieval core of the royal burgh of Elgin, but close to the supposed site of the medieval leper hospital. Only one possible medieval deposit was found: a cultivation slot dated by a single pottery sherd. Modern landscaping and the insertion of services by the side of the main road has removed virtually all traces of medieval stratigraphy.

Sponsor: Scottish Office Industry Dept. Roads Directorate.

213–225 High Street, Elgin (Elgin parish)

Medieval street frontage J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

NJ 213 627 An examination was carried out for two weeks in September 1993, in advance of the development of shop and office units. An area measuring 7m by 14m, aligned E to W, was opened close to the street frontage.

Three phases of activity were identified. The earliest was represented by a series of elongated pits cut into the natural coarse sand. Locally produced Redware pottery sherds were recovered from the fills of these pits, dating them to no later than the 15th century. The function of these pits is unclear, but one possible use may have been for the retrieval of coarse sand, perhaps for building purposes. The presence of the pits implies that the site was vacant during this time and may relate to a period prior to burgh expansion.

The site then appears to have been scarped down slightly, truncating these earlier features and reducing the profile of the natural sand. This action was possibly part of later development represented by a series of deposits and features dated to the 18th to 19th centuries.

Several structural features, hearths, burnt layers and quantities of slag indicate industrial activity on the site during this period.

The site then appears to have been slightly reduced again, prior to 20th-century development of a garage and forecourt, only recently demolished.


Sponsor: Robertson Construction Group.

88–94 High Street, Forres (Forres parish) R Cachart (SUAT)

Medieval town centre
NJ 037 588 Six pits were opened up in the vennels on either side of the property block and one pit was excavated in the backlands. Archaeological remains were recorded in the N vennel and in the backlands. No excavation was carried out in the pends on the High Street frontage.

The building was partially basemented and had been constructed on natural sand. No relevant archaeological deposits were seen in the pits against the foundations. In the vennel on the N side of the property *in situ* archaeological deposits and features in the form of cuts and fills were recorded in a trench, 14m back from the High Street frontage. Several interesting sherds of medieval pottery, believed to date from the 13th century, were recovered from the deposits. The nature of the lower stratigraphy suggested that a boundary ditch may have existed down the centre of the vennel. The archaeology reached a maximum depth of 0.70m and was confined to a strip about 0.70m wide down the centre of the vennel. The S side of the strip had been totally truncated by several service trenches.

A test pit in the backlands on the E side of the property revealed a linear feature constructed with medium-sized stone fragments and what appeared to be a floor surface. Some 19th-century pottery sherds were found.

Sponsor: HS 

Royanville, Gordon Road, Forres (Forres parish)

Medieval town, archdeacon's manse

NJ 035 589 The Trust undertook trial work, on the supposed location of the archdeacon's manse, in advance of a residential development. A manse on this site was reputedly burned by the Wolf of Badenoch in 1390. Various references in the burgh court records imply that there was a succession of early buildings here.

The Trust excavated and recorded two trenches. The upstanding section of the site's southern boundary was also investigated and recorded. The excavations revealed that natural sand deposits sloped down to the W, where they were overlain by waterlogged silty sand and peat which represented the former course of the Mosset Burn. Archaeological deposits appeared to indicate that levelling and consolidation had occurred over the burn. Cobbled surfaces, robbed foundation trenches, a barrel well, soakaway and a petrol storage tank were also encountered. Some residual medieval pottery was recovered. No evidence of substantial early structures was encountered.

Sponsor: Mr Woodward (Developer).

Moray District

W Anderson

The following sites have been reported to Grampian Region SMR.

Burn of Knocknashalg (Inveravon parish)

NJ 197 352 On a gentle NW-facing slope, the remains of a lime kiln.

Bolldow Wood

NJ 199 358 On a gentle SE-facing slope a disused lime kiln.

Tombae

NJ 218 254 On a SW-facing river terrace, the remains of a small mill and lade.

NJ 226 255 On a S-facing river terrace, the grass-covered footings of a long rectangular building with a rectangular enclosure adjoining. ? Possible Chapel/Church.

Sponsor: Crown Estates.

Moray District

M Greig

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Gallow Hill (Inveravon parish)

NJ 182 290 Rectangular enclosure with slightly rounded corners, showing as a dark trace.

Nevie Farm

NJ 210 276 Cropmark of a possible homestead moat.

Wester Claggan

NJ 217 264 Area of possible rig and furrow.

Nethertown (Inveravon parish)

Stone circle

NJ 185 291 A small stone circle standing on a ridge, with possible small recumbent stone. Observed from distance so further investigation required.

Sponsor: GRC.

Ballindalloch Estate (Inveravon parish)

CFA

Pre-afforestation survey

The following sites were surveyed in October 1992 within a c200 ha area in advance of afforestation. Full details are in a report lodged with the NMRS.

NJ 206 367 Over 80 cairns, typically 6m in diameter, lie in a field just to the S of the Tomnaglein plantation. The discovery of a cist at this location in 1865 suggests that at least some of the cairns are prehistoric burial structures.

NJ 2015 3655 An annular enclosure bounded by low turf-covered walls (10m diameter), with a probable entrance in the W side.

NJ 2095 3605 Two field banks run NE to SW, parallel with the modern trackway.

NJ 2100 3620 Two small turf-covered cairns lay E of the Burn of Tommore. Others may have remained undetected in dense vegetation.

NJ 2090 3575 Corn-drying kiln (6m diameter) associated with the ruined *Lyneriach farmstead*.

NJ 2045 3575 Turf-covered dyke, running NW to SE.


NJ 2030 3530 Two parallel 15m long stone spreads, probably of modern origin.

NJ 2000 3635 Turf-covered remains of two longhouses and a series of small circular and larger rectangular enclosures lie c200m N of Bolldow. None of these structures is recorded on the Ordnance Survey first edition 6in coverage.

NJ 2040 3525 Building (21m by 5m, orientated N to S), and kiln immediately to its E (3m diameter).

NJ 2010 3635 Two-chambered building (12m by 4m, orientated NE to SW) and associated enclosure (15m by 7m).

NJ 2020 3640 Rectangular stone platform (30m by 6m), probably modern.

Sponsor: HS 

Knockando Estate (Knockando parish)

Pre-afforestation survey

The following sites were surveyed in March 1993 within a c250 ha area in advance of afforestation. Full details are lodged with the NMRS.


NJ 1610 4280 A low, earth-banked, rectilinear enclosure measuring 5m by 3.5m, abuts the remains of a stone dyke.

NJ 160 424 (centre) This is a cairnfield containing approximately 250 turf-covered cairns, ranging between 2m and 6m in diameter.

NJ 1610 4255 This is a rubble spread 35m long, 10m wide and 0.5m high. It is probably of recent origin.

NJ 1580 4240 This dish-shaped, shallow hollow has a diameter of about 30m and is approximately 2m deep. It represents the remains of a sand pit.


NJ 1600 4230 This is a series of four or five lynchets running N to S and from 50m to 125m in length. They never exceed a height of approximately 0.3m or a width of c4m, and are poorly defined in places.

Sponsor: HS 

Balvenie Castle (Mortlach parish)

R Murdoch

NJ 326 408 The installation of a power supply into the castle's NE round tower was preceded by a watching brief during trenching along an existing cable track, parallel with the N curtain wall; and by the archaeological excavation of trenches into the tower and across its floor at ground level. Little of archaeological interest was uncovered within any of these trenches which were 0.30m wide and 0.30m to 0.50m deep. Work undertaken by Scotia Archaeology Ltd.

Sponsor: HS 

Moray District

M Greig

The following sites have been identified while checking aerial photographs held by GRC.

Bellandy (Mortlach parish)

NJ 288 318 Area of rig and furrow on semi-improved land.

Air Photographs

As the result of a winter flying programme, sponsored by the Royal Commission, the following sites have been identified.

Full information in GRC SMR.

Barlatch (Rothiemay parish)

NJ 549 478 Denuded remains of stone-walled enclosure.

NJ 550 474 Earthen bank and small grass-covered mounds.

Woodend of Barlatch

NJ 551 475 Denuded remains of longhouses and attached enclosure; also a small rise in same field to NW.

Corस्कellie (Rothiemay parish)

A Miles

Cup and ring-marked boulder

NJ 558 475 In 1990, Mr Robertson, Corस्कellie, when clearing ground for a new farm building, turned over a large boulder with many cup-marks on its lower face. It had been set up on a bank with other unmarked boulders, between the public road and the new building, close to where it was found.

The stone is wedge-shaped, 1.1m thick at the top, 0.15m at the bottom and measures 1.9m by 2.7m across the widest and longest parts of the carved face. There are at least 56 cup-marks, ranging from 5cm to 19cm in diameter. About a quarter (mostly on one half of the stone) have a tail between the cup and the ring, and many of the cups in this half are symmetrically deeper at one side, with small weathered grooves on the opposite side. Three parallel narrow veins of quartzite cross the cup-marked face.

Spynie Palace (Spynie parish)

J Lewis

NJ 230 658 There were three principal areas of investigation during the 1993 season of excavation: the interior of the SW tower ('Davy's Tower'); the SW corner of the courtyard, adjacent to Davy's Tower; and the N side of the courtyard, against the S wall of the N range.

SW tower Removal of a thin deposit of modern detritus at first floor level revealed a layer of voided rubble and loose mortar, infilling the space between the underlying vaulted cellars and the flagged floor of the hall. Only a few broken flags now project from the inside faces of the walls. In the NE corner of the room, the foundations were revealed of the sole stair that links this level with the upper storeys of the tower. These foundations of massive dry-stone rubble had been built directly upon the vault of the circular basement below.


SW courtyard A mound of 19th/20th-century rubble was partially removed from the E face of the SW tower in 1988; this task was completed in 1993. This exposed the foundations of the tower, below which were the fragmentary remains of a masonry building that appears to have been destroyed by fire. On the evidence of large quantities of window glass and pottery associated with the demolished building, its construction probably dates to the 14th

GRAMPIAN/HIGHLAND

century. The foundations of another masonry building had been cut into the subsoil nearby. There was no indication as to the function or date of this small building although its resemblance to the truncated walls below the tower suggests that the two structures may have been contemporary.

Between the tower and the S range there were several post holes cut into the subsoil. There was also a number of larger pits, perhaps evidence of a substantial timber structure that pre-dated the extant masonry buildings of the palace.

N courtyard Limited investigations within this area in 1987 and in 1992 demonstrated that the steep slope against which the S wall of the N range had been built had been levelled, mostly with midden deposits. The proposed rebuilding of a large stretch of the wall prompted the excavation of much of that material which proved to contain huge quantities of animal bones and substantial amounts of pottery. Most of the latter appeared to be of 15th and 16th-century dates.

Sponsor: HS 

HIGHLAND REGION

BADENOCH & STRATHSPEY DISTRICT

Rothiemurchus Estate (Duthil & Rothiemurchus parish)

Survey

T C Welsh

Fieldwork was carried out on the low part of the Rothiemurchus Estate S of the River Drurie, by permission of the proprietor. Full details have been deposited with the NMRS.

NH 893 071	Loch Gamnha	Homestead
NH 893 071	Loch Gamnha	Dun
NH 892 068	Loch Gamnha	Foundations
NH 891 066	Loch Gamnha	Enclosure
NH 894 072	Loch an Eilein	Defended stock enclosures
NH 895 083	Loch an Eilein	Homestead
NH 898 082	Loch an Eilein	Homestead
NH 897 082	Loch an Eilein	Settlement
NH 897 082	Loch an Eilein	Foundations
NH 897 081	Loch an Eilein	Quadranted mound
NH 897 085	Loch an Eilein	Mill
NH 899 082	Forest Cottage	Homestead
NH 888 074	Kennapol	Homestead
NH 886 098	The Doune	Earthwork
NH 894 089	Creaga' Mhuilein	Homestead
NH 893 091	Creaga' Mhuilein	Cairns, structure
NH 894 092	Creaga' Mhuilein	Enclosure
NH 889 068	Creagan Ruighe Dhugail	Cairn
NH 888 070	Creaga' Chait	Cairn
NH 890 093	The Drum	Cairn
NH 889 093	The Drum	Enclosures
NH 888 093	The Drum	Possible dun
NH 895 092	Upper Milton	Steading
NH 896 092	Upper Milton	Steading
NH 895 091	Upper Milton	Foundation
NH 893 095	Milton	Possible mill
NH 894 092	Milton Bridge	Mill lade
NH 905 094	Croft	Steadings
NH 903 094	Croft	Structure
NH 899 086	Rieonachan	Dun
NH 900 087	Rieonachan	Settlement
NH 900 089	Cairn Valley	Homestead
NH 902 089	Cairn	Settlement

NH 901 094	Lochan Mor	Fort with stock enclosures
NH 898 092	Lochan Mor	Settlement
NH 898 093	Lochan Mor	Steading
NH 898 095	Lochan Mor	Settlement
NH 901 096	Lochan Mor	Steading
NH 897 103	The Loist	Settlement
NH 897 101	The Loist	Steading
NH 893 099	Tom na hurich	Earthwork
NH 912 085	Whitewell	Modified hut circles
NH 915 087	Whitewell	Hut circle
NH 916 087	Whitewell	Hut circles
NH 912 088	Balvattan	Settlement

CAITHNESS DISTRICT

Bay of Sannick (Canisbay parish) T Pollard, P Humphreys
Midden deposit

ND 397 733 A small knoll, situated on a raised beach terrace in the bay of Sannick, was found to contain a midden deposit which included marine shells and fragments of stone. Material had been collected from sheep eroded sections by P Humphreys over a period of years, including bones and potsherds. A cut feature was visible in the eroding section and may, along with a quantity of stone, provide evidence for a structural element to the site. The site has been heavily eroded and appears to represent only a small portion of a more substantial site which appears to date from the Iron Age or later.

Bay of Sannick (Canisbay parish)

Possible Mesolithic lithics

ND 396 734 Over a period of several years a number of lithics have been collected by P Humphreys from the rear of the beach in the bay of Sannick, to the W of Duncansby Head. A recent visit to the site by both contributors and students from Glasgow University resulted in the recovery of around 35 further lithics. The collection consists exclusively of flint and includes, scrapers, cores, blades and flakes, but is dominated by waste material. Some calcinated animal bone was also recovered. The material appears to have washed down onto the beach from the raised beach terrace which rises up immediately to its rear. Though the interpretation of such a small sample of material is subject to severe limitations it can be suggested that the lithics are of a Mesolithic type. If this is the case this collection can be added to those recovered from Freswick Links as evidence for Mesolithic activity in this part of the northern Scottish mainland. It is hoped that a fuller investigation of this site, which is obviously subject to erosion, will be possible in the near future.

Robert's Haven (Canisbay parish)

J H Barrett

Medieval/Norse middens, undated structure

ND 389 736 (coastal deposits); ND 390 735 (undated structure)
In June 1993, archaeological sampling continued at Robert's Haven, a tentatively 14th-century rural settlement (see DES 1992, 40-1). Three 50cm by c75cm columns were excavated from two areas of coastal middens and palaeosols rich in fish bone and shell. These deposits may represent a fish-processing station, possibly for local exchange or export. This question is currently under investigation by detailed analysis of the recovered faunal material (Barrett 1992; Morris et al, forthcoming).

A fourth sample column (E, 1m²), in the vicinity of an undated (but possibly medieval) ruined structure c150m inland was re-opened and excavated to sterile glacial till. Ecofacts and artefacts were recovered from midden strata to facilitate the interpretation of this area *vis-à-vis* coastal deposits. A second 1m² column (I), immediately adjacent to the structure, was also excavated to clarify

the stratigraphic relationship between the building and its associated midden deposits.

Continued auger and geophysical survey (P Johnson, pers comm) suggests that these two areas of intact archaeology are isolated in a landscape which was elsewhere stripped by extensive sand quarrying.

References

J H Barrett, 'Palaeoeconomic Investigations at Robert's Haven, Caithness, 1992: A Preliminary Report', Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow.

C D Morris, C E Batey & J H Barrett (forthcoming), 'The Vikings and Early Settlement. An Archaeological Research Programme and Recent Results', *Proceedings of the 12th Viking Congress, Sweden, 1993*.

Sponsors: Caithness District Council, Glasgow Archaeological Society, Hunter Archaeological Trust, Rosemary Cramp Fund, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Department of Archaeology University of Glasgow. The contributor's co-ordination of the project (and study of the fish and mammal bones) is supported by doctoral research funding from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

'Halmie' (Latheron parish) A Morrison, I Banks, T Pollard
Prehistoric cairn

ND 117 334 Investigation and removal of the wide scatter of smaller stones/blocking material at the eastern side of the cairn was continued. This area has yielded the greatest concentration of small finds on the site – mainly small sherds of pottery and quartz-working debitage which includes a few small finished edge-tools. The quantity and small size of the pottery sherds suggest that some complete vessels might have been smashed *in situ*. A number of large stone-slab features under the layers of smaller stones in this area appear to delimit hearth areas, from which large amounts of charcoal have been recovered. This area of small stones appears to be an integral part of the structure, with revetments joining it to the cairn. The occurrence of hearths, however, shows that it is quite complex and the possible deliberate breaking of pottery over the area strongly suggests some ritual practice. Clearance of the 'chamber' area was completed and the orthostats, which formed the apparently U-shaped arc of stones noted in the early stages of the excavation and which could later be seen to form the greater part of an oval arrangement, are now fully visible. It now seems unlikely that they could have supported any massive walling or corbelling that might have covered the central area, although there is no doubt whatsoever that they were used to delimit that area. Some of the lower slabs in the 'chamber' appear to represent a floor and some are set beneath the large orthostatic side slabs. Various features have now been recorded in the area where the bottom slabs were lifted, including (last season) a large pit from the top of which part of a jet/lignite armlet was recovered. Charcoal deposits, a stone spindle whorl and pottery sherds have also been recovered. Work on the northern side of the cairn uncovered more of the slab-covered trench that at first sight looked like the roofing of a souterrain. The trench underneath the slabs was much too shallow for storage/souterrain functions, so it has been labelled a 'drain'. It lies beneath cairn material and the cairn revetment/kerbs run across the top of it in places. It appears to run under the smaller-stone scatter and slab-hearths at the eastern side of the cairn, and on the southern side it terminates in the south-western quadrant. It is interesting that it is most imposing, with large heavy covering slabs, around the northern periphery, where the supporting kerbs/revetments of the cairn are not strongly marked, whereas on the southern side where the kerbs/revetments are massive and prominent the 'drain' narrows down to about 30cm to 40cm width, covered with small slabs, and then peters out. The word 'drain' has been used, but it seems a very

elaborate structure for that interpretation, which would imply that the drainage (or perhaps impeded drainage) of the site in the pre-historic past, perhaps even before the build-up of peat, was similar to that of today. One of the most interesting discoveries of this season has been the uncovering of what appear to be a number of ard-marks running out from under the remains of the cairn in the south-eastern segment. There are two small patches, with furrows crossing at right angles. Attempts will be made to trace their full extent when that area of the cairn is lifted next season. This adds further to the complexity of this site, with its combination of domestic, ritual and possibly agrarian evidence.

Sponsors: Mr R S Avery, Dunbeath Preservation Trust.

INVERNESS DISTRICT

Cantraywood (Croy & Dalcross parish) R MacLennan, R Hanley
Polished stone axe

NH 779 477 Polished stone axe found by Simon Fraser in 1951 or 1952 during forestry planting operations.

Small grey axe with some abrasion at butt end. ?Group XXIV.

Dimensions: length 71mm; blade width 42mm; butt width 30mm; thickness (max) 18mm.

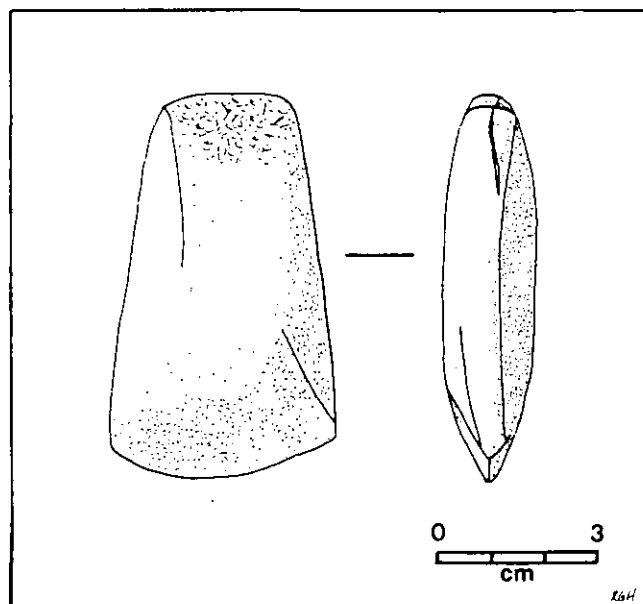


Fig 11. Cantraywood. Polished stone axe.

17–19 High Street, Inverness (Inverness & Bona parish)
Urban medieval D Hall (SUAT)

NH 6670 4525 Observations of contractor's excavations for new shop foundations located up to 1.15m of archaeological deposit above natural sand. Medieval occupation represented by clay floors and pits was recovered overlying a clean yellow sand which sealed an old ground surface. This sand may represent a water-borne tsunami deposit of mesolithic date. This deposit was previously recognised at excavations in Castle Street, Inverness in 1979.

Sponsor: HS

Raining's Stairs (Inverness & Bona parish) R Hanley
Burnt timber structure/s

NH 6676 4516 Watching brief during digging of three test pits by developers on steep 45° slope adjacent to Raining's Stairs to E of Castle Street medieval street frontage (J Wordsworth, 1982, PSAS 112, 322–391).

HIGHLAND

Exposed W-facing section of one pit revealed layers of burnt daub associated with charcoal lenses and possible stone floor surface. Access to section not possible but spread of material covered area of c2m square. Indication of at least three phases of timber structures. A post hole was visible in the E-facing section.

Represents evidence for possible medieval timber buildings terraced into hillside to rear of main Castle Street frontage.

Sponsor: Inverness District Council.

Muirfield Road, Inverness (Inverness & Bona parish)

Inhumation burial

NH 671 443 Discovery of human bone fragments during domestic garage and coal bunker construction in house garden, led to small-scale salvage excavation which produced evidence for a heavily disturbed and truncated burial pit dug into natural gravels.

Decayed bone recovered *in situ*. C14 date pending.

Sponsor: Inverness District Council.

Kinmylies House (Inverness & Bona parish)

Investigation of possible medieval chapel site

NH 646 445 Watching brief during surface stripping operations in area of demolished Kinmylies House and garden, investigating anomalies recorded during a geophysical survey in 1987.

No evidence found for medieval chapel.

A number of metal garden path footings were exposed, along with other features associated with Kinmylies House. A drystone construction well was uncovered, sealed by an iron-banded millstone. The upper fills produced material of turn of the century date, along with a number of well fittings. The well chamber had been blocked with stone debris.

Sponsor: Inverness District Council.

West Seafield Farm (Inverness & Bona parish)

I Banks

Cropmarks

NH 694 458 In May 1993, GUARD carried out a geophysical survey of an area adjacent to cropmarks at West Seafield Farm in advance of the laying of sewage pipes to the proposed sewage farm at Allanfean. The cropmarks visible on aerial photographs (IN 2646 RCAHMS 1976 & IN 3107-8 RCAHMS 1977) consisted of a large ring-ditch and a pit alignment along with a series of other features on the top of a small hill above a silted-up stream bed. These cropmarks, and the recovery of large amounts of worked lithics over the years by a local amateur archaeologist, indicated that the area was archaeologically sensitive. The intention was to gather sufficient information about the area to assess the likely impact of the pipe-laying on the archaeology of the area.

Survey was carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer with a total of twenty-five 20m grids surveyed, giving a coverage of 10000m².

The anomalies in the survey were fairly amorphous. Near the cropmarks was a possible fire-spot and a possible rectilinear structure, with a second possible fire-spot and a semi-circular anomaly, possibly representing an enclosure, further away. In the adjoining fields, a further possible fire-spot was located, but there was nothing else to suggest archaeological remains. There was little indication of archaeological activity within the survey area. It must be presumed that the archaeological activity is confined to the summit of the hillock.

Sponsor: Highland Regional Council Water and Sewage.

Allanfean (Inverness & Bona parish)

Square barrows

NH 713 475 In January and February 1993, GUARD carried out a geophysical survey of the square barrows at Allanfean in advance of the construction of a sewage farm. The barrows, visible on aerial photographs (IN 3081-3 RCAHMS 1977), are not upstanding, and the intention of the survey was to locate the barrows and any further

associated remains within the field. The barrows themselves, being scheduled monuments, were not under threat, but any remains outwith the scheduled area could have been damaged by construction work. In order to allow for the possibility of siting the sewage farm in a less archaeologically-sensitive area, the two adjoining fields were also surveyed.

Survey was carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer: resistivity was inappropriate because of the free-draining nature of the site. A total of 112 20m-grids were surveyed, giving a coverage of 44800m².

Within the scheduled area, the three barrows were located but appeared only faintly. The reason for this is that the banks of the barrows have been substantially ploughed out with the magnetic signal dispersed accordingly. A possible fourth barrow was also indicated in close proximity to the other barrows. The only other potentially important anomalies were interpreted as a possible sub-oval enclosure and a possible hut circle.

In the adjoining fields, a rectilinear anomaly, interpreted as an enclosure, and a possible sub-oval enclosure were located in the field to the E, while a field bank and enclosure were indicated in the field to the W.

Sponsor: Highland Regional Council Water and Sewage.

Aird Survey (Kirkhill: Kiltarlity & Convinth; Kilmorack parishes)

Multi-period sites

D Coghill, R Hanley

The following is a selective list of the most significant sites noted by D Coghill during a detailed survey of the Aird area from 1987-1989. The majority of sites lie within forestry plantations and are relatively inaccessible.

The complete list of sites recorded is reproduced in a Catalogue and two Appendices published by Inverness Field Club. A copy of the Catalogue is held in Inverness Museum.

A detailed survey programme on the sites listed below will be carried out by Inverness Museum during 1994. The following descriptions are for interim information only.

Balblair Wood

NH 503 445 Remains of large circular chambered cairn with spread of cairn material over area of c20m diameter. Site heavily obscured by tree and plant growth. The centre of the site consists of a small square chamber with back face consisting of large slab of c2m by 1m. The line of the passage is clearly visible, with a number of slumped lintel slabs in place. [Coghill no 76]

NH 504 441 Possible site of heavily denuded circular chambered cairn with spread of material over c11m diameter. Two large stones may indicate position of central chamber. Probable line of passage truncated by kerb. [Coghill no 73]

NH 504 446 Group of clearance cairns associated with hut circle. [Coghill no 76]

NE of Kiltarlity Cottages

NH 495 440 Circular stone bank of c26m diameter located in rough pasture near River Beauly. Two opposing entrances of 2m width cut through low stone-filled bank. No indication of internal or external ditch. The centre of the enclosure contains a number of probable stone dumps. [Coghill no 84]

Ballindoun Farm

NH 533 433 Possible single stone row consisting of five to six stones running SE up steep wooded slope. Area of dense undergrowth. [Coghill no 58]

Longwood

NH 537 453 Denuded hut circle. [Coghill no 15]

NH 535 450 Circular ditch which may represent a roundhouse enclosure earthwork. [Coghill no 15]

Wester Lovat Farm

NH 538 462 Possible site of quay associated with nearby Lovat Castle exposed during drain construction in 1968. Stone platform and possible timber quay infill deposit exposed in section. [Coghill no 9]

Nr Ladystone Farm

NH 622 433 Double stone row running E to W for c90m through dense wooded area, terminating in W at boundary with modern arable field. At E terminus there is a large standing stone c1m in height. [Coghill no 117]

Altnacardich A & B

NH 586 438 Two heavily denuded and overgrown ?chambered cairn sites. Both sites c4m in diameter and c10m apart. A probable collapsed passage and the edge of what may represent the kerb of the inner chamber are visible at site A. [Coghill no 51]

Mam Mor

NH 581 434 Well-preserved hut circle of 11m diameter lies on a large platform on a N-facing slope. Entrance to SE. [Coghill no 123]

LOCHABER DISTRICT

Risga (Ardnamurchan parish) J Atkinson, I Banks, T Pollard
Shell midden

NM 611 599 The shell midden on the island of Risga in Loch Sunart was located and surveyed as part of an ongoing programme of survey taking place in Ardnamurchan. The site, described in the literature as *Obanian* in character, had previously been excavated in the earlier part of this century by Ludovic Mann and later by D MacKewan, under the auspices of Henderson Bishop. No published excavation report exists, though letters sent by MacKewan to Bishop, describing his work, are lodged in the Hunterian Museum. The site now exists as a grass-covered mound, some 30m by 10m, situated on a raised beach platform at the south-eastern end of the island.

A stone-lined trough of unknown origin and function cuts the mound toward its southern terminus. A series of very recent spade-cut pits were found to be distributed, apparently at random, across the mound. The purpose of these pits could not be ascertained, though they do appear to represent a previous attempt to investigate the site by persons unknown – no record of such work exists.

Following the mapping of the site a series of test pits was inserted into the mound. In order to limit damage to the site these were centred on the pits already present. This cautious approach was adopted despite the expectation that the deposits would lack any degree of integrity, as MacKewan's letters suggest that the entire site was excavated by him. A layer of redeposited material, in places over half a metre deep, which included the crushed shells of oyster, scallop and limpet in a dark organic matrix, undoubtedly represents the spoil from this work. However, basal deposits do, in places, appear to exist undisturbed beneath this spoil, though spade cuts were visible in this material.

A series of test pits was also excavated outwith the area of the mound. Lithics, mostly of quartz but also including some flint, were recovered from these pits. These results strongly suggest that prehistoric activity was not limited to the area of the shell midden and the potential for related evidence surviving *in situ* therefore appears to be high. It is hoped that a future investigation of both the area lying outwith the shell midden and of the midden's basal deposits will permit a fuller understanding of this important but neglected site. A fuller report on this initial phase of work is currently in preparation. Sponsor: Ardnamurchan Survey Project.

Dahl Lay-by (Ardnamurchan parish) T Pollard
Lithics and prehistoric settlement

NM 792 683 Over several years a number of lithics (68) have been collected by Mr J Kirby from the eroding face of a lay-by to the S of Pollach, at Dahl, Sunart. This collection is dominated by flint but also includes quartz and bloodstone, and consists in the main of

rough chips, irregular flakes and spalls which are characteristic of the waste material created by the knapping process. Two cores were also recovered, from which regular flakes had been removed. There was no sign of retouch on any of the pieces and without the presence of diagnostic types it is very difficult to assign them to any specific period. However, the presence of snapped pieces and indirect evidence for the production of blades, in the form of regular facets visible on several pieces, may suggest a mesolithic provenance.

The site was threatened by a proposed forestry track and so at the request of the Highland Region Archaeologist the nature and extent of this site was assessed. This work was integrated within an on-going programme of archaeological survey taking place in Ardnamurchan.

The exposed section of the lay-by was cleaned and drawn. The most obvious feature to be identified was a spread of grey ash which contained charcoal and some lithics. This spread appeared to be confined by a trough-like cut in the N-facing end of the section. The ash spread also overlay various cut features which included two angled post or stake holes, within the top fills of which ash and charcoal had slumped. These features cut into a sandy subsoil of glacial origin. It is clear that several phases of activity were evidenced within the section.

Archaeological activity appeared to be limited to the raised terrace into which the lay-by had been cut (approximate area 17.5m by 13.5m). Sections cleaned to the rear of the terrace, within the forestry plantation, revealed similar deposits to those detected at the road side. The site has been heavily disturbed in the recent past, not only by the cutting of the lay-by but also through the planting of trees and the dumping of material. What remains must therefore be seen to represent only a residual element of what might at one time have been a substantial area of activity, and probably of settlement. Further excavation would be required to enable a more detailed interpretation of the ash spread – it may represent either the floor of a structure or indeed a spread of 'midden' material deposited outside a structure.

A number of lithics were recovered during this assessment, the majority from the ash deposit. These lithics included a small core with evidence for the removal of thin blades. The material consisted of quartz, flint and a single flake of bloodstone. No pottery was recovered. The assemblage may be mesolithic, but as in the case of the material previously recovered this cannot be stated unequivocally.

In the light of this work the proposed roadway was diverted along an alternative route, thus preserving the site. A fuller report on this work is currently under preparation.

Sponsor: Ardnamurchan Survey Project.

Sunart Forest Area, Lochaber Forest District J E Kirby
(Ardnamurchan parish)

Survey of Forestry Commission ground

A preliminary survey of archaeological sites was carried out in the former Sunart forest area and details of most sites can be obtained by contacting the Forest District Manager, Lochaber Forest District Office, Torlundy.

NM 702 642 Round cairn.

NM 695 641 Boulder caves and hut foundation.

NM 693 641 Recessed platforms (9).

NM 693 642 Depopulated settlement.

NM 701 642 Hut foundation.

NM 687 647 Dam for Salen Bobbin Mill

NM 682 637 Depopulated settlement of 'Tarbert'.

NM 672 625 Recessed platforms.

NM 741 624 Recessed platforms.

NM 743 621 Possible kelp kiln. Beach cleared for boats to land.

NM 758 618 Recessed platforms (2) and hut foundation.

NM 769 609 Recessed platforms (4).

NM 813 619 Hut foundations.

HIGHLAND

- NM 806 612 Hut foundation.
NM 828 637 Rectangular foundation.
NM 830 638 Sheepfank.
NM 848 644 Hut foundation.
NM 834 609 Depopulated settlement.
NM 882 604 Shielings?
NM 877 604 Shielings?
NM 819 617 Mill lade (800m long).
NM 819 614 Bloomery.
NM 819 615 Cultivation terraces and settlement.
NM 825 615 Hut foundation.
NM 827 627 Bloomery.
NM 832 632 Depopulated settlement.
NM 836 628 Bloomery and settlement.
NM 842 638 Droving stance. 'Pairc Thomais'.
NM 835 635 Depopulated settlement of 'Torban'.
NM 851 642 Bloomery and settlement.
NM 692 617 Recessed platforms.
NM 584 636 Depopulated settlement.
NM 546 674 Shielings and bloomery.
NM 575 671 Depopulated settlement.
NM 553 687 Depopulated settlement.
NM 558 694 Recessed platforms.
NM 583 655 Shielings (22 buildings recorded).
NM 703 718 Depopulated settlement.
NM 700 643 Memorial cairn to Allan MacDonald.
NM 797 620 Sheepfank.
NM 829 635 House foundation.
NM 824 609 Depopulated settlement 'Dal-na-Cearc'?

Sponsor: Forest Enterprise, Lochaber.

Ballachulish Moss (Kilmallie parish)

T Pollard

Assessment of peat moss

NN 054 603 The peat moss at North Ballachulish was surveyed and sampled by GUARD in order to assess its conditions, extent and archaeological potential. Various archaeological discoveries were made in the vicinity of the moss during the 19th century, including the recovery of a carved wooden figurine which has since been radiocarbon dated to c626 BC.

A sub-surface contour survey revealed that the northern portion of the moss survived to no greater depth than half a metre, having been used as a source of fuel throughout the 19th century. The southern portion of the moss survives to a greater depth, over 3.5m at its deepest. The ground surface beneath the southern portion was found to undulate, probably due to the presence of various kettle-holes and glacial melt-water channels.

A Russian corer was used in order to extract a series of seven peat cores from the southern portion of the moss. These varied in depth from around 1m to over 3.5m. It is hoped that these will allow an insight into the vegetational history of the area while also providing radiocarbon dates for the initiation of peat growth.

The peat moss clearly has archaeological potential, surviving to a considerable depth in places. Any development taking place on or around the moss will necessitate the implementation of a watching brief in order to monitor the removal of peat.

Sponsor: Highland Regional Council.

ROSS & CROMARTY DISTRICT

Loch nan Tri-eileanan (Applecross parish)

M Macdonald

Shieling

(Centre at) NG 832 598 a: Tumbledown footings of a drystone structure in a large grassy patch. 1m internal diameter and walls spread to 1m wide opening downhill.

b: 8m S of (a), and up to three courses high. 1.1m internal diameter, opening downhill.

c: Very tumbledown spread of stones, 20m SE of (a): 2m external diameter.

d: 20m N of (a) on next level uphill, is oval structure, single course. 2m by 1.6m internal diameter.

e: 10m W of (a) and across the burn are two walls extending from a rock face, each 3m long, opening S.

f: Outline of a structure under turf, with a few stones showing. It is 300m W of (a) and measures 3m by 2m.

g: Just NW of (f) is a two-compartment structure, each 1m diameter.

Loch na Larach – Arinacrinachd, Loch Torridon

(Applecross parish)

Shieling

(Centre at) NG 732 572 A group of nine footings, possibly six bothies and three dairies, on a grassy area, sloping down to the loch and facing E. (A rough sketch map has been made of structures in relation to each other, but brief description only included here.)

a: Oval stone setting on a grassy patch, c2m by 1.5m internal diameter.

b: 'D'-shaped stone tumble on a grassy part of slope. c1.3m diameter.

c: A shieling, up to three courses; sub-rectangular shape. 2.3m by 1.6m internal diameter.

d: Similar to (c) and downhill from it.

e: Rounder appearance than (c) or (d) in short turf, c2.0m diameter.

f: In heather and downhill is a circular tumble of stones 1.5m diameter.

g: Grassy mound with circular stone tumble 2.0m diameter.

h & i: Two small, squarish structures, W of (e) possibly the dairies.

Uphill of the bothies are several springs.

Allt Slugach – Glen Torridon (Applecross parish)

Shieling

NG 963 572 The grazing ground of this shieling site was the subject of a march dispute in 1835 between Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch and James Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth (Conan Papers – Gairloch museum).

An area of *Deschampsia Caespitosa* close to the present road marks a grazing area, at the upper edge of which are the footings of a two-compartment shieling bothy. Internal diameters are c4m by 2m and 1.5m by 2m. The smaller compartment is full of rushes, and has a sunken base. Outside the bothy is a scatter of stones, possibly outlining a milking pen. Downhill of the bothy is a wall delineated by a raised row of heather.

By following the burn uphill, another area of *D caespitosa* is encountered; at the upper edge of this grazing area is a small milking pen c2m by 2m.

Dingwall (Dingwall parish)

P Grant, R Hanley

Flints and pottery from fieldwalking

NH 555 580 Small scatter of worked pebble flint including one piece with shallow edge retouch found in ploughsoil.

Field also produced a number of heavily abraded pottery sherds including one sherd of possible medieval date.

Finds made in 1986.

Mudh-a-Blair (Edderton parish)

M Macdonald, K Dallas

Deserted settlement site

NH 658 826 Mudh-a-Blair is mentioned in the 15th century in 'The Register of the Great Seal 1429' and 'Acts of the Lords of the Isles 1454', when it became part of the lands of Balnagowan.

By the end of the 18th century, but perhaps earlier, it is referred to as only 'the grazings of Mayblairie' – Index of Sasines. It is likely that at 230m OD it became too marginal for crop growth as a result of the

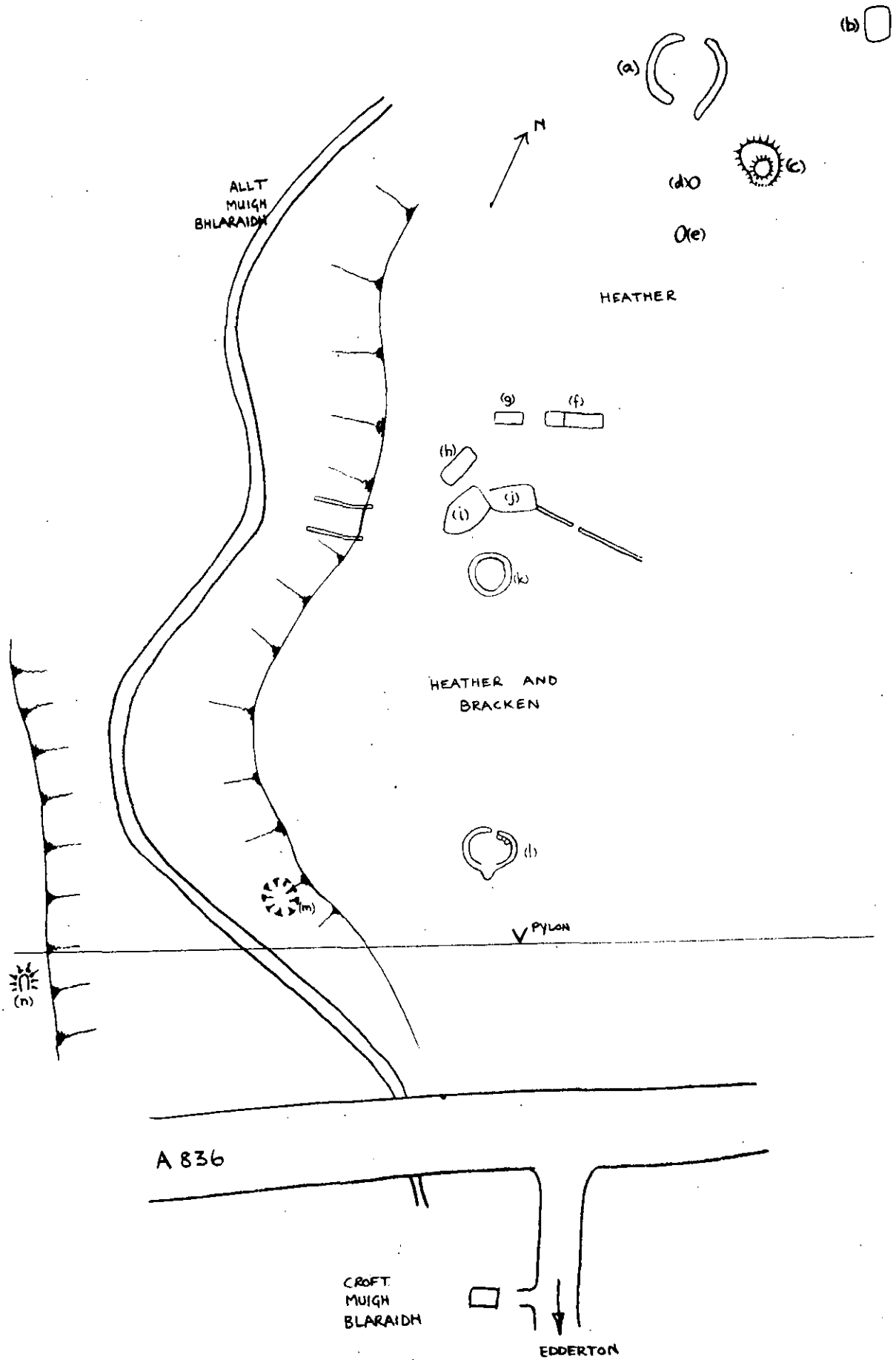


Fig 12. Mudh-a-Blair.

HIGHLAND

deteriorating climate at the end of the 17th century and beginning of the 18th century. See sketch above (Fig 12).

a: This is the uppermost structure on the S-facing slope and consists of a roughly circular enclosure, made up of two arcs of wall under turf, it has a diameter of c12m.

b: Is to the E of (a) and is the footings of a small rectangular structure under vegetation c3.5m by 2.5m.

c: Has the appearance of the remains of a large free-standing corn-drying kiln; the bowl measures 1.75m, and is clearly seen. The flue is not evident. There is a greater amount of tumbledown stones on the W side of the kiln than the E.

d & e: Appear to be stone clearance heaps measuring 2m by 1.5m and 3m by 2m respectively.

f: Is a two-compartment rectangular structure 11m by 3m consisting of heather-covered footings.

g: Is the footings of a smaller rectangular building measuring 4m by 3m.

h: Is the footings of a rectangular building 7.5m by 3m.

i & j: Are enclosures – possible one was a kale-yard. Diameters are 10m and 9m respectively. A wall extends eastwards from (j). Two parallel walls extend down towards the burn from (i).

k: Is a modern, circular sheep fank c8m diameter.

l: Is a platform enclosure of hut circle type c8m diameter. On the inner wall face on the N side are three large boulders. There is a gap in the wall to the N, and a possible opening to SW where there is also a large spread of stone.

m: Large heap of stones.

n: Is on an area of disturbed ground which was ploughed and reseeded 10 years ago; it does however have the appearance of a large, ruinous corn-drying kiln.

Sponsor: Tain Archaeology Group.

Edderton Sands (Edderton parish) Tain Archaeology Group
Possible flooded deposit

NH 720 847 Scatter of waterworn worked stone including two quartzite cores. Possibly indicates presence of worked stone scatter or eroded midden deposit below modern tideline on S side of Dornoch Firth.

Sponsor: Tain Archaeology Group.

Arabella (Fearn parish) R Hanley
Flints from fieldwalking

NH 810 763 Fieldwalking in ploughed field near Arabella produced a small quantity of struck flint including a platform core, a flake with edge retouch and a calcined piece.

Sponsor: Tain Archaeology Group.

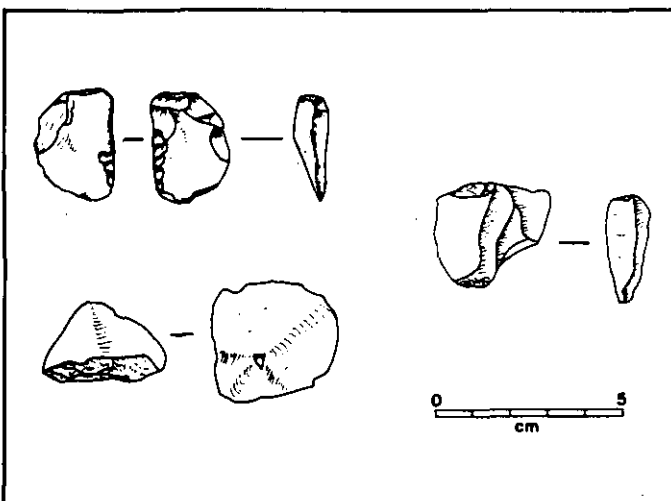


Fig 13. Arabella. Artefacts.

Ross and Cromarty

J Wordsworth

The following iron-working sites were sampled for charcoal for species identification and for C14 dating to help understand the vegetation history in this area.

Strath Rannoch (Fodderty parish)

NH 3804 7383 *Allt Ruadh* A large slag heap lying on a hillock to the N of the burn was sampled. A C14 date of 700±50BP (GU-3463) was obtained from birch charcoal.

NH 3818 7385 *Allt Ruadh* A smaller slag heap also lying on a slight hillock N of the burn was also sampled, though not submitted for dating.

NH 3819 7447 *Abhainn Srath Rainich* Charcoal-rich upcast was sampled from a mole-heap adjacent to a dense crescentic mound of slag 7m by 2m. The site is largely sealed by plough/alluvial silts. A C14 date of 510±50BP (GU-3462) was obtained from birch and alder charcoal.

Strath Vaich (Contin parish)

NH 3573 7335 *Lubriach* The iron slag and charcoal weathering from the bank of the River Strath Vaich was probably in a secondary context and so not sampled.

NH 352 742 *Lubriach* A possible site noted here could not be identified, though a burnt horizon was noted below the deep plough/alluvial silts eroding to the N on the bank of the River Strath Vaich.

Garbat Forest, Ben Wyvis (Fodderty parish)

NH 4200 6714 *Allt a' Bhealaich Mhoir* A sample was taken from a low mound of slag 4m to 5m in diameter. The mound lies in an area of grassland amidst the surrounding heather. This contains the remains of an enclosure wall and at least three rectangular structures. A C14 date of 470±50BP (GU-3464) was obtained from birch and alder charcoal.

Sponsor: SNH (NW Region).

Allt nan Sac – Glen Torridon (Gairloch parish) M Macdonald Shieling

NG 973 578 The grazing area of this shieling was also in the dispute over estate boundaries mentioned in a previous record.

Uphill from Carn Anthony and walking to the top edge of the pasture area is (a) a small bothy with a curved wall attached. E of this is (b) a small squarish structure incorporating an overhanging rock. A dyke is evident under vegetation at the upper edge of the grazing area.

50m downhill from (b) is (c) the footings of a very small, overgrown bothy. Further downhill on a hummock and in the grazing area is the outline of (d) a roughly oval structure, delineated by raised vegetation but with a few stones visible c3.5m by 5m.

E of (d) and also on a small hummock, is an area of rushes with a few stones visible c2.5m by 2m (e).

Downhill of (e) is another hummock at the bottom edge of the grazings with a visible outline of stones c3m by 2.5m.

A9 Broomhill to Logie Easter Diversion, Delny (Kilmuir Easter parish) CFA

Annular features, pits, cairn and field divisions

NH 738 727 Extensive excavations were carried out along the route of the proposed realignment of the A9 between Broomhill and Logie Easter. Two trenches, with a combined area of over 2000 sqm, were placed to investigate a series of linear features visible on oblique aerial photographs and geophysical plots produced by GUARD. A detailed excavation report is in preparation.

Several distinct phases of activity were identified on the basis of pottery typology, the limited stratigraphic and spatial associations, and the extrapolation of excavated features which coincide with cropmark features. Numbers within the following text refer to features on the plan (see Fig 14).

The earliest activity in area A is marked by a curving section of

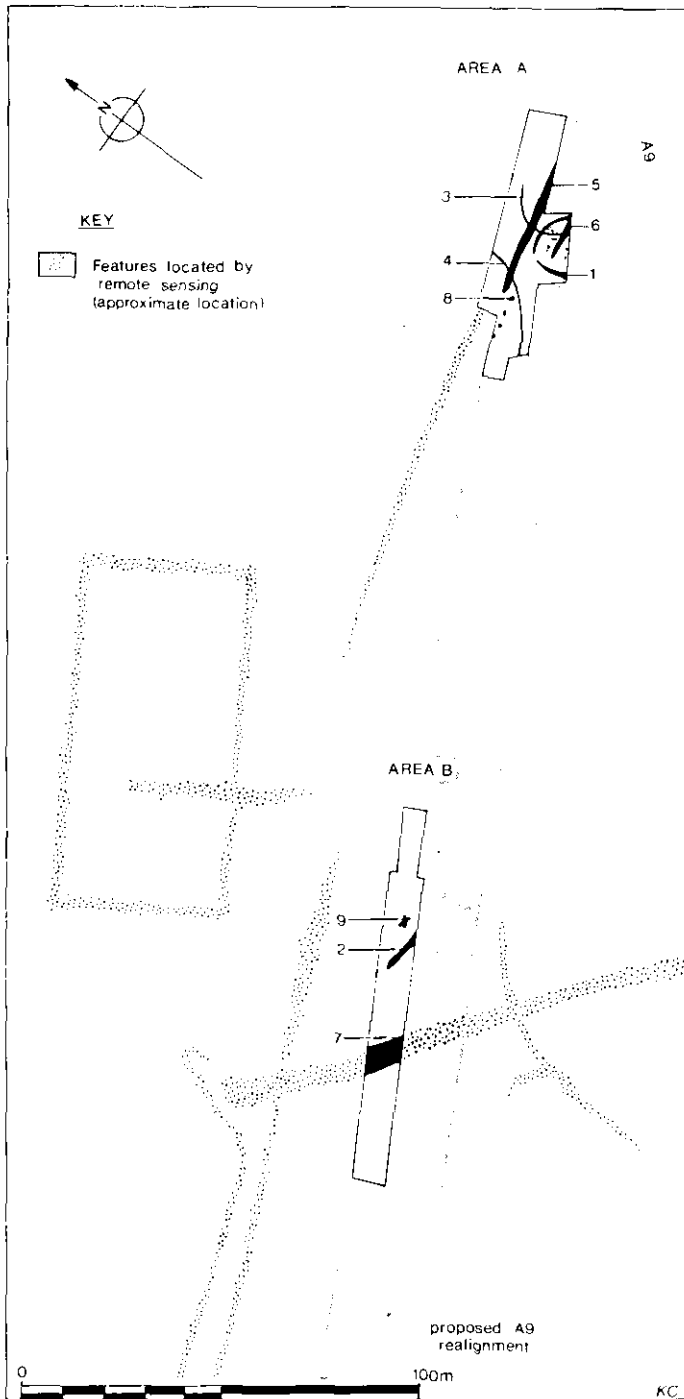


Fig 14. A9 Broomhill to Logie Easter diversion. Delny.

ditch (1), approximately 0.75m wide, enclosing a number of post holes and stake holes, with one post hole immediately outside the ditch. The ditch continues beyond the limits of the excavation area, and seems to describe a rough circle of about 15m diameter. The fill contained one undecorated sherd of coarse pottery which can be assigned a broadly prehistoric date. The fill of a shallow, slightly curving length of ditch within area B (2) produced similar pottery, and the two can probably be considered broadly contemporary.

Two narrow, shallow curvilinear slots (3 and 4), arcing away from one another in area A, can be assigned no clear function. The eastern example (3) is clearly later than the curving ditch described above and earlier than two parallel straight lengths of ditch (5 and 6), both of which are likely to have been parts of a pre-recent field system associated with a line of four post holes (8).

A wide, shallow ditch (7) which bisects area B and runs roughly

SE to NW is clearly identifiable as a cropmark feature visible on aerial photographs. The aerial photographic evidence suggests that there are two identifiable phases of field systems present. Feature 7 appears to belong to a more recent phase than the two parallel ditches (5 and 6), in area A and described above.

Recent activity is represented by two pits, one in each area and both containing sherds of recent pottery, and a deep, machine excavated pit, backfilled with clean sand. These features are probably geological test-pits, excavated by Aberdeen University.

Unphased activity includes a small cairn (9), a variety of pits and post holes, and several small, charcoal-filled scoops, the latter unmarked on the plan.

Sponsor: HS

Union Street, Fortrose (Rosemarkie parish)

Urban medieval J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

NH 727 566 A trial trenching investigation was carried out in response to potential development of a site situated within the historic core of the medieval burgh of Fortrose. Two trenches c1m by 10m, aligned NW to SE were machine excavated. Trench A revealed c0.7m of a dark, sandy clay, garden soil overlying c0.66m of a lighter, sandy clay deposit. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were discovered.

Trench B revealed two 19th to 20th-century rubbish pits and one horse burial cut into the garden soil. At the junction between this deposit and the lighter sandy clay, a demolition spread containing 19th-century pottery was encountered. No evidence of earlier activity was discovered; natural mid-orange, coarse sand was revealed c1.3m below ground surface.

Sponsor: HS

Rosemarkie (Rosemarkie parish)

NMS

EBA copper flat axe

NH 737 574 An EBA flat axe was found by a metal-detectorist on a building site in Rosemarkie. Analysis has shown it is copper, and hence belongs to the earliest phase of metal use in Scotland. It has been claimed as Treasure Trove and allocated to Inverness Museum. Daybook no: DB 1993/6.2.

Dingwall-Invergordon British Gas Pipeline J Wordsworth (Rosskeen parish)

The following sites were recorded during archaeological supervision of the topsoil strip for this pipeline.

Dalmore Farm

NH 666 690 In an area centred here probable Iron Age settlement was found. The features included post holes from a possible roundhouse, a circular building 8m in diameter with posts c100mm in diameter, two grain storage pits with c5 kilos of carbonised grain as well as another possible building and an area of iron working represented by hammer scale.

Rosskeen

NH 68135 69337 A possible grain-drying kiln was found here.

NH 688 694 A series of pits and post holes containing quantities of decorated BA pottery were found. No certain structures could be identified and it is probable they were the remains of small buildings secondary to a house outwith the stripped area.

NH 6893 6944 A large ditch 2m wide by 2.25m with a secondary fill of oyster shell and animal bone is thought to be contemporary with the extensive broad rig cultivation that lay to the W over the above BA occupation.

NH 6911 6945 A fragmentary shell midden some 6m in diameter was found on the W bank of the Rosskeen Burn. It consisted largely of oyster and winkle shells. The lower half was capped by a probable fluvial deposit of sand up to 60mm thick.

NH 69112 69451 A small iron smelting furnace was found here with fragments of slag and iron ore.

HIGHLAND

Rosskeen House

NH 6962 6952 Several small sherds of combed beaker pottery were found in silts sealing a gully that may have revetted a building.

NH 69738 69428 A small cremation deposit was found here.

NH 69885 69528 A roundhouse with a post circle of 7m lay to the E of an extensive group of rectangular pits. These pits are thought to have been originally timber lined, though no trace of such a lining survives. A lack of diagnostic finds makes dating and interpretation difficult, though it is probable they were used for an industrial process such as tanning.

Sponsor: British Gas.

Ness of Portnaculter (Tain parish) Tain Archaeology Group Midden

NH 744 848 Disturbed midden visible in section over 6m. Cut by quarry to SE and road to NW. Deposits consist of layers of compacted shell material and fire-cracked stone.

Sponsor: Tain Archaeology Group.

Balnabruaich Sewage Pumping Station (Tarbat parish)

Watching brief I Banks

NH 9088 8404 In November 1992, a watching brief was carried out by GUARD on behalf of Highland Region Water and Sewage during ground-preparation for a pumping station at Balnabruaich, near Portmahomack. The reason for the watching brief was the record on the OS 6in map from 1907 of the site of a chapel and the discovery of a human skull in 1972 during ploughing. The possibility existed that remains of the chapel might lie within the area of construction.

Although a number of linear features were observed in the sand sub-soil, none was of any antiquity. The farmer, Mr Duff, reported that the skull had been found further to the E than the site of the pumping station. The results of the watching brief were therefore negative.

Sponsor: Highland Regional Council Water and Sewage.

SKYE & LOCHALSH DISTRICT

Broadford to Ord (Sleat & Strath parishes) ACFA Survey

In April 1992 members of ACFA carried out a survey of 48 square kilometres of moorland and heath bounded by Broadford to the N, Ord to the S, the A851 to the E and the Heast road to the W. During the week of survey 144 new sites were located. A brief listing is provided here.

NG 61 NW (Sleat parish)

Rubha Ard Ghormul

44 NG 637 151 Farmstead.

Allt a' Chinn Mhoir

45 NG 646 151 Pen.

46 NG 647 151 Farmstead.

47 NG 645 150 Lazy beds & clearance cairns.

Rubha Ard Ghormul

48 NG 634 150 Pens.

49 NG 636 151 Bothy.

Heaste

50 NG 649 173 Ruinous houses.

NG 61 NE (Sleat parish)

Drumfearn

6 NG 693 165 Farmstead.

7 NG 700 147 Ruinous house.

Morsaig

8 NG 655 151 Farmstead.

Allt Mhocaiddh

9 NG 665 152 Shieling.

Morsaig

10 NG 661 153 Ruined house.

11 NG 660 153 Ruined house & enclosure.

12 NG 662 153 Farmstead.

13 NG 662 153 Enclosure.

14 NG 657 152 Ruined house & enclosure.

15 NG 660 153 Ruined house.

16 NG 656 153 Deserted settlement.

17 NG 656 154 Shieling.

A' Mhaoile

18 NG 694 150 Shieling.

19 NG 697 151 Enclosed rig cultivation.

Drumfearn

20 NG 682 151 Shielings.

21 NG 685 151 Shielings.

22 NG 677 152 Ruined house & enclosure.

23 NG 677 153 Shieling.

24 NG 678 155 Ruined house & byre.

A' Mhaoile

25 NG 698 153 Shieling.

26 NG 699 155 Farmstead.

Drumfearn

27 NG 696 160 Ruined house.

28 NG 693 160 Shieling.

29 NG 687 161 Lazy bed cultivation.

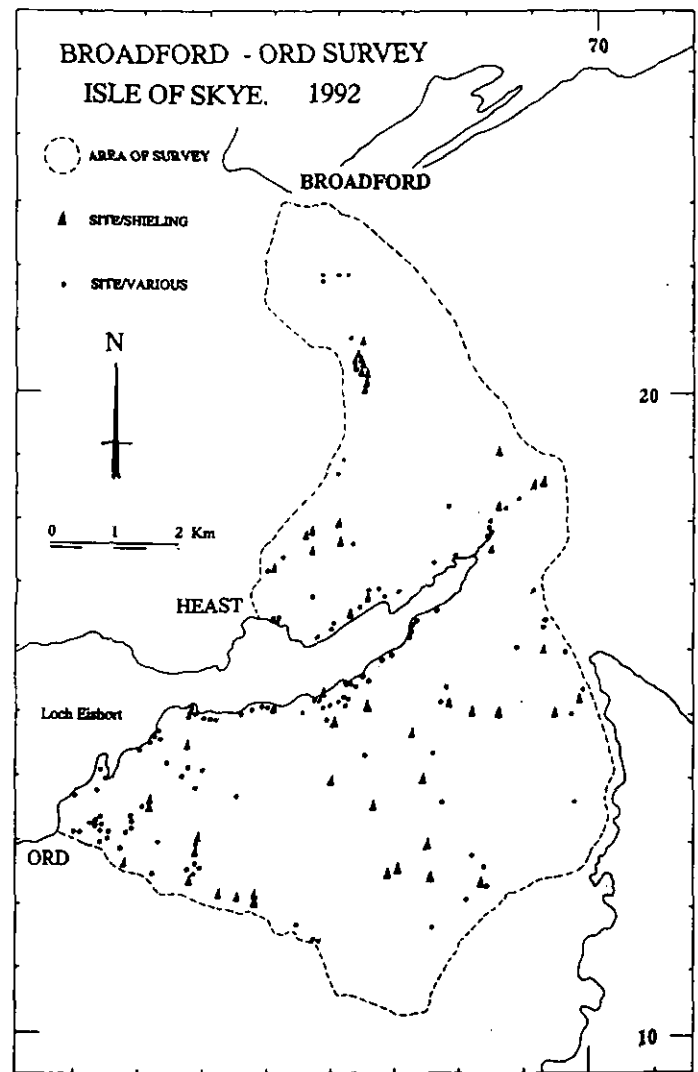


Fig 15. Broadford-Ord survey.

- Drumfearn** (cont)
- 30 NG 691 169 Enclosure.
 31 NG 669 160 Ruined house.
 32 NG 668 159 Boat noost.
- Allt Mhocaiddh**
- 33 NG 665 156 Enclosure.
 34 NG 664 156 Ruined house.
 35 NG 665 157 Farmstead.
 36 NG 663 155 Shieling.
 37 NG 664 155 Rock shelter.
 38 NG 664 156 Farmstead.
- Drumfearn**
- 39 NG 670 164 Ruined house.
 40 NG 671 165 Farmstead.
 41 NG 673 166 Stone dyke.
 42 NG 676 167 Rig cultivation.
 43 NG 679 169 Enclosures.
 44 NG 679 169 Ruined house & rig cultivation.
- Abhain Ceann Loch Eishort**
- 45 NG 682 174 Ruined house.
 46 NG 683 175 Stone & turf dyke.
 47 NG 683 176 Shiellings.
- Drumfearn**
- 48 NG 671 163 Ruined houses, rig cultivation.
- Abhain Ceann Loch Eishort**
- 49 NG 683 176 Ruined houses & rig cultivation.
 50 NG 684 178 Enclosures.
 51 NG 685 182 Shieling.
- Allt Reidhe Ghlais**
- 52 NG 686 182 Rig cultivation, cairns.
 53 NG 688 184 Ruined houses.
 54 NG 691 186 Shiellings.
 55 NG 693 187 Shiellings.
- Allt Airigh na Saoraeh** (Strath parish)
- 56 NG 685 191 Shieling.
- Allt Lon Buidhe**
- 57 NG 651 164 Lambing pen.
 58 NG 651 164 Enclosure.
 59 NG 651 165 Lambing pen.
 60 NG 660 163 Twinning pen.
 61 NG 664 167 Rig cultivation, cell structure.
 62 NG 665 168 Shieling.
 63 NG 666 169 Twinning pen.
- Lon Buidhe**
- 64 NG 661 177 Shiellings.
 65 NG 656 176 Shiellings.
 66 NG 656 178 Shiellings.
- Drum Bhain**
- 67 NG 659 187 Deserted settlement.
 68 NG 658 185 Deserted settlement.
 69 NG 663 165 Shiellings.
- Lan Buidhe**
- 70 NG 660 180 Shiellings with rig cultivation.
- Allt Lon Buidhe**
- 71 NG 657 168 Bridge Piers.
 72 NG 660 164 Rig cultivation, cell structure.
- Abhainn Ceann Loch Eishort**
- 73 NG 678 174 Twinning pen.
 (Strath parish)
- 74 NG 671 168 Enclosure, cultivation, house.
 75 NG 675 174 Ruined house & byre.
 76 NG 668 168 Farmstead.
 77 NG 650 174 Shieling.
- Loch an Eilean**
- 78 NG 657 162 Twinning pen
 79 NG 664 177 Oval turf enclosure.
- Allt Garbh**
- 80 NG 677 182 House, yard & enclosure.
 (Sleat parish)
- Abhainn Ceann Loch Eishort**
- 81 NG 684 180 House & two byres.
- Allt Nic Bhannain**
- 82 NG 651 151 House & byre.
 83 NG 650 151 Shieling.
- NG 61 SW (Sleat parish)
- Cnoc na Fuarachad**
- 8 NG 624 135 Rig cultivation.
 9 NG 623 134 Longhouse & enclosure.
 10 NG 624 133 Longhouse.
 11 NG 625 132 Field clearance cairns.
 12 NG 625 136 Longhouse.
 13 NG 625 134 Longhouse.
 14 NG 626 133 Deserted settlement.
 15 NG 626 131 Longhouse.
 16 NG 625 130 Longhouse.
 17 NG 628 129 Cairn.
 18 NG 628 133 Hut circle (13m diameter).
 19 NG 629 134 Pen.
 20 NG 629 135 Rig cultivation.
 21 NG 629 136 Rig cultivation.
- Rubha Dubh Ard**
- 22 NG 621 138 Boat noost.
 23 NG 624 142 Lazy bed cultivation.
 24 NG 625 141 Fisherman's bothy.
 25 NG 626 141 Stone dyke.
 26 NG 626 140 Revetted platform.
 27 NG 630 145 Three hut circles (5m diameter).
- Garbh Allt**
- 28 NG 631 146 Boat noost.
 29 NG 632 147 Ruinous croft house.
 30 NG 632 147 Ruinous house & byre.
 31 NG 633 146 Hut circle (8m diameter).
 32 NG 635 143 Hut circle (5m diameter).
- Ord**
- 33 NG 619 131 Ruinous byre.
 34 NG 620 132 Ruinous longhouse.
 35 NG 621 132 Ruinous longhouse.
- Alt na Coille Moire**
- 36 NG 632 136 Shieling.
 37 NG 631 136 Farmstead.
 38 NG 632 136 Shieling.
- Garbh Allt**
- 39 NG 636 141 Bow-sided longhouse.
 40 NG 637 142 Two hut circles (11m diameter).
 41 NG 637 145 Shiellings.
- Sgiath-bheinn an Uird**
- 42 NG 640 142 Shiellings.
 43 NG 639 138 Two hut circles (4m diameter).
- Rubha Ard Ghormul**
- 44 NG 637 149 Farmstead.
- Allt a' Chinn Mhoir**
- 45 NG 645 138 Shieling.
- Rubha Ard Ghormul**
- 46 NG 640 149 Farmstead.
 47 NG 641 149 Hut circle (11m diameter).
 48 NG 641 149 Boat-shaped cairn.
- Allt Dearg**
- 49 NG 639 131 Shieling.
 50 NG 639 130 Rock shelter.
 51 NG 639 129 Shieling.
 52 NG 639 126 Revetted platform.

HIGHLAND

- Allt Dearg** (cont)
- 53 NG 639 126 Boat-shaped structure.
 54 NG 637 127 Pen.
 55 NG 638 126 Hut circle (6m diameter).
 56 NG 633 130 Scooped platform.
Ord River
 57 NG 632 125 Ruinous structure?
Allt a' Ghasgain
 58 NG 648 122 Shielings.
 59 NG 648 123 Shieling.
Ord River
 60 NG 625 128 Longhouse.
 61 NG 627 126 Shieling.
Coill a' Ghasgain
 62 NG 638 125 Shielings.
 63 NG 643 122 Shielings.
 64 NG 644 122 Hut circle (8m diameter).
Allt Dearg
 65 NG 633 131 Twinning pen.
- NG 61 SE (Sleat parish)
An Cruachan
 2 NG 657 115 Enclosures.
 3 NG 658 117 Rig cultivation.
 4 NG 654 118 Earth mound.
Beinn Bragh
 5 NG 675 125 Shieling.
Allt Duisdale
 6 NG 669 126 Shieling.
 7 NG 670 127 Shieling.
 8 NG 675 131 Shieling.
 9 NG 681 123 Turf dyke.
Lochan Fada
 10 NG 666 136 Shielings.
Allt Mor
 11 NG 660 140 Shielings.
Monadh Morsaig
 12 NG 665 144 Turf & stone dyke.
Allt Mor
 13 NG 660 148 Stone dyke.
Morsaig
 14 NG 658 149 Shieling.
Allt Ruadh
 15 NG 683 130 Turf & stone dyke.
Allt Duisdale
 16 NG 683 125 Shielings.
 17 NG 684 124 Enclosures.
 18 NG 684 127 Enclosed rig cultivation.
Glac nam Meirleach
 19 NG 698 137 Stone walled enclosure.
Meall Buidhe
 20 NG 677 138 Cairn.
Loch an Iasgaich
 21 NG 674 141 Shieling.
 22 NG 674 145 Promontory fort (possible).
Alltant-Slugain
 23 NG 673 147 Cairn (modern).
 24 NG 673 148 Shieling.
- NG 62 SW (Strath parish)
Allt a' Choire
 NG 649 219 Enclosure.
- NG 62 SE (Strath parish)
Allt an Loin Bhain
 16 NG 665 204 Shieling.

- Allt an Loin Bhain** (cont)
- 17 NG 665 202 Shieling.
 18 NG 665 201 Shieling.
 19 NG 664 204 Shieling.
 20 NG 664 205 Shieling.
 21 NG 664 205 Shieling.
 22 NG 664 206 Shieling.
 23 NG 664 205 Shieling.
 24 NG 664 206 Shieling.
Glacan Skulamus
 25 NG 663 210 Shieling.
 26 NG 664 210 Ruined houses.
Skulamus
 27 NG 656 218 Scooped platforms.
Braigh Skulamus
 28 NG 657 219 Deserted settlement.

M Wildgoose

A further 64 sides came to light during the Skye & Lochalsh Museums Service day-to-day survey schedule. These are listed below:

- NG 33 NE (Bracadale parish)
Sumardale River
 8 NG 377 364 Stone & earth dyke.
Allt na Glais Bheinn
 9 NG 377 366 Boulder boundary.
 10 NG 376 368 Ruinous structure.
 11 NG 376 370 Stone & earth dyke.
 12 NG 377 370 Shielings.
 13 NG 378 371 Shielings.
 14 NG 378 373 Shielings.
Beinn Sheilg
 15 NG 390 375 Shielings.
Vidigill Burn
 16 NG 394 367 Shielings.
 17 NG 394 366 Shielings.
 18 NG 395 366 Shielings.
 19 NG 386 360 Circular stone settings.
 20 NG 385 360 Ruinous byre.
 21 NG 386 361 Ruinous byre.
 22 NG 387 363 House, byre & enclosure.
 23 NG 387 364 Shielings.
 24 NG 386 362 Shielings.
 25 NG 385 361 Longhouse (ruined).
 26 NG 385 360 Shielings.
 27 NG 385 362 Shielings.
Beinn nan Lochan
 28 NG 379 364 Boulder boundary.
 29 NG 378 364 Shieling.
Allt na Glais Bheinn
 30 NG 379 372 Shieling.
- NG 34 SW (Bracadale parish)
Croglan Burn
 8 NG 340 404 Shielings.
- NG 42 NW (Bracadale parish)
Uamh nan Creiche
 1 NG 423 261 Memorial cairns (1602 AD).
- NG 24 SW (Duirinish parish)
Glen Osdale
 41 NG 242 442 Shieling group.
 42 NG 229 433 Shieling group.
 43 NG 228 436 Shieling group.
 44 NG 228 437 Shieling group.

Glen Osdale (cont)

- 45 NG 231 436 Shieling group.
- 46 NG 231 438 Shieling group.
- 47 NG 237 444 Cairn.
- 48 NG 243 446 Farmstead.
- 49 NG 229 433 Hut circle.

NG 25 SW (Duirinish parish)

Glen Suardal

- 10 NG 243 516 Deserted township.
- 11 NG 249 520 Shieling.
- 12 NG 245 522 Shielings.
- 13 NG 243 520 Shieling.
- 14 NG 246 517 Shieling.
- 15 NG 246 519 Shieling.

Coralach

- 16 NG 240 516 Rock shelter.

Glen Suardal

- 17 NG 241 515 Ruined byre.

Fiadhairt

- 18 NG 228 504 Dun.

NG 25 SE (Duirinish parish)

Glen Suardal

- 9 NG 250 518 Rectangular structure.
- 10 NG 250 518 Four oval structures.

NG 45 SW (Snizort parish)

Beinn an Rìgh

- 12 NG 446 526 Shieling.

Lon Mor

- 13 NG 445 525 Shieling.
- 14 NG 444 523 Shielings.
- 15 NG 446 520 Shielings.
- 16 NG 449 525 Shielings.
- 17 NG 449 523 Shielings.
- 18 NG 445 530 Shielings.
- 19 NG 447 530 Sheep fold.
- 20 NG 449 529 Rectangular enclosure.
- 21 NG 448 527 Shielings.

NG 45 SE (Snizort parish)

Lon na Saorach

- 7 NG 457 503 Shielings.

Dubh Allt

- 8 NG 460 506 Shielings.

River Haultin

- 9 NG 469 518 Shielings.

Lon Mor

- 10 NG 451 523 Shieling.
- 11 NG 452 529 Shielings.
- 12 NG 463 536 Shielings.
- 13 NG 466 537 Shielings.
- 14 NG 468 536 Shielings.
- 15 NG 468 534 Shielings.
- 16 NG 472 533 Shielings.
- 17 NG 473 537 Twinning pens.
- 18 NG 476 536 Rectangular stone structure.
- 19 NG 477 537 Shieling.
- 20 NG 479 540 Shieling & enclosure.
- 21 NG 480 540 Shielings.
- 22 NG 462 536 Scooped platforms.

Torrin, Isle of Skye (Strath parish)

M Wildgoose

NG 559 226 In June 1992, the Skye & Lochalsh Museums Service carried out excavation on a 'typical' single cell shieling,

one of 30 similar cells in a group of 76 related structures which presumably comprises the shieling settlement. Evidence for four phases of activity was recorded:

Phase 1 This earliest phase was indicated by a scatter of un-abraded sherds of a coarse, black, hand-made pottery. This pottery was found in close relationship with a small charcoal and peat-ash hearth. No structures associated with this early activity were encountered within the confines of the excavation.

Phase 2A At a later date, a single cell turf structure 2.5m in diameter was built. The turf for this cell was obtained by skinning the surface leaving an artificially level top to the underlying **phase 1** deposits. Access to this cell was by a door-opening 0.6m wide on the NE side.

Phase 2B Subsequently, and without necessarily any significant interval, a stone-built cell measuring 3m by 2.5m internally was added to the S side of the turf cell. Access being by a narrow opening through the S wall of the turf cell. This addition consisted of a wall 0.6m thick built of large well-laid stones. A buttressing bank on the outside of the wall had a row of large stones around the bottom to prevent slumping. Associated with **phase 2** were several sherds of a fine wheel-turned pottery with a delicate flared rim, in an orange fabric. Evidence for leather working and the collection of winkles was also recovered.

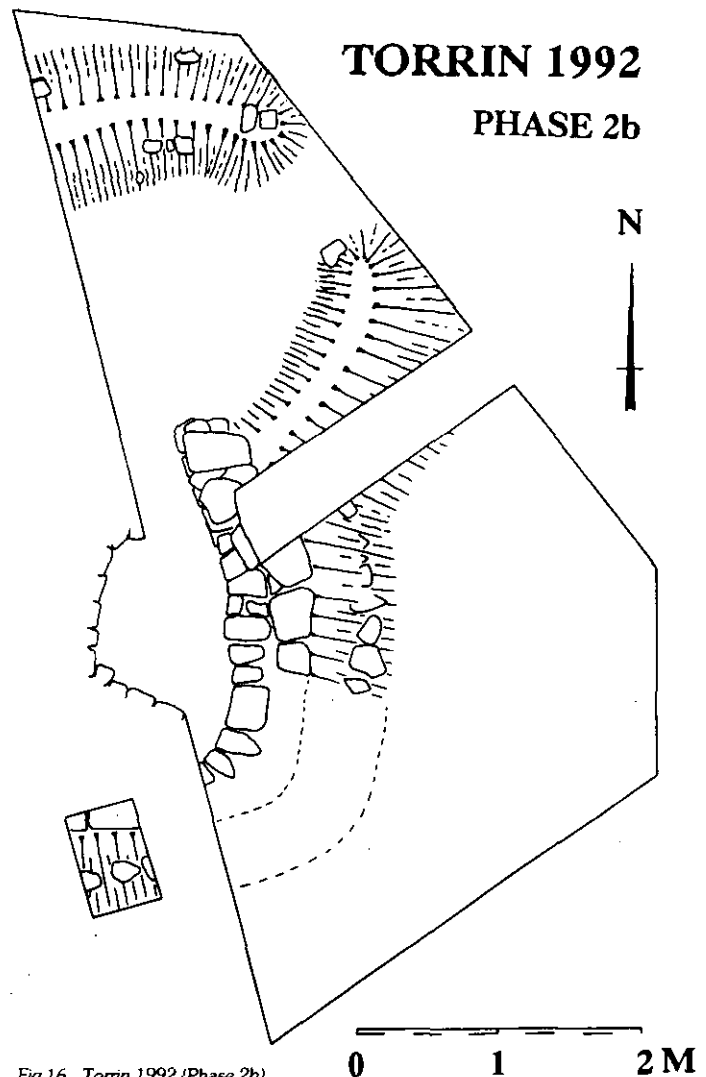


Fig 16. Torrìn 1992 (Phase 2b).

Phase 3 After a considerable period of abandonment, represented by 20cm of black earth, a small stone-lined turf cell, 1m in internal diameter, was built. The internal stone facing of this cell, in one place, rested directly on the remains of the earlier **phase 2B**

HIGHLAND

structure which the turf wall encased further fragments of the earlier cell. Entry was by a narrow opening on the N side, giving access directly onto a well-laid stone floor within the cell.

Phase 4 During the life of this small cell the N door was blocked with several large stones, and a new opening was broken through the S wall. A cobbled path led up to and through this opening onto a floor of rammed earth which now overlay the stone floor. Lying directly on this earth floor were the blades of two scythes, one with fragments of a handle attached, while a sherd of brown glazed teapot was found on the surface of the cobbled path.

Soil and charcoal samples were taken from all levels for later analysis. Thanks are extended to the Torrin Grazings Committee and the John Muir Trust for permission to excavate and to those local volunteers who assisted with the excavation. The site has been returned to its pre-excavation condition.

SUTHERLAND DISTRICT

Cuthill Links Survey (Stage 1) (Dornoch parish)

Tain Archaeology Group

The following is a list of sites investigated by TAG during the first stage of a survey of the Cuthill Links post-glacial shingle bar and dune complex.

Work to date indicates the presence of a variable density background scatter of worked stone debris over much of the shingle bar to the N and S of the new bridge. Majority of lithic material recovered consists of struck quartz and quartzite, with small amounts of flint and chert also being noted.

A number of eroding midden sites were investigated.

NH 7430 8705 Eroding midden on SW-facing dune edge, with worked stone and shell material eroding from top and SW side of midden. Finds mainly consist of struck quartz and quartzite, with small quantities of chert and flint.

NH 743 871 Leaf-shaped quartzite arrowhead, unfinished (broken) leaf-shaped quartzite arrowhead, and abraded stone hammer found near NW edge of eroding midden.

NH 738 872 Concentration of worked stone material consisting of higher quantities of brown flint waste, and also struck quartz, quartzite and chert.

NH 752 873 Concentration of worked stone material.

Sponsor: Tain Archaeology Group.

Creagan Asdale (Dornoch parish)

A Jupp, R Hanley

Flint scraper

NH 721 922 Concave scraper in brown flint found during surface collection in area of pre-forestry ploughing.

Donated to Inverness Museum (INVMG 1993.014).

Eriboll (Durness parish)


S Carter

Hut circles, burnt mound, cairns, shielings, other recent structures

NC 432 558 (centre) A short notice forestry survey was carried out by AOC (Scotland) Ltd covering approximately 0.4km² of land at Eriboll. A group of prehistoric sites (hut circles, cairns) previously recorded as NMRS site NC45NW 9 was surveyed and two additional hut circles and a burnt mound were identified. Five small shielings or enclosures were recorded in addition to the one previously listed as NMRS site NC45NW 31. These structures, a house and a series of turf and stone banks are all assumed to be roughly of 18th-century date. More recent features include an interesting set of stone-lined channels constructed to supply water to a mill at Eriboll in the later 19th century.

List of Sites Recorded

1 NC 4277 5596	Hut circle (NMRS site NC45NW 9 'A').
2 NC 4285 5591	Hut circle (NMRS site NC45NW 9 'B').
3 NC 4294 5597	Hut circle.
4 NC 4280 5578	Hut circle.
5 NC 4294 5583	Hut circle (NMRS site NC45NW 9 'C').
6 NC 4267 5591	Burnt mound.
7 NC 4294 5591 (centre)	Cairns (NMRS site NC45NW 9).
8 NC 4294 5579 (centre)	Cairns (NMRS site NC45NW 9).
9 NC 4325 5587	Cairn.
10 NC 4348 5627	Rectangular house.
11 NC 4274 5582	Rectangular structure (NMRS site NC45NW 31).
12 NC 4278 5585	Rectangular structure.
13 NC 4298 5591	Rectangular structure.
14 NC 4294 5581	Rectangular structure.
15 NC 4295 5582	Rectangular structure.
16 NC 4350 5632	Rectangular structure.
17 NC 4288 5556 to NC 4268 5592	Bank.
18 NC 4315 5583	Bank.
19 NC 4327 5569	Bank.
20 NC 4358 5592 to NC 4330 5570	Bank.
21 NC 4357 5621 to NC 4361 5606	Bank.
22 NC 4360 5615	Bank.
23 NC 4324 5585 to NC 4328 5570	Track.
24 NC 431 557 (centre)	Mill leats.

Sponsor: HS 

Rhiconich (Eddrachilles parish)

I Cullen

Hut circle

NC 2517 5213 In March 1993, a single hut circle, situated on a small level terrace on the hillslope above Loch Inchard, was excavated by GUARD prior to its destruction by roadworks.


The wall of the house consisted of a roughly circular (12m by 11m) low stone bank, reaching a maximum height of 0.7m. The entrance lay to the SE. Gneiss boulders formed a rough face on the inside of the wall. An extension of the wall, 1.90m long, formed a spur to the E of the entrance, possibly acting as a windbreak. A small cell (2.8m by 2.2m) was set into the outside of the wall on its SW side.

Post settings within the house suggest that the roof was supported by an inner ring of posts.

The centre of the house was dominated by the remains of a stone oven floor and flue, set on a stone flagged floor. A deposit of black, ashy, charcoal-rich soil surrounded the oven and was trampled into the floor.

Finds recovered included a range of potsherds, tools and flakes of flint, chert and quartz, an elongated polished stone, a possible limpet hammer and burnt bone.

The site remains undated until specialist analysis of the finds and radiocarbon assay have been completed.

Sponsors: Highland Regional Council, HS 

Strath Cuileannach (Kincardine parish)

R Hanley

Bronze Age bracelet

NH 408 961 Single piece annular copper alloy bracelet found during forestry planting.

Find now in Inverness Museum (INVMG 1993.010).

Gruids (Lairg parish)

S Carter

Hut circles, banks, cairns

NC 577 043 A programme of survey, section recording and sampling was carried out by AOC (Scotland) Ltd as a result of

a pipe-trench being dug through an area of prehistoric monuments previously recorded as NC50SE 12. The survey recorded 50 monuments in a 20m-wide corridor along the pipeline, including previously unrecorded hut circles. The pipe-trench revealed an area of cultivation ridges and one negative feature. The distribution of soil types along the trench was closely correlated with past land use and the distribution of monuments

Sponsors: Highland Regional Council, HS 

LOTHIAN REGION

EAST LOTHIAN DISTRICT


Ballencrieff House (Aberlady parish) C Tabraham
Late-medieval castellated residence with Georgian remodelling

NT 4880 7827 Clearance work in advance of restoration work has revealed several unexpected discoveries and cast new light on the building history of this extraordinary complicated residence. Discoveries include: (a) more 16th-century triple-mouthed gun holes, (b) wooden draw bars in position in the ground-floor windows, (c) substantial remains of two early 17th-century moulded plaster ceilings in the first-floor hall and chamber, and (d) remains of an elaborate fireplace in the hall. Work continues.

Dirleton Castle (Dirleton parish) G Ewart
Multi-phase formal garden (16th century – 19th century)

NT 515 839 A limited survey based on twelve trial trenches was completed on the W Garden at Dirleton Castle in advance of restoration. The main aims of the fieldwork were to (a) identify the E limits of the garden c1875 and (b) generally confirm the design of the 19th-century design as interpreted from contemporary illustration.

Clear evidence was ultimately found of how residual elements (plants and earthworks) from the probable late 16th-century formal garden dictated the style and limits of the 19th-century design.

Sponsor: HS 

Sandy Knowe (Dirleton parish) C A-Kelly
Field wall and possible building

NT 4915 8550 At the SW end of the stone-faced earthen bank NT 48 NE 3 are two fragments of walling extending to the N, with their ends submerged by the sand dune to the N. Both pieces of walling were 0.48m wide and 1.28m apart and the W piece was 1.2m long, indicating a possible door space. W of the walls was a gap in the bank or where the facing had slumped, and on the N side were some stretches of level ground, in steps in a slight slope, up to 12m or 20m in length.

Castle Park, Dunbar (Dunbar parish) D Perry (SUAT)
Long cist cemetery


NT 678 791 Machine trenching for field drains in front of Lauderdale House uncovered a cemetery composed of long cists and inhumations. A watching brief and limited excavation of graves in the way of the field drains was undertaken.

One complete cist skeleton was recovered together with eight partial cist skeletons and four partial skeletons from inhumations. Some 16 other cist and 15 other inhumations were observed in the sides of the trenches. A large quantity of other human bone was recovered. Two sherds of medieval pottery and two corroded metal fragments were found with the fully excavated cist skeleton whose skull was protected by a box formed by two flanking stones and

a small capstone. One other skull-flanking stone was observed in section in a cist destroyed by machining.


Subsequently, Scottish Power, while digging a trench for a cable in the road at the entrance to Castle Park, uncovered other human bone and a possible cist.

This cemetery is probably associated with the burials and human bones further E noted previously during the development of the site as a leisure complex (DES 1991, 49).

Sponsor: HS 

Court Street, Haddington (Haddington parish) D Hall (SUAT)
Urban medieval

NT 512 738 Monitoring of contractor's excavations, for a new veterinary surgery, located 1.25m of garden soil above natural clay. No medieval deposits or artefacts were recovered.

Sponsor: HS 

St Michael's Churchyard, Inveresk (Inveresk parish) A F Leslie
Roman fort

NT 341 720 Two seasons of rescue excavation by GUARD have now taken place at St Michael's Churchyard, Inveresk, on the scheduled site of the Roman auxiliary fort first identified by Sir Ian Richmond in the years immediately following the Second World War (PSAS CIX, 1978–80, 286–303). Work preceded the extension of the cemetery by East Lothian District Council, into the field immediately outside the cemetery wall at its western extremity. Richmond calculated that the western defences of the fort should run obliquely through this field, aligned roughly NE to SW. Both trenches, the first opened in April and May 1991, the second in March 1993, measured c25m by 20m and were located contiguously just within the putative line of the fort defences.

The state of preservation encountered in both seasons complemented and confirmed observations made by Hanson following exploratory trenches opened in this field in 1981 (PSAS CXIV, 1984, 251–9). In general, structural remains associated with the occupation of the fort were found to survive in a reasonable state of repair in the northern half of the 1991 trench; the southern half of that trench by contrast contained only scant remains, and these in a poor state of repair; the 1993 trench was found to be largely devoid of remains, save for a series of pits and several patches of rough cobbling plus one roughly flagged area (see further below). This situation may be related to the differences in topsoil depth recorded across the two trenches, being greatest to the N and E where survival is best, and slightest to W and S where survival is poorest. Consequently one might anticipate reasonably good survival in the northern half of the field, which remains unexplored.

The 1991 excavation uncovered a stretch of some 20m of the *via praetoria*, as it approached the W gate of the fort, together with its junction with the *via sagularis* and a distance of some 20m of that road. The well-laid cobbled sub-surface of the *via praetoria* ran across the full width of the trench, bordered in places by dressed kerb stones. It was c7.50m wide, and when sectioned was found to survive only to the depth of one or two layers of cobbles towards the E, and two or three layers to the W. The *via sagularis* by contrast survived poorly, having been completely robbed out or badly disturbed at several points along the exposed length. Consequently its width could only be estimated, at c5m or perhaps a little more, and its depth, where surviving, was no more than that of the visible stones. Both it and the *via praetoria* were disturbed by a large pit which seems likely to have been cut in antiquity (see below) at the point where the two roads meet. Stratigraphic evidence encountered on the *via praetoria* suggests at least two phases of road building activity, one layer of road cobbling having been found to run under the *in situ* kerb stones on both sides of the road.

Evidence for two phases of occupation was also provided by the stratigraphic sequence recovered at the W gate. Although only


partially revealed during the excavation, the remainder lying outwith the excavation area, traces of a mortared stone construction were uncovered on the S side of the road, presumably representing the foundation levels of a gate structure. Also found were two square-cut pits, one adjacent to and S of the road, the other centrally placed within it. Each was filled with carefully-laid alternate layers of clay and cobbles, and though neither pit lay fully within the excavation trench, their dimensions are likely to have been c1.25m by 1.25m. These presumably represent the foundations of a gate superstructure, providing firm bases in the loose sand subsoil to take the weight of large uprights; a third example presumably lay on the N side of the road, again outside the excavated area. The position of the central example, sealed beneath the undisturbed uppermost surviving layer of road cobbling, adds weight to the contention of more than one phase of occupation.

The fort interior, as exposed in both trenches, proved to be largely empty. The adverse effects of past cultivation were evident through the lines of plough marks visible on the cleaned surface and the scarring detectable on numerous pieces of dislodged building masonry, as well as the kerb stones of the *via praetoria*. No trace of the presence of negative features indicative of the foundations for wooden barrack blocks or other rectangular-plan buildings was evident on the cleaned surfaces and even deep, cross-site sections cut well into the natural subsoil in both seasons failed to reveal any indication of post holes or post-trenches. It is possible that these may have existed as highly-truncated features, which were missed and removed during cleaning (see also Hanson, *PSAS CXIV*, 1984, 251–9), though the level at which cleaning took place was commensurate with that of the surviving road. It is perhaps more likely that no wooden structures existed in the areas opened. Certainly, the considerable quantities of masonry debris found across the site suggest that building in stone may have been more prevalent here than has previously been supposed.

What little structural evidence there was within the fort interior is all of debatable provenance. One area exposed in the 1991 trench, close to the S edge, and measuring approximately 3.50m E to W by 2.50m N to S, may represent an occupation surface. Here an irregular patch of stone flagging incorporating two quernstones, and possibly associated with a line of three dressed masonry blocks, was found in a heavily disturbed state. Considerable quantities of Roman material were recovered from this area, but mixed in with modern finds and topsoil; no finds came from securely stratified contexts. It is possible that this relates to a post-Roman site occupation (see also Hanson in *PSAS CXIV*, 1984, 251–9). A similar patch of stone flagging was uncovered at the southern end of the 1993 trench: of similar extent, this too had suffered considerable disturbance and insecurely stratified finds ranged in date from Roman to modern.

Evidence for the possibly deliberate destruction/demolition of the fort was presented by a large pit which had been cut through both roads (noted above), and which measured up to 3.60m in diameter, and a maximum of 1.70m deep. The upper half of the fill was packed with Roman masonry, and a few sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from different levels throughout the feature, including one from near the bottom. This, coupled with the lack of any modern material from the pit fill, suggests, though does not prove, that it was dug in antiquity. Several smaller pits, on average between 1.50m and 2m in diameter by on average 1m deep were encountered scattered across the area opened in 1993. Some of these also contained building debris and small finds of solely Roman date, though most seemed best explained as rubbish pits: several contained quantities of animal bone. All were discrete features cut into the natural sand and lacked any telling stratigraphic relationships.

Small find recovery was high, as would be expected on such a site, though at least half of the material came from the surface or the topsoil. Preliminary examination of the pottery suggests nothing inconsistent with an Antonine occupation date.

Sponsors: East Lothian District Council, HS 

Eskgrove, Inveresk (Inveresk parish)
Inveresk civilian settlement and field systems

CFA

NT 348 721 Excavation of two trenches with a total area of 717 sqm was undertaken in February 1993 within the scheduled area of the civilian settlement and field systems to the E of Inveresk fort. The work was conducted in advance of the construction of a house and garage 100m NE of Eskgrove House in the field NW of Lewisvale Public Park. A report has been deposited with the NMRS.

Aerial photography and limited excavation had previously revealed a series of linear features in this field, of which one was interpreted as an aqueduct for the nearby Roman bathhouse and another as a Roman enclosure (see *JRS* 56, 99 & 57, 176).

Removal of topsoil and a buried ploughsoil revealed a number of features cut into the gravel subsoil. The main feature was a linear ditch which ran unbroken through the trench ENE to WSW, and which may be a length of the putative Roman enclosure referred to above. It had a variable profile and was 1.4m to 1.6m wide and 0.5m to 0.6m deep. Other features included two large pits, a scatter of smaller pits, and two shallow linear gullies, for all of which no indication of function was evident. These features had no structural associations and did not form any recognisable pattern. No artefacts were recovered from any of the features.

Sponsor: Mr D Teague of Teague Homes (Scotland) Ltd.

Bruntons Wireworks (Inveresk parish) G Ewart, J Triscott
Site assessment


NT 342 724 An integrated programme of archaeological survey and excavation was completed in January 1993 on the site of a proposed food market development. The results of this short but intensive exercise demonstrated that the present wireworks factory buildings were erected on a green field site, which in turn sealed medieval deposits. Artefactual evidence suggests a hiatus between the 15th/16th century and 19th century, which may be connected with the presence of a French fort built in 1548.

The excavated medieval deposits appear to be agriculturally derived, covering a period from the 13th to 15th century and probably relate to backlots associated with the river frontage occupation.

Sponsor: Gateway Foodmarkets.

Pinkie, St Peter's Primary School, Musselburgh
(Inveresk parish) J R MacKenzie (SUAT)
Urban medieval

NT 351 728 A hole, 1m in diameter, caused by sudden subsidence was reported to the rear of St Peter's School playing fields. The hole appeared close to the site of the Loretto Chapel and was thought to relate to a possible archaeological feature.

Upon investigation, no archaeological remains were discovered. The hole appeared to have been caused by redundant mine workings.
Sponsor: HS 

Forth Street Lane, North Berwick (North Berwick parish)
Medieval kiln T Cromwell (SUAT)


NT 553 853 The Trust excavated two areas of the site in advance of deep foundation trenching. The archaeology consisted of wind-blown sand interspersed with occupation and midden deposits.

Cut into these deposits was a circular stone kiln and flue, standing to a height of 2.37m and with a maximum diameter of 3m. The kiln contained late medieval pottery and was probably constructed for drying either malt or grain. See Fig 17.

Sponsor: Scottish Homes.

15 Westgate, North Berwick (North Berwick parish)
Urban medieval D Hall (SUAT)

NT 5505 8521 Monitoring of contractor's excavations, for a new house, located up to 2m of garden soil above natural sand. No medieval deposits or artefacts were recovered.

Sponsor: HS 

Drylawhill, East Linton (Prestonkirk parish)

I Armit

Cursus and associated features

NT 590 779 During the re-examination of aerial photographs taken by the RCAHMS in 1981 a series of cropmarks recorded as linear features were identified as the remains of a cursus and associated features (NT 57 NE 27, 67-9). The remains lie in an arable field immediately N of Prestonkirk parish church in East Linton.

The principal identifiable features are two parallel ditches running approximately E to W some 60m apart. The ditches vary in width from 2m to 3m and follow a somewhat erratic course, giving the impression of having been constructed in discrete lengths rather than as a single unitary construction. This variability of width and segmented construction are characteristic of cursus monuments. The ditches can be traced for a length of almost 300m, and undoubtedly extend into the field to the E, although no cropmarks are visible there to enable their full extent to be assessed.

N of the W part of the cursus is a series of ditches of uncertain purpose which appear to represent parts of the same complex. These may represent parts of a rectilinear enclosure some 50m N to S by 60m with an internal annular enclosure.

The cursus is the first to be recognised in SE Scotland and the presence of associated features suggests a possible complexity rarely paralleled on cursus monuments elsewhere.

Sponsor: HS

Traprain Law (Prestonkirk parish)

NMS

Artefacts from Iron Age settlement

NT 581 746 A surface collection of material from the western slopes and the area around the trig point on Traprain Law has been donated to NMS. It includes rim and wall sherds of Iron Age pottery, a possible Roman potsherd, a sherd of engraved Roman glass, a crucible rim sherd, a fragment of a 'jet' armband, a stone disc worked to an edge on its circumference, two other fragments of worked stone, and fragments of molten glass, along with some medieval pottery.

Daybook no: DB 1993/22.

Stoneypath Tower (Whittingehame parish)

C Tabraham

Late medieval tower house

NT 5958 7134 Clearance work in advance of restoration work has cast new light on the building history of this building. Discoveries include: (a) the fact that the original entrance doorway was at ground level in the re-entrant angle on the NW, and that this was blocked up at an early date and replaced by an entrance slapped through the W wall, again at ground level, and (b) that the ground-floor chamber in the wing has also been greatly modified at an early date. There is growing evidence that the tower house was subjected to a violent explosion at some time. Work continues.

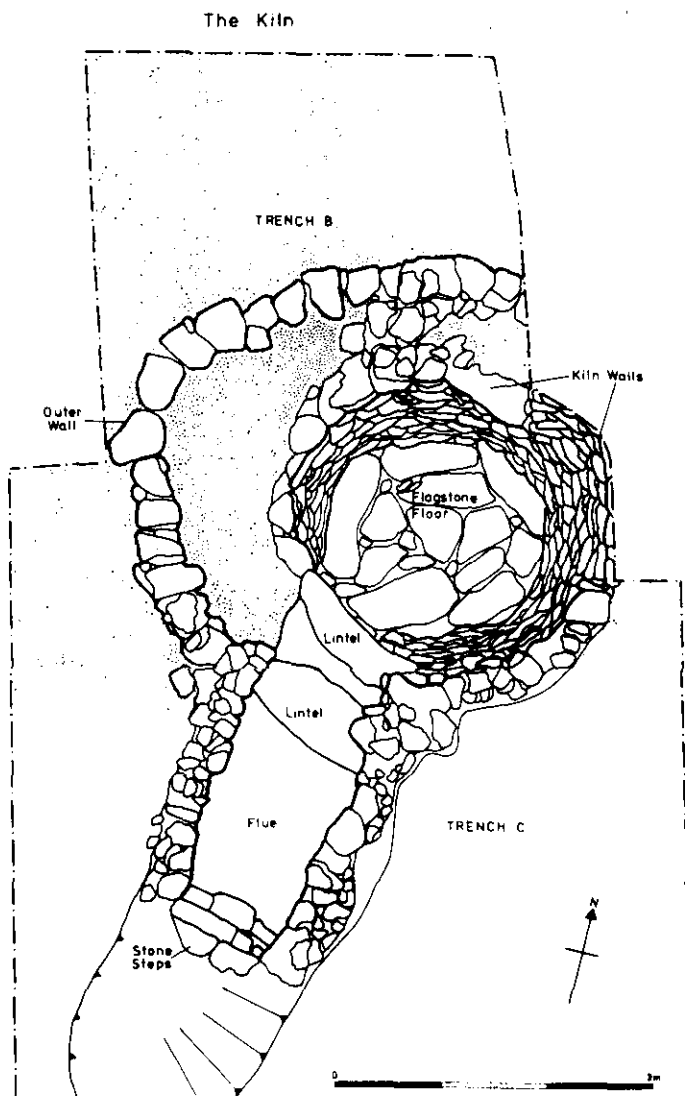


Fig 17. Forth Street Lane, North Berwick. Circular stone kiln and flue.

CITY OF EDINBURGH DISTRICT

Chambers Street, Site of New Museum of Scotland

G Ewart

(City parish of Edinburgh)

Site assessment

NT 257 732 A final, brief phase of archaeological excavation (see DES 1992, 50) was completed on the extreme southern edge of the proposed museum site, where temporary offices had been located. In the light of this most recent investigation, primarily on elements of 18th and 19th-century tenement development, the overall sequence of occupation on this extensive urban site can be summarised as follows:

1. Creation of cultivation terraces in the 13th-15th century.
2. Excavation of a deep quarry pit.
3. Levelling of the site during the 17th century.
4. Construction of elements of the Society of Brewers complex in the mid-late 17th century.
5. Construction of domestic dwellings by 1765.
6. Development of tenements in 19th and 20th century.
7. Demolition of tenements in 1973.
8. Landscaping by PSA in 1975.

Sponsor: NMS.

Old Assembly Close, High Street, Edinburgh

M A Collard,

(City parish of Edinburgh)

D A Johnston

Medieval urban deposits

2583 7356 Salvage recording of an underpinning trench in the car-park to the S of the former Wireworks showed the existence of medieval deposits to a depth of more than 1.25m from ground level. The deposits observed in section were apparently midden, with much faunal evidence visible. The lower part of the trench which measured 1.70m by 2.35m was cleaned and a small exploratory trench dug. No structural evidence was recovered and the deposits were identical in character to those above. A small number of sherds of East Coast White Gritty Ware were recovered from these lower deposits. Boulder clay was uncovered on the N side of the trench, its surface sloping at c45° down towards the S.

LOTHIAN

During a watching brief on a 12m-long service trench in the car-park area the upper levels of similar midden deposits were observed, much of which had been heavily disturbed during the 20th century. Large sandstone rubble from the base of the trench in the centre of the yard may derive from the demolition of an older structure.

St Giles Cathedral (City parish of Edinburgh) D A Johnston
Watching brief

2572 7360 A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a service trench around the outside of the church, running from the SW corner along the W and N sides of the building to the steps at the E entrance. No archaeological remains were recorded, due to the existence of old service trenches and the proximity of natural deposits close to the surface. Bedrock was encountered in a number of places on the N and W sides, at depths between 0.50m and 0.75m.

St Giles Cathedral (City parish of Edinburgh) M A Collard
Church, burials

NT 2572 7357 A watching brief was carried out during the installation of underfloor heating in the central area of the choir. Sleeper walls between the column foundations of the choir, identical to those found in the S Choir aisle excavations (DES 1981), were recorded. The footings of the columns were situated on a deposit of boulder clay. Cut into this boulder clay a considerable number of graves were recorded within the body of the choir. These had been truncated in modern times, and in places *in situ* articulated bones protruded from the fills. All were left undisturbed. Part of an enigmatic octagonal stone-built feature close to the base of the most easterly choir column of the S arcade was recorded. Its function and date are at present unclear. Within the rubble infill below the 19th-century floor three placks coins were found, two of James IV and one of James V.

High Street/Hunter Square, Edinburgh

(City parish of Edinburgh)

Watching brief

NT 2557 7354 to NT 2613 7366 A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of 23 test pits and trenches along the length of the medieval High Street from Lawnmarket to the Netherbow Port. In most of the pits natural boulder clay or bedrock was encountered immediately below the modern road and pavement. A number of stone-built cellars were recorded.

17 Duddingston Crescent, Edinburgh

(City parish of Edinburgh)

Drain

NT 3066 7285 A stone-built drain was uncovered by Mr G Parker in the garden to the rear of the house, consisting of well-constructed rubble drystone sidewalls supporting massive sandstone capstones. It was cut into the clay subsoil and ran E to W.

Netherbow Centre, High Street, Edinburgh

(City parish of Edinburgh)

Watching brief

NT 2610 7366 Installation of a wheelchair ramp on the High Street frontage of the building uncovered the footings of the front wall of the former Moray-Knox church which used to stand on the site. At the W end of the trench a short length of random rubble walling was observed, oblique to the later foundations into which it had been incorporated.

13 Infirmary Street, Edinburgh (City parish of Edinburgh)

Burials

NT 2608 7343 Following the discovery of skeletal material during building works, a number of human burials were excavated.

Six near-complete extended inhumations were recorded; bones from several other individuals were recovered as disturbed material. The top of the skull of one of the skeletons had been sawn off and then replaced before burial. The burials are associated with the church of Lady Hay of Yester which stood on the site between 1647 and 1803; the churchyard was used by the Royal Infirmary as a burying ground.

Holyrood Park, Edinburgh (City parish of Edinburgh)

Watching brief

NT 26775 73800 to NT 26845 73643 An archaeological watching brief was carried out in September and October 1993 during the excavation of a gas pipeline across the playing fields of the former Royal High School on the N side of Holyrood Park.

Evidence was recovered for the location and extent of the prehistoric 'Holyrood Loch' in the area, and a previously unknown prehistoric river channel was recorded. Above these natural deposits a massive dump of clay to raise the ground level was observed. No dating material was recovered from the clay but it was sealed by midden containing pottery dated to the 16th/17th centuries and it may be related to the laying out of the area as formal gardens. Two large ditches, 3.50m wide and 1.50m deep, were recorded on the S limit of this clay platform. These may be identified with property boundaries shown on a mid-17th-century drawing of the area.

Sponsor: Ove Arup & Partners on behalf of British Gas (Scotland) plc.

Burgess Street/Water Street/Shore Place, Leith

(City parish of Edinburgh)

Evaluation: urban medieval

NT 2706 7640 (centre) Trial trenching was carried out in August 1993 to evaluate the archaeological deposits on a potential development site. Eight trenches were excavated which demonstrated that the eastern third of the site had been cleared to natural sand by landscaping, and no archaeological deposits survived. The remaining two-thirds of the site contained intact and complex archaeological deposits with evidence for stone-built structures.

Trench A/I A hand-dug trench adjacent to an upstanding ruined building. No archaeological deposits were encountered, and modern demolition debris overlay natural beach sand c0.20m below the surface.

Trench A/II The trench contained a large late medieval/early post-medieval wall footing and associated stone-built oven, with a base of yellow-glazed tiles. Below this was 0.50m of medieval deposits, identical in character to those excavated at the E end of Trench A/III. Artefacts recovered from the trench suggest that the deposits date to the 16th century and earlier.

Trench A/III The external corner of the foundations of a large stone building were uncovered, with a substantial, stone-built, clay-lined vat attached to it. The deliberate backfilling of this vat contained no pottery later than the 15th century. This stone building had been built over an extensive spread of debris from an industrial process which in turn sealed a series of midden deposits identical to those found in Trench A/II to the N. Within the midden deposits hearths and post holes were recognised, indicating the presence of building remains in this area. None of the artefacts recovered from the midden are dated later than the 15th century.

Trench A/IV No archaeological deposits were found in this trench. A World War II air-raid shelter, built of reinforced concrete was uncovered at the S end of the trench.

Trench B/I All deposits in this trench had been removed during the landscaping of the site.

Trench B/II Although the upper levels in this trench had been disturbed by modern building foundations, medieval remains, again of 15th century or earlier date were found intact below these structures, extending the full length of the trench. Features included pits and hearths.

Trench B/III A depth of more than 1.40m of archaeological deposits and structures were explored, which represent the remains of buildings dating from the mid-17th century back to the 13th century or possibly earlier.

Trench C/I A complex series of deposits, including stone-packed post holes and hearths were recorded within a depth of more than 0.50m of archaeological deposits.

Sponsor: Dept of Housing, City of Edinburgh District Council.

Cramond Harbour (City parish of Edinburgh) V E Dean
Chert flakes

NT 1888 7692 Seven flakes of chert were found, eroded from the river bank behind Cramond Boat Club.

Cramond House (City parish of Edinburgh)
Well

NT 1912 7691 During renovation at Cramond House, part of a large well full of water was revealed below flagstones in the courtyard on the N side. It was not possible to ascertain its diameter, but was possibly c2m.

Cramond Roman Fort (City parish of Edinburgh)
Architectural fragments

NT 1899 7679 and NT 1896 7684 Two pieces of curving pink sandstone, possibly arch or window tops, were noted built into a retaining wall at the NW of the Manse and into the W wall of the Kirk, immediately S of the tower.

Cramond Roman Fort (City parish of Edinburgh)
Mesolithic deposits, post-medieval demolition, possible kiln

NT 1899 7697 The building of the 17th-century Cramond village would appear to have involved a considerable amount of levelling just above the 15m late-glacial raised beach, with the result that disturbed cobbling associated with the old village street directly overlay a large assemblage of mesolithic flints. Microliths, a microburin, and microblade platform-cores have been identified. The only possible Roman feature noted was a small post hole cut into this deposit. A large pit lay in this area and had been filled with Roman and late medieval rubbish. A post-medieval gunflint was found, suggesting the possibility of contemporary knapping of imported chalk-flint nodules.

N of this a horseshoe-shaped stone bank containing fire-reddened stones, 3m in width with a 0.80m central area, may be a kiln or oven. No dating evidence for this has been found so far. A spread of charcoal-rich soil and ash, containing 18th-century material, overlay it, and was in turn covered by remnants of gravel and mortar surfaces. Set into the uppermost surface was a domed stone, possibly an anvil, its tip showing signs of chipping. Around it were scraps of slag, iron and lead. A steep-sided clay-bottomed trench cut all but the uppermost of these layers, this may have been a water supply to the adjacent 19th-century kennels.

Sponsors: City of Edinburgh District Council, Archaeology Service; Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society.

Corstorphine Hill (City parish of Edinburgh) NMS
Flint scraper

NT 206 742 A flint scraper was found near the summit of Corstorphine Hill, and has been donated to NMS.
Daybook no: DB 1993/19.

West Farm, Broxburn (Kirkliston parish) D A Johnston
Plantation bank

NT 097 732 A circular enclosure of 140m diameter to the W of the modern buildings was visited to determine its nature. Shown on the 1st edition OS maps as Belvedere Plantation, the enclosure is part of the designed landscape around Newliston, but is now

separated by the railway embankment. The enclosure is a perfect circle, defined by a stone-revetted earthen bank on its E and SE sides. The remainder of the bank, where the ground is flat and boggy, was formed by the upcast from an external ditch.

M8 Extension (Claylands to Sighthill) (Ratho & Currie parish)
Archaeological assessment of roadline J Terry

NT 119 712 – NT 181 707 An archaeological assessment was carried out by GUARD in eight specific areas designated by HS along this new roadline for relief of traffic on the W side of Edinburgh. Only two areas NT 1281 7107 and NT 1593 7103 produced any significant archaeological remains. The former area proved to be the site of a Bronze Age cremation cemetery, with two urns recovered during this assessment exercise (the site is to be fully excavated before road construction). While at the latter location a stone lined and packed pit was thought to be the remnant socket for a standing stone.

Sponsor: HS

Ratho Quarry (Ratho parish) A N Smith
Enclosed cremation cemetery and sunken-featured building

NT 128 710 AOC (Scotland) Ltd undertook the full excavation of a site first discovered by GUARD as part of their evaluation in advance of the M8 extension.

The site occupied a hollow on the side of a small rounded hill immediately to the N of the disused Ratho Quarry, to the W of Ratho village. The hollow was defined on its northern and western sides by crests of outcropping dolerite bedrock, and commanded superb views over to the Firth of Forth, the Almond floodplain and to Edinburgh.

Topsoil was stripped by machine from the area of the hollow, roughly 3000m². An eastward extension 1.8m wide was opened running from the north-eastern corner for 28m, and an additional trench was cut at the point where a track crossed through a depression in the bedrock crest on the north-western edge of the site.

Features pre-dating the ring ditch

One pit, lying on the outer north-western edge of the ring-ditch was found to have been cut by it. This pit contained distinctive pottery which closely resembled sherds from another pit close by.

Ring-ditch and associated features

The full extent of the ring-ditch (partially exposed during the evaluation) was traced, and the ditch sectioned in five places. The ring-ditch varied from 9.2m to 10.6m in diameter, with an entrance 4.4m wide facing S. The ditch was generally very shallow (10cm to 15cm) in the northern part where it had been cut into bedrock, but the two terminals on the southern side were cut into an area of fill and were much deeper (40cm). The terminals were emptied out completely; two worked flints were found in the western terminal. The fill of the ring-ditch was an homogenous reddish-brown silt loam, with no apparent variation vertically or horizontally.

There were four features within the area enclosed by the ring-ditch. Two of these were the cordoned urn cremation pits which had been excavated during the evaluation excavation. A third feature, sited in the south-eastern quadrant of the enclosed area, was found to contain an un-urned cremation. The fourth feature was a shallow scoop in the south-western quadrant, close to the edge of the ring-ditch.

Stone setting

The stone setting putatively described as a cist and first exposed in the course of the evaluation, was sited 6.5m to the W of the ring-ditch. This consisted of four large tabular stones in a roughly square setting, with a smaller stone filling in the north-eastern corner. A sixth large tabular stone lay against the outside of the south-eastern

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corner. Within the setting, three stones in an arc appeared to create a smaller space inside, against the eastern side.

There were three soil layers within the setting: a brown loam similar to the general A horizon; a silty loam; and a brown loam with red sandstone flecks over bedrock. The boundaries between these layers were very diffuse, and there was no apparent base to the setting, nor was there a buried ground surface below it. The stone setting may have been cut into a shallow natural hollow in the sub-soil, but the only trace of any cut or packing externally was a slight increase in stoniness in the fill of the hollow along the western side of the setting.

No fragments of bone, or finds of any kind were noted during excavation of the stone setting. Processing of the soil samples may yet yield evidence to the contrary, but the field interpretation is that this feature was never used as a cist. An alternative hypothesis, that the stone setting may have been a hearth, has also been discounted, given the absence of any traces of burning on the stones. It should be noted that the stone setting is sited close to the edge of the hollow, at a point where there is a pronounced gap in the bedrock crest. A hollow way climbs up the hill from the NW and crosses through this gap. It is possible that this forms an entrance to the burial area, and that the stone setting is related to this.

An additional trench was excavated across the gap in the bedrock crest, but showed only turf directly over bedrock, and no archaeological features were found within it or cut into the rock.

Palisade settings

The two palisade settings were sited immediately to the E of the ring-ditch, in an area of rising bedrock and shallow soil.

The primary palisade setting ran N to S in a shallow flattened arc. At its southern end it was cut into the bedrock for 1.5m before fading out, and at its northern end it also faded out shortly after crossing onto bedrock. The upright stone packing (including one stone with

clear plough-scratches) was better preserved in the southern half, but the cut was clearly visible for the remainder of its length. Several features were observed along its course; probably post holes, whose relationship with the palisade setting was not clear but were probably either integral with the alignment or later. Towards the northern end, the primary alignment was crossed and cut by the secondary alignment. A nail-headed bronze pin was recovered from the fill of the primary alignment close to this point.

The secondary palisade setting terminated at the N and S very close to the primary one, and was also cut into bedrock at the southern end. However, the course of the alignment had a much more pronounced curve, and it diverged by 1m at the furthest point. The stone packing of the secondary alignment was better preserved, composed of parallel, small edge-set stones.

Two features were found in the area between the two palisade settings: a shallow, rounded post hole and a shallow oval pit.

Although there is no direct stratigraphic link between either of the palisade alignments and the sunken-featured building (see below), the relative positions indicate that the palisade alignments were enclosing the area in which it, and presumably other settlement remains, now lost, were sited.

Sunken-featured building

This structure, immediately to the E of the palisade settings, occupied a natural hollow between two rising knolls of bedrock, a position which had probably saved it from destruction by the plough. Although the dolerite bedrock here has natural fissures forming misleadingly straight lines and right-angles, there did appear to have been some modification of the bedrock, particularly in the area of the northern wall, where the bedrock appears to have been cut back 'against the grain' and an artificial slope created.

The shape of the building is difficult to assess, as sections of the wall line were missing where it crossed over the bedrock, but it



Fig 18. Ratho Quarry Excavated Features.

would appear to have been roughly sub-rectangular, and to have had an internal area of approximately 5m E to W by 4.2m N to S. The wall lines were represented by bands of dispersed stones, some lying directly over bedrock. The W wall appeared to consist of a number of components, principally a band of close-packed medium-sized stones. Within this band of stones, and lying on the mid-point of the wall was a substantial post hole with packing stones. Where the wall encountered bedrock at N and S, as with the palisade alignments, the line was continued for a short length by rock-cut trenches. At both ends, some distance from these rock-cut depressions there were single rock-cut post holes.

Within the building, the upper part of the occupation layer consisted of a mottled brown sandy loam, with patches of red burnt clay and black charcoal-rich soil. This appeared to be a mix of topsoil and occupation deposits, and had no clear boundaries above or below, so therefore the level at which the clay loom-weights appeared was used to indicate the surface of the lower part of the occupation layer. This lower part was essentially very similar to the upper; a very mottled brown sandy soil with areas of red burnt clay, black charcoal-rich patches, and areas of unburnt grey clay. There was also occasional small angular stones, possibly fire-cracked. Sealed by the upper part of the occupation layer was an oval area 2.3m by 1.5m of densely packed, rounded and worn pebbles, and set within the pebbles were several large, flat slabs, including the lower stone of a rotary quern.

The main feature of the interior of this structure was, however, the 178 clay loom-weights and loom-weight fragments recovered, many of which were grouped in lines and bunches suggesting that they were *in situ*. One group of weights lay in a line close to the tumbled remains of the N wall, and a second line of complete weights and fragments lay parallel to the W wall and some 25cm away from its edge.

Archaeological features in the southern and central part of the site, away from the outcropping bedrock had been severely truncated. *The following features were identified:*

Rectilinear structure 1: composed of the truncated and intermittent remains of linear trenches, with no surviving internal features or surfaces, apart from a small sub-square feature close to the western end. The structure measured 9.4m by 4m, and lay with its long axis aligned SW to NE.

Rectilinear structure 2: composed of a continuous rectilinear trench enclosing an area 3.7m by 4.6m. There were no traces of any surviving surfaces or features within the structure apart from a single broad shallow pit, slightly W of centre. On its eastern side, the structure backed onto the rising bedrock on the eastern edge of the site.

Pit group: composed of ten pits scattered over the central area of the site, grouped together because of a distinctive reddish-brown silty sand fill, very similar to that of the ring-ditch.

Miscellaneous features: a further twenty-four pits were found scattered over the central area of the site, with a variety of fills and stone packing, which show no clear patterning at this stage.

Curvilinear feature: observed by GUARD (see above) in their evaluation, consisting of a broad, shallow flat-bottomed feature 7m in length, curving in a shallow arc from NE to SW. The fill was a reddish-brown sandy silt, which will be compared with that of the ring-ditch, and the pit-group. The feature faded out at each end with no clear terminals, although at the eastern end, an oval feature with a setting of five stones in the centre may have marked the continuation of the line.

Linear feature: in the far south-eastern corner of the site, a very well-defined linear feature 12m in length ran roughly N to S, turning sharply at its southern end into the eastern baulk. This had an homogenous fill, with one localised, charcoal-rich patch towards the northern end. The feature faded out at its northern end in an area of outcropping bedrock.

Sponsor: Funded by Roads Directorate of the Scottish Office Industry Department and arranged by HS

Hillend (Ratho parish)
Field evaluation

M Collard, D A Johnston

NT 1348 7145 Three trenches were excavated to examine a slight mound observed on top of a knoll N of the village of Ratho, in advance of the extension of the M8 motorway. The mound was shown to be of geological origin. A fragment of an armlet of shale or similar material and a flint flake were recovered from the topsoil.

A fourth trench sectioned a linear earthwork feature to the E of the mound and proved it to exist within the topsoil, leaving little trace in the subsoil or bedrock. It was of apparently relatively modern origin. Sponsor: HS on behalf of the Scottish Office Roads Directorate.

Roddinglaw (Ratho parish)
Arable fieldwalking

M A Collard

NT 1600 7090 to NT 1562 7141 A 650m length of the route of the M8 motorway extension was fieldwalked by members of the Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society. Very large quantities of post-medieval artefacts were encountered throughout the three fields walked, the result of the spreading of rubbish brought from Edinburgh city centre by barges on the Union Canal during the last century. As a result no weight can be attached to the provenance of material recovered.

MIDLOTHIAN DISTRICT

Cockpen Church (Cockpen parish)
Medieval parish church

J O'Sullivan

NT 3267 6332 Archaeological work at Cockpen Church was undertaken by AOC (Scotland) Ltd in advance of conservation of the building by Edinburgh Architects Simpson & Brown for Midlothian District Council. Excavation to limited depths was conducted in six areas at the outer wall faces of the church and in two areas of the interior.

Excavation in the interior recorded demolition debris overlying an intact flagstone floor at the W end, and in the centre, remnants of several successive clay, mortar and stone floors. The foundations of a demolished primary W wall were recorded in the central cutting, and in general, there is clear evidence that the present building not only incorporates many local modifications, but represents a westward extension of the church to twice its original length.

The external excavations recorded soil and rubble accumulations against the church walls with evidence of deep turbation by burials in the church environs. Previously unrecorded structural or built features were recorded in several areas. Remnants of stone stairs were revealed to abut the N face of the church both at its mid-point and at the W end. Two parallel stone walls perpendicularly abutted the S face of the church at either side of a blocked opening. A stone-built tomb was exposed at the W wall of the Dalhousie Aisle. A cut-stone, chamfered plinth was revealed at the foot of both the S wall and the NE buttress.

The presence of graves was recorded both in the church environs and in the interior. The internal burials are likely to represent a hiatus in the use of the church for formal worship in the late medieval period. In general, inhumations in all areas lay below the limits of excavation, and although numerous graves were identified, only three were excavated.

Finds included several fragments of disturbed and disarticulated human skeletal remains, assorted iron nails, coffin fittings, a window bar, a lead came fragment, clay pipe stems, several coins or tokens, miscellaneous fragments of window glass and a few sherds of both medieval and modern pottery.

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Evidence for some form of pre-church settlement was recorded in the form of rubble and midden material sealed by a buried topsoil layer.

Sponsor: Simpson & Brown Architects, for Midlothian District Council.

Harlaw Reservoir, Balerno (Currie parish)

NMS

Flint flake

NT 17 64 A struck flint flake of Neolithic or BA date was found on the bank of Harlaw Reservoir, Balerno. With finder – details with NMS.

Daybook no: DB 1993/17.

Soutra (Fala & Soutra parish)

Romano-British button and loop fastener

NT 452 587 An enamelled Romano-British button and loop fastener was discovered by a metal-detectorist in the field to the W of the road at Soutra Aisle. It has been acquired by NMS.

Daybook no: DB 1992/69a.

Mount Lothian (Penicuik parish)

C A-Kelly

Tile floor *in situ* in the medieval chapel ruins

NT 2749 5701 Acting on information from B Lambie Esq of Biggar, that the site of the chapel had been disturbed, the remains of the curiously isolated chapel were investigated. Nine complete tiles of 15th–16th-century Flemish type, 0.2m square by 0.03m thick, were found. They were in the NW corner of the chancel, five with white slip under yellow glaze and four with black glaze, along with five half tiles against the face of the N wall, all arranged by the alternate colours of the glaze. Twelve fragments of tile, six with one colour of glaze and six with the other lay dumped over stones against a tree which overlay the S wall of the chapel.

Carnethy Hill, Pentland Hills (Penicuik parish)

NMS

EBA bronze axehead

NT 208 622 A finely decorated flat bronze axehead was found by Derek Hoyland, Penicuik, on the line of a track leading up the NE shoulder of Carnethy Hill at approximately NT 208 622 and at a height of c450m OD. The axehead appears to have been lying just below the ground surface at a point where the peaty soil had probably been disturbed by foot-traffic and erosion of the path. The area was metal detected but nothing further of archaeological significance was discovered. The axehead has been acquired by NMS (Catalogue no: DA 126).

Daybook no: DB 1993/4.

Sponsor: NMS.



Fig 19. Bronze axehead from Carnethy Hill. (NMS)
(Reproduced at 74% of actual size.)

Patie's Hill, Carlops (Penicuik parish)

Retouched flint tool

NT 163 565 A retouched flint tool of probable Neolithic or EBA date was found on the lower S slope of Patie's Hill, near Carlops, in earth disturbed by pipe-laying operations. With finder – details with NMS.

Daybook no: DB 1993/61.

Moorfoot (Temple parish)

C A-Kelly

Earthwork remains and a covered drystone mill race

NT 2985 5230 S of the site and remains of the medieval grange was a curved bank enclosing an oval piece of ground at NT 2988 5210, which appeared to have been a mill pond. At the NW corner were the partially collapsed and infilled remains of a covered conduit. This extended for around 300m, as a narrow ledge at the bottom of the river terrace scarp and consisted of a channel around 1m wide by 0.7m deep, with sandstone slabs over 1.2m long covering the space. These survived intact for most of the length, except for where the conduit ran along the scarp NW of and above the Grange. There appears to have been a major collapse there, with the stones of the outer edge scattered on the slope below and only the inner face surviving. A farm building of Moorfoot farm overlies the N end, so there is no indication as to how and where the conduit ended.

A low bank or collapsed wall runs from the NW corner of the grange to the river-terrace scarp, with a gap through which a track runs. S of the grange remains are traces of cultivation rigs and sunken route ways.

Outerston (Temple parish) (also Borthwick parish)

CFA

Desk-bound survey and field inspection

The following sites were identified by desk-bound assessment and field inspection at the site of a proposed mineral extraction site to the N of Outerston farm. A detailed report has been lodged with the NMRS.

NT 3452 5937 Two irregular, curvilinear traces visible on aerial photograph supplied by Ironside Farrar: not definitely of archaeological origin.

NT 344 593 – NT 333 582 Course of railway serving Esperton limeworks; present on second edition 6in OS coverage of 1906, but absent from first edition 6in OS of 1854.

NT 325 583 Large, clearly defined oval hollow up to 2m deep: possibly an infilled quarry.

NT 3266 5836 Small annular cropmark on N-facing slope.

NT 3278 5775 Annular ditched feature visible as vegetation mark on aerial photograph supplied by Ironside Farrar: no surface traces in boggy ground.

NT 3309 5763 Four partly grassed stone cairns up to 3m across within area of former plantation.

NT 335 576 Cropmark of plantation bank.

NT 331 572 Length of ditch, c200m to 250m, visible as cropmark.

Sponsor: Ironside Farrar Ltd.

WEST LOTHIAN DISTRICT

Kettlestoun Mains (Linlithgow parish)

CFA

Grain-drying kiln and mill lade

NS 9767 7641 In the first year's monitoring of a six-year programme of gravel extraction the remains of grain-drying kiln and a mill lade were identified. The kiln (NS 9767 7641), recessed into a natural terrace, had been effectively sectioned by the machine. Its uncoursed rubble-built funnel was 1.5m wide at the bottom

increasing to 2.3m at the surviving upper level. The paved NE side of the kiln base, adjacent to the entrance, was covered with a layer of burnt organic material, a sample of which produced 50 to 100 oat grains and several thousand pieces of oat chaff. The entrance to the kiln faced NE and appears to have been capped by a lintel at a height of 0.8m. The grey silt and rubble infill of the kiln contained sherds of Scottish reduced greenware, probably dating to the 17th century, and part of an iron vessel.

The line of the mill lade, which supplied the Burgh Mill at Linlithgow Bridge, is marked on the first edition 6in Ordnance Survey map (NS 975 764 – NS 982 769). A section excavated through the lade (NS 9775 7642) revealed a 2.6m wide, 0.3m to 0.4m deep channel lined with roughly built, drystone walls. A sherd of green glaze pottery, similar to those recovered from the kiln, was found between the stones of the retaining wall.

Further post-excitation work is currently under way, and results will be lodged with the NMRS.
Sponsor: RMC Technical Services Ltd.

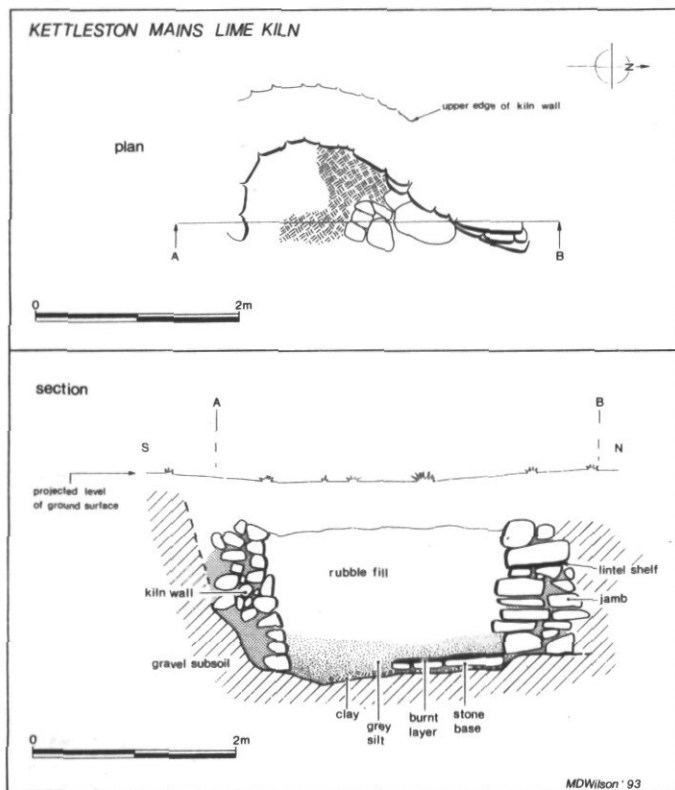


Fig 20. Kettlestoun Mains lime kiln.

STRATHCLYDE REGION

ARGYLL & BUTE DISTRICT

Isle of Bute (Rothesay, North Bute & Kingarth parishes)
E V W Proudfoot

Survey of deserted settlements on the *Isle of Bute*
Ord Sur Map: Firth of Clyde Area: 1:50,000 sheet 53 From documentary sources more than 60 settlement sites have been identified, of these 10 have been fully recorded by measurement and photograph. Further work is in progress. Records are held in the Bute Museum.
Sponsor: Buteshire Natural History Society.

Quien Cairn (North Bute parish)
Cairn
NS 058 598 Noted summer 1993 and confirmed October 1993, on moorland, diameter approximately 8m: possibly chambered.
Sponsor: Buteshire Natural History Society.

Ambrisbeg, Bute (Kingarth parish) A Speirs
Burial cairn
NS 068 596 In 1991 a flat area was noted to the front of the rampart of a large enclosure on Ambrisbeg Hill (DES 1991). Further investigation of this area has revealed a round burial cairn approximately 9m in diameter. It has a kerb of large stones and an infill of smaller stones and earth.

On the SW edge of the cairn was found a small cist measuring approximately 40cm by 25cm and 20cm deep. The floor of the cist was covered with small quartz pebbles.
Much of the stone from the cairn had been removed in the past, possibly for use in the construction of the rampart of the enclosure. The rampart overlies the cairn on its northern edge.
Sponsor: Buteshire Natural History Society.



Fig 21. Ambrisbeg 1993. Cist.

Balnahard, Colonsay (Colonsay & Oronsay parish) A Saville
Cist

NR 422 999 The four upright slabs of a cist without a capstone were exposed during topsoiling for a farm-track in December 1992. The cist was then partly reburied prior to excavation in September 1993. The internal dimensions of the cist are c1.4m by c0.8m, with the longer axis aligned approximately N to S. The cist slabs are substantial; the largest, forming the W side, was 1.74m long; 0.69m high; and some 0.22m in maximum thickness. From the surface exposed in 1992, the cist had a maximum depth of 0.5m of fill. The fill was of loose, dark sandy soil, which contained no gravegoods nor apparently any evidence for burial. The floor of the cist was the unmodified sandy base of the original pit. With the co-operation of the local farmer, Mr D Hobhouse, the cist slabs will be preserved *in situ*.
Sponsor: NMS.

Survey of the Island of Gigha (Gigha & Cara parish)
F Hood (ACFA), A & J McDonald, S & R Golightly,
S Hothersall, D McKay, A Johnstone, S Wood
The *Island of Gigha* was surveyed by members of ACFA in mid-April 1993. With local helpers, Rev H Gunneburg, S Hall, V Tulloch and B McNeill, over 90 new sites were recorded. The sites recorded in the Kintyre Inventory were also revisited and any changes were noted. Full details are available from Dr Carol Swanson, Department of Physical Planning HQ, Strathclyde House (2), 20 India Street, Glasgow G2 4PF.