

ND 3339 8883 Well.
 ND 3144 8833 Caves.
 ND 3298 8955 Well.
 Sponsors: HS , M J Jones.

PERTH AND KINROSS

Carpow House walled garden (Abernethy parish) R Strachan
 Watching brief (CFA)

NO 2050 1750 An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the topsoil stripping and the cutting of foundation trenches associated with the construction of a house within the walled garden at Old Carpow House, immediately W of Carpow Roman temporary camp (NMRS NO 21 NW 58). No finds or features of archaeological significance were located.

Sponsor: Mr Douglas MacIntyre.

Mornington Stables, School Wynd, Abernethy R Strachan
 (Abernethy parish) (CFA)

Archaeological evaluation

NO 1896 1649 A rapid evaluation of the exposed floor of Mornington stable block was examined by trial trenching during its refurbishment and conversion to house the Museum of Abernethy. The existing concrete and cobble floor was removed by the contractor prior to the archaeological inspection. Trial trenches excavated within the three compartments of the building did not locate any archaeologically significant features or finds.

Sponsor: Murdoch Chartered Architects for Abernethy Museum Trust.

East Cairns of Aberbothie (Alyth parish) M Hall
 Neolithic polished stone axehead

NO 242 471 An elongated greenstone axehead was found some 25 years ago in the make-up of a drystone wall under repair.

Glenbank (Ardoch parish) D J Woolliscroft, M H Davies
 Roman fortlet

NN 812 057 Resistivity survey of the fortlet (NMRS NN 80 NW 19) found that its outer ditch measured c 51m NW-SE by c 49m NE-SW externally. The inner ditch had an external diameter of c 41 x 39m, with an inter-ditch separation of 3-4m. Both ditches appeared unusually slight for such a site, as are those of the towers in the area. The inner ditch entrance gap, at 3-4m, corresponded closely with the 3m entrance found in the fortlet itself, but the outer ditch entrance may have been considerably wider. No sign of an external upcast mound could be detected. The entire fortlet interior showed a higher resistance than the area outside the site, but little other detail was apparent. It appeared to be c 30 x 28m over the ramparts.

Sponsor: Roman Gask Project.

Near Quoig's House, Greenloaning (Ardoch parish) M Hall
 Copper-alloy tripod ewer

NN 838 055 A copper-alloy tripod ewer was brought into Perth Museum & Art Gallery in November 1996. It was found during ploughing some 25 years ago, and subsequently passed to the estate factor. The ewer was made in a two-part mould and appears to have untypically placed feet. It has traces of a soldered repair and possible later plough damage.

Dalnacardoch Estate (Blair Atholl parish) S Carter
 Pre-afforestation survey (Headland Archaeology)

NN 715 710 (centre) A short-notice pre-afforestation survey was undertaken of 1.5km² of land at Dalnacardoch on the N side

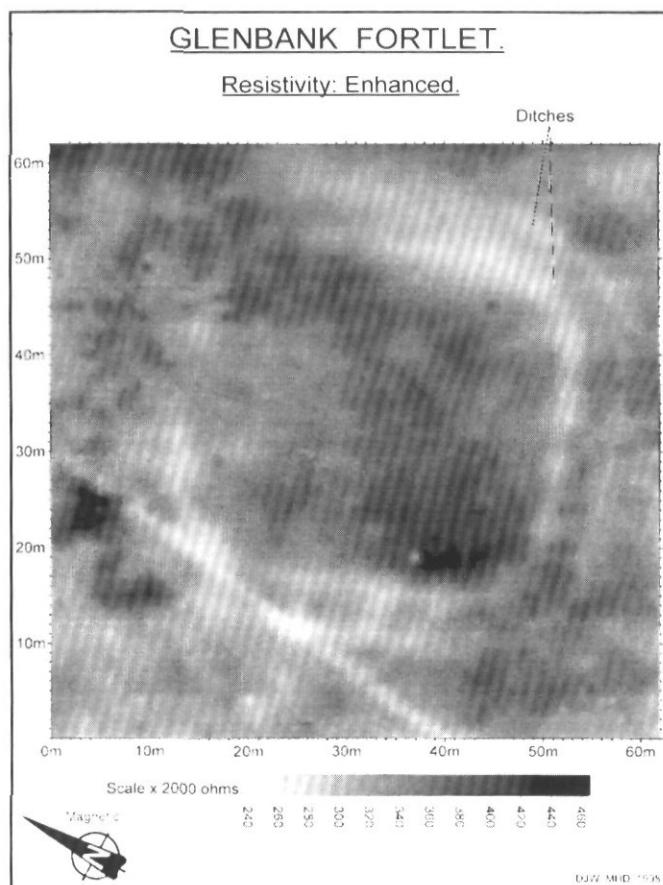


Fig 21. Glenbank: plot of resistivity survey showing ditches.

of Glen Garry. A well-preserved section of the Wade Military Road, two groups of shieling huts, a sheepfold and an isolated section of bank were recorded. One of the groups of shieling huts had previously been identified by the OS but the number of identified structures was increased from 5 to 14.

NN 7020 7134 - Military road (NN 77 SW 7).

NN 7113 7086


NN 7142 7127 Sheepfold (NN 77 SW 10).

NN 714 711 Shieling huts (NN 77 SW 4).

NN 716 708 Shieling huts (NN 77 SW 11).

NN 730 707 Bank (NN 77 SW 12).

A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: HS .

Glasclune Castle (Blairgowrie parish) M Hall
 Buckle

NO 154 470 A bronze buckle with loop attachment was found at Glasclune Castle, N of Blairgowrie, and subsequently claimed as Treasure Trove. Allocated to Perth Museum & Art Gallery.

Vicinity of Herald Hill (Coupar Angus parish) M Hall
 Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age lithic scatter;
 Neolithic polished stone axe

NO 189 391 (centre) Forty-six struck lithic pieces, mainly flint, were recovered as a dispersed surface scatter over a period of several years by a river bailiff on regular patrol. The field is on the E bank of the River Isla opposite Herald Hill, a short distance from the terminus of the Cleaven Dyke. The most significant pieces are a Late Neolithic chisel-type arrowhead and two Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age plano-convex knives. PMAG acc. nos 1997.626-57.

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From the same field, and collected with some of the lithics, came a small Neolithic polished stone axehead. PMAG acc. no. 1997.607.

Dornock (Crieff parish)
Enclosure

B Hoffmann, M H Davies,
D J Woolliscroft

NN 882 189 A resistivity survey and excavation were carried out on the site of a rectangular 'enclosure' photographed from the air by RCAHMS. The site lies close to the Dornock Roman temporary camp and c 1.5km from the Roman fort of Strageath. The site had been tentatively put forward as a parallel for Cuilburn, a possible Roman enclosure, which lies c 1km away (see DES 1995, 101, and this volume).

The resistivity survey showed the site to be identical in size to that of Cuilburn, at 23m N-S by 18m E-W. Excavations showed the N, E and S ditches to be round-bottomed, c 1m wide and 0.3m deep. A gully ran diagonally across the interior of the site. All finds are modern and include 19th-century glass and china, metalworking debris and nails identical to those used in the adjacent railway bridge. The site is probably relatively modern and may be associated with 19th-century industrial activity.

Sponsors: Roman Gask Project, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Parkneuk Wood (Crieff parish) D J Woolliscroft, M H Davies
Roman road

NN 915 185 Part of the Roman road section opened by Thomson and Lye in 1967 (DES 1967, 28f) was 'reopened' to allow further examination of the road substructure prior to publication of the 1967 results. The road was found to consist of a layer of rammed gravel overlying a thick layer of rubble and clay, which had itself been set on up to three layers of turf laid directly onto the original surface turf, with no indication of a foundation trench. This turf feature has not been found elsewhere on the Gask road and may be a response to the waterlogged nature of the ground in the vicinity.

Sponsor: Roman Gask Project.

Camserney Burn (Dull parish)
Shielings

I Armit, M Hall

NN 798 514 (centre) A well-preserved group of approximately 14 shielings (NMRS NN 75 SE 27) lies at the confluence of the Camserney Burn and an unnamed tributary, at around 360m OD. The shielings were identified by Forestry Authority staff and visited to assess their suitability for Scheduling. Although the area lies in an extensive conifer plantation the shielings are generally unplanted. The shielings are all sub-square turf-covered mounds, measuring generally 6-8m externally. They are remarkably uniform in shape and proportions, though variable in size.

Sponsors: HS, Perth Museum & Art Gallery.

Carse Farm (Dull parish)
Archaeological assessment

R Cachart (SUAT)

NN 808 487 An assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed new mains water supply. Aerial photography in 1988 revealed a linear feature between the road (B846) and Carse Farm homestead. Excavation of a trial trench sited across the projected line of the cropmark revealed a silted-up water course and the remains of a possible prehistoric dwelling. The possible dwelling remains comprised a small area of cobbled surface over a deposit of charcoal and silt, and a dark brown silt and sand deposit around the cobbled surface. Two boulders and smaller stones may form an eastern edge or wall for these features. Three small flint or chert flakes were found in the silt below the ploughsoil. A sample of the charcoal and silt was taken for dating

purposes. Nothing relating to the linear feature was identified. Mitigation measures to avoid full excavation will be adopted.

Sponsor: North of Scotland Water Authority.

Errichel (Dull parish)

S Carter

Pre-afforestation survey

(Headland Archaeology)

NN 866 475 (centre) A short-notice pre-afforestation survey was undertaken of 24ha of land at Errichel, 1.5km SE of Aberfeldy. A total of five sites were recorded. There is an extensive field system, probably of medieval or later date, covering c 1km²; this is already noted in part in the NMRS. There is a line of four roundhouses with adjacent cultivation remains (cairns and rig) outside the later field system and a single roundhouse within the field banks. The remains of a 3km long, early 20th-century aerial ropeway cross the area; it carried rock from a quarry further up the hill down to the railway at Aberfeldy.

NN 8700 4800 (centre) Field system, buildings (NN 84 NE 53).

NN 8671 4765 Roundhouse.

NN 8680 4723 (centre) Cultivation remains.

NN 8691 4724 Roundhouses.

NN 8685 4715 - Aerial ropeway.

NN 8653 4794

A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: HS.

Milton of Coshieville (Dull parish)
Archaeological assessment

R Cachart (SUAT)

NN 7753 4898 An assessment was undertaken in advance of a new mains water pipeline scheme. The pipeline is to cross an area where cist burials had been reported in the 19th century. Sixteen trial pits measuring 1m square were hand-dug; no burial remains were found and only natural deposits were encountered. As only a small percentage of the sensitive area could be sampled it is possible that unknown burials may still survive and it was recommended that a watching brief should be undertaken during groundworks.

Sponsor: North of Scotland Water Authority.

Cathedral Street, Dunkeld
(Dunkeld & Dowally parish)

N M Robertson
(SUAT)

Watching brief

NO 025 426 A watching brief was conducted in May and June 1998 on resurfacing work on two adjacent areas of Cathedral Street immediately in front (E) of the gates leading into the Cathedral enclosure. Neither archaeological nor natural deposits were encountered.

Part of Cathedral Street was also dug up at the point where it enters the square surrounding the Atholl Memorial Fountain. Part of an older street surface of small water-worn cobbles neatly laid in coarse sand was revealed at a depth of c 0.2m. This was removed to allow the laying of cassie setts. (SUAT DK01).

Sponsor: Perth and Kinross Council.

Croft Avenue, Dunning (Dunning parish)

N M Robertson

Roman temporary camp; hollowed stone artefact

(SUAT)

NO 023 146 Investigation in September 1997, by machine-stripping, of a site due for development as housing within the SW corner of the Roman temporary camp by Dunning (NMRS NO 01 NW 7) revealed no features or finds of Roman origin. The area had been a garden in recent decades, and a fertile garden soil overlay natural to a depth of 0.3-0.4m below present ground level. Finds from the soil include pottery and glass sherds of recent origin, except for two tiny sherds of glazed medieval pottery, and a small number of animal bones and teeth.

Towards the SE of the area two stone features were uncovered: an irregular setting of flat stones and the base of a drystone dyke. The setting was sunk into a hollow or cut into natural, and the hard-packed earth between its individual stones contained charcoal and two tiny sherds of medieval pottery. The feature was not fully investigated due to lack of time, but may have been a setting for fires, or a stack base. The wall was not fully uncovered, but it ran WNW-ESE across the southern corner of the site, and appeared to have no obvious relationship to the modern property boundaries. No dating evidence was found associated with it. A 1.15m wide gap in the wall was presumably a gateway. Both features are likely to have been of medieval or later agricultural origin.

A sandstone slab, 360 x 305 x 70mm, was found by chance a few metres NE of the excavated area on the surface of the adjacent field. A rounded hollow 120mm across and 20mm deep has been pecked in the upper surface, probably with a stone tool. The peck marks inside the hollow have been worn down by grinding. The slab has many recent plough scratches.

Sponsor: Abertay Property Co Ltd.

Dun Knock Wood hillfort (Dunning parish) M Hall
Neolithic polished stone axehead; ?vitrified material


NO 022 143 A small axehead was found during fieldwalking in March 1997. This was the first recent opportunity to walk the field which was formerly under pasture. Possible samples of vitrification from the same field, from the upper slope occupied by the ploughed-out hillfort defences, is currently being examined. In 1981 the same field produced a socketed bronze axe (acc. no. 1983.336). PMAG acc. no. 1997.605.

Dunning (Dunning parish) M Hall
Neolithic polished stone axehead

c NO 020 144 A small stone axehead was found some 40 years ago during potato picking within a 1 mile radius of Dunning centre. PMAG acc. no. 1996.978.

Marlpark Spring (Dunning parish) I Armit
?Standing stone

NO 021 122 A large boulder lying on the summit of a prominent natural mound in Improved pasture some 550m SSW of Pitmeadow Farm, Dunning, may be a fallen standing stone. The boulder measures c 2m long by 1.3 x 1.2m and narrows markedly at its E end. It lies some 500m N of another prominent standing stone (NMRS NO 01 SW 11).


Sponsor: HS .

Rannoch Moor (Fortingall parish) M Hall
Neolithic carved stone ball

A carved stone ball of weathered oolitic limestone was purchased from an antique dealer in Reading. It was said to have been found on Rannoch Moor but there was no further provenance or details. The ball has six projections and no surface decoration. PMAG acc. no. 1996.745.

Seat Knowe (Fowlis Wester parish) I Armit, M Hall
Cairn

NN 936 247 A grassed-over stony cairn lies on the highest point of Seat Knowe, a ridge commanding extensive views to the S. The cairn has a diameter of c 10m and is up to 2m high. A modern cairn occupies its summit. The low turf foundations of a rectilinear structure, some 6 x 8m, occupy its S flank, and there are extensive cultivation and field system remains in the vicinity, particularly to the N.

Sponsors: HS , Perth Museum & Art Gallery.

Ben Lawers Historic Landscape J A Atkinson, M Donnelly,
Project (Kenmore parish) O Lelong, G MacGregor (GUARD)
Prehistoric and historic occupation

A third pilot season of the Ben Lawers Historic Landscape Project was undertaken in August 1998 on the northern shores of Loch Tay (see DES 1997, 63). This phase of work targeted three different locations along the lochside: Balnasuim Farm; Balnahanaid Croft; and the Ben Lawers Nature Trail. The programme of work included the assessment and survey of a transect between the loch shore and the head dyke at Balnasuim, geophysical survey and trial trenching at Balnahanaid, excavation of a longhouse within Balnasuim township, and excavation of a turf structure within the Ben Lawers Nature Trail.

Survey

NN 6710 3800 – NN 6600 3965 A walkover assessment of a survey transect at Balnasuim Farm, extending from Loch Tay to the head dyke, revealed around 38 groups of archaeological remains, comprising over 150 features. These include several clusters of ruined drystone buildings making up former townships; shieling groups; two cup-marked stones, one bearing over 30 cup-marks; as well as field boundaries, hollow ways, clearance cairns and cultivation remains. Of these, c 70 features were recorded by EDM survey in a transect from the lochside to the 200m contour. The survey included the ruined buildings, walls, cultivation remains, revetted track and kiln-barn of Balnasuim township, and the ruined outbuildings and other remains at Balnasuim Farm.

Geophysical survey and trial trenching

NN 666 378; NN 669 379 Eighteen small exploratory trenches were excavated at two locations within the lands of the township of Balnahanaid. Their positions were chosen in relation to a geophysical survey which suggested the presence of several rectilinear structures, some of which appeared to correspond with structures identifiable on Farquharson's map of 1769, while others did not appear on any map coverage and were thus considered to be earlier.

At Balnahanaid west, 13 trial trenches at five locations produced different levels of archaeological activity. Two trenches produced the possible remains of heavily disturbed structures perhaps corresponding with those identified from Farquharson's map. Two further trenches produced plough-truncated archaeological remains which are normally associated with lowland Scotland. Those excavated in one trench produced a linear feature, packed with stones and associated with post-holes: this appeared to agree with the geophysical data which had suggested the presence of a rectangular structure.

At Balnahanaid east, five trenches at two localities produced very different archaeological remains. The relict channel of a stream or burn was examined, at the side of which a very large post-hole was discovered. The long-held suspicion that the site of Balnahanaid had connections with an early church was confirmed when two cist burials and two possible cist burials were discovered. Furthermore, up to six uncisted burials were also noted in the trench. All of these features were orientated very close to an E-W alignment. No bones were recovered from the graves without cists and only very fragile fragments of human long bones were recovered from those within cists. This area also produced evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of a group of pits and scoops. One of the pits produced a complete AOC bell Beaker, broken *in situ*. Several fragments of calcined bone were found within the scoops as well as two flakes of flint.

Excavation

NN 6702 3822 A trench was excavated over the remains of a longhouse structure within the deserted township of Balnasuim

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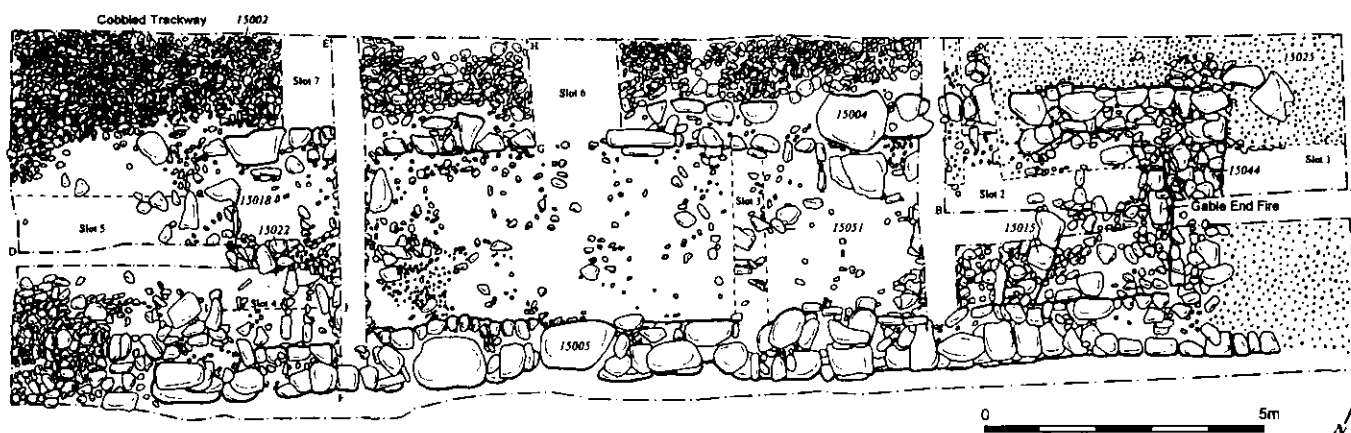



Fig 22. Balnassuim longhouse.

(NMRS NN 63 NE 50). The building was orientated SW-NE and had been dug into the natural slope to form a terrace revetted on one side. Two phases of use were identified. Phase one was represented by a structure 10.5m long by c 3m broad (internally) which had a floor sloping gradually to the SE and SW, which increased dramatically at the SW end of the structure to form a probable sump. At this end an area had been cordoned off within two stone walls, the interior of which had been artificially raised. Within the raised area a drain ran SW-NE, through the wall and into the sump. The phase one building had an entrance located centrally along the NW wall, though no evidence of roofing was apparent.

During phase two, the building was extended to the NE by 5m giving it an overall length of 16.5m (internally). At this stage a new entrance was located in the NW wall 2.6m from the NE gable. The hearth would appear to have been relocated as a gable hearth. It was noted that the floor deposits within the phase one building were very mottled and disturbed which may indicate that after the phase two extension had been built the entire area of the phase one building was turned over to byre accommodation. Dating evidence from the phase one construction would appear to suggest an early 18th-century establishment date, with abandonment occurring prior to the 1862 OS 1st edition.

NN 6139 3924 Excavation of a 12 x 12.5m trench on the moraine bank within the Ben Lawers Nature Trail (NMRS NN 63 NW 21) this year revealed a series of turf structures on a knoll to the W of the 1997 trench 1 site. Two groups of structures were apparent, the first dominating the upper slopes and apex of the mound and the second located around the southern faces of the lower extent of the mound. The structures appeared to be oval (c 4.5 x 2.5m in extent) and constituted by turf and stone banks with hollowed-out interiors. At least four phases of use and rebuilding were identified, each with individual fire-spots located within their interiors. Material culture recovered from the excavation includes lithics and pottery from sealed contexts. The lithics assemblage, which includes flint tools and quartz debitage together with an anvil stone, appears to imply prehistoric occupation during the lifetime of the site. (GUARD 290).

An interim report will be lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsors: HS , NTS, Russell Trust, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Kilspindie House (Kilspindie parish)

M Hall

Neolithic polished stone axehead

NO 219 257 Medium-sized axehead, broken at the butt, made from fine-grained igneous rock. A surface find from the

paddock behind the house, close to Kilspindie Church. PMAG acc. no. 1997.606.

Pitcarmick Distillery (Kirkmichael parish)

I Armit


Distillery

NO 083 569 (centre) The site of Pitcarmick Distillery (NMRS NO 05 NE 146), recorded as extant on the OS 1st edition map of 1867, was visited in advance of a tree-planting proposal. The site lies on hummocky ground between two small burns immediately SE of Dalvey Loch. It is bisected by a modern track (which also appears on the 1st edition map) which separates the higher ground on the E of the site from the main complex of buildings on the W.

The layout and extent of the buildings broadly matches that shown on the 1st edition map, although the map was found to have been somewhat simplified. For example, a long rectilinear building shown immediately to the E of the track at the S of the site is represented by the surviving traces of two separate stone-footed rectilinear buildings on slightly different alignments; another long rectilinear structure depicted at the N end of the site appears to be a conflation of several smaller units, judging from the surviving grassed-over foundations in that area. The whole area to the E of the track has been subject to recent tree-planting (although it has not apparently been ploughed or scarified) and immature trees cover most of the building foundations.

On the more level ground to the W of the track are the remains of a more complex series of buildings and yards which are difficult to relate exactly to those shown on the 1st edition. It may be that some of the structures extant in the 1860s were of timber and have not survived above ground and/or that some of the surviving foundations are earlier or later than those shown on the 1st edition map coverage.

Two principal features lie outside the marked extent of the site as shown on the 1st edition map. These comprise an apparently stone-cut pit, c 3 x 2m in extent and at least 1m deep (NO 0836 5704), with a narrow channel connecting it some 8-10m to the stream that runs N-S to the E of the site, and an area of quarry hollows (NO 0833 5698).

Sponsor: HS .

Ardunie (Madderty parish)

D J Woolliscroft

Supposed Roman temporary camps

NN 943 186 Two overlapping rectangular air photo features just to the S of the Roman road, which had been suspected of being the ditches of two small Roman camps, proved on excavation to be caused by shallow (c 0.12m) saucer-shaped ditches, probably old field boundaries.

Sponsor: Roman Gask Project.

Balnakeilly (Moulin parish)

I Armit, M Johnson

?Modern standing stone

NN 9463 5942 A standing stone close to the entrance to the driveway at Balnakeilly (NMRS NN 95 NW 11) was drawn to the attention of HS by the owner, Lt Col Stewart. A series of tool marks and the general regularity of the stone suggested that it might be of relatively modern origin, although its position, set back slightly from the road, was not as obvious as might be expected if the stone was a recent feature. Inspection of OS maps, however, indicated that although recorded on the 2nd edition map, it was absent from the 1st edition, while other nearby standing stones were marked on both.

It appears that the stone was probably erected in the mid- to late 19th century to adorn the entrance to Balnakeilly.

Sponsor: HS.

Cuiltburn (Muthill parish)

D J Wooliscroft

Roman period rectangular enclosure

NN 892 176 Further excavation on the rectangular enclosure (NMRS NN 81 NE 19; DES 1995, 101) found the ditch system to be an open square, c 18m across, with the open side facing E, away from the Roman road to Strageath, which runs c 10m to the W of and parallel to the site's W ditch. Inside, three sleeper beam founded structures were located, also forming the same E-facing open square, one of which yielded two sherds of Roman coarse ware cooking pot. As in 1995, the ditch showed a steep-sided, flat-bottomed profile and no entrance break was located facing the Roman road. The remains of two roundhouse foundations were traced underlying the beam structures.

Sponsor: Roman Gask Project.

Former Gloag's Distillery Site, Kinnoull Street, Perth (Perth parish)

R Cachart
(SUAT)

Medieval monastic lands

NO 116 238 This site is located on the Blackfriars lands opposite the site of the Dominican friary where burials, friary buildings, and ditches were excavated in 1983-4.

During the period September 1997 and January 1998 three phases of work were undertaken: a watching brief on boreholes and test-pits; trial trenches; and a watching brief on ground preparation for piling. Nothing relating to Blackfriars conventional buildings or the burial ground was found. A ditch feature found in the 1983-4 excavation, which pre-dated the burial ground, did not extend onto the site. A buried garden/cultivation soil contained late 18th or early 19th-century pottery, and residual medieval pottery was located 1.4m below the current surface. Make-up layers containing medieval midden material had been imported to raise the site surface at the beginning of the 19th century. Remains of foundations of early 19th-century buildings, demolished in the 1930s to make way for Gloag's, were encountered.

Sponsor: McCarthy & Stone (Developments) Ltd.

Mill Street/Kinnoull Street/Union Street/ Blackfriars Wynd, Perth (Perth parish)

D Perry (SUAT)

Medieval suburb

NO 116 237 Trial trenching was undertaken in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the former Pullars buildings on the northern edge of the medieval burgh, between the Town Lade to the S, the Blackfriars monastery to the N, and the former medieval street of Curfew Row to the E. The alignment of Curfew Row was revealed, along with an area of medieval midden, pits and a possible kiln of uncertain, but probably post-medieval, date. The construction of the Pullars building, with its associated culverting of the Lade, resulted in the raising of the

ground level there with dumps of rubble about 1m thick. In the northern part of the building, the remains of a ditch, probably part of the Jacobite defences of 1715, were uncovered. The foundations of a mid-19th-century gas tank were also located in the car park on Blackfriars Wynd.

Sponsor: Morrison Construction Ltd.

North British (Moncrieff's) Glass and Ink Works, Perth (Perth parish)

K Speller, M Vaughan

Standing building archive record

NO 113 238 A photographic and video record of Scotland's largest and foremost glassworks of the 19th/20th century was made during June 1998 prior to development of the site. The works was in operation from 1881 to 1995 (known as Monax Glass since 1992), and now covers a two acre site to the NE of St Catherine's Road. A visit in April 1998 had shown the works, though out of use, to be fully upstanding and intact, still containing much of the working equipment, eg office equipment, furnaces, moulds, examples of glassware, cullet and glassmaking sand, packing materials, batch-makers urine samples, etc; many of these artefacts were later retrieved by Perth Museum. An archive record was made under the RCAHMS Threatened Buildings Survey prior to demolition. A full photographic and video record was made of the exterior of the buildings.

The archive will be lodged with the NMRS.

North Inch Golf Course, Perth

D Perry (SUAT)

(Perth; Tibbermore parishes)

Rig and furrow

NO 116 244; NO 111 252 A survey of rig and furrow was undertaken in advance of works related to the Flood Prevention Project. A small area (c 45m across) of some six rigs is evident in the middle of the North Inch.

Two larger areas of rig and furrow survive in an extension to the golf course at South Muirton Cottages. The rigs on the higher 6th and 7th fairways terminate at a possible head rig, some 5m across, and are broader, 8-13.4m across, than those on the low-lying 12th and 13th fairways, c 6m across. This area of the golf course was farmland into this century.

Sponsor: Babbie Group Ltd.

South Street/Princes Street water main, Perth

D Bowler
(SUAT)

(Perth parish)

Watching brief

NO 119 234 A watching brief on water main replacement was conducted in August and September 1998, in Princes Street from Canal Street to South Street, and in South Street from Princes Street to Tay Street, all within the medieval town. The trenches cut through deep medieval midden deposits and early road surfaces, and revealed Early Modern wooden water pipes, medieval vegetable fibre rope, a wide range of medieval pottery including wasters, and a large bone assemblage including two complete horse skulls and a piglet skull. Deposit depths varied considerably, with organic midden appearing as high as 0.4m below ground surface, and extending as deep as 1.8m down. In some areas, apparent cobble surfaces were interleaved with the midden, while elsewhere ashy deposits were found between midden layers. (SUAT PEX 133).

Sponsor: North of Scotland Water Authority.

28 Balmoral Road, Rattray (Rattray parish)

M Hall

Well

NO 181 456 A stone-lined well was uncovered during garden landscaping works. Of drystone construction, it has an internal diameter of 20 inches (50cm) and is at least 6m deep. A large

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sandstone capping slab and traces of lead pipework were also found. It is situated some 10m back from the rear elevation of the cottage (built c 1870–90).

Milton of Rattray (Rattray parish)
?Pit-defined cursus

A Baines, K Brophy,
S McKeand

NO 197 447 Small-scale excavation of a possible pit-defined cursus (DES 1997, 65) investigated one of these pit features in the northern alignment. A second short season of excavation in 1998 revealed a further four pits, two each in the N and S alignments. These proved to be very similar in shape, size and content to the pit excavated in 1997.

Several of these features were joined by a very shallow slot or channel, the cut of which could not be differentiated from the pits themselves, and again, the fill was a uniform sandy clay. The pit alignments, therefore, represent near continuous, if ephemeral, boundaries. A straight ditch running across the line of the 'cursus', also visible on aerial photographs, was shown to cut the channel, and may represent a later enclosure.

As with the first season, no evidence for the date of these features was uncovered, nor were there any finds. The initial interpretation of the site as a possible cursus, therefore, cannot be ruled out on the basis of this excavation. Cursus sites in Scotland share the attributes of being parallel-sided elongate rectilinear enclosures, and being situated near to rivers on flat, low-lying land – characteristics of this site.

Sponsor: University of Glasgow.

Bertha Roman fort (Redgorton parish)
Neolithic polished stone axehead; ?scraper;
17th-century bead

M Hall

NO 097 269 Fragment of a jasper axehead, with part of the side facet and a very small section of cutting edge. The findspot lies just outside the northern rampart of Bertha (NMRS NO 02 NE 25). A fragment of a possible scraper and a 17th-century Dutch glass trading bead were found close by.

Elcho Castle (Rhynd parish)
Watching brief

D Murray
(Kirkdale Archaeology)

NO 1643 2107 Monitoring was undertaken during the digging of fence post-holes around a new car park just to the S of the late medieval Elcho Castle, on the S shore of the River Tay. The holes were dug close to a ditch and bank visible as a surface feature running down the W side of the road to the castle. No significant deposits or artefacts were found.

Sponsor: HS.

Easter Powside (Tibbermore parish)
Roman temporary camp

D J Woolliscroft

NO 056 245 A small (c 1.1 acre; 0.45ha) rectangular enclosure (NMRS NO 02 SE 52) found from the air some years ago beside the East Pow on the farm of Marlefield has generally been thought to be a small Roman camp. This would seem to be confirmed by a trial section of its defences (at the SE corner) which revealed a V-sectioned ditch, 1.9m wide and 0.84m deep, with bottom slot. No dating evidence was recovered.

Sponsor: Roman Gask Project.

Mains of Huntingtower (Tibbermore parish)
Roman tower

D J Woolliscroft

NO 0717 2465 Resistivity survey and excavation at the easternmost tower yet known on the Gask series (NMRS NO 02 SE 65) revealed an unusually small, c 16.8m (external diameter), V-sectioned ring-ditch (0.71m deep by 1.9m wide) surrounding a timber tower with at least two and possibly three structural

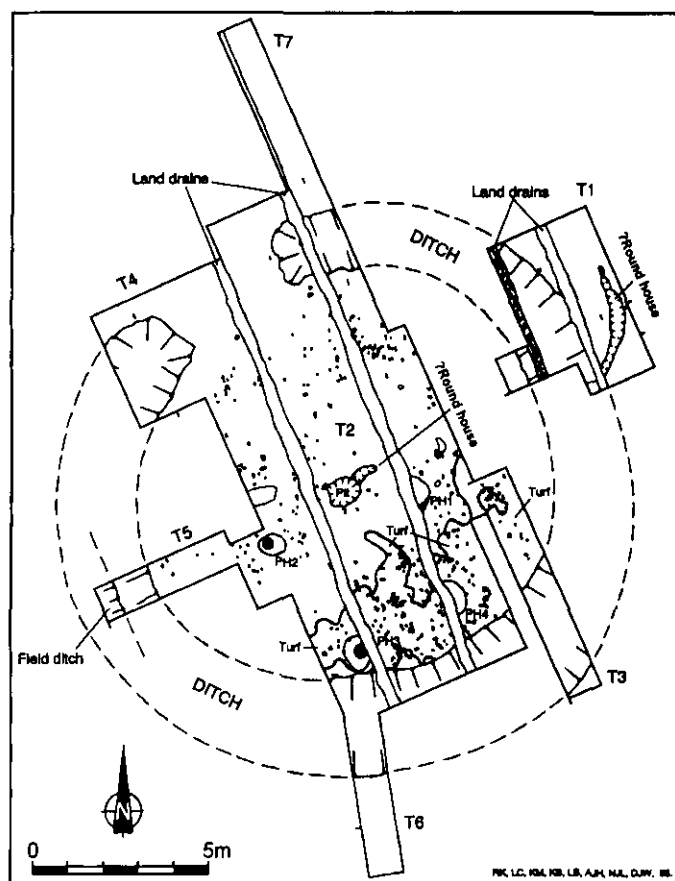


Fig 23. Mains of Huntingtower.

phases. The ditch was cut through what may be the foundations of a roundhouse. The ditch had a single entrance, facing NW towards the assumed course of the Roman road. The tower was set right at the rear (S) of the internal area, opposite the entrance and astride signs of an internal turf rampart. So close was the tower to the ditch lip that its S side was over 1m shorter than the N face in order to fit within the ditch's curve, whilst a ditch recut had partly destroyed the primary post-pit of the tower's SW corner post. The tower had been deliberately demolished at the end of its occupation but, unlike some of the other towers on the system, there was no sign that the remains had then been burned. No datable finds were recovered.

Sponsor: Roman Gask Project.

RENFREWSHIRE

45 High Street, Paisley (Paisley parish) K Speller (GUARD)
Watching brief

NS 4813 6397 A watching brief on the periphery of the medieval town, at the backlands of High Street and Weighhouse Close, on the site of a building extension, produced no archaeological features except for a well, 2m in diameter and at least 4.5m deep. A series of roundwood elm stakes were removed from the lower reaches, positioned flush with the eastern arc of the cut. (GUARD 650).

Sponsor: Whitbread Inns (North-West) Ltd.

Wallace Memorial, Elderslie (Paisley parish) D Alexander
Moated site; medieval and post-medieval pottery (CFA)

NS 442 630 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the area around the Wallace Memorial, reputedly the birthplace of Sir William Wallace. The fieldwork was carried out prior to the

re-landscaping of the site. It was hoped that the results would be able to throw some light on the settlement history of the site which could be taken into account during the landscaping or used for public presentation.

A total of seven trial trenches were excavated, two in the garden of Moat House, to the S of the memorial, and five in the area around the memorial itself. Early map evidence suggested that there was a large rectilinear moated enclosure on the site with a number of rounded corner towers, only one of which now survives in the eastern corner of the garden. Excavation across this moat revealed it to be at least 4.5m wide, 1.3m deep, and flat-bottomed, with its inner edge faced by a battered and mortared rubble wall. The exact date of this feature remains unclear but, on balance, a 13th–14th century date is favoured on the basis of pottery finds and comparable examples elsewhere.

The extrapolated line of this moat was also investigated along the NW side and N corner of the enclosure. At the latter there were no traces of a rounded tower similar to that at the E corner, but the remains of a possible ditch were located. Along the NW side, adjacent to the foundations of what is usually termed 'Wallace's House', the inside edge of what may be a rock-cut ditch was also located. In addition, this area produced a large number of post-medieval, green-glazed pottery sherds, probably dating to the 16th–17th century. Apart from these finds the numbers of artefacts recovered from the interior of the enclosure was limited and much of the ground appears to have been disturbed by previous building and demolition work. However, a number of negative features, including post-holes and pits of unknown date, were discovered cut into the natural subsoil.

A report will be lodged with the NMRS and WoSAS SMR.
Sponsors: Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire Enterprise.

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Upper Clyde Valley Landscape Project W S Hanson,
Cropmark sites L Sharpe

Aerial reconnaissance has revealed the following new sites (see also South Lanarkshire):

(Broughton, Glenholm & Kilbucho parish)
NT 049 365 **Boghall** Rectangular enclosure
(NT 03 NW 99).

NT 068 368 **Easter Place** Cropmarks.
(Skirling parish)

NT 072 383 **Skirling** Rectilinear enclosure.

NT 073 390 **Skirling ring-ditch**
Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

Parkgatestone Hill E P Archer
(Broughton, Glenholm & Kilbucho parish)
Prehistoric artefacts

NT 086 355 Members of the Lanark and District Archaeological Society found a number of chert tools, wasters and cores during a fieldwalking exercise between Parkgatestone and Goseland hills. The chert tools include a large scraper, possibly Early Neolithic. Although most of the artefacts would belong to the Neolithic, several Mesolithic microliths were discovered, including several flakes of Arran pitchstone. In addition to the above, several pieces of flint and half a Neolithic spindle whorl were discovered. The majority of the finds come from about 100m from an earthwork on Goseland Hill. Apart from the prehistoric finds there was some late Victorian pottery, perhaps suggesting that this was the first time in recent history that any ploughing was done.

Sponsor: Lanark and District Archaeological Society.

Edington Castle (Chimside parish) A Hunter Blair
Watching brief (Headland Archaeology)

NT 895 562 A watching brief was maintained for 177m of pipe trench during renewal of a water main along the N verge of the A6105 at the point where it passes Edington Castle. Documentary evidence indicates the former existence of a village since the 11th century AD at this point. Excavation revealed a series of surfaces and deposits principally relating to the regrading of the road since the 19th century. No evidence was found for medieval features and no residual artefacts were noted. All recorded features appear to be recent in date.

A report has been sent to Scottish Borders SMR and the project archive has been lodged with the NMRS.
Sponsor: East of Scotland Water Authority.

Coldingham Priory (Coldingham parish) S Bain (GUARD)
Survey

NT 904 659 A survey recording the location of previous archaeological excavations at Coldingham Priory was undertaken ahead of a proposed programme of works to develop the immediate area into a tourist attraction for the 900th anniversary of the priory in 1998.

The extent and location of the original excavation trenches and major features were recorded. These included three walls which appear to be post-medieval in date, and a possible medieval foundation raft. Three sections were also recorded prior to the infilling of the trench. (GUARD 546).
Sponsor: Scottish Borders Council.

Scoutscroft Holiday Centre B Glendinning (CFA)
(Coldingham parish)
Geophysical survey

NT 9057 6599 Geophysical assessment was undertaken in July 1998 in advance of planning permission for a proposed extension. Gradiometry and resistivity techniques were used.

Resistivity was more suited to the local conditions. It located a possible ditch-defined enclosure, about 60m in diameter, with a possible entrance to the NE. It is probable that this feature is of a broadly prehistoric date. High and low resistance anomalies within this putative enclosure are possibly the response from associated features. Other anomalies may also be directly associated with the possible enclosure. Three linear features may be attributable to either geological or post-Improvement agricultural practices, although it is equally likely that they are contemporary with the putative enclosure. Gradiometry was relatively unsuccessful and detected features mainly attributable to either geological origins or post-Improvement agriculture.

A report has been lodged with the NMRS.
Sponsor: Mr David Hamilton.

Eshiels Burn (Innerleithen parish) R D Knox
Burnt mounds

NT 290 404 Burnt mound on left bank (S) of Eshiels Burn. Approximately 2.7m diameter, 30cm high. Cut by the burn, c 27m uphill from where burn goes through dyke.

NT 291 404 Burnt mound on left bank (S) of Eshiels Burn. Approximately oval shape, 8 x 5.5m, 90cm high, 90m upstream from mound at NT 290 404.

Horsburgh Castle Farm and Cardrona Mains A Duffy
(Innerleithen; Traquair parishes) (AOC Archaeology)
Cropmark evaluation

NT 295 392; NT 303 387 Cropmark features (NMRS NT 23 NE 41) at Horsburgh Castle Farm, interpreted as possible pits along a Roman road, were evaluated prior to development. A

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large, shallow (c 0.3m) sub-circular feature was noted in one trench.

Cropmark features at Cardrona Mains, interpreted as rectilinear and circular enclosures (NMRS NT 33 NW 56), were evaluated prior to development. A few features were identified, mainly small shallow pits, and one possible short, shallow curvilinear feature. The majority of the cropmarks were revealed to be the product of natural contours and underlying geology.

Features exposed during light landscaping works, thought to include a cist, were also investigated at Horsburgh Castle Farm. Two shallow pits and a large irregular feature were excavated. Sherds of unstratified prehistoric pottery were also recovered from this site.

Sponsor: Tom Renwick & Sons.

Hillhead, Lilliesleaf (Lilliesleaf parish)

A Wise

Rectilinear homestead

NT 543 255 Excavation was carried out in 1998 to investigate features detected during the 1993 geophysical survey, and to assess the character of occupation.

Hillhead is a single-ditched rectilinear enclosure (NMRS NT 52 NW 28). On the eastern side it is enclosed by a U-shaped ditch just under 5m across and 1.25m deep. Just inside the ditch were two thin spreads of rubble, which may represent all that remains of a rampart. This suggests a bank 4.5m across at its base, with no berm to separate it from the ditch and no trace of palisade or retaining framework. On the northern side the site is enclosed by a V-shaped ditch, 3.5m wide and 1.1m deep, cut into solid siltstone geology.

At the NE corner of the enclosure is a break in the ditch circuit, just S of the corner. As the ridge between the two sections of ditch was formed in part by soft silt geology it is assumed that this was a deliberate feature intended to act as a pathway in and out of the site.

Each section of the ditch had different fills. At the enclosure corner, strata consisted entirely of natural silting with virtually no cultural material and little to distinguish the ditch fill from natural. Five metres to the SE, the ditch was filled with a dark charcoal-rich layer yielding significant quantities of animal bone, slag and pottery. Both the other ditch sections also contained significant quantities of animal bone and some pottery – including one large piece of native pottery.

The settlement interior was more complicated than anticipated. A positive magnetic anomaly known from geophysics turned out to have originated from a saucer-shaped depression, overlain by a sequence of occupation deposits and rough metalised surfaces, up to 1m deep. The depression itself seems to have been created by the cutting of a building platform into the hillside. Overlying the early platform were dark, organic-rich layers separated by a rough spread of cobbling. These contained a bronze brooch, iron nails, Roman period pottery and glass vessel fragments, fuel ash slag and animal bone. Cutting these deposits were a series of rectilinear features, probably representing several buildings.

Sponsors: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Trimontium Trust.

Garvald (Garvald parish)

L Sharpe, C Barrowman

Geophysical survey; Mesolithic flint scatters

NT 0989 4872 Magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer surveys were conducted over a concentration of Mesolithic worked chert. The instruments detected areas of burning beneath the soil associated with the scatters, which were confirmed by trial trenching, during which concentrations of charcoal were located.


Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

Garvald Burn (Linton parish)

C S Barrowman

Mesolithic chert scatter

NT 101 486 Geophysics (magnetometry and magnetic susceptibility), phosphate analysis and test-pitting were carried out on a large chert scatter (over 100 pieces) (NMRS NT 14 NW 50). Eleven test-pits (2 x 2m) were dug and sieved. Just over 1000 lithics were recovered; 660 pieces made up of cores, flakes, blades, microliths and debitage came from one test-pit. A burnt area (possible hearth) was exposed and recorded from an adjacent test-pit. Analysis of the lithics suggests a knapping floor and the production of blades and microliths, possibly Late Mesolithic.

Sponsor: HS .

Abbey Knowe (Lyne parish)

S Corder, D Cowley, T Ward

Long cists

NT 1902 4055 In July 1998 archaeologists from Biggar and Peebles undertook a rescue excavation on Abbey Knowe (NMRS NT 14 SE 25), a small glacial knoll near Lyne Kirk, after the discovery of a cist on the actively eroding edge of an old gravel quarry. A second undisturbed cist was discovered during the excavation, also near the edge of the quarry face and vulnerable to erosion. The two cists may have been part of a larger cemetery that has been destroyed as the knowe was quarried away.

Two neatly constructed cists were aligned roughly E–W on what remained of the top of the knowe. They were about 0.3m in depth and formed of edge-set slabs, two at both ends and two slabs forming each side. The larger cist measured 1.1 x 0.3m; the smaller 0.65 x 0.25m. Thin slabs of rock formed lids to the graves: six in the case of the larger cist and two for the smaller. The interiors of both cists tapered from the W end to the E. Both cists were full of fine gravels that had percolated down through the gaps between the cover stones, and there was no surviving skeletal material.

The Lyne cists share the form of construction of other excavated long cists but, relatively, are very small, leading to the suggestion that they may have been for a baby and a child. The burial rite is likely to have been Christian, with extended inhumations placed in the grave with the head at the W end.

The Peebles Archaeological Society will be adopting and maintaining the monument to create a local visitor attraction. A display panel will be installed to interpret the cists, the fine earthworks of the nearby Roman Fort, and Lyne Kirk.

Sponsors: Biggar Museum Trust, Peebles Archaeological Society.



Fig 24. Long cists found at Abbey Knowe. (Photo: R E Knox)

Black Meldon (Lyne parish)
Burnt mound

R D Knox

NT 204 424 Burnt mound on left bank of unnamed burn which drains into Meldon Burn, c 32m from its source. Approximately 18 x 7m, and 90cm high.

Manor Valley (Manor parish)
Survey and excavation

T Ward

NT 210 350 (centre) The survey project of the Manor Valley is nearing completion (DES 1995, 10). Nineteen burnt mounds and seven lead-smelting sites and four deposits of charcoal have been located. The charcoal deposits are assumed to be the fuel stores for lead-smelting activities. Sampling excavation of five mounds at Hopeterrick Burn (centred on NT 2163 3438) and all lead-associated sites was done, and the charcoal species have been identified showing that the wood types used were principally alder, birch and hazel, although oak, elm, blackthorn, willow and cherry were also present.

A full interim report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsors: Peebleshire Archaeological Society, Lanark and District Archaeological Society, Biggar Museum Trust, CBA.

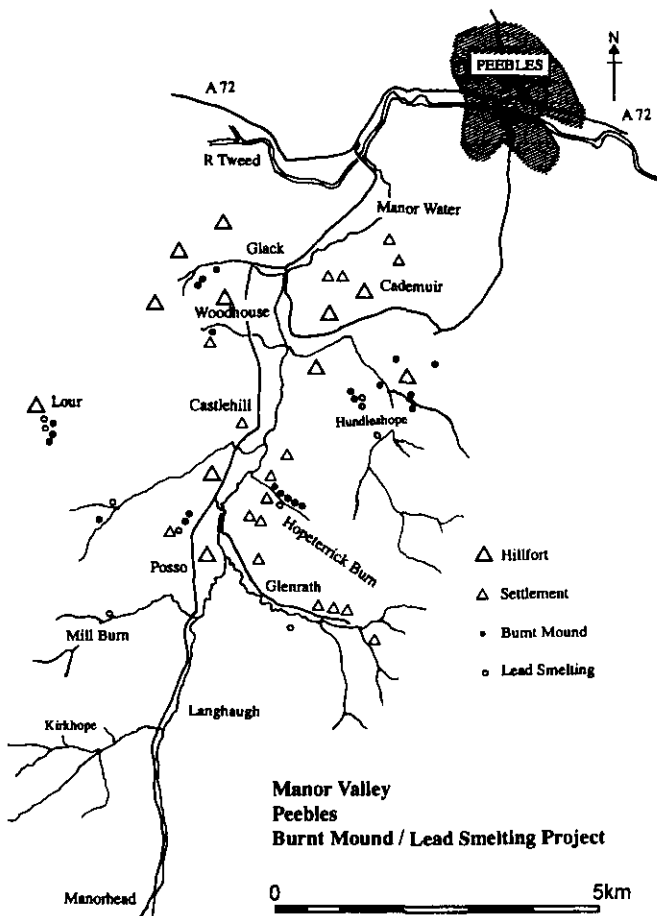


Fig 25. Manor Valley.

Annay Road, Melrose (Melrose parish)
Abbey precinct

J Lewis

(Scotia Archaeology)

NT 5478 3438 The proposed construction of private housing on and behind the site of the former Motor Museum, thought to lie within the precinct of Melrose Abbey, prompted a watching brief and exploratory trenching prior to the development.

Running N-S across the site were the foundations of a drystone wall, pierced by a 9m wide opening which was not the result of collapse or destruction. The S end abutted the remnants of another wall, aligned approximately NW-SE, which survived for a length of only 3m. In common with the earliest masonry of the abbey, both walls were built entirely of local agglomerate and may represent early phases of its precinct wall.

There was no trace of structures against either of these walls, suggesting that few, if any, buildings stood in this part of the abbey precinct during the monastic period. This view was supported by the evidence of what appeared to be demolition debris (comprising agglomerate rubble, roof and floor tile fragments and burnt materials) deposited against the E face of the N-S wall. Adjacent to that wall, and post-dating its demolition, were the fragmentary remains of a flagged floor and two drains, probably associated with a post-Reformation structure of which no other evidence survived.

Sponsor: Swallowfield Homes (Melrose) Ltd.

Harmony Hall, Melrose (Melrose parish)

T Holden

Watching brief (Headland Archaeology)

NT 5470 3425 An archaeological watching brief in the grounds of Harmony Hall was carried out during the machine-excavation of service trenches as part of the renovation of the house and gardens, within the precinct of Melrose Abbey.

In the courtyard to the N of the hall, excavation revealed several substantial levelling deposits overlying a buried soil and a charcoal-rich ashy layer which contained a fragment of tile of probable medieval date. Two culverts, also likely to be medieval in date and potentially associated with the main monastic drain to the N, were also encountered.

In the garden area to the E of the house levelling and surfacing deposits from the paths overlay a deep topsoil. A number of stone features were also revealed. These included what are thought to be early 19th-century deposits associated with paths running to the N entrance of the house. An unmortared stone feature likely to represent the footings of a substantial stone wall running approximately N-S were encountered in the NE corner of the garden. Although undated this potentially pre-dates the development of a garden on the site.

Sponsor: NTS.

Melrose Abbey (Melrose parish)

D Murray

Watching brief (Kirkdale Archaeology)

NT 5486 3417 A trench already excavated by the Historic Scotland squad, to the SW of the abbey, was recorded. A number of architectural fragments and hand-made floor tiles had been reported from this trench.

A surprisingly long sequence was observed in this trench, including a cobbled surface, a wall footing and the wall construction cut. Other deposits, all apparently post-dating the wall, may represent dumps of levelling material.

The architectural fragments are evidently from the abbey, the large number of hand-made floor tiles are likely to be from the same source.

Sponsor: HS.

Newstead Roman fort (Melrose parish)

W Lonie

Sandstone flag

NT 5730 3425 Ploughing in late December 1997 lifted to the surface a substantial, roughly dressed, square flag in red sandstone. Photographs were taken and the find made safe and reported. The find itself, though of purposeful shape, is unremarkable on a Roman site. Its location in a far corner of the

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E annexe may have significance: the find location is at the SE edge of the parade ground area delineated by altar finds, where paved areas, such as a tribune, might be expected (S Clarke, pers comm).

Red Rig, Broomhill Farm (Melrose parish)

W Lonie

Early road and ford

NT 5717 3352 – NT 5707 3337 A road terrace length reported in *DES* 1996 (90), a linear mark on an air photograph, a woodland edge and a fording point combine to trace an early hollow track, probably between farms.

A more detailed assessment has been lodged with the NMRS.

Red Rig and Bogle Burn (Melrose parish)

W Lonie

Roman road

NT 5710 3372 Ploughing and heavy rain in late December 1997 exposed a limited area of pebbles of up to fist size (see also *DES* 1997, 67). The exposure spread was some 6 x 3m lengthways along the edge of the field bordering the woodland fence. The new exposure is on the Roman road line defined in the previous report. There were no similar exposures along the woodland edge off-line.

Both exposures contain a high proportion of water-worn pebbles, as opposed to the local glacial brash. Such pebbles were used in quantity in road-making in the immediate area of Trimontium fort.

Dryburgh (Mertoun parish)

C S Barrowman


Lithic scatters

Two non-discrete chert and flint scatters (parts of NMRS NT 53 SE 8) were located using an intensive-systematic fieldwalking survey (at 5m and 10m intervals).

NT 587 324 Under 100 lithics were collected from the first field. These include waste, blades, chunks and cores, 77% of which are chert, the rest flint.

NT 585 328 Over 330 lithics were collected from the second field. Many more worked flakes and blades, including cores, notched flakes, scrapers and microliths were recovered. The scatter had uniform circular shape, and was spread across the whole field.

The material found from these scatters adds to the volume of lithics already accumulating from the fields around Dryburgh Mains. The characteristics of the material fits in well with previous analyses.

Sponsor: HS .


Dryburgh Abbey (Mertoun parish)

P Sharman

Watching brief

(Kirkdale Archaeology)

NT 5915 3167 A watching brief was conducted in July 1998. A hearth and ruined chimney breast on the floor over the late 12th-century Chapter House were dismantled in order to waterproof the surface. The base of the chimney breast proved to be *in situ*, probably built in the 16th century when the Commendator's House was built in the ruins of the Dormitory. It was laid on a flaggy surface which may have been an earlier floor level, or the bedding material used to level over the top of the Chapter House vault below, so that a floor could be laid.

Sponsor: HS .

Upper Tweed Valley Survey

G Warren

(Newlands; Peebles; Stobo parishes)

Historic Scotland have sponsored research into the Mesolithic of eastern Scotland. This incorporates a case study in the Upper Tweed Valley, near Peebles. A variety of small-scale fieldwork exercises have taken place there since January:

Wide Hope Shank (Newlands parish)

Chert quarry

NT 189 499 Trial excavations at the chert extraction site identified at the summit of Wide Hope Shank (*DES* 1989, 8) confirmed that these low scoops were prehistoric quarries. Four 1 x 1m areas were investigated at intervals along a transect across one scoop. Vast quantities of chert were recovered from these excavations, some frost-fractured, but some clearly burnt or struck. A small number of formal tools are also present, including bladelets and hammerstones. Extraction may have involved fire setting and the removal of material from the rock face itself. Peat formed directly above these features, but this was interrupted by the deposition of a clay layer which may have derived from activity in the quarry pit immediately upslope of the excavated feature. (Additional contributors: B Knox, B Finlayson.)

Edston 1 (Peebles parish)

Fieldwalking/lithic scatter

NT 223 394 (centre) Fieldwalking in this field on the N bank immediately above the River Tweed recovered 97 lithics, with no pattern to their distribution.

Edston 2 (Peebles parish)

Fieldwalking/Mesolithic chert scatter

NT 213 401 (centre) Fieldwalking in this field to the N of the River Tweed recovered 87 lithics in total, including a discrete scatter (c 10 x 10m) on a small knoll with good views up and downstream. The scatter includes blades and a microlithically retouched chert bladelet. Other artefacts from the field include a fine flint knife with invasive retouch.

Hay Lodge Park – 'The Dookits' (Peebles parish)

Chert scatter

NT 240 404 Five 1 x 0.5m test-pits were excavated at the Dookits, a low rock outcrop immediately above the River Tweed approximately 1km downstream from the Popples (see below). Mesolithic stone had been collected from erosive contexts on the popular footpath here (*DES* 1986, 49). Due to vegetation the excavations were unable to explore a wide area of the outcrop but they suggested that considerable redeposition of material has occurred here since the Mesolithic period.

Manor Bridge – 'The Popples' (Peebles parish)

Mesolithic settlement

NT 229 397 Small-scale trial excavations were undertaken this summer at a number of the lithic scatters previously identified in the Peebles area (*DES* 1986, 49). At the Popples, a low rock outcrop immediately above the River Tweed, four 1 x 0.5m test-pits revealed a series of archaeological features sealed by 50cm of sand and gravel. The discoveries include 341 worked stones (mainly of local chert), an anvil, a small area of 'cobbling' and a possibly cut feature containing burnt lithics, charcoal and carbonised hazelnuts. The full size of this feature was not determined. Samples of this material will be submitted for radiocarbon analysis. Other areas of organic staining were noted but these did not form a coherent pattern.

The Popples has never been ploughed and the only disturbance to these features is from tree roots and moles, although in places this is extensive. Stone tools were found throughout the sand and gravel sealing the features but were much more numerous in association with other features. Most of the lithics from the Popples (including a further 189 collected by Mr R D Knox and analysed by the author) are typical of the Mesolithic, and include microliths.


In the field immediately to the N of the outcrop a further 18 test-pits were excavated in order to examine soil movement and explore the scatters previously identified in this field; 229

artefacts were recovered, and a further 120 previously collected by Mr Knox analysed. These are mainly, although not exclusively, of Mesolithic types, and include a scalene triangle manufactured from chert. All artefacts were discovered in the ploughsoil and no old land surfaces were identified.

Sheriff Muir (Stobo parish)

Fieldwalking/chert scatters

NT 200 400 (centre) Fieldwalking recovered 133 artefacts. Most of the material is local chert but some pitchstone is present. Small concentrations, including bladelet cores, were found near the standing stones at NT 2010 4005. Very few artefacts were found near the cairn at NT 2017 4023.

Sponsors: HS , University of Edinburgh Small Projects Grant.

Glenmead (Traquair parish)

R D Knox

Burnt mound

NT 367 360 Dispersed burnt mound in SW corner of ploughed field, uphill from Glenmead. Shows as a 18m diameter scatter of heat-shattered stones and black soil. The farmer reports a spring nearby diverted by a field drain in the past.

Grieston Hill (Traquair parish)

R D Knox

Burnt mound

NT 309 357 Dispersed remains of a burnt mound on the left bank of the unnamed burn descending from Grieston Hill. Shows in the burn, the bank, and where the burn is crossed by a track.

Plora Burn (Traquair parish)

R D Knox

Burnt mounds

NT 359 362 Burnt mound on right bank of an unrecorded water course which drains into Plora Burn. Approximately 9 x 7m, by 1.2m high.

NT 358 362 Burnt mound, c 90m uphill, to the W from mound at NT 359 362, at junction of two small water courses. Mound is 4.5m in diameter and 90cm high.


SHETLAND ISLANDS

Shetland Coastal Survey 1997

H Moore, G Wilson
(EASE)

During October–November 1997 a Coastal Zone Assessment Survey was conducted around the coast of Northmavine. The survey examined the entire length of coastline to the N of Mavis Grind (HU 340 684). A total of 370 sites were recorded, representing a wide range of types and dating from the early prehistoric period to the 20th century. A survey of the coastal geology, geomorphology and erosion was carried out simultaneously.

A full report has been submitted to Historic Scotland and Shetland Amenity Trust.


Sponsors: HS , Shetland Amenity Trust.

Shetland Coastal Survey 1998

H Moore, G Wilson
(EASE)

Whalsay, Lunnasting, South Mainland

In October 1998 a coastal survey was carried out on the island of Whalsay, on the Shetland Mainland at Lunnasting (Grames Ness to Lunnin) and South Mainland (Aith Wick to Pool of Virkie). A total of 244 sites were recorded, representing a wide range of types and dating from the early prehistoric period to the 20th century. A survey of the coastal geology, geomorphology and erosion was carried out simultaneously.


Sponsors: HS , Shetland Amenity Trust.

Gardie House (Bressay parish)

H F James (GUARD)

Structure

HP 4876 4206 At the S corner of the walled garden is evidence of an earlier structure. The stone wall is thicker at its base than above and within the thicker portion there are two blocked windows or doorways visible from the garden side. (GUARD 617).

Sponsors: HS  and SNH, through Land Use Consultants.


Jarlshof (Dunrossness parish)

D Murray

Watching brief

(Kirkdale Archaeology)

HU 398 095 Archaeological supervision was provided during a small excavation to lay foundations for a storm porch which was to be added to the visitor centre. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

Sponsor: HS .

Old Scatness/Jarlshof Environs Project

S J Dockrill,

(Dunrossness parish)

V E Turner, J M Bond

Broch; multi-period settlement mound

HU 389 106 Excavation of the Old Scatness settlement mound commenced in 1995 as part of the Old Scatness/Jarlshof Environs Project (see DES 1997, 69–70). 1998 was the first excavation season in Phase II of the project.

This year the excavation areas were again extended, to encompass greater portions of structures uncovered in 1997, to further investigate the extent of the settlement area, and to locate the inner edge of the ditch which geophysical survey and the 1995 excavation had indicated surrounded the site.

The broch at the centre of the settlement can now be seen to have had at least three major phases of use; the primary tower, a rebuilding of the broch interior which involved the addition of a secondary skin to the S and E part of the inner broch wall, and a set of radial piers to form a new interior structure. The building of this inner skin wall, although not particularly substantial, suggests either that the original broch wall had collapsed or become unstable at this point, or that a secondary wall was required to key in new features (such as an internal stair). Later, another building was constructed inside the broch, consisting of six or more curvilinear cells clustered around a central area, with a corridor leading out towards the broch wall to the E.

To the western (seaward) side of the broch the limits of the settlement have been established. Work this season and in 1995 has located the eastern and western edges of a ditch, possibly stone-revetted, which also appears on the geophysical surveys, and appears to encircle the settlement. Beyond this ditch are the man-made soils and ard marks recorded in earlier seasons. The southern limit of the settlement and the edges of this ditch have not yet been defined.

The excavation of the Late Iron Age ash midden filling the buildings surrounding the broch continued. The removal of layers of midden and rubble from a sub-rectangular structure on the western limits of the settlement revealed part of the destruction sequence. It seems that the building stood open, perhaps partly roofed, long enough for ash midden to be dumped inside and for yellow clay (which seems to have coated the interior walls of many of the buildings) to have washed down and been deposited on top of the ash. Thereafter more of the walls and larger slabs, possibly the caps of corbelled cells, had fallen into the structure before tipping recommenced.

To the E of the broch, the small wheelhouse was excavated down to its original floor level. This building, too, showed evidence of several phases of use and modification, with an earlier and a later hearth and a final stage where the floors of the cells had been repaved and the entrances partly blocked.

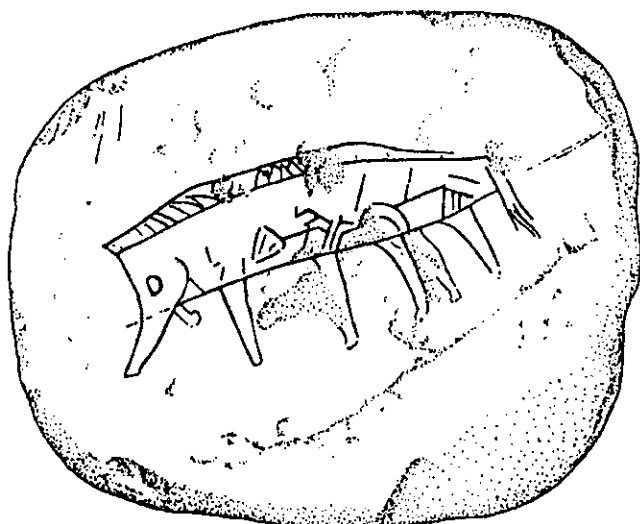


Fig 26. Old Scatness Broch: carving of a boar on a hearth kerbstone.

The later 'Pictish' multi-cellular building was completely excavated and its walls removed in the 1998 season, the midden with which it was filled proving to contain a number of Viking period finds. Its surviving walls were single faced, butted onto the walls of a pit cut into earlier ash midden. During the dismantling of this structure it was noted that one of the central hearth kerbstones carried a carving of a boar. The stone had been placed in such a way that the figure was hidden until the stone was removed from its position. A small pebble carved on one face with an abstract geometric design and on the other with a crude rendering of a Pictish 'crescent and V-rod' symbol was also found with this structure, in the material surrounding the wall top and provisionally interpreted as the remains of a turf bank.

The case for the Viking or Norse reuse of earlier buildings, postulated on the evidence of artefact distribution in the Late Iron Age and Pictish buildings last year, was strengthened by the findings of this year's excavations, including an apparent occupation surface with evidence of a hearth in the upper fill of a Late Iron Age building to the S of the broch. This surface last year produced a cache of over 40 loomweights made of stone and reused steatite vessel fragments, as well as other steatite vessel fragments and spindle whorls. This year's excavation produced more of all these artefact classes.

Further work was carried out on the post-medieval and 19th-century structures. These included the remains of the byre which was standing on the top of the mound until last season (the foundations of which were excavated and recorded this year), and the fragmentary and enigmatic remains of a 17th-century structure cut into the top of the Late Iron Age middens on the SW of the mound.

Other notable recent finds include a steatite mould with four different patterns, possibly for strap ends, carved into its faces. Although found in a late, mixed context, the patterns and design of this mould suggest an earlier date of manufacture, perhaps in the late Norse or medieval period.

The programme of sampling and research on economic and environmental aspects of the site continued, with a full bulk-sieving programme, standard on-site magnetic susceptibility testing of all major sediment-based contexts, and other specialised sampling programmes for magnetic and OSL dating and soil micromorphology.


Old Scatness/Jarlshof Environs Survey

The purpose of the field survey, now in its fourth year, is to enable us to better understand how the brochs and other Iron Age sites in the area (which included three blockhouses) related to one another, as well as to unfold the multi-period nature of the landscape.

The area surveyed in 1998 extended from the coast to the W of the village of Toab, eastwards along the northern shore of the Pool of Virkie. The area was used intensively for agriculture during the crofting period, and so a lot of the sites recorded were rig lines, boundary dykes, etc. There were also pockets of WWII remains along the W coast.

The most startling discovery of the summer was a new broch site, the Broch of Toab (HU 389 115). Geophysical and contour surveys have been carried out, confirming the initial interpretation made on the topographical evidence. This brings the number of broch sites within the survey area to four, the other three all being visible from the Broch of Toab, and provides important new evidence for our understanding of the area.


Further survey and an examination of sites relating to the post-medieval fishing industry is in progress, and a place-name survey to further unravel the history of the area (including the thorny problem of the meaning of 'Scatness') began this summer and is continuing this winter, using documentary sources.

Sponsors: HS , BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd, EC Objective 1, Robert Kiln Trust, Scottish Hydro-Electric plc, SNH, Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland Enterprise Company, Shetland Islands Council, University of Bradford.

Lunna House (Nesting parish) Building

H F James (GUARD)

HU 4886 6919 Rectangular structure, c 13m long and 3.5m wide, with a rectangular annexe on the W side c 3m wide. The walls are turf-covered but appear to be low stone foundations c 0.4m thick, with some large uprights. It is aligned N-S with an entrance on the W side. There are at least three cross walls along its length. There is an enclosure, 19 x 27m, on its E side, visible as a low bank. (GUARD 617).

Sponsors: HS  and SNH, through Land Use Consultants.

Broch of Houlland, Tumblin (Sandsting parish) Broch

A Purdy

HU 3449 5389 As a result of damage caused during refurbishment of an electricity line, two small trenches were opened up on the summit of a broch mound at Tumblin during May 1998.

The broch is visible as a mound, 16m in diameter. Large stones and boulders protrude from the mound, which is pitted with a number of depressions where it appears to have been robbed of stone. The broch mound was disturbed in the 1970s when the original electricity line was erected and again in May 1998 when the redundant wooden pole and metal stay were removed. Overall, the site is in good condition. The purpose of the excavation was to record the sections and assess the level of disturbance.

Evidence from both Trench 1 and Trench 2 allowed the development of the site to be divided into four phases, the final three of which were post-abandonment.

Trench 1: Phase I represents the possible remains of a wall that may have formed part of a structure built some time after the middle of the Iron Age after the broch had fallen out of use. Protruding from the N- and W-facing sections were four large stones that appeared to be part of a structure. Each overlaid the

end of the stone next to it, forming a line that was slightly curved. Any other structural remains were either destroyed when the pit was dug or extended beneath the sections. There was no dating evidence for the structural remains.

Trench 2: Phase I in this trench revealed a short linear section of wall that was orientated E-W. On the SE side, the face of the wall, at least 1m thick, was clearly defined. Behind it, a number of large stones may have been a less well-constructed or rubble core. If it survived, the other side of the wall did not come within the boundaries of the trench. The wall remains probably belong to a structure that was built after the broch was abandoned. This is supported by the fact that the wall does not follow the alignment of the broch walls.

Twelve pot sherds were found in Trenches 1 and 2, all characteristic of Iron Age pottery. Trench 1 also produced a loomweight, and six fragments of oyster shells were found in Trench 2. All the small finds were found in the fills of the modern pits and therefore were residual. The finds indicate that this disturbance was restricted largely to features from the late Iron Age and damage to the broch was limited.


There is a possibility that the wall remains in Trench 2 are related to the structural remains in Trench 1, as they share a similar alignment. However, the remains differed in character and appearance, with the wall being much more substantial.

Sponsors: Balfour Kilpatrick, Shetland Amenity Trust.

Loch of Belmont (Unst parish) H F James (GUARD)
Cairn; mill

HP 5584 0055 Circular grass-covered mound, c 4m in diameter and c 0.2m high, has six rough boulders around its perimeter. In the vicinity there are at least three other cairns, c 2m in diameter and 0.3-0.5m in height. There are also further upright stones across the landscape c 50m apart between the cairn and the mill site at HP 5614 0064.

HP 5614 0064 Foundations of a small mill located at the southern end of the Loch of Belmont. The mill lade appears as a hollow, c 0.2m deep, extending in a straight line from the loch to the mill. (GUARD 617).

Sponsors: HS  and SNH, through Land Use Consultants.

Loch of Watsness (Walls & Sandness parish) A Purdy,
Linear earthwork H Moore, G Wilson

HU 1735 5075 In November 1997 an exploratory trench was opened up towards the W end of a linear earthwork at Watsness. The earthwork measures 56 x 16m and is 1.5m high. It runs between the Loch of Watsness in the E and Trea Wick, a natural geo, in the W. At this end it suffers from coastal erosion. The site is also under threat due to denudation resulting from trampling by cattle and sheep as well as rabbit burrowing. The purpose of the excavation was to ascertain whether there was an underlying structure and to try and determine the function of the earthwork.

The development of the site was divided into five phases. Phase I represents those deposits which accumulated before any building took place at the site.

Phase II represents the first human activity at the site. The excavation uncovered the remains of an area of stone walling which seems to have been used as revetting for an earth bank. The remains of the outer face of the wall comprised six loosely arranged, angular stones forming three courses. It extended further beneath, and on the same line as the earthwork. The inner face of the wall was constructed from larger stones which were not coursed.

Phase III comprised twelve soil layers that were deposited on top of the walling some time after its construction. Most of the layers seem to have been added to the earthwork deliberately in

order to increase its size in terms of height and width. The W-facing section showed that one layer contained interleaving lenses of dark brown silt, indicating that turf was used for this purpose in the construction of the centre of the earthwork.


Phase IV comprised a layer of soil that was formed as a result of ploughing which took place on the southern side of the earthwork. This ploughing activity probably took place when the original function of the earthwork was no longer required.

Phase V represents those layers which formed naturally after the abandonment of the earthwork.

The earthwork can be compared to two examples elsewhere in Shetland: the feelie dyke in Fair Isle and the Funzie Girt dyke in Fetlar, which both divide their respective islands into two unequal parts and seem to have influenced post-medieval agricultural land-use divisions but may originally have been constructed at a much earlier date.

The Watsness linear earthwork has similar dimensions, apart from its length, but it is unlikely that it formed part of an agricultural land-use division because there is no evidence to suggest that it continued E of the Loch of Watsness. In order to determine whether the linear earthwork might be associated with other earthworks, a small landscape survey was carried out over the area S of the earthwork to the Wick of Watsness. Within this area are the remains of two horizontal mills and their associated water courses. A stone-built dam, situated across the burn running out of the southern end of the Loch of Watsness, was clearly associated with the mills. Lying immediately E of the dam are the remains of an old fence line, visible as a line of intermittent stones set in a slight bank. Further to the W, along the coast, are the remains of two noosts and two stone-walled enclosures of irregular shape. The remains of a sheep pund are situated on high ground adjacent to the eastern coastline. Within the area there are also a number of earthworks, some of which appear to be prehistoric. A prehistoric boundary ran NW from Gorsendi Geo towards the horizontal mills; the building of the mills and their water courses may have destroyed part of the boundary. A second boundary was recorded further to the NW and may have been a continuation of it. Next to the coast at the Wick of Watsness are remains of a prehistoric enclosure, divided into two unequal halves by a bank. The E half contains six clearance cairns. Two further clearance cairns lie outside the enclosure some distance to the NW.

The presence of prehistoric sites in the immediate surrounding area of the earthwork creates the possibility that it too had its origins in prehistory. Since no finds were made during the excavation, this has yet to be proved.

Sponsors: HS , Shetland Amenity Trust.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE

11-15 Arthur Street, Ayr (Ayr parish) T Neighbour (CFA)
Urban evaluation

NS 3375 2190 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site of a proposed commercial development. Three trenches were excavated by machine down to significant archaeological deposits. Further excavation was carried out by hand to the maximum required depth of 1.2m. In two places this depth was exceeded to fully evaluate a feature and to test the depth of deposits by the excavation of a 2.7m deep sondage. The archaeologically significant deposits were thick, and formed rapidly, as pottery recovered from the base of the sondage was of a similar type to that found in the upper layers. The earliest deposits exposed were probably of late medieval date.

The stratification encountered in each of the trenches was very similar. Layers of clean, yellow, relatively artefact-free dune

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sand, interleaved with various thicknesses of darker, charcoal- and artefact-rich 'midden' layers, were observed beneath modern deposits. It is probable that the layers were laid deliberately as dune stabilisation measures.

The excavations revealed the remains of a probable well, a possible retaining wall and a substantial ditch with a U-shaped profile. This ditch had been recut at least once and probably formed part of a medieval and later boundary between burgage plots which faced onto Sandgate. A patch of flat laid stones, which may be the remains of either paving or a wall, was sealed below the ditch base. Large quantities of unabraded late medieval pottery were recovered from most contexts.

A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsors: McLean Gibson Partnership, C & F Mitchell Developments Ltd.

11-15 Arthur Street, Ayr (Ayr parish) J Hamilton (CFA)
Urban evaluation

NS 3375 2190 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site of a proposed commercial development. Excavations revealed the remains of several sandstone and lime mortar wall footings, of which the two most northerly bounded a cobbled surface. It seems likely that this cobbled path may have led from the High Street, affording access to the W. A brick floor was revealed, bounded to the N and W by mortar and sandstone wall footings; other wall footings were located. Limited quantities of late medieval material were recovered from the evaluation.

A detailed report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: McLean Gibson Partnership.

Castlehill, Ayr (Ayr parish) T Neighbour (CFA)
Desk-based assessment, resistivity survey and field evaluation

NS 3535 2010 An evaluation of an area immediately SE of Castlehill was carried out in September and October 1998 prior to a proposed housing development. Desk-based assessment provided evidence for features of historical significance, including a walled garden, vinery, cold frames and landscape divisions, most of which were probably associated with the occupation of the Castlehill Estate by the Ballantine family from 1804 onwards. The extant walled garden and associated features were fully recorded by a photographic survey. Resistivity survey and excavation produced evidence for paths and beds within the walled garden, but no features which pre-date the garden were discovered. A section excavated across the southern boundary ditch revealed its profile. Other trenches excavated outside the walled garden revealed no features of archaeological significance.

Full details will be lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsors: McLean Gibson Partnership, John Lynch (Builders) Ltd.

192-4 High Street, Ayr (Ayr parish) J Hamilton (CFA)
Archaeological evaluation

NS 3385 2180 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site of a proposed development. Excavation revealed the remains of five wall foundations and a concrete block supporting a steel frame for the building facade on the High Street. All the walls consisted of a single course. No deposits of archaeological significance were found.

A detailed report will be lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: Cooper Cromar.

Ballantrae (Ballantrae parish) L H Johnstone (GUARD)
Watching brief

NX 050 730 In September 1997 a watching brief was undertaken while five poles were being replaced in an area

where there was the possibility of a Mesolithic raised beach. The excavations were minimal and no archaeological features or artefacts were discovered. (GUARD 518).

Sponsor: Scottish Power.

Dupin Farm (Girvan parish) S Carter
Pre-afforestation survey (Headland Archaeology)

NX 240 940 (centre) A short-notice survey was undertaken of roughly 95ha of land at Dupin on the Water of Assel, 6km SE of Girvan. Previously recorded NMRS site NX 29 SW 10 (farmstead and field system) occupies a large area immediately to the W of Dupin. This area to the W was the subject of an earlier Woodland Grant Scheme survey (DES 1993, 85).

A 19th-century building (NX 2413 9424) and an extensive pre-improvement field system of turf enclosures and dykes (NX 237 937 - NX 245 942) were found. The field system extends over the full width of the survey area (1km) and continues beyond it.

Sponsor: HS.

Gallow Hill, Girvan (Girvan parish) M Donnelly (GUARD)
Watching brief

NX 195 997 (centre) A watching brief and excavation of all archaeological features identified along the route of a proposed new sewer pipe was undertaken. Previous fieldwalking and test-pitting identified the presence of numerous lithics, probably early prehistoric in date. The quantity and density of lithics in the westernmost field prompted the implementation of a tunnel scheme which did not disturb the archaeological deposits. In the central field two concentrations were identified, while the eastern field produced negligible results.

Dense archaeological remains were discovered and excavated in the central field. These occurred in two areas corresponding to the concentrations previously identified, although the features were clearly of a later date than the lithic material. The first concentration (NX 1942 9982) consisted of three ring-groove structures, approximately 12-15m in diameter. Truncation had been severe, and internal posts or hearths were lacking. Several features were identified, both within and outside the structures, consisting of large pits containing much charcoal, burnt bone and some flint. A single burnt mound trough was also identified. No prehistoric pottery was identified from this concentration but around 250 lithics were recovered. These are typical of the Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic and consist of flint, chert and some pitchstone.

The second concentration (NX 1958 9971) produced a remarkable concentration of burnt mound troughs, but truncation had removed almost all traces of actual burnt mounds. Only one badly truncated mound survived, preserved under extensive hillwash/flooding deposits. In total five troughs were identified, all oval in plan and of a similar size. Also discovered in association with these were a number of linear elements and several pits. One of the pits produced two fragments of Bronze Age pottery and a great many lithics. Most originated from within the hillwash/flooding deposits and from a ditch enclosed beneath them. There was also one possible Mesolithic amorphous pit that produced many flints including a microlith and a blade core. In total, around 800 lithics were recovered from this concentration. These were of an identical character to those described earlier but came from a distinct concentration separated by over 150m. The most remarkable discovery was that of two halves of a single Neolithic polished stone axe, discovered over 10m apart. The axe appears to display differential polishing on one half. (GUARD 547).

Sponsor: George Leslie for West of Scotland Water Authority.

William Grant Distillery, Girvan (Girvan parish)

P Duffy (GUARD)

Medieval moated enclosure; burnt mound deposits

NS 203 007 A second phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken of a cropmark site in June 1998. The evaluation concentrated on an area previously covered by a spoil heap and thus inaccessible during an initial evaluation phase in 1996.

Four sides of a well-preserved enclosure ditch were located, as well as evidence of potential internal structural features, in the form of post-holes and plank wall slots. The ditch was 8.5m wide, at least 1.4m deep, and contained well-preserved palaeoenvironmental remains. Pottery evidence recovered from the excavated section suggests a 13th to 14th-century date for the enclosure.

A watching brief carried out during the construction of a warehouse to the S of the enclosure also recorded a number of pits and post-holes.

A further watching brief was undertaken to the W of the enclosure site, exposing two deposits of burnt mound material. This brings the total number of burnt mound material deposits within this valley to eight. (GUARD 396C).

Sponsor: William Grant and Son Distillers Ltd.

Culzean Castle (Kirkoswald parish)

G Ewart, A Dunn

Excavation and survey (Kirkdale Archaeology)

Two separate excavations and a contour survey were conducted at Culzean Castle.

NS 230 097 **Cobbled Depression** (NMRS NS 20 NW 36). Previous excavations and clearance work (DES 1997, 74) had revealed a dolerite cobble lining set in smooth clay, surrounded by what may have been a circular retaining wall. To the NE, an area of sandstone paving may represent an entrance to the feature. The feature was interpreted as either being an 18th-century dew pond, or an ice house of some form. An initial late 18th-century date was postulated for the feature.

NS 230 097 **Kennel Mount Cairn** (NMRS NS 20 NW 34). In September 1998 further excavations confirmed the identification of the prehistoric cairn, and retrieved a Yorkshire Vase type food vessel, dating to the first half of the second millennium BC, from a secondary context.

NS 2357 0943 **Sunnyside Mill**. In advance of landscaping works the line of the lade was plotted, and a general contour survey undertaken. An early 20th-century railway embankment has severed the mill lade from the mill pond, which lay outwith the survey area. The lade was traced to the former location of the wheel, mounted in the usual fashion along the long wall of the mill, with the lade rejoining the mill burn a short distance thereafter.

Sponsor: NTS.

Culzean Castle (Kirkoswald parish)

T Addyman

Watching brief; gazebo (Addyman and Kay)

NS 233 103 Monitoring of services installation in the vicinity of Culzean Castle, the Carriage Circle, Clocktower Court and Gazebo Court revealed that the area from the castle to Clocktower Court had been cut down to clean whin bedrock as part of Robert Adam's remodelling of the complex in the late 18th century. The Gazebo Court had seen some deposition of fill, also part of Adam's works. No surviving remains of the pre-existing fortified complex were identified.

An architectural record was made of the gazebo at Gazebo Court in advance of building repair works. The feature was erected around 1780 by Robert Adam as part of his enhancement of the clifftop setting of his recreated Culzean Castle. While appearing as a buttressed and battlemented clifftop

wall tower from the beach below, the structure actually saw use as an abattoir, as a tethering ring, and a possible location of slaughter block, a well-drained flagstone floor and corbels to support a substantial carcass-hanging beam would confirm.

While roofless and derelict at the time of survey, the apsidal-ended structure still retained much internal wall plaster, dooks indicating dado boarding and fixing points for the roof structure.

A report will be lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: NTS.

Thomaston Castle, Culzean (Kirkoswald parish) T Addyman Tower house and outworks (Addyman and Kay)

NS 239 096 Installation of a services pipeline exposed parts of the outer works of a castle of c 1500 (NMRS NS 20 NW 1), including two revetted former burn courses, a probable barmkin wall and remains of one or more substantial structures within.

A report will be lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: NTS.

Culzean to Dunure (Maybole parish)

T Addyman

Archaeological coastal assessment (Addyman and Kay)

An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey was undertaken in December 1997 in advance of a proposed coastal woodland regeneration scheme. The following were amongst the sites identified in the assessment:

Prehistoric sites

- NS 2468 1250 Small concentration of flint flakes.
- NS 2465 1182 – Concentration of Mesolithic flint flakes.
- NS 2466 1186
- NS 2454 1131 – Small concentration of flint flakes.
- NS 2456 1133
- NS 2452 1123 – Small concentration of flint flakes.
- NS 2454 1126
- NS 2466 1204 Dead Knowe, probable dun. Sketch field survey undertaken.

Historic Sites

- NS 2487 1556 Yair, between the tide lines.
- NS 2462 1460 Cave site/rock shelter. Historic wall remains and 19th-century occupation deposits.
- NS 2450 1386 – Settlement remains including a two-chambered rectangular building with rear outshot, associated field walls and ?small outlying structures.
- NS 2458 1397

A report will be lodged with the NMRS and WoSAS.

Sponsor: NTS.

Dunure Castle (Maybole parish)

T Addyman

Medieval and early post-medieval castle (Addyman and Kay)

NS 2522 1582 A major ongoing programme of excavation was undertaken of the standing remains of the castle (NMRS NS 21 NE 8), the principal medieval fortress of the Kennedys of Dunure, Earls of Cassillis. Excavation centred upon the area immediately to the S of the existing keep (Area 2), the lower parts of the castle – a range abutting the keep (Area 3), and a late 16th-century kitchen range (Area 4). The primary result of the works has been to elucidate the complex architectural development of the site as well as to achieve the clearance required for public access.

The wall bounding the S side of Area 2 had formed part of a substantial polygonal wall of enclosure built around the edge of the whinstone crag that forms the defensive nucleus of the site. The E side of Area 2 seems to have been the site of the entrance into this enclosure. The exposed walling, perhaps 13th century, itself overlay slight traces of earlier masonry constructions.

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The existing keep, bounding Area 2 to the N, seems to have started life as a two or three-storied hall-house (although not included in the present investigations) inserted within the pre-existing enclosure walls. Area 2 was not subsumed by this new work, and the original entrance continued in use.

At perhaps about this stage a defensive fore-building was built against the crag, abutting Area 2 to the S. This structure took the form of an open tower with (?timber) stair rising within to a new opening cut through the S wall of Area 2. This provided alternative protected access to the upper parts of the castle. The entry to the tower was from the E, where much of its substantial roll-moulded surround survived *in situ*, the threshold at the level of a protruding plinth course. An apparent well, later blocked, had been built in the thickness of the wall just within the entrance on its S side. This was supplied by a stone-lined channel.

A series of major additions can perhaps be grouped into a single programme of upgrading of the castle in the later 15th century. The hall-house was vaulted throughout and massively extended to create a donjon that infilled the whole of the early wall of enclosure to the N of Area 2. Area 2 was itself vaulted over on two stories and provided with a stone saddle-and-trough roof. A three-storied range was added to the W side of the fore-building and the wall-head of the combined whole furnished with machicolated parapets. Internally the former fore-building was remodelled with a masonry stair of three flights culminating at a small drawbridge over a gap of some 2m above a drop of 4.5m. This gave entry into the upper castle (Area 2). This programme of work may also have seen the creation of a substantial outer enclosure wall that survived in part to be depicted by Francis Grose in 1789.

Evidence for a chapel of about this period came from a series of architectural stones reused in the later flooring of Area 4, the recovery of a number of pieces of ecclesiastical painted window glass, and a single reference to its destruction in a siege of 1570.

The final stage of the evolution of the standing structure came with the erection of the existing Area 4 kitchen range. Destruction deposits below its floors suggest its construction in the wake of the 1570 siege. These deposits produced a single rim shard of a Venetian glass beaker of the 16th century decorated with raised outer ridges of white enamel.

The demise of the castle came in the mid-17th century and by 1694 the castle is described as 'wholly ruined'. Abandonment fill of a stone-lined channel produced a single sherd of a Staffordshire slip-decorated redware of this period. It is not clear whether this can be linked to the Civil War period in the form of a slighting, although local tradition suggests that Dunure had been burnt and/or blown up. A major collapse of the SE part of the keep could perhaps be linked to such activity. Recovery of building materials for the construction of the Cromwellian citadel in Ayr may also account for its ruination, as at Ardrossan Castle. There was, however, much evidence for the systematic dismantling of the structure for recoverable building materials including the orderly removal of slates, stone and glass. The room had seen the gathering together of windows removed from their apertures throughout the castle. The windows were then dismantled and comprehensively stripped of their lead and complete quarries; 1260 discarded quarry fragments of glass and three pieces of came were recovered from a single level. Remains of a localised fire and associated deposits of coal suggest that smelting of the lead took place within the room.


Those dismantling the castle seem to have occupied part of the structure during their work. A substantial midden contained local green-glazed reduced wares.

The ruin subsequently saw periodic robbing of its sandstone dressings. A range of castle buildings to the S of Area 4 remained

in occupation until c 1860. Census records and reuse of some rooms demonstrate that some of the occupants were fishermen. A large midden of mussel shell gave evidence for the baiting of cod lines. Domestic refuse of the later 18th and early to mid-19th century was also recovered.

Twenty-five blocks of masonry ranging between 0.5 and 25 tons and some 400 recovered carved architectural stones have greatly added to the understanding of the form of the dismantled or fallen parts of the castle.

Reports will be lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsors: HS , Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust, HLF, Enterprise Ayrshire, South Ayrshire Council.

Greenan, Ayr (Maybole parish)

B Simpson (GUARD)

Evaluation

NS 311 193 An archaeological evaluation consisting of a desk assessment and trial trenching was carried out at the Lands of Greenan in advance of the proposed development of a golf course. The Scheduled Greenan Castle was outwith the development area but was still a dominant feature within the landscape. Earthworks in the vicinity of the Scheduled area proved to be natural features. Trial trenching throughout the development area of features identified from aerial photographs proved that they were natural, but archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric period was apparent in a number of areas. A visual inspection of the ruins of Greenan House established that no definite earlier remains could be identified. A number of artefacts were recovered from the trial trenching and informal fieldwalking, varying from prehistoric lithics to WWII gun cartridges. (GUARD 601).

Sponsor: South Ayrshire Council.

Dalmorton Farm, Straiton (Straiton parish)

R Strachan

Pre-afforestation survey

(CFA)

NS 365 015 (centre) An archaeological desk-based assessment and field survey were undertaken in March 1998 ahead of afforestation proposals. The survey area has concentrations of sites of archaeological importance, but is generally of low archaeological potential. In addition to field banks, modern features, and areas of rig and furrow, the following sites were located during field survey:

NS 3619 0257	Enclosures; structure/dump (NS 30 SE 9).
NS 3712 0112	Turf structures (NS 30 SE 13).
NS 3705 0125 (centre)	Turf structures, enclosure and platform; rig and furrow (NS 30 SE 14).
NS 3650 0086	?Cup-marked stone.
NS 3695 0078	Sheepfold.
NS 3697 0077	Stone dump.
NS 3711 0125	Spring (site of).
NS 3718 0108 –	Enclosure/field bank.
NS 3713 0117	
NS 3689 0125	Turf structures.
NS 3734 0152 –	Trackway; quarry/dump.
NS 3730 0162	
NS 3750 0181	Enclosure; rig and furrow.
NS 3746 0198/	Sluice (site of); peat deposit/enclosure.
NS 3743 0205	
NS 3722 0218	Enclosure.
NS 3725 0242	Stone spread/clearance.
NS 3706 0245	Sheepfold.
NS 3685 0249	Enclosure.
NS 3678 0239 (centre)	?Turf structures.
NS 3670 0233	Ford.
NS 3665 02323	Quarries.
NS 3661 0230	Platform settlement.

NS 364 022 (centre) Enclosure; rig and furrow; sheepfold.
 NS 3646 0206 Turf structure/dump.
 NS 3631 0223 – Field bank/enclosure.
 NS 3613 0244
 NS 3609 0239 Turf structure.
 NS 3613 0191 Structure; footbridge (remains of).
 NS 3602 0177 – Field boundary.
 NS 3525 0140
 NS 3620 0158 (centre) Structures; field bank; rig and furrow.
 A detailed report has been lodged with the NMRS.
 Sponsor: David Goss and Associates for Notcutts Nurseries Ltd.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

Upper Clyde Valley Landscape Project W S Hanson,
 Cropmark sites L Sharpe
 Aerial reconnaissance has revealed the following new sites (see also Scottish Borders):

(Biggar parish)
 NT 0179 3653 **West Lindsaylands** Enclosure.
 NT 037 381 **Powhead** ?Circular enclosure.
 NT 0385 3660 **Steels Bridge** Broad-ditched, sub-circular enclosure (NT 03 NW 16).

(Carmichael parish)
 NS 946 386 **Bowhouse** Ploughed-out plantation.
 NS 918 372 **Syde Plantation** ?Sub-circular enclosure.


(Carnwath parish)
 NT 005 450 **Millridge** Enclosure.
 NT 008 450 **Millridge** Cropmarks.
 NT 035 455 **Walston Mill** Triple-ditched ring-ditch.

(Covington & Thankerton parish)
 NS 984 375 **Thankerton** Cropmarks.
 NS 987 375 **Holm Brae** Double ring-ditch.
 NS 978 381 **Thankerton** Cropmarks.
 NS 9616 3659 **Park Knowe** ?Hut circle.

(Libberton parish)
 NS 998 377 **Craig Wood** ?Enclosure.
 NS 984 426 **Yett** ?Defended enclosure (NS 94 SE 6).

NS 999 403 **How Burn** Rectangular enclosure.

(Symington parish)
 NT 009 358 **Symington** ?Ring-ditch.

(Wiston & Robertson parish)
 NS 962 324 **Wiston** Plantation bank.
 Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

The Ward (Avondale parish) D Abernethy, L Johnstone,
 Watching brief S Halliday (GUARD)

NS 7035 4444 An archaeological watching brief was carried out over a number of weeks in advance of a housing development to the NE of Avondale Castle. The development area was found to consist of made ground, probably dating to the 19th century when the road level of North Street appears to have been raised. The remains of a house, possibly dating to the early 19th century, were uncovered below modern debris and rubble. (GUARD 560).

Sponsor: D Campbell & Company Ltd.

3 John Street, Biggar (Biggar parish) C Lowe
 Urban watching brief (Headland Archaeology)

NT 043 378 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of strip-foundation trenches for a building

development in the backland area behind the High Street and John Street in the centre of Biggar. No identifiably pre-modern features were located.

Full details have been lodged with the NMRS.


Sponsor: J & J Plenderleith.

Bothwell Castle (Bothwell parish) D Murray
 Watching brief (Kirkdale Archaeology)

NS 6880 5933 Ground-breaking work was monitored in January 1998. The entirety of the chapel area was to be stripped, along with various other stretches.

To the S of the chapel two roughly shaped sandstone blocks formed a threshold into the SE tower. A 20th-century pathway of fine light grey mortar, leading up to this tower and off to the W, was also found, as were footings for walls. While the vast majority of the work involved little more than turf lifting, the small corner at the E end of the chapel block demonstrated the survival of archaeology.


A further watching brief was maintained in February 1998 during disturbance of an area of the inner courtyard around the Custodian's Office. The necessary depth for the new footpath did not interfere with any buried archaeology.

Sponsor: HS .


Carmichael Mill (Carmichael parish) J O'Sullivan, L Sharpe,
 Mill; ?horizontal mill; foundry S Halliday, J Hamer

NS 9217 4159 Carmichael Mill has been converted to a family home, but still retains a fully working water-driven corn mill inside. To the E of the mill, in the garden alongside the River Clyde, stands another waterwheel with the foundations of an associated building, together with evidence for metalworking on the site. At the easternmost extent of the property there is what appears to be the remains of a horizontal mill, together with the remains of a circular building which the owner assumes to have been a corn-drying kiln.

Work has recently commenced on the garden area and has so far involved the recording of the existing remains by topographic survey, and a geophysical investigation of the areas between these features. Geophysical survey may indicate the presence of a second foundry area.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.


Cross Ridge (Carmichael parish) L Sharpe
 Standing stone (former site)

NS 933 377 A standing stone is shown on the 1st edition OS map. There is now no evidence of the stone, and the present owners of Carmichael Estate have searched unsuccessfully for it. Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

Howford Farm (Carmichael parish) L Sharpe
 Fieldwalking

NS 9148 4088 Fieldwalking was conducted following a first ploughing for 30 years. The field contains a cropmark of a possible enclosure (NMRS NS 94 SW 51), and it was hoped to confirm the presence of human activity in and around this area.

The majority of finds, concentrated at the northern edge of the field, are pieces of chert, some pot sherds and two pieces of thick, clear glass which appear to have been melted. A hammerstone was found close to the site of the possible enclosure, but other than this the pattern of finds could not confirm the presence of activity near the possible enclosure.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

South Cathkin landfill facility L Johnstone (GUARD)
(Carmunnock parish)
Landscape evaluation

NS 620 575 (centre) An archaeological evaluation took place in advance of development at a proposed landfill site. This encompassed a desk-based assessment, walkover survey, and palaeoenvironmental assessment. A cropmark site was investigated by trial trenching but proved not to be of archaeological importance, and the area proved to be of limited archaeological sensitivity. (GUARD 514).

A full report has been lodged with WoSAS.

Sponsor: Glasgow City Council.

Weston Farm (Carnwath parish) T Ward
Mesolithic lithic scatters; Early and Late Neolithic settlement, pottery and lithics; Bronze Age lithics

NT 026 465 (centre) Fieldwalking by volunteers and students over an area ploughed for the first known time has produced a range of lithics and pottery. Numerous locations were located where Southern Uplands chert was being knapped; at least one of these sites is attributable to the Mesolithic, as cores, blades and microliths were found by excavation. A second excavation produced a large quantity of chert-knapping debris and tools where longer blades were being manufactured.

Several locations where Early Neolithic carinated pottery was found in association with pitchstone flakes and cores, carbonised hazel kernels, and flakes from Type VI axes, are interpreted as settlement sites. A trench was opened at the largest concentration of pottery, but no features were located. A few sherds of later Neolithic decorated pottery were found. Other random finds include a fine stone axe, assorted flint tools including slug knives, scrapers, leaf- and barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, a chisel-shaped arrowhead, hammerstones, and a rock crystal (?amulet) which had been used as a rubber at one end and had two indents showing that perforation was intended. Also, a fine saddle quern with top rubbing stone were found together but without context.

Sponsors: Biggar Museum Trust, Lanark and District Archaeological Society.

Weston, Firpark (Carnwath parish) L Sharpe
Geophysical survey; lithic scatters

NT 0276 4659 Geophysical survey was conducted over three areas found to contain concentrations of worked chert, following fieldwalking by Tam Ward and Chris Barrowman. The field in which the work was undertaken had not been ploughed in living memory, and revealed a large number of pieces of worked chert and pottery sherds, identified as Middle to Late Neolithic.

Three areas were examined using a fluxgate gradiometer. No significant anomalies were detected, and trial trenches placed over possible areas of interest based on the geophysics results failed to locate any features associated with the lithic concentrations.

Sponsors: HS , Scottish Lithic Scatters Project.

Hillhead Farm E P Archer, A Wilson, D Hill
(Covington & Thankerton parish)
Prehistoric, medieval and later artefacts

NS 982 405 During fieldwalking at Hillhead Farm a number of prehistoric artefacts were found; these include several Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic broken blades of Arran pitchstone and a piece of ?Bronze Age cannell coal bracelet. Other prehistoric artefacts are of grey quartzite apart from one piece of waste flint; these include three cores and a substantial number of struck pieces, possibly indicating a knapping site.

Other artefacts include a piece of late 13th-century pottery found near the motte. The motte itself is currently unsurveyed. The site commands an excellent view of the Clyde valley.

Later artefacts from the site include a 17th-century jug handle and a fragment of onion bottle. Other items of interest include a worn halfpenny of George II (1742), a large button of the same era, and an assortment of clay pipe stems.

Sponsor: Lanark and District Archaeological Society.

Cornhill (Culter parish) T Ward
Lithic scatter

NT 022 347 Fieldwalking continued in this area (DES 1997, 76). The large assemblage of worked chert is now identified as Mesolithic, with numerous cores and microliths retrieved. The fieldwalking programme is now extended to other fields surrounding the village of Coulter, various lithics being retrieved.

Sponsors: Biggar Museum Trust, Lanark and District Archaeological Society.

Garvald Quarry, Robertson Farm (Dolphinton parish) M Cook
Archaeological evaluation (AOC Archaeology)

NT 094 485 An archaeological evaluation was conducted in advance of a proposed quarry extension. Some 32 evaluation trenches were opened, covering c 9300m² and representing approximately 1.8% of the proposed extraction area. A series of limited features were recorded including a sub-oval pit containing a small AOC Beaker, a shallow charcoal-rich pit containing fragments of two Beaker vessels, and six charcoal-rich pits containing numerous heat-shattered stones.

Sponsor: Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd.

Melbourne Crossroads T Ward
(Dolphinton; Walston parishes)
Lithic scatters

NT 087 443 Arable fieldwalking continues (see DES 1997, 76), and has produced quantities of lithic material including hammerstones, flint knives and scrapers, a leaf-shaped arrowhead and a Late Neolithic chisel-shaped arrowhead.

Sponsors: Biggar Museum Trust, Lanark and District Archaeological Society.

North Deanhead (Dunsyre parish) E P Archer
Prehistoric and late medieval artefacts

NT 044 489 Members of the Lanark and District Archaeological Society discovered a number of interesting artefacts spanning the prehistoric to modern eras. Most of the prehistoric finds are waste material; only two items appear to be tools – a scraper (unfinished), and an arrowhead – also discarded prior to completion. The flint includes a microlith and waste material. The prehistoric material seems to be virtually all Neolithic. The medieval pottery is late; indeed some pieces may be 17th century. Most are body sherds. There is one rim fragment and one piece of jug handle. The modern material, 1600 to the present, includes glass, pottery, a horse harness and a piece of lead shot.

Sponsor: Lanark and District Archaeological Society.

Shields Rig (Dunsyre parish) E P Archer
Prehistoric artefacts

NT 038 538 Members of the Lanark and District Archaeological Society walked over a field adjacent to the main Edinburgh road which had been recently planted for grass. Most of the recovered artefacts are of flint with only a couple of pieces of worked quartzite being found. A small leaf-shaped arrowhead of calcined flint was discovered along with a scraper. The only

other object of interest is a flake off a polished stone axe. These items fit well into the Neolithic period.

Sponsor: Lanark and District Archaeological Society.

South Tabrax (Dunsyre parish)

E P Archer

Prehistoric artefacts

NT 036 537 Members of the Lanark and District Archaeological Society walked a small field opposite the farm of South Tabrax. A small collection of prehistoric flints was found. Early Neolithic flints include a small blade, an arrowhead tip and a large damaged arrowhead. A piece of worked cannel coal was also found.

Sponsor: Lanark and District Archaeological Society.

Castle Street, Hamilton (Hamilton parish)

R Cachart

Evaluation and watching brief

(SUAT)

NS 7255 5561 In February 1998 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to development of 40–42 Castle Street. Before the evaluation, a watching brief had been undertaken on the excavation of a trench required for drainage, which provided a guide as to the nature and depth of deposits. For the evaluation, four trenches were excavated. The excavations revealed foundations for 18th to 19th-century buildings, a cobbled surface sealing pits dating from the 18th to 19th century and deeply buried garden/cultivation soils containing residual medieval pottery. It was concluded that the archaeological survival did not merit extended excavation and that any further development on the site would require a watching brief.

A watching brief was conducted on site stripping and levelling immediately after the evaluation and nothing of significant archaeological interest was found.

As part of the same evaluation a watching brief was conducted after demolition at 16–36 Castle Street, the E frontage, S of the Edinburgh road. A N-facing section across the pavement revealed evidence of an earlier frontage building (probably 19th century) in the form of wall foundations, forward of the demolished frontage. Below the wall, at a depth of 1m, was evidence of a wider Castle Street, possibly medieval/post-medieval, in the form of trampled clay and cobbles. To the rear of the site a 14m length of well-built stone drain aligned N–S was uncovered. From the pottery found in the silting of the drain it appeared to have been constructed in the 18th or 19th century.

Sponsor: South Lanarkshire Development Partnerships (formerly Hamilton Ahead).

Lamington (Lamington & Wandel parish)

T Ward

Medieval coins

A further five Edward I and II silver pennies (see *DES* 1997, 77) were found by metal detecting in a field. Disposed to Biggar Museum via Treasure Trove.

Lamington (Lamington & Wandel parish)

L Sharpe

Fieldwalking

NS 9766 3088 Fieldwalking in March 1998 produced finds including worked chert and a variety of pot sherds, dating from the c 12th century onwards. The field lies to the NW of a possible Roman fortlet (NMRS NS 93 SE 27), to the S of a possible Iron Age fort (NMRS NS 93 SE 39), and in the immediate area of a Roman temporary camp (NMRS NS 93 SE 26).

Activity from a group of metal detectorists was evident whilst walking the field, there being a number of holes dug at intervals around the field. Geophysical survey was conducted over the fortlet and part of the fort in 1996. The survey produced good


results over the fortlet, and appeared to show that the ditches of the fort, visible as cropmarks, pre-dated the ditch of the Roman temporary camp.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

Lamington (Lamington & Wandel parish) L Sharpe, G Bertok

?Enclosure

NS 9766 3088 (centre) Part of a possible enclosure appears on aerial photographs taken of the Roman fortlet and temporary camp at Lamington. Two short lengths of what may be a double-ditched feature are visible.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

Start Up Hill, Lamington

T Neighbour (CFA)

(Lamington & Wandel parish)

Watching brief

NS 974 304 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the removal of topsoil prior to the construction of an access track for the construction of a Cellnet mast c 180m W of a palisaded enclosure (NMRS NS 93 SE 30). No archaeological features were revealed.

Details have been lodged with WoSAS SMR and the NMRS.

Sponsor: Medlock Ltd.

Castleyett, Castlegate (Lanark parish)

B Will (GUARD)

Watching brief

NS 8796 4341 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of the foundation footprint for a new house on the NE hillside below the site of Lanark Castle. A deposit of 19th and 20th-century midden material had been used to raise the ground level to the front of the house plot. No further archaeological deposits were uncovered. (GUARD 672).

Sponsor: Mrs M Seymour.

Craignethan Castle (Lesmahagow parish)

D Stewart

Watching brief

(Kirkdale Archaeology)

NS 8158 4635 A project to evaluate the possibility of reinstating a cobbled courtyard was undertaken in October 1998.

The events occurring after initial stone robbing seem to have involved a possible early levelling up of the courtyard to offset the removal of the cobble setts, followed at some stage by a major clearance of the wall-heads and possible subsequent levelling of waste soil across the site to create a level grassed courtyard. It was noted that finds from this material were both few in number and consisted of 18th and 19th-century material.

A final set of works appears to have involved a degree of excavation this century in the corners of the site in order to expose and lay out limited areas of the cobbles, as well as an attempt to find an old gatehouse in the vicinity of the S wall.

Sponsor: HS .


Libberton (Libberton parish)

L Sharpe

Geophysical survey

NS 9938 4220 Geophysical survey was conducted prior to tree planting under the Woodland Grant Scheme. The field contains a circular enclosure (NMRS NS 94 SE 36), centred at NS 9922 4241, which is extant to c 20cm, and is visible from the air. There is also an area of cultivation remains (NMRS NS 94 SE 57) visible in the field both from the air and on the ground.

Survey results indicate that the enclosure may be contained within a larger, oval enclosure, and that there may be two further enclosures in the field to the S of the known one. Two other areas of rig were noted in the field.

Sponsor: HS .

STIRLING

Libberton (Libberton parish) L H Johnstone (GUARD)
Watching brief

NS 991 428 (centre) A watching brief was undertaken to the S of Libberton Church in December 1997. Three holes were excavated in advance of the erection of poles for an overhead electricity line, but no archaeologically significant material was located. (GUARD 558).

Sponsor: Scottish Power.


Quothquan Law Farm (Libberton parish) E P Archer
Prehistoric artefacts

NS 985 381 Fieldwalking in the field between the old Quothquan Farm and the River Clyde yielded a number of prehistoric artefacts. Most of the worked material is of grey quartzite, the majority being waste material. Several blades were identified. One piece of flint was found, as well as a microlith of clear yellow quartz. The material is Neolithic with an occasional find dating back to the Mesolithic.

Sponsor: Lanark and District Archaeological Society.

Townhead (Libberton parish) S Carter
Trial trenching (Headland Archaeology)


NS 993 422 A programme of trial trenching was undertaken of 16ha of land E of Townhead, Libberton. This work formed the third phase of an evaluation started in September 1997 (see DES 1997, 77). The excavation was designed to test the results of a geophysical survey undertaken by Glasgow University. Results showed that the slight resistance anomalies detected were caused by underlying geological variation with one exception, a series of recent cultivation furrows. No features of archaeological interest were identified.

Sponsor: HS .

Yett Farm (Libberton parish) L Sharpe
Fieldwalking

NS 9869 4272 (centre) A field overlooking the River Clyde was walked following ploughing. This field contains a possible cropmark enclosure, and also a cropmark of a fort (NS 9811 4270), truncated on its western side by a steep bank, falling away to the River Clyde. The majority of the finds appeared towards the top of the field, and are mostly of a medieval date.

The adjoining field (centred on NS 980 429) was also walked from break of slope down to the River Clyde. It had very recently been ploughed, however, and had not had sufficient time to weather down enough to reveal any artefacts.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.


Dungavel Hill (Wiston & Robertson parish) L Sharpe
Cultivation remains

NS 931 313 Cultivation remains in the form of wide rig are visible from the ground. The remains lie in a modern field c 450m SE of the earthwork at Castlehill Strip (NMRS NS 93 SW 2) and are visible towards the base of slope of Dungavel Hill, eg NS 9545 3120.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.


East Millrig (Wiston & Robertson parish) L Sharpe
?Linear soil marks; rig

NS 951 328 Soil marks were visible in a ploughed field from the high southern slope of Tinto hill. The marks appear to represent a quarter of an arc of darker soil, to the S of which is a linear mark with an approximately 45° angle in it. Two other soil marks were visible in the field, one curved and one linear. To the W and N of these marks, in an adjacent grassed area, are traces of cultivation remains.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

Limefield (Wiston & Robertson parish) L Sharpe
Farmstead


NS 9265 3155 An unroofed farmstead stands within an immature conifer plantation, adjacent to the quarried area recorded at Limefield (NMRS NS 93 SW 22). Locals say that the farmstead was abandoned around 50 years ago.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

Shillowhead (Wiston & Robertson parish) L Sharpe
?Enclosures


NS 9505 3070 Two large, adjoining rectilinear enclosures with rounded corners occur on the eastern slope of Dungavel Hill. The enclosures have earthen banks which are c 2m wide, and lie at around 350m OD.

Another of these enclosures was pointed out on the N slope of a nearby hill which lies just outside of the Upper Clyde Valley Landscape study area, at c NS 959 298.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.

Tinto Hill (Wiston & Robertson parish) L Sharpe
Cultivation remains; sheep pen

NS 954 332 An area of cultivation remains is visible on the S slope of Tinto Hill above School Plantation. A circular, stone-built sheep pen was also recorded. The pen is still in use.

Sponsors: HS , University of Glasgow – Dept of Archaeology.


STIRLING

The Upper Forth River Valley C Ellis
Survey, palaeoenvironmental sampling and (AOC Archaeology) archaeological evaluation

NS 6500 9800 (centre) A programme of survey, coring and excavation was carried out in the Upper Forth River Valley. The project area lies immediately W of Stirling, covering c 117km².

A rapid walkover survey was conducted which located five previously unrecorded upstanding monuments and 38 previously unrecorded 18th and 19th-century sites. Palaeoenvironmental assessment of the potential of the wetland zones was undertaken using a number of reconnaissance and reference long cores taken from six discrete raised mosses within the study area; thirteen long cores were retained for laboratory analysis. Forty-one radiocarbon dates have so far been obtained from the cores.

A ground-penetration radar survey and a systematic peat-probing survey located a series of anomalies within a wedge of remnant peat at Parks of Garden (NS 6038 9689). Four trenches were opened over the anomalies and within the largest trench a wooden platform/trackway was exposed. The exposed portion of the feature consisted of at least 19 parallel, closely packed, large roundwood timbers and planks which were predominantly oak. These timbers were covered in parts by dumped, as opposed to laid, brushwood. In one area split narrow roundwood oak laths were laid parallel to each other and transverse to some of the larger roundwood timbers.

Sponsor: HS .

Ardchullarie (Balquhiddar parish) L Main, W Anderson
Deserted settlement; cup marks

NN 577 143 In an area of recently felled forestry the remains of three buildings, and a fourth represented by a probable building stance, have been noted strung out N-S along the contour at a height of 280m OD. Only the footings survive. Externally the buildings measure 4.2 x 6.05m, 4.8 x 9.5m with a probable entrance 1.3m wide on the W wall, and 3.2 x 6m.

NN 579 149 Two adjacent glacial boulders. One has at least nine cups, varying in size from 4–11cm across by 2–4cm deep on

both the E and W faces. The other stone has one probable cup, 7 x 6cm deep, on the W face and a number of possible cup marks. The stones are located on a prominent ridge overlooking Loch Lubnaig.

Sponsors: Stirling Council, Tilhill Economic Forestry.

Ben Lomond (Buchanan parish)
Survey

P Ellis

NS 377 977 – NN 370 040 A second season of fieldwork was carried out in February 1997 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on the Ben Lomond Estate (DES 1995, 13). Survey revealed 44 house sites at two lochside settlements (Blairvockie: NMRS NS 39 NE 46 and Ardess: NMRS NS 39 NE 19), and five upland shieling grounds (Coille Mhor, Coire Odhar, Coire Corrach, Glashlet Burn and Tom Eas). There were indications of sequences of buildings at the shielings, and a burnside location was common, often at the confluence of burn and tributary. At two shieling sites walled areas fronting overhanging boulders were recorded, and two cultivated areas were noted. Dyke systems and areas of rig and furrow at Blairvockie and Ardess were surveyed in detail. Industrial activity was marked by three mounds of metalworking waste, one associated with a structure, and by two water management features, as well as levelled platforms on higher ground.

A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: NTS.

Craigrostan, Comer Estate (Buchanan parish) K Cameron
Pre-forestation survey (CFA)

An archaeological desk-based assessment and field survey was undertaken in November 1997. The survey area has pockets with sites of archaeological importance, but is generally of low archaeological potential. The following sites were located during field survey:

- NN 3397 0757 Settlement – four buildings, track enclosures, terraces and boathouse.
- NN 3390 0850 Settlement – scattered group of five buildings, hollow ways and enclosures.
- NN 3415 0802 Settlement – two buildings and a substantial enclosure (NN 30 SW 12).
- NN 3452 0755 Shielings (NN 30 SW 14).
- NN 3433 0765 Building (site of) (NN 30 SW 13).
- NN 3423 0755 Trackway.

Measured drawings were made of the elements of the first two sites. The disposition of buildings at these sites was logged using EDM survey equipment.

A detailed survey has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: Scottish Woodlands Ltd.

Loch Lomond Islands Survey
(Buchanan parish)
Crannogs

F Baker (FIRAT),
N Dixon (STUA)

See also Argyll and Bute: Luss parish and
West Dunbartonshire: Bonhill parish

The following crannogs have been confirmed/located and assessed in Stirling:

NS 414 901 **The Kitchen or Keppinch**. Distance to shore 62m; diameter 28m; height 1.7m; depth underwater – above surface. No timbers located but remains of a stone oval-shaped platform in the middle of the site.

NS 366 967 **Mill Cairn or Mill of Ross**. Distance to shore 76m; diameter 27m; height 2.1m; depth underwater c 0.6m. Timbers located and possible remains of a boat noost.

NS 394 930 **Strathcashell**. Distance to shore 37m; diameter 38m; height 3m; depth underwater c 0m. Scheduled Ancient

Monument. Structural timbers located. Structural remains, possibly of a harbour in the bay, and iron bloomery slag found in bay. Local information suggests a dug-out canoe found on the site in the 1930s. Modern cairn built on top of the crannog.

The following are sites searched where no crannogs were located:

NS 418 918 (centre) **Arrochymore Point** (NS 49 SW 31).

NS 387 913


Inchcrui.

NS 424 897

River Endrick mouth.

NS 335 038

Rowchoish Point.


Sponsors: HS , Friends of Loch Lomond, Loch Lomond Park Authority/SNH, Dunbartonshire Enterprise.

Bochastle, Callander (Callander parish) P Duffy (GUARD)
Roman temporary camp

NN 611 080 In February 1998 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken of the northern defences of Bochastle Roman temporary camp (NMRS NN 60 NW 3), in order to provide information to assist in the future management of the site. The camp is situated on an area of flat ground on the southern bank of the Garbh Usige, and is part of a larger Scheduled area, containing archaeological remains from several different periods, including the adjacent Roman fort. The northern defences of the camp are at present under threat from river erosion.

In total, four strip trenches were excavated at the site, three by a mechanical excavator, and one by hand. All were aligned N-S and positioned so as to transect the line of the northern defences as transcribed by RCAHMS from photographs taken in 1977.

No trace of the northern perimeter ditch was found. The most likely explanation for this is the presence of an alluvial deposit across the site, caused by flooding of the Garbh Usige, which has masked the archaeological deposits. The terms of the Scheduled Monument Consent prevented inspection beneath this layer during the fieldwork programme. (GUARD 587).

Sponsor: HS .

Old Auchentroig, Buchlyvie (Drymen parish) T Addyman
Laird's house (Addyman and Kay)

NS 544 935 Full structural survey of the laird's house of c 1700 was undertaken in advance of and during extensive conservation works with limited archaeological investigation.

The existing structure had formerly been provided with a two-storied wing to the rear, the foundations and details of which were defined by excavation and found to form a T-plan. The structure had been organised internally upon a 3' 9" horizontal and vertical grid. The surviving range retained many more original features than hitherto suspected, including its stair arrangement, two planked internal partitions, and original plank flooring in the loft. The roof structure survived in remarkable condition where each timber was the original, marked and *in situ* (four of the ties were found to be reused ship's masts), some two-thirds of the slates were original Aberfoyle with large holes for pine pegs (although subsequently relaid with nails). The majority of the original sarking remained in place.

Analysis of the front door, supposedly partly burnt during a historically attested raid by Rob Roy McGregor, revealed the extent of surviving original work and at least five episodes of subsequent repair. Miscellaneous discoveries include an early wrought-iron fire grate and a sun-dial dated 1712 (although perhaps brought to the property from elsewhere). Occupation levels of the very early 18th century were located to the exterior.

The house underwent two subsequent phases in its evolution. The former at the beginning of the 19th century was marked by the removal of the rear wing and the insertion of new woodwork (window surrounds, dado rails, door frames, etc), with walls and

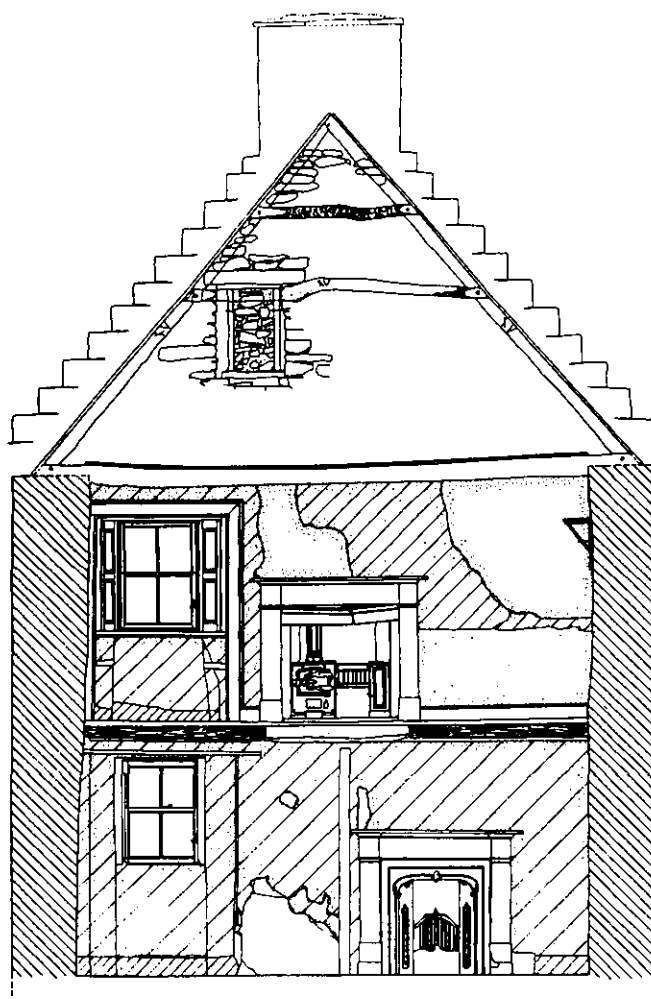


Fig 27. Old Auchentroig: internal east elevation.

ceilings plastered onto lath. The second phase of c 1886 marked a further reconditioning with the insertion of concrete floors, brick partition walls and a refurbishment of woodwork, particularly windows and skirtings throughout.

A report will be lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: NTS (Little Houses Improvement Scheme).

Barbush (Dunblane & Lecropt parish) J S Rideout
Assessment (Alba Archaeology)

NN 788 024 An archaeological assessment was carried out in February 1998 on an area to be developed for housing to the E of the quarry and cemetery. Machine trenches totalling 460 x 2m produced five features of possible archaeological interest. No artefacts were found.

Sponsor: Cala Homes.

Lower Strathallan (Dunblane & Lecropt parish) T M Allan,
Roman road D S Simpson

NS 78 99 (area) The discovery through probing and observation of stony ground in certain places may help confirm the putative line of a Roman road from Camelon to Ardoch, which crossed the River Allan, suggested otherwise through an analysis of current and former landscape features.

A detailed description of the circumstances has been lodged with the NMRS.

Dochart Bridge, Killin (Killin parish) S Carter
Watching brief (Headland Archaeology)

NN 5716 3248 A watching brief was undertaken during the installation of floodlights on and adjacent to the Bridge of Dochart. Work was monitored on Innes Bhuidhe, an island in the River Dochart which the bridge crosses. This island contains the 18th-century burial ground of the Macnabs (NMRS NN 53 SE 26) and two forts (NMRS NN 53 SE 11) towards its E end. Excavation was restricted to an area at the W end between the bridge and an arched screen wall that forms a gateway at the start of the walk leading to the burial ground. No features of archaeological interest were noted and bedrock was encountered within 300mm in most excavations below heavily rooted topsoil. Sponsor: Weir & McQuiston (Scotland) Ltd.

Kirkton Farm, Crianlarich (Killin parish) M Donnelly
Shielings and associated structures (GUARD)

NN 371 320 (centre) In advance of a proposed native woodland scheme an archaeological assessment was undertaken as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment. On either side of the Gleann a'Chlachain 22 groups of sites, including 168 individual structures, were recorded. These were mainly oval to sub-rectangular structures, walls and enclosures, which were identified as shielings and related structures. (GUARD 543). Sponsor: Scottish Agricultural College.

Doune Castle (Kilmadock parish) G Ewart, D Stewart
Watching brief (Kirkdale Archaeology)

NN 7285 0107 The clearance of loose material in each of the window embrasures and mural chambers off the second-floor hall took place in January 1998. The debris in question proved to be general detritus, dust and rubbish which had accumulated since the abandonment of the castle, but which pre-dated the extensive late 19th-century restoration works enacted on the lower floors and adjacent structures. Within the window embrasure located in the N wall was evidence of a resurfacing or patching which utilised broken floor tile and compacted, clay-rich silt. These rather crude repairs pre-dated the restoration works and possibly reflect late medieval occupation.

A further watching brief was carried out in January and February 1998 to examine and record a number of slit trenches cut into the soil and gravel embankment W of the Kitchen Tower. The embankment comprises mortar-rich gravel covered by a damp earth deposit.

A total of 13 trenches were cut. The SW corner of the tower foundations were found, comprising irregularly shaped flat slabs of local red sandstone, with three courses (240mm) visible, and extending for 600mm beyond the visible wall face. The remaining trenches revealed the make-up of the embankment, and traces of the natural slope which had been enhanced to form it.


Sponsor: HS.

Stirling Ancient Bridge (Logie parish) R Page, E Ross
Approach to bridge

NS 7978 9470 The search for a northern approach road or abutment reported in DES 1997 (80-81) was continued by deeper excavation.

Behind the drystone pitching found in 1997 and immediately below the excavation of that year, two dumps of stones were found. One was of rounded stones, with much broken Victorian crockery, the other of more angular stones, with broken tiles and no crockery. Each dump was estimated to be about a cartload. The dumps were covered by a layer of yellow clay. Below the dumps of stones the dark clay was probed and found to be stone-free for 40cm; this appeared to be river mud.

The excavation has shown river bank stabilisation or reclamation of 19th or 20th-century date; no traces have yet been found of northern approaches to the ancient bridge.


Sponsors: HS , Stirling Ancient Bridge Trust.

The Peace Stone (Port of Menteith parish)

I Armit

Cup-and-ring marked stone

NS 5641 9954 This cup-and-ring marked stone (NMRS NS 59 NE 6), first recorded in 1899, appears to have been moved slightly from its original position, probably during agricultural improvements in recent decades. The OS marks it as standing on a low and locally prominent rise which gave views over both the Lake of Menteith to the NE and the small Loch Macanrie to the SW. It now lies a few metres away at the field edge, in a strip of bracken-covered land between the old field wall and a modern fence. It lies next to a large boulder and several smaller stones probably cleared from the adjacent field. The 22 markings are still mostly visible though not in the detail recorded in 1899.

Sponsor: HS .

34-36 Baker Street, Stirling (Stirling parish)

B Will

Evaluation

(GUARD)

NS 7945 9361 An archaeological evaluation was carried out during April 1998 in advance of redevelopment. The evaluation consisted of trial excavation and a photographic survey of the standing building. Seven trenches were excavated over the site and that of the adjoining car park after the building had been demolished. The trenches were excavated by machine to the first archaeologically significant layer or to the natural subsoil, under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches uncovered remains of earlier tenement buildings including a basement and a medieval midden or garden deposits containing medieval pottery and a carved antler handle. (GUARD 449).

Sponsor: Forth Housing Association.

Argyll's Lodging, Stirling (Stirling parish)


D Murray

Watching brief

(Kirkdale Archaeology)

NS 7925 9381 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of two small inspection holes being opened up at the S end of the E wall of the garden attached to the S side of Argyll's Lodging (see also DES 1996, 102). The core of the building is thought to be 16th century in date, with the bulk of it being built during the 17th century, with the late 17th-century S wing being demolished, apart from the street frontage, during the 1860s. The wall against which the trenches were excavated, which forms part of the terrace for a garden, was bulging at its base and it was hoped that these excavations might shed light on this problem.

A 19th-century imported garden soil containing green-glazed pottery, but also some white china and clay pipe, overlay a deposit of mostly whin rubble and mortar, which was not bottomed. This seems most likely to derive from the 1860s demolition of the S wing of Argyll's Lodging, and had been cut by a trench running N-S against the E wall. This was shown to contain the upper part of this wall, which must be a rebuild on top of an earlier wall, and which bottomed some 800mm below the modern ground level. Beneath this the wall stepped in dramatically, and excavations were ceased.

Sponsor: HS .

King's Park Farm (Stirling parish)

C A-Kelly

Two carved stones

NS 7883 9358 Two small, rectangular blocks of pale grey gritty sandstone are built into the wall on the S side of the A811, immediately S of a light standard. Both blocks are 0.13m wide

by 0.46m long, with roll-moulding on the long edges. They are probably parts of a window mullion, possibly of a structure associated with the 16th-century garden immediately N of the road and cut by it. The two are among other blocks of the same stone, of various sizes and diagonally scored.

Stirling Castle (Stirling parish)

C A-Kelly

Midden; carved stone fragment

NS 7888 9412 About 82m E of where it breaches the earlier wall from the castle to the garden, the upper path along the SW slope of the castle rock cuts a spread of mortar and debris. This extends for almost 100m, and includes bone and oyster shell among mostly modern pottery and glass, with some sherds of green-glazed white gritty and grey gritty ware, continental imported ware and pipe stem fragments of 17th-century type.

NS 7903 9403 Built into the inner face of the NE curtain wall, just above the walkway, just N of The Mint, appears to be a capital of a pilaster, built in upside down.

Stirling Castle (Stirling parish)

G Ewart, D Stewart

Excavations in the Governor's Kitchens (Kirkdale Archaeology)

NS 790 940 An excavation was carried out in October to December 1997 to complete an investigation commenced by trial trenching in the spring of 1997. The area under investigation comprised the Army Kitchens, also known as the Governor's Kitchens, situated in a building on the W edge of the Castle Rock, overlooking the King's Knot (see DES 1997, 81-2).

The purpose of the excavation was to remove all deposits below the modern floor level in the kitchens down to bedrock or undisturbed archaeological horizons worthy of retention.

Early plans and maps show clearly the existence of the building at various times from the later 17th century onwards, and it is thought that a building has stood on the site since before the 15th century, and possibly from as early as the 12th century, the chapel of Alexander I, built c 1115.

The excavations revealed three phases of activity connected with a chapel site, alongside a well-preserved paved courtyard area. Ten inhumations were excavated, comprising nine adults and one child, as well as a charnel pit. The chapel evidence was overlain by a level containing evidence for the building of an oven and furnace, and by the 18th-century building levels.

Dating evidence was not forthcoming on a large scale, and the historical context of the buildings provides the main interpretive framework for the archaeological evidence presented below. Of particular significance in this regard are the dates spanning 1530-40, during which time the new Palace of James V was being erected, requiring the partial demolition of the earlier building; and the dates around 1710, at which time the Palace was converted to serve a Castle Governor, again affecting the adjoining building to a large extent.

The E room produced the earliest masonry in its SE corner, and this was interpreted as either an early chapel element or a part of the structure to the S of the Army Kitchens. The clearest early structure was a massive sandstone wall running below the present S wall for a distance of 7m. This is interpreted as the surviving remnant of the early chapel, pre-dating the 1530 building programme, but whose absolute date is uncertain. Associated with this early structure were some of the aforementioned burials, aiding the interpretation of the former as part of the chapel site.

At a later date the chapel was resited to the E by a distance of around 5m. A new threshold was laid, and the area to the W was carefully paved over, the paving extending for some 7m as far as a working area to the SW, where it could be seen to cut the earlier surface. Drainage channels in the surface of the paving


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intimate that it was an exposed area. This second chapel was also disturbed by the creation of the new Palace in 1530, and yielded a single inhumation. The creation of the Palace destroyed around two-thirds of the chapel structure.

The remaining available space comprised the formerly external paved area, defined to the N, S and W by a perimeter wall, and this space became the new chapel after the erection of the Palace. A single inhumation was excavated in the area toward the N wall. This is thought to be the final chapel on the site, falling out of use some time in the 17th century.

The chapel space was then converted to an oven or furnace area. The paved floor of the final chapel was removed, with further mortar debris and chapel debris being added, sealing the bodies beneath the new floor. A fire of some form was then centrally placed on this surface, surviving as a large, circular burnt area in the centre of the floor, measuring some 4m in diameter, with four massive stone plinths set some 3m from the centre of the fire site. These either represent support for a furnace, or support for a modified roof to allow the use of the fire within the room, or both.

As late as 1680, the date of Slezer's illustration of the castle, it would appear that the chapel site survived as a single structure, but by Dury's plan of 1709 a new building occupied the E part of the chapel site. This survives today as the tall square building adjacent to the Palace. The modifications enacted on the third chapel structure at this time involved the realignment of the S wall and the addition of a new W wall, effectively dividing the former space into two equal-sized areas. These two rooms later became the Mess Kitchens and associated quarters, with the chapel structures sealed beneath 150mm of concrete flooring.

Sponsor: HS .

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Drumkinnon Bay (Bonhill parish)

Archaeological evaluation

M Cook

(AOC Archaeology)

NS 3871 8254 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken ahead of construction works connected with a bridge over the River Leven. The proposed development area lies immediately to the SW of Balloch Castle (NMRS NS 38 SE 7). Only one archaeological deposit was uncovered: a rough cobbled surface, measuring between 2.5–1.5m broad, 0.15–0.25m thick and up to 17m long. This surface is orientated roughly NE–SW and is considered to be a trackway, running from the shore edge towards the castle. The track is not assumed to relate to the main entrance to the castle but rather to some secondary use.

Sponsor: R P S Cairns.

Loch Lomond Distillery (Levenfield and Croftenga Bleach and Printworks/Alexandria Works), Alexandria (Bonhill parish)

K Speller (GUARD)

Watching brief and standing building survey

NS 394 806 A watching brief and standing building survey were undertaken of a 300m stretch of an early Industrial period water lade serving the printworks from 1768–90 and then the Alexandria Works (1860–1960). Evidence survives for a series of alterations and repairs to the lade. The original lade walls were constructed of coarse red sandstone, roughly worked. Repairs include the use of brick, concrete and crushed and bonded whinstone dust. A full photographic, video and EDM survey was undertaken. The surviving lower courses are sealed beneath the new development. (GUARD 611).

Sponsor: Scottbridge Construction Ltd.

Loch Lomond Islands Survey

(Bonhill parish)

Crannogs

See also Argyll and Bute: Luss parish and

Stirling: Buchanan parish

The following crannogs have been confirmed/located and assessed in West Dunbartonshire:

NS 367 842 **Auchenglish** or **Arden**. Distance to shore 105m; diameter 30m; height 2.7m; depth underwater c 1.3m. One oak pile and three timbers located. Apparently built on a glacial mound. First recorded in late 18th century.

NS 376 832 **Cameron Bay**. Distance to shore 34m; diameter 25m; height 1.1m; depth underwater c 1m. Timbers located and craters from explosive blasts from an attempt to destroy the crannog in the early 20th century.

NS 377 832 **Cameron Point**. Distance to shore 72m; diameter 33m; height 1.97m; depth underwater c 1m. Structural timbers located under 0.25m of stones and gravel. Investigated by STUA in 1988 and radiocarbon dated to 1990 ± 50BP.

The following are sites searched where no crannogs were located:

(Bonhill parish)


NS 386 828 (centre) **Balloch Castle**.

(Kilmarnock parish)

NS 383 846 **Boturich Castle**.

NS 423 876 **Claddochside**.

NS 397 870 (centre) **Portnellan Islands**.

Sponsors: HS , Friends of Loch Lomond, Loch Lomond Park Authority/SNH, Dunbartonshire Enterprise.

Cladoch, Colgrain, Helensburgh (Cardross parish)

Post-medieval steading and 19th-century cottage

F Baker (FIRAT)

NS 319 800 Field survey was undertaken in advance of proposed development on the site of a steading shown on the 1st edition OS map. Only the ruins of a 19th-century cottage and a subtle vegetation change survive, and the site appears to have been systematically destroyed with a bulldozer. No trace remains of the enclosure banks/walls shown on several OS maps. It is possible that sub-surface remains survive and the site may be 18th century in origin.

Sponsor: Halcrow Crouch.

Geilston House and Garden (Cardross parish)

17th-century house and designed landscape

O Lelong (GUARD)

NS 339 783 Detailed topographic, standing building and vegetational surveys of Geilston House and Garden were commissioned to establish the history, character and cultural significance of the property. Documentary research found the estate had its origins in the late 1500s, then subsequently passed to six other families before it was gifted to the NTS in 1997.

Detailed standing building survey of the B Listed house established that it had developed through ten main phases, from 1666 (the likely date on a much-eroded datestone over a former entrance) or earlier. It began as a modest thatched laird's house, was expanded to become a villa, and finally a *cottage ornée* linked to a newly built walled garden, with views to the Clyde. The entire house appears to have been thatched until the early 19th century.

The landscape similarly developed in six main phases. It began to be enclosed and Improved after the Montgomery Act of 1770, and shelter belts and other plantings were probably added from this time onward. The next half-century saw the addition of stable blocks (in two phases), a pavilion doocot, a kitchen garden with a stone-lined tank, and a woodland glen garden with some exotic plantings. In the mid-19th century a conservatory, a

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Wellingtonia and a Mackenzie & Moncur greenhouse were added to the walled garden. The property's last owners, the Hendrys, gave the house a rear guest wing and also acquired a piece of land on the E side of the burn, the site of the Kilmahew Mill. Established as a corn mill in the 1830s, it also saw phases of use as a lint mill and finally a saw mill for a large Clyde shipbuilding firm before it burnt down in 1912. (GUARD 564).

A full report and archive will be lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: NTS.

Aber and Ring Bogs (Kilmaronock parish) J Mitchell
Agricultural box bridge

NS 4313 8739 Hay cart bridge over the Ross Drain. The 3m wide bridge links the former marsh/hay meadow of Aber Bog to the Ring Bog meadow and the joint access road from Bogend (now Lagganbeg Caravan Park). The well-supported crosswork comprises nine red sandstone slabs of matching thickness, averaging 1.6m in length by 333mm wide. Excavated and photographed in May 1997.

Erskine Ferry Road (Old Kilpatrick parish) B Ballin-Smith
?Crannog (GUARD)

NS 4648 7230 A desk assessment and watching brief were undertaken on a development site immediately S of the Erskine Bridge in Old Kilpatrick. The aim of the project was to try to confirm the existence of a crannog noted at the beginning of the century (NMRS NS 47 SE 23), and of a possible souterrain (NMRS NS 47 SE 27). No prehistoric structures were found. (GUARD 549.2).

Sponsor: Dunbartonshire Enterprise.


WEST LOTHIAN

Raven Craig (Bathgate parish) I Armit
Cairn

NS 9906 7057 The remains of a substantial and well-preserved cairn lie on the summit of a rocky wooded hillock known as Raven Craig, some 1200m SSE of Cairnpapple. Although surrounded by trees, the cairn itself has no tree cover and has a grassed-over stony surface, partly obscured by nettles and other rank vegetation.

The cairn is some 9m in diameter by around 1.5m high and has been defined by a kerb of large boulders, of which six survive apparently *in situ* on the NW and SW. Other kerbstones, some slightly displaced, are visible sporadically around the cairn. The centre of the cairn has been disturbed and a hole some 1.2m diameter by 1m deep remains open.


The cairn was identified by Richard Bamlet of West Lothian Council in summer 1997, during woodland management operations. Although it seems surprising that such a well-preserved monument has survived unrecorded so close to the well-known prehistoric ceremonial complex at Cairnpapple, it appears that the light cover of trees on the sides and summit of the hillock may have prevented its earlier discovery.

Sponsor: HS .

Mill Road Industrial Estate (Linlithgow parish) M Cook
Inhumation cist (AOC Archaeology)

NS 9851 7771 A cist with an *in situ* capstone was discovered by building contractors during levelling works. The cist lay below c 1.1m of subsoil which had been removed prior to its discovery. The cist was orientated roughly N-S and measured 1.44 x 0.94m. It was constructed of five edge-set slabs, up to 1.48m long by 0.68m wide and 0.14m thick. No markings were observed on any of the slabs.

The cist contained at least five inhumations and possibly one cremation. The remains comprised five children and one adult, none of which were fully articulated. It is suggested that the bodies may have been disturbed in prehistory in order to receive successive or episodic burials.

Sponsor: HS .

Refuge Stone, Westfield (Torphichen parish) I Cullen,
Standing stone A Maule (GUARD)

NS 943 721 A small excavation was carried out in advance of the reinstatement of a fallen standing stone known as the Refuge Stone (thought to be associated with Torphichen Preceptory). It now appears that the stone may be part of a much larger, possibly prehistoric, site. The 2 x 2m trench uncovered a stone-built structure, greater than the size of the trench. As the structure appeared to be too large to excavate and define within the restraints of the contract, the trench was immediately backfilled once recording was completed. (GUARD 528).


Sponsor: West Lothian Council.

Refuge Stone, Westfield (Torphichen parish) C Lowe
Survey (Headland Archaeology)

NS 9437 7211 (centre) Survey was undertaken of 3.5ha of land at the site of one of the Refuge Stones (NMRS NS 97 SW 2) associated with Torphichen Preceptory, in advance of a proposed re-scheduling of the site. The survey area is located immediately to the E of Westfield paper mill. The stone itself has been removed for conservation; its site was partially excavated by GUARD in January 1998.

The stone appears to have been erected in or over an old field bank, the remains of which were traced to the N and S of the site of the recent excavation. Slight traces of further banks, lying perpendicular to the field bank, were also traced, the stone having possibly stood at their junction. A small mound and two amorphous hollows, possibly sand-quarry pits, were identified to the S of the excavated area. The extent of the adjacent spoil-heaps associated with the nearby paper mill was also determined.


A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: HS .

Fallahill, Fauldhouse (Whitburn parish) C Lowe
Pre-afforestation survey (Headland Archaeology)

NS 922 610 (centre) A short-notice pre-afforestation survey was undertaken of 0.5km² of land at Fallahill. The remains of extensive rig and furrow cultivation (part of NMRS NS 96 SW 9) cover the hillside. Elements of banks and enclosures associated with the pre-1854 settlement were recorded. A rapid survey of surviving rig within a 2km radius of the site was also undertaken.

A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: HS .

WESTERN ISLES

Allt Chrisal, Barra (Barra parish) P Foster
Iron Age wheelhouse

NL 642 977 Excavation of the Iron Age wheelhouse (T17) concluded and completed the survey and excavation of the monuments (T15-29) begun in 1988 in the Allt Chrisal area (DES 1996, 103). The site showed considerable structural damage caused by burrowing rabbits and to a lesser degree rats, and was excavated over a period of three years to 1998, in part to assess this burrowing damage. In order to track the displacement of material around the site all finds of pottery and


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flintwork, bone being dissolved in the acid peat soil, were given a unique number and individually plotted by EDM.

In 1997 excavation began within the wheelhouse revealing a complex, and at times ephemeral, sequence of late occupation phases, whose structural remains occupy a position either on top of or just within the upper internal structural elements. Several crude circular or semi-circular stone foundation settings overlay the wheelhouse superstructure while a small rectangular building was built incorporating the upper portions of the wheelhouse western internal radial partition walls. The entrance to this building was from the W, but this was an opening that had been constructed at a much earlier period and may even have been an integral part of the wheelhouse construction, although there is also a southern doorway that could be the primary entrance. The dating of these phases is highly problematical and must rely upon future analysis of the associated ceramics; very little is currently known about local 1st millennium pottery, the period most likely to apply to these structures.

Under the late building phases the wheelhouse deposits appear to have consisted not of distinct layered floor levels, but of a continuous floor build-up of trampled peat soil and hearth ash. The central fireplace confirmed this apparent continuous build-up of material, starting as a neat hearth contained within a circle of stones which became overwhelmed as the red and orange burnt peat ash mounded up until the fireplace finally occupied the whole of the central area within the house.

Within each internal compartment excavation of the lower deposits down to the primary floor level proceeded in half sections. At the northern, upslope side of the house, excavations unexpectedly reached the subsoil and it became clear that no single primary floor deposit was *in situ* overall and that the wheelhouse had been constructed without any levelling platform against the hill slope. This complication close to the end of the allotted excavation time caused us to abandon a proposed programme of soil sampling at the floor level and to leave the unexcavated lower deposits for future investigation and analysis. The internal area of the building was refilled with soil to protect the unstable stone wall divisions and the unexcavated floor deposits. Much of the collapsed outer, southern wall skin was rebuilt to conserve and stabilise the rest of the structure.

Sponsors: HS , University of Sheffield.

Barra (Barra parish)

Field survey

K Branigan

NF 66 04 (centre) Field survey in four townships on Barra revealed a further 100 sites and monuments, including several clusters of blackhouses with byres, drying sheds, and enclosed garden plots. Five further prehistoric hut circles were identified, plus five medieval shielings which appear to overlie earlier sites. A stone ring, 23m diameter, with ten surviving stones *in situ*, was found overlooking Northbay, and a damaged and modified small chambered tomb, apparently of the Shetland heeled cairn variety, was also noted.

Sponsor: University of Sheffield.

Hebridean Island Survey

Survey and excavation in the southern outer Hebridean islands

P Foster

Field survey has now been completed for all the main southern islands. Each monument located was described both structurally and topographically, drawn as a field sketch and, if considered worthy, photographed. As many monuments as possible have been recorded with measured drawings. On Mingulay, in 1998, the large settlements at Skipisdale and the pre-modern village on the E coast of the island were surveyed in detail.

Pabbay (Barra parish)


NL 6128 8764 **Dun Ruadh** (red dun) (PY10). A broch-type structure (NMRS NL 68 NW 1) which survives as only a remnant of the southern arc of its main wall with a small undisturbed area of deposits within the arc. Although most of the structure and its deposits have been swept away, the surviving remnants show that the site was occupied when the walls had collapsed down to c 1m in height. In midden refuse dumped on top of the wall, spilling down onto the collapsed corbelled roof of one of the wall chambers, was a bronze Pictish fist pin datable to around the 6th–7th century AD, which is thought at present to give an indication of the final phase of occupation. The excavation of the surviving deposits prior to their eventual destruction by coastal erosion, the clearing of fallen masonry from the face of the surviving wall, and the stone by stone recording of the structure in both elevation and plan was completed in 1998.

c NL 607 876 **Earth-house** (PY56). To the N of the cemetery (well-known for its Pictish symbol stone) and Early Modern village, an extensive area of the island is covered with a mantle of windblown sand, some of which has formed prominent dune mounds. On a ridge c 100m N from the cemetery in this sandy region are a number of stone clusters, some of which appear to be structured. The stones vary in size from a few tens of centimetres to slabs over 1m in length and appear as either lying on the ground surface or as slightly embedded. Excavation to clarify the structure of one example unexpectedly found that the stonework represented the upper elements of a building constructed below the ground level into the sand dune and not an Early Modern surface structure, as was first thought.

Full excavation to floor level revealed a building plan consisting of a cluster of circular rooms opening into an antechamber at the W end of a passage leading to an entrance hall. To the E from the hall opened a single large circular room distinguished by the presence of a number of free-standing stone roof supports. It is now clear that some of the large stone slabs first recorded on the surface were in fact part of the roofing, which although in the right place at the right height had been displaced and no longer formed a roof structure. The inadequate quantity of roofing stone on the site also indicated extensive robbing, and inspection of the stonework in the Early Modern village produced many possible relocation places, especially as doorway lintel stones.

Dating was not immediately possible, but pottery found on the floor surface is thick, hand-made, friable and in the form of a large barrel jar with an upright rounded rim profile which may be Bronze Age. A ceramic and soil sample was taken for TL dating and a small quantity of animal bone was collected for radiocarbon dating. Due to the lack of time the floor level deposit was not disturbed, saving it for possible future analysis. The building had been constructed up to 1m deep into the dune and after abandonment windblown sand had completely filled the building to ground level (ie roof level).

The site was refilled with the sand to just below the wall tops leaving the outline of the building open to inspection. Roof slabs were laid to one side and a large saddle quern was left on the surface at the W end.

Sponsors: HS , University of Sheffield, Institute of Archaeology, Prague.

Scurrial Cave, Barra (Barra parish)

Cave platform

K Branigan

NF 696 079 To test the hypothesis that Mesolithic peoples exploiting the coastal fringe now submerged off the W coast of Barra would have made use of the small cave below Dun Scurrial, overlooking this area, a trench 5 x 1m was excavated

at the side of the platform outside the cave. Below topsoil a deposit of hillwash contained a small mixed assemblage of medieval and earlier pottery, flint pebbles and quartz chunks, and a saddle quern. This deposit overlay a dark rather sandy soil in which both hand-made pottery and flint and quartz flakes were found. Towards the top end of the trench, the corner of a low stone-built platform was found, with a small hearth area in one corner.

The pottery is provisionally identified as Middle Iron Age, although a single example of a quartzite skaill knife might hint at some earlier use of the site.

Sponsor: University of Sheffield.

No 39, Arnol, Lewis (Barvas parish) T Holden
Excavation of blackhouse (Headland Archaeology)

NB 310 492 Limited excavation of floor surfaces and wall sections together with detailed recording of standing masonry have allowed a comprehensive history of the development of the building to be produced.

Although occupied as a dwelling for a relatively short time between the 1880s and 1920s, the building was modified many times. The original structure seems to have been constructed to the same basic pattern as that seen today, with its three adjoining rooms – the barn, byre/dwelling, and porch or *fosglan*. Since then both the dwelling area and porch have been significantly lengthened. The extension to the porch proved to be unstable and eventually collapsed. As a result of this the whole western end of the porch was separated off from the remainder of that room by a partition wall. The eastern end of the dwelling area was reconstructed at some point in the early 20th century in order to accommodate a window.

The excavation of the internal area revealed several different floor types and features such as loom platforms, many of which probably relate only to the later phases of occupation. Sections through the floors of the three main rooms, one of the main walls and at several points across the wall-head, have provided detailed information regarding the methods used in the construction of this and other similar buildings in the vicinity.

Sponsor: HS.

Cnoc Beag Gormal, Eoropie, Ness M R Curtis, G R Curtis
(Barvas parish),
Probable prehistoric burial cairn

NB 5179 6529 There is a grass-covered mound about 13.5 x 12m across the slightly convex top and about 19 x 21m wide at the base, and 1m high. A few stones show on the surface. It is estimated that, if circular, the cairn would have been about 14m diameter at the top and about 20m diameter at the base.

It is located on the E side of the road to the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse, about 260m from the crossroads (B8013, B8014) in Eoropie, and lies on Croft 22.

The cairn stands on the low W shoulder of land overlooking a broad shallow agricultural valley in which stands St Moluag's Church (200m to the SE). The cairn is known locally as Cnoc Beag Gormal (Gormal is a woman's name), and was drawn to our attention by Miss D Milne and Dr Ian Orkney.

Croft 10, Eoropie, Ness (Barvas parish) M R Curtis,
Stone setting; wooden artefacts G R Curtis

NB 5194 6510 A watching brief was undertaken during erection of electricity poles. In the 1.6m deep trench for the pole on Croft 10, a setting of 25 stones was found about 15cm below the turf.

Along with the first stones lifted by the mechanical excavator were two pieces of worked wood: one, 24.5cm long, is notched

(possibly a peg); the other, 32.6cm long, is slightly curved. A third piece, 11.6cm long, may be an ard.

A fuller report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: Scottish Hydro-Electric plc.

Crofts 22 and 17, Eoropie, Ness (Barvas parish) M R Curtis,
Prehistoric occupation sites G R Curtis

NB 5176 6522 The presence of an occupation site or sites on Croft 22 on the E side of the road to the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse, is suggested by the undernoted finds. They were found by fieldwalking the area of land (c 100 x 20m), which has been ploughed within the past year, in the S part of the croft.

Finds include two fine ?Beaker sherds; pottery; struck quartz; pot boilers and modern finds.

NB 5180 6510 Croft 17: a few surface finds from a ploughed area, about 75 x 15m, suggest an occupation site, including pot sherds and pot boilers (see also DES 1978, 34).

Clash na Bearnach, Mullach Sgar, T Pollard, P Johnson
Hirta, St Kilda (Harris parish) (GUARD)

Excavations

NF 098 985 (centre) The 1998 season of excavation focused upon a series of terraces located on the lower slopes of Mullach Sgar, near Clash na Bearnach or 'the Chimney' on the W side of Village Bay. A major aim of the four week project was to evaluate the character of a drystone 'horned enclosure' which had been identified in previous surveys. It was thought that this structure might bear some similarity in form and function to those located in Gleann Mor to the N of the Village Bay area. It is known from contemporary accounts and photographs that these features were used as lambing pens and shieling sites into the 19th century. It is, however, possible that the surviving features were built on top of much earlier structures which may date back as far as the prehistoric period. A series of trenches was centred on the enclosure and its environs. A long trench cut across the upper terrace, upon which the enclosure is situated, revealed a deposit of scree buried beneath humic topsoil. This buried scree contrasts with the large areas of exposed mobile scree which rises up from the rear of the terrace. The scree terrace had been modified, prior to the formation of the topsoil, with a bank created across the western edge of the upper terrace, thus accentuating its separation from the lower terrace. The denuded remains of a drystone wall could also be seen running across the crest of the bank.

Trenches inside and immediately outside the enclosure revealed some degree of structural complexity and temporal depth. A possible wall footing was identified within rubble deposits inside the enclosure and a number of coarse, undiagnostic pot sherds were recovered from a possible occupation surface beneath the rubble (it is hoped to obtain a TL date from these sherds). Outside the enclosure a substantial curving wall was located, which appeared to pre-date the construction of the previously described terrace bank. Both of these features, the wall inside and outside the enclosure, do not appear to relate to the upstanding structure and are more likely to relate to the earlier use of the terrace.

Geophysical survey was carried out across the larger, lower terrace, in an effort to locate remains which may relate to the lost site of St Columba's Chapel, which had previously been thought to exist within the village head dyke. Trial trenching of anomalies resulted in the identification of two shallow, rectilinear stone-lined cuts. Although no human remains were found they may relate to graves, and as such point to the ecclesiastical use of the terrace. The excavation of a corbelled, cell-like structure at the rear of the lower terrace was also begun, but time did not permit

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anything more than clearance of rubble in an attempt to define the structure.

Work also continued on the scree structures located on the higher slopes behind the terraces (DES 1997, 83). This involved the backfilling of structures previously investigated and the completion of the excavation of Scree Structure 4. Work outside this circular, corbelled structure provided an insight into its construction. A platform had first been created on the scree by removing stone, the structure was then built on this platform. In order to stabilise the structure, scree material was then mounded up against the outer walls, a technique which also served to obscure the location of the cell. It is possible that at least some scree structures may also relate to the ecclesiastical use of the area, bearing some similarity to Irish monk's cells.

Work on the palaeoenvironmental side of the project also continued in 1998, with soil samples taken from profiles across the terraces. (GUARD 517).

Sponsors: NTS, Universities of Glasgow and Durham.

Hirta, St Kilda (Harris parish)

Resource management and survey

L H Johnstone

(GUARD)

NF 10 99 (centre) This season's work included a survey of the restored structures within Village Bay, work on a management and monitoring plan for the archaeological resource, a survey of the 'Puffinn' (public house), and the continued survey of the cleits on the island of Hirta. A photographic record accompanies all of the above works where this was possible. (GUARD 362.3).

Sponsor: NTS.

Village Bay, St Kilda (Harris parish) A Fleming, M Edmonds

Stone quarries; field wall

NF 096 992 In 1997, an extensive zone of ancient quarries, grassed over and smooth-profiled, was newly recognised from photographs taken in good light conditions in an area called Gearraidh Ard. They are connected with the manufacture of dolerite hoe blades.

In 1998, a contour plan was produced of ancient vegetation-sealed dolerite quarries on the Gearraidh Ard hillside, to the W of the Village Bay head dyke. These quarries include small semi-circular platforms with well-defined rear faces, a few apparent linear faces, one much bigger quarry and a larger, more amorphous declivity. Most occur in a dense zone near the top of the hillside; a variety of quarrying methods were employed in variable slope situations. A 1957 air photo suggests that the 1957 military quarry destroyed a large ancient linear quarry.

In most areas a clear distinction can be made between 'ancient' quarrying and stone-digging for more recent structures, which is much less in evidence. Our hypothesis is that the 'ancient' quarries were cut to provide material for flaked hoe blades which are probably mostly of Neolithic/Bronze Age date.

Three test-pits were dug in 1998. One showed a developed soil on the flat floor of a quarry, which was in turn covered by a dump of quarry spoil. Another, just below the top crags, revealed a surprisingly deep silty soil on top of a pile of quarry spalls which had come down from above. These findings carry implications for the antiquity and duration of the quarrying.

NF 101 995 In 1997, the excavation of a 4m section of old field bank was continued (DES 1996, 105). The wall was part of a complex field system defined by massive banks with protruding orthostats, and was found to rest on a carefully revetted stone-built terrace. An extension trench revealed that this wall had originally been joined by another wall approaching from the N, from outside the zone of the 1830s head dyke. Together, the two walls had trapped soil, producing local 'garden' conditions which were reutilised in recent centuries, after the second wall had been

partially robbed and/or had collapsed. Further broken stone hoe blades and spalls were found.

Sponsors: NTS, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Universities of Sheffield and Wales, Lampeter.

An Corran, Boreray (North Uist parish) J Downes, A Badcock

Human remains from coastal eroded site (ARCUS)

NF 8576 8051 In 1996 cist-like structures containing human remains had been reported as being exposed in a cliff section of An Corran. Archaeological recording and excavation of remains exposed in the cliff face of this uninhabited island took place in October–November 1997. At least three cist-like structures were recorded, as well as a small corbelled structure and a house which lies at a lower level in the cliff face.

A gridded surface collection of bone and artefacts scattered at the foot of the cliff was undertaken. Two cists and the small corbelled structure, identified as being at greatest risk of erosion, were excavated. The two cists each contained the well-preserved remains of an adult male. One of these was a contracted inhumation in a small cist, and the other lay in a flexed position in a long cist.

Most of the fill of the small corbelled structure had been eroded, but within the surviving lower deposits were animal bones (young cattle). A pit cut into the deposits and capped with a stone contained the remains of (probably one) calf. The burials and corbelled structure may be later Iron Age.

An interim report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: HS



Fig 28. An Corran: excavation of skeleton in cist 2.

Berneray Causeway (North Uist parish)

J Downes, A Badcock (ARCUS)

Neolithic settlement; burial cairns; post-medieval cultivation

NF 905 790 (centre) An archaeological watching brief was undertaken from October–December 1997 at the Rubh'a' Charnain Mhoir peninsula during the development of the Screvan Quarry site and the causeway linking North Uist to Berneray. In addition to the watching brief, a variety of features identified through walkover survey were excavated. These features included post-medieval boundaries and agricultural traces. Evidence of quarrying and harbour features were also recorded.

Examination of a findspot of pottery from within the Screvan Quarry area was undertaken, revealing evidence for Neolithic settlement activity. A large shallow pit and associated deposits contained the remains of up to 150 pottery vessels, as well as flint and quartz tools and part of a macehead. Other findspots and features which could be assigned to the Neolithic were located in the vicinity of the larger spread of material.

A cairn was revealed during stripping of topsoil for the causeway and new slipway at Otternish. The part of the cairn revealed was cleaned and recorded, during which a substantial kerb was observed. The cairn measured 8 x 8.8m and stood 0.5m high, and appeared to be a burial monument, possibly of Bronze Age origin. The cairn was directly impacted by the development, but discussion with the consultants, Babbie Group, and Historic Scotland resulted in the monument being preserved *in situ* through a redesign of the works.

Another cairn was discovered during further stages of the watching brief in August 1998 at Aird Ma-Ruibhe. This was a square cairn, thought to be Pictish in date, measuring 3 x 3m and comprised a kerb of worked gneiss slabs, with a mound of smaller gneiss and quartz pebbles inside. There were no corner posts, but a post-hole was located at the S corner of the cairn. The cairn was planned and photographed but not excavated. This monument was also threatened by the causeway works, but is now protected through realignment of the new road.

Full report with Western Isles Council.

Sponsor: Western Isles Council.

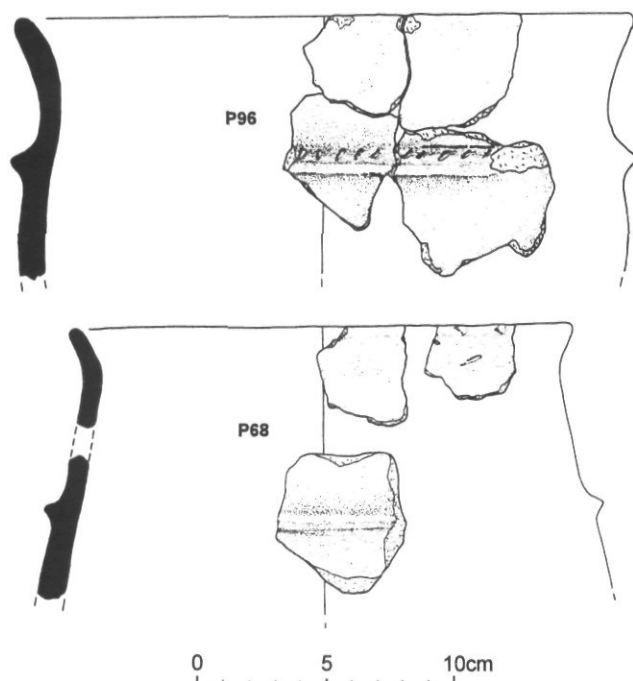


Fig 29. Screvan Quarry, North Uist: Neolithic pottery.

Airigh Mhuilinn, Milton (South Uist parish)

J Symonds (ARCUS),
J Lund, G Warren

Township survey

NF 740 270 (centre) A landscape survey of the archaeological remains in the 19th-century township of Milton, South Uist, was carried out in July 1997. The work focused on the machair and blacklands to the W of the island. The hills to the E were not intensively surveyed but were examined briefly. Over 1200 separate features were identified in the machair and blacklands area. These ranged from formal cairns to clearance cairns, settlement remains, platforms, trackways, field walls and extensive cultivation rigs. In the hills a complex series of large dykes and several shielings were identified. The focus upon one township and integration with ongoing excavation and survey in the settlement core has contributed to our understanding of alterations in the structure of the agricultural landscape in Milton township from the medieval period through to the present day. This includes hints of a pre-run-rig system of enclosures as well as run-rig and crofting landscapes.

Full details have been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsors: HS, Earthwatch.

Airigh Mhuilinn, Milton (South Uist parish) Blackhouse

J Symonds
(ARCUS)

NF 741 269 (centre) In 1997 excavation and geophysical survey were carried out in the settlement at Airigh Mhuilinn (see DES 1996, 107). The interior of a blackhouse was fully excavated. A small structure containing a corn dryer was also partially excavated.

Excavation inside the blackhouse revealed internal drains and divisions, and a variety of ceramic, glass and metal artefacts, dating from 1800–30. Some of the pottery was of high quality, and much had been imported from Stoke-on-Trent and Glasgow. Excavation in the adjoining kailyard revealed a large surface paved with beach cobbles, and a haystack base. Samples were taken for phosphate analysis and environmental processing. Sponsors: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Earthwatch.



Fig 30. Airigh Mhuilinn: blackhouse excavation 1997.

Aisgernis (South Uist parish) Medieval settlements

M Parker Pearson

NF 73 23 In Aisgernis (Askernish) township there is a line of low settlement mounds occupying a N–S sand ridge between the machair and the peatland. One of these (Site 96) can be dated to the medieval period as the result of digging seven small test-pits and one test trench. Another (Site 97) is likely to date to this period as well, on the basis of another test trench. Site 48 has

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produced much pottery from rabbit scrapes but the only datable find in Test Trench 10 was a complete rotary quernstone, indicating a date from the Middle Iron Age or later. Another test trench was dug in Site 232, a newly recognised site, but no diagnostic material was found. To the S, along the ridge, Sites 234 and 233 are probably low settlement mounds hitherto uninvestigated. Site 233 is known as the 'Old Town'. Inland from Site 96 is a fallen standing stone (Site 95) and, in the garden of Askemish House, a shell midden (Site 156).

Cille Pheadair (Kilpheder)

(South Uist parish)

Geophysical survey

A Chamberlain,

M Parker Pearson

NF 73 20 The two Middle Iron Age settlement mounds (Sites 64 and 63) on Cille Pheadair machair have been recorded since 1950. Site 64 is the location of the wheelhouse excavated by T C Lethbridge (NMRS NF 72 SW 3). Geophysical survey, using a resistivity meter, on both mounds has identified anomalies which suggest the presence of two more undisturbed wheelhouses in Site 64 and a potential group of other wheelhouses in Site 63.

Cille Pheadair (Kilpheder) (South Uist parish) M Brennand, Norse settlement and Pictish cairn M Parker Pearson, H Smith

NF 7292 1979 This was the third and final seven week season of archaeological excavation on the Kilpheder Viking Age settlement (DES 1996, 109–10). The site is situated on the exposed W coast of South Uist at Sithean Biorach (Fairy Point), and was threatened with destruction by sea erosion. An area within the centre of the settlement measuring c 16 x 9m has now been completely excavated, containing eleven stone buildings – five longhouses and the associated outbuildings and midden deposits. It is believed the excavated area incorporates all of the longhouses belonging to the settlement, dating approximately from the late 10th or early 11th to the mid- to late 13th century. The excavations have also produced a remarkable sequence of artefacts. The site can be divided into nine phases, spanning the two and a half to three centuries of occupation.

Phase 1 Ploughing

Evidence of ploughing, the earliest activity, lay beneath the occupation deposits to the S of the site, and was only visible in the eroding sand cliff section. A series of white sand lenses within a 0.3m deep layer of light brown sand probably derived from a layer of windblown sand, dissected and trapped by the turning of the machair sand with a mouldboard plough.

Phase 2 Sand wall enclosure, pit complex and post structures

Above the ploughed horizon, a sandbank, revetted with stones, was constructed to form an enclosure, internally about 21m N–S and probably 9m E–W. This banked enclosure had an entrance on its E side. Within it were dug a series of densely distributed pits and post-holes. Some of the post-holes within the northern end of the enclosure probably formed part of a wooden structure, but this seems not to have been a wooden longhouse. Twelve of the pits form two N–S alignments down the E and W sides of the enclosed area but these are also unlikely to represent foundations for a wooden building. They seem to have been backfilled soon after they were dug out and contained an unusual assemblage of animal bone and pottery, bone pins, a copper-alloy pin, a whetstone and steatite vessel fragments.

Phase 3 First stone house (House 700)

The earliest stone-built longhouse (700) was built within the centre of the enclosed, embanked area over the tops of the pits and post-holes. The house was aligned N–S and had an internal length of c 8.4m and a width of 4m at its centre. Its entrance included an elongated passageway, located towards the southern end of the E wall. The house was badly damaged by the

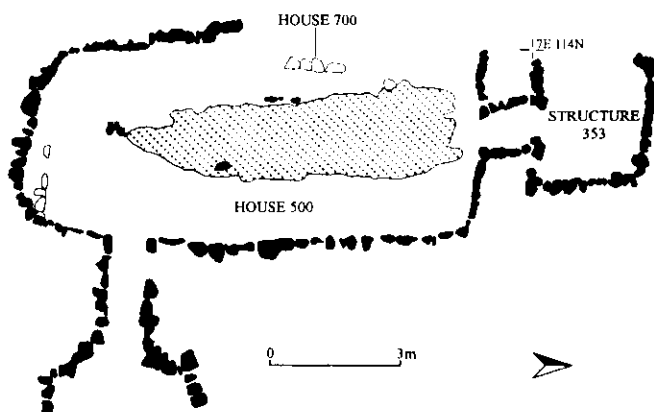


Fig 31. Kilpheder: House 500, showing its long central hearth. Parts of its west wall have been washed away by the sea.

construction of subsequent buildings, but sections of the lowest course of walling and the floor and hearth remained intact. The earliest deposits within the midden to the E are believed to be contemporary with the occupation of this house.

Phase 4 Large longhouse (House 500 Phase I)

A substantial stone-built longhouse (500) was built over House 700. The house was aligned N–S with a square building (353) attached by a passage at the northern end; its interior was, in total, 14m long. The entrance was within the southern end of the E wall, on the same line as the entrance to House 700, with an elongated entrance passage leading out to a stone-walled forecourt. Interspersed light and dark lensed sands above the S wall probably derived from turf walling above the stone courses. The layers representing the earliest activity within the house were exceptionally well-preserved and have served to answer many questions on the use of space within the house. A substantial part of the midden to the E is believed to be contemporary with House 500. The uppermost floor layer of House 500 contained sherds from a late 11th to 12th-century tripod pitcher, about a century earlier than a coin of Cnut found in the ruins of Phase 5. Bone crucifix pendants came from this phase.

Phase 5 Remodelling of large longhouse (House 500 Phase II)

A substantial E–W stone and sand wall was inserted within House 500, cutting off internal access to the square room to the N (353) and rendering it into an outhouse. This N wall reduced the length of the house to 7.3m and a N–S wall, built within the eastern side of the house, reduced the internal width of the house to 3m. A new entrance was constructed at the northern end of the E wall, and a worn pathway provided access to the outhouse around the outside of the building.

Phase 6 Small stone cellular buildings

Two small and ephemeral cell-like structures (400 and 406) were built within the northern end of the reduced-size House 500. A niche built into the wall of Structure 400 contained an assemblage of large pieces of Udal platterware, representing at least three individual platters. It is possible that the final phases of occupation within the square outhouse (353) to the N are contemporary with these cells.

Phase 7 E–W longhouse (House 312)

An E–W longhouse (312) was built over the southern end of House 500, incorporating a short stretch of its S gable wall. The house had slightly bowed walls and measured 8.36m long and 3.92m wide at the centre. It had a single entrance to the eastern end of the N wall. A sub-rectangular building (006) to the immediate S is believed to be the outhouse contemporary with House 312. The uppermost deposits within the midden to the E and N are believed to have been contemporary with House 312.

Phase 8 Last longhouse (House 007)


A N-S house (007) was built over the E end of House 312, incorporating part of the walls of the earlier house. The house had two opposing entrances to the northern end of the E and W sides, and measured 6.9m long and 3.15m wide. The E entrance had an elongated passageway and the deposits within this entrance contained a copper-alloy strap end in the shape of a lion or similar large feline. Surrounding the N and S ends and the eastern side of the house was a soakaway gully cut through the compacted organic midden layers. The later, reduced-size, phases of Structure 006 are believed to be contemporary with House 007.

Phase 9 Small stone cellular structures within House 007

Two cell-like structures were constructed within the northern end and the SW corner of House 700. The southern gable wall of the longhouse was remodelled to provide an entrance into the southern cell. The abandonment of the northern cell, and the abandonment of the settlement, is dated by a short cross penny of King John (1199–1216). Given the longevity of use of the Cnut coin, we might expect abandonment not to have occurred until well into the 13th century.

'Pictish' square cairn and disturbed skeleton

A small square cairn, about 2.5m across, was discovered c 70m S of the settlement. This kerbed cairn was composed of a layer of cobbles lying over a layer of slabs, covering a row of slabs on top of a stone-lined grave. Within the grave was the skeleton of a woman aged about 40. There were no grave goods other than a pebble but the skeleton appears to have been disturbed at some time after initial decomposition and prior to the covering of the grave beneath the cairn. Burials of this type are dated to the pre-Viking Late Iron Age ('Pictish') period and, in eastern and northern Scotland, are normally found in cemetery groups. Despite trenching on its S and W sides no other burials were located though more may remain buried beneath the eroding sand cliff.

Sponsor: HS .

Cladh Hallan P Marshall, J Mulville, M Parker Pearson, J Gidlow
(South Uist parish)
Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age settlement

NF 7305 2200 Following excavation of an Early Iron Age double roundhouse (House 112) in 1994–95 (DES 1996, 108–9), another double roundhouse (House 640) was excavated in 1998 along with a 7m diameter roundhouse (House 401). House 401 contained a deep sequence of deposits. Another roundhouse, House 726, lay directly beneath House 401. The centre of House 726 was set slightly to the N of its successor. The detailed sampling of three consecutive floor layers within House


401 linked the sequence of floors to a complex series of wall builds. Finds continued to be copious and unusual, including a copper-alloy disk, a fragment of shale bracelet, a stone loomweight, 14 scapula shovels, 18 antler picks, smashed pots and a disarticulated sheep burial, as well as many bone points, struck flints and pieces of worked pumice. A probable ram skull was found beneath the floor of the entrance.

The positioning of House 401 almost directly on top of House 726, and its subsequent continuous refurbishment, hints at a significant longevity of continuity in the occupation of this particular spot. Within this sequence ceramic change from flat-topped to rounded rims suggests occupation straddling the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age transition, perhaps over many generations. This practice of living on top of ancestral house foundations and floors may well be part of a significant change within the British Isles away from the Middle Bronze Age practice of relocating new houses at a distance from the old ones. The deep build-up of floors, together with the continuous renewal of walls, indicates that deposition within the house was a long-term continuous process and not an episode towards the end of the house's occupation as a dwelling.

The second significant discovery in 1998 was a multi-cellular house, House 640, to the NE of House 401. This was entirely excavated and consisted of an E entrance opening into a sub-circular E room which led into a sub-rectangular W room in the W wall of which were a large niche and a small niche. There was a single small hearth in the E room, the floor on the S side being littered with cooking stones and a broken pot. Although most of the stones in the walls had been extensively robbed, those of the large niche remained untouched. The niche was kept open after the rest of the house had filled with windblown sand, and was used for the setting of a small stone structure before being filled with large burnt cobbles. House 640 provides a useful comparison for the partial but previously unique double roundhouse about 100m to the W (House 112). It also highlights a dichotomy between these two multi-cellular houses and the roundhouse, House 401, in terms of their small size, absence of deep occupation layers and peripheral locations, which seems not to be chronological. The most likely current interpretation is that both multi-cellular and roundhouse architectures were in contemporary usage and were used in different ways, or at different times or by different people.

The third discovery was a large depression immediately NE of House 401, filled with dumped material which may derive from the interior of House 401. The results of resistivity survey suggest that this circular depression may be the void left by collapse of a house even earlier than House 401.

A further major discovery was the identification of earlier Bronze Age settlement underneath and in the immediate vicinity of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age settlement area. Earlier Bronze Age pottery was found in occupation layers beneath windblown sand below the Late Bronze Age midden and Early Iron Age double roundhouse in Area C. Other probable Early Bronze Age finds were made elsewhere.

Sponsor: HS .

Frobost (South Uist parish) M Parker Pearson, H Smith
Early–Middle Iron Age settlements; 19th-century house

NF 72 25 On Frobost machair there are three large settlement mounds (Sites 45, 46 and 47). Site 45 has been damaged by quarrying and has produced later Early Iron Age pottery. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery came from Trench 2, one of three small test trenches into Site 46. Within Site 47 two test trenches failed to locate diagnostic material but a Middle Iron Age sherd was recovered from a rabbit scrape.

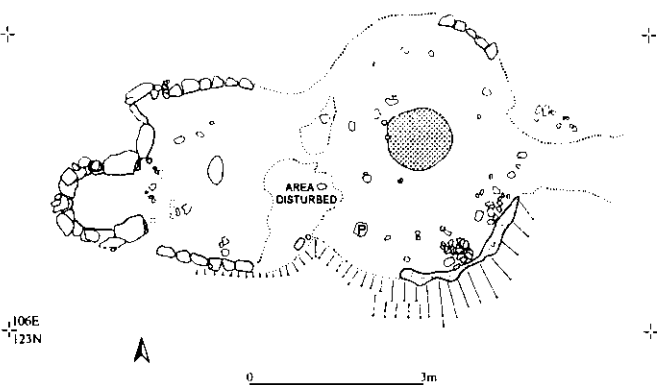


Fig 32. Cladh Hallan: House 640 showing central hearth and smashed pot (P) in its east room.

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Excavation of a 19th-century blackhouse on the peatland immediately E of the machair was carried out as part of a sampling programme of house floors and activity areas in order to further characterise the chemical and physical constituents of deposits from different farmyard contexts.

Gearraidh Bhailteas (South Uist parish) J Symonds (ARCUS)
Medieval settlement remains

NF 735 265 In July 1998 excavation and survey were undertaken on the medieval settlement of Gearraidh Bhailteas (NMRS NF 72 NW 27) close to Milton House. The complex of building remains is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A brief survey of the settlement had been carried out in 1997 during a wider landscape survey. Five trial trenches were located, to investigate the form of the structures and deposits both inside and outside them. The excavations showed the site to be of several phases. Many sherds of pottery (mainly dating from the 14th to 17th centuries), a bronze pin and hearth deposits were recovered, and a variety of different wall constructions were identified. Samples were taken for environmental analysis. An EDM survey was carried out to allow a more accurate plan of the site to be made, to give topographic information and to tie the settlement into its landscape setting.

Sponsors: Earthwatch, Boston University.

Milton House (South Uist parish) J Symonds, A Badcock
19th-century farmstead (ARCUS), M Klemperer

NF 734 262 Milton House and its associated barns were studied in 1997. A building survey of the farmstead was carried out, which included drawing exterior elevations, exterior and interior photography and the production of measured floor plans. A walkover survey of the immediate environs to investigate the boundary walls and other features was also undertaken. The farmhouse is thought to be early to mid-19th century in date, and of two, possibly three, phases. The main barns were built in 1857, and the whole farm complex is almost identical to Bornish House (to the N) and Askernish House (to the S) which, like Milton house, were built during the introduction of widescale sheep farming on the island in the early 1800s. The materials and building methods used are in stark contrast to the traditional building types of the 18th and 19th-century settlement.

Sponsor: Earthwatch.

Milton House (South Uist parish) J Symonds (ARCUS),
Post-medieval farmstead M Beaudry, S Brighton

NF 734 262 In July 1998 resistivity survey, excavation and topographic survey were carried out around Milton House Farm, following the building survey carried out the previous year (see above). The resistivity survey identified several anomalies in the 'garden' at the front of the building, and four trial trenches were positioned to investigate these anomalies. The remains of the trackway running from the machair to the front door of the house was uncovered, and found to be constructed of imported beach sand, with a layer of beach pebbles packed to form a surface. Substantial post-holes indicated the position of the main gateway. Other trenches revealed large and well-constructed stone-lined drainage ditches ('french drains'), which the geophysical survey indicated ran at 7m intervals across the front garden. A revetted paved area and substantial wall foundation were found adjacent to the trackway. Pottery recovered from the wall suggests an early 19th-century date, and may indicate settlement prior to the construction of Milton House Farm.

Excavation of a structure next to the large barn complex was also carried out. It contained a very large corn dryer, a clay-lined threshing floor and a paved storage area. Samples were taken for



Fig 33. Milton House Farm: corn dryer.

phosphate and environmental analysis. Topographic survey in the farmstead surroundings helped to illustrate the relationship of the farm to the surrounding low-lying areas.

Sponsors: Boston University, Earthwatch.

Silgenach, Cill Donnain (South Uist parish) N Sharples
Multi-period settlement

Eleven settlement mounds, discovered during the coastal survey of the machair plain, were trial trenched to characterise and date the deposits.

NF 7260 2902 This very large mound was examined with two trenches, which indicated that preservation was the result of a single unimpressive occupation layer at the very top of the mound. This layer appears to be preserving a large mound of natural windblown sand. Finds from the occupation layer were rare and undatable.

NF 7250 2889 This mound was explored by three trenches and was largely found to be sterile windblown sand. However, preserved within the windblown sand was a soil horizon cut by two ditches and containing evidence for arid cultivation. A few small sherds of Beaker pottery were recovered from this layer.

NF 7252 2889 Four test-pits suggest this mound was a focus for settlement in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, with structural evidence and pits present. The settlement overlay soil horizons dating to the Early Bronze Age.

NF 7250 2883 Four test-pits indicated a sequence of activity all belonging to the Early Bronze Age. The earliest features were two soil horizons, separated by windblown sand, with arid marks indicating cultivation and associated with Beaker pottery. Above these was a more complex sequence of layers indicating occupation associated with Food Vessel fragments.

NF 7248 2877 A single trench in this small mound recovered shells, bone and pumice, indicating human activity, but there was no contemporary soil horizon and the activity appeared to have been much disturbed by recent erosion.

NF 727 288 Three low contiguous mounds were examined by four trenches. These indicated that the archaeological deposits in this area consisted of a thin discontinuous layer of shell midden with only the occasional bone and no diagnostic pottery.

NF 7271 2892 The occupation deposits at this location lay immediately behind a natural shell sand mound. A single trench suggested that the activity dates to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, and four distinct occupation layers were noted.

NF 7270 2895 The occupation deposits at this location lay immediately behind a natural shell sand mound. A single trench suggested that the activity dates to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The lowest deposit exposed, a thin red clay layer,

appeared to be a floor layer and suggests the presence of a house. It was covered by several less diagnostic occupation soils.

NF 7269 2898 The occupation deposits at this location lay immediately behind a natural shell sand mound. The excavation of a single trench fortuitously exposed the top of a roundhouse wall, and the associated pottery suggests it is a wheelhouse.

Sponsor: University of Wales, Cardiff.

Upper Loch Bornish (South Uist parish) P Marshall,
Early and Middle Iron Age island dun M Parker Pearson

NF 7417 2910 A test-pit and contour survey and was carried out in July 1997 on a small islet in Upper Loch Bornish in order to ascertain the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the islet, marked as a dun on an early OS map (NMRS NF 72 NW 2). The work forms part of a survey in the township of Upper Bornish investigating changing settlement patterns over the last c 3000 years (DES 1996, 107–8).

Test-pit digging across the site revealed considerable difference in soil depth ranging from 0.19–1.01m. Of the 17 test-pits excavated on the islet itself, 11 produced deposits typical of household middens, comprising red/yellow sandy clay with large inclusions of charcoal or peat, the waste material from peat fires. Test-pits on the eastern side of the site produced a greater amount of pottery than those excavated on the western side. The coarse plain ware found is commonly dated to the late Early Iron Age (c 300–100 BC). Pottery of this kind was found in construction deposits within the nearby broch of Dun Vulan where it is dated to the 2nd–1st centuries BC.

The contour survey identified gently sloping areas to the E and W of the centre of the site, where the ash deposits located by test-pitting are found. The centre of the site appears to have been the main focus of activity, with upstanding walls and large amounts of rubble. This central stony area is sub-rectangular and has been heavily disturbed by recent, probably 19th century, building of walls and enclosures. The survey did not reveal any conclusive evidence of earlier features beneath those immediately visible.

A trench on the N side of the islet produced evidence for a poorly constructed wall standing four or five courses high, with only an inner wall facing surviving. The wall was revetted into a very homogeneous brown loamy deposit, which may have been an early turf wall. Finds from contexts within this trench include a small quantity of decorated Middle Iron Age pottery (c AD 100–300), similar in form to that found in the Dun Vulan midden. A second trench failed to show any evidence of surviving structures, and finds were limited to pottery and animal bone.


Bereiro and Tigh a'Bheannaich (Uig parish) C Burgess,
Surveys M Church, S Gilmour

NB 0460 3445 **Bereiro deserted village.** The village of Bereiro (NMRS NB 03 SW 14), located immediately to the E of the crofting township of Crowlsta, and its associated agricultural landscape was fully surveyed. This survey incorporated upstanding structures such as houses, barns and various types of field walls as well as individual rigs, and related these to modern buildings and features.

NB 0386 3791 **Monastic settlement, Tigh a'Bheannaich.** A fieldwalking and mapping exercise was executed around the chapel of Tigh a'Bheannaich (House of the Blessed) (NMRS NB 03 NW 1, 2, 3 and 5) located to the W of the township of Aird Uig. The stone-built chapel is enclosed on a broad promontory by a large wall that runs from the southern cliffs to an inland loch and from there to the northern sea cliffs. This wall survives as well-built drystone coursing up to 2m in height at its S end, but

continues N of the loch as a mainly earth bank with small stones and turf.

Surrounding the chapel are 10–12 cellular structures with diameters ranging from 2–3m. Many of these structures are located amongst bare rock on W-facing sea cliffs and have suffered extensive erosion. To the N of the chapel are six cairns of varying sizes (2–4m in diameter). Two of these cairns are kerbed and may be prehistoric.

Sponsors: HS , University of Edinburgh – Dept of Archaeology.

Calanais Farm (Uig parish) G M Coles, M Church,
Field walls and buried soil D W Harding, R Inglis

NB 212 327 (centre) A watching brief on the cutting of a cable trench was undertaken in January 1998. As predicted on the basis of earlier test-pit studies, the trench revealed nothing of archaeological significance over most of its length. In the lower section, however, the trench crossed an area of deep peat which had previously proved unamenable to test-pit survey, and four archaeological features situated below the peat were recorded.

The features appear to be stone field banks or walls and were built upon a well-developed soil horizon which could be traced laterally along the trench. From the implied linkage of two features, the continuity of the buried soil horizon, and probing which indicated that the features continue for some distance beyond the edges of the trench, these stone banks probably form part of a prehistoric field system. This view was supported when a further section through one of the putative field banks was cut to obtain samples for dating and palaeoenvironmental analysis in October 1998. On the basis of comparison with other areas and the likely date for the initiation of peat growth in this area this field system is probably of later Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age date, and therefore contemporary with the main stages in the development of the Calanais stone circles.

Sponsors: Scottish Hydro-Electric plc, Calanais Visitor Centre.

Cnoc an Aoil (Uig parish) M R Curtis, G R Curtis
Stone tools in association with cave

NB 0649 3309 Two stone tools were found in Cnoc an Aoil cave (NMRS NB 03 SE 6). A smooth beach cobble stone, 16.5 x 14.5 x 7cm, weighing 2.74kg; one end broken, with possible hammering adjacent, and the other end roughened by hammering. Flat and polished on one face. Found lying loose on the floor of the main cave along with angular rock fragments.

A smooth beach cobble, 13.8 x 8.7 x 6.8cm, weighing 1.5kg; the thinner end rubbed to a blunt chisel point and the thicker end hammered rather than rubbed. Found in a void under a loose boulder 10m SW down the gully from the subterranean structure.

Garenin (Uig parish) C Burgess, M Johnson, S Campbell
Blackhouse village

NB 193 442 The blackhouse village of Garenin is located on the W coast of Lewis and has been the focus of a series of excavations and surveys since 1994 (DES 1996, 111). The last blackhouses were abandoned in the early 1970s, with some of the buildings dating back about 300 years. This season of excavation was conducted prior to construction work and development at the village.

One of the blackhouses (House 6) was excavated in its entirety, including the barn and trial trenches within the byre, in order to supply detailed information about furnishings and the adaptation of structural features throughout the occupation of the house for a proposed reconstruction.

The complex of buildings on Croft 3 comprises some of the oldest buildings in the village, and provides a record of the rebuilding and shifting of the blackhouse. This allows us to

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examine the change in morphology and complexity of the basic house form as a result of the adoption of a new form of land tenure between the post-medieval and crofting periods. House 3d was aligned N-S and had been shortened at some point in the past by the addition of a new N end-wall. The trench placed within this building uncovered a stone-built platform which had undergone two phases of additions, resulting in an unusual curved platform leading in from the doorway on the E. A hearth and evidence of metalworking (including a horseshoe and an iron ingot) were found on the top of this platform. The byre end of the house to the S had a clay floor with two slab-capped drains cut into it, one of which ran down the centre of the byre and one which curved from the E side of the platform and joined the central drain. These drains are original as they ran beneath the additional sections of platform. A 2 x 1m trench was placed to the N of the secondary end-wall to examine whether the platform survived beneath what is now a gravel-covered car park. The platform was found to survive, indicating that the rest of the house interior may also survive beneath the car park.

A trench was placed to the W of House 3d, which encompassed the corner of Barn 3g and revealed an unusual gap left between the walls of 3g and 3d, measuring between 0.4–0.8m wide, which had been filled with midden material to a depth of about 0.7m. Upon excavating the midden, a lintelled drain was discovered in the wall of House 3d which opened out into the gap between the buildings, where a channel had been cut to allow water to drain past Barn 3g.

There was an opportunity to excavate a drain running through the wall core of a barn, as the barn of House 7 had been shortened leaving the original wall surviving to only two courses high, visible as a turf-covered mound. The inner and outer wall faces and part of the original floor surface were uncovered. The drain was constructed as a gap in each wall face with a lintel, and a row of supporting edge stones running through the wall core with flat slabs on top. This would have ensured the weight of the wall core on top did not collapse the drain, while the edge stones would also have held the wall core in place and prevented it from spilling into the drain. It demonstrated that the construction of these drains was integral to the wall.

A total of nine trial trenches measuring 2 x 1m were placed within blackhouses and barns to assess the extent of the surviving floor surfaces, and to examine features which were visible on the surface, such as stone partitions or platforms. These trenches provided information about floor construction techniques and how internal furnishings improved as the result of progressive legislation. Bitumen and later linoleum flooring replaced earlier methods such as a hardcore layer of large stones with a skin of clay on top. Another two trial trenches were excavated on the crofts to provide sections across a field wall and a turf bank.

Many artefacts typical of the crofting blackhouse were recovered, including glass and ceramics, iron tools (domestic and agricultural), and items of clothing (various textiles and a large number of shoes). There were also a number of opportunities to take bulk samples of collapsed roofing material, complete with heather rope and timbers.


Detailed records, comprising elevation drawings and photogrammetry, were taken of all the structural elevations that had not been recorded in previous seasons.

A full report will be lodged with the Garenin Trust and NMRS.
Sponsor: Garenin Trust.

Gob Eirer (Uig parish) M Church, S Gilmour, C Flitcroft
Promontory fort

NB 0315 3398 Excavations concentrated on retrieving further information and dating material from rectilinear buildings

discovered in 1996 (NMRS NB 03 SW 21; DES 1996, 111). Small-scale trenches within the northern building located carbonised material for radiocarbon dating, retrieved more diagnostic Norse pottery, and also developed our knowledge of the stratigraphy of the site. It now seems that the structures associated with the 3m thick wall defending the landward end of the promontory are built in exactly the same way as the wall, with a footing of large angular stones and a superstructure of turf and/or other organic materials. The layout of the excavated walls could not be clearly defined, but the remains may represent either a single building with several rectilinear compartments or at least two separate buildings. The northernmost of these compartments included a stone-lined 'bench' feature against the inner face of the N and gable wall, and the entrance defined in 1996 incorporating a paved stone path to its exterior. Abutting these features were the partial remains of at least one *in situ* clay floor and associated ash spreads. A complete lack of the rounded pebbles, which represented the final phase of use in the 1996 trenches, indicates that this feature must respect the buildings themselves and thus may relate to the later use of the Norse buildings. Small finds include a large number of hammerstones and pounders.

Sponsors: HS , Russell Trust, University of Edinburgh – Dept of Archaeology, Ian Geering – Uig and Hamnaway Estate, University of Edinburgh Development Trust, Abercromby Travel Fund.

Guinnesso (Uig parish)
Relict landscape

M Church, S Gilmour

NB 0350 3631 (centre) Excavations continued on the main site (NMRS NB 03 NW 6) just S of Loch Ruadh Guinnesso (NB 0342 3617) and the 'Giant's Graves' feature to the N (NB 0348 3642). New trenches were also opened to the W of the main site on a possible building structure associated with a field wall (NB 0335 3615).

The deep stratigraphy of the main site continued (DES 1997, 85–6) and it proved impossible to reach the lower deposits within the main trench this year. Many of the deposits investigated proved to belong to the overlying possible medieval workshop structure. However, the excavations in this area did reveal a complex of underlying oval or sub-oval structures lying one above the other in a series of building, rebuilding and reorganisation episodes. The best preserved of these may have included cellular elements arranged around a central area which was defined around a rectangular kerbed hearth. This structure also incorporated a long narrow eastern entrance passage and vertical slab walls surmounted in some cases by horizontal drystone coursing. Underlying this building is at least one further, as yet unexcavated, well-built curvilinear structure which may be revetted into earlier material and bedrock to the N. Small finds from this main area include large amounts of pottery, but of a finer construction than previous wares; several sherds recovered from the deposits within the best-preserved oval/sub-oval structure include everted rims and cordon decoration. One sherd includes fine linear incised decoration on a globular type pot. It is believed that this material may represent residual debris from the well-built underlying structure and probably dates the earlier layers of the main site to the Iron Age.


The small satellite cell to the E of the main trenches was also investigated and it was confirmed that metalworking debris from this area, discovered last year, was merely a shallow dump from activities elsewhere on the site. This cell proved to be multi-phase and possibly earlier in construction than others on the site. The find of a single possible crucible in the main trench area, along with the Iron Age sherds, may indicate the main metalworking

activity still remains unexcavated. The cell was completely excavated to the rubble platform, also discovered last year, underlying the entire site; further pot sherds were recovered from this level, including applied cordon decorated pieces.

Excavations to the W of the main site were focused on a possible rectangular building lying at the end of a rough drystone boundary wall. It became apparent that no building lay in this area but that the western edge of the trenches had clipped a possible cairn with well-laid platforms extending from its E side. The cairn, constructed of small to medium-sized angular stone laid on a bed of horizontal flags, included a large orthostat marking an empty internal area and/or the forecourt features. Unfortunately, the cairn seems to have been severely slighted by the later construction of a large stone platform feature on top. This was only partially investigated due to time constraints. Deposits which seemed to be associated with the underlying cairn and its small exterior platform areas produced a large assemblage of struck quartz including diagnostic tools such as broken blades. These deposits also produced a small assemblage of coarse pottery, a few sherds of which are decorated with several deep gashes. The quality of the pottery and the large quartz assemblage hint at a possible Bronze Age date for this cairn feature, with the platform built second, and the rough boundary wall placed last, but still respecting the earlier site.

To the N of Loch Ruadh Guinnerso an extension of a small 1 x 1m test-pit in the Giant's Graves feature (NMRS NB 03 NW 4) indicated that a curvilinear enclosure was related to the eastern orthostat previously thought to be a grave marker. Within this enclosure was a tumble of large and medium-sized stones

interspersed with deposits of burnt material. One of these included a large piece of charcoal from a roundwood (originally mistaken for a burnt stake) and pieces of burnt turf. This enclosure was built into an earlier, rectilinear structure incorporating low but thick 'walls' of large flat stones sitting on a laid paving. In the middle of this structure an area relatively clear of stone was covered by a very black burnt soil horizon incorporating patches of peat ash, two tiny and very degraded pieces of pottery and a single piece of very degraded bone. Initial interpretation of this enigmatic site as a possible funerary monument will be tested in the light of further post-excavation analysis.


Sponsors: HS , Russell Trust, University of Edinburgh – Dept of Archaeology, Ian Geering – Uig and Hamnaway Estate, University of Edinburgh Development Trust, Abercromby Travel Fund.

Traigh Bostadh (Uig parish) T Neighbour, B Glendinning, Geophysical survey and test-pitting M Higgins, A Vickery (CFA)

NB 1375 4000 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to identify an area of a suitable size, free from archaeological remains, to construct a replica of one of the houses excavated at Bostadh (DES 1996, 113–14).

Geophysical survey, using resistivity, electromagnetic and ground-penetrating radar, was undertaken to investigate the sub-surface in two areas. No features of archaeological significance were recorded by geophysical survey or trial excavations.

A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.

Sponsor: HS .