

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

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

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

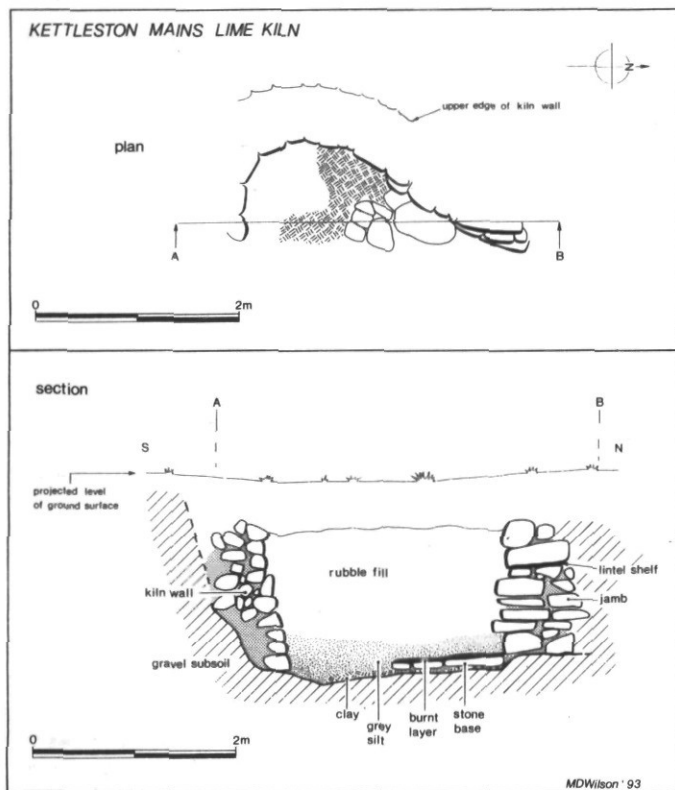


Fig 20. Kettlestoun Mains lime kiln.

STRATHCLYDE REGION

ARGYLL & BUTE DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

On the SW edge of the cairn was found a small cist measuring approximately 40cm by 25cm and 20cm deep. The floor of the cist was covered with small quartz pebbles.

Much of the stone from the cairn had been removed in the past, possibly for use in the construction of the rampart of the enclosure. The rampart overlies the cairn on its northern edge.
Sponsor: Buteshire Natural History Society.



Fig 21. Ambrisbeg 1993. Cist.

Balnahard, Colonsay (Colonsay & Oronsay parish) A Saville
Cist

NR 422 999 The four upright slabs of a cist without a capstone were exposed during topsoiling for a farm-track in December 1992. The cist was then partly reburied prior to excavation in September 1993. The internal dimensions of the cist are c1.4m by c0.8m, with the longer axis aligned approximately N to S. The cist slabs are substantial; the largest, forming the W side, was 1.74m long; 0.69m high; and some 0.22m in maximum thickness. From the surface exposed in 1992, the cist had a maximum depth of 0.5m of fill. The fill was of loose, dark sandy soil, which contained no gravegoods nor apparently any evidence for burial. The floor of the cist was the unmodified sandy base of the original pit. With the co-operation of the local farmer, Mr D Hobhouse, the cist slabs will be preserved *in situ*.
Sponsor: NMS.

Survey of the Island of Gigha (Gigha & Cara parish)
F Hood (ACFA), A & J McDonald, S & R Golightly,
S Hothersall, D McKay, A Johnstone, S Wood
The Island of Gigha was surveyed by members of ACFA in mid-April 1993. With local helpers, Rev H Gunneburg, S Hall, V Tulloch and B McNeill, over 90 new sites were recorded. The sites recorded in the Kintyre Inventory were also revisited and any changes were noted. Full details are available from Dr Carol Swanson, Department of Physical Planning HQ, Strathclyde House (2), 20 India Street, Glasgow G2 4PF.

STRATHCLYDE

NR 6608 5450 Enclosure/shelter.
 NR 6608 5448 Cave/shelter and enclosure.
 NR 6591 5401 Quarry scoop.
 NR 6604 5401 Standing stone.
 NR 6538 5311 Rock shelter.
 NR 6550 5232 Pits.
 NR 6443 5124 Platform.
 NR 6427 5076 Settlement/enclosures.
 NR 6415 5065 Mill.
 NR 6447 5105 Settlement.
 NR 6494 5076 House.
 NR 6501 5092 Cairn.
 NR 6400 4979 Settlement.
 NR 6642 5443 Settlement.
 NR 631 489 Enclosure.
 NR 633 487 Enclosure.
 NR 632 486 Dyke.
 NR 631 488 Cairn.
 NR 630 485 Dykes/enclosure.
 NR 630 481 Dyke.
 NR 631 481 Bait holes.
 NR 633 481 Quern quarry.
 NR 637 497 Dykes.
 NR 635 497 Dykes.
 NR 633 496 Dyke and rig.
 NR 633 493 Rig.
 NR 633 492 Rig/enclosure/dykes.
 NR 635 493 Rig and dykes.
 NR 634 470 Rig.
 NR 635 434 House/enclosure.
 NR 632 469 Wall/enclosure.
 NR 633 467 Structure.
 NR 634 458 Dyke.
 NR 633 456 Dun.
 NR 638 458 Cave.
 NR 636 456 Cave.
 NR 637 458 Cairn (clearance).
 NR 637 462 Cairnfield.
 NR 638 461 Dyke.
 NR 639 464 Track.
 NR 640 465 Walling.
 NR 642 464 House.
 NR 642 494 Platform.
 NR 637 495 Mound.
 NR 636 496 Stone/earth bank.
 NR 6642 5443 Settlement.
 NR 6644 5439 Fieldbank.
 NR 6648 5436 Jetty.
 NR 6658 5457 Jetty.
 NR 6613 5392 Cairn.
 NR 6651 5367 Fieldbank system.
 NR 6604 5351 House.
 NR 6611 5366 Fieldbanks.
 NR 6615 5365 Dun?
 NR 6551 5275 Dun
 NR 6559 5237 – NR 6567 5232 Fieldbank/boundary bank.
 NR 6580 5287 Cup-mark rock.
 NR 6586 5290 Rig.
 NR 6581 5290 – NR 6583 5293 Fieldbank.
 NR 6579 5282 Rig.
 NR 6572 5270 – NR 6566 5275 Fieldbank/boundary.
 NR 6569 5200 – NR 6530 5146 Boundary bank.
 NR 6540 5153 – NR 6530 5159 Bank.
 NR 6552 5125 – NR 6554 5125 – NR 6556 5129 Fieldbank.
 NR 6536 5098 – NR 6555 5086 –
 NR 6538 5050 – NR 6536 5050 Field boundary.

NR 6546 5057 Fort (possible).
 NR 6519 4966 Dun.
 NR 6520 4967 Stone settings.
 NR 6531 4973 Rig/fieldbank.
 NR 6529 4976 Rig.
 NR 6533 4980 Rig.
 NR 6525 4985 House.
 NR 6518 4970 House.
 NR 6528 4981 Rig.
 NR 6517 4962 House.
 NR 6517 4954 Rig.
 NR 6523 4908 Rig.
 NR 6528 4956 – NR 6530 4953 Fieldbank.
 NR 6526 4954 – NR 6532 4955 Rig.
 NR 6528 4965 – NR 6536 4964 Fieldbank.
 NR 6505 4899 Farm buildings/garden?, manse.
 NR 6512 4902 Well.
 NR 6521 4898 Jetty.
 NR 6505 4832 House.
 NR 6485 4836 Rig.
 NR 648 473 Rig.
 NR 643 466 Lime kiln.
 NR 644 489 Dyke.
 Sponsor: Society of Antiquaries.

Gigha (Gigha & Cara parish)

NMS

Stone adze

NR 641 504 A coarse stone tool, probably an adze, was found in trampled ground in pasture near the eastern shore of Upper Loch, Gigha. It has been donated to NMS.
 Daybook no: DB 1993/46.

Tallant Farm (Killarow & Kilmeny parish)

F Baker

Flint scatter

NR 333 586 On top of a low ridge at c70m AOD, a flint scatter covering c30m by 20m. Debitage and artefacts including several retouched end scrapers. Late Neolithic/EBA.

Keills Cross (Killarow & Kilmeny parish)

G Ewart

Setting for cross shaft

NR 417 687 Due to the need to remove the headless and leaning medieval cross shaft at Keills for cleaning and conservation, a one-day watching brief was mounted during the removal of the shaft, followed by a brief archaeological excavation of the cross setting. It was found that the shaft was bedded in a crude dry-stone socket around which a low cairn of light stonework was erected over a cleared terrace. The cairn and socket showed signs of having been damaged and repaired during the later 19th century, but no dating evidence was found of the construction of the cairn itself.

Sponsor: HS 

Finlaggan (Killarow & Kilmeny parish)

D H Caldwell

Medieval residential complex

NR 388 681 A fourth season of excavations was undertaken in September at this, the so-called Centre of the Lordship of the Isles. This year trenches were opened on Eilean na Comhairle (the Council Island) NR 387 680 as well as Eilean Mor. See RCAHMS (1984, No 404) for a general site description and brief history.

On Eilean Mor work was continued on trench 8 on the main spine of the island. Building H, one of a series of rectangular buildings, about 12m by 7m, placed end-on to the paved road from the chapel to the great hall, had walls of drystone construction with an earth or turf cover. Two post holes adjacent to these walls were probably for crucks. A stone-capped drain (interpreted by the RCAHMS as a wall) divided the building into two unequal portions. An extension to trench 8 down the side of the island found more evidence for

a timberwork defence, thought to have surrounded Eilean Mor in the Medieval Period.

A greatly enlarged trench 12 in the centre of Eilean Mor examined two adjacent building plots separated by a paved alley. The one nearer the great hall had a rectangular, lime-mortared stone building superseded by a structure with earth or turf walls faced with stone, with at least one slot for a cruck. The earlier building contained an oven or kiln, probably for food preparation. On the other plot a barrel-shaped house of timber construction replaced a sub-rectangular house with stone revetted turf walls and a central hearth.

Two small trenches, 14 and 17, within and adjacent to the chapel, were primarily designed to find a floor surface and the extent of collapsed material prior to a scheme of conservation of the upstanding walls proposed by the Finlaggan Trust. It appears that the interior of the building was dug out in the 19th century, removing the medieval floor and disturbing several burials. Some of the bones were gathered up and redeposited in a pit adjacent to the N wall. It is assumed the chapel dates to the 14th century and it was observed that the graveyard deposits extend underneath its foundations.

Another small trench, 15, anticipated the proposed conservation of the upstanding walls of building C. Again there was evidence of Victorian clearance and excavation but little light was thrown on the date or function of this structure, thought possibly, in its present form, to be a 16th-century house of someone of status.

The Council Island is circular, about 30m in diameter, and separated from the top of Eilean Mor by a 50m-wide stretch of water, formerly crossed by a causeway. The island appears largely or totally to be of artificial construction. The RCAHMS survey traced three structures, buildings a, b and c. Trench 16 covered part of a and b and showed them to have clay-bonded stone walls. Yet again there was evidence of site clearance in the 19th century.

Building a was a sub-rectangular building, unicameral (contrary to the RCAHMS plan), with opposed doorways in its long walls and a central hearth. It was possibly a hall with building b serving as a private chamber. Both buildings sat over the flattened remains of a large structure with lime mortar walls 1.5m thick. This is tentatively identified as the remains of a small rectangular enclosure castle. The island effectively consists of its ruins, which appear to be the result of systematic dismantling and removal of stonework.

Finds from the two islands and around their edges suggest occupation spanned the period from the 13th to the 16th century. Tenuous traces of stake or wattle walls recovered this year in trench 17 and previously in trench 7 may relate to an earlier period, but although the stratigraphic evidence for all trenches is good, there is a lack of precise dating information.

Nevertheless, the picture that is emerging of Finlaggan in the Middle Ages is of a castle on a small island, adjacent to a larger island with over twenty buildings, including a hall and a chapel, within timberwork defences. This confirms Finlaggan's importance as the centre of the Lordship of the Isles.

Sponsors: NMS, The Glencoe Foundation, The Hunter Trust, The Russell Trust.

Research Note

M Cressey

Environmental impact criteria for the recognition of ancient mining – the environmental record of non-ferrous ore extraction in Islay (Depts of Archaeology and Geography, University of Edinburgh)

Introduction Current archaeological investigation of the historically important site of Finlaggan Castle, Islay, by NMS has raised numerous questions concerning the economic importance of lead, silver and copper mining on Islay during the medieval and Norse Periods. In common with many other metalliferous regions in Britain, 19th-century mining has masked or destroyed earlier shallow workings making any estimate of the scale and duration of earlier mining difficult to determine.

The study area is confined to the limestone region of NE Islay

where Galena (lead sulphide) was mined extensively. Typically, the evidence for 18th-century mining survives as a series of bell-pits, spoil-tips and open cast workings. Later workings survive with the remains of an ore-dressing plant, engine-house and numerous mine-shafts.

Previous work by others had identified environmental changes resulting from lead mining including vegetation disturbance and trace-metal loading of lead, zinc, copper and cadmium from unconsolidated spoil heaps. Ore crushing and dressing will also lead to increased metal input, particularly where mines have drained directly into streams adjacent to lochs.

The lochs Finlaggan, Ballygrant, Lossit, Bharadail each have evidence of mining activity within their catchment. Loch Leathann has no evidence of mining activity within its catchment and was chosen as a comparative control site. The lochs were cored using a gravity corer and the sediment obtained is being examined for a suite of environmental indices. If an accurate chronology can be established on the upper regions of the cores, such data will provide an analogue with which to 'retrodict' the occupance of mining at an earlier period.

Methods Conventional atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) is being used to identify lead, zinc, copper and cadmium elevations within the sediment profile. Pollen, macro-fossil analyses and magnetic susceptibility are being used to correlate horizons on replicate cores. An accurate time-frame for the loch cores is being established by the Scottish Universities Reactor Centre at East Kilbride. Dated profiles based on the radio nuclides lead-210 and Caesium-137 are feasible on sediments less than 200 years old, conveniently spanning the later episode of mining activity in the region. Radiocarbon dating on the basal regions of the cores will allow tighter chronological control throughout the profiles. The results from this work will allow an insight into environmental changes resulting from mining in an historically important region, once the ancestral home of the Lords of the Isles.

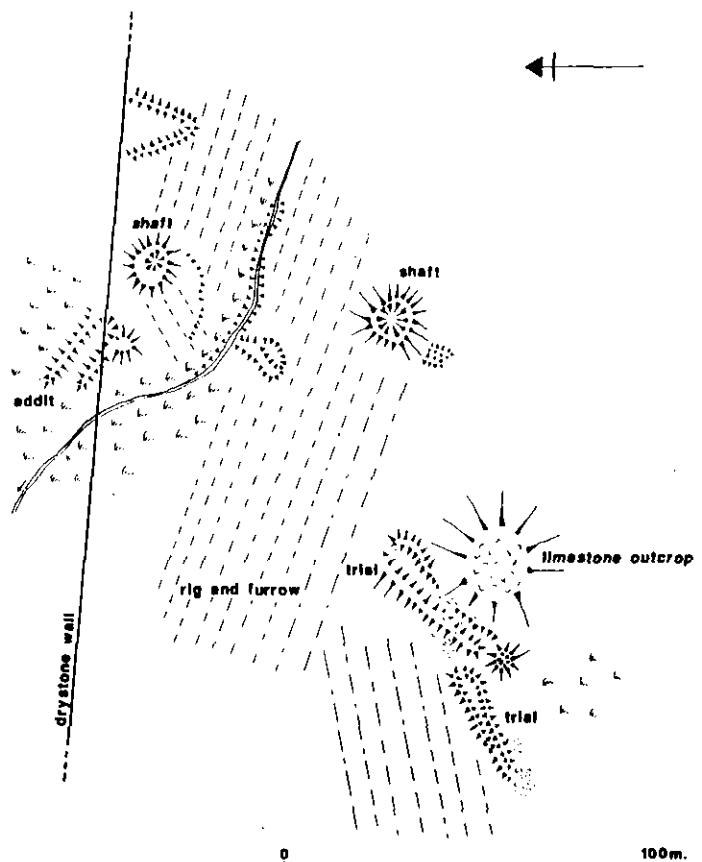


Fig 22. Portmealon lead mine (see p 66).

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Islay (Killarow & Kilmeny parish)

Topographical surveys of four lead-mining sites in NE Islay, Argyll

As part of ongoing research into the environmental impact of the non-ferrous metal mining in NE Islay, topographical surveys have been undertaken at four mining sites with the objective of determining the extent of mine waste and possible drainage routes from the mines into nearby lochs.

Portnealon (see Fig 22, p 65)

NR 391 678 These workings lie 150m adjacent to the NE shore of Loch Finlaggan and are named after the 18th-century 'tack' called 'Port Nealon' and refers to 'the port serving the islands of loch Finlaggan'. A low trench is transected by a dry-stone boundary wall, adjacent to this is a shaft and a series of drifts with a depth of about 1m and are surrounded by spoil which is 1m to 2m high. The trench may well have been an adit, serving to drain the shaft as seepage is evident. On roughly the same line as this shaft there is a second shaft which is now 2m deep with surrounding spoil. To the S of these workings a limestone outcrop has two deep open cast cuts that traverse upsweep for about 47m. Rig and furrow is in parts overlain by earthworks.

Mulreesh

NR 402 685 Mulreesh was the principal works of the Islay Lead Mining Company and represents the largest lead works in the study area and the last to be worked. A NW trending vein of calcite and dolomite with galena, sphallerite, pyrite and chalcopyrite was worked in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Mulreesh earthworks are set in a valley bottom currently used as rough grazing. Four dwellings and a series of shafts have been identified lying on the 80m contour in an area to the S of the later 19th workings. Three adjoining rubbish-filled shafts are flanked by a track way that leads to a hollow way running between buildings A, B, C and D. Within this knoll, a water-filled adit drains southwards to eventually join a nearby burn. At the time of the survey, the

adit contained water to the depth of about 1m and was free-flowing. The N bank of the adit overlies the boundary of building B, suggesting that the adit is later than the close. This assumption is supported by the fact that a box-drain in the centre of the metallised track is overlain by the adit bank.

Building A incorporates large blocks of roughly dressed Dalradian limestone, most probably quarried from the nearby workings. A large stone at the base of the southern end of building A has a sectioned shot hole (3cm in diameter). This shows that this building is either contemporary or later than the nearby workings. Building C has a rectangular enclosure with very pronounced upstanding earth banks. Building D adjoins parallel banks that flank a small track that runs westwards. To the S of this track an area of broad and narrow rig and furrow survives along with a small trail pit and a shaft.

Crushing plant reservoir (known as the 'Washings')

NR 401 682 Approximately 500m downslope from the Mulreesh engine house and adjacent to the road leading to the Mulreesh mine was an ore dressing plant with water-powered trip hammer. A series of troughs for washing and grading the ore were nearby. The reservoir was supplied by a leat that traversed the hillside from a small loch that was dammed to maintain a regular supply of water. It is also likely that the reservoir was fed via a series of troughs leading from the mine.

Two rubble-built walls some 1.5m thick form the remains of what was the reservoir. This feature was built on a terrace by quarrying into natural slate. The inner face of the wall shows evidence of a mortar lining. The walls have been breached at a later date and substantial amounts of stone have been robbed. An iron pipe is still *in situ* and is marked on the plan as a dotted line. This pipe connected to a water-driven stamp, evident by the former position of two concrete blocks. Only one block is in its original position. Two large iron bars, presumably bolts, protrude in front of the blocks. Substantial pieces of timber and the corresponding concrete block

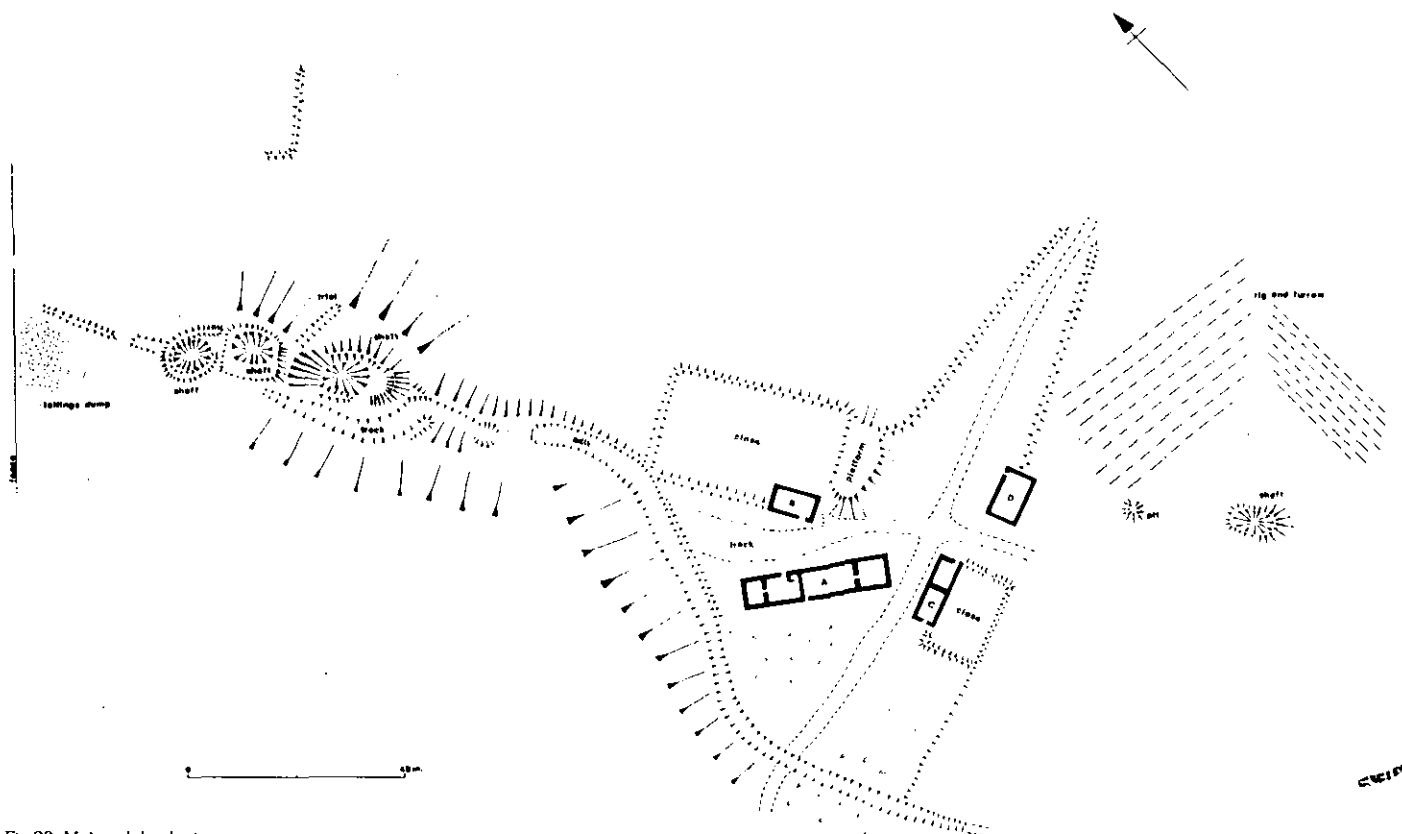


Fig 23. Mulreesh lead mine.

lie adjacent. A building to the E of the stamp-base is described as the mine-office. The building incorporates rough dressed stone and an unusually large buttress on its gable end.

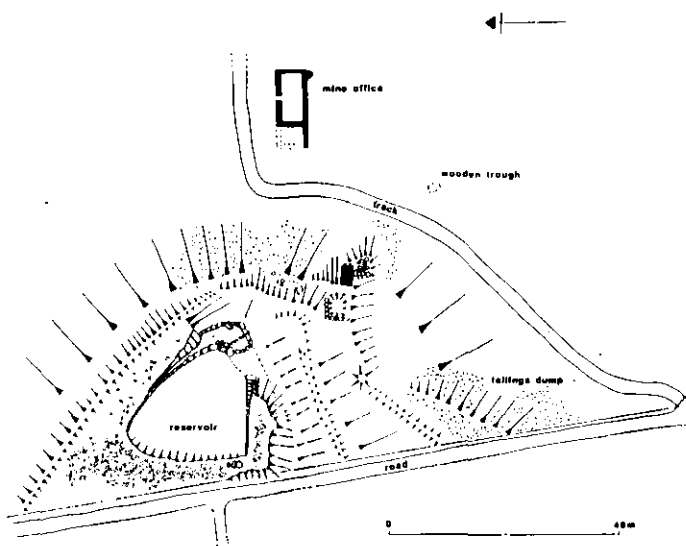


Fig 24. Mulreesh Washings

South Ardachie

NR 398 633 For ease of description the survey has been divided into two areas (1 and 2) as the workings are extensive. Area 1 is set in a valley bottom surrounded by land now used as rough grazing. The Mulindry road crosses a former E to W open cast which has followed a Tertiary dyke for a distance of c45m and is at times c6m to 8m in width. A number of smaller E to W workings can be seen close by. Several terraces made up of mine spoil descend to a N to S trending trial. Almost parallel to this feature an adit is present. This is now backfilled and the interior of the ditch is dry. The adit is intersected by a mine shaft. Immediately adjacent to this feature is a tailings dump. The adit continues southwards and is now receiving seepage water. The banks of this feature are well preserved with water draining along the base of the valley towards the small burn leading from Loch Fada into Loch Bharradail. Leading away from the adit upslope, a large rectangular bank encloses rig and furrow. At the crest of the slope a series of features include a small test pit cut into the limestone outcrop. Shot holes and evidence of fire scaring suggest this feature has been blasted in the rock. A plateau of rough pasture is bounded by a region of large tailing dumps that lead to the crest of the slope leading down to Area 2.

A series of roughly EW trending trials are enclosed by a sharply defined bank. The most northerly feature is a large feature whose depth is unknown; it is suggested that this feature may have been an adit as a seepage anomaly runs into a watercourse that runs downslope cutting through the enclosure bank and through what appears to be a track. A small rectangular building (A) has been revetted into the bank of the track. The age and function of this building is unknown as is the building (B) immediately to the W. To the S of building (B) a large open cast with extensive tailings runs E to W. Situated to the S of this feature a large ovoid tailings dump is present. The tailings within the tip are exclusively iron pyrite-rich phyllites and slates. To the W of this feature a series of five rubbish-filled shafts or pits, each surrounded by a ring of waste which makes them look like bomb craters. The shaft or pit farthest from Area 2 adjoins a large drainage channel that traverses an area of poor grazing for some 170m. A point worthy of note is that the material incorporated in these well-pronounced banks is mine waste. This is evident by their green and fertile slopes and the presence of *Campanula rotundifolia* (common harebell) a plant that prefers alkaline soil.

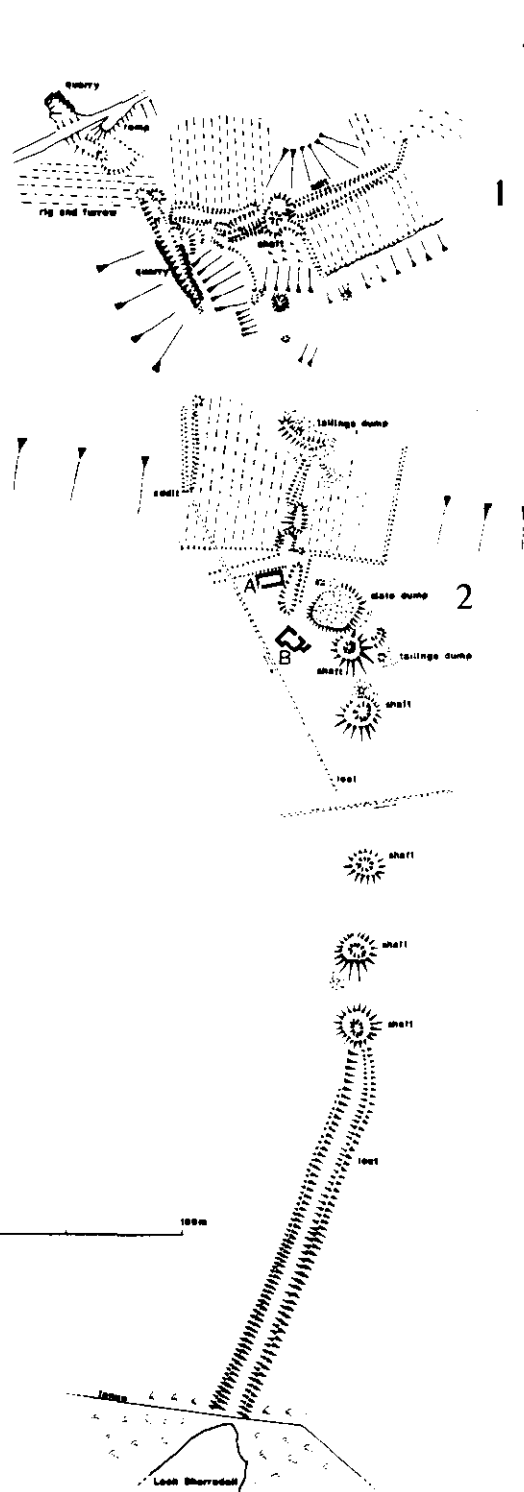


Fig 25. South Ardachie lead mine.

Robolls Mine

NR 398 664 These works are situated 60m from the SE shore of loch Finlaggan on sloping ground. An open cast has within it, a series of four rubbish-filled shafts. To the N of this feature is an open cast works that adjoins a tertiary dyke. Spoil tips are evident along the length of the open cast area. Mine spoil is evident within the interior of the workings, with a large tip situated close to the shafts. S of this area, a building has been interpreted as a smithy. Directly S of the smithy a track runs in a southerly direction towards Ballygrant. E of the track, a smaller track is flanked by two adits. At the time of the survey the adit to the S of the track was flooded with c2m of water.

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Seepage water flows from both features in the direction of the loch. Close by is a flat area that is poor in surface vegetation with mine spoil covering an area of 35 square m. A spoil tip consisting of slates and phyllites suggests deliberate sorting and points to the area's use as a dressing floor.

Sponsors: SERC/NMS.

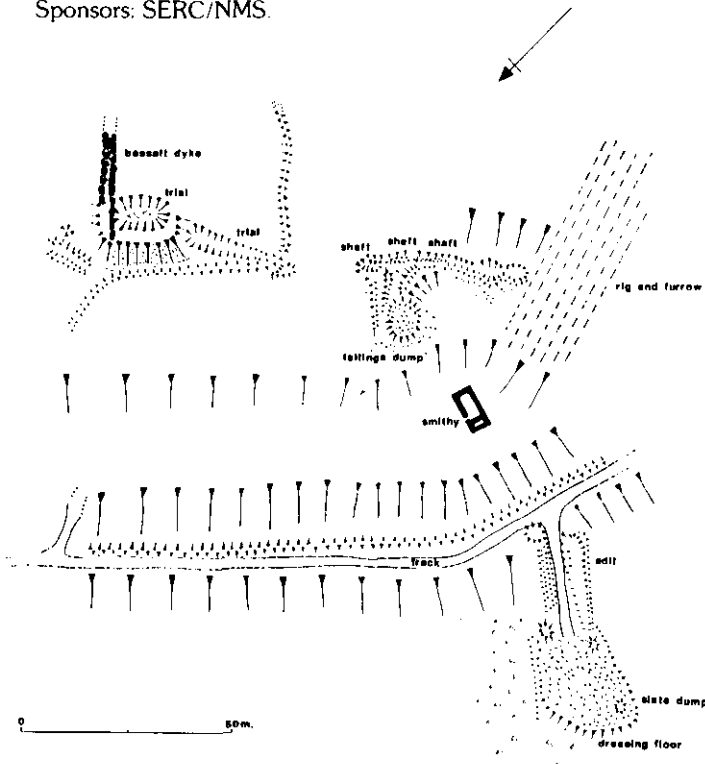


Fig 26. Robolls lead mine.

Islay and Coulererach

(Kilchoman parish; Killarow & Kilmeny parish)

Mesolithic settlement

NR 2075 6515 During 1993 the *Southern Hebrides Mesolithic Project* undertook two short fieldseasons on Islay during March and September. The work had three components. Of most importance was the sorting of sieve residues from the 1992 excavations at Bolsay Farm. This has enabled the cataloguing of the lithic assemblage, and a study of the coarse stone, pottery and charcoal assemblages, to begin this autumn.

The second component has been the start of a fieldwalking survey on Islay with the main aim of locating further Mesolithic settlements. During a two-week period in March all available fields in four selected regions of the island were walked. These areas made a transect across the island from Loch Gorm in the W to Keills in the E. Lithic material was most dense in the Loch Gorm area, unsurprising due to the vicinity of flint sources on the W coast. Traces of possible Mesolithic activity in the form of blade cores were recovered at numerous locations, and a selection of these will hopefully be further explored during 1994. The lithic material from the field survey is currently being catalogued and analysed by Dr B Finlayson, University of Edinburgh.

The third component of the SHMP'93 fieldwork took place during a September fieldseason. This was a test-pitting exercise at Coulererach, a small croft in the NW of Islay, to the immediate W of Loch Gorm (Fig 27). Since 1988 the farmer, Mrs S Campbell, has been collecting lithic artefacts of a Mesolithic character from the sides of her ditches. These were brought to the attention of the SHMP in 1988, but last September was the first opportunity to explore the area. Sixty-eight test pits were excavated on a 10m grid across an area of c150m by 200m, in the middle of which was the ditch that appeared to have the highest density of artefacts (Fig 28). As the

test-pitting led to the recognition of a dense artefact scatter, largely buried below 1.75m of peat (Fig 29), a trial trench was excavated (trench 1) to enable a larger sample of the artefacts to be secured. In the section of this trench a second artefact scatter was recognised sealed within the peat, c25cm below the surface. A second trench (trench 2) was excavated to retrieve a sample of these artefacts (Fig 30).

The lower assemblage from the trench and test-pits (c2,500 pieces), which was sealed below the peat, appears to be dominated by knapping debitage from the primary stages of knapping. It includes a high frequency of pebbles from which single flakes have been removed, and much of the flint work is of very poor quality. In contrast, however, the assemblage also includes some fine blade work and a diverse range of retouched artefacts. As such, it has some interesting contrasts with other Mesolithic assemblages from Islay. The upper assemblage, sealed within the peat, is only represented by c150 pieces. This includes several blade fragments, a microlith and blade core. As such it too has a distinctly Mesolithic appearance, but is more likely to be later prehistoric. As it is separated by c1.5m of peat from the lower assemblage, there is likely to be at least 1,000 years age difference between these two phases of occupation.

An indication of the date of these assemblages should be available from the pollen record. Absolute dating of the peat above and below the upper assemblage, and at the base of the peat will be undertaken during 1994. A detailed study of the lithic assemblages is under way in the Department of Archaeology, Reading University by Nyree Finlay, while a study of the pollen from the section of trench 1 is currently being undertaken in the Department of Plant Sciences, Reading University. A full report on the Coulererach site, the Islay survey, and other work of the SHMP during 1993 is available

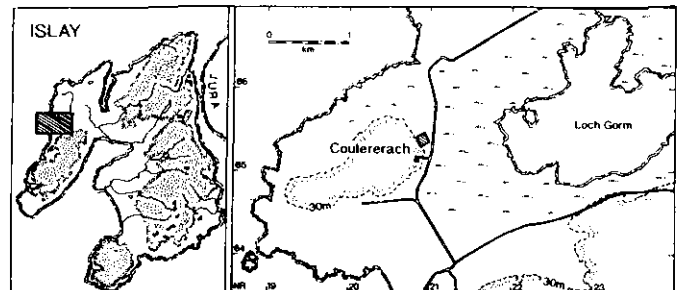


Fig 27. Coulererach. Location map.

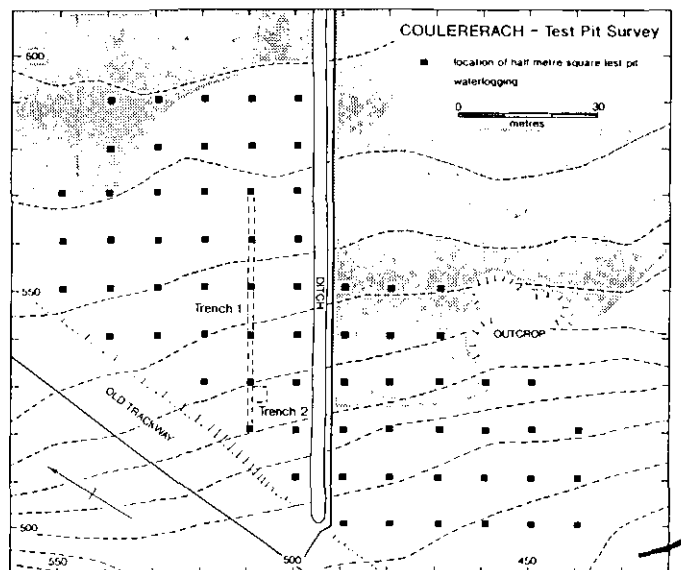


Fig 28. Coulererach. Test pit survey.

from Dr S Mithen. During 1994 the SHMP hopes to continue the fieldwalking survey during March, and complete excavations at Staosnaig, Colonsay during September.

Sponsors: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, HS [] Department of Archaeology, Reading University.

Torr Daraich, Mull (Kilninian & Kilmore parish)

NMS

Mesolithic flint core

NM 451 404 A mesolithic flint core was found in a ditch at Torr Daraich, near Ulva Ferry, Mull. With finder – details in NMS. Daybook no: DB 1993/35.

Cnoc a' Chaise Mhoir (Kilninian & Kilmore parish)

Hut circle

M M Douglass

NM 469 400 Near the head of a shallow col set into the rock face on the S side of the crag of Cnoc a' Chaise Mhoir is a hut circle. Measuring 5.9m in diameter within a double-faced wall 0.6m to 0.8m in thickness and 0.5m maximum height. There is no clear evidence of an entrance.

Nearby on the E side of the crag are the remains of an enclosure built against the foot of the crag. Measuring 5.4m by 4.3m within a wall of large boulders up to 0.3m high it was probably a pen.

Loch Frisa, Isle of Mull (Kilninian & Kilmore parish)

Kiln and barn site in Forestry Commission plantations

Site in Plantation above Loch Frisa. Nearest Ref NM 483 501 This site is old and the walls tumbled, but it can be seen clearly to consist of a kiln and a possible winnowing barn. It is a roomed kiln. The structure of the kiln building is oval in shape with rounded corners inside and out. The actual bowl of the kiln is also oval, 4ft 9in by 2ft 8in at the top, and 4ft 3in by 2ft at the base of the bowl, depth approximately 3ft. The stonework is nearly built but not of the closeness of other kilns I have seen. The walls of the bowl are approximately 2ft thick. No obvious fire tunnel can be seen.

There is a row of stones across the inside of building suggesting a wall. On the outside of the kiln at its northern end is another possible wall, 2ft away from the kiln wall. A definite door can be seen on the E side of the building.

The second building (Winnowing Barn?) with opposing doorways, could have been a house. The shape again is oval with rounded corners inside and out. The width of the wall is 3ft, and the two opposing doorways are 2ft wide. The structures interlock,

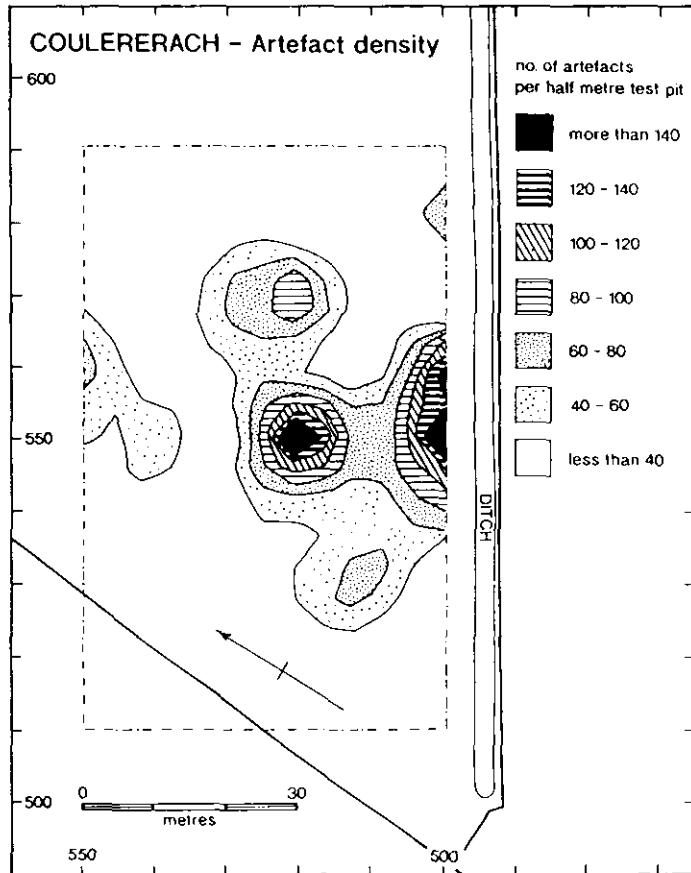


Fig 29. Coulererach. Artefact density.

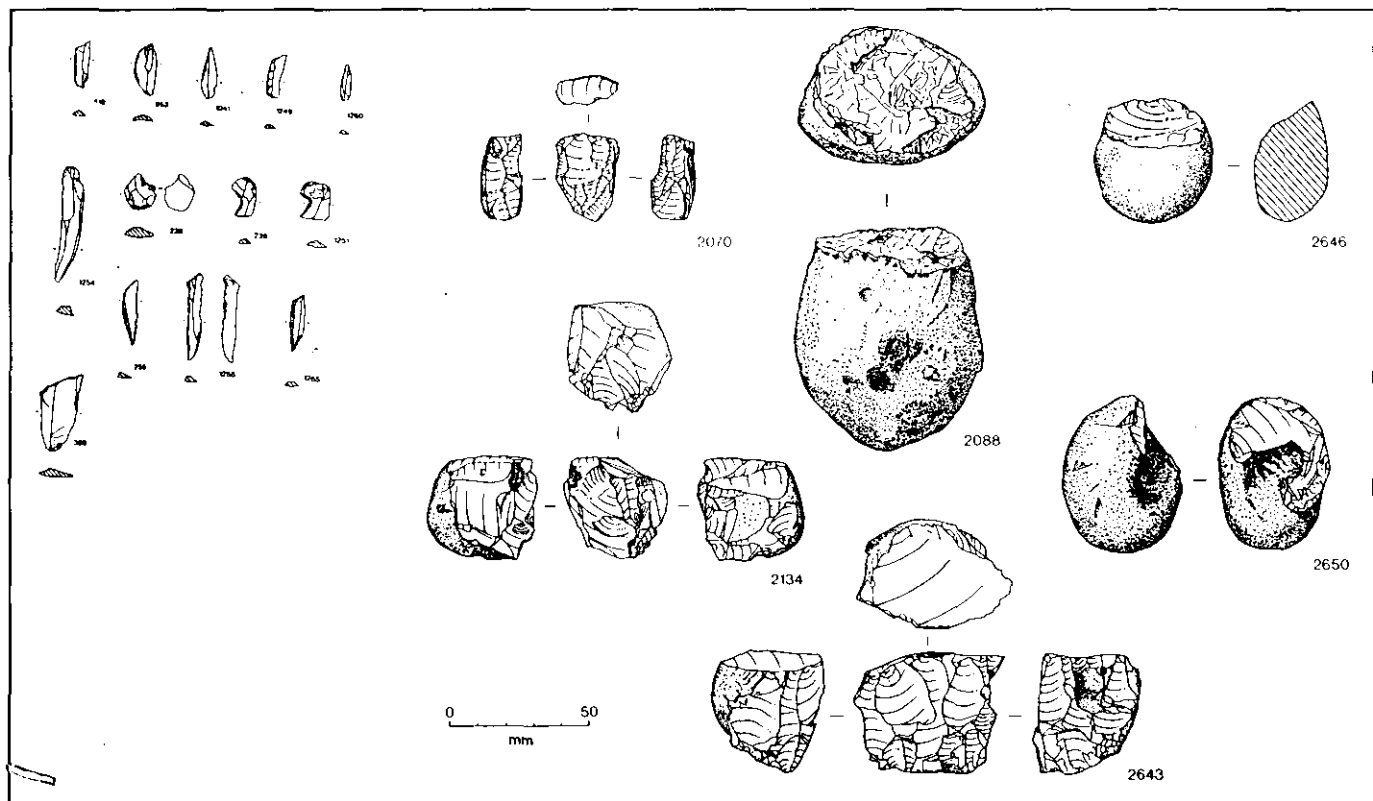


Fig 30. Artefacts from Coulererach.

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the NE corner of the 'Barn' having as its wall the SW corner of the kiln.

The whole is on ground which falls steeply to Loch Frisa and is at a level between 100m and 150m, and would seem to have been built up to try to make a level base for the building. These features were found by Miss Catherine Webster, Administrative Officer, Forestry Commission, Oban.

Drumfin to Calve Island (Kilninian & Kilmore parish)

Fishing station

R Douglass

NM 527 538 (?) W of the Doirlinn a' Chailbhe separating Calve island from mainland Mull, on what the Forestry Commission now call Aros Park, there is a ruin at NM 527 538 said locally to have been an inn. There is a well-founded road leading SE from it, which peters out in the planted forest. The ruin was found to be barely above high water mark, and its landward edges were dug into the slope. The SE end is virtually open, and there appear to be no other points of access, nor are windows evident. The road comes to the very structure, and below, on the foreshore, are three cleared landings for sea traffic. To the NW at NM 526 538, is a large, square fish trap. On its NW side is a fourth landing cleared through the rocks, and it leads ashore to a small boat noost at the start of a steep track to the heights above. The whole complex seems to have been a commercial, fishing station, the first ruin being, perhaps, an ice house cum salting and storing structure.

Torr Aint (Kilninian & Kilmore parish)

1. Access/gateway in what appears to be perimeter defences of the torr; 2. 6m fence-edged circle

1. NM 4445 4988; 2. 20m to the NW Torr Aint is No 162 in Argyll 3 (RCAHMS), this entry deals only with the fort on the Torr. The remnants to the SE of it are unrecorded but probably connected.

Duart (Torosay parish)

Fortification

NM 753 341 SW of William Black's monument are unrecorded structural remains suggestive of a dun. They are immediately E of an inlet leading off a natural harbour only accessible at about half tide or higher. The inlet has a built slipway on the W side. An old road runs therefrom to Bealach an Tairbh, (Bull Pass), where there are house ruins on the ground and on the map.



Fig 31. Duart.

Eorsa (Torosay parish)

Kiln

NM 487 378 Under bracken. Appears to be attached to exterior of a barn or house. A lay-out not seen locally before this discovery.

Two smaller ruins lie at NM 486 381 and NM 483 382, of a shieling type, among lazy-bed and dyke complexes. None of these are depicted on the OS maps. They lie W of those which are.

Iona, Phase 1: Excavations at Clachanach Croft

(Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon parish)

J A Atkinson

Cropmark excavation

NM 288 247 Excavation of a 20m-wide linear cropmark lying opposite Grianan House, Iona was undertaken by GUARD the new water pipeline, Iona was unlikely to truncate the feature. A series of features were identified within the excavation trench, which at its final extent measured 26m long by 1m wide. There was clear evidence to suggest rig and furrow cultivation in a N to S alignment across the field examined where a terrace had formed naturally on the raised beach. This theory was also supported by the existence of an estate map from 1769 which showed stripfields in this area, on this alignment. The existence of a complicated ditch which showed at least nine cuts within it was interpreted as the boundary ditch between the NS stripfields and the EW stripfields which ran down the raised beach.

It is postulated that the existence of the cropmark in this area was the result of natural geological conditions and human action. The abandonment of runrig on Iona followed by the creation of the crofting system in 1804 led to the final silting of the boundary ditch and consequently the deposition of large quantities of soil within the area of the terrace aided by plough action down slope and natural hillwash. This deepening of topsoil on a natural terrace created the cropmark in this area.

Sponsor: Strathclyde Water.

Iona Water Pipeline (Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon parish)

Water pipeline evaluation

In order to assess the likely impact of the new water pipeline to Iona a field evaluation was undertaken by GUARD to aid in the selection of a safe route for the pipeline. This evaluation consisted of a mixture of identifying known features, any unknown sites and a period of trial trenching along the favoured route. Within the corridor lay three sites already recognised for their archaeological potential:

NM 289 248 Cladh an Disear: A scheduled medieval chapel site, known as the burial ground of the hermitage.

NM 288 246 Cropmark site: A large linear cropmark running N to S through the assessment corridor.

NM 290 247 Boat noost: A post-medieval boat noost at Port an Disear.

There were also two previously unidentified features noted during the assessment:

NM 288 247 Field banks: A series of field banks running along the bottom of the raised beach, which appeared to represent two distinct periods of activity.

NM 285 251 Enclosure: A large sub-rectangular enclosure created from megalithic boulders with traces of a rectangular structure forming part of its southern side.

Five 1m-square trial trenches were also excavated along the path of the pipeline; they varied in depth from 0.35m to 0.8m. There were no artefacts recovered from the trenches.

Sponsor: Strathclyde Water.

Mull

NMS

Flint flakes

NM 5 3 A collection of 42 flints, surface finds from various locations in Mull, has been reported to NMS. None of the flints has a specific provenance. They are mainly unworked flakes, but with some mesolithic blades.

Daybook no: DB 1993/43.

Strathclyde Sites and Monuments Record

SRC SMR

Recent fieldwork by Strathclyde Sites and Monuments Record staff and others in Strathclyde has resulted in the discovery and recording of a substantial number of new sites from the prehistoric period to the early modern era. Only a brief summary is provided

here covering 1989–92. Full details are available at the Strathclyde Sites and Monuments Record and will be deposited with the NMRS. In addition, a number of known sites were visited during fieldwork and condition reports on these are available at the Strathclyde Sites and Monuments Record, although not listed here. See also Bearsden and Milngavie, Clydebank, Clydesdale, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, Cumnock and Doon, Cunninghame, Dumbarton, East Kilbride, Eastwood, Glasgow, Kyle and Carrick, and Monklands Districts.

(Ardchattan & Muckairn parish)

Barrglas

NM 964 292 Pre-improvement settlement.

(Coll parish)

Port-na-Luing

NM 149 520 Possible souterrain.

(Glenorchay & Inishail parish)

Invergaunan

NN 278 362 A pair of quern-stones found in forestry ploughing by RSPB warden.

Poll an Dubhaich

NN 0226 2710 Pre-improvement settlement.

Creag a' Mhuilt 1

NN 0321 2630 Cairn, possible clearance.

Creag a' Mhuilt 2

NN 0327 2628 Circular enclosure.
Creag a' Mhuilt sites 1 & 2 reported to SMR by Tilhill Economic Forestry.

Allt Barr Mhin

NN 2513 3298 Pre-improvement settlement.

(Inveraray parish)

Auchantiobairt

NN 0430 0170 Pre-improvement settlement.

(Inverchaolain parish)

Balliemore

NS 0552 8595 Stone-walled enclosures, possible pre-improvement settlement.

Kilmarnock Wood

NS 0953 7268 Pre-improvement settlement.

Tighnuilt

NS 0940 7477 Pre-improvement settlement.

Glen Fyne

NS 1151 7288 Pre-improvement settlement, including a kiln.

Allt na Fearna

NS 0627 8021 Structure, probable house.

Inverchaolain Glen 1

NS 1084 7801 Pre-improvement settlement.

Inverchaolain Glen 2

NS 1065 7707 Possible shielings.

Inverchaolain Glen 3

NS 0996 7606 Linear feature.

Inverchaolain Glen 4

NS 1022 7673 Enclosure.

Inverchaolain Glen 5

NS 0991 7823 Shielings.
Inverchaolain Glen sites 1–5 reported to SMR by Tilhill Economic Forestry.

(Kilcalmonell parish)

Kilmichael

NR 7297 5190 Pre-improvement settlement.

(Kilchoman parish)

Traigh nan Cisteachan 1

NR 2940 7406 Hut circle and ploughed fields, flints and potsherds.

Traigh nan Cisteachan 2

NR 292 737 Large cist with cremation deposit.

Traigh nan Cisteachan 3

NR 292 742 Small cist with cremation deposit.
Traigh nan Cisteachan sites 1–3 identified in an area of shifting sands and reported to SMR by Dr J C Orkney.

(Kilfinan parish)

Largiemore

NR 948 862 Pre-improvement settlement.

Fuar Bharr

NR 9422 8486 Rectangular house.

Achadachoun

NR 9833 6734 Pre-improvement settlement.

Kames

NR 9740 7109 Possible fallen standing stone reported to SMR by Mrs E B Rennie.

(Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon parish, Mull)

Knockroy

NM 4785 2962 Pre-improvement settlement.

(Killean & Kilchenzie parish)

Loch Ulagadale

NR 7480 4630 Shielings.

(Kilmartin parish)

Barbreck 1

NM 8394 0496 Cairn with cist (also known as Kintraw Farm Cairn, DES 1990, 34; 1991, 56–7).

Barbreck 2

NM 8423 0506 Spread of stones with three uprights.

Barbreck 3

NM 8443 0514 Series of walls and enclosures.

Barbreck 4

NM 8488 0549 Enclosure, possible house.

Barbreck 5

NM 8480 0550 Enclosure.

Barbreck 6

NM 8471 0562 Stone wall.

Barbreck 7

NM 8453 0571 Enclosure, possible shieling.

Barbreck 8

NM 8430 0579 Enclosure, possible shieling.

Barbreck 9

NM 8391 0529 Defensive enclosure with outwork.

Barbreck 10

NM 8348 0503 Pre-improvement settlement.

(Kilmichael Glassary parish)

Druim Creagach

NR 8945 8585 Pre-improvement settlement.

(Kilmodan parish)

Srath nan Lub 1

NS 062 903 Possible shielings.

Srath nan Lub 2

NS 063 903 Possible shieling.
Srath nan Lub sites 1 & 2 reported to SMR by Cowal Forest Enterprise.

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(Kilninian & Kilmore parish, Mull)

- Torrassa 1**
 NM 4622 5034 (centre) Pre-improvement settlement.
- Torrassa 2**
 NM 4642 5021 Enclosure, possible dun.
- Torrassa 3**
 NM 4647 5006 Possible mill or still.
- An Sgrìodan**
 NM 4684 5144 Pre-improvement settlement.
- Carnain an Amais**
 NM 4606 5217 Pre-improvement settlement.

(Kingarth parish, Bute)

- Dunagoil**
 NS 088 532 Burial chamber, reported to SMR by Mr I G Swan.

(Lismore & Appin parish)

- Ardnacloich**
 NM 9827 4501 Pre-improvement settlement with kiln.
- Creagan**
 NM 9856 4511 Structure, possible shieling or lambing pen.
- Creagan**
 NM 9818 4511 Ruined structure.
- Ceolnagallanach**
 NM 8051 3881 Pre-improvement settlement.

(Lochgoilhead & Kilmorich parish)

- Gleann Mor**
 NN 2080 0605 Three enclosures on a rocky shelf, possible shielings reported to SMR by Forestry Commission.
- Inverlounin**
 NS 2105 9921 Hollow in boulder.
- Beach**
 NS 2099 9743 Hollowed stone built into house wall.

(North Knapdale parish)

- Dounie**
 NR 7595 9208 Pre-improvement settlement with two kilns.
- Crinan Wood 1**
 NR 7904 9420 Pre-improvement settlement.
- Crinan Wood 2**
 NR 7909 9405 Remains of houses.
- Barr Ban**
 NR 7811 9294 Probable cairn with cist reported to SMR by Forestry Commission.
- Arichonan**
 NR 7722 9157 Single clearance cairn reported to SMR by Forestry Commission.

(Saddell & Skipness parish)

- Gleann Laoigh**
 NR 7865 4878 Large shieling group.
- Croitbhrìdean**
 NR 8115 5197 Pre-improvement settlement reported to SMR by Mr T Dickson.

(South Knapdale parish)

- Largnahension**
 NR 7416 6183 Enclosure.
- Achadh Cui a' Bharr**
 NR 7696 7651 Possible cist reported to SMR by Mr F Tickell.
- Baravalla**
 NR 8312 6662 Pre-improvement settlement.
- Breac Bharr**
 NR 7390 6210 Pre-improvement settlement.

(South Knapdale parish cont)

- Clacharan Burn**
 NR 7362 6196 Enclosure.

(Strachur parish)

- Airigh a' Ghobhainn**
 NN 1013 0483 Pre-improvement settlement.

Barrackan (Craignish parish) G A Wagstaff, D Clough, R Clough
 Cup-marked rock

NM 780 038 This small outcrop of bedrock is situated on the 50m contour above and to the N of Barrackan House. It commands a view across Bagh Ban and the Sound of Jura. The visible rock surface measures approximately 3m with a maximum width of 1.2m. The grouping consists of at least seventeen worn cupmarks: one cup 90mm across and 20mm deep, two cups of 80mm by 30mm and 20mm respectively, two cups of 70mm by 20mm, and at least ten other small cups. Two of these are covered by moss 1.5m NE of the main group.

Port Mhic Isaac (Craignish parish) M and S Shaw
 Cup and ring marks

NM 790 064 Two cup and ring marked rocks, on the foreshore, of which one is 4.5m NNE of the mouth of the burn, the other 15.5m NNE of the mouth of the burn.

Site 1: Cup and three concentric rings, of which the outermost is poorly defined on the landward side. 180mm to 240mm diameter.

Site 2: Cup and three concentric rings. Poorly defined on lower edge. 220mm to 240mm diameter.

Dunans Hill (Dunoon & Kilmun parish) E B Rennie
 Enclosure

NS 166 785 A possible circular foundation on a partially revetted flat-topped 'hump' has been recognised on the Dunans Hill. This hill dominates Dunoon; it has three distinct 'humps' below a very circular flat-topped summit standing at 575ft (175m). Its name, appearance and position suggest that it should be a fortified point but nothing has ever been found to ratify this. The foundation recently found is set on the lowest 'hump' at about 400ft (120m), which stands slightly apart from the next 'hump' but is overlooked by it.

The enclosure found on it consists of ground-fast boulders set in open formation but forming a circle 7m in diameter. The surface in which they are set is very flat, is oval in shape (7m by 9m), with sides which fall away very steeply. A possible built revetment of about 3m complements a natural revetment of 8m on the eastern curve. More earth-fast boulders continue the curve of this edge on the western slope below the upper hill. On this side, there appears to be an entrance through the boulders which continues as a sunken way leading out to the N.

Kilchurn Castle (Glenorchy & Inishail parish) G Ewart

NN 132 276 A short programme of trial excavation was completed within the castle, in advance of new drainage within the basements of the two late 17th-century barrack blocks. The causes of the present flooding were due initially to the 1690's ranges having been built outside, and consequently with basements below, the natural rocky outcrop which previously defined the fortified circuit. The measures put in place to collect and conduct storm water from the courtyard – a system of downpipes and probably a subfloor drainage channel – are now blocked and broken.

An apparently deliberate gap was left between bedrock and the basement passage wall, in order to trap water seeping beneath the courtyard facing of the barrack block. It is likely that this was linked in some way with the main drain outflow point in the basement, beneath the latrines.

Some structural evidence was found of a building lying towards the NW of the 15th-century Towerhouse and which was demolished in advance of the 1690's building programme. It is possible that the section of much robbed walling revealed in the excavation formed part of the late 16th-century range referred to as the 'North Chalmeris'.

Some indication of pre-15th-century occupation of the site was found in terms of a mass of fire-reddened and vitrified masonry, some of it recycled as levelling material within the basement. It is therefore possible that some form of drystone rampart existed on the site which has been absorbed by the late 17th-century extensions to the castle on its N and W sides.

Sponsor: HS

Garron Bridge (Inveraray parish) F Baker
 Bridge. c1750, Dumbarton-Inveraray military road

NN 113 101 Excavations carried out at the request of HS to determine if the original profile of the bridge survived and to examine the extrados of the arch.

Six post-1900 road surfaces and one late-Victorian road surface indicating levelling out of the bridge's profile and surviving original metalled surface in excellent condition indicating the original hump-back profile of the bridge.

Sponsor: Scottish Office Roads Directorate.

Tarbert Castle (Kilcalmonell parish) CFA
 Monitoring of fencing works

NR 867 686 A watching brief was conducted in December 1992 to supervise any ground disturbance caused by the replacement of a stock fence with a deer fence around the late 15th-century tower house and along the cliff top to its NW. Full details are lodged with the NMRS.

The majority of the eleven holes dug for the posts of the deer

fence, each c1m deep and 0.5m in diameter, contained nothing of archaeological significance. Two post holes produced quantities of boulders, probably representing tumble, and a third contained a large flat boulder lying horizontally. The only identified structural remains lay 3m from the SW face of the possible gatehouse. Three courses of mortared wall may represent either the wall of the possible round tower shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6in map or a continuation of the curtain wall.

Sponsor: Forest Enterprise.

Meall Darroch (Kilcalmonell parish) J Macdonald
 Deserted settlement

NR 879 682 The site is situated 1km to the SE of Tarbert Loch Fyne on a hill approximately 100m above sea level.

The settlement consists of 12 structures/houses, a kiln, a well and a small enclosure. The houses which have walls standing to over 1m high are situated along a 'street'. The well is situated opposite the houses, the kiln and the enclosure lie a short distance to the W and at a lower level to the settlement.

The settlement was abandoned in 1843 when the inhabitants died of an outbreak of cholera. (Survey by ACFA.)

Sponsor: Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll.

Old Road from Otter Ferry to Dunoon E B Rennie
 (Kilfinan, Kilmodan, Inverchaolain, Dunoon & Kilmun parishes)
 Road

NS 169 780 to NR 950 838 A long stretch of the 'Great Road' of 1775 from Otter Ferry on Loch Fyne to Dunoon on the Firth of Clyde has now been walked. It was designated one of the two 'Great Roads' of Cowal in 1775 when orders were given to have it made up by Act of Parliament through the Roads Commissioners. The other 'Great Road' in Cowal was from Ardlamont to Ardkinglas where that road joined the Military Road to Dumbarton. The Dunoon-Otter Ferry road

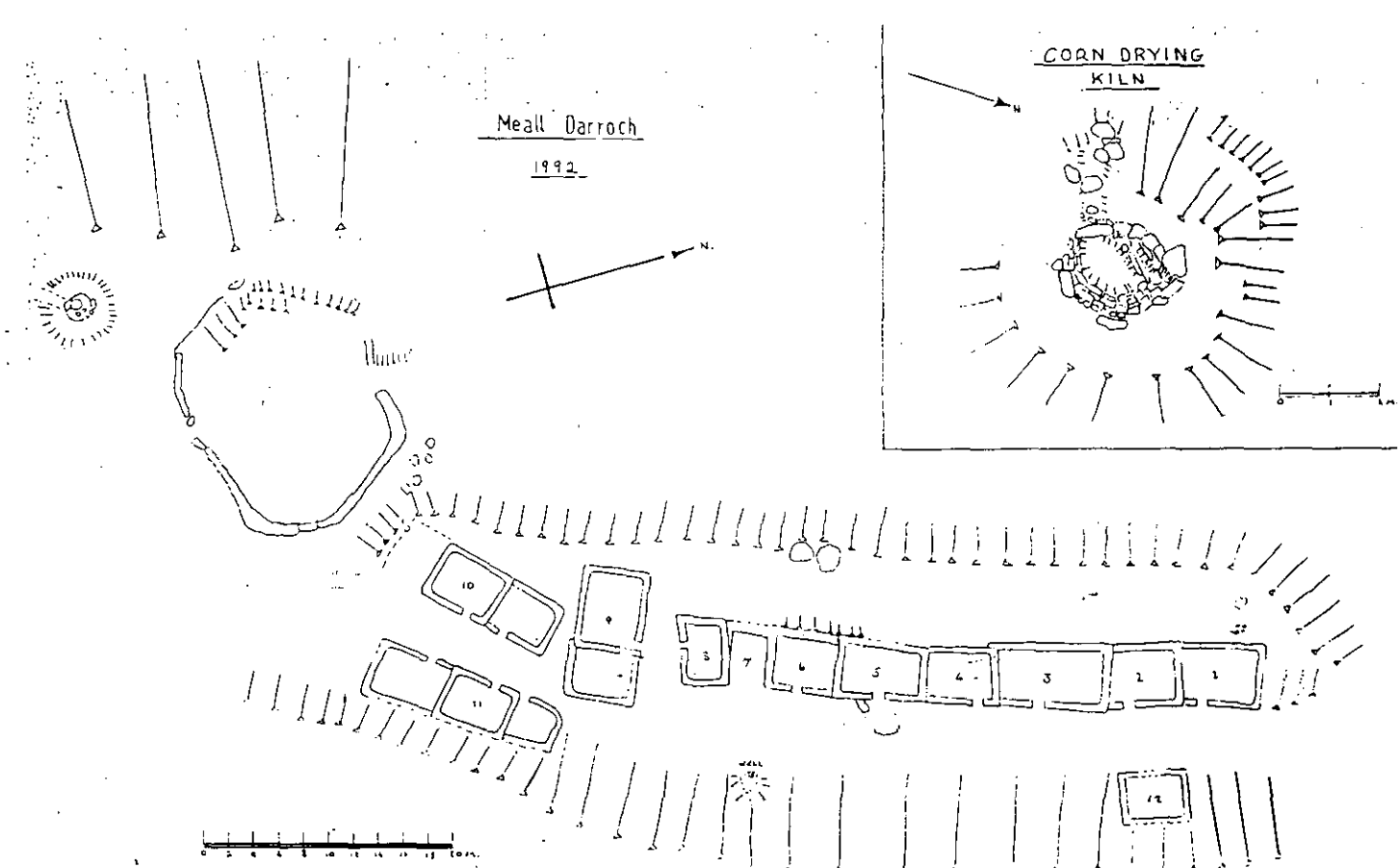


Fig 32. Meall Darroch.

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crosses three watersheds – the highest being at 1,000ft. On average it is 6ft broad, bottomed with rough stone, and frequently kerbed.

The road is lost through Dunoon but can be found acting as a farm road at Dunloskin farm (NR 169 780). There it can be traced along the W side of Loch Loskin to Ardnadam farm (NS 161 800). It turns NW through Finbracken Glen and into Glen Lean though the stretch through Finbracken is lost in afforestation and the stretch through the Clachaig Powder Mills was probably destroyed. Along the present Glen Lean road (B836) the old road runs nearly parallel on the NE side. It bends to the E to pass near to Glenlean Farm at NS 087 836 and then turns again to the SW where it is lost under the Loch Tarsan reservoir.

It is found to the W of the reservoir at NS 068 832, above and to the N of the present road. From here it goes gently down hill and under the great water pipe of Tarsan Power House after which it zig-zags rapidly down to the head of Loch Striven at NS 057 840. It is lost around the head of the loch but is found again at Craigendive farm (NS 050 835). This farm is marked 'Change House' on Langland's Map of 1801. Here the road forms a deep hollow way running below but alongside the present road. It must then lie beneath the surfaced road until it turns westwards on to the moor at NS 048 823. It then can be traced across the moor and across several burns, past a sheep fank and hut foundation to NS 018 818. Here it again must lie beneath a surfaced road – this time the penultimate road before the present highway.

It is next found twisting up the Bealochandrain hill road to 1,000ft. On the W summit at NR 953 836 it continues to the W where the present road diverges to the SW. The old road could until recently be traced downwards over the moor though now it is lost in afforestation. It must, however, again join the present road and underlie it to the E of the house at NR 936 839 as that house is said to have been a drovers' inn. The present line of the B8000 must then overlie the old road to the ferry at Otter.

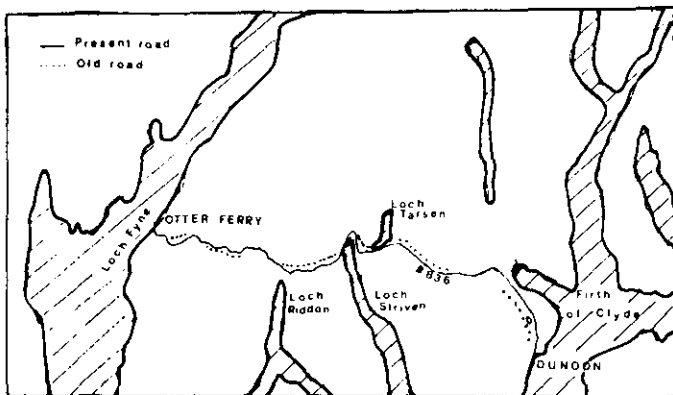


Fig 33. Old road from Otter Ferry to Dunoon.

Scoor (Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon parish)

M van Hoek

Rock carvings

NM 4185 1890 Beside the faint path from the farm to Scoor cave, at about 50m OD are three rocks with possible cupmarks: No 1 has five cups; No 2 has one cup and No 3 has three cups and possibly more.

Low Clachaig (Killean & Kilchenzie parish)

J A Atkinson

Cup-marked boulder re-instatement

NR 704 403 A programme of excavation and re-instatement was carried out by GUARD on a cup-marked boulder which lay 915m E of Low Clachaig farm, Kintyre. Excavation around the boulder revealed nothing of interest, however it became clear that the largest decorated fragment of the boulder was totally missing. This had been accidentally removed during road building operations in High Clachaig forest.

A 30m stretch of road and accompanying bank were excavated in a bid to recover the missing fragment. This was finally achieved with the recovery of the western half of the boulder from a culvert some 50m to the E of the site. The existence of a larger mother stone beneath the cup-marked fragments meant that the boulder pieces could be re-instated to the exact position, alignment and orientation from which they were disturbed in 1989.

Sponsor: Scottish Woodlands.

Garvalt, Barr Glen (Killean & Kilchenzie parish)

CFA

Pre-afforestation fieldwalking

A large number of banks and field dykes extend down the SE-facing slopes from the head dyke above Barr Water. In addition, the following sites were recorded in September 1992 within the c96 ha area of a proposed conifer plantation. Full details are lodged with the NMRS.

NR 712 386 Quarry cut into the hillside (52m by 12m), with a worked face up to 3m high.

NR 715 386 Terrace (c30m by 22m), banks, stone setting and mounds: recorded by NMRS as dun (NR 73 NW 9).

NR 717 387 Terrace on hillside, 9m by 7m.

NR 718 388 Cairn, c4m in diameter and 0.5m high.

NR 719 389 Garvalt Farm, comprising a range of recently abandoned buildings: grass-covered foundation for rectangular building (8m by 5m) to W: substantial foundation for rectangular building (12m by 5m) to NE: slight platform (20m by 8m), possibly for buildings, to NW: corn-drying kiln, 6m diameter, to W.

NR 720 388 Stone-walled enclosure, 30m by 10m, built at junction of three field banks: grass-covered foundation for rectangular structure, 27m by 6m; and enclosure bounded by turf-covered stone walls measuring c50m by 10m to 12m and a corn-drying kiln, c6m in diameter, both lie to SW of structure; two stone cairns c5m in diameter S of enclosure; a hollow-way running E from Garvalt Farm passes through these features.

NR 725 391 A spread of stones from field clearance, 50m by 15m, lies on the W side of the burn.

NR 725 391 Probable hut circle (NMRS Ref: NR 73 NW 13): penannular structure 11m in diameter with 2m-wide entrance on the S. Twelve clearance cairns were located in bracken a short distance to the S of this.

NR 727 389 Oval banked enclosure (20m by 6m), located on the floodplain of the Barr Water; abutted by field banks at both ends.

NR 730 390 Length of 2m-wide track running NE to SW.

NR 731 392 Length of track running E to W.

NR 731 393 Post-medieval settlement consisting of three rectangular stone structures, banks and dykes.

Sponsor: Scottish Woodlands Ltd.

Sron-a-Bruic, Minard (Kilmichael Glassary parish)

Artefacts from forestry ploughing

P Fane Gladwin

NR 958 935 Since the discovery of a cup-and-ring marked slab at the above reference (DES 1992, 61) the area has been ploughed up to a radius of 40ft from the outcrop. This has revealed a fine flint scraper, three microliths, two hammer stones and one well-worked circular pot lid or perhaps a hunting 'disc' of hard crystalline limestone 2.5cm in thickness.

All the above items are in the possession of the finders, J Bell and Mrs Bell.

Sponsor: Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll.

Ballymeanoch Standing Stones and Nether Largie Standing Stones (Kilmartin & Kilmichael Glassary parish)

D Abernethy

Geophysical survey and possible fallen standing stones

This season sixty-four grids (20m by 20m) were surveyed by GUARD at Ballymeanoch and twelve grids (20m by 20m) at Nether Largie. A large number of potentially interesting anomalies have

been detected at both sites, but only excavation can confirm their interpretation (report forthcoming).

Ballymeanoch Possible Fallen Standing Stone

NR 8336 9641 After ploughing at Ballymeanoch in June this year a large flat stone was uncovered. It lies half buried in a NW to SE orientation with the NW half and part of the southern corner revealed. The stone appears to measure 125cm by 65cm and about 30cm broad.

With reference to the location plan of Ballymeanoch Standing Stones (RCAHMS 1988, 128), the stone lies 9.7m SE of Stone E and 38.5m SW of Stone A and appears to be in alignment with Stones E and F.

Nether Largie Possible Fallen Standing Stone

NR 828 976 With reference to the location plan of Nether Largie Standing Stones (RCAHMS 1988, 136), Stones C, D and E with a stump on the SW forming a Four-Post Arrangement.

While surveying this area the probes of the RM4 frame came into contact with a large stone immediately below the surface: the corner of which protruded above the surface. A very thin layer of turf was easily peeled back to reveal a stone measuring 82cm by 23cm lying in a NE to SW orientation and closest to the stump, so possibly its upper body. After recording the turf was rolled back to its original position.

Sponsor: HS

Upper Largie (Kilmartin parish)

A Radley

NR 832 993 Excavation in advance of sand and gravel extraction in 1982-3 revealed three cists and other features of probably Bronze Age date (DES 1983). In 1993 planning consent was granted to extend the quarry northwards, necessitating excavation of the adjacent area which measured approximately 190m by 70m (Phase 1 of the quarry extension). The excavation was carried out by Scotia Archaeology Limited working to terms of reference set by the Strathclyde Regional Council archaeologist in the planning consent, the funding for the excavation being provided by the quarry operator M & K McLeod Ltd.

Two cists were located, 12m apart. One, measuring 0.50m by 0.35m and 0.45m deep internally, appeared to be intact although it may have been disturbed in recent years. At its base was a complete beaker but no other artefacts. The other cist, which measured 0.75m square and 0.35m deep, had been disturbed on at least two occasions and was devoid of artefacts or evidence of burial or cremation.

Further N was a large, sub-circular pit, 6.8m by 6.2m and 1.8m deep. This was filled with redeposited gravel subsoil and overlain by a 0.25m-deep accumulation of peat containing numerous fragments of timber. Near its top was a mass of large boulders, presumably used for levelling. A ring of fourteen pits, typically 0.75m diameter, surrounded this crater. One of these pits contained numerous cremated bones.

Two concentric arcs of larger pits (comprising twelve and sixteen pits, up to 2.2m diameter) cut across the line of the ring of pits and extended northwards beyond the area of excavation. Two flint flakes, including a large blade, were recovered from one of these pits. Most of them contained charcoal.

Nearby were two parallel, linear groups of eight and ten pits which also continued beyond the limits of excavation. These pits measured typically 2.0m diameter.

Located towards the E end of the site were three narrow, curvilinear ditches, or gulleys, which may represent boundaries of some sort. Two of them had been truncated by the quarry edge; the third extended beyond the trench edge.

Sponsor: M & K McLeod Limited.

Upper Largie (Kilmartin parish)

M van Hoek

Rock carvings

NR 8355 9953 In the rough grass field NE of the first house on the track is a long outcrop ridge. It has one cup and one complete ring on a horizontal panel.

Kilmartin (Kilmartin parish) G A Wagstaff, D Clough, R Clough

Cup-marked rock

NR 836 991 Lying on the 100m contour, 30m E of the remains of Kilmartin Castle. This single faint cup can be found overlooking the village on a flat needle-like outcrop of rock pointing SW. It measures approximately 75mm in diameter and is 25mm deep.

Torbhlaren (Kilmichael Glassary parish)

Rock-cut basin

NR 867 942 (?) Located approximately 10m NE of an enclosed well and 20m E of the dun (RCAHMS No 326). It measures 250mm in diameter and 200mm in depth, with straight tapered sides that narrow to a bottom 120mm in diameter. The basin is cut into the upper surface at the SW end of a flat boulder measuring approximately 2m by 1.6m by 0.6m.

DÙN MÒR



Fig 34. Dùn Mòr (see p 76).

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Dùn Mòr, near Lochgilphead (Kilmichael Glassary parish) CFA
Detailed survey of dun and outcrop (see Fig 34, p 75)


NR 8774 8658 A survey was conducted over the rock outcrop of Dùn Mòr, upon which the remains of a small fort and/or dun have been reported (NMRS Ref: NR 88 NE 6), in order to produce a plan for an interpretative noticeboard to be erected by the Forestry Commission. Full details are lodged with the NMRS. The numbers in parentheses within the following text refer to the plan (see Fig 34).

The archaeological features within the survey area represent the use of Dùn Mòr as a defended settlement, possibly spanning a number of periods. Place name evidence and local tradition suggest that a Dark Age fortification once occupied the summit. Features (7) and (9) may represent the remains of this, although this suggestion must remain at best tentative. With the information currently available it is difficult to date the use of most of the various features with any confidence.

The two arcs of turf-covered wall-footings on the summit (9) may also potentially define a sub-circular structure which may have been a prehistoric dun. The structure has a diameter of 12m, acceptable for a small dun, although at less than 1m thick the walls are very narrow. A series of low turf-covered stone banks (6, 7 and 10) and a mound (12) in this case may be outworks.

A series of natural terraces to the N and S of the summit (2, 13 and 14) appear to have been artificially enhanced, with definite traces of revetting walls (1) filling natural fissures in the bedrock to create the most southerly example (2).

The platforms and summit are approached and linked by a series of trackways and hollow-ways (3, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 17). The most striking example is that which approaches the summit from the S (3). A pair of orthostats (4) and a line of associated recumbent stones (5) located close to the summit appear to act as an entrance to the defended settlement.

Sponsor: HS 

Achanelid (Kilmodan parish)

L Masters

Recessed platforms, deserted settlement, field walls, kiln, rig cultivation

Parts of NS 0088; 0188; 0289 This survey was undertaken, by final year students in the University of Glasgow Certificate in Field Archaeology Course, to assist Miss E B Rennie in her research on recessed platforms within the W of Scotland. The survey area lay to the N and E of Achanelid Farm, on steeply sloping ground, with mixed oak, birch and hazel woodland on the lower ground. In an area to the E of the farm, where Miss Rennie had previously recorded twelve recessed platforms (two doubtful), only seven could now be located. To the N of the farm there is an extensive series of field banks, composed of stone and turf, with evidence of rig cultivation. A number of scoops were located, slightly different in appearance to the usual recessed platforms. One of these had more pronounced sides running from the back scarp, producing an appearance similar to house platforms in the Border area. A deserted settlement, centred on NS 023 896, comprising some fifteen structures and associated field banks, was also recorded.

Sponsor: University of Glasgow, Department of Adult & Continuing Education.

Lón Mòr (Kilmore & Kilbride parish)
Mesolithic site; post-ring structure


C Bonsall, M Robinson,
R Payton, M Macklin

NM 853 284 Lón Mòr (Big Bog) is an expanse of peatland lying on raised marine deposits 1.3km SSW of Oban. A test-pit survey of higher ground at the margins of this former marine embayment revealed two lithic scatters, these occurring on either side of a narrow gully leading into the bog, at an altitude of 16m to 18m OD – several metres higher than that of the shoreline formed at the maximum of the mid-Holocene marine transgression. The larger of the artefact concentrations, lying to the N of the gully, occupied an area c30m by

20m. A partial excavation of this area in 1992 recovered an assemblage of flaked stone artefacts which includes 'narrow blade' micro-liths, scrapers, bipolar and platform cores, and flint and quartz debitage. The bulk of the lithic assemblage was recovered from the ploughsoil. Below the ploughsoil was a thin, discontinuous, organic-rich horizon containing lithic artefacts and occasional fragments of burnt bone, charcoal and carbonized hazelnut shells. The lithic artefacts and organic remains in this part of the site are interpreted as the residue of a refuse dump associated with Mesolithic occupation. An AMS ¹⁴C date of 7385 ± 60 BP (AA-8793) was obtained from a carbonized hazelnut shell fragment. Excavation to the NW of the lithic scatter uncovered an area of stone paving, c2m across, and a stone-lined hearth: these features also may relate to Mesolithic occupation of the site. Charcoal from the hearth has been submitted for AMS ¹⁴C dating.

A trench located some 60m to 70m to the W of the lithic scatter uncovered part of a 'post-ring structure' of uncertain date. Finds from this area include occasional flint artefacts, fragments of burnt bone, and a few sherds of pottery.

The test-pit survey and excavation were undertaken in advance of development, and the sites have now been destroyed.

Sponsors: Highlands & Islands Enterprise, HS 

Dunbeg, by Oban (Kilmore & Kilbride parish)

M Kay

Stone axe

NM 874 331 Slate/hornfels axe about 13cm long. A stray find at the base of a hill. Found by 3½-year-old Jessica Stevenson. The stone axe is of calc-silicate hornfels possibly from Creag na Caillich, Killin. Retained by finder.

Sponsor: Lom Archaeological & Historical Society.

Carrick Castle (Lochgoilhead & Kilmorich parish)

F Baker

Castle, 14th–19th-century deposits

NS 194 944 A 1m-wide and 7m-long sondage was excavated inside the castle along the S wall during two week-long excavations in 1993 (April and July). The purpose of the excavations was to allow services access.

2m of stratified deposits were examined and indicate four main phases – IV: abandonment and collapse; III: occupation (15th–16th century); II: rebuilding, and I: 14th-century occupation.

Phase I consists of a 20cm-deep organic/occupation deposit containing iron objects, animal bone and a considerable quantity of pottery provisionally dated to the 14th century on the basis of sherds of imported saintonge ware (1280–1300). This occupation deposit sits directly on bedrock which has been quarried, not very successfully, to an uneven surface. This surface is drained by two drains through the S wall. The foundations of the castle walls consist of a stepped platform and the stepped ledge against the W wall was probably also utilised as the base for a timber 'A' frame associated with phase I. It is clear that the basement was sub-divided from the earliest occupation and a N to S wall splits the basement into two distinct areas, 4m and 3m wide. Only the western room was excavated to bedrock. It is suspected that a lower room is to be found in the SE corner of the tower.

A centrally placed post pad against the S wall and directly beneath a beam slot at first-floor level is a feature of the original construction of the castle which continued in use after the re-building phase (II). While phase I may represent the construction phase of the castle the depth and richness of the deposit suggests occupation.

Phase II A dump, c50cm deep on average, of building materials. A layer of sterile clay was deposited on the phase I occupation deposit and then substantial dressed and mortared stones dumped. The quality of stonework and presence of joining and mortared blocks suggests renovation and rebuilding. This deposit fills the basement up to the level of the beam slots in the S wall suggesting that these beam slots – four in total – are indicative of the second

occupation phase (II) although they may also have been in use with the phase I occupation.

Phase III A predominantly gravel layer containing many lenses and evidence of resurfacing. This occupation surface extends the full width of the tower (phase I only seen in W room) with the activity apparently concentrated in the E and rubbish thrown away to the W. This occupation phase is rich in artefacts with considerable quantities of pottery and bone. Two French imported vessels dating to the mid-16th century, a late 15th-century Nuremberg jeton and a finely decorated 15th-century knife handle suggest this occupation phase lasted throughout the later 15th century and 16th century.


A substantial hearth is located under the window in the E corner of the tower which had a piece of copper-coated iron pipe and burnt-out barrel associated with it. The discovery on the associated floor a short distance away of a very fine copper still 'worm' suggests these are the remnants of a still.

Phase IV Abandonment and collapse of the castle which has been truncated by Victorian rubble clearance.

Excavations were also conducted in the ground floor entrance passage and some rubble was removed from the trench at the N wall, excavated in 1992 by AOC (Scotland) Ltd.

Entrance passage 2m by 1.10m. Considerable Victorian disturbance to these deposits. The bedrock had been levelled up with mortar infilling. Three steps led up into the castle; they have been robbed away and only their mortar and stone footings remain.

North wall trench Removal of massive mortar bonded rubble blocking revealed garde-robe chamber in NW wall.

Sponsor: HS 

Skipness Castle and Kilbrannan Chapel G Ewart
(Saddell & Skipness parish)


NR 908 577 and NR 910 575 An extensive geophysical survey was completed on these neighbouring sites, intended to characterise the main structural sequence in advance of development.

A total of four areas were subsequently excavated at Skipness Castle in the light of the geophysical survey and demonstrated that:

1. The castle sits on an artificially extended natural gravel terrace – one of a series of raised beach deposits.
2. The present contours and limits of the castle mound have been extensively reworked as part of the policies of the neighbouring Skipness House.
3. There was evidence that the castle mound was extended and complemented by a shallow ditch, probably reflecting the general refurbishment of the site in the later 13th century.
4. 19th and 20th-century occupation of the tower house saw the almost total clearance of redundant courtyard structures.
5. Robbed wall lines were traceable in the form of foundation pads rather than trenches, cut against the bedding for a cobbled surface in the courtyard.
6. The main cause of the present flooding on the site appeared to be the use of rolled turf as a courtyard surface, and a possibly ruptured water main located to the N of the castle.

At the nearby chapel of St Brendan, which lies a few hundred metres to the SE of the castle, three trenches were dug in an area to the NE of the chapel in advance of the proposed graveyard extension.

The findings revealed at least two graves hitherto unidentified, near the chapel, and which predate the present graveyard enclosures.

Sponsor: HS 

Lepinchapel (South) (Strathlachlan parish) L Masters
Recessed platforms, field walls, rig cultivation

Parts of NR 9589; 9689; 9690 This survey was undertaken, by final year students in the University of Glasgow Certificate in Field Archaeology Course, to assist Miss E B Rennie in her research on

recessed platforms within the W of Scotland. Within an area of 70 ha, some sixty recessed platforms were located, together with a number of field walls and areas of rig cultivation.

Sponsor: University of Glasgow, Department of Adult & Continuing Education.

BEARSDEN & MILNGAVIE DISTRICT

(New Kilpatrick parish) SRC SMR
Westerton Farm
NS 5380 7116 Farmstead.

CLYDEBANK DISTRICT

Golden Hill Park (Old Kilpatrick parish) SRC SMR
Possible bell-pit

NS 4945 7274 Strathclyde SMR carried out an archaeological investigation of subsidence near the presumed line of the Antonine Wall at Golden Hill Park, Duntocher. The area of the park is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the work was organised at short notice with the consent of Historic Scotland because of the urgent public Health and Safety issues.

An oval depression c4.0m by 3.5m and up to 0.75m deep formed on the hillslope between the sites of the fort and its bathhouse. A small section of wall-base exposed by Prof A S Robertson lay approximately 11m upslope to the SE, and the inferred rear face of the wall-base crossed the area of subsidence.

Excavation revealed that this was the second subsidence event, caused by settlement into a sub-surface feature, and that the Antonine Wall-base had been disturbed in a more widespread area than could be explained solely by the subsidence. The topsoil buried by the first subsidence event was found to contain sherds of modern and abraded Roman pottery and a number of rounded boulders, perhaps derived from the wall-base, but of insufficient quantity to represent a previously undisturbed section of the wall-base.

It is likely, therefore that the subsidence has been caused by further secondary settlement of the backfill of the shaft of an unrecorded bell-pit, a number of which are known to have been dug in the local area from the Industrial Revolution onwards.

Sponsor: Strathclyde Regional Council.

(Old Kilpatrick parish) SRC SMR
Jaw Reservoir
NS 5007 7566 WWII bunker and possible gun emplacement.

CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH DISTRICT

(Cumbernauld parish) SRC SMR
Auchinbee Farm
NS 7366 7579 Well reported to SMR by District Council.

CUMNOCK & DOON VALLEY DISTRICT

(Dalmellington parish) SRC SMR
Cumnock Burn 1
NS 4874 0652 Stone and brick built structures.
Cumnock Burn 2
NS 4891 0646 Remains of stone-built house.

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(Dalmellington parish cont)

- Parrie Burn**
NS 4945 0553 Group of four sub-rectangular enclosures.
- Muck Water**
NS 4900 0498 Small pre-improvement settlement.
- Knockskae**
NS 4969 0504 Possible cairn on hill summit.
- Mossdale**
NS 4929 0461 Sub-rectangular enclosure and associated field system.
- Shiel Burn**
NS 5125 0508 Sub-rectangular foundation.

(New Cumnock parish)

- Bullet Burn 1**
NS 5247 1210 Group of enclosures, possible settlement of unknown date.
- Bullet Burn 2**
NS 5260 1194 Two enclosures, possible sheepfolds.
- Nether Beoch**
NS 5242 1177 Field system and probable pre-improvement settlement.
- Upper Beoch**
NS 5205 1074 Enclosures.

(Old Cumnock parish)

- Lugar**
NS 5962 2136 Mound, possible cairn.
- Lugar**
NS 5972 2155 Enclosure.
- Carsgailoch Runner**
NS 5573 1748 Rectangular house.

(Sorn parish)

- Sorn Castle Burial Ground**
NS 5445 2662 Small burial ground reported to SMR by SOAFD.

Abbot Hunter's Tower, Mauchline (Mauchline parish)
15th-century tower and courtyard R Coleman (SUAT)

NS 497 272 An assessment was carried out in advance of environmental improvements adjacent to Abbot Hunter's Tower. The tower displays the arms of Abbot Andrew Hunter (c1444-71), probably as the focus for the buildings of a grange belonging to Melrose Abbey. The exact extent of the grange and the disposition of the buildings within it is not known.

The area surrounding the tower was only affected to a depth of 0.5m by the improvements. Very little was found at this depth, apart from an area of cobbles, possibly part of an 18th-century courtyard.
Sponsor: Enterprise Ayrshire.


Glen and Merkland Farms (New Cumnock parish) S Carter
Post-medieval quarries, lime works and related structures; pre-improvement farmstead and related structures

NS 659 146 (centre) A short notice forestry survey was carried out by AOC (Scotland) Ltd covering approximately 1km² of land on the farms of Glen and Merkland in Upper Nithsdale, 4km E of New Cumnock. Four archaeological sites or findspots had been recorded previously in the area: NS61NW 10 (road), NS61NW 15 and NS61SE 7 (track), NS61SE 3 (stone implement, pottery) and NS61SE 4 (beaker and samian pottery). Twenty-five sites were recorded in the survey and these can be divided into two groups: industrial and pre-improvement agriculture. The industrial sites relate to limestone quarrying for lime manufacture and sandstone quarrying, probably for building stone. The commencement of limestone quarrying appears to predate the earliest detailed published map (1775). Agricultural features relate to land use practices that

had recently been abandoned, or were still just operating at the time of the first 1:2500 survey in 1857.

List of Sites Recorded

- | | | |
|----|--------------|---|
| 1 | NS 6637 1534 | Lime works. |
| 2 | NS 6670 1540 | Quarry. |
| 3 | NS 6668 1530 | Quarry. |
| 4 | NS 6648 1516 | Track. |
| 5 | NS 6629 1524 | Rectangular house. |
| 6 | NS 6638 1508 | Rectangular structure. |
| 7 | NS 6618 1511 | Lime works. |
| 8 | NS 6589 1496 | Cultivation ridges. |
| 9 | NS 6577 1493 | Track. (NMRS NS61NW 15 and NS61SE 7) |
| 10 | NS 6568 1486 | Quarry. |
| 11 | NS 6571 1476 | Quarry. |
| 12 | NS 6562 1477 | to NS 6598 1459 Track? (NMRS NS61NW 10) |
| 13 | NS 6566 1463 | Mill lade. |
| 14 | NS 6656 1469 | Quarry. |
| 15 | NS 6540 1462 | Rectangular house. |
| 16 | NS 6555 1455 | Quarry. |
| 17 | NS 6598 1459 | to NS 6655 1419 Bank. |
| 18 | NS 6621 1448 | Bank. |
| 19 | NS 6607 1427 | Bank. |
| 20 | NS 6605 1424 | Enclosure. |
| 21 | NS 6609 1423 | Rectangular house. |
| 22 | NS 6633 1429 | Enclosure. |
| 23 | NS 6612 1421 | to NS 6647 1394 Track. |
| 24 | NS 6615 1411 | Quarry. |
| 25 | NS 6610 1419 | to NS 6595 1396 Track. |

Sponsor: HS 

CUNNINGHAME DISTRICT

(Kilbride parish, Arran)

SRC SMR

- Cnoc Mor 1**
NS 0226 2602 Standing stone plus two recumbent stones.
- Cnoc Mor 2**
NS 0217 2560 Four standing stones plus three recumbent stones.
- Cnoc Mor 3**
NS 0214 2567 Possible standing stones.
- Cnoc Mor 4**
NS 0208 2572 Possible shaped stone.
- Cnoc Mor**
NS 025 255 Standing stones reported to SMR by Forestry Commission.
- Allt Dhepin**
NS 016 267 Possible shielings reported to SMR by Mr D Aitcheson.

(Kilmory parish, Arran)

- Torr Righ Mor**
NR 8871 3016 Defensive enclosure, possible dun.

(Largs parish)

- Outerwards**
NS 2340 6605 Site of overshot watermill, mill wheel.

Brodick Castle, Arran (Kilbride parish)
19th-century castle

R Harry

NS 015 378 A small scale excavation in the courtyard of the castle was undertaken by GUARD between 9 and 13 November 1992 in advance of drainage work. Very little is known about the archaeology of the castle and this provided an opportunity to investigate any surviving remains of the medieval building. Below

the tarmac covering the courtyard lay an infill layer of debris re-deposited following previous work on the drains. This covered several different phases of drainage pipes cut into the red sandstone bedrock. Worked sandstone blocks were recovered from the infill layer, but their provenance is difficult to determine in the face of consecutive improvement building phases where new stone was deliberately chosen to blend in with old. It is suggested that both modern disturbance and improvement work around the castle in the 19th century has destroyed all traces of earlier features, and that medieval material from this area is probably re-deposited elsewhere in the castle grounds.

Sponsor: National Trust for Scotland.

Clauchlands, Arran (Kilbride parish) F Gorman, E Lambie,
Stone axe C Bowd
NS 052 335 A ground and polished stone axe, perfect cutting face; width 60mm, thickness 31mm. Butt broken.

Glen Shurig, Arran (Kilbride parish)
Flint axe
NR 995 369 Part of a flint axe, width 52mm. Partially reworked as a scraper.

Blairmore Glen, Arran (Kilbride parish)
Fragment of worked jet-like material
NS 033 326 Fragment of a penannular bangle or tusk-like pendant. Hand cut.

Lamlash, Arran (Kilbride parish)
Fragment of worked jet-like material
NS 032 318 Ring fragment, part of bangle.

Clauchlands, Arran (Kilbride parish)
Fragment of worked jet-like material
NS 045 326 Portion of a small ring. The perforation is particularly highly polished from wear (as a pendant?), diameter 12mm. A scatter of jet/cannel was found over an area of 120 square metres.

Glen Shurig, Arran (Kilbride parish)
Bead
NR 994 369 Half of a pumice bead or ring.

South Glen Rosa, Arran (Kilbride parish)
Knapping site
NS 002 369 Situated on an escarpment overlooking the Shurig bum which borders the site to the S and E. When ploughed this site produces much evidence for the working of flint, pitchstone and quartz, with cores, core scrapers, beach pebble cores, blades, flakes and much debris. A quantity of cannel, a piece of struck haematite and two small bifacially flaked leaf-shaped arrowheads were also picked up. The pitchstone on this site was much water rolled.

Machrie, Arran (Kilmory parish)
Knapping site
NR 898 329 An area of approximately 20m by 20m which is repeatedly disturbed by the removal of silage bales. This is a prolific site producing mostly flint debris. Over 250 cores, beach pebble cores and core scrapers have been picked up also blades, flakes, whole beach pebbles, quartzite hammerstones and some charcoal, shell fragments, bone and fire-crazed flint. There is also extensive evidence for the striking of quartzite cobbles.

Porta Leacach, Dippin, Arran (Kilmory parish)
Knapping site
NS 041 214 On a small mound to the NW of the old farmhouse of Leglany. When ploughed this site produces much evidence for

the working of flint, pitchstone and quartz. A local resident, late of Leglany said that in the past whenever the field was ploughed an area of charcoal and blackened stones came to the surface between the site and the house.

Penrioch, Arran (Kilmory parish)
Two fragments of worked jet-like material
NR 878 443 (a) Worked fragment, hand cut and polished, function unclear. (b) Portion of a large ring, internal diameter 52mm, surviving parts of the surface are highly polished. A scatter of cannel/jet was found over this site.

Kilmory, Arran (Kilmory parish)
Stone axe
NR 943 219 A small, perfect, ground and polished stone axe. Length 47mm, width 43mm, thickness 12mm. Greyish stone with buff inclusions.

Sliderry, Arran (Kilmory parish)
Stone axe
NR 935 244 Ground stone axe, perfect but slightly smoothed cutting edge. Length 79mm, width 60mm, thickness 30mm, butt missing (?). Fine-grained slightly powdery stone (for working leather?).

Burican, Arran (Kilmory parish)
Stone axe
NR 946 238 Ground and polished flat stone axe, perfect cutting face. Length 60mm, width 42mm, split horizontally. Dark-grey dolerite showing flow banding.

Glen Ree, Arran (Kilmory parish)
Stone axe fragment
NR 942 237 Fragment of a ground and polished stone axe, greenish-grey stone with brown mottling, reworked as a scraper. Picked up 1m to the S of chambered cairn.

Machrie, Arran (Kilmory parish)
Stone axe
NR 902 328 Fragment of a dolomite? axe, ground and polished, perfect cutting face. Width 38mm.

Sliderry, Arran (Kilmory parish)
Fieldwalking
NR 935 242 A large high field on the moor, known as 'the Crogue', above the Allt-na-Pairce burn, a tributary of the Sliderry water. An interesting working area of 35m by 20m to the SE of this field produced 172 very well-made small scrapers, 161 of pitchstone, 11 of flint and 22 of pitchstone with no secondary working.

Several interesting working patterns emerged. One invasively, bifacially flaked, leaf-shaped arrowhead of orange flint and one triangular, bifacially flaked arrowhead of chert were picked up, also eleven of finely flaked pitchstone: 2 barbed and tanged, 4 triangular, 2 leaf-shaped and 3 transverse (?), also several roughouts.

This site also produced pitchstone blades, perforators, 60 cores, core scrapers, some microliths, 27 battered chisels (possibly more) many small flakes and pressure flakes and 3 flint knives one of which was steeply worked on both cutting edges and on both rounded ends.

A small pitchstone surface was visible at the end of the field overlooking the river, possibly a large erratic boulder.

There is extensive evidence for the striking of basalt and a few felsite tools were found.

A sherd of pottery with clear cord marks was also picked up, a ground stone axe, a copper alloy ring with two protuberances on the outer circumference and four, so far unidentified, small wooden

STRATHCLYDE

wheel and roller-like objects. Two with a diameter of 113mm by thickness 65mm and two with a diameter of 73mm by length 68mm. Parts of wooden axles(?) are still in place.

Machrie, Arran (Kilmory parish)

Fieldwalking

NR 901 329 A small field of 40m by 25m; the Machrie water borders the northern edge, there is a stone circle 110m to the S and a flint knapping site 180m to the W.

114 lithics with good secondary working were found, 37 flint, 77 pitchstone and some pitchstone debris and broken tools. There is also striking of large porphyritic pitchstone flakes, most having some secondary working.

Four very well-worked and finished triangular pitchstone arrowheads were picked up within 4 square metres (26mm by 24mm, 22mm by 20mm, 29mm by 26mm, 23mm by 17mm).

Several interesting finely-worked small flint tools were also found, two examples: a hafted oblique, cutting tool and a hafted right-angled perforator with steeply flaked cutting edges.

There are seven classic examples of pitchstone nosed core scrapers, two microblade cores and evidence for the splitting and working of quartzite cobbles. There is also some evidence that on this interesting small site the same hand could have been involved in several tools.

Much of the porphyritic pitchstone appears to have been struck from one large piece, the nearest obvious source being the King's Cave shore NR 88/31.

The above fields are two examples of forty-eight fields which have been walked during the years 1989-93. In only four of these have no lithics been found.

The process of recording the finds, lithic and non-lithic, from these sites is almost complete and the records are held in the archive of the Isle of Arran Heritage Museum.

Clachaig by Lagg (Kilmory parish) J S Wood. A Johnstone Limekiln

NR 9495 2115 The massive stone-built commercial limekiln, largely intact but now in a fragile condition, displays evidence of having undergone considerable enlargement during its working life. This was the feature which attracted attention and prompted a survey by ACFA members.

The kiln is better known in that it gives its name to the adjacent neolithic cairn.

Copies of the survey report and drawings have been lodged with NMRS and the Strathclyde Regional Archaeologist.

Torr Righ Beag, Isle of Arran (Kilmory parish) NMS Lithic findspot

NR 898 315 Eight flakes of pitchstone and a burnt bifacially flaked fragment of flint, almost certainly part of a flint axehead, were recovered as surface finds by Mr B Johns in an area of ground disturbed by forestry operations. Donated to the NMS. Daybook no: DB 1993/29.

DUMBARTON DISTRICT

(Cardross parish) SRC SMR

Carman

NS 3726 7858 Small pre-improvement settlement.

(Dumbarton parish)

Burncrooks 1

NS 4789 7892 Remains of a house.

Burncrooks 2

NS 4785 7892 Foundations of L-shaped structure.

Earl's Seat

NS 4770 7953 Cairn.

(Kilmarnock parish)

Cambusmoon Cottage

NS 4249 8579 Inscribed stone 'St Mary's of Buchanan, 1616' now elsewhere in Gartocham. Reported to SMR by Mrs R Watson.

(Rhu parish)

Ardlui House, Charlotte St, Helensburgh

NS 300 827 Well reported to SMR by District Council.

Ballyhennan (Arrochar parish) F Baker Enclosure and settlement

NN 313 043 C500m E of Stuckdhu farmhouse at c50m OD overlooking the A83/Old Toll Road. A figure of eight enclosure with well-built stone dykes enclosing two mounds, apparently glacial in

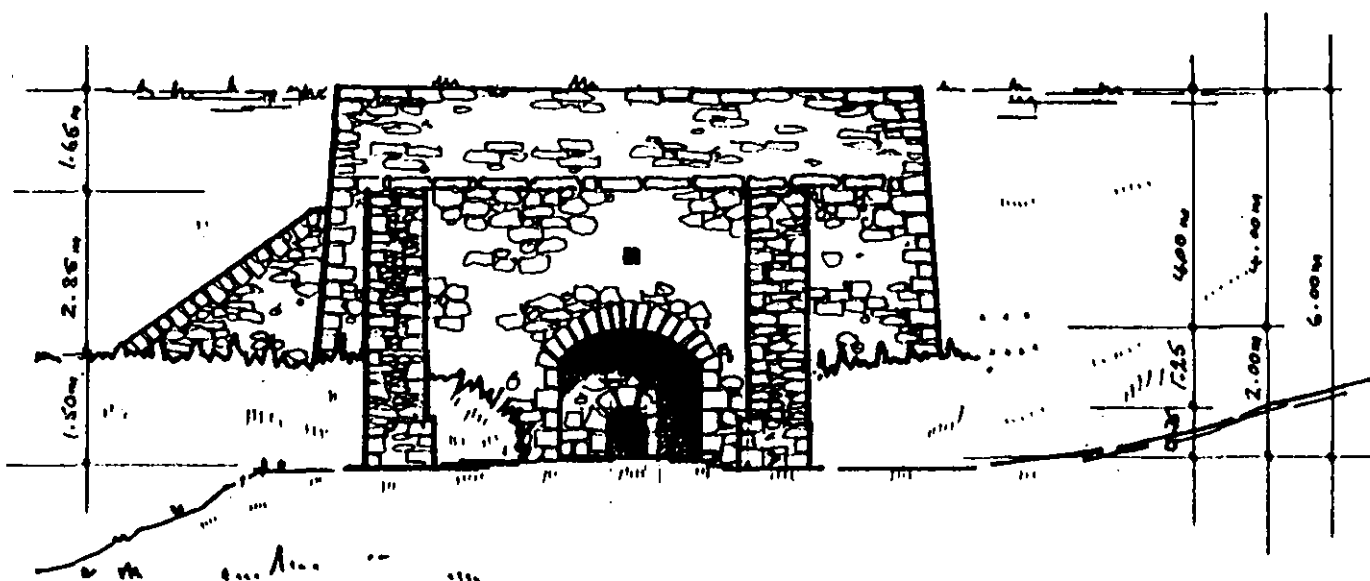


Fig 35. Clachaig limekiln south face.

origin, c100m by 70m overall. Bounded on S side by old trackway and bridge across burn, on the E by the burn. At the S end beside burn is an artificially levelled platform. Within the upper enclosed area in bedrock outcropping and a possible hut circle/circular shieling 8m in diameter. This southern mound may have been revetted along its N edge.

The northern mound is oval in plan and c15m by 22m and although probably natural appears to have loose stone accumulated on it.

To the E of this enclosure and separated from it by the burn is a further rectangular enclosure c38m by 29m. This enclosure contains a raised platform, 12m by 13m, in its SE corner and rig and furrow spaced 5m apart. This enclosure is possibly later than the figure of eight enclosure.

Old field boundaries are prevalent to the S, W and E of the site. Also further running to the N.

Arrochar Station/Ballyhennan (Arrochar parish)

Pit

NN 318 048 At c60m OD on a knoll (glacial) c20m high overlooking Loch Lomond. The S side of which has been quarried possibly for the West Highland railway line which is c30m S of the knoll.

An L-shaped pit measuring 2.85m by 1.65m and 0.45m deep. The function of this angular and regular pit is obscure. Relatively modern and thought to be associated with railway construction and/or quarrying activities. (Reported by Friends of Loch Lomond.)

Carman Drove Road (Cardross–Bonhill parish)

Drove road and fair site

NS 372 785 Carman Fair enclosure marked on OS maps. Drove road leads from Fair enclosure westwards across the muir to the edge of muir/boundary with Walton and Wallacetown farms where it meets another old and disused track running NW to SE alongside the old boundary banks and later field walls.

A ridge of bedrock outcropping runs alongside the track across the muir which has been quarried in places; the quarries (very small scale) probably having been re-used as shielings.

Wallacetown Farm (Cardross parish)

Stone troughs

NS 362 783 Two sandstone rectangular troughs, discarded in field bank at site of a spring. Troughs c80cm by 45cm, c25cm deep. Probably post-medieval in date.

Lee Farm (Cardross parish)

Flint scatters

NS 368 762 On the raised beach at c25m OD in the bottom of a hollow a scatter of struck beach pebble flint extending c20m by 20m.

NS 372 766 At c40m OD in a shallow depression a scatter of struck flint and chert extending 20m by 10m.

NS 372 765 At c45m OD and sloping down towards water course, a linear scatter of flint 15m by 5m. Containing retouched end scraper and retouched side scraper.

Wallacetown Farm (Cardross parish)

Flint scatter

NS 358 776 At 65m OD an extensive scatter of burnt flint extending across two fields up to 100m OD. Two late prehistoric struck beach flints also recovered.

Fieldwalking by transects revealed no concentrations of flint and considerable quantities of 19th-century china, clay pipes, etc.

A small percentage of the flint is vitrified/glaze splashed.

The origin of the burnt flint is not clear but it is considered to be the result of industrial processes (pottery/glass/lime production) rather than prehistoric activity and was probably spread on the field with/as a fertiliser.

Carman Muir (Cardross parish)

Round cairn

NS 366 785 A 7m-diameter round cairn standing 1m high. Stone construction, grass covered. At c155m OD.

Carman Muir (Cardross parish)

Cairns

NS 368 787 At c155m OD, c200m S of the Carman Muir road, a group of three cairns situated on the break of slope.

Cairn I Round cairn, 6m diameter, 80cm high, sub-circular, stone construction but now turf/heather covered. Depression on S side – ? possibly robbed.

Cairn II Sub-circular, 8m E to W by 7m N to S, 60cm high. Dispersed and irregular, stone construction apparent under turf. Possibly robbed on NE side.

Cairn III Oval mound, 7m N to S by 11m E to W, c30cm high. Some loose stone on NE side. Tapering ends. Not as convincing as cairns I and II.

Bannachra (Luss parish)

Two 17th-century fonts

NS 343 843 In the grounds of Bannachra Castle, two octagonal sandstone fonts.

One plain sandstone font, 60cm tall, 50cm diameter, 22cm deep, no water outlet, notch in rim for inflow – outflow pipe. Repair to rim. Octagonal.

One sandstone octagonal font, 53cm tall, 43cm diameter, 20cm deep. Outflow/plug hole, three plain undecorated sides (including plug-hole side) and five decorated faces, four with quatrefoil motif, and one face with inscription:

EX DONO GRIF FIN \perp PERSE ∇ RECT 1665

Also one sandstone mortar, 45cm tall in garden.

(By kind permission of the Lumsdens, Bannachra House.)

Greenland 2 (Auchentorlie) (Old Kilpatrick parish) A Sheridan Rock art site

NS 434 746 The continuing threat from quarrying led to excavations at Greenland 2 cup-and-ring rock art site (following MacKie's earlier work on Greenland 1: MacKie and Davis 1989). An area of 56m² adjacent to the known rock carvings was stripped, revealing a naturally-fragmented surface and hints of some human truncation. No further carvings were revealed, but one possible further cup-and-single ring was noted near the other marks on the already exposed surface. Several flint flakes and chips were found in crevices around the decorated areas, along with the tip of a flint arrowhead.

Extensive remains of medieval or post-medieval field walls and houses were noted in the area to the S of the site.

Reference

E W MacKie and A Davis 1989, 'New Light on Neolithic Rock Carving: The Petroglyphs at Greenland (Auchentorlie), Dunbartonshire', *Glasgow Arch J* 15, 125–55.

Sponsor: NMS.

Drumfad Farm (Rhu parish)

F Baker

Earthworks/quarry

NS 312 847 A sub-rectangular enclosure containing linear banks, hollows and depressions. Also a platform. C25m by 25m overall. Wm Sturgeon (farmer at Drumfad), reports it is a result of the Army digging for clay in the 1950s.

Strommallanach 1 (Rhu parish)

Post-medieval settlement/steading

NS 252 966 At c100m OD in a clearing in forestry plantation overlooking Loch Long. A steading consisting of two drystone rectangular structures. A traditional black house, three phases of

STRATHCLYDE

construction, three rooms, 15.5m by 5m externally. A winnowing barn, 11m by 5.5m externally.

A low artificial platform between house and bedrock outcrop also a rock-cut basin – 25cm diameter, 25cm deep – in bedrock.

C20m NW of the clearing in the forest is a further sub-rectangular drystone structure with three rooms measuring c6m by 4m. Stables/livestock accommodation. Small associated courtyard (c7m by 5m).

Also stone and turf dykes associated with the steading now disturbed by trees.

Stronmallanach 2 (Rhu parish)

Post-medieval settlement/steading

NS 253 964 At c100m OD in a clearing in forestry plantation overlooking Loch Long. A steading consisting of two traditional rectangular drystone structures. A house (black house) 13m by 5m with four rooms and incorporating outcropping bedrock, two phases.

A rectangular drystone building 9m by 5m with buttressing on SW corner against prevailing wind. Probably a barn.

A third rectangular drystone structure lies in a further clearing some 8m NE of the barn. This building, 11m by 5m, consists of a kiln at its SW end some 2m in diameter and 2m deep. Thought to be a malting kiln. One room to the E containing a sunken stone-lined fire-pit and niche at E wall and a drystone box – 60cm by 70cm internally – in its SW corner. Built in the lea of a bank and thereby concealed. Possibly an illicit still.

EAST KILBRIDE DISTRICT

(Avondale parish)

SRC SMR

Laigh Drumclog

NS 6321 3930 Farmstead.

Drumclog Cottage

NS 6288 3914 Tileworks.

Small Burn

NS 643 346 Structure, field system.

(East Kilbride parish)

Mains Road, East Kilbride

NS 632 563 A number of possible damaged small cairns reported to SMR by Mr P Dearie.

EASTWOOD DISTRICT

(Eaglesham parish)

SRC SMR

Mickle Binend (Bennan)

NS 5240 5090 House and enclosures.

(Mearns parish)

Old Mearns Road

NS 561 569 to Post-medieval road

NS 557 556 reported to SMR by NTS.

CITY OF GLASGOW DISTRICT

Provand's Lordship (Glasgow parish)

A Bailey (SUAT)

Urban medieval

NS 665 260 An excavation was carried out at Macleod Street, Glasgow, immediately to the W of Provand's Lordship, in February

1993. A trench roughly 2.5m wide was opened by machine E to W across the site, with a small extension at the eastern end, running S towards the street frontage.

Much of the site was disturbed by the foundations and services of a 19th-century tenement building, below which were the foundations of an 18th-century tenement on a different alignment. Associated with this earlier tenement were several deposits of crushed slate, assumed to be bedding for the road surface.

A layer of garden soil was then revealed, presumably the remains of an orchard known to have existed here from the 15th to 18th centuries. Three deep sondages were opened up by machine along the trench, and revealed a very deep deposit of silty soil, infilling the valley of the Gyrth Burn which runs under Macleod Street. There was no dating evidence or anything to indicate whether the infilling was natural or deliberate. However, it can be assumed that at least some levelling had taken place when Provand's Lordship was built around 1471. A peaty organic deposit found at the bottom of one sondage may be the remains of vegetation alongside the burn.

Sponsor: City of Glasgow District Council.

Provand's Lordship (Glasgow parish)

A Cox (SUAT)

Finds assemblage

NS 665 260 The finds assemblage from this site is characterised by 19th-century material, including pottery, bottle glass, clay pipe fragments and a small quantity of metal objects. There is evidence of a degree of residuality within some context assemblages, medieval pottery being recovered in association with later material. Green-glazed earthenwares of possible 15th to 16th-century date were present in some of the earlier deposits. This material may have derived from the orchard soils occupying the area between the 15th and 18th centuries.

Glasgow Cathedral (St Mungo's parish)


S T Driscoll

Excavations (see Fig 36)

NS 603 656 During the autumn and winter of 1992–3, extensive archaeological excavations were conducted in advance of the installation of a new heating and electrical system for the cathedral. Trenches were located where new ducts were to be installed below the floor in the Nave, the Choir, the Crypt and the Session Room. These trenches produced evidence for the construction of both the 12th-century cathedrals which preceded the present building. The early cathedrals were represented by *in situ* masonry and decorated fragments of masonry which had been reused in the 13th-century works. Traces of activity pre-dating the 13th century were discovered in the W end of the Nave and important evidence was also recovered for the internal divisions of the post-Reformation use of the Nave.

Burials and stray human bones were found in the trenches dug in Lower Church and the Nave. In total 77 burials were excavated, most of which can be reasonably well dated as well as hundreds of loose bones, which may be of any age. In the Lower Church no features relating to the site of St Mungo's tomb were found and most of the burials date to the early 19th century. In the Nave, burials were found which pre-date the 12th-century structures and continued at irregular intervals to the 19th century.

Apart from the architectural fragments and coffin fittings, finds were scarce. The most significant artefactual discovery consisted of two massive medieval bronze mortars and an iron pestle which had been deposited in a pit in the Lower Church.

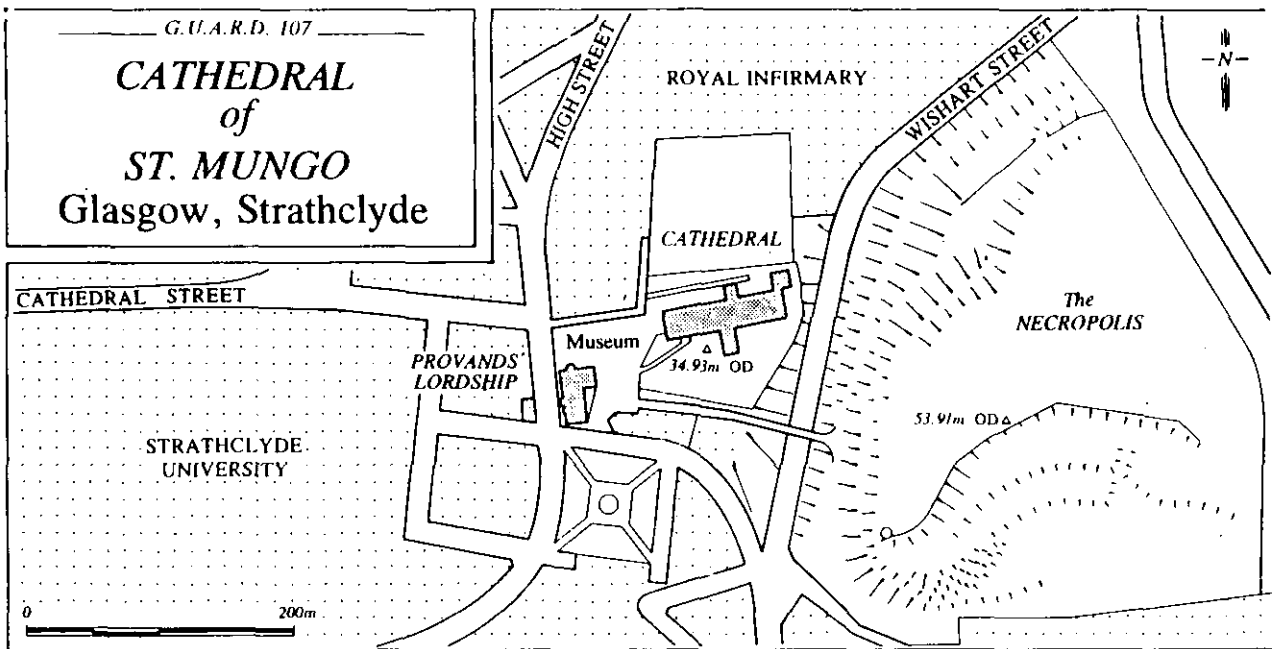
Sponsor: HS 

(New Kilpatrick parish)

SRC SMR

Knightswood Hospital

NS 5382 6875 Roman coins found in the past.



Plan of Cathedral showing Location of Excavated Areas

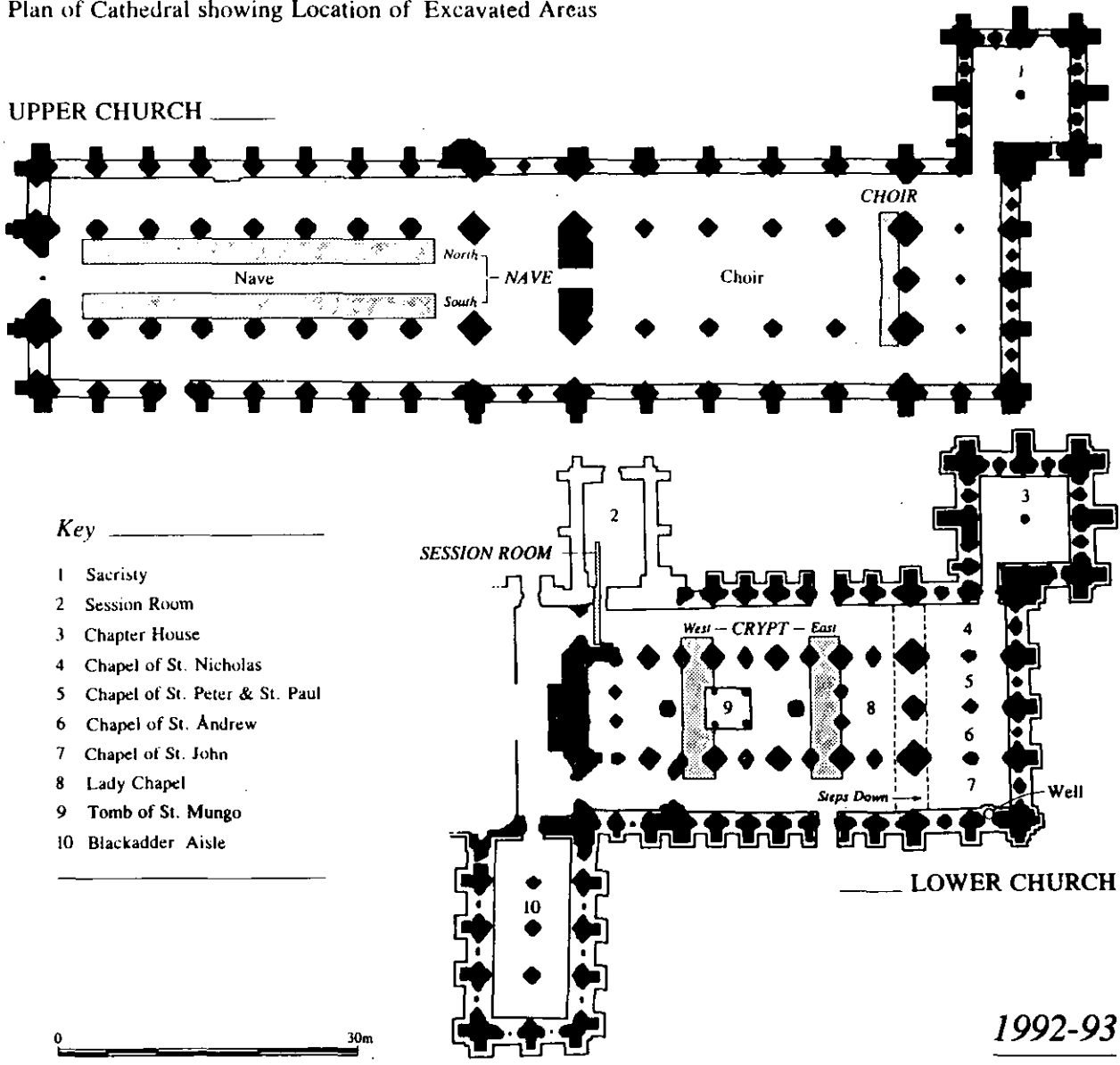


Fig 36. Glasgow Cathedral.

STRATHCLYDE

HAMILTON DISTRICT

Bothwell Castle (Bothwell parish) J Lewis
 NS 688 593 Excavation was carried out early in 1991 in advance of the construction of a new sales point adjacent to the interior of the castle's late 14th/early 15th-century N curtain wall. There was little of archaeological interest other than a 1.50m-wide robber trench, parallel to the curtain but only 2.0m from it, which may have been associated in some way with the entrance into the castle's enclosure. Sponsor: HS

Bothwell Castle (Bothwell parish) D Reed
 NS 688 593 An area, measuring approximately 50m by 35m and located about 100m E of the castle, was machine-stripped of turf and topsoil before the surface of a new visitor car park was laid. No features earlier than the numerous 19th and 20th-century field drains which traversed the site were uncovered within the area of investigation. Sponsor: HS

INVERCLYDE DISTRICT

Priestside (Kilmacolm parish) J A Atkinson
 'Hillside' deserted farmstead
 NS 325 717 An archaeological assessment by GUARD of a proposed quarry site at Priestside Farm, Port Glasgow revealed the remains of a deserted farmstead, now in a very ruinous condition. The eastern wall of the structure was still standing to a height of 0.5m and the full extent of the building covered an area of 9m by 3.5m. There was also evidence of field dykes and rig and furrow associated with the site. Roy's military maps indicate the site to be known as 'Hillside'. Sponsor: McAlpine Quarries.

Duchal Castle (Kilmacolm parish) D Alexander
 Castle and gunloops
 NS 334 685 The only previous plan of this castle was a sketch in MacGibbon and Ross. Recently a plan was drawn of the ruinous remains which stand on a promontory between two rivers. Only fragmentary sections of the enclosing walls survive, and the majority of these are undermined. However a few notable architectural features were recorded. The upper lintels and sides of two horizontal, wide-mouthed gunloops (A and C) and a possible third smaller example (B) were located within the curtain walls. A single piece of worked stone was all that remained of a possible garderobe chute (D). See Fig 37. Sponsor: Renfrewshire Local History Forum.

KILMARNOCK & LOUDOUN DISTRICT

Laigh Overmuir (Loudoun parish) A Johnstone, J Mair
 Round cairn
 NS 579 429 On sloping rough pasture land between the farm of Laigh Overmuir and the Glen Water, in line with a large erratic known locally as the Goukstone, and 41m S of the farm track to the farmhouse, lies a turf-covered cairn.
 The cairn, which was surveyed by ACFA members, has a diameter of between 26m and 27m and stands to a height of 1.7m when viewed from the S. It has two apparent levels and is slightly scooped at the centre. Large stones are visible around the perimeter of the scoop and more are exposed on the outside edge of the cairn.

The modified surface may be due to early robbing and to later alteration to accommodate a farm henhouse on its summit.

Newmilns Tower, Newmilns (Loudoun parish) D Hall,
 Late medieval tower house A Bailey (SUAT)
 NS 536 373 Observations of contractor's excavations connected with the restoration of this tower house were undertaken in two phases. The machine excavation of ground to the N and E of the tower revealed that it had very shallow foundations and located the exit point for the garderobe chute. Monitoring of new service trenches through the front door of the tower located natural clay c.0.15m below modern ground level. Parts of the cobbled surface of the earlier version of Castle Street were located running past the tower on its eastern side. Sponsor: Ian Cumming (developer).

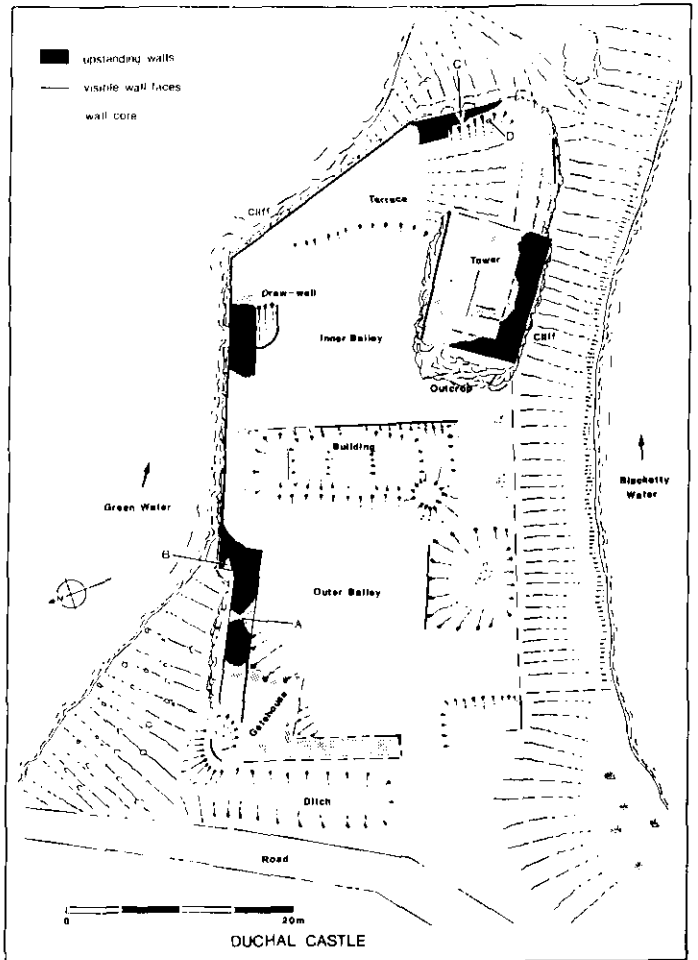


Fig 37. Duchal Castle.

KYLE & CARRICK DISTRICT

(Ballantrae parish) SRC SMR
Beneraid
 NX 1264 7865 Possible enclosure.
Burn of the Dupin
 NX 0868 7520 Enclosure, possible house, and cup-marked stone.
Altimeg
 NX 0912 7598 Enclosure.
Altimeg Burn
 NX 0953 7609 Enclosure, probable house or shieling.

(Barr parish)

Albany Burn 1

NX 2843 9128 Settlement of unknown date.

Albany Burn 2

NX 2861 9228 Small pre-improvement settlement.

Albany Burn 3

NX 2841 9224 Enclosures.

Darley

NX 2976 9173 Shepherd's house on earlier settlement and field system.

Lead Mine Burn

NX 3069 9223 Enclosures plus rig and furrow.

Water of Gregg 1

NX 2939 9233 Enclosure.

Water of Gregg 2

NX 2945 9226 Enclosure.

(Colmonell parish)

Sunnyside

NS 2994 7667 Site of house on older foundation.

(Kirkmichael parish)

Claty Burn

NS 369 074 Earthen banks reported to SMR by Forestry Commission.

(Straiton parish)

Knockoner Burn

NX 3582 9947 Sub-rectangular enclosure.

Garleffin

NS 3525 0000 Possible small enclosure, wall and rig.

Turgeny 1

NS 4248 0539 Cairn.

Turgeny 2

NS 4246 0598 Possible burnt mound.

Turgeny 3

NS 4259 0600 Enclosure, quarry scoops.

Knockunter 1

NS 4191 0323 Enclosure.

Knockunter 2

NS 4175 0333 Enclosure.

Knockunter 3

NS 4182 0328 Settlement and possible horizontal mill.

Keir's Hill

NS 4253 0694 Enclosure.

Kilwhannel High Plantation (Ballantrae parish)

CFA

Pre-afforestation survey

The following sites were surveyed in January 1993 within a c6 ha area in advance of afforestation. Full details are in a report lodged with the NMRS.

NX 1167 8044 A low, small cairn, mostly covered by grass.

NX 1168 8044 An irregularly-shaped, level, artificial platform about 9m wide, cut into the W of a small knoll.

NX 1169 8046 A low, flattened dyke curves just to the W of a small knoll forming a 5m wide irregularly-shaped hollow or enclosure.

NX 1173 8047 The remains of a hut-circle, with an internal diameter of 7.6m (NMRS Ref: NX 18 SW 14).

NX 1173 8048 An 8m-wide possible structure, located just to the N of the hut-circle: it has the appearance of a cairn with a hollowed centre.

NX 117 804 A series of four E to W aligned low, turf-covered banks. Once a linked network and recently destroyed by modern drainage ditches.

NX 1179 8045 A small oval cairn.

NX 1180 8044 A group of three very small turf-covered cairns arranged around a hollow.

NX 1182 8045 A low, annular turf bank surrounds a 3m diameter hollow. Possibly a small structure.

Sponsor: HS

Altimeg (Ballantrae parish)

S Carter

Later prehistoric settlement and cairns, post-medieval enclosures and other recent structures

NX 106 754 (centre) A short notice forestry survey was carried out by AOC (Scotland) Ltd covering approximately 1km² of land at Altimeg Hill, 7km S of Ballantrae. Three archaeological sites had been recorded previously within the survey area: NX17NW 3 (mound), NX17NW 7 (hut circles [possible], enclosures) and NX17SW 14 (cairns [possible]). Twenty sites were recorded and these can be divided into two groups, pre-dating and post-dating the accumulation of blanket peat. Only seven sites pre-date the peat (1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13) and of these only No 9 is an identifiable site type (hut circle). Most of the post-peat sites are small sheepfolds. Confusion in the record means that No 8 has been recorded both as NX17NW 3 and 7. It is correctly part of NX17NW 7 and NX17NW 3 cannot be positively located.

List of Sites Recorded

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | NX 1108 7483 | Mound. (NMRS NX17SW 14) |
| 2 | NX 1095 7503 | Banks. |
| 3 | NX 1086 7520 | Enclosure. |
| 4 | NX 1000 7482 | Enclosure. |
| 5 | NX 1053 7518 | Enclosure. (NMRS NX17NW 7 'C') |
| 6 | NX 1050 7517 | Cairn. (NMRS NX17NW 7) |
| 7 | NX 1051 7520 | Uncertain. (NMRS NX17NW 7 'B') |
| 8 | NX 1947 7519 | Enclosure. (NMRS NX17NW 3, part, and 7, part) |
| 9 | NX 1048 7530 | Hut circle. (NMRS NX17NW 7 'A') |
| 10 | NX 1038 7531 | Enclosure. |
| 11 | NX 1043 7533 | Cairn. (NMRS NX17NW 7) |
| 12 | NX 1051 7550 | Cairn. (NMRS NX17NW 3, part) |
| 13 | NX 1033 7538 | Cairn? |
| 14 | NX 1025 7546 | Stone setting. |
| 15 | NX 1015 7547 | Enclosure. |
| 16 | NX 1028 7560 | Enclosure. |
| 17 | NX 0998 7570 | Platform. |
| 18 | NX 0998 7568 | Enclosure. |
| 19 | NX 1002 7569 to NX 1136 7453 | Track. |
| 20 | NX 1008 7557 | Wall. |

Sponsor: HS

Dundonald Castle (Dundonald parish)

G Ewart

Castle

NS 363 345 A short programme of excavation was completed in February 1993 as one of the final stages of a lengthy programme of excavation and survey conducted on the site in advance of restoration.

Work was undertaken in the pit prison, within the S range, and the footings of a rounded tower, possibly dating to the late 13th-century layout of the castle were found. Three further trenches were excavated within the late 14th-century tower in advance of first-floor reinstatement, but revealed only 19th-century levelling.

Sponsor: HS

Barbae (Girvan parish)

S Carter

Post-medieval settlements, cultivation

NX 225 939 A short notice forestry survey was carried out by AOC (Scotland) Ltd covering approximately 1.5km² of land at Barbae, 5km SE of Girvan. The area was divided into three blocks of land centred on Barbae, Dupin and Auchenmady. Only two archaeological sites had been recorded previously within the survey area: NX29SW 8 and 10, both described as farmsteads.

STRATHCLYDE

Twenty-seven sites were recorded including both discrete monuments and field systems. Areas of ridged cultivation were not assigned separate site numbers. The recorded sites can be divided into three groups: 1. Pre-improvement settlement and agriculture; 2. Improvement agriculture; 3. Industrial.


Pre-improvement agriculture and settlement This group is best represented by the complex of sites (6 to 17 inclusive) centred on the farmstead in the Dupin survey block (9). The fields recorded as 26 and 27 are part of the former settlement of Auchenmady but the remainder of the survey block has been affected by later activity and is less straightforward to interpret. RCAHMS describe site NX29SW 8 as the farmstead of Auchenmady but this identification is hard to sustain on the field evidence. There is even less surviving at Barbae of the pre-improvement landscape. Those areas that remain are on the steeper slopes or in areas with frequent rock outcrops and therefore unsuited to mechanised methods of cultivation.

Improvement agriculture Most of the Barbae survey block appears to have been systematically reorganised and a regular field system imposed. It is assumed that this is a late 18th or early 19th-century layout, reflecting the 'improvement' of Barbae.

Industrial The probable tramway (No 4) and the road (No 5) are part of the transport system established to serve Tormitchell limestone quarry in the early 19th century.

List of Sites Recorded

- 1 NX 2230 9430 Field system.
- 2 NX 2250 9403 Lynchet.
- 3 NX 2270 9435 Bank.
- 4 NX 2295 9415 Possible tramway.
- 5 NX 2231 9314 to NX 2312 9407 Road.
- 6 NX 2324 9413 Building.
- 7 NX 2337 9396 Enclosure.
- 8 NX 2342 9391 Enclosure.
- 9 NX 2344 9393 Farmstead. (NMRS NX29SW 10)
- 10 NX 2356 9375 Enclosure.
- 11 NX 2348 9375 Enclosure.
- 12 NX 2350 9365 Enclosure.
- 13 NX 2338 9371 Enclosure.
- 14 NX 2321 9388 Enclosure.
- 15 NX 2320 9380 Enclosure.
- 16 NX 2340 9380 Field system.
- 17 NX 2349 9354 Building.
- 18 NX 2240 9355 Enclosure.
- 19 NX 2241 9339 Enclosure.
- 20 NX 2245 9335 Banks.
- 21 NX 2247 9329 Building. (NMRS NX29SW 8, part)
- 22 NX 2250 9327 Enclosure. (NMRS NX29SW 8, part)
- 23 NX 2252 9326 Possible kiln. (NMRS NX29SW 8, part)
- 24 NX 2254 9326 Uncertain. (NMRS NX29SW 8, part)
- 25 NX 2258 9324 Enclosure. (NMRS NX29SW 8, part)
- 26 NX 2231 9320 Enclosure.
- 27 NX 2250 9310 Field system.

Sponsor: HS 

Girvan Mains (Girvan parish)

P W Cox

Roman temporary camps

NX 187 990 **1. Introduction** In April 1993 Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by Historic Scotland to carry out a geophysical survey, by magnetometer, of 1 hectare within the scheduled Roman camps at Girvan, Ayrshire, in advance of the proposed construction of a sewerage pipeline. The work was carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, under the direction of the author on behalf of Bullen & Partners, consulting engineers to Strathclyde Regional Council Sewerage Department.

2. Archaeological background The two Roman camps at Girvan Mains are centred on NX 190 990 and NX 186 990, and have been the focus of considerable interest since the identification

of cropmarks to the N of Girvan Water, initially indicating an E camp and later the smaller site to the W (St Joseph 1978; Rankov 1983; Frere 1983 & 1984; Maxwell & Wilson 1987).

Aerial survey by RCAHMS in 1989, however, recorded additional linear cropmarkings which substantially altered the interpretation of the cropmark evidence. When plotted by RCAHMS, they appeared to indicate: (1) that the W side of the E camp lay considerably further to the W than previously thought, the position earlier assumed for the NW angle probably being that of a gate and; (2) that the NE to SW dimension of the W camp was a little over 350m. Moreover, the position of the gate with a traverse which was visible in the W side of the former camp suggested that the NW angle might have lain relatively close to the shore, the area enclosed approaching 21 ha.

3. Survey results The survey was carried out using a Fluxgate Gradiometer and recorded two weak linear responses. Both appear to provide evidence for continuations of previously identified elements of the camps into an area where the variable subsoil of the raised beach has not allowed the definition of archaeological features as cropmarks. This new information has profound implications for the interpretation of the sites' layout and helps to confirm that the two would not have functioned contemporaneously. The provision of a beach head at either site would have allowed the camps to fulfil the function of a base for Agricola's combined army and naval operations around the Scottish coast (Hind 1974; Frere 1978).

The east camp The W to E anomaly provides convincing evidence that the E camp is formed by a sub-rectangular enclosure, extending almost to the present beach, the W boundary of which was dictated by the presence of the sea cliff and covering an area of at least 21 ha.

The west camp The suggested continuation of the E ditch of the camp on the line of the NW to SE magnetic anomaly is similarly precise in its alignment with existing aerial photographic data. If correct this raises the possibility that this camp was also considerably larger than previously suggested, covering an area of at least 13 ha. It also appears to have extended close to the sea-shore and encompassed the sea cliff, which had previously been suggested as an inhibiting factor to a more extensive camp.

References


G S Maxwell and D R Wilson, 1987, 'Air Reconnaissance in Roman Britain 1977-84', *Britannia* 18 (1987), 34-5.

D Shiel, 1993, 'Report on Geophysical Survey at Girvan', Report no 93/59. Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, (unpublished).

Sponsor: Strathclyde Regional Council.

Garden Street, Tarbolton (Tarbolton parish) D Hall (SUAT) Motte and bailey castle

NS 431 273 Trial excavation, in advance of a new house, revealed no archaeological deposits relating to the motte and bailey castle which lies some 70m to the E.

Sponsor: HS 

CLYDESDALE DISTRICT

Castledykes (Carstairs parish)

SRC SMR

Possible Roman road

NS 9264 4429 Strathclyde SMR carried out a watching brief during the excavation of foundations for a private dwelling at Castledykes on 1 October 1993. The foundations disturbed the presumed line of the Roman road running from Castledykes fort to Cleghorn temporary camp. Several phases of road construction were noted. All of these utilised modern surface materials except the

earliest phase, which used elements of subsoil along with rounded stone in its construction. The remains of this earliest phase comprised a layer 0.1m to 0.2m thick and 2.1m wide which overlaid a buried plough soil. This was found at exactly the point where the Roman road was presumed to run. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was found so the existence of a specifically Roman road at this location cannot be proven.

Sponsor: Strathclyde Regional Council.

(Douglas parish)

SRC SMR

Birnacknowe 1

NS 8802 3485 Farmstead.

Birnacknowe 2

NS 8799 3488 Possible standing stone.

(Lanark parish)

Hyndford Road, Lanark

NS 8879 4328 Watching brief carried out adjoining St Kentigern's Cemetery. Negative results.

(Pettinain parish)

Westraw Hill

NS 949 420 Cairns, banked and ditched land (centre) boundaries.

New Sites found during Field Survey in Advance of the Construction of the M74

M P Robins

The following list contains all the sites isolated during fieldwork carried out under contract to the Scottish Office Roads Directorate in advance of the A74 improvement scheme (GUARD 29.3). The list contains the definite sites and the more dubious possible sites that were detected in a 500m corridor centred on the line of the new road. As the road improvement scheme poses a significant threat to the archaeological resources in this area, all traces of activity were recorded no matter how ephemeral: in many cases only trial excavation will be able to reveal the genuine antiquities.

List of sites Numbers 1 to 3 are in Strathclyde region (Clydesdale), and numbers 4 to 45 are in Dumfries and Galloway region (Annandale and Eskdale) (see pp 15–18).

1. Beattock Summit (Crawford parish)

Two new circular stone-built structures were discovered in rough pasture on Beattock Summit at NS 9989 1516 (BS.1) and NS 9987 1517 (BS.2). They are both similar in nature and very close together. Both features occupy low knolls rising from the flat valley floor, only a short distance from the north-eastern edge of the valley, giving a good southerly attitude. As such they are well placed for pre-historic domestic settlement as well as later farming activity. BS.1 has a maximum diameter of 13.5m with walls and tumble standing up to 0.2m high and measuring from 1.5m to 2.5m wide. A narrow break in the low bank of walls and tumble can be seen on the SE side and probably represents an entrance. BS.2 has a maximum diameter of 12.2m with walls and tumble standing up to 0.25m high and ranging from 1m to 2m wide. Again a narrow entrance is discernible on the SE side.

2. Upper Howecleuch

Three cairns were found in the rough pasture around the farm at Upper Howecleuch (A.1, A.2, and A.3).

A.1 at NT 0009 1462 measures 5.5m in diameter and is a roughly circular, turfed over stony mound standing up to 0.3m high. As such it is a possible small prehistoric burial cairn.

A.2 at NT 0007 1451 is a small oval cairn measuring 3.5m by 3m and standing 0.5m high. It is composed of at least twelve randomly placed very large stones, the largest measuring 0.8m by 0.5m by 0.5m, and is not turfed over. Unfortunately, there were no clear traces on the rocks to tell whether they had been quarried or not, but

this is probably a modern clearance cairn as most small burial cairns were constructed of stones much more manageable in size.

A.3 at NS 9992 1470 is half-turfed over with only the topmost central part of it showing bare worn stones. This may suggest that it represents a modern dump of stone on top of an older turfed cairn. It is oval in plan measuring 3.5m by 3m and standing 0.3m high.

3. Hector's Bridge

Information from the Biggar Museum Trust provided the location of the remains of a small rectangular building at NT 0069 1401. This site too is under dense plantation. From the little that could be seen of the site under the trees it seems to exist as a spread of stone some 10m across with at least one small section of walling surviving up to one or two courses high. The site has suffered deep ploughing and is in a bad state of preservation.

Biggar (Biggar parish)

T Ward

Stone axe

NT 0380 3774 Mr Jim Ness of 13 Croftfoot Terrace, Biggar, found a river-worn, greywacke stone in his garden which had been worked into a stone axe. This is a good example of an opportunist shaped stone being fashioned into a tool. Both blade and butt ends are naturally shaped as is the roughly lentoidal shape of the section, however the axe shows clear usage by two chips on the blade and percussion marks at both ends. Length 120mm by 58mm by 28mm. Donated to Biggar Museum.

Biggar Common (Biggar parish)

Neolithic/Bronze Age artefact scatters

NT 028 396 Members of BMT Young Archaeology Club walking over the recently ploughed area on the E end of Biggar Common (see DES 1992, 65) discovered discrete scatters of WN and BA pottery, flints, chert and pitchstone. Six trenches were opened in the first instance to retrieve all artefacts from the damaged plough zone as the sherds were noted to be suffering from the effects of weathering. Trench 1 was the most prolific surface scatter and this was reflected by what was located below. A large assemblage of WN sherds from numerous pots, chert and pitchstone flakes, flakes from broken axes and a chert leaf arrow. Post holes and other sub-surface pits were located with charcoal fills, hazel kernels were numerous. Charcoal spreads over most of the trench produced the majority of *in situ* finds and an early neolithic house site seems the most likely explanation. Trench 2 had a single large patch of charcoal about 1m in diameter within which a quantity of WN sherds were retrieved as well as the scatter around. This may have been the site of a fire. Two chert leaf arrows and fragments of stone axes were also found. A leaf arrow recycled from a polished stone axe (type VI?) was found nearby. Trench 5 produced flint flakes and tools and a quantity of decorated grooved ware sherds from different vessels with thick and thin walls. This seems to indicate a house? site. Datable charcoal was retrieved from all contexts. A small trench, No 4, was opened on the findspot of a single comb decorated beaker sherd, but only a few sherds of WN pot were found. The saddle quern (NT 028 395) reported last year was near Trench 1 and probably had been used there. Further pieces of struck chert, flint and pitchstone were found scattered over the area.

Sponsors: Lanark & District Archaeology Society, Biggar Museum Trust.

Cornhill (Culter parish)

Stone artefacts

NT 024 348 Members of BMT Young Archaeology Club conducted an arable fieldwalking project which produced large amounts of struck chert, a few flints and a single piece of pitchstone. Sponsor: Biggar Museum Trust.

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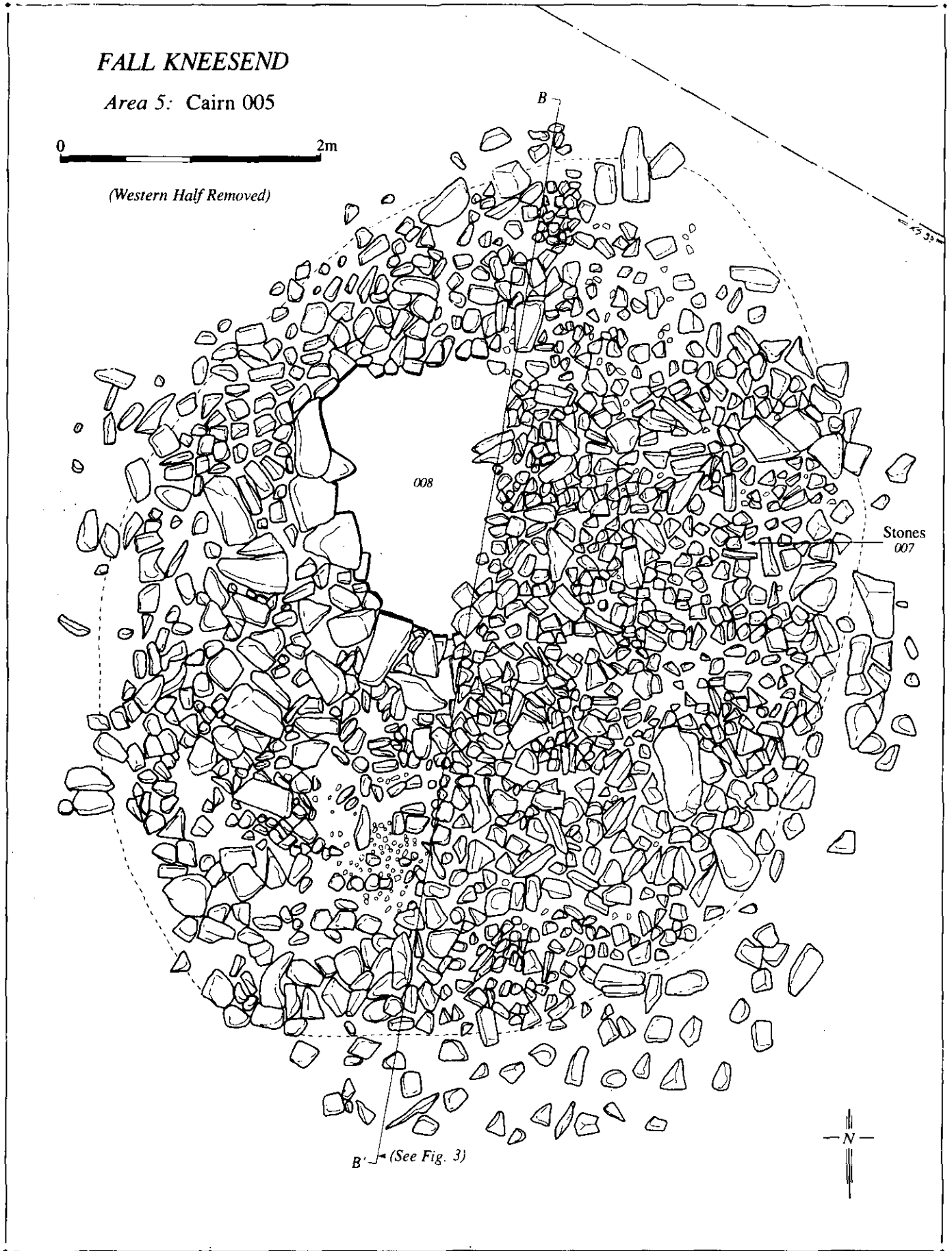


Fig 38. Fall Kneesend. Area 5: Cairn 005.

Fall Kneesend (Crawford parish)
Cairnfield

J Downes

NS 9800 1625 Excavation by GUARD of part of a large cairnfield took place ahead of construction of the M74 and a new access road. In total seven discrete cairns of various sizes were investigated, as well as four structures and the remains of agricultural activity.


The cairns all exhibited features and forms of construction that indicated none of them to be simply clearance cairns (see Cairn 005, Fig 38). One small cairn covered the remains of a cremation pyre and fragments of burnt human bone. It is likely that the other cairns covered, or contained, unburnt human bone of which no trace remained due to soil conditions. The discovery of square or rectangular cist-like structures which were integral to the cairn structures support this thesis.

A large ring cairn (see Cairn 018, Fig 39, p 90) displayed several phases of construction, initiated by the cutting of a small ditch demarcating the extent of the cairn. Finds of struck chert and pottery indicate a Bronze Age date for the cairns.

A section of linear stone 'boundary' with three cairns along the length of it was excavated, but there was no evidence to suggest these cairns to be other than clearance.

The remains of two long, sub-oval, waisted stone structures set amongst the cairns were excavated. One of these structures measured 11m by 7m, and had a well-made entrance way, a hearth and internal post holes. It is at present not clear whether these structures are contemporary with or later than the cairns. A small circular structure c2.5m internal diameter was excavated, as well as a sub-oval stone structure with an external cobbled area.

It is hoped to obtain C14 dates for the site. The archive and publication reports of the site are currently being prepared.


Sponsors: Funded by Scottish Office Roads Directorate. Managed by HS 

Fall Kneesend (Crawford parish)
Roman road

NS 9795 1613 As part of the excavations at Fall Kneesend by GUARD, a section of scheduled suspected Roman road was investigated. The surface of the road survived under a shallow formation of turf. The road was made up from grey clay, overlain by a black organic layer, covered by a dump of sand and large stones. There was a ditch running along the upslope, northerly side of the road, which had been recut once. The top surface of the road measured 11m width.

A quarry pit nearby was excavated. It would appear that the material for the road construction had been derived from a series of such pits along the road line, some of which are visible as hollows in the field.

This site will be published with the Fall Kneesend cairnfield.

Sponsors: Funded by Scottish Office Roads Directorate. Managed by HS 

Fall Kneesend (Crawford parish)
Cairns/structures/Roman road

T Ward

NS 980 161 Part of a complex of cairns and other structures including a Roman road are to be destroyed during the next phases of the M74 Motorway S of Elvanfoot. In 1992 GUARD investigated part of the threatened area (see above). This area is now being used by Biggar Museum to further evaluate the enigmatic site and to train local voluntary archaeologists in excavation and survey techniques. To date, little of consequence to add to the work of GUARD has been found except for two sherds, one of which is decorated and likely to be BA. A further part of the Roman road has been revealed adjacent to a quarry pit. A stony, linear bank previously suggested to be the apron of an unenclosed platform has been shown to be most likely clearance of BA date.

Sponsors: Biggar Museum Trust, Lanark & District Archaeology Society.

Midlock Farm (Crawford parish)
Ring bank

NS 9656 2148 On the level ground 35m SW of a mature plantation there is a 'pear'-shaped ring bank measuring 8m by 6m, the long axis being on a NNW to SSE alignment. The continuous bank spreads to 1.5m and is only 0.15m high. Nearby are several recorded Bronze Age monuments.

Glenochar (Crawford parish)

Bastle house, farm complex

NS 946 139 An eighth and final season has resulted in the floor plans of nine buildings being revealed on this farm complex, showing details of their functions as houses and/or byres (see DES 1992, 66-7). Features on these floors are cobbling, hearths, open and covered drainage systems, stalling and feeding arrangements for animals, cruck slots, entrances and multiple floor layers. The evidence from finds suggest that all the buildings except X and perhaps Y were used throughout the 17th century and up to the mid-18th century. The large building at X was clearly abandoned by the mid-17th century and may have pre-dated the Bastle house. Post-excavation research is now under way and is expected to take several years. A management scheme is now being set up to consolidate the site for presentation to the public.

Footnote: The bastle house sites of Clydesdale are now Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Sponsors: Lanark & District Archaeology Society, Biggar Museum Trust.

Camps Reservoir (Crawford parish)

Enclosed cremation cemetery, burnt mound, cairn, structures

NT 010 221 Following the survey of various features within the reservoir area which are normally below water level (see DES 1992, 66), it was decided that they were being eroded by the wave action within the reservoir. A limited excavation was carried out on some of the features to determine their true nature. The burnt mound produced samples of charcoal and burnt flint; nearby hearth sites were identified but no trace of a trough was found. The ring enclosure was shown to be an enclosed cremation cemetery containing four discrete cremation deposits in pits. Parts of three beakers and a finely-worked 'finger stone' were found within the enclosure. Some work was done on another circular ring of stone but no evidence for date or function was located. One dispersed cairn was entirely excavated and below it lay a scatter of chert and flint tools and sherds from at least eleven vessels. This material was associated with small pits and possible post holes and was a pre-cairn activity possibly associated with the adjacent unenclosed platform settlement.

Sponsors: HS , Lanark & District Archaeology Society, Biggar Museum Trust.

Wildshaw Burn Stone Circle (Crawford/John parish)

Circle, observation

NS 8820 2716 In 1992, midwinter sunrise was observed to take place on an alignment over stone numbers 20 and 10 (Ward 1992). The first flash of the rising sun is seen exactly in the crossover point between the hills of Craighead and Blackhill, to the SE of the circle. Further detailed survey of the position of the sun relative to this monument has been carried out in order to predict any solar or lunar sight lines from the circle.

17 Castlegate, Lanark (Lanark parish)

A N Smith

Assessment and watching brief

NS 8820 4357 The site consisted of an area of ground at the rear of 17 Castlegate which was due to be developed as an extension to the car park for the adjacent Wm Low Superstore. The parcel of land was made up of the south-western ends of gardens attached (at least

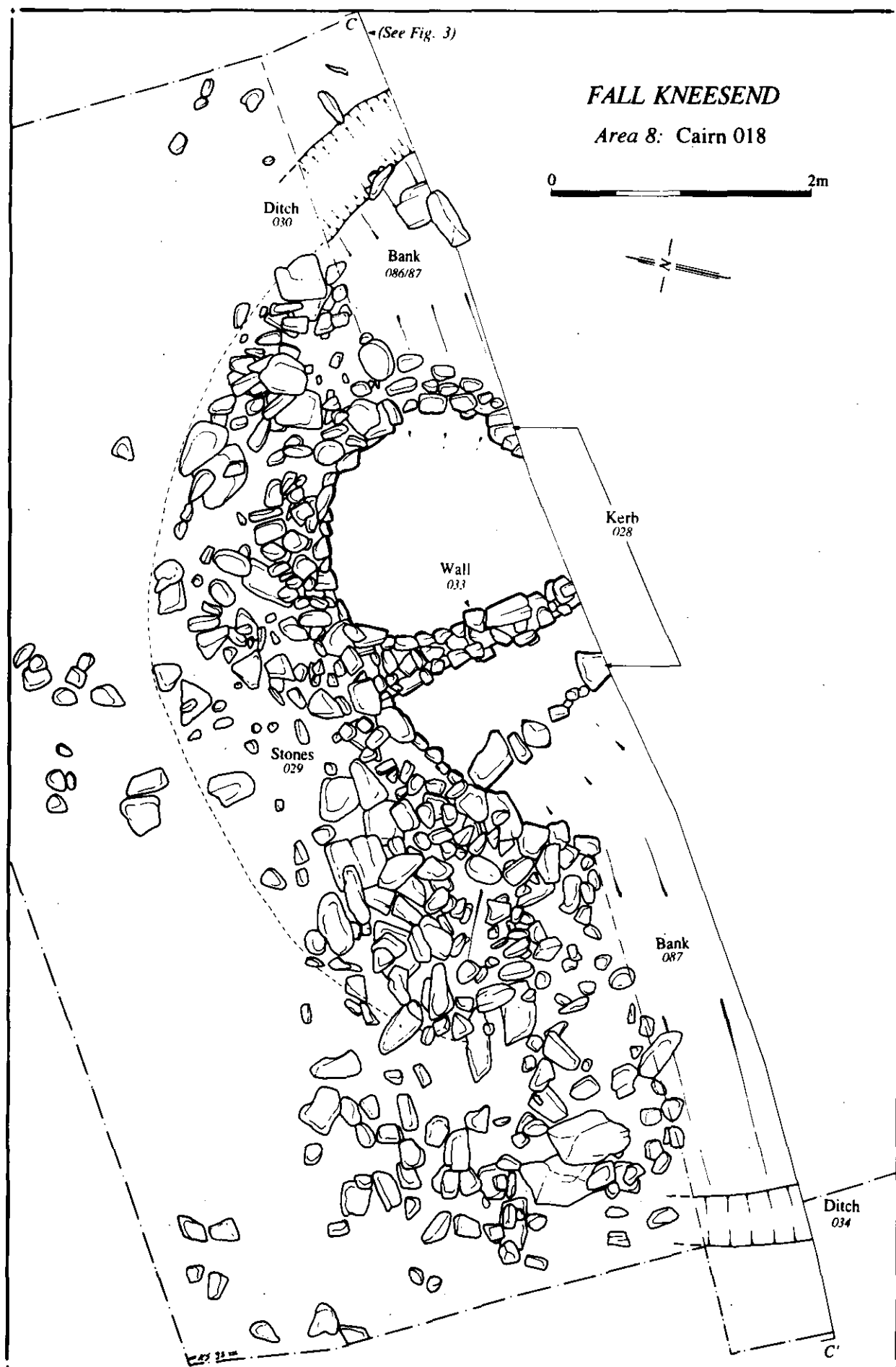


Fig 39. Fall Kneesend. Area 8: Cairn 018.

since the OS 1st edition in 1858) to 36–42 Wellgate. Excavation in advance of the original supermarket development in 1979, closer to the Castlegate frontage, had identified a sequence of deposits from the 16th century onwards related to buildings on Castlegate (Wordsworth and McGavin 1985).

Two transects were excavated by AOC (Scotland) Ltd. Trench 1, aligned NW to SE for 15m, and Trench 2, running NE to SW for 10m, at right angles to Trench 1. The soil profile encountered within the transects consisted of topsoil over a mid-brown silty loam B horizon, which overlay a sticky yellow-brown boulder clay. The level of the undisturbed boulder clay was found to fall away both to the SE and SW of the area under investigation. The total depth of deposits increased in Trench 1 from 0.8m to in excess of 1.3m from NW to SE, but in Trench 2, although the natural ground surface was also sloping down, there was no such increase.

No archaeological deposits or cut features were encountered within the excavated transects, which provided a 6.9% sample of the area to be developed. The soil profile appears to have been relatively undisturbed in modern times, and contained an unusually small amount of modern glass, china, and clay pipe for an urban context. No artefacts which could be dated earlier than the 19th century were encountered.

There was no evidence for burgage plot boundaries within the excavated transects, nor were any earlier features or stonework observed below the pre-existing rubble walls during the watching brief.

Reference

J Wordsworth and N A McGavin. 1985. 'Archaeological Work in Lanark 1979'. *Glasgow Archaeological Journal* 12 (1985), 93–104.
Sponsor: Cockburn Associates.

Craignethan Castle (Lesmahagow parish) J Lewis
NS 815 463 The area bounded by the castle's NE and SE towers, the E curtain wall and the 16th-century tower house is covered by concrete which forms a cap over a series of vaulted cellars below and which slopes down to the W towards the tower house. Because of water seepage into the cellars, the concrete is to be removed and the underlying masonry consolidated. Exploratory trenches were excavated within this area by Scotia Archaeology Limited to assess the nature and extent of the archaeological deposits therein.

The main trench, measuring 7.0m E to W by 2.0m N to S, spanned most of the width of the area between the curtain wall and the tower house. Features exposed included the top of the wall that divides the underlying cellars from an accessing passage; the crown of the vault of one of the cellars to the E of the wall; and a flagged surface, which appears to have been repaired at some stage, between the newly exposed wall and the E wall of the tower house. Overlying the extrados of the vault was a compact layer of rubble set into very hard mortar, its depth increasing towards the curtain wall, perhaps to allow heavy guns to be placed thereon.

Sponsor: HS

Tinto End (Carmichael, Wiston & Robertson parishes) T Ward
Burnt mound

NS 9022 3398 Pre-afforestation survey: An area in excess of 800 ha was walked over the extended Lochlyoch Farm on the NW side of Tinto hills. 95% of the survey area has been radically improved from upland pasture to arable in the last few decades, consequently the survey results were poor. Several features visible on the AP records had been removed. The only significant monument to be found was a burnt mound 6m in diameter by 1m high. The mound lies between two spring courses. A piece of struck chert and worked flint were found nearby.

Full report lodged with NMRS.
Sponsor: Tilhill Economic Forestry.

MONKLANDS DISTRICT

(Old Monkland parish) SRC SMR
Calderbank Ironworks
NS 7717 6281 Remains of ironworks.

(Shotts parish)
Papperhill Crag 1
NS 8550 6525 Group of eight enclosures.
Papperhill Crag 2
NS 8581 6512 Group of three enclosures.
Papperhill Crag 3
NS 8598 6519 Large rectangular enclosure.
Papperhill Crag 4
NS 857 654 Rig and possible small cairns.
Burnhouse
NS 8040 6312 House and enclosure.

Baltimore to Glenhove Linear Survey CFA
Monklands and Strathkelvin Districts. See Strathkelvin District.

MOTHERWELL DISTRICT

(Bothwell parish) SRC SMR
The Mount
NS 745 621 Earthworks, probable tree-ring reported to SMR by Mr I G Swan.

RENFREW DISTRICT

Barochan Hill (Houston parish) L J F Keppie, M J Robb
Roman fort
NS 413 690 The eastern half of the fort and all of the annexe have been ploughed for the first time since 1988, having been in 'set aside' for five years; barley has been planted. Fieldwalking revealed no Roman small finds, but burnt clay and charcoal were observed immediately behind the N rampart of the fort, and close to its NE corner.

Millbank (Lochwinnoch parish) J Macdonald
Disused corn mill (see Fig 40, p 92)
NS 340 574 Millbank Mill: The site lies 2 miles W of Lochwinnoch and is situated 50m S of Meikle Millbank farm on the banks of the Millbank Burn. The mill complex consists of a mill dam, mill lade, a bridge over the Millbank Burn and the mill itself.

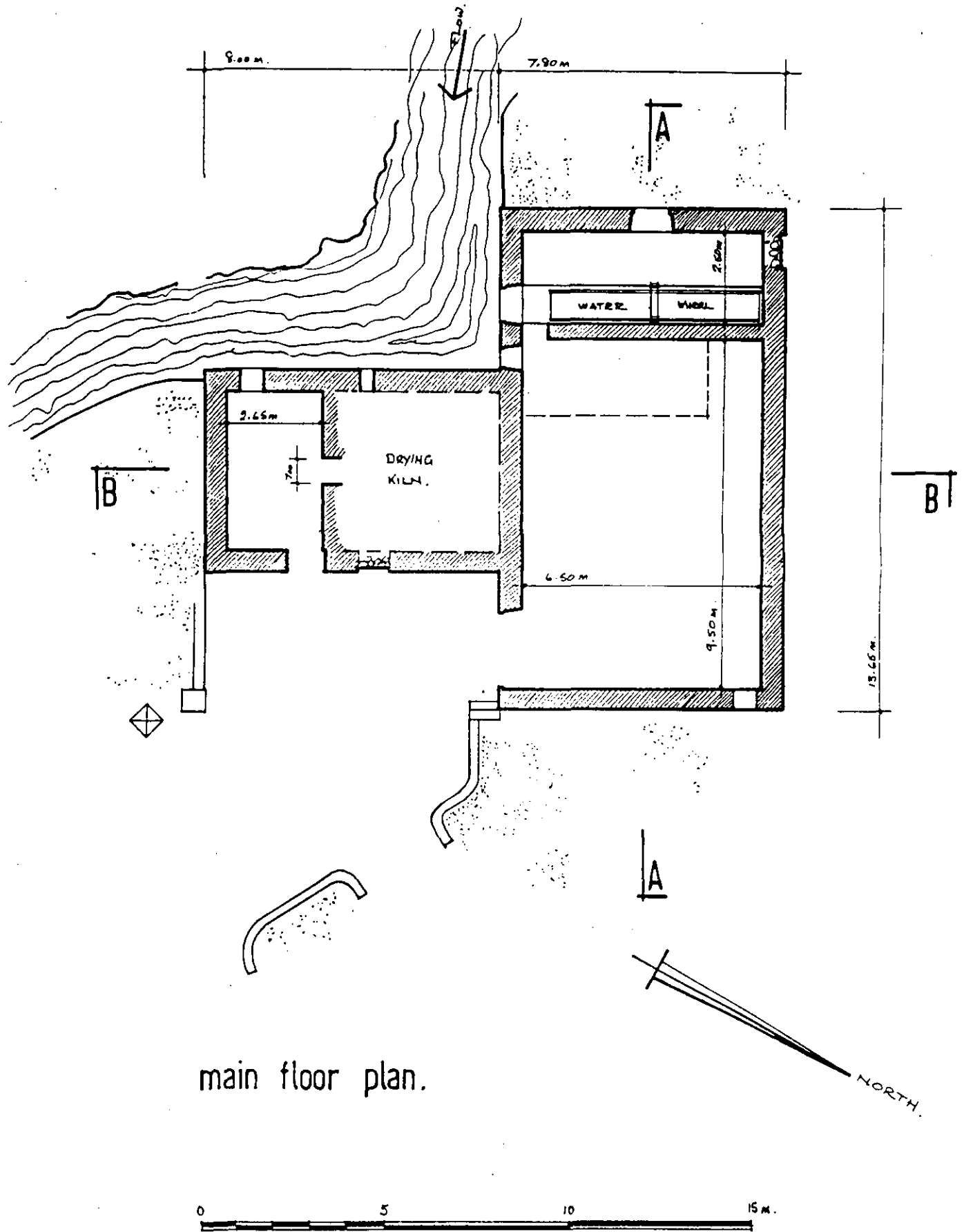
The mill building which is T-shaped and roofless measures along its horizontal arm 13.5m and along its vertical arm 8m. The building stands to a maximum height of 8m from water level to its string course. The building is in a very poor condition and in danger of collapse.

The horizontal arm houses the remains of the waterwheel, gearing and three sets of mill stones all of which are still *in situ*. The vertical arm contains the remains of a corn-drying kiln.

The mill is of multiperiod construction of at least six phases. Its date is unknown but a mill is shown in this location on Ainslie's map of 1796. It was last used in the 1950s. Survey by ACFA.
Sponsor: Renfrewshire Local History Forum (Archaeology Section).

Moyne Moor (Neilston parish) B Henry
Field survey
NS 45 SE A field survey was carried out on the Moyne Moor from the Kilmarnock & Loudoun District boundary in the S to the waters

STRATHCLYDE



main floor plan.

Fig 40. Millbank. Disused corn mill.

of the Harelaw Dam in the N. The area was bounded on the E by the Long Loch and on the W by the unclassified road from Commore to Gabroc Hill and Fullwood. Several of the features have been recorded previously but a number of new features have been identified. A detailed survey of some of these features will be undertaken and a full report will then be lodged with NMRS.

NS 4724 5234 Enclosure with possible building and associated rig or lazybed.

NS 4697 5258 Stony bank possibly remains of ancient dyke.

NS 4729 5275 Cist. (NMRS feature NS 45 SE (16) – reported by letter from Mr G Domian, Barrhead in July 1977.)

NS 4745 5316 Stones – natural or clearance.

NS 4747 5327 Cairn – clearance or 'shepherd's'. (NMRS feature NS 45 SE (6) – DES 1963, 46.)

NS 4790 5317 Clearance cairn, one of several associated with a distinct area of improvement with rig and furrow.

NS 4795 5330 Two adjacent scoops 10m to 12m in diameter approximately, possible unenclosed platforms, overlooking the valley now containing the Harelaw Dam.

NS 4773 5333 The 'Covenanters' Stones' – seven large recumbent slabs. (NMRS feature NS 45 SE (3) – DES 1963, 45.)

NS 4802 5328 Remains of a stone dyke possibly associated with features above (NS 4795 5330).

NS 4798 5324 Cairn about 10m diameter evidence of robbing in NE quadrant, NW quadrant surmounted by modern cairn. (NMRS feature NS 45 SE (2) – DES 1963, 45.)

NS 4830 5340 Promontory structure, ditch to E of promontory knoll, circular structure on knoll with hollowed interior and rectangular extension on the E side.

NS 4834 5324 Remains of farmbuilding, walls standing to height of two or three courses, narrow rectangular structure now being encroached by new dam construction.

NS 4680 5220 Remains of possible cairn at Picketlaw. (NMRS feature NS 45 SE (35) – DES 1991, 70.)

NS 4732 5344 'Y'-shaped turf and stone bank, possibly a sheep bucht. (Possibly NMRS feature NS 45 SE (1) – DES 1963, 45.)

NS 4701 5282 etc Quarry sites probably associated with construction of the road alongside. (NMRS feature NS 45 SE (8) – DES 1957, 32.)

NS 4771 5335 Clearance cairn, previously recorded as a natural feature. (NMRS feature NS 45 SE (5) – DES 1963, 46.)

Sponsor: Renfrewshire Local History Forum, Archaeology Group (RLHF).

13 High Street, Paisley (Paisley parish) C Falconer (SUAT)
Urban medieval

NS 482 639 Excavations at 13 High Street, Paisley were carried out from September to November 1992, prior to the construction of new offices. The site was located diagonally opposite Paisley's market cross.

Natural clays and ironsands sloped to the S, probably reflecting the original topography of the area. Cut into these were a series of post holes and sill beams, from a large wooden building lying parallel to the course of the High Street. The pottery associated with this activity dated to the early 16th century.

These features were sealed by sandy clay, cut into which were the sandstone foundation courses of a substantial clay-bonded masonry building. The front wall of this building was set 1.50m back from the present street frontage. A flagged close running N to S was inserted through the western part of the building, and gave access from High Street to the property's backlands.

A well-built stone slab drain was inserted through the building running southwards from the High Street. Finds evidence suggests this happened shortly prior to its demolition, and may be connected with public health work carried out after a cholera epidemic in 1832. Sponsor: Abbey National plc.

13 High Street, Paisley (Paisley parish) A Cox (SUAT)
Finds assemblage

NS 665 260 This excavation produced a small assemblage of finds of late medieval to early modern date. The pottery assemblage is dominated by Scots Reduced Greenware and a red oxidised ware, the former fabric being commonly found in contexts dating from the 15th to 18th centuries.

Non-ceramic finds included a group of plain, circular, copper alloy buttons of 18th or 19th-century date, a thimble of similar date and several stone roof tile fragments. Many of the finds were recovered from the fill of a slab-built drain.

Sponsor: Abbey National plc.

(Paisley parish) SRC SMR

Middleton Farm

NS 4515 6520 Linear feature, possible drain reported to SMR by Mr J Malden.

STRATHKELVIN DISTRICT

Craigmaddie Muir (Baldernock parish) D MacInnes, C Gibson
?Long cairn

NS 584 764 During a recent survey on Craigmaddie Muir, the scant remains of an elongate feature, aligned NW to SE, and measuring some 46m long and 10m wide was found. The feature is defined by slight changes in contour, a lineation of shallow depressions along its major axis, and mounds of earthbound stones. Some of these mounds, which are extant mainly at the eastern end of the remains, display an asymmetric profile.

The site lies on an area of flat ground which slopes fairly rapidly down and away from the eastern and southern margins of the feature. About 180m to the NE is a cairn which is entered as No 32 in the RCAHMS inventory.

David Ure, in his *History of Rutherglen and East Kilbride* (1793, 87–8), describes the presence of two cairns in the parish. One of these remains was described by Ure as measuring about 50m by 9m. However, inv no 32 is elliptical in plan and measures about 23m by 15m. The possibility exists that this 'new' find is one which has been omitted from records since 1793. This apparent anomaly will be subject to greater detail in the final report on Craigmaddie, forthcoming.

Balmore to Glenhove CFA
(Baldernock, Cadder, New Monkland parishes)

Linear survey

The following sites were recorded in a desk-bound survey and field reconnaissance of the water-pipe route for the Loch Lomond Water Supply Scheme, from Balmore to Glenhove. Full details are lodged with the NMRS.

NS 605 737 Circular feature (modern). (Baldernock parish)

NS 6200 7305 Cropmark enclosure. (Cadder parish)
(NMRS Ref: NS 67 SW 7)

NS 6223 7294 Site of cairn (destroyed). (NMRS Ref: NS 67 SW 23)

NS 6372 7142 Rectangular vegetation mark.

NS 6672 7042 Findspot. (NMRS Ref: NS 67 SE 19)

NS 679 707 Two rectangular cropmarks.

NS 6830 7075 Circular cropmark enclosure.

NS 705 717 Abandoned farmstead.

NS 713 718 Mollins Roman fort. (NMRS Ref: NS 77 SW 6)

NS 726 716 Annular feature. (New Monkland parish)

NS 728 717 Limekiln.

NS 751 717 Mill lade.

NS 751 717 Limekiln.

STRATHCLYDE/TAYSIDE

NS 752 717 Well.

NS 755 718 Field bank.

Sponsors: Central Scotland Water Development Board/Crouch Hogg Waterman.

Antonine Wall, near Glasgow Bridge (Cadder parish)

NS 627 728 Excavation of a trench measuring c50m by 5m was carried out in October 1992 across the line of the Antonine frontier. N of the A803 between Cadder and Glasgow Bridge. The work was conducted in advance of pipeline construction. A detailed excavation report is in preparation.

Deep ploughing had removed all remains above the level of the subsoil. To the S of the Antonine Ditch the degree of horizontal truncation was particularly severe. This may have removed traces of all but the deeper-cut negative features.

Excavation confirmed the line suggested by Macdonald and indicated on Ordnance Survey map coverage. The stone base of the Rampart lay on a near-level terrace excavated into subsoil on the N-facing hillside c20m from the modern road. No kerbstones survived: the southern alignment had been robbed out, and the northern alignment had been either robbed out or removed by ploughing. The surviving core material comprised cobbles bonded by stiff clay. No Rampart superstructure survived *in situ*, although redeposited turfs were present in the fill of the robber trench which ran along the former position of the southern stone kerb. A shallow curvilinear slot of unknown function ran from c5m S of the Rampart to the approximate centre of the Berm. It was clearly secondary to the Rampart, but its relationship with the robber trench could not be discerned by excavation. The only other definite features identified on the Berm were two clay-packed post holes adjacent to the Rampart. These were not necessarily of Roman origin.

The Ditch lay c10m N of the Antonine Wall, and was c6m wide at the surface and c2.5m deep. In profile it was steep-sided with a squared base. A peat formation over 1m deep was present directly above the primary silt fills. Palaeoenvironmental analysis of this formation is ongoing, and the good preservation of pollen and plant macrofossils within it indicate that a detailed environmental record will be obtained. Artefacts recovered from the tertiary ditch fills above this peat indicate a 19th to 20th-century origin. No coherent trace of the Upcast Mound survived to the N of the Ditch. A c10m-wide band of red-orange clayey soil which merged gradually with the subsoil to the N is presumably related to its former position.

No trace of the Military Way was identified in the trench, and its course probably lies beneath the modern road. The residual remains of a ditch running parallel to both the A803 and Antonine frontier were located c3m N of the former, but no evidence was obtained to suggest a Roman origin. All other identified features were related to post-medieval land drainage.

Sponsor: Central Scotland Water Development Board.

TAYSIDE REGION

ANGUS DISTRICT

Whiting Ness (Arbroath & St Vigeans parish)

R Benvie

Stone drain

NO 659 410 In June 1993 a possible Bronze Age cist site was reported by an Arbroath schoolteacher on cliffs at Whiting Ness just before the nature trail. Three stone box-like structures were described eroding out of the cliffs in a small gully immediately beneath the cliff edge and two of these features were excavated by museum staff.

Feature 1 was a long box-like structure with small stone slabs on the sides and top, but none at the base which was gravelly. Size: 47cm (l) by 23cm (w) by 15cm to 25cm (d). It appeared to be associated with feature 2, 35cm to 40cm to the S, which was similar, but larger and missing a slab at the end. Approximate size: 90cm (l) by 40cm (w) by 15cm to 20cm (to depth excavated). Both feature 1 and the area between it and feature 2 contained rich black soil, and some root disturbance was apparent in the top layer in feature 1. Three soil samples have been sent off for analysis from feature 1 and between features 1 and 2, and results are awaited before more investigations take place.

Before excavation the corners of each 'box' were visible, feature 1 being to the N and at a slightly higher level than feature 2. The third feature, which has not as yet been excavated, further S and roughly in line, consisted of a larger box-like structure in cross-section.

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

James Street/Church Street, Arbroath R Cachart (SUAT)
(Arbroath & St Vigeans parish)

Medieval abbey

NO 641 412 Four trenches were opened up in advance of development on this site, which may have been part of the almonry of Arbroath Abbey. These revealed modern foundations, a basement and large rubble infill on the north-eastern part of the site and deep garden soil on the southern part. The garden soil contained some sherds of medieval pottery which probably indicate horticultural activity dating from that period. No remains that could be identified as belonging to the almonry buildings of Arbroath Abbey were encountered.

Sponsor: HS

14 High Street, Arbroath (Arbroath & St Vigeans parish)

Medieval town frontage

NO 644 406 In advance of development, a small excavation on the High Street frontage, revealed a 19th-century wall foundation of the former Baptist Church abutting the pavement. To the rear of the wall were the remains of a cobbled surface, formally part of the High Street, an earlier building line and deposits representing interior surfaces with associated medieval pottery. The site clearly demonstrated that the High Street here was much wider in the medieval period.

Sponsor: HS

24 Seagate, Arbroath (Arbroath & St Vigeans parish)

Urban medieval

NO 645 407 A watching brief on contractor's groundworks in the rear of this property revealed two deposits of garden soil with a combined depth of c1.10m, over natural beach deposits. The base of the wall on the W side of the site was c0.81m below the garden soil suggesting that further soil had been imported after its construction. No early deposits or features were observed. A large hewn block of red sandstone measuring 0.88m by 0.69m and 0.24m thick was observed in the NE corner of the observed area, the purpose and origin of which are unknown.

Sponsor: HS

Old Swimming Baths, Marketgate/Ladybridge Street, Arbroath (Arbroath & St Vigeans parish) J R MacKenzie (SUAT)
Medieval street frontage

NO 642 406 Following the demolition of the old swimming baths, Marketgate and prior to redevelopment of the site, two trenches c1m by 5m were opened, close to the Marketgate/Ladybridge Street frontages. Evidence of 15th-century activity was located in both trenches, c0.5m below ground surface. A cobbled surface and layers of midden spread dating from this period were encountered overlying natural sand. The cobbled surface was

slightly disturbed by later 19th and 20th-century activity. Natural was encountered at c1m below ground surface.

Sponsor: Angus and East of Scotland Housing Association.

Channonry Wynd, Brechin (Brechin parish) R Cachart (SUAT)
Medieval channonry

NO 595 601 Two trenches were machine excavated, in advance of development, to assess the degree of archaeological survival on the site: in particular that associated with the remains of early buildings, features and deposits of the channonry and pre-burghal settlement relating to *Brechin Cathedral*.

The investigation showed modern use and landscaping of the site, but no earlier deposits of archaeological interest. In all probability this level site was cut from the general ground slope in fairly recent times, a process that apparently eradicated any archaeological deposits that may have been present. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery found in Trench A could well be residual from the previous levels removed during the landscaping process.

Sponsor: HS

Channonry Wynd (Brechin parish) R Benvie
Roofing slate and faced building stone

NO 595 601 The roofing slate (Carmyllie type), which is broken, was found 0.5m below ground level in the test trench opposite 17 Channonry Wynd by SUAT in November 1992. Size: 17cm (l) by 12cm (w) by 2cm (h). The building stone was found in the same trench. Size: 38cm (l) by 33cm (w) by 18cm (h).

Roofing slate: B1992.12. Building stone: DBM 1202.

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

Rossie Braes (Craig parish)

Worked stone

NO 701 564 A piece of worked sandstone was discovered under the drying green of *Allendale Cottage, Rossie Braes*. There are two hollow depressions on each side. Two almost directly opposite, while the shorter ends have smooth grooves worn along their lengths. It was retained by the finder. Size: 161cm (l) by 103cm (w) by 40cm (d).

DBM 1241.

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

Tayock Farm (Dun parish)

Granite ball

NO 691 594 A granite ball was found in 1974 near Tayock Farm. Its provenance suggests that it might well date from the Roman occupation in Angus, being found very near the camp at Dun, and perhaps could have been used in a ballista. It was donated to Montrose Museum in 1993. Size: 7.5cm by 7.5cm by 6.5cm.

M1993.56.

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

Myreside, Lunanhead (Forfar parish) J R MacKenzie (SUAT)
Prehistoric landscape

NO 477 523 An extensive field survey was conducted in July 1993, in advance of a housing development. The area of the site threatened extended to approximately 2 acres and was located in close proximity to a clearly defined Class 1 henge and a short cist cemetery.

Trial trenching revealed a shallow topsoil profile of c0.3m overlying natural fluvio-glacial sand and gravels.

A linear E to W depression, crossing the northern half of the site, cut into the sand and gravels was also identified. This depression was believed to represent a natural stream channel.

The topsoil depth over this feature increased to c0.6m. A reddish-brown, silty sand deposit was encountered below the topsoil and filling the depression. Twenty-eight slightly abraded flint flakes were recovered from this deposit.

No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were discovered throughout the remainder of the site.

Sponsor: HS

Lunan Bay (Inverkeilor parish)

R Benvie

Anchor

cNO 720 488 On 1 August an anchor was found by a local fisherman 1 mile N of Red Head, Lunan Bay, 1½ miles from the beach. It is of wrought iron, with curved arms and an iron stock, and probably dates from the late 18th century to mid-19th century. It was retained by the finder. Size: 1.9m (l) by 1.35m (w) by 1.95m (b).

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

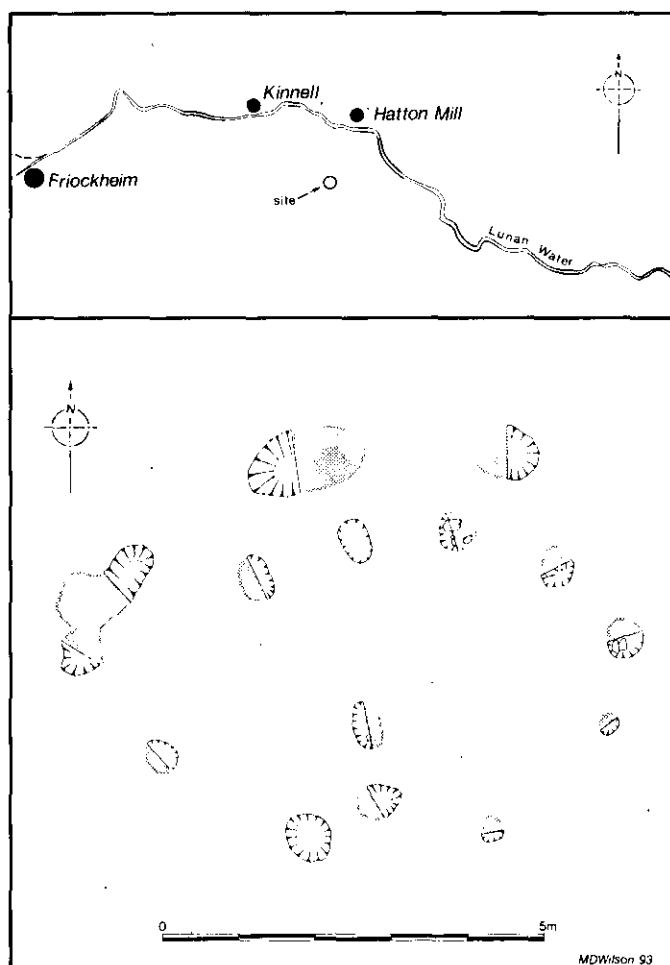


Fig 41. Hatton Mill Farm.

Hatton Mill Farm (Kinnell parish)

CFA

Annular features, pit alignments, possible prehistoric land divisions

NO 613 497 Extensive resistivity survey and trial excavations were carried out in advance of a proposed gravel quarry at Hatton Mill Farm. Full details are lodged with the NMRS.

Fourteen trial trenches were placed over selected resistance anomalies and archaeological features identified from oblique aerial photographs. The field has been deeply ploughed, and topsoil was found to have an average depth of 0.4m, although in places it was over 1m deep.

The aerial photographs show a penannular feature (described by the NMRS as a possible ring-ditch, Ref: NO 64 NW 37), a number of linear traces, groups of pits and other less distinct features of probable geomorphological origin. The one previously recorded site (NO 64 NW 37) was not confirmed despite intensive resistivity survey.

A second penannular feature was discovered by resistivity survey about 150m NW of the previously recorded site, and was confirmed

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by excavation. The site comprised a semi-circle of six post holes, 6m across, which lay inside the shallow, intermittent traces of a possible ring-ditch with an overall diameter of 7.6m. Stones, presumed to be packing, were found in most of the post holes, but no evidence of post pipes was discernible. An irregular arrangement of four pits up to 1m in diameter was located in the centre of this structure. All these features were severely horizontally truncated. Although none of the features produced any artefacts or environmental evidence, it is likely that they represent the heavily denuded remains of a pre-historic structure.

A trench was placed over two of the pits visible on aerial photographs. These appear to relate to a linear boundary, probably a recent fence.

The remaining identified archaeological features comprise a number of isolated, shallow ditches. No artefacts were found in these to provide any dating evidence. It appears reasonable to suggest that these linear features represent the remains of prehistoric land boundaries, as at least one prehistoric structure is present in the evaluation area, and an extensive suite of archaeological cropmark features have been recorded in the vicinity. These include a cursus, a possible souterrain, a possible barrow and numerous enclosures, all listed in the NMRS.

Sponsor: D Geddes (Contractors) Ltd.

Iadvies Mill Cottage, Letham (Kirkden parish) C A Zealand
Whetstone or corn-rubber (?)

NO 545 489 A probable whetstone, or a polishing stone, with greatest wear at one end; alternatively a corn-rubber. Dark green stone, possibly a hornblende schist. Found in garden topsoil. Returned to finder.

Auchlishie (Kiniemuir parish) A M Dick
Trial excavation

NO 387 578 A small trial area, 8m by 2m, was excavated in the field called Weem's Park, on Auchlishie farm. A souterrain was reportedly found in this field about 200 years ago, but its location has since been forgotten. The primary aim of the project was to investigate the settlement associated with the souterrain.

In the trial area the souterrain was not located. However, stratified layers and many features were found, including nineteen post holes, possibly three construction trenches and five 'pits'. At least eleven of the post holes, spaced approximately 0.7m apart, are in a line extending beyond the excavation.

Over eighty sherds of pottery were recovered, displaying a variety of fabrics and rim shapes. Some, possibly all, date from the Neolithic to the late Bronze Age. Most of the pottery was found in the stratified layers; many of the excavated features are later than these layers and are therefore not necessarily dated by the pottery. The nature of the stratified layers themselves is not yet determined.

Kilgarie Farm (Menmuir parish) R Benvie
Fishing or loom weight

NO 561 693 A circular piece of schist with a hole in the centre was found in a field above a gorge on West Water, Kilgarie Farm near the Brown Caterthun. Size: 16cm diameter. Hole: 2cm diameter by 2cm diameter. It was donated to Brechin Museum. B1992.13.

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

Ashbank Farm, Guildry (Monikie parish) C A Zealand
Medieval coin

NO 523 391 Silver half-groat of King Henry VIII (1531-44). York mint (Archbishop Edward Lee). (North 1807) Metal-detected on arable ploughsoil. Returned to finder.


Murray Lane, Montrose (Montrose parish) R Cachart (SUAT)
Blackfriars Hospital

NO 714 583 Two trial trenches were excavated in advance of development in the area of Blackfriars Hospital. They showed garden soil merging with subsoil over natural deposits of clay and sand.

Only one early pottery sherd, possibly 15th century, was recovered. This may have derived from the manuring of the land.

A layer of natural cobbles occurred between the subsoil and sand, at the southern end of Trench A and extended into the eastern end of Trench B. This was initially thought to have been the remains of a laid cobbled surface, but further inspection showed that the cobbles were too loose and that the layer became too thick to produce a proper stable surface. It was concluded that the cobbles represented a natural deposit.

The investigation showed that, although the area is within the precincts of Blackfriars no associated buildings appear to be located on this site and that the main use of the area up until very recently seems to have been horticultural. One sherd of probable 15th-century pottery could indicate that the land was being worked at that time.

Sponsor: HS 

Montrose (Montrose parish) R Benvie
Victorian tile

NO 714 583 A piece of Victorian tile was found at Murray Lane during trial trenching by SUAT in November 1992. Size: 3cm (l) by 3cm (w) by 0.75cm (b).

M1992.78.

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

Star Garage, New Wynd, Montrose (Montrose parish)
Medieval backlands J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

NO 715 579 An excavation was carried out, in advance of a sheltered housing development, in March 1993. The site was located within the medieval backlands of Montrose. An area 2.8m by 12m was opened, aligned N to S.

A particularly deep stratigraphic sequence of deposits was encountered overlying subsoil at a depth of 3.5m below ground surface.

The earliest phase of activity was represented by a sequence of alternating bands of Aeolian sand and poorly formed soils. This sequence of deposits appeared c2m in depth. Pottery recovered from these deposits indicates a date of 13th to 15th century. The deposits imply that the site was open during this period, possibly representing horticultural use.

Evidence relating to a property boundary and a substantial cut, containing a large quantity of imported soil, was found cutting through the sequence of sands and soils. This sequence was sealed by a garden soil type deposit containing post-medieval pottery sherds and a large amount of butchered faunal remains, possibly relating to a nearby flesh market. Overlying this post-medieval phase was a series of deposits and structural features indicating the changing use of the site away from agriculture to semi-industrial use, culminating in the encroachment of building structures in the 20th century.

Sponsor: Hillcrest Housing Association.

Star Garage, New Wynd, Montrose (Montrose parish)
Finds assemblage A Cox (SUAT)

NO 715 579 The assemblage from this excavation provided an important first opportunity to examine the material culture of medieval Montrose. The pottery from this site is of particular importance, given the presence of several imported fabrics. The pottery assemblage is dominated by East Coast Redwares, which may be a local product. All of the Redware sherds are from jugs and there

are several rod handles. Also present in the assemblage are sherds of Low Countries Redware and Greyware, Aardenburg and Scarborough ware.

Medieval industrial activity in the vicinity of the site was indicated by the presence of metallic slag and partially burned fuel materials. 19th or early 20th-century deposits produced a decorated clay pipe bowl, a nearly complete glass bottle and fragments of a fireproof ceramic bowl manufactured in Alloa.

Sponsor: Hillcrest Housing Association.

Star Garage Site, New Wynd (Montrose parish) R Benvie
Well

NO 715 579 In May 1993, a brick-built well was discovered during building at the Star Garage site, New Wynd for Hillcrest Housing Association. Depth to water: 4.05m to 4.10m. Total depth: 5.26m. Diameter: 1.25m by 1.18m. Brick size: 0.23cm (l) by 0.12cm (w) by 0.06cm (b). The bricks were handmade, regularly shaped and quite darkly fired with varying colours. They were laid end on into sand with wedges of brick and stone to prevent further splaying. The walls tended to buckle a little particularly towards the base which was not a true circle. After recording by museum staff the well was backfilled and covered over.

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

Montrose (Montrose parish)
Coin

NO 7259 A copper coin, 1640, European, was found several years ago at Broomfield golf practice ground, and brought into Montrose Museum in March 1993 for identification and donation to the museum.

M1993.57.

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

Montrose (Montrose parish)
Coin

NO 718 576 A bronze coin, Indian, possibly 16th to 17th century was found while a new sewer was being constructed to the W of Montrose Sports Centre. It was retained by finder.

DBM 1192.

Sponsor: Angus District Museums.

Panbride (Panbride parish) C A Zealand
Stone axe fragment (?)

NO 574 358 A possible polished stone axe, damaged and incomplete. 76mm (l) by 54mm (w) by 20mm (th). Broken off below butt, one face badly damaged. Asymmetrical cutting edge possibly reworked. Light grey-green stone, probably metamorphic, with some mineral veining. Returned to finder.

Carse Gray (Rescobie parish) G J Barclay
'Four-poster' stone setting

NO 462 538 The westernmost stone of the three surviving stones of this probable 'four-poster' was knocked down by a wind-thrown tree early in 1993. The stone was re-erected by the estate under the supervision of the area Inspector and warden. Investigation of the socket prior to re-erection revealed white quartz fragments and pebbles. [NMRS NO 45 SE 1]

Sponsor: HS

CITY OF DUNDEE DISTRICT

Dundee Law (Dundee parish) S T Driscoll
Multi-period Iron Age/Roman, medieval, industrial

NO 391 313 Excavations were conducted prior to the construction of environmental improvements on the summit of Dundee

Law. It has long been recognised that traces of a rectilinear fortification survived on the summit, which have been variously dated to the Iron Age, the 14th century and the 17th century. Before the excavation archival work brought to light a mid-19th-century map, which revealed that formerly there were clearly defined bastions at the corners of the fortification. These plans did not fully resolve the question of date, but seemed to cast doubt on the reports of the presence of a vitrified fort. The problem was compounded by the fact that the southern end of the fort including its original entrance in the SE corner are now obscured by the War Memorial and modern road and the earthworks are evidently much less sharp than they were last century.

Two trenches were excavated in February both on the summit in areas where the improvements would encroach upon the scheduled area. In addition the opportunity was taken to make a plane table survey of the earthworks which are not as regular as represented on any of the published plans. The E trench was located just N of the point where the modern road reaches the summit. Here the eastern bank, which survives as an earthwork was exposed and the threatened portion was removed. It proved to be mostly composed of earth. On the inner side of the bank a linear setting of stones may represent the foundations of a revetting. Quantities of stone rubble spread over the interior including two linear stone features set at approximately right angles to the line of the bank. These linear features may relate to entrance structures. A metre wide slot was excavated through the stony spread in the interior to a depth of approximately 0.3m. The deposits were not bottomed and no further excavation was undertaken, rather measures were taken to ensure that the archaeological deposits were not disturbed during the construction works. No finds which might have helped to date the earthworks were recovered, but within this trench a rectangular pit was excavated, which contained large quantities of vitrified stones mixed with modern debris. The pit is probably a soak-away drain dug at the time of the construction of the War Memorial. The vitrified stone confirms earlier reports, but had no link with the defences that were revealed in this area. It must be presumed that they were recovered from the area now occupied by the War Memorial.

The W trench provided an opportunity to completely section the western earthwork bank. Here it was again composed largely of earth with a moderate fraction of small stones. Upon clearing the bank away, areas of intense burning were revealed. The natural subsoil had been scorched red and traces of structural remains were also apparent at this lower level. In order to pursue this level further a further period of excavation and a watching brief were arranged, which was undertaken during July. This extension revealed an area of rough paving sealed by a layer of charcoal and ash, which is likely to be the same burnt deposit seen in the original excavation. The burnt material slumped into an irregular oval pit which had been cut through the paving. Within the burnt deposits three fragments of *terra sigillata* were recovered and a whale vertebra.

It now seems that the site does indeed contain a vitrified fort, which was occupied, if not constructed, in the 1st to 2nd century AD. The earthwork defences which are visible today represent a re-fortification in the medieval or early modern period, but no artefacts were recovered to shed light on this problem. Radiocarbon dates are awaited which should help to date the demise of the Iron Age fort and which might provide a clue as to the construction of the later fort.

Sponsors: Dundee District Council, Scottish Enterprise Tayside.

Broughty Castle (Dundee parish) F M C Baker
Late 15th-century castle

NO 465 304 Installation of electric cables for floodlighting involved the excavation of 103m of cable trench on Castle Green and 31m in the courtyard. The trenches were 30cm wide at ground

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surface and narrowed to 15cm to 25cm in the bottom, they varied in depth from 30cm to 50cm. The Castle Green trenches showed extensive make-up/terracing deposits associated with the 1860s refortification of the site and 20th-century landscaping. The mound on which the 19th-century addition to the castle sits is built up of quarried sandstone and some revetting of the bedrock was seen. To the E of the ramp the remains of a rubble-filled bunker was found on the site of the dynamo and engine rooms. A corner of the foundations/roof of another bunker was also seen at the N end of the ramp and a gravel path crosses eastern Castle Green N to S. Inside the courtyard the foundations of a 19th-century guardhouse were revealed and a substantial 2m-thick wall running NE to SW; this may represent the remains of a mid-16th-century angled tower known to have stood in this area. The majority of courtyard deposits were make-up for the battery and showed frequent re-surfacing of the courtyard.

Sponsor: Tayside Enterprise.

Lawhill (Dundee parish)

C A Zealand

Hollow stone

NO 391312 392319 Circular hollow (55mm diameter) carved out of an irregular block of pinkish-grey quartzite or coarse quartz sandstone. 140mm (l) by 117.5mm (w) by 72.5mm (d). Found c 1m below present ground surface during tree-planting c1970s. Provenance uncertain; possibly imported to this site from elsewhere.

Douglas and Angus, Dundee (City of Dundee parish)

Roman coin


NO 429 320 (?) Roman Republican bronze As (c150–133 BC) Moneyer: C. Saxula (?). (Sydenham 360, BMC 642–7.) Worn. Found in lump of earth on hard-standing to N of Dundee Kingsway. Probably a modern loss, imported to site. Returned to finder.

South High Street, Commercial Street/Murraygate, Dundee (Dundee parish)

R Cachart (SUAT)

Urban medieval

NO 404 303 A watching brief, on road resurfacing in South High Street, revealed the top surface of a large natural rock. This protruded through sandy gravel which contained some bone and two sherds of medieval pottery. The sandy gravel was considered to be the remains on an earlier road surface, the top of which was about 0.30m below the modern surface. At the junction of Commercial Street and Murraygate, below the modern road make-up, were the remains of former cobbled surfaces, below which was a deposit of loose white mortar and plaster. The building remains appear to represent former buildings on the Murraygate/High Street frontage prior to the insertion of Commercial Street.

Sponsor: HS 

East Port, Dundee (Dundee parish)

Medieval town and defences

NO 406 306 Four trial trenches were machine excavated, in advance of development. The site was considered to have archaeological potential relating to the medieval burgh and its defences. The trial work indicated that 19th to 20th-century development had eradicated much of the earlier phases of activity but features and deposits relating to the medieval period were recorded.

On the S side of the site, below modern rubble, were clay-bonded wall features, aligned E to W and constructed over a backfilled ditch. The fill of the ditch contained a small, but interesting assemblage of late medieval pottery as well as a substantial amount of butchered animal bone. Beneath the ditch fill were flagstones flanked by clay layers. It is tentatively believed that the ditch feature may relate to the town defences.

Sponsor: Scottish Enterprise Tayside.

Dundee City Churches (Dundee parish) T Cromwell (SUAT)

Medieval graveyard (see Fig 42, p 99)

NO 401 301 The site was excavated in advance of environmental improvements around the City Churches precinct.

The first phase of activity on the site was a ditch, running N to S across the line of the transepts of the present church. It was deliberately backfilled and re-cut at least once. This undated feature was then sealed by a medieval graveyard, dating back to at least the 15th century. 130 articulated skeletons were recovered, along with a large quantity of disarticulated human bone.

A box drain for the 19th-century rebuilt chancel was also found, cutting through the graveyard, running S.

Sponsors: Scottish Enterprise Tayside. Dundee District Council.

Liff Village (Liff & Benvie parish)

C A Zealand

Medieval coins

NO 333 329 Two silver groats of King Robert III of Scotland (1390–1406) Heavy Coinage, first issue. Edinburgh mint. Surface find in arable ploughsoil. Returned to finder.

Ardestie, Monifieth (Monifieth parish)

Finger ring

cNO 504 338 Copper-alloy finger ring, with palm tree and (?) elephant for Burdus or Littler family, on bezel. Metal-detected in arable ploughsoil. Donated to Dundee Art Galleries and Museums. Acc'n No: DUNMG.1992-263.

Barns of Wedderburn, Duntrune (Murroes parish)

Handbell (fragmentary)

NO 435 353 Three fragments of cast-bronze handbell. Exterior decorated, surviving part of inscription 'RHUYS' (for firm of J Burgherhuys) above. C17th century. Donated to Dundee Art Galleries and Museums.

Acc'n No: DUNMG.1992-262.

Barns of Wedderburn, Duntrune (Murroes parish)

Gold coin

cNO 437 343 Half-Guinea, Queen Victoria (1877). Fine/VF. Metal detected in arable topsoil. Returned to finder.

Balgray, Tealing (Tealing parish)

Post-medieval coin

NO 408 383 Silver merk of King Charles II (XIII/4) (1673). Metal-detected in arable ploughsoil. Returned to finder.


PERTH & KINROSS DISTRICT

The Orchard, Main Street, Abernethy (Abernethy parish)

Dark Age to medieval

R Cachart (SUAT)

NO 191 164 A watching brief was conducted on a 50m-long foundation trench for a garden wall near the area of a Dark Age to medieval settlement. The average depth of the trench was 0.20m, but had a maximum depth of 0.50m in one place. The trench revealed dark silty loam, garden soil c0.24m deep merging with brown, silty clay subsoil. Pottery sherds from the 19th or 20th century were found in the garden soil. No early archaeological remains were identified.

Sponsor: HS 

Ardoch Roman Fort (Ardoch parish)

R E Jones

Roman fort

NN 839 099 A geophysical (magnetic and electric) survey was carried out by the Archaeological Geophysics Course in the Archaeology Department of Glasgow University in early 1993.

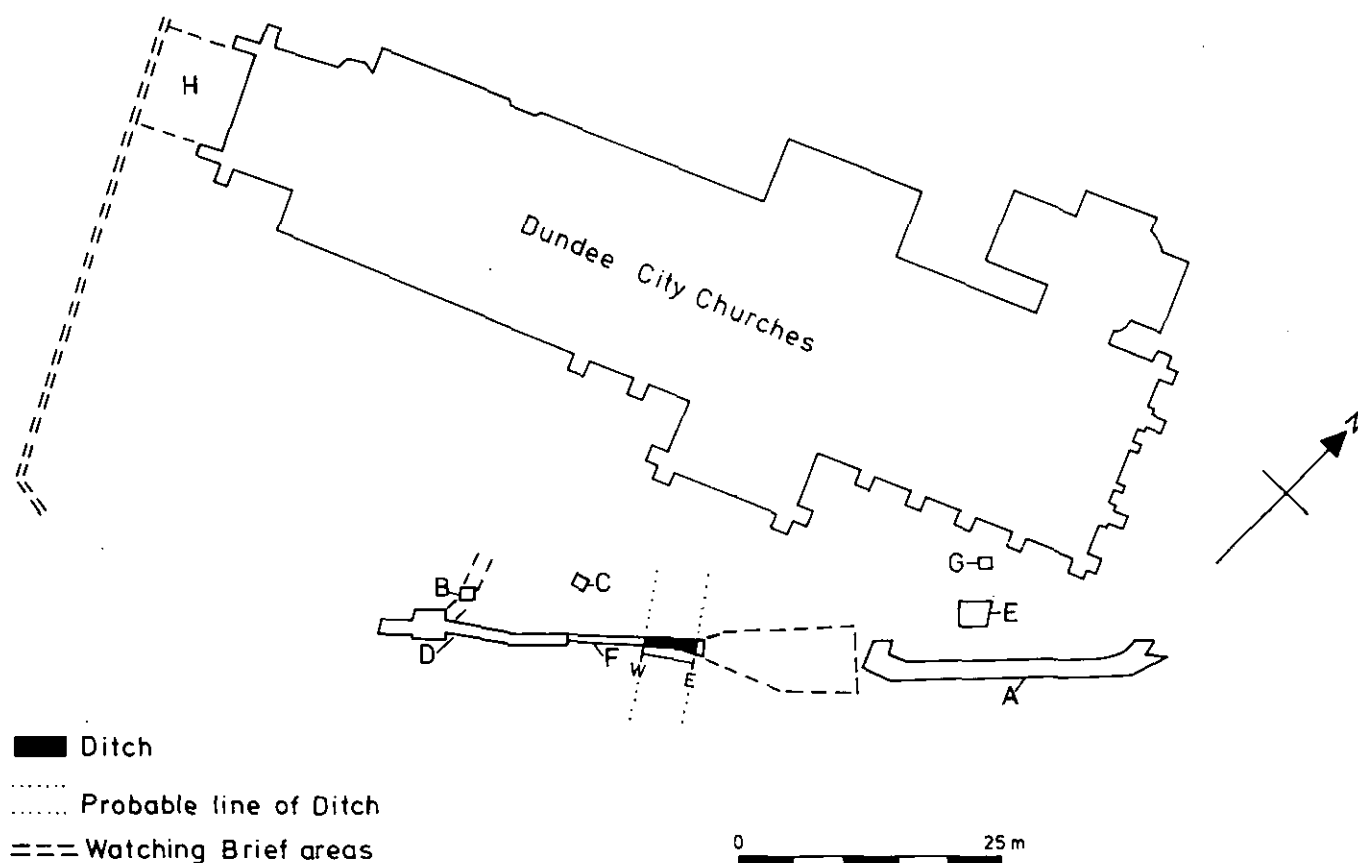


Fig 42. Pre-graveyard feature. Dundee City Churches. (See p 98.)

concentrating on the western part of the fort which has been only partially excavated. The intention of the survey was to identify building and other structures and in so doing to clarify some of the issues raised by the excavations in 1896–7 and 1970. The results emerging from survey of over 4,500 sq m were very encouraging. The presence of several building and other remains were evident, most of which made good sense in the light of previous exploration; one interesting feature was the evidence of rebuilding, as well as the realignment of the roads. It is expected the survey will continue.

211 High Street, Auchterarder (Auchterarder parish)

Urban medieval

R Cachart (SUAT)

NN 941 127 A watching brief on contractor's trenches in backlands of this property revealed disturbed garden soil, c0.40m in depth, over natural clay and the remains of recent foundations. Some 19th-century pottery sherds and a pipe stem were seen. No archaeological deposits relating to the medieval period were encountered.

Sponsor: HS

3 Ruthven Street, Auchterarder (Auchterarder parish)

Urban medieval

J R MacKenzie (SUAT)

NN 930 120 Monitoring of contractor's foundation and services trenches revealed a 20th-century make-up deposit, c0.4m in depth. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were discovered.

Sponsor: HS

Grenich Farm (Blair Atholl parish)

Pre-afforestation survey

CFA

The following sites were surveyed in March 1993 within a c5 ha area in advance of afforestation. The survey area contains approximately 140 clearance cairns and 14 spreads of more recently cleared stone (NN 804 605). Full details are lodged with the NMRS.

NN 8038 6050 A homestead c26m in diameter defined by a discontinuous line of facing stones, with a possible entrance 4m wide on the E side (NMRS No: NN 86 SW 11).

NN 8037 6050 A rectangular sheepfold overlies the W side of the above homestead.

NN 8037 6048 – NN 8036 6047 A curvilinear field bank, 40m long, runs SW from the homestead.

NN 8038 6048 and NN 8039 6047 Two corn-drying kilns are cut into the S side of the terrace upon which the homestead is located.

NN 8040 6050 – NN 8054 6052 A 140m long and 0.5m high lynchet extends eastwards from the homestead. Two smaller lynchets, each 0.3m high and 15m and 25m long respectively, lie to the S of this.

NN 8047 6058 – NN 8074 6078 A curvilinear field bank 330m long runs along the NW side of the survey area.

NN 8054 6059 – NN 8056 6060 Three annular banked features about the above field bank.

NN 8059 6064 – NN 8062 6061 A poorly preserved field bank, c60m long, is overlain by the long field bank above.

NN 8067 6054 A second homestead, 25m to 27m in diameter, was located on the SE side of the survey area, with a probable entrance on its SW side (NMRS No: NN 86 SW 2).

NN 803 605 Three cairns were located outside the survey area to the W, within the existing forestry plantation. The cairnfield clearly continued to the NW although its extent was not defined.

Sponsor: HS

Stronetic (Blairgowrie parish)

Stone axe

M D King

NO 145 542 A stone axe of a dark fine-grained igneous rock, possible basalt, was found in a field near Stronetic. The cutting-edge and butt are polished, the centre still bears peck-marks. The axe

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measures 140mm in length, 68mm in breadth and 31mm in thickness. Retained by finder.

Netherton (Blairgowrie parish)

Carved stone ball

NO 1452 A carved stone ball was found 'among old stones' at Netherton early this century. The ball has six domed knobs and measures approximately 78mm in diameter. It has been carved from a black stone of igneous, metamorphic or volcanic origin. Retained by finder.

Caputh (Mains of Fordie) (Caputh parish)

NMS

Struck quartz

NO 094 418 A lump of struck quartz was recovered from a ploughed field. Retained by finder – details in NMS. Daybook no: DB 1993/12.

Cleaven Dyke (Caputh & Lethendy parishes)

G J Barclay,

Cursus monument/bank barrow

G S Maxwell

NO 162 405 The Cleaven Dyke is a complex earthwork comprising a pair of parallel ditches (c45m to 51m apart), with a central bank, running NW to SE for 1,820m through woodland. A further 350m or so is visible as a cropmark at the SE end. The central bank, which is between 1m and 2m high and about 9m broad, appears to consist of conjoined dumps and the ditch, where visible as a cropmark, appears to be made up of linked segments. At certain points (for example the NW terminal) it rises and broadens. There are at least two, and possibly a maximum of five, deliberately constructed breaks in the bank. In the NW portion (from the NW terminal to the main Perth–Blairgowrie road which cuts the monument) the Dyke is relatively straight and consistent in form. To the SE its line is far less constant. At a number of points either the central bank or the whole earthwork changes alignment. In places lengths of the bank, for example the c200m-long section from the NW terminal to a major discontinuity in the bank, resembles a long barrow.

Small-scale excavation was undertaken at three points on the Cleaven Dyke. At the SE end narrow trenches were dug to look for the end of the Dyke, or at least the point beyond which the ditches did not survive. This was successful.

Also within the cropmark section a larger area, measuring 9m by 30m was excavated over the southern ditch. Two lengths of the ditch were excavated in plan. It was revealed as very broad, shallow and irregular.

Some 1,300m to the NW a 3m-wide section was cut through the central bank at a point where it had already been damaged by quarrying. The excavation was taken down to and then through the old land surface and B-horizon. Pits located within and beneath the old land surface were excavated. Briefly, the bank sections revealed an off-axis (to the NE) primary dump made up of (?)turf and mixed material, probably the fill of the northern ditch. Over this dump on the SW side was a layer possibly of turf (either turf dump or an old land surface). Over this lay further sands and gravels, probably the fill of the southern ditch. At both sides of the bank was a small primary dump of (?)turf apparently toeing the gravel of the bank. F005 appeared as a shallow hollow within the old land surface, cut by the section. It contained large pieces of charcoal which may have been burned *in situ*.

The section through the bank was continued as a 1m-wide trench across the berm to and across the N ditch, which was revealed to be c5m wide and 1m deep below the modern topsoil surface.

The Cleaven Dyke closely resembles the structure at Scorton in Yorkshire, which has been identified as a cursus monument. It is suggested that both monuments combine the features of the monument type termed 'bank barrow' and the features of a cursus monument. A 'typical' bank barrow would have its quarry ditches immediately beside the mound, not about 19m away. The c47m-

broad, 2,100m-long enclosure formed by the ditches is typical of a cursus monument. Both types of monument are thought to belong to the first half of the third millennium BC.

Sponsors: Society of Antiquaries of London, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Prehistoric Society.

Dunsinane Hill (Collace parish)

NMS

Copper alloy bowl

NO 214 317 A fragmentary copper alloy bowl and parts of another copper alloy object were purchased by NMS from Christie's Fingask Castle sale. A note with the bowl records its discovery in 1867 close to Dunsinane Hill. Detailed study, conservation and analysis is still in progress, but initial research suggests it may be Roman.

Daybook no: DB 1993/24.

Collace Quarry (Collace parish)

CFA

Presumed ring-ditch house

NO 2104 3172 Excavation was undertaken over the entire site of a presumed ring-ditch house in advance of quarrying (NMRS Ref: NO 23 SW 26). No features of any archaeological interest were located and no artefacts were recovered. It was discovered that the form of a number of purely natural features, in particular the surface of the bedrock, had produced a topographic feature which on ground inspection had resembled the traces of a ring-ditch house. Sponsor: Tayside Contracts.

Beech Hill House Cairn (Coupar Angus parish)

M D King

Finds assemblage

NO 220 404 The finds from Beech Hill House Cairn have been donated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery. Acc No: 1993.836.1-73.

Coupar Angus Abbey (Coupar Angus parish)

Medieval finds: flint scraper

NO 224 397 Fieldwalking organised by the Council for Scottish Archaeology and Perth Museum and Art Gallery on the supposed southern range of Coupar Angus Abbey to the S of the present church and graveyard led to a number of medieval finds. These included medieval pottery, slag, mortar, stone roof tiles (some with peg holes) and midden material including oyster shells, a scallop shell and animal bone. A flint scraper was also among the finds.

Finds and archive held by Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Coupar Angus Abbey – Glebe Field (Coupar Angus parish)

Cemetery and buried landscape features

J O'Sullivan

NO 223 398 Archaeological assessment of the Glebe Field of Coupar Angus parish church was conducted by AOC (Scotland) Ltd for Historic Scotland in advance of a proposed housing development by the East Perthshire Housing Association. The present church (built 1859) lies at the centre of a large enclosure variously interpreted as the precinct boundary of the Cistercian abbey (founded 1162) or as a Roman marching camp. The church and graveyard are thought to occupy the site of the original abbey church and cloister. The Glebe Field (0.701 ha) lies immediately N of the church on a gentle incline towards Coupar Burn. The assessment recorded four principal stratigraphic horizons:

1. An early buried ground surface and associated ditches extended over the eastern half of the site. These features may be pre-Cistercian.

2. The early fieldscape was sealed by an extensive landfill layer consisting of upcast, stony subsoil. This layer is interpreted as foundation spoil quarried during the construction of the abbey church and conventual buildings.

3. Several hundred extended inhumation burials stratigraphically cut this layer, and may be of medieval or early modern in date.

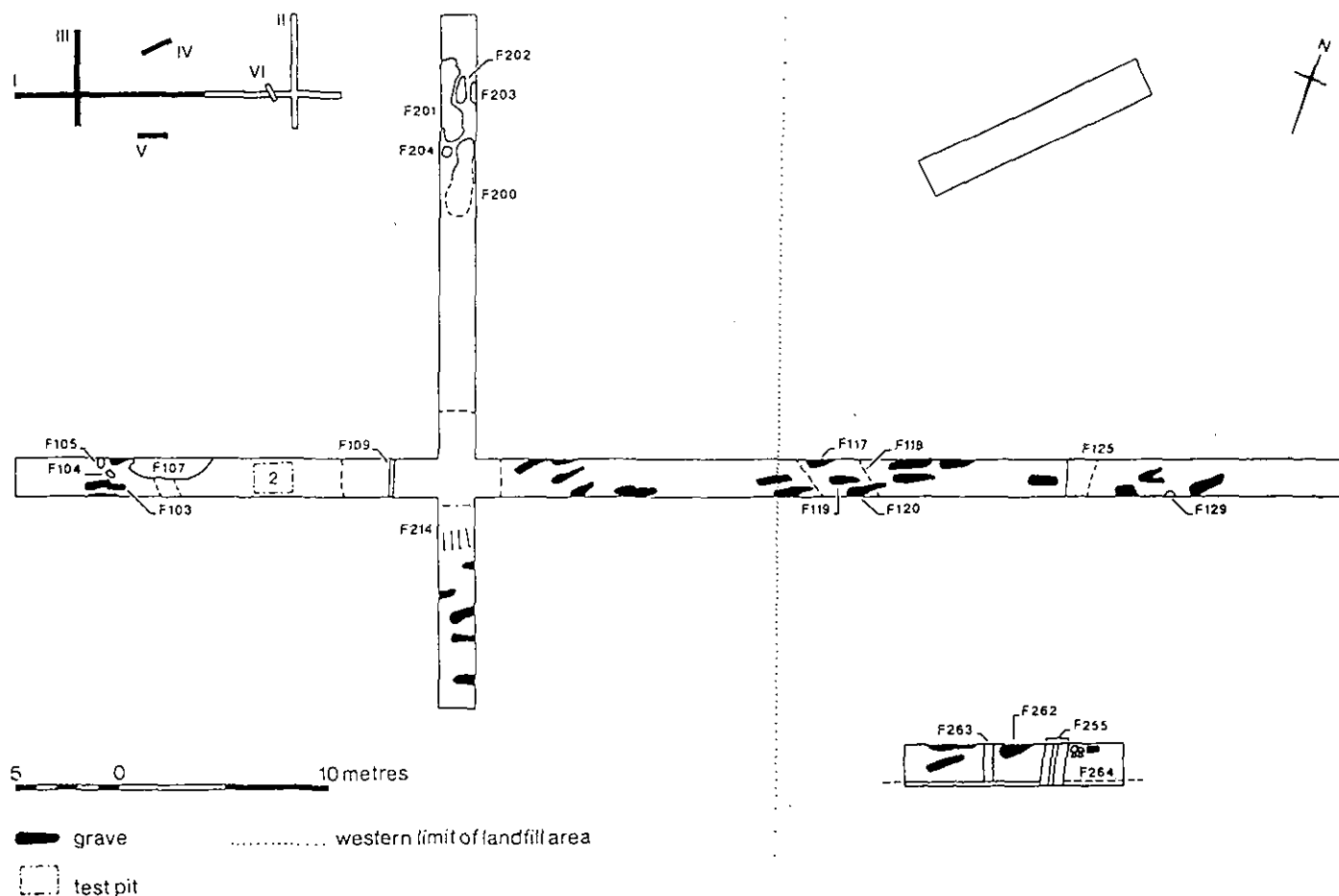


Fig 43. Coupar Angus Abbey - Glebe Field. Features revealed in W part of trench.

Burials are concentrated in the upslope part of the site, in proximity to the present church.

4. The site is sealed by a deep, cultivated topsoil and at the time of assessment was under pasture.

Finds were notably few and no structural remains were present.

Sponsor: HS

Leadenflower Road, Crieff (Crieff parish) R Coleman (SUAT)
18th to 19th-century tannery

NN 866 214 Groundworks in advance of a housing development in Leadenflower Road, broke through a large wooden structure. The structure was identified as a tannery and comprised of a series of five wooden tanks, varying in size and set end to end. Thick deposits of organic material, notably oak bark, still survived, packed against the sides of the tanks.

Historic research has revealed that the site, known as *Croft-nappock Tannery*, was established in 1799 by Andrew Bayne and is featured on Wood's 1822 map of Crieff. The yard changed hands several times before it finally fell into disuse in the late 19th century.

Sponsors: Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust Ltd; George McOmish and Sons Ltd (developer).

Dunkeld Cathedral (Dunkeld & Dowally parish) G Ewart
Cathedral precinct

NO 024 426 A one-day watching brief was completed on the site during the clearance of a shallow foundation trench for an extension of the existing public toilets. A fragment of truncated walling was revealed, probably associated with extensive post-medieval occupation towards the E of cathedral precinct.

Sponsor: HS

Dunning (Dunning parish)

CFA

Roman temporary camp

NO 021 149 A trench measuring 35m by 32m was excavated in October/November 1992 over the western entrance to the Roman camp at Dunning. The work was conducted in advance of a housing development. This part of the camp perimeter appears as a crop-mark, and the trench was positioned from the rectified plot of an aerial photograph. A fuller account of excavations is being produced for publication, and a detailed excavation report has been deposited with the NMRS.

The western entrance to the camp was identified by excavation to be 15.5m wide. It contained no evidence for any gateway features, and was guarded by a *titulus* c14.3m long which lay c12m W of the alignment of the perimeter ditch of the camp. The ditch of the *titulus* was up to 3.3m wide at the surface and 1.6m deep, with a V-shaped profile and a squared channel running along its base. There was no evidence for recutting of this feature. Eleven joining sherds of a mid-2nd-century BB2 bowl were recovered from the second fill from bottom at its southern terminus.

The perimeter ditch of the camp was up to 3.5m wide and 1.5m deep. Where excavated, it had a V-shaped profile with a squared channel at the base. To the N of the entrance the perimeter ditch had been constructed in two discrete lengths, containing the same sequence of fills and separated by a 0.8m-wide unexcavated rib of subsoil. The surface of this rib lay c0.4m beneath the preserved surface of the ditch, which narrowed noticeably in width to c2m at this point. A narrow channel extended transversely across the surface of the rib. Recutting of the perimeter ditch was identified in the terminus sections to either side of the entrance, but nowhere else. The layered sequence of fills within the perimeter ditch and the *titulus* indicates gradual infilling. No trace survived of the ramparts of the camp.

TAYSIDE

An irregular tapering depression, up to 5.3m wide and containing the discontinuous remains of two superimposed pebbled surfaces, ran from adjacent to the S end of the *titulus* to the centre of the camp entrance. A sherd of 16th to 17th century AD pottery was recovered from the layer sealing the pebbled upper surface. These surfaces are not necessarily Roman in origin, and may be associated with the continuing use of the entrance as a natural route through the disused defences of the camp.

Sponsor: A & J Stephen (Builders) Ltd.

Leadketty (Dunning parish)

M D King

Late Neolithic or EBA potsherd

NO 021 161 Fieldwalking organised by Perth Museum and Art Gallery and Dunning Parish Historical Society on the site of a large oval cropmark enclosure (NMR Ref: NO 01 NW 21) resulted in the find of a small sherd of late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery from within the enclosure. The sherd shows a clean break suggesting that it was the result of recent damage by the plough.

Flint and fieldwalking archive held by Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Acc No: 1993.1094.

Leadketty (Dunning parish)

Flint artefact

NO 021 160 Fieldwalking organised by Perth Museum and Art Gallery and Dunning Parish Historical Society led to the find of part of a broken bifacially flaked and retouched flint artefact, possible a transverse arrowhead. The artefact measures 30mm in length, 24mm in width, and 6mm in thickness.

Find and fieldwalking archive held by Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Acc No: 1993.1095.

Mains of Duncrub (Dunning parish)

NMS

Barbed and tanged arrowhead

NO 002 149 A flint barbed and tanged arrowhead was found in a ploughed field on Mains of Duncrub Farm, near Dunning. With finder – details in NMS.

Daybook no: DB 1993/44.

Burnside Enclosure, Blairgowrie (Kinloch parish)

CFA

Enclosure (see Fig 44)

NO 1520 4345 Assessment of an enclosure (NMRS Ref: NO 14 SE 22) visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs was undertaken at a proposed gravel extraction site. The aims of the assessment were to locate and establish the nature, extent and complexity of surviving archaeological features. Resistivity survey was undertaken across the site, and a number of trial trenches were positioned on the basis of the results. A report has been deposited with the NMRS.

The good resolution obtained by resistivity survey indicated that the ditched enclosure had a diameter of c40m. Nine trenches were subsequently excavated at appropriate positions across the site. These results indicate neither a high density of surviving features nor the preservation of stratified archaeological deposits within the enclosure.

The enclosing ditch was investigated in two places, although excavated fully only at one. Here the ditch survived up to 2.2m wide and 0.5m deep, and had undoubtedly been horizontally truncated by ploughing. It had a wide, shallow profile with a gently rounded base, and contained two discrete fills. A slight linear feature of unknown origin was located in association with charcoal deposits in one trench in the interior of the enclosure. Two further trenches within the enclosure revealed stake holes. As with the ditch, all these features have been truncated by ploughing. The remaining trenches produced no features of archaeological origin.

Sponsor: Laird Brothers (Forfar) Ltd.

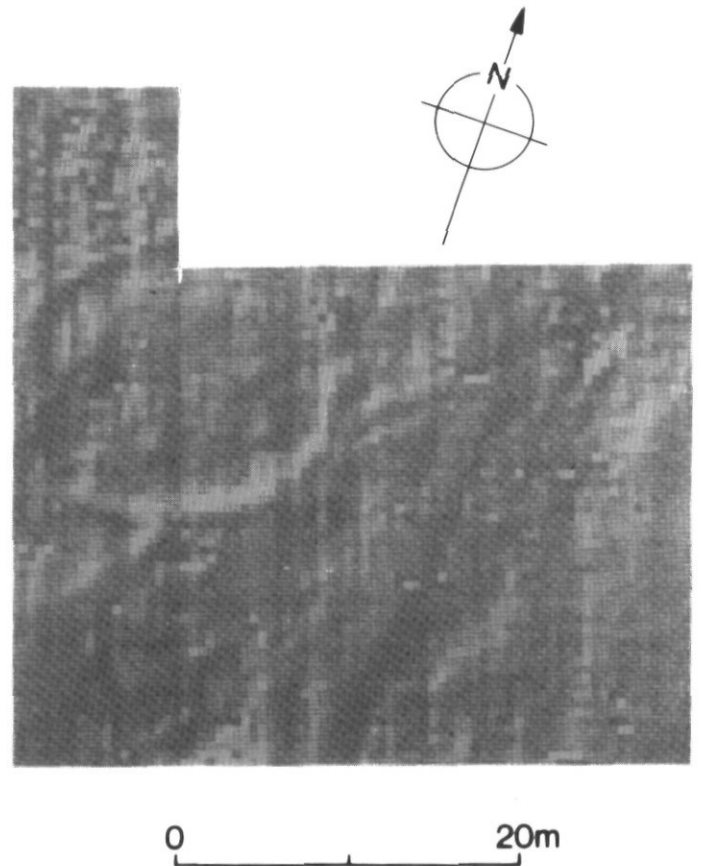
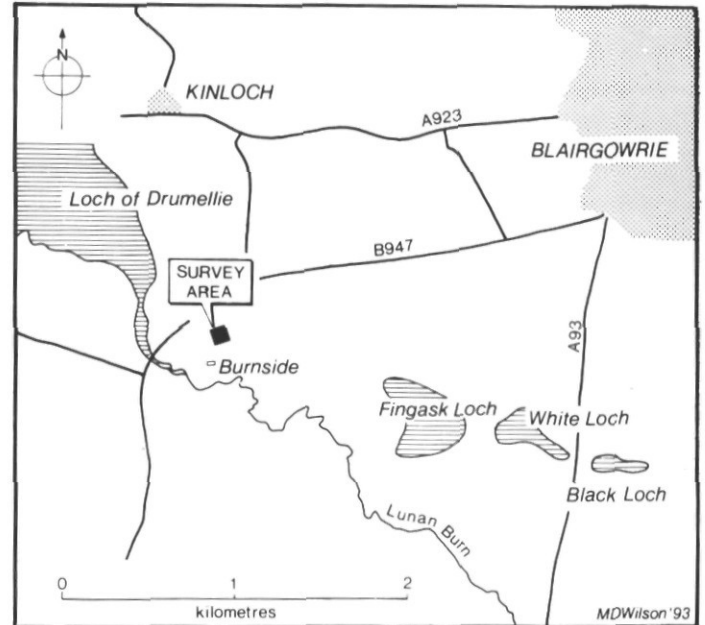


Fig 44. Burnside Enclosure, Blairgowrie: Resistivity Survey.

North Pitcarmick (Kirkmichael parish) J C Barrett, J M Downes
Pitcarmick-type house, Iron Age round houses, burial cairns and field systems

NO 061 581 Survey and excavation was carried out over a small area of the long-lived settlement and agricultural activity recorded by the RCAHMS on the Pitcarmick estate above Strathardle (1990 No 154.4). The fieldwork was carried out as a training exercise with students from Glasgow University in July 1993. The project pursued four lines of enquiry:

1. Two Pitcarmick-type houses lay within the pre-defined study area, and of these the smaller, more northerly one was half excavated. This was a rectangular structure 15m long lying on WNW to ENE axis along the contour, as did the larger structure.

The walls of the building proved to have been constructed from turf laid directly on the OGS without stone foundation, although there was evidence of rough stone revetting of the wall on the down-slope side. The entrance way was positioned off-centre on the downslope side of the building, and was paved with a single layer of slabs. Substantial post holes for a door were positioned either side of the paving.

The western part of the building was dominated by a large, rectangular, stone-lined hearth. A rubble-filled soakaway was located in the eastern part. Other features within the building comprised several post holes, and some pits.

The building is thought to be early medieval, and it is hoped to obtain C14 dates to test this supposition.

2. A trench outside the doorways of two Iron Age round-houses was excavated to investigate what appeared to be a sheltered area fringed by clearance cairns. In fact the excavation revealed complex deposits of quite some depth, representing the remains of a multi-phase building pre-dating the other two buildings. This initial round-house had a wall with a double facing of stone, and a doorway probably facing E. The house had been refloored on a number of occasions with hearths placed both centrally and off centre. Many artefacts were recovered from this house including pottery and the debitage from quartz working.

3. The area between two large and prominently sited cairns identified as burial cairns was excavated to investigate the possibility of activities accompanying the construction of the cairns, and the use of the cairns as a focus for later veneration. Such activity was located in the form of two fire pits, a dug and boulder lined pit sealed with a large horizontal stone, other traces of burning and ash rakings, and post holes. Later agricultural activity such as traces of rig and dumps of stone against the side of the cairn were also located in this area.

4. Survey was commenced on agricultural remains comprising rig, walls and cairns. A series of soil samples were taken to elucidate the nature of soil accumulations.

Sponsors: British Academy, Society of Antiquaries of London, Royal Archaeological Institute, HS [redacted], University of Glasgow.

St John's Place, Perth (Perth parish)

M D King

Medieval pottery

NO 1191 2350 Three sherds of Perth local pottery and one of white gritty fabric with applied strips were found on the site of Loves Auctioneers, South St John's Place during redevelopment of the site in the early 1970s. Donated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Acc No: 1993.427.4.

River Tay, Bellwood Gardens (Perth parish)

Saddle quern

NO 1230 2325 A saddle quern was found below the high water-line of the River Tay among stones on the E bank of the river opposite the northern end of Moncrieffe Island. The quern measures 370mm in length, 330mm in width and 230mm in depth. Donated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Acc No: 1993.426.

South Street, Perth (Perth parish)

Medieval pottery

NO 1169 2346 A partially glazed strap handle from a Perth local jug was found in a service trench on the corner of South Street and Scott Street between 1968 and 1974. Donated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Acc No: 1993.427.3.

River Tay, Perth (Perth parish)

Late medieval jug

NO 1221 1223 A complete late medieval jug of red fabric, with rod handle and traces of green glaze was dredged from the River Tay near Perth and bought at a sale at Loves Auctioneers in Perth between 1968 and 1970. The jug measures 210mm in height and 135mm in diameter. Donated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Acc No: 1993.427.1.

Carr's Croft, near St Leonard's Chapel, Perth (Perth parish)

Medieval chapel site

R Cachart (SUAT)

NO 113 228 A watching brief on the site of a former engine shed near St Leonard's Chapel revealed modern infilling over a dark garden or plough soil. Two sherds of medieval pottery and one piece of daub were recovered from the dark soil deposit. This site indicated that there is a good possibility of finding evidence of St Leonard's Chapel surviving in the former ground surface beneath the railway bedding.

Sponsor: HS [redacted].

Glasgow Road, Perth (site of old auction mart)

(Perth parish)

Medieval friary

NO 109 236 Contractor's groundworks were observed on this site that is located on the S side of the Carmelite friary. It was hoped to find some evidence concerning the friary burial ground or out-buildings. Mixed deposits of modern material relating to the railway yards were observed over natural clay. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.

Sponsor: HS [redacted].

80-86 High Street, Perth (Perth parish)

R Sermon (SUAT)

Urban medieval

NO 118 236 Excavations carried out between June and October 1992 and supervised by Colm Moloney, are now thought to have revealed evidence for the some of the earliest activity in the town.

The earliest feature recorded was a large ditch which ran from E to W across the entire site, and pre-dated the construction of the High Street. Although only 1m in width it was over 2m deep and lined with oak brushwood. The ditch did not appear to be defensive, but it may have acted as a boundary to the early settlement or as a precinct boundary around St John's Kirk.

The brushwood lining to the ditch provided a means by which the feature could be radiocarbon dated, which in this instance was to between 998 and 1039 cal AD (990 ± 50 bp). The earliest Scottish burghs, including Perth, date back to charters issued during the reign of David I (1124-1153). Such evidence of pre-burghal activity has implications not only for the origins of Perth, but also for urban origins in Scotland as a whole.

Sponsors: United Biscuits Pension Investments Ltd, HS [redacted], Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Perth and Kinross Common Good Fund.

Fire Station, Long Causeway, Perth (Perth parish)

Medieval friary

R Cachart (SUAT)

NO 109 239 Contractor's groundworks were observed on this site which is on the N side of the Carmelite friary. It was hoped to identify the burial ground or outbuildings associated with the friary. Deposits and building remains were recorded that related to the railway yard that formerly occupied this site. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.

Sponsor: HS [redacted].

Blackfriars Street/7 Atholl Crescent, Perth (Perth parish)

Medieval friary graveyard

NO 117 238 Two trenches were excavated in advance of development. Burials were found, which were recorded but not removed.

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Trench A was located on the W side of the property, close to the boundary wall, and approximately 13m N of the Blackfriars Street frontage. It revealed an undated stone feature, probably the remains of a wall, cut into the natural.


Trench B was located on the E side of the site approximately 2m N of the existing stable. Parts of four human burials, at a depth of about 0.90m below the present ground surface, were found aligned E to W in the traditional Christian manner. The remains were articulated, and continued into the sides of the trench. Disarticulated human bone and medieval pottery was also encountered.

The excavation confirmed that the Blackfriars' burial ground, parts of which have previously been identified close to the site, actually extends into the proposed development area.

Sponsor: K Simpson (developer).


17-19 Speygate, Perth (Perth parish) D Hall (SUAT)
Urban medieval

NO 1201 2340 Observations of contractor's excavations within the building located the top of an organic midden below the basement floor. Contractor's new foundation trenches dug no deeper than 0.20m into this midden.

Sponsor: HS .


Middle Church, Tay Street, Perth (Perth parish)
Medieval waterfront

NO 120 237 Observations of engineers' test pits inside the church revealed deep foundations to 5m below modern ground level. No medieval deposits were visible.

Sponsor: HS .

60 George Street, Perth (Perth parish) R Cachart (SUAT)
Urban medieval

NO 119 237 During resurfacing work, a well was found in the SW corner of the basement of 60 George Street. It had been sealed by large stone floor flags. The well was constructed of uncoursed, medium to large, grey sandstone fragments, some of which were shaped for the inner curve. It measured 1.48m in depth, 0.47m inside width and 0.82m outside width. The upper level had been sealed by clay between the stonework and the cut. It was considered that the well was probably contemporary with the late 18th-century building.

Sponsor: HS .

Well Caravan Site, Scotlandwell (Portmaoak parish)
Medieval hospital and Trinitarian friary R Coleman (SUAT)

NO 186 015 An assessment was carried out in the field adjacent to the caravan site prior to development.

A small post-Reformation burial ground at the N of the field (not part of the development) probably overlies the site of the hospital and friary. The trenches were located as near to the burial ground as possible, to the S, W and E. Other than cultivation soil and possible drainage gullies, the only medieval features were concentrated to the SE of the burial ground. Here, a cobbled surface, possibly part of a courtyard and a culvert containing medieval pottery in the fills, may relate to either the hospital or friary.

Sponsor: Realm Construction.

Pitfour Gardener's Cottage (St Madoes parish) M D King
Roman coin

NO 2025 2100 A billion tetradrachm of Roman Egypt was found 4in below the surface while digging a path next to Pitfour Gardener's Cottage in about 1982. The coin is of Claudius II, mint Alexandria, 268-9 AD. Donated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery.


Acc No: 1993.659.

Tarrylaw Farm (St Martins parish)
Stone ball

NO 192 299 A stone ball of diameter 65mm was found on Tarrylaw Farm, near Balbeggie. Donated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery. Acc No: 1992.836.

Huntingtower Castle (Tibbermore parish) D Reed

NO 082 251 A watching brief was carried out by Scotia Archaeology Limited during the re-excavation of a drainage sump outside the entrance to the E wing of the castle. The existing sump, which was 0.50m deep, was emptied of its infill and its depth extended by a further 0.50m through archaeological deposits disturbed during recent years. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.

Sponsor: HS .

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Brough of Birsay (Birsay & Harray parish) C D Morris
Cliff erosion recording of pre-Norse/Norse settlement

HY 239 285 Winter storms in January 1993 exposed walling and occupation debris in the cliff-face immediately to the N of the entrance to the Brough of Birsay. Photography, cleaning and recording of the exposed section, and limited excavation of damaged areas took place in July 1993. Eleven periods of activity were noted, with at least three separated phases of wall-construction below the extant consolidated walls. The sequences appear to be broadly similar to those recorded below Room 5 in 1973-4. Occupation and/or midden deposits included much mammal bone and shell, and these were sampled as fully as possible within the parameters of the exercise. There was little artefactual material recovered.


Sponsor: HS .



Fig 45. Earl's Bu. Norse horizontal mill from W.

Earl's Bu (Orphir parish) R C Harry
Norse horizontal watermill

HY 334 045 A short season of excavation was commissioned on the site of the Norse watermill, adjacent to the Earl's Bu, by Orkney

ORKNEY/SHETLAND ISLANDS AREA

Islands Council. Work took place between 13 and 30 July. Although the main elements of the archaeology of the site were well defined, lack of resources in 1990 meant that there were still questions to be answered before a full interpretation of the structural and chronological sequences could be put forward when the site is consolidated and opened to the public. Work established the possibility of two 'ponds' and two lades (or head races) leading to the mill in the original layout, then to be modified with a series of infills, and narrowing of the lade(s) to the wheel set in the underhouse. It also established that earlier burnt mound material was used in the infill of the construction trench for the leat or tail race on the N side, and that to the S; the mill buildings are built into a mound of clay over rubble deposits. Midden deposits that post-dated the mill-race were also examined, along with a feature that may well be the 'water-tank' associated with the burnt mound of Bronze Age date, into which the mill was cut. Because of the imperatives of display, there were limitations to what could be excavated, and, without dismantling the mill-structure itself, earlier phases of activity at the site cannot be fully explored.

Sponsor: Orkney Islands Council.

Breckness Broch (Stromness parish) B Ballin Smith, T Ballin Broch well

HY 225 093 Monitoring of coastal erosion affecting archaeological sites immediately N of Stromness, showed that the well to the Broch of Breckness which was revealed in 1992, had been partly removed by the sea during the winter and spring storms of this year.

In one day during the summer of 1993 the remaining well fill was excavated and the structure was recorded. Finds included bones of birds, land and sea mammals, and human, as well as stone and bone artefacts and some sherds of pottery.

Located centrally beneath the surviving remains of the broch tower, the well had been cut from bedrock and served by stone steps at its E side. One roofing slab was found intact, indicating the roofing structure had collapsed during the use of the broch tower.

In the cliff section W of the broch the profile of a 'U'-shaped rock-cut ditch had also been exposed. This is interpreted as part of the Iron Age settlement defences and was also recorded.

Hermisgarth (Cross & Burness parish) J Downes
Cists and cremation sites

HY 662 428 As part of the coastal erosion caused by the storms of winter 1993, human bones were discovered eroding out of a cliff at Hermisgarth, Sanday. Two cists were located underneath a cairn; from one came a skull, and from the other leg bones. 60m S along the cliff edge were the remains of one or possibly two further cists. In the better preserved of these some burnt bone was found.

To the N of the cists, and also exposed in the cliff section, were two cremation sites almost identical to one another. These sites comprised rectangular settings of close packed stone posts, each structure measuring c 1.5m by 2m. The interiors of the stone settings were paved with large flat slabs, which had been heavily fired and had cramp and burnt bone fused to them. In each case there were two or three layers of burnt paving and burnt bone.

The bone from the cists and cremation sites is undergoing analysis.
Sponsor: HS

Scar (Cross & Burness parish) M Dalland
Viking boat grave

HY 677 458 A topographical survey was carried out by AOC (Scotland) Ltd of the area to the SW of the Viking boat burial (reported in *DES* 1992, 81-2), to relate any topographical features with the anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey. Some of the anomalies coincided with topographical features, but only excavation could determine if any of these elements are connected with the Viking boat-burial.

Sponsor: HS

Millfield, Stronsay (Stronsay parish) C R Wickham-Jones
Flint scatter

HY 659 250 In 1956 Livens published the find of a tanged flint point from Millfield, Stronsay. He drew upper palaeolithic connections to the artefact, and these have also been noted in more recent publications, notably by Morrison and Bonsall in 1988. It is possible, however, that it is derived from a more recent (mesolithic) site, and Woodman has drawn attention to similar artefacts in the mesolithic of northern Scandinavia.

In August 1993 a series of test pits were dug round the locality of the findspot to look for other material. A number of pieces of worked flint were found, but the majority occurred in the spoil tips from the digging of a farm silage pit. There was no sign of archaeological remains in the adjacent field.

It seems likely that there was a more extensive prehistoric site at Millfield, but that it has been destroyed.

The lithics incorporated little diagnostic material so the date of the site remains unresolved. The assemblage includes: five bipolar cores; one flake-awl; and one piece with microlithic retouch; as well as several flakes. Flint pebbles are to be found in the local till, from which they erode at beach sections and it is likely that this provided a handy flint source; the bipolar cores probably relate to the working of pebble flint.

References

R Livens, 1956, 'Three Tanged Flint Points from Scotland', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* (1955-6), 438-43.

A Morrison and C Bonsall, 1989, 'The Early Post-Glacial Settlement of Scotland: A Review', in C Bonsall (ed), *The Mesolithic in Europe*, 134-42.

Sponsors: Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, HS, Orkney Islands Council, Prehistoric Society, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Tuquoy (Westray parish) O Owen
Viking, late Norse and medieval settlement

HY 454 431 Serious damage to the eroding cliff section was reported in February following unusually severe winter storms. Parts of the section had collapsed and, in places, up to 3m of archaeological deposits had been washed away. In early March, a small team recorded those parts of the section which had been worst damaged.

The section immediately W of the late Norse hall discovered in 1982-3 was cleaned and re-drawn. More of the complex sequence of late Norse/medieval structures was revealed. Deposits were seen to continue further to the W than had been exposed in 1988 when the section was last examined. A 'flagged passageway' (recorded on the beach in 1988) was this year partly excavated. This is clearly part of an earlier structure with a substantial paved floor, which had been remodelled on at least two occasions.

The section to the E of the late Norse hall (where a large pit full of organic, waterlogged, organic material was partly excavated in 1988) was particularly badly affected by damage. However, the sheer volume and weight of collapse here precluded its removal and may in fact help to protect what remains of the pit and the unusual deposits above it from further damage. It was photographically recorded but not disturbed. The 'new' section edge was surveyed as part of a continuing effort to monitor erosion at the site.

Sponsor: HS

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Gungstle, Noss (Bressay parish) V Turner

HU 5310 4095 Coastal erosion has begun to affect the scheduled graveyard in Noss, on the eastern side of the peninsula on which the graveyard is situated. Erosion has been particularly severe

SHETLAND ISLANDS AREA


at the point where a drainage pipe had been cut through, a few years ago. The cutting of the pipe trench was not supervised archaeologically, and can now be seen to have disturbed at least three skeletons at the cliff edge. These three were partially excavated in May, before they were lost to the sea. Work stopped at the point at which the cliff became more stable.

The upper torso of the southern skeleton was exposed. The right side of the pelvis and legs had already been lost. The skull faced to its left, face up against a stone slab set on edge. There was no sign of a coffin or other wrapping visible.

The left upper leg, a fragment of the pelvis, the lower arms and the lower spine of the middle skeleton were excavated and removed. The pelvis and part of the upper right femur of the northern skeleton were also excavated. Neither of these bodies could be shown to have been lain in a coffin or wrapping.

At the northern end of the site, on the edge of the bank, lies a slotted stone, likely to be a corner-post for a stone-slab structure (perhaps a corner-post shrine, such as those from St Ninians Isle and Papil, West Burra). Being in no immediate danger, the stone was left *in situ*.

Reports from Scottish Natural Heritage indicate that cliff erosion has continued throughout the summer.

Sponsor: HS 

Mail Churchyard Extension (Dunrossness parish) T Watt Norse strap end

HU 4325 2790 Norse strap end of bone, tapering to one end, with eight rows of incised dot and circles on one side, one other rope design with dot and circle decorations. Socket in wide end, with three holes each end. Found while excavating for a car park at Mail, Cunningsburgh. Now in Shetland Museum.
Reg no: ARC 1993.353.

Mail Chuchyard Extension (Dunrossness parish) Whorl

HU 4325 2790 Schist whorl roughly cone-shaped. Found along with an antler comb while landscaping the car park at Mail graveyard car park. Now in Shetland Museum.
Reg no: ARC 1993.66.

Mail Churchyard Extension (Dunrossness parish) Viking antler comb

HU 4325 2790 About two-thirds of a hog-backed comb, one side badly water damaged, other side patterning weak but visible. Three vertical lines cutting across back piece near end, from three oblique lines cut across with slashed decoration set at right angles to lines. On same side three dot and circle decorations.

Found by workmen while landscaping the extension to the Mail graveyard. Now in Shetland Museum.
Reg no: ARC 1993.226.

Mail Churchyard Extension (Dunrossness parish) Shaped stone

HU 4325 2790 Fragment of a larger piece of grey sandstone; flat, deep, and roughly three-sided. Pecked flat on reverse, the upper face has been rubbed smooth, with one 'corner' appearing to be the shoulder of a longer 'limb' (now broken off).

This was found by the donor at Mail graveyard, Cunningsburgh; however, soil there came from Dunrossness, so may be from either parish. This may be part of a cross. Now in Shetland Museum.
Reg no: ARC 1993.487.

Mail Churchyard Extension (Dunrossness parish) Marked stone

HU 4325 2790 Fragment of a larger piece of grey sandstone; roughly rectangular (though wider at one end). Edges squared off.

On upper face, a series of five vertical scores, with another shorter diagonal score at left side.

This was found by the donor at Mail graveyard, Cunningsburgh; however, soil there came from Dunrossness, so may be from either parish. Now in Shetland Museum.

Reg no: ARC 1993.486.

Mail Churchyard Extension (Dunrossness parish)

Carved rod of steatite

HU 4325 2790 'Rod' of bluish-grey steatite, D-shaped in section. Outer end is rounded off; inner end has apparently been broken off. On flat surface, two deeply incised grooves run off from broken end, coming slightly together, and then ending in an indefinite series of scores.

Perhaps an arm broken from a cross, this was found by the donor at Mail graveyard, Cunningsburgh; however, soil there came from Dunrossness, so may be from either parish. Now in Shetland Museum.

Reg no: ARC 1993.485.

Northvoe, Boddam (Dunrossness parish)

Hammerstone

HU 3990 1487 Oval sea-wrought red sandstone pebble, both ends and one side roughened by repeated striking.

Found in a stone dyke at Northvoe, near Boddam. Now in Shetland Museum.


Reg no: ARC 1993.531.

Jarlishof (Dunrossness parish)

M Dalland

Multi-period settlement

HU 397 095 In connection with the extension of the sea wall at Jarlishof to the W of the site, archaeologists from AOC (Scotland) Ltd cleaned and recorded the eroded parts of the cliff-section. To the S of Jarlishof, W of the present sea wall, the eroded section consisted of beach shingle overlain by a 2m-thick layer of spoil heap deposits from earlier excavations. One area contained a concentration of coarse pottery and fragments of steatite vessels, probably dumped by the excavator. To the W of the site, the eroded section consisted of windblown sands, in places overlain by spoil heap deposits. One stone structure was discovered in this area, embedded in windblown sand and covered by spoil heap deposits. The structure is badly eroded and consequently difficult to interpret; it may represent the remains of a building with a flagged floor.

Sponsor: HS 

Shunni (Dunrossness parish)

H Exton

Mound and depression

HU 356 149 A sub-oval grassy area in sandy soil with no stones visible about 20m by 11m with the long axis NE to SW includes a mound at the NE end about 1m in height and a depression at the NW end 1.5m deep relative to the average ground level. This is to be found within a probably natural ovoid gully about 40m wide and 4m deep at this point. This gully faces downwards towards the NE with its closed end 50m away from sea cliffs and enclosed in part by a curved earth dyke suggested on the current 1:10000 OS map sheet HU 31 SE. The site is about 70m above sea level and local enquiries did not reveal any known purpose.

Fort Charlotte (Lerwick parish)


G Ewart

17th/18th-century artillery fort

HU 476 415 Due to the need for restoration of both rampart and gun platform of the 18th-century fort, along its seaward (eastern) defences, a limited programme of survey and excavation was completed in May 1993. In all, four gun platforms were completely excavated and a further two were partially revealed. It was found that the extensive remains of the platforms as well as the associated

rampart, overlaid and were cut against, an extensive earthwork, possibly part of the 17th-century fort, which was rebuilt in 1781.

In addition, a late 18th-century latrine channel was excavated but was found to contain exclusively modern debris over a modern wastepipe.

Sponsor: HS 

South Nesting Palaeolandscape Project (Nesting parish)

Burnt mound, prehistoric structure and relict landscape S J Dockrill

HU 467 536 **Field survey** In the 1992 season the process of detailed fieldwalking with the aim of identifying anthropogenic features within the landscape continued, with an area of approximately 100 hectares being examined. Features recorded were described in detail and their position located using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer. In a number of cases this basic record was supplemented by detailed survey (both conventional and geophysical).

The monuments recorded were dominated by those belonging to the crofting landscape which included field systems, hill-dykes, boat noosts, a croft and a Methodist chapel in the Lowland area and by peat cutting and stone structures for storing peat moss termed 'moldi koose'. Several prehistoric field systems were also recorded as well as a settlement site.

In an area S of Trowie Loch and the Vadill of Garth, evidence for both recent and prehistoric landuse was noted. The prehistoric features consisted of a well-preserved field system and near by probable prehistoric house site.

The Hall survey and excavation An area of relict landscape surviving within a hill-dyke opposite the South Nesting Hall was the focus for detailed archaeological investigation directed by S J Dockrill. This area, which had been identified by the field survey in the previous year, contained an oval structure (oriented NW to SE and identified as Site 229) and what appeared to be associated features. In 1992 the area was surveyed by a number of methods using the same grid with the aim of maximising the available data for the area before commencing excavation. These methods included: a detailed resistivity and magnetic survey with a reading separation of 0.5m to improve resolution, a detailed contour survey derived from a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer and a 1:20 plan of the earthwork forming representing the structure using a planning frame.

The excavation of the western quadrant of the structure revealed that the structure had been severely robbed with the presence of stone holes and walling surviving only to the first course. The stone was presumably robbed for the later construction of the hill-dyke. A number of worked coarse stone tools were recovered from the excavation and one fragment of worked steatite. No surfaces or *in situ* deposits were identified within the building, a buried soil however, was identified to the SW.

Investigation of a field boundary to the N revealed slight traces of arid cultivation within the field area and a coarse worked stone tool (possibly a broad ard point or mattock type of tool) and a small stone axe. A second trench within the field defined by the boundary revealed a deep buried 'brown earth' derived soil with carbon flecking and clear signs of arid cultivation. This buried soil appeared to have the same matrix as that identified adjacent to the oval structure.

The excavation at Trowie Loch Work continued on the double burnt mound site at Trowie Loch, at the head of the Vadill of Garth (HU 472 537), directed by Julie Bond. The two mounds are being eroded by a tidal creek, and excavation again centred on the recording and analysis of the eroding areas, with no damage to the secure portions of the scheduled mounds. The section through the larger, offshore mound B exposed the extent of tidal erosion and redeposition of strata below the mound material, and also the undisturbed original ground surface beneath the highest part of the mound. Finds from this area included pottery and worked quartzite, adding to the unusually-large ceramic assemblage from this site.

Work on mound A included further excavation of one of the arms of the mound of burnt stone, and again emphasised the extent of redeposition and erosion by tidal action; the hearth found last year was seen to extend into this area, although it was badly affected by the outwash of material from the mound. The full extent of the clay-lined pit next to the hearth was delineated, and substantial blocks of stone on the edge of this pit were seen to be part of a structural feature involving large paving slabs and orthostats leading to the edge of the pit from the centre of the site, making this a discovery of considerable interest. Finds from mound A included pottery, worked quartzite including a thumbnail scraper, and a coarse stone tool.

Environmental investigations Investigation of the prehistoric environment of South Nesting continued, with excavations at Trowie Loch and at the burnt mound Site 177 both confirming that the mounds were emplaced upon a pre-existing topogenous peat deposit. In both cases, the peat was thin – 0.65m at Trowie Loch, 0.90m at Site 177 – and of limited extent. A series of soil pits was dug around the Trowie Loch site, and these showed the peat to extend little more than 10m beyond the mound in any direction. The peat at the Trowie Loch burnt mound was seen to be overlain in places by a putative palaeosol, which immediately underlay the burnt mound at its centre. Cores for pollen analysis were taken at both sites, together with samples which may give radiocarbon assays for the top of the peat. A pollen core was also taken from a peat deposit associated with the burnt mound at Grunna Water which was investigated in 1991.

Sectioning of a field boundary at Site 177 was unproductive, and the boundary is thought to have been relatively recent. A more substantial boundary at Site 151 was sectioned, and proved to have a soil core flanked, and perhaps originally capped, by large stones. No buried surface could be traced beneath this boundary. The well-developed humus-iron podsol which overlaid deposits at the Hall site confirmed that soils in the central part of South Nesting are very susceptible to minor modifications of drainage.

Geophysical survey As part of the South Nesting Project 1992, J G Crummett and P W Dale carried out an intensive programme of geophysical surveys of twelve suspected occupation sites. Both Fluxgate Gradiometer (Magnetic) and Earth Resistance methods were employed on most of the areas. In order to improve the resolution of the surveys eleven sites were sampled at 0.5m intervals, the remaining site being at 1m spacing. An area of 1.65 ha was covered giving a total of 80,000 readings.

The results of both the resistance and magnetic surveys revealed the presence of previously unsuspected features particularly on Site 229. Unfortunately due to dykes of igneous rock running throughout the landscape the latter method was less successful.

Sponsors: Shetland Amenity Trust, British Academy, British Petroleum.

South Nesting Palaeolandscape Project (Nesting parish)

Preliminary report on 1993 fieldwork S J Dockrill, T P O'Connor

The South Nesting Palaeolandscape Project entered its third and last season of fieldwork in 1993 with a particularly large team under the direction of Steve Dockrill. Environmental sampling and excavations at Site 403 were supervised by Terry O'Connor; Site 229 was supervised by Julie Bond, and Site 232 by Jackie McKinley.

An intensive investigation of a relict landscape adjacent to the South Nesting Community Hall (HU 467 535) and a detailed field survey of the Gletness peninsula (HU 468 514) formed the main objective for the third season of this project. Added to this agenda was the detailed investigation and sampling of man-made soils (anthrosols) associated both with the Community Hall site and with a prehistoric structure and enclosure in the hill land N of Gletness. These anthrosols appeared from the 1992 season to have been associated with an intensive infield agricultural system, and their

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study formed a major theme in 1993, in the hope of elucidating the management techniques involved.

Excavation The aim of the excavation programme at the South Nesting Community Hall site was to complete the investigation of an oval stone structure, and to establish the relationship between a buried soil identified in the previous year to a hill dyke which bounded the area of interest. A pronounced lynchet and stone boundary, thought to be associated with the buried soil, was also examined in conjunction with a stone structure, which had been identified on the alignment of the boundary.

The oval structure (Site 229) showed evidence of stone robbing, with traces of the wall only appearing as soil-filled stone holes. It seems likely that this disturbance to the structure coincided with the construction of the hill dyke. Pottery suggesting a Bronze Age date for the structure was found in deposits abutting the outer south-eastern wall face. Traces of a hearth surface were identified within the centre of the building. Although the stone structure has been disturbed in the recent past, the morphology of the building suggested by the remains, together with the artefact assemblage suggests a settlement context for the structure.

Excavation across the hill dyke revealed that the anthrosol predated this boundary, and traces of ard-marks were identified below the soil on both sides of the boundary. An excavated transect of the lynchet and boundary (Site 233) revealed thrown stone clearance material to the NE of the boundary and lynchet. Again, traces of ard cultivation were found cutting the natural to the SW of the boundary. The anthrosol was extensively sampled in both the lynchet and infield sections excavated in 1993, both for carbonised botanical remains and as columns for micromorphological analysis. Augering across the infield area showed the anthrosol to be at its thickest in the vicinity of the 1992 excavation which sampled it, and to thin rapidly towards the apparent margins of the infield.

The excavation of a second stone structure (Site 232) on the boundary alignment suggested a burial function for this monument. The structure appeared to contain a small chamber with smaller clearance stone forming a halo around the monument. As with the oval structure, there were indications of stone robbing, with stones probably being used in the construction of the adjacent hill dyke. Evidence of a disturbed cremation (formed both by pottery and by cremated human bone) support a burial interpretation for this monument. An adjacent excavation through the buried soil and hill dyke located scatters of decayed pottery and ash within the anthrosol, thus overlying the ard marks. This material may have derived from activity at the burial monument, or from subsequent disturbance of the monument. Either way, it may give a stratigraphical association between the burial monument, the anthrosol, the ard marks, and the hill dyke.

Peat coring was undertaken downslope of the Community Hall site, at the edge of Trowie Loch (HU 469 537). About 2m of quite humified peat was encountered, with no disruptions which could be attributed either to accelerated erosion on the adjoining slope, or to the transgression which inundated the nearby burnt mounds sampled in the 1991 and 1992 seasons and which truncated the peats associated with those mounds. Cores were retrieved for pollen analysis.

Field survey Field survey in the Gletness area recorded a fragmented prehistoric landscape which included elements similar to those elsewhere in South Nesting but lacking any burnt mounds. A S-facing convex slope below The Roonies was found to have a series of roughly circular stone structures, arguably houses, set in a landscape subdivided by boundaries into small enclosures and larger areas, with one possible funerary cairn. One of these circular structures (Site 403) (HU 462 517) and its associated enclosure was sampled. Excavation on the structure was limited to exposing the surface of a section of wall, and showed it to consist of rubble and humic loam (probably decayed turf) packed against an inner face of

rough orthostats. No surviving buried soil could be located in direct association with the structure, but a second excavation within the enclosure showed a brown mineral soil with copious charcoal flecks. This soil, which was sampled for analysis, overlay a surface of pitched stones, probably of Late Devensian, periglacial origin, and was sealed by a thin stony deposit which appeared to be colluvium from the steeper slopes nearby. The colluvium was in turn overlain by the modern sedge peat. Cores were taken from a basin peat downslope from the site, with the intention of undertaking pollen analysis. Several phases of mineral inwash and variable humification were noted in these cores.

One other notable element in the Gletness survey was the recording of an abandoned croft house (HU 464 519), which provided a complete example of its type, from traces of the vegetable plots outside, to the furniture within. The house is reputedly haunted: the results of the survey indicate the 'ghost' to be a decidedly unspectral cat.

As in previous years, the local people of South Nesting were welcoming and helpful. Thanks are due to all who helped in various ways or tolerated our presence on their land, but in particular to Andy and Jennie Bradley, Carol and Walter Hunter, and Mike and Kate Canter.

Sponsors: Shetland Amenity Trust, British Academy, University of Bradford.

Tresta (Sandsting parish)

T Watt

Loomweight

HU 36 50 Large grey schist loomweight. Coarsely made, rather deep in shape. Hourglass hole in centre with wide sloping sides. Found while digging a garden at Hillside, Tresta. Now in Shetland Museum.

Reg no: ARC 1993.404.

Sandsound, Bixter (Sandsting parish)

Quartzite painted pebble

HU 358 482 Quartzite painted pebble, twelve brown spots on one side and three faint curved decorations on other. 54mm diameter by 23mm thick.

Found in a small quarry at Sandsound, Bixter among an unusual mound of pebbles which the finder declares are different to the area. Stone declared Treasure Trove, however, the finder refused to accept the valuation, returned the Crown Office cheque and donated the stone to Shetland Museum.

Museum nos: ARC 1993.438.

Sandsound, Bixter (Sandsting parish)

Loomweights

HU 358 482 Two mica schist loomweights: 1. circular in shape with very rounded edges and hourglass hole in centre; 2. pear-shaped stone, very flat in x-section with hourglass-shaped hole towards top. Dug up in garden at Sandsound, Bixter. Now in Shetland Museum.

Reg no: ARC 1993.437.

Sands of Breckon (Yell parish)

Red earthenware pottery

HP 537 053 Fifty-six pieces of red earthenware pottery, comprising wall sherds, rim sherds, base fragments, legs, handle, perforated piece, several glazed pieces. Some glaze is brown, one piece white with brown circles and green line, one is glazed cream with brown lines.

This type of pottery is a common find at Breckon, where pieces are often found exposed by shifting sands. Now in Shetland Museum.

Reg no: ARC 1993.469.

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Rubha Gruaig (Shawbost) (Barvas parish) M R Curtis,
Stone setting G R Curtis

NB 2330 4705 There is a sub-rectangular setting of about forty stones approximately 2.5m wide and 5.5m long, being the remnants of a straight front wall (2.5m), straight side walls (5.5m) (with doorways?), a curved back wall and a straight internal wall near the back wall. The largest stone is about 1m long. There are seven stones set on edge, up to about 0.5m high. Surrounding the setting there is a slight linear hollow in the turf.

It is located less than 10m from the edge of 30m high sheer cliffs, on a near level area of fine turf between the top of these cliffs and a small rocky outcrop.

There is no living memory concerning the use of this site.

The setting was brought to our notice by Mr and Mrs Walters of Oakmoor, Staffs.

Allt Chrysal (Barra parish) K Branigan
Neolithic/early Bronze Age settlement and burial site

NL 6423 9775 Excavations continued on the upper of two activity platforms and revealed further evidence of pottery manufacture, along with flint working. Various ephemeral structures were recorded and a large deposit of broken pottery vessels in a rock cleft, all of Neolithic date. Below a slab-lined Neolithic hearth the construction slot and post holes of an apsidal (?) house appeared, but bad weather prevented completion of its excavation.


Upslope, two small circular huts were excavated. One produced very little material, but the other produced a quantity of pottery and flintwork including Beaker material.

On a high shelf overlooking these sites, a circular structure 8m in diameter was excavated. It had a roughly built kerb, inside of which a single layer of slabs and boulders covered the interior. One cist was found but was completely empty.

Sponsors: University of Sheffield, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Eoligarry; Mingulay (Barra parish)
Coastal erosion survey

Coastal erosion survey on Barra was completed and a total of fifty-seven sites and monuments recorded in the 50m corridor from Ardveenish through Eoligarry to Traigh Eias. Most were post-medieval but notable sites included a large and deep shell midden with stone structures on Orosay (NF 7120 0632), almost certainly prehistoric, and a stone ring at NF 6949 0962. This is similar in form, construction and location to a site sample-excavated on the Tangaval peninsula, Barra, in 1992 and C14 dated to the 7th century BC. On Mingulay, almost fifty sites were recorded in the northern half of the island (100m corridor) including twelve sub-rectangular cairns and eleven kerbed circular cairns. Iron Age sites are noticeably scarce on the island on present evidence.

Sponsor: HS 

St Kilda (Harris parish) A Morrison, P Johnson, A Pollard

At Ruaival an excavation trench was established over two of the apparently circular/sub-circular stone scatters, situated just to the W (NF 0984 9852) of the most northerly of the four extant drystone enclosures (Enclosure 1). These were noted and recorded in 1992 and seen to be associated with a system of earlier, turf-covered banks and terraces that clearly underlie the surviving drystone enclosures.

Excavation suggests that the circular/sub-circular sites were of coarse rubble construction, much of the material of which had collapsed into and downhill of the structures. After removal of the collapse, both structures were seen to contain remnants of walling, possibly only an inner face, delimiting a sub-circular central 'activity' area. In the most northerly of the two structures, the outlines of what

appear to be traces of an 'entrance passage' were beginning to emerge at the close of the excavation. No material that would provide chronological or cultural indicators was recovered, but some fragments of what appear to be rudimentary bowls or mortars were found.

At An Lag Bho 'n Tuath the first season of excavation concentrated on a pair of stone settings (NF 1020 9950) recorded by earlier surveys. These features, perhaps unfortunately termed 'boat-shapes', appear to represent the central settings of sub-circular cairns. A series of kerbs were visible within the larger of the two cairns, which lay immediately to the NW of its neighbour. The two cairns appear to be joined and it is possible that the more substantial of the two was constructed later, perhaps including material robbed from the earlier structure. In the central area of the larger cairn were traces of various pits and cuts, some of which appear to run beneath the stone setting and cairn. No finds were recovered from the central area, but several coarse stone tools, including what may be ard tips, were recovered from the matrix of the smaller cairn. These cairns and stone settings may represent funerary monuments but further excavation will be required before such an interpretation can be verified.

A sub-rectangular earthen platform, situated some 85m to the SE of the cairns (NF 1038 9953), was also investigated. It was initially thought that this feature might be the turf-covered foundation of a structure but excavation and soil sampling suggests more an artificial bed of earth, possibly used for some type of cultivation.

Sponsor: National Trust for Scotland.

Minch, off Shiant Islands (Lochs parish) NMS
MBA gold torc

A gold bar torc was found by two fishermen while scallop-dredging in the Minch off the Shiant Islands (in area of sea NG39 NE/NG49 NW). It was discovered in 1991, but its significance was not appreciated at the time. However, while on a visit to Glasgow in 1992, one of the finders took the object to Christie's Scotland Ltd to ascertain if it was of any interest or value. Recognising it as an artefact of archaeological interest, staff at Christie's then contacted the NMS. In view of the circumstances of its discovery, the torc was claimed as an item of Wreck and has now been acquired by the NMS following settlement of the salvage award (Catalogue no FE 108).

Daybook no: DB 1992/19.

Sponsor: NMS.

Northton (Harris parish) NMS
Beaker sherds

NF 97 91 Eight Beaker sherds, representing parts of six pots, were found on the beach at Northton, Harris, where they had eroded out of the section. They probably come from the settlement complex partly excavated in the 1960s (NF 975 912). The finds are to be donated to Stornoway Museum.

Daybook no: DB 1993/45.

Cnoc na Croich (Gallows Hill) (Stornoway parish) M R Curtis,
Chambered cairn G R Curtis

NB 4173 3232 There are extensive remains of a large un-recorded chambered cairn.

The spread of stones of the cairn extends over a sub-circular area of approximately 30m diameter.

There are three upright stones (the largest being 1.40m long) and one fallen stone, of the peristaliths positioned on a ring of radius of about 12m with centre approximately 3m N of the chamber.

Within the SW quadrant of the cairn there is a hollowed area about 6m across, possibly where a second chamber has been robbed (but see below).

The chamber is set within the SE quadrant of the cairn and is aligned approximately NE to SW. It is 5m long and a maximum of

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1.25m wide inside. There are seven wall stones set on edge, the largest being 2.10m long, 0.65m thick and 1.15m high above the present internal floor level, which is about 0.5m below the level of the surrounding cairn material. There are no capstones and there is no end wall visible at either end.

The cairn is located some 40m N of the true summit of Gallows Hill, the hilltop being nearly level. It is the highest hill around Stornoway and overlooks the harbour.

The cairn is largely covered by thick undergrowth and an ancient hawthorn tree, and is surrounded by young trees. In 1849 it had been 'lately planted with fir and ash' (Ordnance Note Book No 72, 96).

The Mathesons, who owned Lewis in the 19th century, developed the Stornoway Castle grounds, in which Gallows Hill stands, planting trees and building a track which circles the hilltop, encloses the cairn and may have truncated the E edge of it. The hollowed area in the cairn may have been a borrow pit for this track.

To commemorate the visit of King Edward VII on 2 September 1902 (W C Mackenzie, *History of the Outer Hebrides*, 516) a dry-stone cairn 3.6m diameter and 2m high, surmounted by a flagpole (now a rotting wooden stump) was built at the eastern limit of the chambered cairn, the stones almost certainly being taken from the latter.

This modern cairn is presumably at the same location as the (supposed) execution site (given as NB 4170 3229 in the RCAHMS List).

Our survey was made with the permission of the landowners, The Stornoway Trust, who drew our attention to the site, facilitated our work on it, and have copies of our drawings.

Sponsor: Outer Hebrides Archaeology.

Loch na Berie (Uig parish)

D W Harding

Broch and post-broch settlement (see Fig 46, p 111)

NB 103 351 A short season of excavation in August 1993, concentrated on the clarification of the post-broch, pre-Pictish period occupation within the interior of the derelict broch (for an account of the Pictish-period occupation, see I Armit (ed), *Beyond the Brochs* (Edinburgh, 1990), 94–106).

The immediately pre-Pictish phase of settlement was represented by a series of small, cellular buildings, characterised by walls which combined horizontal, dry-stone coursing with substantial edge-set slabs and by corbelled roofs, the collapsed remains of which could initially be mistaken for the remains of severely slumped walls. The principal building of this group was evidently multi-cellular, and may originally have been shamrock-shaped in its layout. Two cells of this building survived with well-defined walls. The remaining cell or cells have yet to be satisfactorily defined by excavation, though an adjoining length of walling suggests that the SW cells of the shamrock may have re-used the surviving perimeter cells of an earlier wheelhouse in a similar manner to that of the post-wheelhouse occupation at Cnip (Armit, *op cit*, 94–5). Within the shamrock, a central hearth was defined by small, edge-set slabs, and bedded in the floor of its two main cells were four fragments of disc querns, evidently re-used from an earlier occupation. To the W of this principal structure was a simpler cellular building abutting the inner broch wall, while to the NW and E, two further possible cells require further excavation. The N and NE sector of the interior in this phase of occupation was filled with a dense deposit of shell-midden.

The other principal post-broch structure was a substantial stone-built roundhouse, the coursed walling of which had been recognised in 1989 immediately inside the inner broch wall around its south-eastern and south-western sectors. The continuation of this wall has now been located at several points around the northern half of the broch interior, gaps in its circuit being the result of the intrusive construction of the subsequent cellular buildings. A crucial discovery in 1993, however, was of a radial pier projecting inwards from this

wall adjacent to the former broch entrance on the E, confirming the identification of this structure as a post-broch wheelhouse.

Between the wheelhouse occupation and the phase of cellular buildings, an intermediate structural phase appears to be represented by a short arc of walling within the NE sector of the interior, which was truncated at its southern end by the phase of cellular building, and at its northern end terminates at a butt-end, which may have formed one side of an entrance. Clarification of the plan of this putative smaller roundhouse may be hampered by the extent of subsequent re-building in later phases.

Finally, at several points around the broch scarcement, sizeable vertical slabs have been revealed, which are too regular in their disposition to be regarded as tumbled or displaced. If they belonged to a single structural feature, then they should be post-broch, since three on the NE side block the entrance from the interior into gallery 5, but pre-wheelhouse, given the location of several behind the wheelhouse wall in the SW quadrant. Others occur elsewhere around the scarcement edge, where later re-building has not removed them. The purpose of this structural feature remains at present uncertain.

If the relative structural sequence seems clear enough, absolute dates are more difficult to assign at present. In conjunction with other sites in the immediate vicinity, there seems to be a fair prospect in due course of establishing a usable ceramic sequence, but at present the structures uncovered in 1993 can only be attributed tentatively to the first half of the first millennium AD.

Several cores taken by Mr M Cressey in broch galleries 1 and 5 established that the bedrock on which the broch was founded lies variously between 2m and 2.5m beneath the surviving capstones of the ground floor galleries. Further analysis of the cores is in progress. Sponsor: University of Edinburgh, Department of Archaeology.

Traigh Bosta, Great Bernera (Uig parish) M R Curtis, G R Curtis

Walled structures at site of settlement

NB 1373 4010 About six stone buildings have been exposed over a length of 30m in an eroding sand dune face, which lies between exposed rock to the N, a stream estuary to the S and Bosta Cemetery to the E. The location is marked 'Settlement, site of' on the OS 1:10,000 map.


Severe erosion occurred during the storm force winds and exceptionally high tides of January 1993, which eroded at least 1m of dune face and lowered the beach level by approximately 1m. Further rapid erosion of the steep face will occur due to wind, cattle, rain and high tides.

The total vertical height of the eroding face of the dune varies from 2m to 5m. There is a considerable quantity of tumble stone on the beach below and about 0.5m to 1m of clean sand overburden above the walls.

In cross section most of the walls are over 1m thick, and are faced with stones and infilled with homogeneous sand. They stand in or on dark brown sand occupation deposits.

Finds include pottery (160 rims and 50 bases), Beaker pottery, fish and animal bone (some with cuts), antler, shells, worked bone tools, fragments of up to 3 combs, and a lead weight. In addition there is a spread of similar stones and finds across the adjacent beach. The finds do not appear to establish the date or dates of this settlement. Most of it is likely to be pre-Viking, and it may be noted that there is a complete absence of copper.

A report, drawings and finds list have been provided to Historic Scotland. Finds and photographs are currently with the authors.

Sponsors: HS , Outer Hebrides Archaeology.

Cnoc an Tursa (Uig parish)


G M Coles

Excavation

NB 213 329 A flat platform below five large natural boulders to the S of Callanish I and immediately outside the Historic Scotland

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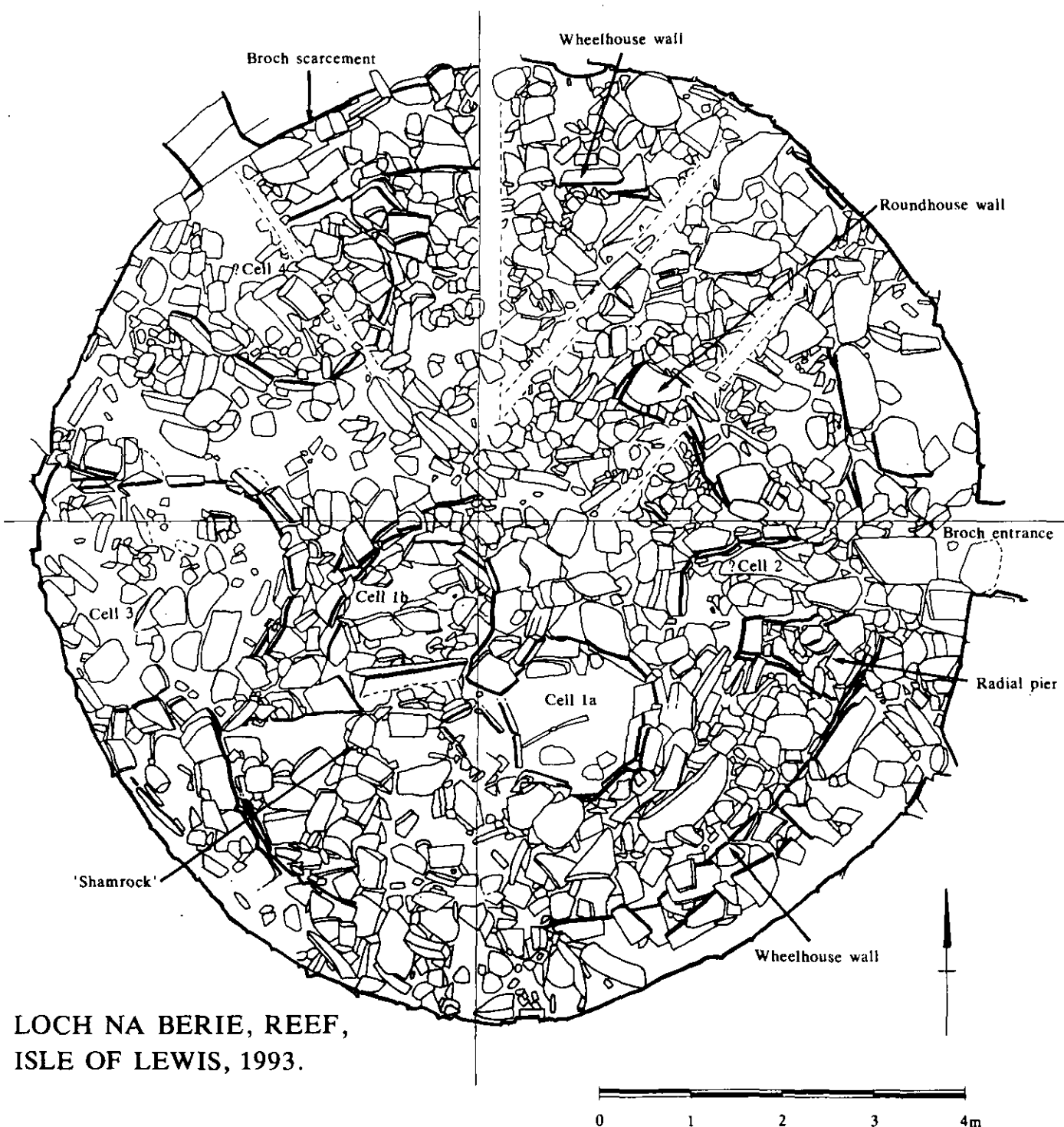
protected area was investigated by excavation of an 'L'-shaped 2m by 10m by 10m trial trench. Two large pits (or ditch terminals?) were partially exposed at the N end of the trial trench. Immediately to the S of these pits lay a setting of four post-sockets in a shallow arc. On the E side of the site a shallow ditch running N to S and containing worked flint was discovered. Silting or backfilling of this ditch appears to have been followed by the erection of at least two phases of upright posts, the sockets of which cut through the ditch-fill into the underlying drift deposits. A spread of ash and charcoal was found to the E of these features. To the SW of the area bounded by the ditch and post-pit features a number of isolated post sockets were found. Further excavation is planned.

Sponsors: University of Edinburgh, HS 

Callanish Farm (Uig parish)

Field survey and trial excavation

NB 214 328 (centred) A programme of field survey and excavation was carried out in preparation for development of a visitor centre for the Callanish Stone Circle. Survey revealed the remains of pre-clearance 18th-century crofting settlement overlying earlier land boundaries and field systems of post-medieval age. Trial excavation of a possible black house structure produced few finds. Test pitting was carried out over an area 150m by 200m in the immediate development area and yielded several potentially Neolithic finds, including invasively flaked points, none however were in primary contexts. It was concluded that the shallow soil depth coupled with intensive crofting activity in the 18th/19th century appears to have



LOCH NA BERIE, REEF,
ISLE OF LEWIS, 1993.

Fig 46. Loch na Berie. Plan: post-broch, pre-Pictish occupation.

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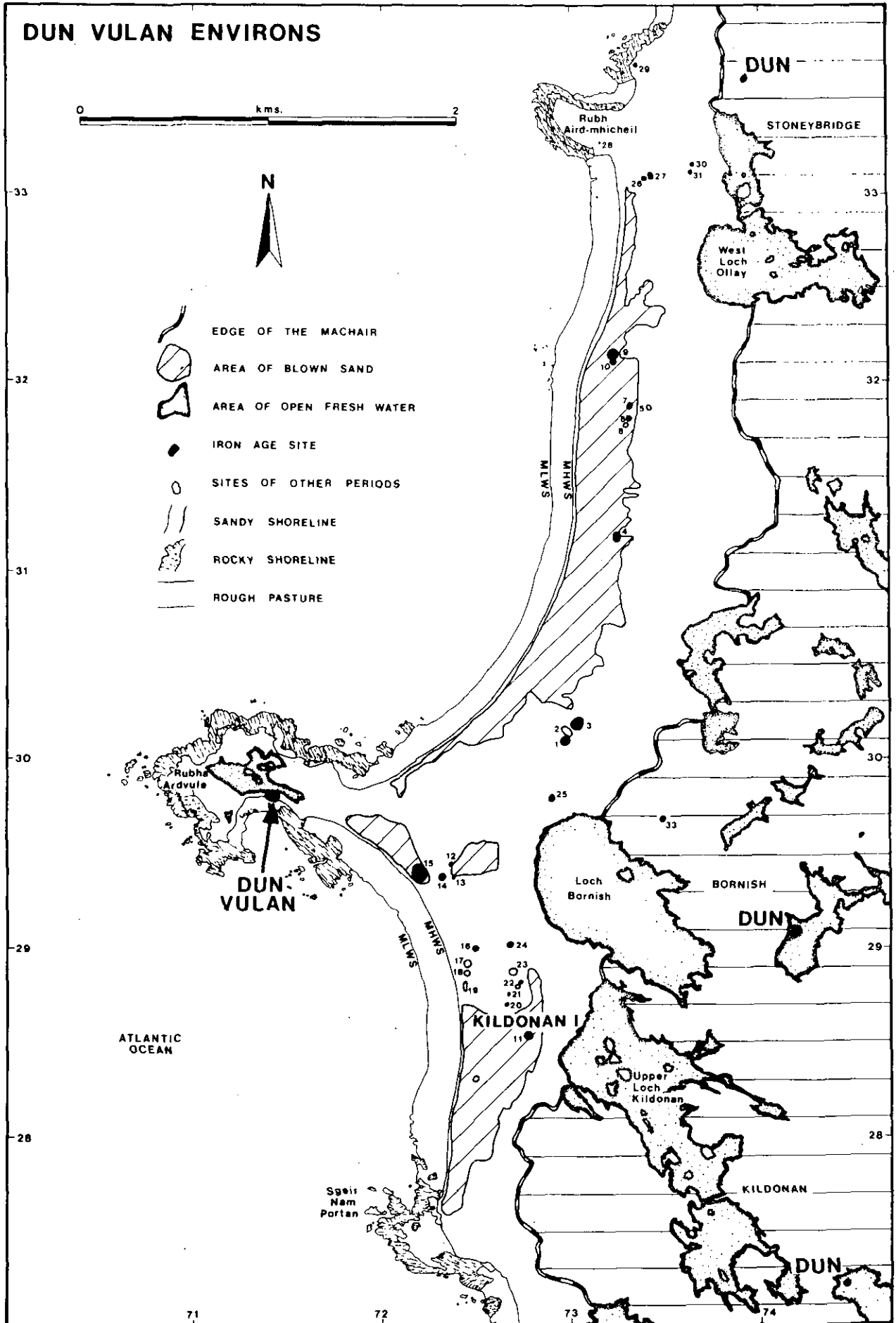


Fig 47. Dun Vulan.

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removed any traces of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement from this area. Survey of the outlying farm land is in progress.

Sponsors: University of Edinburgh, HS [4].

Baleshare, North Uist (N Uist parish)

I Armit

Cist and middens

NF 776 615 Small-scale salvage excavation of a cist burial, together with an assessment of coastal erosion was carried out on the previously excavated site of A'Cheardach Ruadh. Tidal erosion has removed approximately 7m to 8m of the beach-front in the past 10 years and continues to expose cultivated soils and midden associated with the previously excavated prehistoric structures. Cut into the upper part of these deposits was a long cist containing an extended inhumation.

The cist was overlain by stained sand with indistinct layer boundaries, over a buried soil of dark-brown sand, some 0.05m deep. This latter soil extended unbroken over the cist, separated from it by a thin layer of stained, grey-brown sand, indicating that the cist was roofed originally at ground level. The cist was cut directly into the top of layers rich in peat ash and other indicators of domestic midden. Less than half of the cist survived, the remainder having fallen onto the beach. The surviving structure indicated that the cist had been in excess of 1.3m in length, with a width at the surviving end of 0.5m, and a depth of 0.4m. It was lined with side slabs of local gneiss and capped with lintels of the same material. Two lintels survived of which the one nearest the erosion face had partially slipped, crushing and wedging the upper rib cage of the skeleton.

The skeletal material appears to represent the remains of an extended inhumation aligned from NNW (the head) to SSE. Two cattle teeth were found in the area of the neck and shoulders of the skeleton. These were the only non-human skeletal material in the burial and appear to have been deliberately placed. The burial is most likely to be Later Iron Age in date.

Sponsor: HS [4].

Kirkidale, Loch Eynort (S Uist parish)

J Moreland

Early modern

NF 800 265 Excavation of an 18th-century and 19th-century structure was completed in June 1993. The results of the excavation

suggest that the structure was part of a farmstead in the lower part of Kirkidale. The eastern end of the structure was paved with Stuley slate. Two quern stones were set into the floor. They appear not to be *in situ*. A small drain ran from the western end of the structure and exited about mid-way along the northern wall. The structure may be one of two buildings shown on the 1801 Bold map of the area. After abandonment the building was used as a temporary shelter. This is shown by several hearths above the abandonment layers. Several post holes, one c50cm in diameter and 30cm deep, were found cut into the bedrock below the structure and demonstrate some earlier activity on this site. The date of these features is unknown as no associated artefacts were found.

Sponsor: University of Sheffield.

Kirkidale, Loch Eynort (S Uist parish)

Neolithic/medieval?

NF 798 265 In June 1993 excavation continued of a series of sub-circular huts connected with a large oval enclosure, and a mound contained within the enclosure. A test pit excavated in 1992 produced a sherd of decorated Neolithic pottery. The area of excavation was expanded to 12m by 12m. Excavation showed that some of the huts contained hearths but little artefactual material. Occasional sherds of non-diagnostic pottery were found. These may be 'medieval' in date. Excavation of the mound revealed that it is likely to have been a substantial stone wall which collapsed to the W. On the eastern side of the wall a series of hearths were uncovered associated with pottery which is similar to that found elsewhere on the site this year. The date and nature of the site remain enigmatic but further excavation to the layers in which Neolithic pottery was found in 1992 should provide the answers.

Sponsor: University of Sheffield.

Dun Vulcan (S Uist parish)

M Parker Pearson

Broch and associated settlement (see Figs 47 and 48)

NF 7141 2982 This season work continued on the deposits under the modern beach outside the broch. A trench 60m by 8m was opened by machine. The large midden adjacent to the broch was excavated to its base. It provides a 2m-deep sequence of refuse deposits, probably deriving from inside the broch, ending in the

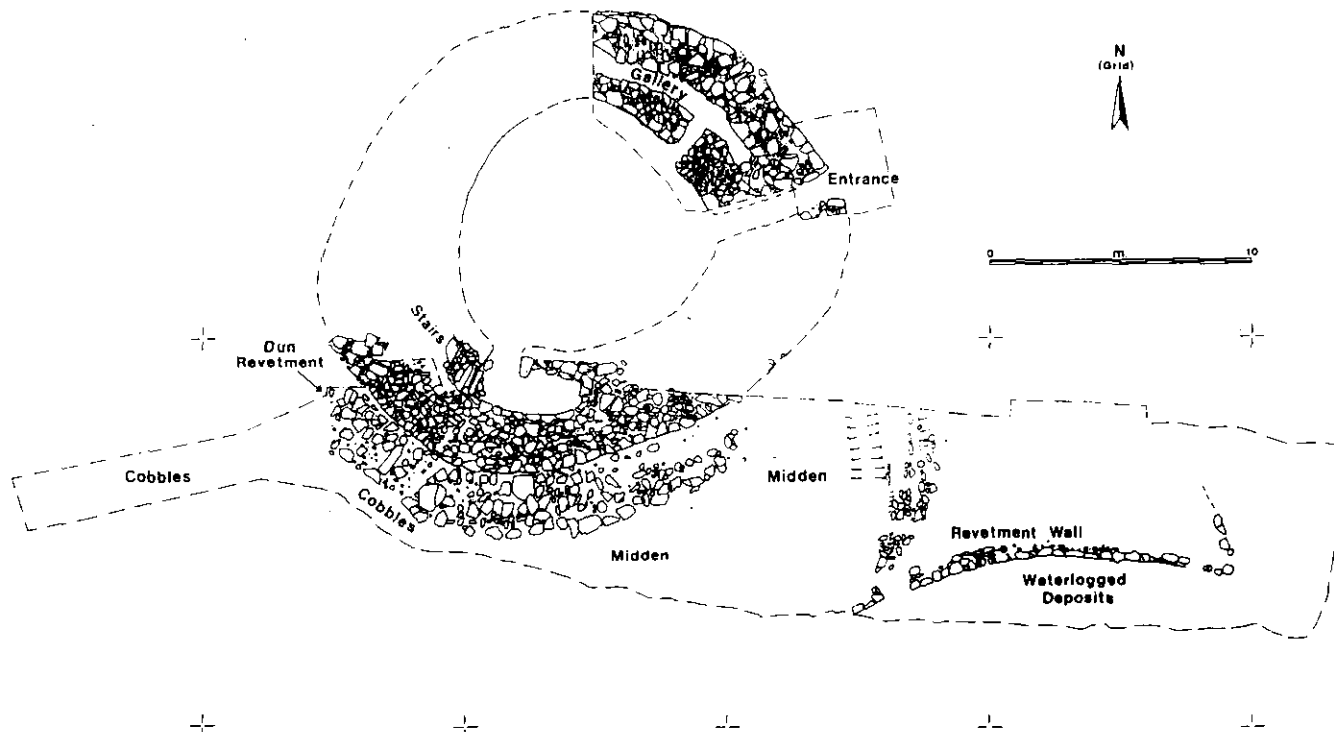



Fig 48. Dun Vulcan. Plan.

WESTERN ISLES ISLANDS AREA

1st century AD and probably beginning soon after the broch's construction. In front (E) of the broch is a large platform c20m by 30m in size and delineated by a low wall on its S and E sides. On the S side of this platform were constructed two rectangular stone buildings, the earliest around the 1st century AD and the second in the 2nd/3rd centuries AD. These were succeeded by a circular dwelling with hearth but were not themselves habitations. Each rectangular structure had a foundation trench (or 'drain') running under its threshold. The trench under the later rectangular building

contained half a human mandible. Overall, the deposits outside the broch provide a stratified sequence of long-term occupation spanning at least 500 years.

A pilot field survey in the 7 square kilometres around the broch revealed the presences of thirty-two archaeological sites, most of them hitherto unknown. Those of Iron Age date, contemporary with occupation at the broch, include large settlement mounds which are spaced approximately 1km apart.

Sponsor: HS 

NATIONAL SURVEYS

This is the first brief report in this category to be included in *DES*. It is hoped that others will be made available for forthcoming compilations.

National Committee on Carved Stones,
c/o Society of Antiquaries of Scotland,
Royal Museum of Scotland,
Queen Street,
Edinburgh EH2 1JD

Initiated by Historic Scotland, this Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of John Higgitt (Department of Fine Art, University of Edinburgh) with representatives from Historic Scotland (Richard Fawcett and Ingvál Maxwell), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (Ian Fisher and Graham Ritchie), Association of Regional Archaeologists (Lorna Main), Council for Scottish Archaeology (Tom Gray), National Museums of Scotland (Michael Spearman), Scottish Museums Council (Timothy Ambrose), and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (Anna Ritchie).

The Committee is concerned with the care, recording and protection of carved stones in Scotland, and its aim is to assess the problems involved and to seek solutions. All carved stones from all periods are included, from early prehistoric cupmarks to the architectural sculpture and fragments and tombstones of recent centuries. The Committee hopes to raise public awareness of the vulnerable nature of carved stones and, in particular, of the undesirable effects of rubbing them.

Information about stones at risk and stones already in a state of advanced deterioration will be welcomed, and the Committee will be pleased to offer advice. The Committee would also be very interested to hear about any projects, proposed or under way, for recording carved stones. Annual reports on casework will be included in *DES*, and an information leaflet is in preparation.
