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**A75 Cairntop to Barlae Dual Carriageway,  
Dumfries & Galloway**

**Derskelpin Burnt Mound Excavation**

**Report no. 1755**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during February 2010 within the corridor of the forthcoming A75 Cairntop to Barlae Dual Carriageway, Dumfries & Galloway (NGR: NX 2530 5924) (Fig. 1). It has been produced by CFA for Historic Scotland on behalf of Transport Scotland.

1.1.2 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken along the route by CFA in September 2009. The results of this evaluation can be found in CFA Report 1659 (Suddaby 2009). A mitigation report for the archaeological excavation was produced by CFA after consultation with Mr Rod McCullagh of Historic Scotland (Johnson & Suddaby 2009).

### **1.2 Background**

1.2.1 The remains of a possible burnt mound were uncovered by CFA during evaluation trenching in September 2009 (Suddaby 2009). The waterlogged conditions and the existence of peat deposits sealed underneath the burnt mound suggested there was good potential for the recovery of organic material including preserved wood, palaeoenvironmental materials and a range of plant-macrofossils. Although datable artefactual material was not discovered, the potential quality of the remains were assessed as warranting further investigation, with the potential for providing information on the function, date, history of use and local environment in the locale of the putative burnt mound. The remains, if confirmed as belonging to a burnt mound, most likely are prehistoric in origin based upon dated parallels (Buckley 1990). However, burnt mounds are known to have been used into the medieval period.

1.2.2 The site lies directly on the proposed route of the Derskelpin Farm access track to the south of the current A75 carriageway and so was directly threatened by the scheme.

1.2.3 On the basis of the evaluation results, it was recommended that a set-piece excavation was undertaken of the feature within the CPO boundary, to mitigate the impact of the new farm access track.

### **1.3 Objectives**

1.3.1 The primary objective of the project was:

- to fully excavate, record and interpret any archaeological deposits, features and structures contained within the site, and retrieve artefacts, ecofacts and other remains in order to interpret the nature and impact of human occupation and activity at the site and its immediate environ and place the findings within a chronological framework

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

- 2.1 Work was conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and relevant Standards and Guidance, and with Historic Scotland's standard requirements.
- 2.2 Trenching focused on an area with a maximum dimension of 23m E-W by 18m N-S. This area was the maximum recommended size based on the locations of services and other obstructions, the known ground conditions, and the constraints on areas to store spoil within the CPO.
- 2.3 The trench was situated immediately south of an overgrown fence line which comprised mixed foliage and low tree cover. This boundary delimits the edge of the 'old A75' to the north which can still be seen as a berm of made ground near to this location. Further widening of the trench to the east was not possible due to the encroachment of the tree lined boundary, the proximity of the modern carriageway and the narrowing constraints of the CPO. Overhead power lines, telecommunications cables and water pipes were also present in the immediate vicinity area.
- 2.4 The removal of soil deposits was carried out using a 360° excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, with overlying deposits removed in spits under constant archaeological supervision. All further works required to fulfil the terms of the project design were carried out by hand. A 100% excavation policy was adopted.
- 2.5 A total bulk sampling strategy was adopted for all excavated deposits, with further samples taken by Kubiena tins for sub-sampling and soil micromorphology analysis if required.
- 2.6 All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and completing standard CFA record forms.
- 2.7 Conditions during trenching and excavation were difficult, primarily due to the waterlogged ground conditions and exacerbated by extremes of weather due to the time of year. The site was situated in a waterlogged area, with little or no potential for natural drainage. As a consequence, an attempt to manage water ingress into the trench by way of machine excavated drainage channels was undertaken. A large sump was machine excavated on archaeologically sterile ground in the south-west corner of the trench in order to collect standing water so that it could be pumped out of the trench periodically through the working day.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 General

3.1.1 Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

#### 3.2 Excavation Results

3.2.1 Machine excavation removed the overlying topsoil which comprised soft greyish-dark brown silt. The backfill of the previously excavated evaluation trench (Suddaby 2009), which had become saturated in the interim, was also removed. Due to previous machine activity on site, the topsoil surface had also become 'churned up'. The sterile topsoil varied in depth from 0.20-0.25m. Evidence of probable field clearance by way of very large sub-rounded boulders was noted in close proximity to the field boundary fence.

3.2.2 Immediately under the topsoil, the presence of small to medium sized angular stones within a greyish-brown silty matrix was noted. The description of the deposit was as reported by Suddaby (2009), indicating that the archaeological horizon had been reached.

3.2.3 Archaeologically sterile areas were typified by bluish-white boulder clay with common grey mottles and small to medium-large rounded cobbles of glacial origin. The topography of the underlying substrate gently crested to the north, levelling out in the direction of the northern boundary of the trench (Fig 2, 4 & 6).

3.2.4 Hand cleaning of the site then followed, which defined the extent of the feature within the trench (Fig. 3).

3.2.5 Topographical features noted in the wider environ included the remains of denuded shrub-lined earthen banks and a number of wide ditches probably cut for drainage purposes, which had subsequently become heavily choked. Such activity hints at attempts to improve the land in the relatively recent past.

##### *Slot 1*

3.2.6 Slot 1 was excavated at the western terminus of the feature. Overlying the natural boulder clay (**010**) was mid-brown, loosely compacted, poorly humified silty peat with abundant organic matter (**002**). The remains of a possible wooden stake (**011**) was recorded cutting through peat layer **002**, presumably having been driven through the deposit, and penetrating slightly into the underlying natural. The stake, which had been cleft with an axe, was retained for further analysis.

3.2.7 Peat layer **002** was then covered by deposit **009**, comprising abundant medium angular to sub-angular stones of various types within a dark-greyish, friable silty matrix. The stones, which appeared weathered and cracked, had

penetrated the interface with **002** causing the horizon to merge slightly. Deposit **009** is interpreted as burnt mound material.

#### *Slot 2*

- 3.2.8 The underlying natural substrate in Slot 2 was a yellowy gravelly clay (**014**). The deposit had been disturbed by bioturbation, which was evident from the preserved root matter still within the matrix. Overlying the natural substrate was a soft greyish silty-clay (**012**) with occasional small-medium rounded cobbles noted. The deposit also contained rare flecks of charcoal, but was otherwise sterile, and may be a naturally deposited layer (Fig. 8).
- 3.2.9 Deposit **012** was overlain by soft, mid-dark brown organic silty clay, 0.15-0.2m in depth. This deposit was homogenous and sterile throughout. Deposit **013** comprised small to medium angular rock fragments in a dark brown poorly humified peaty silt; this deposit overlay **012**, merging slightly with the upper horizons, and is interpreted as burnt mound material.
- 3.2.10 Further burnt mound material comprised deposit **001**, which appeared to be stratigraphically later in the sequence than **013**, and was of similar composition to **013** with the exception of its surrounding matrix; this comprised black silt with common root and organic material. The clarity of horizon between burnt mound deposits **013** and **001** was assessed as poor.

#### *Slot 3*

- 3.2.11 Natural substrate in this slot was bluish-grey soft boulder clay. Overlying the natural was a deposit of possible residual burnt mound material, typified by small angular stones in soft black humic silt (**006**). The layer was 0.06-0.1m in depth, becoming progressively thinner to the west. It was overlaid by burnt mound deposits **005** and **007**, characterised as sterile layers of angular stones in a mid-dark brown silty matrix. Deposits **007** and **005** contained stones of similar size and angularity and the preferred interpretation is that they are probably the same deposit.
- 3.2.12 At the eastern end of the trench, a deposit (**003**) of large-medium, sub-rounded to rounded stones with smaller angular stones intermixed (Fig. 5 & 11) overlay the burnt mound deposits. Hand cleaning around this area indicated the deposit was poorly sorted and irregular in plan. It extended c.5m north-east to south-west with an approximate width of 1.7m. The small angular stones in amongst **003** were possibly residual material from **007** or **005**, which may have been horizontally truncated, dragging the stones into the recesses of **003**.
- 3.2.13 Excavation of **003** revealed that it had no formal structure and overlay bluish-grey soft boulder clay which was the natural substrate in Slot 3. Hand cleaning of this surface did not reveal any buried features and the preferred interpretation is that **003** probably represented stone clearance.

#### *Slot 4*

- 3.2.14 Slot 4 provided a section through the width of the feature (Fig. 10). Pale greyish-yellow boulder clay (**032**) was the recorded natural. A thin sterile lens of brown, soft silty-clay (**027**), 0.05-0.10m in depth, was recorded overlying **032** where the ground sloped to the south.
- 3.2.15 Deposit **027** was covered by pale brown silty-clay (**025**), 0.05-0.15m in depth, which contained organic matter and moderate inclusions of angular to sub-angular rock fragments. The overlying deposit (**026**) comprised abundant angular rock fragments within a matrix of friable, dark brown silty-clay 0.15-0.3m in depth. The material extended c.7m north to south. Both deposits **025** and **026** are interpreted as burnt mound material.

#### *Slot 5*

- 3.2.16 This slot ran east to west providing a mid-section through the burnt mound. The underlying natural boulder clay (**021** & **024**) comprised greyish-yellow firm clay containing small to large sub-rounded cobbles. Deposits **020** and **023** comprised brownish-grey silty-clay and contained occasional sub-rounded to angular stone fragments which are interpreted as being pressed into this material from the layers above. Very occasional charcoal flecks were noted within the matrix of **020**.
- 3.2.17 Deposits **019** and **022/033** overlay **020** and **023** respectively, and comprised dark brown, organic friable silty-clay, 0.14-0.2m in depth, with abundant angular to sub-angular stone fragments noted throughout. Deposit **033** was 0.15m in depth and dark greyish-black in colour. It had a merging horizon with deposit **022**, the clarity of which was poor; however, in general the deposit comprised the same material as **019** and **022**. Deposits **019**, **022** and **033** are all interpreted as burnt mound material.

#### *Slot 6*

- 3.2.18 To the west of the site, deposit **015** was recorded. This comprised abundant small to medium, angular to sub-angular stones in dark greyish-brown friable silt, measuring 3m east to west by 0.9m north to south by 0.15m in depth. It overlay a mid-brown soft-spongy layer of peat (**016**) which had occasional small to medium sub-angular to angular stone inclusions.
- 3.2.19 Deposit **015** comprised the same material as the rest of the feature to the east, and probably represents burnt mound material. However, no physical relationship could be seen between this concentration of stones and **009** in Slot 1. It is unclear whether this is a 'stand alone' feature or whether, and possibly more likely, it is the truncated remains of the main feature. The evaluation in 2009 removed the southern ends of deposits **015** and **016** (Fig. 2).

### *Slot 6a*

- 3.2.20 This slot contained preserved wooden remains which are interpreted as the fragmentary remains of a wooden post (**018**) and a stake (**031**) (Fig. 7). The remains of a cut (**028**) were tentatively seen in section measuring c. 0.3m in depth; however, due to the surrounding surface conditions and continuing water ingress into the slot, no sign of this cut could be seen in plan in the natural boulder clay (**017**).
- 3.2.21 The size of the cut, even though the clarity of horizon was very poor, is suggested by the dimensions of post **018**, which is 0.3m in diameter by 0.5m in height with a flattish base. The posthole seemed to be packed with large sub-rounded stones (**030**). Probably contemporary with **018** is stake **031**, which was probably driven through the overlying deposits into the natural substrate. The stake, which measured 0.2m in length and 0.05m in diameter, showed evidence of tooling at its base. Soft light bluish grey clay with small to medium stone inclusions formed the matrix around the packing stones and probably comprised the main fill of posthole **028**.

### *Slot 7*

- 3.2.22 Slot 7 contained the remains of a wooden post (**035**) and two stakes (**036** and **038**). The wooden post, which survived to c.0.4m long and with a diameter in the region of 0.2m, had been cut with an axe from an alder tree and had a flattish base. In very close proximity to this, a stake c.0.33m in length was recorded (**036**). The stake had been cleft using long strokes of an axe into a crude point at its base. Approximately 0.15m to the west, the remains of a second stake (**038**) were noted. This stake was also crudely sharpened. No sign of a posthole to accommodate **035** could be seen. Excavation was hampered by the ground conditions in this area due to the constant ingress of water, although it seems likely that a posthole of some description would have been dug to accommodate **035** given its dimensions.

### *Slot 8*

- 3.2.23 Slot 8 comprised a test pit measuring 1m north to south by 0.50m in depth. The purpose of the excavation was to test the variations of the natural seen on site, particularly the depth of yellowy organic gravelly-clays noted in other slots.
- 3.2.24 The natural in this area comprised yellowy-grey clay (**042**) with common gravel and occasional sub-rounded cobble inclusions. The natural was very wet and evidence of bioturbation by way of root matter could be seen within it. Deposit **042** was excavated to a depth of 0.35m. The gravel content increased at lower depths while the root matter decreased. Deposit **042** was covered by a 0.1m deep layer of soft greyish clay (**041**) with occasional sub-angular to angular stones and rare charcoal inclusions. This was overlain by a 0.16m thick deposit of burnt mound material (**039**) comprising angular stones in a dark greyish-black, friable silty-clay matrix.

### 3.3 Tooled wood assemblage, by Michael Cressey

3.3.1 Examination of the wood assemblage confirms the presence of six tooled stakes and two large lumps of trunk-wood that have clear evidence of axe marks on one end. The assemblage is well-preserved and the species includes *Alnus glutinosa* (alder), *Betula* (birch) and *Corylus avellana* (hazel). These species are all well represented throughout prehistory within the region. Striations or signatures within the facets confirm that an axe was used to trim the stakes and fell the tree trunk.

Context No.	Sample No.	Dimensions	Summary description
011	8	210mm long, 70mm wide	Semi-circular fragment of hazel or birch with tool marks on one end.
018	24	470mm long 150mm diameter	Large piece of alder, no bark present. Degraded at one end with the opposite end having numerous radial cut-marks with signatures from an axe..
031	23	190mm long 50mm diameter	Hazel or birch stake with multiple facets. Bark present.
034	31	300mm long, 70mm diameter	Split round-wood with a degraded point, probably Alder.
035	37	380mm long 200mm diameter	Large piece of alder trunk-wood with fluted sides, no bark present. Degraded at one end with the opposite end having numerous radial cut-marks with signatures from an axe.
036	38	330mm long 40mm diameter	Birch or hazel stake with four long facets. The longest facet (140mm) was cut by a single sweep of an axe. Bark is present.
037	39	140mm long, 40mm diameter	Hazel or birch stake with four facets. No bark present.
038	40	320mm long. 60mm diameter	Possibly Hazel stake with a degraded point. Cut by at least two probable axe facets.
044	44	150mm long, 60mm diameter	Hazel or birch stake with broad facets with axe signatures.

*Table 1: Tooled wood assemblage*

### 3.4 Finds, by Sue Anderson

3.4.1 A single artefact was recovered from burnt mound material (**001**). This was a small honey-coloured flint flake fragment (1g).

#### 4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The excavation revealed a series of deposits which were interpreted as belonging to a burnt mound of as yet unknown date. This section will try to broadly categorise the deposits throughout the site and expand the interpretation and discourse.
- 4.2 The feature is typified by deposits which contain a large amount of heat affected and cracked stone. Some of the stone has a fire-reddened cortex and most examples appear to have been cracked by thermal shock. In this instance, the preferred interpretation is that cobbles or rocks were heated directly by fire and then immersed in water. This immersion rapidly cools the rock which can cause it shatter as seen throughout the rocks in this feature.
- 4.3 There are two main deposits of shattered rock that comprise the feature, these are: deposits of rock within an organic, dark greyish-black silty clay matrix, seen across the site as contexts **001**, **006**, **033** and **039**; and deposits of rock within a brown humic/organic silts and clays typified by **005**, **007**, **009**, **013**, **015**, **019**, **022**, **026** and **043**. Deposits of the former comprise a band of similar, if not the same, material across the site generally up to the point where the natural topography begins to crest down to the south. The width of this band measured c.2.5-3m at its widest and extended up to the clearance cairn (**003**) to the east.
- 4.4 By far the largest amount of burnt mound material excavated at the site comprised those deposits within brown humic matrices. This material continued beyond the eastern end of the trench in the direction of the A75, although test pitting beyond the spoil heap in the available CPO to the east of the site showed the feature did not continue in that direction or at least to that extent.
- 4.5 Examples of preserved wood were recovered, which preliminary analysis has determined to have been tooled, probably by an axe. The stake assemblage is made up of either birch or hazel, with the large posts probably cut from alder.
- 4.6 The stakes display a number of cuts. Some of the cuts are long, in the region of 0.14m seen in **036**, and were produced by a single cut, which would have required a keen blade. The purpose of cutting the stakes appears to have been to provide a crude point, to be able to drive home the stake at its required location. The tooled wood in Slot 7 was driven into the natural substrate outwith the burnt mound. A long narrow point would have been useful here to drive the stake through the gravelly, greyish-yellow natural in this area, with the tip of the stake barely penetrating the compact gravelly clays underneath. The other stakes from Slots 1 and 6a would have been driven through the underlying peats, which might have been an easier task to perform.
- 4.7 The remains of two preserved posts were also recorded in Slots 6a and 7 and comprised the cut remains of two tree trunks, probably alder, with flattish tooled bases. The dimensions of the posts and their depth and location within the natural substrate strongly suggest that postholes were dug for these items.

Unfortunately, ground conditions inhibited the full excavation of these probable cuts, although an indication of their expected size can be made from the dimensions of the posts themselves. Stake **036** was located immediately behind post **035**, suggesting it may have served as a wedge to keep post **035** in an upright position.

- 4.8 Dumfries has a number of burnt mounds; the closest excavated example to the one found at Derskelpin is at Dervaird (NGR: NX 2246 5830) c. 3km to the west (Russell-White 1990). Radiocarbon dating places the mound in the Late Bronze Age. The Dervaird mound is part of a wider concentration of burnt mounds in this part of the country. For comparative purposes, the Dervaird mound measured 16m by 8m and was kidney-shaped in plan, surrounding an elongated pit. Pits and troughs are sometimes found associated with burnt mounds. Occasionally these features are lined with timber, or show evidence of clay lining. The functional interpretation of burnt mounds themselves varies. However, the presence of a trough or pit at a burnt mound is widely interpreted as being for holding water, which is then heated by hot rocks.
- 4.9 In contrast, the Derskelpin mound measured c.18m east to west by 6.5m north to south. Fig. 1 shows the feature curving slightly to the north-east, which may indicate the feature is kidney-shaped. However, a kidney shape is not necessarily a pre-requisite shape for a burnt mound, as amorphous shapes are also known. The remains of a trough or pit were not found within the excavation trench.
- 4.10 The deposit of large stones (**003**) has been interpreted as field clearance. This interpretation is based on the large size of the stones, the lack of any coherent arrangement and the lack of any evident signs of thermal shock. The date of the clearance is unknown. Boulders similar in size to those of **003** were also noted along the existing boundary between the trench and the A75.
- 4.11 A Post-Excavation Research Design for a programme of post-excavation analysis will be submitted under separate cover.
- 4.12 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with Historic Scotland and the Dumfries and Galloway Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.13 A summary statement of the results of this excavation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 6).

## 5. REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context no.	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
001	Slot 2		Deposit	Burnt mound material
002	Slot 1		Deposit	Humified mid-brown soft peat
003	Slot 3		Deposit	Possible clearance cairn
004	Slot 2		Deposit	Grey clay c/w charcoal flecks
005	Slot 3		Deposit	Burnt mound material
006	Slot 3		Deposit	Blackish humic deposit of burnt mound material
007	Slot 3		Deposit	Layer of stony silt, possible burnt mound material
008	Slot 3		Deposit	Layer of grey clay, natural in slot 3
009	Slot 1		Deposit	Burnt mound material
010	Slot 1		Deposit	Natural boulder clay in slot 1
011	Slot 1		Deposit	Remains of wooden stake
012	Slot 2		Deposit	Brown organic-peaty clay
013	Slot 2		Deposit	Burnt mound material
014	Slot 2		Deposit	Natural boulder clay in slot 2
015	Slot 6		Deposit	Possible burnt mound material separate from main feature
016	Slot 6		Deposit	Mid-brown peat under possible burnt mound material
017	Slot 6a		Deposit	Natural boulder clay in slot 6a
018	Slot 6a	028	Deposit	Wooden post with tool marks preserved in slot 6a
019	Slot 4/5		Deposit	Burnt mound material overlying deposit 020
020	Slot 6a		Deposit	Brownish clay c/w charcoal flecks under deposit 019
021	Slot 6a		Deposit	Natural greyish-yellow clay in slot 5
022	Slot 5		Deposit	Burnt mound material
023	Slot 5		Deposit	Brownish-grey clay under 022 & 033 burnt mound material
024	Slot 5		Deposit	Greyish-yellow natural clay under deposit 023
025	Slot 4/5		Deposit	Burnt mound material in drawing no. 14
026	Slot 4/5		Deposit	Burnt mound material in drawing no. 15
027	Slot 4/5		Deposit	Soft brown clay in W. facing section of slot 4
028	Slot 6a		Deposit	Probable cut for position of post 018
029	Slot 6a		Deposit	Fill of probable cut for wooden post 018
030	Slot 6a	028	Deposit	Large sub-rounded packing stones around post
031	Slot 6a	028	Deposit	Preserved remains of stake in slot 6a
032	Slot 4/5		Deposit	Natural boulder in drawing no. 13
033	Slot 5		Deposit	Burnt mound material
034	Slot 1		Deposit	Remains of wooden stake
035	Slot 7		Deposit	Remains of wooden post c/w tool marks
036	Slot 7		Deposit	Remains of wooden stake behind post 035
037	Slot 7		Deposit	Remains of wooden stake in slot 7
038	Slot 7		Deposit	Remains of wooden stake in slot 7
039	Slot 8		Deposit	Burnt mound material
040	Slot 8		Deposit	Burnt mound material
041	Slot 8		Deposit	Grey clay underlying burnt mound

Context no.	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
				material
042	Slot 8		Deposit	Yellowy natural clay with some organic remains
043	-		Deposit	Angular stone fragments continuing beyond limit of excavation, possible burnt mound material
044	Unstrat.		Deposit	Remains of wooden stake

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

### *Digital*

Digi No	Contexts/description	Taken from	Conditions
1	ID Shot	-	-
2-7	General shots of site	E	Clear
8-9	General shots of site	ESE	Clear
10	General shot of site	SSW	Sunny
11	General shot of site (E. end)	SW	Sunny
12-15	General shots of site	W	Sunny
16-17	Pre excavation shots of 003	SW	Sunny
18-19	Pre excavation shots of 003	W	Sunny
20-21	Pre excavation shots of 003	E	Sunny
22-23	Pre excavation shots of 003	S	Sunny
24-25	Detail of stone feature 003 showing tree roots	E	Sunny
26-27	SW face section through stones 003, W side	SW	Sunny
28-29	SW face section through stones 003, middle	SW	Sunny
30-31	SW face section through stones 003, middle & W side	SE	Sunny
32-33	SW face section through stones 003, E side	SW	Sunny
34-35	NE face section through stones 003	NE	Sunny
37-38	S facing section of Slot 1	S	Sunny
39-40	W facing section of Slot 1	W	Sunny
41-42	E facing section of Slot 2 (1/3)	E	Sunny
43-44	E facing section of Slot 2 (2/3)	E	Sunny
45-46	E facing section of Slot 2 (3/3)	E	Sunny
47-48	Slot 2 in plan	S	Sunny
49-50	Slot 2 in plan	NE	Sunny
51	Section W half	S	Overcast
52	Section E half	S	Overcast
53-56	W facing section of Slot 4	W	Sunny
57-58	S facing section of Slot 4	S	Sunny
59	W facing section of Slot 5	W	Sunny
60	E facing section of Slot 5	E	Sunny
61-62	N facing section of Slot 5	N	Sunny
63-68	General working shots of site	Various	Sunny
69	Shot of exploratory test pit with eastern end of CPO	N	Sunny
70	Wooden post 018 in Slot 6a	SW	Rain
71	SW facing section Slot 6a	SW	Rain
72	SE facing section Slot 6a	SE	Rain
73-74	Kubiena sample 14, 15, 16	E	Overcast
75-76	Kubiena sample 17	-	Overcast
77-78	Kubiena sample 18	-	Overcast
79-80	Kubiena sample 19	-	Overcast
81-82	Kubiena sample 20	-	Overcast

Digi No	Contexts/description	Taken from	Conditions
83-84	Kubiena sample 21	W	Overcast
85-86	Kubiena sample 22	S	Overcast
87	Shot of wooden post 034	SW	Overcast
88-89	Shot of (002) in plan and W facing section, Slot 7 (009)	W	Overcast
90	Shot of natural substrate in Slot 2	S	Overcast
91-92	Shot of stakes and post in Slot 7	S	Overcast
93-94	Shot of tree roots in Slot 1	E	Overcast
95	Working shot of stone clearance 003	W	Sunny
96	Working shot of stone clearance 003	E	Sunny
97-98	Shot of site from spoil heap	E	Sunny
99-100	Shot of site from spoil heap	W	Sunny
101	W facing section Slot 8	W	Sunny
102	E facing section of Slot 9	E	Sunny
103	Working shot of site from spoil heap	E	Sunny
104-107	Shot of trench after removal of stone clearance 003	E	Sunny
108-109	Working shot in E. end of trench	S	Sunny
110	W facing section of dwg 21, E end of trench	W	Sunny
111-114	General post-excavation shot of site	E	Sunny
115-116	General post-excavation shot of site	W	Sunny
117-118	General post-excavation shot of site	WNW	Sunny
119-120	General post-excavation shot of site	NW	Sunny
121-122	General post-excavation shot of site	E	Sunny
123-124	General post-excavation shot of site	W	Sunny

### *Colour Slide*

<b>Film 1</b>			
No.	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	ID Shot		
3-6	General shots of site	E	Clear
7-8	General shots of site	ESE	Clear
9-10	General shots of site	SSW	Sunny
11-12	General shots of site	SW	Sunny
13-16	General shots of site	W	Sunny
17-18	Stone clearance 003 at E end of trench	SW	Sunny
19-20	Linear stone feature 003	W	Sunny
21-22	Linear stone feature 003	W	Sunny
23-24	Linear stone feature 003	S	Sunny
25-26	Detail of stone feature 003 showing tree roots	E	Sunny
27-28	SW facing section through 003 stones: Slot 3, W side	SW	Sunny
29-30	SW facing section through 003 stones: Slot 3, middle	SW	Sunny
31-32	SW facing section through 003 stones: Slot 3 W & middle	SE	Sunny
33-34	SW facing section through 003 stones: Slot 3 E side	SW	Sunny
35-36	NE facing section through 003 stones: Slot 3	NE	Sunny

<b>Film 2</b>			
No.	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	ID shot		Sunny
3-4	General shots of Slot 4	S	Sunny
5-6	S facing section of Slot 1	S	Sunny
7-8	W facing section of Slot 1	W	Sunny
9-10	E facing section of Slot 2 (1/3)	E	Sunny
11-12	E facing section of Slot 2 (2/3)	E	Sunny
13-14	E facing section of Slot 2 (3/3)	E	Sunny

15-16		S	Overcast
17-18		S	Overcast
19-23	W facing section of Slot 4	W	Sunny
24-25	W facing section of Slot 4	W	Sunny
26-28	S facing section of Slot 4	S	Sunny
29-30	W facing section of Slot 5	W	Sunny
31-32	E facing section of Slot 5	E	Sunny
33-34	N facing section of Slot 5	E	Sunny
35-38	General working shots	various	Sunny
39	Shot of test pit at eastern end of CPO	N	Sunny

<b>Film 3</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Conditions</b>
1-2	ID shot		
3	Shot of test pit at eastern end of CPO	N	Sunny
4-5	Wooden post 018 Slot 6	SW	Rain
6-7	SW facing section Slot 6a	SW	Rain
8-9	SE facing section Slot 6a	SE	Rain
10-11	Kubiena sample 14, 15 & 16	E	Overcast
12-13	Kubiena sample 17	-	Overcast
14-15	Kubiena sample 18	-	Overcast
16-17	Kubiena sample 19	-	Overcast
18-19	Kubiena sample 20	-	Overcast
20-21	Kubiena sample 21	-	Overcast
22-23	Kubiena sample 22	-	Overcast
24-25	Shot of (002) in plan & W facing section	S	Overcast
26-27	Shot of natural clay in Slot 2	S	Overcast
28-29	Shot of stakes & post in Slot 7	S	Sunny
30	Working shot of 003: stone clearance	W	Sunny
31	Working shot of 003: stone clearance	E	Sunny
32-33	Site shot from spoil heap	E	Sunny

<b>Film 4</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Conditions</b>
1-2	ID Shot	-	-
3-4	W facing section Slot 8	W	Bright
5	E facing section of Slot 8	E	Sunny
6-7	Working shot from spoil heap	E	Sunny
8-11	Shot of trench after removal of 003	E	Sunny
12-13	Working shot in E end of trench	S	Sunny
14-15	W facing section of dwg 21: Eastern trench baulk	W	Sunny
16-19	General post-excavation shots of site	E	Sunny
20-21	General post-excavation shots of site	W	Sunny
22-24	General post-excavation shots of site	WNW	Sunny
25-26	General post-excavation shots of site	NW	Sunny

### APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

No	Sheet No	Description/Contexts	Sec/Plan	Scale
1-6	1-6	Plan of site	P	1:20
7	7	SW facing section of Slot 3	S	1:10
8	7	SW facing section of Slot 1	S	1:10
9	7	S facing section of Slot 1	S	1:10
10	8	E facing section Slot 2	S	1:10
11		S facing section of Slot 6	S	1:10
12	9	N facing section of Slots 5 & 4	S	1:10
13	10	Continuous E & W facing sections of Slots 4 & 5	S	1:10
14	11	SE facing section of Slot 6a	S	1:10
15	11	SW facing section of Slot 6a	S	1:10
16	9	Part of W facing section Slot 5	S	1:10
17	11	S facing section Slot 7	S	1:10
18	12	Part-excavation overlay of 003	P	1:20
19	11	E facing section of Slot 8	S	1:10
20	11	W facing section of Slot 8	S	1:10
21	11	Part of W facing section of trench baulk	S	1:10

### APPENDIX 4: Samples Register

Sample No.	Area	Context	Feature	Sample type	Volume
1	Slot 2	001	Deposit	Bulk	12l
2	Slot 1	002	Deposit	Bulk	12l
3	Slot 2	004	Deposit	Bulk	12l
4	Slot 5	005	Deposit	Bulk	12l
5	Slot 3	006	Deposit	Bulk	12l
6	Slot 3	007	Deposit	Bulk	12l
7	Slot 3	008	Deposit	Bulk	12l
8	Slot 1	011	Preserved wood	Find	1 item
9	Slot 2	014	Deposit	Bulk	12l
10	Slot 2	012	Deposit	Bulk	12l
11	Slot 2	013	Deposit	Bulk	12l
12	Slot 6	015	Deposit	Bulk	12l
13	Slot 6	016	Deposit	Bulk	12l
14	Slot 1/2	001 & 002	Deposits	Kubiena Tin	Tin
15	Slot 2	012 & 004	Deposits	Kubiena Tin	Tin
16	Slot 2	004 & 014	Deposits	Kubiena Tin	Tin
17	Slot 4/5	025 & 027	Deposits	Kubiena Tin	Tin
18	Slot 4/5	032 & 025	Deposits	Kubiena Tin	Tin
19	Slot 4/5	025 & 026	Deposits	Kubiena Tin	Tin
20	Slot 5	023 & 033	Deposits	Kubiena Tin	Tin
21	Slot 1	002 & 009	Deposits	Kubiena Tin	Tin
22	Slot 2	009 & 002	Deposits	Kubiena Tin	Tin
23	Slot 6a	031	Preserved wood	Find	1 item
24	Slot 6a	018	Preserved wood	Find	1 item
25	Slot 5	033	Deposit	Bulk	12l
26	Slot 5	023	Deposit	Bulk	12l
27	Slot 5	022	Deposit	Bulk	12l
28	Slot 6a	020	Deposit	Bulk	12l
29	Slot 4/5	019	Deposit	Bulk	12l
30	Slot 5	024	Deposit	Bulk	12l
31	Slot 1	034	Preserved wood	Find	1 item

32	Slot 1	002	Deposit	Bulk	121
33	Slot 4/5	032	Deposit	Bulk	121
34	Slot 4/5	027	Deposit	Bulk	121
35	Slot 4/5	026	Deposit	Bulk	121
36	Slot 4/5	025	Deposit	Bulk	121
37	Slot 7	035	Preserved wood	Find	1 item
38	Slot 7	036	Preserved wood	Find	1 item
39	Slot 7	037	Preserved wood	Find	1 item
40	Slot 7	038	Preserved wood	Find	1 item
41	Slot 8	042	Deposit	Bulk	121
42	-	043	Deposit	Bulk	121
43	Slot 3	003	Deposit	Bulk	121
44	Unstrat	044	Preserved wood	Find	1 item

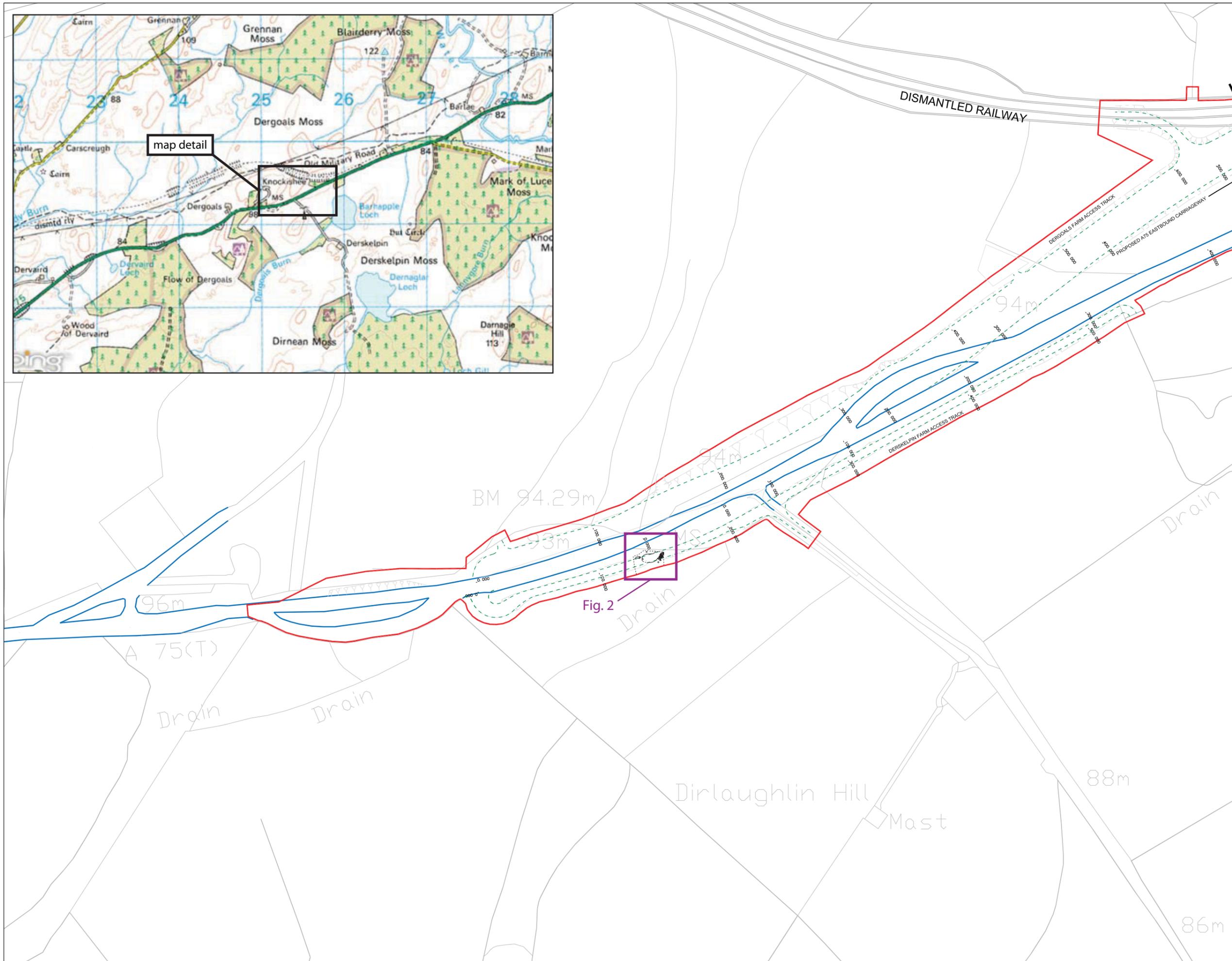
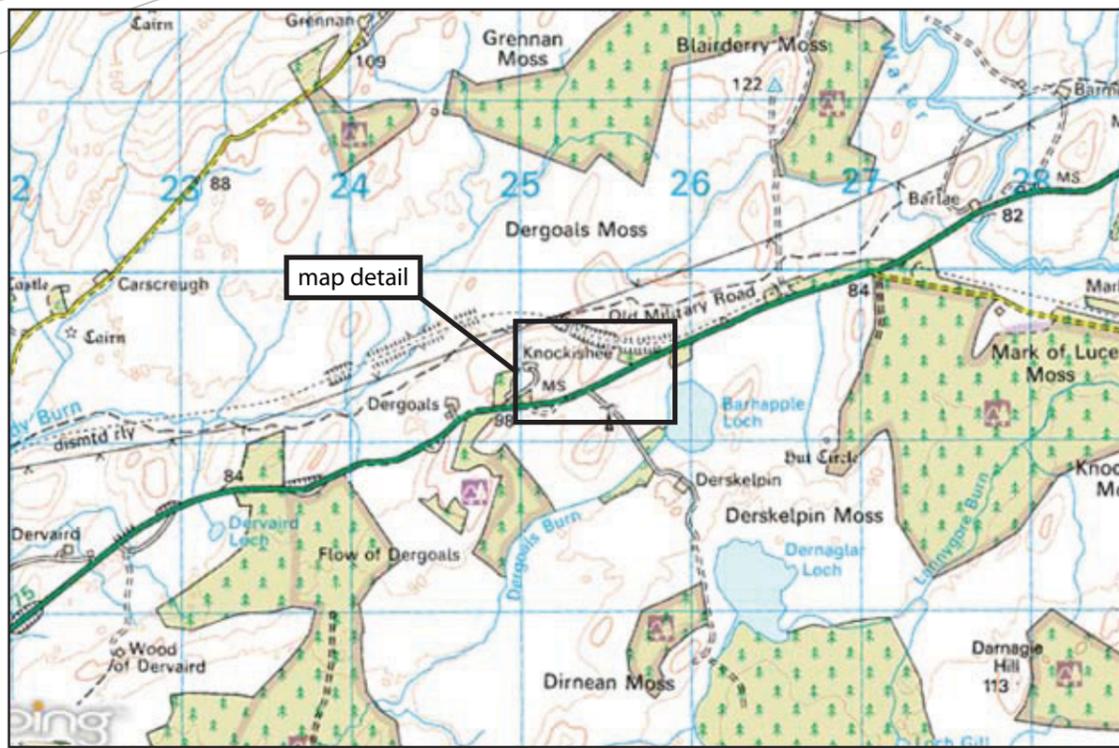
#### APPENDIX 5: Finds

Context	Find type	No	Wt	Notes
001	Flint	1	1	Small honey-coloured struck flake fragment

## APPENDIX 6: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Dumfries and Galloway
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	A75 Cairntop to Barlae Dual Carriageway: Derskelpin Burnt Mound
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	A75B
<b>PARISH:</b>	Old Luce
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Phil Moore
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological excavation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Burnt Mound
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Preserved wood assemblage
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NX 25035 59244 – 25326 59241
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	February 2010
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	February 2010
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	Suddaby, I (2009) ‘A75 Cairntop to Barlae Dual Carriageway, Dumfries & Galloway. Archaeological Evaluation.’ Data Structure Report No. 1659. CFA Archaeology Ltd.
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>CFA Archaeology conducted an archaeological excavation on the remains of a burnt mound at Derskelpin Farm, Dumfries and Galloway. The excavation was undertaken to mitigate the effects of the proposed upgrading of the A75 trunk road from Cairntop to Barlae.</p> <p>The remains of the burnt mound had previously been discovered during an archaeological evaluation by CFA in September 2009. The excavation of the trench was undertaken by machine under archaeological supervision which removed overburden and topsoil deposits down to the archaeological horizon. This horizon was typified by an abundance of angular greywacke and micaceous sedimentary rocks which have been shattered by thermal shock.</p> <p>The mound was c. 18m east-west by 6.5m north-south, curving slightly to the north-east. No evidence of a trough/pit was found. Other features include the well preserved remains of a series of wooden posts and stakes. Initial analysis of the wood assemblage assessed the remains had been tooled with a sharp metallic instrument, probably an axe. Some of the stakes were wedged behind larger posts. Although the wood assemblage is tentatively interpreted as being later than the burnt mound, post-excavation analysis and radiocarbon dating may help with the chronology and phasing of the site.</p> <p>The burnt mound, based on local parallels, is likely to be Late Bronze Age in date.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A

<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Transport Scotland
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with NMRS; reports to be deposited with Historic Scotland and Dumfries & Galloway Council SMR



- Key:
- development area
  - existing A75
  - line of proposed new A75
  - location of burnt mound

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Fig. No: 1      Revision: 0

Title:  
**Site location**

Project:  
**A75 Cairntop to Barlae**

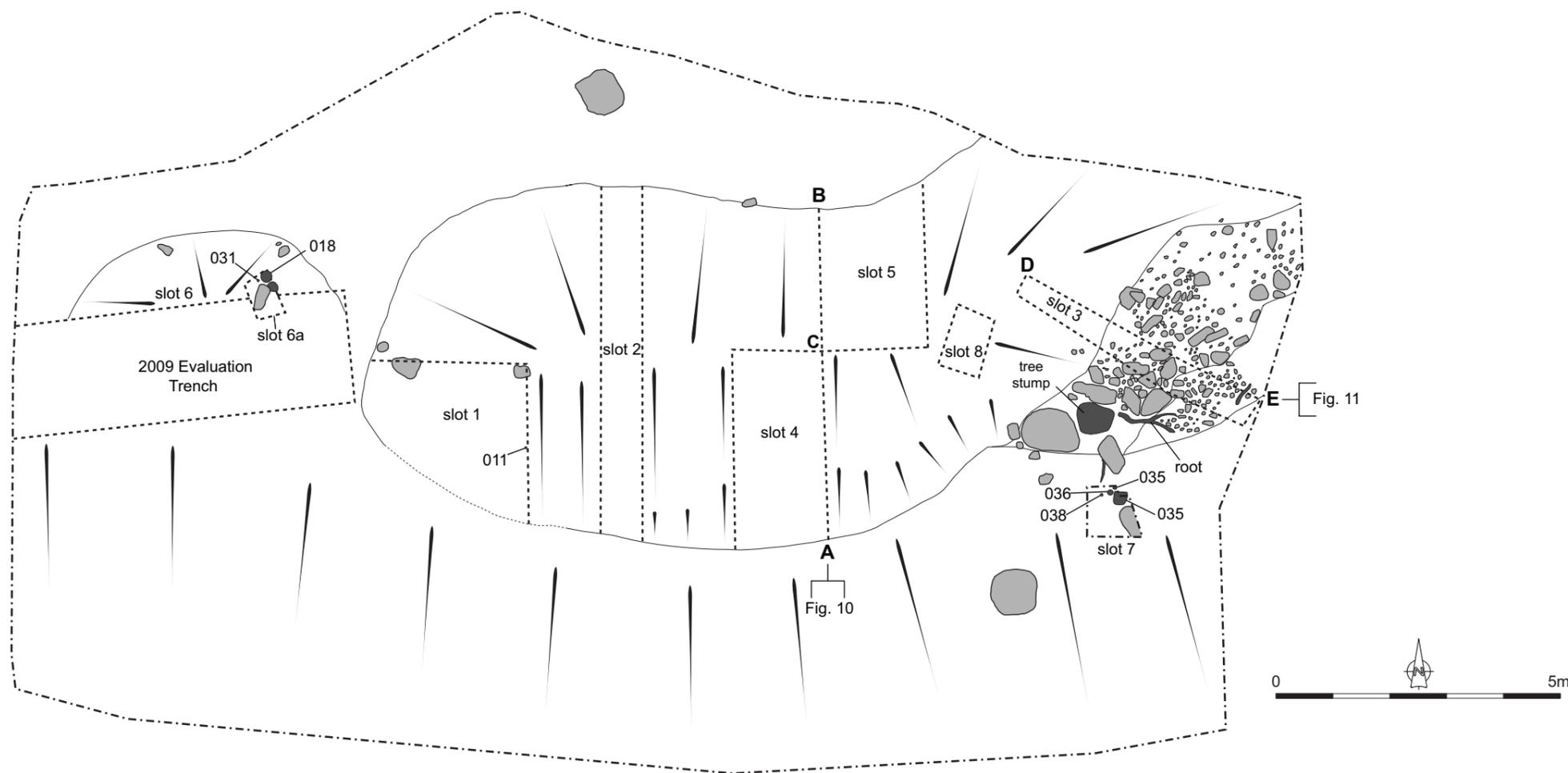
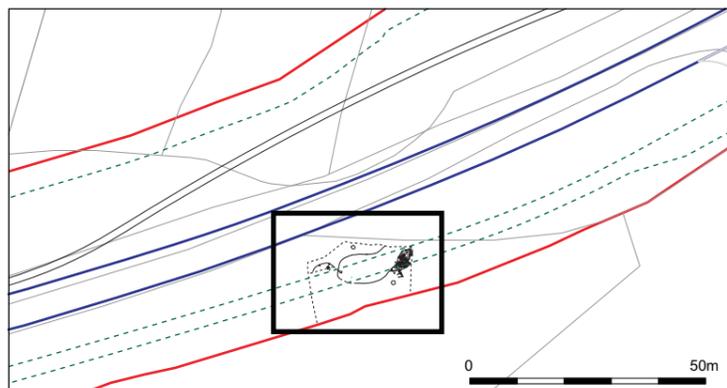
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Client:  
**Historic Scotland**

Drawn by: **GC**      Page No:

Key:

- stone
- wood



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Fig. No: **2** Revision: **A**

Title:  
**Site plan**

Project:  
**A75 Cairntop to Barlae**

Scale:  
**1:100@A3**

Client:  
**Historic Scotland**

Drawn by: **GC** Report No: **1755**



Fig. 3 Shot of site after cleaning from the east



Fig. 4 Shot of site after cleaning from the west

Key:	Fig. No:	3-4	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>				
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	Project:	A75 Cairntop to Barlae									
Scale:						Drawn by:	GC	Page No:		Report No:	1755



Fig. 5 Shot of partially excavated 003 from east



Fig. 6 Working shot of site from the south-west

Key:

Scale:

Fig. No: 5-6 Revision: A Client: Historic Scotland

Title:

Project: A75 Cairntop to Barlae



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Fig. 7 Shot of post 018 and stake 031 in slot 6a



Fig. 8 Close up shot of deposits in slot 2, east-facing section

Key:	Fig. No:	7-8	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland
	Title:					
	Project:	A75 Cairntop to Barlae				
Scale:						 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
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Report No:						1755



Fig. 9 Shot of west-facing section of slot 1 including stake 11

Key:	Fig. No:	9	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>				
	Title:										
	Project:	A75 Cairntop to Barlae									
Scale:						Drawn by:	GC	Page No:		Report No:	1755

Key:

- stone
- wood

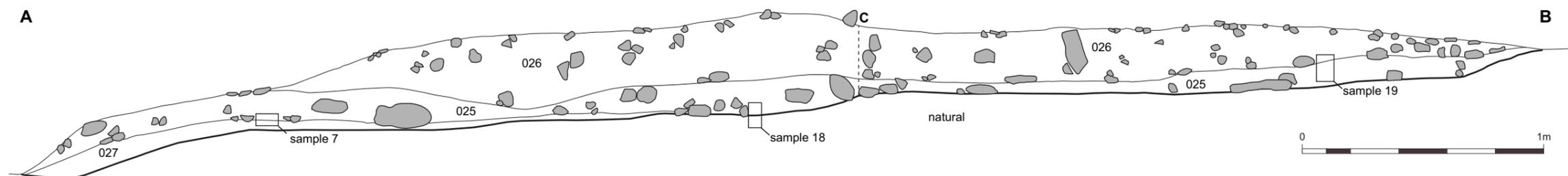


Fig. 10 East-facing continuous section through burnt mound, slot 4

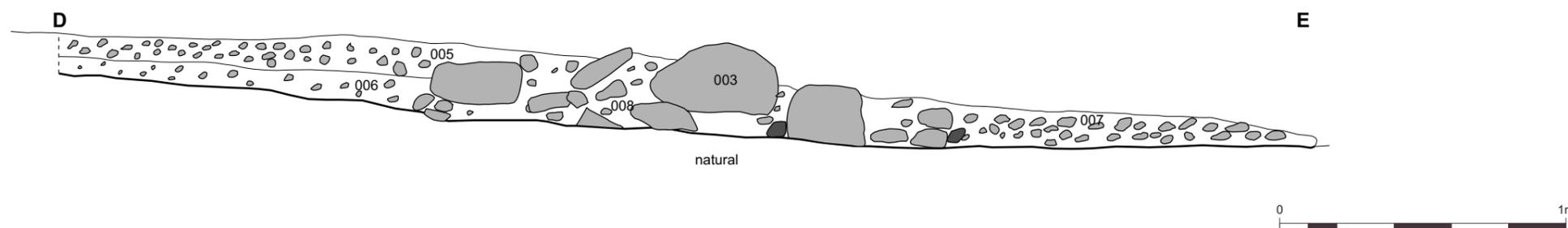


Fig. 11 South-west facing section of slot 3