



Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

**Altain Glen, Sandhead, Wigtownshire
Archaeological Monitoring Works**



**by Rebecca Shaw and John Pickin
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1 Introduction

This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological investigative works undertaken in regard to proposed development works on a site works located at Altain Glen, Sandhead, near Stranraer, Wigtownshire (roughly centred on NGR NX 0975 4905) (Figure 1). The proposed development works comprise: erection of poultry unit, installing of septic tank and 4 gas storage tanks. erection of 4 feed silos, formation of new access, erection of 1.2 metre high boundary fence and associated landscaping (planning application no 15/P/1/0134) (Figure 2).

Aerial surveys undertaken in recent years by the RCAHMS in the area south of the application area revealed a number of prehistoric sites visible as cropmarks in the fields above the raised beach overlooking Luce Bay. Detailed examination of the recent aerial photography indicated the possible presence of curvilinear and rectilinear cropmarks within the area of proposed development.

As there was potential that sub-surface remains could be disturbed by the proposed construction works, Dumfries & Galloway Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken as a requirement of the issued planning consent. Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service, who advise Dumfries & Galloway Council on archaeological matters have provided guidance on the nature of archaeological works required.

During the course of the monitoring works, a total of twenty-six features of possible archaeological interest were noted. The features mainly comprised: possible pits / postholes & stakeholes, some of which were very truncated. A fragment of a flint scraper /01\ and a hammerstone /02\ were recovered from one of the pits and charcoal fragments or staining was noted in several pits & postholes. Fragments of charcoal recovered from pit [110] and posthole [136] for radiocarbon dating, have subsequently dated the site to the mid 2nd millennium BC.

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services was appointed to undertake the archaeological works by Iain Macfadzean on behalf of his client Robin Torrance. The terms of the works were agreed through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Shaw, 2015) with Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service.

2 Background

The earliest sound mapping for the proposed development area, which dates to the mid eighteenth century (Roys Military Survey Map – 1747-55) depicts the proposed development area as cultivated ground with visible rig & furrow (Figure 3a). The first detailed mapping for the area, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1858) (1:2500), depicts open undeveloped ground (Figure 3b).

3 Project Works:

The works, which comprised a monitored open area strip of the proposed development area and access track, were undertaken between the 13th and 27th January 2016.

The works were largely undertaken as stipulated in the agreed WSI. Given the low density of finds and dating material from within the features, it was agreed with Andy Nicholson from Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service that the *majority* of the features would be half sectioned rather than fully excavated.

All works complied with the Chartered Institute For Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.



Figure 3a – Roys Military map of Scotland (1747-55) © National map Library of Scotland



Figure 3b – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560 (1850) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (660086336)

4 Findings

Access Route

The access route (Figures 5a-c & 29) measured 175m in length by 3-5m in width (approx) and between 200mm and 350mm in depth. The topsoil comprised a very friable mid brown silt [101] which continued a moderate amount of small & medium sized stones. The subsoil varied between a pale orangey brown gravelly silt [102] containing frequent small stones & occasional larger stones (Figure 5a) and dark orange sandy gravels with patches of pale brown sand and frequent stones (towards top of slope) [103] (Figure 5b). The subsoil in the SW half mainly comprised sands & gravels mixed with various sized stones and occasional patches of coarse orange sand and / or reddish orange silty sand [104] (Figure 5c). A single shallow sub-rectangular pit [105] (Figures 6a & 17a), aligned E / W, was uncovered roughly half way along the access route (Figure 29). The pit measured 0.85m by 0.60m and 0.07m in depth (Figures 6b & 17b) and comprised a grey sandy silt [106] containing occasional stones and fragments of charcoal (which increased towards the S).

Open Area Strip

The open area strip mainly comprised a mid brown fairly fine silty [107] which measured between 200mm and 400mm in depth. The subsoil mainly comprised a brownish orange silt [108] (Front Cover). A total of twenty-five features of archaeological interest (possible pits; postholes and stakeholes) were uncovered – mainly located within a strip extending from NE to SW (Figure 29).

Features

Circular pit [109] (Figure 6c & 17c) with gently sloped sides which measured 0.51m in diameter and 0.11m in depth (Figure 6d). The fill comprised a loosely compacted mid brown sandy silt [114] containing occasional small stones (Figure 18a).

Large oval pit [110] (Figures 7a-b & 13d) with steep sides to the N; S & W and gentle slope to the E with a flat base measured 0.90m by 0.80m and 0.25m in depth (Figures 7d-e). The fill comprised a mid brown sandy silt [122] (Figures 7c & 18b) with charcoal to NE – there was a deposit of re-deposited natural orange gravel within the fill (Figure 7c). A fragment of a flint scraper /01\ (Figure 4a) was recovered from the upper surface and a hammer stone /02\ (Figure 4b) was recovered from the base of the fill [122] (Figure 18b). A further two pebble flint (probably natural) were also recovered from within [122]. A further small circular feature was located (attached ?) to SW end 0.26m diameter and 0.16m in depth (Figures 7d & 7e) which also contained fill [122].

Circular pit [111] (Figures 8a & 13e) with gently sloped sides and rounded base, measured 0.46m in diameter and 0.10m in depth (Figure 8c). The fill comprised a brown gravelly silt with frequent flecks of charcoal [121] (Figure 19a).

Very (small) shallow slightly irregular circular shaped possible pit or posthole [112] (Figures 8b & 19b) which measured 0.30m in diameter and 0.06m in depth (Figure 8d). The fill comprised a dark brownish black sandy silt [113] with very occasional small gravel-like stones (Figure 19c).

Fairly shallow oval pit [115] (Figures 8e & 20a) aligned NW / SE, with gently sloped sides and a rounded base. Measured 0.58m by 0.38m and 0.11m in depth (Figure 8f) and contained a mid brown fairly fine sandy silt [116] with occasional small stones (Figure 20b).

Small shallow circular pit [117] (Figures 8g & 20c) which measured 0.32m in diameter and 0.06m in depth (Figure 9a). The fill comprised a loosely compacted mid brown fine sandy silt [118] with occasional small stones (Figure 21a).

Small amorphous shallow feature / spread [119] (Figure 6e & 21b) containing a dark brownish black charcoal rich deposit [120] (Figure 21c).

Cobble (stone) filled posthole [123], aligned NE / SW (Figures 9b & 22a), with steep sides and a slightly v-shaped base, measured 0.20m by 0.27m and 0.15m in depth (Figure 9c).

The fill comprised a mid brown slightly sandy silt containing frequent cobbles [124] (Figures 22b-c).

U-shaped circular pit [125] (Figures 9d & 23a) which measured 0.41m by 0.16 in depth (Figure 9e). The fill comprised a mid brown silt [126] with occasional to moderate of medium sized stones & gravel (Figure 23b).

Oval pit [127] (Figures 9f & 23c) aligned E / W with fairly steep sides and a flat base, measured 0.40m by 0.21m and 0.16m in depth (Figure 10a). The fill comprised a greyish brown sandy silt [131] with very occasional small stones (Figure 24a) – charcoal spread on surface and to W.

Circular posthole [128] (Figures 10b & 23c) with vertical side and a fairly flat base, measured 0.21m in diameter 0.28m in depth (Figure 10c). The fill comprised a black sandy silt [132] – charcoal stained (stone free) (Figure 24b).

Shallow oval pit [129] (Figure 10d & 23c) aligned NE / SW, with steep side to SW and gentle slope to NE, measured 0.45m by 0.24m and between 0.02m – 0.08m in depth (Figure 10e). The fill comprised a grey sandy silt [133] with very occasional small stones (Figure 24c).

Possible stakehole [130] (Figures 10f & 23c) which measured 0.12m in diameter (with a ramp to N) and 0.18m in depth (Figure 11a). The fill comprised a grey sandy silt [134] (Figure 25a).

Small oval posthole [135] (Figure 11b & 25b) aligned NE / SW with vertical face to N and angled face to S (V- shaped base), measured 0.24m by 0.20m and 0.10m in depth (Figure 11c). The fill comprised a grey sandy silt [140] with small stones and charcoal staining on the surface (Figure 25c).

Oval shaped posthole [136] (Figure 11d & 26a) aligned N / S, with steep / sharp sides (V-shaped) and measuring 0.58m by 0.42m and 0.18m in depth (Figure 11e). The fill comprised a mid brown sandy / gravelly silt [142] with a large amount of charcoal in the central section (Figure 26b).

Circular pit [137] (Figures 12a & 26c) with a rounded base and fairly steep sides, measured 0.45m in diameter and 0.12m in depth (Figure 12b). The fill comprised a brown gravelly sandy silt [139] containing a spread of charcoal (Figure 27a).

Small possible stakehole [138] (Figure 11b & 25b) which measured 0.11m in diameter (with a ramp to N) and 0.04m in depth (Figure 11c). The fill comprised a grey sandy silt with some charcoal staining [141] (Figure 25c).

Large sub-rectangular shaped pit [143] (Figures 14a-b) aligned NNW / SSE, with sloped sides (although less distinct to S). Measured 2.48m by 1.31m and 0.40m in depth (Figure 14c) (at most) and contained three fills: orange (burnt?) sand & clay [144]; a grey sandy silt with charcoal stains [154] and a fine grey silt [155] (Figure 14d).

Oval pit (possible) [145] (Figures 12c & 27a) aligned NW / SE, slightly U-shaped with fairly steep sides and a slightly undulating base. Measured 0.62m by 0.46m and 0.15m in depth (Figure 12d) and contained a warm brown gritty silt [146] with occasional small stones (Figure 27b) – there was a small area of charcoal on / near the surface.

Small group of four small (possible) postholes (Figures 15-b): [147] which was kidney shaped and measured 0.38m by 0.20m and 0.10m in depth; [148] which was circular and measured 0.16m diameter by 0.04m in depth; [149] which was circular and measured 0.26m diameter by 0.08m in depth & [150] which was circular and measured 0.20m diameter by 0.15m in depth (Figure 15c).

Slightly kidney shaped pit (possible) [151] (Figure 12e) aligned NNE / SSW, with a rounded base and sides. Measured 0.62m by 0.46m and 0.17m in depth (Figure 13a) and contained a dark brown / black gritty silt [153] with occasional small stones (Figure 28a).

Shallow sub-rectangular pit [156] (Figures 13b & 28b) aligned E / W, with gently sloped sides and a rounded base, measured 0.44m by 0.42m and 0.11m in depth (Figure 13c). The fill comprised a black silt mixed with a brown sandy silt with gravel [157] (Figure 28c).

Circular posthole [158] (Figure 16a) with a rounded base and very steep sides, measured 0.52m in diameter and 0.49m in depth (Figure 16b). The fill comprised a grey sand [159] containing occasional small stones and charcoal (possible) (Figure 16c).

5 Post Excavation

Radiocarbon Dating

Two samples of charcoal recovered from features [110] and [136] were submitted to Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre for 14C dating. The radiocarbon age for pit F [110] (fill 122) BP 3344 ± 31 (SUERC 67023 (GU40734) (δ 13 relative VPDB -26.2%) was calibrated to two different levels of confidence: 1687BC-1611BC (68.2% probability with 68.2% relative likelihood) and 1694BC-1596BC (95.4% probability with 72.2% relative likelihood). The radiocarbon age for posthole F [136] (fill 142) BP 3335 ± 31 (SUERC 67024 (GU40735) (δ 13 relative VPDB -25.8%) is calibrated to 1665BC-1607BC (68.2% probability and 51.3% relative likelihood and 1691BC-1528BC (95.4 % probability with 95% relative likelihood). The charcoal samples can therefore be dated to the mid 2nd millennium cal BC indicating the site was in use during the (middle) Bronze Age, between 3700 to 3500 years ago (approx).

Specialist report on finds from within pit [110] – John Pickin

Flint

From the surface of F [110]. End scraper on a tertiary flake of grey flint /01\ (L: 27 mm; W: 21.7 mm; T: 4.7 mm). Shallow, curving retouch at the proximal end has removed the platform and bulb. There is a horizontal hinge fracture at the distal end. Two narrow flake scars on the dorsal surface have been created by flake removal from the distal end indicating use of a core with opposing platforms.

Within top fill of F110 – fill [122]. Fragment of orange-brown pebble flint (L: 40.6 mm; W: 29.3 mm; T: 25.1 mm). The thermal flake scars and remnant cortex indicate an unworked, natural piece.

Within top fill of F [110] – fill [122]. Fragment of grey pebble flint with cream coloured cortex (L: 37.9 mm; w: 30.2 mm; T: 1.1 mm). Narrow flake scars on part of dmorsal surface appear to be the result of random impact and attrition rather than deliberate working. Probably a natural piece.

Coarse stone

Located at base of pit F [110] (Figures 4b & 7c-d). Hammerstone /02\ on a water rolled cobble of compact micaceous sandstone, probably local Silurian – Ordovician greywacke (L: 162 mm; T: 86 mm; W: 51 mm). The cobble has a flattened oval section, one side is slightly concave and the other side has a gentle S-curve profile with a natural waist below the mid-point. The stone has a grey-green colour. Both faces have areas of shallow pitting and abrasion and there is linear pitting and abrasion along both sides. Heavy, close-set pounding has removed the original form of both ends and left pecked, faceted surfaces; the facet at one end is slightly convex and while the opposing end is angular, suggesting more than one phase of use. A large flake has been detached from one end which has removed a substantial part of the tool's surface.

Discussion

All the lithics come from or appear to be associated the same pit feature and probably form a single group. Charcoal from the pit has produced a date in the mid second millennium BC. Small flint pebbles and thermal flakes occur within the local glacial sand and gravel deposits and this may account for the occurrence of the two flake fragments within the fill [122] of F [110]. But although glacially-derived flint is common in the local area it was notably absent at

Altain Glen which suggests that the two fragments within F [110] could be of significance. The end scraper was made on a flake of grey flint typical of locally derived pebble flint. Small scrapers like this are common finds in the Luce Sands area and have a wide date range from the later Mesolithic to the Bronze Age and the use a bipolar or multiplatform core is not a definitive indicator of date.

The hammerstone is remarkable for the amount of abrasion on its ends, sides and faces. The abrasion on the sides suggests light hammering and, on the convex side, grinding. It is also possible that some of the side abrasion might relate to hafting, perhaps roughening the stone's surface to help secure a flexible leather or withy handle. The pitting on the two faces is typically the result of using the stone as a working surface, perhaps as an anvil for flint working. The faceted ends are the result of heavy and repeated pounding. The batter marks are regular and close set and probably result from percussive action against a flat or uniform surface. The occurrence of different and discrete areas of abrasion indicates that this was a multi-functional tool. It is likely that it was discarded after the large surface flake was detached. Hammerstones are commonplace finds on Bronze Age and Iron Age sites (cf. McLaren 2013: 190-91) and the one from Altain Glen could have been used in a range of tasks including preparing temper and clay, stone working, food processing and grinding pigments.

- a. The hammerstone was found at the base of the pit in a central position. It had the appearance of having been deliberately placed there before the pit was filled or as the first action in the pit filling process. Structured deposition in pits is a widely recognised activity, especially during the Neolithic and it is interesting that the grey-green colour of the Altain Glen hammerstone is similar to the colour of the Cumbrian-derived Group VI Neolithic stone axes which form such a concentration in the Luce Sands area. The position within the pit of the other lithics - on the surface and within the fill [122] of F [110] - has no obvious significance although, as noted above, flint is generally absent elsewhere at Altain Glen.

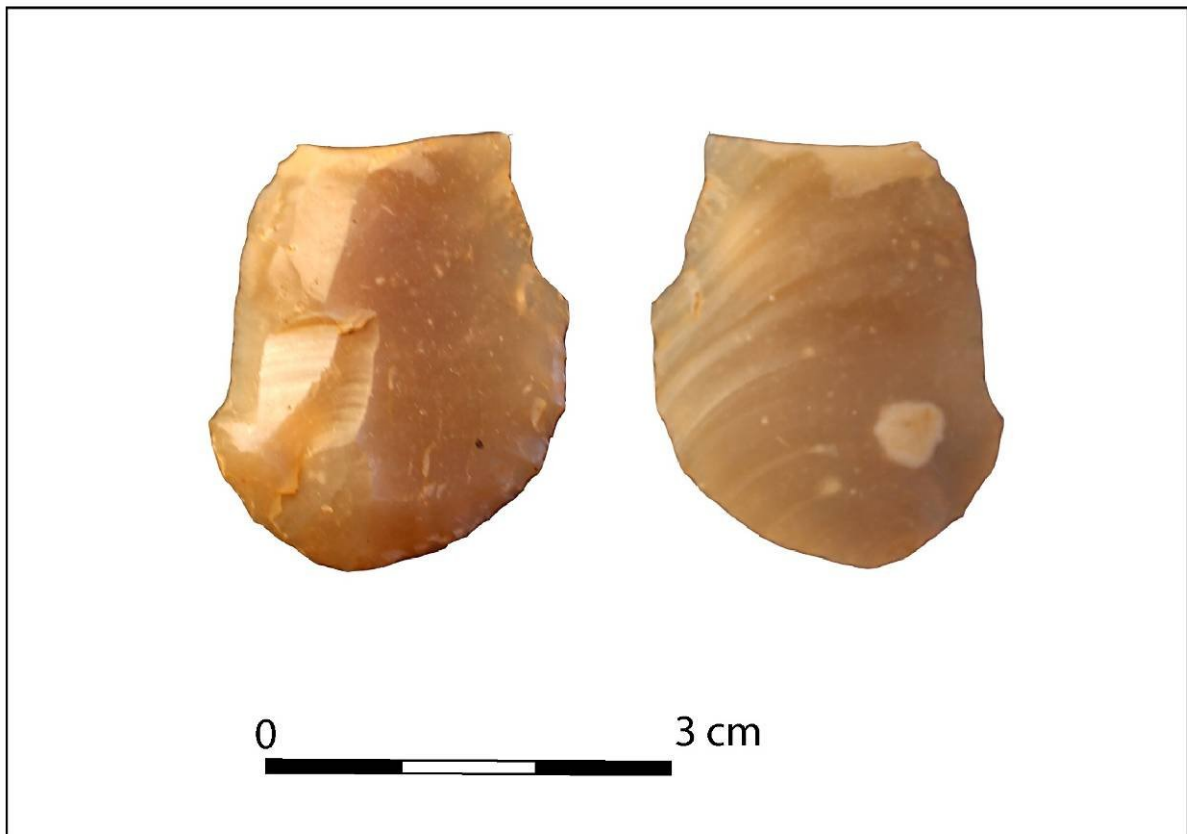


Figure 4b – flint scraper



Figure 4a – hammerstone

6 Discussion

Sound cartographic sources depict that from at least the mid eighteenth century the proposed development area has been open cultivated ground (Figures 3a-b).

The monitored excavations uncovered the remains of twenty six features of potential archaeological significance: fourteen possible pits [105] [109] [110] [111] [112] [115] [117] [125] [127] [129] [137] [143] [151] & [156]; nine possible postholes [123] [128] [135] [136] [147] [148] [149] [150] & [158]; two possible stakeholes [130] & [138] and a single small amorphous feature (possible surface spread) [119] (Figures 29 & 30).

All features were half excavated with the exception of pit F [110] (Figures 7a-e) and a cluster of four postholes F [147] – [150] (Figure 15a-c) which were fully excavated. No datable finds were recovered from within the features, apart from pit [110] which contained a fragment of a flint scraper /01\ (Figure 4a) on the surface and a hammerstone /02\ (Figure 4b) from the base of the fill 122. Small fragments of charcoal however, were recovered from within pits [105] [110] [111] & posthole [136] (Figures 11d & 26a) and spreads of charcoal or charcoal staining were noted associated with features [119] [127] [128] [135] [137] [138] [143] [145] and [158]. It is probable that later intense ploughing activity, from the medieval period onwards, caused many of the pits & postholes to become truncated subsequently leading to charcoal remains being more ephemeral and dispersed.

Although the features uncovered during the archaeological monitoring works did not initially appear to form part of any identifiable pattern (Figure 30) on closer inspection (and with a bit of speculation) it is possible that some of the features could be related to each other. There are a number of features that are sited fairly close to each other (Figure 31b) which could be pairs of pits or postholes: [109] & [115]; [110] & [111]; [117] & [119]; [123] & [125]; [135] & [138] – though it also possible that [123] [125] [135] [136] [137] & [138] also form part of a concentric feature. There are two clusters of features: [127] – [130] and [147] – [150] both of

which comprise four small pits or postholes which may have been discreet features. However, it is also possible that the features do represent part of a larger complex of prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity, as only a relatively small area of the field has been excavated and it could be that further remains exist (particularly towards the summit of the hill). Given that some features were very shallow it is also probable that some have been removed completely and therefore a definitive function of what the pits & postholes may represent is inconclusive.

Radiocarbon dating undertaken on two features: pit [110] (Figure 13d) and posthole [136] (Figure 26a) produced dates of between 1694BC-1528BC, indicating the site was in use during the 2nd millennium BC (3500 – 3700 years ago approx). The finds that were recovered from pit [110] were examined by a specialist (see section 5) with the flint scraper (Figure 4a) given a date range from the later Mesolithic to the Bronze Age and the hammerstone (Figure 4b) noted as being a commonplace find on Bronze Age and Iron Age sites. It was further noted that structured deposition of finds in pits, which appears to be the case with this hammerstone (Figures 7c-d) was a widely recognised activity - especially during the Neolithic.

The majority of the pits and postholes comprised single fills and contained no finds, such as: sherds of pottery; animal bones and shells (which you would expect given the close proximity of the sea). This therefore suggests that either the site was not a domestic settlement or that it was possibly in use for only a short period of time – the radiocarbon dates however, span a period of just over 150 years (approx) so it could be that the site than was returned to rather than in continuous use.

There are a number of sites to the immediate south of Altain Glen, also noted through aerial photography, which have been attributed to the prehistoric period: Ardwell Mill - enclosure (NX04NE 29; MDG627); Ardwell Mill – ring ditch (NX04NE 28; MDG626); Kirkmabreck – barrow; pit defined avenue; pit defined cursus (NX14NW 31; MDG24878) and Mull Hill – palisaded settlement (NX14NW 36; MDG24881). While further to the NNW there are a number of prehistoric sites which included: Barsolus – enclosure(s) (NW15NW 19) and Piltanton Burn – palisaded enclosure NX15NW 85). Within the general area there are also a number of sites that have been excavated in recent decades which have been confidently dated to the prehistoric period ranging from the Mesolithic to Iron Age (Thomas J, 2015; Guard (forthcoming) Fox Plantaiton and Guard (forthcoming) Dunragit).

7 Conclusion

A programme of archaeological works were undertaken in respect of proposed development works on a site located at Altain Glen, Sandhead, near Stranraer, Wigtownshire (roughly centred on NGR NX 0975 4905). The works comprised a monitored topsoil strip for the erection of a poultry unit and formation of new access.

A total of twenty-six features of archaeological significance were noted during the course of the monitoring works. The features mainly comprised pits; postholes or stakeholes which appeared to be fairly randomly dispersed but may form part of either smaller discreet features or a larger complex. The site has been radiocarbon dated to the Bronze Age (3500 – 3700 years ago approx). Although a number of features had fragments or smears of charcoal associated with them only one of the pits contained finds; a flint scraper and a hammerstone.



Figure 5a – post-ex plan of access track (looking to N)



Figure 5b – post-ex of access track (middle section)



Figure 5c – post-ex of access track (SSE end)

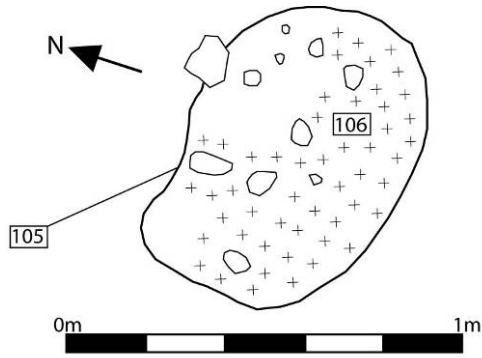


Figure 6a – pre-ex plan of F [105]

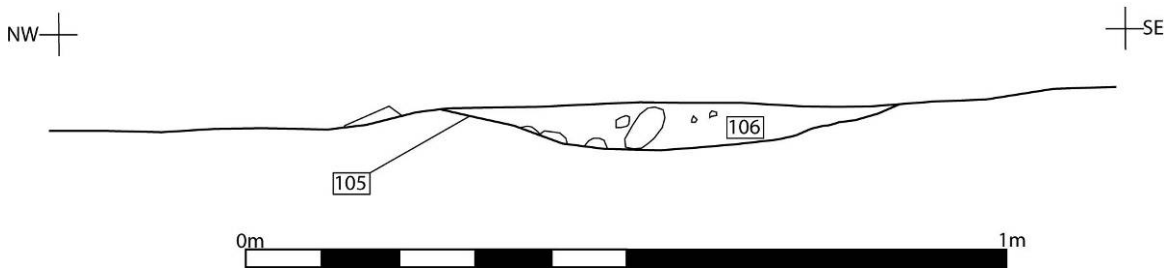


Figure 6b – SW facing section through F [105]

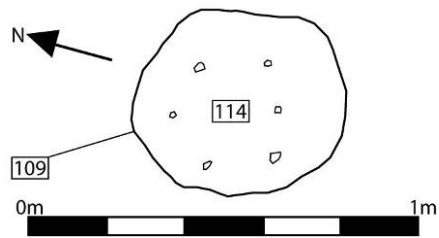


Figure 6c – pre-ex plan of F [109]

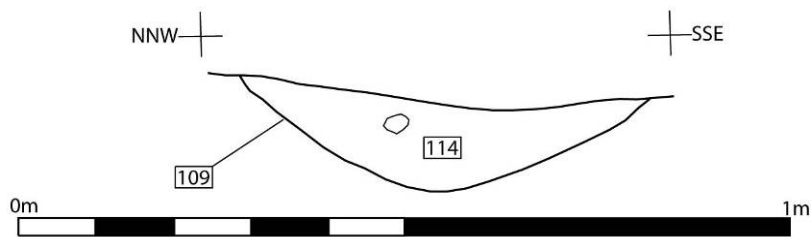


Figure 6d – WSW facing section through F [109]

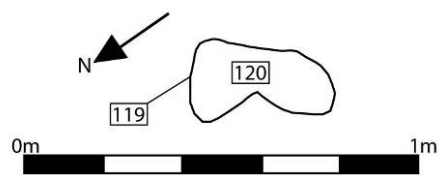


Figure 6e – pre-ex plan of F [119]

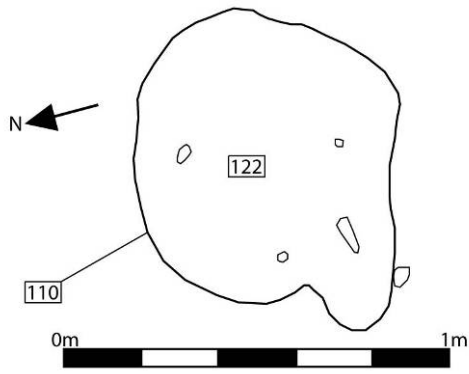


Figure 7a – pre-ex plan of F [110]

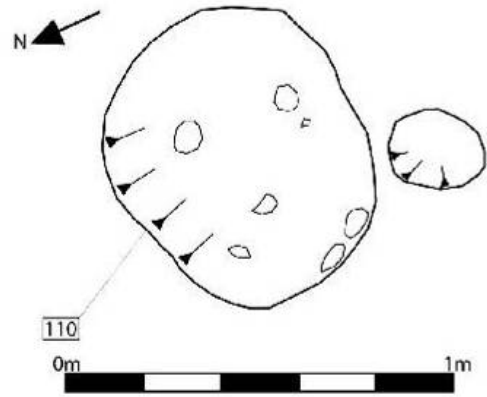


Figure 7b – post-ex plan of F [110]



Figure 7c – NNW facing section through F [110]

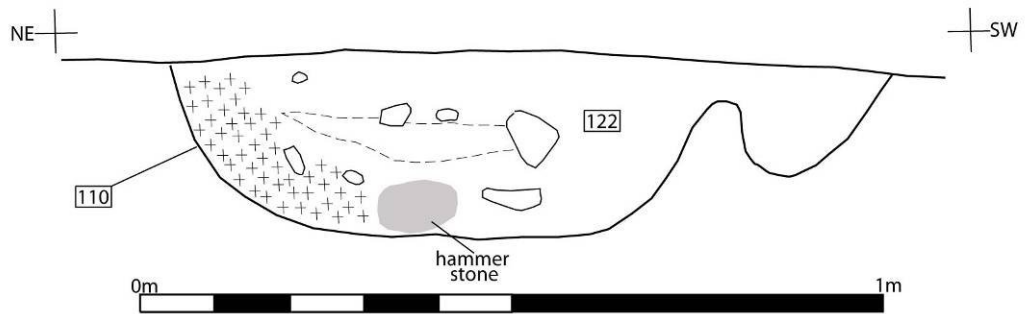


Figure 7d – NW facing section through F [110]



Figure 7e – post-ex image of F [110]

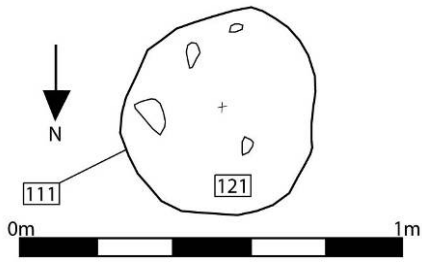


Figure 8a – pre-ex plan of F [111]

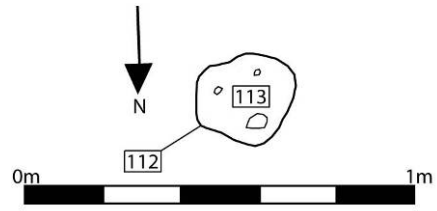


Figure 8b – pre-ex plan of F [112]

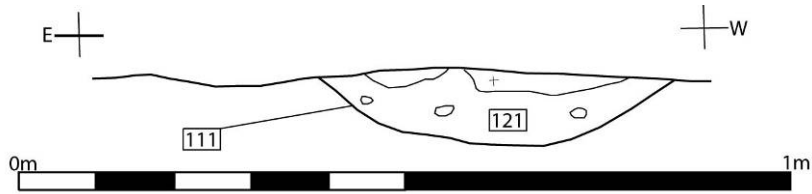


Figure 8c – N facing section through F [111]

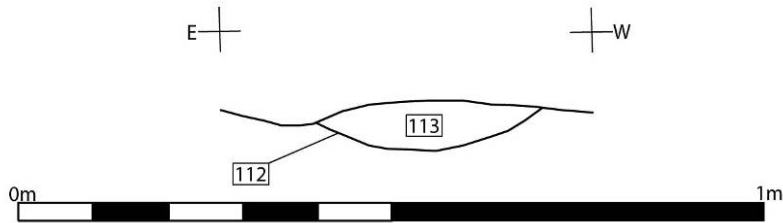


Figure 8d – N facing section through F [112]

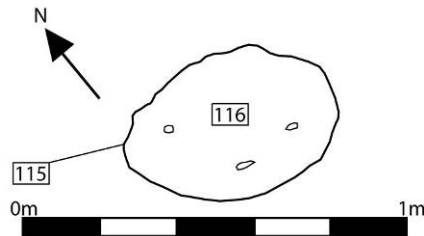


Figure 8e – pre-ex plan of F [115]

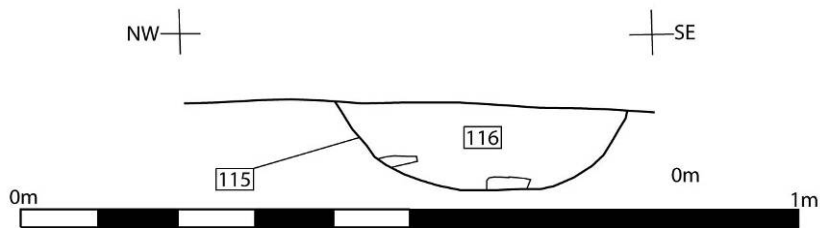


Figure 8f – SW facing section through F [115]

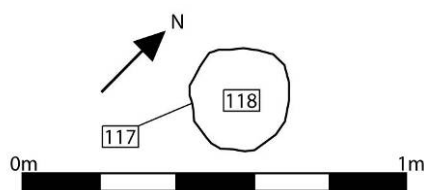


Figure 8g – pre-ex plan of F [117]

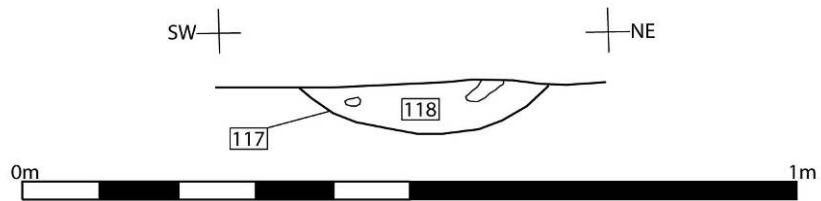


Figure 9a – SE facing section through F [117]

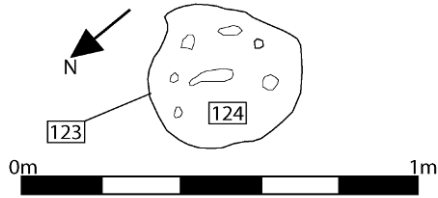


Figure 9b – pre-ex plan of F [123]

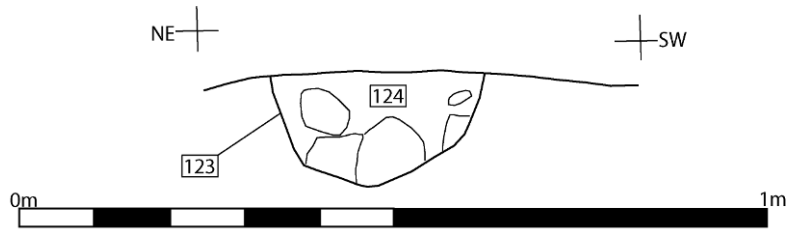


Figure 9c – NW facing section through F [123]

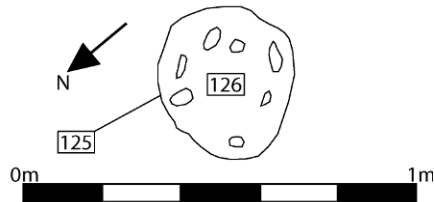


Figure 9d – pre-ex plan of F [125]

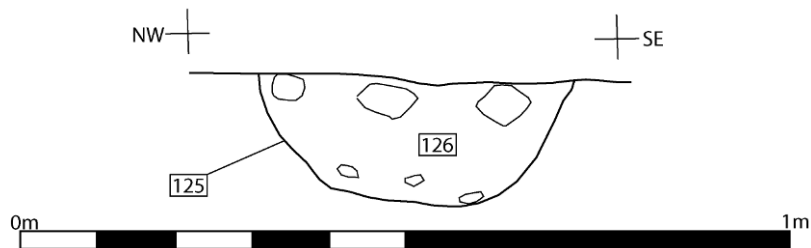


Figure 9e – NE facing section through F [125]

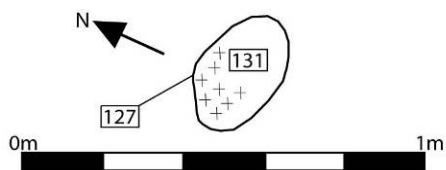


Figure 9f – pre-ex plan of F [127]

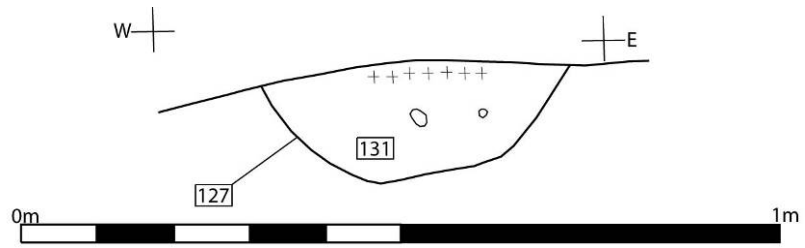


Figure 10a - S facing section through F [127]

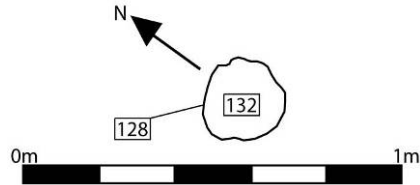


Figure 10b – pre-ex plan of F [128]

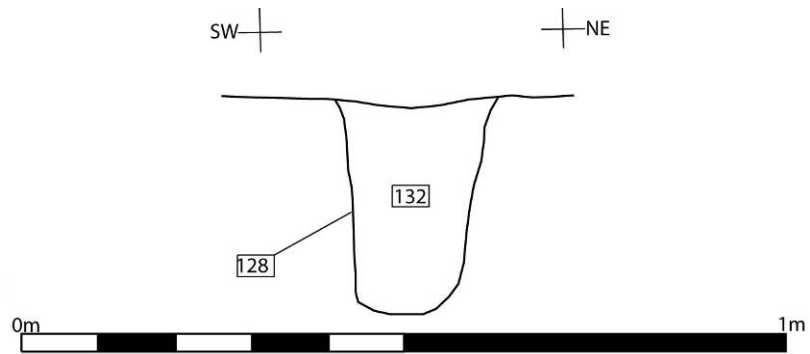


Figure 10c – SE facing section through F [128]

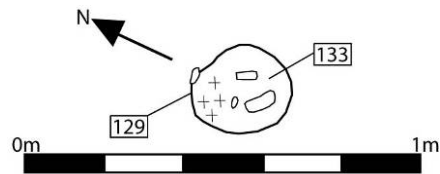


Figure 10d – pre-ex plan of F [129]

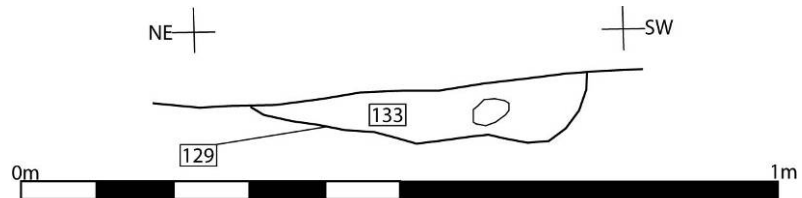


Figure 10e – NW facing section through F [129]

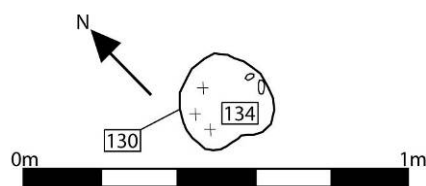


Figure 10f - pre-ex plan of F [130]

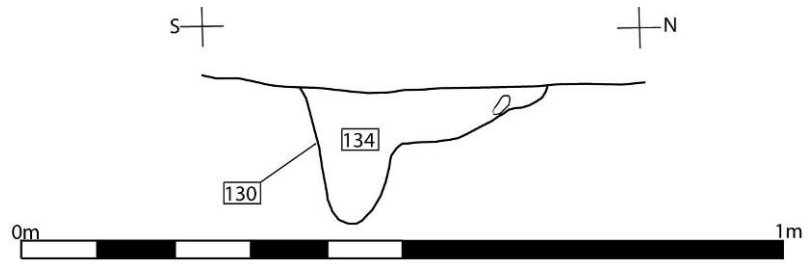


Figure 11a – E facing section through F [130]

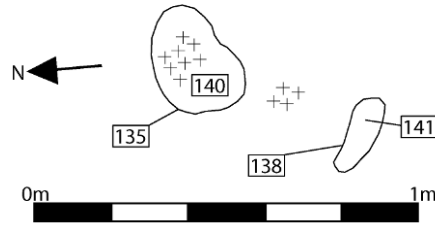


Figure 11b – pre-ex plans of F [135] & F [138]

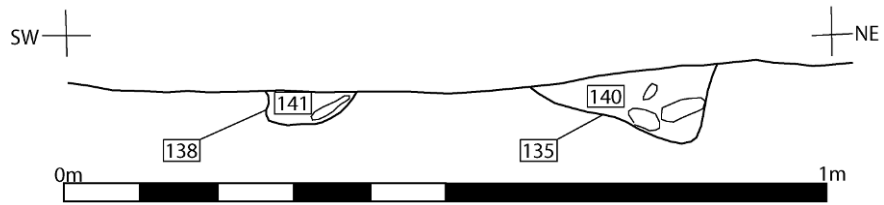


Figure 11c – SE facing sections through F [135] & F [138]

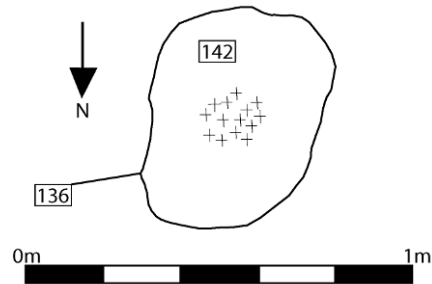


Figure 11d – pre-ex of F [136]

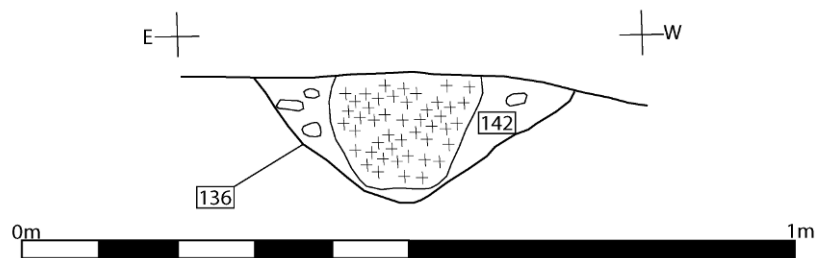


Figure 11e – N facing section through F [136]

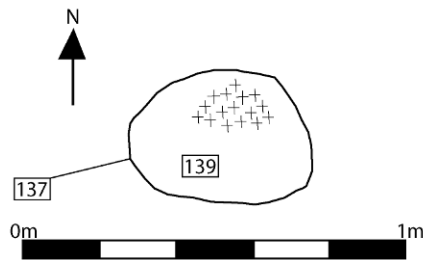


Figure 12a – pre-ex of F [137]

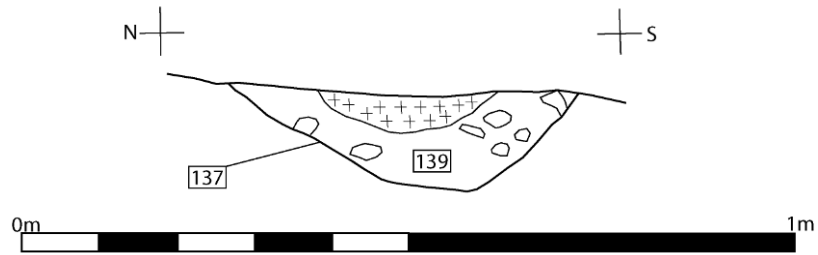


Figure 12b – W facing section through F [137]

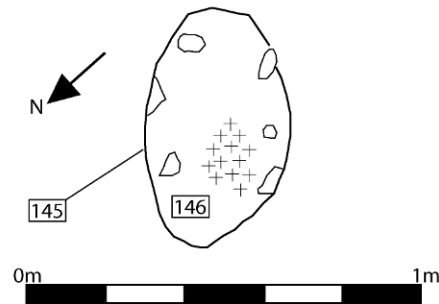


Figure 12c – pre-ex of F [145]

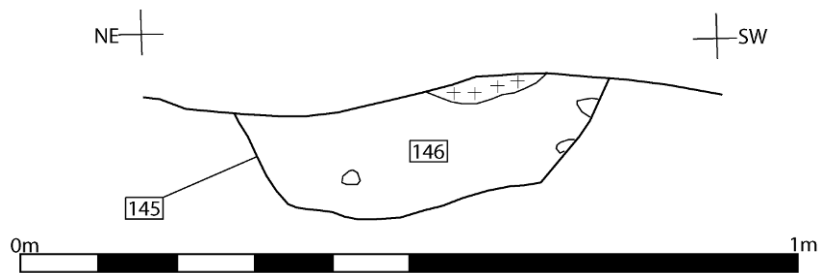


Figure 12d – NW facing section through F [145]

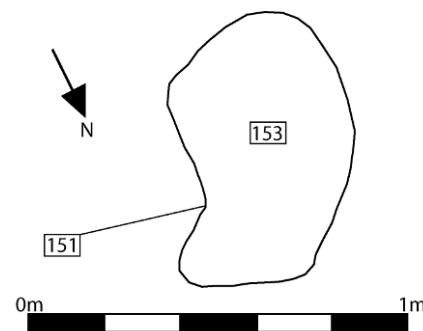


Figure 12e – pre-ex of F [151]

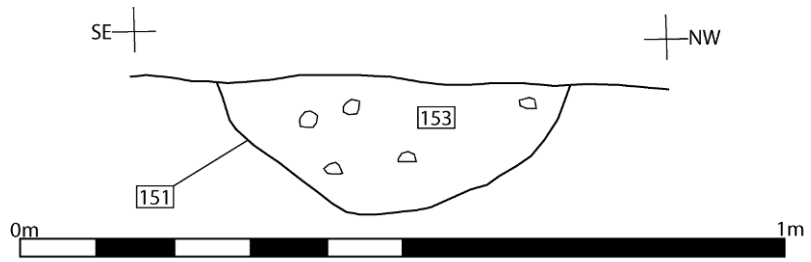


Figure 13a – NE facing section through F [151]

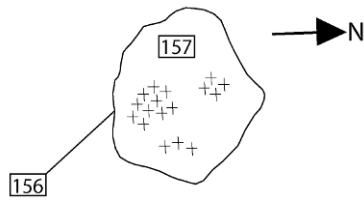


Figure 13b – pre-ex plan of F [156]

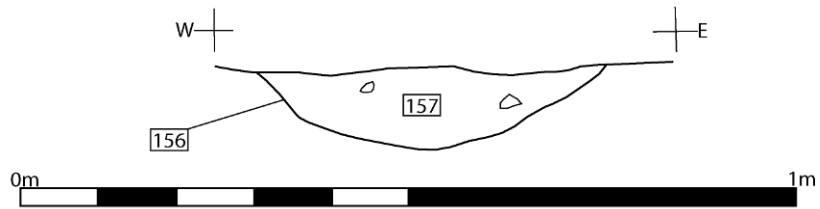


Figure 13c – S facing section through F [156]



Figure 13d – pre-ex image of F [110]



Figure 13e – pre-ex image of F [111]

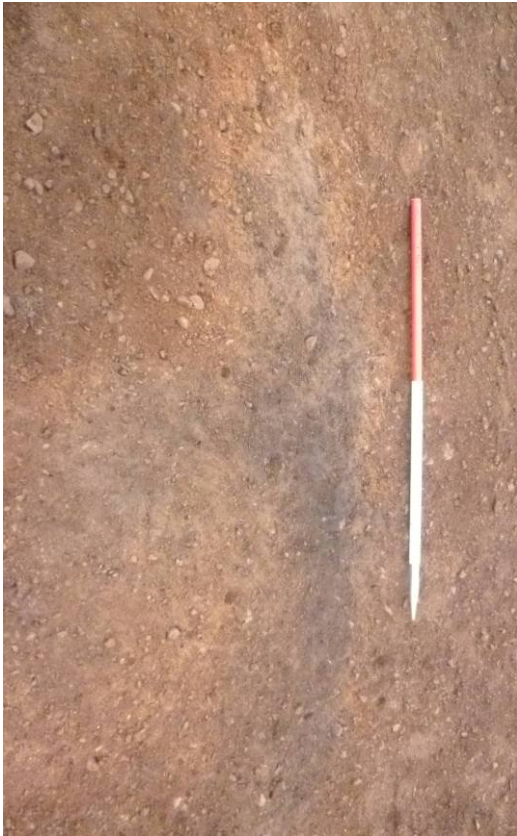


Figure 14a – pre-ex image of F [143]

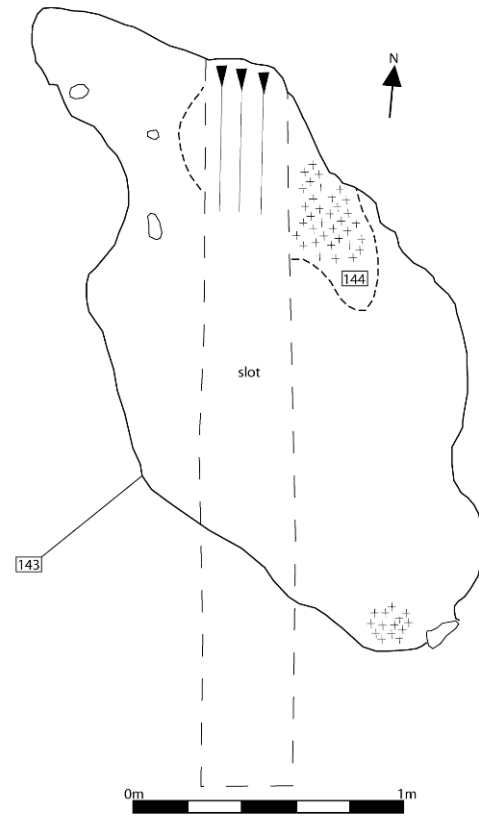


Figure 14b – post-ex plan of F [143]

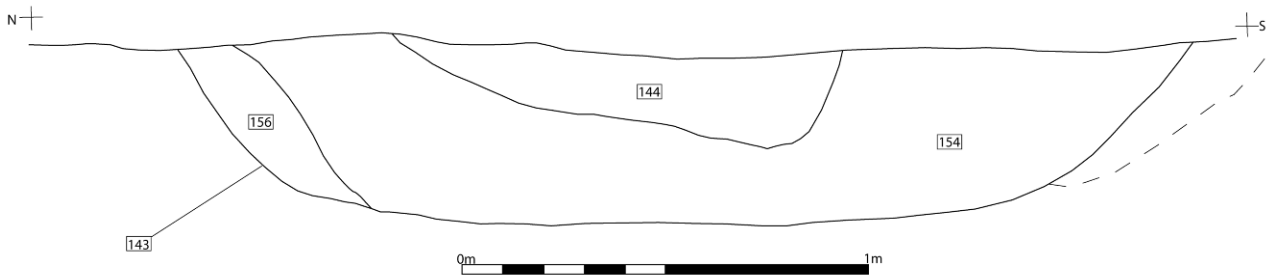


Figure 14c – W facing section through F [143]



Figure 14d - W facing section through F [143]



Figure 15a – pre-ex image of F [147] – [150]

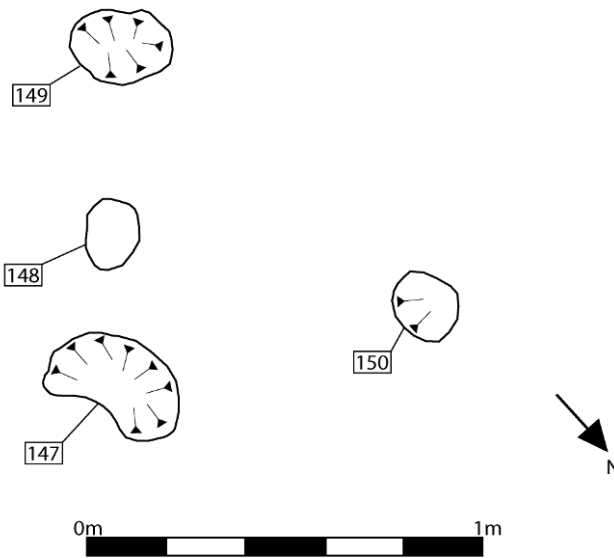


Figure 15b – post-ex plan of F [147] – [150]



Figure 15c – post-ex image of F [147] – [150]



Figure 16a – pre-ex image of F [158]

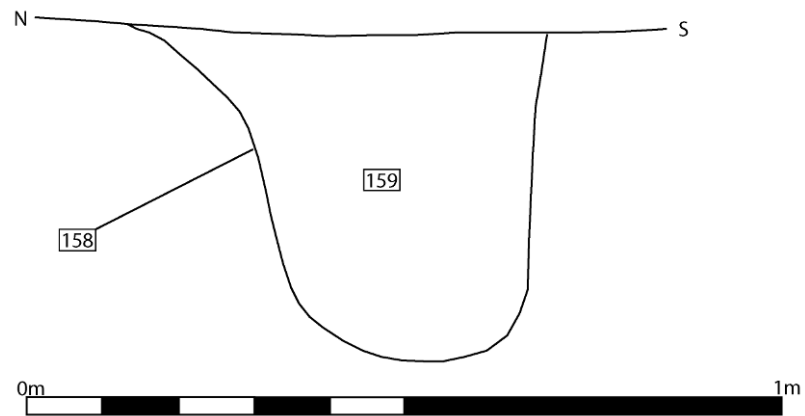


Figure 16b – W facing profile through F [158]



Figure 16c – W facing section through F [158]



Figure 17a – pre-ex of F [105]



Figure 17b - SW facing section through F [105]



Figure 17c - pre-ex image of F [109]



Figure 18a – WSW facing section through F [109]



Figure 18b – F [110] half sectioned (from above)



Figure 18c – post-ex image of F [110]



Figure 19a – N facing section through F [111]



Figure 19b – pre-ex image of F [112]



Figure 19c – N facing section through F [112]

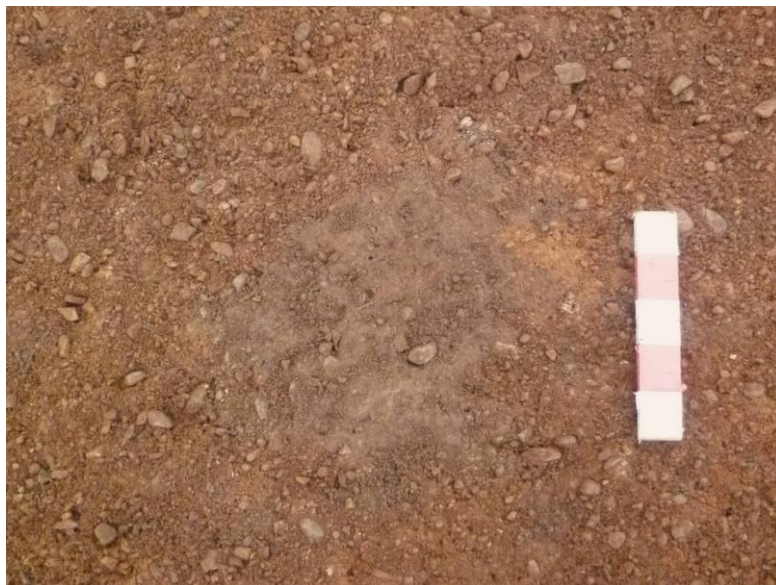


Figure 20a – Pre-ex image of F [115]



Figure 20b – W facing section through F [115]

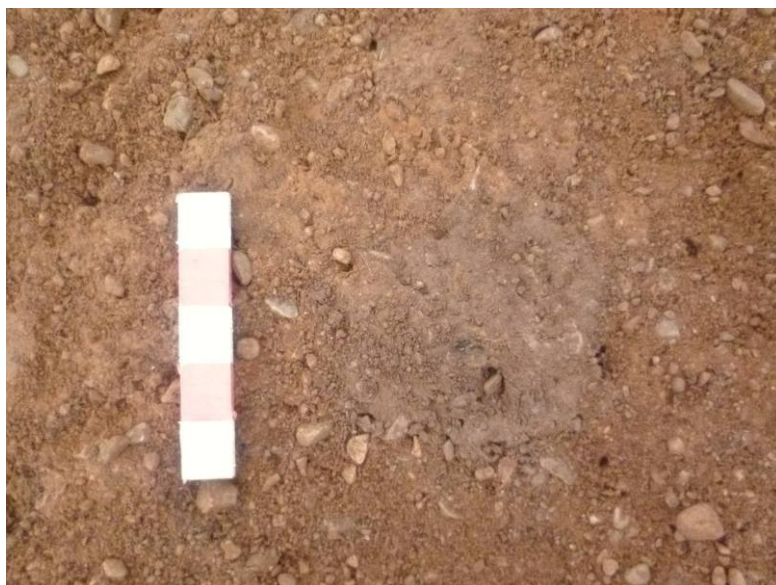


Figure 20c – pre-ex image of F [117]



Figure 21a – ESE facing section through F [117]



Figure 21b – pre-ex image of F [119]



Figure 21c – F [119] after removal of F [120]



Figure 22a – pre-ex image of F [123]



Figure 22b – NW facing section through F [123]



Figure 22c – section through F [123] from above



Figure 23a – pre-ex image of F [125]



Figure 23b – WNW facing section through F [125]



Figure 23c – pre-ex image of F [127 – [130]



Figure 24a – S facing section through F [127]



Figure 24b – SE facing section through F [128]



Figure 24c – NW facing section through F [129]



Figure 25a – W facing section through F [130]



Figure 25b – pre-ex image of F [135] & [138]



Figure 25c – E facing section through F [135] & [138]



Figure 26a – pre-ex image of F [136]



Figure 26b – N facing section through F [136]



Figure 26c – pre-ex image of F [137]



Figure 27a – W facing section through F [137]



Figure 27b – pre-ex image of F [145]



Figure 27c – NW facing section through F [145]



Figure 28a – NE facing section through F [151]



Figure 28b – pre-ex image of F [156]



Figure 28c - N facing section through F [156]

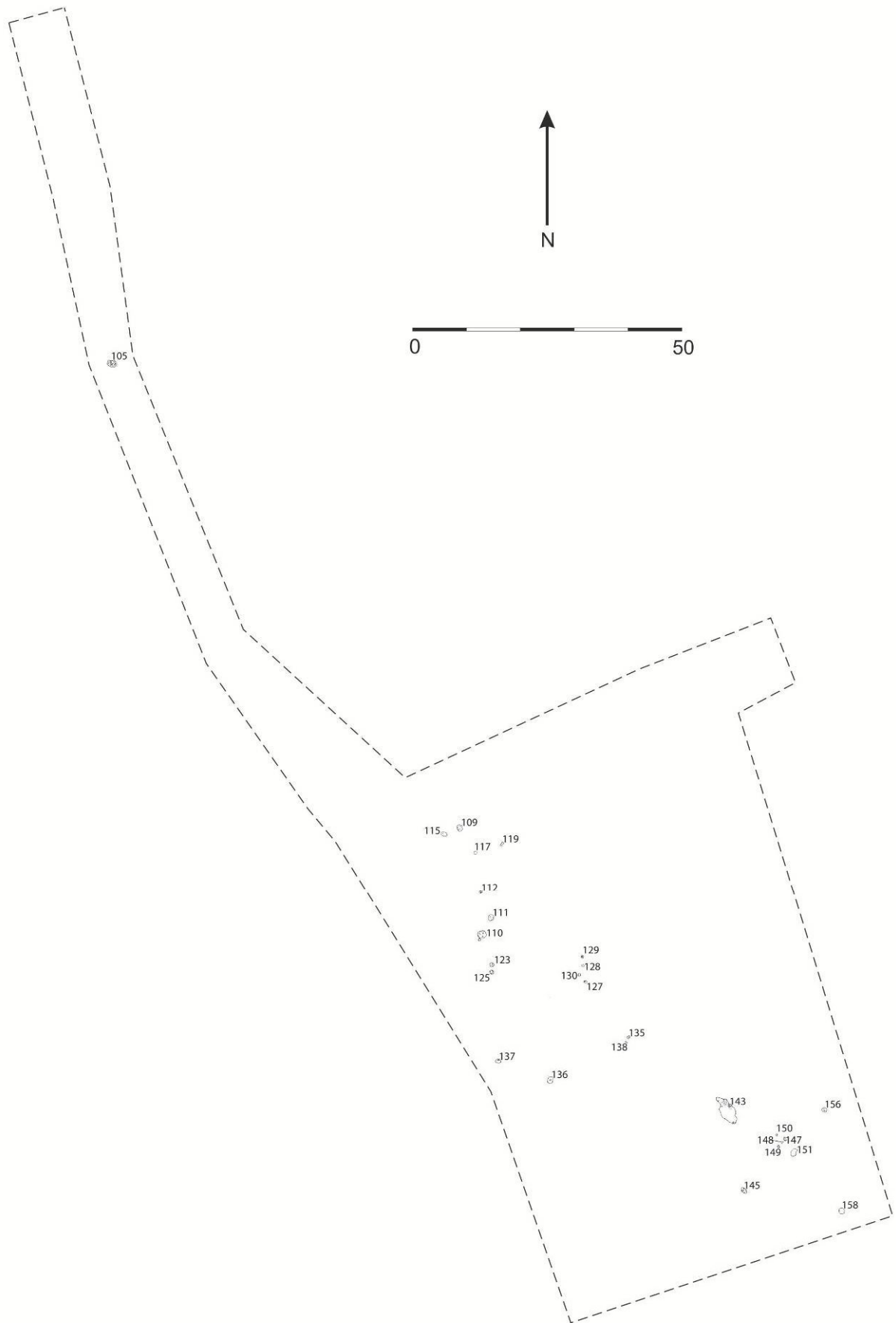


Figure 30 – site plan showing archaeological features

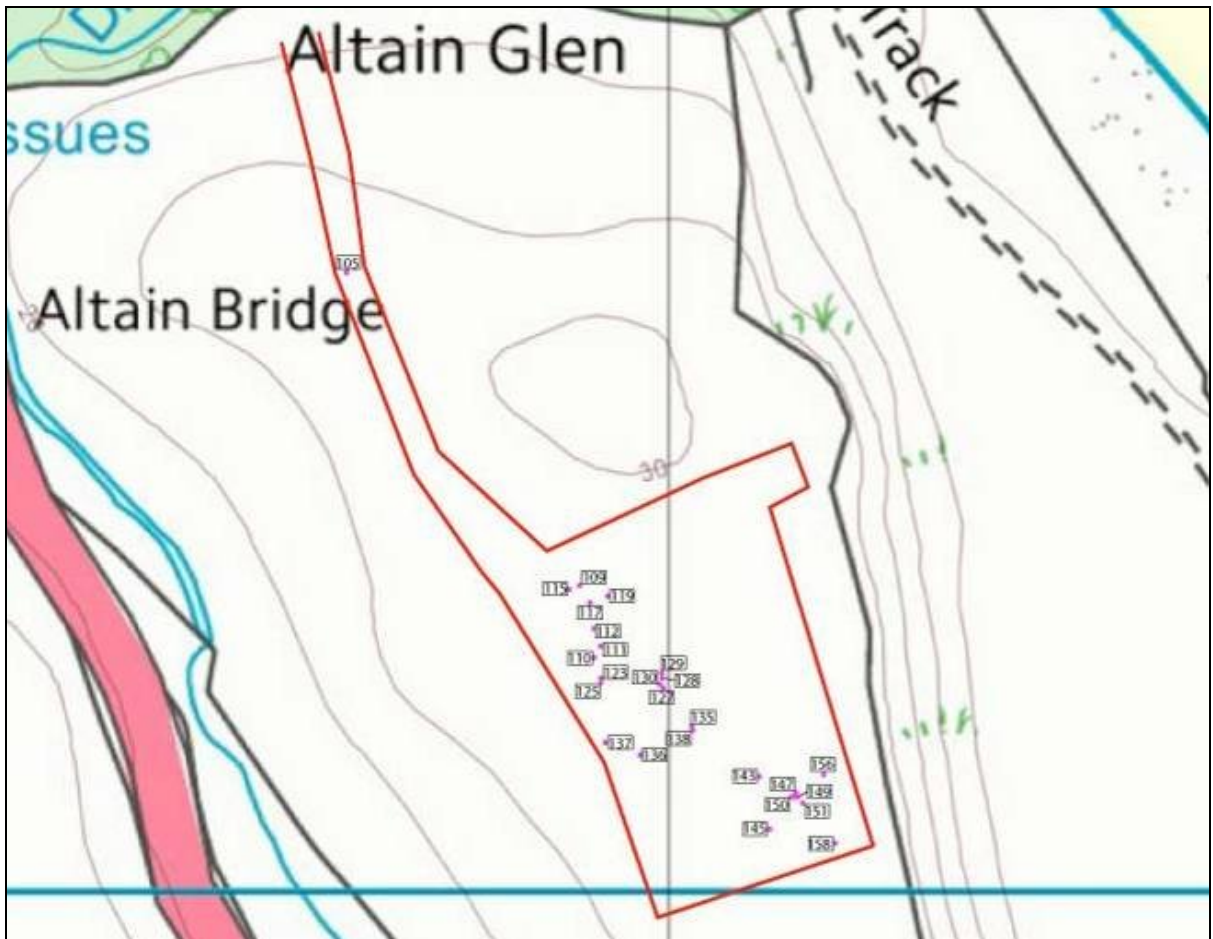


Figure 31a – detail of map showing locations of archaeological features

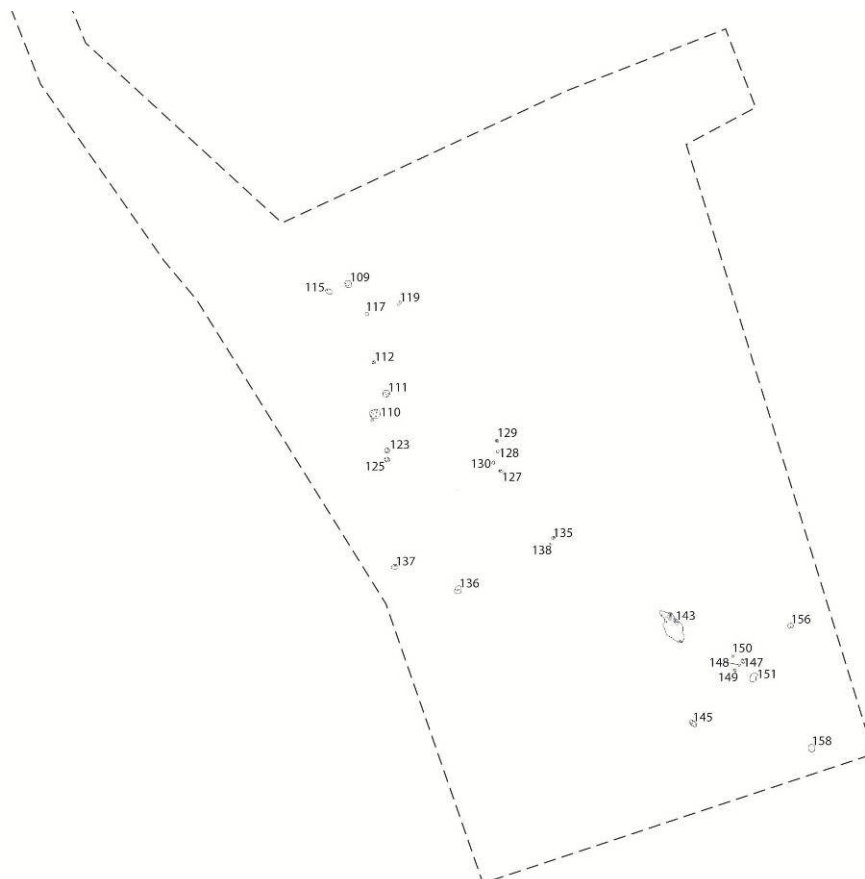


Figure 31b – detail of site plan showing archaeological features

References

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--|
| <i>Documentary</i>
McLaren D | 2013 | 'The coarse stone' in Church M J, Nesbit C & Gilmour S M D 'A special place in the saltings?' Survey and excavation of an Iron Age estuarine islet at An Dunan, Lewis. <i>Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scotland 143: 190-91</i> |
| SOEn | 2010 | Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). <i>Archaeology</i> Scottish Office Environmental Department. |
| SOEn | 2011 | <i>PAN 2/2011</i> , Planning & Archaeology Scottish Office Environmental Department. |
| SHEP | 2011 | Scottish Historic Environment Policy |
| Thomas J | 2015 | Neolithic Ceremonial Complex in Galloway Excavations at Dunragit and Droughduil 1999-2002. |
| <i>Cartographic</i>
Roy | 1747-55 | Military Survey Map of Scotland |
| Ordnance Survey | 1850 | 1 st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1:10.560, Wigtownshire |

Appendix 1: Record Summaries

Context Summaries

No.	Interpretation	Description
101	Topsoil	Very friable mid brown silt which continued a moderate amount of small & medium sized stones. Depth averaged 350mm
102	Subsoil	Pale orangey brown gravelly silt [102] containing frequent small stones & occasional larger stones
103	Subsoil	Dark orange sandy gravels with patches of pale brown sand and frequent stones (towards top of slope)
104	Subsoil	Sand & gravels mixed with various sized stones and occasional patches of coarse orange sand and / or reddish orange silty sand (at SW end of access route)
105	Shallow pit feature	Shallow sub-rectangular pit, aligned E / W, measured 0.85m by 0.60m and 0.07m in depth – contained fill [106]
106	Fill of [105]	Grey sandy silt containing occasional stones and fragments of charcoal
107	Topsoil	Mid brown fairly fine silt which measured between 200mm and 400mm in depth
108	Subsoil	Brownish orange silt
109	Circular pit feature	Circular pit with gently sloped sides which measured 0.51m in diameter and 0.11m in depth – contained fill [114]
110	Large oval pit feature	Large oval pit with steep sides to the N; S & W and gently sloped to the E and a flat base, measured 0.90m by 0.80m and 0.25m in depth – contained fill [122] A further small circular feature was located (attached ?) to SW end 0.26m diameter and 0.16m in depth which also contained fill [122]
111	Circular pit feature	Circular pit with gently sloped sides and rounded base, measured 0.46m in diameter and 0.10m in depth – contained fill [121]
112	Shallow circular pit feature	Very small shallow slightly irregular circular shaped possible pit or posthole, which measured 0.30m in diameter and 0.06m in depth – contained fill [113]
113	Fill of F [112]	Dark brownish black sandy silt with very occasional small gravel-like stones
114	Fill of F [109]	Loosely compacted mid brown sandy silt containing occasional small stones
115	Shallow oval pit feature	Fairly shallow oval pit [115], aligned NW / SE, with gently sloped sides and a rounded base. Measured 0.58m by 0.38m and 0.11m in depth - contained fill [116]

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116	Fill of F [115]	Mid brown fairly fine sandy silt with occasional small stones
117	Small shallow circular pit feature	Small shallow circular pit which measured 0.32m in diameter and 0.06m in depth – contained fill [118]
118	Fill of F [117]	Mid brown fine sandy silt with occasional small stones
119	Small feature (possible)	Small amorphous shallow feature / spread – contained fill [119]
120	Fill? of F [119]	Dark brownish black charcoal rich deposit
121	Fill of F [111]	Brown gravelly silt with frequent flecks of charcoal
122	Fill of F [110]	Mid brown sandy silt with charcoal to NE – there was a deposit of re-deposited natural orange gravel within the fill
123	Posthole	Cobble (stone filled) posthole, aligned NE / SW with steep sided and a slightly v-shaped base. Measured 0.20m by 0.27m and 0.15m in depth and contained fill [124]
124	Fill of F [123]	Mid brown slightly sandy silt containing frequent cobbles
125	Circular pit feature	U-shaped circular pit which measured 0.41m in diameter by 0.16 in depth – contained fill [126]
126	Fill of F [125]	Mid brown silt [126] with occasional to moderate of medium sized stones & gravel.
127	Oval pit feature	Oval pit, aligned E / W with fairly steep sides and a flat base. Measured 0.40m by 0.21m and 0.16m in depth – contained fill [131]
128	Posthole (circular)	Circular posthole with vertical side and a fairly flat base, measured 0.21m in diameter 0.28m in depth – contained fill [132]
129	Shallow oval pit feature	Shallow oval pit [129], aligned NE / SW, with steep side to SW and gentle slope to NE. Measured 0.45m by 0.24m and between 0.02m – 0.08m in depth, contained fill [133]
130	Possible stakehole	Possible stakehole, which measured 0.12m in diameter (with a ramp to N) and 0.18m in depth – contained fill [134]
131	Fill of F [127]	Greyish brown sandy silt with very occasional small stones – charcoal spread on surface and to W.
132	Fill of F [128]	Black sandy silt – charcoal stained (stone free).
133	Fill of F [129]	Grey sandy silt with very occasional small stones.
134	Fill of F [130]	Grey sandy silt
135	Small (oval) posthole	Small oval posthole, aligned NE / SW with vertical face to N and angled face to S (v-shaped base). Measured 0.24m by 0.20m and 0.10m in depth – contained fill [140]

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136	Posthole (oval)	Oval shaped posthole, aligned N / S, with steep / sharp sides (V-shaped) and measuring 0.58m by 0.42m and 0.18m in depth. Contained fill [142]
137	Circular pit feature	Circular pit [137] with a rounded base and fairly steep sides, measured 0.45m in diameter and 0.12m in depth – contained fill [139]
138	Small stakehole (possible)	Small possible stakehole, which measured 0.11m in diameter (with a ramp to N) and 0.04m in depth – contained fill [141]
139	Fill of F [137]	Brown gravelly sandy silt containing a spread of charcoal
140	Fill of F 135]	Grey sandy silt [140] with small stones and charcoal staining on the surface
141	Fill of F [138]	Grey sandy silt with some charcoal staining
142	Fill of F [136]	Mid brown sandy / gravelly silt with a large amount of charcoal in the central section
143	Large (sub-rectangular) pit feature	Large sub-rectangular shaped pit [143], aligned NNW / SSE, with sloped sides (although less distinct to S). Measured 2.48m by 1.31m and 0.40m in depth (at most) and contained three fills: [144]; [154] & [155]
144	Fill of F [143]	Orange (burnt?) sand & clay
145	Oval pit feature (possible)	Oval pit (possible), aligned NW / SE, slightly U-shaped with fairly steep sides and a slightly undulating base. Measured 0.62m by 0.46m and 0.15m in depth – contained fill[146]
146	Fill of F [145]	Warm brown gritty silt [146] with occasional small stones – there was a small area of charcoal on / near the surface
147	Posthole (possible)	Kidney shaped posthole (possible) which measured 0.38m by 0.20m and 0.10m in depth – contained fill [152]
148	Posthole (possible)	Circular shaped posthole (possible) which measured 0.16m diameter by 0.04m in depth - contained fill [152]
149	Posthole (possible)	Circular shaped posthole (possible) 0.26m diameter by 0.08m in depth - contained fill [152]
150	Posthole (possible)	Circular shaped posthole (possible) 0.20m diameter by 0.15m in depth - contained fill [152]
151	Kidney shaped pit feature (possible)	Slightly kidney shaped pit (possible), aligned NNE / SSW, with a rounded base and sides. Measured 0.62m by 0.46m and 0.17m in depth – contained fill [153]
152	Fill of F [147] – [150]	Brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal
153	Fill of F [151]	Dark brown / black gritty silt with occasional small stones
154	Fill of F [143]	Grey sandy silt with charcoal stains

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155	Fill of F [143]	Fine grey silt
156	Shallow sub-rectangular pit feature	Shallow sub-rectangular pit, aligned E / W, with gently sloped sides and a rounded base. Measured 0.44m by 0.42m and 0.11m in depth – contained fill [156]
157	Fill of F [156]	Black silt mixed with a brown sandy silt with gravel
158	Posthole (circular)	Circular posthole with a rounded base and very steep sides, measured 0.52m in diameter and 0.49m in depth – contained fill [159]
159	Fill of F [158]	Grey sand containing occasional small stones and charcoal (possible)

Photographic Record

No.	B&W Disc No.	B&W No.	Colour Disc No.	Colour No.	Description	From	Date
1	1	1	1	1	Access road from N	N	13/01/16
2	1	2	1	2	Middle section of access road	S	13/01/16
3	1	3	1	3	SSE end of access road	SSE	13/01/16
4	1	4	1	4	Pre-ex of F [110]	SW	14/01/16
5	1	5	1	5	Pre-ex of f [111]	SW	14/01/16
6	1	6	1	6	Pre-ex of F [112]	NW	14/01/16
7	1	7	1	7	Pre-ex of F [109]	WSW	18/01/16
8	1	8	1	8	WSW facing section through F [109]	WSW	18/01/16
9	1	9	1	9	Pre-ex of F [115]	W	18/01/16
10	1	10	1	10	W facing section through F [115]	W	18/01/16
11	1	11	1	11	Pre-ex of F [117]	ESE	18/01/16
12	1	12	1	12	ESE facing section through F [117]	ESE	18/01/16
13	1	13	1	13	Pre-ex of F [119]	WNW	18/01/16
14	1	14	1	14	F [119] after removal of fill 120	S	18/01/16
15	1	15	1	15	Pre-ex of F [112]	N	18/01/16
16	1	16	1	16	N facing section through F [112]	N	18/01/16
17	1	17	1	17	Pre-ex of F [111]	N	18/01/16
18	1	18	1	18	N facing section through F [111]	N	18/01/16
19	1	19	1	19	Pre-ex of F [123]	W	19/01/16
20	1	20	1	20	NW facing section through F [123]	NW	19/01/16

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21	1	21	1	21	F [123] – half sectioned (from above)	NW	19/01/16
22	1	22	1	22	Pre-ex of F [125]	SE	19/01/16
23	1	23	1	23	NNW facing section through F [110]	NNW	19/01/16
24	1	24	1	24	F [110] – half sectioned (from above)	NNW	19/01/16
25	1	25	1	25	WSW facing section through F [125]	WNW	19/01/16
26	1	26	1	26	Post-ex of F [110]	NW	19/01/16
27	1	27	1	27	Post-ex of F [110]	SW	19/01/16
28	1	28	1	28	Pre-ex of F [127] – [130] [127] in foreground	S	19/01/16
29	1	29	1	29	Pre-ex of F [127] – [130] [129] in foreground	N	19/01/16
30	1	30	1	30	S facing section through F [127]	S	19/01/16
31	1	31	1	31	SE facing section through F [128]	SE	19/01/16
32	1	32	1	32	NW facing section through F [129]	NW	19/01/16
33	1	33	1	33	W facing section through F [130]	W	19/01/16
34	1	34	1	34	Pre-ex of F [135] & [138]	W	21/01/16
35	1	35	1	35	Pre-ex of F [137]	S	21/01/16
36	1	36	1	36	Pre-ex of F [136]	ENE	21/01/16
37	1	37	1	37	E facing sections through F [135] & [138]	E	21/01/16
38	1	38	1	38	W facing section through F [137]	W	21/01/16
39	1	39	1	39	N facing section through F [136]	N	21/01/16
40	1	40	1	40	Pre-ex of F [143]	SW	21/01/16
41	1	41	1	41	Pre-ex of F [145]	NE	21/01/16
42	1	42	1	42	NW facing section through F [145]	NW	21/01/16
43	1	43	1	43	General pre-ex of F[147] – [150]	NE	21/01/16
44	1	44	1	44	Pre-ex of F [151]	NE	21/01/16
45	1	45	1	45	Post-ex of F[147] –[150]	NE	21/01/16
46	1	46	1	46	NE facing section through F [151]	NE	21/01/16
47	1	47	1	47	W facing section through F [143]	W	21/01/16
48	1	48	1	48	Pre-ex of F [156]	N	21/01/16
49	1	49	1	49	N facing section through F [156]	N	21/01/16
50	1	50	1	50	Pre-ex of F [158]	W	21/01/16

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51	1	51	1	51	W facing section through F [158]	W	21/01/16
52	1	52	1	52	Pre-ex of F [105]	NW	27/01/16
53	1	53	1	53	SW facing section through F [105]	SW	27/01/16

Drawing Record

Sheet No.	Drawing No.	Description	Scale	Date
1	001	Pre-ex plan of F [109]	1:20	18/01/16
1	002	WSW facing section through F [109]	1:10	18/01/16
1	003	Pre-ex plan of F [115]	1:20	18/01/16
1	004	Pre-ex plan of F [117]	1:20	18/01/16
1	005	Pre-ex plan of F [119]	1:20	18/01/16
1	006	Pre-ex plan of F [112]	1:20	18/01/16
1	007	Pre-ex plan of F [111]	1:20	18/01/16
1	008	SE facing section through F [117]	1:10	18/01/16
1	009	SW facing section through F [115]	1:10	18/01/16
1	010	N facing section through F [112]	1:10	18/01/16
1	011	N facing section through F [111]	1:10	18/01/16
1	012	Pre-ex plan of F [110]	1:20	19/01/16
1	013	Half section plan of F [110]	1:20	19/01/16
1	014	SE facing section through F [110]	1:10	19/01/16
1	015	Post-ex plan of F [110]	1:20	19/01/16
1	016	Pre-ex plan of F [127]	1:20	19/01/16
1	017	S facing section through F [127]	1:10	19/01/16
1	018	Pre-ex plan of F [128]	1:20	19/01/16
1	019	SE facing section through F [128]	1:10	19/01/16
1	020	Pre-ex plan of F [129]	1:20	19/01/16
1	021	SE facing section through F [129]	1:10	19/01/16
1	022	Pre-ex plan of F [130]	1:20	19/01/16
1	023	E facing section through F [130]	1:10	19/01/16
2	024	Pre-ex plan of F [123]	1:20	19/01/16
2	025	Plan of F [123] with W section removed	1:20	19/01/16
2	026	NW facing section through F [123]	1:10	19/01/16
2	027	Pre-ex plan of F [125]	1:20	19/01/16
2	028	NE facing section through F [125]	1:10	19/01/16

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2	029	Pre-ex plan of F 135] & [138]	1:20	21/01/16
2	030	SE facing section through F 135] & F [138]	1:10	21/01/16
2	031	Pre-ex plan of F [143]	1:20	21/01/16
3	032	Pre-ex plan of F [137]	1:20	21/01/16
3	033	W facing section through F [151]	1:10	21/01/16
3	034	Pre-ex plan of F [145]	1:20	21/01/16
3	035	NW facing section through F [151]	1:10	21/01/16
3	036	Pre-ex plan of F [136]	1:20	21/01/16
3	037	N facing section through F [151]	1:10	21/01/16
3	038	Pre-ex plans of F [147] – F [150]	1:20	21/01/16
3	039	Post-ex plans of F [147] – F [150]	1:20	21/01/16
3	040	Pre-ex plan of F [151]	1:20	21/01/16
3	041	NE facing section through F [151]	1:10	21/01/16
3	042	Pre-ex plan of F 156]	1:20	21/01/16
3	043	N facing section through F [156]	1:10	21/01/16
2	044	W facing section through F [143]	1:10	21/01/16
2	045	Post-ex plan of F [143]	1:20	21/01/16
3	046	Profile through F [158]	1:10	21/01/16
4	047	Pre-ex plan of F [105]	1:20	27/01/16
4	048	SW facing section through F [105]	1:10	27/01/16

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Altain Glen, Sandhead
PARISH:	Stonykirk
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rebecca Shaw and John Pickin
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring Works
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NX 09756 49057
START DATE (this season)	13 th January 2016
END DATE (this season)	27 th January 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE	None

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WORK:	
DESCRIPTION:	<p>A programme of archaeological works were undertaken in respect of proposed development works on a site located at Altain Glen, Sandhead, near Stranraer, Wigtownshire (roughly centred on NGR NX 0975 4905). The works comprised a monitored topsoil strip for the erection of a poultry unit and formation of new access.</p> <p>A total of twenty-six features of archaeological significance were noted during the course of the monitoring works. The features mainly comprised pits; postholes or stakeholes which appeared to be fairly randomly dispersed but may form part of either smaller discreet features or a larger complex. The site has been radiocarbon dated to the Bronze Age (3500 – 3700 years ago approx). Although a number of features had fragments or smears of charcoal associated with them only one of the pits contained finds; a flint scraper and a hammerstone.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	015041
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Torrance Farms Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	1780 Great Western Road Anniesland Glasgow G13 2TL
E MAIL:	rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Historic Environment Record and archive to Historic Environment Scotland

Contact Details

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services (main office)

1780 Great Western Road
Anniesland
Glasgow
G13 2TL

tel: 0141 959 3168
mob: 07786 135432
email: rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
website: www.rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services (sub office)

Kirriereoch
Bargrennan
Newton Stewart
Wigtownshire
DG8 6TB

tel: 01671 840 288
mob: 07786 135432
email: rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
website: www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk