

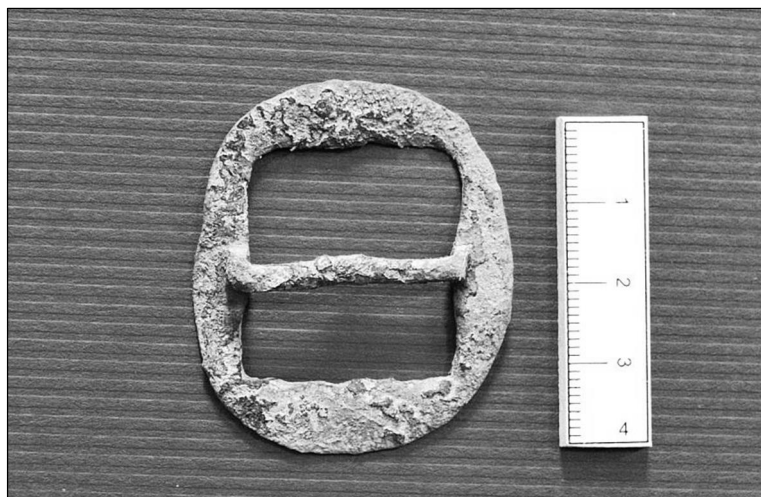
Ross and Cromarty Archaeological Services

West Coast Archaeological Services

CULLODEN ACCESS AND INTERPRETATION PROJECT

METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY

Culloden Footpath, near Culloden Battlefield, Inverness



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**CULLODEN ACCESS AND INTERPRETATION PROJECT
METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY OF CULLODEN FOOTPATH
WESTHILL, NEAR CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD – INVERNESS**

Summary

A metal-detecting survey was carried out on 8 February 2013 on behalf of the Highland Council and National Trust for Scotland at a site located to the west-southwest of Culloden Battlefield in Inverness. The work was undertaken during construction of a new footpath along the south side of the B9006 to check for any archaeological finds of interest, particularly in relation to the Battle of Culloden. Forty-two objects were recovered, including two copper alloy buttons, one copper alloy buckle, a lead or pewter object and miscellaneous iron objects.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A metal detector survey of Culloden Footpath was requested in advance of construction works as part of the Culloden Access and Interpretation Project. The survey had been requested by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) due to the proximity of the site to Culloden Battlefield, the site of the 1746 battle and a property under guardianship of NTS, and the potential for archaeological finds relating to the battle to be recovered in the location of the footpath.
- 1.2 Archaeological investigations of battlefield sites can increase our understanding of the landscape of a battle and help in assessing the potential for the survival of physical and artefactual remains. Some of the most important evidence relating to these sites, the artefact assemblage, resides in the topsoil horizons and a meticulous metal-detecting survey in advance of development works has the potential to add to the known archaeological and historical record¹. Archaeological remains can also extend into the wider landscape around the battlefield and can further add to our understanding of the events.

2.0 Site Location

- 2.1 The new footpath was constructed along the southern side of the B9006 from a road end 650m from the west-southwest corner of Culloden battlefield for a distance of 350m along the roadside (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The metal-detector survey was conducted along a 125m-long stretch of ground, covering the west-southwestern half of the new footpath route (Figure 2). The terrain, mostly flat, was located along the south side of the road verge within open ground under grass and low shrub. The remaining stretch of footpath between the metal-detector survey area and the footpath end (eastern half) was constructed through a narrow grass verge between the road and a fenceline bordering private land and comprised made-up ground covering extensive utilities services.

¹ Historic Scotland 2011



Figure 1 Location of metal detector survey area²

² Contains Ordnance Survey data, Crown copyright and database rights (2013)



Figure 2 Location of survey and findspots³

³ Imagery supplied under ESRI licensing, courtesy of Microsoft Bing mapping

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 On the 6th of April 1746 at Culloden, Bonnie Prince Charlie led 5,000 Jacobite troops in battle against 9,000 Government troops led by the Duke of Cumberland. The Jacobites carried muskets, pikes, axes and other weapons whilst the Government troop carried mostly the Brown Bess musket. The Hanoverians defeated the Jacobites decisively that afternoon, leaving at least 1,200 Jacobites dead and only 350 Government troops dead⁴.
- 3.2 Previous metal-detector surveys, carried out as a part of the *Culloden Battlefield Memorial Project* by the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at the University of Glasgow, have revealed a rich assemblage of metal objects relating to the battle. These objects included musket balls, cannon shots, mortar shell fragments, pieces broken from muskets, buttons, buckles, personal possessions and a bayonet⁵. Piecing together the locations of the finds has allowed archaeologists to put together meaningful information about the battle.

4.0 Methodology

- 4.1 A team of two professional archaeologists, using one metal detector, carried out the metal-detecting survey during one day. Although the intention had been for the survey to be carried out ahead of any construction work, due to the short notice of the project, one section of the new footpath had already been excavated and constructed prior to the archaeologists' visit.
- 4.2 The western half of the new footpath had already been constructed at the time of the survey (Plate 1). Therefore, an area 10m wide to the south side of the footpath (Figure 3) was surveyed using the metal detector. The spoil heaps from the construction were also checked for contacts, but the overwhelming mix of modern rubbish in the spoil led to no useful results.
- 4.3 Only the western half of the site for the new footpath was metal-detected during the fieldwork. The eastern half of the footpath route was not surveyed due to the following reasons: 1) the ground had been previously made-up with numerous services running below the narrow road verge surface and 2) any detecting to the side of the footpath extended into privately owned land beyond the fenceline boundary (Figure 2).
- 4.4 During the survey, metal detector signals were marked by a pin flag prior to the excavation of the buried artefact (Plate 2). A small pit was dug by hand to retrieve the source of the signal and its position was recorded in three dimensions using a Trimble GeoExplorer staff-mounted GPS system with decimetre accuracy. The pits were reinstated by the replacement of the earth and turf plug.
- 4.5 The recovered finds were placed in bags, which were labelled and logged. Following fieldwork, the finds were assessed and compiled into a database, included in Appendix 1 of this report.

⁴ Roberts et al 2008

⁵ Pollard 2009



Plate 1 Culloden Footpath on 8 Feb 2013, facing E



Plate 2 Metal-detecting in progress, facing W

5.0 Results

- 5.1 Forty-two finds were recovered during the survey (Figure 3 and Appendix 1). All but six of the objects were generally identifiable into object types, although the dates of most objects are uncertain. Five finds of archaeological interest include: two copper alloy buttons, a copper alloy buckle, a lead or pewter unknown object and a possible iron fastening or mechanism. The great majority of the finds were iron nails or rivets, both modern and Post Medieval in date. Other finds recovered include: a modern machine part, a horseshoe, fragments of farm equipment, a lipstick tube (Find No. 34, Plate 8) and iron chain links.
- 5.2 The buckle (Find No. 28, Plate 11) appears to be a copper alloy object and its size, 48mm long by 40mm wide suggests it was a belt buckle. It is a potentially interesting artefact which may be contemporary with the mid-18th century Battle of Culloden. The lead or pewter object (Find No. 32, Plate 7) may also be of interest, as it appears that it may have been an object deformed through heat.
- 5.3 One copper alloy button (Find No. 19, Plate 4) had no discernible decoration on it, although the worn nature of the object could suggest an early date to the find. The second button (Find No. 31, Plates 5-6), also of copper alloy, appears to have a decoration on the front and the word *Currie* on the back and finding its date should be possible.
- 5.4 The possible iron fastening or mechanism (Find No. 23, Plate 9) may be of interest, although the surveyors were unable to establish what type of object it came from.
- 5.5 Other objects recovered may be of interest, such as Find No. 7 (Plate 3), and unknown iron object, and Find No. 30 (Plate 10), a possible part of farm machinery. Recommendations are made below for a finds specialist to identify some of the finds recovered during the survey.

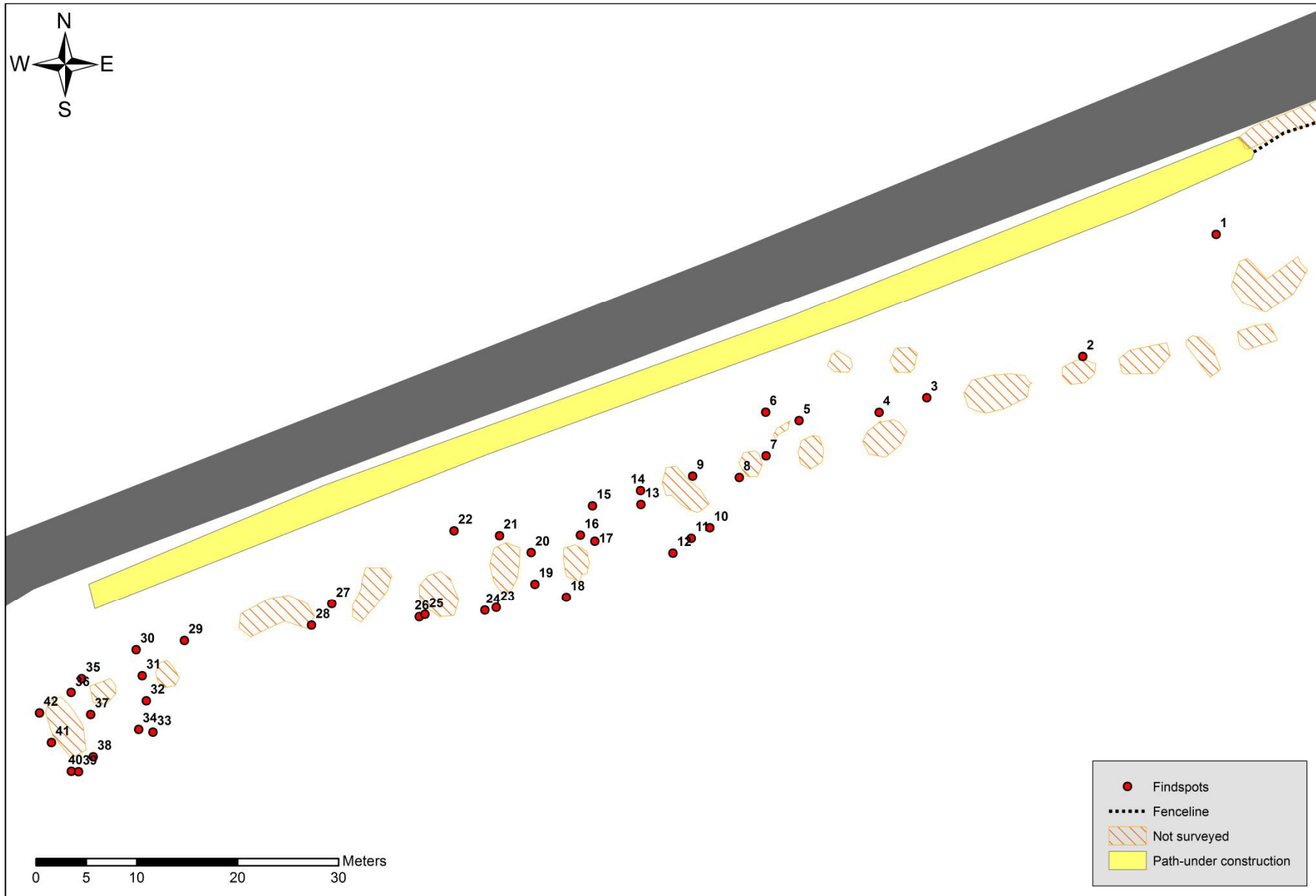


Figure 3 Plan showing location of finds recovered during metal detector survey



Plate 3 Find No. 7 – small unknown iron object



Plate 4 Find No. 19 – copper alloy button



Plate 5 Find No. 31 – copper alloy button, front



Plate 6 Find No. 31 – copper alloy button, back



Plate 7 Find No. 32 – Lead or pewter object



Plate 8 Find No. 34 – small lipsticker container



Plate 9 Find No. 23 – iron fastening or mechanism



Plate 10 Find No. 30 – possible farm machine part

6.0 Recovered artefacts

All artefacts recovered from the fieldwork will be reported to Derek Alexander, archaeologist at National Trust for Scotland, who will have the final decision on artefact disposal/retention. Following this decision, the finds will be sent to Treasure Trove at the National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh, where their future disposal will be decided.

7.0 Recommendations

As the construction of the footpath has already been concluded, there are no further recommendations for work on the site.

It is recommended that a finds specialist carry out an identification of any finds of interest, specifically Find Nos. **7, 12, 19, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 32.**

8.0 References

Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) 2013 Accessed at <http://her.highland.gov.uk>

Historic Scotland 2011 *Historic Battlefields*

Pollard, T 2009 *Culloden: The History and Archaeology of the Last Clan Battle* Pen & Sword Books Limited

Roberts, N A, Brown, J W, Hammett, B and Kingston, PDF 2008 *A detailed Study of the Effectiveness and Capabilities of 18th Century Musketry on the Battlefield* in Journal of Conflict Archaeology, Vol 4: 1-21



Plate 11 Find No. 28 – copper alloy buckle

Appendix 1 List of Metal-detector Finds

Find No.	Material	Description	Approx. Date	Initials	Date
1	Iron / Cu alloy?	Machine part - unknown type	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
2	Iron	Iron bolt or fitting	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
3	Iron	1 x iron nail	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
4	Iron	3 x fragments of iron spherule?	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
5	Iron	Iron fragment	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
6	Iron	Small iron horseshoe - 10cm long by 10cm wide	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
7	Iron	Iron object	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
8	Iron	1 x iron nail	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
9	Iron	1 x iron nail ?	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
10	Iron	Iron object	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
11	Iron	1 x large iron nail / rivet	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
12	Iron	Iron object, possible ard point	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
13	Iron	1 x iron fragment (nail?)	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
14	Iron	1 x iron nail	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
15	Iron	1 x iron nail	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
16	Iron	1 x iron nail	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
17	Iron	2 x amorphous iron concretions	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
18	Iron	1 x iron nail	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
19	Cu alloy	1 Cu alloy button, 34mm diameter, <1mm thick; no writing or patterning discernible	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
20	Iron	1 x iron fragment	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
21	Iron	1 x piece of iron wire	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
22	Iron	1 x large iron eye bolt, threaded at one end	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
23	Iron	Possible iron fastening or mechanism	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
24	Iron	1 x iron lump, possible iron block from unknown object	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
25	Metal	Non-ferrous metal strip, car trim?	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
26	Metal	1 x fragment of metal trim and 1 x metal bar/fitting	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
27	Iron	Small perforated iron object, 20mm diameter	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013

CUL13 – Culloden Footpath Metal-detector Survey

Find No.	Material	Description	Approx. Date	Initials	Date
28	Cu alloy	Buckle, 48mm long by 40mm wide, 1mm thick	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
29	Iron	Cylindrical iron object	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
30	Iron	Iron object, possible farm machinery attachment	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
31	Cu alloy	Button with design on front and 'Currie' marking on the inside; 20mm diameter, 2mm thick	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
32	Lead or pewter	Fragment of a lead/pewter fragment, shows signs of deformation through heat	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
33	Iron	1 x small iron nail	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
34	Non-ferrous	Small lipstick container, 50mm long by 13mm diameter	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
35	Aluminium	Aluminium tube, splayed at both ends	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
36	Iron	1 x fragment of iron wire or nail	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013
37	Steel	Steel washer, 36mm diameter, 17mm diameter perforation and 3mm thick	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
38	Iron	1 x square-headed iron screw	Modern	SB	08/02/2013
39	Iron	1 x small iron rivet or nail head	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
40	Iron	1 x fragment iron wire or nail	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
41	Iron	2 x fragments of small iron nail fastenings found with degraded cloth fragments - upholstery material?	Post Medieval	SB	08/02/2013
42	Iron	2 x iron chain links of unknown date	Unknown	SB	08/02/2013

Appendix 2 Findspot Locations

Find No.	Easting	Northing	Elevation
1	272780.5736	844706.3937	146.1397
2	272767.3531	844694.2363	146.2675
3	272751.8981	844690.1659	145.9795
4	272747.1706	844688.7083	145.9915
5	272739.2532	844687.9057	145.9274
6	272735.9282	844688.7340	145.8993
7	272735.9830	844684.4046	145.9584
8	272733.3342	844682.2726	145.9430
9	272728.7029	844682.4082	145.8948
10	272730.4077	844677.2854	146.1493
11	272728.5610	844676.2463	146.1995
12	272726.7411	844674.7780	146.1870
13	272723.5747	844679.5899	145.9164
14	272723.5397	844680.9730	145.8538
15	272718.7700	844679.4689	145.7763
16	272717.5807	844676.5479	145.8717
17	272719.0130	844675.9598	145.8936
18	272716.1771	844670.3828	146.0781
19	272713.0569	844671.6789	145.9375
20	272712.6912	844674.8261	145.7245
21	272709.5706	844676.4994	145.5360
22	272705.0540	844676.9788	145.4313
23	272709.2337	844669.3566	145.9308
24	272708.1068	844669.0946	145.8865
25	272702.1756	844668.6628	145.6143
26	272701.6047	844668.4290	145.6086
27	272692.9362	844669.7234	145.2297
28	272690.9380	844667.5912	145.1656
29	272678.3292	844666.0690	145.0236
30	272673.5507	844665.1590	145.1204
31	272674.1543	844662.5956	145.2076
32	272674.5560	844660.1066	145.2645
33	272675.2141	844657.0109	145.2985
34	272673.8056	844657.2885	145.3365
35	272668.1637	844662.3035	145.2269
36	272667.1174	844660.9347	145.2330
37	272669.0526	844658.7500	145.3195
38	272669.2928	844654.5854	145.3675
39	272667.8415	844653.1093	145.3239
40	272667.1375	844653.1471	145.3278
41	272665.1563	844655.9936	145.2646
42	272663.9837	844658.9197	145.1509

Appendix 3 List of Photographs

No.	Direction Facing	Finds No.	Notes	Taken By	Date
1	NNE-NE-E	-	General shot of the site	LF	08/02/2013
2	E	-	Path as constructed prior to the site attendance	LF	08/02/2013
3	W	-	Path as constructed prior to the site attendance	LF	08/02/2013
4	W	-	Working shot	LF	08/02/2013
5	-	6	Small iron horseshoe - 10cm long by 10cm wide	MKP	19/03/2013
6	-	7	Small unknown iron object	MKP	19/03/2013
7	-	11	Large iron nail or rivet, Post Medieval? in date	MKP	19/03/2013
8	-	19	1 Cu alloy button, 34mm diameter, <1mm thick; no writing or patterning discernible	MKP	19/03/2013
9	-	19	1 Cu alloy button, 34mm diameter, <1mm thick; no writing or patterning discernible	MKP	19/03/2013
10	-	20	Small unknown iron object	MKP	19/03/2013
11	-	23	Possible iron fastening or mechanism	MKP	19/03/2013
12	-	23	Possible iron fastening or mechanism	MKP	19/03/2013
13	-	23	Possible iron fastening or mechanism	MKP	19/03/2013
14	-	27	Small perforated iron object, 20mm diameter	MKP	19/03/2013
15	-	27	Small perforated iron object, 20mm diameter	MKP	19/03/2013
16	-	28	Cu alloy buckle, 48mm long by 40mm wide, 1mm thick	MKP	19/03/2013
17	-	28	Cu alloy buckle, 48mm long by 40mm wide, 1mm thick	MKP	19/03/2013
18	-	31	Button with design on front; 20mm diameter, 2mm thick	MKP	19/03/2013
19	-	31	Button with 'Currie' marking on the inside; 20mm diameter, 2mm thick	MKP	19/03/2013
20	-	32	Fragment of a lead/pewter fragment, shows signs of deformation through heat	MKP	19/03/2013
21	-	32	Fragment of a lead/pewter fragment, shows signs of deformation through heat	MKP	19/03/2013
22	-	34	Small lipstick container, non-ferrous, 50mm long by 13mm diameter	MKP	19/03/2013
23	-	30	Large iron object, possible farm machinery attachment	MKP	19/03/2013
24	-	30	Large iron object, possible farm machinery attachment	MKP	19/03/2013
25	-	-	Informal photographs of finds during cataloguing	MKP	19/03/2013
26	-	-	Informal photographs of finds during cataloguing	MKP	19/03/2013
27	-	-	Informal photographs of finds during cataloguing	MKP	19/03/2013
28	-	-	Informal photographs of finds during cataloguing	MKP	19/03/2013