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 DATA STRUCTURE REPORT

Hunting Hogbacks 2012

Excavations, Test-pitting and Auger Survey at Dalserf,
 South Lanarkshire, and Luss, Argyll & Bute

Northlight Heritage

Studio 406 | South Block | 64 Osborne St | Glasgow | G1 5QH

web: www.northlight-heritage.co.uk | tel: 0845 901 1142

email: northlight@yorkat.co.uk

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Dalserf NGR: NS 7998 5071

Luss NGR: NS 3610 9280

Data Structure Report

Produced by Northlight Heritage as part of the York Archaeological Trust's Discovery Programme

Cover Plate: Clockwise from top left; the team at the Luss hogback, Dalserf hogback and volunteers, volunteers excavating a test pit at Dalserf.

Report by: Alastair Becket Contributions by: Elizabeth Pierce & Sharon Carson

Illustrations by: Ingrid Shearer Project Management: Gavin MacGregor Director: Alastair Becket

Project Supervisor: Elizabeth Pierce Soil Specialist: Sharon Carson

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Approved by: G. MacGregor

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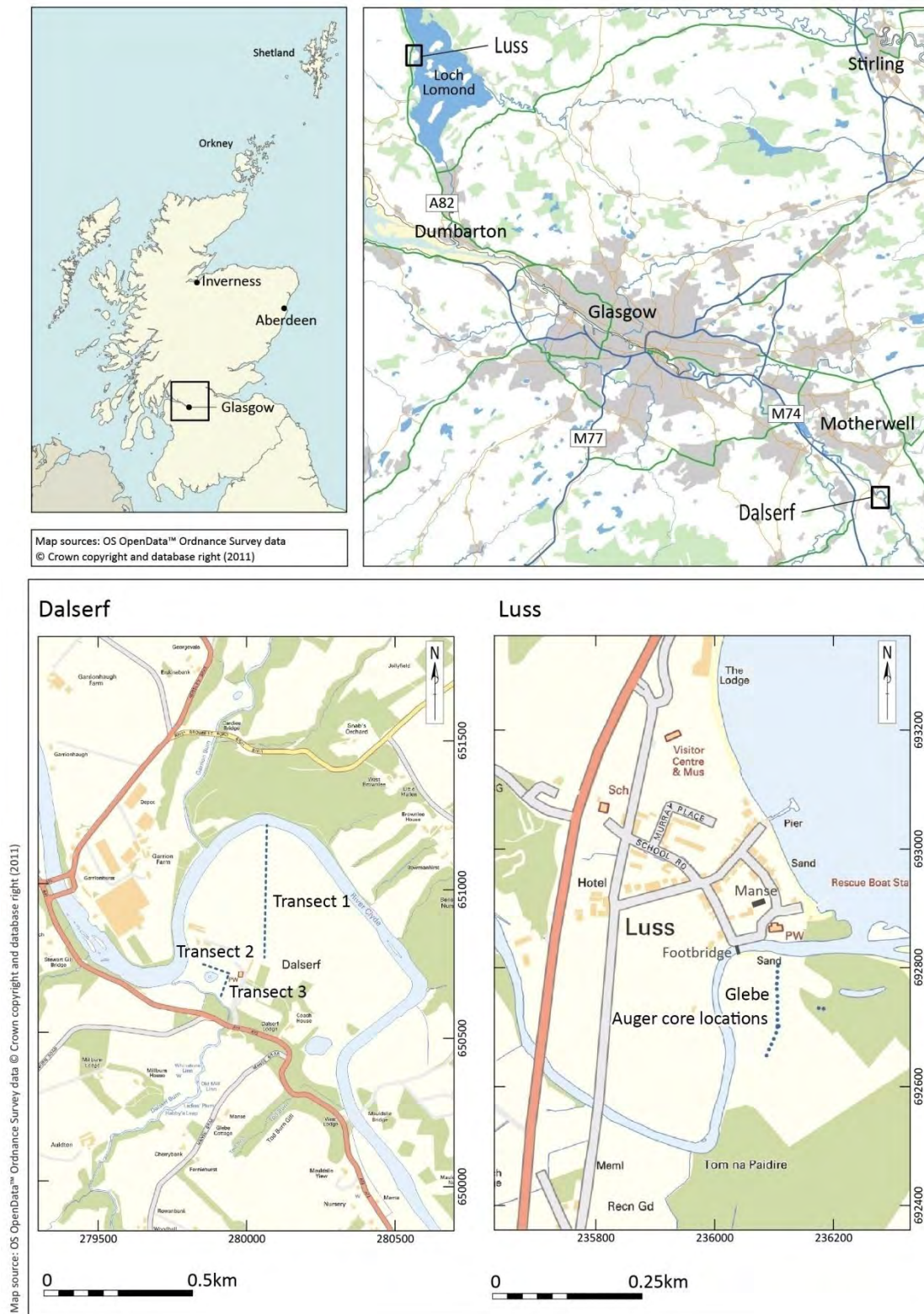


Figure 1: Site Locations

Abstract

Northlight Heritage undertook small-scale excavations at Luss, Argyll & Bute, and at Dalserf, South Lanarkshire, during September 2012. Excavation work was augmented by an auger survey conducted at Luss and a test-pit survey at Dalserf. The project, entitled 'Hunting Hogbacks' was designed to investigate the environs of both villages and provide some archaeological context for the hogback stones.

Evidence of the post-medieval use of fields surrounding Dalserf as was recovered, although there was a surprising lack of finds relating to the medieval or earlier periods. At Luss we recovered green-glazed pottery of possible medieval/post-medieval date from both the manse garden and the glebe, and a trench excavated in the back garden of the manse contained the remains of a shallow ditch, probably relating to post-medieval cultivation of the garden.

1. Introduction

1.1

This Data Structure Report (DSR) presents and orders the results of archaeological excavations, a test-pit survey and an auger survey around the villages of Luss and Dalserf. The project work was undertaken by volunteers under the supervision of archaeologists from Northlight Heritage during September 2012 and was funded through the York Archaeological Trust's Discovery programme.

Project Background

1.2

The work conducted in September 2012 represents the pilot phase of a project to investigate the archaeological and social contexts of hogback stones in order to uncover new evidence for Viking settlement, society and religious practice during the tenth century in Scotland. As there are hogback stones located in the churchyards of both villages, small-scale investigation at Dalserf and Luss was conducted to establish their potential for further archaeological evidence relating to hogback stones.

2. Location, Geology and Topography

2.1

The villages of Dalserf and Luss share many similarities despite being located 61 km apart. The two villages are estate-owned and have prominent church buildings, both of which have hogback stones in the churchyards. Both would appear to have relationships with early Saints (St. Serf at Dalserf and St. Kessog at Luss), and may have been the sites of early chapels.

Dalserf

2.2

Dalserf is located at c. 35 m AOD, on a meander of the river Clyde in South Lanarkshire, at NS 7998 5071 (figure 1). The village is surrounded by relatively flat low-lying fields which are variously farmed for crop and, in the case of the fields investigated during the project, used for grazing cattle. An exception to this are some fields on the western side of the village which have been used in recent years as a rare-breed farm/tourist attraction, part of which involved the landscaping of an area to make a miniature golf course, which was never completed. The village and surrounding fields are owned by Dalserf Estates, although Dalserf House, located to the east of the village, was demolished in 1963 (RCAHMS, Canmore, NS85SW 61). The church, reputedly built in 1655 (RCAHMS, Canmore, NS75SE 13), lies at the heart of the village and the Hogback stone is located in the churchyard on the south east side of the building.

Luss

2.3

Luss is located on the banks of Loch Lomond in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, at c. 10 m AOD and NS 3600 9280 (figure 1). Much of the village and surrounding land is owned by Luss Estates, although the church, manse and glebe, where the excavation work occurred, are all owned by the Church of Scotland. The glebe is a low lying area of rough pasture located to the south of the higher ground of the church and manse, bounded to the west and north by the river Luss and by wooded areas to the east and south. The glebe is accessed from the north via a footbridge, beneath which the remains of paving for a fording point are still visible (plate 1). Local people confirmed that parts of the glebe are regularly flooded.



Plate 1: Fording point on the Luss (taken from the current footbridge, May 2012)

3. Archaeological and Historical Context

By Dr. Elizabeth Pierce

'...for here in a single stone lies the key to the whole history of the parish of Dalserf.'

– Waddell 1922, 21

3.1

Hogbacks are large recumbent stones dated to the Viking Period. Despite their Viking links, they are only found in the British Isles (figure 2 shows a general distribution after Lang 1972-4). Although it is difficult to date and create a typology for hogbacks, they appear to have originated in Anglo-Scandinavian Yorkshire sometime in the 10th century (Lang 1972-4, 206; 1984, 95; Ritchie 1999, 16). The name 'hogback', first used in the 19th century (Ritchie 2004, 6), refers to the rounded shape of some of the stones which resembles the curved back of a pig. The decoration on the hogbacks varies: many have 'end beasts', representations of animals clawing on to each end of the monument. Some also include incised decoration in the shape of crosses, arches or knots. Several hogback stones, such as those from Dalserf and Govan, feature rows of scalloped carving which resemble roof shingles. Scholars have suggested that some of these hogbacks represent the sloping roofs of Viking Age long-houses (Bailey 1980, 86-91), which can be seen in the modern reconstruction of a Viking house from Fyrkat, Denmark. This form might have been inspired by the house-shaped shrines (*ibid*, 92-7), such as the Monymusk Reliquary in the National Museum of Scotland, used to hold the relics of early Christian saints in Britain and Ireland in the Early Middle Ages. There are also scholars who disagree with this interpretation, instead simply calling them 'houses of the dead' (Crawford 2005, 2-7).

3.3

Hogbacks hold great interest for scholars because so little is actually known about them. They are thought to date to the 10th-11th centuries based on art styles and geographic distribution (Bailey 1980, 91-2). Their distribution is clustered into two main areas: Scotland and northern England (figure 2). There are no hogbacks on the Isle of Man despite the dense Viking settlement there, and there is only one hogback each in Ireland and Wales (*ibid*, 91). In England, the stones are mostly found in Yorkshire and Cumbria (*ibid*), and it is possible that the Dalserf stone and others found in southern Scotland are also part of this same regional system. The Scottish examples tend to cluster into two areas: the Lowlands and Orkney/Shetland, with only a few examples seen in the east of Scotland north of the Forth. Their absence from the Highlands might represent an absence of Scandinavian social influences in Pictland and later Alba.

3.4

It is unclear what the stones are meant to represent. None of them display an inscription, runic or otherwise. While the stones are usually found in or around churches, it is not known whether this was their original context or they were moved there from another place in the surrounding landscape. Although they are often called grave markers (See, for example, Ritchie 1999 and 2004), there has never been a proven correlation between the two (Bailey 1980, 99-100). They tend to be found near waterways, especially in Scotland; perhaps these large stones were memorials or marked territorial boundaries or land ownership in areas where the Vikings were in a minority.

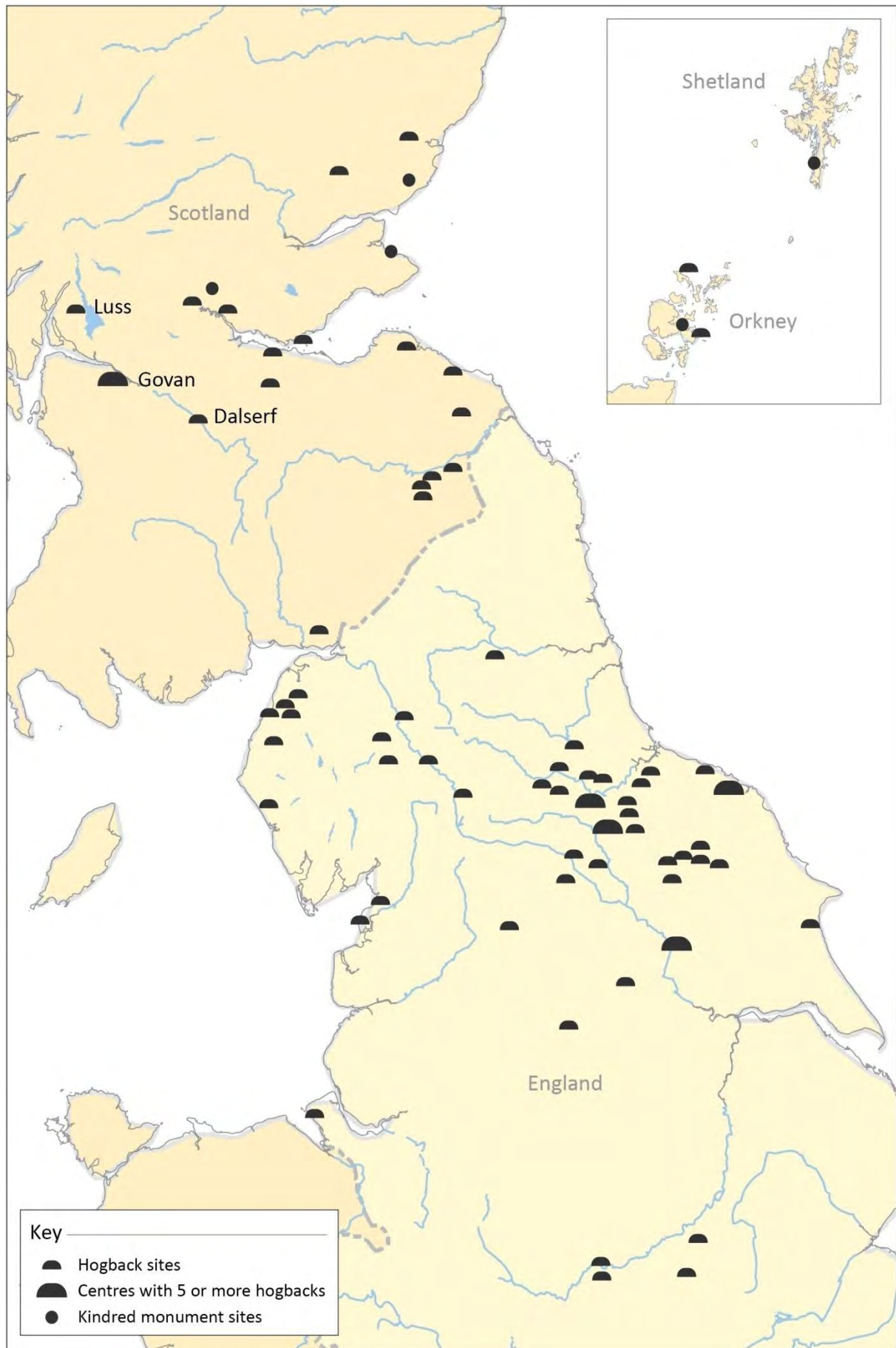


Figure 2: Hogback locations in Scotland (after Lang 1974)

Vikings in the Clyde Valley (figure 3)

3.5

The Dalserf hogback was found south of the church by grave digger John Ritchie around 1897 (Waddell 1921-22, 19-20). It is the only pre-Reformation stone in the churchyard. This lack of early stone-work, unlike the situation in Govan, suggests that the hogback was not originally located in the churchyard but might have been brought here from another place in the landscape. Several hundred years ago, the road that passes through the village and curves around behind the church down to the River Clyde was the main road between Glasgow and Edinburgh; one of the major fording points along the Clyde was down at the river side where the boat house of Dalserf still stands. Given the traffic that must have passed across and along the Clyde at that time, it is possible that the hogback was originally located near the ford in a prominent place in the landscape. Its visibility might have marked territory or perhaps even displayed the wealth of a local inhabitant of Norse origin.

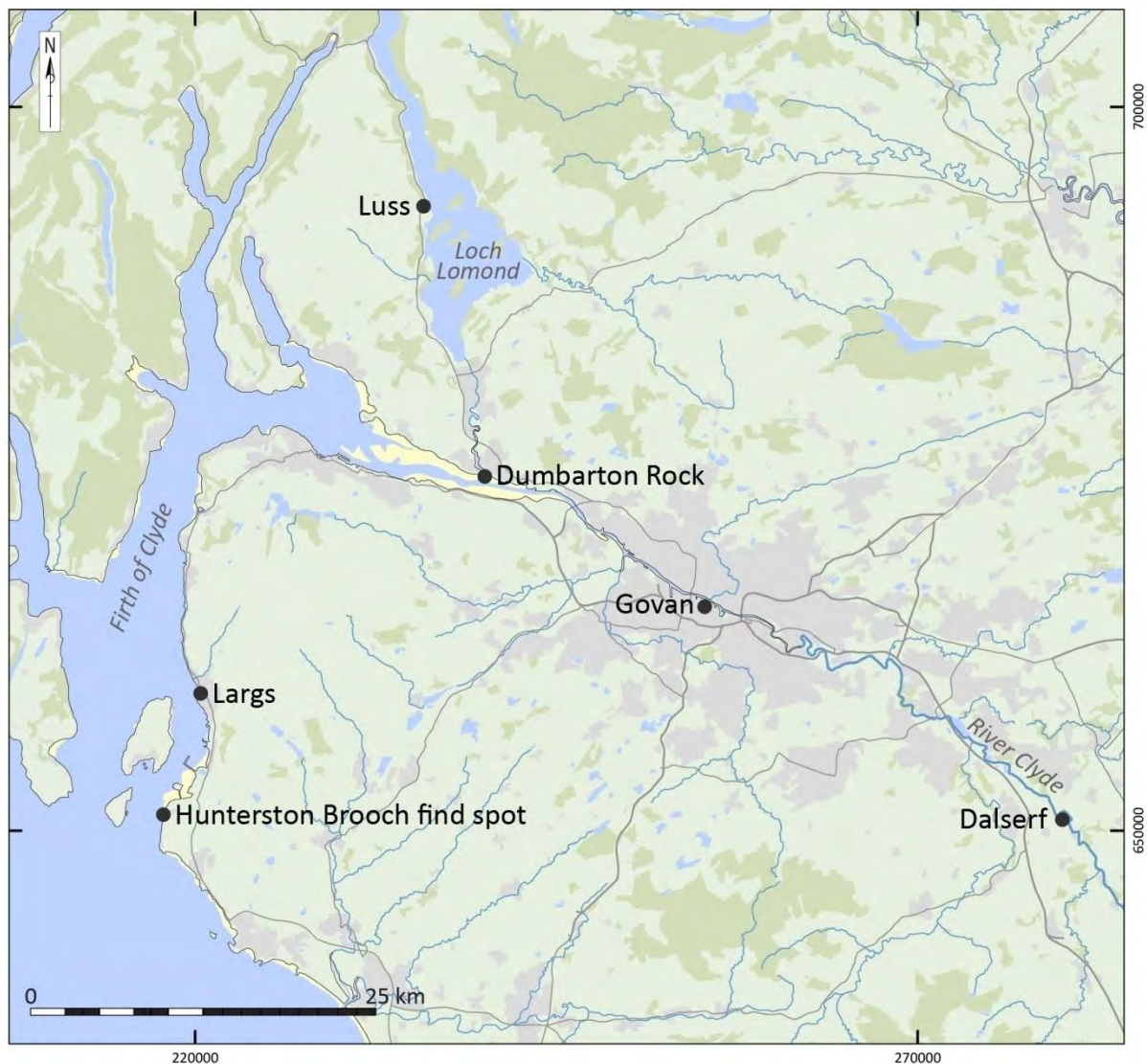


Figure 3: The broader Firth of Clyde area

3.6

Unlike the other areas in Britain, where the distribution of hogbacks reflects known Viking settlement, archaeological evidence for Vikings in the Clyde Valley and lowlands of Scotland is scanty despite some of the most important events in the history of Scandinavian Scotland taking place in the region. Written sources mention the occasional presence of Vikings in the area, such as their four-month siege on Dumbarton Rock in

the 870s by Viking kings of Dublin recorded in the *Annals of Ulster*, apparently ending the control of the Strathclyde Britons over the River Clyde and allowing the Vikings access. In addition, the defeat of the Vikings by the Scots at Largs in 1263 brought to an end Norwegian control over large areas of territory in Scotland. The Treaty of Perth, signed in 1266, ceded the Western Isles and Isle of Man to the Scottish king and ended Scandinavian influence in the region.

3.7

There are a few Norse place-names in South Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and Ayrshire. Although the concentration is tiny when compared to other parts of Scotland, this may be due in part to the lack of place-name study in the region. Busby, for example, is a likely Norse place-name. We need to use caution when ascribing Old Norse names to Scandinavian settlement since the names might have arrived a couple of centuries later with the formation of Anglo-Norman estates in Scotland, but it does seem that in Ayrshire, at least, Norse names were coined during small-scale Scandinavian settlement (Grant 2005, 136-7). On a more local level, there is little documentation of the ford and the surrounding land at Dalserf before the late 1500s. It is possible that the Viking traders were using the ford as part of an overland route or travelled upriver in boats as a shortcut between the Viking trading centres of York and Dublin. Merchants may have travelled, using portages, along the Clyde-Forth or Clyde-Tweed (via the Biggar Gap) in order to avoid sailing around the whole of Scotland to reach the east coast of England (Crawford 2005, 17; Buchanan 2012, 212-17).

3.8

Despite the presence of the Vikings in the written sources, archaeological evidence for the Vikings in the Clyde Valley is sparse. No settlements that can be identified as Viking or Norse have been found in southern Scotland. The five hogback stones at Govan, plus another three mentioned in 19th-century written sources in Partick but since lost (Ritchie 1999, 16), signal an area of strong Scandinavian patronage despite the lack of settlement evidence. The hogback at Dalserf is along the same watercourse, and more examples may still lie buried in churchyards.

3.9

The few Viking finds from the region are stray finds that have been recorded over the past couple of hundred years. At Dumbarton Rock, the scene of the Viking siege, the only finds that have been attributed to the Vikings from medieval levels are a sword pommel and lead weights, one of which has a piece of blue glass pressed into the top (Alcock & Alcock 1990, 113). A hoard of silver arm-rings and coins, of which the coins are now lost, was found in the late 17th century at Port Glasgow near the mouth of the Clyde (Graham-Campbell and Batey 1998, 102). In 2008, a sword pommel was found at Abington, Biggar (Buchanan 2012, 211).

3.10

Perhaps the most impressive find from the broader Clyde area is the Hunterston brooch. This large silver brooch of Irish style is a stunning piece of detailed work with gold Anglo-Saxon style filigree and amber settings. It was produced c. AD 700, probably at the Dalriada stronghold of Dunadd (Campbell and Lane 1993, 54, 61-2). Some 200 years later, it somehow came into the hands of someone with Scandinavian connections before it was deposited along the banks of the Clyde. Carved in runes on the back of the brooch is the statement, 'Melbrigda owns [this] brooch', as well as meaningless runes which may have been intended to keep anyone else from claiming the brooch as their own (Graham-Campbell & Batey 1998, 43). It is also noteworthy that despite the use of Norse runes on the brooch, Melbrigda is a Celtic name (*ibid*). The multifaceted story of the Hunterston brooch illustrates the amount of movement, contact and artistic influence among the various groups living in Britain and Ireland in the Early Middle Ages. There is no doubt that it would have been a high-status item for

whoever owned it. The fact that it was in Norse or Hiberno-Norse (Irish-Scandinavian) hands late in its life shows that those of Viking descent who did come to the Clyde Valley to settle or trade did find prosperity there.

3.11

There is further evidence for a Viking presence in Scotland south and west of the Clyde Valley. The Norse settled and began a craft production centre at Whithorn (Owen 1999, 50-1), perhaps the source of some of the trade goods being transported across the interior of southern Scotland. The Talnotrie hoard from Kirkcudbrightshire contained coins from England, France and the Middle East, plus spindle whorls, jewellery, a weight and raw materials was interpreted as the hoard of a Northumbrian metalworker who had Norse contacts when he buried the hoard in the late 9th century (Graham-Campbell & Batey 1998, 109). There is even a purported Viking burial from St Cuthbert's church in the same area represented by a partial sword, bead and ringed-pin, as well as a silver arm-band from Blackerne with its ends missing (*ibid*, 108-9). Once in the Firth of Clyde, the evidence for a Viking presence increases, with burials, settlements, hoards and stray finds of coins, scales and other goods spreading throughout the Western Isles, the Solway Firth, Isle of Man and Ireland.

3.12

Evidence for a Viking presence in the Clyde Valley is sparse, but there is enough through place-names, stray finds and hogbacks to suggest that there were Vikings or their descendants who lived and moved through the area. No Viking settlements have been found, but the presence of place-names, which would not have survived without repeated use, and hogbacks, which would have taken a large investment of time and money, is evidence that Scandinavians spent time in the region. Many of the stray finds from southern Scotland seem to suggest that the Vikings were present, for the most part, for trade. Even at Dumbarton Rock, a scene of violence between the Vikings and Britons, the lead weights imply that Vikings were in the region for trade. The defeat of the Britons at Dumbarton would have given the Vikings free movement along the Clyde, allowing them to travel northward via Loch Long and Loch Lomond or eastward to the Tweed or the Forth to conduct business. Although pieces of swords have been found at Dumbarton Rock and Abington it was not uncommon for merchants to carry weapons; a man's burial at Kiloran Bay, Colonsay, for example, contained coins, a set of scales and lead weights in addition to the typical Viking weaponry of a sword, shield and axe (*ibid*, 118-22).

3.13

The Vikings were always in the minority in southern Scotland. They had neither the cultural dominance of the Norse in northern Scotland, nor were they at the centre of the Danelaw in England or the commerce of the Irish Sea. Due to this lack of numbers, it is unlikely that they ever tried to dominate the landscape of southern Scotland. However, it is clear that at least some people of Scandinavian descent found prosperity in the area through trade which allowed them to commission such things as the hogbacks. Although the numbers of Scandinavians in southern Scotland were probably never large, they nevertheless made a mark in the landscape.

Luss and Loch Lomond (figure 4)

3.14

The hogback that is located just outside Luss Parish Church sits firmly in the midst of a range of evidence for a Scandinavian presence in the area from the ninth to the 13th century. The top of the hogback stone from Luss is more rounded than the example from Dalserf. On this basis, Lang dates the Luss stone to the 11th century, a slightly earlier period than the Dalserf stone (1972-74, 220). Lang suggests that the architectural decoration on the sides of the Luss hogback may be a later addition, but he still assigns the Scottish hogbacks a date to a period after the decline of the hogback in England (*ibid.* 218, 220).

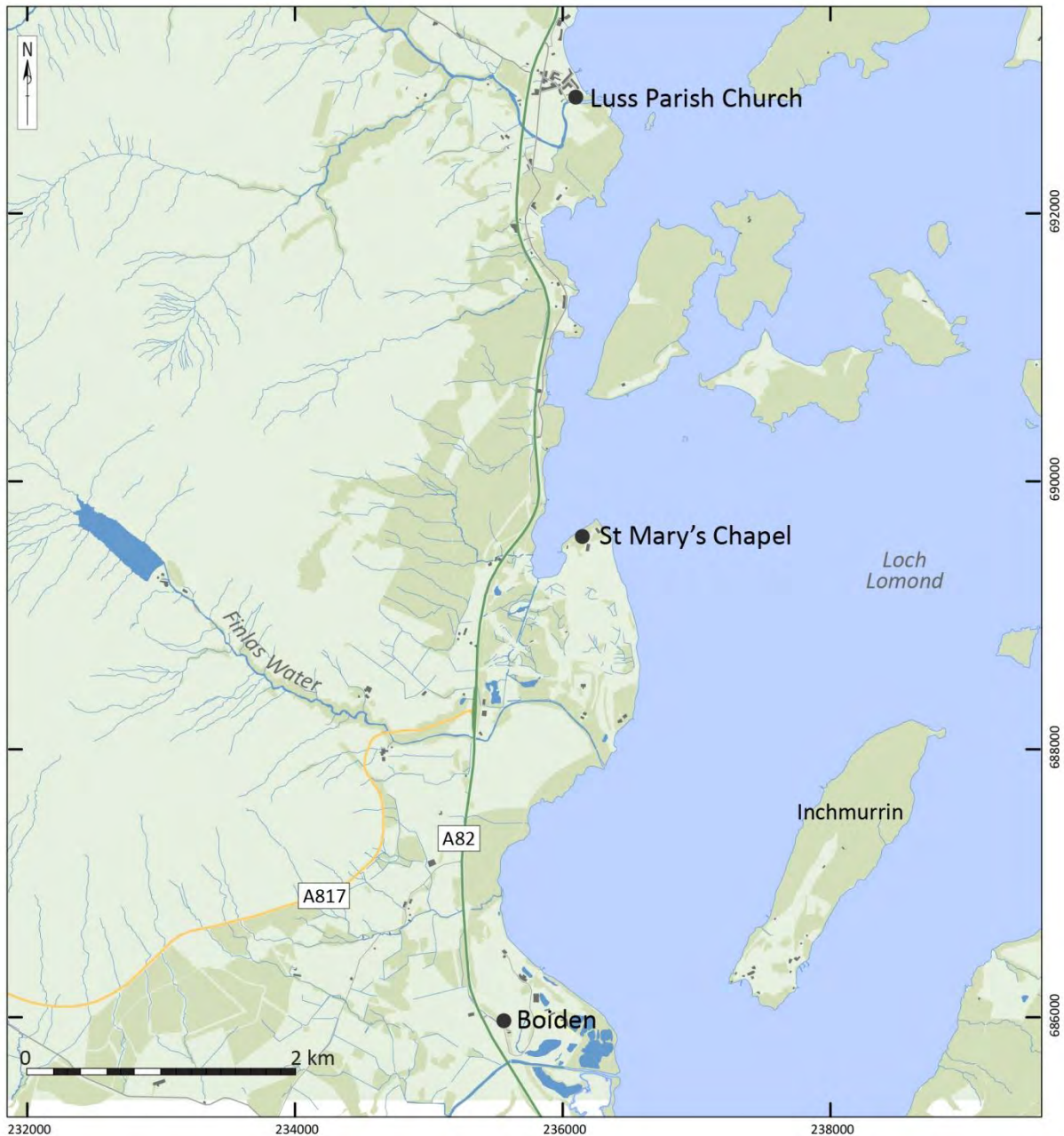


Figure 4: Western Loch Lomond

3.15

The area around Luss would have been a suitable meeting and trading place for people from throughout central and western Scotland. Boats could sail from the River Clyde to Loch Lomond via the River Leven or reach the loch via a portage at Tarbet from Loch Long, as the Norwegian king Hakon's forces did in 1263 (see below). Loch Lomond also sits at the southern end of one of the few routes into the Highlands through Glen Falloch. After the fall of the Strathclyde stronghold at Dumbarton Rock there was no obvious centralised control over the region, perhaps opening up central and western Scotland to more movement and commerce.

3.16

Along with trading opportunities, the newly opened routes into central Scotland also may have given the Vikings other forms of access to the kingdoms of Early Medieval Scotland. The *Annals of Ulster* record that Dublin Viking kings Olaf and Ivar left Scotland in the year following their sacking of Dumbarton Rock, taking with them 200 ships filled with 'a great prey' of Britons, Angles and Picts (*AU* 871.2).

3.17

A Viking burial uncovered near the shores of Loch Lomond in 1851 may possibly be related to these slave raids in the interior of Scotland in the 870s (Graham-Campbell and Batey 1998, 99). The grave was unearthed near the Lower Bridge of Froom, which crossed Fruin Water just south of Midross. It was found in a mound called Boiden, where a large cairn was said to have stood originally (Stewart 1851-54, 144). The burial appeared to be that of a man, containing a purposely bent Viking sword, a spear and a shield boss which showed damage from battle (*ibid.* 144-45; Anderson 1872-74, 569). The burial appears to date to the ninth century based on artefact comparisons (Batey forthcoming, 4-5).

3.18

The most significant evidence for the Vikings along Loch Lomond, however, is at the Carrick (effectively the area around Boiden on figure 4). Excavations by Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division at The Carrick in 2005 ahead of the construction of a golf course found a ditched enclosure at the site that most closely resembles ecclesiastical enclosures from Scottish sites, yet the enclosure at Carrick lacks any sort of church or stone sculpture typical to those sites (MacGregor et al. forthcoming).

3.19

Six of the late ninth or early tenth century burials found at the site show evidence of grave goods, including a Norwegian whetstone, knife blades and a slot-headed tool (*ibid.* 2-6). Additionally, a shield boss was recovered from the upper fill of the enclosure ditch (*ibid.* 5-6). The presence of grave goods is interesting – although these objects do not necessarily show Scandinavian identity, grave goods tend to be found only in pagan Norse graves rather than Christian burials. One of the finds, a shale bracelet from grave 0510270 seems to have been made for a child although no remains were recovered (Batey forthcoming, 7). If children and women, as represented by shale and lignite jewellery, are represented in the cemetery then it is likely that there was a nearby settlement that included people of Scandinavian descent.

3.20

Why, then, is there a hogback stone in the churchyard at Luss? Although Luss has a long history of Christianity, it is possible that the hogback was originally situated elsewhere in the area. The local minister recounts that in 1874 all of the stones in the churchyard were moved to one side as improvements were carried out, then replaced in no particular order. The hogback stone reportedly was placed near one of the gates into the churchyard so that visitors would not have to wander far to find it.

3.21

The church is situated near where the Glen Luss Water empties into Loch Lomond. Paving for a fording point is still visible next to the modern bridge that connects the village of Luss with the glebe field. Like Dalserf, it is possible that the hogback stone may have been prominently displayed along one main land and sailing routes into the north and west of Scotland. Another option is that the hogback may originally have been situated at St Mary's Chapel, which was reportedly founded in 1107 and lies south of Luss on the grounds of Rossdhu House (RCAHMS, Canmore, NS38NE 1). Regardless, the hogback is evidence that there was Norse wealth and influence in the region. The person who commissioned the stone likely would not have placed it in Argyll without some sort of vested interest in the area.

3.22

About two centuries later, Scandinavians were still active in the region. *Hakon's Saga* records:

'...king Hakon sent forty ships up Loch Long. There they found Magnus, king of Man, and king Dugald; Alan, [Dugald's] brother; Angus; and Murchaid. And when they came into the firth, they took their boats, and drew them up to a large lake, which is called Loch Lomond. Out across the lake lay a county that is called Lennox. There are also very many islands in that lake, and well-inhabited. The Norwegians wasted these islands with fire. They burned also all the dwellings all around the lake, and did there the greatest damage' (Anderson 1990, 625)

Although the sagas cannot be relied upon to be historically accurate, there is likely some truth in the account. The portage route between Tarbet and Arrochar was likely in use over a long period of time, and there was significant settlement around the loch. Although we lack much archaeological evidence, between the ninth and 13th centuries the area around Loch Lomond must have seen Norse raiding, trading and perhaps settlement. The appearance of a hogback in the region, then, is not surprising. There is likely to be more evidence for Viking/Norse activity in central and western Scotland simply waiting to be found.



Plate 2: Excavating in trench 1, Luss

4. Summary Objectives

The project objectives were:

- to identify the location, nature and extent of any hitherto unrecorded features, deposits or objects of archaeological significance through non-invasive survey;
- to investigate the glebe land at Luss through auger survey transects;
- to investigate fields surrounding the church at Dalserf through test-pit survey;
- to evaluate selected areas, identified through site inspection, test-pit and auger survey, with targeted trial-trenches;
- To ensure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording were met.

5. Methodology

5.1

The pilot phase of the project focused on two sites in Scotland where hogback stones have been found and which have reasonable scope for investigating their contexts. The project compared and contrasted the results of a variety of project elements (which included; assessment of written, auger survey, test-pit survey and small-scale excavation) from each to explore some key inter-related themes:

- Why have these locations, in churchyards, been chosen as a location for the stones?
- Do the sites reflect broader Scandinavian influence?
- What do we understand about the broader locations of these sites, particularly with regard to the 10th and 11th centuries?

5.2

Rapid desk-based assessment was conducted to establish the history of land use, what is known of the stones and any evidence for Viking or other early medieval activity in the area (see section 3 above). Test-pit survey, auger survey and small-scale excavation were variously employed at each site to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, artefacts or structural remains which might relate to, or be contemporary with, the hogback stones.

6. Results

Dalserf (figure 5)

6.1

Two trenches were opened at Dalserf. Trench 1 (T1) was located on the high point of a low rise in a field to the south west of the church. Trench 2 (T2) was located to the north of the church, at the southern end of a large field. Small test-pits were also excavated in transects across both these areas.

6.2

T1 measured 4 x 2.5 m, but contained no significant archaeological features or deposits. The topsoil was consistent across the trench and covered natural deposits of clay sand and gravel. The subsoil appeared to be glacially deposited. Various artefacts, all of which were of relatively modern date, were recovered from the topsoil including: fragments of modern ceramics, glass and small fragments of slate.

6.3

T2 measured 4 x 2 m and contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits. Topsoil in this area was 0.3 m deep and quite sandy in composition, reflective of the underlying subsoil which comprised just over 1 m of fairly clean orange brown sand which lay over a deposit of sand and gravel. A piece of a clay pipe was recovered from the topsoil along with a fragment of modern bottle glass. Below the topsoil an interface deposit (005) between the topsoil and subsoil contained four sherds of green glazed pottery, of probable post-medieval date amongst further modern artefacts.

6.4

A total of 54 test-pits were dug across both areas in three main transects (figure 4) with a few outlying pits. The three transects highlighted differences in subsoil composition across the study area, broadly revealing that the clay subsoil was most prevalent in the western field (Transects 2 & 3), while subsoil in the northern field comprised sand and gravel. Deposits generally appeared to have been glacially deposited, although the depth of sand identified within the northern field (Transect 1) may relate to gradual alleviation over an extended time period.



Plate 3: Excavating and recording test-pits at Dalserf

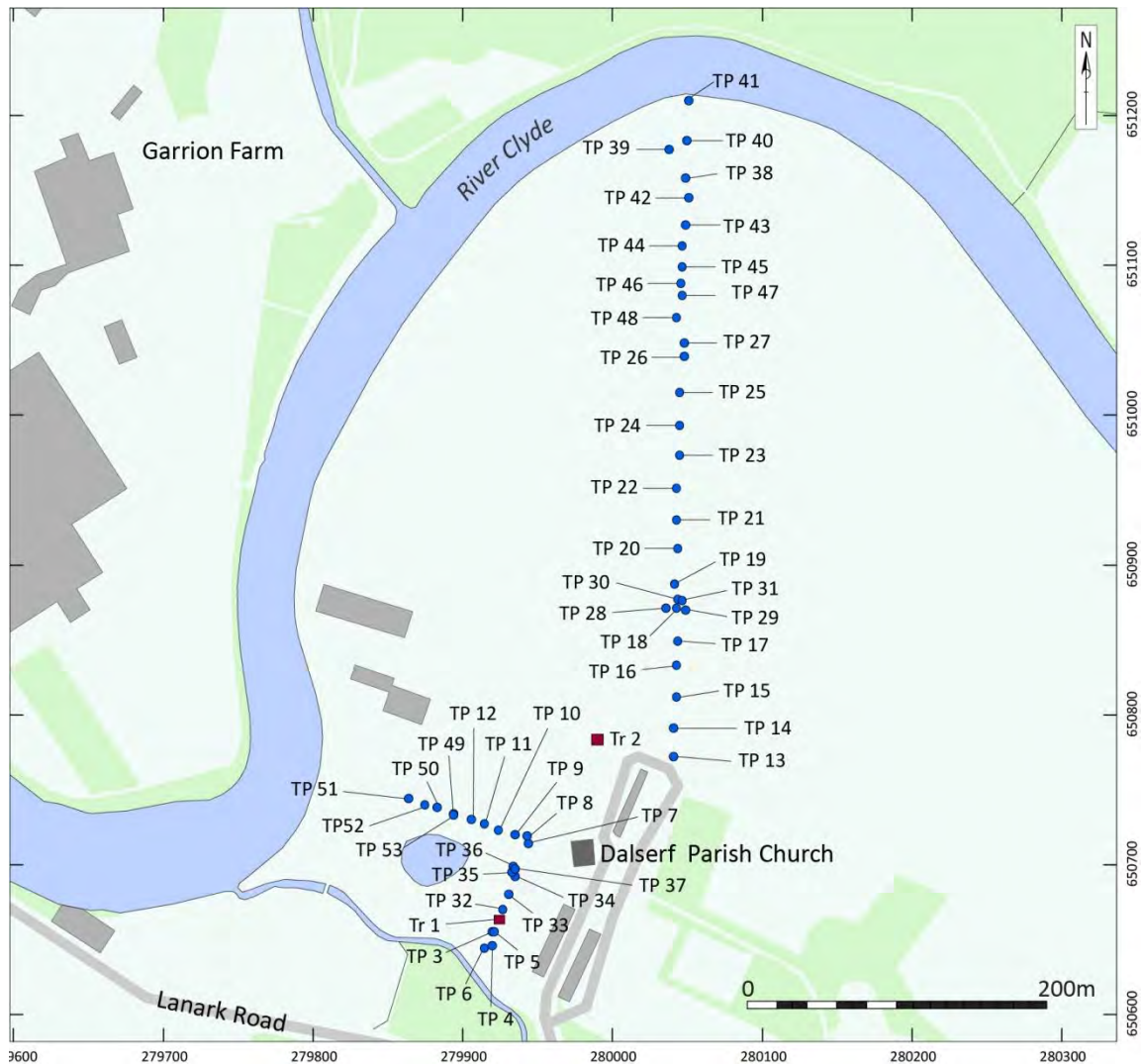


Figure 5: Trench and test-pit locations, Dalsersf

Luss (figure 6)

6.5

Three trenches were excavated at Luss, two within the grounds of the manse and one within the glebe. The first trench (T1 – measuring 4 x 2.5 m) was located to the rear (north side) of the manse to investigate some unusual ridges and depressions in the lawn. The topsoil within T1 comprised of dark grey-brown clay silt, and contained a range of artefacts, including ceramic, glass and metal, all of relatively modern date. Beneath the topsoil a deposit of mixed rubble (010) was encountered at the southern end of the trench. This deposit appeared to fall within a broadly rectangular depression in the lawn of the manse garden, lying broadly parallel to the manse itself. The deposit contained pieces of broken brick and large slabs of slate, suggesting that the material represents a demolition deposit. Also within this material was a large amount of finds including one piece of green-glazed pottery, a bone spoon and fragments of porcelain and glass.

6.6

Beneath the demolition deposit (010) was a mix of topsoil and subsoil (003), perhaps as a result of cultivation of the Manse garden and bioturbation over the years. This deposit had been heavily disturbed by animal burrows but did contain several artefacts including; a sherd of green-glazed pottery with possible incised patterning, sherds of green glass and fragments of white porcelain.

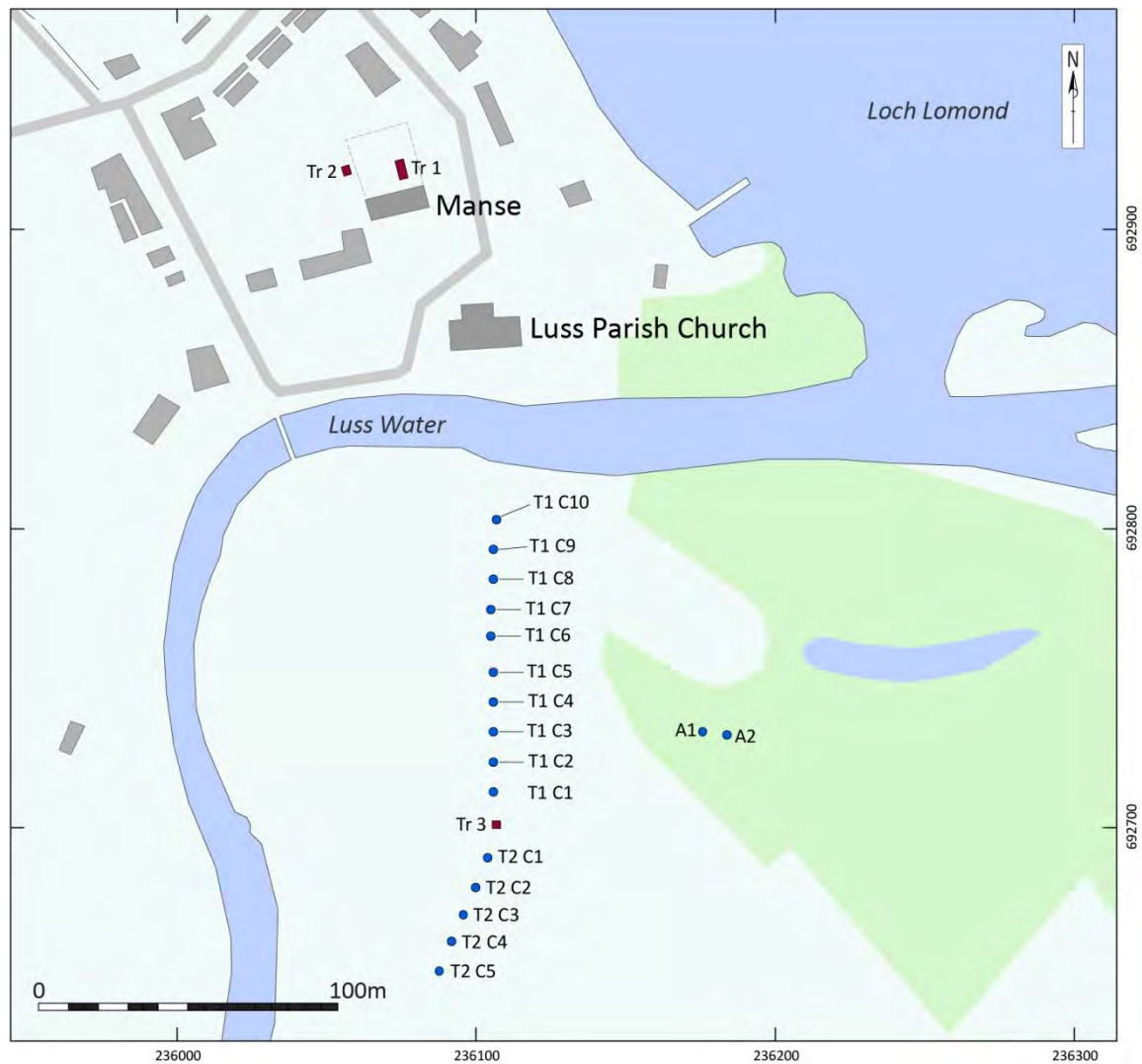


Figure 6: Trench and auger transect Locations, Luss

6.7

Sealed beneath deposit (003) was a shallow ditch [009] which ran E-W, broadly parallel to the north face of the manse. This ditch was 1.2 m wide and up to 0.25 m deep (the full length of the ditch remains unknown) and had been filled with a deposit of sandy silt (004) perhaps representing a gradual 'silting-up' of the feature over time. The ditch fill (004) was sterile, containing no artefacts or other anthropogenic material, but had been bioturbated by animal burrows. The ditch had been cut into natural clay subsoil (005).

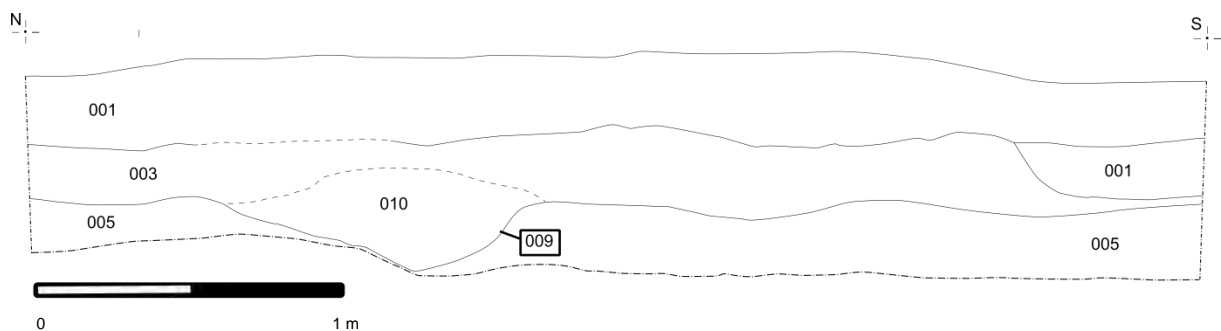


Figure 7: West-facing section of T1, Luss

6.8

To the west of T1 a second trench (T2 – measuring 2 x 2 m) was excavated on the other side of a wire fence, but still within the grounds of the manse. Deposits (001 & 008) encountered within this trench proved to be deep but of modern date, containing ceramics, glass and metal artefacts. Due to the depth of deposit (008) (>0.5 m) it proved impractical to continue with this trench.

6.9

A third trench (T3 – measuring 3 x 2 m) was located within the glebe land to the south of the church. The trench was positioned on a visibly dryer and higher part in the centre of what is a fairly flat piece of ground. Beneath the topsoil a modern sheep burial [007] was encountered which had been cut into a deposit of sandy silt (006) which may be an alluvial deposit. Four sherds of green-glazed pottery including a rim-sherd were recovered from this deposit along with fragments of more modern white porcelain, bottle glass and pieces metal. The sandy silt (006) lay on top of the natural subsoil (002) which comprised sand and gravel.



Plate 4: Luss Primary pupils visit the excavations at trench 3

Coring Transects

By Sharon Carson

6.10

Transect 1 was directed in a NE alignment from the corner of trench 3 in the general direction of the church, and ten cores were taken at 10 m intervals. Transect 2 was directed in a SE alignment from the corner of trench 3, and five cores were taken at 10 m intervals each. Coring was undertaken using a push type hand gouge auger, 30 mm in diameter and 1 m long. The auger was pushed into the ground until the maximum extent of

soil/deposit was reached, pulled up and individual units recorded. Deposit descriptions and classifications conform to McMillan & Powell (1999), and soil texture was determined by finger texturing to determine the percentages of clay, sand and silt within the deposit, loosely following Avery (1973).

Transect 1 (Cores marked T1 Cxx on figure 6)

6.11

Cores 1 and 2 contained black flecks of a material described in the field as charcoal. No mottling was recorded in deposits within the slightly higher ground where cores 1, 2 and 3 were extracted, suggesting that this is a dryer area within the glebe and may not have experienced intermittent waterlogging or flooding. Core 3 at 30 m reached a depth of 0.12 m and could not be pushed any further into the soil. This may be due to the close proximity of the path through the glebe area. The sides of the path were raised and the path was slightly higher than the surrounding ground, suggesting a harder more dense material has been deposited here to support the feature, which may possibly be stones. The lowest deposit in core 8 included an orange band of mottling at 0.34 m. This was not found in any of the other cores and may be due to a solid feature lower in the profile causing the deposit to be impermeable to water and mottling to occur. Cores 9 and 10 included a substantial amount of sub rounded stones further down the profile in the light green grey deposits. This is probably due to the closer proximity to the river and part of the river gravel deposits. Core 10 at 100 m consisted of a strongly mottled very dense and compact green/grey clayey material. The degree of mottling may be due to the deposit being substantially waterlogged. A very compact and clayey deposit will not be free draining and water would not pass through easily which would cause the characteristic iron mottles.

Transect 2 (Cores marked T2 Cxx on figure 6)

6.12

The lower units of lighter grey clayey silts in cores 2, 3 and 4 included a significant degree of mottling. The deposits consist of the same deposits were probably originated from the same depositional process and have undergone the same post depositional process of waterlogging and gleying. Core 5 in transect 2 was missing a large part of the core sequence. This is possibly due to bioturbation and animal burrowing as other small burrows were noted in the section face of the excavation trench. It should be assumed that there may have been some degree of mixing of the soils and deposits, and components may have been moved through the soil profile. No obvious topsoil was recorded in core 3 and has possibly been truncated. The top unit of the core consisted of turf and roots immediately above a clayey silt sub soil. The majority of the cores in transect 2 contained a substantial amount of stones described as small sub rounded – sub angular small platy slate pebbles, which occurred further down in the profile usually in the greyer deposits.

Additional Cores (marked as Ax on figure 6)

6.13

Cores A1 and A2 both included coarse sand with a substantial amount of stone inclusions. Core 1 was located on the higher slightly drier ground and core 2 was located within the lower wetter area which appeared to be part of a channel leading to the loch. As the methodology was only carried out on an investigative basis within this area, further coring may have been able to establish whether the depressions were natural or a man made feature.

7. Discussion

Dalserf

7.1

The results of the excavation and evaluation work at Dalserf showed a surprising lack of evidence for pre-modern activity. There are a number of possible reasons for this; due to the placing of trenches and trial-pits we may have missed evidence, modern farming and landscaping of the investigated areas may have destroyed any evidence of earlier activity, or perhaps there was limited activity in this area in the medieval or earlier periods.

7.2

Whilst it might be tempting to use the lack of evidence of medieval or earlier activity in the study area as an indicator that this area was not extensively used in this period, it is important to consider that the way in which the land was used may have been different. Nevertheless, the lack of evidence for early historic and/or medieval activity does raise some further questions about the context of the hogback in the Dalserf graveyard. For example, it is quite plausible that the hogback has been moved to the grounds of the current Dalserf Church from another location. That questions remain about the presence of an earlier church on the site is interesting. Perhaps earlier incarnations of the church existed in a different location.

7.3

The location of the study area in relation to the river is also worthy of consideration. The depth of sandy deposits noted across the northern field might suggest that archaeological deposits have been buried beneath alluvium. This area is known to flood and centuries of flooding may have brought large amounts of sand and silt into the area.



Plate 5: Some of the plucky volunteers at Dalserf

Luss

7.4

The excavations at Luss identified artefacts and deposits of potential medieval and earlier date. Although no deposits or features can be clearly identified as being of pre-modern date, the presence of green-glazed pottery in trenches 1 and 3 indicates medieval or post-medieval activity in the garden of the manse and in the glebe. The proliferation of animal burrows in both these trenches may account for the inclusion of more recent artefacts within the deposits that also contained earlier pottery. The demolition deposit (010) identified within T1 and the associated depression noted on the manse lawn seems most likely to correspond to a fairly recent demolition of a small porch on the northern side of the manse.

7.5

The ditch feature identified within the back garden of the manse (T1) is also of interest. Although no clear dating evidence was recovered from the fill of this feature, the orientation of the feature (parallel to the existing manse) suggests that it may be a garden feature, although whether this relates to the current manse or an earlier structure remains unclear. Samples recovered from the ditch fill may contain indicators of date or function for the feature, although the fill appeared to be fairly sterile.

7.6

Deposits identified within the glebe (T3) contained a mixture of artefactual material which we interpreted in the field as being considered consistent with midden deposits used to fertilise the field. This material may therefore have been imported from elsewhere, and should not be considered as direct evidence of occupation of the glebe in earlier periods. Indications of alluvial material (006), the result of intermittent flooding of the glebe, within this trench is consistent with the results of the coring transects (see below).

Coring Discussion

7.7

The majority of the cores exhibited a similar profile of loamy brown topsoil, silty orange brown soil and grey clayey deposits with varying degrees of mottling. Grey silty clay-type deposits occurred in the bottom section of the cores, becoming deeper in those closer to the river. Although the grey colour is probably derived from the natural colour of the superficial geology, some evidence of gleying was recorded. Gley soils are those in which the profile morphology reflects periodic waterlogging. Gley morphology develops where pore spaces are filled by water containing dissolved organic substances which results in the reduction and solution of iron compounds and causes red patches or mottles to develop (Curtis, Courtney & Trudgill 1976). Mottling was observed in the grey deposits, but not to a significant degree. This would suggest the deposits had undergone intermittent waterlogging rather than being permanently wet (Burnham 1980), consistent with an area which is occasionally flooded.

7.8

Possible charcoal fragments were found in some of the deposits in the cores close to trench 3. It should be noted that some black inclusions were interpreted in the field as charcoal due to certain characteristics, but could possibly have been degraded coal, as coal was also found in some of the cores. No evidence of anthropogenic input or activity was found within the deposits in the cores, with the exception of the possible truncation of the uppermost deposits in transect 2, core 3, where no topsoil was observed. Animal and earthworm burrows were also observed, suggesting that the soils have undergone substantial post deposition re-working. This was particularly obvious in the cores that included deposits with a diffuse gradual boundary, suggesting a substantial degree of bioturbation resulting in homogenisation of the deposits.

Summary

7.9

The results of the Hunting Hogbacks pilot phase provide some interesting contrasts between Dalserf and Luss in terms of the archaeological evidence recovered, or indeed not recovered, from the excavation trenches, trial pits and auger survey. Whilst it is dangerous to make assumptions based on a lack of evidence, in the case of Dalserf it seems that there is a case to be made for further study into the history of land-use of the low-lying area around the church and village. The possibility of earlier sites for the church would also be an interesting theme to explore, particularly if we hope to understand more about the history of the hogback stone.

7.10

At Luss we recovered artefacts and identified a feature that may relate to late-medieval and/or post-medieval activity, whilst at Dalserf the deposits and artefacts encountered were all of likely post-medieval date. Neither location produced direct evidence for the 10th-11th C. period in which the hogback stones are thought to have been carved. So the concept that the stones may not have always been located in churchyards and may have been brought to their current locations from elsewhere (see Pierce above), still holds potential, although further fieldwork may help to develop this theory.

7.11

The relationships of both study areas to water is particularly interesting, as both the glebe at Luss and the fields at Dalserf show signs of intermittent flooding over the years (and according to local volunteers, in both cases the flooding still occurs). Further consideration of the relationship between these hogback locations and water courses, and particularly fording/ferrying points, may also be worthwhile, although it may be the relationship between church and water that is the more important one.

8. Recommendations

8.1

There are some tantalising glimpses of medieval and earlier activity at Luss, particularly the carved stonework in the church and churchyard whilst at Dalserf we have no direct evidence of earlier activity, other than the hogback itself, although this lack of evidence may be circumstantial (see above). A further phase of the project, utilising alternate strategies to identify evidence for Viking, Medieval and other early historic activity, is therefore desirable.

8.2

There are a number of ways that the project could be expanded to further our understanding of the enigmatic hogbacks and their surroundings. As the sample area covered within this pilot-phase at both Luss and Dalserf was small, further field investigation is recommended. New targets for investigation may be identified through historical and map-based study (see below), although a number of potential areas for further investigation can be identified by virtue of the work undertaken thus far.

8.3

At Dalserf there are a number of potential targets for further fieldwork. Fields to the northeast of the church were under crop during the initial fieldwork and it is suggested that as these fields are regularly ploughed, a fieldwalking programme might be employed to recover artefacts and identify areas of greater potential for the opening of further trenches. The possibility of an earlier church on the site of the current one remains and it may be possible to investigate this through limited excavation within the churchyard. Of particular interest in this regard is a small 'lip' at the base of the wall on the north-eastern side of the building. This may relate to an earlier foundation, set on a slightly different alignment, but utilised during the construction of the current church. A small excavation may help to confirm this possibility.

8.4

Further exploring the context of the hogback stone at Luss presents some interesting problems. Whilst there are some areas within the village that have potential for further fieldwork, it is the site of the church itself that seems to present the greatest opportunities to understand that context. Whilst excavation within churchyards is somewhat undesirable, with the possibility of inadvertently disturbing human remains, there are other non-invasive techniques that might be employed. Geophysics, for example, could be used to identify earlier foundations, buried stones and may shed light on the possible vellum identified during watching brief in the early 2000's (Baker, 2002). Such non-invasive survey may allow targeted excavation to follow with the aim of obtaining dating evidence for the early incarnations of the church.

8.5

We have also highlighted above some shared features of Dalserf and Luss, particularly in relation to water, of which further investigation may prove fruitful. A historical map-based approach, coupled with some historical research, may give further insights into the origins of the fording points for example. At Dalserf, where the potential for former locations for the church are less well understood than at Luss, similar map and historical source study may provide some insight. In both these cases members of the local communities could be aided with access to source material and expertise to undertake this study.

8.6

Other ways in which people might contribute to future phases of the project might be to undertake some research into broader Viking activity in their local area. It would be interesting, for example, to collate and consider local knowledge of any chance finds, stories, place-names or other references to the Vikings. It would also be desirable to bring people's enthusiasm and ideas from both Luss and Dalserf together in collaboration to share knowledge and experience and to create bonds between two communities which have a lot in common. This could be achieved through visits or perhaps a single event.

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Online Resources

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 17.10.2012)

APPENDIX 1: tables / concordances

Table 1: Dalserf, Context Information

Context No.	Type	Compaction / Texture / Condition	Colour	Composition	Interpretation	Stratigraphy and/or phasing info
001	Topsoil	Firm	Mid-brown with occasional splotches of orange	Silty clay	Topsoil. Ploughed in the past. 0.29m thick in T1.	
002	Subsoil	Moderate	Orange-brown	Sandy gravel	Glacially deposited subsoil.	
003	Deposit	Moderate	Orange-brown	Silty sand	Stony and gravelly deposit in SW corner of T1.	Under (004)
004	Deposit	Moderate	Orange-grey	Silt clay	Probable glacially deposited material in pocket over (003).	Over (003). Under (001).
005	Deposit	Firm	Dark grey-brown	Loam	Sub-topsoil ploughsoil.	Under (001), over (006).
006	Deposit	Loose	Dark orange-brown	Silty sand with patches of clay	Possible alluvial deposit - may be glacially deposited.	Under (005), over (007).
007	Deposit	Loose	Orange-brown	Sand with patches of clay	Possible alluvial deposit - may be glacially deposited.	Under (006), over (002).

Table 2: Dalserf, Test-Pit Data

Test-pit		Topsoil		Intermediate 1		Intermediate 2		Subsoil
No.	Depth (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Description
3	0.57	0.20	Firm mid-brown sandy clay	0.20	Loose orange-brown sand	0.10	Loose light-brown sand	Loose orange sand
4	0.40	0.30	Very firm mid-brown clay	\	\	\	\	Very firm orange-brown sand with cobbles and gravel
5	0.42	0.15	Firm brown clay	0.21	Moderate light-brown clay sand	\	\	Loose orange sand
6	0.48	0.35	Firm dark-brown clay	\	Mid-brown pebbles an gravel	\	\	\
7	0.60	0.10	Moderate-loose mid-grey-brown clay and sand	0.40	Loose mid grey-brown loam - midden below church wall?	\	Moderate mid-orange brown clay sand with frequent small stones and gravel.	\

<i>Test-pit</i>		<i>Topsoil</i>		<i>Intermediate 1</i>		<i>Intermediate 2</i>		<i>Subsoil</i>
No.	Depth (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Description
8	0.49	0.26	Firm Mid-brown clay	0.12	Firm brown-orange clay	0.11	Moderate mid-brown sandy clay - then water-table!	\
9	0.43	0.27	Firm brown clay	0.17	Moderate orange-brown clay	\	\	\
10	0.52	\	moderately compacted brown clay; hit water table	\				
11	0.40	0.35	moderately compacted mid-grey sandy clay	\	\	\	\	moderate orange-grey sandy clay with frequent small stones and gravel; hit water table
12	0.50	0.40	moderate mid-grey sandy clay	\	\	\	\	moderate orange-grey sandy clay and gravel
13	0.53	0.29	hard medium brown silty clay	\	\	\	\	moderate orange-brown sand
14	0.44	0.32	loose mid-grey brown loam	\	\	\	\	moderate to loose mid-orange brown sandy clay with some flecks of shale
15	0.53	0.30	loose grey brown loam	0.23	moderate light orange brown sandy clay with some small pebbles	\	\	moderate light orange brown sandy clay with frequent small to medium pebbles
16	0.48	0.29	moderate medium brown loam	\	\	\	\	loose orange -brown sandy clay
17	0.52	0.27	loose grey brown loam	\	\	\	\	moderate orange brown sandy clay
18	0.42	0.29	moderate medium brown loam with bits of shale and a few pebbles	\	\	\	\	medium light orange & brown sandy clay with small bits of shale
19	0.62	0.30	loose grey brown loam	\	\	\	\	moderate orange brown sandy clay
20	0.39	0.29	moderate medium brown loam	\	\	\	\	moderate orange brown silty sand

<i>Test-pit</i>		<i>Topsoil</i>		<i>Intermediate 1</i>		<i>Intermediate 2</i>		<i>Subsoil</i>
No.	Depth (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Description
21	0.58	0.30	loose grey brown loam	\	\	\	\	moderate light brown sand with patches of clay
22	0.55	0.20	moderate medium brown loam	\	\	\	\	moderate orange brown silty sand
23	0.45	0.30	moderate to loose grey brown loam with a few small stones	\	\	\	\	loose orange brown silty sand
24	0.60	0.28	loose grey brown loam	\	\	\	\	moderate orange brown sandy clay
25	0.45	0.30	Moderate grey-brown loam.	\	\	\	\	moderate to loose light orange brown silty sand
26	0.60	0.25	firm medium brown loam	\	\	\	\	very firm orange-brown silty sand
27	0.55	0.40	firm grey brown loam with frequent small stones	\	\	\	\	moderate orange-brown sand
28	0.41	0.32	Loose grey-brown loam	\	\	\	\	moderate orange-brown silty sand
29	0.50	0.24	moderate medium brown (soil type not mentioned)	\	\	\	\	moderate orange-brown (soil type not mentioned)
30	0.56	0.32	Moderate grey-brown loam.	\	\	\	\	moderate orange-brown sandy clay
31	0.58	0.44	firm grey-brown loam with occasional gravel	\	\	\	\	moderate orange-brown sandy clay
32	0.50	0.20	loose to moderate medium brown loam with frequent small stones	0.16	very loose orange-brown loam and gravel	\	\	very loose orange sandy gravel
33	0.38	0.16	loose to moderate medium brown loam with noticeable clay	\	\	\	\	very loose orange sandy gravel
34	0.50	\	loose medium brown loam with large rubble -- close to churchyard wall	\	\	\	\	\

<i>Test-pit</i>		<i>Topsoil</i>		<i>Intermediate 1</i>		<i>Intermediate 2</i>		<i>Subsoil</i>
No.	Depth (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Description
35	0.57	\	moderate grey-brown silty clay with a few small stones --near churchyard wall	\	\	\	\	\
36	0.44	0.40	Loose grey-brown loam	\	\	\	\	moderate grey-brown (soil type not mentioned)
37	0.44	\	loose grey-brown loam with few stones -- close to churchyard wall	\	\	\	\	\
38	0.61	0.30	loose to moderate medium brown loam	\	\	\	\	loose to moderate dark orange/brown sand
39	0.69	0.30	Moderate grey-brown loam.	\	\	\	\	loose light orange-brown sand
40	0.61	0.35	Moderate-loose grey-brown loam	\	\	\	\	Moderate-loose red-brown sand
41	0.52	0.52	Mid-red brown sand with clay bands/lenses. Alluvial.	\	\	\	\	Not reached
42	0.61	0.30	Loose mid-brown loam	\	\	\	\	Moderate-loose orange brown sand
43	0.53	0.20	Moderate-loose dark brown loam	\	\	\	\	Loose orange-brown sand
44	0.60	0.25	Moderate grey-brown loam.	\	\	\	\	Moderate Mid orange-brown sand
45	0.52	0.28	Moderate grey-brown loam.	\	\	\	\	Moderate orange-brown silty sand
46	0.47	0.28	Loose grey-brown loam	\	\	\	\	Moderate light brown silty sand
47	0.52	0.33	Moderate-loose brown loam	\	\	\	\	Loose red brown sand
48	0.47	0.38	Firm dark brown loam with flecks of coal	\	\	\	\	Loose red brown sand
49	0.50	0.50	Moderate-loose grey-brown silty clay. Trench abandoned due to cast iron water pipe at base (as T53)	\	\	\	\	\

<i>Test-pit</i>		<i>Topsoil</i>		<i>Intermediate 1</i>		<i>Intermediate 2</i>		<i>Subsoil</i>
No.	Depth (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Thickness (m)	Description	Description
50	0.53	0.32	Moderate grey-brown loam.	\	\	\	\	Loose light grey-brown sandy silt
51	0.50	0.49	Loose-moderate grey brown silty clay.	\	\	\	\	Moderate-firm mid-orange brown sandy clay
52	0.45	0.21	Very firm mid grey-brown clay and gravel	0.19	Loose dark grey-brown silty clay with flecks of coal	\	\	Firm orange brown clay
53	0.4	0.4	Moderate-loose grey-brown silty clay. Trench abandoned due to cast iron water pipe at base (as T49)	\	\	\	\	\
54	0.74	0.36	Moderate-loose grey-brown loam	\	\	\	\	Moderate-loose orange brown sand

Table 3: Luss, Contexts

Context No.	Type	Compaction / Texture / Condition	Colour	Composition	Interpretation	Stratigraphy and/or phasing info
001	Topsoil	Moderate	Dark grey brown	Clay silt	Topsoil. Pretty consistent across the three trenches, slightly looser in T3 on the Glebe, perhaps due to ploughing.	
002	Subsoil	Moderate-loose	Light orange brown	Sandy gravel	Natural subsoil in T3.	
003	Deposit	Moderate	Mid-brown with orange splotches	Sandy silt	Appears to be a mix of topsoil and subsoil, perhaps as a result of cultivation of the Manse garden and bioturbation over the years. Lots of burrows throughout.	Below (001), over (004).
004	Fill	Moderate	Mid-brown	Sandy silt with patches of clay	Fill of a shallow ditch or cultivation furrow [009].	In cut [009].
005	Subsoil	Loose	Orange at N end of sondage, Yellow white at S end	Clay silt	Natural subsoil in T1.	Truncated by [009].
006	Deposit	Moderate	Light orange brown	Sandy silt	Sand and silt deposit under the topsoil in the Glebe. Naturally deposited, probably glacial in opinion of Sharon Carson (soil specialist).	Truncated by [007]. Over (002).
007	Cut	\	\	\	Rectangular cut, partially exposed within T3 which under excavation proved to be a relatively recent (probably late 20th C.) sheep burial.	Under (001), Over (002).
008	Deposit	Moderate	Mid grey-brown	Sandy clay	Landscaping/levelling deposit used in T2 part of garden to raise level.	Under (001), Over (002).
009	Cut	\	\	\	Linear feature, possibly a ditch, running E/W across sondage within T1.	Filled by (004), truncates (005).
010	Deposit	Moderate	Dark brown	Sandy silt	Deposit is primarily rubble (including large slabs of slate, brick fragments (no stamps), glass, bits of a broken drain pipe). Looks like rubble spread following demolition of porch at rear of manse?	Over (003), under (001).

Table 4: Drawings

<i>Drawing No.</i>	<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	1	010, 003, 005	Mid-ex plan of T1 (Luss)	1:20
2	2	006, 013	W-facing section of T1 (Luss)	1:10

Table 5: Luss, Finds

Context	Trench No	Details
001	Tr.1	
Ceramic		38 sherds white glazed, 5 sherds eggshell blue, 20 willow type, 3 cream glazed, 1 ceramic/glass button, 1 red/white glazed, 1 thick brown service pipe, 1 brown glazed rim (modern), 1 brown glazed sherd, 2 sherds orange fabric pot
Glass		10 sherds green (bottle), 2 sherd clear glass, 5 sherds clear window, 1 blue/green window glass
Metal		11 objects heavily degraded, 5 iron nails, 1 metal button, 1 copper alloy eye fastener with partial thread, fragment of lead ring
Ind./slag		pig iron/slag
Other		1 slice of thin copper ore coloured stone (unknown), 1 slate with iron staining/mica rich, 1 plastic button object funnel shaped, Slate fragments with nail hole
003	Tr.1	
Ceramic		10 sherds white glazed, 3 sherds eggshell blue willow type, 1 mustard coloured glaze/orange fabric poss. Medieval? , 1 sherd green glazed reduced ware with evidence of incised patterning
Glass		3 sherds green
Metal		1 object highly degraded
010	Tr.1	
Ceramic		4 sherds, modern: tan-dark brown, egg shell blue, white, 1 clay pipe fragment, 10 sherds white glazed with blue pattern, 1 dark blue glazed, 6 small brown glazed and 1 green glazed reduced ware, 3 sherd orange pot.
Glass		1 small sherd clear window glass, 1 sherd green glass
Bone		Bone spoon, 1 mammal rib
Metal		10 iron nails, 1 metal fragment possibly brass with pierced design (dog headed shape)
Ind./slag		12 fragments possible pig iron/slag
Other		fragment of mortar with slate inclusions, large possible pipe fragment concrete?
001	Tr.2	
Ceramic		8 sherds willow type, 6 white with blue floral pattern, 1 brown/black striped, 1 pink/white floral, 1 white glazed rim, 1 opaque pink, 2 blue green glazed (modern) white bottle top with thread insert and number 19451
Pottery		5 orange pot
Glass		10 sherds green (bottle) including neck, 3 sherds clear glass, 3 sherds blue/green window glass
Ind./slag		1 lump slag type material

Context	Trench No	Details
008	Tr.2	
Ceramic		7 sherds white glazed, one with blue leaf print & 1 sherd willow type & 1 small rimsherd glazed brown (modern)
Glass		2 fragments, green (neck and body) 10mm thickness
001	Tr.3	
Ceramic		1 sherd white glazed, 4 white glazed, 1 sherd green glazed reduced ware with orange fabric
Glass		1 sherd black bottle
Metal		2 objects highly oxidised, 1 nail, 1 shotgun cartridge fragment
Ind./slag		possible ceramic slag
006	Tr.3	
Ceramic		4 sherds green glazed reduced ware including rim, 1 white glazed, 3 ceramic pipe, 2 sherds willow type
Ind./slag		1 fragment slag type material
Metal		1 object, heavily oxidised

Table 6: Dalserf, Finds

Context	Trench	
001	Tr.1	
Ceramic		2 cream glazed, 4 white sherds glazed with blue design (not willow), 1 brown glazed electrical conductor, 1 sherd orange pot
Glass		1 sherd green (bottle), 4 clear window sherds, 2 blue/green sherds (bottle)
Metal		2 objects badly corroded
Other		3 fragment slate
001	Tr.2	
Ceramic		1 clay pipe fragment, 1 blue/green sherd glazed, 1 white glazed sherd
Glass		1 sherd green glass (bottle)
Metal		1 object badly corroded
005	Tr.2	
Ceramic		1 clay pipe fragment, 6 white glazed sherds with blue pattern, 1 grey sherd, 4 green glazed reduced ware including rim, 1 orange sherd
Glass		4 sherds blue/green (bottle), 2 sherds clear window, 2 sherds green (bottle), 1 sherd matt blue/green patterned
Metal		1 object badly corroded
Ind./slag		1 fragment possible slag, blue grey patina
001	Tr.3	
Ceramic		1 sherd white glazed
Other		1 slate fragment, 1 grey flint sherd
001	Tr.4	
Glass		1 sherd green glass
Other		1 UPVC fragment
001	Tr.7	
Pottery		2 sherds orange with brown glaze (large) 120mm, 4 white sherds glazed
001	Tr.8	
Ceramic		4 white sherds glazed including rim, 2 brown glazed sherds
Pottery		1 orange sherd,
Glass		2 sherds clear (bottle)
001	Tr.10	
Ceramic		1 brown glazed sherd, 1 white glazed sherd, 1 ceramic possible drain part of sink
Glass		1 sherd clear glass (bottle), 1 green glass (bottle)
001	Tr.11	

Context	Trench	
Ceramic		3 white glazed sherds
Glass		1 sherd clear window
001	Tr.12	
Metal		1 object badly corroded
001	Tr.18	
Ceramic		1 clay pipe fragment, 1 brown/cream sherd glazed
001	Tr.25	
Ind./slag		1 object possible slag
001	Tr.32	
Other		1 fragment grey slate
001	Tr.34	
Ceramic		3 white glazed sherds including cup or jug handle
Pottery		1 orange sherd with bright green glaze
Glass		2 clear window sherds, 2 green sherds (bottle)
Other		1 slate fragment
001	Tr.35	
Ceramic		1 sherd brown dimpled glazed
Glass		1 sherd green, 1 sherd clear window
Bone		1 cow tooth
Other		1 fragment marine shell
001	Tr.36	
Ceramic		3 sherds white ceramic glazed
Glass		6 sherds clear window
001	Tr.37	
Ceramic		1 sherd white with pink flowers, 1 brown glazed sherd
Glass		1 sherd clear window, 1 sherd black glass (bottle), 1 sherd green glass (bottle)
Other		1 fragment grey slate
001	Tr.39	
Glass		2 sherds window and bottle
001	Tr.40	
Ceramic		1 sherd brown/green glazed modern
001	Tr.47	

Context	Trench	
Ceramic		1 sherd white with blue flower decoration (not willow)
001	Tr.49	
Ceramic		3 sherds willow type, 1 sherd white with toothed edge, 1 sherd white (vessel) fragment
Glass		3 sherds blue/green window, 1 clear sherd (bottle)
Ind./slag		1 fragment green, cream possible pot slag
001	Tr.50	
Ceramic		1 clay pipe fragment, 1 fragment of white possible sink with flat edge
001	Tr.52	
Glass		2 sherds clear window
001	Tr.54	
Ceramic		1 clay pipe fragment,

Table 7: Auger Survey - Core Data

Transect 1	Level BS	Level FS	Co ordinates	Depth	Texture	Colour	Mottle abundance/colour	Stone abundance/shape	Inclusions	Inclusion abundance/shape	Notes
Core 1 10m	1.14	1.63	NS 36106 92712	0-15cm	loam	light yellow brown	-	1% sub rounded	-	-	modern roots
				15-27cm	clayey silt	light orange brown	-	1% sub rounded	possible charcoal	10% angular	very gradual lower boundary
				27-50cm	sandy silt	orange brown	-	1% rounded	-	-	-
Core 2 20m	1.14	1.62	NS 36107 92722	0-17cm	loam	light yellow brown	-	1% rounded	possible charcoal	1% angular	-
				17-30cm	clayey silt	light orange brown	-	<10% rounded	possible charcoal	5% angular	-
Core 3 30m	1.14	1.67	NS 36106 92732	0-12cm	loam	light yellow brown	-	<5% sub rounded	-	-	stone incl. Quartz
Core 4 40m	1.14	1.97	NS 36108 92742	0-3.5cm	clayey loam	light orange grey	-	-	-	-	Roots
				3.5-10cm	clayey silt	dark grey brown	<5% orange brown	<5% sub rounded	very small minerals	10% sub rounded	-
				10-15cm	clayey sandy silt	light grey	<5% orange brown	15% sub rounded	very small minerals	10% sub rounded	-
Core 5 50m	1.14	2.35	NS 36106 92752	0-4cm	clayey loam	orange grey brown	-	-	-	-	-
				4-12cm	silty clay	light brown grey	-	5% sub rounded	-	-	-
				12-16.5cm	sandy clay	light yellow grey	15% orange yellow	15% sub angular	-	-	-
				16.5-23cm	silty clay	dark grey	2% orange	<1% sub angular	coal	5% angular	-
				23-38cm	sandy clayey silt	light yellow grey	15% red orange	20% sub rounded	charcoal	5% angular	-
Core 6 60m	1.08	2.3	NS 36105 92764	0-5cm	clayey loam	light orange brown	-	-	-	-	-
				5-23cm	clayey loam	dark yellow grey	25% light orange	-	-	-	-
				23-74cm	clayey silt	light yellow grey	10% orange	5% sub angular	-	-	-
Core 7 70m	1.08	2.41	NS 36105 92773	0-8cm	clayey loam	light orange brown	-	-	-	-	Roots
				8-15cm	clayey loam	dark yellow grey	-	-	-	-	Roots
				15-41cm	clayey silt	light yellow grey	30% yellow orange	-	-	-	-
Core 8 80m	1.08	2.32	NS 36106 92783	0-2cm	clayey loam	light orange brown	-	-	-	-	Roots
				2-18cm	silty clay	dark grey	5% brown orange	<1% sub angular	-	-	roots, lower boundary very diffuse-gradual

Transect 1	Level BS	Level FS	Co ordinates	Depth	Texture	Colour	Mottle abundance/colour	Stone abundance/shape	Inclusions	Inclusion abundance/ shape	Notes
				18-24cm	sandy clayey silt	light orange grey	5% yellow orange	-	-	-	
				24-41cm	clayey silt	light yellow grey	5% red brown	5% sub rounded	-	-	large orange mottle band at 34cm
Core 9 90m	1.08	2.42	NS 36106 92793	0-13cm	clayey silt	dark orange grey brown	-	<1% sub rounded	-	-	roots, stone flat slate
				13-18cm	sandy silt	light green grey	-	50% sub rounded	-	-	sand component coarse and sharp
Core 10 100m	1.08	2.32	NS 36107 92803	0-10cm	clayey loam	dark orange brown	-	-	-	-	roots, very diffuse-gradual lower boundary
				10-21cm	loamy clay	light grey brown	-	40% sub rounded	-	-	-
				21-37cm	clayey silt	light green grey	40% red orange	-	possible manganese	<1% rounded grainy inclusion	very compact

Transect 2	Level BS	Level FS	Co ordinates	Depth	Texture	Colour	Mottle abundance/colour	Stone abundance/shape	Inclusions	Inclusion abundance/ shape	Notes
Core 1 10m	1.09	1.65	NS 36104 92690	0-13cm	sandy clay	yellow brown	<1% orange	<10% sub angular	-	-	roots, platy slate stones
				13-24cm	fine sandy clay	brown orange	15% brown grey	-	-	-	Compact
				24-29cm	clayey sand	brown orange	-	20% flat platy slate + sub rounded other	-	-	-
Core 2 20m	1.09	1.99	NS 36100 92680	0-8cm	clayey loam	light yellow brown	-	-	-	-	roots
				8-27cm	clayey silt	medium grey	20% orange yellow	-	-	-	lower boundary wavy abrupt
				27-32cm	sandy clay silt	light yellow grey	50% red orange	-	possible manganese	-	-
Core 3 30m	1.09	2.02	NS 36096 92671	0-5cm	silty clay	brown grey	40% orange	-	-	-	no obvious topsoil
				5-16cm	clayey silt	light yellow brown	<1% yellow orange	5% sub rounded	coal	<1% angular	small slate stones

Transect 2	Level BS	Level FS	Co ordinates	Depth	Texture	Colour	Mottle abundance/colour	Stone abundance/shape	Inclusions	Inclusion abundance/shape	Notes
				16-28cm	fine sandy clayey silt	light yellow grey	40% red orange and dark grey	10% sub angular	-	-	small slate stones
Core 4 40m	1.09	1.89	NS 36092 92662	0-3cm	clay loam	grey brown	-	-	-	-	Roots
				3-10cm	very silty clay	light grey brown	5% red orange + black	-	-	-	-
				10-22cm	clayey silt	brown grey	-	20% sub rounded	-	-	large stones at 19-22cm
				22-36cm	fine sandy silt	light yellow orange	20% orange + grey	40% sub rounded	-	-	stone very small slate
Core 5 50m	1.09	1.81	NS 36088 92652	0-14cm	sandy clayey silt	light brown grey	-	-	-	-	-
				14-18cm	-	-	-	-	-	-	DUSTURBED + MISSING - POSSIBLE ANIMAL BURROW
				18-29cm	sandy clayey silt	light brown grey	-	<1% angular	coal	<1% angular	-
				29-45cm	sandy silt	light orange yellow	-	5% sub angular	-	-	stone = small platy slate and rounded other
Additional	Level BS	Level FS	Co ordinates	Depth	Texture	Colour	Mottle abundance/colour	Stone abundance/shape	Inclusions	Inclusion abundance/shape	Notes
Core 1	1.08	2.15	NS 36176 92732	0-3cm	loam	dark grey brown	-	-	-	-	Roots
				3-12cm	coarse silty sand	medium grey	5% light orange	40% rounded	-	-	roots, very coarse sand with various stone pebbles
Core 2	1.08	2.85	NS 36184 92731	0-16cm	silty loam	dark grey brown	-	-	-	-	Roots
				16-28cm	silty clay	medium grey	-	-	-	-	Roots
				28-42cm	clayey silt	medium grey	<1% light orange	-	-	-	similar to above but looser consistency
				42-43cm	coarse silty sand	brown grey	-	20% rounded	-	-	coarse loose sand

Table 8: Luss, Photographs

Photo No.	Area	Context No.	Description	From (Compass)
1	\		Back garden of Manse	W
2	\		Back garden of Manse	N
3	\		Back garden of Manse	NE
4	\		Back garden of Manse	E
5	1		T1 after removal of topsoil	N
6	1		T1 after removal of topsoil	N
7	1		Detail of stone deposit at S-end of trench	N
8	1		Detail of stone deposit at S-end of trench	N
9	1		Detail of stone deposit at S-end of trench	N
10	1		Sondage in NE corner of trench	S
11	1		Sample of drainpipe	SW
12	1		Detail of stone deposit at S-end of trench	W
13	2		Garden at rear of pilgrimage centre	W
14	2		Pre-ex of trench 2	W
15	2		After removal of topsoil	S
16	1	003	Lower deposit in T1	N
17	1	003	Lower deposit in T1	N
18	1		Sondage at E end of T1	N
19	1		Possible ditch in sondage	N
20	1		Possible ditch in sondage	N
21	1		West facing section	W
22	1		West facing section detail 1/3	W
23	1		West facing section detail 2/3	W
24	1		West facing section detail 3/3	W
25	1	004	Detail of possible ditch	W
26	1	004	Detail of possible ditch	W
27	1	004	Working in the ditch	W
28	1	004	Post-ex of possible ditch in sondage	W
29	2		After removal of topsoil	W
30	2		After removal of topsoil	W
31	2		Sondage within T2	W
32	3		After de-turfing	SW
33	3	007	Pre-ex of possible feature	SSE
34	3	007	Sheep burial! Feature abandoned	E
35	3		Sondage	E
36	3		Sondage	E
37	3		Sondage	NE
38	3		Post-ex	NE

Table 9: Dalserf, Photographs

Photo No.	Area	Context No.	Description	From (Compass)
1	T1-6		Pre-ex of site	NW
2	T1		Pre-ex of trench	SE
3	\		Day 1 Group shot	NE
4	\		Day 1 Group shot	NE
5	\		Working shot	\
6	T1		After de-turfing	SE
7	\		Working shot	\
8	\		Working shot	\
9	T1		Mid-ex after removal of turf	S
10	T3		Post-ex	N
11	T3		Post-ex	N
12	T4		Post-ex	N
13	T3		T3 backfilled	N
14	T4		T4 backfilled	N
15	T6		Post-ex	N
16	T5		Post-ex	N
17	T7		Field: pre-ex	N
18	\		Pre-ex shot near churchyard wall	E
19	T9		Post-ex	W
20	T8		Post-ex	W
21	T10		Post-ex	W
22	T7		Post-ex	W
23	T12		Post-ex	E
24	T11		Post-ex	E
25	T14		Post-ex	E
26	T13		Post-ex	NE
27	T15		Post-ex	S
28	T16		Post-ex	N
29	T17		Post-ex	S
30	T18		Post-ex	N
31	T19		Post-ex	N
32	T20		Post-ex	N
33	T21		Post-ex	N
34	T23		Post-ex	N
35	T22		Post-ex	W
36	T24		Post-ex	N
37	T25		Post-ex	S
38	T26		Post-ex	W
39	T27		Post-ex	N
40	T28		Post-ex	E
41	T29		Post-ex	W
42	T30		Post-ex	N
43	T31		Post-ex	W
44	T1		Mid-ex	N
45	T1		Mid-ex	N
46	T1		Mid-ex	S

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From (Compass)</i>
47	T1		Mid-ex	E
48	T1		Mid-ex	E
49	T1		W-facing section	W
50	T1		S-facing section	S
51	T32		Post-ex	E
52	T33		Post-ex	W
53	T34		Post-ex	E
54	T35		Post-ex	N
55	T36		Post-ex	N
56	T37		Post-ex	N
57	T38		Post-ex	SE
58	T39		Post-ex	N
59	T40		Post-ex	N
60	T41		Post-ex	W
61	T42		Post-ex	N
62	T43		Post-ex	N
63	T44		Post-ex	N
64	T45		Post-ex	N
65	T46		Post-ex	N
66	T47		Post-ex	N
67	T48		Post-ex	N
68	\		Working shot	E
69	\		Working shot	E
70	T50		Post-ex	S
71	T51		Post-ex	N
72	T52		Post-ex	N
73	T49		Post-ex	N
74	T53		Post-ex	N
75	T49		Cast-iron pipe in bottom of trench	N
76	T49		Cast-iron pipe in bottom of trench	N
77	T1		Sondage Post-ex	W
78	T1		Sondage Post-ex	N
79	T2		After de-turfing	W
80	\		Working! shot	\
81	T54		Post-ex	S
82	T54		Post-ex	S
83	T2		Mid-ex	E
84	T2		Mid-ex	N
85	T2		Section of sondage	N
86	T2		Re-instatement	W
87	T2		Re-instatement	W
88	T2		Re-instatement	W

APPENDIX 2: DES

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Argyll & Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Hunting Hogbacks: Dalserf and Luss
PROJECT CODE:	4249161
PARISH:	Dalserf Luss
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alastair Becket
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Northlight Heritage
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Community Excavation and Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Dalserf NGR: NS 7998 5071 Luss NGR: NS 3610 9280
START DATE (this season)	5 September 2012
END DATE (this season)	26 September 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Northlight Heritage undertook small-scale excavations at Luss, Argyll & Bute, and at Dalserf, South Lanarkshire, during September 2012 as part of York Archaeological Trust's Discovery Programme. Excavation work was augmented by an auger survey conducted at Luss and a test-pit survey at Dalserf. The project, entitled 'Hunting Hogbacks' was designed to investigate the environs of both villages and provide some archaeological context for the hogback stones.</p> <p>Evidence of the post-medieval use of fields surrounding Dalserf as was recovered, although there was a surprising lack of finds relating to the medieval or earlier periods. At Luss we recovered green-glazed pottery of possible medieval/post-medieval date from both the manse garden and the glebe, and a trench excavated in the back garden of the manse contained the remains of a shallow ditch, probably relating to post-medieval cultivation of the garden.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Possible further phases of project TBC
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Northlight Heritage Studio 406 South Block 64 Osborne Street Glasgow G1 5QH
EMAIL ADDRESS:	northlight@yorkat.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record for Scotland (intended)