

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2011**

Temple Wood Stone Circles: Watching Brief, September 2011.

HS PIC Index Number: 90300

SITE: Temple Wood Stone Circles, Kilmartin Glen, Argyllshire

N.G.R.: c. NR 826 978

DESCRIPTION: Watching brief during the excavation of trenches to accommodate wooden posts fitted with electronic people counters.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90300-2011-01

CONTENTS:

	Introduction.....	1
.....1	Description.....	
.....6	Conclusions.....	
.....7	List of Contexts.....	
.....7	List of Drawings.....	



4 Western Terrace, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 5QF.

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 1

List of Digital Photographs

.....8



4 Western Terrace, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 5QF.

SEPTEMBER 2011

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Under the terms of its Properties In Care (PIC) call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of upright wooden posts holding electronic people counters at Temple Wood stone circles in Kilmartin Glen, Argyllshire (Fig.1).

The circles are bordered to the S by a low stone wall separated from the road by a grass verge. The SW circle is accessed from a small wooden gate through this wall. To the W is a 9m wide disabled parking space with splayed sides – again bordered by a low wall. In the NW corner of the parking space the site is accessed via a stone stile, access in the NE corner is via a wooden gate. The preference was that the counters would be fitted to the exterior of the site at a level low enough to avoid any visual impact issues while still being able to perform their task. The installation was carried out by Chambers Electronics under archaeological supervision. There was no formal plan of precise locations, and as a result, when Trench 1 had been completely excavated and Trench 2 partially excavated, it became apparent that vehicles using the disabled parking space could potentially trigger the counters. This potential problem hinged on the frequency with which this parking space was used, so while phone calls were made to establish this, Trenches 3 and 4 were dug outside the W entrance. After confirmation that the parking space was indeed too busy, Trenches 5 and 6 were excavated to replace the now-redundant Trenches 1 and 2, which were backfilled.

The work was carried out on 19th September 2011.

D E S C R I P T I O N

The arrangement of each of the people counters consisted of two upright posts flanking an entrance. Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated to monitor site access from the disabled parking space but (as previously mentioned) were abandoned in favour of Trenches 5 and 6, while Trenches 3 and 4 were intended to monitor the W entrance.

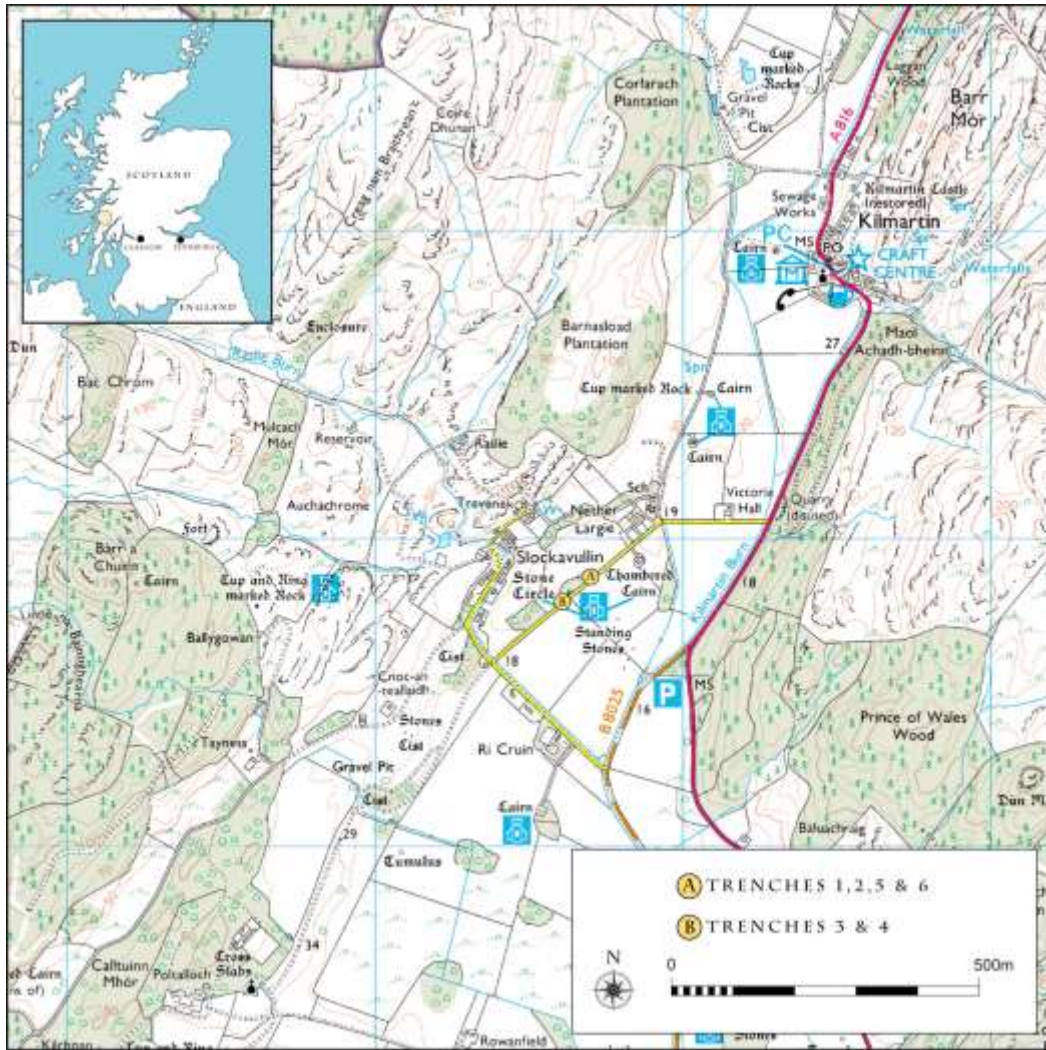


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of the Temple Wood Stone Circles along with the area of the present works.
 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 2011. Licence number 100036933.

TRENCH 1

Trench 1 measured 30cm N/S x 40cm E/W x 40cm deep. The fills consisted of a layer of general accumulated silt and mulch **101**, up to 5cm thick overlying a 20th century surface of moulded poured concrete **102**, some 10cm thick, over a base of gritty mixed coarse sandy bedding **103**, approximately 7cm thick. This in turn overlay a layer of mid-brown moderately-compact silt containing sub-rounded pebbles **104** which is likely to be re-deposited natural within a wall cut (the edges of which were not reached). The wall itself consisted of **105**, upper courses of horizontal sub-angular pieces of schist bonded in lime mortar with a crown of upright pieces of schist sitting on a base of large river-rolled pebbles **106**. The wall is no earlier than the late-19th century, but may have been altered in the 20th

century to provide vehicle access. The wall was 50cm wide at the base, tapering to the crown which was 30cm wide.

TRENCH 2

Trench 2 measured 25cm N/S x 25cm E/W x 20cm deep. The fills consisted of a layer of general accumulated silt and mulch **201**, up to 5cm thick, overlying a 20th century surface of moulded poured concrete **202**, some 10cm thick, overlying a base of gritty mixed coarse sandy bedding **203**, exposed to a thickness of 5cm. The trench was abandoned due to its poor location.

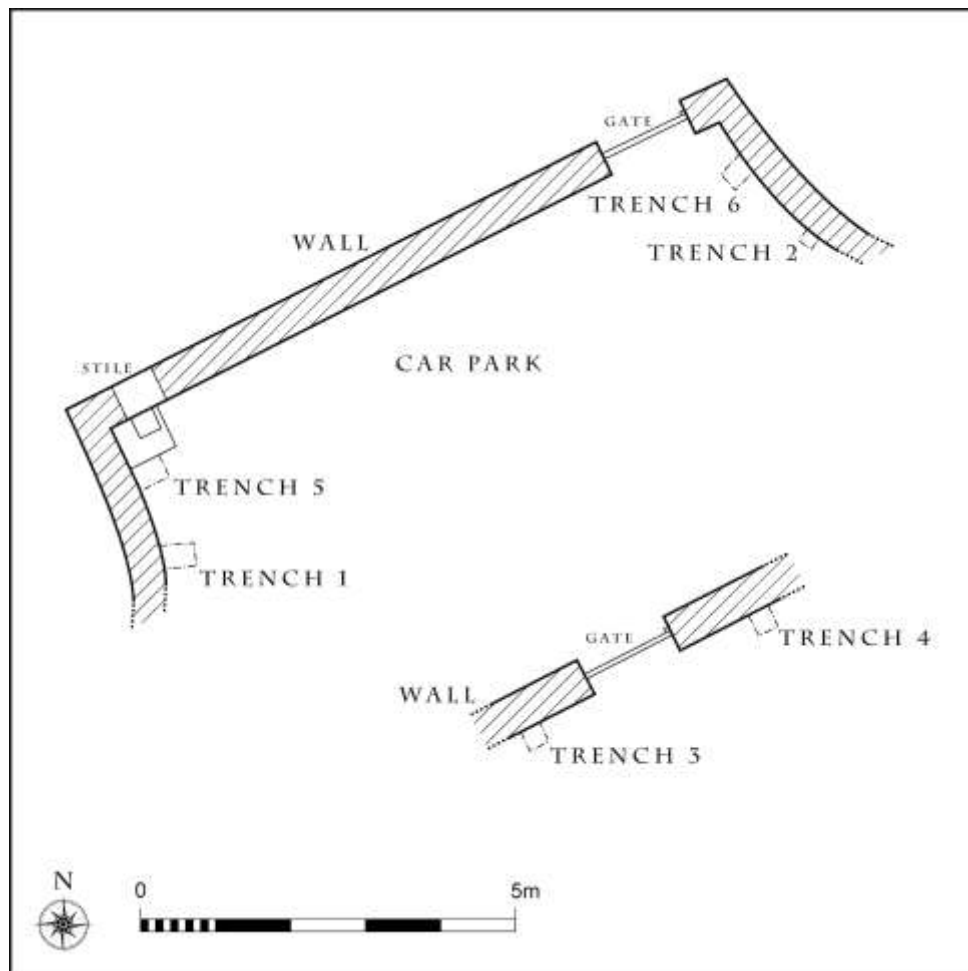


Figure 2: Location plan of Trenches 1,2,5 & 6 in Area A, top (see Fig.1) and Trenches 3 & 4 in Area B (see Fig.1).

TRENCH 3

Trench 3 measured 30cm N/S x 30cm E/W x 40cm deep. The fills consisted of a layer of turf **301**, up to 10cm thick, overlying a layer of mid-brown moderately-compact silt containing sub-rounded pebbles **302** which is likely to be re-deposited natural within a wall cut (the edges of which were not reached). The wall itself consisted of **303**, upper courses of horizontal sub-angular pieces of schist bonded in lime mortar, with a crown of upright pieces of schist sitting on a base of large river-rolled pebbles, **304**. The wall is no earlier than the late-19th century. It was 50cm wide at the base, tapering to the crown which was 30cm wide.

TRENCH 4

Trench 4 measured 30cm N/S x 30cm E/W x 40cm deep. The fills consisted of a layer of turf **401**, up to 10cm thick, overlying a layer of mid-brown moderately-compact silt containing sub-rounded pebbles **402**, which is likely to be re-deposited natural within a wall cut (the edges of which were not reached). The wall itself consisted of **403**, upper courses of horizontal sub-angular pieces of schist bonded in lime mortar, with a crown of upright pieces of schist, sitting on a base of similar horizontal sub-angular pieces of schist, bonded in lime mortar **404**. The wall is no earlier than the late-19th century. It was 50cm wide at the base, tapering to the crown which was 30cm wide.

TRENCH 5

Trench 5 measured 30cm N/S x 45cm E/W x 40cm deep. The fills consisted of a layer of general accumulated silt and mulch **501**, up to 5cm thick, overlying a 20th century surface of moulded poured concrete **502**, some 10cm thick, overlying a base of gritty mixed coarse sandy bedding **503**, some 7cm thick. This in turn overlay a layer of mid-brown moderately-compact silt containing sub-rounded pebbles, **504**, which is likely to be re-deposited natural within a wall cut (the edges of which were not reached). The wall itself consisted of **505**, upper courses of horizontal sub-angular pieces of schist, bonded in lime mortar, with a crown of upright pieces of schist sitting on a base of large river-rolled pebbles **506**. The wall is no earlier than the late-19th century but may have been altered in the 20th century to

provide vehicle access. The wall was 50cm wide at the base, tapering to the crown which was 30cm wide.

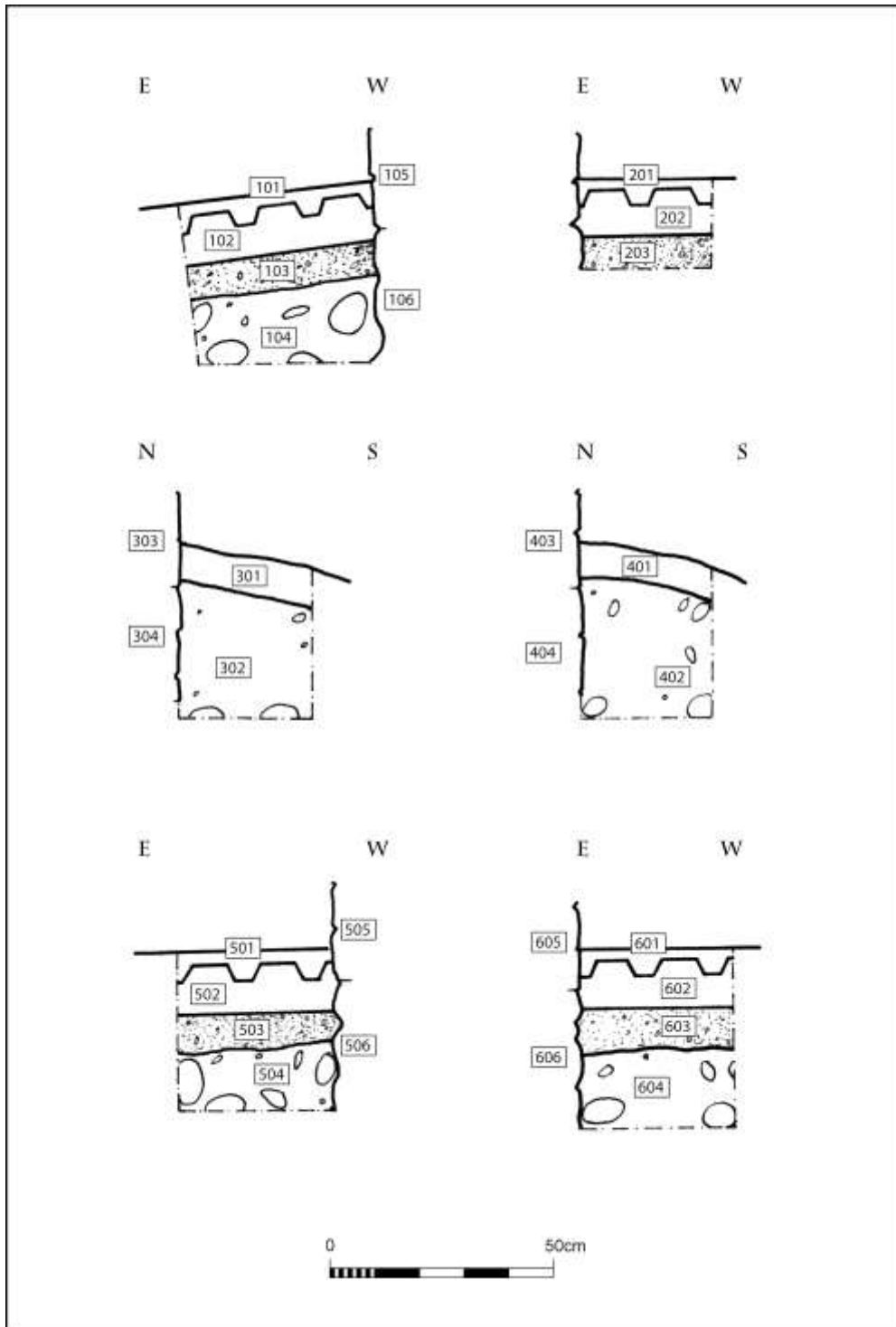


Figure 3: N-facing section in Trench 1 (top row, left); N-facing section in Trench 2 (top row, right); W-facing section in Trench 3 (middle row, left); W-facing section in Trench 4 (middle row, right); N-facing section in Trench 5 (bottom row, left); N-facing section in Trench 6 (bottom row, right).

TRENCH 6

Trench 6 measured 35cm N/S x 50cm E/W x 40cm deep. The fills consisted of a layer of general accumulated silt and mulch **601**, up to 5cm thick overlying a 20th century surface of moulded poured concrete **602**, some 10cm thick, overlying a base of gritty mixed coarse sandy bedding **603**, approximately 7cm thick. This in turn overlay a layer of mid-brown moderately-compact silt containing sub-rounded pebbles **604**, which is likely to be re-deposited natural within a wall cut (the edges of which were not reached). The wall itself consisted of **605**, upper courses of horizontal sub-angular pieces of schist, bonded in lime mortar, with a crown of upright pieces of schist sitting on a base of large river-rolled pebbles **606**. The wall is no earlier than the late-19th century but may have been altered in the 20th century to provide vehicle access. The wall was 50cm wide at the base, tapering to the crown which was 30cm wide.

CONCLUSIONS

Although a variety of different deposits were encountered during the excavations, the prohibitive size of the trenches prevented any meaningful analysis of the processes that formed them. Although nothing of archaeological interest was noted during the works, the high archaeological potential of the site means that features and artefacts may be uncovered during future ground-breaking works.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
001	General accumulated silt and mulch
002	Moulded concrete surface
003	Gritty mixed coarse sandy bedding below 102
004	Mid-brown moderately compact silt with sub-rounded pebbles
005	Upper wall courses of angular schist
006	Lower sub-rounded pebble wall base
201	General accumulated silt and mulch
202	Moulded concrete surface
203	Gritty mixed coarse sandy bedding below 202
301	Turf
302	Mid-brown moderately compact silt with sub-rounded pebbles
303	Upper wall courses in angular schist
304	Lower sub-rounded pebble wall base
401	Turf
402	Mid-brown moderately compact silt with sub-rounded pebbles
403	Upper wall courses of angular schist
404	Lower wall base of angular schist
501	General accumulated silt and mulch
502	Moulded concrete surface
503	Gritty mixed coarse sandy bedding below 502
504	Mid-brown moderately compact silt with sub-rounded pebbles
505	Upper wall courses of angular schist
506	Lower sub-rounded pebble wall base
601	General accumulated silt and mulch
602	Moulded concrete surface
603	Gritty mixed coarse sandy bedding below 602
604	Mid-brown moderately compact silt with sub-rounded pebbles
605	Upper wall courses of angular schist
606	Lower sub-rounded pebble wall base

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Trenches 1, 2, 5 and 6	1:50
2	Plan	Trenches 3 and 4	1:50
3	Section	Trench 1, N-facing section	1:50
4	Section	Trench 2, N-facing section	1:10
5	Section	Trench 3, W-facing section	1:10
6	Section	Trench 4, W-facing section	1:10
7	Section	Trench 5, N-facing section	1:10
8	Section	Trench 6, N-facing section	1:10

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	Pre-excavation shot looking at the disabled parking space	SW	19/09/2011
02	Pre-excavation shot looking at the disabled parking space and the Temple Wood circles	SE	19/09/2011
03	Pre-excavation shot looking at the disabled parking space	W	19/09/2011
04	Pre-excavation shot looking at the disabled parking space and the Temple Wood circles	SE	19/09/2011
05	Trench 1, work in progress	SW	19/09/2011
06	Moulded concrete surface 102 in Trench 1	SW	19/09/2011
07	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	E	19/09/2011
08	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	E	19/09/2011
09	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1, N-facing section	N	19/09/2011
10	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	SE	19/09/2011
11	Road, banking, wall and the SW circle	E	19/09/2011
12	Trenches 3 and 4	SW	19/09/2011
13	Trench 3, work in progress	S	19/09/2011
14	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5	E	19/09/2011
15	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5	E	19/09/2011
16	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5, N-facing section	N	19/09/2011
17	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5	E	19/09/2011
18	Post-excavation shot of Trenches 1 and 5	E	19/09/2011
19	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	S	19/09/2011
20	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	S	19/09/2011
21	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3, W-facing section	W	19/09/2011
22	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4	S	19/09/2011
23	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4	S	19/09/2011
24	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4, W-facing section	W	19/09/2011
25	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	W	19/09/2011
26	Post-excavation shot of Trenches 6 and 2	W	19/09/2011
27	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	W	19/09/2011
28	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	W	19/09/2011
29	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	W	19/09/2011