

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works
2008

Cairnholy Chambered Cairn 2

PIC Index No. 90050
Project: HSCO-90050-2008-01

Minor Excavation

February 2008

21 March 2008
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Cairnholy, near Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries
<u>Project Description</u>	Excavation of a small trench to hold the upright post for a disabled parking sign at the WNW of the car park at Cairnholy Chambered Cairn 2.
<u>NGR</u>	NX 5172 5389
<u>Project Code</u>	HSCO-90050-2008-01

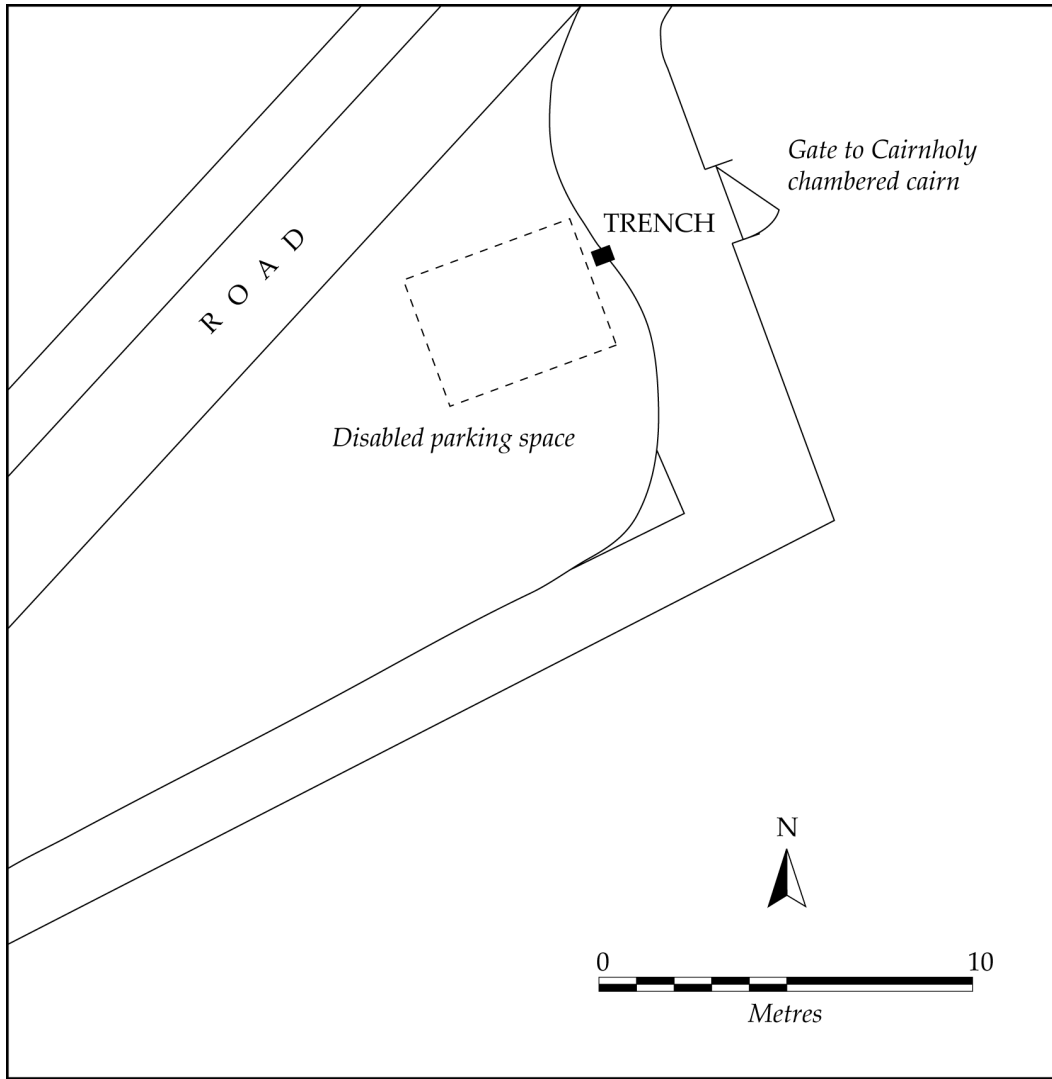
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1 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake the excavation of a small trench in the car park WSW of Cairnholy Chambered Cairn 2 near Gatehouse of Fleet. Upgrading of the site gates to allow wheelchair access had rendered it necessary to implant a sign for a disabled person's parking space immediately next to the gate. As the area has considerable archaeological potential, the trench was excavated by an archaeologist & the sign implanted by an HS squad.

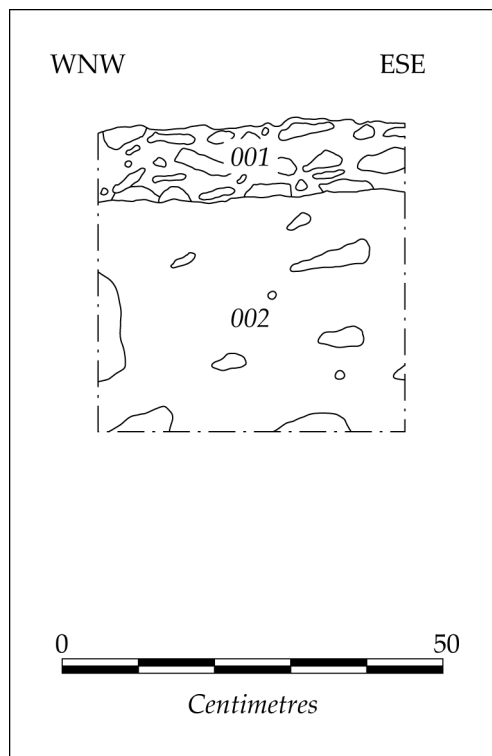
No significant archaeological horizons were encountered during this work.



Location of the trench.

2 EXCAVATION ACCOUNT

The trench measured 400mm x 400mm x 400mm deep & was situated 3.60m WSW of the gate leading from the car park to Cairnholy Chambered Cairn 2. The trench was dug through the car park make up which had to be broken out with a pick. The top 100mm of the trench consisted of **001** a compact layer of split angular pieces of granite up to 50mm across with a matrix of granite finings. This formed the hardstand for the car park. Below this, exposed to a depth of 300mm was **002**, a natural subsoil of yellowish brown silty clay containing moderate angular schist inclusions <100mm. The WSW facing section & a location plan were drawn & the trench was recorded photographically.



Section drawing of the trench showing the two stratigraphic horizons referred to above.

3 INTERPRETATION & OBSERVATIONS

Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

4 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Although nothing of archaeological interest was noted, the proximity of the trench to a Scheduled Ancient Monument meant that an appropriate level of archaeological recording was required. Further works should be undertaken under the same proviso.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Description	Scale
1.	Trench Location Plan	1:200
2.	WSW Facing Section of Trench	1:10

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
001	Granite & Granite Finings Hardstand
002	Yellowish-Brown Silty Clay Subsoil

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From
1.	Looking WSW at Trench & Cairnholy Cairn 2	WSW
2.	WSW-facing Section of Trench showing 001 & 002	WSW