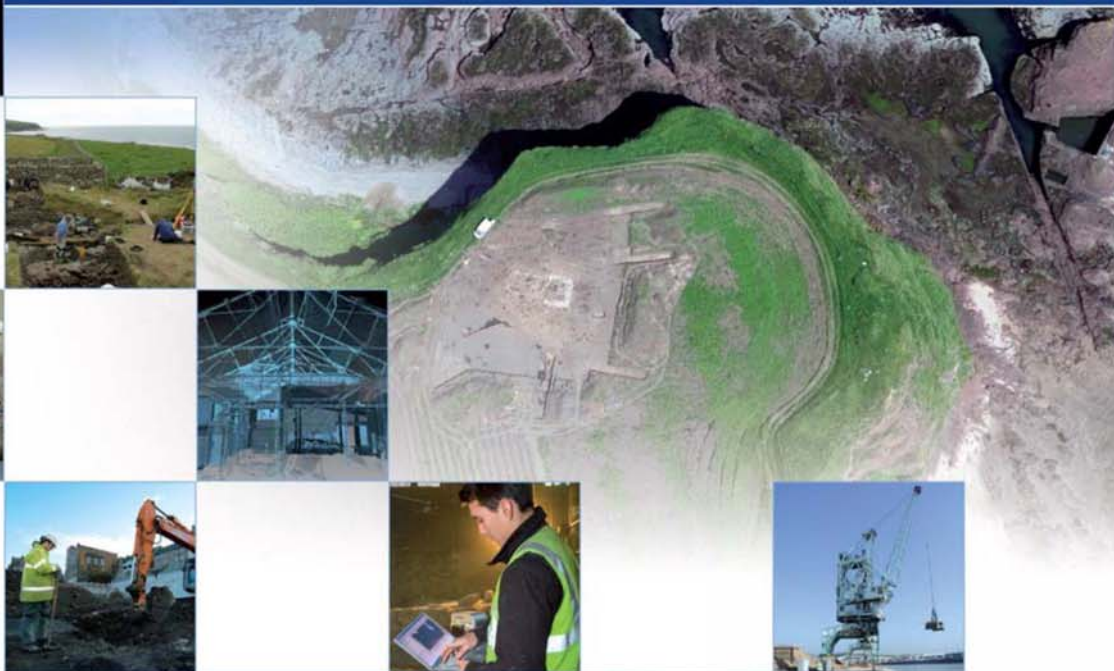


Historic Scotland Human Remains Call Off Contract

Mayback Boat Burial, Papa Westray, Orkney

Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report

AOC 22470-9
4th June 2015



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Mayback Boat Burial, Papa Westray, Orkney: Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Historic Scotland
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH.

AOC Project No: AOC22470-9

Prepared by: Kevin Paton

Date: 4th June 2015

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Kevin Paton

Date: 4th June 2015

Approved by: Diana Sproat

Date: 4th June 2015

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Date: 4th June 2015

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



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Non-technical Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation of a possible inhumation at Mayback, Papa Westray, Orkney under the terms of the Historic Scotland Human Remains Call-off Contract.

The human remains were identified by Mr Anderson of Mayback while he was excavating a service trench through the base of a newly built plant room attached to the S end of his cottage. His excavations had disturbed an upper leg bone and some other long bones of a definite human inhumation.

The archaeological works were conducted in order to save the remains from further disturbance by the planned construction works within the plant room. They revealed a possibly disarticulated skeleton within a wide linear cut that was lined with stone along the top of its S edge. Over 130 iron nails that represent the remains of a boat, along with an iron shield boss were found within the grave. Evidence from the position of the skeleton and a number of the nails may indicate the burial had been disturbed in antiquity.

As the excavation was limited to the plant room extents there is a possibility that a small percentage of the grave cut remains in-situ under the plant room walls and possibly out with. Given the position of the nails found in the E and W edges of the grave, it is highly unlikely that any human remains or large artefacts remain on site, with the likelihood that only a few nails from the boat would be present within the in-situ material.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group undertook an archaeological excavation of an inhumation found at Mayback, Papa Westray, Orkney under the terms of the Historic Scotland Human Remains Call-off Contract between 20th and 22nd May 2015. This work was undertaken following the discovery of human remains by Mr Anderson of Mayback during the excavations of a service trench within a new plant room attached to the S end of his house (Plate 1). Upon his discovery, Mr Anderson contacted Julie Gibson, the council archaeologist for the Orkney Islands, who then requested assistance from Historic Scotland under the terms of the Human Remains Call-Off Contract.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The burial was situated at the S end of the house at Mayback, which lies along the E coast of Papa Westray, overlooking the Holm of Papay, Orkney (centred on NGR: HY 49547 52360, Figure 1). The house sits on a mound of dune sand that runs N-S along the coast line with the Loch of Maeback to the W, which resembles more of an area of marsh land than a loch.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 In the local area of Mayback, there are a number of medieval or post-medieval remains of possible farm buildings (HY45SE 77, HY45SE 44, HY45SE 78) and a threshing machine/windmill (HY45SE 30). The Mayback cottage itself is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey of 1879 (Figure 2) and may have been an early post medieval building also, with modern additions added in the 19th and 20th centuries. An inspection of the site in 1982 by the Royal Commission (RCAHMS) suggested that the cottage sits on top of a farm mound consisting of soft loamy brown earth. Another survey of the area approximately 120 m S of Mayback suggested that boat noosts were present within the dune ridge that also includes the cottage (HY45SE 51).

1.3.2 At the far S end of the cottage, the Ordnance Survey of 1907 (Figure 3) shows a small square structure attached to the main building, which was a former water tower that was demolished in April 2015. However, the exact location of this tower was approximately 2.5 m S of the cottage, as the new plant room was mainly positioned in between the former water tower and the cottage. Further S of the cottage and grave site, the cottage garden has been in existence since at least the 1870's, as the boundary walls for the garden are depicted on the OS map of the time (see Figure 2).

1.3.3 In addition to the post medieval and possible medieval remains are prehistoric remains in the form of two burnt mounds of stone, known as the Knowes of Maebeck (HY45SE 9). Furthermore, across the bay to an adjacent island, the Holm of Papay, are substantial prehistoric remains consisting of three chambered cairns (HY55SW 2, HY55SW 3, HY55SW 1) and a possible structure (HY55SW 20). A prehistoric settlement known as the Knap of Howar, the oldest known house in Europe, is also situated on the W coast of the island (HY45SE 1).

1.3.4 A crouched inhumation was discovered excavated in late March 2015 by AOC Archaeology Group, approximately 100 m S of Mayback cottage (Johnston 2015; Figure 4). The burial was partially disturbed but survived in a good state of preservation below a natural sand dune and accumulated topsoil at the edge of the current shoreline. The inhumation was that of a robust fully grown adult lying on its right side in a tightly crouched position, orientated E-W. The grave cut was simple and no grave goods or items of personal adornment were recovered with the body. The skeletal remains were carefully recorded, planned and photographed prior to removal and a programme of post-excavation works including radiocarbon dating and comprehensive osteological analysis of the human remains are to be completed. It is therefore entirely possible that these newly identified remains are in some way associated with this burial.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works set out in the Project Design (AOC 2015) were:

1. Upon arrival pre-excavation photography will be undertaken of both the general area of the human remains as well as detailed views of the feature in order to establish both the condition of the site prior to AOC conducting any works and the parameters of the site specifically to establish whether the burials are part of a larger cemetery.
2. The immediate vicinity (50 m by 50 m square centred on the burial) of the find will be subject to a visual inspection to determine the possibility of further remains. A written record of the feature and immediate area will be made which will include detail on the nature and extent of the archaeological remains present, and a description of the disturbance with reference to the processes at work on the site.
3. Once the site has been inspected, and it is determined whether the human remains form part of a larger burial feature, the exact nature of the threat will be determined and decision made on whether the burial can be preserved *in situ*, or whether to excavate it.
4. If the human remains are demonstrated to be a simple burial, the bodies will be fully excavated. Ground disturbance will be kept to the absolute minimum.
5. All of the archaeological remains at risk will be excavated and recorded including removal of the human remains and any other human remains such as cremation deposits.
6. The remains of the burial fill will then be excavated and 100% sampled. The burial will be recorded in plan using drawings and photographs, and a written record will be made on pro-forma sheets.
7. All finds including bone will be lifted and bagged as appropriate.
8. Any burnt bone and charcoal will be subject to 100% sampling.
9. Control soil chemistry/pollen samples will be retrieved from the topsoil (if present) and natural subsoil.
10. The position of the excavation area will be accurately located by Total Station survey and tied into the National Grid.
11. A series of photographs documenting the condition of the site including site access will be taken on arrival and departure.
12. A draft Data Structure Report will be produced within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork and once approved by the Human Remains Call-Off Manager would be issued within two working days of comments being received.
14. A costed single phase post-excavation research design will be produced and presented to Historic Scotland for approval. The document will contain a table clearly setting out the major themes to be explored within the post-excavation programme and methods for addressing issues identified.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All of the above objectives 1 to 14 were conducted during the archaeological works. Initial determinations showed that the burial had been severely disturbed and truncated by the service trench and further works within the plant room would impact further upon the grave. It was decided that recovery of the human remains was the best course of action. Prior to further excavation taking place, the excavated material from the service trench was sieved.
- 3.2 As no feature edges or grave cut was evident within the plant room extents, the entire plant room base was excavated a further 0.1 m and cleaned in order to establish the extent of the grave or possible larger feature. This provided evidence of a stone lined cut, which was then the main focus of the excavations. The area to the S of the grave was also further reduced to ensure no other corresponding features were likely to be truncated by further works in the plant room.
- 3.3 The total area of the plant room measured 2.6 m (E-W) by 3 m (N-S). All excavation was conducted by hand by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 All excavations took place within the newly built plant room, a roofed breeze block structure with access to the cottage via a doorway to the W edge of the N wall and access outside via a doorway to the N edge of the E wall. The variable weather had no effect on the excavations.
- 4.2 After initial photographs were taken of the plant room and the work conducted within, the spoil heap material [001] was removed from site and sieved for any stray bone or artefacts that may relate to the grave. Some fragments of bone and some iron objects (probably nails) were retrieved (SF's 1 & 2). As stated in the methodology, the sand deposits [004] within the plant room extents were excavated by 0.1 m throughout in order to remove any modern material and trampled sand from earlier work and to try and establish the outline of a possible grave or feature.
- 4.3 These initial excavations revealed a linear cut [002] in the SW corner of the plant room that most likely relates to the construction of the water tower. The cut was visible within possible dune sand [005] that underlies deposit [004]. A layer of large beach cobbles [006] was also revealed under deposit [004], aligned NW-SE across the plant room, that appeared to be overlying the skeletal remains [012] (Figure 4; Plate 2). Some of the stone must have been removed by Mr Anderson during his work, and upon consultation with him, he acknowledged that there had been an abundance of stone within the plant room during excavations to the initial floor formation level (0.1 m below plant room foundations).
- 4.4 Upon removal of this stone and deposit [005], a line of large beach cobbles [011] aligned E-W was revealed that sat within grave cut [014] (Plate 3). This cut was visible within a light grey silty sand deposit [013] that most likely represents an in-situ former soil horizon to the S edge of the plant room. This soil horizon was 0.2 m thick and overlay an earlier dune sand or subsoil [016]. From this point the focus of the excavations were to the N of the grave cut [014] in order to excavate the grave fill and to establish the N edge if possible.

- 4.5 The grave was filled with a mixed deposit of sterile white dune sand and a very light yellow sand [009]. The W end of the fill immediately under stone layer [006] contained an abundance of sea shells (possibly limpets) and was recorded separately as deposit [008]. Finds of over 130 nails and rivets were found within the fill that lined the S edge and possible N edge of the grave and along the base of the cut [014] (Figure 5; Plates 4 & 5). A number of nails were also mixed throughout the fill at different levels, but the majority can be seen to represent the hull of a small flat bottomed boat (Figure 6). The SW edge of the grave was more sterile than the rest, and as excavations continued, this phenomenon was explained by the presence of an animal burrow, most likely created by rabbits. This burrow also appeared to have disturbed the stone lining [011] in this area with some larger stones present at the base of the cut in this area alone.
- 4.6 The skeletal remains [012] were raised off the bottom of the cut and boat and appeared to disarticulated once fully revealed (Figure 5; Plate 6). They sat upon a distinct layer of darker yellowish sand [018] that most likely represents the decomposition of the body rather than a separate deposit within the grave. The skull was positioned facing east, in between the two broken halves of the pelvis to the immediate NW. Some ribs were to the S of the skull and further SE the longer arms and leg bones overlay each other. A few vertebrae and other degraded bones were found within the deposit [018] and the lower jaw was located at a lower level beneath the pelvis.
- 4.7 The final small find within the grave fill was a round iron shield boss with a square back (SF 66; Plate 7) that was situated at approximately the same level as the skeletal remains, to the E end of the grave. Despite the possibility of disturbance to the grave fill, the shield boss appears to have been in-situ, as some of the nails found were immediately underneath suggesting it was placed against the side of the boat.
- 4.8 Upon removal of the fill [009] to the base of the cut, a dark linear deposit [017] was noticed at the base measuring 0.03 m wide and 1 m long, truncated at its W end by the animal burrow (Plate 8). Some nails were present along either side of this deposit, which probably represents the decomposed wood of the boats keel.
- 4.9 Due to the limitations to the excavation area created by the extents of the plant room, some of the grave fill has been left in-situ to the W and E ends of the grave (Figure 7; Plates 9 & 10). From the evidence of the nails found it is likely that the boat within the burial only extends slightly further at either end, so would only extend partly beyond the outer walls of the plant room, if at all. Assuming that the burial is only of one boat then very little of the feature remains in-situ. As for the N edge of the burial, no cut was visible and no stone lining present, but again the evidence from the lines of nails suggests the graves N edge was contained within the plant room extents.



Plate 1 - General view of plant room at S end of Mayback



Plate 2 - General view of excavations showing stone [006]



Plate 3 - General view of stone lining [011]



Plate 4 - Position of nails within fill [009]

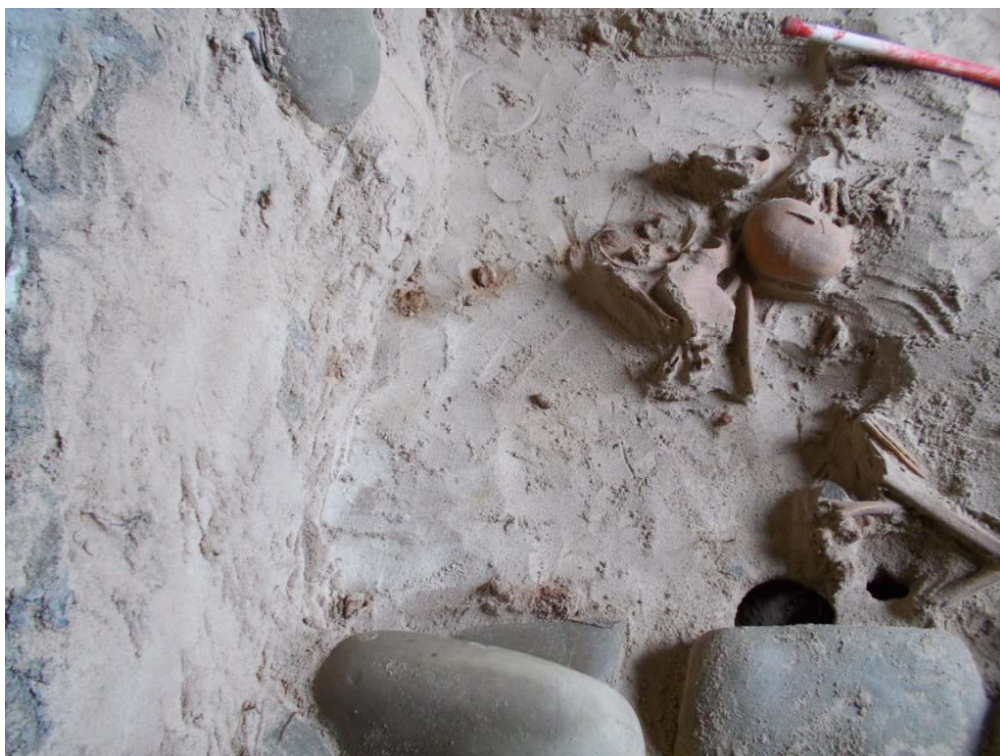


Plate 5 - Line of nails to N edge of grave [014]



Plate 6 - Detail view of skeletal remains [012]



Plate 7 - Detail view of shield boss



Plate 8 - General view of grave showing deposit [017]



Plate 9 - W-facing section of grave under foundations



Plate 10 - E-facing section of grave under foundations

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Given the number of nails found and the shape that the nails make within the grave cut it is possible to state with certainty that the grave found by Mr Anderson is a boat burial, most likely of Viking age given the shield boss present within it. This type of burial practice is a Norwegian tradition, seen in the UK and Ireland where there has been a Norse influence, i.e. Isle of Man, Ireland and the West Coast of Scotland (Owen & Dalland 1999). Other Scandinavian influenced traditions in the UK involve boat shaped settings but without an actual boat used within the grave.
- 5.2 In Scotland, there have been around ten boat or ship burials found to date, most of which were excavated in the 19th century and therefore have not been recorded to modern archaeological standards. Of these, two (Sands of Gill, Oronsay and Cnoc nan Gall, Colonsay) are described as ship burials covered with prominent mounds and appear to be isolated burials. The other eight are much smaller in size, with the typical boat size being between 4 to 8 m in length, and possibly covered with discrete low mounds (Owen & Dalland 1999). Given the presence of so much stone within the plant room excavations, and the re-deposition of stone layer [006] after the grave was disturbed, it is possible that the grave originally had a low mound of stone covering it.
- 5.3 As the disturbed N edge lies close to the foundations of Mayback cottage, it is possible that the construction of the cottage would have disturbed this stone mound. It could be hypothesised that when the mound was disturbed, the burial was revealed and any other possible grave goods taken before the body was re-deposited and covered by the stone once again. From the other boat burials found to date, there are typically a much greater number of grave goods found, with shield bosses usually found alongside swords, spearheads, axes and other weaponry.
- 5.4 This suggestion that the grave was disturbed when the house was built can also be evidenced by the fact that a later addition of a water tower was placed to the S of the grave, possibly indicating that the family knew of the graves location and deliberately avoided it during their new construction.
- 5.5 Another hypothesis is that the skeleton is in-situ and represents an upright inhumation of an individual within the boat, which was covered by a timber roof and then low mound. Upon decomposition of the body within the burial chamber the remains would have collapsed together before being covered by the dune sand overlying the roof once the timbers rotted. This theory would require further specialist investigation in order to prove it, and does not explain the lack of artefacts etc within the eastern half of the burial.
- 5.6 Of the other boat burials found, it is interesting that most of these have been found close to other burials within known or possible cemetery sites. The cemeteries at Westness, Rousay, Pireowall, Westray, Cnoc nan Bhar, Oronsay and Machrins, Colonsay have all produced one or more boat burials within a larger cemetery site. Furthermore, it has been proposed that the burial uncovered at Scar, Sanday is also part of a larger cemetery hidden by the dune formations (Owen & Dalland 1999).
- 5.7 Given that the Mayback boat burial is near to another burial of yet unknown date occurring within the same dune ridge, it is possible that this ridge is the site of another Viking age cemetery. Further work would obviously be required in order to confirm this, with dating of both skeletons being the starting point. An approximate date can be given at this point from the pagan nature of the burial, making it

more likely that it would date from before the 10th century, as Christianity is more prominent in the islands from around AD 995 (Owen & Dalland 1999).

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 All of the projects objectives were met with regards to the excavation of the grave. Due to the presence of the cottage and the landscaped garden area, the topographical survey has not provided much evidence of any other possible mounds close to the burial. Furthermore, the survey from the previous excavation of the grave further S within the dune ridge, is also inconclusive as to the presence of other mounds in the area, with most undulating features probably relating to natural dunes or modern dumped material and animal burials.
- 6.2 The discovery of the boat burial within a dune ridge represents a significant addition to the burgeoning picture of early Viking activity on Papa Westray, Orkney. The skeletal remains, shield boss, nails and mineralised wood attached to them merit full study as recommended according to the Post-Excavation Research Design (AOC 2015).

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliographic references

AOC 2015 *Mayback II, Papa Westray, Orkney: Historic Scotland Human Remains Call-off Contract Project Design* Unpublished client report

Johnston, N. 2015 *Mayback, Papa Westray, Orkney: Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report* Unpublished client report

Owen, O & Dalland, M 1999 *Scar: A Viking Boat Burial on Sanday, Orkney*

7.2 Cartographic references

1879 Ordnance Survey *Orkney Sheet LXXI.9 (Westray)*

1907 Ordnance Survey *Orkney Sheet 071.09 (includes Papa Westray)*

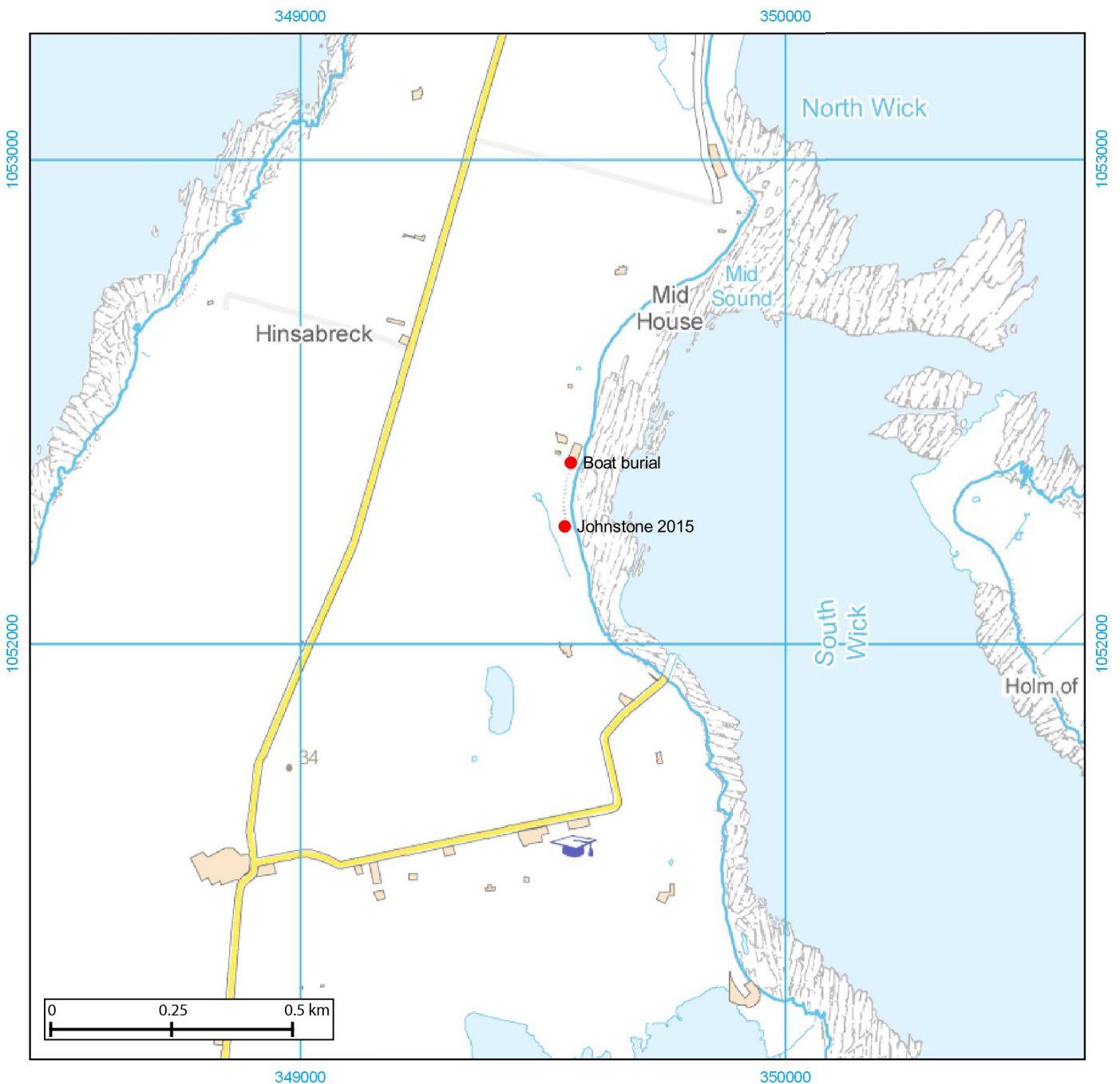
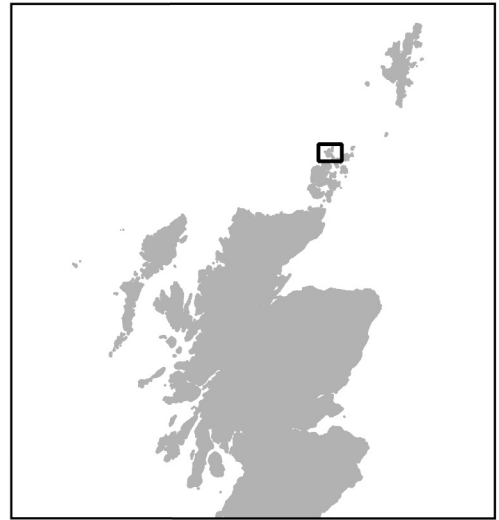
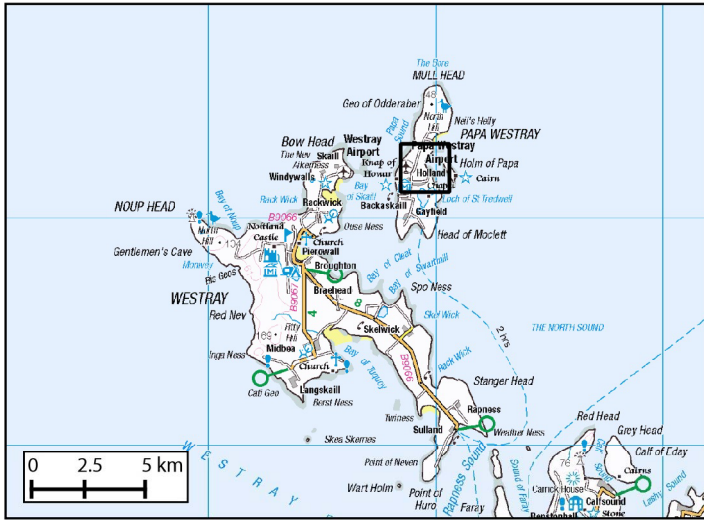
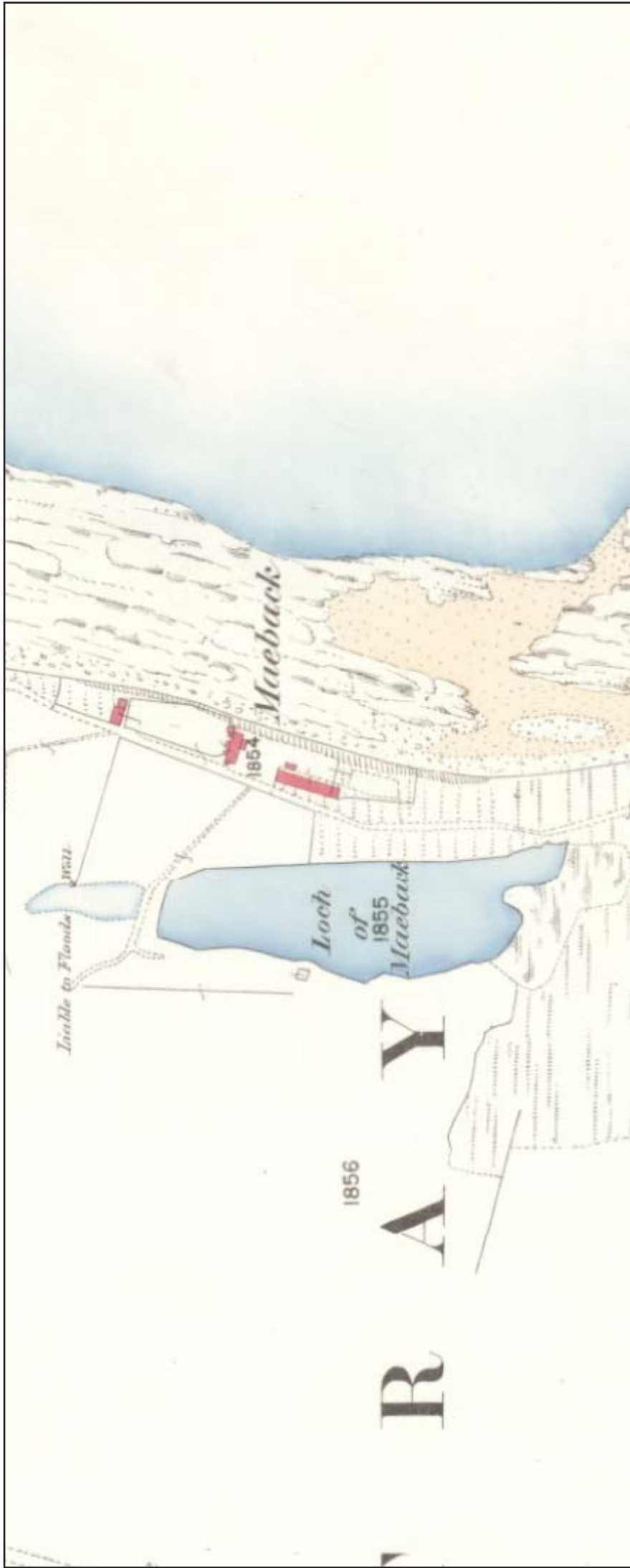
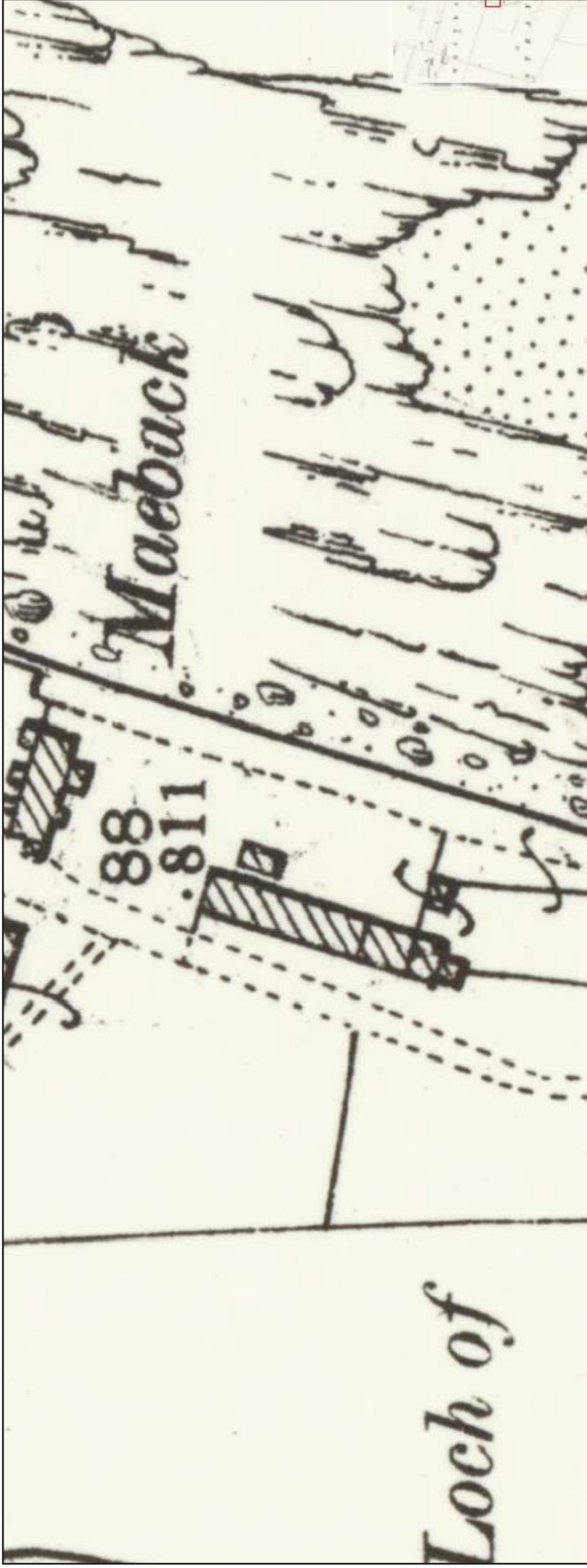


Figure 1: Site location



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FIGURE 2 - EXTRACT FROM 1879 ORDNANCE SURVEY



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FIGURE 3 - EXTRACT FROM 1907 ORDNANCE SURVEY

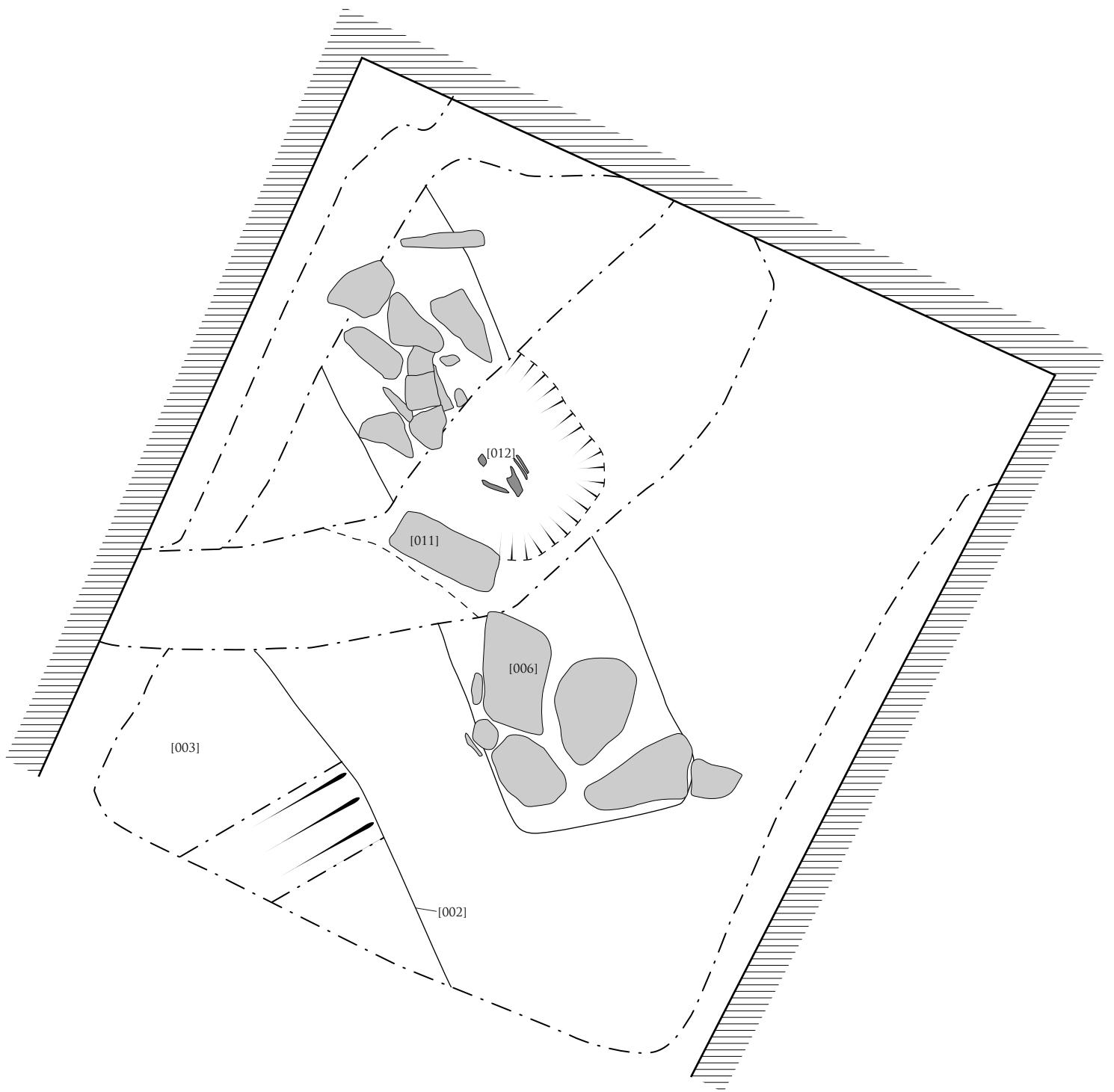


FIGURE 4: INITIAL PLAN OF PLANT ROOM FEATURES

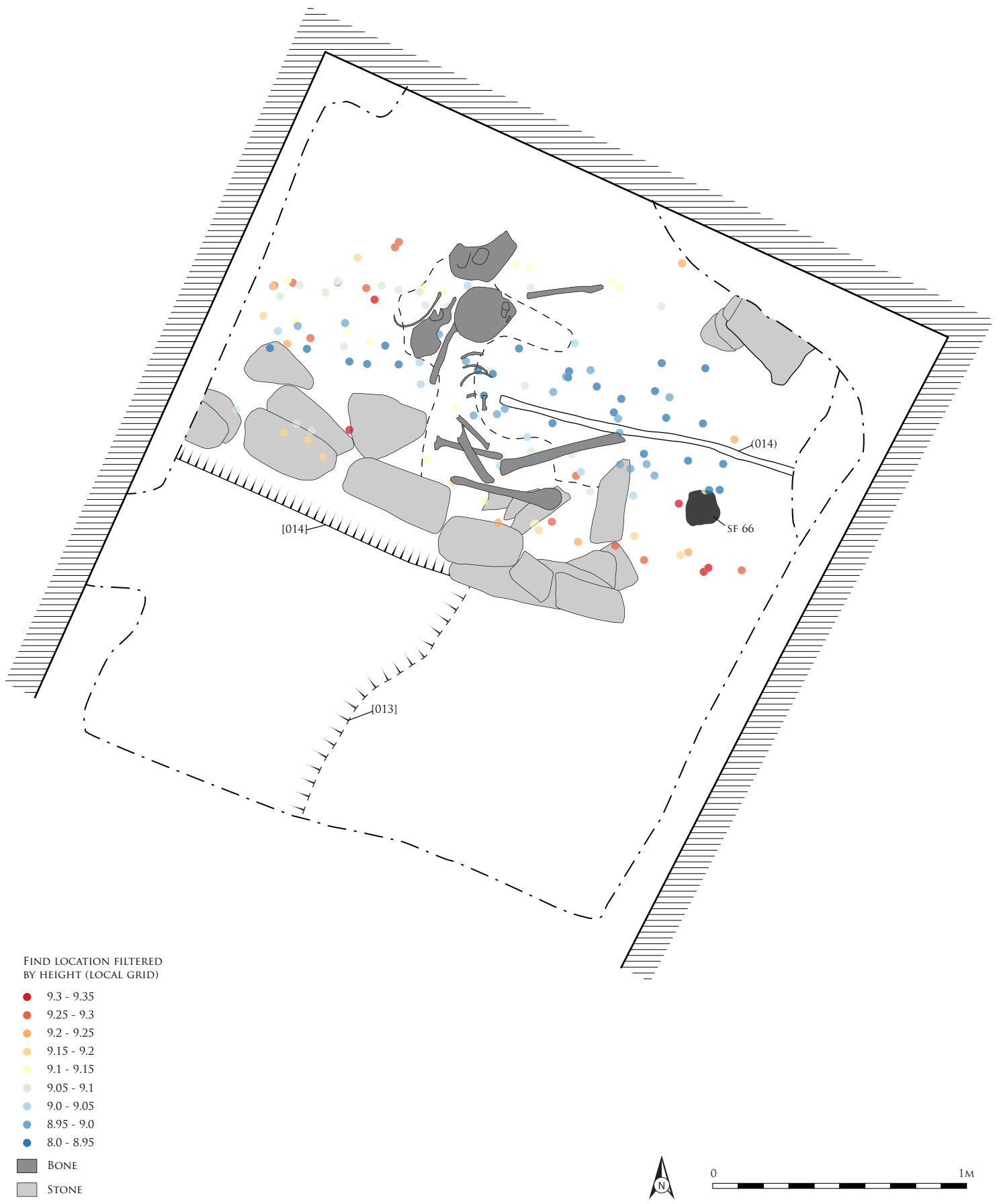


FIGURE 5: FINAL OVERLAY OF PLANT ROOM SHOWING DISARTICULATED REMAINS AND IRON OBJECT LOCATIONS

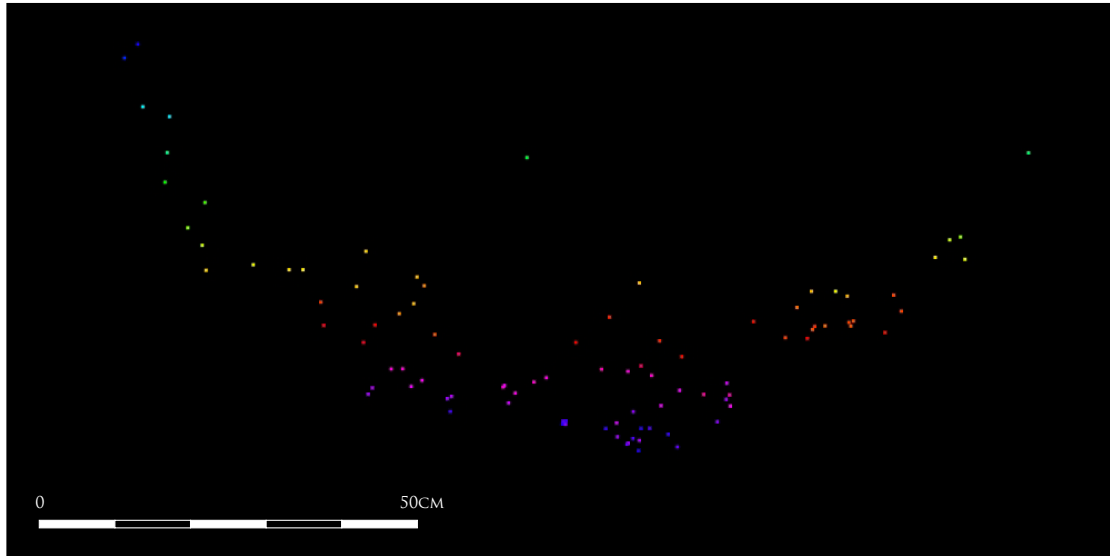


FIGURE 6: W-FACING PROFILE THROUGH GRAVE SHOWING POSITION OF NAILS TAKEN FROM THE ON-SITE SURVEY

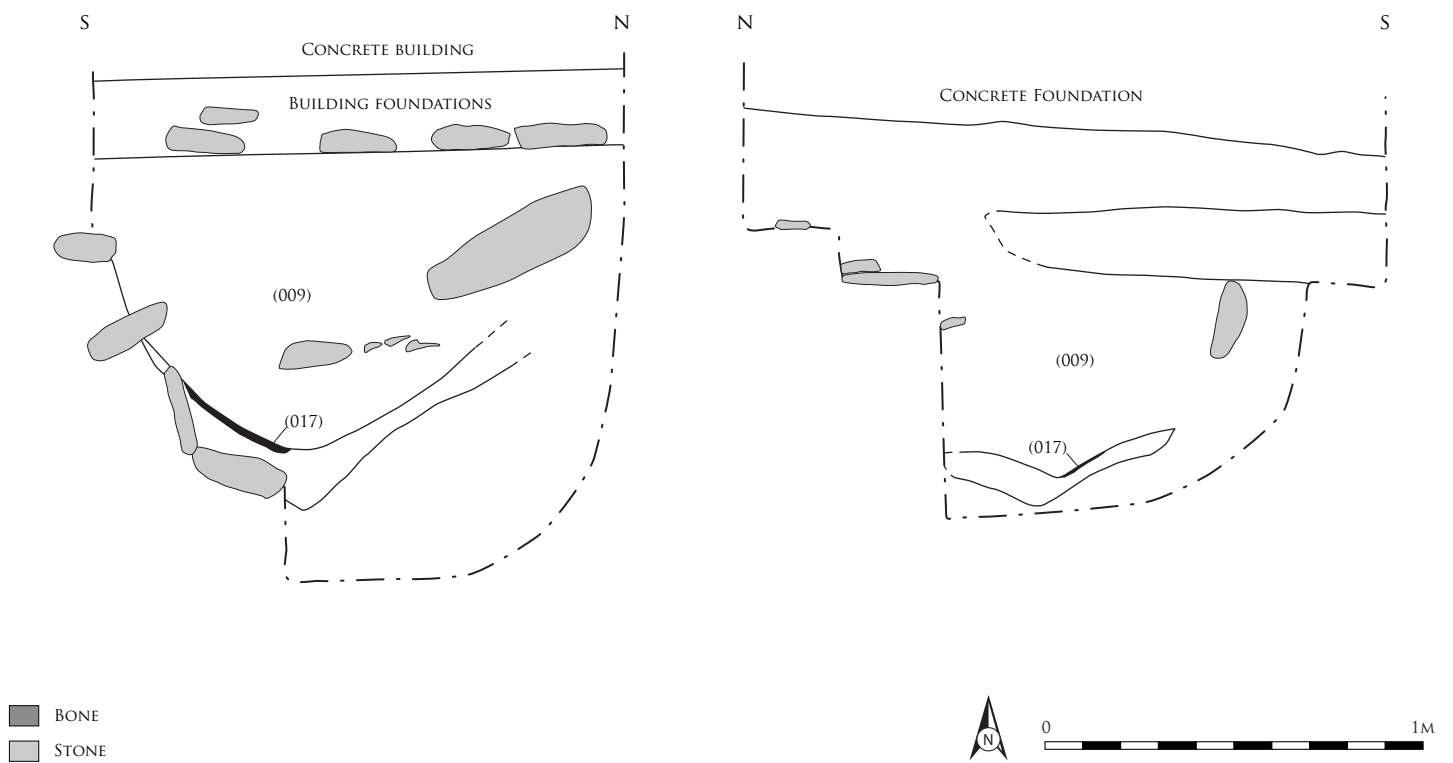


FIGURE 7: E-FACING AND W-FACING SECTIONS OF GRAVE SHOWING BOAT OUTLINE

**Mayback Boat Burial, Papa Westray, Orkney:
Archaeological Excavation
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
001	Mound of spoil from Mr Andersons excavations left within plant room and sieved before removal. The deposit is a mixture of pale yellow sand and light brown silty sand. Finds included bone and iron. Spoil heap from excavations prior to AOC arrival
002	Linear cut aligned NW-SE within SW corner of plant room, measuring 1.6m by 0.62m by 0.15m. Only the NE edge visible in plan, SW edge under and possibly cut by plant room S wall. Possible construction cut for a now demolished water tower.
003	Dark brown silty sand with occasional medium stone inclusions, very similar to the topsoil that exists S of the plant room, measuring 1.6m by 0.62m by 0.15m. Lenses of sand in places. Fills cut [002]. Fill of [002]
004	Very light brown sand with occasional large pebbles and frequent shell inclusions, which sits directly under plant room foundations. Disturbed and mixed with dark brown silty sand in S half of plant room. Undulating dune sand
005	Light brown sand, similar to [004] but underlies it and cut by [002]. The stones of [006] sit within the deposit, as no cut for the grave was visible. The deposit measured 2.15m by 1.3m by 0.1m. It overlies [013] to the S of the cist. Dune sand to S of the Cist.
006	One layer of medium and large beach cobbles laid NW-SE above possible grave. Overall dimensions 2.36m by 0.66m by 0.1m at the thickest point. Larger stones to the SE measuring 0.43m by 0.29m, compared to the NW stones which measure 0.29m by 0.16m. Deposit [007] sits between the stones. Later indications of disturbance of stone N of SE end, at a lower level. Disturbed stone from N edge of cist re-deposited after disturbance.
007	Light brown sand within stones [006], measuring 2.6m by 0.62 by 0.1m. Re-deposited sand after the grave had been disturbed
008	Similar to [009] deposit with an abundance of sea shell inclusions- sampled separately. Only present to the W end of grave surrounding possible in-situ stone of cist. Possibly too high in cist to be original. The deposit measures 0.5m by 0.2m by 0.15m. Possible deposition relating to original grave
009	Light brown and yellow sand mix with frequent small flat, angular stones and occasional medium and a couple of large stones, measuring 2.15 m by 1.25m by 0.73m. Most likely these are disturbed cist stones. Contains disarticulated skeleton [012] and an abundance of nails/rivets as well as a shield boss. Fill of grave which has been disturbed and backfilled
010	Dark brown compact soil with occasional foam construction material fragments. Overlies E end of cist wall edge [011]. Material relating to the base of the 21st century (2015) plant room
011	W-E aligned wall like structure with a slight curve to the ENE at the E end. Stones found 4 courses high in places with the bottom two courses laid further in, providing a 60 degree angle to the N end. These may have been displaced by the animal burrow in this area. The deposit measures 2.38m by 0.51m by 0.45m and sits within cut [014] and covered by deposit [009]. Possibly representing a boat shape. Cist wall to South
012	Disarticulated or disturbed skeleton within a Cist and possible boat. The skull is intact and sits close to the W end of the grave with a broken pelvis further to the side and some rib bones and leg/arm bones to the SE. A possible shield boss was found at the E end of the grave probably indicative of a Viking burial. The presence of over 100 rivets/nails further supports it as a possible boat burial. A number of smaller bone remains were scattered throughout and placed in sample tubs to aid collection. Disarticulated skeletal remains
013	Light grey, very slightly silty sand with occasional stone inclusions measuring 0.2m at the thickest point. The deposit, underlies the backfill or sand dune [005], is cut by [014] and overlies subsoil [016]. Former soil horizon.
014	Linear cut aligned E-W, measuring 2.3m long within the plant room, width unknown and a depth of 0.73m. The cut is filled by the Cist wall [011], grave fill [009] and skeleton [012]. Profile may be interpreted from nail positions. Only the south end of the cut is visible, northern end is more disturbed or is out with the excavation limits. Nail line indicates that the cut has possibly been

	removed along with N wall of Cist. Cut for grave
015	Probable boat burial within a stone lined cist or covered by a cairn, aligned E-W, measuring 2.3m (visible) long by approximately 1.4m wide and 0.8m deep. Grave cut [014] only visible along S edge with Cist/cairn wall [011] to immediate N.S edge of boat represented by lines of nails progressing N as excavation depth increases. N edge not as easily followed as no obvious cut or stone lining. Skeleton [012] then placed in boat and filled with sand. Burial disturbed at unknown date and N edge of Cist/cairn removed. Bones displaced at this time and then reburied in a disarticulated manner Viking warrior boat burial
016	Light brown sand underlying former soil [013] and probably overlying dune sand to unknown depth. Subsoil under [013]
017	Mid to dark brown sand lenses within grave fill, aligned ENE-WSW through centre of grave. A number of nails revealed along the line indicates a probable scar left from boat plank decomposition. Stain of boat burial
018	Same as [009], slightly darker due to decomposition. Grave fill underneath skeleton [012]

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-9	Panorama from N of House	Var	19/5/15
10-12	Access to burial area	Var	19/5/15
13	View to E from N end of house with Holm of Papay in distance	N	19/5/15
14-15	Access shots	N	19/5/15
16	Sots showing proximity to coastline	NW	19/5/15
17-20	Access shots of the plant room	Var	19/5/15
21-25	View of plant room and panning to south	E	19/5/15
26	Foundations evaluations-S Wall	E	19/5/15
27	Service through SE corner of plant room	W	19/5/15
28	View of Holm Papay from Plant Room	W	19/5/15
29-34	Access shots to plant room through house	Var	19/5/15
35-36	View of bones as left reported	S	19/5/15
37	Outside door to plant room	W	19/5/15
38	View of bones in situ from SE	SE	19/5/15
39	Service terrace coming into plant room from West	E	19/5/15
40-49	Panoramic view from Plant Room	Var	19/5/15
50	View of bones from plant room	N	20/5/15
51	Open door of plant room	SE	20/5/15
52	View of bones from outside plant room	E	20/5/15
53	View of bones from outside plant room	E	20/5/15
54	View of spoil heap [001]	N	20/5/15
55	S wall foundation- former water tower	N	20/5/15
56	Service track through W wall	E	20/5/15
57	N wall of foundation	S	20/5/15
58	Doorway and E wall foundation	W	20/5/15
59	Depth of bone beneath ground level	S	20/5/15
60	General view of Plant room after [001] removed	E	20/5/15
61	General view of Plant room after [001] removed	N	20/5/15
62	Working shot of stone reveal	E	20/5/15
63	SE-Facing section of ditch [002]	SE	20/5/15
64	General view of ditch [002]	NE	20/5/15
65-67	General shots of stones being cleared	Var	20/5/15

68-70	Stone capping grave [006]	NW	20/5/15
71	SE end of stones [006]	NE	20/5/15
72	View of exposed bones and NW stones [006]	SW	20/5/15
73	View of exposed bones and NW stones [006]	SW	20/5/15
74-75	View of stones [006]	SE	20/5/15
76-78	General view of Excavation progress	Var	20/5/15
79	View of Cist with more stones	E	20/5/15
80	Detailed view of stone	E	20/5/15
81	View of remains partially exposed to W	E	20/5/15
82	View of remains partially exposed to W	S	20/5/15
83	View of stone to E	S	20/5/15
84	General view of Cist	SW	20/5/15
85-86	S edge of Cist [011]	W	20/5/15
87	View of Cist	W	20/5/15
88	Detailed view of skull and other partially exposed bones	S	20/5/15
89	View of Cist with stone from E removed and nails showing in places	E	20/5/15
90	Lines of nails at W end	S	20/5/15
91	Line of nails along Cist edge	W	20/5/15
92	View of remains exposed showing disarticulation	S	20/5/15
93	Line of nails along N edge with remains overlaying	E	20/5/15
94	General shot of excavations progress	W	20/5/15
95	Shield Boss being cleaned	SW	20/5/15
96	View of Cist contents	WSW	20/5/15
97	View of Cist contents	S	20/5/15
98	Detailed view of Shield Boss	S	20/5/15
99	Detailed view of Shield Boss	NW	20/5/15
100	View of Cist contents	NW	20/5/15
101	View of Cist contents	W	20/5/15
102-104	End of day progress shot	E	20/5/15
105-106	End of day progress shot	W	20/5/15

APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Details	Scale
1	Plan of plant room showing possible grave	1:10
2	Overlay 1 of burial [015]	1:10
3	Overlay 2 of burial [015]	1:10
4	E-facing section of grave [015]	1:10
5	W-facing section of grave [015]	1:10

APPENDIX 4: FINDS REGISTER

Finds No.	Context No.	Description
1	001	Iron nails/objects
2	001	Mix of small bone fragments- possibly human
3	007	Bone
4	009	Iron Nail
5	009	Iron Nail
6	009	Iron Nail
7	009	Nail/Iron object
8	009	Iron Nail
9	009	Iron Nail
10	009	Iron Nail
11	009	Iron Nail

12	009	Iron Nail
13	009	Iron Nail
14	009	Iron Nail
15	009	Iron Nail
16	009	Iron Nails
17	009	Iron Nail
18	009	Iron Nail
19	009	Iron Nail
20	009	Iron Nail
21	009	Iron Nail
22	009	Iron Nail
23	009	Iron Nail
24	009	Iron Nail
25	009	Iron Nail
26	009	Iron Nail
27	009	Iron Nail
28	009	Iron Nail
29	009	Iron Nail
30	009	Iron Nail
31	009	Iron Nail
32	009	Iron Nail
33	009	Iron Nail
34	009	Iron Nail
35	009	Iron Nail
36	009	Iron Nail
37	009	Iron Nail
38	009	Iron Nail
39	009	Iron Nail
40	009	Iron Nail
41	009	Iron Nail
42	009	Iron Nail
43	009	Iron Nail
44	009	Iron Nail
45	009	Iron Nail
46	009	Iron Nail
47	009	Iron Nail
48	009	Iron Nail
49	009	Iron and wood
50	009	Iron Nail
51	009	Iron Nail
52	009	Iron Nail
53	009	Iron Nail
54	009	Iron Nail
55	009	Iron Nail
56	009	Iron Nail
57	009	Iron Nail
58	009	Iron Nail
59	009	Iron Nail
60	009	Iron Nail
61	009	Iron Nail
62	009	Iron Nail
63	009	Iron Nail
64	009	Iron Nail
65	009	Iron Nail
66	009	Iron Shield Boss
67	009	Iron Nail
68	009	Iron Nail
69	009	Iron Nail
70	009	Iron Nail
71	009	Iron Nail

72	009	Iron Nail
72	009	Iron Nail
73	009	Iron Nail
74	009	Iron Nail
75	009	Iron Nail
76	009	Iron Nail and wood
77	009	Iron Nail
78	099	Iron Nail
79	009	Iron Nail
80	009	Iron Nail
81	009	Iron Nail
82	009	Iron Nail
83	009	Iron Nail
84	009	Iron Nail
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102	009	Iron Nail
103	009	Iron Nail
104	009	Iron Nail
105	009	Iron Nail
106	009	Iron Nail
107	009	Iron Nail
108	013	Very fragmented ceramic sherds
109	009	Iron Nail
110	009	Iron Nail
111	009	Iron Nail
112	009	Iron Nail
113	009	Iron Nail
114	009	Iron Nail
115	009	Iron Nail
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123	009	Iron Nail
124	009	Iron Nail
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126	009	Iron Nail
127	009	Iron Nail
128	009	Iron Nail
129	009	Iron Nail
130	009	Iron Nail

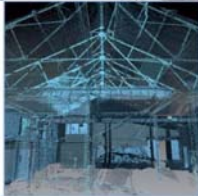
131	009	Iron Nail
132	009	Iron Nail
133	009	Iron Nail
134	009	Iron Nail
135	009	Iron Nail
136	009	Iron Nail
137	009	Iron Nail
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141	009	Iron Nail
142	009	Iron Nail
143	009	Iron Nail
144	009	Iron Nail
145	001	Bone fragments from Mr Andersons excavations

APPENDIX 5: SAMPLES REGISTER

Context No.	Quantity (litres)
001	5
003	20
008	5
009	40
018	30

APPENDIX 6: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Orkney Islands Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Mayback Boat Burial, Papa Westray, Orkney
PROJECT CODE:	22470-9
PARISH:	Papa Westray
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Human remains, 130 (+) nails, shield boss
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	HY 49547 52360
START DATE (this season)	20 th May 2015
END DATE (this season)	22 nd May 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological excavation of a possible inhumation at Mayback, Papa Westray, Orkney was undertaken under the terms of the Historic Scotland Human Remains Call-off Contract.</p> <p>The human remains were identified by Mr Anderson of Mayback while he was excavating a service trench through the base of a newly built plant room attached to the S end of his cottage. His excavations had disturbed an upper leg bone and some other long bones of a definite human inhumation.</p> <p>The archaeological works were conducted in order to save the remains from further disturbance by the planned construction works within the plant room. They revealed a possibly disarticulated skeleton within a wide linear cut that was lined with stone along the top of its S edge. Over 130 iron nails that represent the remains of a boat, along with an iron shield boss were found within the grave. Evidence from the position of the skeleton and a number of the nails may indicate the burial had been disturbed in antiquity.</p> <p>As the excavation was limited to the plant room extents there is a possibility that a small percentage of the grave cut remains in-situ under the plant room walls and possibly out with. Given the position of the nails found in the E and W edges of the grave, it is highly unlikely that any human remains or large artefacts remain on site, with the likelihood that only a few nails from the boat would be present within the in-situ material.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, **Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY**
tel: **0131 440 3593** | fax: **0131 440 3422** | e-mail: **edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com**

www.aocarchaeology.com