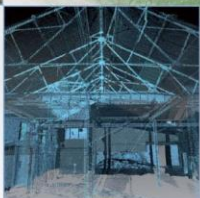
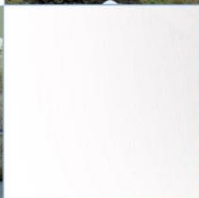
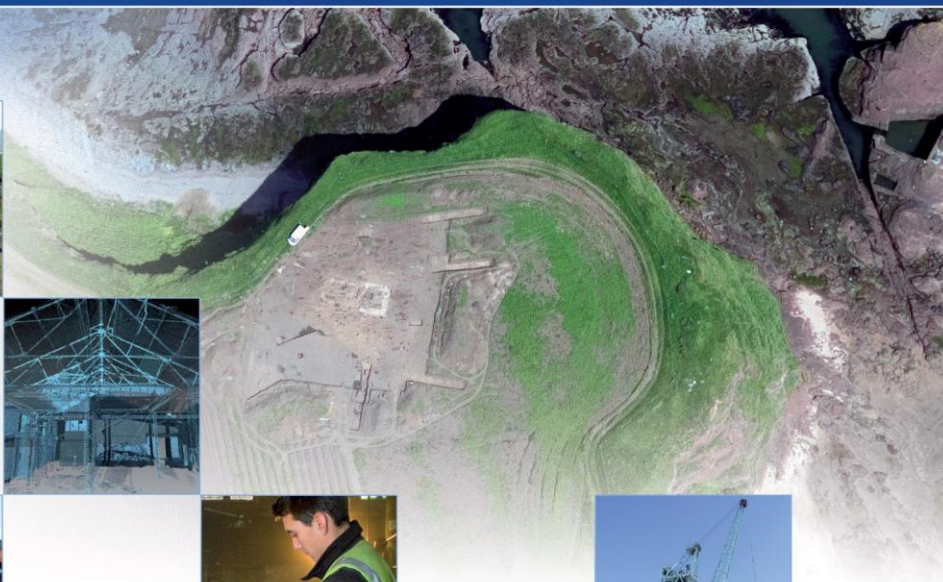


Moncreiffe Hillfort, Perth and Kinross: Archaeological Evaluation Phase 2 Data Structure Report

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Moncreiffe Hillfort, Perth and Kinross:

Archaeological Evaluation Phase 2

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust
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SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by the Tay Landscape Partnership, with local volunteers, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and AOC Archaeology Group at the hillfort of Moncreiffe Hill. The 2015 work followed on from a topographic survey and the excavation of three trenches in 2014.

The excavation comprised four trenches located over the potential ramparts and within the interior of the hillfort. A series of three earthen ramparts was identified in a 2m by 12m trench excavated over the western circuit of the hillfort enclosure, taken with the previous years' excavations there would appear to be at least four concentric ramparts at parts of the hillfort, although it is not clear whether these are contemporary or reflect multiple phases of construction.

A 2m by 10.5m trench excavated over the eastern circuit of the hillfort enclosure revealed a stone faced rampart, along with a series of cut bedrock terraces. A 7m by 6m trench excavated over the entrance in the west of the hillfort revealed the entrance which was defined by a cut bedrock terrace to the interior of the hillfort and a stone bank forming the outer edge of the entrance. A fourth trench excavated over a scoop putatively identified as a house platform within the interior of the hillfort revealed this feature to be of natural origin.

An artefact assemblage relating to the use of the hillfort was recovered including a significant ceramic assemblage, an unusual heavy duty stone maul, and a stone (possibly jet) bead. Struck stone artefacts, predating the construction of the hillfort were also recovered, notably a leaf shaped arrowhead of Neolithic date.

1 INTRODUCTION

A community archaeology project, comprising the excavation of four trenches, was carried out at Moncreiffe Hillfort, Perth and Kinross by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust with AOC Archaeology Group as part of the Tay Landscape Partnership scheme *Hillforts of the Tay*. The project followed on from the excavation of three trenches in 2014 (Cook et al 2014) and aimed to: investigate the possibility of multiple lines of enclosure; to date the enclosure; to assess potential internal buildings and to investigate possible entrances to the hillfort. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Project Design* (Strachan 2014). The project was undertaken with the kind permission of the landowner, Woodland Trust Scotland, to whom thanks are due, especially site manager Jill Aitkens. Tay Landscape Partnership and AOC Archaeology Group would like to thank all of the volunteers who made the excavation a success.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Moncreiffe Hillfort (NGR: NO 1313 1988; NMRS: NO11NW7; PKHER: MPK3203; SAM: 9438) is the smaller of two hillforts on Moncreiffe Hill, to the SE of Perth (Figs 1 and 2). The hill itself is a key geographical feature in the landscape, located at the meeting of the Rivers Tay and Earn and so dominating the lower straths of both rivers. The monument itself comprises the suggested remains of a fort of late Iron Age and/or Early Historic date, and is situated at around 175-185m OD on a craggy prominence with the southern side of Moncreiffe Hill with extensive views across the Earn valley to the south, southeast and southwest, but with views to the north limited by the hill itself. Both Moncreiffe fort, and its neighbour Moredun Top (NGR: NO 135 199) sit on exposed bedrock of the Ochil Volcanic Formation, being pyroxene – andesite, with the drift geology of the surrounding area consists of Glaciofluvial till, gravels, sands and silts (British Geological Survey 1:50000 digital data). While there is no mention of either hillfort in the Old and New Accounts (1791-99 and 1834-45 respectively), the site appears annotated as 'fort (remains of)' on the OS 1st edition 6" map. Christison notes of the Hill of Moncreiffe: 'On the edge of this mural precipice two forts have been perched, the first of which... is now scarcely recognisable. The O.M. (Ordnance Map) gives it an oval form measuring about 280 by 150 ft. I had some difficulty in finding any evidence of a mound or wall, but at last discovered a 'distinct mass of rude masonry in a chance break in the ground. (1900, 79-80).

The site is mapped and annotated as 'Fort' on the OS 6" map (1959) and the NMRS record of an OS visit in 1964 is as follows: 'The slight remains of this fort are situated on a craggy height with a cliff on the south and steep slopes on the other sides. On the southeast side are traces of a rampart 1m high externally and not exceeding 0.3m internally which may have continued to the northeast to form an annexe, but could not be traced further due to Forestry Commission planting. On the northeast are slight indications of stony construction but elsewhere only a faint suggestion of scarping marks the possible course. There is an entrance from the southeast and a possible entrance from the west.' The site was designated as a Scheduled Monument on 23/01/2001 and the schedule for the designation includes the following summary: The monument comprises the remains of a fort of late Iron Age or Early Historic date. The monument is situated at around 175- 185m OD on a craggy height with cliffs on the south and steep slopes on the other sides. These natural defences have been augmented by a defensive wall, of which only traces now remain, encircling the natural plateau of the hill top. Traces of ramparts and an entrance can also be seen on the southeast side. The interior of the fort is uneven in places with substantial outcrops of bedrock, and no internal features have been identified from the surface remains. The area proposed for scheduling is sub-circular, with maximum dimensions of 110m east west by 70m north south, to include all the features described and an area around them in which evidence relating to the construction and use of the fort may survive, as marked in red on the accompanying map. The NMRS records the results of a RCHAMS visit as follows: All traces of previous Forestry Commission plantings have been removed from the

area of this fort, but it is so poorly preserved that no further details can be added to the existing OS plan and description. (JRS) September 1996.

In addition the NMRS records a chance find as follows: Fragment of worked jet/cannel coal, probably from a bracelet or bangle. Cut-marks are evident and the piece may have been unfinished due to breakage. It has a D shaped cross-section and measures 21mm in length. It was found in 1981 beside the track in the interior of the hillfort at NGR NO 1364 1988 (PMAG Acc. No. 1998.106). Information from Perth Museum and Art Gallery 08/05/03.

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken in September 2014 as part of the Tay Landscape Partnership scheme *Hillforts of the Tay*. These works comprised a detailed topographic survey of all visible features on site and the excavation of three evaluation trenches. The results of the 2014 excavations are presented in *Moncreiffe Hillfort, Perth and Kinross: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report* (AOC 22849; OASIS No. aocarcha1-192803) of September 2014, but in summary the conclusions are:

- the presence of a hillfort defined by a single enclosure rampart was confirmed of prehistoric to early historic date on the site.
- While the enclosure rampart, identified in trenches 1 and 2 were of broadly similar construction, an earthen core with an external facing course of stone, there were some minor structural differences (probably resulting from the nature of the available foundations at each location).

Further to the production of the above DSR, radiocarbon dates have been made available from two secure contexts:

- A piece of hazel nut shell recovered from the lower rampart [208] was dated to 3339-3028calBC (SUERC-57072)
- A piece of hazel recovered from an area of possible burning [304] within Trench 3 provided a date of 410-234calBC (SUERC-57073).

The dates clearly demonstrate some form of activity on the site in the middle Iron Age and the middle Neolithic period. The Iron Age date was found in association with a possible house platform, or area of activity, and demonstrates later prehistoric occupation of the site, supporting a possible Iron Age date for the hillfort. While it is possible that the Neolithic date for the rampart is correct, it seems more likely that the rampart construction used material from across an earlier site, and so earlier material was incorporated in to it.

3 OBJECTIVES

Further to establishing the presence of a hillfort at the site, the emphasis of the work for 2015 focussed on resolving a number of questions arising from the 2014 evaluation and concluding work at the site, rather than creating new questions to be answered in future years.

Specifically, the aims were:

1. to date the enclosure rampart confirmed in 2014
2. to assess the possibility of multiple lines of enclosure
3. to assess the potential internal buildings identified by the laser scan survey

4. to assess the nature of the probable entrances identified by the laser scan survey

4 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological evaluation comprised the hand excavation of four trenches in locations agreed in advance with Historic Scotland, as a condition of the scheduled monument consent. These trenches were placed to assess potential features identified during the topographic survey as well as further exploring the ramparts recorded during the 2014 excavations.

The trenches were excavated by hand and all features and structures revealed were cleaned by hand before being recorded by digital photography, drawn to an appropriate scale and a written record produced using AOC *pro forma* context sheets.

5 RESULTS

All archaeological works were conducted between the 21st April and the 2nd May 2015. Weather conditions were variable through the course of the work though the archaeological visibility was however good.

The hillfort of Moncreiffe Hill (Figure 2) is situated on a minor summit of Moncreiffe Hill defined by cliffs to the south and steep natural slopes to all other sides. The low fragmentary remains of a rampart with occasional visible stone facing can be traced around the northern edge of the hilltop forming a very irregular oval enclosure measuring 69m east to west by 46m north to south. No ramparts can be discerned to the south of the hilltop above the steep cliffs, this may be due to differential survival or because a rampart was not considered necessary above the steep cliffs.



Plate 1: Panorama view from Moncreiffe Hill to the south over Strath Earn.

5.1 Trench 1a

Trench 1a, located to the northwest of the hillfort, was an extension of trench 1 from the 2014 season of excavations and ran down-slope from the rampart identified in 2014 (Figures 2, 3 & 7). Trench 1a measured 10m by 2m with a 2m by 1m extension at its northwestern end.

The natural deposits in trench 1a comprised outcrops of angular, broken bedrock (1016) with deposits of a clayey sand glacial till (1019) between the outcrops.

Extending across trench 1a were an upper [1018/109], middle [1014] and lower bank [1015] (Figures 3b & 7) with a 4.1m and 4.0m gap separating the respective banks. Banks [1014 & 1015] were similar in character being composed of a redeposited natural silty sand and fine gravel. Bank [1014] was 1.15m wide by up to 0.31m deep. Bank [1015] was 1.86m wide and up to 0.17m deep. A radiocarbon date obtained from alder charcoal from bank material (1015) provided a date range of 729-401calBC (Calibrated to 2 σ , SUERC61210; Table 1). The upper bank [1018/1004] was

composed of a compact reddish brown sandy clay and extended into trench 1 of 2014 (Where this feature was recorded as a buried ground surface [109]). Overall bank [1018/109] was 2.16m wide and up to 0.35m deep.

To the northwest, downslope side of and overlying bank [1018] were a series of deposits (1005, 1006, 1010, 1011, 1012 & 1017) that are interpreted as slumping or collapse of material from rampart [1018/109]. A similar series of collapse or slumping deposits (1007, 1008 & 1009) lay to the downslope, northwest side of bank/rampart [1014]. Of these both (1007 & 1008) comprised stone tumble, possibly the remains of stone facings to the rampart. Possible collapse from rampart [1015] comprised a deposit of stone (1013) at the southeastern edge of bank [1015] that might be the remnants of an internal stone facing to the rampart.

Overlying the deposits of collapsed material lay a deposits of hillwash (1002) up to 0.5m thick, itself overlain by turf and topsoil (1000 & 1001).



Plate 2: Middle bank/rampart [1014] in trench 1a

5.2 Trench 2a

Trench 2a, to the east of the hillfort, was an extension to trench 2 of the 2014 season and ran downslope, from the rampart identified during the 2014 season. Trench 2a measured 10m by 2m (Figures 2, 4 & 7).

The natural geology within trench 2a comprised a bedrock outcrop (2003) to the west with a glacial till deposit (2018) of clayey sand to the east. The bedrock within trench 2a was quarried with three steps or terraces [2004, 2005 & 2006] running north south across the trench. The uppermost of these terraces [2004] formed a step 0.6m high, the middle terrace [2005] was 1m high and the lowest terrace [2006] was a near vertical cut 0.9m high forming the most obvious of the three terraces.



Plate 3: Upper [2004], middle [2005] and lower [2006] terraced cuts in bedrock (2003).

Further downslope, to the east of the terraced bedrock was a stone kerbed bank or rampart [2014] measuring 2.2m in width and surviving up to 0.35m high. This comprised an outer (2012) and inner (2010) stone kerb with an earth (2013) and stone core (2011). Within the outer stone kerb was a possible dressed and squared block [2016], suggestive of a well finished facing to the rampart. Preserved below rampart [2014] was a buried ground surface (2017). Two radiocarbon dates obtained from the earth infill (2013) of rampart [2014] gave a date range of 538-391calBC and 748-404calBC (Calibrated to 2 σ , SUERC61636, SUERC 61211; Table 1).



Plate 4: Inner and outer kerbs (2010, 2012) of bank [2014] with earth (2013) and stone (2011) between.

Overlying the lower cut bedrock terrace [2006] and the rampart/bank [2014] were deposits associated with the collapse/slumping of the ramparts of the hillfort (2015, 2009, 2008 & 2007).

Above the slumping/collapse deposits lay a coluvial hillwash deposit (2002) and turf and topsoil (2001).

5.3 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located over the possible western entrance to the hillfort identified during the topographic survey in 2014. Trench 4 measured 6m by 3m with a 2m by 3m extension added to the northeast and southwest to form a T-shaped trench (Figures 2 & 6).

Throughout the trench the natural geology was an outcrop of bedrock (405 /402/410/415). An area of smoothed bedrock [412] 1.2m in width, extending east west across trench 4, indicated the probable location of the entrance passage. At the southwest corner of the trench the bedrock had been cut [433] to form a terrace flanking the southeastern edge of entrance [412]. The area of bedrock above this cut (411) was probably the foundation for a bank/rampart.



Plate 5: Cut bedrock [433] with possible rampart base (411) behind.

The northern edge of the entrance passage was formed of three earth and stone banks on slightly varying alignments. Forming the northwestern edge of the entrance [412] was bank/rampart [408], running east to west across trench 4. Bank [408] measured 1.05m wide and survived up to 0.3m high with one course of the stonework surviving and comprised of displaced facing stonework (403) with an earth core (426) and two basal layers of earth or turf forming a foundation deposit (427, 428). A radiocarbon date obtained from the foundation deposit (427) of rampart [408] gave a date range of 748-403calBC (Calibrated to 2 σ , SUERC61209; Table 1).

Forming a probable continuation of [408] was another bank [432], measuring 0.95m wide and up to 0.4m high with one course of stonework surviving. Bank [432] lay on approximately same alignment and comprised of stone (422) with an earthen core (423) on a foundation deposit (431). Stone deposit (429) is the tumbled remnants of the facing stones of the rampart. A radiocarbon date obtained from the earth core (423) of rampart [432] gave a date range of 400-211calBC (Calibrated to 2 σ , SUERC61632; Table 1).



Plate 6: Bank [408], west facing section.

At the northeastern corner of trench 4 lay rampart [418] which adjoined entrance bank [432] although their stratigraphic relationship was unclear. Rampart [418] measured 1.6m in width, up to 0.4m high with a single surviving course of stonework and lay on a northeast southwest alignment that could be traced on the ground extending to the northeast outwith trench 4 to join with the innermost of the ramparts identified in trench 1 excavated in 2014. Rampart [418] comprised external (419) and internal (414) stone facing course with an earth (420) and stone core (425). Deposits of stone (414 & 424) probably represents tumble from the facing of this rampart. A radiocarbon date obtained from the earth core (420) of rampart [418] gave a date range of 3365-3104calBC (Calibrated to 2σ , SUERC61208; Table 1) that almost certainly derives from the incorporation of earlier material into the earthen core of the rampart.

Overlying the banks/ramparts [408/432] and [418] were deposits of colluvial hillwash material (416, 417) and similar colluvial deposits (406, 421, 407, 404) had also gathered in some of the various hollows and pockets in the bedrock (405)

Overlying the colluvial hillwash deposits was a woodland soil (401/409/413) and a turf and topsoil layer (400)

5.4 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located over a scoop identified during the topographic survey as a possible house platform. A simple stratigraphic sequence was identified in trench 5 with bedrock (502) or natural glacial till (504) overlain by a colluvial hillwash deposit (503) and turf/topsoil (501). No features of anthropogenic origin were identified in trench 5 demonstrating that the scoop was of natural origin.



Plate 7: Trench 5 post-excitation, from west.

Site	Laboratory code	Material	Context	Uncalibrated date BP	Calibrated 1σ	Calibrated 2σ
Moncreiffe Hillfort, 2015 Season	SUERC-61208 (GU37999)	Charcoal: Alder	420	4540±28	3360-3123calBC	3365-3104calBC
	SUERC-61209 (GU38001)	Charcoal: Alder	427	2424±29	540-411calBC	748-403calBC
	SUERC-61210 (GU38002)	Charcoal: Alder	1015	2403±29	509-407calBC	729-401calBC
	SUERC-61211 (GU38003)	Charcoal: Alder	2013	2426±29	701-411calBC	748-404calBC
	SUERC-61632 (GU38207)	Charcoal: Alder	423	2271±29	395-257calBC	400-211calBC
	SUERC-61636 (GU38208)	Charcoal: Alder	2013	2372±29	481-397calBC	538-391calBC
Moncreiffe Hillfort, 2014 Season	SUERC-57072 (GU35847)	Nut Shell: Hazel	208	4474±29	3329-3094calBC	3339-3028calBC
	SUERC-57073 (GU35848)	Charcoal: Hazel	304	2308±31	403-372calBC	410-234calBC

Table 1: Summary of the radiocarbon dates from the 2014 and 2015 excavations.

6 ARTEFACT ASSESSMENT

A total of 69 hand-retrieved small finds were recovered during the excavation consisting of items of worked stone, struck lithics, ceramics, glass, bone and charcoal. In many instances, struck lithic and ceramic small finds include multiple fragments collected together under one small find number. The most prolific finds from this season of excavation were pieces of struck quartz and flint as well as items of possible worked stone. A surprisingly rich series of deposits were found in association with trench 1a comprising substantial sherds of large, coarse, handmade ceramic vessels, struck lithics and worked stone tools as well as a fragment of a possible jet bead. Elsewhere on site, a spindle whorl roughout and fragment of whetstone came from trench 2a and an unusual heavy duty stone

maul, stone mortar or lamp fragment and pieces of fire-cracked stone came from trench 4. The majority of these artefacts are consistent with a later prehistoric, probably Iron Age, date. The presence of a small flint and worked quartz assemblage suggests an earlier, ephemeral, Neolithic phase of activity.

6.1 Methodology

On the conclusion of excavation the finds were processed and cleaned at AOC's conservation laboratory. Remedial surface cleaning and consolidation work by AOC's conservators on a fragment of stone bead (SF 1001) was required in order to stabilise the material for future study and long-term curation. The material, a black organic-rich stone identified in the field as shale, had begun to fracture after removal from the ground. A further item, a possible fractured piece of shale bracelet was removed from the ground in a wet and soil-coated condition. Cleaning by a conservator was attempted in order to stabilise the piece but after soil was removed from the surfaces and the piece was slowly dried out under controlled conditions, the item was determined to be a well-preserved dense piece of charcoal rather than shale. A summary report on the conservation process used to stabilise SF 1001 and SF 1013 is outlined in Appendix 7.

An assessment of individual objects' condition, function and possible date was made by visual examination of the objects after cleaning. This report summarises the assemblage by material type outlining the significance of the assemblage as a whole and of individual pieces as well as making recommendations for future work. No cataloguing of the artefacts has been undertaken at this stage.

6.2 Struck lithics

A total of 61 pieces of chipped stone were recovered from the excavation in addition to two imported water-worn cobbles. The struck lithic assemblage is comprised principally of naturally occurring granular grey and white quartz and six pieces of east coast (Buchan) till flint. The quartz assemblage is heavily fractured and abraded, probably due to ploughing associated with modern forestry activity. Cortex on both quartz and flint is smooth and rolled. The flint pieces show a range of colours associated with the Buchan gravel deposits with artefacts of both red and grey. Two of the artefacts show signs of being heat affected with discolouration, fire-cracking and a loss of mass.

Only one artefact has been secondarily modified (SF 017). This is a small leaf shaped arrowhead of early Neolithic date and conforms to Green's (1980) type 4a-g. The remainder of the flint artefacts consist of a secondary flake, two tertiary flakes, a flake fragment and a core rejuvenation flake; all are of probable Neolithic date.

The quartz assemblage consists of 55 pieces. The majority of these are angular spalls, naturally occurring within the sites deposits. Many of the struck artefacts have resulted from plough damage probably related to the planting and establishment of woodland on the site in the recent past. Despite this, three deliberately modified quartz flakes were recovered, two of which were tertiary and made on translucent quartz of good quality. A single small amorphous quartz core (SF 401) was also recorded. This artefact is also made on translucent quartz and is of probable early prehistoric date.

This small but comprehensive assemblage of struck flint and quartz complements and enhances the group recovered during the 2014 season and bolsters the picture of Neolithic activity on the site as suggested by the radiocarbon dated sample from trench 2 obtained in 2014. The extent of activity at Moncreiffe Hill during the Neolithic is difficult to categorise by this ephemeral scatter of struck lithics. The context of recovery of these items are consistent with material from the summit of the hill being carried downslope as the result of hillwash. Water-rolled quartzite pebbles indicate that raw materials, probably intended for knapping, was brought to the site from a nearby water-course. The presence of core rejuvenation flakes also indicate that expedient tool production took place on site during this early Neolithic period.

6.3 Worked stone

A total of 26 items of possible worked stone were recovered during excavation and comprise a restricted number and range of tools, a single ornament, fire-cracked stones, possible quarried stones and items collected in the field as worked but have subsequently been identified as natural.

The majority of the worked stone objects are hand-held tools with wear reflecting a variety of day-to-day tasks, household activities and crafts but two items are more notable: a carefully shaped bead of black shiny stone (SF 1001) and an unusual heavy duty stone maul (SF 409).

The bead (SF 1001) is a fragment from a thick, chunky, disc-shaped bead or a squat cylindrical bead produced from a polished, black, organic-rich stone. It was preliminarily identified in the field as shale but closer examination of the material after cleaning suggests that it is more likely to be jet. The stone is dense, black or dark brown and the surfaces have cracked in a distinctive angular fashion typical of jet as opposed to shale or cannel coal. This is significant for two reasons: firstly, if proved on further examination and analysis to be made of jet, it is likely to have originated from Whitby in Yorkshire and would represent an import to the site, and secondly, a possible jet or shale bracelet fragment is known from the adjacent hillfort at Moredun Top, emphasising shared networks of exchange between the two sites (Mark Hall, pers comm.; Perth Museum Accession Number 1998.106). This find also complements the discovery in 2014 of a section of shale or cannel coal bracelet in Trench 3 (SF 302).

An unusual heavy-duty stone maul (SF 406) was found adjacent to a portion of the stone-faced or revetted bank that flanks the entrance. It is a large sub-square, water-rounded cobble with pecked crescentric notches on adjacent edges to facilitate hafting or binding. One end of the cobble is extensively fracture damaged as the result of use with heavy physical force whilst the opposite squared end with rounded corners is also pitted from wear but has not been used for such heavy hammering. The extent of damage to the tools is such that one face has been cleaved off as the result of the stone cracking vertically during use. The stone is likely to have been discarded after breakage as the tool would no longer have been functional. Although we would anticipate that heavy-duty hammerstones and mauls would have been a common component of the later prehistoric toolkit, used in the construction of buildings and fortifications, they are rarely recognised amongst excavated assemblages.

There is no single way to interpret how this stone tool was physically used; the extent of damage and traces of wear imply that it may have been a tool to shape or quarry rock. The notches on two opposing edges of the stone are clear but there are hints that similar notches may have originally existed on all four of the edges. These notches are designed to hold an organic binding, such as rope, sinew or twine in place and polish on the surface of the tool as well as softening of the peckmarks in the interior of the notches confirm that such a binding was originally present. This binding could either have been to allow the tool to be hafted - fixed to a handle - or to suspend the tool vertically perhaps from a timber supporting frame similar to modern pile-drivers. The former interpretation is more likely, however, the pitting on the unfractured end of the stone tool is of interest and could indicate that the maul was used in the manner of a large chisel – being held in place against the rock to be worked and hit from above, perhaps from a wooden hammer or maul. Similar heavy duty mauls, with a pecked band for hafting running around the waist of the tool, are known from elsewhere in Scotland such as that from a possible Iron Age site at Barhullion, Wigtownshire (Maxwell 1889, 212, fig 18; NMS: x.AK 158) as well as similar undated examples from Balcraig (NMS: x.AK 161) and Kirklauchline (NMS: x.AK 133) from the same region. Hafted mauls such as those just described are not common amongst excavated later prehistoric artefact assemblages but this may be a matter of recognition and the find from Moncreiffe Hill presents an opportunity to re-appraise the significance of this tool type. In addition to SF 466 where there is little doubt over the function, a second possible stone from Moncreiffe may have seen similar use. Although no evidence of binding or diagnostic percussive fracture damage was noted on SF 2010, this spall from a sub-

oval smoothed large cobble or boulder may have been detached as the result of similar use to the maul just described.

A fragment of a sub-square sandstone mortar or lamp was recovered from trench 4 (SF 412) incorporated into material of the bank. It is a roughly shaped block of sandstone with a round-based conical hollow pecked into one face which has broken across the centre. A second, more shallow, peckmarked hollow is present on the opposing face. No obvious heat damage or discolouration of the stone from fire is present to indicate use as a lamp but some staining on the surviving edges would benefit from more detailed microscopic examination to categorise more confidently. Softening of the peckmarks from manufacture on the interior of the larger hollow imply that the facet was used, probably to process and grind foodstuffs, pigment or medicine in conjunction with a stone pestle.

Other tools found during excavation at Moncreiffe include a fragment of a bar-shaped whetstone used to sharpen and maintain metal blades from trench 2a (SF 2003), an unfinished disc-shaped spindle whorl intended for use in preparing yarn for textile production (SF 2001) and a range of cobble tools produced from water-rounded stones with evidence of wear in the form of pitting, abrasion and smoothing of the surfaces (SF 403, SF 410, ?SF 411, SF 1002, SF 1015).

Five fire-cracked cobbles (SF 402, SF 407, SF 1011, SF 5002 and general find 001) were recovered across the excavated area. Most are water-rounded cobbles, probably sourced from a local water-coarse rather than from the immediate area. Each of these items are discoloured and fractured as the result of heat damage, probably from use as pot boilers to heat water or liquid-based foodstuffs.

During excavation, possible signs of quarrying of the bedrock were noted in trenches 2a and 4. These traces of working were far clearer on the bedrock of Trench 2a where a steeply angled, stepped terrace had been created by quarrying away the surface of the natural bedrock. The evidence of quarrying in trench 4 was less convincing but remains a possibility. Samples of detached bedrock, possibly quarried, were recovered from both trenches to aid future study. Initial examination of these samples has proved inconclusive. Although both display fresh, angular fractured surfaces, it is unclear whether these 'facets' are the result of frost-shattering or deliberate modification. The sample from trench 4 (SF 418) appears too regular and softened, suggesting that this is natural foliation of the rock resulting in frost shattering, but deliberate working of the rock from trench 2a (SF 2013) requires further examination with advice from a geologist. Four further stones require advice from a geologist to categorise more closely. Each consists of heavily fractured fragments of water-rounded boulders which may have fractured as the result of a natural process (e.g. frost shattering), damaged during ploughing in advance of the woodland being established (see comments re the struck lithics) or as the result of deliberate use.

Four items are natural and require no further work (SF 404, SF 5004, SF 1020, SF 1025).

6.4 Ceramics

In contrast to the 2014 season, the 2015 excavation revealed a significant quantity of ceramic sherds from coarse handmade pottery vessels. The vast majority of these sherds (56) came from trench 1a, predominantly from context 1005. A minimum of two incomplete vessels are represented amongst these sherds which derive from large, thick, very crudely produced flat based pots. The majority of the ceramic sherds are plain, undecorated, thick body sherds but at least one base sherd and at least two sherds from the angled junction between the base and the lower wall of the pot are present. Significantly, no rim sherds are present indicating that the pots had already broken and were incomplete when discarded. A small number of sherds are sooted from use implying that they were domestic vessels, probably used for food production in the home. Broadly speaking, the fabric is a fine clay with occasional large angular rock fragments which has fired medium hard and is incompletely oxidised (dark brown/black core with yellow-buff to brown-grey exterior and interior surfaces). Distinct and frequent organic impressions are present on the surfaces including voids where grass, straw and possibly grains have burnt out during firing. Hair impressions on both the

interior and exterior surfaces, made when the clay was still wet, are also notable and may indicate that either the potters hair became trapped in the surface of the clay during production or that the surfaces of the pot were smoothed in patches with human or animal hair. Crude slab/coil construction method of production is suggested by imperfect joins between sections of clay. More detailed examination of the profile of the sherds and morphology of the fabric is required to refine this identification and there remains the possibility that individual sherds may re-fit. Based on the fabric, the crude method of production, the large size of the vessels and what can be determined of the form of the vessel during this initial stage of examination, a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date is indicated.

A single fragment consisting of the damaged core of an incompletely oxidised sherd from a handmade pottery vessel came from trench 4 (context 416) and a friable piece of daub with no surface markings such as wattle impressions etc. came from the same trench (context 417). Some small fragments of possible pottery were recovered from trench 2a (SF 2005 & 2008). After cleaning these were revealed to be discoloured, perhaps heat affected, fractured pieces of friable stone.

6.5 Glass

Six sherds from three 19th/20th century glass bottles were recovered from initial cleaning after de-turfing in trench 5.

6.6 Vitrified material

A single fragment of vitrified material was found in the vicinity of trench 2a during backfilling. It is a flattened ovoid lump of non-magnetic, heavily vitrified, low-density, silicate-rich material, light and vesicular and glassy in patches. This type of slag is typically referred to as unclassified vitrified material and is similar in consistency with fuel ash slag, a product of a high-temperature pyrotechnic process but with no demonstrable characteristics to indicate a connection to metalworking. It is not closely datable but complements the find in 2014 of a similar piece of vitrified material from trench 2 (SF 210).

6.7 Bone & charcoal

Three fragments of burnt bone, probably representing hearth debris from a domestic fire came from trenches 1a and 4. A fragment of unburnt animal bone, identified as a damaged sheep humerus, was recovered from the vicinity of trench 5 during de-turfing (SF 413). It is not considered to be of any antiquity. Nine hand-retrieved fragments of wood charcoal came from Trenches 1a and 2a.

6.8 Comparisons with 2014 assemblage

The mixed assemblage of small finds recovered in 2015 complements and enhances the picture of life at the fort in prehistory gleaned from artefacts found in the 2014 season of excavation. This previous collection of objects are more restricted both in terms of quantity of individual finds recovered but also the range of materials present. Ceramics in the form of late Bronze Age/Iron Age pot sherds are a useful addition to the existing material culture of the hillfort adding to the picture of domestic settlement at the site during the later prehistoric period. Ornaments made of black shiny stone are a recurring feature of Moncreiffe Hill's artefact assemblage. Significantly, the raw material used to make the bracelet fragment recovered in 2014 and the bead found in 2015 are quite different and indicate that they derived from two distinct sources. In the case of the bead from 2015, the material may well be jet suggesting that the trade networks and community connections of the people of Moncreiffe Hill extended to northern England. The rest of the worked stone assemblage is similar in composition to that recovered in 2014 with a small number of hand-held cobble tools, general purpose implements as well as fire-cracked stones used as pot boilers. A more unusual item, the broken stone maul, is likely to be related to the construction or modification to the defences of the site. A small quantity of struck flint and quartz recovered in 2015 complements and enhances the

group of similar items recovered during the previous season of excavation, reinforcing the picture of early prehistoric activity on the site that was later to become a more prominent enclosed settlement.

6.9 Recommendations for further work

- Each of the artefacts from the 2014 and 2015 excavations require full catalogue descriptions and measurements for archive and publication purposes. It is recommended that a report is produced on each of the material categories recovered which presents a summary of the 2014 and 2015 assemblages for publication, citing local comparanda where appropriate and a consideration of the assemblage as a whole in light of later prehistoric enclosed settlement in the Perth and Kinross region, if not beyond.

This should include:

- A complete catalogue of the 2015 struck lithic assemblage based on macroscopic analysis was undertaken. Full analysis of this material in conjunction with the assemblage recovered in 2014 will be necessary to fully contextualise the early prehistoric struck lithic technologies and processes represented at Moncreiffe Hill.
- Detailed examination of the ceramics will be required to enable any re-fitting sherds to be identified and for the number of vessels present to be determined. No attempt will be made to physically re-join the sherds as this can create problems for long-term curation and overall stability.
- Detailed examination and recording of wear patterns on the worked stone will be necessary to classify the range of functions represented. It is recommended that analysis of the worked stone should be carried out in conjunction with a geologist in order to determine the possible provenance of many of the stones which appear to have been brought to the hilltop from elsewhere. Consultation with a geologist is also recommended to confirm the observation of quarrying noted during excavation.
- X-radiography and non-destructive XRF analysis of the surfaces of the shale/jet objects is recommended to classify the material used more closely than visual analysis alone. By identifying the raw material used, this assists with identifying the potential sources of the material. It would be desirable for X-radiography and XRF analysis also to be conducted on the shale bracelet fragment from Moredun Top for comparison. Permission to undertake this analysis has provisionally been granted by Mark Hall, curator of Perth Museum.
- Small number of items would benefit from illustration to accompany final publication: flint arrowhead (SF 1017); the jet bead fragment (SF 1001); the spindle whorl roughout (SF 2001); the stone maul (SF 409), the stone mortar or lamp fragment (SF 412) and reconstructed profile of the ceramic vessel(s) after full analysis. The shale bracelet fragment from Moredun Top would also benefit from illustration as a comparative example of the 2014 shale bracelet fragment from Moncreiffe.

7 DISCUSSION

The excavations at Moncreiffe Hill have demonstrated conclusively that the site is the location of a hillfort of late prehistoric date comprising multiple lines of ramparts. While the excavations have been limited in scope evidence for the character, condition, extent and date of the hillfort were recovered.

The two seasons of excavations and survey at Moncreiffe Hill have substantially increased our understanding of the hillfort. Previous to these archaeological investigations the slight upstanding remains of the monument suggested a simple uni-vallate hillfort. The excavation evidence demonstrated that there are at least four circuits of ramparts enclosing the western side of the hill, where trench 1/1a crossed the defences. There is a possibility that these lines of ramparts continue around the hill to where trenches 2/2a cross the defensive circuit, however style of the ramparts may vary around the enclosure. Multivallation is generally regarded as evidence of multi-phase construction (ScARF 2012) suggesting that hillfort is a long lived monument. There is however no direct stratigraphic relationships between the four lines of ramparts in trench 1/1a, or between the upper and lower ramparts and the cut bedrock faces in trenches 2/2a to demonstrate the sequence of rampart construction.

There are two clusters of radiocarbon dates the first in the late 4th millennium BC and the second on the plateau of the calibration curve around the mid first millennium BC. The earlier of these dates in the middle Neolithic almost certainly represent incorporation of earlier material during the hillfort construction. Taken with the struck stone assemblage recovered during the two seasons of excavations these dates demonstrate significant early prehistoric use of the hilltop.

It is of interest that Moncreiffe hillfort seems to be a solely Iron Age construction, with no evidence for use in the Early Historic period from either the radiocarbon dating or the artefact assemblage. Excavation of a number of hillfort sites as part of the SERF project (Tessa Poller, pers com.) has also produced solely Iron Age dates for a number of the hillforts on the Sidlaw range to south of the Moncreiffe Hill. This is in contrast with recent research in both Aberdeenshire and East Lothian has suggested that hillforts in these areas are used into the 1st Millennium AD (Cook 2013). This may suggest that hillforts of early historic character, such as that of Moredun Top, also on Moncreiffe Hill, are rare in Perthshire.

This DSR report is both preliminary and provisional, with many issues raised by the excavation data still to be addressed. In ascertaining a fuller knowledge of the excavation results, a post-excavation research design will be produced that will describe all necessary and appropriate assessment processes and consequent post-excavation analyses together with publication proposals for the final report. This report will integrate the stratigraphic, contextual and descriptive data from the excavation with specialist post-excavation analyses covering dating, palaeoenvironmental and economic issues. These will then be included with the findings from the previous phases of work culminating in an article fit for academic publication.

8

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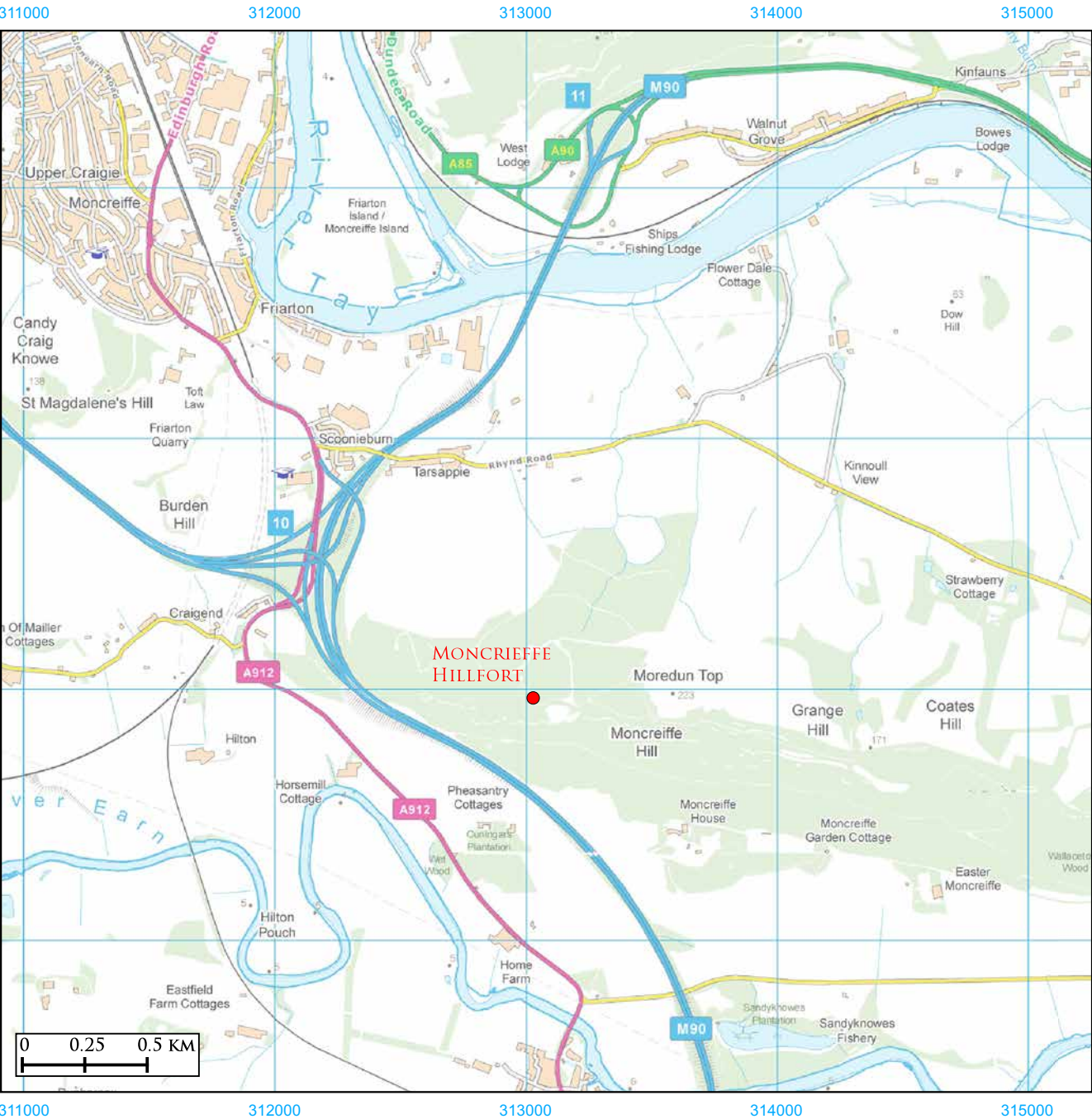
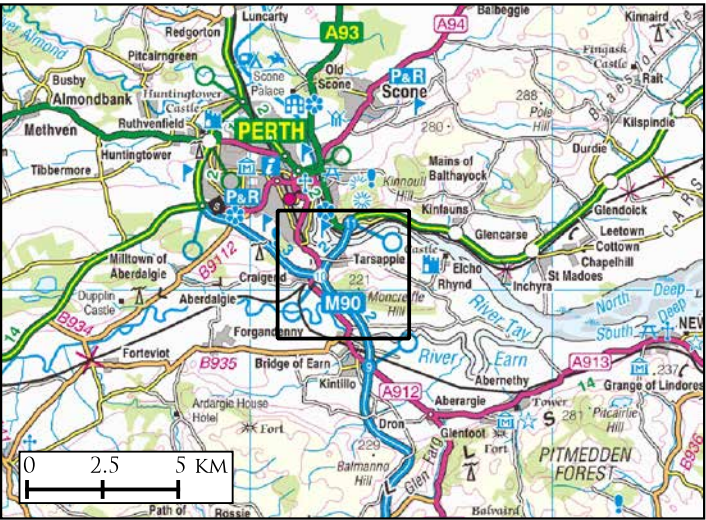
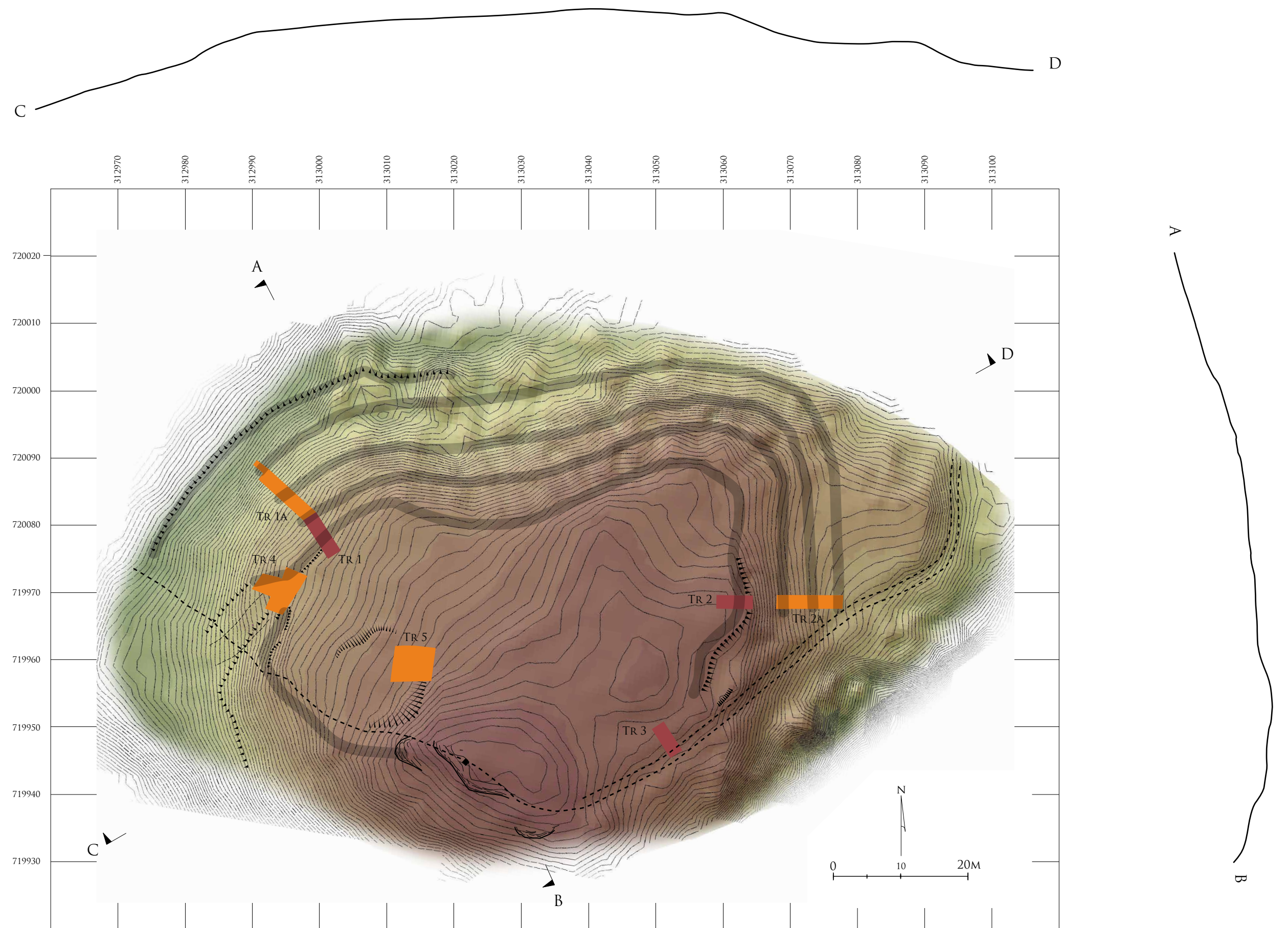


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION



- EXCAVATION TRENCH SEPT 2014
- EXCAVATION TRENCH APRIL 2015
- BEDROCK OUTCROP
- PATH
- POSSIBLE LINE OF RAMPART
- TRIG PILLAR

FIGURE 2: MONCRIEFFE HILLFORT TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY AND TRENCH LOCATION PLAN

A: PRE-EXCAVATION

B: MID-EXCAVATION

C: POST-EXCAVATION

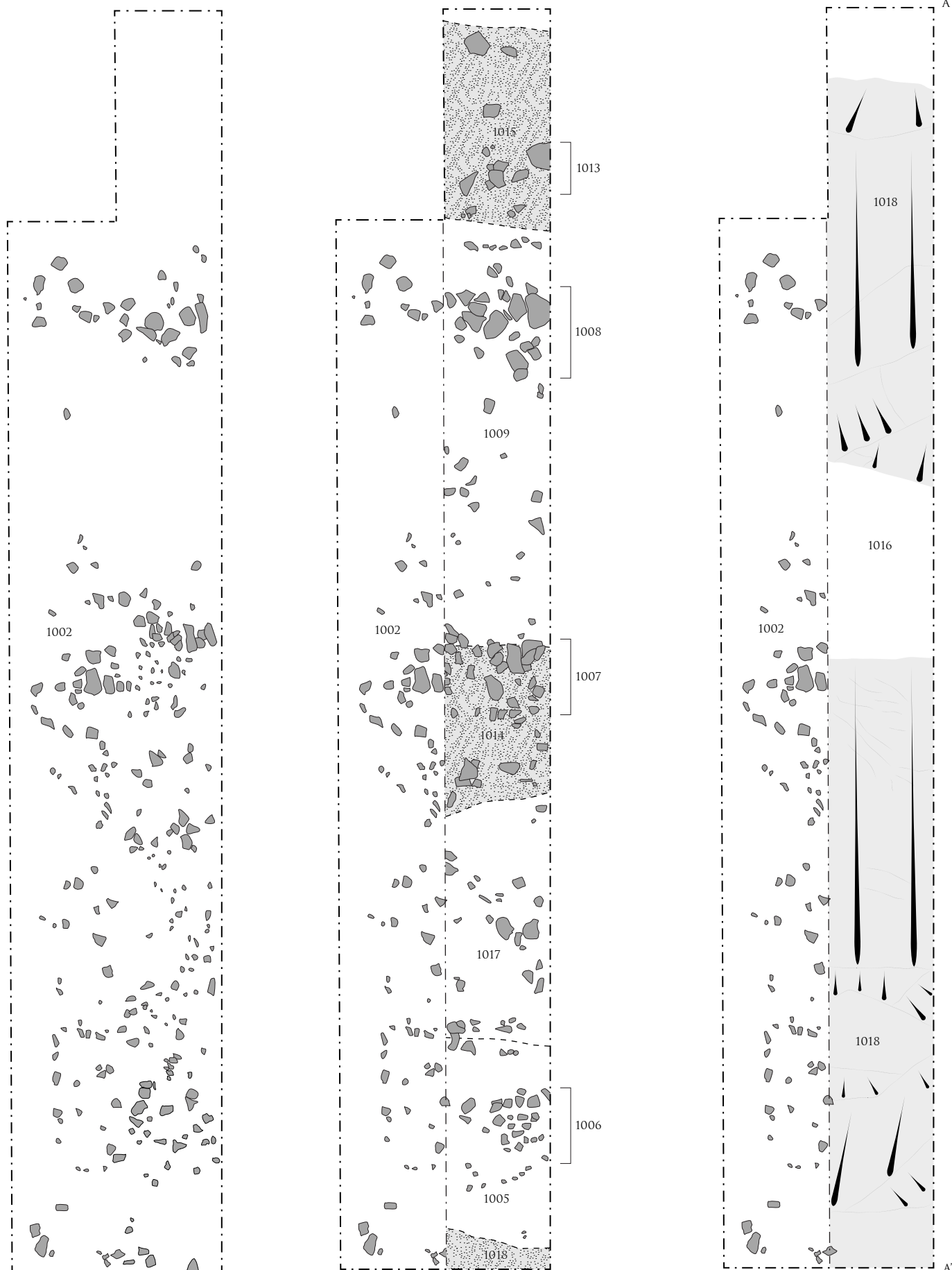


FIGURE 3: TRENCH 1A PLANS



A: PRE-EXCAVATION

B: MID-EXCAVATION

C: POST-EXCAVATION

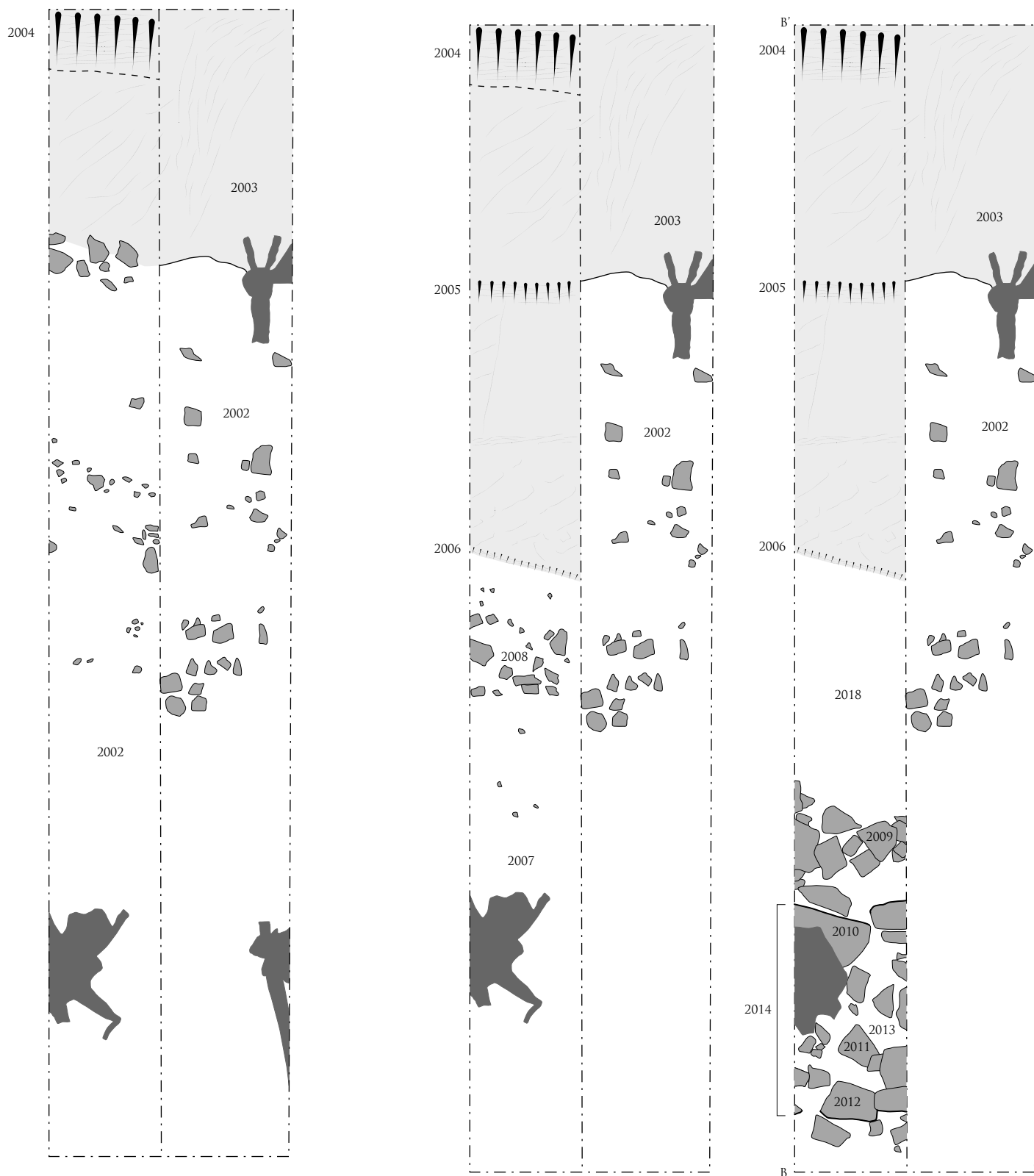


FIGURE 4: TRENCH 2A PLANS



B: POST-EXCAVATION



AOC
Archaeology
Group

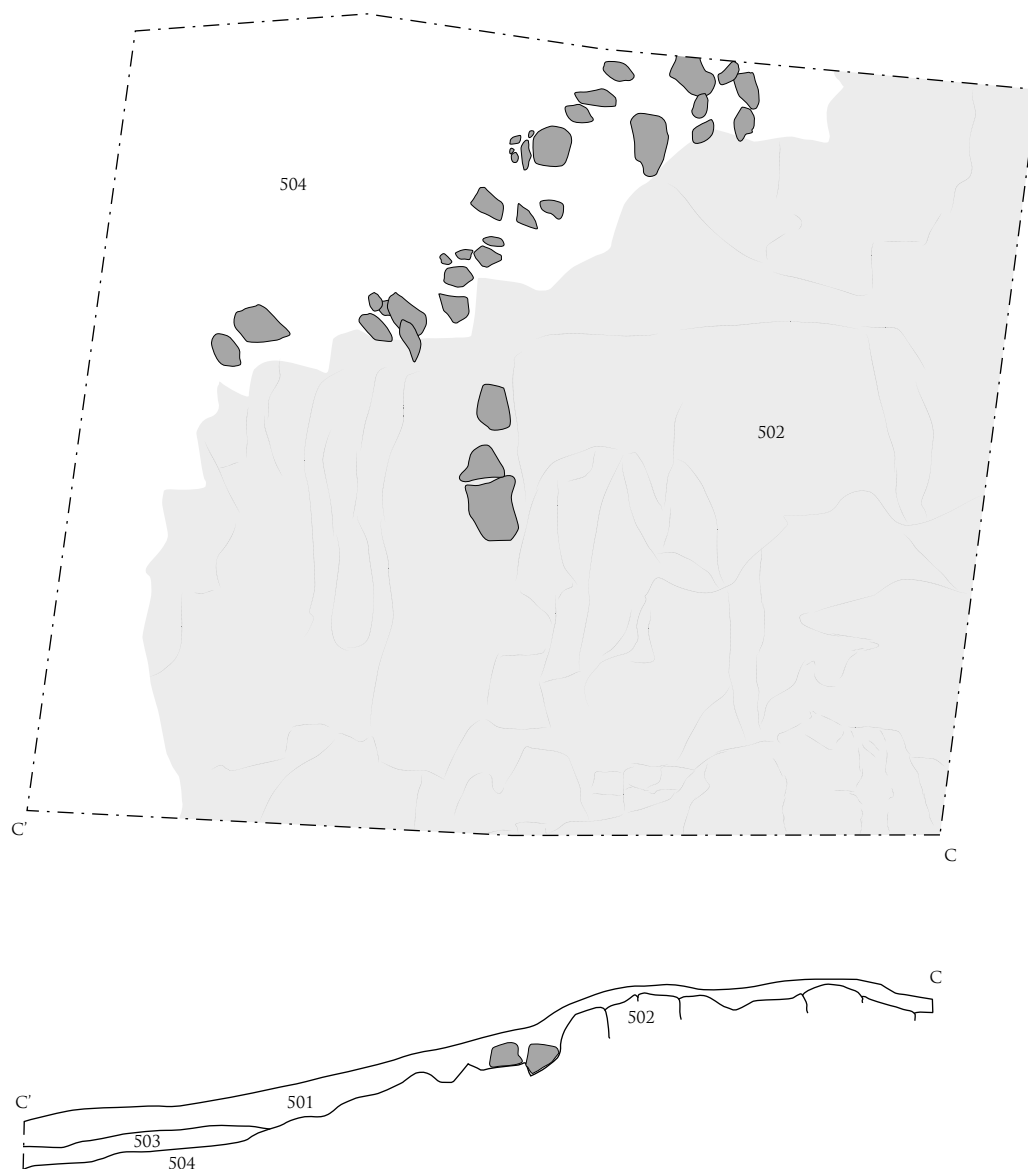


FIGURE 6: TRENCH 5 PLAN AND SECTION



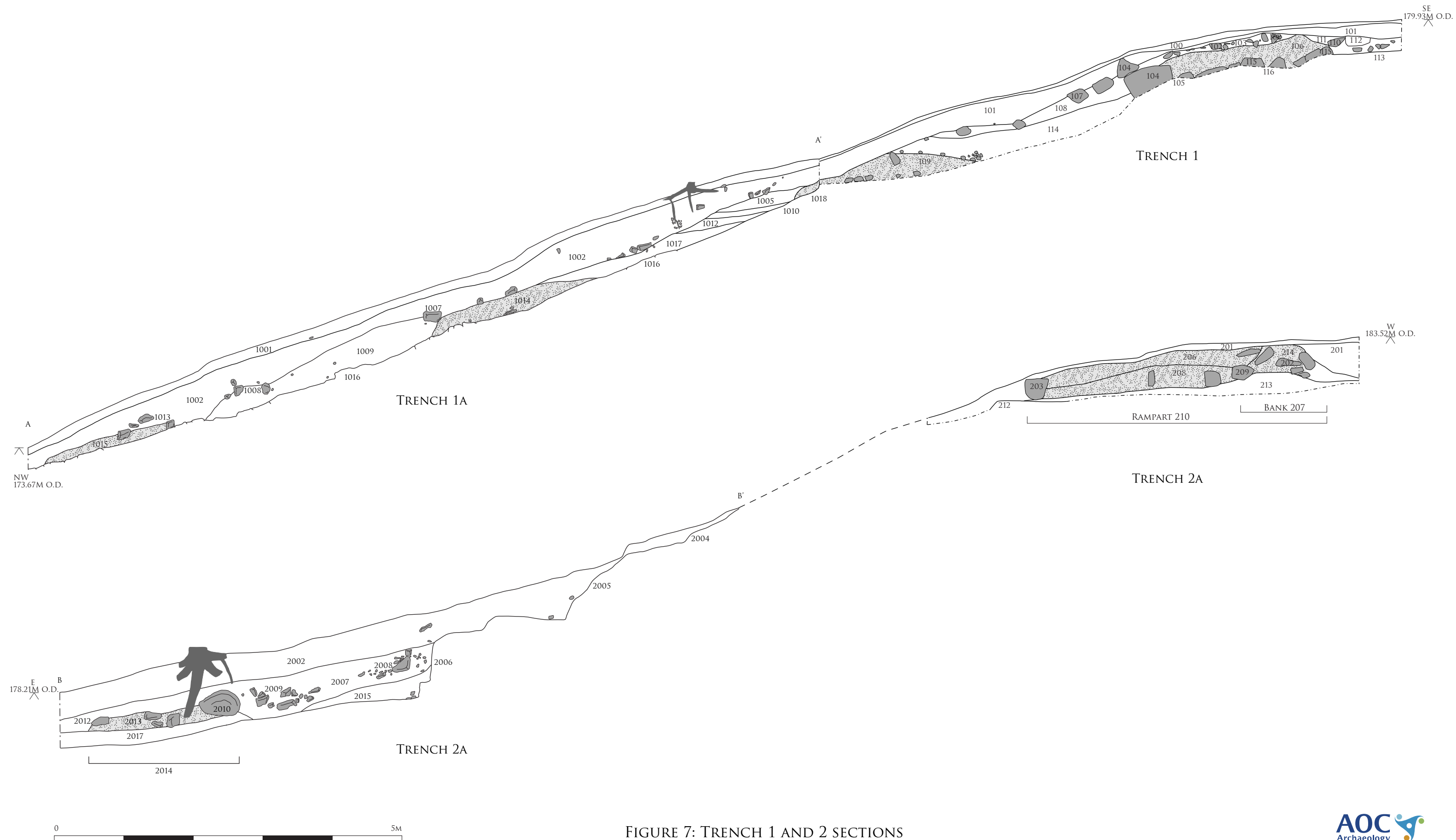


FIGURE 7: TRENCH 1 AND 2 SECTIONS



Vertical orthographic view of photo textured mesh trench 1a.

Orthographic view of photo textured mesh trench 1a.





Perspective view of photo textured mesh trench 1a.



Perspective view of photo textured mesh trench 1a.



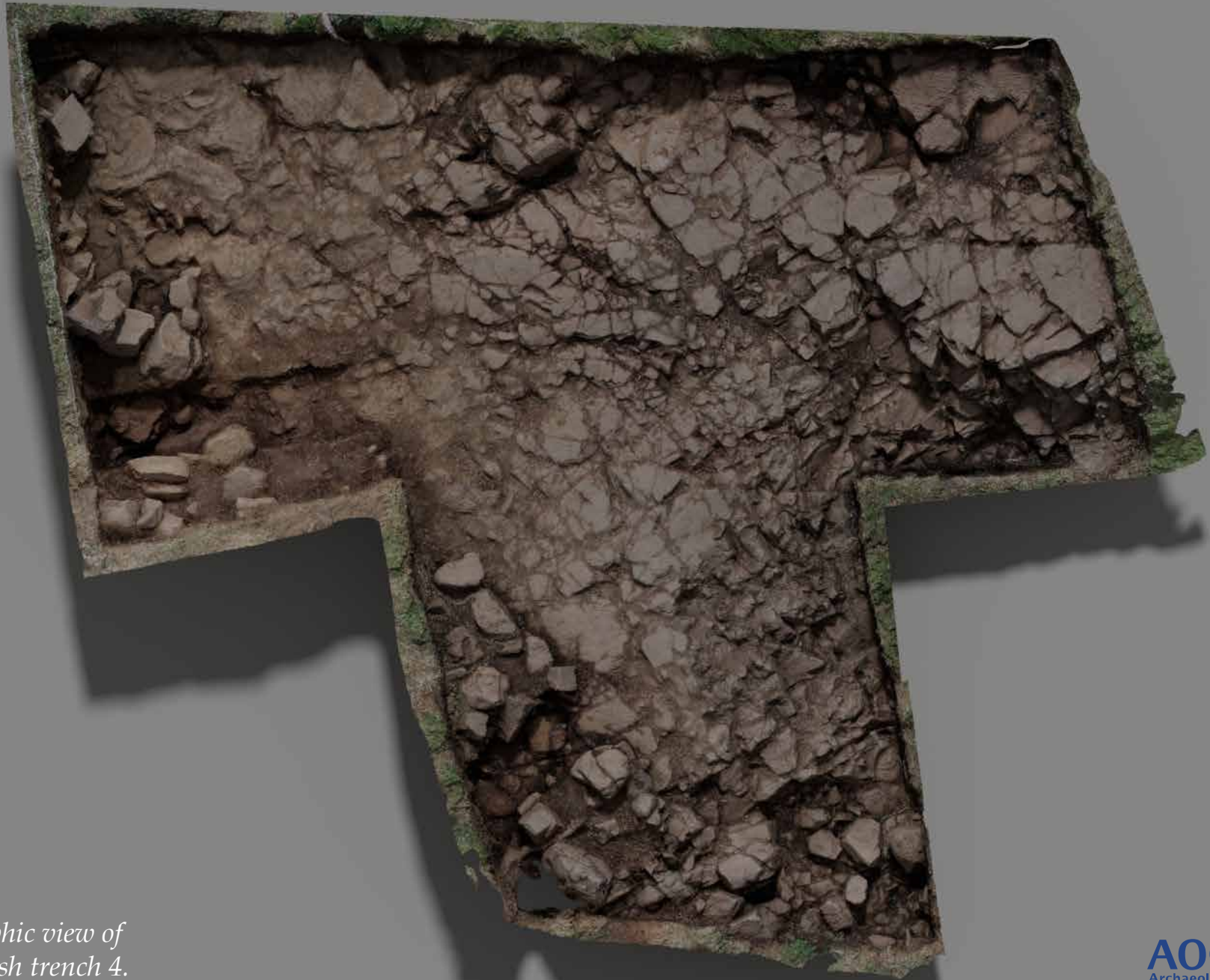
Vertical orthographic view of photo textured mesh trench 2a.

Orthographic view of photo textured mesh trench 2a.



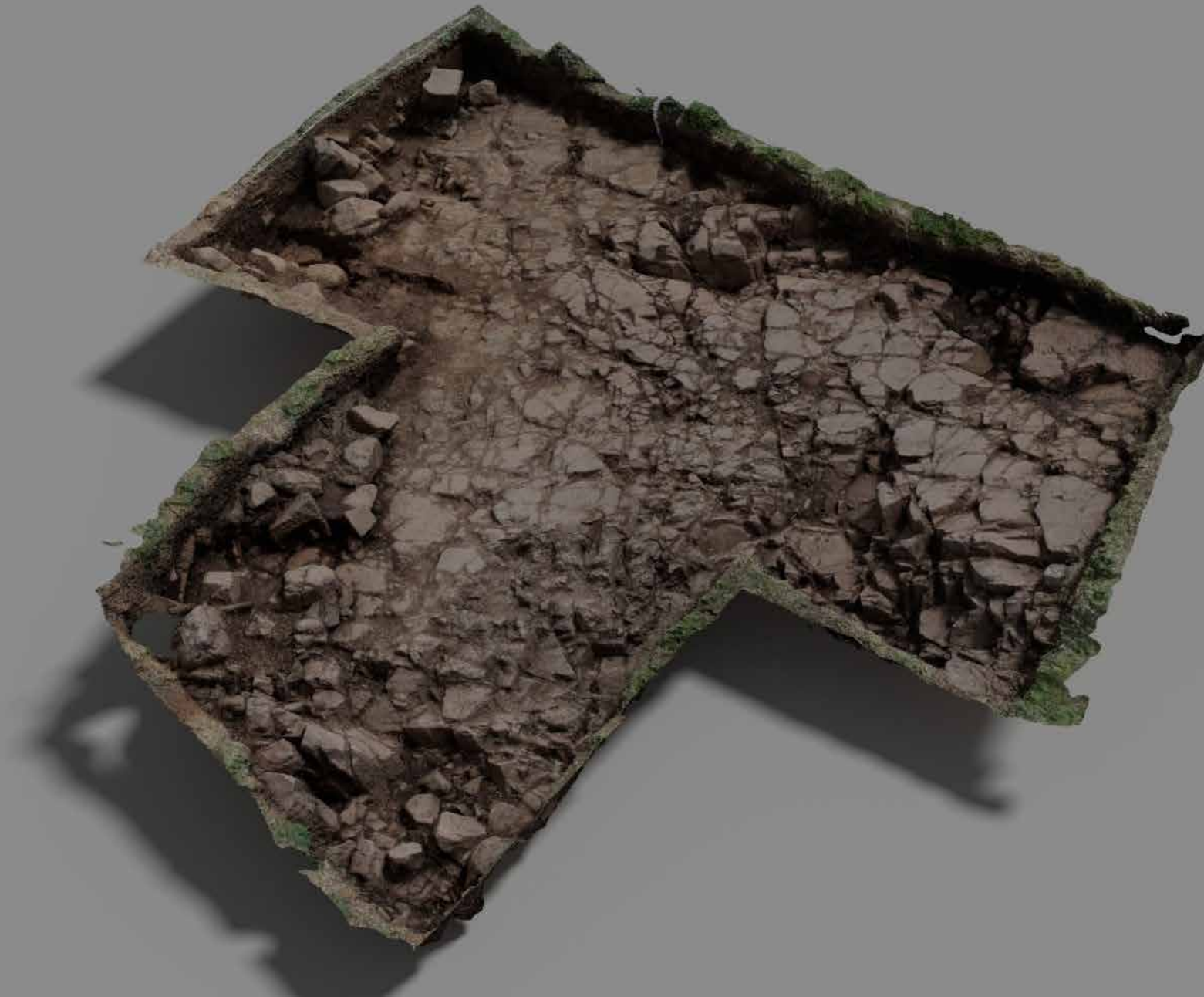
Orthographic view of photo textured mesh trench 2a.





*Vertical orthographic view of
photo textured mesh trench 4.*

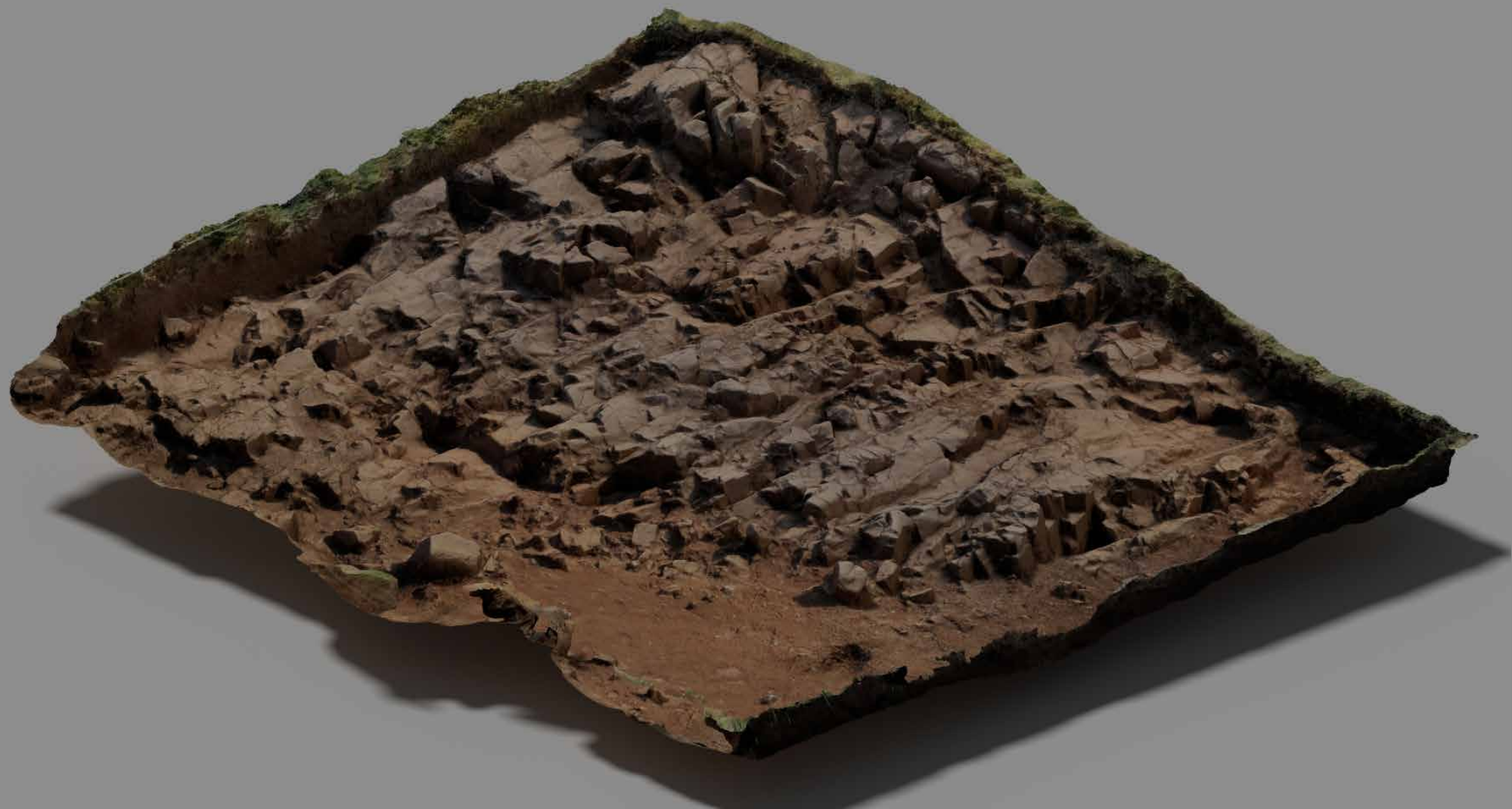
Orthographic view of photo textured mesh trench 4.



Orthographic view of photo textured mesh trench 4.



Orthographic view of photo textured mesh trench 5.



Moncreiffe Hillfort, Perth and Kinross: Archaeological Evaluation Phase 2 Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
1000	Tr 1a	Turf, Thin grass over woodland soil up to 0.05m deep, throughout Trench 1a.
1001	Tr 1a	Brown sandy silt rich in organic material with frequent roots and large number so of animal burrows.. Throughout trench 1a, up to 0.10m deep. Woodland soil
1002	Tr 1a	Mid brown sandy silt with sub angular stones, charcoal flecks and burnt bone. Possible patches of decaying turf may indicate that this material derived from a collapsing earth and turf bank. Throughout trench 1a, up to 0.52m deep Hillwash.
1003	Tr 1a	Mid brown sandy silt with sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks. Throughout trench 1a. Same as (1002) - Lower deposit of hillwash.
1004	Tr 1a	VOID
1005	Tr 1a	Linear spread of stone extending NE-SW across trench. Comprised of medium to large sub-angular stone. Similar in character to (1007 & 1008). Extends across trench 1a sondage, 0.83m wide and 0.16m deep. Probable tumbled stone from facing of rampart.
1006	Tr 1a	Light brownish grey sandy silt with frequent medium sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks at SE end of trench. Extends for 1.15m to NW of bank/rampart [1018], across 1m width of sondage and up to 0.29m deep. Possible slumping of bank material from upslope.
1007	Tr 1a	Linear spread of stone extending NE-SW across trench. Composed of medium to large sub-angular stone. Similar in character to (1008). Extends across width of trench, 1.27m wide and 0.15m deep. Possible tumble of stone from collapsed ramparts.
1008	Tr 1a	Linear spread of stone extending across width of trench. Composed of medium to large sub-angular stone. Similar in character to (1007). Extends across width of trench, 1.33m wide and 0.24m deep. Possible tumble of stone from collapsed ramparts.
1009	Tr 1a	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular stone, rare charcoal flecks and burnt bone fragments. Extends for 2.95m to the NW of rampart [1014], up to 0.52m thick. Slumping/collapse of bank [1014]
1010	Tr 1a	Dark brown sandy silt with small sub-angular stone, burnt bone and charcoal flecks. Extends for 1.21m to NW of bank [1018], up to 0.09m. Probable slumping of bank [1018].
1011	Tr 1a	Patch of small to medium sub-angular stone within deposit (1010). Probable slumping of bank [1018]
1012	Tr 1a	Compact grayish orange silty sand and fine gravel. Extends for 1.32m to NW of rampart [1018], up to 0.16m deep. Probable slumping of bank, similar to (1005, 1010, 1017).
1013	Tr 1a	Linear spread of stone extending NE-SW across trench. Composed of medium to large sub-angular stone. Similar in character to (1007 & 1008). Extends for 0.73m to SE of rampart [1015], up to 0.21m deep. Probable collapsed stone from facing of bank/rampart [1015]
1014	Tr 1a	Firm grayish orange silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. 2.05m wide and up to 0.31m deep. Bank/ rampart constructed of re-deposited natural.
1015	Tr 1a	Firm grayish orange silty sand with rare charcoal flecks. 1.95m wide and up to 0.16m deep. Bank/ rampart at NW end of trench.
1016	Tr 1a	Bedrock
1017	Tr 1a	Dark brown sandy silt with small sub-angular stone and charcoal flecks. Extends for 3.09m to NW of bank [1018], up to 0.25m deep. Probable slumping of bank [1018].
1018	Tr 1a	Orange grey sandy clay Natural Glacial Till
2001	Tr 2a	Dark brown humic sandy silt with occasional pea size gravel and frequent tree roots. Throughout trench up to 0.16m deep. Topsoil.
2002	Tr 2a	Friable reddish brown silty sand with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal chunks (SF2002). Throughout trench 0.5m deep. Colluvial hillwash deposit.

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
2003	Tr 2a	Bedrock outcrop within western half of trench 2a Bedrock
2004	Tr 2a	Linear cut/terrace running N-S across trench 2a. Cut runs with grain of bedrock and forms a step 0.4m high and 0.7m wide. Terrace or quarry in bedrock possibly to emphasize rampart above.
2005	Tr 2a	Linear cut/terrace running N-S across trench 2a. Cut runs with grain of bedrock and forms a step 1.0m high and 0.8m wide. Terrace or quarry in bedrock possibly to emphasize rampart above.
2006	Tr 2a	Linear cut/terrace running N-S across trench 2a. Cut runs with grain of bedrock and forms a step 0.9m high and 0.2m wide. Terrace or quarry in bedrock possibly to emphasize rampart above.
2007	Tr 2a	Dark orange brown friable silty sand with frequent pea-size gravel and frequent tree roots. Extends for 5.89m to the east of terrace [2006] up to 0.58m deep. Probable collapse/slumping of rampart material.
2008	Tr 2a	Deposit of medium to large sub-angular stone to the E of terrace [2006]. Extends for 1.08m, up to 0.45m deep. Probable collapse of stone facing of rampart
2009	Tr 2a	Deposit of medium to large sub-angular stone to west of bank [2014]. Extends for 1.16m, up to 0.36m deep. Possible collapse of rampart facing stone from [2014].
2010	Tr 2a	Alignment of large rounded stone running N-S across trench 2a sondage. Measures 0.53m wide and up to 0.42m deep. Western (inner) kerb of rampart [2014].
2011	Tr 2a	Spread of medium to large sub-angular stone within bank material (2013). Extends between inner and outer kerbs (201 & 2012), 1.3m wide and 0.24m deep. Stone within bank/rampart [2014]
2012	Tr 2a	Alignment of large rounded stone running N-S across trench 2a sondage. Measures 0.33m wide and up to 0.20m deep. Eastern (outer) kerb of rampart [2014]
2013	Tr 2a	Earth fill between inner and outer kerbs (2009 & 2011) of rampart [2014]. Mid brown friable silty sand with abundant pea-size gravel. Earth core of bank/rampart [2014]
2014	Tr 2a	Outer bank/rampart comprising (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013)
2015	Tr 2a	Dark orange brown friable silty sand with frequent pea-size gravel and frequent tree roots. Extends for 1.89m to the east of terrace [2006] up to 0.45m deep. Similar in character in to (2007). Probable collapse/slumping of rampart material.
2016	Tr 2a	Possible dressed and squared block within outer kerb (2012) of rampart [2014]. Left in-situ.
2017	Tr 2a	Mid buff brown friable silty sand and gravel with rare charcoal flecks. Preserved below bank [2014] only, up to 0.21m deep. Buried ground surface below rampart [2014]
400	Tr 4	Turf and topsoil throughout trench up to 0.05m deep.
401	Tr 4	Dark brown homogenous humic rich sandy silt with frequent roots. Extends throughout trench, up to 0.45m deep. Colluvial hillwash deposit.
402	Tr 4	Area of flat smooth bedrock with frequent cracks filled with woodland soil (401). Bedrock is probably smoothed though glacial rather than human action. Same as (405). Bedrock
403	Tr 4	Deposit of medium to large angular blocks and smaller shattered stones in N corner of trench on a NE-SW alignment, immediately below woodland soil (401). Probable disturbed blocks or tumble from stone faced rampart.
404	Tr 4	Sub-circular lens of dark brown clayey silt with charcoal flecks. Extends for 1.15m by 0.95m and is 0.07m deep. Hillwash deposit within natural hollow within bedrock (405).
405	Tr 4	Bedrock outcrop within trench 4 with frequent cracks filled with woodland soil. Same as (405). Bedrock
406	Tr 4	Discrete shallow ashy lens of fine grey brown silty material within cracks in bedrock (405). Lens of ashy material within hillwash (401).
407	Tr 4	Deposit of compact dark brown silty loam forming an ill defined sub-circular patch measuring 1m by 1m. Deposit of compacted hillwash within natural hollow in bedrock (405)
408	Tr 4	Stone lined bank consisting of disturbed blocks (403).

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
		Bank or rampart forming part of entrance.
409	Tr 4	Woodland soil within trench 4 SW extension. Same as 401.
410	Tr 4	Bedrock within trench 4 extension. Slopes gently and smoothly at SE side of trench with a sharp break of slope running NE-SW with stepped uneven vertical edge. This break of slope may be a deliberate quarrying or shaping of the bedrock.
411	Tr 4	Bedrock foundation for probable upper bank flanking entrance [412]. Same as (410).
412	Tr 4	Worn curvilinear pathway gently sloping between upper bank of rampart [411] and lower bank [408]. Entrance into summit of hillfort flanked by banks [411] & [408].
413	Tr 4	Woodland soil within trench 4 NE extension. Same as 401.
414	Tr 4	Large angular sub-square stone block, protruding through woodland soil (413). Tumble from inner kerb of bank [418].
415	Tr 4	Bedrock. Same as (410 & 411).
416	Tr 4	Yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small pebbles, roots and charcoal flecks. Overlies bank [419]. Hillwash deposit
417	Tr 4	Mid brown compact gritty sandy silt with occasional small stones, pebbles and burnt bone. Hillwash deposit
418	Tr 4	Bank in NE extension of Tr 4. Comprises Stone kerb (419), turf/earth bank (420), with stones (414) being a possible tumbled inner kerb. Primary bank flanking entrance [412]
419	Tr 4	NE-SW alignment of angular blocks, following alignment of outer stone face of rampart. Robbed kerb of outer face of primary bank of rampart [418]
420	Tr 4	Mottled mid brown and sandy buff coloured compact silty clay with occasional daub and charcoal flecks. Compact turf/earth bank, part of rampart [418]
421	Tr 4	Dark brown homogenous compact deposit within crack in bedrock. Patches of manganese staining. Compacted hillwash deposit.
422	Tr 4	Angular stone blocks in N corner of trench. Appears to align with (403). Abuts (416) & (423). Probable external kerb of secondary bank defining entrance [412]
423	Tr 4	Mid brown mottled patchy sandy silt with occasional charcoal and burnt bone flecks. Turf/earth core of bank [432]
424	Tr 4	Angular stone blocks within (423). Tumble from (419) external face of bank [418].
425	Tr 4	Short linear alignment of angular cobbles aligned E-W embedded within woodland soil (401).
426	Tr 4	Mid blackish brown friable clayey silt with occasional small stones. Turf/earth core of rampart [418]
427	Tr 4	Dark black brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. Turf/earth core of rampart [418]
428	Tr 4	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Turf/earth core of rampart [418]
429	Tr 4	Deposit of sub-angular stone 0.2 to 0.4m in diameter. Tumble from rampart [418]
430	Tr 4	Dark brown compact clayey silt with frequent sub-angular stone and occasional charcoal flecks. Possible base of bank [432].
431	Tr 4	Dark orange buff clayey silt with charcoal flecks throughout. Earth/Turf core of bank [432]
432	Tr 4	Secondary bank comprising earth/turf core (423, 430, 431) and stone kerb (422). Bank flanking entrance [412], Same as [408].
501	Tr 5	Dark brown humic sandy silt with frequent roots, occasional gravel. Throughout trench, up to 0.18m deep. Topsoil
502	Tr 5	Bedrock, rising to southern corner of trench in rough natural steps, shattered through freeze/thaw and roots action. Extends across southern half of trench. Bedrock.
503	Tr 5	Dark reddish brown friable sandy silt with occasional tree roots, rounded pebbles and shattered bedrock pieces. Throughout trench, up to 0.09m deep. Hillwash deposit
504	Tr 5	Orange brown loose coarse sand and pea gravel. Natural glacial till.

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
1-4	Tr 5	Trench 5 topsoil removed	NW	22/4/15
5-8	Tr 5	Trench 5 topsoil removed	N	22/4/15
9-10	Tr 5	Trench 5 topsoil removed	S	22/4/15
11-13	Tr 5	Trench 5 topsoil removed	E	22/4/15
14-16	Tr 5	Trench 5 topsoil removed	NE	22/4/15
17-20	Tr 4	Trench 4 – exposed bedrock in E end of trench	NW	23/4/15
21-24	Tr 4	Trench 4 – exposed bedrock in E end of trench	N	23/4/15
25-26	Tr 4	Trench 4 – blocks (403) in NW corner of trench	N	23/4/15
27-30	Tr 4	Trench 4 Working shots	-	23/4/15
31-35	Tr 4	Contexts 402 and 405 (bedrock) exposed	W	24/4/15
36-38	Tr 4	Contexts 402 and 405 (bedrock) exposed	N	24/4/15
39-40	Tr 5	Trench 5 – Post-ex	NW	24/4/15
41-42	Tr 5	Trench 5 – Post-ex	SW	24/4/15
43-44	Tr 5	Trench 5 – Post-ex	SE	24/4/15
45-46	Tr 5	Trench 5 – Post-ex	NE	24/4/15
47-48	Tr 5	Trench 5 – Post-ex	N	24/4/15
49-353	Tr 5	For photogrammetry	-	24/4/15
354-384	Tr 1A	Trench 1A - Pre-ex	Various	24/4/15
385-389	Tr 4	Trench 4 – SF 40 prior to lifting working shots	Various	24/4/15
390-399	-	General shots of work across site	Various	25/4/15
400-403	Tr 4	Trench 4 ext. – post-ex shot of exposed bedrock (410)	NE	28/4/15
404-405	Tr 4	Trench 4 ext. – close up of exposed bedrock (410)	NE	28/4/15
406-409	Tr 4	Trench 4 ext. – exposed bedrock 'shelf' (410)	NW	28/4/15
410-411	Tr 4	Trench 4 ext. – post-ex of exposed bedrock (410)	NW	28/4/15
412-418	Tr 4	Trench 4 and ext. – working shots	N	28/4/15
419-420	Tr 2A	Trench 2A de-turfed and topsoil removed	E	28/4/15
421-422	Tr 2A	Trench 2A de-turfed and topsoil removed	W	28/4/15
423-424	Tr 2A	Trench 2A de-turfed and topsoil removed	NW	28/4/15
425-426	Tr 2A	Trench 2A de-turfed and topsoil removed	SW	28/4/15
427-428	Tr 2A	Trench 2A de-turfed and topsoil removed	SE	28/4/15
429-430	Tr 4	Root running through bank [408]	SW	29/4/15
431-443	Tr 4	Trench 4 NE end – pre-ex working shot of extension in trench	NW	29/4/15
444	Tr 1A	Mid-ex slot through Trench 1A SE end	SE	29/4/15
445	Tr 1A	Mid-ex slot through Trench 1A	SW	29/4/15
446	Tr 1A	Mid-ex slot through Trench 1A	NW	29/4/15
447-448	Tr 2A	Trench 2A mid-ex showing bedrock terraces [2004] & [2005]	E	29/4/15
449-452	Tr 2A	Trench 2A mid-ex showing bedrock terraces [2004] & [2005]	NE	29/4/15
453-454	Tr 2A	Trench 2A mid-ex showing bedrock terraces [2004] & [2005]	E	29/4/15
455-456	Tr 2A	Trench 2a showing tumble (2006) pre-ex	NE	29/4/15
457-458	Tr 2A	Trench 2a mid-ex	W	29/4/15
459-460	Tr 2A	Trench 2a mid-ex	SW	29/4/15
461-462	Tr 2A	Trench 2a mid-ex	E	29/4/15
463-464	Tr 2A	Trench 2a showing tumble (2006) pre-ex	E	29/4/15
465-466	Tr 2A	Trench 2a showing cut bedrock [2004] & [2005]	E	29/4/15
457-468	Tr 2A	Trench 2a showing cut bedrock [2004] & [2005]	N	29/4/15
469-470	Tr 2A	Trench 2a showing cut bedrock [2004] & [2005]	S	29/4/15
471	Tr 1A	Mid-ex – stone linear features 007 and 008	E	29/4/15

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Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
472	Tr 1A	Mid-ex – stone linear features 007 and 008	S	29/4/15
473	Tr 1A	Mid-ex – stone linear features 007 and 008	SE	29/4/15
474	Tr 1A	Mid-ex – stone linear features 007 and 008	NW	29/4/15
475	Tr 1A	Mid-ex – stone linear features 007 and 008	S	29/4/15
476-477	Tr 1A	Trench 1A - General shot	NW	29/4/15
478-479	Tr 4	Trench 4 NE ext. – working shot of (414)and possible bank [408]	NW	29/4/15
480-481	Tr 4	Trench 4 – working shots	Various	29/4/15
482-483	Tr 4	Trench 4 NE ext. – mid-ex shot of turf bank (417) and kerb of primary bank	SW	30/4/15
484-485	Tr 4	Trench 4 NE ext. – mid-ex shot of turf bank (417) and kerb of primary bank	NW	30/4/15
486-489	Tr 4	Trench 4 NE ext. – mid-ex shot of possible secondary bank	NW	30/4/15
490-491	Tr 2A	Detail of 2004	E	30/4/15
492-494	Tr 2A	Detail of rock cut 2006	E	30/4/15
495-496	Tr 2A	Detail of rock cut 2005/6	E	30/4/15
497-498	Tr 2A	Detail of possible cut 2005	E	30/4/15
499-500	Tr 2A	General shots of trench	W	30/4/15
501-503	Tr 1A	Detail of rock bank 1011	E	30/4/15
504-505	Tr 1A	Detail of the bottom of the trench	E	30/4/15
506-507	Tr 2A	Working shot of 2007/interface (?)	E	30/4/15
508-509	Tr 2A	Working shot of 2007/interface (?)	N	30/4/15
510-512	Tr 4	Trench 4 NE ext. – working shot	NW	01/5/15
513-514	Tr 4	Trench 4 – working shot of NW corner showing [408]	NW	01/5/15
515-516	Tr 4	Working shot during removal of (403) onto (408)	S	01/5/15
517-518	Tr 4	Working shot after removal of (401) onto (408)	S	01/5/15
519-521	Tr 4	Working shot after removal of (401) onto (408) – detail of tree root	S	01/5/15
522-523	Tr 4	Working shot during removal of (426) onto (408)	S	01/5/15
524-529	Tr 4	Working shot of possible bank alignment	S	01/5/15
530-531	Tr 4	Working shot after removal of (246) onto (408)	S	01/5/15
532-533	Tr 2A	Deposit of stone (2009)	E	01/5/15
534-535	Tr 4	Working shot – stones on bedrock at NW corner	W	01/5/15
536	Tr 4	Working shot – stones on bedrock at NW corner	N	01/5/15
537-538	Tr 4	Detail of (429) in NW corner of trench	W	01/5/15
539-540	Tr 4	Detail of (429) in NW corner of trench	S	01/5/15
541-542	Tr 4	Detail of (429) in NW corner of trench	N	01/5/15
543-544	Tr 2A	Detail of [2011]	E	01/5/15
545-546	Tr 2A	Detail of [2011]	N	01/5/15
547-548	Tr 2A	Detail of 2010 and [2011]	W	01/5/15
549-550	Tr 2A	Detail of 2010	N	01/5/15
551-552	Tr 2A	Working shot of trench	E	01/5/15
553-556	Tr 2A	Working shot of trench	E	01/5/15
557-558	Tr 2A	Working shot of trench	E	01/5/15
559-560	Tr 4	Detail of Slot through [408] showing root	S	01/5/15
561-562	Tr 4	Detail of Slot through [408] showing root	E	01/5/15
563-564	Tr 4	Detail of Slot through [408] showing root	W	01/5/15
565-566	Tr 4	Trench 4 NE ext. – slot through secondary bank in E end ext.	W	01/5/15
567-568	Tr 4	Trench 4 NE ext. – slot through secondary bank in E end ext.	NW	01/5/15
569-572	Tr 4	W-facing section of slot through 408	NW	01/5/15
573-574	Tr 4	W-facing section of slot through 408	NW	01/5/15
575-576	Tr 4	E-facing section of slot through 408	SE	01/5/15
577-580	Tr 4	E-facing section of slot through 408	SE	01/5/15
581-582	Tr 1A	Trench 1a Bank (1014) pre-ex	W	01/5/15
583-584	Tr 1A	Trench 1a Bank (1014) pre-ex	S	01/5/15
585-586	Tr 1A	Trench 1a general view showing bank (1014)	SE	01/5/15

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Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
587-588	Tr 1A	Trench 1a general view showing bank (1014)	NW	01/5/15
589-594	Tr 4	Trench 4 – post-ex	NE	02/5/15
595-596	Tr 4	Trench 4 – post-ex	NE	02/5/15
597-598	Tr 4	Trench 4 – post-ex	SW	02/5/15
599-600	Tr 4	Trench 4 – post-ex	NW	02/5/15
601-602	Tr 4	Trench 4 – post-ex	NW	02/5/15
603-604	Tr 4	Trench 4 – post-ex	NW	02/5/15
605-606	Tr 4	Trench 4 – post-ex	NW	02/5/15
607-608	Tr 4	Trench 4 – post-ex	NE	02/5/15
609-610	Tr 2A	N-facing section – W end	W	02/5/15
611-612	Tr 2A	N-facing section	NW	02/5/15
613-616	Tr 2A	N-facing section – middle	W	02/5/15
617-618	Tr 2A	N-facing section	NE	02/5/15
619-620	Tr 2A	E-facing section – 2005 and 2006	E	02/5/15
621-626	Tr 2A	E-facing section – 2005 and 2006	E	02/5/15
627-630	Tr 2A	Close up of 2005 and 2006	E	02/5/15
631-632	Tr 2A	Detail of 2008	W	02/5/15
633-634	Tr 2A	Detail of 2009	W	02/5/15
635-640	Tr 2A	Detail of worked stone	E	02/5/15
641-646	Tr 2A	N-facing section – W end	N	02/5/15
647-701	Tr 2A	For photogrammetry	-	02/5/15
702-704	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section SE end	SW	02/5/15
705-706	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section middle	SW	02/5/15
707	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section	S	02/5/15
708	Tr 1A	Trench 1a Working shot	SW	02/5/15
709	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section middle	SW	02/5/15
710	Tr 1A	Trench 1a Working shot	W	02/5/15
711	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section middle	SW	02/5/15
712-713	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section NW end	SW	02/5/15
714	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section middle	SW	02/5/15
715-716	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section NW end	SW	02/5/15
717-769	Tr 2A	For photogrammetry	-	
769-805	Tr 1A	For photogrammetry	-	02/5/15

APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

Trench 1A

Drawing No.	Area	Details	Scale
1001	Tr 1A	Trench 1a location of finds	1:20
1002	Tr 1A	Trench 1a pre-ex plan	1:20
1003	Tr 1A	Trench 1a Mid ex plan of trench 1a showing (003), (005), (007), (008) & (009)	1:20
1004	Tr 1A	Trench 1a Post ex plan	1:20
1005	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section	1:10
1006	Tr 1A	Trench 1a SW facing section	1:10
2001	Tr 2A	Trench 2a pre-ex plan	1:20
2002	Tr 2A	Trench 2a plan of tumble (2008) and hill wash (2007)	1:20
2003	Tr 2A	Trench 2a plan of cut bedrock [2005] & [2006]	1:20
2004	Tr 2A	Trench 2a plan of tumble (2009)	1:20
2005	Tr 2A	Trench 2a plan of bank [2014]	1:20
2006	Tr 2A	Trench 2a N-Facing section	1:10
4001	Tr 4	Mid-ex plan of trench 1	1:20
4002	Tr 4	Post-ex plan of SW ext. added	1:20
4003	Tr 4	Mid-ex plan of NW end of Trench 4 [408], (403), (401), (402), (405)	1:20
4004	Tr 4	Section drawing of [408] mid-ex	1:10
4005	Tr 4	Mid-ex plan of NE trench extension showing (414), (415), (421), (420), (419), [418], (425), (401/413), (423), (424), (422)	1:20
4006	Tr 4	Mid-ex plan of NE trench extension – overlay of Drawing #5	1:20
4007	Tr 4	Post-ex plan of slot through [432] – overlay of Drawing #6	1:20
4008	Tr 4	Trench	1:20
4009	Tr 4	Post-ex plan of NW corner of trench 4 [408] showing (429), (403), (405), [408] – overlay of Drawing #3	1:20
4010	Tr 4	Post-ex plan of slot through [408] showing (403), (426), (405)	1:20
4011	Tr 4	Elevation of NW-facing section of Trench 4 NE extension showing (423), (419), (431), (430), (415)	1:10
4012	Tr 4	Elevation of SW-facing section of Trench 4 NE extension	1:10
4013	Tr 4	Elevation of W-facing section through slot through [408]	1:10
5001	Tr 5	Trench 5 post-ex plan	1:20
5002	Tr 5	Trench 5 NW facing section	1:20

APPENDIX 4: FINDS REGISTER

Trench 1A

Finds No.	Trench	Context No.	Description
1001	Tr 1A	1001	Shale bead fragment
1002	Tr 1A	U/S	Fragment of hematite
1003	Tr 1A	1002	Possible pot fragment
1004	Tr 1A	1002	Small fragment of charcoal
1005	Tr 1A	1002	Large fragment of burnt bone
1006	Tr 1A	1002	Charcoal
1007	Tr 1A	1002	Agate flake
1008	Tr 1A	1002	Flint flake
1009	Tr 1A	1002	Charcoal fragments
1010	Tr 1A	1002	Charcoal
1011	Tr 1A	1003	Possible cobble tool
1012	Tr 1A	1003	Quartz
1013	Tr 1A	1003	Possible shale bracelet fragment
1014	Tr 1A	1003	Fragment of charcoal/shale
1015	Tr 1A	1003	Whetstone
1016	Tr 1A	1003	Angular quartz flake – possibly worked
1017	Tr 1A	1002	Arrowhead
1018	Tr 1A	1002	Thumb scraper
1019	Tr 1A	1002	Possible flint flake
1020	Tr 1A	1005	Possible hammerstone
1021	Tr 1A	1005	Pottery – friable
1022	Tr 1A	1005	Pottery – friable
1023	Tr 1A	1002	Quartz flake
1024	Tr 1A	1002	Quartz – possibly worked
1025	Tr 1A	1009	Sharp edged stones
1026	Tr 1A	1005	Pottery fragments
1027	Tr 1A	1002	Quartz
1028	Tr 1A	1002	Quartz
1029	Tr 1A	1009	Burnt bone fragments
1030	Tr 1A	1005	Prehistoric pottery fragments
2001	Tr 2A	U/S	Spindle whorl
2002	Tr 2A	2002	Charcoal
2003	Tr 2A	2002	Whetstone
2004	Tr 2A	2007	Flint flakes
2005	Tr 2A	2007	Ceramic
2006	Tr 2A	2007	Charcoal
2007	Tr 2A	2007	Burnt flint
2008	Tr 2A	2007	Possible pottery
2009	Tr 2A	2014	Worked stone
2010	Tr 2A	2014	Possible worked stone
2011	Tr 2A	2015	Charcoal
401	Tr 4	401	Quartz fragments possibly worked
402	Tr 4	401	Possible worked/fire-cracked cobble fragment

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Finds No.	Trench	Context No.	Description
403	Tr 4	404	Possible fractured pounder
404	Tr 4	401	Stone pebble possibly worked
405	Tr 4	401	Angular quartz fragment
406	Tr 4	401	Quartz fragment
407	Tr 4	404	Stone
408	Tr 4	408	Angular quartz fragment possibly worked
409	Tr 4	404	Stone maul
410	Tr 4	403	Lightly used pounder/ grinder – cobble tool
411	Tr 4	U/S	Possible cobble tool
412	Tr 4	413	Possible stone mortar fragment
413	Tr 4	U/S	Animal bone
414	Tr 4	U/S	Burnt bone
415	Tr 4	416	Possible worked shale fragment
416	Tr 4	417	Possible daub – small nodule of heat affected clay
417	Tr 4	403	Broken quern
418	Tr 4	410	Quarried stone - sample
5001	Tr 5	5001	Quartz
5002	Tr 5	5001	Possible hammerstone
5003	Tr 5	5001	Quartz
5004	Tr 5	5001	Possible worked stone

APPENDIX 5: SAMPLE REGISTER

Context No.	Area	Quantity (litres)
1006	Tr 1A	10 l
1005	Tr 1A	20 l
1009	Tr 1A	10 l
1010	Tr 1A	20 l
1012	Tr 1A	10 l
1029	Tr 1A	20 l
1014	Tr 1A	20 l
1015	Tr 1A	20 l
2013	Tr 2A	10 l
2017	Tr 2A	10 l
404	Tr 4	3 l
417	Tr 4	10 l
417	Tr 4	10 l
420	Tr 4	10 l
421	Tr 4	10 l
426	Tr 4	10 l
428	Tr 4	10 l
431	Tr 4	10 l
423	Tr 4	10

APPENDIX 6: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION SCOTLAND' ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Moncreiffe Hillfort, Moncreiffe Hill
PROJECT CODE:	22849
PARISH:	Dunbarney
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jamie Humble and Sophie Nicol
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NO11NW 7
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Fort
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Leaf shaped arrowhead; Stone Maul; Possible jet bead.
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 1313 1988
START DATE (this season)	21 st April 2015
END DATE (this season)	2 nd May 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	Previous (2014) season of excavation (DES forthcoming)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Tay Landscape Partnership, led by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and delivered by AOC Archaeology Group and local volunteers at the hillfort of Moncreiffe Hill. The 2015 work followed on from a topographic survey and the excavation of three trenches in 2014.</p> <p>The excavation comprised four trenches located over the potential ramparts and within the interior of the hillfort. A series of three earthen ramparts was identified in a 2m by 12m trench excavated over the western circuit of the hillfort enclosure, taken with the previous years excavations this portion of the hillfort appears to comprise at least four concentric ramparts. A 2m by 10.5m trench excavated over the eastern circuit of the hillfort enclosure revealed a stone faced rampart, along with a series of cut bedrock terraces. A 7m by 6m trench excavated over the entrance in the west of the hillfort revealed the entrance was defined by a cut bedrock terrace to the interior of the hillfort and a stone bank forming the outer edge of the entrance. A fourth trench excavated over a scoop putatively identified as a house platform within the interior of the hillfort revealed this feature to be of natural origin.</p> <p>An artefact assemblage relating to the use of the hillfort was recovered including a significant ceramic assemblage, an unusual heavy duty stone maul, and a stone (possibly jet) bead. Struck stone artefacts, predating the construction of the hillfort were also recovered, notably a leaf shaped arrowhead of Neolithic date.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Programme of Post-Excavation analyses
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Tay Landscape Partnership
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

APPENDIX 7: CONSERVATION OF TWO POSSIBLE SHALE OBJECTS

Natalie Mitchell

Condition

SF1001 (trench 1a)

Object was dry on arrival. Surfaces were covered with light surface soiling. The surfaces are very fractured and lifting a little at cracked edges. There is soil between the fractures.



SF1013 (trench 1a)

Object preliminarily identified in the field as a possible piece of shale bracelet was wet on arrival. Surfaces were covered in adhering soil. Object is in good condition with no fractures or cracks. The surface is quite soft and appears to be charcoal rather than shale.



Conservation Treatment

Photography was carried out before and after treatment.

SF1001

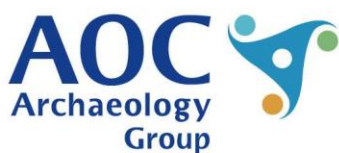
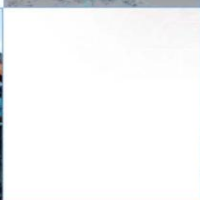
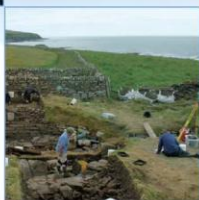
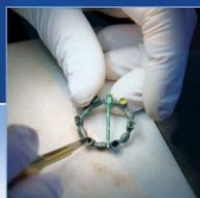
- All mechanical treatment was carried out under magnification.
- Soil was removed mechanically with a bamboo pick and almost dry cotton swabs of 70:30 IMS and deionised water. Great care was taken to avoid over wetting the surface.
- The object was consolidated in 5% Butvar b98 in IMS under a light vacuum.
- To reduce risk of further cracking and slow the drying time of the Butvar, the object was placed in an IMS rich atmosphere.



SF1013

- All mechanical treatment was carried out under magnification.
- Soil was removed me with a bamboo pick and cotton swabs of 70:30 IMS and deionised water. Care was taken not to scratch or abrade the surfaces during treatment.
- To reduce risk of cracking the object was allowed to slowly dry in an IMS rich atmosphere.





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