

# Cults Loch, Castle Kennedy, SW Scotland

## Data Structure Report

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## Cults Loch, Castle Kennedy, SW Scotland

### Data Structure Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Historic Scotland</b> Longmore House Salisbury Place Edinburgh EH1 9SH
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<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Anne Crone / Graeme Cavers</b>
<b>Illustration by:</b>	<b>Graeme Carruthers / Graeme Cavers</b>
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<b>Author:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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**Enquiries to:** AOC Archaeology Group  
Edgefield Industrial Estate  
Edgefield Road  
Loanhead  
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593  
Fax. 0131 440 3422  
e-mail. [edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com)



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## Abstract

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Excavation was carried out in September 2008 at the artificial promontory site in Cults Loch, extending the area excavated in 2007 to the south and east. A range of structural features were recorded, including a swathe of piles likely to represent the perimeter retaining palisade of the site, as well as a large number of horizontal sub-floor timbers. Laminated organic deposits probably representing an occupation deposit were also encountered. Small finds were few, but included a fragment of shale bracelet.

## Cults Loch Promontory: Excavations 2008

### Background

- 1 That the promontory which protrudes into Cult's Loch along its northern shore (NX 1202 6058; Figure 1) is an archaeological site has long been suspected. Wilson had observed beams and stakes along the shore (RCAHMS 1912, 23-4) and in 1989 Murray had noted timbers around the promontory. As a result of these observations the promontory was cored during Phase 1 of the South-West Crannog Survey (Barber & Crone 1993). Charcoal was noted in these cores, suggesting evidence of anthropogenic activity on the site. During Phase 3 in 2003 exposed timbers were once again noted around the margins of the promontory as a result of low water levels (Henderson & Cavers 2003). Consequently, during Phase 4 in 2004 a detailed digital elevation model of the promontory was created, and all the visible structural piles were surveyed onto the model (Figure 2) (Cavers *et al* 2006). The piles were oak and a sample from one was submitted for radiocarbon-dating. It produced a date of  $2340 \pm 50$  BP (GU-12138). The promontory site therefore pre-dates the crannog in the loch, Cults Loch 1, which is dated to  $1790 \pm 50$  BP (GU-10919) (Henderson *et al* 2006).
- 1.1 In 2007 an evaluation trench, 15 m long and 1 m wide was opened along the median line of the promontory (Crone & Cavers 2007) (Figure 2). The deposits were excavated down to the water table which was encountered at *circa* 0.75 m below the surface of the trench. Coring in the centre of the trench demonstrated that the promontory was probably entirely artificial and was probably composed of a mound of organic material. A rectangular grid of horizontal timbers was found throughout the trench, over which lay the remnants of possible occupation deposits. The horizontal timbers were bounded at the northern end of the trench by a line of stakes. This line of stakes appeared to define the perimeter of the site. Beyond the stakes, towards the shore, the organic deposits found in the rest of the trench merged into stony, sterile mineral sediments suggesting that the northern end of the trench lay 'outside' the site. A group of planks lying on the same alignment as the stakes was interpreted as collapsed walling from the perimeter.

### Objectives

- 2 The objectives of the 2008 season of excavation were threefold;
  1. to follow the trajectory of the site perimeter and to determine its extent and nature
  2. to expose more of the interior of the site and determine the nature of the structures and deposits therein
  3. to obtain more information about the sediments around and under the site and to determine their potential for multi-proxy palaeoenvironmental studies

### Methodology

- 3 Fieldwork was undertaken from 1 – 12 Sept 2008. An L-shaped trench was opened up to the east of the 2007 trench (Figure 2). The northern arm of the trench, Area 2a was 8.4 m x 4.4m and was aligned W/E, the northern baulk of the trench lying along the line of stakes, [105] uncovered in 2007. The southern arm of the trench, Area 2b, was 9.6 m x 5.6 m. In all an area  $91 \text{ m}^2$  was opened up. A baulk, 0.6 m wide was left between the two areas.
- 3.1 The vegetation cover of the promontory was primarily rushes and this was removed, together with the underlying layer of small cobble-like stones, by mini-digger. Beyond that, all deposits were excavated by hand. A pump was employed to drain the site every morning and at intervals during the day. A sump was eventually dug in the NW corner of the site and a sondage was dug along the southern

balk of Area 2a to improve drainage on the site. On completion of the excavation the bases of the trenches were covered in Terram and backfilled.

- 3.2 Differential GPS was used to record the location of the trench, the timbers and all other features, along with 3D coordinates for all small finds. The survey is referenced to OSGB coordinates and the project stored in GIS.
- 3.3 Professor Tony Brown of Southampton University undertook a preliminary coring programme in the infilled NW corner of Cults Loch to determine the nature of the sediments in that area; his report is included below. Coring was also undertaken along two transects across the site to gain an, albeit crude idea of the extent and nature of the sediments below the site. A reconnaissance corer/gouge was used for this exercise.
- 3.4 The contexts, sampled timbers, soil samples and finds are listed in Appendices 1-4 and the site matrix is presented in Figure 6.

## Results

### The excavation

- 4 The layer below the vegetation cover was [200], a deposit, of small, cobble-like stones in a matrix of silty sand. It was up to 0.4 m thick along the northern balk of Area 2a but was only 0.1 to 0.15 thick over most of the 2008 trenches, thinning out towards the southern balk (Figure 4). It was removed by mini-digger. A fragment of shale bracelet, SF6, was found during the mechanical removal of the deposit, while a flint, SF8, and an iron nail, SF9, were found during trowelling of the residue.
- 4.1 In Area 2a and large parts of Area 2b [200] lay over a very mixed deposit, [206] which contained numerous patches or lenses of more distinctive materials (Figure 4 & Plate 1). [206] was still quite stony, containing up to 20% of small, angular stones, but it had a more organic matrix and was flecked with fragments of rotted wood, charcoal and burnt bone (ie SF12). In the centre of Area 2a a distinct raised area, [201], 3.4 m x 4 m across was found, on excavation, to be a variant of [206]. Within it were small lenses of [202], a plastic grey clay, flecked with charcoal. The largest was 0.4 x 0.3 m across and 25 mm thick but other much smaller patches were observed. Along its eastern boundary [206] became mixed with a ginger gravelly sand flecked with charcoal, [203]. Although it dominated along the eastern edges of [206], [203] also appears as small lenses throughout [206] so the deposit became known as [203/206].
- 4.2 A handful of oak stakes projected up through [203/206] in Area 2a (Plate 1). As cleaning down through [203/206] continued more stakes appeared until it became clear that a swathe of stakes, [217], between 4 to 5 m wide, spread in an arc across Area 2a (Figure 3). The stakes were a mixture of oak and non-oak species, the oak stakes surviving to a greater height than the non-oak stakes. Indeed, many of the non-oak stakes were in such poor condition that they often appeared on the excavated surface as a reddish-brown smear. The stakes were quite densely spaced, between 0.3 – 0.5 m apart. They had also been inserted to varying depths, some to much as a metre below the excavated surface while others were no more than 0.3 – 0.4 m below the surface.
- 4.3 In Area 2b [203/206] extended to within approximately 3 m of the southern balk. Just in front of the western balk it was overlain by [205], an amorphous spread of orange gritty clay interspersed with patches of an organic greasy black deposit, approximately 1 m across and 0.09 m deep (Figure 3). It contained bits of burnt bone, including teeth (SF9) and concentrations of fire-shattered stone (SF10). Just beyond this [209], a deposit of ginger sandy gravel, extended 1 m out from the western balk (Figure 3); this is probably a discrete deposit of [203]. A cluster of large stones, [204] emerged in front



of the eastern baulk of Area 2a as soon as [200] had been removed (Figures 3, 4 & Plate 2). The cluster was *circa* 3 m long and extended from the baulk for 1.5 m. No structure was revealed during excavation and the feature lay within [203/206].

- 4.4 In the southern half of Area 2b the stony deposit [200] petered out and the fibrous root mat of the rushes lay directly over a homogenous fibrous brown peat, [210] which extended across the area (Figures 3, 4 & Plate 7). The relationship between [210] and [203/206] could not be fully determined because the southern end of Area 2b frequently flooded during the course of the excavation and had to be abandoned. In Section 2 [210] does appear to overlie [203/206] but the boundary is not clearly defined. A small whetstone, SF11 was found within [210].
- 4.5 On the western edge of Area 2a and into the NW corner of Area 2b was [207], a more organic-rich layer which contained large pieces of rotted wood, lumps of hard, compacted peat, charcoal and burnt bone. This layer was distinct from [206] only in terms of the percentage of stones present, [207] being significantly less stony. [207] lay over [208], a raised mound of yellow-brown, hard, compacted and highly laminated organic material. This mound lay mainly in the NW corner of Area 2b. Its surface was lumpy and discontinuous, and in between the harder lumps was a softer brown peaty material, not unlike [207] (Figure 4 & Plate 3). Indeed, the hard compacted peat lumps observed in [207] may be broken fragments of [208]. Although it formed a discrete mound, it was difficult to define the edges of [208] and it appeared to grade into [207]. Discrete patches of [208] were observed further south in Area 2b.
- 4.6 [208] lay over a layer of very compressed brushwood, [212] (Figure 4, Plates 3 & 4). Patches of aligned stems were visible in plan and in section. Thin bands of fine grey sand, [211] were seen immediately under [212] in places but in others it was clear that [212] had been laid directly over a grid-like framework of horizontal timbers, [218] (see below), in such a way that the bundles lay at right angles to the timbers below. Between and below [218] were vacuous dumps of small, cobble-like stones, [219]. Below this, and glimpsed only in the sondage dug in front of Section 3 was [226], another layer of horizontal timbers, again laid out in parallel alignments (Plate 5).
- 4.7 [208] also lay over a vacuous spread of small fire-cracked stones, [213], which in turn lay over [212] (Figures 3, 4 & Plate 6). The western edge of [213] was clearly defined where it lay over [212] but its eastern and southern edges were much less clear where it appeared to merge with [203/206]. It spread over an area approximately 2 m across.
- 4.8 The southern two-thirds of Area 2b was covered by [218], a rough framework of horizontal timbers laid out in a rectangular grid aligned roughly N/S (Figure 3 & Plate 7). Some lay within [210], while others appeared to lie within [203/206]. The timbers were in poor condition but it is clear that the majority were lengths of roundwood, the bark often still intact. The majority were non-oak timbers, although at least one was oak. The upper surface of one timber, T256, was burnt. In some areas where there is better survival it is clear that the timbers were deliberately laid down in an overlapping pattern, timbers passing over and under those lying at right angles. Piles, [227] were found scattered in and amongst [218] with no visible pattern (Figure 3).
- 4.9 Horizontal timbers were also found in Area 2a. Those that lie scattered within the arc of stakes, [217] may have a different function. For instance, T183, one of the larger of the horizontal timbers is aligned SW/NE rather than N/S (Figure 3 & Plate 1); this was a deliberate alignment because, although the joints in the non-oak timber have decayed away, it is clear that both ends had been secured by oak pegs, which were still *in situ*. Some of the timbers in the NW corner of Area 2a are probably part of [111], the large plank-like timbers exposed in 2007, for instance, T172 which is a large oak plank.
- 4.10 The NE corner of Area 2a was quite distinct from the rest of the site. There were no stakes and [203/206] did not extend into the corner. This corner remained waterlogged throughout the excavation and was difficult to drain (Plate 1). It was subsequently abandoned and a sump dug in the corner to



aid drainage on the rest of the site. It was nonetheless possible to determine that in this area the deposits, [216], were very similar to [200], ie predominantly cobble-sized stones, sands and gravels with no organic component.

- 4.11 The removal of [203/206] in and around the piling [217] in this part of Area 2a revealed [214], a linear spread of large, angular stones mixed with smaller, rounded stones, *circa* 1 m wide and 3 m long (Figures 3, 4, Plates 1 & 8). It petered out before reaching the eastern baulk. [214] lay over [215], a discrete deposit of grey-yellow gravely sand with no organic component but containing fragments of burnt bone and charcoal. This deposit was 1.5 m in section and up to 0.15 m deep. It lay directly over T192, a very large oak plank 2.5 m long (Plate 8), and over [224], a blue-grey gravely sand with ashy inclusions, burnt bone (SF13) and charcoal. Outside the arc of stakes the relationships between the various deposits becomes confused; in section, the stony deposit, [216] appears to overlie [224] and be overlain itself by [225], a more mixed version of [224] with dark bands of ashy material.
- 4.12 As described above, the upper ends of many of the stakes were severely eroded so, to be able to sample a complete cross-section for dendrochronological analysis, a pit was dug around one of the larger oak stakes, T207 (Figure 3). This revealed that, at a depth of approximately 0.65 m from the excavation surface, was a layer of large, horizontal, non-oak timbers laid at right-angles to each other, [223] (Plate 9). Above these was a layer of smaller branches, some with chopped ends, [220]. Around T207 were smaller, secondary non-oak stakes, [222], some of which had either broken off below ground level, or had decayed at their upper ends so they were no longer clearly visible at the surface (Plate 9). Smaller, shorter stakes, [221] had been inserted around the bases of [222]. The wood at this level was in very good condition, toolmarks surviving on the chopped ends of all the stakes and some of the horizontal timbers.

### The off-site coring *Tony Brown*

- 5 As a result of two days of preliminary fieldwork a general picture of the sedimentary context of the current excavation has been gained. In total 41.27 m of sediment were cored using a reconnaissance gouge and 5.99 m of sediment sampled using a large diameter gouge and Russian corer.
- 5.1 The results of this preliminary work strongly suggest that the natural sediments deepen to the north-west and the centre of the present waterbody (Figure 1). The island (NMRS No: NX16SW 109) in this extension to the loch basin is natural as the basal sand and gravel rises towards it; however, it is highly probable that it has been the site of human activity in the past. The natural sediment infilling the north-west extension of the lake basin varies from under 1 m in thickness to 3.30 m (average 1.83 m) and includes basal sands and silts, a lower wood peat and upper herbaceous peat both with a high moss content. A core (Core A) was taken at 17.80 m from the promontory and this would provide a good core for multi-proxy analyses.
- 5.2 Cores (Cores B & C) around the outside of the promontory (just into the water) showed that the archaeology lies over *circa* 1-2 m of organic, very woody, sediment. This sediment included abundant charcoal, wood chips and identifiable plant macrofossils such as hazel nut shells. It is interpreted as at least in large part an anthropogenic deposit. The most likely scenario is that a natural promontory or island just under the water with a covering of peat was built up by the addition of timber, branches and other organic matter. Further coring would provide enough material for a full macrofossil analyses.
- 5.3 The preliminary work has proven that there are suitable sediments for a multi-proxy study of the crannog site and the potential to relate deposits from the peat around the site to deposits below the site and most probably from the centre of the loch which has yet to be cored. This work has shown that the site is well suited to an integrated multi-proxy study of both the sites on and at the edge of the

loch and the surrounding environment including an innovatory 3D approach to environmental reconstruction of such a wetland site.

### The on-site coring

- 6 Coring was undertaken using a reconnaissance corer/gouge along two transects lying at right-angles to each other and traversing the excavated area (Figure 2). Cores were examined at 1 m intervals along Transect 1 and at 3 m intervals along Transect 2 (Figure 5). The lake silts were encountered at between 1.10 m and 1.25 m below the excavated surface and were covered by a layer of peat, thus appearing to confirm the results of the off-site coring. Above the peat was a thick deposit of organic sediment, peaty with wood chip, twigs and occasional charcoal, very similar to the deposit encountered in Cores B and C just off the promontory, and assumed to be deliberately deposited. This deposit contained occasional large timbers. Interleaved layers of peat and timbers, probably similar to horizontal timbers [220] and [223] (see above), were encountered to a depth of *circa* 0.6 m below the excavated surface; this section is most clearly represented in Transect 1/Core 3 (Figure 5).

### Finds & samples

- 7 Very few finds were retrieved during the excavation, the most significant being the shale bracelet fragment (SF6) and the whetstone (SF11) (Appendix 4). Discrete fragments of burnt and unburnt bone were sampled as small finds. A stone grinder (SF14), found in 1986 off the southern end of the promontory was returned to the site by Jane Murray and has been included in the site record.
- 7.1 Bulk samples of all significant deposits were retrieved and purposive samples, including four kubiena tins were also taken (Figure 4) (Appendix 3). Representative samples of the best preserved timbers were also taken (see Appendix 2).

### Provisional interpretation

- 8 On the assumption that the line of stakes, [105] found at the northern end of the 2007 trench defined the boundary of the site, the 2008 trenches were positioned so that the trajectory of the boundary could be traced and a substantial part of the interior could be explored. The 2008 season revealed that, rather than consisting of a single line of stakes with plank walling, the boundary is defined by a dense swathe of stakes, between 4 to 5 m wide, which occupies most of Area 2a. The stony, sterile mineral soils encountered along the northern baulk and in the NE corner confirm that this area lies outside the site. The dark bands of ashy material seen in the gravely sand, [225] may represent sorting of anthropic materials in the waters lapping around the site.
- 8.1 The stakes were both oak and non-oak species, the former surviving better and projecting up to 0.3 to 0.4 m above the excavation surface. A scatter of oak stakes had previously been observed in the water around the promontory (Henderson & Cavers 2003) and it now seems likely that these are part of the same boundary, only the oaks surviving above the level of the loch bed. This interpretation is supported by the discovery of a non-oak stake during coring of the deposits on the southern tip of the promontory.
- 8.2 The coring programme has shown that the site was probably constructed by dumping largely anthropogenic deposits over a submerged, peat-covered island or promontory. The edge of the site is fringed by a band of very large angular stones, the function and nature of which has yet to be investigated, but it is possible that they were laid down to form a sort of coffer dam to contain the anthropogenic deposits. The pit dug around T207 revealed more of the structure of these deposits, showing that horizontal timbers and branches had been laid down at right angles to each other. This is

reminiscent of the 'deep timber structures' recorded on at least 16 Scottish crannogs excavated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Oakley 1973) and revealed most recently at the later prehistoric crannog in Loch Arthur, near Dumfries (Henderson *et al* 2006, 45). A scenario that would explain the wide swathe of small stakes inserted to different depths is that as the mound of material was built up stakes were randomly inserted to pin and contain it. Thus, the stake boundary may not have been specifically designed as a defensive perimeter, although it could have functioned as such. An alternative explanation is that the swathe of piles represents multiple phases of rebuilding and replacement of decaying piles over the history of the site's use. The differentiation of early from late construction may be difficult to demonstrate, however, and may only become apparent from further excavation of the palisade, or from subsequent dendrochronological analysis.

- 8.3 Some of the contexts revealed during the 2008 season are likely to be the uppermost layers of the sub-structure of the site. Thus, horizontal timbers, [226] and [218], and stones [219] may be the final layers before a floor surface, represented by sand [211] and brushwood [212] were laid down. The parallel alignment of the stems in [212] suggests that bundles, or faggots of brushwood had been laid down over the timbers.
- 8.4 Occupation deposits built up over the floor surface. These are represented by [208], the discontinuous spread of hard, compacted and highly laminated material, in which reeds and other plant matter could be seen interspersed with fine bands of sand. The reeds and plant matter could represent successive floor coverings which have become very compressed.
- 8.5 As the arc of stakes took up much of Area 2a the area of the interior opened up for investigation in 2008 was restricted to Area 2b. The spread of occupation deposits was found just inside the arc of stakes, in the NW corner of Area 2b and would thus be right up against the internal face of the boundary. The rest of the interior was taken up primarily with the mixed deposit [203/206], the homogenous brown peat deposit [210] and the decayed timbers of the horizontal framework, [218]. If, as suggested above, [218] represents the uppermost level of the substructural framework then the floor and occupation deposits above them have decayed away and [210] and [203/206] may represent all that is left. Certainly, [203/206] contained significant quantities of burnt bone and charcoal, indicating an anthropic origin.
- 8.6 The stone spread, [204] may be the remains of a stone structure but there is currently no indication of its nature. Similarly, [214], the linear spread of stones in the NW corner of the site has no clear function, although it's apparent alignment, from outside to inside through the piling is suggestive of an access route. The stone deposits are reminiscent of those encountered on other crannog sites, notably at Dorman's Island (see Cavers 2009), being suggestive of construction but too ruinous to identify. It is possible that the complete collapse of stone superstructures is common when built on decaying organic foundations, to the extent that the original function remains unclear.
- 8.7 Occasional stakes were found throughout the interior but no clear pattern in the layout of the stakes could be observed and they could simply represent pinning of the substructure.
- 8.8 A few more planks, like those exposed last year, were found in the NW corner of Area 2a. They lie at the point where the site is closest to the shore and lie at right angles to the spine of the promontory. Rather than the collapsed walling surmised after the 2007 season these now appear to represent a possible walkway onto the site. The large oak log, T173, which was found lying just under [200] (Plate 1) may represent part of the entrance structure which subsequently collapsed.

## Summary

- 9 The 2008 fieldwork season was successful in that two of the three objectives outlined above were fully met. The nature of the site perimeter is now more fully understood and is thought to consist of a wide arc of stakes which probably encircled the promontory. The stakes were probably inserted to contain and pin the mound of organic and mineral deposits which formed the site and may not have had a defensive function.
- 9.1 The on-site and off-site coring have confirmed that the sub-structure of the site is entirely artificial, although it was probably built over a submerged natural island or promontory. The sediments in the infilled NW corner of the loch have the potential to provide valuable multi-proxy environmental data, although whether the sediments cover the later prehistoric period and are therefore relevant to the history of the site will need to be determined by radiocarbon-dating of the basal sediments (see below).
- 9.2 The third objective, to expose more of the interior of the site was less successful in that the arc of stakes occupied almost half of the trenches so that only a small proportion of the interior was effectively opened. Occupation deposits were found in the very NW corner of the interior, just within the arc of stakes but no evidence of any kind of structure was found.

## Post-excavation analyses

- 9.3 A full post-excavation research design will not be undertaken until excavations of the site are completed. However, there are a number of questions which it would be useful to address before the next season of excavation;
  - 1 Do the stakes [217] form the same boundary as the oak stakes seen in the shallow water around the promontory?
    - It is proposed that samples from one oak stake and one non-oak stake from [217] are submitted for radiocarbon-dating.
  - 2 Do the sediments in the core retrieved from the NW corner of the loch span the occupation of the site?
    - It is proposed that five samples of leaves or small twigs are taken from Core A for radiocarbon-dating. One would be from the basal sediments and the rest would be distributed at *circa* 0.25 m intervals throughout the rest of the core. The purpose of this distribution would be to check for the reworking of organics and the presence of hiatuses in sedimentation along the core.

## Acknowledgements

- 10 The fieldwork was carried out as part of the Scottish Wetland Archaeology Programme, which is grant-aided by Historic Scotland. The authors are grateful to Stair Estates for permission to carry out the fieldwork and to the local volunteers, particularly Diane Greasley and Vivian Delf, who worked through a very wet September.

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**Plate 1** The orange patches of [203] interspersed with [206] are visible on the left hand of the photograph. The first oak stakes of [217] are visible in the background together with the large oak timbers, T173 and T183. [214] is visible in the foreground, with the inundated NW corner of the site to the right.



**Plate 2** Stone cluster [204] lying within [203/206].





**Plate 3** [208] lies at the top of the kubiena tin over the brushwood [212]



**Plate 4** The brushwood layer [212], from the S.





**Plate 5**

Horizontal timbers [226] visible in the sondage in front of Section 3.





**Plate 6** The western edge of [213] can be seen in the foreground, the eastern edge merging into [203/206]



**Plate 7** Horizontal timbers [214] lying within [210].





**Plate 8** [214] seen in section, overlying [215] and the plank, T192.



**Plate 9** One of the non-oak stakes in [222] seen in section. The curvature visible at the top of the stake is as a result of decay. One of the horizontal timbers [223] is visible in the base of the trench, recently sampled.

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# **Cults Loch, Castle Kennedy, SW Scotland**

## **Data Structure Report**

### **Section 2: Appendices**



<b>APPENDIX 1: CONTEXTS</b>								
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Over</b>	<b>Under</b>	<b>Equals</b>	<b>Equals 2007 no.</b>	<b>Drawing sheet #</b>	
<b>200</b>	Cobble-like stones and roots in matrix of sandy clay - found across site		all			100	3	
<b>201</b>	Raised patch consisting of 40% cobble stones, in gritty matrix but with more organic matrix flecked with charcoal & burnt bone			200	206	101	1	
<b>202</b>	Lens of grey clay flecked with charcoal	Lens within 206					1	
<b>203</b>	Ginger sand with gravel & charcoal-flecked. Mainly in e half of area 2a		207	206			2, 3, 4	
<b>204</b>	Cluster of large stones on E edge of Area 2b	Pile/dump of stones within 203/206		206, 200			1, 3	
<b>205</b>	Amorphous spread of orange gritty clay with black greasy patches & burnt bone, & fire-shattered stone	Spread of hearth debris	206	200			/	
<b>206</b>	Mixed deposit which covers most of site except for NE corner. More organic matrix, inc. Flecks of rotted wood, charcoal & burnt bone, patches of sand & 20% small angular stones		207	200	201	101	2, 3, 4	
<b>207</b>	Organic-rich layer containing large pieces of rotted wood, lumps of compact 'peat', heavily flecked with charcoal & burnt bone			203/206		102	2, 4	
<b>208</b>	Discrete mound of yellow-brown, very compacted, laminated organic matter. Surface is lumpy & discontinuous, and edges grade into 207	<i>In situ</i> occupation deposits		207, 210		108	2, 4	
<b>209</b>	Discrete deposit of ginger sandy gravel on W edge of Area 2b			200	203	110	3	
<b>210</b>	Homogenous fibrous brown peat which extends across S end of Area 2b						3	



211	Grey gritty sand, loosely compact - particle size < 5 mm. Appears in patches across much of trench			208, 212			2		
212	Layer of v compressed stems aligned in parallel with each other - in NW corner of Area 2b	Bundle of brushwood	211	208, 213, 218			2, 3, 4		
213	Area of small, flat angular stones, loose & vacuous - fire-cracked stones?		212	208		107	2, 3, 4		
214	Linear spread of large angular stones with some cobbles, quite densely packed. Runs from w-e in area 2a	Walkway?	215	203/206			2, 4		
215	Yellowish-grey gravelly sand with no organic component but contains burnt bone & charcoal. Visible on either side of 214			206, 214			2, 4		
216	Loose cobble-sized stones, sand & gravel seen along N baulk and in NE corner				200	100	2, 4		
217	Swathe of piling in Area 2a - oak & non-oak stakes	Pinning material for man-made mound forming perimeter of site				105	2, 5		
218	Horizontal timbers across site	Foundation of crannog surface	219			106	2, 3, 4		
219	Vacuuous cobble-sized stones observed immediately below 218			218			2		
220	Small stems, laid horizontally and seen around base of T207, some with chopmarks						/		
221	Small stakes, c 2 cm diam with sharpened ends found around base of F222	May have pinned down F220					/		
222	Small 'secondary' stakes, c 10 cm diam found close to T207 and not visible on surface - non-oak						/		
223	Horizontal timbers, non-oak, found around base of T207						/		
224	Grey-blue gravelly sand with ashy inclusions, ie burnt bone, charcoal, clay			215, 216			2, 4		
225	Like 224 but more mixed - with dark bands of ashy material - water sorted?	zone outside crannog							
226	Horizontal timbers aligned in parallel	Infrastructure?		219			2, 5		
227	Piling in Area 2b, in interior of site								



<b>APPENDIX 2: TIMBER SAMPLES</b>							
<b>Sample</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type*</b>	<b>Dimensions (cms)</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Work**</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Drawing sheet #</b>
T172	218	H	24 x 5	Oak	D	plank burnt on underside (is this [111])	2
T173	200	H		Oak	D	log - centre decayed away	2
T174	218	H	12 diam		ID	flattened roundwood	2
T175	218	H	9 diam		ID	flattened roundwood - with bark	2
T176	218	H	8 diam		ID	flattened roundwood - with bark	2
T178	218	H	5-6 diam		ID	small branches	2
T180	218	H	8 diam		ID	flattened roundwood	2
T182	218	H	8 diam		ID	flattened roundwood - with bark	2
T183	218	H			ID	flattened roundwood	2
T185	218	H	10 diam		ID	flattened roundwood	2
T190	218	H	7 diam		ID	flattened roundwood	2
T192		H	2.5 m x 0.25	Oak	D	very large plank under [215]	2
T193	217	S				incomplete & fragmented	2
T194	217	S	12 diam		ID & D	tip still in ground	2
T195	217	S			ID, D & WW		2
T199	217	S			ID & D		2
T202	217	S	7 diam	Oak	D	tip - degraded	2
T203	217	S	10 diam	Oak	D	tip- degraded	2
T207	217	S		Oak	D & WW	large & complete	2
T208	217	S		Oak	D	very degraded	2
T214	217	S	12 diam	Oak	D & WW	complete - toolmarks	2
T215	217	S			ID & D		2
T216	217	S			ID & D		2
T217	217	S			ID & D		2
T218	217	S			ID & D		2

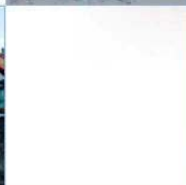
Cults Loch DSR: Appendices

T219	217	S			ID & D		2
T220	217	S			ID, D & C14		2
T222	217	S			ID & D	stake tip left in situ	2
T236	217	S			ID & D		2
T246	218	H	30 diam	Oak	D	large branch	3
T248	218	H			ID	flattened roundwood	3
T272	218	H			ID	flattened roundwood - with bark	3
T277	218	H			ID		3
T282	227	S			ID & D		3
T283	227	S			ID & D		3
T288	218	H			ID	flattened roundwood - burnt on upper surfaces	3
T291	227	S			ID & D		3
T293	217	S			ID & D		2
T294	217	S			ID & D		2
T300	218	H		Oak	D & WW	morticed plank?	3
T305	226	H			ID		5
T320	226	H			ID & D		5
T321	226	H			ID & D		5
T327	217	S			ID & D		5
T328	217	S			ID & D		5
T331	217	S			ID & D		5
T333	220	H			ID & WW		/
T334	221	S			ID, WW & C14		/
T335	222	S			ID, WW & C14		/
T336	223	H			ID, WW & C14		/
50 timbers sampled							
* H = horizontal; S = stake							
**ID = species ID; D = dendro; WW = woodworking							

<b>APPENDIX 3: SBS &amp; SPECIAL SAMPLES</b>			
<b>Sample</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	202	SBS	1 bag
	203	SBS	1 tub
	205	SBS	1 bag
	206	SBS	1 bag
	207	SBS	1 tub
12	208	Spec	Solid block collected - stored in tray
13	208	Spec	C14
	209	SBS	1 tub
	210	SBS	1 tub
	212	SBS	1 tub
	213	/	1 bag of stones - fire-cracked?
	215	SBS	1 tub
KB1			Kubiena from Section 1
KB2			Kubiena from Section 2
KB3			Kubiena from Section 2
KB4			Kubiena from Section 3

<b>APPENDIX 4: FINDS</b>			
<b>SF No.</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Description</b>
6	us	ST	Frag of cannel coal bracelet
7	us	FE	Iron object - nail
8	us	LI	Struck flint with cortex
9	205	BO	Burnt & unburnt bone
10	205	ST	Firecracked stones
11	206	ST	Whetstone
12	203/206	BO	X5 frags burnt bone
13	224	BO	Burnt bone
14	us	ST	Stone grinder - found by Jane Murray in 1986 'off S end of promontory'



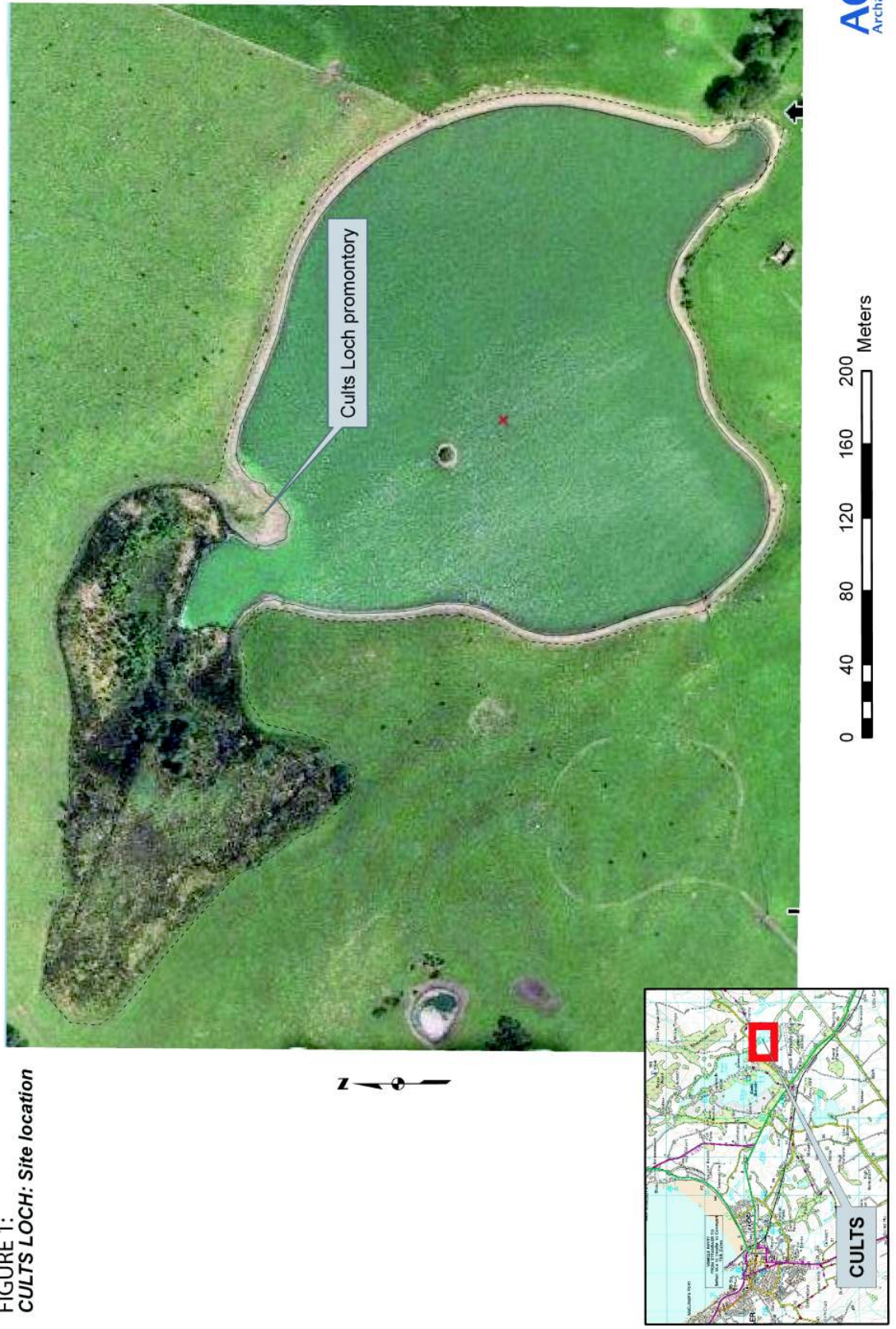


**AOC Archaeology Group**, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY  
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: [edinburgh@aacarchaeology.com](mailto:edinburgh@aacarchaeology.com)

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)



FIGURE 1:  
CULTS LOCH: Site location



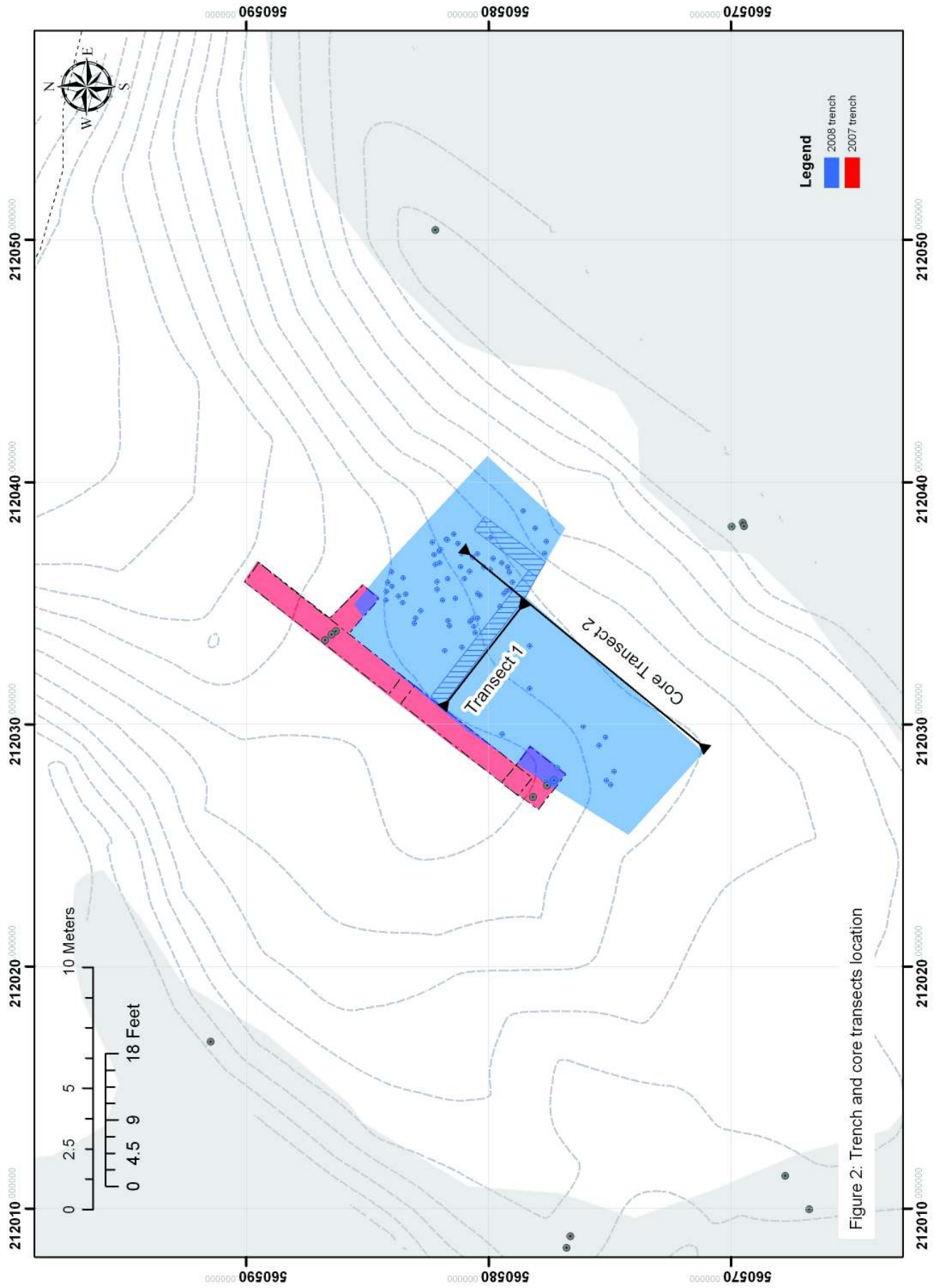
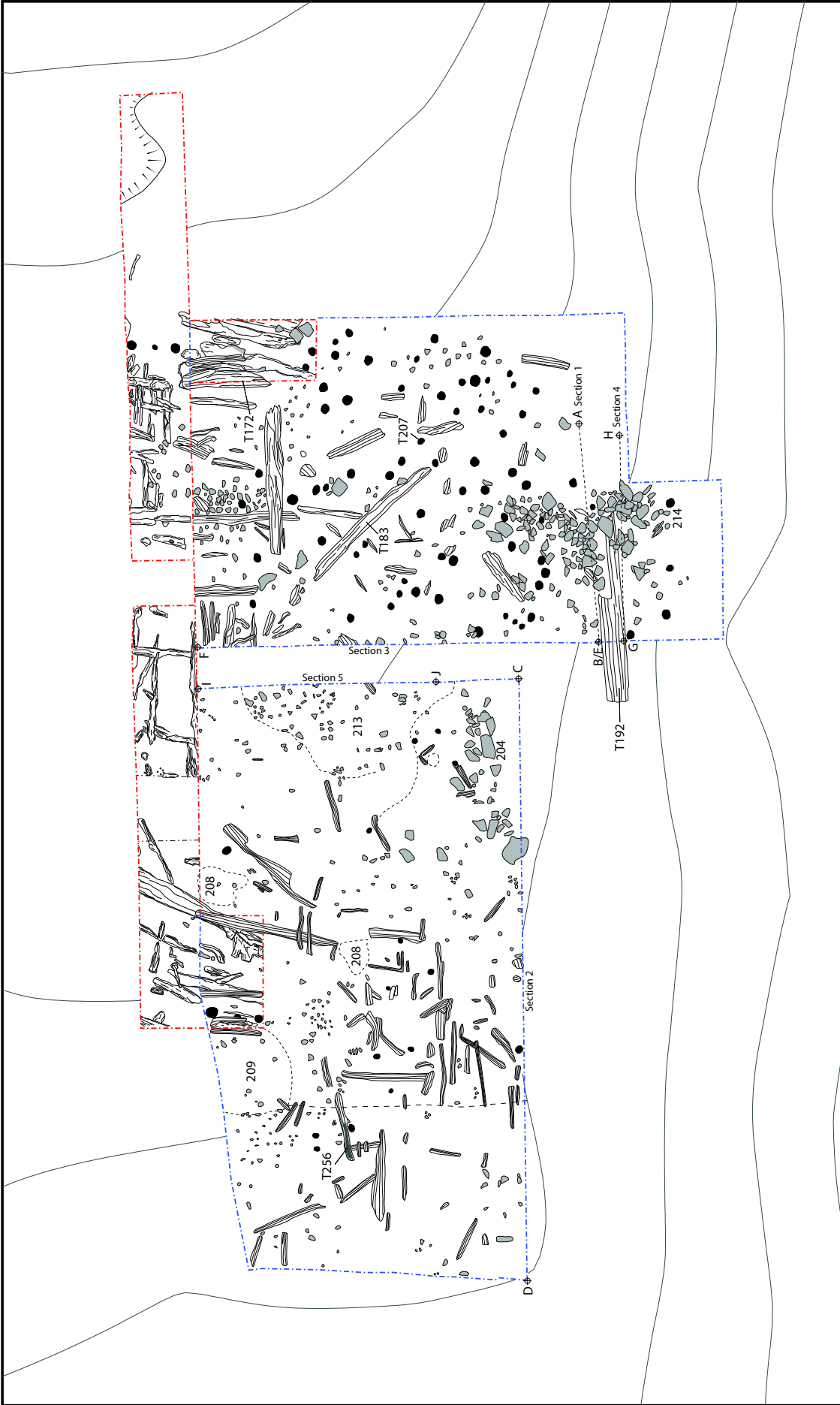

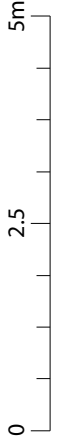
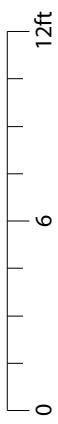


Figure 2: Trench and core transects location





2007 trench  
 2008 trenches  
 stakes  
 wood  
 burning  
 stone

Figure 3: Site plan

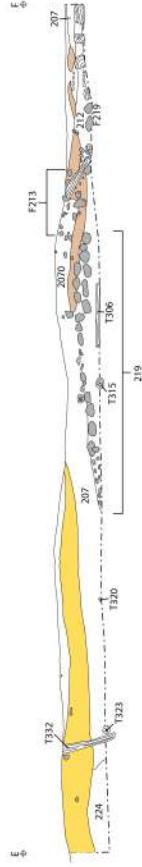
Section 1



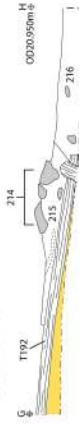
Section 2



Section 3



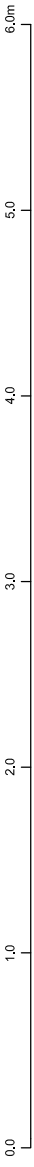
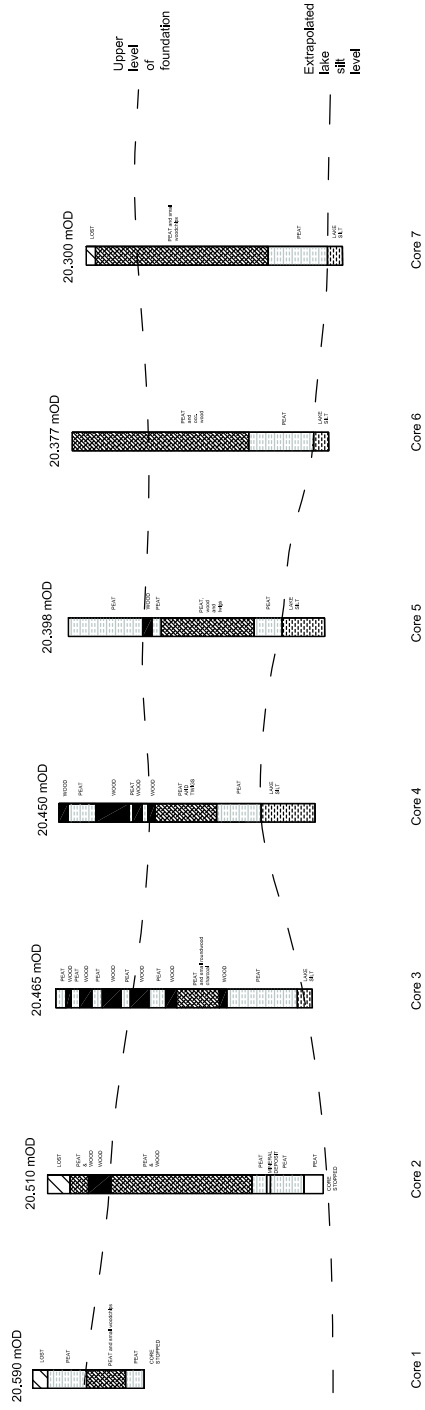
Section 4



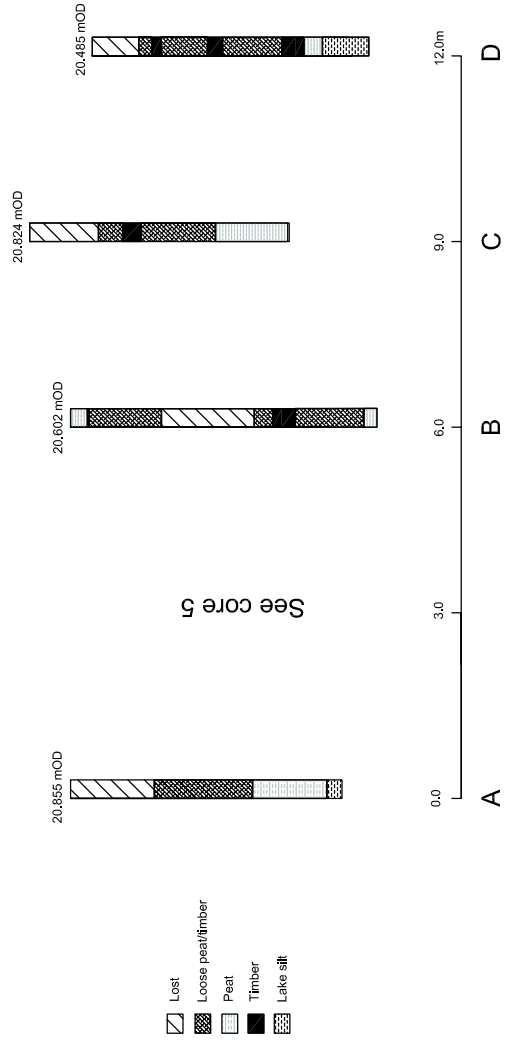
Section 5



Figure 4: Sections



Transect 1



Transect 2

Figure 5: coring transects



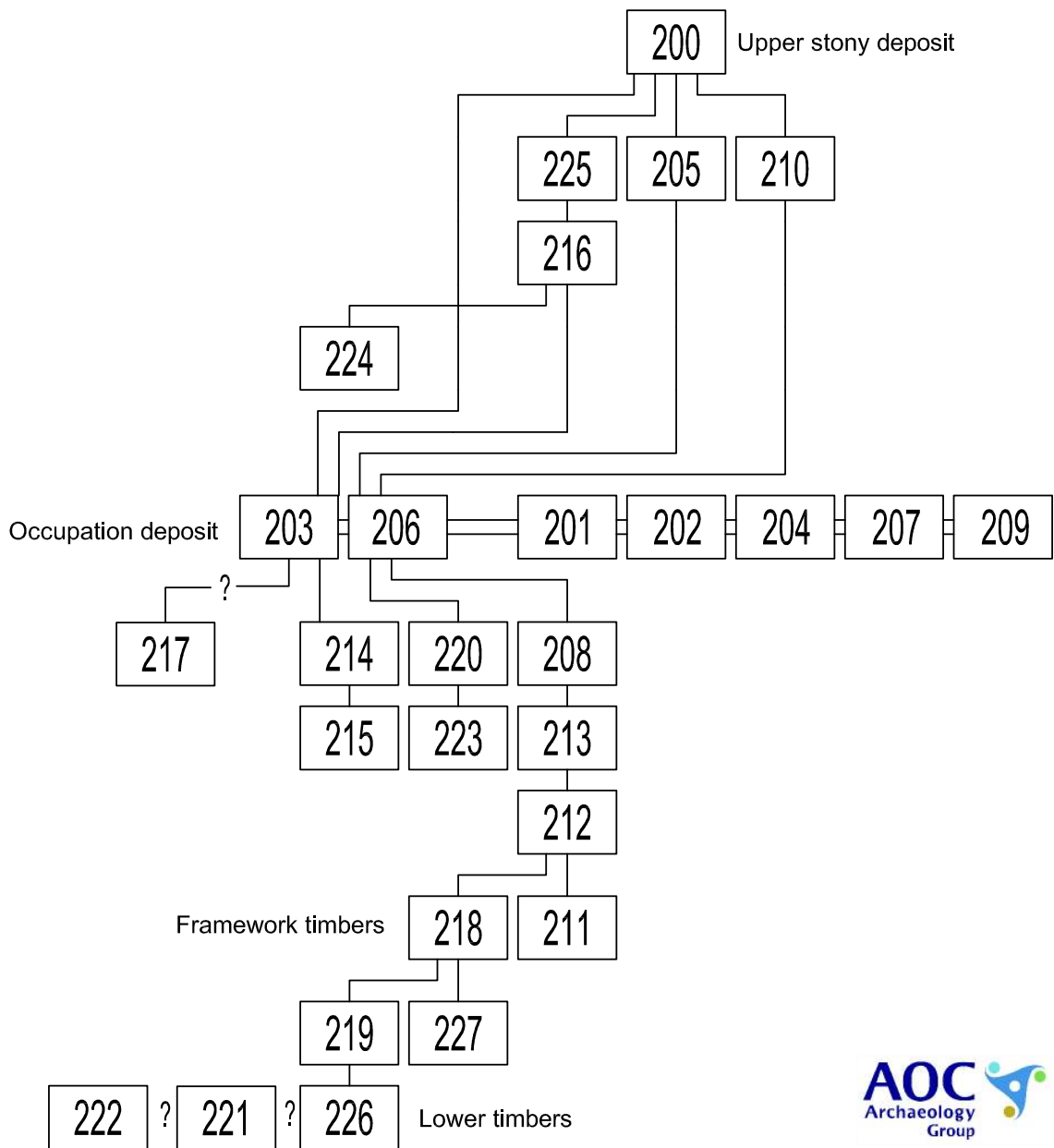


Figure 6: Harris matrix for trench 2