

# **Quarrywood Henge, Elgin: Archaeological Investigation**

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon  
with a contribution from Dr Oliver JT O'Grady

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## Non-Technical Summary

1. Presented within this Data Structure Report are the results from a programme of work designed to investigate the Quarrywood Henge and to consider the consequence of damage to the site caused by visitor erosion and the previous use of ground for forestry.
2. The on-site works commenced with a Geophysics survey to identify any additional related monuments within the monument (additional pits, burials). This work identified a circular arrangement of possible negative features which may represent post or stone settings, covering an area which measured approximately 20m in diameter. A possible penannular feature was also identified, as well as three linear features that may represent marks left by forestry ploughing. In addition a series of signals were found that may represent other negative features which may reflect further activity within the henge, such as burials, burning or occupation areas.
3. Targeted areas within the henge were then hand-excavated, both to recover information on the monument's date and form as well as to establish the nature of any damage incurred from forestry operations and foot traffic through the monument. These excavations showed the construction of the henge bank and the level of disturbance from the presence of trees and understory vegetation. As well as the level of erosion due to the unrestricted foot traffic through the monument.
4. These on-site works have given information that has allowed us to explain both the importance of the surviving monument and the consequences, positive and negative, of its long-term presence within woodland. Recommendations have also been made which can inform future best practice in managing sites that are present within forestry.

## Introduction

5. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Forestry Commission Scotland in support of their management of Quarrywood Henge, Elgin, which lies within the national forest estate. The programme of sequential archaeological works proposed has been designed to understand the consequences of inadvertent damage to the monument and to establish its importance as an archaeological resource.
6. The Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist has provided a Brief on the structure of the archaeological works required. After each stage of implementing this Project Design, the specific details of subsequent stages of works must be agreed with the Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist, who will also monitor their implementation. One critical stage of review is recognised in advance: on conclusion of the on-site tasks, it will be necessary to determine the appropriate scale and remit of the post-excavation and reporting tasks.
7. A preceding Project Design (Rees & Turner 2011) presented a baseline of the known archaeological resource, the objectives of the project and the structure of the archaeological works to be undertaken. Elements of that report (*Background* and *Objectives*) are reproduced here to deliver clarity as to the preconception of the character of this monument.
8. Rathmell Archaeology was appointed to implement the agreed Project Design which focused on the evaluation of the monument through survey and intrusive trenching, excavated by hand.

### *Terminology*

9. The following key terms are recognised within this Report:
  - ❖ The Client – Forestry Commission Scotland;
  - ❖ The Archaeological Curator – Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist;
  - ❖ The Archaeological Contractor – Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, who were appointed by the client to implement the agreed Project Design

## Background

10. Quarrywood Henge is a well-preserved henge monument (NGR: NJ 1856 6305, RCAHMS Canmore ID 16231, Moray Council HER ID: NG16SE0009) which still survives as upstanding remains to the west of Elgin. The site lies south-east of the summit of Quarrywood Hill, in a cleared area within a forestry plantation; the monument is covered by a mixture of grass and heather with incursive bracken across the area.
11. Measuring a maximum extent of 59m (east – west) by 54m transversely, the monument is sub-oval in plan, comprising a level area surrounded by a ditch and external bank. Both bank and ditch are broken in at least one location by a causeway, measuring 4m wide, with a corresponding gap in the external bank. The monument appears to be well-preserved: the bank is upstanding to a height of 0.5m, the ditch to a depth of 0.8m.
12. The enclosed area is oval in plan, measuring some 47 m by 43 m in extent, with a level interior. The most notable features are the two boulders (approx. 1 m high) located in the southwest arc of the interior; these may be the surviving remains of a stone circle. The recent contour survey carried out upon the site revealed an additional length of curvilinear bank, lying just north of the centre.
13. A modern interpretative board has been erected on the north side of the henge on the edge of the cleared area. The promotion of the monument to visitors (brought to the site via a spur which runs from a local walk from Elgin – as described in; <http://walking.visitscotland.com/walks/nescotland/elgin-river-lossie-quarry-wood>) appears to have generated irregular paths that have eroded the vegetative cap in areas of the site. The main walkers' path crosses the henge from NNW to SSE, passing one of the possible standing stones; however, this is on a different alignment to the path surveyed in 1997 by Headland Archaeology. Subsequent access control (via fencing and a behavioural message) was installed in 2010 and while this has now been removed it may have influenced the realignment of the path.

### *Designations and legal constraints*

14. The henge was designated as a scheduled monument in February 1977; this both recognised the national significance of the monument and protects it from unauthorised disruption through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as modified by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011. The boundary of the cleared forestry corresponds with the scheduled area.
15. The character of henges is such that they may also contain burials. The removal of a body from the grave is not considered theft; rather Scots common law recognises the offence of *crimen violati sepulchre* (violation of sepulchre). In essence, the crime is the disturbance of the corpse without permission. Care must be taken to ensure that no works are undertaken which conflict with this law.

### *Topography, Geology and Soils*

16. The site sits upon the crest of a ridge running south from the summit of Quarrywood Hill, occupying a prominent location overlooking the floodplain of the River Lossie which extends outwards to the south and east. This location now overlooks the modern town of Elgin, with the A96, which runs westwards from the town, lying immediately downslope of the monument.
17. The underlying geology is sedimentary in character, composed of Old and New Red Sandstones, overlain with superficial deposits of diamicton (poorly sorted sediments), which are probably glacial in origin.

### *Historical and Archaeological*

18. Early mapping shows that an area of woodland was in existence to the west of Elgin by the time Roy undertook his Military Survey of Scotland in the mid-eighteenth century (Figure 1a). However, the location of the monument is depicted as open hillside at this time. Woodland was established in this locale by at least the mid-nineteenth century, as

the area is shown as wooded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (Figure 1b). The monument has also been identified by this time, and is marked as a 'Danish Camp'. Its interpretation as a henge appears to have come quite late: it is first described as a 'Class I henge' in 1972, following a site visit by the Ordnance Survey.

19. Henge monuments have long been a subject of fascination for antiquarians, archaeologists and the general public alike. The term 'henge' is derived from the most famous example of this type – Stonehenge, in Wiltshire – which was subject to intensive study and recording by two eminent antiquarians, John Aubrey and William Stukeley (active in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries respectively). However, the classificatory term 'henge' itself applies only to the earthwork element of the site: this comprises a circular bank and ditch (invariably, but not exclusively, with the bank located outside the ditch) with two, often opposing, entrances. This class of monument is thought to be Late Neolithic in date, with most examples providing dates of construction between 2800 and 2300BC.
20. During the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, advances in radiocarbon dating demonstrated that the earliest examples of these monuments came in fact from Orkney. The henge at Stenness has been dated to c. 3000BC; this monument also produced the earliest known finds of Grooved Ware, a particular form of flat-based and highly decorated Neolithic pottery which is often found in association with henge monuments.
21. Recently there has been an increasing recognition that henges cannot be understood as isolated monuments, but rather that they are elements in much larger ritual or ceremonial landscapes. Individual monuments are thought to form the backdrop to processions undertaken by the community which serve to reinforce, and sometimes renegotiate, social relations between various groups and individuals (see Barrett, 1994). The accessibility of henges has been noted by various authors (Bradley, 1998; Noble, 2006): it may be the case that the ceremonies undertaken in these wider landscapes were attended not only by those residing nearby, but also others who had travelled from further afield.
22. Much of our understanding of henge monuments comes from excavations carried out in either England (in particular Wessex) or Orkney. However, there have been several notable sites excavated in mainland Scotland, including North Mains (Barclay, 1983), Balfarg, Cairnpapple, and most recently, Broomend of Crichtie (Barclay 2011). In each instance, the henge was integral to a wider ceremonial landscape, with this landscape – and often the henge itself - having been subject to frequent reworking and reconstruction through time.
23. The work undertaken at Broomend of Crichtie (Barclay 2011) suggests that in this particular area, the building of the henge took place at an unusually late date. Radiocarbon dates have yielded dates of 2000BC, i.e. a construction date in the Early Bronze Age. The henge itself appears to cut an earlier stone avenue, which was itself leading to a recumbent stone circle. Despite its late date, the henge was once again subject to reworking, with the erection of upright stones within the interior. Cremated human bone associated with pottery of urn or Food Vessel types has also been recovered from within the henge.
24. It has been argued that recumbent stone circles and henge-type monuments are complementary in terms of their distribution (Dunwell and Ralston, 2008). The recent excavations at Broomend of Crichtie revealed examples of both forms in close proximity to one another, demonstrating that this is not necessarily the case. This further reinforces the claim that henges and hengiform monuments are as yet poorly understood in north-east Scotland and emphasises that any further opportunity to improve our knowledge should be seized with enthusiasm.
25. The current level of knowledge regarding Quarrywood Henge should now be reassessed. The henge itself, in its hilly location, is unusual: henges are more usually situated in easily accessible lowland sites, often coinciding with modern transport routes (as observed by both Bradley (1998, 121) and Noble (2006, 184)). It also appears to exist in isolation: there are possible Late Neolithic sites occurring on the floodplain of the River





Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55)

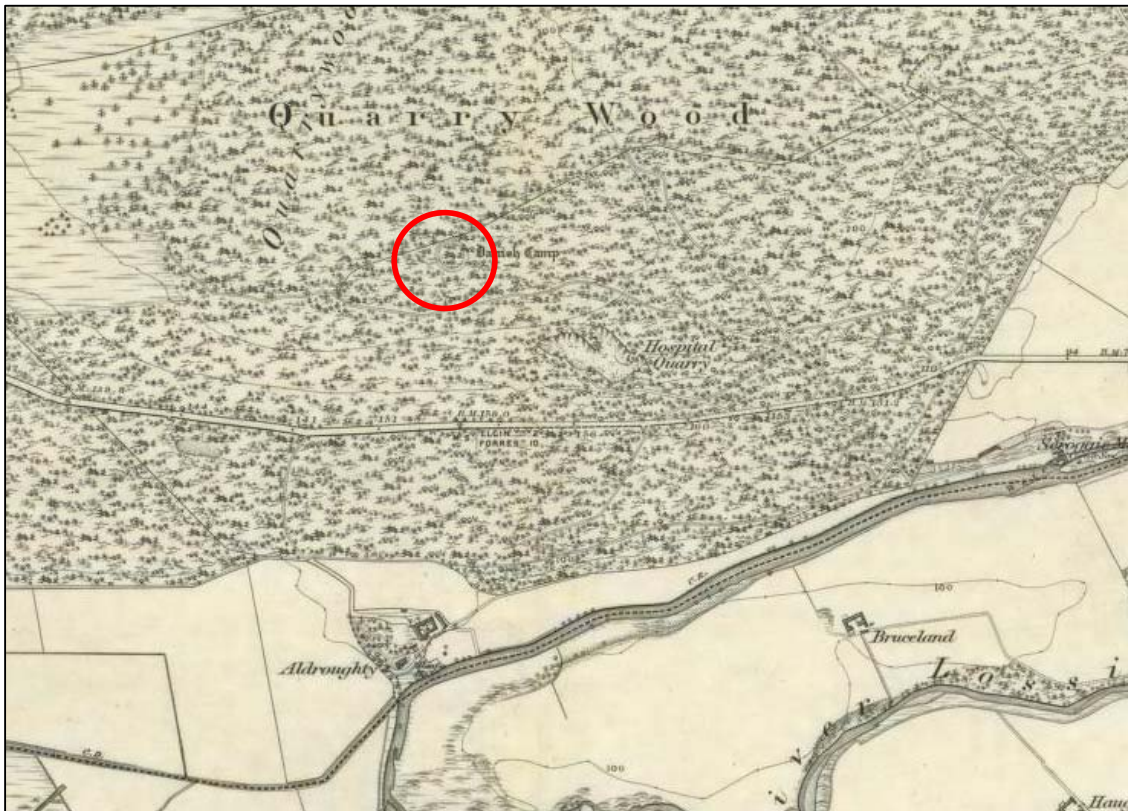


Figure 1b: 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1873)



Lossie, but they lie further to the south in the vicinity of Lochinver.

26. Quarrywood Henge's isolated location casts doubt on whether it actually forms a part of this ceremonial landscape. It bears a closer similarity to the henge at Cairnpapple Hill, West Lothian (Piggot, 1948), which also occupies a prominent hill-top location. Cairnpapple is unusual for its Early Bronze Age date – the pottery recovered during the excavations represented Beaker, as opposed to Grooved Ware, and the alleged find of an Early Bronze Age axe mould from Quarrywood Henge might indicate a similar Bronze Age date for the latter. The form of Quarrywood Henge also differs from that of a 'classic' henge – Barclay notes that both ditch and bank are unusually narrow (Barclay, 1998, 63). In other words, though Quarrywood Henge can be confidently described as 'hengiform', its place in the wider genus of henges and hengiform-type monuments requires further clarification.

### *Impact Assessment*

27. The underlying archaeological remains at Quarrywood Henge have been impacted upon by a range of different agencies in recent times. The monument's incorporation within a forestry plantation has meant that its buried deposits may have been subject to damage both from the initial planting (which potentially included ploughing), and from the subsequent growth of the coniferous trees planted upon it. Following the clearance of these trees, the site has been subject to erosion resulting from the passage of walkers, who have established a footpath across the extent of the monument.
28. The potential for adverse impacts on archaeological monuments from forestry has long been recognised. During the mid-1950s the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) instigated the Marginal Land Survey to record important monuments prior to their loss or damage through landuse change.
29. The onset of mechanised afforestation during the 1960s and 1970s led to archaeologists highlighting the unmitigated impact on our Historic Environment (Jackson 1978, Proudfoot 1989 and Barber 1997). The exact character of the tree planting over this particular site is not known.
30. Work has been conducted to explore the differing character of the relationship between forestry and the historic environment (Yarnell 1993 and Crow 2004). While poorly-managed afforestation can have serious adverse impacts on buried archaeology, other forestry and woodland regimes can create relatively benign environments which serve to protect monuments in the longer term. The upstanding remains at Quarrywood Henge suggest that it was managed under this more benign pattern, with the henge's associated earthworks still upstanding to a substantial height, and ephemeral traces of internal features still evident.
31. The Forestry Commission has established sound guidance for handling archaeological sites within forestry. This has either been delivered through targeted technical advice (Forests and Historic Environment Guidelines), through planting design guidance encompassing archaeological and historical sites (Forest Design Planning) or through strategy documents (Scottish Forestry Strategy). Much of this guidance promotes the clearing of significant monuments as well as providing public access to such monuments, coupled with interpretation. The proposed works at Quarrywood Henge provide an excellent opportunity to examine the consequences of clearing monuments both in terms of the impact of incursive vegetation such as scrub, bracken etc. in the absence of grazing regimes, and pressure from visitors (in terms of initiating erosion). Given the history of Quarrywood Henge, which has already witnessed past attempts to manage the pressures generated by public access, there is the additional potential to examine the effectiveness of these measures and the potentially cyclical nature of visitor impacts on the monument.

### **Objectives**

32. The character and scope of the archaeological resource has been established through analogy with monuments of similar form and extent which have previously been

investigated elsewhere in mainland Scotland and beyond. It is, however, apparent that this particular class of monument varies greatly in character, with numerous local variants evident, the details of which are only just beginning to be understood in north-east Scotland.

33. The overall objectives of the works were as follows:
  - a. to excavate a sufficient portion of the archaeological monument to allow the recovery of artefactual, palaeo-environmental and structural evidence, assisting in our interpretation and understanding of the site in order to more confidently establish its date, function, and form;
  - b. to determine the consequence to the archaeological resource from visitor erosion and use of the ground within a commercial forestry operation, covering both positive and negative aspects, while considering the future consequences of typical management; and
  - c. to disseminate the findings of these works in the appropriate manner.
34. More specific objectives which apply to assessing the character of the monument are:
  - d. to explore the relationship between the monument and the local topography, hydrology and drift geology. This will include the characterisation of the wider landscape, both at the time of its main phase of occupation and use, and in the period immediately preceding it;
  - e. to elucidate whether the monument as we view it today is the product of a single coherent build, or a sequential build, and if the latter, to identify and interpret each separate phase of occupation or rebuilding as appropriate;
  - f. to improve our understanding of its structural elements;
  - g. to recover palaeo-environmental and artefactual evidence which may clarify the nature and function of activities undertaken within and immediately adjacent to the monument. In particular, evidence will be sought for the structured deposition of material both within the boundary ditch and within the henge interior;
  - h. to consider the evidence for the process of abandonment of the monument;
  - i. determine whether the monument has subsequently been reused;
  - j. to establish where this particular archaeological resource fits in with the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ceremonial and ritual practices occurring within the immediate locale, and throughout the wider area of Moray and north-east Scotland.
35. The more specific objectives with regard to the impact of visitor erosion, afforestation and related forestry operations on the monument are:
  - k. to establish the impact of tree planting and subsequent growth on the buried sediments and upstanding fabric;
  - l. the extent of the erosion occurring as a result of increased foot traffic following the establishment of an informal walkers' path across the monument;
  - m. the consequence of renewed vegetation growth upon the archaeological resource, in particular any impacts from natural tree regeneration or the spread of bracken;
  - n. to understand what archaeological importance can be given to the ground that would typically be within a buffer to protect the visible monument; and



Figure 2a: All archaeological deposits that were not sampled were dry sieved



Figure 2b: Each trench was surveyed by metal detector after de-turfing

- o. to establish the extent of any areas which are subject to active erosion, in particular as a result of burrowing animal activities.
36. These objectives were to be achieved through the programme of works detailed within the preceding Project Design.

## Project Works

37. The programme of works took the form of an archaeological evaluation and were carried out between the 30<sup>th</sup> October and the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The works were carried out in keeping with the agreed Project Design (Rees and Turner 2011) which comprised:
- a. geophysical survey of the clearing to complement the existing topographic survey;
  - b. limited excavation carried out in carefully selected areas of the monument and also in its immediate vicinity, thus allowing the surviving archaeological remains to be properly characterised;
  - c. the assessment and stabilisation of artefacts, including emergency conservation, as required; and
  - d. the production of a preliminary site report which integrates the findings of the works through a Data Structure Report, detailing the nature, form and extent of the archaeological features recorded.
38. Continuous liaison was carried out with the Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist to keep them apprised of progress and archaeological finds.
39. The fieldwork was generally undertaken in unseasonably mild weather: only one day was marred by rain, with conditions being predominantly dry with occasional sunshine.

### *Stage 2*

40. This report is the enabling document for an appropriate programme of post-excavation analysis which takes into account all the significant material recovered and establishes the required level of publication. Such Stage 2 works are also expected to encompass the declaration of finds through the Treasure Trove process and the deposition of the project archive with RCAHMS Collections to ensure the long-term preservation of the archaeological information obtained during the on-site works.

### *Standards*

41. The enabling Project Design was designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines including:
- ❖ Code of Conduct (Institute for Archaeologists 2000);
  - ❖ Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Institute for Archaeologists 2001); and
  - ❖ Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (Institute for Archaeologists 2001).

## Geophysical Survey

by Dr Oliver JT O'Grady

42. A flux-gate gradiometer survey was commissioned to evaluate the site interior prior to trial trenching. This was intended to help assess the extent of archaeological remains, refine the trenching campaign and assist interpretation. The results can also help inform subsequent research and conservation priorities for the site.
43. A Bartington Grad601-2 dual sensor was utilised. The sample density was 1m x 0.25m.

Null readings were taken, where necessary, when obstacles such as trees and large boulders precluded active survey. Survey was completed over as much of the open clearing as possible. The fieldwork was undertaken in bright and dry weather conditions during Thursday 27th October 2011. Standard data processing was undertaken using Geoplot 3.

44. The gradiometer survey produced good quality data, although disturbance was evident around the site's perimeter from geology and historic forestry activity, in general the survey was apparently not adversely affected by background constraints. This section describes the magnetic readings that are identified as possibly relating to archaeological remains, within the site interior and at the cleared ground to the west.
45. The immediate environs of the enclosure are magnetically quiet relative to the interior; with random fluctuations and minor spikes probably resulting from iron-oxide and other magnetically susceptible inclusions in the subsoil. The line of at least three possible plough scars, which maybe derive from historic forestry activity, are evident crossing the site from north-west to south-east, separated by 17m to 12m, and denoted by roughly parallel linear positive anomalies (Figure 3-5).

#### *Anomaly A*

46. This pronounced negative anomaly coincides with the sub-oval ditch of the enclosure (Figure 3-5). The prominent signal would suggest that either the feature's fill, or the underlying strata that the ditch is cut into, have stronger magnetic characteristics relative to the background response and other areas of the site. This might also indicate that the ditch silted with, or was back-filled with, relatively magnetic material, which might have derived from nearby occupation or industrial activity.
47. The coherence of anomaly A is interrupted and less defined at several locations, which probably indicates the effects of occasional tree growth and sloping ground to the south. At the southern terminus there is a comparatively quiet section, which may have resulted from forestry ploughing causing in-fill and partial truncation of the feature at this location. Similarly a break in the ditch signal occurs north of the northern terminus and may be due to a plough furrow crossing the ditch in this location.
48. In contrast, the northern terminus itself produced a clear globular anomaly, suggesting a larger cutting for the ditch adjacent the entrance causeway.

#### *Anomaly B*

49. Anomaly B is a relatively pronounced positive reading, though it is somewhat diffuse in comparison to anomaly A, which coincides with the enclosure bank (Figure 3-5). The bank's less distinct reading suggests that the earthwork is composed of relatively low magnetic material, perhaps derived from redeposited subsoil, but the possibility of a stone or gravel core cannot be discounted.
50. Interruption of the anomaly at several points may be the result of disturbance from post-medieval land-use and tree bowls. The anomaly clearly stops at the visible entrance and causeway (see anomaly M), implying this is a genuine break in the line of the bank.

#### *Anomaly C*

51. This is an irregular zone of pronounced positive and negative readings in the south-east quadrant of the interior, located on level ground at the edge of the southerly downward slope (Figure 3-5). The anomaly's interpretation remains conjectural, but the location south-east of the curvilinear earthwork may suggest an association. The anomaly is also located in the path of an apparent plough furrow, and although anomaly C is unlikely to derive from tree planting, disturbance of the anomaly's corresponding deposits as a result of the furrow is probable.

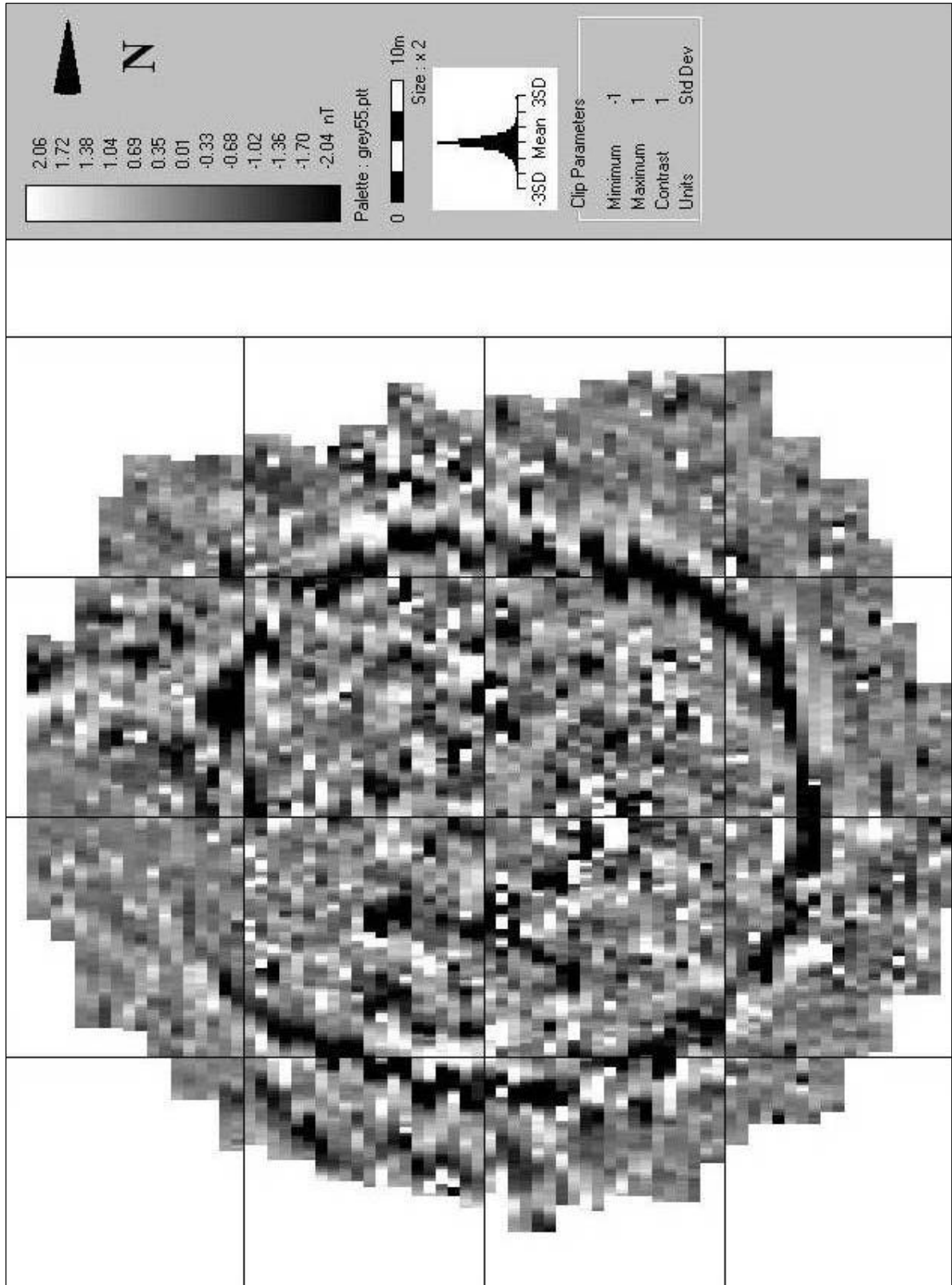


Figure 3: Raw gradiometer data



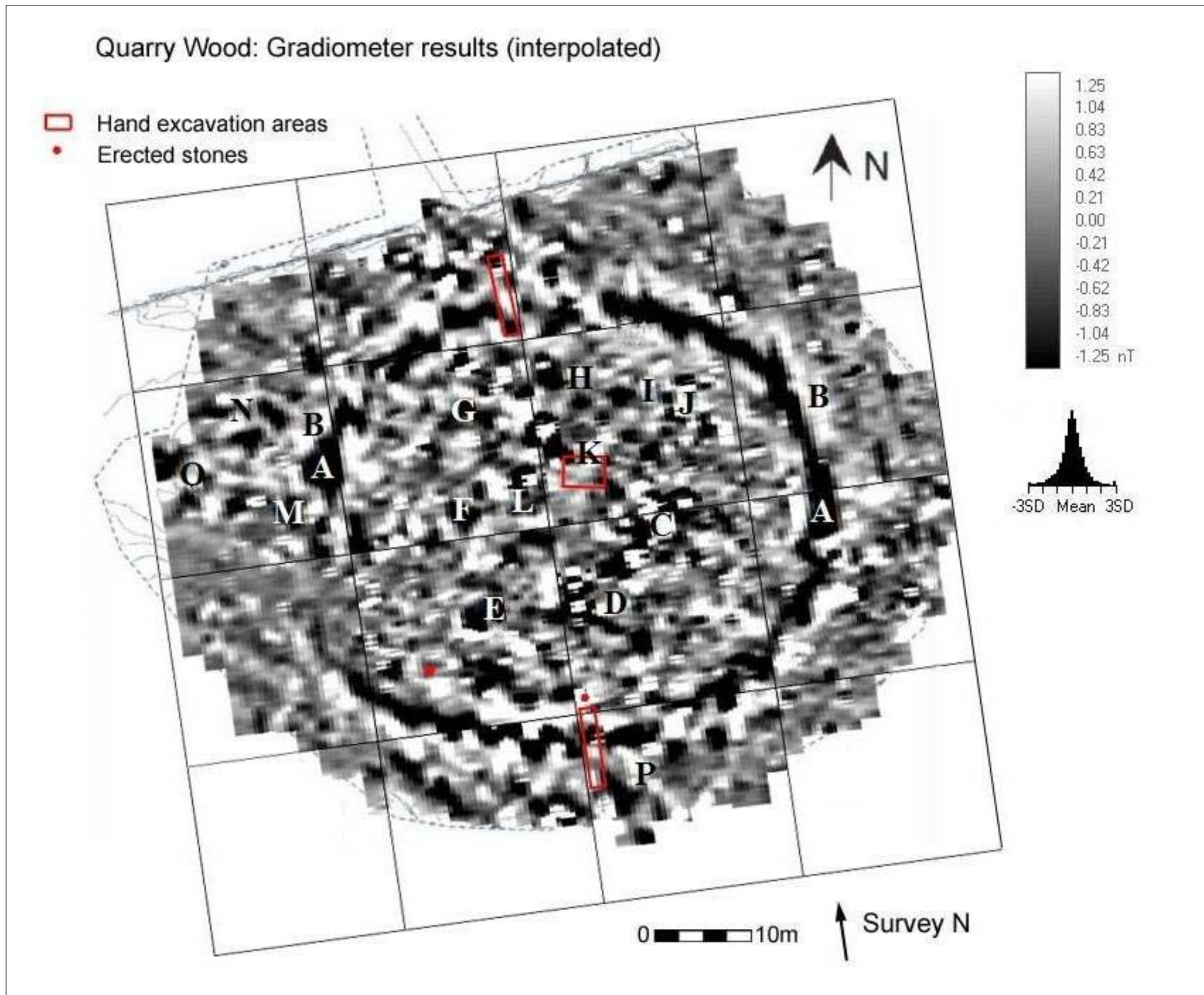


Figure 4: Interpolated gradiometer data.



## Quarry Wood: Gradiometer Results Interpretation

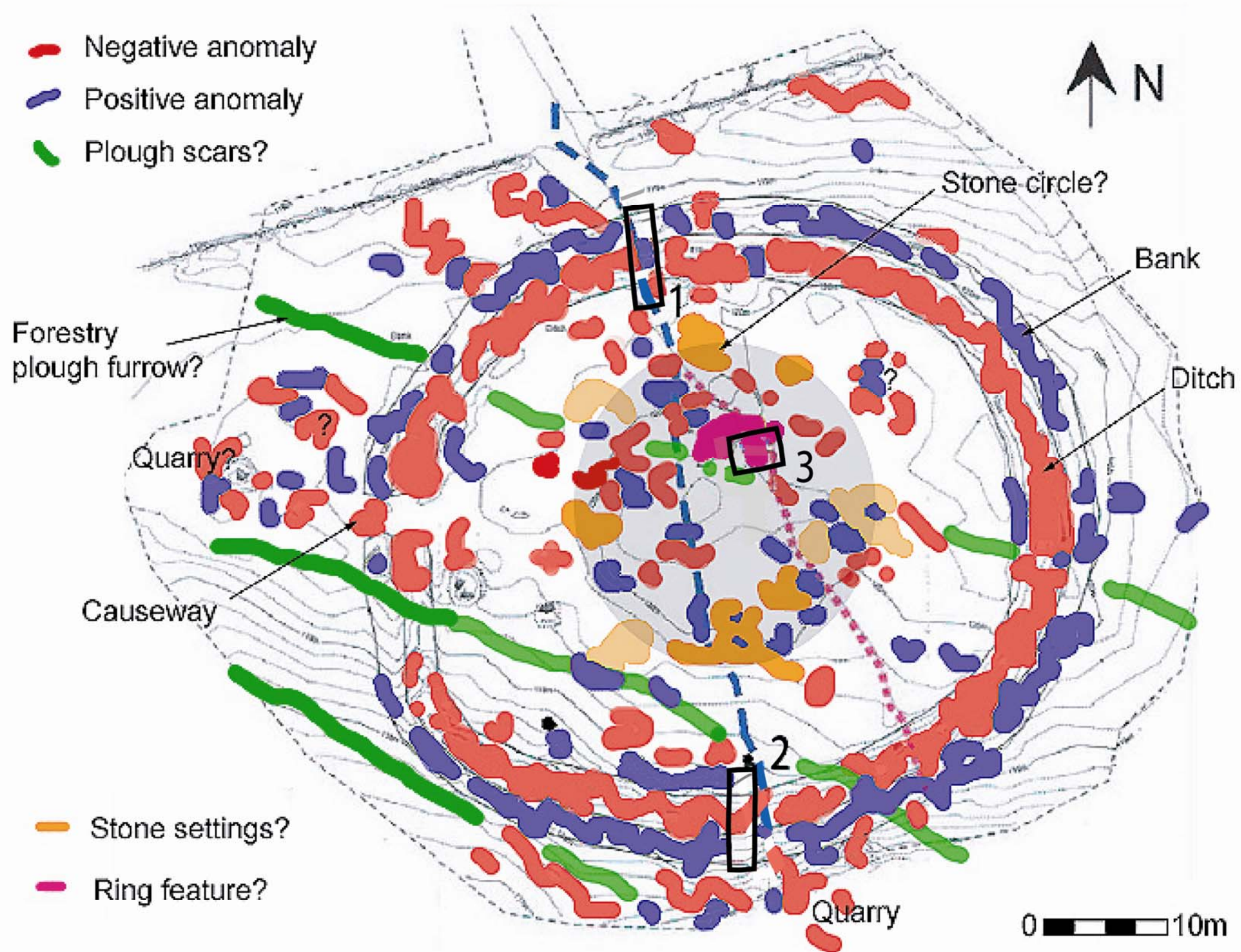


Figure 5: Archaeological interpretation based on gradiometer data

52. Anomaly C may also be interpreted in relation to several prominent negative globular readings from the interior (see anomaly D-I). These may indicate cut features, such as stone settings, pits or burials: when taken as a group, their general circular arrangement in plan may suggest that they are indicative of the remains of a ritual monument, such as a stone circle or post-defined enclosure.

#### *Anomaly D*

53. This comprised a poorly resolved irregular group of pronounced negative/positive readings, located at the south-central area of the interior at the edge of sloping ground (Figure 3-5). Interpretation of this anomaly remains uncertain, in similarity to anomaly C. The anomaly is poorly resolved, which may in part be due to interference from modern disturbance or stray ferrous material – the modern footpath bisects the location.
54. There is a defined linear trend at the southern side of this group of readings, possibly associated with a further globular negative anomaly to the south-east. This may indicate a superimposition of readings from distinct archaeological features, one truncating the other. When compared with the overall survey data, anomaly D may relate to a group of negative globular anomalies within the interior (C, E-I), which are perhaps indicative of several cut features.

#### *Anomaly E*

55. This negative globular anomaly is located in the south-west quadrant of the interior on the edge of sloping ground (Figure 3-5). The reading is comparable with anomalies F-I and may derive from the same kind of source. Anomaly E's general position and reading suggest it may be part of a group of anomalies within the interior (C, D, F-J) that relate to a single archaeological monument, possibly cut features for a stone circle or pits (Figure 4 and 5). Although, in comparison to the other anomalies, E is apparently off-set slight to the south-west, which may in fact suggest it is not directly related. A possible forest plough furrow passes anomaly E to the south and may have truncated the associated remains.

#### *Anomaly F*

56. F is a pronounced negative anomaly, globular in plan and located at the centre west side of the interior (Figure 3-5). This may be a further cut feature, possibly related to the group of similar anomalies from the interior (C-E, G-J).

#### *Anomaly G*

57. G is an irregular pronounced grouping of negative and positive readings at the north-west quadrant of the interior (Figure 3-5). The anomaly is poorly resolved, which may be in part because the line of a possible forestry plough furrow bisects the location. This may be related to a group of negative anomalies from the interior (C-F, H-J), though the complexity of minor readings in close proximity to G may suggest a complex of smaller archaeological features and general disturbance.

#### *Anomaly H*

58. Anomaly H is a prominent negative reading that is globular in plan and located at the northern edge of the interior (Figure 3-5). The modern footpath passes the location to the west. This may relate to a further cut feature within the interior, possibly associated with similar anomalies to the south (C-G, I-J).

#### *Anomaly I*

59. I is a small but pronounced negative anomaly, globular in shape and located in the north-east quadrant of the interior (Figure 3-5). Its characteristics and location suggest that it may be associated with the other prominent negative anomalies from the interior (C-H, J). The significance of a concentration of negative disturbance to the south of I is unclear, but proximity to anomaly K and the curvilinear earthwork could suggest these area related. The surface is relatively level in this area suggesting the anomaly is unlikely to

derive from a recent tree bowl.

#### *Anomaly J*

60. This is a grouping of negative and positive readings concentrated at the north-east side of the interior (Figure 3-5). Irregular in plan, the interpretation of this anomaly is not clear, though the off-set position relative to other anomalies within the interior may suggest this is not associated with negative anomalies C-I and relates to distinct activity within the henge.

#### *Anomaly K*

61. K is an irregular area of magnetic disturbance located just north of the enclosure's centre (Figure 3-5). This appears to correlate with the curvilinear earthwork. The south side of the location appears to be effected by the passage of a potential forestry plough scar. This anomaly may derive from disturbance caused by truncation of the curvilinear earthwork or indicate magnetically pronounced deposits associated with this feature.

#### *Anomaly L*

62. This comprises a series of discrete areas of magnetic disturbance lying just north-west of the centre, which are located close to the line of a possible forestry plough scar (Figure 3-5). Although this anomaly may relate to historic remains within the interior, the potential for modern disturbance close by should limit interpretive speculation.

#### *Anomaly M*

63. This is a prominent negative anomaly located at the site's west entrance between the bank termini (Figure 3-5). This may indicate the presence of a cut feature across the enclosure's entrance, perhaps either a pit or post-setting?

#### *Anomaly N*

64. N is a series of irregular positive and negative anomalies located north-west of the enclosure's entrance (Figure 3-5). Interpretation is unclear, but this could relate to archaeological deposits derived from prehistoric activity in proximity to the site entrance, perhaps pits associated with burning.

#### *Anomaly O*

65. Anomaly O is a pronounced area of negative and positive disturbance coinciding with the site of a small quarry cutting in the bedrock west of the site entrance (Figure 3-5).

#### *Anomaly P*

66. This is a pronounced area of negative and positive disturbance coinciding with the site of a small quarry in the bedrock locate on the southern slope just beyond the enclosure's bank. (Figure 3-5).

#### *Interpretation*

67. The geophysical survey has provided new and informative data about the potential archaeological significance of this nationally important monument. A key finding of the project has been a series of prominent signals concentrated at level ground in the north and centre of the interior. The main anomalies here are seven larger globular negative signals, which apparently form a rough circular arrangement approximately 20m in diameter (Figure 4 and 5).
68. These are interpreted as preliminary indications of a circular monument, possibly composed of large post or stone settings. The surviving megaliths at the site do not appear to have associated anomalies and are offset to the south of this group, and this may suggest that the former interpretation for the geophysics of a post-defined enclosure is more likely. The concentration and complexity of further signals within the site interior would also suggest that a series of other cut features are present in association with the above circular group, perhaps indicting phasing and reuse of the site.



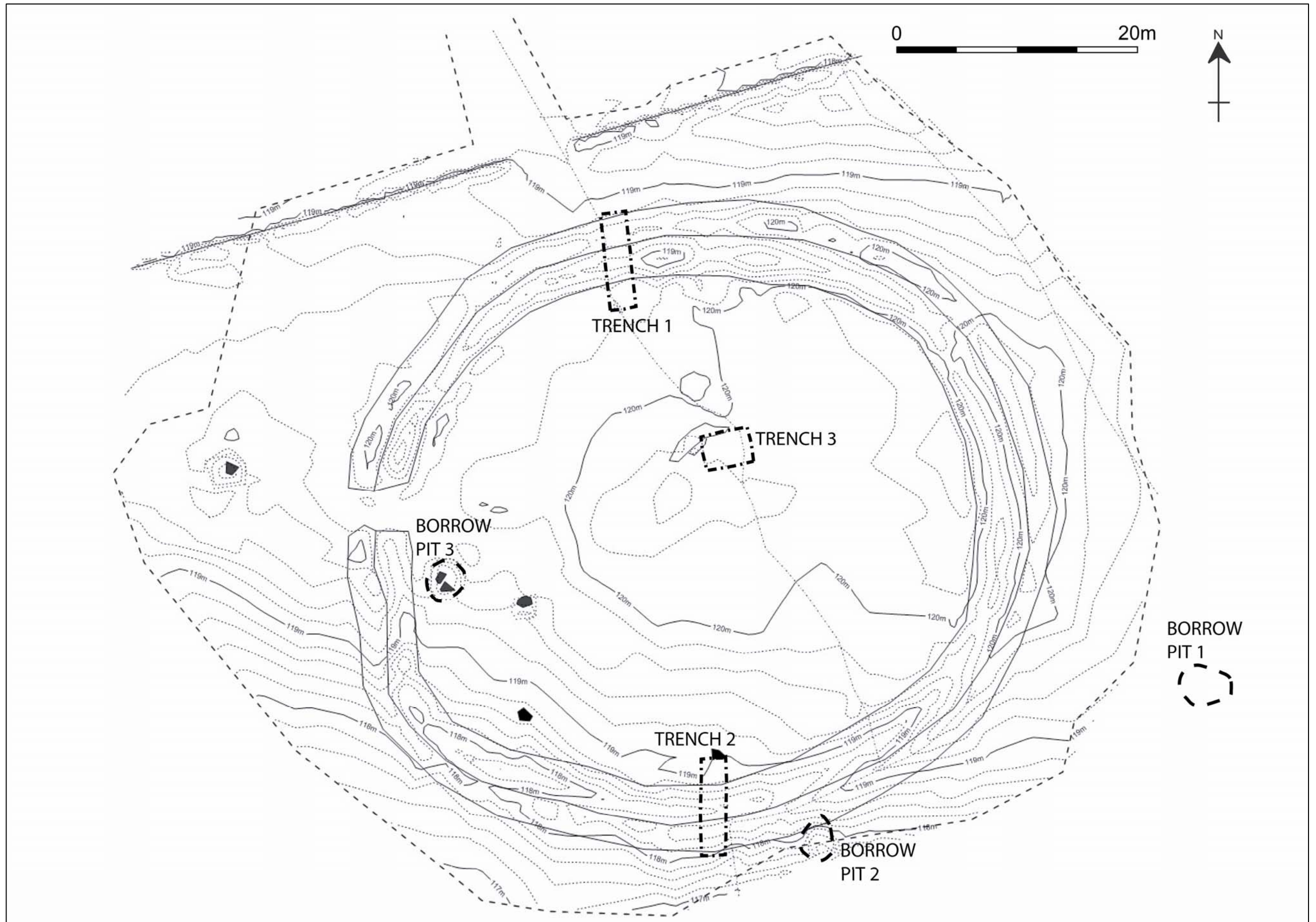


Figure 6: Contour survey with trenches shown

69. The possibility also exists for burial activity, burning and occupation deposits being the cause for a series of irregular anomalies at the site interior (J, K and L). In addition clear readings were noted from the enclosure bank and ditch with new indications of anomalies around the site entrance, which might relate to pit features or the edges of an avenue extending west from the site.
70. More extensive commentary on the possible chronological and functional development of the site is not sustainable at this stage based solely on the geophysics. However, a broad model may be usefully suggested for comparison with the excavation results or future investigations, comprising development of the Neolithic henge with pre- or post-dated wooden and/or stone circle with later, possible Bronze Age, reuse for burial and/or settlement activity. Post-medieval quarrying then took place in the environs, which may have also involved the removal of standing stones from the site interior, followed by development of the forestry plantation.

## Excavation

71. A series of three targeted hand-excavation areas (Figure 6) were excavated to examine the character of the monument and the consequence of previous disruption to its fabric (see *Strategy*). Each of these excavation areas had a specific task (see Table 1 extracted from Project Design).

Table 1: Targets for each Excavation Area

Area	Task	Size
1	To section the bank and ditch at the northern edge of the site where the walkers' path crosses them to examine: (i) its composition and construction method; (ii) whether the bank overlies a buried palaeosol; and (iii) the character of the ditch fills. This trench would be placed so that one section edge runs along the centre line of the path to enable comparison between path and non-path sections; particular attention would also be paid to the depth and disruption caused by tree roots and bracken rhizomes to see whether any sediment (e.g. ditch fills) are preferentially exploited.	8m by 2m
2	To section the bank and ditch at the southern edge of the site in a manner comparable in strategy to Area 1. In addition, the northern limit of this area should abut the putative standing stone, enabling the investigation of associated negative features in order to clarify the character of the stone circle and enable its dating.	8m by 2m
3	To sample the interior of the henge for evidence of significant archaeological remains. This trench would be placed so as to locate one trench section on the centre line of the re-vegetated path identified by Headland Archaeology in 1997 to examine whether this impact can still be identified in the underlying stratigraphy. Within this trench particular attention would be paid to the impact of scrub/heather and bracken rhizomes.	4m by 3m

72. A description of each trench is included within the *Trench Summaries* section of 'Appendix 1: Registers' at the rear of this report; all trenches are also depicted on Figures 6 and 7. Appendix 1 also contains those registers which detail context description, photography, drawing, sampling and finds.

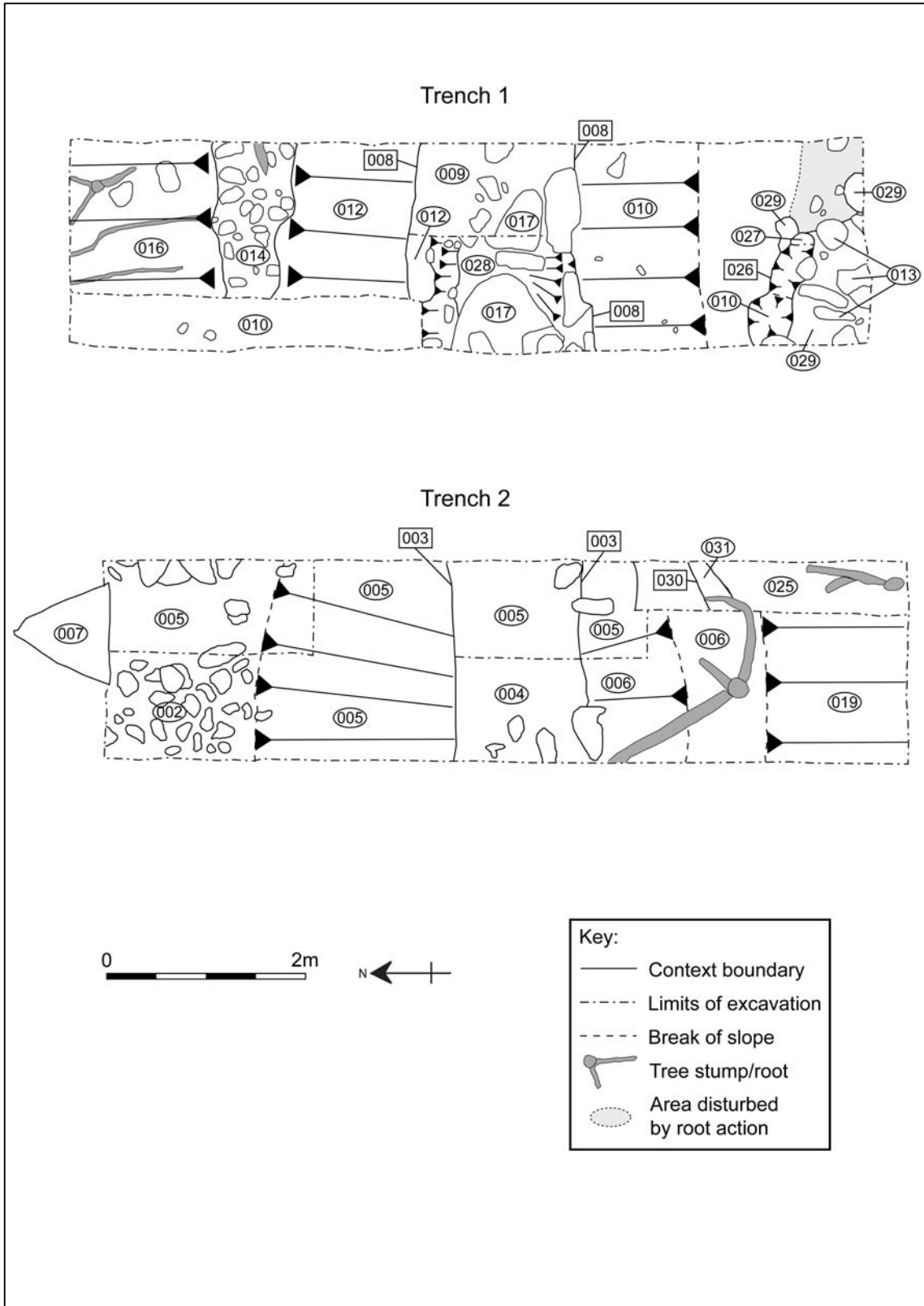


Figure 7: Plan of Trenches 1 and 2

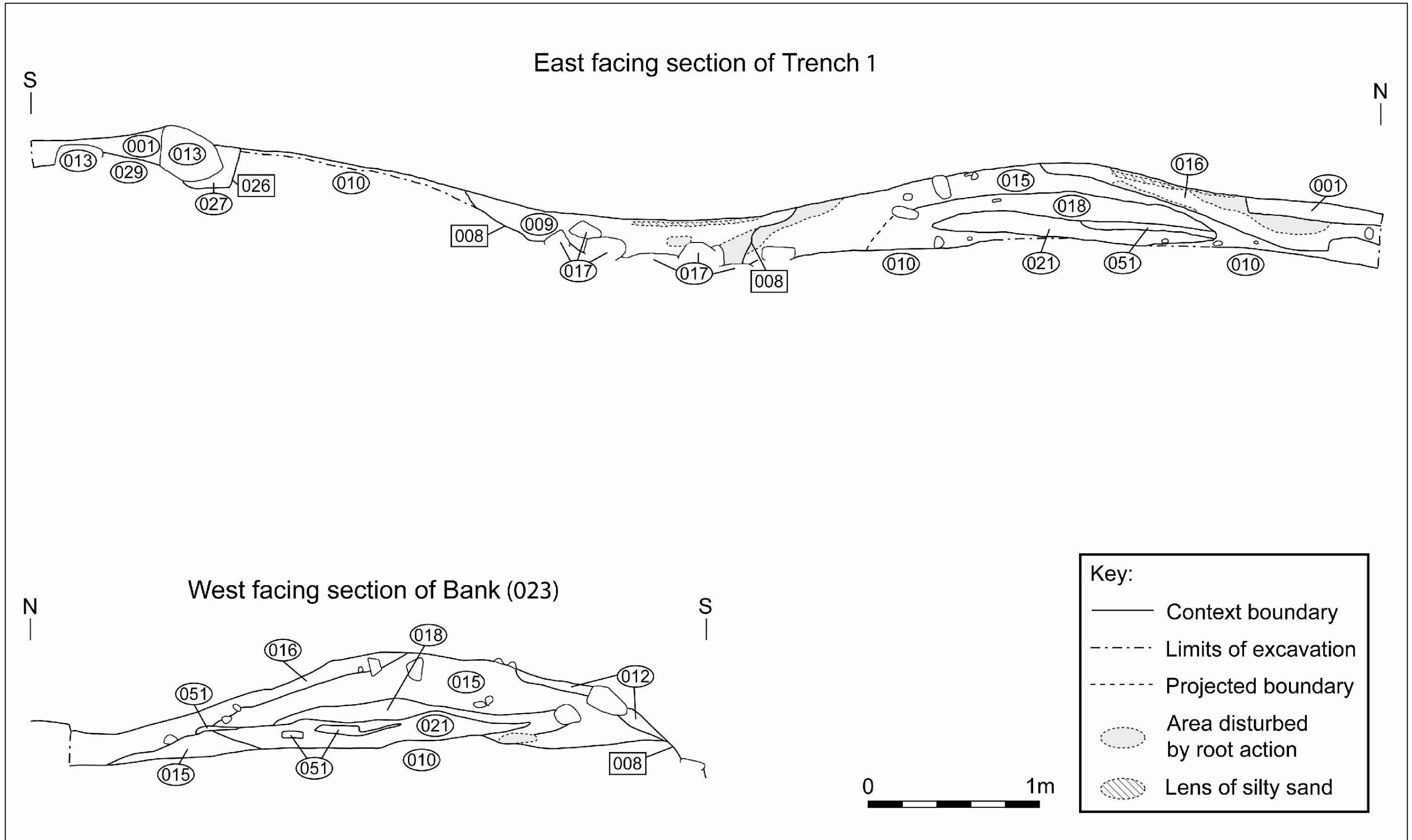


Figure 8: Trench 1 Sections



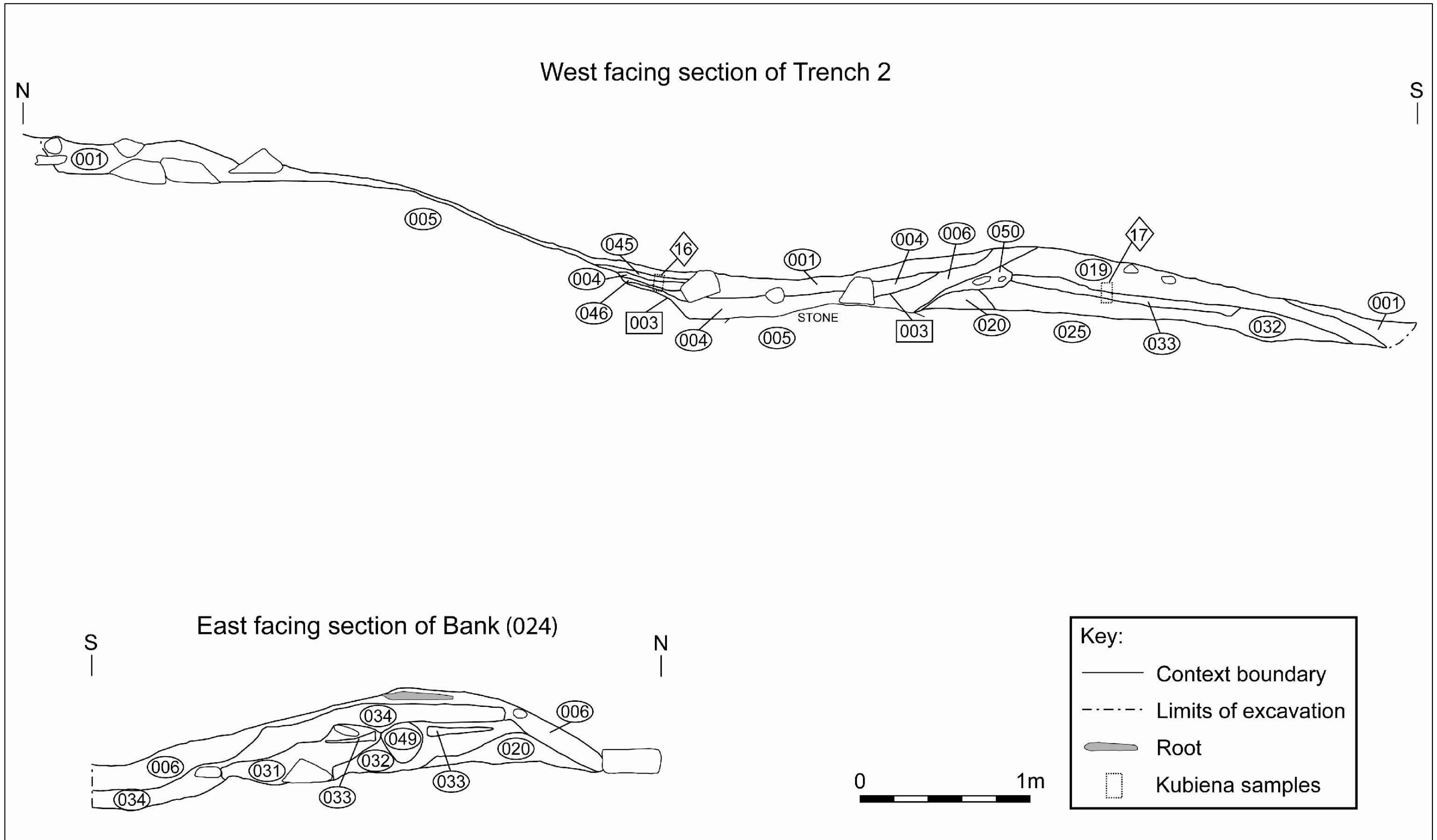


Figure 9: Trench 2 Sections

### *Conventions*

73. Where significant features are discussed their location will normally be quoted as a distance along the relevant trench (such as +3m). This distance was measured from the end of the trench quoted first for the orientation of the trench in the *Trench Summaries* in Appendix 1. All depths given for features are given from the original ground surface of the trench unless otherwise stated.
74. The context is the basic archaeological unit of description relating to either a structure, cut or sediment of common characteristics. Structures (such as walls or built surfaces) and cut features (normally identified as they cut the underlying subsoil) are denoted by squared brackets (e.g. [040]). Sediments are denoted by rounded brackets (e.g. (041)). Finds are denoted by angled brackets (e.g. <04>).

### *Trench 1*

75. Trench 1 was placed across the northern bank and ditch of the henge; it measured 8m by 2m in extent and was aligned N-S, with its western edge within the centre line of the eroded walkers' path (Figures 6, 7 and 10a).
76. The stratigraphy consisted of 20mm to 100mm of black-brown humic silt topsoil (001) with abundant rootlets and frequent bracken rhizomes and heather roots. This overlay bank (023) and ditch fill (009). Two natural subsoils were noted, a orange silty sand (010) with occasional small stone inclusions, abundant rootlets and occasional small roots; and a pale grey very silty sand (011), with occasional small stone inclusions and abundant rootlets and occasional small roots.
77. Bank (023) was present from +0.1m to +3.1m was 0.44m - 0.52m in height. A sondage (Figure 8 and 12a) was excavated through the western portion of the bank within the trench; the sondage was also portioned to cut through the walkers' path. The bank was comprised of several re-deposited natural strata (012), (015), (016), (018) and (021), evidently representing material removed during the excavation of the ditch (Figures 5-7). The uppermost strata were (012) and (016). (012) was situated on the southern side of the bank and was a pale grey silty sand with frequent small angular and sub angular stone inclusions with abundant rootlets and frequent small roots. It formed a deposit measuring 1.7m E-W and 1.3m N-S and up to 100mm in depth. (016) was on the northern side of the bank and was similar to (012) but with occasional small tree roots. It measured 2m by 1.58m and was up to 140mm deep. Both (012) and (016) overlay (015), an orange silty sand with frequent small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions and abundant rootlets and rare small roots, the latter measuring 2.62m long and up to 330mm in thickness. (015) in turn overlay (018) both of which overlay (021). (018) was a loose pale orange silty sand -with frequent small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions. and occasional to frequent rootlets and rare small roots - which measured 2.1m long and 250mm in thickness. While (021) was a light grey silty sand, measuring 1.6m by 0.5m and 0.12m in thickness, with occasional rounded stone inclusions and occasional small roots, which in turn overlay subsoil (010).
78. Ditch (008) (Figure 7) measured 1.85m wide and 0.8m m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. The ditch fill (009) was a dark-brown grey silty sand, measuring 0.1-0.2m in depth with abundant rootlets and frequent roots. In addition, there were large boulders and medium sized stones sitting on and within the natural within the ditch (Figure 13a)
79. To the south of ditch (008), the ground sloped gently before levelling off at +7m. At this point an irregular linear feature (026) was present. It was aligned roughly WNW-ESE, measuring 1.1m in length and tapering in width from 0.42m in the west to 0.32m in the east, and measuring up to 0.34m in depth. [026] had irregular steep to near vertical sides, with an irregular rounded base which flattened somewhat in the ESE portion.
80. Erosion from the walkers' path was evident along the west section of the trench. The section showed the loss of topsoil (001) along the majority of the section from the ditch slopes and the bank. The bank was reduced in height by approximately 200mm within the limits of the path.



Figure 10a: Trench 1 de-turfed with roots evident



Figure 10b: Trench 2 de-turfed with roots evident

81. Frequent tree roots were evident within the trench (Figure 10a), primarily in the northern half. These dominated the topsoil, with frequent penetration into bank, ditch and subsoil. The northeast corner of the trench had a small tree stump with various sized roots extending out from it. As a whole, the trench had highly abundant rootlets which had penetrated at least 250-400mm deep, with frequent bracken and heather roots penetrating to a depth of about 250mm. It was also evident within the sections of the sondage that an animal burrow (026) had been dug along the inside of the ditch.
82. The ditch also had frequent small tree root penetration and abundant penetration by rootlets through the fill (004) into the subsoil.

### *Trench 2*

83. Trench 2 was placed over the southern bank and ditch of the henge; it was aligned N-S with its eastern edge along the centre line of the eroded walkers' path, and measured 8m by 2m (Figure 6, 7 and 10b).
84. The stratigraphy consisted of 20mm to 100mm of black-brown humic silt topsoil (001), with abundant rootlets and frequent bracken rhizomes and heather roots, overlying bank (024) and ditch fill (009). Two natural subsoils were noted: these were similar to (010) and (011) in Trench 1. The predominant subsoil was a light brown-grey fine sand (005) with occasional medium to large sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions with very frequent rootlets and frequent medium to large tree roots and frequent brackens rhizomes and heather roots. The second subsoil was a orange silty sand (025) with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded medium-sized stones.
85. Bank (024) (Figure 9 and 12b), which was present in Trench 2 from +0.2m to +2.98m, was upstanding to a maximum height of 0.5m. A sondage was excavated through the eastern portion of the bank within the trench; the sondage was also portioned to cut through the walkers' path. The bank was comprised of several re-deposited natural strata (006), (019), (020), (032), (033), (034), removed during the excavation of the adjacent ditch. (006) was a light brown-grey fine sand, with very frequent rootlets and frequent small- to medium-sized tree roots present. It varied in thickness from 40mm to 200mm and stretched the whole width of the bank.
86. Underlying (006) were (019), (020), (032) and (034); (019) was a deposit of light yellow-orange sand, measuring 1.9m long by 0.15m deep with occasional small- to medium-sized sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions and abundant rootlets, occasional bracken rhizomes and heather roots, as well as one large tree root. (019) was visible within the west-facing section of Bank (024) (though it was not present in the east-facing section). It overlay (033) a thin dark black highly humic silt sand measuring 1.36m long by 0.04m thick. (020), an orange silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions was situated at the northern side of the bank and was partly covered by (032) as well as by (006). (032) was a deposit of pale grey silty sand measuring 2.1m long with the trench and 280mm thick. (034) also overlay (032) as did (031), which was a loose light-grey silty sand forming a deposit 0.93m long and 300mm thick. This was very similar in appearance to (005). (034) was a pale orange sandy silt measuring 2.4m long and 290mm thick: the whole of this strata was disturbed by bioturbation, particularly in the south end of it visible within the section was heavily disturbed by tree roots.
87. Ditch (003) (Figure 13b) measured 1.19m wide and 650mm deep, with gently-sloping sides and a flat base. The ditch fill (004) was a black humic silt sand with occasional medium-sized stone inclusions and was heavily disturbed with tree roots and grass rootlets. The fill was also quite shallow being only 250mm in depth.
88. To the north of ditch (003), the ground sloped gently before levelling off at +6.2m. At this point a deposit of grey sub-angular and sub-rounded stones (002) was present, measuring 1.8m long and 2m wide within the trench. Between the stones was a black-brown humic silt sand similar to (001) but containing far more rootlets. In addition, the stones had occasional voids present between them. Below (002) was (048) a light brown-grey silty sand 80mm thick with highly abundant rootlets and frequent bracken





Figure 11a: Trench 3



Figure 11b: Standing Stone with void evident





Figure 12a: Sondage through Bank (023) Trench 1



Figure 12b: Sondage through Bank (024) Trench 2

and heather roots.

89. Trench 2 was placed to butt up against one of the remaining standing stones (007). (007) stood 0.93m high, and was composed of a block of grey sandstone conglomerate, measuring 1.1m long and 0.8m wide. No cut for a stone setting was evident, with the stone was sitting directly upon subsoil (005).

Erosion from the walkers' path was evident through ditch (003) and bank (024). The east section of the trench, which was placed along the line of the path, showed the loss of topsoil (001) from the ditch slopes and the top of the bank. The bank had lost about 220mm of height

90. Frequent tree roots were evident within the trench (Figure 10b), though primarily in the southern half, dominating the topsoil with frequent penetration into the bank, ditch and subsoil. The bank (024) had a small tree stump on the top of the bank with various sized roots. As a whole Trench 2 had highly abundant rootlets which had penetrated at least 250-400mm deep, with frequent bracken and heather roots penetrating to about 250mm. It was also evident within the sections of the sondage that an animal burrow (049) had been dug through the bank at some point in the past. The ditch also had frequent small tree root penetration and abundant penetration by rootlets through the fill (004) into the subsoil.

### *Trench 3*

91. Trench 3 (Figure 11a) within the central area of the henge was positioned to investigate part of an older walkers' path as well as a curving bank that had been previously identified by Headland Archaeology. The trench measured 4m by 3m and was aligned E-W (Figure 11a)
92. Within the trench the stratigraphy comprised between 20mm and 100mm of a black-brown humic silt sand (001) with abundant rootlets, frequent small to large tree roots and bracken rhizomes and heather roots. This overlay two natural subsoils; (035) and (036). (035) was a pale grey silt sand with frequent small to large angular and rounded stone inclusions and abundant small- to medium-sized roots. While (036) was an orange very silty sand with frequent small- to medium-sized rounded and angular stone inclusions and abundant small- to medium-sized roots.
93. Several possible features were initially identified after topsoiling and cleaning. However, on investigation they were revealed to be small tree throws and other bioturbation. The curving bank, which was sectioned by the northern edge of the trench, appeared to be a natural localised rise, with no sign of the older walkers' path evident along the eastern edge of the trench. In addition, an irregular semi-circle of six sub-angular and sub-rounded medium-sized stones was present within the centre of the trench. These stones sat on the natural (035) with the remains of a tree stump within their arc.
94. Frequent tree roots were evident across the trench with regular penetration evident into the subsoil. In addition, highly abundant bracken and heather roots were in evidence penetrating down into the subsoils.

### *Finds*

95. As *per* the Project Design (Rees and Turner 2011) all sediments from significant archaeological strata were sieved. In the course of the investigation four pieces of flint debitage (Finds<01>, <02>, <05>) were recovered from the basal layers of Bank (023) in Trench 1. Find <04> was a piece of possibly worked quartz and Find <6> was piece of worked stone, both of which were from Trench 3. The last two finds <03> and <07> from Trench 1 were modern glass, <07> was recovered from the topsoil (001). While <03>, which was the remains of a glass bottle, was recovered from the fill of the animal burrow present in the south end of Trench 1.

### *Sampling*

96. Samples were recovered in the course of the work; these were either purposive samples (e.g. for dating, soil morphological study) or general bulk soil samples (for palaeo-



Table 2: Samples recovered from trenches

Sample No.	Trench	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity
001	1	009	Bulk	Dark brown-grey silt sand
002	2	004	Bulk	Black Humic silt sand
003	1	016	Bulk	Pale grey very silty sand
004	1	015	Bulk	Orange silty sand
005	1	018	Bulk	Loose pale orange silty sand
006	2	006	Bulk	Light brown-grey fine sand
007	2	019	Bulk	Light yellow-orange sand
008	2	020	Bulk	Orange lightly silty sand
009	1	021	Bulk	Light grey silty sand
010	2	022	Bulk	Light grey Silty Sand
011				Void
012				Void
013				Void
014	1	010	Bulk	Compact orange silty sand
015	2	005	Bulk	Light brown-grey fine sand
016	2	001-045- 004-046- 004	Kubiena Tin	Various
017	2	019-033- 032	Kubiena Tin	Various

environmental processing).

### *Observations*

97. A series of borrow pits (Figures 14a-b) are present in and around the henge, Borrow Pit 1 is situated 10-15m to the ESE of the henge and measured 4.3m by 3.2m and approximately 0.7m deep. Borrow pit 2 was situated approximately 5m east of Trench 2 and measured 3.7m by 2.5m and 1.12m deep. While Borrow Pit 3 was situated within the west portion of the site, a few metres SE of the entrance, it measured 3.4m by 3.1m and was 0.66m in depth. It also contained two large stones similar in size, shape and geology as the two standing stones. Stone 1 was 0.96m by 0.73m and 0.33m in depth while Stone 2 was 0.9m by 0.48m and 0.58m in depth.
98. Several additional borrow pits were present on the shoulder of ground to the east of Borrow Pit 1. These varied in size and shape. In addition a large boulder was present 30-40m to the east of the henge.

## Discussion

### *Character of the monument*

99. Quarrywood Henge conforms to the traditional classification of a Class I henge, formed from a circular bank with an internal ditch and a single entrance created by a gap in the



Figure 13a: Ditch (008)



Figure 13b: Ditch (003)





Figure 14a: Borrow Pit 1



Figure 14b: Borrow Pit 3 with possibly moved standing stones

bank and ditch. Trench 1 and 2 which were placed across the bank and ditch showed that the bank was formed from re-deposited natural subsoils most likely produced during the excavation of the internal ditch

100. There may have been at least two phases of the construction of the bank, as within bank (024) there was a thin disjointed black organic deposit (033). This may be an indication of the formation of soil over the first phase of the bank (Figure 12b); it is also equally possible that it may be a highly organic layer that has been deposited from the cleaning out of the ditch prior to the bank being further built up. The presence of bioturbation within the bank is a most likely explanation for the disjointed nature of the deposit, as a probable animal burrow (030) cuts it. A similar deposit (051) was also observed in Bank (023) though this was far more incoherent and initially identified as root bioturbation.
101. The ditch was for the most part of reasonable depth, being broadly 0.8m deep throughout the majority of the circumference, though there were several areas around the circuit of the ditch that were shallower due to the presence of naturally-occurring stones. The fill that was present in the ditch within Trench 1 and 2 was quite shallow (up to 270mm and 120mm deep, respectively). The large stones present within the base of the ditch in Trench 1 appear to be naturally deposited stones rather than imported material. The presence of similar stones accounts for the shallower sections noted around the circumference of the ditch.
102. The lack of fill within the base of the ditch is curious given the sandy nature of the surrounding soils and subsoil. No overt soil slippage was evident in the sections through the bank and ditch. This would seem to suggest that the surrounding soils became stable rather quickly. Alternatively the ditch may have been subject to a regular programme of cleaning, though no evidence of re-cutting was apparent.
103. Trench 3, located within the central portion of the henge, produced little evidence of archaeology. There were several stones forming a rough semi-circle within the centre of the trench: these sat upon the natural and were situated within the topsoil, and while these may have been manuports they remained unconvincing as significant archaeology, most likely being very recently deposited.
104. The two standing stones left upstanding within the henge were slightly unusual and may have been recent erections rather than being in situ. The fact that stone (007), located at the north end of Trench 2, sat upon the natural subsoil rather than being placed in a specially-dug pit does not necessarily exclude an ancient origin for this feature. However, it should be acknowledged that there is void located beneath the other remaining standing stone in the southwest quadrant of the henge (Figure 11b), indicating that this may have been moved to its current position at a relatively recent date. The geophysical survey also showed a lack of anomalies associated with these upstanding stones, coupled with a circle of potential stone settings located nearer the centre of the henge. It appears most likely that the stones are not in situ: if they are in fact an original feature of the henge, then they have been removed from their original location and re-erected in more recent times.
105. While there was no evidence for the re-use of the monument, the results of the geophysical survey revealed a series of signals within the interior that may represent further use or re-use of the site, with burials, areas of burning and occupation surfaces all being put forward as suggestions (see above). While this would be in keeping with other such monuments like Broomend of Crichire (Barclay 2011) which enclosed an Early Bronze Age cemetery, it remains however subjective until such time as further intrusive work may be carried out upon the site.

#### *Consequences of afforestation*

106. The tree roots present in all three trenches (Figure 10a-11a), with the exception of some in Trench 2, appeared to be associated with the stumps of small trees. These appear to have self-seeded rather than having been part of the forestry planting scheme that surrounds the henge. The exceptions within Trench 2 were several roots from large established trees associated with the surrounding forestry plantation. Disturbance by





Figure 15a: Walkers path across southern bank



Figure 15b: Walkers path across the centre of the Henge

bioturbation was evident in each trench; a definite impact has been made on the monument from the long-term establishment of vegetation typical of understorey and woodland margin habitats. These include bracken, heather and some tree regeneration.

107. The impact from vegetation and burrowing animals in such forest-edge locations was identified as one of the critical issues consequent to forestry during work carried out at Tamshiel Rig (Cressey 1996a, 1996b). The subsequent programmes of work commissioned by Historic Scotland (Dunwell & Trout 1999, Rees & Mills 1999) assessed the character of these impacts (burrowing animals and bracken respectively) with recommendations for management. The concern about the consequence of these impacts in clearings within woodland is also reflected in the work of Forest Research (Crow 2001).
108. The clearing of trees from the henge in the 1990s would certainly have had an effect on underlying sediments, though it is uncertain how dense the tree planting was within the henge. Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition (1868-70) (Figure 1b) to the 1930s shows the site to be covered by trees throughout this period. However an aerial photograph of the area, dating to 1988, shows that, with the exception of some trees within the western half of the henge, it remains largely clear. The felling of these trees in the 1990s may account for some of the geophysics results in this area. So the question which remains is whether the site has always been retained as a semi-clearing or whether it has been subject to additional felling in the past.
109. From the works carried out the following pattern of impacts could be recognised:
  - ❖ Bracken rhizome was identified in all trenches, with the topsoil commonly being physically disrupted by these. Some penetration of the underlying subsoil was also noted;
  - ❖ Tree roots were noted in all trenches and typically the larger roots lay solely within the topsoil with some penetration into subsoil. This should be understood within the context that the only trees on the monument were three self-regenerated examples;
  - ❖ Heather root structures (woody vegetation) were noted in all the trenches, with penetration into the upper surface of the subsoil; and
  - ❖ Evidence for burrowing animals was noted in Trenches 1 and 2, with penetration into the subsoil and in the case of the Trench 2 within the bank; and
110. Overall, in common with the recorded pattern in other studies, the impact of the bracken rhizome, heather roots and tree roots resulted in localised physical disruption of sediments.

#### *Consequences of foot traffic*

111. There has been a variable level of localised erosion across the banks, ditches and through the interior of the monument caused by unrestricted foot traffic (Figures 15a-b). The present path, which runs roughly north to south, has resulted in the erosion of vegetation, topsoil and underlying subsoil from both the northern and southern bank (023) and (024), as well as the interior upper slopes of the ditch. It has also eroded the vegetation and some topsoil along its line within the interior, though this has not for the most part exposed the subsoil. The northern bank (023) appears to have lost 200mm in height while the southern (024) has lost 220mm of material.
112. The older path which ran from the north of the henge to the southeast quadrant was easily visible for the first 10-15m running down from the north. Beyond that point, it disappeared until it reached the henge bank in the southeast quadrant. The bank here had lost approximately 200mm in height in a 500mm wide portion.
113. The ground where the path was not visible was more level than that to the north, where it was more obvious. The former had suffered less impact, its erosion levels akin to those in the central portion of the newer path where the erosion has only impacted upon the topsoil. The lack of evidence for the path in this area is obviously due to this lesser

impact, which in turn had led to the fuller recovery of the grass and upper portion of the topsoil. The re-establishment of vegetation in the more heavily-eroded section would mean that its underlying sediments were further disturbed as new root systems penetrated into the exposed subsoil/archaeology.

114. Other localised areas of erosion were also noted in the east side of the bank, with walkers sometimes utilising the gentle sloping shoulder of ground running east to west when approaching the henge from the east.
115. These paths through the monument have been created by the unrestricted movement of people utilising the forest for leisure activities such as dog walking, mountain biking and running. During our two weeks on site only two people had come specifically to visit the monument, for the rest (roughly between 2-3/day) it was simply an easier through-route to move from the forestry track which runs east-west to the north of the henge to a parallel track to the south. In addition a further 10-15 people passed by the monument on the path to the immediate north of the henge.

## Recommendations

116. Presented below are our recommendations for Stage 2 archaeological works to conclude this project. Given the findings of the project we would recommend a limited programme of post-excavation analysis which should include;
  - ❖ analysis of the flint artefacts recovered;
  - ❖ analysis of soil micro-morphology of kubiena tin samples taken from the southern ditch and bank ;
  - ❖ sediment processing and palaeo-environmental analysis;
  - ❖ recovery of datable material leading to the dating of any viable samples;
117. In regards to the problem of erosion caused by foot traffic across the monument, the best solution is to stop the flow of foot traffic across the henge while not inhibiting visitors. Below are a series of recommendation that may by themselves or in combination may best ameliorate, if not stop the erosion problem:
  - ❖ fencing off the site with only one entrance/exit would inhibit the use of the monument as a through way from the northern track to the southern track.
  - ❖ the provision of a path around the monument in conjunction with the fencing of the monument
  - ❖ the approach from the north to the central portion of the henge to be realigned with the information board off to the side of the monument, thereby directing any through traffic away from the monument while still allowing access to those who wish to visit the monument.

## Conclusion

118. The on-site works commenced with a geophysical survey which recorded a series of anomalies. These were interpreted as a circular arrangement of possible negative features which may represent post or stone settings, covering an area which measured approximately 20m in diameter.
119. A possible penannular feature was also identified, as well as three linear features that may represent marks left by forestry ploughing. In addition a series of signals were found that may represent other negative features which may reflect further activity within the henge, such as burials, burning or occupation areas.
120. Three targeted areas within the monument were hand excavated to recover information relating to the monument's date and form as well as examining the nature of any damage from visitor erosion and forestry operations. These showed the construction of the bank and ditch to have been possibly consisted of two phases, with the spoil of the



ditch forming the bank.

121. The trench in the central area of the henge did not contain any archaeology. Several pieces of flint debitage were recovered from under the northern bank of the henge. All the targeted areas showed root penetration down to and into subsoil, causing varying degrees of disturbance to the underlying sediments. In addition the walkers path was shown to have caused erosion along its length through the monument, with the loss of material up to 200mm in depth.

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1747-1755	Roy	Military Survey of Scotland
1873	Ordnance Survey	1 <sup>st</sup> edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey
1906	Ordnance Survey	2 <sup>nd</sup> edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey
1910	Ordnance Survey	3 <sup>rd</sup> edition 1 inch Ordnance Survey

## Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to the intrusive evaluation works.

### *Trench Summaries*

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
01	North- South	8 x 2m 16m <sup>2</sup>	20-100mm	Compact orange silty sand (010), Pale grey very silty sand (011)	None	Ditch [008] and Bank (023)	Filt debitage <1>
02	North-South	8 x 2m 16m <sup>2</sup>	20-100mm	Light brown-grey fine sand (005)	None	Ditch [003] and Bank (024)	None
03	North-South	4 x 3m 12m <sup>2</sup>	330-655mm	Pale grey silt sand (035), Orange very silty sand (036)	None	None	None

### *Context Register*

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
1	All		Black-brown humic silt with abundant rootlets and frequent bracken rhizomes and heather roots 20-100mm in depth	Topsoil/Turf
2	2		Area of grey sub-angular and sub-rounded stones ≤250mm x 300mm measuring 1.8m N-S and 2m E-W within the trench	Possible Stone Dump
3	2		Linear feature aligned E-W measuring 1.19m wide and 0.15-0.2m in depth, with gentle top and bottom breaks of slope and sloping sides with a flat base	Ditch Cut
4	2		Black humic silt sand with occasional medium-sized stones inclusions and heavily rooted with tree roots and grass rootlets	Ditch Fill
5	2		Light brown-grey fine sand with occasional small to large sub-rounded and	Natural

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			sub-angular stones, very frequent rootlets and frequent medium to large tree roots and frequent bracken rhizomes and heather roots	
6	2		Light brown-grey fine sand with very frequent rootlets and frequent small- to medium sized tree roots.	Re-deposited Natural
7	2		Block of grey sandstone conglomerate standing .93m high and 1.1m by 0.9m wide sitting on (005)	Standing Stone
8	1		Linear feature aligned E-W and measuring 1.85m wide and 0.2m in depth, with a gentle top. break of slope and sloping sides with a flat base	Ditch Cut
9	1		Dark brown-grey silt sand measuring 0.1-0.2m in depth with abundant rootlets and frequent roots	Ditch Fill
10	1		Compact orange silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions and abundant rootlets and occasional small roots	Natural
11	1		Pale grey very silty sand with frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions and abundant rootlets and occasional small roots	Natural
12	1		Pale grey very silty sand measuring 1.7m E-W by 1.3m N-S and 30mm deep with frequent small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions, rare medium-sized angular stones and abundant rootlets and frequent small roots	Re-deposited Natural
13	1		Loose area of angular and sub-angular stones 1.3m by 0.7m	Stone Deposit at South End of Trench 1
14	1		Area of medium-sized angular and sub-angular stones 1.8m by ≤0.8m aligned E-W along the top of bank (023) in a matrix of pale grey very silty sand with abundant fine roots and frequent small roots. One large lateral tree root (90mm diameter) present along eastern side	Stone Deposit on Top of Bank (023)
15	1		Orange silty sand with frequent small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions and abundant fine rootlets and rare small roots.	Re-deposited Natural
16	1		Pale grey very silty sand measuring 2m by 1.58m and up to 140mm deep with frequent small-sized angular and sub-angular stones, occasional medium-sized angular stones and abundant rootlets, frequent small roots and occasional small tree roots	Re-deposited Natural



Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
17	1	Fill	Irregular layer of sub-angular and angular natural boulders of varying sizes measuring from 0.15m up to 0.7m. Matrix around boulders is a dark black-brown humic soil which is dominated by roots and rootlets.	Basal fill of Ditch [008]
18	1	Deposit	Loose pale orange silty sand with frequent small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions and occasional to frequent rootlets and rare small roots.	Re-deposited Natural
19	1	Deposit	Light yellow-orange sand measuring 1.9m long by 0.15m deep visible within the trench with occasional small- to medium-sized sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions and abundant rootlets, occasional bracken rhizomes and heather roots, as well as one large tree root	Re-deposited Natural
20	2	Deposit	Orange lightly silty sand measuring 1.2m wide by 180mm in thickness with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions and frequent rootlets.	Re-deposited Natural
21	1	Deposit	Light grey silty sand measuring 1.6m by 0.5m and 0.12m in depth with occasional rounded stone inclusions and occasional small roots	Re-deposited Natural
22	2	Deposit	Light grey silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions and frequent rootlets, occasional bracken rhizomes and heather roots	Re-deposited Natural
23	1	Bank	Earthen bank which surrounds the exterior of ditch [008]. Within Tr 1 the bank was 3m wide and from 0.44m to 0.52m in height. The northern side had gentle even sloping sides while the southern side was a more rounded sloping side. The bank was made out of several layers of re-deposited natural ( (012), (014), (015), (016), (018) and (021)) excavated from the Ditch [008]	Henge Bank in Trench 1
24	2	Bank	External earthen bank within Tr 2, measuring 2.65m wide and up to 0.5m high. The bank is formed from several layers of re-deposited natural strata from the excavation and cleaning of ditch [003]	Henge Bank in Trench 2
25	2	Natural	Mid-orange slightly silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded medium sized stones. 2.42 m visible within the trench	Natural strata under bank (024)
26	1	Cut	Irregular linear feature aligned roughly WNW-ESE measuring 1.1m in length, tapering in width from 0.42m in the west to 0.32m in the east and up to 0.34m in depth. [026] had irregular steep to near vertical sides with an	Cut of possible Animal Burrow

Context No.	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			irregular rounded base which was somewhat flatter in the ESE portion.	
27	1	Fill	Dark grey-brown very silty sand with frequent small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions with frequent rootlets and occasional small roots ≤10mm in diameter. Contained the remains of a modern glass bottle.	Fill of possible Animal Burrow
28	1	Natural	Light grey silty sand with small to medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.	Natural
29	1	Natural	Light grey silty sand with small to medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.	Natural
30	2	Cut	Irregular linear feature aligned NE-SW measuring 0.87m in length and 0.18m in width. with irregular steep sides and an irregular rounded base. Cuts through Bank (024) and evident within the section of the sondage within the bank.	Cut of possible Animal Burrow
31	2	Fill	Loose light grey silty sand, similar in appearance to (005).	Natural
32	2	Deposit	Pale grey silty sand measuring 0.9m in length and 0.1m in thickness.	Re-deposited Natural
33	2	Deposit	Thin black highly humic silt sand measuring 1.36m long by 0.04m thick. The deposit is cut approximately in its middle by [030].	Possible turf layer
34	2	Deposit	Pale orange sandy silt measuring 2.4m long by 2m wide within the trench and up to 0.2m in depth. This deposit lies over the top of bank (024) while the whole of the deposit exhibited disturbance from bioturbation the southern end of (034) was heavily disturbed by tree roots	Re-deposited Natural
35	3	Deposit	Pale grey silt sand with frequent small to large angular and rounded stone inclusions and abundant small- to medium-sized roots	Natural
36	3	Deposit	Orange very silty sand with frequent small- to medium-sized rounded and angular stone inclusions and abundant small- to medium-sized roots	Natural
37	3	Fill	Light to mid-brown slightly clay silt sand measuring 590mm by 390mm and 40mm in depth with abundant small roots	Fill of [038]
38	3	Cut	Shape in plan is a semi-circle against the section with a smaller oval joined on the eastern side. With irregular sloping 45° sides and a very irregular	Stone throw

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			base.	
39	3	Deposit	Voided	Bioturbation
40	3		Voided	Void
41	3	Deposit	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional small- to medium-sized rounded and angular stones, abundant small- to medium-sized roots and occasional pieces of dead wood.	Bioturbation
42	3	Cut	Roughly oval in plan measuring 690mm by 580mm and 90mm in depth, with irregular vertical sides, undercut in places, and a very irregular base. The result of bioturbation.	Bioturbation
43	3		Voided	Void
44	3		Voided	Void
45	3	Deposit	Thin black humic layer within (004), same as (033). Measured 560mm long and 60mm thick with rare roots present,	Possible turf layer
46	3	Deposit	Light brown-grey, similar to (033) and (045) in composition, measuring 280mm in length and 40mm in thickness.	Possible turf layer
47	3	Deposit	Mix of very pale grey and orange silty sand with abundant small to medium sized root inclusions 60mm in depth	Lower fill (038)
48	2	Deposit	Light brown-grey lightly silty sand measuring approximately 2m in length and 80mm in depth with highly abundant rootlets and frequent bracken rhizomes and heather root	Natural
49	2	Deposit	Highly mixed context of (032), (033) and (034) 280mm in width and 260mm in thickness	Animal Burrow
50	2	Deposit	Mix of black humic and pale light grey (032) and redeposited (006) measuring 420mm in length and 130mm in depth.	Animal Burrow
51	1	Deposit	Thin layer of black highly humic silt sand. Similar to (033).	Possible turf layer

*Photographic Register*

Image No.	Print		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	1	1	1	General shot of site	WNW	31/10/11
2	1	2	2	General shot of site	NW	31/10/11
3	1	3	3	General shot of site	NNE	31/10/11
4	1	4	4	General shot of site	NE	31/10/11
5	1	5	5	General shot of site Interior	SW	31/10/11
6	1	6	6	General shot of site Interior	NW	31/10/11
7	1	7	7	General shot of site Interior	NE	31/10/11
8	1	8	8	General shot of site Interior	SE	31/10/11
9	1	9	9	General shot of site Interior	SE	31/10/11
10	1	10	10	General shot of site Interior	S	31/10/11
11	1	11	11	General shot of site Interior	SW	31/10/11
12	1	12	12	Walkers Path	S	31/10/11
13	1	13	13	Walkers Path Interior	S	31/10/11
14	1	14	14	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 1	N	31/10/11
15	1	15	15	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 1	S	31/10/11
16	1	16	16	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2	NE	01/11/11
17	1	17	17	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2	N	01/11/11
18			18	Working Shot of Trench 2	NE	01/11/11
19	1	18	19	Trench 2	S	01/11/11
20	1	19	20	Trench 2	N	01/11/11
21	1	20	21	Ditch [003]	E	01/11/11



Image No.	Print		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.				
22	1	21	22	Stone Dump (002)	E	01/11/11
23	1	22	23	Trench 1 after de turfing and preliminary clean	N	01/11/11
24	1	23	24	Trench 1 after de turfing and preliminary clean	S	01/11/11
25	1	24	25	Trench 1 after de turfing and preliminary clean Northern half	S	01/11/11
26	1	25	26	Trench 1 after de turfing and preliminary clean Southern half	N	01/11/11
27	1	26	27	Ditch (008)	W	01/11/11
28			28	Trench 1 after de turfing and preliminary clean	SE	01/11/11
29	1	27	29	(014)	W	02/11/11
30	1	28	30	(014)	W	02/11/11
31	1	29	31	(013)	W	02/11/11
32	1	30	32	(013)	W	02/11/11
33			33	Working Shot	W	02/11/11
34	1	31	34	Ditch [003]	W	02/11/11
35	1	32	35	Stone Dump (002)	W	02/11/11
36	1	33	36	Stone Dump (002)	W	02/11/11
37	1	34	37	Ditch (018) with (017)	W	02/11/11
38	1	35	38	Ditch (018) with (017)	W	02/11/11
39	1	36	39	Ditch (018) with (017)	E	02/11/11
40			40	Ditch (018) with (017)	E	02/11/11
41			41	Working Shot (Sieving)	-	03/11/11
42			42	Working Shot (Sieving)	-	03/11/11
43			43	Working Shot (Metal detecting)	-	03/11/11

Image No.	Print		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.				
44			44	Working Shot (Sieving)	-	03/11/11
45			45	Working Shot (Metal detecting)	-	03/11/11
46	2	1	46	Ditch [003]	N	03/11/11
47	2	2	47	Ditch [003]	W	03/11/11
48	2	3	48	Sondage through Bank (023)	S	03/11/11
49	2	4	49	Sondage through Bank (023)	N	04/11/11
50	2	5	50	West facing section of Bank (023)	W	04/11/11
51	2	6	51	West facing section of Bank (023)	NW	04/11/11
52	2	7	52	East facing section of Bank (023)	E	04/11/11
53	2	8	53	East facing section of Bank (023)	SE	04/11/11
54	2	9	54	West facing section of Bank (024)	W	07/11/11
55	2	10	55	East facing section of Bank (024)	E	07/11/11
56	2	11	56	East facing section of Bank (024)	NE	07/11/11
57	2	12	57	West facing section of Bank (024)	NW	07/11/11
58	2	13	58	(005) in base of [003]	W	07/11/11
59	2	14	59	Sondage through (002)	E	08/11/11
60	2	15	60	General shot of Trench 1	S	08/11/11
61	2	16	61	Trench 1 southern half	N	08/11/11
62	2	17	62	Trench 1 Northern half	S	08/11/11
63	2	18	63	West facing section of [008]	W	08/11/11
64	2	19	64	West facing section of [008]	W	08/11/11
65	2	20	65	Ditch [008]	E	08/11/11

Image No.	Print		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.				
66	2	21	66	East facing section of [008]	E	08/11/11
67			67	East facing section of [008]	E	08/11/11
68	2	22	68	West facing section of [008]	W	08/11/11
69	2		69	West facing section of [008]	W	08/11/11
70	2	23	70	Linear [026] and stones (013)	W	08/11/11
71	2	24	71	Linear [026]	NW	08/11/11
72	2	25	72	North facing section of Trench 1	N	08/11/11
73	2	26	73	North facing section of Trench 1	S	08/11/11
74	2	27	74	West facing Trench 1 section North third	W	08/11/11
75	2	28	75	West facing Trench 1 section centre third	W	08/11/11
76	2	29	76	West facing Trench 1 section South third	W	08/11/11
77	2	30	77	West facing Trench 1 section	SW	08/11/11
78	2	31	78	West facing Trench 1 section	NW	08/11/11
79	2	32	79	Linear [026] Trench 1	E	08/11/11
80	2	33	80	East facing Trench 1 section south third	NE	08/11/11
81	2	34	81	East facing Trench 1 central third	E	08/11/11
82	2	35	82	East facing Trench 1 north third	SE	08/11/11
83	2	36	83	East facing Trench 1	NNE	08/11/11
84	2	37	84	East facing Trench 1	SE	08/11/11
85			85	General shot of Ditch/Bank in Trench 1	SW	08/11/11
86	3	1	86	Mid Excavation shot Trench 3 after deturfing	W	08/11/11
87	3	2	87	Mid Excavation shot Trench 3 after deturfing	E	08/11/11

Image No.	Print		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.				
88	3	3	88	(005) in the base of [003]	E	08/11/11
89	3	4	89	(004) in [003]	E	08/11/11
90	3	5	90	East facing section of [003]	E	08/11/11
91	3	6	91	East facing section of [003] with (004)	E	08/11/11
92	3	7	92	West facing section of [003]	W	08/11/11
93	3	8	93	Sondage through (002) with Standing Stone (007)	S	08/11/11
94	3	9	94	(002)	S	08/11/11
95	3	10	95	East facing section of (024)	E	08/11/11
96	3	11	96	West facing section of (024)	W	08/11/11
97	3	12	97	North facing section of Trench 2	N	08/11/11
98	3	13	98	East facing trench 2 section south third	E	08/11/11
99	3	14	99	East facing trench 2 section middle third	E	08/11/11
100	3	15	100	East facing trench 2 section north third	E	08/11/11
101	3	16	101	South facing section of Trench 2	S	08/11/11
102	3	17	102	West facing Trench 2 section North third	W	08/11/11
103	3	18	103	West facing Trench 2 section middle third	W	08/11/11
104	3	19	104	West facing Trench 2 section South third	W	08/11/11
105	3	20	105	General shot of Trench 2	S	08/11/11
106	3	21	106	General shot of Trench 2	S	08/11/11
107	3	22	107	General shot of Trench 2 with standing stone (007)	N	08/11/11
108	3	23	108	General shot of Trench 2 with standing stone (007)	N	08/11/11
109	3	24	109	Shot of sondage through (024)	N	08/11/11



Image No.	Print		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.				
110	3	25	110	Shot of sondage through (024)	S	08/11/11
111	3	26	111	Pre excavation shot of [038] and (037)	WSW	09/11/11
112	3	27	112	Pre excavation shot of [040] and (041)	ENE	09/11/11
113	3	28	113	Pre excavation shot of [042], (041)	ENE	09/11/11
114			114	Working shot planning	-	10/11/11
115			115	Working shot digging	-	10/11/11
116	3	29	116	Post excavation shot [042], (041) showing bioturbation	SSE	10/11/11
117	3	30	117	Pre excavation shot of (044)	S	10/11/11
118	3	31	118	Post excavation shot of Trench 3	W	10/11/11
119	3	32	119	Post excavation shot of Trench 3	W	10/11/11
120	3	33	120	Post excavation shot of Trench 3	E	10/11/11
121	3	34	121	East facing section of Trench 3	E	10/11/11
122	3	35	122	North facing section of Trench 3	N	10/11/11
123	3	36	123	West facing section of Trench 3	W	10/11/11
124	4	1		South facing section of Trench 3	S	10/11/11
125			124	South facing section of Trench 3 west half	SE	10/11/11
126			125	South facing section of Trench 3 East half	SW	10/11/11
127			126	Sample 16 in situ Ditch [003]	W	10/11/11
128			127	Sample 17 in situ bank (024)	W	10/11/11
129	4	2	128	Borrow pit 1 (east of Site)	ESE	10/11/11
130	4	3	129	Borrow pit 2 (East of Tr 2)	W	10/11/11
131	4	4	130	Void under SW standing stone	WNW	10/11/11

Image No.	Print		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.				
132			131	Void under standing stone	ENE	10/11/11
133	4	5	132	Possible fallen standing stone	SSE	10/11/11
134	4	6	133	Possible standing stone socket	NNW	10/11/11
135	4	7	134	Borrow pit 3 with possible standing stones	S	10/11/11
136	4	8	135	West facing section of Trench 3 north portion	WSW	10/11/11
137	4	9	136	West facing section of Trench 3 south section	WSW	10/11/11
138	4	10	137	North facing section of Trench 3 east half	N	10/11/11
139	4	11	138	North facing section of Trench 3 west half	N	10/11/11
140	4	12	139	East facing section of Trench 3 south half	E	10/11/11
141	4	13	140	East facing section of Trench 3 north half	E	10/11/11
142	4	14	141	South facing section of Trench 3 west half	S	10/11/11
143	4	15	142	South facing section of Trench 3 east half	S	10/11/11
144	4	16	143	North west corner of Trench 3 after removal bank	SSE	10/11/11
145			144	Post ex shot Trench 2	NNE	11/11/11
146			145	Post ex shot Trench 2	SE	11/11/11
147			146	Post ex shot Trench 3	NNW	11/11/11
148			147	Post ex shot Trench 1	SW	11/11/11
149			148	Post ex shot Trench 1	NW	11/11/11

*Finds Register*

Find No.	Area/ Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
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1	1	015	Flint	One piece of Flint Debitage	CW	03/11/11
2	1	021	Flint	Two pieces of Flint Debitage	CW	03/11/11
3	1	027	Glass	Glass Bottle	CW	08/11/11
4	3	037	Quartz	One piece of possibly worked quartz (Arrowhead)	DiG	09/11/11
5	1	Unstrat	Stone	One piece of Flint Debitage	MP	04/11/11
6	3	001	Stone	One possibly worked stone	DG	07/11/11
7	1	001	Glass	2 Glass Shards	PM	07/11/11

*Sample Register*

Sample No.	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity	Excavator	Date
1	009	Bulk	Fill of (008)	MP	1/11/11
2	004	Bulk	Fill of (003)	PK	1/11/11
3	016	Bulk	Layer in Bank (023)	CW	2/11/11
4	015	Bulk	Layer in Bank (023)	Mp	2/11/11
5	018	Bulk	Layer in Bank (023)	MP	3/11/11
6	006	Bulk	Layer in Bank (024)	PK	3/11/11
7	019	Bulk	Layer in Bank (023)	DG	3/11/11
8	020	Bulk	Layer in Bank (024)	PK	3/11/11
9	021	Bulk	Layer in Bank (023)	CW	3/11/11
10	022	Bulk	Layer in Bank (024)	PK	3/11/11
11			Void		9/11/11
12			Void		9/11/11
13			Void		9/11/11
14	010	Bulk	Control sample of Natural (010)	CW	10/11/11

Sample No.	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity	Excavator	Date
15	005	Bulk	Control sample of Natural (005)	DG	10/11/11
16	001-045-004-046-004	Kubiena Tin	Ditch (003)	DG & CW	10/11/11
17	019-033-032	Kubiena Tin	Bank (024)	DG & CW	10/11/11

*Drawing Register*

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawn By	Date
1	1	2	Plan	1:50	Trench 2	PK	02/11/11
2	2	1	Plan	1:50	Trench 1	CW	02/11/11
3	3	1	Section	1:10	West facing section of Ditch [008]	MP	08/11/11
4	4	1	Section	1:10	East Facing section of Trench 1	CW & DiG	08/11/11
5	5	2	Section	1:10	West facing section of Trench 2	PM & DG	09/11/11
6	6	3	Plan	1:20	Pre-excavation plan of Trench 3	DiG	09/11/11
7	7	1	Section	1:10	West facing section of Trench 1	MP	09/11/11
8	8	1	Section	1:10	West facing section of Bank (023)	CW	09/11/11
9	9	1	Plan	1:50	Overlay of Trench 1	MP	09/11/11
10	10	2	Section	1:10	East Facing section of Trench 2	DG	09/11/11
11	8	2	Section	1:10	East facing section of sondage thru Bank (024)	PK	09/11/11
12	10	2	Section	1:10	East facing section of Ditch [003]	DG	10/11/11
13	11	2	Plan	1:50	Overlay of Trench 2	PK	10/11/11
14	6	3	Section	1:10	East facing section of Trench 3	DiG & MP	10/11/11
15	6	3	Section	1:10	North facing section of Trench 3	DiG & MP	10/11/11



## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Moray
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Quarrywood Henge, Elgin
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA11048
<b>PARISH:</b>	Elgin
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Douglas Gordon
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Geophysics Survey & Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NJ16SE4
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Henge
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Flint
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NJ 1856 6305
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	Dalland, M (1997f) 'Quarry Wood (Spynie parish), survey', in <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1997</i> , Council for Scottish Archaeology 56
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>The on-site works commenced with a geophysical survey which recorded a series of anomalies. These were interpreted as a circular arrangement of possible negative features which may represent post or stone settings, covering an area which measured approximately 20m in diameter within the henge.</p> <p>A possible penannular feature was also identified, as well as three linear features that may represent marks left by forestry ploughing. In addition a series of signals were found that may represent other negative features which may reflect further activity within the henge, such as burials, burning or occupation areas.</p> <p>Three targeted areas within the monument were hand excavated to recover information relating to the monument's date and form as well as examining the nature of any damage from visitor erosion and forestry operations. These showed the construction of the bank and ditch to have been possibly consisted of two phases, with the spoil of the ditch forming the ditch.</p> <p>The trench in the central area of the henge did not contain any archaeology. Several pieces of flint debitage were recovered from under the northern bank of the henge. All the targeted areas showed root penetration down to and into subsoil, causing varying degrees of disturbance to the underlying sediments. In addition the walkers path was shown to have caused erosion along its length through the monument, with the loss of material up to 200mm in depth.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	Yes
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Forestry Commission Scotland

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<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Report to Historic Scotland, Moray Council SMR and archive to RCAHMS Collections.

## Contact Details

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