

Newton of Markinch: Archaeological Investigation

Data Structure Report

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Contents

Non-Technical Summary	3
Overview	3
Objectives	3
Geological and Geomorphology	6
Historical Background	6
Cartographic Evidence.....	6
Archaeological Background	9
Remote Sensing.....	13
Excavation trenches	13
Trench 2	16
Trench 3	16
Trench 4	16
Trench 5	16
Trench 6	17
Trench 7	17
Discussion	17
Cropmarking in comparison to Geophysical Survey.....	17
Prehistoric enclosure.....	17
Comparable later prehistoric enclosure sites.....	18
Neolithic enclosures in the landscape.....	21
Intervisibility	21
Defence of Britain.....	21
Recommendations	22
Conclusion	22
References	23
Documentary	23
Cartographic.....	23
Context Register	24
Photographic Register	28
Appendix 2: Geophysics Results	33
Appendix 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland	35
Contact Details	36

Non-Technical Summary

1. *A programme of archaeological works was carried out on a cropmark site of a possible Iron Age hillfort on land to the north of Newton of Markinch Farm, Fife. The excavation consisted of seven linear trenches positioned across the cropmark to test the survival of archaeological features represented by the cropmark.*
2. *The works, which were carried out from the 19th-22nd June 2009, confirmed the presence of the features identified from aerial photographs of the cropmark features. In addition two World War Two features were uncovered which may relate to the Fife Stop Line, a Second World War anti-tank ditch that ran across Fife.*
3. *The excavation identified a series of ditches within the trenches, which formed incomplete circuits around the centre area, no internal features or artefacts were uncovered in the course of the excavation.*
4. *Given the lack of evidence retrieved it is difficult to say with any certainty the exact purpose of the site, the lack of artefacts and the incomplete nature of the ditches would suggest either; the site had been intended to be a defended settlement that had never been finished or that the site had never been intended to have been used for defence and the ditches were used to delimit an area for other activities.*

Overview

5. This Data Structure Report is for a programme of archaeological works in support of Markinch Heritage Group and their ongoing research into the archaeology and history of the parish of Markinch. The archaeological works were designed to investigate the character of the archaeological remains within the study area at Newton of Markinch. The involved parties were:
 - ❖ Markinch Heritage Group, who are the client body providing direction, overall control and the volunteer workforce to undertake many of the tasks;
 - ❖ Fife Council Archaeology Unit, who are actively supporting and guiding the research programme on archaeological matters; and
 - ❖ Rathmell Archaeology Limited, who have been appointed by Markinch Heritage Group to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological works at Newton Cottages.
6. The Study area (Centred on NGR NO2955 0297) is situated approximately 1.5km to the north of the Centre of Markinch as well as 1.5km to the west of Star and to the immediate North of Newton.
7. The field in which the site is located is bounded to the west by Stobcross Road, to the South by a 'B' class road and to the East by the Edinburgh and Northern Railway. Presently the ground is open farm land used for pastoral farming, and is flat with a rise (105mOD) in the eastern portion of the field upon which the site sits (Figure 5a). However, until 20 years ago the ground was part of an arable field.

Objectives

8. The objectives of this programme of archaeological research has been previously defined by the Method Statement (Rees 2009) and are repeated below.
9. The character and scope of the archaeological resource within the study area is uncertain. From the surrounding landscape it is clear that there is the potential for prehistoric to early medieval archaeology, although this potential is untested. Beyond this we cannot safely make further assumptions about the likely date, duration or function of the archaeological resource. Necessarily, therefore, the following objectives must remain quite general:
 - ❖ to determine the nature, form and extent of the archaeological resource within

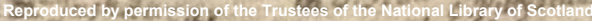




Figure 2a: Roy's Military Survey 1747-55



Figure 2b: Ainslie 1775

the study area;

- ❖ to undertake a programme of analysis of archaeological materials (artefacts, ecofacts, sediment samples and records) recovered; and
- ❖ to disseminate the findings of the works through reports, an academic publication and public lecture where significant archaeology has been identified.

10. These objectives are to be achieved through the programme of works detailed within the Method Statement (Rees 2009).

Geological and Geomorphology

11. The underlying solid geology of the field consists of undivided cyclic sedimentary rock of the Carboniferous Era, while the overlying drift geology is a combination of Glaciofluvial Sheet deposits of gravel, sand and silt in the northern third of the field while the southern two thirds consists of Glaciofluvial Ice-Contact Deposits of gravel, sand and silt both of the Pendleian age.
12. The site itself is situated on a Drumlin in the southern part of the field.

Historical Background

13. The meaning of the place name Markinch has been put forward as 'Horse-Inch' or 'Haugh' (Taylor & Markus 2008). Taylor & Markus write that the name 'Markinch' should be taken in conjunction with that of 'Dalginch' which lies to the east of 'Markinch'.
14. The name 'Dalginch' derives from the Gaelic 'dealg' meaning thorn and 'innis' meaning 'land rising out of or above a body of water or bog', therefore meaning a piece of land delimited by a thorn-hedge. Dalginch is known as a place for legal assemblies (see below) as such to reach it people would have ridden there on horseback, which would have meant that during the assemblies there would have been a concentration of horses in the area. This Talyor & Markus believe may have lead to the name 'Horse-Inch', an area of dry land where horses were kept. The term 'marc' refers to a steed or charger of the higher echelons of society. The main divisions of land for Markinch were Easter, Wester, Over, Nether and Newton; of which only Newton continues in use.
15. In the early medieval period the area appears to have been occupied by the Celtic Church, in particular the Culdees or Céile Dé, who were an ascetic monastic community. One of the first historical mentions of Markinch comes from a 11th Century document - the 'Register Book of the Priory of St. Andrews' - which states that 'Malduin, Bishop of St Andrews, gave the Church of Markinch with the land belonging to it, to God and St Servanus and the Culdees of Loch Leven.' Loch Leven was one of the chief's houses of the Culdees along with St. Andrews, Scone, Dunkeld, Monymusk, Abernethy and Brechin.
16. Another early reference is from a 12th century document which names Dalginch Hill near Markinch as one of several locations in Northern Scotland for the dispensation of Justice. It has been suggested that this is a continuation of a Pictish tradition from when Markinch was a Pictish capital or stronghold (Ferguson 1982).
17. Newton of Markinch is mentioned in the late 13th century from a survey of the Earl of Fife's land carried out for Edward I of England. IN the 16th Century the landowner John Multrare, also known as 'Multrare of Newton of Markindie', is listed among the dead at the battle of Flodden.

Cartographic Evidence

18. Prior to 1747 cartographic evidence is uninformative with a lack of detail on Gordon 1636-52, while on Bleau 1654, only Markinch is depicted in the crudest of ways (Figure 1a and b). The earliest viable mapping evidence comes from Roy's military survey 1747-55 (Figure 2a) which shows the town of Markinch and the formal gardens of Balbirnie though at this point Newton does not yet exist.



Figure 3a: Thomson 1827



Figure 3b: Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler 1828



Figure 4a: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1852-55



Figure 4b: Aerial photograph (©RCAHMS)

19. The location of the study area is marked on Roy as open field and low hillside. Ainslie's map of 1775 (Figure 2b) is the first to depict Newton to the North of Markinch on the other side of the Back Burn. It depicts three structures in a triangular layout with open fields to the north. By 1827 Thomson's map (Figure 3a) depicts only a single structure to the middle and south of a new road aligned east to west. This new road is the southern boundary of the study area, which is still shown as an open field.
20. An Estate map from the 1790's by a David Martin show a plan of the Farm of Newton of Markinch and the surrounding area. The farm is depicted as consisting of three buildings forming a 'U' shape which is open to the southeast. The rise on which the site sits is not depicted how ever there is a cross marked in pencil on the map which may indicate it as it would have provided an excellent triangulation point. The map has two areas of interest depicted; the first is 'Carlochies' marked in the North east corner of the estate, the first part of the name is thought to derive from the Pictish 'Caer' meaning fort. The second area of interest is that of 'Trinly Moss' on the western boundary, which may derive its name from the fact that the only one third of the Moss was present within the Estate and the other two thirds outwith in the Balbirnie landholding.
21. On the Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler map of 1828 (Figure 3b) the position of Newton has been more accurately depicted to the western third of the east-west road, it is also represented as a single structure with two ancillary buildings. The study area to the north is shown with an irregular block of woodland on the western side of the field bounded against Stobcross Road. A new road/path is also depicted at the northern end of the field running west to east before turning northeast.
22. The 1865 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4) depicts further changes to the area, with new buildings present at Newton forming an irregular 'W' with the open end of the 'W' facing southeast. The field to the north continues to have a block of woodland tight against Stobcross Road though there is now a sand pit in the northern end of this woodland. On the eastern side of the study area the Edinburgh, Perth and Dundee Railway has now been built. This was one of the first railway lines to open in Fife (1847) and was an important through route from Edinburgh to Dundee and Aberdeen, as it connected to the ferry ports at Bruntisland and Broughty Ferry.
23. By the 1897 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map the woodland block along the Stobcross Road is marked as 'Blacklaws Wood' with the sand pit in the northern part of the wood described as the 'Old Sand Pit'. A second 'Old Sand Pit' is marked opposite Newton on the northern side of the east-west road and a new structure (Newton Cottages) has been built in the southeast corner of the field bounded by the railway on the east and the east-west road to the south. It is not until the 4th edition Ordnance Survey map that there is a change in the study area, with a water works having been built in between the Old Sand Pit and the building in the corner of the field. Nothing has changed to the modern day mapping with the exception of the southern Old Sand Pit no longer being depicted.

Archaeological Background

24. In the vicinity of the study area there are a few known archaeological sites. To the north there is a pillbox (NMRS NO20SE56) which formed part of the Fife Anti-Tank line (NMRS NO20SE 55.1), a World War II defensive feature present in the field to the east of the site, which in the event of an invasion by German forces was to stop or slow the invading tanks columns. A second pillbox (NMRS NO32SW29) lies 500m to the east of the site. Approximately 250m to the south is Newton of Markinch Farmhouse (NMRS NO20SE 112).
25. Further afield there are prehistoric sites: lying about 1.3km to the west is Balfarg Henge and standing stones (NMRS NO20SE5) a Class 1 henge monument. Also to the west at the Balfarg Riding school are two timber structures thought to be mortuary enclosures (NMRS NO20SE20) also close by is the Balbirnie Standing Stone (NMRS NO20SE4).
26. Within the study area a series of aerial photographs from two flying seasons taking place in 1977 and 1989 revealed a multi-vallated enclosure with four possible ditch features (NMRS NO20SE17). From the cropmarks visible (Figure 4b), the ditches do not appear to



Figure 5a: General Shot of Site



Figure 5b: Geophysics being undertaken with a GEM Proton Magnetometer



Figure 6a: Trench Cleaning of Trench 4



Figure 6b: Working Shot of Trench 5



Figure 7a: NW facing section of [010] & [012]



Figure 7b: W facing section of [026]



Figure 7c: N facing section of [016]



Figure 7d: E facing Section of [014]



Figure 7e: N facing section of [008]



Figure 7f: N facing section of [009]



Figure 7g: E facing section of [022]



Figure 7h: E facing section of [028]

form complete annular or penannular circuits. A full transcription of the cropmarks was subsequently undertaken by the Royal Commission the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland to accurately map the known extent of features (Figure 8).

27. The outer two ditches A and B form arcs on the north side of the site, the longest arc being approximately 50m in length and the shorter 30m. The two innermost ditches C and D are more complete with the inner of these D forming almost three quarters of a full circuit with three breaks apparent, two of which were on the eastern side and one on the southern. While ditch C forms half of a circuit with two breaks on the eastern side. Whether the breaks visible in the ditches represent intentional entrances or are variation in cropmarking or survival will have to be tested.
28. The interior of the site appears to have five possible features present. There are four pit features, with one in the northwest quadrant and the other three in the south. The fifth is a curvilinear feature in the south of the interior. Also visible on the aerial photograph is an annular feature lying 10m to the north of the enclosure, it has a diameter of 10m and appears to consist of a single ditch around a large circular pit and is thought to be a ring ditch (NMRS NO20SE16).
29. Cropmarks are a manifestation of the effect of underlying sediments on the growth of crops which have been planted in the ploughsoil, the effect is especially marked in relation to buried archaeological features. As such when photographed at the right time of the crop growth cycle and in the right light conditions, cropmarks can be recorded. In addition the cropmark is only a representation of the archaeological feature that actually of a shallow enough depth to effect the crop, it is therefore possibly for the archaeological feature or feature to extend beyond what is visible in the cropmark.
30. The position and multi-vallated nature of the cropmark would suggest that the site is a small hill fort some 100m in diameter, probably Iron Age in date. Other similar cropmark sites are present in Fife such as Crombie, Waukmill (NMRS NT08SE15), Myres Castle (NMRS NO21SW249) and Duniface (NMRS NO30SE112). While these sites are similar to the Newton site, as they represent multi-vallated enclosures, they appear where visible to have more complete circuits in their ditches, they also lack the multiple breaks along the lengths of the ditches.

Remote Sensing

31. Based on the likelihood of there being archaeology on the site a resistivity survey and a magnetometry survey were carried out prior to the excavation in the hope to contribute a greater understanding of the archaeology of the site.
32. The resistivity survey was carried out using a Geoscan RM15 resistance meter mounted on an adjustable PA5 electrode frame with a twin-electrode system. The electrodes on the frame were at the standard 0.5m spacing (target depth up to 1.2m). The survey was undertaken in two 30m by 30m grids on a 1m interval basis. The magnetometry survey was carried out utilising a GEM Proton magnetometer. The survey was carried out in a 100m by 100m grid (Figure 5b). Unfortunately the results from both surveys were inconclusive.
33. A further detailed magnetometry survey was undertaken over certain trenches after they had been opened in an attempt to elucidate why the survey results had been so poor. The second survey was also inconclusive though by comparing the results with the archaeology it was possible, with an eye of faith, to discern certain features. The results of the second survey can be seen in Appendix 2.

Excavation trenches

34. The excavation was carried out with the purpose of validating the archaeological resource identified using information obtain during the desk based assessment and the results of the remote sensing. Seven trenches were excavated across the site, the positions of which had been chosen to target archaeological features and blank areas identified from aerial photographs (Figures 8 & 9).

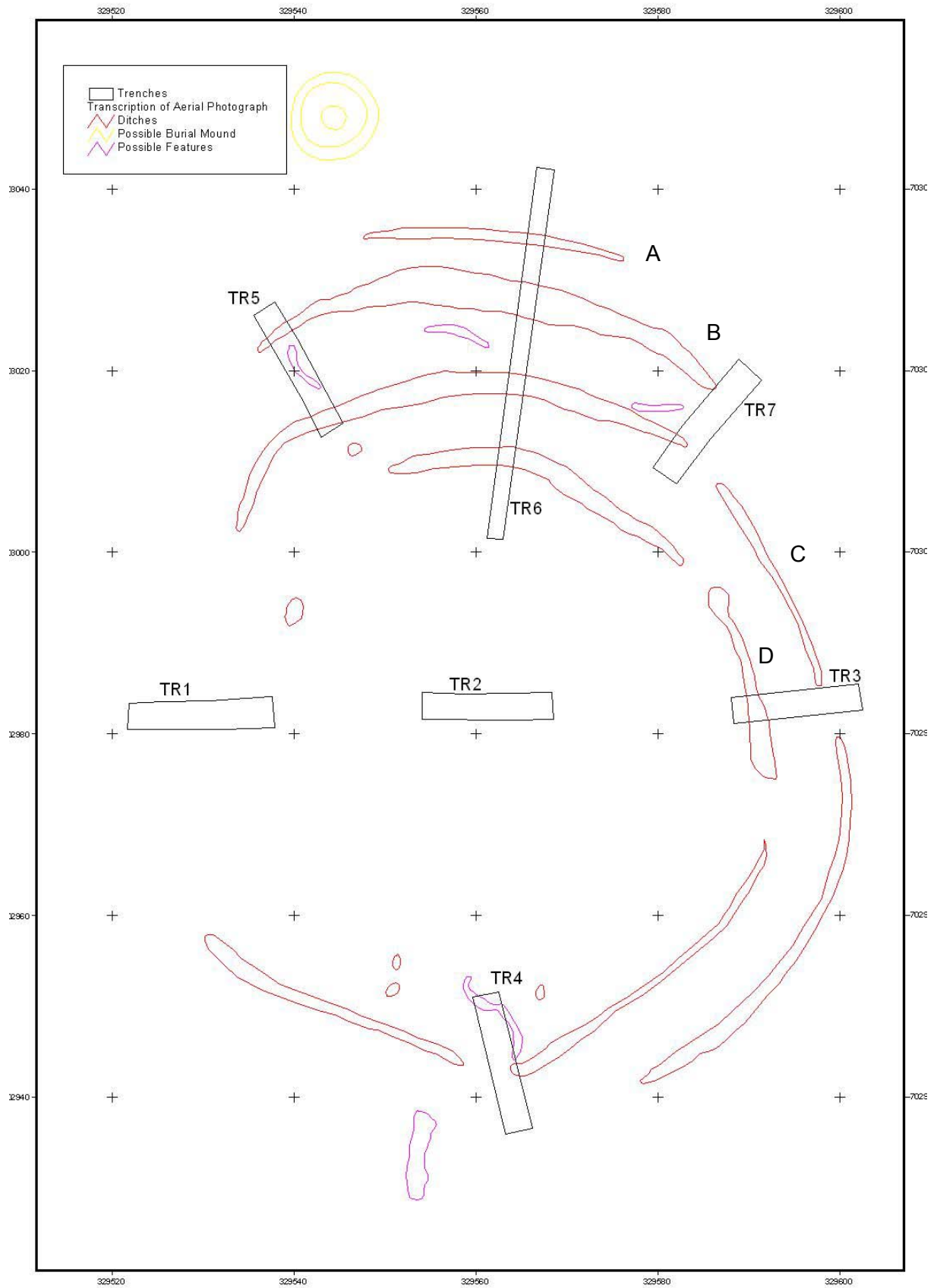


Figure 8: Transcription of Aerial Photograph Cropmarks with Trench layout overlain

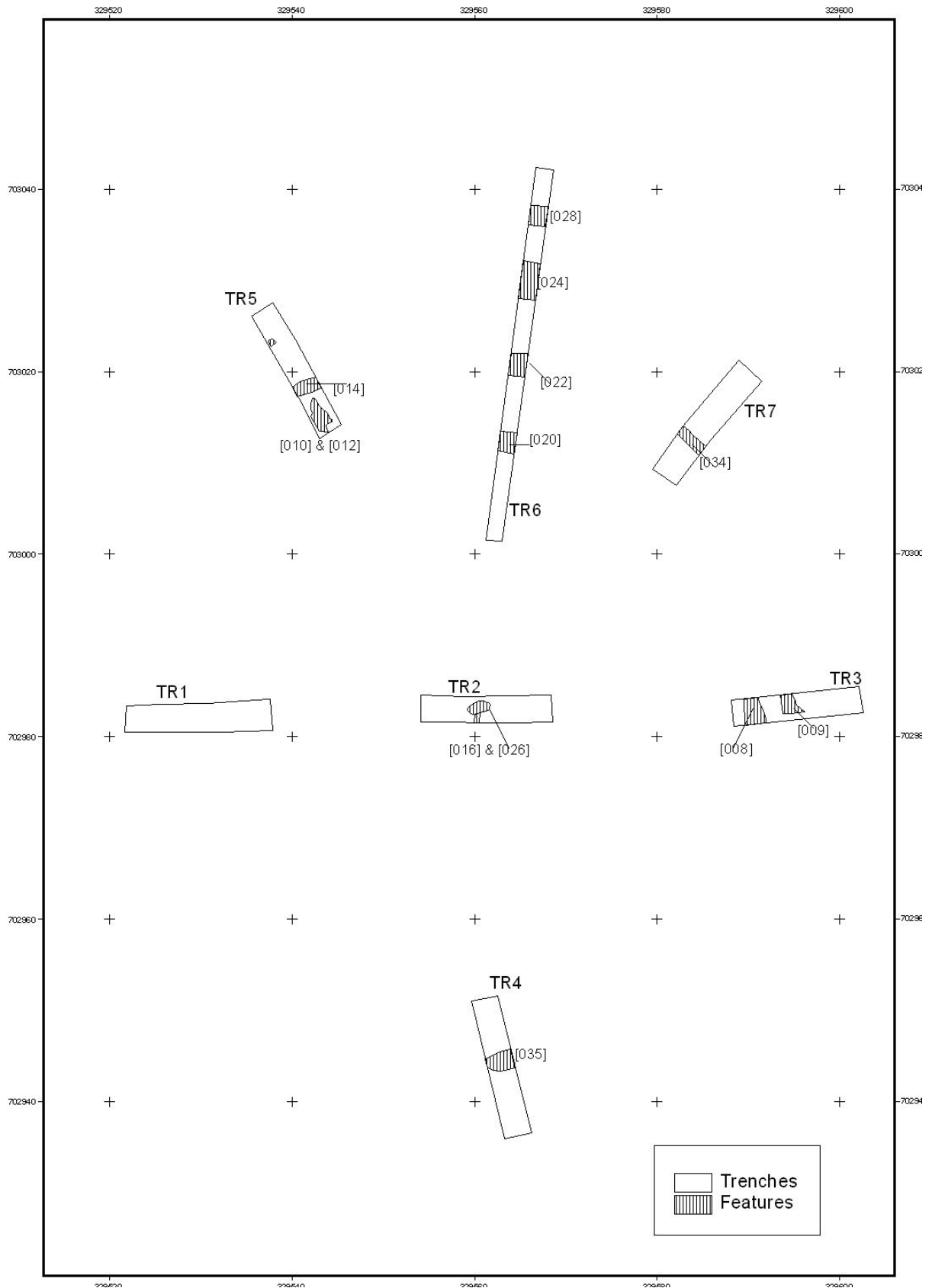


Figure 9: Trench Layout with Features

35. The trenches revealed a common stratigraphy across the site comprising a moderately compacted mid brown silty sand topsoil with frequent rootlets and occasional small sub rounded stone inclusions (001) over a sand subsoil of various colours (002) (004) (005). Topsoil was typically 250mm to 300mm deep; plough scars were common across all the trenches, with the exception of Trench 1.
36. In total fourteen archaeological features were recorded. These consisted of: ten linear features that either crossed or appeared to terminate within the trenches; two sub oval features identified as pits; and two layers of anomalous sediment.

Trench 2

37. Within Trench 2 at +5m from the west end of the trench was Pit [026], which was oval in plan, measuring 1.78m by 1.18m in extent and 0.6m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base (Figure 7b). The fill (027) was a moderately compact mixed mid to dark brown silty sand with various finds. These included <7> a fragmentary graphite rod, metalwork from a grating, three half bricks and a metal patent tag.
38. Linear Feature [016] was also present in Trench 2. It appeared to be associated with Pit [026] as they joined at the pit's southwest quadrant (Figure 7c). Linear Feature [016] was aligned N-S, measuring 0.98m long within the trench by 0.45m wide and 0.3m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill (017) was a moderately compact dark brown silty sand with sub rounded stone inclusions and various finds <8> including a second graphite rod, metalwork and a timber.

Trench 3

39. In Trench 3 two linear features [008] and [009] were evident (Figures 7e,f & 10 A,B). Linear Feature [008] measured 2.2m wide and 1m deep and extended beyond the sides of the trench, it was aligned N-S and had steep sloping sides and a rounded base. Its fill (031) was moderately to firmly compact mid brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized stones and very occasional charcoal inclusions. A small piece of burnt bone was recovered from the surface of the feature, Find <4>.
40. The second, Linear Feature [009], was also aligned N-S with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base, measuring 1.6m wide and 0.5m deep, within the section of the ditch a recut [036] was evident, which was 2.2m wide by 0.5m.

Trench 4

41. Trench 4 had a single linear feature [035] aligned E-W emerging from the east face of the trench, which appears to be a terminal measuring 3m long within the trench and 2m wide. Unfortunately due to time and staffing levels this feature was only investigated in plan.

Trench 5

42. Within Trench 5 two features were uncovered ([014][018]) and a spread of material [010][012]. Linear Feature [014] was aligned ENE-WSW and measured 3m long and 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 7d & 10C). It contained two fills (015) and (030), the upper fill (030) was a compact light brown sand with occasional sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks and up to 320mm in depth, while (015) was a dark orange brown very sandy gravel with inclusions of small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks up to 400mm in depth.
43. Pit [018] was oval in plan, orientated E-W and measuring 1.78m by 1.18m by 0.6m, with near vertical sides with a flat base. Its fill (019) was a moderately compacted mixed mid brown/dark brown silty sand. A single sherd of modern brown glazed pottery was recovered from the fill.
44. The two other features, [010] and [012], (Figure 7a) were two shallow irregular shaped circular depressions filled by spreads of light grey brown silty sand with frequent small rounded gravel-like inclusions and occasional fine rootlets (011) and dark grey brown silty sand with very fine rootlets and very few small stones (013), respectively. The two

spreads appear to merge together as it was impossible to separate them.

Trench 6

45. Four linear features [020, 022, 024 and 028] all aligned E-W were recorded within Trench 6. Of the four linear features only three were excavated, with Linear Feature [024] being left unexcavated, the other three were excavated by box section as the dry ground conditions and the sandy nature of the subsoil and fill meant that it was difficult to discern the cut of the features from the subsoil. Linear Feature [020] was 1.55m wide and 0.7m deep and extended beyond the trench sides, it had sloping sides and a rounded base. Its fill (021) was a moderately compacted mid brown slightly silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones $\leq 100\text{mm}$. (Figure 10D)
46. Linear Feature [022] had steep to moderately sloping sides with a rounded flat base, measuring 2.5m wide and 0.8m deep. It had a moderate to firm compacted fill (023) of mid-dark brown slightly silty sand with fairly frequent very small to small sub-rounded stones (Figures 7g & 10E). Linear Feature [028] measured 1.9m wide and 0.64m deep with sloping sides and rounded base. Its fill (029) was a moderately compacted mid-dark brown slightly silty fine sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded small stones (Figures 7h & 10F). No finds were recovered from these features, though burnt bone and charcoal was recovered.

Trench 7

47. Trench 7 contained one linear feature [034] was 1.2m wide with a mid brown silty sand fill. Like feature [035] in Trench 4 this feature was only investigated in plan

Discussion

Cropmarking in comparison to Geophysical Survey

48. The inconclusive results from both the resistivity survey and the magnetometry survey, lead to a second magnetometry survey being undertaken along some of the trenches after they had been opened in an attempt to elucidate the reason as to why the initial results had been poor. The second survey was proved inconclusive, though by comparing the results with the actual archaeology uncovered, it was possible with an eye of faith to discern certain features. The survey did, however, deliver a range of anomalies that were interpreted as either ring ditches or responses from metal within the ground (Appendix 2).
49. The inconclusive results are believed to be due to the very dry nature of the sandy subsoil as the weather had been dry for some time prior to the surveys. With the lack of moisture in the soil leading to uniform readings across the site.

Prehistoric enclosure

50. The ditches uncovered during the excavation confirmed that the cropmarks previously identified on the aerial photographs represented a multi-vallated enclosure with four discontinuous ditches, with two possible entrances in the eastern side, and one in the southern side of the enclosure. The ditch terminals recorded within Trenches 3 and 4 demonstrated that the breaks in the ditches, at least where encountered in those trenches, represented intentional entrances.
51. An Iron Age date has been suggested for the enclosure, which is not without merit given its form. Fortified settlements were common within the Iron Age and survive in significant numbers across the south east of Scotland (Ritchie & Ritchie 1972). Their survival is attributed to their hill top positions, and in the case of larger hill fort sites, their sometimes substantial defences have also assisted in their preservation. Given that the size of such sites in this part of Scotland is smaller than that observed elsewhere in Britain, some difficulties can arise when trying to differentiate between a small hill fort and a large enclosed settlement. Though the defences of the former are usually more substantial than of the latter (Ritchie & Ritchie 1972).

52. At Newton of Markinch the presence of four ditches on the northern side would have represented quite significant defences, especially if ramparts and palisades had been present (Figure 11). Unfortunately no evidence of either was uncovered during the excavation. The lack of any trace of a bank or rampart in association with any of the ditches is more likely to be the result of plough truncation rather than indication that they never existed. Sufficient gap is present between the ditches to argue for the presence of a bank/rampart, and it is unlikely that spoil from the initial excavation of the ditches was removed from the site for disposal elsewhere, though it is not completely impossible. Given the depth of the ditches, the height of the banks would not have been substantial, even taking into account a reasonably level of truncation. Any such features may have been augmented by a timber palisade set into the bank. However, given the likely truncation of these ramparts any evidence of a palisade may have been removed.
53. While the multi-vallated nature of the site would seem to indicate a defensive role, in particular the northern side of the site which is the side with the shallowest slope, as well as the side with no breaks in the ditches. However the eastern and southern sides have three entrances, two on the east and one to the south. The presence of multiple entrances to such a site of this size would be distinctly detrimental to the site's defensive ability.
54. In addition, the lack of any ditches on the western side of the site, which appears to be the steepest slope, would leave the site wide open to attack. If this was a deliberate intent, it would suggest a non-defensive purpose to the ditches. However there are other possibilities as to why there are no ditches on the western side of the site; such as they may have never been dug due to construction of the site stopping before completion, or ditches were dug but have suffered from plough truncation.
55. If the site were a settlement, the expectation would be that there would be internal features that indicate structures, as well as anthropic material being present in the ditch fills, in particular the ditch terminals. However at Newton of Markinch the trenches that covered the interior of the site failed to find any archaeological features or artefacts that indicated any occupation of the site, with the exception of twentieth-century features.
56. The dearth of anthropic material from ditches as well as the lack of internal features would suggest that the site was not permanently occupied. This may indicate that the site was either never fully finished or only used occasionally. However the lack of evidence may simply be a reflection of the small proportion of area opened for investigation, as well as the position of the trenches. Plough truncation may also play a part in the lack of internal features.
57. The lack of archaeological features or artefacts from within the interior of the site, which encompassed some 0.28ha of ground within the extrapolated line of the innermost ditch, as well as the lack of any material culture from the ditches in particular the terminal end in Trench 3, would suggest that the site was not occupied. Which either means it was used on occasion or never used. The charcoal present within the ditch fills would suggest that it was used occasionally at least when it was being constructed, or that there may have been human activity nearby. Again no evidence of a fire or fires was evident in the excavation trenches.

Comparable later prehistoric enclosure sites

58. Mains of Edzell (NMRS NO56NE26) is a enclosure site of a similar size to Newton of Markinch, which was investigated in the late 1990's (Strachan et al 2003). Its condition varied markedly across its extent: roughly half of the monument survived as upstanding remains in an area of woodland, while the other half had been reduced to cropmarks in an arable field. Overall it consisted of a triple ditched oval enclosure, measuring 80-100m externally. Two entrances have been identified where conditions have allowed it (i.e. within the arable field) in the northeast and southeast quadrants. Interior features were also recorded, primarily in the northern part, with plough truncation most likely to accounting for the lack of features in the south. Like the example at Newton, there was a lack of anthropic material from the ditches, though radiocarbon dates placed activity from 800 cal BC to 200 cal BC.

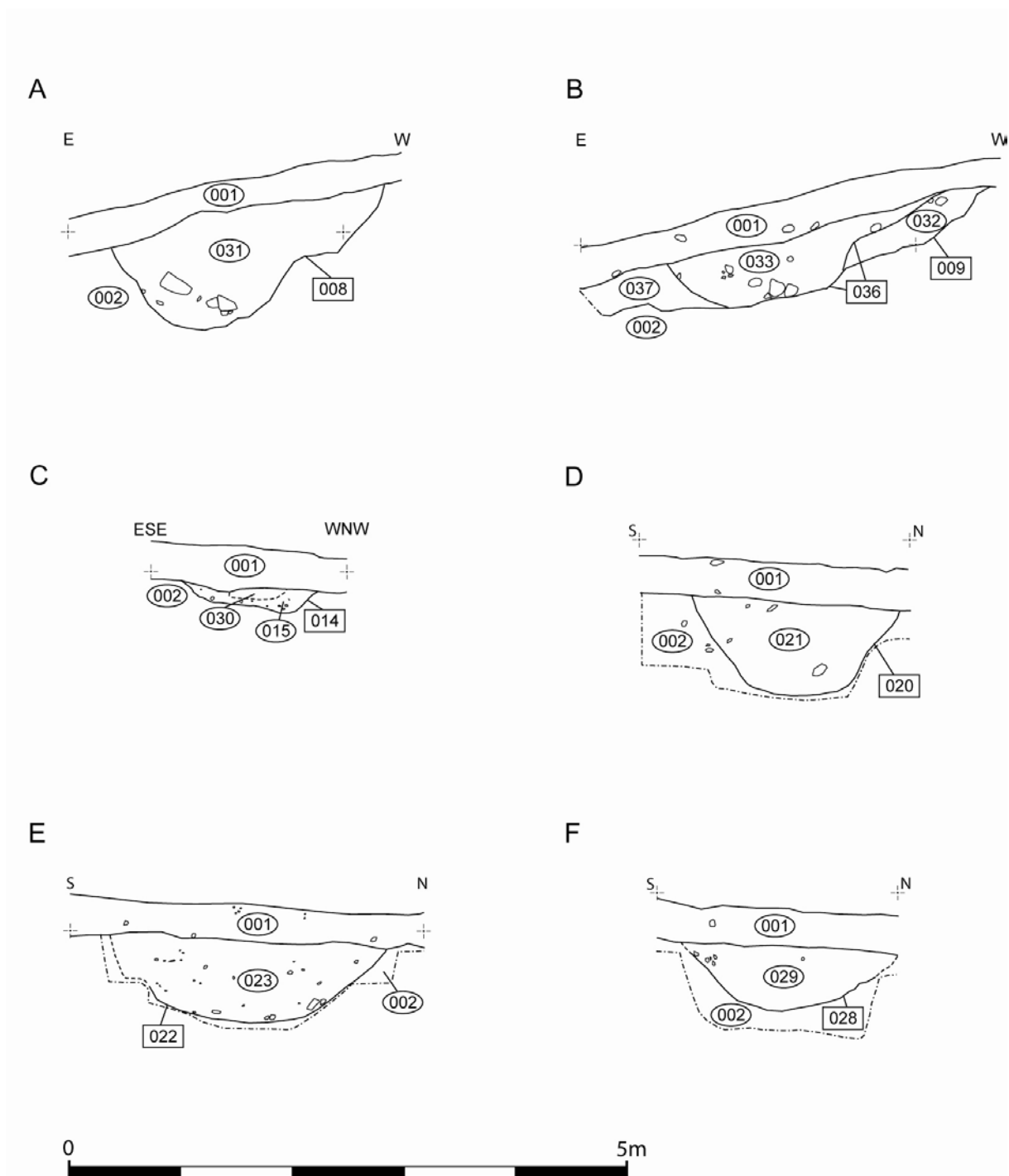


Figure 10: Ditch Section Drawings (A&B from Trench 3, C from Trench 5 and D-F from Trench 6)

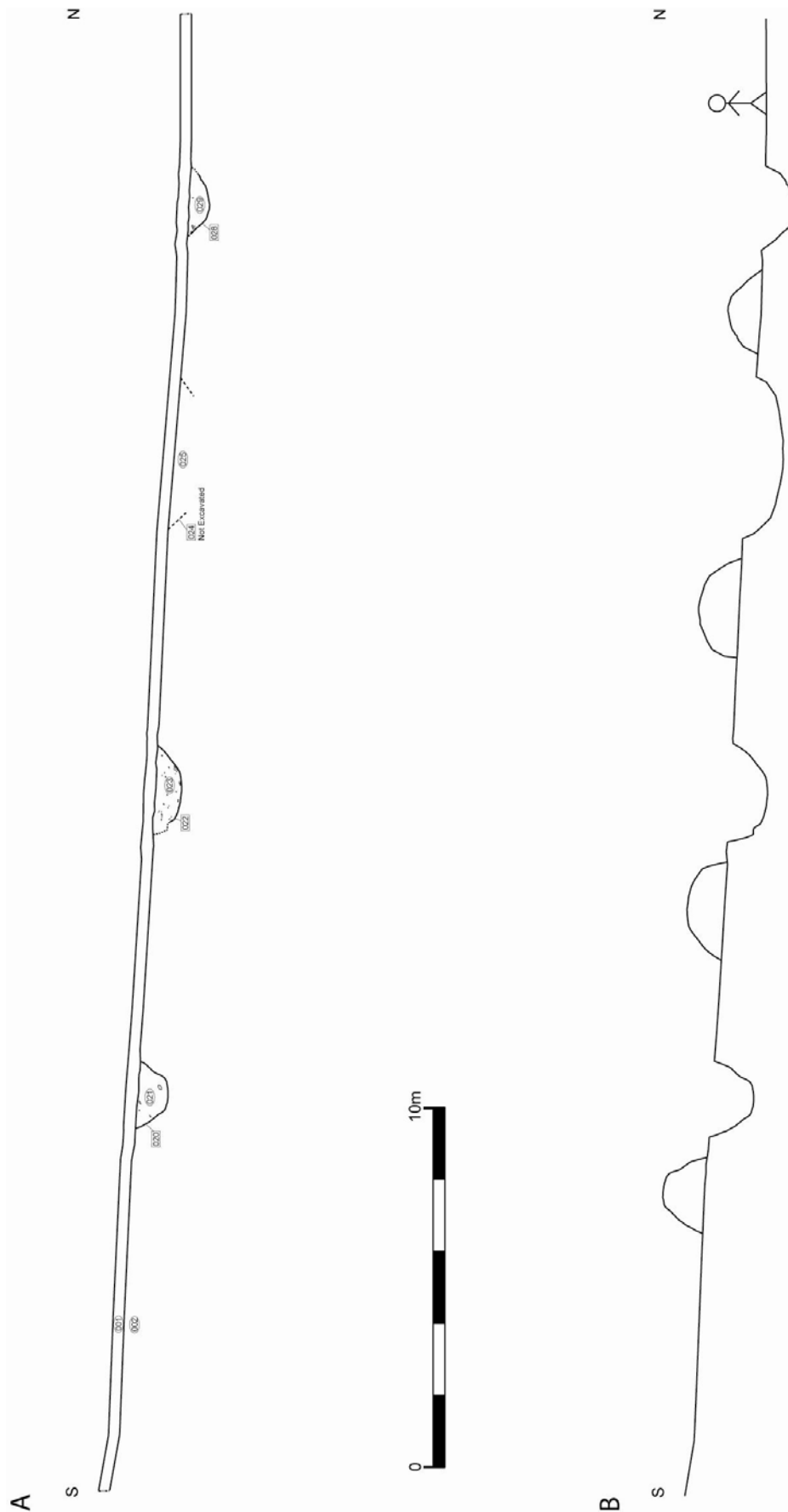


Figure 11: 'A' Trench 6 Section and 'B' inferred profile with ramparts

59. The site at Newton of Markinch may be a precursor to a hillfort, i.e. what Cunliffe refers to as a 'hilltop enclosure' (Cunliffe 1995). This is defined as a member of a group of hilltop sites in use from 1100BC-800BC, thus which precede 'hillforts' as such, and which are characterised by slight boundaries and a lack of internal occupation. It has been suggested that these sites may have been the focus for agricultural practises and social gatherings.

Neolithic enclosures in the landscape

60. The site at Newton of Markinch has nominally been attributed to the Iron Age. However the lack of datable evidence or artefacts means that this is far from a safe assumption. Neolithic sites are also present in the surrounding landscape: lying about 1.3km to the west is Balfarg Henge and standing stones (NMRS NO20SE5) a Class 1 henge monument. Also to the west at the Balfarg Riding school are two timber structures thought to be mortuary enclosures (NMRS NO20SE20) also close by is the Balbirnie Standing Stone (NMRS NO20SE4).
61. While these Neolithic sites occur in relatively close proximity to the multivallate enclosure at Newton of Markinch, it is doubtful that they are contemporaneous, as in general Neolithic enclosures are not as heavily vallated as those enclosures belonging to the Iron Age. The form of the site at Newton of Markinch is more indicative of the Iron Age, though as stated elsewhere this is speculative rather than certain.

Intervisibility

62. Just over a kilometre to the west Balfarg Henge would have been visible from the study area, as long as tree coverage was minimal
63. In the larger setting it is worth noting that Newton of Markinch is inter-visible with several prominent sites. East Lomond Hill Fort (NMRS NO20NW20.01), located 6km to the north west, is an oval summit enclosure measuring 61m by 30.5m with large earthen ramparts and ditches. Largo Law is also visible, lying 13km to the east. This has revealed the remains of possible round houses and enclosures (NMRS NO40SW21). Across the Firth of Forth lies North Berwick Law (NT58SE32) another hillfort with drystone walls and a terrace which is visible some 32km to the south east. So too is the very important site of Traprain Law (NMRS NT57SE1) 40km south east of Newton of Markinch. Traprain was a major hillfort, the main rampart of which encloses an area of 12.9ha. The hill appears to have been in use from the Bronze Age through to the Medieval period and was the site of a Roman silver hoard recovered in the 1930's.
64. Arthur's Seat (NMRS NT27SE 93), lying 30km to the south, is the site of a fort encompassing 8ha of the summit, protected on the shallow eastern slope by two monumental walls. There is also a possibility that Castle Rock (NMRS NT27SE1.32) is visible from Newton of Markinch though urbanisation makes it hard to say for certain. Excavations at Castle Rock have shown evidence of settlement from the Bronze Age, with extensive Iron Age house remains and of course is now the site of Edinburgh Castle.

Defence of Britain

65. The pit [026] and Linear Feature [016] within Trench 2 appear to be 1940's in origin. The graphite rods (Finds <7> and <8>) were made by General Electric Company and are from a searchlight, most likely a 60" Sperry of GE light. The metal patent tag appears to be related to a barbed wire barricade and is dated 1940. These finds would seem to suggest that the features represent the burial of debris associated with a defended searchlight position.
66. The presence of the Fife stop line in the adjacent field would strengthen this suggestion, as the site has a commanding view of the surrounding area, including the stop line. However on a contemporary map of the time which marks the stop line and associated pill boxes etc, nothing is shown on the study area, though the searchlight position may have been a later addition put in place after the drawing of the map.
67. The Fife stop line was part of the Second World War strategy for the Defence of Britain in

the event of an invasion. The stop line ran south to north across Fife, and consisted of an anti tank ditch with barbed wire barricades, as well as various pillboxes and other defences.

Recommendations

68. The archaeological works have identified the remains of a hilltop enclosure, probably dating to the later prehistoric period, as well as a number of World War Two features. However, due to the paucity of dateable material and artefacts, it is recommended that no post-excavation analysis works take place.
69. However, the records made of the character of the monument, the investigative techniques deployed and the inferred depositional processes on-site do have an importance. We recommend that a short note or paper is created using material drawn from the extant documents and presented for submission to the Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal
70. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Fife Council Archaeology Service and Markinch Heritage Group.

Conclusion

71. A programme of archaeological works took place in support of Markinch Heritage Group and their ongoing research into the archaeology and history of the parish of Markinch at the cropmark site of Newton of Markinch (NMRS NO20SE16).
72. These works included the excavation of seven trenches across the site. The excavation confirmed the interpretation of cropmarks previously identified from aerial photographs as a probable Iron Age multi-vallated site, measuring 98m across the exterior ditches and 61m across the interior ditches, consisting of four discontinuous ditches that leave the site open on the western side, with multiple entrances across the ditches.
73. In addition two features dating from World War Two were recorded. These contained graphite rods from a 60" search light and a metal patent tag from a barbed wire barricade.
74. Due to the lack of evidence from the site at Newton of Markinch, as well as the small scale nature of the excavation it is impossible to say exactly what the purpose of the site was. However, given limited evidence we do have, I would tentatively suggest that given the lack of ditches on the western side and lack of any evidence that there was any occupation of the site, that site may not represent a defended site, unless in an unfinished form and may in fact be a delimited area to carry out other activities.

References

Documentary

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Omand, D	2000	<i>The Fife Book</i> , Edinburgh
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Ritchie, G & A	1972	Edinburgh and South-East Scotland, London
Sieveright, J	1934-45	Statistical Accounts of Scotland: Markinch
Strachan et al	2003	' <i>Excavation of cropmark enclosures in Angus at Mains of Edzell, Edzell and Hawkhill, Lunan</i> ' TAFJ 9
Thomson, J	1791-99	Statistical Accounts of Scotland: Markinch

Cartographic

Gordon, J	1636-52	Fyfe shire
Bleau	1654	West part of Fife
Roy	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland
Ainslie, J	1775	Counties of Fife and Kinross with Rivers Forth and Tay
Thomson, J	1827	Fife With Kinross shire East
Sharp, T Et al	1828	Counties of Fife and Kinross
Ordnance Survey	1852-55	1 st edition map 1:10560

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site regardless of the process by which that information was gathered (e.g. excavation or strip, map & sample).

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	1-7	Topsoil	Moderately compacted mid brown silty sand with frequent rootlets and occasional sub-rounded stones, generally small $\leq 2\text{cm}$.	Topsoil
002	1-7	Subsoil	Light yellow sand.	Subsoil
003	-	-	Void	-
004	4	Subsoil	Orange brown sand.	Subsoil
005	1	Subsoil	Mid brown sand.	Subsoil
006	-	-	Void	-
007	-	-	Void	-
008	3	Cut	Linear feature orientated N-S. Steep sloping sides with a rounded base. Measures 2.2m wide x 1m deep x unknown length as it runs outwith trench. Filled by (031). One of two ditches revealed within Trench 3. No finds within fill although one fragment of burnt bone discovered on surface.	Linear feature ditch, appears to be one of a group of circular ditches which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Possible prehistoric in date although no finds recovered to confirm this.
009	3	Cut	Linear feature orientated N-S. Moderately sloping sides with a rounded base. Measures 1.6m wide x 500mm deep x unknown length as it runs outwith trench. Filled by (032). One of two ditches revealed within Trench 3. No finds within fill although a small amount of charcoal present. Truncated by ditch [036].	Linear feature ditch, appears to be one of a group of circular ditches which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Possible prehistoric in date although no finds recovered to confirm this. This ditch appears to have been recut by [036].
010	5	Cut	Irregular rounded shaped feature in plan. Very shallow with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Measures 4.2m x 2m x 80mm deep although extends outwith trench. Filled by (011). Appears to be truncated by [012].	Probably more of a spread than a cut. No finds to suggest date/function but appears likely to represent an area of modern dumping, possibly by the farmer. Has likely been spread further by ploughing action.
011	5	Fill	Moderately-firmly compacted light grey brown silty sand with frequent small rounded gravel-like inclusions and occasional fine rootlets. Measures 4.2m x 2m x 80mm thick although extends outwith trench. Fill of [010].	No finds to suggest date/function but appears likely to represent an area of modern dumping, possibly by the farmer. Possibly the remnants of an organic material which has been cleared away/degraded in situ. Has likely been truncated by ploughing

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
				action.
012	5	Cut	Irregular rounded shaped feature in plan. Gently sloping sides with a flat base. Measures 2m x 1.1m x 220mm deep although extends outwith trench. Filled by (013). Appears to truncate [010].	Probably more of a spread than a cut. No finds to suggest date/function but appears likely to represent an area of modern dumping, possibly by the farmer. Possibly representing a later phase of dumping on top of the site of [010]. Has likely been spread further by ploughing action.
013	5	Fill	Soft-moderately compacted dark grey brown silty sand with very fine rootlets and very few small stones. Measures 2m x 1.1m x 220mm deep although extends outwith trench. Fill of [012].	No finds to suggest date/function but appears likely to represent an area of modern dumping, possibly by the farmer. Possibly the remnants of an organic material which has been cleared away/degraded in situ. Has likely been truncated by ploughing action.
014	5	Cut	Shallow linear feature ditch orientated ENE-WSW. Sloping sides with a wide rounded base. Measures 1.5m wide x 400mm deep x 3m long although extends outwith trench. Filled by (015) and (030). No finds within fill.	Linear feature ditch, appears to be one of a group of circular ditches which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Possible prehistoric in date although no finds recovered to confirm this. Has been possibly truncated due to its location on a slope causing material to slide downhill.
015	5	Fill	Dark orange brown very sandy gravel with inclusions of small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Measures 1.5m wide x 400mm deep x 3m long although extends outwith trench. Lower and main fill of [014]. No finds recovered.	Lower and main fill of linear feature ditch [014]. Possibly prehistoric in date although no finds to confirm this.
016	2	Cut	Linear feature shaped feature in plan orientated N-S. Measures 0.98m x 0.45m x 0.3m. Vertical sides with a flat base. Filled by (017).	Modern linear feature associated with [026] dating from WWII activity in the 1940s.
017	2	Fill	Moderately compacted dark brown silty sand with frequent medium sub-rounded stones and timber inclusions. Measures 0.98m x 0.45m x 0.3m in extent. Fill of [016].	Fill of linear feature [016]. Dates from the 1940s.
018	5	Cut	Irregular oval shaped feature in plan. Measures 1m long x 0.9m wide although extends outwith trench. Filled by (019).	Possible pit feature. Not excavated but is likely modern in date as fragment of modern brown glazed pottery recovered from fill.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
019	5	Fill	Moderate-firmly compacted orangey brown silty sand with very fine rootlets and small stones. Measures 1m x 0.9m in extent although extends outwith trench. Filled by (026).	Fill of [026]. Appears modern in date with a fragment of modern brown glazed pottery recovered.
020	6	Cut	Linear feature orientated E-W. Sloping sides with a rounded base. Measures 1.55m wide x 700mm deep x unknown length as runs outwith trench. Filled by (021). One of four ditches found within Trench 6.	Linear feature ditch, appears to be one of a group of circular ditches which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Possible prehistoric in date although no finds recovered to confirm this.
021	6	Fill	Moderately compacted mid brown slightly silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones $\leq 100\text{mm}$. Measures 1.55m wide x 700mm deep x unknown length as runs outwith trench. Fill of [020].	Fill of linear feature ditch [020]. Possibly prehistoric in date although no finds to confirm this.
022	6	Cut	Linear feature orientated E-W. Steep to moderately sloping sides with a rounded flattish base. Measures 2.5m wide x 800mm deep x 1.9m long although extends outwith trench. Filled by (023). One of four ditches found within Trench 6.	Linear feature ditch, appears to be one of a group of circular ditches which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Possible prehistoric in date although no finds recovered to confirm this.
023	6	Fill	Moderately-firmly compacted mid-dark brown slightly silty sand with fairly frequent very small to small sub-rounded stones. Measures 2.5m wide x 800mm deep x 1.9m long although extends outwith trench. Fill of [022].	Fill of linear feature ditch [022]. Possibly prehistoric in date although no finds to confirm this.
024	6	Cut	Linear feature orientated E-W. Measures 3.2m wide x unknown length as runs outwith trench. Filled by (025). One of four ditches found within Trench 6.	Linear feature ditch, appears to be one of a group of circular ditches which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Possible prehistoric in date. Not excavated.
025	6	Fill	Moderately compacted mid-dark brown slightly silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions. Measures 3.2m wide x unknown length as runs outwith trench. Fill of [024].	Fill of linear feature ditch [024]. Possibly prehistoric in date. Not excavated.
026	2	Cut	Oval shaped feature in plan orientated E-W. Measures 1.78m x 1.18m x 0.6m. Near vertical sides with a flat base. Filled by (027).	Pit dating to the 1940s. Possibly associated with spot light/stop line created for use during World War II.
027	2	Fill	Moderately compacted mixed mid brown/dark brown silty sand.	Fill of pit [027] dating to the 1940s.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			Measures 1.78m x 1.18m x 0.6m in extent. Fill of [026].	
028	6	Cut	Linear feature orientated E-W. Sloping sides with a rounded base. Measures 1.9m wide x 0.64m deep x unknown length as runs outwith trench. Filled by (029). One of four ditches found within Trench 6.	Linear feature ditch, appears to be one of a group of circular ditches which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Possible prehistoric in date although no finds recovered to confirm this.
029	6	Fill	Moderately compacted mid-dark brown slightly silty fine sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded small stones. Measures 1.9m wide x 0.64m deep x unknown length as runs outwith trench. Fill of [028].	Fill of linear feature ditch [022]. Possibly prehistoric in date although no finds to confirm this.
030	5	Fill	Compact light brown sand with occasional sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Measures 0.74m wide x 320mm deep x minimum 3m long although extends outwith trench. Upper fill of ditch [014]. Similar to (015) but more sand than gravel.	Upper fill of linear feature ditch [014]. Possibly prehistoric in date although no finds to confirm this.
031	3	Fill	Moderate to firmly compacted mixed mid brown silty sand with occasional pebbles, charcoal flecks and larger stones < 0.25m. Measures 2.2m x 1m deep x unknown length as runs outwith trench. Fill of [008].	Fill of linear feature ditch [008]. Possibly prehistoric in date although no finds to confirm this.
032	3	Fill	Moderate to firmly compacted mixed mid red orange brown silty sand with very occasional medium sized pebbles and very occasional charcoal inclusions. Measures 1.6m x 0.35m deep although not fully excavated. Fill of [009].	Fill of linear feature ditch [009]. Possibly prehistoric in date although no finds to confirm this. Truncated by [036].
033	3	Fill	Moderate to firmly compacted mid brown silty sand with occasional pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional large stones < 0.2m. Measures up to 2.2m wide x 0.5m deep x unknown length as runs outwith trench. Fill of [036].	Fill of [036]. Possibly prehistoric in date although no finds to confirm this.
034				
035				
036	3	Cut	Linear feature orientated N-S. Shallow sloping sides with rounded flat base. Measures 2.2m wide x 0.5m deep x unknown length as extends outwith trench. Filled by (033). Appears to be a possible	Possible recut of ditch [009] although limited area of excavation makes it difficult to determine for certain. Possibly prehistoric in date although no finds to confirm

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			recut of ditch [009].	this.
037	3	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark orangey brown silty sand with moderate small rounded pebbles. Measures 0.4m deep although only seen in small sondage to W of [036]. Appears very similar to ditch fills. Truncated by [036]	Possible deposit derived from soil creep, although if this is the case, would appear to predate cut [036] which cuts through it.

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	-	-	-	-	1	Trench 1 Pre ex with machine	N	19/06/09
2	-	-	-	-	2	Trench 2 Pre ex	W	19/06/09
3	-	-	-	-	3	Trench 3 Pre ex	W	19/06/09
4	-	-	-	-	4	Trench 4 Pre ex	SE	19/06/09
5	-	-	-	-	5	Trench 5 Pre ex	SW	19/06/09
6	-	-	-	-	6	Trench 6 Pre ex	S	19/06/09
7	-	-	-	-	7	Trench 7 Pre ex	SW	19/06/09
8	-	-	-	-	8	Sheep rub in Trench 7	NE	19/06/09
9	-	-	-	-	9	Working shot – geophysics	S	19/06/09
10	-	-	-	-	10	Working shot – geophysics	S	19/06/09
11	-	-	-	-	11	Working shot – video and geophysics	W	19/06/09
12	-	-	-	-	12	Machine shot with Lomond Hill in background	WSW	19/06/09
13	-	-	-	-	13	Machine shot with Lomond Hill in background	WSW	19/06/09
14	-	-	-	-	14	Machine shot with Lomond Hill in background (uphill)	W	19/06/09
15	-	-	-	-	15	Cleaning Trench 1	E	19/06/09
16	-	-	-	-	16	Cleaning Trench 1	E	19/06/09
17	-	-	-	-	17	Cleaning Trench 1	E	19/06/09
18	-	-	-	-	18	General site shot	S	19/06/09
19	-	-	-	-	19	Machine shot Trench 5	SE	19/06/09
20	-	-	-	-	20	Machine shot Trench 5	SE	19/06/09

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
21	-	-	-	-	21	Working shot	W	19/06/09
22	-	-	-	-	22	Working shot	W	19/06/09
23	-	-	-	-	23	Machine shot	E	19/06/09
24	-	-	-	-	24	Cleaning Trench 5, feature (003)	S	19/06/09
25	-	-	-	-	25	Cleaning Trench 5, feature (003)	S	19/06/09
26	-	-	-	-	26	Cleaning Trench 6	S	19/06/09
27	-	-	-	-	27	Cleaning Trench 6	S	19/06/09
28	-	-	-	-	28	Cleaning Trench 4	NNE	19/06/09
29	-	-	-	-	29	Cleaning Trench 4	NNE	19/06/09
30	1	1	1	22	-	Pits [010] and [012] in Trench 5 – Pre ex	E	20/06/09
31	1	2	1	23	-	Ditch [014] – Pre ex	E	20/06/09
32	1	3	1	24	-	General shot Trench 5, Features [010], [012] and [014] Pre ex	SSE	20/06/09
33	1	4	1	25	30	Working shot Trench 5	SSE	20/06/09
34	-	-	-	-	31	Working shot Trench 2	E	20/06/09
35	1	5	1	26	32	Working shot Trench 2	E	20/06/09
36	-	-	-	-	33	Working shot Trench 3	W	20/06/09
37	-	-	-	-	34	Working shot Trench 3	W	20/06/09
38	1	6	1	27	35	Pre ex of feature [006], [016] Trench 2	S	20/06/09
39	1	7	-	-	36	Void	-	20/06/09
40	1	8	-	-	37	Pre ex of ditch [020]	E	20/06/09
41	1	9	1	28	38	Pre ex of [022]	E	20/06/09
42	1	10	1	29	39	Pre ex of [024]	NNE	20/06/09
43	1	11	1	30	40	Pre ex of [028]	E	20/06/09
44	1	12	1	31	41	W facing section of [014]	W	20/06/09
45	1	13	-	-	42	E facing section of [014]	E	20/06/09
46	1	14	-	-	43	NW facing section of [010], [012]	NW	20/06/09
47	-	-	-	-	44	Working shot	-	20/06/09
48	-	-	-	-	45	Working shot	-	20/06/09
49	-	-	-	-	46	Working shot	-	20/06/09
50	-	-	-	-	47	Working shot	-	20/06/09
51	-	-	-	-	48	Working shot	-	20/06/09
52	1	15	-	-	49	W facing section of WWII	W	20/06/09

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
						Pit [026]		
53	1	16	-	-	50	N facing section of WWII linear feature [016]	N	20/06/09
54	1	17	-	-	51	Close up of graphite	NNE	20/06/09
55	1	18	2	1	52	S facing section of WWII linear feature [016]	S	20/06/09
56	-	-	-	-	53	Working shot	SE	21/06/09
57	-	-	-	-	54	Working shot	E	21/06/09
58	1	19	2	2	55	N facing section of [008]	N	21/06/09
59	1	20	2	3	56	N facing section of [009]	N	21/06/09
60	1	21	2	4	-	N facing section of [009]	N	21/06/09
61	1	22	2	5	57	E facing section of	E	21/06/09
62	-	-	2	6	-	Void	-	21/06/09
63	1	23	2	7	58	E facing section of [021]	E	21/06/09
64	-	-	-	-	59	Machine backfilling	-	22/06/09
65	-	-	-	-	60	Machine backfilling	-	22/06/09
66	-	-	-	-	61	Machine backfilling	-	22/06/09
67	-	-	-	-	62	Machine backfilling	-	22/06/09
68	-	-	-	-	63	Machine backfilling	-	22/06/09
69	-	-	-	-	64	Machine backfilling	-	22/06/09
70	-	-	-	-	65	Machine backfilling	-	22/06/09
71	-	-	-	-	66	Machine backfilling	-	22/06/09
72	-	-	-	-	67	Trench 1 after backfilling	E	22/06/09
73	-	-	-	-	68	Trench 2 after backfilling	W	22/06/09
74	-	-	-	-	69	Trench 3 after backfilling	W	22/06/09
75	-	-	-	-	70	Trench 4 after backfilling	NNW	22/06/09
76	-	-	-	-	71	Trench 5 after backfilling	SE	22/06/09
77	-	-	-	-	72	Trench 6 after backfilling	S	22/06/09
78	-	-	-	-	73	Trench 7 after backfilling	SW	22/06/09

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
1	1	5	Section	1:10	WSW facing section of ditch [014]	AM	20/06/09
2	1	5	Section	1:10	W facing section showing [010] and [012]	KM + RT	20/06/09
3	2	2	Section	1:10	E facing section of [026]	BM + CM	21/06/09
4	3	5	Section	1:10	ENE facing section of ditch [014]	CW	21/06/09
5	2	2	Section	1:10	E facing section of [016]	BM	21/06/09
6	2	2	Section	1:10	N facing section of [016]	BM	21/06/09
7	4	2	Plan	1:50	Plan of Trench 2	BM	21/06/09
8	5	3	Section	1:10	N facing section of [009]	JD	21/06/09
9	4	3	Section	1:10	N facing section of [008]	GS	21/06/09
10	6	5	Plan	1:50	Plan of Trench 5	RT + KM	21/06/09
11	6	6	Section	1:10	E facing section of [028]	RLS + JNS	21/06/09
12	1	6	Section	1:10	E facing section of [022]	CW	22/06/09
13	6	6	Section	1:10	E facing section of [020]	DG	22/06/09

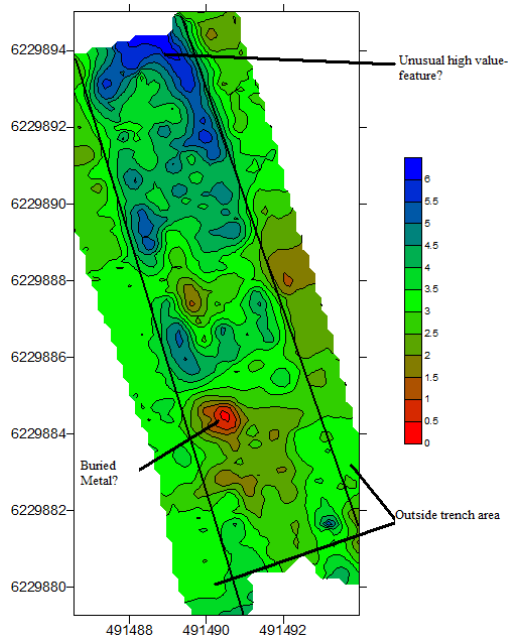
Finds Register

Find No.	Area/Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	5	016	Stone	Stone with Fossil	AM	20/06/09
2	5	019	Pot	Modern Brown Glazed ceramic	AM	20/06/09
3	6	021	Bone	Burnt Bone	DS	20/06/09
4	3	033	Bone	Burnt Bone	TR	20/06/09
5	6	029	Bone	Burnt Bone		21/06/09
6	6	023	Flint	Small piece of flint	SL	21/06/09
7	2		Metal/CBM/Graphite	Mixed finds of three half bricks, metalwork, graphite rod	TR	21/06/09
8	2		Metal/Graphite/Wood	Mixed modern finds of metalwork, graphite rod,	TR	21/06/09

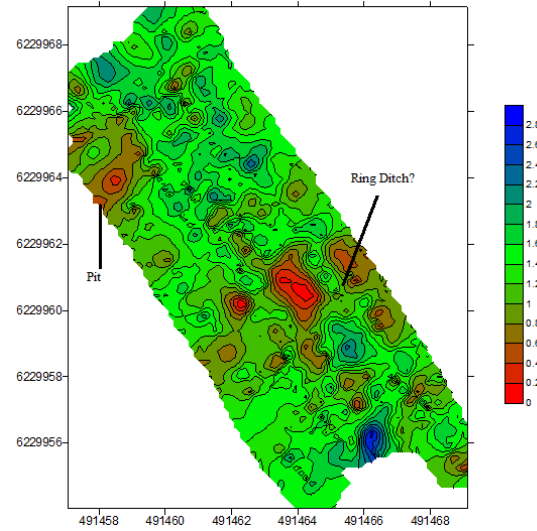
Sample Register

Sample No.	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity	Excavator	Date
1	5	015	Charcoal x1	AM	20/06/09
2	5	015	Bulk Sample x1	AM	20/06/09
3	5	013	Bulk Sample x1	AM	20/06/09
4	6	029	Bulk Sample x1	DS	21/06/09
5	3	033	Bulk Sample x1	JD	21/06/09
6	3	031	Bulk Sample x1	GS	21/06/09
7	3	033	Charcoal x1	JD	21/06/09
8	3	032	Bulk Sample x1	JD	22/06/09
9	6	021	Bulk Sample x1	SL	22/06/09
10	6	023	Bulk Sample x1	SL	22/06/09

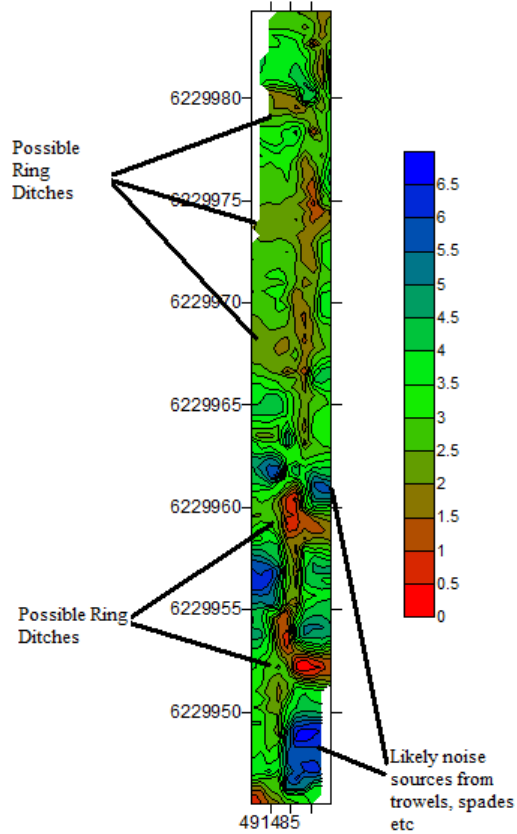
Appendix 2: Geophysics Results



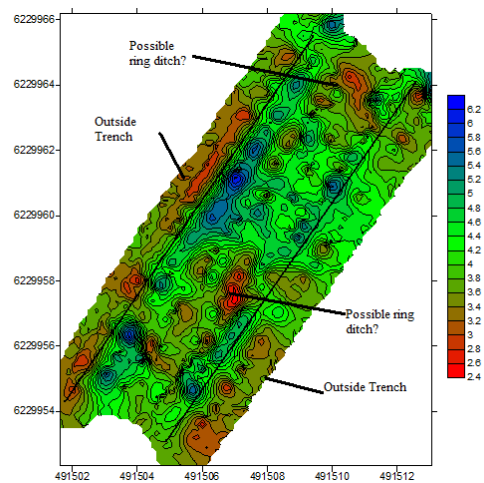
Trench 4



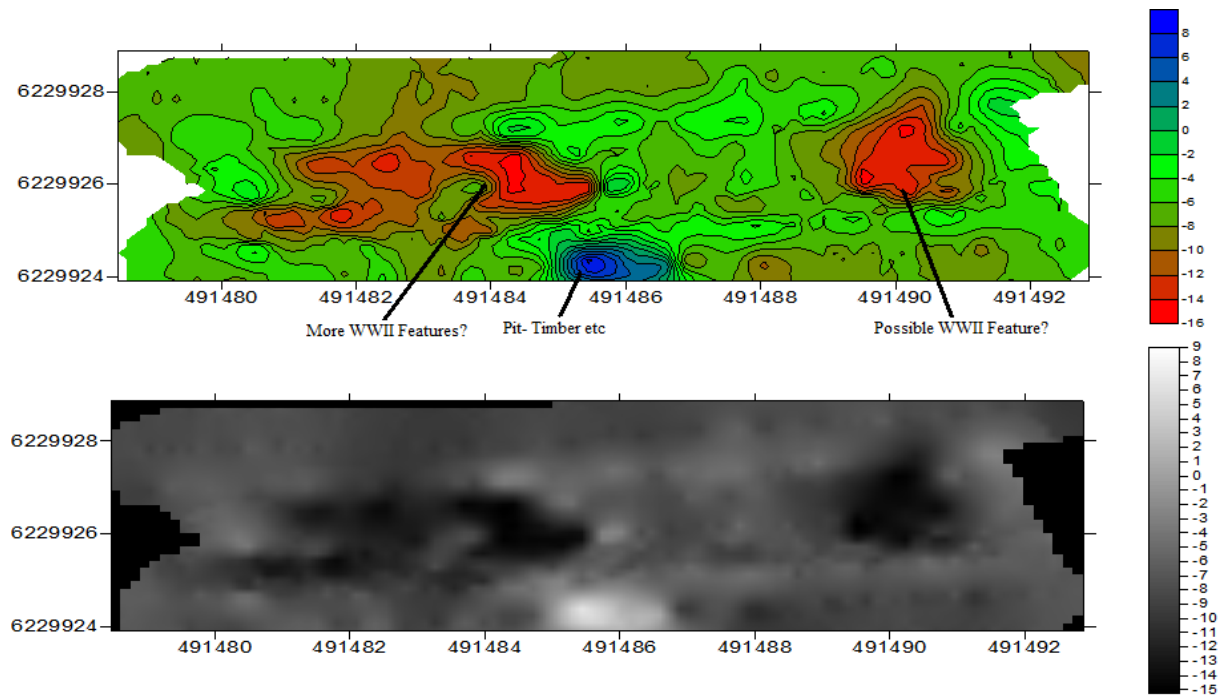
Trench 5



Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 2

Appendix 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Newton of Markinch
PROJECT CODE:	07054
PARISH:	Markinch
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NO20SE16, NO20SE17
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Fort, Ring Ditch
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO2955 0297
START DATE (this season)	19 th June 2009
END DATE (this season)	22 nd June 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works in support of Markinch Heritage Group and their ongoing research into the archaeology and history of the parish of Markinch at the site cropmark site of Newton of Markinch (NMRS). These works included an archaeological excavation, involving the excavation of seven trenches across the site. The excavation confirmed the interpretation of the cropmarks identified from aerial photographs, as a probable Iron Age multi-vallated site, measuring 98m across the exterior ditches and 61m across the interior ditches, consisting of four discontinuous ditches that leave the site open on the western side, with multiple entrances across the ditches.</p> <p>In addition two features dating from World War Two were recorded, that contained graphite rods from a 60" search light and a metal patent tag from a barbed wire barricade.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Fife Council Archaeology Unit, Markinch Heritage Group
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Fife Council Archaeology Unit and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

Contact Details

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76. The Fife Council Archaeology Unit can be contacted at their office or through the web:
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77. The Markinch Heritage Group can be contacted through the web:
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