

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

*archaeological consultants*

*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

*Intpretation, Design & Display*

*Finds/ Environmental Analysis*

*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Historic Building Recording*


*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Geophysical Survey*

## **Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie, Angus**

### **Archaeological Investigation and Re-erection**

**Report No. 1875**

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**Carlinwell Standing Stone,  
Airlie, Angus**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in March 2011 at Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie (NGR: NO 3208 5025) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Historic Scotland.

A Project Design was prepared by CFA Archaeology Ltd in response to a Project Outline provided by Historic Scotland for the examination of an area around the recently fallen Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie, Angus and its subsequent re-erection.

The stone re-erection work was undertaken by stone masons from Stockdale & Lyall Masonry, subcontracted to CFA.

### **1.2 Background**

The stone is a Scheduled Monument (SM no. 4315), known as Carlinwell, standing stone 720m WSW of Craigton. Scheduled Monument Consent was applied for by CFA and granted by Historic Scotland on 28 February 2011.

No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to this excavation.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the project were:

- To provide a full record of the stone's socket within an area measuring 2m by 2m
- To re-erect the stone within its original setting
- To report on the findings and provide a costed post-excavation research design.

These objectives were achieved through the following excavation strategy:

- Desk-based research will identify the correct orientation of the stone before it fell
- The fallen stone will be recorded as it lies in situ, including its relationship to the exposed socket, prior to being moved clear of the excavation area
- An area measuring 2m by 2m will be stripped of topsoil, centred on the stone socket
- The socket/setting will be fully excavated
- The stone will be re-erected in its original socket where possible.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations.

### **2.2 Desk-based Assessment**

Photographic records held by RCAHMS and other readily available sources were consulted prior to any fieldwork taking place. The photographs were used to ascertain the correct orientation of the stone for its re-erection.

### **2.3 Excavation**

A scale plan was produced of the stone's prone position and a photographic record undertaken. The stone was then moved out of the way of the excavation area using a JCB 3CX type machine. The stone was moved no more than 5m to one side. This work was supervised by the stone masons.

A square trench measuring 2m by 2m, centred on the stone socket/setting, was excavated by hand, to reveal either the subsoil surface or the surface of the first significant archaeological horizon. All further excavation necessary was carried out by hand.

The trench position was surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

### **2.4 Reinstatement**

Prior to reinstatement, the correct orientation was verified.

The original socket was enlarged by hand excavation following agreement with Historic Scotland.

The socket was shuttered and a ring of concrete was poured to create a socket into which the stone could be received and then packed with stone to make it rigid but to still allow drainage into the subsoil without compromising the fabric of the stone itself.

The stone was lifted into a vertical position using a telehandler with appropriate straps and lowered into the excavated socket. The stone was installed vertical at the request of Historic Scotland. The stone was held in place by the machine before packing it firmly using dry stone techniques.

A photographic record was taken of all works.

The trench was backfilled on completion of excavation with as dug material, and the site left in a tidy condition.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 Desk-based Assessment

The stone is recorded in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (no. NO35SW 22) as being an unsculptured standing stone, measuring 2m high by 1.1m by 0.5m. It is situated on the crest of a knoll at 79m OD, to the south of the A926 road.

Jervise (1864, 348-9) notes that “North-west of Baikie stands a remarkable unembellished obelisk, upon the farm of ‘Baitland’. Local story says that the name is a corruption of *Battleland*; also that there was a battle fought here at a remote period, and that some of the leaders were slain, and buried under the obelisk. I am told that the site of the obelisk was excavated by the late Rev. Mr Playfair of Meigle, about the end of the last century, and that human remains were got in the mixed earth and stones among which the obelisk is placed.”

The available photographs show the stone had a significant lean to the south prior to its toppling in January 2010 (Fig. 19).

#### 3.2 Excavation

The prone stone was photographed and its position surveyed (Fig. 2-3) prior to it being moved to one side, away from the excavation area (Fig. 4).

A trench measuring 2m by 2m was excavated, centred on the surface remains of the socket. Large packing stones were visible on the south side of the socket, protruding through the topsoil (Fig. 5).

Topsoil (**001**) was very stony and was shallow, measuring between 0.12m and 0.22m deep within the trench. The topsoil at the base of the toppled stone was very compacted from animal trampling. Natural subsoil (**000**) was orange sands and gravels. Some disturbance from animal burrowing was noted on the east side of the trench.

The field was in stubble at the time of the excavation.

Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1).

##### 3.2.1 Socket 002

The socket (**002**) was oval in shape and measured 1.1m E-W by 0.8m N-S by 0.56m deep. The upper fill (**006**) was a mid brown sandy silt and was 0.25m deep. The lower fill (**007**) was yellow sand and gravel and was 0.3m deep. This lower fill was sterile.

There appeared to be a re-cut to the pit on the south side, forming a shallow ledge on the south side of the socket measuring 0.7m by 0.4m in plan. The fill of this re-cut was indistinguishable from the rest of the pit's upper fill (**006**).

This re-cut appeared to contain the majority of the large packing stones (Fig. 7) and was possibly an attempt to shore up the stone and prevent it from toppling as the stone

had a significant lean to the south, the side where the packing stones were found. There was a noticeable absence of packing stones in the remainder of the socket.

The re-cut also contained some loose sherds of pottery, probably from SF2, and some burnt bone. This material appeared to have trickled into the re-cut following the smashing of SF2 with a large flat packing stone, possibly during the 18th century when Jervise (1864) recorded the observation of human remains at the foot of the stone.

### *3.2.2 Pit 008*

A pit (**008**) containing a cremation urn (SF2) was recorded on the west side of the socket (**002**) (Fig. 9). This pit measured 0.21m deep. It is not clear whether this pit cut or was cut by the socket (**002**) but on balance it seems more likely that **008** cut **002**.

The pit and the vessel it contained were disturbed by a large flat packing stone which lay at an angle across the pit (Fig. 8). Collected behind this angled stone was a deposit (**005**) of possibly disturbed cremation material from pit **008**.

The pit was only c.0.05m wider than the vessel on each side and so the pit was destroyed during the removal of the vessel. The pit was filled by mid brown sandy silt (**009**), which could not be sampled.

The vessel was inverted and lay directly on the base of the pit; it was at a slight angle within the pit rather than completely vertical, leaning towards the west (Fig. 10).

The vessel's contents were removed in three spits and sampled. There was an increasing quantity of burnt bone towards the rim of the vessel. Sherds from the lower wall of the vessel were found in the upper spit, where they had been pushed by the packing stone.

### *3.2.3 Pit 003*

A pit (**003**) containing a cremation urn (SF1) was noted on the west side of the trench and the trench was boxed out slightly to enable its removal. The pit measured 0.25m long by 0.15m long by 0.18m deep (Fig. 12). It was filled by a mid brown sandy silt, which was sampled.

The urn was inverted and lay directly on the base of the cut (Fig. 6). The base of the urn was missing, probably due to ploughing action as the depth of topsoil over the vessel was only 0.1m. The urn was removed with its contents in place.

## **3.3 Reinstatement (Derrick Lyall)**

The original socket required enlarging to take the concrete ring for the re-erected standing stone. A square pit was excavated into the subsoil, centred on the existing socket and measuring 1m by 1m by 1.5m deep. Concrete was poured into a shuttered sleeve to form a square socket for the stone to be inserted into (Fig. 15). The concrete was backed up on the southern side to provide additional reinforcement on the weaker side.



The stone was hoisted upright using straps and a mechanical excavator. Once upright it was lowered into the shuttered socket taking care not to damage the concrete sleeve (Fig. 16). The stone's orientation was verified and once the stone was in the sleeve at the correct orientation, the socket was packed with stones which had been excavated from the original socket (Fig. 17). By doing this, the integrity of the standing stone will not be compromised as the packing stones hold the standing stone in its socket without touching the concrete sleeve and allows water to drain into the subsoil away from the stone, preventing saturation, while ensuring that the stone is held firmly in place. The weight added to the stone from its new socket will also keep it upright and prevent any movement.

Once the stone was firmly packed in place, the strain was released on the straps, and the socket and trench were backfilled with soil (Fig. 18).

### **3.4 Finds**

The two urns are Collared Urns of the Early Bronze Age, and probably date to the period 2000-1600 BC. The larger vessel (SF2) is decorated on the collar with impressed cord decoration; the smaller vessel (SF1) is plain. Both contained cremated human bone. Several sherds from the larger vessel were found within pit **002**.

A quartz pebble from the fill of pit **008** was retained.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The Scheduled Monument of Carlinwell Standing Stone fell over in January 2010. Historic Scotland commissioned the investigation of the socket and the stone's re-erection.

A trench measuring 2m by 2m was excavated, centred on the stone's socket. Two pits containing inverted Collared Urns with cremations were found. The standing stone socket was found to be oval in plan, with a re-cut on the south side containing large packing stones, possibly in an attempt to prevent the stone from toppling as the stone had a significant lean to the south. One of the packing stones from this re-cut had damaged one of the Collared Urns, possibly during the 18th century when Jervise (1864) recorded the observation of human remains at the foot of the stone.

The stone was successfully re-erected following the excavation.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 6).

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with Historic Scotland and the Angus Council Sites and Monuments Record.

## 5. REFERENCES

### *Bibliographic*

Jervise, A 1864 'Notice of Antiquities in the Parish of Airlie, Forfarshire', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* vol 5 (1862-4), 346-357.

### *Photographs held by RCAHMS*

No.	Description	Collection	Date	Copyright
AN 40	Emergency Survey		1943	RCAHMS
A 57041	View of standing stone	Ordnance Survey	1977	RCAHMS
A 57042	View of standing stone	Ordnance Survey	1977	RCAHMS

### *Web-based Resources*

<http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/site/2822/airlie.html>

<http://www.megalithic.co.uk/article.php?sid=6623>

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/651722>

<http://www.stravaiging.com/history/ancient/site/airlie>

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
000	Natural subsoil
001	Topsoil
002	Cut of socket
003	Cut of small pit containing Urn SF1
004	Fill of 003
005	Small deposit of cremation disturbed from 008
006	Upper fill of socket
007	Lower fill of socket
008	Cut of pit containing Urn SF2
009	Fill of 008

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

SLR No.	Digital No.	Description	From	Conditions
	1-2	General view of fallen stone	SE	Overcast
	3-4	General view of fallen stone	SW	Overcast
	5-6	General view of fallen stone	NW	Overcast
	7-8	General view of fallen stone	NE	Overcast
	9-10	Detailed view of exposed socket	NE	Overcast
	11-13	Detailed view of exposed socket	NW	Sunny
	14-15	Detailed view of exposed socket	SE	Sunny
	16-17	General view of fallen stone	E	Sunny
	18-19	General view of fallen stone	SE	Sunny
	20-21	General view of fallen stone	SW	Sunny
	22-23	General view of fallen stone	NW	Sunny
	24-25	General view of fallen stone	NW	Sunny
	26-34	Stone being moved to one side	Various	Sunny
	35-36	Trench prior to excavation	NW	Overcast
	37-38	Trench prior to excavation	NE	Overcast
	39-40	Trench prior to excavation	SE	Overcast
	41-42	Trench prior to excavation	SW	Overcast
	43-44	Trench prior to excavation	SW	Overcast
1-2	45-46	Trench following topsoil removal	NE	Sunny
3-4	47-48	Trench following topsoil removal	SE	Sunny
5-6	49-50	Trench following topsoil removal	SW	Sunny
7-8	51-52	Trench following topsoil removal	NW	Sunny
9-10	53-54	View of Urn SF1	SW	Overcast
11-12	55-56	View of Urn SF1	NW	Overcast
13-14	57-58	View of Urn SF1	NE	Overcast
15-16	59-60	View of Urn SF1	SE	Overcast
17-18	61-62	Trench with socket half-sectioned	SW	Overcast
19-20	63-64	Trench with socket half-sectioned	NW	Overcast
21-22	65-66	Trench with socket half-sectioned	NE	Overcast
23-24	67-68	Trench with socket half-sectioned	SE	Overcast
25-26	69-70	Section of pit 002	NW	Overcast
27-28	71-72	View of pit 009 with packing stone across Urn SF2	SE	Overcast
29-30	73-74	View of pit 009 with packing stone across Urn SF2	NE	Overcast
31-32	75-76	View of pit 009 with packing stone across Urn SF2	NW	Overcast
33-34	77-78	View of pit 009 with packing stone across Urn SF2	SW	Overcast
1-2	79-82	General views of Urn SF2 part-excavated	Various	Overcast
3-4	83-84	General working shots	Various	Overcast
5-6	86-86	Post-excavation with Urn SF2 still in place	NE	Overcast

7-8	87-88	Post-excavation with Urn SF2 still in place	SE	Overcast
9-10	89-90	Post-excavation with Urn SF2 still in place	SW	Overcast
11-12	91-92	Post-excavation with Urn SF2 still in place	NW	Overcast
13-14	93	Post-excavation with Urn SF2 still in place	SW	Overcast
15-20	94-98	Views of Urn SF2 prior to removal	Various	Overcast
	99-100	General working shots	Various	Rain

### APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Dwg No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1	1:20	Plan	Pre-excavation plan
2	1	1:20	Plan	Mid-excavation plan
3	1	1:20	Plan	Plan showing half section of 002 and pits 003 and 009
4	1	1:10	Section	West-facing section of 002
5	1	1:10	Section	West-facing section of 003
6	1	1:20	Plan	Post-excavation plan
7	1	1:10	Section	South-facing profile of 002/009

### APPENDIX 4: Finds Register

SF No.	Context	Find type	Notes	Spotdate
1	004	Pottery	Small Collared Urn containing cremation	EBA
2	008	Pottery	Decorated Collared Urn containing cremation	EBA
-	001	Burnt bone		
-	004	Pottery		EBA
-	006	Pottery		EBA
-	006	Burnt bone		
-	008	Pottery		EBA
-	009	Pottery		EBA
-	009	Stone	Quartz pebble	

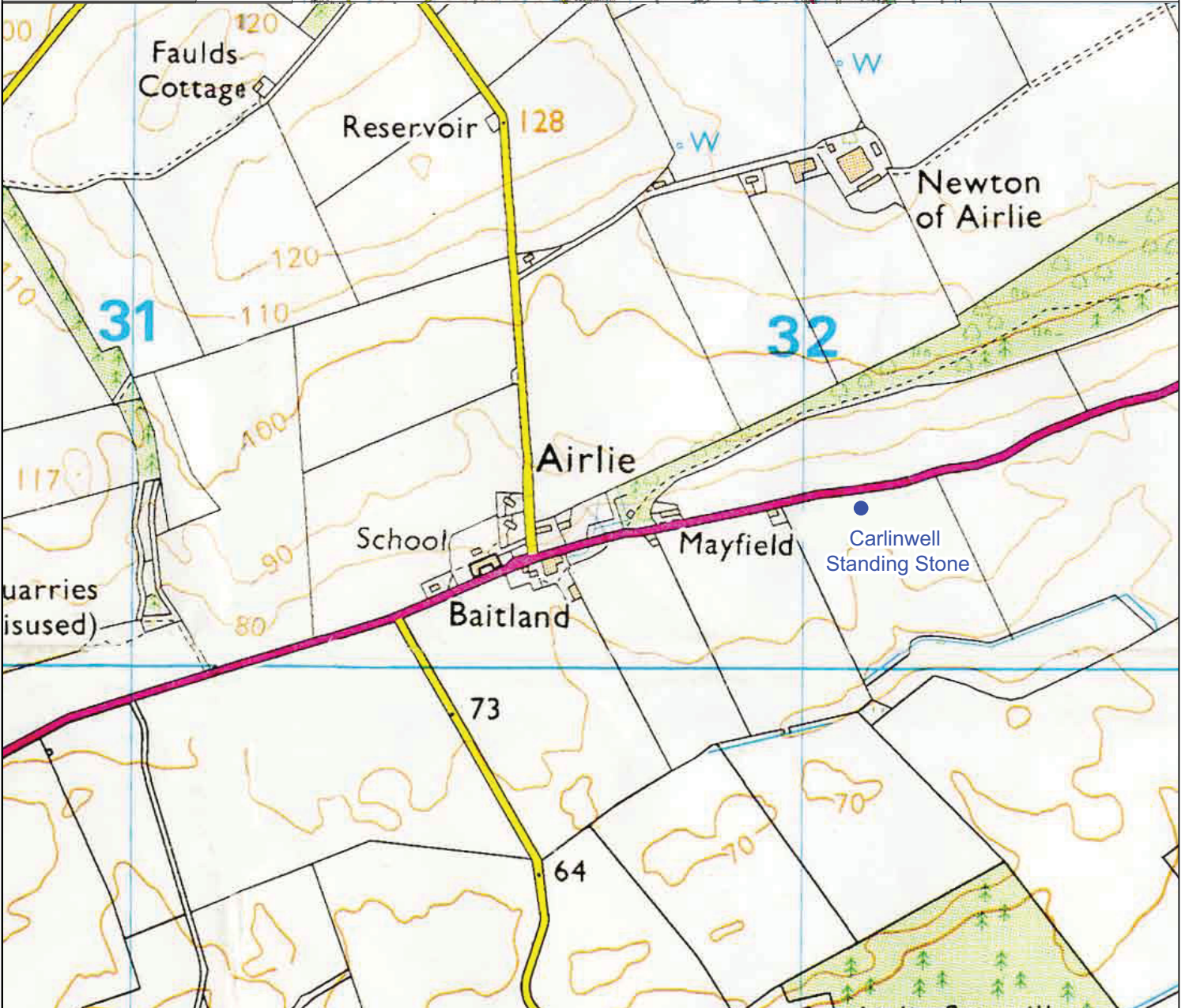
### APPENDIX 5: Samples Register

Sample No.	Context	Feature	Sample type	Volume
1	004	Pit 003	Bulk	2l
2	006	Pit 002, upper fill	Bulk	28l
3	005	Spilled cremation from pit 008	Bulk	2l
4	006	Pit 002, cremation from pit 008 in re-cut	Bulk	8l
5	007	Pit 002, basal fill	Bulk	6l
6	006	Pit 002, cremation from pit 008 in re-cut	Bulk	6l
7	009	Urn fill, Spit 1	Bulk	1l
8	009	Urn fill, Spit 2	Bulk	1l
9	009	Urn fill, Spit 3	Bulk	1l

## APPENDIX 6: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Angus
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Carlinwell Standing Stone
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	CARL
<b>PARISH:</b>	Airlie
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Melanie Johnson
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Excavation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NO35SW 22
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Standing stone, cremation pit
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Collared Urn and cremation
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NO 3208 5025
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	07 March 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	11 March 2011
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	The Scheduled Monument of Carlinwell Standing Stone fell over in January 2010. Historic Scotland commissioned the investigation of the socket and the stone's re-erection. A trench measuring 2m by 2m was excavated, centred on the stone's socket. Two pits containing inverted Collared Urns with cremations were found. The standing stone socket was found to be oval in plan and measured 1.1m by 0.8m, with a re-cut on the south side containing large packing stones, possibly in an attempt to prevent the stone from toppling as the stone had a significant lean to the south. One of the packing stones from this re-cut had damaged one of the Collared Urns.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	Post-excavation
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Scotland
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland Angus Council Sites and Monuments Record





Key:

Scale:

Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland
Title:	Location Map				
Project:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie				

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Drawn by:	LW	Checked:	LW	Report No:	1875
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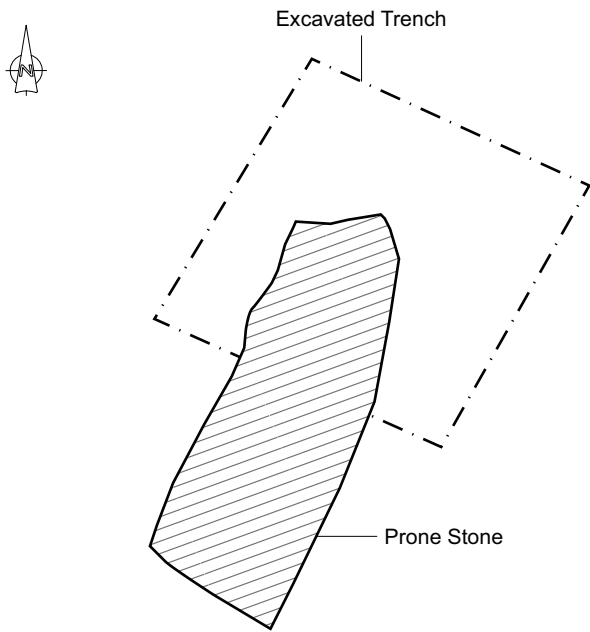


Fig. 2 - Location of prone stone and excavated trench

Fig. 3a - View of prone stone in relation to exposed socket and packing stones from the north-east



Fig. 3b - View of prone stone in relation to exposed socket and packing stones from the south-east


Key:	Fig. No:	2,3	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
	Title:						
Scale:	Project:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie				Drawn by: LW Checked: LW Report No: 1875	





Fig. 4 - Stone being moved prior to excavation



Fig. 5 - View of trench from north-east with topsoil removed


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	Title:										
Project:											
Scale:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie					Drawn by:	LW	Checked:	LW	Report No:	1875





Fig. 6 - Urn SF1 prior to removal



Fig. 7 - Socket (002) half-sectioned from north-west, with SF2 visible and pit 003 fully excavated


Key:	Fig. No:	6,7	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
	Title:						
Scale:	Project:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie				Drawn by: LW Checked: LW Report No: 1875	





Fig. 8 - Section of socket (002) and pit 009 in plan with SF2 visible



Fig. 9 - Fully excavated socket (002) from south-west with SF2 visible



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	Title:						
Scale:	Project:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie				Drawn by: LW Checked: LW Report No: 1875	



Fig. 10 - Urn SF2 prior to removal

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Project:											
Scale:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie					Drawn by:	LW	Checked:	LW	Report No:	1875



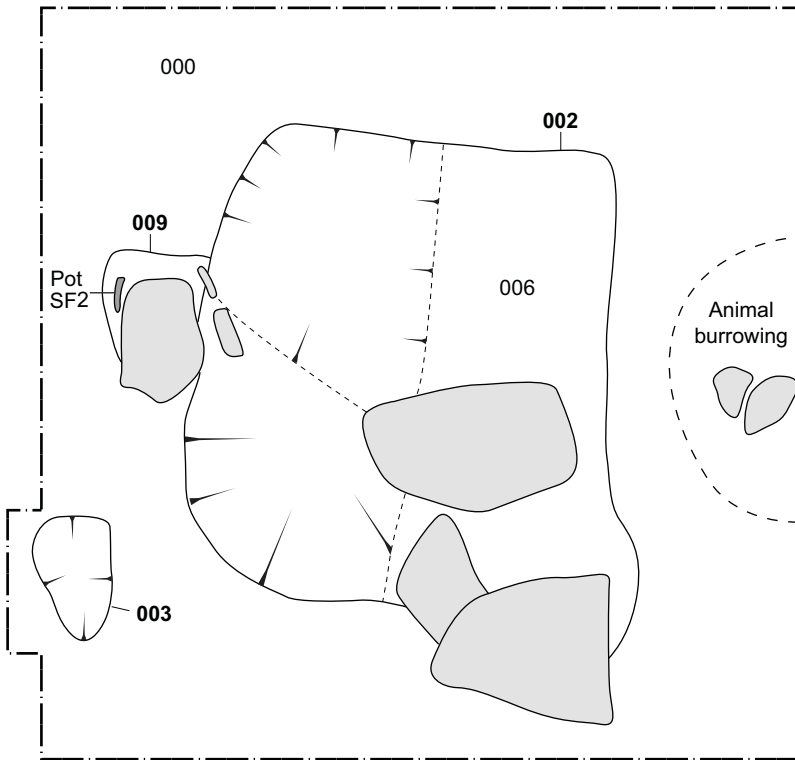


Fig. 11 - Plan of trench

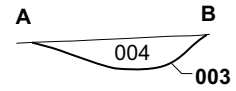


Fig. 12 - Section of pit 003



Fig. 13 - Profile of pit 002 and 009

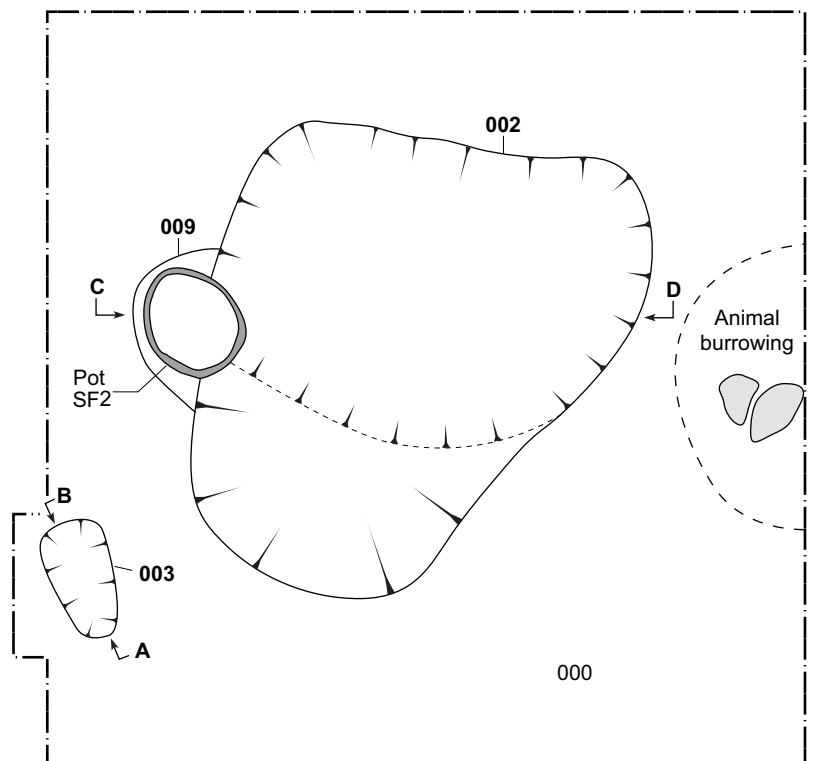


Fig. 14 - Post-excavation plan of trench

Key:	Scale: 50 cm 0 50 cm
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Fig. No:	11-14	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland
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Project:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie				

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Fig. 15 - Prepared concrete socket



Fig. 16 - Manoeuvring the stone into the concrete sleeve


Key:	Fig. No:	15,16	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland
	Title:					
	Project:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie				
Scale:						 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
						Drawn by: LW    Checked: LW    Report No: 1875



Fig. 17 - Packing stones within new socket



Fig. 18 - The re-erected stone



Key:	Fig. No:	17,18	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland
	Title:					
Scale:	Project:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie				
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Drawn by: LW      Checked: LW      Report No: 1875						





Fig. 19 - View of stone in 1977 (copyright RCAHMS)

Key:	Fig. No:	19	Revision:	A	Client:	Historic Scotland	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>				
	Title:										
Project:											
Scale:	Carlinwell Standing Stone, Airlie					Drawn by:	LW	Checked:	LW	Report No:	1875