CENTRE *for* FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY

University of Edinburgh

July, 1996

Commissioned by Highland Regional Council Roads and Transport Department

A836 Lednagualin to Ben Ainnie, Sutherland District, Highland Region.

Archaeological Excavations

Data Structure Report

Report No. 278

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA standard operating procedures.

Author: pp Helen Skinner Date 8/7/96

Approved by: Date 8/7/96

Draft/Final Report Stage: Final

Richard J Strachan MA FSA(Scot) AIFA

Illustrator: Kirsty Cameron MA and Mark Roughley
Editor: Bill Finlayson MA PhD FSA FSA (Scot) MIFA
CFA Director: Ian Ralston MA PhD FSA FSA(Scot) MIFA

CENTRE *for* FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY
Old High School
12 Infirmary Street
Edinburgh EH1 1LT

Tel: 0131-650-8197
Fax: 0131-662-4094

CONTENTS

Appendices

Illustrations

0. SUMMARY

0.1 Background

0.1.1 This project was based on the Specification for Archaeological Excavation Work with attached maps and the survey report produced by AOC (Scotland) Ltd, all sent to CFA by Highland Regional Council Archaeology Service on 25 November 1994. The project involved the excavation, or sample excavation, of three hut circles, one possible circular structure,three dykes, clearance cairns, an arable area, two peat deposits, four trackways and an old road. Work was conducted before commencement of road improvement works.

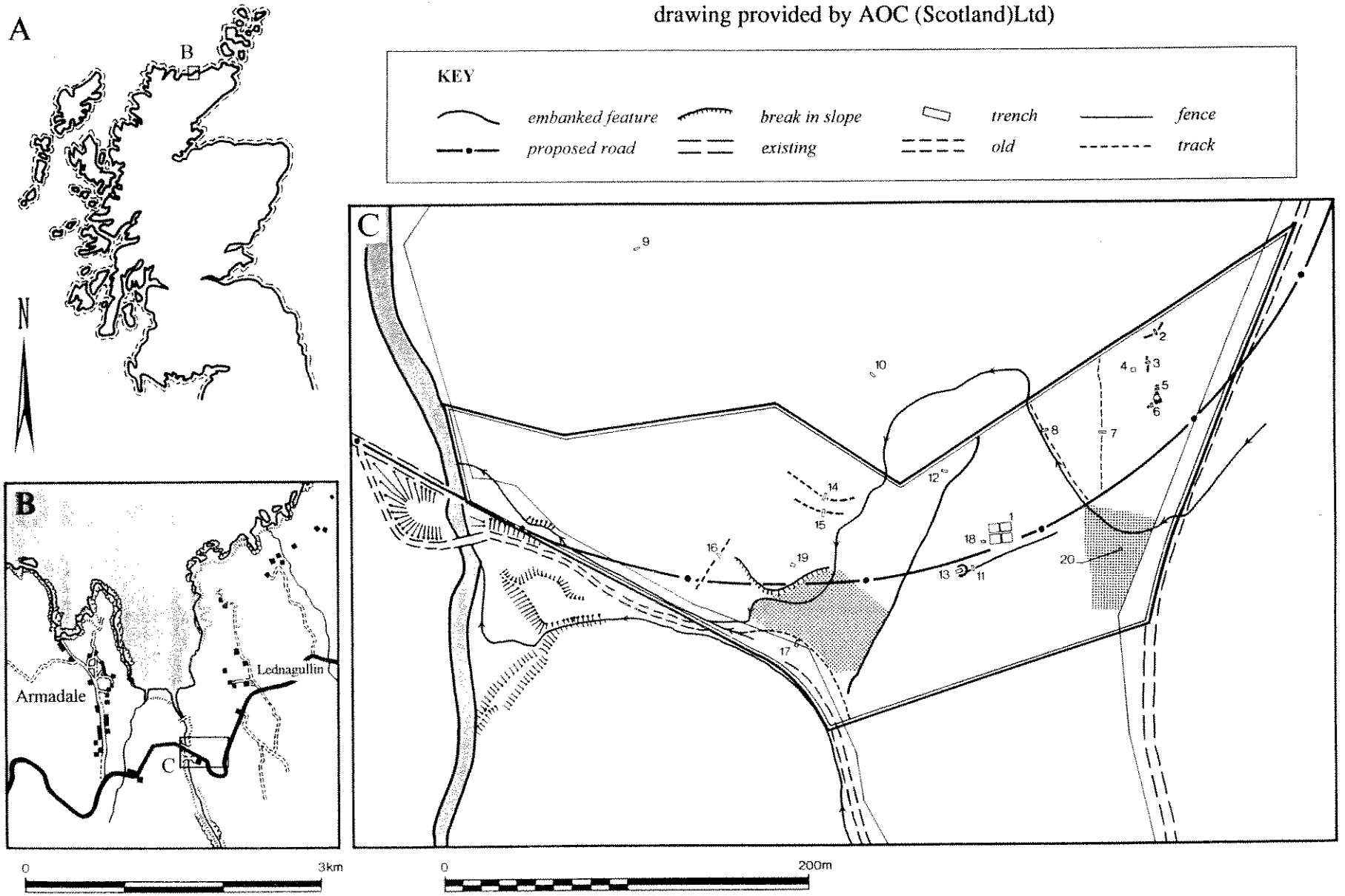
0.2 Objectives

0.2.1 Within the constraints of survival and preservation of the sites, the research was designed to focus on one of the hut circles, to provide information on chronology, construction methods, and the relationship of the site to similar features and the surrounding landscape.

0.3 Results

0.3.1 Excavation has shown that the hut circles are all reasonably well preserved structures containing internal structural evidence, artefacts and deposits suitable for dating and environmental analysis. The other remains examined are generally poorly preserved, or are the remains of very simple construction processes, with little material suitable for dating.

Fig 1 - Site plan showing approximate trench locations (based on the original survey drawing provided by AOC (Scotland)Ltd)



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This project was based on the Specification for Archaeological Excavation Work with attached maps and the survey report produced by AOC (Scotland) Ltd, all sent to CFA by Highland Regional Council Archaeology Service on 25 November 1994. The project involved the excavation of a number of archaeological sites before commencement of road construction. The research was funded by Highland Regional Council and managed by the Highland Archaeological Service.

1.1.2 The report produced by AOC (Scotland) Ltd (O'Sullivan and Duffy, 1994) provided a description of the study area and a discussion of the sites under threat. The specification from Highland Regional Council listed the particular sites that were to be examined and detailed the work to be conducted on each site. The methods statement provided here is based on these sources and on an examination of previous survey conducted in the area by Mercer (1985), which had identified the principle sites present. No site visit was made prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.1.3 The list of sites examined is as follows:

Hut Circle (Site No. 3, Mercer's site 146)
Hut Circle (Mercer's site 138)
Hut Circle (Mercer's site 141)
Circular Structure (Site No. 5)
Dykes (Site No.s 4,6 & 13)
Clearance Cairns (Site No. 1)
Arable area (Site No. 9)
Peat Deposits (Sites No.s 11 & 12)
Trackways (Sites No.s 2,7,8 & 14)
Old Road (Site No. 10)

1.1.4 This range of archaeological features is typical of the types of remains that are located during any linear transect through rural landscapes. Many of these features have in the past been considered as being of relatively minor archaeological importance, but are now generally accepted as providing useful archaeological information. Part of this relates to our understanding of how people have used the landscape in the past. This applies to such features as the various probably agricultural remains, such as dykes, clearance cairns and arable areas, and to elements of communication systems, such as tracks and roads. Peat deposits are also important to our understanding of the use of the landscape, as the environmental record preserved in them can provide data on local land-use patterns, including information on forest clearance phases and woodland regeneration.

1.1.5 The only site that is not one of the minor features is the hut circle (Site no 3). No previous invasive work had been conducted on this site. Hut circles are amongst the most common field monuments in northern Scotland, although

relatively few have been investigated in detail (Sabine 1982). Recent work conducted by MacCullagh at Lairg has begun to provide more detailed information. The construction effort required is quite substantial and implies a degree of permanency of residence, an interpretation supported by the work at Lairg which has produced evidence of multi-phase occupation. This confirms earlier impressions of multiphase use (cf Barclay 1981) and the long continuity of the structure type through the Bronze and Iron ages.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

Hut Circle

1.2.1 The number and geographic range of hut circles examined by excavation remains small. Hut circles in this area are rare. Within the constraints of survival and preservation of the site, this excavation was designed to address the following main objectives:

1) Provide chronological information on the date of use and the length of occupation, through C14 dating and through the examination of artefacts.

2) Determine the construction methods used, and the structural history of the site, especially any evidence for earlier structures.

3) Determine the function of the hut circle and the terrace occupied by the structure.

4) Determine the use of the area below the terrace, at the foot of the rock-face.

5) Determine the relationship of the hut circle with the neighbouring hut circles identified by Mercer.

Circular Structure

1.2.2 The field survey was not able to determine the function of this feature. The size, shape and the association of the structure with a dyke all suggest that it may have served as a hay ree. This excavation was designed to date and characterise the construction of the structure and determine its relationship to the associated bank.

Dykes

1.2.3 Dykes 4 and 6 appear as substantial boundaries defining pastoral enclosures. It is unlikely that these contain complex patterns of information, unless they incorporate previous structures. It was thought that the third dyke (no 13), although residual, might contain buried evidence of former cultivation practices. Such information will only be obtained from careful examination of the stratigraphy, soils and any other environmental data present. The difficulties of recording and interpreting such information led CFA to

recommend avoiding excavating the site in winter, when observation of evidence in the field would be problematic. These excavations were designed to characterise the structure of the dykes, and if possible to recover material for radiocarbon dating.

Clearance Cairns and Arable Areas

1.2.4 Three cairns were interpreted on the survey evidence as clearance cairns, although the difficulty of interpreting function from survey data was acknowledged. Even if the cairns are simply the result of clearance, they may date from any period prior to the 19th century, and the cairns may therefore provide a useful indication of land-use in the area over time. Furthermore, the cairns may lie over, and therefore preserve, former structures and buried soils. Both structural and pedalogical information may provide important information on land-use patterns prior to the construction of the cairns. It is also possible that topsoil has been removed prior to stone dumping, which would give an indication of the importance of good soil in the area. Even if topsoil was removed it is possible that subsoils may preserve traces of previous tillage, such as ard marks. Such evidence may also be obtainable from the arable areas to be examined. These excavations were designed to determine the function, nature and date of the cairns and to identify evidence for the existence and character of tillage within the arable areas and below the cairns.

Peat Deposits

1.2.5 Two areas (11 &12) were noted to contain peaty deposits. A programme of coring and excavation was conducted to determine whether the areas of peat hold any potential for palaeoenvironmental reconstructions and whether radiocarbon dating is appropriate to any of the peat deposits.

Trackways and Old Road

1.2.6 A series of trackways and an old metalled road lie within the area. The metalled road, probably part of Telford's original road here is of historical interest. One of the trackways present may represent the precursor to this road. CFA has considerable experience in attempting to unravel sequences of road building gained during projects that involved multiple crossings of (alleged) Roman Roads. The tracks and the road were trenched to characterise their construction and recover any samples for radiocarbon dating. It was noted at the outset that the chances of obtaining secure contexts to provide good samples for radiocarbon dating are fairly low.

1.3 Weather Conditions

1.3.1 Unfortunately, due to programming of the overall road improvement project, it proved impossible to conduct the archaeological research during the most suitable weather conditions. Indeed, when fieldwork commenced, a particularly severe period of rain, sleet and snow ensued. It was decided, in consultation with the Highland Regional Council's Regional Roads Unit, to

finish the excavation in early spring when weather conditions became so difficult that members of the team could no longer stand up in the treacherous conditions pertaining within the hut circle. The excavation of the hut circle was therefore completed in spring, when stratigraphic layers could be distinguished.

1.4 DES report

1.4.1 A summary report of the results will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1996*.

1.5 Archiving and finds disposal

1.5.1 Copies of the site archives will be deposited with Highland Regional Council Sites and Monuments Record, the National Monuments Record of Scotland and Colin Mackenzie, Regional Roads Unit, Brora.

1.6 Acknowledgments

1.6.1 CFA wishes to thank Colin MacKenzie, Project Engineer of Highland Regional Council's Regional Roads Unit, and Highland Regional Council Archaeology service for their assistance throughout fieldwork. The main contractor, Messrs A. C. Makay of Kildary were vey helpful in arranging construction at the time of the final watching brief.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

2.1.1 Where appropriate, CFA followed the Codes and Standards established by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

2.2 Excavation

2.2.1 The archaeological excavations along the route of the road line consisted of one large area, over the hut circle, and seventeen smaller trenches over the remaining minor features. In addition, two areas of peat were examined. The exact dimensions of the trenches were as detailed in the Project Brief supplied by Highland Regional Council. All trenches were hand excavated.

2.2.2 Excavation proceeded according to standard stratigraphic principles. Recording was conducted according to established CFA methods, and included the use of CFA record forms, drawing in plan and section (with levels tied to Ordnance Datum), and photography. All artefacts were collected for examination. Samples of appropriate contexts were collected for flotation and sieving, for artefacts and ecofacts. Samples were collected specifically to provide material suitable for radiocarbon dating and to provide palaeoenvironmental data.

2.2.3 Two of the trenches (Trenches 9 and 10) were backfilled and reinstated on the completion of excavation.

2.2.4 Further excavation and a watching brief was conducted on the hut circle (Site No 3) for one week in February/March 1996 to enable a larger portion of the entrance-way to be examined, and to monitor the removal of the remaining parts of the hut circle walls.

2.3 Reporting

2.3.1 No unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries were made.

2.3.2 This report is as described in the specification. Recommendations for a programme of post-exacavation analysis are made in a separate document with a costed assessment. Copies of this report will be distributed according to the specification.

2.3.3 A brief summary of the archaeological results of the assessment will be submitted for inclusion in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.*

2.4 Analysis

2.4.1 Following the completion of fieldwork a programme of preliminary analysis was conducted. Tasks undertaken included preliminary stratigraphic analysis; specialist assessment of the artefact assemblage and palaeoenvironmental

samples; cataloguing of all finds, drawings, photographs and other site records; preparation of illustrations.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

3.1.1 The archaeological excavations have provided an opportunity to examine a wide range of sites of differing periods concentrated within a small area.

3.1.2 The excavation of the hut circle (Site3) has shown the relatively well preserved remains of a structure with some complexity including re-occupation and re-use. Trial excavation in the two nearby hut-circles has provided samples potentially suitable for providing radiocarbon dates 3.

3.1.3 The excavations have discounted the presence of a smaller putative circular structure and have characterised the differing preservation and structural complexities of the other sites investigated. The other remains investigated proved to have little or no structure to them and did not have deposits suitable for providing radiocarbon dates.

3.1.4 A preliminary palaeoenvironmental assessment of the peat deposits has shown that the temporal relationship of the peat deposits to the archaeological evidence in the area can be established.

3.1.5 In the following discussion context numbers are given in bold in parentheses.

3.2 Hut Circle and terrace (Site 3; Mercer's Site 146): Trench 1 (c.155m², Fig. 2), Trench 18 (c. 3m²)

3.2.1 Trench 1 uncovered an area of c. 155m², which defined the walls, interior and entrance-way of the hut circle. The structure was pennanular in plan, with an entrance-way in the south-western wall (Fig. 2). The hut circle had an external diameter of c. 13m and an internal diameter of 7.6m. The walls measured approximately 2.5m wide and survived in three quadrants to a height of c. 1.2m maximum. The walls widenened to 4.4m at the entrance, forming a narrow entrance-passsage 1.2m wide. The walls of the structure were constructed of large sub-angular boulders which formed the inner and outer faces, with the core of the wall consisting of a medium and large boulder infill. The wall of the hut circle in the south-eastern quadrant was present only in a very denuded state, but had been built by cutting into the slope of the hill and subsequently revetting the slope. The denuded state of the wall in this quadrant is most likely the result of stone robbing for the adjacent field bank.

3.2.2 At least two phases of use were apparent from the internal deposits, which indicate these phases were probably separated by a conflagration event. The primary phase of occupation was represented by a central hearth (**120**, **147**), a number of internal structural features, and a cobbled entrance-passage. The central hearth was encircled by a concentric ring of stone settings representing post-pads for the positioning of timber uprights. In addition to these were a number of post-holes, stake-holes and pits.

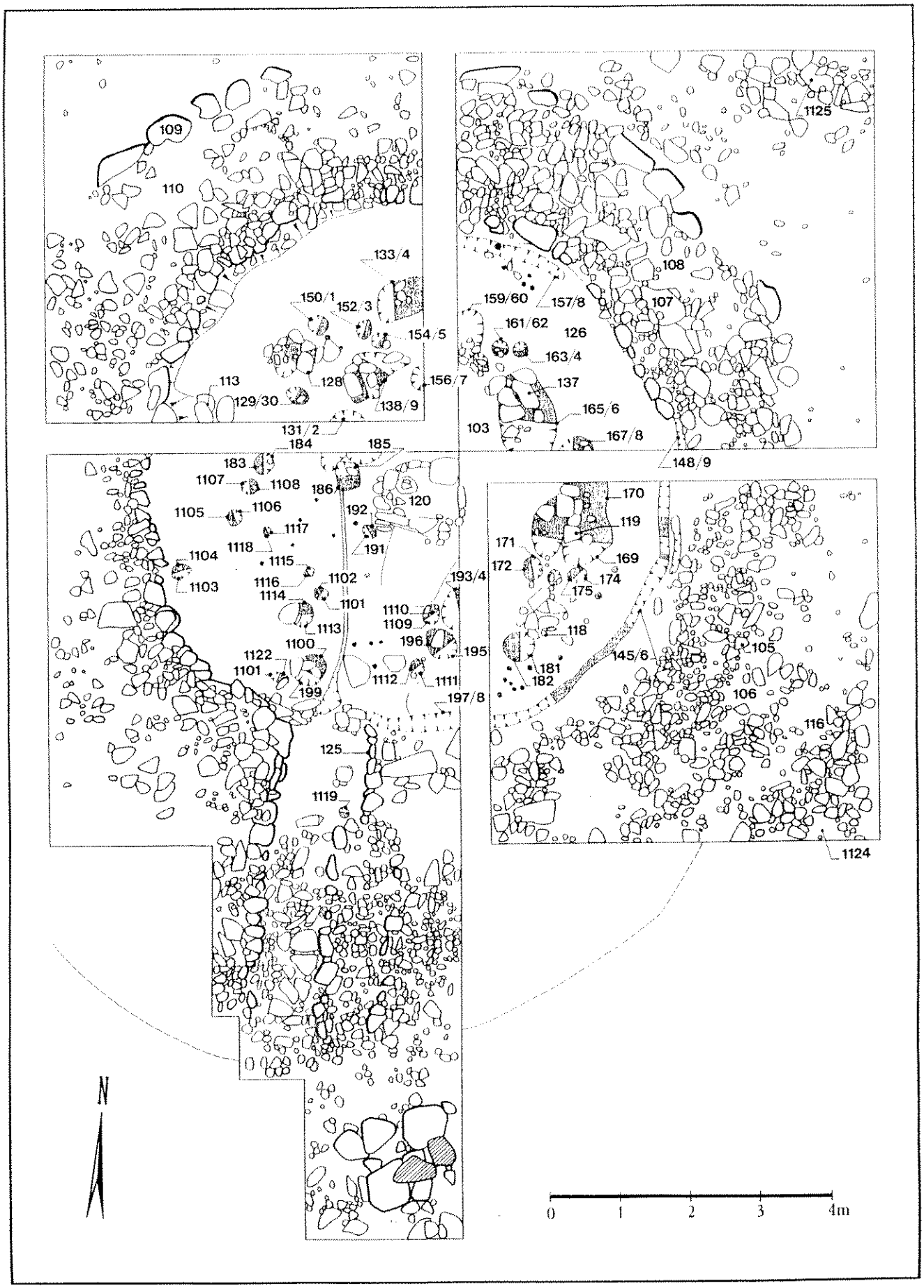


Fig 2. Plan of Hut Circle (Site No. 3, Mercer's Site 146) prior to the removal of the baulks, showing main structural characteristics.

3.2.3 Two curvilinear slots (**197**, **145**, **148**, **157**) were located in the north-eastern and south-eastern quadrants. These appear to represent the footings of a hurdle facing to the wall in these quadrants, perhaps to reinforce and revett the structure from the inside as this is on the hillslope side of the structure. An internal linear slot (**187**) was also located running from the entrance-way to a post-hole west of the hearth. This appears to represent the footings of an internal hurdle partition wall segregating the interior of the structure. This interpretation is reinforced by the quantity of pottery and hammer-stones which were found in abundance within this area, and the inner-face of the wall in the south-western quadrant which was of a much neater construction than elswhere in the structure.

3.2.4 The stratified deposits relating to the primary phase of occupation within the hut-circle were largely confined to a single mixed layer of black and orange silty ash (**103**). This was present in all quadrants but had accumulated to a greater extent in the south-western quadrant. It appears that this deposit had been eroded from the other quadrants, most likely by hillwash from the slope, following the initial abandonment and subsequent partial collapse of parts of the structure. This occupation deposit was also found to survive in the eastern quadrants beneath the collapsed wall-faces, which had protected it from the eroding elements. This mixed material may represent a conflagration deposit relating to the burning and subsequent collapse of the roof.

3.2.5 The second phase of occupation is less definite and is represented by a narrowing of the entrance-passage (**122**, **123**) and the laying of paving stones within the entrance area (**121**). The relationship between the second phase entrance-way and the internal features, some of which may have been reused, is unclear at present.

3.2.6 A tentative third phase of use is possibly represented by the robbing of the wall in the south-eastern quadrant and the partial infilling of the entrance passage (**114**). This infilling, however, may be the result of a natural process of collapse of the adjacent walls. The robbing of the wall in the south-eastern quadrants may have had two functions, firstly to provide material for the construction of the adjacent bank, and secondly to widen the entrance into the structure, possibly for reuse as a sheepfank, as is common with this type of site.

3.2.7 The finds from Trench 1 mainly consist of pottery and coarse stone tools. Almost all were recovered from the occupation depost (**103**) and from the south-western quadrant. The pottery assemblage was largely of small body sherds of undecorated vessels, with a few rims included. Initial analysis suggests at least four different fabrics are represented. Almost all of the coarse stone tools are hammerstones or unworked beach-pebbles, representing manuports brought to the site but not used. Heat/thermal shock fractures on some of the pebbles may be indicative of their use as pot-boilers. In addition, a few possible stone rubbers were recovered and a saddle quern was located in a secondary context associated with the narrowing of the entrance passage.

3.2.8 Trench 18 measuring c. 2m by 1.5m was exacavated on the western side of the terrace in an attempt to locate any midden deposits associated with the adjacent hut circle. No features of archaeological significance were located.

3.3 Hut Circle (Mercer's Site 138): Trench 9 (c. 3m²)

3.3.1 Trench 9 measured 3m by 1m and was located across the western wall and interior of the hut circle identifed by Mercer in 1981.

3.3.2 This keyhole trench located the inner wall face of the hut circle, an occupation deposit (**903**), and possible paving (**905**). Samples of the occupation deposit were collected for radiocarbon dating.

3.3.3 No finds were made in this trench and the trench was reinstated on completion of excavation.

3.4. Hut Circle (Mercer's Site 141): Trench 10 (c. 3m²)

3.4.1 Trench 10 measured 3m by 1m and was located across the northern wall and interior of the hut circle identified by Mercer in 1981.

3.4.2 This keyhole trench located the inner wall of the hut circle (**1002**), partial wall collapse (**1004**), and an occupation deposit (**1003**).). Samples of the occupation deposit were collected for radiocarbon dating.

3.4.3 No finds were made in this trench and the trench was reinstated on completion of excavation.

3.5 Circular Structure (Site No. 5): Trench 13 (7m²)

3.5.1 Trench 13 measured 3.5m by 2m and was located across the northern half of the putative circular structure, and also incorporating the stone dyke (Site No. 5).

3.5.2 This feature was revealed to be natural in origin, consisting of an outcrop of bedrock which had an oval central depression caused by the fracturing of the bedrock, most likely by natural forces and the dense growth of gorse on its summit.

3.5.3 The stone dyke (Site No. 5) was revealed to have been built on top of and partly incoporating the bedrock outcrop.

3.6 Dykes (Site No.s 4, 6, 13): Trenches 1 and 11 (6m² and 1.5m²); Trench 12 (12m²);Trench 2 (3m²).

3.6.1 Trench 11 measured 3m by 0.5m and was excavated across the stone dyke (Site No. 4) south-east of Trench 1. This trench failed to reveal the structural characteristics of the dyke and provided no dating evidence for its construction. Trench 1 was extended across the dyke to provide evidence for

any stratigraphical relationship between the dyke (Site No. 4) and the hut circle (Site No. 3).

3.6.2 Trench 1 revealed the stone dyke to have been constructed of two parallel rows of large angular boulders and occasional large tabular uprights (**1131**). Surface traces indicated that the area between these stone alignments may have been infilled with smaller angular stones, however this was not proved by excavation.

3.6.3 The stone dyke (Site No.4) was stratigraphically later than the hut circle, being constructed upon a deposit of light brown silty sand (**1132**) which in turn overlay the hut circle wall in the south-western quadrant (**112**).

3.6.4 Although constructed stratigraphically later than the hut circle, the chronological range is not yet known.

3.6.5 Trench 12 measured 3m by 1m and was located across the field dyke (Site No. 6). Surface traces indicated the presence of stone protruding through the turf cover.

3.6.6 Excavation revealed the field bank to be of simple dump construction comprising a light brown silty clay, containing few stones (**1202**). The bank measured 2.2m wide and was extant to 0.70m in height. The large stones visible protruding through the turf did not form a major component to the bank and appear to be a secondary dumping of clearance onto an already existing boundary. No finds were made and no dating evidence was retrieved.

3.6.7 Trench 2 measured 3m by 1m and was located across a low, linear and poorly-defined break in surface interpreted as a remnant dyke (Site No. 13).

3.6.8 Excavation revealed the remains of a stone dyke constructed of large sub-rounded and occasional rounded stones (**202**), surviving to a height of c. 0.2m and a maximum of two courses high. The exact width of the dyke could not be established as it had little structural coherence to it, and was surrounded by collapse, but it would appear to be around 1.2m wide. The stones were contained within a matrix of a very dark, homogeneous fine silt (**203**), very similar in make-up to that located in Trench 3 (**303**, see 3.7.3 below).

3.6.9 It appears that the remnant dyke defines the edge between an area of dry turf with thin heather cover and a lower, less-well drained area with rushes and coarse grasses, as identified in the survey.

3.7 Clearance Cairns (Site No.1): Trench 3 (3.75m^2); **Trench 5** (2 m^2); **Trench 6** (2m^2)

3.7.1 Trench 3 measured 2m by 1.5m and was located across the eastern side of a small cairn measuring 5m (north-south) by 2.5m (east-west) and extant to a height of c. 0.5m.

3.7.2 Excavation revealed a simple dump of stones (**302**) consisting of medium-sized sub-angular stones and very large angular stones. The stone dump showed no structural coherence, suggesting that the feature is a clearance cairn, or part of a discontinuous stone field boundary.

3.7.3 A single flint platform rejuvenation flake (SFN: 13) was recovered from a very dark homogeneous, fine silt containing the stone dump (**303**). It is unlikely that this is a later intrusion and indicates a prehistoric date for the stone clearance.

3.7.4 Trench 5 measured 2m by 1m and was located across the western half of a small cairn measuring c. 4m in diameter and extant to a height of 0.4m.

3.7.5 Excavation revealed a simple dump of stones (**502**) approximately 0.4m in height and consisting of large sub-angular and rounded boulders with occasional angular stones. No structural coherence was observed, and this feature appears to be a simple clearance dump. No finds were made.

3.7.6 Trench 6 measured 2m by 1m and was located across the southern end of a small cairn measuring c. 7.5m (east-west) by 2.5m (north-south) and extant to a height of 0.7m. The cairn was located to the south of Trench 5.

3.7.7 Excavation revealed a simple stone dump of large angular stones (**602**) approximately 0.4m in depth. Trench flooding prevented the further excavation of this feature. However it was observed that the dump had no structural coherency and appears to be a simple clearance cairn. No finds were made.

3.7.8 A natural deposit of a light grey, fine, silt (**304**, **503**, **604**) was located underlying all of the three cairns examined. No evidence for tillage or any form of agriculture was found. It is possible that the two cairns examined by Trenches 5 and 6, which appear to abutt each other, are part of a denuded stone field boundary, created by the clearance of the adjacent field and possibly associated with Site 13.

3.8 Arable Area (Site No. 1 and Site No. 9): Trench 4 *($4m^2$)*; Trench 19 *($4m^2$)*

3.8.1 Trench 4 measured 2m by 2m and was located within the arable area identified during the survey (Site No.1), adjacent to the field clearance cairns. No archaeological features or evidence of tillage was located.

3.8.2 Trench 19 measured 2m by 2m and was located within an arable area identified during the survey (Site No. 9). No features of archaeological interest or evidence of tillage were located.

3.9 Peat Deposits (Site No.s 11 and 12): Trench 20 ($4m^2$)

3.9.1 Core samples were taken across the peat deposits located during the survey (Site Nos 11 and 12).

3.9.2 Two transects of cores were taken at 6m intervals across Site No. 11 indicating a maximum peat depth of 0.5m for this area. It is therefore unlikely that this deposit holds any potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

3.9.3 Coring of the deposits in Site 12 demonstrated a total peat depth of 0.84m. In addition two layers of wood litter were identified within the peat deposits. These layers were identified at depths of 0.22m and 0.67m. In addition to coring, a 2x2m trench was excavated of which a section was box sampled, wood from each of the litter layers was also collected.

3.9.4 Obtaining a radiocarbon date for the basal peat deposits in order to get a TPQ on peat formation should be a priority. On the basis of this result the temporal relationship of the peat deposits to the archaeological evidence in the area can be established. It may thus be possible to investigate patterns of vegetation change and human impact. It is however possible that the deposits may be truncated by peat cuting events in the past.

3.10 Trackways (Site No.s 2, 7, 8, 14): Trench 8 ($3.5m^2$); **Trench 14** ($4m^2$); **Trench 15** ($4m^2$); **Trench 7** ($4m^2$)

3.10.1 Trench 8 measured 3.5m by 1m and was located across the north-south running trackway (Site No.2), which lies parallel to a burn.

3.10.2 Excavation revealed the presence of a terrace approximately 1.3m wide and cut slightly into the hill-slope (**807**) to the east, and revetted to the west by a denuded stone alignment consisting of large sub-angular boulders, adjacent to the burn (**805**).

3.10.3 Contained within the cut and by the revetting wall was a deposit of yellow sand containing 30% sub-angular stones and lenses of iron-panning, probably representing the original trackway surface (**804**). This surface, however, survived in a relatively poor condition, and it is probable that it was never very substantial.

3.10.4 Immediately overlying this surface and the revetting wall was a deposit of silty sand (**803**), which appears to have been laid down by a rise in the level of the burn, indicating that the burn has been prone to flooding in the past.

3.10.5 No finds were made and none of the deposits contained charcoal, therefore a date cannot be established for the construction of this trackway.

3.10.6 Trenches 14 and 15 were excavated across the remnants of two narrow trackways identified during survey (Site No. 7). Both trenches measured c. 4m by 1m and were orientated approximately north-south.

3.10.7 Trench 14 was excavated across the northern and upper of the two trackways and located a series of sand deposits (**1402-1405**) upon bedrock (**1406**). These deposits appear to be natural accummlations, with a thin lense of sand (**1404**)

probably representing a wind-blown deposit. No deposit was located that could be definitely described as a trackway surface. However, the trackway appears to have utilised both a slight flattening of the bedrock and the build up of sand deposits down-slope which form the relatively flat surface of a positive lynchet. The slight flattening of the bedrock may have been artificially created or enhanced, as a possible cut (**1407**) was located on the northern side and through the bedrock. The outside edge of the trackway appears to have been defined by an alignment of large sub-angular stones, which would indicate a width of c. 2.5m for the trackway.

3.10.8 No finds were made from this trench and no samples suitable for dating were collected.

3.10.9 Trench 15 was excavated across the lower of the two trackways and located the cut for the trackway (**1507**) through the compacted subsoil. No clear structural remains of the trackway were located, however a possible levelling deposit may be represented by a layer of large sub-angular stones and sand (**1504** and **1505**). These stones also appear to define the outer edge of the trackway, giving it a width of c. 2.5m. Immediately sealing this layer was a layer of light brown/yellow sand, c. 0.06-0.18m in depth and possibly a windblown deposit.

3.10.10 No finds were made from this trench and no samples suitable for dating were collected.

3.10.11 Trench 7 measured 4m by 1m and was located across a level, grassy trackway identified during survey. No archaeologically significant features were revealed in this trench. The surface indications which most likely led to the interpretation of a trackway appear to be extremely recent in origin e.g. a JCB track left during the excavation of test pits by Highland Regional Council.

3.11 Old Road (Site No. 10): Trench 17 (4m²)

3.11.1 This trench measured 4m by 1m and was opened across a section of a metalled causeway identified during survey as probably part of Thomas Telford's orginal road (O'Sullivan and Duffy 1994). Excavation of this trench was hindered by severe flooding due to heavy rain and the proximity to marsh area to the north.

3.11.2 Excavation revealed a metalled road surface 0.10-0.18m deep constructed of medium sized angular hard-core stone. This surface had been laid on top of a clay causeway, and was revetted by a compact clay bank to the north, which effectively acted as a boundary to the marsh area.

3.11.3 No finds were made from this trench and no samples suitable for dating were collected.

3.12 Palaeoenvironmental assessment

3.12.1 In addition to the peat deposits taken outwith the hut circle, samples from the interior were collected for analysis. The main reason for taking these samples was to investigate the nature of subsistence activities conducted within the structure. Samples of hearth fill and of occupation debris were collected.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Hut Circles and terrace

4.1.1 Excavation of the hut circle (Site No. 3) has shown the relatively well-preserved remains of a small, but complex, site with at least two periods of occupation. It is apparent that these periods of occupation were separated by a conflagration episode and culminated in the widening of the wall-terminals and the narrowing of the entrance-way. Two phases of cobbling in and around the entrance-way were also identified, representing a partially cobbled forecourt.

4.1.2 The remains of post-pads and post-holes lying concentric to a central hearth are indicative of the internal structural nature of the hut circle. Similarily, the identification of linear and curvilinear slots within the interior of the structure show the presence of internal partition walls.

4.1.3 It is apparent that soon after the abandonment of the hut circle part of the walls to the east collapsed inwards, and therefore protected some of the ocupation deposit. The remaining deposits were largely mixed and redeposited on the southwestern side.

4.1.4 Stratified deposits containing charcoal were numerous and should provide a suite of radiocarbon dates for the dating of the structure.

4.1.5 The keyhole excavations into the adjacent hut-circles have shown a similar level of survival of the occupation deposits and samples collected should provide comparable radiocarbon dates for these structures.

4.1.6 No deposits were located within the trench located downslope from the terrace.

4.2 Circular structure

4.2.1 Excavation has shown this feature to be entirely natural in origin.

4.3 Dykes

4.3.1 All of the dykes examined showed little structure to them and failed to provide any dating evidence.

4.4 Clearance cairns

4.4.1 The clearance cairns examined did not show any structural complexity and were not observed to be sealing any areas of tillage. A single stratified flake suggests a prehistoric date for these sites but as an isolated find may have been incorporated during construction.

4.5 Arable areas

4.5.1 Exacavation on the presumed arable areas failed to provide any archaeological evidence for agricultural practices on these areas.

4.6 Peat deposits

4.6.1 Coring of the peat deposits on Site 12 showed the depth of peat to be 0.5m and therefore unlikely to hold any potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis. Site 12 demonstrated a total peat depth of 0.84m, as well as two layers of wood litter. A radiocarbon date date for the basal peat deposits would provide a TPQ on the peat formation, and allow the temporal relationship of the peat deposits to the archaeologcal evidence in the area to be established.

4.7 Trackways

4.7.1 All of the trackways excavated proved to have little or no structure to them, and none of them contained finds or samples suitable for dating.

4.8 Old Road

4.8.1 Excavation revealed a single phased metalled surface located on a causeway of redeposited clay and revetted by a clay bank to the north. No finds or samples suitable for dating were collected.

4.9 Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

4.9.1 Samples from the hearth fill and occupation debris from the hut circle interior were collected for analysis. These samples allow investigation into the nature of subsistence activities conducted within the structure. It is therefore recommended that these samples are subjected to both palynolgical and macrofossil analyses.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 A detailed set of costed recommendations is proposed under separate cover. The recommendations cover the normal aspects of research required to complete post-excavation analysis and bring the report to publication.

5.2 The principal aspects for post-excavation analysis are:

a) Finds analysis

b) Full structural analysis and comparative research

c) Illustration

d) Soil, pollen, macrofossil, and faunal analyses.

5.3 Following completion of this research a final report will be produced for publication.

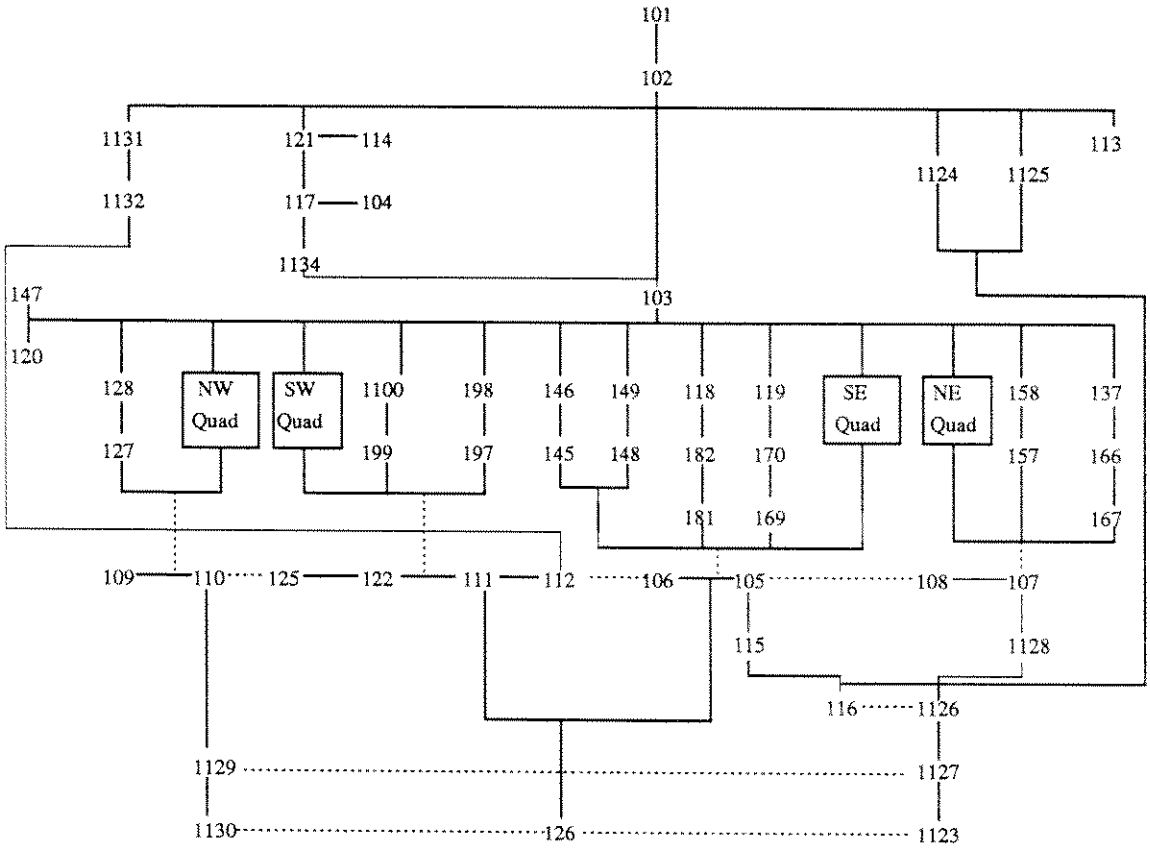
6. REFERENCES

O'Sullivan J and Duffy A 1994 *Archaeological Survey on the Proposed Road-line of the A836 from Lednagualin to Ben Ainnie, Highland Region: Survey Results*. AOC (Scotland) Ltd, September 1994.

Mercer, R 1985 *Archaeological Field Survey in Northern Scotland, 1980-81, Vol 2*. Edinburgh University Archaeology Department, Occasional Paper No. 7.

APPENDIX 1 - Provisional Context Lists and Matrix Diagrams

Trench 1



101 - Topsoil and turf, c. 0.30m deep.
102 - Hillwash of a mid-brown/grey silty sand covering entire site.
103 - Mottled orange and black silty clay with charcoal: conflagration deposit?
104 - Floor deposit within SW quadrant consists of a mid-brown, medium silty-sand, containing 10% small stones. Same as 117.
105 - Hut circle wall in SE quadrant measuring c. 2m wide by 0.30m high (max).
106 - Wall core in SE quadrant, consists of a light brown medium leached silty sand.
107 - Hut circle wall in NE quadrant measuring c. 2.2m wide by 1m high (max).
108 - Wall core in NE quadrant consists of a light brown/orange/yellow, medium-coarse, sand with iron-panning, measuring 0.12m in depth..
109 - Hut circle wall in NW quadrant measuring c. 2.2m wide by 1m high (max).
110 - Wall core in NW quadrant quadrant consists of a light brown medium leached silty sand.
111 - Hut circle wall in SW quadrant measuring c. 2.2m wide by 1m high (max).
112 - Wall core in SW quadrant quadrant consists of a light brown, medium, sandy-clay, measuring 0.15m in depth.
113 - Tumbled stone.
114 - Rubble fill of entrance passage.
115 - Cut of wall (105) in SE quadrant.
116 - Natural deposit of light brown sandy clay.
117 - Floor deposit within SW quadrant consists of a mid-brown, medium, silty-sand, containing 10% small stones. Same as 104.
118 - Post-pad setting of 5 large flat stones, within SE quadrant. May have been slightly displaced.
119 - Post-pad setting of 5 large flat stones, within SE quadrant.

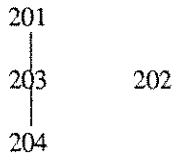
120 - Stone hearth setting.
121 - Paving within entrance in SW quadrant.
122 - Western wall-face of entrance passage of Phases I and II..
123 - Eastern wall face of entrance-passage of Phase II.
124 - Wall core of Phase II creating a narrowing of entrance passage.
125 - Eastern wall-face of Phase I entrance.
126 - Hillwash of a mid-brown/grey, fine, silt covering entire interior of structure.
127 - Stone hollow created by post-pad setting 128.
128 - Post-pad setting of 4 flat sones in NW quadrant.
129 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.32m by 0.22m by 0.10m deep in NW quadrant.
130 - Fill of 129, consisting of a dark brown/black silty clay, containing 20% small stones and charcoal.
131 - Cut of pit measuring 0.68m by 0.60m by 0.13m deep in NW quadrant.
132 - Fill of 131, consisting of black silt and an abundance of charcoal.
133 - Cut of pit measuring 0.67m by 0.55m by 0.14m deep in NW quadrant.
134 - Fill of 133 consisting of a dark brown/grey silty clay, 30% large subangular stones, charcoal and a pot-sherd.
135 - Fill of 156 consisting of a light brown clay of medium texture and <10% small stones.
136 - Not used.
137 - Post-pad setting of 5 large flat stones in NE quadrant.
138 - Cut of pit measuring 0.75m by 0.70m by 0.13m deep in NW quadrant.
139 - Fill of 138 consists of a mid-brown/grey silty clay, fine in texture, with 60% large flat stones, grits and charcoal.
140 - 144 - Not used.
145 - Cut of curvilinear slot measuring 0.10m wide by 0.09m deep in SE quadrant. Continues as 177 in SW quadrant.
146 - Fill of 145 consists of mid-brown/grey silty-clay, medium in texture, with 20% small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks.
147 - Fill of hearth 120 consists of a mottled black and orange silty-clay, very fine in texture, with an abundance of charcoal and occasional burnt bone fragments: peat ash.
148 - Cut of discontinuous slot measuring 0.12m wide by 0.08m deep in SE quadrant. Probably part of 157 in NE quadrant.
149 - Fill of 148 consists of mid-brown/grey silty-clay, medium in texture, with 20% small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks.
150 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.20m in diameter by 0.09m deep, with a rounded base in NW quadrant.
151 - Fill of 150 consists of a dark brown/black, fine, silty-clay with 10% small angular stones and charcoal.
152 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.25m in diameter by 0.12m deep with rounded base in NW quadrant.
153 - Fill of 152 consists of a dark brown/black, medium, silty-sandy-silt, containing 1 large packing stone, grits and charcoal flecks.
154 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.30m by 0.20m by 0.11m deep with a rounded base in NW quadrant.
155 - Fill of 154 consists of a dark brown/grey, medium, sandy-silt with 30% medium packing stones, grits and charcoal flecks.
156 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.27m in diameter by 0.11m deep with a rounded base in NW quadrant.
157 - Cut of intermittent curvilinear slot measuring 0.10m wide by 0.09m deep in NE quadrant. Probably a continuation of 148.
158 - Fill of 157 consists of a mid-brown/grey, fine, sandy-silt with <10% small stones.
159 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.75m by 0.32m by 0.14m deep with flat base in NE quadrant.
160 - Fill of 159 consists ofmid-brown/grey, medium, sandy-silt with 20% stones, grits and charcoal.
161 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.24m in diameter by 0.09m deep with rounded base in NE quadrant.
162 - Fill of 161 consisting of dark brown/black, medium, sandy-silt, with grits, 1 packing stone and <10% stones.

163 - Cut of small post-hole measuring 0.22m in diameter by 0.08m deep with rounded profile in NE quadrant.
164 - Fill of 163 consists of a mid-brown, medium, silty- sand, with grits, 1 packing stone and <10% stones.
165 - Cut of pit or more likely post-pad depression measuring 0.86m by 0.80m by 0.11m deep in NE quadrant.
166 - Fill of 165 consists of a very compacted dark brown/grey, medium, sandy-silt, with 20% small angular stones and charcoal flecks.
167 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.30m in diameter by 0.09m deep with a rounded profile in NE quadrant.
168 - Fill of 167 consists of a grey/black medium silt, with 2 packing stones and charcoal flecks.
169 - Cut/depression of post-pad setting 119, measuring 1.02m by 0.97m by 0.09m deep in SE quadrant.
170 - Fill of 169 consists of a mid-brown/black, fine, silty-clay with large flat stones and 10% small angular stones.
171 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.15m in diameter by 0.15m deep with rounded profile in SE quadrant.
172 - Fill of 171 consists of a dark grey/black, fine, sandy-silt containing 2 packing stones and charcoal flecks.
173 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.19m in diameter by 0.10m deep with rounded profile in SE quadrant.
174 - Fill of 173 consists of a dark grey/black, fine, silt containing 0% stones.
175 - Cut of shallow depression/stone hole measuring 0.16m in diameter by 0.04m deep with rounded profile in SE quadrant.
176 - Fill of 175 consists of a dark brown/grey, medium, sandy-silt, with 1 packing stone.
177 - 178 - not used
179 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.16m in diameter by 0.10m deep with steep sides and rounded base in SE quadrant.
180 - Fill of 179 consists of a mid-brown/grey, medium, sandy-silt, containing 1 packing stone.
181 - Cut of pit or possible post-pad setting depression measuring 0.40m by 0.30m by 0.14m deep with V-profile in SE quadrant.
182 - Fill of 181 consists of an orange and black, fine-medium, sandy-silt with 10% small stones and charcoal: peat ash.
183 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.25m in diameter by 0.13m deep with a rounded base in SW quadrant.
184 - Fill of 183 consisting of a black, fine-medium, sandy-silt with < 10% stones and charcoal flecks.
185 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.35m in diameter by 0.10m deep with a V-profile in SW quadrant.
186 - Fill of 185 consisting of a black, medium, sandy-silt with 20% medium sized pebbles, sub-angular stones and charcoal.
187 - Cut of slot of internal partition measuring 0.10-0.16m wide by 0.10m deep with a rounded base in SW quadrant. Individual stake-holes visible within fill.
188 - Fill of 187 consisting of mottled dark-grey/white/black, medium, silty sand with charcoal flecks.
189 - Cut of possible stake-hole measuring 0.13m in diameter by 0.04m deep with a shallow rounded base in SW quadrant.
190 - Fill of 189 consisting of a dark brown, fine, silt with <10% small stones.
191 - Cut of possible post-hole measuring 0.30m in diameter by 0.08m deep with a rounded base in SW quadrant.
192 - Fill of 191 consisting of dark brown, fine, sandy-silt with <10% small stones and occasional charcoal flecks.
193 - Cut of pit measuring 0.53m by 0.30m+ by 0.14m deep with shallow sloping sides in SW quadrant.
194 - Fill of 193 consisting of a mottled orange and black, very fine, silt (ash) with 3 stones and charcoal
195 - Cut of pit measuring 0.37m by 0.39m by 0.10m deep with shallow sloping sides in SW quadrant.

196 - Fill of 195 consisting of a mottled black and grey, fine, silty clay (ash) with <10% small stones.
197 - Cut of curvilinear slot measuring 0.32m in diameter by 0.12m deep with a V-profile in SW quadrant.
198 - Fill of 197 consisting of a mottled black and grey, fine, sandy-silt with <10% stones.
199 - Cut of shallow pit or possible post-pad depression measuring 0.53m in diameter by 0.12m deep with shallow sloping sides in SW quadrant.
1100 - Fill of 199 consists of a dark brown/grey, medium, sandy-silt with 3 large flattish stones.
1101 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.25m in diamater by 0.08m deep with steep sides and a rounded base in Sw quadrant.
1102 - Fill of 1102 consists of a mid-dark brown, very fine silt, containing 3 small sub-angular stones.
1103 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.27m in diameter by 0.10m deep with steep sides in SW quadrant.
1104 - Fill of 1103 consists of a dark brown fine clay.
1105 - Cut of shalow depression, possibly a stone hole, measuring 0.24m in diameter by 0.05m deep, with square sides and a flat base in SW quadrant.
1106 - Fill of 1105 consists of a black, medium, silty-clay containing <10% stones, grits and charcoal.
1107 - Cut of shalow depression, possibly a stone hole, measuring 0.18m in diameter by 0.05m deep, with a rounded profile in SW quadrant.
1108 - Fill of 1107 consists of a dark brown/grey, fine, sandy-silt, containing <10% small stones and charcoal.
1109 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.35m in diameter by 0.15m deep with steep sides in SW quadrant.
1110 - Fill of 1109 consists of a mottled light brown/pink/black, very fine, silt (ash), containing <10% stones and charcoal flecks.
1111 - Cut of shallow feature measuring 0.26m in diameter by 0.05m deep with shallow sides in SW quadrant.
1112 - Fill of 1111 consists of a mottled dark brown/black, very fine, silty-clay (ash), containing <10% stones and charcoal.
1113 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.45m by 0.27m by 0.08m in depth, with square cut stone-lined sides and a flat base in SW quadrant.
1114 - Fill of 1113 consists of a dark brown/black, very fine, silty-clay containing <10% stones and charcoal.
1115 - Cut of post/stake-hole measuring 0.20m in diameter by 0.07m deep with a V-profile in SW quadrant.
1116 - Fill of 1115 consists of a dark brown/black, very fine, silt, containing <10% stones and charcoal flecks.
1117 - Cut of post/stake-hole measuring 0.13m in diameter by 0.05m deep with square sides and a flat base, in SW quadrant.
1118 - Fill of 1117 consists of a black, very fine, silty-clay, containing <10% stones and charcoal.
1119 - Cut of shallow depression measuring 0.16m in diamater by 0.04m deep with very shallow sloping sides, in SW quadrant (entrance passage).
1120 - Fill of 1119 consists of a dark brown, fine, silty-clay, containing <10% stones.
1121 - Cut of post-hole measuring 0.30m by 0.19m by 0.10m deep with square sides and a flat base in SW quadrant.
1122 - Fill of 1121 consists of a dark grey, fine, silt, containing <10% stones.
1123 - Hillwash deposit consisting of a light grey medium sand, containing <10% stones - same as 126.
1124 - Area of laid stone measuring c. 2.5m (N-S) by 2m (E-W), of large rough sub-angular boulders in SE corner of trench outside hut circle.
1125 - Area of laid stone measuring c. 1.5m (N-S) by 2.5m (E-W) of large rough sub-angular boulders in NE corner of trench outside hut circle.
1126 - Light brown/grey medium silty-sand with an abundance of roots, measuring 0.08m in depth.
1127 - Old ground surface consisting of a dark brown medium sandy-silt, containing grits and measuring 0.05m in depth.

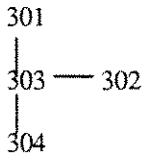
1128 - Cut for outer face of hut-circle wall (105/6) in SE quadrant, measuring 0.65m wide by 0.10m deep.
1129 - Old ground surface (probable) consisting of a mottled mid-dark brown, fine silty-clay, containing charcoal flecks and measuring 0.04-0.15m in depth.
1130 - Natural deposit of blue/grey sand underlying hut-cirlce-wall and OGS 1129.
1131 - Large angular boulders forming stone field bank.
1132 - Deposit of light brown, fine, silty sand with 20% small stones.
1133 - Primary cobbling within entrance passage consisting of small sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles, and charcoal flecks.
1134 - Secondary cobbling of medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded stones within a black-grey greasy silt.
1150 - Cut of rectangular shallow feature measuring c. 1m by 0.5m by 0.12m deep.
1151 - Fill of 1150 consisting of a 100% deposit of charcoal.
1152 - Cut of rectangular shallow feature measuring c. 1m by 0.5m by 0.12m deep.
1153 - Fill of 1152 consisting of a 100% deposit of charcoal.

Trench 2



201 - Topsoil and turf, measuring 0.10m in depth.
202 - Stone field boundary measuring c. 10m long by 1.2m wide by 0.50m high, constructed from large sub-rounded (0.25-0.30m) and occasional (0.10-0.15m) rounded stones.
203 - Natural deposit of a very dark homogeneous, fine, silt with fibreous roots, worms and measures 0.20m in depth. Contains 202.
204 - Natural deposit of light grey, fine, silt underlying 202 and 203.

Trench 3

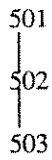


301 - Topsoil and turf, measuring 0.15-0.20m in depth.
302 - Stone dump measuring 0.3-0.4m deep, consisting of sub-angular (0.10-0.15m) stones and very large (0.80-1m) angular stones. No structural coherance to stones giving impression of discontinous field boundary or linear clearance cairn.
303 - Deposit of a very dark homogeneous, fine, silt with fibreous roots, worms and measures 0.25m in depth. Contains 302.
304 - Natural deposit of light grey, fine, silt underlying 302 and 303.

Trench 4

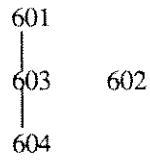
401 - Topsoil and turf, mesuring 0.20-0.30m in depth.
402 - Natural deposits of light grey fine silts.

Trench 5



501 - Topsoil and turf, measuring 0.20-0.25m in depth.
502 - Stone dump measuring 0.40m deep of sub-angular and rounded (0.40-0.60m) boulders with occasional angular (0.10-0.20m) stones. No apparent structure present.
503 - Natural deposit of light grey, fine, silt underlying 502.

Trench 6

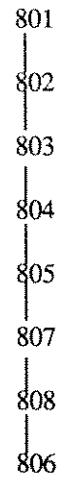


601 - Topsoil and turf, measuring 0.25m in depth.
602 - Stone dump of angular stones measuring 4m in diameter by 0.50m in height.
603 - Natural deposit of a very dark homogeneous, fine, silt with fibreous roots, worms and measures 0.20m in depth. Contains 602
604 - Natural deposit of light grey, fine, silt underlying 602 and 603.

Trench 7

701 - Topsoil and turf, measuring 0.25m in depth.
702 - Natural deposits of light grey fine silts.

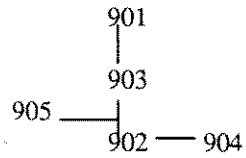
Trench 8



801 - Topsoil consisting of peaty silty sand, measuring 0.20m in depth.
802 - Possible trampled surface of sandy-clay, though indistinct.
803 - Deposit of mid-brown silty sand, possibly water-borne.

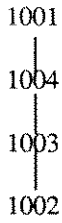
804 - Deposit of yellow sand containing 30% sub-angular stones, and revetted by stones 805, possibly trampled surface, though unclear.
805 - Revetting wall of large angular boulders of quartz and sandstone.
806 - Bedrock.
807 - Possible cut of terraceway, cut through natural subsoil 808.
808 - Natural deposit of yellow sand.

Trench 9



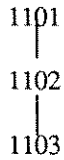
901 - Topsoil and turf, 0.20-0.25m deep.
902 - Hut circle wall
903 - Occupation deposit of mid-brown-dark brown silty sand with charcoal, measuring 0.30m deep.
904 - Wall core matrix of mid-brown silty sand.
905 - Possible paving within hut circle.

Trench 10



1001 - Topsoil and turf measuring 0.15-0.30m deep.
1002 - Hut circle wall of large angular stones.
1003 - Occupation deposit of dark brown/black silty sand, medium texture containing charcoal.
1004 - Wall core tumble consisting of 90% medium sub-angular stones and mid-brown/grey silty sand.

Trench 11



1101 - Topsoil and turf measuring 0.05-0.30m deep
1102 - Large sub-angular boulders forming stone field boundary.
1103 - Natural deposit of light brown fine silty sand measuring 0.37m..

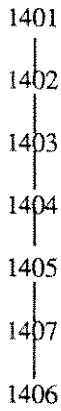
Trench 12

1201 - Topsoil and turf containing occasional large stone and measuring 0.20m in depth.
1202 - Matrix of bank consisting of a light brown silty clay, fine in texture with 10% small angular stones and measuring 0.18-0.5m in depth.

Trench 13

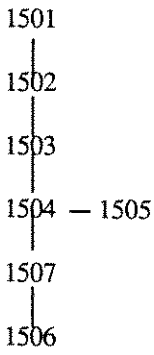
1301 - Topsoil and turf measuring c. 0.20m in depth.
1302 - Bedrock.

Trench 14



1401 - Topsoil and turf measuring 0.09m in depth.
1402 - Light brown sandy soil, fine in texture, with roots, occasional medium sized flattish stone, and measuring 0.12-0.22m in depth.
1403 - Light brown clay-sand,fine in texture and measuring 0.12-0.20m in depth.
1404 - Yellow sand lense, probably windblown deposit.
1405 - Light brown clay-sand,fine in texture and measuring 0.20m in depth.
1406 - Shattered bedrock..
1407 - Possible cut of terraceway through bedrock. May be natural.

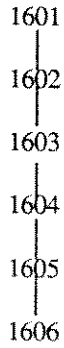
Trench 15



1501 - Turf measuring 0.08m deep.
1502 - Topsoil measuring 0.16m deep.
1503 - Light brown/yellow sand, possibly windblown, measuring 0.06-0.18m deep.

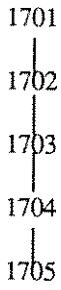
1504 - Light brown sand, fine in texture, containing 30% sub-angular stones, 0.17m in depth.
1505 - Large sub-angular stones within 1504.
1506 - Compacted natural subsoil.
1507 - Possible cut of terrace-way through compacted subsoil.

Trench 16



1601 - Topsoil and turf measuring 0.18-0.20m in depth.
1602 - Stone spread of small-medium sub-angular stones, possibly forming remains of terraceway surface.
1603 - Single large sub-angular boulder forming revettment to terrace-way.
1604 - Light brown sandy-clay of medium texture containing <10% stones and roots, measuring 0.28m in depth.
1605 - Possible cut of terrace-way.
1606 - Compact natural sandy subsoil.

Trench 17



1701 - Topsoil and turf measuring 0.05m in depth.
1702 - Road surface consisting of 0.15-0.20m of fairly compacted small and medium sub-angular stones.
1703 - Revetting bank of clay forming boundary between road and marsh area.
1704 - Natural deposit of light brown silty clay with 10% small sub-angular stones.
1705 - Natural deposit of grey-blue sand with medium-large sub-angular stones.

APPENDIX 2 - Finds Register

SFN	CONTEXT	TRENCH	QUAD	DESCRIPTION
1	103	1	SW	53 sherds and frags of pottery
2	117	1	SW	10 sherds of pottery
3	103	1	SW	33 sherds and frags of pottery
4	103	1	SW	Bone fragments
5	134	1	NW	Pot sherd
6	106	1	SE	Pot sherd
7	104	1	SW	4 pot sherds
8	117	1	SW	3 bone fragments
9	170	1	SE	Pot sherd
10	170	1	SE	15 bone fragments
11	132	1	NW	Charcoal lump
12	102/103	1	SW	Pot sherd
13	303	3	n/a	Flint flake
14	103	1	NE	2 ajoining sherds/ 1 rim sherd
15	103	1	NE	Pot sherd
16	1133	1	SW	2 pot sherds (1 rim); chacoal
17	1133	1	SW	6 pot sherds
18	126	1	SW	Pot sherd
19	102	1	SE	Pot sherd
20	102	1	NE	Pot sherd
21	103	1	SW	35 pebbles/pot boilers
22	101	1	n/a	1 sherd white glaze pot
23	102	1	SE	2 sherds white glaze pot
24	103	1	SW	Pot sherd
25	1151	w/brief	n/a	Bronze object and frags
26	102	1	SW	32 pebbles: pot boilers
27	102/129	1	NW	Stone rubber
28	103	1	SW	Facetted pebble
29	117	1	SW	Possible stone rubber
30	148	1	NW	Possible stone rubber
31	102	1	SW	Possible stone rubber
32	102	1	SW	Pot sherd
33	132	1	NW	Pot boiler?
34	117/103	1	SW	Stone rubber
35	105	1	SW	Stone rubber and 2 pebbles
36	101	1	SE	2 pot boilers
37	103	1	SW	6 possible pot boilers
38	103	1	SW	Stone rubber
39	103	1	SW	Facetted pebble
40	103	1	SW	Pot lid
41	117	1	SW	11 possible pot boilers
42	105	1	SW	Saddle quern

APPENDIX 3 - Field drawings register

No.	TRENCH	CONTEXTS	SECTION/PLAN	SHEET	SCALE
1	1	NW-quadrant	Plan	1	1:20
2	1	SW-quadrant	Plan	2	1:20
3	1	SE quadrant	Plan	3	1:20
4	1	NE quadrant	Plan	4	1:20
5	1	NW quad post-ex	Plan	5	1:20
6	1	NE quad post-ex	Plan	6	1:20
7	1	SE quad 145, 103	Plan	7	1:20
8	1	SE quad post-ex	Plan	8	1:20
9	1	SW quad 121	Plan	9	1:20
10	1	SW quad post-ex	Plan	10	1:20
11	1	SE: 145, 148	S-facing Section	11	1:10
12	1	SE: 145, 146	SW-facing Section	11	1:10
13	1	SE: 169, 170	S-facing Section	11	1:10
14	1	SE: 171, 172	E-facing Section	11	1:10
15	1	SE: 173, 174	SW-facing Section	11	1:10
16	1	SE: 175, 176	SE-facing Section	11	1:10
17	1	SE: 179, 180	E-facing Section	11	1:10
18	1	SE: 181, 182	E-facing Section	11	1:10
19	1	NE: 159, 160	E-facing Section	11	1:10
20	1	NE: 161-164	N-facing Section	11	1:10
21	1	NE: 165, 166	N-facing Section	11	1:10
22	1	SW: 183, 184	W-facing Section	12	1:10
23	1	SW: 185, 186	N-facing Section	12	1:10
24	1	SW: 187, 188	S-facing Section	12	1:10
25	1	SW: 189, 190	S-facing Section	12	1:10
26	1	SW: 191, 192	SW-facing Section	12	1:10
27	1	SW: 193, 194	W-facing Section	12	1:10
28	1	SW: 195, 196	ESE-facing Section	12	1:10
29	1	SW: 197, 198	N-facing Section	12	1:10
30	1	SW: 199, 1100	S-facing Section	12	1:10
31	1	SW: 1103, 1104	S-facing Section	12	1:10
32	1	SW: 1102, 1103	SE-facing Section	12	1:10
33	1	SW: 1105, 1106	SW-facing Section	12	1:10
34	1	SW: 1107, 1108	W-facing Section	12	1:10
35	1	SW: 1109, 1110	SE-facing Section	12	1:10
36	1	SW:1111, 1112	SE-facing Section	12	1:10
37	1	SW: 1113, 1114	S-facing Section	12	1:10
38	1	SW: 1115, 1116	NE-facing Section	12	1:10
39	1	SW: 1117, 1118	E-facing Section	12	1:10
40	1	SW: 1119, 1120	N-facing Section	12	1:10
41	1	SW: 1121, 1122	NW-facing Section	12	1:10
42	1	NW: 133, 134	W-facing Section	13	1:10
43	1	NW: 152, 153	NW-facing Section	13	1:10
44	1	NW: 154, 155	NW-facing Section	13	1:10
45	1	NW: 150, 151	NW-facing Section	13	1:10

No.	TRENCH	CONTEXTS	SECTION/PLAN	SHEET	SCALE
46	1	NW: 127, 128	NE-facing Section	13	1:10
47	1	NW: 129, 130	NW-facing Section	13	1:10
48	1	NW: 131, 132	N-facing Section	13	1:10
49	1	NW: 156, 157	W-facing Section	13	1:10
50	1	NW: 148, 149	NE-facing Section	13	1:10
51	1	NE: Main Baulk	N-facing Section	14	1:10
52	1	SW: Main Baulk	S-facing Section	15	1:10
53	2	201-204	Plan	16	1:20
54	5	501-503	W-facing Section	16	1:20
55	5	501-503	S-facing Section	16	1:20
56	3	301-304	W-facing Section	16	1:10
57	6	601-604	Plan	17	1:20
58	5	501-505	Plan	17	1:20
59	3	301-304	Plan	17	1:20
60	6	601-604	S-facing Section	17	1:10
61	6	601-604	E-facing Section	17	1:10
62	8	801-808	Plan	18	1:20
63	9	901-905	Post-ex Plan	19	1:20
64	9	901-905	S-facing Section	19	1:10
65	9	901-905	Plan	20	1:20
66	2	201-204	W-facing Section	20	1:10
67	8	801-808	W-facing Section	20	1:10
68	10	1001-1004	Plan	21	1:20
69	10	1001-1004	SW-facing Section	21	1:10
70	Area 12	T20 CORE	CORE SECTION	22	1:10
71	1	147, 120	W-facing Section	22	1:10
72	Area 12	T20 CORE	N-face Peat Tins	22	1:10
73	11	1101-1103	W-facing Section	22	1:10
74	10	1001-1004	Post-ex Plan	23	1:20
75	12	1201-1202	NW-facing Section	23	1:20
76	16	1601-1606	Plan	23	1:20
77	16	1601-1606	N-facing Section	23	1:20
78	15	1501-1505	Plan	24	1:20
79	15	1501-1507	W-facing Section	24	1:10
80	14	1401-1407	W-facing Section	24	1:10
81	17	1701-1705	W-facing Section	25	1:10
82	AREA 11	CORES 1-23	CORE SECTIONS	26	1:10
83	1ex	entrance passage	Plan	27	1:20
84	1ex	1150	Plan	28	1:20
85	1ex	1150/1152	Plan	29	1:20
86	1ex	102/1150	S-facing Section	30	1:10
87	1	120, 131	Plan	31	1:20
88	1ex	101-103+	W-facing Section	32, 33	1:10
89	1	101-103	E-facing Section	34	1:10

APPENDIX 4 - Soil samples list

SAMPLE NO.	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	SIZE (L)
001	103	SW quad: occupation deposit	5.0
002	103	charcoal	0.5
003	103	SW quad: occupation deposit	5.0
004	132	NW quad: charcoal piece	0.5
005	103	SW quad: charcoal pieces	0.5
006	147	Hearth fill	5.0
007	126	natural/hillwash	2.0
008	102	hillwash	2.0
009	134	NW quad: pit fill	2.0
010	103	SE quad: occupation deposit	2.0
011	103	NE quad: occupation deposit	1.0
012	182	SE quad: pit fill	2.0
013	149	NW quad: pit fill	1.0
014	198	SW quad: slot fill	5.0
015	198	SW quad: slot fill	5.0
016	186	SW quad: pit/post-hole fill	5.0
017	158	NE quad: slot fill	0.5
018	1003	Trench 10: primary deposit	1.0
019	1003	Trench 10: primary deposit	1.0
020	903	Trench 9: primary deposit	0.5
021	903	Trench 9: primary deposit	2.0
022	903	Trench 9: primary deposit	5.0
023	AREA 11	CORE 1	
024	AREA 11	CORE 2	
025	AREA 11	CORE 21	
026	AREA 12	CORE 1	
027	AREA 12	PEAT BOX A (wood litter)	
028	AREA 12	PEAT BOX B (wood litter)	
029	102	Kubiena tin: hearth fill	
030	103	Kubiena tin: occupation deposit	
031	AREA 12	Upper horizon (wood litter)	
032	1123	NE quad: natural below B.S.H	0.5
033	1114	SW quad: post-hole fill	1.0
034	1122	NE quad: Buried Soil Horizon	0.5
035	168	NE quad: post-hole fill	1.0
036	1121	NE quad: above B.S.H.	0.5
037	168	NE quad: post-hole fill	1.0
038	1116	SW quad: post-hole fill	1.0
039	1114	SW quad: post-hole fill	1.0
040	103	SW quad charcoal pieces	0.25
041	128	NW quad charcoal pieces	0.25
042	1150	Trench 1ex entrance, charcoal	0.25
043	W/BRIEF	Pit fill - charcoal	0.25
044	147	Hearth fill - charcoal	0.25
045	W/BRIEF	Br Pit fill - charcoal	1.0
046	132	NE quad/baulk Pit fill	0.5

SAMPLE NO.	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	SIZE (L)
047	132	NE quad/baulk Pit fill	1.0
048	132	NE quad/baulk Pit fill	1.0
049	132	NE quad/baulk Pit fill	1.0
050	W/BRIEF	external feature - charcoal	0.5

APPENDIX 2 - CATALOGUE OF OTHER SITE RECORDS

Finds

001 4 pieces animal bone (? modern)
fragments of burnt bone
2 pieces quartz
1 flint flake

003 4 potsherds, of which 2 decorated
1 piece quartz
1 piece animal bone

016 1 piece quartz
1 fragmented (?) mollusc shell

Sample

S24 routine sample of 003

Drawings

No.	CONTEXTS	SECTION/PLAN	DATE	SCALE
1	003-014	Plan	5/96	1:20
2	003-4	Section	5/96	1:10
3	006, 015-7	Section	5/96	1:10
4	015-6	Plan	5/96	1:10

Photographs

Colour		B/W		Description
Film	Photo	Film	Photo	
1		2		
			1-4	CNC - pre-ex general shots, from NE
			5-6	AMR - pre-ex general shots, from E
			7-8	AMR - pre-ex of eroding section, from E
			9-10	AMR - pre-ex general shots, from N
			11-12	AMR - pre-ex general shots, from S
			13-14	Geirisclett, general shot from S
			15-16	AMR - general shots of structure, from NE
			17	AMR - hearth oo4-5, from E
			18-19	AMR - general shots of structure, from S
			20-21	AMR - general shots of structure, from N
			22-23	AMR - feature 010, from SW

			24-25	AMR - 004, 006, 014, from E
			26-27	AMR - general shots of structure, from S
			28-30	CNC - various working shots
			31-33	CNC - 008, 009, 100, from NE
			34-35	CNC - 002, 008, 100, from NW
			36	CNC - 008, 101, 103-5, 108, from SW

Colour		B/W		Description
Film	Photo	Film	Photo	
3		4		
			0-1	CNC - 013, 101-3, 105, 108, from SE
			2-3	AMR - 004-6, 008, 016, 018-9, from E
			4-5	AMR - 004-6, 008-9, 016, from S
			6-7	AMR - 006, 008, 011, 016, 018-9, from W
			8-9	AMR - 018-9, from W
			10-11	AMR - 004-5, 007-9, 012, from N
			12-12	AMR - section through interior, from NE
			14	AMR - 009, 011-2, 020, from N
			15	AMR - 009, 011-2, 020, from NE
			16-17	AMR - site section, from NE
			18-19	AMR - site section, from NW
			20	AMR - site section, from N
			21	AMR - dud
			22	AMR - general working shot
			23-24	CNC - N-S section (Dr 96/2), from SE
			25-26	CNC - N-S section (Dr 96/2), from NE
			27-29	General working shots
			30	GEIR - pre-ex shot of chamber, from E
			31	GEIR - pre-ex shot of passage and beach, from W
			32-33	CNC - 100, 108, from NW
			34-35	CNC - 120, from SE

Colour		B/W		Description
Film	Photo	Film	Photo	
5		6		
			0	GEIR - 003-11, from E
			1-2	CNC - 004, 006, 125-7, 132-3
			3-5	CNC - 012, 111-2
			6-7	CNC - general working shots, from SE
			8-9	CNC - west cell, general shots from SE
			10-11	CNC - west cell, general shots,, from NE
			12-13	CNC - kubiena tins through 004, from E
			14-17	GPS1 palaeoenvironmental site
			18-19	CNC - west cell, general shots, from SE
			20	Survey site D7, from NW
			21-22	Eilean Dubh Mor - palaeoenvironmental site
			23	CNC - 145, 150, from NW
			24-25	CNC - 145, 150, from SE

			26-27	CNC - 105, 117, 153, from S
			28-29	CNC - 105, 110, 117, 153, from NE
			30-31	Duds
			32	Vallay Strand landscape
			33-34	GPS2 palaeoenvironmental site