

Two New Proposed House Sites at 7 North Duntulm, Trotternish, Isle of Skye



Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief

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Summary

A small-scale archaeological excavation and watching brief was carried out between the 9th – 11th November 2011 on behalf of Jock Gordon Design and Planning at 7 North Duntulm on the Trotternish peninsula of the Isle of Skye, in advance of the development of two new house sites. The work was undertaken in terms of the mitigation strategy recommended by West Coast Archaeological Services following a detailed archaeological survey of the proposed development sites carried out on 26th July 2011¹.

During this second phase of fieldwork sites A4 and A5 were photographically recorded. Site A4 was further recorded by way of a section drawing showing the construction of an external wall and internal features. Site A5 was evaluated using a single trench to identify the character, extent and importance of the structure. Site C4 was partially dismantled and an evaluation trench was used to record the foundation structure of the building and other archaeological features. This revealed details relating to the construction of the building, additional features including paving and a drain, and also indicated the function of the building through time. The excavation of structure C4 also displayed evidence for destruction by fire during a phase of use.

A watching brief was also conducted during topsoil stripping of the access road to structure C4 and the associated parking area, septic tank pits and services trenches. No features of major archaeological interest were identified during this aspect of the fieldwork.

¹ Birch and Peteranna 2011

1. Introduction

1.1 General

An archaeological excavation and watching brief was conducted by West Coast Archaeological Services (WCAS) from 9th to 11th November 2011 in advance of the development of two new house sites at 7 North Duntulm, Trotternish, Isle of Skye (centred on NGR NG 4370 7490; see Figure1). The work was commissioned by Jock Gordon Design and Consulting on behalf of Peter Reitsma, as a result of the mitigation strategy recommended by WCAS following a detailed survey of the extent, character and condition of the Post-Medieval settlement sites within the development areas.



Figure 1 – Location maps showing Sites A and C

1.2 Aims and objectives

The purpose of the archaeological watching brief and excavation was to efficiently identify and record any features or finds of archaeological interest prior to development, in order to minimise any delays or disruptions to the project and to propose appropriate mitigation in the event that significant features of interest were uncovered. The Scottish Planning Policy describes how archaeology should be managed when considering planning decisions and determining conditions for developments that have an impact on the historic environment².

² Scottish Government 2010

The specific objectives were:

- É To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area
- É To remove by hand any overburden in order to expose any buried archaeological deposits
- É To excavate, sample and record any features and to propose arrangements for their safeguarding, where possible.

2. Site location

- 2.1 The two proposed house sites, Site A to the west and Site C to the east (Figure 2), are located on the Trotternish Peninsula, seven miles northeast of Uig on the Isle of Skye (Figures 1 and 2). The sites are situated at approximately 5m OD, on the south side of Port Gobhlaig at Balmacqueen on Kilmaluag Bay, which is on the east side of Trotternish south of the Aird. A small burn empties into the bay on the east side of Site C and the road runs north along the west side of Site A.
- 2.2 The development area comprises mostly flat and gently sloping grass-covered land containing extensive Post Medieval settlement remains located along the shoreline. Site A and Site C are separated by a small water course. Cnoc a'Chlachain is prominent in the skyline across the gently rising landscape to the west-northwest of the sites. The undulating landscape to the south and east is at present in use for animal grazing, and the shoreline borders the site to the north.

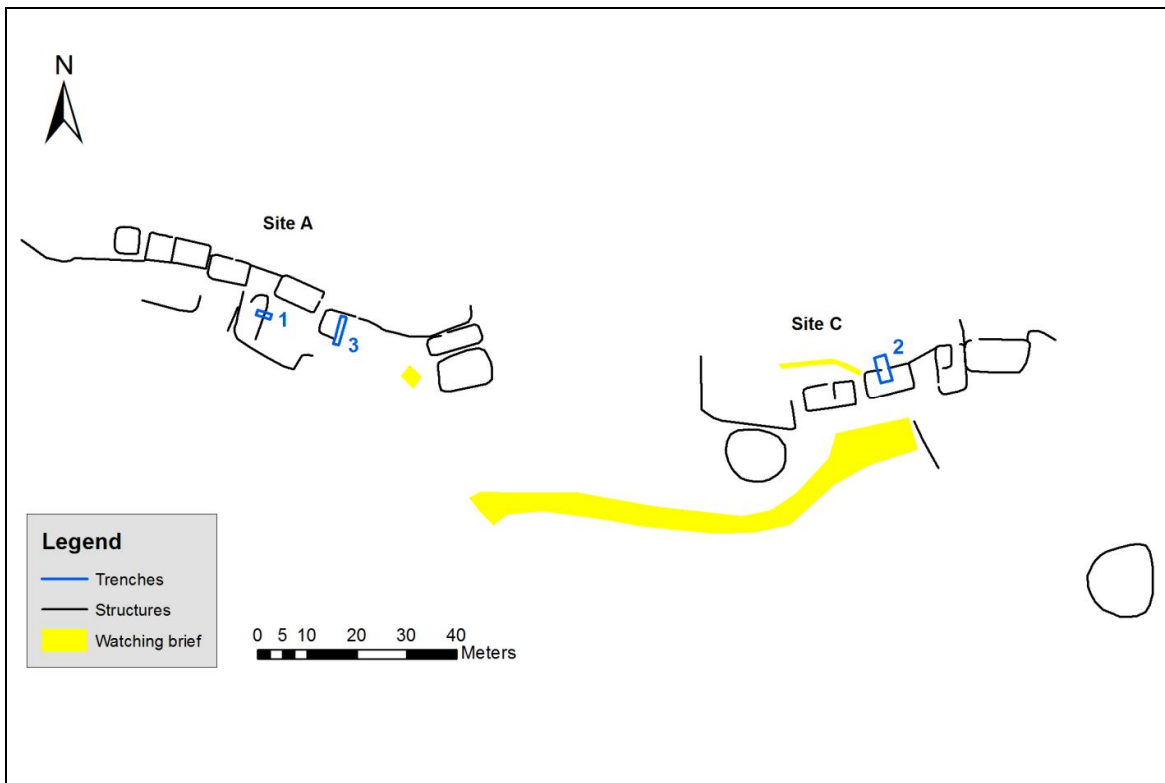


Figure 2 – Plan of Sites A and C showing location of trenches and areas of watching brief

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The proposed development sites are located in the historical parish of Kilmuir. Both the *Old Statistical Account of Scotland* and the *New Statistical Account of Scotland* for the parish of Kilmuir refer to the prehistoric remains in the parish: six so-called ‘Danish’ forts (Dun-Scuddeburgh, Liath, Bhannrain, Barplacaig, Talm and Deirg). These references indicate an early understanding of the extensive prehistoric population which once occupied Skye. In general, there are many known and likely many yet unknown prehistoric sites spread across the north half of Trotternish peninsula. There is one prehistoric site within the development area: a prehistoric burial cairn is located within Site C and there is another cairn of similar size several metres to the east and outside of the development area.
- 3.2 The most extensive archaeological remains within the proposed development sites at 7 North Duntulm formed part of the Post Medieval settlement of Balmacqueen on Kilmaluag Bay in the parish of Kilmuir. Timothy Pont’s map of Skye in the mid-17th century marks the church at Kilmaluag and a large house at Balmacqueen. John Thomson’s Atlas of Scotland in 1832 also marks the location of a settlement called Balmacqueen³. These references indicate that Post Medieval settlement within the area around the development site were in existence by the middle 1600s and through the 1800s.
- 3.3 The earliest known settlement buildings within the development site are the five buildings, which were first recorded on the 1st Edition OS maps in the latter half of 1800s. However, the buildings on this map are already annotated as being unroofed which clearly shows that the settlement on the site existed prior to the time of this Ordnance Survey in 1875-77.
- 3.4 Like many areas in the Highlands, Balmacqueen was affected by the changing economy in the 19th century and this is reflected in the abandonment and reuse of the buildings within the development site. The *Old Statistical Account of Scotland* for the Parish of Kilmuir, 1791-1799, gives interesting insight into the way of life probably experienced by the primary occupants of the houses at 7 North Duntulm. Rev. Martin describes a parish population of 2065, who subsisted on corn, barley and fishing (herring, cod, turbot, skate), practised husbandry and frequently lived to the age of 80. He also describes the challenges of life in Kilmuir: corn planting flourished but when the crop failed living conditions were dire. Sheep grazing was ‘disqualified’ due to the flatness of the terrain. The cost of labourers was high in proportion to the earnings of the farmers and the young men at the time were mostly leaving the parish, to work in the south of the country where they could earn more money. He also mentions that twenty years prior to his account, many families emigrated to America⁴.

4. Methodology

4.1 Archaeological excavation

- 4.1.2 Excavation work is normally only required as a secondary programme of works, usually informed by the results of an evaluation and where an adverse impact on recorded archaeological remains cannot be avoided. The archaeological site must be thoroughly investigated and recorded prior to destruction to provide the ‘preservation by record’ required

³ National Library of Scotland

⁴ Martin, 1791-99

by Scottish Planning Policy⁵ and PAN 2/2011⁶. A detailed archaeological survey and record of the sites was undertaken on 26th July 2011⁷.

4.1.3 Full excavation of archaeological remains is seen as a last resort where there are no options for preservation *in situ*. The purpose of the excavation was to examine, record and interpret any finds or features within sites A4, A5 and C4 (see Figure 2). These sites would be directly impacted by the proposed developments at 7 North Duntulm.

4.1.4 Trench 1 in A5 and Trench 2 in C4 were manually de-turfed and cleaned to aid the identification of archaeological features. All identified features were cleaned, planned, excavated and recorded. A large trench was placed through A4 using a mechanical excavator (see Figure 2); the resulting section was manually cleaned and recorded by section drawing and photographically. Additional section drawings were carried out where deemed necessary to inform the archaeological record.

4.2 Archaeological watching brief

4.2.1 The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was to efficiently identify and record any features or finds of archaeological interest prior to development, in order to minimise any delays or disruptions to the project and to propose appropriate mitigation in the event that significant features of interest were uncovered.

4.2.2 The clearance of topsoil along the line of the new access road to Site C4 and associated parking area; the location of septic tank pits and services trenches were conducted under constant archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator with 4-ft wide flat edged bucket. Following machine excavation, the clearance area was cleaned back using a draw-hoe to allow for the identification of archaeological features.

4.3 Site Recording

4.3.1 The site and any archaeological features or finds were plotted using ArcPad GIS software on a handheld Windows Mobile-based computer with a GPS system capable of sub-metre accuracy.

4.4 Photography

4.4.1 The development sites were also recorded using high resolution digital photography throughout the excavation and watching brief in order to record the evaluation as well as any features or finds of interest.

4.5 General

4.5.1 All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the brief for archaeological work⁸ and *Development Guidance* from the Highland Council Historic Environment Team⁹,

⁵ Scottish Government 2010

⁶ Scottish Government 2011

⁷ Birch and Peteranna 2011

⁸ Highland Council 2007

⁹ Highland Council 2010

and to the standards and guidance as set out by the *Institute for Archaeologists'* Code of Conduct¹⁰ and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief¹¹.

5. Results

5.1 Watching brief

- 5.1.2 The weather conditions for the fieldwork were primarily dry and sunny, with strong winds blowing from the south.
- 5.1.3 The watching brief was conducted at discrete areas over the site (Figure 2), where disturbance to the ground would take place during the proposed developments. The access road and parking area are situated on a flat terrace above the post-medieval buildings of Site C. The average depth of the topsoil over this area averaged around 30cm and this overlay an orange to yellow, sandy subsoil. There were no features of archaeological significance revealed during this work, although a strip of deposited coal was revealed immediately above structure C4. Finds from this area comprised the usual 'middens' type material of relatively recent pottery sherds and glass. However, one small piece of worked flint was recovered from the interface between the subsoil and the topsoil, which may be an indication of possible prehistoric activity in the area.
- 5.1.4 The pit for the proposed septic tank pit was excavated to a maximum depth of around 30cm before hitting bedrock. No finds or features of archaeological interest were revealed in this area.
- 5.1.5 The location of a second septic tank pit and associated services trench were also excavated using the machine excavator between structures C5 and C4, and the adjacent foreshore (Figure 2). The drainage channel was excavated to a maximum depth of around 60cm and this revealed a discrete area of organic midden towards the top of the section. The midden comprised a dark brown to black deposit that contained ash and some charcoal, along with several sherds of pottery (late 19th to early 20th century in date). The septic tank pit was dug to a maximum depth of 80cm, but failed to produce any archaeological finds, features or deposits.

5.2 Excavation

A total of three trenches were excavated during this phase of the fieldwork to evaluate structures A4, A5 (Site A) and C4 (Site C). The topsoil and overburden in the trenches in structures A4 and C4 were initially cleared using the machine excavator under archaeological supervision, while the trench in structure A5 was de-turfed by hand. Details relating to the individual trenches and the results of the excavations are presented by trench below.

¹⁰ IfA 2008

¹¹ IfA 2010

5.2.1 Trench 1 6 Structure A5

5.2.1.1 Trench 1 was located across what appeared to be the stone wall of a much degraded structure, lying to the SW of well-preserved building A3 (see Plate 1). This potential structure will be removed during the development of Site A to prepare the main car parking area. Measuring 3m long (WNW-ESE) by 1m wide, the turf and shallow soils (context 001) covering the stonework were removed by hand.

5.2.1.1 The initial cleaning of the trench revealed what appeared to be the very degraded remains of a wall with tumble on the W side measuring around 1m wide and aligned NNE-SSW (feature 1). The stonework forming the wall (context 002) comprised a mix of small boulders and stones 6 mainly sub-angular basalt, but with some rounded beach cobbles.

5.2.1.2 Removal of additional loose stone and sediment revealed a second wall (feature 2) of a lighter construction measuring between 60cm and 70cm wide and aligned N-S. The wall has a double skin of small boulders (context 003) with a core of smaller stone and only survives to one course high. This feature appears to pre-date wall feature 1 (see Figure 3).

5.2.1.3 Both walls have been heavily disturbed and robbed of stone and do not appear to relate to a building. Feature 1 may be the remains of a boundary wall, while wall feature 2 may relate to a kale-yard or stack-stand. Small finds recovered from context 001 include a fragment of a clay pipe stem with the manufacturer's name, 'JACKSON', stamped on it and several sherds of relatively modern pottery 6 both decorated and undecorated. Immediately overlying the natural subsoil (context 006) and within context 005, we recovered several fragments of roofing slate and degraded wood. These finds suggest that both walls are relatively late in date, possibly no older than the middle of the 19th century AD.



Plate 1 – Structure A5 in the foreground – looking ENE

5.2.1.4 The discovery and age of the small finds, along with the very degraded nature of the structural features, suggested that it would be an unnecessary burden on the developer to extend Trench 1 further to chase the walls and reveal their potential function.

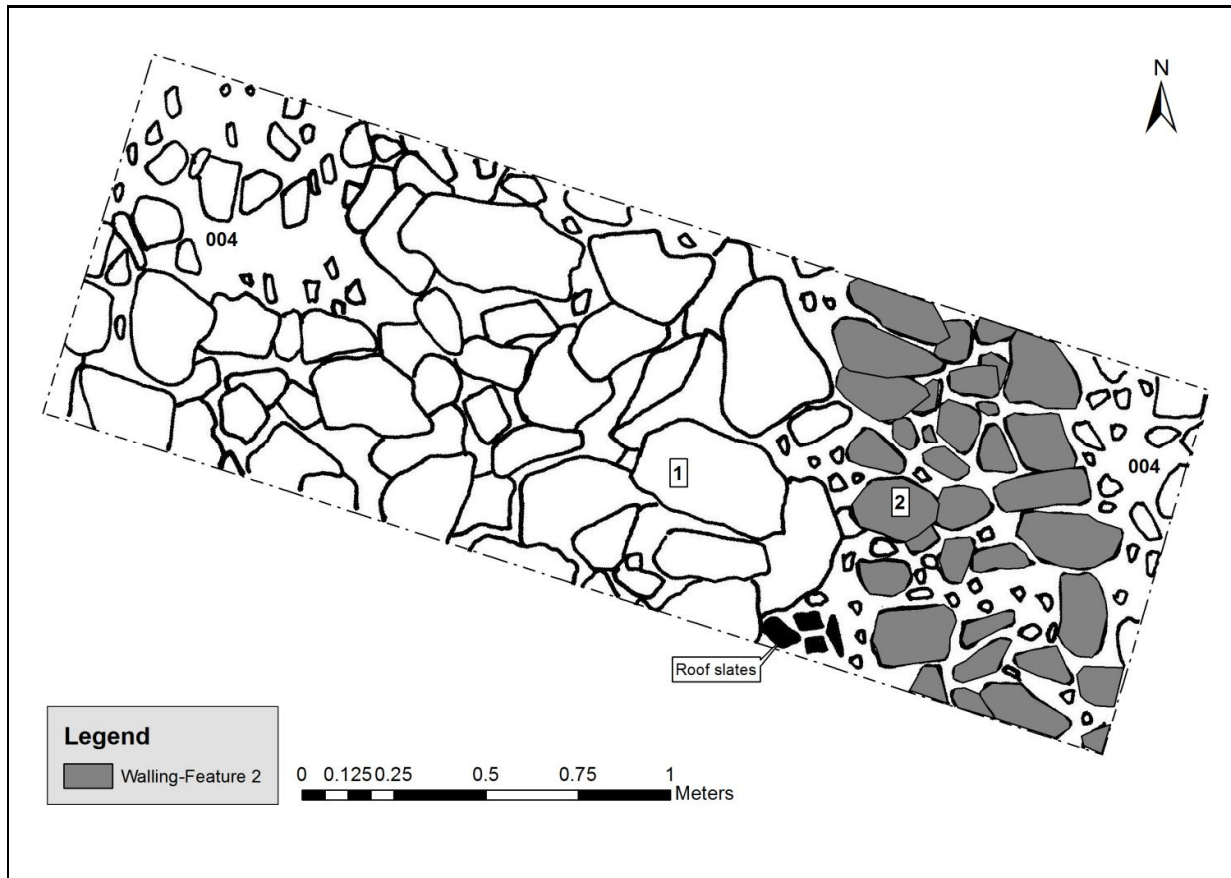


Figure 3 – Plan of features after cleaning in Trench 1 (Structure A5)



Plate 2 (left) – Trench 1 after initial cleaning showing features 1 and 2.

Plate 3 (right) – Trench 1 after removal of wall feature 1, showing wall feature 2

5.2.2 Trench 2 6 Structure C4

5.2.2.1 The excavations carried out in respect of Structure C4 on Site C were the most extensive, as the new house proposed for this site would be sited directly over the existing stone-built house. Therefore, Structure C4 would be completely dismantled prior to the new development and the stone re-used to face the new building. The site survey undertaken by West Coast Archaeological Services in July 2011 had already recorded in some detail this building and its extant features. Phasing within the structure of the building was recognised during the survey, indicating modifications and potential changes in function. These included the addition of splayed windows and their subsequent blocking, identification of a collapsed chimney complete with ceramic pot, insertion of an internal fire-place with iron grate and thickening of the NNW wall (Birch & Peteranna, 2011: 18-21).

5.2.2.2 One trench was excavated measuring 5m by 2.5m (Trench 2) and was located to investigate a section of the front, NNW facing wall including the entrance; a part of the interior space of the building; and the area immediately outside the entrance leading towards the foreshore (see Figure 4). The upper section of the NNW wall, to the W of the entrance, was dismantled using the machine excavator. Comprising a double-faced drystone construction with a rubble and sediment core (features 3 and 3a, contexts 007 and 008), the foundations of the wall were then cleaned down and recorded. The section of the wall to the W of the entrance to the building was then completely removed to reveal the natural subsoil that lay directly below (context 006). It appears that this material had been built up to form a firm footing for the wall structure. No earlier structures or features including wall footings were found below wall feature 3.



Plate 4 – Excavator removing NNW wall of Structure C4 (left) and Plate 5 – Trench 2 looking ENE during initial cleaning (right)

5.2.2.3 Within the entrance of the building we uncovered coarse paving (feature 6, context 011) which extended for a short distance inside the structure, while outside the well-laid paving slabs of basalt extended down towards the foreshore (beyond the limits of the trench) and to the W across the front of the building (feature 5). The basalt paving slabs and small beach cobbles forming the outside paving (context 009) directly overlay a mid-brown silt containing small rounded and angular stones, with some charcoal flecks (context 010), which in turn overlay the natural sub-soil context 006. The paving outside the building and within the entrance passage displayed some evidence for modification and phasing, with additional layers of paving slabs and small beach cobbles added through time. However, small finds

associated with these features including glass, ceramics and corroded iron objects, all suggested construction and use during the latter half of the 19th century AD and into the early 20th century.

5.2.2.4 Deposits covering the paving outside the building, within the entrance and extending inside the structure included a turf and root matt, with a mid-brown friable loam (context 018). This final abandonment layer contained numerous finds of glass, decorated and undecorated ceramics, corroded iron objects, some bronze/copper nails and even some plastic objects. A coin recovered from this context within the building (a three-pence piece) had a date of 1953 and all of the finds suggested deposition from the late 19th century onwards.

5.2.2.5 Removal of context 018 through the entrance passage and into the interior of the building revealed a destruction layer that also provided evidence of burning including ash, charcoal, the remains of burnt timbers (possibly from the roof), roofing slate and burnt iron, glass and ceramics (contexts 019 and 020). The fragmented and complete remains of three whetstones were also recovered from the surface of this deposit. It is most likely that this catastrophic fire signalled the end of use of Structure C4 as a house, or workshop. Within the interior of the building the removal of the destruction layer deposits, which in places had baked the underlying natural subsoil (context 006), revealed a stone-lined -sinkø (feature 7, contexts 012, 13 and 014) that entered a slab-covered drain (feature 8). See figure 5 for details.

5.2.2.6 The drain extended through the entrance of the building and under the paving outside towards the foreshore to the NNW. Removal of the capping/paving slabs (contexts 009 and 011) revealed two lines of rough basalt cobbles (context 015) set between 12 and 14cm apart, below which was a shallow u-shaped cut (016). The drain was almost completely filled with a homogenous dark brown silt (context 017), which contained several fragments of glass, decorated and plain ceramics, and some charcoal flecks. The drain had not been cut in a straight line from the interior of the building through the entrance to the foreshore, but meandered in a roughly s-shaped track. Along some of this track, small upright slabs had been set into the natural subsoil to each side of the capping slabs that covered the drain, possibly suggesting that the slabs covering the drain formed the first phase of access to the building before the paving was added at a later date (see Figures 4, 5, 7 and 8).

5.2.2.7 Removal of the destruction deposits within Structure C4 and section excavations through the paving layer in the entrance passage and outside the building to the NNW, failed to reveal any structures or features relating to an earlier phase of use. Indeed, all of the small finds recovered during the evaluation of this building would suggest construction no earlier than the middle of the 19th century AD.

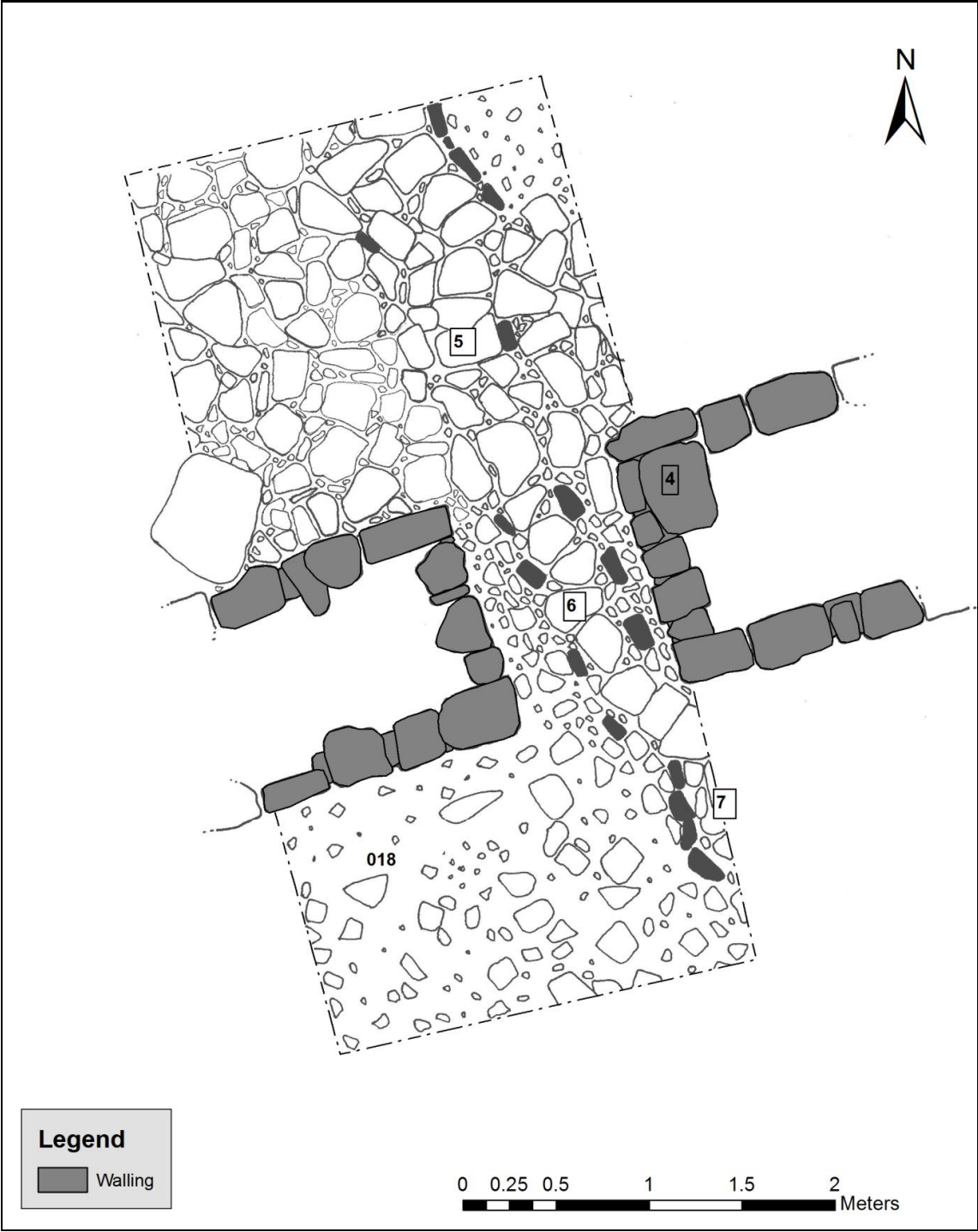


Figure 4 – Plan of Trench 2 showing features after initial cleaning



Plate 6 – Burnt deposits inside structure C4, paving and sink for drain – Trench 2



Plate 7 – Paving, entrance to structure C4 and alignment of drain – Trench 2

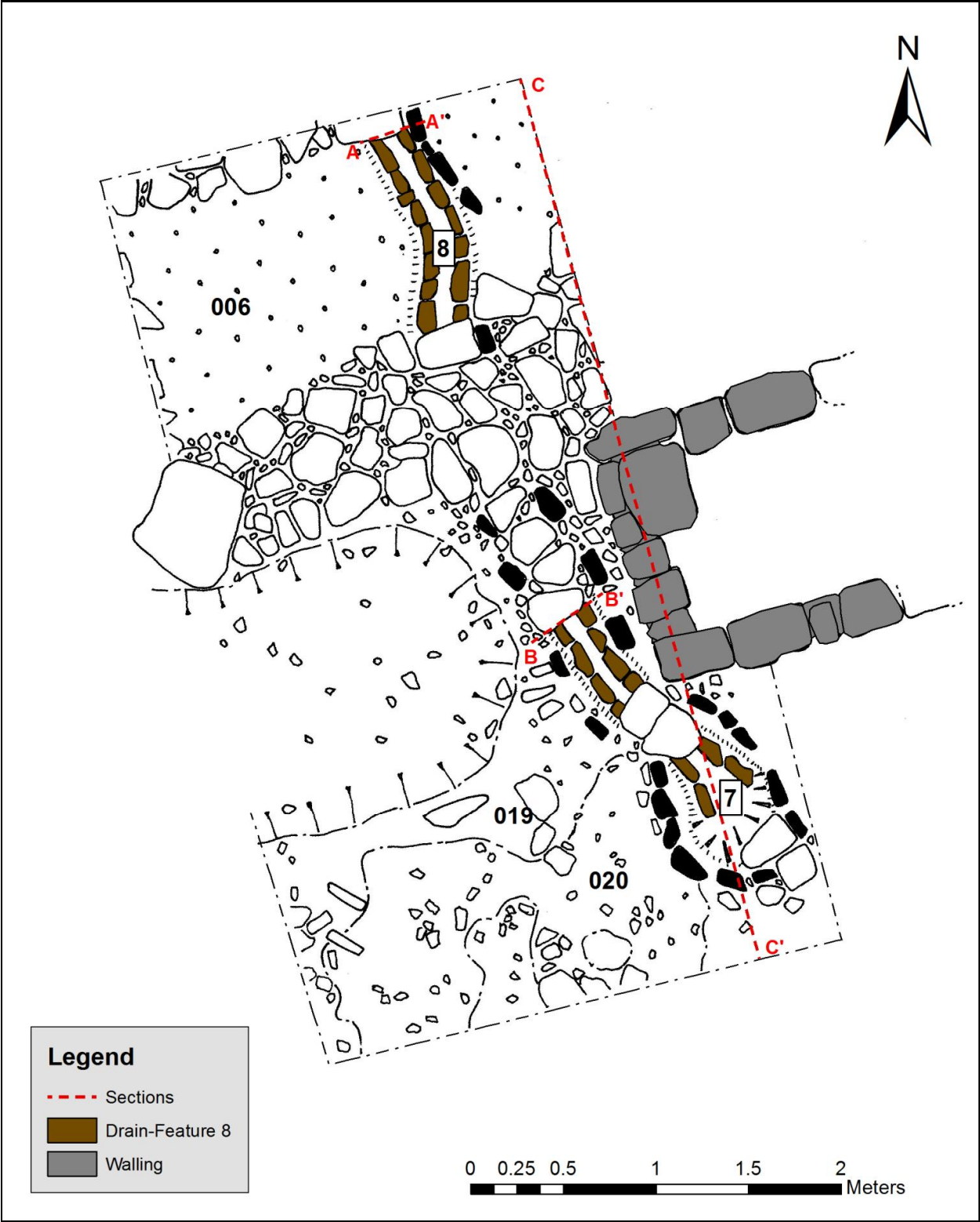


Figure 5 – Trench 2, Structure C4, showing features, alignment of drain, excavated sink for drain, and location of section lines

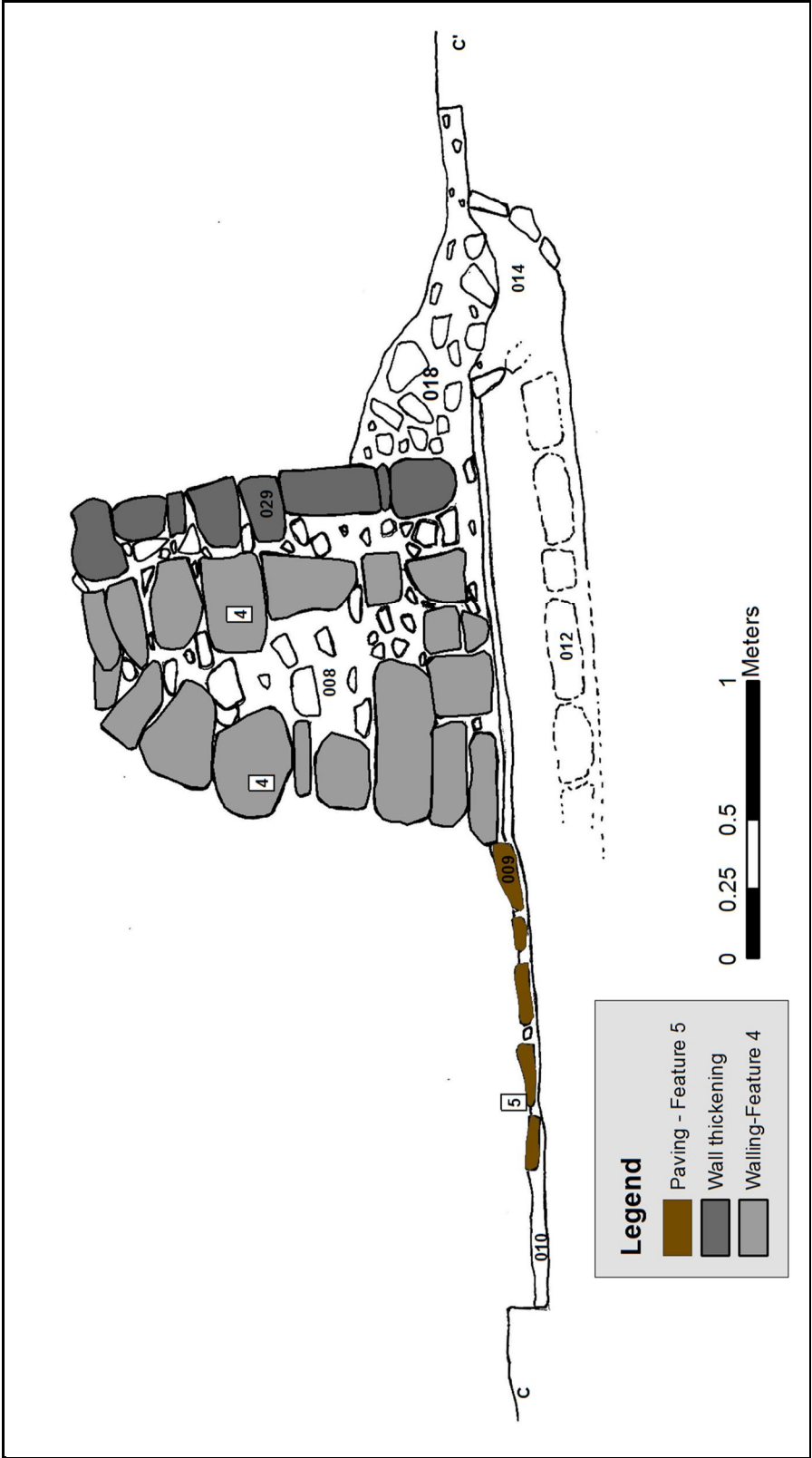


Figure 6 – WSW facing section through features in Trench 2, Structure C4



Plate 8 – Section through burnt deposits within Structure C4, Trench 2



Plates 9 and 10 – Plan view of excavated sections through drain feature 8

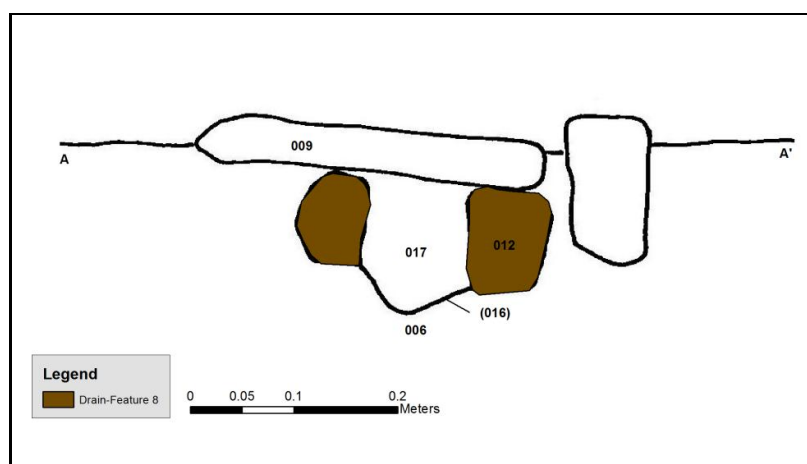


Figure 7 – Section A – A1 through drain feature 5 (Trench 2)

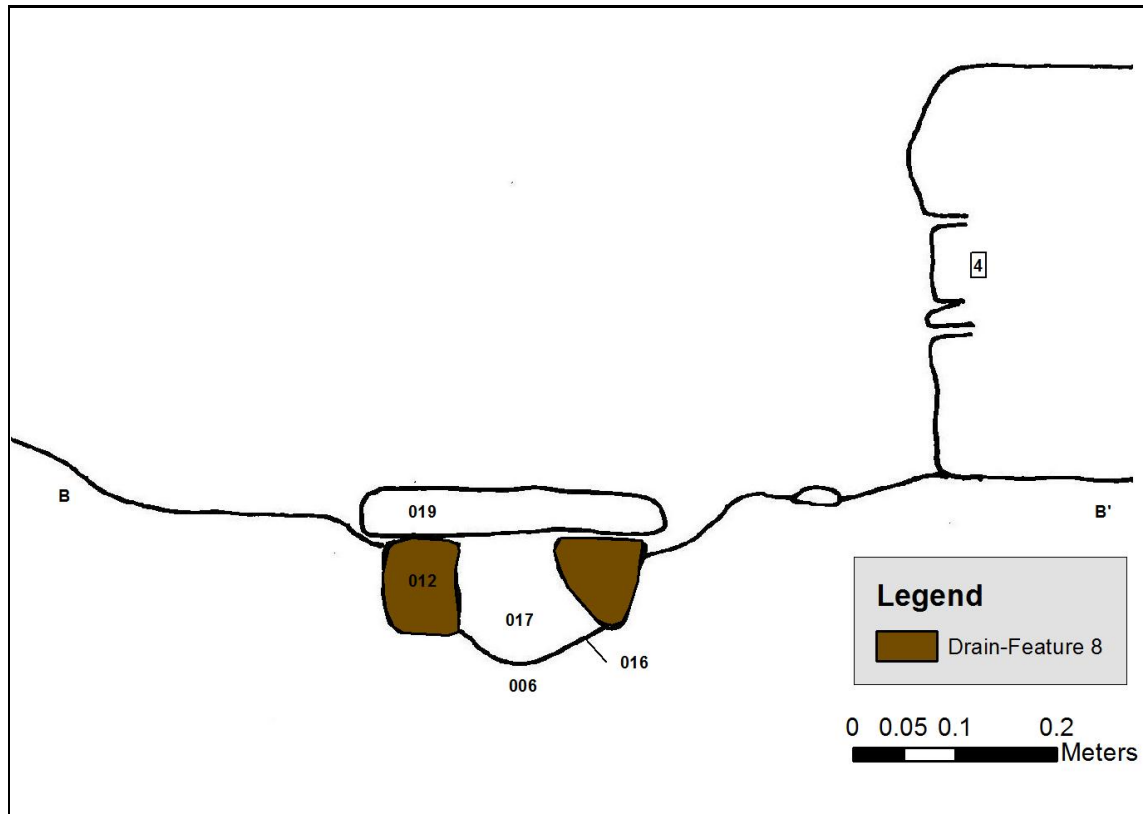


Figure 8 – Section B – B1 through drain feature 5 (Trench 2)

5.2.3 Trench 3 6 Structure A4

5.2.3.1 During the preliminary detailed survey of Site A, structure A4 was found to be a degraded stone-built building of unknown function that had been partially obscured by dumped material on the SW side and had a small tree and dense ground-cover vegetation within the interior. The proposed development on Site A would most likely impact this structure on the SW side, so it was decided to cut a machine-excavated trench through the SW wall. Trench 3 measured 5.5m long (NNE-SSW) by 1m wide and extended from a position immediately inside the NW wall of structure A4 and cut through the interior and SW wall to the SSW (see Figures 2 and 9). However, after the initial excavation by machine it was only decided to hand-clean the ESE facing section.

5.2.3.2 After removal of the dumped material within the structure, which comprised farmyard manure, bailing twine, empty fertiliser bags and the skeletal remains of at least two dead sheep, hand cleaning revealed the degraded back (SW) wall of the building and an internal division wall running NE-SW. The SW wall of the building (feature 9, contexts 021, 022 and 023) comprised basalt boulders revetted into the natural slope. The wall had failed at some stage in the past and now appeared as a mix of tumbled stone, wall core material and sediment.

5.2.3.3 The internal division wall (feature 10, contexts 024 and 025) was built of partially dressed stone and was still relatively well-preserved. Comprising a double skin with a rubble core, an

entrance through this feature linked the two cells of the building. The wall footing stones had been built onto a degraded rough, cobbled surface (beach cobbles of feature 11, context 026), which may have formed part of the original floor of the building. The size of the building and the structural details uncovered during the excavation suggest that this was a byre.

5.2.3.4 The dumped material within the byre (context 028) most likely derives from the 'modern' farm buildings located across the road to the S of structure A4 and also included modern glass and plastic bottles, and decorated ceramics. The cobbled floor of the byre and deposits immediately overlying it were found to be relatively sterile and free of small finds, although the dumped material (028) lay above it. The lack of finds in the primary deposits of Structure A4 would also suggest the function as a byre. No further work was carried out on this building and after discussions with the site architect, it was then apparent that there would be minimal intrusion into this building from the proposed developments as the ground would be built-up in the area surrounding the SW wall.

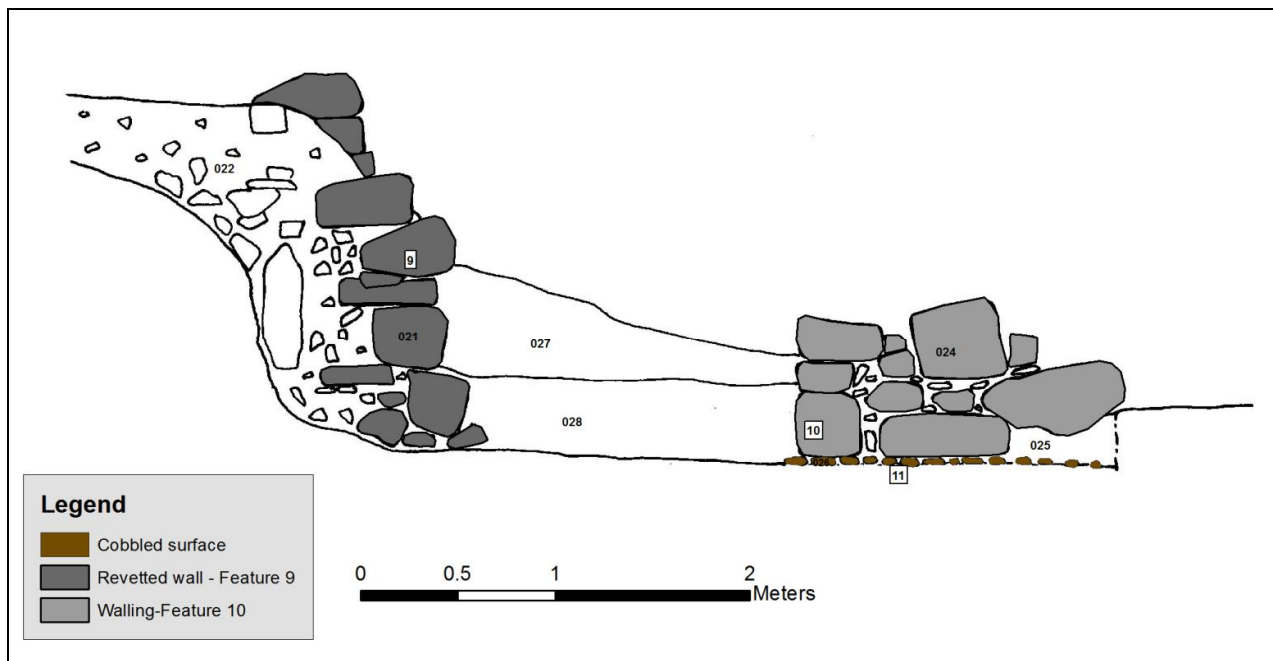


Figure 9 – ESE facing section in Trench 3, Structure A4

6. Discussion

6.1 The watching brief and trial trench excavations at Sites A and C, 7 North Duntulm, provided evidence for the potential function and chronology of the structures and features that would be impacted by the proposed developments. The evaluation of the site, along with mitigation measures proposed during and after the first phase of the project work (see Birch & Peteranna, 2011: 22), will inform recommendations for the protection of in-situ archaeological features and deposits, and provide valuable data for the longer term management of the sites.

- 6.2 The excavations carried out in relation to structure A5 revealed walls of slight construction that most likely relate to a former dyke and kale-yard, or stack-stand & ancillary structures that formed a part of the settlement system at North Duntulm. The trial trench in structure A4 also provided evidence for the construction and potential age of a byre. This building may originally have comprised a single unit of drystone construction with a cobbled floor, into which was later inserted a dividing wall with connecting doorway. The first phase of use may have been associated with animal husbandry, while the addition of the internal partition wall may have signalled a change to a storage or workshop function, before it finally went out of use.
- 6.3 The preliminary survey and excavations carried out in relation to Structure C4 provided a slightly more complex story. Although the main footprint of the building appears to relate to a single phase of construction, this structure was subject to modifications and changes in function throughout its relatively short life. The building was revetted into the steep break of slope to the SSE and a drainage channel cut to carry water away from this side of the structure. This drystone sub-rectangular building had double-faced walls with rubble- and sediment-filled core, the sediment providing additional insulation to the walls which measured up to 0.7m wide. The walls had a maximum height of around 1.6m and the NE and NW external corners of the building were rounded; although the internal corners of the structure were squared. It is possible that the initial drystone phase of the building relates to its use as an animal byre; an interpretation that is supported to some extent by the presence of the soak-away and drain, which passes through the entrance towards the foreshore to the NNW.
- 6.4 Major modifications then took place on structure C4 with the thickening of the NNW wall to 1.4m wide and the insertion of two splayed windows to each side of the entrance. Evidence for lime-mortar was identified on the outer face of the walls, which may also relate to this phase of modification. A fireplace and chimney were also inserted within the W end of the building, indicating that by this stage the structure had taken on a more domestic function. The layers of paving within the entrance and outside the building were also constructed during this phase of use.
- 6.5 However, it was also during this phase that the structure experienced a severe fire, destroying the roof and internal space. But this did not signal the final use of the building. The splayed windows were blocked up, while additional paving was added within the entrance, possibly indicating that the structure had reverted to a byre or storage unit within the settlement.
- 6.6 The structures investigated during this second phase of work at the North Duntulm site appear to relate to the later stages of use and occupation. Indeed, Structure C4 may well have been the last house to be lived in on the site and its use may have extended into the recent past as an ancillary building. The absence of earlier building foundations and features, taken into consideration alongside the small finds recovered from the site, suggest that Structures A5, A4 and C4 relate to the most recent phases of activity.
- 6.7 But where are the buildings relating to the potential earlier phases of use, as suggested by the desk-based assessment including cartographic sources? Some clues to this question may be locked up in the various types of construction observed in the different buildings on the site during the initial detailed survey. For example, structure C4 was constructed of fairly uniform basalt boulders, from the lowest foundation course up to the wall-plate. However, some of the other structures on site, such as C1, C2 and A1, display quite a different form of

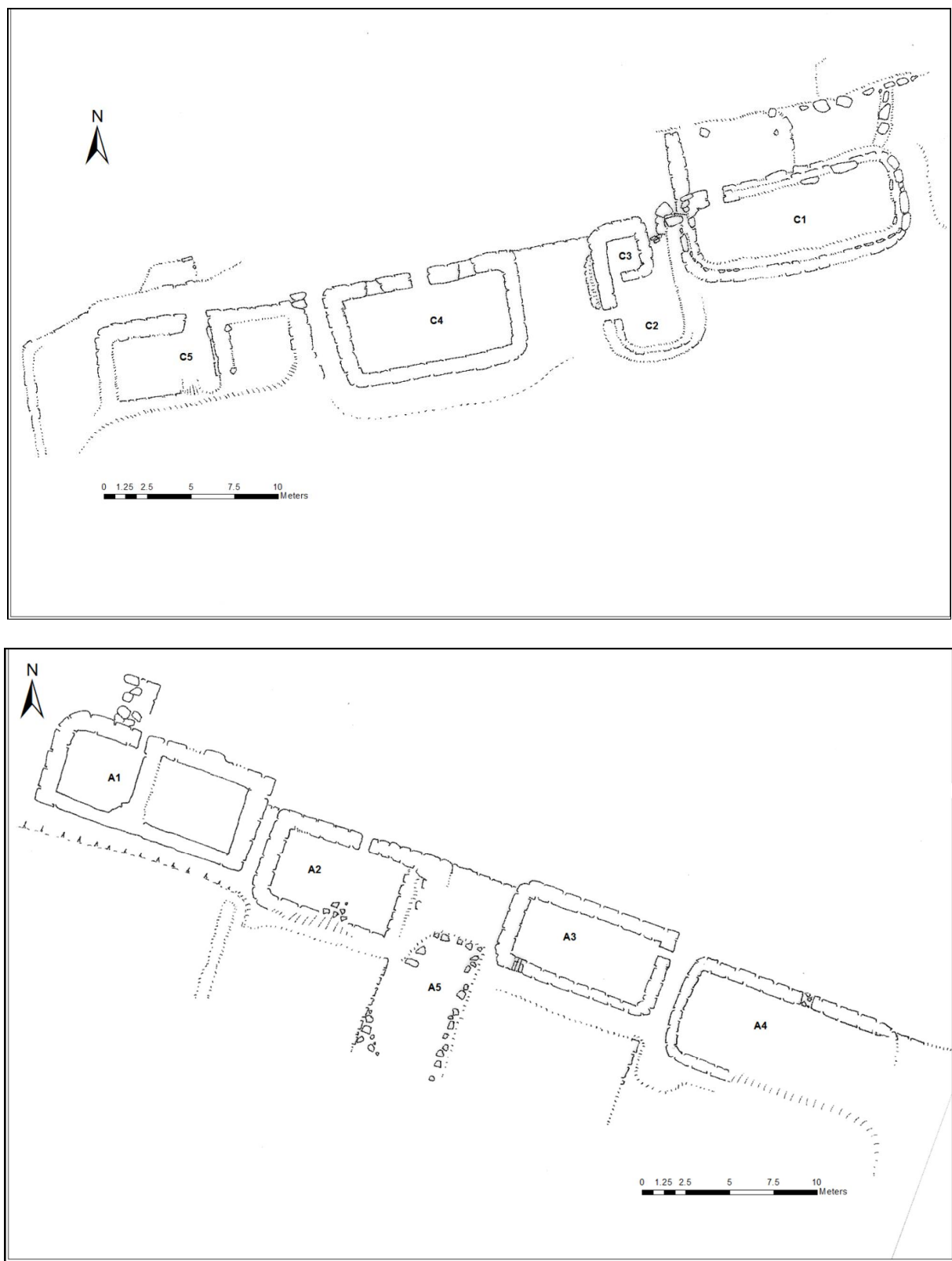


Figure 10 – Plans showing the structures within Sites C and A

construction with the use of quite massive boulders in the foundation courses, around and over which was used a more uniform size of stone and possibly turf. The ground plan of the buildings is also different in form, Structures C1 and C2 in particular having a more amorphous footprint including more rounded ends (see Figure 10).

- 6.8 A glance at the site plans formulated during the preliminary survey of the North Duntulm sites shows a wide range of structure types, in various stages of preservation. It is obvious that some of these structures have been robbed of their stonework in the past, most likely to be incorporated into later buildings and other contemporary features such as boundary dykes. Of course, only further excavation could potentially answer these questions and allow us to look in more detail at settlement continuity and change within the Highlands and Islands of Scotland during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.



Plate 11 – ESE facing section in Trench 3, Structure A4

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Taking into consideration the detailed surveys undertaken on Sites A and C at 7 North Duntulm in July 2011 (Birch & Peteranna, 2011), the watching brief and excavations completed during this phase of work have provided the necessary information to allow the proposed developments to go forward, and to mitigate against any further disturbance to the archaeological features and deposits in the future. With regards to the wall features uncovered in Trench 1, Structure A5, and through discussions with the site architect, it is apparent that no further impact will take place. The ground level will be raised and levelled overlying Structure A5 to form the car park in relation to the adjacent road level.
- 7.2 The clients and owners of the sites have indicated a strong interest in the long-term preservation of the remaining archaeology and have also indicated that future work may include the re-use of some of the former settlement infrastructure to use as outbuildings etc. Therefore, I can only recommend that if any future developments take place at 7 North Duntulm, is that the remaining archaeological structures, features and deposits are taken into consideration in any planning process, and that the relevant mitigation procedures are put in place to safeguard the sites.

8. Reporting

- 8.1 This report will be disseminated to the contractor/developer, Highland Council Historic Environment Team and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.
- 8.2 A digital report will also be submitted with digital copies of the site photographs and geo-referenced site plans in ESRI shapefile format. West Coast Archaeological Services will retain copyright of this report.
- 8.3 A summary of the watching brief and excavations will be submitted for publication in Archaeology Scotland's annual journal, *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. An OASIS entry has also been completed.

9. References

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Plate 12 – WSW facing section through NNW wall of Structure C4, Trench 2

Appendix 1: List of Trenches

DUN11: List of Trenches					
Trench	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Features	Description	Location
1	3m x 1m	0.14m - 0.3m	1, 2	Small exploratory trench to reveal possible wall visible on surface. Depth varied: 0.14m at E end, 0.19m at W end with a maximum depth of 0.3m in the vicinity of feature [1].	Structure A5
2	5m x 2.4m	variable	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Trench to ascertain the nature and extent of the wall build and deposits inside and outside the structure. Also looking to ascertain the building's function.	Structure C4
3	5.5m x 2m	variable	9, 10, 11	Trench to evaluate the nature, function and extent of Structure A4. Machine excavated trench, then section cleaned by hand.	Structure A4

Appendix 2: Index of Features

DUN11: Index of Features					
Feature	Trench	Contexts	Plans	Description and Notes	Photos
1	1	001, 002	1, 2	Wall - about 1m wide with possible tumble on W side. Comprised of a mix of boulders and stones; sub-angular with occasional beach cobbles. Aligned NNE-SSW	21-25; 27-29
2	1	002, 003, 004, 005	2	Wall - possibly pre-dates [1]. Aligned N-S. Sub-angular stones about 0.15-0.20m long on the outer edge with smaller stones in the centre. 0.6-0.7m wide.	21-31
3	2	007, 008	3	N wall of structure C4; W facing wall-head about 0.90m wide	83-87
3a	2	029		Abutment/widening for splayed window on N wall; about 0.35m wide	83-87
4	2	007, 008		W wall of C4; N facing section through wall	43-46
5	2	009, 010	3	External paving - outside entrance on N side of building (C4)	58, 59, 62, 63
6	2	011	3	Entrance passage paving - C4	58-63
7	2	012, 013, 014		Sink for drain inside building C4	74, 75
8	2	015, 016, 017	4	Drain; set under [5] and [6]	73-75
9	3	021, 022, 023	S1	External wall of structure A4 with a fill of sand and loam with small stones; wall built into natural bank	65-69
10	3	024, 025	S1	Internal wall	65-69
11	3	026	S1	Cobbled floor surface	65-69

Appendix 3: Index of Contexts

DUN11: Index of Contexts											
No.	Type	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Under	Over	Feature	Finds	Samples	Plans - Sections	Interpretation
001	Turf/ topsoil	Turf/ root mat/ topsoil						1, 2		1	Turf/ topsoil
002	Structure	Wall			001	006	1			1, 2	Wall
003	Structure	Wall			001	006	2			2	Wall
004	Deposit	Dark brown loam			001	006				2	Deposit on either side of [1]
005	Deposit	Orangey, mid brown loam with scant gravel inclusions			001	006				2	Deposit at E end of Trench 1 to E of [2]
006	Deposit	Orangey/yellow 'gravel' with a mix of loam			002 003 004 005						Natural
007	Structure	Stone facing of wall [4]				006	3, 4				Stone facing of wall
008	Fill	Rubble and soil	007			006	3, 4				Rubble and soil core of stone wall
009	Structure	Rough basalt slabs			018 at S end	010	5				Paving

DUN 11 6 Two New House Sites at 7 North Duntulm: Watching Brief and Excavation

No.	Type	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Under	Over	Feature	Finds	Samples	Plans - Sections	Interpretation
010	Deposit	Mid-brown silt; some small beach cobbles and angular stones; some charcoal flecks and rootlets			009	006	5	4		3	Layer beneath paving
011	Structure	Single line of rough basalt slabs with packing cobbles around			018	015	6			3	Paving of entrance passage
012	Structure	Basalt slabs	within 013	014	011	013	7			4	Lining slabs of drain sink
013	Cut	Straight-sided; slopes down to N		012, 014		006	7			4	Cut of sink
014	Fill	Homogenous mid to dark brown silt	013		011	006	7			4	Fill of sink cut
015	Structure	Rough basalt cobbles			011	016	8			4	Drain lining
016	Cut	U-shaped cut		017	015	006	8			4	Cut of drain
017	Fill	Homogenous dark brown silt	015, 016		011	015	8			4	Fill of drain
018	Deposit	Mid-brown friable sediment containing numerous pot and glass sherds, iron, coin			001	019		5		3	Layer over ?destruction layer

DUN 11 6 Two New House Sites at 7 North Duntulm: Watching Brief and Excavation

No.	Type	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Under	Over	Feature	Finds	Samples	Plans - Sections	Interpretation
019	Deposit	Ash - bright orange from peat or turves from roof - compact			018	020		6		3	?destruction layer
020	Deposit	Black ash lens			019	006		pot, glass, iron - not retained		3	?destruction layer
021	Structure	Large basalt boulders		022		006	9			S1	Wall of structure A4
022	Fill	Mix of natural sand and mid-brown loam; contains stones of various sizes	021			006	9			S1	Fill of wall
023	Cut	Cut into natural bank against which wall is built		021		006	9			S1	Cut for wall revetment
024	Structure	Large basalt stones		025		026	10			S1	Internal wall
025	Fill	Dark brown loam	024			026	10			S1	Fill between stone of wall
026	Structure	Small rounded stones			024	006	11			S1	Floor surface

DUN 11 ó Two New House Sites at 7 North Duntulm: Watching Brief and Excavation

No.	Type	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Under	Over	Feature	Finds	Samples	Plans - Sections	Interpretation
027	Deposit	Grey/brown compact clayey loam; contains roots and stones				028				S1	Natural/ anthropogenic deposit
028	Deposit	Dark brown/black organic mix with wood, wire and baler twine			027	026? 006?				S1	Rubbish dump
029	Structure	Large basalt stones				006	3a				Stone abutment for splayed window

Appendix 4: Index of Finds

DUN11: Index of Finds							
Find Number	Context Number	Material	Feature Number	Description and Notes	Approx. dating	Initials	Date
1	001	Clay		Stem of a clay smoking pipe - stamped 'JACKSON'. Found at W end of Trench 1, Area A during topsoil stripping and general cleaning by trowel	Post-med	SB	09/11/2011
2	001	Pottery		Several sherds of pottery - decorated and undecorated	Post-med	LF	10/11/2011
3	-	Flint		Small pieces of flint. 1 from stripping the new roadway towards C4 and the rest from Trench 2, Structure C4	Prehistoric	SB/LF	10/11/2011
4	010	Iron, glass, pottery		Representative selection of finds from C4	Post-med	SB	10-11/11/11
5	018	Iron, glass, pottery		Representative selection of finds from C4	Post-med	SB/LF	10-11/11/11
6	019	Iron, glass, pottery		Representative selection of finds from C4	Post-med	SB/LF	10-11/11/11

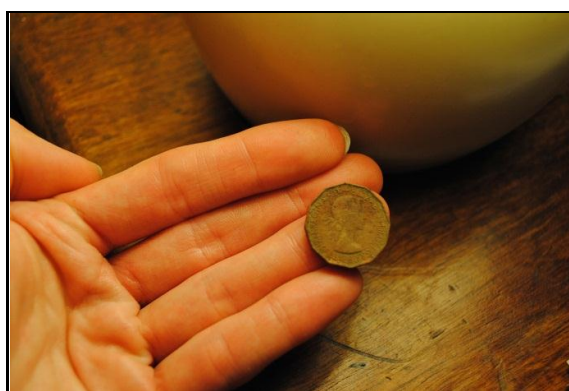
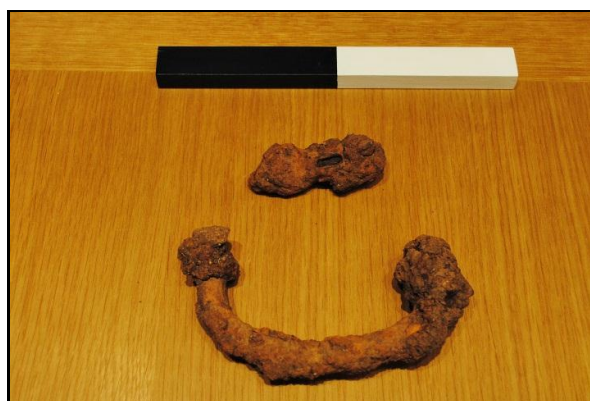
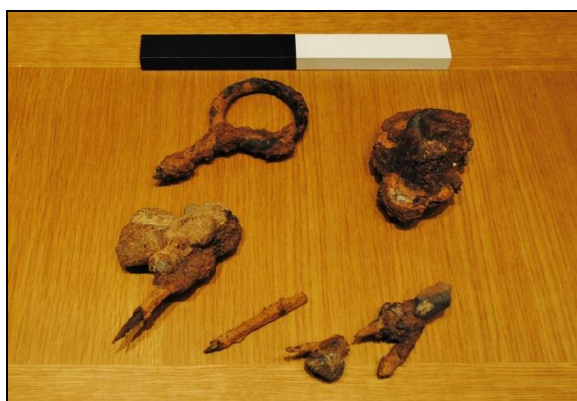


Plate 13 – Selection of small finds from Trench 2, Structure C4 including whetstones and iron objects from the burnt destruction layer 019, and a three-pence piece dated 1953 from the abandonment phase 018 (scale – 0.2m)

Appendix 5: Plan/Section Register

Dun 11: Plan / Section Register								
Plan Number	Section Number	Feature Number	Contexts	Date	Initials	Scale	Direction (facing)	Comments
1		1	001, 002	09/11/2011	SB	01:20		Pre-ex plan of structure A5
2		1, 2	002, 003, 004	09/11/2011	SB	01:20		Mid-ex plan of trench 1 to extent of turf removal and cleaning
3		4, 5, 6		11/11/2011	SB	01:20		Mid-ex plan of trench 2 at structure C4
4		8	015, 016, 017	11/11/2011	SB	01:20		Post-ex plan of drain under entrance passage
	S1	9, 10, 11	021 - 028	11/11/2011	LF	01:20	ESE	Section through structure A4

Appendix 6: Index of Photographs

DUN11: Index of Photographs					
Number	Direction Facing	Feature Number	Notes	Taken By	Date
1	-	-	-	-	-
2	N		Pre-ex of A5	LF	09/11/2011
3	ENE		Pre-ex of A5 (N end) with A3 in background	LF	09/11/2011
4	S		Pre-ex of A5	LF	09/11/2011
5	W		Pre-ex of A5	LF	09/11/2011
6	N		Pre-ex of A5	LF	09/11/2011
7	SSW		A4 - wall facing the sea - poles at outer edges	LF	09/11/2011
8	SSW		A4 - close up of 'gap' - note 'join' to right	LF	09/11/2011
9	W		A4 - large pole at inner corner; small pole at internal wall	LF	09/11/2011
10	N		A4 from interior - pole at blocked entrance	LF	09/11/2011
11	W		A4 showing internal wall to foreground	LF	09/11/2011
12	W		A4 showing internal wall to foreground	LF	09/11/2011
13	N		A4	LF	09/11/2011
14	N		A4	LF	09/11/2011
15	ENE		A4	LF	09/11/2011
16	N		A4 with A3 to left	LF	09/11/2011

Number	Direction Facing	Feature Number	Notes	Taken By	Date
17	ESE		A4	LF	09/11/2011
18	S		A4	LF	09/11/2011
19	E		A4	LF	09/11/2011
20	W		A4 with A3 beyond	LF	09/11/2011
21	ESE		A5 post stripping and cleaning	LF	09/11/2011
22	ESE		A5 post stripping and cleaning	LF	09/11/2011
23	WNW		A5 showing 2 phases of walling	LF	09/11/2011
24	N		A5 showing 2 phases of walling	LF	09/11/2011
25	N		A5 showing 2 phases of walling	LF	09/11/2011
26	N	2	A5 close up of [2]	LF	09/11/2011
27	WNW		A5 post-ex	LF	09/11/2011
28	WNW		A5 post-ex	LF	09/11/2011
29	N		A5 post-ex	LF	09/11/2011
30	NW		A5 close up of E facing section	LF	09/11/2011
31	NW		A5 close up of E facing section	LF	09/11/2011
32	-		General shot of the bay	LF	10/11/2011
33	-		Cows	LF	10/11/2011
34	-		SB and cows	LF	10/11/2011
35	NNW	2	A5 post-cleaning [2]	LF	10/11/2011
36	N	2	A5 post-cleaning [2]	LF	10/11/2011
37	ESE	2	A5 post-cleaning [2]	LF	10/11/2011
38	N	2	A5 post section [2]	LF	10/11/2011
39	NNE	2	A5 post section [2]	LF	10/11/2011
40	-		General shots of knocking wall down at C4	LF	10/11/2011
41	-		General shots of knocking wall down at C4	LF	10/11/2011
42	-		General shots of knocking wall down at C4	LF	10/11/2011
43	S	4	Profile of wall C4	LF	10/11/2011
44	E	4	Profile of wall C4	LF	10/11/2011
45	S	4	Profile of wall C4	LF	10/11/2011
46	S	4	Profile of wall C4	LF	10/11/2011
47	E		Post stripping access road to house (C4)	LF	10/11/2011
48	NE		Post stripping access road to house (C4)	LF	10/11/2011
49	WSW		Post stripping access road to house (C4)	LF	10/11/2011
50	NW		Septic tank hole for Area A	LF	10/11/2011
51	NE		Working shot - SB in C4	LF	10/11/2011
52	-		Moon shots	LF	10/11/2011
53	-		Moon shots	LF	10/11/2011
54	-		Moon shots	LF	10/11/2011
55	-		Moon shots	LF	10/11/2011
56	-		Moon shots	LF	10/11/2011
57	-		Moon shots	LF	10/11/2011
58	N	5, 6	Trench 2; C4 - post cleaning	LF	11/11/2011

Number	Direction Facing	Feature Number	Notes	Taken By	Date
59	N		Trench 2; C4 - post cleaning	LF	11/11/2011
60	E		Trench 2; C4 S end	LF	11/11/2011
61	E		Trench 2; C4 S end	LF	11/11/2011
62	E		Trench 2; C4 N end - paving	LF	11/11/2011
63	E		Trench 2; C4 N end - paving	LF	11/11/2011
64	S	6	Entrance	LF	11/11/2011
65	WNW	9, 10, 11	Section through A4	LF	11/11/2011
66	WNW	9,10, 11	Section through A4	LF	11/11/2011
67	WNW	9, 10, 11	Section through A4	LF	11/11/2011
68	WNW	9, 10, 11	Section through A4	LF	11/11/2011
69	WNW	9, 10, 11	Section through A4	LF	11/11/2011
70	E		W facing section of burnt area in C4	LF	11/11/2011
71	E		W facing section of burnt area in C4	LF	11/11/2011
72	N		Post-ex showing iron in situ and burning in section	LF	11/11/2011
73	NE	8	Drain in entrance	LF	11/11/2011
74	SW	7, 8	Sink hole and drain in entrance	LF	11/11/2011
75	SW	7, 8	Sink hole and drain in entrance	LF	11/11/2011
76	E	5	Post-section of paving outside C4	LF	11/11/2011
77	E	5	Post-section of paving outside C4	LF	11/11/2011
78	S		Drain exit through paving towards sea	LF	11/11/2011
79	S		'Midden' section in septic tank channel	LF	11/11/2011
80	W		Coal above C5	LF	11/11/2011
81	-		SB working as moon rises	LF	11/11/2011
82	NE		Coal to foreground, C4 in background	LF	11/11/2011
83	E	3, 3a	Wall head in N wall C4	LF	11/11/2011
84	E	3, 3a	Wall head in N wall C4	LF	11/11/2011
85	E	3, 3a	Wall head in N wall C4	LF	11/11/2011
86	E	3, 3a	Wall head in N wall C4	LF	11/11/2011
87	E	3, 3a	Wall head in N wall C4	LF	11/11/2011
88 – 99	Flash	-	Small finds from Trenches & watching brief	SB	17/01/12