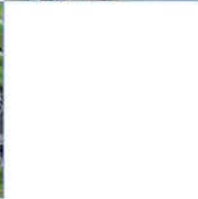


Moncreiffe Hillfort, Perth and Kinross: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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Archaeology
Group



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Moncreiffe Hillfort, Perth and Kinross: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust
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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation and topographic survey undertaken by the Tay Landscape Partnership, with local volunteers, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and AOC Archaeology Group at the hillfort of Moncreiffe Hill.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches located over the potential ramparts of the hillfort. Concurrent with the evaluation laser scanning of the monument produced a detailed topographic survey of the hillfort that demonstrated that the upstanding earthworks of the hillfort comprised the slight remains of a single rampart along with two possible entrances, one to the east and one to the west.

In the three excavation trenches evidence of the structure and use of the hillfort was revealed. These structural remains comprised a rampart with an earth core and dry-stone facing revealed in two of the trenches, along with a hut platform constructed on top of the slumped remains of the rampart in one trench. No rampart was identified in the third trench but a bedrock cut ditch was exposed that may relate to activity within the hillfort. An artefact assemblage relating to the use of the hillfort was recovered including a fragment of shale bracelet and a possible stone gaming piece.

1 INTRODUCTION

A community archaeology project, comprising the excavation of three evaluation trenches, was carried out at Moncreiffe hillfort, Perth and Kinross by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust with AOC Archaeology Group as part of the Tay Landscape Partnership scheme *Hillforts of the Tay*. The project aimed to confirm the presence or absence of a hillfort at the site, as the upstanding evidence was inconclusive. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Project Design* (Strachan 2014). The project was undertaken with the kind permission of the landowner, Woodland Trust Scotland, to whom thanks are due, especially site manager Jill Aitkens. Tay Landscape Partnership and AOC Archaeology Group would like to thank all of the volunteers who made the excavation a success.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Moncreiffe hillfort (NGR: NO 1313 1988; NMRS: NO11NW7; PKHER: MPK3203; SAM: 9438) is the smaller of two hillforts on Moncreiffe hill, to the SE of Perth (Figs 1 and 2). The hill itself is a key geographical feature in the landscape, located at the meeting of the Rivers Tay and Earn and so dominating the lower straths of both rivers. The monument itself comprises the suggested remains of a fort of late Iron Age and/or Early Historic date, and is situated at around 175-185m OD on a craggy prominence with the southern side of Moncreiffe hill with extensive views across the Earn valley to the S, SE and SW, but with views to the N limited by the hill itself. Both Moncreiffe fort, and its neighbour Moredun Top (NGR: NO 135 199) sit on exposed bedrock of the Ochil Volcanic Formation, being pyroxene – andesite, with the drift geology of the surrounding area consists of Glaciofluvial till, gravels, sands and silts (British Geological Survey 1:50000 digital data). While there is no mention of either hillfort in the Old and New Accounts (1791-99 and 1834-45 respectively), the site appears annotated as ‘fort (remains of)’ on the OS 1st edition 6” map. Christison notes of the Hill of Moncreiffe: ‘On the edge of this mural precipice two forts have been perched, the first of which... is now scarcely recognisable. The O.M. (Ordnance Map) gives it an oval form measuring about 280 by 150 ft. I had some difficulty in finding any evidence of a mound or wall, but at last discovered a ‘distinct mass of rude masonry in a chance break in the ground. (1900, 79-80).

The site is mapped and annotated as ‘Fort’ on the OS 6” map (1959) and the NMRS record of an OS visit in 1964 is as follows: ‘The slight remains of this fort are situated on a craggy height with a cliff on the south and steep slopes on the other sides. On the SE side are traces of a rampart 1m high externally and not exceeding 0.3m internally which may have continued to the NE to form an annexe, but could not be traced further due to Forestry Commission planting. On the NE are slight indications of stony construction but elsewhere only a faint suggestion of scarping marks the possible course. There is an entrance from the SE and a possible entrance from the W.’ The site was designated as a Scheduled Monument in 23/01/2001 and the schedule for the designation includes the following summary: The monument comprises the remains of a fort of late Iron Age or Early Historic date. The monument is situated at around 175- 185m OD on a craggy height with cliffs on the S and steep slopes on the other sides. These natural defences have been augmented by a defensive wall, of which only traces now remain, encircling the natural plateau of the hill top. Traces of ramparts and an entrance can also be seen on the SE side. The interior of the fort is uneven in places with substantial outcrops of bedrock, and no internal features have been identified from the surface remains. The area proposed for scheduling is sub-circular, with maximum dimensions of 110m E-W by 70m N-S, to include all the features described and an area around them in which evidence relating to the construction and use of the fort may survive, as marked in red on the accompanying map. The NMRS records the results of a RCHAMS visit as follows: All traces of previous Forestry Commission plantings have been removed from the area of this fort, but it is so poorly preserved that no further details can be added to the existing OS plan and description. (JRS) September 1996.

In addition the NMRS records a chance find as follows: Fragment of worked jet/cannel coal, probably from a bracelet or bangle. Cut-marks are evident and the piece may have been unfinished due to breakage. It has a D shaped cross-section and measures 21mm in length. It was found in 1981 beside the track in the interior of the hillfort at NGR NO 1364 1988 (PMAG Acc. No. 1998.106). Information from Perth Museum and Art Gallery 08/05/03.

3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological works were to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains at the site of Moncreiffe hillfort and to determine if a prehistoric or early historic hillfort existed at the site, through evaluation trenching.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological survey

The topographic survey works were carried out between 1st and 2nd September 2014. Detailed topographic survey of all visible features on site was undertaken using an Trimble S6 robotic total station, with the local site grid registered to OS using differential GPS, a Trimble R6 rover using real-time corrections via the VRS Now Service. The hillfort was recorded by laser scanning with a Trimble Focus 3D laser scanner; 32 scanning stations were required to provide total coverage of the monument.

4.2 Archaeological evaluation

The archaeological evaluation comprised the hand excavation of three trenches in locations agreed in advance with Historic Scotland, as a condition of the scheduled monument consent. These trenches were placed over the possible locations of the ramparts of the hillfort at the northwest, east and southeast of the hill top.

The trenches were excavated by hand and all features and structures revealed were cleaned by hand before being recorded by digital photography, drawn to an appropriate scale and a written record produced using AOC *pro forma* context sheets.

5 RESULTS

All archaeological works were conducted between the 1st and the 6th September 2014. Weather conditions were variable through the course of the work though the archaeological visibility was however good.

The hillfort of Moncreiffe Hill (Figure 2) is situated on a minor summit of Moncreiffe Hill defined by cliffs to the south and steep natural slopes to all other sides. The major summit of Moncreiffe Hill is also the location of a hillfort, that of Moredun top. The low fragmentary remains of a rampart with occasional visible stone facing can be traced around the northern edge of the hilltop forming a very irregular oval enclosure measuring 69m east to west by 46m north to south. No ramparts can be discerned to the south of the hilltop above the steep cliffs, this may be due to differential survival or because a rampart was not considered necessary above the steep cliffs. The slight remains of two possible entrances can be seen one to the east and one to the west of the fort. The entrance to the

west is more clearly defined with a distinct break in the ramparts and a possible track leading southwest out of the hillfort. The interior of the hillfort is covered with small depressions and scoops that are probably the results of recent quarrying activity. A large platform 10m in diameter at the southwest of the hillfort may be a house platform relating to the use of the hillfort.

Recent activity on the hilltop is attested by a trigonometry pillar at the summit and a path running around the southern edge of the hilltop.



Plate 1: The interior of Moncreiffe hillfort.

5.2.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated across the suggested NW rampart and ditch on the hillfort (Figure 2 & 3). The natural geology of this trench was an orange grey sandy clay glacial till (118).

Running NE-SW across Trench 1 was rampart [119] composed of a dry-stone outer face [104] with an earth core (106) set on a stone foundation [115]. The outer dry-stone face of the rampart [104] was constructed of sub-rounded to sub-angular stone up to 0.5m by 0.4m infilled with smaller angular stone and extended across Trench 1, was 0.78m thick & 0.59m high. The boulder interstices of [104] were filled with a light yellowish brown friable sandy silt (105). The basal deposit of stone [115] was constructed of angular boulders between 0.2m to 0.5m in diameter. This extended across full width of the sondage, measured 2.65m in length and 0.12m deep. The boulder interstices of [115] were filled with mid brown silty clay (116). Overlying stone foundation [115] was an earthen bank composed of mid brown silty clay (106) lying between wall [104] to NW and structure [110] to SE. Bank (106) extended across Trench, was 1.5m wide and 0.32m deep. Overlying bank (106) was a deposit of angular stone (102) in a matrix of brown silty sand (103). These deposits are interpreted as collapsed rampart material with fine material filling the boulder interstices.

Outside of rampart [119] to the NW a buried ground surface (109 & 114) of silty clay was covered by rubble collapse (108) of angular stone with the boulder interstices being filled with orange brown sandy silt (107).



Plate 2: Trench 1 Rampart [119] outer face [104]

To the inside (SE) of the rampart [119] a mid brownish black friable sandy silt (113), with a lens of mid yellowish brown clayey silt (117) formed a foundation deposit for a stone platform [110]. Platform [110] was composed of angular stone 0.1m to 0.4m in diameter measuring 1.3m wide and 0.26m deep covered the full width of the trench. A mid orangey brown sandy silt (111) filled the boulder interstice within [110]. A stone setting [112] within platform [110] formed a rectangular channel extending for 0.8m E-W and continuing out of the trench, 0.2m wide and 0.17m deep. Stone structure [110] and channel [112] may form the foundation of a house platform or may form an internal face to the rampart.



Plate 3: Trench 1 showing structure [110] and slot [112] to right and collapse (102) and bank 106) in centre.

5.2.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated through a notable mound at the eastern end of Moncreiffe Hill (Figures 2 and 4). Initial topographic survey suggested that the feature may form the northern edge of the rampart associated with the eastern entrance in to the possible hillfort. Fragments of stone were located across the area, but it was unclear whether these related to bedrock or later use of the hill.



Plate 4: Working shot of Trench 2 showing wall [202] at front and wall [203] at back

Following the removal of the turf and topsoil, it was immediately obvious that the trench contained elements of a north to south aligned bank or rampart. Stone was identified across the whole trench, but in particular two stone alignments were noted [202] and [207]. Further investigation revealed the features to be the stone edges of a much larger bank or rampart [210]. Wall [203] was the best surviving of the two walls, measuring 0.40 m in depth and built directly on the bedrock [212], using large angular stones. The possibility exists that the bedrock was worked to house the wall, although no conclusive proof was identified. The western wall [207], was built slightly differently, and contained a definite stone foundation [209] at the eastern edge, with a probable earthen core [214], overlain by stone [202]. The upper stone would have formed the base of the upper wall. Measuring 4.2 m in width, by 0.80 m in depth, the bank was built directly on to the natural bedrock [212] and subsoil [213]. Abutted at the west end by wall [207] and at the east end by [203], the bank was constructed of two main deposits of compact clay [206] and [208]. The central part of the bank was earthen and very little stone was identified in this area.



Plate 5: Eastern stone face [203] of bank [210]

The feature represents the same bank identified in Trench 1, albeit a better preserved example.



Plate 6: Western stone face [209] of bank [210]

5.2.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated across the suggested bank and ditch to the southeast of Moncreiffe Hill (Figure 2 & 5). The natural geology in Trench 3 was bedrock outcrop (310). Cut into bedrock (310) was a shallow, steep sided, flat based channel [306] oriented NE-SW. Channel [306] extended for 4.5m within the trench, was 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep. Channel [306] was filled with two occupation deposits/silt traps; to the northwest (308) a dark brown to black friable sandy silt and burnt stone with frequent charcoal flecks and to the southeast (304) a mid grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks.



Plate 7: Trench 3 showing bedrock cut channel [306]

Set into deposit (308) within channel [306] were two possible sets of paving slabs [307] & [309]. Paving [307] comprised two large angular sandstone blocks, while [309] lay immediately to the north of [307] and comprised a large broken slab measuring 0.8m by 0.4m.



Plate 8: Trench 3 showing possible paving [307] & [309]

Overlying the paving slabs [307] & [309] was a deposit of dark brown soft sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt bone (303). This material was initially thought to be the remains of an earthen bank or rampart associated with the hillfort but may be material built up within the bedrock cut channel [306] and may also be material upcast from the formation of path [302] to the southeast.

Overlying deposit (303) was a bank of upcast material (305) relating to the construction of a path [302] that ran NE-SW across the SE end of Trench 3. Trench 3 was covered with up to 0.12m of topsoil (301).

5.2.4 Artefacts

A total of 36 hand-retrieved artefacts were recovered during excavation comprising a small number of cobble tools, quern fragments, possible quartz and flint tools and a fragment of vitrified material. Most of the artefacts are fairly domestic in character but amongst the more prosaic objects, an ornament in the form of a fragment of black shale bracelet and a possible stone gaming piece stand out. Also present amongst the hand-retrieved finds are fragments of charcoal and burnt bone. All of the artefacts came from Trenches 2 and 3; no artefacts were recovered from Trench 1. Although the assemblage may be quite small, in comparison to other later prehistoric/early medieval hillforts, the number of individual finds from such a limited excavation is of interest.

Despite its fragmentary condition, the shale bracelet fragment (SF 302) from Trench 3 is one of the most significant individual finds from the site. The fragment represents a small section of an annular bracelet carved from a tablet or plate of black shiny organic-rich stone. Although this material is often referred to as jet, the material used here is likely to be a more local shale, cannel coal or lignite. A combination of scientific techniques, namely X-radiography and surface ED-XRF analysis, will help to refine the composition more closely which in-turn will help us to suggest a likely provenance for the raw material. Annular shale bracelets such as these have a long currency of use from the Early Bronze Age into the medieval period and a study of their form and diameter (Hunter forthcoming) indicates that they were produced for adults and children alike. In the later prehistoric and early historic period, bracelets such as these would not have been rare but it is fair to say that not everybody would have had access to such beautiful ornaments and they were clearly a sought after but limited commodity.

Initial examination of the shale bracelet prior to conservation suggests that despite the careful finishing to remove tool marks and to create a polished surface, subtle tool marks from manufacture are still visible on the interior surface of the bracelet. Further study of these tool marks may help us to understand the process used to produce the bracelet which when considered alongside other aspects of the bracelets shape, size and material type, may help us to understand its date and who might have worn it.

The possible gaming piece (SF 303), also recovered from Trench 3, is also of interest. This artefact is a small spherical waterworn pebble. It lacks any evidence of working but its water-rounded, smooth surfaces indicate that it was collected from a river bed and must have been deliberately brought to the hillfort. It may simply have been a beloved trinket but its similarity to deliberately shaped stone balls used as gaming pieces found on other Scottish hillforts, such as Traprain Law and Broxmouth, is intriguing.

The other finds in the assemblage are more domestic in character, comprising food and hearth debris as well as a range of stone tools. Many small fragments of charcoal and animal bone were also recovered. Further analysis of the charcoal will help us to identify the species of the trees being burnt and this will also help us to determine whether the fragments recovered during excavation are pieces of burnt structural timbers or the sweepings from domestic hearths. The bone is almost certainly animal bone, representing food waste that was discarded, perhaps alongside fuel debris from a hearth. Some of the pieces are very small which limits the amount of information we can glean from them but examination by an environmental specialist will help to identify, where possible, what animal the bones represent. This will help us to understand what animals the occupants of Moncreiffe hillfort relied on for food and give us an insight into their diet.

The stone tools also form an interesting group. At least one hand-held cobble tool, a grinder (SF 220), has distinct wear facets on both ends. This tool has been produced from a smooth water-rounded cobble which, like the gaming piece, has been brought onto the site from a nearby water-course and hints at the resources that were exploited by the people of Moncreiffe hillfort. Three

fragments of fire-cracked stone (SF 200, SF 209, SF 211), used as pot-boilers, and further two water-rounded cobbles (SF 223 and SF 225) may also have been worked but require further examination.

A fragment of a saddle quern stone (SF 221), which would have been used to grind grain into flour, was found amongst the inner stone kerb of the rampart in Trench 2. Saddle querns were in use from early prehistory to early medieval times, despite the development of a more efficient grinding technology in the Iron Age – the rotary quernstone. The saddle quern from Moncreiffe Hill is fragmentary and the lithology is incredibly friable but enough survives to suggest that it was produced from a water-rounded boulder. The lithology of the stone stands out amongst the rocks encountered during excavation, again suggesting that the stone was brought to site deliberately from elsewhere in the locale. A second ground stone, possibly a fragmentary rubbing stone or grinding surface (SF 202) came from the rubble associated with the inner kerb of the rampart. Although rubbing stones were used in conjunction with saddle querns, these two items are not a matching pair. Further study of the form and wear traces on both of these tools will help to determine the extent of their use and may hint at the reasons for their deposition. The incorporation of these tools within the stones of the rampart are of interest and follows a pattern that has been noted across Scotland in the later prehistoric and early medieval period. It is unclear whether this practice is simply the expedient re-use of a broken or exhausted tool as a building material or whether there is a more structured and purposeful reason for their incorporation in this instance.

Angular flakes of quartz were frequently encountered within Trench 2 as well as occasional rounded quartz pebbles and a few possible flint tools. It is possible that the quartz flakes represent working debris from the production of small blades or other tools and may represent residual early prehistoric activity. One burnt flint or chert tool (SF 224) has possible retouch along one edge and may have been used as a scraper for preparing animal hides. As with the stone tools, the raw material required to produce these tools would not naturally have been found on the hilltop so must have been brought there deliberately.

Finally, a small fragment of vitrified material (SF 210) came from Trench 2. This material is very light and bubbly and was produced as the result a high-temperature pyrotechnic process. Two main types of vitrified material are known from archaeological contexts: those representing debris resulting from the production of metals (usually iron) and those which are unrelated to metalworking and have been produced by another high-temperature process (such as fuel ash slag from a domestic hearth). In its current condition, it is not possible to confirm which process produced the fragment of vitrified material from Moncreiffe hillfort but further analysis will help identify this more closely.

6 DISCUSSION

The excavations at Moncreiffe Hill have demonstrated conclusively that the site is the location of a hillfort of prehistoric to early historic date. While the excavations have been limited in scope evidence for the character, condition and extent date of the hillfort were recovered.

In Trenches 1 and 2 sections of the same rampart of similar constructional style was recorded (structures 119 & 210). In both of these trenches the rampart was constructed of an earthen core (106 & 206/208) with a external facing course [104 & 203]. There were however structural differences between the ramparts in the two trenches. In Trench 1 the rampart was constructed on a stone platform [115], this was absent in Trench 2 possibly as the rampart was built, in places, directly upon bedrock.

While the trenches were targeted at potential ramparts and ditches of the hillfort, possible internal features of the hillfort were identified. Occupation deposits (304, 308) and possible paving (307, 309) were identified in Trench three within cut bedrock (306) which may be related to the occupation and use of the hillfort. Within trench one a possible house platform [110] was recorded that might post-date the hillfort occupation.

Hillfort studies have traditionally worked on the assumption that hillforts are prehistoric constructions. However recent research (Cook 2013) in Aberdeenshire and East Lothian has extended this view into the early historic period. While this may also be the case for Perthshire and many authorities have long argued that Scotland is not a homogenous zone and that there are numerous regions and sub-regions (Piggott 1966; Armit & Ralston 2003; Hunter 2007) and that in early medieval Perthshire hillforts were not constructed. An alternate is that archaeological works has so far failed to identify the full range of early historic sites.

This DSR report is both preliminary and provisional, with many issues raised by the excavation data still to be addressed. In ascertaining a fuller knowledge of the excavation results, a post-excavation research design will be that will describe all necessary and appropriate assessment processes and consequent post-excavation analyses together with publication proposals for the final report. This report will integrate the stratigraphic, contextual and descriptive data from the excavation with specialist post-excavation analyses covering dating, palaeoenvironmental and economic issues. These will then be included with the findings from the previous phases of work culminating in an article fit for academic publication.

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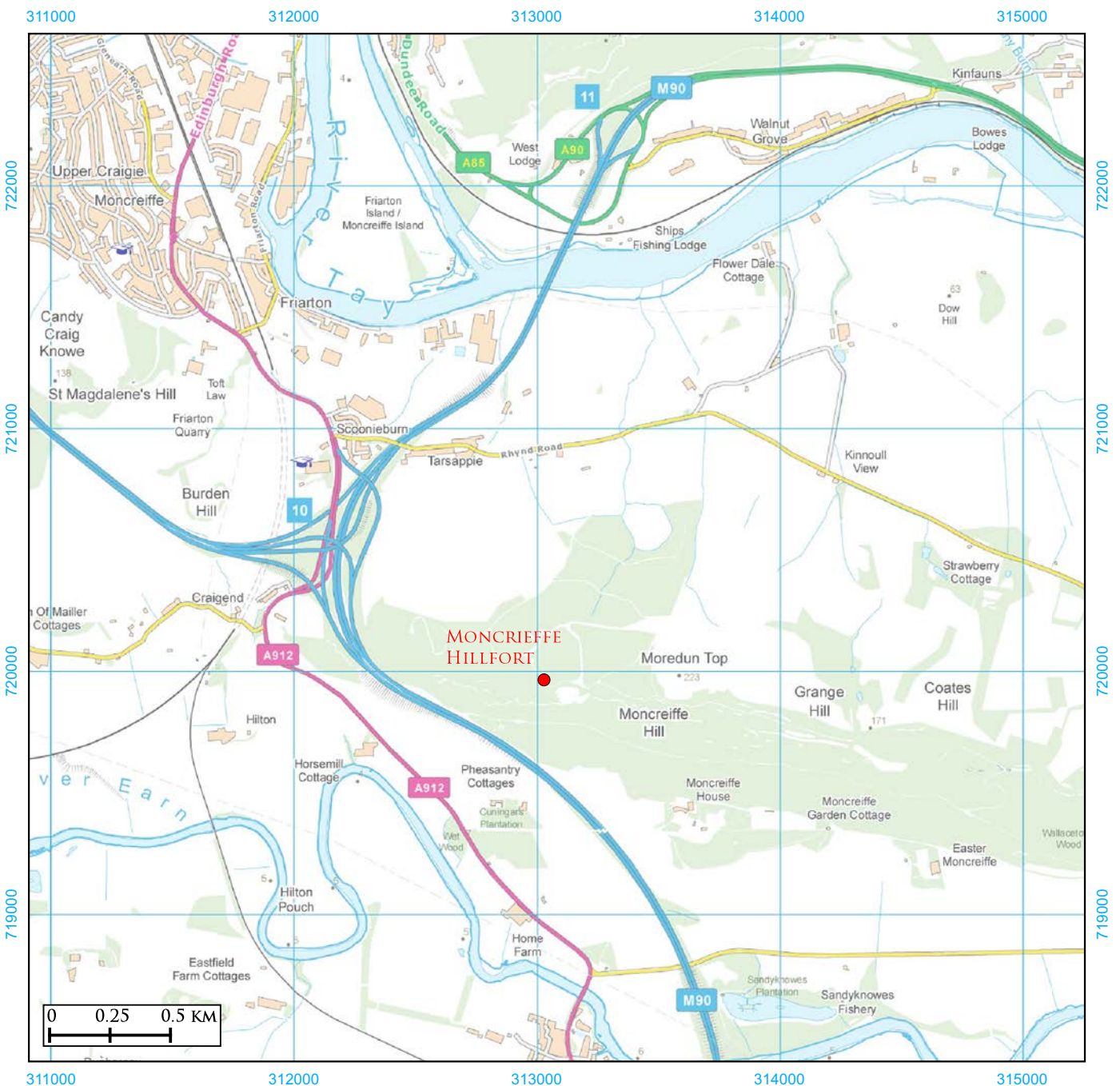
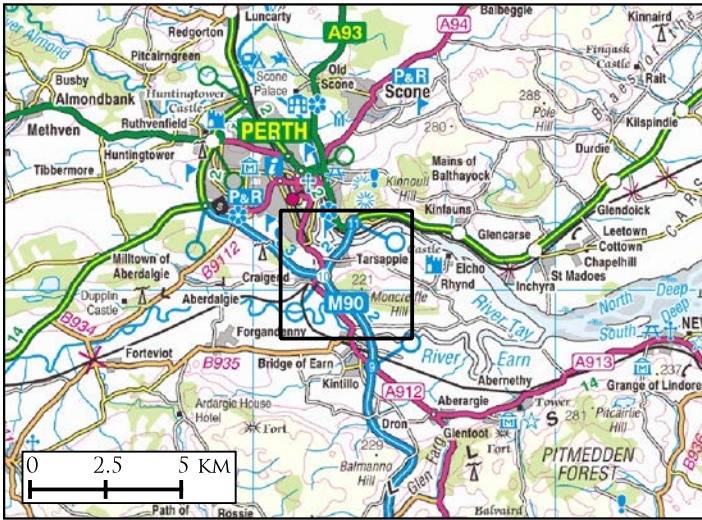
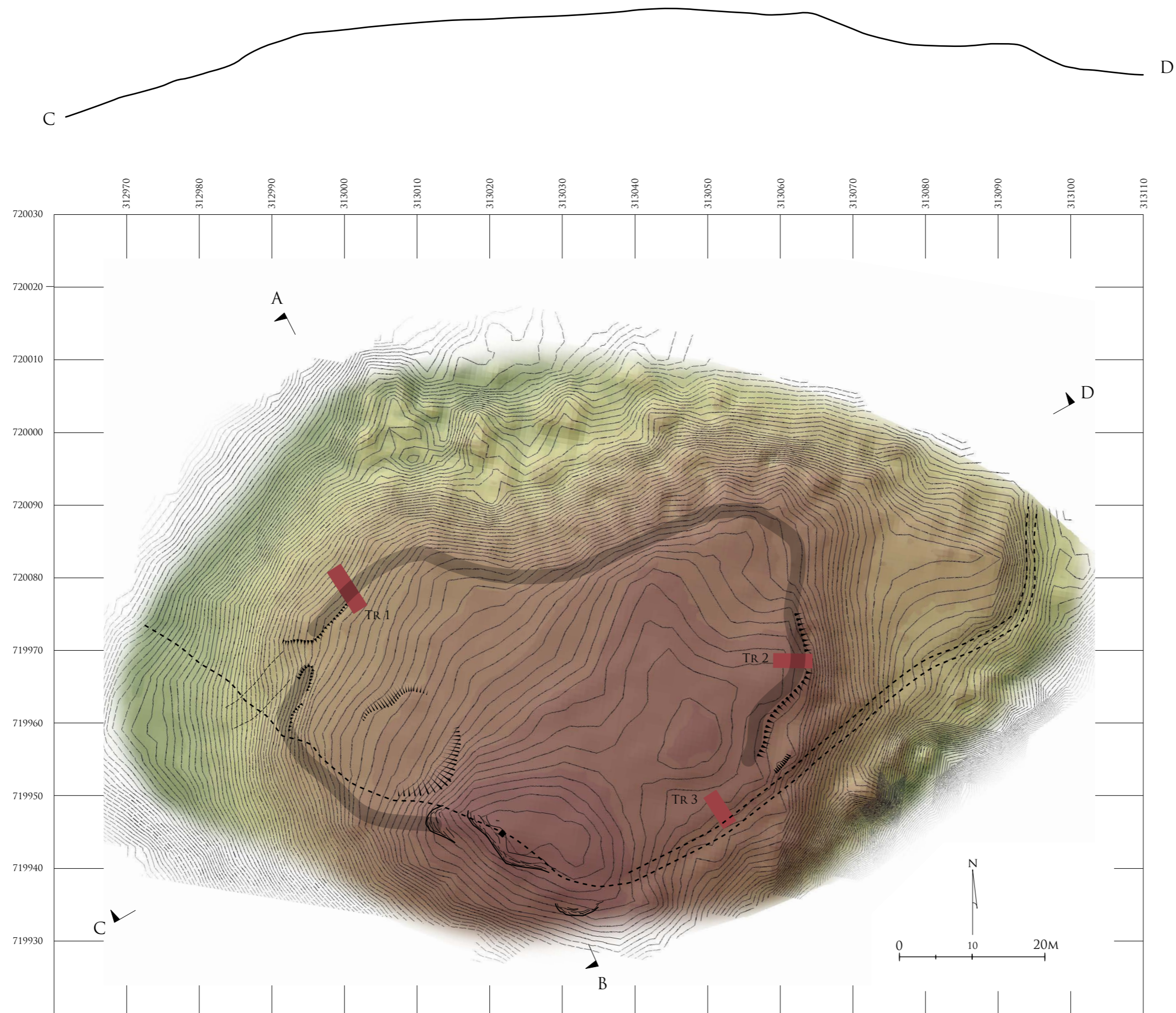
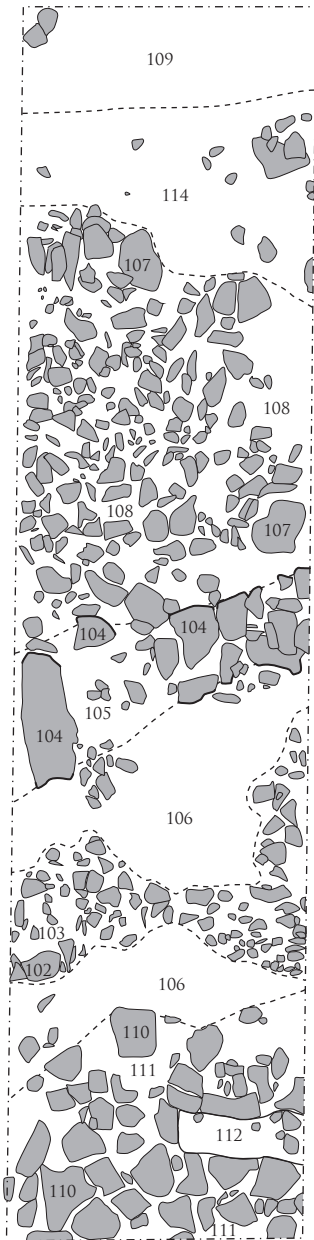


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

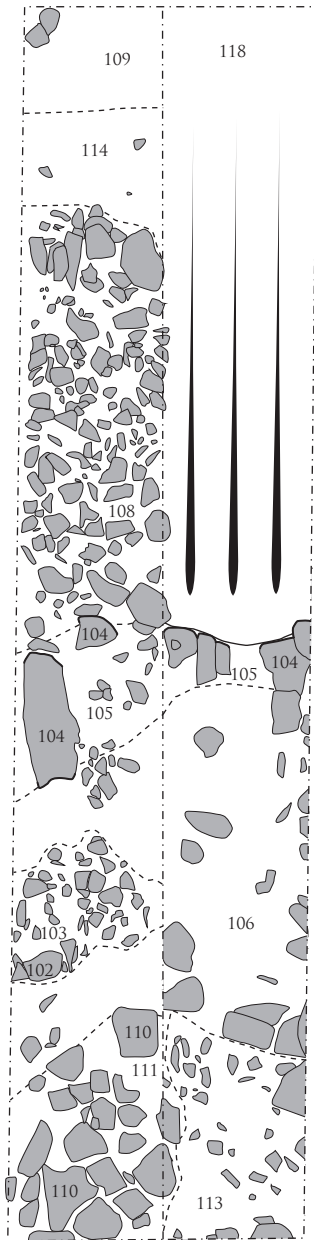


- ◆ TRIG PILLAR
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCH
- ⤴ BEDROCK OUTCROP
- PATH
- ▬ APPROXIMATE LINE OF RAMPART

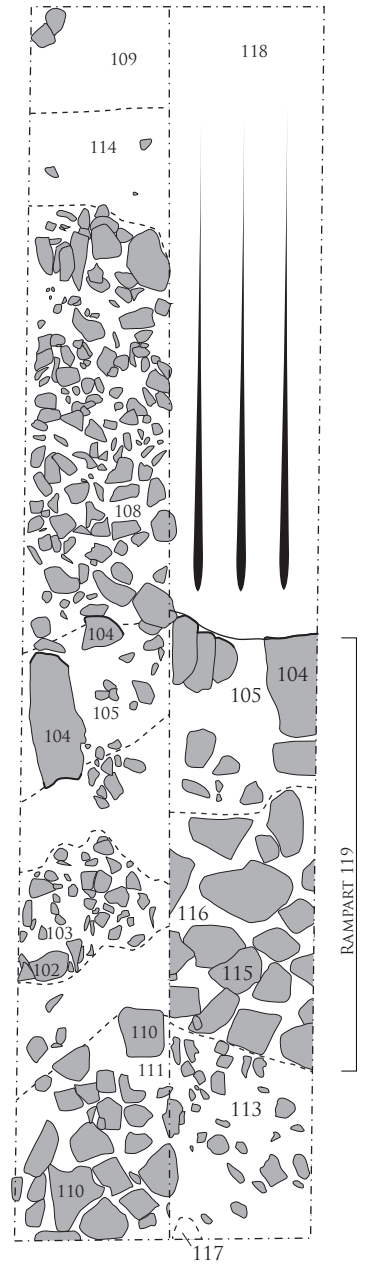
FIGURE 2: MONCRIEFFE HILLFORT TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY



A: PRE-EXCAVATION PLAN



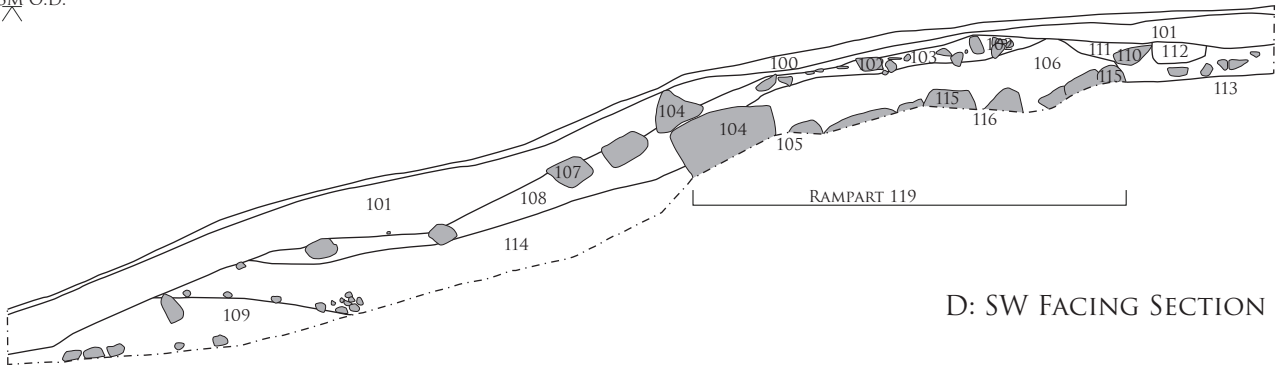
B: SHOWING WALL [104]
BANK (106) AND FOUNDATION
DEPOSIT (113)



C: SHOWING WALLBASE [115]

NW
179.93M O.D.

SE
179.93M O.D.



D: SW FACING SECTION

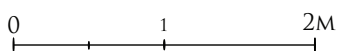
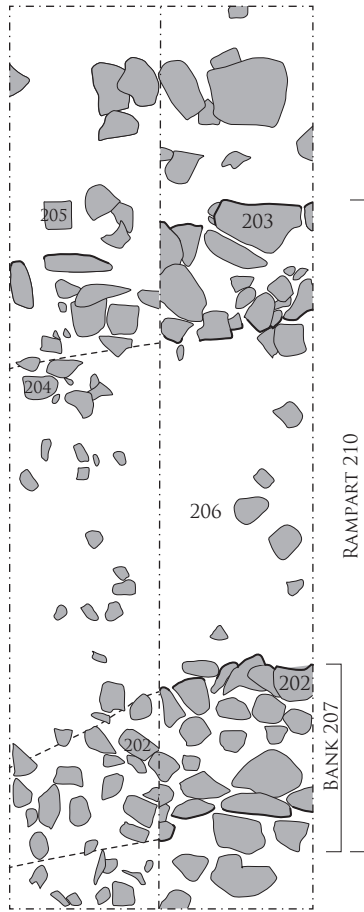


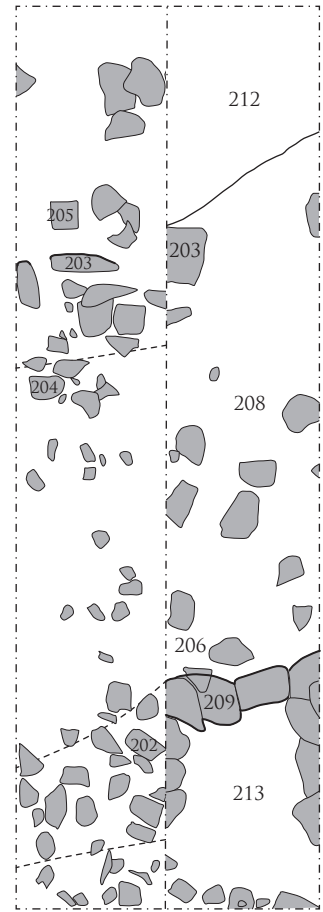
FIGURE 3: TRENCH 1 PLANS AND SECTION



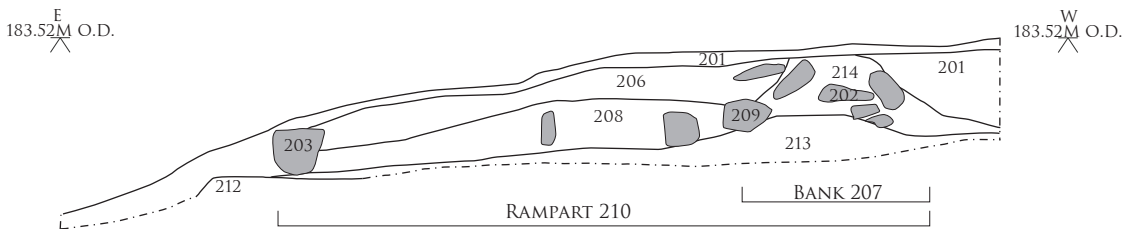
A: PRE-EXCAVATION PLAN



B: SHOWING RAMPART [210]



C: SHOWING WALL [109]



D: N FACING SECTION

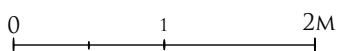
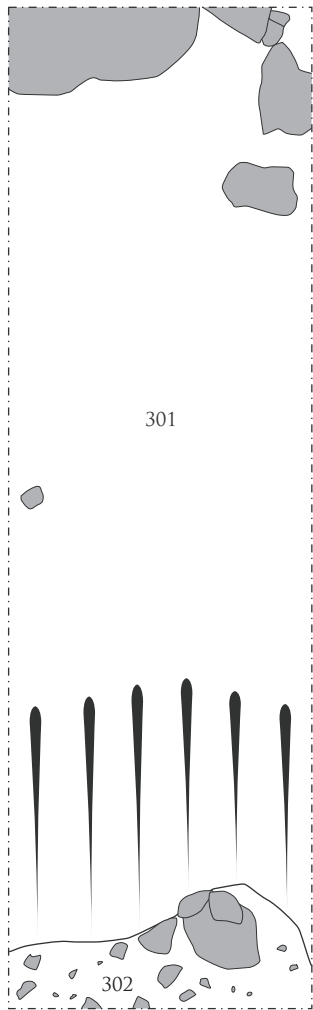
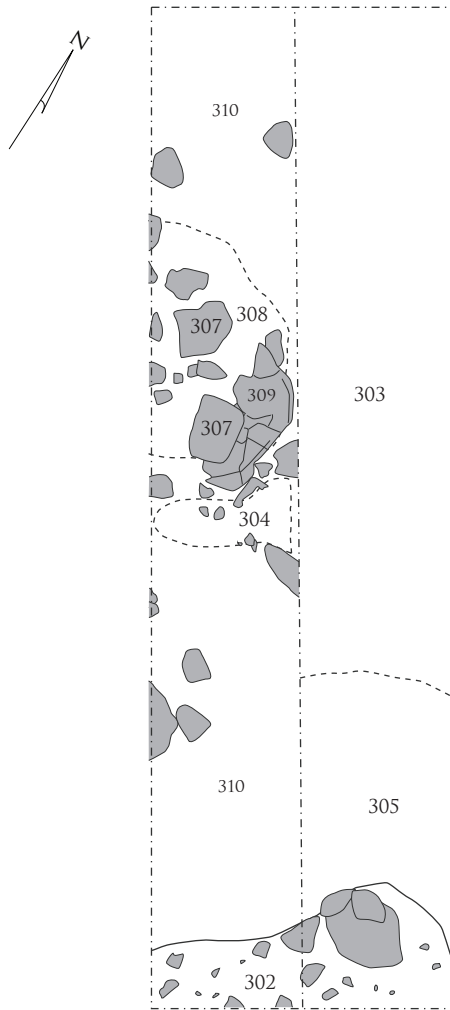


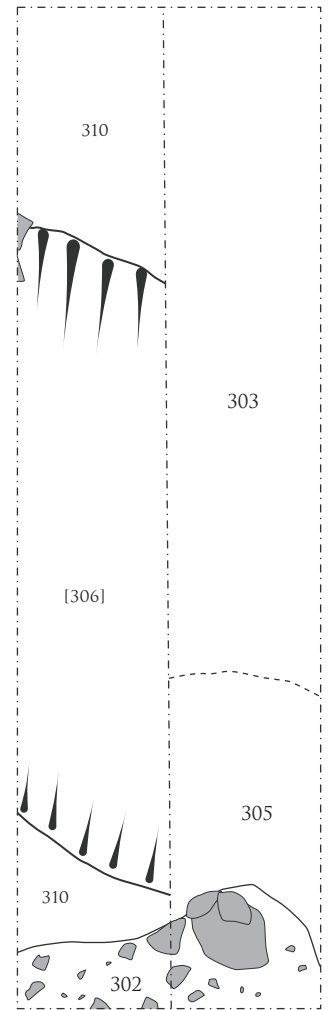
FIGURE 4: TRENCH 2 PLANS AND SECTION



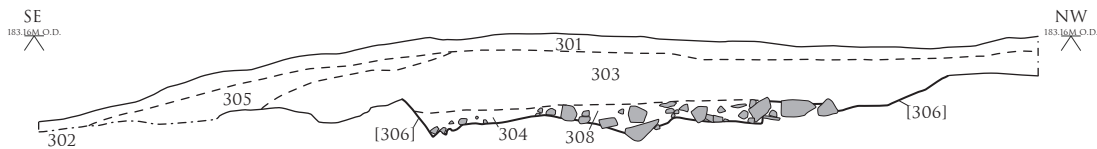
A: PRE-EXCAVATION PLAN



B: SHOWING OCCUPATION DEPOSITS (304) & (308) AND PAVING [307] & [309]



C: SHOWING CUT [306] POST-EXCAVATION



D: NE FACING SECTION

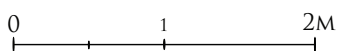


FIGURE 5: TRENCH 3 PLANS AND SECTION

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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
100	Tr 1	Turf, 0.05m deep, throughout Trench 1.
101	Tr 1	Mid orangey brown sandy silt, throughout Trench 1 0.35m deep. Topsoil
102	Tr 1	Deposit of angular stones between 0.05m and 0.20m in diameter, Extends across 2m width of trench, 1.30m wide and 0.15m deep. Collapsed rampart material.
103	Tr 1	Mid brown sandy silt filling the boulder interstices within (102). Extends across 2m width of trench, 1.30m wide and 0.20m deep. Colluvial deposit filling boulder interstices of collapsed rampart material (102).
104	Tr 1	Dry-stone wall oriented NE-SW extending across Trench 1, 0.78m thick & 0.59m high. Constructed of sub-rounded to sub-angular stone up to 0.5m by 0.4m infilled with smaller angular stone. Part of rampart wall surrounding hill-fort.
105	Tr 1	Light yellowish brown friable sandy silt filling the boulder interstices within [104]. Deposit of water borne fine material filling the gaps in the dry-stone wall.
106	Tr 1	Mid brown silty clay lying between wall [104] and structure [110]. Extends across width of trench, 1.5m wide and 0.32m deep. Earth bank infill of stone faced rampart.
107	Tr 1	Dark orangey brown sandy silt filling the boulder interstices within (108). Extends across width of trench, 3m wide and 0.32m deep. Colluvial deposit filling the gaps within stone deposit (108).
108	Tr 1	Deposit of angular stones between 0.05m and 0.3m in diameter, down slope of wall [104]. Deposit extends across width of trench, is 3m in width and 0.32m deep. Collapsed stone of rampart [104]
109	Tr 1	Mid orangey brown silty clay with frequent small stones. Buried ground surface
110	Tr 1	Deposit of stone at south end of Trench 1. Extends across full width of trench, measures 1.3m wide and 0.26m deep. Composed of angular stone 0.1m to 0.4m in diameter. Possible internal facing course of dry-stone walling for rampart, or possible wall of house platform.
111	Tr 1	Mid orangey brown sandy silt filling the boulder interstice within [110]. Colluvial deposit filling the gaps within stone deposit [110].
112	Tr 1	Stone setting forming slot within dry-stone structure [110]. Extends for 0.8m E-W and extends out of trench, 0.2m wide and 0.17m deep. Composed of two parallel rows of stones forming a channel within [110]. Channel within dry-stone structure [110], possibly relating to rampart or house platform.
113	Tr 1	Mid brownish black friable sandy silt. Extends across full width of sondage and is 1.0m wide, unexcavated. Foundation deposit onto which house platform [110] was constructed.
114	Tr 1	Dark blackish brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles abutting wall (104). Extends across full width of sondage, is 3.1m wide and 0.36m deep. Buried ground surface covered by rubble collapse (107).
115	Tr 1	Deposit of angular boulders between 0.2m to 0.5m in diameter. Extends across full width of sondage, measures 2.65m in length and 0.12m deep. Fill of rampart or stone built platform.
116	Tr 1	Deposit of mid brown silty clay filling the boulder interstices within stone structure [115]. Fill of rampart or stone built platform.
117	Tr 1	Deposit of mid yellowish brown clayey silt, measures 0.3m by 0.2m and 0.04m deep. Lens of material within foundation deposit (113).
118	Tr 1	Orange grey sandy clay Natural Glacial Till
119	Tr 1	Structure number for rampart within Trench 1
201	Tr 2	Dark brown humic silty clay with occasional stone overlying entire trench, up to 0.20m deep. Topsoil.
202	Tr 2	North to south aligned linear spread of stone located at W end of trench. Measuring 0.74m in width, by 0.40 m in depth, the feature is built of sub-angular stones up to 0.20 m wide. The feature forms the western edge of Bank [210], with [203] forming the western edge. Underlying [201]. Internal facing course of hillfort rampart.
203	Tr 2	North to south aligned stone feature, measuring 0.30 m in width by 0.40 m in depth. Built directly on to the bedrock [212], the wall comprises one layer of stones and forms the eastern edge of Bank

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		[210]. Composed of angular stone up to 0.25m by 0.25m in size. Stone is heat affected Dalriadic schist. Deposit [204] forms the upper level of the wall having collapsed to the west. External facing course of hillfort rampart
204	Tr 2	Collapse of wall [203], comprising sub-angular stones up to 0.30 m in width. Overlying [206].
205	Tr 2	External collapse of wall [203], comprising sub-angular stones and rounded stones up to 0.50 m in width.
206	Tr 2	Reddish brown silty clay with occasional angular stone abutting [202] & [203]. Extends across width of trench, measuring 0.20 m in depth. Underlying [201] and overlying [208]. Same as [208]. Earthen bank forming core of hillfort rampart.
207	Tr 2	General number assigned to western edge of bank [210] bank, comprising [202], [206], [209]. Measuring 1.60 m in width by 0.60 m in depth.
208	Tr 2	Reddish brown compact silty clay filling the boulder interstices of stone bank [209]. Measuring 4 m in width by 0.40 m in depth. Underlying [206] and overlying natural [213]. Material forming core of earth and stone rampart [210]
209	Tr 2	Structure comprising north to south aligned stone setting of Linear spread of large sub-angular blocks. Measuring 0.20 m by 0.20 m in depth. Basal kerb of rampart [207]
210	Tr 2	Structure number assigned to rampart within trench. Composed of an earth bank [206, 208] faced on west exterior side by stone kerb [202] and to E/W Interior by wall [203]. Rampart extends across full width of Trench 2 and is 4.20m wide and survives 0.80 m in depth. Hillfort rampart.
211	Tr 2	Charcoal rich silty clay lens in SW corner of trench. Lens of charcoal rich material within collapse (204)
212	Tr 2	Bedrock identified at various parts of trench.
213	Tr 2	Orange grey sandy clay. Natural soil identified at various parts of trench.
214	Tr 2	Deposit of dark brown clayey sand, extends across full width of Trench 2 sondage, 1.62m wide and 0.41m deep. Earthen core of western rampart wall [107]
301	Tr 3	Mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles. Throughout Trench 3, up to 0.12m deep. Topsoil
302	Tr 3	Deposit of compacted stone extending between 0.4m to 0.8m into southern edge of Trench 3. Path running past southern end of Trench 3.
303	Tr 3	Dark brown soft sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt bone. Extends for 3m and across entire 2m width of Trench 3. Underlies later bank [305]. Post hill fort abandonment soil build up
304	Tr 3	Mid grey mottled deposit with frequent charcoal flecks. Measures 0.91m by 0.47m and 0.07m deep. Occupation deposit with in-situ burning.
305	Tr 3	Mid orange brown firm sandy silt with frequent roots. Extends across 2m width of Trench 3, 2.32m wide and 0.18m deep. Bank of material, possibly upcast from creation of path at south of Trench 3.
306	Tr 3	Bedrock cut channel oriented NE-SW, sharp break of slope at top leads to steep sides that break sharply to a flat but uneven base formed of broken bedrock. Extends for 4.5m within trench, 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep. Filled with charcoal rich deposits (304 & 308). Possible internal occupation feature of hillfort.
307	Tr 3	Two large angular sandstone blocks in base of cut bedrock channel [306]. Adjacent to further possible paving [309]. Set into charcoal rich deposit (308). Possible cobbling or surface
308	Tr 3	Dark brown to black friable sandy silt and burnt stone with frequent charcoal flecks. Occupation deposit.
309	Tr 3	Large broken slab adjacent to [307], measuring 0.8m by 0.4m, broken in several places. Set in charcoal rich occupation deposit (308). Possible paving slab or surface.
310	Tr 3	Bedrock found throughout trench

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
1244	Tr 3	Trench 3	-	1/9/14
1245	Tr 3	Trench 3	-	1/9/14
1245-59	-	General view	-	1/9/14
1250-55	Tr 1	General view during removal of 101	N	2/9/14
1256-57	Tr 1	Rampart in Trench 1 during removal of 101	N	2/9/14
1258-59	Tr 1	Rampart in Trench 1 during removal of 101	S	2/9/14
1260-61	Tr 1	Rampart in Trench 1 during removal of 101	E	2/9/14
1262-64	Tr 2	Working shot	W	2/9/14
1265-67	Tr 2	Working shot	W	2/9/14
1268	Tr 2	Working shot	E	2/9/14
1269	Tr 2	Working shot	S	2/9/14
1270-72	Tr 2	Detail of stone alignment [203]	W	2/9/14
1273-74	Tr 2	Detail of stone alignment [203]	S	2/9/14
1275	Tr 2	Detail of stone alignment [203]	N	2/9/14
1276-82	Tr 2	Detail of stone alignment [203]	E	2/9/14
1283	Tr 2	Working shot	W	2/9/14
1284	Tr 1	Mid-excavation during removal of (101)	N	2/9/14
1285	Tr 1	Mid-excavation during removal of (101)	N	2/9/14
1286	Tr 1	Mid-excavation during removal of (101)	S	2/9/14
1287	Tr 1	Mid-excavation during removal of (101)	S	2/9/14
1288	Tr 1	Mid-excavation during removal of (101)	NE	2/9/14
1289	Tr 1	Mid-excavation during removal of (101)	NE	2/9/14
1290-91	Tr 1	Mid-excavation during removal of (101)	NW	2/9/14
1293-94	Tr 1	Mid-excavation during removal of (101)	NW	2/9/14
12941308	Tr 2	Working shots during removal of (201)	N	2/9/14
1309-10	Tr 2	Rubble within wall [202] at west of trench with quern fragment	W	2/9/14
1311-13	Tr 3	After removal of turf and topsoil showing path	NE	3/9/14
1314-15	Tr 2	Working shots showing (203, 204 & 205)	W	3/9/14
1316-17	Tr 2	Working shots showing (203, 204 & 205)	N	3/9/14
1318-20	Tr 2	Working shots of planning	SW	3/9/14
1321-22	Tr 2	Working shot	W	3/9/14
1323-24	Tr 2	Working shot	W	3/9/14
1325-26	Tr 2	Working shot	NW	3/9/14
1327-29	Tr 1	After removal of topsoil showing (108)	N	3/9/14
1330-31	Tr 1	After removal of topsoil showing(104)	NE	3/9/14
1332-34	Tr 1	Working shot	SE	3/9/14
1335-36	Tr 1	Working shots	SW	3/9/14
1337-38	Tr 1	South end of Trench 1 showing (110, 102)	W	3/9/14
1339-44	Tr 1	South end of Trench 1 showing (110, 102)	S	3/9/14
1345-1407	Tr 1	Workings shots	-	3/9/14
1408-10	Tr 1	External wall face (203) and external tumble	E	3/9/14
1411-12	Tr 2	Mid-excavation showing sondage	W	4/9/14
1413-18	Tr 2	Mid excavation of (206)	N	4/9/14
1419-20	Tr 2	Mid-excavation during removal of (204)	N	4/9/14
1421-27	Tr 1	General view	N	4/9/14
1428-35	Tr 1	Mid-excavation during removal of (104)	N	4/9/14
1436-38	Tr 2	Detail of wall [203] and tumble	SE	4/9/14

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Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
1439-40	Tr 2	Detail of wall [203]	SE	4/9/14
1441	Tr 2	Wall [203] and tumble on top of wall	E	4/9/14
1442-3	Tr 2	Wall [203] and tumble on top of wall	W	4/9/14
1444	Tr 2	Tumble at base of wall [203]	SW	4/9/14
1445	Tr 2	Tumble on wall [203]	W	4/9/14
1446	Tr 3	Tumble at top of wall [203]	W	4/9/14
1446	Tr 3	In-situ burnt material (304)	E	4/9/14
1447-50	Tr 3	In-situ burnt material (304)	SW	4/9/14
1451-56	Tr 1	North end of Trench 1 during removal of (107/108)	N	4/9/14
1457-58	Tr 1	(104) during removal of (105)	N	4/9/14
1459-60	Tr 11	North end of Trench 1 during removal of (107/108)	S	4/9/14
1461-62	Tr 1	South end of Trench 1 following removal of (110, 111, 112)	E	4/9/14
1463-64	Tr 1	South end of Trench 1 following removal of (110, 111, 112)	S	4/9/14
1465-66	Tr 1	South end of Trench 1 following removal of (110, 111, 112)	NW	4/9/14
1467-68	Tr 1	(104) Pre-excavation	W	4/9/14
1469-70	Tr 1	(104) pre-excavation	NW	4/9/14
1471-74	Tr 1	(104) mid-excavation	N	4/9/14
1475-76	Tr 2	Wall [203] and bedrock	ESE	4/9/14
1477	Tr 2	Detail of relationship of 'faced' stone and bedrock	ESE	4/9/14
1478-81	Tr 1	(104 & 107) mid-excavation	N	4/9/14
1482-83	Tr 2	Working shots	S	4/9/14
1484-87	Tr 2	(206) mid-excavation	N	4/9/14
1488-89	Tr 2	(206) mid-excavation showing stone	N	4/9/14
1490-91	Tr 2	Mid-excavation of sondage showing southern section	N	4/9/14
1492	Tr 2	Trench 2 spoil	-	4/9/14
1493	Tr 2	Find 221 quern fragment	-	4/9/14
1494-95	Tr 2	Mid-excavation showing southwest corner of trench	N	4/9/14
1496-97	Tr 2	(206) Mid-excavation showing stones	N	4/9/14
14981500	Tr 2	(206) mid-excavation	N	4/9/14
1501-05	Tr 2	Trench 2 sondage	W	4/9/14
1506-07	Tr 2	Trench 2 sondage	E	4/9/14
1508-09	Tr 2	Trench 2 sondage	E	4/9/14
1511-19	Tr 3	Trench 3 showing paving	-	4/9/14
1520-21	Tr 1	(113) pre-excavation	N	4/9/14
1522-23	Tr 1	(113) pre-excavation	N	4/9/14
1524-25	Tr 1	North end of Trench 1 showing (113 & 119)	N	4/9/14
1526-27	Tr 2	Trench 2 sondage	E	5/9/14
1528-29	Tr 2	Trench 2 sondage	N	5/9/14
1530	Tr 2	Trench 2 sondage	W	5/9/14
1531-37	Tr 1	(114) after removal of (107 & 108)	N	5/9/14
1538-40	Tr 1	(104) with (115) below	N	5/9/14
1541-42	Tr 1	(104) with (115) behind	N	5/9/14
1543-44	Tr 1	(113) with possible posthole (115/116)	S	5/9/14
1545-46	Tr 1	Possible posthole (115/116)	E	5/9/14
1547-48	Tr 1	Possible posthole (115/116)	E	5/9/14
1549-50	Tr 1	(107 & 108) W facing section	E	5/9/14
1551-52	Tr 1	(107 & 108) W facing section	NE	5/9/14
1553-54	Tr 1	(114) after removal of (107 & 108)	N	5/9/14
1555-56	Tr 1	Detail of (117)	E	5/9/14
1557-8	Tr 1	Detail of (117)	S	5/9/14
1559-60	Tr 2	Trench 2 S facing section	N	5/9/14
1561-64	Tr 2	Trench 2 S facing section	N	5/9/14
1565-66	Tr 2	Natural bedrock	W	5/9/14

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Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
1567-68	Tr 2	Trench 2	W	5/9/14
1569-71	Tr 2	Trench 2 S facing section	N	5/9/14
1572-73	Tr 2	Trench 2 south facing section	N	5/9/14
1574-75	Tr 2	Trench 2	-	5/9/14
1576-80	Tr 1	(114) Mid-excavation	-	5/9/14
1581-97	Tr 1	For photogrammetry	N	5/9/14
1598-1606	Tr 1	(117) post-excavation	-	5/9/14
1607-12	Tr 3	[306] Cut bedrock post-excavation	-	5/9/14
1613	Tr 3	Trench 3 W facing section	E	5/9/14
1614-15	Tr 3	[306] cut bedrock	-	5/9/14

APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Area	Details	Scale
101	Tr 1	Pre-excavation plan of Trench 1	1:20
102	Tr 1	Pre-excavation plan of Trench 1 NW corner	1:20
103	Tr 1	Trench 1 showing [104], (106) & (113)	1:20
104	Tr 1	Trench 1 showing [104], [115] & (113)	1:20
105	Tr 1	Trench 1 Wall [104] NW elevation.	1:10
106	Tr 1	Trench 1 SW facing section	1:20
201	Tr 2	Trench 2 pre-excavation	1:20
202	Tr 2	Trench 2 showing bank walls [203] & [207] and bank (206)	1:20
203	Tr 2	Trench 2 showing kerb [209] and bank (208)	1:20
204	Tr 2	Trench 2 N facing section	1:20
301	Tr 3	Trench 3 pre-excavation	1:20
302	Tr 3	Trench 3 showing depsoits (304) & (308) and paving [307] & [309]	1:20
303	Tr 3	Trench 3 showing bedrock cut channel [306]	1:20
304	Tr 3	Trench 3 NE facing section	1:10

APPENDIX 4: FINDS REGISTER

Finds No.	Area	Context No.	Description
1	Tr 1	101	Charcoal
200	Tr 2	201	Possible fire cracked cobble
202	Tr 2	201	Possible rotary quern fragment
203	Tr 2	201	Small fragments of burnt bone
204	Tr 2	201	Burnt bone
205	Tr 2	206	Fragment of burnt bone
206	Tr 2	206	Fragment of burnt bone
207	Tr 2	206	Quartz fragment/pebble
208	Tr 2	206	Quartz fragment
209	Tr 2	206	Fire cracked cobble
210	Tr 2	201	Fragment of vitrified stone
211	Tr 2	206	Possible fire cracked stone
212	Tr 2	201	Fragments of bone
213	Tr 2	201	Charcoal
214	Tr 2	206	Quartz fragment/pebble
215	Tr 2	206	Charcoal
216	Tr 2	201	Quartz fragments
217	Tr 2	206	Quartz fragment
218	Tr 2	201	Charcoal
219	Tr 2	206	Quartz fragment
220	Tr 2	206	Possible grinding stone
221	Tr 2	206/202	Possible rubbing stone/ saddle quern fragment
222	Tr 2	208	Lithic
223	Tr 2	208	Water worn Cobble possibly worked
224	Tr 2	U/S	Flint
225	Tr 2	U/S	Possible worked stone
301	Tr 3	301	Flint flake
302	Tr 3	304	Shale bracelet fragment
303	Tr 3	304	Pebble, possible gaming piece
304	Tr 3	308	Burnt bone fragment
305	Tr 3	308	Burnt bone fragment
306	Tr 3	U/S	

APPENDIX 5: SAMPLES REGISTER

Context No.	Area	Quantity (litres)
103	Tr 1	10 l
107	Tr 1	10 l
112	Tr 1	2 bags
112	Tr 1	2 bags
111	Tr 1	10 l
106	Tr 1	10 l
105	Tr 1	10 l
107	Tr 1	20 l
116	Tr 1	10 l
114	Tr 1	10 l
117	Tr 1	1 bag
114	Tr 1	20 l
113	Tr 1	10 l
206	Tr 2	10 l
201	Tr 2	10 l
208	Tr 2	10 l
303	Tr 3	10 l
304	Tr 3	10 l
308	Tr 3	50 l

APPENDIX 6: *'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND'* REPORT

To be provided by PKHT



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