

New Housing, Dean's Park, Dornoch

Archaeological Watching Brief

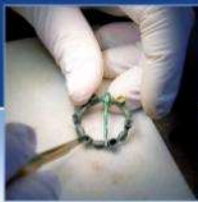
Updated Data Structure Report

August 2022

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ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

New Housing, Dean's Park, Dornoch Archaeological Watching Brief Updated Data Structure Report

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Abstract

This report details the findings of the archaeological watching brief and subsequent post-excavation programme carried out at Dean's Park, Dornoch, in advance of the construction of phased housing development.

In 2008 Alba Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological works, including a trial trench evaluation and desk-based assessment. This work uncovered a range of archaeological features, including ditches and a possible Bronze Age ring-ditch barrow monument.

In November 2018, AOC Archaeology undertook a watching brief on one phase (Phase 3) of the site, which uncovered one ring-ditch and three pit-defined round structures. Other features identified included a pit and three linear features. A programme of post-excavation analysis was undertaken, which determined that the fills of the features were heavily disturbed. The three pit-defined round structures contained a metal find and glass. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained, one modern and the other Iron Age. The function and use of these features are unknown but could represent small structures. The identified ring-ditch is likely the truncated remains of a Bronze Age burial monument, while the linear features identified on site are post-medieval boundary ditches.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Highland Council with respect to the construction of the next phase of housing at the Dean's Park, Dornoch development (Planning reference 18/01880/FUL), covering plots 59-63 for the erection of five dwellings. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping and before construction in order to identify any archaeological features (**Figures 1-3; Plate 1**).
- 1.2 The site lies within the administrative area of Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Kirsty Cameron, Archaeologist, Highland Council Historic Environment Team (HCHET). An archaeological watching brief across the site was specified in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may have been present within the development area. Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Peteranna 2018), and subsequent post-excavation analyses, including artefact and ecofact analyses and a programme of radiocarbon dating, were undertaken according to a Post Excavation Research Design (Roy 2019).
- 1.3 Previous archaeological trial trenching carried out on the development site in 2008 by Alba Archaeology (Garry 2008; Highland HER No. EHG3390) identified several archaeological features, including a ring-ditch interpreted as a truncated Bronze Age burial monument (Garry 2008, 115). In addition, several ditches were found to contain well-preserved organic remains and post-medieval pottery. A horse burial of unknown date was found in the central area, and deposits of shell and midden material were found in the southeast area. As such, there was good potential for further buried archaeology to be uncovered in the area.
- 1.4 The watching brief on Phase 3 works was carried out from the 19th to the 27th of November 2018 during topsoil stripping of the development area. Areas containing archaeological features were fenced off and excavated prior to any development work proceeding.



Plate 1: Panorama showing site, facing north to east to southeast

2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The development site is located within an area of overgrown agricultural ground within the southwest area of the overall development scheme (NH 7911 8943 (centred); **Figure 1**). The site is near the west end of Dornoch, a former medieval burgh situated on the north side of the Dornoch Firth.

3.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1.1 A desk-based assessment was conducted in advance of the watching brief to assess the potential for archaeological remains in the area based on previously recorded sites and historical documentation. A check of all available historical and archaeological records, aerial photographs and historical maps was conducted using the Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER), National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), Ordnance Survey Name Books, Historic Environment Scotland's databases, the National Library of Scotland, statistical accounts and other available records, literary sources and online resources.

3.1.2 There is a long history of settlement in the south-eastern part of Sutherland around Dornoch. Recorded prehistoric sites such as Neolithic chambered cairns (NHRE Nos NH78NE1 and NH78NE12), and Iron Age hut circles (Camore Wood, Scheduled Ancient Monument 5898) provide evidence of very early settlement in the fertile plains and sheltered bays around the Dornoch Firth. An extensive collection of carved symbol stones housed in Dunrobin Museum in Golspie, recovered in Caithness and Sutherland, demonstrates a prosperous Pictish population in the region before the Viking occupation in the 9th century AD (Simpson 1968). By the 13th century, Dornoch became the seat of the bishopric of Caithness. Royal Burgh status was given to Dornoch in 1628 under King Charles I, which afforded the privilege of markets and fairs and resulted in a period of increased prosperity. The Old Statistical Account of Scotland, written in the 1790s, describes Dornoch as having a population of about 500, engaged in primitive agriculture and little trade, a town in the "last stage of decay" (*Ibid.*).

3.2 Cartographic Sources

3.2.1 Historical maps were consulted online at the National Library of Scotland (NLS 2018):

a) **William Roy Military Survey of Scotland: Highlands, 1747–52**

Dornoch is shown as a small town mainly laid out on the west side of the Dornoch Burn.

b) Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map *Sutherland*, Sheet CXIII (includes: Dornoch), Survey Date: 1874, Publication Date: 1879

This map shows the development area as open fields to the south of Sutherland road. One boundary marked on this map running north-south matches the location and alignment of a ditch identified on the site (**Figure 4**).

c) Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map, *Sutherland* Sheet CXIII (includes: Dornoch), Date Revised: 1905, Publication Date: 1907

This map shows the development area as fields to the south of Sutherland road and close to the Manse. The north-south boundary is still present. (**Figure 5**).

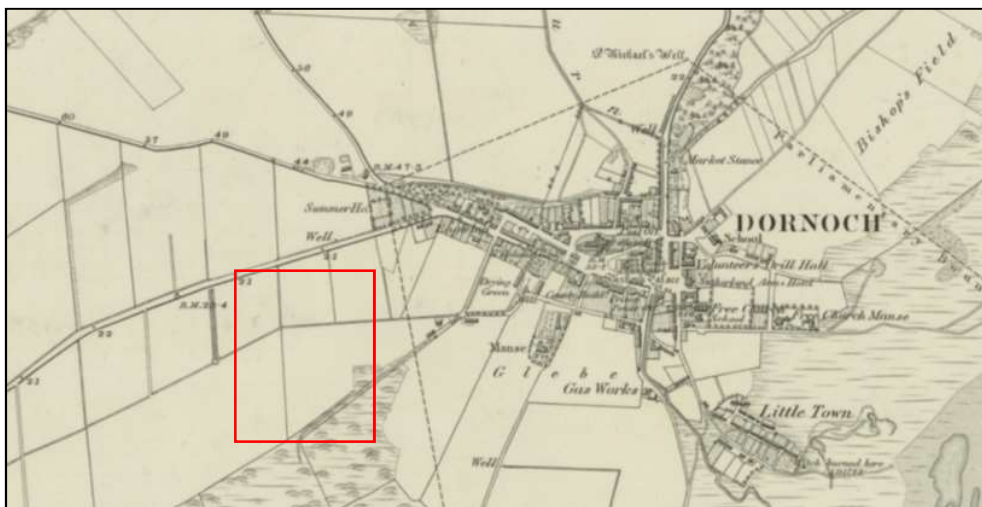


Figure 5: Extract from the OS 1st edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map 1879 (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland and under Creative Commons (CC BY 4.0) <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)



Figure 6: Extract from the OS 2nd edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map 1907 (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland and under Creative Commons (CC BY 4.0) <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

3.3 Historic Environment Record and Canmore Sources

3.3.1 The Canmore database and Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER) identified sites of archaeological and historical interest within a 500m radius of the development area. A previous archaeological evaluation was carried out across the whole development area by Alba Archaeology (Garry 2008; Highland HER Nos EHG3390; MHG54157, MHG54159 and MHG53335), which identified a possible prehistoric burial enclosure, several ditches containing well-preserved organic remains and medieval archaeological material. The exact locations of these archaeological features could not be determined.

MHG54157 NH 7915 8936 Ditches, Dornoch

A number of ditches were recorded during archaeological evaluation; one contained possible medieval pottery.

MHG54159 NH 7914 8962 Ditches, Dornoch

A number of possible ditches were recorded during archaeological evaluation at Sutherland Road, Dornoch. A number of features contained preserved wood.

MHG53335 NH 7913 8935 Possible barrow, Dornoch

The ring-ditch of a possible barrow was recorded during evaluation at Sutherland Road, Dornoch.

MHG34285 NH 797 903/NH 796 895 Metal detecting finds, Dornoch

A collection of metal objects of medieval and post-medieval dates were found by a metal detectorist at several locations around Dornoch. The artefacts range from buckles, brooches and pins to seals, seal matrices and horse harness equipment.

MHG29345 NH 7949 8939 Metal detecting finds, Dornoch

Metal-detecting finds from a field 300m to the east included two Roman trumpet brooches (MHG29345).

MHG11835 NH 7959 8950 Standing stone, Dornoch

A slab of micaceous schist bearing five well-defined cup marks was known to have stood outside the Manse door and was seen in 1909 by RCAHMS. By 1970, the stone was lost, and its whereabouts are no longer known.

3.4 Additional Sources

3.4.1 The results of the 2008 (Garry) trenching report are as follows (Figure 2): peat layers containing wood and worked wood artefacts along with a ditch were found in the northwest area of the site (T1-T4); in the central west area, there was a shallow ditch [119] and horse burial of unknown date in T5; in the southeast trenches there were some deposits containing shell and possible midden material with a possible ditch [123] in T10 at NH 79150 89451; in the southwest area, in T13, there was a ring-ditch feature [115] (**Plate 2**) that measured c.3m in diameter, with its width varying between c.0.3m and 0.5m, and an entrance at the southwest. Three areas of modern disturbance were

interpreted as modern drainage (could also be wheel ruts), while three other ditches were found with probable medieval organic material and a single ceramic sherd present in one ditch. In the centre of the area, several small trenches (T17-23) contained elements of a north-south aligned ditch [100] in T23 and a second ditch [107] in T20, with worked wood objects and rope recovered from some of the trenches. These trenches were not recorded using Differential GPS, and their locations (Figure 2) should be viewed as approximate. The original locations noted by Alba Archaeology have been visualised alongside definite trench positions transcribed from aerial photography by HCHET.

3.4.2 In 2019, an additional watching brief (Phase 4) was undertaken on the eastern side of the site compound, which identified no archaeological potential remaining in this area.



Plate 2: Ring-ditch from Alba Archaeology Evaluation (Garry 2008, 23)

4.0 OBJECTIVES

4.1 The *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) defines an archaeological watching brief as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons... where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive' (CIfA 2014).

4.2 The aims of the archaeological works were:

- i) To identify any archaeological remains within the proposed development area prior to the destruction of any significant material;
 - ii) To remove by hand any overburden in order to expose the archaeological deposits;
 - iii) To excavate, sample and record any features or to propose arrangements for their safeguarding, where possible;
 - iv) To sample deposits for post-excavation work, including environmental analysis and dating;
 - v) To make recommendations for further measures necessary to mitigate the impact of the development; and
 - vi) To make recommendations for post-excavation work.
- 4.3 The post-excavation work included processing samples from likely prehistoric features. It involved a programme of flotation of samples to release any environmental evidence and to facilitate a programme of radiocarbon dating to confirm the chronology of the activity observed on site. Specialist analysis of ecofacts and artefacts (metal) was undertaken, and other finds (including glass, pottery and vitrified material) were catalogued. This work was combined with research and further reporting to present the site in its broader context and add to the existing dataset.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 An archaeological watching brief was required during all topsoil stripping across the site. Phase 3 (reported here) covered an area where five new houses will be built (**Figure 1**). Further site clearance in the south of the site will be undertaken in different phases.
- 5.2 The archaeologist directed topsoil stripping by a mechanical excavator fitted with a straight-edged bucket to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains. All work was carried out in accordance with the Highland Council *Standards for Archaeological Work* (2012) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2014(a)).
- 5.3 All features of archaeological significance were excavated by hand in order to establish the date, nature, extent and state of preservation of the deposits. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and section drawings were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All significant archaeological features were sampled in the event that post-excavation analysis should be deemed necessary. These samples would be processed as part of the programme of analysis outlined in the Post Excavation Research Design (Roy 2019).
- 5.4 The watching brief location, including find spots and feature locations, was plotted using a Trimble Geo-XR Rover capable of centimetre accuracy. The archaeological monitoring was recorded using high-resolution digital photography to record the process and any archaeological features or finds of interest.
- 5.5 Bulk samples from 26 contexts were processed during post-excavation works to release any environmental evidence or artefacts. Identification of wood species, charcoal and

macroplants was undertaken, and two samples were selected for radiocarbon dating. In addition, the small metal assemblage was catalogued, and a report was produced (Appendix 7) while environmental material was assessed (Appendix 6). Other artefactual finds have been catalogued (Appendix 2).

6.0 RESULTS

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 The fieldwork was carried out between the 19th and 27th of November 2018 in variable weather but generally cold and dry conditions with good visibility. The development area comprised uncultivated fields under heavy vegetation, with large spoil mounds consisting of material removed from northern areas of the development during earlier phases of work. The underlying topsoil comprised dark brownish black silty sand with few stones. The topsoil was deeper in the central area of development and shallower in the west area, potentially suggesting more agricultural disturbance through ploughing had occurred in the central area. The subsoil was medium yellow-brown coarse sand.

6.1.2 Eight archaeological features were uncovered during the watching brief (**Figures 2 and 3**), including a shallow ring-ditch structure [004], three pit-defined round structures: [003], [027] and [053], as well as an isolated pit [037], and three linear ditches [024], [042] and [066]. Full details of these features can be found in Appendix 1.

6.2 Ring-ditch Structure

6.2.1 The ring-ditch was located at the west end of the site, the western end of the ring-ditch having been truncated by a drainage ditch. Structure [004] was a circular structure measuring 3.5m in diameter, comprising a continuous narrow ditch that measured 0.25m wide (**Figure 7, Plates 9-12**). Three 1m slots were excavated through it, which showed that the cut was not well defined. Mineralisation or leaching of the sand had taken place, obscuring the original cut. The cut was V-shaped in profile, with the interior side steeper than the exterior. A part of the western portion of the structure had been truncated by a modern drainage ditch. Slag fragments suggestive of blacksmithing waste were identified within one of the slots but cannot be directly dated.

6.3 Pit-defined round Structures

6.3.1 Three small circular structures defined by elongated, sub-oval pits were identified [003], [027], and [053] (**Figure 3**). Feature [037] was a single curvilinear pit that may have once formed part of another structure but had been severely truncated.

6.3.2 Structure [003] comprised eight pits, [005], [007], [009], [011], [013], [015], [017] and [019], and measured 3.9m E/W by 3.2m N/S (**Figure 7, Plates 3-9**). The pits ranged in size from 0.4–0.9m long, 0.2–0.5m wide and 0.2–0.4m deep. The fills of the pits were made up of dark greyish-brown sand with black mottling. A pale halo of sand around the pits suggests

leaching of the natural soil. Pit [019] contained glass and coal, while pits [007] and [009] contained glass. Pit [007] also contained two small flakes of hammerscale.

- 6.3.3 Structure [027] comprised nine pits [028], [029], [030], [031], [032], [033], [034], [035] and [036], and measured c. 3.5m E/W (**Figure 7, Plates 13-18**). The pits contained similar greyish-brown mottled sand fills with a white halo and steep sides similar to those seen in structure [003]; however, they were more varied in size, and the cut of the pits was less well-defined. The pits ranged from 0.4–1.8m long, 0.1–0.3m wide and were 0.2m–0.3m deep. Finds from pit [035] included a circular, domed head and a short, square-sectioned shank.
- 6.3.4 Structure [053] comprised six pits, [054], [055], [056], [057], [058] and [059], and measured 3.7m N/S and 3.3m E/W (**Figure 7, Plates 19-24**). The fills and profiles of these pits were very similar to those of structures [003] and [027]. The pits ranged between 0.8m–3.5m long, 0.2m–0.45m wide, and 0.15m–0.23 m deep. Pit [058] contained modern pottery, while pits [056] and [058] contained glass and slag. Pit [059] contained a rectangular strap fragment with a likely domed rivet *in situ* (SF02). When the feature was first exposed, it initially looked as if there were additional features at its south end, running northeast to southwest. However, after cleaning, it was concluded that these were modern vehicle or agricultural ruts (072) overlying and slightly cutting into the structure.
- 6.3.5 Between structures [004] and [027] was a shallow and truncated curvilinear pit, [037], that may have been the remnants of another circular structure (**Figure 7**). The pit measured 1m long, 0.2m wide and 0.09m deep, with a V-shaped profile. No finds were identified.

6.3 Linear features

- 6.3.1 Three linear features – [024], [066] and [042] – were also identified. These varied in size and orientation.
- 6.3.2 Linear feature [024] was the largest of the three features, measuring an exposed length of 55m long, 1.3m to 2m wide at the surface and 0.6m deep (**Figure 8, Plates 27-30**). The feature continued to the north, where it was truncated by modern construction activity. Feature [024] likely continued to the southeast, into an area due to be investigated at a later phase of works. A total of four 1m wide slots were excavated through it. The fill of the ditch varied somewhat in each of the slots, but generally, the upper fill consisted of shell-rich brownish-black silt. The other fills consisted of slightly different silty sands with fragments of iron, fence wire, cast iron key, vessel handle, ceramic, glass, worked and unworked wood, and one fragment of bone. Slot 3 identified an *in situ* post set into the side of the ditch cut. Slot 2 also identified three small stake holes with wooden stakes still *in situ*, running along the edge of the cut. These are likely remains of a relatively modern post and wire fence or boundary that ran along the east edge of the ditch; fragments of fence wire were found in the ditch backfill. This feature corresponds with a field boundary marked on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map from 1879 (**Figures 5 and 6**).
- 6.3.3 Linear feature [042] was a cut with a visible length of 29m aligned N/S and measuring between 0.1m–0.9m wide. The feature likely extended outwith the excavated area. The profile comprised gently sloping sides, and the north end was truncated to a depth of 0.1m,

whereas the south end survived to a depth of 0.21m (**Figure 7, Plates 25-26**). No finds were recovered.

6.3.4 Linear feature [066] was the final linear cut uncovered during the watching brief. It was orientated NE/SW and measured 4m long and 0.3m wide, with a depth of 0.15m. A large piece of plastic sheeting was recovered from within it during excavation, indicating a modern origin.

6.4 Post-excavation results

6.4.1 Introduction

Post-excavation analyses were carried out on the environmental remains recovered from samples collected during the fieldwork. A small number of non-significant and, at times intrusive artefacts were found. In addition, a small program of radiocarbon dating was undertaken. The analyses are summarised below, and the full reports for all assemblages and catalogues are presented as Appendices 2, 6, 7 and 9.

6.4.2 Ecofacts (Genoveva Dimova)

A very small macroplant and charcoal assemblage was recovered from four of the processed samples. All samples contained matted roots and earthworm capsules, fungal spores, branches and weed seeds, which suggest the security of the context has been compromised. The macroplant assemblage included two cereal caryopses recovered from pit [032] and a single weed, parsley-piert (*Aphanes arvensis* L.) seed, recovered from pit [030]. The charcoal assemblage comprised three heather roundwood, identified from structure [004], and pine fragments from pit [060]. The processing of the samples for this site has shown that modern re-working of the material may have occurred, which may not represent *in situ* activity.

6.4.3 Radiocarbon dates

A sample of hulled barley and a sample of pine wood charcoal underwent accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) ¹⁴C dating at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre in East Kilbride (SUERC). The age ranges (Table 1) were calibrated using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal4). The results can be found in Appendix 9. A wide range of radiocarbon dates (Table 1) was obtained from the two samples. The hulled barley (SUERC-103022) from the fill of pit [032] was dated to between 38 calBC and calAD 120 (at 2-sigma). The pine charcoal from pit [059] was dated to between calAD 1680 and calAD 1960 (at 2-sigma), suggesting this was intrusive material.

6.4.3 Artefacts

The finds recovered from Dean's Park comprise eight ferrous metal objects, five of which were hand-retrieved from two separate contexts, and three were retrieved during the processing of soil sample retents from three separate contexts. Hand-retrieved finds included a perforated rectangular strap fragment with a likely domed rivet *in situ* (SF02) recovered from the fill (060) of cut [059], a grouping of twisted and looped fencing wire (SF05.1), a large decorated key (SF05.2), a possible vessel fragment and handle (SF05.3) adhered to the key through corrosion, and a length of wire or bent staple (SF08) recovered from the fill (068) of a drainage or agricultural ditch [024].

The key (or potential key) is of particular interest owing to its relatively large size (L: 165.7mm) and its elaborate and ornate bow and shank decoration. Likely cast, the shank decoration terminates at a foot from which protrudes a circular-sectioned stalk that may have held a bit. Alternatively, this object could also have functioned as a door or cabinet handle, designed to mimic the shape of a key. Without conservation work, however, its identity cannot be confirmed. The decorative style is likely to date to the 18th or 19th century.

Finds recovered from retents include an unidentifiable lump or possible fragment of corrosion product (RT047) from the fill (047) of possible pit [031], a small tack or hobnail (RT051) with a circular domed head and short square-sectioned shank from fill (051) of possible post-hole [035], and a potential blade tip (RT065) recovered from fill (065) of sub-rectangular pit [054].

The small assemblage of metal finds likely represents the remains of agricultural and daily household activities. The metal assemblage cannot contribute much information regarding the inhabitants, use, or phasing of the site, as many of the finds are either of long-lived types not considered to be closely dateable or are post-medieval to modern finds recovered from a modern drainage or agricultural ditch.

Table 1: The Radiocarbon Dates

Sample	Context	RC date BP	SUERC No	1 σ cal date range (68% prob)	2 σ cal date range (95% prob)	$\delta^{13}C$
						(‰)
Cereal caryopsis (Hulled barley)	Fill (048) of pit [032]	1972 \pm 24	SUERC-103022	calAD 16-80; calAD 99-109	38-13 calBC; calAD 3-120	-23.9
Charcoal (Pine)	Fill (060) of pit [059]	128 \pm 24	SUERC-103023	calAD 1687-1707; calAD 1720-1731; calAD 1807-1819; calAD 1832-1892; calAD 1907-1925	calAD 1680-1740; calAD 1752-1763; calAD 1800-1960	-26.8

The calibrated ranges were determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal4).



Plate 3: Pre-excavation of structure [003], facing west southwest



Plate 4: Post-excavation of pit [007], facing southeast



Plate 5: Post-excavation of pit [009], facing southeast



Plate 6: Post-excavation of pit [011], facing south southwest



Plate 7: ENE facing section [011] , facing west southwest



Plate 8: Post excavation of pits in [003], facing west southwest



Plate 9: Wider image showing [003] (front) and [004] (back), facing north northwest



Plate 10: Post-excavation of [004] slot 3, facing north northwest



Plate 11: Northeast facing section of [004] slot 3, facing southwest



Plate 12: Post-ex of slots 1 (right), 2 (centre) and 3 (left) through [004], facing west southwest



Plate 13: Pre-excavation of structure [027], facing northwest



Plate 14: north northwest section of [031], facing south southeast



Plate 15: Post-excavation of pit [032], facing northwest



Plate 16: Northeast facing section of pit [032], facing southwest



Plate 17: Northeast facing section of [033], facing southwest



Plate 18: Post-excavation of structure [027], facing south southeast



Plate 19: Pre-excavation of ring-ditch [053], with wheel ruts, facing northeast

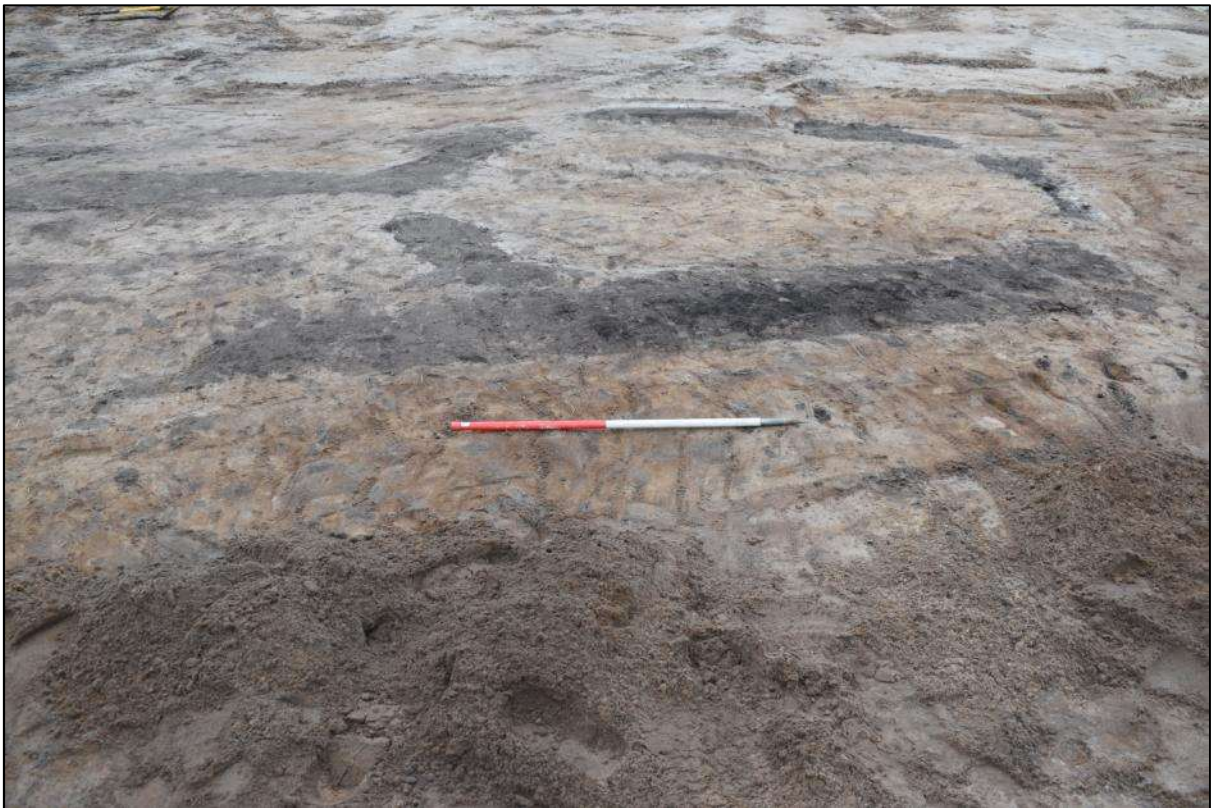


Plate 20: Pre-excavation of ring-ditch feature [053], with wheel ruts, facing northwest



Plate 21: West facing section of pit [059], facing east



Plate 22: South facing section of [056] pit, facing north



Plate 23: Southwest facing section of pit [055], facing northeast

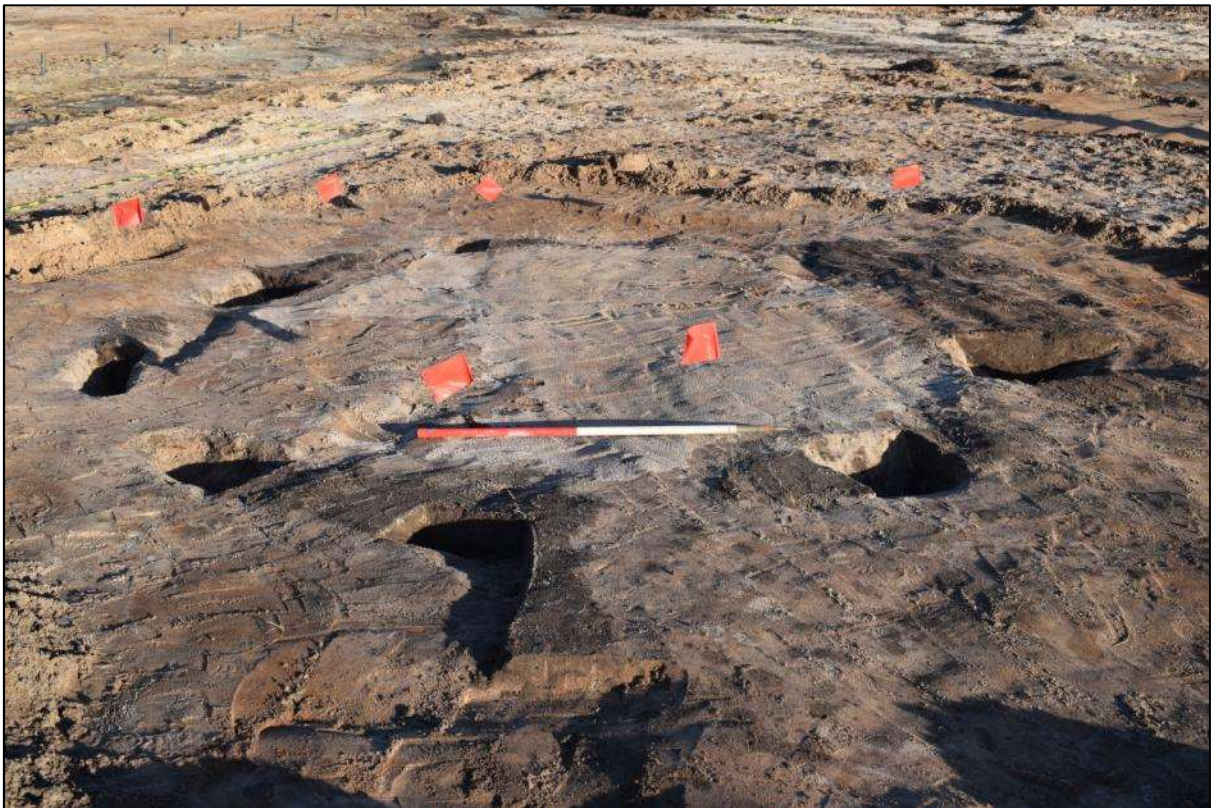


Plate 24: Post-excavation of structure [053], (072) deposit removed, facing northeast



Plate 25: Pre-excavation of [042], facing south



Plate 26: North facing section of [042], facing south



Plate 27: Post-excavation of slot 3 ditch [024], facing east



Plate 28: Plan view of bark-covered post in situ, facing north



Plate 29: Mid-excavation of (069) showing bone/wood/stone, facing south



Plate 30: Three stake holes on east side of ditch [024], facing west northwest

Figure 7: Section drawings of archaeological features

Figure 8: Section drawings of linear features

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The archaeological works at Dornoch provide evidence for likely Bronze Age funerary practices and potentially later prehistoric round structures. Additionally, three likely post-medieval agricultural ditches were also excavated. The prehistoric features were all very shallow and the post-excavation analyses suggest the site has been disturbed, with material from features intrusive. The finds from the rounded structures [003], [027], and [053] included metal objects and some glass. The two radiocarbon dates determined some of the activity on site to related to both Iron Age and more modern periods. The round structures are relatively small and the pits that make up the shape are not postholes but rather slots that could have held multiple posts. The structures, therefore, cannot be classed as roundhouses. There is also no entrance in structure [027] and [053], with the pits only spaced c. 0.02m apart. Structure [003] has a possible entrance to the east, but the gap is small. These structures could have been “outbuildings or workshops”, as the finds suggest metal objects could have been worked within them. It could also be that these structures are truncated barrows, with only segments of a once complete ring-ditch, as they are small and lack an entrance which would be expected of a more traditional roundhouse structure. The function of these structures could not be confidently determined, and no similar site could be identified for comparison.
- 7.2 The complete ring-ditch likely represents a very truncated Bronze Age barrow monument, with evidence of the burial having been removed during to agricultural activity in the field. Within the fill of the ring-ditch, the post-excavation analyses identified metal working debris, including slag, hammerscale and metal coal/cinder. While this material is likely intrusive (due to the disturbance of the site), it is possible metalworking occurred nearby, perhaps within the other round structures.
- 7.3 The ring-ditch identified by Alba Archaeology (Garry 2008) during trial trenching of the site was similar in form and fill material to Structure [004], located approximately 50m south of the Dean Park Dornoch ring-ditches and post-defined structures. The Alba ring-ditch was slightly smaller than Structure [004], measuring c. 3m in diameter, with unknown width and depth. Although it was not dated during the earlier works, its similarity in form suggests that it may be of a similar date and function as ring-ditch [004]; both perhaps examples of small barrow monuments.
- 7.4 Similar barrow monuments have been found at sites such as Blackdog (Wilson 2019), Newmill (Watkins & Shepherd 1980), Upper Largie (Cook *et al.* 2010) and Seafield West (Cressey & Sheridan 2003), all of which contain similarly enigmatic and hard to define small ring-ditches often accompanied by more substantial, definitive examples of funerary practices. The small ring-ditches at these sites (like those at Dean's Park) could themselves be associated with prehistoric funerary practices. The lack of internal features at Dean's Park is best paralleled by the structures at Blackdog, where a similar horseshoe-shaped ring-ditch with no internal features was identified. A large stone found in the topsoil was suggested to be the remains of a possible cist burial, which may have once lay within the ring-ditch (Wilson 2019, 18). This site was also heavily disturbed by agricultural activity and

only the lower portion of the ring-ditch survived. Other burial sites with ring-ditches, such as Newmill (Watkins & Shepherd 1980), Upper Largie (Sheridan 2008) and Seafield West (Cressey & Sheridan 2003) had larger enclosing ring-ditches, with preserved burials within them. Many of the structures at these sites also had posthole and pit structures within the ring-ditches. Newmill (Watkins & Shepherd 1980) comprised a grave cut centred in a ring-ditch, with additional pits and postholes cut into the ring-ditch itself (Watkins & Shepherd 1980, 34). Upper Largie comprised a Beaker grave enclosed by a ring-ditch measuring 5.8 by 5.7m long, between 0.45m and 0.8m wide, and 0.4m deep (Sheridan 2008, 247). Seafield West was by far the largest such ring-ditch, measuring 18.3m E/W x 17.5m N/S. It did not have an entrance and included four different burial types: a cist, a cremation, a log coffin, and a plank-built coffin (Cressey & Sheridan 2003, 50–53). While these burial monuments are larger than those found at Dean's Park, which lacked surviving burials, the ring-ditches at Dean's Park may have had a similar funerary function.

- 7.5 The linear features [024], [042] and [066] identified during the watching brief are post-medieval ditches, likely used for drainage. The metal objects identified from these ditches are representative of agricultural and daily household activities but can, unfortunately, provide no more detail or dates for the features. Their positions are likely to have delineated or run parallel to upstanding field boundaries. During Alba Archaeology's trial trenching (Garry 2008), a number of ditches were also identified, one of which is likely the continuation of [024] to the north. Both excavations recovered similar finds, including wooden stakes, metal fence wire and post-medieval ceramic fragments. These finds suggest a post-medieval date, with the material being pushed over into the ditch where the drainage feature was decommissioned. The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map (1879) and 2nd Edition map (1907) depict a field boundary running in the same orientation and position, supporting the argument that this feature was a post-medieval (or late medieval) field boundary in use into the 20th century, which had only gone out of use relatively recently.
- 7.6 The archaeology uncovered at Dean's Park Dornoch comprised three post-medieval or late medieval boundary ditches, three pit-defined prehistoric structures perhaps representing Iron Age workshops, and one ring-ditch feature, likely a Bronze Age burial monument. The site had been heavily disturbed and due to this at least one of the radiocarbon dates obtained is likely from intrusive material. Dating of material from the site indicates there was activity in the Iron Age and later post-medieval periods.

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Appendix 1 List of Contexts

Context No.	Type	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Cut by	Cuts	Over	Under	Same As	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Topsoil - brown sandy silt	-	-	-	-	002	-	-	Topsoil.
002	Deposit	Yellow sand, some white/pale mottling blotched	-	-	-	-	-	001	-	Subsoil.
003	Structure	Fully exposed circular structure. Measures 3.9m ENE-WSW x 3.2m NNW - SSE. Comprises eight visible rectangular-ish posts. Comprises pits [005, 007, 009, 011, 013, 015, 017, 019] in circular arrangement and possible interior feature [021].	-	-	-	002	002	001	-	Circular structure comprising eight visible post holes of unknown date and function.
004	Structure	Possible circular structure comprising narrow ditch measuring 0.25m wide and 3.5m diameter. 3x1m wide slots excavated across it [004]. Partially truncated by a modern drainage ditch to the west. Profile varied somewhat across the slots excavated, but generally showed a somewhat v-shaped cut c.0.2m deep. The cut was not well defined as some kind of mineralisation/leaching has occurred in the surrounding sand, distorting the true edge. Somewhat impacted by burrowing.	023	-	-	002	002	001	-	Circular possible structure of unknown date and function, comprises a single narrow ditch.
005	Cut	Oval cut measuring 0.9m N-S, 0.25m E-W. Depth is 0.20m. The interior edge is vertical, the exterior gently sloping. U shaped profile	006	-	-	002	002	001	-	Slot or pit for timber, part of structure 003.
006	Fill	Dark brownish-black sand with compact patches of white.	-	005	-	-	006	001	-	Fill of pit 005.
007	Cut	Oval v-shaped cut with steep sloping sides, a flat base, narrow. 0.12m depth.	008	-	-	002	002	008	-	Slot or pit for timber, part of structure 003.
008	Fill	Dark brownish-black silty sand with some possible charcoal patches (quite decayed).	-	007	-	-	007	001	-	Fill of pit 007.
009	Cut	Appeared as sub oval shaped in plan measuring 0.55m NE-SW x 0.25m. Excavated in plan with interior (010) fill manifesting in 'half log' shape, flat site to interior. Pit is 0.24m deep. Base somewhat tapered on the exterior NW side, but the SE edge is vertical.	010	-	-	002	002	010	-	Slot or pit for timber, part of structure 003. Pit potentially containing a split log timber, split side facing inwards
010	Fill	Dark grey brown sand with black mottling.							-	Fill of pit 009.

Context No.	Type	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Cut by	Cuts	Over	Under	Same As	Interpretation
011	Cut	Oval cut of pit measuring 0.6m ESE-WNW x 0.3m SSW-NNE. 0.13m depth. Interior edge almost vertical, outer edge gently sloping. U-shaped profile, flat base.	012	-	-	002	002	012	-	Slot or pit for timber, part of structure 003, post possibly removed – explains the slope on the exterior edge.
012	Fill	Dark brownish-black sand. Compact with some charcoal inclusions and patchy layers of white loose sand. Possible different use or removal of post created layers and bands of dark material.	-	011	-	-	011	001	-	Fill of pit 011.
013	Cut	Oval cut measuring 0.6m N-S x 0.23m E-W. 0.12m depth. Almost vertical edge at the interior of structure 003. Outer edge is gently sloping. U-shaped in profile coming down onto a flat base.	014	-	-	002	002	-	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 003.
014	Fill	Dark blackish brown sand which was mostly compact with some patches of loose white sand intermixed. Some small charcoal flakes. No clear edge.	-	013	-	-	013	001	-	Fill of pit 013.
015	Cut	Oval cut of pit measuring 0.8m NNE-SSW x 0.22m NNW-SSE. 0.12m depth. Steep sloping side on the NW edge and gently sloping at SE. U-shaped in profile coming down onto a flat base.	016	-	-	002	002	001	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 003.
016	Fill	Dark blackish-brown silty sand with patches of white sand intermixed with some charcoal patches.	-	015	-	-	015	001	-	Fill of pit 015.
017	Cut	Rectangular cut with rounded ends. V-shaped in profile, interior edge is slightly more vertical than other cuts within structure [003].	018	-	-	002	002	018	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 003.
018	Fill	Dark brownish-black compact sand which contained some flakes of charcoal. Above white sand which has a clear edge between the two different fills in structure [003].	-	017	-	-	017	001	-	Fill of possible timber post hole 017, that has been removed or rotted away which has left dark material. The light sand may have been bleached by the feature or the remains of packed material to set timber in place.

Context No.	Type	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Cut by	Cuts	Over	Under	Same As	Interpretation
019	Cut	Oval cut of pit measuring 0.92m N-S x 0.22m E-W, depth 0.12m. N side of pit has steep slope and the S side gentle slope with a possible flat base. Disturbed by roots/burrows.	020	-	-	002	002	020	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 003.
020	Fill	Dark brownish-black silty sand with patches of white sand.	-	019	-	-	020	001	-	Fill of pit 019.
023	Fill	Dark brown/black silty sand with some stones. Somewhat compact in comparison to surrounding natural sand. Heavily impacted by burrowing. Possible charcoal flecks (<2%). Small fine roots present. Surrounding sand leached pale grey/white and is difficult to determine if this is also (023) or altered subsoil (002).	-	004	-	-	004	001	-	Fill of cut/structure [004], found in all 3 slots excavated.
024	Cut	Ditch with sloping rounded sides measuring 0.6m-1.1m wide in base; 2m wide on surface; 0.6m deep.	025, 026, 068, 069, 070	-	-	002	002	025, 026, 068, 069, 070	-	Drainage or agricultural ditch.
025	Fill	Compact dark brown-black silt with 50% small shell fragments (cockle, winkle, mussel?). Upper fill through the centre of surface of the cut.	-	024	-	-	026, 068	001	-	Possible field fertiliser, fill of ditch 024.
026	Fill	Mixed pale brown/grey/yellow silty sand to the side (slumping) of the central fill.	-	024	-	-	068, 069	025	-	Fill of ditch 024.
027	Structure	Circular alignment of pits in central area. Comprises pits [028, 029, 030, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036].	-	-	-	002	002	001	-	Circular structure comprising 9 visible post holes of unknown date and function.
028	Cut	Sub rectangular cut measuring 0.6m x 0.25m x 0.10m deep. Aligned E-W. U-shaped shallow cut.	044	-	-	002	002	044	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 027.
029	Cut	Sub rectangular cut measuring 0.4m x 0.1m x 0.03m depth. Aligned SE-NW very shallow cut. No fill left (truncated).	045	-	-	002	002	045	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 027.
030	Cut	Sub rectangular cut measuring 0.65m x 0.15m x 0.07m deep. Aligned NW-SE. U-shaped shallow cut	046	-	-	002	002	046	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 027.

Context No.	Type	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Cut by	Cuts	Over	Under	Same As	Interpretation
031	Cut	Sub rectangular cut measuring 1.4m x 0.30m x 0.12m deep. Aligned NNE-SSW. U-shaped shallow cut.	047	-	-	002	002	047	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 027.
032	Cut	Curvilinear cut measuring 1.8m x 0.25m x 0.14m deep. Aligned NE-SW. U-shaped shallow cut.	048	-	-	002	002	048	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 027.
033	Cut	Sub rectangular cut measuring 1.4m x 0.13m x 0.1m deep. Aligned ESE-NNW. U-shaped narrow cut.	049	-	-	002	002	049	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 027.
034	Cut	Sub rectangular cut measuring 0.85m x 0.2m x 0.1m deep. Aligned NW-SE. U-shaped cut.	050	-	-	002	002	050	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 027.
035	Cut	Sub rectangular cut measuring 0.8m x 0.18m x 0.1m deep. NNW-SSE alignment. U-shaped cut.	051	-	-	002	002	051	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 027.
036	Cut	Sub rectangular cut measuring 1.1m x 0.2m x 0.1m deep. Aligned N-S. U-shaped cut.	052	-	-	002	002	052	-	Slot or pit for possible half split log timber, part of structure 027.
037	Cut	Curvilinear narrow ditch/pit measuring 1m long by 0.2m wide and 0.09m deep. Curves from N to SW. Similar to circular structures [003] etc.	041	-	-	002	002	041	-	Curvilinear pit that may be the truncated remains of another circular structure similar to 003, 004, 027 and 053.
041	deposit/ fill	Dark brown-black sandy silt with some orangey smears (likely as a result of burrowing). Otherwise sterile, somewhat compact and with a small area of pale white leached sand surrounding the dark.	-	037	-	-	037	001	-	Fill of pit [037]
042	Cut	Linear cut measuring 29m long (visible length) N-S and 0.9m wide. The cut has gently sloping sides going down to a flat base. The N end has been truncated therefore only a depth of 0.1m survives whereas 0.21m survives at the S end.	043	-	-	002	002	043	-	Drainage or field boundary.
043	Fill	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt which was very compact, possible flakes of charcoal. Some large stones (1%).	-	042	-	-	002	001	-	Fill of ditch drainage or field boundary

Context No.	Type	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Cut by	Cuts	Over	Under	Same As	Interpretation
044	Fill	Grey-brown sand, mottled with very rare charcoal or coal.	-	028	-	-	028	001	-	Fill of pit 028.
045	Fill	Grey-brown mottled sand. Almost none left.	-	029	-	-	029	001	-	Fill of pit 029.
046	Fill	Grey-brown sand, mottled with very rare charcoal or coal	-	030	-	-	030	001	-	Fill of pit 030.
047	Fill	Grey-brown sand, mottled with very rare charcoal or coal	-	031	-	-	031	001	-	Fill of pit 031.
048	Fill	Grey-brown sand, mottled with very rare charcoal or coal. 1 medium stone 0.2m x 0.17m which could be packing in larger segment.	-	032	-	-	032	001	-	Fill of pit 032.
049	Fill	Grey-brown sand, mottled with very rare charcoal or coal	-	033	-	-	033	001	-	Fill of pit 033.
050	Fill	Grey-brown sand, mottled with very rare charcoal or coal	-	034	-	-	034	001	-	Fill of pit 034.
051	Fill	Grey-brown sand, mottled with very rare charcoal or coal	-	035	-	-	035	001	-	Fill of pit 035.
052	Fill	Grey-brown sand, mottled with very rare charcoal or coal. 1 medium stone 0.2m x 0.17m which could be packing in larger segment.	-	036	-	-	036	001	-	Fill of pit 036.
053	Structure	Possible circular structure comprising six pits. Comprises pits [054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059].	-	-	-	-	002	001	-	Circular structure comprising six visible post holes of unknown date and function.
054	Cut	Sub-rectangular cut measuring 1mx0.2mx0.15m. Aligned NNW-SSE. V shaped in profile.	065	-	-	002	002	065	-	Pit - part of structure [053]
055	Cut	Sub-rectangular cut measuring 1mx0.2mx0.15m. Aligned NE-SW. V shaped in profile.	064	-	-	002	002	064	-	Pit - part of structure [053]
056	Cut	Oval cut measuring 0.8m x 0.4m x 0.2m deep. Aligned E-W. U-shaped profile.	063	-	-	002	002	063	-	Pit - part of structure [053]
057	Cut	Sub rectangular cut measuring 1m x 0.2m x 0.15m deep. Aligned roughly NW-SE. U-shaped in profile.	062	-	-	002	002	062	-	Pit - part of structure [053]
058	Cut	Linear cut measuring 3.5m x 0.45m by 0.23m deep. Aligned NE-SW; V-shaped cut in profile.	061	-	-	002	002	061	-	Pit - part of structure [053]
059	Cut	Linear cut measuring 3.5m x 0.45m by 0.23m deep. Aligned NNE-SSW; V-shaped cut in profile.	060	-	-	002	002	060	-	Pit - part of structure [053]

Context No.	Type	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Cut by	Cuts	Over	Under	Same As	Interpretation
060	Fill	Dark grey-brown medium sand with rare charcoal inclusions.	-	059	-	-	059	001	-	Fill of pit 059.
061	Fill	Dark grey-brown medium sand with rare coal/charcoal inclusions. Contained 2 fragments of modern pottery.	-	058	-	-	058	001	-	Fill of pit 058.
062	Fill	Dark grey-brown medium sand with rare charcoal.	-	057	-	-	057	001	-	Fill of pit 057.
063	Fill	Dark grey brown sand which was sterile.	-	056	-	-	056	001	-	Fill of pit 056.
064	Fill	Dark Brown medium sand. Rare coal/charcoal.	-	055	-	-	055	001	-	Fill of pit 055.
065	Fill	Dark Brown medium sand. Rare charcoal.	-	054	-	-	054	001	-	Fill of pit 054.
066	Cut	Linear cut measuring 0.4m x 0.3m x 0.15m deep. Cut at end by modern square pit.	067	-	-	002	002	067	-	Modern drain/linear feature.
067	Fill	Grey-brown sand with some darker mottling. Modern plastic in fill.	-	066	-	-	002	001	-	Fill of ditch 066.
068	Fill	Moderately compact mid-brown black soily silt with rear small cobble and frequent wood/twig fragments.	-	024	-	-	069	001	-	Fill of ditch 024.
069	Fill	Compact dark brown-grey silty clay with some worked/unworked wood.	-	024	-	-	070	026, 068	-	Fill of ditch 024.
070	Fill	Mid brown-orange compact silty sand with rare small pebble, some wood (unworked and worked), glass shard, peaty/manure-like material on sides - smells like degrading vegetation.	-	024	-	-	024	001	-	Fill of ditch 024.
071	Cut	3x small stake holes with wooden stakes in place on East side of ditch [024].	-	-	-	002	002	001	-	Small stakeholes lining the side of ditch 024. Possible remains of fence.
072	Deposit	Linear deposit on structure [053] cuts [054].	-	-	-	054	054, 002	001	-	Likely modern vehicle or agricultural wheel ruts.

Appendix 2 Updated Finds Register

Find No.	Context/ Grid	Material Type	Field Description	Updated Description	Notes	Recommendations
01	Structure 004	slag	found near structure 004	Five small angular fractured fragments of slag, comprising pieces of dark cinder/coke and unclassified slag. Not diagnostic in terms of process or date		Discard
02	060	Fe	Piece of corroded metal found interior of pit [060] - possibly worked	Perforated strap fragment. Thin rectangular strap, one terminal, other end broken. Centrally placed perforation with possible rivet in-situ. Possible hinge strap. Not closely dateable.	Completely obscured by heavy corrosion.	Discard
03	026/slot 1	Ceramic	sherd of vessel at base of ditch, slot 1	Substantial shard from one side of body a cylindrical, rounded shouldered, closed mouth cream stoneware jar, rim and base lost (19th/20th century)		Discard
04	020	Glass		Bag reads 'glass and slag'. Only small fragments of natural coal in bag.		Discard
05.1	068	Metal	Fence wire and Fe object	Likely fence wire. 7 fragments. Arched length with looped terminals formed by twisting. One end broken with attaching loop fragment, other end has looped peg attached. Three other fragments of straight to slightly curved wire, and two small lumps. Wire is circular sectioned.	Moderate corrosion.	Discard
05.2	068	Metal	Fence wire and Fe object	Large, likely cast iron key. Decorative openwork bow (one side broken) with moulded, multi-lobed stem and broken bit. Likely 18th-19th century	Obscured by heavy corrosion. Adhered to SF05.3	Retain
05.3	068	Metal	Fence wire and Fe object	Unknown object. Possible vessel handle? Tab with stepped arch on either side. Non-diagnostic	Unidentified, heavily corroded and adhered to SF05.2	Retain
06	068	Wood	roughly cut stake/post			
07	069	Wood				

Find No.	Context/ Grid	Material Type	Field Description	Updated Description	Notes	Recommendations
08	068	Metal	wire	Length of curled wire or broken and distorted staple. One end cut at an angle, curled end is corroded.	Light to moderate corrosion	Discard
09	070	Wood	wood, possibly worked			
10	025	Glass	modern glass	Shard of modern window glass (20th century)		Discard
11	072	Glass	modern glass	Two shards of slightly curving glass, probably from a lantern or light fixture (20th century)		Discard
12	020	Slag		Coal. Two fragments. Natural		Discard
13	068	Slag		Vitrified stone. Amorphous sub-rounded nodule of purple-red-brown vitrified material. Surfaces appear viscous but not fully molten. Nodule is light weight and heavily vesicular with inclusions of individual stones and sandy grit which have become fused with the vitrified mass. Not magnetic. 32.7g.		Retain
14	068	Ceramic		Shard of cream stoneware crock or jar, ribbed exterior surface; burnt (c.19th century)		Discard
15	025	Ceramic	2 pot sherds	Two shards of red earthenware flowerpot (20th century)		Discard
16	025	Slate		Amorphous flat fragment of slate, no original edges survive. Post-medieval to Modern		Discard
17	069	Mammal bone				
RT	061	Ceramic		Two shards of modern ceramic: small shard of red earthenware vessel and small shard of standard white earthenware with a pinky glaze on exterior surface (probably 19th-20th century; too small to verify)		Discard

Find No.	Context/ Grid	Material Type	Field Description	Updated Description	Notes	Recommendations
RT	061	Glass		Tiny shattered shard of modern colourless translucent glass, very similar in thickness and curvature to that from SF 11 (072)		Discard
RT	063	Glass		Tiny spall of forest green glass (less than 5mm diam). Probably from bottle (post-med)		Discard
RT	010	Glass		Fractured angular shard of green-brown translucent glass, probably from spirit bottle (c.19th/20th century)		Discard
RT	008	Glass		Three small (less than 10mm L) shards of colourless, translucent glass, Modern (20th century)		Discard
RT	063	Slag		Four small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	023	Slag		11 pieces: includes small slag spheres, at least one hammerscale flake and fuel ash slag fragments	Suggestive of blacksmithing waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	060	Slag		6 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	023	Coal		1 fragment of natural coal		Discard
RT	023	Slag		5 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	061	Coal		7 fragments of natural coal		Discard

Find No.	Context/ Grid	Material Type	Field Description	Updated Description	Notes	Recommendations
RT	051	Slag/Fe		10 small flakes of metallic residue. Could be hammerscale but could equally be small angular fractured flakes detached from surface of corroding iron object		Retain
RT	064	Slag		4 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	062	Slag		4 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	062	Slag		Tiny prill of molten looking slag, magnetic. Globular fleck with trail	Suggestive of blacksmithing waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	010	Slag		Tiny prills of molten looking slag, magnetic. Globular flecks and flat spalls	Suggestive of blacksmithing waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	060	Slag		Tiny prills of molten looking slag, magnetic. Globular flecks and flat spalls	Suggestive of blacksmithing waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	060	Slag		Multiple small pieces: includes small slag spheres, at least one hammerscale flake and fuel ash slag fragments	Suggestive of blacksmithing waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	051	Coal		3 fragments of natural coal		Discard
RT	051	Slag		8 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	060	Coal		3 fragments of natural coal		Discard

Find No.	Context/ Grid	Material Type	Field Description	Updated Description	Notes	Recommendations
RT	065	Coal		4 fragments of natural coal		Discard
RT	020	Slag		8 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	047	Slag		7 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	048	Coal		3 fragments of natural coal		Discard
RT	020	Coal		2 fragments of natural coal		Discard
RT	023	Slag		2 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	065	Slag		8 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	048	Slag		8 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	010	Slag		2 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning	Discard

Find No.	Context/ Grid	Material Type	Field Description	Updated Description	Notes	Recommendations
					rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	
RT	064	Coal		2 fragments of natural coal		Discard
RT	006	Slag		3 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	052	Coal		7 fragments of natural coal		Discard
RT	061	Slag		23 small angular fractured fragments of dark brown porous cinder/coke	The fragments are so small they could be the result of incidental/accidental burning rather than indicative of deliberate use of coke as fuel.	Discard
RT	008	Slag		Two small flakes of metallic material, hammerscale	Suggestive of blacksmithing waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	060	Slag		Small quantity of small slag spheres, at least one hammerscale flake and fuel ash slag fragments	Suggestive of blacksmithing waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	061	Slag		Small quantity of metallic prills; mixture of globular molten looking pieces and fractured angular fragments detached from larger pieces	Suggestive of ironworking waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	063	Slag		Fragment of metallic prill, fractured angular piece detached from larger fragment	Suggestive of ironworking waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	061	Slag		Small quantity of small slag spheres, at least one hammerscale flake and fuel ash slag fragments	Suggestive of blacksmithing waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	006	Slag		Fragment of metallic prill, fractured angular piece detached from larger fragment	Suggestive of ironworking waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain

Find No.	Context/ Grid	Material Type	Field Description	Updated Description	Notes	Recommendations
RT	061	Slag		9 small pieces including small slag spheres, at least one hammerscale flake and fuel ash slag fragments	Suggestive of blacksmithing waste; not closely datable (Iron Age - Post-Medieval)	Retain
RT	051	Slag/Fe		2 small flakes of metallic residue. Could be hammerscale but could equally be small angular fractured flakes detached from surface of corroding iron object		Retain
RT	047	Fe		Small amorphous unidentifiable lump. Possible corrosion product.	Not closely dateable.	Discard
RT	051	Fe		Likely a small tack or hobnail. Possible circular domed head and square sectioned shank.	Not closely dateable.	Retain
RT	065	Fe		Possible blade tip fragment. Triangular with rounded point. Not certain.	Completely obscured by corrosion. Not closely dateable.	Retain

Appendix 3 List of Samples

Area	Context	Quantity	Volume	
Structure 53	061	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	064	1 of 1 bag	3 litres	
Slot 3	026	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	062	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	063	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	010	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
Slot 1	023	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	016	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	014	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
Slot 3	068	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
Slot 3	025	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	044	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	043	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	008	1 of 1 tub	5 litres	
	020	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	023	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	Slot 2	023	1 of 1 tub	10 litres
		049	1 of 1 tub	10 litres
050		1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
052		1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
051		1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
046		1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
041		1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
025		1 of 2 tubs	10 litres	
Slot 2	065	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	060	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	048	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	012	1 of 1 bag	10 litres	
	047	1 of 1 tub	10 litres	
	070	1 of 1 tub	9 litres	
	069	1 of 2 tubs	10 litres	
Slot 2	069	2 of 2 tubs	8 litres	
Slot 2	025	2 of 2 tubs	10 litres	
Slot 2	026	1 of 1 tubs	10 litres	
Slot 2	068	1 of 1 tubs	9 litres	

Appendix 4 List of Drawings

Drawing No.	Feature	Description	Scale	Date
1	015	Southwest facing section of [015]	01:10	21/11/2018
2	019	West facing section of [019]	01:10	21/11/2018
3	004	Northwest facing section of slot 2 [004]	01:10	22/11/2018
4	004	Southeast facing section of slot 2 [004]	01:10	22/11/2018
5	004	Southwest facing section of slot 3 [004]	01:10	22/11/2018
6	004	Northeast facing section of slot 3 [004]	01:10	22/11/2018
7	004	West facing section of slot 1 [004]	01:10	22/11/2018
8	004	East facing section of slot 1 [004]	01:10	22/11/2018
9	013	Plan of [013]	01:10	22/11/2018
10	007	Plan of [007]	01:10	22/11/2018
11	019	Southwest facing section of [019]	01:10	22/11/2018
12	011	East southeast facing section of [011]	01:10	22/11/2018
13	007	North facing section of [007]	01:10	22/11/2018
14	024	South facing section of slot 1 [024]	01:10	23/11/2018
15	037	South southeast facing section of [037]	01:10	23/11/2018
16	042	North facing section of [042]	01:10	23/11/2018
17	028	East northeast facing section [028]	01:10	23/11/2018
18	030	East southeast facing section of [030]	01:10	23/11/2018
19	031	Northwest facing section of [031]	01:10	23/11/2018
20	032	Northeast facing section of [032]	01:10	23/11/2018
21	032	Southwest facing section of [032]	01:10	23/11/2018
22	033	East facing section of [033]	01:10	23/11/2018
23	034	Northwest facing section [034]	01:10	23/11/2018
24	036	North facing section [036]	01:10	23/11/2018
25	051	Plan of [051]	01:10	23/11/2018
26	024	South facing section of slot 3 [024]	01:20	26/11/2018
27	055	Southwest facing section of [055]	01:10	26/11/2018
28	056	West facing section of [056]	01:10	26/11/2018
29	058	Southwest facing section of [058]	01:10	26/11/2018
30	057	Northwest facing section of [057]	01:10	26/11/2018
31	024	South facing section of slot 2 [024]	01:10	26/11/2018
32	024	North facing section of slot 2 [024]	01:10	26/11/2018
33	024	North facing section of slot 4 [024]	01:10	27/11/2018
34	059	East facing section of [059]	01:10	27/11/2018
35	054	North facing section of [054]	01:10	27/11/2018
36	054	Southeast facing section of [054] (072)	01:10	27/11/2018

Appendix 5 List of Site Photographs

Photo No.	Feature	Description	Direction Facing	Date
1	-	Pre- works picture showing north area up to arrival to site	N	19/11/2018
2	-	Pre- works picture showing south area up to arrival to site	S	19/11/2018
3	-	Panorama showing site	W-SE	19/11/2018
4	-	Panorama showing site	ESE-SW	19/11/2018
5	-	Panorama showing site	SE-N	19/11/2018
6	-	Looking along north boundary, stripped pre works	SE	19/11/2018
7	-	Looking along north drainage ditch on west site of boundary	NW	19/11/2018
8	-	Panorama pre-excitation of structure	NE	20/11/2018
9	-	Panorama pre-excitation of structure	NW	20/11/2018
10	-	Panorama pre-excitation of structure	NW	20/11/2018
11-14	[003]	Pre-excitation of structure [003]	WSW	20/11/2018
15-17	[003]	Pre-excitation of structure [003] with flags showing features-bottom most flag [015] and then clockwise [017], [019], [005], [007], [009], [011]and [013]	WSW	20/11/2018
18	[004]	Pre-excitation of structure [004]	WSW	20/11/2018
19	[004]	Pre-excitation of structure [004]	NW	20/11/2018
20-22	[003],[004]	Wider image showing [003] (front) and [004] (back)	NNW	20/11/2018
23	[019]	Pre-excitation of pit [019]	N	20/11/2018
24		Bone		20/11/2018
25-26	[015]	Pre-excitation of pit [015]	NW	20/11/2018
27-28	[007]	Pre-excitation of pit [007]	SE	20/11/2018
29	[007]	Post-excitation of pit [007]	SE	20/11/2018
30	[019]	Post-excitation of pit [019]	NE	20/11/2018
31	[019]	West facing section of pit [019]	E	20/11/2018
32-33	[015]	Post-excitation of pit [015]	SE	20/11/2018
34	[015]	Southwest facing section of [015]	NE	20/11/2018
35-36	[004]	Post-excitation of [004] slot 1	S	20/11/2018
37	[004]	West facing section of [004] slot 1	E	20/11/2018
38	[004]	East facing section of [004] slot 1	W	20/11/2018
39	[004]	Post-excitation of [004] slot 2	SW	20/11/2018
40	[004]	Southeast facing section of [004] slot 2	NW	20/11/2018
41	[004]	Northwest facing section of [004] slot 2	SE	20/11/2018
42-43	[004]	Post-excitation of [004] slot 3	NNW	20/11/2018
44	[004]	Southwest facing section of [004] slot 3	NE	20/11/2018
45-46	[004]	Northeast facing section of [004] slot 3	SW	20/11/2018

Photo No.	Feature	Description	Direction Facing	Date
47	[009]	Pre-excavation of [009]	SE	20/11/2018
48	[009]	mid-excavation of [009]	SE	20/11/2018
49	[013]	Post-excavation of [013]	W	20/11/2018
50	[013]	Post-excavation of [013]	W	20/11/2018
51	[009]	Mid-excavation in plan of [009]	SE	20/11/2018
52	[009]	Post-excavation of [009]	SE	20/11/2018
53	[017]	Mid-excavation of [017]	N	20/11/2018
54	[017]	Mid-excavation of [017]	N	20/11/2018
55	[017]	West facing section of [017] after removal of dark material	E	20/11/2018
56	[017]	Mid-excavation of [017]	E	20/11/2018
57		Pre-excavation of ditch	S	20/11/2018
58	[017]	Post-excavation pf [017]	N	20/11/2018
59	[017]	Post-excavation pf [017]	E	20/11/2018
60-61	[017]	West facing section of [017]	E	20/11/2018
62-63	[027]	Pre-excavation of structure [027]	NW	20/11/2018
64-65	[005]	Post-ex 005	E	22/11/2018
66-67	[005]	N facing section 005	S	22/11/2018
68-69	[010]	Post-ex 011	SSW	22/11/2018
70-71	[011]	ENE facing section 011	WSW	22/11/2018
72	[024]	Post-ex of slot 1 through 024	E	22/11/2018
73	[024]	N facing section slot 1 through 024	S	22/11/2018
74	[024]	S facing section slot 1 through 024	N	22/11/2018
75	[003]	Post ex sectioning of pits in [003]	WSW	23/11/2018
76	[004]	Post-ex of slots 1 (right), 2 (centre) and 3 (left)	WSW	23/11/2018
77	[037]	Pre-ex of possible curvilinear feature	WNW	23/11/2018
78	[037]	Mid-ex of possible curvilinear feature	WNW	23/11/2018
79	[037]	SSE facing section of [037]	NNW	23/11/2018
80-81	[042]	Pre-ex of 042	S	23/11/2018
82	[039]	Pre-ex of [039] possible pit	NW	23/11/2018
83	[028]	post ex plan of [028]	SSE	23/11/2018
84	[028]	ENE facing section of [028]	WSW	23/11/2018
85	[029]	Post ex plan of [029] - no section	S	23/11/2018
86	[030]	Post ex plan of [030]	SSW	23/11/2018
87	[030]	SSE facing section of [030]	NNW	23/11/2018
88-89	[031]	Post-ex plan of [031]	W	23/11/2018
90	[031]	NNW section of [031]	SSE	23/11/2018
91	[032]	Post-ex plan of [032]	NW	23/11/2018
92	[032]	NE facing section of [032]	SW	23/11/2018

Photo No.	Feature	Description	Direction Facing	Date
93	[032]	SW facing section of [032]	NE	23/11/2018
94	[033]	Post-ex plan of [033]	N	23/11/2018
95	[033]	NE facing section of [033]	SW	23/11/2018
96	[034]	Post-ex plan of [034]	NE	23/11/2018
97	[034]	NW facing section of [034]	SE	23/11/2018
98	[035]	Post-ex plan of [035] - no section	NE	23/11/2018
99	[036]	Post-ex plan of [036]	E	23/11/2018
100	[036]	N facing section [036]	S	23/11/2018
101	[042]	Post-ex slot in [042]	S	23/11/2018
102	[042]	Post-ex of [042]	W	23/11/2018
103	[042]	N facing section of [042]	S	23/11/2018
104	[042]	S facing section [042]	N	23/11/2018
105-106	[040]	Post-ex of structure 5 - whole feature	SSE	23/11/2018
107-108	[040]	Post-ex of [027]	NNW	23/11/2018
109-110	[053]	Pre-ex of keyhole shaped feature	NE	23/11/2018
111	[053]	Pre-ex of keyhole shaped feature	NW	23/11/2018
112	[053]	Pre-ex of keyhole shaped feature	SW	23/11/2018
113	[066]	Post-ex of 1m slot through 066 linear modern ditch	NNW	23/11/2018
114	[066]	ENE facing section of linear feature 066	SW	23/11/2018
115-116	[066]	Linear cut by modern pit	NE	23/11/2018
117	[024]	Post-ex of slot 4 through ditch [024]	E	27/11/2018
118	[024]	N facing section of ditch [024]	S	27/11/2018
119	[024]	S facing section of ditch [024]	N	27/11/2018
120-121	[072]	Post ex of slot proving 072 is later than [054]	NE	27/11/2018
122	[054] [072]	Post ex shot showing 072 cutting over [054]	E	27/11/2018
123	[054]	N facing section of pit [054]	S	27/11/2018
124	[054]	Post ex plan view of pit [054]	S	27/11/2018
125	[059]	Post ex plan view of pit [059]	N	27/11/2018
126	[059]	W facing section of pit [059]	E	27/11/2018
127-130	[053]	Post ex of structure [053]	NE	27/11/2018
131	[024]	Pre-ex of slot 3 through ditch	E	26/11/2018
132	[024] sl. 2	Pre-ex of slot 2 looking over ditch	SW	26/11/2018
133	[024] sl. 2	Pre-ex of slot 2 looking over ditch	N	26/11/2018
134	[024] sl. 2	Pre-ex of slot 2 looking over ditch	NW	26/11/2018
135	[024] sl. 2	Pre-ex of slot 2 looking over ditch	SW	26/11/2018
136	[024] sl. 2	Mid-ex after removal of shell (025) onto (068)	E	26/11/2018
137	[024] sl. 2	Mid-ex after removal of shell (025) onto (068) - wood in situ	N	26/11/2018
138	[024] sl. 3	Working shot	S	26/11/2018

Photo No.	Feature	Description	Direction Facing	Date
139-140	[024] sl. 3	Post-ex of slot 3 ditch [024]	E	26/11/2018
141	[024] sl. 3	S facing section of ditch [024]	N	26/11/2018
142-143	[024] sl. 3	N facing section of ditch [024]	S	26/11/2018
144-145	[024] sl. 3	Plan view of bark covered post in situ?	E	26/11/2018
146-147	[024] sl. 3	Plan view of bark covered post in situ?	N	26/11/2018
148	[024] sl. 3	View of post at base of ditch in situ?	S	26/11/2018
149	[024] sl. 3	Plan view of post at base of ditch	S	26/11/2018
150-152	[024] sl. 3	Post/stake at base of ditch after removal		26/11/2018
153	[024] sl. 2	Mid-ex of 069 showing bone/wood/stone	SW	26/11/2018
154	[024] sl. 2	Mid-ex of 069 showing bone/wood/stone	S	26/11/2018
155	[024] sl. 2	Mid-ex of 069 showing bone/wood/stone	W	26/11/2018
156	[058]	Post-ex of slot in [058]	NW	26/11/2018
157	[058] (061)	SW facing section of [058]	NE	26/11/2018
158	[057]	post-ex of pit [057]	SE	26/11/2018
159	[057] (062)	NW facing section of [057] pit	SE	26/11/2018
160	[024] sl. 2	S facing section slot 2 [024]	NW	26/11/2018
161	[024] sl. 2	Location of sl. 2 [024]	SW	26/11/2018
162	[024] sl. 2	S facing section slot 2 [024]	N	26/11/2018
163	[024] sl. 2	N facing section slot 2 [024] Panorama	S	26/11/2018
164	[024] sl.2	Post-ex slot 2 [024]	N	26/11/2018
165	[024] [071]	Stake holes x 3 to E side of ditch [024]	WNW	26/11/2018
166	[024]	Location of ditch, working shot	SW	26/11/2018
167	[056]	Post-ex of [056] pit	N	26/11/2018
168	[056] (063)	S facing section of [056] pit	N	26/11/2018
169	[055]	Post-ex of pit [055]	NE	26/11/2018
170	[055] (064)	SW facing section of pit [055]	NE	26/11/2018

Appendix 6 Environmental Analysis

By Genoveva Dimova

Introduction

A total of 26 bulk samples were submitted for environmental assessment from a watching brief carried out at Dean's Park, Dornoch. The samples were collected from a series of pits, postholes and ditches believed to date to the Early Historic to post-medieval periods. A small assemblage of carbonised macroplant and charcoal fragments were recovered. The aim of this report was to identify the ecofacts to species and give recommendations for further work.

Methodology

The bulk samples were processed in their entirety in laboratory conditions using a floatation method designed to retrieve charred macroplant remains and artefacts (*cf.* Kenward *et al.* 1980). The sediment consisted of a sandy silt, which did not require any pre-treatment. All plant macrofossils were subsequently examined at magnifications of x10 and up to x40 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases stored at AOC Edinburgh (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006). Taxonomy and nomenclature for plants follows Stace (2010). Charcoal fragments larger than 4mm were collected for species identification and where possible a maximum of ten fragments per context were identified.

Results

The results are recorded below in Table 1: the carbonised macroplant and Table 2: the charcoal species.

The macroplant assemblage

A total of three carbonised macroplants were recovered from two contexts. The macroplant assemblage was composed of cereals and weed taxa. Preservation of the macroplants was mostly poor, with one barley caryopsis which could be described as excellent.

The cereals

A total of two cereal caryopses were recovered from pit [032]. The species were hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.). These remains are probably domestic cooking debris re-worked into this feature during general cleaning of hearths and floor surfaces.

The weed taxa

The weed assemblage consisted of a single parsley-piert (*Aphanes arvensis* L.) seed, recovered from pit [030]. Parsley-piert is edible and has been used as a food source, especially in times of famine. However, there is no evidence that this plant, which grows in agricultural fields and waste ground, was deliberately exploited in any of these capacities. Instead, it was probably introduced accidentally as a contaminant of the crops or grew nearby and was accidentally burnt.

The charcoal assemblage

Charcoal fragments suitable for species identification were collected from two contexts. The charcoal assemblage totalled 0.4g and six fragments were selected for species identification. The species were pine (*Pinus* sp.), and heather (*Calluna vulgaris* L.), both recovered in equal amounts. Preservation of the fragments ranged from poor to adequate. Those fragments described as poor were noticeably friable and there was some evidence of oxidisation.

The charcoal assemblage was scattered throughout two features in small quantities. There were three pieces of roundwood identified as heather, all recovered from fill (023) in circular structure [004]. The pine fragments were all recovered from pit [060] in circular structure [053]. There was no evidence for the disposal of any wood working debris, wooden artefacts or for the in situ burning of structural elements such as timbers, posts and stakes. Instead the charcoal assemblage is typical of mixed fuel debris.

Modern Contamination

Matted roots were present in all samples along with earthworm capsules, fungal spores, branches and weed seeds. Large quantities of wood fragments were recovered from ditch [024], suggesting some degree of disturbance, which could have compromised the archaeological security of this context.

Recommendations

Given the small size and the poor preservation of the macroplant and charcoal assemblage no further analysis is required. If required, the cereal caryopses and charcoal are suitable for radiocarbon dating but this material has experienced some possible modern re-working and may therefore not represent in situ activity. The assemblage is in a dry and stable condition and is suitable for long-term storage. Once all work at this site has been completed these remains are suitable for disposal.

Table 1 Charred Macroplant

Feature			Pit [030]	Pit [032]
Context			46	48
Slot				
Sample vol(l)			10	4
% Sorted			100	100
Species	Name	Part		
Cereal				
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Hulled barley	Caryopsis/es		1
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	Barley	Caryopsis/es		1
Weeds				
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i> L.	Parsley-piert	Seed(s)	1	

Table 2 Charcoal species

Feature	Context	Species	Name	Frag	RW	Weight (g)
Structure [004]	23 Slot 1	Calluna vulgaris L.	Heather		2	0.1
Structure [004]	23 Slot 2	Calluna vulgaris L.	Heather		1	0.1
Pit [059]	60	Pinus sp.	Pine	3		0.2

Appendix 7 The Metal Finds from Dean's Park, Dornoch

By Andrew Morrison

Introduction

A metal assemblage comprising eight artefacts (Mass: 351.04g) was recovered during recent archaeological works by AOC Archaeology Group at Dean's Park, in Dornoch. The assemblage is made up of ferrous metal material (both hand-retrieved and recovered from retents) and comprises a perforated strap fragment (SF02); a grouping of fencing wire (SF05.1); a likely key (SF05.2); a possible vessel fragment (SF05.3); a length of wire (SF08); a tack or hobnail (RT051); a possible blade tip (RT065), and an unidentifiable lump of possible corrosion product (RT047). These finds were recovered from five separate contexts, and are either post-medieval in date, or are not considered to be chronologically distinctive.

Methodology

The finds were all examined macroscopically, and a selection was examined with the aid of x-radiographs; a low-powered binocular microscope was also used in order to clarify surface details. Each object was individually examined with the aim of identifying material type, function, and date, and to produce a catalogue inventory database of the finds for archive purposes. The hand-excavated finds were assigned small finds numbers in the field; these numbers have been further subdivided with decimal places where required to differentiate between individual finds submitted within the same finds bag.

All finds were measured using a 0-150mm Carbon Dial Caliper with 0.1mm accuracy and were weighed using a Sartorius Universal digital scale accurate to 0.01g.

Condition

The ferrous and non-ferrous metal assemblages display varying degrees of post-deposition corrosion ranging from light corrosion, to being completely obscured by heavy corrosion and concretions. The majority of the assemblage displays moderate to heavy corrosion with the object forms clearly visible and the original surfaces remaining.

Classification

The finds recovered from Dean's Park comprise eight ferrous metal objects, five of which were hand-retrieved from two separate contexts, and three retrieved during the processing of soil sample retents from three separate contexts. Hand-retrieved finds include a perforated rectangular strap fragment with a likely domed rivet *in situ* (SF02), recovered from the fill (060) of linear cut [059], and a grouping of twisted and looped fencing wire (SF05.1), a large decorated key (SF05.2), a possible vessel fragment and handle (SF05.3) that is adhered to the key through corrosion, and a length of wire or bent staple (SF08) recovered from the fill (068) of a drainage or agricultural ditch [024].

The key or potential key is of particular interest, owing to its relatively large size (L: 165.7mm) and its elaborate and ornate bow and shank decoration. Likely cast, the shank decoration terminates at a foot from which protrudes a circular sectioned stalk that may have held a bit. Alternatively, this object could also have functioned as a door or cabinet handle designed to mimic the shape of a key, though without conservation work, its identity cannot be confirmed. The decorative style is likely to date the key to around the 18th or 19th century.

Finds recovered from retents include an unidentifiable lump or possible fragment of corrosion product (RT047) from the fill (047) for a possible post-hole [031], a small tack or hobnail (RT051) with a circular domed head and short square sectioned shank from the fill (051) of a possible post-hole [035], and a potential blade tip (RT065) recovered from the fill (065) of sub-rectangular pit [054].

Summary and Discussion

Overall, the small assemblage of metal finds recovered from Dean's Park likely represents the remains of agricultural and daily household activities. The metal assemblage cannot contribute much information of value with regards to the inhabitants, use, or phasing of the site as many of the finds are of long-lived types and are not considered to be closely dateable or are post-medieval to modern finds recovered from a modern drainage or agricultural ditch.

Appendix 8 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	The Highland Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	New Housing, Dean's Park, Dornoch
PROJECT CODE:	70341
PARISH:	Dornoch
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Leonie Teufel
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Post-excavation analyses
NRHE NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Three pit-defined round structures and a ring-ditch
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NH 79134 89414
START DATE (this season)	19.11.18
END DATE (this season)	27.11.18
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	2008 Alba Archaeology desk based assessment and trial trenching, Highland HER No. EHG3390
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	A program of post-excavation analyses was undertaken on the archaeological features excavated during an archaeological watching brief carried out at Dean's Park Dornoch in 2018.

(May include information from other fields)	<p>The post-excavation analyses identified that the site was heavily disturbed but likely was a Bronze Age funerary landscape with a possible later phase of Iron Age activity. Evidence for post-medieval agricultural activity was evident through several drainage ditches marking field boundaries evident on OS mapping, this activity has likely led to the disturbance of earlier remains on site.</p> <p>The Bronze Age funerary landscape was made up of a small and very shallow ring-ditch structure with no internal burial surviving. A very similar structure was identified 50m south in 2008 during the evaluation of the area indicating it is not an isolated feature.</p> <p>Additional prehistoric archaeology comprised three pit-defined round structures. These structures are similar in diameter to the ring-ditches and could represent very truncated remains of once complete ring ditches, they do not have an entrance and are very shallow. The soil samples showed that these feature were very disturbed and suggested that the fill of the features was likely made up of intrusive material including metal objects and some glass. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from a very limited environment assemblage, one was modern and the other was Iron Age. The exact function and date of these pit defined round structures could not be definitely identified due to their truncated nature, but it is possible that they are small workshop structures or possibly even truncated barrows.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	Pre-excavation of pit-defined round structure [003]
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Pat Munro (Alness) Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology, The Old Estate Office, Rosehaugh Estate, Avoch, IV9 8RF
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Inverness@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NRHE

Appendix 9 Radiocarbon dating



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