



PERTH & KINROSS HERITAGE TRUST
and **NORTHLIGHT HERITAGE**

NORTHLIGHT HERITAGE REPORT: 119

PROJECT ID: 4415161

DATA STRUCTURE REPORT

Glenshee Archaeology Project

2014 Excavation

Lair, Glenshee, Perth & Kinross



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Glenshee Archaeology Project 2014
Lair, Glenshee, Perth & Kinross
NGR: NN 48627 43132

Data Structure Report

Cover Plate: Aerial view of the ring cairn and Trench 18 over the turf longhouse (image by Eddie Martin Photography).

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Abstract

During June 2014 Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and Northlight Heritage undertook a third field season of the Glenshee Archaeology Project which continued researching the prehistoric and early medieval archaeology of Glenshee for the benefit of both residents and visitors to the area.

The 2014 season focused on the excavation of one trench over the south-eastern most of two potential medieval 'Pitcarmick' type buildings at Lair which were also examined in 2012 and 2013. The buildings consisted of two south-east to north-west orientated rectangular structures that were defined by turf banks previously identified by the RCAHMS. They lay end to end and were next to a prehistoric ring cairn. Two further rectangular structures, their associated enclosures along with two further areas holding archaeological potential, all located to the south-east of the main trench, were also trial trenched.

The main excavation trench, over the south-eastern longhouse adjacent to the ring cairn, revealed a wide oval central hearth along with a well preserved section of turf wall at the far south-eastern end where large boulders, rolled from the kerb of the adjacent ring cairn, had afforded some protection to the turf wall layers from later cultivation.

The smaller trenches, over features to the south-east of the turf longhouses, revealed two structures containing more stone in their construction compared to the turf longhouses to the north, particularly the eastern most where a well preserved low stone wall was uncovered. Earth and stone enclosure banks and drip gullies were also associated with these structures. One sherd of green glazed pottery was recovered from one of the drip gullies. The remaining two trenches identified a clearance cairn and another possible structure.

1. Introduction

1.1

This report outlines the results of the third year of a three year archaeological survey and excavation project at Lair, Glenshee, as part of a wider and developing Glenshee Archaeology Project (GAP). Both the archaeological work at Lair and the wider GAP programme seek to address a research agenda relating to upland archaeology of the area. More specifically this relates to the suggested Pictish 'Pitcarmick-type' longhouses found there and how they relate to sites from other periods which are often located nearby.

1.2

The Lair project was designed to answer questions about the nature and date of two such Pitcarmick-type structures along with other potential archaeological features in the surrounding landscape including the character, age and extent of any buried archaeological deposits within, beneath and around what was visible on the surface. It was hoped that the results of the excavation of the 'Pitcarmick' structures, the trial trenching of potential archaeological features in the surrounding landscape along with analysis of the wider geophysical and topographical surveys, would highlight areas to target in order to explore broader patterns of change in the upland archaeology of Glenshee.

1.3

The project was carried out through a community archaeology approach. This provided learning opportunities for participants through involvement in fieldwork, desk-based research and through the dissemination of the results. Active participation in the excavation involved both members of the local community and volunteers from further afield. In addition, bespoke activities were provided for pupils from Blairgowrie High School. An 'open' excavation policy encouraged visits by the public with site tours being provided on demand.

1.4

The project was envisaged and instigated by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and delivered in partnership with Northlight Heritage.

Project background

1.5

This project aims to add some much needed depth to the available information on the Pitcarmick-type buildings of north-east Perthshire. While many of these elongated turf and timber houses of the late first millennium have been identified in this upland area, initially by the Royal Commission of Ancient & Historical Monuments Scotland during surveys in the late 1980's (RCAHMS 1990), their overall distribution and dating is still poorly understood. In addition to this very few have been excavated to date, the notable exception being the site-type itself at Pitcarmick (Barrett & Downes 1993 & 1994, Carver et al. 2013). These turf and timber structures are particularly important given, with the exception of Viking settlement in the Outer Isles, early medieval buildings are rarely found elsewhere in Scotland.

1.6

Like Pitcarmick itself, the site at Lair (Figure 3) comprises a relatively dispersed settlement of long houses on the site of an earlier, probable late Bronze Age or Iron Age, settlement of round houses. At Lair these are located around a ring-cairn of likely early Bronze Age date. The results of the pilot season in 2012 (Strachan & Sneddon 2012), which focused on one of the long houses, and the second season in 2013 (Strachan & Sneddon 2013), which focussed on the longhouse adjacent to that excavated in 2012 while continuing work on the 2012 longhouse, suggested early medieval activity had occurred at the site. The third season, reported here, aimed to build on these results by continuing the excavation of the second longhouse whilst also trial trenching two other longhouse type structures.

1.7

The project was primarily funded by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust with support of the Cairngorms National Park, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Gannochy Trust and the Hunter Archaeological and Historical Trust. Outreach work with Blairgowrie High School was carried as part of the project. In addition many parts of the local community contributed significantly to the success of the project. These included landowner David Houston, Eco-camp Glenshee, Mount Blair Community Council, The Glenshee Pottery, the Clan MacThomas Society, Blairgowrie Area Roads Office and Perth and Kinross Council.

2. Location, Geology and Topography

2.1

The site of Lair is located in Glenshee, Perth and Kinross (NGR: NO 1394 6378) and is situated on heather and grass covered terraces of a south facing slope (Figure 1-3). The elevated position, at a height of between c. 360 m and 380 m AOD, affords good views with the Shee Water running c. 600 m to the east. The site lies within the eastern limit of Forest of Clunie SSSI and just within the southern boundary of Cairngorms National Park.

2.2

The underlying bedrock at Lair consists of Mount Blair Psammite and Semipelite Formation (Metamorphic) while the superficial deposits consist of glacio-fluvial gravels, sands and silts (British Geological Survey 1:50000 digital data).

3. Archaeological and Historical Context

3.1

Lair and the wider landscape of Glenshee has an excellent range of well preserved upland archaeological sites examples of which can be found more widely across much of north-east Perthshire (Smith 1895; RCAHMS 1990).

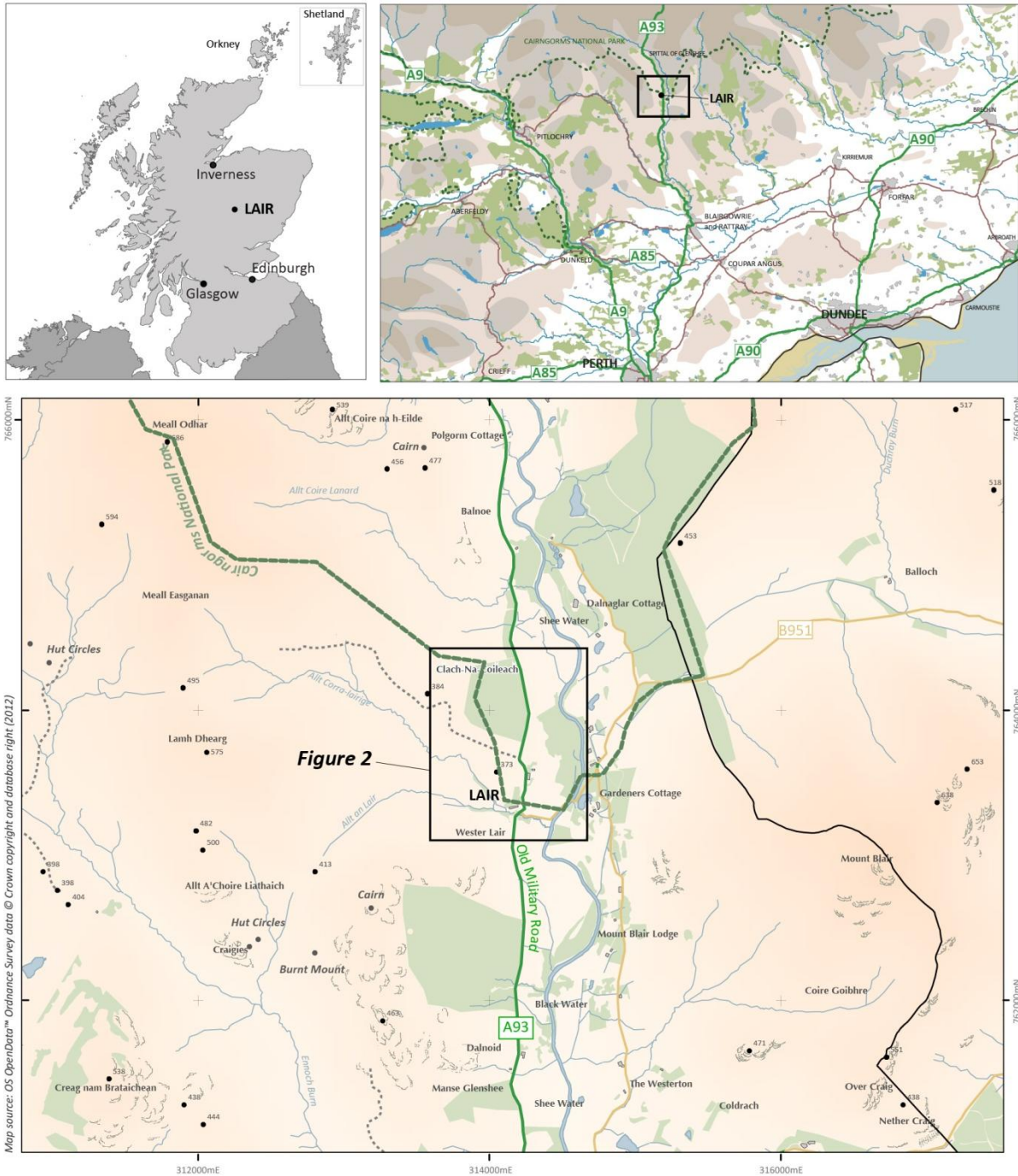


Figure 1: Site Location

3.2

The site at Lair comprises a complex of upstanding archaeological remains (Figure 2, Appendix 1 - Table 7). These include a series of prehistoric sites comprising a ring-cairn (HER no: MPK4457, see Table 7 for NMRS No's), a kerb-cairn (HER no: MPK4452), hut-circles (HER no: MPK4455, MPK4469 & MPK4461) and a burnt mound (HER no: MPK4470).

3.3

A series of Pitcarmick-type structures, likely dating to the first millennium AD, have also been noted in the area (Figure 2). These are all located at Lair and include the main structures noted on Figure 3 (HER no: MPK4456 & MPK4384) along with another two positioned to the north-west (HER no: MPK4460) and south-east (HER no: MPK4442) of this.

3.4

The landscape also holds remains from later farming periods (Figure 2) which primarily comprise of a series of Farmsteads (HER no: MPK4435, MPK4445, MPK4440, MPK4454, MPK9114 & MPK4459) and individual buildings along with related enclosures of varying size (HER no: MPK4451, MPK4448-MPK4450, MPK4444, MPK4399 & MPK4443). Two areas containing shieling huts have been previously recorded (HER no: MPK4392 & MPK4400) along with a mill (HER no: MPK4410).

3.5

Other cultural records in the area relate to the Caulfields Military Road which runs up Glenshee (HER no: MPK5959) and a series of memorial stones (HER no: MPK15070, MPK16161 & MPK4489).

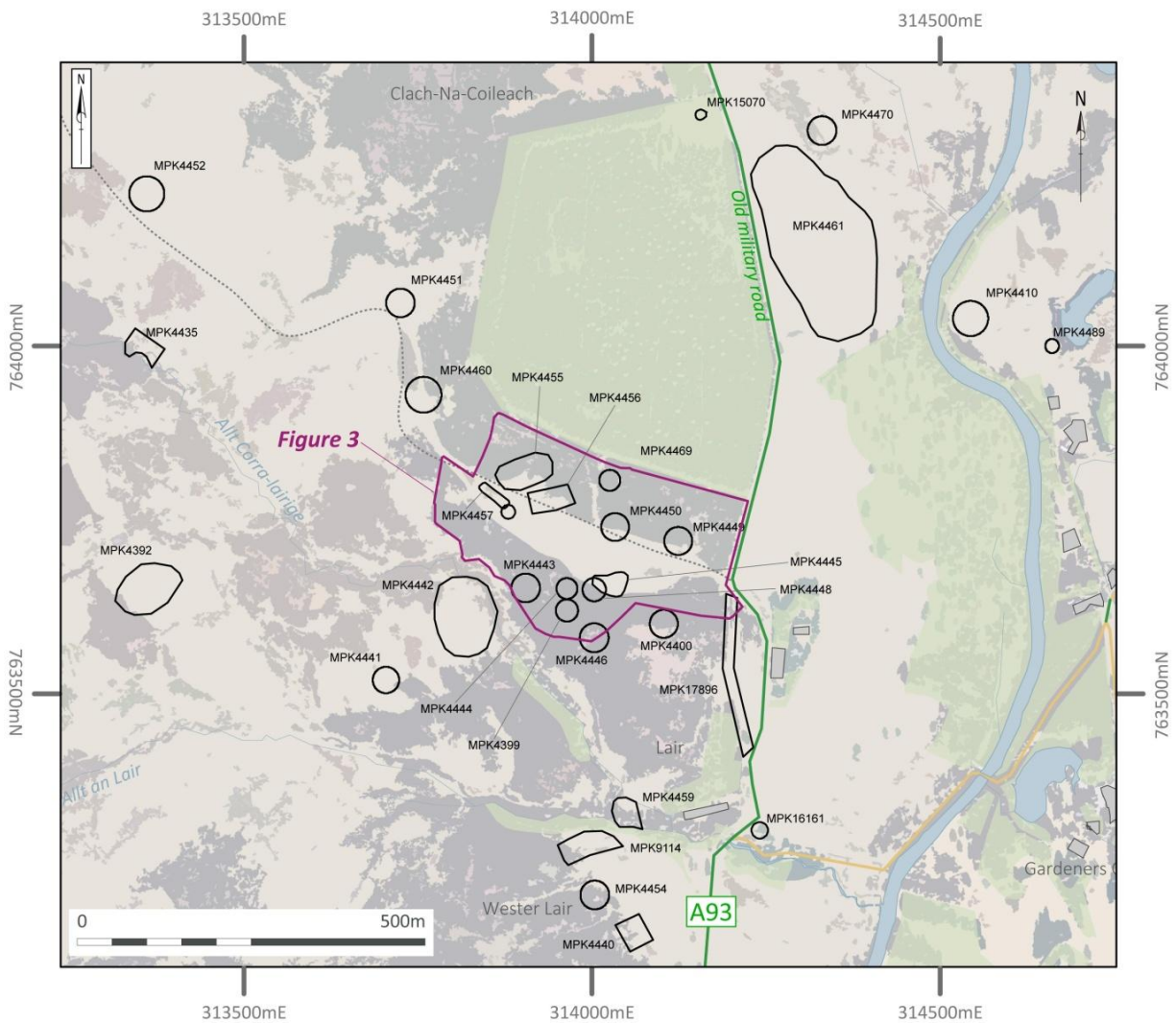


Figure 2: Location of archaeological sites at Lair and the surrounding landscape (P&KHT HER extract)

3.6

These remains clearly date to a number of different periods and exhibit the diverse range of archaeological sites present in this upland landscape.

3.7

Previous seasons, in 2012 & 2013 (Strachan & Sneddon 2012 & 2013), focused on the partial excavation of two potential medieval 'Pitcarmick' type buildings at Lair. The buildings were both south-east to north-west orientated rectangular structures defined by turf banks. They lay end to end and were next to, and aligned with, a prehistoric ring cairn (Figure 3). A summary of the results from the previous excavations is given below.

2012

3.8

The 2012 season focused on the partial excavation of the most north-westerly potential early medieval 'Pitcarmick' type building. The excavation trenches were located at either end of the building. The north western most trench revealed the remains of collapsed turf banks that would have formed the rounded end of the building. This end of the building, constructed on a slight slope, contained no sign of stone footings for the turf wall although the frequent stone mixed in with the slumped turf material may indicate a former footing that has been incorporated into the bank material as it decomposed and worked its way down slope. The south eastern trench revealed similar collapsed turf walls with no evidence for stone footings, although areas of well preserved turf banking were noted. A probable entrance was located along with a pit inside the south eastern end of the structure. A roughly east to west running linear depression containing evidence of *in-situ* burning at its base was located running beneath the east of the structure and appeared to immediately predate the construction of the turf walls of the main structure.

3.9

Significant finds from the 2012 season included a flint arrowhead and a series of iron artefacts, including two knives and two buckles. Initial radiocarbon dates obtained from the excavation indicated the building was in use between the seventh and ninth centuries AD.

2013

3.10

The 2013 season focused on the excavation of two trenches, one over each of the two potential early medieval 'Pitcarmick' type buildings located adjacent to the ring cairn, and one of which was initially examined in 2012. The main excavation trench encompassed the north-western half of the smaller south-eastern most turf longhouse while the other was located over a section of defining turf bank on the north-eastern side of the north-western most turf longhouse. Underneath the collapsed turf walls of the smaller structure a huge concentration of stone was revealed possibly relating to a stone foundation. At the base of both trenches a series of postholes and pits were uncovered which may form part of a timber structure relating to the turf longhouses or form part of earlier prehistoric activity visible in the form of the nearby ring cairn and round houses.

3.11

A series of iron artefacts, including two more knives, were recovered from both trenches and further radiocarbon dates, obtained from the excavations over both buildings, again suggested that the buildings were in use between the seventh and ninth centuries AD.

3.12

A series of smaller trenches were also excavated during 2013, over features to the south-east of the turf longhouses. These revealed a series of likely clearance cairns, a stone defined circular structure and a possible routeway.

4. Summary Objectives

The general aims of 2014 season were:

- To improve our understanding of the Pitcarmick-type structures at Lair;
- To provide opportunities for the participation and learning amongst the community and;
- To contribute to a wider awareness and understanding of the value of the archaeology and heritage of Glenshee.

The specific objectives of this season of the project were:

- To create a detailed survey plan of the archaeological remains at Lair, expanding on the work previously undertaken in 2012 and 2013;
- To assess and clarify the nature and sequence of the construction of the Pitcarmick buildings, and establish any relationship between the buildings;
- To assess the archaeological potential of possible remains visible on the surface located to the south and south-east of the main site at Lair;
- To identify if any evidence exists for reconstruction or maintenance of the longhouses along with the process of abandonment (such as deliberate destruction or decay through neglect);
- To recover palaeo-environmental and artefactual evidence that could be used to date the construction and use of the monument and to clarify how the spaces relating to the structure (internal and external) may have functioned;
- To take samples for geo-chemical and pedological analysis to aid interpretation of the use of the interior of the structure and, in combination with palaeo-environmental evidence, better understand its landscape and environmental context;
- To engage local schools and members of the Glenshee and wider community in the process of discovery and communicate the results of the work to them.

5. Methodology

Survey

5.1

A topographic survey of archaeological sites visible on the ground surface at Lair was undertaken (Figure 3). This expanded the surveys undertaken in 2012 and 2013 by surveying the area to the south-east and east of that covered previously. A sub-cm Differential Global Positioning System with GNSS-RTK Network (Leica GS08) was employed with the results being processed with CAD and ArcGIS.

Excavation

5.2

Eight trenches were excavated over the course of the 2014 field season (Figure 3). Trenches 13 to 17, 19 and 20 were opened to evaluate a series of potential archaeological features visible on the surface to the south-east of the turf longhouses that included: two other rectangular shaped structures (Trenches 13 & 15), their possible associated enclosures (Trenches 14, 16 & 17), a possible cairn (Trench 19, which was also opened to allow local school parties to become involved in the excavation at Lair) and another, although on the surface less well defined, feature (Trench 20 A-E). Trench 18 was opened over the south-eastern half of the south-eastern most longhouse to further investigate the structure partially excavated in 2013.

5.3

All archaeological features encountered within the excavation trenches were photographed, sampled and recorded in accordance with guidelines for best archaeological practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA). The written record of all archaeological features, deposits and finds was by means of conventional pro forma sheets. Scaled hand drawn plans were made at 1:20 and sections at 1:10. High resolution digital images were taken and all features were planned from a site grid which was established with a sub-cm Differential Global Positioning System (see 5.1). Elevated aerial photographs were taken of the site during excavation from a kite and Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA - see section 5.4).

Aerial Photography

5.4

Low level air photographs were captured by Eddie Martin Photography, of both the excavation and nearby sites, using a Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) carrying an Olympus Pen E-PL2 with visual feedback from the camera to allow accurate photography. A series of overlapping vertical images from slightly different positions were captured and processed in AgiSoft Photoscan Professional to remove optical distortions and produce a rectified 3D point cloud and textured mesh, from which a fully rectified 2D orthophoto was generated.

6. Results

6.1

A total of 4 small finds were recovered during the excavation which included slag (1), stone (2) and pottery (1) - see Appendix 1. A total of 9 bulk environmental samples were also taken from specific contexts. 223 digital photographs were taken during the course of the fieldwork along with a series of aerial images taken by Eddie Martin Photography. Summary concordance lists are provided in Appendix 1 while full details of individual contexts are contained in the site archive. In the following paragraphs numbers in brackets indicate unique context numbers issued in the field.

Trench 13

6.2

Trench 13 measured 4 m by 2 m and was orientated north to south. The trench was placed over the southern wall of a distinct east to west orientated longhouse (Figure 3 & Plate 1). The longhouse, measuring approximately 17 m by 6 m, was defined by heather and turf covered banks with the fainter remains of a second longhouse existing off its eastern end. The trench was opened to investigate the construction of the wall and the nature of the building.



Plate 1: Trench 13 over wall of longhouse

6.3

Beneath a thin layer of topsoil and heather (001) lay a very distinct double skinned stone wall with an earth and stone core (104). The outer and inner skin of the wall comprised two courses of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles and boulders (Plate 2) with a core of grey/brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded cobbles. The wall existed to 0.75 m in width and 0.35 m in depth. It appeared to taper slightly to the east within the trench although this may have been due to partial collapse at the western end.

6.4

Below the topsoil, in the interior of the building and abutting the wall (104), a deposit was uncovered that consisted of up to 0.25 m of brown/grey silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions (105). A moderate amount of larger sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles were also present within the deposit that likely represents part of the collapsed structure (Figure 4).

6.5

Beneath the main double skinned wall (104) lay what appeared to be a bank of material similar to the earth core of the wall above (125) i.e. a grey/brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and small cobbles (Figure 4). It is possible that this bank represents a foundation of earth on top of which the stone wall was constructed, however, it could similarly represent the remains of an earlier structure on top of which the low stone wall was placed.

6.6

Outside the wall and abutting it was a deposit comprising a grey/brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions (103) which contained clear turf lines consisting of darker grey silt (Figure 4). A moderate to frequent amount of larger sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles were also present which formed part of the deposit. The sandy silt, the remains of the turf and the stone all most likely represent the remains of collapse from the building suggesting that the upper walls were of turf and stone construction that subsequently collapsed to the southern, exterior, side of the building. A possible roof weight (Small Find 23) was recovered from this collapse deposit.

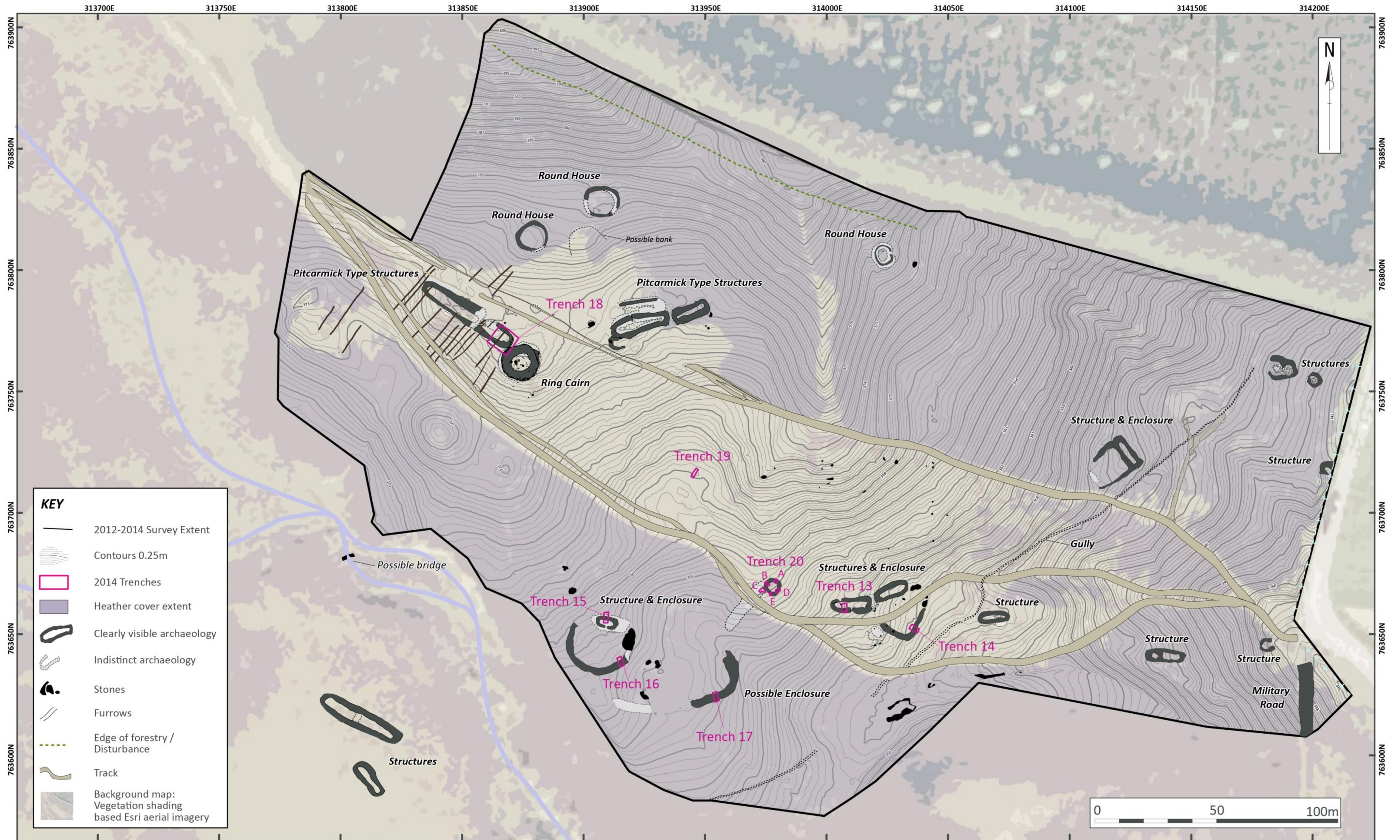


Figure 3: Trench location and topographic/site survey



Plate 2: Trench 13, stone wall of structure

6.7

Some 0.6 m to the south of the wall (104) lay a small linear gully running parallel to the wall (Figure 4). The gully (147), measuring up to 0.19 m in width and 0.14 m in depth, had a steep, slightly concave, northern edge with a more gradual concave southern edge and a very slightly concave base, although uneven in places. It was filled by a grey/brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions along with a clear turf line, consisting of darker grey silt, in the upper part of the fill (129). This fill was very similar to, if not the same as, the collapse deposit (103) above. It is likely that this linear gully ran down the side of the building and represents a drainage or drip gully.

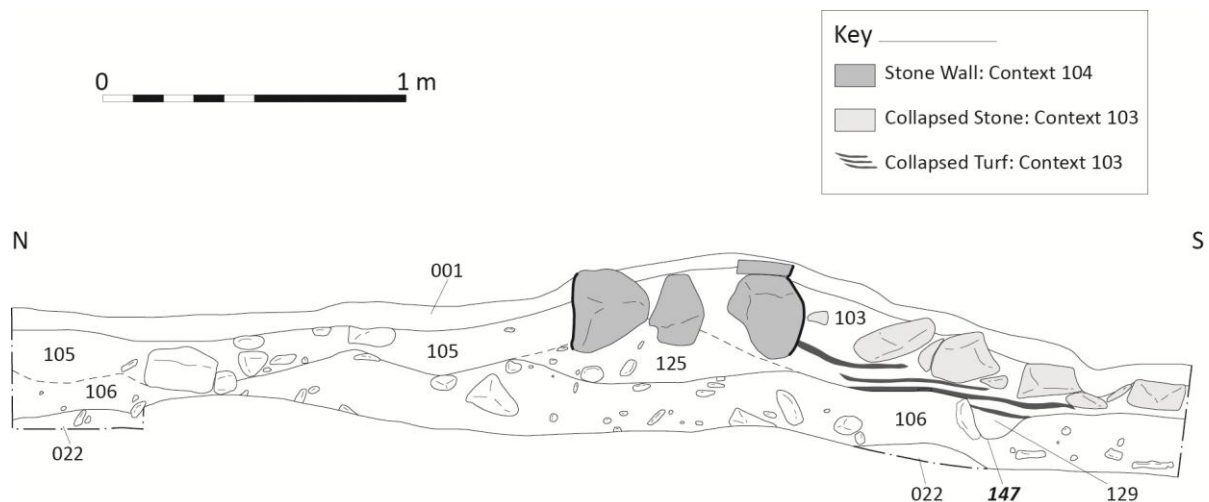


Figure 4: West facing section of Trench 13

6.8

The gully was cut into a deposit of orange/brown sandy silt containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles (106) which ran across the entire trench (Figure 4). This deposit appears to represent a

naturally formed deposit lying above the sterile glacial subsoil (022). Occasional charcoal flecks were present near the surface of the deposit to the north of the wall (104), corresponding to the internal area of the building, where the surface was also slightly more compact than to the south of the wall. This may indicate that the surface of this layer represented the internal floor surface of the building.

Trench 14

6.9

Trench 14 measured 4 m by 2 m and was orientated north-west to south-east. The trench was placed over the ephemeral remains of a turf and heather covered curvilinear bank located to the south-east of two structures, one of which was investigated in Trench 13 (Figure 3). The bank was faintly visible on the surface where it formed a curving 'L' shape possibly relating to the two structures located just to the north-west.

6.10

Beneath a thin turf, heather and topsoil layer (001) the material comprising the bank consisted of a deposit of light brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular boulders and cobbles (101). The bank material was spread to 6 m in width primarily to the south-eastern, down slope, side where it was at its deepest at 0.25 m (Figure 5). The stone in the bank material had no clear structure although this would be expected given the degree of slumping that had occurred.

6.11

The bank material (101) lay on top of a naturally formed deposit of more compact grey/yellow sandy silt containing occasional gravel and sub-angular/angular boulders (102) which in turn lay over the sterile natural glacial subsoil (022).

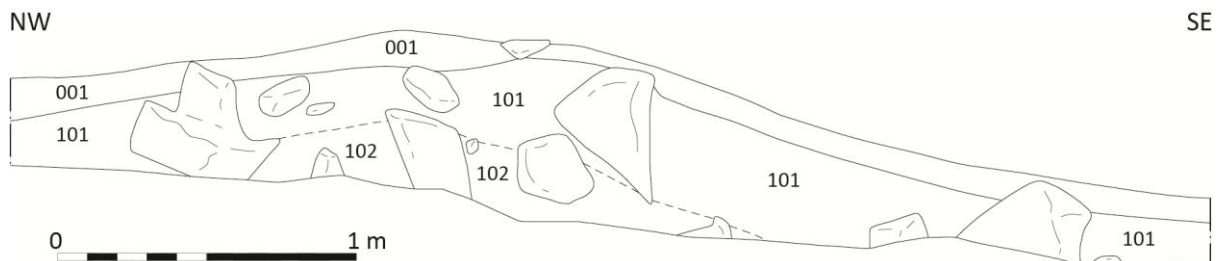


Figure 5: South-west facing section of Trench 14

6.12

Trench 14 showed that, at this location, the enclosure bank was primarily constructed of earth although stone was present, some being large. No corresponding ditch was visible and the material for the bank had been laid directly on top of the natural deposit (102) which contained a similar amount and size of stone.

Trench 15

6.13

Trench 15 measured 4.5 m by 2 m and was orientated north-east to south-west. The trench was placed over the northern side of a small building (Figure 3) to investigate the construction of the wall and assess the character of the building. Prior to excavation the building was visible as a roughly rectangular structure, measuring approximately 9 m east to west by 5 m north to south, defined by low lying heather covered banks with some stone protruding through the surface in the interior.

6.14

Beneath a thin layer of topsoil and heather (001) lay a relatively distinct layer of sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and small boulders (096) within a mid-brown sandy silt matrix (095). These stones and the matrix around them corresponded to the bank visible on the surface and represented the remains of the wall of the structure. In both plan and section (Figure 4) the wall was not well defined although up to two courses of stone were visible in places. It is likely that the wall had collapsed over time although it is also possible that it was never originally constructed as anything more than a rough foundation of stone. Either way it is unlikely that the wall was ever more than a few courses in height and likely supported a turf or turf and stone wall above. The soil matrix around the stones (095), which was also present within and slightly outwith the structure, could represent the remains of the collapsed upper turf wall and roof.

6.15

These wall layers lay directly above the natural subsoil (022) which included, primarily on the inside edge of the wall and internal area (Figure 4), large sub-angular boulders which possibly represent the upper bedrock layers.

6.16

Within the internal area of the structure a large deposit of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles and small boulders (097) lay on, and partly within, (095). These were also visible protruding through the surface of most of the internal area. Initially thought to be collapse from the structure it appeared that the stones were more likely to have been placed within the structure to form a rough and uneven floor relatively late in the structures life or have been placed in the structure after it had gone out of use, possibly during field clearance.

6.17

Immediately outside the wall (096) lay two shallow linear gullies running parallel with the structure. The outermost gully (121, Figure 4) measured up to 0.83 m in width and was 0.25 m in depth. It consisted of gradually sloping concave sides with a wide rounded base. The fill of the gully comprised a moderately compact dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular small pebble inclusions (122). A single body sherd of green glaze pottery (Small Find 22) was recovered from the fill of the gully. It is likely that this feature represents the remains of a shallow drainage ditch or drip gully relating to the building.

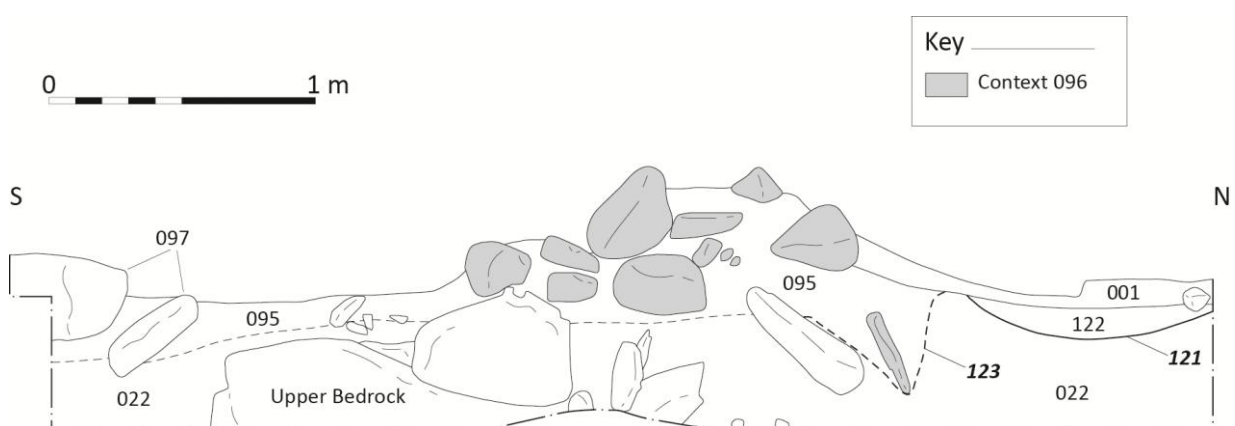


Figure 6: East facing section of Trench 15

6.18

This gully in turn cut the corner of an earlier gully (123) located closer to the wall of the structure. Being less well preserved than the outer gully (121) it was only clearly visible in the east facing section of the trench while being clearly disturbed in the west facing section (Figure 4). In the east facing section the cut for the gully

appeared as being up to 0.41 m wide and 0.29 m deep. It had moderately steep, slightly concave, sides with a rounded base and appeared to be filled with the sandy silt material present around the stones of the wall and in the interior of the building (095). Although less visible than the later gully it is also likely that this feature represents a shallow drainage ditch or drip gully relating to the building or an earlier structure.

Trench 16

6.19

Trench 16 measured 4 m by 2 m and was orientated north-west to south-east. The trench was positioned over a curving heather covered bank located to the south and south-west of the structure investigated within Trench 15 (Figure 3). The bank was clearly visible on the surface to the south and south-west of Trench 15 while faint traces of it could also be seen further to the east. Given its position it appeared that the bank formed an enclosure relating to the Trench 15 structure (Figure 3).

6.20

Beneath a thin layer of topsoil and heather (001) the material comprising the bank consisted of a moderate-loosely compacted mid-brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebble and very occasional small cobble inclusions (098, Plate 3). The bank material existed up to 0.35 m in depth and was spread to 4.1 m in width. This lay on top of a naturally formed deposit of more compact grey/brown sandy silt containing occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded pebble inclusions (099) which in turn lay over the sterile natural glacial subsoil (022/100).



Plate 3: North-east facing section of Trench 16 at north-western end of trench

6.21

Trench 16 showed that, at this location, the enclosure bank was primarily constructed of earth with little stone being present. No corresponding ditch was visible and the material for the bank had been laid directly on top of the natural deposit (099) presumably the top of which related to the former ground surface.

Trench 17

6.22

Trench 17 measured 4 m by 2 m and was orientated north-west to south-east. The trench was positioned over a curving heather covered bank located to the east-south-east of the structure and enclosure bank investigated within Trenches 15 and 16 (Figure 3). The bank was only clearly visible on the surface for some 30 m where it formed a curving 'L' shape.

6.23

Beneath a thin layer of topsoil and heather (001) the material comprising the bank consisted of a moderately compacted light-mid brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles (107). The bank material existed up to 0.3 m in depth which had spread beyond the extents of the trench. This lay on top of a naturally formed deposit of more compact orange/brown sandy silt containing very occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles (108) which in turn lay over the sterile natural glacial subsoil (022/109/110).

6.24

Trench 17 showed that, at this location, the bank was primarily constructed of earth with only some stone being present (Plate 4). No corresponding ditch was visible and the material for the bank had been laid directly on top of the natural deposit (108) presumably the top of which related to the former ground surface.



Plate 4: North-east facing section of Trench 17

Trench 18

6.25

Trench 18 was the largest trench of the 2014 season and was opened over the south-eastern half of the longhouse structure located immediately to the north-west of the ring cairn (Figure 3, Plate 5). The trench measured roughly 10 m north-west to south-east by 9 m north-east to south-west and formed a continuation of Trench 9, opened over the opposite end of the structure in 2013 (Strachan & Sneddon 2013). It was positioned to investigate the interior of the structure, the gable and side collapsed turf walls and the area between the south-eastern end of the structure and the ring cairn, which was also partially revealed but not excavated. The trench was further investigated through a series of slots (Slots A-D, Figure 7).

6.26

Located in the southern most corner of the trench, and beneath a thin layer of turf and topsoil, a small portion of the ring cairn was revealed (Figure 7 & Plate 6). Although not excavated the cairn comprised large sub-angular and sub-rounded boulders (139) forming a kerb around the main cairn material which consisted of a collection of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles and occasional small boulders within a brown sandy silt matrix (149).

6.27

Over the remainder of the trench and beneath a relatively thin layer of turf and topsoil (001), 0.05 m to 0.1 m in depth, lay the upper layers of the collapsed turf walls and associated stone of the longhouse. The upper layers of collapsed and slumped turf had degraded down to a moderately compacted mid-brown silty sand with very occasional gravels and sub-angular pebbles along with very occasional charcoal flecks (119). This deposit covered the majority of the trench and existed up to 0.4 m in depth where the banks were at their highest. It was also relatively consistent throughout all of the trench with the exception of the south-eastern end (see section 6.30) and in Slot B where a darker patch was uncovered (120). Similarly to that seen during the 2012 excavation over the opposite end of the same structure much of this material is likely to have been at least partially disturbed by later cultivation.



Plate 5: Trench 18 with ring cairn in foreground (image by Eddie Martin Photography)

6.28

Along with the collapsed turf material (119) a loose collection of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles (134, Figure 7) appeared to define the north-eastern and south-western edges of the longhouse. These existed up to two courses in height but may not have been completely in-situ, likely having been disturbed during collapse of the building. It is also very likely that at least some formed part of the turf wall make up.

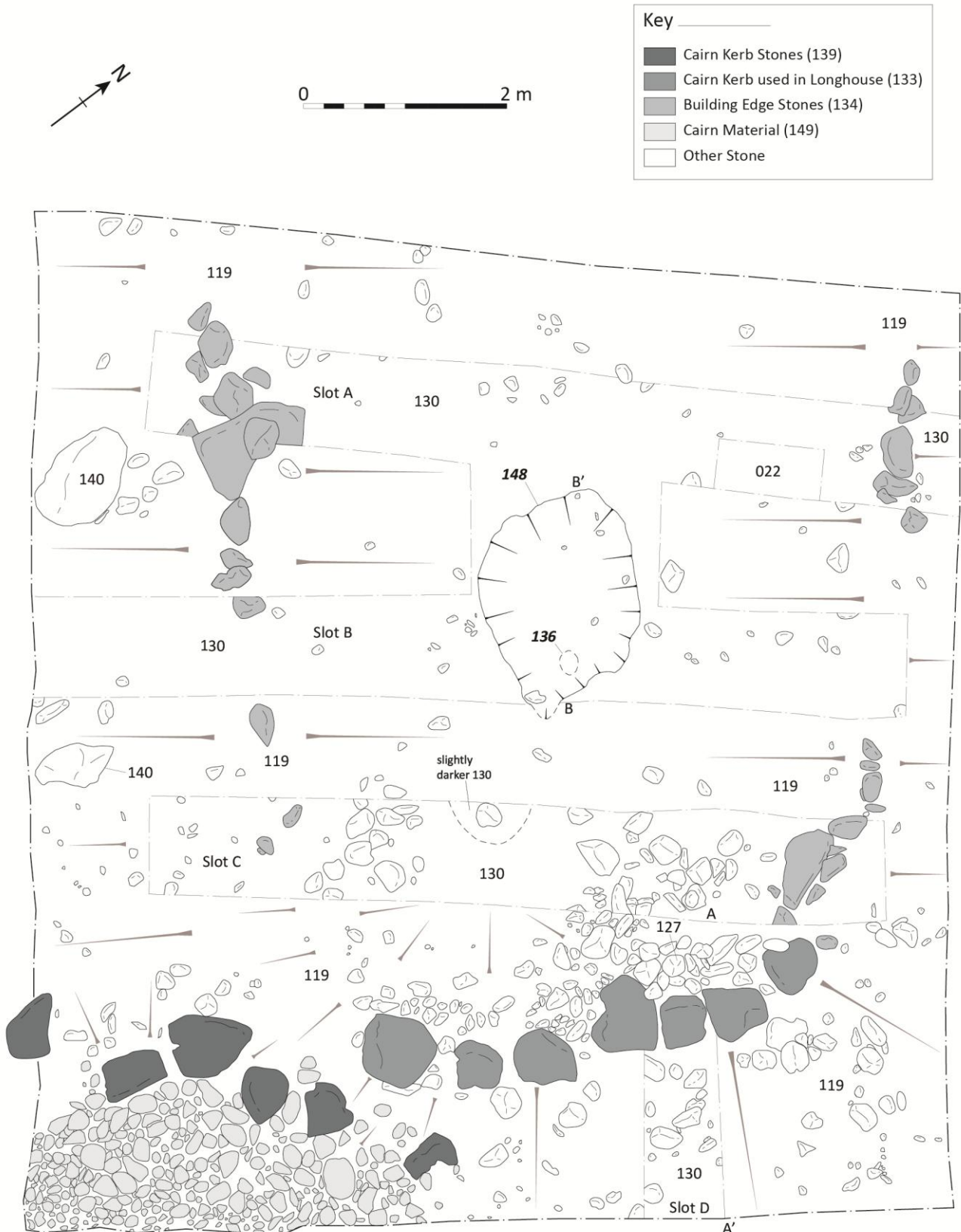


Figure 7: Mid-excavation plan of Trench 18

6.29

The south-eastern gable of the longhouse contained several features distinct from the remainder of the trench. Perhaps most striking was the presence of several large sub-angular and sub-rounded boulders (133) that formed a kerb around the south-eastern edge of the longhouse (Figure 7 & Plate 6). Due to the similar size and shape of these stones to the kerb stones of the adjacent cairn (139) and also the distinct gap in the kerb stones of the cairn directly next to those defining the end of the building, it was clear that they had been rolled from the kerb of the cairn to form the kerb around the end of the longhouse.



Plate 6: Mid-excavation aerial view of Trench 18 (image by Eddie Martin Photography)

6.29

A concentration of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles and small boulders (127) lay to the west (inside) of the large kerb stones (133). They also appeared very similar to, and may have originated from, the adjacent cairn material (149). A possible worn stone was recovered from this deposit (Small Find 24). Although barely visible within the trench there were hints along the south-eastern trench edge that some of the cairn material was absent from the main body of the cairn.

6.30

Both the large kerb stones (133) and the smaller stones on the inside edge (127) appeared to lie on top of and partially within the upper layers of collapsed turf material (119, Figure 8). The presence of the large kerb stones in particular appears to have prevented later cultivation in this area and, therefore, preserved the remains of the turf walling much better here than elsewhere in the trench. Up to three distinct turf layers were visible in section (Figure 8), something that had not been seen before anywhere else on the site. Lying within the well

preserved turf layers within Slot D were a linear arrangement of sub-rounded cobbles only one course wide and one course high (141). Although not seen through excavation it is possible these form a continuation of the stone elsewhere around the edge of the structure (134).

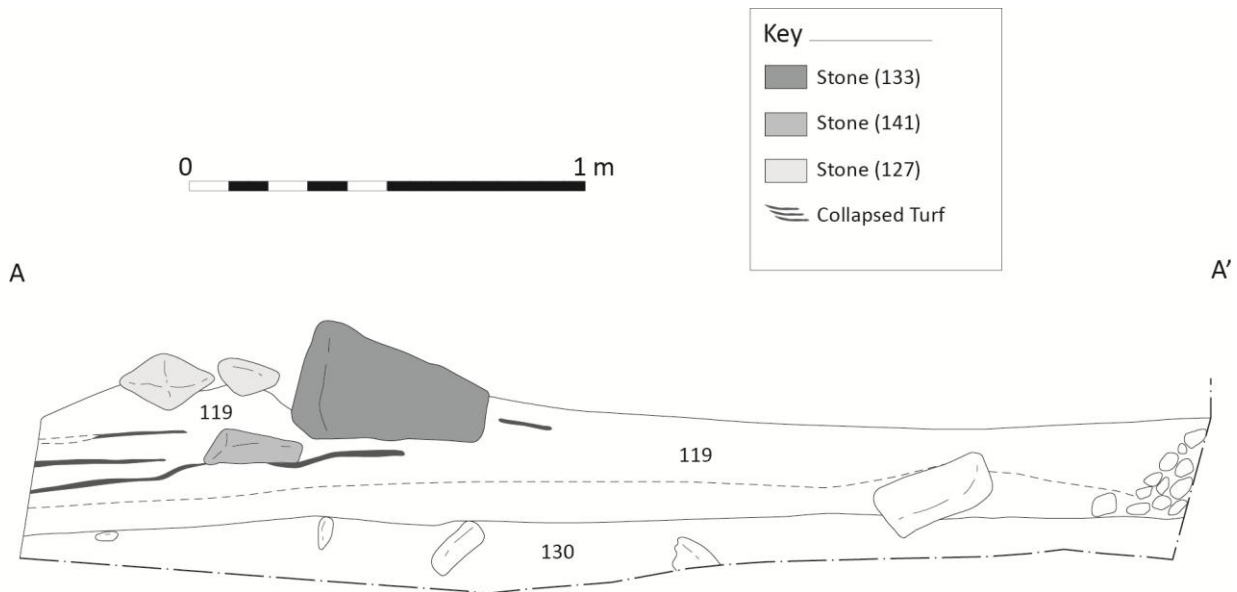


Figure 8: South-west facing section of Trench 18, Slot D

6.31

Beneath the turf and stone layers across all of the trench lay a moderately compacted brown/light brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions (130). This appeared to be a naturally formed deposit lying above sterile glacial subsoil 022 and on top of which the majority of the archaeology appeared to lie. The surface of this layer is likely to represent internal floor surface of the longhouse.

6.32

In a roughly central position within the trench lay a relatively large but shallow cut (148) comprising an irregular oval shape in plan, measuring up to 2.1 m by 1.6 m and up to 0.1 m in depth, with gradually sloping slightly concave sides and a wide flat base (Figure 9). The feature was cut into (130), the likely floor surface, and filled with a moderate-loosely compacted grey/brown sandy silt containing frequent charcoal, nutshell and burnt bone flecks (128). At the base of (128) was an 0.4 m wide and 0.03 m deep area of red/orange scorched earth while, on the surface, two concentrations of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles were located at the north-western and south-eastern sides (150). The north-western group created a relatively flat surface (Plate 7). Given the degree of burning evident in the fill of the feature initial interpretation suggests this is a hearth related to the longhouse.

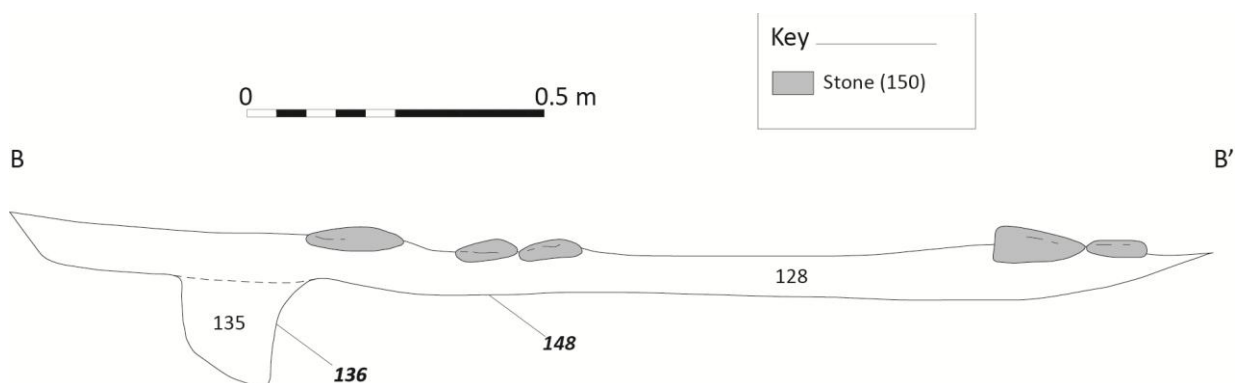


Figure 9: North-west facing section through hearth 148

6.33

Cut into the natural subsoil (022) beneath and at the south-eastern end of the likely hearth (148) was a poorly defined feature, oval in plan with a sharp break of slope at the top, near vertical sides and a flat but sloping base (136, Figure 9). The feature was filled with a moderately compacted red/brown silty sand containing very occasional sub-angular pebbles and very occasional charcoal and burnt bone flecks (135). The deposit was very similar to that above (128) but contained less charcoal and burnt bone. It was also heavily disturbed by burrowing.



Plate 7: Stone concentrations 150 on top of hearth deposit 128 from the south-west

6.34

Just to the south-west of the longhouse two sub-angular boulders (140, Figure 7 & Plate 6), located some 2.2 m apart, were uncovered though not fully investigated. Their purpose remains unknown but it is likely they relate to the longhouse.

6.35

Within the south-western half of Slot A two possible very truncated stake holes (142 & 143) were uncovered on the surface of the natural glacial subsoil (022). Neither of these were visible prior to the removal of deposit (130) with both existing to only 0.08 m in depth and being filled with a grey/brown sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks.

6.36

Similarly beneath deposit (130), at the north-eastern end of Slot B, were a concentration of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles (131) located on top of the natural subsoil (022). These stones were not fully excavated and although initially thought to be archaeological it is also possible they form part of the natural glacial subsoil (022).

Trench 19

6.37

Trench 19 was opened over the north-western side of a small mound, roughly 4 m in diameter, visible on the surface to the south-east and downhill from Trench 18 (Figure 3). The trench was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 4 m by 1 m. Beneath a thin layer of turf, heather and topsoil (001) lay a partially

revealed concentration of angular and sub-angular boulders, cobbles and pebbles within a matrix of moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions (137) which extended beyond the main concentration of stone. This formed a small cairn (Plate 8) and, although not fully excavated, it appeared to be clearance. Where excavated the cairn material existed to 0.4 m in depth and sat above an intermediate natural subsoil deposit, 0.3 m in depth, consisting of a mid-brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions (138), particularly in its lower levels. Fragments of slag (Small Find 25) were recovered from the upper levels of this deposit which, in turn, lay over the sterile natural subsoil (022).



Plate 8: Cairn from the south-west

Trenches 20 A-E

6.38

Trench 20 comprised five small trenches (20A-20E, Plate 9) opened to over the possible remains of a structure to the west and slightly upslope from Trench 13. They varied in size but were generally 2 m by 1 m in size. Initial interest in this area was due to the presence of an unusual amount of stone in the trackway immediately to the south of the trenches where it was thought a possible structure could exist. The purpose of Trenches 20 A-E were to remove the topsoil and ascertain if the area had any archaeological potential.

6.39

Beneath a thin layer of turf and topsoil within three of the trenches (20 A, B & D) lay rough linear arrangements of large sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles (113, 114 & 126 respectively) which did not appear natural in origin and may have been defining a particular area in the form of a narrow wall. The linear arrangements of stone lay up to one to two courses in width and were of unknown depth as they remained unexcavated. Within trenches 20 B & D concentrations of similar stone (116 & 145 respectively) existed of on one side of the possible walls only which may represent tumble.

6.40

Trench 20 C contained similar sized stone (115) to Trenches 20 A, B and D but did not form any clear arrangement. They were, however, concentrated within the northern and south-western parts of the trench. Trench 20 E, in contrast, contained very little stone and what was present (146) could be natural in origin.



Plate 9: Aerial view of Trenches 20 A-E. North is the bottom left (image by Eddie Martin Photography)

6.41

A deposit of moderately compacted brown/orange silty sand containing very occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles (117) was present in what is described here as the internal area of the trenches i.e. towards the centre of the area which the trenches define (also corresponding to the internal area of the possible walls within Trenches 20 A, B and D), while also lying across all of Trenches E and C. This deposit also formed the matrix between the stone present within Trenches 20 A-D. A similar, almost identical, deposit (118) was present in the potential external areas to the walls within Trenches 20 A, B & D.

6.42

Although the possible features within trenches 20 A, B and D were not fully investigated there is archaeological potential in this area. Despite the trenches being small the results suggested that the possible low, narrow walls may be defining some form of structure or feature.

Sample Processing

6.43

As part of the ongoing post-excavation analysis of the material recovered from all three seasons of excavation (2012-2014) the archaeologically significant bulk soil samples have been floated using standard Siraf tanks. Where deemed necessary, following an initial inspection, the residues from this wet sieving have been sorted in order to recover palaeo-environmental and artefactual remains.

6.44

One of the most unusual objects recovered so far from this process was from the fill of a large pit (019) located at the end of the north-western most turf longhouse investigated during 2012 (Strachan & Sneddon 2012). From soil samples taken during the excavation of the pit a group of three very small opaque green glass beads

were recovered (Plate 10). These will be examined by an appropriate specialist and reported on as part of the overall post-excavation process.



Plate 10: Glass beads recovered during processing of soil samples from pit fill 019 (2012)

7. Discussion and Summary

7.1

The site excavated at Lair, Glenshee, is of national archaeological significance and requires a programme of post-excavation analysis to more fully understand the results of excavation as presented here. However, several key observations can be made about the site at this early stage which will help to inform post-excavation strategy.

7.2

The excavations reported here, along with those undertaken in 2012 and 2013 (Strachan & Sneddon 2012 & 2013), confirmed that the two main earthwork features investigated were turf long houses likely dating to the 7th to 9th centuries AD. Further radio-carbon dating, particularly from the likely hearth feature within Trench 18, and associated Bayesian analysis, to be carried out by the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), will hopefully further refine these dates.

7.3

In contrast to the north-western end of the south-eastern turf longhouse, investigated in 2013, the south-eastern end, investigated within Trench 18 and reported on here, did not contain the substantial stone foundation that was uncovered at the opposite end during the previous year. However, the south eastern half of this structure did reveal several features and characteristics that had not been encountered during the previous two years.

7.4

Perhaps one of the most important features uncovered was the likely hearth within the centre of the south eastern half of the building (148). It was relatively large, being up to 2.1 m across, and contained clear evidence of burning in the form of charcoal, burnt bone flecks, burnt nutshell and scorched earth. Other than the two concentrations of stone on its surface, possibly representing stone pads, no other features were present in the hearth other than a possible post-hole at its base which was too disturbed by burrowing to have any clear definition. The presence of the hearth alone is key as it suggests that it is likely this turf longhouse was, at some point at least, used for human habitation rather than being a store or byre.

7.5

Another distinct characteristic of this end of the building not seen before was the presence of preserved turf layers in the slumped turf wall at the far south eastern end (Figure 8). Up to three layers of turf were noted lying on top of each other (although it is feasible the lowest represents the former ground surface) showing that the turf wall here was relatively well preserved. This is almost certainly due to the presence of the large boulders that had been rolled onto the edge of the turf longhouse from the kerb of the adjacent ring cairn. These boulders have allowed for the preservation of the turf layers in at least two ways: they have protected the lower layers of the turf wall from later ploughing which was evident over the north-western end of the same building whilst also, to a certain extent, containing and supporting the collapsing and slumping walls thus preventing them from spreading over a much larger area and losing the definition of the turf layers.

7.6

Nearer the base of the preserved turf layers (see section 7.5) were a linear arrangement of cobbles (141), only one course wide and high, that appeared to follow the line of the building and are likely to correspond to the stones located around the edge of the building elsewhere in the trench (134). Whether these stones were placed down to form the outline of the building prior to the construction of the wall or were placed around the base and within turf wall during or after construction remains unclear.

7.7

The presence of the large boulders originating from the ring cairn formed one of the most distinctive elements of the longhouse from as far back as the original survey by the RCAHMS (RCAHMS 1990). Questions remain, that may never be answered, as to why these were placed there. Was it purely aesthetics, did they have some structural importance, was there any cultural significance in the fact that they originated from an older monument or was their use purely down to convenience? While it may not be possible, from the excavations so far, to establish an exact chronology for the addition of these stones it is clear that they relate to the longhouse structure and could, therefore, feasibly relate to repair or re-use.

7.8

In contrast to the excavation in 2013, and with the exception of the hearth, no negative features in the form of post-holes or pits were uncovered within Trench 18, differing starkly from that revealed the previous year in the opposite half of the longhouse, where a series of post-holes and pits were recorded (Strachan & Sneddon 2013). This may in part be due to the fact that less of the trench was investigated around internal and external edges of the building where these features seemed to concentrate at the other end of the building.

7.9

Also, in contrast to previous years, the recovery of material culture from the turf longhouse was very limited. Excavations in 2012 and 2013 recovered numerous iron artefacts of which none were found in 2014. This may seem at odds with the survival of the hearth suggesting a greater degree of human activity.

7.10

A series of smaller trenches were opened over two other rectangular structures, related enclosures, a small mound and an area of potential archaeological interest all to the south-east of the main longhouse excavation. The trenches over the two rectangular structures both showed that more stone was present in the wall construction when compared to the main turf longhouse site. This was particularly evident in Trench 13 where a low lying well preserved stone wall was uncovered on top of which would have sat a turf wall element. Trench 15, opened over the other structure, similarly showed that a reasonable amount of stone was present but the wall was in poor condition.

7.11

In both the above cases what appeared to be drip gullies were located on the outside edge of the walls with a sherd of green glazed pottery being recovered from the fill of the gully within Trench 15. Used to collect rain water from the roof these gully features were not located during the 2012 to 2014 excavations of the two turf longhouses to the north. The presence of more stone along with the recovery of a sherd of green glaze pottery suggests these other two structures may be later in date compared to the main turf longhouses although at least one and possibly both, also appear to have been later constructions over earlier buildings. These two other buildings also had associated enclosure banks, shown to be primarily constructed of earth, which was a feature also absent from the turf long houses to the north.

7.12

The trench over the small mound (Trench 19) showed that it was a clearance cairn while the other trial trenches (Trenches 20A-20E) confirmed that the area held potential archaeological material in the form of an ephemeral structure although further interpretation at this stage is not possible due to the limited excavation that took place.

7.13

The discoveries during 2014, in combination with those in 2012 and 2013, show that the area of Lair contains a wealth of archaeological remains from various periods, some of which were unknown until now, and that our understanding has been enhanced both by non-intrusive survey and excavation.

7.14

Given that the longhouses were most likely constructed primarily from turf walls around a wooden frame, with possibly a turf roof, the gradual decomposition of these biodegradable materials over the years results in the very ephemeral remains seen on the surface today. This was also reflected in the archaeological deposits uncovered during the excavation where the remains of collapsed and slumped roof, walls and timber frame had merged in most areas into one homogenous deposit. The exception to this was the south-eastern end of the turf longhouse adjacent to the cairn where the large boulders had allowed for better preservation of the turf wall layers.

7.15

When compared to the north-western most longhouse the striking discoveries in relation to the south-eastern longhouse was that it contained what appeared to be a substantial stone foundation at the north-western end and a centrally located hearth. This could relate to different functions of the two adjacent building types, or potentially to a difference in date, or to a combination of these factors. The absence of stone foundations on the north-western longhouse may suggest that it was less well built when compared to its smaller neighbour to the south-east. While it is tempting to suggest that the smaller example, with apparent stone foundation and hearth, may have seen human habitation while its larger neighbour was used as a byre or barn, this can only be clarified through the results of post-excavation work and radio-carbon dating.

7.16

The excavations to date also raise questions about the relationship between the two excavated turf longhouses by the cairn and the other example of a Pitcarmick-type structure located some 40 m to the east (Figure 3). This second Pitcarmick-type structure appears much more visible on the surface compared to the westerly two. It also exhibits more of the 'classic' Pitcarmick-type structural layout (RCAHMS 1990) having more than two parallel walls and the presence of a small external structure, in the case of Lair located off the south-western corner.

7.17

Finally the relationship between these larger buildings and their smaller neighbours downslope (both those excavated in 2014 and those as yet unexcavated) is central to our understanding of the site as whole. Do we have a collection of contemporary buildings of differing function or a site occupied over a longer period with buildings being replaced over time and with their nature and focus changing?

8. Future work

8.1

Excavation has recovered environmental material from bulk samples and finds which may require further processing and analysis as part of a broader scheme of post-excavation work. A post-excavation research design (PERD) will be produced by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and Northlight Heritage as part of the ongoing project which will provide a recommended programme of analysis.

8.2

It is anticipated that further excavation at Lair will be undertaken in the future as part of the wider Glenshee Archaeology Project.

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10. Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Tables / Concordances

Table 1: Context Information

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description/Interpretation</i>	<i>Stratigraphy and/or phasing info</i>
1	15-20	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.05-0.2	Turf/Heather & Topsoil.	From 2012-2014 season. Overlies entire site including all three trenches.
22	15-20	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Yellow/brown silty sand with occasional sub rounded pebbles and cobbles. Natural glacial subsoil.	From 2012-2014 seasons. Natural sub-soil layer above which all archaeology lies.
95	15	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.28	Moderately compacted mid-brown sandy silt containing tumble from wall 096. Possible remains of collapsed turf/earth from building.	Lies above natural subsoil 022/124 and below topsoil 001. Likely contemporary with tumble 096.
96	15	Structure	unknown	unknown	0.6	Dry stone constructed wall of sub-rounded & sub-angular cobbles and boulders within a sandy silt matrix (095). Tumbled primarily inside of building (097). Remains of latest phase of stone wall relating to the structure most visible on the surface.	Lies within matrix 095, above natural subsoil layer 022/124 and below topsoil 001.
97	15	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.4	Sub-rounded & sub-angular cobbles and small boulders also visible protruding through the surface to the south of the trench. Possible collapse inside building or a later dump of stone inside the building.	Lies within and above 095 and below topsoil 001.
98	16	Deposit	unknown	4.1	0.35	Moderate-loose mid-brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebble and very occasional small cobble inclusions. Earth material of bank.	Lies above 099 and below 001.
99	16	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.4	Compact grey/brown sandy silt containing occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded pebble inclusions. Naturally formed deposit lying above sterile glacial subsoil 022 and on top of which the earth bank 098 sits.	Lies above 022/100 and below 098.
100	16	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Grey/brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and cobbles along with gravel. Natural subsoil.	Natural subsoil within Trench 16. Same as 022.
101	14	Deposit	unknown	6	0.35	Light brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular boulders and cobbles. Bank material.	Lies above natural deposit 102 and below topsoil 001.

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description/Interpretation</i>	<i>Stratigraphy and/or phasing info</i>
102	14	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.25	Grey/yellow sandy silt containing occasional gravel and sub-angular/angular boulders. Naturally formed deposit lying above sterile glacial subsoil 022 and on top of which the earth bank 101 sits.	Lies above natural glacial subsoil 022 and below bank material 101.
103	13	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.28	Grey/brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions along with clear turf lines consisting of darker grey silt. A moderate to frequent amount of larger sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles were also present. Stone earth and turf collapse from structure. Only present to the south of wall 104.	Lies above 125 & 106 and below topsoil 001.
104	13	Structure	unknown	0.75	0.35	Sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles and boulders with a core of grey/brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded cobbles. Wall of building.	Lies above 125 & 106 and below topsoil 001.
105	13	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.18	Brown/grey silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions. A moderate amount of larger sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles were also present. Part of the collapsed building.	Lies above 106 and below topsoil 001.
106	13	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.25	Orange/brown sandy silt containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles. Occasional charcoal flecks were present near the surface to the north of wall 104. Naturally formed deposit lying above sterile glacial subsoil 022 and on top of which the wall sits. The area to the north of the wall was compacted and contained charcoal flecks possibly representing the floor surface.	Lies above sterile glacial subsoil 022 and below 105, 125, 103 and 104.
107	17	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.3	Light-mid brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles. Bank material.	Lies above natural deposit 108 and below topsoil 001.
108	17	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.35	Orange/brown sandy silt containing very occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles. Naturally formed deposit lying above sterile glacial subsoil 022/109/110 and on top of which the bank sits.	Lies above sterile glacial subsoil 022/109/110 and below 107.
109	17	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Relatively compact grey/brown sandy layer with very occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions. Sterile glacial subsoil.	Lies below naturally formed deposit 108. Same as 022/110.

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description/Interpretation</i>	<i>Stratigraphy and/or phasing info</i>
110	17	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Compact yellow/grey silty sand. Sterile glacial subsoil.	Lies below a variation in the glacial subsoil 109. Same as 022/109.
111	15	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Compacted sand and large sub-angular boulders (possibly upper bedrock). Natural subsoil.	Natural subsoil within Trench 15. Same as 022 & 124.
112	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
113	20 A	Deposit	unknown	0.4	unknown	Linear arrangement of large sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles. Only 1 course wide with some possibly tumbled. In a slight matrix identical to 117 & 118. Possible wall/stone edge of a feature.	Lies below 001. Not excavated.
114	20 B	Deposit	unknown	0.4	unknown	Linear arrangement of large sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles. Only 1-2 course wide with tumble to the north-west (116). In a slight matrix identical to 117 & 118. Possible wall/stone edge of a feature.	Lies below 001. Not excavated.
115	20 C	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Sub-rounded and sub-angular large cobbles forming no clear arrangement but concentrated in the northern and south-western parts of the trench. Unknown purpose but may relate to stone present in 20 A and 20 B	Lies below 001. Not excavated.
116	20 B	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Concentration of sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles located immediately to the north-west of possible wall 114. Possible tumble form structure.	Lies below 001. Not excavated.
117	20 A-E	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Moderately compacted brown/orange silty sand containing very occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles. Material present in potential internal area of possible walls within Trenches 20 A, B & D while lying across all of Trenches E & C. Also forms matrix in stone present within Trenches 20 A-D.	Lies below 001. Not excavated.
118	21 A-E	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Moderately compacted brown/orange silty sand containing very occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles. Material present in potential external areas of possible walls within Trenches 20 A, B & D. Very similar if not the same as 117.	Lies below 001. Not excavated.

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description/Interpretation</i>	<i>Stratigraphy and/or phasing info</i>
119	18	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.1-0.4	Moderately compacted mid-brown silty sand with very occasional gravels and sub-angular pebbles along with very occasional charcoal flecks. Collapsed turf walls of structure.	Lies below topsoil 001, stone 133 & 127. Lies above 130.
120	18	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.05	Moderately compacted brown silty sand with very occasional gravels and sub-angular pebbles along with very occasional charcoal flecks. Collapsed turf walls of structure. Distinguished from 119 during excavation of Slot B as slightly darker in colour.	Lies below 119 and above 130.
121	15	Cut	unknown	0.83	0.25	Relatively shallow concave cut with a rounded base forming a linear feature running parallel to and on the outside wall of the building. Possible drainage ditch or drip gully, later than 123, relating to the building.	Filled by 122, cut into natural subsoil 022/124, cuts earlier gully 123.
122	15	Deposit	unknown	0.83	0.25	Moderately compact dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular small pebble inclusions. Fill of gully 121. Contained 1 sherd of green glaze pottery (SF 22).	Fill of gully 121.
123	15	Cut	unknown	0.41	0.29	Linear cut located immediately to the north of and running parallel to stone wall 096. Moderately steep, slightly concave, sides with a rounded base. Possible drainage ditch or drip gully relating to the building. Barely visible in east facing section due to disturbance. Earlier than gully 121.	Filled by 095, cut into natural subsoil 022/124, cut by gully 121 on its northern side.
124	15	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Compacted sand and large sub-angular boulders (possibly upper bedrock). Natural subsoil.	Natural subsoil within Trench 15. Same as 022 & 111.
125	13	Deposit	unknown	0.9	0.2	Grey/brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and small cobbles. Similar, although less sandy, than matrix of 104. Possible earth base for wall 104 or remains of an earlier structure.	Lies above 106 and below 103, 104 & 15.
126	20 D	Deposit	unknown	0.4	unknown	Linear but disturbed arrangement of large sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles. Only 1-2 course wide with tumble to the west (145). In a slight matrix identical to 117 & 118. Possible wall/stone edge of a feature.	Lies below 001. Not excavated.

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description/Interpretation</i>	<i>Stratigraphy and/or phasing info</i>
127	18	Deposit	unknown	0.8	0.15	Concentration of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles and small boulders lying to the west (inside) the large kerb stones (133) defining the south-eastern gable of the structure. Collapse material. Very similar to and possibly originating from cairn material 149.	Lies below topsoil 001 and above/partially within 119.
128	18	Deposit	2.1	1.6	0.1	Moderate-loosely compacted grey/brown sandy silt containing frequent charcoal, nutshell and burnt bone flecks. At the centre and base of the deposit was an 0.4 m wide area of 0.03 m deep red/orange scorched earth whilst, on the surface, two distinct concentrations of stone were present at the NW and SE sides (150). Likely hearth deposit.	Lies within shallow cut 148 and below collapsed turf 119.
129	13	Fill	unknown	0.19	0.14	Grey/brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions along with a clear turf line, consisting of darker grey silt, in the upper part of the fill. Fill of drainage/drip gully 147. Likely part of collapse 103.	Fills cut 129 and lies below 103.
130	18	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.4	Moderately compacted brown-light brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions. Naturally formed deposit lying above sterile glacial subsoil 022 and on top of which the majority of archaeology sits.	Lies above natural glacial subsoil 022 and below 119.
131	18	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Concentration of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles located on top of the natural subsoil 022 at the base of the north-eastern end of Slot B. Initially thought to be archaeological it is also possible they form part of the natural subsoil 022.	Lie above and partially within natural glacial subsoil 022 and below 130.
132	18	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.1-0.4	Moderately compacted mid-brown silty sand with very occasional gravels and sub-angular pebbles along with very occasional charcoal flecks. Collapsed turf walls of structure. Originally assigned during excavation to material from south-western bank but is the same as 119.	Lies below topsoil 001, stone 133 & 127. Lies above 130. Same as 119.
133	18	Structure	unknown	unknown	unknown	Large sub-angular and sub-rounded boulders originating from kerb of cairn but used to form the south-eastern edge of the adjacent longhouse.	Lie below topsoil 001 and above/within 119.

Context No.	Trench	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description/Interpretation	Stratigraphy and/or phasing info
134	18	Structure	unknown	0.5	0.4	Loose collection of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles defining the edge of the longhouse. Exist up to two courses in height but may not be completely in-situ having been disturbed during collapse. Some may also have formed part of the turf wall.	Lies below 001 and above/partially within 119.
135	18	Fill	0.2	0.15	0.2	Moderately compacted red/brown silty sand containing very occasional sub-angular pebbles and very occasional charcoal and burnt bone flecks. Similar to 128 but containing less charcoal and burnt bone. Heavily bioturbed. Fill of possible feature 136.	Fills cut 136 and lies below 128.
136	18	Cut	0.2	0.15	0.2	Sub-circular shape in plan with a sharp break of slope at the top, near vertical sides and a flat but sloping base. Cut disturbed by bioturbation. Cut or burrowing at base of hearth 128/148.	Filled by 135 and cut into 130.
137	19	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.4	Concentration of angular and sub-angular boulders, cobbles and pebbles within a matrix of moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions. Cairn, likely clearance.	Lies above natural deposit 138 and below topsoil 001.
138	19	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.3	Mid-brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions. Naturally formed deposit lying above sterile glacial subsoil 022.	Lies below cairn 137 and above natural glacial subsoil 022.
139	18	Structure	unknown	unknown	unknown	Large sub-angular and sub-rounded boulders - cairn kerb.	Lie below topsoil 001. Not excavated.
140	18	Structure?	1	0.6	unknown	Two sub-angular boulders located some 2.2 m apart to the south-west of the longhouse. Thought to potentially relate to a porch or entrance way although not fully investigated.	Lies below topsoil 001 and within 119. Not excavated.
141	18	Structure	unknown	0.4	0.25	Sub-rounded cobbles only one course wide and one course high running beneath large boulders (133). Uncovered within Slot D and may represent stones defining the edge of the longhouse, similar to 134, and possibly earlier than 139.	Lies within 119 where excavated.
142	18	Deposit	n/a	0.06	0.08	Grey/brown sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of possible stake hole within Slot A.	Lies above 022 and below 130.
143	18	Deposit	n/a	0.06	0.08	Grey/brown sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of possible stake hole within Slot A.	Lies above 022 and below 130.

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description/Interpretation</i>	<i>Stratigraphy and/or phasing info</i>
144	18	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Light yellow/brown sand and gravels with slight silt content. Natural glacial subsoil within Slot A. Assigned different number during excavation due to presence of possible stake holes 142 & 143 but is the same as 022.	Sand and gravel layers as part of natural glacial subsoil.
145	20-D	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Concentration of sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles located immediately to the north-west of possible wall 126. Possible tumble form structure.	Lies below topsoil 001. Not excavated.
146	20-E	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Very occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles forming no clear arrangement and lying on and within 117. May be natural in origin	Lies below topsoil 001. Not excavated.
147	13	Cut	unknown	0.19	0.14	Steep slightly concave northern edge with a more gradual concave southern edge and a very slightly concave base, although uneven in places. Cut for small drainage or drip gully to south of wall 104.	Filled by 129 and cut into 106.
148	18	Cut	2.1	1.6	0.1	Irregular oval shape in plan with gradually sloping slightly concave sides and a wide flat base. Cut of heath feature.	Filled by 128 and cut into 130.
149	18	Deposit	unknown	unknown	unknown	Collection of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles and occasional small boulders within a brown sandy silt matrix. Main body of ring cairn material uncovered within trench.	Lies below topsoil 001. Not excavated.
150	18	Structure	0.4	0.4	0.05	Two concentrations of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles located on the surface at the north-western and south-eastern sides of hearth deposit 128. The north-western group in particular creates a relatively flat surface and may relate to the use of the hearth e.g. stone supports/pads.	Lie above 128 and beneath 119.

Table 2: Small Finds

Find No.	Context No.	Trench	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
22	122	15	1	Pottery	Green Glaze body sherd
23	103	13	1	Stone	Possible roof weight
24	127	18	1	Stone	Possible Quern/worn stone
25	138	19	7	Slag	Likely iron slab fragments

Table 3: General Finds

Find No.	Trench	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
131	18	1	Shell/Stone?	Possible Shell/Stone fragment - very small c. <5mm
130	18	2	Burnt Bone	Fragments

Table 4: Samples

Sample No.	Context No.	% of deposit	Vol. (l)	No./Size Bucket	Reason for sampling					Application/ comments
					Pot	Lithic	Bone	Botanics	Other	
63	120	c. 5%	c. 10	1 x Large				✓		Likely turf tumble on inside of structure
64	128	c. 5%	c. 10	1 x Large			✓	✓		Fill of likely hearth - NE quadrant
65	128	c. 5%	c. 20	2 x Large			✓	✓		Fill of likely hearth - S half
66	130	< 1%	c. 10	1 x Large			✓	✓		Deposit beneath turf bank - S half of slot - contained burnt bone
67	128	c. 5%	c. 10	1 x Large			✓	✓		Scorched earth at base of hearth
68	135	c. 50%	c. 5	1 x Large			✓	✓		Fill of possible post-hole beneath hearth - burrowed at top
69	137	< 1%	n/a	1 x Small bag				✓		Charcoal sample from base of cairn
70	143	c. 5%	n/a	1 x Small bag				✓		Fill of possible stake hole
71	125	< 1%	n/a	1 x Small bag				✓		Charcoal from beneath wall of structure

Table 5: Drawings

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area	Context	Subject	Scale
78	2014/1	Tr. 15	096	Mid-excavation plan	1:20
79	2014/3	Tr. 16	098	East facing section	1:10
80	2014/3	Tr. 16	098	Post-excavation plan of bank	1:20
81	2014/4	Tr. 14	101	South-west facing section through bank	1:10
82	2014/4	Tr. 14	101	Post-excavation plan	1:20
83	2014/3	Tr. 17	107	East facing section	1:10
84	2014/3	Tr. 17	107	Post-excavation plan	1:20
85	2014/5	Tr. 13	104	Mid-excavation plan	1:20

<i>Drawing No.</i>	<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Scale</i>
86	2014/6	Tr. 13	104, 106	Post-excavation plan - southern end of trench	1:20
87	2014/7	Tr. 20 A-E	113-116, 145, 146	Pre-excavation plan of 5 trenches	1:20
88	2014/8	Tr. 18 - Slot A	119	Pre-excavation plan - NOTE: slot is 1 m too short on plan	1:20
89	2014/9	Tr. 18 - Slot B	119	Pre-excavation plan	1:20
90	2014/9	Tr. 18 - Slot C	119	Pre-excavation plan	1:20
91	2014/10	Tr. 18 - Slot B	120/119	Pre-excavation plan showing extent of possible turf collapse	1:20
92	2014/1	Tr. 15	095, 096	Mid-excavation plan of slot	1:20
93	2014/1	Tr. 15	096, 124	Post-excavation plan of slot	1:20
94	2014/11	Tr. 15	095-097, 121- 124	East facing section	1:10
95	2014/12	Tr. 13	104, 105	East facing section	1:10
96	2014/12	Tr. 13	106	Post-excavation plan of slot	1:20
97	2014/13	Tr. 18 - Slot B	128	Pre-excavation plan of possible hearth	1:10
98	2014/13	Tr. 18 - Slot B	128, 135, 136	North-east facing section through likely hearth & possible post-hole	1:10
99	2014/11	Tr. 19	137, 138	Pre-excavation plan	1:20
100	2014/13	Tr. 18 - Slot B	136	Post-excavation plan	1:20
101	2014/14	Tr. 18 - Slot A	118, 130	West facing section	1:10
102	2014/15	Tr. 18 - Slot A	022, 144	Plan of slot showing possible stake holes	1:20
103	2014/11	Tr. 18 - Slot D	141	Overlay plan of possible stone edge of structure	1:20
104	2014/16	Tr. 18 - Slot C	119, 127, 130, 022	North-west facing section	1:10
105	2014/17	Tr. 18 - Slot D	119, 127, 130, 133, 141, 022	South-west facing section	1:10
106	2014/1	Tr. 15	096, 111, 124	Mid-excavation plan of slot through wall	1:20
107	2014/2	Tr. 15	096	East facing section	1:10
108	2014/8	Tr. 18 - Slot A	130, 134	Mid-excavation plan of Slot A after removal of turf bank	1:20
109	2014/8	Tr. 18 - Slot C	130, 134	Mid-excavation plan of Slot C after removal of turf bank	1:20
110	2014/18	Tr. 18	119, 127, 131, 133, 134, 137- 141	Post-excavation plan - south-eastern half	1:20
111	2014/19	Tr. 18	119, 134, 140	Post-excavation plan - north-western half	1:20

Table 6: Digital Photographs

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
444	Tr. 14	001	Pre-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
445	Tr. 14	001	Pre-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
446	Tr. 13	001	Pre-excavation	N	.jpeg & .raw
447	Tr. 13	001	Pre-excavation	N	.jpeg & .raw
448	Tr. 15	001	Pre-excavation	N	.jpeg & .raw
449	Tr. 15	001	Pre-excavation	W	.jpeg & .raw
450	Tr. 15	001	Pre-excavation	S	.jpeg & .raw
451	Tr. 16	001	Pre-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
452	Tr. 16	001	Pre-excavation	SW	.jpeg & .raw
453	Tr. 17	001	Pre-excavation	SE	.jpeg & .raw
454	Tr. 17	001	Pre-excavation	SW	.jpeg & .raw
455	Tr. 17	001	Pre-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
456	Tr. 13 & 14	n/a	Elevated view from the 'Paps'	SE	.jpeg & .raw
457	Tr. 13 & 14	n/a	Elevated view from the 'Paps'	SE	.jpeg & .raw
458	Tr. 13 & 14	n/a	Elevated view from the 'Paps'	SE	.jpeg & .raw
459	Tr. 15-17	n/a	Elevated view from the 'Paps'	E	.jpeg & .raw
460	Tr. 15-17	n/a	Elevated view from the 'Paps'	E	.jpeg & .raw
461	Tr. 13 & 14	n/a	Elevated view from the 'Paps'	SE	.jpeg & .raw
462	Tr. 13 & 14	n/a	Elevated view from the 'Paps'	SE	.jpeg & .raw
463	Tr. 15	096, 097	Wall mid-excavation	N	.jpeg & .raw
464	Tr. 15	096, 097	Wall mid-excavation	E	.jpeg & .raw
465	Tr. 15	096, 097	Wall mid-excavation	S	.jpeg & .raw
466	Tr. 16	098	After removal of topsoil	SE	.jpeg & .raw
467	Tr. 16	098	After removal of topsoil	SW	.jpeg & .raw
468	Tr. 14	101	After removal of topsoil	SE	.jpeg & .raw
469	Tr. 14	101	After removal of topsoil	SW	.jpeg & .raw
470	Tr. 14	101	After removal of topsoil	NW	.jpeg & .raw
471	Tr. 17	107	After removal of topsoil	SE	.jpeg & .raw
472	Tr. 17	107	After removal of topsoil	NE	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
473	Tr. 17	107	After removal of topsoil	NW	.jpeg & .raw
474	Tr. 16	098, 099	Mid-excavation	SE	.jpeg & .raw
475	Tr. 16	098, 099	Mid-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
476	Tr. 16	022, 098, 099	South-west facing section at north-western end of trench	SW	.jpeg & .raw
477	Tr. 16	098, 099	North-east facing section through bank	NE	.jpeg & .raw
478	Tr. 13	103-105	After removal of topsoil	E	.jpeg & .raw
479	Tr. 13	103-105	After removal of topsoil	N	.jpeg & .raw
480	Tr. 13	103-105	After removal of topsoil	W	.jpeg & .raw
481	Tr. 13	103-105	After removal of topsoil	S	.jpeg & .raw
482	Tr. 14	101	North-east facing section through bank	NE	.jpeg & .raw
483	Tr. 14	101, 102	North-east facing section through bank at south eastern end of trench	NE	.jpeg & .raw
484	Tr. 14	022, 101, 102	North-east facing section through bank at north-western end of trench	NE	.jpeg & .raw
485	Tr. 16	098, 099	Trench & north-east facing section	NE	.jpeg & .raw
486	Tr. 16	022, 098, 099	North-east facing section at south-eastern end of trench	NE	.jpeg & .raw
487	Tr. 16	022, 098, 099	North-east facing section at north-western end of trench	NE	.jpeg & .raw
488	Tr. 14	101, 102	South-west facing section at north-western end of trench	SW	.jpeg & .raw
489	Tr. 14	101, 102	South-west facing section mid trench	SW	.jpeg & .raw
490	Tr. 14	101, 102	South-west facing section at south-eastern end of trench	SW	.jpeg & .raw
491	Tr. 14	101, 102	South-west facing section	SW	.jpeg & .raw
492	Tr. 17	107-110	North-east facing section	NE	.jpeg & .raw
493	Tr. 17	107-110	Post-excavation	SE	.jpeg & .raw
494	Tr. 13	102-106	Mid-excavation - wall & external gully	S	.jpeg & .raw
495	Tr. 13	102-106	Mid-excavation	E	.jpeg & .raw
496	Tr. 13	102-106	Mid-excavation - wall & internal area	N	.jpeg & .raw
497	Tr. 13	102-106	Mid-excavation	W	.jpeg & .raw
498	Tr. 13	104, 106	Detail of external wall face	S	.jpeg & .raw
499	Tr. 13	104, 106	Mid-excavation - wall & external gully	E	.jpeg & .raw
500	Tr. 15	095-097	Mid-excavation	N	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
501	Tr. 15	095-097	Mid-excavation	S	.jpeg & .raw
502	Tr. 15	096	East facing section through wall	E	.jpeg & .raw
503	Tr. 15	022, 096, 121	Northern end of slot showing wall stones and external gully	W	.jpeg & .raw
504	Tr. 13	022, 103-106, 129	After removal of turf/rubble collapse & fill of gully outside of wall	W	.jpeg & .raw
505	Tr. 13	022, 103-106, 129	After removal of turf/rubble collapse & fill of gully outside of wall	W	.jpeg & .raw
506	Tr. 13	022, 103, 106, 129	East facing section through external gully	E	.jpeg & .raw
507	Tr. 13	022, 103, 106, 129	East facing section through external gully	E	.jpeg & .raw
508	Tr. 13	104-106	After removal of internal rubble over half of trench	N	.jpeg & .raw
509	Tr. 13	104-106	After removal of internal rubble over half of trench	N	.jpeg & .raw
510	Tr. 13	022, 104	External wall and gully	S	.jpeg & .raw
511	Tr. 13	022, 103-106, 129	Mid-excavation	W	.jpeg & .raw
512	Tr. 13	104-106	Mid-excavation of slot through internal area	N	.jpeg & .raw
513	Tr. 13	104-106	Mid-excavation of slot through internal area	S	.jpeg & .raw
514	Tr. 15	022, 097	East facing section at southern end of trench - mid-excavation	E	.jpeg & .raw
515	Tr. 15	022, 095-097	Slot through internal area - mid-excavation	S	.jpeg & .raw
516	Tr. 13	104-106	Slot through structure - mid-excavation	S	.jpeg & .raw
517	Tr. 13	104-106	Slot through wall of structure - mid-excavation	E	.jpeg & .raw
518	Tr. 20A	113, 117, 118	Possible wall after removal of topsoil	SW	.jpeg & .raw
519	Tr. 20B	114, 117, 118	Possible wall after removal of topsoil	SE	.jpeg & .raw
520	Tr. 20C	115, 117, 118	Possible wall after removal of topsoil	SW	.jpeg & .raw
521	Tr. 18	119, 120, 127, 132, 133, 134, 139-141	After removal of topsoil & initial clean	NW	.jpeg & .raw
522	Tr. 18	119, 120, 127, 132, 133, 134, 139-141	After removal of topsoil & initial clean	NW	.jpeg & .raw
523	Tr. 18	119, 120, 127, 132, 133, 134, 139-141	After removal of topsoil & initial clean	NW	.jpeg & .raw
524	Tr. 18	119, 120, 127, 132, 133, 134, 139-141	After removal of topsoil & initial clean	NW	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
525	Tr. 18	119, 120, 127, 132, 133, 134, 139-141	After removal of topsoil & initial clean	N	.jpeg & .raw
526	Tr. 18	119, 120, 127, 132, 133, 134, 139-141	After removal of topsoil & initial clean	NE	.jpeg & .raw
527	Tr. 18	119, 120, 127, 132, 133, 134, 139-141	After removal of topsoil & initial clean	NE	.jpeg & .raw
528	Tr. 18	119, 120, 127, 132, 133, 134, 139-141	After removal of topsoil & initial clean	NE	.jpeg & .raw
529	Tr. 15	022, 095-097	Post-excavation	S	.jpeg & .raw
530	Tr. 15	022, 095-097	Post-excavation	N	.jpeg & .raw
531	Tr. 15	022, 095-097	West facing section through wall - partial view - post-excavation	W	.jpeg & .raw
532	Tr. 15	022, 096, 097	Possible turf layer to south of wall in west facing section	W	.jpeg & .raw
533	Tr. 13	022, 103-106	Post-excavation	N	.jpeg & .raw
534	Tr. 13	022, 103-106	Post-excavation	N	.jpeg & .raw
535	Tr. 13	022, 104, 106	East facing section through wall	SE	.jpeg & .raw
536	Tr. 13	022, 104, 106	East facing section through wall	E	.jpeg & .raw
537	Tr. 13	022, 103-106	Post-excavation	S	.jpeg & .raw
538	Tr. 13	022, 105, 106	West facing section at northern end of trench	W	.jpeg & .raw
539	Tr. 13	022, 105, 106	West facing section at northern end of trench	W	.jpeg & .raw
540	Tr. 13	022, 104-106, 129	West facing section at southern end of trench - partial view	W	.jpeg & .raw
541	Tr. 13	022, 104, 106	West facing section through wall	W	.jpeg & .raw
542	Tr. 15	022, 095-097	East facing section at southern end of trench	E	.jpeg & .raw
543	Tr. 15	022, 095-097, 121-123	East facing section at northern end of trench	E	.jpeg & .raw
544	Tr. 15	022, 095-097, 121-123	West facing section at northern end of trench	W	.jpeg & .raw
545	Tr. 15	022, 095-097	West facing section at southern end of trench	W	.jpeg & .raw
546	Tr. 18	119, 120, 130	Slot B - possible lower turf layer - mid-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
547	Tr. 18	119, 130, 134	Slot A - Mid-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
548	Tr. 18	119, 130, 134	Slot A - Mid-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
549	Tr. 18	119, 130, 134	Slot A - Mid-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
550	Tr. 18	119, 130, 134, 140	Slot A - Mid-excavation	SW	.jpeg & .raw
551	Tr. 15	022, 095-097, 121-123	East facing section at northern end of trench showing possible ditch cut	E	.jpeg & .raw
552	Tr. 15	022, 095-097, 121-123	West facing section at northern end of trench showing possible ditch cut	W	.jpeg & .raw
553	Tr. 13	022, 105, 106	West facing section at northern end of trench showing possible ditch cut	W	.jpeg & .raw
554	Tr. 13	022, 105, 106	West facing section at northern end of trench showing possible ditch cut	W	.jpeg & .raw
555	Tr. 13	022, 104-106	West facing section through wall	W	.jpeg & .raw
556	Tr. 13	022, 102, 106, 129	West facing section through external gully	W	.jpeg & .raw
557	Tr. 13	022, 103, 129	Detail of collapsed turf layers in west facing section to south of wall	W	.jpeg & .raw
558	Tr. 13	022, 103, 129	Detail of collapsed turf layers in west facing section to south of wall	W	.jpeg & .raw
559	Tr. 18	119	Slot B - possible turf outlines inside structure	NW	.jpeg & .raw
560	Tr. 18	119	Slot B - possible turf outlines inside structure	SW	.jpeg & .raw
561	Tr. 18	119, 134	Slot C - stone possibly defining edge of building	NW	.jpeg & .raw
562	Tr. 18	119, 134	Slot C - stone possibly defining edge of building	SE	.jpeg & .raw
563	Tr. 18	119, 134	Slot C - stone possibly defining edge of building	SW	.jpeg & .raw
564	Tr. 20D	117, 118, 145	Possible wall after removal of topsoil	SE	.jpeg & .raw
565	Tr. 20E	117, 118, 146	After removal of topsoil	SW	.jpeg & .raw
566	Tr. 18	128, 130	Slot B - Possible Hearth partially revealed pre-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
567	Tr. 18	128, 130	Slot B - Possible Hearth partially revealed pre-excavation	SE	.jpeg & .raw
568	Tr. 18	128, 130, 135, 136	North-east facing section through possible hearth & post-hole	NE	.jpeg & .raw
569	Tr. 18	128, 130	Unexcavated half of possible hearth	SW	.jpeg & .raw
570	Tr. 18	130, 135, 136	North-east facing section through possible post-hole and burrowing at south-western end of possible hearth	NE	.jpeg & .raw
571	Tr. 18	130, 135, 136	Possible post-hole and burrowing at south-western end of possible hearth	SE	.jpeg & .raw
572	Tr. 18	130	Slot B - Animal burrow	SW	.jpeg & .raw
573	Tr. 18	130	Slot C - natural clay deposit	SW	.jpeg & .raw
574	Tr. 18	130	Slot C - natural feature pre-excavation	SW	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
575	Tr. 18	130	Slot C - natural feature pre-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
576	Tr. 18	130	Slot C - natural feature at south-western edge of slot pre-excavation	SW	.jpeg & .raw
577	Tr. 18	128, 130, 135, 136	Mid-excavation of 128 showing red burnt area near centre of hollow	NE	.jpeg & .raw
578	Tr. 18	128, 130, 135, 136	Mid-excavation of 128 showing red burnt area next to possible post-hole	SW	.jpeg & .raw
579	Tr. 18	128, 130, 135, 136	Mid-excavation of 128 showing detail of red burnt area next to possible post-hole	NW	.jpeg & .raw
580	Tr. 18	128, 130, 135, 136	Mid-excavation of 128 showing detail of red burnt area next to possible post-hole	NE	.jpeg & .raw
581	Tr. 18	022, 131	Slot B - After removal of 130 at north-eastern end of slot	SW	.jpeg & .raw
582	Tr. 18	022, 131	Slot B - After removal of 130 at north-eastern end of slot	NE	.jpeg & .raw
583	Tr. 18	022, 131	Slot B - After removal of 130 at north-eastern end of slot	NW	.jpeg & .raw
584	Tr. 18	022, 130	Slot C - natural deposit/stone hole at northern end of slot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
585	Tr. 19	137, 138	Cairn after removal of topsoil	NE	.jpeg & .raw
586	Tr. 19	137, 138	Cairn after removal of topsoil	SW	.jpeg & .raw
587	Tr. 19	137, 138	Cairn after removal of topsoil	NW	.jpeg & .raw
588	Tr. 19	137, 138	Burrowing and slag findspot at north-eastern end of trench	NW	.jpeg & .raw
589	Tr. 18	130, 136	Hearth and possible post-hole post-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
590	Tr. 18	130, 136	Hearth and possible post-hole post-excavation	SW	.jpeg & .raw
591	Tr. 18	130, 136	Post-hole and burrowing post-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
592	Tr. 18	022, 142, 143	Slot A - Possible stake-holes and turf line	NW	.jpeg & .raw
593	Tr. 18	022, 142, 143	Slot A - Possible stake-holes and turf line	NW	.jpeg & .raw
594	Tr. 18	022, 142, 143	Slot A - Possible stake-holes and turf line	NE	.jpeg & .raw
595	Tr. 18	119, 133, 141	Slot D - Possible stone defining edge of building inside large kerb stones at south-eastern end of structure	SW	.jpeg & .raw
596	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - Possible stone defining edge of building inside large kerb stones at south-eastern end of structure	SE	.jpeg & .raw
597	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - Possible stone defining edge of building inside large kerb stones at south-eastern end of structure	NE	.jpeg & .raw
598	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to north-east of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
599	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to north-east of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
600	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to north-east of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
601	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to north-east of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
602	Tr. 19	022, 137, 138	North-west facing section through cairn	NW	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
603	Tr. 19	022, 137, 138	North-west facing section through cairn	NW	.jpeg & .raw
604	Tr. 19	022, 137, 138	North-west facing section through cairn	NW	.jpeg & .raw
605	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to north-east of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
606	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to north-east of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
607	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to north-east of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
608	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to south-west of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
609	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to south-west of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
610	Tr. 18	022, 119	Slot C - Turf layers visible in north-west facing section to south-west of Slot D	NW	.jpeg & .raw
611	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - North-east facing section at south-eastern end of slot	NE	.jpeg & .raw
612	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - North-east facing section at north-western end of slot	NE	.jpeg & .raw
613	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - Turf layers visible in north-east facing section	NE	.jpeg & .raw
614	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - Turf layers visible in north-east facing section	NE	.jpeg & .raw
615	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - South-west facing section	SW	.jpeg & .raw
616	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - South-west facing section at north-western end of slot	SW	.jpeg & .raw
617	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - Turf layers visible in south-west facing section at north-western end of slot	SW	.jpeg & .raw
618	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - Turf layers visible in south-west facing section at north-western end of slot	SW	.jpeg & .raw
619	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 141	Slot D - Turf layers visible in south-west facing section at north-western end of slot	SW	.jpeg & .raw
620	Tr. 18	022, 133, 141	Slot D Post-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
621	Tr. 18	022, 133, 141	Slot D Post-excavation	SE	.jpeg & .raw
622	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 137, 141	Slot C - (north-eastern end of north-west facing section) and Slot D post-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
623	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 137	Slot C - south-western end of north-west facing section	NW	.jpeg & .raw
624	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134, 140	Slot C - south-east facing section at south-western end of slot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
625	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134	Slot C - south-east facing section at north-eastern end of slot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
626	Tr. 18	022	Slot C post-excavation	SW	.jpeg & .raw
627	Tr. 18	022	Slot C post-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
628	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134	Slot B - north-west facing section at north-eastern end of slot	NW	.jpeg & .raw
629	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134	Slot B - north-west facing section at north-eastern end of slot	NW	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
630	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134	Slot B - south-east facing section at south-western end of slot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
631	Tr. 18	022, 119, 131, 134	Slot B - south-east facing section at north-eastern end of slot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
632	Tr. 18	022, 119, 131	Slot B - post-excavation	SW	.jpeg & .raw
633	Tr. 18	022, 119, 131	Slot B - post-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
634	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134	Slot A - north-west facing section at north-eastern end of slot	NW	.jpeg & .raw
635	Tr. 18	022, 119, 140	Slot A - north-west facing section at south-western end of slot	NW	.jpeg & .raw
636	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134	Slot A - south-east facing section at north-eastern end of slot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
637	Tr. 18	022, 119, 140	Slot A - south-east facing section at south-western end of slot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
638	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134, 140	Slot A - south-east facing section at possible porch	SE	.jpeg & .raw
639	Tr. 18	022, 119, 140	Slot A post-excavation	SW	.jpeg & .raw
640	Tr. 18	022, 119, 140	Slot A post-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
641	Tr. 18	022, 119, 127, 130-134, 137-141	Post-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
642	Tr. 18	022, 119, 127, 130-134, 137-141	Post-excavation	NNW	.jpeg & .raw
643	Tr. 18	022, 119, 127, 130-134, 137-141	Post-excavation	W	.jpeg & .raw
644	Tr. 18	022, 119, 127, 130-134, 137-141	Post-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
645	Tr. 18	022, 119, 127, 130-134, 137-141	Post-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
646	Tr. 18	022, 119, 127, 130-134, 137-141	Post-excavation	W	.jpeg & .raw
647	Tr. 18	n/a	Team on final day	n/a	.jpeg & .raw
648	Tr. 18	n/a	Team on final day	n/a	.jpeg & .raw
649	Tr. 18	n/a	Team on final day	n/a	.jpeg & .raw
650	Tr. 18	022, 119, 127, 130-134, 137-141	Post-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
651	Tr. 18	022, 119, 127, 130-134, 137-141	Post-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
652	Tr. 18	022, 119, 127, 130-134, 137-141	Post-excavation	NW	.jpeg & .raw
653	Tr. 18	022, 119, 131, 140	Slot A & B post-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
654	Tr. 18	022, 119, 140, 131, 133, 137, 138, 141	Slot B & C post-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
655	Tr. 18	022, 119, 140, 133, 137, 138, 141	Slot C & south-eastern gable end of structure - post-excavation	NE	.jpeg & .raw
656	Tr. 18	022, 119, 140, 133, 141	Slot D & south-eastern gable end of structure - post-excavation	SE	.jpeg & .raw
657	Tr. 18	119, 133, 137, 140	South-western half of trench - post-excavation	SE	.jpeg & .raw
658	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134	Slot A - north-west facing section through turf bank at north-eastern end of slot	NW	.jpeg & .raw
659	Tr. 18	022, 119, 134	Slot A - north-west facing section through turf bank at north-eastern end of slot	NW	.jpeg & .raw
660	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 134	Slot A, B & C - north-west facing section through turf bank at north-eastern end of slots	NW	.jpeg & .raw
661	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 134	Slot A, B & C - north-west facing section through turf bank at north-eastern end of slots	NW	.jpeg & .raw
662	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 134	Slot A, B & C - north-west facing section through turf bank at north-eastern end of slots	NW	.jpeg & .raw
663	Tr. 18	022, 119, 133, 134	Slot A, B & C - north-west facing section through turf bank at north-eastern end of slots	NW	.jpeg & .raw
664	Tr. 18	001	Backfilled and re-turfed	NW	.jpeg & .raw
665	Tr. 18	001	Backfilled and re-turfed	N	.jpeg & .raw
666	Tr. 18	001	Backfilled and re-turfed	E	.jpeg & .raw

Table 7: NMRS & MPK HER sites previously recorded at Lair

<i>Site name</i>	<i>Site Type</i>	<i>MPK no.</i>	<i>NMRS no.</i>
LAIR	PITCARMICK SETTLEMENT	MPK4384	NO16SW 127
LAIR	ENCLOSURE, SHIELING HUT	MPK4392	NO16SW 134
LAIR	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, FIELD BOUNDARY	MPK4399	NO16SW 140
LAIR	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, SHIELING HUT	MPK4400	NO16SW 141
CLACHAVOID	MILL	MPK4410	NO16SW 150
ALLT CORRA-LAIRIGE / LAIR	FARMSTEAD	MPK4435	NO16SW 30
WESTER LAIR / LAIR	FARMSTEAD	MPK4440	NO16SW 33
LAIR	PITCARMICK SETTLEMENT	MPK4442	NO16SW 35
LAIR	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, ENCLOSURE	MPK4443	NO16SW 36
LAIR	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	MPK4444	NO16SW 37
LAIR	FARMSTEAD	MPK4445	NO16SW 38
LAIR	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	MPK4448	NO16SW 40
LAIR	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, ENCLOSURE	MPK4449	NO16SW 41
LAIR	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	MPK4450	NO16SW 42
LAIR	BUILDING, CULTIVATION MARKS, CAIRNFIELD	MPK4451	NO16SW 43
CORRA-LAIRIG	ROUND CAIRN	MPK4452	NO16SW 44
LAIR	FARMSTEAD, KILN	MPK4454	NO16SW 46
LAIR	HUT CIRCLE	MPK4455	NO16SW 47
LAIR	PITCARMICK SETTLEMENT	MPK4456	NO16SW 48
LAIR	RING CAIRN	MPK4457	NO16SW 49
WESTER LAIR / LAIR	FARMSTEAD	MPK4459	NO16SW 50
LAIR	PITCARMICK BUILDING	MPK4460	NO16SW 51
TORR LOCHAIDH	HUT CIRCLE SETTLEMENT	MPK4461	NO16SW 52
LAIR / TORR LOCHAIDH	HUT CIRCLE	MPK4469	NO16SW 6
TORR LOCHAIDH	BURNT MOUND	MPK4470	NO16SW 60
CLACH A'MHOID	NATURAL FEATURE	MPK4489	NO16SW 8
COUPAR ANGUS - BRAEMAR - CORGARFF - FORT GEORGE	MILITARY ROAD	MPK5959	NO16SW 159
ALLT AN LAIR	ENCLOSURE, SHEEP FOLD	MPK9114	NO16SW 163
CLACH NA COILEACH; COCKSTANE	NATURAL FEATURE	MPK15070	n/a
LAIR / CRAY JUNCTION MEMORIAL CROSS	COMMEMORATIVE STONE	MPK16161	n/a

APPENDIX 2: DES

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Glenshee Archaeology Project, Lair
PROJECT CODE:	4415161 (Northlight Heritage Code)
PARISH:	Kirkmichael
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Strachan and David Sneddon
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust; Northlight Heritage
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Survey & Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NO16SW.48, NO16SW.49, NO16SW.127
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Pitcarmick Type Building(s), Ring Cairn, round houses
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Turf/stone constructed buildings
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 1387 6376
START DATE (this season)	6 June 2014
END DATE (this season)	28 June 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Walkover & topographic survey; Excavation (Strachan & Sneddon, DES 2012 and 2013)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	In June 2014 a third season of fieldwork saw excavation of the south-eastern half of a turf longhouse located directly beside a kerb cairn, the other half of which was excavated in 2013. This confirmed that the south-eastern gable of the building had borrowed stone from the kerb of the cairn, probably in two phases. Very good preservation of turf material was also identified here, likely due to limited ploughing around the large reused kerb stones. In addition two smaller buildings, downslope of the kerb cairn, were explored along with their associated enclosures. The buildings were shown to have relatively well preserved low lying stone walls on top of which turf courses would have sat. A third possible building was also investigated which had been heavily disturbed by a track-way, still currently in use for vehicle access. A series of further samples for radiocarbon dating have been recovered which will improve our understanding of early medieval turf longhouses in the area. In addition, the environmental context to the site has been revealed through a pollen study of nearby peat (University of Stirling).
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Further small-scale excavation is planned for 2015.
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Cairngorms National Park, Heritage Lottery Fund, the Gannochy Trust, the Hunter Archaeological & Historical Trust; Historic Scotland.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust 4 York Place PERTH PH2 8EP
EMAIL ADDRESS:	david.strachan@pkht.org.uk dsneddon@yorkat.co.uk ,
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS (intended)