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Glenshee Archaeology Project

2015 Excavation

Lair, Glenshee, Perth & Kinross

 Glenshee
Archaeology
Project



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Glenshee Archaeology Project 2015
Lair, Glenshee, Perth & Kinross
NGR: NN 48627 43132

Data Structure Report

Cover Plate: Reconstruction illustration showing the settlement and landscape at Lair c. 800 AD (artists: Alan Braby and Gillian McSwan)

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CONTENTS		
	Abstract	4
1	Introduction	4
2	Location, Geology and Topography	5
3	Archaeological and Historical Context	5
4	Summary Objectives	9
5	Methodology	10
6	Results	10
7	Discussion and Summary	24
8	Future Work	26
9	Sources	26
10	Appendices	28
	Appendix 1: Tables/Concordances	28
	Appendix 2: DES	43
FIGURES		
1	Site location	6
2	Location of Archaeological sites at Lair & the surrounding landscape	7
3	Trench location and topographic/site survey	11
4	Longhouse Buildings 3-5 and evaluation trenches (Aerial image courtesy of Eddie Martin Photography)	12
5	Trench 22 - south-west facing section	17
6	East facing section through Pit (202)	20
PLATES		
1	Trench 21 after removal of topsoil looking upslope to the NW	13
2	Elevated view of Trench 22 looking south-east towards Glenshee	14
3	Stone 157 filling centre of Building 3 within Trench 22	15
4	Excavating likely post-hole 169 within Trench 22	18
5	East facing section through Pit (202)	20
6	Large Boulder within bank material of Building 3, Trench 23 looking west	21
7	Cuts 183 (left) & 185 (right) at western end of Trench 24, looking north	23
TABLES		
1	Context Information	28
2	Small Finds	35
3	General Finds	35
4	Samples	35
5	Drawings	36
6	Photographs	37
7	NMRS/MPK HER sites previously recorded at Lair	42

Abstract

During June 2015 Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and Northlight Heritage undertook a fourth 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 2015 season focused on the excavation of a series of evaluation trenches over a complex of at least three adjacent longhouses located to the east of a ring cairn. The complex exhibits many of the characteristics of the classic 'Pitcarmick type' with rounded ends, an oval enclosure attached to one external wall and signs of at least some slightly sunken internal areas. A total of six trenches were opened which focused on evaluating the character and preservation of the building walls and internal areas. Trenches also evaluated the oval enclosure attached to the south-western end of one longhouse and the external area to the south of the longhouses. The walls of the structures appeared, in general, to be constructed from a combination of turf and stone although well preserved turf layers in the wall of the northern most building appear to show a wall composed of an inner and outer skin of turf with an earthen core. A series of internal features and deposits were also uncovered including substantial layers of stone work in the centre of one of the buildings, post-holes and burnt layers. One of the most distinctive features encountered was a substantial pit in the centre of the oval enclosure containing a series of distinctive fills, including turf layers. Artefacts recovered included fragments of flint, corroded iron pieces, small pottery fragments and a spindle whorl with incised markings.

1. Introduction

1.1

This report outlines the results of the fourth year of a five 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 initially 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 over a three year period, would highlight areas to target in order to explore broader patterns of change in the upland archaeology of Glenshee. The project was subsequently extended for a further two years and has incorporated palaeo-environmental work carried out on nearby peats along with place-name studies and a wider programme of aerial photography (Strachan, Sneddon, Tipping and Paterson forthcoming).

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, in 2014, built 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 Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, The Gannochy Trust and Historic Environment Scotland. 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).

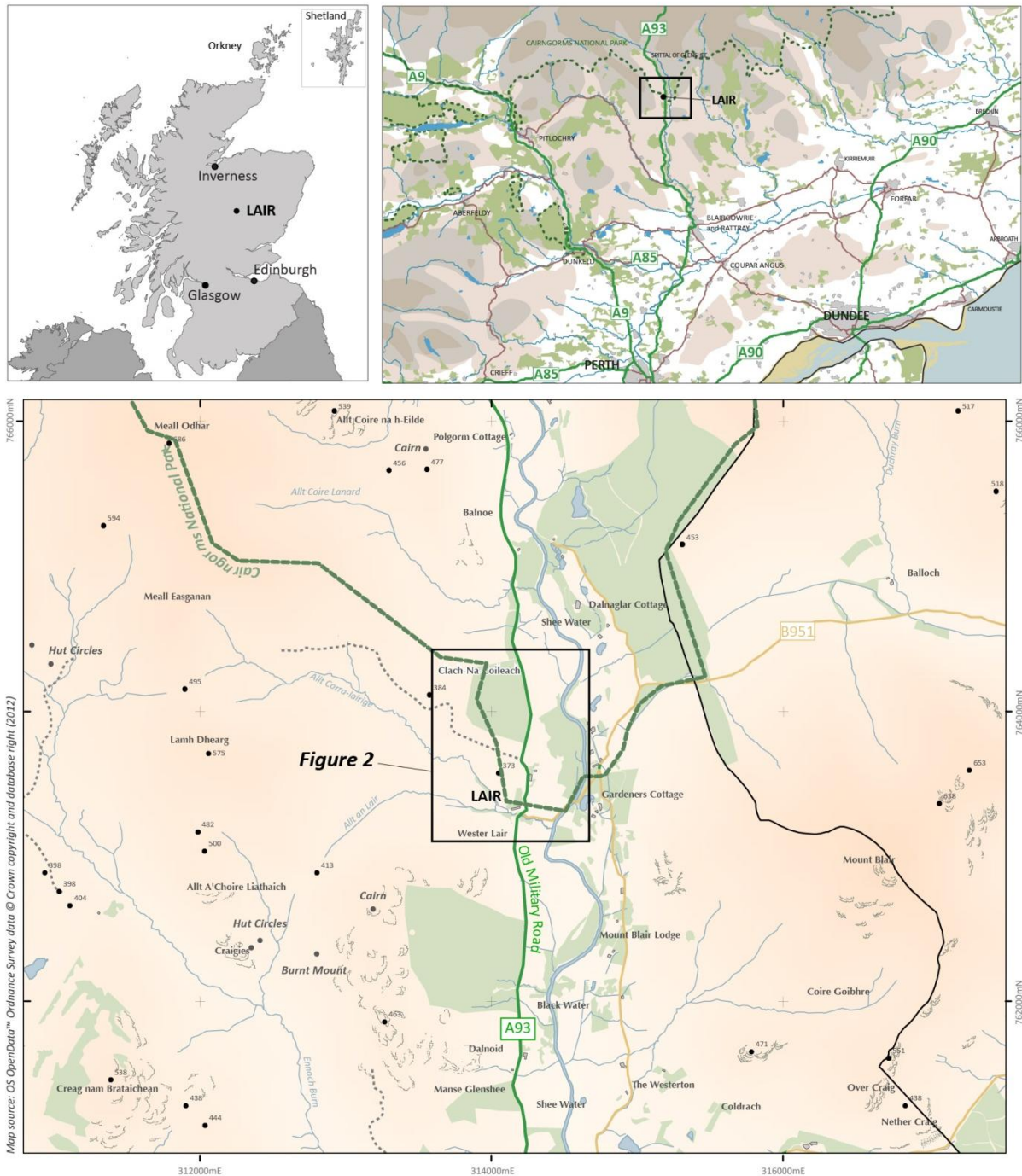


Figure 1: Site Location

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).

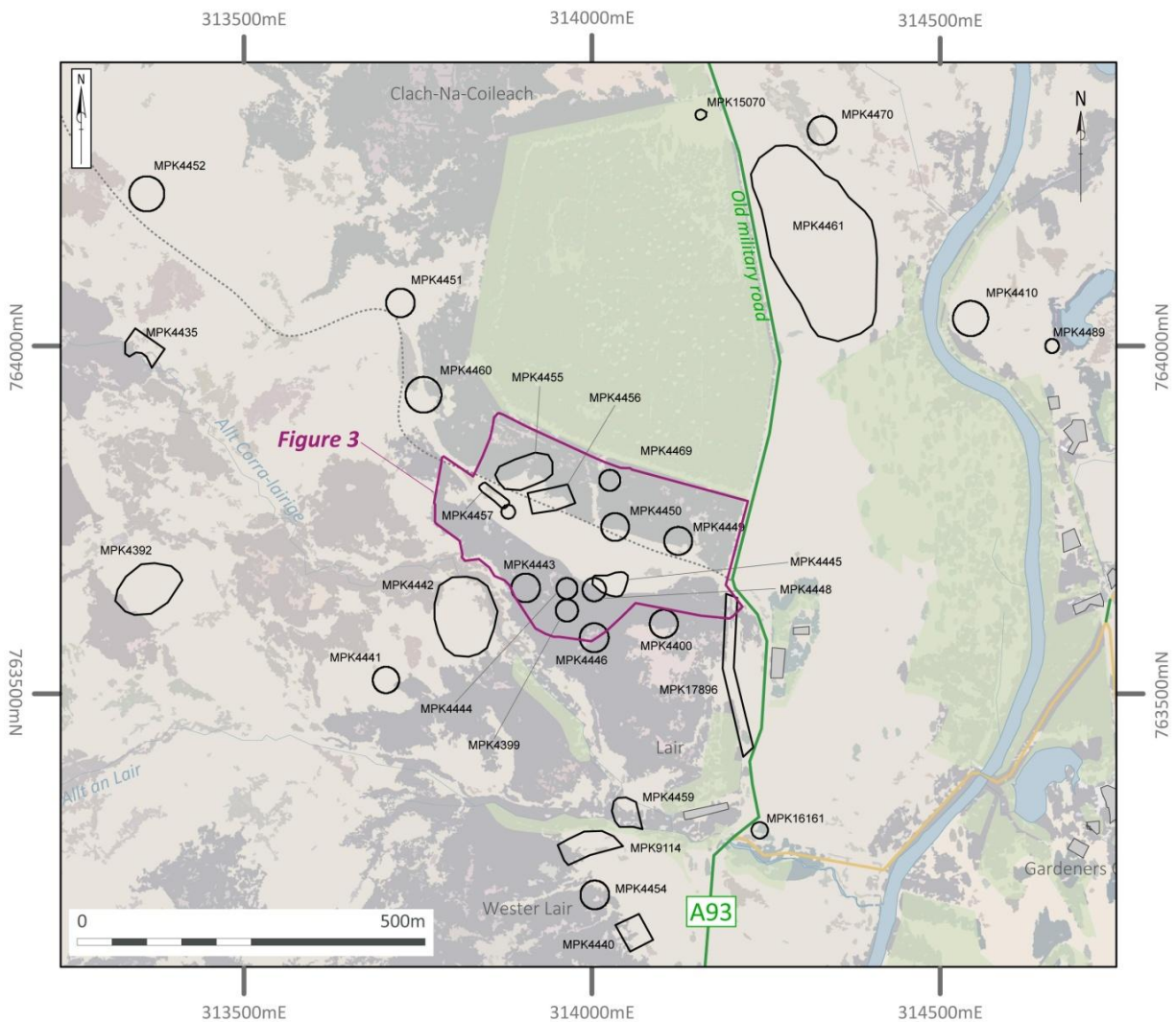


Figure 2: Location of archaeological sites at Lair and the surrounding landscape (P&KHT HER extract)

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 and 2014 (Strachan & Sneddon 2012, 2013 & 2014), focused on the partial excavation of two potential medieval 'Pitcarmick' type buildings at Lair (Buildings 1 & 2, Figure 3). 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. 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 (Building 1). 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 (Buildings 1 & 2), one of which was initially examined in 2012 (Building 1). The main excavation trench encompassed the north-western half of Building 2 while the other was located over a section of defining turf bank on the north-eastern side of Building 1. 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.

2014

3.13

The 2014 season focused on the excavation of one trench over Building 2 at Lair, also examined in 2013. Two further rectangular buildings (Buildings 6 & 7), 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.

3.14

The main excavation trench, over Building 2 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. Radiocarbon dating of the hearth has suggested that it was in use between the eighth to tenth centuries AD.

3.15

The smaller trenches, over features to the south-east of the turf longhouses, revealed Buildings 6 and 7 to contain more stone in their construction compared to Buildings 1 and 2 to the north, particularly Building 6 where a well preserved low stone wall was uncovered. Earth and stone enclosure banks and drip gullies were also associated with these buildings. One sherd of green glazed pottery was recovered from one of the drip gullies. The remaining two trenches identified a clearance cairn and previously unidentified area of archaeological potential.

4. Summary Objectives

The general aims of 2015 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 investigate and assess the nature, date and sequence of the construction of specific Pitcarmick buildings (Buildings 3, 4 & 5) and establish any relationship between the buildings;
- To identify if any evidence exists for reconstruction or maintenance of these 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;
- 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

Excavation

5.1

Six trenches (Trenches 21-26) were excavated over the course of the 2015 field season and all concentrated on the collection of longhouses (Buildings 3-5) located to the east of the ring cairn (Figure 3). They were located primarily to evaluate specific features visible on the surface.

5.2

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. All trenches and features were accurately located using survey data captured during previous years of the project (Strachan & Sneddon 2012-2014). This prior survey had utilised a sub-cm Differential Global Positioning System with GNSS-RTK Network (Leica GS08) with the results being processed with CAD and ArcGIS. Elevated aerial photographs were taken of the site during excavation from a Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA - see section 5.3).

Aerial Photography

5.3

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 16 small finds were recovered during the excavation which included slag (2), stone (6), pottery (2), Iron (4), Flint (1) and Bone (1) - see Appendix 1. A further three general finds were recovered including Flint, Stone and a small piece of Iron. A total of five bulk environmental samples were also taken from specific contexts. 197 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. Where these numbers are bold they represent feature or cut numbers.

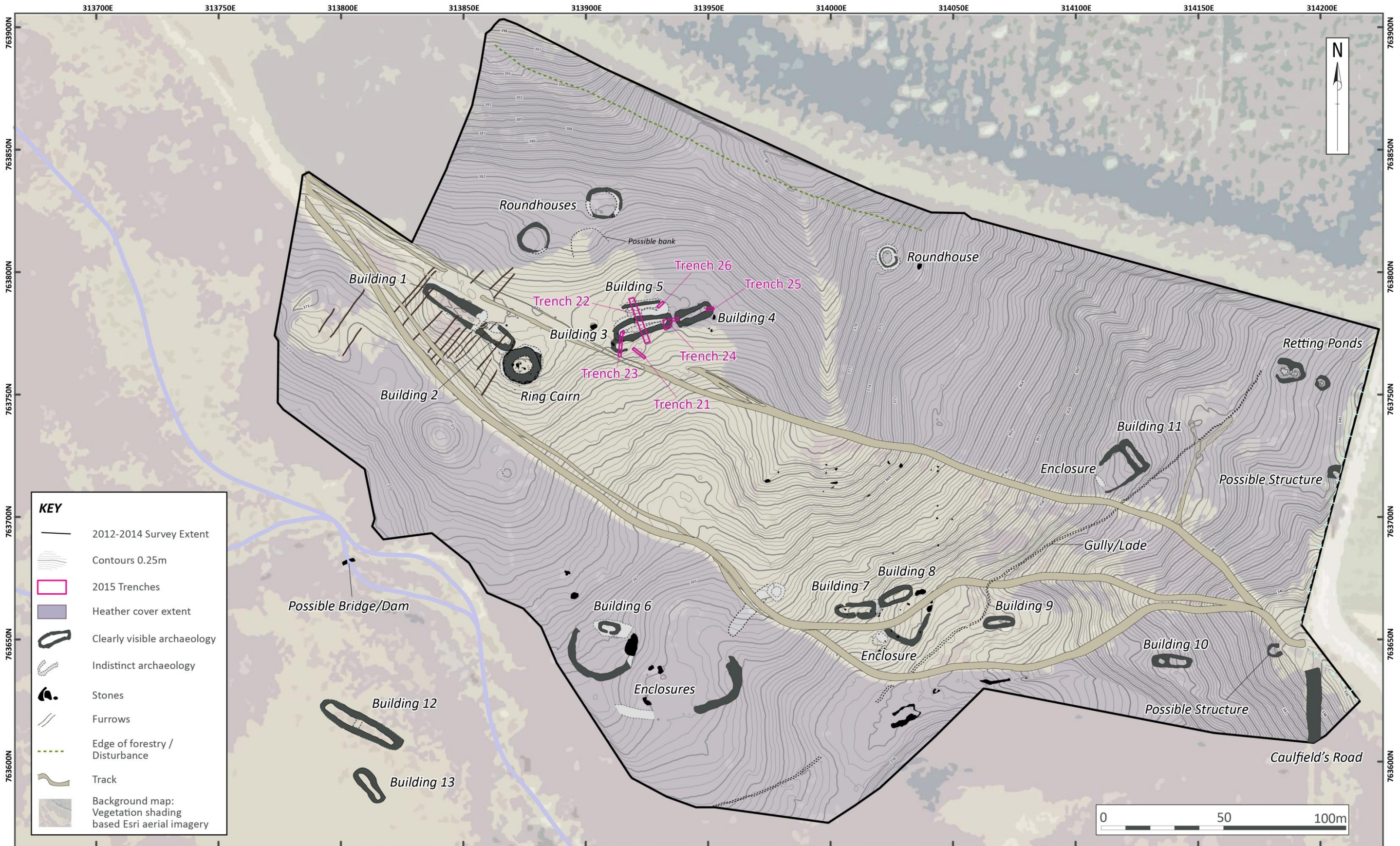


Figure 3: Trench location and topographic/site survey



Figure 4: Longhouse Buildings 3-5 and evaluation trenches (Aerial image courtesy of Eddie Martin Photography)

Trench 21

6.2

Trench 21 measured 6 m by 1 m and was orientated north-west to south-east (Figures 3 & 4). The trench was placed over the surface and edge of a possible artificial platform visible as a grass covered level area to the south of Building 3. The trench was opened to investigate if the possible platform was natural or archaeological in origin.

6.3

Beneath a thin layer of turf and topsoil (001) a mid brown silty sand (170) covered the entire trench to a depth of 0.1 m, with the exception of the central area. It generally contained occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles, again with the exception of the central area. This deposit was interpreted as a natural subsoil formation beneath the topsoil.



Plate 1: Trench 21 after removal of topsoil looking upslope to the NW

6.4

However, within the central portion of the trench, roughly corresponding to where the level area in front of Building 3 began to slope away to the south, lay a concentration of sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and boulders (Plate 1) within context 170 which existed to 0.25 m in depth. This was interpreted as archaeological in origin, possibly being either a small clearance cairn or a pile of stones used to accentuate the natural platform in front of Building 3. The deposit lay on top of a moderately compacted orange/brown sand, silt and gravel deposit (171) containing sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles. It was interpreted as the upper layer of the sterile natural subsoil.

Trench 22

6.5

Trench 22 measured 19.4 m by 2 m and was orientated north-west to south-east (Figure 3 & 4). The trench was placed over the entire width of Buildings 3 & 4 whilst also extending into the area slightly beyond them (Plate 2). It was positioned to investigate the internal and external areas of each building along with the makeup and condition of their walls. It was also hoped that any chronological relationship between the two buildings could be explored stratigraphically.

6.6

A thin turf, heather and topsoil layer (001) lay across the entire trench. Beneath this, and in the southern half of the trench, the remains of Building 3 were located. At the far southern end of the trench, just to the south of Building 3, a substantial deposit of orange silty sand containing a moderate amount of sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles (159) was present above the natural subsoil (022). This deposit extended around a very large natural boulder and contained more organic material, possibly the remains of turf, on the northern side of the boulder where it met the edge of Building 3. Although not revealed to its full extent (159) could relate to the levelling of the area immediately south of Building 3 and may, therefore, relate to the stone deposit (171) uncovered within Trench 21. A possible broken stone tool (SF 29) was recovered from (159).



Plate 2: Elevated view of Trench 22 looking south-east towards Glenshee

6.7

The southern extent of Building 3 was defined by an earth bank up to 2 m in width and 0.35 m in depth composed of a brown/orange silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and

pebbles (158) which sat directly on top of the natural sterile subsoil (Figure 5). Although no distinct turf lenses were visible within the trench it is likely that this bank represents the degraded remains of a low turf wall that formed the southern side of Building 3. A possible stone tool (SF 31) was recovered from this deposit.

6.8

Immediately on the northern side of the bank (158) lay a relatively shallow cut (207) measuring, where revealed, up to 0.65 m in width and 0.2 m in depth. It was not obviously visible in plan but ran across the trench and, in section, had gently sloping slightly concave sides and a flat base (Figure 5). It was filled with a mixed brown sandy silt with very occasional sub-rounded small cobbles and pebbles (180) while, at its base darker lenses were present possibly representing turves. The purpose of this cut and fill is not known at this stage but does show similarities to (215 & 179 - see paragraph 6.15) located to the north (Figure 5).



Plate 3: Stone 157 filling centre of Building 3 within Trench 22

6.9

Just beyond this, to the north, the internal area of Building 3 began to gradually lower forming a slightly sunken central area (Figure 5). This had been formed by cutting a shallow concave depression (206) into the natural subsoil. This area was filled with a deposit of dense angular and sub-angular boulders, cobbles and pebbles (157), up to 0.5 m in size, contained within a moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt matrix (166). The stones appeared to be randomly deposited with the exception of the upper surface where some degree of placement had taken place creating a more level surface (Plate 3). The deposit existed up to 0.3 m in depth and contained a moderate amount of small charcoal pieces and some evidence of burning in the form of lightly scorched earth. Although the true extent of the feature was not uncovered within the trench it appeared to represent the purposeful infilling of a sunken interior, thus creating a more level floor, whilst also acting as a drain/sump.

6.10

At the base of the stone and earth deposit (157 & 166), on the eastern side of Trench 22, a likely post-hole was uncovered. This feature (169) was situated in the centre of the building and comprised a roughly circular shaped cut in plan, measuring 0.25 m diameter, with near vertical sides and a slightly concave break of slope to a flat base. It existed only to 0.15 m in depth and was filled by a moderately compacted dark grey/brown sandy silt (168) similar to the matrix (166) around the stones (157) in the deposit above. No packing stones were recovered which, along with its shallow depth, possibly suggests some degree of truncation. Alternatively, and presuming they were contemporary, much of any post which may once have stood here could have been supported by the substantial stone and earth deposit above (157 & 166).

6.11

On top of the natural subsoil, to the north of the infilled central area, lay a very distinct layer of burning (164) up to 0.1 m in depth. It comprised a moderately compacted and mixed deposit of substantial black silty lenses, also containing charcoal concentrations, mottled with orange/red scorched sandy silt patches and smaller patches of grey and light brown sandy silt. This deposit lay across the northern internal area of the turf longhouse (Figure 5) and extended up to and against the denuded turf bank defining the northern wall of the building (156 - see paragraph 6.13). It clearly represents a distinct episode of burning within the building and possibly contained burnt turf layers.

6.12

Above the burnt layer (164) lay an 0.15 m deep deposit of orange/brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles (205). This material is was very similar in composition to that forming the northern and southern banks of Building 3 (156 & 158 respectively) and could represent the remains of very degraded collapsed turf and earth.

6.13

Although the interface was not clear in section the burnt layer (164) and possible collapsed turf (205) appeared to lie against the bank defining the northern side of the building which existed to 1.7 m in width and up to 0.35 m in depth. It was composed of an orange/brown sandy silt containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles (156) which sat directly on top of the natural sterile subsoil (Figure 5). Although no distinct turf lenses were visible within the trench it is likely that this bank represents the degraded remains of a low turf wall that formed the northern side of Building 3. A small body sherd of pottery (SF 32) was recovered from this deposit.

6.14

No clear stratigraphic separation could be seen between Buildings 3 and 5 within Trench 22 although it was assumed from the relationship to deposits inside the Building 3 that context 156 related more to Building 3 than Building 5.

6.15

Immediately on the northern side of the bank (156) lay a relatively shallow cut (215) measuring, where revealed, up to 1.5 m in width and 0.3 m in depth. It was not obviously visible in plan but ran across the trench and, in section, had gently sloping slightly concave sides and a wide flat base (Figure 5). It was filled with a mixed orange/brown sandy silt with very occasional sub-rounded small cobbles and pebbles (179). At the base of the fill indistinct lenses and patches more dark brown/grey in colour were present, possibly being indicative of turf. The purpose of this cut and fill is not known at this stage but does show similarities to (207 & 180 - see paragraph 6.8) located to the north (Figure 5) although being bigger in size where excavated.



Figure 5: Trench 22 - south-west facing section

6.16

Although not distinct in section the northern end of feature (215) appeared to have been cut by a small gully (203). It was not obvious in plan but appeared to run across the trench and comprised a shallow 'V' shaped cut, existing to 0.3 m in width and 0.15 m in depth, with a small rounded base. It cut into natural subsoil deposits (022 & 155) while it had been filled by a light brown sandy silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles (204). The feature sat in what would have been the interior of Building 5 (Figure 5), however, it was not clear whether it related to Building 3 or 5 and could feasibly relate to the exterior of Building 3.



Plate 4: Excavating likely post-hole 169 within Trench 22

6.17

Running across the trench in the centre of Building 5 was a shallow concave cut (177, Figure 5) which was sporadically defined at either side by larger sub-rounded cobbles (154). The cut existed to only 0.12 m in depth and contained an orange/brown sandy clay with only very occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions (178). It was excavated into the upper natural subsoil layer (151 & 155) and lay immediately beneath the topsoil. This feature sat at the lowest point inside of the longhouse revealed within Trench 22 and, while the full extent of the feature was not uncovered, it could feasibly represent a roughly built central drain. A fragment of corroded iron (SF 28) was recovered from the fill (178) of this feature.

6.18

In the northern half of the trench, Building 5 was defined on its northern side by a relatively well preserved section of turf wall. Distinct turf lenses were present within the light brown sandy silt (175) which comprised the majority of the slumped turf wall (Figure 5). The central area of the bank was, however, devoid of any traces of turf and was composed of an orange brown sandy silt (198) similar to (175) located either side of it. It is possible that this relatively well preserved section of turf wall represents an outer and inner skin of turf (175) with an earthen core (198). The remains of the turf wall sat directly on top of a sterile upper natural subsoil deposit (151). A small lump of slag (SF 26) was recovered from dense heather roots (161) which sat on top of and within the bank material (175).

6.19

Immediately to the north of the turf wall (175 & 198) lay a shallow pit (**196**) partially excavated into the northern edge of the turf wall (175) and partially into the natural deposit (151). The full extent of the pit was not uncovered in the trench but it existed to 0.9 m in width and up to 0.2 m in depth (Figure 5). The cut comprised of gradually sloping slightly concave sides and a flat base. The pit held a brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions (197) and appeared to post-date the collapsed turf wall (175).

Trench 23

6.20

Trench 23 measured 10 m by 1 m and was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west (Figure 3 & 4). The trench was placed over the entire width of the oval enclosure attached to the south-western corner of Building 3 whilst also partially covering the internal area of this building and the area to the south of the enclosure. It was positioned to investigate the internal area of the oval enclosure and Building 3 along with the makeup and condition of their walls. It was also hoped that any chronological relationship between the oval enclosure and Building 3 could be explored stratigraphically.

6.21

In the southern part of the trench, beneath a thin turf, heather and topsoil layer (001), the remains of the bank defining the southern extent of the oval enclosure was present and, although ephemeral, was consistent with the faint remains of the bank visible prior to excavation. It comprised a light brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions (212) that existed to 0.15 m in depth where excavated and sat directly on top of the natural subsoil (022). The remains likely represent the heavily degraded turf and stone wall of the oval enclosure which had slumped considerably to the south with the natural slope.

6.22

Spread over the interior of the oval enclosure and sitting immediately below the topsoil (001) and above the natural subsoil (022) lay a deposit up to 0.15 m in depth comprising a dark brown silty sand containing very occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (167). It was visible over some 2.4 m of Trench 23 between the northern and southern defining banks of the enclosure. Although the origin of this deposit is not known at this stage, given its direct relationship to the interior of the oval enclosure, it is highly likely that it could represent some form of floor or collapse deposit. Small corroded iron fragments (SF 34) were recovered from this deposit.

6.23

Approximately 4.5 m from the southern end of Trench 23, corresponding to the centre of the oval enclosure, lay what appeared to be a substantial pit. The pit (**202**) extended out with Trench 23, therefore, its extent and shape in plan was not fully ascertained although, where visible, it had an irregular oval shape. In section the pit extended to 0.85 m in width and 0.45 m in depth although deposits relating to the pit appeared to extend some 0.15 m beyond the top of the cut (Figure 6). It had gradually sloping sides at the very top before becoming steeper and slightly concave to a wide rounded base. It was excavated into the natural subsoil (022).

6.24

The basal fill of the pit comprised a brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular small cobbles and pebbles along with occasional charcoal flecks (201). A series of darker lenses, likely corresponding to layers of turf (Figure 6 & Plate 5), were present at the top of this deposit. Above the turves lay a grey/brown silty sand containing small sub-angular pebbles (220). A distinctive sub-angular cobble was present in the section at the top of this layer in the centre of the pit (Figure 6 & Plate 5).

6.25

Above (220) lay an 0.15 m deep deposit that extended out with the limits of the excavated area within trench 23. Where visible it comprised a dark grey/brown sandy silt (200) which covered all of pit (202) and had the characteristics of an old topsoil layer.



Plate 5: East facing section through Pit (202)

6.26

Around the edges of the pit this deposit (200) lay directly beneath the topsoil, however, in the centre and filling a shallow depression in (200), was a deposit comprising a series of narrow light brown/orange sandy lenses along with those of a dark brown silty sand (199, Plate 5). Initially thought to be evidence of burrowing the distinct lenses became more obvious after a period of weathering and may represent a series of thin turves placed in the small hollow.

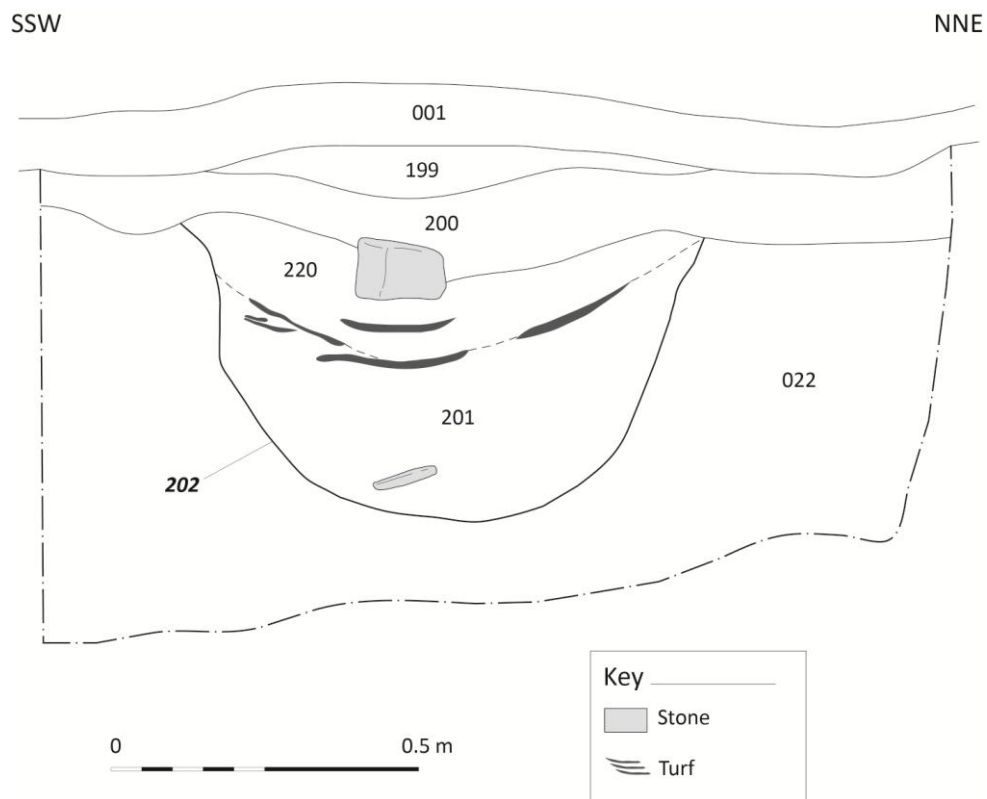


Figure 6: East facing section through Pit (202)

6.27

On the northern side of the enclosure there was no clear evidence for the remains of a wall separate to that of Building 3. Any deposits which were present appeared to abut the bank defining Building 3 (158) suggesting the enclosure was either contemporary with or later than Building 3. Abutting bank (158) on the northern edge of the oval enclosure were two deposits (213 & 214). The lower of the two (214) lay directly on top of natural subsoil (022) and comprised a dark grey/brown sandy silt with occasional lenses of more orange silty sand. It existed to 0.25 m in depth and may represent the remains of collapsed turf although burrowing had partially disturbed the deposit. This also lay over a possible negative feature (211) of which only a small part was revealed within the trench. Although unexcavated it appeared to be filled by a dark grey/brown silty sand (210). Above (214) lay a deposit of light brown sandy silt with lenses of orange/brown sandy gravel (213). Although burrowing had also disturbed this layer it could represent the remains of collapsed turf.

6.28

Both these layers lay against the brown/orange silty sand deposit (158) forming the remains of the turf wall defining the southern side of Building 3. The bank material existed to 0.3 m in depth where excavated while a large sub-angular boulder up to 1 m in size sat within the bank material (158) on its outside edge and on top of the natural subsoil (Plate 6). Although it is unclear whether this stone was natural in origin or had been purposefully placed it is entirely feasible that it had been moved here to form part of the structure of Building 3.



Plate 6: Large Boulder within bank material of Building 3, Trench 23 looking west

6.29

Beyond the southern bank of Building 3 Trench 23 partially exposed the interior of the western end of the building (Figure 4). Lying between the natural subsoil (022) and topsoil (001) here was a thin deposit of dark brown silty sand containing very occasional sub-angular pebbles, relatively frequent charcoal flecks and occasional fragments of burnt bone (162). It only existed to 0.07 m in depth but may represent internal occupation deposits of Building 3 and contained an abundance of material culture relative to other deposits on the site including a small sherd of pottery (SF 27), a spindle whorl with incised markings (SF 33), small fragments of corroded iron (SF 36), a possible corroded iron knife (SF 40), two possible stone artefacts (SF's 39 & 41), a small fragment of slag (SF 35), a flint nodule (SF 37) and fragments of burnt bone (SF 38).

6.30

At the far northern end of the main Trench 23 a pit was located that showed signs of being re-cut. Although the full extent of the feature was not revealed in plan the primary cut (**216**) measured 0.36 m in depth, had relatively straight sides, the southernmost being steeper, and a narrow rounded base. It existed to 0.5 m in width and was filled by an orange/brown silty sand containing occasional sub-angular pebble and gravel inclusions (217). This had been subsequently cut by a secondary feature of similar shape in section to (**216**) but slightly smaller in size. This secondary cut (**208**) measured 0.45 m in width, 0.33 m in depth and was filled by a dark grey/brown silty sand containing occasional small sub-angular pebble inclusions (209).

6.31

A small 1 m by 1 m extension was excavated off the north-eastern corner of Trench 23 to further explore the interior of Building 3 (Figure 3 & 4). Within this area two possible features were uncovered although the area had been subject to a degree of disturbance from burrowing. In the centre of the trench extension a small possible post-hole feature was uncovered (**172**). It had a circular shape in plan, existing to 0.22 m in diameter and 0.2 m in depth. Almost vertical sides led to a broad 'V' shaped base and it was filled by a dark brown silty sand (173) partially disturbed by burrowing in its upper portion.

6.32

To the south-east of this, at the south-eastern corner of the trench extension, a possible pit (**218**) was uncovered. The feature was only partially present within the trench and, where investigated, it held a relatively loose brown/black silty sand (219) the bottom of which was not reached.

Trench 24

6.33

Trench 24 originally measured 6.3 m by 1 m and was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, however, the western half was eventually extended some 4 m to the south (Figure 3 & 4). The trench was placed over the eastern gable end of Building 3 and western gable end of Building 4 whilst also partially extending into the interior of Building 3. It was positioned to investigate the makeup and condition of their walls while it was also hoped that any chronological relationship between the two buildings could be explored stratigraphically.

6.34

Beneath a thin turf, heather and topsoil layer (001) the remains of two ephemeral earthen banks were uncovered. In the western half of the trench a banked deposit, up to 0.4 m in depth comprising an orange brown sandy silt containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles (182), corresponded to the eastern end of Building 3. It is likely that this deposit represents the heavily slumped and degraded turf wall of Building 3. A possible stone artefact (SF 30) was recovered from this context. At the far eastern end of the trench a similar deposit of orange brown sandy silt containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles (189) was present to 0.25 m in depth. It is likely that this deposit represents the heavily slumped and degraded turf wall of Building 4.

6.35

Concentrations of sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles up to 0.4 m in size were present within and on the upper surface of both bank deposits (182 & 189) although most were uncovered in the trench extension and are most likely to relate to Building 3. The most likely explanation for these stones is that they formed part of the turf and stone walls of these buildings.

6.36

A series of cut features were uncovered beneath the collapsed turf and stone deposits (182 & 189). At the far western end of the trench a shallow concave cut (**183**) with a flat base extended out with the trench to the north, south and west (Plate 7). It was orientated roughly north to south, existed to 0.15 m in depth and was filled with an orange/brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular pebble and gravel inclusions (184). Not enough of this cut was revealed to allow any kind of informed interpretation to take place but it does appear to correspond to the interior of Building 3.

6.37

On the western edge of the deepest part of collapsed turf and stone deposit (182) lay a linear gully (**185**) orientated approximately north to south across the trench whilst also continuing beyond the trench edges (Plate 7). It measured up to 0.4 m in width and 0.2 m in depth and comprised gradually sloping slightly irregular sides and a narrow rounded base. It was filled with a dark brown/black sandy silt with only very occasional gravel inclusions (184). Another possible gully type feature (**187**) and associated fill (188) was visible in section above (**185**), however, it was not visible in plan and very ephemeral in the section.

6.38

In the eastern part of the trench, beneath the collapsed turf wall of Building 4 (189), lay a shallow cut (**222**) which extended out of the northern and southern sides of the trench. Where visible it existed to 0.85 m in width and 0.11 m in depth with very gradually sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. The cut was more distinct on its western side and was filled with the collapsed turf material (189). The purpose of this feature is currently unknown but could relate to the turf longhouses located here.



Plate 7: Cuts **183** (left) & **185** (right) at western end of Trench 24, looking north

Trench 25

6.39

Trench 25 measured 3 m by 1 m and was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west (Figure 3 & 4). The trench was placed over the eastern gable end of Building 4 whilst also partially extending into its interior. It was positioned to investigate the makeup and condition of the building wall.

6.40

Beneath a thin turf, heather and topsoil layer (001) lay a deposit comprising an orange/brown silty sand containing occasional charcoal flecks and occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles (195). This deposit covered the entire trench, to a maximum depth of 0.3 m in the centre of the trench, which corresponded to

where the top of the faint bank defining Building 4 was located. Burrowing was evident within (195) particularly in the western half of the trench. The stone was spread generally throughout the deposit although was slightly more concentrated in the eastern half. It is possible that this deposit represent the heavily slumped and degraded turf and stone wall of Building 4.

6.41

A linear concentration of irregularly shaped, but relatively flat, sub-angular stone cobbles (221) up to 0.2 m in size were uncovered running approximately north to south across the western half of the trench. Although disturbed they existed up to three course in height but only one in width. Despite being only revealed in a small 0.5 m wide slot within the trench it is feasible that they relate to the former inside wall of Building 4 either in the form of stone edging or collapse from within a turf wall.

Trench 26

6.42

Trench 26 measured 3 m by 1 m and was orientated north-east to south-west (Figure 3 & 4). The trench was placed over the eastern gable end of Building 5 whilst also partially extending into its interior. It was positioned to investigate the makeup and condition of the building wall.

6.43

Beneath a thin turf, heather and topsoil layer (001) lay a deposit comprising an orange/brown silty sand containing occasional charcoal flecks and occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles (190 & 191). Two context numbers were issued to this deposit as the lower half (191) contained slightly more stone inclusions than the upper half, however, overall both numbers represent the same deposit. This deposit covered the entire trench, to a maximum depth of 0.3 m in the centre of the trench, which corresponded to where the top of the faint bank defining Building 5 was located. Unlike the well preserved turf layers present in the same bank further within Trench 22 (see paragraph 6.18) few distinguishing characteristics were present within the faint bank in Trench 26. However, given the presence of the bank itself and the similarities of the bank deposit (190 & 191) to that in Trench 22, with the exception of no turf lenses being present, it is likely that this deposit represents the heavily slumped and degraded turf and stone gable wall of Building 5.

6.44

A possible small pit or post-hole (**193**) was uncovered in the western part of the trench corresponding to the interior of Building 5. It measured 0.15 m in diameter and was filled with a moderately compacted red/brown sandy silt (194). It was however heavily truncated, being only 0.05 m in depth, and could not, therefore, be confirmed as an archaeological feature or not.

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 the fieldwork. Several key observations can be made about the site at this early stage which will help to inform post-excavation strategy.

7.2

The work reported on here set out to evaluate a group of at least three longhouses (Buildings 3-5) located just to the east of the two main turf longhouses (Buildings 1 & 2) that had been excavated as part of the project to date. Currently no archaeological information exists to help ascertain the chronological relationship between these two groups of longhouses, however, subsequent radio-carbon dating of samples recovered from the

evaluation of Buildings 3, 4 and 5, to be carried out by the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), will hopefully help establish if any potential relationship exists between them and the 7th to 9th century AD Buildings 1 and 2 (Strachan & Sneddon 2012, 2013 & 2014). The evaluation did allow for a detailed assessment of the nature and condition of Buildings 3, 4 and 5 which will ultimately inform further investigation of these structures in future years.

7.3

The remains of the walls relating to Buildings 3, 4 and 5 were, in general, very similar to Buildings 1 and 2 in that they comprised a bank of earth; the result of collapsed and/or slumped turf which would have originally formed an upright low wall. Also similar to Buildings 1 and 2 was the relative lack of stone relating to the collapsed turf banks. Only Trench 24 revealed a significant concentration of stone relating to the walls of the building but, even then, it was in insufficient quantities to have originally formed a distinct stone wall. It appears, therefore, that the walls of buildings 3, 4 and 5 were formed from turf, with a stone component in places likely to be present through the turf layers, as edging or as foundation layer.

7.4

One of the best preserved sections of turf wall from the site to date appeared at the northern end of Trench 22 where the low northern wall of Building 5 appeared to have been formed from an outer and inner skin of turf with an earthen core. Distinct turf lenses have only been located sporadically within the collapsed turf walls of Buildings 1 to 5 and never in such a structural form as seen in Trench 22.

7.5

Within Trench 22 both the northern and southern collapsed walls of Building 3 (158 & 156 respectively) had been cut, on their northern side, by similarly shaped concave features (**207 & 215**), although each were different in size. Both these features were also filled by similar deposits, possibly containing the remnants of turf, suggesting some form of comparable activity had taken place on the northern side of each wall. The exact nature of this activity, at this stage, remains unknown.

7.6

No distinct stratigraphic relationship was revealed between any of the buildings or the oval enclosure on the south-western side of Building 3. This may be due to the collapsed and slumped nature of the walls having removed any obvious relationship between them, whether contemporary or not. Alternatively, if seen as contemporary, it may be that at least some of the buildings extended off from one another, rather than being stand alone structures, resulting in only one wall being present where two buildings would have joined.

7.7

Some of the most distinctive archaeology located during 2015 related to the internal area of Building 3 and the oval enclosure attached to its south-western side. Within the western end of Building 3 a possible occupation deposit was uncovered. Despite being up to only 0.07 m in depth and revealed over a relatively small area it contained a series of artefacts (including bone, pottery, iron, stone and a decorated spindle whorl) not found in the same concentrations at Lair before. A short distance to the east the internal area of Building 3, which appeared lower in height than the western end, contained a distinctive area of burning, a possible sunken floor filled with stone and a central post-hole. As with the artefact rich western end of the building this concentration of distinct features had not been uncovered at Lair before.

7.8

Similarly, the large central pit (**202**) within the enclosure had a complexity of deposits not seen elsewhere on site. This feature will be fully explored in future field seasons but, from current information, it appears that the lower fill was capped with turf before being filled with other material and recapped with turf. The true purpose of this feature is not yet known but its central location suggests a direct relationship with the enclosure.

7.9

Overall the archaeology uncovered within Trenches 22 to 26, over Buildings 3 to 5, was characterised by internal features of a nature and complexity not seen during the previous investigation of Buildings 1 and 2. This is perhaps not surprising given the more complex layout of Buildings 3 to 5 and their distinctive visibility on the surface when compared to Buildings 1 and 2.

7.10

The discoveries during 2015, in combination with those in 2012 to 2014, 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.

7.11

Given that the longhouses were most likely constructed primarily from low 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 northern wall of Building 5 where better preservation of the turf wall was present.

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 of this complex of buildings 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	21-26	Deposit	unknown	unknown	0.05-0.2	Turf/Heather & Topsoil.	From 2012-2014 season. Overlies entire site including all three trenches.
22	21-26	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.
151	22	Fill	Unknown	Unknown	0.25	Moderately compacted orange/brown sand and gravel with frequent small - large sub-angular stone inclusions. Upper natural subsoil on top of which all archaeology is present. Layer most likely to correspond to floor level of building 5 and into which negative features are cut. Present at northern end on TR22.	Below 001, 175, 196 & 198 Above 022
152	22	Structure	Unknown	0.50	Unknown	Rough linear row of stones immediately below topsoil following the line of the turf bank making the wall of the northern end of building 5. Either a core to the turf wall which has now slumped or the stones once sat on top of the turf bank.	Below 001
153	22	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
154	22	Structure	Unknown	0.75	Unknown	Two linear rows of stones in the centre of building 5 which appear to be running E-W, either side of gully [175]	Below 001 Above 151 & 155
155	22	Deposit	Unknown	0.52	0.14	Mottled orange/dark brown sand with rare small angular stone inclusions. Upper natural subsoil on top of which all archaeology is present. Layer most likely to correspond to floor level of building 5 and into which negative features are cut. Present to south of gully [177] and northern end on gully [203]. Same as (151).	Below 001 & 203 Above 022
156	22	Deposit	Unknown	1.80	0.34	Firmly compacted mid orange/brown sand and gravel with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions <0.40m diameter. Collapsed turf forming former northern wall of building 3. Possibly also past of southern wall of building 5 but difficult to differentiate stratigraphically.	Below 001 Above 022

Context No.	Trench	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description/Interpretation	Stratigraphy and/or phasing info
157	22	Structure	Unknown	2.05	0.30	Irregular placement of large flat topped stones in the centre of building 3. Possible stone infill to raise and level sunken floor, aid drainage and support post. Stones more level on surface and may possibly represent a floor surface.	Below 066 Above 206
158	22 & 23	Deposit	Unknown	1.95	0.35	Moderately compacted mid brown/orange silty sand and gravel with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions <0.30m diameter. Collapsed turf and earth wall at southern side of building 3.	Below 001, 159 & 207 Above 022
159	22	Deposit	Unknown	0.95	0.20	Firmly compacted orange/brown silty sand with frequent sub-angular stone inclusions <0.15m diameter. Stone and earth deposit to south of building 3. May join up with stone (171) in trench 21 to create a level area to south of building 3. Turf layers possibly present immediately south of bank (158) but not beyond large natural stone present in the section.	Below 001 Above 022 & 158
160	22	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
161	22	Deposit	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Grey/brown very firmly compacted patches of roots which gives an almost carpet like appearance, this is naturally occurring rooting due to heather growth.	Within 175
162	23	Deposit	Unknown	Unknown	0.07	Firmly compacted dark brown silty sand deposit immediately below the topsoil in the interior of building 3. Probable floor surface/working surface in the interior of the building. Contained pottery, burnt bone, misc Fe. Objects, slag and a spindle whirl.	Below 205 Above 022
163	22	Same as 178	Same as 178	Same as 178	Same as 178	Same as 178	Same as 178
164	22	Deposit	Unknown	1.28	0.09	Moderately compacted mottled orange/dark brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and lenses of burning. Distinct episode of burning possibly representing collapse/disuse of longhouse. Same as (165).	Below 205 Above 022
165	22	Deposit	Unknown	1.28	0.09	Moderately compacted mottled orange/dark brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and lenses of burning. Distinct episode of burning possibly representing collapse/disuse of longhouse. Same as (164).	Below 205 Above 022
166	22	Deposit	Unknown	2.05	0.30	Moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt matrix around large angular cobbles filling a wide central sunken area of the longhouse. The stones were randomly deposited with the exception of the upper	Below 001 Above 206

Context No.	Trench	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description/Interpretation	Stratigraphy and/or phasing info
						surface where some degree of placement had taken place creating a more level surface. The deposit contained a moderate amount of small charcoal pieces and some evidence of burning in the form of lightly scorched earth. Although the true extent of the feature was not uncovered within the trench it appeared to represent the purposeful infilling of a sunken interior of the longhouse creating a more level floor whilst also acting as a drain/sump.	
167	23	Deposit	Unknown	Unknown	0.15	Moderately compacted dark brown silty sand with very occasional small pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Possible floor surface/working surface of interior of small 'porch' off the southern side of building 3 or possible collapse.	Below 001 Above 212 & 214
168	22	Fill	0.25	0.25	0.15	Moderately compacted grey/brown sandy silt with occasional small pebbles and charcoal flecks. Fill of posthole [169] at base of sunken interior area of building 3.	Below 157 & 166 Above 169
169	22	Cut	0.25	0.25	0.15	Cut of circular post-hole with near vertical sides at base of sunken interior area of building 3.	Below 168 Above 022
170	21	Deposit	Unknown	Unknown	0.26	Moderately compacted mid-brown silty sand with occasional large sub-angular stones and very occasional small sub-angular stones. Probable levelling deposit creating a platform at southern side of building 3.	Below 001 Above 171
171	21	Natural	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Moderately compacted mid-orange/brown sand and gravel with frequent medium - large sub-angular stone inclusions. Upper layer of natural subsoil. Same as (181).	Below 170
172	23	Cut	0.22	0.22	0.20	Cut of possible post-hole in building 3 with vertical sides and 'V' shaped base	Below 173 Above 162
173	23	Fill	0.22	0.22	0.20	Loosely compacted dark brown/black silty sand fill of post-hole [172].	Below 001 Above 172
174	23	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
175	22	Fill	Unknown	2.44	0.30	Moderately compacted light brown sand and silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions <0.15m diameter. Partially slumped low turf wall forming northern side of building 5. Relatively well preserved turf layers present, so much so that a double skinned turf wall with earth core (198) may be represented.	Below 001 Above 151

Context No.	Trench	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description/Interpretation	Stratigraphy and/or phasing info
176	22	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
177	22	Cut	Unknown	0.60	0.06	Cut for possible gully/drainage channel running down the centre of building 5. Shallow angled concave sides with a flat base.	Below 178 Above 022
178	22	Fill	Unknown	0.55	0.14	Firmly compacted orange/brown clay deposit with occasional small stone inclusions in gully within building 5. Same as (163).	Below 001 Above 177
179	22	Fill	Unknown	1.52	0.26	Firmly compacted mottled dark brown/orange sand with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions <0.10m diameter and occasional charcoal flecks. Possible mixed/slumped turf layers sitting within what appears to be a shallow cut into the northern side of the collapsed wall on the northern side of building 3, unknown whether it relates to building 3 or 5. Similar to that of context (180). Possible repair of turf wall?	Below 001 Above 215
180	22	Fill	Unknown	0.65	0.15	Firmly compacted mottled dark brown sandy silt and gravel. Similar to that of context (179). Possible mixed/slumped turf and earth sitting within what appears to be a shallow cut [207] excavated into the northern (interior) side of building 3's southern wall. Possible repair of turf wall?	Below 001 Above 207
181	22	Natural	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Moderately compacted mid-orange/brown sand and gravel with frequent medium - large sub-angular stone inclusions. Upper layer of natural subsoil at southern end of trench 22. Same as (171).	Below 159
182	24	Deposit	Unknown	Unknown	0.38	Firmly compacted orange/brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions. Eastern turf bank which has slumped over gully/drainage channel [183] to the west.	Below 187 Above 184 & 186
183	24	Cut	Unknown	Unknown	0.14	Possible cut of gully/drainage channel in the interior of the eastern bank of building 3 or possibly the beginning of a sunken floor. Very shallow cut with flat base partially visible.	Below 184 Above 022
184	24	Fill	Unknown	Unknown	0.14	Firmly compacted orange/brown silty sand with occasional small roots and rare small rounded stone inclusions. Fill of possible gully/drainage channel [183] or sunken floor.	Below 182 Above 183
185	24	Cut	Unknown	0.36	0.10	Cut of possible gully to the western side of trench 24. Moderately angled sides with flat base.	Below 186 Above 022
186	24	Fill	Unknown	0.36	0.10	Moderately compacted mid-brown silty sand with occasional small roots. Fill of gully/drainage channel [185].	Below 182 Above 185
187	24	Cut	Unknown	Approx	Approx	Very faint possible cut through turf bank (182), only visible in section	Below 001

Context No.	Trench	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description/Interpretation	Stratigraphy and/or phasing info
				0.45	0.30	in certain light conditions.	Above 186
188	24	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
189	24	Deposit	Unknown	2.10	0.25	Firmly compacted orange/brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions <0.25 m diameter. Western turf bank of building 4 which has slumped to the west.	Below 001 Above 022
190	26	Deposit	Unknown	Unknown	0.13	Firmly compacted light - medium yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions <0.15 m diameter and occasional flecks of charcoal. Upper layer of turf wall at the eastern extent of building 5. (Same as 191) but has been stained by leaching from topsoil above.	Below 001 Above 191
191	26	Deposit	Unknown	Unknown	0.16	Firmly compacted mid- yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions <0.25 m diameter and occasional flecks of charcoal. Upper layer of turf wall at the eastern extent of building 5. (Same as 190).	Below 190 Above 192
192	26	Natural	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Firmly compacted reddish orange/brown gravelly sand with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions <0.05 m diameter. Probable natural subsoil cut by [193] beneath wall of building. Same as (022).	Below 190 & 193
193	26	Cut	Approx 0.15	Approx 0.15	Approx 0.05	Cut of possible post-hole at the eastern extent of the interior of building 5. Concave shaped cut with flat base which is cut into the natural beneath turf bank (191).	Below 194 Above 192
194	26	Fill	Approx 0.15	Approx 0.15	Approx 0.05	Loose - moderately compacted reddish brown silty sand fill of possible post-hole (193).	Below 191 Above 193
195	25	Deposit	Unknown	Unknown	0.30	Moderate - firmly compacted brown/orange silty sand with frequent large sub-angular stone inclusions, occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions and charcoal flecks. Possible turf and stone remains of eastern gable wall, highly denuded and heavily slumped.	Below 001 Above 022
196	22	Cut	Unknown	0.86	0.18	Shallow cut on outside edge of building 5 (northern side) with moderately angled sides and flat base. May relate to the use of the longhouse.	Below 197 Above 151 & 175
197	22	Deposit	Unknown	0.86	0.18	Moderate - firmly compacted light-mid brown sand and gravel with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions <0.15m diameter. Fill of shallow cut [196] to north of building 5. Homogenous deposit of unknown origin which may not relate to the use of the longhouse.	Below 001 Above 196

Context No.	Trench	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description/Interpretation	Stratigraphy and/or phasing info
198	22	Deposit	Unknown	0.36	0.30	Moderately compacted orange/brown sand with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions <0.05m diameter. Possible earth 'core' between outer and inner skin of turf wall (175) on northern wall of building 5.	Below 001 Above 151
199	23	Deposit	Unknown	0.85	0.09	Moderately compacted light brown/orange sandy deposit with dark lenses of brown silty sand. Possible collapsed turf deposit or turf infill. Originally this was interpreted as burrowing.	Below 001 Above 200
200	23	Deposit	Unknown	Unknown	0.15	Moderately compacted dark grey/brown coarse sand. Possible re-deposited topsoil after the infill of the ditch deposit (220).	Below 199 Above 220
201	23	Deposit	Unknown	0.80	0.28	Firmly compacted mid brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks, Primary fill of ditch [202].	Below 220 Above 202
202	23	Cut	Unknown	0.85	0.42	Cut of ditch/pit within 'porch' to south side of building 3. Irregular concave shaped cut with steep sides. Function unknown although could be related to a 'toilet'.	Below 201 Above 022
203	22	Cut	Unknown	0.30	0.15	Cut of possible gully to the northern side of the northern wall of building 3 with moderately steep angled sides and almost 'V' shaped base. Appears to be inside building 5 in an unusual position possibly suggesting it relates more to building 3. Possible drip gully?	Below 204 Above 155
204	22	Fill	Unknown	0.30	0.15	Firmly compacted dark orange/light brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular stone inclusions <0.20m diameter and occasional flecks of charcoal. Fill of possible gully [203].	Below 001 Above 203
205	22	Deposit	Unknown	1.04	0.15	Firmly compacted light-mid orange/brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions <0.05m diameter. Similar to bank (156), possibly collapsed material from turf/earth wall.	Below 001 Above 165
206	22	Cut	Unknown	2.05	0.30	Cut of sunken area in centre of building 3 with moderately angled sides and concave base. Possibly forms a drain/sump.	Below 166 Above 022
207	22	Cut	Unknown	0.64	0.15	Shallow cut into northern (interior) side of southern wall remains in building 3. Moderately angled sides and relatively flat base. Possible repair of wall? Similar to that of [215].	Below 180 Above 022 & 158
208	23	Cut	0.47	0.47	0.33	Circular shaped cut with steeply angled sides and a 'V' shaped base. This appears to be a re-cut of possible post-hole/pit [216].	Below 209 Above 217
209	23	Fill	0.47	0.47	0.33	Moderately compacted dark grey/brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions <0.15 m diameter. Fill of possible post-hole/pit [208].	Below 001 Above 208

<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>
210	23	Fill	0.26 N-S	Unknown	Unknown	Moderately compacted dark grey/brown silty sand fill of possible feature, as of yet unexcavated.	Below 001 Above 211
211	23	Cut	0.26 N-S	Unknown	Unknown	Circular feature on plan, possible post-hole/pit, as of yet unexcavated.	Below 210 Above 162
212	23	Structure	Unknown	1.60	0.50	Turf and stone bank of circular 'porch' on south side of building 3.	Below 214 Above 022
213	23	Deposit	Unknown	0.60 N-S	0.25	Firmly compacted light brown sandy turf and gravel layers within the bank [212] of the circular 'porch' on the south side of building 3.	Below 001 Above 214
214	23	Deposit	Unknown	1.23 N-S	0.26	Moderately compacted dark grey/brown sandy silt with occasional lenses of orange silty sand. Lenses of possible turf deposits within bank [212] of the circular 'porch' on the south side of building 3.	Below 213 Above 022 & 158
215	22	Cut	Unknown	1.50	0.26	Shallow cut into northern side of collapsed wall on northern side of building 3. Gradual sloping concave sides with a flat base. Unknown whether it relates to building 3 or 5. possible repair of wall? Similar to [207].	Below 179 Above 022 & 156
216	23	Cut	Unknown	0.50 N-S	0.36	Cut of a possible pit/post-hole. Semi-circle visible as not fully exposed. Near vertical southern side of cut and moderately angled on northern side and a 'V' shaped base. Primary cut of a pit/post-hole which has been re-cut by possible post-hole/pit [208].	Below 217 Above 022
217	23	Fill	Unknown	0.08 N-S	0.36	Moderately compacted orange/brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions. Primary fill of post-hole/pit which has been re-cut by [208].	Below 208 Above 216
218	23	Cut	0.34 N-S	0.30 E-W	Unknown	Possible cut of post-hole/pit. Only partially excavated and not bottomed.	Below 219 Above 022
219	23	Fill	0.34 N-S	0.30 E-W	Unknown	Loosely compacted dark brown/black silty sand fill of possible pit/post-hole [218]. Only partially excavated and not bottomed.	Below 001 Above 218
220	23	Deposit	0.87 N-S	Unknown	0.20	Deposit above turf layer in large pit/ditch [202].	Below 200 Above 201
221	25	Structure	Unknown	Approx 0.25	Approx 0.10	Possible stone edging inside eastern gable wall of building 4. Exists 3 courses in height and one in width and is of sub-angular dry stone cobble construction. Possible stone lining inner face of former eastern gable wall or perhaps collapse from stone within former turf wall.	Below 195 Above 022
222	24	Cut	Unknown	0.85	0.11	Possible scoop at eastern end of trench. Very shallow with shallow angled sides and irregular base.	Below 189 Above 022

Table 2: Small Finds

<i>Find No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>No. of Pieces</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description</i>
26	161	22	1	Slag	Small lump of slag with green tinge
27	162	23	1	Pottery/Daub	Small sherd of pottery
28	163 = 178	22	1	Fe.	Small fragment of misc Fe.
29	159	22	1	Stone	Possible broken stone tool
30	182	24	1	Stone	Possible stone lamp
31	158	22	1	Stone	Possible stone tool
32	156	22	1	Pottery	Body sherd of pottery
33	162	23	1	Stone	Spindle whorl with markings
34	167	23	2	Fe.	Small corroded fragment of Fe.
35	162	23	1	Slag	Small rusted fragment of slag
36	162	23	10	Fe.	Small fragments of misc Fe.
37	162	23	1	Flint	Flint nodule, white in colour
38	162	23	4	Bone	Small fragments of bone
39	162	23	1	Stone	Small rounded flat stone
40	162	23	1	Fe.	Possible Fe. Knife
41	162	23	1	Stone	Small oval pebble

Table 3: General Finds

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>No. of Pieces</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description</i>
n/a	23	1	Flint	Small flint flake
Animal burrow	23	1	Fe.	Misc small Fe. Object
195	25	1	Quartz	Small fragment of shaped quartz

Table 4: Samples

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>% of deposit</i>	<i>Vol. (l)</i>	<i>No./Size Bucket</i>	<i>Reason for sampling</i>					<i>Application/ comments</i>
					<i>Pot</i>	<i>Lithic</i>	<i>Bone</i>	<i>Botanics</i>	<i>Other</i>	
72	163	unknown	10	1 x bucket				✓		Shallow gully at base of trench in centre of N structure
73	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID						VOID
74	164	unknown	10	1 x bucket				✓		Burnt layer to south of northern wall in the southern structure
75	166	unknown	8	1 x bucket	✓	✓	✓	✓		Fill of drain
76	168	100	10	1 x bucket				✓		Fill of post hole [169]
77	165	<1	n/a	1 x small bag				✓		Large charcoal sample from burnt feature

Table 5: Drawings

<i>Drawing No.</i>	<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Scale</i>
112	2015/1	Tr. 24	182, 189	Mid excavation plan after removal of topsoil	1:20
113	2015/2	Tr. 22	001	Mid excavation plan of trench 22, 1 of 2 (see dwg. 006)	1:20
114	2015/4	Tr. 22	163, 164	Overlay of burnt deposit	1:20
115	2015/5	Tr. 23	158	Mid excavation plan of trench 23	1:20
116	2015/1	Tr. 24	182, 189	Mid excavation plan of trench 24	1:20
117	2015/6	Tr. 22	001	Mid excavation plan of trench 22, 2 of 2 (see dwg. 002)	1:20
118	2015/7	Tr. 21	170	Post excavation plan of trench 21	1:20
119	2015/8	Tr. 24	183, 185, 187	Post excavation plan of trench 24	1:20
120	2015/9	Tr. 22	157	Overlay, centre of southern structure	1:20
121	2015/16	Tr. 25	001	Mid excavation plan after removal of topsoil	1:20
122	2015/9	Tr. 22	168, 169	North facing section of post hole	1:10
123	2015/10	Tr. 21	170, 171	Northeast facing section of possible bank	1:10
124	2015/11	Tr. 24	182 - 189	West facing section of trench 24	1:10
125	2015/12	Tr. 24	182	Mid excavation plan of extension to trench 24	1:20
126	2015/13	Tr. 23	199 - 202	East facing section of ditch in trench 23	1:10
127	2015/14	Tr. 26	190, 192 - 194	Post excavation plan of trench 26	1:20
128	2015/15	Tr. 22	022	Post excavation plan of sondage in trench 22	1:20
129	2015/14	Tr. 26	190 - 192	Southeast facing section of trench 26	1:10
130	2015/20	Tr. 23	158, 162, 172, 201, 202, 210, 211	Post excavation profile of pit	1:10
131	2015/17	Tr. 25	195	South facing section of trench 25	1:10
132	2015/18	Tr. 22	151, 155, 156, 165, 175, 177 - 179, 196, 197, 203 - 205	West facing section of trench 22 (1-3 of 6)	1:10
133	2015/19	Tr. 22	028, 169, 208	Post excavation plan of trench 22	1:20
134	2015/3	Tr. 23	158 - 162	Mid excavation plan of trench 23	1:20
135	2015/7, 8 & 15	Tr. 22	158, 159, 165, 166, 180, 206, 207	West facing section of trench 22 (4-6 of 6)	1:10
136	2015/20	Tr. 23	001	Post excavation plan of trench 23	1:20

<i>Drawing No.</i>	<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Scale</i>
137	2015/16	Tr. 23	158, 162, 172, 173, 208, 209	West facing section of trench 23, 1 of 4	1:10
138	2015/16	Tr. 23	167, 212	West facing section of trench 23, 4 of 4	1:10
139	2015/12	Tr. 23	167, 214	West facing section of trench 23, 3 of 4	1:10
140	2015/12	Tr. 23	158, 213, 214	West facing section of trench 23, 2 of 4	1:10
141	2015/17	Tr. 25	001, 022	Post excavation plan of trench 25	1:20

Table 6: Digital Photographs

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
667	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw
668	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
669	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
670	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of trench 22, western structure	W	.jpeg & .raw
671	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of trench 22, western structure	NW	.jpeg & .raw
672	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of trench 22, western structure	SW	.jpeg & .raw
673	Tr. 22	Working shot	SW	.jpeg & .raw
674	Tr. 22	Working shot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
675	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21	S	.jpeg & .raw
676	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21	S	.jpeg & .raw
677	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21	E	.jpeg & .raw
678	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21	N	.jpeg & .raw
679	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21	W	.jpeg & .raw
680	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of southern end of trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
681	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of southern end of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
682	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of northern end of trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
683	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of northern end of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw
684	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of northern wall in northern structure	E	.jpeg & .raw
685	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of northern wall in northern structure	W	.jpeg & .raw
686	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of centre of northern structure	W	.jpeg & .raw
687	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of southern wall in northern structure	W	.jpeg & .raw
688	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of northern wall in southern structure	W	.jpeg & .raw
689	Tr. 22	General mid excavation shot of northern end of trench 22	NE	.jpeg & .raw
690	Tr. 22	General mid excavation shot of northern end of trench 22	NE	.jpeg & .raw
691	Tr. 22	General mid excavation shot of southern end of trench 22	SE	.jpeg & .raw
692	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of trench 24 showing walls	W	.jpeg & .raw
693	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of trench 24 showing walls	E	.jpeg & .raw
694	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of southern end of trench 24	S	.jpeg & .raw
695	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of northern end of trench 24	S	.jpeg & .raw
696	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of southern end of trench 24	N	.jpeg & .raw
697	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of northern end of trench 24	N	.jpeg & .raw
698	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of centre of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw
699	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of centre of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
700	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of centre of trench 22	E	.jpeg & .raw
701	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of centre of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
702	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of centre of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
703	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
703	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
705	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
706	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of trench 22	SW	.jpeg & .raw
707	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw
708	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of trench 22	NW	.jpeg & .raw
709	Tr. 21-24	Working shot	NW	.jpeg & .raw
710	Tr. 21-24	Working shot	W	.jpeg & .raw
711	Tr. 22	Working shot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
712	Tr. 22	Working shot	SE	.jpeg & .raw
713	Tr. 22	Working shot	S	.jpeg & .raw
714	Tr. 22	Working shot	W	.jpeg & .raw
715	Tr. 22	Working shot	NE	.jpeg & .raw
716	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of trench 23	S	.jpeg & .raw
717	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of trench 23	N	.jpeg & .raw
718	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of possible porch area	E	.jpeg & .raw
719	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of burrowing and wall	SW	.jpeg & .raw
720	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of wall/bank	W	.jpeg & .raw
721	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of interior of structure	S	.jpeg & .raw
722	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of burrowing and wall	SW	.jpeg & .raw
723	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of burnt area	S	.jpeg & .raw
724	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of burnt area	S	.jpeg & .raw
725	Tr. 22	Close up of burnt area within trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
726	Tr. 22	Northern end of east facing section of sondage in trench 22 showing possible drip gully	E	.jpeg & .raw
727	Tr. 22	Northern end of east facing section of sondage in trench 22 showing wall/bank	E	.jpeg & .raw
728	Tr. 22	Northern end of east facing section of sondage in trench 22 showing wall/bank	E	.jpeg & .raw
729	Tr. 22	East facing section of sondage in trench 22 showing drip gully and wall/bank	E	.jpeg & .raw
730	Tr. 22	East facing section of sondage in trench 22 showing detail of turf line	E	.jpeg & .raw
731	Tr. 22	East facing section of sondage in trench 22 showing detail of turf line	E	.jpeg & .raw
732	Tr. 22	East facing section of sondage in trench 22 showing detail of drip gully	E	.jpeg & .raw
733	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of clay deposit within the northern structure in trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
734	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of section through walls in trench 24	W	.jpeg & .raw
735	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of section through walls in trench 24	E	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
736	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of section through walls in trench 24	E	.jpeg & .raw
737	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21 before sondage	S	.jpeg & .raw
738	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21 before sondage	E	.jpeg & .raw
739	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21 before sondage	W	.jpeg & .raw
740	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21 before sondage	N	.jpeg & .raw
741	Tr. 22	Possible toppled stone from structure in trench 22	E	.jpeg & .raw
742	Tr. 22	Close up of possible toppled stone from structure in trench 22	E	.jpeg & .raw
743	Tr. 22	Dark area opposite toppled stone in trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
744	Tr. 22	Outside edge of southern bank in trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
745	Tr. 22	Possible area of burning in trench 22	E	.jpeg & .raw
746	Tr. 22	Possible area of burning in trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
747	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of possible drain with clay deposit removed	W	.jpeg & .raw
748	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of sondage within trench 24	W	.jpeg & .raw
749	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of sondage within trench 24	E	.jpeg & .raw
750	Tr. 26	Mid excavation shot of trench 26	SW	.jpeg & .raw
751	Tr. 26	Mid excavation shot of trench 26	NE	.jpeg & .raw
752	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21 showing sondage	E	.jpeg & .raw
753	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21 showing sondage	S	.jpeg & .raw
754	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21 showing sondage	W	.jpeg & .raw
755	Tr. 21	Mid excavation shot of trench 21 showing sondage	S	.jpeg & .raw
756	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of large stone filled depression in centre of trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
757	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of large stone filled depression in centre of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
758	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of large stone filled depression in centre of trench 22	E	.jpeg & .raw
759	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of large stone filled depression in centre of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw
760	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of large stone filled depression in centre of trench 22	W	.jpeg & .raw
761	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of large stone filled depression in centre of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
762	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of large stone filled depression in centre of trench 22	E	.jpeg & .raw
763	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of large stone filled depression in centre of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw
764	Tr. 24	Post excavation shot of trench 24, showing possible drip gully	S	.jpeg & .raw
765	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of sondage in trench 23	S	.jpeg & .raw
766	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of sondage in trench 23	NW	.jpeg & .raw
767	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of sondage in trench 23	N	.jpeg & .raw
768	Tr. 23	Small find 8 in situ	W	.jpeg & .raw
769	Tr. 23	Small find 8 in situ	N	.jpeg & .raw
770	Tr. 23	Working shot of excavating around small find 8	N	.jpeg & .raw
771	Tr. 23	Working shot of excavating around small find 8	N	.jpeg & .raw
772	Tr. 25	Mid excavation shot of trench 25	W	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
773	Tr. 25	Mid excavation shot of trench 25	E	.jpeg & .raw
774	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of trench 23, northern end	N	.jpeg & .raw
775	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of trench 23, northern end	S	.jpeg & .raw
776	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of possible post hole	E	.jpeg & .raw
777	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of possible post hole	W	.jpeg & .raw
778	Tr. 22	Pre excavation shot of possible post hole	E	.jpeg & .raw
779	Tr. 22	Working shot of excavating possible post hole	SW	.jpeg & .raw
780	Tr. 22	Working shot of excavating possible post hole	SW	.jpeg & .raw
781	Tr. 22	Working shot of excavating possible post hole	SW	.jpeg & .raw
782	Tr. 24	Western end of south facing section of sondage in trench 24	S	.jpeg & .raw
783	Tr. 24	Central area of south facing section of sondage in trench 24	S	.jpeg & .raw
784	Tr. 24	Eastern end of south facing section of sondage in trench 24	S	.jpeg & .raw
785	Tr. 24	Post excavation shot of trench 24	W	.jpeg & .raw
786	Tr. 24	Post excavation shot of trench 24 showing drainage gully	S	.jpeg & .raw
787	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of possible post hole	W	.jpeg & .raw
788	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of possible post hole	E	.jpeg & .raw
789	Tr. 22	Mid excavation shot of possible post hole	S	.jpeg & .raw
790	Tr. 22	North facing section of possible post hole	N	.jpeg & .raw
791	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 1 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
792	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 2 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
793	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 3 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
794	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 4 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
795	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 5 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
796	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 6 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
797	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 7 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
798	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 8 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
799	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 9 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
800	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 10 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
801	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 11 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
802	Tr. 22	West facing section of trench 22, 12 of 12 (N-S)	W	.jpeg & .raw
803	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
804	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
805	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw
806	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw
807	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of post hole, close up	S	.jpeg & .raw
808	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of post hole	S	.jpeg & .raw
809	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of post hole	S	.jpeg & .raw
810	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of northern end of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
811	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of southern end of trench 22	N	.jpeg & .raw
812	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of centre of trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
813	Tr. 22	Working shot	S	.jpeg & .raw
814	Tr. 25	Working shot	SW	.jpeg & .raw
815	Tr. 23	Working shot	S	.jpeg & .raw
816	Tr. 21	Working shot	S	.jpeg & .raw
817	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of trench 24	N	.jpeg & .raw
818	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of trench 24	S	.jpeg & .raw

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Format</i>
819	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of curved wall or structure in trench 24	W	.jpeg & .raw
820	Tr. 23	East facing section of possible pit/linear feature	E	.jpeg & .raw
821	Tr. 23	Mid excavation shot of section - possible pit/linear feature	E	.jpeg & .raw
822	Tr. 23	West facing section of possible pit/linear feature	W	.jpeg & .raw
823	Tr. 23	West facing section of possible pit/linear feature	W	.jpeg & .raw
824	Tr. 26	Post excavation shot of trench 26	SW	.jpeg & .raw
825	Tr. 26	Post excavation shot of trench 26	NE	.jpeg & .raw
826	Tr. 26	Southeast facing section of trench 26	SE	.jpeg & .raw
827	Tr. 26	Pre excavation shot of possible post hole	NW	.jpeg & .raw
828	Tr. 25	Western half of south facing section of trench 25	S	.jpeg & .raw
829	Tr. 25	Eastern half of south facing section of trench 25	S	.jpeg & .raw
830	Tr. 25	West facing section of trench 25	W	.jpeg & .raw
831	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of sondage in trench 22	S	.jpeg & .raw
832	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of sondage in trench 22	E	.jpeg & .raw
833	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of sondage in trench 22	E	.jpeg & .raw
834	Tr. 22	Post excavation shot of sondage in trench 22	E	.jpeg & .raw
835	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of trench 24	W	.jpeg & .raw
836	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of trench 24	S	.jpeg & .raw
837	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of trench 24	E	.jpeg & .raw
838	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of trench 24	N	.jpeg & .raw
839	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of wall feature in trench 24	W	.jpeg & .raw
840	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of wall feature in trench 24	N	.jpeg & .raw
841	Tr. 24	Mid excavation shot of wall feature in trench 24	NE	.jpeg & .raw
842	Tr. 24	Pre excavation shot of possible stone defined post hole	N	.jpeg & .raw
843	Tr. 24	Pre excavation shot of possible stone feature	E	.jpeg & .raw
844	Tr. 24	Pre excavation shot of possible stone feature	E	.jpeg & .raw
845	Tr. 24	Post excavation shot of linear stone feature/wall	N	.jpeg & .raw
846	Tr. 24	Post excavation shot of linear stone feature/wall	S	.jpeg & .raw
847	Tr. 23	East facing section of ditch in trench 23	W	.jpeg & .raw
848	Tr. 23	East facing section of ditch in trench 23	W	.jpeg & .raw
849	Tr. 24	Sondage in interior of structure	S	.jpeg & .raw
850	Tr. 24	Sondage in interior of structure	S	.jpeg & .raw
851	Tr. 24	Sondage in interior of structure	E	.jpeg & .raw
852	Tr. 23	Series of possible post holes in trench 23	N	.jpeg & .raw
853	Tr. 23	Series of possible post holes in trench 23	W	.jpeg & .raw
854	Tr. 23	Series of possible post holes in trench 23	NW	.jpeg & .raw
855	Tr. 23	West facing section of trench 23, 1 of 6 (S-N)	W	.jpeg & .raw
856	Tr. 23	West facing section of trench 23, 2 of 6 (S-N)	W	.jpeg & .raw
857	Tr. 23	West facing section of trench 23, 3 of 6 (S-N)	W	.jpeg & .raw
858	Tr. 23	West facing section of trench 23, 4 of 6 (S-N)	W	.jpeg & .raw
859	Tr. 23	West facing section of trench 23, 5 of 6 (S-N)	W	.jpeg & .raw
860	Tr. 23	West facing section of trench 23, 6 of 6 (S-N)	W	.jpeg & .raw
861	Tr. 23	Post excavation shot of trench 23	S	.jpeg & .raw
862	Tr. 23	post excavation shot of trench 23	N	.jpeg & .raw
863	Tr. 23	Post excavation shot of central pit feature in plan	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 LOCH AIDH	HUT CIRCLE SETTLEMENT	MPK4461	NO16SW 52
LAIR / TORR LOCH AIDH	HUT CIRCLE	MPK4469	NO16SW 6
TORR LOCH AIDH	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:	120 (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 th June 2015
END DATE (this season)	13 th June 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Walkover & topographic survey; Excavation (Strachan & Sneddon, DES 2012, 2013 & 2014)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	In June 2015 a fourth season of fieldwork saw excavation of a series of evaluation trenches over a complex of at least three adjacent longhouses located to the east of a ring cairn and two other longhouses, the latter forming the focus of excavations over 2012-14. The complex exhibits many of the characteristics of the classic 'Pitcarmick type' with rounded ends, an external oval enclosure attached to one external wall and signs of at least some slightly sunken internal areas. A total of six trenches were opened during the course of the fieldwork which focused on evaluating the character and preservation of the building walls and internal areas. Trenches also evaluated the oval enclosure attached to the SW side of one longhouse and the external area to the south of the longhouses. The walls of the structures appeared, in general, to be constructed from a combination of turf and stone although well preserved turf layers in the wall of the northern most building appear to show a wall composed of an inner and outer skin of turf with an earthen core. A series of internal features and deposits were also uncovered including substantial layers of stone work in the centre of one of the buildings, post-holes and burnt layers. One of the most distinctive features encountered was a substantial pit in the centre of the oval enclosure containing a series of distinctive fills, including turf layers. Artefacts recovered included fragments of flint, corroded iron pieces, small pottery fragments and a spindle whorl with incised markings. A series of samples have been recovered for radiocarbon dating which will improve our understanding of early medieval turf longhouses in the area.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Further excavation is planned for 2016.
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, The Gannochy 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)	Historic Environment Scotland (intended)