King's Seat, Dunkeld, Perth and Kinross:
Archaeological Evaluation Phase 1
Data Structure Report

AOC 23917

aocarch1-302707

AOC Archaeology Group

ARCHAEOLOGY | HERITAGE | CONSERVATION

King's Seat, Dunkeld, Perth and Kinross:

Archaeological Evaluation Phase 1

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust**
4 York Place
Perth
PH2 8EP

National Grid Reference (NGR): **NO 0093 4303**

AOC Project No: **23917**

Prepared by: **C. MacIver, M. Cook, A. Heald, K. Roper, D. Strachan**

Illustration by: **C.MacIver, J.Humble & L.Teufel**

Date of Fieldwork: **September 2017**

Date of Report: **November 2017**

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Cathy MacIver, Martin Cook **Date: 01/12/2017**

Approved by: Martin Cook

Report Stage: Final **Date: 12/12/2017**

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com

www.**aocarchaeology**.com

Contents

List of Illustrations

List of Plates

List of Appendices

ABSTRACT

An archaeological excavation was undertaken Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust in partnership with Dunkeld and Birnam Historical Society, with local volunteers and AOC Archaeology Group at King's Seat hillfort. The works followed on from vegetation clearance and initial survey work done on the site. The 2017 works formed the first season of an intended three year programme of excavations at the hillfort.

The 2017 works comprised four trenches, which investigated structures identified during topographic survey and on the RCHAMS interpretive survey of the site. These trenches aimed to assess the nature and construction of various structures across the hillfort including the series of lower ramparts (Trench 1); the area next to the glacial erratic within the summit enclosure (Trench 2); the summit enclosure bank (Trench 3); and another area of the upper interior (Trench 4).

The system of ramparts investigated in Trench 1 showed several substantial, roughly built banks comprising large boulders, stone and earth. The inner upper rampart had several postholes c.1m to the interior, likely representing an inner revetment or timber component to the bank. Later modification was evident. The middle rampart was of similar construction with smaller stones which had slumped down the steep natural slope. The lowest rampart was disturbed and heavily modified in the Victorian period to create a kerbed terraced track up the hill.

The large glacial erratic identified at the top of the hill, known at the 'King's Seat' was an impressive focal point located on higher ground within the summit enclosure. Trench 2 was located in this area to investigate the deposits in and around this feature. The deposits overlying the natural bedrock were thin and material was representative of disturbed hillwash, heavily impacted by rhododendron roots. Finds from this layer included modern coins and pottery to early medieval stone moulds and crucible fragments for metal working. Underlying this mixed deposit was a sloping face of quarried bedrock. In places it appeared that this quarrying represented the creation of stone settings, in other areas it was unclear what purpose the quarrying served.

The summit enclosure rampart wall, identified in Trench 3 was appeared quite low and hard to identify in some places around the edge of the summit. Excavation proved it was clearly once substantial and would have been c. 3m wide minimum. On the ground it appeared quite denuded as a result of slumping off the steep hillside. This structure was represented by a >4m wide spread of stone and earth. There was a possible rough inner face or kerb of larger stone but there was no outer face identified within the trench due to the trench extent being limited by the steep slope. Within the rampart itself were various fragments of stone moulds, reused or discarded as part of the material forming the bank.

The deposits which had built up in the summit enclosure were further explored in Trench 4, at the base of slope, below Trench 2. The deposits here were rich in material culture with the upper layers containing lots of animal bone, teeth, claws and horns, metal-working waste, crucible fragments and a spindle whorl.

The 2017 evidence helped to clarify the structures at King's Seat, as well as to start to add new information to understand the use, longevity and possible occupation of the hillfort complex. We have various finds suggesting occupation and craft processes occurring on site, including hints of a metalworking industry, a spindle whorl, substantial deposits of animal bone and rock-cut features in the internal area of the upper enclosure. This information provides a good basis for further investigation over 2018-2019. Excavation in Trench 1 and 4 will be recommenced in the next season as the deposits were not fully excavated. Further investigation of the internal area at the summit, the mid terrace within the lower series of ramparts and the possible later annexe enclosure would help clarify the basic chronology and elements of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

A community archaeology project, comprising the excavation of four trenches, was carried out at King's Seat, Dunkeld, Perth and Kinross. The project was undertaken on behalf of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) in partnership with Dunkeld and Birnam Historical Society, with AOC Archaeology Group. The project followed on from a phase of vegetation clearance and initial survey work. This initial phase aimed to: investigate the nature and date of the ramparts, to assess potential internal structures and deposits. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Project Design* (Strachan 2017). The project was undertaken with the kind permission of the landowner, Mr. Arnold Schnegg, Dunkeld House Hotel, to whom thanks are due. PKHT and AOC Archaeology Group would like to thank all of the volunteers who made the excavation a success.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

King's Seat Hillfort (NGR: NO 0093 4303; NMRS: NO04SW19; PKHER: MPK5444; Scheduled Monument: 1598), also known as 'The Fort of the Caledonians', is located on the summit of King's Seat, a key geographical feature in the landscape, located on a bend on the north size of the River Tay. The forts defences are comprised of a central citadel or summit enclosure occupying the summit of the hill and a series of ramparts taking in lower terraces. The enclosed summit measures about 35m by 22m within what are probably the remains of a thick wall. The entrance is located to the north and there appears to have been a trackway dropping down to a lower terrace on the west. This trackway and the terrace are edged by a rampart reduced to a stony bank up to 4m in thickness by 0.4m in height, its south end resting on the lip of a precipitous cliff. Below this terrace, on the west, the approach to the fort is partially blocked by three rampart-like features, which form a flight of terraces levelled into the slope. King's Seat Hillfort sits on exposed bedrock of the Ben Ledi Grit Formation, being Metasandstone, with the drift geology of the surrounding area consisting of alluvium and river terrace deposits of clay, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 1:50000 digital data).

All of the currently identified earthworks relating to the site are included in the scheduled area. The Scheduled Monument designation documentation from October 2011 includes the following summary:

Scheduled as 'King's Seat, fort' the substantial upstanding remains of a later prehistoric or early historic fort. This defended settlement survives as a series of up to four concentric ramparts and terraces, enclosing a central walled citadel on the summit of a craggy hill known as King's Seat. The fort occupies a commanding position overlooking the River Tay at approximately 150m above sea level, with excellent views to the north, south and west.

Similar later prehistoric and early historic defended settlement sites are widely distributed across mainland eastern Scotland, especially south of the Firth of Forth, while isolated examples such as King's Seat occur elsewhere. King's Seat is not a particularly large example of its class. The comparatively low density of forts in this area, at least when viewed against the backdrop of their general distribution further south, suggests that sites such as this might have had increased significance as the strongholds of an elite element in the local population.

Dunkeld emerged as the centre of Atholl in the early historic period, probably because of its prime geographical location at the foot of the Highland Edge, dominating the lines of communication northwards and westwards by way of the valley of the Tay, and marking the transition between fertile lowlands and more marginal upland. It has been suggested that the fort at King's Seat may have been the seat of royal power in Atholl during the early historic period. Its location just above the Roman legionary fortress and other Roman works at Inchtuthil may also be significant in this respect.'

King's Seat is mentioned in the New Statistical Accounts of 1834-45 (vol.10 p.959), with the author noting that:

"Prior to the fifth century, the Caldones or Caledonians has a stronghold situated, it is supposed, upon a knoll called the King's Seat, at the entrance of the vale of Atholl, near the city of Dunkeld. The stronghold, from its position, had the effective commend of the passes leading into Atholl. It appears to have been at the time an important feature in the county, for Hollingshed, in speaking of the sanguinary battle of Monteith, between the Scots and Picts, adds, for geographical direction, that the field of engagement, although near to the county of Stirling, was "not farre from Calidon Castell, otherwise called Dunkeld".

Previous archaeological work

RCAHMS made a visit in 1957, with Feachem producing a plane-table survey of the hillfort at a scale of 1mm to 1ft. Feachem (1966) draws comparison between King's Seat and other hillforts in Strathtay, many of which also have multivallate works, incorporating natural rock faces, and the innermost defences taking the form of a walled enclosure. He describes King's Seat as being of particular interest in Strathtay due to its location "in the jaws of Upper Strathtay just above the legionary fortress and other Roman works at Inchtuthil". He goes on to describe the hillfort:

"*Here the walled inner enclosure, now choked with impenetrable rhododendrons, crowns a rocky bluff; it measures axially only 115 feet by 70 feet. It is very strongly defended by natural hazards and four ramparts".*

The site appears annotated as 'Kings Seat (site of Castle)' on the OS 1st edition 6" map 1867 but there is no detail depicted other than general woodland. In the surrounding area 'St Colme's Well' and 'Duncan Ogg's Hole' are also depicted. These continue to be annotated on the OS 2nd Edition 6" map of 1900.

The site was visited by Ordnance Survey in 1971 and a visit from RCAHMS in1989 produced a survey based largely on the plan by Feachem.

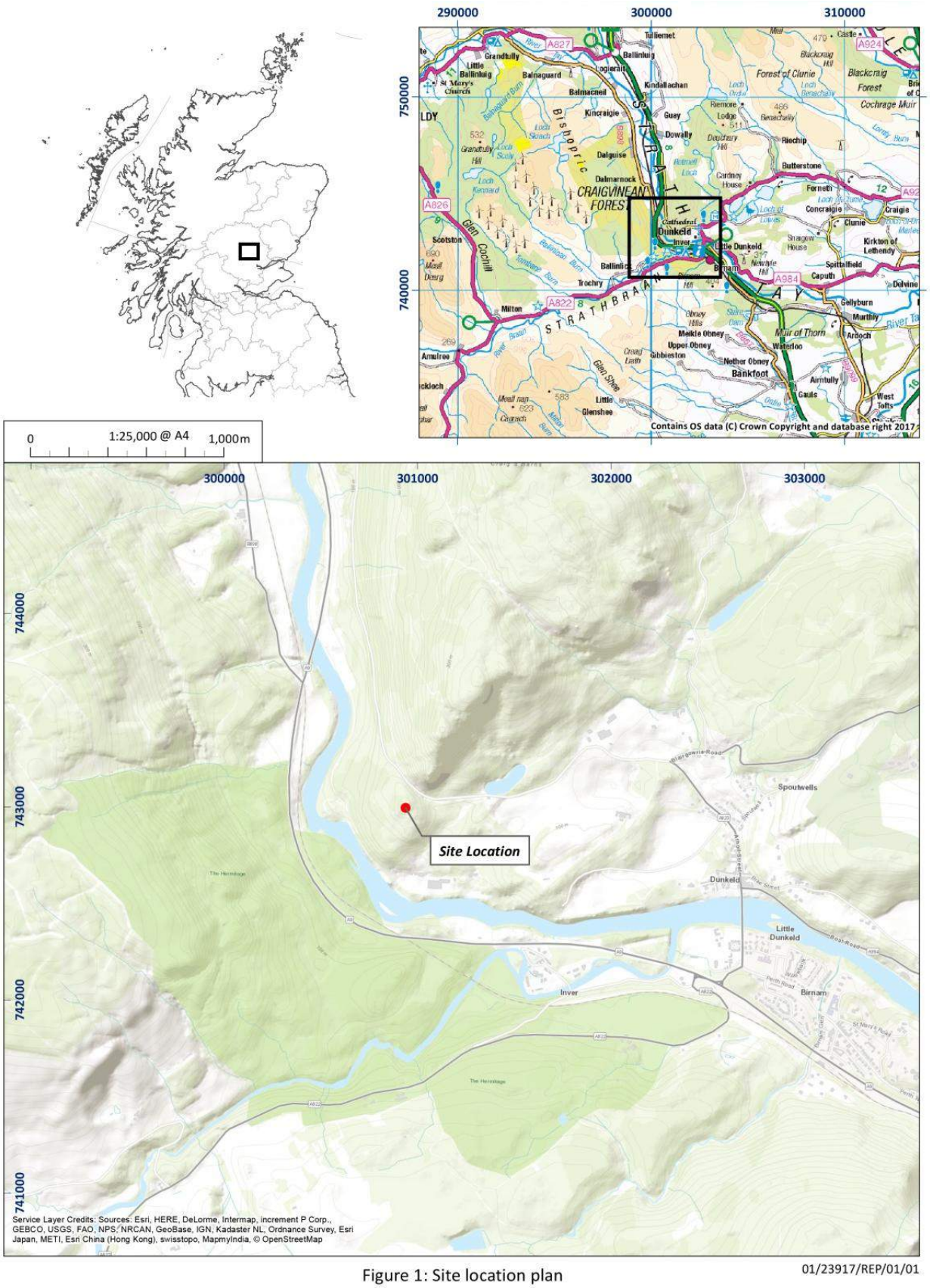

Figure 1: Site location plan

01/23917/REP/01/01

3 OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the excavation was to 'establish a chronology for the development of this site'. The specific targets through which to achieve this objective were the series of ramparts on the lower slopes of the hill, the summit enclosure (citadel) and interior of the summit enclosure (Strachan 2017). To this end, the four trenches excavated in 2017 aimed to:

For location of trenches please see Figure 2:

• Trench 1: Outer ramparts

A c.20x3m trench was located across the lower defensive ramparts, consisting of three rampart-like features, which formed a flight of terraces levelled into the slope. It has been suggested by RCAHMS that these terraces are no more than landscaping features, added when the policies of Dunkeld House were laid out. This trench aims to develop a chronology for the construction of these earthworks.

• Trench 2: Summit interior

A c.8x8m trench was located in the summit interior and included a section of the King's Seat rock. Part of this area has been impacted by dense rhododendron growth. The investigation aims to assess the impact of rhododendron root action on archaeological deposits and contrast this with adjacent archaeological deposits which have not been directly impacted by rhododendron growth.

• Trench 3: Summit rampart, close to entrance

A c.2x5m trench was located across the NE of the summit rampart, in close proximity to the entrance. The aim of this trench was to assess: the impact of rhododendron growth on archaeological deposits; the architectural composition of the hillfort; develop a chronology for the construction of the hillfort.

• Trench 4: Summit rampart

This trench was opened to aid in answering two research questions regarding the impact of rhododendron growth on archaeological deposits and the chronology and architectural composition of the hillfort. A c.2x5m trench was located across the SE of the summit rampart and into the interior. This was excavated to the first significant archaeological horizon and will be continued in 2018.

• Trench 5: Summit rampart

If there are outstanding questions in the final year of the excavation (year three) there may be a need to open this trench to answer research questions regarding the impact of rhododendron growth on archaeological deposits or regarding the chronology and architectural composition of the hillfort. A c.2x5m trench is proposed to be located across the SW of the summit rampart.

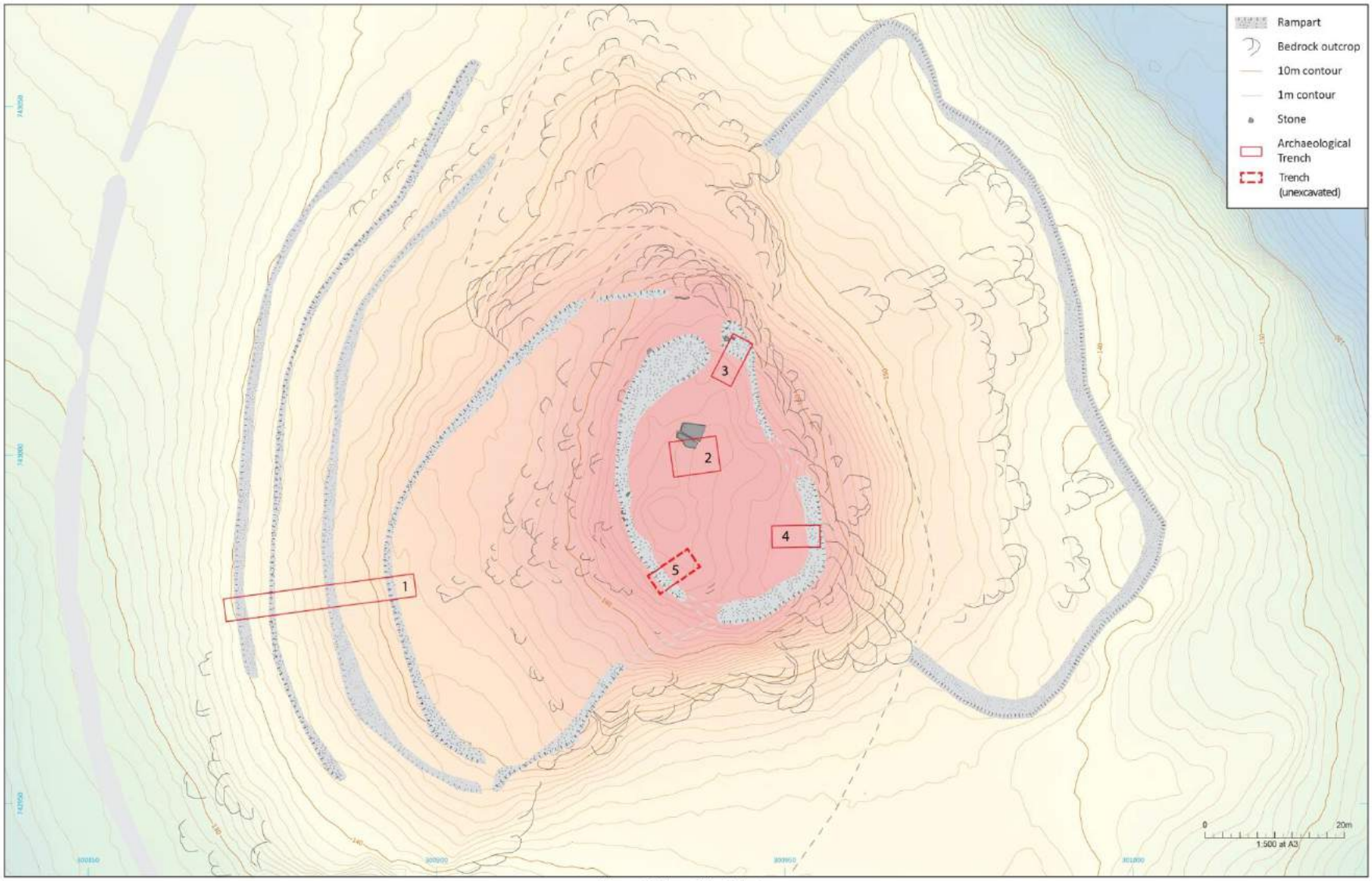

Figure 2 Plan of King's Seat

4 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological survey involved a combination of dGPS and plane table methods to create a baseline for depicting the archaeological features on the site. The archaeological evaluation comprised the hand excavation of four trenches in locations agreed in advance with Historic Environment Scotland, as a condition of the Scheduled Monument Consent. These trenches were placed to assess potential features identified in the RCAHMS survey.

The trenches were excavated by hand and all features and structures revealed were cleaned by hand before being recorded by digital photography, drawn to an appropriate scale and a written record produced using AOC *pro forma* context sheets. The archaeological works were undertaken in agreement with the project design (Strachan 2017).

5 RESULTS

The excavations were carried out from the 7th-19th of September 2017. Weather conditions were variable but generally clear and dry through the course of the excavations and archaeological visibility remained good. The following presents a summary of the excavation results and full details can be found in the appendices.

5.2.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 aimed to investigate the lower series of three ramparts on the west of the hill. These features enclosed a mid level terrace below the summit enclosure or citadel. The steep sloping ground to the west contrasted with the other aspects of the site which was composed of vertical cliffs and rock faces, negating the possibility for ramparts. Deposits on the steep ground were relatively shallow and bedrock was the lowest layer encountered. Overlying the bedrock in some places at the top of the trench where there was a build up of deposits was sterile orange sand (016) which formed natural subsoil overlying the bedrock. Elsewhere on steeper sections of the slope archaeological deposits were immediately on bedrock.

Upper rampart structure [003]

The upper rampart curved round the edge of the middle terrace, enclosing the area below the citadel, an area of flat ground c. 30m by 15m. The rampart at the top of the slope was built onto (010), a mixed, redeposited sand. It consisted of a rough external face of large boulders and sub-angular stones [007]. Behind this face was a deposit comprising mixed stone, ranging approximately 0.1 by 0.03m to 0.72 by 0.23m which formed the body of the c.2.5m wide rampart. A spread of stone downslope (008) represented slumping of this feature downslope as the revetment failed over time. At the back of the rampart about 1m to the east of the larger boulders several pits were identified cut into the natural subsoil (016). Pit [017] was oval, measured c. 0.6m by 0.3m by 0.2m deep and filled with (019), dark grey orange sand with some charcoal flecks. To the west was pit [020] which was sub-circular and measured c. 0.7m by 0.5m by 0.2m deep. It was filled with (021), a black silty sand. These features could represent truncated postholes related to a structure holding back material from the bank or represent internal activity on the site.

Overlying these cut features was a deposit of black silty sand (015), similar to the fill (021), a deposit of light yellow grey silt (014) which extended outwith the trench and an orange brown silt (006) a material that was present across the whole trench. These were under a layer of topsoil (002) and loam (001).

Later disturbance of the feature was evident and could be related to Victorian remodelling of the landscape that occurred in various places across the site. A line of stones [012] formed a kerb along the edge of the terrace and a spread of stony cobbling material (013) adjacent to this kerb represented where a track had

been roughly made, disturbing and reusing material from the earlier hillfort rampart. This later disturbance made the identification of an inner face or kerb to the earlier bank impossible.

Mid rampart structure [004] and lower rampart [005]

The rampart in the middle [004] was situated on a small sloping terrace about 4m downslope of the upper rampart [003]. It ran below the upper rampart from its furthest southern extent for about and then continued along the steeper slope to the north. It was only partially excavated and will be reopened next season. The construction appeared similar to the upper rampart, comprising a mix of medium to larger stones, earth and a few larger facing stones. The lowest rampart [005] was about 5m below the mid rampart and mirrored its line running roughly north to south along the steep slope on the west of the hill. This feature was deturfed but not excavated in the 2017 season. The feature had clearly been remodelled and reused as a track with a kerb, likely reusing the material from the earlier bank. This feature will be excavated in 2018.

Finds from Trench 1 came mainly from the topsoil layer (002) and included a couple of possible coarse stone tools, a quartz point, animal bone and a stone ingot mould.

Plate 1 View west across upper rampart [003] and down to the middle rampart [004]

Plate 2 Plan pre-excavation view of pit [020] located to the inside of the upper rampart [003]

Plate 3 Outer face of the upper rampart [003]

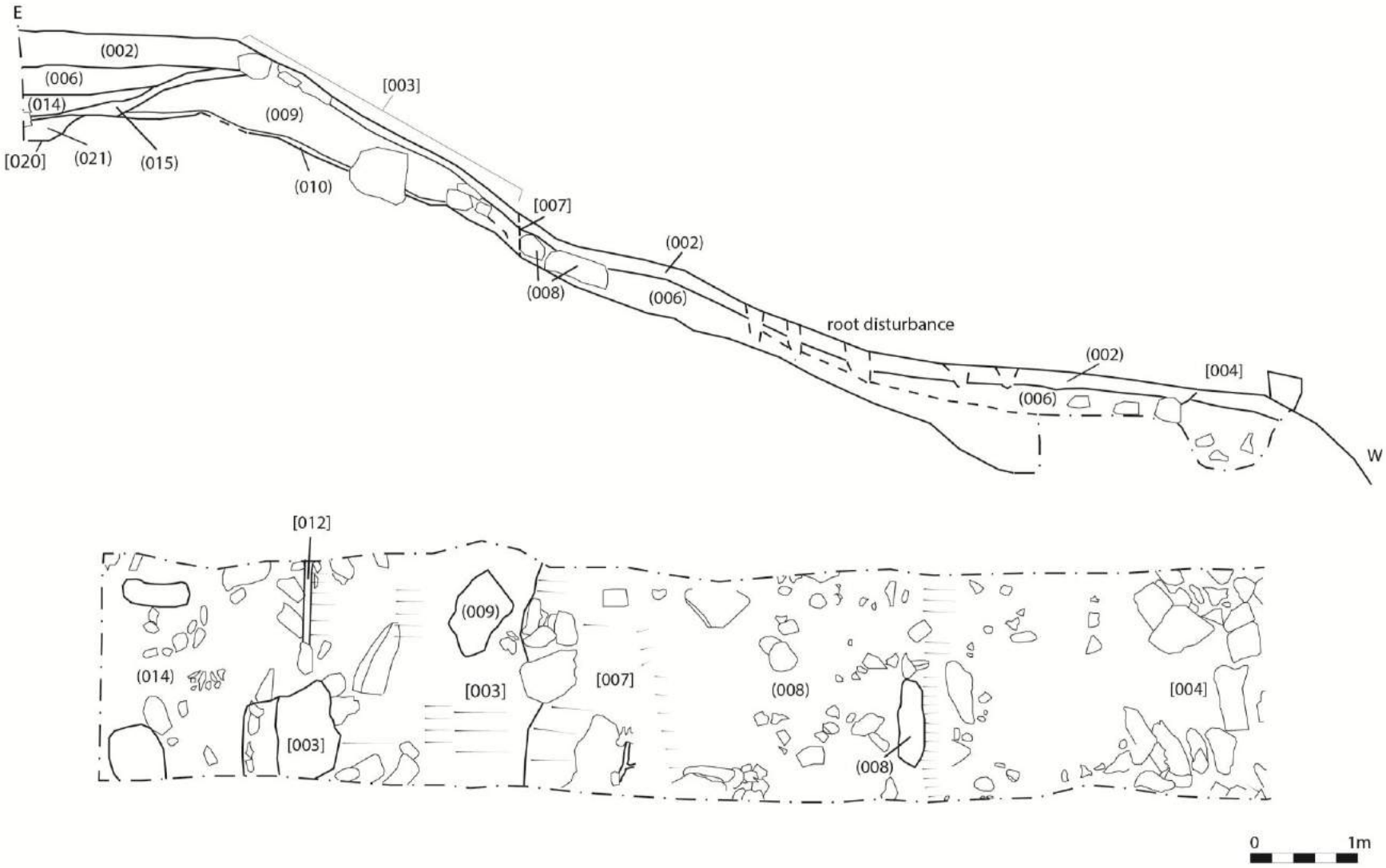

Figure 3 North facing section and post-excavation plan of upper section of Trench 1

Plate 2 Post-excavation model of Trench 2 looking southwest

5.2.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated directly to the south of the large glacial erratic [208] known as the King's Seat rock. The rock measured c. 3.5m by 3m by 1.5m high and was composed of metamorphosed schist, the undulating layers rich in mica created a striking feature at the top of the hill. It rested directly on the bedrock and in some places an orange brown soil had lapped up against it. The stone had four small holes drilled into it in antiquity. The holes were all circular, measuring 0.09m across and 0.17m deep with uneven edges, therefore not machine drilled. It is possible this stone had some sort of structure constructed on top of it but it is impossible to determine exactly what these holes related to. According to locals a small shelter under the west of the stone had been used by wildcats in the early 1900's. There were no deposits here other than windblown leaves and bedrock.

Rock cut features [207]

The trench was situated next to the rock to try and understand the activities in this area that could relate to the stone. The interior of the summit enclosure could be largely split onto two levels or terraces, with a steep to vertical cut or sloping bedrock face separating them. The stone was situated at the base of slope. The trench was therefore situated on sloping ground from the edge of the lower terrace at the stone, extending up the slope and onto the flat terrace of the upper level. During the course of excavation bedrock was exposed across the whole trench. The bedrock was a mixture of water worn smooth weathered rock with glacial striations evident across it and areas of rougher fissures and steep faces where quarrying had taken place. Several of these areas of quarrying appeared to be deliberately forming stone settings [207] on the flat upper level. On the slope several cuts looked like rough steps. Elsewhere cuts into the bedrock exploited fissures of quartz and it was less clear if these were just the result of quarrying for stone or a more deliberate creation of a specific feature.

The stone settings on the upper terrace were angular cuts into the flat top of the bedrock plateau. These two cuts went against the natural plane of weakness of the outcrop and therefore looked deliberate. One measured c. 0.26m by 0.34m by 0.3m deep and another 2m to the west measured 0.3m by 0.3m by 0.3m. It is possible that in the absence of soil deposits that these could form the base of 'post settings'.

Stone setting [209]

At the base of the bedrock slope there was a deposit of dark black brown silty soil with charcoal flecks (210) which was sealed under three angular stones [209] which formed a rough, small rectangular setting. The stones were straight edged measuring 0.5m by 0.2m and enclosed an area of 0.4m by 0.3m. The crucible was found just above one of these stones; although it is possible it just washed in from higher up the slope. The charcoal flecked layer underlying them was sampled as it was sealed under the stones. The setting was clearly deliberately constructed but its exact function remained unclear.

Localised deposits above the bedrock (203) and (204)

There were several small localised deposits overlying the bedrock. In the northwest corner of the trench a spread of fine dry yellow silt (204) was present, adjacent to the big stone (208). This layer had some occasional charcoal flecks and root disturbance in the upper layer but was quite hard packed. Within this material were frequent pockets of small rounded stones c. 0.05m in diameter. These were distinct from the natural stone found on the site and were introduced to the site at some point. It is possible they have been collected to be used as slingshots in defense or for some other process occurring on the site.

In the southeast edge of the trench there were small patches of mid grey brown clayey silt present overlying the bedrock (203). These were sterile and at a maximum, 0.1m deep, representing material that had collected during hillwash events in deeper fissures or pockets in the bedrock.

Hillwash (202), stone spread (205)

Overlying these deposits was a continuous, mixed and hard to differentiate layer of hillwash (202). This was a dark black/brown rooty soil composed of silt and vegetation matter. It contained rare small angular stones with patches of charcoal, particularly on the steeper slope to the east of trench. It extended across the trench (except where topsoil (201) was straight onto bedrock) and ranged from 0.05m deep on steeper slopes to more depth c. 0.2m deep near the large stone. The layer was mixed from a combination of material washing off the steep slope from the upper terrace down to the lower terrace and from extensive rhododendron root action. The material culture from within this layer represented the disturbed nature of the material with finds ranging from shotgun cartridges, a clay pipe and a 1952 coin to metal working waste (including a crucible fragment and a fragment of a stone mould) and flint debitage. These finds span a long time period but were all found relatively close to each other, out of situ. Within (202) on the south edge of the trench was a cluster of large sub-angular stone, c. 0.3 x 0.4m maximum (205). This was the only concentration of stone in the trench but it did not have any clear form or structure. It's position on or at the base of the sloping bedrock could imply that it was once part of a denuded structure/bank at the top of the slope.

Above (202) in the east of the trench was a thin layer of bright orange heat affected soil (206) with large charred rhododendron roots within it. This corresponded with an area of charred material on the surface of the trench and could represent burnt material from a fire or a historic episode of root clearance pre-dating the recent work on the site.

The uppermost layer in the trench was (201), a thick layer of vegetation loam and rhododendron roots, in some places, particularly on the upper terrace this was directly overlying the bedrock.

Finds from Trench 2 came mainly from the topsoil layer (202) and included: 9 pieces of flint debitage; a clay pipe; 2 possible whetstones; a crucible rim sherd; 2 fragment of ceramic, one glazed; several fragments of slag and stone fragments with metal working residue; a possible polishing pebble; 1952 coin; an iron object (possible blade?) and a stone mould fragment. A sample of the many small rounded stones interpreted as possible slingshots was also taken.

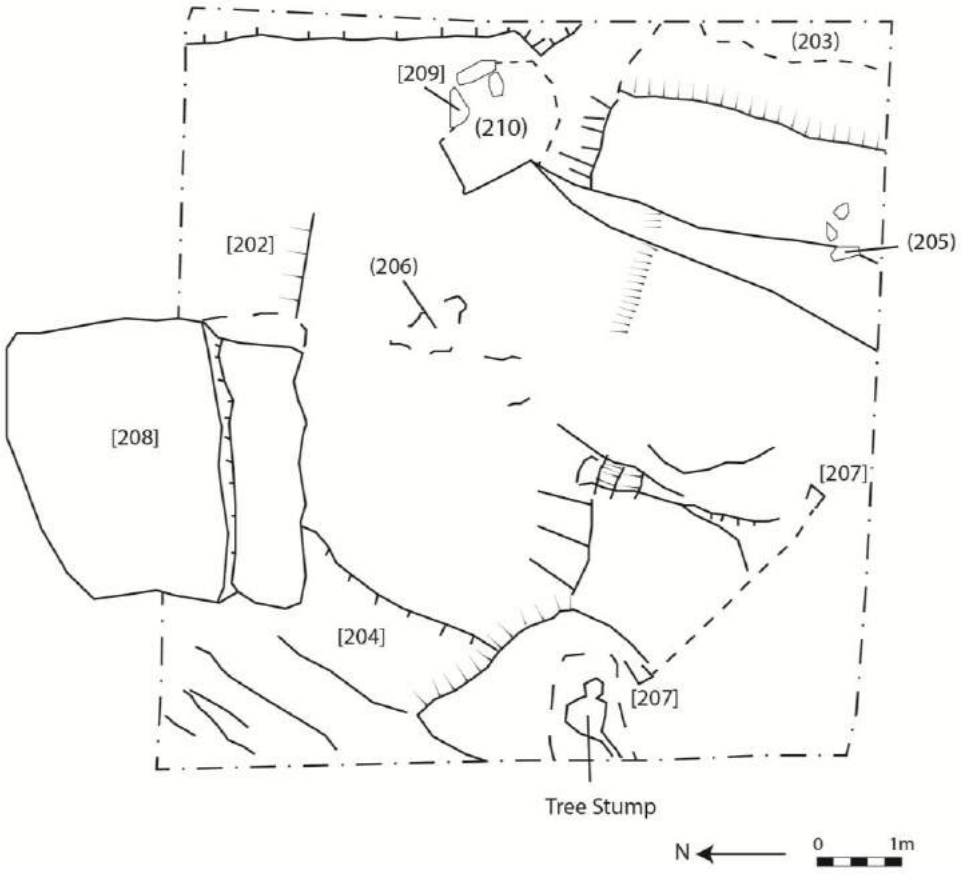

Figure 4 Post-excavation plan of bedrock and glacial erratic in Trench 2

Plate 3 Bedrock slope between upper and lower terraces

Plate 4 King's Seat rock with Trench 2 in background

Plate 5 Stone setting [209]

Plate 6 Quarried bedrock with possible stone setting [207] in foreground

Plate 9 Possible slingshots in contrast with the naturally occurring angular stone in the background

5.2.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was investigated to understand the summit enclosure bank and was situated directly to the east of the entrance. On the southern end of the trench bedrock was exposed, sloping sharply off the edge of the hill to the north. Overlying this bedrock was a thin grey lens (315) of material which in turn was overlain by bright orange natural subsoil (316). An area of charcoal staining on top of this could relate to a collapsed timber (314) or early activity.

Structural wall/bank

The summit enclosure bank [304] was constructed on top of this natural subsoil and consisted of an inner face or kerb [317] which contained a rubble core (306) with a yellow brown sand matrix (303). The inner face consisted of two surviving courses of stones measuring c. 0.5 x 0.3m. A large boulder was situated slightly in front of these stones and could have formed part of an increasingly impressive face closer to the entrance. An outer face was impossible to identify as the trench stopped at the edge of a steep slope for safety reasons. It is possible the outer face has completely collapsed off the hill in many places at some point in the past as most of the core and matrix showed signs of significant slumping to the north. At the base, extending slightly under some of the inner facing stones was a charcoal stained mid brown sandy silt (310). This could represent activity before or during the construction of the wall.

Abutting the wall to the south was a series of layers that have formed after the construction of the wall. Overlying (310) there was dry and friable yellow clayey sand (308). This was a similar material to the core of the bank but had built up on the outside of the wall so represented a separate deposition event. Above this was a very loose, dry, sandy grey soil (305) with occasional small sub-angular stones. This was under (302), a layer of compact sandy soil. Several spreads of stone (307) and (309), forming no coherent structure, were also present to the south of the bank, these likely represent tumbled stone from the wall.

A layer of loamy, vegetation rich topsoil (301) was present across the top of the trench, although some of the upper bank stones were visible through the vegetation.

Finds from the trench included several modern iron objects, from their shape and form two were identified as possible excavation or vegetation clearance tools from layer (302). There was also a possible sharpening stone, a few fragments of metal working waste or heat affected/vitrified stone and two joining fragments of the same stone mould which had been reused as a saddle quern. These finds came from layer (305), therefore post-dating the construction of the bank. It is possible they were deposited here during later use of the site.

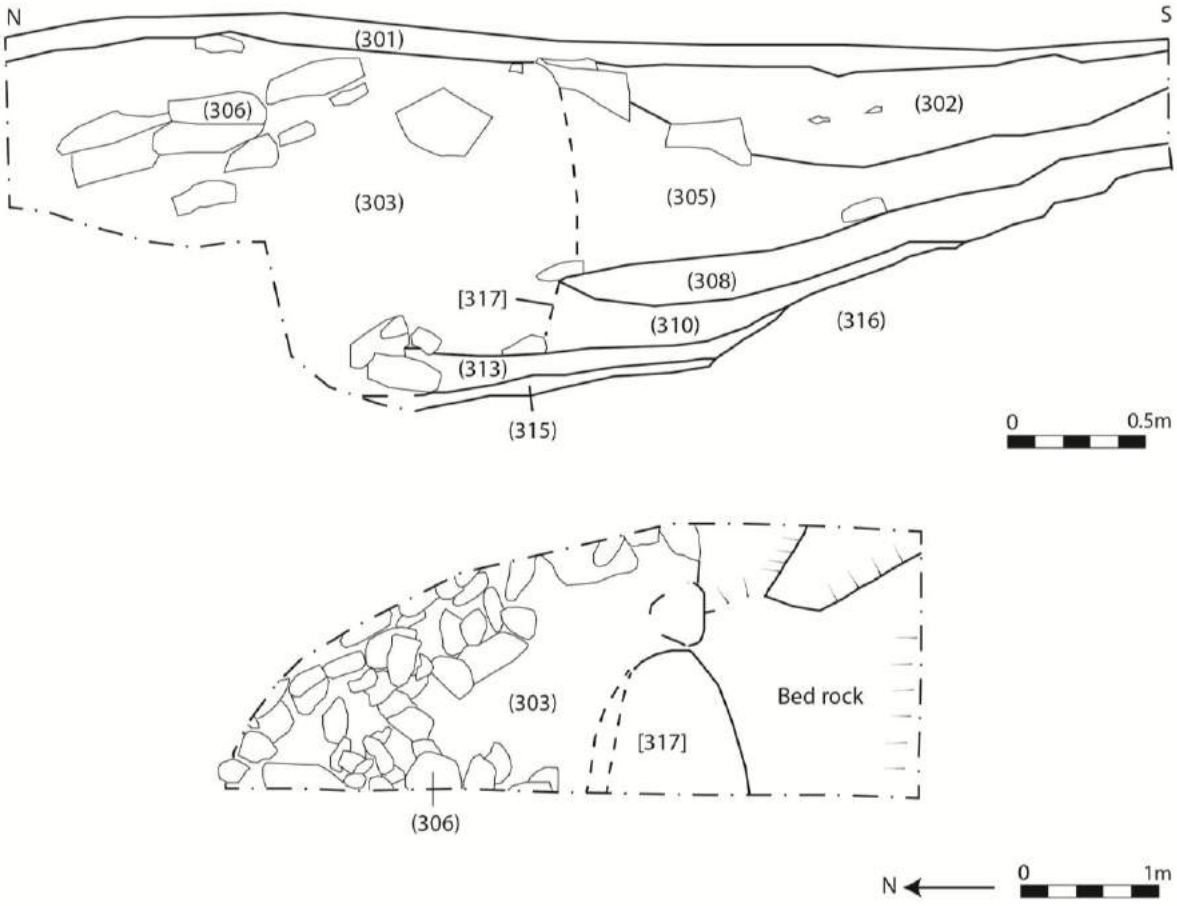

Figure 5 West facing section and mid-excavation plan of summit enclosure wall in Trench 3

Plate 10 Mid-excavation view of the summit enclosure wall

Plate 11 Inner face of summit enclosure wall with large boulder kerb (left)

Plate 12 View of Trench 4 after topsoil removed with summit bank in foreground

5.2.3 Trench 4

Trench 4 was deturfed part-way through the excavation as it became clear that the preservation and stratigraphy in Trench 2 was not complex. Trench 4's location to the east of Trench 2 on the lower terrace at the base of the steep slope from the upper terrace provided an opportunity to explore the depth and preservation of deposits elsewhere on the site and contrast them with results from Trench 2 where deposits were shallow and heavily disturbed by rhododendrons.

Excavation halted at the base of the topsoil layer having ascertained that a deeper topsoil deposit had formed in this area of the site and archaeologically significant deposits were exposed underneath, indicating preservation was likely to be better in this area. In the east of the trench the upper stonework of the summit enclosure rampart was visible. It consisted of coarse, large angular stone work and was concentrated on the east side of the trench. At this level it had no clear arrangement. Overlying this across the trench was the topsoil, below a layer of vegetation mulch. The topsoil was a mid grey brown silt layer with flecks of charcoal and burnt bone. It contained lots of animal bone, teeth, claws and horns, metal-working waste, crucible fragments and a spindle whorl. There was a significant amount of root disturbance in this area but it was not as heavily impacted by rhododendron roots as Trench 2. The excavation of this trench, although unfinished, implied that there was potential for informative archaeological deposits underlying the topsoil and that this area is richer in material culture than elsewhere on the site.

6 ASSESSMENT OF THE 2017 FINDS ASSEMBLAGE

The finds have been catalogued and stabilised. The assessment of the finds assemblage is ongoing; Dr Andy Heald is working in collaboration with Dr Ewan Campbell (University of Glasgow).

7 DISCUSSION

The initial excavations at the hillfort of King's Seat have produced a good basis for understanding the use, construction and occupation of the site, in addition to later remodelling of the site. This work will be essential to guiding further excavation work on the site and informing the post-excavation programme.

The excavation revealed the character and differing construction of several of the enclosing walls and banks on the site and provided initial information on several ramparts still to be fully investigated. The series of three ramparts on the west of the hill were substantial earth and stone banks with rough large boulders forming major elements of the face. However, the summit enclosure had a more defined stone face on the inner edge, forming a more coherent formal wall. This differing construction could suggest a level of phasing in the construction of the site. Later modifications to several of the banks on the south side of the hill were noted, indicating a level of remodelling of the landscape has taken place in the Victorian period.

The excavations within the summit enclosure highlighted the shallow nature of the deposits on the upper terrace and the significant impact that the rhododendron growth has had on these areas at the summit of the hill. The lack of stratigraphy on the site around the upper terrace and the rock cut features in the bedrock could indicate that at one time this upper area of the hillfort had exposed bedrock and the thin deposits there in the modern day are more recently formed. The rock cut features, quarrying and stone setting at the base of the slope all indicate activity on the site. Additionally, metal working waste, crucible fragments and stone moulds indicate precious metal working was taking place on the site. The location of several of the fragments in upper deposits near the summit enclosure wall could imply this process is happening at a later stage in the use of the site. Two of the moulds, with a mirror shape, bear similarities in form to stone moulds found at sites such as Portmahomack, Tarbat (Carver 2016 275) and Garranes, Ireland, (O'Riordain 1942) amongst other locations. These could indicate early historic activity on the site. Several of the stone mould fragments were discarded and reused as bank material in the summit enclosure, indicating a level of reworking of the banks occurred during or after this metalworking activity took place. The large rock with holes drilled into it also creates an enigmatic and prominent feature on this part of the site. The cache of small rounded stones found on the site near the large rock indicated a deliberate introduction of this material to the site. It is possible these stones have been collected for using as slingshots. The stones found at Kings Seat look similar to stones with similar form and dimensions that have been identified at a number of fort sites. One of the more notable examples includes several hoards of sling stones placed at strategic locations near the entrances to Maiden Castle hillfort. These hoards were identified and recorded during Wheelers excavations in the 1940's (Robertson 2016, 6+27).This find raises interesting questions, were the stones being collected for this purpose, does this imply a level of social unrest during the use of the site or merely safety precautions?

Animal bones, claws and horns indicate animals were being processed on the site, whether this was for domestic purposes, feasting or related to craft activities taking place remains to be seen and investigation of the wider context in and around Trench 4 on the lower summit terrace will address this.

Considered together, the material culture recovered from site, is hugely important and clearly indicates in situ activity on site. While it seems obvious to the modern archaeologist that some sort of elite would have controlled if not occupied hillfort sites, it is still rare for such sites to produce such a wealth of evidence (Heald 2010). That evidence for ferrous and non-ferrous metal working was identified in every trench certainly suggests that the site was hugely important in the production of prestige metalwork, and similarly to sites such as Dunadd, may have been a centre of production. Early historic occupation or activity is a possibility on this site and would fit with the site's reputation as the King's Seat or the site of the 'Fort of the Caledonians'. This is supported by both the material culture recovered from the site, but also the type of

hilltop used. Very generally, Early Historic forts appear to favour such limited outcrops, where occupation and activity is difficult. This is apparent at known dated examples such as Dunadd (Lane and Campbell 2000) and Dundurn (Alcock et al 1989). Comparisons can also be drawn with the feature on Dundurn known as St Fillan's Chair, where a wide ledge has been sculpted from an outcrop. Alcock describes the "effect is that of a rock seat" and "given that the eminence is widely visible from the valley floor, it is not fanciful to suggest that we have here an inauguration seat for the rulers of Strathearn (Alcock 1989, 198)." This feature could be mirrored in the glacial erratic with holes drilled into it at the summit of King's Seat. Dundurn, Dunadd and King's Seat all share similar characteristics including topographic location, working and utilisation of exposed bedrock outcrops. An early historic use of the site can therefore be suggested and dating will aim to further substantiate this. However that does not preclude an earlier origin for the site in the prehistoric period. While Early Historic forts do contain uni-vallate banks, this is more common to Iron Age forts. The King's Seat is similar in that respect to Moredun, where the majority of dates fall between 4th to 3rd centuries BC (Cook at el 2017), and represent a site type perhaps more typical of this period (Halliday pers comm). Dating material from the base of the banks would allow a more refined chronology to be created to better understanding the phasing and use of the site over time.

The site has clearly been impacted in more modern times during a phase of Victorian remodelling. The evidence for this includes modified ramparts, bank material being reused as kerbs for a trackway up the hill and the iron tools found in the upper layers of the summit enclosure wall. The site has been heavily impacted by the introduction of rhododendrons and planted woodland which is now very mature. Previous attempts to clear or manage the site have been made, with evidence for several fires visible on the ground. More recent vegetation clearance by volunteers was limited to removal of rhododendron above the ground and careful excavation around roots to understand any surviving deposits. Any deposits underneath the King's Seat glacial erratic have been disturbed and scraped out.

It is clear that although a better understanding of the nature of the site has been gained in this initial season that further work is required to better understand the site and the interplay between different features on the site. Further excavation of the mid and lower ramparts on the south side is required to understand their character and whether it is possible to identify any phasing from old ground surfaces or associated features such as ditches. Continuing and completing excavation of Trench 4 will provide a better understanding of an area of the interior which appears less heavily impacted than the area in Trench 2. Exploring a wider area in Trench 4 that extends further into the interior would aid in understanding the activity here and might be a better use of resources than opening a trench on the upper terrace where deposits were very thin and heavily impacted by rhododendron roots. It would also be beneficial to investigate other areas of the site such as the mid terraces on the interior of the southern ramparts and the potentially later annexe enclosure at the base of the east of the hill. Continuing this work and investigating new areas of the site will aid in a more comprehensive understanding of how the site works as a whole, elucidate any phasing and clarify the variation in the impact that the vegetation and later Victorian remodelling has had on the site. Some of the material culture from this site hints at a significant high status site, used in the early historic period so further investigation has great potential.

This DSR report is both preliminary and provisional, with many issues raised by the excavation data still to be addressed. In ascertaining a fuller knowledge of the excavation results, a post-excavation research design will be produced that will describe all necessary and appropriate assessment processes and consequent post-excavation analyses together with publication proposals for the final report. This report will integrate the stratigraphic, contextual and descriptive data from the excavation with specialist post-excavation analyses covering dating, palaeo-environmental and economic issues. The results of this excavation and the post-excavation programme will be used to inform the work taking place over the coming seasons.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and AOC Archaeology would like to thank all of the volunteers who made the project as success contributing an amazing amount of work. The project is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, The Gannochy Trust, and the Griffin and Calliachar Community Fund. Particular thanks to Dunkeld & Birnam Historical Society, Dave MacDougall and Dave Roberts and the team that cleared the vegetation off in advance of excavation, without which the excavation would not have been possible!

Volunteers

David MacDougall, Ewen MacDougall, Gordon Gerrie, Forbes Bradley, Lindsey Gibb, Deryck Deane, Anthea Deane, Andrew Barry, Jamie Beazley, Steve Ponsonby, Maggie Hand, Beth Beazley, Alan Harrison, Chris Claydon, Rebecca DeVivo, Tom Worrall, Graham Rees, Stephen Nelson, Dave Roberts, Mark Brown, Charlie Dunbar, Charlie Cooper, Emma MacFarlane, Bob Carchrie, Eilidh Paterson, Peter Heyes, Barbara Hogarth, Louise Thomson, Clive Ashton-Clements, Tamzin Hutchison, Charlene Forbes, Barbara Gillies, John Robb, Sarah Rennie, Steven Brown, Michael Ballantine, Frances Gillespie, Anne Gray, Grant Muckart, Sarah Beth Brunton, Duncan Cameron, Peter McRobbie, Roy Marsden, Angus Thomson, Maggie Wilkins, Bob Nicolson, Joy Nicolson, Leila Dunn, Adrian King, Poppy MacGeachy, Eric Franz, Lynsey MacGregor and Dave Roberts.

9 REFERENCES

Alcock, L, Alcock, E, & Driscoll, S T, 1989 *Reconnaissance excavations on Early Historic fortifications and other royal sites in Scotland, 1974–84: 3, Excavations at Dundurn, Strathearn, Perthshire, 1976–77*, Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 119, 189–226

British Geological Survey (BGS). Accessed online at http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/home.html on 20th November 2017.

Canmore. Accessed online at https://canmore.org.uk/ on 20th November 2017.

Carver, M et al.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *By-laws of the Institute for Archaeologists: Code of Conduct*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standards and guidance: Archaeological evaluation.*

Feacham. Kings Seat survey plans accessed online at at https://canmore.org.uk/ on 20th November 2017.

Heald, A. 2010 *The Interpretation of Non-Ferrous Metalworking In Early Historic Scotland* Pictish Progress 221-242

Lane, A and Campbell, E. 2000 *Dunadd: an early Dalriadic Capital.* Oxbow Books

National Map Library of Scotland. 2017. Accessed online at http://maps.nls.uk on 20th November 2017.

O'Riordain, S. 1942 *The excavation of a large earthen ring-fort at Garranes, Co. Cork.* Hodges, Figgis and Co.

Ordnance Survey Name Books. Accessed online at https://scotland'splaces,gov.uk on 15th September 2017.

Robertson, P. 2016, *Iron Age Hillfort defences and the tactics of sling warfare*. Archaeopress

Statistical Accounts of Scotland (1791-1845). Accessed online at http://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home on 20th November 2017.

Strachan, D. 2017, *Kings Seat Hillfort, Perth: Project Design*, Unpublished Report.

King's Seat, Dunkeld, Perth and Kinross:

Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

AOC Archaeology Group

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Trench 1

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
001	1	**Forest loam overlying topsoil**
002	1	**Brown soil across whole trench over [003]/[004]/[005]** **Topsoil**
003	1	General context for upper wall. Comprises: external face [007] and fill (009). 3m in width **Upper wall**
004	1	**Middle rampart wall (partially excavated)**
005	1	**Lower wall (deturfed and unexcavated)**
006	1	**Orange soil under (002), abutting/over [003]/[004]/[005]**
007	1	Substantial boulders and large sub-angular stones composing a rough face to the wall. Ranging from 0.5m to 1m. **External face of wall [003]**
008	1	Spread of angular stone downslope from face of upper rampart wall. **Tumble in front of [007]**
009	1	Wall fill of [003]. Comprises mixed stone, ranging approx. 0.1 x 0.03m to 0.72 x 0.23m. enclosed by (007) **Upper stone fill of [003]**
010	1	**Orange sand under [007]/(008)**
011	1	**Orange sand- bank [003], adjacent to [012]**
012	1	**Possible kerb- 19thC landscaping of path**
013	1	**Cobble layer/internal fill of 18th century bank [012]**
014	1	**Orange deposit over (015)**
015	1	Deposit of black silt- directly overlying natural (016) **Black layer over natural (016)- OGS?**
016	1	**Natural orange layer**
017	1	**Cut of pit/ posthole below [003]**
018	1	**Cut of [017]**
019	1	**Fill of [017]**
020	1	**Bowl-shaped ct measuring c.** **Cut of posthole west to [017]**
021	1	Black silt **Fill of [020]- same as (015)?**

Trench 2

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
201	2	A rooty leaf layer across trench 2. Alco containing rhododendron roots, leaves and some small angular stones. Extended across trench. Ranged from 0.05m thick over bedrock in west, and onto (202) darker soil elsewhere. **Topsoil**
202	2	A dark black/brown rooty soil. Composed of silt and vegetation matter. Rare small angular stones with patches of charcoal, particularly on the steeper slope to the east of trench. Extends across trench (except where topsoil (201) was straight onto bedrock). Ranges from 0.05m deep on steeper slopes to more depth near large stone. **Surface deposit - hillwash. No structural remains.**
203	2	Mid grey brown clay silt present on some areas of SW slope over bedrock. C. 0.1m deep, **Deposit built up in areas where deeper deposits could form**
204	2	A fine dry yellow silt over bedrock in the N corner of the trench by big stone. Some occasional charcoal flecks and root disturbance- quite hard packed. Within this are frequent pockets of small rounded stones- quite different from the other stones in trench. It is likely they have been collected- but for what purpose. **OGS? Redeposited natural?**
205	2	A cluster of 3-4 large sub-angular stones with a light orange brown silt matrix. Slumped down edges of steep bedrock. Stones c. 0.3 x 0.4m maximum. No form or structure to it, but could represent remains of slumped bank at top of bedrock platform? **Slump of material down bedrock**
206	2	A bright orange brown heat affected soil, with frequent charred rhododendron roots in it. Extends 1m x 0.5m with undulating edges- has charred roots within it. Under topsoil over (202). **Heat affected soil- related to earlier vegetation clearance**
207	2	Angular cuts into top of bedrock plateau. 2 cuts against grain of outcrop. 0.26 x 0.34 x 0.3m deep. Another to the west is 2m away. 0.3m x 0.3m x 0.3m. These could form the base of 'post settings'? Filled with rooty material. **Post or stone settings**
208	2	Large glacial erratic 3.5 x 3 x 1.5m high. Rests on bedrock and an orange brown soil in places. 4 holes drilled into it (in antiquity. Holes are circular 0.09m across and 0.17m deep. Uneven edges, not machine drilled. **Glacial erratic, used as a platform for some structure involving the four holes- impossible to say what.**
209	2	A stone setting at the base of bedrock slope in trench 2. Composed of three stones with straight edges. 0.5 x 0.2m stones enclosing an area of 0.4 x 0.3m. Crucible found next to one of the stones. Material in setting the same as elsewhere. **Stone setting- function unclear**
210	2	Dark black brown silty soil with charcoal flecks. Sealed under stones from setting [209]. Sampled for dating. **Charcoal rich material under stone setting.**

Trench 3

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
301	3	Light brown organic soil underlying fallen vegetation and organic material. No 'turf'- trench covered in thin layer of vegetation and organic mulch. Consistent across whole trench. **Topsoil**
302	3	Layer of compact sandy soil extending across trench, overlying structure [304]. Deeper at S end, where it overlies compact grey soil (305). Affected by vegetation, tree roots and burrowing. **Compact layer below topsoil**
303	3	Yellow/brown sand across rubble/tumble of [304]. Appears on the north end of the trench, mostly on the west, underlying (302). Occasional quartz inclusions, none worked- otherwise sterile.

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
		Matrix of bank/core
304	3	Bank running east-west across north end of trench, towards possible entrance to the west of trench (outwith trench limit). Consisting of rubble core (306) with matrix (303), and facing stones [317]. **Wall/bank as identified topographically**
305	3	Very loose, dry, sandy grey soil underlying (302) to south of [304]. Occasional stone inclusions (unlike 302). Small angular-sub angular stones of mixed lithographies. Affected heavily by root activity. **Loose deposit underlying (302)**
306	3	Rubble core of [304]. Mixed sizes of stones, predominately medium boulders, with occasional water rounded pebbles. (302) filters down into the core before (303) yellow sand matrix appears. **Rubble core of [304]**
307	3	Stones to south of trench running NW-SE, mixed sizes and some shattered, within (305). Ephemeral on excavation, if structural, only one course remains, informal and not regularly placed. **Possible base of stone structure, more likely slumped bank material.**
308	3	Yellow clayey sand to south of [304]. Dry and friable. Abutting bank. Similar material to (303) but likely a result of a separate event. **Redeposited natural layer, abutting bank [304]**
309	3	Stone alignment in SW end of sondage running NW-SE. Ephemeral on excavation- no large set stones, sat on relatively shallow bedrock. **Possible stone alignment- more likely natural accumulation of stone**
310	3	Mid brown sandy silt- charcoal stained. Extending under kerb stones- same as (312) **Possible burnt/burning activity between (308)/(313)- pre [304]? Same as (312)**
311	3	Stones, small in size, amongst a compact layer of mid brown sandy silt to SE of trench. Soil matrix 100% sampled. **Possible stone feature- likely natural upon excavation**
312	3	Lens of charcoal south of sharp break in slope of bedrock with sandy orange patches (natural (313)). Heavily concentrated. **Concentration of charcoal within bedrock depression- same as (310) in section**
313	3	Layer of bright orange silty sand extending across whole trench **Subsoil**
314	3	Possible charred timber over (313) 0.35 N-S x 0.07m wide. Staining as opposed to whole fragments. 100% sampled **Possible charred timber**
315	3	Light grey layer between (313) and (316) 2m from south of trench, extending across whole slot. **Heat affected bedrock?**
316	3	Bedrock, sloping downwards from south to north **Bedrock**
317	3	Inner facing stones of [304] within slot. 2 surviving courses- stones c. 0.5 x 0.3m. Distinct from other stones, clearly visible as facing stones. **Inner facing stones of [304]**

Trench 4

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
401	4	Topsoil deposit below vegetation mulch layer. A mid grey brown silt layer with flecks of charcoal and burnt bone. Lots of finds. Lots of root disturbance. **Topsoil**
402	D	Upper stonework of possible rampart in SE end of trench. Coarse, large angular stone work. Concentrated on the E side of the trench. A mixed spread of angular stone, no clear arrangement **Spread of bank material**

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
1		Registration Shot		9/9
2-3	2	General working shot	VAR	9/9
4-5	3	Area of sand (303) to N of trench, amongst [304] rubble	W	9/9
6-10	3	After exposure of (302) and (303)	S	9/9
11-16	1	General shot of wall [004] working	S	9/9
17-18	1	Detail of [007]	E	9/9
19	1	General of [007]/[003]	E	9/9
20-21	1	Detail of tumble (008)/ [007]	E	9/9
22	2	Detail of burnt area in (206)	E	9/9
23-5	3	Detail of (307) in SE of T3	S	10/9
26-27	3	Mid-ex shot of [304]	S	10/9
28-31	3	Mid-ex shot of T3 showing [304] and (307)	S	10/9
32	3	Detail of (307) in SE of T3	S	10/9
33	3	Mid-ex [304]	S	10/9
34-35	3	Mid ex detail of (307)	N	10/9
36-37	3	Mid-ex detail of [304]	S	10/9
38-43	3	Exposed (305) across trench, with (307) to south	S	10/9
44-46	1	Working shot of (009)	S	11/9
47-48	2	Detail shot of crucible fragment	E	11/9
49-51	3	Detail post-excavation shot exposing (308) south of wall	S	11/9
52	3	General working shot	-	11/9
53-54	3	(303) exposed across (307)	W	11/9
55-56	3	(303) exposed across (307)	S	11/9
57-60	1	Detail of rubble (008)	W	11/9
61	2	Slumped large stones on bedrock	E	11/9
62-66	2	General working shots in trench 2	VAR	11/9
67	3	Detail of (309) alignment	S	11/9

Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
68-69	3	Mid-ex sondage showing bedrock and (309)	S	11/9
70-71	1	Detail of lower bank [012]	S	14/9
72-73	3	Burnt and heat affected soil by bank	S	14/9
74-77	2	Detail of yellow redeposited natural (204)	E	14/9
78-81	3	Detail of further exposed (306)	W	14/9
82-94	3	Heat affected soil (310)- natural	NW	14/9
95-99	3	Bedrock and erratic boulder in kerb of summit bank	N	14/9
100-101	1	General shot of modern kerb [012]	S	14/9
102-105	3	Exposing [311]	W	14/9
106-107	3	Mid-ex of bank before stone removal	SW	15/9
108-109	2	Record of small rounded stones	-	15/9
110-111	2	Detail of rhododendrons onto bedrock	E	15/9
112	4	[402] general shot of rhododendron intruding on feature	NW	15/9
113-115	4	Detail of rhododendron intruding on feature	NW	15/9
116-118	4	General mid-ex shot of root activity	S	15/9
119-122	2	[209] possible structure at base of slope	E	16/9
123-126	3	Mid-ex section of trench, showing possible cut in (308), exposing (310) over bedrock	SE	16/9
127-129	3	Post-ex section of trench, showing possible cut in (308), exposing (310) over bedrock	S	16/9
130-132	1	Context [004] wall with rubble	W	16/9
133-135	3	Mid ex [304] post removal of (308)	W	16/9
136-138	3	Mid ex [304] post removal of (308)	E	16/9
139-141	3	Mid ex [304] post removal of (308)	S	16/9
142	2	(204) record of small stones	-	16/9
143-145	3	Section across trench 3 EW showing burning/heat affected soils	S	16/9
146-147	3	Detail of east end of EW section showing heat affected soils	S	16/9
148-150	3	East facing section showing detail with burning/head affected soils	E	16/9
151-153	1	Cut and fill of [017]	S	16/9
154-155	1	Detail of wall [004]	S	16/9
156-160	1	Detail of wall [004]	W	16/9
161	2	Bedrock- small chips	S	16/9

Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
162-163	2	Bedrock groove- steps?	SW	16/9
165-167	2	[207] stone cuts on flat terrace of bedrock	S	16/9
168-173	2	General views	-	16/9
174	2	Stone cut at base of bedrock slope	N	16/9
175	2	Gordon and Forbes- final clean	-	16/9
176-347	2	Photogrammetry of bedrock	-	16/9
348-355	3	Facing of wall [304]- [317]	SW	17/9
356-360	3	Mid-ex of facing [317] and possible slots?	S	17/9
361-369	1	Post-ex of pits in T1	-	17/9
370-395	1	Views of T1- some of the N facing section and middle rampart [004]	-	17/9
396-405	4	Post-ex view of t4 before tarp laid down	-	17/9
406-409	1	[005] lower rampart before backfilling	-	17/9
410-411	3	Possible charred timber to E of boulder	-	17/9
Camera 2				
372-389	-	General photos of people working removing	-	8/9
390-395	1	Record shots of Trench one after deturfing	-	8/9
396-409	2	Record shots of Trench 1 after deturfing and some root clearance	-	8/9

APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Area	Details	Scale
1	3	Trench 3 plan prior to excavation of slot	1:20
2	2	Post-ex plan of bedrock and quarried features	1:50
3	3	Trench 3 west facing section	1:10
4	1	Section of trench 1 (to be joined to S facing section drawing #5)	1:20
5	1	South facing section of east end of Trench 1 (to join to S facing section drawing #4)	1:10
6	1	North facing section of feature [017]	1:10
7	1	Plan of Trench 1	1:20
8	1	Plan of Trench 1 Post- Excavation	1:20
9	1	Plan (post-ex) overlay of dr#8 east end of Trench 1, showing pits	1:20

APPENDIX 4: FINDS REGISTER

Trench 1

Finds No.	Trench	Context No.	Description
1001	1	002	Pointed quartz (worked)
1002	1	002	Possible polishing stone
1003	1	002	Collection of quartz
1004	1	002	Animal Bone
1005	1	002	Bone (burnt, fragments) and clay fragments
1006	1	010	Bone/charcoal
1007	1	002	Bone
1008	1	002	Possible pot
1009	1	002	Possible coarse stone tool/quern
1010	1	002	Bone
1011	1	002/004	Ingot Mould
1012	1	002	Coarse stone tool
1013	1	010	Animal Bone
1014	1	002	Possible worked stone/hammerstone
1015	1	002	Iron Nail?
1016	1	015	Bone
1017	1	002	Possible design on stone- natural?

Trench 2

Finds	Trench	Context No.	Description
201	2	202	Flint debitage
202	2	202	Flint debitage
203	2	202	Flint debitage
204	2	202	Clay pipe x2 fragments
205	2	202	Possible whetstone?
206	2	202	Small sherd of pottery
207	2	202	Stone mould fragment
208	2	202	Crucible rim sherd
209	2	202	Flint debitage
210	2	202	Possible polishing pebble
211	2	202	Slag fragments x2
212	2	202	Fe object- very corroded
213	2	202	Flint debitage
214	2	202	Rim glazed pottery
215	2	202	Fragment of stone with metal working surface
216	2	202	Flint debitage
217	2	202	Coin 1952?
218	2	202	3 x flint debitage (different types)
219	2	202	Shotgun cartridge
220	2	202	Disc shaped pebble
221	2	202	Possible whetstone?
222	2	204	2 buckets of small rounded stones, possible slingshots

Trench 3

Finds No.	Trench	Context No.	Description
301	3	302	Modern (?) Iron Object
302	3	302	Modern (?) Iron object
303	3	302	Possible small pounder
304	3	304	Rounded stone, flat edge at top of [304] collapse amongst soil (302)
305	3	305	Bone- small fragments
306	3	305	Possible vitrified material- slag?
307	3	305	Slag material
308	3	305	Iron Object
309	3	305 (base just above (308)	Iron object
310	3	305 (base just above (308)	Saddle quern reused as stone mould
311	3	305 (base just above (308)	Polisher?
312	3	305 (base just above (308)	Possible grinding/rubbing stone?
313	3	305 (base just above (308)	Stone mould fragments/ saddle quern- same as SF312
314	3	306	Sharpening stone
315	3	305	Circular worn (?) stone
316	3	308 (at base of [304])	Fragment of bone interface (306)/(308)
317	3	302	Heavily corroded iron object
318	3	306 (interface over (308))	Heat affected/vitrified material
319	3	305	Bone fragments
320	3	308	Stone- worked?
321	3	305	Vitrified/slag material
322	3	306	Worked stone?

Trench 4

Finds	Trench	Context No.	Description
401	4	401	Spindle whorl
402	4	401	Possible worked stone- heavily worn
403	4	401	Slag pieces (x7)
404	4	401	Polished bone? Multiple pieces
405	4	401	Jaw and teeth & teeth
406	4	401	Ceramic
407	4	401	Possible slag/crucible x2 fragments
408	4	401	Quartz scraper
409	4	401	Quartz debitage
410	4	401	Pb bead
411	4	401	Slag
412	4	401	Bone, possible claw/tusk/horn
413	4	401	Worked? Stone
414	4	401	Stone- metal working accretion?
415	4	401	Large red deer antler
416	4	401	3 large bags of bone, assorted
417	4	401	Fish vertebrae
418	4	401	Crucible (?) fragment
419	4	401	Polished red stone
420	4	401	Bone? – claw/tusk/horn
421	4	401	Crucible fragment
422	4	401	Vitrified stone
423	4	401	Metal? Nail
424	4	401	Stone- metal working, vitrification, crucible?
425	4	401	Teeth
426	4	401	Gaming piece?
427	4	401	Iron fragment?
428	4	401	Worked quartz fragment
429	4	401	4 large bags of assorted animal bone
430	4	401	Slag
431	4	401	Iron working slag?
432	4	401	Miscellaneous items- bone- from sieve
433	4	401	Misc bone
434	4	401	Slag
435	4	401	Polished stone
436	4	401	Tooth
437	4	401	1 large bag of animal bone
438	4	401	Burnt clay?

APPENDIX 5: SAMPLES REGISTER

Context No.	Area	Quantity (litres)
015	1	1 X 10L
018	1	1 X 10L
019	1	1 X 10L
202	2	2 X 10L
204 (burnt base)	2	1 X 10L
210	2	1 X 10L
310 (S of T3)	3	2 X 10L
310 (within slot)	3	2 X 10L
311	3	1 x 10L (100% sample)
312 (S of [304])	3	2 X 10L
313	3	1 X10L
314	3	1 X 5L (100% sample)
315	3	1 x 10L

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

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kings Seat Community Archaeology Project
PROJECT CODE:	23917
PARISH:	Dunkeld and Dowally
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Dunkeld and Birnam Historical Society
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation and topographic survey
NMRS NO(S):	NO04SW 19
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Fort
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Stone moulds; crucible fragments; possible slingshot stones.
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 0093 4303
START DATE (this season)	7th September 2017
END DATE (this season)	19th September 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. *DES* ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	King's Seat Hillfort (NGR: NO 0093 4303; NMRS: NO04SW19; PKHER: MPK5444; Scheduled Monument: 1598), also known as 'The Fort of the Caledonians', is located on the summit of King's Seat, a key geographical feature in the landscape, located on a bend on the north side of the River Tay. The forts defences are comprised of a central citadel occupying the summit of the hill and a series of ramparts enclosing lower terraces. The citadel measures about 35m by 22m within what are probably the remains of a thick wall. The entrance is located to the north and there appears to have been a track dropping down to a lower terrace on the west. This track and the terrace are edged by a rampart reduced to a stony bank up to 4m in thickness by 0.4m in height, its south end resting on the lip of a precipitous cliff. Below this terrace, on the west, the approach to the fort is partially blocked by three rampart-like features, which form a flight of terraces levelled into the slope. King's Seat Hillfort sits on exposed bedrock of the Ben Ledi Grit Formation, Metasandstone. Vegetation clearance of the thick rhododendron growth on the hill was carried out by a team of local volunteers in advance of survey and excavation work. A topographic survey of the site was carried out in advance of excavation by AOC Archaeology to record the main features on the site. From 7th September for two weeks a team of archaeologists from AOC Archaeology and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust excavated four trenches on the site with a team of local volunteers. Scheduled monument consent has been granted in principle for three seasons of excavation and five trenches on the site, four of which were excavated in 2017. Trench 2-3 were completed. Two further seasons of excavation are planned to complete the excavation of Trench 1 and 4 and start 5.

	From September 7th to 19th, 2017, four trenches were opened at Kings Seat. Trench 1 was 11m by 3m and investigated the series of ramparts enclosing the lower terraces. The upper rampart was fully excavated and consisted of a bank of large boulders creating a rough outer face and several postholes set back from the inner face. The second rampart was of similar construction but more slumped on the steeper slope. The third lower rampart had been reworked in more modern times as part of a landscaping on the site. Stones had been disturbed and placed along the outside edge of the lower terrace, acting as a kerb for a Victorian track running round and up the hill. A stone mould was retrieved from this trench. This trench will be reopened in part and finalised in 2018-2019. Trench 2 was 8m by 8m and investigated an area adjacent to the large schist glacial erratic or 'Kings Seat' within the summit enclosure. Topsoil or hillwash deposits were shallow here and bedrock was exposed across the whole trench. Although no features were observed within the thin hillwash deposits unstratified finds including one stone mould, several crucible fragments, several flakes of flint and modern shotgun cartridges were all recorded from this layer. Deposits of small round stones were also identified within this layer, grouped in one location near the glacial erratic and confirmed to have been introduced to the site rather than a natural occurrence. These have been tentatively interpreted as 'slingshot' stones. Trench 3 was 2m by 5m and placed to investigate the summit enclosure wall immediately to the north east of the entrance. The section here revealed that that low bank visible above the ground consisted of large stones and earth with no coherent face. This feature was slumped and collapsing off the outer edge down the steep slope of the hill. Two fragments of the same stone mould were retrieved from within the bank material. The style of mould, in a 'mirror' form was the same as the mould found in Trench 2. Trench 4 was opened and the topsoil removed. Within this mixed layer were large quantities of animal bone, fragments of teeth, claws and horns. Excavation was halted at the interface to the next layer; a charcoal rich archaeological horizon containing more stone and possible settings. This trench will be reopened and completed in 2018. Artefacts recovered included three stone moulds, two of 'mirror' form. After initial research these are similar in form to moulds identified at Garranes, Ireland and Portmahomack, Tarbat amongst others. Several small fragments of crucible were also identified; implying precious metal working of some form had been taking place at this site. A programme of further excavation and post-excavation analysis, including radiocarbon dating will help define the chronology and possible phasing at the site.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Two more seasons of excavation to revisit and investigate other elements of the site, post-excavation programme and research.
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	1: Fragment of stone mirror shaped mould 2: The Kings Seat glacial erratic on bedrock at trench 2
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	HLF
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cathy.maciver@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	PKHT









AOC Archaeology Group

AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | **fax:** 0131 440 3422 | **e-mail:** edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com