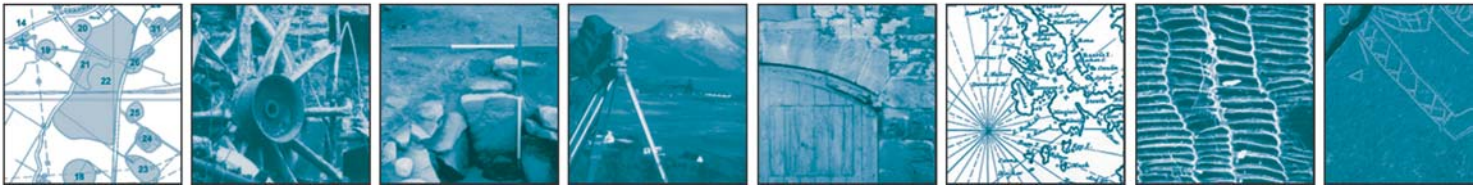


Date: November 2005
Client: Highland Council

Project Code: HFS05



Home Farm, Portree, Isle of Skye

Archaeological Excavation: Data Structure Report

Paul Masser



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

INTRODUCTION

Planning background

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Headland Archaeology at Home Farm, Portree, on behalf of Highland Council, following evaluation of the site by CFA Archaeology. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology in response to a Brief issued by Highland Council Archaeology Unit (Home Farm, Portree (SL-05-116). Fieldwork was started 5 July 2005 and completed on 9 September.

Site description

The site comprises fields currently used as pasture for sheep, to the north-west of a modern housing development on the edge of Portree (fig. 1). The west edge of the site follows the banks of the River Leasgeary, which is deeply incised at this point. The ground generally slopes towards the north-west, with well-drained upper slopes giving way to lower-lying areas of peat bog.

Historical and archaeological background

Documentary research by CFA (Suddaby 2005, 3) did not identify any previously recorded archaeological remains within the area of the development. In the immediate vicinity of the site, the chapel and burial ground of Kiltaraglen (NMRS site no. NG44SE 5) which remained in use up to the mid 18th century, is thought to have lain in the fields around Home Farm. Its exact location is unknown and no evidence was found when the site was visited by the Ordnance Survey in 1961, although a rectangular platform was noted (presumably at the National Grid location given for the site in the NMRS, NG 478 441, now covered by modern housing development). A possible rectangular building within a circular enclosure at NG 4804 4405 (also within modern housing to SE of the site) was identified by CFA from aerial photographs.

Evaluation of the site by CFA Archaeology in February 2005 identified archaeological remains in three areas included within the development:

- 1 A group of upstanding turf-covered stone structures (A to D) beside a small stream to the north of the site, including buildings, enclosures and mounds, was surveyed and investigated with a series of small hand-excavated trenches (Suddaby 2005, 10-14).
- 2 A stone structure interpreted as a cairn, and a group of pits or postholes, was identified in a machine-excavated trench (Trench 121, Suddaby 2005, 15).
- 3 A group of features including a segmented curvilinear feature, tentatively interpreted as a prehistoric funerary monument, was identified in a machine-excavated trench (Suddaby 2005, 17-18).

Additional research since the completion of fieldwork has identified three pre-Ordnance Survey estate maps, held by the Clan Donald archive with copies in the National Archives of Scotland, which show the site. The earliest, part of a map of the MacDonald estates surveyed by Matthew Stobie in 1766 (RHP 5993/8) shows a large area north of Portree and to the east of the River Leasgeary divided into regular plots separated by roads and lines of trees, which appears to be a plan for the development of Portree that never materialised. A 'plan of farms, townships etc in Portree parish' by John Blackadder, probably surveyed in 1800 (RHP 5997/4) shows a settlement, Lisigearrigh, beside the river whose name it shared at NG 476 443. A book of farm plans dated 1810 includes a plan of 'Portree Farm or

Lisigearrigh' (RHP 5996/32), which is clearly the same as Home Farm shown on 1st edition Ordnance Survey, a single-tenant farm with regular fields which presumably replaced the earlier township. This plan shows the whole of the development area, as well as the area to the south-east now occupied by modern housing, as attached to Portree Farm.

METHODOLOGY

A number of trenches were excavated across the site, targeted on the results of the CFA Archaeology evaluation (Figure 1). Headland Archaeology's trench number sequence ran from 201 to 214 in order not to duplicate numbers.

Trenches 201 and 202 were located to investigate upstanding building remains that were surveyed during the evaluation (Figure 2): Trench 201 covered Structures C and D, as described in the evaluation, and Trench 202 covered Structures A and B. These trenches were de-turfed and cleaned by hand. Following recording, tumble was removed from the interiors and the structures partially dismantled to obtain information about their construction and date.

Two trenches (212 and 213) were also dug by hand (after machine access proved problematic) to investigate an apparent platform and mounds on a terrace beside the river, and another hand-dug trench was situated to investigate a possible stone structure on top of an 'enhanced natural mound' identified in Trench 25 during the evaluation. Trenches 205-211 were machined in the vicinity of these structures to evaluate a number of potential archaeological features, including mounds and cultivation rig, identified in the evaluation, using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a 1.8 m flat-bladed bucket.

Two areas further upslope on the south side of the site, Trenches 203 and 204, were also opened up by machine: Trench 203 (fig. 5) was centred on a possible cairn and a group of postholes identified in Trench 121 of the evaluation, and Trench 204 (fig. 8) was centred on a group of features located in Trench 135 of the evaluation, which had been tentatively identified as a prehistoric funerary monument. All machining was carried out under the supervision of the site director, removing topsoil and stopping when deposits of potential archaeological interest, or undisturbed natural geology, were reached. Three upstanding stone structures within Trench 203 (Structures F, G and H) were dealt with in a similar way to structures A-D, i.e. they were cleaned, planned and then partially or totally dismantled to ascertain their date and character. Areas of Trenches 203 and 204 in which features (consisting of postholes, pits and ditches) had been noted during machining were hand-cleaned, and all features identified were at least 50% excavated with the exception of a ditch of which at least 10% was excavated.

All archaeological features were three-dimensionally recorded using a Total Station linked to a *Penmap* digital mapping system. Features that proved too complex for digital recording alone were drawn by hand, in plan at scale 1:20 and in section at 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. A list of drawings is included in Appendix 2. Deposits, cuts and other stratigraphic units were assigned context numbers and described on *pro forma* context sheets; features and structures comprising a number of contexts have been assigned group numbers, while the letters used to denote upstanding structures in the evaluation have also been retained for ease of reference. All contexts and groups are described in Appendix 1. A full photographic record was kept, using colour slide and black and white print film: the photographs are catalogued in Appendix 3. Finds were recovered by context and three-dimensionally recorded where appropriate. Bulk soil samples were taken for environmental analysis from a representative range of deposits.

RESULTS

Trenches 201, 202 and 205 to 214 (Figure 2)

Trench 201: two 18th/ 19th century outbuildings (Fig. 4)

Group 1 (Plate 2) denotes a rectangular building identified as Structure C in the evaluation. The wall footings (Context 122), which survived to a height of no more than 0.3 m, had a core of earth and small stones, and had been faced with large boulders which were present only in places, suggesting that some robbing of larger stones had occurred. Loose stones and soil overlying the interior and exterior of the building (Contexts 112 and 123) derive from the collapse of the building. A doorway on the WNW side could be recognised where the walling was interrupted with two large flat stone slabs. The building had an earth floor (Contexts 146 and 147), containing slate fragments and 18th/19th century ceramic, glass and other finds. The building does not appear to have contained a hearth, although two small patches of burning (Context 145), probably representing single-event fires, were seen at the NNE end of the building.

Structure D (Plate 1) was a building set approximately at right angles to Structure C, which appears to have been of much less substantial construction, or else has been extensively robbed of its larger stones. With the exception of the SE corner, where a few large stones may represent the remains of wall facing, the walls (Context 125) were represented only by a slight and irregular bank of small stones. The remains of the walls rested directly on a buried soil yielding 18th/19th century finds (Context 120), which had been largely removed in the interior of the building, and replaced by a layer of clay (Context 121). A hearth was situated towards the ESE end of the building, consisting of a circular arrangement of large flat stone slabs (Context 141) showing evidence of scorching, with a deposit of charcoal (Context 144) on the NE side.

If, as was initially assumed, the two structures in this trench are contemporary and represent the remains of a farmstead, it seems odd that the hearth should be located in the less substantial of the two buildings. Both may in fact be outbuildings, and the hearth in Structure D could be related to a specific function of the building rather than being a domestic fireplace. Another possible interpretation is that Structure D is the remains of a dwelling house that has been robbed to provide stone for Structure C which may, given the absence of a hearth, be merely an outbuilding.

Trench 202: an 18th/19th century cottage with adjoining outshot (fig. 3)

Group 4 comprises the walls of Structures A and B as described in the evaluation. Structure B was revealed to be a rectangular building with rounded corners, 8 m long and 3 m wide internally, orientated NE-SW (Plate 3). A doorway in the north-west wall accessed a sub-rectangular outshot, (Structure A), which was attached to the north-east end of the building and terraced into the slope of the hill on its north-east side (Plate 4). All the walls were 1.4 m wide on average, faced both inside and out with large rounded boulders, enclosing a core of earth.

Group 6 denotes occupation deposits within the building. Structure B had an earth floor (Contexts 131, 132 and 136), considerably hollowed by use, containing much charcoal derived from a simple hearth (Context 166) in the middle of the floor, about one third of the way from the south-west end of the building. Ceramic, glass and other finds from the floor deposit all appear, on an initial appraisal, to be of 18th or early 19th century date. The black, charcoal rich floor deposit extended through the doorway part way into Structure A, which also had a simple earth floor.

Immediately to the north-east of the two structures was a substantial bank (Group 9) aligned NW-SE: a section excavated through this revealed it to have a stone facing [157] and earth core [135], similar to the walls of the buildings.

Group 5 comprises stone and soil deposits derived from the collapse and/or demolition of the building. A stone-faced bank (Group 7: contexts 113 and 161) beside a ditch, forming part of the existing system of rectangular fields, overlay the south-east side of Structure B, indicating that it was no longer standing by the time the field-bank was built.

Trench 205: natural mound

A trench was machined north from the edge of Trench 201, across a linear mound noted on the survey plan in the evaluation. The mound was found to be a natural undulation, rather than an archaeological feature.

Trench 206: mound with stone bank

Trench 206 refers to the re-opening of evaluation Trench 25, across a circular mound which had been characterised in the evaluation as a natural feature to which a curvilinear bank had been added. Trench 214 (see below) was later excavated to investigate the bank further.

Trench 207: natural mound

A trench was machined across a linear mound noted on the survey plan in the evaluation. The mound was found to be a natural undulation, rather than an archaeological feature.

Trench 208: natural mound

A mound noted on the survey plan in the evaluation was half-sectioned with the machine. The mound was found to be a natural undulation, rather than an archaeological feature.

Trench 209

A trench was machined across an area of cultivation rig noted on the survey plan in the evaluation, and one section cleaned and recorded. The features consisted of raised ridges spaced 7-8 m apart, with the furrows consisting only of a thinning in the topsoil rather than being cut into the subsoil.

Trenches 210 and 211: enclosed garden or yard

Two trenches were excavated across the banks of a sub-rectangular enclosure recorded on the survey plan in the evaluation. The topsoil was removed with the machine, after which the trenches were extended through the banks by hand. Stone facing was identified in the core of the banks, the bulk of which appeared to have been constructed of turf or soil which had slumped into the interior of the enclosure, resulting in an unusually deep soil profile. No features were identified in the interior of the enclosure. High grass covering the enclosure at the time of the excavation made detailed re-survey impracticable, and it was not possible to check the interpretation on survey evidence by CFA of a rectangular enclosure with two entrances to the SW.

Trench 212: natural platform beside River Leasgeary

A trench was excavated by hand across a slightly raised area, between the river to the west and a low-lying boggy area to the east, which had been tentatively identified as an artificially built platform in the evaluation. The section revealed an undisturbed soil profile (Group 11, Context 143), with no indication that any material had been artificially deposited (other than the recovery of a possible mattock blade). The raised area may be a natural feature, possibly a small island between the present course of the river and a relict channel surviving as the boggy area on the east side.

Trench 213

Two mounds noted in the evaluation were quarter-sectioned by hand down to undisturbed natural. Both appeared to be dumped mounds of soil containing moderate quantities of coal fragments (Group 10, Context 149).

Trench 214

A trench was excavated by hand at right angles to Trench 206, across a crescent-shaped arc of stones on the top of a natural mound. This feature proved to be a rough and disorganised bank of large stones, among which were found 18th-19th century glass and china as well as a rifle bullet, suggesting that it may be a shooting butt associated with the targets shown on the 1st edition O.S. map. Alternatively, it may be merely a clearance cairn associated with 18th or 19th century agricultural improvements.

Trench 203 (Figure 5)*Post-built structures*

Two post-built structures can be distinguished among the postholes identified in Trench 203. A group of four postholes (Group 15) arranged in a square all showed evidence for the posts being replaced at least twice, and are of a similar size and depth. Another group of postholes (Group 19) to the west of Structure H, including features identified in Trench 121 of the evaluation, appears to define an oval building. Numerous other postholes were identified in the vicinity of Structure F, but cannot convincingly be resolved into distinct structures. No finds were recovered from any of the postholes. Bulk soil samples have been recovered from the majority of them, however, which may produce dating evidence in the form of finds or charcoal for radiocarbon dating.

A ditch

A ditch (Group 14) crossed the trench from east to west, interrupted near the east and west edges of the trench (Plate 5). Sections were excavated across the ditch at 10 m intervals, and also at the terminals and at the point where the ditch ran into the west edge of the trench. The ditch was nowhere more than 0.15 m deep, with gently sloping edges. Near the eastern terminal, a concentration of stones within the ditch (Context 265) is interpreted as the remains of a bank pulled into the ditch by ploughing. A charcoal-rich deposit (Context 266) containing charred oats overlay the stones, and this material has been sampled for environmental analysis. No finds were recovered from the ditch.

Structure F (fig. 6)

The structure identified in evaluation Trench 121 as a cairn proved on investigation to be an oval building with an entrance at one end, facing north-west (Plates 6 and 7). The south-west wall was defined by a single curving alignment of large boulders (Context 108); a row of boulders parallel with it (Context 332) may be the remains of the inner face of the wall, and a low spread of smaller stones (Context 333) may derive from a rubble core. The north-east wall had been largely truncated within the evaluation trench: a rough alignment of boulders (Context 111) may be part of its inner face. A roughly paved surface (Context 258) extended through the doorway. In the interior, an earth floor was covered with concentrations of charcoal (Context 173) and crossed by three interconnected drains with fragmentary remains of stone capping, one of which (Context 224) ran through the door across the paved surface. A slight gully (Context 255) ran around the outside of the building on the south-west side, presumably to drain water from the upslope, back end of the building. The building overlay the terminal of the ditch (Context 167), and stone tumble to the south-east of the building sealed a buried soil deposit (Context 174) from which several sherds of plain hand-made pottery were recovered. No other finds were present.

Structure G

An oval patch of stones approximately 5 x 4 m wide had been partially truncated through the middle by evaluation Trench 121. Hand-cleaning revealed no evidence for any structure among the stones, which appear to represent a clearance cairn of unknown date.

Structure H (fig. 7)

This structure, built on a slight north-west facing spur, was not found in the evaluation as it fell between Trenches 120 and 121, and appeared before excavation as an entirely grassed-over oval mound. Excavation revealed an oval building with an entrance to the north-west, which is currently thought to be the plough-damaged and partially robbed remains of a kiln-barn (Plates 8 and 9). Wall-footings survived in part on the south-west side as a regular line of rounded boulders (Context 175), but the north-east wall was present merely as an irregular bank of smaller stones (Context 177); there was a distinct gap between the two sections of stone wall-footings at the south-east end. A bank of stones internal to the building, against the south-west wall, is interpreted as the flue and base for a corn-drying kiln. At the south-east end, the kiln base appeared as a circular stone structure (Context 176) 1.6 m wide, scorched and covered with charred material (Context 231). An extensive burnt deposit (Context 230) overlying the earth floor beside it probably represents rakings from the kiln. Extending to the north-west was a rough bank of large stones (Context 178) which may be the remains of a flue.

The stone wall footings rested on a soil layer (Context 138) that appears to represent the pre-building ground surface and functioned as the floor of the building. Context [138] was not easily distinguished from the deposit overlying the stones (Context 117), except where burnt deposits marked the level of the floor; Context 117 probably derives largely from the collapse of the earth and turf superstructure of the building. Sherds of hand-made pottery similar to those from Structure F were recovered from the base of Context 117, as well as a fragment of leaded bronze from an unidentified object. The sherds included a rim/neck and a base fragment that are characteristic of a traditional style of 'craggan' that was in use in the Hebrides until the 19th century (Julie Franklin, *pers. comm.*) Fragments of slate and 18th/19th century ceramic and glass were recovered from topsoil (Context 116) overlying the structure, but these are probably unrelated to its main phase of use and may reflect dumping of refuse in the disused quarry pit to the SE.

A shallow gully yielding charred oats, barley and weed species (Context 118) encircling the building, and two more shallow curvilinear gullies (Contexts 304 and 306) beyond it at the south-east end, presumably functioned to divert water from upslope around the sides of the building. The position of

the stone footings in relation to the inner gully suggests that the latter belongs to an earlier phase of the structure, as some large stones which are almost certainly *in situ* overlie the upper fill of the gully (Context 299). The outer gullies 304 and 306 can however be related convincingly to the surviving stone structure. Removal of the putative flue structure (Context 178) also revealed a shallow gully (Context 301), cut into the underlying ground surface and containing a charcoal-rich deposit running into a shallow oval pit, yielding charred oats, barley and weed species, (Context 329) at the north-west end. These features may be the remains of a flue and stoke-hole from an earlier phase of the kiln-barn: the gully lies to one side of the stone flue structure so it is hard to see how the two can have functioned together.

Trench 204 (Fig. 8)

The 'segmented ditch' identified in evaluation Trench 135 was re-exposed and further investigated. A shallow and intermittent ring gully approximately 4 m in diameter can perhaps be distinguished, consisting of Contexts 310 and 312, with a poorly-defined spread of burnt material (Context 334) possibly defining its south side. Further curvilinear ditch segments (Contexts 313 and 315) were identified beyond the feature originally identified, which may belong to an outer concentric segmented ditch approximately 9 m in diameter. A number of postholes were identified, but these could not be resolved into coherent structures. A shallow pit (Context 292) containing concentrations of charcoal and charred oats was excavated to the north of the group of features. The concentric gullies are provisionally interpreted as the remains of a roundhouse, albeit one with postholes that must have been generally too shallow to survive. The inner gully may represent erosion of the floor or deliberate pitting in the interior of the building, while the outer ditch segments may have been intended for drainage or demarcation around the outside of the structure. This interpretation remains tentative, given the very slight and fragmentary state of many of the features, and the lack of dating evidence.

Structure I

This was represented as cluster of 16 small pits and postholes (Contexts 339 - 374). These features were revealed under a thin deposit of clay silt on the east side of the Trench. The area was subject to a great deal of modern disturbance. The pits and postholes do not reveal an obvious plan to suggest a structure. The charred cereals from the environmental samples are the same as from the rest of the site – a mixture of oats and barley. The only clue to date is a piece of modern white stoneware from one of the postholes. However, due to the modern disturbance this may be intrusive.

DISCUSSION

Possible prehistoric features

Possible evidence for prehistoric settlement consists of the posthole-defined structures in Trench 203 (Groups 15, 16, and 19), the ditch in Trench 203 (Group 14), and the group of postholes, pits and hollows in Trench 204 (Group 20) and Structure I. Dating evidence for the posthole structures is poor or non-existent, and some may in fact be medieval or much later. Environmental samples yielded charred oats and barley and where these are present in low concentrations, this is no guide to date. All these features may reflect a dispersed pattern typical of settlement of Bronze Age or Iron Age date. Given the lack of large-scale open-area excavation to date on Skye, no clear parallels for these groups of features can be suggested at present.

The ditch (Group 14) can at least be dated relative to Structure F, which overlies it, and to an undated pit (Context 194) which cuts its fill. This very shallow feature was probably associated with a bank or

hedge, which would have formed the main boundary feature, probably on the northern (downslope) side as suggested by the stones (Context 265) which appear to have been tipped into the ditch from the north. The ditch appears to follow the contour of the hill, and may therefore have been laid out to enclose the hilltop later occupied by Home Farm. The purpose of such an enclosure remains unclear, especially as it remains undated and is as likely to be of medieval date as it is prehistoric.

Post-medieval remains: the township of Lisigearrigh

The majority of the structures excavated appear to relate to a post-medieval township that preceded the establishment of Home Farm, and comprised outbuildings (including a kiln barn), a possible dwelling house, an enclosure and cultivation remains. The 1800 estate map shows a settlement named Lisigearrigh in approximately this location.

Structures A and B in Trench 202 are the best-preserved of the post-medieval buildings, and were probably domestic in character. A hearth was partially exposed in the main building, and the possession of an outshot at one end (Structure A) also suggests a dwelling house. The location and association with other features are also typical: the buildings occupy a hollow which would have been sheltered from the wind, and are sited next to an enclosure (Group 18) which may be a garden, livestock pen or stackyard. A high bank on the north-east side (Group 9) would have restricted access to the area between the building and the enclosure. As survey on Waternish has shown, post-medieval farmsteads on Skye seldom appear as isolated buildings, but typically in association with yards and various outbuildings.

Structures C and D in Trench 201 appear to be outbuildings, possibly associated with the dwelling house in Trench 202 given their proximity. Structure D contained a substantial stone hearth setting, but otherwise appeared too small and crudely built for domestic occupation (although its insubstantial appearance may be largely due to extensive stone-robbing), and a specific function such as a corn-drying kiln or smokehouse might be suggested. The position of Structure D - at an angle to Structure C and partially blocking its doorway - suggests that the two buildings did not function together and that Structure C, which is better preserved, in fact succeeded Structure D. Much of the stone from Structure D may have been robbed and incorporated into its successor, reducing the walls of the earlier building to slight banks of small stones. Although two small fires had been lit in the interior of Structure C, these represent single events rather than repeatedly used hearths, indicating use as a shed or other outbuilding rather than domestic occupation.

Structure F appears to have been no more than a small hut: although it was incomplete as the north-east side had been truncated by the evaluation trench, it would have had internal dimensions of 5 x 2.5 m at most, a size characteristic of a shieling hut or an outbuilding rather than a permanent dwelling. A deposit of charcoal on the floor may derive from a hearth in the truncated part of the building, but single-event fires unrelated to the primary function of the building (as suggested for Structure C) are an equally likely source. The stone-capped drains running across the floor and through the doorway, and the paving outside the entrance, suggest it may have been used as a byre.

Structure H is interpreted as a corn-drying kiln within a small kiln-barn. Post-medieval townships in the Hebrides typically possessed one or more corn-drying kilns, which were not necessarily semi-subterranean structures but could consist of 'small raised platforms with kiln bowls, some 0.5 m across, set into the corners of subsidiary buildings' (RCAHMS 1993, 9). Due to the risk of fire, these would be situated some distance from houses, and the relatively isolated location of Structure H on top of a knoll is very characteristic. The existing stone-built structure appears to have been rebuilt over a drainage gully and flue that may relate to an earlier kiln barn: the decision to rebuild on the same site, rather than to one side (as appears to have occurred with Structure C) may reflect the advantages of this particular spot on the highest part of the knoll.

The dating evidence for Structures F and H consists principally of the sherds of hand-made 'craggan' pottery which link the two buildings: this pottery tells us little about the date of the buildings, however, as it was in use over such a long period. Both buildings may have been in use at the same time as, or shortly before, the other structures further down the hill which have better evidence for 18th century occupation. A relatively late date is perhaps more likely, since in a continuously cultivated landscape disused stone and earth buildings would tend to be recycled into new structures and finally removed by ploughing (Dodgshon 1993).

The 1800 survey appears to depict a compact settlement beside the river, but this is probably just a convention, and Lisigearrigh, in common with many contemporary settlements, is likely to have been a loose and shifting cluster of buildings dispersed among areas of cultivation. The trackway identified in the survey by CFA between Structures A/B and C/D (Suddaby 2005, 14) cannot be traced further uphill, but heads towards Structures F and H and may have linked them to the rest of the settlement. The isolated patch of rig investigated in Trench 209 is probably part of the arable of the township. The area covered by rig was almost certainly more extensive, but would have been reduced by ploughing.

Home Farm

By 1810, the township had been replaced by a single-tenant farm, known variously as Portree Farm, Lisigearrigh or Home Farm of Portree. The field boundaries shown on the plan made of the farm at this date survive as substantial banks, faced with boulders and topped with trees that were probably originally maintained as hedges, with ditches to one side. Some of the boulders from earlier buildings were very likely removed to build these banks. One such field bank (Group 7) overlies Structure B, confirming that the building had gone out of use by this date. Some ploughing of the fields has taken place, as plough-scars can be seen on the stones of Structures F and H, but this appears to have been merely a light ploughing to improve pasture, no major effort to clear the field of stones having taken place.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

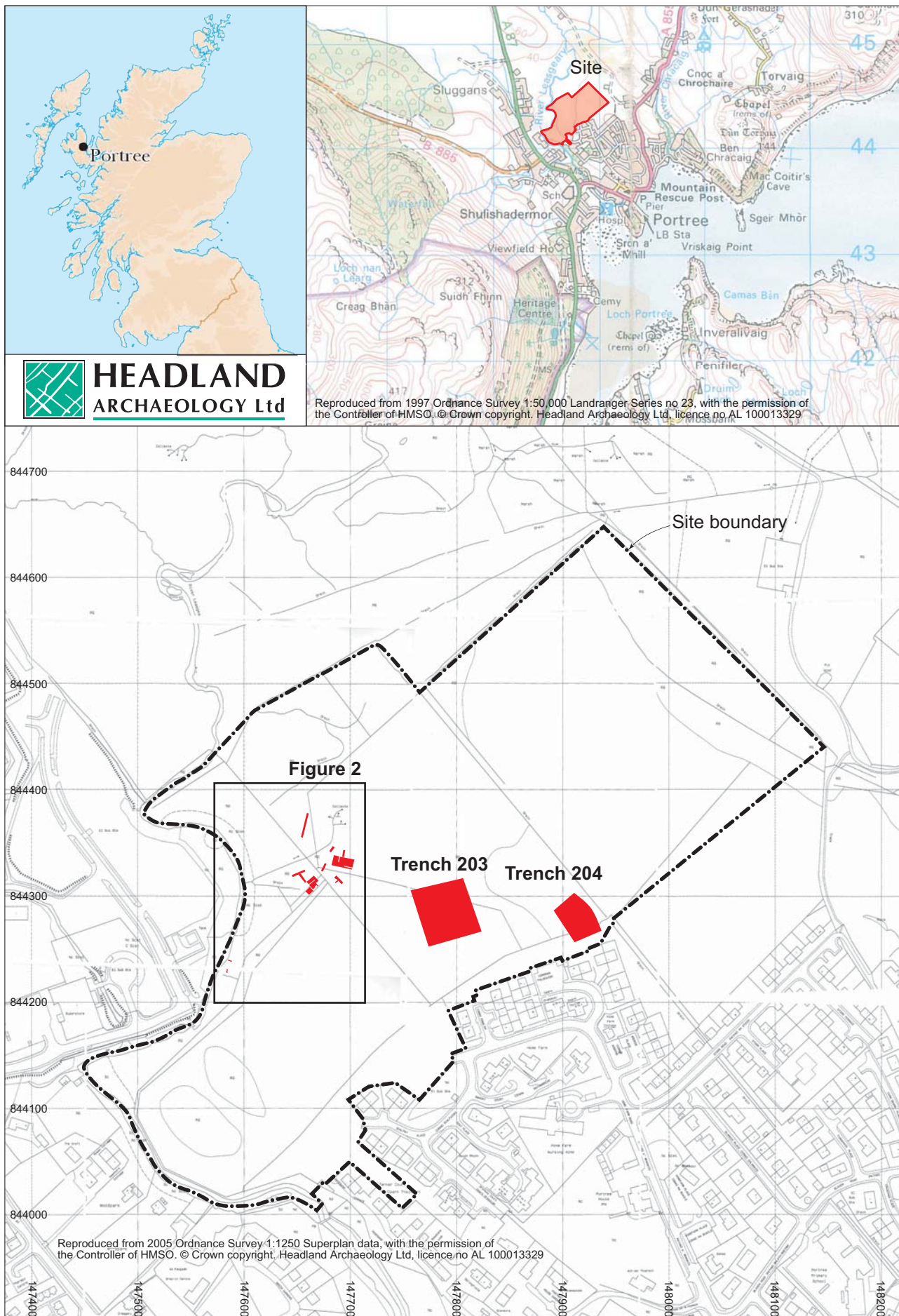
The project was commissioned by Highland Council and monitored by Kirsty Cameron of Highland Council Archaeological Unit. The excavation team included, at various stages of the project: Jenny Barratt, George Geddes, Mike Kimber, Stephen Lancaster, Sally Lloyd, James McMeekin, Emma-Jane O'Riordain, John Nash and Brian Pugh. Survey work was carried out by Mike Kimber. The project manager was Mark Roberts.

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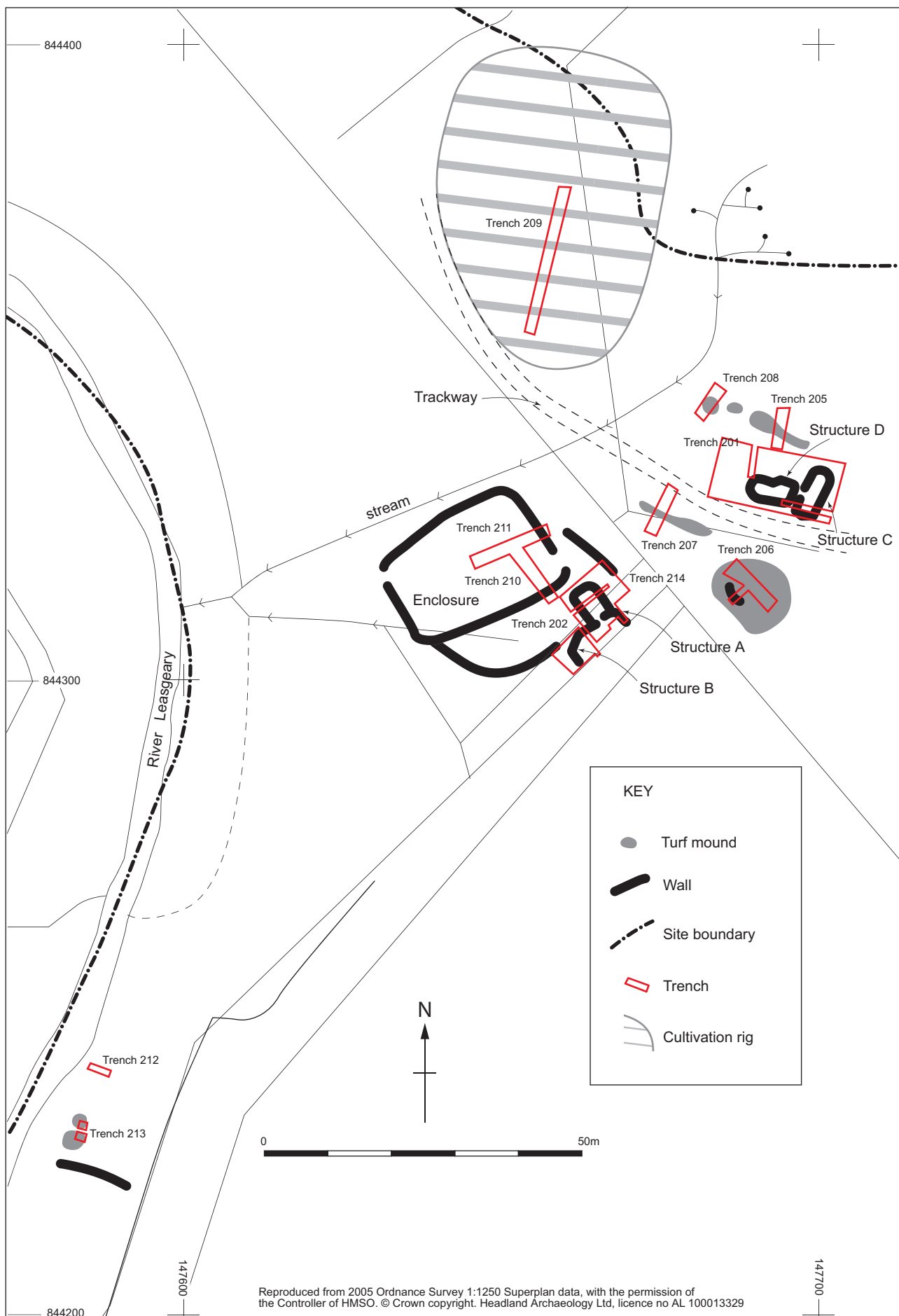
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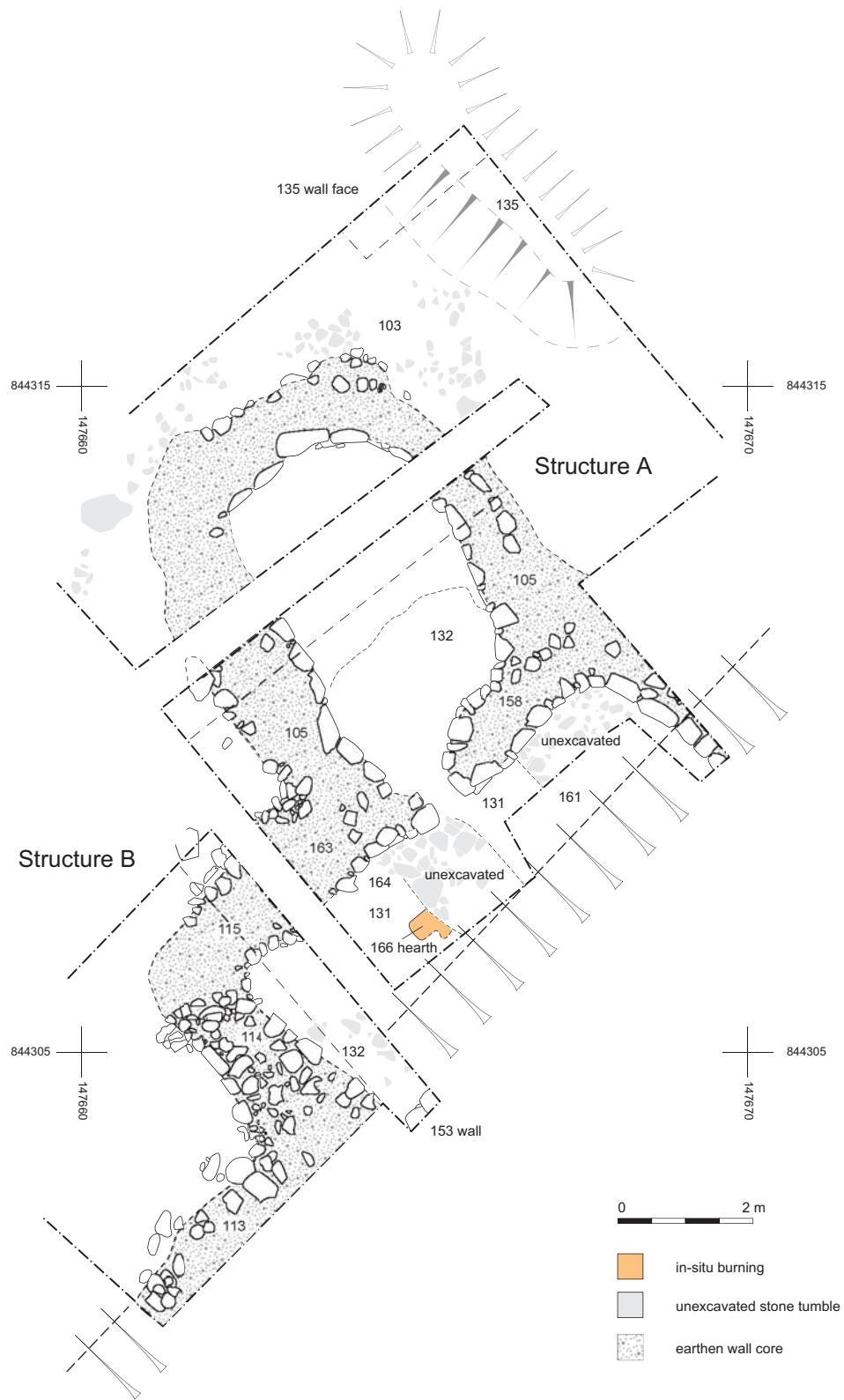
Suddaby, I 2005 Home Farm, Portree, Skye and Lochalsh, Highland Region. Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report, no. 1034, CFA Archaeology Ltd, unpublished



Home Farm Portree : Figure 1 - Trench Locations



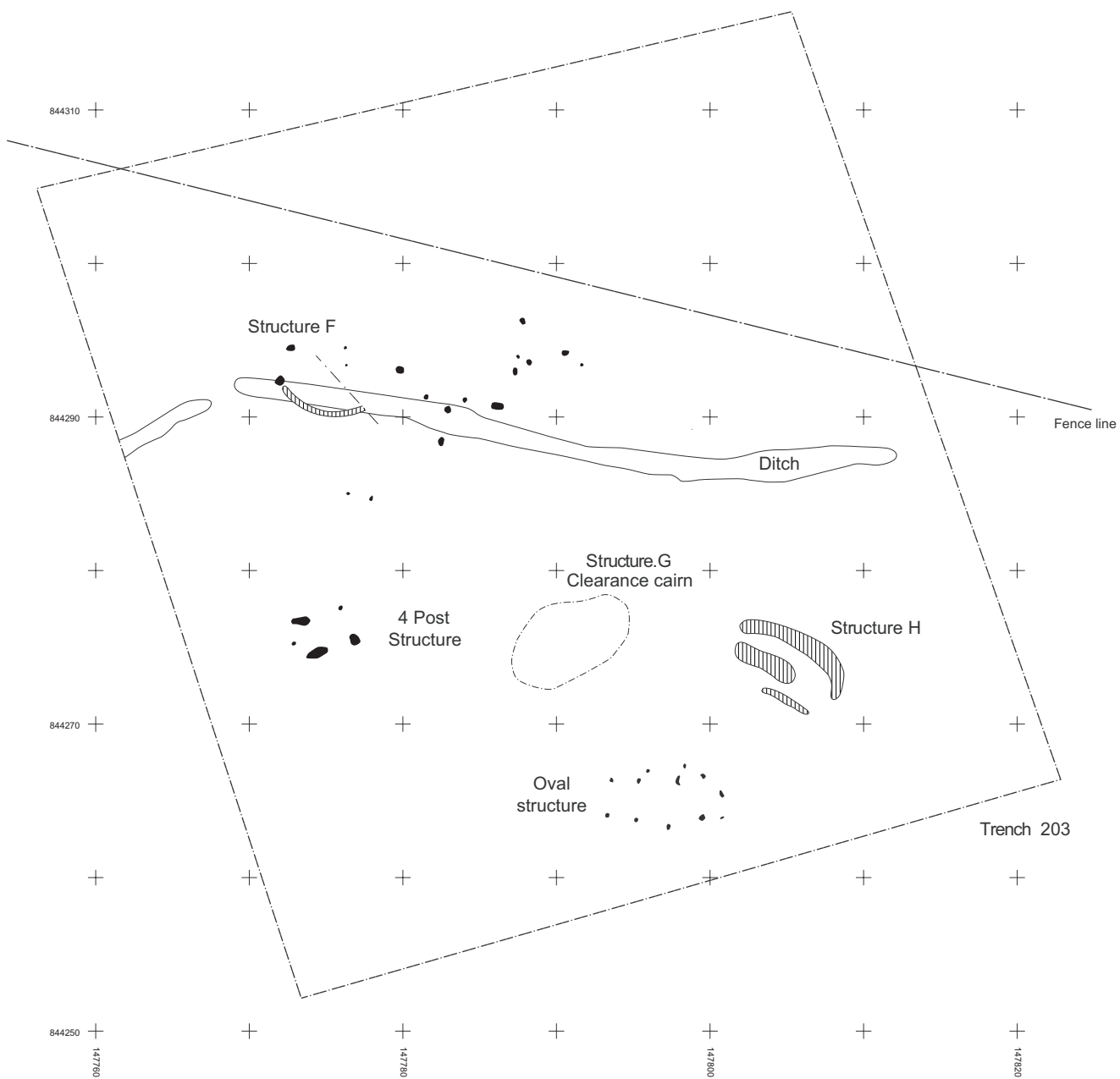
Home Farm Portree : Figure 2 - Trenches 201, 202 and 205-214



Home Farm Portree : Figure 3 - Trench 202 : 18th - 19th century cottage with annexe



Home Farm Portree : Figure 4 - Trench 201 : Post-medieval outbuildings.



KEY



Wall



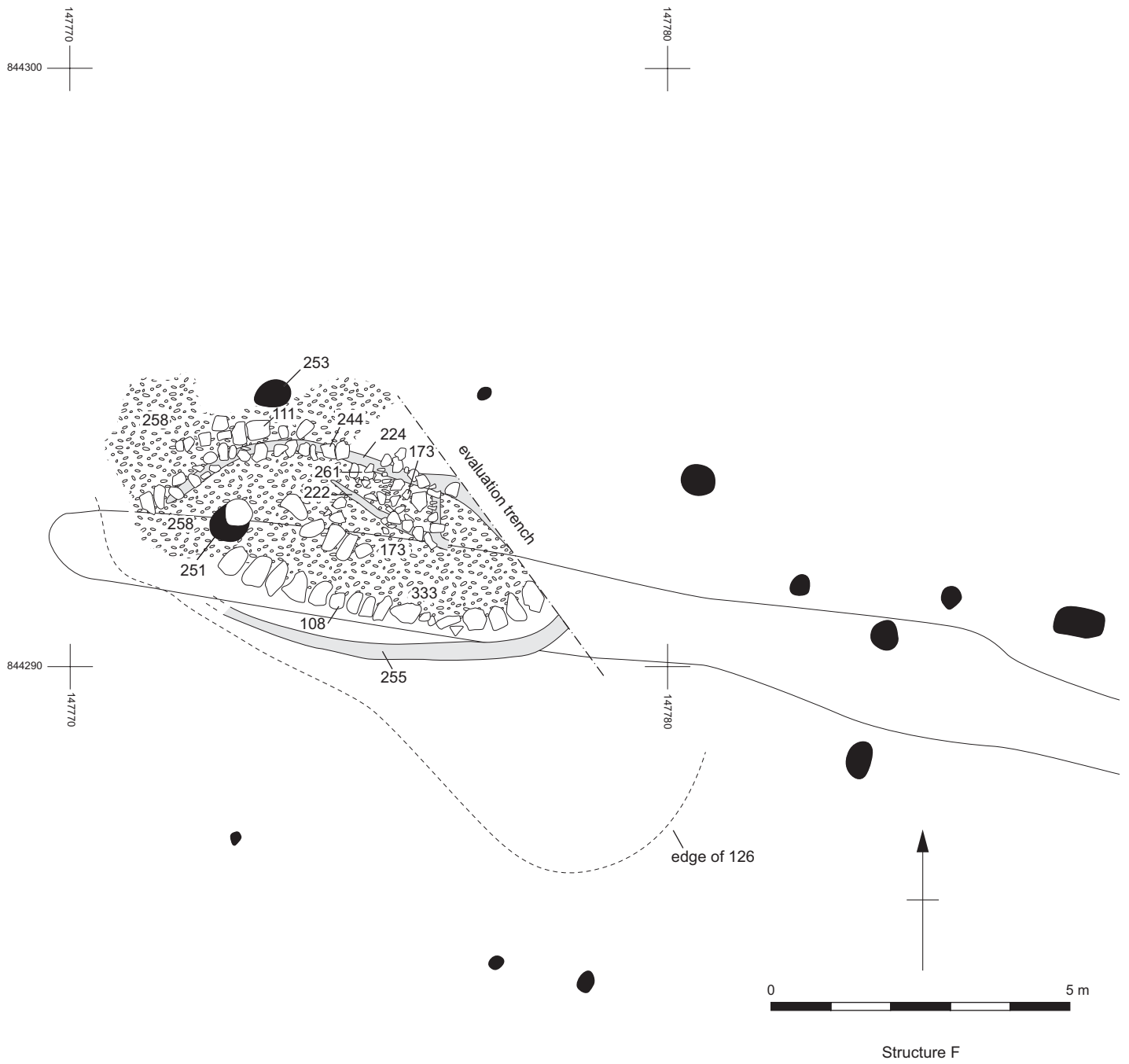
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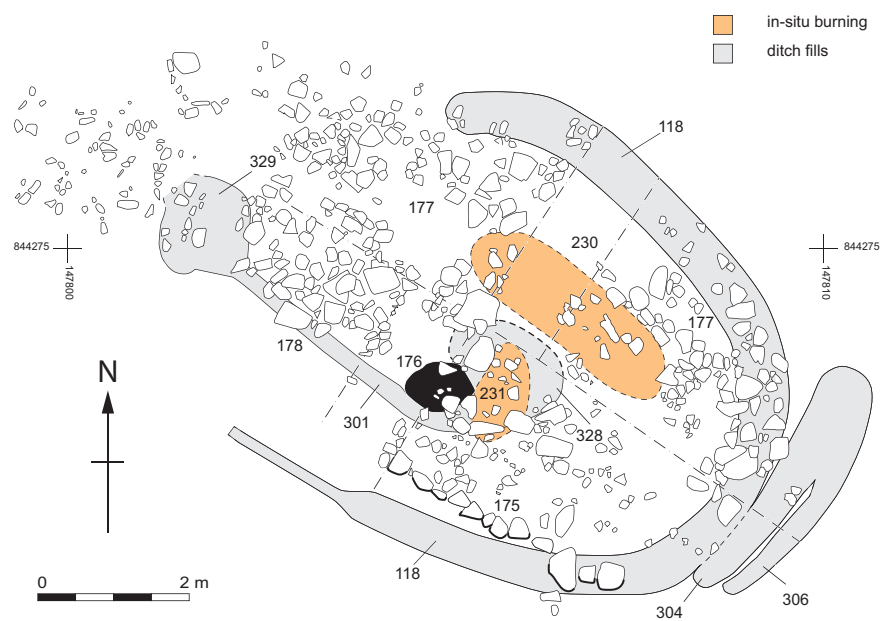
Ditch



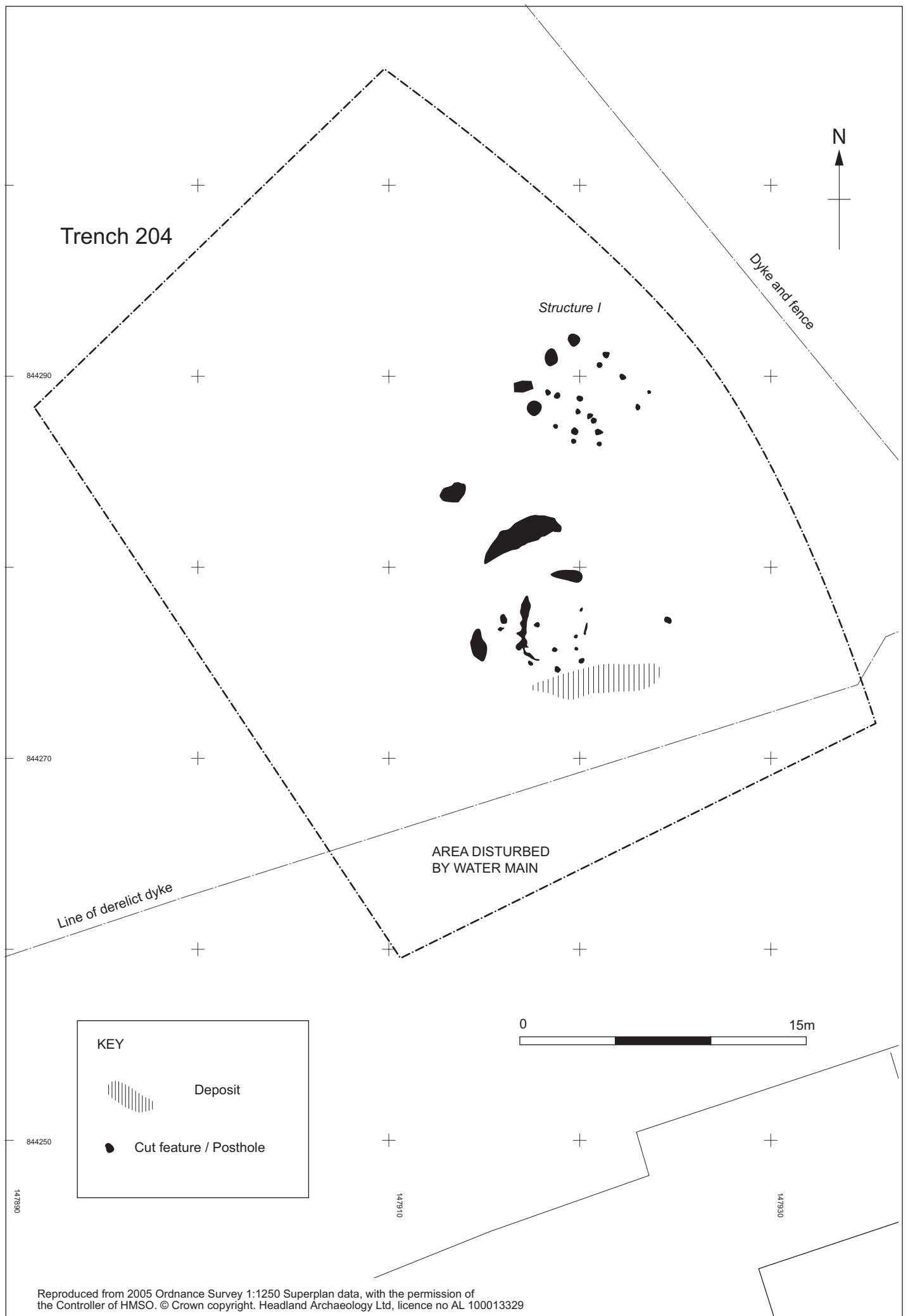
Home Farm Portree : Figure 5 - Trench 203



Home Farm Portree : Figure 6 - Structure F : Medieval / post-medieval outbuilding



Structure H



Home Farm Portree : Figure 8 - Trench 204



Plate 1: Structure C, facing north-east.



Plate 2: Structure D, de-turfed, facing west.



Plate 3: Structure B, looking north-east along north-west wall.



Plate 4: Structure A, facing west.



Plate 5: Ditch 167 facing east from Structure F..



Plate 6: Structure F, facing north-west



Plate 8: Structure F, facing south-east.

Plate 7: (left) Structure H, facing north-west.



Plate 9: Structure H, facing south-east.

Context no.	Trench	Structure	Group	Description	Finds	Samples	Plan	Section	Comments
0	201	C	1	Rectangular building 7 x 2.5 m wide internally, with a doorway 2.0 m from the SSW end of the WNW wall marked by two large flat stone slabs.					
112	201	C	1	Tumble from interior of building (Structure C), abutting walls [122] and overlying floor deposit [147]. Mid brown silt loam with about 40% stones, mostly rounded boulders 0.2-0.4 m in size.					
122	201	C	1	Walls of Structure C: 0.8-0.9 m wide, turf and stone core faced with large rounded boulders 0.2-0.4 m in size, which are missing from much of the walls.					
123	201	C	1	Tumble from exterior of building, revealed in two slots to north and east of building					
145	201	C	1	Two oval patches of in situ burning, overlying [147]. 0.45 x 0.38 m wide and 0.38 x 0.35 m wide respectively, both consisting of a layer of charcoal up to 20 mm thick beneath an orange oxidised layer.		106			
146	201	C	1	Layer of black/dark brown charcoal-rich silt, overlying [147] and abutting walls [122]; nowhere more than 20 mm thick, and present only intermittently.					
147	201	C	1	Layer of small and medium-sized stones within a dark brown silty matrix, up to 0.1 m thick, present in parts of Structure C, overlying soil layer [148]. Represents earth floor of building, which appears to have been levelled up in places.					
148	201	C	1	Layer of compacted dark brown sandy silt up to 0.05 m thick, beneath [147], overlying natural subsoil. Undisturbed soil profile beneath Structure C.		105			
243	201	C	1	Layer of stones 0.2 - 0.3 m in size, underlying wall [122], laid down to provide a level footing for the wall					
0	201	D	2	Rectangular or sub-rectangular building 5 x 2.5 m wide, set roughly at right angles to Structure C.					
119	201	D	2	Tumble from interior and exterior of building (Structure D), abutting walls [125] and overlying floor deposit [121]. Mid brown silt loam with frequent stones.					
120	201	D	2	Very dark brown peaty soil horizon sealed beneath wall [125], up to 0.1 m thick; merges with modern turf line outside Structure D, and is largely removed by [121] in interior.					
121	201	D	2	Layer of light yellowish-brown silty clay, 30-50 mm thick, in interior of Structure D, beneath hearth [141] and related deposits [124] and [144]. Probably a deliberately laid clay floor.					
124	201	D	2	Patch of reddish clay beside hearth stones [141]: heat-affected part of clay floor [121].					
125	201	D	2	Walls of Structure D, surviving only as an irregular bank of stones, although several larger stones at the east end of the building may represent the remains of wall facing that has been removed elsewhere. Built directly on buried soil horizon [120].					
141	201	D	2	Hearth, represented by a circular arrangement of flat stones showing evidence for scorching, 0.8 m across, overlying [121] at east end of Structure D.					
144	201	D	2	Compacted layer of charcoal-rich soil overlying [121], around hearth structure [141].		107			
0	201		3	Stony levelling deposits in possible yard to west of Structures C and D					
154	201		3	Layer of small/medium sized stones filling a slight natural hollow at west end of Trench 201, overlying [155].					
155	201		3	Dark brown soil layer 50 mm thick, beneath [154], overlying [156]					
156	201		3	Yellow clayey deposit beneath [155] in base of shallow hollow. Base of natural soil profile within hollow					
0			4	Walls of Structures A and B					
105	202	A	4	Wall enclosing a sub-rectangular cell or outshot 4.6 x 2.8 m wide, adjoining walls [158] and [163]. Wall is 1.2-1.6 m wide and survives to a height of 0.8 m in places, consisting of an earth core faced with massive boulders, the largest being 1.05 x 0.8 m in size. Wall is terraced into the slope on NE side, and built over soil deposit [133] on SW side.					
114	202		4	SW end wall of building (Structure B), adjoining [115] to NW and disappearing beneath bank [113]. 0.9 m wide, comprising a single course of large stones.					
115	202		4	Fragmentary drystone walling above [140]. 0.6 m wide, representing a narrower upper course of the same wall.					
140	202		4	NW wall of Structure B, continuation of [163] to SW of baulk. 1.4 m wide, with earth core faced with stones on both sides. Overlies turf line [268], surmounted by upper drystone coursing [115], and abutted by floor deposit [136] to SE.					
153	202		4	SE wall of building (Structure B), revealed in a slot cut through bank [113]. One course of stone facing survives, overlying soil horizon [152], and abutted by floor deposit [136].					
158	202		4	Wall forming north corner of building (Structure B), terminating in doorway through to Structure A to the SW; part of NE end of the building revealed in a slot cut through the overlying bank to the SE. 1.4 m wide, core of yellowish-brown sandy silt faced with large stones. Relationship to wall [105] unclear as very little of the outer face of either wall survives at the point where they meet.					
163	202		4	NW wall of building (Structure B), to SW of doorway, continuing to SW beyond baulk as [140]. 1.6m wide, with core of mid yellowish-brown silt faced with large sub-angular boulders. Abutted by floor deposits [131] and [132].					
0			5	Collapse/demolition of Structures A and B					
102	202		5	Turf and topsoil overlying trench					
103	202		5	Deposit of stones and soil between bank [135] and wall [105] and representing tumble from both. Mid reddish-brown humic silty loam with sub-angular stones up to 0.3 m in size.					
104	202		5	Tumble within Structure A: Mid brown silty loam with frequent sub-angular stones up to 0.4 m in size, overlying floor [132] and abutting wall [105].					

Context no.	Trench	Structure	Group	Description	Finds	Samples	Plan	Section	Comments
130	202			Compacted layer of mid reddish-brown humic loam with frequent moderate-sized subangular stones, abutting inner face of wall [158] in NE end of building (Structure B). Probably represents tumble from demolished building, deliberately levelled during construction of overlying bank [161].					
134	202			Topsoil and tumble on NW side of wall [105]. Mid reddish-brown silty loam with frequent subangular stones up to 0.2 m in size. Indistinguishable from [103].					
137	202			Tumble in SW end of building (Structure B) between wall [115] and bank [113] and probably derived from both. Mid brown silt with frequent stones up to 0.4 m in size.					
142	202			Tumble blocking doorway between walls [158] and [163], consisting of subangular stones up to 0.4 m in size, in mid brown silty loam matrix, overlying [132].					
162	202			Layer of mid greyish/reddish brown silt loam, up to 0.3 m thick, overlying wall [158] at its NE end, sealed by bank [161].					
164	202			Tumble from collapse of wall [163], overlying floor deposit [131].					
0				Occupation deposits within Structures A and B					
131	202			Floor surface within building (Structure B). Compact black silt with frequent charcoal, abutting SE side of wall [163], to SW of doorway through to Structure A; overlain by tumble [164].		110			
132	202			Compact black silt with frequent charcoal, continuation of [131] to NE of baulk, extending across about half of Structure A (area enclosed by wall [105]), where it is however thin and patchy.		109			
136	202			Compact black silt with frequent charcoal, continuation of [131] in SW end of building. Layer up to 20 mm thick, overlying soil layer [152] which is hollowed out to 0.2 m beneath the base of the walls, and abutting walls [140] and [153].		108			
166	202			Hearth within building (Structure B), represented by patch of bright orange oxidised clay beneath [131].					
0				Earth and stone bank 0.25 m wide, with a ditch to the SE, forming part of existing field system. Overlies Structure B.					
113	202			Earth bank 2.5 m wide, partially excavated where it overlies SW end of building (Structure B). Faced with subangular/rounded boulders 0.15-0.4 m in size which survive in situ only intermittently.					
128	202			Tumble from NW side of bank [161], consisting of mid-brown humic silty loam with subangular stones up to 0.4 m in size. Merges with [164], which it is presumed to overlie.					
159	202			Collapse of bank [113], overlying tumble [137]. Mid/pale brown silty loam, with frequent large stones.					
161	202			Continuation of [113], excavated in section where it overlies the NE end of building (Structure B). Earth bank consisting of mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional yellowish patches, with a single course of sub-angular stones up to 0.35 m in size retaining the NW face. Overlies [162].					
0				Ground surface sealed beneath Structures A and E					
133	202			Soil layer exposed below wall [105] in section through SW side of wall. Mid reddish-brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular stones, 0.15 m thick except where it fills a hollow 0.3 m deep, probably natural in origin, immediately to the NE of the wall.					
151	202			Dark brown humic/peaty silt horizon up to 60 mm thick below soil layer [152].					
152	202			Mid yellowish-brown slightly sandy silt with moderate small stones, layer 0.4 m thick overlying [151], beneath turf line [268], wall [153] and floor deposit [136].					
268	202			Layer of dark brown peaty silt, less than 10 mm thick, representing a turf line at the top of soil horizon [152], sealed beneath wall [140].					
0				Bank to NE of Structures A and B. Only part of SW side de-turfed; a section was excavated half-way through the bank against the NW edge of Trench 202.					
135	202			Soil forming core of bank, retained by stone walling [157]. Compact mid reddish-brown silty loam with moderate sub-angular stones.					
157	202			Two courses of drystone walling retaining earth core [135] on SW side of bank: not visible on surface as it is masked by tumble, and only seen in a narrow slot cut through the bank.					
0				Two mounds to SW of level terrace beside River Leasgeary, composed of dumped soil and coal fragments					
149	213			Cores of two mounds, consisting of mid-brown sandy silt with frequent coal inclusions, directly overlying subsoil [150].					
150	213			Orange-brown silt, subsoil underlying [149].					
0				Level terrace beside River Leasgeary: appears to be a natural feature, possibly an island between main course of the river and a relict channel.					
143	212			Mid reddish brown sandy silt, 0.5 m thick, overlying natural subsoil in section excavated across level terrace thought to be an artificial platform. Appears to be a natural undisturbed soil profile.					
0		H		Oval building with stone wall footings, possible kiln barn					
116	203	H		Turf and topsoil overlying stone and turf building (Structure H), up to 0.1 m thick					
117	203	H		Mid brown silt with moderate charcoal inclusions, beneath topsoil [116], overlying stone structural features [175], [176], [177] and [178]. Very similar to [138], soil layer underlying stones. Probably represents collapse of turf walling and roofing material.					
118	203	H		Penannular gully up to 0.6 m wide, 0.15 m deep, around SE end of Structure H, enclosing an oval area 5 x 6 m wide. Deepest around SE (upslope) side, it becomes very shallow towards the termini to the NW. Contains deposits [299], [326] and [327]. Appears to relate to an earlier phase of the building, because stone walls [175] and [177] partially overlie it.					
138	203	H		Layer of mid brown silty loam, up to 50 mm thick, overlying natural subsoil beneath stone structural features [175] - [178] and gully fill [299]. Very similar to overlying deposit [117].					

Context no.	Trench	Structure	Group	Description	Finds	Samples	Plan	Section	Comments
175	203	H	12	Slightly curving line of boulders 0.2-0.4 m in size, extending for 4 m along south side of structure, partially overlying deposit [299] in top of gully [118].					
176	203	H	12	Circular structure 1.8 m in diameter, edged with large boulders up to 0.6 m in size, some of which are scorched and heat-shattered, with several large flat slabs at the base, within a possible cut [328]. Adjoins linear stone structure [178] to NW. Overlain by charcoal-rich deposit [231].					
177	203	H	12	Loose and ill-defined bank of stones, 0.1 - 0.3 m in size, along NE side of structure, partially overlying deposit [299] in top of gully [118].					
178	203	H	12	Bank 3 m long, 1.5 m wide, composed of rounded boulders up to 0.3 m in size, extending NW from [176]. Overlies [138]; its SW edge overlies gully fill [300].					
230	203	H	12	Area of <i>in situ</i> burning covering 2.5 x 1.0 m, contained between stone wall/bank [177] and possible kiln structure [176], overlying [138], comprising a layer of charcoal 10-20 mm thick overlain by a layer of orange oxidised silt up to 20 mm thick.		137			
231	203	H	12	Blackish silt with frequent charcoal inclusions, overlying [176] and filling interstices of the stones, representing <i>in situ</i> burning over the top of [176].		138, 161			
232	203	H	12	Deposit of burnt bone and charcoal, within a slight hollow overlying [138] towards NW end of structure.		139			
299	203	H	12	Very dark brown/black silt, layer up to 50 mm thick overlying [326] in top of gully [118]. Thickest around SE end of feature, petering out towards NW. Overlain by stone features [175] and [177].		165			
300	203	H	12	Blackish silt with frequent charcoal inclusions, within gully [301]. Overlain by stone bank [178].		162			
301	203	H	12	Possible flue: linear cut 0.25 m wide, 0.05 m deep, running between [329] and [328]. Cuts [138].					
302	203	H	12	Possible metallurgy outside entrance to structure. Compacted layer of small stones, 5 - 20 mm in size, covering an area approximately 2.0 m wide at NW end of structure, immediately overlying natural subsoil, sealed by [117].					
303	203	H	12	Fill of [304]: mid brown silt with moderate charcoal inclusions, indistinguishable from [138].					
304	203	H	12	Drainage gully at SE end of structure. Curvilinear gully 3.5 m long, 0.5 m wide, 0.1 m deep with gently rounded profile, merging at north end with adjacent gully [306]. Contains [303].					
305	203	H	12	Fill of [306]: mid brown silt with moderate charcoal inclusions, indistinguishable from [138].					
306	203	H	12	Drainage gully at SE end of structure. Curvilinear gully 3.5 m long, 0.3 m wide, 0.1 m deep with gently rounded profile, merging at north end with adjacent gully [304]. Contains [305].					
326	203	H	12	Mid brown silt, very similar to [138], filling gully [118]. Overlies [327], underlies [299].					
327	203	H	12	Layer of charcoal and reddish oxidised silt in base of gully [118], beneath [326]. Present only in slot dug through the gully on the south side of the feature.		164			
328	203	H	12	Slight hollow below base of possible kiln structure [176], no more than 50 mm deep below natural subsoil and only clearly discernable on south side, probably a construction cut for [176].					
329	203	H	12	Possible stoke-hole associated with flue [301]. Oval hollow 1.5 x 1.0 m wide, 0.15 m deep, with gently sloping, poorly-defined edges, adjoining NW end of [301]. Contains [330] and [331].					
330	203	H	12	Blackish silt with frequent charcoal inclusions and frequent medium-sized rounded stones, layer 0.1 m thick overlying [331] within cut [329].		163			
331	203	H	12	Layer of mid brown silt 0.05 m thick, in base of [329] beneath [330].					
0		F	13	Stone and turf building, possible byre					
106	203	F	13	Topsoil and stone tumble covering interior of structure, to north of wall [108].					
107	203	F	13	Topsoil and stone tumble outside structure: a dense scatter of medium sized stones extends approximately 1.0 m to south of wall [108], occasional stones scattered further away from the structure may have been displaced by plough disturbance.		101			
108	203	F	13	Wall footing: a line of rounded boulders 0.2 - 0.4 m in size, extending for 6 m along south side of structure. [332] may represent inner face of wall, with [333] the remains of the wall core. Truncated to NE by evaluation trench.					
109	203	F	13	Stone tumble and soil overlying cobbled surface [258], to south of drain capping [111].					
110	203	F	13	Stone tumble and soil overlying cobbled surface [258], to north of possible wall [111].					
111	203	F	13	Rough alignment of larger stones within paved surface [258], immediately to north of drain capstones [244]. Initially thought to be the north wall of the structure, this now appears unlikely: probably represents part of paving or capping of drain.					
126	203	F	13	Top of buried soil horizon, overlying [174] to south of wall footing [108]. Layer of mid brown silt 20 mm thick, sealed beneath tumble [107].		147			
127	203	F	13	Possible floor surface within building and/or continuation of [126]: mid-brown clay silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and small pebbles, 20-50 mm thick, overlying [173] and sealed by tumble [106].					
129	203	F	13	Same as [106]					
139	203	F	13	Same as [258]					
173	203	F	13	Floor deposit within building. Layer of mid brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal up to 80 mm thick, filling a slight scoop over [174], covering an area at least 2 x 1 m wide, truncated to NE by evaluation trench. Frequent stones, most around 0.1 m in size, may represent crude paving. Capstones of drains are within this deposit.		111, 145			
174	203	F	13	Buried soil beneath building: reddish-brown sandy silt, merging with ditch fill [169] below, overlain by [108], [332], [333], [173]					

Context no.	Trench	Structure	Group	Description	Finds	Samples	Plan	Section	Comments
221	203	F	13	Silting in drain [222]: Mid brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and pebbles		134			
222	203	F	13	Cut of covered drain in floor of building, filled with [221] and covered by capstones [245]. Linear cut 50 mm wide, 30 mm deep.					
223	203	F	13	Silting in drain [224]: very dark brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and occasional subangular stones up to 0.1 m in size, becoming much paler and cleaner towards the west where the drain runs through cobbles [258].		133, 149			
224	203	F	13	Cut of covered drain in floor of building: curvilinear cut at least 5 m long, beneath floor deposit [173], curving to SW where it continues as a gap in cobbled surface [258]; contains deposit [223], covered by capstones [244].					
244	203	F	13	Flat stone slabs, mostly 0.1-0.15 m wide, within paved surface [258] and [173], overlying drain [224], probably laid as capping for drain.					
245	203	F	13	Flat stone slabs, mostly 0.1-0.15 m wide, within floor surface [173], overlying drain [222], probably laid as capping for drain.					
246	203	F	13	Fill of [247]: compact yellowish-brown silty clay. Appears to represent backfilling rather than natural silting.		146			
247	203	F	13	Linear cut, parallel with and truncated by evaluation trench, appears to continue to NW as drain [224]. Cuts [173] and contains [246].					Probably observed in evaluation trench: check correspondence
250	203	F	13	Fill of pit/posthole [251]: Mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional subangular stones up to 0.1 m in size.		148			
251	203	F	13	Posthole. Oval cut 0.7 x 0.6 m wide, 0.12 m deep, cutting [174], contains [250].					
252	203	F	13	Fill of posthole [253]: Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular stones.					
253	203	F	13	Posthole. Oval cut 0.5 m wide, 0.08 m deep, cutting [174], containing [252].					
254	203	F	13	Fill of gully [255]: mid brown silty clay with flecks of charcoal; western part contains frequent stones 20-100 mm in size. Sealed by tumble [107].		151			
255	203	F	13	Curvilinear cut, up to 0.3 m wide and 0.1 m deep with rounded profile, traced for 6 m along the south side of wall footing [108]. Cuts [174], filled by [254].					
256	203	F	13	Same as [258]					
257	203	F	13	Same as [259]					
258	203	F	13	Rough cobbled/paved surface, consisting of rounded/subangular stones 0.05-0.2 m in size, within a reddish-brown silty clay matrix, filling hollow [259] and covering an area approximately 2 x 3 m wide. Drain [244] crosses it, appearing as a gap in the stones covered by capstones.					
259	203	F	13	Slight hollow beneath cobbled surface [258], over buried soil [174]					
260	203	F	13	Fill of [261]		152			
261	203	F	13	Possible post-setting: irregular hole 0.4 x 0.3 m wide, edged with subangular stones approx 0.1 m in size, containing deposit [260].					
262	203	F	13	Silting within drain [263]. Greyish-brown silty clay with flecks of charcoal and small rounded pebbles.					
263	203	F	13	Cut of drain: linear cut running between drains [222] and [224], 0.2 - 0.25 m wide, less than 0.1 m deep, containing deposit [262], capped with stones [264].					
264	203	F	13	Stones overlying drain [263], possibly representing capping of drain.					
332	203	F	13	Inner face of wall (with [108]); or an internal partition. Row of four rounded boulders 0.3 - 0.4 m in size, parallel with and 1.0 m to north of [108]					
333	203	F	13	Stone from wall core or collapse of upper part of building: bank 1.0 m wide composed of stones mostly 0.1-0.2 m in size, along north side of wall footing [108].					
0			14	Ditched boundary crossing Trench 203, interrupted in two places					
167	203		14	Ditch cut: slightly curving linear cut crossing Trench 203 on east-west alignment, 43 m long, up to 2.1 m wide, 0.02 - 0.1 m deep, with gently rounded edges. Contains deposits [169] and [170].					
168	203		14	Ditch cut, continuation of [167] to west of entrance: Linear cut traced for 6.3 m, terminating in a butt-end 1.9 m from the end of [167] to the east, continuing beyond limit of excavation to the west; 1.1 m wide, up to 0.15 m deep, with gently rounded profile, contains [171] and [172].					
169	203		14	Upper fill of [167], overlying [170]. Reddish-brown silt, few inclusions.		132			
170	203		14	Lower fill of [167], beneath [169]: hard, concreted layer of small rounded pebbles, 5-25 mm in size, no more than 20 mm thick in base of ditch.					
171	203		14	Upper fill of [168], overlying [172]. Reddish-brown silt, few inclusions.					
172	203		14	Lower fill of [168], beneath [171]: hard, concreted layer of small rounded pebbles, 5-25 mm in size, no more than 20 mm thick in base of ditch.					
265	203		14	Concentration of rounded and subangular stones 0.1 - 0.2 m in size, covering an area 2.2 x 0.9 m wide within ditch fill [169], covered by [266]					
266	203		14	Layer of mid brown silt 20 mm thick with frequent charcoal and occasional fragments of burnt bone, overlying stones [265].		150			
0			15	Possible structure represented by square arrangement of four posts					
179	203		15	Fill of post-pipe [180], within posthole [228]. Mid/dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.		112			
180	203		15	Interface between probable post-pipe [179] and backfill [227], within posthole [228]. Recorded as a re-cut on site.					

Context no.	Trench	Structure	Group	Description	Finds	Samples	Plan	Section	Comments
181	203		15	Fill of [182]: mid-brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and charcoal. East end of deposit contains several stones up to 0.25 m in size.		113			
182	203		15	Possible re-cut of posthole [220], truncating [219]: oval cut 1.32 x 0.61 m wide, 0.11 m deep, contains [181].					
215	203		15	Fill of [216]: pale brown sandy silt.		129			
216	203		15	Posthole: oval cut 0.29 x 0.23 m wide, 0.06 m deep, gently sloping sides and rounded base. Contains [215].					
217	203		15	Fill of posthole [218]: pale brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.		130			
218	203		15	Oval cut 0.30 x 0.28 m wide, 0.09 m deep, containing [217].					
219	203		15	Fill of [220]: orange-brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and charcoal. Cut by [182].		131			
220	203		15	Posthole: Oval cut 1.5 x 0.63 m wide, 0.36 m deep, east side near-vertical, west side more gently sloping. Contains [219].					
225	203		15	Fill of posthole [226]: orange-brown slightly sandy silt, truncated by posthole [228].		135			
226	203		15	Posthole truncated by [228]: sub-circular cut, 0.6 x 0.45 m wide, 0.23 m deep, containing [225].					
227	203		15	Backfill of posthole [228], surrounding probable post-pipe [179]. Orange-brown slightly sandy silt, paler than [225], fill of earlier posthole cut by [228].		136			
228	203		15	Cut of posthole: oval cut 0.88 x 0.65 m wide, 0.35 m deep, cutting [225]. Contains [227].					
233	203		15	Fill of [234]: Mid brown sandy silt with frequent large stones up to 0.4 m in size.		140			
234	203		15	Posthole, elongated shape suggesting at least one phase of replacement. Oval cut 1.34 x 0.56 m wide, 0.45 m deep at east end, 0.2 m deep at west end. Contains [233].					
0			16	Postholes in vicinity of Structure F: cannot be convincingly resolved into a coherent structure					
183	203		16	Fill of [184]: mid-brown sandy silt with frequent stones approx 0.05 m in size.					
184	203		16	Circular cut 0.2 m wide, 0.14 m deep, steep-sided with rounded base, containing [183].					
185	203		16	Fill of [186]: mid/dark brown sand silt		114			
186	203		16	Posthole: oval cut 0.53 x 0.40 m wide, 0.17 m deep, steep-sided with rounded base, contains [185].					
187	203		16	Fill of [188]: mid brown silty sand.		115, 144			
188	203		16	Posthole: circular cut 0.26 m wide, 0.06 m deep, containing [187].					
189	203		16	Fill of [190]: very pale brown silt.		116			
190	203		16	Posthole: circular cut 0.3 m wide, 0.5 m deep, with rounded profile, containing [189].					
191	203		16	Fill of [192]: pale brown sandy silt.		117			
192	203		16	Posthole: oval cut 0.33 x 0.30 m wide, 0.07 m deep, containing [191].					
193	203		16	Upper fill of pit [194], overlying [229]. Dark brown sandy silt, 0.07 m thick.		118			
194	203		16	Pit: oval cut 0.50 x 0.38 m wide, 0.12 m deep, with gently sloping sides and rounded base, cutting ditch fill [169], and containing deposits [229] and [193].					
195	203		16	Fill of posthole [196]: mid/pale brown sandy silt with two large stones, possible post-packing.		119			
196	203		16	Posthole: oval cut 0.73 x 0.38 m wide, 0.38 m deep, steep-sided with narrow v-shaped base. Contains [195].					
197	203		16	Fill of posthole [198]: mid/dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.		120			
198	203		16	Posthole: oval cut 0.33 x 0.30 m wide, 0.23 m deep, steep-sided with rounded base. Contains [197].					
199	203		16	Fill of [200]: mid reddish-brown clayey silt, occasional small stones.		121			
200	203		16	Posthole: circular cut 0.55 m wide, 0.11 m deep, containing [199].					
201	203		16	Fill of [202]: mid reddish-brown clayey silt, with one large stone (max dimension 0.2 m)		122			
202	203		16	Posthole: oval cut 0.50 x 0.42 m wide, 0.18 m deep, steep-sided with rounded base, containing [201].					
203	203		16	Fill of [204]: mid reddish-brown clayey silt, with some sub-angular stones, 0.05 - 0.07 m in size towards edges of feature.		123			
204	203		16	Posthole: oval cut 0.46 x 0.40 m wide, 0.20 m deep, steep-sided with flat base. Contains [203].					
205	203		16	Fill of [206]: mid reddish-brown clayey silt, with one large stone in west side.		124			
206	203		16	Posthole: oval cut 0.46 x 0.39 m wide, 0.21 m deep, steep sides and rounded base. Contains [205].					
207	203		16	Fill of [208]: mid orange-brown clayey silt.		125			
208	203		16	Posthole: oval cut 0.25 x 0.23 m wide, 0.06 m deep, containing [207].					
209	203		16	Fill of [210]: mid orange-brown clayey silt.		126			
210	203		16	Posthole: oval cut 0.34 x 0.16 m wide, 0.03 m deep, containing [209].					
211	203		16	Fill of [212]: mid greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent small stones.		127			
212	203		16	Sub-rectangular pit, 0.86 x 0.48 m wide, 0.07 m deep, with steep sides and flat base, containing [211].					
213	203		16	Fill of [214]: mid/pale brown silty sand.		128			
214	203		16	Posthole: Circular cut 0.28 m in diameter, 0.1 m deep, with u-shaped profile, containing [213].					
229	203		16	Layer of charcoal filling base of pit [194], sealed by [193]					
235	203		16	Fill of [236]: mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and small stones.		142			
236	203		16	Posthole: circular cut 0.20 m wide, 0.10 m deep, containing [235]					
237	203		16	Fill of [238]: mid brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.		143			
238	203		16	Posthole: circular cut 0.2 m wide, 0.09 m deep, containing [237]					
0			17	Stone bank on top of natural mound: possible shooting target					
160	214		17	Mid brown sandy silt overlying stone bank [165].					

Context no.	Trench	Structure	Group	Description	Finds	Samples	Plan	Section	Comments
165	214		17	Slightly curving bank of large stones (0.2-0.5 m in size), 4.0 m long and 1.5 m wide, on top of natural mound. 1 m wide slot excavated across it shows it is of very crude construction.					
0			18	Rectangular enclosure: stock enclosure or kailiarc					
239	210		18	Earth bank sectioned on SSE side of enclosure: approx 3.5 m wide, 0.6 m high, with gently sloping edges, consisting of mid reddish-brown clayey silt with frequent sub-angular stones up to 0.15 m in size and occasional charcoal. Large stones (0.2 - 0.35 m in size) along SSE edge probably represent partially collapsed stone facing (present on outside of enclosure only). Overlies [240].					
240	210		18	Buried soil beneath bank [239]: mid greyish-brown clayey silt up to 0.3 m thick, overlying [242].		141			
241	211		18	Earth bank sectioned on ENE side of enclosure: approx 1.0 m wide, 0.5 m high, with gently sloping edges; mid yellowish-brown clayey silt with frequent sub-angular stones 0.05 - 0.15 m in size and occasional charcoal. Large sub-angular boulders along ENE side may be remains of stone facing on outside of enclosure. Overlies [248].					
242	210		18	Buried peat horizon beneath [240]: compact sticky black organic layer up to 0.12 m thick, overlying natural subsoil.					
248	211		18	Buried soil horizon beneath bank [241]. Mid greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent sub-angular stones 0.05 - 0.15 m in size.					
249	211		18	Slumped material on ENE side of bank [241]. Mid reddish-brown clayey silt.					
0			19	Probable oval post-defined structure					
281	203		19	Posthole: oval cut 0.35 x 0.20 m wide. Contains [282]					
282	203		19	Fill of [281]		166			
283	203		19	Posthole: oval cut 0.36 x 0.28 m wide. Contains [284]					
284	203		19	Fill of [283]		170			
285	203		19	Posthole: irregular cut 0.34 x 0.25 m wide. Contains [286]					
286	203		19	Fill of [285]					
287	203		19	Posthole: circular cut 0.26 m wide. Contains [288]					
288	203		19	Fill of [287]		167			
289	203		19	Posthole: circular cut 0.45 m wide. Contains [290].					half-sectioned in evaluation
290	203		19	Fill of [289]					
293	203		19	Posthole: oval cut 0.4 x 0.3 m wide. Contains [294]					
294	203		19	Fill of [293]					
295	203		19	Posthole: oval cut 0.3 x 0.15 m wide. Contains [296]					
296	203		19	Fill of [295]					
297	203		19	Posthole: circular cut 0.28 m wide. Contains [298]					
298	203		19	Fill of [297]					
316	203		19	Possible posthole or small pit: crescent-shaped cut 0.6 m long, 0.25 m wide. Contains [317].					
317	203		19	Fill of [316].					
318	203		19	Posthole: oval cut 0.5 x 0.25 m wide. Contains [319]					
319	203		19	Fill of [318].					
320	203		19	Posthole: circular cut 0.3 m wide. Contains [321]					
321	203		19	Fill of [320].		172			
0			20	Possible roundhouse, defined by concentric curvilinear hollows, associated with postholes and a pit.					
271	204		20	Fill of [272]: mid brown slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal.		153			
272	204		20	Posthole: oval cut 0.39 x 0.37 m wide, 0.05 m deep, contains [271].					
273	204		20	Fill of [274]: mid brown slightly silty clay, occasional charcoal.		154			
274	204		20	Posthole: oval cut 0.45 x 0.36 m wide, 0.05 m deep, containing [273].					
275	204		20	Fill of [276]: mid brown slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal and small stones.		155			
276	204		20	Posthole: oval cut 0.36 x 0.34 m wide, 0.04 m deep, containing [275].					
277	204		20	Fill of [278]: mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal.		156			
278	204		20	Posthole: oval cut 0.25 x 0.22 m wide, 0.06 m deep, containing [277].					
279	204		20	Fill of [280]: mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal.		157			
280	204		20	Posthole: Oval cut 0.22 x 0.20 m wide, 0.07 m deep, containing [279].					
291	204		20	Fill of [292]: dark brown clay with frequent charcoal inclusions, occasional large stones (dimensions up to 0.25 m).		158			
292	204		20	Oval pit 1.28 x 1.14 m wide, 0.21 m deep, edges steeply sloping to NE, sloping more gently to SW. Contains [291].					
308	204		20	Fill of [313]: reddish-brown clay with frequent charcoal.		171			
309	204		20	Fill of [310]: dark reddish-brown silty clay, frequent charcoal with thin layer of charcoal on base of feature.		159			
310	204		20	Poorly-defined curvilinear feature 4.0 m long, 0.6 m wide, up to 0.1 m deep and generally very shallow and truncated.					
311	204		20	Fill of [312]: dark reddish-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal.		168			
312	204		20	Poorly-defined linear or curvilinear feature, at least 1.5 long x 0.6 m wide, but very shallow and truncated, no more than 0.04 m deep. Contains [311].					
313	204		20	Oval or curvilinear cut 1.7 x 0.8 m wide, up to 0.1 m deep. Contains [308].					
314	204		20	Fill of [315]: mid/pale brown clay with occasional charcoal and lenses of charcoal in base of feature, occasional small stones.		160			
315	204		20	Irregular crescent-shaped feature 4.5 m long, 1.3 m wide, up to 0.16 m deep, becoming much shallower towards both ends. Contains [314].					
322	204		20	Fill of [323]: mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and flecks of reddish clay.					
323	204		20	Circular cut 0.3 m wide, 0.11 m deep, steep-sided with rounded base. Contains [322].					
324	204		20	Fill of [325]: mid-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and reddish clay patches.		169			

Context no.	Trench	Structure	Group	Description	Finds	Samples	Plan	Section	Comments
325	204		20	Posthole: circular cut 0.3 m wide, 0.2 m deep, steep-sided with rounded base. Contains [324].					
334	204		20	Patchy, intermittent spread of charcoal, covering an area approx 6 x 1.5 m wide: cleaning failed to define this as a recognisable cut feature.					
335	204		20	Fill of [336].					
336	204		20	Posthole: excavated in evaluation					
337	204		20	Fill of [337].					
338	204		20	Posthole: excavated in evaluation					
101	201			Turf and topsoil overlying trench					
267				Void					
269	203			Posthole: location unknown, not shown on plan					
270	203			Fill of [269]					
307	204			Area of reddish-brown silty subsoil, covering an area approx 9 x 5 m to west of Group 20 features, up to 0.1 m thick. Investigated with a hand-dug slot and found to be an archaeologically sterile geological deposit.					
339	204	I		Sub-rectangular pit, 1.7 x 0.48 m wide, 0.25 m deep, with steep sides and flat base, containing [340]					
340	204	I		Fill of [399] clean mid-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal					
341	204			Sub-oval pit, 0.5 x 0.6, .09 m deep, steep sides flat base, contains [342]					
342	204			Fill of [341] clean mid-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and burnt clay patches.					
343	204			Sub-oval pit, 0.9 x 0.6, .09 m deep, steep sides flat base, contains [344]					
344	204			Fill of [343] red-brown sandy silt with charcoal and burnt clay inclusions.					
345	204			Sub-circular pit, 0.85 dia, steep sides flat base, contains [346]		173			
346	204			Fill of [345] clean mid-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal					
347	204			Sub-oval pit/posthole, 0.36 x 0.3, 0.9 m deep with sloping sides and rounded base					
348	204			Fill of [347] mid-brown sandy silt with charcoal and burnt clay inclusions.					
349	204			Sub-oval pit/posthole, 0.36 dia, 0.09 m deep with steep sides and rounded base					
350	204			Fill of [349] yellow-brown sandy gravel with charcoal and burnt clay inclusions.					
351	204			Small sub-circular pit/posthole, 0.2 dia, 0.13 deep contains [352]					
352	204			Fill of [351] yellow-brown sandy clay silt containing charcoal and burnt clay inclusions.					
353	204			Sub-circular pit/posthole, 0.35 dia, steep sides sloping base, contains [354]					
354	204			Fill of [353] mid-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal inclusions.					
355	204			Sub-oval pit/posthole, 0.24 x 0.18, 0.09 deep contains [356]					
356	204			Fill of [353] clean mid-brown sandy clay					
357	204			Sub-oval pit/posthole, 0.32 x 0.28, 0.09 deep, sloping sides and rounded base contains [369]					
358	204			Fill of [367] yellow-brown sandy clay silt with charcoal and burnt clay inclusions.					
359	204			Sub-oval pit/posthole, 0.34 dia, 0.2 deep, steep, inclined cut with rounded base contains [360]					
360	204			Fill of [359] charcoal-rich, mid-brown sandy silt, occasional stone and burnt clay fragments.					
361	204			Sub-circular pit/posthole, 0.33 dia, steep sides sloping base, contains [362]					
362	204			Fill of [361] charcoal-rich, mid-brown sandy clay silt and burnt clay fragments.					
363	204			Sub-circular pit/posthole, 0.33 dia, steep sides flat base, contains [364]		174			
364	204			Fill of [363] mottled yellow-brown sandy clay silt with charcoal and burnt clay inclusions.					
365	204			Sub-triangular pit/posthole, 0.38 dia, sloping sides and base, contains [366]					
366	204			Fill of [365] Charcoal rich sandy clay silt with numerous burnt clay inclusions.		175			
367	204			Sub-circular pit/posthole, 0.38 dia, steep sides flat base, contains [368]					
368	204			Fill of [367] Charcoal rich mid-brown clay silt with numerous burnt clay inclusions.		176			
369	204			Sub-triangular pit/posthole, 0.42 dia, steep sloping sides and base, contains [370]					
370	204			Fill of [369] yellow-brown stony, sandy clay silt with occasional charcoal inclusions.					
371	204			Sub-circular pit/posthole, 0.4 dia, 0.15 m deep with steep sides and rounded base					
372	204			Fill of [371] mid-brown sandy clay silt with charcoal and burnt clay inclusions.					
373	204			Small sub-circular pit/posthole, 0.1 dia, 0.09 deep contains [373]					
374	204			Fill of [373, entirely comprised of dark pink burnt clay and charcoal					

Drawing no.	Description	Scale	Format
101	Pre-ex plan of Trench 201	1:20	12 x A3
102	Pre-ex plan of Trench 202	1:20	9 x A3
103	Pre-ex plan of Structure H	1:20	5 x A3
104	Pre-ex plan of Structure F	1:20	5 x A3
105	Plan of Structure F with tumble removed	1:20	2 x A3
106	NE/SW facing section through Structure D	1:20	A3
107	NW/SE facing section through Structure D	1:20	A3
108	Void		
109	Void		
110	Void		
111	Post-ex plan of Trench 202	1:20	6 x A3
112	Void		
113	Post-ex plan of Structure C	1:20	4 x A3
114	East facing section of Trench 213	1:20	A3
115	Section through Structure C	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 119, 120 and 121)
116	South-facing section across Structure A	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 118)
117	South-facing section through bank [135] and wall [157]	1:20	A3
118	West-facing section through bank [116] and wall [158]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 116)
119	Section through Structure C	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 115, 120 and 121)
120	Section through Structure C	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 115, 119 and 121)
121	Section through Structure C	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 115, 119 and 120)
122	Plan of Structure F, area beneath baulk	1:20	A3
123	Structure H, stone features after removal of [117]	1:20	4 x A3
124	SE-facing section across Structure B	1:20	2 x A3 (original and redrawn versions)
125	Plan of posthole [202]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133 and 134)
126	E-facing section of posthole [202]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 125, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133 and 134)
127	Plan of posthole [184]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 125, 126, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133 and 134)
128	Section of posthole [184]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133 and 134)
129	Plan of posthole [186]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 125, 126, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 133 and 134)
130	E-facing section of posthole [186]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133 and 134)
131	Plan of pit [194]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 125, 126, 127, 128,

			129, 130, 132, 133 and 134)
132	E-facing section of pit [194]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 133 and 134)
133	Plan of posthole [196]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, and 134)
134	E-facing section of posthole [196]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132 and 133)
135	SSE-facing section of postholes [182] and [220]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 136)
136	Plan of postholes [182] and [220]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 135)
137	SW facing section of postholes [180], [226] and [228]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 138)
138	Plan of postholes [180], [226] and [228]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 137)
139	N-facing section of posthole [234]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 140)
140	Plan of posthole [234]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 139)
141	Plan of enclosure bank [239]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 142)
142	Section of enclosure bank [239]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 141)
143	Plan showing drains and postholes of Structure F	1:20	2 x A3
144	Section of posthole [251]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 145 and 146)
145	Plan of post-setting [261]	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 144 and 146)
146	Section of post-setting [261]	1:10	A3 (on sheet with 144 and 145)
147	SSE facing section through ditch [167], beneath structure F	1:10	A3
148	NE/SW facing section through Structure H	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 149)
149	NW/SE facing section through Structure H	1:20	A3 (on sheet with 148)
150	Plan of posthole structure in Trench 203	1:20	6 x A3
151	Sketch plan of field boundary in Trench 204	1:50	A3
152	Plan of features in Trench 204	1:20	9 x A3
153	Plan of gullies etc beneath Structure H	1:20	4 x A3
154	Composite plan of Structure F	1:20	3 x A3
155	Composite plan of Structures C and D	1:20	4 x A3

Site code	HFS05	Site name	Home Farm, Portree, Skye
Author/s	Julie Franklin, Davie Masson, Tim Holden, Scott Timpany	Finds and environmental assessment	

HAND COLLECTED ARTEFACTS

The finds were collected from a series of machined and hand dug trenches. Most came from the hand dug Tr.201 and 202 around structures A, B, C & D. Tr.203 also proved to be rich in finds, though mostly of an earlier date. A few finds were found in the hand dug Tr.204 & 212, and in the machined Tr.210, 211, 214 & 212. No finds were recovered from Tr.205, 206, 207, 208, 209 or 213.

SAMPLE STRATEGY FOR BULK SAMPLES

Bulk soil samples ranging from 10 to 30 litres in size were taken from areas of interest including: building floors, postholes, pits, hearths and drains largely associated with the structures at the site, for the recovery of small finds and palaeoenvironmental remains.

METHODOLOGY FOR SAMPLE PROCESSING

Bulk soil samples were subjected to a system of flotation in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250 μ m sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (flot) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

Total number of samples	27
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RESULTS

The results are summarised in Tables 1-5.

Pottery:

Coarseware: (35 sherds, including 1 rim and 1 base)

Handmade wares, generally grass tempered with some mineral inclusions. Generally black, sometimes with buff or reddish surfaces, often smoke blackened, sometimes on interior. Mostly from Str.F & H (buildings of post-med type), also from one posthole in the vicinity of Str.F, and two sherds found as surface finds associated with a possible roundhouse in Tr.204 and. Several different vessels represented, some joining sherds. Prehistoric style 'craggan ware', produced in Hebrides and Western Isles over very long timespan, up at least the early 20th century.

Medieval Redware: (1 base sherd)

Thumbled base sherd, from Tr.203, topsoil over Str.H, associated with modern finds. Probably produced in N or W Scotland, 13th/14th century. Only find of definite pre-modern date. Relationship to use of structure is uncertain.

Modern Wares: (354 sherds)

Variety of table and kitchen wares or 18th to 20th century date. Mainly small fragments, though many vessels represented by more than one sherd, with the potential to recreate vessel forms and decoration. Most were associated with buildings in Tr.201 & 202, associated banks and other structures. They were also found in the topsoil overlying Str.F suggesting a degree of modern disturbance to the structure.

Glass:

Vessel: (5 sherds)

Include an air twist stem, two other lead glass knopped stems and a painted rim. All of 18th to 20th century date. From Tr.201, 202, 210, following distribution and dating of modern pottery.

Bottle: (158 sherds)

Mostly green wine bottles, of later 18th to 20th century date. Mostly from Tr.201 and 202, following distribution and dating of modern pottery.

Window: (90 sherds)

Mostly in very good condition, implying modern. All from Tr.201, 202 & 203, concentrated in Group 5, the demolition/collapse of Str.A & B.

Clay Pipe:

(6 stem sherds)

All of 18th to 20th century date, unmarked. From Tr.201, 202 & 203, following distribution and dating of modern pottery.

Metalwork:

Copper alloy: (2 objects)

A small piece of sheet metal (Group 13) is undatable but associated finds suggest an early date. A modern button is from Tr.201.

Lead: (2 objects)

A piece of sheet lead, possibly part of a vessel or roofing material is from Str.H suggesting it is of early date. A bullet is associated with modern finds in Group 17.

Iron: (24 objects)

Domestic and agricultural tools and fittings, including a horseshoe, a cast iron pot, a heel iron and a bicycle peddle. All appear to be modern.

Stone:

Lithics: (6 flint flakes and possible cores)

Small pieces, no sign of retouch. All from Tr.203, all appear residual.

Slate: (43 sherds)

Mostly small sheds, a few larger, shaped pieces, one holed. Probably remains of roof slates, though possibly also drain covers or paving. Concentrated in Tr.201 and 202, following distribution of modern finds. Possibly structural remains from Str.A, B, C & D.

Stone Finds: (2 objects)

	<p>A worn whetstone was found in Tr.203, probably contemporary with the coarseware pottery. A flattened pebble from Tr.202 may also have been a rubbing tool.</p>
<i>Ceramic Building Material:</i>	<p><i>Daub:</i> (lumps from Dec 05 samples 4 & 5) A few fragments of burnt daub, probably building material rather than metalworking.</p>
<i>Industrial Debris:</i>	<p><i>Ironworking:</i> (10 fragments of slag/prill etc) A few fragments were recovered from samples from Tr.203.</p>
<i>Animal bone:</i>	<p>Small fragments (<1cm) of burnt bone were recovered from Tr.202 & 203, mainly from samples. Soil conditions are not otherwise conducive to bone preservation.</p>
<i>Botanical remains:</i>	<p><i>Preservation</i> of botanical remains in all cases was by charring.</p> <p><i>Wood charcoal:</i> Charcoal was present in the majority of samples with extremely high concentrations from Contexts 230, a purported corn drier, and 327, a layer of charcoal from the base of a gully, both associated with Structure H.</p> <p><i>Cereal remains:</i> Cereal remains were restricted to the grains of barley and oat with some of the latter hulled. The possible grass rhizomes and culm bases of cereals were found within Context 327.</p> <p><i>Wild species:</i> A number of taxa associated with cultivated ground were identified, including <i>Spergula arvensis</i> (corn spurry) and <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> (corn marigold).</p>

DISCUSSION

The finds suggest at least two distinct phases of occupation. The first, characterised by the coarse pottery and lithics, concentrated in Str.H & F, is of uncertain date, though clearly pre-dating the 18th century. The sherd of medieval pottery from the topsoil over Str.H, but is residual and mixed with modern finds. It implies activity in the vicinity of that date, though the apparent lack of any other contemporary finds suggests there was no actual medieval settlement on site.

The second phase is modern, showing activity from the 18th to 20th centuries, particularly concentrated around Str.A, B, C & D. It is a typical domestic assemblage of that date, mainly pottery and glass. The small size of the sherds suggests they may derive from midden material spread through the plough soil.

The botanical evidence shows cereal cultivation and processing of *Hordeum* (barley) and *Avena* (oats), particularly in association with Structure H, where the largest number of grains, have been found. Sample 164 (Context 327) contained a large number of oat grains together with rhizomes and culm bases, which are thought to be associated with the cereals. The presence of these parts of the plant suggests they may have been harvested by uprooting of the plant (Hillman, 1981). This may be due to their growing in sandy soils, therefore being pulled more freely from the ground during harvesting. The presence of sandy soils is also suggested by the occurrence of *Spergula arvensis* (corn spurry), which favours sandy cultivated ground (Stace, 1997), within the same sample.

The majority of the wild taxa found within the samples are suggestive of cultivated ground and in particular damp fields (e.g. *Carex* (sedges), *Polygonum minor* (small water-poppy) and *Ranunculus flammula* (lesser spearwort) – Stace, 1997). The presence of these taxa suggests cultivation may also have been taking place on different strata, as sandy soils are free-draining and unlikely to waterlog.

The presence of charred *Corylus* (hazel) nutshells and *Fragaria vesca* (wild strawberry) within the samples indicates the collection of wild plant resources to supplement dietary requirements.

Samples 119 and 124 were found to contain uncharred plant remains of *Carex* (sedge) nutlets and *Ranunculus* (buttercup) seeds, which are thought to be modern.

Later sampling of four additional samples, Samples 173 –176, which were found in association with possible prehistoric pottery, contains charred *Hordeum* and *Avena* sp. grains, of which some are still hulled.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Pre-Modern Pottery:

Coarsewares are an interesting group but of little use in dating. They include: some joining sherds, with possible potential for vessel profiles, rim and base sherds and possible handled vessels, potentially useful in terms of dating. With associated radiocarbon dates they would be a useful addition to the body of knowledge about this long-lived industry.

Two sherds are recommended for illustration in a publication report.

The medieval sherd is interesting, as it has been imported from the Scottish mainland. Though apparently the only find of this date, it does show some degree of medieval activity in the vicinity.

Lithics:

All the lithics are small and appear to be of little diagnostic value.

However, their distribution suggests an early date and as the stone is not native have clearly been brought to site for some purpose. A lithics specialist may be able to extract some information from them, particularly if they are accompanied by associated radiocarbon dates.

Stone tools:

The two stone tools, particularly the whetstone are of potentially early date and should be included in any future publication report.

Metalwork and working:

The location of two of the metal finds (Ctxt 117, & 107) suggests they may be of early date. However, both are largely undiagnostic pieces of sheet metal and thus of limited use. Likewise the ironworking debris is from potentially early contexts, but very little remains. A specialist may be able to ascertain what kind of metalworking was going on. The recognisable metal objects are all from modern contexts.

No finds are recommended for conservation work.

Modern Finds:

The modern pottery, glass, clay pipe, metalwork and slate all have the potential to provide information on the dating and nature of the later occupation on site. Some of the vessel forms and patterns may be reconstructable, though sherd size is generally very small. If a future publication report were to focus only on the earlier occupation, these finds

can be ignored. However, if the later settlement were to be included, it could be enhanced by a short description and discussion of these finds.

Animal bone:

No further work recommended.

Wood charcoal:

There is potential for radiocarbon dating from the samples highlighted in Tables 4 and 5. Identification would be required in order to eliminate long-lived species. The charred cereal grains and hazelnut shells could also be used for dating purposes.

Botanical remains:

The high concentration of oat and barley grains within Structure H is of interest, particularly given the finding of root and stem fragments, believed to relate to the cereals. Further study of these remains may provide further information on activities taking place in the structure and place these activities within a wider context. The relative abundances of the grains (and plant parts) should be plotted onto the plans of the structure to identify these possible areas of activity.

Dependent on the date of the pottery the charred barley and oat grains may be of further interest in the study of early agriculture on Skye and therefore further sampling and analysis should be undertaken.

References

Hillman G. (1981) Reconstructing crop husbandry practices from charred remains of crops, in Mercer R. (ed) *Farming practice in British prehistory* (Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh) 123-162.

Stace C. (1997) *New flora of the British Isles* (2nd Edition) (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge).

Table 1. Hand collected finds (JF)

Trench	Context number	Group	SF number	Material	Qty	Description	Spot Date	Cons/Illus
201	101			Fe	4	Nails		
201	101			Glass	16	Window, 11 green and clear fragments Bottle, 5 green and clear sherds including odd pontilled base	18 th /19 th	Illus?
201	101			Glass	25	Window, 8 sherds, good condition Bottle, 17 green and clear frags, including base and rim	19 th /20 th	
201	101			Pottery	34	Modern redware, 3 sherds, two coarse brown glazed, one slip lined Modern stoneware, 1 sherd Modern white stoneware, 1 sherd Modern whiteware, 29 sherds including blue shell edged	18 th /19 th	
201	101			Pottery	4	Modern whiteware, 2 rims, 1 base, blue shell edged plate, blue trans print	c.19 th	
201	101			Stone	2	Slate fragments		
201	112	1		Clay Pipe	1	Stem, narrow bore	c.19 th	
201	147	1		Fe	1	Horseshoe, large		
201	147	1		Fe	1	Ring, small		
201	112	1		Glass	22	Window, 4 sherds Bottle, 15 green sherds Vessel, 3 sherds, including painted rim, air twist stem fragment	18 th /19 th	
201	147	1		Glass	3	Bottle, green sherds, window?	18 th /19 th	
201	112	1		Pottery	35	Modern redware, 8 sherds, brown glazed, including bottle rim Modern stoneware, 2 sherds Porcelain, 1 small hand painted base Modern whiteware, 24 sherds, including hand painted, blue trans printed	18 th /19 th	
201	123	1		Pottery	1	Modern redware, slip lined	18 th	
201	147	1		Pottery	1	Stoneware, ?modern, large sherd	18 th /19 th	
201	112	1		Stone	1	Slate sherd		
201	112	1		Stone	1	Slate, large slate, shaped?, from tumble		
201	147	1		Stone	1	Slate, large slate, shaped, not holed, sample slate from floor levelling		
201	147	1		Sulphur	3	Fragments of yellow sulphur		
201	119 2 nd quad	2		Clay Pipe	2	Stems, narrow bore?	18 th /19 th	
201	119 SE quad	2		Cu	1	Button back, concave face, loop	18 th /19 th ?	Illus?
201	119 SE quad	2		Glass	11	Window sherds, good condition	18 th /20 th	
201	119 2 nd quad	2		Glass	5	Window, 3 frags, good condition Bottle, green base sherd Vessel, lead glass knopped stem	19 th /20 th	
201	120 2 nd quad	2		Glass	2	Bottle, base sherd Window frag	19 th /20 th	

Trench	Context number	Group	SF number	Material	Qty	Description	Spot Date	Cons/Illus
201	119 SE quad	2		Pottery	20	Modern redware, 2 coarse brown glazed sherds Porcelain, 2 rim sherds, moulded, blue hand painted Modern whiteware, 16 sherds, including banded rim, blue shell edged rim	18 th /19 th	
201	120	2		Pottery	1	Modern redware, brown glazed	18 th /20 th	
201	119 2 nd quad	2		Pottery	68	Modern redware, 3 sherds, slip lined, abraded Modern stoneware, 1 sherd Modern whiteware, 64 sherds, including large moulded dish rim, , blue hand painted, green shell edged, holed sherds,	18 th /19 th	
201	120 2 nd quad	2		Pottery	9	Modern redware, 1 coarse sherd, brown glazed 8 Modern whiteware, 8 sherds, including green shell edged plate, one burnt	18 th /19 th	
201	119 SE quad	2		Stone	6	Slate sherds		
201	120	2		Stone	3	Slate sherds		
201	119 2 nd quad	2		Stone	7	Slate sherds		
201	154	3		Pottery	61	Modern redware, 6 coarse brown glazed sherds Modern whiteware, 55 sherds, possibly all from same plain dish	c.18 th	
201	154	3		Stone	5	Slate sherds		
202	153	4	111	Stone	1	Slate sherd		
202	104	5		Clay Pipe	2	Stems, narrow bore	c.19 th	
202	103	5	117	Fe	1	Heel iron	18 th /20 th	
202	104	5		Fe	5	Narrow rods Nail		
202	134	5		Fe	2	Staple Nail		
202	134	5	108	Fe	1	Vessel, cast iron vessel sherd with one foot		Illus?
202	137	5	114	Fe	1	Large rod with one flattened end, one hooked end	Mod	
202	102	5		Fe & Rubber	1	Bicycle peddle	19 th /20 th	
202	102	5		Glass	15	Bottle, 14 green and clear frags Vessel, lead glass knopped stem	18 th /19 th	Illus?
202	102	5		Glass	7	Bottle, 5 green base sherds Window, 2 clear fragments	c.19 th	
202	102	5		Glass	16	Bottle, green fragments	18 th /20 th	
202	102	5		Glass	2	Bottle, moulded green base	c.20 th	
202	103	5		Glass	4	Bottle, green sherds	19 th /20 th	
202	104	5		Glass	88	Window, 38 fragments, good condition Bottle, 50 green and clear fragments, including neck	c.20 th	
202	134	5		Glass	8	Bottle, green sherds, including complete base	18 th /19 th	
202	142	5		Glass	7	Window, 3 sherds, good condition Bottle, 4 green sherds	18 th /20 th	

Trench	Context number	Group	SF number	Material	Qty	Description	Spot Date	Cons/Illus
202	102	5		Pottery	6	Modern redware, 1 coarse rim, brown glazed Modern whiteware, 5 flaky hand painted sherds	18 th /19 th	
202	102	5		Pottery	1	Modern redware, coarse sherd, brown glazed	18 th /19 th	
202	102	5		Pottery	1	Modern whiteware	18 th /20 th	
202	102	5		Pottery	1	Modern whiteware, ?pearlware ring base, hand painted flowers	18 th /19 th	
202	102	5		Pottery	9	Modern whiteware, 7 hand painted fragments Modern stoneware, 2 sherds	18 th /19 th	
202	103	5		Pottery	1	Modern redware, coarse sherd, brown glazed	18 th /19 th	
202	103	5		Pottery	4	Modern redware, mottled slip lined bowl sherds	18 th /19 th	
202	104	5		Pottery	8	Modern redware, 2 coarse sherds including handle Modern whiteware, 6 sherds, hand painted flaky, one thin walled blue painted	18 th /19 th	
202	134	5		Pottery	12	Modern redware, 10 sherds, mottled slip lined, one coarse brown glazed Modern whiteware, 1 plain sherd Modern white stoneware, 1 sherd	18 th /19 th	
202	102	5		Stone	1	Slate, shaped into oval?		
202	102	5	101	Stone	1	Slate, shaped, holed		
202	104	5		Stone	5	Slate sherds		
202	136	6	113	Glass	2	Bottle, green base sherds	18 th /19 th	
202	131	6		Pottery	40	Modern whiteware, flaky fragments from ?same small hand painted vessel	18 th /19 th	
202	136	6	110	Stone	1	Slate sherd, holed		
202	128	7		Glass	8	Window, 7 sherds, good condition Bottle, green sherd	20 th ?	
202	128	7		Pottery	18	Modern redware, 4 sherds, including coarse rim, all brown glazed Modern whiteware, 13 flaky hand painted sherds Modern stoneware, 1 sherd	18 th /19 th	
202	128	7		Stone	1	Round flattened pebble, rubbing stone	PH?	Illus?
202	128	7		Stone	2	Slate sherds		
203	117	12	130	-		DISCARDED (stone picked up as pot)		
203	116 NW quad	12		Clay Pipe	1	Stem, narrow bore, burnt	c.19 th	
203	116 NW quad	12		Glass	3	Bottle, 2 brown & clear sherds Window, clear fragment	19 th /20 th	
203	117	12	105	Lithics	1	Flint/chert, lump, worked?		
203	117 NW quad	12		Lithics	1	Burnt flint flake, irregular		
203	117	12	116	Pb	1	Sheet, part of vessel/roofing lead, greenish metal		
203	116	12	125a	Pottery	1	Medieval redware, thumbled base sherd, glaze dribbles	13 th /14 th	
203	116	12	125b	Pottery	1	Modern whiteware, plain rim sherd	18 th /20 th	

Trench	Context number	Group	SF number	Material	Qty	Description	Spot Date	Cons/Illus
203	116 NW quad	12		Pottery	1	Modern white stoneware base	18 th	
203	116 SE Quad	12		Pottery	1	Modern whiteware, plain rim	19 th /20 th	
203	117	12	121	Pottery	1	Coarseware, base sherd, acute angled	PH-19 th	Illus
203	117	12	104	Pottery	1	Coarseware, body sherd	PH-19 th	
203	117	12	127	Pottery	1	Coarseware, body sherd with scar suggesting lost handle	PH-19 th	
203	117	12	102	Pottery	3	Coarseware, body sherds, joining	PH-19 th	
203	117	12	126	Pottery	2	Coarseware, body sherds, one with scar suggesting lost handle	PH-19 th	
203	117	12	103	Pottery	7	Coarseware, joining sherds, exterior burnish?	PH-19 th	
203	117	12	124	Pottery	3	Coarseware, one everted rim, body sherds	PH-19 th	Illus
203	117	12	129	Pottery	1	Coarseware, small abraded body sherd	PH-19 th	
203	117	12	123	Pottery	1	Coarseware, small body sherd	PH-19 th	
203	116 NW quad	12		Stone	2	Slate fragments		
203	116 SE quad	12		Stone	4	Slate sherds		
203	176	12	128	Stone	1	Whetstone, rectangular stone, very worn		Illus?
203	107	13		Cu	1	Sheet, small piece of sheet metal		
203	U/S	13		Lithics	1	Flint/chart flake		
203	108	13	115	Lithics	1	Flint/chert, small core?		
203	107	13		Pottery	11	Coarseware, body sherds, several from same vessel, some joining	PH-19 th	
203	170	14	122	Lithics	1	Flint/chert flake		
203	187	16		Pottery	1	Coarseware, body sherd	PH-19 th	
204	U/S		119	Pottery	1	Coarseware, body sherd	PH-19 th	
204	U/S		120	Pottery	1	Coarseware, body sherd	PH-19 th	
210	239	18		Glass	5	Bottle, 4 green & clear fragments Vessel, stemmed glass base frag	19 th /20 th	
210	239	18		Pottery	4	Modern whiteware	18 th /20 th	
211	249	18		Pottery	2	Modern white earthenware, ?creamware body sherd Tin glazed earthenware, small abraded sherd with flaking glaze	c.18 th	
212	143	11	109	Fe	3	Rectangular sheet, possibly mattock blade		
214	160	17	118	Glass	3	Bottle, green sherds	18 th /20 th	
214	160	17	112	Pb	1	Bullet, 15mm diam	19 th /20 th	
214	160	17	118	Pottery	2	Modern redware, unglazed, coarse Modern white ware, rim sherd	18 th /19 th	

Key: Cons = recommended for conservation work; Illus = recommended for illustration; Dates: 14th/16th = a date between 14th and 16th centuries, 14th-16th = material covers range of dates, PH = prehistoric

Table 2. Finds from retents (JF)

Trench	Context number	Group	Sample number	Material	Qty	Description	Spot Date	Cons/Illus
202	131	6	110	Fe	3	Small nail(?) and two other shaft fragments, one with mineralised organics		
202	131	6	110	Pottery	8	Modern whiteware, fragments, possibly from same vessel, specks of blue	19 th /20 th	
202	132	6	109	Glass	1	Window sherd, clear, good condition	19 th /20 th	
202	136	6	108	Fe	1	Two objects fused together, possibly a small nail and a tack		
	144		107	Coal	1	Tiny fragment of coal (possibly cannel coal??)		
	195		119	Slag	1	Small fragment of ?Fe slag		
203	230	12	137	Lithics	1	Flint chip		
203	231	12	138	MWD	4	Fe slag frags		
203	231	12	138	MWD	1	Prill		
203	266	14	150	MWD	1	Fe slag frag		
	291		158	Slag	3	Small fragments of ?Fe slag		
	327		164	Pottery	1	Coarseware, body fragment	PH-19 th	
	330		163	Stone	1	Small fragment, retrieved as brick but fragment of sandstone		
Dec 05								
204	339			Pottery	1	Modern stoneware, white glazed jar rim.	19 th /20 th	
			175	CBM	5	Daub, large lump and fragments		
			176	CBM	10	Daub, large pieces and fragments, some with straw voids		

Key: Con = recommended for conservation work; Ill = recommended for illustration; Dates: 14th/16th = a date between 14th and 16th centuries, 14th-16th = material covers range of dates; MWD=metal-working debris (slag, hammerscale etc)

Table 3. Hand collected environmental remains (JF)

Trench	Context number	Group	Material	Qty	Description
201	120 2 nd quad	2	Charcoal	1	Small fragment
202	104	5	Coal	2	Small lumps
203	107	13	Bone	1	Burnt fragment

Table 4. Environmental remains from retents (DM)

Trench	Context number	Group	Sample number	Context description	Burnt Bone	Marine Shell	Charcoal		Hazelnut Shell	Charred Cereal	Comments
							Qty	AMS			
202	131	5	110	Floor surface in building B.	+		+	*			Largest fragment of bone .5cm Largest fragment of charcoal .5cm
202	132	6	109	Continuation of 131		+					One very small fragment
	136	6	108	Continuation of 131	+						Largest fragment 2cm
	144		107		+		+	*			Charcoal up to .5cm
203	173	13	111	Floor deposit within building	+++		++++	*			Largest fragment of bone 2cm Only the largest fragments of charcoal kept 2cm
203	173	13	145	Floor deposit within building	+++		++++	*			Bone up to 2.5cm Only large fragments of charcoal kept up to 3cm
	185		114		+		+++	*			Charcoal up to 1cm
	193		118		+		+++	*	+		Charcoal up to .5cm
	195		119		+++		+++	*			Charcoal up to .5cm
	205		124		+		+++		+		Burnt bone not kept
	223		133		+++		+++	*			Burnt bone up to 2cm Charcoal up to 1.5cm
	223		149		+++		++++	+			Bone up to 1.5cm Charcoal only large fragments kept, up to 2cm
	227		136				++	*			Charcoal up to 1cm
203	230	12	137	Area of in situ burning – possible kiln			++	*			Charcoal .5cm
203	231	12	138	Silt between stones	+		+	*			Bone very small Charcoal up to .5cm
203	232	12	139	Deposit of burnt bone and charcoal	++++		+	*			Bone up to 2cm Charcoal up to .5cm
203	266	14	150	Layer	+++		+++	*	+		Bone up to 2cm Charcoal up to 2cm
	288		167		+		+++	*			Charcoal up to 5cm
	291		158		+		+++	*			Charcoal up to 1cm
	309		159		++		++++	*	+		Charcoal only large fragments kept, up to 2cm 2 Fragments of nutshell

Trench	Context	Group	Sample	Context	Burnt	Marine	Charcoal		Hazelnut	Charred	Comments
	number		number	description	Bone	Shell	Qty	AMS	Shell	Cereal	
	314		116		+		+++	*			Charcoal up to .5cm
	314		160		+		+++	*			Charcoal up to .5cm
	327		164				+++	*			Charcoal up to 1cm
	330		163		+++		++++	*			Charcoal only large fragments kept, up to 2cm
Dec 05											
	346		173				+++	*		+++	Charcoal up to 2.5cm
	364		174		+++		+++	*		+++	Charcoal up to 1cm
	366		175		+++		+++	*	++	+++	Charcoal up to 1.5cm
	368		176		++		+++	*		+	Charcoal up to 2cm
Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant * = sufficient charcoal for AMS dating											

Table 5. Composition of flots (TH)

Trench	Ctx.	Group	Sample	Context	Total flot	Cereal	Weed	Charcoal		Comments
Number	No.		No.	description	vol (ml)	grains	seeds	Qty	AMS	
201	144	2	107	Charcoal-rich soil around hearth structure [141], from structure C.	25 ml					Sterile.
202	136	6	108	Continuation of 131	< 20 ml					Sterile
202	132	6	109	Continuation of 131	< 20 ml		+			No charcoal
202	131	5	110	Floor surface in building B.	<20 ml			+		
203	173	13	111	Floor deposit within building	100 ml	+		+++	*	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley) - grains very poorly preserved
203	185	16	114	Fill of posthole [186].	100 ml	+++		+++	*	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley) +++ - preservation poor.
203	193	16	118	Upper fill of pit [194].	200 ml	++++		+++	*	<i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) +++, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley) ++++ - preservation poor, possible charred buds ++ also found.
203	195	16	119	Fill of posthole [196].	40 ml	+	++	++	*	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley) +, -

Trench	Ctx.	Group	Sample	Context	Total flot	Cereal	Weed	Charcoal		Comments
Number	No.		No.	description	vol (ml)	grains	seeds	Qty	AMS	
										preservation poor; <i>Carex</i> sp. (trigonus) (biconcave) ++, <i>Ranunculus</i> sp. +++ (both uncharred, thought modern).
203	205	16	124	Fill of posthole [206].	25 ml	+	+	++	*	<i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) +, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley) +, <i>Carex</i> sp. (trigonus) (sedges) ++ (uncharred, thought modern) – preservation poor.
203	223	14	133	Silt from drain [224], floor of structure F.	10 ml	++		+++	*	<i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) +, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley) ++ - preservation poor. Burnt bone + also present.
203	227	15	136	Backfill of posthole [228].	20 ml			+++	+	Charred leaf fragment +.
203	230	12	137	Area of in situ burning – possible kiln	3 l	++++		++++	*	<i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) +, <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> / <i>Anthemis cotula</i> + from small sub-sample.
203	231	12	138	Silt between stones	100 ml	+++		+++	*	<i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) ++, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley) +, good preservation.
203	232	12	139	Deposit of burnt bone and charcoal	100 ml	++		++	*	<i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) ++ – poor preservation (some still hulled).
203	173	13	145	Floor deposit within building	100 ml	+		+++	*	Very abraded charcoal and one <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley) grain +.
203	223	13	149	Silt from drain [224], floor of structure F.	40 ml			+++	*	Only charcoal found.
203	266	14	150	Layer of silt overlying stones [265].	100 ml	+		+++	*	<i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) +
204	291	20	158	Fill of oval pit [292].	50 ml	+	+	+		Possible <i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) +, <i>Polygonum minor</i> (small water-poppy) + - preservation poor.
204	309	20	159	Fill of poorly defined curvilinear feature [310]	20 ml	+	+++	+++		<i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) +, <i>Carex</i> sp. (biconcave) (sedges) +, <i>Carex</i> sp. (trigonus) + - preservation poor, slag ++ also found.
204	314	20	160	Fill of irregular crescent-shaped feature [315].	10 ml		+	+		<i>Carex</i> sp. (biconcave) (sedges) +, grass nodule – preservation good.
203	330	12	163	Blackish silt, within cut of	50 ml	+++	++	+		<i>Avena</i> sp. (oats) +, <i>Hordeum</i> sp.

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant
* = sufficient charcoal for AMS dating