

LANGWELL FARM, STRATH OYKEL  
HUMAN REMAINS CALL-OFF CONTRACT  
DATA STRUCTURE REPORT



PROJECT 2818

carried out  
on behalf of  
Historic Scotland

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*Cover Plate:*

*a) View of site (beside stock trailer) from the north, & b) excavation inside the cist.*

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This report is one of a series published  
by GUARD, Gregory Building,  
Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8QQ



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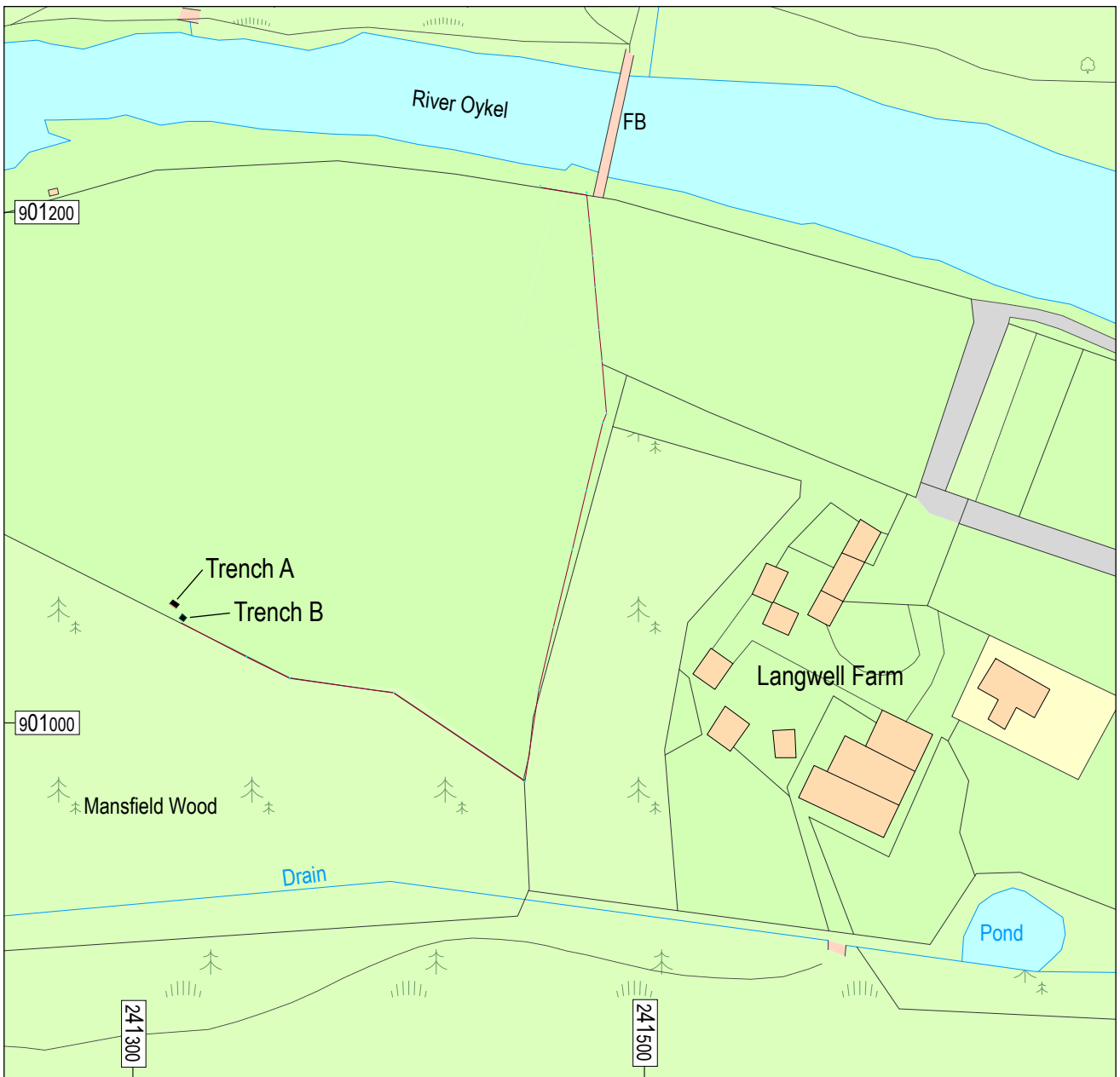
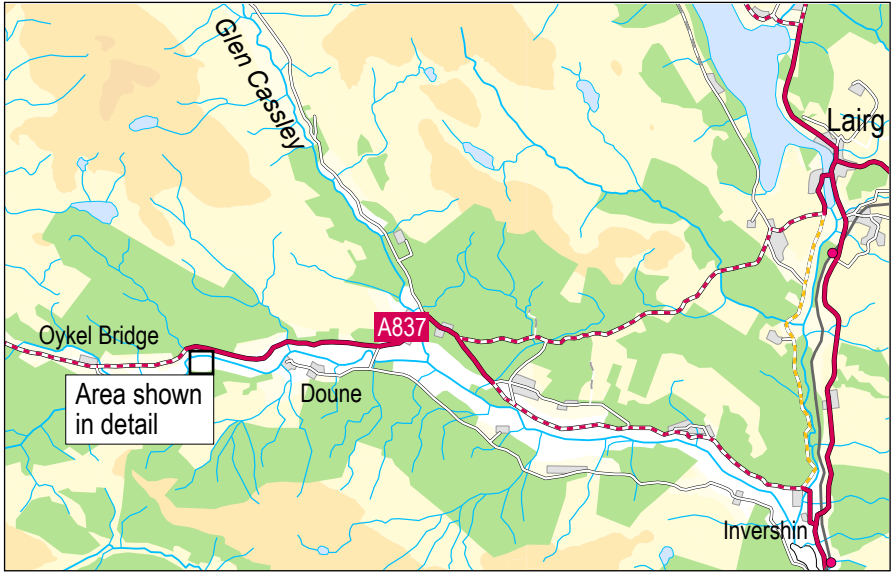
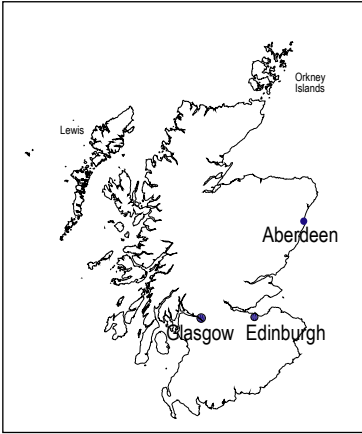
by  
Olivia Lelong

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Approved by: ..... Date: 20 April 2009  
Dr John Atkinson



Project 2818  
Langwell Farm, Strath Oykel  
HRCC



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Figure 1:  
Site Location

## 1.0 Executive Summary

In February 2009, a partial inhumation burial was recovered on Langwell Farm, Strath Oykel on behalf of Historic Scotland under the Human Remains Call-off Contract. The tightly-flexed burial lay in a substantial stone cist and was discovered by the landowner while clearing peat from the ground surface using a mechanical excavator. Relatively well preserved organic materials accompanied the skeleton. The integrity of the burial had been compromised before archaeological intervention by the local police, who had partially cleared the cist of its contents. However, part of the skeleton and some of the accompanying material remained *in situ* and was recovered using archaeological methods. The site of a second possible cist 5 m to the south, where large slabs had been removed by the mechanical excavator, was also investigated. This revealed an arcing, stone-built feature which sat on an old ground surface sealed by the peat.

## 2.0 Introduction

In February 2009, while clearing peat on a slight rise in a field on Langwell Farm, the landowner, Mr Jonathan Hampton, observed soil movement after the mechanical excavator disturbed and cracked a large slab. Investigating the void revealed beneath the slab, he saw what appeared to be a skeleton covered with white powdery sediment, with what he later described as woven material resembling a basket in the lower leg region and additional basket-like material around the head. He informed Historic Scotland and the local police. The police visited the site and, on the orders of the procurator fiscal and in the absence of Mr Hampton, partially emptied the cist of its contents. From 6-12 February 2009, a team from Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division carried out salvage excavation of the remaining contents of the cist, recorded its manner of construction and investigated the site of a second possible cist 5 m to the south, where the mechanical excavator had removed some large slabs. The bones removed from the cist by police were retrieved from Dornoch police station on 20 February 2009. Conditions for the fieldwork were snowy but calm, with heavy snow falling at times, and the ground became increasingly frozen as time progressed. The work was carried out on behalf of Historic Scotland, under the Human Remains Call-Off Contract.

## 3.0 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The site is located on a slight rise at the southern edge of a field bordering the south bank of the River Oykel, on Langwell Farm (NGR: NC 4130 0104) at *c* 20 m above OD. It lies about 260 m to the west of Langwell farmstead and lodge and immediately north of Mansfield Wood, a modern conifer plantation. The excavated features lay on a low rise that measures approximately 40 m east/west by 8 m in extent; on the south it is bordered by the fence that contains the conifer plantation, and a shallow ditch has been dug along the south edge of the fence. The flat ground to the north of the excavation site extends to the artificial flood defences along the river's bank. To the south of the wood the ground rises steeply by 20-30 m to several knolls.

The solid geology consists of unknown igneous bedrock of the Morar group, of Neoproterozoic age. The drift geology consists of alluvium (<http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/bgsmapper>).

## 4.0 Archaeological Background

There are several known archaeological sites of prehistoric date within a three-kilometre radius of the cist on Langwell Farm. These include a group of three hut circles associated with a field system (NMRS NC40SW 6) and another nearby hut circle and clearance heaps (NMRS NC40SW 5), both on the opposite side of the river valley, about one kilometre to the east. A probable burial cairn (NMRS NC40SW 7) lies in the same area. On a knoll a few hundred metres to the WSW of the cist is the vitrified dun and earlier fort of Tor A'Chorcain, which was partially excavated in the 1970s (NMRS NC40SW 3; Nisbet 1996). It dates to the late first millennium BC.

By the end of the first millennium AD, Strath Oykel formed the southern boundary of *Sudrland* – the southern part of what was then the Norse province and later earldom of Caithness. The name 'Langwell' is Norse in origin, meaning 'long valley'. Rosehall to the east, also a Norse place-name, probably derives from 'horse field.' The townships that existed at both places in the post-Medieval period may have originated as Norse settlements. Crawford (2000) notes the pairing of these two names here and also in

Strathnaver (as Langdale and Rosal). She suggests that they indicate the use of these two river valleys as major inland routeways that allowed for the pasturing of horses, as Norse marine hegemony was giving way to the more land-based power of the Scottish crown by the thirteenth century.

The early nineteenth century saw the transformation of Strath Oykel's social and economic landscape from one of small, nucleated joint tenant farms to one cleared of its tenants, with large tracts of land devoted to sheep grazing and recreational shooting and managed from newly built lodges and farmsteads like the one at Langwell. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area, published in 1881, depicts the shooting lodge, kennels and other outbuildings at Langwell surrounded by large enclosed fields along the riverside. The field containing the cist is depicted as rough pasture. It has been improved and ploughed over the last approximately 50 years (Jonathan Hampton, pers comm).

## 5.0 Aims and Objectives

The general aims of the fieldwork were to assess the character of the exposed human remains and associated archaeological features at the site, record and recover the human remains and establish their context of deposition, the nature of the burial rite and its date, if possible.

The specific objectives were:

- to make an initial record and assessment of the cist and any human remains and associated material left inside it;
- to carefully expose, record and excavate the contents of the cist according to standard methodologies for good practice;
- to sample burial soils and other archaeological deposits in order to gather information on the contemporary environment and the burial rite, as well as material for dating;
- to investigate and record the manner of the cist's construction;
- to investigate the site of the second possible cist and record any archaeological features encountered there, and
- to assess the area surrounding the real and putative cists for evidence of other cists or cairn material.

## 6.0 Methodology (Figure 1)

### 6.1 *Area A*

On arrival at the site, the excavation team and Mr Hampton removed the heavy tarpaulin he had placed over the cist and made a photographic record of the cist and its immediate vicinity. The cap slab, which had been broken during its exposure, had been moved partly off the top of the cist and was supported by a plank; the slab was moved further to the south and the plank removed to facilitate access. Photographs (both chemical and digital) were also taken of the cist interior as it appeared at this stage, and a sketch was made of the visible archaeological deposits and human remains inside it.

A trench measuring 3 m WNW/ESE by 2 m was laid out over the area, centred on the cist. This was cleaned to remove the remnants of the peat, exposing the cut for the cist and the backfill surrounding the slabs' exterior. The trench was planned at 1:20 and photographed.

The interior of the cist was then cleaned to remove loose, intrusive deposits that had fallen inside during or after its discovery. This revealed several bones and concentrations of organic material, lying in disturbed archaeological deposits. To facilitate recording and sampling, a 20-cm grid was laid out over the cist floor. Digital photographs were taken of groups of grid squares, and the contents were recorded by measuring drawing at a scale of 1:10. The three transects were labelled A, B and C from south to north and the grid squares were labelled A1, A2, etc, running from west to east along each transect (Plate 4 for position of the grid).

Just before excavation of the contents was about to commence, the massive slab forming the cist's north side fell inward; it may have been destabilised by the excavation team's movement around it, but the north-east corner of the slab lacked the pinning stones that wedged the other corners tightly in place, and this also contributed to its collapse. The slab fell at an angle over the interior, so it did not touch or compress the contents. With the aid of Mr Hampton and his tractor, the slab was lifted clear of the cist, loose backfill that had fallen in was removed and excavation proceeded.



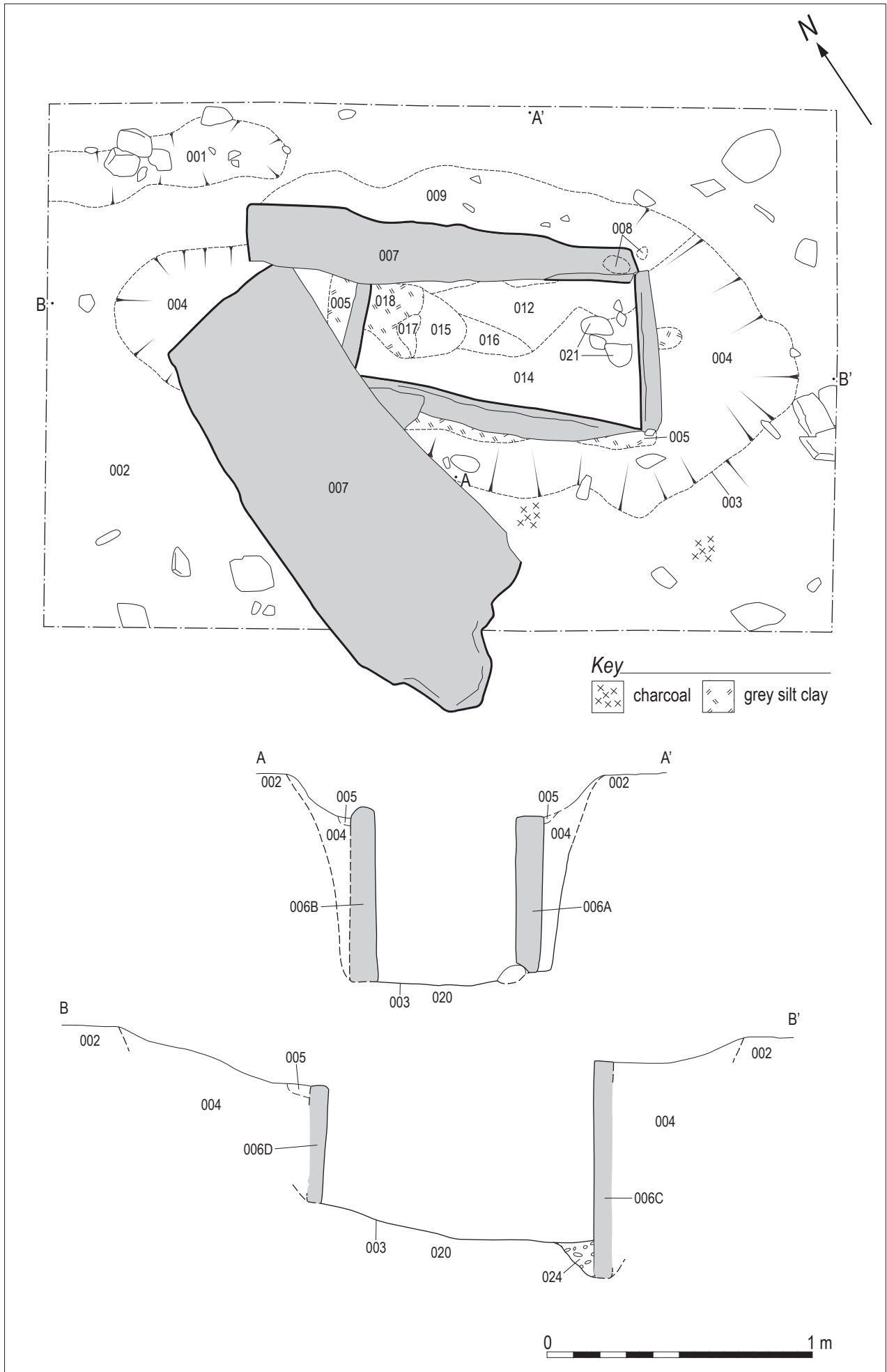


Figure 2 (above): Pre-excitation plan of the cist.  
 Figure 3 (below): East and West-facing sections through the cist.

The contents of the cist were excavated in two stages. The first involved excavation of the deposits exposed after initial cleaning; the contents were 100% sampled by context and by grid square, retained in clean plastic bags, and the positions of all human remains and organic materials lifted at this stage were recorded. This first stage of excavation revealed human remains and organic materials lying at a lower level. These were recorded by measured drawing at 1:10 and by photograph as above. They were lifted, and the sediment around and beneath them was excavated and 100% sampled according to body area (skull, thoracic, abdominal, pelvic and lower leg). The underlying deposits were then excavated and sampled, again retained in clean plastic bags, also according to body area.

All samples, organic materials and human remains from the cist were kept in cold conditions after recovery and were transferred to a cold store on their arrival in Glasgow. The bones taken by the police were also kept in cold conditions until their retrieval, after which they were transferred to a cold store.

The north/south and east/west sections across the cist were drawn at a scale of 1:10. An attempt was made to excavate a section to the edge of the cut through the north exterior (where the slab had been removed), but the soil was frozen and this proved unsuccessful except along the lower portion, which had been better protected from frost. However, as the cut was visible at the top and bottom and the thickness of the slab could be measured, it was possible to project the line of the cut, and this was also possible to a lesser extent on the other sides.

After recording, the north slab was reinstated with the help of Mr and Mrs Hampton. The cist was partially backfilled to stabilise the structure and was covered with tarpaulin.

## 6.2 Area B

Another trench measuring 2.2 m north-west/south-east by 1.8 m was opened c 5 m to the south, centred over the spot where two large slabs had been removed by the mechanical excavator. The overlying, semi-frozen peat was removed using mattocks and spades. This exposed an arcing stone-built feature. The trench was cleaned by trowel and recorded by photography. A slot measuring 1.5 m east/west by 0.5 m was excavated across it and through the surrounding deposits. The trench was recorded at the post-excavation stage by photography and by measured drawing at 1:20, and the north-facing section was recorded by measured drawing at 1:10. After recording, the trench was backfilled.

All contexts in both trenches were recorded by written description on pro forma sheets. The trench edges and baselines and nearby fence lines were surveyed using a Leica total station EDM.

Descriptions of skeletal elements given below are based on observations in the field and on initial assessment by the project osteologist, Iraia Arabaolaza.

Because of the heavy snow cover and the frozen state of the ground, it proved impossible to assess the potential for other cists through probing or visual inspection. However, the extent of the rise on which the cist lay was measured, and the extent of the recent peat-clearing operations was also recorded.

## 7.0 Results

### 7.1 Area A (Figure 2 and Plate 1)

#### 7.1.1 Exterior of the Cist

The 3 by 2 m trench centred on the cist was first cleaned to remove remnants of the peaty topsoil (001) and disturbed subsoil deposits. This exposed the cut [003] for the cist, an elongated oval in plan measuring 2.6 m north-west/south-east by 1.18 m (Figure 2 and Plate 1). Around the cut lay a mineralised old ground surface (002), consisting of firm, yellow-orange silty sand with occasional stones, several decayed stones and patches of light-grey clay silt, some containing charcoal flecks. A linear hollow filled with remnants of the peaty topsoil (001) and several stones cut the surface of (002) in the north corner of the trench; it was interpreted as the base of a plough furrow. The fill visible inside the cut for the cist consisted of much looser, orange-brown silty sand (004) with abundant sub-rounded gravel.

The cist's massive cap slab [007] had broken in two during machine excavation of the overlying peat. The larger fragment measured 1.72 m in maximum length by 0.68 m wide; it lay at an angle over the southern edge of the cut. The smaller fragment lay *in situ* along the cist's northern edge, and measured 1.5 m long by 0.25 m wide. Both were 0.09 m thick. A linear deposit of loose, gritty, dark orange-brown sandy silt with abundant rounded gravel (009) abutted the smaller fragment on the north. This appeared to be material that had been backfilled against and also over the cap slab after the cist had been sealed; traces of

it were visible on the surface of both slab fragments, but most of the deposit appeared to have been swept off the slabs after their discovery. On the south-east end of the smaller fragment lay a small deposit of loose, dark brown sandy silt containing a high proportion of white powdery crumbs (008); another, similar concentration lay on the post-capping deposit (009) to the east, and a sliver of bone was recovered beside it. The post-capping deposit (009) was excavated, and proved to lie up to 0.09 m thick over the fill (004) of the cut and against the northern fragment of the cap slab.

The northern cap slab fragment was removed to facilitate access to the cist. This revealed the structure of the cist [006], formed of four massive upright slabs and slightly trapezoidal in plan (Plate 1). Deposits of soft, apparently clean grey clay silt (005) lay against and partly over the outer top edges of the slabs; this was interpreted as material laid as luting around the top the cist. Further evidence for the cist's construction is discussed below (Section 7.1.3).



Plate 1:

*Pre-excavation view of the cist from the south-east, after removal of the northern cap slab fragment.*

#### 7.1.2 Interior of the Cist (Figures 2 and 3; Plates 2, 3 and 4)

Inside the cist, the first deposit removed consisted of very loose, orange-brown gravelly sand and small pebbles with lenses of grey clay silt (010), which lay in two sloping concentrations at the north-west end and in the southern corner (Plate 2b). It lay up to 0.07 m thick. It was interpreted as deriving from the post-capping deposit (009), packing material (005) and external backfill (004), which had been disturbed during discovery and had fallen into the cist the previous week. A large stone flake was found in the western corner; it fitted a flake scar on the eastern end of a stone that had been laid to level the top of the southern side slab, and may have fallen from that position during or after discovery. Elsewhere, the interior was covered in disturbed archaeological deposits, which are described below. A footprint left by a boot, measuring  $\approx$  0.26 m long by 0.10 m wide, was noted in the south-eastern part of the cist, above where the pelvis was subsequently uncovered.

A deposit of relatively firm, mid orange-brown silty sand (014) lay along the southern edge of the cist in a band up to 0.5 m wide (Figure 2). Towards the south-east corner it contained thick lenses of light-grey clay silt. Several bones were visible in its surface, and its northern fringe along the east contained fragments of bone and wood where it had been mixed with the underlying deposit (012). It proved to seal *in-situ* parts of the skeleton, including the pelvis, sacrum and head of femur (see below).



*Plate 2:*

*Photos taken (a) before police intervention in the cist (above) and (b) afterwards, both from the south-east (bottom).  
Plate 2a was taken by John White.*



*Plate 3:*  
*The contents of the cist after initial cleaning, from the south.*



*Plate 4:*  
*Human remains and burial deposits in the base of the cist, from the south.*



*Plate 5:*

*Pre-excavation view of the stone feature (025) in Area B.*

Several deposits containing disturbed bone and organic material lay 0.03-0.05 m thick across the rest of the interior and ran beneath the northern edge of the orange-brown silty sand (014). These are described from north-west to south-east (Figure 2 and Plate 3). A deposit of soft, loose, grey clay silt (011) lay against the north-west end of the cist, c. 0.25 m north-east/south-west by 0.2 m in extent, immediately west of the skull area. A sub-triangular deposit of loose, dark red-brown crumbly organic sediment (017) lay in the western part of the cist, overlying the grey clay silt (011). It contained fragments of organic material (SF 16). It abutted a semi-circular deposit of very loose, crumbly, creamy-white sediment mixed with dark brown silt (015). The white crumbs were very soft, smearing under light trowel pressure; they may have been adipocere, or some material introduced with the burial. The deposit contained fragments of cranium, mandible and teeth, and a right humerus lay along its southern edge. It also contained fragments of wicker (SF 10) and other organic material (SFs 5 and 9); SF 9 lay along the south edge of the humerus. A linear deposit of loose, friable, very fine sediment forming yellow-white crumbs (016), mixed with loose red-brown fine crumbly silt, extended to the south-east from (015). Pieces of organic material (SF 14) and a vertebra lay just within it on the south. Because of their position, extent and character, the yellow-white crumbs were tentatively interpreted as decayed bone from the spinal column.

An extensive, organic-rich deposit (012) lay across much of the interior, abutting the whiteish deposits described above and running beneath the orange-brown silty sand (014) on the south. This consisted of very loose, crumbly dark red-brown fine silt. It contained frequent fragments of bone, wood and black organic material, and concentrations of what appeared to be fur at the south-east end of the cist (SFs 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 13, 17) (Section 12.2 for table for small finds). A patella, a humerus, a radius and several ribs were visible in the northern centre of the deposit. To the south-east, a highly degraded bone – probably a ball joint from a long bone – lay near several fragments of organic material and wood, including part of a stick covered with bark (SF 4). This deposit (012) overlay the left pelvis and lower leg. In the south-east end of the cist it lay around several sub-rounded stones (021), up to 0.15 m long, which were set close together immediately south-east of the foot area (Figure 2). Concentrations of organic material (SF 26) were found around and beneath the stones. An arc of pebbles was also observed to the north of the stones, lying in a sparse, fine white matrix. In the south-east corner, the orange-brown silty sand (014) sealed a spread of fine grey clay silt (018), 0.3 m square in extent, very similar to grey clay silt (011).

After these deposits were removed, the remaining *in-situ* parts of the skeleton were exposed, lying in associated deposits (Figure 3 and Plate 4). Soft, very greasy, very fine black-brown sediment (019) lay around and beneath surviving elements of the skeleton. The grey clay silt (018) described above lay against the pelvis and just overlapped the black matrix (019) associated with the bones, so it appeared to have been laid around the body in the area behind the legs. Beneath and around this lay loose, mid-brown, gravelly silty sand (022); this was the surface of the subsoil (020), probably stained by the products of decomposition.

Several soft, black cranial fragments lay in the greasy black matrix (019). The right humerus and radius also lay in it, along with several vertebrae. A line of small stones that ran directly south of the humerus appeared to have been deliberately placed along the upper arm. In the thoracic, abdominal and pelvic areas were several concentrations of soft, crumbly, creamy-white sediment (023), possibly adipocere. One concentration lay directly on the left pelvis. The left pelvis was fairly well preserved, while the right pelvis and sacrum were more degraded. Concentrations of probable fur (SF 15, 18, 23, 24) were found around the edges of both pelvises. What appeared to be the head of the right femur lay *in situ* against the right pelvis, but the rest of the femur was absent. Parts of two long bones from the lower leg lay aligned north/south to the north-east, and to the south of these lay a concentration of very degraded bone, possibly the remains of the talus or calcaneus.

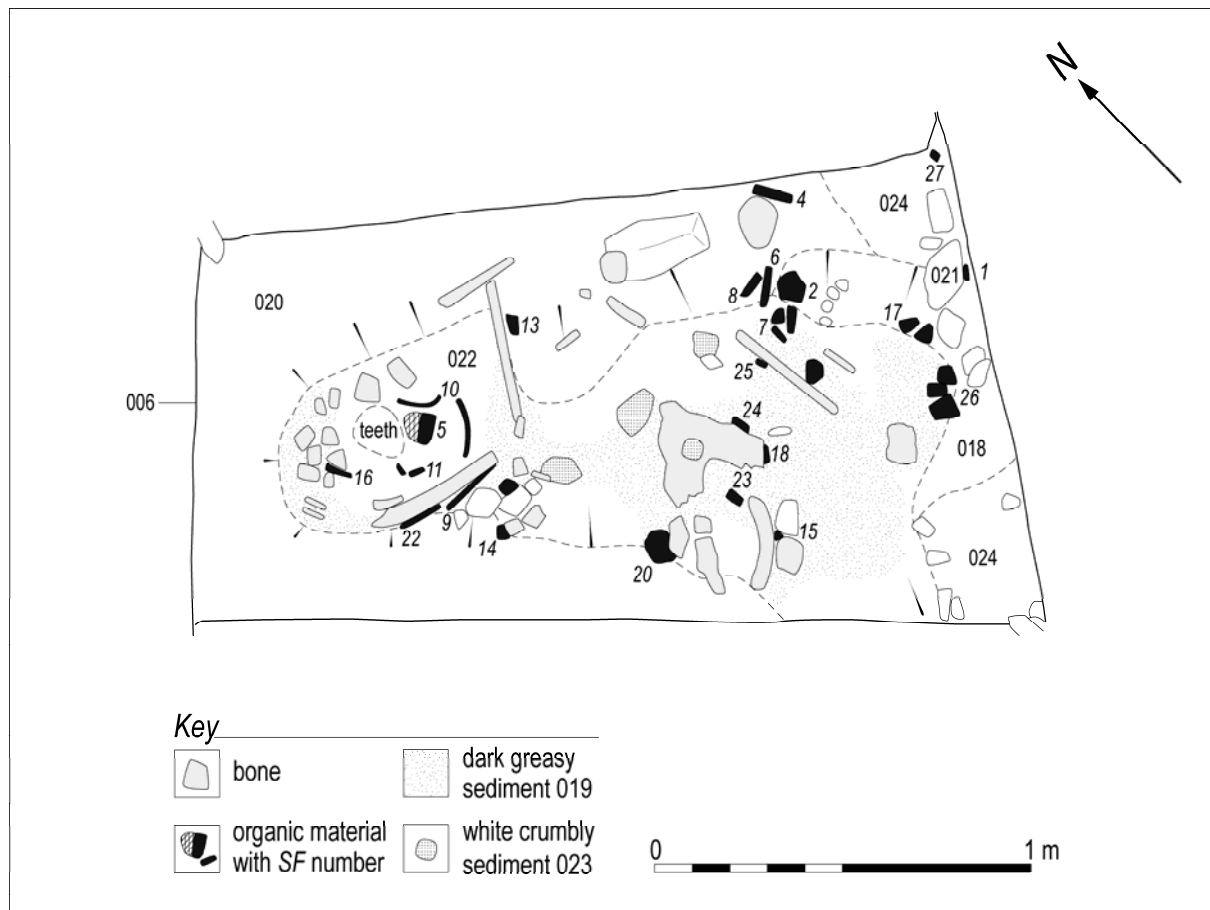


Figure 4: Plan of Sk 1, with associated deposits and organic materials.

### 7.1.3 Construction of the Cist (Figure 4)

Although attempts to excavate a section across the cist proved unsuccessful due to the frozen conditions, the accidental collapse of the northern slab did allow partial examination of the cut and projection of its line.

The side slabs [006] were all roughly rectangular. Their dimensions were:

- (A) north slab: 0.93 m long by 0.6 m high by 0.11 m thick;
- (B) south slab: 1.12 m long by 0.69 m high by 0.09 m thick;
- (C) east slab: 0.75 m long by 0.82 m high by 0.06 m thick;
- (D) west slab: 0.65+ m long by 0.45 m high by 0.07 m thick (the south end ran behind slab B so its full length was not established).

The oval cut [003] in which they were set closely followed the rear of the north and south slabs. On the east and west it was much more extensive on the surface and presumably sloped down more gradually to the cist floor. It had been cut through the contemporary ground surface (002) and the underlying subsoil (020), the latter consisting of orange-brown coarse sand and rounded gravel banded with bright orange silty sand. The slabs had been set almost perfectly vertically, with redeposited subsoil (004) backfilled more deeply along its axis (Figure 4b). Loose, bright orange coarse sand and gravel (024) had been backfilled into this deeper cut along the base of the east slab and heaped in the north-east and south-east corners of the cist to stabilise its junction with the north and south slabs. The west slab (D) ran behind both the north and south slabs (A and B), while the east slab (C) abutted the south slab but ran behind the north slab.

The south slab (B) had a rectangular gap 0.3 m long by 0.12 m high at its bottom west corner; this had been chocked with a flat stone, with a small levelling stone wedged above it. The top west end of this slab sloped down and had been levelled with a large cobble, which had a flake scar on its eastern end. A large stone flake which fitted the scar was found inside the south-west corner of the cist.

Small, angular pinning stones had been wedged into all the corners of the cist except the north-east, where the fit between the slabs was too tight to admit any, and here several angular stones had been set against the base of the corner along with the packing material (024).

The faces of two slabs (B and C) appeared water-worn. Both interior faces of the north and south slabs (A and B) bore a thin white crystalline deposit, very hard and concreted, with an undulating top edge. This appeared to be mineral in origin, probably having leached from the stone during the life of the cist.

## 7.2 Area B (Figures 5 and 6, Plate 5)

In Area B, removal of the remaining peat (001) revealed a curvilinear stone feature [025] that extended for 1.4 m to the north-east from the southern trench edge, then turned to run north for a further 1.3 m to the northern trench edge. Along most of its length it was formed of sub-angular boulders up to 0.4 m long, in places set side-by-side as if to form two rough skins but elsewhere consisting of a single line of stones. The northernmost 0.5 m consisted of much smaller, angular stones.

Excavation of a section across the feature showed the stones lay one or two deep on a layer of compacted grey-brown silt, mottled with light-grey/brown silt and black-brown humic silt and containing charcoal flecks (026). This extended across the trench to the west of the stone feature [025], and lay up to 6 cm thick. In the northern part of the trench, several thin patches of loose, dark yellow-orange gravelly sand (030) were observed on its surface; these appeared to be redeposited subsoil. The grey-brown silt (026) sealed another consolidated deposit of light-brown sandy silt with frequent small, angular stones (027), which lay up to 7 cm thick. The base of this deposit was heavily iron-panned. Below was the subsoil (028), consisting of soft, bright yellow-orange sand and rounded gravel.

Although the archaeological integrity of the cist was compromised before fieldwork commenced, photographs taken before police intervention appear to show a tightly-flexed skeleton facing to the north-east (Plate 2a). Discrete deposits of white to yellow-white powdery material lie over the skull and in the neck and thoracic areas, and also around the lower leg. The photographs also show what appears to be woven, basket-like material around the skull, with a larger section of fibrous woven material, accompanied by a bark-covered stick, beside the lower leg or knee.

The bones retrieved from Dornoch police station included parts of the skull (including the right maxilla, right sphenoid, right parietal and left frontal bones), both femorae, both tibiae, a right ulna and most of the upper teeth, some still *in situ* in the maxilla. The material retained by the police included very little organic remains; no recognisable fragments of the basket-like or woven material were among the bones.



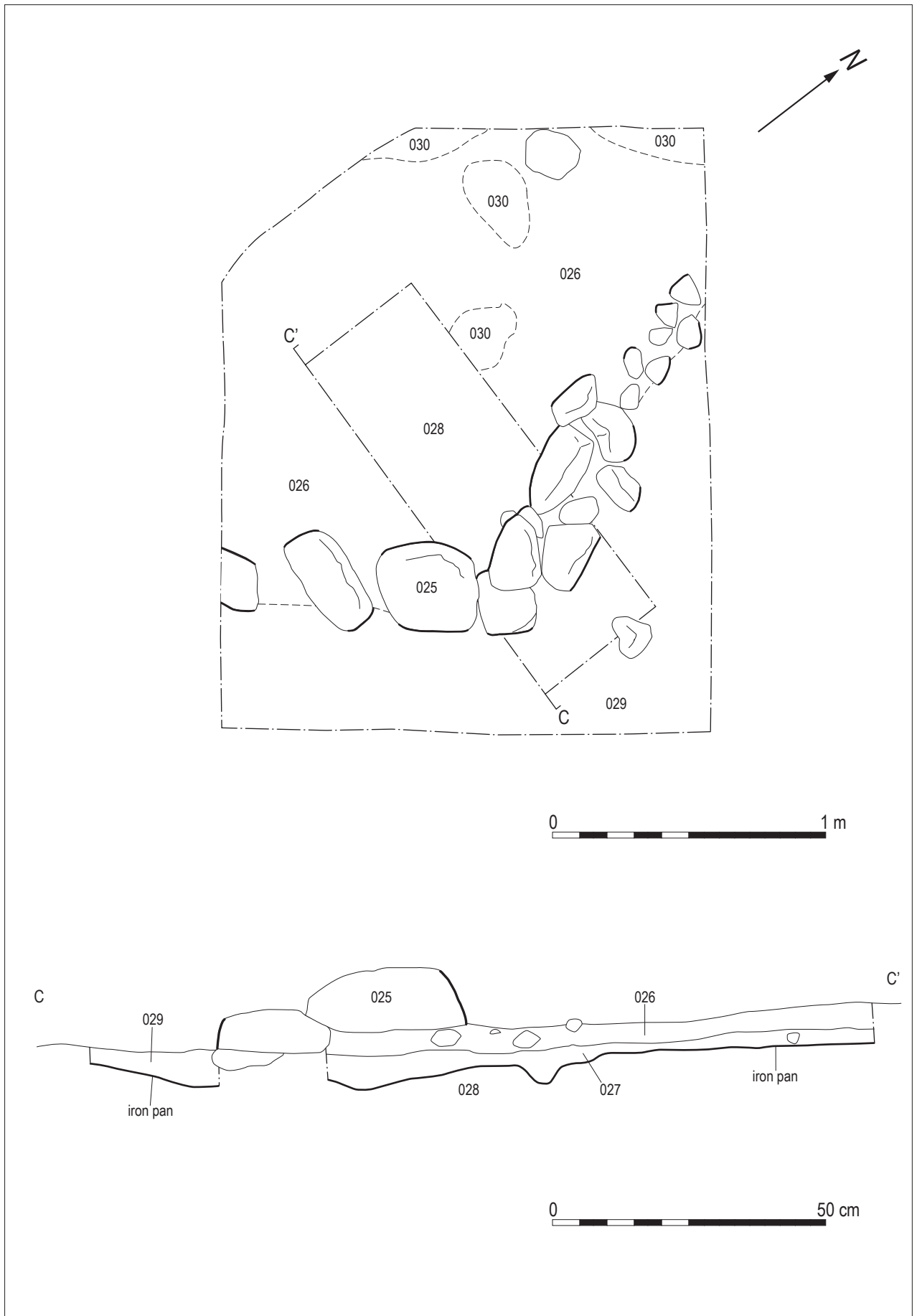


Figure 5 (above): Plan of the stone feature in Area B.  
 Figure 6 (below): North-facing section across stone feature [025].

The surfaces of several of the long bones are covered in a thin, matted layer of what appears to be fur.

On the east the stones rested on sticky, dense, black-brown silty peat (029), 4-6 cm thick. The base of the peat was heavily iron-panned (more so than the base of 027) above the surface of the subsoil (028).

## 8.0 Discussion

### 8.1 *Summary of the Fieldwork Results*

The excavated features lay on a low rise that measures approximately 40 m east/west by 8 m in extent. Across both excavation areas, peat had been partially stripped before the fieldwork commenced. Measurements from the top of a section along the adjacent fence line suggest that the original depth of the peat was c 0.6 m.

#### 8.1.1 *Area A*

The excavation recovered substantial remnants of the skeleton in positions which confirm the flexed body position, along with fragments of organic material including wood, wicker and what appears to be fur. The probable fur was concentrated around the pelvis and lower leg area, indicating perhaps that the lower body was wrapped in animal hide or was wearing a fur garment. White crumbly deposits (023, 015, 016) associated with the bone may derive from adipocere, decayed bone, another material deposited with the burial or a combination of these. Very greasy black sediment (019) lying around and beneath the lower bones may represent the decay of soft tissues and other organic material. The extensive organic-rich deposit (012) associated with much of the skeleton may also derive from organic materials buried with the body and/or the decay of soft tissue.

The cist proved to be a very substantial structure, with large slabs [006] set vertically in a generous cut, pinned together at the corners, with excavated subsoil backfilled around them. Subsoil was also backfilled into the deeper cut required for the east slab, and heaped at the adjacent corners for stability. The exterior tops of the slabs had been luted with grey clay silt; similar silt had been laid inside the cist at the time of burial, around the head (011) and behind the feet (018). The massive cap slab [007] had been set over the cist, and redeposited subsoil had been laid over and around it to seal the cist.

#### 8.1.2 *Area B*

The curvilinear stone feature [025] in Area B rested on an old ground surface (026) to the west and on peat (029) to the east. The base of this peat was very heavily iron-panned onto the underlying subsoil, while on the west an earlier, leached ground surface (027) was also iron-panned, although less so. This would suggest that conditions on both sides of the feature were rather wet, but especially on the east, where the buried ground surface sloped down slightly. The feature may have been built to contain or delineate a more boggy area from better drained ground.

### 8.2 *Interpretive Issues*

#### 8.2.1 *Area A*

Although the contents of the cist were not fully recorded and excavated under ideal conditions, some of the organic components of the burial were recovered, as was much of the skeleton. This should provide enough material for skeletal analysis, close dating of the cist, and some interpretation of the burial rite. The exact nature of the organic materials has still to be established, but initial assessment suggests they comprise wood, basketry and fur.

Even in its partial state, this assemblage has the potential to shed valuable light on the person buried and the materials used to dress the body. They may have comprised objects or garments used in everyday life, or that were created especially for the burial. The basket-like material appears in the initial photographs at least to partly enclose the skull. A tenuous parallel for this may exist at Cairnpapple, where a piece of carbonised oak sliced from a large log had been placed over a face of an extended inhumation burial. It was interpreted as a possible ceremonial mask, which might have been carved or painted (Piggott 1948, 115). Beakers found with the burial indicate it dates to the mid to late third millennium BC.

Distinctive white deposits were initially recorded by photograph as lying over and around the Langwell body and especially in the areas of the head and chest. These could represent some material that was applied to the body at the time of burial, or they could derive from the decay and hydrolysis of adipose

fats. The origins of these white deposits – although they were disturbed when they were recovered and sampled archaeologically – may be established through further analysis. This could help further to clarify the nature of the burial rite and/or post-depositional processes of decay inside the cist.

### 8.2.2 Area B

There was no evidence to readily date the stone-built feature in Area B, although its position beneath peat indicates it is of some antiquity. It could be of prehistoric date, and it is not impossible that it relates to the use of this slight rise in the Bronze Age for ceremonial and funerary purposes.

## 9.0 Recommendations

A programme of post-excavation analysis is recommended to bring the results of the excavation to publication. This would involve specialist analysis of the skeletal remains, environmental samples and artefacts, radiocarbon dating of a selection of material, research into comparable evidence for contemporary burial rites in Highland Scotland and further afield, and the production of a written, illustrated and refereed report for publication in an academic journal.

Although parts of the skeleton are in poor condition, some of the bones are more robust and several teeth were recovered. Skeletal analysis may be able to establish the sex and age at death of the individual, as well as any pathologies that affected the bone. Radiocarbon assay will provide a date range for the person's death.

Given the rarity of a Bronze Age cist containing preserved organic material, other forms of post-excavation analysis should maximise the interpretive potential of the recovered material. After removal of intrusive deposits, the contents of the cist were 100% sampled according to 20-cm grid and also context. A set of carefully formulated research questions should guide treatment and analysis of the samples. They have the potential to provide information on the nature of materials used – including species of plants and animals represented in the basketry, wood and probable fur and the original form of any garments or objects; possible food remains placed with the body; pigments, preservatives or other materials that were perhaps used to protect or adorn the body, and evidence of the body itself in the form of possible adipocere and other products of decay. Conditions in the cist permitted exceptional preservation of organic materials, and analysis should seek to establish why.

The Langwell Farm cist is an extremely rare and valuable find. It has the potential to tell a great deal about contemporary life and burial practice, through elements of both that are normally lost to natural processes of decay.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

The project was monitored by Rod McCullagh for Historic Scotland and Andrew Puls for The Highland Council, and it was managed for GUARD by Alan Leslie. Aileen Maule, John Kiely and Jen Cochrane provided technical and administrative support. Many thanks to Iraia Arabaolaza for her hard work on site. A big thanks also to Sarah and Jonathan Hampton for providing much-needed shelter on site, helping to transport tools, making it possible to remove and reinstate the cist slab and providing much useful information on the circumstances of the cist's discovery and the local archaeology. Thanks also to John White, operator of the mechanical excavator, for providing photographs of the cist in its undisturbed state and to Malcolm and Liz at the Achness Hotel for warm hospitality.

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## 12.0 Appendices

### 12.1 *List of Contexts*

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Context</i> | <i>Description</i>                               | <i>Interpretation/Relationships</i> |
|-------------|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| A           | 001            | Black-brown sticky peat                          | Peat, partly truncated              |
| A           | 002            | Yellow-orange-grey compact sand and gravel       | Subsoil                             |
| A           | 003            | Oval, steep-sided cut                            | Cut for cist                        |
| A           | 004            | Loose orange sand and gravel                     | Fill of 003 around 006              |
| A           | 005            | Grey clay silt around tops of 006 slabs          | Packing for cist slabs              |
| A           | 006            | Large vertical slabs with pinning stones         | Cist structure                      |
| A           | 007            | Large fractured slab overlying cist              | Cap slab                            |
| A           | 008            | White flecks and brown silt on 007               | ?In-situ deposit from cist sealing  |
| A           | 009            | Dark orange brown sand against 007 on N          | Capping material for cist           |
| A           | 010            | Loose orange-brown sand in E and W ends of cist  | Intrusive sediment                  |
| A           | 011            | Loose grey silt in W end of cist                 | Material laid with burial           |
| A           | 012            | Dark brown humic crumbly deposit, centre of cist | Organic-rich burial matrix          |
| A           | 013            | Pale orange sand                                 | Material laid with burial           |
| A           | 014            | Firm orange sand/grey silt in SE corner of cist  | Material laid over burial on S      |
| A           | 015            | Creamy white crumbly deposit in head area        | Burial matrix with ?decayed bone    |
| A           | 016            | Yellow-white crumbly deposit in chest area       | Burial matrix with decayed bone     |
| A           | 017            | Dark brown crumbly deposit W of head             | Organic-rich burial matrix          |
| A           | 018            | Grey clay silt in SE corner                      | Material laid with burial           |
| A           | 019            | Soft greasy black sediment under bones           | Stained burial matrix               |
| A           | 020            | Loose orange coarse sand and gravel              | Lower subsoil                       |
| A           | 021            | Sub rounded stones                               | Stones set around body              |
| A           | 022            | Mid brown sand beneath 019                       | Stained subsoil 020                 |
| A           | 023            | Creamy white crumbly sediment on bones and 019   | ?Adipocere or decayed bone          |
| A           | 024            | Loose orange sand and gravel at E end            | Packing material for E slab         |
| B           | 025            | Curvilinear stone feature                        | Wall base                           |
| B           | 026            | Mottled light/dark brown silt under 025 on W     | Leached old ground surface          |
| B           | 027            | Light brown stony sandy silt under 026 on W      | Leached old ground surface          |
| B           | 028            | Bright yellow orange sand with panned surface    | Subsoil                             |
| B           | 029            | Sticky, dense black-brown silty peat             | Peat                                |
| B           | 030            | Mid yellow orange sand on 026                    | Redeposited subsoil                 |

### 12.2 *List of Finds*

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Find No</i> | <i>Context No</i> | <i>No of Pieces</i> | <i>Material</i> | <i>Description</i>   | <i>Grid Square</i> |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| A           | 1              | 012               | Several             | Organic         | Fibrous material. Fur/hair?<br>Matted/braid?                 | -                  |
| A           | 2              | 012               | Several             | Organic         | Fibrous material. Fur/hair?                                  | C5                 |
| A           | 3              | 012               | 2                   | Feather         | Probably intrusive from<br>wooden plank                      | C5                 |
| A           | 4              | 012               | 1                   | Wood            | Small branch fragment<br>bearing bark                        | C4                 |
| A           | 5              | 015               | Several             | Wood/fur?       | One piece of wood and a<br>clump of fur/hair from skull area | B2                 |
| A           | 6              | 012               | Several             | Bone            | Possible human bone.<br>Fragment of ulna?                    | C4                 |
| A           | 7              | 012               | Several             | Wood            | Fibrous material, possibly<br>wood?                          | -                  |
| A           | 8              | 012               | Several             | Wood            | Small pieces of wood   | -                  |
| A           | 9              | 015               | Several             | Organic         | Wood fibres and white<br>material (bone?)                    | A2                 |
| A           | 10             | 015               | Several             | Organic         | Possible wicker strands                                      | B2                 |

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Find No</i> | <i>Context No</i> | <i>No of Pieces</i> | <i>Material</i> | <i>Description</i>   | <i>Grid Square</i> |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| A           | 11             | 015               | Several             | Organic         | Fibrous material, possible fur/hair?                                   | B2                 |
| A           | 12             | 012               | Several             | Bone            | -  | B3                 |
| A           | 13             | 012               | 1                   | Organic         | Possible wood  | B3                 |
| A           | 14             | 016               | Several             | Organic         | Possible wood  | A3                 |
| A           | 15             | 014               | Several             | Organic         | Fibrous material, possibly fur/hair, and possible small bone fragments | A4                 |
| A           | 16             | 017               | 2                   | Organic         | Possible wood  | A1                 |
| A           | 17             | 012               | Several             | Organic         | Lumps of unidentified organic material and possible cordage?           | B5                 |
| A           | 18             | 019               | Several             | Organic         | Possible fur/hair, E of left pelvis, against bone                      | A1                 |
| A           | 19             | 014               | Several             | Organic         | Possible fur/hair  | B6                 |
| A           | 20             | 014               | Several             | Organic         | Lumps of possibly organic material                                     | B6                 |
| A           | 21             | 018               | 1                   | Organic         | Possible fish/bird bone. Pin/needle? May be a thin twig?               | B6                 |
| A           | 22             | 019               | Several             | Organic         | Fibrous material, possible fur/hair. Associated with right humerus     | B6                 |
| A           | 23             | 019               | Several             | Organic         | Fibrous material, possible fur/hair. Associated with right pelvis      | -                  |
| A           | 24             | 019               | Several             | Organic         | Fibrous material, possible fur/hair. Associated with left pelvis       | -                  |
| A           | 25             | 019               | 1                   | Charcoal        | Small lump beside lower leg  | -                  |
| A           | 26             | 019               | Several             | Organic         | Lumps of possibly organic material                                     | -                  |
| A           | 27             | 024               | Several             | Organic         | Fibrous material, possibly fur/hair?                                   | -                  |

### 12.3 List of Samples

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Sample No</i> | <i>Context No</i> | <i>Size</i> | <i>Reason for Sampling</i> |             |                |                 | <i>Application/Comments</i>  |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
|             |                  |                   |             | <i>Pot</i>                 | <i>Bone</i> | <i>Lithics</i> | <i>Botanics</i> |  |
| A           | 1                | 008               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Deposit overlying cap slab 007. Lab sieve.                                       |
| A           | 2                | 010               | L           |                            | X           |                | X               | From SE corner of cist, poss mixed with disturbed contents below. Lab sieve.     |
| A           | 3                | 010               | L           |                            | X           |                | X               | Form W end around skull, poss mixed with disturbed contents below. Lab sieve.    |
| A           | 4                | 010               | L           |                            | X           |                | X               | From centre S part of cist, poss mixed with disturbed contents below. Lab sieve. |
| A           | 5                | 012               | L           |                            | X           |                | X               | From NE corner of cist, poss mixed with disturbed contents below. Lab sieve.     |

| Area | Sample No | Context No | Size | Reason for Sampling |      |         |          | Application/Comments   |
|------|-----------|------------|------|---------------------|------|---------|----------|--|
|      |           |            |      | Pot                 | Bone | Lithics | Botanics |  |
| A    | 6         | 012        | L    |                     | X    |         | X        | From centre S part of cist, poss mixed with disturbed contents below. Lab sieve. |
| A    | 6         | 012        | L    |                     | X    |         | X        | From centre S part of cist, poss mixed with disturbed contents below. Lab sieve. |
| A    | 7         | 014        | L    |                     | X    |         | X        | From SE corner of cist, poss mixed with disturbed contents below. Lab sieve.     |
| A    | 8         | 015/A1     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 9         | 015/A2     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 10        | 016/A3     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 11        | 014/A4     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 12        | 014/A5     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 13        | 014/A6     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 14        | 013/B1     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 15        | 017/B2     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 16        | 012/B3     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 17        | 012/B4     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 18        | 014/B5-6   | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 19        | 014/B5-6   | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 20        | 013/C1     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 21        | 013/C2     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 22        | 012/C3     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 23        | 012/C4     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 24        | 012/C5     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 25        | 012/C6     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 26        | 011/A1     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 27        | 014/A1     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 28        | 017/A1     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 29        | 014/A2     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 30        | 014/A3     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 31        | 011/B1     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 32        | 015/B2     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 33        | 011/B2     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 34        | 013/B2     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |
| A    | 35        | 018/A5     | M    |                     | X    |         | X        | Lab sieve  |

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Sample No</i> | <i>Context No</i> | <i>Size</i> | <i>Reason for Sampling</i> |             |                |                 | <i>Application/Comments</i>  |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
|             |                  |                   |             | <i>Pot</i>                 | <i>Bone</i> | <i>Lithics</i> | <i>Botanics</i> |  |
| A           | 36               | 018/A6            | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Lab sieve  |
| A           | 37               | 016/B3            | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Lab sieve  |
| A           | 38               | 019/B4            | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Lab sieve  |
| A           | 39               | 014/B4            | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Lab sieve  |
| A           | 40               | 018/B5-6          | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Lab sieve  |
| A           | 41               | 013/C3            | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Lab sieve  |
| A           | 42               | 023               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | From thoracic and abdominal area and overlying left pelvis; decayed bone/adipocere? Lab sieve. |
| A           | 43               | 006B              | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | White ?mineral concretion on cist interior.  |
| A           | 44               | 018/A6            | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Lab sieve  |
| A           | 45               | 018/C5            | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Lab sieve  |
| A           | 46               | 022               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath skull. Lab sieve.  |
| A           | 47               | 019               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath right humerus. Lab sieve.  |
| A           | 48               | 022               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath right humerus and chest. Lab sieve.  |
| A           | 49               | 019               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath ?right radius/ulna. Lab sieve.   |
| A           | 50               | 022               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath thoracic area. Lab sieve.  |
| A           | 51               | 019               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath vertebrae/ribs. Lab sieve.   |
| A           | 52               | 019               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath abdominal area. Lab sieve.   |
| A           | 53               | 022               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath abdominal area. Lab sieve.   |
| A           | 54               | 019               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath pelvic area. Lab sieve.  |
| A           | 55               | 022               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath pelvic area. Lab sieve.  |
| A           | 56               | 019               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath leg area. Lab sieve.   |
| A           | 57               | 022               | M           |                            | X           |                | X               | Beneath leg area. Lab sieve.   |
| B           | 58               | 026               | L           |                            |             |                | X               | Flotation  |

#### 12.4 *List of Drawings*

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Drawing No</i> | <i>Sheet No</i> | <i>Subject</i>                                | <i>Contexts</i>                   | <i>Scale</i> |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| A           | 1                 | 1               | Pre-excavation plan of cist                   | 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008 | 1:20         |
| A           | 2                 | 1               | Plan of cist interior and Sk 1 at first stage | 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017 | 1:10         |

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Drawing No</i> | <i>Sheet No</i> | <i>Subject</i>                                 | <i>Contexts</i>                      | <i>Scale</i> |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| A           | 3                 | 2               | Working plan of cist<br>(overlay on Drawing 2) | 011, 012, 013, 014, 015,<br>016, 017 | 1:10         |
| A           | 4                 | 2               | Final plan of cist interior and<br>Sk 1        | 019, 018, 020, 024                   | 1:10         |
| A           | 5                 | 3               | N/S profile across cist                        | 002, 003, 004, 005, 006              | 1:10         |
| A           | 6                 | 3               | E/W profile across cist                        | 002, 003, 004, 005, 006              | 1:10         |
| B           | 7                 | 4               | Post-excavation plan of trench                 | 025, 026, 028, 029, 030              | 1:20         |
| B           | 8                 | 4               | N-facing section across 025                    | 025, 026, 027, 028, 029              | 1:10         |

## 12.5 *List of Photographs*

### *Black and White Print Film 1*

| <i>Frame</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Context No</i>                         | <i>Subject</i>   | <i>Taken From</i> |
|--------------|-------------|---|--|-------------------|
| 1            | A           | -   | General shot of cist on arrival at site                              | E                 |
| 2            | A           | -   | General shot of cist on arrival at site                              | E                 |
| 3            | A           | -   | General shot of cist on arrival at site                              | S                 |
| 4            | A           | -   | General shot of cist on arrival at site                              | S                 |
| 5            | A           | -   | Detail of cist interior on arrival at site                           | E + A             |
| 6            | A           | -   | Detail of cist interior on arrival at site                           | E + A             |
| 7            | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005,<br>006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior backfill and cut after cleaning,<br>pre-excavation     | W                 |
| 8            | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005,<br>006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior backfill and cut after cleaning,<br>pre-excavation     | S                 |
| 9            | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005,<br>006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior backfill and cut after cleaning,<br>pre-excavation     | E                 |
| 10           | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005,<br>006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior backfill and cut after cleaning,<br>pre-excavation     | N                 |
| 11           | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005,<br>006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior backfill and cut after cleaning,<br>pre-excavation     | NE                |
| 12           | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005,<br>006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior after removal of N cap slab<br>remnant 007             | E                 |
| 13           | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005,<br>006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior after removal of N cap slab<br>remnant 007             | S                 |
| 14           | A           | 010, 011, 012, 013,<br>015, 016, 017      | Cist interior before cleaning  | S + A             |
| 15           | A           | 010, 011, 012, 013,                       | Cist interior before cleaning  | S + A             |
| 16           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 015,<br>016, 017           | Cist interior after cleaning of intrusive material                   | N + A             |
| 17           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 015,<br>016, 017           | Cist interior after cleaning of intrusive material                   | N + A             |
| 18           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 015,<br>016, 017           | Cist interior after cleaning of intrusive material                   | E + A             |
| 19           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 015,<br>016, 017           | Cist interior after cleaning of intrusive material                   | E + A             |
| 20           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023                        | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of upper<br>deposits, with grid | N + A             |
| 21           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023                        | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of upper<br>deposits, with grid | N + A             |
| 22           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023                        | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of upper<br>deposits, with grid | W + A             |
| 23           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023                        | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of upper<br>deposits, with grid | W + A             |
| 24           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023                        | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of upper<br>deposits, with grid | S + A             |
| 25           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023                        | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of upper<br>deposits, with grid | S + A             |



| <i>Frame</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Context No</i>  | <i>Subject</i>  | <i>Taken From</i> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| 26           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023 | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of upper deposits, with grid | E + A             |
| 27           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023 | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of upper deposits, with grid | E + A             |
| 28           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023 | General view of the cist with in-situ skeletal material           | NE                |
| 29           | -           | -                  | General view of the site  | NE                |
| 30           | B           | -                  | Area B before removal of peat                                     | N                 |
| 31           | -           | -                  | -   | -                 |
| 32           | B           | -                  | Area B before removal of peat                                     | N                 |
| 33           | A           | 020, 024           | Post-excavation shot of cist interior                             | E                 |
| 34           | A           | 020, 024           | Post-excavation shot of cist interior (detail)                    | E + A             |
| 35           | A           | 004, 005, 006, 020 | Cist interior post-excavation, with partial slot through N side   | S                 |
| 36           | A           | 004, 005, 006, 020 | Cist interior post-excavation, with partial slot through N side   | E                 |

*Black and White Print Film 2*

| <i>Frame</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Context No</i>       | <i>Subject</i>   | <i>Taken From</i> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1            | B           | -                       | The site under thick snow, last morning                  | NE                |
| 2            | B           | 025, 026, 029, 030      | Arcing stone feature with slot trench in place, pre-ex   | SW                |
| 3            | B           | 025, 026, 027, 028, 029 | Post-excavation shot of slot trench across stone feature | ESE               |
| 4            | B           | 025, 026, 027, 028, 029 | Post-excavation shot of slot trench across stone feature | ESE               |
| 5            | B           | 025, 026, 027, 028, 029 | Post-excavation shot of slot trench across stone feature | N                 |
| 6            | B           | 025, 026, 027, 028, 029 | Post-excavation shot of slot trench across stone feature | N                 |

*Digital Photographs*

| <i>Frame</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Contexts</i>                        | <i>Description</i>   | <i>Taken From</i> | <i>Format</i> |
|--------------|-------------|--|--|-------------------|---------------|
| 1            | A           | -                                      | General shot of cist on arrival at site                        | E                 | .jpeg         |
| 2            | A           | -                                      | General shot of cist on arrival at site                        | E                 | .jpeg         |
| 3            | A           | -                                      | General shot of cist on arrival at site                        | S                 | .jpeg         |
| 4            | A           | -                                      | Detail of cist interior on arrival at site                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 5            | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior backfill and cut after cleaning, pre-excavation  | E                 | .jpeg         |
| 6            | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior backfill and cut after cleaning, pre-excavation  | S                 | .jpeg         |
| 7            | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior backfill and cut after cleaning, pre-excavation  | W                 | .jpeg         |
| 8            | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior backfill and cut after cleaning, pre-excavation  | N                 | .jpeg         |
| 9            | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior after removal of N cap slab remnant 007          | E                 | .jpeg         |
| 10           | A           | 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009 | Cist exterior after removal of N cap slab remnant 007          | S                 | .jpeg         |
| 11           | A           | 010, 011, 012, 013, 015, 016, 017      | Cist interior before cleaning                                  | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 12           | A           | 010, 011, 012, 013, 015, 016, 017      | Cist interior before cleaning                                  | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 13           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 015, 016, 017           | Cist interior after cleaning of intrusive material, with scale | N + A             | .jpeg         |

# GUARD

| <i>Frame</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Contexts</i>                   | <i>Description</i>  | <i>Taken From</i> | <i>Format</i> |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------|
| 14           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 015, 016, 017      | Cist interior after cleaning of intrusive material, with scale    | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 15           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 015, 016, 017      | Cist interior after cleaning of intrusive material, with scale    | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 16           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 015, 016, 017      | Cist interior after cleaning of intrusive material, without scale | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 17           | -           | -                                 | Snowstorm   | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 18           | A           | -                                 | Cist in snowstorm   | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 19           | A           | -                                 | Cist in snowstorm   | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 20           | A           | -                                 | Site hut (stock trailer) and site in snowstorm                    | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 21           | A           | -                                 | Site hut (stock trailer) and site in snowstorm                    | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 22           | A           | -                                 | Site hut (stock trailer) and site in snowstorm                    | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 23           | -           | -                                 | Twilight after snowstorm at Langwell                              | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 24           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017 | Cist interior pre-excavation, with 20-cm grid                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 25           | A           | 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017 | Cist interior pre-excavation, with 20-cm grid                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 26           | A           | 011, 012, 014, 015, 016, 017      | Detail of grid squares A1, A2, B1, B2                             | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 27           | A           | 011, 012, 014, 015, 016, 017      | Detail of grid squares A1, A2, B1, B2                             | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 28           | A           | 011, 012, 014, 015, 016, 017      | Detail of grid squares A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 29           | A           | 012, 014, 015, 016                | Detail of grid squares A2, A3, A4, B2, B3, B4                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 30           | A           | 012, 014, 016                     | Detail of grid squares A3, A4, A5, B3, B4, B5                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 31           | A           | 012, 013, 014                     | Detail of grid squares A4, A5, A6, B4, B5, B6                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 32           | A           | 014                               | Detail of grid squares A5, A6, B5, B6                             | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 33           | A           | 011, 017, 015                     | Detail of grid squares B1, B2, C1, C2                             | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 34           | A           | 011, 012, 015, 016, 017           | Detail of grid squares B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, C3                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 35           | A           | 011, 012, 015, 016, 017           | Detail of grid squares B2, B3, B4, C2, C3, C4                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 36           | A           | 012, 015, 016, 021                | Detail of grid squares B3, B4, B5, C3, C4, C5                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 37           | A           | 012, 014, 021                     | Detail of grid squares B5, B6, C5, C6                             | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 38           | A           | 011, 015                          | Detail of grid squares C1, C2                                     | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 39           | A           | 011, 012, 015                     | Detail of grid squares C1, C2, C3                                 | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 40           | A           | 011, 012, 015                     | Detail of grid squares C1, C2, C3                                 | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 41           | A           | 012, 015                          | Detail of grid squares C2, C3, C4                                 | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 42           | A           | 012                               | Detail of grid squares C4, C5, C6                                 | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 43           | A           | 011, 012, 014, 015, 016, 017      | Detail of grid squares A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2                     | W + A             | .jpeg         |
| 44           | A           | 012, 014, 015, 016, 017           | Detail of grid squares A3, A4, B3, B4, C3, C4                     | W + A             | .jpeg         |
| 45           | A           | 012, 014, 015, 016, 017           | Detail of grid squares A3, A4, B3, B4, C3, C4                     | W + A             | .jpeg         |
| 46           | A           | 012, 014, 021                     | Detail of grid squares A5, A6, B5, B6, C5, C6                     | E + A             | .jpeg         |
| 47           | A           | -                                 | Working shot during raising of fallen N side slab                 | -                 | .jpeg         |

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| <i>Frame</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Contexts</i>    | <i>Description</i>  | <i>Taken From</i> | <i>Format</i> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------|---|-------------------|---------------|
| 48           | A           | -                  | Working shot during raising of fallen N side slab                 | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 49           | A           | -                  | Working shot during raising of fallen N side slab                 | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 50           | A           | -                  | Working shot during raising of fallen N side slab                 | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 51           | A           | -                  | Working shot during raising of fallen N side slab                 | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 52           | A           | -                  | Working shot during raising of fallen N side slab                 | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 53           | A           | 012                | Detail of bark-covered twig (SF 4), degraded ?ball joint, C4      | A                 | .jpeg         |
| 54           | A           | 015, 017           | Detail of organic material (SF 5), B2                             | A                 | .jpeg         |
| 55           | -           | -                  | View of the site from above N side of River Oykel                 | N                 | .jpeg         |
| 56           | -           | -                  | View of the site from above N side of River Oykel                 | N                 | .jpeg         |
| 57           | -           | -                  | View of the site from N side of River Oykel                       | N                 | .jpeg         |
| 58           | -           | -                  | View of the site from N side of River Oykel                       | N                 | .jpeg         |
| 59           | -           | -                  | View upriver to Iron Age dun from N side of River Oykel           | NE                | .jpeg         |
| 60           | -           | -                  | View upriver to Iron Age dun from N side of River Oykel           | NE                | .jpeg         |
| 61           | A           | 014, 021           | Detail of humerus with edging stones, A2                          | A                 | .jpeg         |
| 62           | A           |                    | Working shot during excavation of cist interior                   | E                 | .jpeg         |
| 63           | A           |                    | Working shot during excavation of cist interior                   | E                 | .jpeg         |
| 64           |             |                    | Moon over the snow at Langwell                                    |                   | .jpeg         |
| 65           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023 | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of upper deposits, with grid | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 66           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023 | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of loose deposits, with grid | S + A             | .jpeg         |
| 67           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023 | Cist interior and Sk 1 after removal of loose deposits, with grid | N + A             | .jpeg         |
| 68           | A           | -                  | The site under snow   | ENE               | .jpeg         |
| 69           | A           | 018, 019, 022, 023 | General view of the cist with in-situ skeletal material           | NE                | .jpeg         |
| 70           | A           | -                  | Iraia excavating inside the cist                                  | NE                | .jpeg         |
| 71           | A           | -                  | Iraia excavating inside the cist                                  | NE                | .jpeg         |
| 72           | B           | 029                | Area B before removal of peat                                     | N                 | .jpeg         |
| 73           | B           | 029                | Area B before removal of peat                                     | NE                | .jpeg         |
| 74           | A           | 002, 003, 006, 007 | Post-excavation general shot of cist (under snow)                 | NE                | .jpeg         |
| 75           | A           | 020, 024           | Post-excavation shot of cist interior                             | SE +A             | .jpeg         |
| 76           | A/B         | -                  | Cist in the foreground, with Area B under excavation behind       | NW                | .jpeg         |
| 77           | A           | 004, 005, 006, 020 | Cist interior post-excavation, with partial slot through N side   | S                 | .jpeg         |
| 78           | A           | 004, 005, 006, 020 | Cist interior post-excavation, with partial slot through N side   | E                 | .jpeg         |
| 79           | B           | 025, 026, 029, 030 | Pre-excavation shot of arcing stone feature and OGS               | E                 | .jpeg         |

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| <i>Frame</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Contexts</i>         | <i>Description</i>                                       | <i>Taken From</i> | <i>Format</i> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------|
| 80           | B           | 025, 026, 029, 030      | Pre-excavation shot of arcing stone feature and OGS      | N                 | .jpeg         |
| 81           | B           | 025, 026, 029, 030      | Arcing stone feature with slot trench in place, pre-ex   | SE                | .jpeg         |
| 82           | B           | 025, 026, 027, 028, 029 | Post-excavation shot of slot trench across stone feature | SE                | .jpeg         |
| 83           | B           | 025, 026, 027, 028, 029 | Post-excavation shot of slot trench across stone feature | SE                | .jpeg         |
| 84           | B           | 025, 026, 027, 028, 029 | Post-excavation shot of slot trench across stone feature | NNW               | .jpeg         |
| 85           | -           | -                       | Heavy snowstorm underway                                 | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 86           | -           | -                       | Iraia in stock trailer during heavy snow                 | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 87           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 88           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 89           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 90           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 91           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 92           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 93           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 94           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 95           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 96           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 97           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 98           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 99           | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 100          | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 101          | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 102          | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 103          | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 104          | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 105          | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 106          | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 107          | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 108          | A           | -                       | Working shot during reinstatement of cist                | -                 | .jpeg         |

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| <i>Frame</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Contexts</i> | <i>Description</i>                            | <i>Taken From</i> | <i>Format</i> |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|---|-------------------|---------------|
| 109          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 110          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 111          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 112          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 113          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 114          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 115          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 116          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 117          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 118          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 119          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 120          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 121          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 122          | A           | -               | Working shot during reinstatement of cist     | -                 | .jpeg         |
| 123          | A           | -               | Olivia lying in crouched position inside cist | E                 | .jpeg         |

12.6 DES Report

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>   | The Highland Council  |
| <b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>   | Langwell Farm, Strath Oykel, Sutherland   |
| <b>PROJECT CODE:</b>  | 2818  |
| <b>PARISH:</b>  | Rosehall  |
| <b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):</b>  | Olivia Lelong   |
| <b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>  | GUARD   |
| <b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>  | Excavation  |
| <b>NMRS NO(S):</b>  | N/A   |
| <b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>   | Inhumation in cist  |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>   | Organic materials   |
| <b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 6 figures)   | NC 4130 0104  |
| <b>START DATE</b> (this season)   | 6 February 2009   |
| <b>END DATE</b> (this season)   | 12 February 2009  |
| <b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)   | N/A   |
| <b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b><br>(May include information from other fields) | Parts of an inhumation burial were recovered under the Human Remains Call-off Contract. The tightly flexed burial lay in a substantial stone cist and was discovered by the landowner while clearing peat from the ground surface using a mechanical excavator. Relatively well preserved organic materials, including wood and fur, accompanied the skeleton. The integrity of the burial had been compromised before archaeological intervention by the local police, who had partially cleared the cist of its contents. However, part of the skeleton and some of the accompanying material remained <i>in situ</i> and were recovered using archaeological methods. The site of a second possible cist 5 m to the south, where large slabs had been removed by the mechanical excavator, was also investigated. This revealed not a cist but an arcing, stone-built feature which sat on an old ground surface sealed by the peat. |
| <b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>  | Post-excavation analysis leading to publication.  |
| <b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>   | Historic Scotland   |
| <b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>   | Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ   |
| <b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>   | o.lelong@archaeology.gla.ac.uk  |
| <b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b><br>(intended/deposited)                                     | Archive to be deposited in NMRS.<br>Report lodged with The Highland Council SMR and NMRS.   |