# **Dundreggan Re-wilding Centre, Glenmoriston, Inverness**

# Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

October 2020

AOC Project Number: 70483





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On Behalf of: Trees for Life c/o Great Glen Consulting

National Grid Reference (NGR): NH 33012 14650 (centred)

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### Abstract

This report details the findings of an archaeological evaluation carried out on land surrounding Dundreggan Lodge, Glenmoriston, Inverness prior to the construction of residential accommodation, educational facilities, and cafe.

The evaluation was required due to the discovery of an archaeologist site, a possible structure, during a walkover survey of the development area. The structure was thought to consist of the degraded remains of a roofed structure identified on the 1904 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map for the area.

Fieldwork was carried out between 12th - 16th October 2020. A large trench encompassing an area of 13.4m<sup>2</sup> was excavated over the potential location of the entrance and banks/walls of the structure.

The evaluation indicated the structure initially had consisted a geological feature, such as a drumlin, which had been modified for use. The interior had been quarried and the outer extent left as a natural bank of material. This bank was augmented on the external southeast face with a rough stone revetment wall and possible footing for a turf structure that included a possible posthole. The interior had been infilled with material during two separate events: first, to create a level surface in the hollowed-out interior, and later, during the insertion of a large steep-sided pit cutting through this, which contained stone and C19/20 ceramics, glass, slate and metal.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by Trees for Life in respect to the construction of residential accommodation, educational facilities and café (Planning reference 19/00377/PIP) at Dundreggan Lodge, Glenmoriston, Inverness.
- 1.2 The remains of a turf-covered structure were recorded during the walkover survey portion of the works, carried out in July 2020. This site would be directly impacted by the development, therefore the evaluation was carried out in order to investigate it prior to the watching brief phase.
- 1.3 The site lies within the administrative area of Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Kirsty Cameron, Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team, Highland Council. An archaeological evaluation was specified in keeping with the policies outlined in Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011) in order to record the character and condition of the structure ahead of groundworks.
- 1.4 The archaeological evaluation was carried out between 12th – 16th October 2020. An initial Lshaped trench was excavated across the structure, which was extended to include another section across the surviving bank.

#### 2.0 **BACKGROUND**

#### 2.1 Location

- The development site is located on land surrounding Dundreggan Lodge, Glenmoriston, Inverness (NGR: NH 33012 14650 (centred); Figure 1). Dundreggan Lodge is located approximately 5 miles northwest of Fort Augustus, at the east end of Dundreggan, a hamlet situated along the A887. This road runs through Glenmoriston from Invermoriston in the northeast to Loch Cluanie in the southwest. Dundreggan Lodge is situated at the foot of the south-facing slopes of the glen on rough grazing ground.
- 2.1.2 The proposed development comprises two separate areas which include the Rewilding Centre and associated parking to the east, and the residential accommodation to the west. The structure evaluated was recorded during the archaeological walkover survey in July 2020, and is situated in the northwest corner of the proposed Rewilding Centre. A trench investigating the potential entrance and banks of the structure was excavated as part of the evaluation (Plate 1; Figure 2).

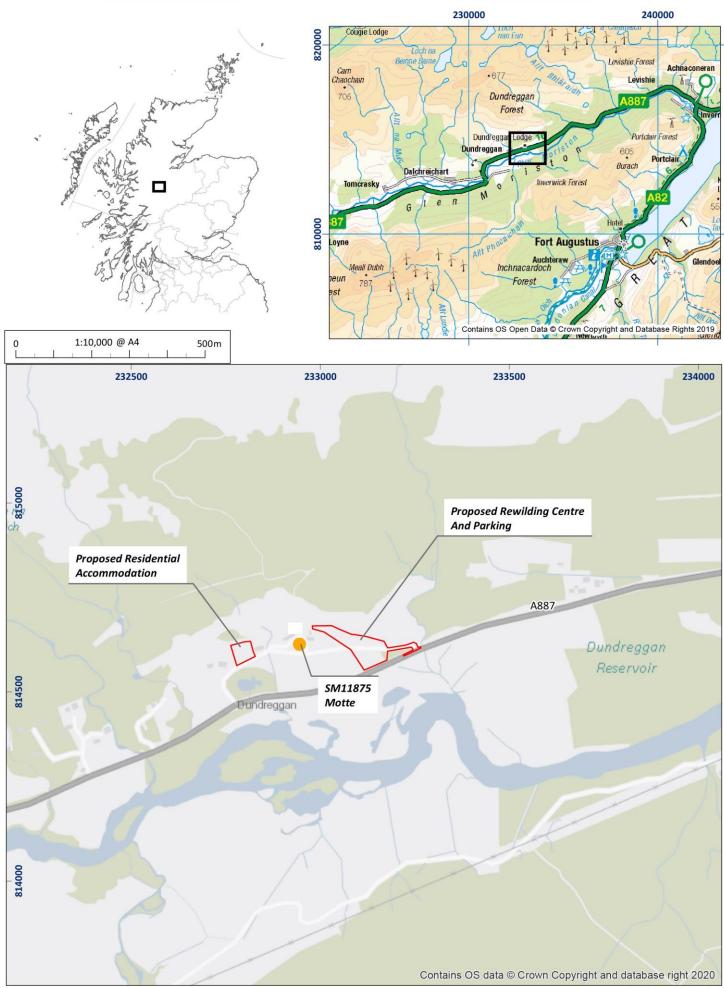


Plate 1: Pre-excavation view northwest over structure, red flags marking the visible corners of the bank

#### 2.1 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.2.1 Dundreggan is situated within the former parish of Urquhart and Glenmoriston. Glenmoriston was notably poorer and less populated than its sister glen, Glen Urquhart. The people of the glen generally grew potatoes, oats and barley and relied on cattle as their primary livestock. The rough geography prohibited cultivation up the steep wooded slopes, confining farming activities to the lower. Dundreggan was the most easterly of a small cluster of hamlets within the central area of the glen. Towards the western end of these hamlets, General Caulfeild's military road between Fort Augustus and Bernera crossed from the south to north side of the River Moriston. The landscape today is reminiscent of that of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, characterized by field systems and sparse settlement on the low-lying fertile areas adjacent to the banks of the River Moriston, with woodland on the steeper upland sides of the glen.
- 2.2.2 The development is situated on the Dundreggan Estate, once a shooting estate, and one of the many estates formerly belonging to the Grants of Glenmoriston, as detailed in the Ordnance Survey Name Book. The 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps depict the area as situated a short distance from the primary Glenmoriston road, accessed via a side road that is the route of the current road today. The Lodge comprises several buildings, many of which are still in use today. In 2008 Dundreggan Estate was bought by the charity Trees for Life and has since been the focus of one of their many re-wilding projects, protecting and expanding on the surviving remnants of the Caledonian forest (Trees for Life 2020).

- 2.2.3 On the 1904 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map, a structure is depicted to the north side of the Dundreggan access road. The walkover survey conducted on 21st July 2020 recorded the degraded footings of one small structure within the suspected vicinity of the mapped location of this building. In addition, at the time of the walkover survey, the archaeologist was informed by Douglas Gibson that musket balls had been recovered by a metal-detectorist in the field to the south of the site access road (Teufel and Williamson 2020).
- 2.2.4 There are five sites noted on the Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER) within a 1km radius of the development site. These comprise: a medieval motte at Dundreggan, Scheduled Monument 11875 (HHER no.MHG18069) located c.50m to the south of the development; a stone bridge of unknown date (HHER no. MHG35966) located at the turning head to Dundreggan Farm below the A887 road and on the east side of the development; Dundreggan Free Church (HHER no. MHG28427) located 0.8km east of the development; Torran Dubh Na Buaile, an unroofed structure (HHER no. MHG22973) also located 0.8km east of the development; and Dundreggan Mill (HHER no. MHG19761) located 1km to the southwest.





#### 3.0 **DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

#### 3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 A desk-based assessment was conducted during the preparation of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Teufel & Williamson 2020), and in advance of the archaeological walkover survey. The desk-based assessment was carried out in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area based on previously recorded sites and any historical documentation, and has been included in full below. A full check of all available historical and archaeological records, aerial photographs and historical maps was conducted using the Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER), the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), Ordnance Survey Name Books, Historic Environment Scotland's databases, the National Library of Scotland, statistical accounts and other available records, literary sources or online resources about the site.

#### 3.2 **Cartographic Sources**

- Historical maps were consulted online at the National Library of Scotland (NLS 2020). Glen Morisden is depicted on several early maps but Dundreggan is not named until the production of Roy's Military map (1747-1755). More detailed depiction of the development site is not seen until the production of the 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps (1880 and 1904 respectively).
- a) Timothy Pont, *The Great Glen and Glen Garry*, ca. 1583 – 1596. Glen Morisden is labelled as a tributary glen leading to the Great Glen and Invermoriston is depicted at its confluence, no further detail of the western extent of the glen is shown and no settlements are indicated (Figure 3).
- Robert Gordon, A detailed map including Glenmore, Lochs Arkaig and Garry, the b) basins of the Nairn, Findhorn, and Spey, Lochs Ericht and Laggan, and the River Spean; also in outline Lochs Garry, Rannoch, and Tummel, ca. 1636 – 1652 Glenmoristoun is depicted as a label at the confluence of Glenmoriston and the Great Glen, however no settlements are identified in Glenmoriston. The region is depicted as well-wooded.
- John Blaeu, Scotiae provinciae mediterraneae inter Taum flumen et Vararis c) aestuarium: Sunt autem Braid-Allaban, Atholia, Marria Superior, Badenocha, Strath-Spea, Lochabria, cum Chersoneso qui ei ad occasum praetenditur; cum singulis earundem partibus. 1654 Glen Morisden is depicted with Innermorisden labelled, but no further detail is shown.
- d) Herman Moll, The East Part of the Shire of Inverness with Badenoch, 1745. Like previous maps, Glen Morisden is labelled and Inner Morisden, along with several settlements along the River Moriston, but Dundreggan is not named.
- William Roy, Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55 e) Dundrigan and East Dundrigan are displayed on this map as two small settlements situated on either side of a large burn (Figure 4). The settlements are surrounded by rig and furrow cultivation. Of note is the mill pond/lochan south of *Dundrigan* – this coincides

with the mill pond/lochan identified on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, suggesting that *East Dundrigan* is likely the Dundreggan Farm area related to the proposed development. This is further evidenced by the small island visible in the River Moriston to the south of *East Dundrigan*. This geographical feature, though now splintered into islets, is visible in the river's geography today. Three further areas of settlement, labelled *Inverwicks*, are situated on the south side of the River Moriston, and areas of forestry are visible across the region. The Fort Augustus – Bernera military road is depicted a few miles west. There is no detail given to the settlements themselves and they are represented by several buildings in each group.

# f) Aaron Arrowsmith, Map of Scotland constructed from original materials, northwest and northeast sections, 1807

Dundragan is depicted as a label only and, likely erroneously, situated far to the east near Invermoriston. It is too far away from the clearly identified Inverwick and settlements further west to be the Dundreggan of today. No further detail is given.

# g) John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland, 1832

Similarly, to the Arrowsmith map, a settlement named Dundragon is depicted close to Invermoriston, situated where the settlement of *Dalcataig* is named on the 1st Edition Ordnance survey mapping. There is a settlement identified as *W. Dalgragan* situated where Dundreggan would be, shown as the easternmost of a series of small settlements (**Figure 5**). Thomson compiled his maps using his own survey data and that of his predecessors (Thomson 1832).

# h) Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map Inverness-shire (Mainland), Sheet LXVII ((includes: Urquhart And Glenmoriston) Surveyed: 1871 Published: 1874

This is the first map where the development area is shown in detail (**Figure 6**). *Dundreggan Lodge* is depicted as a collection of seven buildings, including a labelled kennel, situated north of a road that leads northwest from the main glen road – the precursor to the modern A887. A track is also depicted north of this, looping around the north to the kennels building. The eastern-most building is situated close to the Rewilding Centre, potentially in an area marked for compensatory planting. The site was not located during the survey.

The old main road diverges somewhat from the modern, curving further south. The route for the access road to *Dundreggan Lodge* however is still the same. A well is depicted near the kennel and there are small enclosures depicted, including around the motte which is not labelled. A contained area of forestry is depicted north of the Dundreggan Lodge proper, and a small orchard or garden is depicted west of the lodge. Areas of deciduous forest are shown to the north and south, and large fields are shown alongside the north side of the main road.

The settlement of Dundreggan is shown to the west and comprises a spread hamlet of several houses with small associated enclosures and large fields. *Tom na Croiche*, the gallows hill, is identified close to the road, shortly before the labelled corn mill.

# i) Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map Inverness-shire (Mainland), Sheet LXVII ((includes: Urquhart And Glenmoriston)

# Revised: 1901, Published: 1904

Nothing substantial has changed by the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition map (Figure 7). The northerly tracks are no longer depicted, the motte area is shown under coniferous forestry, and there are a few additional enclosures present across the area, and extensions and alterations to the Lodge building are evident. The eastern-most building shown on the 1st Edition is no longer depicted but a new small rectangular roofed building is shown to the northwest of it. At the time of the walkover survey it was suspected that this building correlated to the structural remains recorded within the vicinity.

#### j) Ordnance One-inch "Popular" outline edition. Scotland, Sheet 42 - Fort Augustus Published: 1928

The 1928 map does not show the site in detail. However, it seems to suggest several new buildings north of the access road and east of the lodge are present.

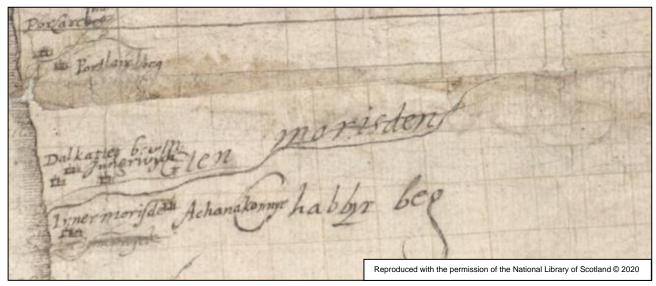


Figure 3: Extract from Timothy Pont's map 1583 - 1596



Figure 4: Extract from Roy's military survey, 1747-55



Figure 5: Extract from Thomson's map 1832

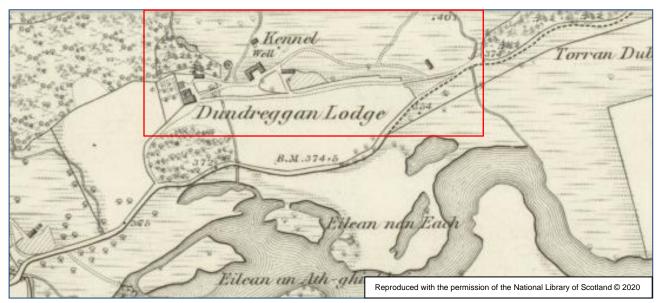


Figure 6: Extract from the OS 1st edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map 1874, showing building located in prospective compensatory planting zone of development

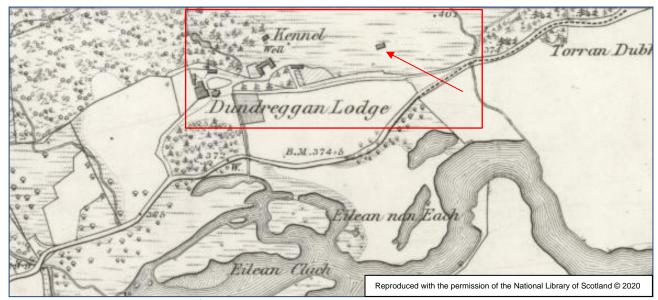


Figure 7: Extract from the OS 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map 1904 (red arrow showing building suspected to be the same as that identified during the walkover survey)

#### 3.3 **Historic Environment Sources**

- The Canmore database and Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER) identified five recorded sites of archaeological and historic interest within a 1km radius of the development area. All but one of the recorded sites were post-medieval in date.
- 3.3.2 The HHER and Historic Environment Scotland descriptions are as follows:

#### SM11875 NH3294 1461 Motte (medieval), Dundreggan Farm MHG18069

This substantial mound is of 'uniform shape' and has the appearance of an antiquity; it measures about 10m in height and is locally known as Sidhean Mullach ('fairy knoll'). The ground is held by Ceannaeroc Estates, Glenmoriston. Information from Mr S Dunbar (Ordnance Survey, Inverness office), 30 March 1995.

Scheduled Monument Description and Statement of National Importance:

The monument comprises a medieval motte situated in garden ground at Dundreggan Farm overlooking the road along the N bank of the river in Glen Moriston.

Mottes are mounds, usually artificial, which formed the foundations for timber (sometimes stone) castles. In Scotland, these date from the 12th to the 13th centuries, appearing in N Scotland in the third quarter of the 12th century. They were generally surrounded by a ditch and accompanied by a bailey (enclosed courtyard for ancillary buildings), although there are no surviving traces of either at this site.

The mound at Dundreggan has the classic 'truncated cone' profile of a motte. Its base is sub-circular in shape and measures approximately 33 m across. The mound is about 10 m in height and has an oval flat top measuring 11 m E to W by 7 m transversely. Its shape suggests that it is an artificially enhanced natural eminence. Metalled roadways bound three sides of the motte and construction of these may have caused some truncation of the mound. A curving drystone dyke, approximately half of which remains upstanding,

formerly enclosed the motte to the N, W and S. A row of mature broadleaf trees are established along the S edge of the mound and rhododendron bushes have been planted along the N edge.

The area to be scheduled is irregular on plan, to include the remains described and an area around in which evidence for their construction and use may survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map (Historic Environment Scotland, SM11875 Designation).

The history of the monument is not known, but it is probable that the motte at Dundreggan was contemporary with the establishment of Urquhart Castle by the powerful Durward family, who were granted the lordship of Urquhart by Alexander II in 1233. The large extent of this lordship and the topography of the area argue in favour of the existence of a second tier of seigneurial centres.

This monument is of national importance because it is a prominent, visual reminder of the advance of a new form of centralised, royal authority into N Scotland during the 12th and 13th centuries. As a centre of local lordship, it can contribute to the relatively small body of knowledge for this process, as well as evidence for medieval rural land use, settlement and economy. The well-preserved earthwork has the potential to provide information about its date, construction and use which can contribute to our understanding of the development and use of medieval castles in the Highland zone, and in Scotland in general.

#### MHG19761 NH 3202 1416 **Dundreggan Corn Mill (watermill, post-medieval)** No summary is provided on the HHER or Canmore databases.

This site is depicted as a single rectangular corn mill on the 1871 1st Edition OS map (Inverness-shire 1871, sheet LXVII), situated on the east side of a small burn with a mill pond or lochan situated to the north.

#### MHG35966 NH 3326 1461 **Dundreggan Farm Bridge (bridge, undated)**

No summary is provided on the HHER or Canmore databases.

The Canmore entry for this site (ID 159256) displays a single photo taken in 1976 of a somewhat degraded bridge comprising a single-arched stone-built bridge.

#### NH 3369 1476 MHG28427 **Dundreggan Free Church (church, undated)**

No summary is provided on the HHER or Canmore databases.

This site is depicted as two roofed buildings labelled the Free Church on the 1872 1st Edition OS map (Inverness-shire 1872, sheet LII).

#### MHG22973 NH 3363 148 Torran Dubh na Buaile (unroofed building, undated)

An unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1874, sheet lii). A roofed building is shown at this location on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1971).

#### 3.4 **Aerial Imagery**

The National Collection for Aerial Photography (NCAP) indicates at least one aerial photograph (GEONEX/0030/86) is likely to be of the Dundreggan Lodge area. This image has not been digitised and due to COVID-19 as of 29th April 2020, the NCAP are unable to allow viewings of their collection in person or to process orders for undigitized files.

3.4.2 Satellite imagery was consulted on Google Maps (2020) and Bing Maps (2020), but no additional archaeological sites were identified. Remnants of the building highlighted on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition maps could not be identified.

#### 3.5 **Statistical Accounts**

- Dundreggan is not mentioned by name in either the Old Statistical Account (Sinclair 1798) or the New Statistical Account (Gordon 1845), however general descriptions of the parish are provided. There are mentions in both of the presence of great burial cairns throughout the district, such as at Corrimony, but none are situated near Dundreggan.
- 3.5.2 An apt description of the rugged beauty and challenge of human habitation is given as '... both the Glens of Urguhart and Glenmoriston exhibit to the traveller an uncommon and picturesque view of what is beautiful, grand, and sublime in nature; at the same time that some of the mountains present great tracts of stone and moss, incapable of civilisation or improvement.' (1798, 303). The author goes onto describe the soil of Glenmoriston being generally poorer to that of Glenurquhart, but that potatoes, oats and some barley are cultivated (303). The people of Glenmoriston raised cows and produced cheese and butter, primarily from black Highland cattle and sheep farming was done but only to a small extent before the end of the 18th century (Sinclair 1798, 305), much increased only 50 years later to between 20 - 21 000 sheep, with the decline in the Glenmoriston population attributed to emigration as a result (Gordon 1845, 47). Both accounts describe the glens, as a result of their wild and difficult to traverse terrain, as being easily preyed upon by cattle raiding clans from the west and was 'till after the suppression of the Rebellion in 1746, in a very unsettled and rather lawless condition' (Gordon 1845, 46).
- 3.5.3 The OSA also states that there are 'considerable natural woods' that 'from time to time, have fetched the proprietors considerable sums of money' (Sinclair 1798, 305), indicating that forestry operations were well underway by the time of the end of the 18th century.

#### 3.6 **Ordnance Survey Name Books**

Dundreggan Lodge is recorded as 'a handsome shooting Lodge. It is one storey slated and in thorough repair Property of Grant of Glenmoriston', and Dundreggan itself is described as 'a number of small Crofter's Houses and a Corn Mill situated along the Public Road, they are in each case one story in height, thatched and in indifferent repair. Property of Grant of Glenmoriston (OS Namebooks OS1/17/15/70).'

#### 3.7 **Land Use**

Historic land use in the development area has been as rough grazing in the post-medieval period, with the settlement of Dundreggan to the west comprising the crofting township that would have made use of these lands (HLAMap 2020). The presence of the shooting lodge

#### 3.8 Geology

3.8.1 The geology comprises psammite bedrock of Tarvie Psammite Formation with overlying superficial deposits of glaciofluvial gravels, sands and silts (British Geological Survey 2020).

#### 4.0 **OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) defines an archaeological evaluation as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land...field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.' (2014)
- 4.2 The aims of the archaeological works were:
  - i. To determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within and around the structure.
  - ii. To remove by hand any overburden in order to fully expose the structural remains surviving on the site and to expose, in section, any surviving stratigraphic sequences.
  - iii. To excavate, sample and record any surviving archaeological deposits and features.
  - iv. To sample deposits for post-excavation work, including environmental analysis and dating
  - To make recommendations for post-excavation work ٧.

#### 5.0 **METHODOLOGY**

- 5.1 An archaeological evaluation of the site identified during the walkover survey was undertaken in advance of the development in order to investigate structure prior to its loss by the development works. The methodology was carried out in the manner outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Teufel & Williamson 2020), and the Addendum to support this (AOC Archaeology 2020).
- 5.2 A measured survey was carried out prior to excavation works to create a detailed recording of the site in its entirety. This was conducted using a Trimble R8s (DGPS equipped) capable of centimetre accuracy, used to record the extent of the surviving banks (Figure 2).
- 5.3 The evaluation comprised hand-excavation of an initial L-shaped trench, measuring 1.5m and 2m in width, and later extended, ultimately reaching a total area of 13.4m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2). This trench was situated over any possible entrances to the structure, and over the walls, in order to realise the aims as set out above. The excavation of the trench was carried out in stages (turf removal - internal sediment removal - structural remains removal) to reveal the structure's walls and any surviving floor/s prior to excavation through these features in order to create a detailed recording of the sections. The trench was expanded during excavation.





- 5.4 All features of archaeological significance were excavated by hand in order to establish the date, nature, extent and state of preservation of the deposits. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and section drawings were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All significant archaeological features were sampled.
- 5.5 The location of the trench, findspots and feature locations, were plotted using a Trimble R8s capable of centimetre accuracy. The archaeological evaluation was recorded using high resolution digital photography in order to record the process as well as the features or finds.

#### 6.0 **RESULTS**

- 6.1 The structure was initially recorded during the walkover survey, carried out in July 2020. The site had been interpreted as potentially being the remains of a building depicted on the 1904 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 7**). The site comprised a low-lying turf-covered bank, forming a somewhat horse-shoe shape open to the southwest. The following description was recorded within the revised WSI (Teufel & Williamson 2020): structure covered with grass and juniper, west of the proposed pond area. The structure measures approximately 3.0m NW-SE by 2.0m internally, with walls that are spread up to 2.0m wide and standing to a height of 0.4m internally. This site is located in the general location of a roofed building depicted on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map.
- The evaluation of the structure was carried out between 12th 16th October 2020, with 6.2 variable weather but generally mild and overcast conditions with some rain. Visibility was good throughout. Works commenced after the extent of the turf-covered banks were recorded using the Trimble R8s, with de-turfing of an L-shaped trench, one leg of which was 1.5m wide and the other 1m wide, later extended to 2m wide. A third leg measuring 0.5m wide was also excavated. The total area amounted to 13.4m<sup>2</sup>. The trench was positioned over the area where no turf bank was visible - the possible entrance - and over the seemingly bestpreserved part of the bank, to the east side of the structure. The extension continued the west leg of the trench, over the northern bank (Figure 2). Full details of the contexts can be consulted in the Appendices, and a summary of the site formation is laid out below.
- 6.3 The uppermost deposit recorded, (001), comprised a somewhat compact dark brown sandy silt topsoil with a thick grassy root mat across the entirety of the site. Excavation of the trench revealed that the bank, [004], was all that remained of a quarried-out geological features such as a drumlin. The drumlin material comprised very compacted in situ natural subsoil of glacial gravels and sands that had been excavated on the internal and external faces to form the artificial bank (Plates 2-5; Figures 8-9). The bank [004], was identified in all three trench extensions, but survived most prominently on the east side where a revetment of stone -[003] – had been built against it.
- 6.4 The revetment of subrounded stones [003] was somewhat steeply-sloped up the face of the bank's exterior in roughly coursed terraces, and at the top of this stone setting was a flatter platform of more subangular and possibly roughly dressed stone, defined by two raised parallel courses of stone that created a possible platform 1m wide (Plates 6-7). Immediately east of the eastern course of stone was a setting that likely represents a post hole [014]. One small white glazed ceramic sherd (Small Find No. 2) was recovered from the stone wall [003],

but this was located towards the top of the deposit and does not necessarily indicate a date for its construction.

- 6.5 The eastern part of bank [004] was situated below a layer of mottled orangey brown gravel, (009), interpreted as disturbed and redeposited natural upcast over the bank during quarrying within the interior of the drumlin. The revetted stone [003] had been placed over (009) towards the top of the bank on the eastern side of the trench. A fine brown sandy silt, (002) was concentrated over the redeposited subsoil (010), and beneath the topsoil (001). This deposit also overlay the revetment of stone [003] set against the exterior east face of the bank, and extended into the interior, partially beneath a deposit of large rounded and subrounded stone within an orangey-brown sandy silt matrix (007) before dissipating. It is suspected that this deposit (002) may form the extremely degraded remains of a turf constructed wall that has eroded over the stone platform and wall [003] and the inner face of the bank [004].
- 6.6 The quarried interior of the drumlin [016] was somewhat stepped into the interior, and reached a flattish base approximately 1m below the turf. The stony layer (007) overlay the disturbed natural, (009) and true natural (010) within the interior of the possible structure. Feature [006], a large V-shaped pit somewhat circular in plan and measuring approximately 2m in diameter, was cut into (007), and filled with a mixture of subrounded and subangular stone. This material also contained a number of items of C19/20 material culture (Small Find No. 1) including: red earthenware suspected to be from dairy bowls; transfer printed ceramics; green and brown bottle glass; roofing slate fragments; miscellaneous iron/metal objects; and frequent fragments of coal. This layer was notably compacted at the top and may have been utilised as a very rough floor surface at some point. The setting of some of the large flat angular stones (at precarious angles protruding from the rest of the stone) would suggest it was not a floor upon which one would leave livestock or one that would be frequently moved about on by people. It is also notable that the natural subsoil on the north side of the surviving bank was charcoal flecked, possibly representing evidence of vegetation clearance.



Plate 2: West-northwest facing section of north trench extension showing profile of continuation of bank 004 (centre) and abutting clearance material 005 (right)



Plate 3: South-southwest facing section of trench showing profile of bank 004 (centre right), and internal deposits (left)



Plate 4: Post-excavation view over trench, facing north-northeast and showing bank 004 beside rear ranging rod and on the right side of frame. 005 is on the foreground left side, and the sondage on the right has been excavated



Plate 5: West-northwest facing section of trench showing deposit of stone 007, including large boulders to the right abutting potential remnants of bank 004 on right, and the visible cut of pit 006 visible on left side of ranging rod, diving down to the trench corner on left side



Plate 6: Post-excavation view west-northwest of trench, showing revetted stone 003 on east exterior of bank 004 (visible behind stone) with possible post hole 014 visible on lower left



Plate 7: Post-excavation of trench showing platform of revetted stone 003 (right) set against the manufactured bank 004 (left)



Plate 8: Oblique view northwest over north-northeast trench leg, showing stone 005 within pit 006 in foreground, abutting bank 004 in in background

#### 7.0 **DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The trench revealed a well-defined bank of natural glacial material, created by intentionally hollowing out of the centre of a drumlin - perhaps as a small gravel quarry. A revetment of stone was then constructed on the eastern portion of the bank, with a possible flat platform to support a turf-built wall, the remnants of which were observed to have formed a layer of material over the bank [004] and wall [003]. The possible post hole [014] may indicate the structure had a roof, the posts for which were situated outwith the turf wall. After an indetermined amount of time - though long enough that the potential turf had degraded and encroached well into the interior of the hollow, the internal area was infilled and levelled with stones in a silty matrix. The last phase of use of the site is evident in the form of a large Vshaped pit, containing clearance material and frequent ceramic sherds and other miscellaneous material culture potentially representative of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.2 Stratigraphically and chronologically it would appear that the hollow was deliberately infilled with clearance material during the final phase of use, and may indicate that the structure had fallen out of use by that time. The archaeologists carrying out the fieldwork observed that other quarrying activities had taken place nearby, particularly within a large drumlin beside the car park. The augmentation of an existing feature in the landscape within recent centuries has been observed at Tomatin, in the form of a prehistoric clearance cairn that has been reworked in recent years for unknown reasons, although it is suspected it was to deliberately make use of a feature in the landscape for something estate related, such as shooting butt (Stirling 2019). The deliberate infill of the hollow at Dundreggan may have been a purely functional action carried out by the estate to move clearance material to an area of disused ground. The supporting revetment wall with potential post hole on the exterior side of the potential platform would suggest that there was some kind of superstructure above the hollow, potentially a turf-built wall with a timber-supported roof, the posts of which would be set on the exterior of the turf wall to avoid pressure on the wall itself (Walker 2006, 33). The turf appeared to have degraded well before the first infill event of the 007 material, indicating neither of these would have been used as flooring in relation to the potential wall/roof. Whilst

the final event likely happened within the last two centuries based on the artefacts found within the context, the earlier phases of activity may have taken place considerably earlier. The sole sherd of ceramic found within the wall [003] was small and does not offer conclusive proof as to when it was constructed.

7.3 It is doubtful that the evaluated structure is the same building depicted on the 1904 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map. This was shown as a roofed and rectangular building, and as it is built on the Dundreggan Lodge estate and presumably one of the estate's buildings, it seems unlikely that it would have been an insubstantial turf building with a very rough revetment only evident on one side. Closer investigation of the maps and the structure's location suggest that the mapped structure may be situated further east, however no upstanding foundations elsewhere were observed by the archaeologists on site, or by the walkover surveyor. The archaeologists did observe however that there were a number of turf-covered anomalies that may represent hugely degraded remains of boundary dykes/similar, and that these would warrant investigation during the watching brief phase.

#### 8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The evaluation of the structure has shown an intriguing modification of a natural glacial landform, initially for probable quarrying of gravel, and then as a potential turf-built structure, and finally as an area for clearance infill material on at least two occasions.
- 8.2 It is recommended that further investigation of the structure during the watching brief is carried out, in particular to clarify the following key questions: to what extent does the revetted wall extend around the eastern side of the bank; to determine the character of the turf bank on the west side; to investigate the immediate surrounding area of the structure for additional features. Additionally it has highlighted the fact that many of the seemingly natural features in the immediate landscape may be degraded structures, and should be carefully monitored during ground-breaking works in order to accurately identify and investigate any of archaeological potential.
- The structure evaluated here is not likely to be that depicted on the 1904 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance 8.3 Survey, and several local people had mentioned the existence of possible structural remains elsewhere in the vicinity.
- 8.4 A small programme of post-excavation analysis is recommended relating to environmental processing in order to assess the presence of material for potential radiocarbon dating.

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## Appendix 1 **Photographic Register**

		g.ap.no regioto.		
Photo No.	Context No.	Description	Facing	Date
AOC70483_(1)	-	Pre-excavation image of Structure 1	NNE	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(2)	-	Pre-excavation image of Structure 1	NNE	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(3)	-	Pre-excavation image of Structure 1	NNE	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(4)	-	Pre-excavation image of Structure 1	N	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(5)	-	Pre-excavation image of Structure 1	N	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(6)	_	Pre-excavation image of Structure 1	N	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(7)	_	Pre-excavation image of Structure 1	N	12/10/2020
		Mid-excavation image after de-turfing,		
AOC70483_(8)	003	showing stone 003	WNW	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(9)	003	Mid-excavation image after de-turfing, showing stone 003	WNW	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(10)	005, 007	Mid-excavation image after de-turfing, showing 007 on bottom right and 005 at the back	NNE	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(11)	005, 007	Mid-excavation image after de-turfing, showing 007 in front and 007 at the back	SSW	12/10/2020
AOC70483_(12)	003	Mid-excavation image after de-turfing, showing stone 003	WNW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(13)	003	Mid-excavation image after de-turfing, showing stone 003	WNW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(14)	003	Close-up image of stone 003	WNW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(15)	005, 007	Mid-excavation image after de-turfing, showing 007 on bottom right and 005 at the back	NNE	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(16)	-	Mid-excavation panoramic image of the trench after de-turfing	NNE	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(17)	004	Mid-excavation image showing profile through bank 004	ESE	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(18)	004	Mid-excavation image showing profile through bank 004 with scale	ESE	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(19)	004	Mid-excavation image showing profile through bank 004 with scale	ESE	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(20)	004, 009	Mid-excavation image showing redeposited natural 009 over bank 004	NNE	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(21)	004, 009	Mid-excavation image showing redeposited natural 009 over bank 004	NNE	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(22)	002	Mid-excavation image showing 002 underlying stone 005	WNW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(23)	003	Mid-excavation image of the trench showing exposed stone 003	WNW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(24)	003	Mid-excavation image of the trench showing exposed stone 003	WNW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(25)	005	Mid-excavation image of the trench showing stone 005 in the foreground	ESE	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(26)	005	Mid-excavation oblique image of the trench showing stone 005 in the foreground	SE	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(27)	005	Mid-excavation image of the trench showing stone 005 in the foreground	SW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(28)	005	Close-up image of stone 005	SSW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(29)	005	Mid-excavation panoramic image of the trench	SSW	13/10/2020

Photo No.	Context No.	Description	Facing	Date
AOC70483_(30)	005	Mid-excavation panoramic image of the trench	SSW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(31)	005	Mid-excavation panoramic image of the trench	SSW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(32)	005	Mid-excavation panoramic image of the trench	SSW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(33)	-	Mid-excavation image showing stone 003 with bank 004 behind	WNW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(34)	-	Close-up image showing stone 003 with bank 004 behind	WNW	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(35)	-	Working shot	W	13/10/2020
AOC70483_(36)	-	Mid-excavation image showing sondage in the foreground	WNW	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(37)	-	Mid-excavation oblique image showing sondage in the foreground	WSW	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(38)	-	Mid-excavation oblique image showing sondage on the right	NNE	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(39)	007	WNW-facing section of the trench showing stone 007	ESE	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(40)	007	WNW-facing section of the trench showing stone 007	ESE	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(41)	007	WNW-facing section of the trench showing stone 007	ESE	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(42)	-	SSW-facing section of the trench showing sondage on the right	NNE	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(43)	-	SSW-facing section of the trench showing sondage on the right	NNE	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(44)	-	SSW-facing section of the trench showing sondage on the right	NNE	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(45)	003	Post-excavation image of sondage showing vertical face of stone 003	NNE	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(46)	003	Post-excavation image of sondage showing vertical face of stone 003	WNW	14/10/2020
AOC70483_(47)	003	Mid-excavation image showing the extended trench and stone 003	WNW	15/10/2020
AOC70483_(48)	003, 004	SSW-facing mid-excavation section showing bank 004 in the centre and stone 003 to the right	NNE	15/10/2020
AOC70483_(49)	003, 004	SSW-facing mid-excavation section showing bank 004 in the centre and stone 003 to the right	NNE	15/10/2020
AOC70483_(50)	003, 004	SSW-facing mid-excavation section showing bank 004 in the centre and stone 003 to the right	NNE	15/10/2020
AOC70483_(51)	-	Mid-excavation image of the trench	WNW	15/10/2020
AOC70483_(52)	-	Close-up mid-excavation image of the trench	WNW	15/10/2020
AOC70483_(53)	-	Mid-excavation image of the trench and sondage to the right	NNE	15/10/2020
AOC70483_(54)	-	Panoramic image of SSW-facing section of the trench	NNE	15/10/2020

Photo No.	Context No.	Description	Facing	Date
AOC70483_(55)	003, 014	Mid-excavation image of stone 003 showing possible posthole 014 at the bottom left	WNW	15/10/2020
AOC70483_(56)	003, 014	Mid-excavation oblique image of stone 003 showing possible posthole 014 at the bottom left	NW	15/10/2020
AOC70483_(57)	003, 004	Mid-excavation image showing bank 004 on the left and stone 003 on the right	NNE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(58)	003, 005	Mid-excavation image showing bank 004 on the left with stone 003 and posthole 014 on the right	NNE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(59)	-	Mid-excavation image of the trench	NNE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(60)	-	Mid-excavation image of the trench	NNE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(61)	-	Mid-excavation oblique image of the trench	NW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(62)	-	WNW-facing section of trench extension	ESE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(63)	-	Mid-excavation image of the trench extension	SSW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(64)	-	Mid-excavation image of the trench extension	SSW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(65)	-	Mid-excavation image of the trench extension	SSW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(66)	-	Mid-excavation of the trench	ESE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(67)	-	Working shot from afar	NW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(68)	-	Working shot from afar	NW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(69)	-	Working shot from afar	NW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(70)	-	Working shot from afar	NW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(71)	-	Post-excavation image of the trench	NNE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(72)	004	Post-excavation image of the trench showing bank 004 at the back	ESE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(73)	004	Post-excavation image of the trench showing bank 004 at the back	NNE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(74)	004	Post-excavation image of the trench showing bank 004 at the back	NNE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(75- 173)	-	Photogrammetry	-	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(174)	-	Post-excavation image of the trench	WNW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(175)	003, 004	Post-excavation image of the trench showing bank 004 on the left and stone 003 on the right	NNE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(176)	003, 004	Post-excavation image of the trench showing bank 004 on the left and stone 003 on the right	NNE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(177)	-	Post-excavation image of the trench, landscape view	NW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(178)	-	Post-excavation image of the trench from afar	NW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(179)	-	Post-excavation image of the trench from afar	NW	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(180)	-	Post-excavation image of the trench partially backfilled	NE	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(181)	-	Post-excavation image of the trench partially backfilled	NE	16/10/2020

Photo No.	Context No.	Description	Facing	Date
AOC70483_(182)	•	Post-excavation image of the trench partially backfilled	E	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(183)	-	Post-excavation image of the trench partially backfilled	E	16/10/2020
AOC70483_(184)	-	Image showing the trench post backfilling and re-turfing	E	16/10/2020

### Appendix 2 **Context Register**

Context No.	Context Type	Description	Over	Under	Fill of	Filled By	Cuts	Cut By	Same As	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Somewhat loose dark brown sandy silt loam with occasional small subrounded and subangular stone, heavily matted with grass roots.	002, 005	-	-	-	-	-	-	Turf and topsoil
002	Deposit	Somewhat loose light brown sandy silt, very clean.	003, 010	001	-	-	-	-	-	Potentially degraded turfs that have slumped down the bank 004 and over the platform and revetment wall 003.
003	Structure	High concentration of small to medium sized stone, up to 0.3m long, on the east side of the structure.  Concentrated as a flat platform with two parallel courses of stone forming the edges of the platform, stones comprising this are somewhat more angular than the rest. The stones on the east side (downhill slope side) are more rounded and loosely terraced/revetted against the eastern face of the slope of the bank 004, likely as a revetment. Stone setting 014 set within this on east side of the platform, likely a post hole.	004, 010	002	-	-	-	-	-	Revetted stone wall built in terraces against the external face of the modified bank 004, stone forming a flat platform towards the top of the bank that potentially acted as a foundation for a turf-built wall. Post setting 014 set in logical place (external of wall) to distribute weight of a potential roof off the wall.
004	Deposit/natural	Bank measuring up to 1.1m tall and 2m wide (minimum), nearly vertical sided on eastern side of structure, but somewhat gently inclining into the interior. Extends through the three trench legs and make up varies from compacted yellowy orange sands and gravels to bright orange gritty gravel.	-	004, 010	-	-	-	016	010	Remnants of a quarried drumlin feature, forming a steep-sided bank that appears to have been quarried on both sides and further augmented with the addition of the revetted wall 003 to the east.

Context No.	Context Type	Description	Over	Under	Fill of	Filled By	Cuts	Cut By	Same As	Interpretation
005	Deposit	Collection of medium to large sized stone (up to 0.5m long), comprising subrounded and subangular stone some of which may be crudely dressed. Situated within a dark brown/black sandy silt matrix containing fragments of coal, slate, ceramics, glass and iron. Compacted towards top of deposit, potentially trample surface - stones observed to be 'tipped' and protruding to such an extent it would not make a practical floor surface for livestock etc,	006	001	006	-	,			Fill of pit 006.
006	Cut	Cut for a subcircular pit measuring up to 2m in diameter. Profile is V- shaped, with a slightly gentle angle towards to east side. Measures 0.62m deep at deepest point.	002, 007	005	-	005	007	-	-	Pit containing clearance material containing C19/20 artefacts/detritus, cut into infill material 007. Secondary infill event of structure.
007	Deposit	Subrounded stones ranging from medium to large, up to 0.7m long and deposited haphazardly within interior of banked hollow. Concentration of large stones towards the base of the cut and at the south-southwest extent of trench. Matrix comprises a medium orangey brown sandy silt. Stones appear flush against interior face of bank 003.	010, 003	001, 006	008	-	,	006	,	Original clearance infill material of drumlin hollow, used to level the hollow. No artefacts or coal found in association with this deposit except at the interphase between it and 006 - these are thought to have originated from 005.
800	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
009	Deposit	Mottled orangey brown sandy silt with concentrations of gravel and sand, somewhat compact and appearing in varying degrees of thickness at base of cut [016] made to hollow out drumlin, including over the augmented bank 004.	004, 010	002	016	-	-	-	-	Disturbed subsoil, likely accumulated during excavation of the drumlin during the first phase of use. Concentrated over the bank 004 and at the base of the drumlin's initial cut 016.

Context No.	Context Type	Description	Over	Under	Fill of	Filled By	Cuts	Cut By	Same As	Interpretation
010	Deposit	Natural subsoil comprising loose gravel with voidy medium sized stones towards interior of hollow, and morphing to somewhat finer gravels and sands towards the east side, and orangey red gravels and sands to the north.	016	009, 007	-	002, 005, 007, 009	-	None	004	True subsoil, 004 is the same as this but designated a new context to define it as the modified bank left in situ.
011	Deposit	Same as 002, identified on eastern external face of bank 004.	-	-	-	-	-	-	002	Same as 002.
012	Deposit	Somewhat loose yellowy brown sandy silt, completely sterile. Appears banked up against east exterior of 002 over revetted wall 003 as a deep deposit, extending 0.75m down.	011	001	-	-	-	-	-	Potentially natural accumulation of sediment against structural remains, i.e. flooding. Or represents fill of a large ditch/amount of sediment flush against the structure. Not excavated fully.
013	Deposit	Mid brownish yellow sandy silt, appears at base of eastern extent of trench on eastern exterior of wall 003. Very clean.	Unknown	002/011	-	-	-	-	012?	Potentially natural accumulation of sediment against structural remains, i.e. flooding. Or represents fill of a large ditch/amount of sediment flush against the structure. Not excavated fully.
014	Cut	Amorphous cut defined by stone setting within revetted wall 003, measures 0.7m northeast-southwest with a flat base. Stone settings are upright. Situated immediately adjacent to eastern coursing of stone that seems to form edge of platform, potentially for turf wall foundation.	004	002	-	015	-	-	-	Likely post hole situated on external side of potential turf platform. Well-placed for such a feature, supports the weight of a timber room on a crook that extends away from the turf wall.
015	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt, sterile and loose.	014	002	014	-	-	-	-	Fill of post hole 014, completely sterile and loose matrix suggests post removed rather than rotted in place.

Context No.	Context Type	Description	Over	Under	Fill of	Filled By	Cuts	Cut By	Same As	Interpretation
016	Cut	Cut representing quarrying of drumlin, remnants of which form the bank 004. The cut is somewhat stepped and bowl shaped within the interior, diving down to a somewhat flattish base where the edge of the cut is somewhat indistinct. Material 009, particularly towards the centre of the hollow, is very loose and voidy. Cut likely extended to shape the exterior side of the bank.	004, 010	009, 010?	-	009 <i>,</i> 010	010	-	-	Primary cut to drumlin feature, creating the hollow and bank 004 that comes to define the structure. Unknown date but likely a quarry.

## Sample Register **Appendix 3**

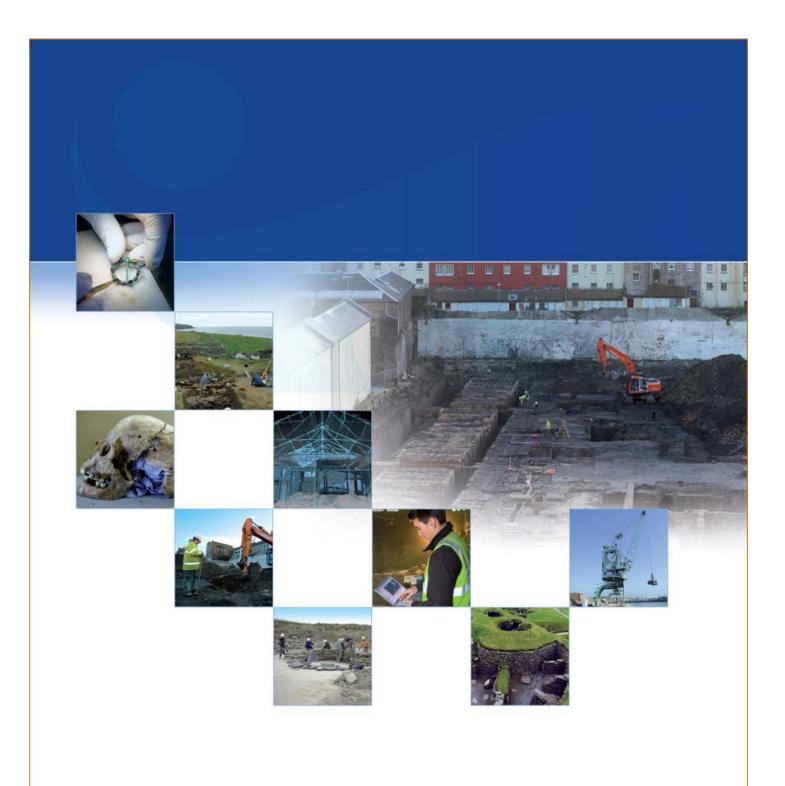
Context no.	Number tubs/bags	Weight	Comments
002	1 tub	1L	
005	1 tub	2L	Coal frags
009	1 tub	2L	
011	1 tub	2L	
013	1 tub	1L	

# Appendix 4 **Finds Register**

Find No.	Context	Description	Date
01	005	Numerous sherds of C19/20 ceramic, roof slate, brown and green bottle glass, coal fragments, ,isc iron	Multiple
02	003	x1 sherd white glazed ceramic, likely C19/20	14/10/2020

#### **Appendix 5 Drawing Register**

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Description	Scale	Date
1	1	Mid-excavation plan of trench	1:20	16/10/2020
2a	2	South-southwest facing section of trench	1:10	16/10/2020
2b	3	South-southwest facing section of trench (continued)	1:10	16/10/2020





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