



*Highland Archaeology Services Ltd*

Bringing the Past and Future Together

*Tarradale Through Time*  
Gilchrist Promontory Fort

Archaeological Evaluation Project 2018



Data Structure Report (DSR)  
&  
Post Excavation Research Design (PERD)

2 Ross Street, Tain, IV19 1GA

Tel: 01862 243013 Mobile: 07818 035845 Email: [info@hi-arch.co.uk](mailto:info@hi-arch.co.uk) Web: [www.hi-arch.co.uk](http://www.hi-arch.co.uk)

Registered in Scotland no. 262144 Registered Office: Birchfield, 7 Kinbechie, Culbokie, IV7 8LS

VAT No. GB 838 7358 80



# Tarradale Through Time Project Gilchrist Promontory Fort

## Archaeological Evaluation 2018 DSR & PERD

<b>Report No.</b>	TTT18 - 3
<b>Site Code</b>	TTT18
<b>Client</b>	Tarradale Through Time (NOSAS)
<b>OS Grid Ref</b>	NH 540 490
<b>Date/ revision</b>	Revised January 2019
<b>Authors</b>	Andrew Young MCIFA

### Summary

*A programme of archaeological evaluation and recording was undertaken at the site of a suggested promontory fort at Gilchrist, Tarradale, by a team of volunteers and members of the public as part of the ongoing Tarradale Through Time research project. The fieldwork and preliminary post excavation tasks were supervised by the writer for Highland Archaeology Services Limited and on behalf of Tarradale Through Time, in accordance with a methods statement approved by the same.*

*The fieldwork involved the excavation of four evaluation trenches that were opened in agricultural land and adjacent rough ground. The trenches confirmed the presence of buried archaeological deposits and features consistent with an enclosure bounded on the east side by a series of four concentric ditches of differing sizes, three of which were previously indicated by aerial photographs, and marshland on the remaining three sides. A trench opened down the north flank of the enclosure, into the adjacent peat bog and wetland, revealed evidence for a further, lateral, ditch and the remains of a subsequent lateral boundary, probably a wall, indicated by cobblestones and rubble, behind which cultural deposits containing charred plant material, pottery sherds and a schist quernstone had been deposited and immediately beyond which deposits of peat had accumulated. Excavation of the peat for the recovery of environmental columns revealed a large waterlogged timber tapered to a rough point, possibly a structural stake or pile.*

*A further small trench was opened towards the western end of the promontory to examine the location of a prominent lush-mark visible on aerial photographs. The cutting revealed a shallowly buried layer of very well consolidated clay and small stones the upper surface of which was scoured by plough marks, which is tentatively interpreted to reflect the remains of a rammed clay floor. The presence of the deposit raises the possibility that a more extensive structure or structures, contemporary with the formation and use of the promontory enclosure, are preserved at that location.*

*This interim report sets out the preliminary results of the project and all primary record tables. It includes recommendations for a final stage of post excavation analysis and reporting work to ensure that the important archaeological evidence recorded on the site is fully examined, understood and disseminated.*

## Contents

Summary .....	2
Contents .....	3
Illustrations .....	4
Acknowledgements .....	4
Location .....	5
Introduction & Background .....	7
Archaeological & Historical Background .....	10
Archaeology .....	10
Historic Maps .....	10
Methodology .....	12
Results .....	13
Trench 1 .....	13
Trench 2 .....	17
Trench 7 .....	18
Trench 9 .....	21
Summary Finds Reports .....	28
Pottery .....	28
Worked Stone .....	28
Charred Plant Remains .....	29
Technology Residues .....	29
Iron Objects .....	29
Other Objects .....	29
Discussion .....	29
Preliminary Conclusions .....	31
Recommendations .....	32
References .....	33
Post Excavation Research Design (PERD) .....	33
Scope .....	33
Stage 1 (completed) .....	33
Stage 2 (proposed) .....	34
Stage 3 (proposed) .....	34
Stage 2 Aims .....	34
PERD – Proposed Tasks .....	34
Pottery Identification & Assessment .....	34
Other Finds .....	35
Environmental Evidence .....	35
Charcoal Identification and Assessment .....	36
AMS Radiocarbon Dating .....	36
Descriptive Narrative .....	36
Report illustrations .....	36
Reports .....	36
Appendices .....	37
Context Registers .....	37
Table 3: Trench 1 Context Register .....	37
Table 2: Trench 2 Context Register .....	39
Table 3: Trench 7 Context Register .....	40
Table 4: Trench 9 Context Register .....	42
Sample Register .....	43
Finds Register .....	44
Drawing Register .....	47
Photographic Register .....	50

## Illustrations

Cover picture: Gilchrist Trench 1 during excavation work

Figure 1 – General site location .....	5
Figure 2 - General Site Location. Grid scale in Kms.....	6
Figure 3 – Approximate extent of the Gilchrist Study Area .....	6
Figure 4 – Extract from aerial photograph showing the elevated promontory at Gilchrist projecting into marsh land with the enclosure ditches visible as darker lush-marks, Facing W. © RCAHMS.....	7
Figure 5 - Layout and enumeration of the Gilchrist trenches superimposed on a 1976 aerial photograph with ditch lush-marks highlighted. Scale shown .....	9
Figure 6 – Extract from the Tarradale estate map of 1788 by David Aitken showing the Gilchrist site. Not to scale. With HAS annotation.....	11
Figure 7 - Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" map of 1881 showing Study Area. ....	11
Figure 8 - Extract from the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6" map of 1902 showing Study Area.....	12
Figure 9 – Ditch 1017 as excavated. Facing NW. Scales 2m and 1m .....	14
Figure 10 – Ditch 1019 as excavated. Facing NE. Scales 1m.....	14
Figure 11 – N facing section through Ditch 1020. Scales 1m .....	15
Figure 12 – Ditch 1018 as excavated. Facing NW. Scales 2m and 1m .....	16
Figure 13 – Trench 1 section drawings. Scale shown.....	17
Figure 14 – Trench 2 as excavated showing plough-marks in natural gravels. Facing N. Scales 1m ..	18
Figure 15 –Trench 7 during excavation. Facing E.....	19
Figure 16 – Detail of Trench 7 showing Feature 7018 butted by peat (7011) and cultural deposits (7009 and 7010). Facing E. Scales 1m and 500mm.....	20
Figure 17- Trench 7 during excavation and detail of possible wooden stake (7013) revealed in peat deposit (7011). Facing SW. Scales 1m and 500mm .....	20
Figure 18 – Trench 9 after cleaning showing rammed clay surface (9002). Facing S. Scales 1m .....	21
Figure 19 – Trench 1 plan as excavated – scale shown .....	22
Figure 20 – Trench 2 plan as excavated – scale shown .....	23
Figure 21 – Trench 7 plan as excavated. Scale shown.....	24
Figure 22 – Trench 7. Detail of W facing section. Scale shown.....	25
Figure 23 – Trench 9 plan as excavated. Scale shown.....	26
Figure 24 – Trench 1 as excavated showing overall arrangement of ditches and indicative NW facing profile of original earthworks .....	27
Figure 25 – Prehistoric pottery sherds recovered from deposit (7010) in Trench 7. Scale in cms .....	28
Figure 26 – SF054 - a Schist upper rotary quern stone recovered from deposit (1008) in Trench 7....	29
Figure 27 - The promontory fort enclosure showing the approximate footprint of 3 imaginary standard size prehistoric roundhouses .....	32

## Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was supervised by Andrew Young MCIfA (724) and carried out by the *Tarradale Through Time* field team, members of North of Scotland Archaeological Society (NOSAS) and members of the wider public.

Thanks are extended to the landowner, The Burton Property Trust, for allowing the excavation to take place and to The Heritage Lottery Fund for funding the work. Special thanks are due to Eric Grant and Anne Coombes and the management team of *Tarradale Through Time* for their great efforts in ensuring the successful completion of the fieldwork stage.

Special thanks are due to the excavation team for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout. The team included:

*Beth Blackburn, Tim Blackie, Ken Bowker, Jean Bowker, Morag Bramwell, Steve Bramwell. Karen Clarke, Anne Cockcroft, Anne Coombs, Paul Dungey, Joyce Durham, Susan Findlay, Calum Finlayson, Eric Grant, Jonie Guest, Simon Gunn, Anji Hancock, Paul Hancock, Pat Haynes, Andrew Highland Archaeological Services Limited - September 2018*

*Hendry, Bob Jones, Rosemary Jones, Karen Kennedy, Linda Lamb, Meryl Marshall and Joyce, James McComas, Steve North, Madeleine Robinson, Marion Ruscoe, Roland Spencer Jones, Scottie Sutherland, Sue Walker, Ann Wakeling, John Wombell, Trina Wombell, Jonathan Wordsworth*

This interim report was prepared by Andrew Young. Background mapping has been reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey under Licence 100043217. Other figures are reproduced courtesy of the client. The report's author and Highland Archaeology Services Ltd jointly hold author's copyright in all reports produced but will allow the client, the Highland Council and/or Historic Environment Scotland to make the report available for reference and research (but not commercial) purposes, either on paper, or electronically, without charge, provided this copyright is acknowledged.

## Location

The Gilchrist study site is located to the north west of Inverness off the B9169, close to the hamlet of Gilchrist and less than 1km to the south east of Muir of Ord at the western end of the Black Isle. The study area is centred at NGR NH 5370 4933 (Figures 1, 2 and 3). At the time of the fieldwork a portion of the study area was under cultivation for root vegetables whilst the bulk consisted of rough uncultivated ground.

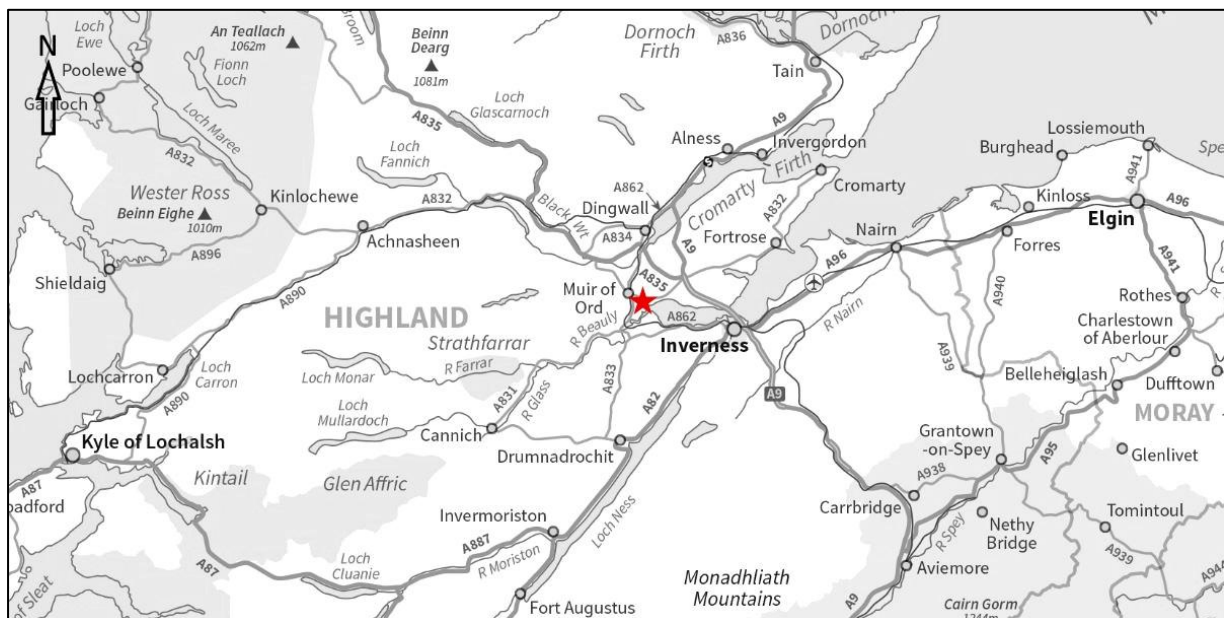


Figure 1 – General site location



Figure 2 - General Site Location. Grid scale in Kms

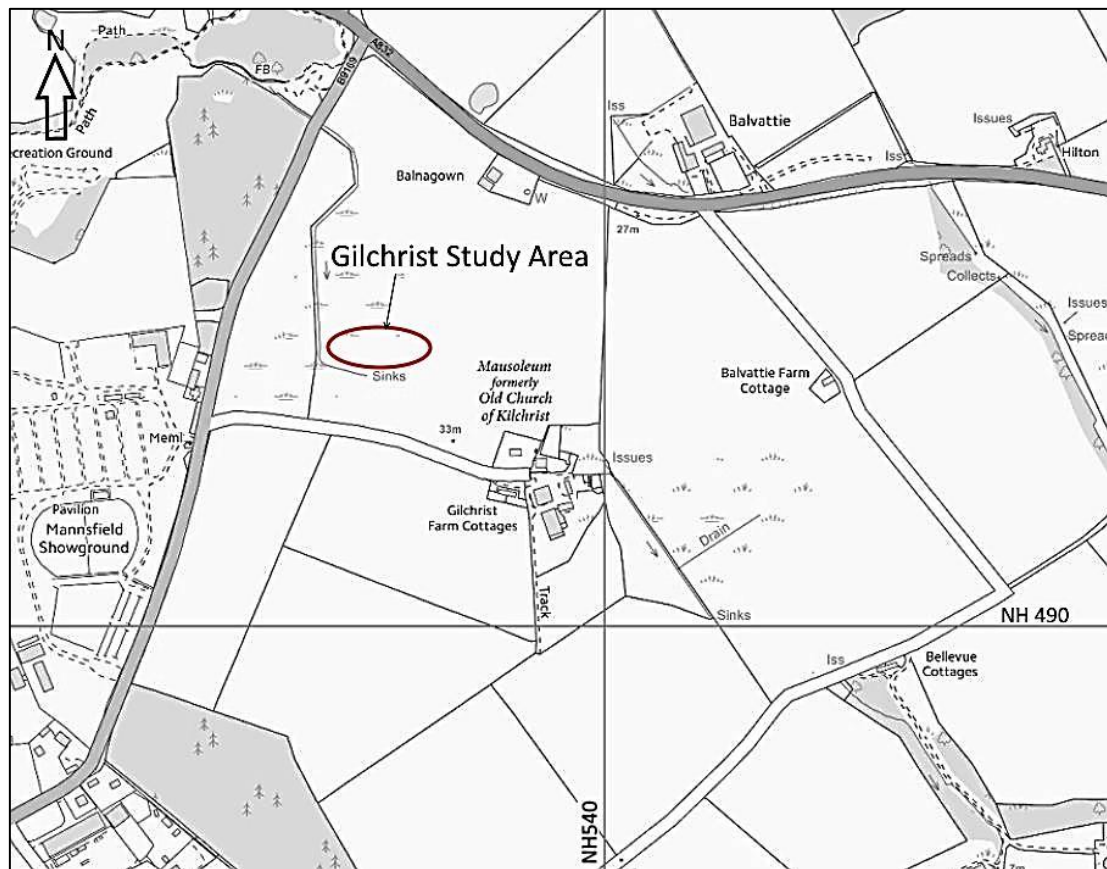


Figure 3 – Approximate extent of the Gilchrist Study Area



**Figure 4** – Extract from aerial photograph showing the elevated promontory at Gilchrist projecting into marsh land with the enclosure ditches visible as darker lush-marks, Facing W. © RCAHMS.

## Introduction & Background

A programme of archaeological work has been undertaken on behalf of *Tarradale Through Time* in order to evaluate the archaeological potential of two sites located within the wider Tarradale study area where aerial photographic evidence indicates buried archaeological features associated with an undated promontory fort (Gilchrist) and an area of possible medieval settlement activity (Balvattie). This report sets out the preliminary results and research potential of the former, Gilchrist Promontory Fort.

The project was intended to recover new archaeological and environmental evidence through excavation and related techniques to enhance understanding of past human activity at each of the two study sites and thereby across the wider Tarradale landscape. These aims were to be achieved through the excavation of a series of carefully targeted evaluation trenches at each site where aerial photographic evidence indicated the likely presence of significant buried archaeological deposits. The trenches were designed to establish the presence or absence of significant buried remains and, if present, their character, quality, extent and date.

The evaluation fieldwork commenced on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and was undertaken over the subsequent two weeks. The work was supervised by Andrew Young of HAS and undertaken as a Community-led project for the wider *Tarradale Through Time* research project.

The project includes provision to undertake post-excavation tasks required for the preparation of this Data Structure Report (DSR) and a separate Post Excavation Research Design (PERD).

## Aims & Objectives

### Aims

The archaeological project had two principal aims:

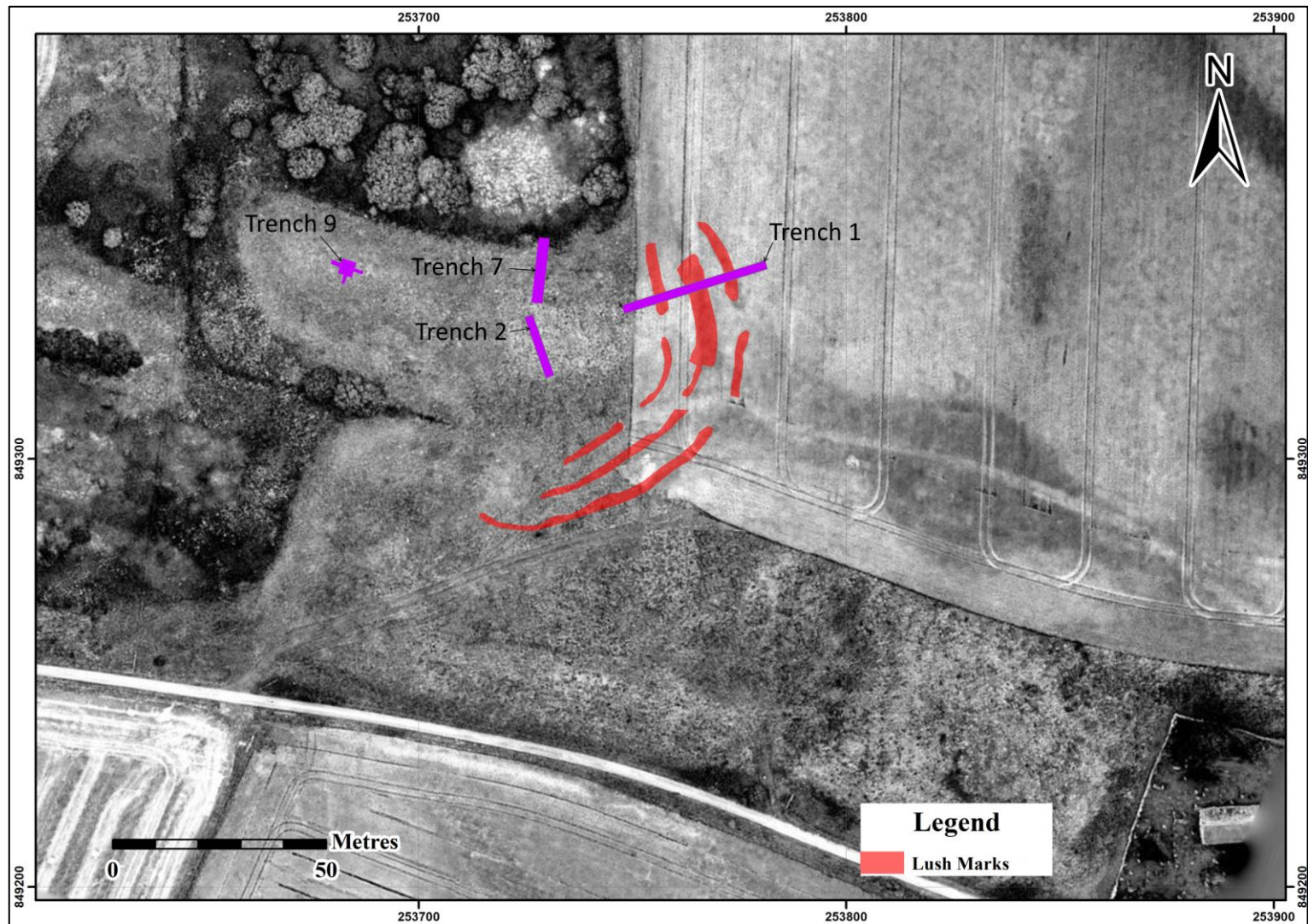
- To enable community participants of whatever ability to achieve a working knowledge and understanding of archaeological best practice and acquire transferrable skills in the processes and techniques of field excavation, primary field recording, treatment of artefacts and ecofacts, post- fieldwork data analysis, interpretation of data and report writing.
- To establish through high quality excavation, recording and associated archaeological techniques, the presence or absence of significant buried archaeological deposits on the Gilchrist site, where aerial photographic evidence indicated that significant remains of a promontory fort are preserved below the plough soil and, if present, to determine the quality, degree of survival, character, function, date and significance of archaeology present.

### Objectives

The archaeological objectives designed to achieve the project Aims were:

- The investigation of the Gilchrist Promontory Fort site to confirm the presence of buried archaeological deposits and, if confirmed, the character and date of the ditches and banks indicated by aerial photographs (Figure 4 above).
- Processing of archaeological finds, data analysis and preparation of a DSR report setting out the primary field data and its future research potential.
- To add value to the archaeological programme by ensuring all participants were given the opportunity to learn a range of key archaeological techniques through a series of short on-site workshops and continual skills transfer. Topics will cover essential skills including excavation and sampling techniques, context-based recording, and the production of primary field drawings, artefact identification and preliminary finds stabilisation. Participants were to be actively encouraged to produce most (and ideally all) primary field records compiled for the site work. Post excavation skills including the checking and integration of primary field records, the upgrading of primary field drawings, data input to computer and defining the research potential of excavated data will be covered during the post excavation programme.





**Figure 5** - Layout and enumeration of the Gilchrist trenches superimposed on a 1976 aerial photograph with ditch lush-marks highlighted. Scale shown

## **Archaeological & Historical Background**

### **Archaeology**

Both the Canmore database and Highland Council Historic Environment Record (HER) were reviewed for the present project.

The Gilchrist site is included in the Canmore register, where it is described as an undated *Promontory Fort* (Canmore 12690). A further activity site (Canmore 262682), again undated, is recorded just to the northeast where a series of cropmarks visible on aerial photographs are tentatively interpreted to reflect linear features, pits, and a possible pit-enclosure. A further indication of prehistoric settlement related activity is recorded just to the northeast, to the north of Balvattie Farm, where a ring-ditch (Canmore 262685) is visible, again on aerial photographs.

Kilchrist Chapel and cemetery (Canmore 12672), now the mausoleum of the Mackenzies of Ord, is located just two hundred metres to the east of the study site. The foundation of the chapel remains unknown although the place-name alone, *Cill Chrìosd*, may indicate an early foundation.

Aside from the Canmore entries in the vicinity, many of which are drawn from aerial photographic sources, relatively little modern archaeological excavation has been undertaken in the vicinity of the Gilchrist site. The single notable exception is represented by a series of 20 evaluation trenches (Canmore 74002), which were opened over three seasons by the late G. D. B. Jones (Gregory, R.A. & Jones, G.D.B., 2001) at a greenfield site approximately 1km to the east of Gilchrist. The excavations, which were located adjacent to an extensive barrow cemetery (Canmore 12682), identified evidence for multi-period settlement related activity between the Mesolithic and Medieval periods. Excavated features included a substantial roundhouse dated to the late Bronze/Early Iron age and portions of a large, possibly defended, enclosure tentatively dated to the mid-1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD. The associated material culture recovered from the trenches was unfortunately very meagre indeed – the three seasons of work producing an assemblage of just 44 sherds of pottery, the majority of which was recovered from a single feature and dated by fabric and form to the period 300 to 800AD.

Extensive fieldwalking in the wider Tarradale area, most notably by members of NOSAS (Canmore *passim*), indicates that the rich natural resources and agricultural land of the area has been utilised and settled by successive generations with increasing intensity from the Mesolithic period onwards.

### **Historic Maps**

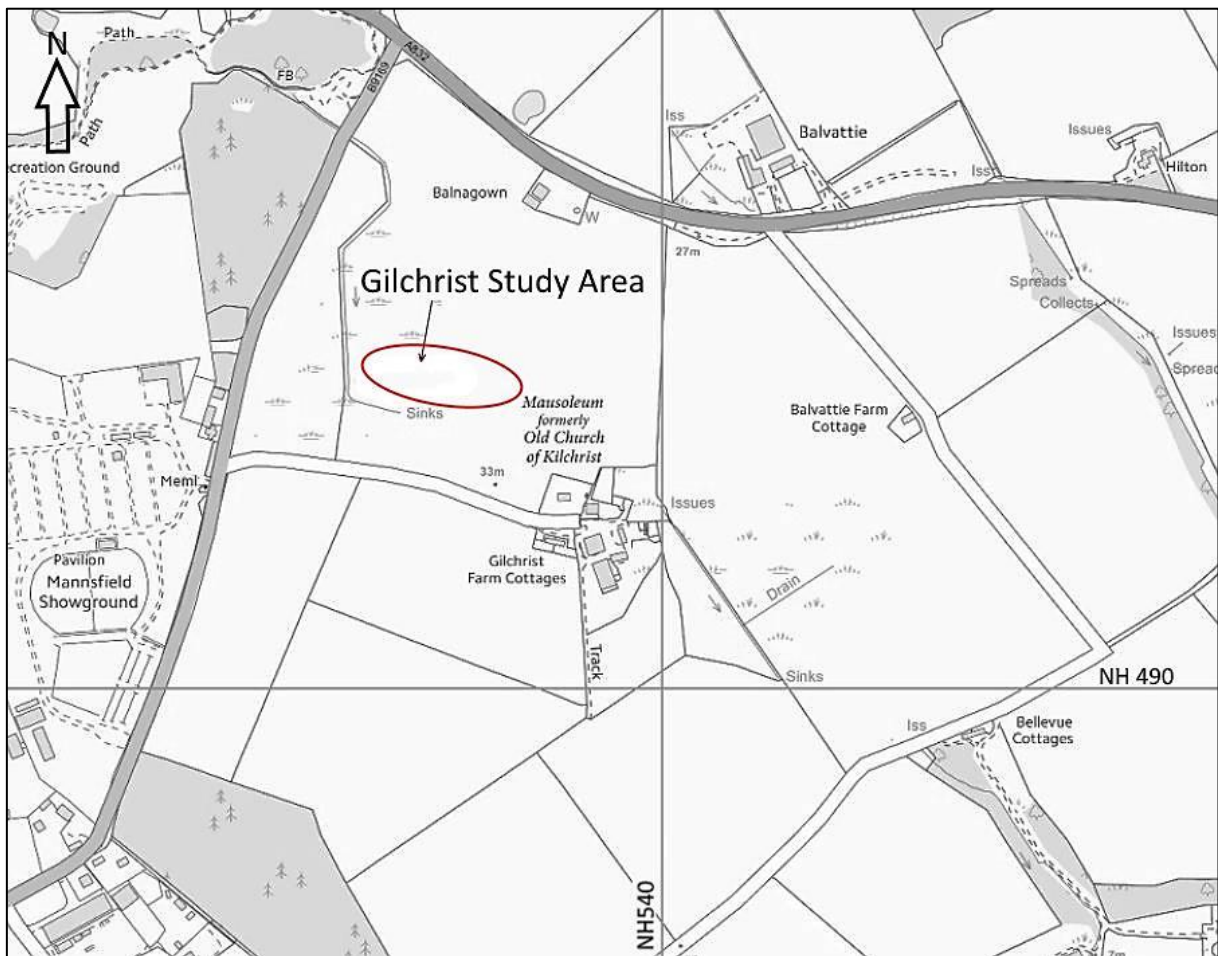
No formal desk-based assessment was undertaken as part of the project although readily available documentary and cartographic sources were reviewed for the preparation of the Project Design.

The principal sources consulted include a 1788 estate map of Tarradale by David Aitken (Figure 5) and both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1881 and 1902 respectively (Figures 6 and 7).

Aitken's remarkably detailed estate map (Figure 5 below) shows the Gilchrist promontory as cultivated land that projects to the west into the kettle-hole wetland, which is denoted as 'Moss'. No further detail is shown within the study area although a prominent ditch and drain that extends from the wetland towards the west, which is today culverted, explains the lush and parch mark visible on the 1970s aerial photographs (see Figure 4 above).



**Figure 6** – Extract from the Tarradale estate map of 1788 by David Aitken showing the Gilchrist site. Not to scale. With HAS annotation



**Figure 7** - Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" map of 1881 showing Study Area.

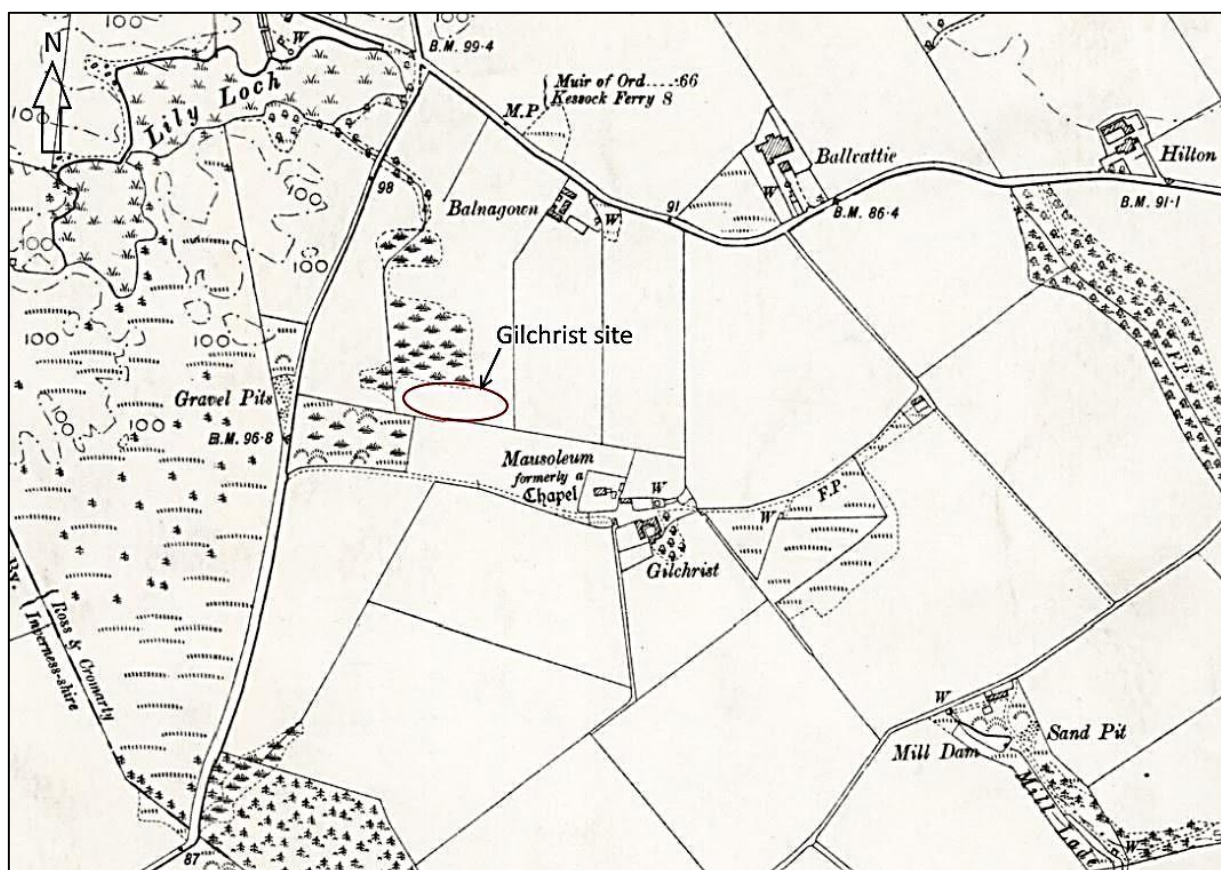


Figure 8 - Extract from the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6" map of 1902 showing Study Area

## Methodology

- A preliminary metal detecting survey was undertaken at the site in order to recover finds from the topsoil that might not have been identified during machine operations to open the evaluation trenches.
- Four trenches (Figure 5 below) were opened using a small slew-tracked excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket at selected locations, either to target features indicated by aerial photographic and vegetation marks (Trenches 1 and 9) or to provide a sample of the interior of the suggested promontory enclosure (Trench 2), or to examine the junction between the elevated ground of the promontory and the kettle-hole wetland immediately to the north (Trench 7). Note -the numbering of the trenches was not consecutive as the number sequence was spread across two separate evaluation sites.
- All significant archaeological features and deposits revealed in the evaluation trenches were located using a survey grade GPS unit. Recording included standard drawn and photographic records with camera locations and direction of all photographs taken. Plans and scaled drawings of archaeological features were produced at 1:10 or 1:20 scale. Depths of excavations were recorded in relation to OS datum. Archaeological features, deposits and finds revealed in the evaluation trenches were fully described and recorded in written records using the HAS unique numeric context-based recording system.
- All portable artefacts recovered were retained, conserved and recorded and will be declared as necessary for Scottish Treasure Trove.

- Primary archaeological records compiled during the course of the evaluation fieldwork, for example Small Find, photographic and sample records, have been transferred to a digital record by members of the fieldwork team assigned to the maintenance and transference of primary data.

## Results

The principal evidence recorded in each of the four evaluation trenches is summarised below:

### **Trench 1**

NGR NH 53748/49335 to NH 53781/49345  
Figures 4, 13, 20 and 24

The trench measured 34m long by up to 2.7m wide in plan and was aligned northeast to southwest. It was designed to evaluate three well-defined vegetation lush-marks visible on aerial photographs (see Figure 4 above), which appeared to reflect a series of concentric ditches separating the narrow promontory of land that projects into marshland to the west.

The trench was opened from northeast to southwest, down slope, and reached the level of the natural gravel substrate (1002/1005) throughout. The plough soil (1001) varied in depth between 200 to 300mm and consisted of a friable moderately stony sandy silt. The cutting revealed four well-defined linear soil deposits (Figures 13, 20 and 24, (1003), (1006), (1004) and (1008)) directly below the plough soil that were spaced at roughly regular intervals, each of which crossed the trench at roughly 90 degrees from northwest to southeast (see front cover image).

#### **Ditch 1017**

Deposit (1008) represented the easternmost of the deposits in the trench revealed directly below the plough soil. A cutting was opened across the deposit by hand which confirmed that it represented the uppermost fill of a broad shallow ditch (Figure 9), which extended beyond the trench to the north west and south east. The ditch cut was c 3.9m wide, up to 820mm deep with a broad, shallow and asymmetric U-shaped profile (Figure 13, Cut [1017]) with a gently rounded base cut into the natural gravelly substrate (1007).

The ditch was filled by a sequence of four fill deposits (1016), (1027), (1015), and (1008). The primary fill (1016) consisted of a dark reddish brown stony sand silt that contained occasional patches of charcoal rich material (<9008>) and sparse small cobbles. The secondary and tertiary fills, (1027 and 1015) were texturally very similar to (1016) but of a gradually increasingly darker grey hue. The primary and secondary fill deposits (1016) and (1015) were each sampled in bulk (Samples <9003> <9005> and <9008>) for the recovery of charred plant remains.

Finds from the fill deposits were restricted to a possible hammerstone (SF47) from (1016), a small fragment of blue glass (SF2) recovered from (1015) and a small sherd of glazed earthenware (SF33) of probable medieval date recovered from the uppermost fill (1008).

The ditch section (Figure 13b) indicated that the primary fill (1016) had entered the ditch from the east side.



Figure 9 – Ditch 1017 as excavated. Facing NW. Scales 2m and 1m

#### ***Ditch 1019***

A cutting was opened across deposit (1004) by hand which confirmed that it represented the uppermost fill of a shallow ditch cut [1019] that extended beyond the trench to the north west and south east. The ditch cut was c 2m wide, up to 550mm deep with a broad symmetrical U-shaped profile and a rounded base (Figures 10 and 13d), cut into the natural substrate (1002 and 1005).



Figure 10 – Ditch 1019 as excavated. Facing NE. Scales 1m

The ditch was filled by a sequence of three deposits (1014), (1009), and (1004). The primary fill (1014) consisted of dark greyish brown gritty silt with common small stones and cobbles. The secondary and tertiary fills recorded as (1009) and (1004) respectively were texturally indistinguishable and consisted of dark grey

gritty silt with common small stones. The primary fill (1014) was sampled in bulk (Sample <9002>) for the recovery of charred plant remains.

No cultural material was recovered from any of the fill deposits.

### ***Ditch 1020***

Two separate cuttings were opened across deposit (1003) by hand at the western end of the trench, which confirmed that it represented the upper fill of a shallow ditch cut (Figure 11, [1020] ) that extended across the trench in a slight curve from south to north east. The ditch cut was more than 3m wide in the northern cutting and 2.5m wide in the southern cutting, up to 450mm deep with a steep eastern side, a gently sloping western edge and an irregular but broadly flat base (Figure 13c).



**Figure 11** – N facing section through Ditch 1020. Scales 1m

The ditch was filled by a sequence of at least four fill deposits (1025), (1023), (1021) and (1022=1003). The primary fill (1025) consisted of dark grey to brown silty sand containing common inclusions of very coarse gravel and occasional small cobbles. The secondary and tertiary fills, (1023) and (1021) respectively, were texturally finer and contained only rare coarse gravel inclusions. Secondary fill (1023) was charcoal rich and sampled in bulk (Sample <9011>) as was a charcoal-rich patch in the upper fill (1003) (Sample <9006>) for the recovery of charred plant remains.

No finds were recovered from any of the fill deposits.

### ***Ditch 1018***

A cutting was opened across deposit (1006) by hand which confirmed that it represented the uppermost fill of a very large ditch cut (Figure 12, Cut [1018]), which extended beyond the trench to the north west and south east. The ditch cut was c 6.5m wide, up to 950mm deep with a broad symmetrical U-shaped profile, moderately sloping sides and a flat if gently sloping base, cut into the natural substrate (Figure 13a).

The ditch was filled by a sequence of four deposits, (1024), (1013), (1010) and (1006). The thick primary fill (1024) consisted of dark greyish brown sandy silt with common inclusions of coarse gravel and sparse small

to medium sized cobbles. The secondary fill (1013) consisted of an equally thick deposit dominated by a tightly packed mass of unsorted small to large sized cobble stones (up to 250 mm in size) set within a sandy silt soil matrix (see Figure 12 below). This was overlain by a thin but distinct deposit (1010) of charcoal rich soil (unfortunately not sampled). The charcoal-rich primary fill (1024) was sampled in bulk (Sample <9010>) for the recovery of charred plant remains and dating material.



**Figure 12** – Ditch 1018 as excavated. Facing NW. Scales 2m and 1m

Finds from the primary ditch fill (1024) included a small assemblage of plain earthenware pottery sherds (SF45 and SF46), provisionally dated to the medieval period, an unidentified iron object (SF60) and a further pottery sherd with traces of external glaze, tentatively dated as post medieval. The intermediate fill of dense rubble (1013) produced further sherds of plain earthenware (SF31) provisionally dated as medieval.

The sequence and profile of deposits revealed in the ditch section (Figure 13a) indicated that the bulk of deposit (1013) entered the ditch from the east side.



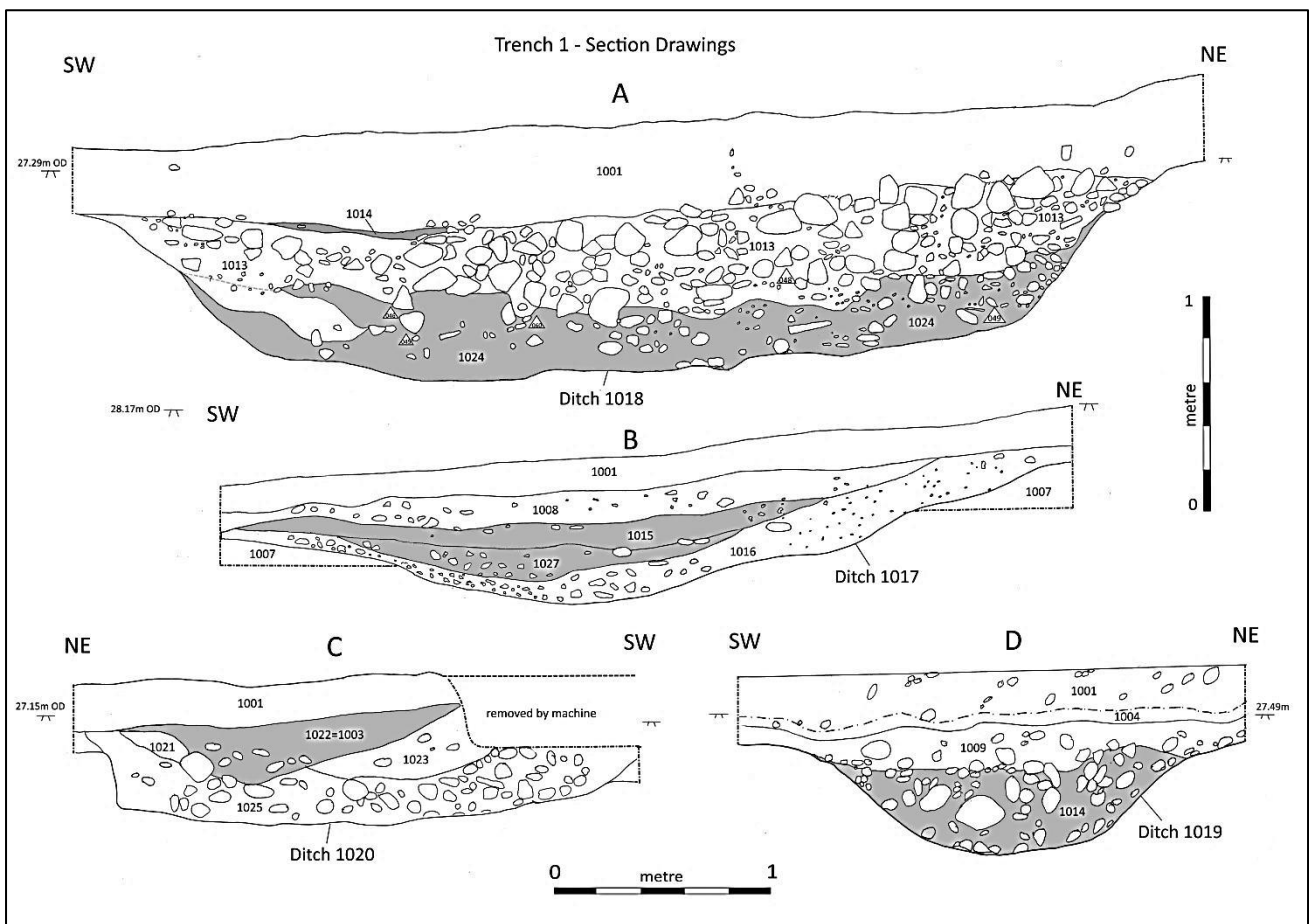


Figure 13 – Trench 1 section drawings. Scale shown

## Trench 2

NGR NH 53727/49335 to NH 53731/49323  
 Figures 4, 14 and 20

The trench was 12.5 m long by up to 2.7 m wide in plan and aligned northwest to southeast. It was designed to sample the suggested interior of the promontory enclosure defined by the series of ditch lush-marks visible on aerial photographs (see Figure 4 above).

The trench was opened through a shallow and friable topsoil (2001) below which the natural gravelly natural substrate (2005) was revealed. The natural substrate was cut by a series of closely spaced linear soil features (features 2002 and 2003) aligned approximately SW to NE (Figure 14), the fill of which was indistinguishable from the topsoil. These features were interpreted to reflect modern plough furrows.

The plough marks were removed in the central part of the trench to reveal an irregular patch of charcoal rich soil (2004). The deposit was cleaned and investigated by hand but failed to conform to any regular shape in plan and was interpreted to most likely reflect an undated episode of scrub burning.

The trench failed to identify and significant deposits or structural remains associated with activity inside the suggested promontory fort enclosure.



**Figure 14** – Trench 2 as excavated showing plough-marks in natural gravels. Facing N. Scales 1m

## **Trench 7**

NGR NH 53729/49338 to NH 53729/49352  
Figures 4, 15-17, 20 and 21

The trench measured 14.5m long by up to 3m wide in plan and was aligned north to south, down the north side of the natural, elevated, promontory and into the marshland that flanks it on the north side (Figures 4 and 15-17). It was designed to provide a transect across the contours of the promontory in order to examine the boundary between the higher ground and the wetland immediately to the north, and to establish whether that junction was defined by archaeological features or deposits. The cutting extended into the wetland *acrotelm* and underlying peat in order to examine and sample waterlogged deposits. The sequence of deposits and features recorded in the trench are described below in reverse stratigraphic order, from earliest to most recent.

The natural substrate of glacial till (Figures 21 and 22, (7006)) was revealed throughout the trench in a deeper cutting opened centrally from north to south. The deposit consisted of a moderately well consolidated and poorly sorted mixture of small to medium sized stones and cobbles set in a pale grey sandy silt matrix, the surface of which sloped at approximately 10 degrees from south to north. It was overlain by a stratified sequence of humified and waterlogged peat bog deposits in the northern half of the trench and by terrestrial deposits in the southern, more elevated, part (see Figure 22).

The boundary separating the humified deposits in the lower part of the trench from the terrestrial deposits in the higher part was defined by a soil deposit containing a concentration of unsorted small to large cobbles (Figures 20 and 21, (7008) and (7009)). The deposit was overlain by two spreads of stony terrestrial soil (7007 and 7012), which in turn were overlain by the modern terrestrial topsoil (7002). Deposits 7008 and 7009 were excavated by hand and produced a small assemblage of extremely fragile pottery sherds (see Finds below) and part of a stone rotary quern although during excavation no structural organisation was recognised in the rubble itself. However, subsequent cleaning of the west facing trench section revealed the presence of a linear stone structure indicated by an arrangement of larger cobbles (Figure 21, (7018)). The structure (7018), interpreted to reflect the remains of a stone wall foundation or the core of a stone and earth bank, followed the contours of

the natural slope and was butted on the north side by a deposit of finely laminated humified peat (7011) and upslope, to the south, by a wedge-shaped terrestrial soil rich in charcoal (7010), which produced a small assemblage of pottery sherds of later prehistoric type (see Finds below).



**Figure 15** –Trench 7 during excavation. Facing E

In the lower, waterlogged, ground to the north of rubble Structure 7018 the earliest peat deposit (7011) overlay the natural gravel substrate (7006) and was in turn overlain by a sequence of successive deposits (7004, and 7003) of varying humification (see context descriptions). These culminated in the modern wetland surface layer, the living, sphagnum-rich, *acrotelm* (7001). This sequence of undisturbed peat-bog deposit was sampled for environmental evidence at two separate locations by means of two vertical column samples (Samples <9007> and <9013>).

The stratigraphy of humified deposits immediately adjacent and to the north of Structure 7018 was more varied (Figures 20 and 21) and consisted of a basal spread of small to medium sized cobbles (7020) that were overlain by a deposit of humified peat (7011) that contained laminations of pale grey terrestrial silt. Here though this lowest accumulation of humified material was not homogeneous but contained a sequence of fine laminae of terrestrial grey gritty silts and sparse charcoal flecks that penetrated the spaces between the lowermost cobbles forming Structure 7018. This laminated humic and terrestrial sequence was in turn interrupted by a thick wedge-shaped deposit of brown very slightly humic silty clay (7019), which also contained laminae of pale grey silt with charcoal flecks. The deposit was overlain by a further thin accumulation of humic soil (7011), the uppermost surface of which coincided with the uppermost cobbles of (7018).

A waterlogged timber (7013), possibly representing a recumbent stake or pile, was revealed in the lower peat layer (7011). The wood (Figure 17) appeared to narrow to a point at the southern end although no surface tool marks were evident to indicate that it had been deliberately worked in any way.

The southern, higher, end of the trench revealed a linear deposit of soil and variously sized cobblestones (Figures 20 and 21, (7016)) aligned approximately west to east. The deposit was flanked on each side by a distinctive brown gritty stony soil (7017) that in places appeared to be almost cemented. Investigation of deposit (7016) by hand indicated that it filled a linear cut feature, a ditch or gully (Figures 22 and 23, [7015]), up to 750mm wide that extended beyond the trench to the west and east, roughly parallel to the orientation of feature (7018) revealed in the central part of the trench. The general character of feature [7015] was confirmed but it was not fully excavated due to time constraints.



**Figure 16** – Detail of Trench 7 showing Feature 7018 butted by peat (7011) and cultural deposits (7009 and 7010). Facing E. Scales 1m and 500mm



**Figure 17**- Trench 7 during excavation and detail of possible wooden stake (7013) revealed in peat deposit (7011). Facing SW. Scales 1m and 500mm

## Trench 9

Figures 4, 18 and 23

This additional trench was opened entirely by hand in order to investigate a pale vegetation mark visible on several aerial photographs towards the western end of the elevated promontory. The cutting was irregular in plan with three projecting arms (Figures 18 and 23) with the central part measuring approximately 3m by 2.5m in plan.

The trench was opened through a very thin and friable topsoil (9001) that was up to 300mm deep, directly below which the natural gravelly substrate (9003) was revealed in places. The natural substrate was overlain in part of the trench by a layer of very well consolidated layer of pale grey clay (9002) containing sparse numbers of small rounded gravel and stones. The layer was bounded by natural gravels on the west and east sides but extended beyond the confines of the trench to the north and south. The surface of the layer was cut by a series of closely spaced and narrow linear marks (Figure 23, (9006)) aligned approximately W to E. The scars were interpreted to reflect plough marks, most likely associated with later post medieval or modern cultivation.

The consolidated layer of grey clay (9002) was not excavated but preserved in-situ. A small cutting opened by hand alongside the western edge of the layer confirmed that it was solid and substantial and at least 100mm thick. The surface was broadly level if irregular and overlain by an oval patch of charcoal rich soil (9005) and was interpreted to reflect part of a deliberate rammed clay floor surface, by inference a layer that may originally have been laid inside a structure or building, the overall form or extent of which was not established.

Finds from the trench consisted of five sherds of modern White ware (SF55), a sherd of post medieval Red ware (SF56) and a fragment of clear curved vessel glass, also provisionally dated as modern and all of which were recovered from the topsoil (9001). A further fragment of ceramic (SF71), provisionally interpreted to reflect a fragment of a crucible, was recovered during trowelling of the surface of Layer (9002).



**Figure 18** – Trench 9 after cleaning showing rammed clay surface (9002). Facing S. Scales 1m



Figure 19 – Trench 1 plan as excavated – scale shown

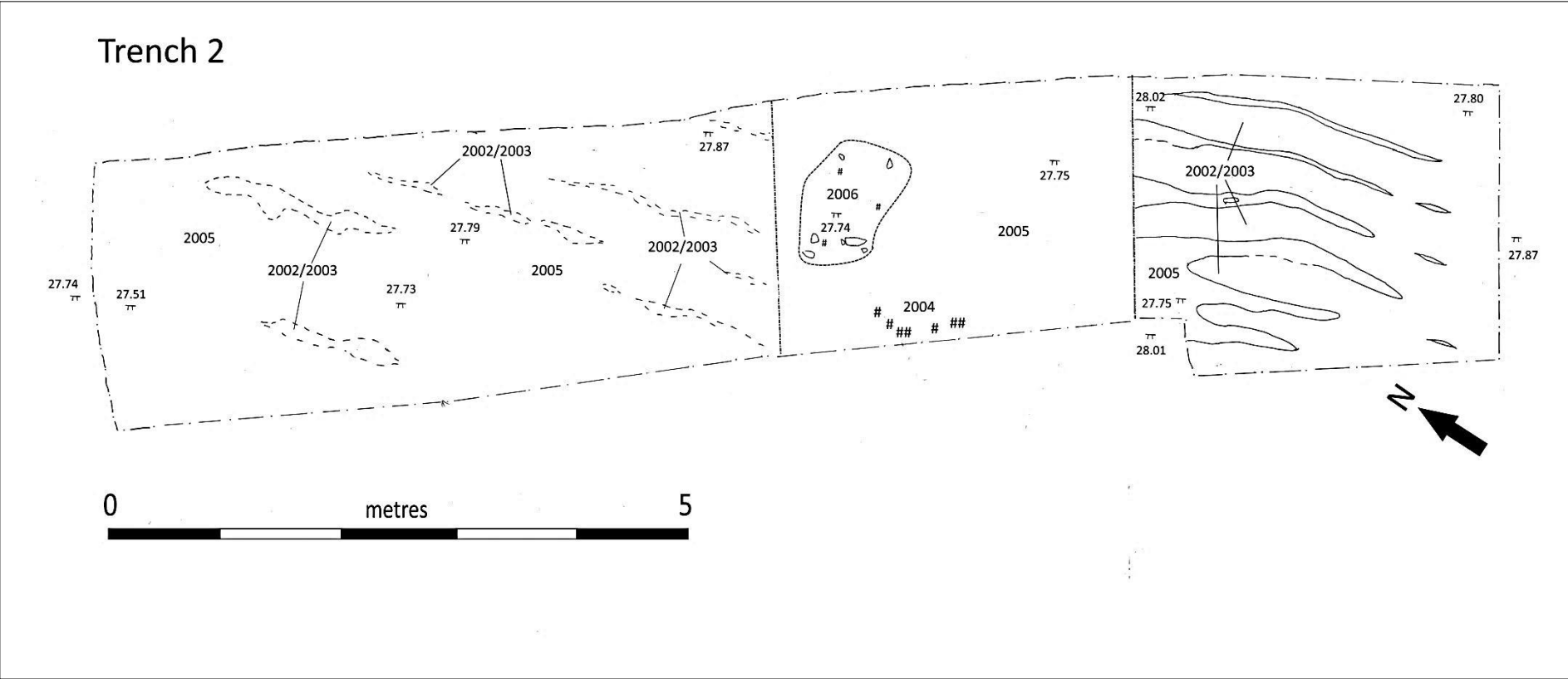


Figure 20 – Trench 2 plan as excavated – scale shown

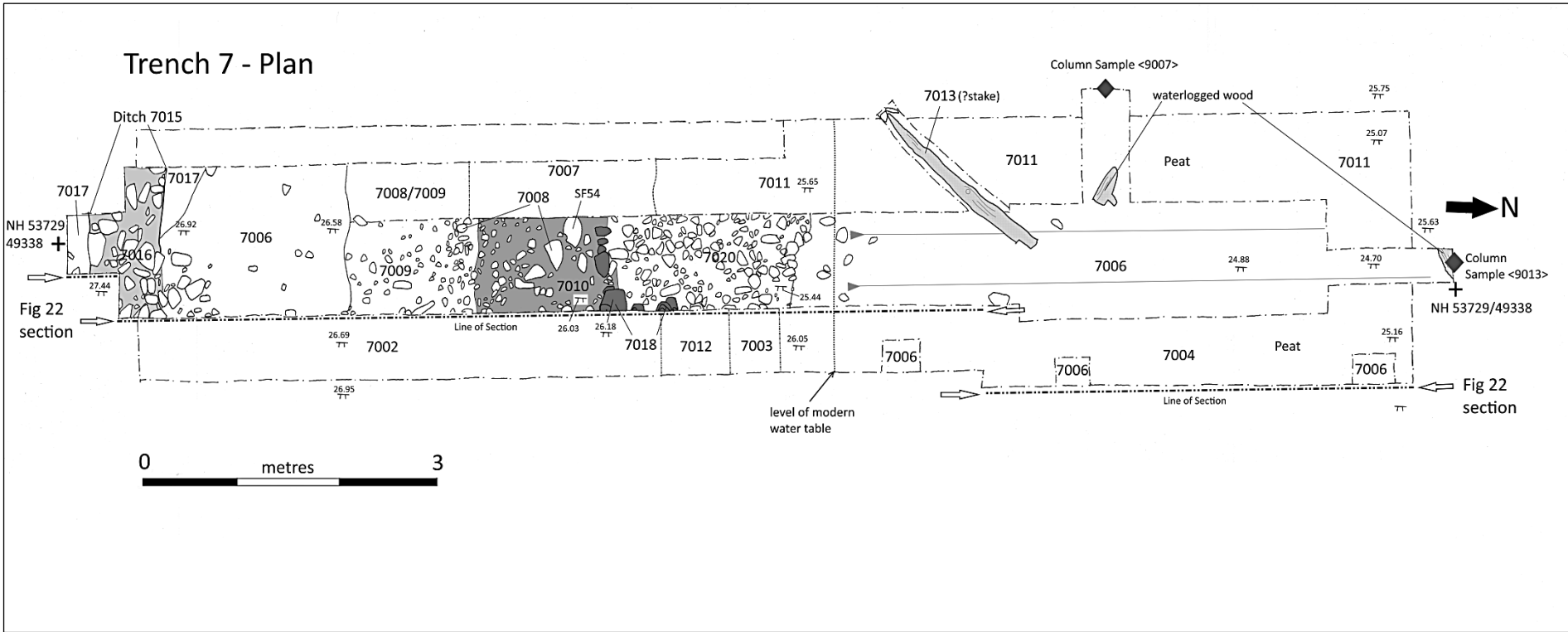


Figure 21 – Trench 7 plan as excavated. Scale shown



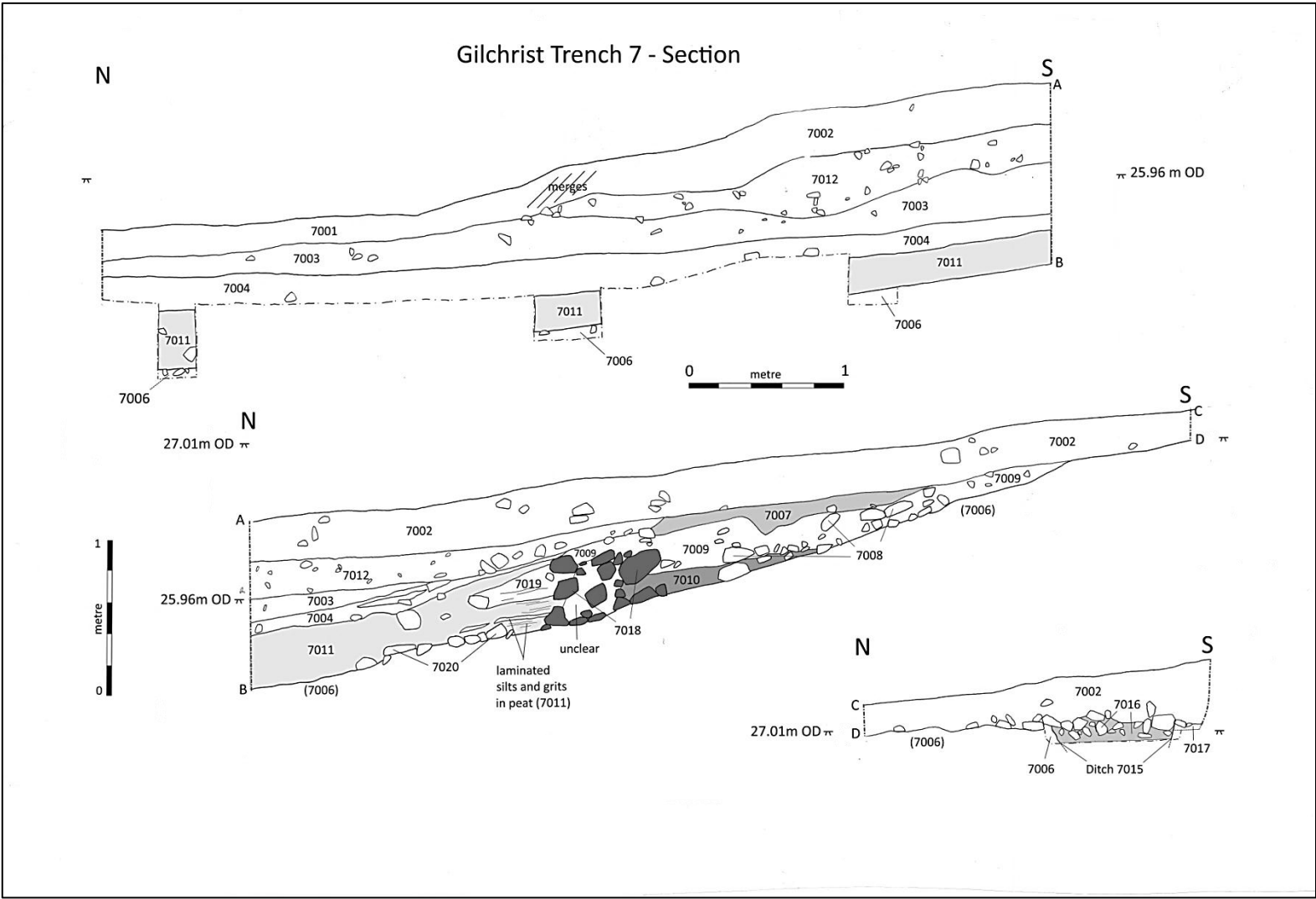


Figure 22 – Trench 7. Detail of W facing section. Scale shown

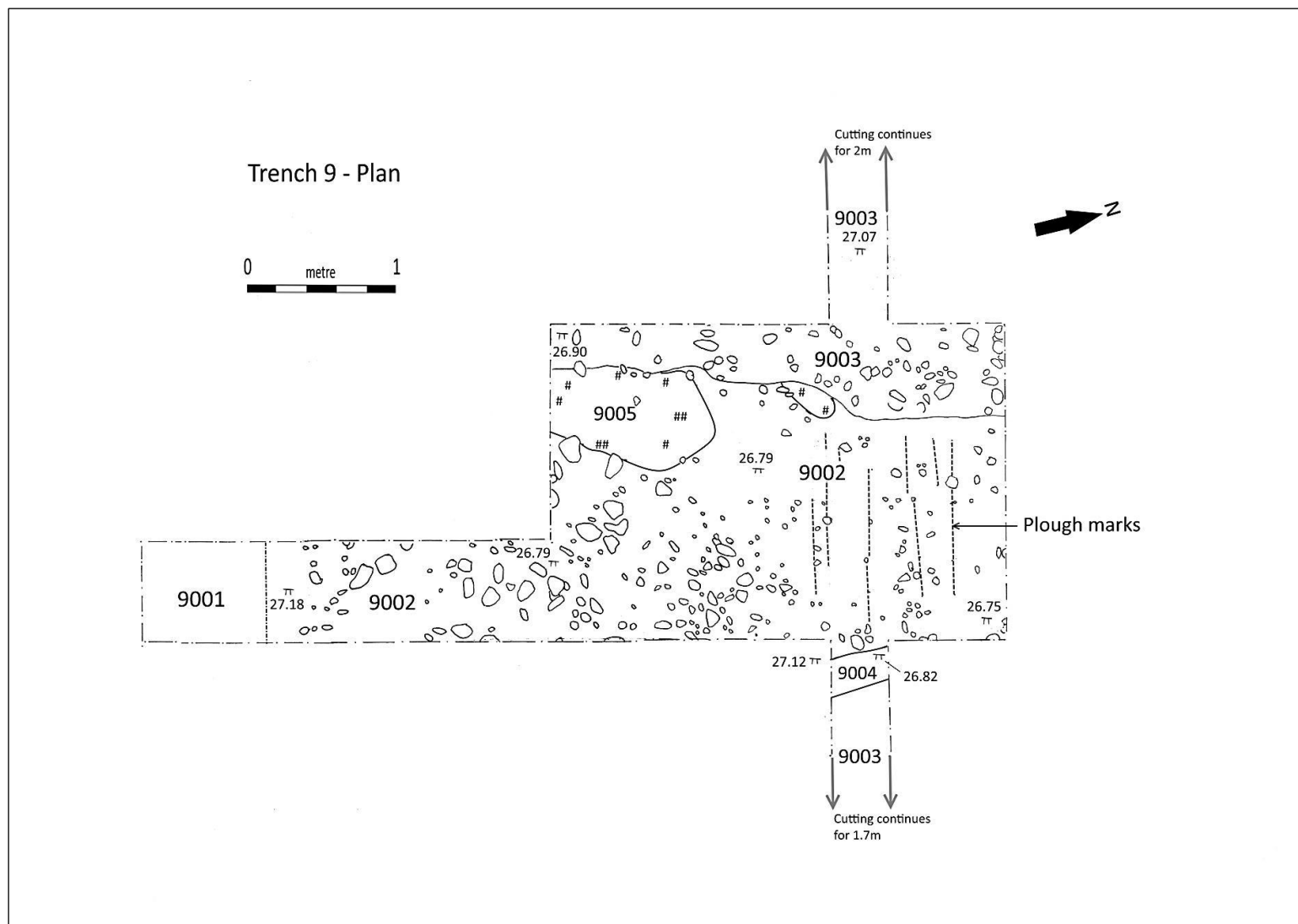
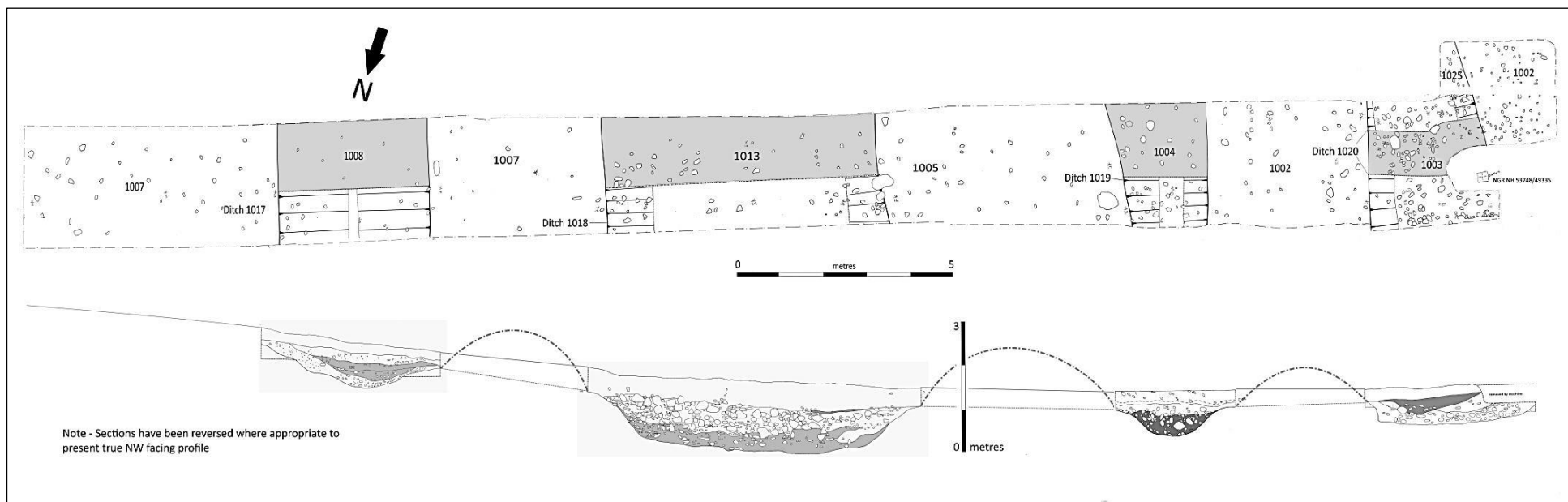


Figure 23 – Trench 9 plan as excavated. Scale shown



**Figure 24** – Trench 1 as excavated showing overall arrangement of ditches and indicative NW facing profile of original earthworks

## Summary Finds Reports

The following summary statements highlight the principal finds recovered during the fieldwork and are not intended to be comprehensive. For a full register of finds see the Finds Register appended. Recommendations for further examination and reporting of some of the assemblage is made in the PERD.

### Pottery

A small assemblage of stratified pottery sherds was recovered from stratified deposits in Trenches 1 and 7. The assemblage includes sherds of later prehistoric and medieval/early post medieval type.

The pottery of later prehistoric type (Figure 25) is mostly represented by thick walled micaceous body sherds that are generally very fragile. One and possibly two very coarse and reduced earthenware fabrics are represented, each tempered with distinctive coarse (up to 5mm) and soft pale grey rounded mineral inclusions. The collection includes at least two simple rounded and everted rim forms.



**Figure 25** – Prehistoric pottery sherds recovered from deposit (7010) in Trench 7. Scale in cms

The assemblage of medieval and later pottery, in particular the collection recovered from the primary fill (1024) of Ditch [1018], includes sherds in a fine Redware, much of which has a thin and patchy external yellowish-green glaze. On the basis of these general fabric characteristics the sherds appear, in the opinion of the writer, more likely to be of early post medieval, as opposed to later medieval, date. Either way, confirming the precise date of these stratified fabrics is an important objective in order to establish how long the ditches remained extant and open.

A range of later, mostly modern, sherds were recovered from late and unstratified contexts.

### Worked Stone

A small number of worked stone objects were recovered from stratified and unstratified contexts including a single fragment from a domestic rotary quern (Figure 26) and a number of possible rubber and hammer stones.



Figure 26 – SF054 - a Schist upper rotary quern stone recovered from deposit (1008) in Trench 7

### Charred Plant Remains

Charred plant remains were present in many excavated deposits and extensively sampled for the recovery of environmental evidence. The samples have been processed during the preliminary post excavation work and the results and potential are discussed below in the PERD document.

### Technology Residues

Two fragments of possible furnace or kiln lining were recovered from stratified contexts, one from a secondary fill of Ditch [1018].

### Iron Objects

A single stratified iron object (SF060), a short section of bar of unknown function, was recovered from the primary fill (1024) of Ditch [1018].

### Other Objects

A collection of modern glass and miscellaneous ironwork was recovered from topsoil deposits during machining in addition to a larger collection of modern metal objects recovered during a preliminary metal detecting survey. A register of these finds is included in the project archive.

## Discussion

The programme of evaluation trenching at the Gilchrist site has confirmed the presence of significant buried archaeological and environmental deposits and features. Moreover, in combination, the evidence gathered corroborates the interpretation of crop marks visible on aerial photographs (Figure 4 above) as reflecting the remains of a small promontory fort that was bounded on the north, west and south sides by wetland peat bog and on the eastern side by a series of concentric ditches (Canmore 12690).

### *Trench 1*

The trench confirmed the presence of four concentric ditches of varying dimensions and broadly regular spacing (Figure 24), consistent with the features indicated on aerial photographs, which separated the interior

of the promontory to the west from land to the east. The overall extent of the ditches, from interior to outer margin, measured approximately 30m whilst the size and profile of the individual ditches varied in detail and no direct stratigraphic relationship survived between any of them. In addition, no trace of any accompanying banks survived, probably a consequence of several hundred years of cultivation, although the regular and broadly concentric plan form alone suggests that they are all likely to be of broadly contemporary date.

Ditch [1018] was by far the largest of the four ditches, both in terms of width and depth. Its main, secondary, fill (1013) was dominated by a dense concentration of unsorted cobbles in a soil matrix, the profile of which (see Figure 13a above) suggests it mainly entered the ditch from the east, quite the opposite of what would normally be expected if the original configuration of the ditches was defensive. Pottery of provisional early post medieval date, some glazed externally, was recovered from the earlier fills of the ditch. The ceramic fabric(s) represented, in particular the presence of glazed sherds, suggests a later medieval date for the filling of the ditch, although, if so, this does not necessarily mean that the promontory fort as a whole is of similar later medieval origin (and see Trench 7 below). The three accompanying ditches were all, for no obvious reason, significantly smaller and shallower than Ditch 1018 (Figure 24) and none produced any further definitive dating evidence or significant cultural material. The deposits filling them varied in composition and texture although most contained significant numbers of unsorted stones and cobbles, which could have in the main been derived from an adjacent bank(s). The fills of the outermost ditch, [1017], did not contain any significant numbers of larger stones or cobbles in the fill (Figure 13b), suggesting the material was derived from cultivated ground immediately to the west and not from any bank formation that was located outside it.

#### *Trench 2*

The trench was sited immediately to the west of the innermost ditch and was designed to ascertain the presence of structures or deposits inside the suggested promontory enclosure. The trench revealed natural gravels at very shallow depth, the surface of which was scoured by a series of parallel plough marks. No firm evidence of any former structure or activity within the promontory enclosure was revealed.

#### *Trench 7*

The trench was opened down the north side of the promontory in order to examine the boundary between its interior and the adjacent peat bog. The cutting revealed an important sequence of deposits and features that indicate the presence of a lateral boundary wall or bank (7018), formed of larger cobbles and soil, which separated terrestrial deposits inside the promontory enclosure from a sequence of humified and peat deposits (7011 etc.) immediately outside it to the north. A waterlogged timber, (Figure 17(b), (7013)), located immediately outside that boundary, possibly reflecting a fallen stake or pile, raises the possibility that the boundary was also defined by other means.

The sequence of terrestrial deposits (7008, 7009 and 7010) that had accumulated against boundary feature 7018 on the internal, south, side produced charred plant material along with part of a domestic rotary quern and an assemblage of stratified late prehistoric pottery. This cultural material, although limited, supports the hypothesis that the interior of the promontory was used at least in part for settlement-related activity, presumably habitation, during the later prehistoric period. This evidence, whilst provisional, seems to place the construction of the fort in the same period, very broadly some time during the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC and the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD.

The Post Excavation Research Design (below) notes the importance of the cultural and environmental material recovered from Trench 7 and its potential to refine our understanding of both the date and character of that activity.

#### *Trench 9*

The trench was sited towards the western end of the promontory enclosure and opened by hand to evaluate a well-defined sub rectangular parch mark visible on some aerial photographs.

The cutting revealed natural gravels at shallow depth below the topsoil and a layer of very well consolidated clay and stones (9002), the surface of which contained traces of charred material and was scoured by a series of parallel plough marks aligned broadly west to east. Neither the overall extent nor plan form of the clay

deposit was established, although its character alone suggested that it represents part of a deliberately rammed clay floor deposit. If confirmed, this may indicate the location of a former structure or structures associated with the occupation of the promontory enclosure.

## Preliminary Conclusions

The presence of the promontory fort at Gilchrist, previously strongly indicated by vegetation marks visible on aerial photographs, has been confirmed by the evaluation trenching project.

The excavated evidence confirms that the promontory fort enclosure, which appears to have had an overall footprint in the region of approximately 2500 square metres, was bounded on the east side by at least four concentric ditches of varying size, the largest some 5m wide and at least 1m deep. No evidence for a contemporary entrance through the ditch sequence was identified although the original presence of such must be assumed at this stage.

A tentative (and minimal) reconstruction of the overall profile of the principal ditch sequence (see Figure 24), which admittedly takes no account of the level of post-occupation erosion due to agriculture or the potential for accompanying and upstanding timber structures, does not seem (to the writer at least) to reflect a defensive boundary designed and built in anticipation of serious impending conflict.

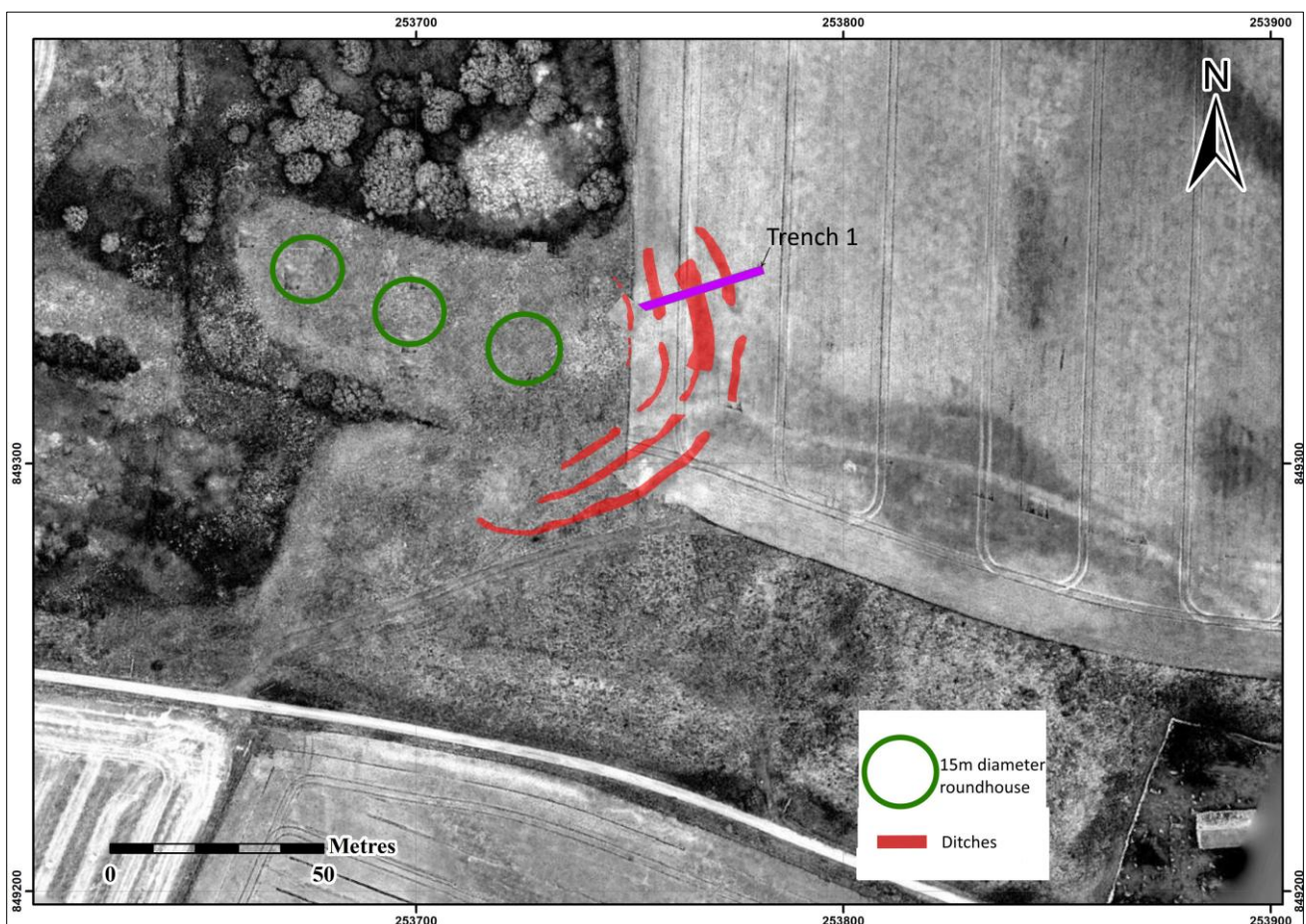
The evidence revealed in Trench 7 confirms that the boundaries of the enclosure were not only defined by the sequence of ditches on the east side but also defined by a boundary wall or earthwork (Figure 22, (7018)) built along the north side of the natural promontory, a boundary feature that separated the zone of higher, terrestrial, activity inside the enclosure from the wetland bog and peat immediately outside it to the north. The wetland deposits appear to have continued to develop directly against this boundary whilst the enclosure was occupied (and possibly after its abandonment), as is clearly indicated by the sequence of terrestrial/cultural and humified deposits recorded to either side of Structure (7018). The identification of this boundary feature at a single location does not, of course, necessarily mean that it originally extended all the way around the promontory – although it is quite possible that in one form or another it did. Moreover, the identification of a waterlogged stake or structural pile (7013) in Trench 7, could indicate that this boundary varied across time and/or consisted of more than a simple wall or earthwork. In addition, the formation of peat deposits contemporary with the construction of the monument confirms that the location was deliberately chosen to utilise the natural setting and defences afforded by the surrounding wetland.

The presence of stratified cultural material, including prehistoric pottery sherds (for the moment of generic type), charred plant remains and a stone quern, in the terrestrial deposits butting the interior face of (7018), confirms that some domestic, settlement-related, activity took place within the enclosure at some point. In addition, the remains of a possible rammed clay floor recorded in Trench 9 suggests that domestic activity may also have included the construction of at least one enclosed structure, since rammed clay surfaces are (in the writers experience) never laid open to the elements. These two strands of evidence indicate that the fort was constructed and very likely occupied for habitation for an unknown duration during the later prehistoric period.

Taken as a whole, the evidence gathered at Gilchrist to date allows the following preliminary conclusions:

- *The promontory fort was constructed and occupied at an unknown date during the later prehistoric period.*
- *The location of the site was chosen with care in order to take advantage of its natural setting, especially the adjacent kettle-hole bog.*
- *Features constructed to define the fort were not restricted to the principal sequence of ditches on the east side but also included lateral structures laid out parallel to the existing contours.*
- *The configuration and size of the principal promontory ditches, as excavated, suggests they may not have been solely constructed in anticipation of serious conflict but were as much designed to reflect the social status and importance of the builder(s) – a grand ‘gated-entrance’ of the day.*

- Settlement related domestic activity was undertaken within the fort enclosure during the later prehistoric period, which is likely to have been associated with one or more enclosed structures. Whether that activity was single or multi-generational remains unknown. That said, the relatively small area of the promontory enclosure, less than 2500 square metres, would not seem to provide sufficient space for any more than three average sized prehistoric roundhouses (Romankiewicz, T. & Mann, B. 2017) at any one time (see Figure 26 below).
- Peat deposits continued to accumulate in the adjacent kettle hole after the construction of the monument and during the period of associated settlement related activity. These deposits have very high archaeological research potential for the preservation of discarded cultural material and waterlogged organic objects and residues and evidence pertaining to the wider natural environment and setting of the monument.
- The presence of stratified sherds of late medieval/post medieval pottery in the primary and secondary fills of one of the principal enclosure ditches suggests that the earthwork ramparts may have remained open and extant for a significant period of time after settlement activity ceased.



**Figure 27** - The promontory fort enclosure showing the approximate footprint of 3 imaginary standard size prehistoric roundhouses

## Recommendations

The archaeological data recovered from the Gilchrist promontory fort site has significant future research potential and without doubt justifies a further programme of post excavation analysis and reporting. To that end a Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) follows below which sets out further recommended analysis and reporting stage tasks in order to undertake the following:



- *Specialist identification, assessment and reporting of the prehistoric pottery assemblage, worked stone objects and other appropriate finds.*
- *Specialist examination, assessment and reporting of charred plant remains*
- *Provision for 4 No AMS radiocarbon determinations from appropriate charred plant material recovered from securely stratified contexts*
- *Specialist assessment of sample columns <9007> and <9013> to determine the potential for the preservation of environmental and micromorphological evidence, in particular waterlogged plant macrofossils and/or pollen, which may allow the nature and development of kettle-hole peat deposits and the wider natural environment to be characterised and independently dated.*
- *Provision for 2 No. AMS radiocarbon determinations of selected waterlogged organic material*
- *Preparation of a descriptive and fully illustrated narrative report that sets out the results of the fieldwork and post excavation analysis stages and the site specific and wider conclusions that can be drawn from that evidence.*
- *Preparation of a summary report for academic journal publication.*
- *Preparation of a summary statement for DES and deposition of the project archive.*

The tasks required to complete the objectives outlined above, along with the justification for doing so, are set out below in the PERD document.

## References

Gregory, R.A. & Jones, G.D.B., 2001 *Survey and Excavations at Tarradale, Highland*. Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot., 131, pp241-266

Romankiewicz, T. & Mann, B. 2017 *Excavating Prehistoric Roundhouses: Guidance on good practice and effective outcome for future research*. Aberdeenshire Council

ScARF 2012 Summary Iron Age Panel Report - Fraser Hunter & Martin Carruthers (editors). Scottish Archaeological Research Framework. Available online at <http://tinyurl.com/cx4nlt8>

## Post Excavation Research Design (PERD)

### Scope

Following the archaeological fieldwork at the Gilchrist site preliminary post excavation work (Stage 1) has been completed. Stage 1 involved quantification and checking of the primary fieldwork record and archive and the preparation of the DSR and PERD Report (this document). The following PERD sets out the proposed strategy for Stage 2, which includes commissioning appropriate specialist and in-house studies, analyses and reports and the production of a final published report; Stage 3 will entail archiving, deposition and dissemination of results through DES.

### Stage 1 (completed)

All written, drawn and photographic records have been checked, cross-referenced and collated. Artefactual remains have been cleaned, catalogued and recorded using Highland Archaeology Services' finds recording procedure. All the bulk soil samples taken for the recovery of charred plant remains have been processed by means of wet-sieving through a 500 micron mesh.

Field drawings and paper records have been digitised and tabulated. Outputs include .pdf, Word and Excel. Preliminary results are set out in the DSR (above), which summarises the fieldwork methodology and results, and includes a preliminary conclusions concerning the perceived significance of the evidence that has been gathered.

### **Stage 2** (proposed)

This stage of post-site analysis and reporting work will include in-house (NOSAS) examination of the fieldwork evidence and selective examination and reporting of appropriate artefacts and ecofacts by external specialists. The aims and objectives of this proposed analysis-stage work are elucidated below.

### **Stage 3** (proposed)

Depending on the assessment of the significance of the results made in Stage 2, a fully illustrated descriptive report will be prepared for publication in a professional archaeological journal. In addition, the paper and material archives will be prepared for deposition with an approved organisation for long term curation, storage and future reference. Artefacts will be submitted for assessment as Treasure Trove.

### **Stage 2 Aims**

The principal aims of the proposed post-excavation stage tasks are:

- 1 To define an independent chronology for the principal archaeological activity recorded on the site.
- 2 To fully characterise and understand the principal archaeological activity identified on the site, including the evidence that can be gained from environmental remains.
- 3 To prepare an ordered and internally consistent archive for the excavation project.
- 4 To prepare a final fully illustrated descriptive report for publication that sets out the principal results of the project.
- 5 To submit a summary statement of results and deposition of the project archive with DES.

Achieving these goals can be expected to make a significant contribution to the research aims for Iron Age Scotland set out in the *ScARF* Panel Report (*ScARF* 2012, Iron Age Scotland), in particular by improving current understanding of narratives relating to dating and settlement (*ScARF*, Iron Age Scotland *Building Blocks*), settlement and material culture (*Daily Life and Practice*), social organisation (*Reconstructing Iron Age Societies*) and the wider natural environment and setting (*Landscapes & Regions*).

## **PERD – Proposed Tasks**

### **Pottery Identification & Assessment**

A small but significant assemblage of prehistoric pottery sherds were recovered from stratified deposits recorded in Trench 7 (see Finds Register). Further sherds of probable later date were recovered from deposits filling the enclosure ditches and other excavated features in Trench 1. The prehistoric assemblage appears to be associated with the settlement related activity within the promontory enclosure and is typologically distinct, principally in terms of fabric but with a small number of identifiable forms present. The characteristics of the assemblage are broadly of the later prehistoric period although no comparative type-series exists to allow any more precise typological dating. In view of this the assemblage has research potential in respect of refining current understanding of the typology and development of prehistoric pottery tradition in the Highlands, which will be complemented by independent AMS dates proposed for the deposits from which they were recovered. Specialist examination and description of the prehistoric assemblage is therefore recommended to include specialist identification of a small number of later sherds recovered from secondary fills of the enclosure ditches, the dating of which is crucial to understand how long the monument remained an extant feature in the landscape (see above). Other post medieval and modern sherds should undergo in-house examination and identification.

## Other Finds

Excavation work also recovered a small number of worked stone objects (see Figure 25) and an assemblage of miscellaneous iron and glass objects. The worked stone objects appear to be of later prehistoric type and justify brief examination and description by a recognised specialist. It is recommended that a summary report for miscellaneous finds is produced in-house for inclusion in the final report.

## Environmental Evidence

The recovery of environmental evidence has the potential to elucidate the nature of the settlement related activity identified on the site as well as the character and development of the wider natural environment.

### *Bulk Soil Samples*

Bulk soil samples were taken during the course of the fieldwork from those deposits with potential to contain cultural material, charred plant and organic remains. The bulk soil samples have been processed by wet sieving through a 500 micron mesh and both the flots and residues retained. Significant amounts of charred plant remains have been recovered from a number of the samples. The sieved residues have been sorted and artefacts found have been retained.

In the light of the significant archaeological activity identified during the project it is recommended that, as a minimum, the flots recovered from selective samples listed below in Table 1 undergo assessment and, if appropriate, analysis by a qualified environmental specialist.

*Table 1 – Environmental Samples for Specialist Assessment*

Order of priority	Trench	Context	Sample Number	Justification
1	7	(7009)	<9012>	Stratified charred cultural material
2	7	(7010)	<9014>	Stratified charred cultural material
3	7	(7010)	<9015>	Stratified charred cultural material
4	7	(7010)	<9016>	Stratified charred cultural material
5	7	(7009)	<9012>	Stratified charred cultural material
6	1	(1024)	<9010>	Primary ditch fill
7	1	(1024)	<9004>	Primary ditch fill
8	1	(1016)	<9008>	Charcoal rich secondary ditch fill
9	1	(1014)	<9002>	Primary ditch fill
10	1	(1023)	<9011>	Charcoal rich secondary ditch fill

### *Column Samples*

Two vertical column samples <9007> and <9013> were taken through a sequence of waterlogged and peat deposits revealed at the northern end of Trench 7 (Figure 21).

The samples include material from the earliest peat layer (7011) that developed immediately outside boundary feature (7018), which therefore has the potential to provide an independent radiocarbon determination and *terminus ante quem* for the construction of that settlement boundary. More generally the sequence of waterlogged deposits through which the columns were taken are likely to contain material, pollen and/or plant macrofossils, that have the potential to illuminate the wider natural environmental setting of the monument, both during and after the period of late prehistoric settlement related activity.

In view of this it is strongly recommended that a specialist environmental assessment of the columns is commissioned in order to establish what research opportunities they offer.

## Charcoal Identification and Assessment

Charcoal recovered from the bulk soil samples above have the potential to provide information relating to the types of wood utilised during the prehistoric activity identified in Trench 7 and the nature of the surrounding natural environment. Material suitable for radiocarbon determination is also expected to be present, for example fragments of charred sapwood or cereal grains. It is recommended that charcoal present in the sieving flots is scanned by an appropriate specialist for identification and a report commissioned. The assessment will also identify and select material most suitable (e.g. sapwood) for AMS radiocarbon dating.

## AMS Radiocarbon Dating

The assemblage of stratified pottery and other artefacts will not provide a definitive typological chronology for the later prehistoric activity on the site. As a result AMS radiocarbon dating will be crucial to establishing an independent scientific chronology for the settlement related activity recorded on the site, in particular the evidence for later prehistoric settlement related activity in Trench 7. It is anticipated that suitable material, for example sapwood, roundwood or cereal grains, for AMS dating is present in the charred flot residues. The table below shows the contexts recommended for AMS dating.

Table 2 – Contexts for AMS Radiocarbon Dating (Provisional)

C14 sample	Trench	Context	Justification
1	7	(7010)	Dating of earliest late prehistoric settlement activity
2	7	(7009)	Dating of later late prehistoric settlement activity
3	7	(7011)	Dating of waterlogged material from base of vertical column and ergo a TAQ for boundary structure (7018)
4	7	(7004)	Dating of waterlogged material from central part of vertical column to provide date for the likely end date for later prehistoric settlement activity
5	1	(1024)	Dating of primary ditch deposits
6	1	(1024)	Dating of primary ditch deposits

## Descriptive Narrative

Preparation of a fully illustrated descriptive report setting out the background to the project and the principal results of both the fieldwork and analysis stages. The report will include a review of similar sites recorded archaeology in the Highlands and further afield in order to compare and contrast the evidence from Gilchrist with sites recorded elsewhere in Scotland.

## Report illustrations

Preparation of appropriate maps, plans, drawings (including finds) and tables for inclusion in the final published report.

## Reports

The draft final report will be prepared by *Tarradale Through Time* (NOSAS). The report will be submitted for publication in an appropriate archaeological journal (to be confirmed) in addition to *Tarradale Through Time*, Historic Environment Scotland and Highland Council. Further dissemination will be through Discovery and Excavation in Scotland and OASIS.

## Appendices

### Context Registers

**Table 3: Trench 1 Context Register**

Context No	Trench No	Description	Interpretation	Context type	Adjoining	Above	Below	Finds	Length	Breadth	Depth	Notes	Plans	Sections	Samples
1000	1	Cleaning layer finds	For finds only												
1001	1	Topsoil layer		Deposit		all						entire trench			
1002	1	Natural gravel substrate. Gravelly gritty sandy soil. (Munsell) 10YR 3/4 very dark brown	Natural substrate gravel	Deposit	1004 /1003		1001		3.7m	3m			D6	All ditch sections	
1003	1	Grey brown stony soil. Gritty grey soil (Munsell) 10YR 3/2. Very dark greyish brown, common stones >0.01m	Ditch fill upper fill[1020] This deposit excavated by hand in the northern of 2 cuttings opened across ditch [1020] Effectively the same as (1022/1023) recorded in the S cutting.	Deposit ditch fill	1022 /1023	[1020]	1001	Glass charcoal slag	2.7m	3m	0.18m		D6		<9006>
1004	1	Grey brown stony soil, 2-3 (Munsell) Sandy-flecks of charcoal-20% rounded stones >0.115m	Ditch fill upper. Uppermost fill of ditch [1019]=probably same as fill(1009)	Deposit fill	1003 /1005	1009	1001	Charcoal	2m-2.3m	3m	0.5m		D6		
1005	1	Light grey soil. Gravelly gritty and sandy 10YR5/2 (Munsell) Brown	Natural substrate	Deposit	1004 /1006		1001		5.8m	3m					
1006	1	Grey stony soil (Munsell) 10YR 4/2 Sandy silt dark greyish brown with small pebbles	Upper ditch fill of [1018] (large) (upper)	Deposit	1005	1010	1001	Glazed pottery c.19 century. nail			>0.15m				
1007	1	Natural gravel substrate. Gravelly gritty soil, sparse small stones >0.05m. Mixed fill gravel (Munsell) 10YR 3/6 dark yellowish brown	Natural substrate	Deposit	1006 /1008	1001			3.2m	3m					
1008	1	Dark grey stony soil. (Munsell) 10R 3/1 Sandy gritty with charcoal flecks-rounded stones >0.12m Dark reddish grey	Ditch fill (upper) ditch [1017]	Deposit	1007	1016	1001	Med pot glazed	2.8m	3m	<0.38m		D6	D4	
1009	1	Blue/grey sandy deposit. Cobbles/rubble deposit) (Munsell) 2.5Y 4/1 dark grey silt with fine grit inclusions with piece of furnace lining	Below (1004) intermediate fill of ditch [1019] Intermediate/upper fill of ditch [1019]	Deposit	1004	1014	1010	Furnace lining	2.5m		<0.2m		D6	D3	

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Context No	Trench No	Description	Interpretation	Context type	Adjoining	Above	Below	Finds	Length	Breadth	Depth	Notes	Plans	Sections	Samples
1010	1	Cobbles/rubble deposit. Large rounded stones in pale grey matrix (abundant 60-70%) of soil between stones random. Stones >0.25m average 0.14m (Munsell) 10YR 4/3 brown	Intermediate fill deposit defined by concentrated ? Layer of stone/cobbles. Intermediate layer of dense cobbles filling ditch [1018]	Deposit		1013	1006		5.5m		>0.35m		D6	D5	
1011	1	Dark linear stony deposit SW of (1003) Gritty brown	Now same as (1025) This is a ditch fill that was revealed by machine excavation but initially not recognised.	Deposit	1025		1002		2.7m	3m	0.18m				
1012	1	Orange gravelly deposit with 20% small stones and occasionally large. Natural with intermittent top soil	?Natural substrate	Deposit			?1001								
1013	1	0.5m below (1010) darker soil with less stone. (Munsell) 10YR 4/1 dark grey. Rounded stones of varied size .001m and 0.3m average 0.15m ( abundant 40-50% in dark grey sandy silt with higher water content than (1010) some charcoal	Intermediate/upper fill deposit of ditch [1018]	Deposit		1024	1010	Med pot slag	5.5m		>0.3m			D5	
1014	1	Bottom of ditch very stony below (1019) (Munsell) 10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown gritty silt containing abundant small to medium sized cobbles and smaller stones	Primary fill of ditch [1019]	Deposit		[1019]	1009		>0.11m		>0.4m		D6	D3	?
1015	1	Below (1008) Dark friable silty material overlying (1016) inclusions stones, 0.01m-0.02m occasional charcoal flecks	Accumulation of ditch fill, primary fill of ditch [1017]	Deposit		1016	1008	Small sherd blue glass. Find2			<0.15m	Sketch in record		D4	
1016	1	Details below (1008) Sandy fine particles dry friable materials numerous stony inclusions 0.03m-0.15m Collection of larger boulders at centre of context. (Munsell) 5YR3/4dark reddish brown Within this context a lens of darker charcoal rich material 0.1mx0.1mx0.15m <9008>	Fill of ditch [1017] Represents the primary layer infilling the ditch (cut [1017])	Deposit		[1017]	1008, 1015		3.28m		<0.2m	Sketch on record	D6	D4	<9008>
1017	1	Ditch cut containing (1008) (1016) and (1015) The original cut in the natural. Ditch cut[1017] wide and open shallow U-shaped profile with gently sloping side to a rounded base. Ditch is aligned roughly NW-SE	Ditch cut [1017]	Cut		1007	1016		3.78m	c.4m	1.15m	Sketch on record	D6	D4	
1018	1	Ditch cut containing (1006) (1010) (1013) and (1023) Cut of ditch [1018] large ditch cut aligned roughly NW-SE with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Filled by a sequence of stony deposits	?ditch cut [1018] (see section drawing for fills)	Cut		1005, 1007	1024			c.5.3m	0.86m		D6	D5a-c	

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Context No	Trench No	Description	Interpretation	Context type	Adjoining	Above	Below	Finds	Length	Breadth	Depth	Notes	Plans	Sections	Samples
1019	1	Ditch cut containing (1004) (1009) (1014) and (100?) The original cut in the natural of the ditch [1019] open U-shaped profile with gently sloping sides to a rounded base.	Ditch cut [1019] Ditch cut aligned N-S cut into natural sands and gravels	Cut		1002/1005	1014		>0.2m	c.1.8m	c.0.6m		D6	D3	
1020	1	Ditch cut containing (1003) (1011) (1022) (1023)(1025)	Ditch cut [1020] -investigated in 2 no. cuttings	Cut					0.28m		0.38m				
1021	1	Below (1022) Gentle sided cut (Munsell) YR2.5Y 4/1 dark grey Potion of ditch cut revealed -contained with ditch [1020] containing stones >0.15m	Upper ditch fill of [1020]	Cut		1025	1003		0.28m		>0.3m				
1022	1	=(1003) Stony deposit with gritty soil matrix. Upper fill of ditch [1021], below (1003) (Munsell) 10YR 3/3 Dark brown.	same as (1003) upper ditch fill below top soil	Deposit		1023	1003		0.6m		0.2m				
1023	1	Below (1022) Mixed deposit with charcoal inclusions gritty grey with high % of reddish brown patches (Munsell) 10YR 4/3 Brown	int fill of ditch [1020]	Deposit		1025	1022		2.41m	0.3m	0.15m		D6		<9011>
1024	1	Below (1013) (Munsell) 10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown. Sandy silty soil. Below (1013) but including lenses of (1013) within contained sherds of Med pot(glazed0, iron pieces, slag, stone tool and charcoal.	?intermediate fill of ditch [1018] or ? primary fill? The bulk primary fill of ditch [1018]	Deposit		[1018]	1013	pot, metal, stone	5m		>0.75m		5A		<9004> <9010>
1025	1	Below (1023) Grey silty sandy soil sitting on natural 10yr 5/2 G greyish brown	Primary fill of Ditch [1020]	Deposit		[1020]	1023		1.15m		0.1m				
1026	1	(Munsell) 10YR 3/6 Dark yellowish brown. Topsoil.	Same as topsoil	Deposit											
1027	1	Secondary fill of Ditch [1017]	Intermediate ditch fill	Deposit		1016	1015								

**Table 2: Trench 2 Context Register**

Context No	Trench No	Description	Interpretation	Context type	Adjoining	Above	Below	Finds	Length	Breadth	Depth	Notes	Plans	Samples
2000	2	Cleaning layer unstratified finds, top soil cleaning. Sits above (2001)	Trench 2 unstratified finds	Surface				Modern Nail				Machine excavation		
2001	2	Topsoil. Fine and gritty, friable sandy silt. 10YR 4/2 (Munsell) Sits above (2005).	Topsoil/cultivation layer	Deposit		2005	2000	Pottery sherds(?All modern)	Extent excavated	Extent excavated	up to 0.28m	Machine excavation	D1	

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Context No	Trench No	Description	Interpretation	Context type	Adjoining	Above	Below	Finds	Length	Breadth	Depth	Notes	Plans	Samples
2002	2	Narrowly spaced plough marks (6) filled with (2001) on average 0.4-0.5m wide and spaced less than 0.1m in plan, running NNW-SSE turning to N-S 10YR 4/2(Munsell)	Narrow strips of topsoil filling plough marks on top of natural substrate. Modern, not excavated.	Cut		2005	2000			0.45m	<0.15 m		D1	
2003	2	Narrowly spaced plough marks (3) filled with (2001) on average 0.4-0.5m wide and spaced less than 0.1m in plan, running N-S in N half of trench. 10YR 4/2(Munsell)	Modern plough marks	Cut		2005	2000			0.45m	<0.15 m		D1	
2004	2	Charcoal spread, highly irregular with indiscriminate/random burning	A highly irregular and interrupted veneer of charcoal rich soil overlying natural gravels. Not excavated and likely to be indicative of recent scrub burning.	Deposit		2005	2001		c.0.60m	c.0.25m	N/A		D1	
2005	2	Natural gravel substrate	Natural substrate	Deposit			Below all other deposits		Extent excavated	Extent excavated		Machine excavation	D1	
2006	2	Sub-rectangular slightly darker gravel patch with occasional charcoal flecks and very poorly defined boundary	Possible soil feature. Not excavated.	Deposit		2005	2001		c.1.20m	c.0.8m	N/A	Machine excavation	D1	

**Table 3: Trench 7 Context Register**

Context No	Trench No	Description	Interpretation	Context type	below	adjoining	above	Finds	Length	Breadth	Depth	Notes	Plans	Section	Sample
7000	7	Unstratified finds	Cleaning layer unstratified finds only.					Yes							
7001	7	<i>Acrotelm</i> (N end) Dark muddy water. Recognisable plant remains very slightly decomposed peat.. No amorphous material present. Low moisture content. (H3/B2)	<i>Acrotelm</i> uppermost peat/humic deposit. Von Post classification H3/D2	Deposit			7003		>3m	<2.5m	up to 0.4m				
7002	7	Topsoil (non humic) Terrestrial origin. Sandy-silt loam. Friable with sparse smaller stones.	Terrestrial topsoil in T7 (approx S half of trench)	Deposit		7001	7018		>10m	>3m	up to 0.6m		D2	7	
7003	7	Humic deposit. Very dry and crumbly-no plant remains-breaks up very easily. Practically fully decomposed peat-dry	below (7001) Humic peat deposit Von Post classification H9/B1	Deposit		7001	7004				up to 0.5m		D2	7	Column x 2
7004	7	Sedge peat Practically fully decomposed low moisture content. H9/B2 sapric muck (Von Post)	below (7003) Humic/peat deposit Von Post classification H9/B2	Deposit	7003		7005		> trench	> trench	up to 0.5m		D2	7	Column x 2



Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Context No	Trench No	Description	Interpretation	Context type	below	adjoining	above	Finds	Length	Breadth	Depth	Notes	Plans	Section	Sample
7005	7	Lower humic layer Dark muddy water pale semi-organic material. Fabric peat slightly decomposed. High moisture content with large wood/tree root inclusions	below (7004) Humic/peat deposit lower peat deposit over glacial gravel (7006) = Same as (7011) Von Post H4/B4	Deposit	7004	7011	7006		> trench	> trench	up to 0.7m		D2	7	Column x 2
7006	7	Pale grey silt Pale grey/natural silt. (Munsell)2YR5.5/2MC Greyish brown.	natural silts. Natural till, silty sandy gravels	Deposit	7007				> trench	> trench	N/A		D2	7	Column x 1
7007	7	Compacted grey gritty subsoil. YR7.5.2.5/2 (Munsell) Very dark brown containing sparse to moderate small to medium stones and cobbles	partly above (7004) and (7006) terrestrial soil and stone deposit in S half of T7	Deposit	7002	7012?	7008/7009	?Pot	>c.3m	c.3m	up to 0.5m		D2	7	?
7008	7	Stone tumble Rounded stones about c.0.1m diameter to 0.25m mid trench	Rounded stones c.0.1m diameter to 0.25m diameter mid trench From c.202m to 7.2m Note this refers to the stone rubble in the deposit. The soil matrix was recorded separately as (7009) therefore (7008) = (7009)	Deposit	7007/7002	7009	7006/7010	Pot, stone	c.4,5m	>1.6m	up to 0.4m		D2	7	9012
7009	7	Gleyed soil matrix between (7008) Gleyed soil (matrix) between (within)(7008)- gritty, silky, grey soil with numerous pieces small charcoal	Gleyed gritty grey silty soil with numerous small pieces of charcoal. See (7008) Charcoal rich soil deposit with common cobble rubble (7008) produced quern fragment and a handful of pottery sherds=cultural deposit	Deposit	7007/7002	7008	7010/7006	Pot, stone			up to 0.4m		D2	7	9012
7010	7	Peaty soil below (7009)/(7008) Dark greyish brown sand-silt with sparse stone/cobbles and common charcoal flecks and larger lumps(?roundwood)	A peaty soil below (7009) Charcoal rich soil with pottery sherds accumulated against S side of boundary indicated by (7018). Several samples taken=primary cultural deposit	Deposit	7009/7008	7018	7006	Pot	c2m	>1.6m	up to 0.4m		D2	7	<9014> <9015> <9016>
7011	7	Lower humic peat layer overlying peat silts (7004)-(7007) Only revealed and examined in trench section. See description for (7005) above.	Only revealed in trench section. Same as (7005) Von Post H4/B4 contained (7013) = wooden ? Stake/pile	Deposit	7004		7006	Wood			up to 0.75m		D2	7	Column s x2
7012	7	Stony sandy silt layer (terrestrial) Above (7003) and below (7002) Recorded in section only Wedge shaped deposit of friable stony soil directly below top soil and appearing to extend from S to N	Thick terrestrial soil layer overlying upper peat layer (7003) in part ? Derived from cultivation?	Deposit	7002		7003				up to 0.6m			7	
7013	7	Wood stake? Group of stones adjacent to ?point possibly reflect remnant of packing-irregular wooden?stake formed to a possible point at SW end. No definite evidence for tooling or regularised cross section.	In humic peat deposit. Possible wooden stake or pile thoroughly waterlogged left in situ and not removed	Other wooden stake?	7004	7011	7011	Wood					D2		
7014	7	VOID													
7015	7	?Ditch cut Boundary of linear feature located at extreme S end of T7 aligned roughly W-E and defined by concentration of cobbles and rubble	Linear cut feature=ditch probably. Not excavated.	Cut	7016	7017	7006		>1.6m	c.0.75m			D2	7	

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Context No	Trench No	Description	Interpretation	Context type	below	adjoining	above	Finds	Length	Breadth	Depth	Notes	Plans	Section	Sample
		(7016)													
7016	7	Ditch fill. Concentrated band of rubble and gritty sand silt soil aligned roughly W-E at the extreme S end of T7. Cobbles >0.35m x0.18m Bounded by [7015]	Probably ditch/gully fill not excavated. No finds or dating evidence recovered from surface cleaning.	Deposit	7002	?7015	7015		>1.6m	>0.75m	>0.1m		D2	7	
7017	7	?Deposit? Ditch fill Very well consolidated layer of reddish brown gritty stony sand almost seems cemented in places.		Deposit	7002	7015/7016	?7006		>0.6m	>0.2m	>0.03m		D2	7	
7018	7	Cobble rubble remains of stone/?turf wall/bank. Part of general deposit of small to medium sized and occasionally large cobbles revealed on central part of T7 only recognised as remains of probable structure when cleaned and recorded in section.	Initially described as 7008 but in section clearly reflects part of a structure. Cobbles/rubble reflecting remains of stone or stone/turf wall/boundary aligned roughly W-E that separated wet deposits from terrestrial/cultural to the S	Structure	7008-7010-7012-7011		7006		>1.6m	c.1.3m	c.0.8m		D2	7	
7019	7	Deposit of laminated silt/clay on N side of (7018) Deposit of laminated light brown silt-clay that has slight (c.10%) humic content. Contains sparse charcoal inclusions and very thin laminae of very pale grey grits. This wedge shaped deposit is within (7011) (humic/peat)	Localised deposit recorded in section. Wedge shaped deposit butting the N side of (7018) ?boundary structure.	Deposit	7011	7018	7011		c.1m		up to 0.3m		D2		

**Table 4: Trench 9 Context Register**

Context No	Trench No	Description	Interpretation	Context type	Adjoining	Above	Below	Finds	Length	Breadth	Depth	Notes	Plans	Sections	Samples
9000	9	Turf and topsoil layer	Top 0.5m rough turf and nettles. Topsoil layer removed by hand	Deposit		9001									
9001	9	Top soil light sandy uniform soil-50% rounded stones>0.2m (Munsell) 10YR 4/3 Dark greyish brown	Sandy/stony top soil. Stone up to 0.1mx0.1m	Deposit		9002	9000				>0.3m				

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

9002	9	Light coloured hard clay/ surface. (Munsell) 2SY 8/1 White, Compacted greasy clay-undulating surface with stone inclusions (5%) some of which compressed down with E/SE plough marks scoured into upper surface	Rammed clay layer with stones ?floor. Well consolidated and seemingly deliberately rammed section of clay floor with sparse rounded stones impressed into the surface.= possible interior floor of building or structure	Deposit	9003	9003	9001	pot	1.70m		0.1m	photos 4174, 4175			
9003	9	Orange gravelly natural soil	Natural gravel/till substrate	Deposit	9004		9002								
9004	9	Light brown gravelly friable soil with some cobbles in narrow linear <i>band</i>	Linear soil deposit not excavated	Deposit	9002, 9003, 9005		9002								
9005	9	Charcoal-rich soil deposit	Patches of charcoal rich deposit directly over rammed clay deposit (9002). Not excavated.	Deposit		9002	9001								

### Sample Register

Sample number	Trench no.	Context no.	Description	No of bags	Initials	Date
9000	NOT USED					
9001	1	1004	Ashy grey with flecks of charcoal, 45% rounded stones < 200m	2	TB	9 September 2018
9002	1	1014	Primary deposit		TB	10 September 2018
9003	1	1015	Dark soil rich material cut into 1016	2	RGSJ	11 September 2018
9004	1	1024	Ditch fill dark grey soil matrix	3	JM	11 September 2018
9005	1	1016	Ditch fill dark grey soil matrix			11 September 2018
9006	1	1003	fill of ditch 1020 brown orange 45% charcoal	1	AC	10 September 2018
9007	7	7004 etc	humic peat deposits column #1 of 2	1	KC	10 September 2018
9008	1	1016	lens of darker charcoal rich material within 1016	1	RGSJ	11 September 2018
9009			VOID			
9010	1	1024	Primary ditch fill with charcoal	1	JM	12 September 2018

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Sample number	Trench no.	Context no.	Description	No of bags	Initials	Date
9011	1	1023	mixed charcoal intrusions	1		13 September 2018
9012	7	7009	grey gleyed gritty soil with stone inclusions	2	JW	13 September 2018
9013	7	7004 etc	humic peat deposits column # 2 of 2	1	ACY	13 September 2018
9014	7	7010	charcoal rich deposit with prehistoric pottery	3	ACY	14 September 2018
9015	7	7010	?Bulk soil for charcoal and finds	1	TB	15 September 2018
9016	7	7010	Bulk soil for charcoal and finds	1	TB	15 September 2018

### ***Finds Register***

Find No	Location (Trench)	Context No	Dimensions 1 (mm)	Dimension 2 (mm)	Material	Description	Comments
1	T2	2002	10	10	slag	Small lump of slag found by kids	
2	T1	1015	1.5	0.5	glass	fragment of blue glass	
3	T2	2002	10	10	glass	Marble found by kids	
4	T1	1024	30	40	ceramic	Redware pottery sherd, small amount of glaze	BM height 3.26m
5	T1	1024	70	50	ceramic	Redware pottery sherd. Glazed	BM height 3.23m
6	T2	2000	35	10	ceramic	Redware pottery	
7	T2	2000	15		glass	6 sherds glass	ca 15mm average
8	T2	2000	15		ceramic	3 sherds partly glazed	
9	T2	2000	10		charcoal	small piece of charcoal	
10	T1	1003	10		charcoal	4 pieces charcoal	
11	T1	1003	15	15	ceramic	ceramic Whiteware	
12	T1	1003	5		charcoal	charcoal c 20 pieces	
13	T1	1003	13		glass	glass faintly blue	
14	T1	1006	15		ceramic	glazed Whiteware	
15	T1	1006	20	25	charred material	Coke (very lightweight)	

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Find No	Location (Trench)	Context No	Dimensions 1 (mm)	Dimension 2 (mm)	Material	Description	Comments
16	T7	7000	75	40	glass	Glass curved embossed "SH"	
17	T7	7000	65	25	coal	Coal	
18	T7	7000	35	15	ceramic	White glazed curved	
19	T7	7000	35	30	glass	Clear glass with rim	
20	T7	7000	80	60	fabric ? Wood ?	Chunk of fabric? Or possibly wood	
21	T7	7000	20	10	ceramic	Whiteware	
22	T7	7000	50	50	ceramic	Glazed Whiteware	
23	T7	7000	20	20	ceramic	Redware	
24	T7	7000	45	25	ceramic	Glazed Redware	
25	T7	7000	50	60	ceramic	3pieces blue & white glaze	sizes (mm)50x60, 35x55, 10x 20
26	T7	7000	85	70	ceramic	Glazed white (saucer ?)	
27	T7	7000	40	25	glass	Green glass x 2	second piece 40x15
28	T7	7000	10	5	ceramic	Redware pottery sherd	
29	T7	7003	60	20	ceramic	Glazed Redware	
30	T1	1003	45	40	slag	slag	
31	T1	1013	25	25	ceramic	?Medieval pot. Large sherd + several tiny pieces	
32	T7	7000	20	25	ceramic	Glazed Whiteware	
33	T1	1008	10	10	ceramic	?Med pot	
34	T7	7000	25	15	coal	Coal?	
35	T1	1008	25	7.5	iron	Iron piece?	
36	T7	7000	25	15	glass	Clear glass x 4	
37	T7	7003	25	10	glass	Green glass	?modern
38	T7	7003	45	35	ceramic	?Med pot (outer glazed)	
39	T7	7003	80	55	glass	Green glass	
40	T7	7003	10	10	charcoal	charcoal	
41	T7	7003	20	7.5	stoneware?	stoneware?	
42	T1	1006	55		iron	nail?	

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Find No	Location (Trench)	Context No	Dimensions 1 (mm)	Dimension 2 (mm)	Material	Description	Comments
43	T1	1006	20	10	ceramic	glazed Whiteware x 3	
44	T7	7003	25	10	ceramic	pot	
45	T1	1024	50	10	ceramic	Possible Med pot multiple pieces	
46	T1	1024	80	30	ceramic	Possible Med pot rim	
47	T1	1016	85	40	stone	possible hammerstone	
48		VOID					Not used
49		VOID					Not used
50	T2	2002	40	20	ceramic ?	Possible furnace lining or vitrified material	
51	T1	unstratified			stone	found in rubble	
52	T1	1003	60	40	slag		
53	T7				med pot		
54	T7	1008	300	200	mica schist	1/4 quern stone (rough, unused?)	
55	T9	9000	25	15	coal	small piece of coal on horizon of section in T9	
56	T9	9001	25	10	ceramic	White glazed pot	
57	T9	9001	25	10	ceramic	Redware pot	
58	T7	7010	20		ceramic	Prehistoric pottery	
59	T9	9001	25	0.5	glass	Small sherd curved glass	
60	T1	1024	60	20	metal	iron object	
61	T2	unstratified	20	30	ceramic		?modern and U/S
62	T7	7010			ceramic	17 fragments ?prehistoric pottery	
63	T1	1011	400	300	slag	2 pieces, smaller 250x200mm	
64	T1	1009	50	35		piece of furnace lining with red burn	
65	T9	9001	40	20	glass	sherd glass	
66	T9	9001	20	10	coal	6 small pieces coal	
67	T7	7010	50	50	pot	prehistoric pot sherd	

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Find No	Location (Trench)	Context No	Dimensions 1 (mm)	Dimension 2 (mm)	Material	Description	Comments
68	T1	1024	55	40	slag		
69	T1	1024	105	95	anvil stone ?		
70	T1	1024	25	20	med pot ?	2 pieces 2nd 20x15	
71	T9	9002	35	25	old pot	found on horizon 9001/9002 crucible?	
72	T9	9001	45	35	? Pumice/coke	very light material pumice or coke?	
73	T9	9001	30	10	ceramic	4 x white glazed pot	
74	T9	9001	20	10	coal	3 small pieces coal	
75	T7	7010			prehistoric pot	12 small pieces of pot	
76	T1	1025	25	20	slag	1 piece slag	
77	T7	7008			prehistoric pot	1 piece of pot	
78	T7	7006	10	17	prehistoric pot	1 piece of pot	
79	T7	7006			prehistoric pot	fragments of pot. 4 pieces	
80	T9	9002			charcoal	3 small fragments of charcoal in the clay	
81	T9	9001	20	15	glass	glass	?modern
82	T1	1006	40	15	metal	piece of possible slag	

### Drawing Register

Drawing number	Plan/section	Trench no.	Subject/context numbers	Scale	Notes	Initials
1	Plan	2	Plan of trench 2	1:20		AY
2	Plan	7	Plan of trench 7	1:20		Cullum
3	Section	1	Section SE facing Ditch [1019]	1:10		Tim /BB
4	Section	1	Section SE facing Ditch [1017] (1008)(1015) (1016)	1:10		RSJ

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Drawing number	Plan/section	Trench no.	Subject/context numbers	Scale	Notes	Initials
5A	Section	1	Section SE face Ditch [1018]	1:10		TB/BB
5B	Section	1	Section NE face Ditch [1018]	1:10		TB/AC
5C	Section	1	Section E face Ditch [1018]	1:10		TB/AC
5D		1	As 5B			
5E		1	As 5B			
6	Plan	1	all	1:20		AY/MMM
7	Section	7	Section along W facing, all and stepped	1:10	2 drawing with 2 No datum	AY
8	Plan	4	? Stone setting at W end (4003)	1:20		
9	Plan	4	Plan possible post hole (4004) (4009)	1:20		
10	Section	4	Feature unspecified	1:10		
11	Section	1	N facing Section ditch [1020] etc	1:10		
12	Plan	3	detail plan drawing (3017)	1:20		
13	Plan	3	deposit (3003) detail	1:20		
14	Plan	3	as excavated	1:20		AY
15	Section	3	W facing section of W end pit at N side cut [3010] fills (3006) (3008) (3009)	1:10		
16	Section	4	W end section of NE face of pit [4022] (4003) (4021)			
17	Section	3	SSW facing section of pit [3021] (3014) (3016)	1:10		
18	Section	3	S facing section of Ditch [3011] (3012) recut [3015] fill (3013)	1:10		
19	Section	4	N facing section [4020] with fill (4013) and (4019)	1:10		
20	Plan	6	detail	1:20		
21	Section	6	Ditch [6004C]facing S, slot[6004C]	1:10		
22	Section	6	Ditch [6004B]facing S, slot[6004B]	1:10		
23	Section	6	Ditch [6004A]facing S, slot[6004A]	1:10		



Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Drawing number	Plan/section	Trench no.	Subject/context numbers	Scale	Notes	Initials
24	Plan	4	As excavated showing cuttings	1:20		
25	Plan	3	Pit W end S side after excavating second half [3021] cut	1:20		
26	Plan	9	as excavated	1:20		
27	Plan	3	Post-ex SE corner trench 3 cut [3035] fills (3024) (3036)	1:20		

## Photographic Register

Photo Number	Trench No	Contexts and Description	Direction Facing
4047	1	as excavated	SW
4048	1	as excavated	SW
4049	1	as excavated	SW
4050	7	as excavated 2x1 m scales	NW
4051	7	as excavated 2x1 m scales	NW
4052	7	as excavated 2x1 m scales	NW
4053	7	as excavated 2x1 m scales	NW
4054	7	as excavated 2x1 m scales	NW
4055	2	as excavated 2x1 m scales	NW
4056	2	as excavated 2x1 m scales	NW
4057	1	after cleaning 2 m x 1 m x 0.5	NE
4058	1	after cleaning 2 m x 1 m x 0.5	NE
4059	1	after cleaning 2 m x 1 m x 0.5	NE
4060	1	after cleaning 2 m x 1 m x 0.5	NE
4061	1	after cleaning 2 m x 1 m x 0.5	NE
4062	1	after cleaning 2 m x 1 m x 0.5	NE
4063	1	work in progress showing team	NE
4064	1	work in progress showing team	NE
4065	1	work in progress showing team	NE
4066	1	work in progress showing team	NE
4067	1	work in progress showing team	NNE
4068	2	trench 2 after cleaning 1 m x 0.5	NW
4069	2	trench 2 after cleaning 1 m x 0.5	NW
4070	2	trench 2 after cleaning 1 m x 0.5	NW
4071	2	trench 2 after cleaning 1 m x 0.5	NW
4072	2	trench 2 after cleaning 1 m x 0.5	NW

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Photo Number	Trench No	Contexts and Description	Direction Facing
4073	7	part excavation showing (700.) 3x1m	NW
4074	7	part excavation showing (700.) 3x1m	NW
4075	7	part excavation showing (700.) 3x1m	NW
4076	1	part excavation showing (1010)2x1m	E
4077	1	part excavation showing (1010) 2x1 m	NE
4078	1	work in progress showing team 2x1m	NE
4079	1	part excavation showing (1010) 2x1 m +50	N
4080	1	general view	E
4081	1	general view	E
4082	1	general view	E
4083	1	general view	E
4084	1	general view	E
4085	1	general view	E
4086	1	general view	E
4087	7	general view	N
4088	7	general view	N
4089	7	general view	N
4090	7	general view	N
4091	7	general view	S
4092	7	general view	S
4093	7	general view	S
4094	7	general view	S
4095	7	pre-ex whole trench portrait	SE
4096	7	pre-ex whole trench portrait	SE
4097	7	pre-ex whole trench portrait	SE
4097	7	pre-ex whole trench landscape top half	SE
4098	7	pre-ex whole trench landscape top half	SE
4099	7	pre-ex landscape general view	SE
4100	7	pre-ex landscape bottom	SE

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Photo Number	Trench No	Contexts and Description	Direction Facing
4101	7	pre-ex landscape bottom	SE
4102	7	pre-ex landscape middle	SE
4103	7	pre-ex landscape middle	SE
4104	1	view of fill (1003) with cut (1021) looking at NNW section	NW
4105	1	view of fill (1003) with cut (1021) looking at NNW section	WNW
4106	1	view of fill (1003) with cut (1021) looking towards SE section	NW
4107	1	view of fill (1003) with cut (1021) looking towards SE section	NW
4108	1	view of fill (1003) with cut (1021) looking towards SE section	WNW
4109	1	view of SSE facing section of cut (1019) with fill (1009) and (1014)	NNW
4110	1	view of SSE facing section of cut (1019) with fill (1009) and (1014)	NNW
4111	1	view of SSE facing section of cut (1019) with fill (1009) and (1014)	NNW
4112	1	view of SSE facing section of cut (1019) with fill (1009) and (1014)	NNW
4113	1	view of SSE facing section of cut (1019) with fill (1009) and (1014)	NNW
4114	1	close up of SSE facing section of cut (1019) with fill (1009) and (1014)	NNW
4115	1	close up of SSE facing section of cut (1019) with fill (1009) and (1014)	NW
4116	7	view of section sampling column <9007>	W
4117	7	view of section sampling column <9007>	W
4118	7	view of section sampling column <9007>	W
4119	7	view of section sampling column <9007>	W
4120	7	view of section sampling column <9007>	W
4121	7	view of section sampling column <9007>	W
4122	7	water logged wood in situ	W
4123	7	water logged wood in situ	W
4124	1	general section drawing (Tim Blackie and Beth Blackburn)	NW
4125	1	James McComas ditch examination in progress	NW
4126	1	James McComas ditch examination in progress	NW
4127	1	Rowland Spencer-Jones ditch examination	SE
4128	1	General works	NW
4129	1	Ditch [4017] facing north wall section	NW

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Photo Number	Trench No	Contexts and Description	Direction Facing
4130	1	Ditch [4017] facing north wall section	N
4131	1	Ditch [4017] facing north face of ditch	N
4132	1	[2017] longitudinal view of ditch	W
4133	1	[2017] north face of ditch	NE
4134	1	[2018] looking into ditch	N
4135	1	[2018] view of north face of ditch - 1	NE
4136	1	[2018] view of north face of ditch - 2	N
4137	1	[2018] view of north face of ditch - 3	NW
4138	1	[2018] view of north face of ditch - 4	N
4139	1	[2018] looking into ditch- 1	N
4140	1	[2018] looking into ditch- 2	?
4141	1	[2018] looking into ditch- 3	N
4142	1	[2018] looking into ditch- 4	N
4143	1	aerial view of [1017] and [1018] landscape	E
4144	1	aerial view of [1017] and [1018] landscape	E
4145	1	aerial view of [1017] and [1018] portrait	E
4146	1	aerial close-up of [1018]	E
4147	1	action photo of length of trench	E
4148	1	action photo of length of trench	E
4149	1	action photo of length of trench	E
4150	7	Action shot - Jean and Ken Bowker, with Bob Jones	NW
4151	7	Action shot - Jean and Ken Bowker, with Bob Jones	NW
4152	7	(7008) (7009) (7010) mid ex, mid trench after removal of (7009)	S
4153	7	(7008) (7009) (7010) mid ex, mid trench after removal of (7009)	S
4154	7	? Pot sherd in situ in (7008/7009) scale shown	V
4155	7	W-facing section and cleaning	NE
4156	7	as photo 4155 portrait	NE
4157	7	mosaic trench as excavated showing w facing section	E
4158	7	mosaic trench as excavated showing w facing section	E

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Photo Number	Trench No	Contexts and Description	Direction Facing
4159	7	mosaic trench as excavated after cleaning	E
4160	7	showing west facing section	E
4161	7	1m and 0.5 scales	E
4162	7	repeats of photos 4159 - 4161	?
4163	7	repeats of photos 4159 - 4161	?
4164	7	repeats of photos 4159 - 4161	?
4165	1	photo of trench in distance	E
4166	7	detail of west facing	E
4167	7	section in trench	E
4168	7	scales 1m x 0.5	E
4169		picture of parked cars, part of Roland Spencer Jones mosaic	?
4170		Karen Clarke waving at Roland	?
4171	7	mosaic of work ongoing in trench	E
4172	7	mosaic of work ongoing in trench	E
4173	7	repeat photos of 4171 and 4172	E
4174	9	pottery sherd in (9002) Jean and Ken Bowker	?
4175	9	pottery sherd in (9002) Jean and Ken Bowker	?
4176		error	-
4177	1	cut [1020] view from north	S
4178	1	cut [1020] view from north	S
4179	1	cut [1020] view from north	S
4180	1	as above photos 4177 - 4179 after water spraying	S
4181	1	as above photos 4177 - 4179 after water spraying	S
4182	1	as above photos 4177 - 4179 after water spraying	S
4183	9	view from S or section 9002 and 9003	N
4184	9	view from S or section 9002 and 9003	N
4185	9	view from W of section 9002 and 9003	E
4186	9	view from N of section 9002 and 9003	S
4187	9	view from E of section 9002 and 9003	W

Tarradale Through Time Project 2018  
 Gilchrist Promontory Fort – Data Structure Report & PERD

Photo Number	Trench No	Contexts and Description	Direction Facing
4188	9	Tr9 after spraying	N
4189	9	Tr9 after spraying	N
4190	9	Tr9 close up of plough marks on north side of trench	?
4191	9	Tr9 close up of possible stone setting in SE corner	?
4192	7	wooden log (7013) lying in (7011)	SW
4193	7	wooden log (7013) lying in (7011)	SW
4194	7	wooden log (7013) lying in (7011)	SW
4195		error	
4196	3	pre ex west end	N
4197	3	pre ex west end	N
4198	3	pre ex west end	N
4199	3	pre ex main ditch (3002) fill	N
4200	3	pre ex main ditch (3002) fill	N
4201	3	pre ex features (303) fill and linear features (304) fill - these should be (3003) and (3004) ?	N
4202	3	pre ex features (303) fill and linear features (304) fill - these should be (3003) and (3004) ?	N
4203	3	pre ex features (303) fill and linear features (304) fill - these should be (3003) and (3004)?	N
4204	3	east end pre ex	N
4205	3	east end pre ex	N
4206	3	facing west pre ex	N