Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

Can You Dig It?

Community Archaeology Project

Data Structure Report

1.2.b Later Prehistoric Power Centres –

Little Wood Hill, Threave

by Claire Williamson

issued 7th April 2020

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed Claire Williamson…… Date …..7th April 2020…….

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked Thomas Rees. Date …..7th April 2020…….

Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Claire Williamson		
Date of Issue	7th April 2020	Version	1.0
Commissioning Body	Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme		
Event Name	Little Wood Hill, Threave		
Event Type	Excavation		
Event Date(s)	September 2019		
Rathmell Archaeology Code	RA18107		
Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : Dumfries & Galloway		
NGR	NX 74342 62310	Parish	Kelton
Designation(s)	None		
Canmore IDs	64677		

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report describes works carried out for the sub-project on Later Prehistoric Power Centres carried out as part of the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) community archaeology project *Can You Dig It?* This Report presents the results from excavation works undertaken at the site of Little Wood Hill situated within Threave Estate.

2. The works were carried out by volunteers supported by Rathmell Archaeology staff. The structure of the works was drawn from advice and guidance from officers of GGLP, Dumfries and Galloway Council, the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and members of local heritage societies.

Historical & Archaeological Background

3. A brief historical and archaeological baseline for the site at Little Wood Hill has been lifted from the Research Design for the sub-project (Williamson & Rees 2019, 4):

> *Little Wood Hill sits within the grounds of the Threave Estate to the west of Castle Douglas, with the River Dee winding past to the north and west. On the flattish summit of this conspicuous knoll, the enclosure was initially only recognised through its identification on aerial photographs in the mid-20th century. It was visible as a roughly D-shaped enclosure formed by a single ditch with an entrance on the southeastern side. Overall the enclosure is 35m northeast-southwest by 32m transversely, with the entrance piercing the flat side (in plan). The enclosure only occupies the northwest half of the summit of Little Wood Hill. Aside from the clear outline visible on aerial photographs, no upstanding earthworks were present. The site sits roughly 300m to the northwest of Meikle Wood Hill, a Scheduled Monument which has been identified as an Iron Age hillfort.*
>
> *The Threave Estate was left to the care of the National Trust for Scotland in the late 1950s, and our knowledge of the site at Little Wood Hill was significantly advanced when a National Trust for Scotland Thistle Camp excavated trenches there in 2014* (Alexander, McPherson & Shearer 2014)*. They successfully located the sides and cut of the ditch which in general appeared to be V-shaped in profile. One trench, the only one to reach the ditch's base, recorded it as being 2.6m wide by 1.2m deep. Three small flakes of flint and a range of more modern material were recovered. A radiocarbon date ranging from the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD was also obtained from charcoal recovered from one of the ditch's fills.*

Project Works

4. The archaeological works focussed on the site of the enclosure ditch that sits atop Little Wood Hill on the Threave Estate (Figure 1a; **S1** in Williamson & Rees 2019). The site is located on level ground on the summit of the hill with clear views across the River Dee to the north (Figure 1b) and to the west, the latter of which includes views towards Threave Castle. To the southeast sits the scheduled monument at Meikle Wood Hill (Figure 1a), while the area to the south comprises mainly pastoral fields.

5. The on-site works were carried out between the 10th and 21st September 2019. Initially, a rectangular area measuring approximately 24m southwest to northeast by 18m northwest to southeast was marked out directly over the location of the ditch's southeast entranceway (Figures 2 and 3). It was also positioned to catch a section of the ditch's northeastern side as well as a portion of its interior. The area was topsoil stripped under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator with a smooth ditching bucket. With the surface of the natural subsoil exposed, the area was then hand-cleaned and four slots (numbered 1-4) hand-excavated into the enclosing ditch. Possible internal features were investigated through part excavation by hand. A second rectangular area was also stripped just to the southeast to look for external features, but time constraints prevented further investigation within this area.

Figure 1a: View of Little Wood Hill from the south, the start of Meikle Wood Hill on the right

Figure 1b: General shot of site showing views to the north including the River Dee

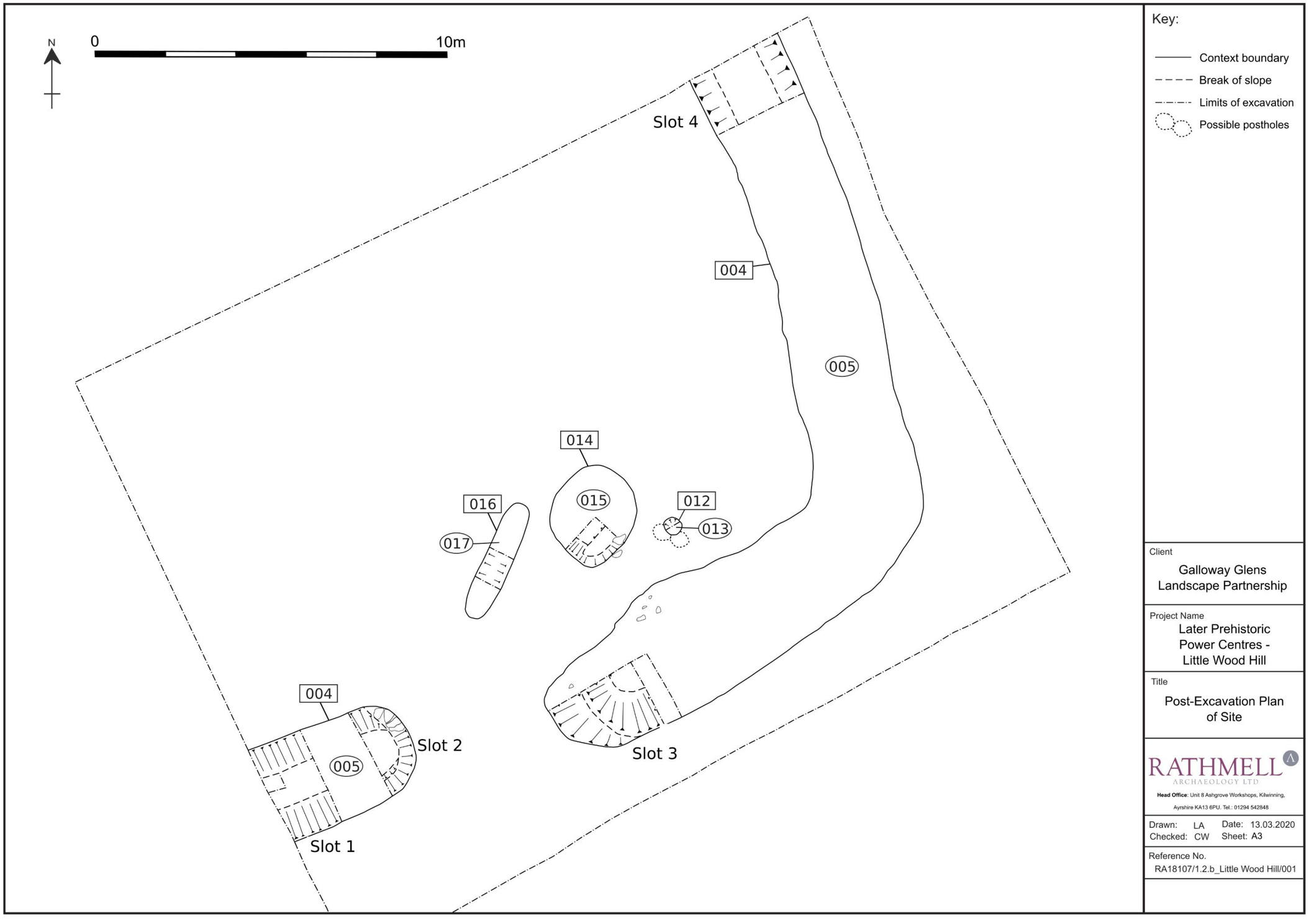


Figure 2: Plan of the excavated area

Figure 3: Birdseye view of excavated area, southwest to the top of the page (photograph courtesy of Alan Cameron)

6. All works were carried out using Rathmell Archaeology Ltd standard methods as outlined in the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) (Rees 2019). The fieldwork was undertaken in generally good weather, although there were some days of heavy rain and the hill was fairly exposed to the wind. In terms of structure, the core field team of Rathmell Archaeology staff and volunteers were on-site from 9am to 4pm.

Findings

7. Prior to excavation, the entire area was covered by turf and topsoil (001), which comprised a friable mid-orange brown sandy clay with frequently occurring sub-rounded and angular stone inclusions. (001) measured 100 to 200mm thick and produced one find of an iron pin or clench-bolt (<11>).

8. The topsoil was removed to reveal the surface of the underlying natural subsoil, represented by (002) and (003). Subsoil (002) covered most of the excavated area, mainly present within the area to the interior of ditch [004]. It consisted of a firmly compacted dark brown sandy clay with frequently occurring small to medium-sized stone inclusions (both sub-rounded and sub-angular). In the southeast corner of the excavated area, (003) represented an area of natural variation in the subsoil (Figure 3). Sitting to the exterior of ditch [004], it comprised a firmly compacted mid-orange brown sandy clay with frequently occurring small to medium-sized stone inclusions (both sub-rounded and sub-angular).

9. Cut into the surface of the natural subsoil, enclosure ditch [004] was exposed as well as a small number of possible features within its interior (Figures 2 and 3). The nature of the subsoil was such that the features became very difficult to see once the ground had dried out, making it often difficult to be certain on the character of each of the features exposed. This potentially means that other features could still be present that were not identified during this season of work.

10. Several surface finds were recovered from the stripped area. These included flints <1> and <20>, possible chert <21>, quartz <7> and fragments of coarse mortar or plaster <19>. Two iron pin or nail shanks <8> and <10> and a tanged tine or blade <22> were also recovered.

Ditch [004]

11. The excavation area was largely dominated by the presence of enclosure ditch [004]. Visible on aerial photographs as enclosing a D-shaped area on the summit of Little Wood Hill, the area captured the majority of its 'straight' southeastern side and a portion of its curved northeastern side.

12. Ditch [004] entered the southwestern corner of the area running in a straight line southwest to northeast for a length of 4.5m before ending in a rounded terminus. There was then a gap of 4.1m before the line of the ditch began again on the same alignment (again with a rounded terminus) for a further approximately 11m. The ditch then curved to the northwest for an approximate length of 14m before continuing out of the northwestern edge of the area.

13. The width of the ditch ranged from 2.5 to 3.25m. It was mainly V-shaped in section with gradually sloping sides (becoming steeper at depth) and a flattish base (see Figure 4). Its depth ranged from 1.08 to 1.55m from the upper surface of the subsoil. The upper fill across the full length of the exposed ditch was (005): a firmly compacted mid-brown orange sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions. In Slot 4, at the northern end of [004], it also contained frequent charcoal fleck inclusions. The layer measured 180 to 900mm thick and produced a range of finds, <2>, <3>, <4>, <5>, <6>, <9>, <12> and <13>, which included flint, quartz, an incomplete whetstone or rubber and a musket ball. The musket ball was found at a depth of only approximately 50mm from the surface of the stripped area.

14. Four slots were excavated along the length of ditch [004] (Figure 2). Three were excavated along its southeastern side: one at the southwestern end where it entered the area (Slot 1; Figure 4), a second in west terminus (Slot 2; Figure 5) and a third in the east terminus (Slot 3; Figure 5). Slot 4 (Figure 4) was positioned along its northeastern side at the point

where it ran out of the northwestern edge of the area. The slots revealed that the fills underlying (005) varied slightly across the ditch's extent.

15. Underlying (005) in Slots 1, 2 and 4 was (006). This consisted of a firmly compacted mid-brown orange sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. The layer measured 210 to 300mm thick.

16. At a depth of 1m, Slot 4 became heavily waterlogged, so excavation stopped within deposit (006) and no underlying fills were exposed.

17. Underlying (006) in Slot 1 was (010), a firmly compacted pink-brown clay with frequent stone and moderate charcoal inclusions. It measured 330mm thick and formed the basal fill of the ditch in this section. In Slot 1, the ditch measured 1.14m deep.

18. Slot 2 within the western terminus appeared to show a bit more complexity in its fills. Underlying (006) was deposit (007). This consisted of a firmly compacted pink-brown clay with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions which measured 530mm thick. This, in turn, was underlain by a thin layer of deposit (018), a firmly compacted green grey clay with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions which measured 30mm thick. Underlying (018) was (009) which formed the basal fill of the western terminus. This comprised a firmly compacted pink-brown clay with frequent small stones and charcoal inclusions, with a thickness of 80mm. The west terminus measured 1.08m deep with the gradually sloping sides having a slightly staggered profile.

19. Fill (006) was not present within Slot 3 which marked the eastern terminus. Instead, (005) was underlain by deposit (008), a firmly compacted brown-grey clay with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions measuring 390mm thick. Underlying (008) and forming the basal fill within the eastern terminus was deposit (011). This consisted of a firmly compacted mottled pink-brown clay with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions. The layer measured 400mm thick and appeared similar in character to (009), the basal fill within the western terminus. The eastern terminus measured 1.55m deep, again with a gradually sloping, slightly staggered, profile. Find <15>, a flint, was recovered from (011).

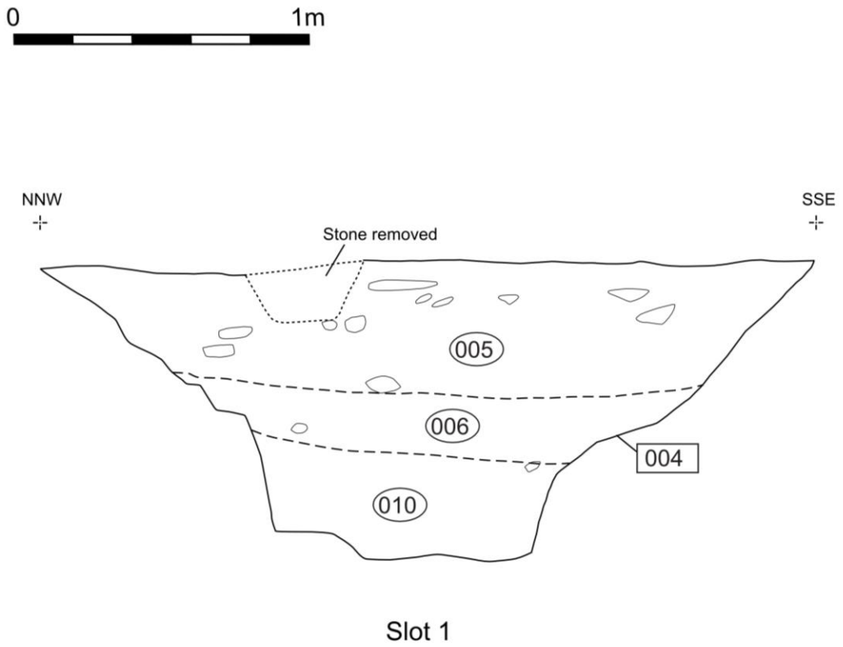
Possible internal features

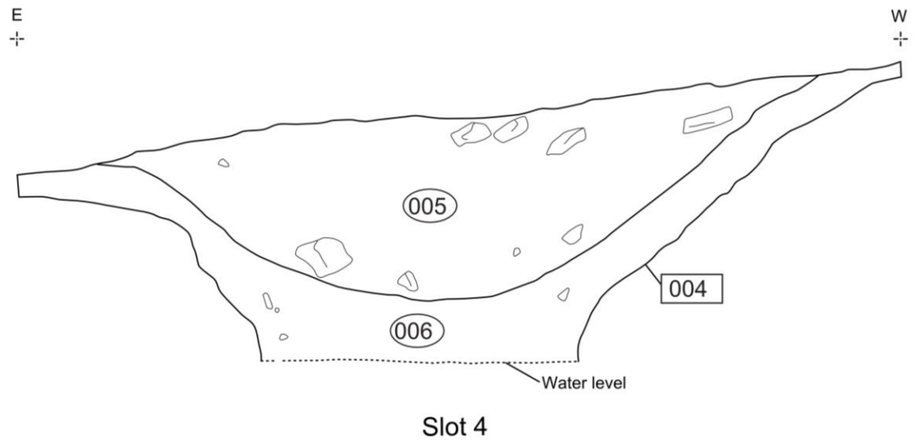
20. A small number of possible features were identified within the internal area enclosed by ditch [004]: possible posthole [012], pit [014] and linear feature [016]. All three features sat at the southeastern end of the area, near to the eastern terminus.

21. Possible posthole [012] sat 1.2m in from [004]'s southeastern side. It was circular shaped in plan, measuring 0.34m in diameter and 200mm deep (Figure 6a). The cut had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base and contained a single fill, (013). This consisted of a friable mid- orange-brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions. Traces visible on the ground suggested the potential for a further two intercutting postholes to the south, but ground conditions remained problematic and time constraints prevented further investigation.

22. Approximately 1.4m to the west of [012], sat possible pit [014]. Circular shaped in plan, [014] measured 2.6m in diameter and 350 to 390mm deep. It had steep sloping sides and an uneven base (Figure 6b). The pit was filled by (015), a friable mid-brownish-orange sandy clay with very frequent small stone inclusions, which produced find <17>, a fragment of coarse mortar or plaster.

23. The final potential feature to be identified was a linear cut, [016], which sat 0.75m to the southwest of [014] and approximately 3.2m to the northwest of ditch [004]. Feature [016] was aligned southwest to northeast with gradually sloping sides and an uneven base (Figure 7a). It measured 3.6m long, 0.9m wide and 250 to 270mm deep and contained a single fill, (017). This consisted of a friable mid- to dark brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions and produced a single flint, <16>.





Key:
- Context boundary
- Projected boundary
- Stones

Client: Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

Project Name: Later Prehistoric Power Centres - Little Wood Hill

Title: Sections of Ditch [004] from Slots 1 and 4

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Checked: CW Sheet: A3

Reference No. RA18107/1.2.b_Little Wood Hill/002

Figure 4: Sections from Slots 1 and 4 through ditch [004]

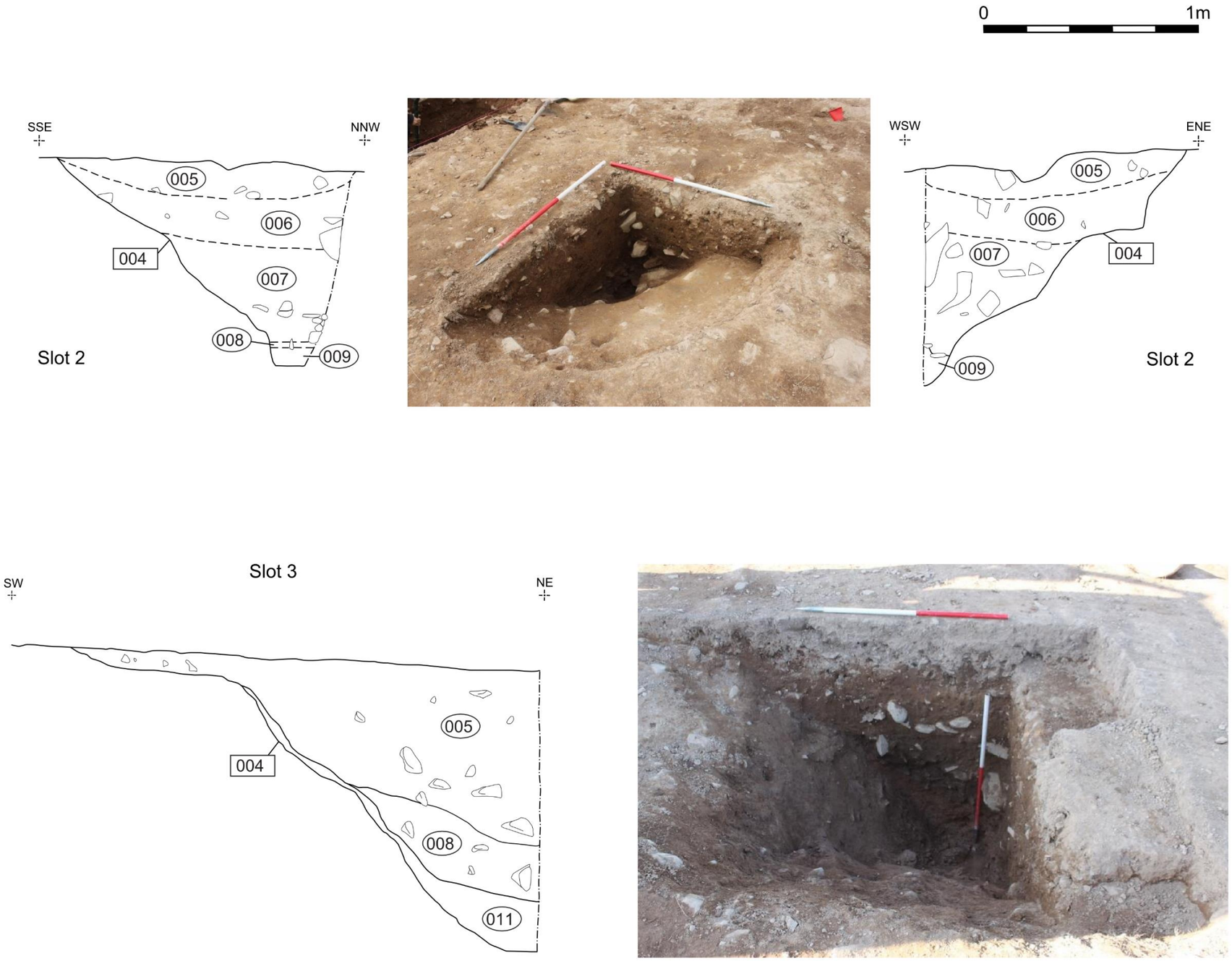

Figure 5: Sections from Slots 2 and 3 through west and east terminals of ditch [004] respectively

Figure 6a: Post-excavation shot of possible posthole [012] from the northwest

Figure 6b: Southeast facing section of possible pit [014]

Figure 7a: Northeast facing section of possible linear [016]

Figure 7b: Musket ball <9>

The Finds

24. A small assemblage was recovered, of which the largest component was the lithics. A small number of other items were also present, however, including objects composed of ceramic, metal, and coarse stone.

Ceramics
By Louise Turner

25. Only three items were identified as ceramic. These comprised two fragments and one crumb (<017> and <019>) composed of a similar fabric: this was thick-walled, coarse and well-fired, with poorly-sorted gravel inclusions. <17> had one possible external surface surviving, with what appeared to be a rounded edge or corner present. Another fragment from <019> had one flat surface surviving, with what appeared to be a concave surface adjacent. All appeared to represent fragments of wall plaster or mortar, although the smooth outer surface indicates that the former might be more likely.

Metalwork
By Louise Turner

26. A total of five metal artefacts were recovered, comprising one of non-ferrous metal (lead) and four of ferrous metal (i.e. iron).

27. The non-ferrous item was a lead bullet <9>, composed of a single solid sphere (Figure 7b). Surface detail was obscured by corrosion, with pitting in places: no manufacturing marks were visible, and although the object did not appear perfectly spherical form, the amount of deformation evident seemed insufficient to argue for its having been fired.

28. Of the iron objects, two comprised short lengths from slender, solid circular-sectioned objects of similar character. These appear to have derived from the shanks of items such as metal pins or nails. The regularity of their section suggested a relatively modern origin, from the 20th century or perhaps the last quarter of the 19th century, with the items appearing to been drawn as opposed to hammered into shape.

29. Another iron object <11> could be more securely identified as a piece of structural ironwork: it comprised a stout, circular-sectioned shank, broken off at one end, with a circular domed head, and seems likely to have represented an incomplete clench nail or clench bolt. The age of the object was ambiguous: the regularity of its circular section suggested that the object was made of cast iron or steel rather than wrought iron, but the circular domed head seemed irregular in shape and was more consistent with having been worked into shape. Alternatively, the head could have been distorted during construction or demolition work. A modern origin could have been inferred from the presence of a screw-thread on the tip of the object, but with this part of the object now lost, any trace of such a feature – had it existed - was now lost.

30. The final iron object was a tanged, heavy-bladed object <22>. This was an unusual item, which comprised a 'blade' with projecting tang: the 'blade' displayed a straight edge running along the upper edge, lying flush with the upper edge of the tang, and a curving lower edge, with the object bent into an 'L'-shaped profile at a point just below the junction between the tang and the 'blade.' The blade was too thick to have been used as a cutting implement, but its asymmetrical form means it cannot be readily compared with standard forms of agricultural tools such as hoes or onion hoes. It could nonetheless have been intended for such a use and may even have been custom-built or modified for this purpose. While the object could conceivably have been fitted to a larger implement such as a cultivator or harrow, its shape does not closely match any of the standard forms and hence a modern, late 20th century origin seems unlikely.

Flaked Stone
By Thomas Rees

1. All potential struck lithics recovered as small finds on-site, or extracted from processed soil sample retents, were cleaned, inspected and catalogued. Terminology broadly follows the conventions of Wickham-Jones (1990) and Inizan, Roche & Tixier (1992), as adapted to

working practice through consideration of Ballin (2000).

Results

2. The assemblage amounted to 23 lithics that were recovered either by hand during excavation (16 lithics, 64%) or extracted from the processed soil samples (7 lithics, 36%). Two main raw material types were present: flint (11 lithics, 48% - grey or honey-brown in colour) and quartz (11 lithics, 48%). One solitary item was identified as quartzite, or – possibly – chert (1 lithic – 4%).

3. Of the hand-recovered pieces, eight were unworked quartz nodules (<3>, <5a>, <5b>, <12> and <18a> to <18d>) and one was an unworked quartzite or chert pebble <21>. On this basis, the only hand-recovered quartz chip, <7>, may not have been deliberately struck; it could, for example, have derived from a plough strike. Two quartz chips were also recovered from the processed soil samples: <23a> and <23b>. These twelve pieces cannot be attributed to either human collection or working and as such are discounted.

4. The remaining six hand-recovered lithics were all struck flint:

   <1> Honey brown flint, single platform core, secondary material, removals are predominantly blades, some patination (Figure 8a). Dimensions: L 26mm W 23mm Th 13mm.

   <2> Flint bladelet, inner material, burnt, distal end snapped (Figure 8a). Dimensions: L 17mm W 8mm Th 3mm.

   <4> Light grey flint, irregular flake, secondary material, patination. Dimensions: L 10mm W 9mm Th 1mm.

   <15> Greyish flint, regular flake, secondary material, slight patination, thin striking platform (Figure 8b). Dimensions: L 47mm W 25mm Th 9mm.

   <16> Light grey flint, regular flake, primary material (Figure 9a). Dimensions: L 26mm W 20mm Th 2mm.

   <20> Flint, regular flake, inner material, burnt, semi-abrupt retouch on distal and distal left forming convex arc – thumbnail scraper (Figure 9a). Dimensions: L 13mm W 13mm Th 4mm.

5. The mixture of characteristics in the small assemblage is notable: two pieces were burnt; three showed evidence of patination; primary, secondary and inner material was present. However, none showed evidence of rolling damage. Four of the flint lithics derived from various stages of the reduction process. These included three flakes of varying size and one bladelet. The single platform core <1> was a reworked core rejuvenation flake. The later removals, when this piece was a core in its own right, had been predominately blades.

6. Only one of the lithics <20> was a finished item, a thumbnail scraper with evidence for semi-abrupt retouch could be seen on the distal and distal left edges.

7. Five flint lithics were recovered from soil processing <24a> to <24e> comprising four chips of light grey to translucent flint, inner material, and:

   <24e> Light grey flint, irregular flake, inner material. Dimensions: L 11mm W 10mm Th 1n 7 mm.

Discussion

8. This was a small assemblage where the quartz component was discounted as natural in origin and presence on-site. The remaining 11 flint lithics appeared to be the products of a coherent reduction strategy, although with only one diagnostic finished tool - the thumbnail scraper <20>. The flint provided a full spread of debitage, with flakes of varying size and character (<4>, <15>, <16> and <24e>), a single bladelet <2> and a series of chips (<24a> to <24d>). The presence of a reworked core rejuvenation flake <1> evidenced the working of small pebbles. Two of the flakes (<4> and <16>) were composed almost entirely of cortex and must have been removed at an earlier stage in opening up such a small flint pebble. The size of the flint pieces was not incompatible with items derived from foreshore-recovered flint nodules.

9. The only core which was present in the assemblage was <1>. It represented the final stage in a reduction process which had originally involved a larger core that had already been subject to enough blade removal to render it difficult to work. The rejuvenation flake from this larger core was then used as a source for more blades: evidence for this two-stage process was provided by the truncated basal facets which ran perpendicular to the later blade removal.

10. The small size of the assemblage means that it is difficult to assign a date to the group - if it is a coherent, contemporary assemblage. The thumbnail scraper is more probably from the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. Ascribing the whole assemblage to this date range is credible given that the lack of hard hammer percussion in the flake and bladelet removals makes them unlikely to have an origin in either the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age. This date range suggests a phase of site activity predating the enclosure feature.

11. The generally good condition of the flint pieces was notable, with none exhibiting rolling damage. This suggests that while those pieces that were unstratified (<1>, <7> and <20>), from the upper ditch fill (005) (<2> and <5>) or the basal fill of the eastern ditch terminal (011) (<15>) have been mobile since original deposition, they are unlikely to have migrated a great distance. This position is reinforced by the excavation area being part of the summit area of a discrete, small hill.

12. The presence of flint in the fill (017) of the linear feature [016] is intriguing, while one was hand recovered (<16>) the remaining five were small debitage recovered from soil processing (<24a> to <24e>). It is not credible that the small debitage was brought to Little Wood Hill after being produced by a reduction process – which suggests that lithic working was undertaken on the summit area in prehistory. Further, this density of material was recovered from a single soil sample which suggests that at least one focus of the lithic working was in proximity to this feature.

Coarse Stone
By Thomas Rees

13. All potential coarse stone pieces recovered as small finds on-site were cleaned, inspected and catalogued.

Results

14. Three pieces were recovered from the site, two of which <13> were unaltered and are not discussed further. The third <6> was a rounded longitudinal pebble of a rough-textured, indeterminate rock, with a flat surface, concave at one end and bevelled at the other (Figure 9b). It appears to have been used as a whetstone. The flat surface appeared to have polish, with scars running perpendicular to the long axis perhaps resulting from damage caused by a knife or blade. The bevelled edge had the appearance of having been created through use or wear, but there was no evidence of grinding or polishing which might support this.

Discussion

15. Only one piece was present that could be confidently ascribed as a coarse stone tool, whetstone <6>. Whetstones are used to maintain a sharp edge on a metal object, and this association means that they first appear in the Early Bronze Age, where they are sometimes incorporated into burials as grave goods. The quality of these items varies markedly, from carefully-manufactured objects equipped with a perforation for hanging from a belt or similar, to rough pieces which were acquired on an opportunistic basis. These see little if any modification: they may be acquired for short-term and potentially informal use, with initial selection based on the dimensions, character and texture of a particular stone. This particular item is representative of the latter, comprising a rectangular-sectioned longitudinal pebble, of suitable dimensions for holding in the hand, rough in texture, with no evidence of working or careful finishing. A potential date for such an object is almost impossible to define closely, other than the fact that the whetstone would have been used for sharpening a metal object: on this basis, its origins could lie anywhere within an extended period from the Bronze Age to the modern period.

Figure 8a: Single platform core <1> and flint bladelet <2>

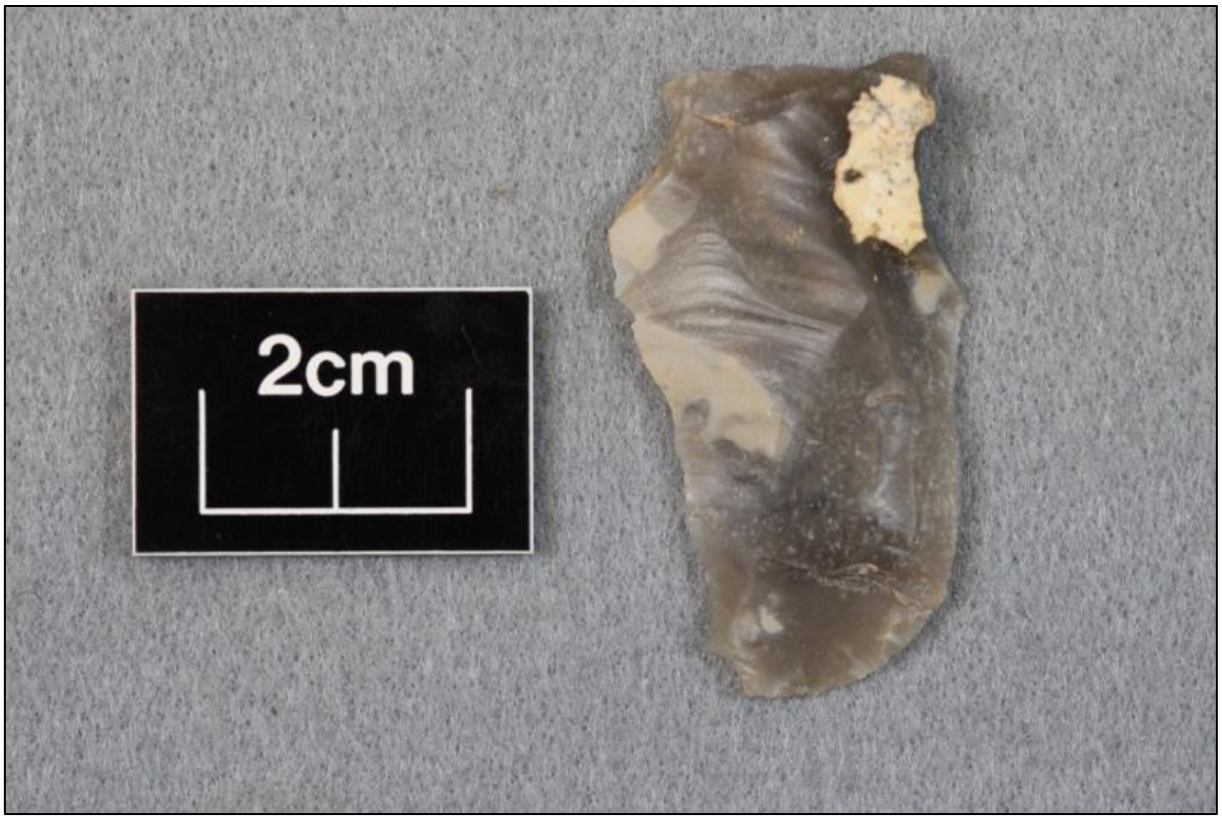

Figure 8b: Secondary regular flake <15>

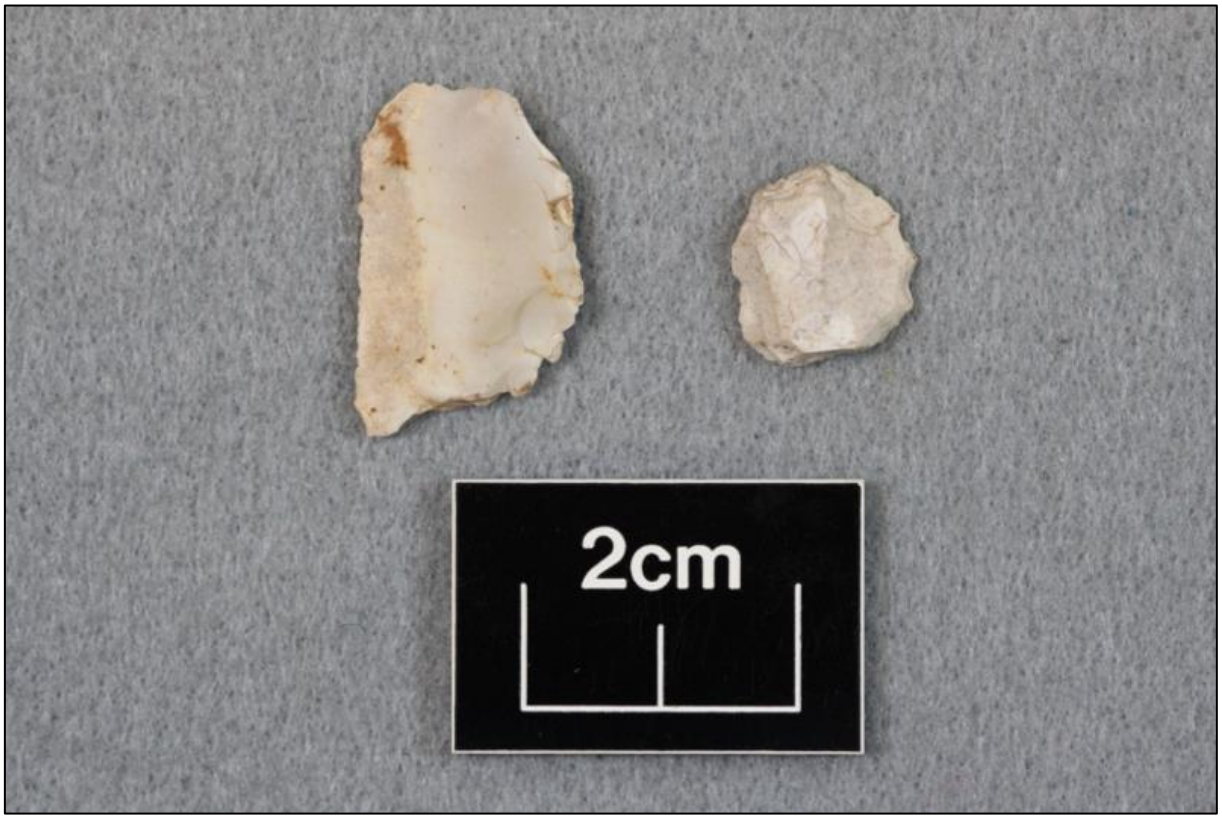

Figure 9a: Regular flake <16> and thumbnail scraper <20>

Figure 9b: Whetstone <6>

Carbonised Plant Macrofossils and Charcoal
By Diane Alldritt

Introduction

16. Six environmental sample flots taken during archaeological excavation work at Little Wood Hill, Threave Estate, Castle Douglas, were examined for carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal. Material sorted from five of the sample retents was also analysed for identifiable remains.

17. Archaeological investigations focused upon a D-shaped enclosure located at the summit of Little Wood Hill of potential prehistoric date. Samples were examined from a number of slots placed through the enclosure ditch [004], as well as from interior features including a possible pit [014] and a linear feature [016]. These produced small concentrations of charcoal and other carbonised remains, the majority of which came from ditch [004].

Methodology

18. The bulk environmental samples were processed by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd using a Siraf style water flotation system (French 1971). The flots were dried before examination under a low power binocular microscope typically at x10 magnification. All identified plant remains including charcoal were removed and bagged separately by type.

19. Wood charcoal was examined using a high-powered Vickers M10 metallurgical microscope at magnifications up to x200. The reference photographs of Schweingruber (1990) were consulted for charcoal identification. Plant nomenclature utilised in the text follows Stace (1997) for all vascular plants apart from cereals, which follow Zohary and Hopf (2000).

Results

20. The environmental samples produced small concentrations of carbonised material <2.5ml up to 45ml in volume mainly charcoal fragments 0.5cm to 2.0cm in size with occasional finds of hazel nutshell in amongst crushed charred detritus. Modern remains were present in amounts <2.5ml up to 10ml consisting primarily of root detritus with scarce finds of earthworm egg capsules suggesting a fairly low degree of bioturbation or other disturbance was taking place through the deposits.

Discussion

Ditch [004]

21. Four samples were examined from slots through ditch [004] with concentrated deposits of charcoal recovered from three of these.

22. The basal fill (011) in Slot 3 at the east terminus produced mostly *Quercus* (oak) charcoal fragments 1.0cm in size together with a small amount of slightly crushed *Corylus* (hazel) charcoal. Basal fill (009) in Slot 2 from the western terminus was sterile. Basal fill (010) in Slot 1 contained all oak charcoal quite twisted and distorted, perhaps bog oak collected for fuel or possibly root material. Upper fill (005) in Slot 4 also produced oak charcoal but in better condition with 1.0cm to 2.0cm fragments of well-preserved material recovered. These were probably the remains of fuel waste from activities taking place within the enclosure or could have originated from burning undertaken for woodland clearance.

23. Two small <0.5cm slivers of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nutshell in reasonably good condition were found in (011) providing a tentative indication for processing of hazelnuts for food.

Pit [014]

24. Possible pit [014] (015) contained trace crushed charred detritus with nothing identifiable. This feature may be intrusive from post-medieval/modern activity or could be a stone hole.

Linear [016]

25. Possible linear feature [016] (017) produced two <0.5cm slivers of hazelnut shell, very degraded, in amongst trace crushed charred detritus. The remains were possibly trampled or wind-blown into the deposit from nearby burning activity.

Conclusion

26. The environmental samples produced concentrated deposits of oak charcoal remains recorded from basal fills in Slot 1 (010) and Slot 3 (011), and the upper fill (005) of ditch [004], with a small amount of hazel charcoal also present in (011). The charcoal is probably fuel waste from burning activity taking place within the enclosure, perhaps from domestic heating or cooking activity. Alternatively, some of the basal material may be from woodland clearance work carried out to open up an area for construction of the enclosure, in particular the charcoal in (010).

27. Two fragments of hazel nutshell were recovered from ditch [004] (011) with a further two from linear [016] although the latter were in much poorer condition. These provided trace evidence for possible harvesting and processing of hazelnuts as a food resource in this location.

Discussion

28. Little Wood Hill sits in a landscape that has seen continuous activity from early prehistory through to modern times. This activity has taken many forms including settlement, agriculture and even medieval warfare.

29. Keeping this in mind, it is possible to assign some of the findings from the excavation to certain periods of activity within the history of Little Wood Hill. While this report will summarise these into four main identifiable phases of activity, this does not negate the continuity of use which is likely to have occurred in the intervening periods nor does it intend to suggest that these phases do not each represent a substantial period of time.

30. Based on the archaeological evidence, it is possible to identify activity relating to the early prehistoric period, the Iron Age, the post-medieval period and modern disturbance.

The Lithics

31. Most of the finds recovered from the site consisted of lithics, including flints potentially dating to the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. These added to the small number of lithics recovered from the topsoil during the 2014 excavations (Alexander, McPherson & Shearer 2014, 11).

32. Evidence for early prehistoric activity has been found elsewhere on the Threave Estate. Fieldwalking in the fields to the south of Meikle Wood Hill recovered two pieces of worked flint (Canmore ID: 304979) and *in situ* evidence can be found roughly 1.2km to the south of Little Wood Hill in the form of cup marks carved into rock outcrops (Canmore ID: 239597).

33. The date of the flints places them potentially several millennia before the date of our enclosure. As described (see section on *Flaked Stone*), none show signs of rolling damage. This, combined with the topographic location of the site, suggest that they have not migrated a great distance from where they were originally deposited. Significantly adding to this is the debitage found within the fill of feature [016] (<24a> to <24e>) which suggests that lithic working was undertaken in proximity to its location.

34. The reuse of early prehistoric monuments in the Iron Age has been recorded elsewhere (ScARF mentions that Hingley 1996 gives examples from the Atlantic zone) and the positioning of sites in relation to features of the earlier landscape was potentially quite influential. While there were no definite features indicating an early prehistoric settlement at Little Wood Hill, the recovered flints indicate that some level of activity was occurring in the landscape during this period.

The Enclosure

35. It is all too easy to look at the Iron Age in Scotland and see the remains of hillforts, ramparts and large enclosed sites hinting at a strife-ridden society filled with warring clans and rival chiefs, but is it really this simple?

36. It is certainly true that there is a monumental element to some of the archaeological remains surviving from this era and you only need to look at hillforts such as that at

Burnswark to recognise this. Alongside this though, there appears to be a huge array of diversification across sites associated with the Iron Age, which does not appear to conform to easily identifiable patterns or definitive reasoning when looked at in detail.

37. A good overview of the Iron Age sites found in Scotland is given by the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF 2012).

38. The most striking feature at Little Wood Hill, indeed the very reason that it has come to our attention, is the presence of enclosing ditch [004]. Visible on aerial photography since the mid-20th century, it occupies the northern half of the hill's summit, not far from the River Dee, with clear views stretching to the north, west and south.

39. These works were able to open four slots through the ditch which confirmed the findings of the earlier 2014 excavation: a roughly V-shaped ditch measuring 2.5 to 3.25m wide and 1.08 to 1.55m deep, filled by a series of sandy clays which get more clayey towards the base. Two of the slots targeted the terminals at either side of the gap in the straightened southeastern side. The gap was confirmed as being deliberate, defined by simple rounded terminals containing a similar fill profile as the main body of the ditch.

40. It was a sample taken from the base of this ditch during the 2014 excavation that gave us a radiocarbon date of the 1st century BC to 1st century AD. This date gives us the *terminus post quem* for the backfilling of the ditch. *Terminus post quem* is a Latin phrase which can be translated as the 'limit after which'. This means that as the fill of the ditch contains charcoal dating from the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD, then the ditch must have been backfilled either at this point or after for the charcoal to be present.

41. This date should always be viewed with caution however, as this material can often be intrusive as a result of biological processes or contamination, or it can be seen as residual, entering the feature by way of redeposited backfill material that has been sourced elsewhere.

42. It is hoped that a radiocarbon date from a sample taken from basal fill (011) in the east terminal (Slot 3) might help to either confirm or deny this date, but for now, we will take this as our main evidence for the dating of the feature and see how it compares to other sites from that period.

43. Enclosed sites are a common feature in the Iron Age, not least because they have become some of the most easily recognisable since the introduction of aerial photography. The enclosing features themselves can take many forms including palisades, walls, single or multiple ramparts (some timber-laced and some with stone revetments) and ditches. Very rarely even features such as *chevaux-de-frise* can be found in association; these are areas of stones set on edge with a view to impeding direct attacks from cavalry (Harding 2004, 59).

44. The type of construction used does not appear to have any chronological, regional, typological or functional significance and all approaches have been used variously on sites from the Late Bronze Age through to the Early Medieval period. Neither are they mutually exclusive, with more than one often being used in conjunction.

45. It is likely that the univallate enclosure at Little Wood Hill was formed of 'dump ramparts', with the excavated material from the ditch used to form a simple earthen bank that would have ran along its internal edge. This does not mean that the bank was insubstantial however, and it is possible that it may have also been heightened by a palisade placed on top.

46. The fills of the ditch showed no signs of it having been recut or modified during its use, suggesting that the ditch represents a single phase of activity within the site's history.

47. There was also no evidence by way of postholes or slots at the location of the entrance to indicate the nature of any possible gateway, although as always is the case in archaeology, it is possible that the physical disturbance from any features may have been too shallow to leave a trace.

48. As well as the enclosing structure itself, the form of its entrance can also help to inform on the intentions of those who created it. And again, this is also a feature which varies

considerably between sites throughout the Iron Age. It is common for enclosed sites to have one or two entrances, although multiple entrances have been recorded at some of the larger forts. While some sites show signs of aggrandisement of the enclosing features around their entrances, this does not appear to be the case at Little Wood Hill. Instead, the entrance appears to fit with the more typical occurrence of relatively simple gate arrangements. The possibility that there was no gate also remains, although this would have consequences for our views on the enclosure's function.

49. The typical form for these enclosed sites is circular, although rectilinear forms have also been recorded across the east and south of Scotland, as well as the north of England. The D-shape seen at Little Wood Hill is a bit more unusual, although it does exist elsewhere in the southwest of Scotland and throughout Britain. The exact reason for this shape is unknown. One suggestion is that the straight edge may be have been aligned along informal trackways that have left no archaeological trace (Chadwick 2009, 40). It is difficult to imagine a trackway running along the alignment of the straighter edge at Little Wood Hill however, due to its proximity to the edge of the hill, particularly at the northeastern end. However, the possibility that there was some activity occurring to the southeast of the enclosure would help explain why its position is not central to the summit. It may also explain the positioning of the entrance which faces away from the location of the river: an important aspect for any prehistoric site. There are possible hints of features in the southern half of the summit on aerial photography but so far, nothing definitive has been identified.

50. The enclosing of a site does not follow a set chronological pattern and it can occur early in its evolution, with many enclosed sites being later reused as open settlements. It is equally possible that the enclosing of a site occurred at a later stage in its sequence meaning that any possible external features which may have sat to the south of the enclosure could have been extant prior to its construction, potentially resulting in the off-centre positioning of the site and its unusual shape.

51. As many of the cropmark sites identified as Iron Age are as yet unexcavated, then one of the main gaps in our knowledge relates to the presence of internal features, the majority of which are potentially not substantial enough to be recognised in aerial photography. It is the possibility of these internal features that could go a long way to helping us further our understanding of these monuments and their functions.

52. As such, one of the main aims of the works at Little Wood Hill was to open a large area which encompassed a substantial portion of the space within the enclosing ditch. A trench opened during the 2014 excavation within the interior did not reveal any features.

53. As has been described, the nature of the subsoil made visibility of features difficult although a possible posthole, pit and short linear feature were identified at the southeastern end of the enclosure: [012], [014] and [016] respectively. Due to their diffuse nature, it is difficult to ascertain their exact nature and possible function.

54. These features sat quite tight to the internal side of the enclosing ditch (all within or around 1m of it) which at first could potentially negate them being contemporary with the ditch itself; remember that the ditch would have been accompanied by a bank running along its interior directly over the site of these features. Unexpectedly though, at the site of an Iron Age enclosure excavated at Enderby in Leicestershire (Meek, Shore & Clay 2004), the siting of two roundhouses close to the internal side of the enclosing ditch were revealed to be contemporary with the ditch itself.

55. One option that the authors suggest, is that the structures were partially built into the bank possibly as a result of their purpose as either kitchens or workshops (Meek, Shore & Clay 2004, 12). Another option at Little Wood Hill is the possibility that the opening through the bank was wider than the corresponding opening through the ditch, and that the features sat within this opening.

56. It is also possible that perhaps a palisade may have taken the place of an internal bank, but the outstanding question remains: what would they have done with the large quantity of excavated material from the ditch? This is further compounded by the fact that the ditch has at some point been backfilled; it makes sense to assume this would have been done

by backfilling the material from the adjacent bank, otherwise a lot of material would need to be sourced from elsewhere. Another possibility is that the bank was placed around the exterior of the ditch, but as the majority of the ditch sat close to the break of slope for the summit this would appear unlikely.

57. The positioning of the features does not necessarily negate their contemporaneity, so it is difficult to identify their exact relation to the phasing of the enclosure. The inclusion of a fragment of modern wall plaster or mortar in the fill of pit [014] could potentially bring into question whether some of these features might not represent later disturbance from modern activity. It is possible that one fragment may have made its way into an earlier feature from later disturbance though, and the presence of the flint debitage in feature [016], means that the nature of these features remains uncertain.

58. The possibility remains that there may evidence for internal features which may not have been visible due to the ground conditions. It is also possible that any features were not substantial enough to leave a trace in the archaeological record, or that they have been removed due to plough truncation. As Toolis (2015, 25) states, the effects of agriculture on the survival of internal features, even cattle-raising and sheep farming, should not be underestimated.

59. The lack of dateable features makes it difficult to phase the site at Little Wood Hill, and there is no way to be sure that even when found, internal features are contemporary with the enclosure. As stated above, the act of enclosing a site can occur either early or late in a site's sequence.

60. Interestingly, turning to the finds recovered from Little Wood Hill, most of them either predate or postdate the potential date of the enclosure by millennia. The only artefact recovered that could potentially date to the Iron Age is the possible whetstone <6> recovered from the upper fill (005) of the ditch. This 'material poverty' is well known on Iron Age sites across Galloway (Cavers 2008; Toolis 2015) to the point where it does appear to be genuine (Cavers 2008, 22) rather than a result of lack of excavation. It would appear, that in this regard, Little Wood Hill is in good company.

61. Toolis makes a valid point that the lack of finds contrasts squarely with metalwork finds from the period, such as the Carlingwark cauldron hoard and the Torrs pony cap (2015, 25), both of which have been found not far from the site of Little Wood Hill. These items, which appear to have originated in the native communities, demonstrate the artistic influences and complex technologies that were present (Cavers 2008, 22).

62. Once it is accepted that the material poverty of Iron Age sites is not necessarily a reflection of an impoverished society, then the reason for this lack of material culture is up for debate. Cavers mentions that an obvious reason may be the increased availability of wood as a resource which would potentially have supplanted the importance of ceramics, alongside the introduction of lathe technology in the mid-1st millennium BC (2008, 22). Toolis (2015, 26) presents the idea that there was a general preference towards more perishable organic materials, and also suggests a trend towards recycling or disposing of their belongings to a greater degree than visible elsewhere.

63. At some point our enclosure was abandoned, the potential bank levelled, and the ditch infilled, although not necessarily as a single event, with many Iron Age enclosures being left as upstanding earthworks. It is likely that the basal fills of ditch [004] represents silting up while the ditch sat open, although it's difficult to know how long this was. The main fills of the ditch appear to be fairly similar across its length and it seems likely that the majority of the ditch was infilled in one go; the likely material for this being the redeposited material that formed the internal bank (if this was present).

64. At what point this would have occurred is unclear; we know from the *terminus post quem* given by the 2014 radiocarbon date that it must have happened during or after the 1st century BC to 1st century AD, but it is difficult to pinpoint this further. It is possible that the ditch may have been infilled upon abandonment, although equally it may have been done centuries later by a potential farmer wishing to clear the ground.

65. Now we come to one of the more pertinent questions: function. The list of possible

functions assigned to Iron Age enclosures is endless: single homesteads, small villages, places of assembly, defensive features, livestock enclosures, elite residences, tribal centres, seasonal markets and even the all-encompassing ritual. Proposing a single function for an enclosed site is not always easily demonstrated through excavation; there is no identifiable correlation between a site's setting or morphology with the nature of its use and even where internal features are identified, there are difficulties in proving whether they were contemporary with their enclosing structures.

66. Most enclosures do appear to have been occupied on some basis but whether this was year-round, seasonal, intermittent or celebratory is debatable and often hard to differentiate in the archaeological remains. With an internal area of roughly 0.06ha, the size of the enclosure at Little Wood Hill is not of a scale that would compete with the more impressive hillforts of the era, such as Burnswark over towards Lockerbie which sits at 6ha. If it represents a settlement it would likely be small scale, possibly a homestead for a single family, such as at Enderby (Meek, Shore & Clay 2004, 5). While we cannot rule out the possibility of it as a settlement, there is also no definitive evidence to say that it was, however.

67. Other factors to consider are its setting, its relationship to the nearby Meikle Wood Hill and the nature of the enclosing structure itself.

68. A prominent subject for discussion in relation to Iron Age sites is their position within the landscape. Access to watercourses has always been an important factor in site placements throughout history as a means of economic and political interactions. The siting of Little Wood Hill near to the River Dee fits in well with this, but may also relate to a more general significance that appears to have been assigned to watercourses during the Iron Age; one which is attested to by the occurrence of hoards and votive offerings being deposited in lochs and rivers.

69. Another interesting factor in its location, is the proximity of Little Wood Hill to Meikle Wood Hill only 300m to the southeast. The summit of Meikle Wood Hill is occupied by the site of a double ditched enclosure, measuring roughly 85m by 120m, which has been scheduled as an Iron Age hillfort (SM 8367). The site has not been excavated but the ring-ditch of a possible roundhouse at its centre has been identified on aerial photographs. Geophysical surveys of the site carried out in 2012 (Carey 2013) noted several internal features, some of which appeared to correlate with the site of the ring-ditch.

70. The enclosure on Meikle Wood Hill is larger in size (with an interior that is three times bigger) and occupies a higher position, overlooking the enclosure on Little Wood Hill. Without dateable material from the former however, it is difficult to know if the two sites were contemporary, sequential or chronologically distant from each other. The occurrence of enclosed sites in close proximity is seen elsewhere in southern Scotland (Harding 2004, 63), and as Harding states, it may imply 'some distinction in function or in the identity of the communities that built and occupied them' (*ibid.*). Certainly it would seem strange that, if the sites at Little Wood Hill and Meikle Wood Hill were not contemporary, why they would not just continue to reuse the location of whichever was earliest, particularly when considering the effort involved in constructing the enclosures.

71. The proximity of the sites questions the validity of any potential defensive intentions in Little Wood Hill's enclosure. Even if both sites were related to the same community, surely it would be safer to keep within the larger and higher enclosure on Meikle Wood Hill (if defence was their primary concern). To what extent the enclosures surrounding Iron Age sites in general were for the purpose of defence is an ongoing discussion. At first glance, defence would appear to be the obvious reason, but when looked at in more detail, the positioning of some sites, the presence of multiple entrances in others and at times the overprovision of defensive earthworks in relation to the area they enclose, all bring into question whether we are imposing our own notions of conflict on to this prehistoric landscape. While it would appear likely that the nature of some of the enclosed sites will have had a defensive function, other factors such as visual symbols of status could also have played a part. Indeed, the amount of effort that would have been involved in the construction of these enclosures would have reflected the resources of those who constructed them.

72. It is possible that the positioning of Little Wood Hill within an area that may have been good agricultural land (as has been its use in recent periods) could suggest a practical purpose for our enclosure such as for the keeping of livestock. This has been suggested as a possibility at other D-shaped enclosure sites such as near Coltishall in Norfolk (Norfolk Historic Environment Record No. 50776) and at Haddon Hill in Shropshire (Shropshire Historic Environment Record No. 04046). Identifying prehistoric agricultural practices can be problematic as many will have been obscured or completely removed by later agricultural activity, but it is known that Iron Age communities were capable of efficient agricultural practices, both arable and pastoral (Harding 2004, 74).

73. Whether the enclosure on Little Wood Hill represents a small steading, an agricultural feature or something else entirely remains uncertain, and hopefully further excavation and dating of similar sites in the future might help to bring some clarity to this. While there is still much to learn about the enclosed sites of the Iron Age, it is worth noting that they do imply a definite effort to mark out positions in the landscape that were designed to last. These were people making their mark on the landscape for the sake of generations, a mark that would last for millennia.

The Musket Ball

74. The discovery of the unfired musket ball on site, likely from accidental loss, hints at activity occurring several centuries after the enclosure was likely abandoned. The use of lead bullets appeared in Britain around the late 15th century, but it was in the 16th century that it started to become more dominant before reaching its peak as the dominant projectile during the 17th and 18th centuries (Foard & Partida 2005, 19).

75. Its continuous use for such a long period makes dating the musket ball found on site difficult, and there is more than one purpose that could account for its appearance. The possibility does remain however, that it could date to the time of the 1640 siege on Threave Castle, when the castle's stationed garrison, under the instruction of Lord Maxwell, held out for 13 weeks against the Army of the Covenant. Indeed, prior to the Iron Age date obtained in the 2014 excavation, it was initially believed that the enclosure on Little Wood Hill related to one of the sieges on the castle (Derek Alexander, pers. comm. 10th September 2019).

76. It is possible that if the enclosure's ramparts were still extant at this period that the site would have been a tempting location for troops to hole up during any siege of the castle. The recovery of the musket ball near to the surface of the ditch's upper fill (005) might put this into question, however. If we can envisage that the ditch was filled with the material from the adjacent bank, then it follows that the upper fill of the ditch comes from the lower material in the bank. The recovery location of the musket ball could perhaps instead suggest that its deposition post-dated the infilling of the ditch.

Modern Disturbance

77. It is clear that Little Wood Hill has been part of an agricultural landscape that dates back at least the last few centuries, although potentially longer. This appears to have been both as pastoral and arable, both of which are likely to have created a deal of disturbance to any potential archaeological remains.

78. A few potential modern artefacts were recovered from the site although the most unexpected was the fragment of modern 19th to early 20th century wall plaster recovered from the fill of pit [014] and a second that was unstratified. As stated, its inclusion within the fill of [014] puts into question whether this feature is of any antiquity or is in fact a modern feature, although it is also possible that this could have been intrusive.

79. Either way, it is still strange that wall plaster would appear on the top of a hill surrounded by fields. Its most likely origins would appear to be modern dumping within the fields, which could then have been spread further afield through ploughing.

Conclusion

80. The D-shaped enclosure on Little Wood Hill was initially identified as a cropmark on aerial photography in the mid-20th century. Trenching carried out at the site by the National Trust of Scotland in 2014 produced a radiocarbon date of the 1st century BC to 1st century AD from the ditch, placing it within the Iron Age.

81. This phase of excavation was aimed at opening a larger area across the southeastern half of the enclosure, encompassing portions of the ditch, the site of the entrance and a large portion of the enclosure's interior.

82. Four slots excavated into the ditch confirmed the 2014 findings of a roughly V-shaped profile measuring between 2.5 and 3.25m wide and 1.08 to 1.55m deep. The entrance appeared to be simple in form, marked by rounded terminals with no obvious signs for an elaborate gateway. A small number of possible internal features – a possible pit, posthole and short linear feature – were identified, although their exact character was unclear.

83. A small number of artefacts were recovered during the works. The most numerous appeared to be lithics which hinted at earlier activity within the landscape. The only artefact recovered that could potentially be Iron Age in origin was a possible whetstone. A later post-medieval musket ball was recovered from the upper fills of the ditch and few modern artefacts were also found.

Acknowledgements

84. This project is part of a wider Community Archaeology project, 'Can You Dig It', run by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme from February 2019 to March 2020. See www.gallowayglens.org.uk/Resources and follow 'Can You Dig It' for their published outputs. The Community Archaeology project was offered free to volunteers thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland. The land is owned by the National Trust for Scotland who kindly allowed us access and gave their support and guidance for the works; particular thanks go to Derek Alexander, David Thompson, Sam Gallacher and James Hutchinson who were very supportive throughout. Guidance was also given by Andrew Nicholson (Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service) and members of local heritage societies.

85. The author would like to thank all of the hardworking volunteers who took part in the excavation: Hilary Fawcett, Nickie Newsum, John Allison, Jennifer Roberts, Tom Marshall, Alexa Smith, Peter Smith, Anna Russell, Jack Boyce, Katrina Boyce, Alister McIntosh, Andrew MacFarlane, Alex Scott, Jo Scott, Rodger Smith, Kevin Armstrong, Eva Armstrong-Phillips, Caroline Watson, Mike Viola, Dan McDermott, Judith McConnachie, Callum McQueen, Kyle McQueen, William Monk, Steven Steele, Angela Murray, Charlotte Murray, Cath Monk, Derek Kernahan, Jackie Kernahan, Jessie Kernahan, Eva Kernahan, Claire Martin, David Orr and Julia Dunbar.

86. Thank you also to I.B. Aitchison & Son Ltd who kindly provided the plant for the initial stripping of the excavation area and returned for its final backfill.

87. The support and guidance provided by Rathmell Archaeology staff members Liam McKinstry, Jack Portwood, Sarah Krischer, Laura Anderson and Thomas Rees on site was much appreciated by me and everyone involved. Special thanks also go to Liam McKinstry for creating the 3D model of the site allowing a wider audience to see and interpret the results. Final thanks should also go to Thomas Rees for his guidance and help both throughout the initial organisation of the project and while the works were taking place on site. I am also grateful to Laura for creating the report's illustrations and typing up the appendices, Louise Turner for her comments on the artefacts and the finds photography, and to Thomas for editing this report.

88. A final thanks go to the Historic Environment team – Malcolm, Sam, Lewis, Cat and Peter – who helped to direct stray visitors our way and gave us and our volunteers a great tour of the castle. The staff from both the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland based at Threave Estate always treated us with kindness and created a welcoming environment for us each day we were on site, thank you.

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Websites

Norfolk Historic Environment Record - http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/

Shropshire Historic Environment Record - http://www.shropshirehistory.org.uk/

Canmore - https://canmore.org.uk/

Appendix 1: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Galloway Glens – Little Wood Hill, Threave
PROJECT CODE:	RA18107
PARISH:	Kelton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Williamson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NX76SW 10 (Canmore ID: 64677)
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Enclosure (Period Unassigned)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Flints, Musket Ball
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 74342 62310
START DATE (this season)	10th September 2020
END DATE (this season)	21st September 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. *DES* ref.)	Excavation in 2014 - Alexander, D., McPherson, C. & Shearer, J. 2014 *Little Wood Hill Thistle Camp, Data Structure Report*, Glasgow: The National Trust for Scotland
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	The D-shaped enclosure on Little Wood Hill was initially identified as a cropmark on aerial photography in the mid-20th century. Trenching carried out at the site by the National Trust of Scotland in 2014 produced a radiocarbon date of the 1st century BC to 1st century AD from the ditch, placing it within the Iron Age. This phase of excavation was aimed at opening a larger area across the southeastern half of the enclosure, encompassing portions of the ditch, the site of the entrance and a large portion of the enclosure's interior. Four slots excavated into the ditch confirmed the 2014 findings of a roughly V-shaped profile measuring between 2.5 and 3.25m wide and 1.08 to 1.55m deep. The entrance appeared to be simple in form, marked by rounded terminals with no obvious signs for an elaborate gateway. A small number of possible internal features – a possible pit, posthole and short linear feature – were identified, although their exact character was unclear. A small number of artefacts were recovered during the works. The most numerous appeared to be lithics which hinted at earlier activity within the landscape. The only artefact recovered that could potentially be Iron Age in origin was a possible whetstone. A later post-medieval musket ball was recovered from the upper fills of the ditch and few modern artefacts were also found.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (part of Dumfries & Galloway Council), externally funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Fund

ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment.

Appendix 2: Registers

89. Appendix 2, which contains all registers pertaining to the works on–site during the excavation.

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001		Deposit	Friable mid-orange brown sandy clay with frequently occurring sub-rounded and angular stone inclusions. Present across the whole site with a thickness of 100-200mm. Find <11>, an iron pin or clench-bolt, was recovered from this layer.	Topsoil.
002		Deposit	Firmly compacted dark brown sandy clay with frequently occurring small to medium sized stone inclusions (both sub-rounded and sub-angular). Present across the majority of the excavated area, mainly within the area to the inside of ditch [004].	Natural subsoil.
003		Deposit	Firmly compacted mid-orange brown sandy clay with frequently occurring small to medium sized stone inclusions (both sub-rounded and sub-angular). Present in the southeast corner of the excavated area to the exterior of ditch [004].	Natural subsoil.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
004		Cut	Large curvilinear-shaped ditch enclosing a D-shaped area on the summit of Little Wood Hill. The excavated area exposed the southeastern and northeastern sides of the feature. The southeastern side represented the 'straight' portion of the enclosure, with a gap of 4.1m located along its length and rounded terminals on either side. To the west of the gap, the ditch was orientated southwest-northeast and was revealed for a length of 4.5m with a width of 2.6m to 3m. To the east of the gap, the ditch continued on a southwest-northeast orientation for a length of approximately 11m before curving to the northwest for a length of approximately 14m. This portion of the ditch measured 2.5m to 3.25m wide. The feature was mainly V-shaped in section with gradually sloping sides and a flattish base. Filled variously by (005), (006), (007), (008), (009), (010), (011) and (018). Four slots (1-4) were opened along its length. Slot 1 – measured 1.6m wide, excavated within the southeastern side of [004] at the southwestern most limit of excavation. The slot revealed the ditch to be 2.62m wide at this point and 1.14m deep. The break of slope at the top was gentle, with gradually sloping sides although these became steeper for the bottom 450mm of the cut. The base break of slope was sharp with an uneven base. Filled by (005), (006) and (010). Finds were recovered from (005): two flints, <2> and <4>; three quartz, <5> and <12>; two coarse stones, <13> and one incomplete whetstone or rubber, <6>. Slot 2 – measured 1.3m wide, excavated within the western terminus of [004]. Cut was revealed to be 2.68m wide and up to 1.08m deep. Break of slope at top was gentle with gradually sloping sides although they became steeper for the bottom 200mm of the cut. The break of slope at the base was sharp with a narrow fairly flat base. Filled by (005), (006), (007), (018), and (009). One fragment of quartz was recovered from (005), <3>. Slot 3 – quarter slot measuring 2.75m southwest-northeast by 2m southeast-northwest, excavated within the eastern terminus of [004] (southern half). Cut was revealed to be up to 3.2m wide and 1.55m deep. Break of slope at top was gentle and the sides were gradually sloping. The break of slope at base was gentle and the base itself was fairly flat. Filled by (005), (008), and (011). One flint <15> was recovered from (011). Slot 4 – measured 1.8m wide, excavated in the northeastern side of [004] at the northern most limit of excavation. Cut was revealed to be 3m wide and 1m deep, although its base was not met as it became heavily waterlogged at this depth hindering further excavation. Break of slope at the top was gradual and the sides were gradual sloping. Filled by (005) and (006). No finds were recovered. Outwith the slots, a musket ball <9> was recovered from (005).	Curvilinear enclosing ditch marking out a D-shaped area on the summit of Little Wood Hill. Only one gap located in the 'straight' southeastern side is the only visible entrance. Initially identified on aerial photographs, radiocarbon dating from previous excavation work indicates a later prehistoric date. Exact function of the enclosure remains uncertain.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
005		Fill	Firmly compacted mid-brown orange sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions. In Slot 4 at northeastern end of [004], it also contained frequent charcoal fleck inclusions. The layer had a thickness range within the excavation area of 180mm to 900mm. Finds <2>, <3>, <4>, <5>, <6>, <9>, <12> and <13> were recovered from (005), which included flint, quartz, coarse stone and a musket ball. This layer was present throughout [004], overlying (006) (Slots 1, 2 and 4) and (008) (Slot 3).	Upper fill of ditch [004] along its full length.
006	Slots 1, 2 and 4	Fill	Firmly compacted mid-brown orange sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. This layer had a thickness range within the excavation area of 210mm to 300mm. Found underlying (005) in Slots 1, 2 and 4; not present within Slot 3. Overlying (010) in Slot 1 and (007) in Slot 2.	Fill of [004], underlying (005).
007	Slot 2	Fill	Firmly compacted pink brown clay with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions. The layer had a thickness of 530mm and was revealed only in the western terminus of ditch [004], as revealed in Slot 2. Underlying (006) and overlying (018).	Fill of [004], underlying (006) in west terminus.
008	Slot 3	Fill	Firmly compacted brown grey clay with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions. The layer had a thickness of 390mm and was revealed only in eastern terminus of the ditch [004], as revealed in Slot 3. This layer sat beneath (005) and directly above (011).	Fill of [004], underlying (005) in east terminus.
009	Slot 2	Fill	Firmly compacted pink brown clay with frequent small stones and charcoal inclusions. The layer was similar to (007) and lay directly beneath (018) in the western terminus of ditch [004], revealed as the basal fill within Slot 2. The layer had thickness of 80mm.	Basal fill of [004] in west terminus, underlying (018).
010	Slot 1	Fill	Firmly compacted pink brown clay with frequent stone and moderate charcoal inclusions. The layer had a thickness of 330mm and was revealed only in Slot 1 at the western end of ditch [004]. Basal fill underlying (006).	Basal fill of [004] in Slot 1, underlying (006).
011	Slot 3	Fill	Firmly compacted mottled pink brown clay with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions. The layer had a thickness of 400mm and was revealed only in the eastern terminus of ditch [004], as revealed in Slot 3. This layer formed the basal fill in this section and lay beneath (008). It appears similar to (009). Find <15>, a flint, was recovered from this layer.	Basal fill of [004] in east terminus, underlying (008).
012		Cut	Circular shaped cut in plan, half sectioned during the works. The cut measured 0.34m in diameter and 200mm deep. Break of slope at the top was sharp with gradually sloping sides. Break of slope at the base was gradual with a rounded base. Filled by (013). It is possible that there were two adjacent postholes but ground conditions made them unclear and time constraints prevented further investigation.	Cut of possible posthole.
013		Fill	Friable mid- orange brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of 200mm.	Fill of possible posthole [012].

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
014		Cut	Circular shaped cut in plan. Measured 2.6m in diameter and 350 to 390mm deep. Break of slope at top was gentle with steep sloping sides. Break of slope at base was very gradual with an uneven base. The pit was filled by (015) and quarter sectioned during the works.	Cut of possible pit.
015		Fill	Friable mid- brownish orange sandy clay with very frequent small stone inclusions. It had thickness range of 350 to 390mm. Find <17>, coarse mortar or plaster, was recovered from this deposit.	Fill of possible pit [014].
016		Cut	Linear shaped cut in plan. Measured 3.6m long by 0.9m wide and 250 to 270mm deep. Orientated in a southwest to northeast direction. Break of slope top is gradual with gradually sloping sides. Break of slope at the base is sharp and the base itself was uneven. Filled by (017).	Cut of possible linear feature.
017		Fill	Friable mid- to dark brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. Measured 250 to 270mm thick. Find <16>, a flint, was recovered from this deposit.	Fill of possible linear feature [016].
018	Slot 2	Fill	Firmly compacted green grey clay with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions. This layer had a thickness of 30mm and was located only in the western terminus within ditch [004], as revealed in Slot 2. Underlies (007) and overlies (009).	Fill of [004], underlying (007) in western terminus.

Photographic Register

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	7480	Pre-excavation shot of site	S	10/09/19
2	7481	Pre-excavation shot of site	SW	10/09/19
3	7482	Pre-excavation shot of site	W	10/09/19
4	7483	Pre-excavation shot of site	NW	10/09/19
5	7484	Pre-excavation shot of site	N	10/09/19
6	7485	Pre-excavation shot of site	NE	10/09/19
7	7486	Pre-excavation shot of site	E	10/09/19
8	7487	Pre-excavation shot of site	SE	10/09/19
9	7488	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	WSW	10/09/19

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
10	7489	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	WSW	10/09/19
11	7490	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	WSW	10/09/19
12	7491	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	W	10/09/19
13	7492	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	W	10/09/19
14	7493	Voided	-	-
15	7494	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	SSW	10/09/19
16	7495	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	E	10/09/19
17	7496	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	E	10/09/19
18	7497	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	E	10/09/19
19	7498	Pre-excavation shot of western terminal, [004]	E	10/09/19
20	7499	Mid-excavation of flat stone in Slot 2, [004]	E	10/09/19
21	7500	Voided	-	-
22	7501	Mid-excavation shot of flat stone within Slot 2, [004]	W	13/09/19
23	7502	Mid-excavation shot of flat stone within Slot 2, [004]	E	13/09/19
24	7503	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	S	13/09/19
25	7504	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	E	13/09/19
26	7505	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	E	13/09/19
27	7506	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	SE	13/09/19
28	7507	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	NW	13/09/19
29	7508	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	SW	13/09/19
30	7509	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	SW	13/09/19
31	7510	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	SE	13/09/19
32	7511	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	SE	13/09/19
33	7512	Pre-excavation of NE half of site – ditch [004]	S	13/09/19
34	7513	Shot of SW half of site	SE	13/09/19

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
35	7514	Working shot	-	13/09/19
36	7515	NE half of site – ditch [004]	NW	13/09/19
37	7516	Shot across site	N	13/09/19
38	7517	Shot across site	NNW	13/09/19
39	7518	Shot across site	NW	13/09/19
40	7519	NE half of site – ditch [004]	W	13/09/19
41	7520	NE half of site	W	13/09/19
42	7521	View to the NE of the site	SW	13/09/19
43	7522	Mid-excavation of Slot 1, [004]	NW	14/09/19
44	7523	Mid-excavation of Slot 1, [004]	NW	14/09/19
45	7524	Mid-excavation of Slot 1, [004]	SE	14/09/19
46	7525	Oblique shot of Slot 1, [004]	S	14/09/19
47	7526	SW facing section of Slot 1, [004] – mid-excavation	SE	14/09/19
48	7527	NE facing section of Slot 1, [004] – mid-excavation	NE	14/09/19
49	7528	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004]	SE	14/09/19
50	7529	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004]	SE	14/09/19
51	7530	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004]	NE	14/09/19
52	7531	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004]	NE	14/09/19
53	7532	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	NW	14/09/19
54	7533	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	NW	14/09/19
55	7534	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	NW	14/09/19
56	7535	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	NE	14/09/19
57	7536	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	SW	14/09/19
58	7537	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	S	14/09/19
59	7538	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004]	NE	14/09/19

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
60	7539	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004]	SE	14/09/19
61	7540	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004]	SW	14/09/19
62	7541	Mid-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004]	SE	14/09/19
63	7542	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004] (S half)	SSE	18/09/19
64	7543	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004] (S half)	SE	18/09/19
65	7544	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004] (S half)	SSE	18/09/19
66	7545	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004] (S half)	SE	18/09/19
67	7546	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004] (S half)	SSE	18/09/19
68	7547	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004] (S half) – ENE facing section	ENE	18/09/19
69	7548	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004] (S half) – SSE facing section	SSE	18/09/19
70	7549	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004] (S half) – ENE facing section	ENE	18/09/19
71	7550	Post-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004] – SE facing section	SE	20/09/19
72	7551	Post-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004] – SW facing section	SW	20/09/19
73	7552	Post-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004]	SW	20/09/19
74	7553	Post-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004]	SW	20/09/19
75	7554	Post-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004]	SW	20/09/19
76	7555	Post-excavation shot of Slot 3, [004]	S	20/09/19
77	7556	View from site	SW	21/09/19
78	7557	Post-excavation of section of possible posthole [012]	NNW	21/09/19
79	7558	Post-excavation of section of possible posthole [012]	WSW	21/09/19
80	7559	Post-excavation shot of Slot 1, [004]	WSW	21/09/19
81	7560	Post-excavation shot of Slot 1, [004]	S	21/09/19
82	7561	Post-excavation shot of Slot 1, [004]	S	21/09/19
83	7562	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004]	NE	21/09/19
84	7563	Post-excavation shot of Slot 2, [004]	S	21/09/19

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
85	7564	General shot Slots 1 and 2 in [004]	WSW	21/09/19
86	7565	General shot Slots 1 and 2 in [004]	S	21/09/19
87	7566	Post-excavation shot of pit [014] – S facing section	S	21/09/19
88	7567	Post-excavation shot of pit [014]	SW	21/09/19
89	7568	Post-excavation shot of linear feature [016] – N facing section	N	21/09/19
90	7569	Post-excavation shot of linear feature [016]	NE	21/09/19
91	7570	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004] – WNW facing section	WNW	21/09/19
92	7571	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004] – WNW facing section	WNW	21/09/19
93	7572	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	W	21/09/19
94	7573	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	N	21/09/19
95	7574	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	NW	21/09/19
96	7575	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	W	21/09/19
97	7576	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	N	21/09/19
98	7577	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	N	21/09/19
99	7578	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	NW	21/09/19
100	7579	Post-excavation shot of Slot 4, [004]	W	25/09/19
101	7580	Shot of second stripped area – not excavated	NE	25/09/19
102	7581	Shot of second stripped area – not excavated	SW	25/09/19

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
1	1		Section	1:10	E facing section of Slot 2 in [004]	HF & LA	18/09/19
2	1		Section	1:10	S facing section of Slot 2 in [004]	HF & LA	19/09/19
3	1		Section	1:10	W facing section of Slot 1 in [004]	RS & LA	20/09/19

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
4	1		Section	1:10	SE facing section of Slot 3 in [004]	LMcK & JP	21/09/19
5	2		Section	1:10	SE facing section of possible pit [014]	CW & JP	25/09/19
6	2		Section	1:10	N facing section of Slot 4 in [004]	LMcK	27/09/19
7	3, 4		Plan	1:50	Post-excavation plan of site	LMcK	27/09/19

Sample Register

Sample No.	Area/ Trench	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity	Excavator	Date
1		(008)	Bulk x 3	Sample of charcoal rich layer in Slot 3 in [004]	JP	21/09/19
2		(011)	Bulk x 2	Sample of charcoal rich layer in Slot 3 in [004]	JP	21/09/19
3		(010)	Bulk x 1	Sample of charcoal rich clay layer in Slot 1 in [004]	LA	21/09/19
4		(007)	Bulk x 1	Sample of charcoal rich clay layer in Slot 2 in [004]	LA	18/09/19
5		(007)	Bulk x 1 small bag	Sample of possible burnt bone and charcoal layer in Slot 2 in [004]	LA	18/09/19
6		(009)	Bulk x 1 small bag	Sample of greyish green clay layer in Slot 2 in [004]	LA	18/09/19
7		(006)	Bulk x 1 small bag	Sample of possible burnt bone and charcoal layer in Slot 2 in [004]	LA	20/09/19
8		(007)	Bulk x 1 small bag	Sample of possible burnt bone and charcoal layer in Slot 2 in [004]	LA	21/09/19
9		(006)	Bulk x 1	Sample from Slot 2 in [004]	LA	21/09/19
10		(005)	Bulk x 1	Sample of top layer in Slot 2 in [004]	LA	21/09/19
11		(007)	Bulk x 1	Sample of charcoal layer in Slot 2 in [004]	LA	21//09/19
12		(005)	Bulk x 1	Sample from (005) with charcoal inclusions in Slot 4 in [004]	JP & CW	25/09/19
13		(006)	Bulk x 1	Sample from Slot 4 in [004]	JP & CW	25/09/19
14		(017)	Bulk x 1	Fill of linear feature [016]	JP & CW	25/09/19
15		(015)	Bulk x 1	Fill of pit [014]	JP & CW	25/09/19

Finds Register

Find No.	Area/ Trench	Context	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	Surface find	Unstratified	Lithic	1 x flint	NN	11/09/19
2	Slot 1 [004]	(005)	Lithic	1 x flint	HF	15/08/19
3	Slot 2 [004]	(005)	Lithic	1 x quartz	NN	13/09/19
4	Slot 1 [004]	(005)	Lithic	1 x flint flake	HR & JR	13/09/19
5	Slot 1 [004]	(005)	Lithic	2 x quartz	HF & JR	13/09/19
6	Slot 1 [004]	(005)	Coarse Stone	1 x incomplete whetstone or rubber	HF & JR	13/09/19
7	Surface find	Unstratified	Lithic	1 x quartz	MV	14/09/19
8	Surface find	Unstratified	Metal	1 x iron circular-sectioned object (shank of pin or nail)	SS	18/09/19
9	[004]	(005)	Metal	1 x lead musket ball (Metal detector; found 2.1m to the east of Slot 3; 2 inches down)	SS	18/09/19
10		Unstratified	Metal	1 x iron circular-sectioned object (?shank of pin or nail; Metal detector)	SS	18/09/19
11		(001)	Metal	1 x iron pin or ?clench-bolt (Metal detector)	SS	18/09/19
12	Slot 1 [004]	(005)	Lithic	1 x quartz	HF	18/09/19
13	Slot 1 [004]	(005)	Coarse stone	2 x stone	HF	18/09/19
14	-	-	-	Voided	-	-
15	Slot 3 [004]	(011)	Lithic	1 x flint	AR	20/09/19
16	Linear feature [016]	(017)	Lithic	1 x flint	AM	20/09/19
17	Pit [014]	(015)	CBM	1 x coarse mortar or plaster	DT	21/09/19
18	NW corner surface find	Unstratified	Lithic	4 x quartz - unworked	Team	21/09/19
19	NW corner	Unstratified	CBM	2 x coarse mortar or plaster	JK	21/09/19

	surface find					
20	NW corner surface find	Unstratified	Lithic	1 x flint (possibly reworked)	CM	21/09/19
21	NW corner surface find	Unstratified	Lithic	1 x possible ?chert	EK	21/09/19
22	NW corner surface find	Unstratified	Metal	1 x tanged tine or blade	TR	09/09/19
23	Recovered during flotation	(010)	Lithic	2 x quartz chips (from Sample No. 3)	SK	01/10/19
24	Recovered during flotation	(017)	Lithic	5 x flint chips/flakes (from Sample No. 14)	SK	01/10/19

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