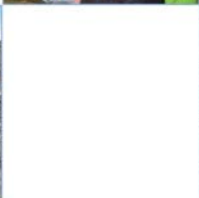
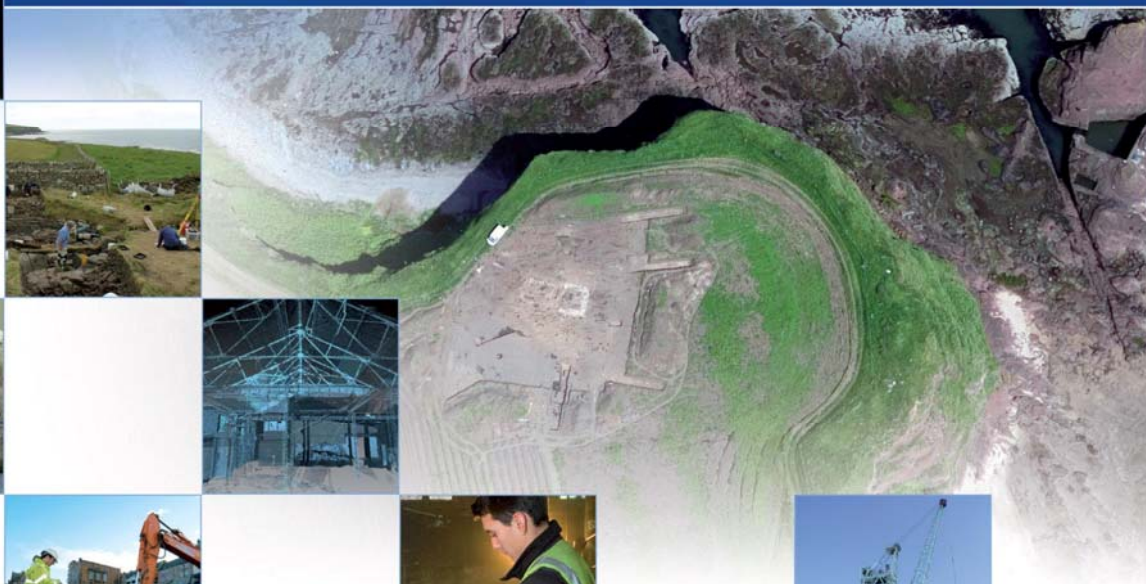


# Dornoch North, Highlands: Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report

*AOC Project 22924*



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

# **Dornoch North, Highlands:**

## **Excavation Data Structure Report**

<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Springfield Properties PLC,</b> Alexander Fleming House, 8 Southfield Drive, Elgin, Moray, IV30 6GR
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NH 79804 90342</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>AOC 22924</b>
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on a proposed development site to the north of Dornoch (NGR: NH 79804 90342). In this phase of work two large trenches, Area A: 60m x 60m and Area B: 40m x 40m, were stripped of topsoil and the archaeological features uncovered were excavated.

In Area A a number of archaeological features were uncovered including stone lined storage pits, multiple hearths, a pallisaded enclosure, postholes, a shell midden and a huge circular cut feature. Finds recovered from these features included worked stone tools, animal bone and ceramic fragments.

In Area B two isolated pits were discovered in addition to the pit previously known from the evaluation phase.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Development Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Springfield Properties PLC for the proposed residential development at Dornoch North, Phase 1, Highlands. The need for, and scope of, the archaeological works has been determined by Highland Council as a condition on the planning consent who are advised on archaeological matters by Historic Environment Team (HET). The programme of archaeological works is required in keeping with best practice outlined in current planning policy and guidelines: *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) & *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011).

## 1.1 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area lies to the north of Dornoch and is centered at c. NGR: NH 79804 90342 (Figure 1). It comprises of open fields bounded by Dornoch Burn to the west and the A949 to the east.

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The development area is located within an historical field system which has been subject to various archaeological investigations in the past, most notably Farrell (2007). This investigation uncovered a number of features across the site including a post hole, hearth and wall. Over 600 finds have also been uncovered through walkover and metal detecting surveys (NMRS: NH79SE 52). Furthermore, a cist (NMRS: NH79SE 13) is known to lie to the south of the immediate development area.

# 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed 'strip, map & record' areas;
- ii) To determine whether the feature found in Trench 27 (Farrell 2007) is solitary in nature or part of a larger structure;
- iii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, formulated with the approval of HET, such as excavation/watching brief (Phase 2), post-excavation analyses and publication (Phase 3), given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

## 3 METHOD

### 3.1 Phase 1: Monitored topsoil Strip

3.1.1 Following the brief of the WSI (AOC, 2015) two large square trenches, designated area A (60m x 60m) and area B (40m x 40m), were opened with a tracked 360° excavator. These were positioned in order to investigate a previously identified archaeological feature in area B and to evaluate an area previously excluded from archaeological works in area A.

3.1.2 The ground breaking work was undertaken with a tracked 360° excavator and monitored by an experienced AOC field archaeologist. The excavation continued until the level of clean natural subsoil or archaeological horizons were reached. Where possible all spoil was removed from the excavation area or banded on areas devoid of archaeological features.

### 3.2 Excavation

3.2.1 The monitored topsoil strip was successful in locating numerous archaeological features in area A and an additional two features in Area B. Excavation of these features was undertaken immediately after the monitored topsoil strip. The results of this excavation are presented below. After the excavation was concluded the trenches were backfilled and the fields re-instated to their former state.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological works were completed between the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The weather conditions were varied with both dry spells of sunshine and periods of sustained heavy rain. Despite this the overall archaeological visibility was good. Both area A and area B were opened before any archaeological excavation of the features began. The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1: Photographic Register

Appendix 2: Context Register

Appendix 3: Samples Register

Appendix 4: Drawings Register

Appendix 5: Finds Register

Appendix 6: reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

- 4.1.2 Topsoil across the site consisted of a dark brown-grey sandy clay with numerous rounded rocks and a surface of decayed corn stubble. This contained some sherds of modern white ceramics. A colluvial deposit of very similar sandy material was found towards the base of the hill slopes. This ranged from 0.20 m to 1.0 m in depth. Natural sub-soil was composed of yellow-orange glacial sands, gravels, and rounded rocks. This material varied in consistency between patches of soft sand and more concentrated gravel and rock.

## 4.2 Area A

- 4.2.1 Area A consisted of a box measuring 60m by 60m and was located on an area previously omitted from archaeological investigation. The local landscape was a hill slope which gradually dropped from the south down to a flatter plain at the north and west. As such topsoil deposits varied dramatically from 0.2m on the slope to over 1 m at the base. Within this area a considerable number of archaeological features were discovered. Among these were three possible structures as well as a number of isolated features.

### 4.2.2 Structure 1

The most substantial feature identified on site was a large sub-circular pit [008] containing internal features and surrounded by a cluster of pits [010], [012], [014] and post holes [028], [030], [032]. The central pit [008] (Plate 1) was fairly circular in plan but with a flattened out edge creating a slight 'D' shape. This measured approximately 3.2m in diameter and was around 1m deep with vertical sides sloping towards the bottom to a flat base. The primary fill [037] was a 0.5m thick deposit of mixed sand, ash and charcoal containing a jumble of large rounded rocks [070].

- 4.2.3 Above this refuse material the deposits within the pit formed more of a coherent structure with a fairly concentrated deposit of rounded cobbles [023] as a floor surface around a sub rectangular hearth of edge set stones [020] at the south west edge of the pit. The edge set stones [020] were accompanied by flat base slabs [027] which both showed signs of heat damage. Together they formed a rectangular enclosure with outward sloping sides, measuring approximately 1.6m long by 0.7m wide by 0.2m deep. This was filled with a deposit rich in ash, and large clumps of charcoal [026]. Also located within the hearth enclosure was a large rectangular boulder (0.65m by 0.64m by 0.3m) [022] with a worked conical depression (measuring 0.25m in diameter and 0.15m deep) cut into its surface. This stone showed no signs of having been burnt and may be out of situ within the hearth structure.

- 4.2.3 The pits [010], [012] and [014] which surrounded [008] to the east and west were of inconsistent size and shape. The largest was pit [012] measuring 1.8m in diameter and 0.7m deep with steep concave sides and a concave base. As with the primary fill of [008] the pit contained a deposit of burnt refuse and large rocks. Pits [010] and [014] were both oval with shallow concave bases and sand and gravel fill deposits. No dateable artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered from any of these features. In addition to these pits were three very shallow small pits [028], [030] and [032] around the south edge of pit [008]. These measured on average 0.3m in diameter and 0.1m deep and may represent the truncated remains of post holes associated with the structure.





Plate 1: Pit [008]

#### 4.2.4 **Structure 2**

The second structure located in Area A was a shallow ditch [024] forming part of a rectilinear enclosure which may be the remains of a palisade (Plate 2). The ditch was fairly shallow and narrow measuring between 0.8m to 0.25m wide and between 0.1m to 0.2m deep with concave sides and a concave base. In plan this ditch created a rounded corner enclosure measuring 9m across on the inside (East to West). The palisade measured only 6m lengthwise (North to South) before it entered an area of shallower topsoil where it had been entirely truncated. The fill [025] of the palisade remained fairly consistent throughout, brown/black sandy gravel and rocks, with the inclusion of some shell midden material in Slot 4 where it passed nearby midden [076].

4.2.5 Within two of the slots excavated through palisade [024] were small stone lined post holes [058] and [059]. These were both approximately 0.25m in diameter by 0.15m - 0.2m deep with a ring of rocks around a small central sand filled void. Unfortunately due to significant truncation of features in this area it was unclear if these were related to the palisade [024] or to a collection of postholes nearby designated as structure 3.

4.2.6 In addition to these post holes the southern end of the palisade was also intersected by a number of large cut features (Plate 2). Unfortunately due to similar fill deposits and truncation it was impossible to clearly define whether or not the palisade was cut by, or cut into these features. Similarly to the west end of the palisade it intersected with the outer spread of material around shell midden [076]. After cleaning no clear relationship could be established due to the ephemeral nature of the remains in this area.





Plate 2: Palisade [024] and pit cluster or roundhouse

#### 4.2.7

##### **Hearth Pits**

The dense cluster of cut features at the south east corner of palisade [024] was composed of [034], [044], [046], [049], [052], [054], and [056]. Of these pits a similarity can be drawn between pits [046], [049], [052], and [056] all of which were oval or sub-round with large concentrations of fire cracked pink sandstone slabs within them. The best preserved of this cluster was pit [049] which measured 2.2m by 1m by 0.25m deep and contained the truncated remains of a stone structure [050]. This consisted of a flat base slab surrounded by a few edge set stones. The fill deposit [051] was dark brown/black silty sand with ash and charcoal. The other pits of this cluster contained similar deposits and possible truncated remains of stone structures. It is likely that these represent small hearths or fire-pits comparable to the larger hearth [020] located within structure 1.

This parallel was further reinforced with the discovery of an isolated pit [040] not far to the north of the palisade (plate 3). This was a large oval pit with vertical sides and concave base measuring 2.4m by 1.6m by 1m deep and containing a substantial stone structure [041] believed to be a hearth. This structure was built on top of various deposits of burnt remains of ash and charcoal mixed with rounded stones [071], [072], [073]. The structure itself was made of three tiers of flat stone slabs surrounded by edge set stones and a bank of loose rubble. This is believed to be another hearth which may have undergone several phases of use judging by the tiers of flat rocks. A further truncated hearth [079] was also located to the west of the palisade next to the shell midden [076].



Plate 3: pit [040]

As such it seems likely that [046], [049], [052], [056], [040], and [079] all represent the truncated remains of hearths or fire pits which may have only had short periods of use.

#### 4.2.8 **Storage Pits**

The most substantial feature from the palisade pit cluster was a large oval pit [034]. This pit measured 1.7m by 1.2m by 0.9m deep with vertical sides and a flat base lined with flat stone slabs [043]. The base stones [043] were un-worked but were clearly chosen for complimentary shapes and were closely laid to give neat flat base. No small finds were recovered from this pit, but its two fill deposits [035] and [036] were again rich with charcoal and ash in addition to numerous large rocks. A flat faced rock which may have seen limited use as a quern stone was recorded during full excavation of this material. During the Machine strip of this area a worked stone disk with a central drilled hole was also recovered from the topsoil nearby (SF 2).

4.2.9 A second similar pit [080] was discovered at the opposite side of the palisade, to the west of palisade [024], and nearby to shell midden [076] and truncated hearth [079]. This pit was round in plan, measuring 2m in diameter with steep concave sides, sloping to a flat stone lined base [083] (plate 4). The base stones again were carefully laid to give a solid flat surface. The fill deposits of this pit however differed to those of [034]. The upper fill [081] was entirely composed of shell midden material identical to nearby midden [076]. This would suggest that this pit had fallen out of use by the time of the shell midden and was thus conveniently used as a dump. The lower fill [082] was a deposit of sand, silt, ash and charcoal with a substantial quantity of large rocks. Throughout this material was a significant quantity of coarse ceramic fragments (SF 07). Many of these fragments were of a substantial size and included a large piece of a decorated wide mouthed rim (SF 09). This would perhaps suggest that these were storage pits which would have contained large storage vessels.





Plate 4: Stone base [083] of pit [080]

4.2.10

During the machine strip of the topsoil over pit [080] a large boulder (SF 08) similar to [022] was discovered which had a hand carved concave recess cut into its surface (Plate 5). The exact function of these stones is unknown but preliminary analysis would suggest that they were mortars used for grinding.



Plate 5: Worked stone (SF08)

#### 4.2.11 **Shell Midden**

At the south-west corner of area A, located just to the west of palisade [024], was a large dump of sea shells (conch, limpet and razor clam) and animal bone [076] surrounded by a single line of large rocks [077] (Plate 6). The midden was roughly sub-circular in shape measuring approximately 4.4m by 3.9m by 0.2m to 0.5m thick. This deposit appeared to exist within the lowest strata of the colluvium and no clear cut into the natural subsoil could be found. It would seem more likely that the midden was created by a ring of rocks [077] around a slight hollow in the landscape. The deposit below the shell midden [076] was a dark brown organic layer [078] which may represent the buried topsoil over which the midden accumulated.

4.2.12 The midden material was fully removed and sifted for finds which produced animal bone fragments (SF 06) a piece of worked animal bone with a drilled hole (SF 04) and a single fragment of ceramic (SF 05). The ceramic fragment was identical to those of nearby pit [080]. This further confirms the relationship between the two features.



Plate 6: Shell Midden [076]



#### 4.2.13 **Structure 3**

A third possible structure was located within the interior space enclosed by palisade [024] (Plate 7). This was composed of a series of shallow postholes [060], [062], [064], [066], and [068] measuring on average 0.5m in diameter by 0.3m deep with steep concave sides and a concave base with occasional rounded packing stones. As previously mentioned two further postholes [058], and [059] located within the palisade [024] may also be related to this group. Together these posts do form any clear understandable pattern but given their proximity and location it would seem likely that they are the remains of a grouping of posts for some kind of boundary or structure. It is worth consideration that the topsoil over this area had been particularly shallow and it is not at all unlikely that further features related to this group may have been entirely truncated.



Plate 7: Structure 3

#### 4.2.14 **Isolated Pits**

In addition to the groupings and structures of area A were several isolated features [040], [038], [018] and [016]. These with the exception of hearth pit [040] were fairly insubstantial. Within pit [018] a single ceramic fragment (SF 01) was recovered during machine excavation of the topsoil. No further finds were recovered upon full excavation of the feature.

### 4.3 Area B

- 4.3.1 Area B consisted of a box measuring 40m by 40m centered on a post hole located during the 2007 evaluation (Farrell, 2007). The landscape here was on a gentle hill sloping from the south down to the north and west. Towards the northern end of this trench the slope increased significantly to a very steep gradient. The topsoil as such was very shallow across most of the area measuring on average 0.2m – 0.3m deep.
- 4.3.2 After completing the topsoil strip of Area A the scars of three evaluation trenches were located including the pit previously discovered during the evaluation phase (Farrell 2007). This pit was re-numbered as [002] and cleaned, recorded and fully excavated. No associated remains of any structure was discovered in the vicinity of [002] but two further isolated pits were found [004] and [006].
- 4.3.3 Pit [004] was a large oval pit measuring 1.3m by 1.6m by 0.7m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. The fill deposit was black/grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks and a substantial concentration of rounded rocks (Plate 8). The second pit [006] was similar in size, measuring 1.2m by 1.15m by 0.35m deep. The sides of this pit were vertical with a flat base and a fill deposit of black/grey sandy silt, ash, and charcoal with few rounded rocks. No artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered from either feature.



Plate 8: Pit [004]



## 5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The results of this phase of work on the development area produced an unexpected archaeologically rich set of results. In Area B where it was believed that further archaeological remains would be discovered the results were particularly sparse. With the exception of the previously discovered pit [002] only two pits of indeterminable function were uncovered which produced no datable archaeological artefacts. In contrast Area A produced a density of archaeological features which surpassed those found in the evaluation trenches nearby.
- 5.2 The results of the excavation in Area A produced evidence of possible storage pits, a palisaded enclosure, multiple hearths, postholes, a shell midden, and a substantial cut into the natural; possibly used as a structure. In addition a finds assemblage of ceramics and worked stone objects was recovered. Together this would suggest a settled landscape of both domestic and agricultural activity during the prehistoric or medieval period.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. Given the significant archaeological features identified during this phase of work, it is possible further works will be required and may include a full post excavation programme to determine the date and nature of the site. However, as the features were completely excavated during this phase of works no further on site works should be required. This is a recommendation pending approval by the Highland Council and the Historic Environment Team (HET).

## 7 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology Group 2015, *Dornoch North, Phase 1, Highlands, WSI*.

Farrell, S 2007 *Interim Report of Archaeological Work for the Dornoch Development Area, Dornoch, Highland. Unpublished Client Report*

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*. (February 2010)

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology*

# **Dornoch North, Highlands: Excavation Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

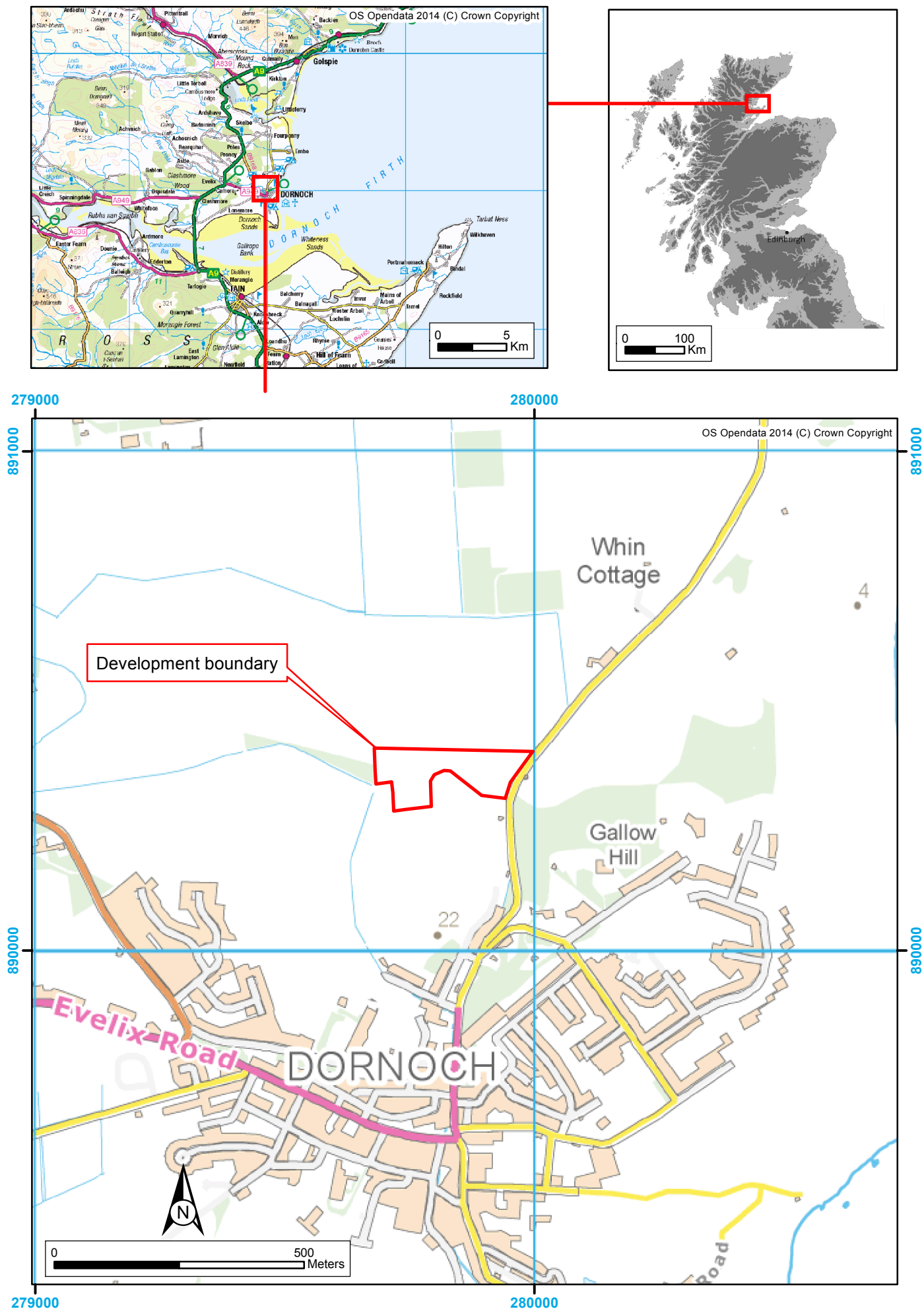


Figure 1: Site location plan

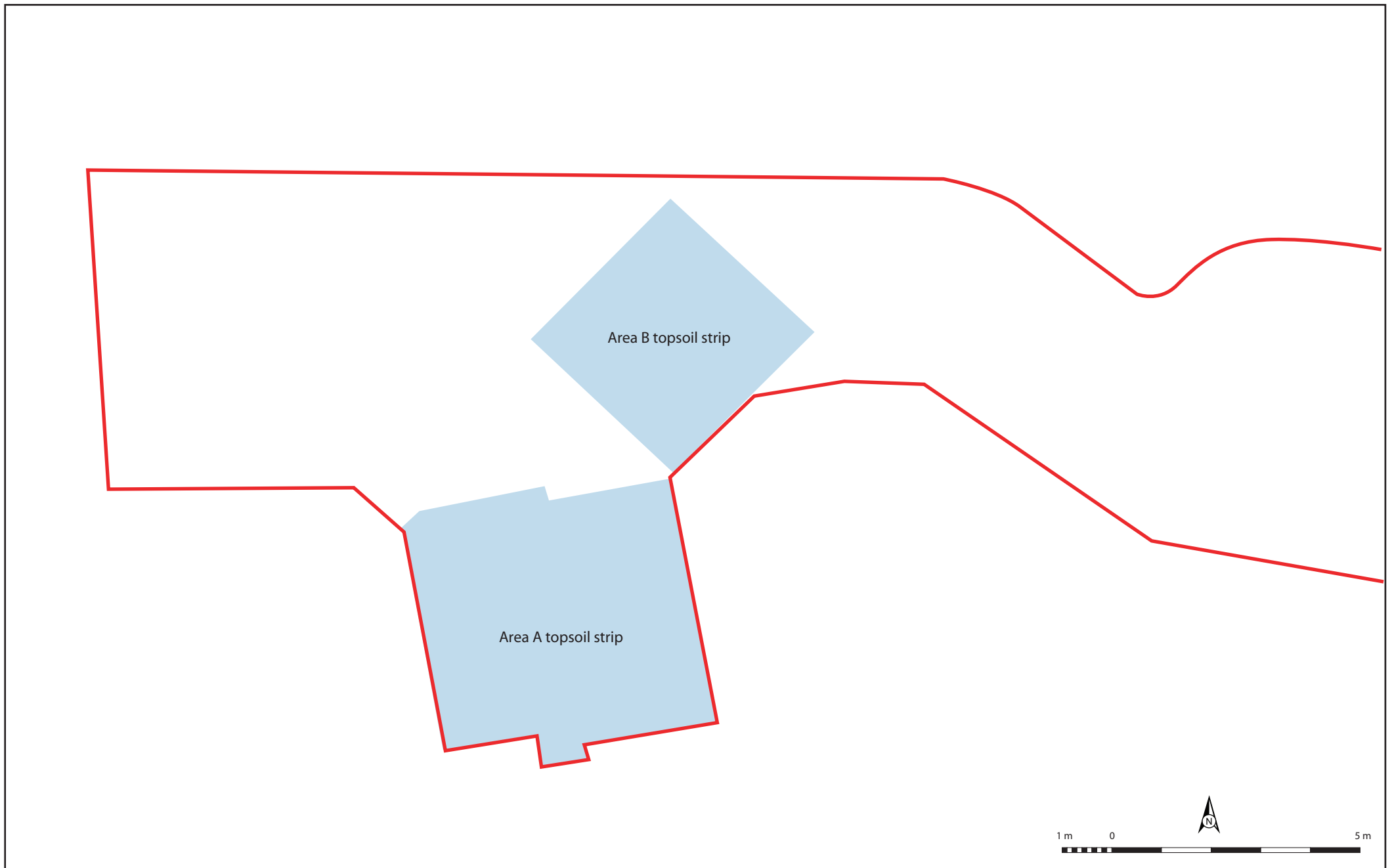


Figure 2: Outline of development area showing areas subject to topsoil strip

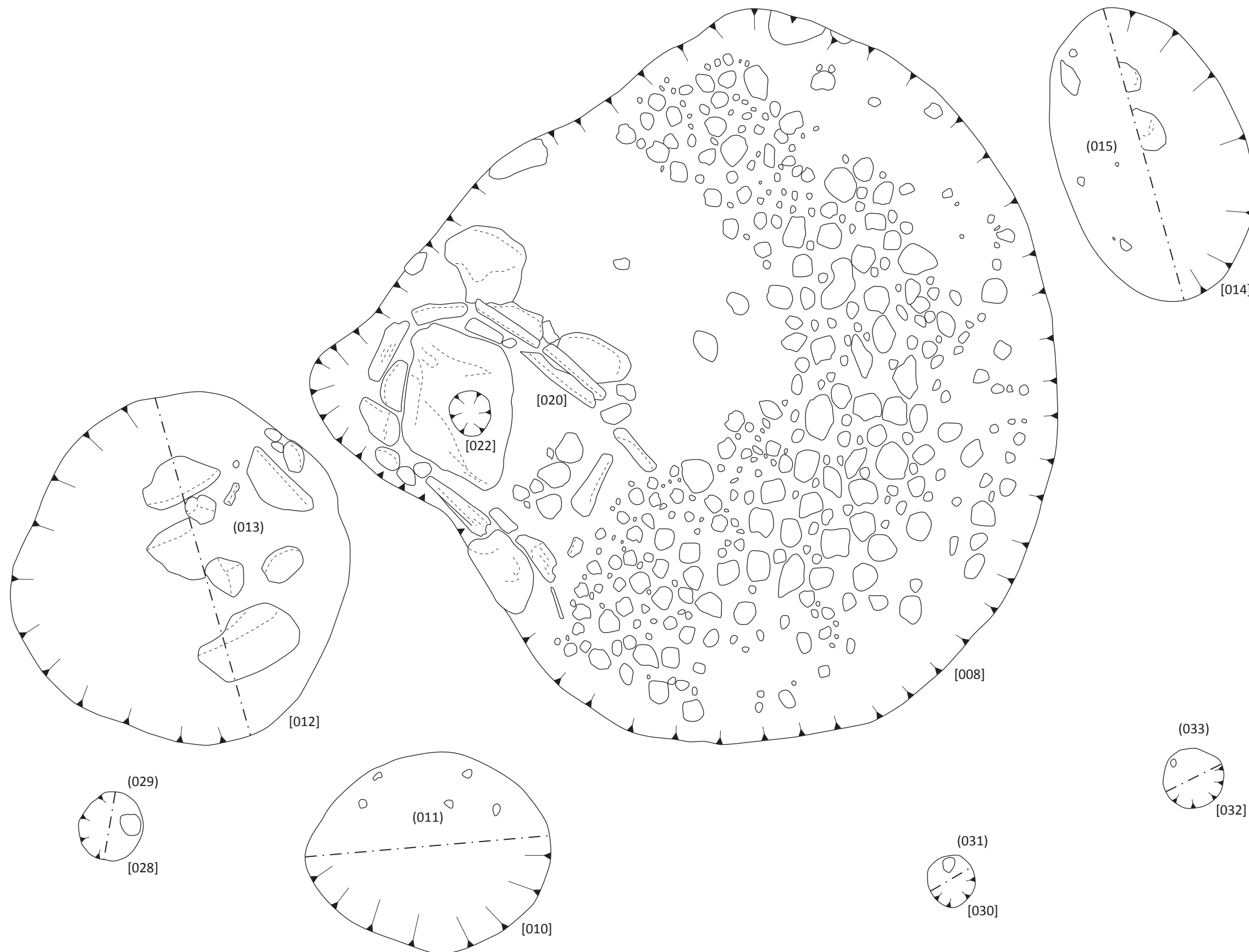


Figure 3: Plan of Strcuture 1

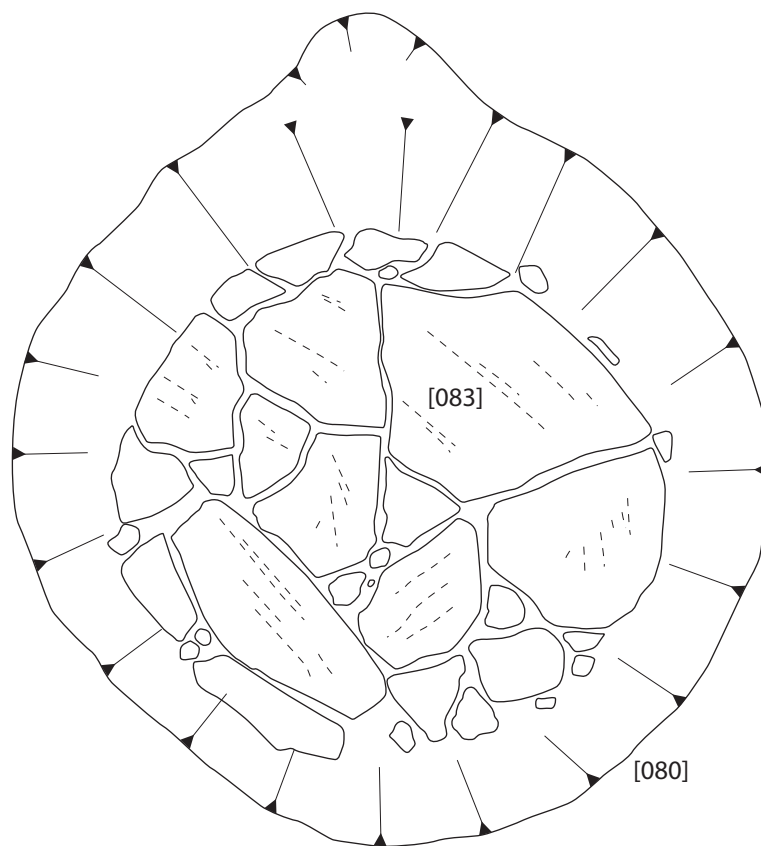


Figure 4: Plan of Pit [080]





Figure 5: Plan of Palisade [024]

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

### Camera 1

Frame	Area	Structure	Description	From	Date
1	-	-	Registration shot	-	28/09/15
2-6	B	-	Area B – pre excavation shots	Various	29/09/15
7-15	B	-	Work in Area B – 29/09/15	Various	29/09/15
16-18	B	-	Old excavations trenches – west – middle – east	Various	29/09/15
19	B	-	Black mineral deposit Area B	S	29/09/15
21-23	B	-	Area B – excavations complete	Various	30/09/15
24-27	A	-	Possible features – Area B	Various	01/10/15
28-32	A	-	Working shots – topsoil strip – Area A	Various	01/10/15
33-34	A	-	Possible features –Area B	S	02/10/15
35-36	A	-	Working shots	Various	02/10/15
37-39	B	-	Pit [004] Pre-ex	S	02/10/15
40-48	B	-	Pit [004] working shots	Various	02/10/15
49-57	B	-	Area A working shots	Various	02/10/15
58-60	A	-	Pit [004] working shots	Various	05/10/15
61-68	A	-	Pit [004] ½ excavated	Various	05/10/15
69-72	A	-	Pit [006] ½ excavated	Various	05/10/15
73-81	A	-	Pit [002] from Evaluation trench	Various	05/10/15
82-91	A	1	Structure 1 partially excavated	SE	05/10/15
92-93	A	-	Pit [016] Pre-ex	S	06/10/15
94-97	A	-	Pit [018] N facing section	N	06/10/15
98-99	A	-	Pit [016] W facing section	W	06/10/15
100	A	1	Pit [010] S facing section	S	06/10/15
101-104	A	1	Edge set stones [202] in Structure 1	W	06/10/15
105-109	A	1	Working shots – Structure 1	Various	06/10/15
110-113	A	1	Pit [014] E facing section	E	06/10/15
114-116	A	1	S facing section of [008]	S	07/10/15
117-119	A	1	General of Structure 1	SE	07/10/15
120-122	A	1	S facing section of [008]	S	07/10/15
123-132	A	1	W facing section of [008]	W	07/10/15
133-134	A	1	General shots Structure 1	Various	07/10/15
135-137	A	2	Palisade Structure 2	S	07/10/15
138-140	A	2	Slot 1 through Palisade 2 [024]	S	07/10/15
141-143	A	2	Slot 2 through Palisade 2 [024]	S	07/10/15
144-145	A	1	Structure 1	Various	07/10/15
146-147	A	1	Pit [014]	W	08/10/15
148-151	A	1	Stones (021) on surface (023)	SE	08/10/15
152-153	A	1	Post holes [028] [030] [032]	SE	08/10/15
154-159	A	1	Structure 1 General	SE	08/10/15

160-162	A	1	Hearth [202]	SE	08/10/15
163-164	A	1	Worked stone [022]	E	08/10/15
165-173	A	1	[020]	E	08/10/15
174-183	A	1	Structure 1 General shots and hearth [020]	Various	08/10/15
184-186	A	1	Pit [014]	W	09/10/15
187-188	A	1	Pits [028] [030] [032]	Various	09/10/15
189	A	1	Structure 1 General	S	09/10/15
190-191	A	1	Pit [034] Working shots	S	09/10/15
192	A	2	Palisade Slot 2	SW	09/10/15
193-194	A	3	Pit [064]	SW	09/10/15
195-198	A	2	Palisade Slot 3	Various	09/10/15
199-209	A	1	Structure 1 Working shots	N	09/10/15
210-216	A	1	Structure 1 Half excavated	N	09/10/15
217-225	A	2	Pit [034]	S	09/10/15
226-229	A	2	Pit [046]	Various	09/10/15
230-231	A	3	Pit [064]	Various	09/10/15
232-234	A	3	Pit [062]	Various	09/10/15
235-239	A	2	Pit [049]	Various	09/10/15
240-242	A	2	Structure 2 General working shots	Various	09/10/15
243-245	A	-	Pit [038]	W	12/10/15
246-254	A	-	Pit [040]	W	12/10/15
255-256	A	2	Pit [044]	N	12/10/15
257-259	A	2	Pit [054]	S	12/10/15
260-263	A	2	Palisade Slot 4	Various	12/10/15
264-266	A	2	Palisade Slot 5	Various	12/10/15
267-273	A	3	Palisade 2 and pits general shots	S	13/10/15
274-276	A	3	Pit cluster Structure 3	S	13/10/15
277-278	A	3	Pit [060]	S	13/10/15
279-280	A	3	Pit [062]	S	13/10/15
281-282	A	3	Pit [064]	W	13/10/15
283-284	A	3	Pit [066]	S	13/10/15
285-286	A	3	Pit [068]	S	13/10/15
287-288	A	3	Pit [056]	S	13/10/15
289-295	A	-	Pit [040] partially excavated	Various	13/10/15
296-298	A	2	Pit [034] fully excavated	S	13/10/15
299-307	A	-	Pit [040]	Various	13/10/15
308-310	A	-	Possible quern stone from pit [038]	-	13/10/15
311-317	A	2	Pit [049] fully excavated	S	13/10/15
318-321	A	1	Structure 1	Various	13/10/15
322-324	AA	2	Pits near palisade Structure 2 general shots	S	14/10/15
325-331	A	2	Pit [034] – post excavation	S	14/10/15
332-338	A	-	Pit [040] – showing structure [041]	W	14/10/15

339-342	A	1	Hearth [020]	Various	14/10/15
343-349	A	2	Quern from pit [034]	-	14/10/15
350-353	A	-	Working shots – removal of (041) – Layer 2	E	14/10/15
354-362	A	-	Slot through [076]	W	14/10/15
363-367	A	-	Working shots of removal of [041] – layer 3	E	14/10/15
368-371	A	-	Pit [040] – deposit (071)	E	14/10/15
372-382	A	-	Pit [040] excavated to base – N facing section	Various	14/10/15
383-387	A	-	Slot next to hearth Structure 1	S	14/10/15
387-391	A	-	Area near Palisade Structure 2 – general shots	S	14/10/15
392-396	A	-	Midden [076] general shots	Various	14/10/15
397-400	A	-	Structure 1 General shots	Various	14/10/15
401—403	A	2	Post hole [058]	N	15/10/15
404-407	A	-	Post hole [059]	N	15/10/15
408-409	A	-	Pit [018] post excavation	Various	15/10/15
410-413	A	1	Deposits below [022]	E	15/10/15
414-424	A	-	Stone [022] – New location and close up shots	Various	15/10/15
425-426	A	1	Structure 1 after removal of [022]	S	15/10/15
427-430	A	-	Working shots of pit [080]	N	15/10/15
431-451	A	1	Pit [008] fully excavated	Various	15/10/15
452-454	A	-	Hearth (079)	W	15/10/15
455-460	A	-	E facing section of midden [076]	E	16/10/15
461-465	A	-	Hearth [079]	E	16/10/15
466-468	A	-	Pit [080] N facing section	N	16/10/15
469-470	A	-	Midden [076] removed – no features below	N	16/10/15
471-479	A	-	Worked stone from topsoil near [080]	Various	16/10/15
480-496	A	-	Pit [080] post excavation	Various	16/10/15
499-502	A	-	Stones of base of [080] – removed to natural	Various	16/10/15
503-506	A	-	Site – as left		

## Camera 2

Frame	Area	Structure	Description	From	Date
1 - 91	-	-	Working shots of various features	-	-

## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Area	Structure	Description
000	A + B		Yellow/ orange/ brown sand gravel with rounded rocks and some patches of softer sandy clay which is mostly found at the base of the hill slopes. Also contains some patches of black mineral formation. <b>Natural Subsoil</b>
001	A + B		The surface is of a fallow field with old decayed corn stalks, weeds and rocks. The topsoil is dark brown grey sandy clay (mostly sand) with very little silt or organics. Contains lighter grey flecks and pieces of 19 <sup>th</sup> / 20 <sup>th</sup> century ceramics and glass. Varies in depth from 0.2m – 1m. <b>Topsoil</b>
002	B		Cut of small sub-circular pit or posthole with concave sides and a concave base. Measures 0.5m x 0.45m x 0.18m. <b>Pit (from evaluation)</b>
003	B		Friable dark black grey silty sand with very infrequent gravel sized stones. <b>Fill of [002]</b>
004	B		Large sub oval cut with steep / near vertical sides and a concave base. Aligned NW-SE. Measures 1.3m x 1.6m x 0.7m. <b>Cut of pit</b>
005	B		Dark black grey silty sand with small and medium rounded stones and concentration of large rounded and flat stones in the lower half. Contains some flecks of charcoal. <b>Fill of pit [004]</b>
006	B		Large sub circular cut with vertical sides and an uneven concave base. Measures 1.2m x 1.15m x 0.35m. <b>Cut of pit</b>
007	B		Friable dark grey silty sand with some small – medium (<10cm) rounded stones. <b>Fill of [006]</b>
008	A	1	Cut of sub circular features measuring 3.2m diameter x 1m deep. Contains hearth [020], [027], worked stone mortar [022], surface of packed stones [023] and deposit of burnt material [037]. Has steep, near vertical sides and a fairly flat base. <b>Cut of large circular feature</b>
009	A	1	Dark grey black, fairly loose sandy silty gravel with lots of small, medium and large rounded rocks with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt bone. Depth 0.2m – 0.3m <b>Fill of [008]</b>
010	A	1	Oval cut with concave sides and a concave base. Measures 1.2m x 1m x 0.25m. <b>Cut of large round pit</b>
011	A	1	Dark brown grey, fairly firm silty sand with occasional small and medium rounded rocks and occasional charcoal flecks. <b>Fill of [010]</b>
012	A	1	Round cut with steep concave sides and a concave base. Measures 1.8m diameter x 0.7m deep. <b>Cut of large round pit</b>
013	A	1	Dark brown grey sandy silty clay with lots of charcoal chunks and flecks and lots of small, medium and large rocks which are rounded and angular. <b>Fill of [012]</b>
014	A	1	Large oval pit with concave sides and concave base. Measures 1.5m x 1m x 0.4m. <b>Cut of oval pit</b>
015	A	1	Dark grey brown sandy silty gravel with occasional small and medium rounded

			rocks and occasional charcoal flecks. <b>Fill of pit [014]</b>
016	A	Isolated	Oval cut with concave sides and concave base. Measures 3m x 1.4m x 0.4m. <b>Cut of large oval pit</b>
017	A	Isolated	Medium to dark grey, fairly loose sand with occasional charcoal flecks. <b>Fill of [016]</b>
018	A	Isolated	Large rounded pit with concave sides and concave base. Measures 1.3m diameter x 0.3m deep. <b>Cut of round pit</b>
019	A	Isolated	Dark grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Contains lots of small, medium and large rounded rocks. <b>Fill of [018]</b>
020	A		Stones creating a sub-rectangular enclosure comprised of flat slabs of sandstone measuring 0.4m long x 0.08m thick. The slabs have been heat affected. Surface [022] abuts it and contains large worked stone [022]. <b>Edge set stones –Structure 1 – probably a hearth</b>
021	A	1	Deposit of large rounded rocks within [009] on surface (023). <b>Large Rocks – possible purposeful backfill of features within [009]</b>
022	A	1	Large roughly rectangular boulder with a large worked hole cut into it. Hole is cone shaped with a round base (neatly cut). Measures 0.65m x 0.65m x 0.3m. Central hole measures 0.25m diameter x 0.15m deep. <b>Worked stone –Structure 1</b>
023	A	1	Surface of hard packed rounded rocks. Small and medium rounded rocks tightly packed together in a firm – well comprised layer of grey sandy clay. Approximately 0.2m thick. <b>Hard packed surface – hearth</b>
024	A	2	Narrow ditch of large rectilinear enclosure. Enclosures measures 9m x 6m inside and is completely truncated to the north. The ditch varies in size, measuring 0.25m – 0.8m wide x 0.1m -0.2m deep. Has concave sides and a concave base. Also contains 2 stone lined post holes [058] and [059] within slots 1 and 2. <b>Cut of ditch / palisade</b>
025	A	2	Black grey silty sandy gravel with occasional charcoal flecks and small to large rocks. Also contains occasional shells. Measuring 0.1m – 0.2m deep. <b>Fill of [024]</b>
026	A	1	Black silty sand and pale brown ash. Contains lots of charcoal chunks and flecks and lots of burnt bone chunks. Measures 0.2m thick. <b>Fill of hearth [020]</b>
027	A	1	Flat stones at the base of hearth [020]. Heat affected unworked sandstone slabs. <b>Base stones of hearth [020]</b>
028	A	1	Circular cut with concave sides and concave base. Measures 0.3m diameter x 0.15m deep. <b>Possible truncated post hole</b>
029	A	1	Dark grey brown sandy silty gravel. <b>Fill of [028]</b>
030	A	1	Circular cut with concaves sides and concave base. Measures 0.3m diameter x 0.1m deep. <b>Possible truncated post hole</b>
031	A	1	Dark grey brown sandy silty gravel. <b>Fill of [030]</b>
032	A	1	Circular cut with concave sides and concave base. Measures 0.3m diameter x 0.12m deep. <b>Possible truncated post hole</b>
033	A	1	Dark grey brown sandy silty gravel. <b>Fill of [032]</b>
034	A	2	Oval cut with steep, nearly vertical sides and a flat base lines with flat slabs [043] which are bonded with grey clay. Measures 1.7m x 1.2m x 0.9m. <b>Cut of large pit</b>
035	A	2	Grey black silty sandy clay with lots of charcoal and lots of small to large rocks.



			Measures 0.35m thick. <b>Upper fill of pit [034]</b>
036	A	2	Medium grey/black sandy silt with ash and charcoal flecks alongside occasional rocks. Measures 0.55m deep. <b>Lower fill of pit [034]</b>
037	A	1	Grey brown sandy silty clay with ash and lots of large charcoal chunks and flecks. Contains a large concentration of large rocks [070] towards the base. Measures 0.5m thick. <b>Lower fill of [008]</b>
038	A	Isolated	Roughly round cut with steep concave sides and concave base. Measures 1.3m diameter x 0.5m deep. <b>Cut of pit (isolated)</b>
039	A	Isolated	Medium grey sandy gravel silt and lots of small and large rocks. <b>Fill of [038]</b>
040		Isolated	Oval cut with steep, near vertical sides and a concave base. Measures 2.4m x 1.6m x 1m. Contains a large stone structure – possible hearth [041]. <b>Cut of pit (Fire pit?)</b>
041		Isolated	Stone structure constructed of 3 tiers of flat stones with edge set stones to the south and east. Each layer of flat stones may represent a separate phase of use. <b>Hearth stones?</b>
042		Isolated	Black silty sand and pale brown ash. Contains lots of charcoal, some large chunks and lots of rounded rocks. Measures approximately 0.5m thick. <b>Fill of pit [040]</b>
043			Large stone slabs laid on the flat base of pit [034]. Stones are closely laid, not clearly worked but chosen for matching shapes. Held together with grey clay. <b>Base stones in pit [034]</b>
044			Round cut with steep concave sides and concave base. Measures 0.5m diameter x 0.25m deep. <b>Cut of small pit</b>
045			Medium grey black silty sand clay with charcoal flecks. Contains lots of large rounded stones. Measures 0.25m thick. <b>Fill of [044]</b>
046			Misshapen in plan but fairly oval. Cut has shallow concave sides and a flat base. Measures 2.2m x 1.6m x 0.2m. Collection of flat slabs within may be truncated / disturbed structure or hearth (048). <b>Cut of pit (Fire pit?)</b>
047			Black grey silty sandy clay with charcoal flecks and pale brown ash. Contains lots of pink heat affected sandstone slabs. Measures 0.2m thick. <b>Fill of [046]</b>
048			Pink fire affected sandstone slabs which are badly fragmented and surrounded by large rounded rocks. Measures 0.8m x 0.8m x 0.2m. <b>Hearth stones in pit [046]</b>
049			Sub-oval cut with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. Measures 2.2m x 1m x 0.25m. <b>Cut of pit – Fire pit</b>
050			Hearth contained pink sandstone slab measuring 0.8m x 0.5m and is surrounded by 2 edge set stones. Feature has probably been truncated as most of the upper structure is missing. <b>Stones in [049]</b>
051			Black grey silty sandy clay with charcoal flecks and pale brown ash. <b>Fill of pit [049]</b>
052			Oval cut with concave sides and concave base. Measures 1.4m x 0.8m x 0.3m. <b>Cut of pit</b>
053			Dark grey black silty sand with charcoal flecks and small – large rounded rocks. <b>Fill of pit [052]</b>
054			Round cut with concave sides and concave base. Measures 0.6m diameter x 0.3m deep. <b>Cut of pit</b>

055			Dark grey black sandy silt with charcoal flecks and fragments of pink sandstone slabs. <b>Fill of pit [054]</b>
056			Round pit with concave sides and concave base. Possibly truncated remains of a fire pit. Measures 0.85m diameter x 0.35m deep. <b>Cut of pit – Fire pit?</b>
057			Black silty sand with charcoal flecks and lots of fragments of pink sandstone slabs. <b>Fill of pit [056]</b>
058	2		Circular stone lined cut measuring 0.25m x 0.2. Inner post hole measures 0.1m x 0.15m. Filled with material identical to [025]. <b>Post hole in palisade</b>
059	2		Small stone lined cut measuring 0.25m x 0.25m. Inner post hole measures 0.1m x 0.1m. <b>Post hole in palisade</b>
060	3		Cut of round pit with steep sides and concave base. Measures 0.4m diameter x 0.25m deep. <b>Cut of small post hole</b>
061	3		Medium grey silty sand and small flecks. <b>Fill of [060]</b>
062	3		Cut of sub-rounded pit with steep sides and concave base. Measures 0.5m x 0.4m x 0.35m. <b>Cut of small post hole</b>
063	3		Grey sandy silty clay with large rounded rocks and occasional charcoal flecks. <b>Fill of [062]</b>
064	3		Sub-rounded cut with steep sides and concave base. Measures 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.35m. <b>Cut of small post hole</b>
065	3		Grey sandy silty clay with large rounded rocks and occasional charcoal flecks. <b>Fill of [064]</b>
066	3		Round cut with steep sides and concave base. Measures 0.5m diameter x 0.3m deep. <b>Cut of small post hole</b>
067	3		Grey sandy silty clay with large rounded rocks and occasional charcoal flecks. <b>Fill of [066]</b>
068	3		Round cut with concave sides and concave base. Measures 0.5m diameter x 0.2m deep. <b>Cut of small post hole</b>
069	3		Grey sandy silty clay with large rounded rocks and occasional charcoal flecks. <b>Fill of [068]</b>
070			Deposit of large rounded rocks, similar to (021) within (009). <b>Large rocks within deposit (037)</b>
071			Black silty sand with ash and charcoal flecks and lots of small – large rounded stones. Measures 0.5m deep. <b>Stone and ash fill of [040]</b>
072			Yellow silty clay with ash measuring approximately 0.05m thick. <b>Ash lense in [040]</b>
073			Black silty sand with charcoal flecks measuring 0.05m thick. <b>Dark silty primary fill of [040]</b>
074			Medium brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and filled with large rocks around the edges. Measuring 0.15m deep. <b>Fill of post hole [058]</b>
075			Medium brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and filled with large rocks around the edges. Measuring 0.2m deep. <b>Fill of post hole [059]</b>
076			Circular deposit of shell midden material contained conch, limpet and razor clams shells with few bones fragments. Extends 2.5m N-S and 2.2m E-W. Measures 1.2m deep. Contains occasional rounded stones and animal bone

			fragments. <b>Shell midden</b>
077			Ring of stones set around shell midden defining boundary. Circular in plan extending 4.4m N-S and 3.9m E-W. Stones range from 0.5m – 0.1m diameter. Single course of stones visible. <b>Stones surrounding shell midden [076]</b>
078			Dark brown black silty sand deposit containing ash and charcoal. Extends 4.4m N-S, 3.9m E-W and 0.2m deep. <b>Deposit below [076]</b>
079			Stone features comprised of 2 tiers of flat stone slabs. Very badly truncated with no remains of any associated cut or higher stone structure. <b>Possible remains of hearth / fire pit</b>
080			Circular pit with steep, near vertical sides which become concave towards the base and a flat base. Lined with flat surface of closely laid flat slabs (083). Measures 2m diameter at the top, 1.6m x 1.4m at base and measures 1.2-1.3m deep. <b>Cut of pit</b>
081			Circular deposit of shell midden material contained conch, limpet and razor clams shells with few bones fragments. Measures 0.5m thick. <b>Fill of pit – [076]</b>
082			Dark brown black silty sand with lots of medium to very large rounded rocks which are fairly densely packed. Measures 0.7m thick. <b>Fill of [080] – lower</b>
083			Large flat pink sandstones slabs laid on the flat base of [080]. Closely laid and shapes chosen which fit well together. Measures 1.6m x 1.4m x 0.05m. <b>Stone fill of [080]</b>

### APPENDIX 3: Sample Register

Context	Quantity (Litres)
005	20
007	20
009	15
013	10
017	5
019	5
025 Slot 2	5
025 Slot 3	5
025 Slot 4	5
026	15
035	5
036	5
037	10
039	5
042	10
045	5
047	5
051	5
055	5

061	5
063	5
067	5
069	5
071	5
072	3
073	3
074	3
075	3
076	5
081	10
082	10

## APPENDIX 4: Drawing Register

Number	Sheet Number	Scale	Description
1	1	1:10	Plan of pit [002]
2	1	1:10	N-facing section of pit [002]
3	1	1:10	N-facing section of pit [004]
4	1	1:10	Plan of pit [004]
5	1	1:10	N-facing section of pit [006]
6	1	1:10	Plan of pit [006]
7	2	1:20	Partial excavation plan of Structure 1
8	1	1:20	Overlay plan of Structure 1
9	1	1:10	W-facing section of pit [016]
10	1	1:20	Plan of pit [016]
11	2	1:10	N-facing section of pit [018]
12	2	1:20	Plan of pit [018]
13	2	1:10	S-facing section of pit [010]
14	2	1:10	W-facing section of pit [012]
15	2	1:10	E-facing section of pit [014]
16	2	1:10	Sections of pits [028] [030] [032]
17	3	1:20	S-facing section of [008] – partial section from quadrants
18	3	1:20	E-facing section of [008] – partial section from quadrants
19	3	1:10	W-facing section of pit [038]
20	3	1:20	Plan of pit [038]
21	3	1:20	Overlay 2 of Structure 1
22	4	1:10	W-facing section of [040]
23	4	1:20	Plan of pit [040]
24	4	1:10	S-facing section of pit [034]
25	4	1:10	E-facing section of pit [044]
26	4	1:10	SW-facing section of pit [049]
27	4	1:10	W-facing section of pit [052]
28	4	1:10	S-facing section of pit [054]
29	4	1:10	S-facing section of Palisade [024] – slot 2
30	4	1:10	SW-facing section of Palisade [024] – slot 1
31	4	1:10	N-facing section of Palisade [024] – slot 3

32	4	1:10	S-facing section of pit [046]
33	5	1:20	Plan of Palisade [024] and pit cluster – Structure 3
34	6	1:10	E-facing section of pit [060]
35	6	1:10	S-facing section of pit [062]
36	6	1:10	W-facing section of pit [064]
37	6	1:10	E-facing section of pit [066]
38	6	1:10	S-facing section of pit [068]
39	6	1:10	S-facing section of pit [056]
40	6	1:20	N-facing section of pit [008] from full excavation
41	6	1:10	N-facing profile across hearth [020]
42	6	1:10	N-facing section of lower deposits of [040]
43	6	1:20	Pit [049] fully excavated
44	6	1:20	Pit [034] fully excavated
45	6	1:20	Partial excavation plan of pit [040]
46	7	1:20	Continuation of Plan #33 showing Palisade [024]
47	8	1:20	Post excavation plan of pit [008]
48	8	1:20	Post excavation profile of [008] – N facing
49	8	1:20	Post excavation profile of [008] – E facing
50	8	1:20	W-facing section of midden [076]
51	8	1:20	Plan of shell midden [076]
52	9	1:10	Deposits below hearth [020]
53	9	1:10	N-facing section of post hole [058] within Palisade [024]
54	9	1:10	N-facing section of post hole [059] within Palisade [024]
55	9	1:10	Plan of [024] Slot 4
56	9	1:10	S-facing section of [024] – Slot 4
57	9	1:10	S-facing section of [024] – Slot 5
58	9	1:20	Post excavation plan of pit [040]
59	9	1:10	N-facing section of pit [080]
60	9	1:20	Plan of [080] and hearth [079]
61	3	1:20	Post ex plan of pit [080]

## APPENDIX 5: Finds Register

Find Number	Context Number	Description
1	019	Ceramic fragment
2	U/S	Worked stone
3	009	Stone
4	076	Worked bone
5	076	Ceramic fragment
6	076	Animal bone
7	082	Ceramic fragments
8	U/S	Large worked stone – mortar?
9	082	Decorated pot rim shred

**APPENDIX 6: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry**

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Highland Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dronish North
PROJECT CODE:	22924
PARISH:	Inverness
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Nicholas Johnstone
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Pits, palisade enclosure
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Ceramic, worked stone
NGR:	NH 79804 90342
START DATE (this season)	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
END DATE (this season)	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES)	Evaluation 2007
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on a proposed development site to the north of Dornoch (NGR: NH 79804 90342). In this phase of work two large trenches, Area A: 60m x 60m and Area B: 40m x 40m, were stripped of topsoil and the archaeological features uncovered were excavated.</p> <p>In Area A a number of archaeological features were uncovered including stone lined storage pits, multiple hearths, a palisaded enclosure, postholes, a shell midden and a huge circular cut feature. Finds recovered from these features included worked stone tools, animal bone and ceramic fragments.</p> <p>In Area B two isolated pits were discovered in addition to the pit previously known from the evaluation phase.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	<b>Springfield Properties PLC,</b>
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Admin@aocarchaeology.com





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