

BRAES OF CONON,
CONON BRIDGE, DINGWALL

Archaeological Evaluation

for Cameron & Paterson Homes Ltd

08/00994/FULRC

February 2011



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CONTENTS

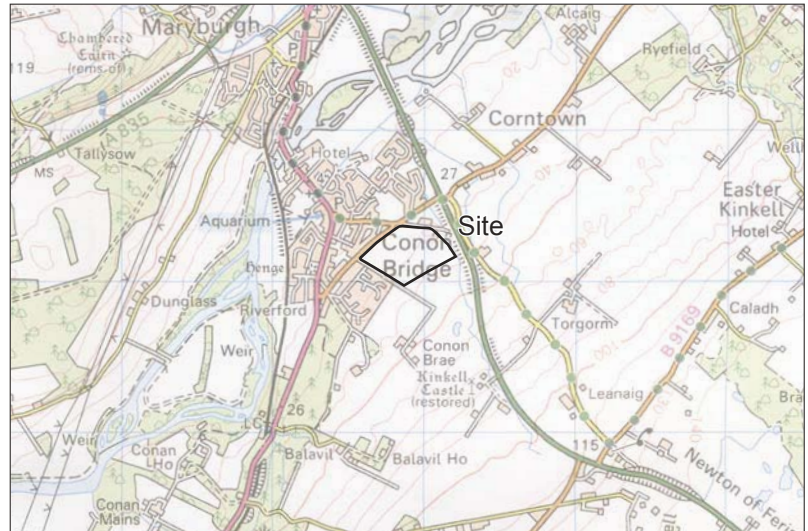
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	BACKGROUND	1
3.	METHOD	1
3.1	Objectives	1
3.2	Methodology	2
	<i>Desk-based assessment</i>	2
	<i>Trial trenching</i>	2
3.3	Recording	2
4.	RESULTS	2
4.1	Desk-based assessment	2
4.2	Trial trenching	3
4.3	Finds assessment	5
4.4	Environmental	5
	<i>Introduction</i>	5
	<i>Method</i>	6
	<i>Results</i>	6
	<i>Discussion</i>	7
	<i>Conclusion</i>	7
5.	DISCUSSION	7
6.	REFERENCES	8
7.	APPENDICES	9
7.1	Appendix 1 – Site registers	9
	<i>Trench register</i>	9
	<i>Context register</i>	10
	<i>Photographic register</i>	12
	<i>Sample register</i>	14
7.2	Appendix 2 – Environmental tables	15
	<i>Retent sample results</i>	15
	<i>Flotation sample results</i>	15
7.3	Appendix 3 – DES entry	16

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Illus 1</i>	viii
<i>Site location</i>	
<i>Illus 2</i>	4
<i>Close up of trenches in SE corner of site</i>	
<i>Illus 3</i>	5
<i>Pit [070] in Trench 27</i>	
<i>Illus 4</i>	6
<i>Close up of Trenches 43 and 44</i>	
<i>Illus 5</i>	7
<i>NE facing section through pit [032]</i>	
<i>Illus 6</i>	7
<i>Pit [036]</i>	

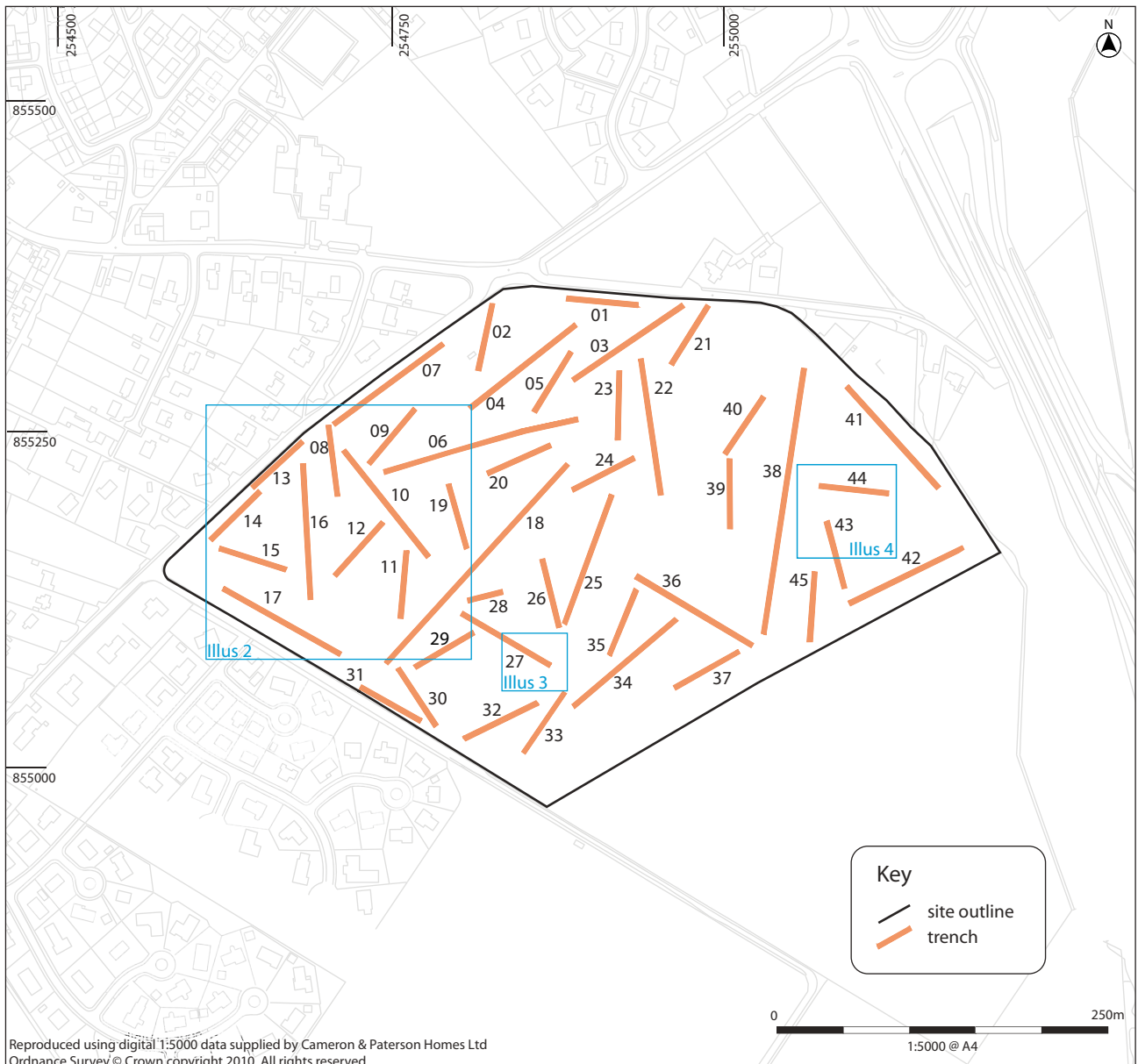


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viii



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Illus 1
Site location

BRAES OF CONON, CONON BRIDGE, DINGWALL

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook an evaluation at the proposed site of a housing development at Braes of Conon, Conon Bridge in order to test the archaeological potential of the area that would be impacted on by the development. A desk-based assessment was undertaken prior to fieldwork to understand the archaeological background of the site and to help to locate trenches on any potential areas of interest. The work was commissioned by Cameron & Paterson Homes Ltd and a specification for the work was agreed with Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

A total of forty five trenches were excavated across the development area. The trenching identified a low density of features across the site. Of these six features, all located in the western half of the site, were identified as having archaeological potential. In particular a possible trough similar to that found associated with burnt mounds was identified. The remaining features recorded during the evaluation appear to be of natural origin or of relatively recent antiquity containing finds dating to the 19th century and later. No other features of archaeological significance were identified.

1

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation, by trial trenching, carried out in response to a planning condition placed on a proposed housing development on land at School Road, Conon Bridge, Dingwall. The evaluation sought to identify any archaeological remains on the site. This was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd based on a brief provided by Highland Council. The WSI was previously agreed with Highland Council Archaeology Unit in advance of the works commencing.

2. BACKGROUND

The site lay on the south-east outskirts of the village of Conon Bridge, Dingwall and was characterised by arable farmland. The site was located within a single field and was bounded by School Road to the north-west and by two unnamed access roads to the south-west and north-east. To the south-east the arable farmland continued within the same field (Illus 1).

The underlying solid rock geology is sedimentary formations comprising of sandstones, conglomerates,

shales and flagstone. The overlying drift geology consists of mineral alluvium composed of sands and gravels with large stones.

3. METHOD

3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- to evaluate the archaeological potential of the development site and determine the location, character, extent and quality of any archaeological remains identified within it,
- to propose arrangements for the safeguarding, where possible, and recording where necessary of any archaeological features or finds identified; to be agreed with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit,
- to meet the needs for archaeological conservation and recording without unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development project.



3.2 Methodology

Desk-based assessment

A rapid desk based assessment of a 1.5km radius of the development area was undertaken prior to the start of fieldwork. The results were used to inform the location of the test trenches and are summarised below.

The assessment comprised a systematic search of all relevant archaeological/historical records, maps and oblique aerial photographs, including:

- information in the Highland Council Historic Environment Record (HER),
- archaeological records held in the National Monuments Record of Scotland,
- published maps held in the National Library of Scotland,
- information on Listed Buildings/ Scheduled Ancient Monuments,
- relevant published sources.

2 Trial trenching

The total area available for evaluation was 136,880m² and 5% of this was sampled by trial trenching. This equated to 3,222m of linear trenching 2m wide. An indicative trench plan was agreed with Highland Council Archaeology Unit prior to work commencing on the site, although there was scope within the WSI to alter this plan as required by conditions on the ground.

All excavation was undertaken by a 16 ton tracked excavator equipped with a 2m wide flat ditching bucket, working under the direct guidance of an archaeologist.

3.3 Recording

All recording followed Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd standard procedures and was in accordance with the codes of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All trenches and contexts were given unique numbers and all recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

A full photographic record using colour slide and colour print film, supplemented by digital photographs was taken to record archaeological contexts and to illustrate the progress of the trial trenching. A graduated metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs of contexts. All

photographs were recorded by individual print number and included information on the context and direction taken.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey using a total station linked to an onsite PC equipped with CAD software.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Desk-based assessment

A rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken prior to the fieldwork commencing to establish the presence of any known sites both within the development and within a 1.5km radius of the development site. The desk-based assessment comprised a systematic search of all relevant archaeological and historical records, maps and oblique aerial photographs, as detailed in the methodology.

No relevant oblique aerial photographs were held by RCAHMS.

The desk-based assessment established that there are no known sites of cultural heritage interest within the proposed development area, however, there are a range of sites within the surrounding area.

There are a number of sites within the assessment area dating to the early prehistoric period. Most notably the Conon Bridge Henge, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 1666), located approximately 300m west of the development site and likely to date to the 2nd or 3rd millennium BC (Feachem 1963). A Neolithic or Bronze Age flint knife was discovered in 2004 approximately 600m north of the site (Saville 2004). Additionally a recent evaluation undertaken at Conon Bridge School to the north of site identified several undated archaeological features some of which may be of prehistoric date (Farrell 2010).

Activity dating to the later prehistoric period is confined to a fragment of a Class 1 Pictish symbol stone found in 1903, 1 km east of the site (Allen & Anderson 1903). A number of undated sites which may be prehistoric were located within the assessment area. A group of undated, small clearance cairns were discovered and destroyed during road construction in 1979, approximately 450m south-east of the site (RCHAMS 1979), and an undated posthole circle was also discovered during the monitoring of a gas pipeline in 1992, 1.2km to the south-east of the site (Wordsworth 1992). An undated pit circle with associated pits was also uncovered, 1km south of the development site (Tolan 1988).

The location of a number of known prehistoric sites surrounding the development area suggests a moderate to high potential for features of this period being uncovered within the site.

There is no evidence of medieval activity within the assessment area, and therefore the potential for uncovering features dating to this period in the development area is low.

The earliest post-medieval structure is a 16th century tower house at Kinkell Castle approximately 1 km southeast of the development site (Laing 1974).

C. Smiths (1806) *New Map of Great Britain and Ireland* names Cononside at the location of Conon Bridge, which may have been an early variation on the name or most likely a separate village. This is supported by Hugh Millars *The Cruise of Betsy* (1854) where he states that he returned to the village of Conon Bridge after visiting Conon-side. This would suggest that in 1806 Conon Bridge would have been a very small village, and that it only grew larger towards the mid 19th century.

The Ordnance Survey (OS) of Scotland First Series (1856) names Conon Bridge and shows the development area as open farmland. The series of OS maps from 1856 onwards show that there has only been the division of the area into three fields at some point before 1873, and the reforming of the area as one field before 1983.

There are a number of buildings within the assessment area dating to the post-medieval period, and Conon Bridge village itself dates to the 18th century, and this high number of post-medieval structures suggests a moderate to high potential for features of this period to be uncovered within the site.

4.2 Trial trenching

A total of 45 trenches, totalling 3,250 linear metres, were excavated within the development area (Illus 1). Full descriptions of each trench can be found in Appendix 1. The results are summarised below.

The trenches ranged in length from 50m to 200m, and had on average 0.3–0.4 m of plough-soil overlying the natural geology which was very mixed across the site. It consisted of a light – mid reddish and yellowish brown gravely silt to yellowish brown sandy clay and there appeared to be no distinct boundaries to it.

Of the 45 trenches excavated, 15 were empty (01, 05, 08, 10–11, 23, 25, 28–9 and 31–6) except for modern field drains, four (03, 16, 30, 37, 39 and 40) contained modern features. A further two (13 and 14) trenches had been heavily disturbed by modern activity, indicated by the presence of modern waste, most likely associated with

the construction of the adjacent road. The majority of the trenches had evidence of ploughing and bioturbation.

A large pit [024] was partially exposed within Trench 02 and continued beyond the baulk. It appeared to be circular and measured 3.8m by >0.7m, with a depth of >0.4m, and was filled by a single dark brownish grey silty sand with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

A linear ditch was uncovered within Trenches 04, 06, 07 and 24 which aligns with the post-medieval field boundary shown on the 1873 OS Map. The ditch was only partially excavated to confirm its date, which was confirmed by the presence of 19th century glass and pottery within its fill.

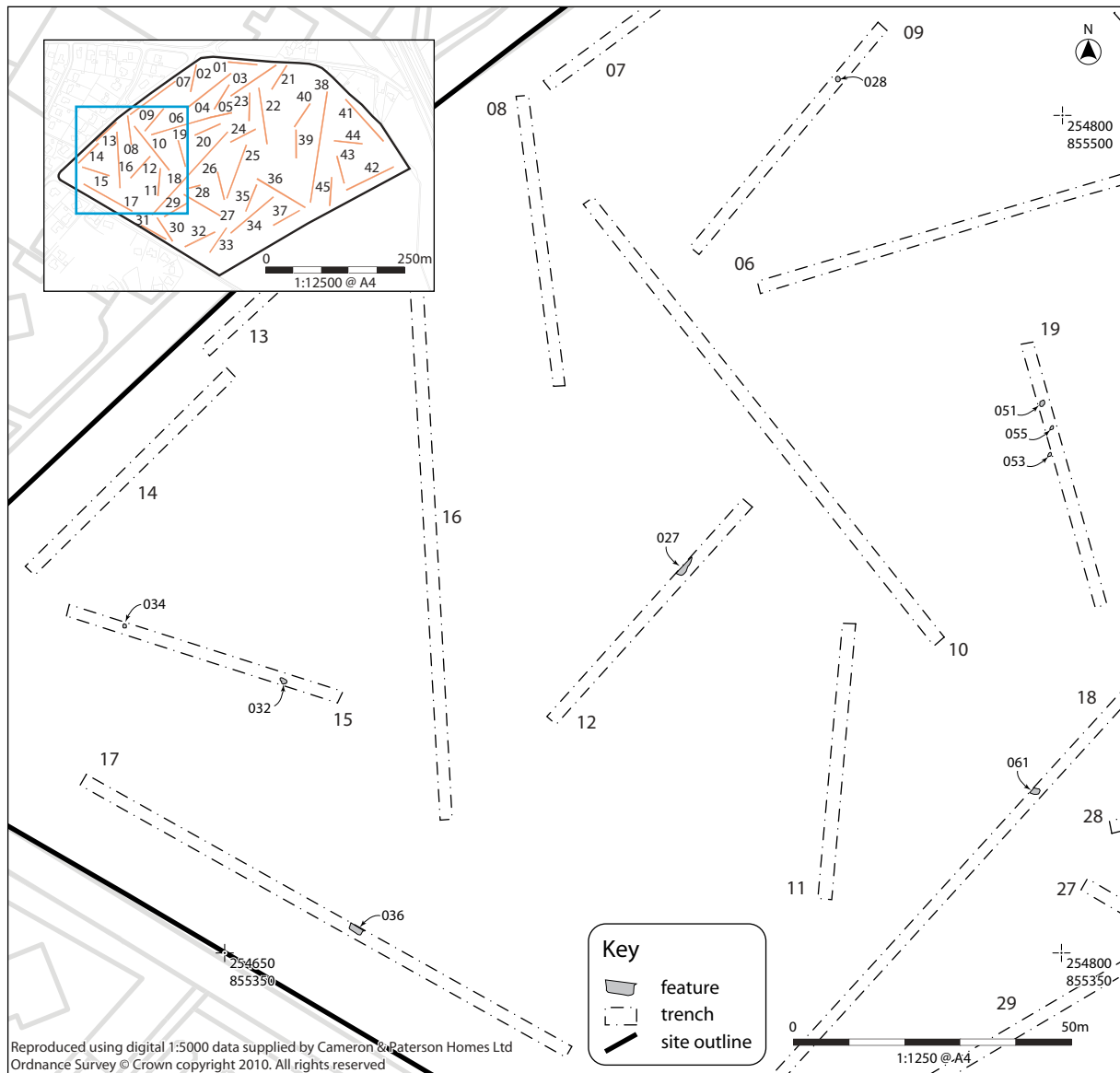
A possible pit and posthole feature was also uncovered within Trench 06. The pit [016] was only partially uncovered and was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.1m in diameter with a depth of 0.4m. It was filled with a dark greyish brown silty sand [018], containing a large amount of deliberately dumped stone [017]. The circular posthole measured 0.6m in diameter, with a depth of 0.15m and was filled with dark greyish brown silty sand [020]. The relationship between the pit and the posthole was unable to be determined.

Excavation within Trench 07 revealed a small ovoid pit [021], measuring 0.5m by 0.3m and with a depth of 0.1m. It was filled with dark brownish black silty sand with charcoal inclusions. No dating evidence was recovered from its fill.

A small stone filled pit [028] was uncovered within Trench 09 (Illus 2). The pit measured 0.8m by 0.75m with a maximum depth of 0.3m and was roughly circular in plan. It was filled with dark greyish brown silty sand [030] with a high concentration of deliberately dumped stone [029]. No artefacts were recovered from the pit.

A large possible pit [027] was partially revealed within Trench 12. The full extent or shape of the feature remains unknown, and no artefacts were recovered from either of its two fills, a pink coarse sand [026] 0.18m thick with charcoal inclusions, which was overlain by a greyish brown sandy silt [025] 0.26m thick.

Trench 15 contained two pits ([032] and [034]), neither of which contained any dating evidence (Illus 2). Pit [032] (Illus 5) was oval in plan and measured 1.4m by 0.8m and had a depth of 0.28m. It was filled with greyish black sandy silt with a large concentration of stone and charcoal [031]. Towards the north-western end of the trench, a sub-circular pit [034] measuring 0.77m in diameter was located. It had a depth of 0.45m and was filled with dark brown silty sand with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions.



Illus 2

Close up of trenches in SE corner of site

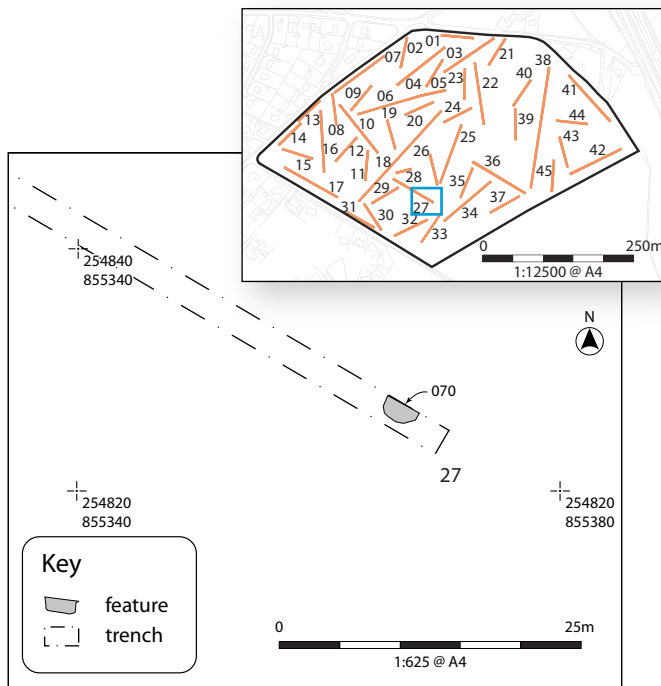
A large, probably rectangular, pit [036] was partially uncovered within Trench 17 (Illus 2 & 6). It measured 2.4m in length and was greater than 1.28m wide. The pit was 0.55m deep, with steep, near vertical sides and a flat stepped base. It was filled with a large number of stones and black sandy silt [035] with frequent charcoal inclusions. There was evidence of a possible wooden lining at the base of the pit, however, only a small part of the pit was excavated and the extent of the possible wooden lining is unknown. Two small possible stake-holes were located near the western edge of the pit and may be contemporary.

Excavation within Trench 18 revealed a possible linear feature [061] and a large pit [063] (Illus 2). The possible linear feature was only partially exposed, as it continued beyond the baulk. It had a depth of 0.3m and measured 0.72m wide with a length of 1.3m to the baulk, and was filled with four thin deposits ([057], [058], [059] and [060]).

The primary fill was grey sandy silt [060], which was in overlain by a white sandy silt deposit [059]. This was sealed by a black sandy silt deposit [058], that was overlain by final fill deposit greyish brown sandy silt [057].

To the north-east of feature [061], a large sub-circular pit [063] was revealed. It had steep sides with a slightly concave base and measured 1.9m by 1.5m with a depth of 0.45m. The pit was filled with a single greyish brown sandy silt deposit with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions [062].

Trench 19 contained three pits ([051], [053] and [055]) (Illus 2). Towards the north-western end of the trench, oval pit [051] was located, measuring 1.2m by 0.9m. It was 0.25m deep with a concave base, and was filled with a greyish brown sandy silt deposit with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [052]. To the south-east of the pit was a shallow sub-circular pit [053]. Measuring 0.45m in



Illus 3
Pit [070] in Trench 27

diameter with a depth of 0.1m, it was filled with a single deposit of greyish brown silty sand [054]. Pit [055] was partially uncovered towards the south-eastern end of the trench and measured 1 m in length with a depth of 0.2m, and appeared to be sub-circular in shape. The fill of this pit was dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions [056].

A small circular pit [049], measuring 0.5m in diameter was revealed within Trench 20. It had a depth of 0.1m and was filled with a single deposit of dark greyish brown silty sand [050].

Excavation within Trench 21 revealed two possible linear features ([039] and [041]) and a partially exposed sub-rectangular pit [037]. The pit measured 1.6m by >0.8m and had a depth of 0.25m. It was filled with a dark greyish brown gritty sandy silt deposit [038]. Both the linear features were fairly shallow and had uneven sides and bases, suggesting that they may have been natural.

A possible curvilinear feature [045] and two pits ([043] and [047]) were revealed within Trench 22. The curvilinear feature was very shallow with a maximum depth of 0.1m and measured 0.5m in width. It was filled with a single deposit of greyish orange gritty sandy silt [046].

Pit [043] was 0.45m in diameter with a concave base and a depth of 0.2m, and may have been a posthole. A single dark greyish brown silty sand deposit with occasional stones [044] filled the pit. Towards the middle of the trench a large pit [047], 1m in diameter was located. It had fairly steep sides with a concave base and a depth

of 0.4m. A dark greyish brown silty sand deposit [048] filled the pit.

A possible posthole [067] was uncovered towards the middle of Trench 26. It measured 0.4m in diameter and had a depth of 0.22m. The location of the posthole next to a couple of similar sized, but shallower stone holes, suggest that this was also a stone hole. It was filled with a grey sandy silt deposit [066]. To the south-east of posthole [067], a roughly oval pit [065] measuring 1.9m by >1.8m was revealed continuing into the baulk. It was filled with a dark brown sandy silt deposit [064] with frequent stone inclusions. The presence of one large stone within the fill meant that the base could not be reached.

A shallow linear feature [069] terminating within the trench and continuing into the baulk to the south-east was revealed within Trench 27 (Illus 5). It had a width of 0.7m and a depth of 0.1m, with slightly uneven sides. A single deposit of light greyish brown sandy silt [068] filled this feature. At the eastern end of the trench a large, possibly circular pit [070], truncated by a field drain and continuing into the baulk, was located (Illus 3).

The pit measured approximately 2.8m by >1.4m and had a depth of 0.5m. The sides of the pit sloped to a fairly flat base, and it was filled with a greyish orangey brown silty sand deposit [071] with occasional charcoal and stone inclusions.

A number of possible pits and postholes were located within Trenches 38, 43 and 44 (Illus 4). Post-medieval pottery and glass was found in a number of these features, and the similarity of their fills, a dark grey clayey sand deposit, and their close proximity to each other suggests that they are all of a post-medieval date.

5

4.3 Finds assessment

Julie Lochrie

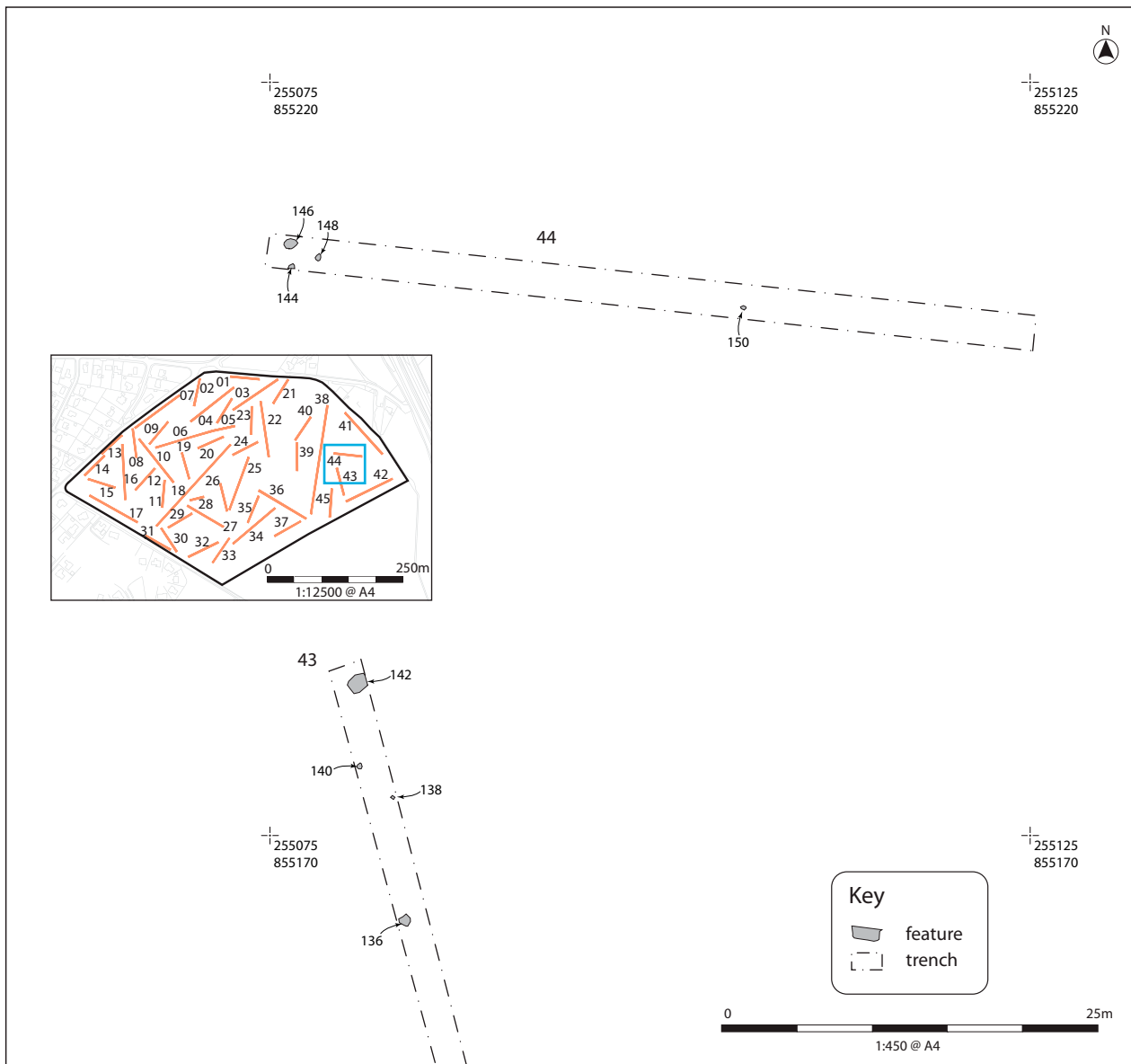
The finds number nine objects in total, all dating to the 1830s or later. The finds were hand-collected from across six contexts. They include whiteware pottery, bottle glass and iron objects. The two iron objects, though not directly datable were associated with modern bottle glass and are thus also likely to be of recent date.

4.4 Environmental

Sarah-Jane Haston

Introduction

Eight samples were taken during the evaluation at Braes of Conon, Conon Bridge, Ross-shire and four were

**Illus 4**

Close up of Trenches 43 and 44

initially processed for palaeoenvironmental assessment. The samples were taken from pit and posthole features discovered during the evaluation. The assessment aims to look at what the palaeoenvironmental potential of the material is and what evidence this material is showing us for the activities which once took place at the site.

Method

Samples were processed in laboratory conditions using a standard flotation method (*cf.* Kenward *et al.* 1980). All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications were

confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al.* (2006).

Results

The results of the sample processing are provided in Appendix 2 (Retent sample results and Flotation sample results). Suitable material for AMS dating is also identified within each table. All plant remains were preserved through charring. One sample 003 from posthole [021], was found to be archaeologically sterile.

The concentration of archaeological remains recovered from the samples was very low with most samples only containing a small quantity of wood charcoal. Only one sample 005 from pit [032], contained fragments of a size suitable for identification and/or Accelerated Mass

**Illus 5**

NE facing section through pit [032]

Spectrometry (AMS) dating (Appendix 2). The only other finds recovered from the flots and retent samples were a rare amount of cinders in sample 001 from pit [070] and a rare amount of burnt bone in sample 004 from pit [036].

Discussion

The origin of the low concentration of carbonised material within the pit and posthole deposits is uncertain. In the absence of any obvious conflagration deposits the likely source of the charred material is from the domestic hearth and the mixture of charcoal, cinders and burnt bone was accidentally swept, washed or blown into the sampled deposits.

A large quantity of charcoal was recovered from the fill [031] of pit [032] (sample 005). No other carbonised remains, bone or small finds were present. The high concentration of charcoal within the feature, suggests that the material may have been burnt in situ.

Conclusion

With the exception of a small quantity of wood charcoal the samples consisted mainly of modern root fragments. The primary value of the charcoal will be as a source of dating evidence. If wood charcoal were selected identification of the species represented would need to be undertaken prior to dating.

5. DISCUSSION

The results of the rapid desk-based assessment showed that the area has been undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes since the medieval period. It also identified prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the development area.

There was a distinct lack of dating evidence from the majority of the features excavated during the evaluation. Those features that did contain dating evidence dated to the post-medieval period, which coincides with the development of Conon Bridge into the village seen today. It is likely that the majority of the undated features also date to the post-medieval period, due to their close proximity and similar fills to dated features. These features most likely represent disperse, temporary

settlement activity associated with the expansion of Conon Bridge village, and no further work is recommended in these areas.

The large rectangular, stone filled pit [036] uncovered within Trench 17 revealed traces of burnt bone within its fill. However, only a small amount was recovered from the sample and it is possibly waste material from cooking. The pit is very similar to pits found associated with burnt mounds, which have been known to date from the late Neolithic right up to the medieval period. Burnt mounds are deposits of charcoal and heat affected stones resulting from the heating of stones to heat water held in troughs, often wood lined, adjacent to the burnt mound.

**Illus 6**

Pit [036]



The exact purpose of a burnt mound is unknown and therefore further work is recommended to help expand our knowledge of these features.

The burnt, stone filled pits ([028], [032] and [063]) located within Trenches 09, 15, and 18, along with the large pits ([065] and [070]) located within Trenches 26 and 27 indicate a good degree of activity in the area. The burnt pits may represent cooking hearths and as such would indicate settlement activity, however further work is needed to determine the exact nature of the activity. The fact that these features are all located towards the south and south-western end of the development site, suggests a concentration of activity in this area.

All these features, along with pit [036] are located in the area of the site closest to the Conon Bridge Henge (Illus 2), and it is possible that these features also date to the prehistoric period. However, none of these features contained any dating evidence and further work is needed to determine the date, nature, and extent of them.

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7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Trench register

Trench no.	Length (m)	Orientation	Avg. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)
01	50	E-W	0.3	0.4
02	50	NNE-SSW	0.2	0.3
03	100	NE-SW	0.3	0.4
04	100	NE-SW	0.35	0.4
05	50	NE-SW	0.35	0.4
06	150	ENE-WSW	0.3	0.45
07	100	NE-SW	0.35	0.4
08	50	NNW-SSE	0.35	0.4
09	50	NE-SW	0.4	0.45
10	100	NW-SE	0.35	0.4
11	50	N-S	0.35	0.4
12	50	NE-SW	0.35	0.4
13	50	NE-SW	0.35	0.4
14	50	NE-SW	0.35	0.4
15	50	NW-SE	0.3	0.35
16	100	NNE-SSW	0.3	0.35
17	100	NW-SE	0.35	0.4
18	200	NE-SW	0.4	0.55
19	50	NW-SE	0.3	0.7
20	50	NE-SW	0.35	0.4
21	50	NE-SW	0.3	0.35
22	100	N-S	0.35	0.45
23	50	N-S	0.3	0.35

Trench no.	Length (m)	Orientation	Avg. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)
24	50	NE-SW	0.35	0.4
25	100	N-S	0.5	0.75
26	50	NW-SE	0.3	0.4
27	75	NW-SE	0.45	0.55
28	25	E-W	0.4	0.5
29	50	NE-SW	0.25	0.35
30	50	NW-SE	0.35	0.4
31	50	NW-SE	0.5	0.6
32	60	ENE-WSW	0.5	0.8
33	50	NNE-SSW	0.3	0.35
34	100	ENE-WSW	0.5	0.55
35	50	NNE-SSW	0.4	0.55
36	100	NW-SE	0.7	0.9
37	50	NE-SW	0.9	0.9
38	200	N-S	0.5	0.65
39	50	N-S	0.3	0.35
40	50	ENE-WSW	0.3	0.35
41	100	NW-SE	0.3	0.35
42	100	NE-SW	0.3	0.35
43	50	NNW-SSE	0.3	0.4
44	50	ESE-WNW	0.35	0.4
45	50	NNE-SSW	0.4	0.45



Context register

10

Context no.	Area	Description
001	–	Topsoil/ploughsoil
002	–	Natural
003	TR 03	Fill of pit [004]
004	TR 03	Pit
005	TR 03	Fill of [007]
006	TR 03	Fill of [007]
007	TR 03	Drain cut
008	TR 03	Fill of [009]
009	TR 03	Pit?
010	TR 03	Fill of [011]
011	TR 03	Posthole?
012	TR 03	Fill of [013]
013	TR 03	Pit?
014	TR 03	Fill of [015]
015	TR 03	Pit?
016	TR 06	Pit?
017	TR 06	Fill of [016]
018	TR 06	Fill of [016]
019	TR 06	Pit?
020	TR 06	Fill of [017]
021	TR 07	Small pit/posthole
022	TR 07	Fill of [021]
023	TR 02	Fill of [024]
024	TR 02	Pit
025	TR 12	Fill of [027]
026	TR 12	Fill of [027]
027	TR 12	Large pit
028	TR 09	Oval pit
029	TR 09	Fill of [028]
030	TR 09	Fill of [028]
031	TR 15	Fill of [032]
032	TR 15	Pit
033	TR 15	Fill of [034]
034	TR 15	Pit
035	TR 17	Fill of [036]
036	TR 17	Rectangular pit
037	TR 21	Sub-rectangular pit
038	TR 21	Fill of [037]
039	TR 21	Shallow linear

Context no.	Area	Description
040	TR 21	Fill of [039]
041	TR 21	Linear feature
042	TR 21	Fill of [041]
043	TR 22	Posthole?
044	TR 22	Fill of [043]
045	TR 22	Poss curvilinear?
046	TR 22	Fill of [045]
047	TR 22	Pit
048	TR 22	Fill Of [047]
049	TR 20	Shallow pit
050	TR 20	Fill of [049]
051	TR 19	Circular pit
052	TR 19	Fill of [051]
053	TR 19	Sub-circular pit
054	TR 19	Fill of [053]
055	TR 19	Circular pit
056	TR 19	Fill of [055]
057	TR 18	Fill of [061]
058	TR 18	Fill of [061]
059	TR 18	Fill of [061]
060	TR 18	Fill of [061]
061	TR 18	Linear feature
062	TR 18	Fill of [063]
063	TR 18	Sub-circular pit
064	TR 26	Fill of [065]
065	TR 26	Large oval pit
066	TR 26	Fill of [067]
067	TR 26	Posthole?
068	TR 27	Fill of [069]
069	TR 27	Shallow linear
070	TR 27	Large pit
071	TR 27	Fill of [070]
100	TR 38	Posthole?
101	TR 38	Fill of [100]
102	TR 38	Posthole?
103	TR 38	Fill of [102]
104	TR 38	Posthole?
105	TR 38	Fill of [104]
106	TR 38	Posthole?

Context no.	Area	Description
107	TR 38	Fill of [106]
108	TR 38	Small pit
109	TR 38	Fill of [108]
110	TR 38	Tree bole
111	TR 38	Fill of [110]
112	TR 38	Modern pit
113	TR 38	Fill of [112]
114	TR 38	Modern pit
115	TR 38	Fill of [114]
116	TR 38	Posthole?
117	TR 38	Fill of [116]
118	TR 38	Posthole
119	TR 38	Fill of [118]
120	TR 38	Posthole?
121	TR 38	Fill of [120]
122	TR 38	Posthole?
123	TR 38	Fill of [122]
124	TR 38	Posthole?
125	TR 38	Fill of [124]
126	TR 38	Modern pit
127	TR 38	Fill of [126]
128	TR 41	Truncated pit/stone hole
129	TR 41	Fill of [128]
130	TR 42	Pit
131	TR 42	Fill of [130]
132	TR 42	Posthole
133	TR 42	Fill of [132]

Context no.	Area	Description
134	TR 42	Modern posthole
135	TR 42	Fill of [134]
136	TR 43	Modern pit
137	TR 43	Fill of [136]
138	TR 43	Square posthole
139	TR 43	Fill of [138]
140	TR 43	Posthole?
141	TR 43	Fill of [140]
142	TR 43	Shallow pit
143	TR 43	Fill of [142]
144	TR 44	Posthole
145	TR 44	Fill of [144]
146	TR 44	Modern pit
147	TR 44	Fill of [146]
148	TR 44	Shallow pit
149	TR 44	Fill of [148]
150	TR 44	Posthole?
151	TR 44	Fill of [150]
152	TR 45	Posthole?
153	TR 45	Fill of [152]
154	TR 45	Modern pit
155	TR 45	Fill of [154]
156	TR 45	Posthole?
157	TR 45	Fill of [156]
158	TR 45	Prob stone hole
159	TR 45	Fill of [158]



Photographic register

12

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
001	–	ID shot
002	W	Trench 01
003	E	Trench 01
004	S	Trench 02
005	N	Trench 02
006	E	Trench 03
007	W	Trench 03
008	NE	Trench 04
009	SW	Trench 04
010	–	ID shot
011	NE	Trench 05
012	N	Trench 02
013	S	Trench 02
014	E	Trench 01
015	W	Trench 01
016	SW	Trench 04
017	NE	Trench 04
018	NE	Trench 03
019	SW	Trench 03
020	ENE	Trench 06
021	ENE	Trench 06
022	ENE	Trench 06
023	NE	Trench 07
024	NE	Trench 07
025	SSE	Trench 08
026	NE	Trench 09
027	NW	Trench 10
028	NW	Trench 10
029	N	Trench 11
030	NE	Trench 12
031	N	Pit [004] sec
032	W	Pit [009] sec
033	NE	Drain [007]
034	NE	[011], [013] and [015] sec
035	NE	Trench 13
036	NE	Trench 14
037	NW	Trench 15
038	NNE	Trench 16
039	NNE	Trench 16

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
040	NW	Pit [016] sec
041	SW	Pit [016] sec
042	SW	Pit [016] sec
043	NW	Trench 17
044	NW	Trench 17
045	–	ID shot
046	SW	Trench 18
047	SW	Trench 18
048	SW	Trench 18
049	SW	Trench 18
05	W	Pit [021] sec
051	SE	Trench 19
052	NW	Trench 19
053	NE	Trench 20
054	SW	Trench 20
055	SW	Trench 21
056	NE	Trench 21
057	S	Trench 22
058	N	Trench 22
059	N	Trench 23
060	NE	Trench 24
061	N	Trench 25
062	NW	Trench 25
063	NW	Trench 26
064	SW	Pit 024 Sec
065	SE	Trench 27
066	SE	Trench 27
067	W	Trench 28
068	NE	Trench 29
069	NW	Trench 30
070	WSW	Trench 32
071	SW	Pit [027] sec
072	S	Pit [027] sec
073	S	Pit [028] sec
074	E	Pit [028] sec
075	SW	Pit [032] sec
076	N	Pit [035] sec
077	–	ID shot
078	SE	Trench 31

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
079	NNE	Trench 33
080	ENE	Trench 34
081	ENE	Trench 34
082	SSW	Trench 35
083	WSW	Trench 36
084	WSW	Trench 36
085	NE	Trench 37
086	S	Trench 38
087	S	Trench 38
088	S	Trench 38
089	S	Trench 38
090	S	Trench 39
091	WSW	Trench 40
092	NW	Trench 41
093	NW	Trench 41
094	E	Pit [036] sec
095	N	Pit [036] sec
096	W	Pit [047] sec
097	S	Posthole [043] sec
098	E	[045] sec
099	NW	[037] sec
100	SW	[039] sec
101	NW	[041] sec
102	SW	Pit [061] sec
103	NE	Posthole [049] sec
104	SE	Trench 41
105	SE	Trench 41
106	SW	Trench 42
107	SW	Trench 42
108	NNW	Trench 43
109	ESE	Trench 44
110	SSW	Trench 45

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
111	NNE	Posthole [100] sec
112	SE	Pits [102] and [104] sec
113	–	ID shot
114	S	Posthole [106] and pit [108] sec
115	S	Tree bowl [110]
116	S	Pit [112] sec
117	W	Pit [114] sec
118	SE	Pit 116Sec
119	NW	Posthole [118] sec
120	S	Postholes [120], [122] and [124] sec
121	SSE	Pit [126] sec
122	NE	Pit [128] sec
123	SE	Pit [130] sec
124	E	Postholes [132] and [134] sec
125	NNW	Pit [136] sec
126	SE	Posthole [138] sec
127	SSW	Posthole [140] sec
128	N	Pit [142] sec
129	E	Pits [144] and [146] sec
130	W	Pit [148] sec
131	SW	Posthole [150] sec
132	S	Posthole [152] sec
133	S	Pit [154] sec
134	E	Postholes [156] and [158] sec
135	S	Pit [065] sec
136	E	Pit [067] sec
137	SE	Pit [062] sec
138	NW	[055] sec
139	S	[053] sec
140	NE	[051] sec
141	NW	[070] sec
142	SE	[069] sec



Sample register

Sample no.	Context no.	Description
001	071	Greyish brown silty sand fill of pit [070]
002	066	Grey sandy silt fill of posthole [067]
003	022	Blackish silty sand fill of posthole [021]
004	035	Black sandy silt fill of pit [036]
005	031	Grey and black sandy silt fill of pit [032]
006	104	Brownish grey clayey sand fill of posthole [102]
007	123	Dark brownish grey clayey sand fill of posthole [122]
008	143	Blackish grey clayey sand fill of pit [142]

7.2 Appendix 2 – Environmental tables

Retent sample results

Context no.	Sample no.	Sample vol (l)	Burnt bone Mammal	Charcoal qty	Charcoal max size (cm)	Material available for AMS dating	Cinders	Comments
22	3	10	–	–	–	–	–	Archaeologically sterile
31	5	5	–	++++	2	Charcoal +++++	–	–
35	4	5	+	++++	1	Charcoal +	–	–
71	1	30	–	+	<1	–	+	Cinders and charcoal under <1cm not retained

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

Flotation sample results

Context no.	Sample no.	Total flot Vol (ml)	Charcoal qty	Charcoal max size (cm)	Material available for AMS dating	Comments
22	3	5	–	–	–	Archaeologically sterile
31	5	30	++++	1	Charcoal +	–
35	4	5	+	<0.5	–	–
71	1	40	++	<1	–	–

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating



7.3 Appendix 3 – DES entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY	Highland Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Braes of Conon, Conon Bridge, Dingwall
PROJECT CODE	BCCB10
PARISH	Dingwall
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S)	David McNicol
NAME OF ORGANISATION	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S)	Pits, postholes & agricultural boundaries
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None
NGR	NH 254897 855198
START DATE (this season)	4/10/10
END DATE (this season)	15/10/10
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
16 MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the proposed site of a housing development at Braes of Conon, Conon Bridge in order to test the archaeological potential of the area that would be impacted on by the development. A desk-based assessment was undertaken prior to fieldwork to understand the archaeological background of the site and to help to locate trenches on any potential areas of interest. The work was commissioned by Tulloch Homes Ltd and a specification for the work was agreed with Highland Council Archaeology Unit.</p> <p>A total of forty five trenches were excavated across the development area. The trenching identified a low density of features across the site. Of these six features, all located in the western half of the site, were identified as having archaeological potential. In particular a possible trough similar to that found associated with burnt mounds was identified. The remaining features recorded during the evaluation appear to be of natural origin or of relatively recent antiquity containing finds dating to the 19th century and later. No other features of archaeological significance were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK	None
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/ deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS. Reports to be deposited with NMRS and HCAU.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY	Cameron and Paterson Homes Ltd
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS	–
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh, EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS	office@headlandarchaeology.com



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