

**IMK99**

**The Archaeology of Inchmarnock: Report 8**  
**Excavation (2001) at**  
**St Marnock's Chapel, Inchmarnock:**  
**Interim Report**

*Prepared on behalf of Sir Robert Smith*

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## **1 INTRODUCTION** (Figures 1 & 2)

St Marnock's chapel is located in the stack-yard immediately to the north of Midpark steading. Previous work on the island, collated as part of the current project, suggests that it is the only visible component of what may be a larger complex that includes an Early Christian Monastery, multiple and segregated graveyards, and a significant assemblage of early medieval carved stones (Fisher 2001). Together they constitute the most significant archaeological site on Inchmarnock.

Continued use of the site into the later medieval period is indicated by the construction of an architecturally sophisticated chapel, probably built around 1150 x 1200. The chapel was progressively robbed and finally demolished in the early 19th century. Although partly shown in outline on the 1869 Ordnance Survey map (*Buteshire Sheet CCXIV.4*, surveyed 1863), it was recorded only as a 'Site' on the later Ordnance Survey revision of 1896, effectively becoming lost and buried until the excavations of the 1970s.

The remains of the chapel were revealed during archaeological excavations by the Middletons and the late Dorothy Marshall in 1973-74. Their work exposed the surviving wall footings of the building. Several cross-inscribed stones were also discovered at that time, both in excavation of the chapel and as a result of a re-examination of the stack-yard wall. A plot of the find-spots of the 1970s finds (Jessica Herriot, pers comm.) forms part of the present project archive. A plan of the site was made by visiting draughtsmen from RCAHMS. The excavations were not backfilled and the chapel has remained exposed for the past 27 years.

The chapel (Site 4) was resurveyed in 2000 as part of the present programme of work; meanwhile, trail-trench excavation in the field to the west revealed a wide plough-truncated ditch, possibly an enclosure ditch, but no trace of graves or associated structures (*Inchmarnock Report 3*).

## **2 OBJECTIVES**

Excavation of the chapel and its immediate environs has been scheduled as a three-year programme of work (2001 – 2003). The objectives of this year's work at the chapel (Stage 1) were largely concerned with a series of management issues; principally, to remove the 1970s excavation spoil-heaps from around the chapel and to clarify the nature of the subsurface remains in its immediate vicinity. Evaluation of the site where the runic cross-shaft was found in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and trial-trenching of the so-called 'Monks Causeway', the latter recorded during the course of the 2000 survey (*Inchmarnock Report 3*), were also proposed. In the event, however, these latter elements of the programme were necessarily postponed as a result of poor sea conditions, preventing access to the island.

## **3 METHOD**

The spoil from the previous excavations had been placed on top of the chapel wall line. The bulk of this was removed by machine under archaeological supervision. A

JCB back-actor was also used to clear topsoil from an area around the chapel, roughly 17 x 13 m overall. The interior of the chapel and the wall line were cleared by hand.

Four evaluation transects, radiating out to the north, south, east and west of the chapel, were also excavated by hand to assess the nature of the site's archaeology, its extent and depth.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The first season's excavation in and around the chapel has thrown considerable light, not only on the later phases of the chapel itself but also on the nature of the archaeological deposits in the immediate vicinity of the building. The present appearance of the yard in which the chapel is located owes much to relatively recent changes, associated with the laying out and levelling of the stack-yard itself. This has led to truncation and disturbance of early deposits in some areas, and burial of early horizons in others.

Dense bracken throughout the stack-yard was cleared prior to excavation. The dense root-mat, however, not only made excavation difficult; it is also clear that it has effectively destroyed the stratigraphic integrity of the uppermost deposits inside and around the chapel. The site was not backfilled after the earlier excavations, the stonework being left open to the elements. A considerable amount of carved detail, evident, for example, in the RCAHMS photographs and drawings of the chancel arch responds, has since been lost.

Although stratigraphic links between the various excavation trenches are poorly established, a provisional phasing scheme, based on the artefactual assemblage and the stratigraphic record for the individual areas examined, can begin to be assembled. Seven broad phases can be recognised in the archaeological record of the site, potentially spanning the period from the late first millennium AD (Phase I) down to recent times (Phase VII).

### 4.2 CONNECTED ACCOUNT (Figures 2 & 3; Plate 1)

#### 4.2.1 Phase I (*pre-12<sup>th</sup> century*)

Potentially the earliest deposits on the site have been recognised in the North Transect where the remains of a possible floor or truncated old ground surface (437) have been traced. Several pieces of inscribed slate, including both motif pieces and fragments of gaming boards (discussed below), were recovered from this deposit, a compacted spread of greyish brown sandy silt. Tentatively associated with this surface is a series of possible post-holes (not illustrated) towards the north end of the trench and an area of paving (492) near the south end of the transect. The deposit was overlain by topsoil (438 & 442) containing fragments of post-medieval field-drains, brick and tile. A possible wall-foundation (431) in the West Transect and an associated spread of rubble (467), into which Grave G10 was later dug, may also belong to this early

chronological horizon. The possible wall-line, roughly 4.6 m long, appears to form the north side of a building lying to the south of the transept.

#### *4.2.2 Phase II (12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century: medieval)*

The principal structure of Phase II is the chapel itself. Most of the building's footprint survives although it is clear that much of the north-west angle of the nave appears to have been thoroughly robbed out. An interesting feature of the building is the use of red sandstone in its external wall-face, particularly evident in the walls of the nave. Removal of topsoil or redeposited excavation spoil in the north-east corner of the nave revealed part of what may be a paved floor (445) inside the chapel. It is not yet clear whether the building is a single-period construction or whether it has been added to over time; or indeed whether the plinth (427) at the east end of the building constitutes part of the original structure. Further excavation, both inside and outwith the building, will address these issues in 2002/03.

Medieval deposits to the south of the chapel have been heavily disturbed, most likely during the robbing of the building in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and as a result of the levelling of the stack-yard and the construction of the nearby horse-gin. Context 422, the principal deposit in the South Transept, contains a range of artefacts from medieval White Gritty-, Red- and Grey-wares through to post-medieval and modern earthenwares. Two early cross-inscribed stones (SF401 & SF406: discussed below) were also recovered from this horizon.

Context 422, although much disturbed, in effect represents the medieval cemetery soil. Sealed below this horizon and cut into the natural subsoil were the remains of a long-cist (Grave G9). No trace of a burial survived but an interesting feature of the grave-fill (457) is the predominance of white quartz pebbles (discussed below). Three sherds of White Gritty ware were also recovered from the fill of the grave, indicating the likely medieval date of this feature. Graves G6 and G7 in the East Transept are similarly dated with reference to pottery sherds recovered from the grave-fill (480) or associated cemetery soil deposits (450). Grave G8, nearby, on the east side of (and underlying) the wall (432) in the East Transept probably also belongs to this chronological horizon; similarly Grave G10 in the West Transept.

The chronology and stratigraphic relationships of the three graves in the North Transept (Graves G11, G12 & G13) is unclear. However, the presence of quartz pebbles and the fact that a fragment of a gaming board (SF430) and a probable gaming piece (SF432) were recovered from the fill of Grave G11 may suggest that it is later than the earlier putative Phase I horizon (437), the grave having been cut through and then backfilled with material from this earlier surface. The adjacent graves (Graves G12 & G13), by association, may be broadly contemporary.

The remains of what is probably an enclosure wall around the chapel were traced in the South and East Transects (423 & 432 respectively). Drystone-built and formed of angular slate blocks with occasional rounded beach cobbles, the wall is up to 0.6 m wide and 0.15 m high. Constructed over the medieval cemetery soil, this is a relatively late feature on the site and could conceivably belong in Phase III. It overlies Grave G9 in the South Transept and Grave G8 in the East Transept and is almost certainly stratigraphically later than Grave G7 as well. The pottery evidence from the relevant

grave-fills would suggest that the enclosure wall was erected not earlier than the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *4.2.3 Phase III (17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> century: post-Reformation)*

Late alterations inside the chapel are assigned to Phase III. The principal feature of this phase (not yet fully explored) is a low wall (469) that was inserted in the southern half of the nave, westwards of the step into the chancel. Roughly 1.9 m long and formed predominantly of red sandstone blocks, it appears to be associated with a mortar surface (470) to the south. Although the function of this feature is not clear, it may represent a late burial vault inside the abandoned chapel. The grave-slabs that form the present floor (494) of the chancel, and a stone-built cist that has been erected against its south wall, probably also post-date the abandonment of the chapel. Among the slabs is Inchmarnock Cross-slab 8 (Fisher 2001, 78-79), a rectangular slab of schist with an outline ringed Latin cross with square sunken armpits. A large slab nearby features a carved baluster shaft on its upper surface; a coped stone of 13<sup>th</sup> century type (Fisher 2001, 77), displaying faint traces of what may be a sword, lies in the north-west corner of the chancel. The stones, of various dates, appear to represent a collection that has been brought together from the graveyard and subsequently laid out in the chancel.

#### *4.2.4 Phase IV (early 18<sup>th</sup> century)*

Phase IV deposits are characterised by a series of rubble and mixed soil horizons, principally in and around the chapel itself. The deposits overlie features associated with the Phase III modifications to the chapel and are, in turn, cut or overlain by features or deposits associated with activity in Phases V and VI. The deposits are most likely associated with the documented early 18<sup>th</sup> century demolition and robbing of the site by Alexander MacDonald in 1718 (*Inchmarnock Report 1*).

#### *4.2.5 Phase V (c18<sup>th</sup> century)*

Phase V features comprise a series of relatively late graves (Graves G1 – G5) that were cut into the demolition deposits associated with Phase IV. The features probably represent 18<sup>th</sup> century use of the graveyard by the island's inhabitants. Graves G1 and G2 (both unexcavated) are, to judge from the size of the cists, probably the graves of children; the base of Grave G4 incorporated a reused roofing slate and contained the fragmentary skeleton of a robust, arthritic male, 50 – 65 years of age. The graveyard population of Phase V probably represents the last generation of burials at the site.

#### *4.2.6 Phase VI (late 18<sup>th</sup> / early 19<sup>th</sup> century)*

The dumping of deep deposits of shell sand (447) in the area to the west of the chapel and lesser spreads to the east (430) are probably associated with the late 18<sup>th</sup> century agricultural improvements on the island in general; in particular, here, with the laying out of the stack-yard at Midpark. Excavation of these deposits will reveal the nature of the pre-modern topography of the site; their very presence, however, suggests that there has been considerable landscaping of the site. The final robbing of stone from the site, around 1820, is probably associated with this work.

#### *4.2.7 Phase VII (20<sup>th</sup> century)*

Phase VII deposits constitute the latest phases of activity on the site, associated with the construction of a greenhouse in the 1950s and the excavation spoil-heaps of the 1970s.

#### 4.3 THE CEMETERY (Table 1; Figure 4; Plates 2 & 3)

A total of 13 graves was identified. On the basis of the stratigraphic and/or associated finds' evidence, Graves G6, G7, G8 and G9 are assigned to Phase II. Graves G10 – G13, characterised (where excavated) by the use of slab-lined long-cists, probably also belong with the medieval cemetery. The dug-graves (G3 – G5) and Graves G1 and G2, probably child burials, postdate the demolition and robbing of the chapel and probably date to the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Phase V).

Bone preservation varies across the site. Bone preservation in the immediate vicinity of the chapel is generally good, the result of lowered soil acidity due to the presence of lime mortar on the site. Bone preservation outwith the immediate environs of the building, however, is poor.

Grave	Fill	Cover slab	Side-slabs	Base-slabs	Cut	Skeleton	location	comments
G1	-	-	-	-	-	[1]	north-west of chapel	SK1: child burial; unexcavated
G2	-	-	-	-	-	[2]	north of chancel	SK2: child burial; unexcavated
G3	-	-	-	-	-	[3]	south of chancel	SK3: articulated foot; (unexcavated)
G4	477	-	-	478	479	[4]	south of chancel	SK4: articulated left arm and part of rib cage; 3 white quartz pebbles in fill; roof slate at base
G5	487	-	-	-	488	[5]	outside SW corner of nave	SK5: disturbed burial
G6	-	-	-	-	-	[6]	E transept; immediately west of wall 432	SK6: disarticulated human remains in 'cemetery soil' 450, over SK7. Sherds of Greyware (15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup> C) and White Gritty ware (13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> C), recovered from 450.
G7	480	-	-	-	481	[7]	E transept; immediately west of wall 432	SK7: articulated human remains, underlying SK6; side-stone not separately numbered. One sherd of White Gritty ware (13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> C) recovered from fill.
G8	440	-	451	-	-	-	E transept; immediately east of wall 432	layer of white quartz pebbles over cist; unexcavated
G9	457	-	-	-	458	-	S transept; immediately south of wall 423	fill 457 comprised 40% white quartz pebbles and contained 3 sherds of White Gritty ware (13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> C); no surviving bone; side-stones not separately numbered
G10	482, 472	471	466	-	476	-	W transept	white quartz pebbles over capstone & in fill 472; no surviving bone
G11	459, 465	-	-	-	460	-	N transept	half-sectioned; frequent white quartz pebbles in fill; capstones, collapsed side-stones & slate floor not separately numbered; no surviving bone.
G12	463, 475, 484	-	-	-	462	-	N transept	half-sectioned; collapsed side-stones not separately numbered; no surviving bone.
G13	485	-	-	-	486	-	N transept	(unexcavated)

Table 1: Identified graves at and around the chapel

## **The Human Remains**

*D Henderson*

A quantity of unarticulated human bone was excavated, along with an *in situ* partial skeleton. Further skeletons (SK5 & SK7) were recorded but have not yet been lifted.

The excavated skeleton (SK4) was situated adjacent to the south wall of the chapel near the south-east corner and was a supine inhumation oriented West-East, in the usual Christian manner. Only the left upper arm, part of the fore-arm, the left ribs, left shoulder-blade and collar-bone were recovered in articulated positions. Other bones, apparently from the same individual, were parts of the left side of the cranium and some bones of the right hand.

The skeleton was that of a robust male. Age was estimated from the humerus and cranium to be 50 to 65 years and height was estimated at 174.34 cm (+/- 4.57 cm), around 5 feet 8½ inches. Some evidence of arthritis was recorded at the shoulder and in the spine.

Unarticulated remains were scattered throughout the area immediately surrounding the chapel, and appear to have been derived from graves disturbed by later interments and probably as a result of stone-robbing on the site. These bones derive from a minimum of eight individuals (based on the occipital bone, the most commonly occurring skeletal element) and bones from both sexes were recorded. The bones derive from new-born (or still-born) babies, as well as from adults of all ages, but no pre-adolescent children appear to be represented.

### **4.4 WORKED STONE**

A large assemblage of worked stone was recovered during the course of the evaluation. Full details are listed in Appendix 1. The early medieval sculpture from the site and a series of inscribed slate fragments merit further discussion.

#### **Early medieval sculpture**

[SF406] (Context 422) (Figure 5)

Slab of local slate, with maximum dimensions of 553 x 240 x 20 mm. On the face, towards the top of the stone, there is a compass-drawn cross-of-arcs. The cross, set within a circle 118 mm ( $4\frac{11}{16}$ "") in diameter, is formed of a series of incised lines roughly 1 mm wide and less than 1 mm deep. Surface-flaking has damaged the lower part of the design; the upper and left-hand edges of the stone have been chipped off as a result of the slab having been roughly re-cut to the round. On the reverse there is a series of lightly scratched lines comprising a fret-pattern of three swastika motifs set around a saltire. One of the fields of the saltire is filled with a straight-line spiral motif. Possible recumbent grave-slab. Provisional date: 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> century.

[SF401] (Context 422) (Figure 6)

Slab of local slate, 410 mm long, 160-178 mm wide and 32-40 mm thick. On the face, occupying the upper zone, there is a sunken Latin cross with expanded terminals.



Slightly damaged at its upper and left-hand terminals, the cross is roughly 240 x 120 mm overall, 25 mm wide and 4 mm deep. The upper limb of the cross is noticeably wider (30 mm) and the whole is filled with simple ribbon plait or interlace, formed of strands 9mm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ "") wide. Slightly splayed towards the base, the stone was probably an upright grave marker. Provisional date: AD750 x 1000.

[SF420] (Context 400) (Figure 7)

Slab of local slate with maximum dimensions of 200 x 145 x 25 mm. On the dressed face, towards the lower edge are two concentric channels, describing the arc of a circle. One is roughly 8 mm wide, the other incomplete having been broken on this edge. The opposite edge has been roughly smoothed to the round; the remaining edges show old breaks. The reverse side of the stone is plain, possibly having been split off from a larger piece. The stone may represent part of a decorated stone panel.

Alternatively, given the rounded form of the outer edge of the stone, it may represent a fragment of the upper part of a ringed cross, the fragment spanning the area between the side and upper arms of the cross, and a central boss or field. Probable upright grave marker. Provisional date: AD750 x 1000.

[SF407] (Context 400) (Figure 8)

Fragment of carved yellow sandstone, 70 x 70 x 25 mm, with rounded edge. Possibly an architectural fragment from a structure inside or associated with the chapel; or an edge-fragment of a cross-slab. Possible recumbent grave-slab. Provisional date: AD750 x 1250.

### **Motif-pieces**

[SF404] (Context 437) (Figure 9)

Thin fragment of slate (148 x 38 x 11 mm), broken along its long edges. Both short edges of the piece have been smoothed to the round; the original form of the stone, however, is unknown. A series of lightly scratched lines are evident on both sides of the stone.

The obverse shows, at centre, a pair of human legs in profile, facing right. The shoes are pointed and there are traces of a heel-tongue on the figure's right shoe. Traces of cross-hatching are evident on the legs and a belt or strap, similarly cross-hatched, hangs between the legs. To the left of the larger figure, there are faint traces of a second but smaller pair of legs, again in profile and facing to the right. Meanwhile, on the upper right-hand side of the stone there is a series of further scratches, possibly representing the legs of a group of individuals in the distance. Again set in profile, the group, however, appears to be facing to the left, towards the larger, central figure. Below this group, there is a prominent right-angled line with a serif, which joins with the arc of a circle where the stone is broken.

On the reverse, there is a series of lightly incised characters, possibly Insular majuscule script. The group comprises a half-uncial 'a' and 'b', the latter with a forked serif. Between them is possibly the letter 'd' (or alternatively, a second 'b' with an 's' set below).

[SF405] (Context 437) (Figure 10)

Oval piece of slate, roughly 105 x 60 x 4 mm, with incised designs on both sides. On the obverse there is a series of incised curvilinear lines, with a more lightly scratched oval to left. On the reverse, there are faint traces of further curvilinear motifs.

[SF417] (Context 400) (Figure 11)

Oval piece of slate, roughly 120 x 85 x 11 mm, with incised designs on both sides. On the obverse there is a series of five lightly scratched spiral motifs set within a rectangular frame. Below the frame is a crude pelta motif. On the reverse, there are faint traces of a further spiral motif, part removed by surface-flaking of the stone.

### **Gaming boards**

[SF402] (Context 437) (Figure 12)

Sub-triangular fragment of slate with maximum dimensions of 115 x 85 x 20 mm. On the obverse there is a rectilinear grid of incised lines, roughly 1 mm deep and forming a series of cells 15 – 27 mm across. There is a drilled hollow at the corner of the grid. On the reverse, there is a second rectilinear grid, more lightly scratched and possibly representing a palimpsest of two or more grids. To the side of the grid and cut by it, there are traces of an earlier design, comprising segments of three ovals and an indistinct series of other curvilinear marks.

[SF403] (Context 437) (Figure 13)

Irregular fragment of slate with maximum dimensions of 157 x 97 x 6 mm. On the obverse there is a rectilinear grid of lightly scratched lines, probably cut with the point of a knife and forming a series of cells 17 – 21 mm across. Three of the grid intersections have been circled. Overlying one side of the grid and thus later than it, is a series of finely incised linear strokes which describe in outline a form of ribbon interlace design. The best example (to the left) appears to be an exemplar for the less proficient marks to the right. The lines, although shallow, are well-defined, evidently having been cut with the end of a pointed instrument such as a stylus.

On the reverse, there is a second lightly scratched grid, again possibly representing a palimpsest of two or more grids superimposed on one-another.

In addition to these two very clear examples, small fragments of a further four possible gaming boards were also identified. Three (SF 424-426) were disturbed topsoil finds; one (SF430), however, was recovered from the back-fill of Grave G11. Interestingly, a small slate disc (SF432), probably a counter or gaming piece, was recovered from the same deposit.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

The results to date have revealed the great potential that the site holds for furthering our understanding of its development over time and its place within the Early Christian, Norse and medieval landscape. The earliest levels, perhaps, are intrinsically of the greatest interest. Later activity on the site, however, is also significant. The

construction of the extant chapel, the development of the medieval burial ground and its later- or post-medieval enclosure and then its continued use as a local burial ground for the island's population, until it was finally swept away during the agricultural improvements of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, all contribute to the whole story of the site. The presence of medieval pottery sherds in the fills of Graves G6 and G7 is particularly intriguing and, contrary to the evidence from the environmental samples (Appendix 3), suggests that there was domestic occupation on the site in the medieval period, possibly in connection with pilgrimage activity. Three themes merit further comment: (1) the motif pieces, (2) the early medieval sculpture assemblage and (3) the quartz pebbles.

## 5.1 MOTIF PIECES

Motif pieces are small, portable scraps of any material (mostly bone or stone, less often wood or leather) or a waste fragment of a disused artefact, upon which patterns or designs (art motifs) have been carved or incised (O'Meadhra 1987, 11).

Five motif pieces (including two of the gaming boards which also display the same features) were recovered during the course of the 2001 excavation. Their distribution is interesting. With the exception of the secondary work that is evident on the reverse of the cross-of-arcs stone, all the motif pieces were recovered from a discrete area towards the north end of the North Transect. This raises the possibility that associated structures or 'workshops' may lie in the vicinity. Similar assemblages are known from a number of Early Christian and Viking sites (O'Meadhra 1979; 1987), including locally the early monastic site at St Blane's (Laing 1997; Laing *et al* 1998; Anderson 1900) and the nearby, broadly contemporary settlement at Little Dunagoil (Marshall 1964). Examples on the whole, however, although common in Ireland are rare in Britain (Laing *et al* 1998, 559).

A large assemblage of motif-pieces, together with styli, was recovered from the so-called 'school' at the Early Monastic site of Nendrum in County Down (Lawlor 1925, 144-148), dated by O'Meadhra (1987, 72) on stylistic and palaeographical grounds to the period 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. A similar chronology may apply to the Inchmarnock assemblage. The key piece, perhaps, is Stone SF404 in its use of half-uncial Insular script and forked serifs. The heel-tongue on the shoe of the central figure on the obverse of the stone may also be diagnostic. This form of shoe can be paralleled in early manuscript figures and is also evident among the leather waste and artefacts that were recovered from early 7<sup>th</sup> century deposits in the vallum ditch on Iona (Barber 1981a; 1981b). A 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century date may be indicated for Stone SF404 and, by association, the rest of the assemblage.

The majority of the inscribed fragments from Inchmarnock, again with the exception of the secondary work on the reverse of the cross-of-arcs stone, appear to derive from small 'book-size' pieces of the local slate. Interestingly, the palimpsest of grids noted on the reverse of the two larger fragments of gaming boards, as well as the presence of motifs which pre-date the grid on Gaming Board SF402 and post-date the grid on Gaming Board SF403, suggest that the slates were probably covered with 'whiting' or rubbed over with clay, a practice referred to in medieval manuscripts (O'Meadhra 1987, 107-108). In other words, these slate fragments would appear to be *bona fide*

## SUMMARY

*This first season's excavation in and around the chapel has thrown considerable light, not only on the later phases of the chapel itself but also on the nature of the archaeological deposits in the immediate vicinity of the building. The present appearance of the yard in which the chapel is located owes much to relatively recent changes, associated with the laying out and levelling of the stack-yard itself. This has led to truncation and disturbance of early deposits in some areas, and burial of early horizons in others. Fragments of four early medieval cross-slabs were recovered from disturbed medieval horizons. A number of motif-pieces and stone gaming boards, possibly 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> century in date, were also found in the area to the north of the later chapel; a monastic 'craft-zone', over which the medieval cemetery later developed, may be indicated. Medieval graves, including several marked out by the use of white quartz pebbles, were also identified. Sherds of medieval pottery, recovered from grave-fill deposits, would seem to imply contemporary domestic occupation on the site, possibly associated with medieval pilgrimage activity.*

slate boards, possibly originally contained inside a wooden frame, rather than scraps that were used once and then discarded. As potential 'pattern books' of an Early Christian monastery on the island, these scraps of slate are important, not only for the archaeology of the island itself but potentially for broader art-historical studies of the Early Christian period.

## 5.2 EARLY MEDIEVAL SCULPTURE

Four fragments of early medieval sculpture were recovered. Two (SF401 & SF406) were recovered from the disturbed medieval cemetery soil (422) in the South Transect. Stone SF401, possibly an upright grave-marker, may lie close to its original location; the cross-of-arcs stone (SF406), however, has clearly been reworked, having been partially chipped to the round, and its original location within the cemetery is necessarily unknown. Two other examples (SF407 & SF420) were unstratified, recovered from topsoil deposits. Excavation in 2002 and 2003 may clarify the location and extent of the Early Christian cemetery at the site.

The discovery of these four stones brings the total of such fragments from Inchmarnock to 17; in the area of the West Highlands and Islands, only St Blane's at Kingarth on Bute, Cladh a'Bhile, Ellary in Knapdale and Iona itself (with 24, 29 and 111 pieces respectively) have produced more examples of carved stones of this period (Fisher 2001, 8).

The various cross-forms evident among the new group of finds – cross-of-arcs, sunken and ringed – can be readily paralleled in the corpus of the material from the West Highlands and Islands (Fisher 2001). The infilling of the sunken cross (SF401) with interlace, however, is unusual and no parallels have yet been traced for this combination.

Stones SF401 and SF420 are probably upright grave-markers; Stone SF406, and possibly SF407 also, may be recumbent slabs. Although dating is difficult, the earliest piece in this group is probably the cross-of-arcs stone (SF406), for which a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century date may be suggested. This is the second cross-of-arcs stone to have been recovered from the site. The first (Inchmarnock Cross 3; Fisher 2001, 77), having been cut down for re-use (possibly as building stone in the medieval chapel), was found in the nave during excavation in 1974.

## 5.3 QUARTZ PEBBLES

The association of white quartz pebbles and early ecclesiastical sites, particularly with graves, is a well-known phenomenon. Evidence from the Isle of Man, for example, suggests that the deposition of quartz pebbles in graves is a relatively long-lived phenomenon (Lowe 1987, i, 361-365). The special graves or possible Early Christian *leachta* at Ronaldsway, for example, were full of quartz pebbles and were also associated with an external quartz pebble surface (Neely 1940; Cubbon 1935; Lowe 1987, i, 165-168). Evidence from Ireland, however, has suggested that the deposition of white pebbles in graves may represent a later medieval custom. Just under 7,000 white quartz pebbles were recovered by Michael O'Kelly during his excavation of the

early monastic site at Church Island, County Kerry. Significantly, however, the excavator noted that none was found with the early burials, ‘nor with any burial which was demonstrably earlier than the period of the post-monastic shelter builders’ (O’Kelly 1958, 93). At Reask, too, also in County Kerry, it is noticeable that deposits of quartz pebbles were only found in relatively late contexts, associated with the *ceallunach* graves, for which a post-12<sup>th</sup> century date has been suggested (Fanning 1981, 74). Brannon’s excavations at St John’s Point Church in County Down also suggest that the deposition of quartz pebbles in graves is a relatively late tradition (Brannon 1980, 59). The recovery of White Gritty ware, a pottery fabric of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date, from Inchmarnock Grave G9, one of four ‘quartz pebble graves’ on the site, reinforces the essentially post-12<sup>th</sup> century, medieval date that appears to be indicated by the evidence from Ireland.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## APPENDIX 1: SITE REGISTERS

### CONTEXT REGISTER

CH – Chapel; ET – East transect; WT – West transect; NT – North Transect; ST – South Transect

No	Area	Description
400	4	Turf and topsoil
422	ST	Dark brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of slate
423	ST	Wall aligned east-west: possible enclosure wall
424	ST	Stone surface / path, aligned east-west, at south end of trench
425	CH	Walls of chancel wall
426	CH	Walls of nave
427	CH	Plinth to east of chancel
428	CH	Topsoil in centre of nave
429	CH	Remains of red sandstone arch between chancel and nave
430	CH	Deposit of shell sand to east of chancel
431	WT	Stone feature aligned east-west: possible footing of building
432	ET	Wall aligned north-south: possible enclosure wall
433	ST	Possible soak-away associated with feature 424
434	CH	Light brown silty clay north of chapel
435	CH	Light to mid brown sandy silt south of chapel
436	CH	Rubble to south-west of chapel
437	NT	Dark brown silty sand with frequent gravel and slate inclusions
438	NT	Mid yellow brown silty clay
439	ET	Grey brown gravel – interface with topsoil
440	ET	Dark brown silty gravel with frequent pebbles; over 451
441	CH	Slate-rich dark brown clay silt to north-east of chapel
442	CH	Light brown clay silt to north of chapel
443	CH	Layer under carved stones in chancel
444	CH	Step between chancel and nave
445	CH	Stone surface in north-east corner of nave
446	CH	Layer at west end of nave
447	CH	Deposit of shell sand at west end of chapel
448	CH	Grey brown silt and slate south of chapel
449	CH	Brown silty clay south of chapel
450	ET	Orange brown sandy gravel with shell inclusions
451	ET	Possible cist
452	ET	North-south aligned arrangement of stones
453	ET	Light brown sandy gravel
454	ST	Grey brown sandy gravel with slate inclusions
455	WT	Layer under topsoil in east end
456	WT	Layer under topsoil in west end
457	ST	Pebble-rich layer filling grave-cut 458: [G9]
458	ST	Grave-cut [G9]
459	NT	Fill of grave-cut 460: [G11]
460	NT	Grave-cut [G11]
461	NT	Dark red orange silty clay: natural subsoil
462	NT	Cut of stone-lined grave [G12]

463	NT	Fill of grave-cut 462: [G12]
464		<i>Number not used</i>
465	NT	Primary fill of grave-cut 460: [G11]
466	WT	Side slabs of cist: [G10]
467	WT	Rubble under 455
468	CH	Mortar and rubble layer under 428
469	CH	Possible wall, aligned east-west, inside nave
470	CH	Mortar surface inside nave
471	WT	Cap-stone of cist associated with side-stones 466: [G10]
472	WT	Fill of cist associated with side-stones 466: [G10]
473	ST	Deposit over 422
474	CH	Large flat slab at external SW corner of chapel: possible grave slab
475	NT	Fill of grave-cut 462: [G12]
476	WT	Cut for cist associated with side-stones 466: [G10]
477	CH	Fill of grave-cut 479: [G4]
478	CH	Stone base of grave-cut 479: [G4]
479	CH	Grave-cut [G4]
480	ET	Fill of grave 481: [G7]
481	ET	Grave-cut [G7]
482	WT	Upper fill of cist associated with side-stones 466: [G10]
483		<i>Number not used</i>
484	NT	Primary fill of grave-cut 462: [G12]
485	NT	Fill of grave-cut 486: [G13]
486	NT	Grave-cut [G13]
487	CH	Fill of grave-cut 488: [G5]
488	CH	Grave-cut [G5]
489	CH	Possible backfill of 1970s excavations in south-east corner of nave
490	CH	Loose sandy silt north of nave wall, under 468
491	CH	Layer inside nave
492	NT	Flat slabs forming possible surface to north of chapel
493	CH	Spoil heap from 1970s excavations
494	CH	Grave markers / carved stones in chancel

## DRAWING REGISTER

No	Scale	Description
1	1:20	Plan of chapel – NW quadrant
2	1:20	Plan of chapel – SW quadrant
3	1:20	Plan of chapel – NE quadrant
4	1:20	Plan of chapel – SE quadrant
5	1:20	Plan of contexts 432 and 440 in east transept
6	1:20	Plan of contexts 423, 424, 433 and 454 in south transept
7	1:20	Plan of contexts 431, 455 and 456 in west transept
8	1:20	Plan of context 451 in east transept
9	1:20	Pre-ex plan of grave-cut 460 [G11]
10	1:20	Plan of cist 458 [G9] in south transept
11	1:20	Pre-ex plan of Skeleton 6 and wall 432 in south transept
12	1:20	Plan of cist 466 [G10] and 467 in west transept



13	1:10	East facing section of 459 and 465 in grave-cut 460 [G11]
14	1:20	Plan of cap-stone and associated stones 471 [G10]
15	1:10	East facing section of south transept (north end)
16	1:20	Plan of Skeleton 6: overlay to Drawing 11
17	1:10	E-W profile of grave-cut 476 in West transept: [G10]
18	1:20	Plan of nave
19	1:10	West facing section of grave-cuts 462 and 486: [G12] & [G13]
20	1:20	Sketch plan of Skeleton 7 [G7]
21	1:20	Plan of paving 492 at south end of north transept
22	1:20	Plan of 460 and 462 in north transept: [G11] & [G12]

### SAMPLE REGISTER

No	Context	Description
401	459	Fill of grave-cut 460 [G11]
402	465	Basal fill of 460 [G11]
403	468	Layer above mortar surface
404	463	Top fill of grave-cut 462 [G12]
405	425	Mortar sample from south wall of chancel
406	472	Fill of cist 466 [G10]
407	475	Fill of grave-cut 462 [G12]
408	484	Primary fill of grave-cut 462 [G12]
409	487	Abdominal sample from Skeleton 5 [G5]
410	480	Grave fill containing Skeleton 7 [G7]
411	470	Mortar sample from inside nave
412	SK7	Right patella for radiocarbon dating
413	SK7	Abdominal sample from Skeleton 7 [G7]
414	SK5	Left capitulum and lunate for radiocarbon dating

## SMALL FINDS REGISTER

No	Context	Description
401	422	Carved slate with sunken cross, filled with crude interlace
402	437	Incised slate fragment: gaming board with possible incised motifs
403	437	Incised slate fragment: gaming board with possible incised motifs
404	437	Motif piece with human figures; possible half-uncial script on reverse
405	437	Motif piece with curvilinear designs on both sides
406	422	Incised cross-of-arcs, with fret motif on reverse
407	400	Fragment of carved sandstone with edge-roll; part of cross-slab / panel
408	400	Roof slate with simple pocked line on reverse
409		<i>number not used</i>
410	478	Roof slate from base of Skeleton 4
411	400	Two fragments of red sandstone with carved hollows on upper surface
412	422	Fragment of slate with two scored lines
413	463	Pierced stone
414	402	Possible whetstone
415	400	Small glazed pebble
416	454	Fragment of slate with five parallel lines, lightly scratched
417	400	Motif piece with curvilinear designs on both sides
418	400	Slate with shallow hollow on upper side; possible pivot-stone
419	400	Thin subrectangular edge-chipped stone; shallow groove along centre
420	400	Slate with two parallel, curvilinear cut lines. Fragment of possible ringed cross.
421	400	Possible roof slate, with pecked line on one face
422	400	Irregular block of stone with carved hollow on upper surface, 38-45 mm across and 28 mm deep: pivot-stone
423	400	Small fragment of slate with two intersecting scratched lines
424	400	Small fragment of slate with two incised lines forming part of rectilinear grid; probable gaming board
425	400	Small fragment of slate with incised lines forming part of rectilinear grid; probable gaming board
426	400	Small fragment of slate with single incised line (and possibly a second at right angles): possible gaming board
427	400	Three shaped circular stones: pot-lids
428	465	Three fragments of pierced / part-pierced slate from lower fill of Grave G11
429	459	White quartz pebbles from upper fill of Grave G11
430	459	Fragment of slate with incised lines forming corner of rectilinear grid, with miscellaneous scratches to side: probable gaming board
431	400	Eight fragments of flint (two burnt); one fragment of rock crystal
432	459	Circular slate disc, 25 mm in diameter and 2 mm thick: probable gaming piece.

## APPENDIX 2: SMALL FINDS ASSESSMENT (Pottery, Ceramic Building Material, Glass & Clay Tobacco Pipes)

*Julie Franklin*

The medieval (13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century) assemblage accounts for the majority of the pottery (61 out of 87 sherds: Table 2).

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Approx Dating</i>	<i>Qty</i>
Handmade	?	2
White Gritty	13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> century	27
Redware	13 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> century	8
Greyware	14 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> century	26
<i>Total Medieval</i>		<i>61</i>
BGRE	17 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century	9
Slipware	c.18 <sup>th</sup> century	2
White Salt Glaze	mid 18 <sup>th</sup> century	1
Porcelain	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century	1
White Earthenware	18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> century	11
<i>Total Post-Medieval</i>		<i>24</i>
<i>Total</i>		<i>87</i>

*Table 2: Pottery Summary*

Potentially the earliest sherds were two from a coarse handmade vessel. The fabric is burnt and sooty, containing mineral and vegetable temper. Neither is decorated and there is little clue to vessel form. This presents a dating problem. Coarse hand-made vessels are known to have been made and used in the Islands, certainly in the Hebrides and Western Isles, up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Holleyman 1947). Equally, these sherds could be medieval, Dark Age, or prehistoric. Further investigation may help to clarify this, although accurate dating of the sherds may be only possible through scientific means (eg. thermoluminescence dating).

The lack of pre-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery does not necessarily imply a lack of occupation. Scotland was largely aceramic at this time, with vessels more often made from organic materials. The medieval assemblage consists only of Scottish-made wares, mainly White Gritty and Greywares. These are the most common medieval fabrics found on the West Coast, such as at Ayr (Franklin & Hall, forthcoming). Most of the sherds represent jugs, implying they were brought to the island for their contents rather than as objects in their own right, probably via one of the West Coast burghs.

There were three contexts in which only medieval finds were found (Table 3: contexts 450 & 480 in the East Transect; fill of Grave G9 in South Transect (457)).

The Post-Medieval assemblage appears to cover the whole period from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present, though there is, perhaps, a lack of 17<sup>th</sup> century material. The assemblage includes fine tableware from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a handful of clay tobacco pipes and bottle glass sherds. There are also 26 sherds of ceramic building material. These seem to be mainly from modern field drains. There is also an unusual moulded fragment of white industrial stoneware: a curving rod-shaped piece with relief arcs and fluting. This appears to be some kind of architectural detail.

<i>Context</i>	<i>Spot Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Unstratified 400 topsoil	13 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C 13 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C	(+ possible prehistoric or Dark Age coarse wares)
400 topsoil in S Transect 400 topsoil in N Transect	17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C 14 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C	
422 disturbed old ground surface in S Transect	13 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C	Mixed medieval and post-medieval wares (predominant) & fragment of clay tobacco pipe
428 topsoil inside nave	18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C	Post-medieval tile fragments
438 N Transect	18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C	Fragments of field drains & coarse brick / tile
450 'cemetery soil' in E Transect	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C	(30 sherds, Greyware & White Gritty ware: <b>medieval only</b> )
457 fill of Grave G9 in S Transect	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C	(3 sherds White Gritty ware: <b>medieval only</b> )
480 fill of Grave G7 in E Transect	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C	(1 sherd White Gritty ware: <b>medieval only</b> )

Table 3: Summary of Context Dating Evidence

### Catalogue of Ceramic Building Material (CBM), Glass & Clay Tobacco Pipes

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Provisional Date</i>
U/S	CBM	4	Ridged tiles, possibly from a pipe or roof, very smooth fabric (same as 428)	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
U/S	Clay Pipe	1	Stem. Stamped 'ALEXANDER C-?'/ 'GLASGOW'	19 <sup>th</sup> C
400	Clay Pipe	1	Stem, stamped with lettering inside ribbon, 'WARNOCK' / 'GLASGOW'. Apparently John Warnock of Glasgow	1870s
400	Glass	24	Clear window glass, modern, all of same type and thickness	
400	CBM	2	Very fine red ceramic fragments, possibly field drain or flower pot	18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
400	CBM	1	Fine drain fragment	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
400	CBM	4	Ridged tile fragments, fine red ceramic	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
400	CBM	1	fragment of coarse gritty pink fabric, possible mortar attached, possibly CBM. Or coarse handmade pottery.	
400	CBM	1	fragment of possible CBM/handmade pot or stone	
400	Clay Pipe	2	1 bowl, fragmentary but was heeled and bulbous shaped; 1 stem, glazed amber	17 <sup>th</sup> -e.20 <sup>th</sup> C
400 ST	Clay Pipe	1	Stem. Narrow bore.	18 <sup>th</sup> -e.20 <sup>th</sup> C
400 ST	Glass	2	Bottle glass. 1 dark amber glass bottle base, conical kick; 1 clear body sherd from small bottle	late 18th-early 19 <sup>th</sup> C
400 NT	CBM	3	1 fine textured pipe sherd, modern field drain; 2 conjoining sherds from rim of stoneware pipe	18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
400 NT	CBM	1	Decorative fragment, moulded stoneware type fabric, forming curving cylindrical piece decorated with fluting and relief arcs. Architectural detail?	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> C
400 NT	CBM	3	very coarse soft red fabric (one possibly stone), voids and mica visible in fabric. Possible coarse hand made pottery.	
422	Clay Pipe	1	Stem. Wide bore, abraded	17 <sup>th</sup> -e.18 <sup>th</sup> C

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Provisional Date</i>
438	CBM	4	Field drain: fine soft red ceramic with occasional large inclusion, very smooth surface finish, abraded	Post-Medieval
438	CBM	1	Brick/tile, coarse red ceramic fragment	Post-Medieval

## Pottery Catalogue

*Ri – Rim Sherd; H – Handle Sherd; Ba – Base Sherd; Bo – Body Sherd*

**BGRE** – Brown Glazed Red Earthenware

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Ri</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Ba</i>	<i>Bo</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Provisional Date*</i>
Unstratified	Greyware	2	1			1	coarse sandy, including a jug base	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
Unstratified	Redware	3	2	1		1	2 sherds from handled jar; 1 gritty soft pink sherd	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
Unstratified	White Earthenware	1			1		ring based open form, undecorated	18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
400	Handmade	2			1	1	coarse gritty fabric with vegetable temper, dark grey core, reddish internal surface, similar external surface. Unburnt on bottom of base, otherwise burnt and sooty, either from firing process or through use; base has distinct foot, i.e. Late Medieval type form, but also found in Iron Age and Bronze Age pottery, possibly also recent handmade local ware	
400	White Earthenware	3	2			1	2 sherds from same blue ivy transfer printed bowl; 1 rim sherd of bowl sponge printed with ?thistles	18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
400	BGRE	1				1		17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> C
400	BGRE	1				1	reddish internal glaze	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> C
400	Greyware	1				1	thin olive glaze	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
400	Greyware	5			1	4	olive glazed, coarse sandy fabric	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
400	Greyware	1				1	olive glazed	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
400	Porcelain	1				1	fine, finely hand painted, Chinese?	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> C
400	Redware	1	1				spalling pink rim sherd, jug?	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
400	Redware	3	1			2	sandy jar rim and similar sherd; 1 coarse	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Ri</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Ba</i>	<i>Bo</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Provisional Date*</i>
400	White Gritty	1				1	olive glazed	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C
400	White Gritty	3				3	reduced core, olive glazed jug sherds	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C
400 Topsoil S Transect	BGRE	5			1	4		17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> C
400 Topsoil S Transect	White Earthenware	1	1				1 blue transfer printed; 1 hand painted green and brown	18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
400 Topsoil N Transect	Greyware	1			1		coarse soft sandy fabric, abraded, spots of decayed glaze	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
400 Topsoil N Transect	White Earthenware	4	1			3	from same pale blue ivy leaf decorated bowl	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
422	BGRE	2				2	internal reddish brown glaze	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> C
422	Greyware	2			1	1	soft abraded sandy fabric, including jug base4	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
422	Slipware	2	1			1	brown glazed red earthenware with white/yellow slip-trailed wavy line design	c.18 <sup>th</sup> C
422	White Earthenware	2	2				1 bowl? rim, blue transfer printed; 1 fine sherd, finely hand painted from bowl/cup rim, possibly Chinese porcelain?	18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C
422	White Gritty	1	1				jug rim sherd, pink surfaces, spots of glaze	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C
422	White Salt Glaze	1				1	one fragment of moulded plate rim design	mid 18 <sup>th</sup> C
422	Greyware	1				1	soft oxidised unglazed sherd, probably from jug	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
422	Redware	1		1			terminal end of strap handle from handled jar or small jug	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
450	Greyware	8		1		7	olive glazed jug sherds, including 1 strap handle with applied thumbed strip, probably from same vessel as similar from same context, some very pale white gritty type fabric	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
450	Greyware	3			1	2	olive glazed jug base and sherds	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
450	Greyware	2		1		1	relatively fine but roughly made fabric, one strap handle with applied thumbed strip	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
450	White Gritty	4				4	from 1 or 2 olive glazed jugs	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Ri</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Ba</i>	<i>Bo</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Provisional Date*</i>
450	White Gritty	9				9	probably all from same patchily olive glazed jug with thumbled handle terminal, pinkish fabric	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C
450	White Gritty	4				4	olive glazed jug sherds	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C
457	White Gritty	3				3	small sherds from 2 jugs, pinkish fabric	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> C
480	White Gritty	1				1	heat skin on exterior, spot of glaze	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C

## APPENDIX 3: SAMPLES ASSESSMENT

*Mhairi Hastie*

### METHOD

Ten samples were subjected to a system of flotation in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250 µm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

### RESULTS (Tables 4 & 5)

With the exception of a small quantity of wood charcoal, the samples consisted mainly of modern root/weed seed. The primary value of the charcoal will be as a source for dating evidence. Those identified in Tables 4 & 5 with an asterisk probably contain sufficient material for an AMS date.

A small assemblage of land snails was recovered from Context 468, a spread of mortar and rubble inside the chapel, and Context 463, the upper fill of Grave G12. These were present in low concentrations and diversity of species present, the majority being associated with moist and shaded areas. Species present included: *Cochlicopa lubrica*, *Lauria cylindracea*, *Discus rotundus*, *Vitrea contracta*, *Helix aspersa*, *Oxychilus* sp., *Clausilia* sp. Their preservation is probably due to the high soil pH caused by the presence of lime mortar.

Fragments of human bone were recovered from (480), the fill of Grave G7, and (487), the fill of Grave G5. The latter was taken from the abdominal area of Skeleton 5. Meanwhile, three pierced fragments of slate (SF428) were recovered from (465), the basal fill of grave-cut 460 [G11].

The absence of cereals, together with the low concentrations of charcoal and small finds, tends to indicate lack of domestic and industrial activity in the area (from among the samples investigated). This would not be inconsistent with the medieval and later use of the site as a chapel and graveyard.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Charcoal:** Sufficient quantities of wood charcoal for AMS dating are present in four samples and would be available for species identification if the excavator wished to determine the age of these deposits. (*To be progressed Spring 2002*).

**Artefacts and Bone:** The three fragments of worked slate recovered from Context 465 and the human bone from Context 480 and 487 should be added to similar material retrieved by hand. (*The worked slate has been re-catalogued as Small Find 428*).



Table 4: Composition of Retents

Context	Sample	Area	Context Description	Slag	Lime Mortar	Human Bone	Charcoal		Worked Slate
							Qty	AMS	
459	401	NT	Fill of 460 (G11)	+			+++	*	
465	402	NT	Basal fill of 460 (G11)				+++	*	+
468	403	CH	Mortar and rubble layer		++++				
463	404	NT	Top fill of 462 (G12)				++		
472	406	WT	Fill of cist 466 (G10)				+		
475	407	NT	Fill of 462 (G12)				++	*	
484	408	NT	Primary fill of 462 (G12)	+			++		
487	409	CH	Abdominal sample from Skeleton 5 (G5)			+			
480	410	ET	Grave fill containing Skeleton 7 (G7)			++	++	*	
SK7	413	-	Abdominal sample from Skeleton 7 (G7)				+		

Table 5: Composition of Flots

Context	Sample	Area	Context Description	Total Flot Vol (ml)	Charcoal		Land Snail	Comments
					Qty	AMS		
459	401	NT	Fill of 460 (G11)	30	++	*		
465	402	NT	Basal fill of 460 (G11)	10	++			
468	403	CH	Mortar and rubble layer	10			++	
463	404	NT	Top fill of 462 (G12)	20	+		+	
472	406	WT	Fill of cist 466 (G10)	10				Modern plant debris
475	407	NT	Fill of 462 (G12)	<10				Modern plant debris
484	408	NT	Primary fill of 462 (G12)	<10				Modern plant debris
487	409	CH	Abdominal sample from Skeleton 5 (G5)	<10				Modern plant debris
480	410	ET	Grave fill containing Skeleton 7 (G7)	<10				Modern plant debris
SK7	413	-	Abdominal sample from Skeleton 7 (G7)	<10	+			

Key: += rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant  
 \* = sufficient charcoal for AMS date

## APPENDIX 4: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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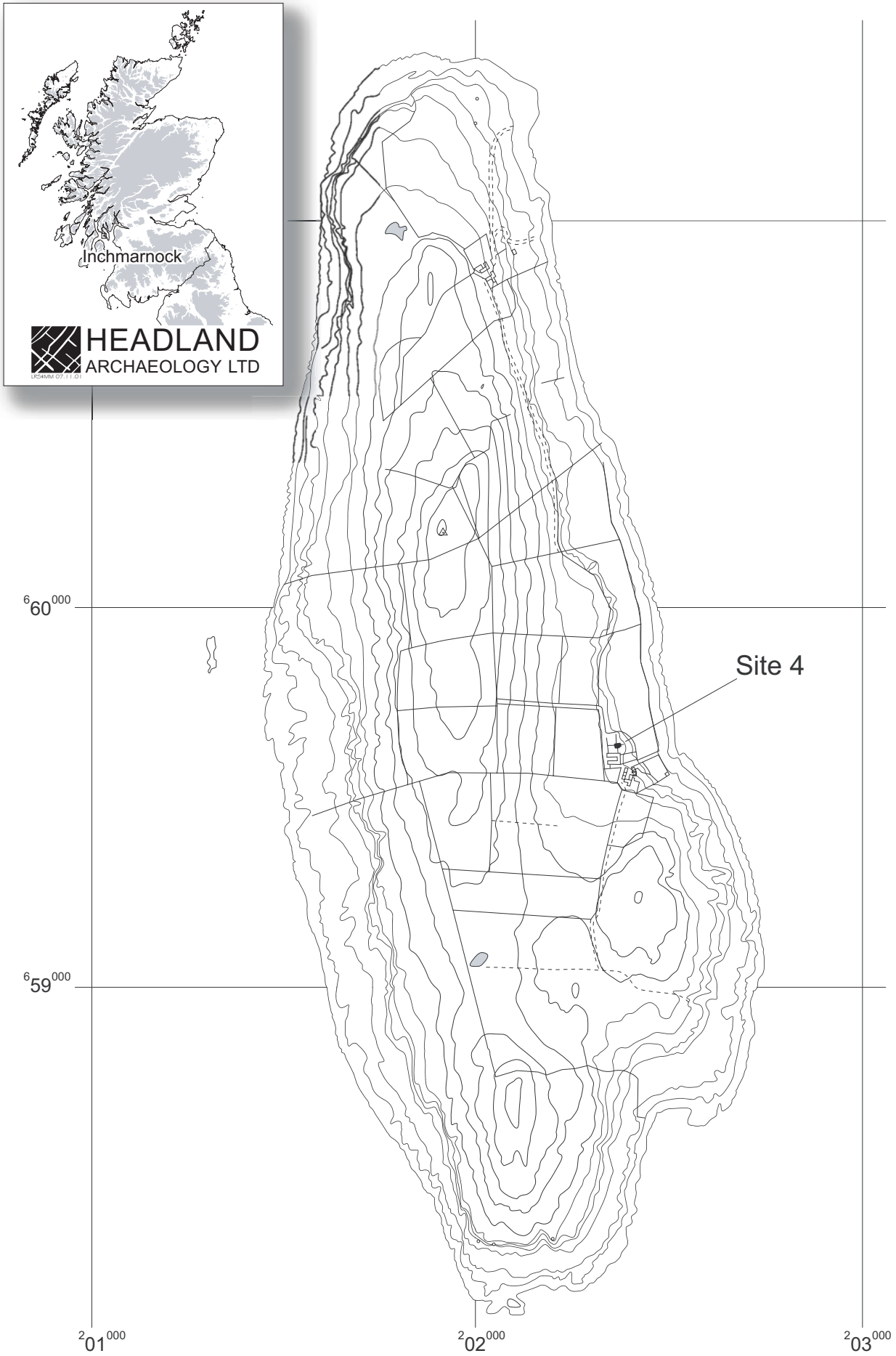


Figure 1. Inchmarnock, St Marnock's Chapel: Site location

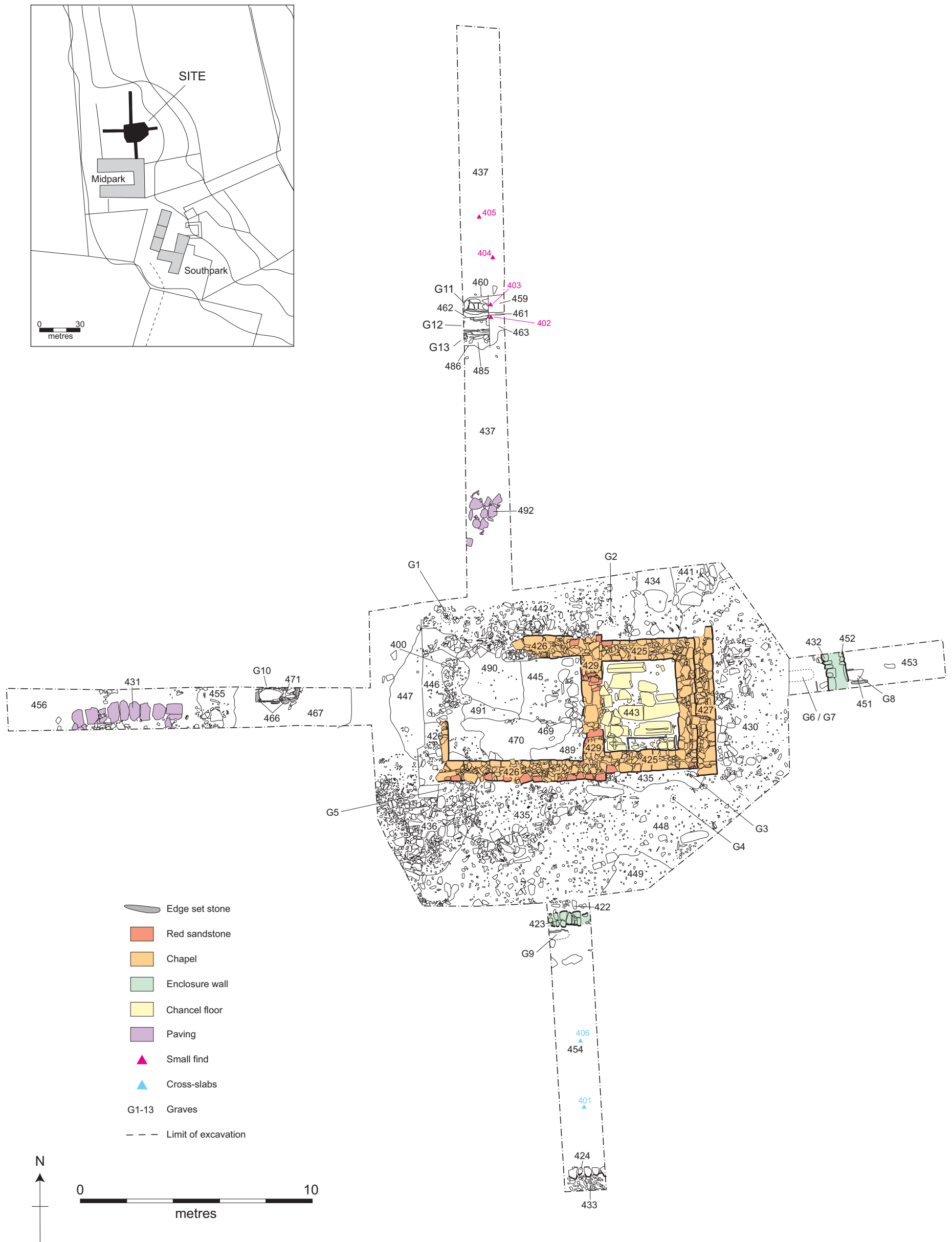


Figure 2. Inchmarnock, St Marnock's Chapel: Plan of trench and features

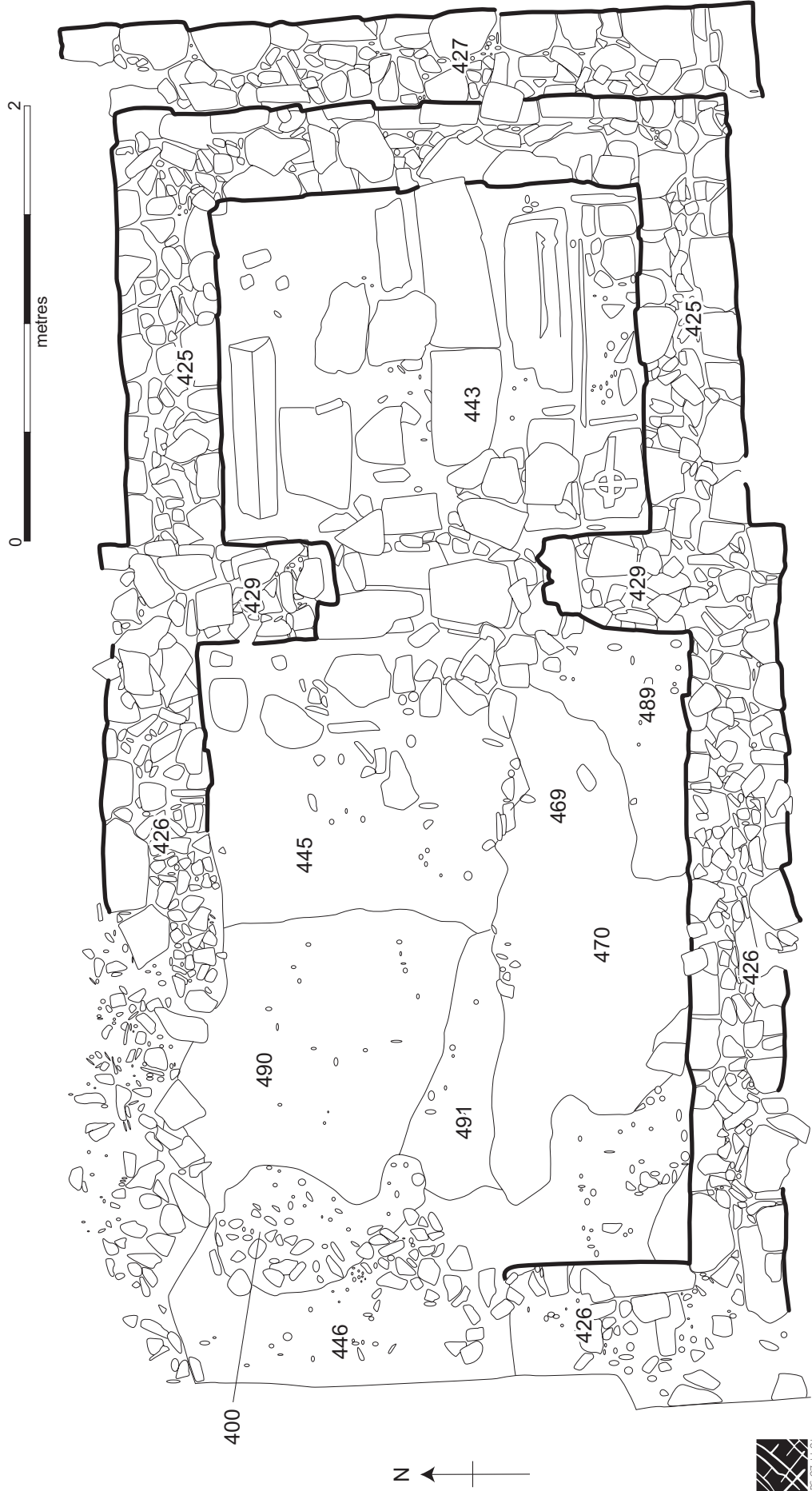
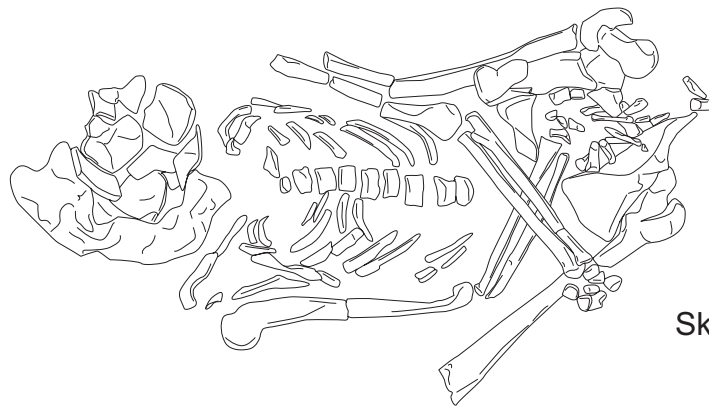
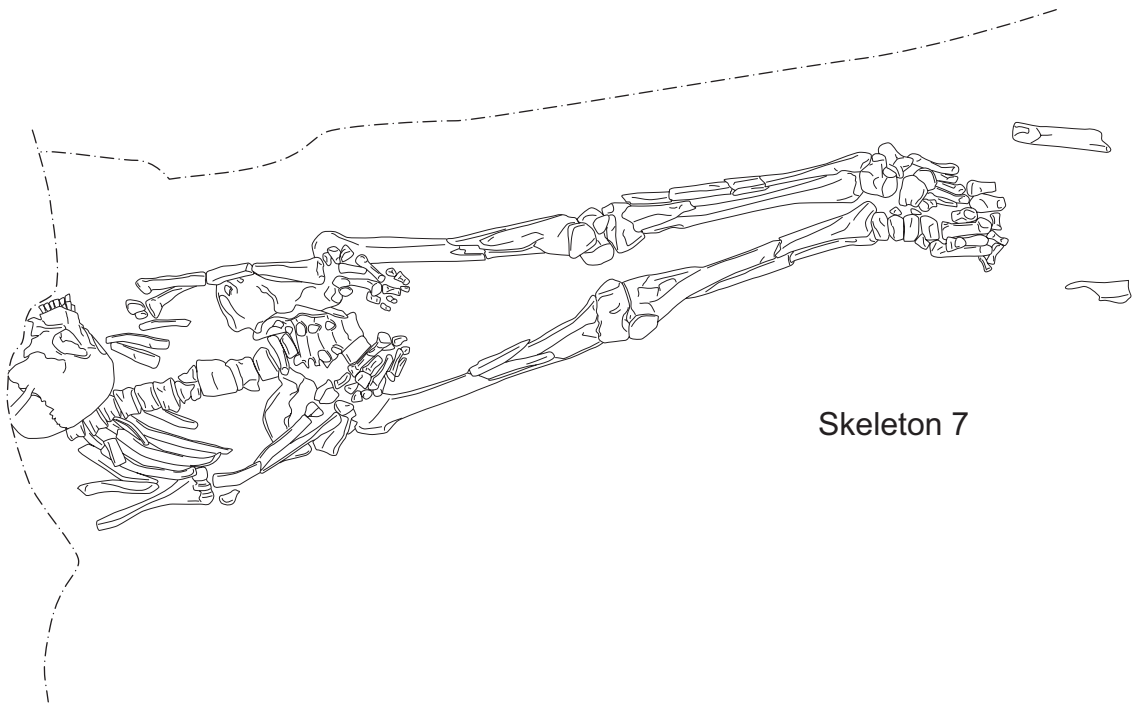


Figure 3. Inchmarnock, St Marnock's Chapel





Skeleton 5



Skeleton 7



Figure 4. Inchmarnock, St Marnock's Chapel: Detail of skeletons 5 & 7

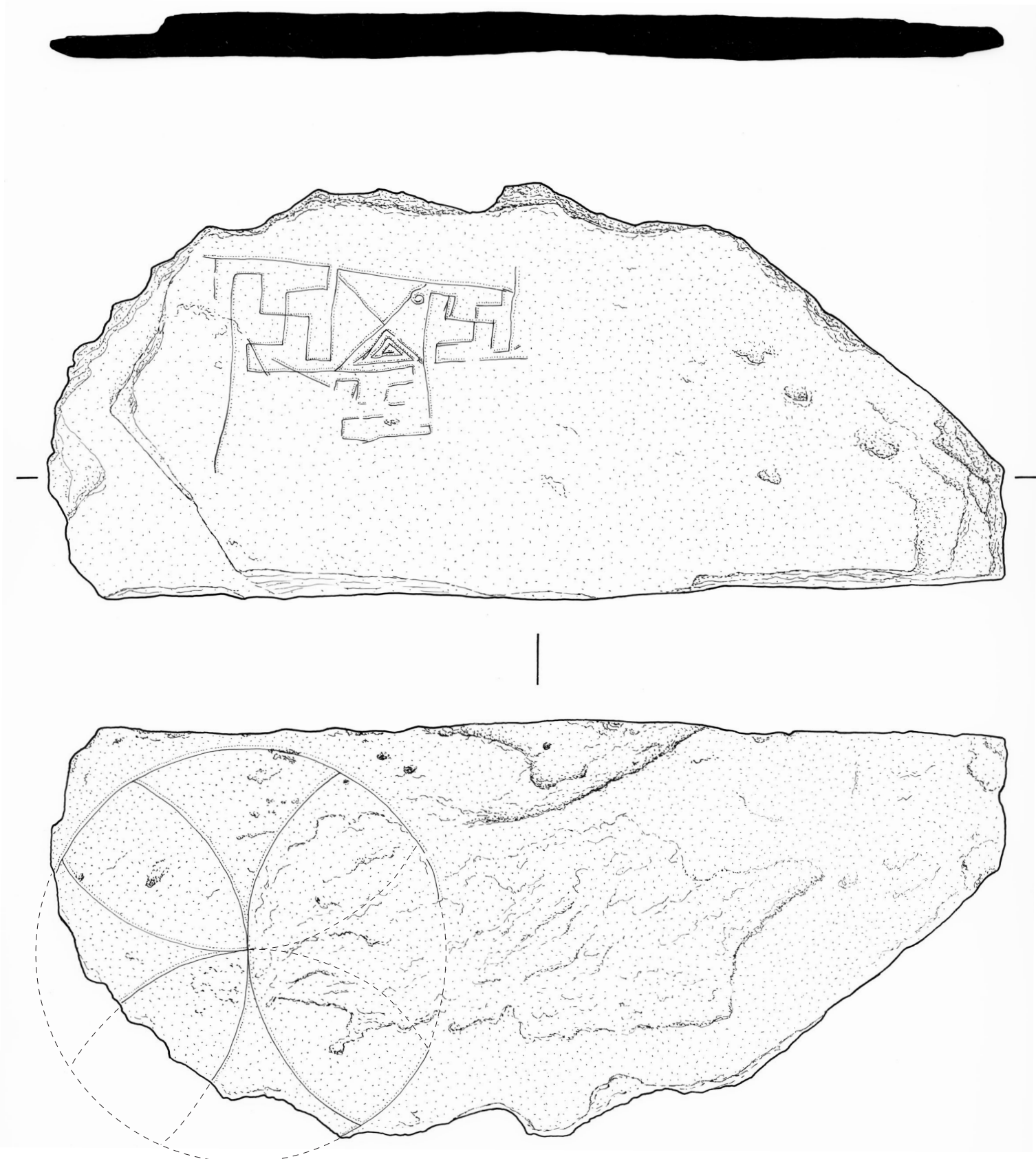
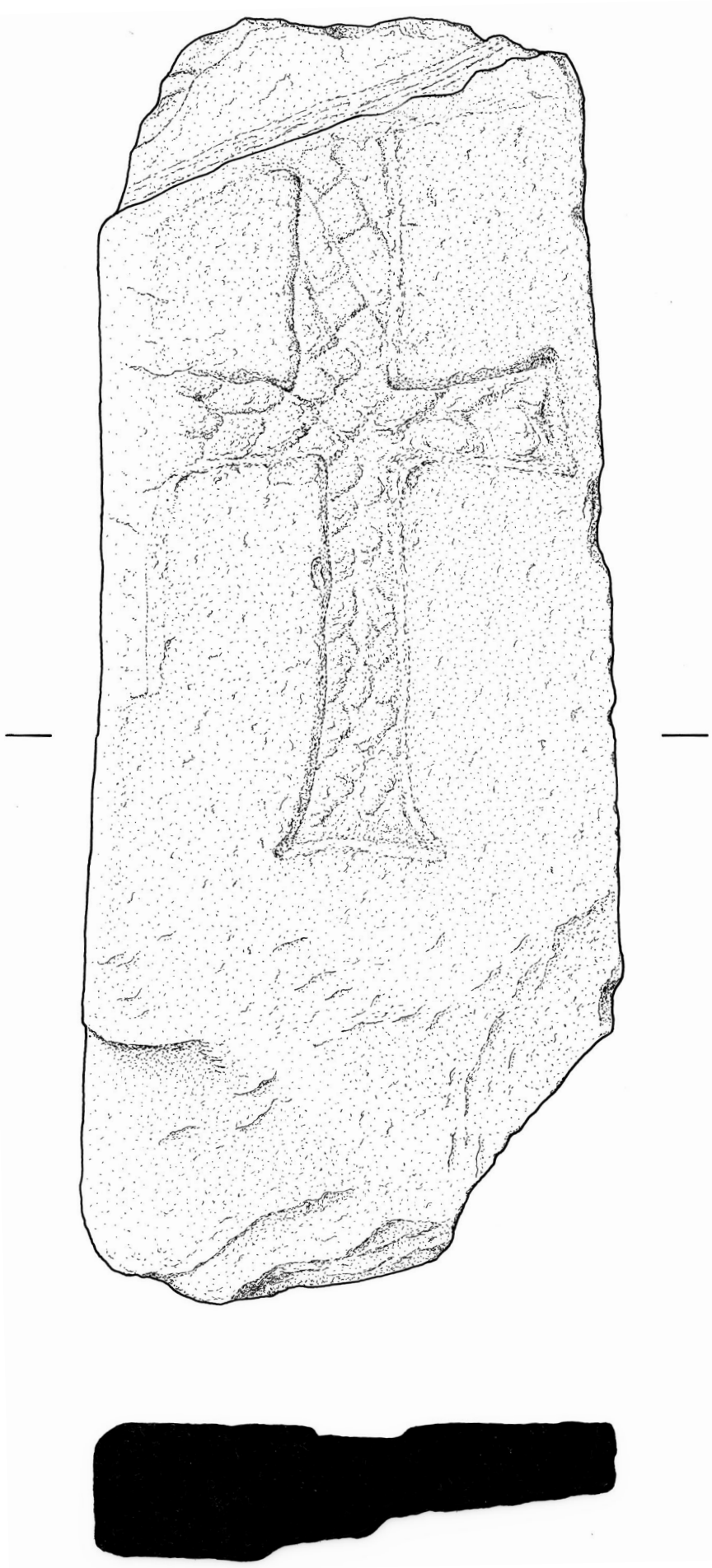


Figure 5. Inchmarnock:  
Cross-inscribed stone (SF406)







5 cm 0 5 cm



Figure 6. Inchmarnock: Cross-inscribed stone (SF 401)

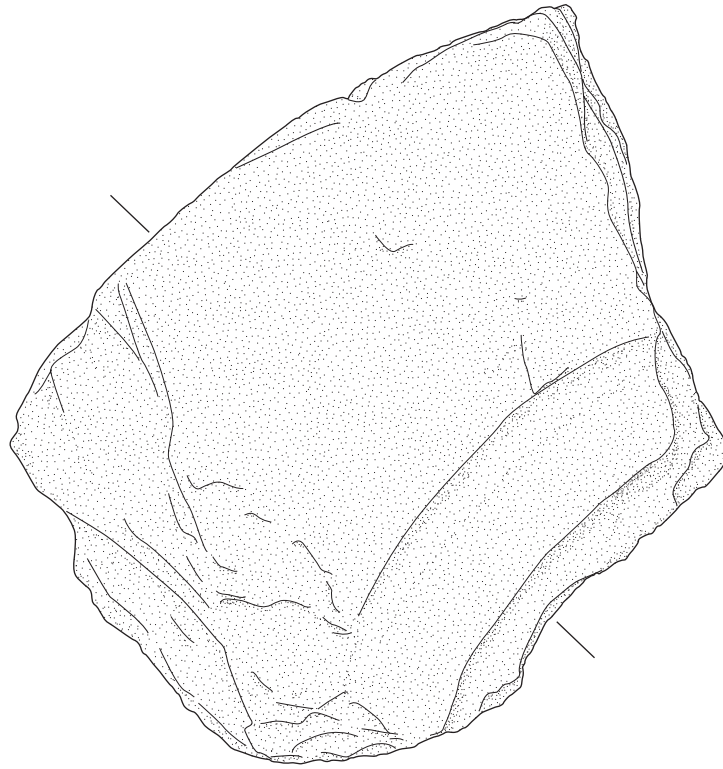


Figure 7. Inchmarnock: Sculpture fragment (SF420)

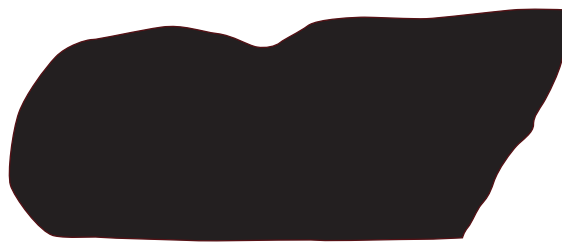
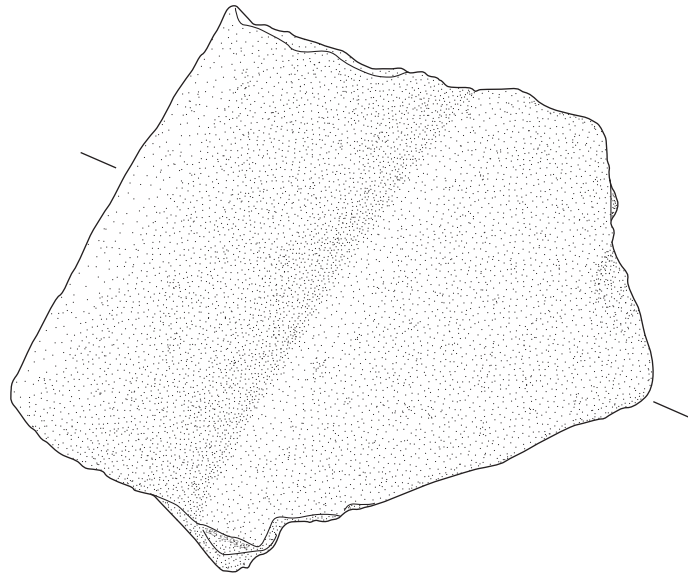


Figure 8. Inchmarnock: Sculpture fragment (SF 407)

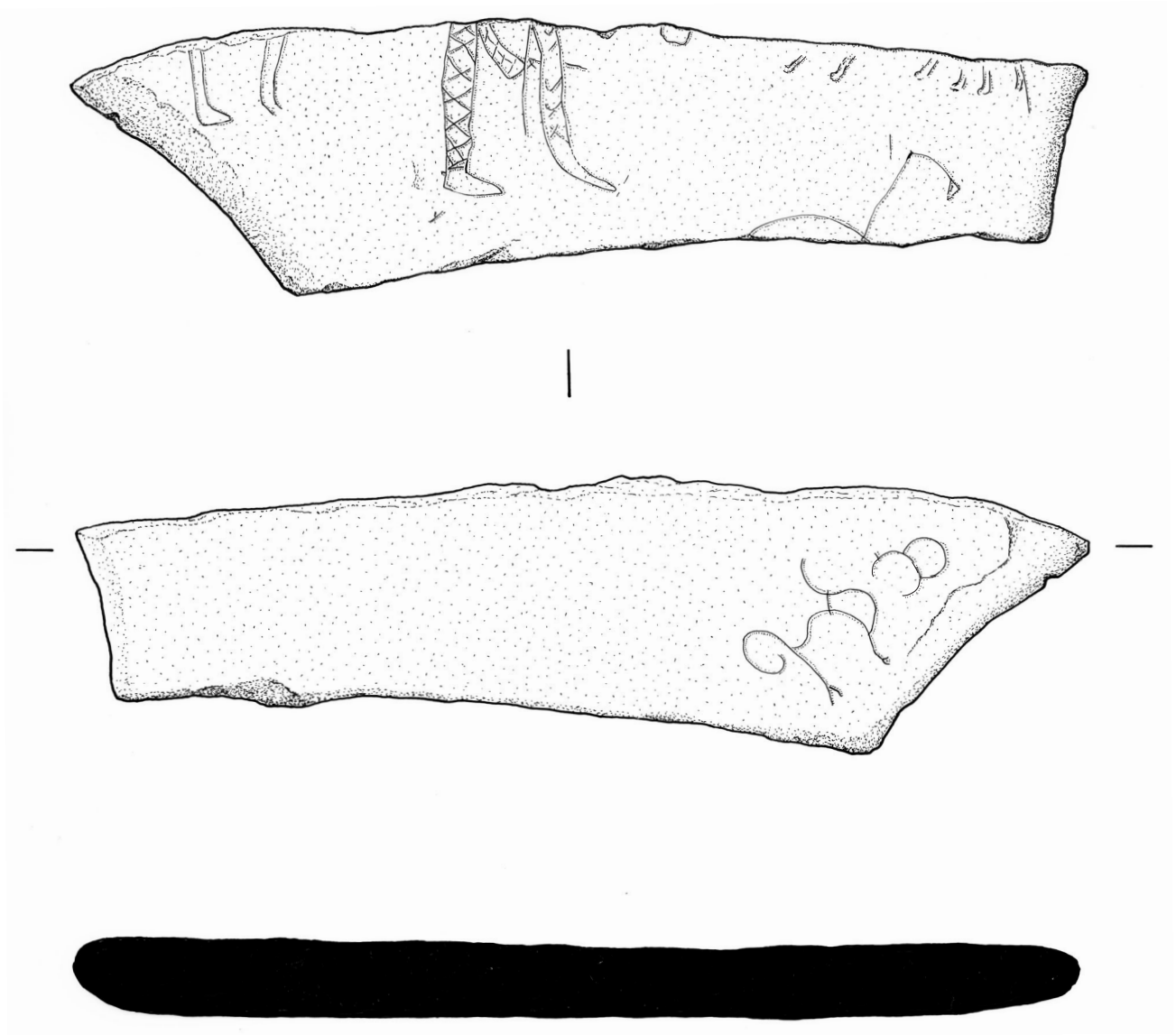


Figure 9. Motif piece (SF 404)

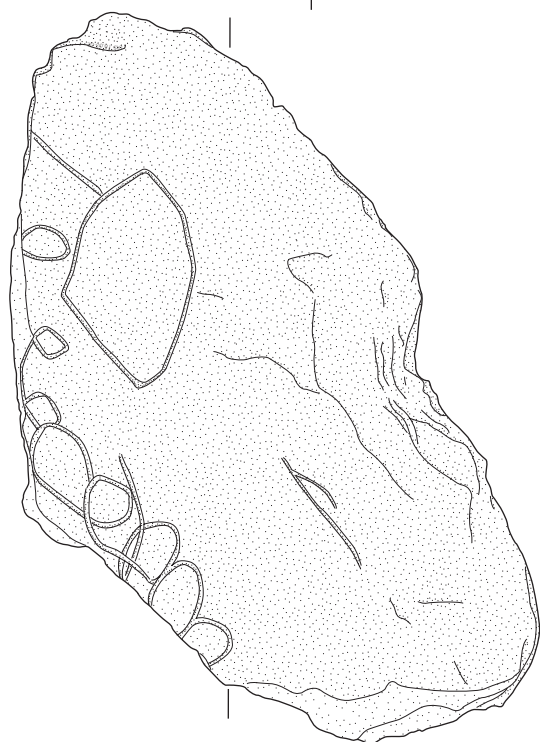


Figure 10. Inchmarnock: Motif piece (SF 405)

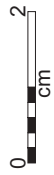


Figure 11. Inchmarnock: Motif piece (SF417)

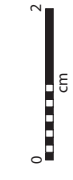
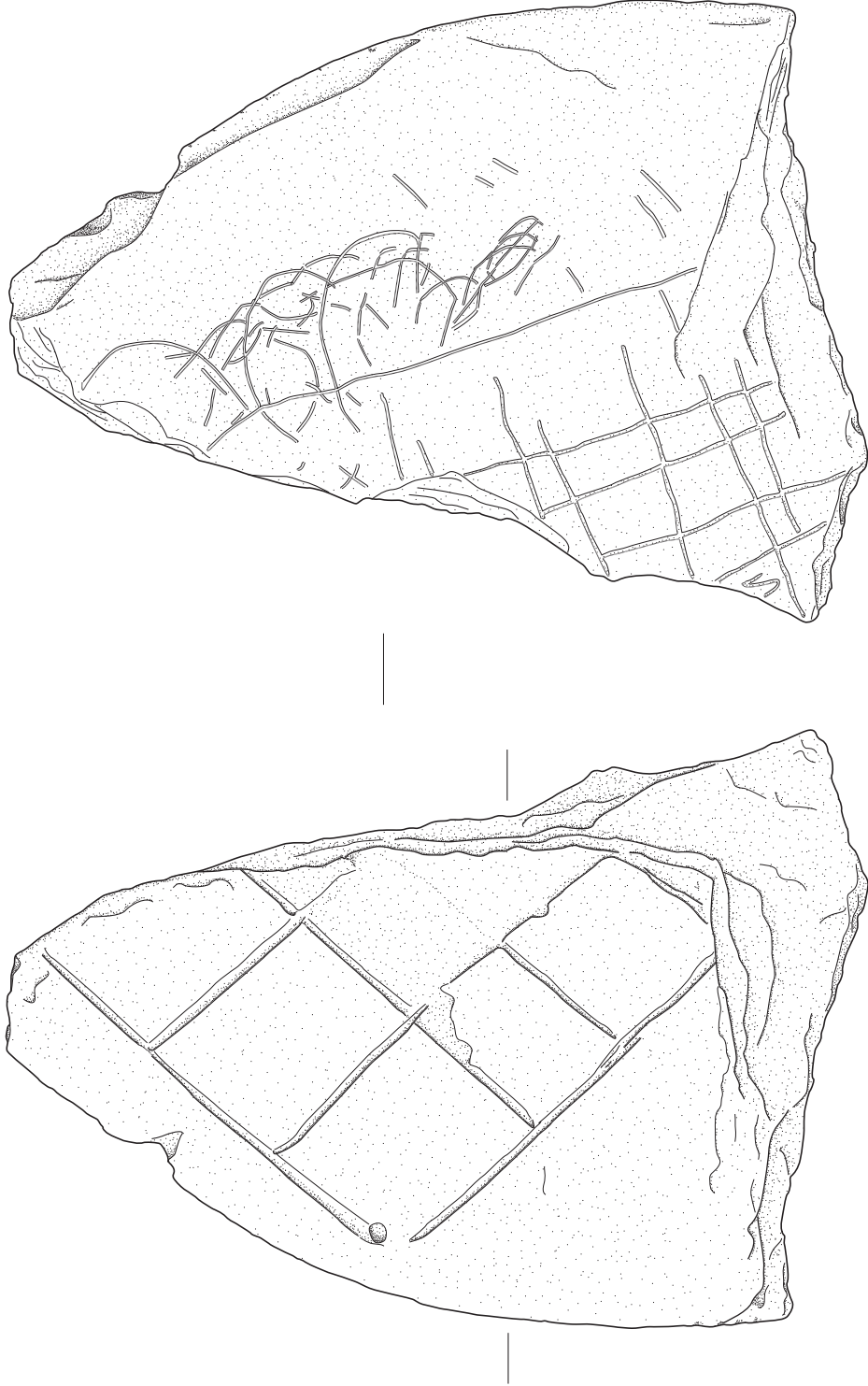


Figure 12. Inchmarnock: Gaming board (SF402)

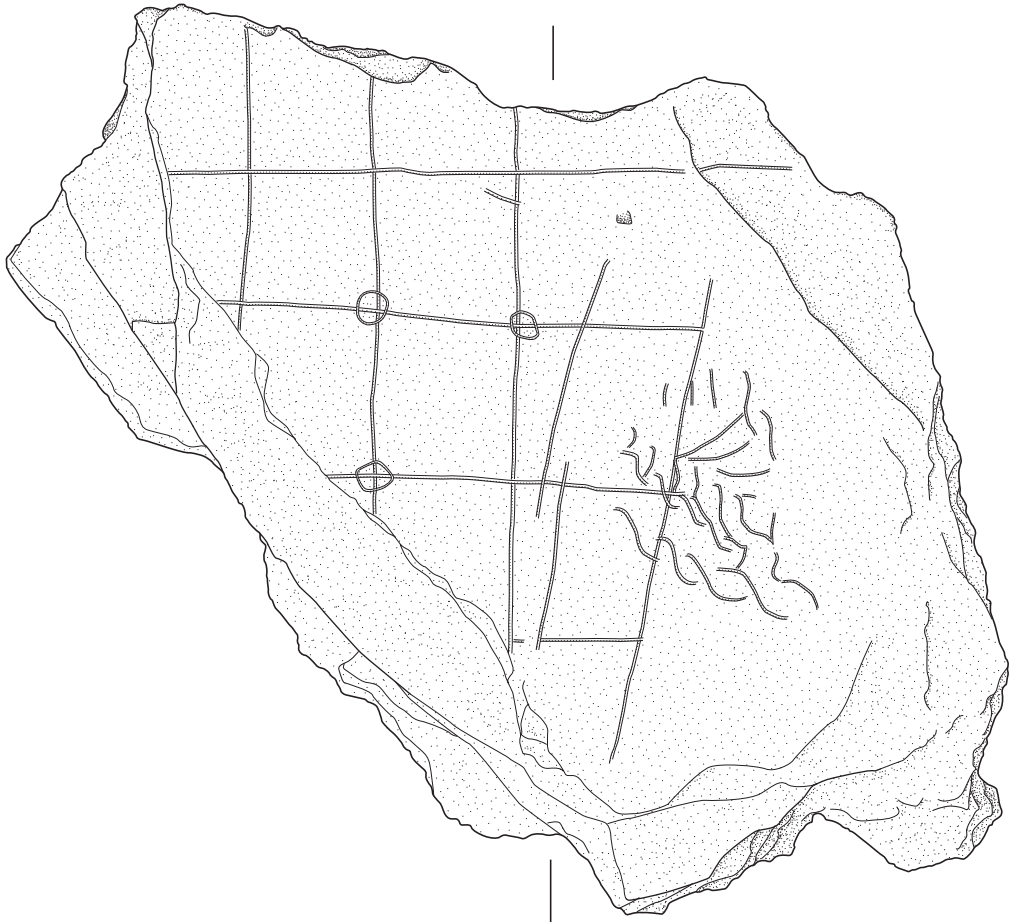
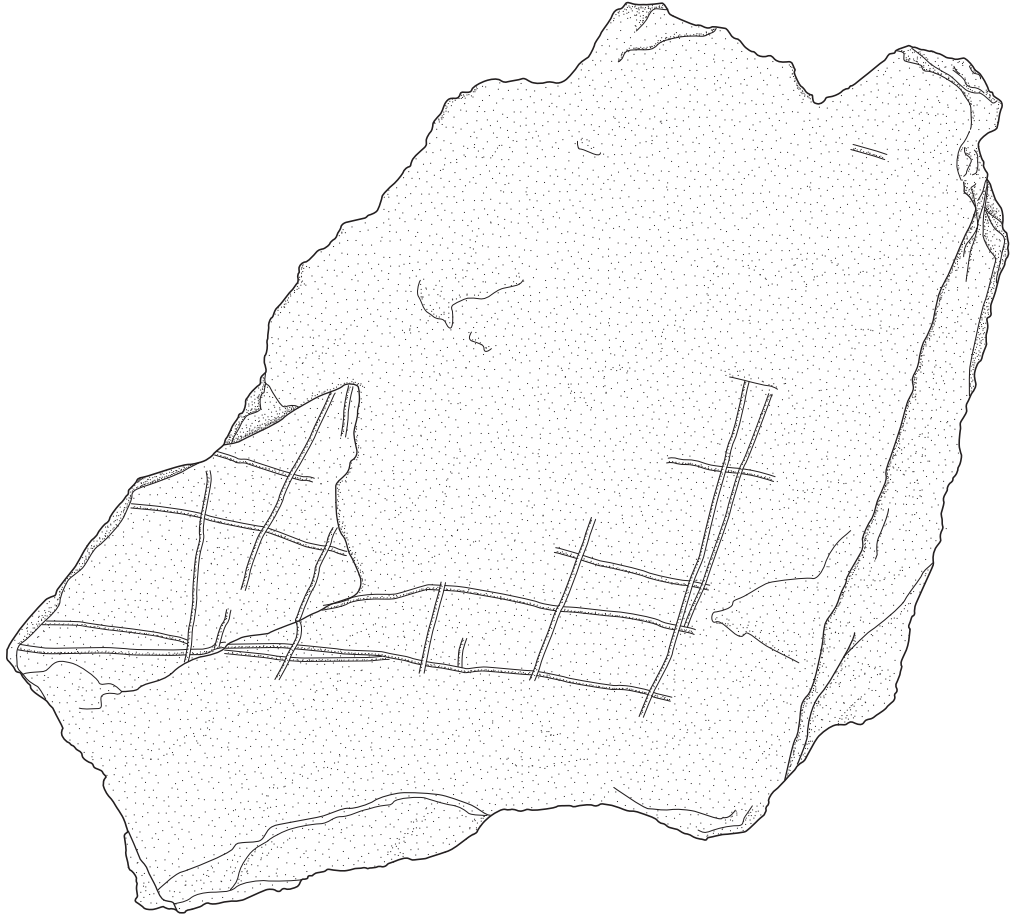


Figure 13. Inchmarnock: Gaming board (SF403)





Plate 1. Chapel facing west, with mortar surface and secondary works in the nave



Plate 2. Grave G10 in West Transect, prior to excavation, facing north



Plate 3. Graves G11, G12 & G13 in the North Transect, facing west