

**Date: May 2003**

**Client: Pat Munro (Alness) Limited**

**Project Code: WLS01**

# **Wester Lairs, Strathnairn Archaeological Evaluation**

Revised version 14 May 2003

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## SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Headland Archaeology at Wester Lairs, Strathnairn, to test interpretations of features recognised on the basis of survey data, and to determine whether the features were of national importance or of lesser significance. Three trenches were hand-excavated across the features in question:

- The remains of a building had been interpreted variously as a post-medieval farmstead, or as an early medieval Pitcarmick-type building. A hand-excavated trench across the centre of the building recovered substantial quantities of artefacts associated with its occupation, none of which need be earlier than 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. The building is identified as a farmstead that went out of use in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Four cairns, originally thought to be field clearance cairns associated with prehistoric cultivation, had been indicated as possible Pictish burial cairns. Trenches excavated through two of these cairns confirmed that they were clearance cairns. One produced no artefacts and therefore remains undated; the other contained finds indicating recent disturbance or modification, although the original construction of the cairn may be significantly earlier.

It is concluded that the features investigated are of local importance only.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### **Circumstances of the project**

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Wester Lairgs, Strathnairn, between 28 April and 2 May 2003, by Headland Archaeology on behalf of Pat Munro (Alness) Ltd. The area in question was the subject of a planning application for mineral extraction by Pat Munro in 1999, and an archaeological survey was commissioned at that time as part of the Environmental Statement prepared in support of the application. The survey identified numerous archaeological features, interpreted primarily as stone clearance cairns and a post-medieval farmstead. The planning application was turned down by Highland Council (not on archaeological grounds) but this decision was the subject of an Appeal by Pat Munro. In evidence presented at the Appeal hearing, alternative interpretations were offered for the nature and significance of some of the archaeological features at Wester Lairgs:

- The farmstead was an early-medieval 'Pitcarmick' type house
- Four of the cairns were Pictish burial cairns

In both cases, these interpretations (if correct) would make these features of national importance. In view of the potential national importance of these features (which would justify their preservation) and the uncertainty over this interpretation, the Reporter invoked the 'precautionary principle' established in Highland Council's Structure Plan and refused the Appeal.

This archaeological evaluation was designed to test the alternative interpretations of the features in question and determine their actual significance. The site was re-surveyed and trenches were excavated across the farmstead and two of the cairns. The work followed a method statement prepared by Headland Archaeology and approved by Historic Scotland and by the Highland Council Archaeology Service. Weather conditions during the project were difficult, with more or less constant rain: however, the work carried out was not materially affected by the weather beyond being somewhat slowed down.

### **Site description (Figure 1)**

The site is centred on NGR NH 697 352, to the east of the B851 road, and comprises an open field surrounded by woodland to the north and south. The underlying drift geology is gravel, and the landscape is typical of glacial moraine deposits with very irregular topography and prominent stony hillocks. The field is under grass with some boggy patches and has been recently used for grazing.

## 2. AIMS AND METHODS

### **Research aims**

The aims of the evaluation were limited to addressing the two points of contention raised in the Appeal, namely the date, character and significance of the building and certain cairns. It is not intended as a comprehensive evaluation of the site.

#### ***1. The Farmstead***

A group of stone and/or turf banks and associated features was identified in the original archaeological survey of the site as a post-medieval farmstead, probably of late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date, comprising a main room with two outbuildings to the north-east, a yard to the north-west and other structures including a possible kiln and potato clamps (Figure 2). An alternative

interpretation suggested at the public enquiry was that it could be a Pitcarmick-type building of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> century AD date. The aim of the evaluation was to establish the date of construction and use of the building.

## **2. The Cairns**

All the cairns within the area surveyed were originally interpreted as field clearance cairns, of probable prehistoric date. It was suggested at the public enquiry that some of these cairns could be Pictish burial cairns, and four of them, numbered 1-4 on Figures 3 and 4, were indicated as examples. Cairns 1 and 2 were selected for evaluation as they were the largest of the four, and possessed certain distinctive characteristics. In the case of Cairn 1, a slight hollow in the top of the cairn, where the stones were not grassed over, had been pointed out as the possible result of the collapse of a cist within the cairn. Cairn 2 appeared somewhat rectangular, rather than circular, in plan. In contrast, Cairns 3 and 4 were smaller, oval or circular, and indistinguishable in appearance from the other small cairns on the site. The aim of the evaluation was to determine whether Cairns 1 and 2 covered a burial or had any structural characteristics, such as a surrounding ditch or kerb, consistent with a funerary interpretation.

## **Methodology**

The evaluation was designed to achieve the objectives of the evaluation, as specified above, with the minimum of disturbance to the archaeological remains. Trench 1, 9.8 x 1 m in area, was excavated across the main room of the farmstead to provide further evidence for its date and character. A 5.7 x 1 m trench, Trench 3, was excavated into Cairn 1, and a 6.8 x 1 m trench, Trench 2, was excavated across Cairn 2. The turf and topsoil was removed from all the trenches by hand and the underlying surfaces cleaned and photographed. All further excavation was also carried out by hand: all deposits were removed stratigraphically until natural subsoil was reached, with the exception of the walls of the farmstead in Trench 1, which were left *in situ*. Following excavation and recording the trenches were reinstated.

The locations of trenches 1-3, and the archaeological features in their vicinity, were surveyed using a Total Station to relate them to the National Grid. Trench 1, across the farmstead, was drawn in plan at scale 1:20, and one section of the trench was drawn at scale 1:10. Both cairns were drawn in section at scale 1:10. Individual context numbers were assigned to all deposits, structures, cuts and other stratigraphic elements, which were described on *pro forma* context record sheets. Summary context descriptions are given in Appendix 1. A photographic record was kept of each stage of the evaluation, taking colour prints and colour transparencies. All artefacts were retained and assigned finds numbers (which refer both to individual finds and to bulk finds taken as a group from a single context). The finds assemblage is catalogued in Appendix 4 and has been analysed by Franklin (below). Bulk soil samples were taken from all deposits thought likely to contain environmental evidence: these have all been processed and are discussed by Hastie (below) and the results tabulated in Appendix 5.

## **3. RESULTS**

### **The Farmstead: Trench 1** (Figure 2 and Plates 1 and 2)

#### ***Buried ground surface and floor deposits***

The earliest deposit identified in Trench 1 was a very mixed and intermittent soil layer up to 0.12 m thick, which was described in different parts of the trench as contexts [006], [012] and [013]. These contexts directly overlie the natural coarse gravel subsoil. The north-west wall of the building, [008],

was clearly observed to overlie [012] and [013], which continued beneath the wall as a black sandy, peaty silt; away from the wall, [012] and [013] both presented a more mixed appearance, containing lenses of orange sand, ash and charcoal. [006], which seems to represent the continuation of this soil layer to the south-east, has a similarly mixed, sandy composition. Its relationship to wall [007] was unclear as [006] became very thin at this point. Contexts [006], [012] and [013] all contained finds of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date, including fragments of pottery, bottle and window glass and iron.

Deposits [006], [012] and [013] are interpreted as a remnant of the soil on which the walls of the farmstead were constructed. There was no sign of a deliberately constructed floor, and the existing soil may have been left to form the floor of the room. This soil has been modified by processes resulting from occupation of the building, such as deposition of sand on the floor, perhaps a deliberate attempt to create a drier ground surface, scattering of ash from the hearth, and trampling. These processes could also have resulted in the incorporation of small fragments of domestic refuse, including ceramic, glass and metalwork, into the soil. The finds from these contexts therefore seem likely to reflect the date of occupation of the building.

### *The walls*

Walls [007] and [008], forming the south-east and north-west walls of the building respectively, are both of drystone construction, built from the large rounded cobbles which occur in abundance in the subsoil. Wall [007] exists as a rough pile of stones, and appears to have suffered rather more collapse than [008], which retains both faces. Neither appears to have been extensively robbed, as the circuit of the walls is even and uninterrupted. As there is also relatively little tumble from the walls within or outwith the building, it seems likely that they were originally built to be dwarf walls, standing little higher than they survive today, upon which the walls would have been carried upwards with turf.

Large fragments of window glass (Find no. 19) were found protruding from the matrix of wall [008] following removal of a layer of tumble [014] from against its inner face. These fragments must pre-date the partial collapse of the wall represented by context [014]. The glass may have been incorporated into the wall when it was originally built, although it is also possible that it was inserted in the course of repairs or modifications to the original structure.

A third wall, [009], extending to the south-east of the building, appears to be integral with [007]. This may be part of a structure recorded in the survey, projecting out from the main building.

### *Contexts post-dating occupation of the building*

A layer of tumbled stones [014], lying against the inside face of wall [008] and overlying the floor deposit [013], represents the partial collapse of the wall, presumably after occupation had ceased. A number of finds of late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century date, including plate fragments (Find no. 11), and an iron cooking pot (find no. 10), were recovered from within and below this layer of tumble.

A layer of mid-brown peaty soil [005] overlay the floor deposits [006] and [013] within the building, and is interpreted as the 'B' horizon of the soil profile that developed over the floor of the farmstead after it had gone out of use. A similar soil horizon [011] was recognised outside the building to the northwest of wall [008], overlying [012]. Both [005] and [011] were greatly thickened immediately adjacent to the walls, and it is suggested that this additional depth of material may have derived from the turf component of the walls. Artefacts recovered from [005] included ceramic plate fragments (Find nos. 6 and 7), an iron knife blade and the head of a nail (Find no. 8).

An irregular hollow [004] in the middle of the floor of the building contained a deposit [003] consisting of dark peaty soil similar to topsoil, with frequent medium-sized cobbles. Below [003], against the sides of the hollow, were lenses of ashy silt [025]. Sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic (Find nos. 5, 9 and 15) were found within [003]. It is unclear whether this hollow represents disturbance following abandonment of the building, or during its occupation. Other irregular hollows cutting [006], with similar dark stony fills may be attributed to post-abandonment animal disturbance.

A number of finds of 19<sup>th</sup> century date were found in the course of removing the thin topsoil/turf deposits [001], [002] and [010] that overlay the structure. These contexts represent the development of a soil profile and the growth of vegetation over the remains of the building.

#### **Cairn 1** (Figure 3 and Plates 3 and 4)

The remnant of a buried soil horizon was identified at the base of Cairn 1 as [023], a layer of reddish-brown silty sand with diffuse boundaries, overlying the natural subsoil [024]. Both [023] and [024] contained frequent medium/large boulders. The bulk of the cairn was composed of [022], a loose and disorganised pile of rounded stones ranging from 0.1 to 0.4 m in size, with a matrix of dark, peaty soil and frequent voids. A fragment of clay pipe stem (Find no. 24) was found within [022].

A slight hollow in the top of the cairn contained stones that were not covered by vegetation, suggesting some sort of disturbance. These bare stones, context [021], were similar in size and in their random arrangement to those forming the rest of the cairn, but had no soil matrix. The bones of a sheep, in a somewhat decayed condition but still identifiable to species, and some nylon baling twine were found beneath [021]. A fragment of plate of late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date was also found among the stones.

No trace of a surrounding ditch, or any structural feature such as a kerb, was apparent. There was no evidence for a grave cut in the ground surface beneath the cairn, nor were any flat stones noted within the cairn that could have formed part of a cist.

#### **Cairn 2** (Figure 4 and Plates 5 and 6)

At the base of Cairn 2, overlying natural subsoil and continuing beyond the edges of the cairn, were two layers of sandy silt, [016] and [017], which are interpreted as a soil profile buried beneath the cairn. Large stones were frequent within [016], but less frequent within [017] and the underlying subsoil [019]. The bulk of the cairn consisted of [018], a disorganised and loosely placed pile of rounded stones, 0.1 – 0.3 m in size, with frequent voids. Beneath the turf/topsoil layer [015], dark, peaty soil and root mat extended through the cairn to a depth of 0.5 m.

No finds were recovered from Cairn 2. There was no evidence for a grave cut beneath the cairn, and neither was there any trace of a surrounding ditch, nor a kerb or other structural feature.

#### **4. THE FINDS (Julie Franklin)**

The assemblage numbers 59 sherds of pottery, 15 of glass, seven iron objects and a clay pipe stem. All are of post-medieval date. Most of the finds were from in or around the farmstead.

##### **The Farmstead**

The finds from the farmstead represent a small collection of domestic debris, broken crockery, bottles, a cast iron cooking pot, and a kitchen or table knife. Finds related to the fabric of the farmstead number only two possible nails and some sherds of clear window glass.

Many of these finds are very plain, and utilitarian, and though, obviously modern, are not closely datable. The most distinctive of the pottery is the mocha ware, also known as dipped or banded ware. There are seven small sherds, representing between two and four vessels (Ctxts 001, 003, 005 & 013). These are of white bodied earthenware, decorated with bands of different coloured slip, dark brown, red-brown, and yellow, and in one case also with blue glaze. One sherd (Ctxt 003, Find 5) has characteristic mocha decoration, made by dropping an infusion of mocha 'tea' onto wet slip, resulting in delicate tracteries resembling trees or ferns.

Mocha ware was made in Staffordshire as early as 1785. It was made for the cheaper end of the market and thus few pieces are marked or dated, and there is relatively little documentation to help in its study. By about 1800 several factories were producing it, including Tyneside, Wearside, Glasgow, and Newbigging in Musselburgh. It lost its popular appeal in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and by 1910 production had largely ceased (Teulon-Porter 1953). Large numbers of mocha and banded sherds were found during excavations at Newbigging dating to the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Haggarty & McIntyre 1996, 955). This is the nearest known source to Wester Lairgs, and it is possible that it is where the sherds originated.

The sherds fit somewhere in the middle of the period of production. The white body and black mocha decoration, as found at Wester Lairgs, are not found on the earliest creamware pieces. By about 1870, the declining popularity of the type led to a decline in standards, which is also not evident in these sherds (Rensselaer 1980). The sherds were probably made between about 1800 and 1850.

The lack of any transfer printed wares might also imply an earlier date within the 19<sup>th</sup> century, though this equally may reflect the taste and budget of the residents. The other finds, are consistent with a date in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The pottery represents storage jars, dairy bowls, table dishes and small bowls, and possibly mugs. The presence of window and bottle glass is also indicative of a 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

There is no discernable difference in terms of finds dating between the lower stratigraphic layers and the upper ones. Equally, there is no difference between the finds from inside and outside the building, though those outside are fewer in number.

##### **Cairn 1**

The two finds from the cairn included the oldest piece of the assemblage, a plain clay pipe stem, which is datable by its wide bore to the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. From a possible disturbance or backfill comes a later piece of a slip lined bowl of later 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date, similar to those found associated with the farmstead.

## 5. THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES (Mhairi Hastie)

### Methodology

Bulk soil samples ranging in size from 10 - 30 litres were taken from deposits associated with two cairns and a post-medieval farmstead:

Trench 1 - post-medieval farmstead

Trench 2 - Cairn 2

Trench 3 - Cairn 1

A total of eight samples was collected for palaeoenvironmental assessment.

Each sample was processed through a system of flotation in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250  $\mu\text{m}$  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

The results are summarised in Appendix 5.

The flots were dominated by modern root debris and insect remains. Six of the eight samples contained small quantities of wood charcoal and one carbonised barley grain was recovered from Context [003].

One fragment of recent pottery was recovered from Context [013] and a small fragment of green bottle glass was recovered from Context [006].

### Discussion

The environmental remains recovered from Wester Lairs do not add significantly to our understanding of the archaeological features uncovered. Low concentrations of charcoal were recovered from Contexts [016] and [023], the buried soil remnants underlying Cairns 1 and 2.

The presence of recent artefacts from the farmstead is consistent with the artefacts recovered during the excavation and indicates a recent date for the features. The origin of the barley grain and charcoal recovered from hollow [004] is unclear although the most likely explanation is that this material relates to domestic activities being carried out during occupation of the farmstead.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### The farmstead

The evaluation has confirmed the original interpretation of the existing remains as a farmstead of recent date. Almost all contexts associated with the building produced significant quantities of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century material. The only closely-dated finds were from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and nothing could be definitely assigned to the 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. All the finds are consistent with an early 19<sup>th</sup> century date for the assemblage, and while it is possible that some of the more loosely dated artefacts are in fact of 18<sup>th</sup> century manufacture, and reflect 18<sup>th</sup> century activity on the site, there is no



positive evidence to suggest this is the case. The presence of fragments of window glass within the fabric of wall [008] implies a relatively late date for its construction, as glazed windows in Scottish farmsteads were rare before the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic, glass and metalwork in contexts [006] and [013] is also significant, as these contexts represent the floor of the building and the finds can therefore be confidently associated with its actual occupation, rather than any putative later activity post-dating the abandonment of the building.

Large quantities of finds, similarly characteristic of 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic activity, were also recovered from contexts such as wall tumble and soil formation over the building, which post-date the abandonment of the building and relate to its demolition or collapse. The most likely explanation for the presence of these finds, however, is that they also derive from the period of use of the building and have been incorporated into these sediments as the building decayed. There is no evidence for later use or disturbance of the site (with the possible exception of the hollow [004]) that could account for their introduction to the site.

Whether this evidence for early 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic activity represents the first phase of occupation on the site of the farmstead cannot be conclusively demonstrated. However, no artefactual or structural evidence was found in the evaluation to suggest that the farmstead had an origin earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

No finds of later 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century manufacture were recovered, suggesting that the farmstead had been abandoned by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. This would accord with the evidence of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (surveyed 1867-70), which does not show the farmstead.

### **The cairns**

No evidence was found to support the suggestion that the two cairns investigated were Pictish funerary monuments. No grave cut was visible below either cairn, nor did either of them display any structural feature (such as a ditch or kerb) to suggest that either of them was anything other than a clearance cairn.

The presence of a clay pipe stem fragment within the grassed-over part of Cairn 1 suggests that at least part of the cairn is relatively modern, although stones may have been piled up on top of an earlier cairn. The bare stones in the hollow on the top of the cairn appear to have been removed in order to bury a sheep, the bones of which were found beneath them, and then replaced. Bone does not survive long in acid soil conditions such as those found on the site, and the fact that the bones have not decayed significantly, as well as the association with the nylon baling twine, indicates that the sheep burial is very recent.

Cairn 2 appears to be a simple clearance cairn. No dating evidence was found, which is consistent with the original interpretation of this, and other cairns on the site, as a product of the initial cultivation of the land in the prehistoric period.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

The evaluation has confirmed the interpretation of the building as a recent farmstead. Artefacts associated with the walls and occupation surfaces derive from its construction and use in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The evidence from both of the cairns is consistent with the interpretation of them as field clearance cairns. No evidence for the date of Cairn 2 was recovered but it is believed to be associated with

prehistoric cultivation. Cairn 1 is at least partially post-medieval in origin, and has been disturbed in recent decades to dispose of a sheep carcass.

The results of the evaluation indicate that the archaeological remains investigated are of local significance only.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was funded by Pat Munro. The fieldwork was carried out with the assistance of Richard Conolly, Kirsty Dingwall, Sarah-Jane Haston and Colin Hewat, and the survey work was carried out by Danny Dutton and Richard Conolly. The illustrations were produced by Tom Small. The finds and environmental samples were processed by Davie Masson. The work was monitored by John Wood on behalf of Highland Council, and by Murray Cook on behalf of AOC Archaeology Ltd, both of whom provided useful advice and suggestions.

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Teulon-Porter, N 1953 'The N. Teulon-Porter collection of Mocha Pottery', City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

Rensselaer, S van 1980 'Banded Creamware', in Atterbury, P (ed) *English Pottery and Porcelain: an historical survey*. London, 240-244

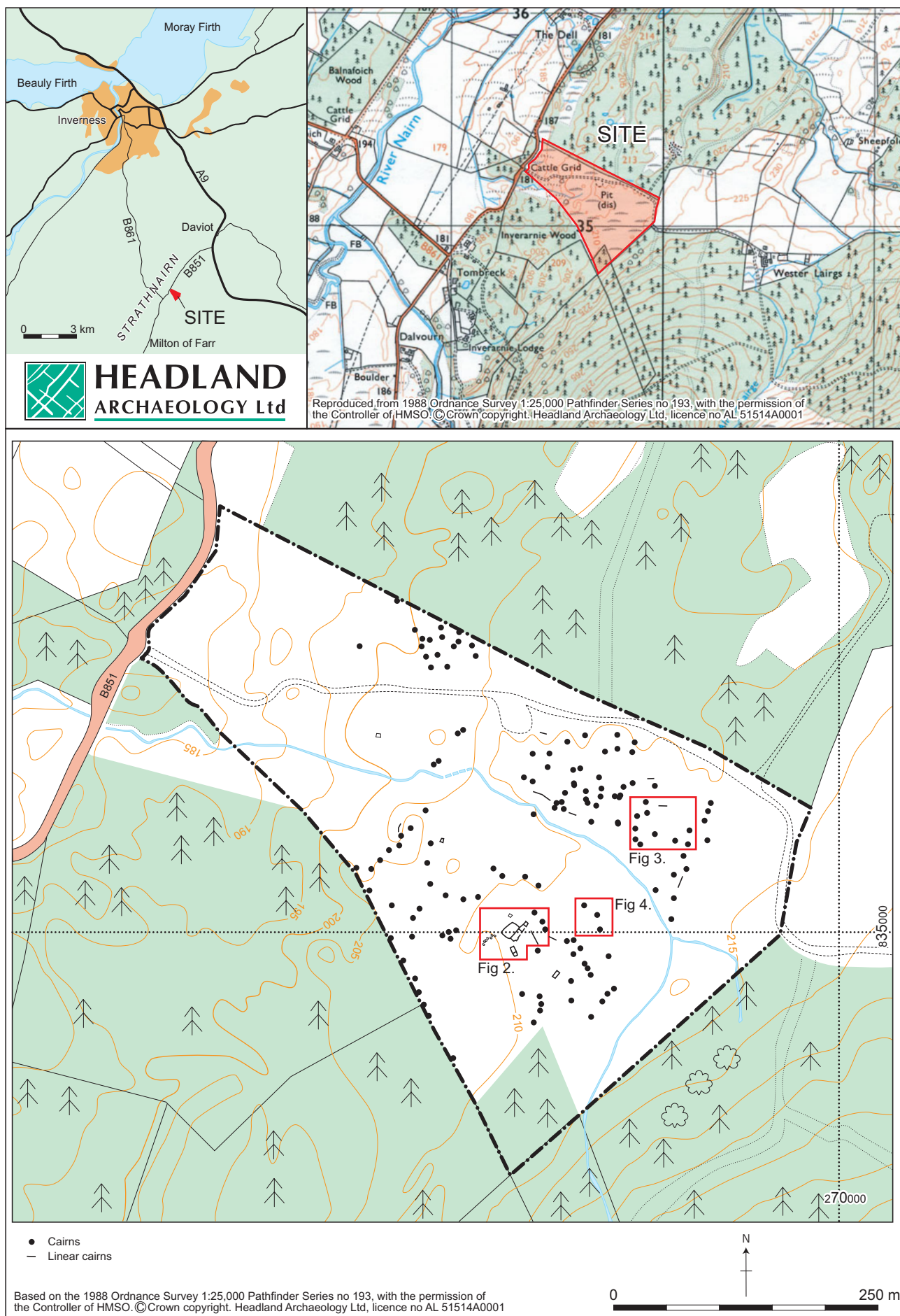


Figure 1. Wester Laigs, Strathnairn: Site location.

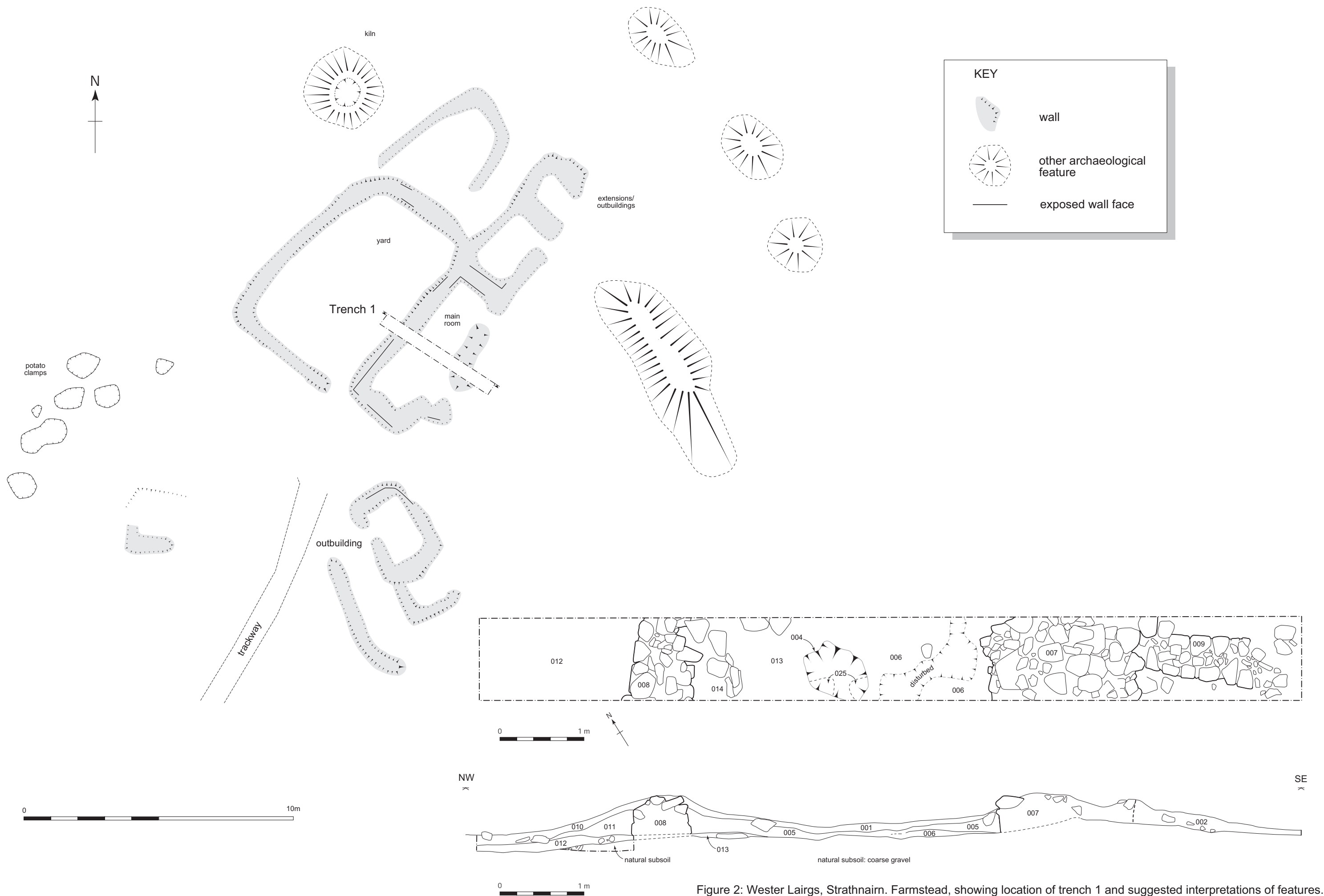
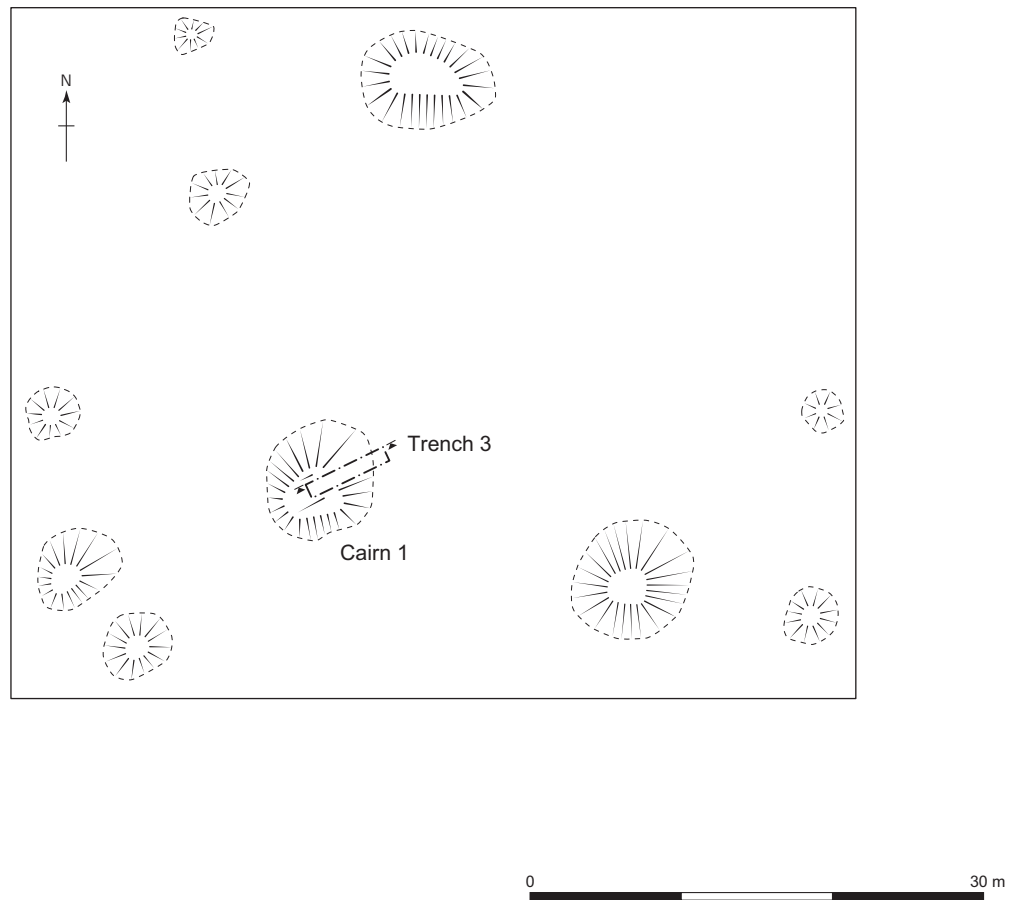


Figure 2: Wester Lairgs, Strathnairn. Farmstead, showing location of trench 1 and suggested interpretations of features.

# Plan showing location of cairn 1



## South-east facing section

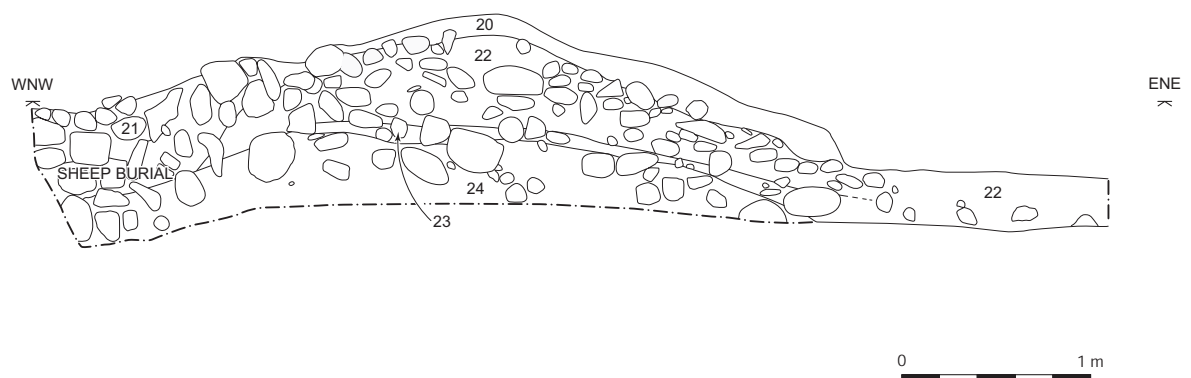
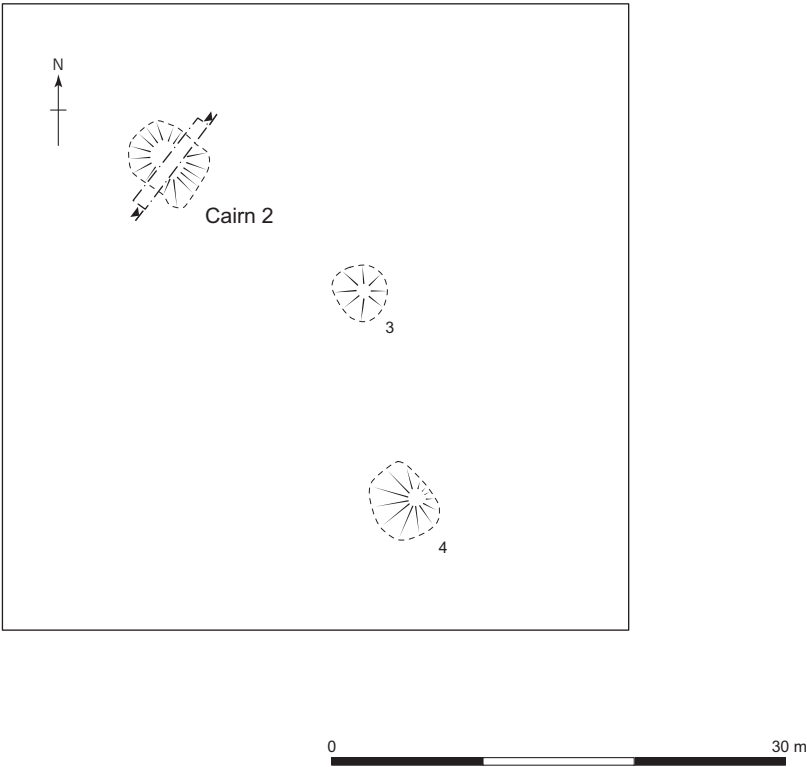


Figure 3: Wester Lairs, Strathnairn. Cairn 1: Location and section of trench 3

Plan showing location of cairn 2



North-west facing section

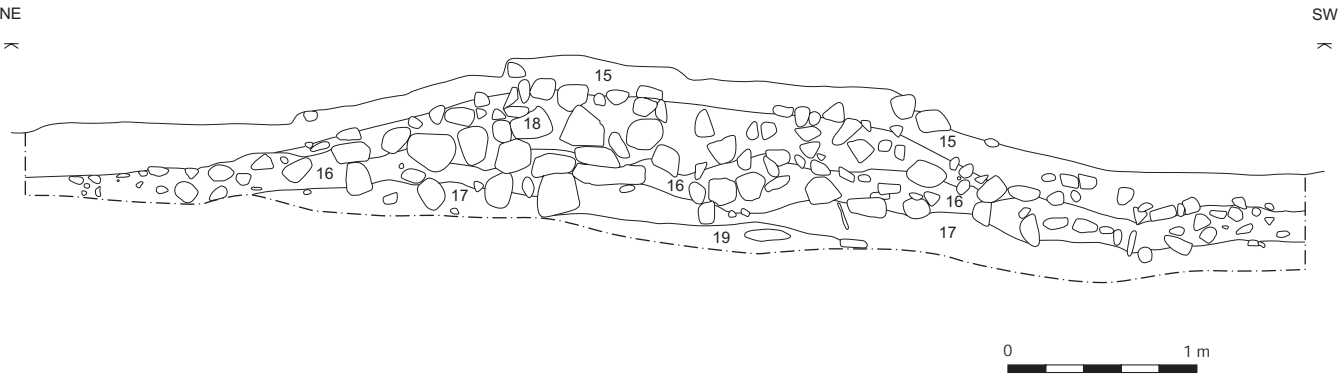


Figure 4: Wester Lairs, Strathnairn. Cairn 2: Location and section of trench 2





Plate 1: The farmstead. Trench 1, facing north-west



Plate 2: The farmstead. Wall [008], facing south-west





Plate 3: Cairn 1. Disturbed stones [021] *in situ*



Plate 4: Cairn 1. Trench 3 fully excavated, facing north





Plate 5: Cairn 2 deturfed, facing north-east



Plate 6: Cairn 2 fully excavated, facing south

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Area	Description
001	Trench 1	Turf and topsoil within building: black, peaty topsoil, average depth of soil horizon 0.1 m
002	Trench 1	Turf and Topsoil outwith building to SE, similar to [001]
003	Trench 1	Fill of [004]: very dark brown/black peaty soil, similar to topsoil, with frequent large cobbles
004	Trench 1	Irregular hollow 0.7 m wide, 0.2 m deep. Cuts through floor surfaces [006] and [013]. Relationship to [005] is unclear.
005	Trench 1	Soil horizon beneath [001], within building: mid brown peaty soil, forming a layer 0.05 m thick in the centre of the trench, but much thicker (up to 0.3 m) where it abuts against walls [007] and [008]. Overlies floor deposits [006] and [013]: the boundary to these underlying deposits is sharp.
006	Trench 1	Layer up to 0.08 m thick beneath [005], between pit [004] and wall [007]. Very mixed deposit with a speckled or patchy appearance, composed of patches of orange sand and dark brown peaty soil, with occasional pale grey ash lenses, stone free. Dark brown peaty soil predominates near wall [007]. It appears to continue beneath [007], although this relationship could not be confirmed without removing the wall. Overlies natural subsoil.
007	Trench 1	South-east wall of building. 1.6 m wide, 0.4 m high above natural subsoil, appearing as a loose and irregular pile of large rounded cobbles up to 0.4 m in size. No bonding is apparent. Some stones probably derived from the collapse of [007] overlie wall [009].
008	Trench 1	North-west wall of building. 0.85 m wide, 0.5 m high above natural subsoil. Made of medium/large rounded cobbles up to 0.4 m in size, drystone construction, both inside and outside having a regular face. Some stones removed from against the south-east (inner) face of the wall as [014] appear to represent partial collapse of [008]. Constructed on top of a soil layer which continues as [012] outside, and as [013] inside the building.
009	Trench 1	Single course of drystone walling 0.55 m wide, extending for 2 m to the south-east of [007]. Constructed of medium/large rounded cobbles up to 0.3 m in size; the stones on both outer faces are larger and arranged to form a regular face to the wall, while the middle is filled in with smaller stones.
010	Trench 1	Turf and topsoil to the north-west of wall [008], similar to [001].
011	Trench 1	Soil horizon beneath [010], to north-west of wall [008]: mid-brown peaty stone-free soil, similar to [005], 0.05 m thick at the north-west end of the trench but increasing to 0.3 m thick against the outer face of wall [008]. Boundary to [012] beneath is sharp.
012	Trench 1	Layer up to 0.12 m thick beneath [011], to north-west of wall [008] and continuing beneath it. Blackish-grey peaty silt, mixed with patches of sand and ash.
013	Trench 1	Layer up to 0.06 m thick beneath [005], between wall [008] and hollow [004], and extending beneath wall [008]. Black peaty, sandy soil, mixed with paler sandy or ashy lenses. Overlies natural subsoil.

014	Trench 1	Layer of medium/large rounded cobbles with a matrix of peaty soil, sloping against the south-east (inside) face of wall [008]. Merges with [005]. Seals [013].
015	Trench 2	Turf and topsoil 0.17 – 0.5 m thick, overlying Cairn 2. Covers stones [018]; root mat extends between stones to depth of 0.5 m.
016	Trench 2	Layer of dark orange-brown silt at base of cairn, containing some large stones.
017	Trench 2	Pale yellowish-brown sandy silt below [016]
018	Trench 2	Stones forming Cairn 2: medium-large rounded cobbles up to 0.4 m in size, with no discernible structure or sorting.
019	Trench 2	Natural subsoil below Cairn 2: orange gravelly sand.
020	Trench 3	Turf and topsoil over Cairn 1: dark reddish-brown to black greasy silt
021	Trench 3	Area of rounded stones up to 0.3 m in size within a slight hollow in the top of Cairn 1. They are not vegetated, and overlie the bones of a sheep.
022	Trench 3	Stones within Cairn 1, covered by turf/topsoil [020].
023	Trench 3	Reddish-brown fine silty sand layer at base of Cairn 1. Diffuse boundaries to soil matrix of [022] above, and to natural subsoil below.
024	Trench 3	Natural subsoil below Cairn 1: pale yellowish-brown sand with abundant rounded boulders.
025	Trench 1	Lenses of yellowish-grey fine sandy/ashy silt up to 20 mm thick on side and base of hollow [004].

## APPENDIX 2: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing Number	Scale	Description
1	1:20	Plan of Trench 1, with Turf and Topsoil Removed
2	1:20	Overlay of Plan 1, showing [006] and [012] <i>in situ</i>
3	1:20	Overlays of Plans 1 and 2, with floor deposits excavated to natural subsoil
4	1:10	North-West Facing Section Through Cairn 2
5	1:10	South Facing Section of Trench 1
6	1:10	South Facing Section Through Cairn 1

## APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTERS

<i>Film no. 1</i>		<b>Film Type: Colour print and slide</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	I.D. Shot
2	NE	The farmstead: main room, pre-ex
3	SW	The farmstead: main room, pre-ex
4	NW	The farmstead: main room, pre-ex
5	SE	The farmstead: main room, pre-ex
6	NW	The farmstead: main room, pre-ex
7	SW	The farmstead: main room, pre-ex
8	NW	The farmstead: main room, pre-ex
9	N	Cairn 2: Pre-ex
10	S	Cairn 2: Pre-ex
11	W	Cairn 2: Pre-ex
12	E	Cairn 2: Pre-ex
13	NE	Cairn 2: after turf removal
14	NE	Cairn 2: after turf removal
15	SW	Cairn 2: after turf removal
16	SW	Cairn 2: after turf removal
17	NW	Cairn 2: after turf removal
18	NW	Cairn 2: after turf removal
19	NW	Cairn 2: after turf removal
20	NW	Cairn 2: after turf removal
21	NW	Cairn 2: after turf removal
22	NW	Cairn 2: after turf removal
23	NW	Cairn 2: work in progress, showing voids
24	NW	Cairn 2: work in progress, showing voids
25	S	Cairn 2: work in progress
26	NW	The farmstead: slot through after turf removal
27	SE	The farmstead: slot through after turf removal, inside main room

<i>Film no. 2</i>		<b>Film Type: Colour print and slide</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	NW	The farmstead: slot through after turf removal
2	NW	The farmstead: slot through after turf removal
3	NW	The farmstead: slot through after turf removal, showing west wall
4	SE	The farmstead: slot through after turf removal
5	SW	Cairn 2: work in progress, showing possible buried ground surface
6	SW	Cairn 2: work in progress, showing possible buried ground surface
7	SE	The farmstead: east wall, inner face
8	SE	Soil layer [006] in situ to north-west of wall [007].

9	NW	Soil layer [013] in situ to south-east of wall [008]
10	NW	Soil layer [013] in situ to south-east of wall [008]
11	SE	Soil layer [012] partially removed to north-west of wall [008]
12	SE	Cairn 2: NW facing section
13	SE	Cairn 2: NW facing section
14	SE	Cairn 2: NW facing section
15	SE	Cairn 2: NW facing section
16	SE	Cairn 2: NW facing section
17	SE	Cairn 2: NW facing section
18	SE	Cairn 2: NW facing section
19	SE	Cairn 2: NW facing section
20	NW	Cairn 2: SE facing section
21	NW	Cairn 2: SE facing section
22	NW	Cairn 2: SE facing section
23	NW	Cairn 2: SE facing section
24	NW	Cairn 2: SE facing section
25	NW	Cairn 2: SE facing section

<i>Film no. 3</i>		<b>Film Type: Colour print and slide</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	NW	Cairn 2: SE facing section
2	SW	Cairn 2: general shot
3	SW	Cairn 2: general shot
4	SW	Cairn 2: general shot
5	NE	Cairn 2: general shot
6	NE	Cairn 2: general shot
7	NE	Cairn 2: general shot
8	E	Cairn 1: pre-ex shot
9	W	Cairn 1: pre-ex shot
10	S	Cairn 1: pre-ex shot
11	N	Cairn 1: pre-ex shot
12	SE	The farmstead: close up of floor surface 006 with hollows
13	NW	The farmstead: floor surface next to west wall
14	SW	The farmstead: pit 004 fully excavated
15	S	Working shot
16	W	Cairn 1: after turf removal
17	E	Cairn 1: after turf removal
18	N	Cairn 1: after turf removal
19	NE	Cairn 1: after turf removal
20	NW	Cairn 1: general shot
21	E	Cairn 1: general shot
22	W	Cairn 1: general shot
23	NW	The farmstead: finds within wall tumble 014
24	NE	The farmstead: Fe object within floor surface 006
25	SE	The farmstead: after removal of 006, possible cut feature and pit 004

<i>Film no. 4</i>		<b>Film Type: Colour print and slide</b>
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	I.D. Shot
2	W	Richard and Colin excavating cairn 1
3	S	Kirsty recording trench 2
4	SE	The farmstead: west of wall 008
5	SW	The farmstead: west of wall 008
6	SW	The farmstead: inside section of wall 008
7	NE	The farmstead: inside section of wall floor deposit 007
8	NE	The farmstead: inside face of wall 008
9	NW	The farmstead: close up of glass in wall 008
10	NW	The farmstead: general shot of building
11	SW	Cairn 1: north facing section
12	SW	Cairn 1: north facing section
13	SW	Cairn 1: north facing section
14	SE	Cairn 1: north facing section
15	SE	Cairn 1: north facing section
16	SE	Cairn 1: north facing section
17	S	Cairn 1: north facing section
18	S	Cairn 1: north facing section
19	S	Cairn 1: north facing section
20	NW	Cairn 1: south facing section
21	NW	Cairn 1: south facing section
22	NW	Cairn 1: south facing section
23	NE	Cairn 1: general shot
24	NE	Cairn 1: general shot
25	NE	The farmstead: inside section of wall floor deposit

## APPENDIX 4: FINDS CATALOGUE

Ctxt no.	Find no.	Material	Qty	Description	Spot Date
001	1	Glass	1	Window sherd, clear, good condition	
001	1	Pottery	5	GRE – dark brown glazed, all same vessel	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
001	1	Pottery	4	ModWE – plain white fragments	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
001	1	Pottery	2	ModWE, banded – white & brown stripes, with machine turned decoration fragment with blue glaze	19 <sup>th</sup>
001	18	Pottery	4	ModWE – joining flakes of plain white, probably same vessel as no.7 bowl	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
002	2	Pottery	5	ModWE – small plain fragments	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
002	3	Glass	1	Bottle sherd, olive green, good condition	18 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup>
002	3	Glass	1	Window sherd, clear, good condition	
002	4	Fe	1	Buckle frame? Piece of shaped plate	
002	4	Fe	1	Spike/nail shaft, square sectioned	
002	20	Glass	2	Bottle sherds, base and fragment of dark amber bottle, thick base, machine finished	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
002	20	Pottery	4	ModWE – flaking sherds, plain white	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
003	5	Pottery	1	GRE – small ring base with internal white slip, glazed cream with brown streaks	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
003	5	Pottery	3	ModWE – ring base & sherds, plain white	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
003	5	Pottery	1	ModWE ,banded – brown strip, area of machine turned decoration, glazed white, area of red-brown with black mocha decoration	19 <sup>th</sup>
003	9	Pottery	1	ModWE – plain white fragment	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
003	9	Pottery	1	ModWE, banded – brown & white stripes	19 <sup>th</sup>
003	15	Pottery	1	ModWE, banded – brown & white stripes	19 <sup>th</sup>
005	6	Glass	2	Window fragments, clear	
005	6	Pottery	3	GRE - Brown glazed exterior, white slipped & glazed interior	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
005	6	Pottery	1	ModWE – plain fragment	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
005	7	Pottery	4	ModWE – plain white dish rim, one burnt	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
005	7	Pottery	7	ModWE – plain white small ring footed bowl, possible complete profile	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
005	7	Pottery	1	ModWE, banded – brown and white stripes	19 <sup>th</sup>
005	8	Fe	1	Knife, scale tang knife, with broken blade	
005	8	Fe	1	Nail, small round headed nail or tack	
006	14	Glass	1	Vessel fragment? Very thin smoky glass	18 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup>
006	14	Glass	2	Window fragments, clear, good condition	
006	17	Fe	1	Thick piece of curving metal plate, possibly part of pot no.10	
007	21	Glass	1	Bottle sherd, olive green, good condition	18 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup>
008	19	Glass	2	Window sherds, large panes of clear glass, good condition	
012	22	Glass	1	Bottle sherd, olive green, good condition	18 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup>
012	22	Glass	1	Window sherd, clear, good condition	
013	13	Pottery	1	GRE – exterior brown glazed, small vessel or spout, tightly curved	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
013	13	Pottery	3	ModWE – dish rim, plain white	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>

013	13	Pottery	1	ModWE, banded – upright rim, brown & white stripes	19 <sup>th</sup>
013	16	Fe	6	Fragments of thin sheet metal	
014	10	Fe	1	Small tripod footed cooking pot, base profile, probably stood taller, diam 163mm, thick, cast	
014	11	Pottery	1	GRE – large bowl rim, slip lined interior, glazed cream with brown mottles	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
014	12	Pottery	4	ModWE – bowl rim, probably same vessel as no.7 bowl	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
021	23	Pottery	1	GRE - bowl rim, white slipped interior, glazed cream with brown mottles, brown stripe around rim	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
022	24	Clay Pipe	1	Stem, wide bore	17 <sup>th</sup> /e.18 <sup>th</sup>

GRE=glazed red earthenware, ModWE=modern white earthenware



## APPENDIX 5: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Context no	Sample no	Trench no	Context description	Sample composition
003	1	1	Fill of hollow [004]	Charcoal + Charred barley grain x 1
012	2	1	Soil layer outside farmstead	Archaeologically sterile.
013	3	1	Soil layer forming floor of farmstead	Charcoal +++
013	4	1	Soil layer forming floor of farmstead	Pottery + Charcoal +++
006	5	1	Soil layer forming floor of farmstead	Glass +
025	8	1	Lenses of fine ash silt on side and base of hollow [004]	Charcoal ++
016	7	2	Buried soil horizon at base of Cairn 2	Charcoal +++
023	6	3	Buried soil horizon at base of Cairn 1	Charcoal ++