

# **GUARD Archaeology 3298: Soutra Quarry Extension**

## **Post-Excavation Research Design**

**July 2011**

### **Introduction**

- 1.1 This Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) sets out a programme of specialist analysis, publication and final archiving of the results of the archaeological excavations undertaken by GUARD Archaeology Ltd at Soutra Quarry in 2010-11, as required to meet planning condition 16 (Ref 09/00897/MIN).
- 1.2 This PERD sets out the scope of work and timetable for the post-excavation works. The PERD will require the agreement of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist and the approval of the relevant Scottish Borders Council Planner prior to post-excavation works commencing. It is expected that the planning condition will be deemed satisfied upon demonstration of a letter of commission for the agreed programme of post-excavation works.

### **Post-excavation Strategy**

- 2.1 Following completion of the evaluation (Stage 1), the excavation (Stage 2) and watching brief of Area A (Stage 3), it is proposed that, bar the watching brief for Area B, the post-excavation works comprise the final stage of archaeological mitigation works for the Soutra Quarry Extension:
  - Stage 4 - specialist analyses, production of publication report, archiving of records and finds disposal.
- 2.2 The objective of the overall post-excavation strategy is to extract the full extent of information relating to the archaeological features and finds, as presented within the excavation Data Structure Report (Will 2011), and to publish the results and so therefore create a permanent record within the public domain of the archaeology encountered in the Soutra Quarry extension area.
- 2.3 Excavation of the cairn recovered a cremation burial and related prehistoric finds including beaker pottery sherds, lithics and later metal and wooden artefacts, and environmental evidence in the form of charcoal and other archaeobotanical remains. There were also later pits and features that appear to relate to modern activity on the site in connection with the Ordnance Survey trig point. The excavation produced a clear picture of the extent of the cairn, the stratigraphic relationships between the original cremation burial, the associated prehistoric remains and the modern features that had disturbed the greater part of the cairn. A post-excavation programme is required to establish the date, composition and significance of the cremated human remains recovered by the excavation. The human bones will require full analysis to establish the age, sex, pathology, and date of the cremated skeleton. Analysis of the modest number of artefacts and archaeobotanical samples recovered from the site, particularly the prehistoric pottery, lithics, charcoal and other charred plant remains recovered from the cairn, may also reveal significant aspects of the status and cultural and environmental context of the cremation burial, as well as comparative dating evidence. Further documentary research is also required in order to place the cremation burial within its local and national context.
- 2.4 Excavation of the 4.5 m diameter post-hole circle revealed 14 post-holes. While no finds were recovered from any of these post-holes, soil samples representing 100% of the fills were recovered, from which archaeobotanical material may be extracted to provide suitable radiocarbon dating samples. A post-excavation programme is therefore required to establish the date of the post-hole circle, in order to verify if the post-hole circle and cairn were contemporary or were unrelated. Further documentary research is also required in order to place the post-hole circle within its local and national context.

- 2.5 Cultivation furrows were recorded across most of the development area, but as no finds were recovered from these and the assessment of archaeobotanical samples from these features concluded that there was negligible potential to provide information about the occupation of the site or radiocarbon dating samples, only a very limited scope of further analysis of these features is proposed. The post-excavation programme will accordingly include the transcription of aerial photographs showing the cultivation furrows, which used in conjunction with the records of the cultivation furrows exposed by the evaluation trenches, will enable a full plan of the extent and pattern of cultivation furrows to be produced and, together with the dating evidence recovered from the post-hole circle and cairn may verify if the cultivation furrows were potentially contemporary or were unrelated to the post-hole circle and cairn.
- 2.6 Table 1 below lists the total number of finds and samples recovered from the evaluation and excavation phases. The main elements comprise the soil samples, cremated bones, prehistoric pottery and lithics. It is recommended that some of the recovered material, comprising the metal objects and glass, should not be analysed further as these are modern and will contribute little to the overall understanding of the prehistoric occupation of the site.

Table 1: Samples and Finds Recovered from Archaeological Contexts

<i>Material Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Soil samples for archaeobotanical analysis including radiocarbon samples & retrieval of artefacts	47	Processing, analysis and report
Cremation burial	1	Analysis and report
Prehistoric pottery sherds (numbers may increase after soil sample processing)	34	Analysis and report
Lithic artefacts (numbers may increase after soil sample processing)	3	Analysis and report
Wooden posts	6	Describe and list
Modern Metal & Glass objects		N/A

### Research questions

- 3.1 Appendix 3 presents an overview of identified research issues. The main questions to be addressed can be summarised as follows:
- What was the date of the cairn?
  - Is it possible to estimate the age and/or sex of the deceased individual and to identify any unusual pathology?
  - How does the environmental and artefactual evidence recovered from the cairn relate to the burial event and the deceased individual?
  - What was the date of the post-hole circle and is its date contemporary with the veneration of the cairn, or is its date instead more consistent with the occupation of roundhouses, and therefore potentially related to the pattern of cultivation furrows across the development area?
  - How do the archaeological remains from the cairn, post-hole circle and cultivation furrows relate to the archaeological evidence from contemporary sites in the local, regional and national context?
- 3.2 The evidence from the excavation will provide a body of information against which other excavated material from sites in south-east Scotland and further afield can be compared and contrasted.

## **Specialist Analyses & Reporting**

### **Osteoarchaeological analysis of the cremated human bone**

- 4.1 A cremated burial deposit was recovered during the excavation of the cairn. The pit was fully excavated and 100% of the contents were kept for analysis. This consisted of approximately 2600g of cremated bone fragments. The post-excavation analysis of this assemblage will provide information regarding the demographic and pathological data of the individual/s represented in the remains.
- 4.2 It is recommended that analysis of the remains will be conducted according to current discipline standards and guidelines (Brickley & McKinley 2004; Historic Scotland 1997). Following advice from Dr Alison Sheridan of the National Museums of Scotland it is not proposed to undertake stable isotope analysis of the cremated bone or teeth fragments.
- 4.3 The mortuary rites will be also analysed through the study of the cremation practice. The process of cremation involves dehydration and oxidation of the organic components of the body. Both of these processes are reflected macroscopically on the bone; by shrinkage, fissure and warping of bone in the dehydration process and by change or non-change in the colour of the bone during the oxidation process. The degree of oxidation is related to the pyre temperature acting on the bone individually and ranges from brown/orange (unburnt bone) to black (c. 300°), blue and grey (up to c. 600°) to fully oxidised white (>c. 600°). The weight of the deposits, bone fragment size, fracture patterns and surface erosion will all be considered too when interpreting the funerary practice.
- 4.4 The analysis will therefore seek to:
  - establish the minimum number of individuals represented by the cremated remains;
  - determine the age at death and sex of the individual, where preservation allows;
  - identify any pathological conditions present to assess the health status of the individual;
  - identify and record any non-metric traits;
  - identify the mortuary rites;
  - select material for radiocarbon dating of the cremated human bone;
  - re-bag and store all recovered cremated bone remains in a suitable environment;
  - produce a specialist report for the general publication report.

### **Archaeobotanical analysis of the environmental remains**

- 4.5 As part of the assessment undertaken during the preparation of the data structure reports, 29 bulk samples, representing a range of archaeological features, were floated, dried and then assessed for the presence of archaeobotanical material. The remaining samples including the single spot find of charcoal were also examined. The assessment of each sample is recorded in Table 2 below. The majority of the samples (47 samples) contained very little carbonised plant material but abundant modern roots. In some cases it was difficult to determine if a charcoal score of 0 or 1 should be given due to the tangle of roots present within the sample. Such samples are considered to have a low potential for producing identifiable charcoal or other carbonised plant remains and so are unlikely to provide important evidence about the occupation of the site or to produce material suitable for AMS radiocarbon dating. A further 5 samples were considered to contain moderate amounts of charcoal, which was generally small fragments but which would have the potential to provide some information about the occupation of the site and also suitable samples of AMS radiocarbon dating. Only 6 samples were considered to have high potential and these generally contained a significant quantity of large charcoal fragments. These samples should produce valuable information regarding the occupation of the site and also provide the most secure samples for AMS radiocarbon dating. No cereals or other seeds were observed during the preliminary assessment, although the

samples were extremely silty and root laden and would need to be examined in detail microscopically during post-excavation analysis to confirm whether seeds were present or not.

- 4.6 It is proposed that the remaining soil samples be processed (sieved, floated and dried), in order to maximise the number and quality of charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating to attempt to date the post-hole circle. Each sample will then be sorted to identify artefacts and plant remains and to remove non-artefactual stones and other debris. The resulting artefacts will be analysed by the relevant specialists and the plant remains and charcoal will be identified by the project archaeobotanist with the aim of identifying evidence for the prehistoric environment and cremation rites of the cairn, and submitting appropriate samples for radiocarbon dating.

Table 2 Assessment of Samples from Soutra Quarry Extension (\* Score in range 0-4)

Sample	Context	Feature	Charcoal score*	Comment	Potential
1	23001	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
2	23005	Post-hole	0	Roots & silt abundant	Poor
3	23010	Post-hole	0-1	Roots & silt abundant	Poor
4	23002	Post-hole	0-1	Mainly silt, roots abundant	Poor
5	23012	Post-hole	3	Small charcoal within roots and silt matrix	Good
6	23013	Post-hole	0-1	Roots & silt	Poor
7	105004	Cairn	4	Large charcoal frags & roots	Good
8	78003	Ploughmark	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
9	78004	Ploughmark	0-1	Roots & silt	Poor
10	78005	Plouhhmark	0-1	Roots & silt abundant	Poor
11	86004A	Ploughmark	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
12	86004B	Ploughmark	0	Roots abundant	Poor
13	85003	Ploughmark	2	Roots abundant	Moderate
14	105002	Cairn	2	Roots abundant but frequent small charcoal	Moderate
15	105013	Cairn	3	Some large charcoal frags & roots	Good
16	23001	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
17	23002	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
18	23003	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
19	23004	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
20	23005	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
21	23006	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
22	23007	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
23	23008	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
24	23009	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
25	23010	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
26	23011	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
27	23012	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
28	23013	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
29	23014	Post-hole	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
30	86005	Cord Rig	0	Roots abundant	Poor
31	86006	Cord Rig	0	Roots abundant	Poor
32	105009	Modern pit	?	Roots & modern(?) charcoal/tar-like material	Poor
33	105009	Modern pit	?	Roots & modern(?) charcoal/tar-like material	Poor
34	105017	Cairn	2	Charcoal & roots	Moderate
36	105018	Cairn	2	Charcoal & roots	Moderate

37	105020	Cairn	2	Roots abundant but frequent small charcoal	Moderate
38	105022	Cairn	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
39	105003	Cairn	0-1	Roots abundant	Poor
40	105003	Cairn	3	Some large charcoal frags & roots	Good
41	105003	Cairn	1	Roots abundant	Poor
42	105024	Cairn	3	Some large charcoal frags & roots	Good
43	110003	Cord Rig	0	Roots abundant	Poor
44	110004	Cord Rig	0	Roots abundant	Poor
45	111003	Cord Rig	0	Roots abundant	Poor
46	111004	Cord Rig	0	Roots abundant	Poor
47	111005	Cord Rig	0	Roots abundant	Poor
48	111006	Cord Rig	0	Roots abundant	Poor
SF1460	104004	Cairn	4	Needs rinsed. Silt & frequent charcoal	Good

4.7 Six wooden posts were also recovered from pits within the cairn. Three of these are thought to be relatively modern as they were protruding through the ground in the central area of the cairn and still retained bark. The remaining posts or pegs were recovered from the stone foundations within a pit that had been cut into the cairn and may an earlier Ordnance Survey trig point or some other relatively recent activity. It is recommended that the wooden artefacts are carefully cleaned, photographed with written descriptions and identified to species to confirm their likely date.

4.8 The analysis will therefore seek to:

- identify the range of plant species recovered from the cairn and post-hole circle;
- determine the environmental context for the cairn and post-hole circle;
- identify any environmental evidence related to the mortuary rites of the cremation burial;
- identify the most appropriate samples for radiocarbon dating of the cairn and post-hole circle;
- identify the wood species;
- re-bag and store all recovered charred plant remains in a suitable environment;
- produce a specialist report for the general publication report.

#### **Radiocarbon dating**

4.9 As the only datable artefacts were recovered from the cairn, were few number of and only indicate a broad date range, it is proposed that a series of samples from the cairn and post-hole circle be submitted for single entity AMS radiocarbon dating as indicated below.

Table 3: Proposed number of radiocarbon dates for each feature

<i>Archaeological context</i>	<i>No. of Radiocarbon dates</i>
Charcoal layer within cairn matrix	1
Cremation	1 date from bone 1 date from charred plant remains
Post-hole circle	3
Total	6

4.10 The radiocarbon analysis will therefore seek to:

- submit identified bone and charred plant samples to SUERC laboratory, East Kilbride;
- statistical manipulate raw and calibrated data;
- produce a table of radiocarbon dates results for the general publication report.

### **Pottery analysis**

- 4.11 Approximately 34 sherds of pottery were found together within 0.5 m of the cremation and within the cairn. All the sherds are from the same vessel, a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker (2150 – 1600 BC). Several pieces can be refitted and more might also be rejoined to enable the full profile of the vessel to be reconstructed. Rim sherds are present, but the presence of base sherds is uncertain. If the base of the pot is absent it may provide information as to how the vessel was placed in the ground, for example, on its side or inverted. The rim sherds look to be in good condition but pieces towards the base of the pot are more fragmented, possibly due to root infiltration.
- 4.12 The most noticeable aspect of this vessel is its decorated surface and rim. Several forms of incised motifs are used, such as horizontal lines made by the fine, square-sectioned teeth of a bone comb, short slashes possibly made by a pointed bone or twig, and infilled triangles made by a comb. Short slashes are noted on the rim, followed by separate motives of horizontal lines filled with slashes and further horizontal lines on the neck, and triangles filled by horizontal lines on the body. The lower portion of the body is decorated by parallel rows of vertical slashes.
- 4.13 These decorative motifs are comparable to many Beaker pots on the east coast of Scotland, northern England and Continental Europe, but the exact arrangement of the motifs are not immediately paralleled by any specific known vessel. Further detailed investigation will be necessary in order to understand the origins and derivation of this vessel by comparing it with the corpus of British vessels (Clarke 1970), and others found more recently in the region (Lelong & MacGregor 2007).
- 4.14 It is recommended that a detailed analysis of the vessel be undertaken to the standards prescribed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (1997). This will include investigation into the manufacture of the pot. The type(s) of filler used in the clay will be investigated to determine whether local stone or material from other areas was included. This information may determine where the pot was made i.e. locally or from out-with the area. The mixing of the clay, the construction of the pot, its methods and type of decoration, and its firing are additional aspects of the analysis, which add to a full a picture as possible about this vessel. The dating of the pot by its form and decoration will also be considered. Comparative analysis with similar vessels found both in the same region and in the wider area will also be made in order to put it and the site in its contemporary context.
- 4.15 The analysis will therefore seek to:
- produce a full catalogue of ceramic sherds;
  - determine the fabric, type, form, function, origin, manufacture and date of the pottery vessel;
  - undertake a comparative review of the ceramic artefact data with that from similarly dated sites in Scotland;
  - re-bag and store all recovered pottery sherds in a suitable environment;
  - produce a specialist report for the general publication report.

### **Lithic analysis**

- 4.16 Three flint flakes were recovered from the cairn from the matrix of soil between the stones of the cairn. One of these was a hard hammer flake, possibly of Yorkshire flint, which may date to the Early Bronze Age. Another was a small flake fragment, also possibly of Yorkshire flint with evidence of sporadic wear or retouch and which may also date to the Early Bronze Age. The

third flint flake was a soft percussion flake, patinated, and may be earlier than the other flint flakes, perhaps dating to earlier than the late Neolithic.

4.17 It is recommended that this small assemblage be fully analysed, given the potential significance of the Yorkshire flint in aiding the understanding of the contacts across Britain in the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

4.18 The analysis will therefore seek to:

- produce a full catalogue of lithic artefacts;
- determine the fabric, type, form, function, origin, manufacture and date of the lithic artefacts;
- undertake a comparative review of the lithic artefact data with that from similarly dated sites in Scotland and Northern England;
- re-bag and store all recovered lithic artefacts in a suitable environment;
- produce a specialist report for the general publication report.

#### **Aerial photograph transcription**

4.19 Cultivation marks and cord rig were identified in most of the evaluation trenches throughout the development area and from aerial photographs. These were investigated at three separate locations during the excavation (Stage 2) and were shown to run in different directions. Although the rig is not clearly visible on the ground, it does show quite clearly on aerial photographs. By transcribing the aerial photographs in conjunction with the records of the cultivation furrows exposed by the evaluation trenches, a full plan of the extent and pattern of cultivation furrows can be produced to identify field systems across the development area and, which together with the dating evidence recovered from the post-hole circle and cairn, may verify if the cultivation furrows were potentially contemporary or were unrelated to the post-hole circle and cairn.

4.20 The aerial photograph transcription will therefore seek to:

- produce a plan of all recorded cultivation furrows across the development area to publication standards for inclusion in the general publication report.

#### **Report Integration**

4.21 Once the specialist reports have been completed this crucial stage will integrate the information within them with the stratigraphic information held within the Data Structure Report to produce the text for the draft final report.

#### **Documentary research**

4.22 As part of the reporting process it will be necessary to review information from other contemporary excavations. This documentary research would be most usefully undertaken after the majority of the specialist reports have been produced when the character, date and significance of the archaeological and artefact assemblages are more fully understood.

#### **Report illustration**

4.23 Although some illustrations have already been prepared for the Data Structure Report these will inevitably need some alteration as the post-excavation process alters the understanding of the site. In addition there will be the further illustrations and photography of key artefacts and features. The illustrations produced in this stage will be for the final report(s) and will comply with the requirements of the final publication.

#### **Report Submission**

4.24 The aim of these post-excavation works project design is to bring the artefacts and results of the investigations to the public domain through publication. The results of the stages described above will culminate in a report suitable for publication. The publication will incorporate the information recovered from the site and the specialist studies of the artefacts. It will also include a comparative overview of the features and deposits to place

the site within its local, regional and national setting. It is proposed to publish the report online from the GUARD website, with a summary report submitted for publication in a popular archaeology magazine such as *History Scotland*.

### Archiving and Finds Disposal

- 5.1 Upon completion of the final report and its publication, the site record and small finds will be archived. The fieldwork records will be submitted to the archive of the National Monuments Record according to currently prescribed standards.
- 5.2 The arrangement for the final disposal of any finds made in connection with the archaeological work, will be deposited in keeping with Scottish legal requirements as set out in the Treasure Trove Code of Practice published by the Scottish Government in December 2008. The laws relating to Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia* in Scotland apply to all finds where the original owner cannot be identified. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork are claimed automatically by the Crown and must be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat, the Treasure Trove Unit. In the event of the discovery of small finds, a filled-out copy of the form "Declaration of an Archaeological Assemblage from Fieldwork" and two copies of the pertinent report will be submitted to the Panel at the conclusion of the post-excavation work. The Panel will then be responsible for recommending to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer which museum should be allocated the finds. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD until a decision has been made by the panel.

### Timetable

- 6.1 The timetable (Table 4) is outlined below and will be implemented accordingly.

*Table 4: Finalised Timetable*

<i>Works</i>	<i>Completion</i>
Processing of Soil Samples for Charred Plant Remains & Artefacts	August 2011
Osteoarchaeological Analysis	September 2011
Archaeobotanical Analysis	September 2011
Aerial Photograph Transcription	October 2011
Radiocarbon Dates	December 2011
Pottery Analysis	December 2011
Lithics Analysis	December 2011
Report Integration	February 2012
Documentary Research	March 2012
Illustrations	April 2012
Publication	May 2012
Archiving and Finds Disposal	May 2012



## APPENDIX 1: References

Brickley, M & McKinley, J (eds) 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. IFA Technical paper no.7 BABAO, Southampton University.

Clarke, D L 1970 *Beaker Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland*.

Historic Scotland 1997 *'The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology'*.

Lelong, O & MacGregor, G 2007 *The lands of ancient Lothian: interpreting the archaeology of the A1*.

Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group 1997 *The study of later prehistoric pottery: general policies and guidelines for analysis and publication*. Occasional Papers Nos 1 and 2.

Will, B 2011 *Soutra Quarry Extension Excavation*, GUARD Data Structure Report.

## APPENDIX 2: Staff

The following staff will be used on this project.

Bob Will	Post Excavation Management & Reporting	GUARD
Aileen Maule	Soil Processing, Archiving & Finds Disposal	GUARD
Iraia Arabaolaza	Human Bone Analysis	GUARD
Gillian McSwan	Illustrations	GUARD
Ronan Toolis	Editing & Quality Assurance	GUARD
Beverley Ballin Smith	Prehistoric Pottery Analysis	Sub-contract
Torben Ballin	Prehistoric Lithic Analysis	Sub-contract
Susan Ramsay	Archaeobotanical Analysis & Charcoal identification	Sub-contract
Gordon Cook	Radiocarbon dating	Sub-contract

## APPENDIX 3: Research Hypotheses

The following list of research hypotheses and issues provides an overview of the range and type of research questions that have arisen from the excavation results.

	<b>Hypothesis based upon excavation data prior to post-excavation programme</b>	<b>Issues</b>
<b>Feature</b>	<b>Chronology</b>	
Cairn	The cairn dates to the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age period.	What is the precise date of the cairn?
Post-hole circle	The post-hole circle may date to the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.	What is the precise date of the cremation burial?
	Alternatively, the post-hole circle may date to the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age.	Is the post-hole circle contemporary with and therefore related to the cairn?
		Is the post-hole circle potentially contemporary with and therefore related to the cultivation furrows?
<b>Feature</b>	<b>Function</b>	
Cairn	The cairn formed the burial context of one individual during the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.	Do the cremated human remains represent just one individual?
		What was the age, sex and health of the cremated individual at the time of death?
		What were the mortuary rites?
		Are there parallels for this evidence in other parts of Scotland?
Post-hole circle	The post-hole circle is the remains of a timber circle used for ritual activities during the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.	Do the remains date to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age?
		Are there parallels for this evidence in other parts of Scotland?
	Alternatively, the post-hole circle is the remains of the inner ring of a round-house occupied during the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age.	Do the remains date to the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age?
		Are there parallels for this evidence in other parts of Scotland?
<b>Artefact class</b>	<b>Attributes</b>	
Pottery	The pottery from the cairn comprises a single late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker deposited as part of a cremation burial.	What was the function of the pottery vessel?

		<p>How was the pottery manufactured?</p> <p>What are the origins of the pottery vessel?</p> <p>What is the status of the pottery vessel?</p> <p>Is the vessel unusual or typical for South-east Scotland?</p>
Lithics	The lithics derive from a cremation burial dating to the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period.	<p>What were the lithics used for?</p> <p>What are the origins and status of the lithics assemblage?</p> <p>What information does the lithic assemblage as a whole tell us about the people who used it?</p>
Charred Macroplants	The charred macroplants relate to the environmental context of the cremation burial and post-hole circle.	<p>What is the range of plant species recovered from the cairn and the post-hole circle?</p> <p>What do these remains reveal about the environmental context for the cremation burial and post-hole circle?</p> <p>What do the charred macroplant remains from the cairn tell us about the mortuary rites of the cremation burial?</p> <p>What is the species of the wooden pegs recovered from the cairn and do these demonstrate modern origins?</p>