

The SCAPE Trust and the University of St Andrews
March 2007
Commissioned by Historic Scotland

Baile Sear Community Archaeology Project Sloc Sàbhaidh, Baile Sear, North Uist Data Structure Report

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Non-technical summary

This report presents the results of a training excavation and archaeological evaluation carried out by a local community group, Access Archaeology, and The SCAPE Trust in 2006 at the site of Sloc Sàbhaidh. The evaluation targeted an area of severely eroding archaeological remains located on the west coast of Baile Sear, North Uist.

The evaluation was designed to allow members of the local community to gain experience of practical field archaeology while rescuing data from the eroding site. A total of four trenches were excavated, which demonstrated the presence of several stone structures of possible Iron Age date, as well as associated occupation and midden deposits. There is also the possibility that later, rectilinear structures are present on the site.

The remains have been damaged by coastal erosion and are under constant threat of destruction by wave and wind action. It is recommended that a larger-scale excavation should be carried out at the sites. This should be undertaken in collaboration with members of the local community, who should be provided with training and resources so that they can learn new skills and rescue information from this threatened site.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Site location, topography and geology.....	3
1.2	Archaeological background and previous investigations at Baile Sear.....	4
2	Aims and objectives.....	6
3	Methodology.....	7
3.1	Trench locations.....	7
3.2	Excavation methodology.....	7
3.3	Training.....	7
4	Results.....	7
5	Discussion.....	7
6	Recommendations.....	7
7	Acknowledgements.....	7
8	Bibliography.....	7
Appendix 1:	Context Descriptions	
Appendix 2:	Photographic Record	
Appendix 3:	Small Finds Register	
Appendix 4:	Bulk Finds	
Appendix 5:	Drawing Register	
Appendix 6:	DES report	

List of figures

- Figure 1:** Members of the Access Archaeology Group taking part in training weekend at Sloc Sàbhaidh, Baile Sear
- Figure 2:** A plan of exposed archaeological structures at Sloc Sàbhaidh and the receding coastline
- Figure 3:** Location maps
- Figure 4:** Orthostats uncovered in the area of Trench 1 during the hurricane of 2005
- Figure 5:** A large curving wall photographed in December 2005
- Figure 6:** Orthostats exposed in the area of Trench 3 during the hurricane of 2005
- Figure 7:** Trench 4 during excavation
- Figure 8:** A member of the Access Archaeology Group surveying the site at Sloc Sàbhaidh using a Total Station Theodolite
- Figure 9:** Features in Trench 1
- Figure 10:** Section through feature [027]/(028)
- Figure 11:** Section through feature [038]/(037)
- Figure 12:** Plan of stone structures in Trench 2
- Figure 13:** Deep layers of redeposited sand above the archaeology suggests that the site had been disturbed by wave action in recent time
- Figure 14:** South facing section in Trench 2 showing walls 039 and 016 and associated deposits
- Figure 15:** Plan of features in Trench 3
- Figure 16:** A flue or drain like feature below structure (044), Trench 3
- Figure 17:** Midden deposits in Trench 4 during excavation

1 Introduction

The two-week field season at Sloc Sàbhaidh, targeted an area of severely eroding archaeological remains located on the west coast of Baile Sear, North Uist. Large parts of the site were revealed in the hurricane of January 2005 and had been brought to the attention of The SCAPE Trust by members of the local community.

The excavation followed on from a number of smaller-scale surveys of the site carried out between January 2005 and May 2006 (Figure 1). These surveys were undertaken by members of Access Archaeology in collaboration with The SCAPE Trust as part of the Shorewatch Project. The surveys included drawing exposed structures in plan at various scales and using a Total Station Theodolite to plot the coast edge and the relationship of exposed structures to each other). The site was also photographed on a regular basis by members of the local group to show changes to the coast edge and to the archaeological remains.



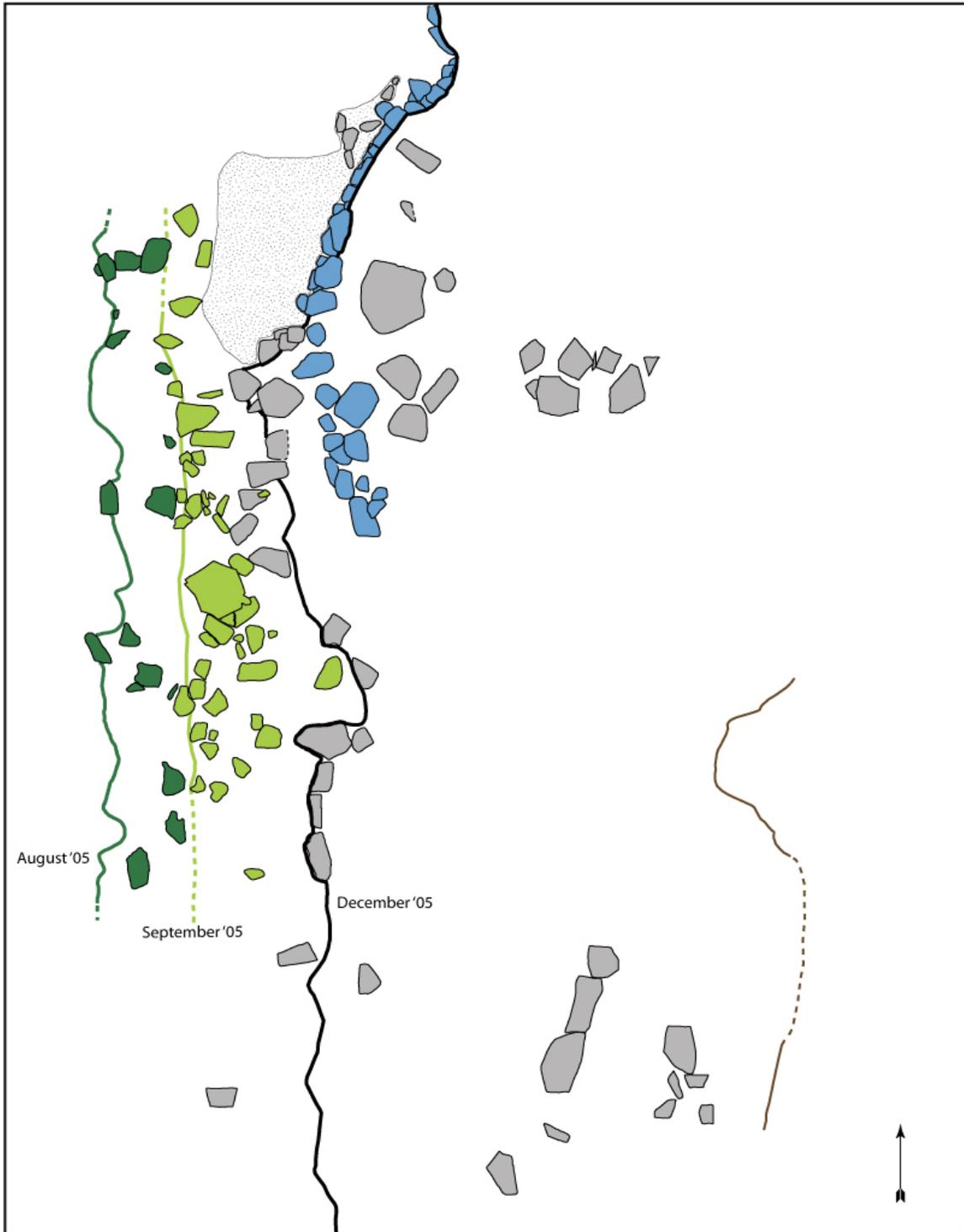
Figure 1: Members of the Access Archaeology Group taking part in training weekend at Sloc Sàbhaidh, Baile Sear

The surveys indicated the presence of one or several settlement sites of possible prehistoric date, and confirmed that the west coast of Baile Sear is exceptionally rich in archaeological remains. Recurrent surveys had also documented the rate of erosion of the site and the constant threat to it from natural forces (Figure 2).

The excavation project was designed to provide training for the local volunteers, allowing them to work alongside professional archaeologists. They learned excavation and recording techniques while actively engaging in rescuing information from the threatened site. The project also encouraged visits from interested people, and two formal visits by local schools were arranged. Children from Paible and Carinish Schools were given a demonstration of archaeological techniques and the equipment used, and were shown the structures revealed on the site.

The field work was conducted between the 29th September and the 8th October 2006. The excavation was carried out by members of Access Archaeology with supervision from

Tom Dawson, Martin Goldberg, Kate McDonald, Ian Mchardy and Katinka Stentoft. The excavation and survey were directed by Katinka Stentoft and Tom Dawson.



Sloc Sabhaidh, Baile Sear, North Uist

Plan of eroding archaeological structures at Baile Sear beach

Drawn by Access Archaeology Shorewatch Group
3rd - 4th December 2005

0 m 1 m 2 m 3 m

Figure 2: A plan of exposed archaeological structures at Sloc Sàbhaidh and the receding coastline

1.1 Site location, topography and geology

Baile Sear is a tidal island lying 0.5km off North Uist's west coast and is accessible by foot at low tide. A modern causeway now bridges the island to the North Uist mainland. The underlying geology of North Uist is made up of Pre-Cambrian basement rocks known as Lewisian and mainly comprised of grey gneisses with altered igneous rock sills and dykes. The earliest Quaternary feature noted in the Western Isles is a raised platform and marine erosion cliff. These have been identified in the north of Lewis, though elsewhere, evidence may have been destroyed. The islands were subsequently heavily glaciated and various till formations have been identified in North Uist.

North Uist is roughly divided between upland areas to the east, with a rocky and indented coast, and the relatively flat west coast. Much of the west coast of the Uists comprises sandy beaches backed by dunes and extensive areas of flat or gently sloping windblown sand, known as machair. This highly dynamic zone is estimated to have evolved over the last 6,000 years. The sand is usually siliceous, but in places, has been added to by marine shells, and the sand may contain up to 80% calcium carbonate. The entire west coast of Baile Sear comprises a sandy beach with a dune and machair hinterland.

In places, extensive areas of peat have been revealed on the beach underlying the sand. The date of the formation of the peat is unknown, though they are Post-Glacial. The peat was probably formed in lochs or marshes behind the dunes, and have been subsequently covered as sand has been pushed eastwards. The sand movement is due to aerial erosion, which forms both hollows, known as blowouts, or a general lowering of the land surface, known as deflation. The coast edge is also subject to significant coastal erosion.

1.2 Archaeological background and previous investigations at Baile Sear

The name Baile Sear is derived from the Gaelic ‘Baile Sear’, which translates as the east village. An earlier name for the island was Illeray, interpreted by Beveridge as the Norse for ‘bad island’ (Beveridge 1911, 48, 78-9). A township at the north end of the island retains the name (*ibid*, 3). Local lore tells of two other townships, now lost to the sea: Baile Siar (west village) and Hùsabost. Tradition alludes to the sunken remains of walls and buildings in the sea to the west of the island and to a reef, Sgeir Hùsabost, that once supported the foundations of a church. The tradition also states that it was possible to walk out to Heisgeir (the Monach Islands), more than 10km to the west, across a land bridge. The last crossing between the islands is said to have happened in 1650 by a girl taking a heifer to a bull (Boyd and Boyd 1990, 266).

Rent records and other documentary sources suggest that the land was gradually lost to the sea, especially in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Beveridge alludes to a ‘devastation’ in approximately 1540 when lands worth two to three marks per annum were deduced from the rental, which he believes may be a reference to the events that drowned the village of Baile Siar (Beveridge 1911, vii). There is a record by MacRae in the Statistical Accounts of 1837 which states that the island was formerly of great value but that much of the land had been blown away and that the sea now occupied areas that were once fertile fields (Steers 1973, 180).

Two archaeological sites have been recently exposed as a result of erosion, Sloc Sàbhaidh (NF76SE 19), which translates as the saw pit and is the subject of this report; and An Ceardach Ruadh (NF76SE 9, the Red Smithy) which lies *c.*1km to the north at NF 776 615. An Ceardach Ruadh was initially investigated by Beveridge, who recorded finds of hammerstones, flints, crude pottery and pins of bone and brass. He also noted that ‘cists and bones are sometimes disclosed’ (Beveridge 1911, 229). Fairhurst and Ritchie investigated the site in 1963, and revealed a structure which they interpreted as a wheelhouse. A skeleton was excavated in 1963, after being revealed in the eroding face (Crawford 1964); and a second skeleton was noted within a cist by Armit (1993). A salvage excavation was carried out of a prone male skeleton, aligned north-south in 2000 by MacLeod. The burial was covered with white quartz beach pebbles and is believed to be part of a diffuse Iron Age cemetery.

More recent archaeological investigations carried out by CEU at An Ceardach Ruadh revealed two middens, one above the other, with associated structural remains. An articulated skeleton was found aligned east-west, within one midden (Duffy and James 2003, 48). The excavation also revealed the remains of a drystone circular structure with an internal diameter of *c.*4m; a structure with two surviving parallel walls (*ibid*, 52) and revetting walls (*ibid*, 59). Section cleaning enabled the upper midden to be dated to the Iron Age and the lower one to the Bronze Age.

Sloc Sàbhaidh (NF76SE 19) is noted by Beveridge as a sand hill containing shells, bones, a saddle quern and pottery (Beveridge 1911, 229). He also noted that burials were located in the area. Wedderspoon (1912) may have been referring to this site when he recorded

the presence of a mound '200 yards in circumference and up to 25ft high'. He also noted modern graves and possible cists in the area. In 1987, the CEU surveyed the area and noted midden material.

Other sites on Baile Sear include a chambered cairn at Carnan nan Long (NF 7907 6367); several duns at Dunmore (NF76SE 10), Loch Mor 1 (NF76SE 13), Loch Mor 2 (NF76SE 14), Loch Mor 3 (NF76SE 11), Loch Mor 4 (NF76SE 12), Dunan Mor (NF76SE 5) and Dun na h-Ola (NF76SE 16); and the remains of the Medieval chapel, Teampull Chrìosod, that lies to the east of Sloc Sàbhaidh at NF 7835 6133.

2 Aims and objectives

The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To continue ongoing investigations of the site by building on previous field surveys.
- To involve local volunteers in a practical project, thus providing training opportunities and raising awareness of coastal archaeology and the problem of erosion.
- To rescue information from an area of severely eroding archaeological remains.
- To attempt to determine the extent of the archaeological deposits.
- To gather sufficient archaeological data to allow a characterisation of the site, including dating of the identified remains and the nature of occupation.
- To provide temporary protection of exposed areas of archaeological remains at the end of the fieldwork campaign.

The aims of the project were met through specific objectives including:

- Excavation of trenches across the site, targeting several areas of truncated and visibly eroding archaeological deposits.
- Recording all archaeological features and collecting excavated finds.
- Collection of data from a series of auger holes positioned across the eastern (landward) side of the mound.
- Training of volunteers in archaeological field techniques, including excavation, planning, section drawing and finds recording.
- Offering site tours to visiting school groups.
- Covering all excavated surfaces in geotextile or tarpaulin before backfilling, and protecting structural remains on the surface with sandbags.

3 Methodology

To meet the above objectives the following methodology was employed:

3.1 Trench locations

A number of surveys of the eroding archaeological remains at Sloc Sàbhaidh during 2005 and 2006 had identified several areas of upstanding structures and stratified deposits. The evaluation trenches were located accordingly to allow characterisation of those previously identified remains and to maximise the opportunity to recover data from the site, given its fragile and exposed condition.

All trenches were located on the beach in the zone above the Mean High Water Springs level. They were dug into beach sands and cobbles in an area known to be affected by surge tides. Figure 3 shows the location of the four excavated trenches within the site. The archaeological conventions used within this report are round brackets representing a fill, e.g. (037) and square brackets representing a cut, e.g. [038].

Trench 1

Trench 1 targeted an area immediately to the east of four orthostats uncovered in the hurricane in 2005 (Figure 4) to investigate the possibility that they were part of a larger structure.



Figure 4: Orthostats uncovered in the area of Trench 1 during the hurricane of 2005

Trench 2

Trench 2 was positioned over a large curving wall a section of which had been identified, planned and photographed in December 2005 (Figure 5). Trench 2 took in the exposed wall section and allowed investigation of the interior of the structure of which the wall was a part.



Figure 5: A large curving wall photographed in December 2005

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located at the southern end of the site, in an area where three large orthostats had been visible since the hurricane of 2005 (Figure 6). One orthostat had since fallen over, as the sand in which all three were embedded had eroded further and further. Trench 3 was positioned to investigate an area immediately adjacent to the orthostats, so as not to undermine their foundation and cause the remaining two to fall.



Figure 6: Orthostats exposed in the area of Trench 3 during the hurricane of 2005

Trench 4

Trench 4 targeted an area of exposed midden deposits between trenches 3 and 1 (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Trench 4 during excavation

3.2 Excavation methodology

All excavation was carried out manually and involved the removal of large amounts of cobbles and shingle which covered most of the site. Cobbles were deposited at the foot of the terrace on which the excavation took place, to provide additional protection for the open trenches against wave action at high tide. Sand was transferred into sandbags which were used during the subsequent backfilling. The sandbags and boulders were carried to the top of the terrace and stored in spoil heaps on tarpaulin.

The trench outlines and location were recorded using a Leica TC 407 Total Station Theodolite (Figure 8). This was accurate to 3mm over a distance of 1km. The instrument was also used to survey in major features in each trench and to record a profile of the mound of Sloc Sàbhaidh from east to west.



Figure 8: A member of the Access Archaeology Group surveying the site at Sloc Sàbhaidh using a Total Station Theodolite

All small finds were bagged and recorded three-dimensionally. Decorated pottery, metal, worked bone and worked stone were registered as small finds. All other artefacts were retrieved as bulk finds.

No environmental samples were collected. Small samples of animal bone were retrieved although bulk bone material was generally not collected unless where uncertainty prevailed as to whether it was human or animal. Shells were not collected.

All contexts identified were recorded by measured drawing in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section, where appropriate, at a scale of 1:10. Contexts were also recorded by digital photography and by written descriptions on *pro forma* sheets (Appendices 1 and 2).

3.3 Training

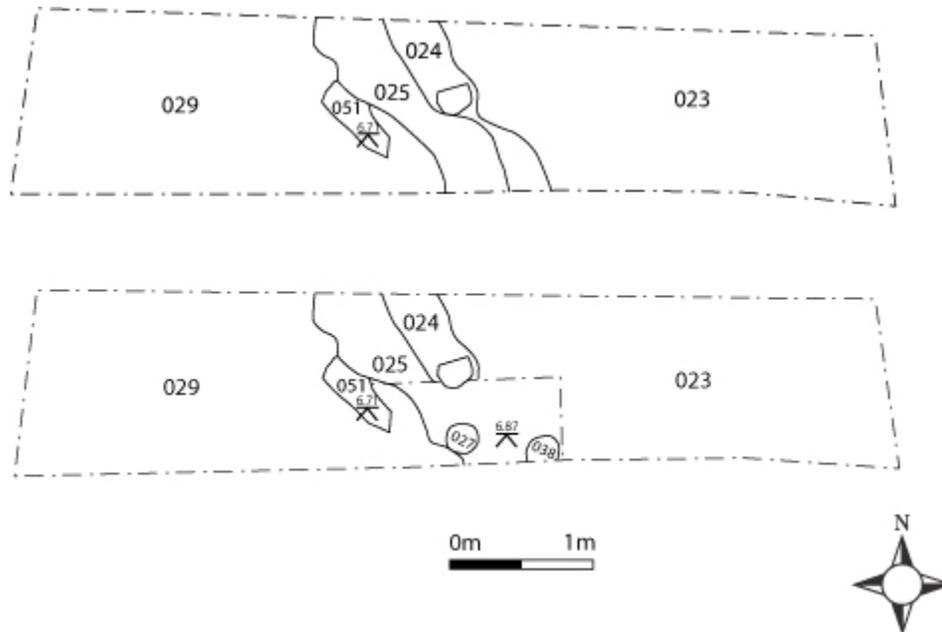
The majority of the 12 volunteers that took part in the excavation had previously worked with SCAPE at this site as part of a Shorewatch Project to record eroding archaeological remains at Baile Sear. Most volunteers had some experience with identifying and recording archaeological remains, although some had none. Training was co-ordinated accordingly to provide everyone with an opportunity to learn new skills and practice existing ones. This was combined with daily briefings on the progress of the excavation to give volunteers an overview of each of the four trenches.

All volunteers working on site received one-to-one training by professional archaeologists in basic field techniques. This included excavation methods, planning, section drawing, finds recording, context recording and surveying, including use of the Total Station theodolite and participating in the auger survey.

4 Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 7.25m by 1m and was aligned east to west. It was positioned on the sloping beach, and contained several archaeological features (Figure 9).



Figures 9: Features in Trench 1

An uneven layer of beach cobbles, which covered the entire site, was first removed to expose the archaeological deposits. The upper layer (001) consisted of soft, mid brown sand with occasional inclusions of shell and frequent charcoal flecks, measuring a maximum of 0.15m in thickness. This layer sealed a mid brown and yellow sand (002) with occasional inclusions of animal bone and pottery sherds, measuring a maximum of 0.66m in thickness. Below this layer was (022), a mid brown and white mottled sand. A distinctive dip in these three layers was observed in the northeast corner of the trench, initially interpreted as a cut feature [013], but later re-interpreted as potentially caused by the accumulation of sand against a wall. Although no such wall was identified in Trench 1, similar deposits were seen in Trench 2. (022) measured 0.15-0.20m in thickness.

Layer (022) sealed (023), a 0.10-0.16m thick mid brown sand which covered the eastern half of the trench, but which may originally have extended further south before being truncated by coastal erosion. Below this layer was (024), a soft light grey and brown fine sand of a maximum of 0.05m in thickness, covering the eastern half of the trench and sealing two postholes, [038]+(037) and [027]+(028) (Figure 9). The dimensions of both post holes were 0.20m in diameter x 0.20m in depth (Figures 10 and 11). These two postholes were located centrally at the southern edge of the trench and were cut into deposit (025). (025) was a dark brown, compact sand with patches of black and red silt measuring 0.02-0.10m in thickness, only observable in the central part of the trench due

to erosion of the western end of the trench, but presumably extending further to the east, below layer (024). (025) sealed layer (029), a 0.20m thick soft, mid brown sand also truncated to the west by erosion. The excavation terminated at this layer.

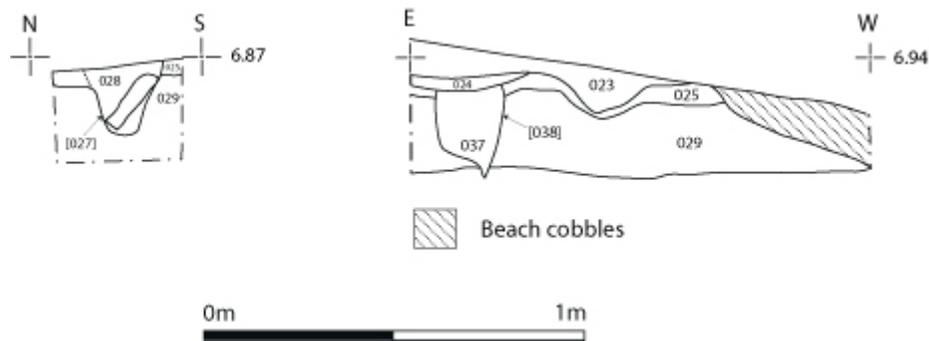


Figure 10: Section through posthole [027]/(028) and **Figure 11:** Section through posthole [038]/(037)

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 4m by 4m and was characterised by a partially exposed stone structure and associated floor deposits, potentially indicating the presence of a large, possibly circular, stone building in this part of the site (Figure 12). The eastern part of the trench was dominated by a >1m deep layer of redeposited sand (003). Three erosion holes, [009], [010] and [011], measuring 0.94m x 0.40m x 0.40m and 1.40m x 0.32m x 0.2m and 0.3m x 0.2m x 0.22m respectively, were identified within this layer. All were filled by beach cobbles of the kind that covered the entire site, and these features may be a result of large stones or boulders having been removed by wave action, the void subsequently having been filled in by cobbles. (003) consisted of a mottled, pale blonde and white sand with large quantities of pottery, and some animal and human bones. Striations within the deposit, observed in the south and west facing sections (Figure 13) suggest that it was redeposited by waves and represents a later phase of disturbance of the site.

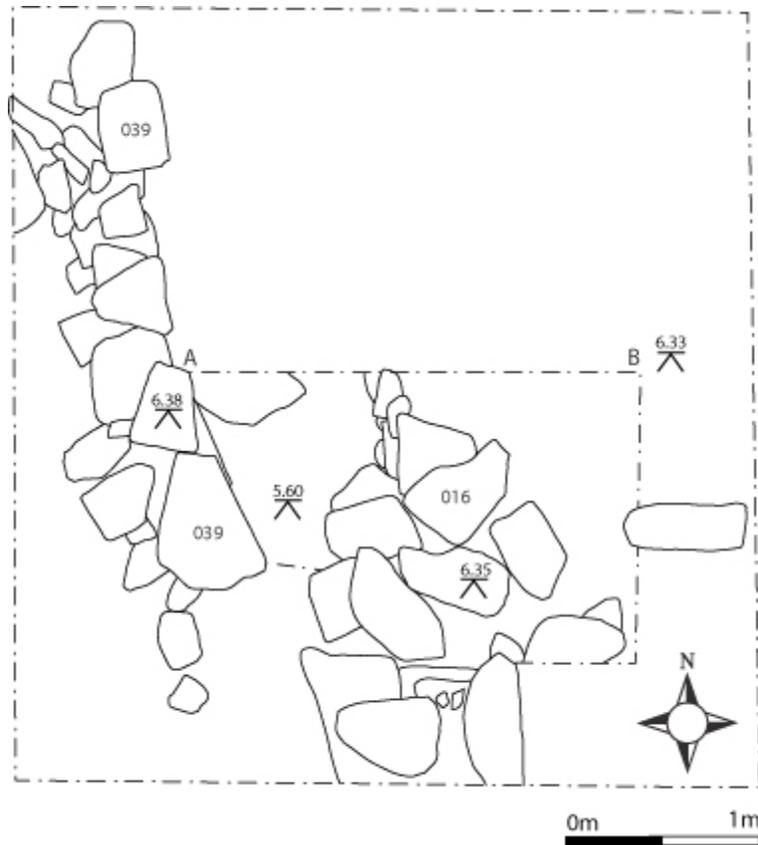


Figure 12: Stone structures in Trench 2



Figure 13: Deep layers of redeposited sand above the archaeology suggests that the site had been disturbed by wave action in recent time.

Below (003) were layers (014), (030) and (017), all brownish grey versions of (003) and probably redeposited or disturbed by previous erosion events. These layers measured 0.12m, 0.40m and 0.25m in thickness respectively. While (030) was concentrated in the southeast corner of the trench, layers (014) and (017) extended further to the north and were in fact interdigitated with (003), again suggesting that these were redeposited. In the northern part of the trench (003) sealed a white, sterile, medium to coarse, soft sand

(019), measuring a maximum of 0.3m in thickness, which was recorded, but not excavated. Due to extensive erosion of this end of the trench the underlying layer (018), a firm dark brown to black sand was visible. This is likely to represent a floor layer associated with the identified stone structure, and was left unexcavated. Although not verified by excavation, it is thought that (018) lay above (040), which at the S end of the trench directly underlay (017) (Figure 14). (040) was a mid grey and brown sand containing animal bone, shells and pottery sherds, measuring a maximum of 0.62m in thickness. The full extent of (040) is unknown as it was not fully excavated, but it is clear that this layer abutted both walls of the identified stone structure, (016) and (039). Wall (039) was visible on the ground surface at the west end of the trench due to erosion and consisted of large rounded boulders and roughly hewn slabs between 0.8m x 0.2m and 0.3m x 0.15m in size.

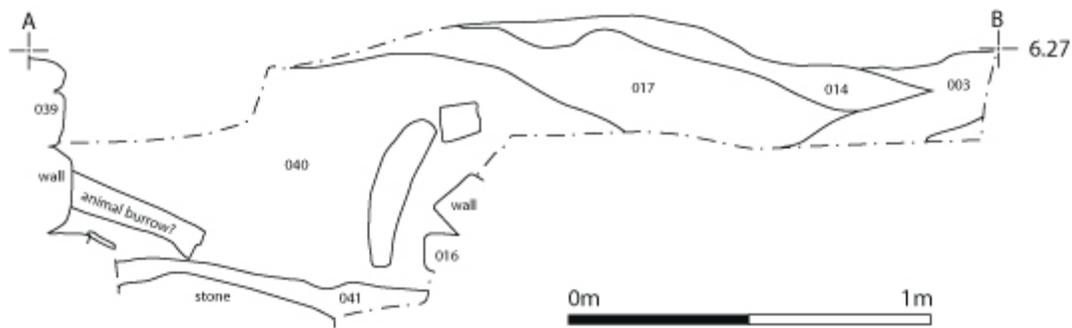


Figure 14: South facing section in Trench 2 showing walls 039 and 016 and associated deposits

A section of the wall was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, revealing five courses of walling, but was seen to continue below the excavated level. The wall was aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and was slightly curving, suggesting that it formed part of a curvilinear, or even a large circular building. Within the sondage dug in the southern half of the trench (Figure 13) a further wall, (016), was identified. This was partially excavated to a depth of 1m, also revealing five courses of walling, and also thought to extend below the excavated level. The wall was built of rounded boulders of approximately 0.1 x 0.4m in size (for the lower part of the wall) and 0.8 x 0.2m in size (for the upper part of the wall). The upper part of the wall was slumped in a westerly direction. It is possible that walls (016) and (039) are part of the same building, although how they relate to each other could not be confirmed due to the size of the trench. The gap between the two walls, as revealed by the sondage, was a maximum of 0.8m. At the bottom of the sondage a grey and brown layer of sand was identified (041), underlying layer (040) and possibly abutting both walls, although this is speculative as the exact depth of the two walls remain uncertain.

Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 5m by 5m with a further small L-shaped extension at the northern end of the trench (Figure 15). This trench revealed several stone structures, parts of which protruded from the layer of beach cobbles covering the site. Large amounts of building stones had been displaced by wave action and were intermixed with beach cobbles, suggesting that damage to the structures had happened relatively recent, and as a result of

the constantly changing conditions on the site. Once building stones and cobbles were removed it became clear that the remains of at least two, possibly three stone structures were preserved beneath.

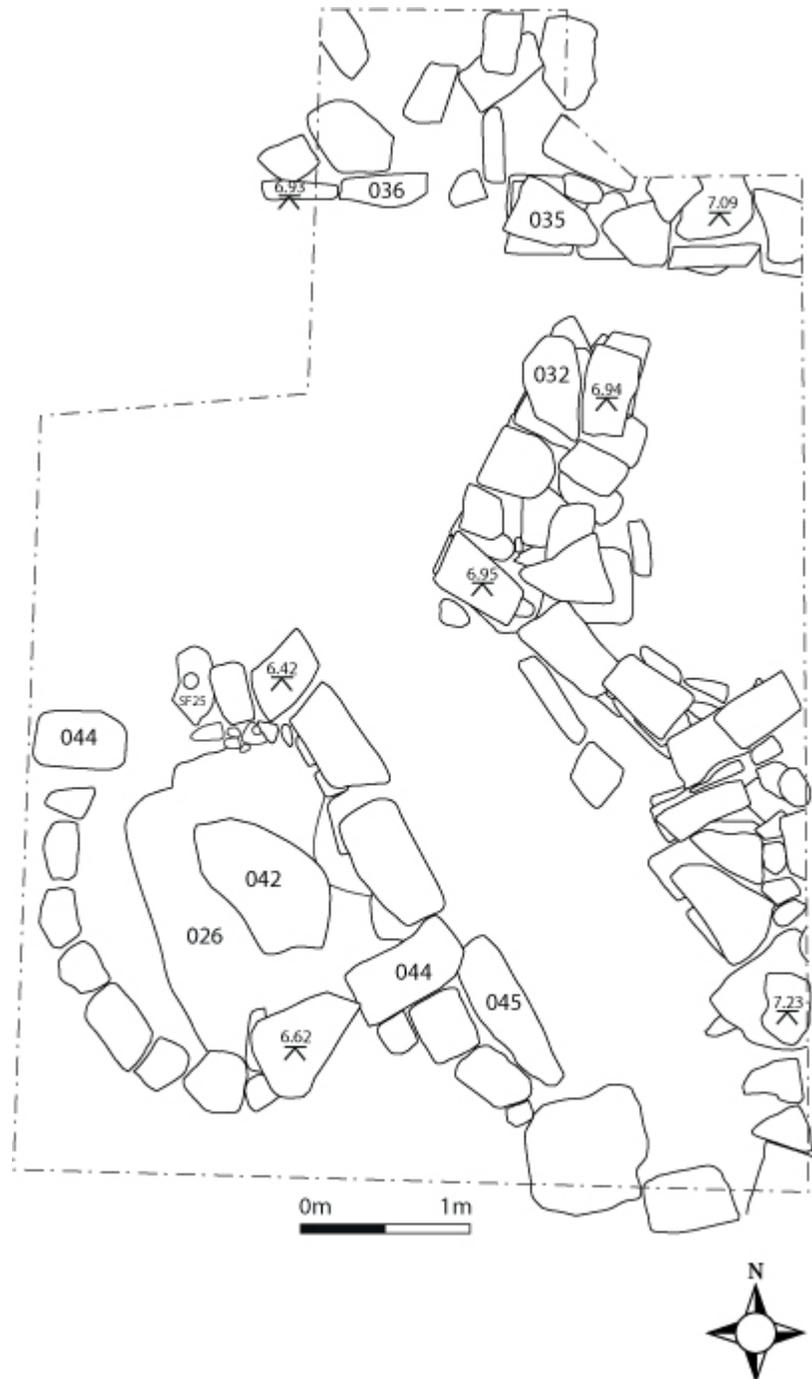


Figure 15: Plan of features in Trench 3

The southwest corner of the trench was dominated by a small sub-circular structure (044), of which only one course of stones appeared to be preserved. The structure measured 2.2 m x 2.5 m externally. The eastern and southeastern side of the structure consisted of an L-

shaped line of large boulders while the western and southwestern side consisted of smaller building stones set in a semi-oval shape. A gap in the wall at the northern end of the structure was flanked by a large boulder on the western side and a small orthostat on the eastern side. This may indicate a possible entrance. A number of artefacts were grouped at the foot of the orthostat, including a fragment of a rotary quern (SF25), a quartz hammerstone (SF26), a fragment of a rounded boulder with a deep central cone-shaped depression (SF27) and a leg bone of cattle (SF28). The significance of this group of artefacts is unclear, although their deposition in close proximity appeared to be deliberate. Within the structure were a succession of superimposed and finely stratified layers of silt and sand. These layers were investigated in a sondage dug into the northeast quarter of the interior of the structure. The topmost layer, (042), consisted of lenses ranging from light brown sand to black, charcoal-rich silt, measuring 0.04m in thickness. Below this was a mottled brown sand (026) also containing lenses of darker brown sand within, measuring 0.06m in thickness. These two layers were concentrated at the centre of the structure and were partly eroded by wave action. Below was a soft greyish brown sand (050) which was thickest at the eastern part of wall (044), at 0.15m, and petering out towards the west. This sealed a 0.06-0.15 m thick compact reddish brown silt (046) consisting of several, extremely thin layers of silt and excavated as one. This layer sealed [047], a peculiar cut feature resembling a flue or drain, which was not fully excavated (Figure 16). This feature, which was approximately 0.25m wide, ran across the centre of building (044), from west to east and was filled by a brown, grey and white mottled sand (048). (046) also sealed a small deposit of white, sterile sand (043) which measured a maximum of 0.04m and was concentrated at the possible entrance into structure (044). Layer [047] cut a mottled, grey sand, (049) which appeared to underlie all of structure (044). This was not excavated.

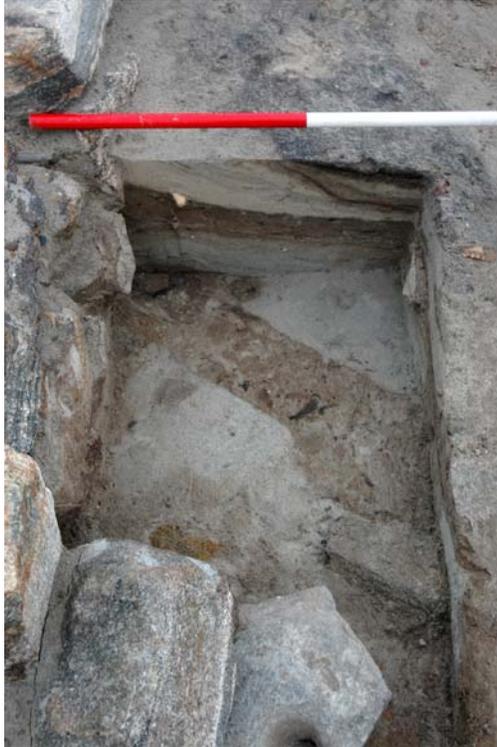


Figure 16: A flue or drain like feature below structure (044), Trench 3

(045) was a small section of wall, approximately 2m long, consisting of rounded and angular boulders abutting structure (044), and possibly indicating the presence of a further structure south of Trench 3 (Figure 15).

N and E of structure (044) a section of a wall (032), was excavated. The wall, of which two to three courses survived, was constructed of large boulders measuring up to 0.7m x 0.3m x 0.4m in size and formed an approximately right-angled corner. It is possible that (032) forms the southwestern corner of a building. A sondage positioned on the eastern side of the wall suggested that (032) was laid directly onto sand and no foundation trench was identified. Within the sondage a 0.12-0.14m thick dark greyish brown, mottled sand was identified (031). This abutted wall (032) and contained inclusions of charcoal, pottery sherds and animal bone, including a fragment of a seal's jawbone. This layer sealed a pale yellow sand (033), a maximum of 0.23m thick, with occasional inclusions of animal bone, which sealed an unexcavated deposit of dark brown and black mottled sand (034) with frequent inclusions of animal bone, as visible on the surface of that deposit.

A dogleg bend in wall (032) was visible at the eastern limit of the trench, and it is possible that this is a feature of the construction of the building, or that it represents a separate phase of construction. Further excavation may be able to clarify this.

The western extremity of a section of wall (035) of similar construction to wall (032) was found immediately N of wall (032) (Figure 15). (035), of which 1.8m was visible at the eastern trench edge, was aligned east to west and survived 3-4 courses high. It is possible

that (032) and (035) are related and that the gap between the two walls formed an entrance way, although the outer faces of (032) and (035) were not aligned. Two orthostats (036) immediately to the west of (035) may be related to it.

Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 3.70m by 1.5m and was aligned east to west. Revealing no structural remains the trench was characterised by several superimposed midden deposits (Figure 17). These were sloping from south to north and east to west, indicating that the centre of the midden heap may be found further to the south and southeast of Trench 4.



Figure 17: Midden deposits in Trench 4 during excavation

Below a layer of beach cobbles which covered most of the trench was a 0.16m thick layer of pale grey and brown sand with occasional inclusions of shell (004). This sealed a firm dark red and brown sand (005) with occasional inclusions of animal bone, charcoal flecks, pottery sherds and shell, measuring approximately 0.08m in thickness. Below this was a firm dark grey and brown sand (012), measuring a maximum of 0.10m in thickness, with occasional inclusions of shell and animal bone. This contained a lense of charcoal rich sand and was concentrated in the southeastern corner of the trench. Below this was a soft, mottled brown sand (006) with lenses of red and orange silt and inclusions of charcoal, animal bone, pottery sherds, shell and occasional pebbles. Approximately 0.33m of this layer was excavated and it was not fully excavated.

5 Discussion

The primary aims of the investigation at Sloc Sàbhaidh were to evaluate the eroding archaeological remains whilst providing the opportunity for members of the local community to get actively involved in an archaeological project. The project was successful in both respects, especially given the limited funding and time available to undertake the work.

The excavations attracted a great deal of local interest, with a number of volunteers giving their time for the full two weeks on the training excavation. There were also visits by two local schools. These were given an introduction to archaeological techniques and a full site tour. The project was successful in giving the volunteers an opportunity to take part in practical field archaeology and learn basic recording and excavation skills from professional archaeologists.

The assessment of the archaeological remains showed that a range of structures are present at the site, and that the remains are highly vulnerable. The limited nature of the excavation means that an impression of the state of survival of deposits was revealed, rather than definitive answers as to what was present. However, the aim of the investigation was to determine whether a full excavation should be undertaken in the future, and the results presented below indicate that there is great potential from this severely threatened site.

Results from the trenches suggest that the site includes one or more settlements, possibly of different dates, and that these extend eastwards into the dune mound behind the beach. Results from Trench 1 indicate the presence of a disturbed and eroded wall (051) and associated deposits as well as a possible buried wall. The trench also revealed two postholes, and it is anticipated that other postholes will survive in the vicinity.

Trench 2 contained a large curving wall (039), surviving to at least five courses high, associated with at least one identified floor deposit (018). Sections of the same wall had been recorded during previous surveys, where several metres of the external face were revealed and it was seen to curve round to the NE. This indicates that the wall is part of a much larger building. A second section of a wall (016), located immediately to the east, may be part of the same structure, although to verify this would require further excavation. The two walls lay less than one metre apart and may form a passage of some description. Deep deposits of redeposited sand, including (003), (014), (017) and (030) sealed the structures and suggest that they had been disturbed relatively recently, before being covered by sand and cobbles again. Much decorated pottery was recovered from these layers of mixed sand. Although removed from their original stratigraphic context, the majority of the sherds appeared to be Iron Age, and may suggest a possible date for the structures.

Several drystone walls were uncovered in Trench 3, including a small horseshoe shaped structure (044). A concentration of finds near the opening of this structure included a fragment of a rotary quern, which may give some indication of its date. A linear feature,

resembling a flue or drain [047], was seen running below its walls. The possible corner of a second building (032) lay to the east of structure (044), separated by a narrow 'corridor'. The structure had a right angled corner to its wall at the northern end, which marks it out as somewhat different from structures elsewhere on the site, (all of which were rounded or curvilinear). The wall survived to at least five courses in height. A further section of wall (035) immediately to the N could indicate the presence of a third building. Three large orthostats directly adjacent are suggestive of a different building tradition and their relationship with the other structures remains uncertain. Trench 4 indicated that stratified midden deposits are present on site. Although no datable material was recovered in the limited excavation of these deposits, there were large quantities of animal bone, marine shell and hearth deposits, suggesting that they are derived from domestic contexts.

Datable pottery from the site, all of which was recovered from context (003) bar one sherd which came from context (040) includes decorated sherds with applied wavy cordons, incised lines and chevrons, fingernail impressions and applied bosses similar to what has been found at Baile Sear in the past (Barber *et al.* 2003), and elsewhere in the Hebrides. This would indicate a date in the Iron Age, however, as mentioned above, the pottery was mainly found within layers of redeposited sand and cannot be used to directly date the structures revealed in excavation.

Some human remains were also found within the redeposited layers. These represent at least one adult and one infant and indicate that at least two burials at or near the site have been disturbed by coastal erosion.

The evaluation has shown that Sloc Sàbhaidh has the potential for extensive stratified settlement remains, at least some of which are thought to be late Prehistoric in date. However, it is also clear from the results of continuing surveys of the site between January 2005 and May 2006 that it is eroding very fast. Between August and December 2005 a strip of up to 4 metres of the site was lost as the coastline receded. The erosion is ongoing and constant and presents a particular threat to the archaeological remains.

6 Recommendations

The evaluation provided a unique opportunity for interested members of the local community to work with professional archaeologists and acquire basic recording and excavation skills. The excavation revealed tantalizing evidence of a potentially large and complex settlement site, possibly encompassing several periods of occupation. However, continuous erosion is a severe threat and it is recommended that a programme of ongoing monitoring and survey be maintained and that a larger scale excavation be undertaken as soon as possible.

The coastline is receding across the whole site, especially when strong winds combine with high tides. This means that chance finds from eroding deposits are discovered on an almost weekly basis, and regular monitoring would minimize the loss of potentially spectacular finds, allowing them to be processed through the appropriate channel provided by the treasure trove system. The training provided to local group members has equipped them with the means to record and salvage stray finds.

However, it is only through excavation that a meaningful understanding of the site can be derived. The evaluation has demonstrated the potential of the site and there is a great interest locally in participating in an excavation. SCAPE received much positive feedback from everyone involved in the evaluation and there is a demand for further work. It is recommended that an excavation at Sloc Sàbhaidh be integrated with local initiatives, such as Access Archaeology, and that local involvement be prioritised. The logistics of carrying out archaeological work at eroding sites may be mitigated by benefiting from such local initiatives. Community projects, like the evaluation at Sloc Sàbhaidh, are thus an ideal forum for providing the training and skills needed to undertake such work.

It is recommended that the excavation of Sloc Sàbhaidh be prioritised. The evaluation results will inform an excavation project design and maximise the amount of data that may be rescued from the site. An excavation should focus on the structural remains revealed in Trenches 2 and 3, together with other remains surviving closest to the Mean High Water Springs level. An excavation could also focus on the east side of the sand hill, where intact archaeological remains are suspected to exist. These remains are as yet unthreatened, but are likely to be exposed in the near future as coastal erosion progresses. It is recommended that an excavation be designed as a community project, similar to the SCAPE community project in Unst, Shetland, where a set training programme can be offered to participants.

7 Acknowledgements

The project was funded by Historic Scotland and The Crown Estate. The SCAPE Trust would like to thank Fergus Granville and George McDonald at North Uist Estate, the crofter, Mr. A. McDonald at Crois Morag and Ronnie Mckenzie, Catherine Mcleod, Mairi Stewart, Kirsty McDonald, George McDonald, Ann Mckenzie, Ann Browning-Davidson, Sandy Browning-Davidson, Bill Hart, Neil ‘Sgarbh’ McDonald, Liz Doherty, Billy and Rebecca Rennell, Sandy Humpries, Eilidh and Ceit Lamb, Stella McKinnon, Ian Bramwell of Access Archaeology who volunteered their time and hard work for the duration of the project.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

Context	Trench	Description
001	1	Mid brown deposit
002	1	Mid brownish yellow deposit
003	2	Light greyish brown deposit
004	4	Pale sandy deposit
005	4	Mid brown deposit
006	4	Reddish brown deposit
007	4	Dark brown/burnt material
008	4	Dark brown deposit
009	2	Cut (stone hole?)
010	2	Cut (stone hole?)
011	2	Cut
012	4	Trench 4
013	1	Cut
014	2	Dark sand with charcoal, SE corner
015	2	Cut into (014) (or possible cut)
016	2	Wall (?) under (014)
017	2	Mid brown sand, under (003) and (018)
018	2	Charcoal rich greasy deposit NW corner
019	2	Light yellow sand, under (003) over all else
020	-	Cancelled
021	-	Cancelled
022	1	Mid brown mottled deposit with light sand
023	1	Mid brown deposit with charcoal flecks
024	1	Light grey brown sand
025	1	Dark brown silty sand mottled with black and red silt
026	3	Mottled brown sand in circular structure
027	1	Cut of post hole
028	1	Fill of post hole, mid grey brown deposit
029	1	Soft mid brown deposit
030	2	Mid yellow brown deposit
031	3	Occupation material within right angled structure
032	3	Right angled wall/structure
033	3	Yellow sand under (031)
034	2	Midden material under (033)
035	3	EW wall
036	3	Orthostats
037	1	Fill of post hole
038	1	Cut of post hole
039	2	Large curving wall
040	2	Mid brown sand abutting (039)
041	2	Mid brown sand below (040)
042	3	Dark brown/black silt above (026)
043	3	White, sterile sand below (026)

044	3	Wall of circular structure
045	3	Wall abutting (044) to the SE

Appendix 2: Photographic Record

Image number	Trench	Description
DSC_0003	1	General shot of Tr 1 from W
DSC_0004	1	General shot of Tr 1 from W
DSC_0015	1	W facing section from W
DSC_0016	1	W facing section from W
DSC_0017	1	W facing section from W
DSC_0018	1	S facing section from S
DSC_0019	1	S facing section from S
DSC_0020	1	S facing section from S
DSC_0021	1	S facing section from S
DSC_0022	1	N facing section from N
DSC_0023	1	N facing section from N
DSC_0024	1	N facing section from N
DSC_0025	1	W facing section from W
DSC_0026	1	W facing section from W
DSC_0027	1	General shot of Tr 1 from W
DSC_0028	1	General shot of Tr 1 from W
DSC_0029	1	General shot of Tr 1 from W
DSC_0030	1	General shot of Tr 1 from W
DSC_0031	1	General shot of Tr 1 from W
DSC_0032	1	General shot of Tr 1 from E
DSC_0033	1	General shot of Tr 1 from E
DSC_0034	1	General shot of Tr 1 from E
DSC_0035	1	General shot of Tr 1 from E
DSC_0036	1	Shot of W end of Tr 1 from S
DSC_0037	1	General shot of Tr 1 from W
DSC_0038	1	General shot of Tr 1 from W
DSC_0039	1	Shot of middle part of Tr 1 from S
DSC_0057	1	Working shot of Tr 1 during excavation
DSC_0059	1	Working shot of Tr 1 during excavation
DSC_0060	1	Pre-excavation shot of possible postholes in Tr 1
DSC_0061	1	Pre-excavation shot of possible postholes in Tr 1
DSC_0062	1	Pre-excavation shot of possible postholes in Tr 1
DSC_0064	1	Working shot of Tr 1 during excavation
DSC_0065	1	Working shot of Tr 1 during excavation
DSC_0067	1	Working shot of Tr 1 during excavation
DSC_0074	1	Working shot of Tr 1 during excavation
DSC_0081	1	S facing section of sondage in Tr 1
DSC_0085	1	Working shot of Tr 1 during excavation
DSC_0091	1	S facing section of sondage in Tr 1
DSC_0101	1	W facing section of sondage in Tr 1
DSC_0111	1	W facing section of sondage in Tr 1
DSC_0121	1	Close up of W facing section of sondage in Tr 1
DSC_0131	1	N facing section of sondage in Tr 1
DSC_0151	1	Close up of N facing section of sondage in Tr 1

DSC_0158	1	Working shot of Tr 1 during excavation
DSC_0262	1	General shot of backfilled trench
DSC_0272	1	General shot of backfilled trench
DSC_0281	1	Working shot of Tr 1 during excavation
DSC_0282	1	N facing section of sondage in Tr 1
DSC_0001	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0002	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0005	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0006	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0007	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0008	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0009	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0010	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0011	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0012	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0013	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0014	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0040	2	Recent erosion hole filled with cobbles and shingle
DSC_0041	2	Recent erosion hole filled with cobbles and shingle
DSC_0042	2	Recent erosion hole filled with cobbles and shingle
DSC_0043	2	General shot of backfilled trench
DSC_0044	2	General shot of backfilled trench
DSC_0045	2	General shot of trench after high tide
DSC_0056	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0066	2	General shot of Tr 2 from W
DSC_0068	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0069	2	General shot of Tr 2 from E
DSC_0070	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0071	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0072	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0073	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0075	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0076	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0077	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during backfilling
DSC_0078	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during backfilling
DSC_0079	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during backfilling
DSC_0080	2	General shot of W facing section of Tr 2
DSC_0082	2	General shot of W facing section of Tr 2
DSC_0083	2	General shot of W facing section of Tr 2
DSC_0084	2	General shot of W facing section of Tr 2
DSC_0086	2	General shot of W facing section of Tr 2
DSC_0087	2	General shot of W facing section of Tr 2
DSC_0088	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0089	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0090	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0092	2	General shot of NE corner of Tr 2
DSC_0093	2	General shot of NE corner of Tr 2
DSC_0094	2	General shot of NE corner of Tr 2

DSC_0095	2	General shot of NE corner of Tr 2
DSC_0096	2	General shot of NE corner of Tr 2
DSC_0097	2	General shot of W facing section of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0098	2	General shot of W facing section of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0099	2	Recent erosion hole filled with cobbles and shingle
DSC_0100	2	General shot of Tr 2 during excavation from W
DSC_0102	2	General shot of Tr 2 during excavation from W
DSC_0103	2	General shot of Tr 2 during excavation from W
DSC_0104	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0105	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during backfilling
DSC_0106	2	Wall (039) from E
DSC_0107	2	Walls (039) and (016) from NE
DSC_0108	2	Walls (039) and (016) from NE
DSC_0109	2	Walls (039) and (016) from NE
DSC_0110	2	Walls (039) and (016) from NE
DSC_0112	2	Walls (039) and (016) from NE
DSC_0113	2	Walls (039) and (016) from NE
DSC_0114	2	Walls (039) and (016) from NE
DSC_0115	2	Walls (039) and (016) from NE
DSC_0116	2	Walls (039) and (016) from NE
DSC_0117	2	Wall (016) from NW
DSC_0118	2	Wall (016) from NW
DSC_0119	2	Walls (039) and (016) from N
DSC_0120	2	Walls (039) and (016) from N
DSC_0146	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0153	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0157	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0161	3	Volunteers working in Tr 3
DSC_0211	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0221	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0231	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0241	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0251	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0261	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0271	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0292	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during backfilling
DSC_0302	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during backfilling
DSC_0522	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during backfilling
DSC_0532	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during backfilling
DSC_0542	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during backfilling
DSC_0681	2	General shot of Tr 2 during excavation from E
DSC_0701	2	General shot of wall (039) from S
DSC_0711	2	General shot of wall (039) from S
DSC_0721	2	General shot of wall (039) from SW
DSC_0731	2	General shot of wall (039) from W
DSC_0821	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0831	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0841	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation

DSC_0851	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0861	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0871	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0881	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0891	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0901	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0911	2	Working shot of Tr 2 during excavation
DSC_0921	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_0931	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_0941	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_0951	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_0961	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_0971	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_0981	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_0991	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_1001	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_1011	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_1021	2	General shot of S facing section of sondage in Tr 2
DSC_1031	2	General shot of S facing section of sondage in Tr 2
DSC_1041	2	General shot of S facing section of sondage in Tr 2
DSC_1051	2	General shot of S facing section of sondage in Tr 2
DSC_1061	2	General shot of S facing section of sondage in Tr 2
DSC_1071	2	General shot of S facing section of sondage in Tr 2
DSC_1081	2	General shot of S facing section of sondage in Tr 2
DSC_1091	2	General shot of S facing section of sondage in Tr 2
DSC_1101	2	General shot of wall (016) from W
DSC_1111	2	General shot of wall (016) from W
DSC_1121	2	General shot of wall (016) from W
DSC_1131	2	General shot of wall (016) from W
DSC_1141	2	General shot of wall (016) from W
DSC_1151	2	General shot of wall (016) from W
DSC_1161	2	General shot of wall (016) from W
DSC_1171	2	General shot of wall (016) from W
DSC_1181	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_1191	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_1201	2	General shot of wall (039) from E
DSC_0046	3	Structure (044) from W
DSC_0047	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from N
DSC_0048	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from W
DSC_0049	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from E
DSC_0050	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from N
DSC_0051	3	Structure (044) from N
DSC_0052	3	Structure (044) from N
DSC_0053	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from W
DSC_0054	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from W
DSC_0055	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from W
DSC_0058	3	Structure (044) from SW
DSC_0063	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation

DSC_0122	3	Wall (032) from W
DSC_0123	3	Walls (032) and (035) from W
DSC_0124	3	Wall (032) from W
DSC_0125	3	General shot of walls (032) and (044) from N
DSC_0126	3	General shot of structure (044) during excavation
DSC_0127	3	General shot of walls (032), (035) and (036) from S
DSC_0128	3	General shot of walls (032), (035) and (036) from S
DSC_0129	3	General shot of structure (044) during excavation from NW
DSC_0130	3	General shot of structure (044) during excavation from N
DSC_0132	3	General shot of wall (032) from N
DSC_0133	3	General shot of wall (032) from NW
DSC_0134	3	General shot of wall (035) from SW
DSC_0135	3	General shot of inner face of wall (032) from N
DSC_0136	3	General shot of inner face of wall (032) from N
DSC_0137	3	General shot of structure (044) from W
DSC_0138	3	General shot of structure (044) from W
DSC_0139	3	General shot of structure (044) from W
DSC_0140	3	General shot of structure (044) from E
DSC_0141	3	General shot of structure (044) from E
DSC_0142	3	General shot of structure (044) from N
DSC_0143	3	General shot of structure (044) from N
DSC_0144	3	General shot of structure (044) from SW
DSC_0145	3	General shot of structure (044) from SW
DSC_0147	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from W
DSC_0148	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from W during excavation
DSC_0149	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from SW during excavation
DSC_0150	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from SW during excavation
DSC_0152	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0154	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0155	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from W during excavation
DSC_0156	3	Volunteer carrying out survey of Tr 3
DSC_0159	3	General shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0160	3	Volunteer drawing plan of structure (044)
DSC_0162	3	Volunteers working in Tr 3
DSC_0163	3	Volunteer drawing plan of structure (044)
DSC_0164	3	Volunteers working in Tr 3
DSC_0166	3	General shot of wall (032) during excavation from NE
DSC_0167	3	General shot of wall (032) during excavation from NW
DSC_0168	3	General shot of wall (032) during excavation from NW
DSC_0169	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from NW during excavation
DSC_0170	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from NW during excavation
DSC_0171	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from NW during excavation
DSC_0173	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from W
DSC_0174	3	Volunteer working in Tr 3
DSC_0175	3	Volunteer working in Tr 4
DSC_0176	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0177	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0178	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation

DSC_0179	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0180	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0181	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0183	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0184	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0185	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from W
DSC_0186	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0187	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0188	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0189	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from W
DSC_0190	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0191	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0193	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0194	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0195	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0196	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0197	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0198	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0199	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0200	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0201	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0203	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0204	3	General shot of structure (044) from W
DSC_0205	3	General shot of structure (044) from W
DSC_0206	3	General shot of structure (044) from W
DSC_0207	3	General shot of structure (044) from SW
DSC_0208	3	General shot of structure (044) from SW
DSC_0209	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from SW
DSC_0210	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0213	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0214	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0215	3	Group of artefacts in structure (044) from NW during excavation
DSC_0216	3	General shot of wall (032) from W
DSC_0217	3	General shot of wall (032) from W
DSC_0218	3	General shot of wall (032) from W
DSC_0219	3	General shot of wall (032) from W during excavation
DSC_0220	3	General shot of wall (032) from W
DSC_0222	3	General shot of Tr 3 during excavation from SW
DSC_0223	3	General shot of Tr 3 during excavation from NE
DSC_0224	3	General shot of Tr 3 during excavation from NE
DSC_0225	3	Volunteer drawing plan of structure (044)
DSC_0226	3	General shot of wall (032) from NE
DSC_0227	3	General shot of wall (032) during excavation from SW
DSC_0228	3	General shot of wall (032) from W
DSC_0229	3	General shot of wall (032) from SE
DSC_0230	3	General shot of wall (032) from SE
DSC_0233	3	General shot of backfilled trench
DSC_0234	3	General shot of backfilled trench

DSC_0235	3	Feature (047) from N
DSC_0236	3	Feature (047) from N
DSC_0237	3	Feature (047) from NE
DSC_0238	3	Feature (047) from NE
DSC_0239	3	Feature (047) from NE
DSC_0240	3	Sondages on E and W of wall (044) from N
DSC_0242	3	Sondages on E and W of wall (044) from N
DSC_0243	3	Sondages on E and W of wall (044) from N
DSC_0244	3	N facing section of sondage in structure (044) from N
DSC_0245	3	N facing section of sondage in structure (044) from N
DSC_0246	3	N facing section of sondage in structure (044) from N
DSC_0247	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during excavation
DSC_0248	3	Feature (047) from N
DSC_0249	3	Feature (047) from N
DSC_0250	3	Feature (047) from N
DSC_0252	3	Feature (047) from N
DSC_0253	3	General shot of inner face of wall (032) from N
DSC_0254	3	General shot of gap between walls (035) and (036)
DSC_0255	3	General shot of Tr 3 during excavation from NE
DSC_0256	3	General shot of Tr 3 during excavation from E
DSC_0257	3	General shot of Tr 3 during excavation from NE
DSC_0258	3	General shot of Tr 3 during excavation from SE
DSC_0259	3	General shot of Tr 3 during excavation from SE
DSC_0260	3	Wall (035) from W
DSC_0311	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from W
DSC_0321	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from W
DSC_0331	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from W
DSC_0341	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0351	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0361	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0371	3	Close up of N facing section of sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0381	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0391	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0401	3	Close up of N facing section of sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0411	3	Close up of N facing section of sondage E of wall (032) from N
DSC_0421	3	Sondage E of wall (032) from S
DSC_0431	3	S facing section of sondage E of wall (032) from S
DSC_0441	3	S facing section of sondage E of wall (032) from S
DSC_0451	3	S facing section of sondage E of wall (032) from S
DSC_0452	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0461	3	S facing section of sondage E of wall (032) from S
DSC_0462	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0472	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0482	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0492	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0502	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0512	3	Working shot of Tr 3 during backfilling
DSC_0172	4	Sondage in Tr 4 from N

DSC_0182	4	Sondage in Tr 4 from N
DSC_0192	4	Sondage in Tr 4 from N
DSC_0202	4	Sondage in Tr 4 from W
DSC_0212	4	Sondage in Tr 4 from W
DSC_0263	4	Working shot of Tr 4 during excavation
DSC_0264	4	General shot of Tr 4 from W
DSC_0265	4	General shot of Tr 4 from W
DSC_0266	4	Volunteer planning features in Tr 4
DSC_0267	4	General shot of backfilled trench
DSC_0268	4	General shot of backfilled trench
DSC_0269	4	Working shot of Tr 4 during excavation
DSC_0270	4	Working shot of Tr 4 during excavation
DSC_0273	4	Working shot of Tr 4 during excavation
DSC_0301	4	Working shot of Tr 4 during excavation
DSC_0471	4	W facing section of Tr 4 during excavation from W
DSC_0481	4	W facing section of Tr 4 during excavation from W
DSC_0491	4	W facing section of Tr 4 during excavation from W
DSC_0501	4	W facing section of Tr 4 during excavation from S
DSC_0511	4	W facing section of Tr 4 during excavation from S
DSC_0521	4	W facing section of Tr 4 during excavation from N
DSC_0531	4	W facing section of Tr 4 during excavation from N
DSC_0541	4	W facing section of Tr 4 during excavation from N
DSC_0551	4	General shot of Tr 4 during excavation
DSC_0561	4	General shot of Tr 4 during excavation

Appendix 3: Small Finds Register

Due to the fact that the evaluation was a training excavation for volunteers a number of finds were registered as small finds which under different circumstances might not have warranted a small finds number. However, for completeness the full list of registered finds is given here.

SF no.	Context	Trench	Material	Description
1	U/S	3	Bone	Worked bone, poss. fish gorge
2	003	2	Tooth	Human tooth
3	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
4	003	2	Bone	Animal bone
5	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
6	003	2	Bone	Human skull fragment
7	003	2	Tooth	Human wisdom tooth
8	003	2	Stone	Hammerstone
9	003	2	Bone	Animal bone
10	003	2	Bone	Animal bone
11	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
12	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
13	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
14	003	2	Pottery	Rim sherd
15	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
16	003	2	Pottery	Sherd
17	002	1	Pottery	Rim sherd
18	003	2	Antler	Antler tine
19	003	2	Bone	Animal bone
20	003	2	Bone	Animal bone
21	003	2	Bone	Animal bone
22	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
23	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
24	003	2	Pottery	Sherd
25	U/S		Copper Alloy	Sheet copper fragment
26	026	3	Stone	Hammerstone
27	026	3	Stone	Worked stone, fragment
28	026	3	Bone	Cow leg bone
29	028	1	Pottery, bone, stone	Sherds
30	026	3	Stone	Struck quartz pebble
31	026	3	Bone	Animal bone
32	026	3	Stone	Hammerstone, possible
33	017	2	Bone	Human atlas and jaw bone
34	017	2	Bone	Animal bone
35	017	2	Stone	Whetstone
36	U/S		Copper Alloy	Sheet copper fragment
37	U/S		Stone	Saddle quern
38	U/S		Stone	Saddle quern
39	U/S		Stone	Saddle quern
40	003	2	Bone	Human bone, possible

41	003	2	Bone	Human sphenoid, possible
42	U/S	3	Bone	Human fibula of infant
43	003	2	Bone	Human bone
44	017	2	Bone	Human bone
45	014	2	Pottery	Rim sherd
46	003	2	Pottery	Rim sherds
47	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
48	003	2	Pottery	Rim sherds
49	002	1	Pottery	Rim sherd
50	003	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
51	003	2	Pottery	Rim sherds
52	003	2	Pottery	Rim sherd
53	U/S		Pottery	Rim sherds
54	U/S	4	Pottery	Decorated sherd
55	003	2	Pottery	Decorated rim sherd
56	037	1	Pottery	Rim sherd
57	040	2	Pottery	Rim sherds
58	002	1	Pottery	Rim sherd
59	040	2	Pottery	Decorated sherd
60	003	2	Pottery	Rim sherds
61	002	1	Pottery	Spindle whorl fragment, possible
62	003	2	Pottery	Rim sherd
63	003	2	Pottery	Rim sherds
64	006	4	Stone	Polished stone fragment
65	003	2	Antler	Antler, worked

Appendix 4: Bulk Finds

Bag No.	Trench	Context	Material	Description	No. of sherds (pot only)
1	Sondage	-	Bone	Mammal bone	-
2	2	003	Bone	Mammal bone	-
3	2	003	Bone	Mammal bone	-
4	4	007	Bone	Mammal bone	-
5	2	017	Bone	Mammal bone	-
6	2	014	Bone	Mammal bone	-
7	2	030	Bone	Mammal bone, diseased	-
8	4	005	Bone	Mammal bone	-
9	3	U/S	Bone	Mammal bone	-
10	2	U/S	Bone	Mammal bone	-
11	2	003	Bone	Mammal bone	-
12	2	017	Bone	Mammal bone	-
13	2	030	Bone	Mammal bone	-
14	2	003	Bone	Mammal bone	-
15	2	003	Bone	Mammal bone	-
16	2	040	Bone	Mammal bone	-
17	-	U/S	Slag	Slag	-
18	3	U/S	Iron	Shackle	-
19	3	U/S	Iron	Nail head (?)	-
20	1	U/S	Iron	Loop	-
21	2	003	Quartz	Quartz, worked (?)	-
22	2	003	Quartz	Quartz, worked (?)	-
23	2	003	Quartz	Quartz, worked (?)	-
24	2	040	Quartz	Quartz, worked (?)	-
25	3	031	Bone	Seal's jaw	-
26	1	002	Pottery	Body sherds	10
27	3	031	Pottery	Body sherds	4
28	4	?	Clay	Clay lumps	20
29	1	037	Pottery	Body sherds	1
30	4	006	Pottery	Body sherds	4
31	1	U/S	Pottery	Body sherds	2
32	2	003	Pottery	Body sherds	5
33	3	U/S	Pottery	Body sherds	11
34	2	017	Pottery	Base sherd	1
35	3	026	Pottery	Body sherds	6
36	2	003	Pottery	Body sherds	37
37	2	017	Pottery	Body sherds	3
38	2	014	Pottery	Body sherds	12
39	2	040	Pottery	Body sherds	20
40	2	003	Pottery	Body sherds	36
41	4	006	Pottery	Base sherd	1
42	2	003	Pottery	Body sherds	24
43	AUG1	3	Pottery	Body sherd	1
44	AUG1	2	Pottery	Body sherd	1
45	4	005	Pottery	Body sherds	7

46	1	002	Pottery	Body sherds	2
47	2	003	Pottery	Body sherds	13
48	-	U/S	Slag	Slag	1
49	2	003	Pottery	Body sherds	11
50	2	003	Pottery	Body sherds	29
51	-	U/S	Pottery	Body sherds	9
52	-	U/S	Pottery	Base sherd	1
53	1	002	Pottery	Body sherds	7
54	3	U/S	Pottery	Body sherds	98
55	2	003	Pottery	Base sherds	2

Appendix 5: Drawing Register

Dwg no.	Description
1	Trench 1
2	Trench 2
3	Trench 4
4	Trench 4
5	Trench 3
6	Trench1, east end (context 013)
7	Trench 2, overlay with sondages
8	Trench 1, south facing section showing deposits(001) + (002)
9	Trench 1, north facing section showing deposits (002) + (022)
10	Trench 1, west facing section showing (001) + (002)
11	Trench 1 plan
12	Tr 1, Overlay of plan 11 showing new section line + burning patches
13	Trench 2 plan
14	Trench 2 plan
15	Trench 1, box section of post hole [027]
16	Trench 3, right-angled wall + other poss. Structures
17	Trench 3, N-facing section of sondage within right-angled structure
18	Tr 1, south facing section of sondage
19	Tr 1, west facing section of sondage
20	Tr 1, north facing section of sondage
21	Tr 3, Plan (026) + SF's in circular structure
22	Tr 3, plan, circular structure + rectangular structure (note, some stones on underlay may be wrong)
23	Tr 4, W facing section
24	Tr 2, south facing section, middle of trench
25	Tr 2, final plan

Appendix 6: DES report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Baile Sear Community Archaeology Project
PROJECT CODE:	N/a
PARISH:	Baleshare
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Tom Dawson and Katinka Stentoft
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	The SCAPE Trust
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Community dig and evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NF76SE 19
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Prehistoric settlement
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NF 7823 6085
START DATE (this season)	30 Sept 2006
END DATE (this season)	8 Oct 2006
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/a
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Archaeological evaluation of eroding site at Sloc Sàbhaidh. Community project aimed at training Shorewatch group members in archaeological recording techniques whilst rescuing information from a threatened site.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Excavation
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	University of St Andrews, St Katharine's Lodge, The Scores, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AL
EMAIL ADDRESS:	tcd@st-andrews.ac.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS