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# Baile Sear Community Archaeology Project Sloc Sàbhaidh, Baile Sear, North Uist Season 2 (2007) Data Structure Report

Kate MacDonald & Ian Mchardy



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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a three-week training excavation at Sloc Sàbhaidh on the west coast of Baile Sear, North Uist, Western Isles. The excavation targeted an area of severely eroding archaeological remains, and was carried out by a local community group, Access Archaeology, and The SCAPE Trust in between 11<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007, as part of the Shorewatch Project. The investigation was designed to salvage data from an actively eroding site, whilst providing local people with an opportunity to learn excavation and recording techniques through participation in an archaeological field project.

Two trenches were excavated, partially revealing the remains of structures dating to the Middle Iron Age. Whilst the site has been severely damaged by coastal erosion in recent years, a significant portion of one of the wheelhouses was preserved.

The excavation revealed floor layers, pits, dumps of midden material and other evidence of occupation. It also provided information on modifications and rebuilds of the structures. Further excavation is planned, which will help in understanding these buildings more fully.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Site Location and Topography

Sloc Sàbhaidh is situated on the west coast of Baile Sear, a tidal island that lies half a kilometre off the south-west of North Uist, to which it is connected by causeway (Figure 1). The terrain of the Uists is generally low-lying, with land over 150 metres being mostly confined to the rocky east side of the islands. The basal rocks of almost the entire Hebridean archipelago are Lewisian Gneiss, which has produced thin, acidic soils. Thick peat deposits also cover large areas (Grattan *et al.* 1996: 27-9). However, the geomorphology of the west coast of the Uists is particularly complex, resulting from the continual re-working of large amounts of sediment stored on the gently sloping continental shelf that extends into the Atlantic, in tandem with a gradual rise in sea-level since deglaciation (Hall 1996, Gilbertson *et al.* 1996: 59-61). These factors have produced the distinctive machair grassland that lies along the western fringe of the Uists. The machair consists of a plain of fertile calcareous soils, a kilometre or so wide, which is protected from the erosive forces of the Atlantic by a cordon of high coastal dunes (Gilbertson *et al.* 1996: 72-3). Nevertheless, this is a highly dynamic environment that is subject to both erosion and deposition, and significant movements of sand are known to have occurred throughout the islands in prehistory, as well as in the more recent past. Lawson (2004: 71-3) cites several accounts of the devastating loss of land that affected North Uist, and Baile Sear in particular, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The scale of the destruction during this period is indicated by the name 'Baile Sear', which translates into English as 'East Township', even though Baile Sear lies on the present western coast of the Uists.

The site at Sloc Sàbhaidh is an undulating mound which currently straddles the western edge of the machair and the beach, the protective dune system having previously been lost along this stretch of coast. The eastern side of the mound has been rapidly eroding in recent years, and now consists of a foreshore of cobbles, banked at an angle of approximately thirty degrees (Plate 1). Previous work by the Access Archaeology group, in partnership with The SCAPE Trust, revealed that the edge of the mound had receded by three metres between August and December 2005 (Stentoft *et al.* 2007: 3).

## 1.2 Archaeological Context

A range of archaeological remains have previously been recorded on Baile Sear. The earliest known evidence for human activity is Carnan nan Long, a denuded chambered cairn that lies on the north-east tip of the island (Henshall 1972: 506). Numerous duns, presumably dating to the Iron Age, have also been noted by Beveridge (2001 [1911]: 181-5). These are concentrated to the east of the machair, in the area of rockier ground with freshwater lochs, and on a series of islets in the tidal area that now separates Baile Sear from North Uist. However, it was the fertile machair grasslands of the Uists that have formed the principal focus for human occupation since the mid third millennium BC, and many long-lived prehistoric settlement

mounds have now been identified (Parker Pearson *et al.* 2004: 43). Whilst a significant portion of the machair on the west of Baile Sear has been lost to the sea, several important sites have survived, including the vestiges of a medieval chapel and graveyard known as Teampull Chrìosd (Beveridge 2001 [1911]: 290).

The only remaining evidence for prehistoric settlement on the Baile Sear machair has been found at Sloc Sàbhaidh and Ceardach Ruadh. The latter site lies approximately a kilometre to the north of Sloc Sàbhaidh, and has also been progressively revealed by the ongoing coastal erosion in the area. Ceardach Ruadh has been the subject of a series of archaeological excavations. Small-scale investigations by Fairhurst and Ritchie (1963) discovered the remains of masonry that suggested the presence of a wheelhouse. In 1983 the eroding section of the site was partially excavated (Barber 2003), revealing a cultivation horizon that produced a radiocarbon date in the Late Bronze Age. This was overlain by extensive midden deposits and domestic structures dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age. The excavation did not clarify the nature of the settlement, although the structural remains may represent one or more wheelhouses. An extended inhumation was also discovered, placed within a grave cut into the upper layers of the midden.

Beveridge (2001 [1911]: 228-9) was the first to record both Ceardach Ruadh and Sloc Sabhaidh, noting the presence of midden deposits and a range of artefacts at both sites, although he makes no mention of structures. At Sloc Sabhaidh, he identified charred bones as the remains of a cremation (*ibid.*: 266). However, the evidence upon which he based his interpretation is ambiguous. No further work was undertaken at Sloc Sabhaidh until 2005, when severe storms uncovered structural remains, prompting the local community to seek the assistance of The SCAPE Trust in investigating the site through the Shorewatch Project. Volunteers from Access Archaeology carried out a series of surveys between January 2005 and May 2006, in order to record the archaeology as it was being progressively revealed and destroyed by the ongoing erosion. This work was followed by a small-scale excavation designed to establish the character and extent of the site (Stentoft *et al.* 2007). Four trenches were opened, covering approximately fifty square metres. Two of the trenches contained walling, although it was not possible to determine the nature of the buildings. However, the pottery recovered during the excavation suggested an Iron Age date.

## 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The excavations at Sloc Sabhaidh are part of the Shorewatch Project, which was established by The SCAPE Trust to further its aims of researching, conserving and promoting appreciation of archaeological remains that are threatened by coastal erosion in Scotland. This is achieved by providing local community groups with the training and professional support necessary to investigate and record eroding sites, thereby equipping them with the skills necessary to undertake continuing programmes of fieldwork.

The general aims of the excavation are therefore:

- to rescue archaeological information from an area of severely eroding archaeological remains at Sloc Sabhaidh before its destruction, in order to expand our understanding of later prehistoric settlement in North Uist
- to involve local volunteers in a practical project, thus providing training opportunities and raising awareness of coastal archaeology and the problem of erosion
- to ensure that information about the results of the excavation are disseminated to the public
- to determine the extent of the archaeological deposits
- to assess the rate and impact of erosion affecting archaeological sites on the west coast of the Uists

The specific aims of the archaeological programme of work at Sloc Sabhaidh this year were as follows:

- to build on previous work at the site to establish the character and sequence of the structural remains
- to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual material to allow characterisation of the site and to enable the nature and date of activity to be determined through post-excavation analysis
- to ensure that the archaeological work will not exacerbate the rate of erosion of the site and surrounding land in the future
- to develop a strategy for the ongoing investigation and management of Sloc Sabhaidh
- to record as much information from the site as possible, given the likelihood of it being destroyed before the next available opportunity to investigate

These aims were met through the following objectives:

- to stratigraphically excavate a sufficient area of the site to recover evidence of the structural sequence and occupation at the site
- to train volunteers in techniques of excavation and recording, involving them as much as possible in all aspects of excavation and recording

- to provide site tours for the public, and specifically tailored talks, tours and activity sessions for visiting school groups, including providing the opportunity for children to excavate archaeological deposits
- to minimize the impact of future erosion through careful reinstatement of the site and to provide temporary protection of exposed areas of archaeological remains at the end of the fieldwork campaign
- to cover all excavated surfaces with geotextile before backfilling, and protect upstanding walls with sandbags.
- To ensure that the beach cobbles are replaced, leaving the beach as close to its original state as possible
- to publicize the findings of the excavation through the local media
- to ensure that the local community has access to the results of the excavation by holding a public lecture to coincide with publication of the data structure report

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 The Site**

Several non-archaeological factors constrained the development of the most appropriate excavation methodology and the choice of location for the trenches at Sloc Sabhaidh. Minimizing the risk of exacerbating the loss of croft land in the vicinity of the site was a prime consideration, and excavation was therefore limited to the actively eroding foreshore, avoiding any vegetated areas. Furthermore, areas beneath potentially unstable eroded sections of the mound were not excavated for health and safety reasons. Trenches had to be positioned above the high tide line for obvious practical reasons, even though it was clear that archaeological deposits continued under this. Bearing these factors in mind, two trenches were placed to maximize the quantity and quality of data recovered from the site. The excavations in 2006 had identified two areas of upstanding masonry with associated stratified deposits at the north and south of the mound, although the nature of these remains could not be satisfactorily interpreted. In order to more accurately characterize these structures, two trenches were opened. Trench 1 was placed towards the northern end of the mound to include an arc of curving wall found in 2006. Trench 2 was located at the southern extremity of the site where the remains of a small semi-circular cell and part of a building with a right-angled corner had previously been found. Trenches were extended over the entire length of exposed structures to ensure that as much as possible was recorded, The position of the trenches in relation to the mound is shown in Figure 2.

Erosion had removed the seaward half of the mound, although deposits remained under the beach material, truncated to the 20-30 degree angle of the beach. This meant that deposits found immediately beneath the unstratified beach deposits were not of the same period. Those nearer the

high tide line (west) tended to be truncated and therefore earlier than deposits higher up the beach (east), even though they were both covered by the same beach deposits. The area to be excavated was overlain by beach cobbles that reached a depth of approximately 1.5 metres in places. Blocks of masonry, derived from recently eroded structures, had been redeposited by tidal action and were incorporated within the layer of cobbles. Overlying beach deposits were removed by a 13 tonne mechanical excavator with a back acting toothless bucket. Wherever possible, cobbles and sand were pulled down the slope of the beach instead of across, to avoid 'stepping' underlying deposits with the corner of the bucket. Excavation with the mechanical digger was undertaken under close archaeological supervision. In the areas that lacked structural remains, midden deposits were revealed immediately below the cobbles. Trenches were extended down to the recent high tide line, visible as a line of seaweed and flotsam, and all spoil was piled along this line to create a barrier. This proved to be successful for the duration of the excavation, although it was clear that trenches would have been inundated by the highest tides, or a high tide with storm surge. The machined sides of the trenches were battered to angle of between thirty and forty five degrees to prevent collapse. Once the majority of the overburden had been removed from the vicinity of the structures, the remainder of the unstratified beach deposits were cleared by hand. Finds from the cleaning of this loose beach material were recovered but bagged as unstratified.

The opening and initial cleaning of Trenches 1 and 2 was carried out under the direction of Ian Mchardy, who then supervised the excavation of Trench 2. The excavation of Trench 1 was supervised by Kate MacDonald. All contexts identified during excavation were described, drawn on a measured plan at a scale of 1:20, and photographed as appropriate. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded on measured section drawings, at a scale of 1:10. Elevations of upstanding coursed masonry were also drawn at a scale of 1:10. In the following discussion of the stratigraphic sequence, the context numbers assigned to each feature are given in round brackets to represent deposits, and in square brackets to represent cuts.

In order to ensure that the site was re-instated in such a way that the risk of erosion of the mound and surrounding area was not increased, the advice of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Co-ordinator for the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, David Muir, was sought. Geotextile membrane was laid over unexcavated archaeological deposits within the trenches. A layer of sandy backfill was then laid over the membranes by hand. Finally, the cobbles were replaced by mechanical excavator. The original profile of the cobble foreshore was restored as far as possible.

### **3.2 Trench 1**

A 5m wide strip, extending for approximately 20m north/south, was stripped of overlying deposits by machine. The northern and southern extremities of this area were not investigated. This was due in part to the height of the eroded section through the mound to the west. Furthermore, the deposits in these areas had been severely truncated by erosion leaving thin lenses of midden material overlying natural sand.

Based on the aims and objectives of the excavation, and in order to utilize the available resources effectively, excavations were targeted to investigate the surviving structural remains that occupied the central portion of the stripped area, establishing a trench that was 11m north/south, with a 2m extension to the north. The eastern side of the trench lay along a naturally eroded section. The western side of trench was formed by an arc of upstanding wall, as the deposits beyond this had largely been destroyed by erosion.

The trench was initially cleaned by hand, using mattocks and shovels. Artefacts and unworked animal bone that had been mixed with the overlying cobbles and boulders were collected and recorded as unstratified. During this process, archaeological deposits to a depth of up to a metre were removed as unstratified from within the structure, and from immediately outside the walling. Thereafter, all archaeological features and deposits were excavated stratigraphically and assigned context numbers. Animal bone and undecorated body sherds of pottery were collected by context. Other artefacts were recorded individually, and their positions measured three-dimensionally. One bulk sample was taken, consisting of a spread of hearth deposits near the centre of the structure. It had been hoped to obtain radiocarbon samples from the material within the floors and beneath the walls of structure, but this was not possible due to modern root penetration in those areas that would otherwise have produced suitable samples.

### **3.3 Trench 2**

Trench 2 was designed to fully investigate the structures partially uncovered in trench 3, 2006. These structures had been further exposed, with previously unseen sections of wall visible and previously observed sections now linking up. It was clear that the structures formed a significant part of a large c.30m long, 4-5m high mound that had been half sectioned by the beach, thus providing a west facing section. Midden, bone and pottery were spilling onto the beach from the eroding section in such quantity as to be a significant constituent of the beach here (context 200). It was therefore decided to extend the trench along the beach, past the visible limits of the structures, and from the section down the beach to the high tide line. The trench measured 20m north south by 10m east west.

### **3.4 Volunteer Training – Trench 1**

Volunteers were involved in all phases of the fieldwork. Training was intended to accommodate the varying levels of previous experience and availability of the volunteers, enabling people to build on their skills.

All volunteers were provided with a Health and Safety induction, followed by a tour of the site, which included information about the archaeological context of the investigations and the fundamental principles of stratigraphic excavation. They were then assigned to work alongside professional archaeologists, learning the basic techniques of trowelling, the identification of archaeological features, and the recovery of finds. Those who were able to participate in the excavation on a regular basis were also provided with instruction on the recording of features and the identification of artefacts.

Children were assigned to areas of midden away from standing masonry due to Health and Safety considerations, and worked under continual adult supervision.

### **3.5 Volunteer Training – Trench 2**

In order to satisfy our aims and objectives, some slightly novel recording techniques were used. Well-defined features, such as pits, were assigned context numbers and then given over to volunteers to excavate, usually in ones but often two's if involving a young child. They were supervised by a professional archaeologist present. The volunteers half sectioned the fill, took environmental samples and bagged all finds under the fill number. Pottery, stone and bone finds were kept in separate bags but similarly with the fill number. In the case of particularly interesting finds, or if a particular find's location was thought to be significant, it was three dimensionally recorded using the eastings and northings of the grid, and levels taken relative to a Temporary Bench Mark (TBM). Mid- excavation plans were drawn if it was thought necessary, and, as with most sections and post-excavation drawings, were completed with as much volunteer involvement as possible, under the guidance of a professional archaeologist. This was also the case with written context descriptions, completed on pro-forma sheets.

Where a context was larger or more diffuse than a well defined pit such as an extensive layer of midden material, a grid system was used. This involved using string and nails to divide the context up into squares of 0.5m, and then assigning one or two volunteers to each block. Excavation then continued as above, down to the next context. Blocks were labelled with both the context number and a letter, in alphabetical order from the top left corner.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (*K. MacDonald*)

A variety of finds were recovered during the opening and clearing of Trench 1 and recorded as unstratified. These consisted of flint, pottery sherds, a boar's tusk, unworked animal bone, worked antler, worked whale bone, a plain bone pin, and a fragment of rotary quern. The initial clearing of the trench revealed a semi-circular dry-stone wall with internal masonry features. This comprised the western portion of a wheelhouse, extending for approximately 11.5m north/south and 4.5m east/west (Figure 3). A west facing section of up to 1m in depth was created through the interior of the structure.

The interior of the wheelhouse is divided into three areas in the following description of the stratigraphic sequence. This division is not arbitrary, but reflects the evidence for different phases of activity that had survived within each area.

#### 4.1.1 Northern Area of Wheelhouse

Two intercutting pits were visible in the main west facing section (Figure 4). A very soft light greyish brown sand (045) filled a round-bottomed cut with almost vertical sides [046]. This pit extended for 0.73m in the section and was 0.48m in depth. The top had been truncated by erosion, and it was not visible in plan. On its northern side, [046] truncated the southern edge of a deeper straight-sided pit [052]. In section, this cut was 1.43m across and 0.60m deep, although it had been truncated by erosion. The lowest fill of [052] was (058), a mid yellow sand with dark brown mottles that was up to 0.25m in thickness. This was overlain by another fill (057), a light yellow sand with grey mottles, which was up to 0.34m in thickness. (057) had been truncated to the south by the cutting of pit [046]. The uppermost fill of [052] was (008), a soft mid brownish grey sand with mottles and lenses of light grey and dark brown, which contained occasional shell fragments and rounded stones (between 10 and 25mm). This deposit, which overlain (057), was 0.83m across and up to 0.25m in thickness, although it had been truncated at the top by erosion.

The two pits, [046] and [052], cut into the deposits filling the interior of the wheelhouse. They contained heterogeneous fills, in contrast to the well stratified deposits below. These features are therefore likely to represent a distinct phase of activity that occurred after the structure had been abandoned.

To the north of these two pits, [052] had cut (009), a firm dark brown sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and fine pebbles. This deposit was up to 0.13m in thickness. (009) had been truncated at the top by erosion and was only visible in section. It overlain (010), a friable light yellowish white sand with fine black striations. (010) was only visible in section and had been truncated at the top by erosion. It was 0.72m across and up to 0.51m in thickness. (010) overlain (011), a light greyish brown sand that contained unworked animal bone. It was 0.91m across and up to 0.34m in thickness in

the section. (011) overlay (050), a firm mid yellowish brown sand with lenses of dark brown and light yellow that was 0.7m across and up to 0.09m in thickness in the section. (050) and (011) were partially removed as unstratified during the opening of the trench, although an area measuring approximately 0.9m by 0.9m remained in front of the west facing section. (011) was overlain by (093), which consisted of two large horizontal slabs, 0.6 by 0.4m across and 0.15m in depth. These two slabs lay beneath a similar slab that stood almost vertically, shown in Plate 2. (011) and (093) collapsed during recording.

(009), (010), (011) and (093) had accumulated within the wheelhouse after the structure had been abandoned. (009) represents post-abandonment activity, which occurred after the deposition of (010), which is a wind-blown sand, but before the cutting of pits [052] and [046].

To the south, [052] cut (007), a friable light yellowish white medium sand with fine black striations. This was only visible in section and was 2m across and up to 0.7m in thickness. The top of (007) had been truncated by erosion. (007) overlay (047), a dark greyish brown medium sand. This was only visible in section and was 1.27m across and up to 0.05m in thickness. (047) overlay (048), a light grey medium sand. This was only visible in section and was 2.49m across and up to 0.04m in thickness. (048) overlay (049), a mid greyish brown medium sand. This deposit was only visible in section, and could not be identified in plan. It was 1.51m across and up to 0.09m in thickness. (049) sealed (064), a dark greyish brown medium sand that was only visible in section and was up to 0.02m thick and 0.28m across. (049) also overlay (053), a stiff dark brownish orange sandy silt with lenses of dark brownish black and medium yellowish orange, containing flecks of charcoal and fragments of marine shell, as well as sherds of pottery and unworked animal bone. (053) was visible in the main west facing section (Figure 4), and also in plan (Figure 5), having been partially removed during the opening of the trench. The deposit was 0.9m by 0.81m across, having been truncated to the south by [044] and [051], and was up to 0.08m in thickness, lensing out to the north and west. (053) overlay (080), a dark brownish black silty sand with a flat slab of stone embedded in its surface. (080) lay at the eastern edge of the trench and was 1.16m by 0.6m in plan. It was truncated by [044] to the south. (080) was not excavated.

(053) and (080) are ashy deposits that are likely to have built up on the edge of the hearth in the central area of wheelhouse. (064), (047), (048) and (049) did not contain ash or burnt deposits and may have accumulated after the hearth had gone out of use. (007), like (010), is a wind-blown sand that had been deposited within the structure following its abandonment.

(080) and (064) overlay (017), a stiff dark brown fine sand with frequent lenses of dark black and mid orange, as well as occasional flecks of charcoal. This floor deposit was largely intact in the northern area of the wheelhouse (Figure 5), where it also lay beneath (050). (017) was 3.86m by 3.7m across, and had been truncated to the south by [051] and [061]. The surface of (017) was dished on either side of the masonry pier 2 that divided the two surviving cells, being banked up to a height of approximately 0.2m towards the rear and sides of each cell (Plate 3). (017) was not excavated, apart from

a sondage across cell 2 (Figure 6). It contained occasional angular and rounded stones up to 15 cm across, and marine shell. The finds from (017) consisted of sherds of pottery, unworked animal bone, coarse stone tools, a quartz flake, and pumice. A sliver of bone carved into the shape of an arrowhead was found on the surface of (017) at the entrance to cell 1.

Two kerbs, (095) and (054), were visible in the surface of (017) in cell 1. (095) and (054) marked the front and eastern side of the cell respectively and consisted of upright elongated slabs of stone. (095) was 0.82m in length, up to 0.15m across, and stood to a height of 0.17m. (054) was 0.7m in length, up to 0.17m across, and stood to a height of 0.15m. These features were not excavated. The stones may have been placed within cuts in the surface of (017), or this deposit may have accumulated against the kerbs.

No kerbs were visible in the surface of (017) in cell 2, although three flat stone slabs (063) lay in a row 0.77m in length across the front of the cell, standing to a height of 0.08m. These were not excavated and it was not possible to establish the stratigraphic relationship between (017) and (063). On the south side of cell 2, the surface of (017) had been cut by three shallow linear features: [038], [039] and [040]. These cuts were up to 0.7m deep, between 0.07 and 0.16m wide, and up to 0.39m long. They formed a line running north-west to south-east, and may represent the location of a kerb.

The sondage in cell 2 revealed that (017) was up to 0.13m in thickness (Figure 7). (017) had accumulated against the masonry that formed a cist-like feature (056), which lay between the wall of the wheelhouse and pier 2 (Plate 4). The cist was 0.61 by 0.52m across, with a flat slab on each side. The upright slabs stood up to 0.24m high. The space within (056) was filled by (096), a soft mid brownish grey coarse sand that was 0.1m in thickness. This deposit contained sherds of pottery and unworked animal bone.

The cist-like feature (056) was not excavated. However, the sondage in cell 2 showed that it overlay (088), a firm mid brown medium sand that also lay beneath (017). (088) was a floor layer that was up to 0.31m in thickness in the sondage and extended across the width of the cell. Like (017), the surface of (088) was dished, being 0.1m lower in the centre of the cell. It contained marine shell, angular cobbles, pieces of charcoal and flecks of ash. The finds consisted of sherds of pottery, unworked animal bone, and coarse stone tools. (088) overlay (116), a firm dark brown sand containing fragments of charcoal and flecks of peat ash that also extended across the width of the cell. (116) was not excavated.

The stratigraphic relationship between (088) and the masonry of pier 2 (055) was not clearly established, although (088) may have accumulated against the masonry. (055) was formed of courses of roughly hewn blocks of gneiss, approximately 0.7 by 0.5 by 0.2m (Plate 5). The pier was 1.39m in length, 0.51m wide, and stood to a height of 0.4m above (017). The top of the masonry had been truncated, probably by erosion. (055) was not excavated. The lower courses of (055) were coated with a thin deposit of stiff dark brownish grey fine sand (016). This deposit was up to 18 mm thick over the

stonework of (055) and also filled the interstices of the masonry. (016) was not excavated. It survived to a height of 0.28m above the surface of (017). It was overlain by (017), and possibly by (088).

On the north-east side of pier 2, a special deposit (020) overlay (016). This consisted of a scallop shell placed vertically against the base of the pier. Three sherds of pottery and a small highly polished bone were sealed behind the shell, within a deposit of dark brown medium sand.

(017) also overlay (013), a stiff dark brownish grey medium sand that contained flecks of charcoal. This deposit coated the lowest course of the masonry of pier 1 (026), as shown in Figure 4, and was up to 22 mm thick. Above (013), the interstices of the upper two courses of the masonry (026) were filled by (084), a loose light brownish yellow medium sand containing pieces of charcoal. The masonry of pier 1, (026), consisted of roughly hewn blocks of gneiss of similar dimensions to the masonry of pier 2. The pier was only partially revealed in the west facing section through the wheelhouse, and stood to a height of 0.35m above (017). The top of the masonry had been truncated by [052]. It is possible that the two uppermost courses of (026) had been disturbed during the cutting of pit [052], which also truncated (013). (084), (013) and (026) were not excavated. It was therefore not possible to establish whether (084) was a fill of [052], derived from the post-abandonment disturbance of the interior of the wheelhouse, or a primary deposit relating to the construction or occupation of the structure.

At the rear of cell 1, (017) overlay (042), a stiff dark yellowish brown medium sand. This formed a layer several millimetres thick that covered the inner surface of the wheelhouse wall (022), to a maximum height of 0.3m. A number of sherds of pottery adhered to the surface of (042).

The inner face of the wheelhouse wall (022) was formed of a single skin of angular and sub angular blocks of gneiss, approximately 0.6 by 0.45m across and 0.2m deep, laid in courses. The inner surface of the blocks had been dressed. The wall was preserved to a maximum height of four courses, or 0.97m, above the surface of the latest wheelhouse floor (017) in the north-eastern corner of the trench. The uppermost course projected 0.15m beyond the base, indicating that the wall had been corbelled (Figure 4). (022) could be traced to the south-west side of the wheelhouse, although only the lowest course of masonry survived on the west side of the trench. (022) was not excavated.

A deposit of unworked animal bone and pottery sherds (043) was embedded within (022), between the first and second courses of masonry at the rear of cell 1. This deposit was partially excavated although some of the bone could not be removed without dismantling the masonry, suggesting that (043) had been placed within the wall during construction.

(022) had been built against an outer skin of stonework (023), as shown in Plate 6. This consisted of random, uncoursed cobbles, ranging from sub rounded to angular, and up to 0.2m across. (023) was visible to the north of the wheelhouse, but not to the west where the wall had been subject to greater erosion. (023) was not excavated.

#### 4.1.2 *Central Area of Wheelhouse*

The main west facing section through the central area of the wheelhouse is shown in Figure 8. A sequence of intercutting pits was visible in the section. The uppermost fill of these pits was (001), a friable mid brownish grey medium sand with light grey and dark brown mottles (15%). It contained flecks of charcoal and rounded pebbles (2%), as well as unworked animal bone and pottery sherds. (001) was only visible in section and was 1.76m across and up to 0.76m in thickness. It had been truncated at the top by erosion. (001) was the upper fill of [025], and overlay (033), a light greyish brown mottled sand that contained occasional fragments of stone, unworked animal bone and pot sherds. (033) had been partially removed during the initial cleaning of the trench, but also survived within the trench. It was 1.15m across in the section, up to 0.75m in thickness. (033) was the lowest fill of [025], a steep-sided cut that had been truncated at the top by erosion. [025] was 1.9m across at the top, with a maximum depth of 1.02m. This cut was also partly visible in the trench (Figure 9). It was irregular in plan and was 0.74m by 0.95m across, with a flat base.

On its southern side, [025] cut (002), a friable light yellowish white medium sand with fine black striations. This was only visible in section and was 1.94m across and up to 0.64m in thickness. (002) had been truncated at the top by erosion. On its northern side, [025] cut (004), a soft light greyish yellow medium sand with lenses and mottles of dark brown. (004) filled [012], a v-shaped cut that was only visible in section. [012] was 0.68m across and up to 0.34m in depth. It had been truncated at the top by erosion and to the south by [025].

[012] cut (005), a soft light greyish brown medium sand with flecks and mottles of dark brown and light grey, containing fine sub-angular pebbles and fragments of marine shell. (005) was only visible in section and was 1.4m across and up to 0.62m in thickness. It had been truncated at the top by erosion. (005) was the uppermost fill of [044] and overlay (034), a light grey medium sand with brown mottles containing fragments of marine shell and sherds of pottery. (034) had been partially removed during the initial cleaning of the trench, but also survived within the trench. It was 0.6m across in the section, up to 0.29m in thickness. (034) filled [044], an irregular v-shaped cut [044] was 1.43m across in section and up to 0.89m deep. It had been truncated at the top by erosion, and to the south by [012]. [044] was also partly visible in the trench, where it was 0.45m across.

[044] cut the wind-blown sand (007) to the north, and (006) to the south. (006) was a firm dark brownish grey medium sand that contained sherds of pottery sherds and worked and unworked animal bone. It was 1.17m across in the section, and up to 0.31m in thickness. It was truncated by [012] at the top, and by [025] to the south. (006) was also visible in the trench, and was 0.76m by 0.68m across, but was not excavated.

The three pits, [044], [025] and [012], cut into the deposits filling the interior of the wheelhouse. They contained heterogeneous fills, in contrast to the well stratified deposits below. Along with pits [046] and [052] to the north, these features are likely to represent a distinct phase of activity that occurred

after the structure had been abandoned and filled with wind-blown sand (002) and (007).

[061] was an elongated, irregular, shallow cut on the west side of the trench. It was up to 0.1m in depth, 0.59m by 1m across, and oriented east/west. [061] truncated [051], which cut (053). Only the northern and western sides of [051] could be traced. The cut was irregular in plan, approximately 2m across, and between 0.11 and 0.3m deep. The base of the cut was flat. It is possible that [051] is part of [044], although this could not be established with certainty. The fills of [051] and [061] were excavated as unstratified during the opening of the trench.

[089] was cut through the base of [061] into (088) below. [089] was a rectangular pit with rounded corners, steep sides and an irregular base. It was 0.6m north/south, and 0.71m east/west. It was 0.39m deep. The lower fill of [089] was (087), a loose light yellow sand with mottles, containing pieces of charcoal, sub angular pebbles, and sherds of pottery. (087) was up to 0.27m in thickness. It was overlain by (085), the upper fill of [089]. This was a loose light brown sand with mottles, containing sub angular pebbles and sherds of pottery, and was up to 0.23m in thickness. A copper alloy ring was recovered from (085).

The cuts [061], [051] and [089] truncated the floor deposits in the interior of the wheelhouse. These features are therefore likely to represent post-abandonment activity within the structure.

[061] and [051] had truncated (018), a firm dark brown fine sand that contained worked and unworked animal bone, and sherds of pottery. This was 1.13m by 1.14m across, and up to 0.16m in thickness. (018) was similar to (017), and is probably a remnant of the original floor of the wheelhouse which was subsequently truncated.

(018) overlay (088), which lay beneath (017) in cell 2. (088) was visible in the base of [061] and had been cut by [089]. It was not excavated, and could not be identified beyond the southern edge of [061]. It is possible that it had been removed in this area during the opening of the trench. (088) overlay (015), a firm mid yellowish grey sand that contained worked and unworked animal bone, and sherds of pottery. (015) extended across the width of the central section of the wheelhouse. It had been truncated by [025], [044], [051] and [061], and had been partially removed during the opening of the trench. It was not excavated, although a large piece of charred whalebone was recovered from (015) during the investigation of wall (030). (015) could be seen to abut the inner face of the wheelhouse wall (022). However, only a single course of the masonry survived along the western side of the structure.

#### 4.1.3 *Southern Area of Wheelhouse*

The main west facing section through the southern area of the wheelhouse is shown in Figure 10. The wind-blown sand (002) sealed (028), a firm dark brown silty sand with flecks of charcoal, and containing sherds of pottery. (028) was only visible in section and was 0.48m across and formed a lens of up to 0.02m in thickness. (028) overlay (029), a firm dark greyish brown medium sand with lenses of peat ash, and containing unworked animal bone.

(029) was 1.59m across in the section, and up to 0.12m in thickness. It had been truncated to the north by [025]. (029) had been partially removed as unstratified during the opening of the trench, but was also visible in plan (Figure 11). (029) overlay (003), a firm dark yellowish brown medium sand with flecks of charcoal. (003) contained occasional pebbles (up to 60 mm across), and sherds of pottery. It was 2.06m across in the section, and up to 0.17m in thickness. (003) was also visible in plan. It had been truncated to the north by [025] (003) was not excavated.

(003) was also overlain by (035), a firm mid yellowish brown medium sand containing occasional fragments of marine shell. (035) was only visible in the section and was 0.25m across, and up to 0.14m in thickness. A deposit of the same description (036) lay above (035). This was up to 0.2m in thickness. (035) and (036) had accumulated between large slabs of stone that protruded from wall (030), a curved wall in the interior of the wheelhouse. (035) and (036) appear to have been truncated to the north by a vertical cut [065], before the windblown sand (002) had been deposited.

(028), (029) and (003) are floor deposits derived from occupation of the wheelhouse. (035) and (036) appear to have accumulated to a considerable depth against the northern side of wall (030) before the structure filled with windblown sand.

(014) was a soft mid greyish brown medium sand containing marine shell and unworked animal bone. It overlay the slumped masonry (021) that formed the southern wall of the wheelhouse, and also filled the interstices of the stonework. (014) was largely excavated as unstratified during the initial cleaning of the trench. However, a number of finds were recovered from this deposit, which was later assigned a context number. The finds from (014) consisted of burnt bone, a fragment of blue material (tentatively identified as faience, but possibly modern), a coprolite (possibly canine in origin), pumice, and pottery sherds, including a number of contiguous sherds from a decorated vessel. Some of the finds are likely to have been derived from unstratified deposits overlying the masonry, whilst others were recovered from stratified deposits within the stonework of (021). (019) was a firm mid greyish medium sand containing unworked animal bone and pottery sherds. It overlay the masonry of wheelhouse wall (022) in the south-east of the trench. As with (014), it was largely excavated as unstratified, the collected finds subsequently being assigned a context number.

(021) consisted of a spread of slumped blocks shown in Plate 7. The larger blocks were sub angular to angular, partially worked, and up to 0.6 by 0.4m across, and 0.3m deep. The smaller stones were rounded to sub-angular and approximately 0.25 by 0.1m across, and included a broken saddle quern. The masonry was slumped towards the north, forming a mass of stonework, with individual slabs generally lying at an angle of approximately 30 degrees from horizontal. This masonry lay in an arc that was up to 2m wide, extended for 3.2m westwards from the eastern edge of the trench, and stood to a height of approximately 1m.

(021) was overlain by (079), a mid greyish brown medium sand containing peat ash, flecks of charcoal, fragments of marine shell and sub-angular

pebbles. (079) had been removed as unstratified during the opening of the trench and was visible in the section to the south of the wheelhouse (Figure 12). It possibly equates with (014). (079) abutted the south side of wall (030), and was up to 0.34m in thickness where it overlay wall (083). It had been truncated at the top by erosion. The cut for Trench 1 in 2006 was also visible in the top of (079). (079) also overlay (078), a yellow medium sand that was up to 0.26m in thickness. (078) was only visible in section and extended beyond the southern limit of the excavation. It had built up against the southern side of masonry (083). This was the uppermost course of a wall, and consisted of irregular sub-angular blocks, approximately 0.2m by 0.28 across. (083) lay beneath the slumped masonry (021), and overlay (074), a light greyish brown medium sand that contained sherds of pottery and unworked animal bone. (074) was 0.13m in thickness. (074) overlay (077), a dark brown medium sand that was up to 0.19m in thickness. (077) overlay (076), a light greyish brown medium sand that was up to 0.07m in thickness in section. (076) overlay (082), which was a course of masonry directly below (083) and comprising similar irregular blocks of stone.

(082) lay in cut [075], beneath the fills (076) and (077). [075] was concave, and approximately 0.25m deep. It cut (032), a dark greyish brown medium sand containing flecks of charcoal, sherds of pottery, unworked animal bone, and a hammer-stone. (032) was up to 0.3m in thickness in the section. It had been partially removed at unstratified during the opening of the trench, but was visible in plan to the south of the wheelhouse wall.

(032) overlay (041), a dark brown medium sand containing lenses of peat ash and flecks of charcoal. (041) also produced sherds of pottery, antler (possibly worked), and unworked animal bone. It was up to 0.17m in thickness in the section. It was truncated to the north by [075]. (041) had been partially removed at unstratified during the opening of the trench, but was visible in plan to the south of the wheelhouse wall. Both (032) and (041) extended beyond the southern limit of the section. (041) overlay (060), a thin lens of friable light grey fine sand that was not visible in the section. (060) contained a sherd of pottery. (041) also overlay (066). This was a special deposit consisting of a mass of pottery sherds, probably from the same vessel, surrounding fragments of unworked animal bone. Several rounded beach cobbles were also associated with the pottery.

(066) had been placed on the surface of (068), a firm dark reddish brown medium sand that contained orange peat ash (60%) and charcoal (10-20%). This was 1.06m across in section. It had been truncated to the north by [075] and extended beyond the southern limit of the excavation. (068) was up to 0.16m in thickness. (068) overlay (071), a firm dark brown medium sand that contained pieces of charcoal (5%), a sherd of pottery, and unworked animal bone. This was 1.08m across and up to 0.2m in thickness. (071) overlay (072), a stiff dark brownish black sandy clay that contained charcoal (10%). This was 0.49m across in the section, and up to 0.1m in thickness. (072) overlay (073), a firm light grey medium sand. This was 0.56m across in the section, and up to 0.08m in thickness. (073) had accumulated against the southern side of masonry (081). This consisted of uncoursed sub-angular

blocks of stone, approximately 0.26m by 0.2m, surviving to a maximum height of 0.2m in the section.

(081) overlay [069], a linear cut that had been dug into clean sand. The cut was 1.26m in depth, and 1.65m in width in the section. Only the southern side of the cut could be identified. This was vertical at the top, becoming concave towards the base, which was flat. [069] was oriented south-east/north-west, and could be traced in plan for approximately 1.8m. It had been truncated by erosion to the west.

The masonry (081), (082) and (083) formed a wall that was up to 1.18m in width, built within [069]. Only 1m of this wall was visible in the trench, although it was clearly not aligned with the rest of the wheelhouse wall (Figure 13). It appears to have been constructed episodically as more masonry was added after thin deposits of midden material had accumulated, which also filled the cut. The wall survived to a height of 0.85m in the section. This is likely to have been its original final height, as it was overlain by a layer of midden. As can be seen in Plate 8, the upper part of the wall had slumped in a northerly direction, towards the interior of the wheelhouse.

(081) overlay (092), which consisted of three elongated, rectangular slabs of stone, between 0.3 and 0.75m in length, and 0.2m in width. The slabs were laid in an arc approximately 1.8m in length marking the inside edge of the wheelhouse wall. The upper surface of each slab was angled at approximately 45 degrees from the vertical, as shown in Plate 9. (092) was not excavated. It was overlain by (091), an arc of small boulders approximately 2.4m in length and 1m wide, standing to a height of 0.3m. This marked the original course of the wheelhouse wall in the south-east. The wall consisted of uncoursed, sub-angular and sub-rounded blocks between 0.15m and 0.4m across. (091) was recorded in the north-west facing section that was placed across the wheelhouse wall in the south-east of the structure (Figure 14).

(091) was overlain by (103), a loose mid yellow sand that contained sherds of pottery. This was 0.65m across in the section, and up to 0.03m in thickness, and lay in the area between the wheelhouse wall and the curved wall (030). (103) lay beneath the slumped masonry (021). 103 overlay (102), a mid greyish brown medium sand containing flecks of charcoal (1%), unworked animal bone, and sherds of pottery. This was 1.46m across in the section, and up to 0.33m in thickness.

(102) also lay beneath (030), an arc of walling that was visible for a length of approximately 4m in the southern area of the wheelhouse interior (Plate 10). It lay between 0.4m and 0.8m inside the wheelhouse wall. The western end of the wall was approximately 0.4m in width and constructed of uncoursed irregular blocks of stone up to 0.4m across. It stood to a height of 0.4m. However, the eastern end of the wall included a number of large flat slabs up to 1m across in its construction, as well as rectangular orthostat. At the eastern side of the trench, (030) was 0.95m across and survived to a height of 0.65m. It had been truncated at the top by erosion. (030) was not excavated. It was overlain by (101), a mid greyish brown medium sand containing sherds of pottery and unworked animal bone that filled the interstices of the

masonry at the western end of (030). The slumped masonry (021) lay over (101).

The north-west facing section across the wheelhouse wall revealed that (102) overlay (113), a flat slab that was 0.1m in thickness, and more than 0.85 across. (102) appeared to lie between (113) and (030) above. However, this relationship was only observed in section and it is possible that (113) was the lowest course of (030), (102) having accumulated against this wall, rather than underlying it. (102) also overlay (090), a linear arrangement of stones, 0.4m by 0.8m, that was visible in the area between (030) and the wheelhouse wall (Plate 11). The location and orientation of (090) suggests that it is the base of a radial pier. The pier had been dismantled before (102) formed. The truncation of (090) was allocated cut number [094]. The stratigraphy relationship between (090) and the deposits below (102) was not established.

(113) overlay (015), the yellowish grey sand that was visible across much the central area of the wheelhouse. (015) overlay (031), a spread of tumbled flat stones, approximately 0.2m in height, that lay between the wheelhouse wall and the curved inner wall (030). This was located approximately 1.3m to the north-west of (090), and (031) is also likely to be the base of a radial pier. This was truncated by cut [108] before (015) was deposited. (031) was not excavated.

In the north-west facing section across the wheelhouse wall (Figure 14), (015) could be seen to overlie (104), a firm dark brown sandy clay containing charcoal, marine shell, sherds of pottery, and worked and unworked animal bone. (104) extended beneath the curved wall (030) and slab (113) and abutted the inner skin of the wheelhouse wall (022). (104) was up to 0.23m in thickness, and its surface was banked up against the masonry.

The section across the wheelhouse wall (Figure 14) had been placed to investigate the stratigraphic relationship between the coursed inner skin of masonry (022), which extended around the northern and western sides of the structure, and the low uncoursed wall (091) that formed the south-eastern arc of the wall. The section showed that both (022) and the outer skin of masonry, numbered (037) in the south, had been dismantled to their foundation course at this point. The floor layer (104) that had accumulated against the inside of (022) survived to a slightly higher level than the masonry, indicating that (022) had been dismantled after (104) had formed. The truncation of (022) and (037) was assigned cut number [115]. The remaining course of (022) and (037) was overlain by (106), a soft yellowish grey fine sand that was 0.45m across in the section and up to 0.14m in thickness. (106) was overlain by the arc of slabs (092) that marked the inside of wheelhouse wall in the south.

The floor layer (104) overlay (112), a soft yellow mottled medium sand. (112) filled [111]. This was a v-shaped cut, only visible in section. It was 0.36m across at the top and 0.3m deep. [111] had been cut from the top of (105), a mid yellow medium sand that contained a sherd of pottery. It was up to 0.1m in thickness. (105) overlay (109), firm mid brown medium sand that was up to 0.08m in thickness. (105) and (109) were both observed to extend

below wall (030)/(113) and beyond the limit of the section in the north-east. However, due to the overlying masonry, it was not possible to accurately measure the thickness of these deposits, which are depicted with a dashed line where they underlay the walling on Figure 14. (105) and (109) also abutted the base of the inner face of the wheelhouse wall (022) in the south-west.

(022) lay against (037), which correlates with the outer skin of the wheelhouse wall (023) in the northern area of the structure. (037) could be traced for 3.3m around the west and south-west of the wheelhouse. It had been truncated by erosion in the west, and had been dismantled to the south. (037) was up to 0.5m in width. A fire-cracked cobble had been incorporated into the stonework. (022) and (037) were not excavated. However, the section across the wheelhouse wall showed that (037) overlay (110). This was a soft light yellow medium sand that was up to 0.23 in thickness. (110) contained a spindle-whorl, made from a sherd of pottery. It lay under (022), extending beneath the floor layer (109) beyond the limit of the section in the north-east.

(110) overlay (107), an upright pottery vessel. The base was largely intact when found, although the sides had collapsed. Sherds of other vessels had been deposited with the vessel, which was located beneath the wheelhouse wall (022). (107) had been placed in [114]. The south-west side of this cut was vertical at the top, becoming concave towards the base, which was rounded. It was 0.45m deep, but had been truncated by erosion at the top. The north-east side of the cut was shallow, extending beneath the large slab (113). [114] was filled by (110) and contained the lowest course of the wheelhouse wall (037) and (022). It had been dug into clean, natural sand. [114] correlates with [069] to the east, in which the wall (081) was constructed after (022) had been dismantled.

#### 4.1.4 *Midden Deposits to the North of the Wheelhouse*

A number of midden deposits were recorded immediately to the north of the wheelhouse (Figure 15). During the opening of the trench, the deposits abutting the outer wall of the wheelhouse had been removed to a depth of approximately 0.65m (Plate 12). This area was cleaned and recorded. However, the sand was subject to rapid wind erosion once exposed, and the deposits were not excavated in order to minimize the risk of collapsing masonry. This also hampered the recording of this area and it was not possible to establish the relationship between the wheelhouse wall and the surrounding stratigraphy. The eroded section to the north of this area was cleaned and recorded (Figure 16). Midden deposits survived in a metre wide strip in front of the section, and were also recorded. Thin lenses of midden were visible lying over natural sand to the west of this. However, they had been severely truncated by erosion and were not investigated.

Two deposits were visible in plan adjacent to the wheelhouse wall, shown in Figure 15. (086) was a small area of firm dark reddish brown medium sand with dark brown lenses revealed during the opening of the trench. This deposit had accumulated against the outside of the wheelhouse wall (023). (086) may have lain within a cut that had been dug into clean, natural sand,

although it was not possible to clarify this before the deposits disintegrated due to wind erosion. (086) was overlain by (024), a firm brownish orange medium sand containing periwinkle shells, flecks of charcoal and angular pebbles. It was up to 0.04m in thickness, and 0.43m across. (024) also lay over natural sand.

The remaining deposits identified in this area of the excavation were only visible in the west facing section. (062) was a friable mid reddish brown medium sand that had accumulated against the outside of the wheelhouse wall (023). It was up to 0.16 in thickness in the section, but had not been completely revealed. (062) was overlain by (070), a mid greyish brown medium sand that was up to 0.1m in thickness. This was overlain by (067), a dark greyish brown medium sand containing flecks of charcoal. It was up to 0.25m in thickness, having been truncated by [097] to the south. (067) was overlain by (027), a firm mid reddish brown fine sand containing flecks of charcoal, fragments of marine shell, burnt bone, unworked animal bone, burnt bone, burnt pumice, fire cracked cobbles, and sherds of pottery. (027) was up to 0.3m in thickness in the section, but had been truncated at the top by erosion. It extended beyond the northern limit of the trench.

To the south, (027) had been cut by [097]. This cut was only visible in section. Its northern side was almost vertical, with a slight undercut towards the bottom. The base and the southern side were formed by the masonry of the wheelhouse wall (023) and (022). The cut may have truncated the top of (023). [097] was 0.4m across, and 0.4m. The top had been truncated by erosion. The lowest fill of [097] was (099), a firm light greyish brown medium sand with mottles of dark brown. It was up to 0.1m in thickness. The upper fill of [097], overlying (099), was (098). This was a firm dark reddish brown medium sand containing flecks of charcoal. (098) was up to 0.34m in thickness. It had been truncated at the top by erosion.

To the north, (027) was overlain by (117), a band of light brownish grey medium sand that was up to 0.1m in thickness and extended beyond the northern limit of the trench. This was overlain by (118), a dark yellowish brown medium sand containing winkle shells, pebbles and fragments of bone. (118) was up to 0.12m in thickness. This was overlain by (119), a dark reddish brown fine silty sand containing flecks of charcoal. This was up to 0.05m in thickness. (119) was overlain by (120), a mid greyish brown sand that was up to 0.2m in thickness. (118) – (120) had been truncated at the top by erosion and extended beyond the northern limit of the trench.

With the exception of (086) and (024), the deposits recorded to the north of the wheelhouse are layers of midden that had built up against the outside of the structure. The accumulated deposits survived to a depth of almost a metre.

## **4.2 Trench 2 (*I. Machardy*)**

### **4.2.1 Summary**

The trench measured 20m x 10m, the long axis being north-south, parallel to the beach. A total of 99 contexts were recorded, of which 36 were bulk

sampled for environmental analysis. A total of 30 finds were three dimensionally recorded. A beautiful polished ring-shaped bone bead, three bone needles and a bone spout or possibly mouth piece were amongst the most eye catching finds. Many layers of probable occupation were recorded, together with pits and postholes, midden intervening layers of windblown sand, and six broad phases of dry-stone structure. Many of the pits contained animal bone, including sheep/goat, and two contained dog burials. Large flat bottomed pits of unknown function were found at the lowest levels.

Un-stratified hammer stones and course stone tools were found in abundance all over the site, as was worked, butchered and un-worked bone, Iron Age pottery and a small quantity of craggan ware. Up to 12 fragments of saddle quern had been found over the years in the immediate vicinity, including one noted by Antiquarian Erskine Beveridge (1911, 229). A further five, broken examples were found this year, together with a fragment of rotary quern.

After cleaning the loose sand and cobble beach material (200) we were left with a series of horizontal archaeological deposits truncated at an angle of 20-30 degrees. The main structures (mentioned above and described in detail below) were clearly the latest phase of activity. Both the structures and the underlying deposits had contributed to the build up of the mound. Four broken saddle querns (Small Finds (SF) 98, 150-152), some "rainbow ware" pottery (SF 102) and two bone pins (SF 99, 100) were found during this clean-back, as well as bone derived from mammals, seals and fish.

#### 4.2.2 *Pos- occupation*

The uppermost deposit under 200 was context 297, a loose, sterile, fine yellow sand with some light brown lenses of similarly fine sand, which had built up in and around walls 211, 212, 220, 221, 222. These were interpreted as windblown sands, the brown lenses possibly representing brief periods of vegetation growth. Although covering 211 (the uppermost wall) and present right across the mound, context 297 did not significantly raise the height of the mound, rather it filled any voids left by the more substantial deposits.

#### 4.2.3 *Structure 1*

Wall 211, the latest structure was of novel construction, being one recumbent stone, flanked either side by simple columns created by piling slab shaped stones on top of each other. It measured 1.2m high by 1.9m long in total. It did not appear to have been designed as part of a substantial structure, being very unstable and partially collapsing. It abutted wall 212, part of the substantial structure 3, belonging to an earlier phase and described below, which gave it considerable support. It is interesting to note that structure 212 must have been extant at the time wall 211 was constructed, although already surrounded by context 210, which is directly under wall 211.

#### 4.2.4 *Intervening deposits*

Context 210 is another fine, sterile, uniformly light yellow-grey sand interpreted as windblown sand resulting from a hiatus in occupation. Context 210 extended over a 3-4m<sup>2</sup> area of the middle section of the trench. Below

210 was 213 towards the south, and 225 towards the middle. Although 225 had a relationship with 213, (being physically beneath it), it is clearer to split the narrative up into south and middle areas at this stage, re-uniting below.

To the south, context 213 was a collection of mostly large, flat slabs (Plate 13) which seemed to line the base of a small hollow beneath, and adjacent to, the west of wall 211 Structure 1. Although many of the stones were flat, such as would be suitable for paving, they were not positioned carefully, being almost randomly strewn over each other. It is possible that they represent the remains of a rough shelter. Their proximity without interposition to 211 must be coincidental due the intervening sand 210, but the position of both may relate to the earlier but possibly extant wall 212/ Structure 3 (see below). Immediately underneath 213 was context 293, a dark reddy brown, silty peat ash with charcoal, bone, shell and pot, interpreted as midden, which was circa 300mm thick and spread south for 4-5m. This context overlay context 232, a grey brown mid-to-coarse sand, with charcoal flecks, pottery and bone, again interpreted as midden material, both resulting from nearby occupation. Context 232 was later found to be the same as context 225, which extended over the middle part of the trench, and underlay 213 to the south. Context 225=232 also overlay the earlier structure 4, see below.

#### 4.2.5 *Structure 2*

At the north end of the trench, wall 212/ Structure 3 relates to another building, which is similarly later than it but earlier than 211/ Structure 1. Structure 2 comprises walls 220, 221 and 222 and deposit 206.

Wall 220 is a small 1.2m section of wall running almost at right angles to a 2.3m length of straight wall which branches off wall 212/ Structure 3 on the north side. At first both appeared to be part of the same structure, both similarly formed from horizontally-laid, large, slab shaped stones, with no mortar or matrix. They formed the corner of a sub-rectangular room circa 2m by 2m. One side remained unexcavated; the other was formed by wall 221, described below. It is thought that this area functioned as a room within a larger structure, although wall 220 was added to 212 after a series of other deposits and was in fact contemporary with 221 and 222, further north. All these walls (220, 221, 222) appear to have been added to the pre-existing and extant wall 212/ Structure 3, reconfiguring it into a new structure, Structure 2. This structure comprised not only the sub-rectangular room described above, but also a further large circular room formed by another wall, 222.

The uppermost context within the sub rectangular room was context 206, a fine, greyish brown sand, containing bone, pottery, shell and charcoal, and in one quite distinct area a concentration of disarticulated bone, thought to be sheep/goat, and a beautifully polished bone bead, SF 113. There was no cut around this concentration of bone, however, and this material was instead interpreted as part of the wider context (photos 36, 37, 38). Once this was ascertained, the rest of the context was excavated using the grid system described above. The context has been interpreted as post-occupation, being uncompacted, and with unrolled pottery. It abutted an area enclosed by the aforementioned 220 to the west and wall 221 to the north, and ran under the eastern baulk. The walls 220 and 221 were separated by a 0.5m gap which

looked very like an entrance. Wall 220 terminated on the south side of this putative entrance with a 'cheek-end' termination, a common technique for finishing a wall (Neil McCodrum, local stone mason, *pers comm*). This involves two parallel stones having a large stone placed perpendicularly over their ends as the next course, followed by another two parallel stones and so on. Wall 221 was aligned roughly east-west, was c. 3m long and 4 or 5 courses high. It was of similar construction style to 220, and curved gently to, disappear into the eastern trench edge. Its termination at the entrance was very different, having a 400mm wide orthostat (full width of wall) as first course- similar to the northern termination of the cell entrance in 212. Wall 221 was found to be built as one with another wall (222) to the north, (Neil McCodrum, *pers comm*). This wall, remaining to c. 4.4m long, was aligned roughly north-south, adjoining 221 at a right angle. It had an even more pronounced curve, looking like a fragment of a complete circle. If complete, the diameter of this would have been over 5m. Just north of the meeting with 221, wall 222 incorporated two large (1.2m x 1.2m) sub-hexagonal shaped slabs, which could possibly have been rotary quern rough outs (another fragment of rotary quern (SF 142) was found within Structure 4). Overall wall 222 had many large blocks just above the basal course, and badly fitting horizontal courses over these. There were also many voids within the wall.

Walls 222=221 and wall 220 were all underneath 206. Context 207 was stratigraphically under all these walls, although was also directly under 206. This seems strange; as if this was a room then the floor or occupation deposit is missing. Immediately under 206 was context 207, a reddy brown, peat ash rich silty sand, containing similar kinds of inclusions as 206, but with more charcoal. It continued under the walls.

Within the corner formed by 222 and 221, a line of orthostatic stones defined a quarter-circle in plan (223). Wall 223 turned out to belong to an even earlier phase (Structure 5) and is discussed below. Some tumbled stones (224) lay around the orthostats. To the north of this, 209, (photos 44, 45) a moderately compacted mid brown clayey sand with peat ash, within the arc of 222, was clearly full of pottery and bone upon clean back. Context 209 was excavated by local volunteers using a grid system, as described in 3.5 above. There were many finds, including a piece of whalebone (SF 103) and pottery (SF 147), but most finds were bagged in bulk by grid square rather than given full three dimensional coordinates. It was clear that context 209 was the result of some form of occupation, but again was only moderately compact. Also, it ran underneath the walls 221 and 222. When fully investigated, it became clear that 209 was actually the same context as 207, found beneath walls 220 and 221. Therefore 207=209 was deposited during an earlier phase of occupation. Walls 220, 221, 222 were placed upon it, and then 206 was deposited within 220 and 221. The lack of obvious floor layers will be discussed below.

Context 209=207 reunites the sequences in the northern area. This context also had a relationship with 234, from the southern and middle sections of trench described above, as it overlies 234 at its southern extreme.

#### 4.2.6 *Structure 3*

This structure comprises wall 212 and context 280, and formed the basis of Structures 1 and 2. To describe its position in the stratigraphy, we need to return to the intervening layers under Structure 1, above. Context 225=232 spread from just under 213 in the south over to the base of a small, (probably) originally corbelled cell (see context 212, below) and also the area outside of it, being eroded by the beach profile within a metre of the entrance. Context 226, immediately underneath and in a similar position, was a mottled light grey and brown silty sand, with the same inclusions. Under 226 was paved floor of the cell, 280, consisting of tightly packed slabby stones of up to 0.30m in any one dimension, and containing a hammer stone (SF. 138) within it. This floor was laid within the pre-existing cell type structure, 212. This was a sub-circular room of c. 1m x 1.5m in plan, c. 1.2m high, with a distinct entranceway formed by two large terminations. It was built in an unusual fashion in which it is difficult to discern distinct courses. The cell's northern-most wall seems to be mainly straight northeast-southwest, only then cornering to create the sub-circular plan. The stonework around the east and south sides of the cell is particularly irregular, but solid. These walls become more regular at their apex, where 2-3 courses can be made out, and these begin to corbel inwards. The southern termination is substantial with six similarly sized horizontal courses of stone. The northern termination is also solid and strong, and survives to three courses, which is nevertheless the same height, the bottom stone being 0.6m tall, the others being c. 300mm each.

A small, 0.40m x 0.13m, steep sided, round bottomed pit (cut 243) was found in the middle of the cells entrance (Plate 14), cut into 234, described below, and under 280. It was filled with 242, a dark grey-brown sand with light grey lenses, containing limpet and winkle shell, bone and pottery, as well as a hammer-stone (SF 117). Technically it is possible that this pit existed before either the cell 212 or the floor 280, but its position in the centre of the entrance, as well as a general lack of other pits cut into 234, suggest that it was related to this phase of construction.

To the north of this, a straight section of wall extends out from 212 towards the NNW for c. 2m, and is gradually depleted as it goes from five courses down to two (c. 0.90m to 0.30m as it extends down the beach). Although not immediately obvious, consultation with local stonemason Neil McCodrum confirmed that this wall was built as one with 212. This eventually concurred with the stratigraphic evidence, as both walls, as well as floor 280, has been placed directly on top of context 234, into which pit 243 (described above) was cut.

Context 234, an important context in the overall interpretation and stratigraphy of the site, was a red-brown, medium-grained sand containing pottery, bone, charcoal and shell. This context was up to 0.6m thick and covered the entire southern half of the trench. It was found to be the same as context 202, which was interpreted as a midden, although there was a higher concentration of bone, charcoal and shell towards the area termed 202, at the extreme south end of the trench. Supporting evidence for this interpretation came from a small sondage excavated near 212, in which a large part of a pot

was found, SF 116, which the context had clearly been deposited around and eventually over, as lenses of windblown sand were interrupted by it.

#### 4.2.7 *Kerbs – Structures 3a and 3b*

Two single lines of stones, set on edge as a possible kerb, had been laid out immediately west of Structure 3 (wall 212), abutting that structure and perpendicular to the axis formed by it, one either side of the cell entrance.

The kerb on the southern side of the cells entrance (277, Structure 3a), appears only to rest on top of context 234, as did 212 and 280. The kerb was 100-150mm wide and 2.06m long. A small 400mm diameter sub circular area of flat stones, 294, which could be the remains of more widespread paving, was found at the west end of kerb 277, also resting upon 234. If this had originally covered the area in front (east) of 212 then there may have been no need to cut 3a into the underlying context to hold it in place. This structure was found to abut a further structure, cut into 234, (Structure 4), as if disabling any further use of it.

The northern kerb, Structure 3b (278), was 200-300mm wide by 2.4m long, and appears to have been built as one with a substantial stone lined posthole, 274, although neither were excavated. Posthole 274 was made from vertical slabs set down into the sand, creating a rectangular slot 300 x 200mm in plan and 350mm deep, terminating in a sloping slab. This context, 274, contained wind blown sand and unusual looking tubular shells, SF148. The kerb (278) and posthole (274) seemed to both fill one cut, context 287, a linear trench 300-400mm deep, 600mm wide. This was unexcavated but was seen in plan and viewed in section at its western extremity due to truncation by the beach.

The proximity with wall 212 and overall cohesive design would suggest that all these structures, (3, 3a and 3b) were built in the same phase of occupation, although the substantial wall 212 would seem more sensibly built first, with the kerbs added later. Also, although one kerb is cut into 234 and the other laid over it, their symmetry in relation to structure 2/ wall 212 would suggest they were both constructed around the same time, as part of the same design.

#### 4.2.8 *Contemporary Deposits*

At the extreme south of the trench, 200 was removed to uncover 201, 284 and 205, all of which overlay context 234=202. Context 201 was a thin (30mm maximum) dark brown sub-circular shaped layer of peat, 2.3m by 1.2m in plan (plate 15). The peat did not appear to have been formed in situ, as it was not stratified, breaking into lumps upon cleaning, and was directly over 284, a fine, light-grey sterile sand interpreted as wind blown sand. Context 205 also overlay 202 in the south eastern corner of the trench, and appeared to have been part of a much more extensive layer, continuing under the east and south trench edges, and truncated to the west by the profile of the beach. It covered an area circa 2.4m by 3m, and was around 100-150mm thick. Although mainly sand, it had a far higher concentration of silt and clay than other deposits on site, was moderately friable in texture and also had a rich, dark reddish-brown colour. It was interpreted as a possible agricultural or plough soil. A sub-rectangular area (c. 1.6m by 0.5m) of concentrated winkle

and cockle shells (203) was surrounded by some stones (204), which were up to 0.20m in size. Excavation showed that 204 was a rough stone wall, 2-3 courses high and constructed before or as 202=234 was deposited.

#### 4.2.9 *Structure 4*

In the south part of the trench, 232=225 was over context 233, a grey-yellow fine sand, with bone and occasional pottery, thought to be windblown. Under this was Structure 4 (Plate 16), comprising wall 244, which together with yellow brown medium grained sand (286) and secondary wall 246 placed within cut 247 (not fully observed). The structure contained a sequence of sterile windblown and organic rich sands, running from 233 at the top; light yellow sand (245); mid-brown sand with yellow lenses (254); darker brown sand (275), and dark brown sand (276) at the bottom. The structure consisted of a small (c. 1.2m diameter) area forming three quarters of a circle enclosed by tightly packed orthostats; with two courses laid horizontally over these. A small 0.5m wide corridor lead out from the area as to form a plan not unlike the shape of a light bulb. This was placed in a specially made cut, 247, only visible at its west extreme. It is proposed that this structure was then modified by the addition of further stones 246, which narrowed the "corridor" into what looks more like a flue, and the partial circle into an almost complete circle. The overall structure looked very similar to a post-medieval corn drying kiln, the only notable difference (other than size and proportion) being that the flue/corridor seemed to slope down into the bowl, although its fill was unexcavated so this may have been a false impression. This structure was cut into context 202, which was found to be the same as context 234.

This context 234=202 is the level that Structures 3b and 4 was cut into and Structures 3 and 3a rested upon. Underneath 234=202 was 292, a fine sterile windblown sand, and 215, a bright orange, red and yellow deposit of almost exclusively peat ash, with some sand and fire cracked cobbles. In a large sondage cut perpendicularly to the slope of the beach, 215 continued horizontally under 292 and 202=234 to a depth of over 1m before disappearing into the baulk. Under 215, and the lowest recorded deposit at the south end of the trench, is a fine, light yellow sterile sand (290).

#### 4.2.10 *Structure 5*

Returning to the northern area, 209=207 overlies wall 223 (Plate 17), one or two horizontal courses of stone, c. 0.80m long and 0.30m wide, which seems to be purposefully added to two orthostatic stones (fills 241, 256 and cuts 240, 255 respectively) in order to create Structure 5, a wall whose shape in plan is a quarter circle which sits in the corner of 221 and 222. Wall 223 rests upon context 235, allowing 207=209 to build up around it, whilst the two orthostats cut through 235. As in Structure 3, 3a and 3b, it seems as though these elements were part of one design even though stratigraphically separated. It seems probable that the orthostats were present first however, and the horizontal courses added later.

#### 4.2.11 *Intervening activity - pits and postholes*

Context 235 was a loosely compact, light grey coarse sand, with almost no inclusions, and few finds. It covered c. 6m<sup>2</sup> area at the north end of the trench and was truncated on its western side by the profile of the beach. Underneath 235 was 236, a mid-brown silty sand. It was of similar dimensions to 235 and was mostly restricted to the same area in plan. It also lacked significant inclusions. Under 236 was context 230, a sterile coarse yellowish grey sand with lenses of darker grey and brown. 230 was peppered with pits and postholes, some inter-cutting, although no general pattern could be discerned. The pits were as follows: cut 259, fill 260, contained a hammer stone (SF 144) and an animal burial (thought to be dog) and the possible semi-articulated remains of at least two other animals; cut 252, fill 253, contained disarticulated animal bone of more than one species (thought to be sheep/goat and pig); cut 261 (which was cut by pit 252), a slot-like trench that contained sandy fill (262) and disarticulated animal bone and stones; cut 250, a 300 x 400mm pit, 250mm deep with articulated dog burial 251 (Plate 18). All of the above had steeply sloping sides and rounded bottoms. There were also post-holes, or smaller features with almost vertical sides and rounded or flat bottoms: cut 269, fill 270, a 200mm almost perfectly circular in plan, vertical sided feature; cut 267, fill 268 slightly larger, sub-circular; cut 265, fill 266 – the same but with two packing stones in the fill. A sub-rectangular feature with a flat bottom (263), c. 0.20m by 0.40m, which looked the shape of a half cut timber was filled with 264. Towards the centre of the trench, another larger pit (238) was cut from the same level. It was 1.2m deep and 1.2m in diameter and was steep sided and flat bottomed. It was filled with context 239, a complex rainbow of reds, browns, greys, dark browns and black deposits but was not fully excavated.

Towards the middle of the trench, context 230 was found to be underneath 234 linking the above sequence to the southern half of the trench. This means that the pits and postholes are cut into an earlier layer than deposits that Structures 3 and 3a were built upon and Structures 3b and 4 were cut into, i.e. another phase of occupation. This interpretation could be questionable however, as the pits and postholes could conceivably have been cut from higher up (236 only overlapping the edge of 230), but with the higher layer(s) subsequently lost to erosion.

#### 4.2.12 *Structure 6*

Context 230 remained unexcavated in plan, but even so it was clear that there were a number of stones or groups of stones from earlier structures protruding through it. These may be the remains of more than one structure, but will be grouped together here as Structure 6. The clearest of these was context 295, consisting of two parallel lines of stones at an angle to all other structures, running from the NNW of trench at an acute angle under wall 222. Although unexcavated, the feature looked like a robbed out drain. Close by, wall 222 used two further stones (296) which protrude from beneath 230 as a part of its foundation. Just a few metres away the same thing occurs near the termination of wall 221, with the added possibility that two further stones (299) thought previously to be within 221, rest upon those protruding from

230. There may also be part of Structure 6, having been incorporated into the later structure 2. We can be confident that these underlying stones represent at least one other phase of activity, as the deposits around them are completely intact and untouched by erosion.

#### *4.2.13 Structure 6b*

In a similar way, another group of 3 orthostats (249) south of the above discussion dates from earlier than 230. They form part of a circle, which if complete would be around 1m diameter. Within their arc, a concreted peat ash rich context, 248, remained unexcavated. The northern orthostats was formed by a broken saddle quern (SF 149).

#### *4.2.14 Earliest activity*

The profile of the beach gave the opportunity to examine some of the layers underneath 230. Immediately underneath was 283, a c100mm thick layer of dark brown and grey silty sand, with charcoal and occasional red and yellow peat ash lenses. It remained unexcavated except in section. Under 283 was 215, a bright orange, red and yellow deposit formed almost exclusively of peat ash, with some sand and fire cracked cobbles, described already. This context reunites the sequences in the north, middle and south of the trench, as above 215 we have 292, a fine, light yellow sterile sand and then midden 202=234.

Under 215 was yet another large pit, (cut 288, fill 290), over 2m in length and 1m deep. It had steep sides and a flat bottom, similar to 238, and was filled with deposits of a remarkable array of colour, including a bright pink. The colours and lenses seemed to indicate that the pit had been swept out or blown out towards the south with lenses of colour sloping upwards to this end, and continuing out side the pit in lenses- perhaps even forming 215. The pit was cut into 218, a layer of lighter greyish yellow coloured, fine sand which looked as if it was windblown. Also cut into 218 was small posthole or stakehole (cut 289, fill 291) with vertical sides, 0.50m deep and 0.20m diameter, and sub-pointed bottom; and a 0.80m diameter, round bottomed pit (cut 227, fill 228). Both of these two cuts were also under context 283, above. Context 218 was.

Underneath 218 was a large 2m diameter flat bottomed pit, (cut 216, fill 229), which cut through 217 (Plate 19). 217 was another brightly coloured deposit – a red, yellow and orange peat ash layer, circa 80mm thick and extending almost the full length of the trench, at its lowest, west side, only truncated by the beach profile at the trench's south west corner. Although clearly a cultural deposit, it contained no finds. Multiple lenses of different shades could be made out within this deposit. This was the earliest recorded deposit.

#### *4.2.15 Summary of Excavation Results*

The earliest excavated activity upon site was the extensive layer of pure peat ash, 217, whose extents were not found as they extend beyond edge of the trench, although truncated in its south west corner. A large flat-bottomed pit, 216, cut through 217, but had a sterile sandy fill. A sandy layer 218 overlay

these. It had a large, flat bottomed pit, 288, cut through it, as well as a small 400mm diameter, 300mm deep pit 227.

Over 288 towards the south was 215, a bright orange peat ash with fire cracked stone, which was overlain by light coloured sand 292, then retaining wall 204. Dark sand 283, possibly the same as 292, may draw a line on this activity, as it seems to be windblown, as was 230 over it. However, a group of walls (Structure 6) comprising contexts 295, 296, 299 and 249/248, which protruded through 230. They were not fully uncovered, but may relate to the above activity, as 230 was immediately over 283, and the structure could have predated both.

A hiatus is represented by 283 and 230, after which was another period of activity, with four probable postholes forming no discernible pattern, and four pits, all cut into 230 in a small area to the north of the trench. This included one (238) which is similar in size, shape and colourful fill to pit 288. This may imply the continuity of a certain activity into the succeeding phase. To the north of the trench, these were overlain by 236, another light coloured, windblown sand and 235, a dark sand, into which two orthostatic stones (241, 256) were placed within cuts (240, 255 respectively). Wall 223 was laid on top, abutting the orthostats to form a small quarter circle arc (Structure 5). The wall (223) also rested upon earlier walls 295 and 296 (Structure 6), although on a different alignment, implying that Structure 6 was either extant above windblown sand 230 or excavated down to and used as a foundation at the time of building wall 223. After Structure 5 was constructed, a dark organic and finds rich layer (207=209) was deposited over most of the northern half of the trench.

To the south, a poorly built wall (204) retained a deposit of cockle and winkle shells, which seemed to be present before or during the deposition of 234=202. These were stratigraphically at the same level as 230

To the south, windblown sand (230) was covered by 234=202, representing the start of another important phase of activity. Context 234=202 covered the entire south trench in a thick layer, which stratigraphically could have originated from Structure 5. The poorly built wall 204 seems to have been made as 234=202 was deposited, as it retains a deposit of cockle and winkle shells but has no cut. Context 234=202 had a series of important and well preserved structures either cut into it (Structure 4, 244 and 246; Structure 3b, 287, 278 and 274) or resting upon it (Structure 3, 212 and 280; 3a, 277; and paving 294). Despite the different construction techniques used in these structures, they seem to be part of the same overall design. After these structures had been made, another peat ash and finds rich layer was deposited, 207=209.

Structure 2 (220, 221 and 222) was built directly on top of 207=209, and context 206 built up around them. This possibly represents occupation material, but it is not as compact as a floor may be expected to be. After another hiatus, represented by sterile windblown sands (233, 226), there is possible evidence of re-occupation, with dark sands 232=225 and 292, and a collection of large flat stones (213) deposited south of 212. Another intervening windblown sand (210) formed before, finally, poorly-made

Structure 1 (211) was constructed. This is built up against the earlier Structure 3, which presumably must still have been extant at this time. A deep layer of windblown sand (297) then filled all voids and covered the site.

#### 4.2.16 *Interpretative issues*

The sequence outlined above necessitated a certain amount of interpretation of deposits, some of which might not necessarily be correct. The nature of the site, in an environment subject to constant and powerful environmental forces, has badly damaged the archaeology, with probably every excavated deposit and structure being significantly effected.

One of the foremost issues this causes is that we cannot be sure where the four pits and four postholes (section 4.2.11) were actually cut from. It is quite possible that they were cut from higher up and since truncated by erosion; they could even have been cut from the level of Structure 2. This structure has the potential to have been a Complex Atlantic Round House (CARH).

Another issue arising from the damage to the site is that no clear floor layers were encountered. This could be because their more brittle nature lead to their quick removal by high seas, as would seem likely within 222, which was exposed to the moving beach cobbles, but could equally be due to some other post-depositional process. In the case of 206, it is possible that this context was deposited either during or post-occupation, but if post-occupation, as the author interpreted from its nature upon excavation, then the trampled floor deposit is missing.

Perhaps most frustratingly it may be impossible to piece together the type and form of the original structures present. The cell, Structure 3, seems much like a 'guard room' found near the entrance to many wheelhouses, but the long kerbs stretching out are too long for the width of any known wheel house entrance. Perhaps these kerbs were from a much later remodelling of the building. This leads to an observation which applies to all the deposits and structures within this trench – they represent a complicated sequence of use and re-use, building and re-building, separated by brief interludes when windblown sand was deposited. It seems likely that even during these periods settlement was never far away, as these layers are sandwiched between occupation deposits. Further, every building other than Structure 2 incorporates elements from other earlier buildings, especially interesting when it comes to ill-fitting or very differently designed structures such as Structure 5 and Structure 6b, both of which incorporate curving orthostatic arrangements.

There is the interesting possibility that context 201 (re-deposited peat) had been specifically stored, perhaps for fuel. It had not developed in the position it was located, as it had free-draining, windblown sand immediately underneath it. Its position overlying midden material 202 (described below) and c. 5m away from Structures 1, 3 and 4 would not preclude the possibility, and the general abundance of peat ash shows that people were burning peat. The bright colours of the fill of one of the large, flat-bottomed pits (290) may indicate that the deposits were subjected to high temperatures.

The large amount of peat ash found at this depth suggests that either large peat fires were in use or that they were used over a long period.

Structure 4 was encountered late in the excavation and unfortunately we did not have time to investigate it adequately. The possibility that it could be an early form of corn drying kiln would fit with the large amount of quern stones and grinder stones on site, and the fragment of rotary quern found at the bottom of the structure might hint at this use. Similarly, a slab had obscured the posthole 274 until the last day of excavation. Both these features were carefully backfilled in the hope that elements of them remain for future excavation.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 Trench 1**

The construction of the wheelhouse in Trench 1 began with the digging of a pit into natural sand. The portion of the outer wall of the wheelhouse that was revealed in the excavation formed an arc of an almost perfect circle, with a diameter of 13m (Figure 17). The top of the construction pit was visible to the south of the wheelhouse and survived to its original depth of approximately 1m (Figure 18). The sides of the pit were then lined with rough stones, which were faced with a wall of coursed, dressed blocks. A complete pot was found beneath the short section of walling that was excavated. This provision of such foundation deposits is a common feature of wheelhouse construction (Armit 2006: 198).

The internal diameter of the wheelhouse would have been around 11.5m. This is close to the size of the structure at Solas in North Uist, which is the largest of the Hebridean wheelhouses (Campbell 1991; Armit 1992: 107). In the north-east of the trench, the wall survived to a height of 1.5m above the level of the founding course recorded in the south-west, and showed evidence of having been corbelled inwards. A thin coating of yellowish brown sand was observed on the inner face of the wheelhouse wall. A similar phenomenon has occasionally been noted in other wheelhouses (Armit 2006: 198).

Wheelhouse piers generally taper to particularly narrow bases, sometimes as little as 0.2m across (Armit 2006: 199). It was therefore not possible to trace the lower courses of pier 2 in edge of the sondage excavated through the upper floor layers in cell 2, due to the risk of undermining the standing masonry. As in the majority of wheelhouses, the piers at Sloc Sabhaidh were free-standing, although they would have been bonded to the corbelled outer wall at around head height. In many instances, the space behind the piers was eventually blocked with masonry. This was done at Sloc Sabhaidh, with construction of a cist-like arrangement of stonework behind pier 2. The spacing of the piers within wheelhouses is relatively consistent, due to structural constraints (Armit 1992: 107). Therefore, extrapolating from the two surviving piers in Trench 1, it is likely that the wheelhouse originally had twelve cells.

The earliest floor identified in the wheelhouse was (109), which abutted the lowest course of the inner face of the wall (022). A cleaner layer of sand (105) was laid over this before a further floor layer (104) accumulated. The wheelhouse wall in the south of the trench was then dismantled to its foundations. The piers in this area were also taken down.

A spread of boulders was laid in an arc, just over 2m long, marking the former course of the wheelhouse wall. East of this, the southern edge of the primary construction pit was visible in the west facing section. Masonry (081) was placed in the base of this cut, which had been revealed when the wheelhouse wall (022) and (037) had been taken down. The new stonework (081) was not laid along the course of the original wall, but 0.5m to the north, presumably abutting deposits that had accumulated in the interior of the wheelhouse, and which would have been exposed by the removal of the wall. The resulting trench, which was over a metre deep, was left open, allowing several layers of midden to build up in the bottom. As these layers accumulated, more stones were added to the top of the revetting wall (081).

Inside the wheelhouse, another layer of sand (015) was laid across the floor after the piers in the south had been dismantled. A curved wall (030) was then built 1.5m inside the original wall. The western end of this new length of walling could not have been weight bearing. To the east, however, the new wall was formed of substantial slabs. Nevertheless, this part of the wall did not appear to be of solid construction, with overhanging slabs protruding into the interior of the wheelhouse.

No further floor layers accumulated in the space between the wheelhouse wall and the new inner wall, and this area was covered by a mass of masonry (021). This stonework may have formed a low wall that subsequently slumped to the north. However, it was overlain by a thick layer of midden, and, with no evidence for a solid foundation, it is possible that it did not originally form a standing wall but had been placed against the outside of the new wall (030) to provide additional structural support.

Occupation of the wheelhouse continued after the modifications to the southern part of the structure, with floor layers overlying the lowest visible course of the new wall. In the northern half of the wheelhouse, where the piers and cells remained unaltered, the uppermost floor layers (088) and (017) accumulated after at least one of the piers in the south-west had been removed. The dished surface of the floor (017) suggests that the cells in the north of the wheelhouse were still in regular use after the layout of the interior in the south had been transformed. The pier that would have provided the southern boundary of cell 2 may have been standing at this point.

Deep accumulations of clean windblown sand sealed the uppermost floor within the wheelhouse, filling the interior of the structure. A series of pits were then dug through this sterile sand, penetrating the stratified deposits below. It is not possible to determine whether this occurred shortly after abandonment, or more recently. This disturbance is unlikely to be the result of stone robbing, as the pits were excavated to a considerable depth through clean windblown sand. However, it is possible that this final phase of

activity in the wheelhouse was prompted by intellectual, rather than material, concerns. Whilst there are no records of early excavations on Baile Sear, several antiquarians are known to have been active in the Western Isles during the nineteenth century (Armit 1996: 6-8).

## 5.2 Trench 2

The excavation within Trench 2 has helped ascertain the limits and nature of the archaeology being lost from the southern end of the mound, from the head of the beach down to the high water mark. Although little remained of the structures, making their nature and use difficult to interpret, a complex sequence of pre-historic occupation has been outlined in the trench, which should provide enough information to date the site and help design future excavation strategies.

Carbon dating should be considered, and could potentially provide a date range between the earliest excavated feature (pit 216, cut into peat ash 217), and the latest dateable context (232=225). It would also then be possible to ascertain dates for the main occupation deposits in between structures, i.e. 207=209 and 234=202, and the pits cut into 230 and 218.

Environmental evidence from these samples, as well as specialist reports on the bone, pottery and other finds would undoubtedly give a lot of further evidence to aid interpretation.

However, if a degree of speculation be allowed, early indications would suggest a mixed agriculture. Evidence of arable/cereal production is given in the form of abundant hammer and grinder stones, saddle querns and a fragment of rotary quern, and possible drying structure. Livestock husbandry is possibly indicated by the proliferation of sheep/goat and pig bone, and arguably by the dog burials, which could also perhaps imply that dogs were valued members of the community. However, whalebone, seal jaws and fish bones were also found, indicating that hunting and fishing was taking place, and the abundant winkle and limpet shells would further suggest exploitation of the marine environment. The sands found interspersed throughout the archaeological deposits would strongly imply that the site was already within a machair type environment, or at least all occupation post- the 217, peat ash layer, the lowest excavated context. However the substantial dry stone structures, including the small cell, and the pottery, would suggest an Iron Age or late pre-historic date for these buildings.

## 5.3 Site

Finds from this season's excavation at Sloc Sabhaidh show that a range of activities were undertaken on the site. A single spindle whorl was the only evidence for textile production. Antler, animal bone and whale bone were worked within the wheelhouse in Trench 1. A copper alloy ring demonstrates that metal was available, although there was no evidence for metal working directly associated with the structures.

Trenches 1 and 2 also produced a number of finds that are chronologically diagnostic. Both saddle and rotary querns were recovered, suggesting that

the site was likely to have been occupied during the period when rotary querns were adopted across Atlantic Scotland (Caulfield 1978). Radiocarbon dates indicate that this transition occurred around 200 BC (Armit 1991: 190-2). The pottery assemblage contained sherds with a range of designs and decorative techniques, which are comparable to the pottery from wheelhouses at Cnip (MacSween 2006). This site has provided the only sequence of radiocarbon dates for the construction and primary occupation of a wheelhouse in the Western Isles, suggesting that the settlement was established around the third century BC and occupied into the third century AD. However, the excavator expressed some reservations about the reliability of earliest dates from Cnip, and further research into the origins of wheelhouses is needed in order to clarify the chronology of this important archaeological development (Armit 2006: 221-3).

At Sloc Sabhaidh, the structural modification of the wheelhouse in Trench 1, and the superimposed structures found in Trench 2, suggest that the settlement was in use for an extended period. It was not possible to establish a stratigraphic relationship between the remains in the two trenches, and it is not clear whether the buildings were occupied at the same time. A number of sites in the Western Isles consist of complexes of wheelhouses, although Armit (2006: 228) notes that in the majority of cases these represent the 'periodic replacement' of one structure by another, rather than contemporary occupation. Nevertheless, the architectural sophistication and scale of the buildings at Sloc Sabhaidh indicates that the settlement was of some significance. Ceardach Ruadh, just a kilometre to the north, also contains the remains of substantial Iron Age structures. The proximity of these two extensive sites demonstrates that this area of North Uist supported a thriving community at the end of the first millennium BC.

#### **5.4 Community Participation and Education**

The excavations at Sloc Sabhaidh generated a great deal of public interest, and was featured in the national press and television news, raising awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage of North Uist. The accessibility of the site, which is on a beach that is popular with both locals and tourists, also enhanced the profile of the fieldwork. Site tours were provided for visitors, some of whom returned to follow the progress of the excavation, or to participate in the work alongside the regular volunteers from the Access Archaeology group.

Over the course of three weeks, twenty two volunteers contributed their time to the excavation. A number of these had participated in the 2006 season of excavation at Sloc Sabhaidh and were able to build on their existing skills and experience, demonstrating both enthusiasm for the work and an increasing proficiency in various aspects of archaeological practice. These skills will enable the Access Archaeology group to contribute to future programmes of archaeological investigation and recording of eroding sites.

Children were actively encouraged to take part in the excavations, and a number of families welcomed the opportunity to work together in the trenches. Visits were also arranged for children from Carinish and Paible

Schools, as part of the Curriculum for Excellence that is currently being implemented. The classes were given a tour of the site, which included the opportunity to examine finds and discuss how artefacts can be used to understand life in Iron Age Uist. Some of the children remained on site to participate in the excavation, receiving instruction in trowelling techniques and learning how to record the finds that they recovered.

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Excavations at Sloc Sabhaidh in 2007 revealed well-stratified deposits and complex structural remains dating to the Iron Age. A substantial portion of the settlement is currently preserved within the mound, although this is subject to severe erosion. Further targeted excavation of the surviving remains is recommended, based on the results of the 2007 season. In particular, the site has the potential to significantly contribute to our understanding of the chronology of wheelhouse settlements in the Western Isles through a programme of radiocarbon dating.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Trench 1

#### 9.1.1 List of Contexts (Trench 1)

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
001	Mid brownish grey mottled sand	Backfill of pit [025]
002	White sand with fine black striations	Windblown sand
003	Dark yellowish brown sand with charcoal	Floor layer
004	Light greyish yellow mottled sand	Backfill of pit [012]
005	Light greyish brown mottled sand with flecks and mottles	Backfill of pit [034]
006	Dark brownish grey sand	Occupation deposit or backfill
007	White sand with fine black striations	Windblown sand
008	Mid brownish grey mottled sand	Backfill of pit [052]
009	Dark brown sand with charcoal	Occupation deposit
010	White sand with fine black striations	Windblown sand
011	Light greyish brown sand	Occupation deposit
012	V-shaped cut	Pit cut before 2 <sup>nd</sup> wheelhouse floor
013	Dark brownish grey sand with charcoal	Covering sides of pier 1
014	Mid greyish brown sand	Deposit formed over wall tumble
015	Mid yellowish grey sand	Clean sand between floors
016	Thin layer of stiff dark brownish grey sand	Covering sides of pier 2
017	Stiff dark brown sand with ash lenses	Final floor in north of wheelhouse
018	Firm dark brown sand	Final floor in center of wheelhouse
019	Firm greyish sand	Deposit overlying wheelhouse wall
020	Scallop shell with pot and bone	Special deposit

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
021	Tumbled stonework over south wall of wheelhouse	Possibly late revetment wall
022	Corbelled wall of dressed blocks	Inner skin of wheelhouse wall
023	Wall of uncoursed cobbles	Outer skin of wheelhouse wall in north
024	Firm brownish orange sand with charcoal	Midden abutting outside of wheelhouse
025	Steep-sided cut	Pit dug after wheelhouse abandoned
026	Short length of coursed walling	Pier 1
027	Firm mid reddish brown sand with charcoal	Midden deposit to north of wheelhouse
028	Dark brown silty sand	Late floor layer
029	Firm dark greyish brown sand with peat ash	Late floor layer
030	Wall of large slabs and irregular boulders	Secondary wall inside wheelhouse
031	Spread of tumbled flat stones	Possibly base of pier
032	Dark greyish brown sand	Midden to south of wheelhouse
033	Light greyish brown mottled sand	Backfill of pit [025]
034	Light grey mottled sand	Backfill of pit [044]
035	Firm mid yellowish brown sand	Lower fill of wall (030)
036	Firm mid yellowish brown sand	Upper fill of wall (030)
037	Wall of uncoursed cobbles	Outer skin of wheelhouse wall in south
038	Shallow linear cut in floor	Cut for kerb of cell 2
039	Shallow linear cut in floor	Cut for kerb of cell 2
040	Shallow linear cut in floor	Cut for kerb of cell 2
041	Dark brown sand with peat ash and charcoal	Midden deposit
042	Dark yellowish brown sand on rear wall in cell 1	Coating of inner face of wheelhouse wall
043	Large deposit of pottery and unworked animal bone within rear wall of cell 1	Special deposit, placed during construction of wheelhouse
044	Irregular, v-shaped cut	Pit dug after wheelhouse abandoned

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
045	Light greyish brown sand	Backfill of pit [046]
046	Round bottomed pit with vertical sides	Pit dug after wheelhouse abandoned
047	Dark greyish brown sand	Late occupation deposit
048	Light grey sand	Late occupation deposit
049	Mid greyish brown sand	Late occupation deposit
050	Firm mid yellowish brown sand	Late occupation deposit
051	Extensive irregular cut across wheelhouse floor	Post-abandonment disturbance
052	Straight-sided cut	Post-abandonment disturbance
053	Stiff dark brownish orange sandy silt with charcoal	Ashy deposit from hearth
054	Narrow upright slab	Kerb of cell 1
055	Short length of coursed walling	Pier 2
056	Cist-like arrangement of stones	Blocking behind pier 2
057	Light yellow mottled sand	Backfill of pit [052]
058	Mid yellow mottled sand	Backfill of pit [052]
059	Not recorded	-
060	Thin layer of light grey sand	Lens of windblown sand
061	Elongated shallow cut	Post-abandonment disturbance
062	Mid reddish brown sand	Midden deposit to north of wheelhouse
063	Row of flat slabs	Kerb of cell 2
064	Dark greyish brown sand	Late occupation deposit
065	Vertical cut	Truncated deposit filling wall (030)
066	Collapsed pot and associated material	Special deposit beside wheelhouse wall
067	Dark greyish brown sand with charcoal	Midden deposit to north of wheelhouse
068	Firm dark reddish brown sand with ash and charcoal	Midden deposit to south of wheelhouse
069	Deep linear cut	Construction trench for wheelhouse in south
070	Mid greyish brown sand	Midden deposit to north of wheelhouse

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
071	Firm dark brown sand with charcoal	Midden deposit to south of wheelhouse
072	Stiff dark brownish black sandy clay with charcoal	Midden deposit to south of wheelhouse
073	Firm light grey sand	Midden deposit to south of wheelhouse
074	Light greyish brown sand	Midden deposit in south wall of wheelhouse
075	Concave cut	Rebuilding of south wall of wheelhouse
076	Light greyish brown sand	Fill of [075]
077	Dark brown sand	Fill of [075]
078	Yellow sand	Midden deposit to south of wheelhouse
079	Mid greyish brown sand with ash and charcoal	Midden deposit to south of wheelhouse
080	Dark brownish black silty sand	Ashy hearth deposit
081	Irregular masonry	Lowest course of revetting wall to south of wheelhouse
082	Irregular masonry	Addition to revetting wall to south of wheelhouse
083	Irregular masonry	Addition to revetting wall to south of wheelhouse
084	Light brownish yellow sand	Filling interstices of masonry of pier 1
085	Light brown mottled sand	Backfill of pit [089]
086	Firm dark reddish brown sand with brown lenses	Midden deposit abutting wheelhouse wall in north
087	Light yellow mottled sand	Backfill of [089]
088	Firm mid brown sand	Floor layer
089	Rectangular pit	Post-abandonment disturbance
090	Linear arrangement of stones	Base of truncated pier
091	Arc of small boulders	Marks course of dismantled wheelhouse wall
092	Line of elongated slabs	Marks inner face of dismantled wheelhouse wall
093	Stack of flat slabs	Tumbled masonry

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
094	Truncated surface of (090)	Dismantling of pier
095	Elongated slab	Kerb across front of cell 1
096	Mid brownish grey sand	Filled cist-like feature (056)
097	Vertical cut	Cut into midden deposits north of wheelhouse
098	Firm dark reddish brown sand with charcoal	Lower fill of [097]
099	Firm light greyish brown mottles sand	Upper fill of [097]
100	Not recorded	
101	Mid greyish brown sand	Filling interstices of masonry curved wall (030)
102	Mid greyish brown sand with charcoal	Thin layer between walls (030) and (022)
103	Mid yellow sand	Layer of clean sand between walls (030) and (022)
104	Firm dark brown sandy clay with charcoal	Floor layer
105	Mid yellow sand	Clean layer of sand between floors
106	Yellowish grey fine sand	Deposit laid beneath masonry (091)
107	Complete pot deposited beneath wheelhouse wall in south	Foundation deposit
108	Truncated surface of (090)	Dismantling of pier
109	Firm mid brown sand	Floor layer
110	Light yellow sand	Fill of construction cut [114]
111	V-shaped cut	Pit dug before floor (104) accumulated
112	Yellow mottled sand	Backfill of [111]
113	Large flat slab	Possibly bottom course of wall (030)
114	South side of deep cut	Construction trench for wheelhouse wall
115	Truncated surface of (022) and (037)	Dismantling of wheelhouse wall

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
116	Firm dark brown sand with charcoal and ash	Floor layer
117	Light brownish grey sand	Midden deposit to north of wheelhouse
118	Dark yellowish brown sand	Midden deposit to north of wheelhouse
119	Dark reddish brown silty sand with charcoal	Midden deposit to north of wheelhouse
120	Mid greyish brown sand	Midden deposit to north of wheelhouse

### 9.1.2 List of Finds (Trench 1)

<u>Find</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
001	Tr. 2 unstratified	Anvil / pivot stone
002	Tr. 2 unstratified	Hammer-stone / pot boiler
003	Tr. 2 unstratified	Undecorated body sherds
004	Tr. 2 unstratified	Flint
005	Tr. 2 unstratified	Worked bone
006	Tr. 2 unstratified	Copper sheet
007	Tr. 2 unstratified	Ironwork
008	Tr. 2 unstratified	Toggle
009	Tr. 2 unstratified	Decorated body and rim sherds
010	Tr. 2 unstratified	Unworked animal bone (2 bags)
011	Tr. 2 unstratified	Worked antler
012	Tr. 2 unstratified	Worked whale bone
013	Tr. 2 unstratified	Boar's tusk
014	Tr. 2 unstratified	Unworked animal bone
015	Tr. 1 unstratified	Worked antler
016	Tr. 1 unstratified	Undecorated body sherds
017	Tr. 1 unstratified	Unworked animal bone (4 bags)
018	Tr. 1 unstratified	Flint
019	014	Decorated sherds (probably from same vessel)

<i>Find</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
020	013	Whale bone
021	Tr. 1 unstratified	Sherds (2 bags)
022	001	Undecorated body sherds
023	012	Undecorated body sherds
024	020	Sherds (with scallop shell and animal bone)
025	006	Undecorated body sherds
026	015	Undecorated body sherds
027	017	Undecorated body sherds
028	017	Undecorated body sherds
029	018	Undecorated body sherds
030	019	Undecorated body sherds
031	017	Miniature bone 'arrow'
032	017	Rim & body sherds
033	017	Rim sherd
034	017	Decorated body sherd
035	Unstratified	Pounder / grinder
036	Tr. 1 unstratified	Pumice
037	Tr. 1 unstratified	Worked antler
038	Tr. 1 unstratified	Fire cracked cobbles
039	Tr. 2 unstratified	Quartz polisher
040	Tr. 1 unstratified	Fragment of rotary quern
041	006	Unworked animal bone
042	017	Unworked animal bone
043	Tr. 1 unstratified	Worked antler
044	Tr. 1 unstratified	Unworked animal bone
045	Tr. 1 unstratified	Sherds
046	019	Unworked animal bone
047	017	Unworked animal bone
048	Tr. 1 unstratified	Sherds
049	001	Unworked animal bone
050	015	Unworked animal bone
051	017	Unworked animal bone
052	017	Rim sherd (find spot not recorded)

<i>Find</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
053	018	Unworked animal bone
054	012	Unworked animal bone
055	017	Undecorated body sherds
056	003	Undecorated body sherds
057	029	Unworked animal bone
058	001	Undecorated body sherds
059	028	Undecorated body sherds
060	Tr. 1 unstratified	Plain bone pin
061	032	Undecorated body sherds
062	014	Burnt bone
063	043	Rim sherd
064	043	Unworked animal bone
065	033	Undecorated body sherds
066	033	Unworked animal bone
067	011	Unworked animal bone
068	006	Undecorated body sherds
069	006	Unworked animal bone
070	006	Worked bone
071	034	Undecorated body sherds (& 1 decorated)
072	041	Antler, possibly worked
073	014	Possible faience
074	014	Decorated body sherds
075	014	Unworked animal bone (& pumice, coprolite)
076	017	Undecorated body sherds
077	051	Unworked animal bone
078	021	Fragment of saddle quern. Incorporated into masonry of tumbled wall
079	037	Fire cracked cobble. Incorporated into masonry of outer skin of wheelhouse wall in south
080	041	Unworked animal bone
081	041	Small concentration of pot sherds
082	032	Unworked animal bone and possible hammer-stone
083	059	Unworked animal bone (including burnt bone)
084	059	Fragments of charcoal

<i>Find</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
085	059	Undecorated body sherd
086	060	Undecorated body sherd
087	053	Undecorated body sherds
088	033	Unworked animal bone (& worked)
089	033	Undecorated body sherds
090	032	Rim sherd
091	032	Undecorated body sherd
092	032	Unworked animal bone
093	018	Worked bone
094	018	Undecorated body sherds (& 1 decorated sherd)
095	018	Unworked animal bone (& worked)
096	018	Undecorated body sherds
097	018	Unworked animal bone
098		
099		
100		
101		
102		
103		
104		
105		
106		
107		
108		
109		
110		
111		
112		
113		
114		
115		
116		
117		

<i>Find</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
118	066	Collapsed pot & associated material
119	051	Base & body sherd
120	015	Worked bone
121	041	Undecorated body sherds
122	041	Unworked animal bone (& decorated sherd)
123	067	Unworked animal bone
124	067	Unworked animal bone
125	053	Unworked animal bone
126	053	Possible artefact, unknown material
127	018	Unworked animal bone
128	085	Bronze ring
129	071	Rim sherd
130	074	Unworked animal bone
131	041	Unworked animal bone (rim sherd)
132	041	Undecorated body sherds
133	071	Unworked animal bone
134	Tr. 1 unstratified	Decorated sherd
135	027	Burnt bone
136	027	Undecorated body sherds
137	027	Unworked animal bone
138		
139		
140		
141		
142		
143		
144		
145		
146		
147		
148		
149		
150		

<i>Find</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
151		
152		
153		
154		
155		
156		
157		
158	Tr. 1 unstratified	Undecorated body sherds
159	Tr. 1 unstratified	Unworked animal bone
160	085	Undecorated body sherds
161	085	Undecorated body sherds
162	088	Undecorated body sherds (& rim)
163	087	Undecorated body sherds
164	087	Decorated sherd
165	087	Decorated sherd
166	Tr. 1 unstratified	Large body sherd
167	042	Undecorated body sherds
168	042	Undecorated body sherds
169	096	Unworked animal bone
170	096	Undecorated body sherds
171	017	Unworked animal bone
172	017	Undecorated body sherds
173	017	Quartz flake
174	074	Unworked animal bone
175	074	Undecorated body sherds
176	100	Unworked animal bone
177	100	Undecorated body sherds
178	017	Pumice
179	017	Rim/base sherd
180	101	Decorated pot
181	103	Base sherd
182	107	Rim sherd
183	017	Unworked animal bone

<u>Find</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
184	017	Undecorated body sherds (& rim)
185	104	Worked bone
186	105	Decorated sherd
187	104	Unworked animal bone
188	102	Undecorated body sherds
189	102	Unknown material. Has appearance of graphite
190	102	Unworked animal bone
191	104	Undecorated body sherds (& decorated)
192	101	Unworked animal bone
193	101	Undecorated body sherds
194	103	Undecorated body sherds
195	015	Charred whale bone
196	022	Coarse stone tool
197	110	Spindle whorl, make from pot sherd
198	107	Collapsed pot (& other decorated sherds)
199	027	Burnt pumice
200	027	Undecorated body sherds
201	027	Fire cracked cobbles
202	027	Unworked animal bone
203	027	Burnt bone
204	088	Coarse stone tool
205	017	Coarse stone tools
206	088	Decorated sherds
207	088	Unworked animal bone

### 9.1.3 *List of Drawings (Trench 1)*

<u>Drawing</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Scale</u>
1	West facing section of eroding midden to north of wheelhouse exterior	1:10
2	West facing section of eroding midden to north wall of wheelhouse exterior	1:10
3	Plan of southern area of wheelhouse	1:20
4	Plan of northern area of wheelhouse	1:20

<u>Drawing</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Scale</u>
5	Plan of midden deposits to north of wheelhouse exterior	1:20
6	Plan of central area of wheelhouse	1:20
7	West facing section through northern area of wheelhouse	1:10
8	West facing section through southern area of wheelhouse	1:10
9	Plan of midden deposits to south of wheelhouse exterior	1:20
10	Section of [039] in cell 2	1:10
11	Plan of deposits in cell 1	1:20
12	South facing elevation of wheelhouse wall (022), cell 1	1:10
13	Plan of cuts [025] and [044] in central area of wheelhouse	1:20
14	West facing section of cuts [025] and [044] in central area of wheelhouse	1:10
15	North-east facing elevation of pier 2 (055)	1:10
16	Not used	
17	Plan of lower walling in south-east of wheelhouse	1:20
18	West facing section of masonry (081), (082) and (082), cut [069] and midden deposits to south of wheelhouse	1:10
19	Plan of (102) and (103) between wall (092) and (030) in southern area of wheelhouse.	1:20
20	West facing section of [089]	1:10
21	Plan of (080)	1:20
22	North-west facing section through wheelhouse wall	1:10
23	West facing section through floors (017) and (088) in cell 1	1:10

#### 9.1.4 List of Samples (Trench 1)

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Context</u>
1	Fill behind special deposit of scallop shell with pottery and bone	(020)
2	Ashy deposit	(053)

#### 9.1.5 List of Photographs (Trench 1)

<u>Photograph</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>Contexts</u>
K.01	Site	Pre-excavation	East	

<u>Photograph</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>Contexts</u>
K.02	Site	Pre-excavation	South-east	
K.03	Site	Pre-excavation	South-east	
K.04	Site	Pre-excavation, northern end of site	North-east	
K.05	1	Pre-excavation	East	
K.06	1	Pre-excavation	South-east	
K.07	1	Pre-excavation	East	
K.08	2	Working shot, clearing cobbles	West	
K.09	2	Working shot, clearing cobbles	North-west	
K.10	2	Working shot, clearing cobbles	North-west	
K.11	2	Working shot, clearing cobbles	North-east	
K.12	Site	Working shot, after machining	South	
K.13	1	Working shot, after machining	South	
K.14	1	Eroded west-facing section, before cleaning	East	
K.15	2	Working shot, young volunteers	West	
K.16	2	Working shot, trowelling	South-west	
K.17	2	Working shot, trowelling	North-east	
K.18	1	Outer skin of wheelhouse wall (north), after clean back	East	(023)
K.19	1	Outer skin of wheelhouse wall (north), after clean back	East	(023)
K.20	1	Interior of wheelhouse (north), after clean back	North-east	
K.21	1	Interior of wheelhouse (centre), after clean back	East	
K.22	1	Interior of wheelhouse (south), after clean back	South-east	
K.23	1	Wheelhouse wall (south), after clean back	East	(022), (023)
K.24	1	Wheelhouse, cell 1	North-west	(017)
K.25	1	X		
K.26	1	Wheelhouse, pier 1	North-east	(026)
K.27	1	Wheelhouse, cell 1	North	
K.28	1	West-facing section through wheelhouse, southern area	East	

<u>Photograph</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>Contexts</u>
K.29	1	Wheelhouse interior (southern area)	South	
K.30	1	Wheelhouse interior (northern area)	North	
K.31	1	Wheelhouse, cell 2	North	
K.32	1	Wheelhouse, pier 2	South-west	(055)
K.33	1	Wheelhouse	South-west	
K.34	1	Wheelhouse interior (central area)	West	
K.35	1	Wheelhouse	North-west	
K.36	2	Working shot, trowelling	North-east	
K.37	2	Working shot, trowelling	North-west	
K.38	1	Wheelhouse wall tumble, before excavation	North-west	(021)
K.39	1	Wheelhouse wall tumble, before excavation	North-west	(021)
K.40	1	Wheelhouse wall tumble, before excavation	East	(021)
K.41	1	Wheelhouse wall tumble, before excavation	East	(021)
K.42	1	Wheelhouse wall tumble, before excavation	South	(021)
K.43	1	Wheelhouse wall (north): outer skin and inner facing	North-east	(022), (023)
K.44	1	Wheelhouse wall (north): outer skin	South-west	(023)
K.45	1	Wheelhouse wall (north): inner skin	North-west	(022)
K.46	1	Midden fill of cut for wheelhouse wall (south)	East	[069]
K.47	1	Midden fill of cut for wheelhouse wall (south)	South-east	[069]
K.48	1	Wheelhouse wall (north): inner skin	North	(022)
K.49	1	Wheelhouse wall (north): inner skin, showing corbelling	East	(022)
K.50	1	Wheelhouse wall (north): inner skin	North	(022)

<u>Photograph</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>Contexts</u>
K.51	1	Wheelhouse, pier 2	South-west	(055)
K.52	1	Wheelhouse, floor of cell 1	North-west	(017)
K.53	1	Wheelhouse, floor of cell 1	West	(017)
K.54	1	Collapsed pot, in midden fill of cut for wheelhouse wall	East	(066)
K.55	1	Collapsed pot, in midden fill of cut for wheelhouse wall	East	(066)
K.56	1	Curving wall in interior of wheelhouse	North-east	(030)
K.57	1	Curving wall in interior of wheelhouse	North-east	(03)
K.58	1	Wheelhouse wall after removal of wall tumble	North-east	(091)
K.59	1	Wheelhouse wall after removal of wall tumble	South-east	[069], (083)
K.60	1	Wheelhouse wall after removal of wall tumble	South-west	(092)
K.61	1	Remains of pier	South-east	(090), [094]
K.62	1	Cist-like feature behind pier 2	South-east	(056)

## 9.2 Digital Photographs, Trenches 1 and 2

<u>ID</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old ID</u>
BS07 01	T2	223	W	GL		32
BS07 02	T2	223	W	GL		33
BS07 03	T2	Working shot	N	IM	25/08/08	34
BS07 04	T2	Working shot	N	IM	25/08/08	35
BS07 05	T2	206 and poss. burial	N	GL	26/08/08	36
BS07 06	T2	206 and poss. burial	W	GL	26/08/08	37
BS07 07	T2	206 and poss. burial	W	GL	26/08/08	38
BS07 08	T2	206 and poss. burial	W	GL	26/08/08	38a
BS07 09	T2	210, sand outside 212	S	IM	26/08/08	39
BS07 10	T2	210	S	IM	26/08/08	40

<u>ID</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old ID</u>
BS07 11	T2	210, 211	S	IM	26/08/08	41
BS07 12	T2	211	E	IM	26/08/08	42
BS07 13	T2	277, 278 - kerbs outside 212	E	IM	26/08/08	43
BS07 14	T2	209 working shot, grid system	SE	IM	26/08/08	44
BS07 15	T2	209 working shot, grid system	NE	IM	26/08/08	45
BS07 16	T2	238, 239 above big pit 216	N	GL	26/08/08	46
BS07 17	T2	Sf 147, bottom of c209	E	GI	26/08/08	47
BS07 18	T2	Sf 147, bottom of c209	E	GL	26/08/08	48
BS07 19	T2	Grid system working shot	S	IM	26/08/08	49
BS07 20	T2	As above	W	IM	26/08/08	50
BS07 21	T2	217 pit	E	GL	26/08/08	51
BS07 22	T2	201 peat stack	E	IM	26/08/08	52
BS07 23	T2	201 peat stack	E	IM	26/08/08	53
BS07 24	T2	201 peat stack	E	IM	26/08/08	54
BS07 25	T2	217 pit	N	GL	26/08/08	55
BS07 26	T2	205 OGS?	E	IM	26/08/08	56
BS07 27	T2	205 OGS?	E	IM	26/08/08	57
BS07 28	T2	205 OGS?	N	IM	26/08/08	58
BS07 29	T2	206 – Ally’s burial	S	IM	26/08/08	59
BS07 30	T2	Ally with polished bead and smiles	N	IM	26/08/08	60
BS07 31	T1	69	E	RR	27/08/08	61
BS07 32	T1	69	N	RR	27/08/08	62
BS07 33	T1	69	E	RR	27/08/08	63
BS07 34	T2	Carinish school kids	N	GL	28/08/08	64
BS07 35	T2	Carinish school kids	N	GL	28/08/08	65
BS07 36	T2	Carinish school kids	N	GL	28/08/08	66
BS07 37	T2	Carinish school kids	N	GL	28/08/08	67
BS07 38	T2	Section, 217, 272, 273	E	GL	29/08/08	68
BS07 39	T2	212, 277, 278 cell and kerbs	E	IM	29/08/08	69

<u>ID</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old ID</u>
BS07 40	T2	212, 277, 278 cell and kerbs	E	IM	29/08/08	70
BS07 41	T2	212, 277, 278 cell and kerbs	E	IM	29/08/08	71
BS07 42	T2	Section, 217, 272, 273	E	GL	29/08/08	72
BS07 43	T2	Section, 217, 272, 273	E	GL	29/08/08	73
BS07 44	T2	Section, 217, 272, 273	N	GL	29/08/08	74
BS07 45	T2	Section, 217, 272, 273	N	GL	29/08/08	75
BS07 46	T2	212, 213 above cist like feature	S	IM	29/08/08	76
BS07 47	T2	212, 213 above cist like feature	S	IM	29/08/08	77
BS07 48	T2	212, 213 above cist like feature	S	IM	29/08/08	78
BS07 49	T2	Ronnie portrait	S	IM	29/08/08	79
BS07 50	T1	30, walling	NE	KMD	29/08/08	80
BS07 51	T1	Southern arc walling, east end	NE	KMD	29/08/08	81
BS07 52	T1	91 walling	NE	KMD	29/08/08	82
BS07 53	T1	91, 92 walling and slabs	SE	KMD	29/08/08	83
BS07 54	T1	92 slabs	SW	KMD	29/08/08	84
BS07 55	T1	90 base of possible pier	SE	KMD	29/08/08	85
BS07 56	T2	272, 273 animal burial	E	GL	29/08/08	86
BS07 57	T2	235, sand under 209	S	GL	29/08/08	87
BS07 58	T2	235, sand under 209	W	GL	29/08/08	88
BS07 59	T2	223 wall northern area	N	GL	29/08/08	89
BS07 60	T2	Wall 214, prob. tumble.	E	IM	29/08/08	90
BS07 61	T2	sf 116, in c234, half pot	E	IM	30/08/08	91
BS07 62	T2	sf 116, in c234, half pot	S	IM	30/08/08	92
BS07 63	T2	sf 116, in c234, half pot	S	IM	30/08/08	93
BS07 64	T2	279, cut for sf 116	SE	IM	30/08/08	94
BS07 65	T2	279, cut for sf 116	SE	IM	30/08/08	95
BS07 66	T2	280 paved cell floor with stone tool	E	IM	30/08/08	96
BS07 67	T2	280 paved cell floor with stone tool	E	IM	30/08/08	97
BS07 68	T2	280 paved cell floor with stone tool	S	IM	30/08/08	98

<u>ID</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old ID</u>
BS07 69	T2	281 drain like feature	S	GL	30/08/08	99
BS07 70	T2	244 cist like feature	S	IM	30/08/08	100
BS07 71	T2	244 cist like feature	S	IM	30/08/08	101
BS07 72	T2	244 cist like feature	S	IM	30/08/08	102
BS07 73	T2	244 cist like feature	W	IM	30/08/08	103
BS07 74	T2	244 cist like feature	S	IM	30/08/08	104
BS07 75	T1	W facing section across SE wheelhouse wall	W	RR	30/08/08	105
BS07 76	T1	Deposits below SE wheelhouse wall: Close up	NW	RR	30/08/08	106
BS07 77	T2	248, 249 Orthostatic setting	E	GL	30/08/08	107
BS07 78	T2	248, 249 Orthostatic setting	E	GL	30/08/08	108
BS07 79	T2	Orthostat 223 and cut 240	W	GL	30/08/08	109
BS07 80	T2	Walls 212, 220 relationship	E	GL	30/08/08	110
BS07 81	T2	Walls 212, 220 relationship	E	GL	30/08/08	111
BS07 82	T2	Walls 212, 220 relationship	E	GL	30/08/08	112
BS07 83	T2	248, 249 Orthostatic setting	E	IM	30/08/08	113
BS07 84	T2	250, 251 dog burial	N	GL	30/08/08	114
BS07 85	T2	250, 251 dog burial	NE	GL	30/08/08	115
BS07 86	T2	242, 243 pit in cell entrance	E	IM	30/08/08	116
BS07 87	T2	242, 243 pit in cell entrance	E	IM	30/08/08	117
BS07 88	T2	250, 251 dog burial with Mairi	N	IM	30/08/08	118
BS07 89	T2	250, 251 dog burial with bones exposed	NE	GL	30/08/08	119
BS07 90	T2	250, 251 dog burial with bones exposed	NE	GL	30/08/08	120
BS07 91	T2	250, 251 dog burial showing position of bones	E	GL	30/08/08	121
BS07 92	T2	Working shot, HIGH TIDE	NW	IM	31/08/08	122
BS07 93	T2	Working shot, HIGH TIDE	N	IM	31/08/08	123
BS07 94	T2	242, 243 pit in cell entrance post ex	E	IM	31/08/08	125
BS07 95	T2	242, 243 pit in cell entrance post ex	E	IM	31/08/08	126
BS07 96	T2	244 cist like feature	S	IM	31/08/08	127
BS07 97	T2	244 cist like feature	SW	IM	31/08/08	128

<u>ID</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old ID</u>
BS07 98	T2	Limpet placed on orthostat at 223	E	GL	31/08/08	129
BS07 099	T1	?Pot			31/08/08	130
BS07 100	T1	?Pot			31/08/08	131
BS07101	T1	?Pot			31/08/08	132
BS07 102	T1	?Pot			31/08/08	133
BS07 103	T2	282 and relationship between 212 and 220	N	IM	31/08/08	134
BS07 104	T2	282 and relationship between 212 and 220	N	IM	31/08/08	135
BS07 105	T2	252, 262, 263 Northern features	W	IM	31/08/08	136
BS07 106	T2	Working shot, Anne and Stella	N	IM	31/08/08	137
BS07 107	T2	259, 260 animal burial	W	GL	31/08/08	138
BS07 108	T2	259, 260 animal burial	W	GL	31/08/08	139
BS07 109	T2	259, 260 animal burial	W	GL	31/08/08	140
BS07 110	T2	252, 253 stone setting/ burial	S	IM	31/08/08	141
BS07 111	T2	244 cist like feature with 246	S	IM	31/08/08	142
BS07 112	T2	244 cist like feature with 246	W	IM	31/08/08	143
BS07 113	T2	244 cist like feature with 246	W	IM	31/08/08	144
BS07 114	T2	244 cist like feature with 246	W	IM	31/08/08	145
BS07115	T2	Working shot, GL and Ronnie	W	IM	31/08/08	147
BS07 116	T2	Working shot, GL and Ronnie	W	IM	31/08/08	148
BS07 117	T2	Working shot, IM and Ronnie	W	GL	31/08/08	149
BS07 118	T2	265, 266 posthole with packing	E	GL	01/09/08	150
BS07 119	T2	263, 264 pit or posthole?	E	GL	01/09/08	151
BS07 120	T2	Working shot, POLECAM	W	IM	01/09/08	152
BS07 121	T2	Working shot, POLECAM	W	IM	01/09/08	153
BS07 122	T2	Working shot, POLECAM	W	IM	01/09/08	154
BS07 123	T2	Working shot, POLECAM	W	IM	01/09/08	155
BS07 124	T2	Working shot, POLECAM	W	IM	01/09/08	156
BS07 125	T2	Working shot, POLECAM	S	IM	01/09/08	157
BS07 125	T2	Working shot, POLECAM	S	IM	01/09/08	158

<u>ID</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old ID</u>
BS07 126	T2	Working shot, POLECAM	S	IM	01/09/08	158a
BS07 127	T1	W facing section, cell 2: 17, 108	E	RR	01/09/08	159
BS07 128	T1	South facing section, cell 2 in wheelhouse 56, 55	N	RR	01/09/08	160
BS07 129	T1	NW facing section through wheelhouse walling	SW	RR	01/09/08	161
BS07 130	T1	NW facing section through wheelhouse walling	S	RR	01/09/08	162
BS07 131	T2	215, 217 long west facing section	E	IM	01/09/08	163
BS07 132	T2	215, 217 long west facing section	E	IM	01/09/08	164
BS07 133	T2	215, 217 long west facing section	E	IM	01/09/08	165
BS07 134	T2	Northern kerb 278 in section	E	IM	01/09/08	166
BS07 135	T2	Northern kerb 278 in section	E	IM	01/09/08	167
BS07 136	T2	215, 217 long west facing section	E	IM	01/09/08	168
BS07 137	T2	215, 217 long west facing section	E	IM	01/09/08	169
BS07 138	T2	215, 217 long west facing section	E	IM	01/09/08	170
BS07 139	T2	Section through 202	S	IM	01/09/08	171
BS07 140	T2	Section through 202	S	IM	01/09/08	172
BS07 141	T1	Backfilled Trench 1	NE	IM	01/09/08	173
BS07 142	T1	Backfilled Trench 1	NE	IM	01/09/08	174
BS07 143	T1	Backfilled Trench 1	NE	IM	01/09/08	175
BS07 144	T2	Backfill team	E	GL	01/09/08	176
BS07 145	T2	Backfill team	E	IM	01/09/08	177
BS07 146	T2	Backfilled cell area Trench 2	E	IM	01/09/08	178
BS07 147	T2	Backfilled cell area Trench 2	E	IM	01/09/08	179
BS07 148	T2	Backfilled northern area T2	SE	IM	01/09/08	180
BS07 149	T1	Mid-backfill of Trench 1	SW	IM	01/09/08	181

## 9.3 Trench 2

### 9.3.1 List of Contexts (Trench 2)

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
200	Beach material

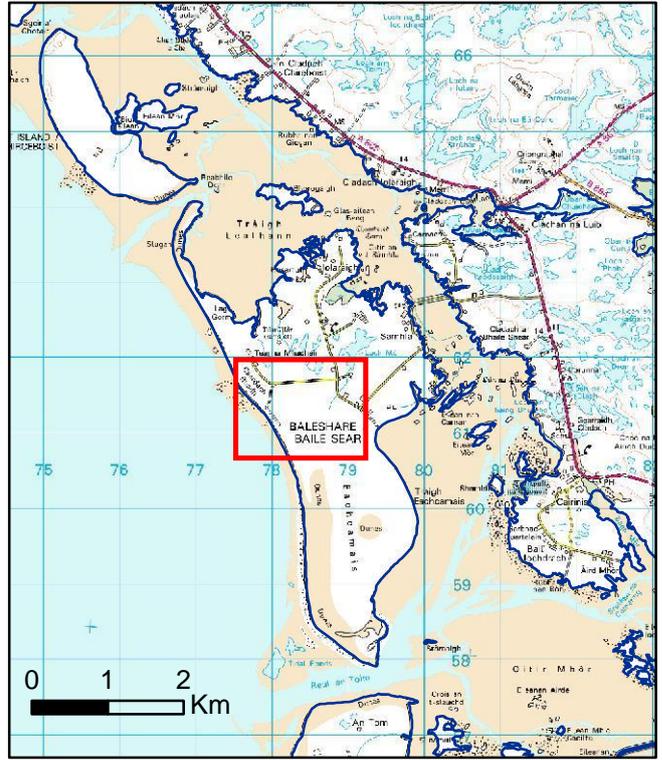
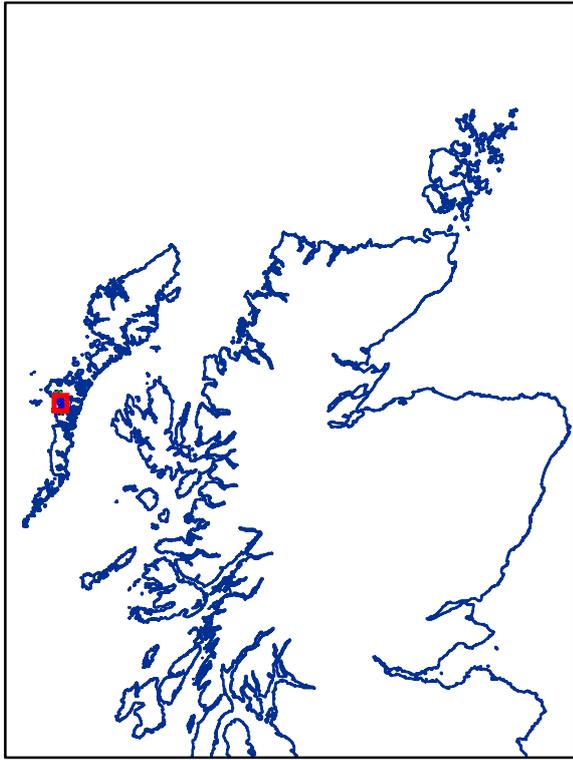
<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
201	Peat, over 284
202	Red-brown midden material
203	Rectilinear deposit of cockle and winkle shells
204	Stones surrounding 203
205	OGS/ agricultural soil
206	Fine grey brown sand
207	Peat ash rich deposit, north end
208	Unused!
209	Mid brown finds rich possible surface, N end
210	Light brown mottled sand, post occ, around cell and entrance
211	Wall poorly built, south end
212	Wall around and including cell
213	Deposit of flat slabs
214	Possible wall- turned out over 200
215	Peat ash and cobbles
216	Cut for pit in 217
217	Large area of peat ash in layers
218	Light sand windblown
219	Same as above
220	Right angled bit of wall
221	Pier/aisle? Wall
222	Long curving wall- north end
223	Quarter-circle wall within 222/221
224	Tumble from 223
225	Mid brown sand within 212
226	Light grey, mottled sand underneath 225
227	Cut for small oval pit in 218, above 216
228	Mottled grey brown sand, fill of 227
229	Fill of 216 – fine yellow sand
230	Yellow coarse sand, thick layer over north end
231	Animal burial within 206
232	Dark brown sand south end
233	Lighter windblown sand under 232
234	234 dark red-brown sand under 212, = 202

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
235	Light grey sand under 209
236	Darker layer under 235, mid brown silty sand
237	Same as 236
238	Cut for circular pit
239	Fill of 238
240	Cut for orthostat
241	Fill of 240 – inc. orthostat
242	Fill of pit in entrance to 212
243	Cut for 242
244	'bowl' type structure south of 212
245	Uppermost fill within 244
246	Re-modelling of 244 with extra structure
247	Cut for 244
248	Concreted deposit within 249
249	Orthostatic arrangement incorporating saddle quern
250	Cut for animal burial
251	Fill of 250
252	Cut for pit, possible socket for post or orthostat beside 250
253	Fill of 252
254	Fill of 244 underneath 245
255	Cut for orthostat near 240
256	Fill of 255
257	Same as 244, linear drain/flue shaped part to north of
258	Fill of the part of 244 first called 257
259	Cut for animal burial
260	Fill of 259
261	Linear pit feature cut by 252
262	Fill of 261
263	Not used
264	Not used
265	Cut for posthole with packing stones
266	Fill of 265
267	Cut for posthole overlain by 265
268	Fill of 267

<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
269	Cut for posthole near east end of 261
270	Fill of 269
271	Same as 248
272	Cut for partial animal burial through 218
273	Fill of 272
274	Supported posthole within 278
275	Fill of 244 under 254
276	Fill of 244 under 275,
277	Southern kerb outside 212
278	Northern kerb outside 212
279	Cut for pit in entrance of 212
280	Paved floor of 212
281	Same as 295
282	Same as 207
283	Dark layer with lenses of windblown sand and peat ash, over 218
284	Light grey fine sand under 201
285	Strange lumps of sand and gravel within 202, quite unlike normal lens or deposit
286	Fill of cut 247, behind structure 244
287	Cut for kerb 278
288	Cut for large pit under 215
289	Stakehole/small posthole cut through 218
290	Fill of 288
291	Fill of 289
292	Light yellow fine sand under 202
293	Dark brown midden above 202 in south end
294	Small area of paving near end of kerb 277
295	Drain? Under wall 221
296	Stones at same level as 295, no discernable pattern, under 221 and 222
297	Sand over 211, fine, yellow, windblown
298	n/a
299	Two stones built into 221 which seem to have been part of 296

### 9.3.2 List of samples (Trench 2)

<u>Sample number</u>	<u>Context no</u>	<u>Date recovered</u>	<u>Size</u>
1	201	25/8	2 bags
2	202	24/8	2 bags
3	203	24/8	2 bags
4	206	24/8	2 bags
5	209	25/8	2 bags
6	215	1/9	2 bags
7	228	24/8	2 bags
8	232	26/8	2 bags
9	234	26/8	2 bags
10	235	29/8	2 bags
11	242	30/8	2 bags
12	245	31/8	2 bags
13	251	29/8	2 bags
14	253	31/8	2 bags
15	254	31/8	2 bags
16	256	1/9	2 bags
17	258	31/8	2 bags
18	260	31/8	2 bags
19	262	1/9	2 bags
20	264	31/8	2 bags
21	266	1/9	2 bags
22	271	31/8	2 bags
23	273	2/9	2 bags
24	274	2/9	2 bags
25	275	29/8	2 bags
26	276	29/8	2 bags



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Figure 1: Site location map

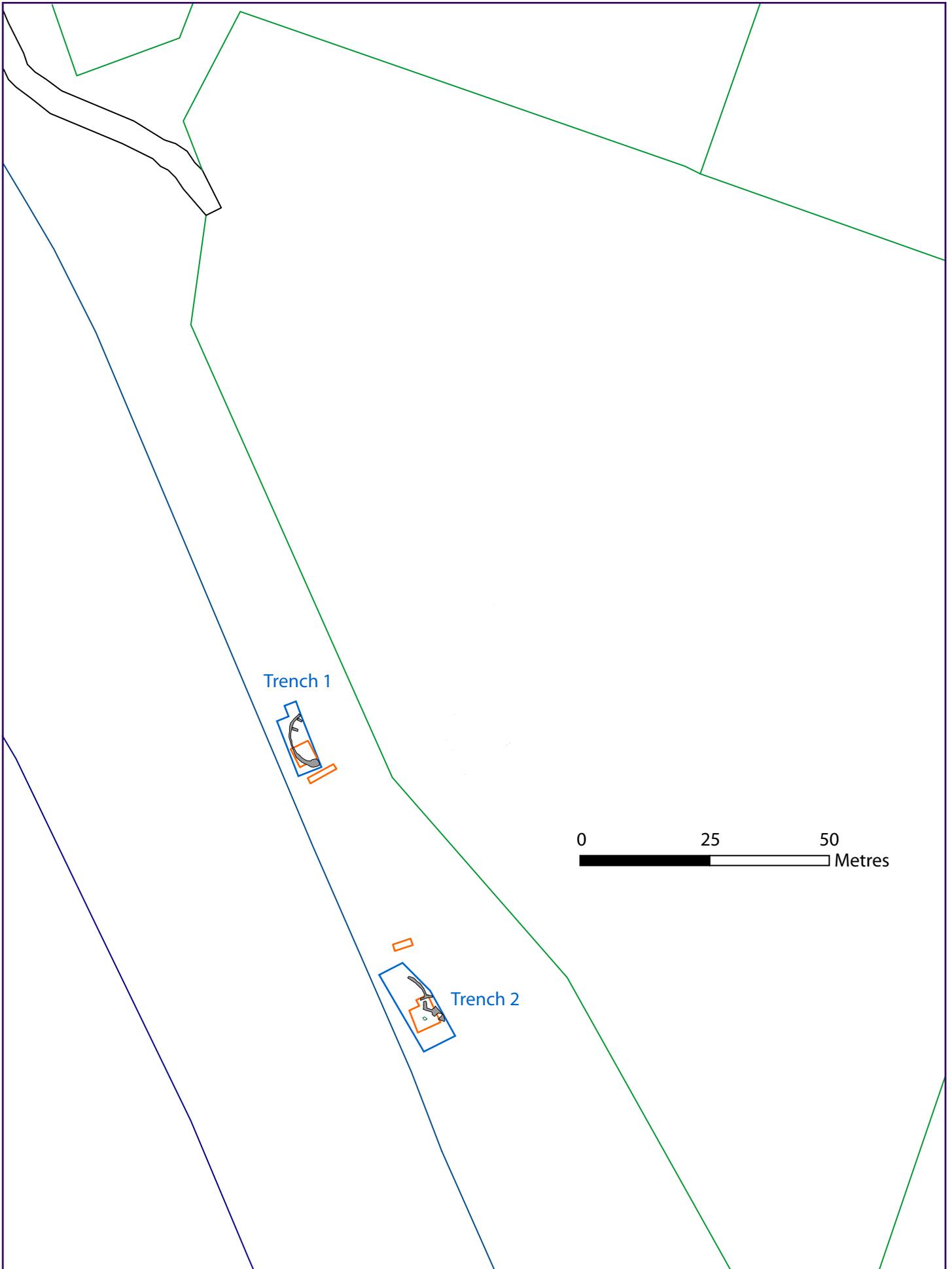
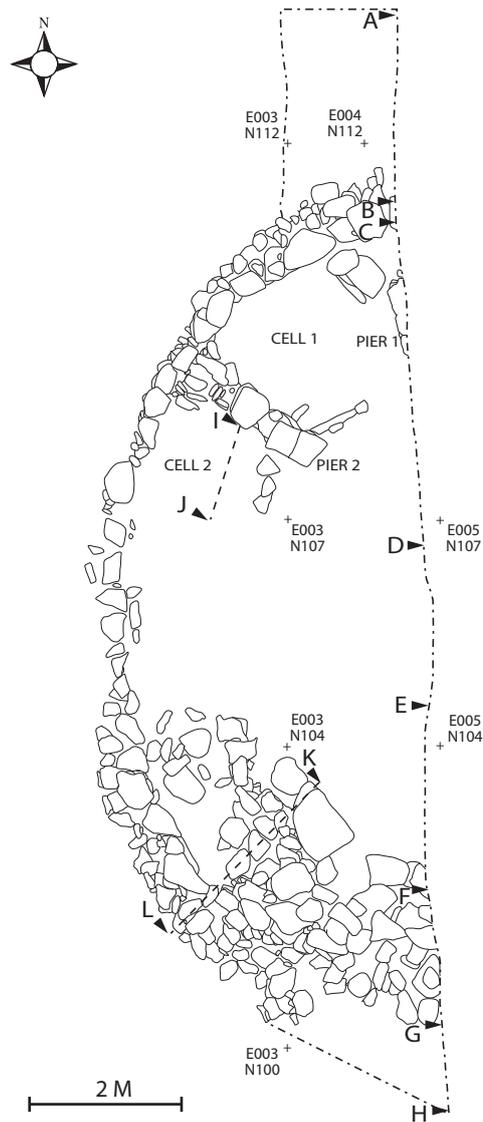
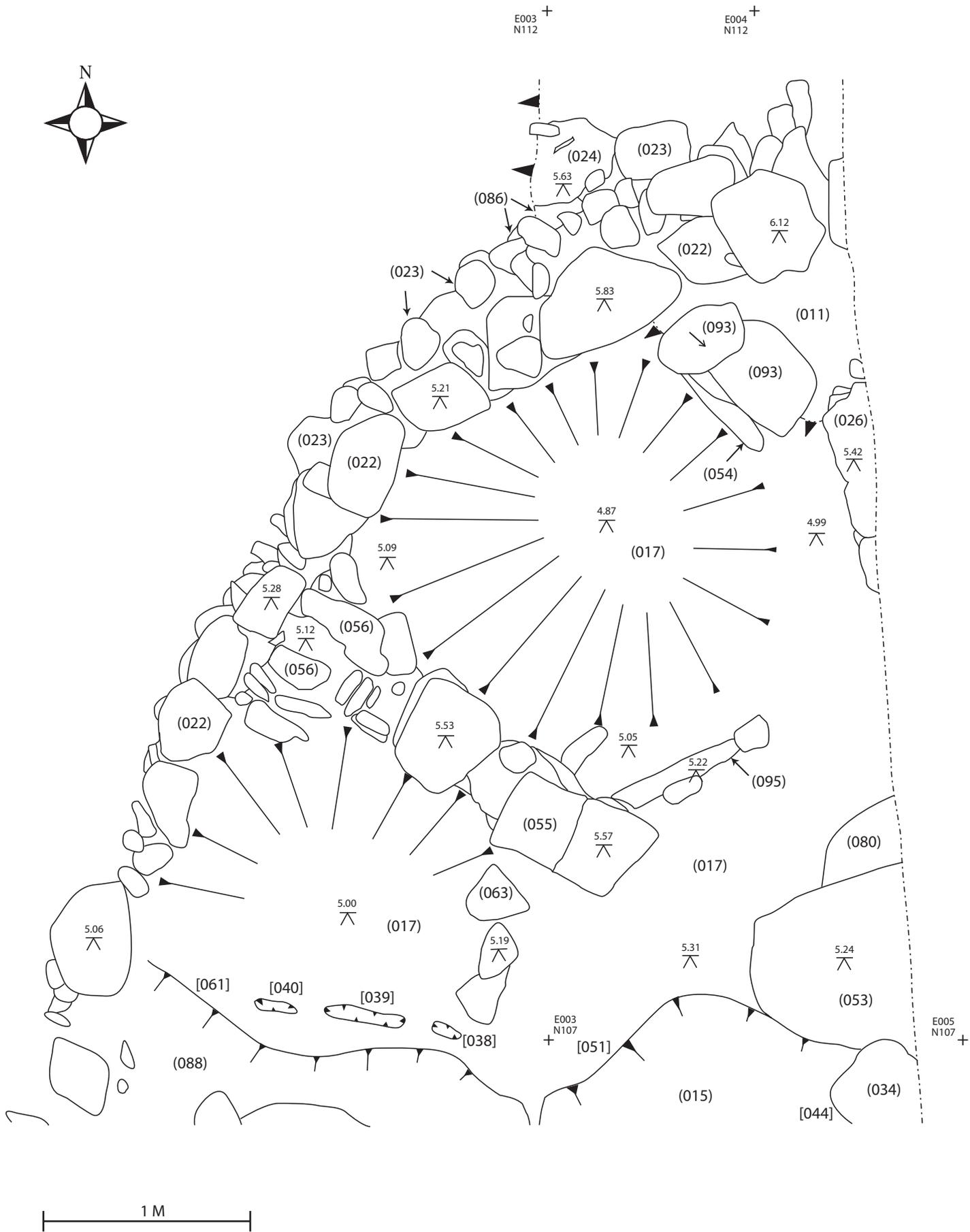


Figure 2: Location of trenches - 2006 trenches in orange, 2007 trenches in blue, major structures in grey.

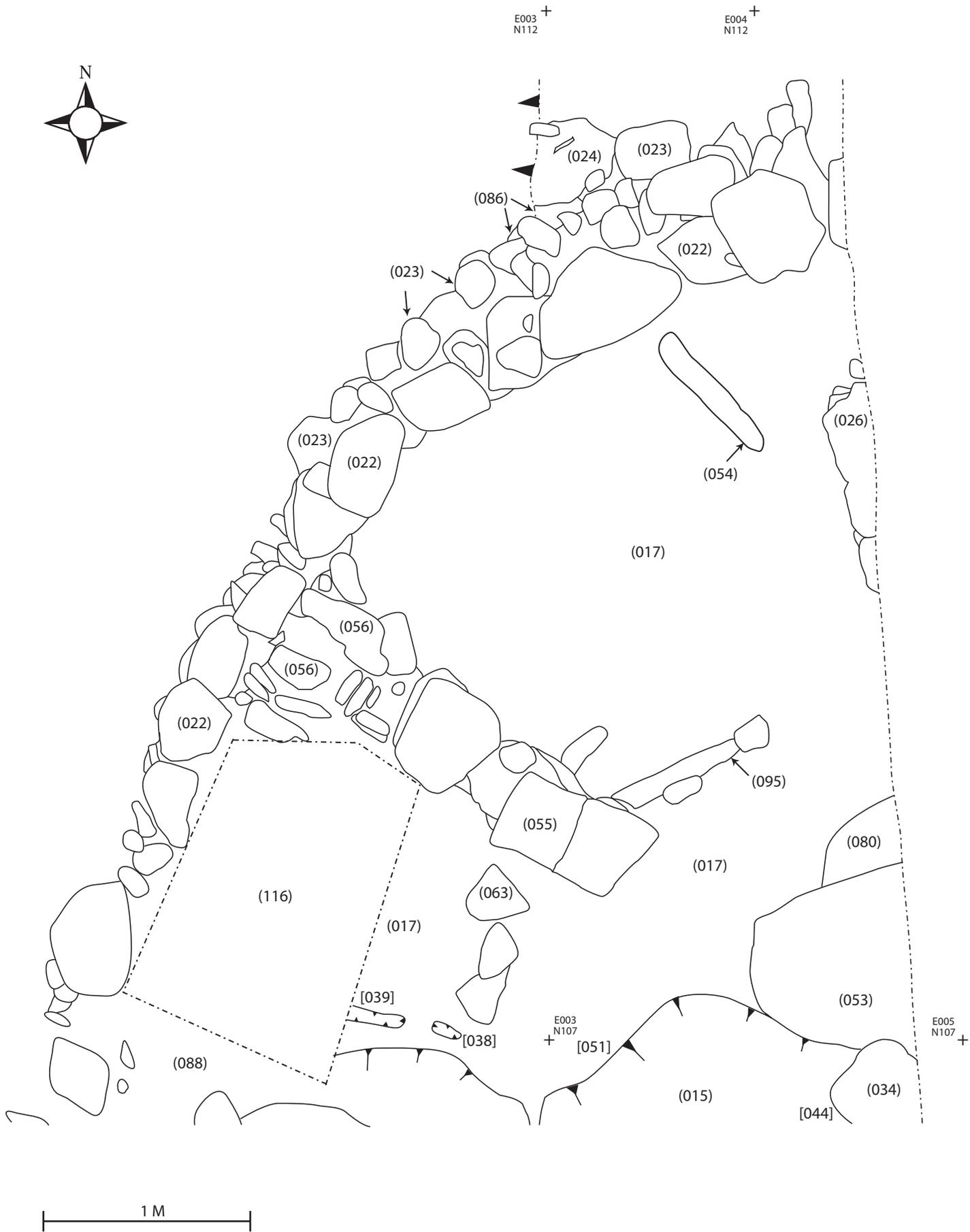


**Figure 3** Trench 1: plan showing extent of trench and the structural remains revealed (letters indicate the location of section drawings)

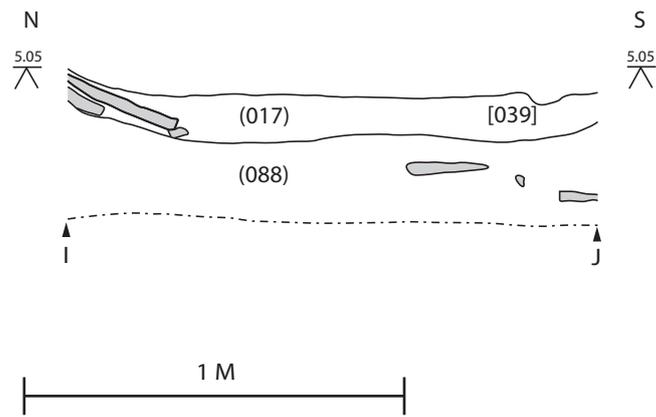




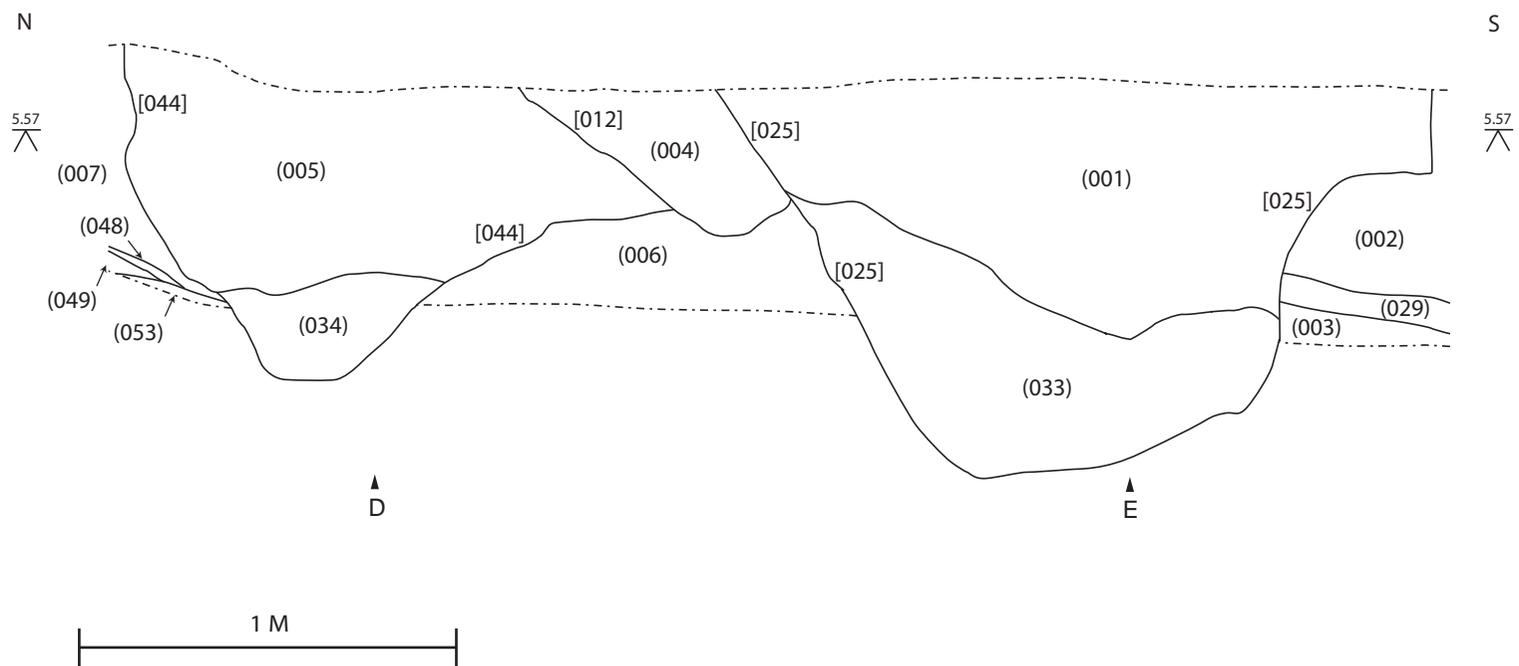
**Figure 5** Trench 1: plan of northern area of the wheelhouse before excavation



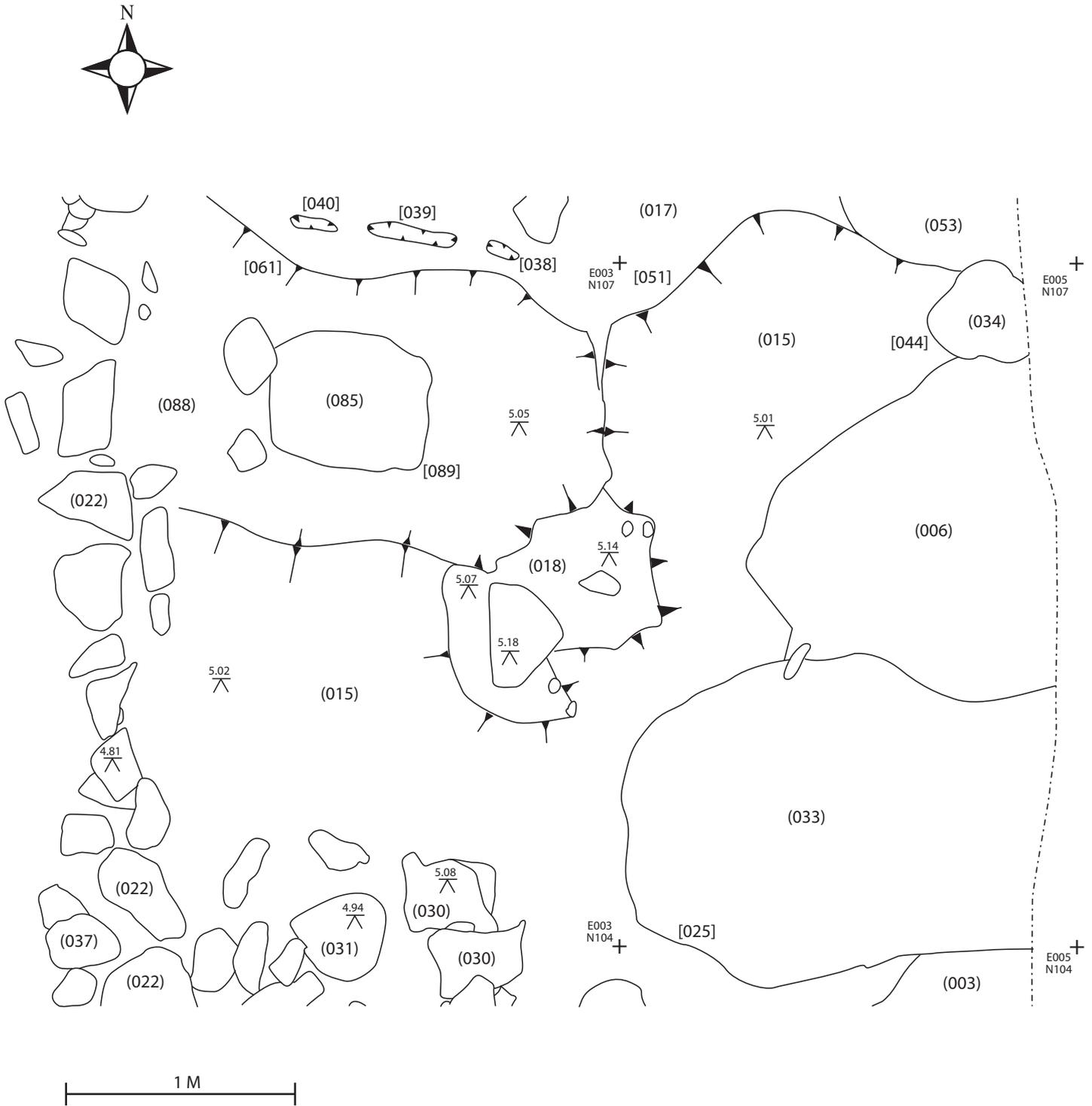
**Figure 6** Trench 1: location of sondage in cell 2 of the wheelhouse



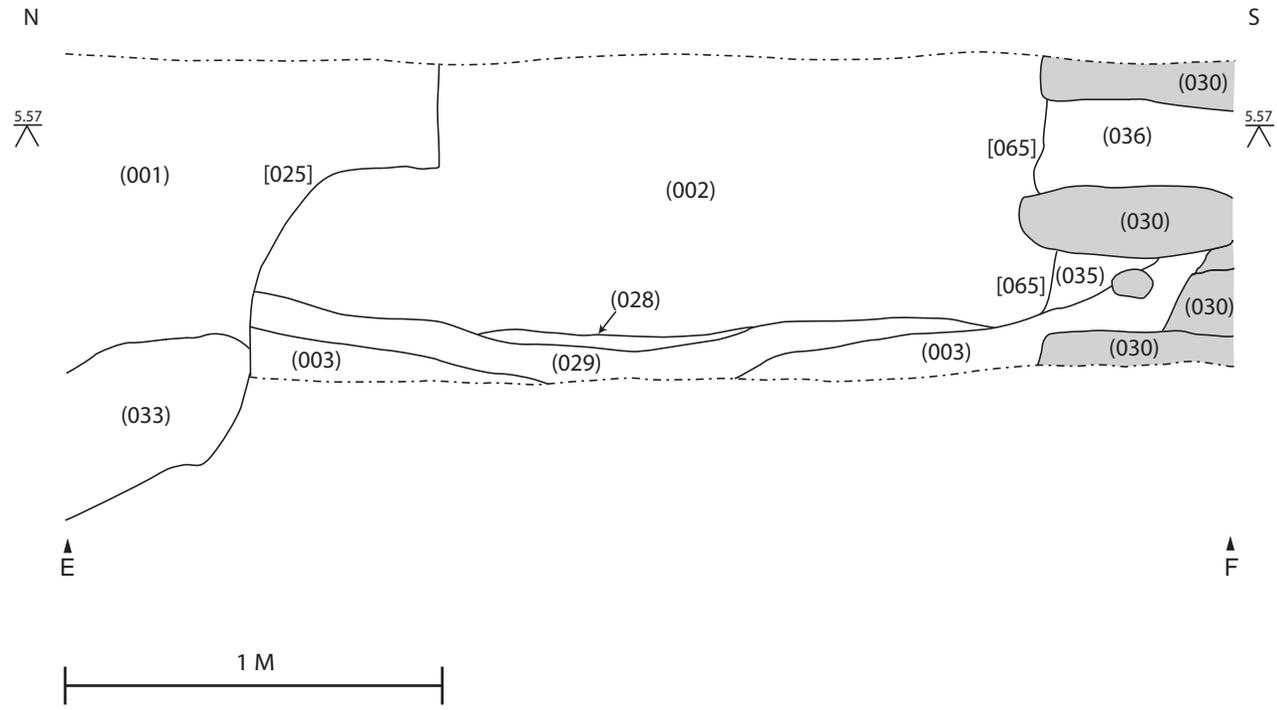
**Figure 7** Trench 1: west facing section through floor in cell 2 of the wheelhouse



**Figure 8** Trench 1: west facing section through the interior of the wheelhouse (central area)



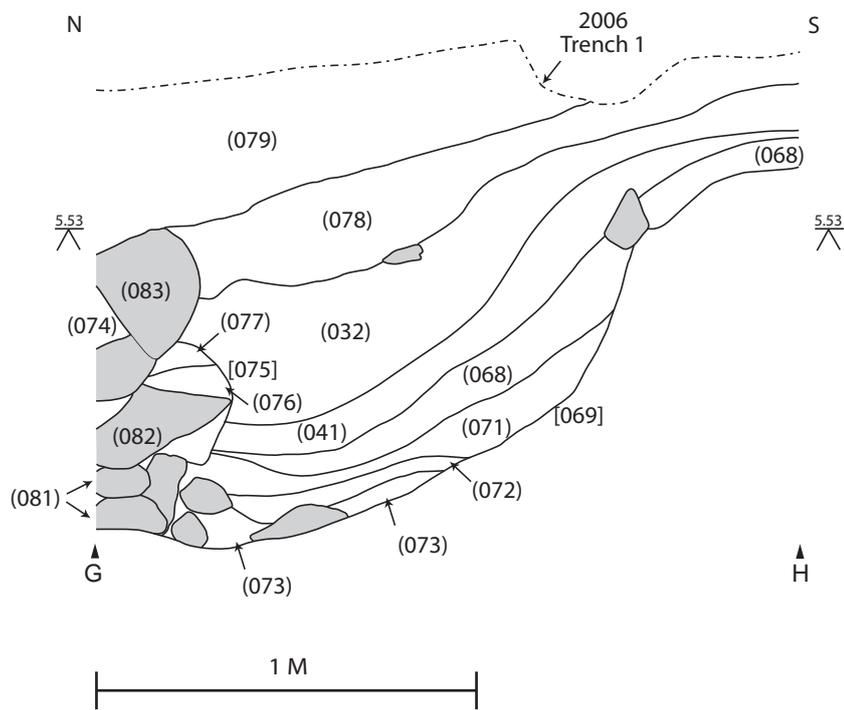
**Figure 9** Trench 1: plan of central area of wheelhouse



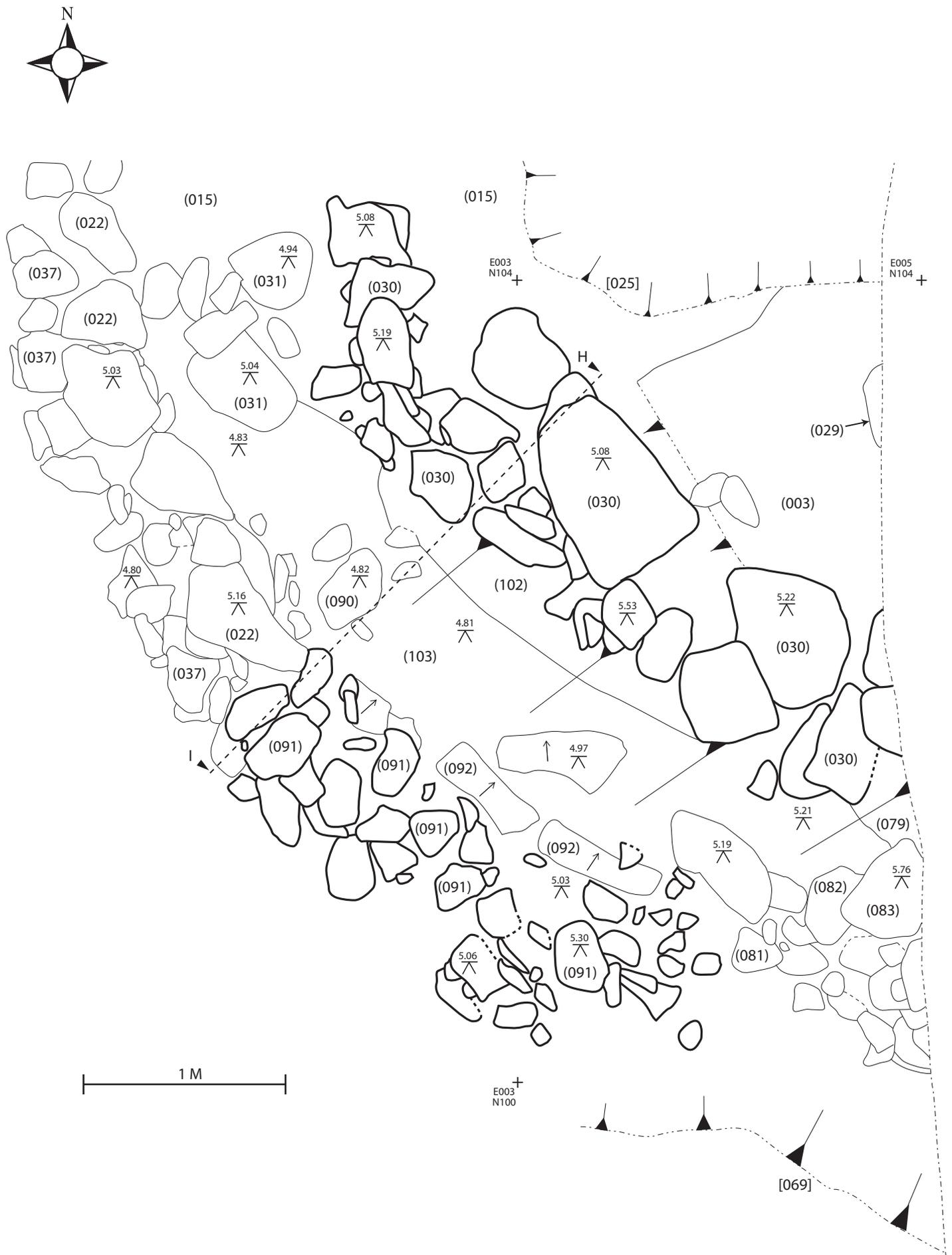
**Figure 10** Trench 1: west facing section through the interior of the wheelhouse (southern area)



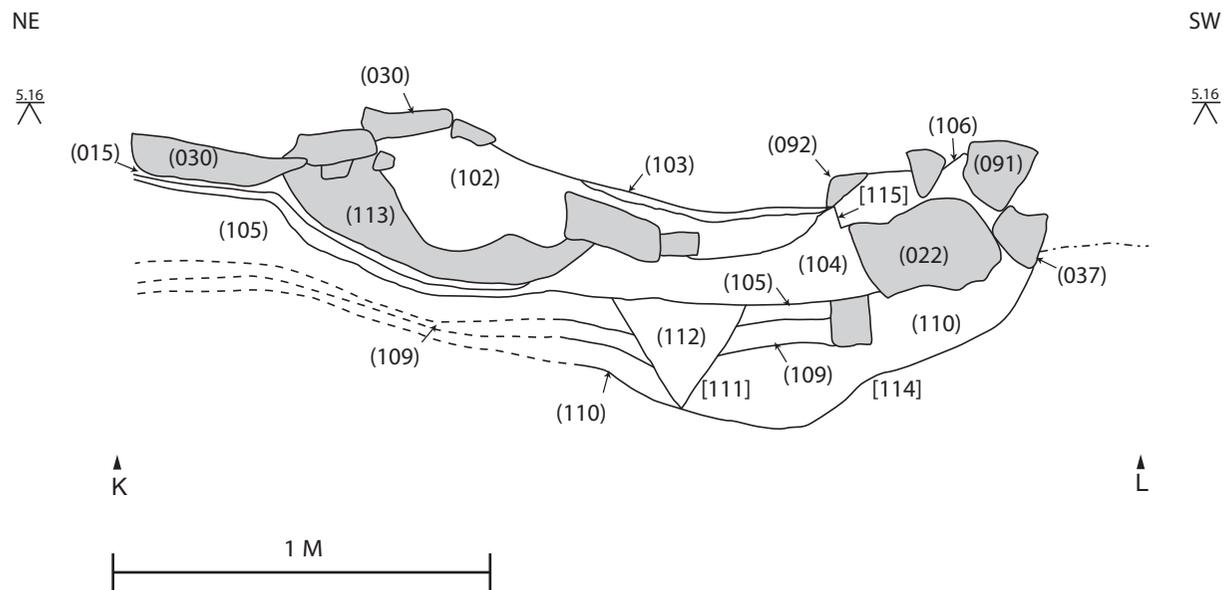
**Figure 11** Trench 1: plan of southern area of the wheelhouse, with walls (022) and (021) highlighted



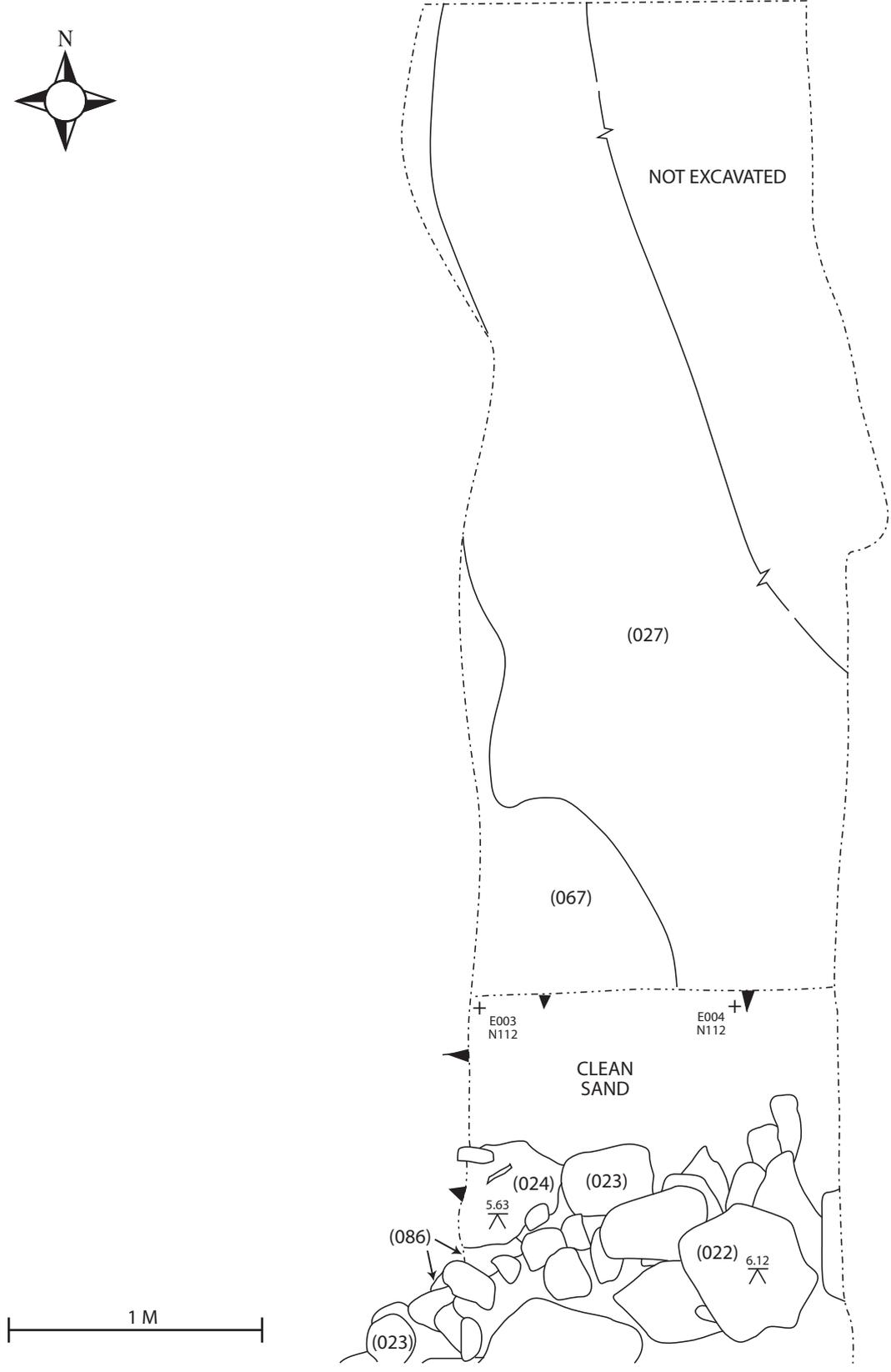
**Figure 12** Trench 1: west facing section to south of the wheelhouse



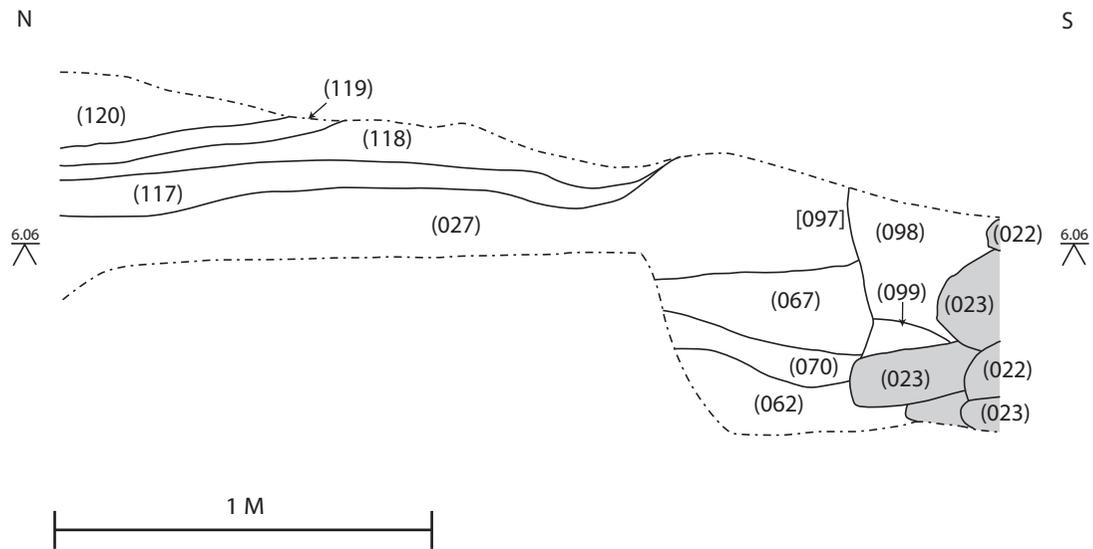
**Figure 13** Trench 1: plan of southern area of the wheelhouse after removal of tumbled masonry, with walls (030) and (091) highlighted



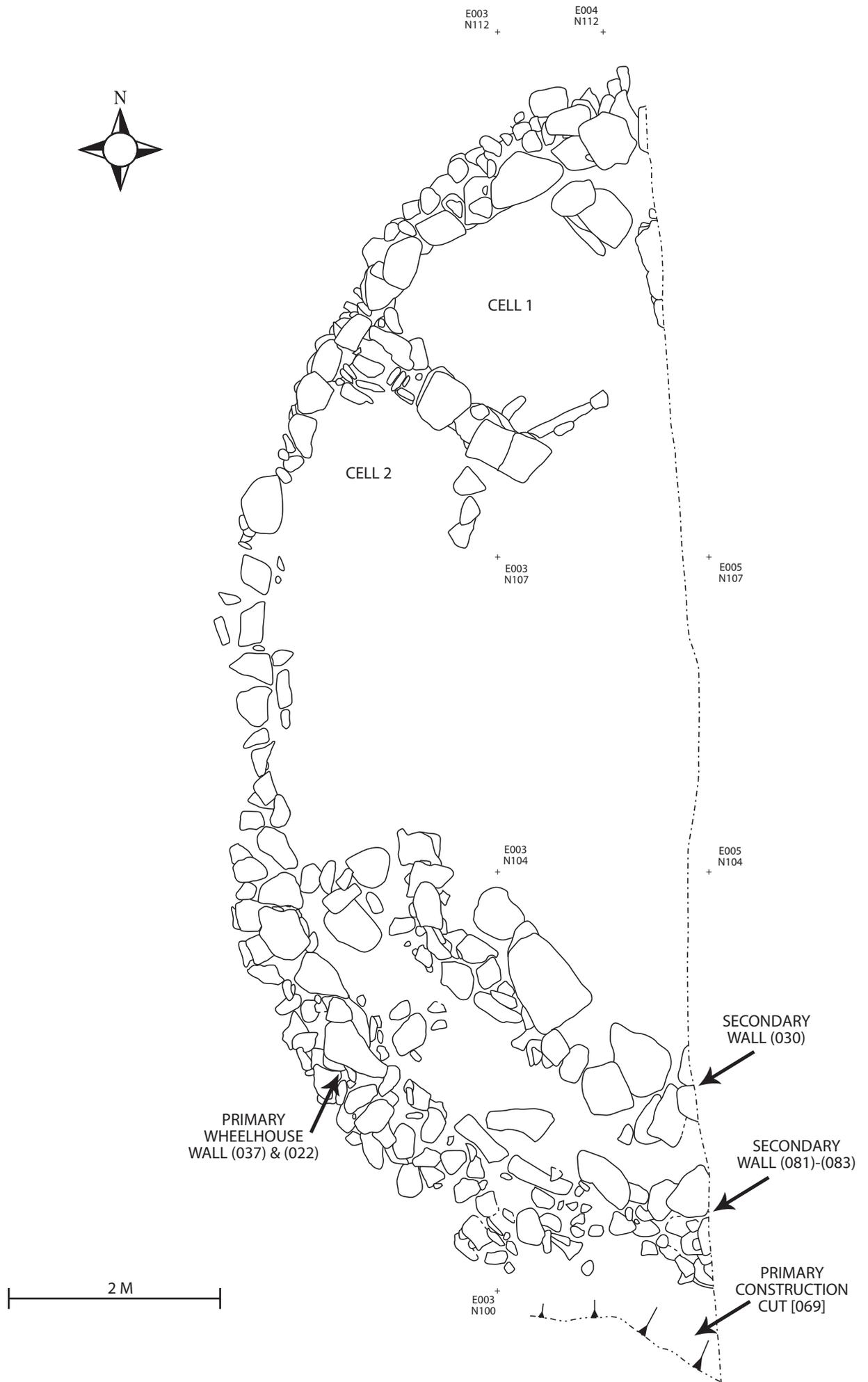
**Figure 14** Trench 1: north-west facing section across the wheelhouse wall



**Figure 15** Trench 1: plan of midden deposits to the north of the wheelhouse



**Figure 16** Trench 1: west facing section to the north of the wheelhouse



**Figure 17** Trench 1: plan showing the wheelhouse, with modifications to the southern wall



**Plate 1** Sloc Sabhaidh: the site before excavation, facing south-east



**Plate 2** Trench 1: (093) overlying (011) in the northern area of the wheelhouse, facing north-east



**Plate 3** Trench 1: surface of (017) in cell 1, facing north



**Plate 4** Trench 1: the cist-like feature (056), behind pier 2 in the wheelhouse, facing south-east



**Plate 5** Trench 1: pier 2 (055) with the cist-like feature (056), facing south-west



**Plate 6** Trench 1: the inner and outer skins of the wheelhouse wall (022) and (023), facing north-east



**Plate 7** Trench 1: the tumbled masonry (021) over the southern half of the wheelhouse wall, facing east



**Plate 8** Trench 1: cut [069] and wall (081)-(083) to the south of the wheelhouse, facing east



**Plate 9** Trench 1: slabs (092) lining the inner face of the southern area of wheelhouse wall, with the uncoursed walling (091) behind, facing south-west



**Plate 10** Trench 1: curved wall (030) in the interior of the wheelhouse, facing north-east



**Plate 11** Trench 1: base of truncated pier (090) in the southern area of the wheelhouse, south-east



**Plate 12** Trench 1: midden deposits to the north of the wheelhouse, facing south-east



**Plate 13** Trench 2: flat slabs (213) lining the base of a hollow adjacent to Structure 1



**Plate 14** Trench 2: pit 243, in the entrance to cell 212 and under floor 280



**Plate 15** Trench 2: thin layer of peat (201)



**Plate 16** Trench 2: Structure 4, comprising wall 244



**Plate 17** Trench 2: Structure 5, formed by wall 223, built of orthostats



**Plate 18** Trench 2: dog burial (251) under excavation