



Tinnis Castle and Fort Excavation: Project 5181 Data Structure Report

Tinnis Castle and Fort Excavation Data Structure Report

On behalf of: The Arthur Trail Association

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Project Number: 5181

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*This document has been prepared in accordance
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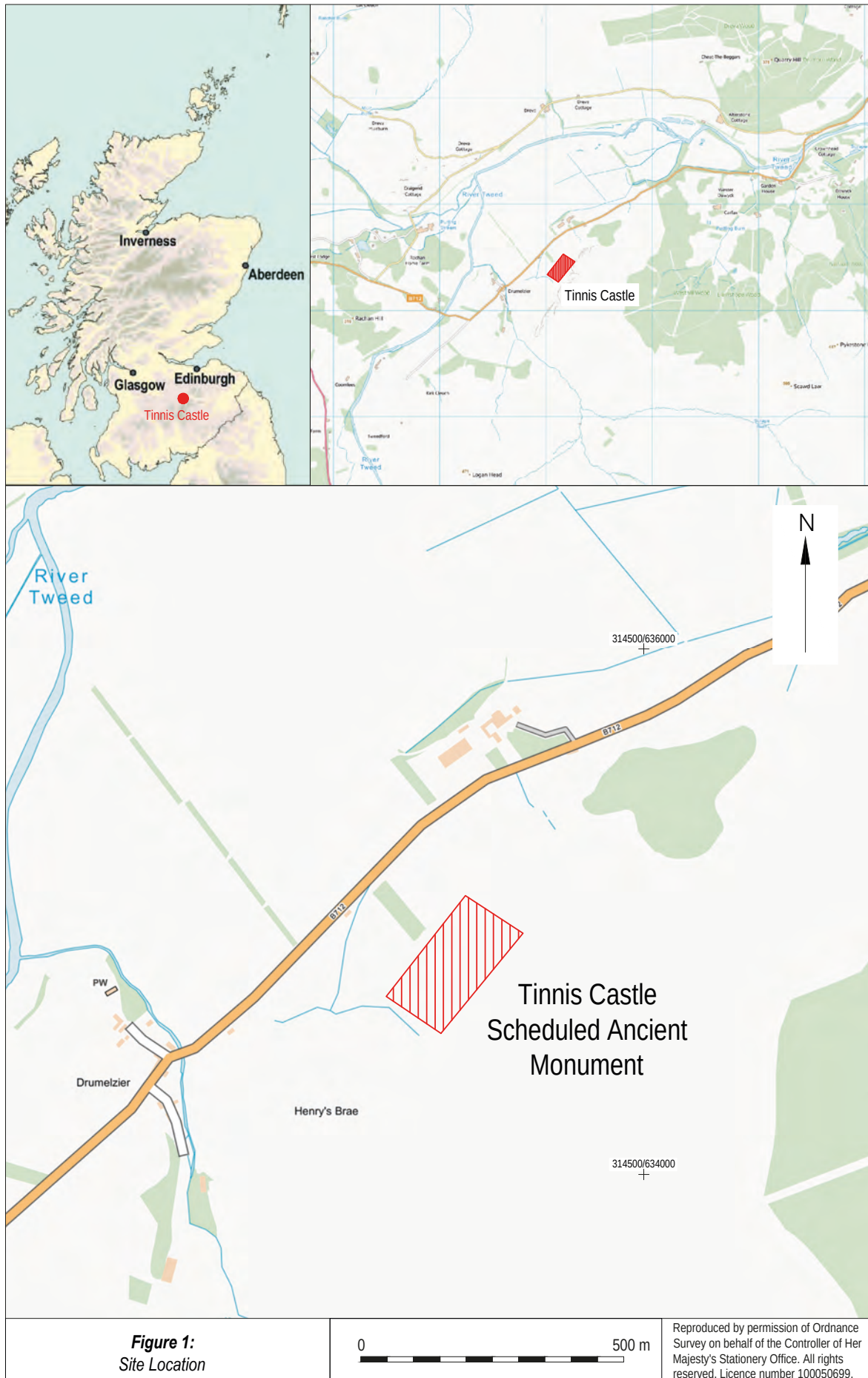
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Executive Summary

- 1.1 A topographic survey and archaeological excavation of Tinnis Castle and Fort were led by GUARD Archaeology Limited between 5th August and 19 August 2022, on behalf of the Arthur Trail Association. The work formed part of the Drumelzier's Hidden Heritage / Hidden History of Dark Age Tweeddale project.
- 1.2 The work was carried out principally to examine the fort that underlies Tinnis Castle. The castle comprises the remains of thick mortared walls with traces of round towers at the north-west and south-west corners of the keep. The underlying fort comprises a rampart around the edge of the summit, from which vitrified stone has been previously recovered from the southwest corner. Two pairs of non-concentric ramparts also enclose lower-lying terraces on the north-east and southwest flanks of the hill.
- 1.3 A drone survey was undertaken by members of the Peeblesshire Archaeological Society in order to create a new site plan and 3D model of Tinnis Castle and Fort. Two trenches were subsequently excavated across the summit rampart, with a third trench excavated within one of the lower enclosed terraces.
- 1.4 Trench 1, at the south-east side of the summit, revealed a 1.7m wide NE/SW aligned drystone rampart wall, comprising inner and outer faces of large stone blocks and a rubble core. Traces of vitrified stone and charcoal were recovered from within the rampart core and charcoal from a thin soil deposit underlying the rampart. A smaller E/W aligned wall was found abutting the inner face of the rampart. Near the centre of the trench, discrete patches of flattened mortar and stone slabs directly overlay subsoil and bedrock at around 0.35m below the present ground surface. Animal bones were recovered from a soil deposit associated with this slab surface. The trench was sealed with a layer of stone rubble collapse from the rampart, with finds including a horseshoe, lead, oyster shells, iron and bone, all consistent with the occupation of Tinnis Castle in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The rubble collapse included mortared stone indicating that the rampart wall had been rebuilt and consolidated during the medieval occupation of the hilltop, probably to serve as a bailey.
- 1.5 Trench 2, at the south-west corner of the summit, revealed two parts of the drystone rampart core in the south-east and north-west corners of the trench, each measuring between 1.02m-1.20m wide. The inner and outer face of the rampart were not evident. The south-east segment showed signs for burning and in-situ vitrification, suggesting an earlier phase of destruction. Animal bone was recovered from this rampart core deposit. Between these two segments, a stone platform upon a soil deposit had been inserted during the re-occupation of the hilltop later in the fifteenth century. A further wall was discovered, abutting the north-west segment of the rampart, suggesting a later construction date. The wall ran 3.56m E/W and 3.48m N/S at an approximately 90-degree angle. The earliest occupational layer exposed was within the area enclosed by this wall, much of which was obscured by rubble collapse. Along the south-east edge of Trench 2 was a charcoal rich deposit, from which medieval glazed redware pottery and animal bones were recovered. The entirety of Trench 2 was overlain with a thick rubble and a soil matrix, likely originating from the destruction of Tinnis Castle itself. As apparent in Trench 1, the rubble collapse included mortared stone indicating that the rampart wall around the summit had been rebuilt and consolidated here too during the medieval occupation of the hilltop. This layer had subsequently been truncated by a pit in the north-east corner of the trench, which in turn was also backfilled with demolition material. A variety of finds were recorded from Trench 2, including glazed redware pottery sherds, iron nails, an oyster shell, animal bone and charcoal.

- 1.6 Trench 3, within one of the lower enclosed terraces on the south-west side of the hill, revealed a 0.70m wide face of a N/S drystone rampart at least 1.63m in height. The base of this wall face was not reached. This wall face consisted of at least nine courses of large sub-angular and cuboid stone blocks. Abutting the rampart wall to a depth of 1.20m from the modern ground surface, a clay soil deposit was exposed containing one small find of lead. Overlying this layer, at a depth of 0.58m below the modern ground surface was a charcoal rich deposit. This was in turn sealed by a layer of drystone blocks, rubble, slate and associated soil matrix measuring up to 1m deep, which appeared to be collapse from the rampart summit above. The overlying topsoil contained multiple small finds including vitrified stone which was likely deposited in the trench as tumble from the summit.
- 1.7 Sufficient environmental and artefactual evidence was recovered for post-excavation analyses to examine the chronology of the fort; and the nature and chronology of the re-occupation of the summit alongside the medieval castle.

Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of the topographic survey and archaeological excavation of Tinnis Castle and Fort led by GUARD Archaeology, on behalf of the Arthur Trail Association. The Drumelzier's Hidden Heritage / Hidden History of Dark Age Tweeddale project is a collaboration between the Arthur Trail Association, local heritage groups and GUARD Archaeology Ltd, funded by SSE Renewables Clyde Borders Community Fund, Fallago Environment Fund, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Dr Euan MacKie Legacy Fund, Glenkerie Community Fund and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The work adhered to the conditions of Scheduled Monument Consent (Case ID: 300040603; Index no SM2984).
- 2.2 The Arthur Trail Association seeks to promote Scotland's Dark Age heritage (between the end of Roman Britain and the coming of St Columba). The fifth, sixth and early seventh centuries AD comprise a dynamic period, when literacy, international trade, the Church and secular statehood first took root in Scotland. In 2018, the Association launched the Merlin Trails to begin the work of promoting access to all the major sites of this period across southern Scotland. As one of the sites on the trail, Tinnis Castle and Fort was chosen to enable public participation in discovering new evidence for Scotland's Dark Age heritage.

Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 Tinnis Castle lies within a field of rough grazing ground to the north-east of Drumelzier in Peeblesshire (NGR: NT 14155 34439; Figure 1). The site is a scheduled monument (SM No: 2984) covering 32,630m² in total, though the entirety of the fort itself comprises just 6,450m² and the summit alone 1,415m². Tinnis Castle and Fort sits between 270.74m and 285.69m AOD.
- 3.2 The site lies on a rocky knoll bounded to the south-east by a steep gorge that separates it from the scree slopes and crags of Vane Law which overlook the site. To the south-west the ground drops sharply before rising again towards the summit of Henry's Brae hillfort. To the north and west the ground drops to the level fields alongside the B712 road (Figure 1). The course of the river Tweed runs between 800m and 900m to the west of Tinnis Castle and Fort.
- 3.3 The bedrock geology across the entire site was Gala Group – Wacke; sedimentary bedrock formed between 443.8 and 433.4 million years ago during the Silurian period. The superficial deposits comprise Glaciofluvial Deposits - Gravel, sand and silt; Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period (<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>).

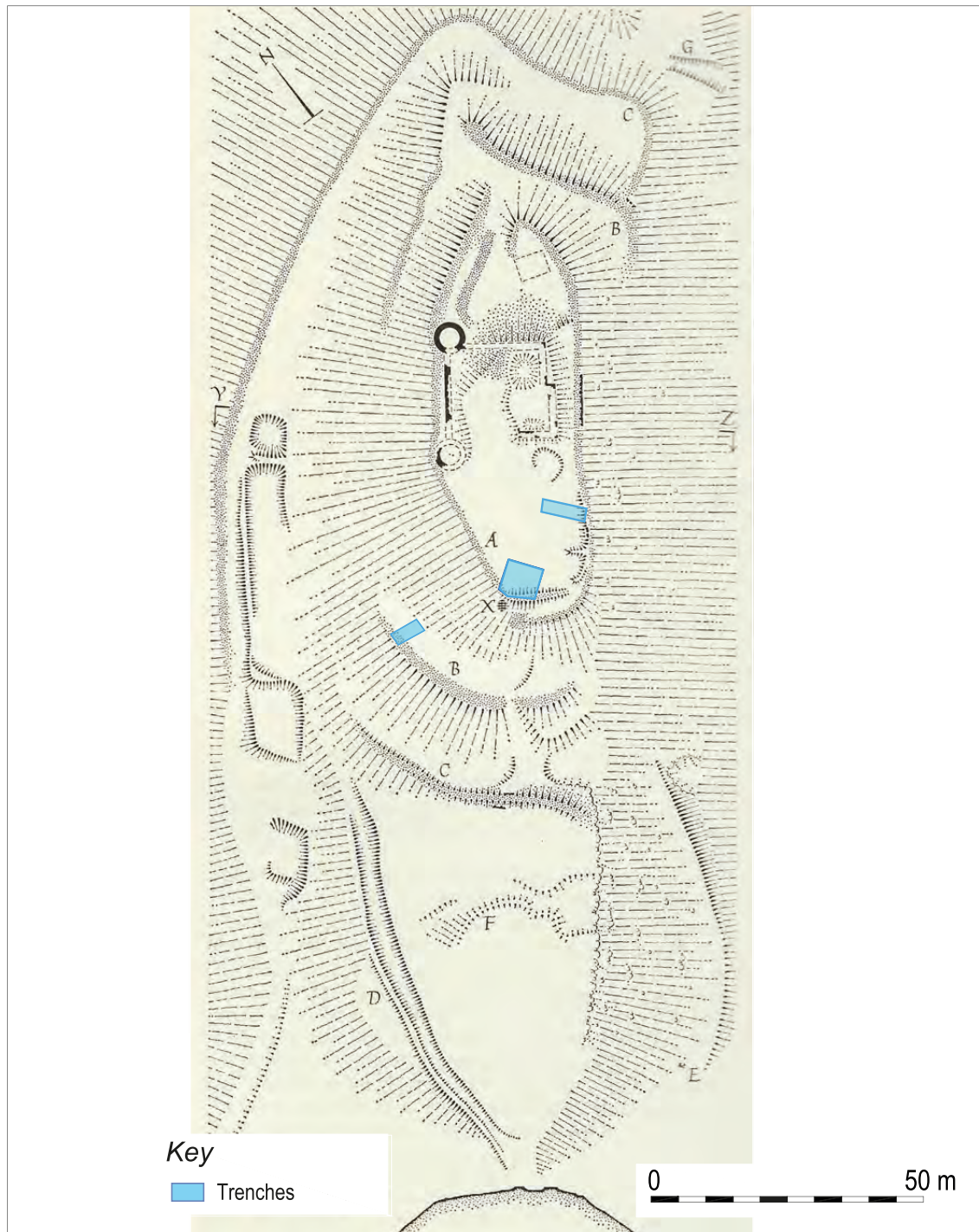


Figure 2: RCAHMS survey of Tinnis Castle and Fort, overlain with 2022 excavation trenches

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The ruins of Tinnis Castle and Fort occupy a prominent rocky knoll overlooking the Upper Tweed valley. The castle occupies the central part of the summit and comprises a quadrangular keep with two circular towers defining its north-west and south-west corners. The traces of masonry indicate a fifteenth - early sixteenth century date for the castle's construction by the Tweedies of Drumelzier, who held this land from the early fourteenth to the early seventeenth century (RCAHMS 1967, 272). It is understood to have been destroyed around 1525 by the Flemings of Biggar during a feud with the Tweedies of Drumelzier (Maxwell-Irving 2014, 49).

- 4.2 The underlying fort is defined by the remains of a rampart enclosing the natural summit of the knoll, supplemented by the remains of two non-concentric outer ramparts, on the north-east and south-west flanks of the knoll (Figure 2). This layout – a fortified summit with a series of lesser enclosures looping out along lower-lying terraces and crags - is typical of a ‘nucleated fort’, a type of hillfort unique to Scotland between circa AD 600 to AD 900 (Toolis & Bowles 2017, 111). Nucleated forts are quite rare in the Scottish Borders. Only two others are found in Peeblesshire, another four further south-east in Roxburghshire, and none have as yet been excavated. However, excavations of nucleated forts in other parts of Scotland have revealed these to be high status settlements of the early medieval period (Toolis 2021, 259-262).
- 4.3 The summit rampart is particularly interesting because vitrified stone has previously been recorded below its south-west corner (RCAHMS 1967, 142-144; marked x on Figure 2). This indicates that this was originally a timber-laced rampart that was deliberately burnt to the ground, causing the rubble to vitrify. This phenomenon is apparent on over 100 hillforts across Scotland that can date to anywhere between 800 BC to AD 1000, from the Iron Age to the early medieval period (Mercer 2018, 220-223). Vitrified hillforts are particularly unusual in the Scottish Borders and indeed south-east Scotland, with only one other recorded in the Borders, that at Black Hill near Earlstoun, and only three others across the Lothians (Mackie 1976, 233-235; Mercer 2018, 251-256).
- 4.4 Tinnis Castle Hillfort is thus especially interesting as it offers the opportunity to examine similarities with other nucleated and vitrified forts elsewhere in Scotland but also what distinguishes this hillfort from the many other hillforts in the Scottish Borders. Indeed, the area of Peeblesshire surrounding Tinnis Castle is particularly rich in hillforts and forms part of a cluster within Upper Tweeddale and Upper Clydesdale separate from distributions across the Lothians, Dumfriesshire and the central and eastern Borders (Lock & Ralston 2017). Henry’s Brae lies on an adjacent ridge and comprises a single stone rampart enclosing a much larger area containing at least 28 round-house platforms. Across the valley lies Dreva Craig, a hillfort containing several roundhouses, enclosed by two ramparts, chevaux de frise set out on its approaches and associated with several clusters of outlying settlements. Further south-west on the other side of the valley is Rachan Hill, which is also enclosed by the remains of two stone ramparts and contains the remains of several roundhouses within its interior. While these hillforts, like most such enclosed hilltop settlements, are understood to be Iron Age, Tinnis Castle Fort stands out as the most likely contender for an early medieval date, a period from which there is as yet very little archaeological evidence recovered from the Scottish Borders and which only a handful of known settlements are considered to date from. The very name of the hill itself may indicate an early medieval origin. Tinnis derives from the word *dinas*, meaning ‘fort’ (Watson 1926, 372) from the Cumbric (or ancient Welsh) language which was spoken in southern Scotland during the early medieval period. *Dinis* is prevalent in Cornwall while *Dinas* is common in Wales where the same language was spoken at the time. While the site was alternatively known as Thanes Castle, the earliest cartographic depiction of it, in William Edgar and Richard Cooper’s map of 1741, names it as Tinice Castle (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Edgar and Cooper’s depiction of Tinnis Castle 1741
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Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological works was to enhance understanding of the Fort underlying Tinnis Castle by establishing the dates for its construction and destruction, and the duration and nature of occupation. These results are to be examined in comparison with the dating evidence from the survey and excavation of Thirlestane Barrow Cemetery, situated approximately two miles away, which will also be undertaken as part of the same project, with the aim of establishing the basis of an early medieval landscape context for Tinnis Castle Fort. Given the comparisons between the clustering of nucleated forts across southern Scotland and the proximity between various nucleated forts and barrow cemeteries (see paragraphs 3.5-3.9 in Appendix G), this project aims to examine a sample of early medieval high-status settlement and burial representative of not only other sites in the Scottish Borders but relevant and applicable to sites in other regions of Scotland. The project will thus seek to understand the role of individual sites within wider local, regional and national settlement systems, and develop chronological frameworks to chart the changing nature of early medieval settlement.
- 5.2 The survey and excavation of Tinnis Castle and Fort also aimed to enable the participation of up to 12 volunteers per day working over a fortnight in August 2022. This represents the highest practical level of volunteer participation for the scale of the excavation. Professional supervision by GUARD Archaeologists was planned to ensure that high standards of excavation were met and adhered to.
- 5.3 There were four main objectives for the archaeological works:
- 1 *To enhance our knowledge and understanding of the site, with particular reference to:*
 - the chronology of the site
 - the material culture of the site
 - its relationship to nearby sites
 - its relationship to other similar hillforts in Scotland
 - the significance of the site within a local, regional, national and supranational context
 - 2 *Engage the local community, volunteers and Young Archaeologists Clubs in helping to investigate the site, providing the opportunity to develop new skills and experience in archaeological fieldwork;*
 - 3 *Apply high quality techniques to the recovery of archaeological evidence (excavation) and the analyses of that evidence (post-excavation) to maximise the information we retrieve, collaborating with an array of specialists from different sectors;*
 - 4 *Produce and disseminate accurate and detailed records to enable the wider public to learn about the site and its context in the history of the Scottish Borders, enhancing the relevant historic environment records, an interim data structure report and publications.*
- 5.4 These objectives accord with all five aims of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy (HES 2016, 15-23).
- 5.5 Another objective is to accord with Scheduled Monument Policies:
- SMP1: When undertaking works to scheduled monuments, their significance should be maintained.
 - SMP2: Conservation and research works should always be aimed at the lowest level of intervention that is consistent with achieving a monument's preservation.
- 5.6 The proposed works will also accord with the following Scheduled Monument Consent Policies:
- SMCP1: Works to scheduled monuments will normally only be permitted if they have minimal impact upon a monument's cultural significance.
 - SMCP2: Extensive intervention at scheduled monuments will not normally be permitted.

- SMCP3: Extensive intervention to a scheduled monument will only be allowed where:
 - i) it has minimal effect on the cultural significance of the monument; or
 - ii) it will clearly generate public benefits of national importance which outweigh the impact on the nationally important cultural significance of the monument. Such public benefits could come from, for example, interventions which improve public access to a scheduled monument (where appropriate), or assist public understanding once the works are completed, or provide economic benefits of national importance once completed.
- SMCP4: Proposals for change should be carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, and properly planned and executed. The level of information provided should be in proportion to the sensitivity of the monument or feature and the level of change proposed.

Methodology

6.1 All work was conducted in line with a Method Statement (Appendix G) agreed in advance with Historic Environment Scotland during the preparation of a successful application for Scheduled Monument Consent (Case ID: 300040603; Index no SM2984). The work followed the standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), of which GUARD Archaeology Ltd is a Registered Organisation:

- *Code of conduct (2021);*
- *Standard and guidance for archaeological field excavation (2020); and*
- *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2020).*

7.6.2 The archaeological fieldwork commenced with an aerial drone survey of the site in order to take colour photographs of the site. Using photogrammetry, this record was then used to create a 3D digital elevation model of Tinnis Castle and Fort and a 2D measured site plan, thus updating the previous survey plan of the site (RCAHMS 1967, 144). This required the placement of a small number of survey pegs into the ground to act as survey control points to be used for the GPS survey of the site. This formed a network of points from which detailed survey and recording could proceed during the field work.

6.3 The location of the three trenches is illustrated on Figures 2, 4 and 5.

6.4 Photographs were taken of each trench area prior to the commencement of the excavation (Plates 1-3).

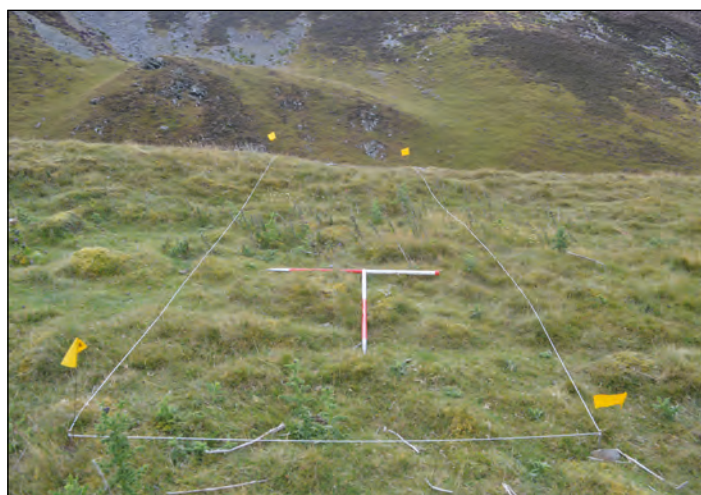


Plate 1: Pre-excavation shot of Trench 1, from NW



Plate 2: Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2, from NE



Plate 3: Pre-excavation shot of Trench 3, from E

- 6.5 Trench 1, on the eastern side of the summit, measured 2m x 7m. Trench 2, on the south-western side of the summit, measured 5.35m x 6m. Trench 3, on the lower-lying southwestern side, measured 2m x 5m. The excavation of the trenches was undertaken by approximately 12 volunteers each day supervised by a team comprising four professional archaeologists from GUARD Archaeology Ltd. The GUARD Archaeology team comprise one Project Director in overall charge, assisted by one Project Officer and two Project Archaeologists. A ratio of 4 volunteers per professional archaeologist was considered to offer the best value/return for the training and supervision of volunteers.
- 6.6 The excavation of each trench commenced with de-turfing by hand. The turfs were stacked appropriately face down on the grass of the adjacent ground (stacked grass to grass, earth to earth, grass to grass) and regularly checked and watered to ensure that they recovered upon re-turfing at the completion of the excavation. The backfill soil was stored separately on plastic sheets, laid out across the adjacent ground on the other side of the trench, after being dry-sieved.
- 6.7 The topsoil at each trench location was removed in spits by hand to the first undisturbed archaeological horizon. The ramparts were exposed and cleared of sufficient loose rubble to reveal their form and structure, by exposing the wall faces, internal post voids and horizontal beams. A 0.85m wide sondage was excavated through the summit rampart in Trench 1 to enable

a section of the rampart to be recorded. It was not possible to safely excavate another c. 0.5m wide sondage through the lower rampart to enable a section of this rampart to be recorded. Instead, a 0.6m wide sondage was therefore excavated through the rubble core of the summit rampart in Trench 2 to enable a section of the rampart here to be recorded. The ramparts were otherwise left intact and in situ.

- 6.8 All other archaeological features encountered were cleaned by hand and fully excavated in order to extract sufficient evidence to determine their date, form and nature. Unless located high in the stratigraphic sequence and therefore overlying significant earlier deposits, any internal stone structures encountered within the trenches were cleaned by hand and appropriate samples taken but left intact and in situ. With this caveat and the caveat above pertaining to the ramparts, the sequence of archaeological deposits was otherwise excavated by hand to the depth at which natural undisturbed subsoil was encountered within the timeframe of the excavation.
- 6.9 A full record of excavated features was made using a single context planning system using pro forma sheets, drawings and photographs in order to determine their character, extent and stratigraphic relationship with other archaeological contexts. The full depth of sections of each trench were recorded by written, drawn and photographic recording and the stratigraphic sequence of each trench established using Harris matrices. All archaeological features were photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections were drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20 and 1:50. A aerial drone survey of each trench was undertaken to enable photogrammetry to be used to create accurate plans and sections for each trench. All levels were tied into Ordnance Datum and the trenches were accurately located with the National Grid. All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, were to ClfA standards.
- 6.10 All excavated soil deposits were dry-sieved on-site and all finds encountered during this process were recovered. All archaeological finds were recorded and bagged. Finds and animal bone were collected as bulk samples by context. Significant small finds were three dimensionally located prior to collection. All finds will be processed to MAP2 type standards and subject to specialist assessment. Conservation of finds will be appraised to allow for specialist study.
- 6.11 Bulk soil samples of 20-40 litres, worked stones and representative samples of vitrified stone were recovered from each excavated deposit, targeting charcoal for radiocarbon dating and charred macroplants for assessment and analyses of palaeo-environmental evidence. It was intended to take monolith samples for soil micromorphology for the analyses of soil development and the formation of archaeological deposits from secure stratigraphic contexts in trench sections. However, no suitable deposits and trench sections were identified. A spatial distribution of 100ml soil samples was taken from selected archaeological deposits (such as floor layers or midden spreads) to enable multi-element analyses to be undertaken. The exact spatial distribution for this sampling was subject to the extent of such deposits but aimed to collect sufficient evidence for differential use of different parts of the settlement.
- 6.12 On completion of the excavation, the backfilling of each trench was undertaken by hand, under the supervision of GUARD Archaeologists. A layer of geotextile membrane was laid over the excavated areas. Backfill soil was then deposited over this and then the turf laid back over the surface and watered. Care was taken to backfill the site so that the original contours, such as the perimeter ramparts, were restored.
- 6.13 The site was revisited by GUARD Archaeology one month after the completion of backfilling to check that the restored trenches had settled and if any further remedial work was required.

Results

7.1 The results should be read with reference to the records in Appendices A-E and Figures 4-15.

Topographic survey (Eduardo Perez-Fernandez)

- 7.2 An aerial drone survey of Tinnis Castle and Fort was undertaken on 5 August 2022 by members of the Peeblesshire Archaeological Society (Plate 4). Using photogrammetry, this photographic record was then used to create measured site plans (Figures 4 & 5), thus updating the previous survey (RCAHMS 1967, 144; Figure 2). The new survey confirms that the central oval enclosure measures 65 m north-east/south-west by 25 m crosswise and is defined by a rubble stone rampart largely reduced to a grassy escarpment (Rampart A in Figure 2). The summit wall encloses an area of 1,415m². The area of the summit has a relatively flat surface except in the central sector where a slight elevation stands out and the mortared masonry remains of Tinnis Castle, a medieval fortification with a square plan of about 15 x 15 metres, reinforced by two circular towers on the NW and SW corners.
- 7.3 The new survey also confirms that the summit rampart is flanked by two smaller enclosures on the lower-lying south-west side of the hill (Figures 4 & 5). These are defined by a rubble stone rampart (Rampart B in Figure 2) that rises about 7 metres above another lower rubble stone rampart (Rampart C in Figure 2). It is unclear if the gaps through the centre of these ramparts relate to an original entranceway feature, or simply mark a later modern approach to the summit.
- 7.4 A clearer entranceway to the summit is apparent on the northeast side of the hill (Figure 5). This is approached via a ramp along the north-western foot of the summit, the north-western edge of which is defined by a sharp break of slope rather than a rampart. The underlying ground along this ramp appears to comprise levelled stone rubble, likely derived from the collapsed summit rampart. The course of this break of slope merges into a rubble stone rampart that encloses a terrace below the north-eastern side of the summit (Rampart C in Figure 2). A further rubble stone rampart defines another terrace lying between the lower terrace and the summit (Rampart B in Figure 2). Both of these enclosures open to the entranceway up to the summit, which leads through a small gap in the summit rampart. The area between the entranceway and the mortared remains of Tinnis Castle is obscured with loose rubble. Only to the southwest of upstanding remains of Tinnis Castle is the summit levelled, though rubble can be felt underfoot.



Plate 4: Oblique aerial photograph of Tinnis Castle and Fort, from W

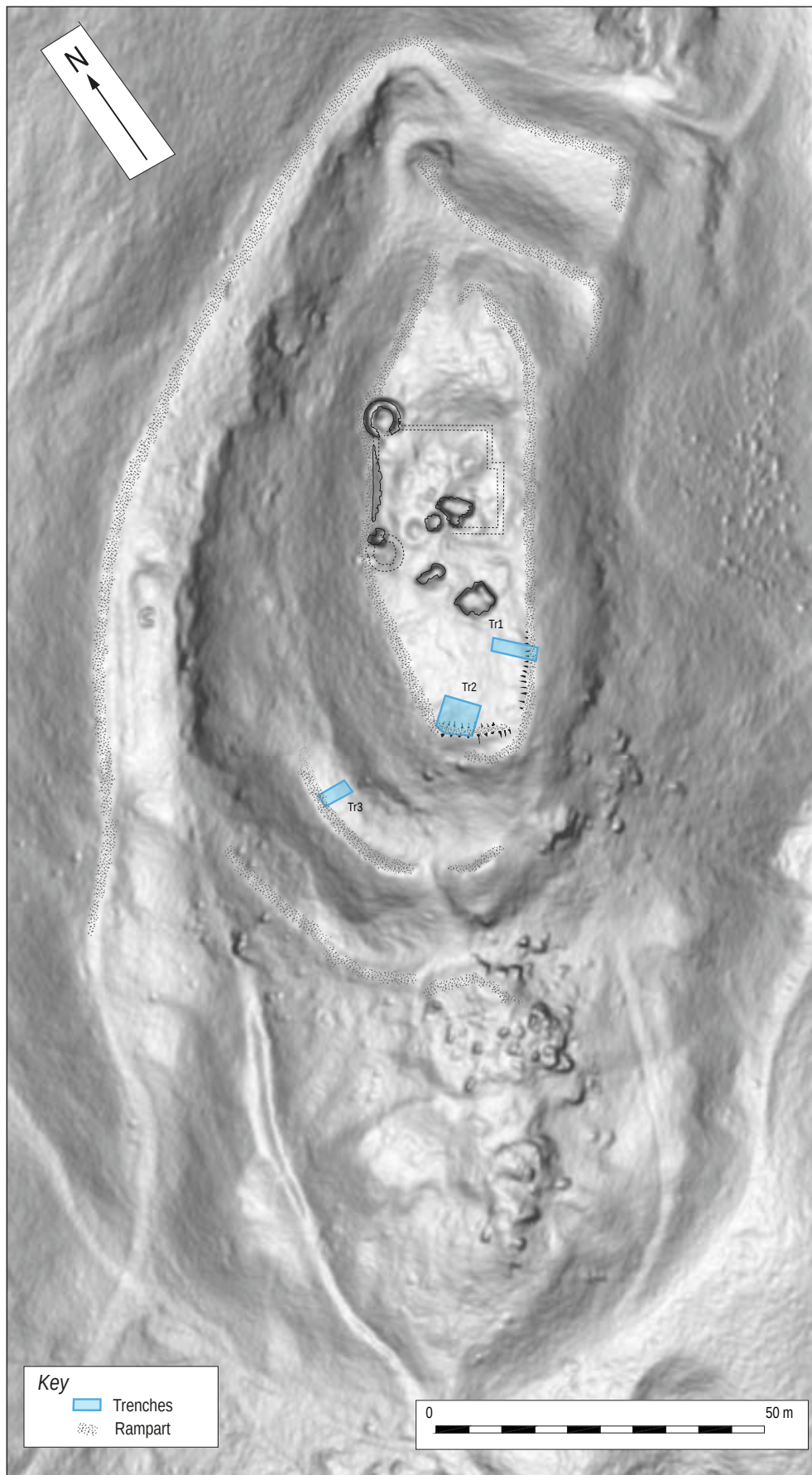


Figure 4: Photogrammetry Digital Surface Model generated by drone of Tinnis Castle and Fort



Figure 5: Tinnis Castle and Fort Site Plan

- 7.5 The new survey record also enabled a 3D digital elevation model of Tinnis Castle and Fort (Figure 6), which further demonstrates the internal configuration of the various enclosures and the course of the rubble stone ramparts

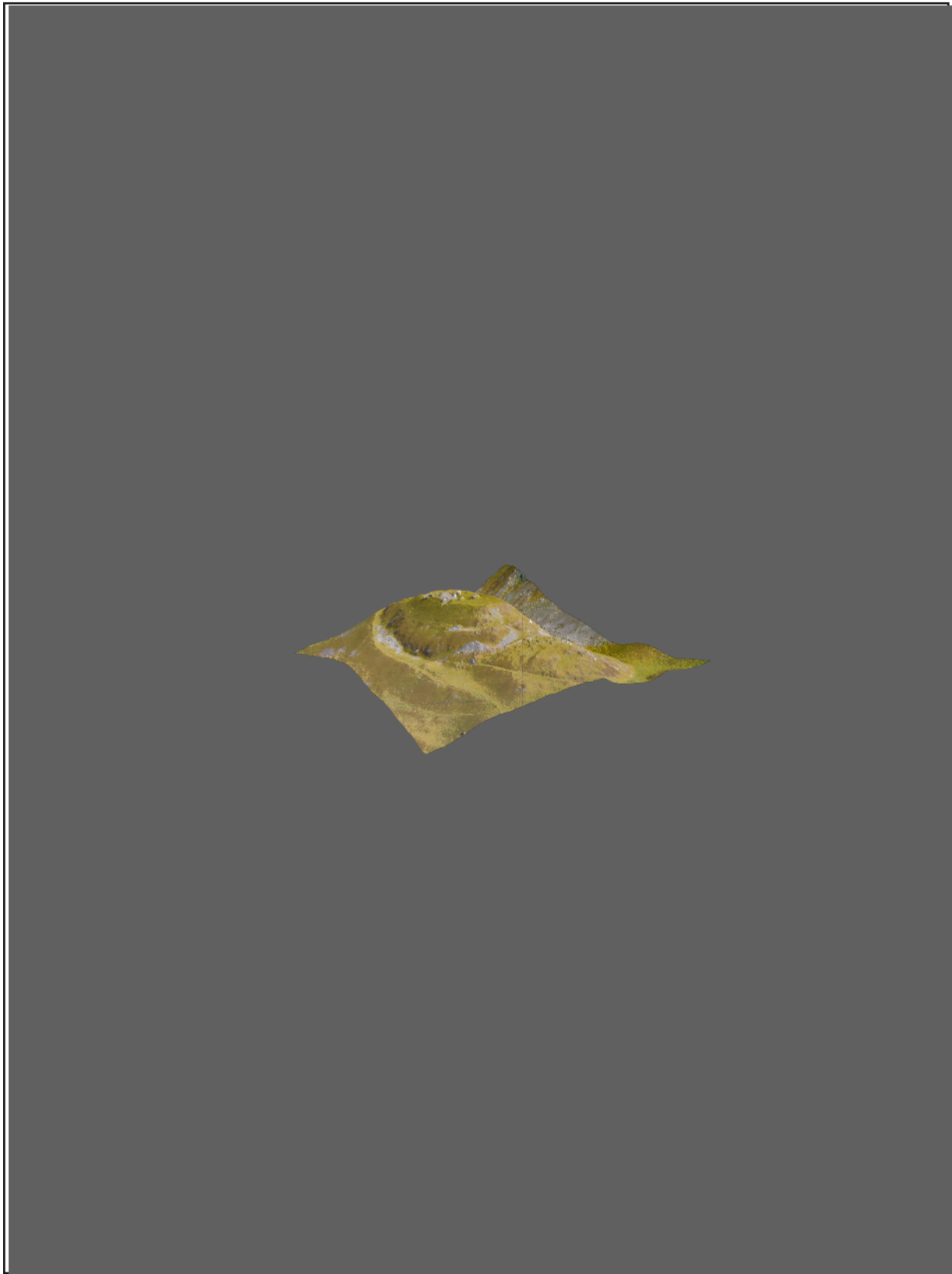


Figure 6: 3D model of Tinnis Castle and Fort

Trench 1 (Thomas Muir)

- 7.6 Trench 1 measured 14m² and was located on the south-east edge of the summit, to the south of the visible ruins of Tinnis Castle (Figure 5).

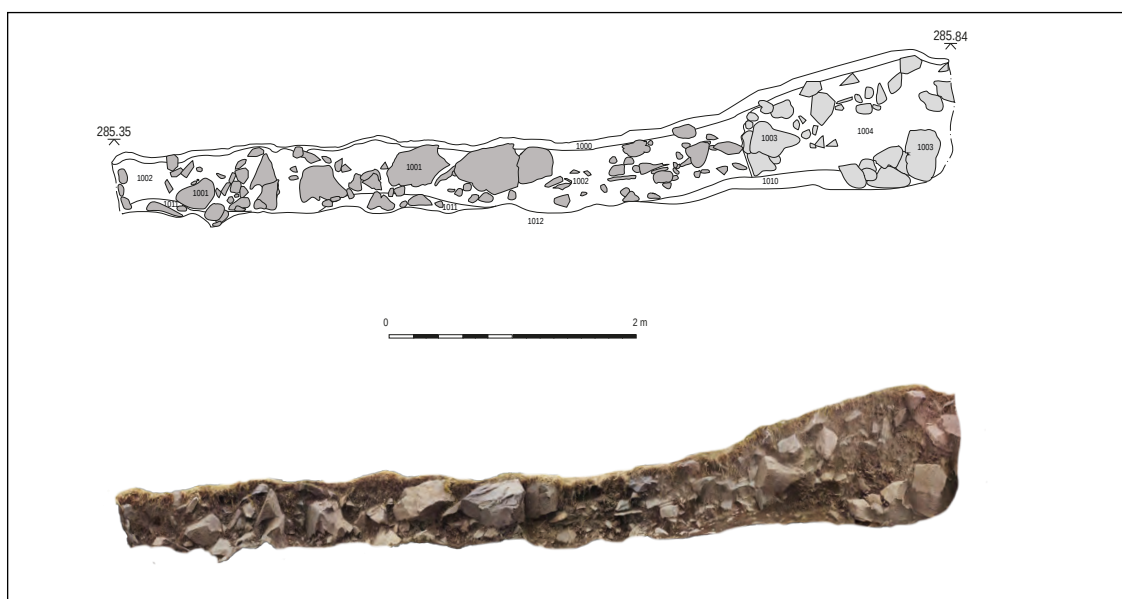


Figure 7: Southwest facing section of Trench 1

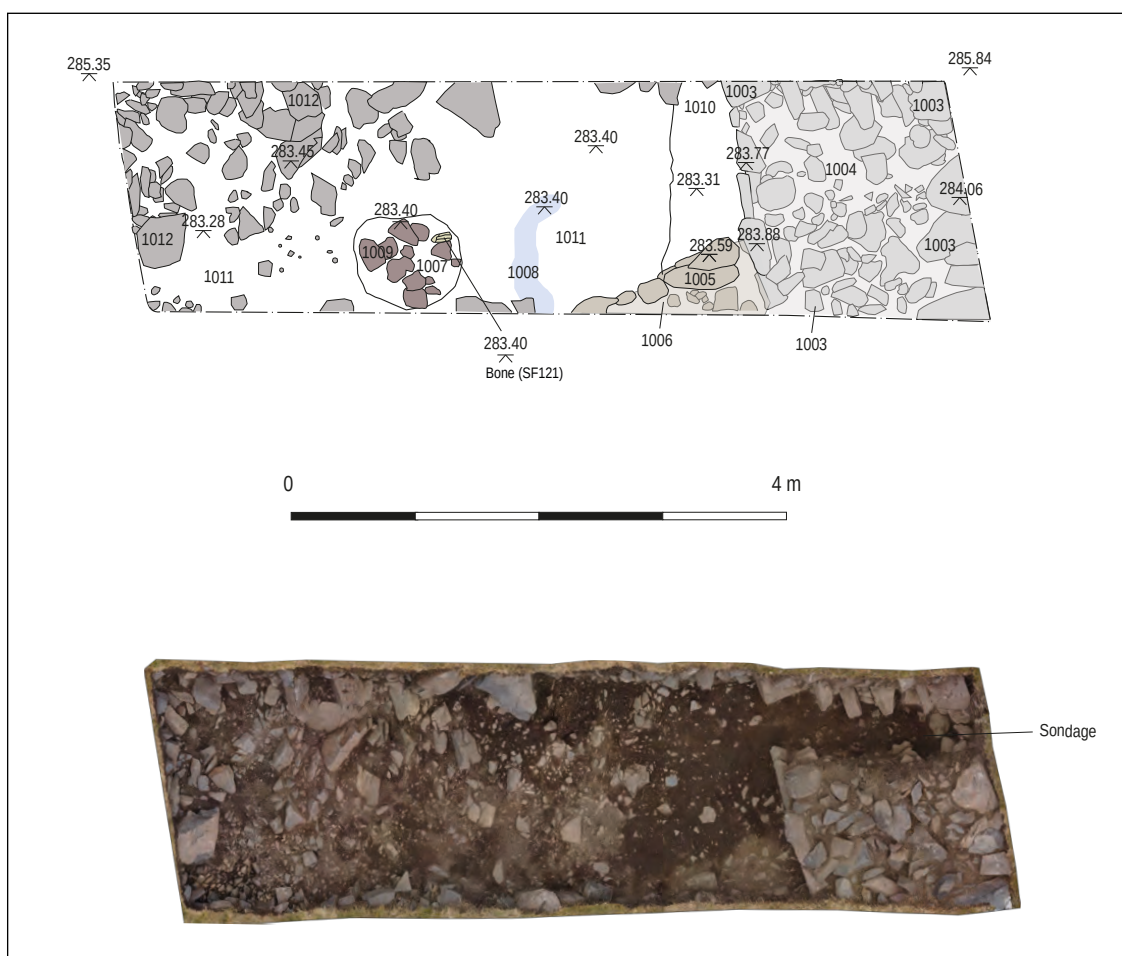


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 1



Plate 5: Interior face of rampart 1003, from NW

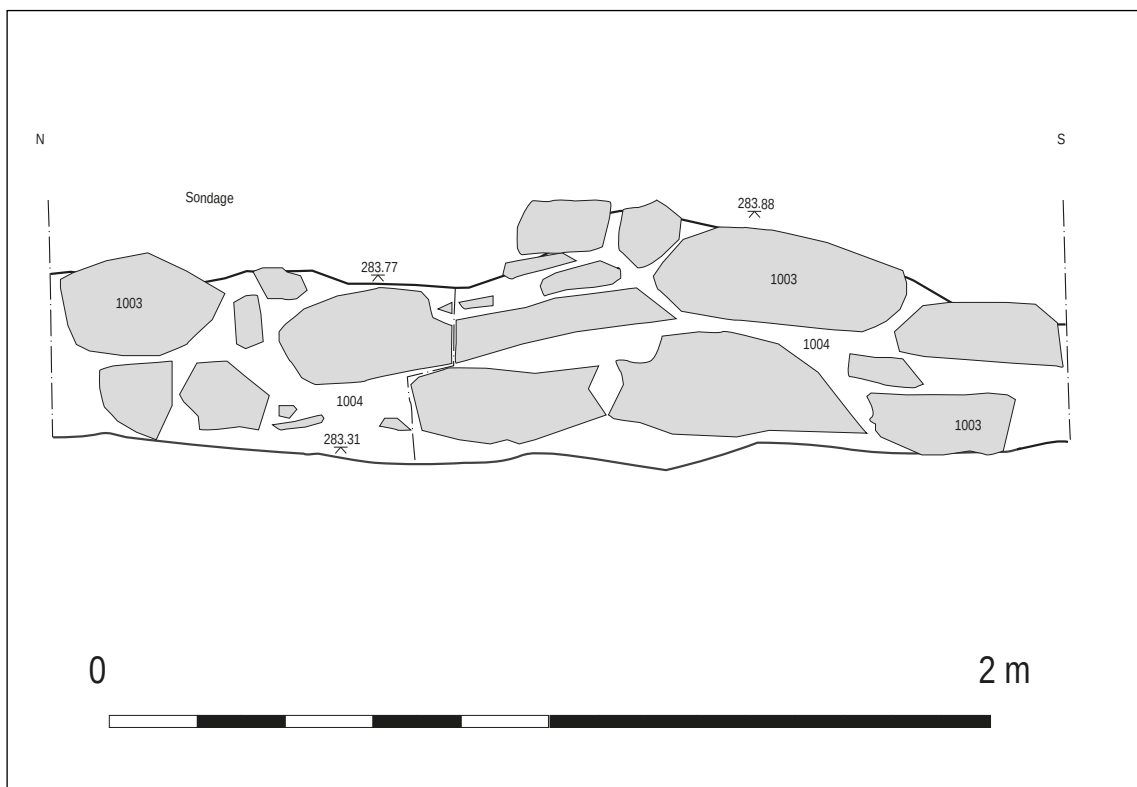


Figure 9: Northwest facing elevation of Rampart 1003



Plate 6: Rampart 1003, from NE

- 7.7** The earliest stratigraphic deposit within Trench 1 (Figure 7), overlying the friable, dark brown grey silty sand subsoil (1011) and natural greywacke bedrock (1012), was a compact, dark grey brown silty sand layer (1010) with frequent small sub-angular and rounded stones, and charcoal flecks throughout, and a fragment of vitrified stone (SF 170). This deposit (1010) was 0.18m thick, and extended 2.38m north-west from the north-east corner of the trench, and across the width of the trench. It was overlain by the drystone rampart wall (1003). The rampart was aligned northeast/southwest along the south-eastern edge of the summit and was 1.7m in width (Figure 8). It comprised of two courses (Plate 5; Figure 9) and survived to a height of 0.83m. It was constructed of medium to large sub-angular greywacke stones, the larger stones forming an interior face on the northwest side and an exterior face along its southeast edge. The smaller stones formed a rubble core between these stone faces (Plate 6). A 0.85m wide slot was excavated through the rampart wall (1003) and its soil matrix (1004) along the northeast edge of the trench. The soil matrix (1004) of the rampart wall consisted of a firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with inclusions of bone (SF 143, 146 & 191), vitrified stone (SF 144 & 148), charcoal (SF 149 & 192) and a small loose piece of mortar (SF 147).
- 7.8** Separately, near the centre of Trench 1 were the remains of a surface identified in two discrete areas (Figure 8). From 1.40m north-west of the interior face of the stone rampart (1003) was an area of compact, light yellow grey sandy mortar (1008) with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones (Plate 7). The main bulk of this survived in a roughly east-west curvilinear shape measuring 0.9m long by 0.23m wide and 0.07m thick, with three smaller patches identified around its southern and eastern extents. At 2.34m from the north-west of the interior face of the stone rampart (1003), a cluster of broken stone slabs (1009) was also identified in a small, uneven circular pattern measuring 0.38m east/west and 0.30m north/south (Figure 8; Plate 8). The slabs were flat, hand shaped greywacke stones, 0.08m thick. The stones were set in a friable, dark brown grey sandy silt matrix deposit (1007). This was 0.08m in depth, and survived in an uneven-oval shaped deposit, measuring 0.88m long east/west and 0.8m wide north/south and continuing into the south-west section. Three pieces of unburnt animal bone (SF 121, 122 & 127) were recovered from the deposit as well as a small piece of charcoal (SF 128). The surface of both the mortar and the stone slabs lay at the same level (Figure 8) and both features lay directly upon subsoil (1012).



Plate 7: Mortar surface 1008, from SW



Plate 8: Stone slabs 1009 with matrix 1007 and SF 121, from NW

- 7.9 Abutting the interior face of the rampart wall (1003) and overlying the mortar surface (1008) was a stone wall (1005), oriented east/west and surviving as a single course of medium to large greywacke stones (Plates 9 & 10). It measured 0.37m wide and 0.32m in height and a length of 1.25m was revealed within Trench 1. The matrix deposit (1006) was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small stones, mortar and evidence of rooting throughout. A small sample of mortar (SF 126) was recovered from this deposit.



Plate 9: Wall 1005 abutting rampart 1003, from NW



Plate 10: Wall 1005, from N

- 7.10 Overlying the wall (1005) was a layer of tumbled small to large sub-angular greywacke stones (1001), including several stones with mortar attached. This covered the entire length and width of Trench 1 from the interior face of the rampart (1003) and was up to 0.50m deep (Figure 7; Plate 11). The soil matrix of this rubble spread comprised a friable, mid grey brown silty sand (1002) with occasional rooting throughout and numerous inclusions of bone fragments (SF 57, 58, 84, 87, 97, 100, 123 & 125), charcoal (SF 83, 98, 99 & 101), vitrified stone (SF 051), mortar (SF 61), oyster shells (SF 63 & 91), a fragment of slate (SF 71), a piece of daub (SF 60), a small piece of lead (SF 56), pieces of iron (SF 59 & 86), a nail (SF 90) and a horseshoe (SF 124; Plate 12). This deposit was sealed by a thin turf and topsoil layer (1000) comprising friable, mid grey brown silty sand up to 0.16m deep in places. Numerous pieces of bone (SF 11, 12, 31, 33, 44 & 52), mortar (SF 32, 34 & 35) and charcoal (SF 30) were recovered from the topsoil.



Plate 11: Rubble spread 1001, from NW



Plate 12: Horseshoe (SF 124) in situ, from NE

Trench 2 (Laura Muser)

7.11 Trench 2 measured 32.1m² and was located at the south-west edge of the summit, south-west of the visible ruins of Tinnis Castle (Figure 5).

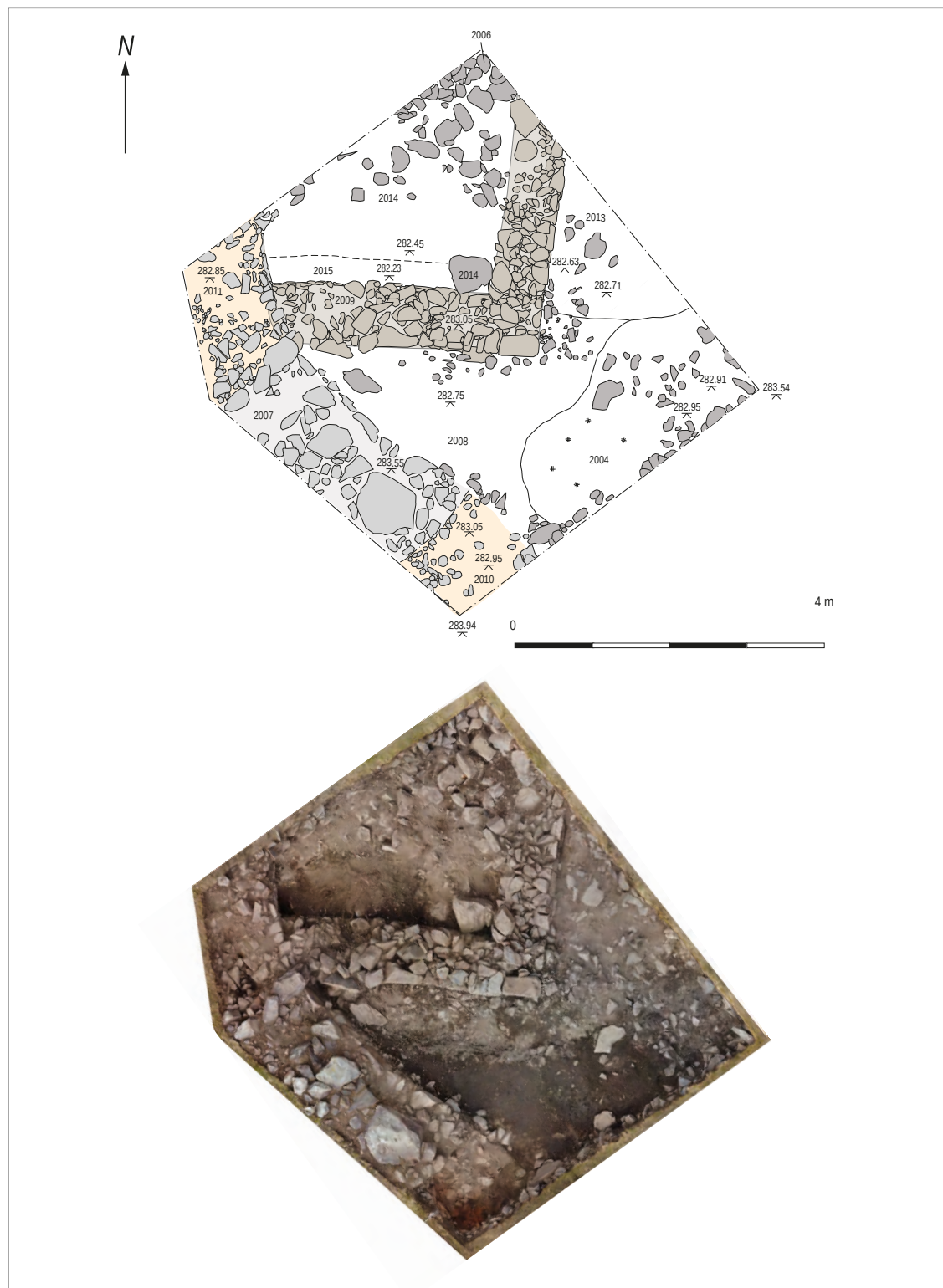


Figure 10: Plan of Trench 2

7.12 The earliest stratigraphic features within Trench 2 comprised two discrete parts of the drystone rampart that encircles the summit, located at the southern corner (2010) and the north-west corner (2011) of the trench (Figure 10).

7.13 Rampart (2010) was apparent 0.08m below the modern ground surface and comprised of a 1.09m long and 1m wide rubble spread of medium to large sub-angular and angular stones with a mid-grey brown silty sand matrix. A sondage, measuring 0.6m wide, was excavated at the southern corner of Trench 3 to a depth of 0.56m (Figure 11), though the base of the rampart core itself was not reached. The sondage through (2010) revealed vitrified stones in situ (Plate 13) immediately adjacent to burnt, discoloured and fire-cracked stones in situ (Plate 14) and a burnt animal bone (SF 167; Plate 15). Inclusions of burnt and vitrified stone (SF 131, 158, 168, 179), animal bone fragments (SF 139, 156, 159, 176, 178, 180) and charcoal (SF 138, 157, 160, 175, 177, 181) were recovered from the rampart core (2010).

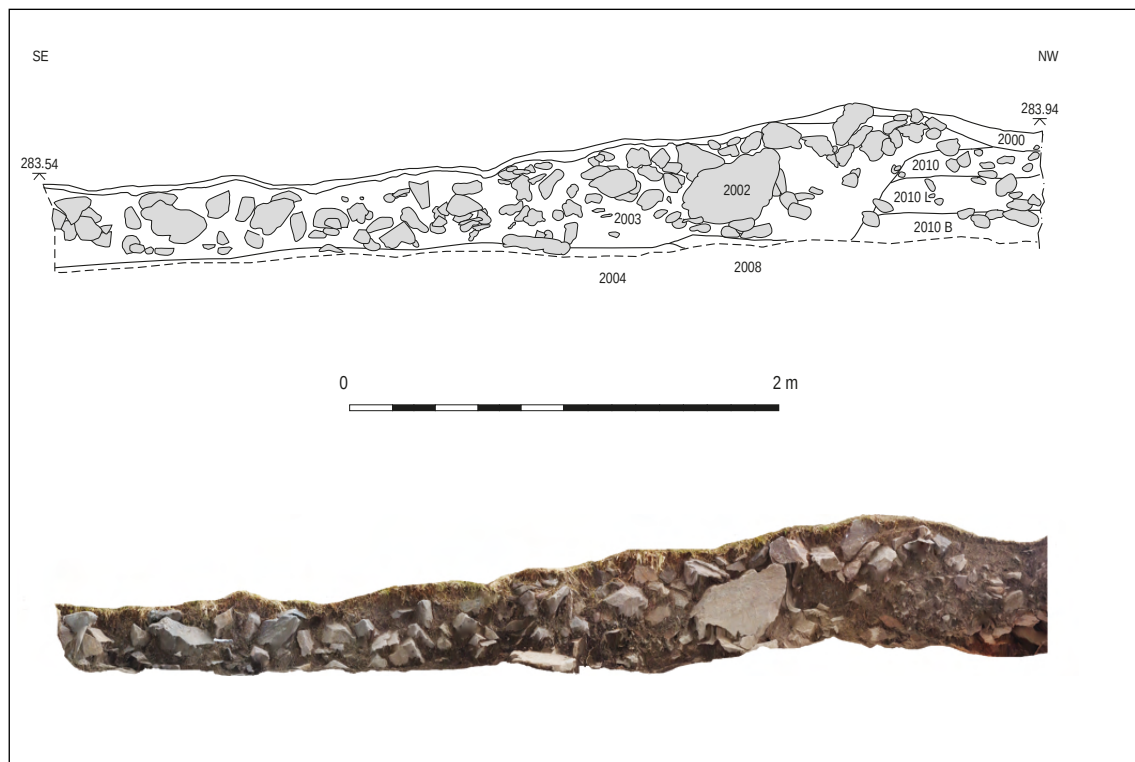


Figure 11: NW-facing section of Trench 2



Plate 13: In situ vitrified stone (2010) from NE



Plate 14: Burnt and discoloured rampart core (2010) from NE



Plate 15: Burnt bone (SF 167) in situ within rampart core (2010), from NE

- 7.14 At the north-west corner of Trench 2 was rampart core (2011) again comprised of medium to large sub-angular and angular stones with a mid-grey brown silty sand matrix. This was first apparent 0.05m below the modern ground surface and comprised of a 1.51m long and 1.20m wide rubble spread, of which a depth of 0.32m was exposed but no further excavation to its actual base undertaken. While a fragment of vitrified stone (SF 162) was recovered from rampart core (2011), no in situ vitrified stone or burnt and discoloured stone was apparent. Inclusions of animal bone fragments (SF 161) and charcoal (SF 163) were also recovered from rampart core (2011).
- 7.15 Merging with the NNW/SSE aligned interior side of rampart core (2011; Plate 16) was stone wall (2009), which ran 3.56m east/west before turning 90° and continuing for a further 3.48m north and beyond the edge of the trench (Plate 17). It measured 0.70m in width, and was constructed with a mixture of angular and cuboid dressed stones with mortar bonding visible in some areas. The base of the wall was not reached during the excavation. At its deepest visible point, the wall was 0.81m and four courses high (Plate 18).



Plate 16: Integration of wall 2009 with rampart core 2011, from NE



Plate 17: Wall 2009, from SE



Plate 18: Wall 2009, from N

- 7.16** A slot measuring 2m by 0.5m was excavated along the inner, north facing wall face of wall (2009) to reveal a friable, light greyish brown sandy silt deposit (2015). This 0.17m deep deposit contained very frequent inclusions of mortar (SF 169, 188), and charcoal (SF 187, 190) as well as piece of daub (SF 189).
- 7.17** In the south-eastern corner of Trench 2 was apparent a deposit layer (2004) of friable, dark black brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of medium angular stones and very frequent inclusions of charcoal (Figure 10). This deposit extended over an area of 3.60m by 1.43m, extending beyond the south-eastern edges of the trench and though a depth of 0.04m was excavated, its base was not reached. This layer (2004) was a particularly artefact-rich deposit, from which green glazed redware pottery sherds (SF 106, 109, 145, 151; Plate 19), animal bone fragments (SF 096, 108, 110, 172), an iron nail (SF 171) and charcoal (SF 095, 107, 152, 173) were recovered.



Plate 19: Green glazed redware pottery sherd (SF 151) in situ, from NE

- 7.18 Edging deposits (2004) and (2008) at their northern extents was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand deposit layer (2013) with frequent inclusions of angular stones and occasional charcoal, which covered an area of approximately 2.2m² and abutted the east facing side of wall (2009). This deposit layer (2013) was at least 0.26 m deep though it was not fully excavated.
- 7.19 Overlying layer (2004) and abutting the southern side of wall (2009) was another layer of 0.37m deep friable, mid black brown sandy silt (2008) with frequent small to medium angular and sub-angular stones and infrequent inclusions of charcoal (SF 154), animal bone (SF 153, 174) and vitrified stone (SF 155). While deposit layer (2008) also abutted the rampart core (2010), it underlay stone structure (2007), which was located between the rampart segments (2010) and (2011).
- 7.20 Situated along the south-western edge of Trench 2, stone structure (2007) intersected the rampart segments (2010) and (2011). However, it was not similar in composition, comprising instead two large flagstones on the surface embedded in a compact, dark grey brown sandy silt matrix with frequent medium to large sub-angular and angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. It measured 3.53m long, 1.02-1.20m wide and was 0.46m deep in elevation (Plate 20). While it was defined during the excavation, it was left unexcavated.



Plate 20: NE facing elevation of stone structure 2007, from NE

- 7.21 Both deposit (2015) to the north and deposit (2008) to the south of wall (2009) were sealed by rubble (2014) and its soil matrix (2012). While the rubble (2014) was predominantly light brownish grey greywacke stones with mortar still attached in some cases, its matrix (2012) comprised friable, mid grey brown silty sand and small to medium sub-angular stones with occasional inclusions of charcoal. Together this 0.31-0.64m deep rubble spread covered an area of 3.01m long by over 2.24m wide and beyond the northwest edge of the trench (Plate 21). A variety of finds was recovered from the rubble matrix (2012), ranging from mortar (SF 132, 183), charcoal (SF 165, 184), and bone (SF 166, 186) to glass (SF 182), possibly burnt bark (SF 164) and slag (SF 185).



Plate 21: Rubble spread 2012/2014, from NE

- 7.22 Overlying this interior rubble spread was a further 0.21-0.49m deep layer of rubble (2002) comprising small to large sub-angular and angular light brown grey greywacke stones (Plate 22). Amongst the rubble spread, mortared stone (SF 089) was observed. The rubble (2002) and soil matrix (2003) covered most of Trench 2, including the rampart segments (2010 & 2011). The soil matrix (2003) comprised friable, mid grey brown silty sand with numerous inclusions such as one sherd of green glazed redware pottery (SF 078), a clay pipe bowl fragment (SF 135), a sample fragment of slate (SF 073), various animal bones (SF 062, 066, 074, 079, 080, 081, 104, 111, 112, 120, 129, 133, 134), a shard of glass (SF 136), daub (SF 067), a partial oyster shell (SF 103), an iron nail (SF150), two flat strips of metal (SF 075, 105) and charcoal (SF 077, 082, 137).

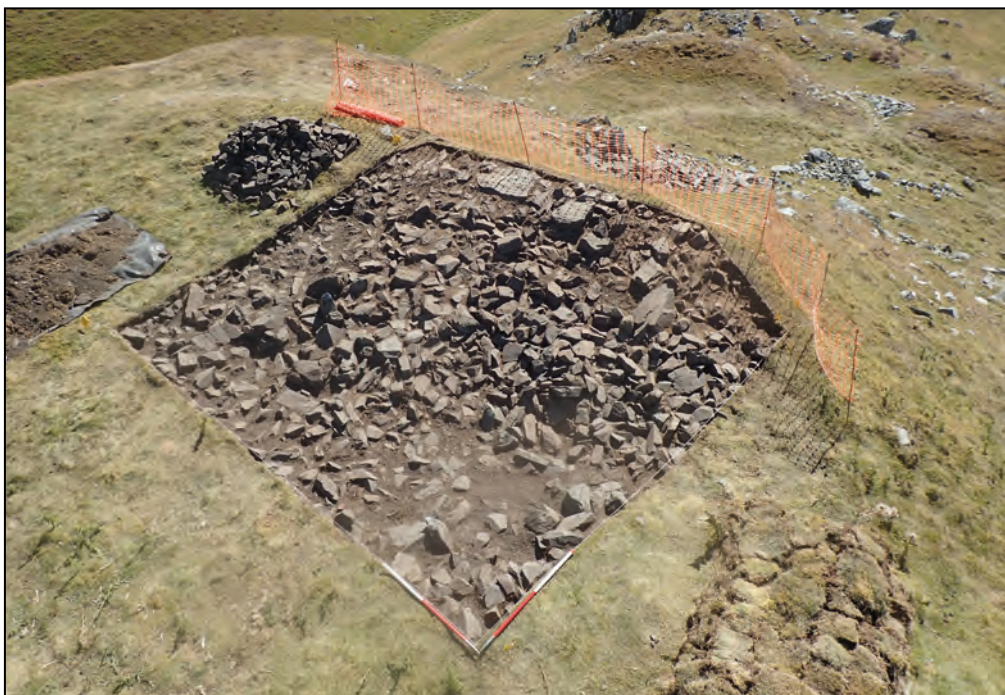


Plate 22: Rubble spreads 2002/2003 and 2001/2006, from NE

- 7.23 In the north-eastern corner of Trench 2, the rubble spread (2002/2003) was truncated by a 4.72m² and 0.46m deep curvilinear pit (2005), which was visible in the trench section (Figure 12), extending 2.19m NW/SE and beyond the south-east facing section and 1.86m SW/NE and beyond the south-west facing section of the trench. It was filled with rubble (2006) comprising light brown grey, medium to large greywacke stones, though including a fragment of red sandstone (SF 072), within a soil matrix (2001) of friable, dark black brown sandy silt with very frequent inclusions of small rounded stones and mortar fragments, animal bones (SF 021, 054, 076, 102) and an iron nail (SF 045).

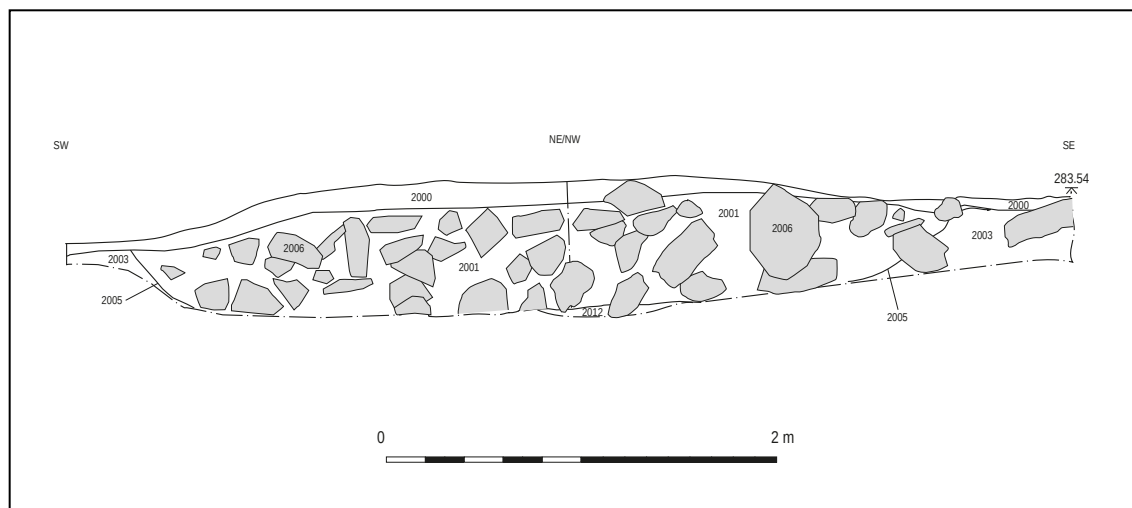


Figure 12: Wrap around section of NE corner of Trench 2, showing pit [2005]

- 7.24 The topsoil (2000) overlying Trench 2 comprised friable, mid grey brown silty sand with very frequent small to medium angular and sub-angular stone under mossy grass with an average depth of 0.11m. The finds recovered from the topsoil (2000) included a sherd of green glazed redware pottery (SF 047), vitrified stone (SF 003, 005), a water-worn rounded stone (SF 004), a sample fragment of slate (SF 014), pebbles with mortar (SF 022, 026, 027, 028), mortar (SF 016, 024, 025, 029, 042), animal bone (SF 001, 002, 010, 013, 020, 046, 049, 068), glass shards (SF 015, 023), an iron nail (SF 043) and a small metal ring or chain element (SF 048).
- 7.25 A loose fragment of mortar (SF 130) was collected from the masonry ruins of Tinnis Castle as a sample for comparison with the mortar collected from Trenches 1-2.

Trench 3 (Lauren Reid)

7.26 Trench 3 measured 10m² and was located to the west and downslope of the south-west edge of the summit (Figure 5).

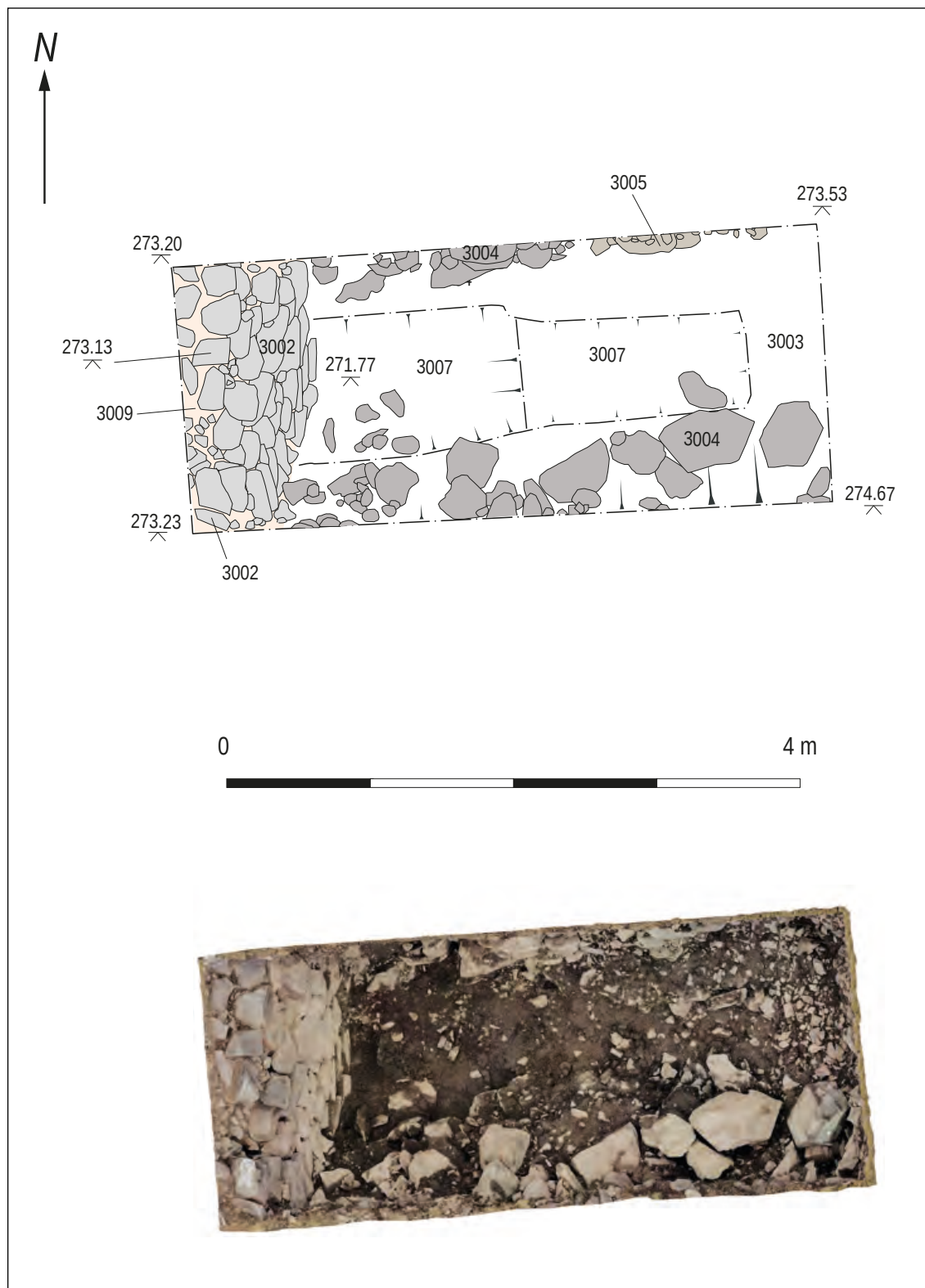


Figure 13: Plan of Trench 3

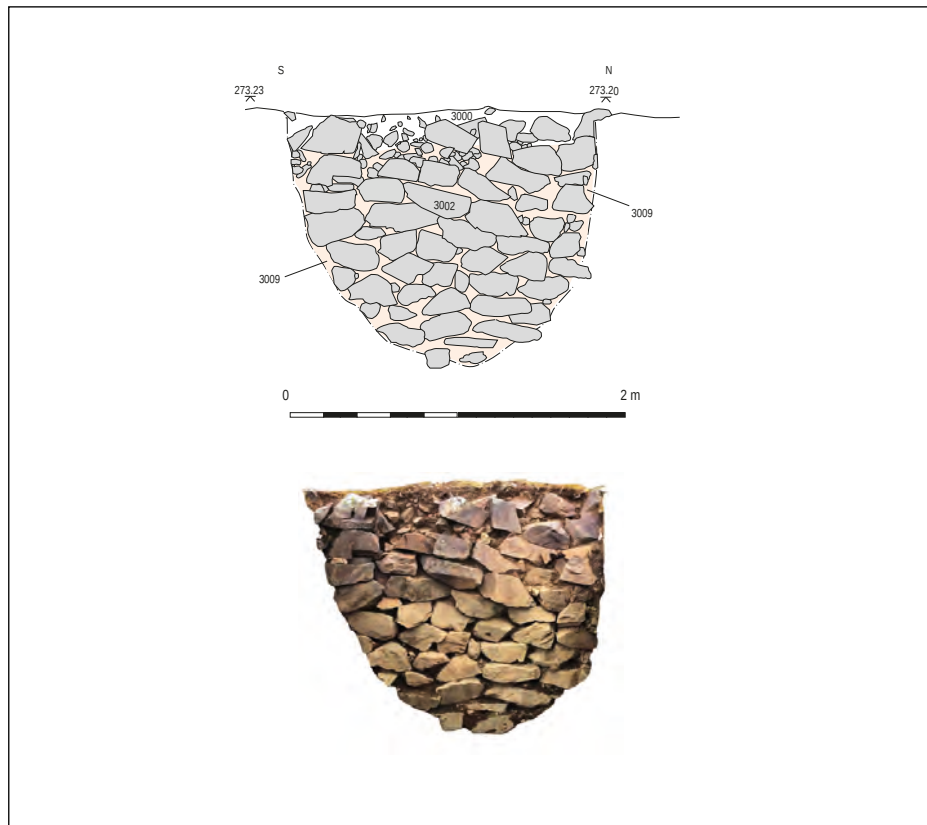


Figure 14: East facing elevation of wall 3002



Plate 23: Interior face of rampart wall 3002, from E

- 7.27 Though the top of it was located close to the surface, the earliest observed stratigraphic feature in Trench 3 was a N/S aligned drystone rampart wall (3002) located on the western edge of the trench (Figure 13). Only the east face of this wall, measuring 1.63m in height was exposed (Figure 14). The wall comprised of at least nine courses of large angular stones measuring from 0.15m x 0.09m to 0.45m x 0.20m, dressed on the eastern face and embedded within a silty sand and clay matrix (3009; Plate 23). The base of the wall (3002) was not exposed due to the safety limits of the 2m wide trench.
- 7.28 Abutting the wall (3002) at a depth of 1.20m was a 0.40m deep layer (3007), comprising mid-brown silty sand sloping down westwards towards the wall (Plate 23). A lead artefact (SF 117) was recovered from this deposit (3007) close to the wall face.
- 7.29 The lowermost layer (3007) was partially overlain by a 0.05m deep layer of scree (3008), which was itself overlain by a 0.25m deep compact layer of mid-dark brown charcoal rich clay (3003) again sloping down westwards towards the wall, containing frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones and charcoal (SF 064, 065, 092, 141) as well as animal bones (SF 142), slate (SF 094), a water-worn rounded pebble (SF 069) and an oyster shell (SF 088). Embedded within this layer (3003), at a depth of 0.70m from the modern ground surface was a 0.20m x 0.20m and 0.10m deep lens of black silty clay (3006) containing very frequent inclusions of charcoal (SF 115; Plate 24).



Plate 24: Charcoal deposit (SF 115) in lens 3006 embedded in layer 3003

- 7.30 The deposits (3003 & 3006) were overlain by a 0.40m deep layer of rubble (3005) comprising smaller red sub-angular stones exposed in the eastern end of the trench (Figure 15). This was itself overlain by a 1m deep layer of large greywacke stones (3004), sloping down westwards (Plate 25). Concentrations of large angular stones were apparent at the eastern and western limits of rubble spread (3004) with smaller rubble deposited between (Figure 15). Both rubble layers (3004 & 3005) had the same mid-dark brown silty sand matrix (3001) which included frequent animal bones (SF 055, 070, 118), slate fragments (SF 093, 113, 119), charcoal (SF 053, 116) and oyster shell (SF 050, 140).



Figure 15: South facing section of Trench 3 [merged with S-Facing 'stepped' section]



Plate 25: Rubble spread 3004, from E

- 7.31 The patchy 0.10-0.28m deep topsoil (3000) overlying Trench 3 comprised of mid brown silty sand with frequent sub-angular greywacke stones (Plate 3). The topsoil included vitrified stone (SF 006, 040, 114), mortar (SF 008, 017) animal bone (SF 009, 019, 037, 039), oyster shells (SF 036, 038) as well as one water-worn rounded pebble (SF 041) and modern pottery (SF 007).

Consolidation of trenches

- 7.32 In compliance with the methodology (see 6.13 above), the site was revisited by GUARD Archaeology on 20 September, one month after the completion of backfilling (Plates 26-28), to check that the restored trenches had settled to the original contours and that no further remedial work was required (Plates 29-31). It was observed that though the excavated turfs were routinely watered on a daily basis during the excavation, these had yet to fully recover one month after the backfilling of the trenches. It is expected that after more time, the grass turf will fully recover.



Plate 26: Backfilled Trench 1 (19 August 2022)



Plate 27: Backfilled Trench 2 (19 August 2022)



Plate 28: Backfilled Trench 3 (19 August 2022)



Plate 29: Backfilled Trench 1 (20 September 2022)



Plate 30: Backfilled Trench 2 (20 September 2022)



Plate 31: Backfilled Trench 3 (20 September 2022)

Community Participation and Engagement

- 7.33** Public participation commenced with the drone survey of the site on 5 August 2022, which was undertaken by two volunteers assisted by GUARD Archaeologists. A fieldwork workshop held at Drumelzier village hall was attended by 20 volunteers. Over the course of the 12-day excavation, a total of 35 volunteers participated in the excavation. A further drone survey of the site was undertaken by two volunteers on 24 August 2022, after the completion of the excavation. The surveys and excavation amounted to 180 volunteer days. The participants were drawn from Peeblesshire, South Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Glasgow, Inverclyde and Perth. They were all ages from 16+ and included 3 school pupils/leavers, 4 students, 10 members of the Peeblesshire Archaeological Society, 7 members of the Biggar Archaeology Group, and many other individuals. Of the 35 participants, 18 had never previously participated in archaeological fieldwork while the remainder had previous experience to varying degrees. All of those who applied to participate were accepted for the specific days that they had applied and several undertook additional days beyond that which they had originally planned. Twelve participants, drawn mainly from the younger age bracket, requested Archaeological Skills Passports while one further participant was already in possession of an Archaeological Skills Passport. These were provided, reviewed and updated by the GUARD Archaeologists throughout the excavation, recording the range and level of skills the relevant participants were acquiring. Those volunteers now carry Archaeological Skills Passports that can be brought to any future archaeological projects they participate on, for further review and updating, enabling them to demonstrably build their skills.
- 7.34** A further 67 visitors made their way to Tinnis Castle and Fort during the excavation and were all given a guided tour of the excavation. The project website - <https://dark-age-digs.com/> - hosted a daily blog and a Facebook Group was also set up, which engaged more people. Links to these were distributed from GUARD Archaeology's website and social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn). The excavation was also reported in the Peeblesshire News and local newsletters Peebles Life, Upper Tweeddale Community News and the Peeblesshire Archaeological Society Newsletter.

Discussion

Topographic survey (Eduardo Perez-Fernandez)

- 8.1** The morphology of Tinnis Castle is defined by two markedly different spaces at the top of the hill, a central oval fort occupying the entirety of the summit and the remains in the central sector of a medieval castle with a square plan reinforced by two circular towers at the corners of its north-western wall (Figures 4-6). The stonework of each phase is markedly different too, the medieval fortification comprises mortared masonry while the rampart along the edge of the summit comprises drystone rubble. The ramparts defining the outer, lower-lying and non-concentric enclosures on the north-east and south-west flanks of the summit also comprise drystone rubble with no apparent evidence for mortared masonry. This may indicate that these originally relate to the summit rampart rather than the medieval fortification but the configuration of the north-east entranceway suggests that the lower-lying enclosures on this side of the hill may have been heavily altered during the occupation of the site by the medieval castle.

Trench 1 (Thomas Muir)

- 8.2** The location of Trench 1 was chosen to expose a small part of the summit rampart and adjacent interior on the south-east side of the hill, that could offer corroborative evidence for the remains and stratigraphic sequence exposed in Trench 2 (Figure 16). The excavation of Trench 1 was successful in exposing the full width of the drystone rampart base (1003/1004), including its inner and outer wall faces, on the south-east side of the summit. The outer south-east face comprised large, roughly square stones, whereas the inner northwest face to the north-west was lined with smaller, flattish faced stones. The core of the rampart comprised noticeably smaller stones than either face. The slot excavated through the rampart base revealed an underlying levelling layer (1010) with the rampart base then built immediately on top of this. No remains of an earlier rampart could be identified nor was there any direct evidence of timber-lacing

though a small void was observed (Figure 9), possibly the remnant of where timber-lacing had once been. The presence of loose fragments of vitrified stone (SF 144 & 148) and mortar (SF 147) may indicate that the rampart base represents a rebuilt drystone rampart re-using the materials from an earlier dismantled rampart and following the same footprint around the edge of the summit of the hill. Given the presence of mortared stone within the rubble spread (1001) stretching southwest across the interior of the summit, it may be that the rampart wall was rebuilt and consolidated at some point prior to its collapse, perhaps most likely when Tinnis Castle was constructed. On the other hand, the inclusions of vitrified stone and mortar within the rampart base may represent later intrusions that had fallen between the cracks during this later consolidation. The recovery of charcoal (SF 149 & 192) from the top, middle and base of the rampart (1004) as well as from the underlying levelling layer (1010) offers the opportunity to test these options using radiocarbon dating. This may then reveal if the drystone rampart base was constructed prior to the castle, during either an early medieval or Iron Age phase of occupation, or whether it solely formed part of the bailey of Tinnis Castle, thought to be constructed during the fifteenth or early sixteen century (RCAHMS 1967, 272).

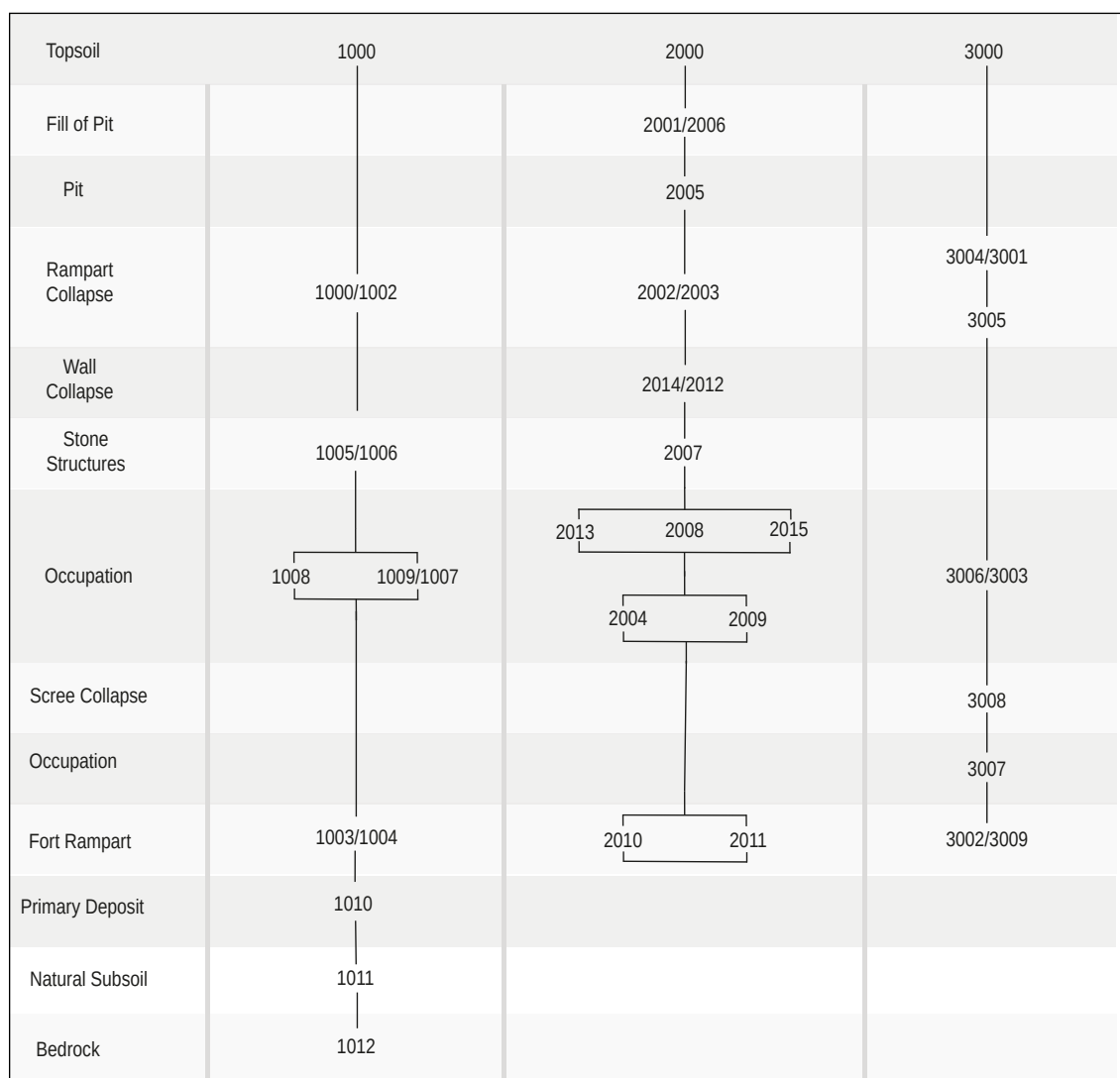


Figure 16: Harris Matrices for Trenches 1-3, Tinnis Castle and Fort

- 8.3 Within that part of the summit interior exposed by Trench 1, there was no evidence of any occupation prior to the medieval period. The mortar and slab surfaces (1008 & 1009) lay directly upon natural subsoil (1011) and bedrock (1012), suggesting that the summit here was levelled and scoured clean of any previous occupation deposits prior to these surfaces being laid. Animal bones (SF 121, 122 & 127) embedded in the soil matrix (1007) of the stone slabs (1009) may enable radiocarbon dating to determine when this later phase of occupation occurred. South of this, mortar 1008 has been laid seemingly directly onto the subsoil (1011). Unless these patches of level surface (Figure 8) are remnants of a more extensive surface structure, this surface comprised subsoil (1011) and bedrock (1012) together with patches of levelling (1008 & 1009) which had perhaps been covered with a range of organic material long since deteriorated. This level was sampled (Sample 030) across 11 points (including a control sample of topsoil) to enable multi-element analyses to be undertaken to determine the nature of occupation. This may be useful in determining whether this surface lay within or outwith a building defined by the wall (1005) that had been built up against the interior face of the rampart (1003).
- 8.4 The fragmentary remnants of occupation (1005-1009) were sealed beneath a substantial spread of stone rubble (1001). This may have derived from the collapse of the rampart along the south-east edge of the summit appears to have collapsed across the interior of the site, sealing, though it is possible that this rubble derived from a structure within the interior of the summit. The soil matrix (1002) of this rubble spread contained numerous occupation debris including notably a horseshoe (SF 124), oyster shells (SF 63 & 91), an iron nail (SF 90) and a small piece of lead (SF 56), analyses of which may offer a glimpse of life within Tinnis Castle itself.

Trench 2 (Laura Muser)

- 8.5 The location of Trench 2 was chosen to expose a large area of the summit rampart and adjacent interior on the south-west edge of the hill, furthest from the upstanding ruins of Tinnis Castle. In contrast to Trench 1, no clear inner or outer face of the summit rampart survived at this location. However, the slot excavated through the rampart core (2010) revealed heat discoloured, fire-cracked and in situ vitrified stone and associated burnt animal bone (SF 167), suggesting a phase of destruction at some point between 800 BC to AD 1000, given the dating evidence for vitrified forts in Scotland (Mercer 2018, 223). The rampart cores (2010 & 2011) were the earliest stratigraphic features exposed in Trench 2 (Figure 16). The wall (2009) forming two sides of an interior building appears to have incorporated the rampart core (2011). However, it displayed a very different build to the rampart cores, being built from dressed stones and mortar bonded in places, suggesting that it was of a much later date. The soil deposit (2015) abutting the northern and western faces of this wall (2009) may represent an abandonment layer within the building. This was overlain by rubble (2014/2012), which was not present anywhere else in the trench, suggesting it may have derived from the collapsed remains of the wall (2009) falling inwards across the interior of the building. This rubble (2014) possessed significantly more mortar still bonded to stone than the overlying rubble spread (2002).
- 8.6 On its southern exterior faces, the wall (2009) was abutted by soil deposit (2008), which also abutted the rampart core (2010). This deposit was likely purposefully laid as it also acted as a levelling layer for stone platform (2007), which filled the gap between the rampart segments (2010) and (2011). This gap in the rampart may have been a deliberate feature such as a postern entranceway or observation post related to Tinnis Castle itself. Further eastwards the soil layer (2008) edged with soil layer (2013) and overlay another soil layer (2004). This latter layer (2004) was of particular interest due to the inclusion of green glazed Redware pottery sherds (SF 106, 109, 145, 151; Plate 19), which indicate a medieval date consistent with the apparent occupation of Tinnis Castle over the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Since the deposit was especially rich in organic material including animal bone fragments (SF 096, 108, 110, 172) and charcoal (SF 095, 107, 152, 173) in comparison with the other soil deposits, a spatial spread of samples was taken (sample 019) for multi-element analysis, which may be useful in determining the nature of occupation of this part of the interior of the Tinnis Castle Bailey.

- 8.7 The soil layers and structural features exposed in Trench 2 were all sealed by a rubble spread (2002/2003), which shared significant similarities with the rubble spread (1001/1002) apparent across Trench 1 and were likely also the result of the destruction of either the reconsolidated rampart wall or interior buildings within Tinnis Castle Bailey. This rubble spread (2002/2003) was at some point in time truncated by a pit (2005) containing mortar rich fill (2001) and redeposited rubble (2006). As the feature was only partially exposed during the excavation, it is unclear what function it served, but its rubble fill may have formed a raised platform close to the south-west corner of the summit.

Trench 3 (Lauren Reid)

- 8.8 The location of Trench 3 was chosen to examine one of the outer enclosures on the lower-lying slopes of the hill. In contrast to Trench 2, nine courses of the inner face of the drystone rampart (3002) were exposed. The drystone construction of this rampart is consistent with a phase of occupation pre-dating the fifteenth century castle. When considering the height of the interior face of this rampart, measuring over 1.63m, it is possible that its principal function may have been to hold livestock. A spatial distribution of soil samples was therefore taken from the lowermost soil deposit (3007) abutting the wall face, to enable multi-element analysis to determine the nature of occupation of this outer enclosure. Little artefactual evidence was recovered from this lowermost deposit other than a single lead object (SF 117), analyses of which may proffer a date for this layer, as charcoal was not readily apparent.
- 8.9 Overlying the lowermost encountered soil (3007) within this enclosure was a thin layer of scree (3008), likely a deposit of naturally eroded rock from the slope above. This was in turn sealed by another possible occupation layer (3003) which contained a lens of charcoal (3006) as well as animal bones (SF 142), slate (SF 094), a water-worn rounded pebble (SF 069) and an oyster shell (SF 088). It is possible that these deposits relate to either secondary occupation of this enclosure space or derive from the occupation of the summit above.
- 8.10 The vast amount of rubble (3005 & 3004/3001) apparent in Trench 3 represents collapsed masonry from the rampart encircling the summit above. It is possible that due to the smaller size and weight of rubble (3005), these stones followed the trajectory of the hill slope and came to rest towards the eastern side of the trench whereas the larger, heavier greywacke stones of rubble (3004) carried a greater velocity and fell as far as the rampart wall face (3002) defining this lower enclosure, suggesting that it was displaced from the summit with force. This is supported by some of the greywacke stones (3004) which were partially faced suggesting they were originally part of the wall face on the western edge of the summit. Additionally, the matrix deposit (3001) of this rubble (3004) was comparatively rich in finds, which included oyster shells (SF 050, 140) which were also encountered on the castle summit in Trenches 1 and 2. The overlying topsoil (3000) included mortar (SF 008, 017) and vitrified stone (SF 006, 040, 114) almost certainly derived from the summit above. The presence of vitrified stone and mortar within only the topsoil in Trench 3 suggests that the lowermost deposits (3003/3006) and (3007) in Trench 3 may pre-date the destruction of the castle. These inclusions in the topsoil in Trench 3 also indicate that only the summit rampart was vitrified and therefore originally a timber-laced drystone rampart. The interior wall face of rampart (3002) showed no sign of vitrification or other destruction.

Conclusions

- 9.1 The excavation work undertaken in 2022 at Tinnis Castle and Fort provided the opportunity for numerous volunteers and visitors to develop new skills and experience in archaeological fieldwork and participate in the investigation of the site. The project successfully engaged the local community, recovering a significant range of archaeological evidence that has and will further enhance knowledge and understanding of the site. Sufficient environmental and artefactual evidence was recovered for post-excavation analyses to examine the chronology of the fort; and the nature and chronology of the re-occupation of the summit alongside the medieval castle.
- 9.2 The recovery of organic material from secure contexts from beneath, within and abutting the rampart core around the summit will enable the chronology of the fort and castle to be determined. This will enhance the understanding of the morphology of the fort and its re-use during the subsequent phase of occupation, which has already been enhanced by the drone surveys undertaken during this project.
- 9.3 The recovery of a range of material culture, particularly from the interior area of the summit, will further enhance knowledge of the nature of occupation of Tinnis Castle and its bailey during the medieval period. Multi-element analyses of soil samples taken from occupation layers in all three trenches may further enhance our knowledge of occupation across Tinnis Castle and Fort.
- 9.4 No material culture readily datable to the early medieval or Iron Age periods was identified, though the lead object (SF 117) recovered from the lowermost deposit abutting the interior wall face of the lower enclosure may derive from occupation prior to the construction of the castle. Across the summit, it appears that the construction of Tinnis Castle led to the severe landscaping of the summit, removing all traces of previous occupation other than the rampart base itself. The survival of in situ vitrified and burnt rubble demonstrates that at least part of the rampart base encircling the summit pre-dates the castle.
- 9.5 A Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) will be prepared, specifying the range of appropriate high-quality techniques and array of specialists from different sectors that will be employed to analyse the archaeological evidence recovered during the excavation. The cumulation of analyses will enable comparisons to be made with other archaeological assemblages and sites, and therefore the site's relationship to nearby sites and to other similar castles and forts in Scotland to be examined. This will enable the significance of the site within a local, regional, national and supranational context to be better understood. The PERD will also outline how the results of this work will be disseminated.
- 9.6 A summary of the project results will be submitted to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. A copy of this is included in Appendix F. The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Historic Records for Scotland (NHRE) within six months of the completion of all post-excavation work.
- 9.7 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for this project (OASIS Reference: guardarc1-438138) will be completed within 3 months. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, Historic Environment Scotland will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Contexts

Context No	Trench	Description	Interpretation
1000	Tr1	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions and a layer of grass, 0.16 m in depth present across whole trench.	Topsoil
1001	Tr1	Layer of small to large sub-angular light brown grey greywacke stones, 0.5 m thick by 5.4 m long and 2.0 m wide, with deposit 1002 between the stones.	Stone rubble layer
1002	Tr1	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small roots throughout, 0.5 m thick by 5.4 m long and 2.0 m wide	Deposit between rubble 1001
1003	Tr1	Rampart wall oriented NEE-SWW in the south side of trench 1. 2 m+ long by 1.7 m wide and 0.83 m in height. Constructed of medium to large sub-angular greywacke stone with inner and outer stone facing, and matrix 1004.	Rampart wall
1004	Tr1	Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small, medium and large stones throughout as well as a small amount of charcoal and vitrified stone. 0.83 m thick by 1.7 m wide and 2 m + long.	Matrix of rampart wall 1003
1005	Tr1	Small E-W oriented wall abutting wall 1003 on its north side. Constructed of medium to large greywacke stones with loose silty sand between 1006, measuring 1.25 m+ long by 0.37 m wide and 0.32 m in height.	Small wall
1006	Tr1	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small stones, mortar, and roots throughout, 0.15 m thick by 1.25 m + long and 0.37 m wide	Matrix of wall 1005
1007	Tr1	Friable, dark brown grey sandy silt with occasional small stones throughout, 0.35 m deep, 0.08 m thick, and 0.88 m long by 0.8 m+ wide.	Deposit below surface 1009
1008	Tr1	Compact, light yellow grey sandy mortar with frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, 0.35 m deep, 0.07 m thick, and 0.90 m long by 0.23 m wide.	Mortar surface
1009	Tr1	Area of broken stone slabs measuring 0.38 m long by 0.30 m wide and 0.08 m thick.	Stone slab surface
1010	Tr1	Compact, dark grey brown silty sand with frequent small sub-angular and rounded stones throughout and occasional charcoal flecks, 0.90 m deep, 0.18 m thick, and 2.06 m+ long by 2 m+ wide.	Levelling layer
1011	Tr1	Friable, dark brown grey silty sand with frequent small subangular stones throughout, 0.54 m deep, 7 m long by 2 m wide.	Subsoil above bedrock 1012
1012	Tr1	Greywacke bedrock 0.45 m below ground level	Bedrock
2000	Tr2	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with very frequent small to medium angular and sub-angular stone inclusions under a layer of mossy grass, 0.11 m thick, present across whole trench.	Topsoil
2001	Tr2	Friable, dark blackish brown sandy silt with very frequent inclusions of small rounded stones and mortar fragments, roots throughout, depth 0.00 m - 0.11 m, thickness 0.48 m, extends 2.19 m by 1.86 m in the NE corner of the trench	Mortar rich deposit matrix amongst rubble 2006 in possible pit 2005
2002	Tr2	Layer of small to large sub-angular and angular light brown grey greywacke stones, with deposit matrix 2003 between the stones, truncated by pit 2005 in the NE corner, depth 0.11 m, thickness 0.21 m - 0.49 m, extends across majority of the trench, apart from 4.72 m ² in the NE corner	Rubble below topsoil

Context No	Trench	Description	Interpretation
2003	Tr2	Friable mid grey brown silty sand with occasional roots throughout, truncated by pit 2005 in the NE corner, depth 0.11 m, thickness 0.21 m - 0.49 m, extends across majority of the trench, apart from 4.72 m ² in the NE corner	Deposit matrix amongst rubble 2002
2004	Tr2	Friable, dark black brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of medium angular stones and very frequent inclusions of charcoal, occasional roots and worm burrowing throughout, base not reached, depth 0.21 m - 0.45 m, thickness 0.04 m+, extends 3.60 m+ x 2.00 m+ along the NW side of the trench	Charcoal rich deposit
2005	Tr2	Cut of likely sub-circular pit located in NE corner of trench 2, depth 0.48 m, extends 2.19 m in NE-SW in SE facing section and 1.86 m in SW facing section, truncates deposits 2002 and 2003	Cut of possible pit in NE corner
2006	Tr2	Rubble fill made up of small to large sub-angular and angular light brown grey greywacke stones, with deposit matrix 2001 between the stones, depth 0.00 m - 0.11 m, thickness 0.46 m, extends 2.19 m by 1.86 m in the NE corner of the trench covering	Rubble fill in possible pit 2005
2007	Tr2	Compact, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent medium to large sub-angular and angular stones throughout and occasional charcoal flecks, 3.53 m long by 1.02 - 1.20 m m wide and 0.46 m thick	Rampart wall infill/repair
2008	Tr2	Friable, mid black brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium angular and subv-angular stones and infrequent inclusions of charcoal, average depth 0.34 m, 0.37 m thick, 2.91 m width visible below 2007 (full extent not determined)	Deposit layer below 2007
2009	Tr2	Wall structure made up of a mix of angular and cuboid dressed stones, partially drystone and partially mortar bonded, with an almost 90 degree angle, running 3.56 m E-W and 3.48 m N-S, width 0.70 m, height S-facing 0.25 m+, N-facing 0.81 m+, E-facing 0.33 m+, W-facing 0.31m+, a maximum of four courses exposed, base not reached	Wall running N-S and E-W
2010	Tr2	Firm, mid grey brown silty sand with medium to large sub-angular and angular stones, occasional inclusions of charcoal, rootgrowth near the top, depth 0.08 m, thickness 0.48 m+, 1.09 m long by 1.00 m wide	Possible rampart - Stone rich deposit S of 2007
2011	Tr2	Friable to firm, mid grey brown silty sand with medium to large sub-angular and angular stones and occasional inclusions of charcoal and light root growth throughout, depth 0.05 m, thickness 0.32 m+, 1.51m long by 1.20 m wide	Possible rampart - Stone rich deposit N of 2007
2012	Tr2	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand and small to medium sub-angular stones with occasional inclusions of charcoal and roots throughout, depth 0.12 m, thickness 0.31 m+ - 0.64 m, 3.01 m long by 2.24 m+, covering the area within wall 2009	Deposit matrix amongst rubble 2014
2013	Tr2	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent inclusions angular stones and occasional charcoal, depth 0.05 m, thickness 0.26 m+, 2 m+ along the E-facing part of wall 2009 by 2 m+ along the L.O.E.	Stone rich deposit between wall 2009 and deposit 2004
2014	Tr2	Hard, light brownish grey greywacke stones with mortar still attached in some cases and light root growth throughout, depth 0.12 m, thickness 0.31 m+ - 0.64 m, 3.01 m long by 2.24 m+, covering the area within wall 2009	Rubble within wall 2009
2015	Tr2	Friable, light greyish brown sandy silt with very frequent inclusions of mortar and occasional charcoal, depth 0.64 m +, thickness 0.17 m+, 2m + along N-facing part of wall 2009 by 0.5 m wide (exploratory slot, full extent unknown)	Possible occupational layer below rubble 2012 and deposit matrix 2014

Context No	Trench	Description	Interpretation
3000	Tr3	Compact, mid brown-red silty sand with frequent inclusions of small-large sub-angular stones, grass and moss. Roughly 0.20 m thick, present throughout whole trench.	Topsoil
3001	Tr3	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones. Present at depth of -0.10- 0.20 m, extent of 2 m width x 5 m length and roughly 1.40 m thick	Deposit matrix of rubble layers 3004 and 3005
3002	Tr3	Stone rubble rampart wall oriented N-S in West of Tr3. Made up of 9 courses of sub-angular and cuboid dressed stones. Stones faced on East side. Overall shape is linear/ rectangular in plan. Measuring 2 m length, 0.70 m width and 1.63 m height. Base not found	Rampart wall in W side of Tr3
3003	Tr3	Firm dark brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones and charcoal. Present at depth of -0.58 m, extends 1.40 m width and 1.45 m length in East of Tr3, thickness 0.25 m	Possible later occupational layer below rubble 3004/3005 and deposit matrix 3001
3004	Tr3	Greywacke rubble comprising of medium-large sub-angular stones and boulders. Present at depth of -0.25 m. Extends 4.40 m length, 2 m width, concentrated in West of Tr3, thickness 1.0 m.	Tumble rubble layer deposited partially over original occupation layer 3007 and other rubble layer 3005, filled by deposit matrix 3001
3005	Tr3	Rubble comprising of red small-medium sub-angular stones concentrated in East of Tr3. Present at depth of -0.10- 0.20 m, extent 1m x 2 m, thickness 0.40 m	Tumble rubble layer deposited over occupation layer 3003/3006, filled by deposit matrix 3001
3006	Tr3	Firm black silty clay with frequent inclusions of charcoal, located at depth of -0.70 m, extent 0.20 m x 0.15 m, thickness 0.10 m	Small, charcoal rich deposit within fill 3003 located in SE of Tr3
3007	Tr3	Friable mid brown-yellow silty sand with frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones, present at depth of -1.20 m, extent 2 x 5 m, thickness unknown, roughly 0.43 m excavated	Possible original occupation deposit in Tr3, base not reached due to extent of excavation
3008	Tr3	Loose mixed yellow gritty sand/scree, frequent inclusions of small sub-angular and flat stones, present at depth of -0.70 m, extent 0.20 m x 0.30 m, thickness 0.05 m	Layer of scree under 3003 and 3006, likely natural rock erosion layer over original occupation deposit 3007
3009	Tr3	Friable mid brown silty sand/clay with no visible inclusions. Present at a depth of 0m, extends 2 m length x 0.70 m width and 1.63 m thick, acts as matrix fill of stones	Matrix fill of stones in rampart wall 3002

Appendix B: Finds

Context No	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Material	Type	Description
001	T2	2000	1	Bone	Animal	Possible rodent pelvis
002	T2	2000	1	Bone	Animal	Possible rodent pelvis
003	T2	2000	1	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified Stone
004	T2	2000	1	Stone	Rounded	Pebble/Rounded stone
005	T2	2000	1	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified Stone
006	T3	3000	1	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified Stone
007	T3	3000	1	Ceramic	Pottery	White with blue glaze
008	T3	3000	3	CBM	Mortar	Lime mortar fragments
009	T3	3000	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
010	T2	2000	1	Tooth	Animal	Sheep/Goat
011	T1	1000	1	Bone	Animal	Bone - animal
012	T1	1000	1	Bone	Animal	Burnt bone
013	T2	2000	2	Bone	Animal	Bone and one possible tooth
014	T2	2000	1	Stone	Slate	Fragment of slate

Context No	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Material	Type	Description
015	T2	2000	1	Glass	Clear	Small fragement
016	T2	2000	1	CBM	Mortar	Piece of mortar
017	T3	3000	2	CBM	Mortar	Pieces of mortar
018	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
019	T3	3000	1	Bone	Animal	Animal vertebrae
020	T2	2000	1	Bone	Animal	Fragment
021	T2	2001	11	Bone	Animal	Jaw and fragments
022	T2	2000	1	Stone	Small pebble	Pebble with mortar
023	T2	2000	1	Glass	Modern	Clear glass shard
024	T2	2000	1	CBM	Mortar	Small lump
025	T2	2000	4	CBM	Mortar	Small lump
026	T2	2000	2	Stone	Pebble	Pebble with mortar
027	T2	2000	3	Stone	Pebble	Pebble with mortar
028	T2	2000	2	Stone	Medium sized	Stones with mortar
029	T2	2000	1	CBM	Medium sized	Small lump
030	T1	1000	1	Charcoal	Charcoal	1 small piece of charcoal
031	T1	1000	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
032	T1	1000	1	Mortar	Mortar	1 small mortar piece
033	T1	1000	4	Bone	Animal	small pieces of rodent (?)
034	T1	1000	1	Stone/Mortar	Mortar	Stone with Mortar
035	T1	1000	15	Mortar	Mortar	Mortar frags
036	T3	3000	1	Shell	Oyster	Oyster shell fragment
037	T3	3000	1	Bone	Animal	Sheep jaw
038	T3	3000	4	Shell	Oyster	Oyster shell fragment
039	T3	3000	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
040	T3	3000	1	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified Stone
041	T3	3000	1	Stone	Rounded	Rounded water-worn pebble
042	T2	2000	1	CBM	Mortar	Small lump
043	T2	2000	1	Metal	Iron	Nail
044	T1	1000	2	Bone	Animal	2 pieces of animal bone
045	T2	2001	1	Metal	Iron	Nail
046	T2	2000	1	Bone	Animal	Fragment of bone
047	T2	2000	1	Ceramic	Pottery	Green glazed
048	T2	2000	1	Metal	Unknown	Ring element/link
049	T2	2000	1	Bone	Animal	Tooth
050	T3	3001	2	Shell	Oyster	Oyster shell fragment
051	T1	1002	1	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified Stone
052	T1	1002	3	Bone	Animal	2 Animal bones
053	T3	3001	2	Charcoal	Charcoal	2 Small pieces
054	T2	2001	2	Bone	Animal	Long bone and skull fragment
055	T3	3001	1	Bone	Animal	Long bone fragment
056	T1	1002	1	Metal	Lead	Lead fragment
057	T1	1002	2	Bone	Animal	Animal bone - burnt?
058	T1	1002	12	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
059	T1	1002	3	Metal	Iron?	3 pieces of metal
060	T1	1002	1	Daub?	Daub?	Pieces of possible Daub
061	T1	1002	5	Mortar	Mortar	5 pieces of mortar - sample find
062	T2	2003	1	Bone	Tooth	Animal cow/horse?
063	T1	1002	1	Shell	Oyster	Partial oyster
064	T3	3003	1	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal fragments
065	T3	3003	4	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal fragments
066	T2	2003	1	Bone	Animal	Tooth: sheep or goat

Context No	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Material	Type	Description
067	T2	2003	1	Daub	Daub	Piece of Daub
068	T2	2001	1	Bone	Animal	Rodent?
069	T3	3003	1	Stone	Rounded	Water-worn pebble
070	T3	3001	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
071	T1	1002	1	Stone	Slate	Piece of slate
072	T2	2002	1	Stone	Sandstone	Red sandstone
073	T2	2003	3	Stone	Slate	Sample find
074	T2	2003	6	Bone	Animal	Teeth and bone
075	T2	2003	1	Metal	Iron	Flat strip
076	T2	2001	1	Bone	Animal	Mandible, rodent
077	T2	2003	1	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal from mortar
078	T2	2003	1	Ceramic	Pottery	Green glazed
079	T2	2003	5+	Bone	Animal	Fragments
080	T2	2003	5+	Bone	Animal	Fragment
081	T2	2003	1	Bone	Animal	Cooked/boiled
082	T2	2003	2	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
083	T1	1002	5	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal fragments
084	T1	1002	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone fragment
085	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
086	T1	1002	1	Iron	Nail	Iron nail (?)
087	T1	1002	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
088	T3	3003	1	Shell	Oyster	Oyster shell fragment
089	T2	2002	2	Stone	Rubble	Stones with mortar
090	T1	1002	1	Iron	Nail	Iron nail (?)
091	T1	1002	1	Shell	Oyster	Oyster shell fragment
092	T3	3003	5+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Bulk sample find
093	T3	3001	1	Stone	Slate	Slate piece
094	T3	3003	3	Stone	Slate	Bulk sample find
095	T2	2004	1	Charcoal	Charcoal	c. 1 cm ³
096	T2	2004	1	Bone	Animal	Burnt?
097	T1	1002	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
098	T1	1002	1	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
099	T1	1002	1	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
100	T1	1002	1	Bone	Animal	Animal rib (?)
101	T1	1002	1	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
102	T2	2001	5	Bone	Animal	Fragments
103	T2	2003	1	Shell	Oyster	Oyster shell
104	T2	2003	1	Bone	Animal	Fragment
105	T2	2003	1	Metal	Iron	Strip
106	T2	2004	2	Ceramic	Pottery	Redware, green glazed
107	T2	2004	50+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
108	T2	2004	10	Bone	Animal	Fragments
109	T2	2004	1	Ceramic	Pottery	Redware, green glazed
110	T2	2004	10+	Bone	Animal	Fragments
111	T2	2003	1	Bone	Animal	Tooth
112	T2	2003	1	Bone	Animal	Horse tooth
113	T3	3001	1	Stone	Slate	Slate tile
114	T3	3000	1	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified stone
115	T3	3006	5+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal fragments
116	T3	3001	1	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal fragment
117	T3	3007	1	Metal	Lead	Misc.
118	T3	3001	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
119	T3	3001	2	Stone	Slate	Sample find
120	T2	2003	20+	Bone	Animal	Fragments

Context No	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Material	Type	Description
121	T1	1007	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
122	T1	1007	2	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
123	T1	1002	15+	Bone	Animal	Animal bones from sieve
124	T1	1002	1	Iron	Horseshoe	Iron horseshoe
125	T1	1002	1	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
126	T1	1006	5	Mortar	Mortar	Mortar
127	T1	1007	1	Bone	Animal	Rib bone
128	T1	1007	4	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
129	T2	2003	15+	Bone	Animal	Various fragments
130	CASTLE	0001	3+	Mortar	Mortar	Mortar
131	T2	2010 L	8+	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified stone
132	T2	2012	1	Mortar	Mortar	Mortar
133	T2	2003	3	Bone	Animal	Mandible, sheep
134	T2	2003	10+	Bone	Animal	Fragments
135	T2	2003	1	Ceramic	Claypipe	Bowl fragment
136	T2	2003	2	Glass	Various	Glass
137	T2	2003	3	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
138	T2	2010	15+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
139	T2	2010	20+	Bone	Animal	Bone fragments
140	T3	3001	1	Shell	Oyster	Oyster shell fragment
141	T3	3003	10+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Bulk sample find
142	T3	3003	2	Bone	Animal	Animal bone fragment
143	T1	1004 L	1	Bone	Animal	Animal tooth
144	T1	1004 L	3	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified stone
145	T2	2004	1	Ceramic	Pottery	Redware, green glazed
146	T1	1004 B	6	Bone	Animal	Animal bones mix
147	T1	1004 B	2	Mortar	Mortar	Mortar fragments
148	T1	1004 B	2	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified stone
149	T1	1004 B	2	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
150	T2	2003	1	Metal	Iron	Nail
151	T2	2004	1	Ceramic	Pottery	Redware, green glazed
152	T2	2004	1	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
153	T2	2008	2	Bone	Animal	Fragments
154	T2	2008	20+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
155	T2	2008	1	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified stone
156	T2	2010	4	Bone	Animal	Fragments
157	T2	2010	10+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
158	T2	2010 L	2	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified stone
159	T2	2010 L	15+	Bone	Animal	Fragments
160	T2	2010 L	20+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
161	T2	2011	3	Bone	Animal	Fragments
162	T2	2011	1	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified stone
163	T2	2011	20+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
164	T2	2012	1	CV	CV	Burnt bark?
165	T2	2012	2	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
166	T2	2012	4	Bone	Animal	Animal bone
167	T2	2010 B	5+	Bone	Animal	Burnt
168	T2	2010 B	1	Stone	Burnt	Burnt stone
169	T2	2015	1	Mortar	Mortar	Mortar
170	T1	1010	1	Stone	Vitrified	Vitrified stone
171	T2	2004	1	Metal	Iron	Nail?
172	T2	2004	10+	Bone	Animal	Fragments
173	T2	2004	30+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
174	T2	2008	1	Bone	Animal	Partial long bone

Context No	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Material	Type	Description
175	T2	2010	3	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
176	T2	2010	15+	Bone	Animal?	Fragments
177	T2	2010 L	6+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Tiny fragments
178	T2	2010 L	10+	Bone	Animal	Fragments
179	T2	2010 L	2	Stone	Vitrified?	Vitrified stone/slag?
180	T2	2010 B	9	Bone	Animal	Fragments
181	T2	2010 B	40+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
182	T2	2012	1	Glass	Green	Bottle neck fragment
183	T2	2012	6	Mortar	Mortar	Mortar
184	T2	2012	9	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
185	T2	2012	1	Slag?	Slag?	Slag?
186	T2	2012	7	Bone	Animal	Fragments
187	T2	2015	5+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
188	T2	2015	4	Mortar	Mortar	Mortar
189	T2	2015	10+	Daub?	Burnt?	Burnt daub?
190	T2	2015	10+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal
191	T1	1004 B	2	Bone	Animal	Fragments
192	T1	1004 B	15+	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal

Appendix C: Drawings

Drawing No	Area	Sheet No	Subject	Scale
1	Tr1	1	Mid-ex plan of Trench 1	1:20
2	Tr1	1	NW-facing elevation of wall [1003]	1:10
3	Tr1	1	NE-facing section behind wall [1005]	1:20
4	Tr1	1	SW-facing section of Trench 1	1:20
5	Tr1	2	Post-ex plan showing slot in wall [1003]	1:20
6	Tr3	4	Elevation of wall 3002	1:10
7	Tr3	3	S-facing section of Trench 3	1:20
8	Tr3	3	S-facing stepped section of Trench 3	1:20
9	Tr3	3	Plan of Trench 3	1:20
10	Tr2	6	Post-ex plan of Trench 2	1:50
11	Tr2	6	NW-facing section of Trench 2	1:20
12	Tr2	5	Wrap around section of NE- corner of Trench 2	1:20
13				

Appendix D: Samples

Sample No	Area	Context No	Size	Reason for Sampling				Application/Comments
				Pot	Bone	Lithics	Botanics	
1	Tr3	3000	1 x L				X	Topsoil fill of Trench 3
2	Tr1	1000	1 x L				X	Topsoil fill of Trench 1
3	Tr2	2000	1 x L				X	Topsoil fill of Trench 2
4	Tr2	2001	1 x L					Mortar rich deposit in NE corner of Trench 2
5	Tr1	1002	1 x L					Fill amongst stone rubble 1001
6	Tr3	3001	1 x L					Fill of Trench 3 matrix among 3004/3005
7	Tr3	3003	1 x L					Clay fill of Trench 3
8	Tr3	3003	1 x L					Clay fill of Trench 3
9	Tr2	2003	1 x L					Deposit matrix amongst rubble 2002
10	Tr2	2004	1 x L					Deposit below rubble 2002 and deposit matrix 2003
11	Tr1	1006	1 x L					Matrix of wall 1005
12	Tr1	1008	1 x L					Mortar surface
13	Tr1	1007	1 x L					Matrix of surface 1009
14	Tr2	2014	1 x L					Deposit matrix amongst rubble 2012
15	Tr2	2008	1 x L				X	Deposit below wall repair 2007 and W of wall 2009
16	Tr3	3008	1 x L					Scree fill of Trench 3
17	Tr3	3006	1 x L				X	Charcoal deposit in 3003
18	Tr2	2014	1 x L					Deposit matrix amongst rubble 2012
19	Tr2	2004	4 x S					Chemical soil sample of charcoal rich deposit in NE of Trench 2
20	Tr3	3007	5 x L				X	Occupational deposit of Trench 3
21	Tr3	3007	5 x S					Chemical samples across trench 3 of occupational deposit
22	Tr2	2004					X	Finds and charcoal rich deposit in NE of Trench 2
23	Tr1	1011	1 x L				X	Subsoil
24	Tr1	1004 T	1 x L				X	Top rampart 1003 matrix
25	Tr1	1004 L	2 x L				X	Lower rampart 1003 matrix
26	Tr1	1004 B	2 x L				X	Bottom rampart 1003 matrix
27	Tr1	1010	1 x L				X	Fill below wall 1003
28	Tr2	2010 B	1 x L				X	Base of possible early medieval rampart
29	Tr2	2015	2 x L				X	Possible occupational layer N of wall 2009
30	Tr1	Mix	11 x S					Chemical samples across trench 1 of medieval surface level
31	Tr2	2010	1 x L				X	Upper layer of possible rampart
32								

Appendix E: Photographs

Film No. 1				GA14
Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
1			ID Shot	
2	Tr1		Pre-ex plan of trech 1	NW
3	Tr1		Pre-ex plan of trech 1 oblique view	W
4	Tr1		Pre-ex plan of trech 1 oblique view	NW
5	Tr1		Pre-ex plan of trech 1 oblique view	S
6	Tr1		Pre-ex plan of trech 1 oblique view	E
7	Tr1		Pre-ex plan of trech 1 oblique view	E
8	Tr2		Pre-ex plan of trench 2	NE
9	Tr2		Pre-ex plan of trench 2 oblique view	S
10	Tr2		Pre-ex plan of trench 2 oblique view	NW
11	Tr2		Pre-ex plan of trench 2 oblique view	N
12	Tr3		Pre-ex plan of trench 3	E
13	Tr3		Pre-ex plan of trench 3 oblique view	SE
14	Tr3		Pre-ex plan of trench 3 oblique view	NE
15	Tr3		Pre-ex plan of trench 3 oblique view	N
16	Tr3		Pre-ex plan of trench 3 oblique view	W
17	Tr3		Pre-ex plan of trench 3 oblique view	N
18	Tr2	2000	In-situ picture of SF043, iron nail	NNW
19	Tr2	2001	In-situ picture of SF045, iron nail	NNW
20	Tr1	1002	Mid-ex trench 1 before 1002 removal	NW
21	Tr1	1002	Mid-ex trench 1 before 1002 removal	N
22	Tr2	2002, 2003	Mid ex trench 1 showing rubble 2002 and soil 2003	NE
23	Tr2	2002	Rubble with mortar, board	NE
24	Tr2	2002	Rubble with mortar, no board	NE
25	Tr2	2002	Dressed rubble stone in situ, in section	SSE
26	Tr2	2002	Dressed rubble stone in situ, in plan	SSE
27	Tr2	2002	Finds close up, stone with mortar	E
28	Tr2	2002	Close-up stone with chisel marks	E
29	Tr2	2002	Close-up stone with marks	E
Film No. 2				GA56
Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
1			ID Shot	
2	Tr3		Mid-ex plan overview	SE
3	Tr3		Mid-ex plan overview, oblique	SE
4	Tr3		Mid-ex plan overview, oblique	NE
5	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3 3000 removed	E
6	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3 3000 removed	E
7	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3 3000 removed	E
8	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3 3000 removed	E
9	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3 3000 removed	W
10	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3	E
11	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3	E
12	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3	E
13	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3	E
14	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3	NE
15	Tr3		Mid-ex plan of Tr3	NE
16	Tr3	3003	Close-up of layer 3003	NE
17	Tr3	3004	Close-up of layer 3004	NE
18	Tr3	3002	Close-up of rampart 2002	E
19	Tr3	3002	Close-up of rampart 2002	E

Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
20	Tr3	3002, 3004	Close up of 3002 and 3004	N
21	Tr3	3003	Close-up of layer 3003	W
22	Tr3	3000, 3005	S-facing section showing 3000 and 3005	S
23	Tr3		Working shots of Tr3	W
24	Tr3		Working shots of Tr3	W
25	Tr3		Working shots of Tr3	N
26	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
27	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
28	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
29	Tr3		Mid-ex of trench	E
30	Tr3	3004	Working shot, removal of boulders	E
31	Tr3	3004	Working shot, removal of boulders	E
32	Tr3	3006	Small charcoal deposit in layer 3003	S
33	Tr3	3006	Small charcoal deposit in layer 3003	S
Film No. 3				GA23
Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
1			ID Shot	
2	Tr3		Mid-ex aerial shots, 3000 removed	S
3	Tr3		Mid-ex aerial shots, 3000 removed	N
4	Tr3		Mid-ex aerial shots, 3000 removed	W
5	Tr3		Mid-ex aerial shots, 3000 removed	S
6	Tr3		Mid-ex aerial shots, 3000 removed	N
7	Tr1	1001	Mid-ex shot of rubble 1001 in trench 1	NW
8	Tr1	1001	Mid-ex shot of rubble 1001 in trench 1	NW
9	Tr1	1001	Mid-ex shot of rubble 1001 in trench 1	NW
10	Tr1	1001	Mid-ex shot of rubble 1001 in trench 1	NW
11	Tr1	1001	Mid-ex shot of rubble 1001 in trench 1	W
12	Tr1	1001	Mid-ex shot of rubble 1001 in trench 1	W
13	Tr1	1001	Mid-ex shot of rubble 1001 in trench 1	W
14	Tr1	1001	Mid-ex shot of rubble 1001 in trench 1	W
15	Tr1	1001	Plan shot of trench 1	NE
16	Tr1	1001	Plan shot of trench 1	NE
17	Tr2	2001, 2002	Shot of trench 2	ENE
18	Tr2	2001, 2002	Plan shot of trench 2	ENE
19	Tr2	2001, 2002	Plan shot of trench 2	ENE
20	Tr2	2001, 2002	Plan shot of trench 2	ENE
21	Tr2	2001, 2002	Plan shot of trench 2	NNE
22	Tr2	2001, 2002	Plan shot of trench 2	NNE
23	Tr2	2001, 2002	Plan shot of trench 2	SSE
Film No. 4				GA14
Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
1			ID Shot	
2	Tr1		Mid-ex of trench 1	NW
3	Tr1		Mid-ex of trench 1	NW
4	Tr1		Mid-ex of trench 1	N
5	Tr1		NW end of trench	NE
6	Tr1		Centre of trench	NE
7	Tr1		SE end of trench	NE
8	Tr1	1007, 1009	Paving slabs and bone	SW
9	Tr1	1007, 1009	Paving slabs and bone	SW
10	Tr1	1007, 1009	Paving slabs and bone	NW

Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
11	Tr1	1008	Mortar surface	SW
12	Tr1	1008	Mortar surface	NW
13	Tr1	1008	Mortar surface	NE
14	Tr1	1005	Possible wall	NE
15	Tr1	1005	Possible wall	NE
16	Tr1	1003	Wall	NW
17	Tr1	1003	Wall	NW
18	Tr1	1003	Wall	NW
19	Tr1	1003	Wall	NE
20	Tr1	1003	Wall	NE
21	Tr1	1003	Wall	SW
22	Tr1	1003, 1005	Wall and possible wall?	W
23	Tr1		Possible bedrock	NW
24	Tr2	2002, 2003	Mid-ex of S portion of possible rampart	NE
25	Tr2	2002, 2003	Mid-ex of S portion of possible rampart	NE
26	Tr2	2002, 2003	Mid-ex of S portion of possible rampart	NE
Film No. 5				GA14
Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
1			ID Shot	
2	Tr2	2010 L	2nd mid-ex of S portion of possible rampart	NE
3	Tr2	2010	2nd mid-ex of S portion of possible rampart	NE
4	Tr2	2010	2nd mid-ex of S portion of possible rampart	NE
5	Tr2	2002	Stone with marks in situ	NE
6	Tr1	2002	Stone with marks close-up	NE
7	Tr1	1002	Horseshoe SF124 in situ	NE
8	Tr1	1002	Horseshoe SF124 in situ	NE
9	Tr1	1002	Horseshoe SF124 in situ	NE
10	Tr1	1003	Wall	NW
11	Tr1	1003	Wall	NE
12	Tr1	1003	Wall	NW
13	Tr1	1003	Wall	NW
14	Tr1	1003	Wall	SW
15	Tr1	1009	More stone slab surface	SE
16	Tr1	1009	More stone slab surface	NE
17	Tr1	1009	More stone slab surface	NE
18	Tr2	2012, 2014	Mid-ex of rubble 2014 and soil matrix 2012	NE
19	Tr2	2012, 2014	Mid-ex of rubble 2014 and soil matrix 2012	NNE
20	Tr2	2012, 2014	Mid-ex of rubble 2014 and soil matrix 2012	NE
21	Tr2	2012, 2014	Mid-ex of rubble 2014 and soil matrix 2012	NE
22	Tr2	2004	In situ photo of pottery SF145	NE
23	Tr2	2004	In situ photo of pottery SF151	NE
24	Tr2	2004	In situ photo of find	NNW
25	Tr2	2010 B	Vitrified rampart B mid-ex	NE
26	Tr2	2011 B	Vitrified rampart B mid-ex	NE
27	Tr2	2010 B	Vitrified stone of 2010 B	NE
28	Tr2	2010 B	Vitrified stone of 2010 B close-up	NE
29	Tr2	2010 B	Vitrified stone of 2010 B close-up	NE
30	Tr2	2010 B	Burnt bone in situ SF167	NE
31	Tr2	2010 B	Burnt bone in situ SF167	NE
32	Tr2	2010 B	NNW facing section of Tr2	N
33	Tr2	2011 B	NNW facing section of Tr2, NE-SW	NW
34	Tr2	2012 B	NNW facing section of Tr2, NE-SW	NW
35	Tr2	2013 B	NNW facing section of Tr2, NE-SW	NW

Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
36	Tr2	2014 B	Section of corner	NW
37	Tr2	2015 B	ENE facing section of 2010 rampart	NW
38	Tr2	2011	NW corner section	NW
39	Tr2	2009	Overview of wall 2009	N
40	Tr2	2009	N-facing inner face of wall	N
41	Tr2	2009	E-facing inner face of wall	E
42	Tr2	2009	Overview of SW corner of wall	NE
43	Tr2	2009	N-facing inner face of wall	N
44	Tr2	2009	N-facing inner face of wall, W-E	N
45	Tr2	2009	NW facing corner of wall	NW
46	Tr2	2009	S-facing outer face of wall	S
47	Tr2	2009	Overview shot of SE corner	SE
48	Tr2	2009	S-facing outer face of wall	S
49	Tr2	2007	S-facing outer face of wall	S
50	Tr2	2007	NE facing section of 2007 and 2008	SW
51	Tr2	2007	SE facing section, SW-NE	SE
52	Tr2	2007	SE facing section, SW-NE	SE
53	Tr2	?	SE facing section, SW-NE	SE
54	Tr2	?	SW facing section NW-SE	SW
55	Tr2	?	SW facing section NW-SE	SW
56	Tr2	?	SW facing section NW-SE	SW
57	Tr2	?	SW facing section NW-SE	SW
58	Tr1		Post ex of Tr1	NW
59	Tr1		Post ex of Tr1	NW
60	Tr1		Post ex of Tr1	N
61	Tr1		Post ex of Tr1	SE
62	Tr1	1005	NE section	NE
63	Tr1	1005	NE section	N
64	Tr1	1003	Slot through wall	NW
65	Tr1	1003	Slot through wall	NW
66	Tr1	1003	Slot through wall	NW
67	Tr1	1003	SW facing section through wall	SW
68	Tr1	1003	SW facing section through wall	SW
69	Tr1	1003	Plan shot of wall	SE
70	Tr1	1003	Plan shot of wall	NE
71	Tr1	1003	NE facing section of wall	NE
72	Tr1	1003	NE facing section of wall	NE
73	Tr1	1003	Wall	N
74	Tr1	1003	Wall	NW
75	Tr1		SW facing section	SW
76	Tr1		SW facing section	SW
77	Tr1		SW facing section	SW
78	Tr1		SE facing section	SE
79	Tr1		Removed stones of surface 1008	S
Film No. 6				GA56
Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
1			ID Shot	
2	Tr3		Post-ex overview plan of Tr3	E
3	Tr3		Post-ex overview plan of Tr3	E
4	Tr3		Post-ex overview plan of Tr3	E
5	Tr3		Post-ex overview plan of Tr3	E
6	Tr3		Post-ex overview plan of Tr3	E
7	Tr3		Post-ex overview plan of Tr3 oblique	SW

Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
8	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
9	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
10	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
11	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
12	Tr3		Plan overview of Tr3 post-ex	W
13	Tr3	3002	Close-up top of wall	N
14	Tr3	3002	Close-up top of wall	N
15	Tr3		Series x3 of S-facing section	S
16	Tr3		Series x3 of S-facing section	S
17	Tr3		Series x3 of S-facing section	S
18	Tr3		S-facing section	S
19	Tr3		S-facing section	S
20	Tr3		Oblique shot of S-facing section	SW
21	Tr3		Oblique shot of N-facing section	NE
22	Tr3		Plan overview of Tr3 post-ex	E
23	Tr3		Plan overview of Tr3 post-ex	E
24	Tr3		Plan overview of Tr3 post-ex oblique	NE
25	Tr3		Plan overview of Tr3 post-ex oblique	NE
26	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
27	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
28	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
29	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
30	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall	E
31	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall from above	S
32	Tr3	3002	Close-up of wall from above	S
33	Tr3		Post-ex with turf	E
34	Tr3		Post-ex with turf	SW
35	Tr1		Post-ex with turf	W
36	Tr1		Post-ex with turf	SE
37	Tr2		Post-ex with turf	NE
38	Tr2		Post-ex with turf	N
Film No. 7				iphone
Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
1			ID Shot	
2	Tr1		Post-ex, 1 month later	W
3	Tr1		Post-ex, 1 month later	SW
4	Tr2		Post-ex, 1 month later	NE
5	Tr2		Post-ex, 1 month later	N
6	Tr3		Post-ex, 1 month later	E
7	Tr3		Post-ex, 1 month later	N

Appendix F: Discovery and Excavation Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Tinnis Castle and Fort
PROJECT CODE:	5181
PARISH:	Drumelzier
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Thomas Muir, Laura Muser, Lauren Reid, Ronan Toolis
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Topographic Survey and Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NT13SW 23; SAM 2984
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Fort; Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Medieval assemblage (pottery, iron, lead, mortar, animal bones, oyster shells, charcoal)
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 14155 34439
START DATE (this season)	5th August 2022
END DATE (this season)	19th August 2022
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	RCAHMS Survey 1967
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A survey and excavation were carried out in August 2022 at Tinnis Castle and Fort to principally examine the fort that underlies Tinnis Castle. The castle comprises the remains of thick mortared walls with traces of round towers at the north-west and south-west corners of the keep. It was destroyed c. 1525 by the Flemings of Biggar during a feud with the Tweedies of Drumelzier. The underlying fort comprises a rampart around the edge of the summit, from which vitrified stone has been previously recovered from the southwest corner. Two pairs of non-concentric ramparts also enclose lower-lying terraces on the north-east and southwest flanks of the hill. An initial drone survey was undertaken by members of the Peeblesshire Archaeological Society in order to create a new site plan and 3D model of Tinnis Castle and Fort. Two trenches were subsequently excavated across the summit rampart, with a third trench excavated within one of the lower enclosed terraces. This was done with the hope of recovering charcoal that may yield radiocarbon dates for the construction and destruction of the ramparts. It was also hoped to recover traces of any occupation contemporary with the ramparts. Trench 1, at the south-east side of the summit, revealed a 1.7m thick NE/SW aligned drystone rampart wall, comprising inner and outer faces of large stone blocks and a rubble core. Traces of vitrified stone and charcoal were recovered from within the rampart core and charcoal from a thin soil deposit underlying the rampart. A smaller E/W aligned wall was found abutting the inner face of the rampart. Near the centre of the trench, discrete patches of flattened mortar and stone slabs directly overlay subsoil and bedrock at around 0.35 m below the present ground surface. Animal bones were recovered from a soil deposit associated with the slab surface. The trench was sealed with a layer of stone rubble collapse from the rampart, with finds including a horseshoe, lead, oyster shells, iron and bone, all consistent with the occupation of Tinnis Castle in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The rubble collapse included mortared stone indicating that the rampart wall had been rebuilt and consolidated during the medieval occupation of the hilltop, probably to serve as a bailey. Trench 2, at the south-west corner of the summit, revealed two parts of the drystone rampart core in the south-east and north-west corners of the trench, each measuring between 1.02m -1.20m thick.

	The inner and outer face of the rampart were not evident. The south-east segment showed signs for burning and in-situ vitrification, suggesting an earlier phase of destruction. Animal bone was recovered from this rampart core deposit. Between these two segments, a stone platform upon a soil deposit had been inserted, probably during the re-occupation of the hilltop during the medieval period. A further wall was discovered, abutting the north-west segment of the rampart, suggesting a later construction date. The wall ran 3.56m E/W and 3.48 m N/S at an approximately 90-degree angle. The earliest occupational layer exposed was within the area enclosed by this wall, much of which was obscured by rubble collapse. Along the south-east edge of Trench 2 was a charcoal rich deposit, from which medieval glazed redware pottery and animal bones were recovered. The entirety of Trench 2 was overlain with a thick rubble and a soil matrix, likely originating from the destruction of Tinnis Castle itself. As apparent in Trench 1, the rubble collapse included mortared stone indicating that the rampart wall had been rebuilt and consolidated here too during the medieval occupation of the hilltop. This layer had subsequently been truncated by a pit in the north-east corner of the trench, which in turn was also backfilled with demolition material. A variety of finds were recorded from Trench 2, including glazed redware pottery sherds, iron nails, an oyster shell, animal bone and charcoal. Trench 3, within one of the lower enclosed terraces on the south-west side of the hill, revealed a 0.70 m wide face of a N/S drystone rampart at least 1.63 m in height. The base of this wall face was not reached. This wall face consisted of at least 9 courses of large sub-angular and cuboid stone blocks. Abutting the rampart wall to a depth of 1.20 m from the modern ground surface, a clay soil deposit was exposed containing one small find of lead. Overlying this layer, at a depth of 0.58 m below the modern ground surface was a charcoal rich deposit. This was in turn sealed by a layer of drystone blocks, rubble, slate and associated soil matrix measuring up to 1.0 m deep, which appeared to be collapse from the rampart summit above. The overlying topsoil contained multiple small finds including vitrified stone which was likely deposited in the trench as tumble from the summit.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Post-excavation and publication
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Arthur Trail Association; SSE Renewables Clyde Borders Community Fund; Fallago Environment Fund; Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Dr Euan MacKie Legacy Fund; Glenkerie Community Fund; National Lottery Heritage Fund
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	Oblique aerial view of Tinnis Castle and Fort
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd, 52 Elderpark Workspace, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	bob.will@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	The archive will be deposited with NRHE.

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