

Rampart Scotland Project 003:

The Hillforts of East Lothian Season 2

Peter Potter Lost Landscapes Programme

Sheriffside, Gifford, East Lothian

Data Structure Report

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and Doug Rocks-Macqueen.
Oct 2011*



Sheriffside, Gifford, East Lothian

Data Structure Report

National Grid Reference (NGR):

NT 55505 67739

Rampart Scotland Project No:

003

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Illustration by:

David Connolly

Date of Fieldwork:

May 2011

Date of Report:

October 2011

Abstract

This report represents the results of the Rampart Scotland Project 3 investigation and comprises the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Rampart Scotland at Sheriffside, East Lothian.

One trench was opened at Sheriffside. All the features identified within the trench were then excavated, recorded and surveyed. The work was carried out during May 2011. A geophysical survey was also undertaken in the field surrounding the trench.

The excavations revealed several artefacts including polishing stones, a hand thrown ceramic sherd, and charcoal. Several features that may be rock-cut postholes, channels, and a cut terrace into the hillside were discovered.

Geophysical survey show sub-surface features but further excavations will be needed to determine the nature of these features.

The project was made possible by Peter Potter Gallery, Haddinton as part of their Lost Landscapes Programme.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 East Lothian has a comprehensive and detailed history of excavation and research which provides an in depth background for further research. Indeed, this existing work is amongst the most detailed in the Scottish mainland. Relevant projects include the Traprain Law Environs Project, Traprain Law, Port Seton, St Germains, Dryburn Bridge, the A1 upgrade (Haselgrove 2009, Armit *et al* 2002, Haselgrove & McCullagh 2000, Alexander & Watkins 1998; Dunwell 2007, Lelong & MacGregor 2007), and the various papers in Harding's 1982 volume. However, all of this work has been undertaken on the lower lying East Lothian plain and very little work has been undertaken on the hillforts and enclosures of the higher ground to south in the Lammermuirs.
- 1.1.2 The Hillforts of East Lothian Project was designed to undertake research and excavation on enclosures and hillforts in the Lammermuirs to provide a corpus of data to compare and contrast with the existing information. To date work has been undertaken on two East Lothian Hillforts, The Chesters and White Castle (Connolly & Cook 2010; Cook & Connolly 2010).
- 1.1.3 This project, a component of the above mention research project, concerns a double ditched-cropmark enclosure at Sheriffside, Gifford, East Lothian (Figures 1 and 2; NMRS NT56NE 43). This project aimed to add detail to the existing rectified aerial photograph and to provide an assessment of the nature of the surrounding archaeological remains and a date for it. This involved the conducting of a geophysical survey and hand excavation of a single trench (1m by 22m) over the cropmark's two enclosure ditches to recover dating evidence.
- 1.1.4 The project was undertaken as part of the Haddington based Peter Potter Gallery's year long programme; Lost Landscapes. Organisation was shared with the gallery staff to provide opportunities for three local schools and other groups such as Dad's Work to become involved in an archaeological project.
- 1.1.5 The site itself was suggested by the landowner Eric Glendinning, whose curiosity about this crop-mark site provided the opportunity to investigate.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The Sheriffside enclosure is located in a silage field, immediately to the north of Sheriffside Farm, Gifford, East Lothian (NT 55505 67739). The enclosure is located on the south eastern edge of low southwest –northeast ridge. (Figure 1)

2 PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The aims of the Project are;

1. to increase the currently available data-set for East Lothian hillforts and enclosures by additional survey;
2. to recover dating evidence of the sequence of enclosure, use and reconfiguration of as many sites in East Lothian as can be accessed;
3. to attempt to assess the volume of activity both within enclosures and external to enclosures by test-pitting and quantification of the number of artefacts recovered;
4. to publish the individual results of each site excavation and after at least three sites have been excavated to publish a synthesis of the result.

2.1.2 Season two of the project included Sheriffside, Gifford in support of the *Lost Landscapes project*. Specifically the objectives of this programme of work were:

1. the conducting of a geophysical survey of the enclosure by the Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society;
2. the hand excavation of a single trench (1m by 22m) over the cropmark's enclosure ditches to recover dating evidence.
3. to provide hands on and practical experience of archaeological works for a wide range of the public.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 *Geophysical Survey*

- 3.1.1 The resistivity survey was undertaken by the *Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society* using TR/CIA area ground resistance measuring equipment. The equipment operates in the 'twin' configuration with four probes: two of the probes are mounted on a portable frame 0.5m apart and comprises one current input and one potential measurement probe. The second two probes, again one for current input and one for potential measurement, complete the two circuits; and are inserted about 1m apart and positioned so that no reading is taken with the portable frame nearer than 15m to them. All readings were taken at 1m intervals in lanes 1m wide in 20m by 20m survey grids, giving a total of 400 measurements in each grid.
- 3.1.2 The unit on the frame generates the 137Hz signal current that flows through the ground and the potential drop is detected by the measurement probes; the computer in the unit converts this voltage reading into a ground resistance value in ohms. Within the unit is the display, which indicates this resistance, together with the data store into which the readings are dumped for later processing and printing. The data were down loaded, to a computer and printer. The printout is in grey scale with the black and white limits chosen based upon the highest and lowest ohms readings recorded. It is normal practice to print high resistance (well drained areas and bedrock) as black and low resistance (infilled ditches and damp areas) as white.
- 3.1.3 A total of thirty-one 20 by 20m survey squares were undertaken at the site (Figure 2), although many of the squares were taken on slopes, there were no locations where it was not possible to carry out the survey.



Fig 2: Topographic survey (20cm interval), trenches and geophysical grid

3.2 Excavation

- 3.2.1 The field work was carried out by David Connolly Murray Cook, and Bruce Glendinning between the 13th and 17th May 2011
- 3.2.2 Local volunteers, schoolchildren from three East Lothian schools, Adult learning students from Midlothian, University of Edinburgh Archaeology students, a group from 'Dad's Work' and the Edinburgh Archaeology Field Society were all present during the excavation and survey. In total over 215 people were involved on a number of tasks from topographic survey, geophysics and both test pitting and excavation. Training was provided where possible and several 1 hour site tours were conducted, with feedback provided to the Peter Potter Gallery.
- 3.2.3 All excavation was undertaken by hand and according to standard CHC procedures. A single 22 by 1m trench was placed in the project area (Figure 2). The trench was de-turfed and excavated down to bedrock before being reinstated.
- 3.2.4 A full record was maintained throughout the project, including photographic, drawn and written records. Digital media was used for both geophysical and topographic survey.



Plate 1: Geophysical survey, topographic survey and excavation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 *Introduction*

- 4.1.1 The archaeological excavation and surveys were undertaken between 13th and 17th May, with reasonably dry weather conditions throughout. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1 to 5. The excavation comprised of one single trench and all samples and artefacts were retrieved from this trench.



Plate 2: Trench 1, during de-turfing and cleaning

4.2 *Geophysical Survey*

- 4.2.1 The resistivity clearly showed differential features across the study area. There is clear results showing the modern quarry dug into the western slope of the hill and the modern pump house.
- 4.2.2 The rest of the surveyed area shows what appears to be visible linear features, though whether these features are archaeological significant has yet to be determine and will require additional excavation in future project seasons.

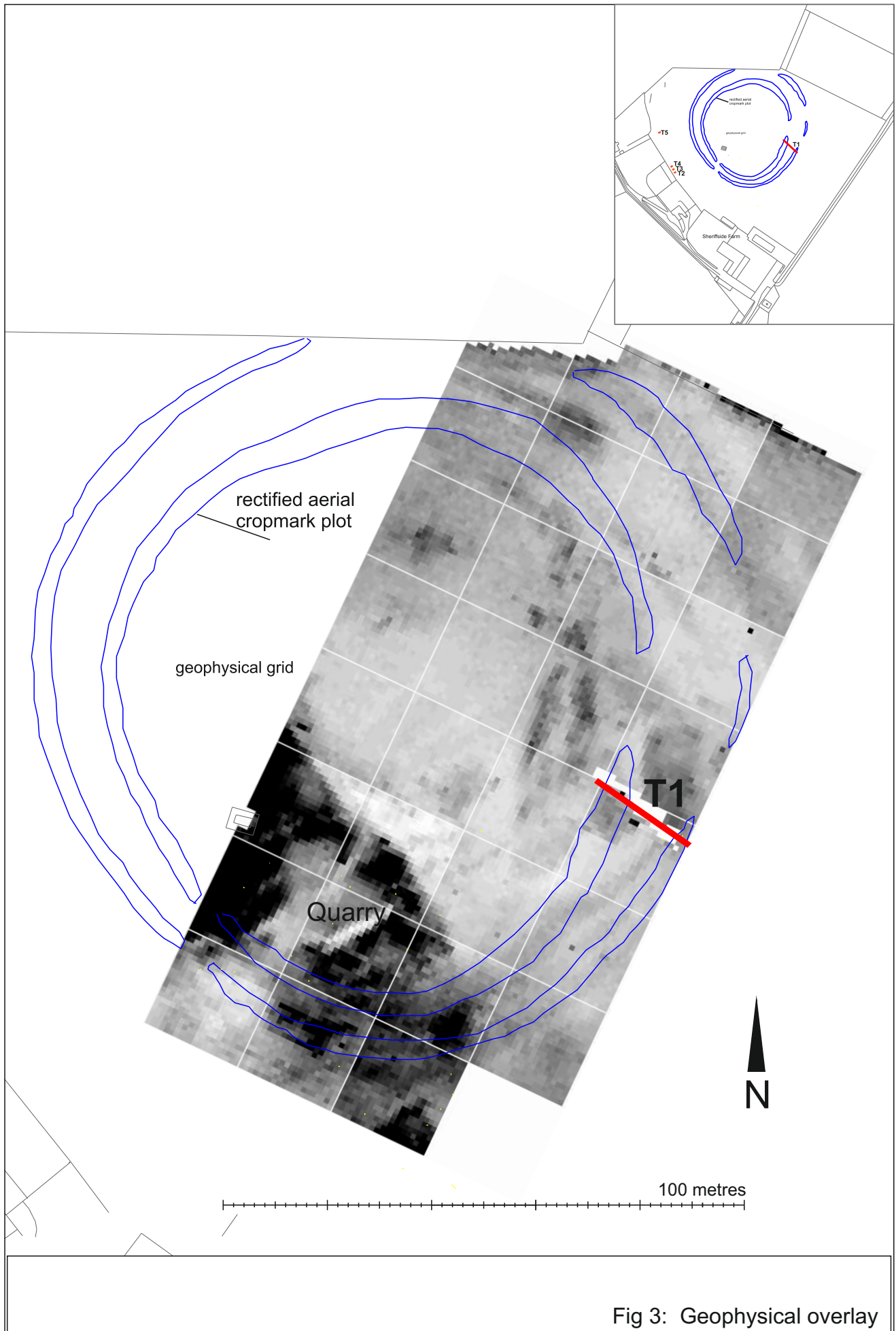


Fig 3: Geophysical overlay

4.3 Trenches

- 4.2.3 Trench 1 measured 22m long by 1m wide and ran north-south perpendicular across the putative inner ditch to beyond the putative outer ditch. However, no trace of either ditch was observed. Below the turf and topsoil [1001] was a matrix of hard mild-brown silty clay [1002], with occasional small angular rocks, (<9cm, <5%) and small specs of charcoal (<1%). An undiagnostic small hand thrown prehistoric ceramic sherd was recovered from this layer (pers comm. M Johnson).
- 4.2.4 Underneath [1002] was a layer of compact large angular stones [1003-4], which appeared to form a rough surface. The stones were laid upon a cut terrace [1014], into the hillside [1013] within which were constructed a series of slots and post holes [1005, 1007, 1009-1011].
- 4.2.5 These features consisted of what looks like two post holes [1007, 1011] and three slots running east-west across the excavation trench. It was not possible to determine the size or shape of the structure that the postholes and slots belonged to belonged due to in the limited area covered by the test trench, although it is likely to represent some kind of roundhouse. In addition, one of the cuts [1005] was positioned at the back end of the cut platform into the hillside [1014] in such a ways to make an excellent trench to catch water runoff from the hill. As such it is possible that this cut served as a drainage system to keep water from running onto the platform.
- 4.2.6



Plate 3 west end of trench facing north, with rock cut gullies and postholes.

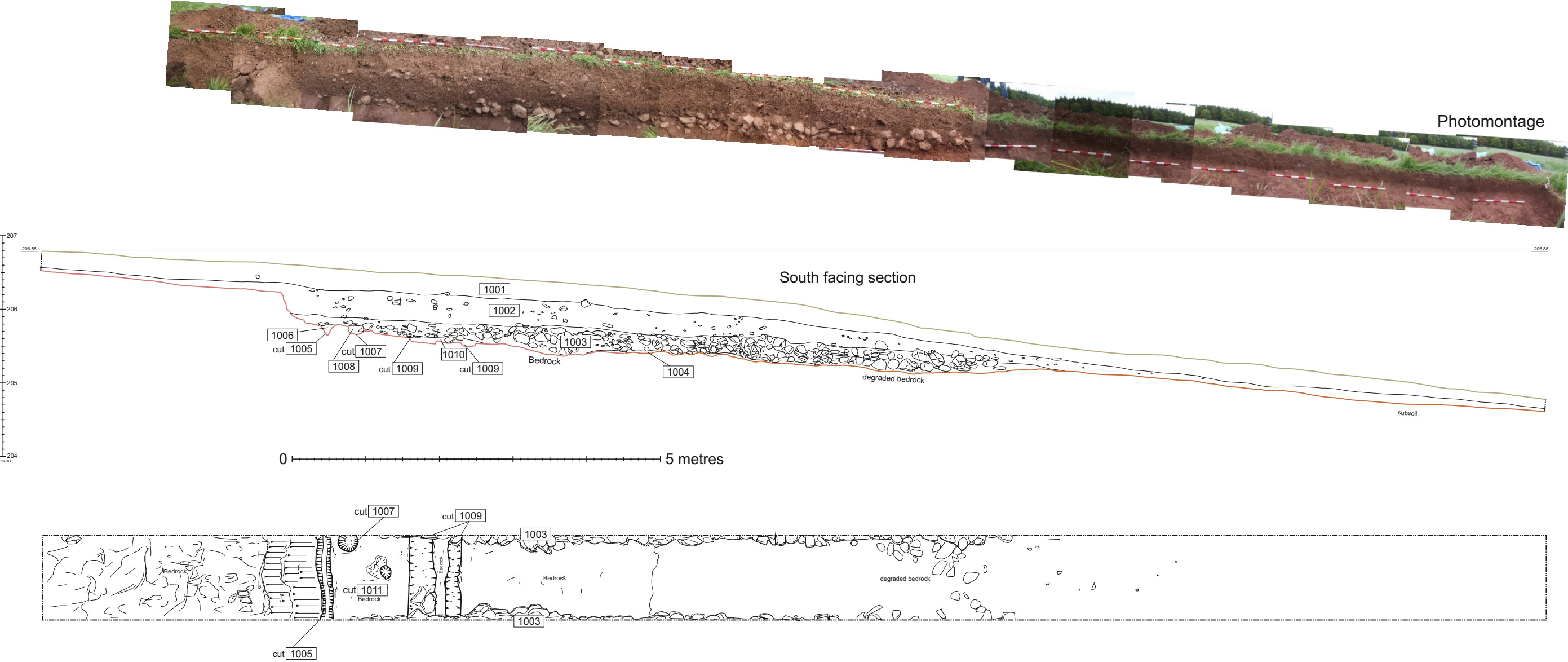


Figure 4. Trench 1 section and plan

- 4.2.7 There was no significant differences between the fills [1006, 1008, 1012] of the cuts and the surrounding soil [1002]. The only exception to this was the fill [1006] of the cut 1005 which consisted of a much higher concentration (70%) of small angular rocks (<9cm). It appears that these rocks were purposely placed to fill up this cut, possibly to aid its function as a drain to redirect groundwater from above the terrace [10014].
- 4.2.8 A date of 2030 ± 30 BP (**SUERC 35712**), was obtained from a fragment of alder species charcoal (pers comm. Denise Druce) from [1008], which when calibrated to 2-sigma (92.4%) gave a date of 120 BC to AD 60.
- 4.2.9 Two polished stones and two hammer stones (pers comm. M Johnson) were recovered from [1004].



Plate 4: Polishing stone, Hammerstone and a further polishing stone from [context [1004]

5 INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

5.1 *Interpretation and Discussion*

5.1.1 While the excavations were limited in extent, and failed to confirm the presence of the putative cropmark enclosure they did identify a terrace with associated platform and cut features. The cut features are likely to date to between 100 BC and AD 100. While their nature and extent are unknown they initially appear to be contemporary and of similar form to domestic settlement features identified at a number of East Lothian sites, for example Broxmouth, Knowes, and Phantassie (Harding 1982; Haselgrove; LeLong & MacGregor). Both the Broxmouth and Knowes sites were also associated with enclosures although in both cases the activity post-dated the construction of the main ditches.

5.1.2 Given the limited scope of the investigation detailed discussion is impossible. However, with regard to the nature of the features that caused the cropmark there are three possibilities:

1. The interpretation of the cropmark is erroneous and there is no enclosure;
2. The interpretation of the cropmark is correct but at this specific location the terrace cut an earlier enclosure and destroyed the ditches;
3. The interpretation of the cropmark is correct but at this specific location the enclosure cut through homogenised terrace backfill and was archaeologically invisible.

At present there is no way to determine which possibility is correct and only further excavation on other parts of the cropmark will provide an answer. However, preliminary discussions with Dave Cowley of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments suggest that the interpretation of the cropmark may be erroneous.

6 FURTHER WORK

6.1 *Dissemination*

- 6.1.1 The results of this work will be synthesised and submitted to East Lothian Council, the landowner and be available on the Rampart Scotland website. In addition, précis will be submitted to DES and OASIS and for publication in a popular archaeological magazine or newsletters.

6.2 *Fieldwork*

- 6.2.1 After having undertaken limited work to identify the archaeology present at the site, it is proposed to undertake more limited targeted excavation in at least two more seasons on site. Obviously any such further work is dependant upon landowner permission. However, in outline such work would attempt to determine the nature of the cropmark enclosure at other locations on the site.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The work undertaken at Sheriffside, while extremely limited in nature, has validated the main objective of Rampart Scotland that no one knows the nature of the archaeological resource unless and until it is explored. It is hoped that the Hillforts of East Lothian project and that further work will continue to yield such details.

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 8.1 The authors would like to thank the Eric Glendinning for suggesting the site and allowing access onto his land, the technical support of the Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society with their geophysical expertise; the advice of the East Lothian Council's archaeological team; and the nearly 200 volunteers of all ages who helped make this possible.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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Context Register

Context	Context Type	Descriptions
1001	Topsoil	Mild brown silty clay, filled with occasional small angular rocks <9cm, <5%, which runs the entire length of the trench. Definite signs of ploughing visible. Depth up to 28cm. No finds. Above context 1002
1002	Deposit	Hard mild brown silty clay, with occasional angular rocks, <9cm, <5% and small specs of charcoal <1%. Varying depth South - North 10 – 100cm. Find #5: pottery sherds and bone fragments. Sample #2 C14 charcoal. Below context 1002 and above contexts 1003, 1004 and 1013.
1003	Structure	Large (10-30cm) angular rocks c.80% and smaller (<9cm) angular rocks 10%, surrounded by context 1004. Maximum thickness 32cm. Above 1005 – 1013 and below 1002. No finds or samples.
1004	Deposit	Light brown silty clay mix of rusty orange and purple degrading bedrock brought up from bioturbation. Sample #1: C14 charcoal. Finds #1 – 4, Polishing stone; coble/hammer: 2 of each. Above 1005 – 1013, below 1002 and surrounding 1003.
1005	Cut	A V-shaped cut aligned West - East across the trench. Depth of the cut ranges from 15cm – 20cm (W-E). Not enough information was gathered to determine its purpose or function. Cut into context 1013, filled with context 1006, below 1003 and 1004.
1006	Fill	Fill for cut 1005, consisting of small angular rocks <9cm c.70% and medium brown silty clay soil consistent with 1002. The rocks were situated with the appearance of being placed, possibly indicating Above 1013, below 1003 and 1004. No finds or samples.
1007	Cut	A round oval cut with a rounded base. The top N-S diameter was 30cm and the E-W was 26cm and has a depth of 18cm. Possibly a post hole to a structure of an unknown size and shape. Below 1003-4 and cut into 1013.
1008	Fill	Medium brown silty clay soil consistent with 1002. Containing small angular rocks <9cm <30%. A C14 sample was taken (sample #3). It is fill for cut 1007 and is above 1013 and below 1003-4.
1009	Cut	U-shaped cut that is 97cm wide N-S and ranges 20cm deep on the north end to 13cm on the south end. Steep sloped sides with a flat base. It is filled by 1003 and 1004 and cut into 1013. Not enough information was gathered to determine its purpose or function.
1010	Cut	U-shaped cut that is 59cm wide N-S and 6 cm deep. Steep sloped sides with a flat base. It is filled by 1003 and 1004 and cut into 1013. Not enough information was gathered to determine its purpose or function.
1011	Cut	A oval cut with a rounded base. The top diameter is 34cm N-S and 29cm E-W with a depth of 32cm. Possibly a post hole to a structure of an unknown size and shape. Below 1003-4 and cut into 1013.
1012	Fill	Medium brown silty clay soil consistent with 1002. No samples or finds. It is fill for cut 1012 and is above 1013 and below 1003-4.
1013	Natural	Bedrock c. 10cm-150cm below the surface. The north end is hard and compacted purple sandstone that changes to a softer friable purple, pink, rusty orange, and yellow sandstone in the south end of the trench.
1014	Cut	Theoretical cut into bedrock to create terrace.

APPENDIX 2

Finds Register

No.	Find	Description / Context
01	Stone	Hammerstone [1004]
02	Stone	Polishing Stone [1004]
03	Stone	Hammerstone [1004]
04	Stone	Polishing Stone [1004]
05	Ceramic	1 sherd handmade prehistoric (undiagnostic)

Photographic Register

No.	File Name	Direction to	Description	Date
01	SHR11_01	North	General working shot	15/05/2011
02	SHR11_02	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
03	SHR11_03	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
04	SHR11_04	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
05	SHR11_05	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
06	SHR11_06	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
07	SHR11_07	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
08	SHR11_08	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
09	SHR11_09	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
10	SHR11_10	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
11	SHR11_11	North-east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 10)	15/05/2011
12	SHR11_12	East	General view down trench 1	15/05/2011
13	SHR11_13	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
14	SHR11_14	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
15	SHR11_15	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
16	SHR11_16	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
17	SHR11_17	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
18	SHR11_18	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
19	SHR11_19	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
20	SHR11_20	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011

No.	File Name	Direction to	Description	Date
21	SHR11_21	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
22	SHR11_22	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
23	SHR11_23	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
24	SHR11_24	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
25	SHR11_25	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
26	SHR11_26	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
27	SHR11_27	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
28	SHR11_28	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
29	SHR11_29	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
30	SHR11_30	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
31	SHR11_31	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
32	SHR11_32	North-west	General view along trench	15/05/2011
33	SHR11_33	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
34	SHR11_34	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
35	SHR11_35	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
36	SHR11_36	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
37	SHR11_37	North- east to top	Vertical shot of trench base from northwest to southeast (1 of 23)	15/05/2011
38	SHR11_38	North-west	Trench 1 view along platform surface note cobbled fill in sections and cut features to rear	16/05/2011
39	SHR11_39	North-west	Trench 1 view along platform surface note cobbled fill in sections and cut features to rear	16/05/2011
40	SHR11_40	South-East	Trench 1 view along platform surface note cobbled fill in sections	16/05/2011
41	SHR11_41	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011

Sheriffside, Gifford, East Lothian

No.	File Name	Direction to	Description	Date
42	SHR11_42	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
43	SHR11_43	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
44	SHR11_44	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
45	SHR11_45	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
46	SHR11_46	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
47	SHR11_47	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
48	SHR11_48	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
49	SHR11_49	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
50	SHR11_50	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
51	SHR11_51	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
52	SHR11_52	North- east	Trench 1. Southwest facing section excavated down to natural (1 of 12)	16/05/2011
53	SHR11_53	South- east	Trench 1- no scale, view prior to backfill	16/05/2011



SHR11_01.JPG



SHR11_02.JPG



SHR11_03.JPG



SHR11_04.JPG



SHR11_05.JPG



SHR11_06.JPG



SHR11_07.JPG



SHR11_08.JPG



SHR11_09.JPG



SHR11_10.JPG



SHR11_11.JPG



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SHR11_27.JPG



SHR11_28.JPG



SHR11_29.JPG



SHR11_30.JPG



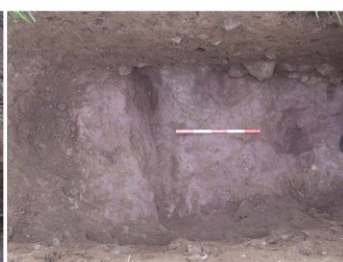
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SHR11_32.JPG



SHR11_33.JPG



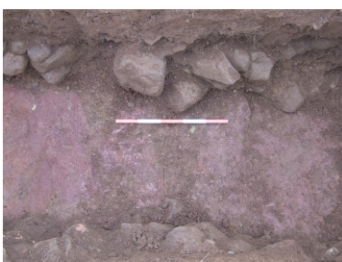
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SHR11_35.JPG



SHR11_36.JPG



SHR11_37.JPG



SHR11_38.JPG



SHR11_39.JPG



SHR11_40.JPG



SHR11_41.JPG



SHR11_42.JPG



SHR11_43.JPG



SHR11_44.JPG



SHR11_45.JPG



SHR11_46.JPG



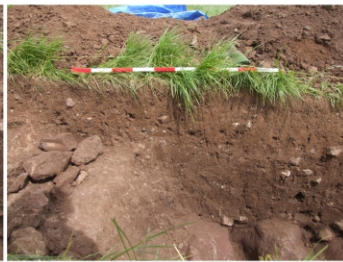
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SHR11_48.JPG



SHR11_49.JPG



SHR11_50.JPG



SHR11_51.JPG



SHR11_52.JPG



SHR11_53.JPG

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Rampart Scotland: Sheriffside Season 1
PROJECT CODE:	003
PARISH:	GARVALD AND BARA
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	<i>Doug Rocks-Macqueen, Stuart Dinning, Murray Cook and David Connolly</i>
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rampart Scotland
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Research Keyhole Excavation
NMRS NO(S)	NT56NE 43
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Enclosure, terrace, rock-cut features
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	hand thrown prehistoric pottery, worked stones
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 55505 67739
START DATE (this season)	May 2011
END DATE (this season)	May 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	NA
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A single 22x1m trench was opened at Sheriffside farm over the suspected ditch and bank of an enclosure identified by the RCAHMS during aerial survey in 1981. Features identified within the trench were excavated, recorded and surveyed. In addition, a geophysical survey was undertaken in the field - covering half of the known extent of the possible site.</p> <p>The excavations revealed several artefacts including polishing stones, a hand thrown ceramic sherd, and charcoal.</p> <p>The excavations failed to confirm the presence of the putative cropmark enclosure but did identify a terrace with associated platform and cut features such as postholes and rockcut channels – charcoal retrieved from the fill of one of the rock cut features dated to 2030 ± 30 or cal BC 110 – BC 50 (1σ) SUERC 35712.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Further fieldwork and post-excavation
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Peter Potter Gallery, Rampart Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	59 Kellie Place Dunbar, EH42 1GF
EMAIL ADDRESS:	murraycook35@hotmail.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

31 August 2011

Laboratory Code SUERC-35712 (GU-24747)

Submitter Murray Cook
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster

Site Reference Sherrifside

Context Reference 1008

Sample Reference 3

Material charcoal : alder

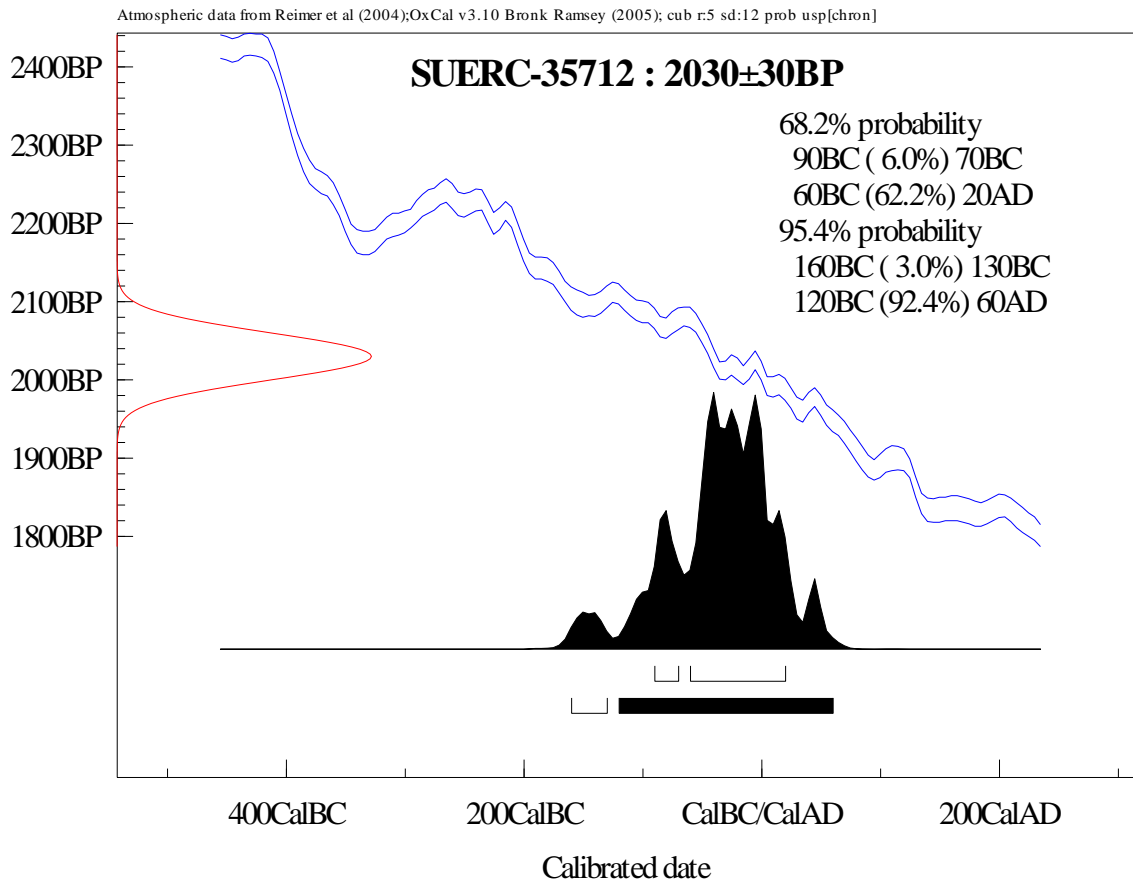
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ relative to VPDB -26.8 ‰

2030 \pm 30

Radiocarbon Age BP

- N.B.**
1. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.
 2. The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal3).
 3. Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. Any questions directed to the Radiocarbon Laboratory should also quote the GU coding given in parentheses after the SUERC code. The contact details for the laboratory are email g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk or Telephone 01355 270136 direct line.

Calibration Plot



Context 1002

1 x sheep/goat calcaneum, 2g. Burnt.

1 x body sherd, 12g. Dark grey throughout. 12mm thick. Fairly hard, coarse fabric, inclusions up to 5mm. Worn.

1 x body sherd, 6g. Pale orange interior and core, core partially grey, orange exterior. 8mm thick. Fairly hard, medium-fine laminar fabric, inclusions up to 5mm. Very worn.

Context 1004

1 x rim sherd, 22g. Rounded rim top, slight inwards curve. Charred residue on exterior. Orange interior, dark grey core, greyish brown exterior. 12mm thick. Fairly soft, coarse fabric, inclusions up to 8mm. Worn.

Discussion

The only diagnostic sherd is a rounded rim sherd from context **1004**. This is a simple rim form, probably belonging to a bowl or barrel-shaped vessel. It likely belongs in the category of 'flat-rimmed ware', a later prehistoric catch-all term for a long-lasting period of Late Bronze Age pottery making, comprising undecorated functional wares with either rounded or flat rims on simple vessel shapes. Classic assemblages have been found at Later Bronze Age sites such as the unenclosed platform settlements at Lintshie Gutter, Lanarkshire (Terry 1995) and Green Knowe, Peeblesshire (Jobey 1980).

All of the sherds are worn, indicating that they have been subject to post-depositional rolling.

References

Jobey, G 'Green Knowe unenclosed platform settlement and Harehope cairn, Peeblesshire', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 110, (1978-80), 72-113

Terry, J 1995 'Excavation at Lintshie Gutter unenclosed platform settlement, Crawford, Lanarkshire, 1991', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 125, 369-427.