

Daer Valley Project

Interim reports on the work of Biggar Archaeology Group to date, 2012, with a view to producing a final version of the fieldwork and research of Daer valley.

by Tam Ward, Biggar Archaeological Group

Legacy Reports 1

Daer Reservoir - Kirkhope Tower
Daer Reservoir - The Cairn Group
Daer Reservoir – Burnt mound
Daer Reservoir – Ring Cairns.
Daer Reservoir - Chert Knapping Site.
Daer Reservoir - Mesolithic Flint Knapping Site No 1, 1995.

Legacy Reports 2

Daer Reservoir - Mesolithic Flint Knapping Site No. 1.1997, 2000
Daer Reservoir - Burnt Mound deposit charcoal and date.
Daer Reservoir - Mesolithic Site No 2. 2999 [NS 9847 0798].
Daer Reservoir - Mesolithic Site No 3. 2999 [NS 9858 0829]
Daer Reservoir - ?Mesolithic chert knapping site. Site No 4 [NS 9855 0795].
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 5 [NS 97150765]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 6 [NS 97130760]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 7 [NS 97120754]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 8 [NS 96800715]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 9 [NS 97150765]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 10 [NS 97130760]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 11 [NS 97120754]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 12 [NS 96800715]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 13 [NS 96770680]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 14 [NS 96740710]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 15 [NS 96780693]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 16 [NS 96780686]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 17 [NS 96770680]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 18 [NS 96730660]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 19 [NS 97050670]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 20 [NS 97050678]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 21 [NS 97330674]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 22 [NS 96750643]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 23 [NS 97050670]
Daer Reservoir – Lithic scatter - Site No 20 [NS 97500708]
Daer Reservoir – Cairn 1. [NS 98310794]
Daer Reservoir – Cairn 2.
Daer Reservoir – Cairn 3.
Daer Reservoir – Cairn 4. [NS 98290786]
Daer Reservoir – Burnt mounds`. [NS 98820797]
Daer Reservoir – Stone building [NS 96830710]

Legacy Report 3

Fieldwork and excavations at Daer Reservoir, 2001 [NS 90 NE]
Daer Reservoir – Site No 2. finds 2001
Daer Reservoir – Site No 24 [NS 9852 0836]
Daer Reservoir – Site No 9 lithic finds 2001
Daer Reservoir – Site No 10 lithic finds 2001
Daer Reservoir – Site No 25 lithic finds 2001
Daer Reservoir – Site No 26 lithic finds 2001
Daer Reservoir – Misc lithic find 2001
Daer Reservoir – Site No 26 lithic finds not plotted 2001.
Daer Reservoir – Misc. Lithic found in 2001
Daer Reservoir – Lithic found @ Cairn Group
Daer Reservoir – Site No 27 Cairn [NS 9858 0808]
Daer Reservoir – Site No 27 Cairn NS 9858 0808
Daer Reservoir – Fire Site (A), Site No 28 (Near Site No 1)
Daer Reservoir – Site No 29
Daer Reservoir – Test pits Nos1 and 2 at main cairn group
Daer Reservoir – Other new sites
Daer Reservoir – Medieval sites

Legacy Report 4a

Field survey in Daer Valley Interim Report No 4a

Fieldwork, Excavations and Research in Daer Valley and Reservoir, Clydesdale
OS Sheet NS 90 NE

Building No	Site name	Numbers	Numbers used Trenches
1	Coom post medieval	001 - 025	1, 2, 3
2	Coom burnt mound	026 - 050	4, 5a, 5b, 5c
3	Coom post medieval	051 - 075	6, 7
4	Coom post medieval	076 - 100	8, 9
5	Coom post medieval	101 - 125	10, 11, 12
6	Coom post medieval	126 - 130	13
7	Coom post medieval	131 - 135	14
--	Coom post medieval	Trench 14a not allocated a building number	
8	Coom BA stone circle	136 - 150	no excavation
9	Coom BA cemetery	150 - 200	15
10	Smithwood bastle	201 - 250	16
11	Wintercleuch bucht	251 - 275	17
12	Wintercleuch building	276 - 300	18
13	Wintercleuch bucht	301 - 325	19
14	Wintercleuch building	326 - 350	20, 21
15	Crookburn building	351 - 375	22
16	Hapturnell	376 - 400	23 (not completed)
17	Sweetshaw @ burn	401 - 450	24, 25
18	Sweetshaw @ burn	"	26
19	Sweetshaw @ burn	"	no excavation
20	Sweetshaw @ burn	"	27, 28
21	Sweetshaw @ burn	"	29, 30, 31
22	Sweetshaw on hill	"	32, 33
23	Shiel Burn	451 - 475 3	4, 35

Finds are catalogued in an alphanumeric system which gives the site location

Legacy Report 4B

Wintercleuch bucht and building

Trenches 17 - 21

Crookburn building Trench 22

Hapturnell 376 - 400

Trench 23

Burnt mound No 69

Burnt mound No 71

Sweetshaw @ burn 401 - 450

Trenches 24 - 31

Sweetshaw on hill Trenches 32, 33

Shiel Burn 451 - 475

Trenches 34, 35

Daer Reservoir Part 2 (of the 4th Interim Report)

Sites 1-3, 5 - 10, 12, 31 - 33, 37, 39 - 43

Daer Reservoir	Site 82 Burnt mound discovered in 2004	[NS 97406 08399]
Daer Reservoir	Site 83 Ring enclosure/cairn?	[NS 96695 06925]
Daer Reservoir	Site 84 Chert lithic scatter	[NS 95292 10319]
Daer Reservoir	Site 85 Chert lithic scatter	[NS 95196 10295]
Daer Reservoir	Site No 85/1 Burnt mound	[NS 97438 08425]
Daer Reservoir	Site No 85/2 Burnt mound	[NS 97374 08402]
Daer Reservoir	Site No 85/3 Charcoal deposit	[NS 97405 08511]
Daer Reservoir	Site No 85/4 Possible cairn site	[NS 97173 08372]

Interim reports on the work of Biggar Archaeology Group to date, 2012, with a view to producing a final version of the fieldwork and research of Daer valley.

Abstract

The Biggar Archaeology Group (BAG) has been active in Daer valley since 1990 when their first archaeological survey was undertaken. Since that time a plethora of further surveys, excavations and research has been accomplished, each has been written to an interim or basic record stage and this document brings these together with a view to final publication of the work.

Interim report No 1 by Tam Ward.

Biggar Museum Trust and Lanark & District Archaeological Society Daer Reservoir, November 1995. OS Sheet NS 90 NE.

Abstract.

Describes the partial excavation of a post medieval bastle house, the survey of an extensive cairn group including a burnt mound and the excavation of a Mesolithic flint knapping site, providing another case study which highlights the importance of investigating reservoir areas during periods of low water level.

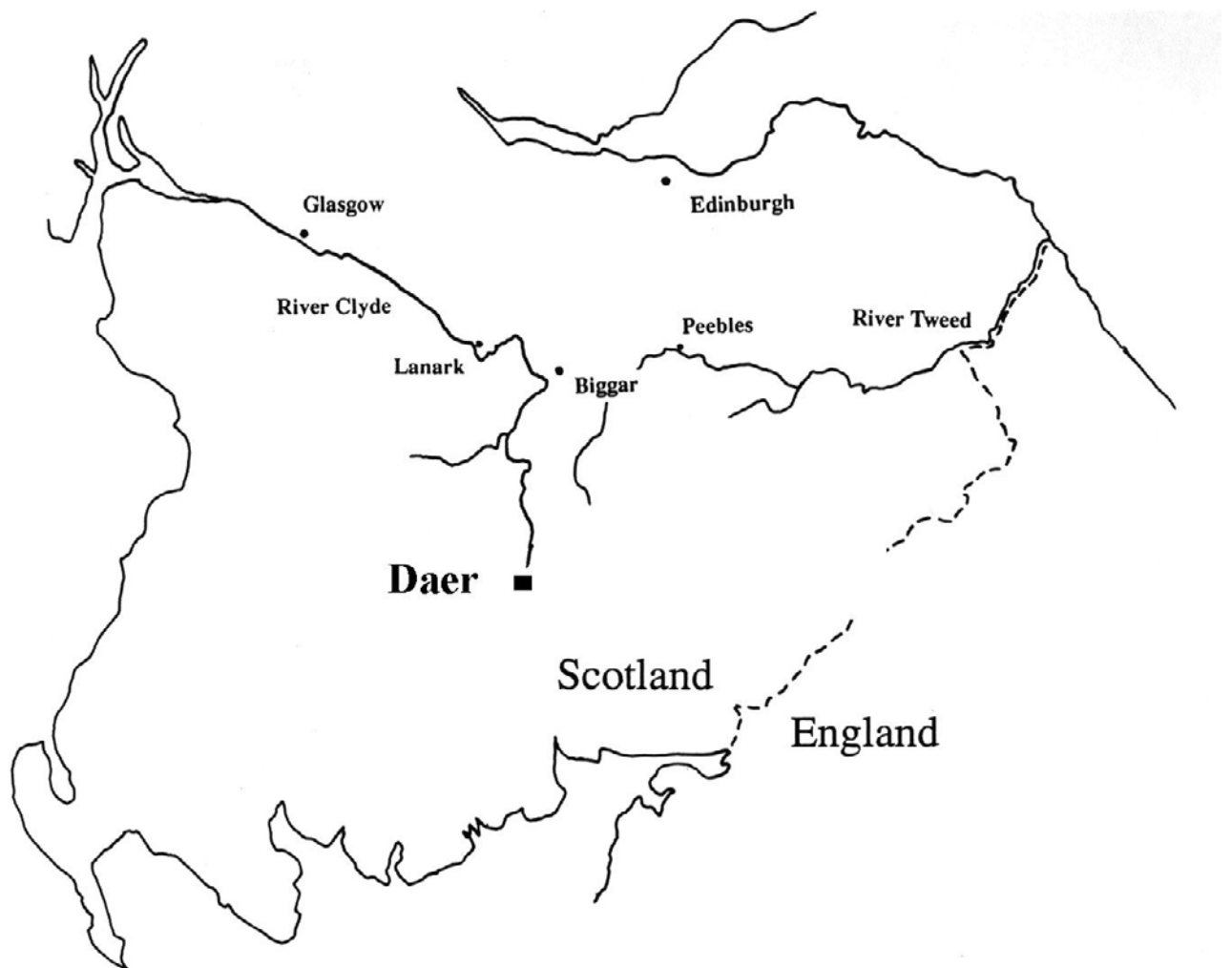


Fig. 1

Introduction.

The Daer Reservoir in Clydesdale (figs 1 & 2) was inaugurated by HM The Queen in 1956, at that time it was the largest reservoir of its type in Europe and supplies public water to the central belt of Scotland. During its construction a large volume of peat was removed from the hill slopes contained within the holding area and the extensive catchment area surrounding the reservoir has a considerable peat cover overlaying it, in several exposures of this peat the branches, roots and stumps of birch trees can be seen at the peat base.



Because of its size, the water level of the reservoir rarely becomes extensively depleted, but this happened during the summer months of 1995 due to the weather conditions. By October the reservoir was below the normal top water level of 342m OD by over 8 metres. Archaeologists from the above organisations took the opportunity to inspect the exposed beach areas of the reservoir specifically to investigate the known remains of Kirkhope Tower (Fig 3), and also to search for unrecorded pre-historic features, since several cairn groups and burnt mounds had previously been discovered on the slopes above the normal water level (Ward, 1992).

Fig. 2

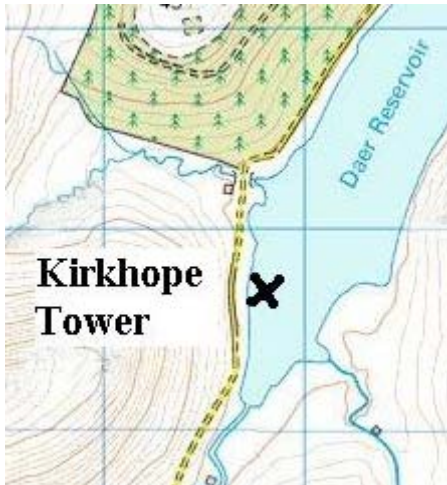
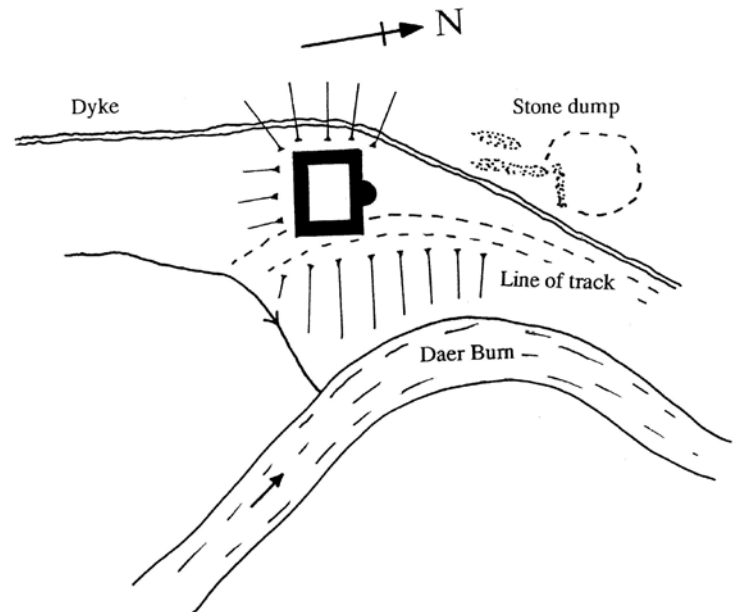


Fig. 3



Biggar Museum Trust

Site No 46

Daer Reservoir

Kirkhope Bastle

NS 90 NE

Scale  **50m**

Fig. 4

Kirkhope Tower.

The site of this reputed tower is given on OS maps and is on the W side of the reservoir at NS 96760651 and is circa 336m OD. Currently little history of this site is known other than it's abandonment before the 19th century. The nearby farm site of Kirkhope (now demolished) was occupied until the reservoir was built. The 'tower' was built near the W bank of the Daer Water (fig 3 & 4) on a slightly elevated mound of glacial gravel (PI's 1 & 2), on the valley floor and an unnamed spring flowed into the Daer just south of the building which is given on early OS maps as 'Peel'.

Limited excavation (fig 5 & 6) was undertaken on the 'tower' site in order to establish the nature of any surviving architectural details and the plan of the building, both objectives met with sufficient success to allow re-interpretation as a bastle house, although on slender evidence. Prior to excavation the site was seen as a discrete pile of stones some 2m high by 10m diameter, only a few external facing stones of the W wall were visible indicating the presence of a building although stones with lime mortar adhering to them were strewn around the pile. Broken bottles and crockery of 19th century date were also strewn over the site. The foundations of a drystone dyke given on OS maps was evident on the W side of the site which was entirely surrounding by re-deposited silt to a depth of about 0.2m.

Initial clearance of loose stones from the pile revealed the alignment of the S and W walls, both the W corners were shown to be built using greywacke stones incorporated into the random rubble of the general building. These external wall faces were not further exposed in order to allow their preservation. Four trenches were opened which exposed details of the building.



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 6



Plate 5

Trench I (Fig 5) (Plate 3).

This trench was opened for a length of 7.5m X 0.5m along the internal face of the S wall which survived to a height of 1.1m at the W end of the excavation revealing a random rubble lime mortared wall set directly on the glacial gravel, the springing of a barrel vault started at 0.7m above the gravel floor. The E end of the wall had been robbed out and because no foundation trench had been cut into the gravel it was not possible to predict its true extent; however the ground drops sharply at the end of the surviving wall end and it is postulated that the return angle to the N would be on the level ground.

The interior of the building is choked with clean demolition stone and lime mortar to a height of 1.75m, small fragments of pink and red coloured sandstone were interspersed in this fill which also preserved some mammal bone in the alkaline material. The base of the fill was a black silty mud about 0.3m deep containing embedded demolition rubble. A sherd of 18th century Staffordshire ware and pieces of faceted haematite were found at the W end of the trench which was opened to 1m square to test the floor surface which remained a gravel surface with no obvious occupation layer surviving other than the muddy silt referred to.

Trench 2 (Fig 5).

This 1m square trench was opened to reveal the internal corner of the chamber and give the alignment of the internal W and N walls. Rubble material 0.5m deep was removed and the trench was discontinued when the wall faces were adequately revealed for recording.

Trench 3 (Figs 5 & 6) (Plates 4 & 5).

This trench was opened to reveal details of a projection noted on the N side after initial stone clearance. Part of the N wall was exposed revealing its thickness as 1.2m, the same as the S and W walls but the fragment here was only 0.75m high. One boulder on the internal side had been battered to give a vertical face. Four relatively small steps of a turnpike stair made from greywacke slabs and wheeling up to the right survived within a D shaped projection from the N long wall, the stair risers, made from greywacke slabs, are 0.15m high and the tread is 0.2m deep on the left side going up. Similarly, two doorsteps, one for the main entrance and the other for access to the vaulted basement were simple greywacke slabs set on the gravel but with straight edges aligned to the curvature of the stair turret and the basement internal wall face respectively. Between these steps and an angled wall face at the base of the stair turret, an uneven cobbled surface was made.

A similar cobbled area led into the basement from the door although on each side of this there was only gravel, no cobbles were evident outside the entrance step. Three blocks of eroded fine grain red coloured sandstone were in situ on the right ingoing of the basement doorway and another similar piece of sandstone was in situ on the right of and above the topmost step. The curvature of the barrel vault was similarly extant on the N side of the building. Each side of the main entrance and the left ingoing side of the basement entrance were robbed to ground level but pieces of roll moulded column 110 - 120mm diameter from doorways or newels were recovered from the entrance area, these were all of a courser grained pink sandstone and quite distinct from the in situ red sandstone, furthermore a piece of smaller sized roll moulded column 50mm diameter and presumably from a window was also found. There was no indication of a door check or rebate on any of the stones described but a block

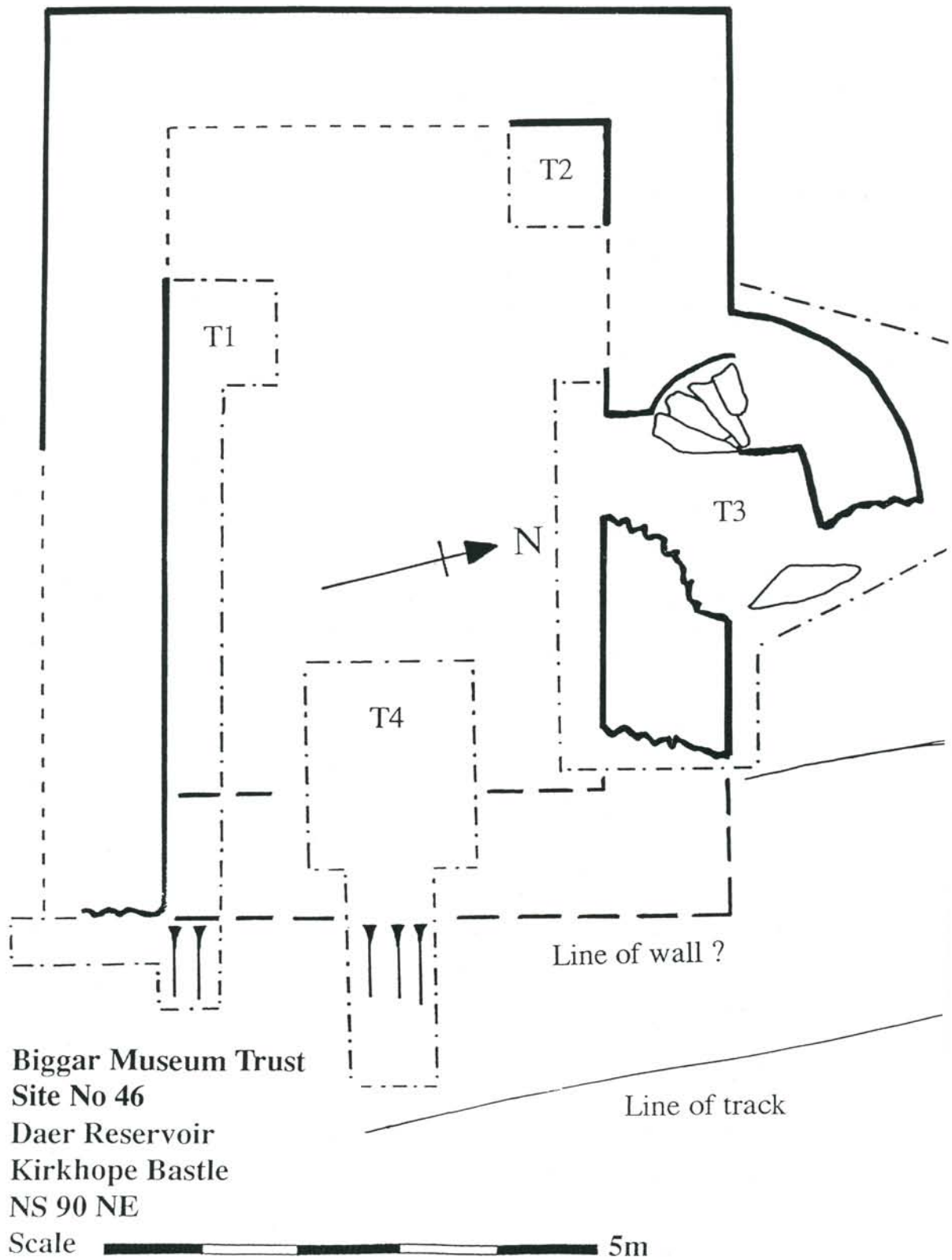


Fig 5

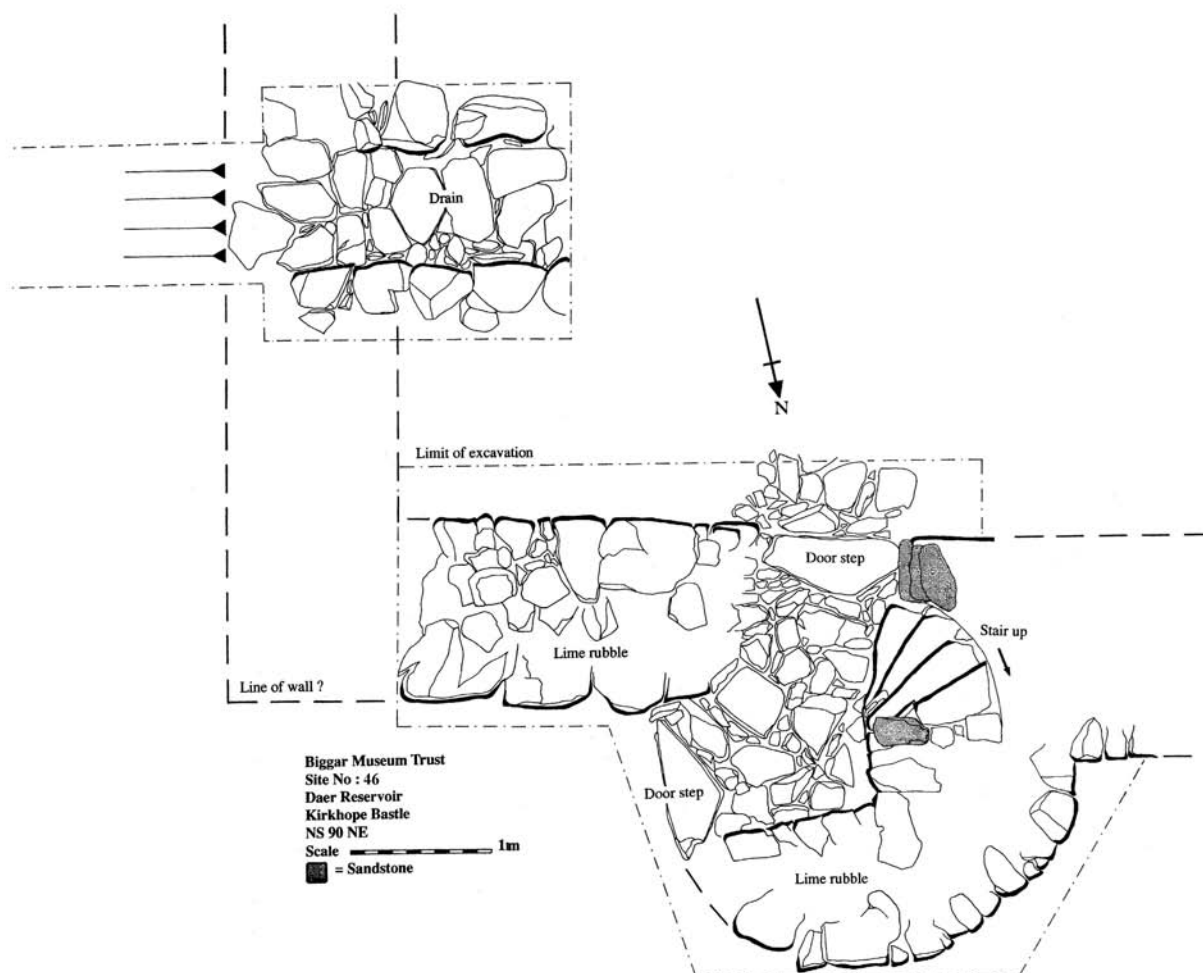


Fig 6

of the finer red sandstone was recovered from the footings of the adjacent drystone wall, this did have the rebate for a door 35mm thick and a lock or draw bolt recess cut into it, however this stone had a simple rounded corner 50mm in diameter.

An ash midden up to 0.3m deep lay at the base of the deposit in the angle between the long wall and the stair turret, above this was a muddy layer within which was embedded the lime mortared rubble from the building. Fragments of slate were found in the angle of the walls and one has been a roof slate with a peg hole 15mm wide pecked through it, the incomplete slate has been cut with angled shoulders similar to those found in 16th and 17th century buildings, this was the only indicator that the building may have had a slated roof.

The strata of this trench contained bone, haematite, 17/ 18th and 19th century pottery indicating the disturbance of earlier deposits in the 19th century.

Trench 4 (Fig 5 & 6) (Plate 6).

This trench was cut in order to establish if a central drain existed on the floor and also to detect the line of the E wall. The trench was 4.3m long by 1m except for the W end where it was expanded to 1.8m wide to inspect the cobbled surface which was an open drain 0.8m wide. The drain (or grip) is centrally placed running into the building, its kerbing is 0.15m high and is typical of those excavated in Clydesdale bastle houses (Ward, D&ES 1981 - 1993), the floor surface on each side of the drain was gravel the same as was found in trenches 1 and 3. The trench was extended sufficiently to the E in order to establish the full extent of the building on that side and it was again noted that the natural ground surface dropped down, no wall foundation or trench was evident and the assumption is that the wall would have overlaid part of the drain keeping the wall on level ground. At the E end of trench 4 there was a stratum of 0.5m deep silt lying on a remnant soil horizon of 0.15m, the silt is clearly post reservoir deposition. A clay pipe bowl of James Colquhoun, an Edinburgh pipe maker of circa 1680 was found above the drain but appears to have been a disturbed object. The section at the W end of the trench consisted of 0.3m depth of dark muddy soil with rubble and sandstone fragments, above this was 0.2m depth of dark soil and ash within which some mammal bone was located and, finally 0.1m re-deposited silt and gravels.

Over part of the trench and overlying the missing area of the building a track of 19/ 20th century date had been made, this contained chips of Tinto felsite from Cairngryffe Quarry and Victorian crockery, all in a very compacted state. The internal width of the building was 4.5m between the curved walls and the internal length between the gables may have been 7m.

Discussion.

The building clearly dates from circa AD1600, perhaps a few decades earlier, and several similarities are noted in comparison to those houses which have been excavated as part of the Clydesdale Bastle Project. The two types of sandstone for dressed work are the same as those found at Glenochar and Wintercleuch nearby; this stone is of Dumfriesshire origin and identical roll mouldings in the pink sandstone were recovered at Wintercleuch.

The stair at Glenochar is a straight mural scale and platt type while that at Wintercleuch is a small turnpike similar to Kirkhope but built within the corner of the bastle; Kirkhope is different in that the stair projects from the rectangular building. The use of greywacke as doorsteps, drains and stairs is the same in all three buildings, each of which is built on the random rubble principle with greywacke quoins, using very high quality lime mortar, given these similarities it may be that the same mason or group of masons built all three houses.

In each of these sites the last phase of occupation is shown by the use of Staffordshire Ware pottery and green glass bottles of the early 18th century, and the use of haematite as a colouring agent is also found on each site, as are 17th century pipe bowls.

All of the finds were unstratified and it is likely that much of the 19th century and later material was incorporated into the site during periods of stone robbing or even picnicking, the farmhouse of Kirkhope (now completely demolished) was situated a few hundred metres to the north.

The site will be incorporated into the research programme of the Clydesdale Bastle Project.

Appendix I

KIRKHOPE CATALOGUE

By Ian Paterson

Abbreviations

CA	Copper alloy
Ce	Ceramics
Fe	Iron
Gl	Glass
Li	Lithics
O	Organic materials
Pb	Lead

Notes

Pottery

1. In an attempt to achieve consistency, glaze and fabric colours are described where appropriate according to the 'Rock Colour Chart', prepared by the Geological Society of America, Boulder, Colorado.
2. R = Rim sherd S = featureless sherd (side wall) H = handle B = base
3. The fabric of many sherds, especially those of the Scottish Post-Mediaeval Wares, varies in colour from interior to exterior. This has been codified as follows.

G = dark grey

g = pale grey

R = 'red' - usually Moderate reddish orange [10 R 6/6]

r = grey, almost always pale grey, with 'red' spots or blotches

- = transitional boundary

/ = sharp boundary

The zones are defined from the interior outwards. Thus [r-G/r] describes a fabric in which an inner zone of pale grey with red spots passes by transition into dark grey which has a sharp boundary with a red-spotted external zone.



Plate 7

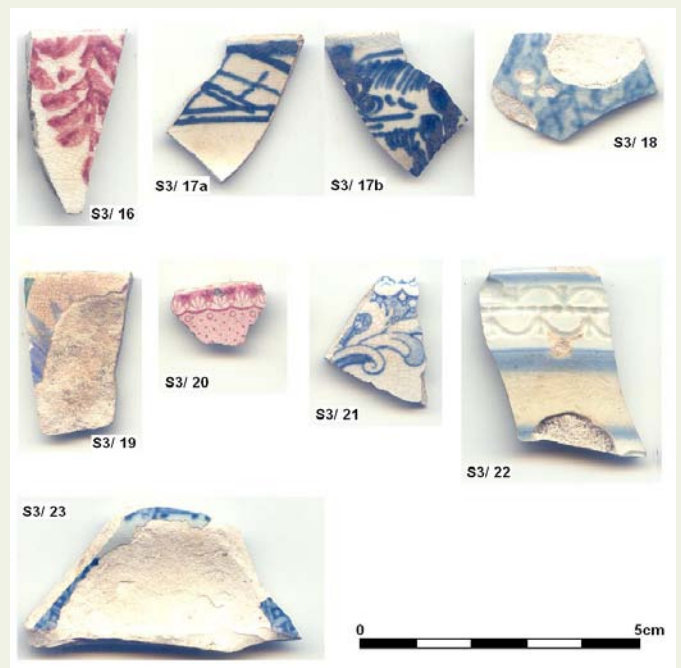


Plate 8

Bottles Plate 7

In this catalogue where a substantial part of the neck of a wine bottle survived, it's splay, or change in diameter, is expressed as a percentage. This is derived from the simple equation $[(a - b) \text{ divided by } c] \times 100$, where a = the maximum diameter of the neck, measured just above the junction with the body of the bottle, b = the minimum diameter of the neck, just beneath the string ring and c = the vertical distance between a and b. All dimensions in mm.

Generally speaking, the lower the splay value, the later the neck.

Surface finds from pre-excavation and initial stone clearance from site.

- | | | |
|--------|----|---|
| S 1/ 1 | Li | Haematite, chunk, one facet, corners and edges smoothed by handling |
| S 2/ 1 | Gl | Shards, 2 of conjoined, from neck with finish, of wine bottle in clouded dark greenish yellow (Fig. 1). Diameter at shoulder c. 80mm. Height of neck 88.5mm. Height of neck to base of finish 66mm. Diameter of neck at base 42mm; where pinched in at base of finish 25.5mm. Bore 16.5mm. Aperture 23mm. Heavy down tooled rounded lip 9-10mm high. Diameter at lip 33mm. down tooled 'string' ring, of added glass. 13mm deep and 4-5mm wide. Splay index = 25. 19th Century. |
| S 2/ 2 | Gl | Neck, with finish, of wine bottle in clouded dark greenish yellow (Fig. 1). Height of neck 82mm. Height of neck to base of finish 68mm. Diameter of neck at base 42mm; where pinched in at base of finish 28mm. Bore 18mm. Aperture 20mm. Diameter 35mm at flat, poorly made 4mm high lip. 'String' ring, of added glass, 11- 13mm deep and 3-4.5mm wide. Splay index = 20.6. 19th Century. |

S 2/ 3	GI	Shard from lower neck and shoulder, of wine bottle in slightly clouded dark brownish yellow. 19th Century.
S 2/ 4	GI	Base, slightly distorted, of wine bottle in clouded yellow green. Side slightly belled, up to 75mm high. Diameter 87 - 90mm. Resting point diameter c.75mm. Kick rounded, 37mm high. Pontil scar diameter c.55mm. 19th Century.
S 2/ 5	GI	Base, of wine bottle in clouded dark brownish green. Side strongly belled, up to 65mm high. Diameter 89 - 90mm. Resting point diameter c.73mm. Kick rounded, 30mm high. Pontil scar diameter c.30mm. 19th Century.
S 2/ 6	GI	Shards, 2 of conjoining, from base, of wine bottle in bright yellow-green. Rare seed. Side strongly belled, up to 50mm high. Diameter 94mm. Resting point diameter c.73mm. Kick rounded, 34mm high. Pontil scar diameter c.35mm. 19th Century.
S 2/ 7	GI	Shard, from base, of wine bottle in fire bright dark brownish yellow. Rare seed. Side strongly belled, up to 43mm high. Diameter c.90mm. Resting point diameter c.72mm. Kick, steep, rounded, 43mm high. Pontil scar diameter c.45mm. 19th Century.
S 2/ 8	GI	Shard, from base, of wine bottle in clouded dark brownish yellow. Side strongly belled, up to 27mm high. Diameter c.80mm. Resting point diameter c.64mm. Kick, steep, rounded c.30mm high. 19th Century.
S 2/ 9	GI	Shard from lower side with belling, of wine bottle in clouded yellow-green with iridescent lamination. Diameter c.95mm. 18th - 19th Century.
S 2/10	GI	Shard from shoulder of wine bottle in slightly clouded yellow-green with numerous seed up to 4mm. ?18th Century.
S 3/ 1	Ce	Sherds, 13 of, 4, 3 and 2 conjoining, from base, side and rim of deep slip-decorated, flat bottomed, mainly straight-sided basin but slightly incurving towards base as a result of knife-trimming. Uptilted, slightly concave flange rim, c.16mm wide. Vessel stood c.125mm high; its base was c.220mm in diameter, the somewhat distorted rim c.360mm in diameter. Base angle c.60°. White slip on inside and on to rim. Clear? lead oxide glaze over slip and on outside. Fabric silt grade, mostly brownish grey but with Moderate reddish orange [10 R 4/6] patches on outside. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/ 2	Ce	Sherd from a base, c.190mm in diameter of open vessel, perhaps bowl. Base is flat with down-tooled chamfered ledge foot - base angle c. 45°. Signs of knife-trimming. On inside, lower ends of two vertical bands of trailed white slip, covered by? tin oxide glaze. No glaze on outside. Fabric hard, silt grade, brownish grey. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/ 3	Ce	Sherds, 2 of, conjoined, from side with part of horizontally placed, uptilted strap handle. Diameter of vessel c.320mm. Very dusky red [10 R 2/2] glaze on inside and outside. The handle, which would have been c.160mm wide, had an oval section 37mm high by 13mm thick, narrowing and thickening to 29mm x 21mm, close to attachment, which had finger impressions above and below. Fabric is hard, silt grade with muscovite flakes, mottled brownish grey and Moderate reddish orange [10 R 4/6]. Late 18th - 19th Century.

S 3/ 4	Ce	Sherd from shoulder with lower part of everted rim? of bowl or jug, 220mm in diameter. Black glaze inside on inside and outside. Fabric hard, silt grade, Dark reddish brown[10 R 3/4]. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/ 5	Ce	Sherd from flat base of slip decorated vessel. White slip with clear over glaze on inside only. Fabric silt grade with scattered quartz grains Moderate reddish orange [10 R 4/6] Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/ 6	Ce	Sherd from side of slip decorated, thin-walled (4mm) vessel. White slip with small mottle of manganese and clear over glaze on inside only. Fabric silt grade with scattered quartz grains Moderate reddish orange [10 R 4/6] Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/ 7	Ce	Sherd from side, turning in either to neck or base, of? jar c.120mm in diameter in salt-glazed stoneware.
S 3/ 8	Ce	Sherd from developed, lathe-cut base, 90mm in diameter and lower side of mug in brown-glazed stoneware. Base, with outwards wedged foot, 5mm high, 8mm tapering down to 5mm. Dark reddish brown glaze [10 R 3/4] on exterior, Greyish red [10 R 4/2] on interior. Fabric fine-grained pale red [10 R 6/2]. Compare with examples from Glenochar (GO.P 121, 122) and Glendorch (GD.V.100). From a Nottinghamshire kiln. 18th Century.
S 3/ 9	Ce	Sherd from rim of white earthenware plate. The rim is 31mm wide, possibly with a wavy edge, and is upturned in the Bath style. Diameter of bowl 240mm; of rim c.300mm. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/10	Ce	Sherd from rim of white earthenware porringer 160mm in diameter. No decoration. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/11	Ce	Sherd from developed base, c.100mm in diameter? of bowl in white earthenware. Base is undercut and has a downturned ledge foot c.6mm wide. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/12	Ce	Sherd from developed base, c.90mm in diameter? of bowl in white earthenware. Base is undercut to form foot which is broken off. Groove in side just above base. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/13	Ce	Sherd from developed base, c.200mm in diameter? of bowl in white earthenware. Rounded foot, 4mm wide and 2.5mm high. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/14	Ce	Sherd, c.5mm thick, from side of bowl, in white earthenware. Glaze crazed on inside and outside. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/15	Ce	Sherd, c.3mm thick, from side of bowl, diameter c.200mm, in white earthenware. Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/16	Ce	Sherd from plain rim of bowl c.220mm in diameter in white earthenware. Sponge decoration in carmine (PI 8). Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/17	Ce	Sherd from plain rim of thin-walled (2mm) cup in white earthenware. Hand painted decoration in dark blue. On inside 3 bands connected by diagonal line. On outside possibly part of a landscape (PI 8).Late 18th - 19th Century.
S 3/18	Ce	Sherd from side of thin-walled (2.5mm) cup in pearl ware. ?hand painted all over decoration in mid blue on outside (PI 8). Late 18th - 19th Century.

S 3/19	Ce	Sherd from plain rim 3mm thick of bowl c.200mm in diameter in white earthenware. Most of the decoration has scaled off. Traces of hand painted leaf motif in pale blue (PI 8). 19th Century.
S 3/20	Ce	Sherd from rim of plate in white earthenware. Transfer printed design in red. Elaborate motif on edge separated, by means of a scalloped line with small circles underneath the crests, from a stippled area with a scatter of larger dots (PI 8). 19th Century.
S 3/21	Ce	Sherd from everted rim of bowl, in white earthenware. On inside of rim are low vertical ribs at intervals. Transfer printed design in mid blue (PI 8). 19th Century.
S 3/22	Ce	Sherd from plain rim of bowl, in white earthenware (Industrial slip). On outside of rim, a variant of Rouletting Type 12 in which the scalloped line elements are separated by an impressed broken line. The design includes a rim band and other bands in pale blue below the roulette band (PI 8). 19th Century.
S 3/23	Ce	Sherd from base and lower side? of saucer or small plate with a single foot rim. Side of saucer c.10mm high. In white earthenware with pale aqua glaze and a transfer printed decoration in mid blue that has almost completely scaled off (PI 8). 19th Century
S 3/24	Ce	Fragment possibly from drainpipe, c.120mm in diameter. Unglazed, gray fabric coarse- grained with rock fragments. Modern.
S 4/ 1	Ce	Sherds, 2 of conjoined, from flat base of bowl. Base is 160mm in diameter. Base angle 57°. Outer surface completely scaled off. On inside, trailed slip decoration - 2 vertical bands visible. Brown manganese oxide glaze. Fabric silt grade, Moderate reddish orange [10 R 6/6] with grey patches. Possible 18th Century.
S 4/ 2	Ce	Sherd from side of vessel. On outside, trailed slip bands. Brown manganese oxide glaze on inside and outside. Fabric silt grade with scattered sand grains, Moderate reddish brown [10 R 4/6]. Possible 18th Century.
S 4/ 3	Ce	Sherd from side of vessel, diameter c.180mm. Slip-decorated on inside. Brown manganese oxide glaze on outside and probably also on inside but scaled off. Fabric silt grade with scattered sand grains, Moderate reddish orange [10 R 6/6] Possible 18th Century.
S 5	Ce	Pipe stems, 4 of. Diameters 5mm to 10mm; length 23 - 42mm. Bore 2.3 -3.4mm.
S 6	Pb	Fisherman's sink weight; cylindrical, 37mm long, 6.5mm in diameter at centre, tapering to 4mm at both ends. Modern.
S 7	Ce	Clay marble, diameter 19.5mm. Modern.
S 8	CA	Halfpenny, found in burn north of site. 18th Century.

Finds from excavation trenches

Trench No 1

T 1/ 1	Ce	Sherd from shoulder of jar c.160mm in diameter. Dull green glaze on inside and on upper part of outside. Fabric coarse, with abundant sand grain temper [g-G-g]. Note: conjoins with T3/ 8a. SPMOW.
T 1/ 2	Ce	Sherd from jar. Dull green glaze on inside and on upper part of outside. Fabric coarse, with abundant sand grain temper [g-G-g]. Probably same vessel as T 1/ 1. SPMOW.
T 1/ 3	Ce	Sherd from side of vessel. Yellow brown glaze on inside, no glaze on outside. Fabric silt grade, pale grey passing into Moderate reddish orange [10 R 6/6] on outside. SPMOW.
T 1/ 4	Ce	Sherd from rim, ? of bowl c.200mm in diameter. Inner edge of rim scalloped - the scoops being c.8mm across. Decorated with alternating stripes 4-5mm wide of white slip, falling left to right at an angle of c.20°. Fabric fine-grained with a few sand and rock grains Light brown [5 YR 6/4]. 'Staffordshire Slipware'.
18th Century.		
T 1/ 5	Gl	Shard, from shoulder of wine bottle, in heavily denatured. Diameter c.160mm. Appears to be from 'onion' bottle. Early 18th Century.
T 1/ 6	Or	Bone fragments and teeth, 43 of, from large and small mammals, mostly ovine.
T 1/ 7	Li	Haematite chunk. One face appears smoothed.
T 1/ 8	Li	Sandstone. Windows arise? roll moulded 50mm diameter (not seen).
T 1/ 9	Fe	Nail, 43 mm long, head c.12mm in diameter.

Trench No 2.

No finds.

Trench No 3, outwith north wall and curve of stair turret 1.

T3/ 1	Li	Slate. Possible roof slate (Not seen)
T3/ 2	Gl	Sherds, 2 of, from wine bottle, in denatured pale yellowish green with iridescent lamination. Diameter c.120mm. Possible 'mallet' type. ?mid 18th Century.
T3/ 3	Ce	Sherd from everted rim c.25mm high, internal diameter c.120mm, diameter at rim edge c.160mm. Traces of yellow-green glaze on inside. Fabric silt grade, pale grey with Light brown [5 YR 6/4] zones on inside and outside. SPMOW.
T3/ 4	Ce	Sherd from flange rim with thickened upright outer edge, diameter c. 120mm at rim edge. Traces of yellow-green glaze on inside. Fabric silt grade, gritty, Light brown [5 YR 6/4] with pale grey at centre. SPMOW.

T3/ 5	Ce	Sherd from side of? storage jar, diameter c.200mm. Indication of glaze on inside. Fabric silt grade with a little quartz sand temper. Light brown [5 YR 6/4] with pale grey at centre [r-g-r]. SPMOW.
T3/6	Ce	Sherds, 2 of conjoined, from side of ?storage jar, diameter c.200mm. Indication of glaze on inside. Fabric silt grade. Light brown [5 YR 6/4], grey on inside. The sherds seem smoke-blackened. SPMOW.
T3/ 7	Ce	Sherd, from side of vessel c.200mm in diameter. Yellow-green glaze on inside. Fabric gritty. Grey at centre, pale grey inside, moderate reddish orange on outside [g/G/r]. SPMOW
T3/ 8a	Ce	Sherd from shoulder of jar c.160mm in diameter, with lower part of everted rim. Dull green glaze on inside and on upper part of outside. Fabric course, with abundant sand grain temper [g-G-g]. Note: conjoins with T1/ 1. SPMOW.
T3/ 8b	Ce	Sherd from jar. Dull green glaze on inside and on upper part of outside. Fabric course, with abundant sand grain temper [g-G-g]. Probably same vessel as T 3/ 8a. SPMOW.
T3/ 9	Ce	Pipe stem fragments, 3 of. Diameter: 6.5 - 8.5mm; length: 26 - 47mm. Bore: 3.1 -3.5mm.
T3/10	Ce	Sherd, from shoulder/neck c.100mm in diameter? of jug. Indication of glaze on inside. Fabric fine-grained, slightly silty, Light brown [5 YR 6/4] roughout. SPMOW.
T3/11	Ce	Sherds, 2 of, conjoined with T3/13, from knife-trimmed base, diameter c.130mm. Base angle c. 50°. Fabric fine-grained, slightly silty, Pale grey on inside, darker at centre, Light brown [5 YR 6/4] on outside [g\G-r]. Possibly same vessel as T3/ 5. SPMOW.
T3/12	Ce	Sherd, from side c.180mm in diameter. Indication of glaze on inside. Fabric fine-grained, slightly silty, Light brown [5 YR 6/4] on outside, pale brownish grey on inside. Possibly from same vessel as T3/10. SPMOW.
T3/13	Ce	Conjoined with T3/11.
T3/14	Ce	Fragment of strap handle, oval section, 13mm wide, 6.5mm thick. In red earthenware. Manganese glaze. Fabric gritty with a few sand grains, grey and light brown mottled. 19th Century.
T3/15	Ce	Sherd from everted rim,? of cup. Very thin (2.4mm). White slip on inside and outside under glaze. Fabric gritty with sand temper. Light brown. 18th Century.
T3/16	Ce	Sherd from outwardly thickened rounded rim? of cup c.100mm in diameter, in grey stoneware (cf. S 3/ 8). Thin brown glaze over grey silt grade fabric. Decorated on outside below rim with a zone composed of 4 rows of spaced sub-rectangular depressions. 18th Century.
T3/17	Ce	Sherd from side of cup c.100mm in diameter, in greystoneware - probably same as S 3/16. Thin brown glaze over grey silt grade fabric. Decorated on outside with a zone composed of 4 rows of spaced sub-rectangular depressions. 18th Century.

T3/18	Ce	Sherd, from side of vessel. Brown glaze over silt grade fabric, grey with red mottling. 18 - 19th Century.
T3/19	Fe	Knife, part of blade and tang.
T3/20	Or	Bone fragments and teeth, 30 of, mostly ovine.
T3/21a	Gl	Sherds, 2 of, from side of wine bottle, in fire bright brownish yellow. Diameter c.100mm. 18-19th Century.
T3/21b	Gl	Sherd from lower side of wine bottle, in clouded, pale yellowish green. A few seed. Diameter c.100mm. 18-19th Century.
T3/21c	Gl	Sherds, 2 of conjoined, from side of wine bottle, in clouded, pale yellowish green with numerous seed. Diameter c.100mm. 18-19th Century.
T3/21d	Gl	Sherds, 2 of, from side and shoulder of wine bottle, in slightly clouded, pale brownish yellow. Diameter c.100mm. 18-19th Century.
T3/21e	Gl	Sherd from side of wine bottle, in clouded yellowish green with large (up to 8mm) elongated seed. Diameter c.100mm. . 18-19th Century.
T3/21f	Gl	Sherd from side and lower shoulder of wine bottle, in heavily clouded yellowish green. 18th Century.
T3/21g	Gl	Sherd from lower side of wine bottle, in clouded, yellowish green with a few seed. Diameter c.90mm. 18-19th Century.
T3/21h	Gl	Sherd from side with bell of wine bottle, in fire bright, yellowish green with thin Iridescent patination, diameter c.120mm. 19th Century.
T3/22	Gl	Neck, with finish, of wine bottle, in clouded pale yellowish green (Fig. 1). Height of neck 92mm. Height of neck to base of finish 78mm. Diameter of neck at base 38mm; where nipped in at base of finish 27mm. Bore 17mm. Aperture 22.5mm. Diameter at down tooled, 4 -7mm high lip 33mm. Flat string ring, of added glass, 7mm deep and 2-3mm wide. Splay index = 14.1. Early 19th Century.
T3/23a	Gl	Sherds, 2 of conjoined, from shoulder of 'onion' bottle, in denatured, patinated yellow-brown. Diameter c.220mm. Early 18th Century.
T3/23b	Gl	Sherd, from kick of wine bottle in denatured yellow-green. Diameter of base c. 100mm; height of rounded kick at least 30mm. 18th Century.
T3/23c	Gl	Sherd, from lower part of neck of wine bottle, nipped in below finish which is missing, in yellow-brown, clouded. Diameter c.30mm. 19th Century.
T3/24	Li	Sandstone, pink coloured, roll-moulded, 120m. in diameter
T3/25	Li	Sandstone, pink coloured, roll-moulded, 110 - 120mm diameter.
T3/26	Li	Sandstone, pink coloured, roll-moulded, 110mm diameter
T3/27	Li	Sandstone, pink coloured, roll-moulded, from stair newel? 110mm diameter

Trench 3 - outside N wall and curve of stair turret 1.

T3/28	Li	Haematite, chunk of, 70 x 66 x up to 39mm, with three facets.
T3/29	Li	Haematite chunk, irregular, 75 x 54 x 51mm. No facets.

Trench 3

T3/30	Li	Haematite chunks, 5 of, 3 with at least one smoothed face.
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Trench No 4.

T4/ 1	Ce	Pipe bowl. IC on heel, James Colhoun?
T4/ 2	Ce	Sherd from lower side and base 120mm in diameter, of ?jug. Base flat, chamfered. Vessel is very thin walled (2.4mm). Parts of 4 trailed slip bands around lower side, covered by clear glaze. Fabric gritty with sand temper. Light brown, with pale streaks. Probably same vessel as T3/15. 18th Century.
T4/ 3	Ce	Sherd from side of large diameter vessel with 2 narrow grooves 5mm apart. Manganese glaze on inside and outside. Fabric silt grade, Pale reddish brown [10 R 5/4]. 18th - 19th Century.
T4/ 4	Ce	Sherd from side of large diameter thin-walled vessel. Indication of white slip on inside. Manganese glaze on outside. Fabric silt grade, Moderate reddish orange [10 R 4/6]. 18th - 19th Century.
T4/ 5	Li	Haematite, 2 small pieces of.
T4/ 6	Gl	Sherd from shoulder of wine bottle, in fire bright yellow- brown. 19th Century.
T4/ 7	Fe	Wire? / tools? 2 of. One item, 100mm long, tapers to a point.
T4/ 8	Fe	Possible pointed tool, 100mm long, 7mm square, with bone handle at least 67mm long - awl?

The Cairn Group. Fig 7 Plates 9 & 10

The cairn group recorded below top water level on the E side of the reservoir is an important addition to the corpus of small cairns in Clydesdale. Several groups of small cairns were recorded in 1992 (Ward, *ibid*) on the hill slopes above the latest survey area and others are recorded further down the valley, to the north of the reservoir. The main group of cairns inside the reservoir are ranged for 350m along the hillside on a broad sloping terrace between more severe angles of slope above the site and also below where the ground falls away steeply. The strip of surveyed ground at it's northern end is 50m wide and it is 80m wide at the southern end, however, on the day of discovery at least another four cairns were noted at the waters edge, unfortunately these were submerged by the following weekend when the survey was made, the group is therefore larger in extent than that which appears in this report.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of these cairns is their appearance which is entirely free of vegetation and soil cover, this having been washed away by the reservoir. A most striking contrast was also noted between the ground surrounding the cairns and that to the south of the spring course, the former is obviously cleared of stone while the latter area has not been cleared, although three cairns lay within that zone, the significance will not be lost on proponents of small cairns being the product of field clearance.

The shapes of the piles are fairly typical and a close parallel can be drawn between this site and that at nearby Fall Kneesend (Ward, 1992 *ibid*) where a variety of sizes and shapes are evident and which were stripped of vegetation during excavation (Downes 1993). At both sites linear piles, piles with cellular structure and the more conventional round and oval dome shapes are represented. The preservation of most of the cairns appeared quite remarkable, hardly a stone seeming to be out of place on many of the piles lower down slope, although the examples near the top water line were obviously disturbed to varying degrees due to the severity of wave action in the shallower waters. It is possible that some cairns are completely dispersed near the shore line as deposits of boulders lay along that zone, it is equally possible that these piles are the product of erosion from the bank along the shore which is generally 1m high but up to 3m high near Sweetshaw, and showing a good section through the drift geology and peat. Some of the cairns have larger stones forming an edge but these could not be described as kerb cairns on the visible evidence, some had been deposited beside earth fast erratic boulders and most cairns were dome topped. A photographic record was made of many cairns to illustrate their condition and appearance (see catalogue).

Chert and flint artefacts were retrieved from the area of the cairns in the cleared ground and some patches of charcoal were noted and sampled. The charcoal may indicate the presence of cremation activity as was discovered at Camps Reservoir (Ward 1992 and 1994, interim reports). A single carbonised hazel nutshell was found but not associated with the charcoal patches. For convenience, the find spots and details of each cairn are annotated onto a separate drawing (fig 6a, presently only with NMRS and BMT) which should be viewed with the finds catalogue.

Burnt Mound. (Fig 7).

The remains of a dispersed burnt mound lay adjacent to the largest of the three isolated cairns to the south of the main group and in an area of prolific strewn boulders. The site was detected by the presence of a 13m diameter scatter of reddened heat cracked rocks up to 75mm in size. There was no surface indication of charcoal but a trial section revealed a dense deposit of charcoal lying just beneath the burnt stone and on top of an old ground surface. The entire depth of the section was 0.3m being equally divided between soil, charcoal and burnt stone in ascending order. A copious sample of charcoal enriched soil and stone was extracted for analyses and dating. The spring course on the N of the burnt mound deposit would have served the process there. A chert scatter was found 25m to the W of the burnt mound deposit.

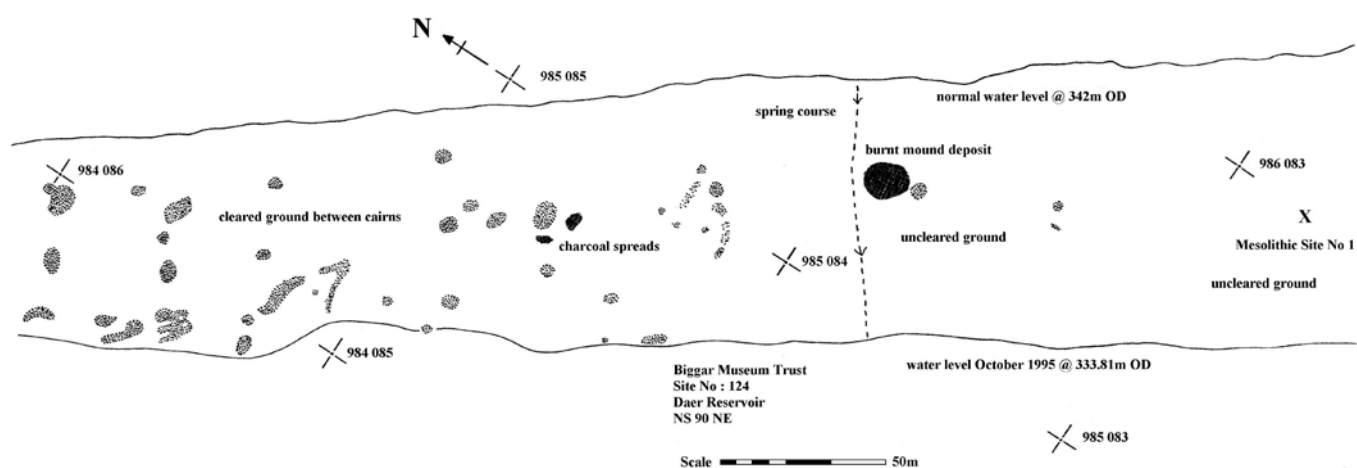


Fig. 7

Ring Cairns. (Not surveyed in detail)(See later reports) Plate 11

Circa 300m S of the main cairn group there are at least three ring cairns. The best preserved is at NS 98660798 and lies just within the top water line of the reservoir on level ground, immediately to the E the ground drops steeply to the (now submerged) Black Burn course. The cairn measures 6m in diameter with a 2m diameter hollow centre which has a stone layer, the stony ring is 0.4m high. A large erratic has been adopted as part of the internal face of the cairn. Lying about 50m N of the above but further into the reservoir is another ring cairn measuring 4m in diameter by 0.4m high, this is slightly disturbed. Another possible ring cairn or a kerb cairn lies 5m to the N of here and is visible as a 4m diameter circle of boulders with a clear interior.



Plate 9



Plate 10



Plate 11

At NS 98580808 and also lying on top of the old burn bank and above a sharp and steep break of slope there is another ring cairn measuring 5m diameter by 0.5m high. It has large boulders up to 0.75m incorporated into it and has been created against a massive erratic. This monument is also slightly disturbed by the water action.

The ring cairns are lying in an area of extensive boulder scree which continues up the hill and away from the reservoir, this ground has never been cleared of stone indicating that these features are most likely to be funerary/ritual monuments. Other features may exist among this boulder strewn submerged landscape but shapes formed by some stones may be non anthropogenic and therefore merely coincidental. A large dome shaped cairn with a hollow top lies 110m to the W of these ring cairns and is previously recorded.

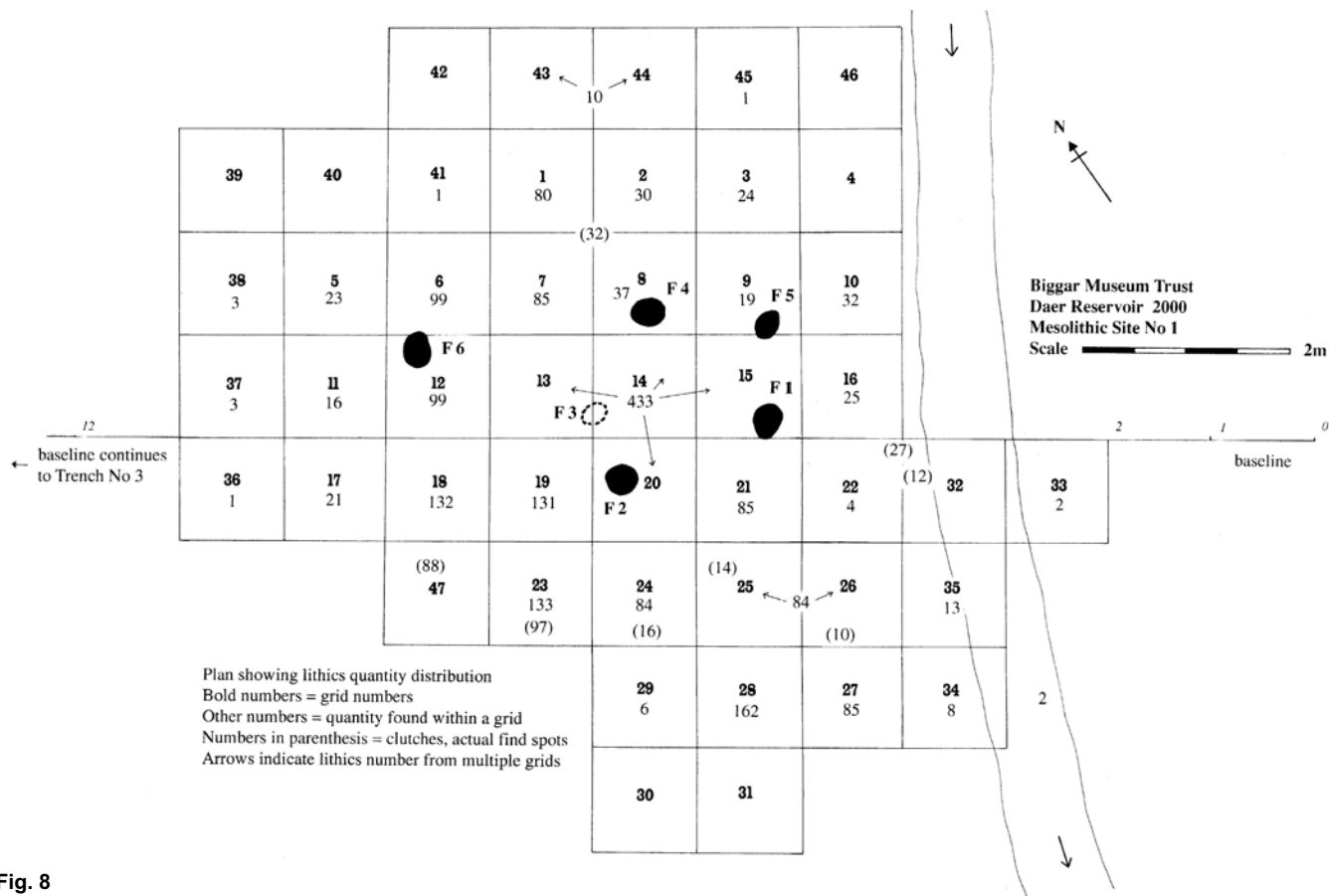


Fig. 8

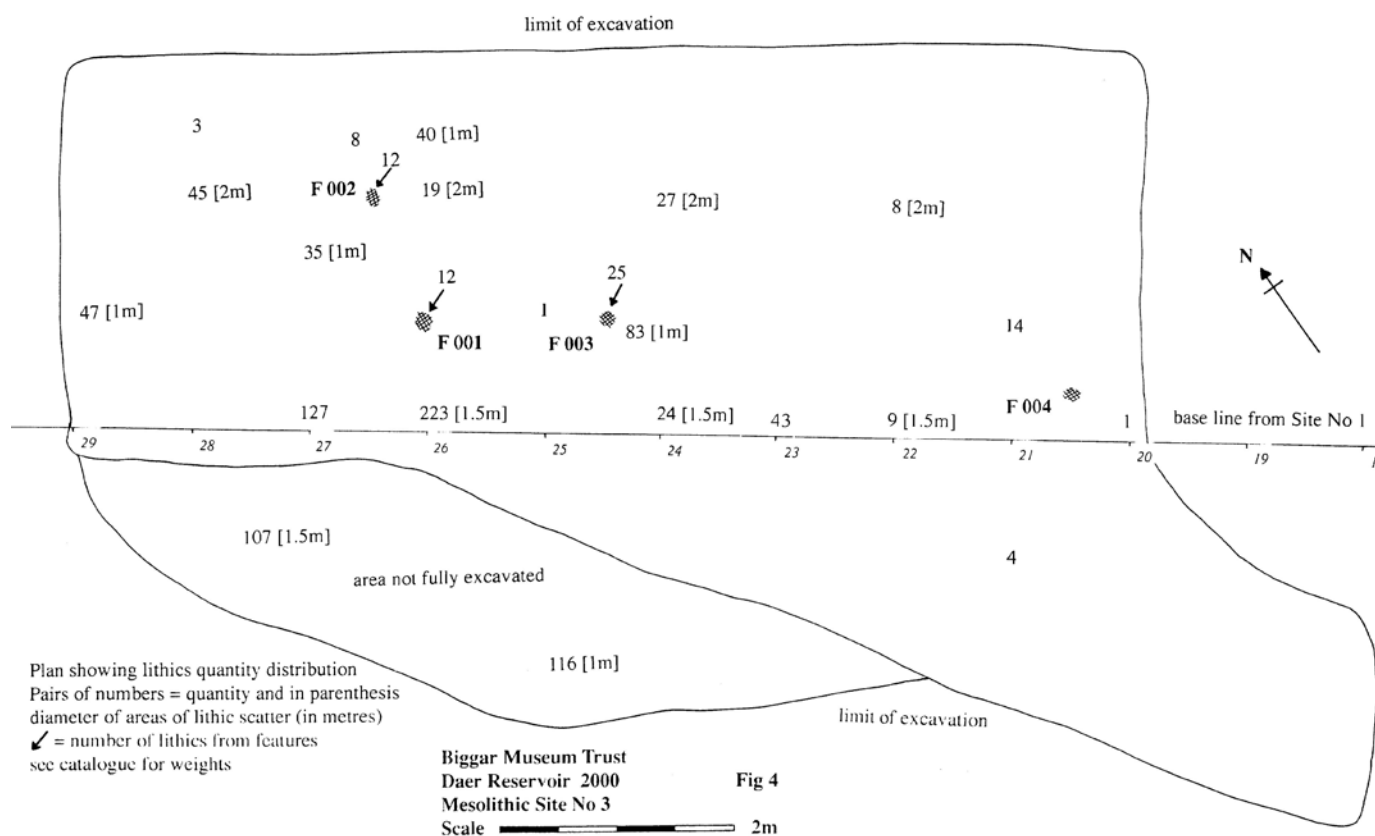


Fig. 9

Chert Knapping Site. Fig 9

350m SW of the cairn group and lying just 10m - 20m offshore on the NE flank of Sweetshaw Rig at NS 98420802 there is a chert knapping site on level ground. The quantity of struck chert was retrieved by field inspection and covered an area of circa 20m radius. The material is probably Mesolithic but specialist study of the assemblage is required to be confident if diagnostic elements are represented.

Mesolithic Flint Knapping Site. Fig 8 Plates 12 - 15

The most remarkable of the discoveries within the reservoir area has been the location of a Mesolithic knapping site with features cut into the glacial till. Lying 85m SW of the main cairn group on a gentle slope and in an area of extensive boulder scree at NS 98600827 the site was detected by finding a localised concentration of struck flint. Surface stones were cleared (PI 12) and a trial wet sieving (PI 13) operation was undertaken to test the concentration of flint in the shallow clayey podsol which is 0.1 to 0.2m deep.

The area of Grids No's 13, 14, 15 and 20 was removed and a total of 433 chipped and flaked stone were retrieved by trowel and 2mm sieve. At this stage the writer assumed the material to be Bronze Age but on submitting it to the opinion of Alan Saville, Manager of the Artefact Research Unit at the National Museum of Scotland, the material was confirmed as being Mesolithic detritus and microliths. It was judged to be expedient to retrieve as much of the material as would be possible before the water level (which was rising) submerged the site. To that end an eventual trench of 26 square metres was excavated with all the material being wet sieved in the reservoir through 2mm sieves. The depth of excavation averaged 0.15m except for several cut features, the material removed was a clayey podsol with angular stones up to fist size embedded into it.

The artefacts were recorded to square metre plots (see list). The lithic assemblage from this process is comprised of a total of 1724 pieces, of which flint predominates over a small proportion of siltstone and chert? /flint? and the total weight of the lithics is 1707.12 grammes. During trowelling, charcoal was observed and in several locations this was concentrated in patches below the sub soil. Seven patches (F 1 - F7) were excavated to reveal at least five features cut into the glacial till, all of which contained charcoal and further lithic artefacts.

The charcoal enriched soil in the features was bulk sampled (see list) for flotation, analyses and dating of the charcoal.

The main concentration of lithics appears to have been focused within the area of the pits which may have been truncated post holes (PI's 13 - 14), certainly the densest concentration of tiny flakes were retrieved in this area and larger flakes, chunks and cores were found in Grids 5, 6, 11, 12, 17 and 18. The chunks and cores show that the flint is not beach or river tumbled pebbles, but is most likely derived from a drift geological source.

Analyses of the spatial patterns and types may be helpful in understanding the knapping process as may be reconstruction of the flint, as some pieces are conjoining.



Plate 12



Plate 13



Plate 14



Plate 15



Plate 16



Plate 17

The excavation was terminated due to the limitations of weekend working and the fast rising water level (PI 16) but more lithics and possibly cut features may exist in the unexcavated ground, charcoal for instance was noted along the line of section of the Grids No's 5, 11 and 17. On the SE side of the trench and running roughly parallel with Grids No's 4 to 26 an ancient spring course was detected by it's fill of 0.2m deep peat which had survived erosion by the reservoir water. The peat lay directly on the base of the spring course, the stones there being absolutely devoid of any soil infill.

The course of this stream could be traced by the surviving track of peat among the boulder scree. It is uncertain if this spring was in existence at the time of the knapping event or had formed several millennia later, unfortunately there was no time to carry out further exploratory work on the south side of the stream bed to clarify this point (but see later reports).

Figure 10 shows the two sites in relationship to each other.

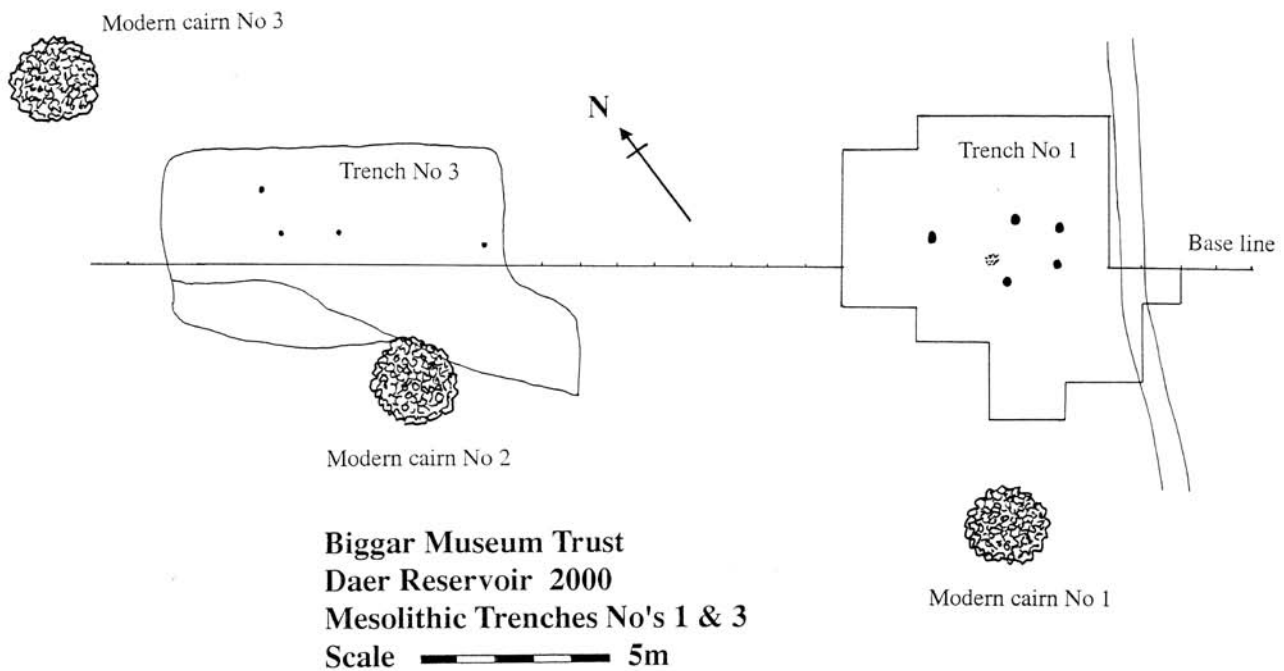


Fig. 10

Discussion.

Plates 16 & 17 show the flint from one grid and a range of microliths from the site.

The unexpected discovery of a Mesolithic site (as opposed to a surface lithic scatter) in such an inland and upland context is extremely rare in Scotland. Previously, all inland sites and find spots in southern Scotland and purported to be Mesolithic have been loch side or riverside locations, for example; Woodend Loch (Lacaille et al, 1949), Loch Doon (Affleck, 1986), the rivers Clyde and Tweed (Mulholland, 1970), the fieldwork of Lanark & District Archaeological Society at Medwin, Corse Law (Clarke, 1989) and more recently the excavation at Kirkhill Farm (GUARD No 130, 1993). The Daer site (or sites) adds an important link in the spatial distribution of the Mesolithic in the Southern Uplands, firstly, because it fills a gap in the Mesolithic map and, secondly, because the site and the probable Mesolithic chert knapping site on the opposite side of the valley are removed from the immediate environs of the river bank, the latter factor must now be considered when undertaking future fieldwork in the area.

Post Script.

The large assemblage of struck chert (with some flint and pitchstone) retrieved annually by arable fieldwalking at Cornhill near Biggar, by children of the Biggar Museum Young Archaeologists Club, should also be examined by a specialist to check if diagnostic Mesolithic artefacts are present. The hilltop scatter at Cornhill is similar to Daer in that it is set back from the River Clyde and Coulter Burn. Given the survival of archaeological features recently located in ploughed land, for example at Kirkhill Farm (GUARD, Ibid) and Biggar Common (Ward, interims 1991 and 1993) it may be possible and desirable to engage in a research project at Cornhill in search of Mesolithic settlement there (This was later done, see Ward 2001).

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