Biggar Archaeology group

Bringing the past to the present

Nether Hangingshaw

Fieldwork and excavations

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Nether Hangingshaw 1
Fieldwork and excavations 1
Abstract 3
Introduction 3
Initial lithic recovery 6
Gridded area after ploughing 6
Lithic discussion 6
Excavations 8
Excavation rationale and methodology 9
Trench No 1 centred NT 00311 33123 (by GPS) 10
Trench 2 centred NT 00317 33131 (by GPS) 14
Carbonised plant macrofossil remains 14
Non Technical Summary 14
Methodology 15
Discussion 15
Discussion of features 18
Pottery 18
Other nearby sites 20
General discussion and conclusion 21
Acknowledgements 22
References 22
Work to be completed 22
Appendix 1 23
List of lithic and locations 23
Addendum (i) 29
Addendum (ii) 29
Addendum (iii) 30
Appendix II 32
Ceramic catalogue 32
Appendix III 39
Slide catalogue 39
Appendix IV 40
Trench No 1 40
Trench No 2 41

Abstract

Fieldwalking and excavation, in spring of 2003, on the hill top location at Nether Hangingshaw Farm has produced a significant Early Pre-Historic lithic assemblage and also evidence of Early Neolithic settlement in the form of pits filled with charcoal enriched soils and an assemblage of Early Neolithic pottery and pitchstone. Two Early Neolithic radio carbon dates were secured from charcoal found in pits.

Introduction

The site was discovered in 1999 when the writer walked over the hill and noted a significant number of struck lithics, mainly of local radiolarian chert, lying on molehills. A smaller sample was picked up in April 2000. The site was visited again in April 2003 and it was noted that the hill top had been ploughed the previous year. A considerable quantity of lithic could be seen on the ground despite the fact that less than 15% of the surface was visible as soil, weeds having grown and a liberal spread of manure having recently been applied, thus obscuring most of the ground surface. Nevertheless, a walkover of this part of the area retrieved an assemblage of lithic which was bulk recorded to within 20 square metre blocks (Fig 2). An area of concentration with 'tail off' of finds was established at this point.

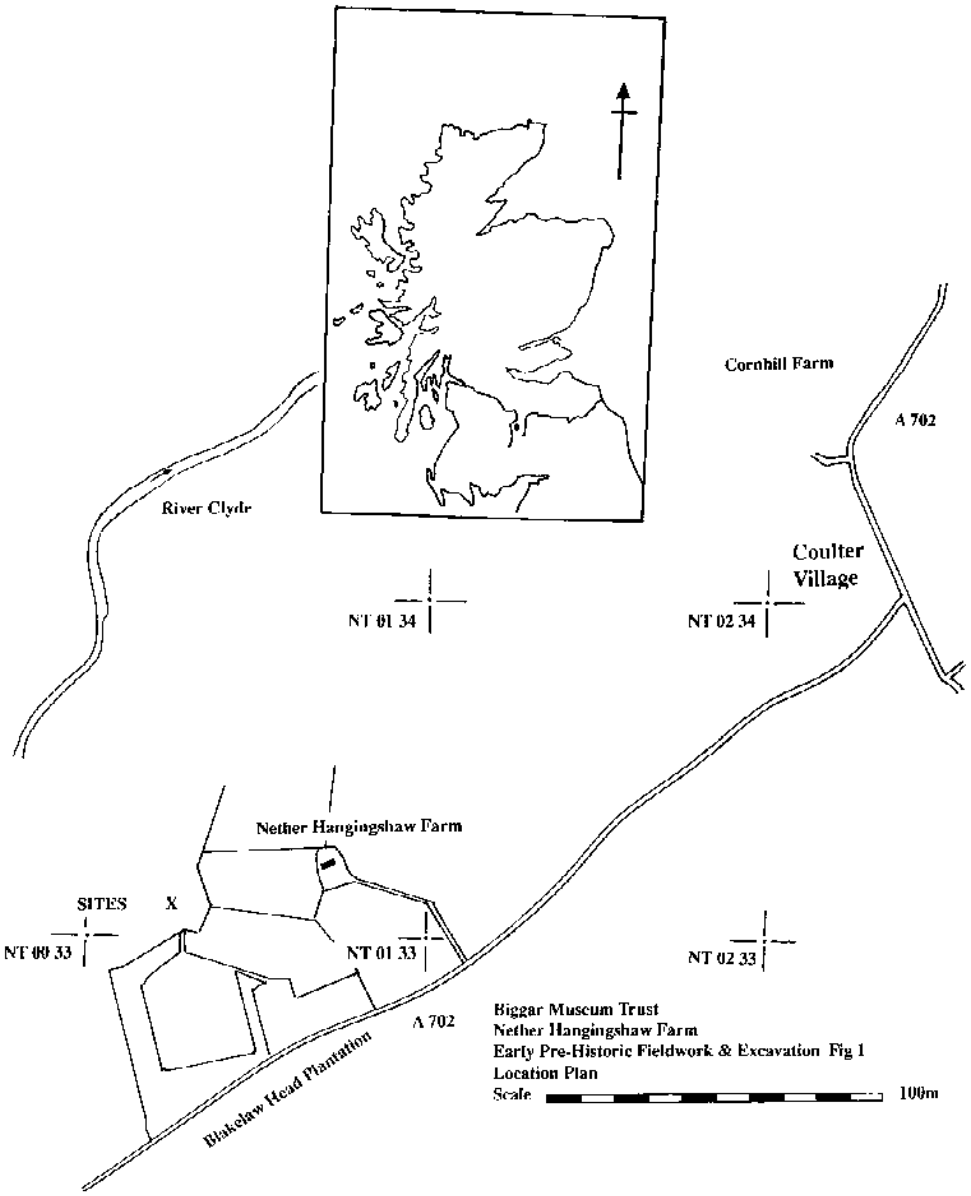
Another part of the hill had already been re-ploughed in 2003, this was walked and the first object located was a rim sherd of Early Neolithic pot (CU.P.131), lying on a furrow. Two concentrations of struck chert were noted and at each of these areas, further pottery was also found. Patches of charcoal were also noted on the furrow upcast. Limited excavation was speedily organised and undertaken to test if any in situ archaeology remained and also to retrieve any further pottery, since it is known that such ceramic, when re-located to the top soil, will not survive the attrition of weathering and further mechanised cultivation (Ward 1993).

It is now known that the same area was also ploughed, probably for the first time, at least with mechanised means, approximately eighteen years ago. The significance of this is discussed below.

After rotovation and the crop of kale was sown, two further chert assemblages were located as discrete scatters, these are described below. Two random chert end scrapers were also found at this stage. The grid area (Fig 2) was re-walked and a quantity of chert was noted but not recovered, since it was basically the same type of material already recorded, the distribution pattern and density also reflected what had previously been found. Finally, in 2004, the area was again inspected and a selective recovery of objects included a chert leaf arrow-head (Pl 1), a microlith and two pitchstone flakes.

The entire project was carried out during evenings and four weekends by the voluntary group of archaeologists from Biggar Museum Trust (BMT).

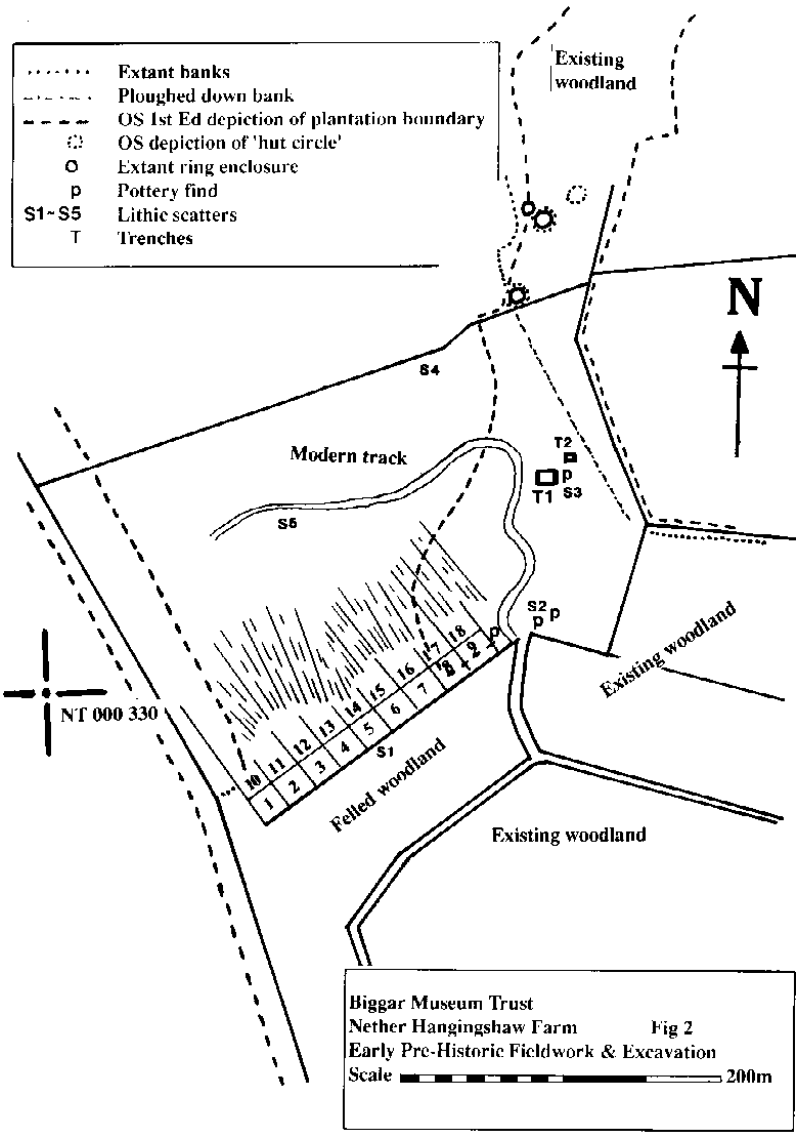
Fig 1: The site location and its environs.



The overall site lies on the hill top location of Blakelaw Head Plantation which lies on the A 702 (T) road. The site is 2.5km SW of the village of Coulter and 400m west of Nether Hangingshaw Farm. The location is centred at NT 003 333, and lies at 280m OD, OS 1:10,000 map sheet NT 03 SW. The ground is the fairly level summit of a ridge which extends in an E/W alignment, but with a higher summit (289m OD) immediately to the north. The area has commanding views of Upper Clydesdale in all directions.

The main lithic concentration (Fig 2), between NT 003329 and NT 004331, is spread along the level ground lying immediately north of an old (felled) plantation, the tree stumps of which are still in situ. The rest of the plantation area is known as Greenwood, but was formerly named Knock Plantation, and is a mix of mature and young trees. The unplanted ground to the north of the felled woodland extends only for about 40m further north, where it drops steeply downhill. A fairly level, and comparable area of ground lies within the tree stump ground, suggesting that the principal lithic scatter may be shared by these patches of land, that is to say, circa 50% of it may be undisturbed in the old woodland, apart from the actions of former tree root growth.

Fig 2: The main lithic concentration



Other nearby features (fig 2) are discussed below.

The site lies in a district rich in Iron Age, Bronze Age and Roman sites and find spots, however this is the first discovery of Early Neolithic pottery with associated archaeology in this locality.

Initial lithic recovery

See Appendix I for the lithic list and locations

The lithic was washed prior to listing, this is merely a rough identification, and basic descriptions only are adopted as the Group do not have the in house expertise for the purpose of lithic classification.

The more level area of exposed ground was marked into 20m square blocks to give some control for plotting finds (Fig 2). The system was begun at the SW corner of the ploughed ground and continued for the more level ground adjacent to and north of the felled plantation. Blocks 10 to 18 were simply extended to the NW towards the main break of slope, and these grids are therefore of irregular sizes. It soon became apparent that the bulk of the lithic was along the edge of the old woodland boundary, the statistics show that the main concentration lies between Grids 1 -7. It is therefore obvious that the concentration spreads into the old plantation area.

Gridded area after ploughing

The area was walked while it was still plough ridged, however, conditions were poor since the ground was very dry and had not been rain washed to any great extent.

Lithic discussion

Types

The raw material is primarily chert which may have been gathered from nearby burn courses or the River Clyde which flows below the site. The original source of the chert is derived from the adjacent hills to the west which form the Southern Uplands Boundary Fault line, and where the radiolarian chert abounds as veins and outcrop.

The overall numerical percentage of flint to chert in the project is minimal, clearly showing a reliance on the locally available material.

Four pieces of Arran pitchstone were found at T1, certainly some of that was in association with the pottery in F3 and F20. Two further flakes were found in 2004 (see below) bringing the total to six pieces. This further corroborates the growing evidence that pitchstone was being acquired in the Early Neolithic period on mainland Scotland, certainly in Clydesdale at least, but for what purpose remains unclear, since no actual tool types have been found. Apart from the many random finds of pitchstone in the district, it has also been found in association with Early Neolithic pottery at Biggar Common West, and East, Weston Farm, Brownsbank Farm and Melbourne (Ward, various reports), all projects operated by the Biggar Group.

Exactly how the Arran pitchstone found its way to the heart of southern Scotland and in relatively large quantities, is still unknown. Short distance gift exchange somehow seems unlikely, and the favoured but unproven view is that the material was derived directly from its source in the Firth of Clyde island. This implies direct contact, possibly trade, but also difficult to ascertain is the mechanism and economy for such a theory. Did the farmers of Upper Clydesdale travel to Arran, or did the islanders travel to Clydesdale (and further a field), or perhaps they met on the Ayrshire coast?

Whether gift exchange or trade, it is likely that something was returned for the exotic stone, the local and abundant radiolarian chert could be a possibility. The only way of corroborating or proving this suggestion would be to find the radiolarian chert on Arran, where it certainly does not exist in a natural state.

Agate, apparently struck, has been found, and, as elsewhere in this district forms only a miniscule part of any lithic assemblages. The evidence shows that agate was seldom used for tool making, despite its aesthetically pleasing qualities. Perhaps occasional pieces were found and experimented on?

Rounded quartzite pebbles have been used as hammer and rubbing stones and the use of some greywacke pebbles is evident. These stones may be found in abundance locally.

It is almost certain that Mesolithic small blade reduction techniques were practised in the main lithic scatter area, judging by some cores and a single microlith found there. It may be that the main lithic scatter is primarily Mesolithic in nature, having some residual material scattered over from the Neolithic sites? The other two lithic concentrations require expert analyses to determine their possible date, however Mesolithic assemblages are suspected. Nevertheless there is a good research comparison to be made between the four principal lithic assemblages from the hill.

It appears that the acquisition of chert pebbles for use here, wherever found, was not selective. Many of the chunks which have been struck are of poor quality; veined or otherwise flawed and not having the homogeneity required for controlled knapping. This poor material was presumably discarded after the first blow or two by the toolmakers. Good quality chert does exist as random pebbles found nearly everywhere and also in several outcrops in the locality, but whether the outcrops were ever exploited is not known, although this is a future project planned for the Group.

Nearly all of the lithic from the project is debitage, although some larger flakes could easily have been modified, for example to make scrapers. Blades and regular flakes are conspicuous by their absence and it is clear that they must have been removed from the location. The near absence of such material and of modified pieces and tools is somewhat perplexing, for T1 especially, given the obvious activity that has taken place there, including, judging by the numbers of lithic found, the interest in chert tool production.

Excavations

The excavation was conducted as a matter of some urgency since it was not known when cultivation of the field would resume, and also because of the unplanned nature of the work, the progress was rather ad hoc. Nevertheless, with the co-operation of the farm management, a successful outcome was achieved.

The excavations were prompted by the presence of pot sherds and charcoal lying on the furrow ridges, which were aligned NW/SE with the upcast turned towards the west side.

Fig 3: Features

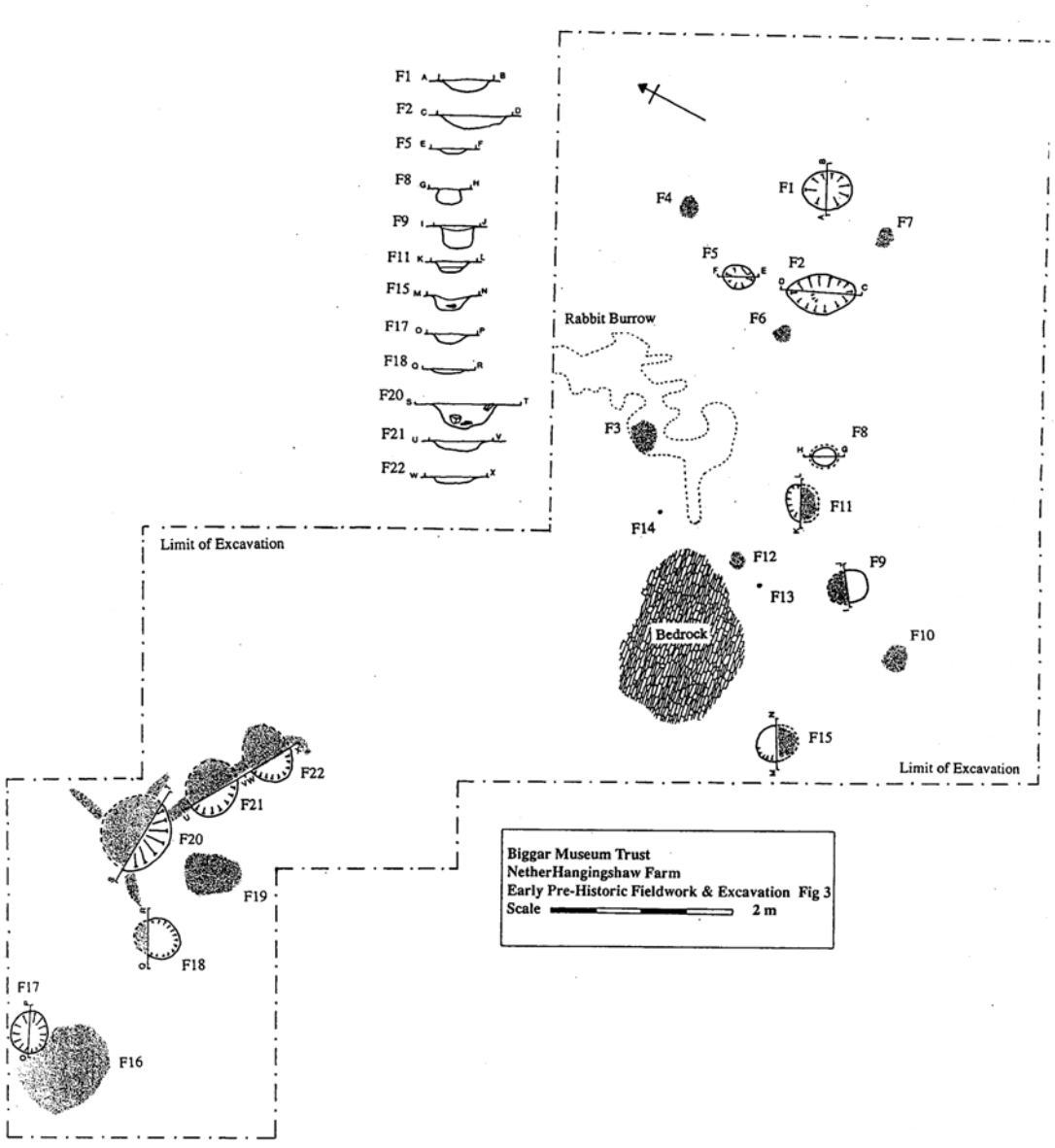


Plate 1:

It could be seen on the furrow ridges that in some places the sub stratum of both bedrock and sandy/gravely till were freshly exposed. This indicated that deeper ploughing was being achieved, a fact that has serious consequences for in situ archaeological deposits lying below shallow plough soils. The underlying solid geology is undifferentiated andesite and basalt of Lower Old Red Sandstone age, and of which the andesite was visible as broken bedrock and loose stones among the thin top soil. Some top soil lay directly on the bedrock which also outcrops nearby, while some of the loamy soil overlay a sub soil layer composed of non organic, orange coloured gritty material derived at least in part from glacial deposition. Some evidence of the former plantation which was felled within the last two decades was seen in the decaying remnants of roots. Rabbit burrowing was also encountered (of which more of both below).

Excavation rationale and methodology

The excavation was carried out as a matter of urgency in advance of the next phase of cultivation which was rotovation of the ploughed ground, a process which has devastating consequences for artefacts in the ground, especially for pottery. The work was therefore classified as an emergency rescue project.

Initially three locations of sherd finds and one of dense charcoal were investigated. The excavation of the three sherd find spots were eventually merged into a single trench (T1), while the charcoal location (T2) was restricted to a trench of 1.5m square. The other locations of pottery were only checked to within a square metre of their find spot, and nothing further was found.

The method adopted was to trowel the furrow ridges as far as was possible, since the inverted soil contained artefacts, possibly disturbed for the first time. The upturned turf was then removed and checked for finds and the ground cleaned down by trowel to the undisturbed strata. At this stage charcoal enriched soil was encountered in places, some of which eventually proved to have come from thin lenses of old ground surface and others were shown to be from the upper surfaces of pits. All soil was carefully removed by trowel but time did not allow for sieving.

When the presence of pits was established the excavation area was extended to find out if linear arrangements, curves or right angles of pits had been created by the site occupiers. The purpose of this was to establish if the shape of a post built structure could be detected.

Some of the scatters of charcoal soil were sampled while the pits were sectioned and either bulk sampled or half sampled.

Disturbed finds were recorded to the overall plough soil context while in situ finds were recorded to the features from which they came.

After excavation and recording the intent was to backfill all excavated features with white washed sand and leave copper date tags to identify disturbed features in the future. In the event this was done only for F20 and F21 as the site was backfilled by the farmer to allow cultivation to progress.

Trench No 1 centred NT 00311 33123 (by GPS)

This trench was an eventual amalgam of three finds spots which produced pottery and charcoal on the surface. The total area excavated from the staggered trench was c70 square metres. The three original pottery finds were made in the area of F1, F10 and F16. Struck chert was found over the entire area on the surface, and also on ground extending away for several metres on all sides of the final trench.

The plough had inverted nearly all of the top soil/turf and the ploughed down turf of 2002, which was still evident, all of which may have been up to c 0.3m deep when compacted prior to ploughing. In a few places the plough share could be seen to have polished the substrate, leaving striae over the excavated trench in an N/S alignment, this was noted without further recording.

The excavation of the eventual trench was not pre-planned but was extended to test for in situ archaeological deposits and to retrieve pottery, the work was suspended when it appeared less likely to find features, although it is almost certain that others will remain undiscovered in the vicinity.

Features Fig 3

The archaeological features were all recognised by their fills of charcoal enriched soil and are; sub surface pits, spreads and patches of different sizes, and linear 'trails'. Traces of decaying tree roots and a patch of rabbit burrowing were noted, and an area of bedrock was exposed.

Pits

The pit features are clearly anthropogenic in origin, some having contained pottery, lithic and burnt bone. The contents varied in their charcoal, soil and small stone proportions, often more dense charcoal was lying nearer the base of the pits, however, all the charcoal features had compacted fills. The area, sizes and volumes of the pits varied considerably, and their spatial distribution appeared to form two groupings of roughly linear features. Because of the variance in the sizes of the pits it is unlikely that they represent structural features and are more likely to be associated with storage or other domestic activity within or near to a settlement, similar to those found recently at Brownsbank Farm (Ward, 2000). Unless otherwise stated, most of the pit fills were fairly homogenous, being charcoal darkened soil with varying degrees of small stone content.

Other charcoal features

The spreads of charcoal enriched soil most probably represent old ground surfaces associated with the occupation of the site, it is likely that the ceramic finds in the plough soil were derived from these features during the ploughing episodes and that the charcoal soils seen on the surface were similarly displaced. The smaller patches of charcoal may have been the residual bases of less deeply cut pits, as they did appear to be isolated features, however this is uncertain and they may be the remnants of larger spreads. Some smaller patches of charcoal (F13 & 14) could have been stake holes.

The linear charcoal features are probably the lines of tree roots which have undercut old ground surfaces, decayed, and allowed the upper material to drop into the spaces left, if this is so, it is not a recent event since the fills of these features were compacted, similar to the pits. This phenomenon has been seen by the writer before on various projects, it can also occur with rabbit burrows, but where witnessed, the fills have been less firm in burrows. Finds may also be displaced in this way.

Methodology of charcoal retrieval and processing.
The soil samples were carefully excavated by 'picking' out the material to prevent charcoal fragments being damaged by scraping. The soil was then partially floated and partially sieved through 2mm, 1mm and 300 micron sieves respectively. The largest charcoal fragments from about 3mm up were handpicked and bagged; it is these weights which are given in this report. Hazel nut shell was noted in several samples at this stage and a scan for cereal was done, but none was noted. Rootlets, root bark and worm eggs were removed as far as was practicable

All fine residues (1mm and 300mc) are retained for possible future use. The larger residues have been discarded after all the charcoal was removed. Only larger charcoal fragments were selected for identification, and two samples were C^{14} dated.

Other features

The rabbit burrows clearly affected one feature (F3), and possibly more of the archaeology of the site. However, all things considered, the overall damage was slight.

Plough striae over the site was intermittent but obvious in places, this was not recorded. The plough had cut down to bedrock in places and where the sub stratum was softer, it had gouged deeper, truncating most of the thin lenses of old ground surface and perhaps the upper levels of the pits, for example F15.

Archaeological features (Fig 3)

See the report below on the carbonised remains, however, at this stage it is worth stating that the great majority of charcoal was hazel (with nut shell), and significantly less proportions of other species.

F1 A pit, measuring 0.5m by 0.45m by 0.1m deep. The pit had gradual sides and a bowl shaped base. Pottery rim sherds were found in the upper fill, with other sherds and fragments lying randomly below. Some chert flakes and spalls, and tiny fragments of burnt bone were also found. Circa 8 grammes of charcoal were derived from the fill which was totally excavated. The identified types were hazel, rowan and alder.

A fragment of hazel was radio carbon dated with the following result:

Lab No	years BP	$^{13}C(^{0}/_{00})$	Calibrated years 95.4% probability
SUERC -3553 (GU-12112)	4615^{+}-35	-27.6	3520BC (61.3%) 3400BC

F2 A pit, lozenge shaped, measuring 0.75m by 0.5m by 0.15m deep, also contained pottery rim sherds in its upper fill, with others lying randomly below. The pit had gradual sides and an irregular shaped base. Some chert flakes and spalls, and tiny fragments of burnt bone were also found. Circa 8 grammes of charcoal were derived from the fill which was totally excavated. The identified type was hazel.

F3 This was apparently the remains of a pit which had been affected by rabbit burrowing. It measured circa 0.2m in diameter and was circa 0.2m deep. Pottery and two pitchstone flakes were found at this location and are assumed to be associated with it, although there is a slight doubt due to the nature of the rabbit disturbance. Less than a gramme of charcoal, including a hazel nut shell, was retrieved from the fill which was totally excavated. The identified types were hazel (with nut shell), rowan and rose.

F4 This was an isolated spread of surface charcoal enriched soil which may have indicated the position of a pit. It measured circa 0.2m in diameter. Circa 4 grammes of charcoal were retrieved from the fill which was totally excavated. The identified types were hazel and rowan.

F5 An oval shaped pit measuring 0.3m by 0.2m by 0.15m deep. A pot sherd was retrieved lying on edge at the side of this feature. Circa 2 grammes of charcoal were retrieved from the fill which was totally excavated. The type was hazel.

F6 This was a superficial spread of macro charcoal which may have been the base of a pit. Three chert flakes were found in situ. No types identified.

F7 This was a superficial spread of charcoal which may have been the base of a pit. No types identified.

F8 This was an unusual pit which was ‘bell’ shaped, measuring 0.2m by 0.27m at the surface, it expanded to a further 0.1m in diameter below, it was 0.19m deep and slightly bowl shaped at the base. It had a greater density of charcoal judging by the colour of the fill and also contained fragments of burnt bone throughout, but especially in the upper level, and at the base of the pit, the latter impregnated into the natural sand. This indicates that the some of the bone had certainly been deposited before some of the charcoal, of which circa 6 grammes was retrieved from the totally excavated feature. Three sherds were also retrieved from the fill. The identified types were hazel and cherry.

F9 This was a pit measuring 0.38m in probable diameter (it was only half sectioned), its depth was 0.23m and it had straight sides all around the opened section, and a flat base. For the most part this pit fill contained a denser quantity of charcoal than some of the others, circa 13 grammes including a hazel nut shell were retrieved from the half fill. A lens of less charcoal enriched soil lay at the top. The identified types were Hazel (with nut shell), alder and rowan. Three sherds and three fragments of pot and a quantity of chert flake and spall were retrieved from the fill.

F10 This was a superficial spread of charcoal which may have been the base of a pit. No types identified.

F11 This was a pit which measured 0.38m in probable diameter (half sectioned only) by 0.12m deep. It had gradual sides forming a bowl shaped base. A denser layer of charcoal was noted at the base of the fill; circa 5 grammes of charcoal were recovered. The identified types were hazel and alder. Four chert flakes and an abraded pot sherd were also retrieved.

F12 This was a superficial spread of charcoal which may have been the base of a pit. No types identified.

F13 & F14 These features were evident as discrete areas of micro charcoal enriched soil about 50mm in diameter and which reached depths of around 100mm. They are the possible remains of stake holes. No charcoal types identified.

F15 This was a shallow pit measuring c 0.4m in diameter by 0.1m deep, the upper fill having been truncated by the plough. In the half section, a patch of dense charcoal was seen near the base of the fill. The charcoal fill of this pit appeared to be very fresh compared with the other features in Trench No 1, it also resembled the charcoal from Trench No 2 pit and these two features were treated with caution on the suspicion that they may have been relatively modern. Later, the charcoal identification confirmed similar species to those from other contexts and the conclusion is that they are ancient features. Circa 10 grammes of charcoal fragments were retrieved from the half fill. The types identified were hazel and cherry.

F16 This was a spread of charcoal which had been disturbed, giving rise to the opening and extending of the excavation in that area. Pottery was also found on the plough soil surface above this feature. In the event of excavation, it was shown to be a horizon of charcoal enriched soil up to 0.1m deep and lying directly on the sub surface of sandy/gritty till. Three sherds of pot were retrieved from this layer which is interpreted as an old ground surface and which was certainly more extensive prior to ploughing. Circa 16 grammes of charcoal were retrieved from

the deposit. The type identified was hazel (with nut shell). Two chert flakes and four sherds, including a rim were also found.

F17 This was a bowl shaped pit measuring 0.45m in diameter by 0.1m deep. It was totally excavated and was shown to underlie F16.

F18 This was a very shallow pit of about 50mm deep, measuring 0.4m by 0.5m. It was sectioned only. Circa 21 grammes of charcoal including hazel shell were recovered. The types identified were hazel (with nut shell), alder and rose. Six chert flakes, an agate flake and a sherd fragment were retrieved from the fill.

F19 This was a spread of charcoal enriched soil measuring up to 0.1m deep. Circa 13 grammes of charcoal were retrieved from the sample; the types identified were hazel (with nut shell) and alder. Also found was a chert flake and a sherd fragment.

F20 This pit was the largest in area and in depth of all the features located. Measuring 0.75m by 0.9m and by 0.25m deep, the section had gradual sides forming a bowl shaped pit. The excavated part of the pit was arbitrarily sampled at different levels; upper, middle and base.

The upper level produced circa 19 grammes of charcoal and the type identified was hazel with nutshell. A Type VI axe flake, 8 chert flakes and 3 sherds also came from this level.

The middle level produced 49 grammes of charcoal in total from two samples; the identified types were hazel with nut shell, alder, rowan and rose.

Three sherd fragments and a chert flake were retrieved from one sample and the other produced a sherd and 3 fragments, 4 chert, a pitchstone flake and a tiny piece of burnt bone.

The base produced 130 grammes of charcoal including hazel nut shell, two sherd fragments and a chert flake. A dense patch of charcoal was noted near the base with identified types being hazel and in slightly higher quantity than elsewhere, alder.

Some larger angular stones up to 0.1m were included in the overall fill.

A hazel nut shell from the dense basal sample was radio carbon dated with the following result:

Lab No	years BP	$^{13}C(^{0}/_{00})$	Calibrated years 95.4% probability
SUERC-3555 (GU-12113)	4780*-40	-25.4	3650BC (87.5%) 3500BC

F21 This was a shallow pit measuring 0.1m deep and 0.7m by 0.6m in area. Circa 8 grammes of charcoal with identified types of hazel with nut shell, and two chert flakes and tiny fragments of burnt bone were retrieved from the excavated fill.

F22 This was a shallow pit measuring 0.1m deep and 0.45m by 0.7m in area. Circa 8 grammes of charcoal were recovered, the identified types were hazel with nut shell, alder and cherry. A tiny fragment of burnt bone was also retrieved from the excavated fill.

Features 20, 21 and 22 were conjoined by ‘runs’ of charcoal enriched soil with three of these radiating from F20. These were about 0.1m deep and with rounded sections. They are interpreted as root cavities which have under lain charcoal enriched soils which have eventually sunk into the decayed root spaces.

Similar effects have been noted with rabbit burrows. The fills were compacted showing that the replacement of roots by soil had taken place a considerable time ago. The features here were not excavated but on other local sites have been shown to contain artefacts.

The ground level sloped evenly down from the area of F1 towards F16 by about 0.5m; this reflected the natural topography of the ground.

Trench 2 centred NT 00317 33131 (by GPS)

This trench of 1.5 metres square was opened over a prominent patch of surface charcoal. A distinct concentration of charcoal was found in a discrete shallow pit measuring 0.3m in diameter by 50mm deep. Unlike the pits in Trench No 1, the fill of this one was not compacted, being rather loose and without a matrix of soil. The charcoal fragments also appeared to be very fresh and clean. A total of 25 grammes of fragments were retrieved from the feature, which was totally excavated. The site interpretation of the pit was that it may possibly be modern; the writer was confidant that the species of the charcoal would be some modern aspect of the woodlands in the area given the number of obvious recent bonfire sites noted in the adjacent woodland.

However, in light of the charcoal species being identified as exclusively hazel, the previous interpretation is now rejected in favour of the pit being older than suspected. The feature is probably pre-historic in origin, given the abundance of hazel wood available at that time. The reason for the difference in composition of this feature compared to the others in Trench No 2 is difficult to explain and may have been to do with some form of protection in the ground, such as a stone covering it. It is a possibility that it is not directly associated with the features in Trench 1. An AMS dating sample was prepared but it will not be done on the grounds of cost.

Carbonised plant macrofossil remains

Jennifer Miller & Susan Ramsay (GUARD)

Non Technical Summary

Samples from contexts relating to pit features and charcoal spreads were analysed for carbonised macroplant remains. The evidence from those studies indicated that the burning events examined all related to domestic activity. The most prolific taxon encountered was hazel (C*orylus*), which was recorded in abundance from all samples examined. Alder (*Alnus*), rowan type (*Maloideae*) and cherry type (*Prunoideae*) charcoal were also recorded, in small quantities. Carbonised hazel nut shell fragments were also recorded from many samples examined, all of which had been smashed rather than being split by animals or by natural events.

Following discussions with the site excavator, twenty one sorted wet sieved samples of charcoal and carbonised macrofossil remains representing the fills of sixteen features were delivered to Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division. It was anticipated that the analyses of carbonised material from those samples would help determine the original functions of the pit features and charcoal spreads recovered during excavation. Furthermore, the identification of carbonised remains present might yield additional information regarding the function of the site as a whole, or provide information regarding the vegetation growing around the local environment during the period of occupation.

Further aims were to determine whether the macroplant assemblage was in keeping with the Early Neolithic age of the site suggested by the pottery typology, and to this end to provide material suitable for AMS radiocarbon dating.

Methodology

The samples presented were sorted and prepared for identification using a Ziess Stemi 2000-C binocular microscope with independent cold light source at variable magnifications of between X4-X45. Subsequently, the internal anatomy of charcoal fragments was observed in transverse, longitudinal and radial longitudinal plane at X200 magnification using the reflective light of a Zenith metam P-1 metallurgical microscope. Wherever possible, twenty charcoal fragments were selected at random from each sample for identification. From experience, this has been found to be the best, and most cost and time effective, way to give an accurate representation of the taxon assemblage for each sample individually. During this process, a single fragment of hazel charcoal in good condition was isolated from each sample in order to maximise the options for AMS dating of the site. Identification was facilitated with reference to the photographs and descriptions in Schwiengruber (1990). Higher plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

Discussion

The Features

The most frequently encountered charcoal taxon from both the pit fills and spreads of burnt material was hazel. Hazel accounted for 85% of all charcoal examined, with the other 15% consisting of Alder (5%), rowan type (7%) and cherry type (3%). The cherry type is all from the same context and may represent a single burning event or perhaps even the same branch or tree. In general terms, there was no significant difference between the charcoal assemblages of pits and spreads, and this concurs with the suggestion that the spreads may simply be the remains of plough truncated shallow pits.

Many of the features analysed during the study were recorded as having contained pottery, lithics and/or burnt bone alongside the carbonised remains. The presence of these types of finds alongside the carbonised plant remains suggests the vestiges of mixed occupation detritus including waste from burning events. As such, the most likely interpretation is that they are debris pits for the disposal of waste from hearths and other domestic activities. Some of the pits have a single charcoal taxon present and, in other situations, this might be taken to represent the remains of a structural element. However, the diversity of size and shapes of these features together with the presence in all cases of other forms of general occupation detritus, would suggest that a structure is not indicated here. Furthermore, the lack of stratigraphy in many of the features and the uniformity of the carbonised assemblage in all of them, would suggest that very short-term events are represented here.

Woodland Resources and Duration of Occupation

The dominant charcoal taxon from this site is hazel. Nutshell fragments were also well represented and present in many of the contexts examined. The charcoal was not sufficiently well preserved to indicate whether or not any evidence of coppicing was present. Since coppicing reduces nut formation (Edlin 1973), this would be contra-indicatory to the findings here, and may not be expected to be in evidence at this site.

Hazel requires light to flower and set seed (Mabey 1997), and this combination of charcoal and nutshell suggests that the hazel resources have come from the margin of closed canopy woodland or from scrub. However, the presence of alder, rowan and cherry types, all open or scrub woodland taxa, together with the absence of evidence of the large woodland primary taxa such as oak (*Quercus*) or ash (*Fraxinus*) would tend to suggest that scrub woodland is in evidence here.

It is likely that the relative abundance of hazel charcoal indicates intentional taxon selection, but whether this is selective preference over other, perhaps nearer, taxa, or simply the result of ease of collection during nut gathering remains enigmatic. However, birch (*Betula*) charcoal is completely absent from the samples examined from this site, yet commonly grows with hazel in scrub and has a high tar content, meaning that it is an excellent wood for fuel. This implies that birch was entirely absent, that it was retained for other uses or

that ‘convenience’ collection of fuel with nuts was in evidence. Absence of birch from woodland within this area is extremely unlikely and, indeed, these authors have identified birch charcoal regularly from other sites of similar age excavated by the Biggar Group (see Ward 2003).

‘Convenience’ collection would, perhaps, concur with a short occupation of the site area and a lack of care for renewable resources suggestive of an itinerant community. The large quantities of lithic debitage, yet scarcity of finished artefacts discussed (below), may be relevant in this respect. Certainly, the continuity of remains and lack of stratigraphy in features would suggest a short occupation. Furthermore, the pottery typology puts these features into the Early Neolithic period, when cereal evidence would be expected from a site occupied by a sedentary community practicing agriculture, yet no such grain was recorded. Jones (2000) discusses the relative importance of hazelnuts and cereals to determine sedentism in Neolithic communities. Interestingly, if this combination of factors is evidence of convenience collection on a short-term site, then it is possible to suggest a period of occupation in the late autumn, when the nuts would have been ripe. However, care must be taken here to avoid reading too much into the evidence without considering other alternatives, and to be ware that we do not necessarily have the whole ‘picture’. However, another alternative is that birch wood in the area has been retained for construction of a structure that has not survived. If this scenario is true, then the hazel could perhaps be argued as having resulted from wattle off-cuts from this structure. However, in such a case birch trimmings might also be expected, and this hypothesis could be argued against, given the current information available.

Food preparation

Food preparation is the most likely source of the hazel nutshell fragments found in the pit fills and burnt spreads examined. The recurrent presence of burnt bone fragments in context with nutshell further suggests the preparation of food on site. Hazel nut consumption has been linked to human activities since Mesolithic times (eg Mithen *et al* 2001), with the kernels providing a rich source of oil, protein, starch, sugar, vitamins and trace elements (Dickson & Dickson 2000). The fact that hazel nuts can be stored for winter consumption makes them an even more valuable food resource. Roasted nuts are easier to digest and the parched, hardened kernels are more easily ground for food preparation, with the shells subsequently forming useful fire kindling. The angular fragments of nutshell found in all samples examined from this site concur with the shells having been smashed open.

None show the characteristics of animal gnawing or natural germination, indicating that they are not from the hoard of a small rodent, or from natural woodland floor litter.

Carbonised and other macroscopic plant remains

Species present in individual features
Numbers in parenthesis = quantity identified

Features	Alder	Hazel	Hazel nutshell	Rowan	Cherry	Rose family
F1	yes (1)	yes (18)	yes (2)	yes (2)	--	--
F2	--	yes (20)	--	--	--	--
F3	--	yes (2)	yes (2)	yes (2)	--	yes (1)
F4	--	yes (9)	--	yes (7)	--	--
F5	--	yes (15)	--	--	--	--
F8	--	yes (11)	--	yes (9)	--	--
F8 Upper	--	yes (19)	--	yes (1)	--	--
F9	yes (1)	yes (15)	yes (8)	yes (4)	--	--

Features	Alder	Hazel	Hazel nutshell	Rowan	Cherry	Rose family
F11	yes (2)	yes (18)	--	--	--	--
F15	--	yes (9)	--	--	--	--
F16	--	yes (20)	yes (1)	--	--	--
F18	yes (1)	yes (17)	yes (8)	--	--	yes (2)
F19	yes (3)	yes (17)	yes (2)	--	--	--
F20 Base	--	yes (20)	yes (14)	--	--	--
F20 Base dense	yes (3)	yes (17)	--	--	--	--
F20 (1of2)	--	yes (20)	yes (6)	--	--	--
F20 (2of2)	yes (8)	yes (9)	yes (4)	yes (2)	--	yes (1)
F20 Top	--	yes (20)	yes (2)	--	--	--
F21	--	yes (20)	yes (6)	--	--	--
F22	yes (2)	yes (16)	yes (20)	yes (2)	--	--
Trench 2	--	yes (20)	--	--	--	--

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Discussion of features

Two groups of pits have been revealed. Each group represents a range of volumetric sizes, areas, depths and shapes, none of which are directly comparable. There does seem to be a roughly linear arrangement between F1 and F15 and certainly F20 - F22 appear in a straight line. However, given the diversity of sizes it is clear that none of these pits represents structural elements of a building or buildings.

The function of the pits may at best be described as possibly for storage purposes or for food preparation in association with Early Neolithic settlement. The burnt bone and hazel nut shell are likely to be the by products of food. The other charcoal features are most likely to be the remnants of a larger charcoal spread which has been severely truncated by successive ploughings. This interpretation is perhaps most convincing between F16 and F19, and the spread is most probably an occupation surface where considerable working (or dumping?) of chert and the use of pottery has taken place. The small isolated patches of charcoal among the main cluster of features could have been the bases of other, shallower pits, but this is considered unconvincing, they may form part of the occupation layer, assuming that interpretation itself is correct.

The pits do appear to have been filled fairly quickly as little stratigraphy was obvious in them. This is supported by the similar types of pot found in some, for example in F1, F9 and F16, each feature appears to have some sherds from a single pot, although it is unknown how many similar sherd types were displaced by the plough from these locations. The pits were possibly filled by sweepings from the surrounding ground surface, but whether deliberately or accidentally will never be known.

Unlike similar sites in Clydesdale where Early Neolithic pottery has been found in association with pits, and where tools of various types and often flakes from Type VI axes have been retrieved, here, with the exception of a single broken flint knife and a scraper (but each in the plough soil), tools have been absent. This site is also different in that there is a relatively large assemblage of lithic debitage, and this has been concentrated in the area of the pits, the overall spread of lithic at T1 is certainly discrete to that general location. The lithic assemblage is also noted for having practically no blade or regular flake type pieces, given the size of the collection one may have expected more of these. The actual lithic material is therefore just about as rubbish as one could find, only broken hammer stones were found, although a complete one was found nearby. It may therefore be possible that the lithic scatter is the product of dumping waste material, rather than the site being used for knapping.

The true function of the site and the activities practiced there, are therefore unclear. The use of pottery and the types of pits would probably have been interpreted as being part of a settlement activity, and this is the explanation favoured here. However, it would be unlikely that, if the pits, pottery and the lithic debitage are contemporaneous, as they appear to be, that the excavated areas would be part of habitation floors. Therefore the trench may not be in the position of an actual house.

It seems more likely that the features and finds represent activity in close proximity to such a house. If this hypothesis is correct, then the actual habitation may be adjacent to the excavated trench or very close to it.

Pottery

The majority of the pottery was gleaned from the disturbed plough soil, and a smaller but significant sample was found in the features and was therefore in situ. Small fragments were found during washing soil samples.

Approximately 1430 sherds have been dried at room temperature and then lightly brushed to remove soil and rootlets where possible. A few sherds have been washed in the soil sampling process. The sherds are stored individually, bedded in plastazote lined boxes to preserve them from further erosion and to protect the

carbonised encrustation found on some pieces. They are catalogued to the contexts from which they were retrieved.

The pottery is clearly Early Neolithic in style, comparison made with the extensive assemblage from the nearby Biggar Common project (Johnston et al, 1997) shows a very close affinity in all respects, while the provisional descriptions given here are based on the pottery report by Sheridan (in Johnston, ibid).

The sherds range in colour from light buff to reddish brown to nearly black. Surfaces are sometimes burnished on both faces while others are only done on the exterior side. Some sherds have carbonised encrustation adhering to the internal sides and there is soot on external faces of some sherds, indicating the use of pottery in cooking, food preparation and consumption.

The fabric of the sherds varies considerably with rounded and angular inclusions as large as 6 mm, and in some cases the deliberate use of crushed white quartz has been used as temper. In general, the broken edges of the sherds are in very good condition, un-abraded, showing that they have not been moved around the site after deposition; only a few sherds are worn. However, some have clearly been broken during the recent ploughing and these allow the interior of the pottery to be studied, showing the extent of reduction and clasts etc.

Thickness of the pots also varies considerably from well burnished delicate bowls less than 5mm thick to more robust and cruder pots up to 18mm thick.

At least 13 pots are represented in the assemblage judging by the incompatible rim forms and sizes, most are typically everted to varying extents but some straighter rim types are present. Some rims, probably from the same vessel are flat topped and may indicate a later pot than the rest. Carinated and un-carinated bowls are represented as well as the tiny ‘pinch pots’. There is no decoration as such, although a ‘lugged’ pot (Pl.3)and another (Pl 2) with a perforation below the rim is present. Tool and finger marks may be seen on some sherds. A few sherds conjoin, one has been broken during recent ploughing but others were fractured before this disturbance, however these may have been damaged circa 18 years ago when the hill was ploughed.

Plate 2

Plate 3

Plate 2 showing on top row – CU.P.131, CU.P.133, CU.P. 13
Plate 2 showing on lower row – CU.P. 137, CU.P. 162
Plate 3 showing CU.P. 161

Other charcoal

The ploughed area surrounding the excavations had several patches of surface charcoal, which when trowelled, sometimes showed semi burnt wood. Several locations on the former woodland bordering the main lithic scatter were also noted as having fairly recent bonfire sites. This is obviously problematic regarding the use of charcoal for analytical and dating purposes. However, the compacted fills of the pits considered to be genuinely pre-historic, taken with the soil matrix within which the charcoal is found and, occasionally finds, allows for confidence in interpreting these features as being ancient.

Other nearby sites

Hill fort NT 998 327 (NS 93 SE)

To the west of the area investigated there are the slighted remains of a series of hilltop enclosures, these are described and planned by RCAHMS and are given as No 325 in their Lanarkshire Inventory of Pre-Historic Monuments (RCAHMS, 1978). They are described therein as being “not characteristic of Iron Age Structures”, because of the apparently light defensive nature of the ditches and ramparts

The enclosures are built on the narrower part of the ridge of ground, upon which the sites investigated here lie; the latter for the most part are lower down.

Ring enclosures, plantation boundaries (Fig 2)

On the higher summit to the north, are three ring enclosures which are given on later OS maps (NT 03 SW) and are described there as ‘hut circles’. These features are poorly preserved and each is now incomplete as far as their turf bank rings are concerned. Three are still visible but only two are located in concordance with those shown on the OS map.

The arc of a bank measuring 1.5m wide by 0.4m high and forming about half the circuit of a 12m diameter enclosure now remains at NT00330 33288. It lies on a fairly level area of the summit. A modern track way through the existing plantation has narrowly missed this ring bank.

Another enclosure is actually cut in half by the track, it lies at NT 00309 33276, the surviving half lies west of the track and it is also on level ground. A secondary flake of chert was found on the site.

The best preserved ring lies immediately on the north side of the present fence at NT 00298 33220. About 66% of this ring survives indicating the enclosure was also c 12m in diameter.

It is unlikely that these ‘ring enclosures’ were pre-historic hut sites as implied by the OS map. They are fairly typical of such sites which have been recorded in high numbers in Clydesdale, Tweeddale and indeed further away in the Southern Uplands. The debate as to their function was first rehearsed over 100 years ago (Christison, 1888) and later by the RCAHMS in their Peeblesshire Inventory (RCAHMS, 1967), when the terminology was adopted. The present writer has recorded numerous examples and entered the debate in various reports regarding the function of ring enclosures, the consensus of opinion is that while uncertainty remains, at least some of these sites, which can vary in size and location, be with or without entrances, are not sheepfolds as depicted on early OS maps.

The examples at Nether Hangingshaw are not untypical, where small groups are found, and while hill side locations are fairly common, examples on summits are rare. Would this be a good location to build sheepfolds? And why build three together, these are the most common questions asked of such sites.

It is likely that the three ring enclosures pre-date the early 19th century (?) plantation on the hill, since they clearly lie within the boundary of that woodland and they were apparently not recorded by the 1st Ed OS, who have nevertheless depicted all of the former woodlands.

These features remain enigmatic and require considerably more research to determine their true nature. The find of a chert flake may be purely co-incidental as such material abounds in the general area.

Linear banks

A turf bank about 1m wide by 0.5m high survives within the plantation area on the summit (Fig 2) and another may be seen in the existing woodland to the east of T1. During the excavations the faint line of a ploughed down bank was discernable running down hill and which would formerly have connected with those depicted in this survey. These are most likely to be the old woodland boundaries as depicted on 1st Ed OS maps.

Find spots

The area around Coulter and in particularly the ground to the east of the present survey area has produced an astonishing range of finds in the past, most especially of metalwork of pre-historic and Roman date. Some of these objects appear to have been lost again over time but their find spots were recorded on the 1st Ed OS maps.

General discussion and conclusion

While work still remains to be done on lithic and pottery analyses, two radio carbon dates confirm the pottery evidence that the site is Early Neolithic. The discovery of these sites adds an important new dimension to the known distribution of the earlier pre-historic settlement of Clydesdale.

It is most likely that the lithic including pitchstone, pottery, charcoal and occasionally burnt bone discovered within the pits and features, found its way there by accidental rather than deliberate deposition. A plausible explanation for the contents of such random pits found here and indeed at several other local sites cited here, is that it is derived from sweepings or scatters of material from floor surfaces being arbitrarily pushed into abandoned pits.

Early Neolithic sites where pottery was used (and survives) are becoming quite common in the Biggar area of southern Scotland. An astonishing statement to say the least, but borne out by the recent discoveries in the last decade or so by the local voluntary archaeologists. This new discovery adds to the previous ones at Biggar Common East and West, Weston Farm, Brownsbank Farm, Melbourne, Cornhill Farm (Ward, various interim reports BMT).

The only other discovery of Early Neolithic pottery south of Biggar in the Upper Clyde area is at Stonyburn, near Crawford (Banks, 1995) but here the context was purely residual to a Bronze Age cemetery, unlike the strong evidence of settlement at the other sites given above.

When expert examination of the lithic is carried out, it may well show a significant Mesolithic presence at Hangingshaw; especially where the general scatters were retrieved. Mesolithic sites are also being added to the local distributions on an annual basis.

A point worth making is that it is becoming increasingly evident that pre-historic landscapes have survived in this district, and furthermore, it is becoming possible to predict where such sites may be located. This is a consequence of upland sites becoming planted with trees in the 19th century, thus preventing ploughing until recently (that is to say the last fifty years or so) for improvement of upland pasture. Reference to the 1st Ed OS maps will show these early plantations, and where they lie on elevated ground, of intermediate height, and if that ground has not recently been ploughed, and then there will be good prospects of surviving pre-historic archaeology.

However, it is also becoming increasingly clear that such sites are being eradicated, perhaps on an annual basis, by the process of ploughing uplands for the purposes of re-seeding grasslands. Old plantation areas are prime candidates for this type of development.

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What began as a routine field walking exercise soon developed into a larger and more complex project. The writer is indebted to Mr G McCosh, landowner, and Tom Whyte, farm manager, for permission at short notice to carry out this work. Sandy Campbell and Robin Paterson gamekeeper and ploughman respectively supplied information regarding old banks and the ring enclosures. Work on the cataloguing was done by Denise Dudds and Joy McBain and the pottery was drawn by John Whitworth (all voluntary). The following people responded to the appeal for voluntary diggers and walkers, most of which work was done in appalling weather; Margaret Brown, Fiona Christison, Denise Dudds, Richard Gillanders, Joy McBain, Jim Ness, Ian Paterson, Janet Ward, John Whitworth. Jennifer Miller gave helpful advice on charcoal work. To all, the writer is extremely grateful. The entire project was organised and supervised by the writer who also processed the soil samples.

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Work to be completed

1. Lithics analysis
2. Pottery analysis
3. Final report

Appendix 1

List of lithic and locations

Finds from molehills in 1999 between NT 003329 and NT 004331

Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
Chert	Pebble	6 of	
Chert	Amorphous cores	3 of	
Chert	Core	4 of	
Chert	Irregular flakes	66 of	
Chert	Inner flakes	33 of	
Chert	Scraper? Retouch	1 of	
Chert	Edge damage flakes	2 of	
Agate		1 of	

Finds from molehills in 2000 between NT 003329 and NT 004331

Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
Chert	Irregular flakes	23 of	
Chert	Inner flakes	12 of	

Finds from gridded area (Fig 2) prior to ploughing in 2003

Grid	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
No.1	Chert	Pebble	4of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	1of	
	Chert	Core fragments	4 of	
	Chert	Irregular flakes	35 of	
	Chert	Inner flakes	25 of	
	Flint		2 of	
	Agate		1 of	
No. 2	Chert	Pebble	4 of	
	Chert	Core fragment	1 of	
	Chert	Irregular flakes	46 of	
	Chert	Regular flake	1 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	32 of	

Grid	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
	Flint	one of burnt	3 of	
No. 3	Chert	Pebble	2 of	
	Chert	Core	1 of	
	Chert	Core fragment	2 of	
	Chert	Irregular flakes	48 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	20 of	
	Flint		3 of	
No. 4	Chert	Pebble	2 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	32 of	
	Chert	Regular flake	1 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	25 of	
	Chert	Core	2 of	
	Flint		1 of	
No. 5	Chert	Pebble	2 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	1 of	
	Chert	Core fragment	1 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	23 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	9 of	
	Flint	Core	1 of	
No. 6	Chert	Irregular flakes	9 of	
	Chert	Inner flakes	2 of	
	Chert	Scraper (?)	1 of	
No. 7	Chert	Irregular flakes	10 of	
	Chert	Inner flakes	1 of	
No. 8 & 9	Chert	Irregular flakes	9 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	4 of	
	Chert	Core fragment	1 of	
	Flint		1 of	
No. 10	Chert	Irregular	10 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	1 of	
	Chert	Microlith	1 of	
No. 11	Chert	Irregular flakes	12 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	3 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	1 of	

Grid	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
	Chert	Core	1 of	
No.12	Chert		10 of	
	Chert	Core	1 of	
	Flint		1 of	
No. 13	Chert	Pebble	3 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	1 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	24 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	3 of	
No. 14	Chert	Pebble	4 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	18 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	12 of	
No. 15	Chert	Irregular flake	10 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	2 of	
No. 16	Chert	Pebble	3 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	1 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	14 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	3 of	
	Flint		1 of	
No. 17	Chert	Pebble	1 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	4 of	
No. 18	Chert	Irregular flake	2 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	1 of	

Gridded area after ploughing

The area was walked while it was still ridged, however, conditions were poor since the ground was very dry and had not been rain washed to any great extent.

Grid	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
No.1	Chert	Amorphous core	1 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	4 of	
	Flint		1 of	
No. 2	Chert	Pebble	2 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	12 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	1 of	
No. 3	Chert	Core fragment	1 of	

Nether Hangingshaw

Grid	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
	Chert	Irregular flake	7 of	
No. 4	Chert	Pebble	2 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	10 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	1 of	
	Quartzite	H/Stone fragment	1 of	
No. 5	Chert	Core/amorphous	4 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	15 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	2 of	
No. 6	Chert	Pebble	6 of	
	Chert	Core/fragments	6 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	43 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	10 of + 1 edge wear	
	Flint		1 of	
No. 7	Chert	Pebble	10 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	130 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	4 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	3 of	
	Chert	Core fragment	1 of	
	Flint		1 of	
No. 8	Chert	Pebble	1 of	
	Chert	Irregular flake	22 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	4 of + 1 edge wear	
	Tuff	Type VI axe flake	1 of	

Other random finds

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
Circa NT 0020 3310	Greywacke	‘smoother’ (broken	1 of	
Not plotted	Chert	Scraper (worn)	1 of	
NT 00297	Chert		8 of	

Position				Plate
33126				
	Quartzite	hammer stone	1 of	
	Chert	Inner flakes	25 of	

Finds after 2003 crop was sown

NT 00230 33195 being a sub summit or ridge at the northern end of the ploughed ground. This Site No 4

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
NT 00230 33195	Chert	Irregular flake	45 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	2 of	
	Chert	Core	1 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	1 of	
	Ceramic	Small sherd of Early Neolithic with sooty/encrustation surface.		

NT 00141 33104 being a slightly sloping area in the main gully or valley, central to the ploughed area. This is Site No 5

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
NT 00141 33104	Chert	Irregular flake	28 of	
	Chert	Core	1 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	1 of	
	Flint	Split pebble	1 of	
NT 00320 33190	Chert	End scraper	1 of	
Grid No 5	Chert	End scraper	1 of	

NT 00311 33123 being the location (scatter circa 10m in diameter) which led to Trench No 1

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
NT 00311 33123	Chert	Irregular flake	38 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	28 of	
	Total		66 of	

Trench No 1 random lithic from plough soil context

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
T1	Chert	Pebble	47 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	2 of	
	Chert	Pebble	4 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	2 of	
	Chert	Amorphous core	15 of	
T1	Chert	Irregular flake	c 700 of	
	Chert	Inner flake	220 of	
	Chert	Regular flake	2 of	
	Chert	Possible microlith?	1 of	
	Total chert		c 985 of	
	Flint	Double sided, retouched, knife fragment	1 of	(Pl 1)
	Flint	Irregular	3 of	
	Flint	Steep sided scraper	1 of	(Pl 1)
	Pitchstone		1 of	
	Agate/quartz	Irregular	11 of	
	Greywacke	burnt	4 of	
	Greywacke	Rubber, faceted	1 of	
	Greywacke	rubber (possible)	1 of	
	Igneous	rubber, faceted	1 of	
	Quartzite	Pebble hammer stone fragments	3 of	
	Quartz?	Burnt	1 of	

Trench No 1 in situ lithic

The only definite in situ lithic was retrieved from the features in T1.

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
F1	Chert		41 of	
F2	Chert		16 of	
F3	Pitchstone		2 of	
F5	Chert		1 of	
F6	Chert		3 of	

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
F8	Chert		1 of	
F9	Chert		46 of	
F9	Flint		1 of	
F11	Chert		4 of	
F16	Chert		2 of	
F18	Chert		6 of	
F18	Agate		1 of	
F19	Chert		1 of	
F20	Chert		13 of	
F20	Pitchstone		1 of	
F20	Tuff	Axe flake	1 of	
F21	Chert		2 of	

Addendum (i)

A final inspection of the area took place in 2004 when a selective retrieval of objects was made. Apart from Site No 5 which is suspected as being a Mesolithic chert scatter, struck chert and flint was not recovered, since a representative collection has been achieved. No further pottery was noted and the following was uplifted:

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
Site No 1	Greywacke	Broken hammer stone	1 of	
Site No 5	Chert	including a core	8 of	
NT 00194 32993	Chert	Leaf arrowhead	1 of	(Pl1)
	Pitchstone	Flake	1 of	
NT 00195 32974	Chert	microlith?	1 of	
	Pitchstone	Flake	1 of	

The latter two locations being among the general scatter of lithic on the ridge of the hill.

Addendum (ii)

The following material was found in 2006 in the field centred NT 005335 and adjacent the farm.

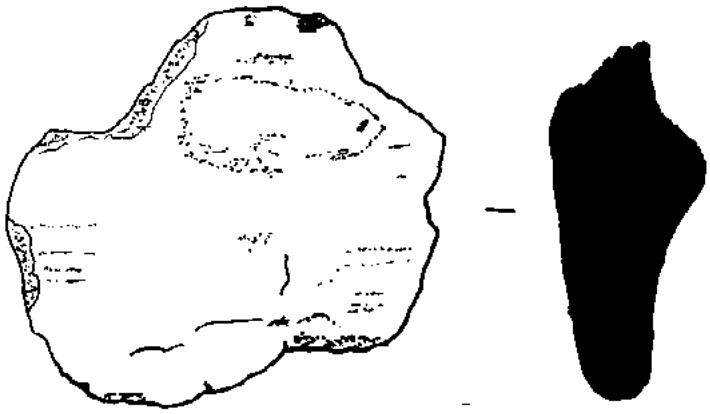
Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
0043533313	Quartz	Pebble, half hammer stone	1 of	
0043533313	Chert		51 of	

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
(25m diameter scatter from knoll)				
0049633372	Quartz	pebble hammer stone	1 of	
	Pitchstone	Flake	1 of	
(10 metre diameter scatter)				
0049633372	Chert		32 of	
00477033363	Chert	Flake	25 of	
(top of terrace)				
0043433372	Flint			
0044733324	Flint			
0044533313	Chert	Scraper		
0044533313	Chert		2 of	
0049433373	Flint	Knife		
0047333363	Flint	Knife		
0049133275	Pitchstone			
0043433405	Chert		9 of	
0068533310	Flint	Pebble		
Random Centred				
NT 005334	Chert	Tool tip		
	Chert		37 of	
	Chert	Scraper		

Addendum (iii)

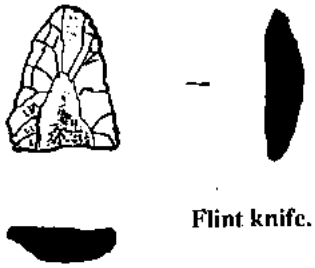
The following material was found in 2007 in the field centred NT c01163 33102 and adjacent the farm. It all came from the upper ridge in the field.

Position	Lithic	Type	Number	Plate
	Chert	miscellaneous	67 of	
	Cannal coal	fragment	51 of	
NT 01131 33106	**Flint**	**Knife fragment + burnt piece**	**2 of**	



CU.P 161

CU.P 162



Flint knife. Trench 1

Fig 6 Scale 1 : 1 Drawn by John Whitworth

Appendix II

Ceramic catalogue

Diameters are given for external rim sizes

Number(s)	Postion
1 - 130	were found in Trench No 1 disturbed zone
131	was found at NT 00265 33016 part of Grid 9
132 - 134	were found in Trench No 1 in situ
135 - 160	were found in Trench No 1 / F1
161 - 166	were found in Trench No 1 / F2
167 - 169	were found in Trench No 1 / F5
170	was found in Trench No 1 / F6
171 - 174	were found in Trench No 1 / F3
175 - 178	were found at NT 00234 33037
179 - 182	were found at NT 00311 33123
183 - 185	were found after crop planting at T1
186 - 203	were retrieved from soil samples

CU.P	Description	Fig/Ref
CU.P.1	Carination sherd, 12mm thick, 200mm diameter, fine pebble inclusions up to 8mm protruding from internal surface but burnished on exterior.	Fig 4.
CU.P.2	Carination/shoulder with domed area on external face; 30 by 25mm by 7mm raised from surface, the long axis being horizontal. Same fabric as No 1 above and with slight internal encrustation.	Fig 4.
CU.P.3	Rim, everted, 9mm at rounded edge but thickens to 18mm below, 360mm diameter.	Fig 4
CU.P.4	Rim, everted but less than No 3 above, 8mm at rounded edge and thickens to 15mm below, 360mm diameter	Fig 4
CU.P.5&6	Rim, conjoining parts, same size and profile as No 4 above, probably the same vessel, fresh plough break but part missing, 360mm diameter.	Fig 4
CU.P.7	Rim, flat topped 19mm wide, straight interior but exterior curves in to a 9mm thick body, 280mm diameter (see also No's 135 - 137).	Fig 4.
CU.P.8	Rim/carination? 7mm thick, soot encrusted burnished exterior and with white quartz inclusions up to 2mm	
CU.P.9	Upright rim of uncarinated bowl, 7mm at round top and thickens to 9mm further down, 180mm diameter.	Fig 4

CU.P	Description	Fig/Ref
CU.P.10	Rim with possible carination slightly everted, 8mm thick.	Fig 5
CU.P.11	Rim of 'pinch pot' 80mm diameter, slightly flattened top at 4mm thick, slightly pulled or pushed over on inside, thickens to 7mm below, possible finger impression	Fig 4
CU.P.12	Rim, neatly everted and rolled, 4.5mm - 5.5mm thick, 140 mm diameter.	Fig 5
CU.P.13	Rim, tightly everted, almost flat top and 9mm thick at rounded edge, thickens to 13mm below, diameter 240 - 260mm (see No 20).	Fig 5/ Pl 2
CU.P.14	Carination? Fragment, 15mm thick.	
CU.P.15	Internal curve, 5.5 - 6.5mm thick.	
CU.P.16	Carination, 9mm max' thickness.	
CU.P.17	Rim slightly everted with rounded edge, 11mm thick.	
CU.P.18	Carination, external side only.	
CU.P.19	Body sherd with fluting (tooling?) on external side, 9mm thick.	
CU.P.20	Rim, everted, almost flat topped, 11mm below rim curl, thins to 7.5mm below. (See No 13 above).	
CU.P.21	Rim, everted 12.5mm body thickness.	
CU.P.22	10mm thick	
CU.P.23	12mm thick	
CU.P.24	11mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.25	13.5mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.26	12.5mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.27	11mm thick with 'finger'? groove internally	
CU.P.28	10.5mm thick	
CU.P.29	11.5mm thick	
CU.P.30	11mm thick	
CU.P.31	8 - 9.5mm thick	
CU.P.32	10mm thick	
CU.P.33	10.5mm thick	
CU.P.34	10.5mm thick	
CU.P.35	10.5mm thick	
CU.P.36	9.5mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.37	11mm thick	

CU.P	Description	Fig/Ref
CU.P.38	10mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.39	13mm thick	
CU.P.40	14mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.41	12mm thick	
CU.P.42	10mm thick	
CU.P.43	9.5mm thick	
CU.P.44	9mm thick	
CU.P.45	8 - 11m thick with quartz inclusions	
CU.P.46	17mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.47	16mm thick	
CU.P.48	8mm thick	
CU.P.49	8.5mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.50	9mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.51	9mm thick	
CU.P.52	8mm thick	
CU.P.53	6mm thick	
CU.P.54	8mm thick with quartz inclusions	
CU.P.55	6mm thick	
CU.P.56	6mm thick, carination? With quartz inclusions	
CU.P.57	6mm thick	
CU.P.58	9mm thick	
CU.P.59	11mm thick	
CU.P.60	6mm thick	
CU.P.61	8mm thick with encrustation	
CU.P.62	10.5mm thick with encrustation	
CU.P.63	11mm thick with encrustation	
CU.P.64	7mm thick, pronounced curve, encrustation	
CU.P.65	8mm thick	
CU.P.66	15mm thick	
CU.P.67	11mm thick, very abraded	
CU.P.68	6 - 10mm thick	
CU.P.69	5.5mm thick	
CU.P.70	6.5mm thick	

CU.P	Description	Fig/Ref
CU.P.71	9mm thick	
CU.P.72	9mm thick	
CU.P.73	13mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.74	10mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.75	12mm thick	
CU.P.76	11mm thick	
CU.P.77	12mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.78	12mm thick	
CU.P.79	8mm thick	
CU.P.80	11mm thick	
CU.P.81	8mm thick, curved with concretion	
CU.P.82	11mm thick	
CU.P.83	5mm thick	
CU.P.84	5mm thick, curved	
CU.P.85	5mm thick	
CU.P.86	5mm thick	
CU.P.87	7 - 9mm thick, curved	
CU.P.88	7mm thick	
CU.P.89	8.5mm thick	
CU.P.90	8mm thick	
CU.P.91	5mm thick	
CU.P.92	7mm thick	
CU.P.93	10mm thick, abraded	
CU.P.94	7 - 10mm thick	
CU.P.95	7.5mm thick	
CU.P.97	12mm thick	
CU.P.98	5 - 8mm thick	
CU.P.99	9mm thick	
CU.P.100	6mm thick	
CU.P.101	6mm thick	
CU.P.102	8mm thick	
CU.P.103	5mm thick fragment	
CU.P.104	7mm thick fragment	
CU.P.105	7mm thick	

CU.P	Description	Fig/Ref
CU.P.106	5mm thick	
CU.P.107	7mm thick	
CU.P.108	7mm thick	
CU.P.109	6.5mm thick	
CU.P.110	9mm thick	
CU.P.111	8mm thick	
CU.P.112	9mm thick	
CU.P.113	2 - 8mm thick abraded or rim?	
CU.P.114	6mm thick fragment	
CU.P.115	6mm thick	
CU.P.116	8mm thick	
CU.P.117	9mm thick fragment	
CU.P.118	7mm thick	
CU.P.119	5.5mm thick	
CU.P.120	13mm fragment	
CU.P.121	10mm thick fragment	
CU.P.122	6mm thick	
CU.P.123	4mm thick fragment	
CU.P.124	11mm thick	
CU.P.125	8mm thick	
CU.P.126	8mm thick fragment	
CU.P.127	13mm thick conjoins to 128	
CU.P.128	13mm thick conjoins to 127 = modern break	
CU.P.129	8mm thick, external side only	
CU.P.130	6mm thick, internal side only	
CU.P.131	Fig 5/ Pl 2 Rim, everted, 4.5mm thick, burnished both sides, 240mm diameter, found in situ T1.	
CU.P.132	11mm thick, found in situ T1	
CU.P.133	Fig 5/ Pl 2 Rim, everted, body 6mm thick, found in situ T1	
CU.P.134	10mm thick, found in situ T1	
CU.P.135	Fig 5 Rim, flat topped 17 - 19mm wide, inside very slightly curved down, externally curves down from rim edge to 13mm thick body and then to 9mm thick below. Same exterior light buff colour overall and conjoins with No 136 to give external rim diameter of 200mm. Slight inversion of rim inside.	

CU.P	Description	Fig/Ref
CU.P.136	Fig 5 Ditto above	
CU.P.137	Fig 5/ Pl 2	
CU.P.138	10mm thick with concretion, conjoins with 139	
CU.P.139	10mm thick with concretion, conjoins with 138	
CU.P.140	17 - 18mm thick, conjoins with 141	
CU.P.142	13 - 17mm thick, conjoins with 140	
CU.P.143	15mm thick	
CU.P.144	17mm thick (Note: 140 - 144 = same vessel)	
CU.P.145	10mm thick	
CU.P.146	10mm thick	
CU.P.147	9mm thick	
CU.P.148	9mm thick	
CU.P.149	8mm thick, external surface eroded but concretion on inside	
CU.P.150	9mm thick	
CU.P.151	8mm thick fragment	
CU.P.152	5mm thick fragment	
CU.P.153	9mm thick	
CU.P.154	9mm thick	
CU.P.155	8mm thick	
CU.P.156	5mm thick fragment	
CU.P.157	9mm thick fragment	
CU.P.158	5mm thick fragment	
CU.P.159	9.5mm thick with concretion	
CU.P.160	5 of fragments	
CU.P.161	Fig 6/ Pl 3 Large body sherd 16mm thick, with external domed ‘nodule’ = 40mm by 25mm by 10mm protruding from sherd wall, long axis is horizontal. Off white coloured inclusions?	
CU.P.162	Fig 6/ Pl 2 Rim, massive everted to rounded edge, thickest part of rim = 17mm to body below at 18mm thick. Same colour, fabric and clasts included as No 161 = same vessel.	
CU.P.163	Rim fragment, same external profile as No 162, may be same vessel	
CU.P.164	Fragment, same fabric as 162/163	
CU.P.165	Fragment, same fabric as 162/163/164	
CU.P.166	7mm thick + fragment	
CU.P.167	12mm thick with indent, possibly inclusion eroded out	

CU.P	Description	
CU.P.168	Carination? 8mm thick	
CU.P.169	2 of fragments	
CU.P.170	10mm thick, abraded, with 'ripple' marks? on one side	
CU.P.171	Rim fragment 7mm thick	
CU.P.172	6mm thick	
CU.P.173	5.5mm thick, two parts conjoining	
CU.P.174	3 of fragments	
CU.P.175	Fig 5 Rim, everted 6mm thick	
CU.P.176	7mm thick fragment	
CU.P.177	10mm thick	NT 00234 33037
CU.P.178	2 of fragments	NT 00234 33037
CU.P.179	8.5mm thick	NT 00311 33123
CU.P.180	9mm thick, 2 of conjoining, modern break	NT 00311 33123
CU.P.181-182	3 of fragments	NT 00311 33123
CU.P.183	Carination, 6mm thick, found at T1 after crop sown.	
Some of the following sherds were retrieved from soil samples and have therefore been washed		
CU.P 184-185	Fragments, found at T1 after crop sown.	
CU.P 186	Sherd fragments from F1 (14of)	
CU.P 187	Sherd fragments from F2 (7of)	
CU.P 188	Sherd fragment from F5	
CU.P 189-192	from F8	
CU.P 193-195	from F9	
CU.P 196	Fragment from F11	
CU.P 197-200	from F16 (No 200 = rim sherd)	
CU.P 201	Fragment from F18	
CU.P 202	Fragments from F 19	
CU.P 203	Sherd + fragments from F20	

Appendix III

The project was recorded on 35mm colour slide film and 8mm video

Direction of view towards North, South, etc

Slide catalogue

No.	Description
CU.1	Pottery on the ground at T1 location
CU.2	ditto
CU.3	F1 and F2 also showing rabbit burrows, North
CU.4	ditto
CU.5	Rabbit burrows T1
CU.6	T1 expanding, West
CU.7	T2 showing charcoal feature
CU.8	T1 showing charcoal spreads and burrows, East
CU.9	Ditto
CU.10	Ditto
CU.11	Ditto
CU.12	T2 showing charcoal pit
CU.13	T1 extension at F10 area
CU.14	Diggers with, Jim Ness, Richard Gillanders, Fiona Christison,
CU.15	F1 half sectioned Ian Paterson, Joy McBain
CU.16	F1 and F2 half sectioned
CU.17	T2 pit sectioned, east
CU.18	ditto
CU.19	F16,West
CU.20	F16, West
CU.21	F16 removed showing F17, West
CU.22	F8, North west
CU.23	F8 foreground with F2 and F1, North east
CU.24	Diggers, Ian Paterson, Fiona Christison
CU.25	Digger Fiona Christison and F 9
CU.26	F15, North west

No.	Description
CU.27	F15, North east
CU.28	F8 excavated, note burnt bone in situ
CU.29	F9 sectioned
CU.30	F18, F20 and F21 (part of)
CU.31	ditto with F22
CU.32	F20 sectioned
CU.33	F20, F21 and F 22 sectioned
CU.34	F18, F20, F21 and F22 sectioned

Appendix IV

Preserved soil and charcoal samples list.

CR = course residue SS = sub sample not processed

Trench No 1

F No	0.3mm	2mm	CR	SS	Charcoal weight
1	yes	yes	yes	yes	8 grammes
2	yes	yes	yes	yes	8 grammes
3	---	---	yes	---	< gramme
4	yes	yes	yes	---	2 grammes
5	yes	yes	yes	---	2 grammes
6	---	---	---	---	----
7	---	---	---	---	----
8	yes	yes	yes	---	9 grammes
9	yes	yes	yes	yes	13 grammes
10	---	---	---	---	----
11	yes	yes	---	---	5 grammes
12	---	---	---	---	----
13	---	---	---	---	----
14	---	---	---	---	----
15	---	---	yes	---	10 grammes
16	yes	yes	yes	---	16 grammes
17	yes	yes	---	---	----

Nether Hangingshaw

F No	0.3mm	2mm	CR	SS	Charcoal weight
18	yes	yes	yes	---	21 grammes
19	yes	yes	yes	---	13 grammes
20	yes	yes	yes	---	200 grammes (total)
21	yes	yes	yes	---	8 grammes
22	yes	yes	yes	---	8 grammes

Trench No 2

F No	0.3mm	2mm	CR	SS	Charcoal weight
	yes	yes	yes		25 grammes
	(Residue = mostly charcoal)				