



Eddlewood Castle

Data Structure Report

July 2024

Abstract

During the excavation of the Promontory Site in July 2024, five trenches were dug and the contexts recorded. This report presents the results of the excavation and discusses their interpretation.

Ed Smith

Clutha Archaeology Group

cluthamail@gmail.com

Abstract

On the 8th, 9th and 10th July 2024, two areas (A1 and A2) and three test pits (TP1 to TP3) were excavated to investigate the archaeology of the site described as Eddlewood Castle in Canmore:

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/74524/eddelewood-castle>

The site is a Flat Area with a Mound of earth and bedrock (Figure 1). There are stone walls on top of the Mound.

In the area, A1, on top of the Mound, the remains of a tiled floor was uncovered between two quarry-cut stone walls. It is not obvious that the two walls are joined together. Further work is required to make sense of this area.

On the Flat Area, test pit TP1 uncovered a possible drain directing water down from this area to the Meikle Burn.

Also on the Flat Area, Test pit TP3 uncovered sherds of Medieval pottery as well as a piece of metal.

A2 is the area where a modern path enters the Flat Area. Here, traces of a possible wall were found, as well as a stone with some marks carved on it.

There was nothing significant found in test pit TP2.

It is likely that the site occupied in the past was larger than the site explored on this visit. Future work will expand the area to find out how it meets the higher ground nearby. Also, the steep drop down to the Meikle Burn will be explored for material which may have fallen down from the site.



Figure 1. Photo of the site with the Flat Area in the foreground with the Mound at the back.

Introduction

Background

The location of Eddlewood Castle (National Grid Reference NS 72342 52972 and Canmore ID 74524) is shown in Figure 2.

The site was visited by Clutha Archaeology in July 2023 and the area matched the following description of Eddlewood Castle from Canmore:

“The Castle of Eddlewood was situated on the Meikle Burn, short distance below the confluence of Blackbog and Simsonland burns, and within the wall which encloses the High Parks of Hamilton. Its site is marked by a mound of rubbish and the fragment of a wall.”

The ‘mound of rubbish’ or Mound with the exposed stone wall is clearly visible today with a Flat Area located beside it. From the Flat Area the ground drops steeply down to the Meikle Burn.

A visit to Hamilton Library archives, in November 2023, revealed that the site appears on the estate plan of the High Parks prepared for the Duke of Hamilton by William Douglas in 1776. On the estate plan, at our Survey Area, a mound had been drawn with the word ‘castle’ written on it.

On 31 August 2023, vegetation clearance of the site was conducted by Clutha Archaeology and Chris McGinley, Countryside Ranger Team Leader at South Lanarkshire Council during which a badger sett was identified on the Flat Area of the site. The sett was later shown to be not currently active.

The site is next to the Eddlewood housing estate, in a wooded area above the Meikle Burn. There is a steep slope to the east down to the burn, while the ground to the west rises up to the fence which marks the edge of the estate. To the north and south of the site there are steep sided ditches which drain water from the estate. The site has the appearance of a promontory formed by a Flat Area with steep slopes on three sides while the fourth side gives access to the higher ground on which the housing estate was built in the 20th century. The Flat Area has a Mound on it, formed of soil and bedrock on which a substantial stone wall has been built. Approximately at right angles to this wall, the line of another wall is visible beneath the soil on top of the Mound. One purpose of the survey was to discover how these walls interact.

A Total Station survey of the site was conducted on 31 October 2023, by Clutha Archaeology to establish the Local Coordinate System within which subsequent archaeological activity was recorded.

The site is part of the designated Country Park and the Valley Woodlands National Nature Reserve (NNR). Permission for excavation within the Country Park was granted by South Lanarkshire Council Countryside and Greenspace Service.

Location: 3-Maps

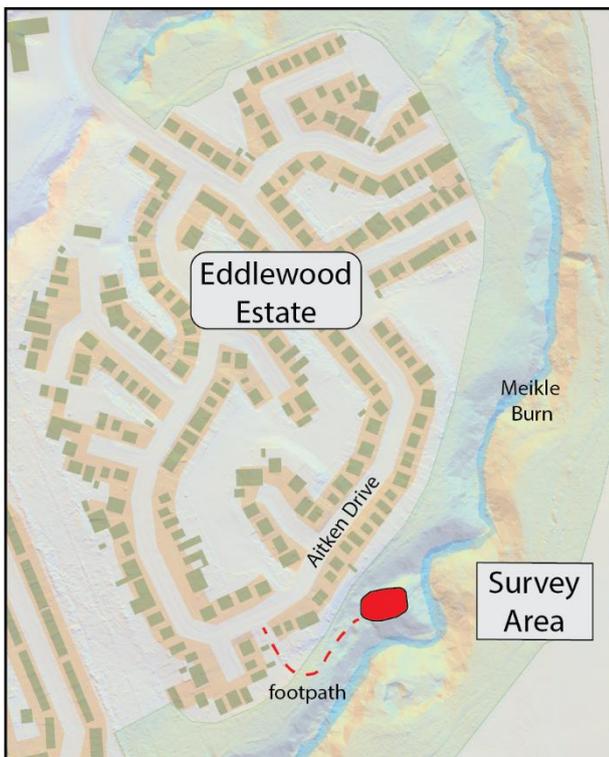
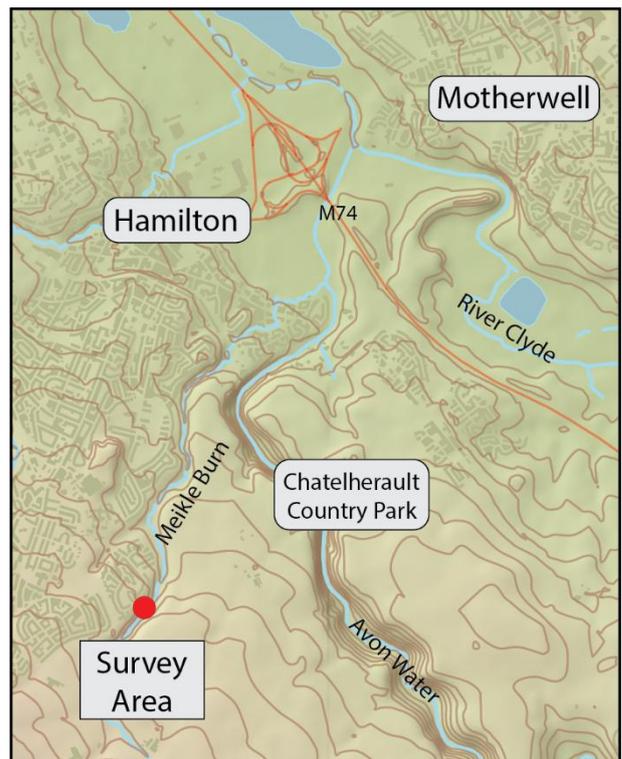


Figure 2.

The Survey Area is located beside the Eddlewood housing estate at the edge of, but still inside Chatelherault Country Park, much of which lies between the River Clyde and the Meikle Burn. The area is similar to other Promontory sites in the Clyde Valley and we hope it will be part of a survey of many such sites in the Clyde Valley Archaeological Research Framework (CVARF). It was part of the Duke of Hamilton's estate and his 18th century plan of the estate shows a castle at this location.

OS Open Data © was used in the construction of these maps.

Location of Test Pits

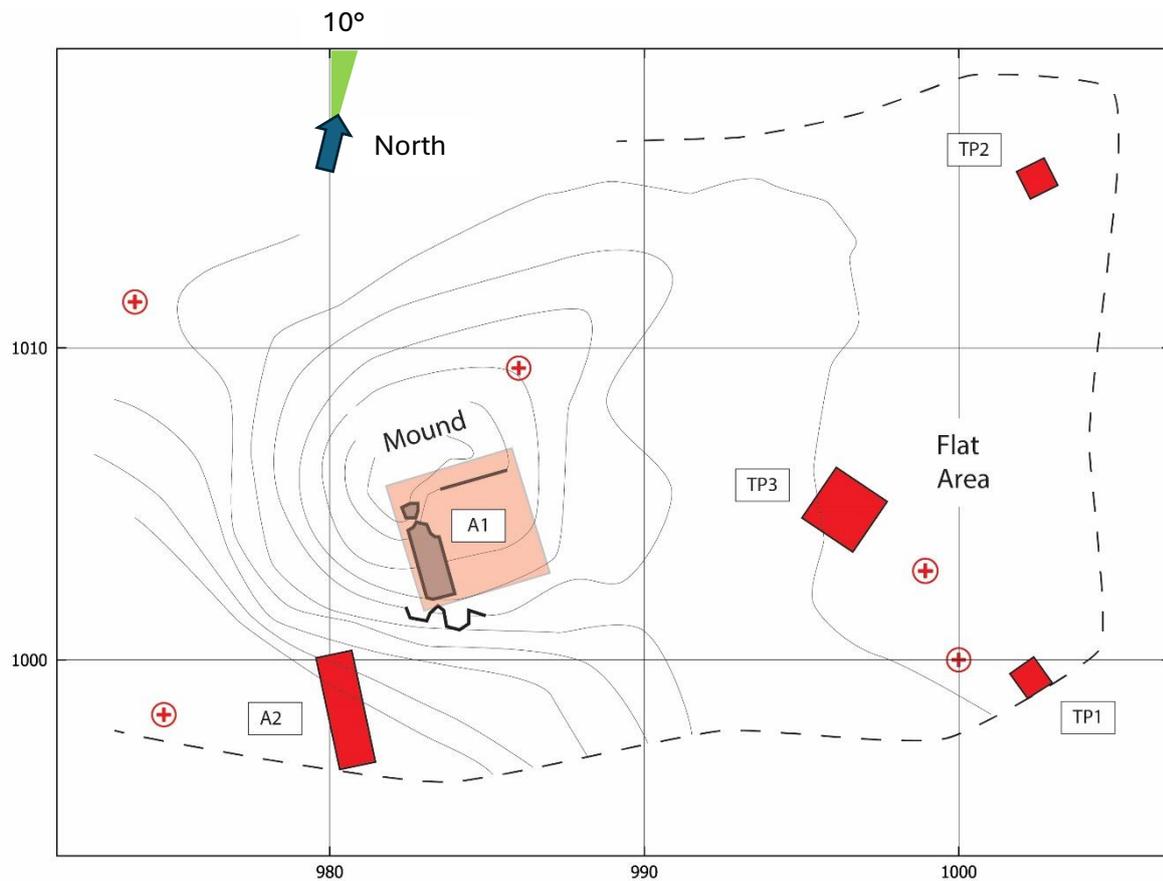


Figure 3. Total Station survey of the site showing the Mound beside the Flat Area.

The locations of the two areas and three test pits are shown in the plan of the site (Figure 3) in the local coordinate system. The Origin and other survey stations are marked by a red plus in a circle. Test pits TP1 to TP3 are marked by red squares to show the location and extent of the excavations. At the top of the mound A1 shows the walls within the pale red square of the area explored. At a possible entrance to the site, area A2 is marked by a rectangle which indicates the area explored at this location.

Note that this plan was drawn in the Local Coordinate System and has not been mapped accurately onto the British National Grid. Because of this, the direction of North is only approximately correct, as are the National Grid References. The 10° rotation to North, shown in Figure 3 was obtained using a LiDAR image of the site in QGIS to get an approximate link between the Local Coordinate System and the British National Grid.

Project Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Eddlewood Castle excavation was to explore the archaeology of

- the top of the mound with its stone walls,
- the flat area at the foot of the mound and
- a possible entrance to the site.

Methodology

The field work was carried out by Clutha Archaeology Group on the 8th, 9th and 10th July 2024. All excavation was undertaken by hand and a total of five areas were explored. The work was carried out in conjunction with South Lanarkshire Council and in particular Chris McGinley, Countryside Ranger Team Leader of the Countryside & Greenspace Service, who provided invaluable help.

The participants were

[Peter Dunn](#), [Eric Gardner](#), [Shona MacLean](#), [Chris McGinley](#), [Ailsa Smith](#), [Ed Smith](#), [Helen Somerville](#), [Jean Tumilty](#), [Tom Tumilty](#), [Ross Wood](#)

Photogrammetry was used to record the trenches from which scaled drawings were produced. The weather conditions were reasonably good for photography but the area is wooded so the low light-level was challenging.

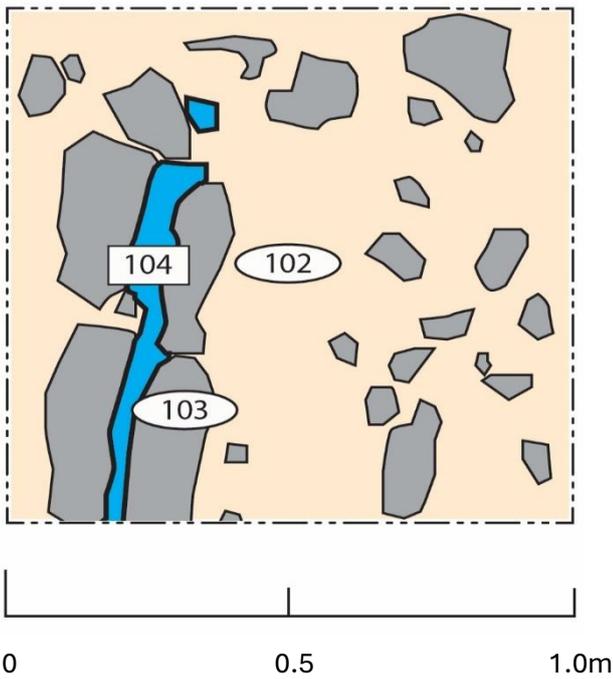
Results

Introduction

The weather was reasonably good for excavation, only becoming more difficult on the last day, when it started to rain.

The results in this section should be read together with the data in the Appendix which lists the finds together with their photographs.

Test Pit TP1



This photo of test pit TP1 shows the corners marked with red dots.



Oblique view of trench, looking NW. The outflow from the drain (cut 104) is on the left.

Contexts

101	Dark brown silt, loose, fine root disturbance, 10% small and medium sized sub-angular stones throughout.
102	Orange brown silt matrix, loose. There are some fine roots surrounding this context.
103	Small-medium sub-angular grey stones which are spread across the whole trench. These stones sit within context 102.
104	Cut which runs through and extends beyond the trench. It measures 5 cm at its widest and has a depth of approximately 15 cm. The edges of the drain are the stones which form context 103.

Interpretation

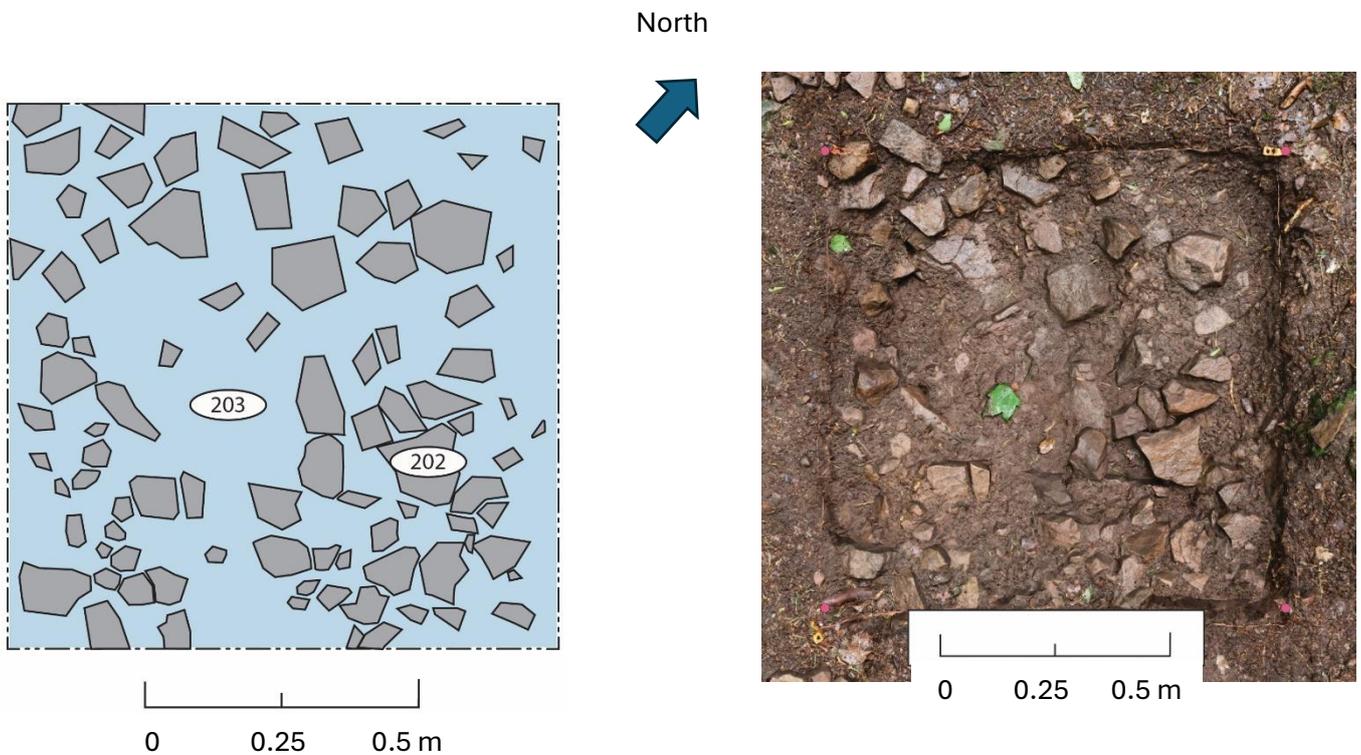
101	Organic woodland topsoil
102	Natural
103	Natural
104	Possibly a stone-lined drain and a sign of human activity. Its true depth is unclear due to silting but it has an outlet to the south into another stone feature which may be a channel for directing the flow downhill and away from the site.

General View of TP1



A view of test pit TP1 looking South. The test pit is on the edge of the Flat Area from where there is a steep drop, marked with warning tape, to the Meikle Burn.

Test Pit TP2



Contexts

201	Mid-brown clayey silt, loose, with frequent medium-sized sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Frequent small root disturbances, Trench was formed around a circular ground depression.
202	Layer of medium-sized grey stones spread across entirety of trench. Some loose, some packing, all embedded in sub-soil 203.
203	Dark-brown silt, loose, heavy small root-laden, few small inclusions of sub-angular grey stones.

Interpretation

201	Natural topsoil. It may be that the “circular ground depression” was cause by a tree falling. There was no sign of human activity.
202	Natural stone layer in 203.
203	Natural subsoil below 201.

General View of TP2

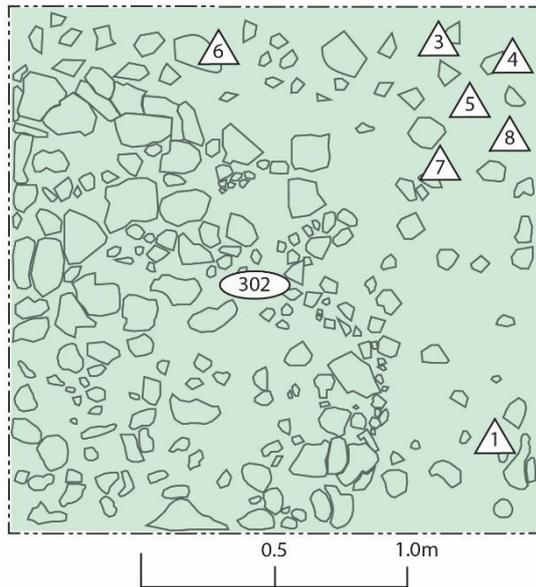


A view of test pit TP2 looking North East. The test pit is on the edge of the Flat Area from where there is a steep drop, marked by warning tape, to the Meikle Burn.

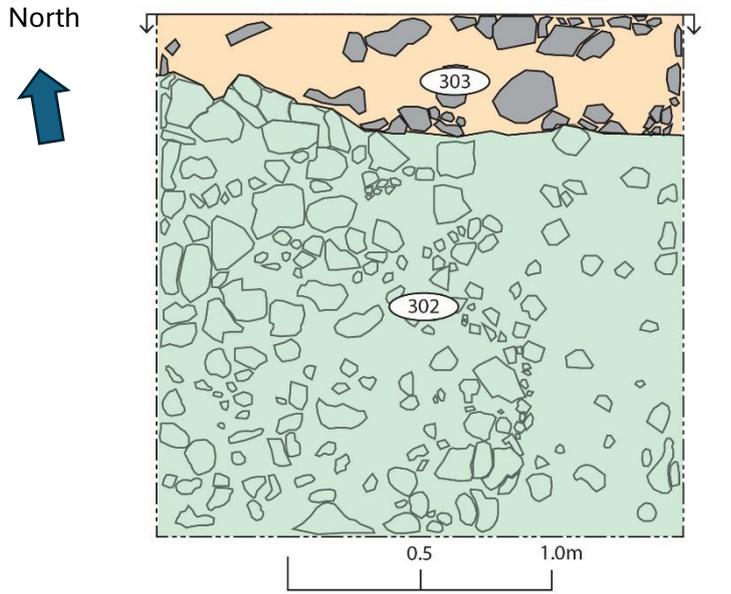
Test Pit TP3

Plan View of TP3

Before Sondage



After Sondage



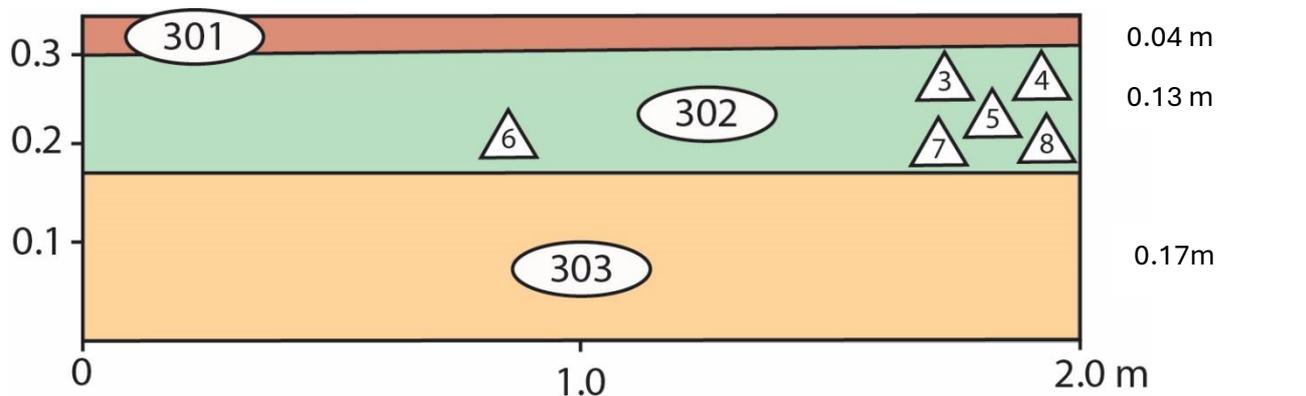
There were Small Finds in Context 302 .

There were dark patches in 302 which may have been due to the burning of small fires in 301.

A sondage was dug at the north end of the test pit TP3. This exposed Context 303 which probably extends over the entire area of the trench below a depth of 0.17 m.

Section 001

The end elevation of TP3 is at the North wall of the test pit at the sondage.



This Section shows the position of the finds from the North end of the test pit. There was also Small Find 1 located at the South end of this test pit .

Contexts

301	Top soil layer, mid-brown, loose, sandy with a mix of approximately 10% sub-angular small and large pebbles and 10% medium-large sub-rounded stones across whole of trench. There were patches of darker soil. This context covers the entire 2m x 2m test pit down to approximately 4cm.
302	Light brown sand, firm compaction, thin roots, a few small stones and approximately 70% medium-large sub-rounded stones spread generally across trench. There were patches of darker brown sand. This context covers the entire 2m x 2m test pit down to the depth of 17cm.
303	Large number of medium – large grey stones in context (302), some loose others resting, extending across majority of trench.

Interpretation

301	Organic woodland topsoil. Natural, except for the dark patches cause by small fires.
302	Signs of possible human activity. Burning from fires may have penetrated to this level. Also the stones may be debris from the collapse of buildings, after all the larger, useful stones had been removed. The remaining stones seem to have been levelled into an unnaturally flat surface. Small Find SF1 was found among stones towards the south end of the trench. SF6 was found at the northern end of the trench in the middle. SFs 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 were found in the north east corner of this context.
303	Probably natural.

General View of TP3



This photograph shows the view looking north with test pit TP3 in the foreground and TP2 in the background.

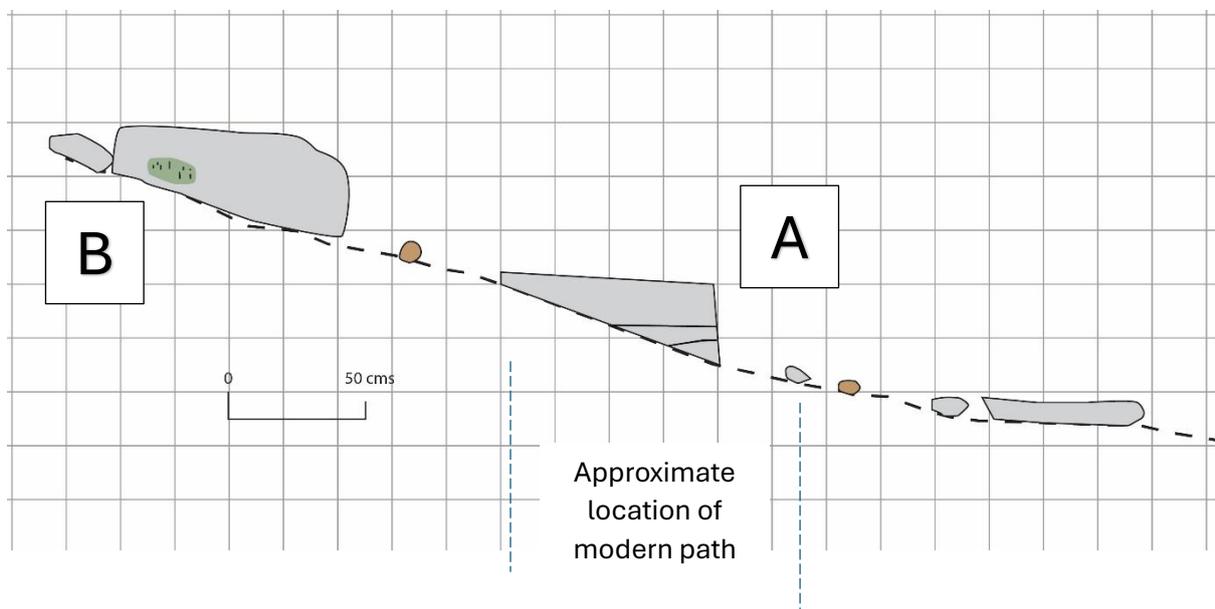
Area A2

This area may be an entrance to the Flat Area as shown by the modern path in this photograph.



This view looking north, shows area A2. The modern path leads round the foot of the Mound into the Flat Area.

Vertical Cross-Section of the area A2



This Vertical Section of the area shows the main stones which cross the path.

The two notable features, A and B, on this Cross-Section are:

- A : a wall-like feature with horizontal cracks dividing the stone.
- B : a set of marks on a stone which may have been carved.

Photographs of the features A and B



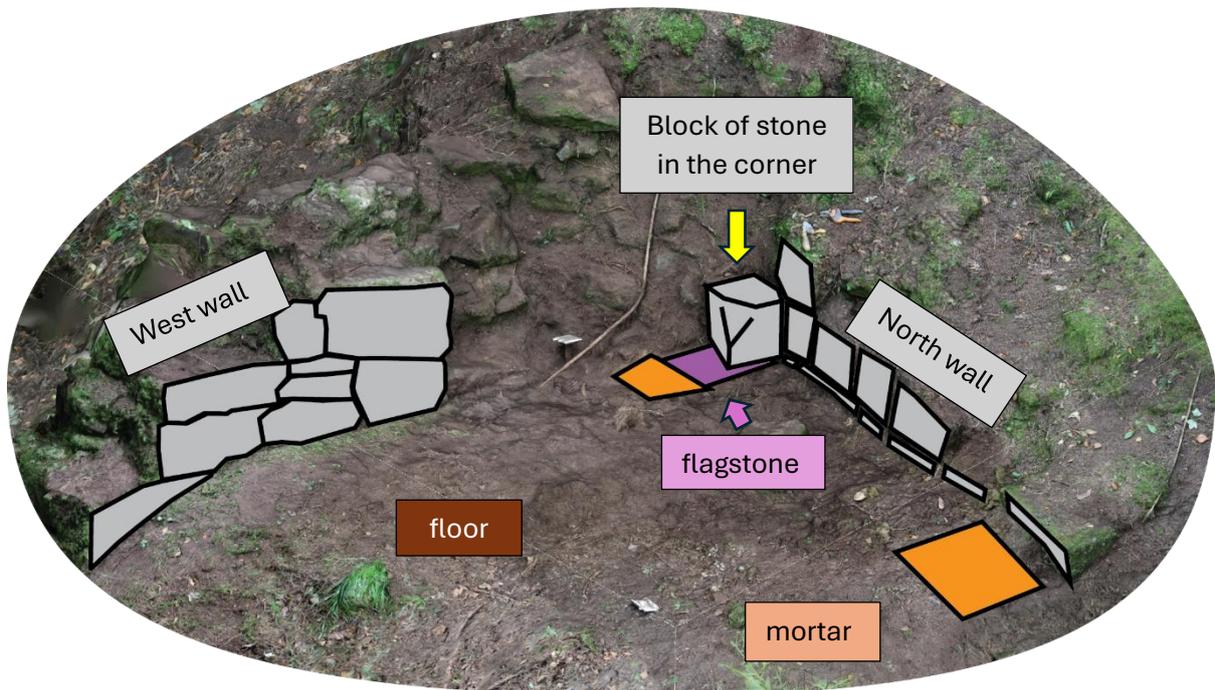
Feature A : part of a possible wall



Feature B : Possible carved marks

Area A1, the Top of the Mound

Contexts



Oblique View of the top showing the main Contexts superimposed on a photograph.

The Contexts on the Top of the Mound are

- Two sections of wall made of quarry-cut stone blocks.
- A piece of flagstone half buried under a block of stone in the corner.
- Two places where the underlying mortar has been exposed.
- A layer of dark topsoil which forms the floor.

The walls were named so that someone looking at the “North” wall will face approximately North (closer to NW).

Small Find SF2 was found in this area. It is a round object similar to a coin in shape and size.

Contexts

501	Quarry-cut stones in the remains of two walls; one facing north and the other west.
502	A flat oblong stone, or flagstone, in the corner of the structure.
503	Large quarry-cut stone sitting on the flagstone.
504	Layer of dark topsoil mixed with burnt material and small tree roots.
505	Fine creamy yellow deposit covering the revealed floor area under the burnt material and under the flagstone. Something similar found between some of the stones in the wall.

Interpretation

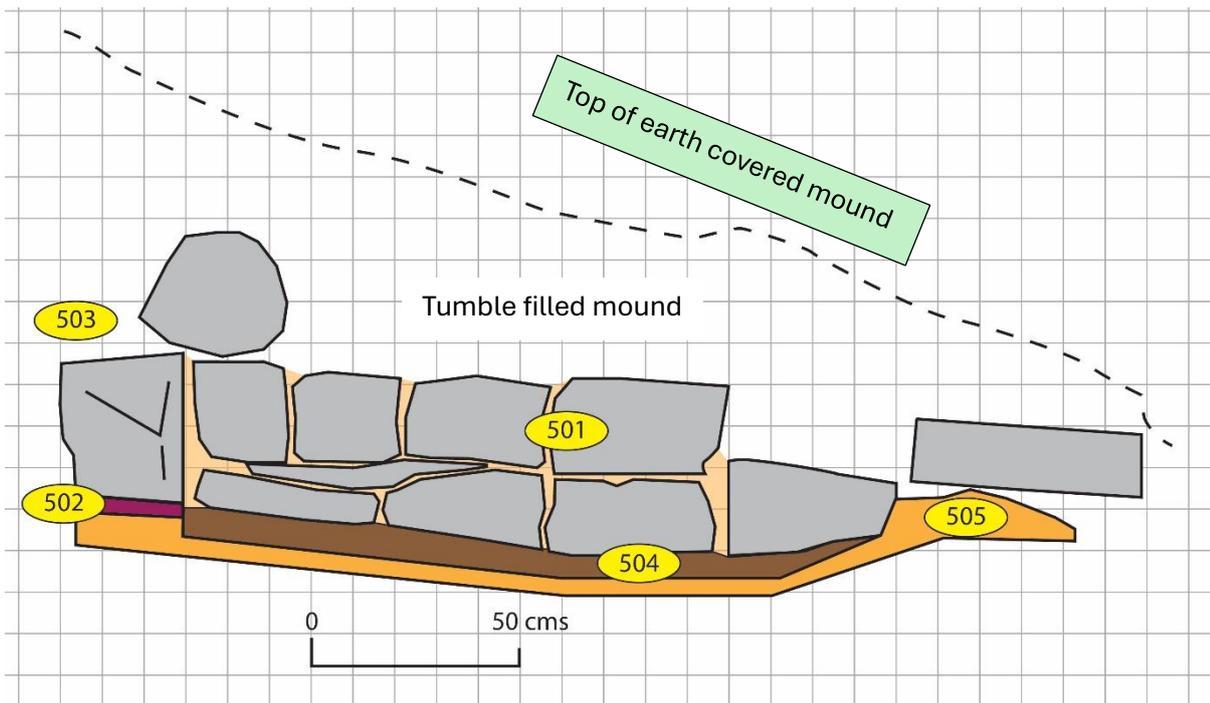
501	Somebody built these walls.
502	The flagstone may be the remains of a tiled floor.
503	Further evidence for a building but probably not part of the walls.
504	Residue from modern bonfires. Find SF2 was in this area.
505	Mortar used to secure the flagstones. Similar to the material found between some of the stones in the walls.

Flagstone under a block of stone in corner

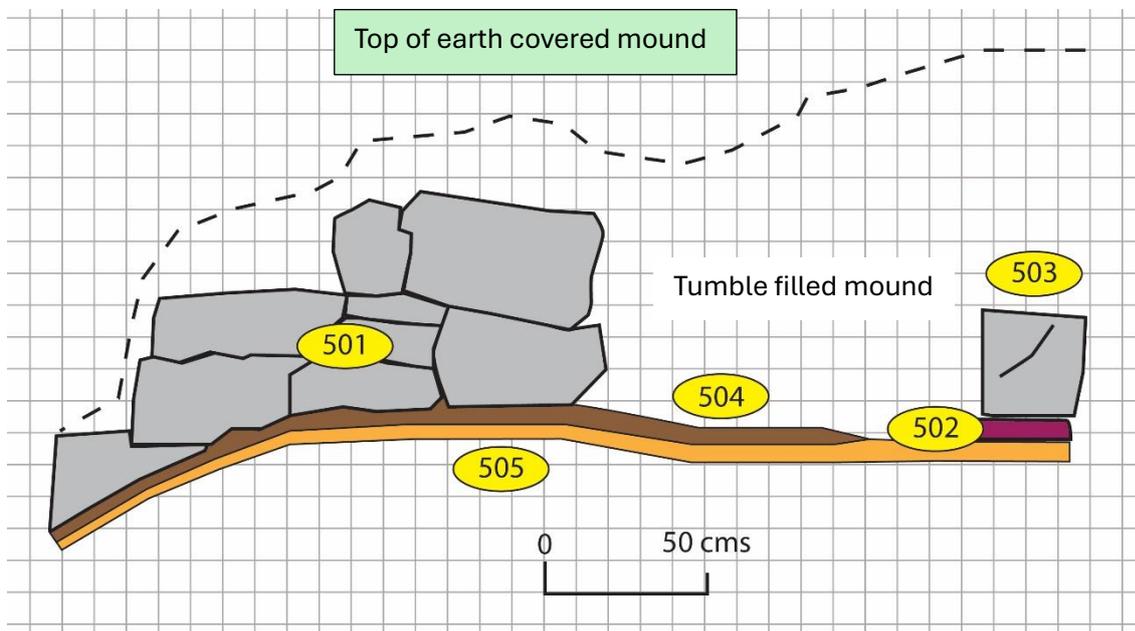


Photo of the flagstone covered by a quarry-cut block of stone which sits in the corner between the two walls. Although this block sits in the 'corner' the two stone walls do not seem to meet to form a corner.

North Wall vertical elevation



West Wall vertical elevation



Photographs of the Walls



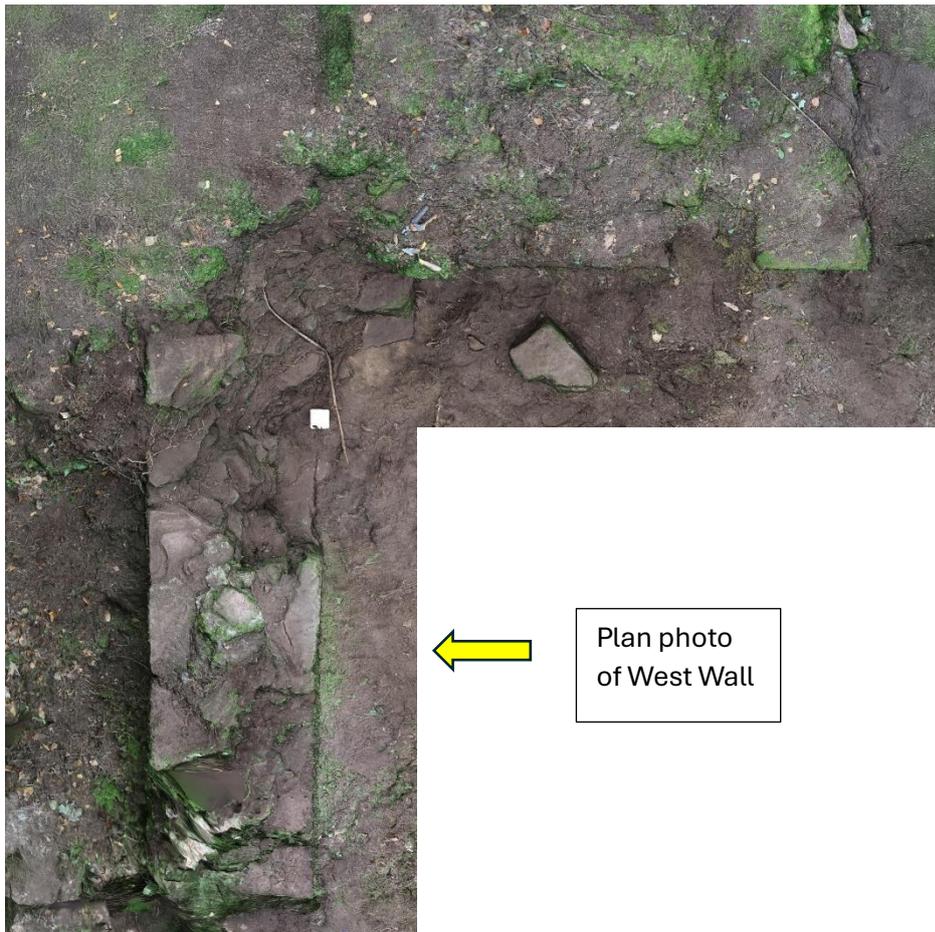
West Wall
looking
West



West Wall
looking
East



North Wall
looking
North



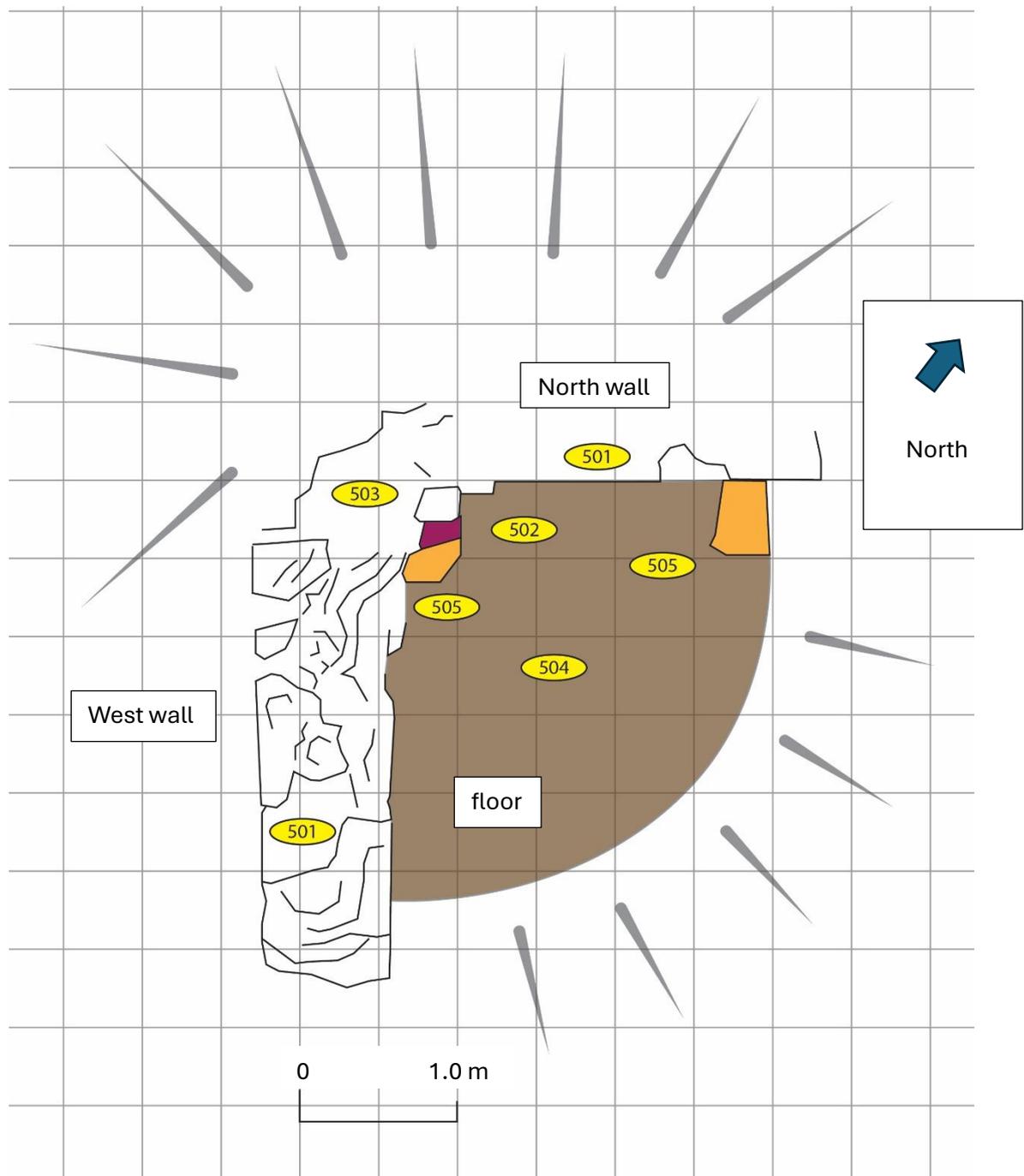
Plan photo of
North Wall.



Plan photo
of West Wall



Plan Drawing of Top



Significant finds, which remain on site, are patches of mortar (505) and a flagstone (502). This suggests that the floor was originally tiled but that almost all the tiles were removed and an area of mortar exposed. The large quarry-cut stone (503) sitting on the flagstone is not part of either wall.

The two walls do not seem to meet. Although there is a stone block (503) at the corner, the stone blocks forming the West wall do not extend as far north as the North wall. The West wall at the corner is just a tumble filled mound of earth.

Reference

H. A, (1874) 'The Hamiltons of Eddlewood and Neilsland' in The Hamilton Advertiser, September 26 1874, pp 1.

Appendix

Small Finds Register

SF No	Context	Description	Material	Photo	Date/Initials
1	TP3/002	Corroded metal reddish-brown object comprising a shaft and head – SF1	metal	100-1072	RW 8/7/24
2	Area A1	Small, rounded unidentified object similar to a coin in shape and size – SF2	unknown	100-1075 and 1076	HS 8/7/24
3	TP3/002	Pottery sherd – possible green glaze - SF3	ceramic	100-1080	RW 9/7/24
4	TP3/002	Pottery sherd- possible green glaze – SF4	ceramic	100-1083	RW 9/7/24
5	TP3/002	Pottery sherd – SF5	ceramic	100-1082	RW 9/7/24
6	TP3/002	Pottery sherd – SF6	ceramic	SF6-3002	EG 9/7/24
7	TP3/002	Pottery sherd – SF7	ceramic	121300-121307	RW 9/7/24
8	TP3/002	Pottery sherd – SF8	ceramic	121521-121530	RW 9/7/24
9	TP3/002	Pottery sherd -SF9	ceramic	121730-121740	9/7/24

Photos of the Small Finds as Listed in the Small Finds Register

SF1



Photos taken at home

Photo HH7A1644.JPG

and



The photos on this side of the page were taken in the field

The end of this image number is in the Small Finds Register



SL271072.JPG

SF2



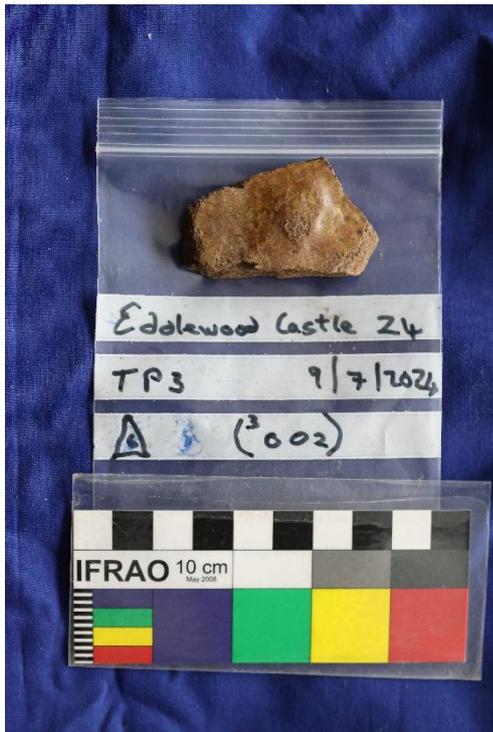
Photo HH7A0698

and



SL271076.JPG

SF3



This is one of the finds with a green glaze.

Photo HH7A0690.JPG

and

SL271080.JPG

SF4



This find also has green glaze.

Photo HH7A0687.JPG

and

SL271083.JPG

SF5



Photo HH7A0686.JPG

and

SL271082.JPG

SF6



Photo HH7A0694.JPG

and

20 SF6 3-002.jpg

SF7



Photo HH7A0684.jpg



20240710_121307.jpg

SF8



Photo HH7A0695.JPG



20240710_121530.jpg

and

