



Eddlewood Castle

Data Structure Report

August 2025

Abstract

During the excavation of the Promontory Site in August 2025, three trenches were excavated and their contexts recorded. This report presents the results of the excavation and discusses their interpretation.

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Summary

Between the 20th and 23rd August 2025, three trenches (T4, T5 and T6) were excavated to investigate the archaeology of the site described as Eddlewood Castle in

[Eddlewood Castle | Place | trove.scot](#)

The site is a Flat Area together with a Mound of earth and bedrock (Figure 1).

In the Flat Area, trench T5 uncovered several sherds of medieval pottery.

This medieval pottery was found in the lower part a layer of sand and stone which reaches to a depth of about 35cms. How was this layer formed? The pottery tells us the layer is not natural and suggests human activity during or after the medieval period. This is unlikely to have happened recently because there is a layer of topsoil about 10cms deep on top of the sand and stone which would have taken some time to form naturally.

Lying on the topsoil of trench T5 are several stone blocks, similar to those which form a structure on top of the Mound. It seems likely that these stones rolled down from this structure. No such stones were found buried in the layer of sand and stone, so they probably fell down after this layer was formed.

A layer of sand and stone was also found in trench T4 at the edge of the Flat Area. Below this layer in trench T4 is a solid block of sandstone which has not been uncovered in the centre of the Flat Area, in trench T5, but is visible in most areas round the edge of the Flat Area. Here, the stone is crumbling and has been broken by tree-root activity.



Figure 1. Photo of the site with the Flat Area in the foreground, where Trench 5 is being excavated, and the Mound is in the background.

Introduction

Background

The location of Eddlewood Castle [National Grid Reference NS 72342 52972 and National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) ID 74524] is shown in Figure 2.

The site was initially visited by Clutha Archaeology in July 2023 and the area matched the following description of Eddlewood Castle in WoSAS (Pin: 12645)

[West of Scotland Archaeology Service Home Page](#)

“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 there is a steep drop 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, in 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 there is a substantial stone wall.

A Total Station survey of the site was conducted on 31 October 2023, by Clutha Archaeology to establish the Local Coordinate System for recording the location of our archaeological activity.

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

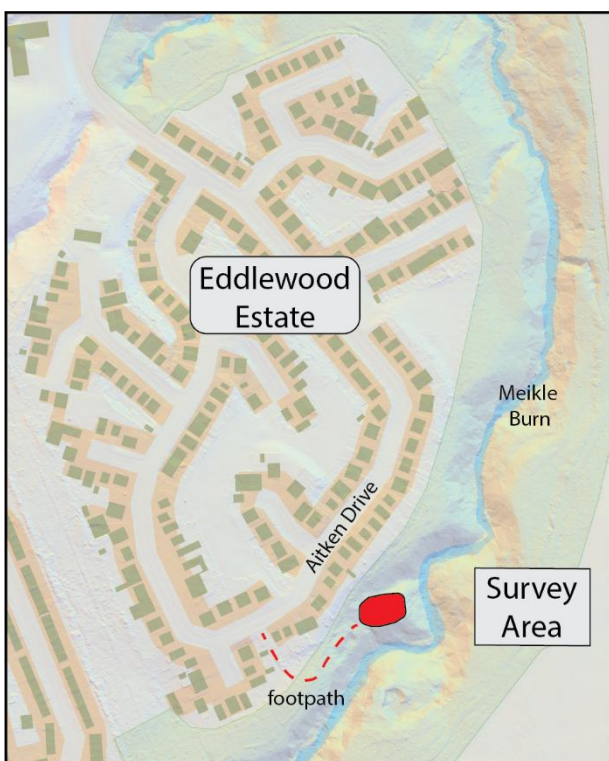
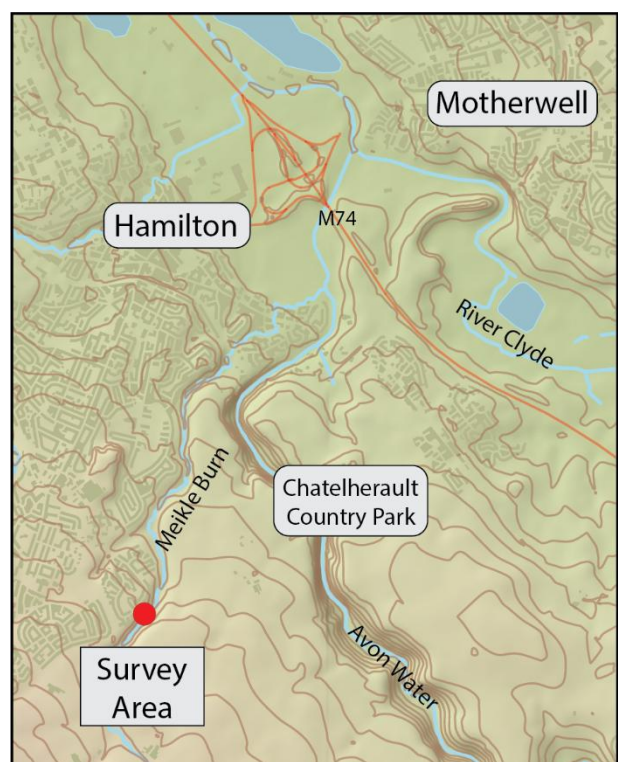


Figure 2.

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 is one of many such sites noted in the Clyde Valley Archaeological Research Framework (CVARF).

The Survey Area was land owned at one time by the Duke of Hamilton. His 18th century plan of the estate shows a castle at this location.

Location of Trenches

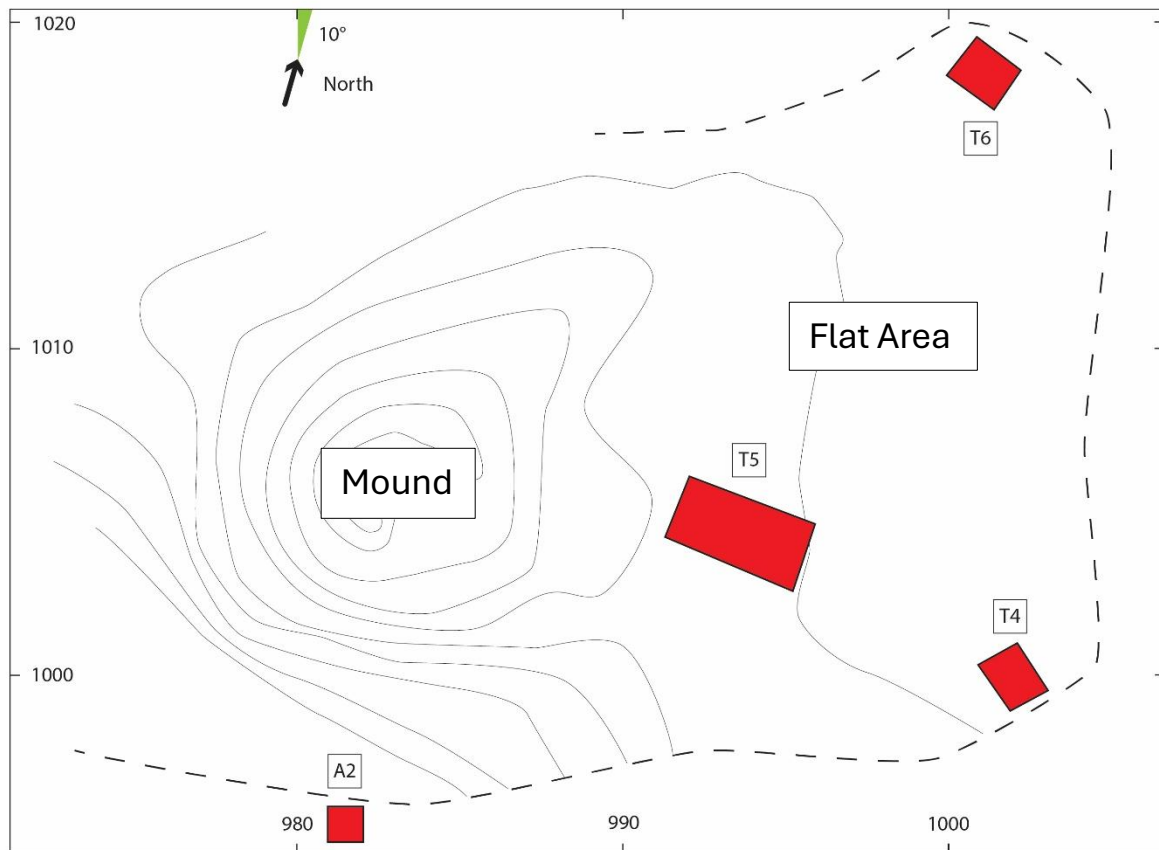


Figure 3. Total Station survey of the site showing the initial location of the three trenches T4, T5 and T6 in the Flat Area beside the Mound. Trench T5 was extended at its SE corner as the excavation proceeded. The edge of the Flat Area is shown by a dashed line. From here there is a steep drop down to the Meikle Burn. A2 shows the location of Small Find 2 on the ground surface at the top of the steep drop. The ground at the edge is very broken, with crumbling bedrock caused by falling trees and because of this, the position of the edge is only approximately located.

The position of the three trenches, which were excavated in this visit, are shown on the plan of the site (Figure 3) in the local coordinate system. The Origin is at (1000, 1000). Trenches T4, T5 and T6 are marked by red rectangles showing their initial location and extent.

This plan has not been mapped accurately onto the British National Grid and the direction North is only approximately correct, as are the National Grid References in this document. 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 in August 2025 was to explore the archaeology of the Flat Area beside the Mound. In particular

- Trench T4 investigated a possible drain uncovered in 2024.
- Trench T5 further explored the area where medieval pottery was uncovered in 2024. It was also used to investigate the idea that there may have been a foot-path round the south side of the Mound.
- Trench T6 explored an area near the edge of the Flat Area to look for an artificial barrier or other structure.

Methodology

The excavation was carried out by Clutha Archaeology Group on the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd August 2025. All work was undertaken by hand and a total of three 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

Karen Clarke, Peter Dunn, Eric Gardner, Gillian Haggerty, Shona MacLean, Chris McGinley, Calum Robertson, Ailsa Smith, Ed Smith, Jean Tumilty, Tom Tumilty, Ross Wood.

Photogrammetry was used to record the trenches from which scaled drawings were produced. There were some problems with photogrammetry because the light was very uneven. Photogrammetry works best when the light is uniform and diffuse. But as can be seen in some of the photographs, there were patches of strong sunlight shining through the gaps between the trees.

The weather conditions were reasonably good for general photography but the area is wooded so the low light-level was challenging.

Results

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

The Appendix shows that most Small Finds were made in trench T5 at a depth of 20cm and below. The main contexts for trench T5 are a mixture of sand and stone which is 10 - 35cms deep. Most of the Small Finds were located in the bottom half of this layer of sand and stone.

Trench T4

This trench was an extension of the one excavated in 2024 which revealed a channel in the bedrock which was thought to have been excavated for drainage. This year, more of the channel was uncovered and it was shown that the channel is a natural feature formed by cracks in the sandstone slab which lies under this area. These cracks were possibly formed by tree roots and weathering.

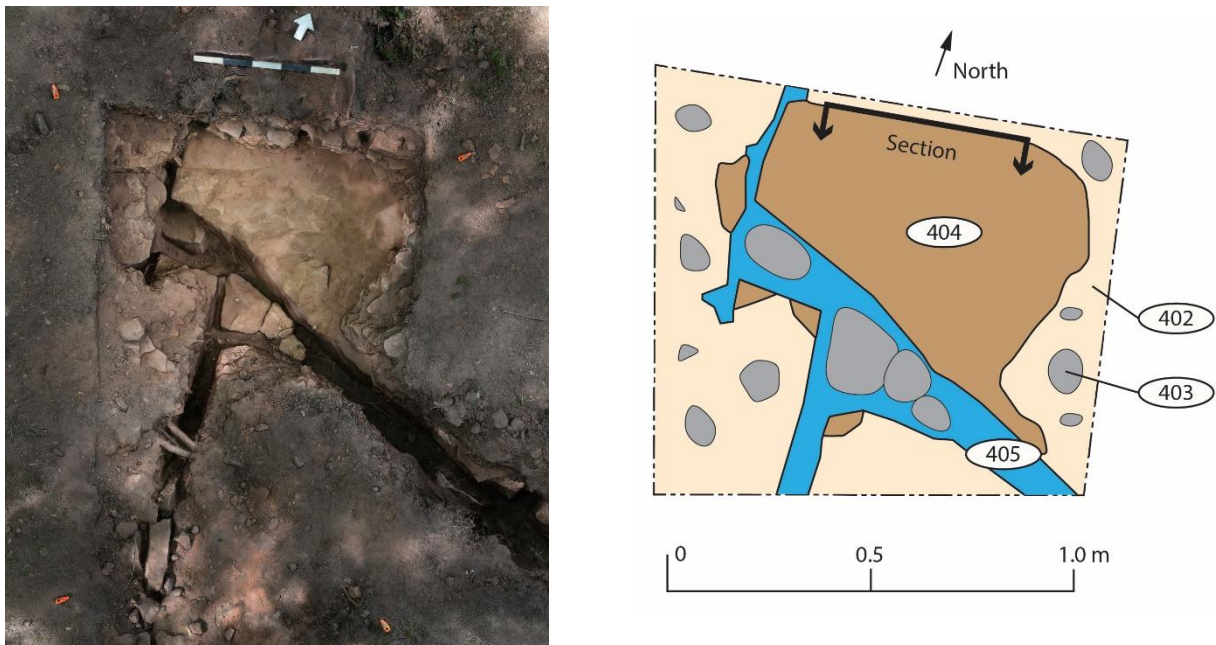


Figure 4. The photograph and corresponding plan drawing of Trench 4. The photograph shows the large cracks in the sandstone block which underlies the Flat Area. The plan drawing shows the position of the Section drawing below, in Figure 5. The vertical section was viewed in a Northerly direction.

Vertical Section

The location of the section is at the northern end of the trench and is shown in the plan view above.

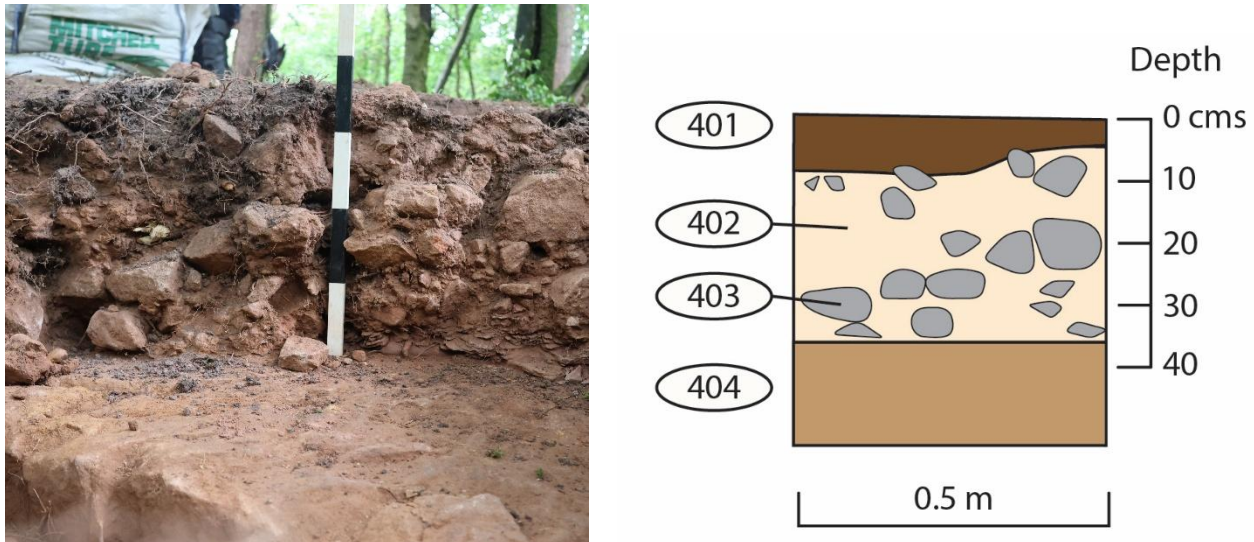


Figure 5. This a photograph and drawing of the vertical elevation looking north at the top end of Trench 4. At the bottom of the image is the slab of sandstone which possibly lies under the Flat Area. The photograph gives a clear picture of the mixture of sand and stone which form Contexts 402 and 403. If the Contexts are the same as those in trench T5 then they are unlikely to be natural.

Contexts

401	Dark brown silt, loose, fine root disturbance, 10% small and medium sized sub-angular stones throughout.
402	Orange brown silt matrix, loose. There are some fine roots mixed with this context.
403	Small-medium sub-angular grey stones which are spread across the whole trench. Some of these stones sit within context 402 and others have fallen into the fracture which forms context 405.
404	Solid block of sandstone
405	Fractures in the block of sandstone.

Interpretation

401	Organic woodland topsoil
402 and 403	These contexts looks like Contexts 502 and 503 in Trench T5. If they are the same, somebody may have brought them here.
404	Natural. Possibly underlying the whole of the Flat Area, although it was not found in Trench T5.
405	Natural. Possibly caused by tree roots and weathering.

Small Find

In the Appendix, the Register of Small Finds shows that Small Find 21 was found near Trench T4 but otherwise, there were no finds in this trench.

General View of Trench T4



Figure 6. A view of Trench T4 showing the vertical section at the northern end of the trench. This photograph shows the patches of strong sunlight which give uneven, photogrammetric images.

Trench T5

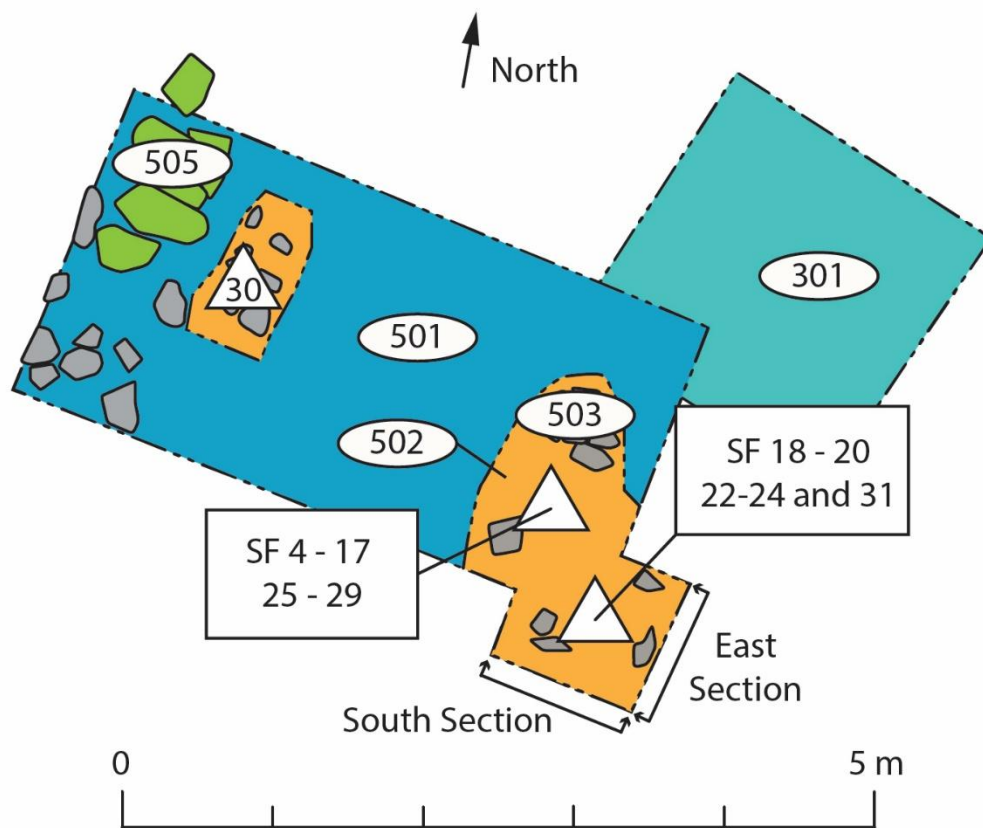


Figure 7. Plan of Trench T5 as excavated this year (2025) showing Contexts 501- 503 and 505. Context 504 is not visible in the plan view. Last year's (2024) trench shows context (301).

Most of the Small Finds for this year's excavation were found in the SE extension of Trench T5 and their location is shown above in Figure 7.

The drawings of the vertical elevations at the East Section and South Section are shown below in Figure 8. The depth of the trench here is 35cms. Most of the Small Finds were located at depths of 20cms or deeper.

Contexts

501	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. This context covers the entire trench down to approximately 10cms.
502	Light brown sand, firm compaction, thin roots, a few small stones and approximately 70% medium-large sub-rounded stones spread generally across trench. This context covers the entire trench to a depth of 35cms.
503	Large number of medium – large grey stones in context (502), some loose others resting, extending across the trench. This context covers the entire trench to a depth of 35cms.
504	Thin layer of compacted sand and stone lying below the top soil and above Contexts 502 and 503. It is visible in the south elevation of the extension (Figure 8).
505	Large stones lying on the surface.

Interpretation

501	Organic woodland topsoil.
502 and 503	Probable sign of human activity. The mixture of sand and stone in these Contexts has medieval pottery in the lower half of the trench. (Most of the Small Finds were located at depths of 20 – 35cms). These contexts are similar to Contexts 402 and 403 in Trench 4 which also go down to a depth of approximately 35cms.
504	This area of compacted soil is consistent with the idea that there may have been a footpath round the south edge of the Mound leading into the Flat Area.
505	These stones probably rolled down from the structure on top of the Mound.

Vertical Elevations of Trench T5

Drawings

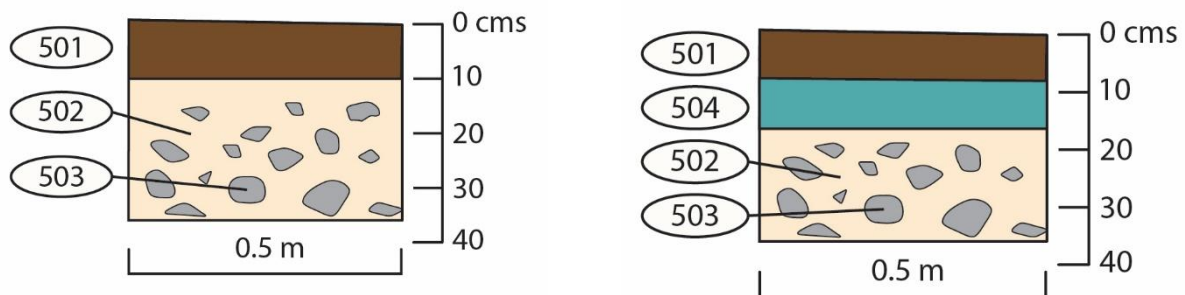


Figure 8. The drawings of the vertical elevations of the East Section (Left) and the South Section (Right). The only difference is that the South Section has a layer of compact soil which may have been caused by a footpath. Most Small Finds were discovered in the lower part of this trench (depths of 20 - 35cms).

Photogrammetry Image facing East Section



Figure 9. Image facing the East Section showing Contexts 501, 502 and 503. The ridge on the right is the layer of compact soil forming Context 504.

General View of Trench 5



Figure 10. Trench 5, showing that the SE corner has been excavated to a deeper level but has not yet been extended. At the back of the picture is the edge of the Flat Area where Trench T4 has been excavated. Beyond that, there is a steep drop down to the Meikle Burn.

Trench 6

Plan View of Trench 6

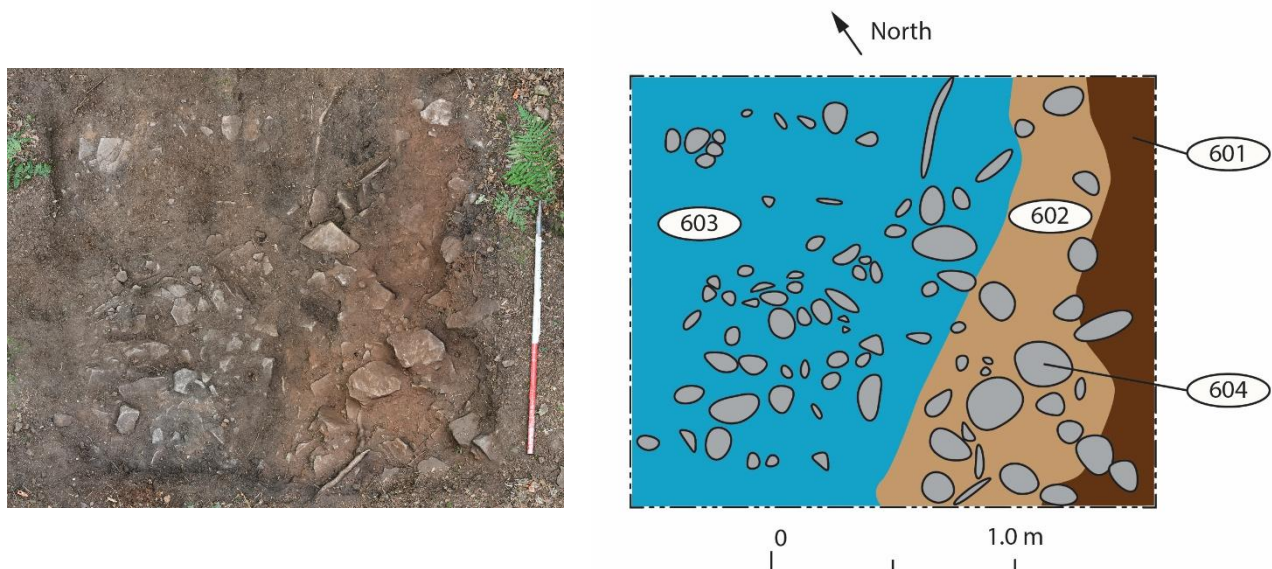


Figure 11. A photograph and drawing of Trench T6. The topsoil Context 601 is shown on the right. The rest of the trench is divided into two Contexts (602 and 603) with different soil colours. Stones of medium to small sizes, are distributed over the whole area.

Small Find 1 was discovered in the topsoil (Context 601) of this area.

It is not clear why the soils have different colours.

This trench was dug to see if there were any structures marking the edge of the Flat Area. There were none. In general, there was no sign of human activity in this trench.

Contexts

601	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.
602	Light brown sand.
603	Dark brown sand with patches of black.
604	Medium to small size stones.

Interpretation

601	Organic woodland topsoil.
602	Natural.
603	Natural.
604	Natural.

General View of Trench 6



Figure 12. View north, towards the location of Trench T6 at the edge of the Flat Area.

Appendix

Small Finds Register

SF No.	Context	Description	Material	Photo	Date / Initials
1	601	Pottery sherd, white patches on both sides, possible rim	ceramic	2377	20/8/25 PD/AR
2	A2 See Figure 3	Femoral head, found on surface	bone	2409, 2410	20/8/25 ES
3	501	Metal nail	metal	2411	20/8/25 RW
4	502	Possible pottery sherd, S/E corner, 13cm below surface	ceramic or stone	2635- 2637	21/8/25 SM
5	502	Possible pottery sherd, S/E corner, 20cm below surface	ceramic or stone	2631- 2633	21/8/25 SM
6	502	Pottery sherd, with glaze, 30cm below surface	ceramic	2638, 2639	21/8/25 EG
7	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, 30cm below surface	ceramic	2640	21/8/25 KC
8	502	Pottery sherd, 29cm below surface	ceramic	2691	22/8/25
9	502	2 small pottery sherds with glaze, 29cm below surface	ceramic	2692	22/8/25
10	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, 29cm below surface	ceramic	2693	22/8/25
11	502	Pottery sherd, ridged, rims on two sides, possible handle, 29cm below surface	ceramic	2694	22/8/25
12	502	Small piece of coal, 29cm below surface	coal	2695	22/8/25
13	502	Oyster shell, 29cm below surface	shell	2696	22/8/25
14	502	Rough pottery sherd with glaze, 20cm below surface	ceramic	2697	21/8/25*
15	502	Pieces of charcoal, 29cm below surface	charcoal	2698	22/8/25
16	502	Small piece of quartz, 29cm below surface	stone	2699	22/8/25
17	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, 20cm below surface	ceramic	2765- 2767	22/8/25
18	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, in trench 5 extension, 20cm below surface	ceramic	2821	22/8/26
19	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, in trench 5 extension, 20cm below surface	ceramic	2822	22/8/25
20	502	Pottery sherd in trench 5 extension, 21cm below surface	ceramic	2820	22/8/25
21	Beside trench 4	Pottery sherd, ?20cm below surface	ceramic	2823	22/8/25 TT
22	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, split, in trench 5 extension, 20cm below surface	ceramic	2833	22/8/25 KC

SF No.	Context	Description	Material	Photo	Date / Initials
23	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, in trench 5 extension, 35cm below surface	ceramic	2834	23/8/25 EG
24	502	2 pieces of charcoal, 20cm below surface	charcoal	2837	22/8/25 EG
25	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, 25cm below surface	ceramic	2838	23/8/25 EG
26	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, 25cm below surface	ceramic	2839	23/8/25 EG
27	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, 25cm below surface	ceramic	2840	23/8/25 EG
28	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, 25cm below surface	ceramic	2841	23/8/25 EG
29	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, 25cm below surface	ceramic	2842	23/8/25 EG
30	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, in 2 nd sondage, 35cm below surface	ceramic	2875	23/8/25 RW
31	502	Pottery sherd with glaze, in trench 5 extension, 42cm below surface	ceramic	2876	23/8/25 EG
32	502	Pieces oyster shell	shell	-	23/8/25 EG
33	502	Pottery sherd with glaze	ceramic	-	23/8/25 EG
34	502	Possible pieces bone	bone	-	23/8/25 EG
35	502	Rusty nail	metal	-	23/8/25 EG

General Photos Register

Photo No.	Description	Direction Facing	Date Day 1 = 20/8/25
2298	General view flat area at start	NE	20/8/25
2299	General view flat area at start	NE	20/8/25
2300	General view flat area at start	NE	20/8/25
2301	Trench 6 at start – Peter + students	N	20/8/25
2302	Trench 6 at start – Peter + students	N	20/8/25
2303	Mound	SW	20/8/25
2304	Trench 4, reopening trench 1	S	20/8/25
2305	Possible entrance A2	NE	20/8/25
2306	Video	NE	20/8/25
2307	Video	NE	20/8/25
2308	Video	NE	20/8/25
2377	Find 1 pottery sherd trench 6	N	20/8/25
2409	Find 2 bone in situ, A2, vertical	-	20/8/25
2410	Find 2 bone with mound wall in background	N	20/8/25
2411	Find 3 nail in situ	W	20/8/25
2444	Cut trench 1 and 4		21/8/25
2445	Cut trench 1 and 4		21/8/25
2446	Cut trench 1 and 4		21/8/25
2447	Hand		21/8/25
2448	Trench 5 general view	NW	21/8/25
2548	Video mound		21/8/25
2549	Video causeway		21/8/25
2550	Caledonian brick and mortar, vertical		21/8/25
2631	Find 5, vertical with scale		21/8/25
2632	Find 5, vertical with scale		21/8/25
2633	Find 5, vertical with scale		21/8/25
2634	Hand		21/8/25
2635	Find 4, vertical with scale		21/8/25
2636	Find 4, side on with scale		21/8/25
2637	Find 4, side on with scale		21/8/25
2638	Find 6, vertical with scale		21/8/25
2639	Find 6, edge on with scale		21/8/25
2640	Find 7, vertical with scale		21/8/25
2642	Find 11, possible handle		22/8/25
2643	Find 11		22/8/25
2644	Find 11		22/8/25
2645	Find 12 + find ? with scale		22/8/25
2646-2656	General photos		22/8/25
2691	Find 8 pottery sherd with scale		22/8/25
2692	Find 9 pottery sherd with scale		22/8/25
2693	Find 10 pottery sherd with scale		22/8/25
2694	Find 11 pottery sherd with scale		22/8/25
2695	Find 12 coal with scale		22/8/25
2696	Find 13 oyster shell with scale		22/8/25
2697	Find 14 pottery sherd with scale		22/8/25

Photo No.	Description	Direction Facing	Date Day 1 = 20/8/25
2698	Find 15 charcoal with scale		22/8/25
2699	Find 16 quartz with scale		22/8/25
2765	Find 17 pottery sherd in situ		22/8/25
2766	Find 17 side 1 with scale		22/8/25
2767	Find 17 side 2 with scale		22/8/25
2820	Find 20 pottery sherd with scale		22/8/25
2821	Find 18 pottery sherd with scale		22/8/25
2822	Find 19 pottery sherd with scale		22/8/25
2823	Find 21 pottery sherd with scale		22/8/25
2833	Find 22 pottery sherd with scale		23/8/25
2834	Find 23 pottery sherd with scale		23/8/25
2835	Location of finds 25-29		23/8/25
2836	Location of finds 25-29		23/8/25
2837	Find 24 charcoal with scale		23/8/25
2838	Find 25 pottery sherd with scale		23/8/25
2839	Find 26 pottery sherd with scale		23/8/25
2840	Find 27 pottery sherd with scale		23/8/25
2841	Find 28 pottery sherd with scale		23/8/25
2842	Find 29 pottery sherd with scale		23/8/25
2866	Find 30 pottery sherd in situ		23/8/25
2867	Find 30 pottery sherd in situ		23/8/25
2868	Find 31 pottery sherd in situ		23/8/25
2869	Find 31 pottery sherd in situ		23/8/25
2870	General		23/8/25
2871	General		23/8/25
2872	Video		23/8/25
2873	Video		23/8/25
2874	Video		23/8/25
2875	Find 30 pottery sherd with scale		23/8/25
2876	Find 31 pottery sherd with scale		23/8/25

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

SF1 and SF2



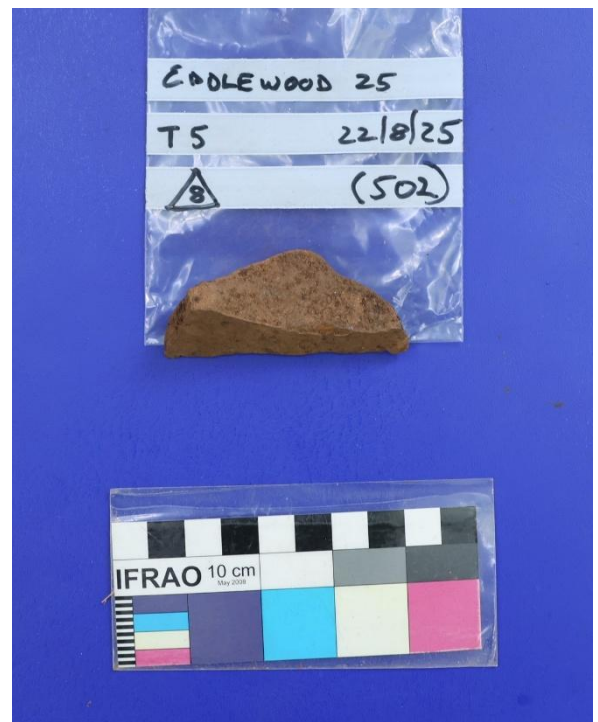
SF3 and SF4



SF5 and SF6



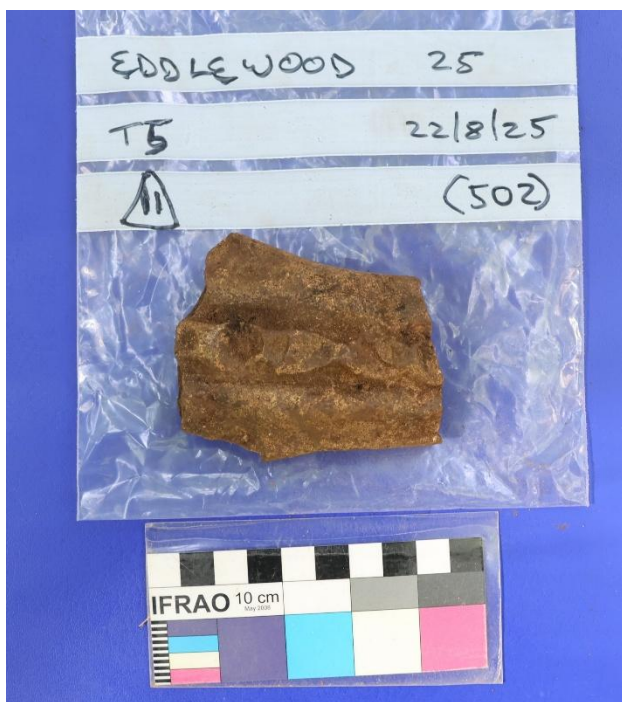
SF7 and SF8



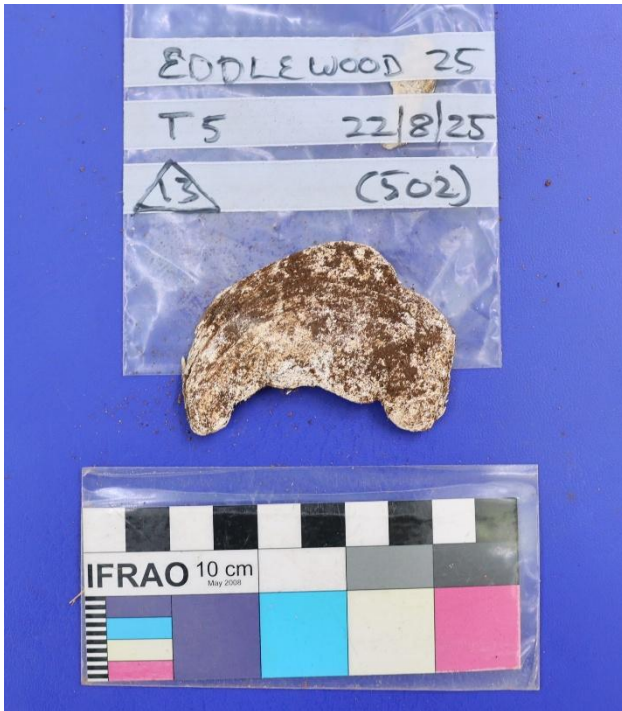
SF9 and SF10



SF11 and SF12



SF13 and SF14



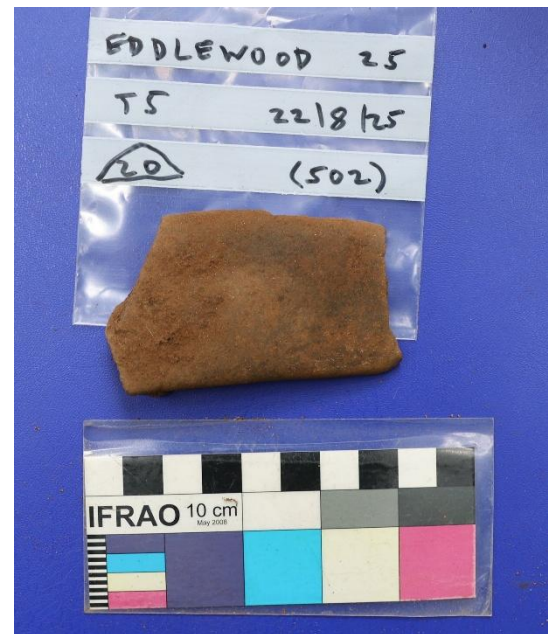
SF15 and SF16



SF17 and SF18



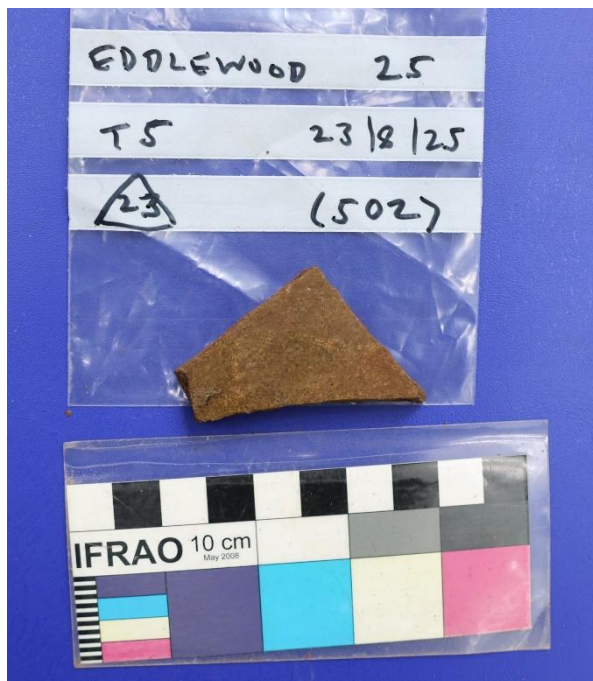
SF19 and SF20



SF21 and SF22



SF23 and SF24



SF25 and SF26



SF27 and SF28



SF29 and SF30



SF31

