

Section 7 – HS SMC Form - Description of Proposed Works

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This document outlines the proposed archaeological investigations for **Rhynie, Barflat, enclosures and fort**, (NJ42NE 217 – NJ 4974 2634).

INTRODUCTION

Northern Picts

The Picts are a ‘lost people of Europe’ and a past society of enduring public fascination. First mentioned in late Roman writings as a collection of troublesome social groupings north of the Roman frontier, the Picts went on to dominate northern and eastern Scotland until late first millennium AD. The emergence of the Pictish kingdoms was part of broader change in northern Europe that laid the foundations for the modern nation states of Europe. The major legacies of the Picts include some of the most spectacular archaeological sites and artistic achievements of Early Medieval European society. However, all trace of the Picts disappeared from the written records in the 9th century AD, and only limited and contentious documentary sources survive. Uncovering more about this period is essential for understanding how Scotland became a nation state through the emergence and coalescence of early kingdoms such as the Picts.

The Northern Picts project involves reconnaissance survey and fieldwork at a number of sites across Northern Scotland from Aberdeenshire to Easter Ross and has led to new key evidence for the nature, chronology and importance of Northern Pictland in the emergence of the early kingdoms of Scotland. The successes of the project include identifying an early royal centre of the Picts at Rhynie, (re)discovering the Gaulcross Pictish silver hoard and identifying the earliest Pictish fortified centre at Dunnicaer (Noble et al 2013; Noble et al 2016). The project also has a very wide popular appeal with a high social media presence (over 2000 facebook followers), extensive media coverage and a growing publication record. The work conducted as part of Northern Picts is supported by an active community initiative, Rhynie Woman, who have a very successful dissemination strategy of their own involving pop-up café’s, exhibitions and education strands.

Northern Picts (which involves researchers from University of Aberdeen, Chester and Glasgow) has been supported from 2015 by Historic Environment Scotland for work at one key site and landscape that has been investigated since 2011 - the royal landscape and environs at Rhynie, Aberdeenshire (conducted under the auspices of the Rhynie Environs Archaeological Project (REAP)). A 2016-17 HES grant and research design set out a four year programme of continued research at Rhynie and environs. The project will involve one final year of strip and map at the Craw Stane following the methodologies established since 2011, extensive geophysical survey and reconnaissance in the wider landscape (supported by existing Lidar data) and evaluative excavation at two key hillforts in the area: Tap O’Noth and Wheedlemont. Alongside the excavation and survey programme, extensive environmental sampling and pollen work will provide a detailed picture of the long-term evolution of the Rhynie landscape focusing on the Iron Age to early medieval periods.

The 2016-17 grant also provided seed money for continued Rhynie Woman events that will run alongside the excavation programme. The project also provides important training needs. Currently the work conducted as part of Northern Picts provides one of the few field training opportunities for University of Aberdeen students. Dozens of community volunteers are also trained as part of the Rhynie project each year. The project also provides a very rich source for post-excavation training for students and volunteers alike. The Rhynie 2016 field season will allow key skills enhancement in Northeast Scotland to continue during a three week field season from 15th August till 2nd September 2016.

Project Background

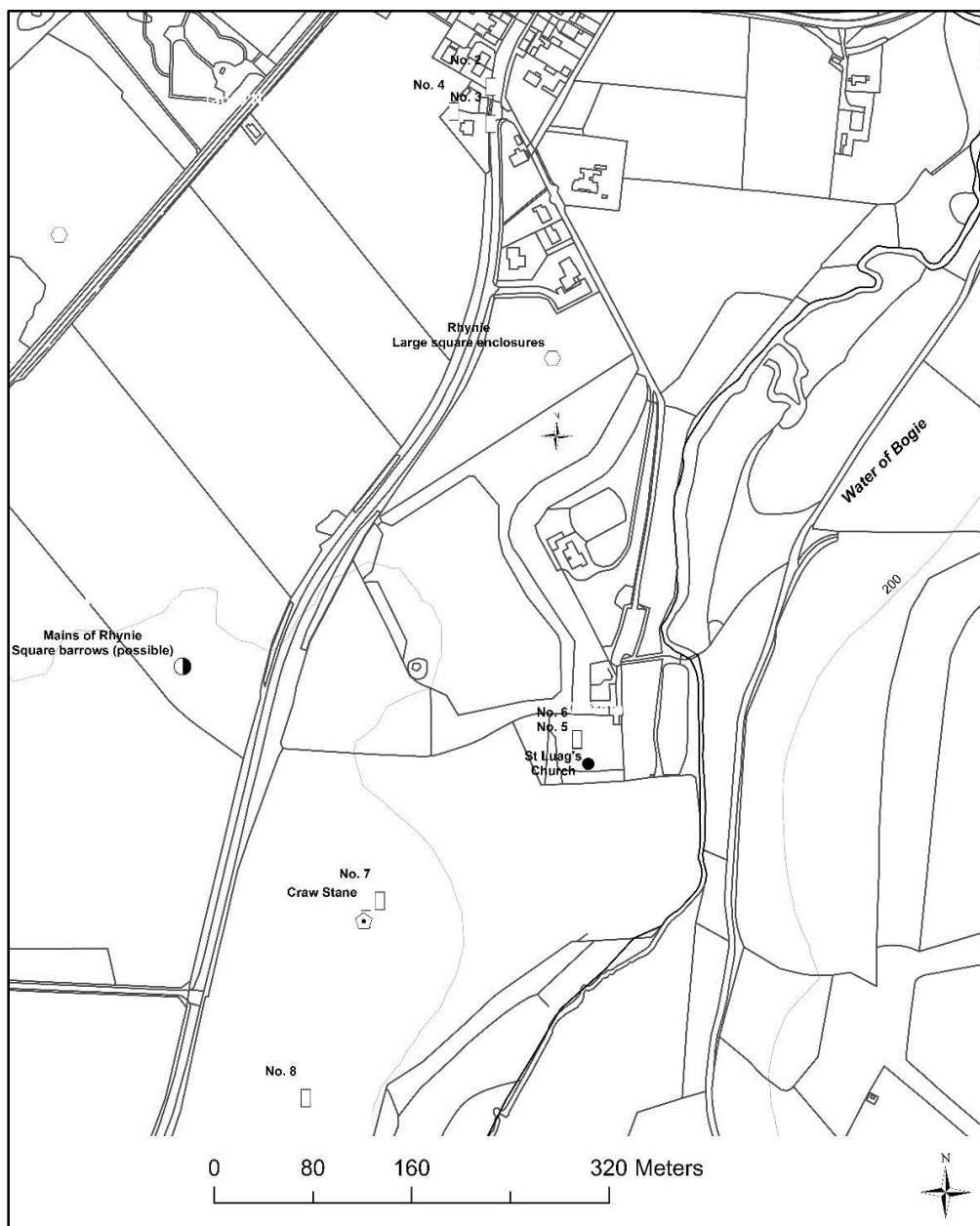


Fig. 1 Location map showing findspots of Class I symbol stones and archaeology south of Rhynie. (Basemap EDINA).

The Rhynie Environs Archaeology Project (REAP) aims to investigate the area surrounding a unique collection of Class I Pictish symbol stones found around and within the village of Rhynie, Aberdeenshire (Fig. 1). Previous investigations have focused on the area immediately around the Craw Stane, which still stands in or near its original location. Around the Craw Stane a series of concentric enclosures were identified by aerial photography and are key to understanding the context of the symbol stones found at this location (Aberdeen Archaeological Surveys 1979). The project, directed by Gordon Noble, University of Aberdeen and Meggen Gondek, University of Chester began with Phase 1 in 2005 and 2006. Phase 1 involved geophysical surveys of the field in which the Craw Stane stands and confirmed the presence of the enclosure features visible on APs, revealed several new features and also revealed part of a burnt timber structure, probably a ring ditch, of mid Bronze Age date (Gondek and Noble 2010 and forthcoming 2017). In 2011 an evaluative trench by the REAP project established the nature of the boundaries at the Craw Stane enclosures and showed the high potential of understanding the symbol stones in relation to a high status 5th-6th century enclosed settlement (Noble and Gondek 2011). The 2012 excavations encompassed an area of the interior of the enclosures that surround the Craw Stane (NJ 49749 26345). A series of timber structures of both post and plank-built construction were identified here in 2012 and details of construction and dating of the enclosure system was further clarified. Artefacts recovered in 2011-2012 included sherds from imported Late Roman Amphorae of 6th Century date, bronze and iron pins, metalworking moulds for pins and a brooch, metalworking tongs, and sherds of 6th century Continental glass (Noble et al. 2013). The finds are to date are very unusual in northern Britain and suggest Rhynie was an important early royal site of the Picts of a type rarely identified.

In 2013 a strip and map evaluative excavation was carried out at in a field just to the south of the Medical Centre at Rhynie, targeting two square enclosures identified by aerial photography NJ42 NE 64 (Greig 1994). These excavations revealed two square barrows including one with a partially preserved skeleton of a female dating to 450-550 AD, the same period as the enclosures at the Craw Stane.



Fig.2 The 2014 excavations at Ashvale Cottage on the outskirts of the village

Community-led excavations in 2014 continued the work near the village and revealed a further ring ditch – a probable Bronze Age barrow, and a large, demolished cairn with radiocarbon dates from the last centuries cal BC from a ground surface under the cairn (Fig. 2). A small turf and stone structure was also uncovered. The latter two features were identified in the garden of Ashvale Cottage, the reported findspot of Rhynie No. 4, a lost symbol stone that once bore the figures of a Pictish beast, crescent and V-rod and mirror.

The 2015 season focused on the entranceway of the enclosure complex at Rhynie. This revealed an elaborate entranceway through the palisaded enclosure on the east, further detail on the architecture of the timber enclosure and revealed a stone socket next to the Craw Stane that may relate to the position of the Rhynie Man or one other Pictish carved stone monuments.

Overall the evaluative work at Rhynie to date has indicated that the Craw Stane and two other symbol stones (the Rhynie Man (no.7) and a smaller slab (no. 8) found downslope from the Craw Stane were associated with a high status, probably royal, site encompassing settlement and ritual dimensions, dating to the 5-6th Century AD (Noble et al. 2013). The 2013-14 excavations have in turn revealed elements of what may have been the cemetery associated with the high status settlement.

This document sets out proposals to continue the evaluation of the enclosures and fort at the Craw Stane in the final season of investigation at the Craw Stane complex. Throughout the project the same methodologies have been adopted that involves large-scale stripping of topsoil with minimal sampling of the archaeology preserved in the subsoil. The large trenches have provided the most complete groundplan of the layout of a Pictish high status settlement to be achieved while the minimal sampling allows for a detailed chronology and basic characterisation of the features to be achieved. In all field seasons a maximum limit of 15% of deposits has been set, but this has rarely been needed and less than 5-10% of archaeology within the trenches each year has been excavated ensuring that the site remains largely intact for future investigation. The proposals for 2016 are designed to follow the very successful methodology of previous seasons with minimal intervention with maximum information gain. Alongside the excavations a programme of community co-production and engagement are proposed along with objectives to promote the heritage of Rhynie to local and international audiences.

RHYNIE ENCLOSURE(S) AND FORT

The 2012-13 and 2015 evaluations (Fig.3) established the main elements of the scheduled site. However, major outstanding questions remain about the site's character and components, its extent, exterior features and possible interpretation that require one further season of investigation. The excavations to date have confirmed inner and outer ditches, an outer palisaded enclosure and internal buildings (Figs. 4 and 5). However, the 2016 season aims to clarify one feature found in previous years but never fully resolved – some form of structure or building next to the Craw Stane, whose groundplan and purpose remain opaque. In addition, for the first time, the 2016 season will establish the immediate setting of the Craw Stane complex, testing to see whether the complex stood in isolation in the landscape or was part of a larger settlement/complex. Despite extensive geophysical survey (Fig.6) and aerial photography coverage – these details have never been established and can only be established

through evaluative excavation, thus completing the five year programme of evaluative excavation planned at the Craw Stane complex.



Fig.3 The location of the 2011, 2012 and 2015 trenches in relation to the village of Rhynie



Fig.4 The 2011-12 evaluation trenches at the Craw Stane

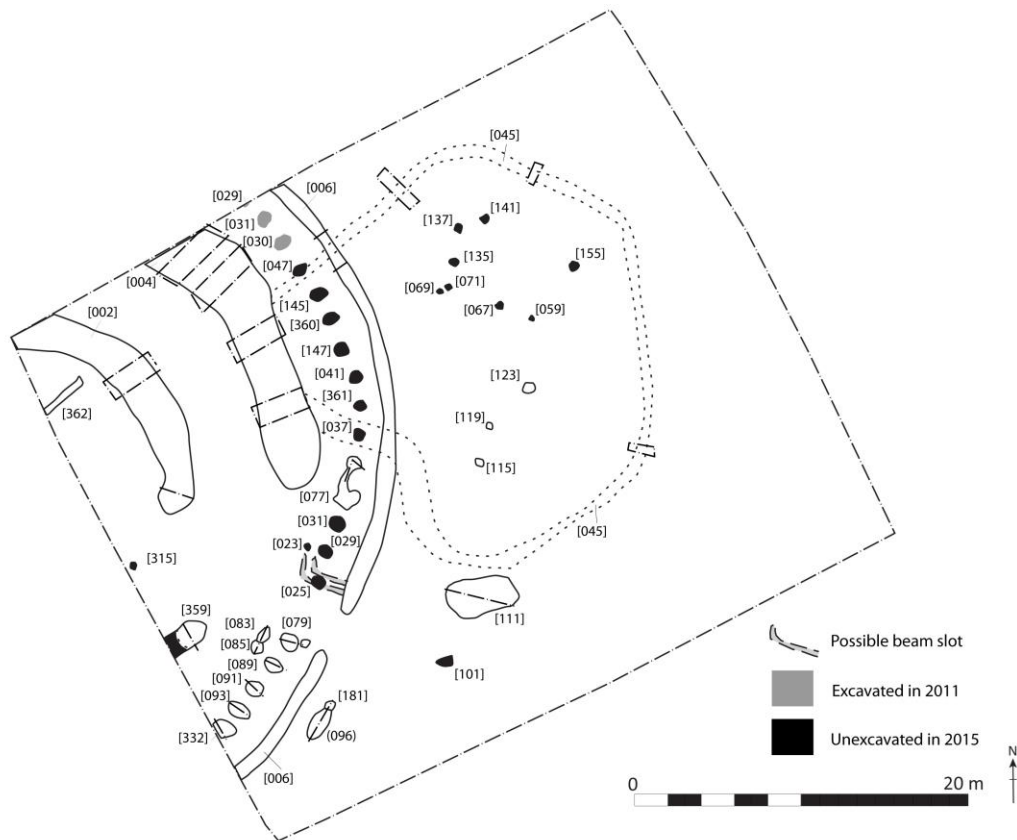


Fig.5 Draft plan of the Rhyrie 2015 excavation results showing the entrance into the Craw Stane complex as revealed through strip and map and very limited excavation.

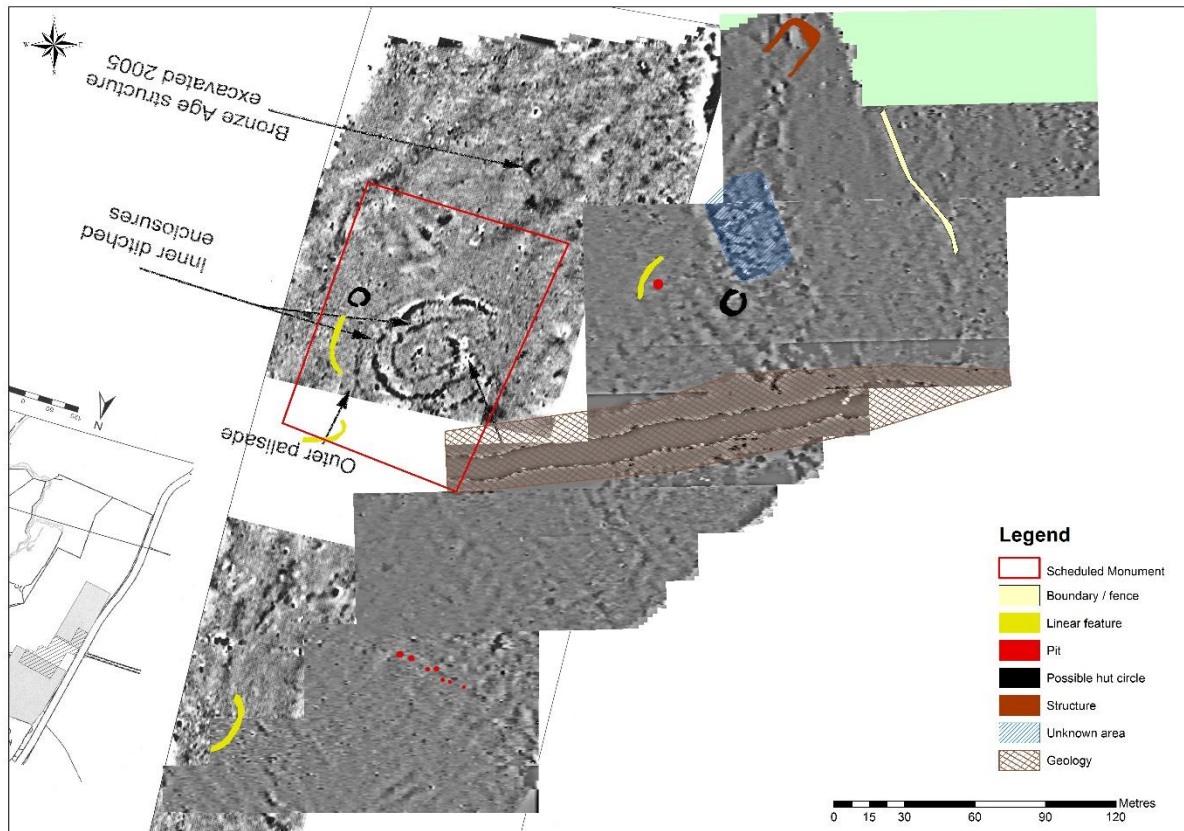


Fig. 6 Geophysical survey areas at the Craw Stane

NATURE OF THE PROPOSED WORK

The proposed archaeological works outlined below, encompasses the final season of evaluative excavation at Rhynie which over the five year programme will characterize the monument(s) protected by the scheduled area for the first time. The 2016 season will include testing for exterior features and revisiting one area targeted in 2011-12 to provide clarification of a structure revealed in previous work but never fully understood. An evaluative strip-and-map approach with minimal sampling of the archaeology will once again be adopted. The work aims to address a number of key outstanding research questions:

- Was the enclosure complex at Rhynie part of a larger settlement that extended outwith the ditched and palisaded enclosures? This has never been tested to date and establishing the setting of the complex is imperative for understanding the role of the complex within the wider landscape and settlement patterns of the Rhynie landscape. This question is also key for future conservation of the site – does the ‘site’ extend outwith the areas of obvious cropmarking?
- Are the enclosure boundaries (both ditches and the outermost timber enclosure) of similar construction throughout their circuits? This has been suggested by the results

of previous seasons, but there has been only very limited testing of the enclosure boundaries on the north and west of the complex.

- Were there additional entrances into the enclosure in addition to that identified in 2015? If so what might these indicate regarding the function of the complex? Trenches to date have only covered one possible entrance, however there are hints of at least one other on the aerial photographs, but this remains untested. There has been debate surrounding the role of the Craw Stane complex – was this a ceremonial site or a stronghold? The nature of the boundaries of the monument will help establish the nature of the site.
- Can any middens or features/deposits outside the enclosures be identified; what may these reveal about the economy and environs of the complex? To date we have only very limited ecofacts and botanical information to elucidate the economy that supported the high status complex at Rhynie – are there areas where middens or other ‘ecofact traps’ survive which can help provide the first detailed analysis of the economy of a major Pictish site in eastern Scotland?
- What came before the major 5th-6th century enclosure complex? The only features that are present on the geophysics and aerial photography outside of the complex are features that could represent ring ditches (a form of Bronze-Iron Age domestic architecture). Did the Rhynie complex grow out of an earlier unenclosed settlement?
- What was the nature of the structure/building that stood beside the Class I symbol stone, the Craw Stane? The trenches at Rhynie to date have established the groundplan of the enclosing ditches and the architecture of the outer palisade/box rampart and revealed a number of internal buildings. However, one structure has yet to be fully mapped or understood, yet might be key to understanding the overall site. In 2011-12 traces of a possible building were found next to the Craw Stane, but to date we do not understand what this structure was and it remains unexcavated. Limited sampling of this structure including geo-archaeological approaches will provide the first clarification of the nature of this building located directly next to the Class I stones.
- What are the limits of the early medieval site? Is the scheduling larger than necessary or does it protect important features not visible on the aerial photographs and geophysical surveys. What can wider evaluative excavation and metal-detecting reveal about the environs of the site? Aerial photography and geophysics to date has been successful in identifying the larger features such as ditches and the outer palisade/box rampart, but not more ephemeral features. Evaluative excavation will allow testing of areas that lie outside the main complex.

Environs / the bigger picture

- How did the Craw Stane complex relate chronologically and functionally to sites such as Tap O’Noth, Wheedlemont and Cainrmore forts? (this will be part of a future

programme of proposed work that will aim to gain an outline chronology for the three major fortified enclosures within view of the Craw Stane. Evaluation by Murray Cook at Cairnmore has already produced 5th-6th century cal AD dates for Cairnmore). Did focus at the cropmark complex shift focus to Tap O'Noth? Or did the elite focus on this wider landscape end in the 6th century AD?

Management / cropmark issues

- Why do the cropmarks and geophysical surveys show up so variably? Have we recorded all available archaeology or are there more sites in the dark 'void' areas and areas that show up little in the way of features? How many archaeological features do not show as cropmarks? To date our trenches have solely focused on the archaeology visible in aerial photographs and on geophysical survey – what do 'less productive' areas contain?
- Has ploughing and animal damage affected all areas of the field equally? What is the likely impact of future agricultural activities on the complex? Has ploughing impacted on features outside of the main complex?
- How does the distribution of archaeological remains and agricultural damage relate to the micro-topography of the landscape? Has damage been more extensive in areas on top of the N-S ridge on which the complex is situated and where the 2016 trenches will target?

METHODOLOGIES

Each trench will be machine stripped under careful supervision as has occurred each year since 2011. The stripping will remove only the topsoil, revealing the subsoil below into which the features have been dug. All excavation once trenches are opened will be done by hand.

Previous work at Rhynie has suggested the topsoil produces little information and is largely archaeologically sterile. Metal detecting and fieldwalking were conducted prior to excavation in 2013 and 2015 with only modern finds reported and limited sampling of topsoil in 2011-12 produced similar results. Permission is sought here for metal detecting of each excavation trench prior to topsoil stripping to recover any metal artefacts that may survive in the topsoil. The directors of the excavations have over 10 years experience of topsoil stripping and have access to experienced machine drivers for this purpose. In addition:

- During the excavations a soil specialist (Dr Karen Milek) will advise on geoarchaeological approaches and ways to maximize information retrieval from the excavated deposits and soils
- We will sample the exposed topsoil profiles exposed in the section edges and process samples for comparison with excavated material and will submit for botanical and geo-archaeological analysis

- Specialist advice on any artefacts retrieved will be available from Dr Ewan Campbell, the leading early medieval artefact specialist in Scotland
- Specialist advice on botanics and charcoals will be sought from Dr Susan Ramsay who has analysed the botanics from Rhynie from 2011 onwards
- Specialist advice on animal and human bones recovered will be available from the human palaeologists Professor Keith Dobney and Dr Kate Britton, University of Aberdeen
- Any complex archaeological deposits where post-excavation budgets are not sufficient to deal with, will be left in situ and not excavated
- During the excavations all archaeological features will be carefully cleaned and recorded (hand and digitally planned at 1:20 and photographed).
- A maximum of 15% of archaeological deposits will be excavated in each trench.
- All excavated contexts will be dry sieved (weather permitting) and environmental samples (for soil flotation and micromorphology) taken. Environmental sampling will follow English Heritage guidance (Campbell, G, Moffett, L and Straker, V 2011). All samples will be processed and reported on by environmental specialists from the University of Aberdeen and commissioned as needed.

Reinstatement plans and post-excavation site management strategy

All excavated material will be reinstated by machine following procedures followed in 2011-15. Any excavated features will be filled in by hand. The trench will be reseeded with grass and monitored until fully re-established.

Team and implementation of research design

The project team involves two site directors Gordon Noble and Meggen Gondek who have both over ten years of experience of running large-scale field projects. Experienced site directors and supervisors will be on site at all times to monitor the progress of the excavations. We will maintain a ratio of 1:3 experienced to non-experienced diggers and will employ additional site assistants from a leading professional archaeology company, AOC archaeology. Volunteers and archaeology students from the University of Aberdeen will work on site under close supervision. The site directors will supervise all excavation work and will be assisted by the research assistant for the Northern Picts project Oskar Sveinbjarnarson in addition to the specialists from AOC Archaeology. Post-excavation analysis will benefit from the facilities and expertise available in-house at the University of Aberdeen. The research design has been formulated with over five years of experience of working at Rhynie and will be achievable in the time-scale set.

Resources to carry out works

The project is funded through a Historic Environment Scotland Archaeology grant for 2016-17 and through University of Aberdeen funding streams organized through the Northern

Picts project. A full budget was set out in the research design submitted to HES during the 2016-17 grants programme bidding cycle.

Post-excavation and publication strategy

The post-excavation programme for Rhynie is up-to-date, with over 40 radiocarbon dates already obtained for the project, all finds conserved and analysed by Dr Ewan Campbell and select objects drawn for publication. The 2016-17 budget includes funds for the final season of object analysis, botanics and conservation. To date there has been three major journal articles on the project and three book chapters and each year detailed Data Structure Reports are produced on the fieldwork. The final outcome will be a project monograph.

PROPOSED WORK AND RATIONALE

A programme of investigation is proposed at Barflat, Rhynie, that will target key elements of the cropmark enclosures at Barflat, Rhynie, found in association with the Craw Stane Class I Pictish stone and the findspot of two other symbol stones, including the Rhynie Man. This application relates to the 2016 season. This year the trenching will include one area re-opened from 2012 to investigate a possible structure next to the Craw Stane which has never been fully resolved and three trenches designed to test exterior areas to the west and south of the enclosure complex. Rather than a single trench as in previous years this year the project proposes opening four trenches to provide a more holistic sampling of areas outwith the enclosure complex (Fig. 7). These areas may prove to be archaeologically sterile, but this work forms an important part of establishing the nature and setting of the Craw Stane complex. The overall area will be equivalent to that opened in 2015 and 2012. The 2016 trenches will largely extend outwards from areas tested previously to characterize the nature of the archaeology (or lack of) outside of the main enclosure complex.

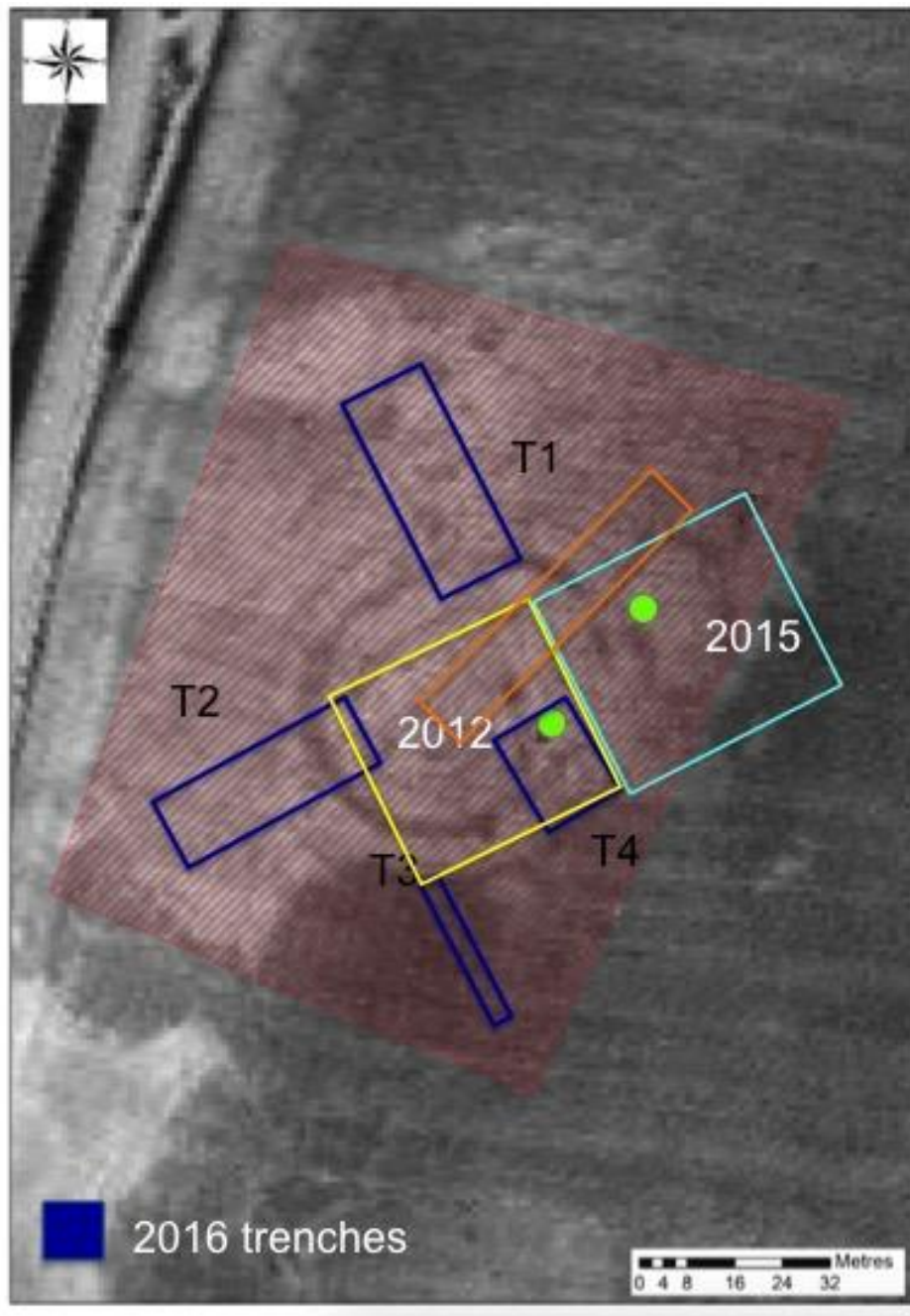


Fig. 7 Proposed trench locations in relation to the scheduled area and previous areas stripped and mapped at Rhynie

Trench 1 15 x 35 m.

This trench is designed to assess a possible additional entranceway visible in the cropmarks in the northwest area of the cropmark complex and an area outwith the enclosure complex. The possible additional entranceway comprises a possible break in the outer ditch that is visible on aerial photographs and geophysical survey, though the detail of this is uncertain. The outer timber enclosure boundary is also uncertain in this area. The 2015 trench identified

a large entranceway on the east side of the enclosure. An additional entranceway would add significant detail to our understanding of the nature of the enclosure complex and its role in defence/symbolism and/or the changing nature of the enclosure boundaries through time. Trench 1 is also designed to assess an area outside of the enclosure complex. Exterior areas have not been targeted to date in the REAP project and we have little understanding of whether the enclosure complex stood by itself or was part of a more extensive settlement of the 5th and 6th centuries AD or indeed replaced an earlier unenclosed settlement. The cropmarks in this area show sub-rectangular and semi-circular 'blobs' that could represent house floors/middens or other features that may help contextualise the enclosure complex, but these have never been tested before.

Research Questions specific to the Trench 1:

1. Was there an entrance-way through this part of the complex?
2. What is the nature of the diffuse cropmarks identifiable to the northwest?
3. Was there an unenclosed settlement prior to the development of the enclosure complex?

Trench 2 15 x 35 m.

Trench 2 is also designed to test exterior areas of the enclosure complex. In some of the early geophysical work carried out in 2005-6 there was suggestion of an exterior palisade abutting the outer enclosure in this area. This has, however, never shown up on aerial photographs. If present, an additional enclosure element may reveal important detail on the extent of the enclosure complex and additional functions/spatially restricted activities that may have been carried out here. In addition Trench 2 will establish the southern boundaries of the enclosure system which have never been tested by the REAP project. In particular, a section through the ditch in this area will assess the 'biography' of the outer ditch on the south side of the enclosure complex. To date significant differences have been identified in the fills of the outer ditch within different sectors of the complex. This ditch section will provide further characterisation of the stratigraphy, presence/absence of recuts and chronology of the development of the outer ditch sequence. Establishing the route of the palisade in this area will also allow the full circumference of the enclosure boundaries to be plotted and the morphology of the enclosure complex to be fully established..

Research questions specific to the Trench 2:

- Was the enclosure boundary of the same character in the southern part of the complex?
- Is there any differences in ditch fills of the outer ditch in this area? Was the ditch backfilled in similar ways to the rest of the complex?
- Is there any evidence for an annexe enclosure in this area of the complex?
- Does the lack of cropmarks in this area represent a genuine lack of features?

Trench 3 3 x 25 m.

Trench 3 extends into an area downslope to assess the presence/absence of off-site deposits that may provide better preservation of middens/buried soils that may add vital contextual information on the nature of the site and its economy to be recovered. The southernmost extent of this area does not produce cropmarks and geophysical survey has not provided any conclusive results, yet the steepness of the slope in this area of the field could potentially preserve in situ soils relating to midden dumps or archaeological soils contemporary with the Craw Stane complex. As lowland sites like Rhynie are ploughed we rarely have the insights into the economy that middens and soils can provide – Trench 3 will test for deposits of this nature.

Research questions specific to the Trench 3:

- Are there any in situ off-site deposits?
- Does the sloping topography of this area of the field preserve features such as middens or agricultural soils? Can we date these deposits?
- Is there archaeological remains in an area that has not produced cropmarks or clear geophysical anomalies?

Trench 4 12 x 15 m (Figure 6)

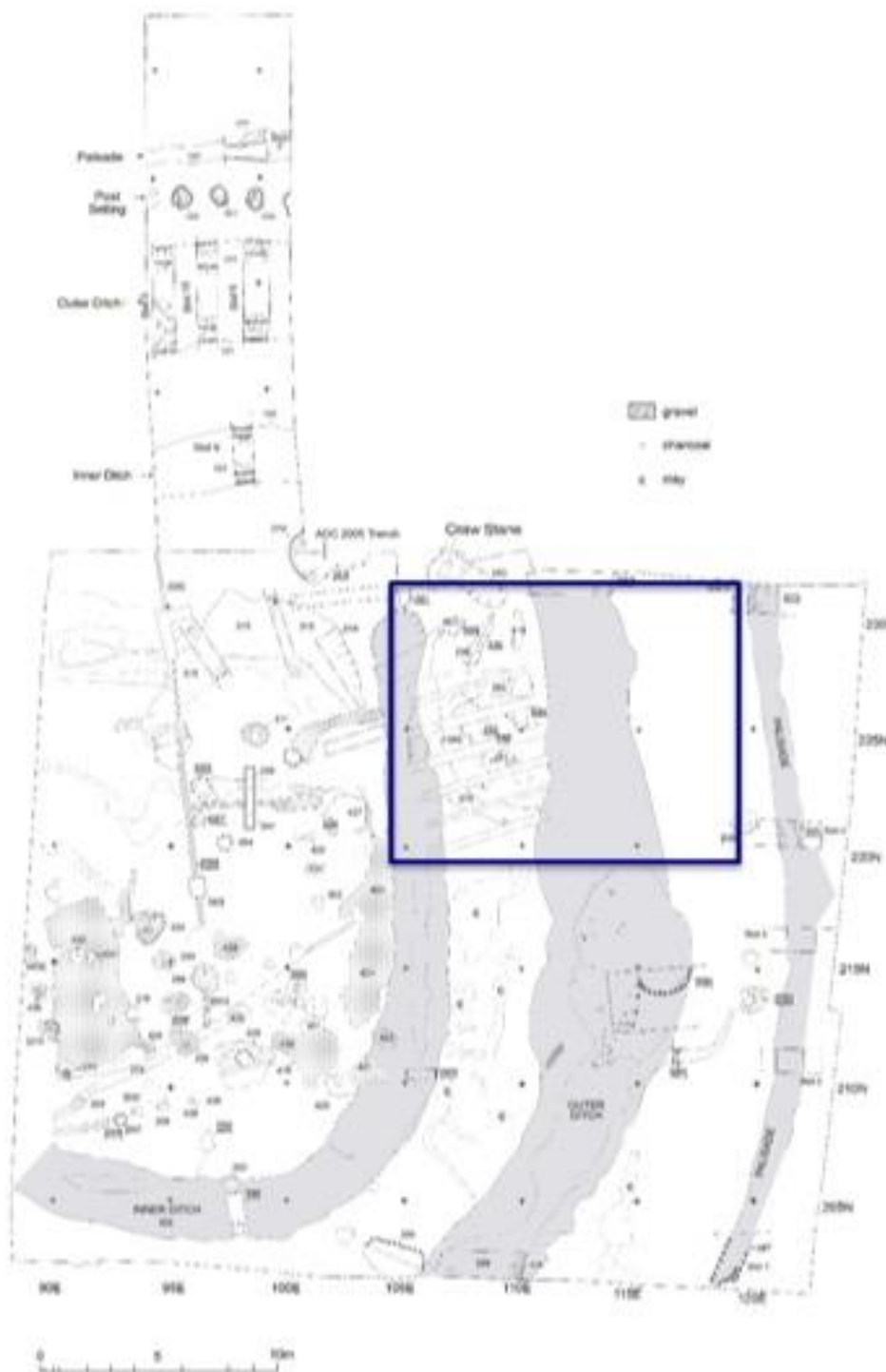


Fig. 6 Trench 4 layout targeting structure and area to the east identified in 2012.

Trench 4 targets an area stripped in 2012, but which remained largely unexcavated. The strip and map in 2012 suggested some form of beam and post structure existed here. This was identified in 2012 as a possible entrance structure. However, the 2015 trench identified the main entranceway into the enclosure complex only a short distance to the north. A more likely

interpretation of this structure is that this was a building located close to the Craw Stane and the standing stone socket identified in 2015. Cleaning of this area in 2012 showed that this structure clearly post-dates the inner ditch and provides clear evidence for the changing nature and perhaps function of some of the enclosure boundaries. However, none of the structure was excavated and we do not know if it is part of the Pictish settlement or something later or its function or nature. Trench 4 will re-open this area of the 2012 trench to fully establish the groundplan of this structure. The trench extends to the east as some aerial photographs suggest the features identified in 2012 may extend eastwards. Careful and repeated cleaning of the trench will be undertaken to establish the groundplan and selected excavation of features associated with the structure will be undertaken to establish the form, date and function of this structure. Geoarchaeological sampling will be used on any in situ floor deposits/activity areas and intensive botanical sampling and sieving will be carried out to identify any associated artefact and ecofact evidence that may help reveal the nature of this building.

Research questions specific to the Trench 4:

- What was the nature of the structure located next to the Craw Stane and stone socket identified in 2015?
- Does this structure reveal any detail on how the symbol stones were used or related to the activities undertaken at the Craw Stane complex?
- Was the structure a house or other form of building? Can geoarchaeological and botanical sampling reveal more?
- Is there any evidence that previous topsoil stripping in this area has affected the archaeological deposits?

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED WORK

1. The trenches proposed at the Craw Stane are designed to investigate the enclosing works of the Barflat Enclosure(s) and Fort. This will allow for an accurate plan of layout and characterise the nature of these enclosing works and the interior structures/buildings. The trenches will establish the presence/absence of exterior features and provide a clearer understanding of the context of the Pictish Class I sculpture from Rhynie. The programme of work is designed to be evaluative in nature with limited excavation of features to provide a detailed chronology and characterisation of the site. In accordance with Scotland's Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (HESPS) (June 2016) the work is designed to fully assess and understand the archaeological resource with minimal intervention and ensure that the scheduling of the site protects the most sensitive elements of the site. It will provide a strong sense of place for the community of Rhynie, and northeast Scotland more generally, through a programme of work that will produce a more full

understand of a major Pictish site and the context of a series of iconic but poorly understood Pictish carved stone monuments.

2. In accordance with HESPS (2016) Section 3.18/Annex 1, SMC is being sought to explore the cultural significance of the Barflat enclosures. The intervention will allow the cultural significance of the site to be considered and the results will offer new interpretation opportunities for visitors and the local community. The Craw Stane enclosure complex has great cultural significance both in an intrinsic, contextual and associative context in relation to the above and below ground features. The complex provides us with one of the best opportunities for understanding Pictish Class I sculpture in context and the nature of early Pictish high-status sites. By the end of the programme of evaluation, the Barflat enclosures will represent the most fully investigated high status site in Pictland and will be of wide public and academic interest. The potential of the site as a cultural, education, economic and social resource will also be better understood and the majority of the site (over 90%) will remain intact for future generations to investigate.
3. In accordance with HESPS Section 3.16, the work proposed represents a minimal level of intervention. The current programme of work will aim to record what is protected by the site scheduling, answer a key set of research questions (see above) and will involve limited evaluative testing of deposits through targeted excavation. It will also evaluate agricultural impacts on the site and future threats to site preservation (HESPS Section 3.21). Information has already been lost due to agricultural damage; this project will quantify that damage and recommend ways of countering this. While utilising large trenches the work will involve minimal sampling of deposits (maximum 15%) ensuring that the large majority of deposits remain intact for future investigation and will be much better understood for future conservation and management purposes.
4. Extensive investigation of a high status site of this date in Pictland has never been conducted previously and our knowledge of this transformative period in Scottish history is poor. The investigation of 5th-6th century Rhynie will uncover the material residues of an important early centre of power and its long-term evolution. The work at Rhynie will address many of the key future research areas and issues identified in SCARF (<http://www.scottishheritagehub.com>). This includes investigating the formation of early medieval polities and centres of royal power and consumption; addressing the rise and fall of these centres; and uncovering settlement hierarchies of the first millennium AD. The results of the REAP project will be integrated into the overall results of the Northern Picts project, the first large-scale project on the important northern kingdoms of Pictland and their role in the development of early Scotland.

5. The project will provide unique training opportunities for university students and researchers and will work with local communities to explore ways of promoting more general involvement, training and education in the archaeology of northeast Scotland. The director's have over ten years experience of directing large-scale field projects in Scotland and will have a team of professionals working alongside them to deliver the research design.
6. Community participation and coproduction has been at the heart of the Rhynie project since 2012. The work has led to the formation of a local artists collective Rhynie Woman who will actively participate in the excavations at Rhynie promoting the heritage at a local and national level. Community participation will involve pop-up exhibitions and a café and reproduction of the Pictish sculpture using 3D imaging and printing. Work with a local engineering firm, SCORE engineering, also aims to produce a replica of Rhynie Man for outdoor display. These elements of the project will aim to maximize the use of heritage in community identity, economy and regeneration as an important outcome of the project.

OUTPUTS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

The results of this project will provide:

- Academic research outputs in the form of journal articles
- Popular outputs in the form of newspaper and magazine articles (local newspapers and archaeology press such as Archaeology Scotland magazine) and our site blog/web portal
- This research will feed into the Northern Picts project which will lead to a monograph and a synthetic volume on the archaeology of the Northern Picts
- Project results will be displayed in exhibitions held in Rhynie itself, at the Tarbat Discovery Centre and University of Aberdeen
- An interim report after each year of work will be completed and sent to relevant bodies (Historic Scotland, RCAHMS, Highland Council Archaeology Services, DES) and the archive will remain at the University of Aberdeen until complete of the study where it will be housed with a relevant body
- The ADS will be consulted for guidance on digital archiving and the hosting of the digital archive

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REAP blog. www.reaparch.blogspot.co.uk

Scottish Archaeological Research Framework - www.scottishheritagehub.com

Scotland's Historic Environment Policy - www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/policy/shep.htm