

ARCHAEOLOGY SCOTLAND

*Adopt-a- Monument

Written Scheme of Investigation Addenda:
Proposed additional Archaeological works to Haylie
Chambered Tomb, Largs

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Archaeology Scotland

Archaeology Scotland (AS) runs a nation-wide community archaeology scheme, Adopt-a-Monument (AaM) that provides volunteer groups with the practical advice and training they need to care for and conserve their local heritage. The project encourages groups to get involved in hands-on activities to improve the condition, accessibility and interpretation of their chosen site. AaM works with community groups to equip volunteers with new skills in archaeological fieldwork and conservation, which can be used again and again to promote the heritage of their local area. More information on AaM can be found on our website www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk.

Acknowledgments

AS would very much like to thank all the volunteers who have carried out vegetation clearance and maintenance work at the site since 2021, and those involved in the initial conservation excavation work at Haylie chamber in February 2025. We'd also like to thank AOC Archaeology Group for their kind permission in using images from the 2015 survey report.

Introduction

An AaM project is being undertaken at Haylie Tomb, a Neolithic chambered cairn, a scheduled monument (SM2482) lying just to the north of Haylie House, Largs, North Ayrshire (Figure 1; NGR NS 20945 58592) in conjunction with a local lead volunteer, Richard Topping, and a newly formed community group, the Neolithic Tombsters. The project has been on-going since 2021, in consultation with North Ayrshire Council (NAC), the landowners Largs Common Goods Fund, and Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The monument is recorded in National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE ID 41155) and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record (WoSASPIN 5730).

An initial phase (Phase 1) of the AaM project has been completed at Haylie, and the Phase 2 works, detailed in a Project Design (Gray, 2022a), and supported by a WSI (Gray, 2022b) and Scheduled Monument Consent (Case ID 20221124), have now been completed.

The results of the Phase 2 work have suggested that a further phase of excavation at the chamber (Phase 3 of the AaM project), specifically of the mound adjacent to the chamber, would be beneficial for the future conservation management and understanding of the site.

The proposed additional excavation works to the mound form the subject of this WSI Addenda and should be read in conjunction with the Project Design and previous WSI and SMC.

A summary of the Phase 2 archaeological project works to date is provided below.



Figure 1: Haylie Tomb Location-red shaded area is the designated scheduled monument (map excerpt from PastMap-for information only)

Project Background

AaM project at Haylie

Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for:

- Hand cleaning and minor excavation, and laying turf in the chamber interior, to support conservation management
- The excavation of a small investigative trench across the mound adjacent to the chamber
- Replacement of the wooden boundary fence

Phase 2 of the project, as per the Project Design and SMC, archaeological work has included:

- A replacement fence and new access steps (steps outwith the scheduled area) were installed by a local fencer under supervision by AaM in December 2024. A pre-excavation record, including a LiDAR 3D recording were made of the chamber at the same time.
- In February 2025, AaM worked with 11 volunteers from the local community to create a new informal access to the site by clearing vegetation along a route from the newly installed steps, outwith the scheduled area.
- Also in February, additional vegetation clearance and moss removal were carried out at the chamber and small-scale investigative excavation was undertaken to examine the chamber infilling material under the turf. This revealed a deposit of mixed earth and cobbles, likely related to post-1950's excavation infilling. Excavation ceased at this point following

consultation on site with HES, as it was felt that no further intrusive work was required to support the conservation management of the chamber. The chamber was assessed as being stable. Further recording of the chamber was carried out during the course of the excavation.

- the foundation hole for a new NAC council interpretation board located beyond the scheduled area, was excavated and recorded. The Council installed the new interpretation in March 2025.
- A small evaluation trench was excavated across the likely spoil mound on the northern side of the chamber in order to establish its nature and date and retrieve any displaced archaeological material. Agreement was to be sought from HES for full spoil mound removal (if appropriate) following the evaluation results.

The results of the archaeological work carried out in February 2025 have been reported upon in a DSR (Gray, 2026). A summary of the results of the evaluation trench excavated across the mound are provided below.

Access to the site to undertake Phase 1 and 2 AaM work has been kindly granted by the Landowner (LGCF/NAC). Should HES approve the WSI Addenda and grant any additional required SMC, it is hoped that LCGF will continue to grant landowner permission for the proposed Phase 3 AaM work.

Archaeological Background

HES describe Haylies tomb as the remains of a Neolithic chambered cairn, which today survives as a Clyde-type chamber with a single compartment, but which originally had at least three compartments, and was covered by a large cairn known as 'Margaret's Law'. The chamber is recorded as being oriented ESE to WNW, with an entrance facing uphill to the east, and measuring about 6.7m in length by between 0.9m and 1.2m transversely. The chamber is constructed from massive slabs of quartz conglomerate.

The chamber was excavated in 1953-1954 (Aitken and Marshall, 1958). Pre-excavation photos available in the HES archives (Catalogue no. MS7333/7) show that the capped chamber appeared to be in a similar condition to that during the RCAHMS visit in 1942 (Figures 2-3), with the two trees and the larger stones around the exterior of the chamber visible at ground surface level. The photos suggest a hint of a few possible stones or a slight rise in ground level on the north side of the chamber.



<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1447360>

Figure 2: Haylie tomb in 1942 during RCAHMS visit © Crown Copyright HES
(<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1451389>)



<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1451389>

Figure 3: Haylie tomb in 1942 during RCAHMS visit © Crown Copyright HES
<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1447360>

Photos taken during the excavation, show that a trench was opened up slightly beyond the extent of the chamber stones, and suggest that at least some ground may have been removed from around the uncapped chamber exterior in order to expose and excavate it. To the east, the excavation report states the trench was '19ft' (c.5.8m) from the septal stone of the capped chamber. This would make the trench approximately 1m beyond what was identified during the excavation as in-situ chamber material, although the published plan doesn't indicate such an extent.

The draft excavation report notes that during the excavation beyond the eastern chamber limit, '*masses of small stones*' were found, together with a quantity of charcoal. A photograph of this area during the excavation suggests there was still an amount of soil present, but it's possible the stones noted in the draft report (and partially shown in the plan) are in-situ cairn material, or, more likely, disturbed/ displaced cairn material from 18th century antiquarian activity.

The excavation was unable to establish the extent of the cairn, but the draft report does note the presence of a large block of conglomerate to the south-east, which may have some connection with the original layout of the site.

The mound (Figures 4-5) on the northern side of the chamber was recorded during a condition survey by Rathmell 2014 and by AOC in 2015 (Rees, 2014; Hudson & Humble, 2015). It is likely to be relatively modern in origin, and not the remains of an in-situ monument feature. Records and photographs from the 1940's site visit by RCAHMS, and from pre-excavation in 1953 do not indicate that a mound was present on the northern side of the chamber, although they do suggest a hint of a few possible stones or a slight rise in ground level in one pre-excavation photo at the mound's location. Pre-excavation photos also indicate that there were other large boulders visible sitting on or near the surface ground level around the capped chamber compartment, that have since been removed. They also suggest that at least some ground may have been removed from around the uncapped chamber exterior in order to expose and excavate it. Subsequent descriptions of the site (e.g. Henshall (1972) and visits by the Ordnance Survey) also do not mention the mound.

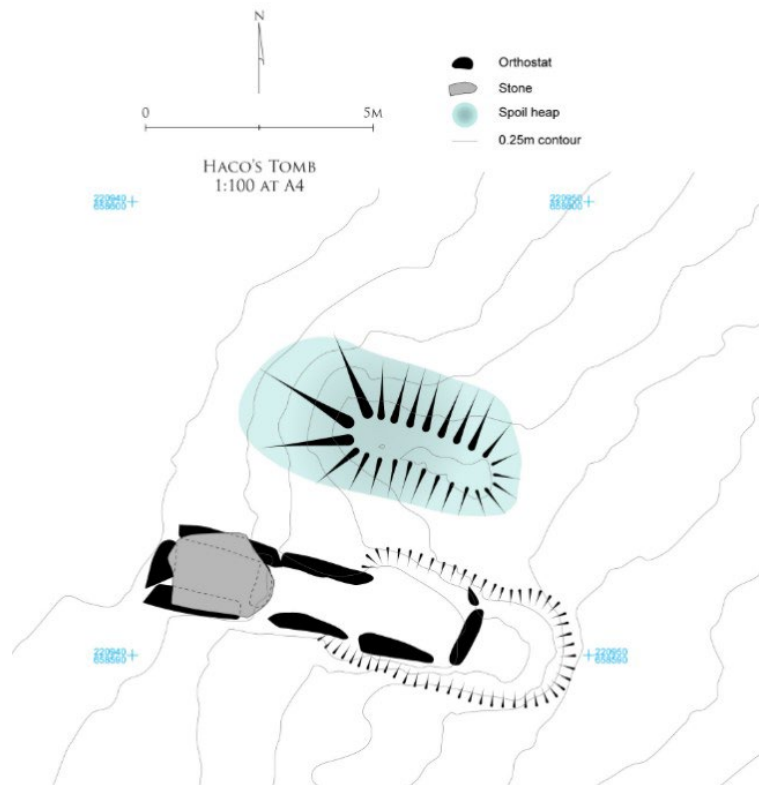


Figure 4: AOC survey plan of chamber, 2015. Image taken from survey report (Hudson and Humble, 2015), with kind permission of AOC Archaeology Group.



Figure 5: AOC photographic survey of chamber, 2015. Image taken from survey report (Hudson and Humble, 2015), with kind permission of AOC Archaeology Group.

It is possible that the mound was created as a result of the excavation, as suggested by both Rathmell and AOC, although given the appearance of the site from pre-excavation photos, it is possible that some in-situ cairn material may survive at the very base of the mound, or at least material displaced during the 18th disturbance to the monument. It is also possible that the mound is more recent in origin (later 20th century), given the omission of the mound in post-excavation records from the later 20th century. The mound may also then relate to activities such as vegetation clearance, which Rathmell noted was in evidence during their condition survey in 2014.

Given the above, and the findings of the previous excavation, it is possible the mound may contain displaced archaeological material and further evidence of its origin.

The mound currently measures approximately 5m in length by 3m wide and up to 0.75m high and is aligned parallel with the chamber (approximately E-W).



Figure 6: Photo of tomb from E showing mound to right ©Archaeology Scotland

AaM Evaluation Trench Mound Excavation (AaM Phase 2)

The trench excavated by AaM in February 2025 (Figure 7, from Phase 2 WSI), measured c.3m by 0.5m and 0.35m in depth, and was excavated transversely across the width of the mound. A summary of the results of this excavation is provided below. Numbers in brackets and in bold are context numbers.

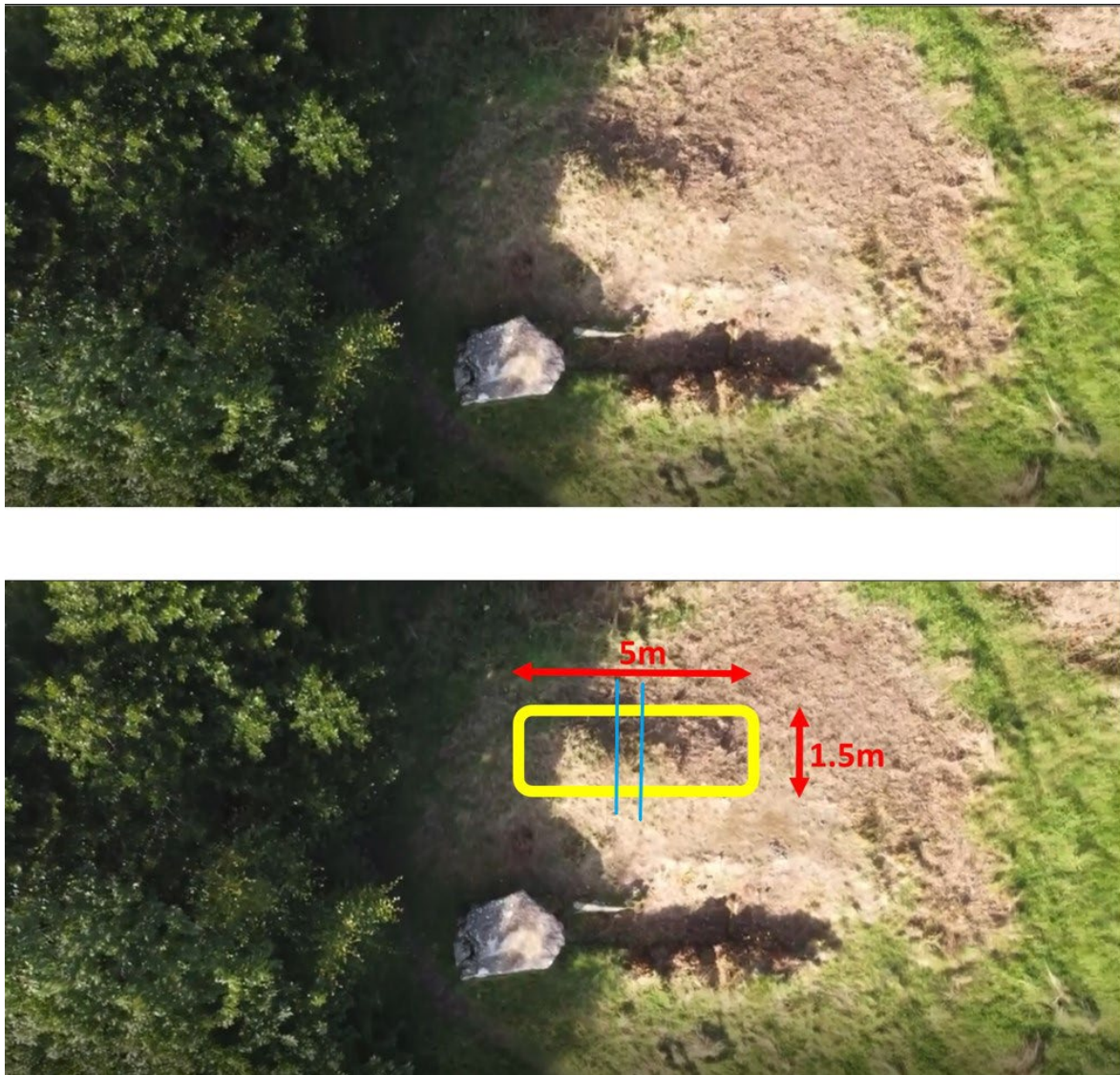


Figure 7: Overhead view of mound, approximate dimensions and location of trench (image courtesy of Richard Topping and Dr. Douglas Soutter)

Summary of Results

Following the removal of turf and a loose mid-brown sandy silt topsoil (**2001**), a mid-reddish brown sandy silt deposit (**2002**) was recorded (Plates 1 and 2). This extended throughout the trench except in the first 10cm at the northern limit of the trench, and in the final 10cm of the southern part of the trench. In these locations (the northern and southern edges of the mound), topsoil (**2001**) overlay small sub-rounded stones (**2007**) (Plates 3-5). This indicates that the mound is actually c.2.8m in width, and that the last 10cm of the northern and southern edges visible today are not part of the original mound make-up but the result of more recent topsoil formation.

This suggests the mound was formed either directly onto the existing topsoil at the time (of which the stones (**2007**) formed part of the topsoil composition), or, the mound was formed over extant cairn material (represented by stones (**2007**)), which could be either in-situ or displaced. No turf line was visible during excavation or in section, but the soils in these locations were merging.



Plate 2: Shot of trench from N following removal of topsoil (2001)



Plate 2: Shot of trench from S following removal of topsoil (2001)

Under (2002) a mid-orange brown loose soil was recorded (2003), which formed the main component of the mound throughout the trench (Plates 3 and 4). This deposit (2003) was more mounded on the chamber side, indicating direction of formation, which suggests that the mound was indeed formed from material being shovelled out of the chamber and mounded up on the chamber's north side.



Plate 3: Main mound deposit (2003) with stones (2007) to left of frame



Plate 4: Main mound deposit (2003) with stones (2007) to right of frame and displaced stones (2006)



Plate 5: Stones (2007) to bottom of frame and displaced stones (2006)

Below (2003), in the centre of the mound, was a loose, gravely, dark greyish brown sandy silt (2004), and likely represents an earlier episode of soil dumping, potentially the removal of topsoil/turf during the 1950's excavation. A light yellowish brown finer clayey silt (2005) was recorded within (2004) which appears to represent tip lines.

Deposits recorded at the base of the chamber during the 1950's excavation, included thin layer of 'grey clay' forming the chamber base, overlying a 'red clay' natural subsoil. It is possible that deposits (2003) and (2005) could be the re-deposited remains of the 1950's excavation soils.

In other parts of the trench, (2003) overlay stones (2006) (Plates 4 and 5), which have been interpreted as being redeposited from the chamber. This may have occurred at the time of the excavation, or they

may be the stones potentially hinted at on the northern side of the chamber in the pre-excavation photos.

Finds recovered from the trench include modern material and two small pieces of potential neolithic pottery.

Discussion

Essentially, the Phase 2 excavation work has confirmed that the mound is a product of the 1950's excavation, both from the interpretation of its formation and from the mixed finds assemblage. Further work would be needed to establish the nature of stones (**2007**), as to whether they represent in-situ cairn material, displaced cairn or 1950's topsoil, and indeed stones (**2006**).

The finds recovered also indicate the potential for recovering further displaced Neolithic material, as was highlighted in the original project WSI. The finds also show the potential for enhancing our understanding of the 20th century excavation, both the people involved and the time that they were working in.

Full excavation and removal of the mound is therefore considered to be beneficial, in order to:

- more fully understand the extant remains of the monument, and facilitate artefact retrieval, which would help its future conservation management;
- remove a modern addition to the site which is the product of previous archaeological work; and,
- support and enhance research about the site (and other similar monuments) through additional knowledge gain with minimal archaeological intervention.

AaM Phase 3 Archaeological excavation

Based on the results of the Phase 2 archaeological work, it is now proposed to fully excavate, and remove the mound adjacent to the chamber at Haylie.

Aims

The specific aims of the archaeological works are:

- To establish the nature of stones (**2007**) and (**2006**) identified during the Phase 2 excavation.
- To recover any further displaced artefacts and ensure their future conservation and archiving.
- Remove a modern addition to the monument that was created through previous archaeological work.
- To provide an up-to-date and accurate record of Haylie Chambered Tomb for future conservation management and research.
- To provide heritage skills training and engagement opportunities for volunteers involved in the archaeological field work.
- To contribute to further research regarding Haylie tomb and chambered tombs of Scotland more generally, including their history of 20th century investigations.

As well as site and project specific research questions, the results of the Phase 3 work at Haylie may also contribute to wider research agendas and sector strategies, including:

- The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF, The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework ([ScARF National Framework | The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework](#)) Neolithic and Modern reports; in particular:
 - The need to collate all the information about these monuments and make it available in an accessible manner to all, especially the communities for whom these are local sites, -identified as a priority activity (section 7.4.7 Research and methodological issues <https://scarf.scot/national/scarf-neolithic-panel-report/>)
 - Examining the modern pursuit of archaeology and the development of the discipline as part of the modern world (Section 9.7.2 Modern Past, Modern Present [Modern | The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework](#))
- The emerging South West Scotland Archaeological Research Framework [South West Scotland Archaeological Research Framework | The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework](#)

The work will also deliver on Scotland's Archaeology Strategy (particularly around Aim 4: Encouraging Greater Engagement) and Scotland's Historic Environment Strategy, Our Past Our Future (particularly around Priority 2: Empowering resilient and inclusive communities and places).

As Haylie chambered cairn was excavated by Dorothy Marshall in the 1950's, and recorded by Audrey Henshall in the 1960's, the Phase 3 work at Haylie will also contribute to AaM's theme for 2025-2026, *Prehistoric Pioneers: Women in Archaeology*, which seeks to promote the stories of inspiring women in archaeology in the past and present.

The Phase 3 work will also support Archaeology Scotland's Early Megalithic Monument's Project (EMMP), funded by the Henshall Legacy Grant and administered by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. The project honours, through research on and public engagement with Early Neolithic megalithic monuments, the huge legacy of Audrey Henshall.

Post-excavation and publication costs for the Phase 3 work will be incorporated within the EMMP project, and any additional costs from this phase 3 of work would be met by Archaeology Scotland (the SMC applicant).

Methodology

General

All archaeological work will be undertaken to AS's standard operating procedure for archaeological excavation, recording, post-excavation and reporting, and archiving (see detail below), and will be conducted in keeping with the current Code of Conduct and guidelines published by ClfA as appropriate ([ClfA Codes, regulations and Standards, and guidance | ClfA](#)) and with other relevant best practice guidelines.

All work will be undertaken by hand and lead by qualified AS staff in conjunction with members of the local community group, the Neolithic Tombsters and other local volunteers.

Vegetation clearance

Depending on the state of the vegetation cover at the site prior to the archaeological works taking place, sensitive vegetation clearance will be undertaken to facilitate accurate recording and provide a clear working area and access to the mound. Cut vegetation will be removed from the scheduled area.

Excavation

Following vegetation clearance, a pre-excavation record will be made of the site. Photogrammetry was carried out during the Phase 2 archaeological works.

The mound will be excavated in quadrants, allowing for a longitudinal section to be produced as well as transverse. Section lines will be laid out by hand using string and survey pegs, their locations and extents recorded on the ground using industry standard surveying equipment.

Following initial turf and topsoil removal, and the first archaeological horizon has been reached, trenches will be cleaned and recorded in plan digitally using photogrammetry, and via AS's standard operating procedure for archaeological excavation and recording (see below).

Excavation and recording will proceed within each quadrant via single context recording as above, until the formation ground level (i.e. pre-1950's excavation ground surface) is reached and/or identified in-situ (prehistoric) archaeological remains are reached. No in-situ archaeological remains, such as cairn material, will be excavated, but any identified remains will be recorded.

All excavated material from archaeological contexts will be dry-sieved on site for artefact retrieval.

Bulk soil samples will be collected where it is considered in the field that their analysis could contribute to further understanding of the site such as for artefact retrieval, particularly for redeposited chamber soils forming the mound.

In the unlikely event that excavation trenches become unstable and unsafe, it will be necessary to step the trench/section sides to prevent sections from exceeding safe limits and potentially collapsing. Excavations will be stepped or battered back depending on the nature of the underlying material.

The working area will be enclosed by temporary fencing or hazard tape, which will be secured at the end of each working day, with appropriate safety notices relating to excavations and site health and safety displayed clearly.

Excavated mound material will be stored outwith the scheduled area, and will be disposed of following the completion of the excavation by AS and local volunteers. Soil from bulk soil samples will be stored off-site and disposed of separately by Archaeology Scotland.

Any in-situ archaeological remains exposed under the mound during the course of the works will be covered with terram for protection during the backfilling and reinstatement process. Such remains will be covered with a layer of excavated topsoil and seeded with grass seed.

A post-excavation record will be created of the site using digital photography and photogrammetry.

Standard AS operating procedure for archaeological excavation and recording, post-excavation and reporting, and archiving:

Excavation and Recording

All excavation will be by hand and will follow the single context recording system, as set out by MOLAS (1994). All contexts identified as deposits, fills, cuts and masonry/stone will be recorded as separate contexts and given unique identifying numbers. Relationships will be ascertained and recorded between contexts and a Harris matrix maintained for each excavation area.

All deposits will be recorded through drawing (at an appropriate scale usually 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans), photography (SLR digital/ipad with appropriate resolution camera), by completing standard AS recording forms (digital and/or paper), and marked on an appropriate plans and sections

All trench edges and other excavation sections will be recorded. Any sub-surface features identified (such as pits, post-holes) will be recorded in plan prior to further excavation (usually by half or quarter section as appropriate). Features will be fully excavated unless otherwise agreed with HES.

A digital photographic record will be maintained throughout the fieldwork, including pre-excavation photographs, images to record individual features at different stages of excavation, photographs of cleaned sections, post-excavation photographs of features and general working and landscape images.

Photogrammetric recording of each excavation area will take place at pre-excavation and at intervals, to be determined during the excavation, in order to accurately record each feature and element of the trench.

Spot heights will be taken at appropriate points to record differences in level above Ordnance Datum between archaeological features.

Industry standard surveying equipment (Total Station and/or lidar ipad scan) will be used to survey in any excavation areas and drawing points. Surveys will be geographically located relative to the Ordnance Survey map.

Finds Collection

All identified artefacts will be collected, bagged and labelled, and retained.

Artefacts recovered from secure contexts will be individually bagged and their locations recorded by context or in three dimensions, as appropriate. Artefacts from topsoil and other non-archaeological deposits will be bagged by context and excavation area, and will be given unique finds numbers by bulk bag collection.

Any artefacts to be discarded would be undertaken following discussion and agreement with the local authority archaeologist /HES, and the original volume of material would be recorded prior to discard.

All finds will be packed and stored in standard finds boxes at Archaeology Scotland upon completion of the archaeological work.

Additional advice on exposing, retrieving storing and conserving sensitive material (such as leather, wood, jet, metal objects, burial urns) will be sought from appropriate specialists.

All finds of gold and silver will be moved to a safe place and suitable security measures taken to protect the artefacts from theft or damage.

Any artefact conservation and analysis to be undertaken will be carried out under an appropriate Post-excavation Research Design (see Post-excavation and Reporting below).

During the course of any programme of archaeological fieldwork, all finds, environmental material and human remains will be treated in accordance with guidelines published by the United Kingdom's Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section (see References Section).

Environmental Samples

Due to the nature of the archaeological works being undertaken, it is not proposed to take any environmental samples for environmental processing and analysis.

However, general AS procedure is as follows: bulk samples of any feature or deposit of archaeological interest will be taken in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition. All such sample excavation will be conducted by hand. Bulk samples will consist of a minimum of 50% of the feature/deposit to be sampled for small features (such as pits and postholes). At least 10% of any linear features will be sampled, although a higher percentage sample may be taken upon agreement with HES/local authority archaeologist.

Any sample processing and analysis to be undertaken will be carried out under an appropriate Post-excavation Research Design (see Post-excavation and Reporting below).

Treatment of Human Remains

In the unlikely event that any human remains are encountered during the course of any intrusive archaeological work, they will be treated in accordance with Scots Law, relevant guidance published by HES (Historic Scotland, 2016), and standard AS operating procedure.

The remains will be left in situ, covered and protected and the local police will be informed. Police approval will be required if removal of the human remains is essential or required. This will be undertaken in compliance with HES guidelines, and following discussion and agreement for their removal and archaeological recording with the relevant local authority archaeologist and HES.

Post-excavation and Reporting

A Data Structure Report (DSR) describing the results of the archaeological work will be produced in accordance with guidance produced by HES (Historic Environment Scotland, 2023). The report will contain the following elements:

- an executive summary;
- an introduction, outlining the nature of the work undertaken and the circumstances / background of the project and any acknowledgments ;
- a description of the Site / Study Area and its location within Scotland including relevant NRHE and HER ID's and a link to the scheduled monument consent decision on the HES portal;
- the aims and methodology of the programme of archaeological work;

- a discussion of any previous archaeological work undertaken at the Site / within the Study Area and any pertinent historical background information;
- the results of the work, including digital photographs and other relevant graphic material, and any finds or environmental analysis;
- a discussion of the results, placing the Site / Study Area into context and including a assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site / Study Area and its significance, and in relation to relevant Research Frameworks;
- a conclusion summarising the results and discussion of the programme of archaeological work and highlighting potential avenues for future work;
- Recommendations for future work, as appropriate, including any proposed post-excavation analyses;
- A list of references;
- A copy of the DES entry and the OASIS reference number;
- A reference to the present and future archive location;
- Appropriate appendices including gazetteers and site registers (e.g. photograph lists, context registers, trench registers); and,
- Geo-referenced Figures showing the Site / Study Area location, the sites/ features/trenches etc identified within the Study Area, and any other graphic/map material as appropriate. All plans and figures will be labelled, and will contain a scale, a north arrow (as appropriate), and a note of the illustrator, and will be accompanied by relevant descriptive text within the report.

Following all on-site work, post-excavation processing and general analyses and cataloguing of recovered artefactual material will be undertaken.

Artefacts and environmental remains will be assessed by an appropriate specialist to inform recommendations about their further analysis and conservation requirements, to be presented in a Post-excavation Research Design (PERD).

HES and the Local Authority Archaeologist will be consulted as to the scope of works for the PERD.

Archiving

The archive will be created and prepared in accordance with the requirements of HES, and standard good practice as set out by Brown (2011) on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF), the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Good Practice Guides, and in accordance with CIfA standards and guidance.

The project archive comprises all records made during the Programme of Archaeological Work, including those in hard copy and digital form.

Digital security copies of all paper documents associated with, and generated by, the project, will be created and stored on AS's secure digital project filing system at Archaeology Scotland. AS has a consistent file-naming and structure system in use for the creation and storage of all digital material. All data stored on Archaeology Scotland's servers is routinely backed up.

A digital copy of the final DSR, a georeferenced plan of the location and extent of the archaeological works and a selection of digital photos will be sent to the relevant Local Authority for inclusion within their HER.

A summary report on the works will be submitted to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES) and the project will also be entered into the on-line OASIS V reporting facility. A copy of the DES entry and the OASIS number will be included in the DSR.

The paper and digital archive together with the DSR and any publications will be deposited with HES upon completion of all field work and any other post-excavation analysis.

If there is no demonstrable heir (*bona vacantia*), all archaeological artefacts recovered belong to the Crown and its disposal is administered by the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer via the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP), facilitated by the Treasure Trove Unit (TTU). For projects funded directly by HES, disposal of finds is managed by the Finds Disposal Panel.

Environmental material, un-worked human and animal bone does not fall under Treasure Trove, but usually the TTU will endeavour to facilitate the transfer of such site archive material to the appropriate museum.

In some instances, re-burial of late medieval, post-medieval or modern human remains which have established and demonstrable affiliations with contemporary religious groups, may be considered appropriate if a specific request is made. Such re-burial will be considered on a case by case basis, in conjunction with the local authority archaeologist / HES, and will only occur once these relevant bodies are satisfied that all appropriate post-excavation work (analyses and reporting) has been completed to meet the aims of the project.

Operational Factors

Project Team, Liaison and Timetable and Facilities

Project Team

Project Management will be undertaken by Phil Richardson, AS's senior Project Manager, who has over 20 years professional heritage experience. Other AS members of staff may undertake task-specific work in relation to the overall aims of the project. CV's can be provided upon request.

Other members of the team will include Richard Topping, the Neolithic Tombsters and other local volunteers.

Project Liaison

Project liaison will be undertaken with HES and LCGF/NAC as appropriate. The historic environment advisors to North Ayrshire (West of Scotland Archaeology Service), will also be informed of the

proposed works. All stakeholders will be updated during the course of the archaeological works and following their cessation.

Timetable

Depending upon consents and permissions, the proposed Archaeological Work is intended to take place at the end of 2025.

Facilities

All finds, human remains and environmental samples will be stored securely at AS offices until such time as they are allocated to an appropriate museum. Basic post-excavation work to meet the aims of the project and required reporting will also be undertaken at AS.

Health & Safety

All relevant Health and Safety legislation, Regulations, Guidelines and Codes of Practice will be followed.

A Risk Assessment (RA) will be completed for the proposed archaeological work and approved and signed by AS's qualified Health & Safety officer. The RA will be sent to relevant parties (HES/ NAC) as required for review, and all members of the project team will be made aware of the RA prior to undertaking the archaeological work.

All members of AS staff and participants will follow to the Archaeology Scotland Covid-19 Outdoor Working Protocols, Guidance. The Protocols are incorporated into any RA produced as appropriate.

Any onsite work will include a health and safety briefing and review of the RA.

At least one qualified First Aider will be on each site throughout all AS project work. All staff and participants will have appropriate PPE for undertaking the proposed archaeological work; and contractors will be expected to provide their own PPE and have appropriate RA's and safe systems of work in place. Work may be suspended for a period in the event of unsafe weather conditions.

Facilities are located nearby in Largs, and previous work on site has utilised facilities at the nearby Douglas Park Bowling Club and Haylie House Care Home.

Insurance

Archaeology Scotland is covered by £5 million public liability insurance and £20 million employer's liability insurance. Details can be provided on request.

Copyright

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, the organisation or person undertaking fieldwork and reporting work retains the copyright to the written and graphic material, unless this has been varied in the contracts for the work.

AS shall retain full copyright of any reports, WSI's, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved.

References

Bibliographic Sources

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The Archaeology Data Service Good Practice Guides, available online at:

<http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Main>

HES archive material

Catalogue Reference ID	Title	Date	Collection	url
1451389	Haylee Megalithic Cist	9/1942	RCAHMS	https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1451389
1447360	Haylee(Haylie) Megalithic Cist	9/1942	RCAHMS	https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1447360
MS7333/7	Draft report on excavation at Margaret's Law, Haco's Tomb, Haylie	1954	W Glen Aitken collection	n/a