

**Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork**  
School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology  
Queen's University Belfast



**Data Structure Report: No. 053**

**Excavations at Dunseverick Cave,  
Feigh alias Dunseverick,  
County Antrim**

AE/07/181

AE/08/161

On behalf of



**Data Structure Report: Dunseverick Cave,  
Feigh alias Dunseverick Townland,  
County Antrim**

Ruth Logue

**CAF DSR 053**

**Excavation Licence Numbers: AE/07/181 and AE/08/161**

**Grid Reference: C98704455**

## **CONTENTS**

Chapter 1: Summary	1
Chapter 2: Introduction	3
Chapter 3: Excavation	6
Chapter 4: Discussion	18
Chapter 5: Recommendations for Further Work	20
Chapter 6: Bibliography	22
Appendix 1: Contexts Register	23
Appendix 2: Harris Matrices	25
Appendix 3: Photographic Register	27
Appendix 4: Field Drawing Register	29
Appendix 5: Finds Register	30
Appendix 6: Samples Register	34
Plates	35

## 1 SUMMARY

### 1.1 Background

This report details the results of excavations carried out in a cave in the townland of Feigh alias Dunseverick, County Antrim (Figures 1 and 2). Excavation took place over two seasons, in 2007 and 2008 (Licence Numbers AE/07/181 and AE/08/161). The work was part of the North Coast Maritime Archaeology Survey and was carried out by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast (CAF, GAP, QUB) in partnership with the Centre for Maritime Archaeology, University of Ulster, Coleraine campus (CMA, UUC). The North Coast Maritime Archaeology Survey was commissioned by the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage (EHS:BH). The cave was on National Trust (NT) property.

### 1.2 Excavation

The excavation took place within a cave (does not have a Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) number) adjacent to, and to the south-west of, the site of Dunseverick Castle (SMR - ANT 003:011) on the north coast of County Antrim.

Five trenches were opened (see Figure 4 for location of Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 3a):

- Trench 1 was aligned north/south inside the cave at its east side;
- Trench 2 was inside the cave, on the south side of the wall at the western side of the mouth of the cave;
- Trench 3 was located to the north, and Trench 3a to the east, of the same wall;
- Trench 4 was located outside the cave, and was opened across a dry-stone wall which ran in a north/south direction sloping down to the shore.

Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 3a contained layers and finds of archaeological significance; nothing of archaeological significance was found in Trench 4.

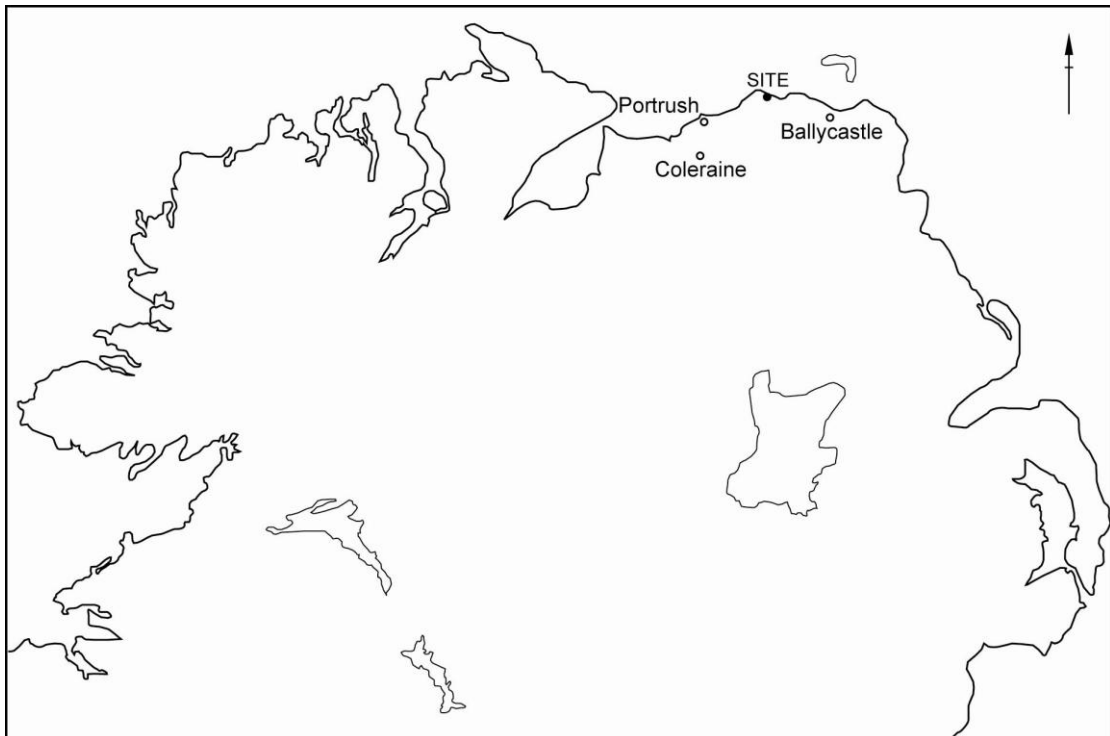


Figure 1: Outline map of the north of Ireland showing location of site and nearest main towns.

### 1.3 Discussion

Layers and features of archaeological significance and containing archaeological material were uncovered during the excavation. Trench 1 in particular had a number of occupation layers and a relatively large amount of medieval pottery.

The primary objectives of Trenches 2 and 3 were to investigate a wall just inside the cave parallel to its mouth. Trench 2 exposed the south-facing façade of the wall to below its base. Trench 3, on the opposite side of the wall, uncovered some evidence of archaeological activity. In the second season of work an area to the east of Trench 3 was opened, Trench 3a, to uncover the extent of the wall running in an easterly direction.

The investigation of the stone wall feature outside the cave, in Trench 4, found it not to be of any antiquity.

#### *1.4 Recommendations*

A programme of post-excavation work on the finds recovered could be undertaken by relevant finds specialists.

Summary accounts of the excavations have been submitted for publication in *Excavations 2007* and *Excavations 2008*, and an article will be presented for publication in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 General

This report details the results of the excavations undertaken at Feigh alias Dunseverick townland, Parish of Billy, County Antrim (Licence Numbers: AE/07/181 and AE/08/161). The excavations were undertaken by the CAF, School of GAP, QUB, in partnership with the CMA, UUC, from 17 September to 10 October 2007 and again from 1 to 12 September 2008. The excavations were part of the North Coast Maritime Archaeology Survey which was commissioned by the EHS: BH, who also funded the programme of excavation.

### 2.2 Location

The excavation took place within a cave (Plate 1) which was called 'Dunseverick Cave' for the purposes of the excavation and post-excavation work. It was located approximately 100m from the present shoreline to its north, and 80m to the south-west of Dunseverick Castle (ANT 003:011) (Figure 3; Plates 22 to 24). The cave is not shown or designated on any of the Ordnance Survey (OS) map editions. It lay below the North Antrim Cliff Path (NT), and faced a narrow landing place called Portnahooagh, which can be translated as 'the port of the caves'.

The mouth of the cave was roughly 15m in height above the shoreline (Cover Plate) suggesting that it was formed in the basaltic cliff perhaps in early post-glacial times when the sea level of the north coast was considerably higher. Outside the cave mouth was a considerable mound formed by landslides from above the cave mouth, and probably also partly from fallen rock debris from the cave mouth suggesting that the cave was once more extensive. The mouth of the cave was c. 15m to 17.5m long. The maximum depth of the cave (from middle of mouth to middle of back wall) was c. 8m.



Figure 2: Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 map (part of) of Dunseverick and surrounding area.

### 2.3 Archaeological Background

The North Coast Maritime Archaeology Survey was a major new study by the CMA to identify new archaeological sites on the north coast:

"...preliminary results have revealed a rich archaeological record along these shores [the north coast]...The early medieval territory of Dal Riada is probably the best known maritime kingdom in Ireland and a range of fortifications from Dunseverick to Dunluce demonstrate the importance of securing and controlling the coast over a long period." (Rosemary McConkey 2004)

The cave was located to the south-west of Dunseverick Castle, an important early medieval royal site. The ruins of the castle sit on a steep sided basalt rock stack. The Annals of the Four Masters record that the name Dun Sobhairce derives from the chieftain who originally

fortified the rock and that it was plundered by the Danes in 870 and 924 AD (Connellan 1846). The fortification was a manorial centre of the Earls of Ulster and a stronghold of Sorley Boy MacDonnell in the 1560s. *The Tripartite Life of Saint Patrick* (Hennessy 1870) records a well (ANT 003:035) blessed by St. Patrick at 'Dun Sobhairce', and he is said to have blessed the site and consecrated the Bishop of Armoy there. There is a wet depression on the promontory on which the castle stands which may represent this holy well.

#### *2.4 Reasons for Excavation*

A number of caves on the Antrim coast were excavated in the 1930s. Jackson investigated a series of caves around Ballintoy, the Park Cave, the Potters' Cave, the Chimney Cave, and two caves at Boheeshane Bay (Jackson 1933, 230-235; 1934, 104-109; 1936, 31-42; 1938, 107-112). May also excavated a cave at Portbraddan around this time (May 1943, 39-60). Although these excavations were limited by the excavation methods of the time, and some were of a preliminary nature, they succeeded in demonstrating the potential of the north Antrim caves for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeology; and the pottery recovered showed that they were important in Early Christian and later medieval times.

Excavation work done in 2004 in two caves on Rathlin by the CAF and CMA, as part of the Rathlin Island Maritime Archaeological Survey, also uncovered archaeological and historical material. Bronze Age and early medieval material were recovered from Oweyberne Cave (Moore and Forsythe 2004), and Oweyadoo Cave had evidence of use in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (kelp-making industry) (Moore and Forsythe 2004).

The proximity of Dunseverick Castle to the cave was also thought to increase the likelihood that the cave would be of archaeological significance: the cave may have been used during the occupation of the castle. One of the research aims of the excavation was that it could be used as an introduction to the archaeology of the castle site at Dunseverick.

A stone wall was the only visible upstanding feature within the cave, therefore another aim of the excavation was to investigate this wall, and attempt to ascertain its function, date and extent.

#### *2.5 Archiving*

A copy of this report has been deposited with EHS:BH. All site records and finds will be initially archived within GAP, QUB. As the excavation took place on NT land any artefactual material recovered in the course of the excavation remains the property of the NT, NI. As such, and as detailed in the NT Archaeological Licence Agreement, this material will be surrendered to the NT upon completion of post-excavation analysis and recording.

#### *2.6 Credits and Acknowledgements*

Thanks to the excavation team: Tom McErlean (CMA); and from the CAF were Clare McGranaghan, Shane McGivern, Sapphire Mussen, Harry Welsh, David McIlreavy and Peter Bowen. The author would also like to thank the following people for their assistance in the course of the excavation and in the preparation of this report: Mal Conway (Survey Archaeologist) and Mike Dobson (Acting Property Manager) of the NT; Ronan McHugh (CAF, survey work) and Eimear Nelis (CAF, illustrations).



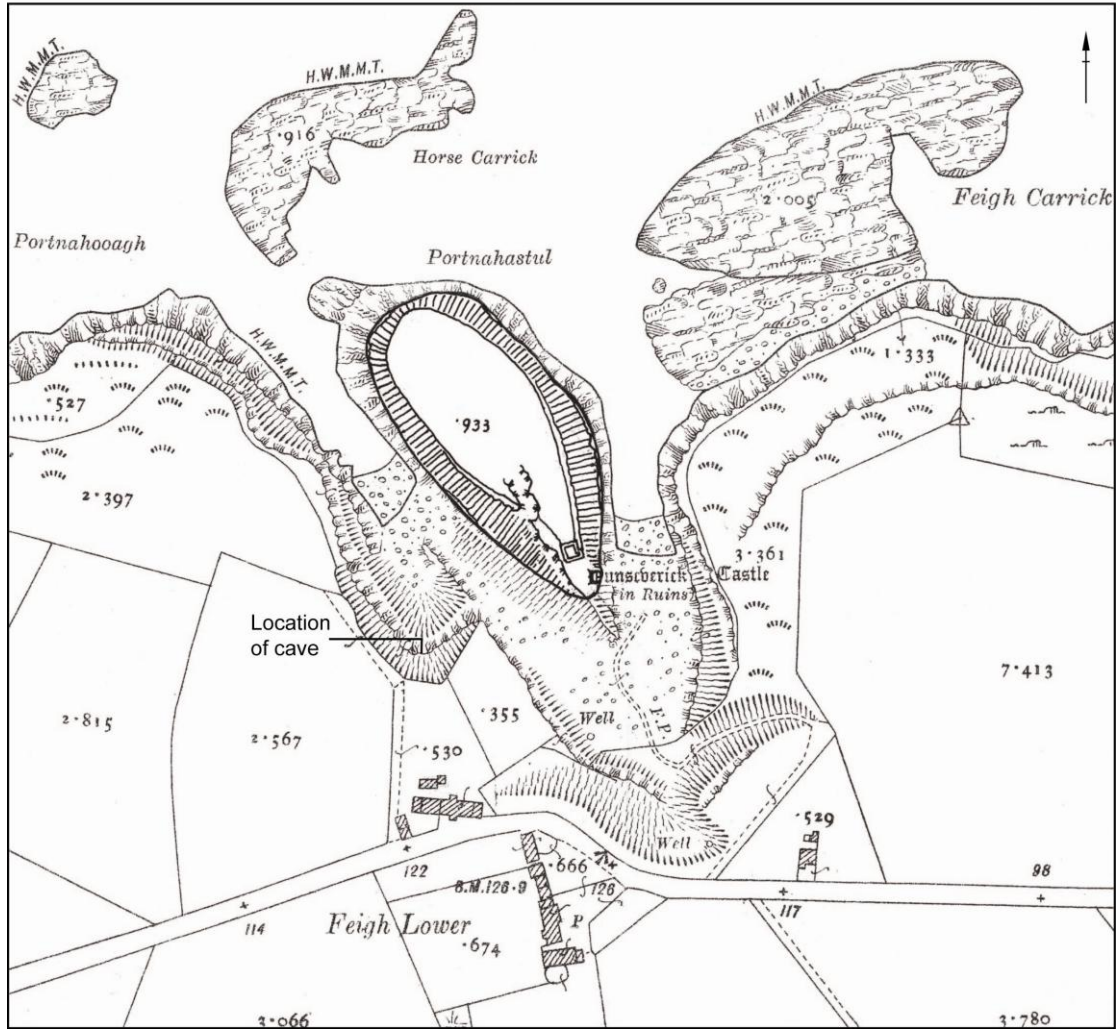


Figure 3: 1932 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 inches map (part of) showing location of cave, Dunseverick Castle, road and surrounding area.



### 3 EXCAVATION

#### 3.1 Methodology

A research design and an application for a licence to excavate for archaeological purposes were submitted to EHS on 5 September 2007; a second research design and licence application were submitted on 26 August 2008. As the cave was on NT land their permission was needed for the project to be undertaken. Malachy Conway, Survey Archaeologist for Northern Ireland Region, NT, facilitated the issuing of an Archaeological Licence Agreement from the NT in both years.

The 2007 excavation was to be used as a preliminary investigation to assess the potential for archaeology within this cave. Two specific aims were to be achieved during the course of the excavation: to produce a plan of the cave; to excavate two trenches within the cave, one at the eastern side where the roof was highest (Trench 1) and one at the western side to investigate the relationship of the upstanding wall to the interior of the cave (Trench 2).

The 2007 season was initially scheduled for two weeks but was extended so that two extra trenches could be opened: one at the opposite (north-facing) side of the wall at the western side of the cave (Trench 3), and one to investigate a dry stone wall outside the cave (Trench 4). The 2008 season was planned to further investigate two of the trenches that were not fully excavated in 2007, namely Trenches 1 and 3; however a further extension to Trench 3 was also opened (Trench 3a).

The site was excavated by hand, and for the recording of archaeological features, layers and deposits a context record was created using the standard context recording method. Context sheets, photography and field drawings (sections and plans at a scale of 1:20cm) were the principal methods used to record the site. Registers of context numbers, photographs, drawings, finds and samples were maintained throughout the excavation. Context numbers started at 100 in Trench 1, 200 in Trench 2, and so on. Trenches 2, 3, 3a and 4 were backfilled on completion of their excavation, sods had to be replaced only onto Trench 4. Trench 1 was backfilled with bales of hay in 2007 as the intention was to reopen and further excavate the trench in 2008 (hay bales being easier to take out of the trench than backfilled soil); and in 2008 the trench was also backfilled with bales of hay in case the trench was to be reopened again (though at a later date the trench was reinstated to its pre-excavation condition).

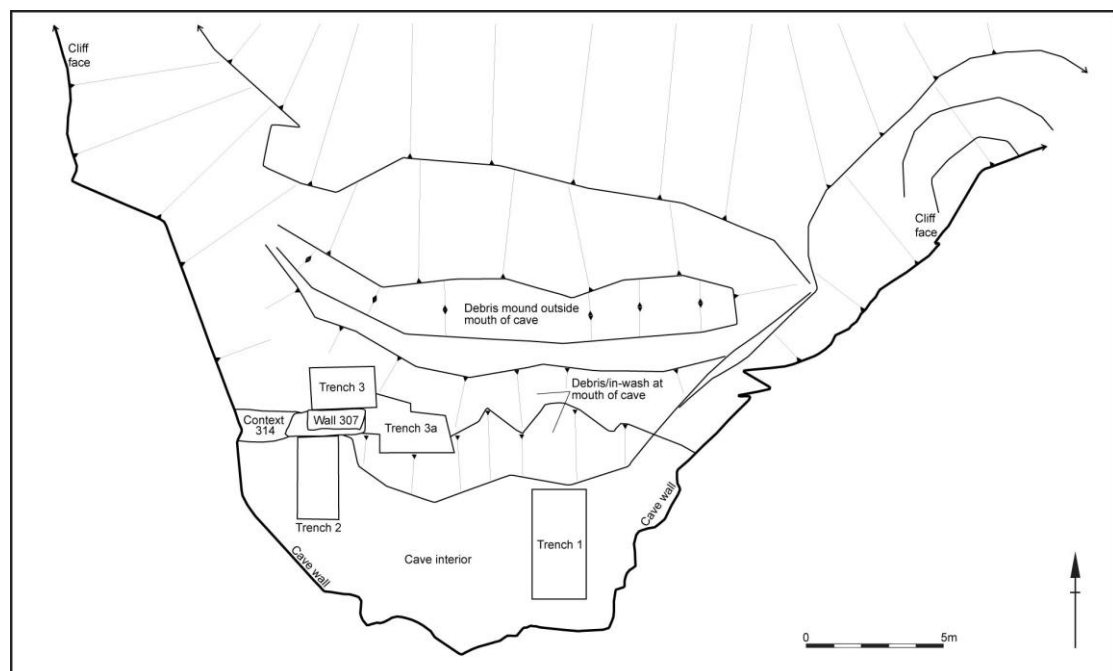


Figure 4: Plan of cave interior and debris mound outside cave mouth, showing location of Trenches 1, 2, 3, 3a and Contexts 307 and 314.

### *3.2 Account of the Excavation*

#### Trench 1 (Figure 5; Plates 1 to 8)

Trench 1 was located in the interior of the cave at its eastern side where the roof was at its highest. It was aligned north/south, and measured 2m by 4m. Context 100 was the surface layer across the whole trench, and was the same as Context 200 in Trench 2 but less stony. It was a light brown material, dusty on the surface and more compact underneath; up to 0.05m in depth. It contained animal bone, glass, modern pottery, and also modern metal and wood.

Context 101 was a layer consisting of a white powdery deposit intermixed with lenses of a brown material (same as Context 100); the white material was presumed to be a deposit formed from the waste matter of animals that used the cave for shelter (according to local people hens had previously been housed in the cave). It covered the whole trench lying below Context 100 and had a depth of 0.05m to 0.15m; the layer contained only modern material. Context 102 was a burnt spread, the remains of a modern fire, in a slight hollow in Context 101.

Context 103 was the layer immediately below Context 101. It was a mid to dark brown clayey loam, 0.15m maximum depth. The southern two-thirds had cut into it what were interpreted as animal burrows. The burrows, Context 104 (Plate 2), had a loose fill on the bottom, Context 105, which was actually redeposited Context 103 which had fallen through the voids of Context 104. Finds from Context 103 were animal bone and a metal hinge, along with barbed wire and wood.

Context 106 was a dark brown compact fibrous layer, up to 0.14m deep, with pieces of straw-like material and wood present in it. It was interpreted as an organic layer possibly formed from decayed animal bedding and/or fodder. Context 110 was a roughly square-shaped depression into Context 106, in the south-west corner of the trench, 0.10m in depth. It was unclear as to whether this was a natural depression or a deliberate cut. Context 107 was the fill of cut Context 110; it was the same type of material as Context 106 but lighter in colour and drier. Context 106 contained animal bone and glass, and Context 107 slate and wood (possibly worked).

Context 109 was a layer of stony/gravel humic clay extending across the entire trench, lying below Context 106; it was a maximum of 0.24m thick. The layer contained animal bone (and possibly fish bone), pottery (modern), shell, metal, flint and chalk nodules. On reaching Context 109 and an average depth of c. 0.20m it was decided to continue excavating only the southern two-thirds of the trench, this was due to time constraints combined with wanting to excavate as much depth of stratigraphy in the trench as possible.

Context 111 was a layer of medium brown sandy humic soil lying below Context 109, a maximum of 0.10m deep. This layer contained pottery (modern), animal bone, shell and metal. Context 112 was a stony/gravel layer, which lay below Context 111 and above Contexts 113, 114 and 115. It was up to 0.16m deep, and had finds of animal bone, pottery (modern), wood, shell and metal.

Context 113 was a lens of black material with charcoal flecks, possibly the burnt remains of a fire, lying below Context 112 and above Context 114. It was a maximum of 0.05m deep, and did not extend to the south and west areas of the trench. Among the finds were pottery (modern), a piece of brick/daub and a piece of clay pipe stem, as well as animal bone, shell and metal. Context 114 was a layer of medium brown compact clay, which contained no finds; it lay below Context 112. Context 115 was a layer of light brown compact clay, also without finds, up to 0.23m thick, found below Contexts 112 and 114.

Context 118 was a medium brown clay layer with some charcoal flecks, it might therefore have represented an episode of human activity. It extended across the whole trench, as did Context 119 immediately below, was a maximum of 0.16m thick, and contained finds of animal bone and metal. Context 119 was a maximum of 0.18m thick. It was a sterile, stone-free, clay layer, sloping downwards towards the back of the cave. Context 120 was a dark

clay and a possible occupation layer, containing animal bone, shell and flint (including a struck piece).

Context 121 was a black loamy layer, with bone and metal (Plate 3). Contained within it was a tightly-packed concentration of rocks, Context 122, which did not extend to the north or south of the trench. Context 122 could have been rock tumble (from outside the cave and not from the roof as it contained a chalk boulder). The stones of Context 122 also extended into Context 123 below them.

Contexts 123, 125 and 126 were all part of the same fire feature (Plate 4). Context 123 was an orange coloured layer which lay below Context 121; it contained animal bone (including burnt pieces), chalk and stone (possibly sandstone). It was evidence of intense burning in the south end of the trench, and the stones which protruded through the layer were fire-cracked. Context 124 appeared to have been an animal burrow dug into Context 123, it was at a depth of over 1.20m, and had modern plastic in it. Contexts 125 and 126 formed part of the same burnt feature. Context 125 was a layer of black sooty material which surrounded, and went beneath, Context 123; Context 126 was a sandy material concentrated around the south-west corner of the trench.

At the base of the fire feature and spreading across the whole trench was Context 127, a black-brown clay layer with charcoal flecking. It appeared to have been an occupation layer and contained animal bone, shells, chalk and charcoal. Context 128 was a rough pavement-like setting of stones: the stones were all of similar size, closely packed, and formed a roughly level surface, so therefore appeared to be artificially laid (Plate 5). Context 127 accumulated above and between the stones of Context 128. Context 129 was a clay layer into which Context 128 was set; it appeared to be a naturally formed layer which extended across the whole trench, and that was used as a bedding layer for the stones. Finds from the layer were pottery (medieval), animal bone, shell, flint and chalk.

Context 130 was a dark fibrous layer below Context 129; it was compressed organic material that could have represented an animal bedding deposit. Found in this layer was a peg made of worked wood, along with animal bone, shell, wood (some burnt), and stone (possibly polished); it also contained a few water-rolled pebbles and charcoal.

Context 131 (Plate 6) was a light grey lens of ashy material; it was thin, up to 0.05m, and amounted to only a smear in places. Context 131A (Plate 7) was a thin lens of light grey/yellow sandy material, possibly burnt stone; Context 131B was slightly lower and on the north-east side of the trench from 131A and was probably ash from a fire; they lay between Contexts 130 and 132, and did not extend across the whole trench. These features could have been spreads from fires. Finds from Context 131 were animal bone, shell, wood, metal, pottery (medieval) and possible ferric slag.

Context 132 was uncovered in a test-pit (0.50m by 0.50m, and 0.10m deep) dug along the eastern section of the trench at its southern end in 2007. The maximum depth of the trench in the test-pit was 1.80m. Context 132 was a dark brown sticky clay, and an occupation layer, lying below Contexts 130 and 131. Finds from the layer were pottery (medieval), animal bone, shell, metal, flint and wood. Excavation stopped at this level in 2007 with only a thin skim from the surface of this layer removed, the layer contained well-finished coarse ware pottery which suggested an early medieval date. Because of the interest generated by, and the unfinished nature of, Trenches 1 and 3 it was decided that a second season of excavation would take place in 2008.

In 2008 the northern part of the trench was initially excavated down to the lowest level of the previous year: therefore Contexts 109 to 131 were fully excavated. In 2007 this part had only been excavated down to Context 109 as due to time constraints attention had been focused on the excavation of the southern part of the trench.

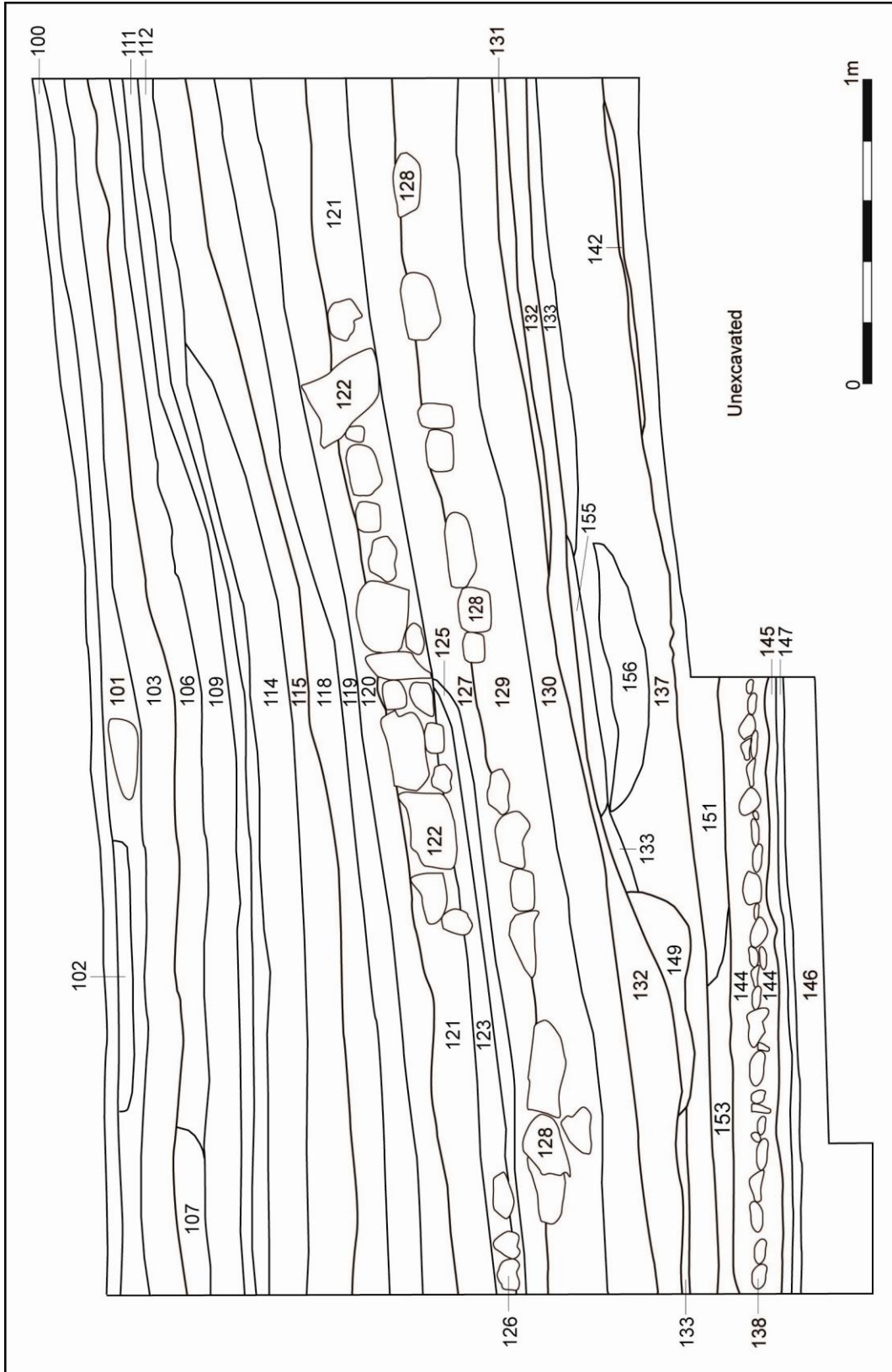


Figure 5: East-facing section of Trench 1.

Context 133 was a metallised or cobbled surface of small beach stones below Context 132 which extended sporadically throughout the trench; and was cut through by Contexts 140 (fill 155), 150 (fills 135 and 149) and 154 (fill 139). Found in Context 133 was a possible piece of leather. Cut Context 150 was a narrow shallow gully cut into Context 133; it had a well defined sharp north side but was fainter to the south. It was filled by Contexts 135 and 149. Context 135 was a mid-brown clay, a slight lens at the base of the gully. Context 149 was the main fill of cut Context 150, a black sticky material, above Context 135. This fill was actually Context 132 lying within the gully cut; it contained a pottery sherd (medieval), wood (possibly worked) and a piece of slag.

Context 134 was the fill of possible ditch cut Context 148, they lay below Context 132 and were cut into 151 & 153. Context 134 contained finds of pottery (medieval), animal bone, metal, shell and wood. Context 136 was a lens within Context 134. Context 151 was a layer of mid-brown silty clay; it contained animal bone and shell. Within Context 151 was a black lens Context 152, running north/south along the eastern edge of the trench (at a depth of c.1.80m). Context 153 lay alongside and ran below Context 151, it was a mid orange-brown clay.

Context 137 was a mid-brown clay layer, possibly a natural deposit formed by material washed into the cave, but contained pot sherds (medieval), animal bone and flint. It lay above Context 141, and below Contexts 132 and 133. Contexts 143 and 156 lay within Context 137. Cut Context 143 was a shallow depression or pit which ran into the east-facing section of the trench; it was filled by Context 156, a mottled clay. Context 142 was also within Context 137, it was a lens of burnt material, orange clay mottled with black.

Context 138 was a layer of very tightly-packed rock, in Context 144. Layer Context 144 was a clay possibly formed from water coming into the cave. These layers may have represented a break in occupation seemingly caused by fallen rock and waterlogging. Context 144 produced two stones (16.3cm by 12.0cm by 5.5cm and 12.5cm by 8.5cm by 8.0cm) which were possibly worked.

Context 154 was filled by Context 139, and cut into Context 133. Cut Context 154 was a depression or possible pit at the base of fire/hearth Context 131B. It measured 1.00m by 0.60m, before running into the section. Context 139 was an orange and black silty clay which contained pottery (medieval), animal bone and shell. Context 140 was a shallow depression below Context 131A, to the west of pit Context 154; it was cut through Context 133 and into the underlying Context 137. Context 155 was the black coloured fill of cut Context 140. (Plate 8)

Located at the north-east end of the trench, Context 141 was an orange and black lens which extended into the south-facing section; it was located between Contexts 137 and 138. This lens contained a sherd of pottery (medieval) and metal (iron, or possibly slag, fragments). Context 143 was a cut within Context 137, which ran into the east-facing section. This shallow depression or pit was filled by Context 156, a mottled clay. Below Context 144 was a burnt layer, orange and black in colour, Context 145; Context 147 was a dark brown clayey layer below Context 145.

Context 146 lay directly beneath Context 147. It was a heavily waterlogged dark brown to black occupation layer, with a high concentration of broken pottery; animal bone was the other material recovered from this layer. It appeared that this part of the cave was used as a storage or dumping area for pottery: it is possible either that pots stored here were broken by falling rock (e.g. Context 138), or that broken pottery was thrown into this area of the cave. A large quantity of pottery (795 sherds) along with a quantity of smaller sherds, fragments and particles were recovered although only a fraction of the context was excavated: a small test-pit, approximately 0.5m by 0.5m was dug into Context 146 at the south-west corner of the trench. The layer had not been bottomed at a maximum depth of just over 2.50m in this test-pit and was still yielding relatively large amounts of medieval pottery. The rest of Context 146 was at a depth of c. 2.40m deep, while the rest of the trench was at a depth of c. 2.00m deep. Excavation was discontinued at this point, due to time constraints and health and safety concerns.

Wall Feature (Figures 6, 7 and 9; Plates 9 to 12)

Context 307 was the number given to the upstanding wall within the cave. This wall stood just below the mouth of the cave, running in an east/west direction parallel to the cave mouth. Its outer faces were of worked stone, with a core of smaller stone and rubble. The stone was bonded with a silty clay soil (on some of its exposed surfaces this soil had a white deposit which presumably was as a result of water flowing through the roof of the cave or down the face of the cliff and into the cave in this area).

The south-facing elevation of the wall pre-excitation was a maximum length of 3.06m and a maximum height of 1.34m. The north-facing elevation pre-excitation was a maximum length of 2.60m and a maximum height of 0.55m. The wall was a thickness of between 0.80m and 0.90m. Trench 2 was opened on the southern side of this wall, with one of the shorter edges against its face, and Trench 3 on the northern side against the face.

Near the end of the 2007 excavation the area between the western end of the wall and the cave's western wall was cleaned up. This area had been covered with material that had washed in from outside the cave and some surface debris. It was possible to trace the continuation of the wall running right up to the west wall of the cave, Context 314 was the number given to the stretch of masonry running between the upstanding portion of wall and the cave wall; it was at a much lower level than Context 307. The length of this section of masonry was from 1.32m to 1.80m; the surface of what survived above ground level was exposed, and also the facing stones were exposed, one course high, on the southern side. (Plate 13)

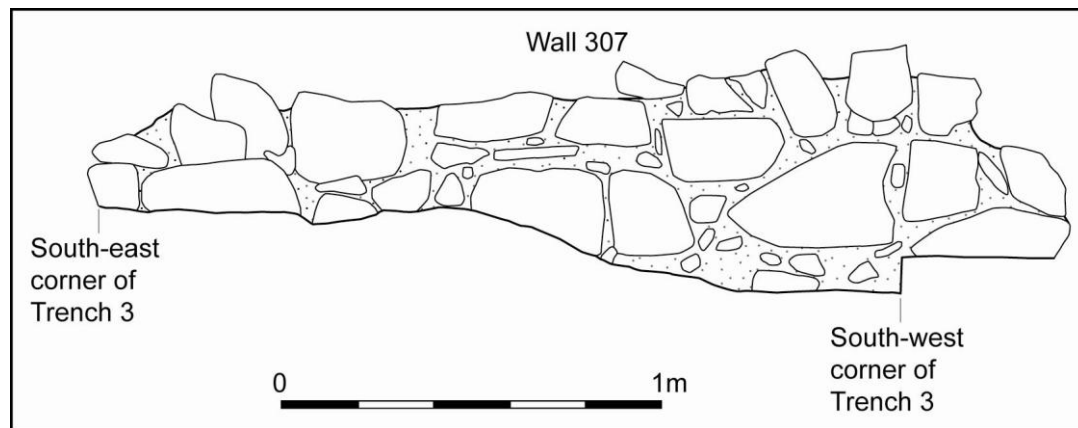


Figure 6: North-facing elevation of wall Context 307 (after excavation of Trench 3).



Trench 2 (Figures 7 and 8; Plates 10 to 12)

Trench 2 was aligned north/south inside the cave and measured 3.00m by 1.50m. The main purpose of this trench was to investigate the wall at the western side of the cave (Context 307): its relationship to the interior of the cave, and its function and date. A 3.06m (maximum) length of wall, aligned east/west, was located along the mouth of the cave at its western side (Context 307). This wall was the only artificial feature observable within the cave; it was constructed of mainly roughly faced stones on both sides with a rubble core, and bonded with clay.

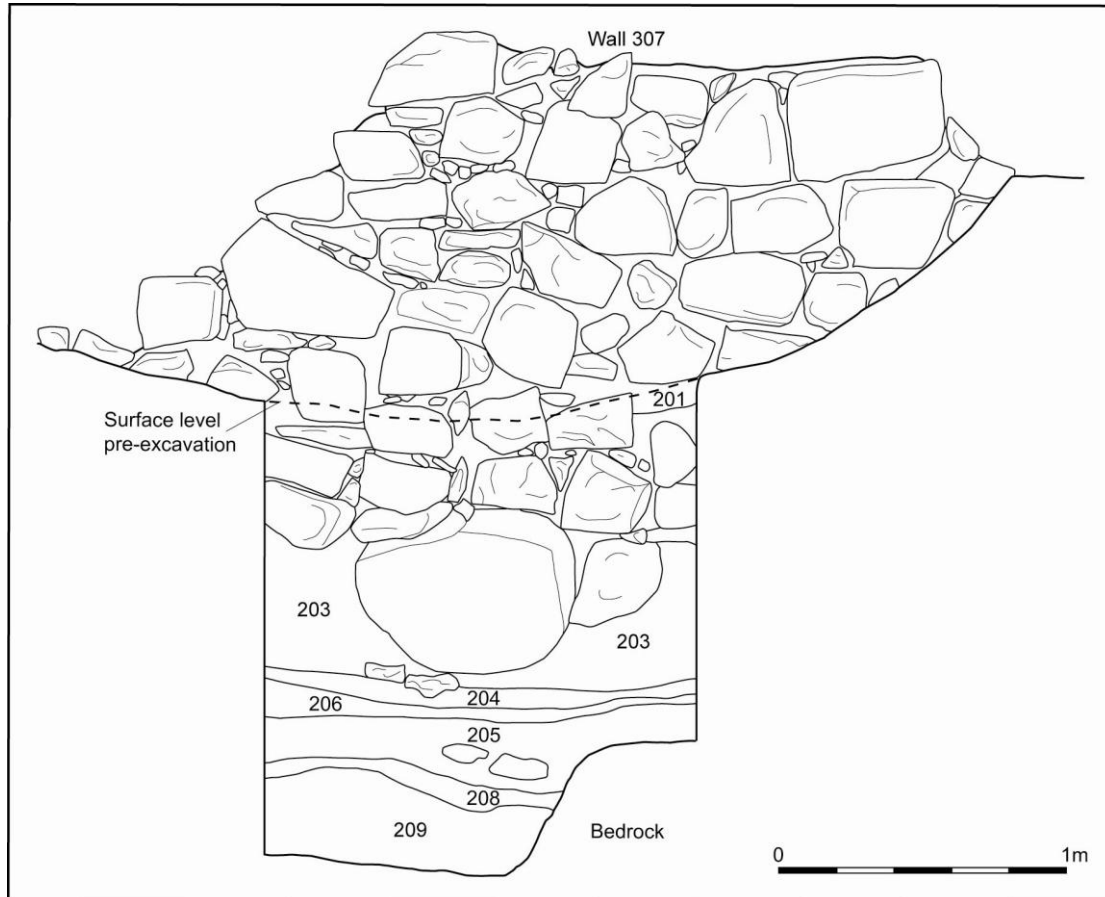


Figure 7: South-facing elevation of wall Context 307 and section of Trench 2.

The surface layer was Context 200, a light brown friable material up to a maximum of 0.13m deep. This layer was the same as the surface layer in Trench 1 (Context 100) but had more stone debris in Trench 2. Also protruding through the surface of Context 200 were some of the stones from Context 202. Finds from this layer were ceramic (modern), metal (modern coin), animal bone, flint, shell, stone; modern plastic and barbed wire was also present. Deposit Context 201 was stratigraphically above Context 200. It was a dark brown loamy material that had been washed into the cave from outside. It had washed in around either side of the wall Context 307 and met near the middle of its south-facing side. This slump deposit was only present at the northern end of the trench, and contained no finds.

Context 203 lay below Context 200, and was a layer of dark brown clayey loam. Context 203 contained Context 202, which was a deposit of stones; both extended over the whole trench. Context 203 was a maximum of 0.63m deep, Context 202 extended to a depth of 0.70m as it protruded into and through Context 200 which lay above. Finds from Context 203 were ceramic (modern), animal (and possibly fish) bone, shell, flint, metal; modern material (plastic and barbed wire) was found only at the top of these contexts. As there were voids between the stones of Context 202 either they were deposited over a short period of time, or because they are in the shelter of a cave the natural silting up of deposits did not occur; and because it was sheltered from this by the wall the wall must have been built before 202 was deposited.

They presumably occurred as a result of material falling from the cave roof or sides, either naturally or as the result of mining.

Context 204 was a layer of very dark brown clay-loam lying below Contexts 202/203 and extended across the whole trench. It was between 0.06m and 0.20m deep. It had a high charcoal content and patches of what appeared to be burnt soil. The layer contained pottery (modern and medieval), animal bone, shell, wood and a stone that was possibly heat damaged.

Context 205 extended across the entire trench and was a layer of mid grey-brown clay. It lay below Contexts 204 and 206, and above 207, 208 and bedrock. The layer was similar to Context 204 but more compact and with less orange/burnt and charcoal mottling; it was therefore also similar to Context 206. It contained a few water-rolled stones. Finds were of pottery (one sherd of modern pottery was found on the surface but could possibly have been introduced from layers above through the voids in Contexts 202/203, the other sherds were medieval), animal bone, shell, flint, wood pieces, and a chalk nodule. Context 206 was a layer of very dark brown clay-loam in the northerly third of the trench, lying below Context 204 and with Context 205 running under it. It was similar to Context 205, was a maximum of 0.15m deep, and contained pottery (medieval) and animal bone.

Context 207 was a thin layer lying between Context 205 and bedrock in the southern end of the trench. It was a compact, black (very high charcoal content), silty clay, 0.02m to 0.05m thick. Found in it were pottery (medieval) and animal bone. Context 208 was the same as Context 207, both charcoal-rich silty clay layers, but lay in the northern end of the trench separated from Context 207 by a ridge of bedrock which ran widthways across the trench. The layer lay below Context 205 and above Context 209. It was between 0.03m and 0.05m in depth and contained animal bone and shell.

Context 209 was a very light grey-brown clay, found beneath Context 208 and lying on bedrock in the northern end of the trench. It was a maximum of 0.27m deep, and contained bone, shell and flint. Bedrock was found to run over the entire extent of the base of the trench on removal of all fills.

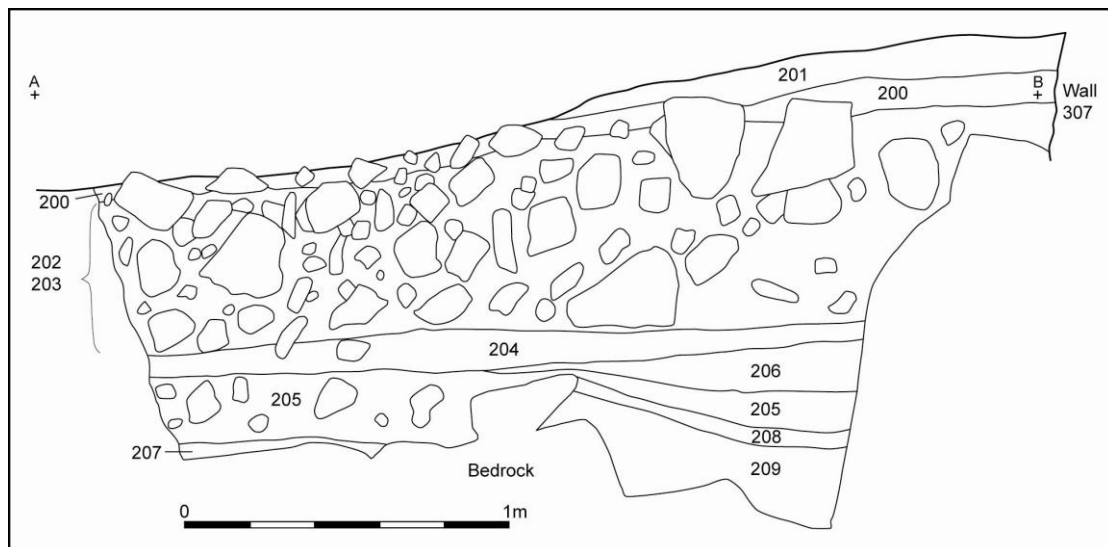


Figure 8: East-facing section of Trench 2.

### Trench 3 (Figure 9; Plate 12)

Trench 3 was located to the north of, and abutting against, wall Context 307 running along part of the mouth of the cave, and was therefore just to the exterior of the cave. Trench 3 was opened in 2007 to investigate that wall on the opposing side from Trench 2. The pre-excavation ground surface of Trench 3 against wall Context 307 was approximately 1.02m above that of Trench 2 against wall Context 307. The surface of Trench 3 comprised part of the down-slope of the area of rock debris that lay outside the mouth of the cave.

Trench 3 extended northwards from the wall for a maximum of 1.40m; and was a maximum of 2.40m east/west. The trench was opened to investigate the wall on its north-facing side and in the process to see if there was an archaeological activity in that area adjacent to the wall. The trench lay directly below the mouth of the cave at the edge of the debris mound that lay outside the cave. As the mound was sloping downwards towards and into the cave the trench surface was higher at its north end, and sloped down to the wall.

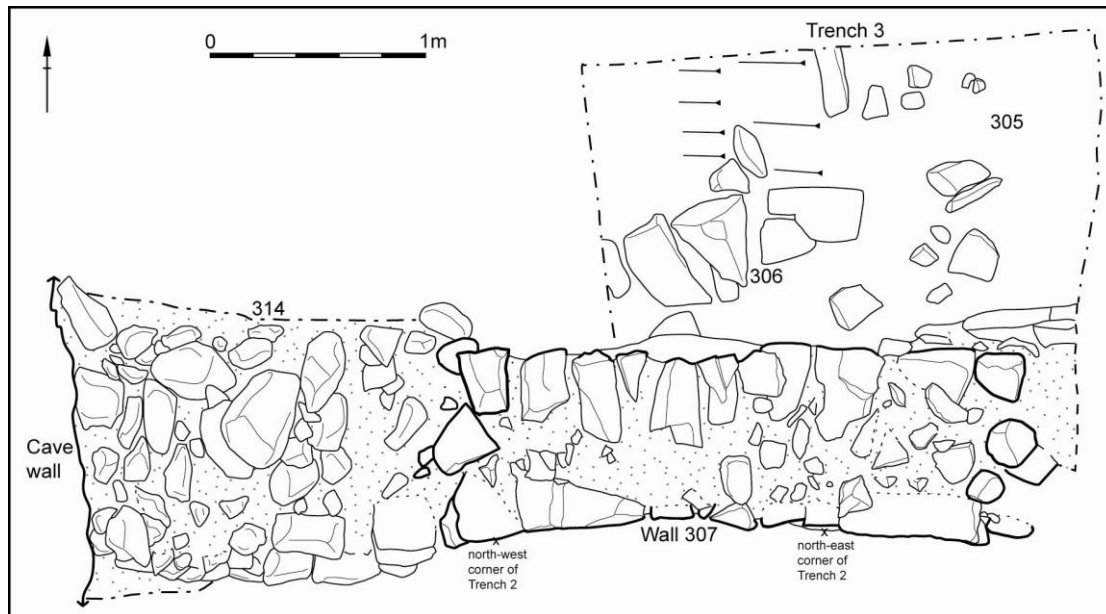


Figure 9: Plan of Trench 3 and wall Contexts 307 and 314.

The uppermost layer was Context 300, a light to medium brown silty loam with a vegetation covering, but did not extend across the whole trench surface. It extended from the north through to the east of the trench, having been eroded around the south-western part, probably due to the action of water dripping from the cliff face above the cave mouth. It was part of the debris mound lying just outside the cave, and because of this was a maximum of 0.60m deep (at the south-facing section). Finds from this layer were pottery (modern), metal, animal bone, shell and flint.

Underlying Context 300, and extending across the same area of the trench as it, was Context 301, a layer of black gritty clay. It was a maximum of c. 0.22m deep in the south-facing section and petered out towards the middle of the trench as it went southward; this layer contained no finds. Context 302 lay under Context 301 and extended across the whole trench at a thickness of 0.10m to 0.33m. It was a mid-brown clay-loam, containing gravel and larger stones, and some animal bone.

Context 303 was a layer of charcoal rich greyish-brown gritty clay lying below Context 302, a maximum of 0.10m in depth. It contained charcoal and produced finds of pottery (medieval rim sherd), animal bone and shell. This layer lay about 0.30m below the top of the north face of the wall; presumably this sherd was in a secondary location or this would suggest that the wall was earlier in date than the pottery. Context 304 was a clay layer which was similar in appearance to Context 303, with some concentrations of charcoal and quite a dense concentration of limpet shells. This layer was found in the western part of the trench and sat

on top of rocks Context 306. It contained pottery (medieval), animal bone and shell. Both Contexts 303 and 304 appeared to have been occupation layers.

Context 305 was a light to medium brown gritty loam, which extended over the entire trench. It lay below Contexts 303 and 304, and Context 306 was set into the surface of part of it. Context 306 was a rough setting of stones. They were sitting fairly flat and the stones were quite large (the largest was 0.50m in length). There were gaps between the stones: they may have been dislodged over time or deliberately robbed out. They did not stretch right over to the eastern baulk, and were also missing from the north-west corner of the trench. (Plate 12)

In 2007 the trench was excavated down to the level of the surface of Contexts 305 and 306. Plastic sheeting was placed over the exposed surface, in case of re-excavation, and the trench was backfilled; however it was not reopened the following year.

Trench 3a (Figure 10; Plates 14 to 18)

In 2008 an area was opened adjacent to, and to the east of, Trench 3, and directly to the east of wall Context 307; named Trench 3a, it revealed a continuing stretch of the wall. (Plate 14)

Context 308 was a portion of stone tumble aligned north/south, running between the eastern ends of masonry Contexts 309 and 311. It may have been the remains of a wall, possibly a return of 311. A sherd of pottery was recovered from the stones (medieval). (Plate 18)

Context 309 was a structural feature, it was a continuation of wall Context 307 running in an easterly direction. It was at a lower level than the top of Context 307, though was higher than Context 314. This stretch had some of the facing stones missing, and stone tumble had to be removed along with the surrounding washed-in material, Context 313, during excavation to uncover the wall properly. It ran for a length of 2.20m from the eastern end of Context 307, and was a maximum of 1.10m wide. (Plates 15 and 16)

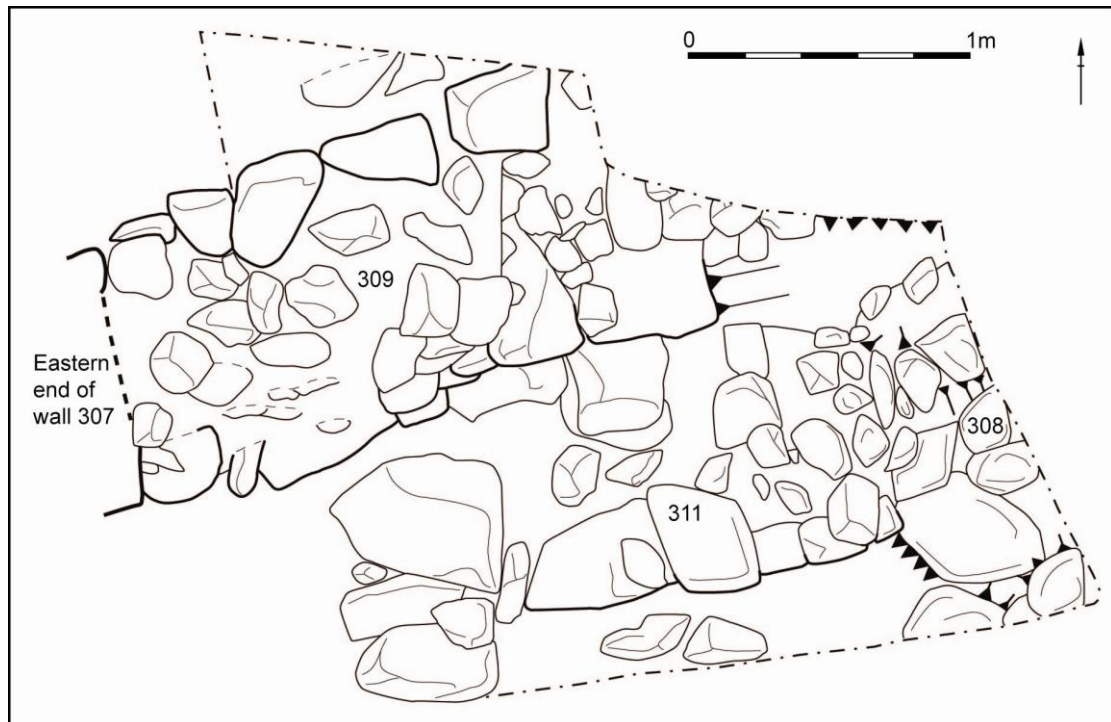


Figure 10: Plan of Trench 3a, showing Contexts 308, 309 and 311.

Context 310 was a small area of burning with orange/yellow and black lenses and containing charcoal; it lay above Context 311. Context 311 also appeared to be a structural feature, a possible wall. Context 311 consisted of large stones in an east/west alignment, situated to the south-east of Context 307, just to the south of Context 309. It measured c. 2.10m long along its top, and was a maximum of c. 0.50m wide. (Plate 17)

Context 312 was a layer of soil situated to the north of 311 within 313. It was a black coloured silty clay, which contained numerous small stones and also some larger stones which were presumably tumble from Context 309 and possibly 307. The layer was 0.20m deep, and it contained one piece of animal bone. Context 313 was a very light brown coloured clay-loam which covered Contexts 308, 309 and 311. It was material which had washed into the cave from outside, and thus sloped downwards from north to south. Contexts 310 and 312 were contained within 313.

#### Trench 4 (Figure 11; Plates 19, 20 and 21)

Trench 4 was opened across a dry-stone wall situated to the north-east of the cave. The purpose of the trench was to investigate the function and date of this wall, which was numbered Context 400. The wall was aligned north/south, c. 35m in length. Two shorter lengths of wall came out from the western side, running east/west, one from the centre and one from the southern end. This southern stretch of wall was c. 4.7m long, and it was just north of this that the trench was situated. The trench was aligned east/west across the longer length of wall, and measured 4m by 1m. Two pieces of animal bone were found in the wall make-up, along with modern finds of barbed wire and wood.

Context 401 was a topsoil and turf layer which covered the whole of the trench except where stones from wall Context 400 protruded through it, some vegetation had grown over the lower levels of the wall. Layer Context 401 was 0.05m to 0.15m in depth, and contained stones which had become dislodged from the wall. Finds from this layer were pottery (modern), animal bone, slate, flint, a piece of mortar, and also plastic.

Below Context 401 was 402, a layer of mid grey-brown clayey loam. This layer was compact in consistency and a maximum of 0.09m deep. An animal tooth and flint were found in this layer.

Context 402 lay on 403 which was the natural subsoil, a very sticky mid grey-brown clay. Wall Context 400 sat directly on top of this, on a ridge of Context 403. It was unclear whether this was artificially raised slightly and then the stones built up on top, or whether the wall followed the natural topography (possibly created by a water course). Finds of animal bone, flint and slate were recovered from the top level of this deposit.

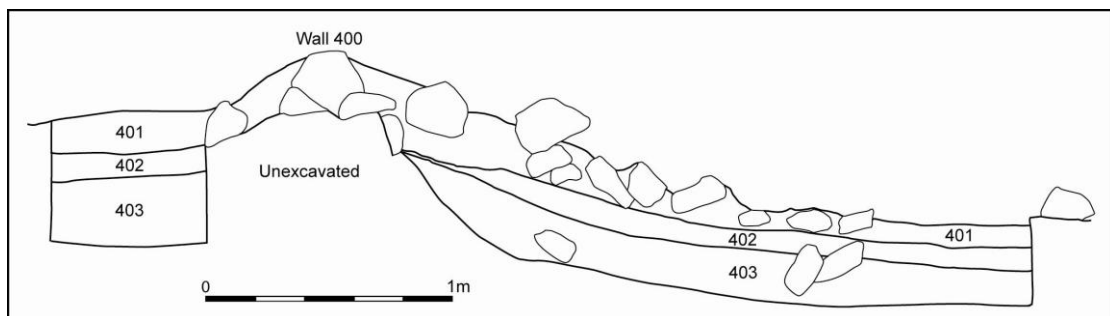


Figure 11: North-facing section of Trench 4.



#### 4 DISCUSSION

The reason for the excavation at the cave at Dunseverick was to ascertain what the archaeological potential of the cave itself was; to determine whether or not the cave was in use at the same time as Dunseverick Castle was inhabited; and therefore also to use the findings as an introduction to the archaeology of the castle. The cave was found to be of great archaeological significance, both in the interior and on the periphery between it and the exterior. Of archaeological relevance were layers and deposits incorporating evidence of burning, animal bone and a large amount of medieval pottery, along with masonry remains.

Trench 1 showed definite evidence, if not of continuous habitation, then of activity having taken place within the cave. There were a number of layers which yielded animal bone and shell, which were probably evidence of food consumption/diet. There was also evidence of episodes of burning, some of which would appear to have been quite intense (e.g. Contexts 131, 131A, 131B and 123, 125, 126). The burning could possibly have been related to an industrial process, and as no evidence for any other activities were found throughout the course of the excavation (the small amount of slag found does not suggest production) the burning could have been caused by the firing of pottery.

It could be suggested that making pottery within the shelter of a cave would have been quite a good idea, although no evidence of kilns was found in any of the areas excavated. The cave would protect the process, and the potters, from the weather, as this coastal area would have been quite prone to wind and rain; without the elements interfering with the speed at which the fire burned the firing process could have been kept going at a more constant temperature and for a longer time span.

The last layer excavated in the trench, Context 146, contained relatively large quantities of pottery. This has been identified as Ulster Coarse Ware pottery and an initial over-view of the pottery would suggest that it has not been used as it appeared very clean (C. McSparron, pers. comm.): it was therefore medieval in date, as would seem to be the case for all of the non-modern pottery recovered from the site, and its condition could indicate that the pottery was produced on site and never actually left the cave. Some of the pottery appeared to have been broken when it was a complete pot, suggesting that the material may have been stored in the cave, and as the area where the pot was found was towards the back of the cave it would have been out of the way of the movement of people within the cave.

Trench 2 was at the opposing (western) side of the cave to Trench 1 and was completely different in character from it. Trench 2 had layers of soil deposits sandwiching a thick layer of stones. This stone material could have been natural rock-fall from the roof, or the result of an episode of mining of rock from the roof and/or walls of the cave. Trench 2 bottomed onto bedrock, and did so at less of a depth (a maximum of 1.60m) than was reached in Trench 1 (which was not bottomed).

Excavation of Trenches 2 and 3 did not reveal the function or date of wall Context 307. It is unclear which was the inner and which the outer face, or whether, if at all, the wall was more in the interior of the cave when it was built (i.e. that the cave was more extensive in the past). It is also unclear why the portions at each end of the tallest stretch were destroyed and only survived at much lower levels, or indeed how that stretch managed to remain so intact.

Wall Context 307 may have been a revetment wall to stop material (e.g. the debris mound) at the mouth of the cave from washing/eroding in. Natural erosion, the action of rain, water running off the cliff face and interference by people could all have helped to destabilise the material at the cave mouth. Presumably it would also have provided shelter from the elements for anyone using the cave. That such a substantial wall was built would suggest that the interior of the cave was subject to habitation or some form of sustained use.

One end of the wall (Context 314) was found to have been up against the western wall of the cave, and wall Context 307 was also followed eastward for a length of c. 6.30m. It is possible that the eastern edge to the wall that was found was not an end but a break, and that the wall

continued over to the eastern side of the cave, although no evidence for this was looked for during the limited time span of the excavation.

Trench 3 had evidence of human activity, including a rough setting of stones and sherds of medieval pottery. The layers in this trench butted against wall Context 307 and were therefore later than the wall. This trench was of a small size when compared with Trenches 1 and 2 and was not excavated below the top five layers, and so added little to the understanding of the wall or the use of the cave.

In the second year of excavation an area to the east of Trench 3 and wall Context 307 was opened, Trench 3a, instead of reopening Trench 3. This revealed a continuation of that wall, at a lower level, Context 309, and also two other masonry structures. Context 308 was a length of wall tumble aligned north/south, and Context 311 was a length of wall aligned east/west. Context 311 would appear to have abutted Context 308, but the relationship was not entirely clear. Further investigation of all these features would be needed to resolve the issues.

Wall Context 400, over which Trench 4 was placed, would appear to have been relatively modern. It does not appear on the 1932 OS map but this could be due to its small size rather than its date of construction, as it is not on the 2003 OS map either. It was sitting on subsoil with relatively shallow layers built up around its edges; and did not produce finds of any antiquity. The opening of the trench did not give any indication as to the function of the wall. The most likely interpretation of its function, due to its location, would be that it was to do with the sheltering of boats. Lots of small boat enclosures were found on Rathlin Island, usually making use of the natural topography (like the back of a promontory or rock outcrop) and mostly defined by low, dry-stone walls (R. McConkey, pers. comm.).

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK**

### Introduction

In order to bring the results of the excavation to completion, and to facilitate full publication, it is recommended that a programme of post-excavation work should be undertaken on the artefacts, and organic and inorganic remains from the samples, recovered from the excavation.

The bulk of material retrieved from the site was of pottery, animal bone and shell, although finds of metal, wood and stone were also made. Small amounts of glass, clay pipe, mortar and possible leather were also found.

### Ceramics

The pottery from the excavation appeared to be either modern or medieval. On initial overview of the medieval pottery it was identified as Coarse Ware pottery, most probably Souterrain Ware. A total of 902 sherds were collected; of these 795 sherds were from Context 146, along with 1660.6g of smaller sherds, fragments and particles. Full analysis of the assemblage should be undertaken to assess the type and date of the pottery.

On completion of the pottery report a programme of macro-residue and lipid analysis could be undertaken. This would help to ascertain the function of the vessels and therefore the range of activities that were taking place at the site; it could also highlight if the vessels had not actually been used.

### Faunal Remains

The animal bone, including some fish bone, comprised a total quantity of just less than six A4 bags. Specialist analysis of the bone will identify the species that were present and therefore inform with regards to diet, and any other use which may have been made of the animals or bones.

### Shell

Approximately 1852.4g of shell was recovered from the excavation from the three trenches associated with the cave. An analysis of the shell is recommended to identify what different types were present, their use, and therefore whether they came to be in the cave vicinity by natural or artificial means.

### Metal

A small metalwork assemblage was retrieved from the site, it consisted of a modern coin, five nails, two possible nails, a hinge, eight iron fragments/lumps, and four unidentified pieces of metal. There were also five pieces which have only been identified as metal or slag. It is recommended that the metalwork is analysed to ascertain its relevance to the site.

### Wood

Of the 46 pieces of wood recovered from Trenches 1 and 2 one is definitely worked and another four look like they may have been. Further analysis of the wood will determine how much of it has been worked, what the pieces were used for and therefore their relevance to the contexts in which they were found.

### Flint

The majority of the 47 pieces of flint from the excavation appear not to have been struck, but study by a lithics expert will determine exactly how many pieces have been worked and their date and function.

### Stone

A number of pieces of stone were removed as finds from the site. With some of these their function or relevance to the contexts from which they came was unclear, but they were retained so expert analysis could decide if they were of importance or not.

Two of the pieces are possibly sandstone; three of the pieces have possibly been polished; two larger pieces look like they may be worked; one piece appears to be heat damaged; and

one piece was retained because of its odd shape. Seventeen chalk nodules were retained, and although they have been identified as such their possible relevance has not been. In addition three pieces of slate were also recovered.

#### Miscellaneous

A number of other materials were recovered and could have expert analysis applied to them: three fragments of glass; a clay pipe stem fragment; a piece of mortar; and a piece of material that has been identified as possibly being leather.

#### Samples

There were 23 samples taken from Trenches 1, 2 and 3. All of these samples have been processed, by both flotation and wet sieving. The material retrieved from the flot and residue has been separated out, bagged and labelled, but the material has not been examined.

Organic remains: insect remains, bone (animal, fish, some burnt), seeds (unburnt and charred), grain (charred), charcoal, shell and nut shell.

Inorganic remains: pottery, flint, quartz, mortar? slag?, iron fragment?, stone bead?, burnt clay?, glass slag?, fossil? and a sample of stone for identification.

There is also some material which has not been identified.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Connellan, O. 1846 *Annals of the Four Masters*.

Hennessy, W.M. 1870 *The Tripartite Life of Saint Patrick*. In Cusack M.F. *Life of Saint Patrick*. London.

Ivens, R.J. 1988 A note on medieval pottery from Cave Hill and the archaeology of caves. *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* Vol. 51, 132-134.

Jackson, J.W. 1933 Preliminary report on excavations at the caves of Ballintoy, Co. Antrim. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal* Vol. 4, 230-235.

Jackson, J.W. 1934 Further excavations at Ballintoy caves, Co. Antrim. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal* Vol. 5, 104-109.

Jackson, J.W. 1936 Excavations at Ballintoy caves, Co. Antrim. Third Report. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal*, Vol. 6, 31-42.

Jackson, J.W. 1938 Excavations at Ballintoy caves, Co. Antrim. Fourth report. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal*, Vol. 7, 107-112.

May, A.McL. 1943 Portbradden Cave, County Antrim. *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. 6, 39-60.

McConkey, R. 2004 Press Office News Release, Department of Communication and Development, UU.

Moore, P. and Forsythe, W. 2004 *Oweyberne Cave, Rathlin Island*, CAF DSR No. 026.

Moore, P. and Forsythe, W. 2004 *Oweydoo Cave, Rathlin Island*, CAF DSR No. 033.

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXTS REGISTER

### Trench 1

100	Surface layer; same as 200 but without the large stones
101	White and brown mottled layer
102	Burnt spread
103	Layer containing animal burrows
104	Animal burrows
105	Fill of animal burrows
106	Layer of organic material
107	Organic material, fill of 110
108	[number voided]
109	Stony/gravel layer
110	Cut/depression into layer 106
111	Humic layer
112	Stony/gravel layer
113	Black lens
114	Clay layer
115	Clay layer
116	[number voided]
117	[number voided]
118	Layer of clay and organic material
119	Clay layer
120	Clay layer
121	Black loamy layer
122	Rock concentration between 121 and 123
123	Burnt orange layer
124	Animal burrow
125	Black layer
126	Layer of sandy material
127	Dark clay occupation layer
128	Rough setting of stones
129	Clay layer
130	Organic layer
131	Ashy lens
131A	Sandy lens
131B	Ashy lens
132	Occupation layer
133	Metalled surface
134	Fill of possible ditch 148
135	Clay lens at base of gully 150
136	Black lens
137	Clay deposit
138	Layer of rocks, associated with 144
139	Fill of cut 154
140	Cut, filled by 155
141	Burnt lens
142	Burnt lens
143	Cut, filled by 156
144	Clay layer
145	Burnt layer
146	Occupation layer
147	Clayey layer
148	Possible ditch cut, filled by 134
149	Fill of cut 150
150	Gully, filled by 135 and 149
151	Silty clay layer
152	Lens within 151
153	Clay layer
154	Cut, filled by 139



- 155 Fill of cut 140
- 156 Fill of cut 143

Trench 2

- 200 Surface layer; same as 100 but with large stones
- 201 Deposit washed in from outside cave
- 202 Spread of stones
- 203 Layer containing 202
- 204 Layer with burnt soil and charcoal
- 205 Clay layer, similar to 204
- 206 Layer of dark brown clay-loam
- 207 Charcoal-rich black silty clay layer, same as 208
- 208 Charcoal-rich black silty clay layer, same as 207
- 209 Layer of grey-brown clay

Trench 3

- 300 Surface layer with vegetation
- 301 Black clay layer
- 302 Clay-loam layer
- 303 Clay layer
- 304 Clay layer
- 305 Layer of gritty loam
- 306 Rough setting of stones, sitting in 305

Wall Feature

- 307 Wall, between Trenches 2 and 3
- 314 Wall extending from 307 in a westerly direction to cave wall

Trench 3a

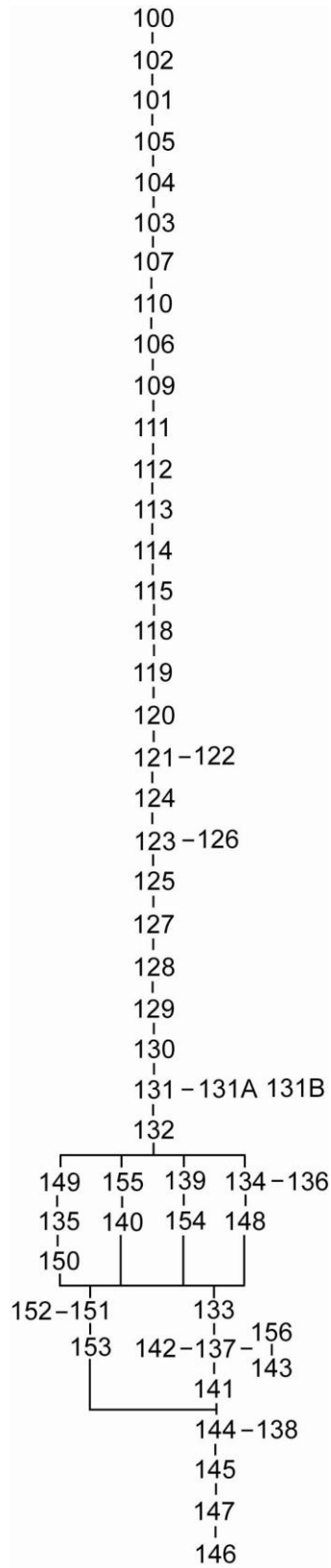
- 308 Stone tumble/wall remains
- 309 Part of 307 extending in an easterly direction
- 310 Lenses of burning
- 311 Alignment of stones
- 312 Black clay layer
- 313 Layer of clay-loam

Trench 4

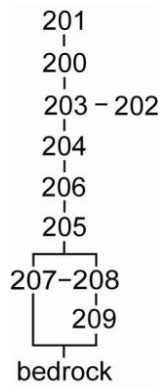
- 400 Dry-stone wall
- 401 Turf and topsoil layer
- 402 Layer of clayey loam
- 403 Subsoil

**APPENDIX 2: HARRIS MATRICES**

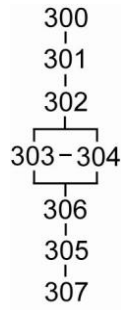
Trench 1



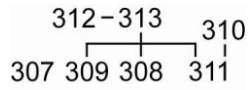
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 3a



Trench 4



### APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

#### Digital photos 2007

- 1 Wall 307, looking north
- 2 Wall 307, looking north (no scale)
- 3 Cave interior pre-excavation, looking south-west from east end of cave mouth
- 4 Trench 1, burrows 104, looking south
- 5 Location of Trench 2 pre-excavation, and wall 307, looking north-west (no scale)
- 6 Location of Trench 2 pre-excavation, and wall 307, looking north (no scale)
- 7 Trench 2 pre-excavation, with debris removed, looking north
- 8 Trench 2, surface of 202 after removal of 200, looking north
- 9 Trench 1, cut 110, looking south
- 10 Trench 1, 109, looking south
- 11 Trench 2, contexts 200, 202 and 203, looking north
- 12 Trench 1, contexts 113 and 114, looking east
- 13 Trench 2, surface of 204 and base of wall 307, looking north
- 14 Trench 1, 119, looking south (no scale)
- 15 Trench 2, 206 and base of wall 307, looking north
- 16 Trench 1, 121 and 122, looking north (no scale)
- 17 Trench 2, 207 and bedrock ridge, looking west
- 18 Trench 1, 123 (and sections), looking south
- 19 Trench 1, 123, looking south (no scale)
- 20 Trench 1, 127, looking south
- 21 Trench 1, 127, looking west
- 22 Trench 2, south-facing section and wall 307, looking north
- 23 Trench 2, south-facing section and part of wall 307, looking north
- 24 Trench 2, west-facing section, looking east
- 25 Trench 2, west-facing section, looking south-east
- 26 Trench 2, east-facing section, looking west
- 27 Trench 2, east-facing section, looking south-west
- 28 Trench 2, bedrock throughout base of trench, looking north
- 29 Trench 2, north-facing section, looking south
- 30 Trench 2, south-facing section, looking north
- 31 Trench 1, 128, looking south
- 32 North/south stretch of wall running down to the beach, over which Trench 4 was positioned, taken from the corner with the east/west stretch of the wall, looking north
- 33 North/south and east/west wall over which Trench 4 was positioned, looking north
- 34 Wall corner adjacent to where Trench 4 was positioned, looking east from above
- 35 Trench 4 after removal of sods, looking east
- 36 Trench 4 after removal of sods, looking west
- 37 Cliff face at base of which cave mouth is located (out of view behind debris mound), taken from shore, looking south
- 38 Trench 3, 303 and 304, looking south from above
- 39 Trench 4, east side of trench showing wall 400 and 403, looking west
- 40 Trench 4, west side of trench showing wall 400 and 403, looking east
- 41 Trench 4 showing wall 400 and 403, looking east from above
- 42 Trench 4, west side of wall 400 after removal of outer stones, sitting on a bank of 403, looking east
- 43 Mortar on a stone on top of wall 400
- 44 North-facing section on west side of Trench 4, looking south
- 45 Trench 3, 306 and part of wall 307, looking south
- 46 Trench 3, 306 and part of wall 307, looking east
- 47 Trench 3 306, and top of wall 307, looking west
- 48 Top of wall 307, looking west
- 49 Top of wall 307, looking east
- 50 Wall 307 (lit by artificial light from inside cave), looking north (no scale)
- 51 Trench 1, context 131, looking north
- 52 Trench 4 backfilled, and corner of north/south east/west wall, looking east from above
- 53 Termination of east/west stretch of north/south east/west wall, looking south
- 54 Close up of west end of wall 307 showing width and composition, looking east

- 55 Context 314, newly exposed bit of wall 307 as it extends westwards to cave wall, looking north-west
- 56 Trench 2 backfilled, looking north
- 57 Trench 3 backfilled, looking west
- 58 Context 314, newly exposed bit of wall 307, looking south
- 59 Trench 1, north-facing section, looking south
- 60 Trench 1, west-facing section (lit by artificial light), looking east
- 61 Trench 1 during excavation
- 62 View of Dunseverick Castle from outside cave, looking east
- 63 Bails of hay in Trench 1, looking south
- 64 Bails and backfill in Trench 1, looking south
- 65 Cave as left on completion of excavation, looking west-north-west
- Digital photos 2008
- 66 Trench 1, before reopening, looking south
- 67 Trench 1, stones, below 109, looking west
- 68 Trench 1, stones, below 109, looking west
- 69 Trench 1, 121, looking north
- 70 Trench 1, 121, looking north
- 71 Trench 1, 123 (part of), looking north
- 72 Trench 1, 123, looking north
- 73 Trench 1, 123, looking west
- 74 Trench 3a, pre-excavation surface before debris removal, looking west
- 75 Trench 3a, pre-excavation surface before debris removal, looking south
- 75 Trench 1, 131 and south-facing section, looking north
- 77 Trench 1, 131 and south-facing section, looking north
- 78 Trench 1, 131B pre-excavation, looking north
- 79 Trench 1, 131A, looking north
- 80 Trench 1, 131A and B (and surrounding area), looking west
- 81 Trench 1, 131A and B (and surrounding area), looking east
- 82 Trench 1135, 136 and 137, looking south
- 83 Trench 1, surface of 137 in southern part of trench, looking south
- 84 Trench 1, surface of 137 in southern part of trench, looking south
- 85 Trench 1, 137 exposed at southern end of trench, looking south
- 86 Trench 1 fenced off to be left for the weekend, looking south-west
- 87 Trench 3a, east end of 307, 309, 311 and 313, looking north
- 88 Trench 3a, 307, 309 and 313, looking west
- 89 Trench 3a, 309 and 313, looking west
- 90 Trench 3a, 309 and 313, looking west
- 91 Dunseverick Castle, and cliff to the west below which the cave is situated, looking north from the road
- 92 Trench 1, 139 pre-excavation, looking east
- 93 Trench 1, 139 pre-excavation, looking east
- 94 Trench 3a, east end of 307 and 309, looking south
- 95 Trench 3a, east end of 307, 309 and part of 311, looking north-east
- 96 Trench 1, 139 and 140 post-excavation, looking south
- 97 Trench 1, 139 and 140 post-excavation, looking east
- 98 Trench 3a, part of 309, 311 and 313, looking west
- 99 Trench 3a, part of 309, 311 and 313, looking west
- 100 Trench 3a, part of 309, 308, 311 and 313, looking east
- 101 Trench 3a, part of 307 and 309, 308, 311 and 313, looking east
- 102 Cave mouth and surrounding cliff face/faces, taken from Dunseverick Castle site, looking south-west
- 103 Wall over which Trench 4 was opened, running down to the shore, looking west from Dunseverick Castle site
- 104 Cave mouth and surrounding cliff face/faces, taken from Dunseverick Castle site, looking south-west
- 105 Trench 1 nearing the end of the excavation, looking south
- 106 Trench 1 at end of excavation, looking south
- 107 Trench 1 backfilled, looking south
- 108 Trench 1 backfilled and part of cave, looking south-west

**APPENDIX 4: FIELD DRAWINGS REGISTER**

No.	Tr.	Type	Scale	Description
<b>2007</b>				
1	1	Plan	1:20	Contexts 103, 104, 105 and 109
2	2	Plan	1:20	Pre-excavation plan of trench, Context 200
3	2	Plan	1:20	Contexts 201, 202 and 203
4	1	Plan	1:20	Contexts 109, 121 and 122
5	1	Plan	1:20	Contexts 123, 124, 125 and 133
6	2	Plan	1:20	Contexts 203, 207, 208, 209
7	2	Section	1:20	East-facing section
8	2	Section, Elevation	1:20	South-facing section of trench, and south-facing elevation of wall Context 307
9	2	Plan	1:20	Bedrock and base of wall Context 307
10	1	Plan	1:20	Contexts 109 and 128
11	4	Plan	1:20	Contexts 400 to 403
12	4	Section	1:20	North-facing section
13	3	Plan	1:20	Contexts 306 and wall 307 (joins drawings 19 and 25)
14	3	Section	1:20	South-facing section
15	2	Section, Profile	1:20	West-facing section and profile of wall Context 307
16	3	Section, Profile	1:20	West-facing section, and profile of wall Context 307
17	3	Section, Profile	1:20	East-facing section, and profile of wall Context 307
18	3	Elevation	1:20	North-facing elevation of wall Context 307
19		Plan	1:20	Context 314: newly exposed part of wall Context 307 extending westwards to cave wall (joins drawing 13)
20	1	Section	1:20	West-facing section (added to in 2008)
21	1	Section	1:20	East-facing section (southern 2m)
22	1	Section	1:20	North-facing section (added to in 2008)
<b>2008</b>				
23		Elevation	1:20	Contexts wall 307, 308 and 309
24	1	Plan	1:20	Contexts 133, 134, 139 and 140
25	3a	Plan	1:20	Contexts 308, 309 and 311 (joins drawing 13, underlays drawing 27)
26	1	Plan	1:20	Contexts 137, 141, 142 and 143
27	3a	Plan	1:20	Contexts 308 and 311 (overlays drawing 25)
28	1	Plan	1:20	Contexts 130, 131A, 131B, 132 and 133
29	1	Section	1:20	East-facing section
30	1	Section	1:20	South-facing section

**APPENDIX 5: FINDS REGISTER**

Context No.	Material/Description	Quantity	Year
<b>TRENCH 1</b>			
100	pottery sherds, modern	15	2007
100	animal bone		2007
100	glass, pale green fragment	1	2007
103	animal bone		2007
103	metal, hinge		2007
106	animal bone		2007
106	glass, blue fragment	1	2007
107	slate, small piece, perforation ?		2007
107	wood, pieces worked ?	3	2007
109	pottery sherds, modern	3	2007
109	animal bone		2007
109	shell	13.5g	2007
109	chalk, nodules	2	2007
109	pottery sherds, modern	4	2008
109	animal bone		2008
109	metal, ironwork	2	2008
109	flint	1	2008
111	pottery sherds, Victorian ?	2	2007
111	animal bone		2007
111	metal, nail	1	2007
111	shell	60.5g	2007
112	pottery sherds, modern	3	2007
112	animal bone		2007
112	metal, fragmented nail ?		2007
112	shell	40.4g	2007
112	wood, pieces	2	2007
113	brick/daub ?	1	2007
113	pottery sherds, modern	9	2007
113	animal bone		2007
113	metal, nails	2	2007
113	shell	39.8g	2007
113	clay pipe, stem fragment	1	2007
118	animal bone		2007
118	metal, nail	1	2007
119	glass, green fragment	1	2007
120	animal bone		2007
120	shell	6.8g	2007
120	flint	3	2007
121	animal bone		2007
121	metal, nail	1	2007
121	animal bone		2008
123	animal bone, including burnt pieces		2007
123	chalk, nodule	1	2007
123	stone, sandstone ?	2	2007
127	animal bone		2007
127	shell	9.4g	2007
127	chalk, nodules	5	2007
127	animal bone		2008
129	pottery sherds, rim and base, medieval	2	2008
129	animal bone		2007
129	shell	176.5g	2007
129	animal bone		2008
129	shell	295g	2008
129	flint	2	2008
129	chalk	8	2008

Context No.	Material/Description	Quantity	Year
130	pottery sherd, medieval	1	2008
130	wooden peg	1	2007
130	animal bone		2007
130	animal bone		2008
130	shell	50.1g	2007
130	shell	2.9g	2008
130	stone, water-rolled pebbles, polished ?	3	2007
130	wood, pieces	7	2007
130	wood, pieces, some burnt	6	2008
131	pottery sherds, medieval	22	2007
131	metal, ferric slag ?	1	2007
131	metal, iron nail head ?	1	2007
131	animal bone		2007
131	shell	35.9g	2007
131	wood, pieces	5	2007
131	animal bone		2008
131B	pottery sherd, medieval	1	2008
132	pottery sherds, medieval	5	2008
132	animal bone		2008
132	metal, iron fragments	5	2008
132	shell	405.8g	2008
132	flint	1	2008
132	wood	15	2008
133	leather ?	1	2008
134	pottery sherds, medieval	5	2008
134	animal bone		2008
134	metal, iron fragments	3	2008
134	shell	8.6g	2008
134	wood, fragments	3	2008
137	pottery sherds, medieval	3	2008
137	animal bone		2008
137	flint	1	2008
139	pottery sherds, medieval	15	2008
139	animal bone		2008
139	shell	49.6g	2008
141	pottery sherd, medieval	1	2008
141	metal, fragments, iron/slag ?	5	2008
144	stone, worked ?	2	2008
146	pottery sherds, medieval	795	2008
	pottery sherds, 1cm to 3cm	1401.5g	
	pottery fragments, 2mm to 1cm	242.5g	
	pottery fragments, < 2mm	13.3g	
	pottery, size < above	3.3g	
146	animal bone		2008
149	pottery sherd, medieval	1	2008
149	slag	1	2008
149	wood, piece, worked ?	1	2008
151	animal bone		2008
151	shell	6.2g	2008
Unstratified	animal bone		2008
Unstratified	shell	289.4g	2008

[total bone for Trench 1 2007 = <A5 bag]  
[total bone for Trench 1 2008 = 3 A4 bags]



Context No.	Material/Description	Quantity	Year
TRENCH 2			
200	pottery sherd, modern	1	2007
200	animal bone		2007
200	flint, nodules	7	2007
200	metal, coin, Eire 5 pence		2007
200	shell	8.2g	2007
200	stone, odd shape		2007
203	pottery sherd, modern	1	2007
203	animal bone		2007
203	flint	3	2007
203	metal, 1 piece fragmented	2	2007
203	shell	53.5g	2007
204	pottery sherd, medieval	1	2007
204	pottery sherd, modern	1	2007
204	animal bone		2007
204	shell	73.1g	2007
204	stone, heat damaged ?		2007
204	wood, fragment	1	2007
205	pottery sherds, medieval	3	2007
205	pottery sherd, modern	1	2007
205	animal bone		2007
205	flint	5	2007
205	shell	39.6g	2007
205	wood, fragments	2	2007
205	chalk, nodule	1	2007
206	pottery sherd, medieval	1	2007
206	animal bone		2007
207	pottery sherds, medieval	3	2007
207	animal bone		2007
208	animal bone		2007
208	shell	30.9g	2007
209	animal bone		2007
209	shell	39.6g	2007
209	flint, nodule	1	2007

[total bone for Trench 2 2007 = 1 A4 bag]

Context No.	Material/Description	Quantity	Year
TRENCH 3			
300	animal bone		2007
300	pottery sherds, modern	2	2007
300	flint	3	2007
300	metal	1	2007
300	shell	7.8g	2007
302	animal bone		2007
303	pottery sherd, rim, medieval	1	2007
303	animal bone		2007
303	shell	10.7g	2007
304	pottery sherds, medieval	5	2007
304	animal bone		2007
304	shell	98.6g	2007
308	pottery sherd, medieval	1	2008
312	animal bone		2008

[total bone for Trench 3 = 1 A4 bag]

TRENCH 4			
400	animal bone		2007
401	animal bone		2007
401	pottery sherd, modern	1	2007
401	mortar, small piece	1	2007
401	slate	1	2007
401	flint	3	2007
402	animal bone		2007
402	flint	11	2007
403	animal bone		2007
403	flint	6	2007
403	slate	1	2007

[total bone for Trench 4 = < half A5 bag]

**APPENDX 6: SAMPLES REGISTER**

No.	Tr.	Cxt.	Description	No. of bags
2007				
1	1	107	Layer, identification of organic content	1
2	1	120	Layer, content identification	1
3	1	121	Layer, identification and dating	1
4	1	124	Burrow, identification of contents	1
5	1	124	Burrow, identification of bones	1
6	1	123	Layer, identification	1
7	2	207	Layer, identification (possible charcoal)	1
8	1	125	Layer, identification and dating	1
9	1	126	Layer	1
10	1	127	Layer, dating (shells present)	1
11	3	304	Layer, dating (shells present)	1
12	3	304	Layer, dating (charcoal present)	1
13	3	303	Layer, dating	1
14	3	305	Layer, identification	1
15	1	130	Layer, identification	3
16	1	131	Lens, dating	1
17	1	132	Layer	1
2008				
18	1	121	Layer (organic material)	1
19	1	123	Layer (burnt material)	3
20	1	131A	Layer	1
21	1	131B	Layer	1
22	1	123	Layer (burnt material)	1
23	1	146	Layer, dating	1



Plate 1: Cave interior, before excavation, looking south-west from east side of cave mouth: area free of rocks on left of photo was location of Trench 1. (Photo 3)



Plate 2: Trench 1, Context 104, and part of back wall of cave, looking south (scale 1m). (Photo 4)





Plate 3: Trench 1, Context 121, looking north (scales 1m). (Photo 70)



Plate 4: Trench 1, Contexts 123 and 125, looking south (scale 1m). (Photo 18)





Plate 5: Trench 1, Context 128, looking south. (Photo 31)



Plate 6: Trench 1, Context 131 and south-facing section, looking north (scales 1m). (Photo 77)





Plate 7: Trench 1, Context 131A, looking north (scale 1m). (Photo 79)



Plate 8: Trench 1, Contexts 139 and 140 post-excitation, looking south (scale 1m). (Photo 97)





Plate 9: Wall Context 307, before excavation, looking north (scale 1m). (Photo 1)



Plate 10: Trench 2, pre-excitation with surface debris removed, showing wall Context 307, looking north (scale 1m). (Photo 8)





Plate 11: Trench 2, south-facing section and wall Context 307 after excavation, looking north (scale 1m). (Photo 22)



Plate 12: Top of wall Context 307, with Trench 2 to south of wall and Trench 3 Context 306 to its north, looking west (scale 1m). (Photo 47)





Plate 13: Context 314, newly exposed section of wall, Context 314, as it extends westward to cave wall, looking north-west (scale 1m). (Photo 55)



Plate 14: Location of Trench 3a, pre-excitation surface before debris removal, looking south (scale 1m). (Photo 75)





Plate 15: Trench 3a, Contexts 309, 311, 313 and east end of wall Context 307, looking north (scale 1m). (Photo 87)



Plate 16: Trench 3a, Contexts 309, 313 and wall Context 307, looking west (scale 1m). (Photo 88)





Plate 17: Trench 3a, Contexts 308, 309, 311 and 313, looking west (scale 1m). (Photo 98)



Plate 18: Trench 3a, part of Contexts 307 and 309, and Contexts 308, 311 and 313, looking east (scale 1m). (Photo 101)





Plate 19: North/south and east/west wall over which Trench 4 was positioned, pre-excitation, looking north. (Photo 33)



Plate 20: Trench 4, showing wall Context 400 and 403, looking east. (Photo 41)





Plate 21: Wall over which Trench 4 was opened, running down to the shore, taken from Dunseverick Castle site, looking west. (Photo 103)



Plate 22: View of Dunseverick Castle from outside cave, looking east. (Photo 62)





Plate 23: Dunseverick Castle, and cliff to the west below which cave is situated, out of shot, taken from the road looking north. (Photo 91)



Plate 24: Cave mouth and surrounding cliff faces, taken from Dunseverick Castle site, looking south-west. (Photo 102)

