

Castlehill Wood (re-)Dun: Reinterpreting a Stirling Oddity



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Castlehill Wood (re-)Dun: Reinterpreting a Stirling Oddity

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Cover: Top, Cell 3 viewed from the east during excavations. Bottom, object X.HH 585 spindle whorl.

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Introduction

As part of an ongoing review of Late Prehistoric settlement in the Forth Valley, key-hole excavation and re-analysis of archived finds was undertaken at Castlehill Wood in September 2020. The site had been excavated in 1955 by Richard Feachem of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (now Historic Environment Scotland). The focus of the current works was to obtain charcoal for radiocarbon dating from previously unexcavated baulks. All material costs were paid for by The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (**DIO**) who own the site, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the lead author, while the excavation and write up were undertaken in the main author's own time, ably assisted by local volunteers.

This publication also contains in Appendices 1 and 2 the results of two other artefact reviews that were undertaken as part of the lead author's ongoing review of Stirling's late prehistoric settlement record. It had been intended to combine both re-assessments with associated excavation phases but these have not happened. The first site, West Plean Homestead, was excavated by Kenneth Steer in the 1950s (Steer 1958). The second site Gallow Hill fort, Bridge of Allan, was the find spot of Roman rotary lava quern first reported by Stirling (1958).

Stirling Archaeology is a volunteer research group based in Stirling and led by Dr Murray Cook. Its aim is to understand and promote Stirling's incredible past by undertaking archaeological excavations, guided walks and lectures. The group is self supporting and relies on crowdfunding to cover costs. Everyone is a volunteer and no salaries are paid.

Our logo features the central feature of the King' Knot and elaborate 17th century garden feature designed for the coronation of Charles I and a key element of Scotland's oldest park. It was designed by Isobel Stewart and Paul Tonner.

If you would like to learn more or volunteer please contact Murray: m.j.cookstirling35@gmail.com.