
2 INTRODUCTION

Between 2003 and 2007, Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) undertook a series of archaeological evaluations and excavations at Laigh Newton, near Darvel in East Ayrshire. These archaeological works were carried out on behalf of Tarmac Northern Ltd, in advance of the proposed extension to the Loudoun Hill Quarry, which was subject to a planning consent condition imposed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service in their role as archaeological advisers to East Ayrshire Council.

The first phases of the archaeological works, comprising evaluations in 2003 and a further evaluation and excavation in 2005 had identified two discrete areas of plough-truncated prehistoric and medieval archaeological remains. Excavations of a further two discrete concentrations of prehistoric and medieval remains were carried out in 2007. This report deals solely with the prehistoric evidence encountered, while the medieval archaeological remains are reported elsewhere ([James forthcoming](#)).