

9. CONCLUSIONS

The excavations at Ness Gap provide significant insights into prehistoric activity on the Black Isle. The evidence from the group of Neolithic pits can be added to that from other sites to provide increasing insights into the development of subsistence practices in the Neolithic. Together with the evidence from Fortrose and Rosemarkie Waste Water Works, the sites inform the ever-expanding understanding of Bronze Age burial practices in Scotland. There is a shift in burial practices witnessed at Ness Gap from short-cist

inhumation in the Early Bronze Age to cremations in the Middle Bronze Age. The artefacts deposited within the cremations include high-status metal objects and the remains of personal adornments. The beads indicate both participation in wider networks across the Moray Firth and possible local production techniques. The metalwork from the site is significant, with the association of putative razors with potentially female graves warranting further investigation. Finally, the location of the site, in a unique peninsular landscape, may have contributed to it becoming a 'special place' in the Bronze Age, used to bury and remember the dead.