

### 3. WOODEND

#### 3.1 Introduction

Located on the lower slopes of the eastern side of the Clyde Valley the excavation area at Woodend rises from a height of 228m AOD adjacent the A702 public road to some 240m AOD on the gently sloping crest of a knoll. The River Clyde lies to the north-west, while two minor tributaries, the Woodend Burn and the larger Wandel Burn, are located north and south respectively. The excavation area measured around 0.16ha (Illus 3.1) and included a double ditched enclosure on the knoll and probable Roman quarry pits lying to the east of the road. Both the quarry pits and the enclosure lie in an area that had been improved by cultivation, and they were previously known only from cropmarks and parchmarks on aerial photographs. The excavation confirmed the presence of the double ditched enclosure and one of the quarry pits, as well as evidence of internal structures within the enclosure. It improved understanding of the layout of the enclosure and provided a date for the remains, however, much of the enclosure survives unexcavated to the south-east of the wind farm construction.

##### 3.1.1 Radiocarbon Dates and Dating

Radiocarbon dates were obtained from material recovered from four features and all four dates fell within the Late Iron Age (Table 3.1). Both the earliest dated sample and the latest dated sample were from deliberately deposited fills of pits within the enclosure. The other two dated samples were from the fill of a palisade gully and the primary fill of the interior ditch; the dates indicate that the gully belonged to an earlier phase of activity

than the ditch but since both deposits were the result of natural erosion, they are therefore less secure in providing a date for those features. However, the radiocarbon dates should be treated with some degree of confidence in terms of providing a broad indication of the main phase of activity. The artefactual evidence consisted of Mesolithic worked chert and hammerscale from metalworking. The typology of the features and the presence of metalworking evidence were all indicative of an Iron Age date which was further supported by the radiocarbon dates. The Mesolithic material provided evidence of a much earlier phase of activity.

##### 3.1.2 Background

This section of the Clyde Valley is rich in archaeological sites (Illus 3.2) few of which have been subject to excavation. Two main periods of known activity are represented: the late prehistoric/Roman and the medieval to post medieval period. The sites on the floor of the Clyde Valley have been denuded by cultivation and are mostly known through aerial photographs. Some may represent settlements of Iron Age date such as the four penannular ring ditches (Canmore ID [47348](#)) 800m north of Woodend, the possible palisaded enclosure (Canmore ID [47346](#)) recorded on the lower northern slopes of Devonshaw Hill, and the two curvilinear parchmark enclosures (Canmore ID [269160](#)) nearby. Others such as the potential ring ditches to the west of the Clyde (Canmore ID [83934](#)) are so nebulous that they cannot be assigned a date.

Two cropmark enclosures (Canmore ID [47370](#)) are recorded on the left bank of the Clyde at Hillend, 650m west of the site. The

**Table 3.1** Radiocarbon determinations from Woodend

| Lab Code    | Context No | Material                          | Radiocarbon Age BP | Radiocarbon Date (95% probability) |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| SUERC-58792 | 10-0066    | Burnt bone                        | 2048±28            | 165 cal BC–cal AD 20               |
| SUERC-58791 | 10-0018    | Burnt bone                        | 1975±24            | 40 cal BC–cal AD 75                |
| SUERC-58790 | 10-0037    | Charcoal: <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>  | 1912±27            | cal AD 20–210                      |
| SUERC-58793 | 10-0062    | Charcoal: <i>Corylus avellana</i> | 1885±29            | cal AD 60–220                      |



Illus 3.1 Location of site at Woodend. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)

sub-rectangular enclosure may represent an Iron Age settlement. The circular enclosure has been tentatively interpreted as the remains of a henge and excavations nearby produced fragments of Grooved Ware pottery.

The sites on the slopes and hilltops are visible as upstanding remains such as the two possible burial cairns – one on the summit of Devonshaw Hill (Canmore ID [47359](#)) the other 500m to the east (Canmore ID [47353](#)). Other upstanding remains include the enclosure north of Devonshaw Hill summit (Canmore ID [47358](#)) and the earthwork south of the summit (Canmore ID [47352](#)), the possible burnt mound on the banks of Wandel Burn (Canmore ID [89186](#)) and a small D-shaped earthwork at Shiel Burn (Canmore ID [47357](#)).

One of the most distinctive sites is the hillfort on the upper slopes of Devonshaw Hill (Canmore ID [47343](#)), which lies around 500m north-east of Woodend. It overlooks the investigation area and has wider views over the Clyde Valley to the north and south. Two other defensive features, a Roman fortlet and a temporary camp (Canmore ID [47371](#)) which are believed to relate to early conquest activity possibly during the Flavian period (Jones 2011: 112), lie 1.75km to the south-west of Woodend. A medieval tower house, the Bower of Wandel (Canmore ID [47354](#)), lies 600m north of Woodend, immediately on the River Clyde. One hundred metres to the west of Woodend lies the A702 which at this point runs along the route – and probably directly over any remains – of the Border-Crawford-Inveresk Roman Road (Canmore ID [71654](#)); the possible quarry pits lie to the east of this road.

Extensive areas of rig and furrow have been identified in aerial photos and LiDAR located across much of the sloping ground forming the south-western and western sides of Woodend Hill (Canmore ID [73499](#)), and the southern slopes of Devonshaw Hill (Canmore ID [73428](#)). Many sections of the rig and furrow which could date to the medieval or post medieval periods remain clearly visible on the ground. The varied alignment of the rigs, along with other agricultural elements such as field dykes, would suggest more than one phase of farming is represented.

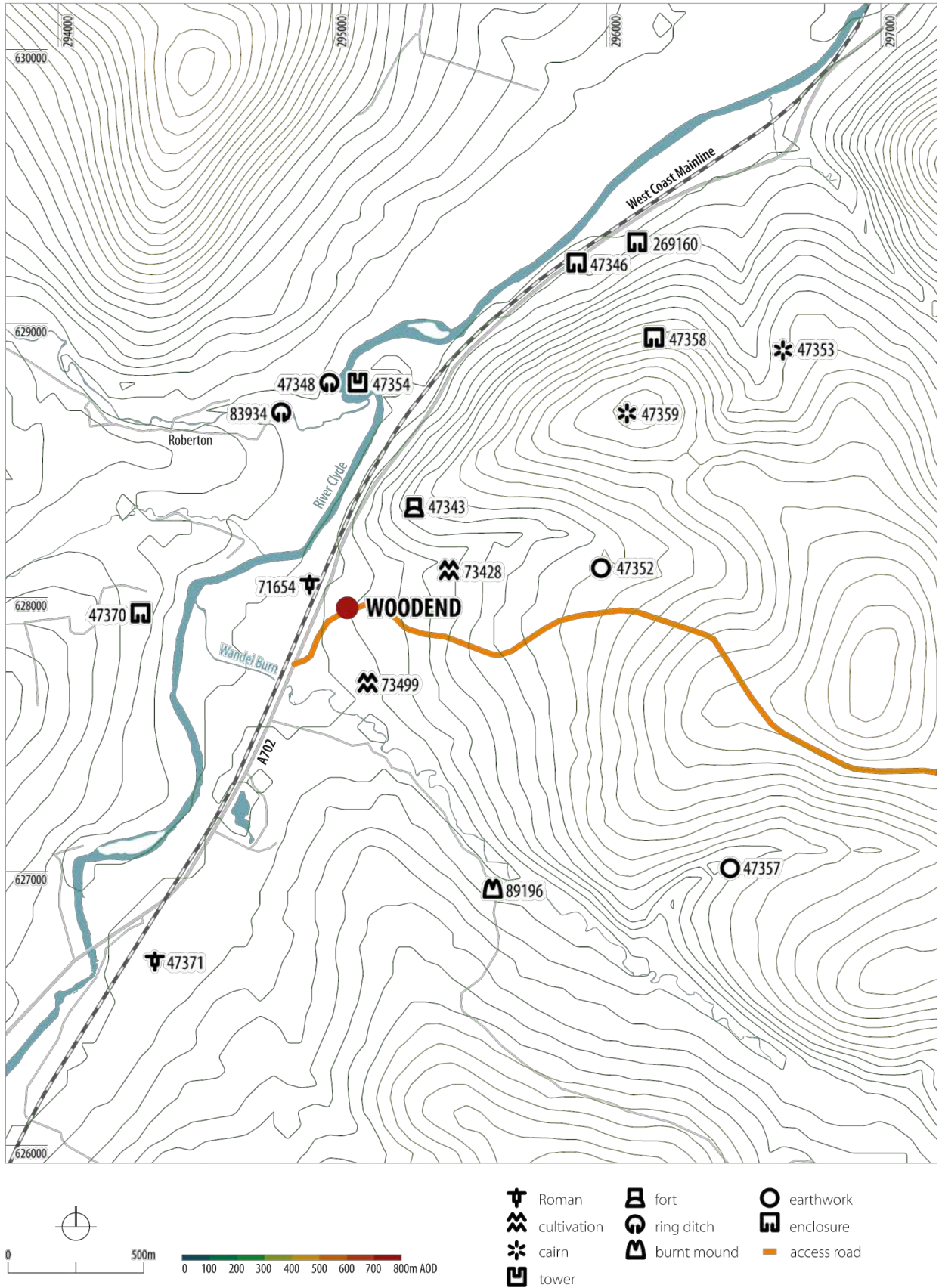
## 3.2 Archaeological Results

The landscape unit was investigated during works to create an access track, compound area, and car park. Large sections of the monitored works were devoid of archaeology, but a knoll measuring 85m by 25m, occupied by the cropmark of the double-ditch enclosure, proved to be a focus of activity. The presence of the enclosure was initially confirmed through trial trenching and then explored during topsoil stripping prior to construction works. Although the initial intention was to fully excavate the remains, time constraints and the fact that the compound was intended to be a temporary construction resulted in a proposal to preserve the features in situ by covering the archaeological remains with geotextile and building up the ground surface with stone to provide a platform for site offices. A sample excavation was undertaken prior to the geotextile being laid, with slots excavated through the features to gain an outline understanding of the site.

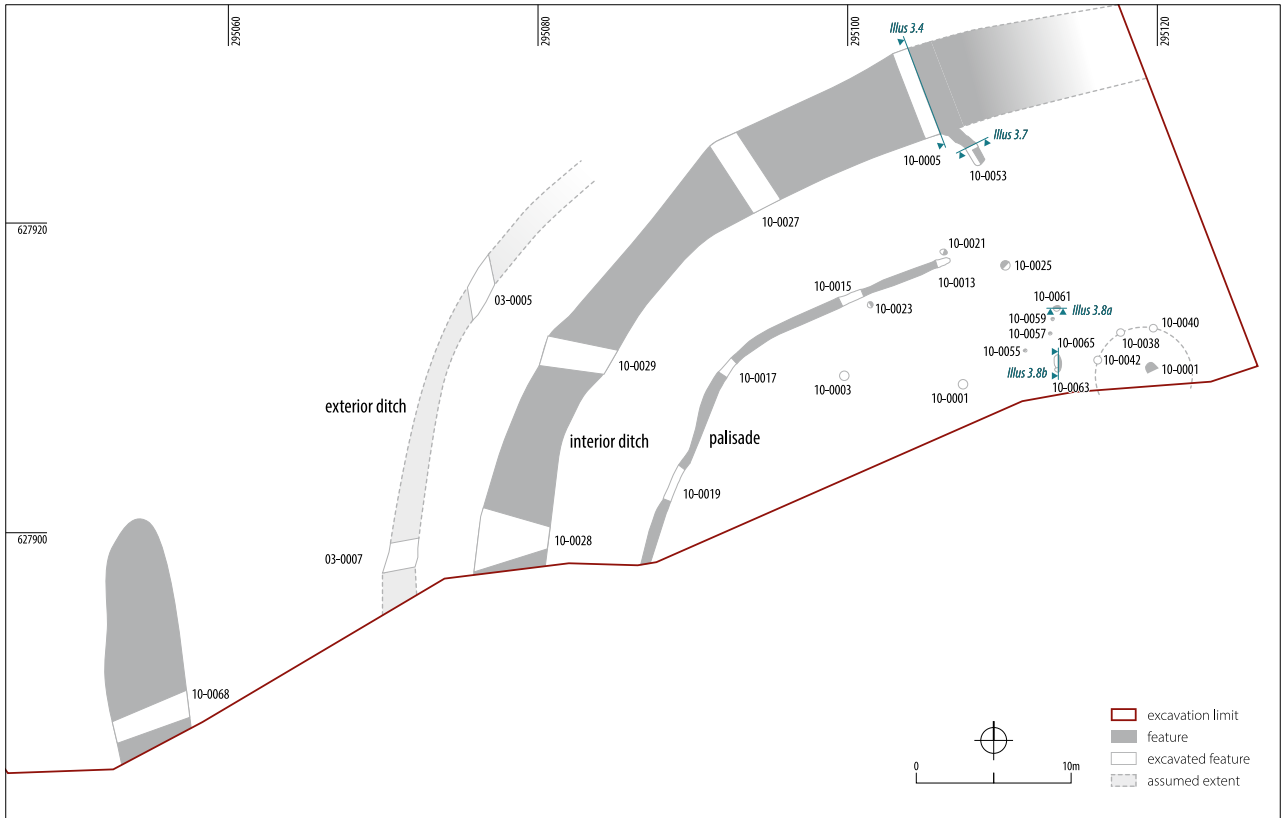
Works during the wind farm extension comprised further building up of material to extend and improve the extant compound area, and the excavation of additional cable and drainage trenches. Only one pit feature was recorded during these works, with the majority of cable and drainage trenches being contained within the built-up ground. Following completion of the construction works for the extension, the ground level around the compound platform was filled in and regraded to provide a profile in keeping with the original knoll. It should be noted that the extant remains of the site still survive below the current ground surface, under the built-up ground and a layer of geotextile.

### 3.2.1 Defences

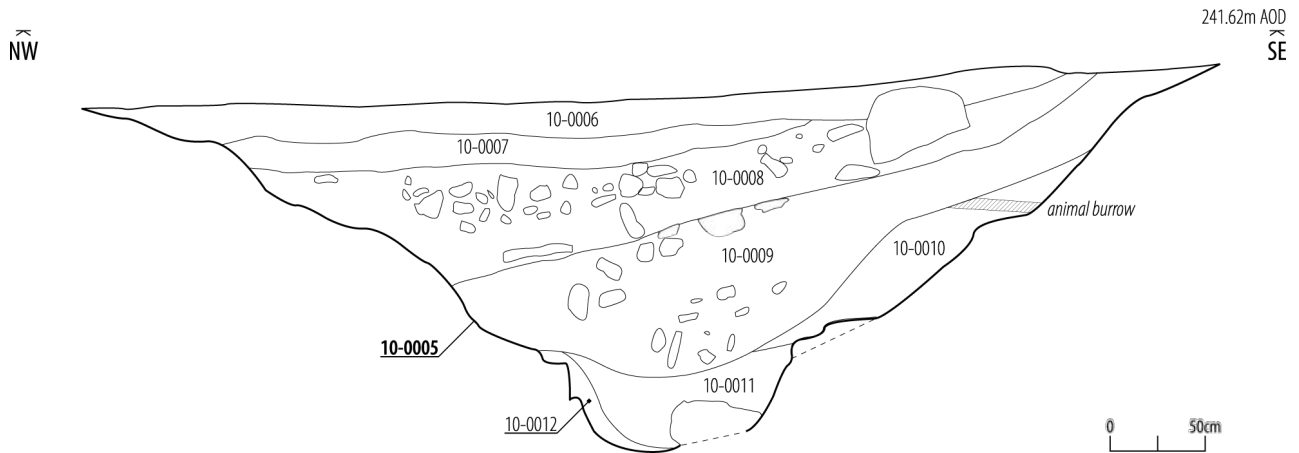
Two concentric ditches and an interior gully were identified, forming part of the north-west arc of the enclosure (Illus 3.3) previously identified by aerial photography. The interior ditch was the larger and most visible feature within the excavation. The exposed segment measured *c* 60m long and was up to 5.4m wide and 1.7m deep. Towards the north-east, the width of the ditch narrowed substantially, where the cropmarks show it turning along the edge of a shallow natural gully. The profile of the



Illus 3.2 Plan of known heritage assets around Woodend. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)



Illus 3.3 Plan of features at Woodend. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)



Illus 3.4 South-west facing section of interior ditch. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)

ditch (Illus 3.4) consisted of a steeply sloped inner (south-east) edge, and a slightly less steep outer edge. A narrower, steeper section was present along the base of the ditch which was somewhat flat and about 0.6m wide. In at least three of the slots excavated, the geological subsoil on the inner edge was at a higher level than the outer (that is, over

0.7m difference between the level of subsoil at the outer and inner edges in slot 10-0028), reflecting the original sloped profile of the ground through which the ditch was dug.

The sequence of deposits seen in all four slots was relatively similar. The ditch was filled with deposits representing silting and erosion from the inner edge



**Illus 3.5** View east of slot through interior ditch. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)

(for example Context 10-0010 and C10-0011; Illus 3.4). A fragment of alder charcoal retrieved from the primary fill of one of the ditch slots produced a radiocarbon date of cal AD 20–210 (95% probability; SUERC-58790). These deposits were overlain by two layers of clayey silt which contained substantial amounts of large unworked stone rubble (Illus 3.5). The tip lines of these deposits indicated they had originated from inside the enclosed area. Above this were comparatively thin layers of stony silt, not too dissimilar to the topsoil across the site and likely the result of erosion of the topsoil post-abandonment of the site.

The fact that the deposits within the ditch largely slope from the inner to outer edge, along with the presence of extensive rubble deposits following the initial weathering of the ditch edges, points to the presence of a bank on the inner edge of the ditch. The thickness of the rubble deposits and the lack of weathering from the outer edge suggest that the bank material entered the ditch over a short period of time. The form the bank took is not clear. If its purpose was a display of ostentation or defence, then the material used to create the bank might be expected to possess some structure, such as a stone foundation with an earthen cap or an outer stone wall with a rubble and earth core, but the evidence here is inconclusive.

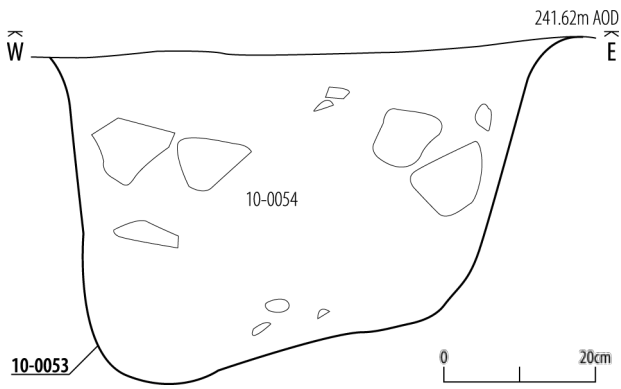
A narrow gully was identified (Illus 3.3) lying between 6m and 7.5m within the interior ditch, seen for just under 30m and with a defined terminal at the north-east end. The gully survived to a depth of nearly 0.5m where it was best preserved and had steep sides and a curved base. Several moderately



**Illus 3.6** View north-east / south-west of section of palisade. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)

sized angular stones were found which may have acted as packing stones (Illus 3.6), with the gully forming the foundation of a wooden palisade. A fragment of burnt bone recovered from the gully produced a radiocarbon date of 40 cal BC–cal AD 75 (95% probability; SUERC-58791). Two post-holes (C10-0021 and C10-0023) were also recorded close to the palisade gully, one immediately outside the north-east terminal and the other further to the west on the interior side. Both were of a similar size and depth. The posts in these holes on either side of the palisade could have provided structural support to the uprights, perhaps indicating repairs to part of the palisade during its lifetime. A short, curved section of gully, C10-0053, was recorded running perpendicular to the interior ditch (the stratigraphic relationship between the two was not determined). The profile of this section of gully (Illus 3.7) is similar to the profile of the internal gully, with steep sides, a curved base and a definite terminal. It appears that together they form the entrance to a palisaded enclosure of which the northern side has been eliminated by the interior ditch.

The exterior ditch of the hillfort was only seen during evaluation although the line of it can be extrapolated from aerial photographs. The ditch was seen in two trenches and appeared to be increasingly truncated toward the north. The ditch was concentric with the interior ditch and lay around 3m outside it. It was up to 1.9m wide and 0.5m deep with moderately steep sloping sides and a rounded base. Like the interior ditch, the level of



**Illus 3.7** South-facing section of gully C10-0053. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)

the geological subsoil on the inner edge was higher than that of the outer. It was filled with a single deposit of light brown sandy silt with no evidence of the rubble deposits seen within the interior ditch, suggesting that there was no corresponding bank on the inside edge.

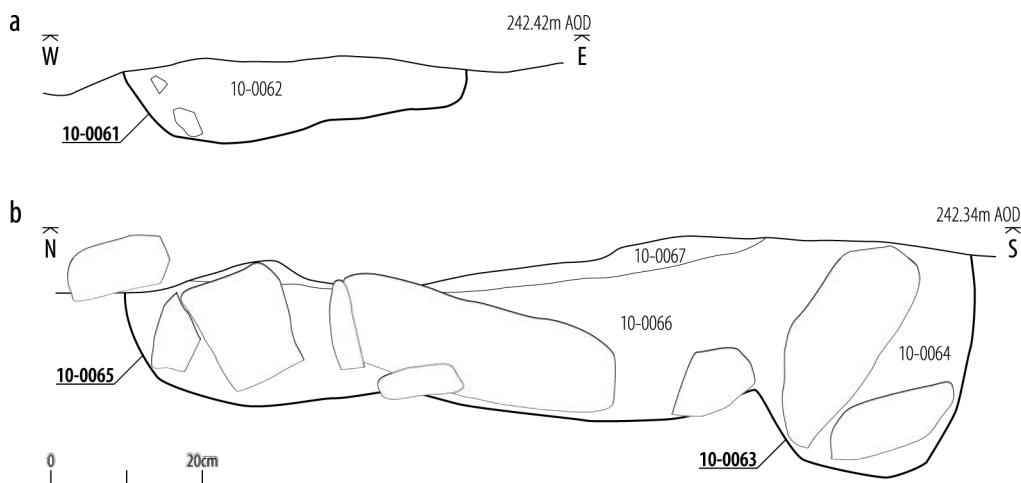
### 3.2.2 Internal Features

Within the enclosed area 14 pits and post-holes were identified. At least three of the post-holes were set on an arc with a projected diameter of a little over 6m and probably formed part of a structure, which extended beyond the limits of the excavation to the south. These all contained packing stones and

were around 0.3m deep. A pit was also identified within the structure during the wind farm extension works, but was only recorded in plan, so its specific function is unknown.

Pits made up most of the remaining features, with a small group of heavily truncated post-holes close to the structure (C10-0055, 10-0057, and C10-0059). Of greater interest was C10-0061 (Illus 3.8a), a pit which contained vitrified material indicative of ironworking. The range of waste material recovered specifically indicates blacksmithing, and the quantities found imply that it was taking place in the immediate vicinity of the pit. No clear evidence was found to indicate the pit had been used as a hearth. It lay within a few metres of the structure, and it is possible the structure was associated with smithing and that the surrounding features relate to it. A fragment of hazel charcoal within pit C10-0061 produced a radiocarbon date of cal AD 60–220 (95 % probability; SUERC-58793), broadly contemporary with the dates from the interior ditch and the palisade gully.

South of pit C10-0061 were two intercutting features – a pit, C10-0065, and a post-hole, C10-0063 (Illus 3.8b). The stratigraphic relationship between them could not be ascertained due to the similar nature of the fills and the presence of stones at the interface between the features. The fills of these features were of more interest, containing a wider mix of charcoal than



**Illus 3.8** (a) South facing section of pit C10-0061; (b) West facing section of pit C10-0065 and post-hole C10-0063. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)

the pits and post-holes immediately surrounding them. In addition, the fills contained a great many fragments of burnt bone; one of which was radiocarbon dated to 165 cal BC–cal AD 20 (95% probability; SUERC-58792). These fragments were so small they could not be identified to species, but were present in substantial quantities not only in this pit, but in post-hole C10-0042 belonging to the structure, which lay immediately to the east, and also in one of the sections excavated through the palisade. It is probable that the burnt bone was contained within the material used for packing the post-hole and the palisade, and that whatever activity was taking place to produce such quantities of burnt bone it was largely focused around the structure.

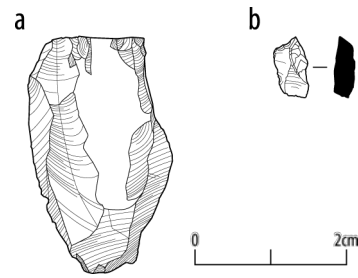
### 3.2.3 Other Features

Two other features were located in the excavated area but outwith the settlement. The first was a large shallow feature, C10-0068, identified towards the base of the hill. Half the entire lithic assemblage from this area of the investigations was recovered from the feature, and it may represent a natural hollow whose fills resulted from hillwash. It is not thought to be connected directly to the hillfort, and the deposit itself remains undated, but it is notable that the presence of a considerable amount of lithic material would suggest Mesolithic activity somewhere in the immediate vicinity. The second feature was a large pit, C03-0003 (Illus 3.1), which was found during the evaluation phase of the excavation located 80m west of feature C10-0068. It is most likely to be a gravel quarry associated with the construction and maintenance of the Roman road.

## 3.3 Finds Synthesis

*Julie Franklin*

The finds assemblage from Woodend illustrates two periods of activity: the first being Mesolithic and the second Iron Age. The presence of Mesolithic activity was only revealed by the discovery of 55 pieces of chert during sample processing and was particularly associated with the hollow C10-0068. The assemblage included three blades, 17 flakes, 23 chips, and three platform cores, one a conical shaped core (CAT 30; Illus 3.9a).



**Illus 3.9** (a) CAT 30 conical shaped core; (b) CAT 40 microblade. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)

The Mesolithic dating rests on a small microlith made on a microblade, belonging to the narrow blade industry (CAT 40, Illus 3.9b), a technology that dates back as early as the 9th millennium BC in Scotland. The characteristics, raw material, and similar condition of the associated lithics imply that they are all contemporary. The readily available chert resources in south central Scotland combined with many waterways, hills, and valleys would have made this an especially attractive area for hunter-gatherers. Mesolithic sites within the wider area include quarries (Wide Hope Shank, Warren 1998; Burnetland Hill, Ward 2012), settlements (Glentaggart, Ballin & Johnson 2005; Manor Bridge, Warren 2003), several lithic scatters (Cornhill Farm, Ward 2001; Weston Farm, Ward 2006; Garvald Burn, Ballin & Barrowman 2015; Daer Valley, Ward 2010), and other isolated features (Camps Valley, see Chapter 4). Though Woodend is in an elevated position at 241m AOD, the location of Mesolithic pits in the Camps Valley at 300–426m AOD clearly shows that activity during this period was not limited to valley floors. The use of natural hollows as places to camp has been noted at other Mesolithic sites (Cormack & Coles 1964; Coles 1971; Dalland & Wickham-Jones 1998; Dingwall et al 2019), although there is no additional evidence to suggest a camp within the hollow at Woodend.

Artefactual evidence from the Iron Age activity clearly points towards blacksmithing, albeit on a small scale, possibly even a single event dated to cal AD 60–220 (95% probability; SUERC-58793). Though no in situ remains of a smithing hearth were found, this may have existed at waist height and any features associated with it have



been lost to truncation. However, the quantity of hammerscale found indicates that smithing occurred in the immediate vicinity of the pit containing the remains. Ironworking of this period is known at a few contemporary sites in the area such as Hyndford Crannog (Munro 1899) and Crawford Roman Fort (Maxwell 1972).

A small cup-marked stone found in the rubble infill of the interior ditch, not far from the blacksmithing pit, is more enigmatic. It may have been deliberately collected from an area of Neolithic activity elsewhere and brought to the site. The same phenomenon is noted at other Bronze and Iron Age sites in southern Scotland and northern England (Jobey 1980; Terry 1995; Croom 2012).

### 3.4 Environmental Synthesis

Laura Bailey

The charcoal and pollen data from Woodend provide some evidence regarding the character of the contemporary environment between 160 BC and AD 220, the time span in the Late Iron Age to which the majority of features most likely belong. Pollen, charcoal, and plant macrofossil evidence suggest that the hillfort was situated in an area of open grassland and heath. There is no evidence for extensive woodland cover. Analysis of a pollen sample taken from a wetland area located within Camps Valley, albeit considerably higher up the Clyde catchment about 6km to the south-east (Illus 4.2; Timpany 2015), indicates that from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age part of Clydesdale was largely open grassland with herbaceous pollen such as sedge (Cyperaceae), grass (Poaceae), and other taxa commonly associated with such environments also present, for example clover (*Trifolium* sp.), vetch (*Vicia cracca*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), potentilla-type (cinquefoils), and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and crowberry (*Empetrum* sp.) pollen were also present.

The plant macrofossil assemblage from Woodend closely mirrors the pollen assemblage from Camps Water. Open grassland and associated herbaceous taxa are reflected in the charred plant assemblage with a small number of grass seeds (*Poaceae* sp.), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), sedges, and pale persicaria (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) present in ditch fills and associated features.

There was some cereal cultivation in the area, perhaps on the more fertile soils of the valley floor. This is evidenced by the presence of barley pollen and the recovery of hulled and naked barley and a small number of club / bread wheat and spelt wheat in the various fills of the enclosure ditch (Haston 2011).

Trees and shrubs were also present, although they constituted a relatively small proportion of the pollen values suggesting that they were not plentiful in the landscape. There may have been a few scattered trees and small copses but not extensive woodland cover. Birch (*Betula* sp.) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) had the largest pollen values of the arboreal taxa. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and oak were also represented in the pollen assemblage. Several other trees and shrubs including willow (*Salix* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), pine (*Pinus* sp.), elm (*Ulmus* sp.), and *Sorbus* sp. were also represented, though rare. The charcoal assemblage was dominated by alder but with significant amounts of hazel, maloideae (most likely *Sorbus*), and oak (from one feature) identified, together with smaller amounts of birch, willow, and heather. This indicates that a variety of environments including open, dryland woodland (hazel and oak), woodland edge, and scrub (maloideae) were exploited. Wetland species such as alder, birch, and willow may have grown along valley sides and perhaps in the valley bottoms of the Woodend and Wandel Burns. The identified charcoal fragments were mostly from the fills of pits and post-holes located in the enclosure. The post-holes contained a mixture of taxa from small diameter roundwood and are therefore unlikely to be the remnants of in situ posts.

The most notable charcoal assemblage was from large pit C10-0065, the fill of which also incorporated numerous fragments of burnt bone. This pit contained the largest variety of taxa on the site and the only examples of heather and oak charcoal. The dominance of oak is notable and suggests that it may have been selected for a specific purpose. Oak charcoal's ability to maintain high temperatures meant it was frequently used in the smithing process (Cressey 2011: 32) and its presence here may be further evidence of metalworking taking place in the vicinity. Evidence of metalworking of a comparative date was found at Newton Plantation further up the Clyde Valley (see Chapter 6) where a ceramic

mould valve used for non-ferrous metalworking was recovered. The presence of small quantities of heather charcoal indicates that heath or moorland existed at this time. Heather was often incidentally burnt with turves gathered for fuel, but the absence of tubers and rhizomes suggests that the heather charcoal is unlikely to be from turves. Heather was not recorded in any of the other samples examined throughout the project.

### 3.5 Discussion

The Southern Upland boundary fault lines contain abundant beds of radiolarian chert (Ballin & Barrowman 2015: 9; Ward 2017: 10), which provided a readily available source material for the Mesolithic knappers. Many of the excavated Mesolithic lithic scatters within the area, such as the twenty sites in Daer Valley 15km to the south of Woodend (Ward 2017) and Garvald 30km to the north (Ballin & Barrowman 2015), are interpreted as single occasion events. The similarity in size and technique of the chipped stone found at Woodend would suggest that the assemblage also represents a single occupation or knapping event. Although the material is certainly not in situ, it must have washed into the hollow from relatively close by and given the fresh condition of the relatively soft chert, it is possible the hillwash event occurred shortly after the knapping took place. Whether the original knapping floor was within the excavated area and has been lost through Iron Age settlement, ploughing, and more recent agriculture, or it survives outwith the excavation is unknown. The Mesolithic sites mentioned above were discovered through fieldwalking and research projects, and it is due to an accident of preservation in a hollow that the Woodend site was discovered at all. It appears very likely that the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers used the Rivers Clyde and Tweed and their tributaries as corridors to move around the landscape (Ward 2017: 47), visiting the same areas over millennia.

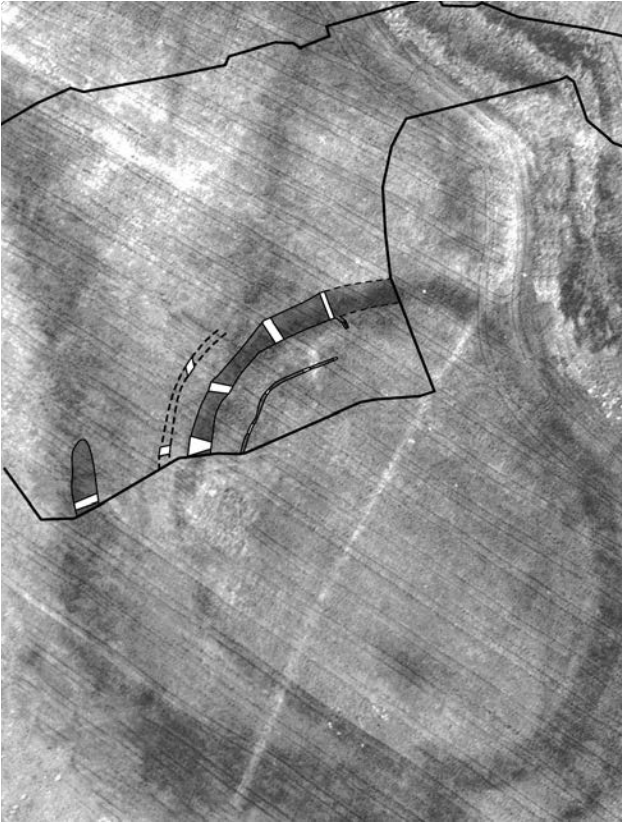
Interpretations of hillforts as places purely of defence have now been overturned with notions of social status and seasonal gathering places being suggested (Murtagh 2014: 380; Lock & Ralston 2017), although it is recognised that they would likely have been used and occupied in a number of different ways. Hillforts are known to range in

date from the Late Bronze Age (*c* 1000 BC) to the early medieval period (*c* AD 1000). Hillforts are not necessarily located on hills but are generally characterised by one or more encircling ditches and banks which sit on a topographic prominence.

The Scottish Borders is a popular location for Iron Age hillforts with a tenth of the total hillforts in the British Isles located in the region (Lock & Ralston 2017). The eastern half of the Borders has a fairly dense concentration of hillforts with those in southern Lanarkshire forming the western boundary of this concentration (Halliday 2019: 73). Despite this, very few hillforts have been excavated in the Lanarkshire area. The county inventory for Lanarkshire records Woodend as a miscellaneous earthwork (RCAHMS 1978, 157 no 327) identified through aerial photographs (Illus 3.10), without classifying it as either a fort or a settlement. Traditionally such earthworks were assumed to date to the Iron Age. The definition of a hillfort in the *Hillfort Atlas of Britain and Ireland* used three criteria, namely topographic position, scale of the enclosing works, and size of enclosed area (Lock 2019: 6). In the case of Woodend, the interior area measures 0.2ha (the minimum requirement for a hillfort), the interior ditch is over 4m wide, a scale which implies such an effort in its construction that it was beyond the function of a stock boundary and even indicates a certain pretension, and finally it occupies a slight knoll, the slopes of which enhance the strength of the artificial defences.

Although only the north-western corner of the site was exposed during the works, the excavation has expanded considerably upon the initial description based on the cropmarks. The presence of the broad interior ditch and the narrow exterior ditch was confirmed and a probable concentric palisade trench was discovered within the enclosed area. The evidence of the northern stub of the palisade trench, the material containing the burnt bone used as packing and the radiocarbon dates indicates that there is more than one sequence of events taking place within the space enclosed by the ditches.

The presence of hammerscale and ironworking slag, recovered from a small pit within the interior, indicates at least one episode of blacksmithing at the site, possibly the production or repair of metal objects. It is a useful and significant addition to the corpus of sites in the Lanarkshire area, such as



**Illus 3.10** Aerial view of Woodend hillfort, excavation results superimposed. (© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd)

Hyndford Crannog (Munro 1899) and Crawford Roman Fort (Maxwell 1972). This evidence is helping to build a picture of craft activities taking place at this time on enclosed settlement sites across the region and enhances our understanding of technological processes undertaken from later prehistory onwards.

With the prominent natural rises, the views over the landscape, and the proximity to the natural water source of the River Clyde, the general location was clearly attractive to the builders of the forts at both Woodend and Devonshaw Hill (Canmore ID [47343](#)), the latter overlooking Woodend some 500m to the north-east. Devonshaw Hill remains unexcavated but is characterised by the remains of an oval enclosure measuring 37m by 30m within a single bank and external ditch. The enclosure is comparable in size and structure with the settlement at Berries Burn (Canmore ID [47384](#)) located *c* 5.5km to the south-east of the site. The pairing of large and small enclosures is a common factor in the Iron Age settlement landscape in south-west

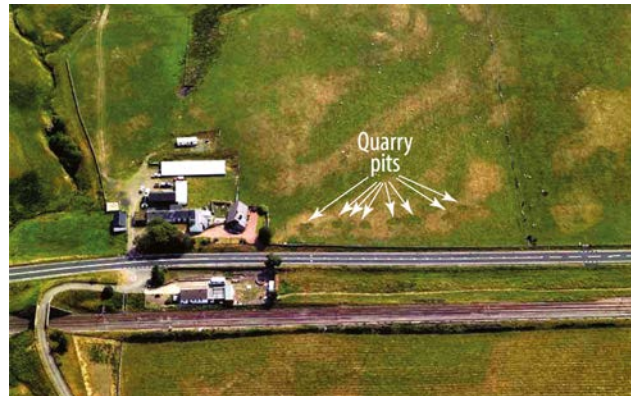
Scotland (Banks 2002: 33–4) and is also noted in the Cheviots (Frodsham et al 2007: 250–65). At Berries Burn and Richie Ferry (Canmore ID [47425](#)), both of which are located 5km to the south of Woodend, a fort is located directly beside a settlement.

It is possible that Devonshaw Hill and Woodend form such a pairing although the distance between the two is somewhat greater. The significance of such observations is more difficult to gauge. The pairings may reflect the social status of the inhabitants and indicate a form of hierarchical settlement structure (Murtagh 2014: 110) but may also be a function of different chronologies. Where they can be determined, the chronological sequences for hillforts in southern Scotland imply a peak of fortification construction in the 5th to 3rd centuries BC, exemplified by Broxmouth in East Lothian. Here the main defensive phases (phases 2 and 3), comprising the construction and modification of ditches, ramparts, and gateways to form an enclosure system, date to between 490 and 235 BC (Armit & McKenzie 2013: 18–9). If Devonshaw Hill and other more elevated forts, such as Arbory Hill (Canmore ID [47427](#)) 4.2km south of Woodend, are assumed to be typical fortifications of this period of the Iron Age, then Woodend belongs to a later period when settlement in the Borders is typified by less defensive settlements in less prominent positions, such as Cold Chapel (Canmore ID [47380](#)) 3.1km south-east or Snaip Hill (Canmore ID [48748](#)) 3.9km north-east (neither of which have been dated), or Phase 6 at Broxmouth (*ibid*). The apparent robustness of the perimeter at Woodend suggests it may have enjoyed an elevated social position in respect of its contemporaries. In these respects, the radiocarbon date, cal AD 20–210 (95% probability; SUERC-58790), from the primary fill of the interior ditch at Woodend is of considerable interest. If the date is interpreted as representing an early phase of activity (with the caveat that this is a single date, and the context is not secure) this indicates that Woodend formed part of a later pattern of settlement, considerably later than the peak construction phase for hillforts. A tentative chronological framework for the Iron Age in south-west Scotland proposed by Murtagh (2014: 238–9) suggests that the small bounded communities of the Early Iron Age became part of larger networks within a more hierarchical society

presided over by large enclosed sites in the Late Iron Age. There is certainly nothing in the evidence recovered from Woodend to contradict this, and if the elevated status of Woodend argued above is correct then this change to a more hierarchical society probably predates the arrival of the Romans.

The radiocarbon dates suggest that Woodend was occupied during the Roman presence in the region. Wandel Roman Fort and Camp are situated 1.5km to the south-west of Woodend and probably relate to the initial invasion phase of Roman activity in the second half of the 1st century AD, with the construction of the Border-Crawford-Inveresk Roman Road following later (Jones 2011: 315). Hypotheses about the nature of the contact between the Romans and the local Iron Age population in southern Scotland vary from essentially friendly (Armit & McKenzie 2013: 511) with agreements made with and adhered to by the local Iron Age population (Breeze 1982: 56; Mercer 2018: 203), to violent sieges such as Burnswark Hill (Canmore ID [72883](#), [72885](#)) less than seventy years after initial contact (Reid & Nicholson 2019: 476). To the Romans the territory of Upper Clydesdale was an area to be transited, via supply lines linking the forts, and subject to policing and scouting activities (Jones 2011: 121).

The Roman road is well preserved in several places in Lanarkshire but has been largely erased in the section north of Wandel. Its presence at the foot of the slope at Woodend is probably confirmed by the cropmarks of a row of large pits east of the A702 road (under which the Roman road may lie) recorded on a low level oblique RCAHMS aerial photograph of this area taken in July 2006 (Illus 3.11). It is likely that the pit uncovered in the excavations at Woodend belongs to this group although there was no evidence to confirm its date. Typically, the stone required to construct the Roman roads came from roadside quarry-pits, which have been identified at six locations from the Borders



**Illus 3.11** Oblique aerial view of possible Roman quarry pits. (© RCAHMS)

northwards via Crawford to Inveresk (Canmore IDs [68365](#), [71714](#), [149390](#), [149446](#), [149599](#)). The pits at one site near Pillar Knowe (Canmore ID [50146](#)), 15km south-west of Edinburgh in the Pentland hills, are described as measuring 5–6m in diameter and 0.25m deep, so at 1.5–2m in diameter the Woodend example is on the small side. The stone banks of the hillforts may have provided an additional source of material for Roman road construction although there is no direct evidence of this.

The excavation at Woodend, although limited, did confirm the presence of the hillfort which prior to excavation was only known through cropmark evidence, and although only *c* 5% of the interior was investigated, at least one structure was identified and some understanding of types of activity was achieved. Many potential comparators in the vicinity of Woodend are known only through identification of cropmarks and many of the answers to questions regarding complexity and dating can only be found by excavation (ScARF 2012c: sect 6.4) which to date has not taken place. Their location within upland landscapes, where very limited development takes place, makes opportunities to excavate such sites very rare, and even comparatively small interventions such as this are of great value.