

6. ARCHITECTURE

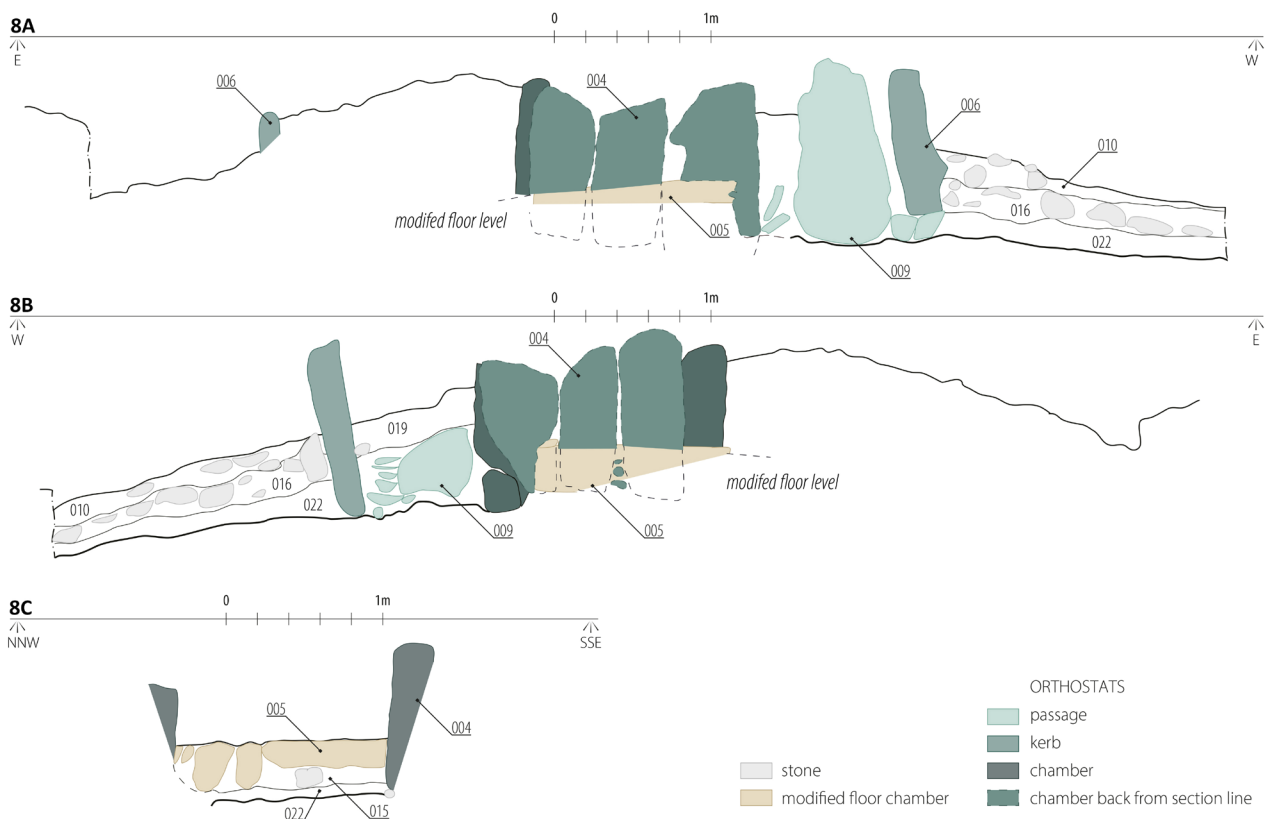
Prior to the re-examination, the passage tomb was covered by grass and moss, as well as stands of dead heather. The floor of the central chamber had a covering of waterlogged moss with very little soil content and contained a pool of water. The surface vegetation and a few centimetres of topsoil were removed from the monument to reveal a low stone and earthen mound with an open central chamber and short passage on the western side (Illus 5).

The cairn material of the passage tomb extended at least 7m from east to west and 6m transversely with no clear outer edge. The internal central chamber measured roughly 1.34m in width from north to south and 1.40m transversely and was constructed from eight tightly packed cream sandstone orthostats (004) defining a roughly circular area. These orthostats were of different heights (*c* 0.80m–1.10m) and between 0.32m and 0.19m in width; the tops of the orthostats did not form a particularly level upper surface. The cream

sandstone is a local stone (Auchehew Mudstone Formation) and the presence of some rounded edges indicated that it had been quarried from an exposed weathered rock face.

The passage was *c* 1.08m long and narrowed from a 0.84m wide entrance to 0.68m at the entrance into the chamber. A single sandstone orthostat (009) formed the southern side of the passage (Illus 8). The orthostat (009) on the northern side of the passage was broken in two; the lower portion of the stone was discovered in situ while the upper portion was discovered collapsed within the passage (Illus 8, 9, and 10). The eastern end of the collapsed upper passage stone lay under the largest flagstone (005). Smaller stones had been packed in the space between the lower passage stone and the outer entrance kerbstone.

The central chamber was surrounded by a ring of at least ten kerbstones (006) which was around 5.25m in diameter; there is a gap on the north side where a kerbstone probably survives unrecorded under cairn material. These kerbstones seemed to



Illus 8 Section drawings of (A) the south side of the passage and cairn, (B) the north side of the passage and cairn and (C) at the entrance to the chamber. (image: Forestry and Land Scotland)



(A) (005) (B) (009)

Illus 9 The upper passage-stone (009) which had fallen to the 'floor' of the passage with its east end under the largest flagstone of the chamber (005). (image: Forestry and Land Scotland)



(A) (006) (B) (019) (C) (009) (D) (004) (E) (015)

Illus 10 Detail from section 8B. (image: Forestry and Land Scotland)

be in situ, although the two adjacent to the portal orthostats appear to have collapsed slightly outwards from the cairn. With the exception of the two portal stones the kerbstones sat on the circumference of a circle (Illus 8). The two portal stones were set back from the circle creating an entrance located at the centre of a concave façade. The gap between the kerbstones and the chamber orthostats was infilled with a mixture of large pieces of subangular stone, rounded cobbles, and soil/turves. There was no

recognisable formalised stone walling between the kerbstones, although this may have collapsed and been thoroughly disturbed beyond recognition. One in situ kerbstone was buried deep within the cairn, suggesting that either these stones were not designed to be visible but were just a means of containing and maintaining the height of the cairn over the chamber and passage beneath, or else that a large proportion of the cairn material has collapsed away from the centre of the monument.