

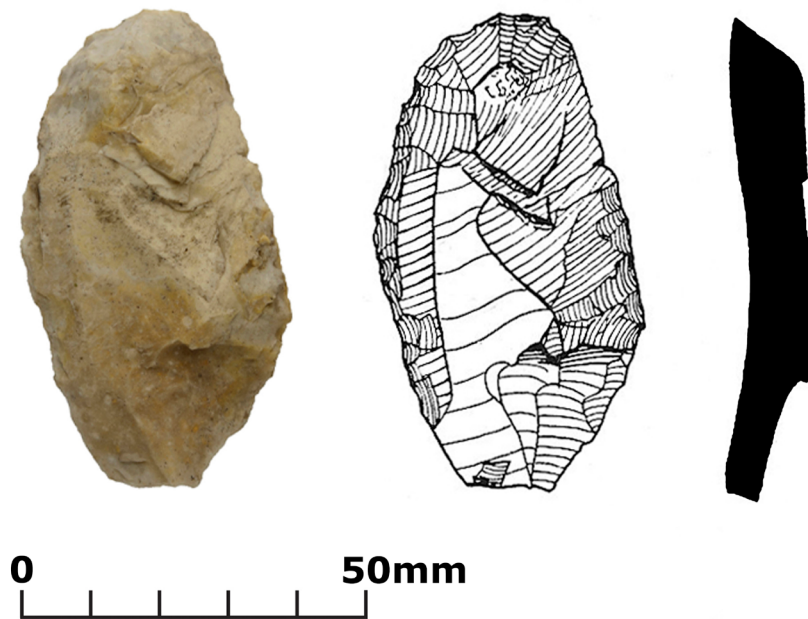
10. THE 1924 EXCAVATION: A REASSESSMENT

During our preparations for the removal of the largest flagstone, excavation on its western and southern sides proved that the deposits adjacent to it had not been disturbed in the recent past and there was no doubt that the elongated flagstone had not been lifted during the excavation in 1924 (Illus 4, flagstone 'C'). Once we completed the excavation of the passage, the elongated flagstone (the former capstone-supporting orthostat) was carefully winched down into the passage to allow access to the chamber deposits beneath. The two adjacent chamber orthostats located on the southern side were lowered and laid flat in the

slot trench which had been previously excavated through the cairn and then the larger flagstone (the former chamber capstone) was carefully winched out and rested on them (Illus 13). An irregular cut (027) was revealed below the elongated flagstone (Illus 12, B). The loose fill comprised soft and waterlogged blocky peat with two sherds of early 20th century white ceramic. Also sitting within this material at the very western end of the cut (Illus 7), but beyond the end of the elongated flagstone, was what was thought initially to be the top of a degraded pottery vessel (029). The vessel was block lifted and upon examination in the laboratory revealed to be the base of a degraded tin can, presumably left behind in 1924 (Murray, pers



Illus 13 Once the passage had been fully excavated, the elongated flagstone was carefully winched down into it. The two adjacent chamber orthostats located on the southern side were lowered and stored in the previous excavated slot trench through the cairn and the larger flagstone was carefully winched out onto them (image: Forestry and Land Scotland)



Illus 14 The flint knife recovered in 1924. (image: Forestry and Land Scotland)

comm). It transpired that, rather than lifting the heavy elongated flagstone 'C', Mann had removed the smallest of the three flagstones (Illus 4) and dug a small exploratory 'hole' and then burrowed under the elongated flagstone leaving a shallow void into which modern material had been inwashed

or placed; Mann was therefore very fortunate to find a flint knife (Illus 14), the only sizable lithic artefact recovered from the site. That knife is now in the collections of Glasgow Museums, having been bequeathed by Mann in 1955 (Registration No. A.1955.96.lr).