

## 6. CONCLUSION

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The excavations at Mauchline have provided valuable insights into the domestic economy of the Middle Neolithic, through evidence of an event that took place one day in late summer / early autumn between 5,500 and 5,300 years ago – the raking of hearth material into pit C0081. More significant evidence of Middle Bronze Age settlement was also identified. Such settlement is rare in south-

west Scotland and so the Mauchline roundhouse and fenced enclosure are notable discoveries. Furthermore, the Middle Bronze Age souterrain is unique in mainland Scotland and its date pushes the development of souterrains further back than previously thought. Taken as a whole, the data from Mauchline provides important insights into the development of Middle Bronze Age settlement in this region, an area of research which to date has been underrepresented.