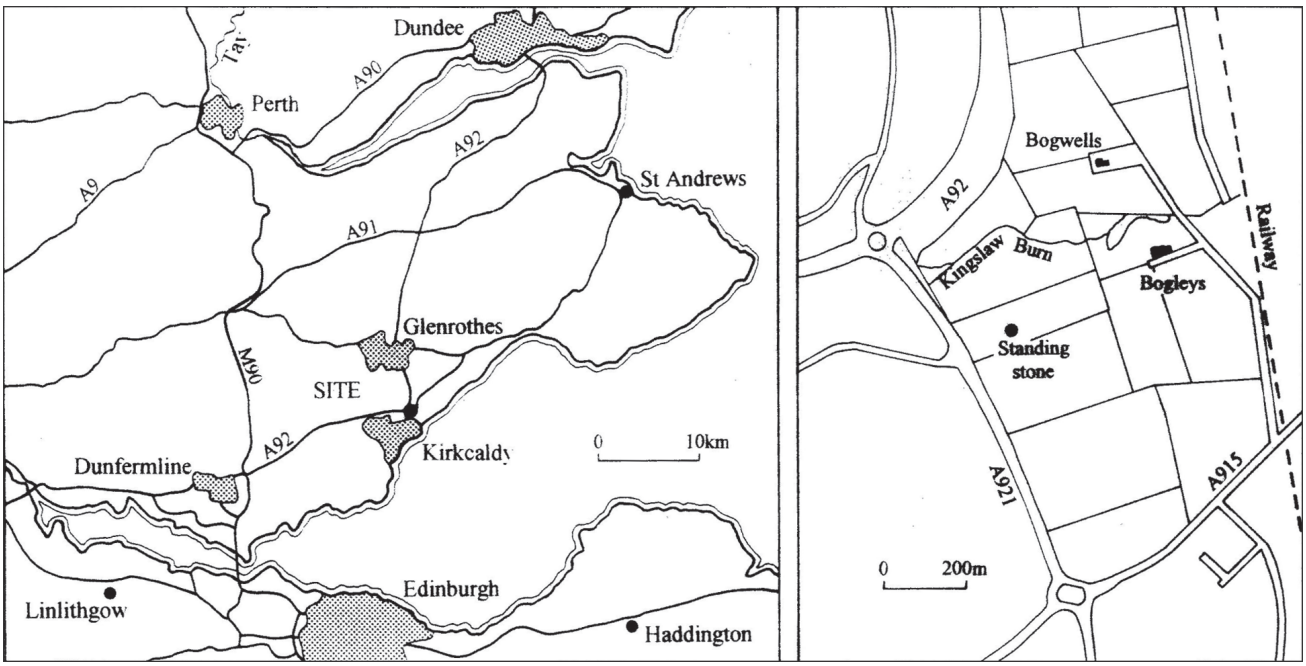


Illus 1 *The location of Bogleys Standing Stone.*

Excavations at Bogleys Standing Stone, Kirkcaldy, Fife

John Lewis and John Terry

Introduction

Bogleys Standing Stone was a casualty of opencast mining at Kingslaw, to the N of Kirkcaldy, where coal extraction commenced in 2004. A desk assessment and walk-over survey of this area, which measured some 1.65km N/S by 0.8km wide, had been undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd in 1998 (McGill 1998). As well as the standing stone, this research identified several sites and monuments relating to the area's recent industrial past. Most of them were associated with coal-mining although an ironstone mine was also noted. Several editions of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (as well as the more recent 1:10,000) depicted three settlements in this area, Bogleys, Bogwells and Clay-holes, in addition to several unidentified structures: only Bogleys and Bogwells survived at the time of the survey. A few other features were noted on aerial photographs although none could be seen during the walk over. However, by far the most striking and certainly the most important monument in the area was the standing stone, a distinctive feature of the landscape.

The stone was considered by Fife Council's Archaeological Unit as suitable for further investigation, as a result of which the council imposed a condition whereby the stone was to be lifted, its setting investigated and the area around it fully excavated and recorded before the monument was lost to mining. G M Mining Limited, who was extracting the coal, commissioned Scotia Archaeology to undertake the archaeological work which was carried out by the authors in August 2004.

The site (Illus 1)

The solid geology of the area is almost exclusively Carboniferous and consists mainly of sandstone and coal measures. Coal has been exploited in this part of Fife since the 15th century and two pits (Bogleys and Bogwells) that belonged to Dysart Colliery were located very close to the standing stone. The Bogleys pit seems to have been a short-lived enterprise, operating only in the 1840s, whereas coal continued to be extracted through the Randolph shafts at Bogwells until the 1920s (Fifepits 2006).

Mining was an important contributor to the local economy for some considerable time, reaching its peak in the 19th and 20th centuries. However, the industry declined throughout the country during the late 20th century, only to be revived in recent years when opencast mining commenced at several locations within the central belt, including the Kirkcaldy area.

Bogleys Standing Stone, which is believed to date to the Early Bronze Age, was located at NT 2956 9501, approximately 2km N of Dysart and 3km NE of the centre of Kirkcaldy. It stood within a field to the immediate E of the A921, just S of its junction with the A92 and opposite the Mitcheson Industrial Estate. The field, along with those adjacent to it, had been cultivated until shortly before opencast mining began and, at the time of the investigation, was covered with the remnants of commercial crops interspersed with coarse vegetation. By the start of the excavation, opencast extraction was already underway at the S end of the area and was progressing gradually northwards towards Bogleys.

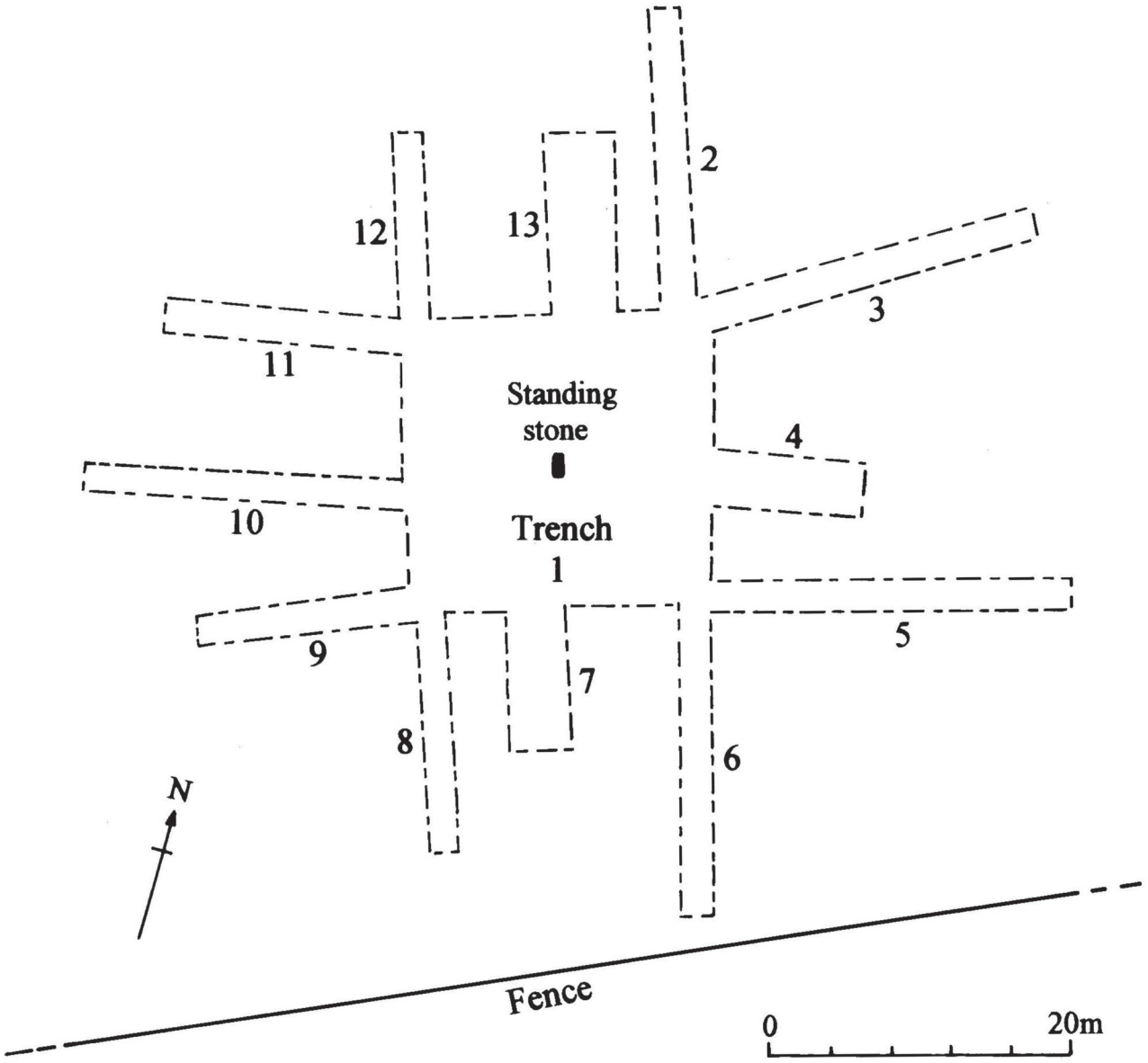
There are no known prehistoric sites within a 2km radius of the stone. The surrounding farmland has been scarred by extensive coal extraction while, to the S, the urban sprawl of Kirkcaldy has masked the ancient landscape. Nevertheless, the large Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial complex of Balfarg/Balbirnie lies only 8km due N of Bogleys and might well have been known to those who erected the stone.

The excavation site was reasonably level other than a slight upward slope towards the E and an even gentler one towards the N, in the direction of the Kingslaw Burn some 250m away. Bogleys Farm had stood 400m ENE of the standing stone but the farm buildings, along with those of neighbouring Bogwells, had already been demolished by the time excavation began.

The excavation (Illus 2)

The principal aims of the investigation were to remove and preserve the stone, to investigate its setting and to determine whether any features that might be associated with it survived in its near vicinity. It has been suggested (OS 1855) that the stone had been lifted and replaced on an earlier occasion although this source did not mention whether it was returned to its original location or relocated elsewhere (see General discussion).

Excavation was concentrated mainly within an area measuring 20m square (Trench 1) which was centred on the stone. A further 12 slit trenches, covering 444m^2 in total, were opened in a pattern radiating out from Trench 1 to test the surrounding area for archaeological features. Topsoil was removed from all the trenches using a toothless bucket attached to a mechanical excavator. At first, this was achieved with a wheeled JCB although this approach proved unsatisfactory and most of the excavation was undertaken using a much



Illus 2 *The layout of the trenches.*

larger, 45-tonne excavator with a 360° arm, spoil being deposited to the sides of the trenches. Once the topsoil had been removed, all subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand.

The topsoil appeared to have been ploughed on a regular basis, probably every year, for some considerable time and comprised 0.3–0.4m of dark brown, almost stone-free, humic loam. In places it overlay up to 0.3m of paler, less humic, more silty material, the probable result of bioturbation. Over most of the site the topsoil gave onto glacial deposits of orange and yellow clay, silt and sand although towards the W of the site, it sat directly on bedrock and a narrow band of fireclay, another Carboniferous deposit.

As well as the standing stone and its socket, four cremation pits, a probable disturbed cremation and three other pits were uncovered in Trench 1. They were all cut into the glacial till within the NE quadrant of the trench, no other archaeological features being exposed in this area. Several other possible features were investigated although they all proved to be stone voids, animal burrows, tree root holes or simply undulations in the glacial till. None is described here.

The standing stone (Illus 3, 4)

Before its removal, the stone stood on a perfectly vertical alignment to a height of 1.8m above ground, its broad sides facing E and W. At the time, there was nothing to indicate whether it was in its original position or had been moved at some stage (see above). The stone, a block of local red sandstone, was lifted from its setting using straps attached to the bucket of the 45-tonne excavator. An area extending about 0.5m out from each side of the stone had been left untouched by the machine until the stone was secured, following which this small area was excavated totally by hand. Against the stone, and spreading up to 0.3m beyond it,

Illus 3 *Bogleys Standing Stone viewed from the east. (Crown Copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland)*

was a spread of sandstone fragments which was thought at first to be undisturbed bedrock but which proved to be only 0.1–0.2m deep. This material was probably what RCAHMS (1933, 132) interpreted as packing for the stone although this was certainly not its function.

No damage was inflicted either to the stone or its socket during the lifting operation, the stone being removed from the site and stored temporarily in G M Mining's compound. Its total length was 2.7m of which a third had been buried below ground. It varied in width from a maximum of 1.07m at its top to 0.9m at ground level, narrowing still further to 0.6m where it had sat in its socket. Its thickness was a uniform 0.5m.

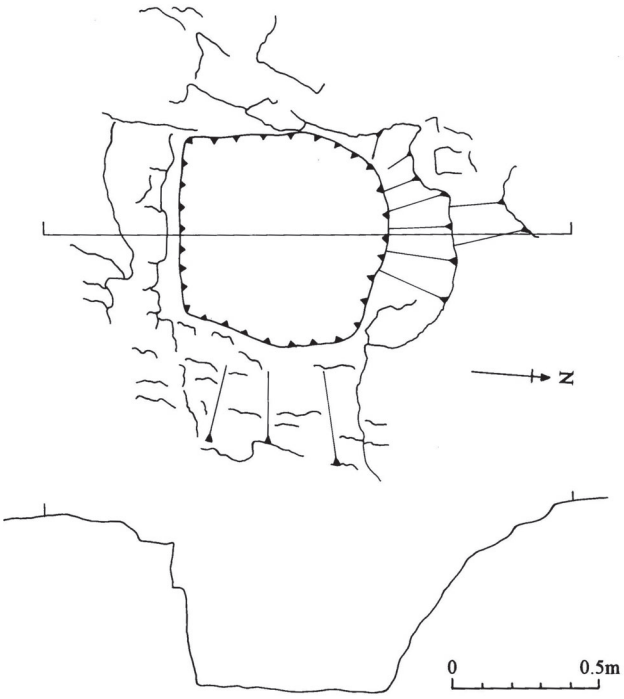
Various erosion patterns were visible on the face of the stone, most of them probably inflicted since it had been set into the ground. There was nothing to suggest that any of these patterns had been carved although there were a few possible tool marks on the portion that had been buried. Extending diagonally across the buried section was a crack which might well have resulted in the stone breaking within a short time had it not been lifted.

The stone socket (Illus 5, 6)

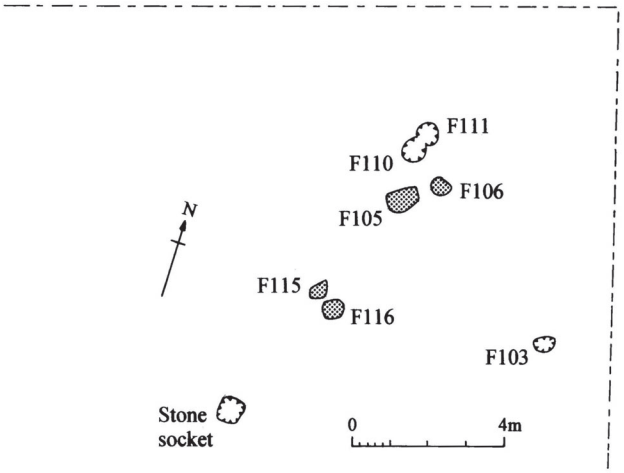
Small quantities of topsoil and other debris disturbed during the lifting of the stone were removed from its socket, revealing a hole measuring about 1m square at

Illus 4 *Lifting the stone.*

Illus 5 *View from the north of the stone socket emptied.*



Illus 6 *Plan and profile of the socket for the standing stone.*



Illus 7 *Plan of Trench 1, showing the positions of cremations and other pits in relation to the standing stone.*

its top, narrowing to about 0.7m square at its base, at a depth of some 0.9m. The S and W sides of the pit were almost vertical, in contrast to its other sides which sloped at angles of about 45°, probably to allow the stone to be placed into its socket from either of those directions. The socket had been carefully shaped so that its base closely mirrored the underside of the stone, even down to a slight indent on the latter's N side.

The stone had been positioned hard against the W side of the socket, its E and S sides being secured with small boulders and soil which filled gaps, 0.1–0.3m wide. At the base of the pit and filling the remaining gaps between its sides and the standing stone, was a deposit of almost stone-free, greenish brown, clayey loam, up to 0.1m thick. This material might have been washed into the pit while it lay open, while awaiting the stone to be set into it, or it might have been placed deliberately, as at the Deepdale Standing Stone, Orkney (Burton 1978, 358) and at one element of the Shap Avenue in Cumbria (Clare 1978, 10).

To the NE of the pit, within the spread of sandstone fragments that surrounded it, was the base of an onion bottle of late 17th-century date. There were no other sherds of glass nearby, suggesting that the bottle base had been placed there in the condition that it was found, perhaps as a deliberate act to signify that the stone had been moved or at least investigated some two or more centuries ago. Immediately below the bottle base was a small patch of grey ash and a few fragments of burnt bone (see below).

The cremations (Illus 7)

Four pits (F105, F106, F115 and F116) were positively identified as cremations. Only the bases of the pits survived, most of these features having been truncated, presumably by ploughing.

Samples of bone retrieved from these pits were submitted for radiocarbon analysis (see below).

Pit F105

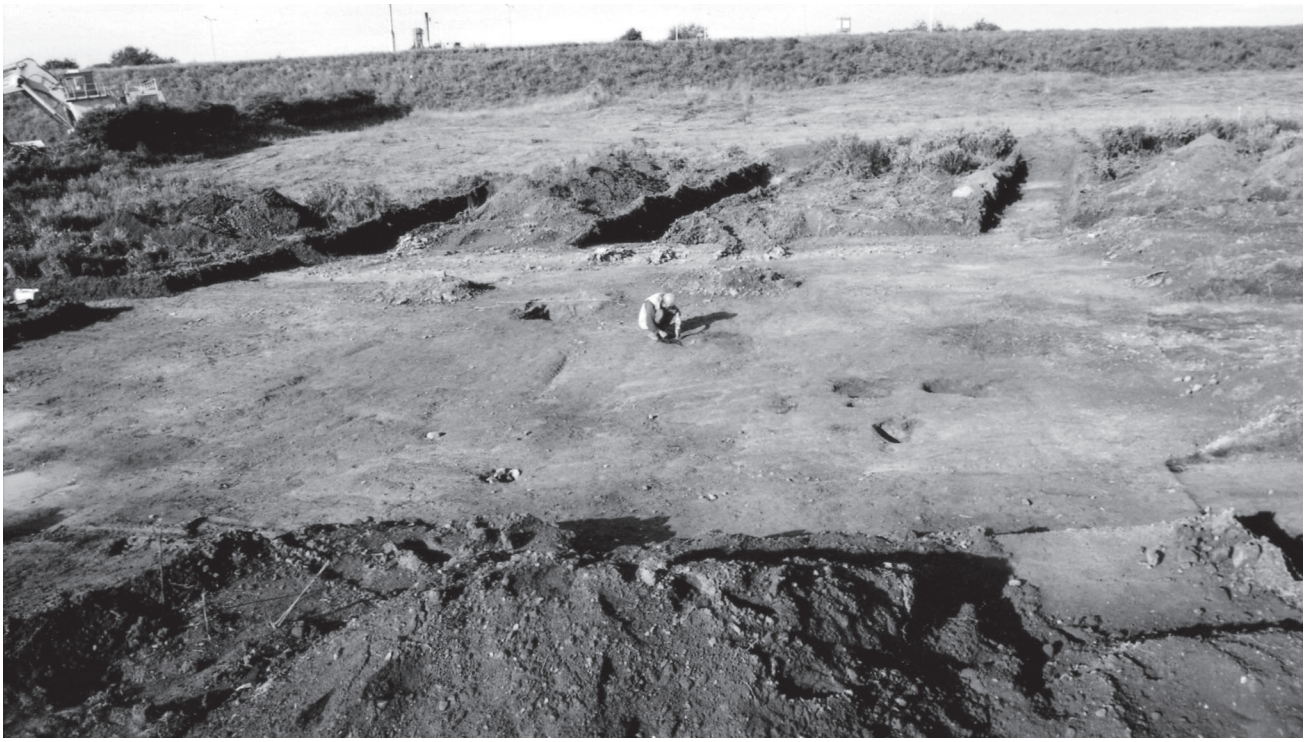
Pit F105 was located about 7m NNE of the standing stone and measured 0.8m by 0.55m across and 0.1m deep. It was filled with black ash containing patches of soil and small fragments of burnt bone.

Pit F106

Lying just 0.4m E of pit F105, this cremation pit measured 0.4m by 0.35m and 80mm deep. It was filled with black ash and soil containing small fragments of burnt bone.

Pit F115

Cremation pit F115 was located 4m NNE of the standing stone and measured 0.5m by 0.4m and only



Illus 8 *Trench 1 fully excavated, viewed from the east.*

40mm deep. Its fill comprised black ash and soil containing small fragments of burnt bone.

Pit F116

The remains of pit F116 lay only 0.3m to the SE of pit F115. It was circular in plan, measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.1m deep. In common with the other cremation pits, its fill consisted of black ash and lenses of soil with small fragments of burnt bone.

Possible cremation

In addition to the pits positively identified as cremations, fragments of ash and burnt bone were uncovered to the immediate NE of the standing stone socket and below the bottle base (see above). While these burnt materials were almost certainly derived from another cremation, no trace of a pit survived at this point and it is not clear whether the remains were in situ or had been deposited from elsewhere.

Other pits

Of the three other pits exposed in Trench 1, none contained any cremated remains. Two of them are thought to have held structural posts or supports, probably for manoeuvring the stone into position (see below).

Pit F103

Pit F103, located 8.5m ENE of the standing stone, was roughly oval in plan and measured 0.55m by 0.48m and 0.38m deep with near-vertical sides. It was filled with light grey-brown, sandy, silty loam with small sandstone boulders around the edges. There was no indication of a post-pipe within the fill although a few small stones found in the centre of the pit's base might indicate the original position of a post.

Pit F111

Pit F111 lay 8m NNE of the standing stone and was cut by pit F110 (see below). This, the earlier of the two features, measured 0.55m in diameter and 0.3m deep. It was filled with 40–70mm of reddish brown, sandy loam over 0.25m of grey-brown, sandy loam. The lower fill appears to have slumped, resulting in topsoil migrating into the upper levels of the pit.

Around the sides of the pit, at its base, were several small boulders, probably packing stones for a post. What might have been a remnant of a post-pipe was visible within the lower fill although the evidence was not conclusive.

Pit 110

This circular pit cut the SW side of pit F111 (see above). It measured 0.6m in diameter and was 0.18m deep. It was filled with greyish, sandy loam, a few small pebbles and a single boulder, measuring 0.15m across. There was no evidence of a post within the fill of this feature.

Evaluation trenches (Illus 2)

Twelve exploratory trenches were opened in a pattern radiating outwards from Trench 1 to determine whether there might have been other features of archaeological

interest in the vicinity of the standing stone. Their measurements were as follows:

Trench 2	20 x 2 m	Trench 8	16 x 2 m
Trench 3	22 x 2 m	Trench 9	14 x 2 m
Trench 4	10 x 4 m	Trench 10	21 x 2 m
Trench 5	24 x 2 m	Trench 11	15 x 2 m
Trench 6	21 x 2 m	Trench 12	13 x 2 m
Trench 7	9 x 2 m	Trench 13	12 x 4 m

Nothing of significance was uncovered in any of these slit trenches, other than a pronounced reddening of the subsoil and bedrock in Trench 10 and at the S end of Trench 8. This discoloration is believed to be the result of intense heat from underground fires within the Dysart Main seam which evidently tended to combust spontaneously (Fifepits 2006).

Artefacts

Almost all of the artefacts recovered from the excavation were of relatively recent date, most of them sherds of 19th- and 20th-century ceramics although one large fragment of vessel glass of late 17th-century date was also recovered.

Glass

Robin Murdoch

The only glass retrieved from the excavation comprises the base of an onion wine bottle in firebright, dull, dark green glass. Its base ring diameter is 100mm while the original diameter of the bottle would have been at least 160mm. The base has a slightly off-centre kick of 26mm with a pontil of approximately 42mm diameter. Very heavy wear is visible on the base ring.

The surviving profile indicates a manufacture date of c 1660–1690. However, the heavy wear on the base ring suggests that it underwent many years of use and was probably in contact with a very abrasive surface, possibly stone. On this evidence, it is suggested that it was deposited no later than the early 18th century.

Cremated bone

Kathleen McSweeney

Background and methods

The cremated remains were retrieved from Pits F105, F106, F115, and F116, all of which had been severely truncated, most likely by ploughing. Each sample of cremated bone was contained within a large volume of soil matrix, the material being sieved in 10mm, 5mm and 2mm meshes and the extracted bone weighed using scales accurate to 1g, according to published standards (McKinley and Roberts, 1993; Brickley and McKinley, 2004).

The bone fragments were fragile and were not washed. Each fragment was examined and sorted according to its anatomical area. General osteological methods employed were those outlined in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) and dental ageing was based on van Beek (1983). An inventory and full description of the identified fragments can be found in a spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Pit F105 (Fill F107)

A total of 103g of bones are present. The breakdown of weight according to fragment size, following sieving in 10mm, 5mm and 2mm mesh, is as follows:

Table 1 *Pit F105: bone fragment size quantified.*

fragment size	weight (g)	% of total
> 10 mm	43	42
> 5 mm	53	51
> 2 mm	7	7
total	103	100

The largest fragments are pieces of long bone shaft which measure approximately 30mm long, the biggest cranial fragments being about 20mm. A total of 43 fragments of bones could be identified, including 15 pieces of the cranial vault, some consisting of a single table only. A fragment of mandible with traces of three tooth sockets, part of the internal element of a molar crown (dentine), a small piece of the elbow end of a humerus, part of a distal phalanx (finger bone) and several undiagnostic pieces from the shafts of various limb bones were also noted.

There are no indications that the bones of more than one individual are present. Furthermore, the quantity of the extracted remains falls well short of a full cremation. McKinley (1993, 284) found that the weight of a modern cremation ranged from 1227.4g for an 83-year-old female to 3001.3g for a 90-year-old male. She estimated that a realistic range for an excavated sample would be 1001.5–2422g. On this basis and assuming that this was originally a full cremation, it appears that at least 90% of the bone from this context has been lost.

There are no clear indicators of age although the remains do not belong to a young child. As is the case with the majority of cremated individuals, sex cannot be established. No pathological lesions are noted.

Pit F106 (Fill F108)

The total weight of the remains is 152g.

Table 2 *Pit F106: bone fragment size quantified.*

fragment size	weight (g)	% of total
> 10 mm	46	30
> 5 mm	36	24
> 2 mm	70	46
total	152	100

The volume of bone is approximately 50% greater than that from Pit F105 and, although the largest fragment size is also about 30mm, the proportion of smaller pieces in this deposit is much greater, illustrating a greater degree of disintegration. Nevertheless, a total of 58 fragments from most skeletal areas were identified, proportionately more than from Pit F105. From the skull were pieces of parietal, zygomatic (cheek) bone, temporal and vault and the roots of several teeth, including canine, lateral incisor and an upper molar. From the post-cranial skeleton were one fragment of a cervical vertebra, one fragment of a thoracic vertebra, several pieces of rib, several hand bones (including two carpals) and proximal, middle and distal phalanges, one of them almost complete. There were also some small pieces of pelvis, one fragment of calcaneus (heel bone) and 23 pieces of various limb bones.

There was no evidence to suggest that these remains were from more than one person.

On the evidence of fully developed tooth roots, the age at death was at least 12 years while the state of epiphyseal fusion of the phalanges suggests an age of at least 14 years. Evidence from one piece of parietal (cranial vault) suggests that the cranial sutures were still unfused at death and it is quite probable that this individual was either an adolescent or a young adult. The sex of this individual cannot be ascertained and no pathological lesions are noted.

Pit F115 (Fill F118)

This is a small deposit of bones with almost 50% of the material measuring 2–5mm.

Table 3 *Pit F115: bone fragment size quantified.*

fragment size	weight (g)	% of total
> 10 mm	19	22
> 5 mm	26	30
> 2 mm	41	48
total	86	100

A total of 22 fragments of bones are recognizable, five of which are from the cranium and two from the mandible. In addition, there are five tooth fragments, two upper molars, a lower molar, an upper first premolar, a small piece of tooth root and ten pieces of undiagnostic limb bone shafts.

There is no indication of more than one individual in this assemblage.

Full development of an upper first premolar indicates that age at death was at least 12 years. No sexually dimorphic indicators are present and no pathological lesions are apparent.

Pit F116 (Fill F117)

The bone from this, the smallest of the four deposits, weighs 54 grams.

Table 4 Pit F116: bone fragment size quantified

fragment size	weight (g)	% of total
> 10 mm	29	54
> 5 mm	13	24
> 2 mm	12	22
total	54	100

Only 15 fragments of bone can be identified: a fragment of cranial vault, two fragments of a left patella (knee cap) and 12 fragments of limb bone shaft. The largest pieces measure approximately 30mm.

There is no evidence of more than one individual. The age of this individual cannot be ascertained although it is clearly not a young child. No sexual indicators are present.

A fairly common skeletal anomaly, a vastus notch, is present on the patella. This is not a sign of disease but simply a skeletal variation, present in up to 26% of some population groups (Brothwell 1981).

The condition of the remains

The bones from these four pits are all small in size (at 103g, 152g, 86g and 54g), the greatest being around 30mm long which is much smaller than usual for modern cremations (McKinley 1993) and even most of those in archaeological contexts. In addition to a high degree of fragmentation, bone condition is rather poor: even dense bone such as that from long bone shafts, which normally survives the cremation process well, is considerably reduced. This probably indicates a degree of post-depositional erosion and plough damage.

It is not known whether whole cremations were originally deposited in the pits but, assuming they were, approximately 90% of each has been lost.

Cremation technology and burial practice

Bones that have been burned while fresh usually display signs of cracking, twisting and curved lateral splintering (Ubelaker 1978, 35), probably because of rapid water loss during the cremation process (Mays 1998, 207). Other than warping of some cranial fragments from Pit F106 which resulted in the separation of layers of bone, there was little evidence of such fracture patterns on the Bogleys remains. However, this may be because of the poor condition of the remains rather than a result of the bones being burnt some time after death.

In general, the Bogleys material is light beige to grey in colour. It has been established that bone changes colour with increasing temperature (Ubelaker 1978, 34; Mays 1998, 217) and can be red, brown, black, blue, grey, yellow or white. Although there are some slight differences in reported results, usually the higher the temperature the paler the shade. Light grey or white coloration occurs over 645°C (Mays, 1998, 217) while temperatures above 800°C result in calcined bone which ranges from bluish-grey to white.

It is clear from the light beige to grey colour of the Bogleys remains that temperatures of at least 645°C were achieved during the cremation process. The absence of any variation in colour, especially blackening, suggests that the bodies were thoroughly and evenly burned.

Radiocarbon dating of the cremations

The larger fragments of bone from each of the cremation pits were submitted for AMS radiocarbon analysis at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. The results of these analyses are tabulated below.

The samples from Pits F105, F106 and F115 yielded identical results while the material from Pit F116 was only very slightly earlier in date. When calibrated into calendar years, these dates form a tight cluster around the end of the second millennium BC. Indeed, the close correlation between these dates suggests contemporary or near–contemporary burials in a short-lived cemetery around the standing stone.

General discussion

Bogleys Standing Stone could be viewed as unusual in having its greatest mass uppermost which would have presented a challenge to the monument builders when manoeuvring it into an upright position. However, there are numerous examples of top-heavy standing stones throughout the British Isles. The Goggleby Stone, excavated as part of the Shap Avenue in Cumbria, had a similar shape to the Bogleys stone (Clare 1978, 9–14) and there are many extant examples among large megalithic monuments, such as the great circle of Avebury and the associated Kennet Avenue in southern England.

Weathering over a long period has clearly had a detrimental effect on the stone, particularly on its upper surface where the original outline has probably been altered somewhat. All evidence of stone-dressing had been eroded except on that part of the stone protected within the pit. From its present dimensions, the stone is estimated to weigh approximately 3 tonnes (Watson 1911, 266–8), a heavy load to transport and manoeuvre using prehistoric technology.

Several plausible methods for erecting megalithic monuments have been proposed and investigated (eg Atkinson 1961; Thom 1984), all based largely on the work of Stone (1924, 99–108). Early building techniques have also been investigated through experimental archaeology (Coles 1973, 82–97; Hampsher-Monk and Abramson 1982, 19). There was insufficient evidence from Bogleys to say precisely how the stone was raised into its socket; indeed what evidence there was appears somewhat contradictory. At first sight, post-pits F103 and F111, located to the NE of the stone and equidistant from it, could be seen as settings for an A-frame whereas the sloping N and E sides of the socket indicate that such a device would probably have been positioned on its opposite side. However, it is possible that the post-pits formed part of a fulcrum arrangement (Thom 1984) for tipping the monolith upright from the NE side of the pit. Whatever the method, once placed within the hole, the stone was held vertical while the spaces around it were filled with rubble and soil. The two sloping and two vertical sides of the socket, together with the nature of the infill materials, have parallels at several standing stone sites, including those at the Goggley Stone in Cumbria (Clare 1978, 9–14) and the smaller standing stone at Mynydd Llangyndeyrn, Dyfed (Ward 1983, 42–5).

The stone did not appear to have been lifted on a previous occasion which contradicts the OS Name Book (1855) which states '..A few years ago, one Handsel Monday [the first Monday after New Year's Day] the colliers in the neighbourhood removed the stone in expectation of finding treasure beneath and were much disappointed in not finding anything.' There was certainly a slight disturbance in the upper levels of the socket infill where the base of the late 17th-century bottle overlay fragments of cremated bone and ash. Whether this is evidence of the 19th-century miners' exploration is unclear although the date of the glass suggests that the intrusion was over a century earlier. This large object cannot be dismissed as a stray find: no other sherds of glass were found near the stone, indicating that it is unlikely to have been shattered by the plough and was, more likely, placed there deliberately. An option worth considering is that the onion-shaped bottle had an association with witchcraft rituals, depositions of this nature being common in the 17th and early 18th century (pers comm R Pugh). There is certainly abundant evidence for the persecution of witches in Dysart parish in particular and the Kirk-caldy area in general (Pugh 2001, 46-7).

The four cremation deposits that were in situ, as well as the three post-pits, all lay to the NE of the stone, suggesting a concentration of activity within this sector

Table 5 *Radiocarbon dates from the cremations.*

lab number	cremation	uncalibrated date BP	calibrated date range BC (2-sigma) (Bronk Romsey 2002)
GrA-32117	Pit F105 (fill F107)	2845 ± 35	1115–920
GrA-32119	Pit F106 (fill F108)	2845 ± 35	1115–920
GrA-32129	Pit F115 (fill F118)	2845 ± 35	1115–920
GrA-32120	Pit F116 (fill F117)	2910 ± 35	1252–1006

of the site. However, there may be no real significance to this configuration and we might be simply viewing a survival pattern resulting from the damaging effects of ploughing. To the W of the standing stone the plough horizon sat directly on bedrock and any features that did not penetrate the rock would have been destroyed long ago. For that reason, the possibility that other burials had been attendant to the stone should not be discounted. Indeed, the fragments of charcoal and burnt bone found adjacent to the stone indicate that there had been at least one other burial nearby.

As to a primary function or changing use of the Bogleys stone, much of its story remains enigmatic and largely conjectural. A sufficient area was excavated around the stone to be confident that the monolith and the cremation cemetery represent the surviving entirety of the monument and it is unlikely to have been an element of a larger site. Investigations around the stone show that, at least during the late second millennium BC, it had a funerary function, acting as a cemetery marker and/or totem. However, it is by no means certain that this was the primary reason for its construction and the case for any contemporary relationship between the stone's emplacement and the life of the cemetery is unproven. To this end, it is important to note that no dedicatory cremation deposits were found in a primary context within the stone-hole. This could be viewed as an atypical situation because most of the small number of well documented examples of excavated standing stones were directly associated with burial remains (Barber 1978, 107). So, in essence, it seems quite possible that the stone acquired a funerary use, perhaps acting as a focus for burial rites, only at a relatively late stage of its existence. The possibility of an association with witchcraft in the early 18th century may well have resurrected the stone's role as the centre of funerary rituals.

Recent research at the circular monuments of eastern Scotland has shown that around 1000BC there was a tendency to incorporate funerary activity, including cremations, at pre-existing sites (Bradley and Sheridan 2005, 277-9). However, it should be acknowledged that large sites, such as the Clava ring-cairn, Inverness-shire (Bradley and Matthews 2000) and Tomnaverie recumbent stone circle, Aberdeenshire (Bradley and Phillips 2005), cannot be compared directly with single, isolated stones, such as Bogleys, and it is possible that the stone was a late Bronze Age foundation contemporary with the cemetery.

As well as its funerary context, there remains one function that may be implicit in the original purpose of the Bogleys stone: that of a marker or even a signpost for ancient routes (Morgan 1992, 155). Its position, while not dominant in the local landscape, did occupy the crest of a low ridge. From this location the large ceremonial site of the 4th to 2nd millennium BC at Balfarg/Balbirnie (Barclay and Russell-White 1993) is only 8km due N, the Bogleys stone being set with its long axis directly aligned in the direction of this major complex.

Acknowledgements

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Abstract
Investigations by Scotia Archaeology, in advance of opencast coal-mining, around Bogleys Standing Stone revealed four truncated cremation burials, all dating to the late 2nd millennium BC. The stone itself was removed to reveal its carefully fashioned socket.

Keywords
coal mining
cremations
Kirkcaldy
standing stone

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