

Contents

Summary	xi
Résumé: French summary	xiii
Zusammenfassung: German summary	xv
List of illustrations	xvii
List of tables	xxi
List of colour plates	xxiii
Acknowledgements	xxv
Notes	xxvii
List of contributors	xxix
Key to section and plan conventions	xxxi
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the excavation	1
1.2 Aims and limitations	5
1.3 The Hebridean wheelhouse	8
1.4 The archaeology and environmental history of Bhaltoe	10
1.4.1 <i>Landscape, location and topography</i>	10
1.4.2 <i>Research prior to the 1980s</i>	13
1.4.3 <i>Recent work</i>	13
1.4.4 <i>Environmental history and site visibility</i>	13
1.4.5 <i>Modern and early modern settlement</i>	14
1.4.6 <i>Prehistoric settlement</i>	17
1.5 The excavated site and its setting	17
1.6 Report structure	19
2 EXCAVATION RESULTS	21
2.1 Introduction	21
2.2 Notes on the recording system	21
2.2.1 <i>Contexts and blocks</i>	21
2.2.2 <i>Phasing</i>	23
2.2.3 <i>Other information</i>	23
2.3 Phase 1: The Wheelhouse Settlement	24
2.3.1 <i>Wheelhouse 1 (Blocks 5ai and 6)</i>	25
2.3.1.1 <i>Construction (Block 6)</i>	25
2.3.1.2 <i>Occupation deposits: Phase 1 (Block 5ai)</i>	28
2.3.1.3 <i>The entrance passage deposits</i>	29
2.3.1.4 <i>Interpretation</i>	29
2.3.2 <i>Wheelhouse 2 (Blocks 11, 12, 15, and 16)</i>	30
2.3.2.1 <i>Construction (Blocks 12 and 16)</i>	30

2.3.2.2 Internal deposits (Blocks 11 and 15)	34
2.3.3.3 Interpretation	38
2.4 Phase 2: The Cellular Structures	40
2.4.1 Continuing occupation of Wheelhouse 1	42
2.4.1.1 The first reorganisation and subsequent occupation – Phase 2a (Block 5a)	42
2.4.1.2 The second reorganisation and subsequent occupation – Phase 2b (Block 5b)	46
2.4.1.3 The entrance bay deposits	49
2.4.1.4 The decay of the wheelhouse during Phase 2	50
2.4.1.5 Spatial patterning within the wheelhouse	51
2.4.2 Structure 3 (Blocks 17 and 19)	54
2.4.2.1 Construction (Block 17)	54
2.4.2.2 Internal deposits (Block 19)	57
2.4.2.3 Interpretation	58
2.4.3 Structure 4 (Blocks 8 and 9)	60
2.4.3.1 Construction (Block 9)	61
2.4.3.2 Occupation deposits (Block 8)	62
2.4.3.3 Entrance area deposits (Block 8b)	65
2.4.3.4 Interpretation	65
2.4.4 Structure 7 (Block 22)	67
2.4.5 Structure 5 (Blocks 13 and 14)	68
2.4.5.1 Construction features (Block 14)	68
2.4.5.2 Deposition summary (Block 13)	68
2.4.5.3 Interpretation	69
2.4.6 Structure 6 (Block 21)	71
2.4.7 Phase 2 soil erosion	71
2.4.8 Unassociated deposits of Phases 1 or 2	71
2.4.8.1 Negative features (Block 10)	71
2.4.8.2 Interpretation	71
2.5 Phase 3: The Rectilinear Structure	72
2.5.1 Structure 8 (Blocks 1–4 and 20)	72
2.5.1.1 Construction (Block 2)	73
2.5.1.2 Internal deposits (Block 1)	77
2.5.1.3 Entrance passage construction (Blocks 3, 4 and 20)	78
2.5.1.4 Interpretation	80
2.5.2 Structure 10 (Block 18)	81
2.5.2.1 Description	81
2.5.2.2 Interpretation	81
2.5.3 Phase 3 midden deposits (Block 18)	82
2.5.3.1 Characterizing the midden deposits	82
2.5.3.2 Midden formation	82
2.6 Later activity	83
2.6.1 Windblown sand accumulation (Block 7)	83
2.6.2 Recent disturbance (Block 7)	83
2.6.3 Interpretation	83
3 MATERIAL CULTURE	85
3.1 Introduction	85
3.1.1 General	85
3.1.2 Range of activities represented	85

3.2	Pottery (Ann MacSween)	88
3.2.1	<i>Introduction</i>	88
3.2.2	<i>Technology</i>	88
3.2.3	<i>Morphology</i>	89
3.2.4	<i>Decoration</i>	93
3.2.4.1	<i>Applied decoration</i>	93
3.2.4.2	<i>Incised decoration</i>	95
3.2.4.3	<i>Impressed decoration</i>	98
3.2.4.4	<i>Other forms of decoration</i>	100
3.2.5	<i>Chronological change and comparative material</i>	100
3.2.6	<i>Catalogue of illustrated sherds</i>	103
3.3	Ceramic artefacts (Fraser Hunter and Ann MacSween)	131
3.4	Human bone (Kath McSweeney)	133
3.5	Bone and antler (Fraser Hunter with Andrew Kitchener)	136
3.5.1	<i>General</i>	136
3.5.2	<i>Manufacturing evidence</i>	138
3.5.2.1	<i>Antler-working debris</i>	138
3.5.2.2	<i>Bone-working debris</i>	140
3.5.2.3	<i>Roughouts</i>	140
3.5.3	<i>Tools</i>	141
3.5.3.1	<i>Agriculture/construction</i>	141
3.5.3.2	<i>Hide working</i>	141
3.5.3.3	<i>Textile working</i>	141
3.5.3.4	<i>Pottery manufacture or bronze casting</i>	143
3.5.3.5	<i>Unattributed – handles</i>	143
3.5.3.6	<i>Unattributed – composite tool heads</i>	144
3.5.3.7	<i>Unattributed – working surfaces/anvils</i>	144
3.5.3.8	<i>Unattributed – miscellaneous</i>	145
3.5.4	<i>Ornaments</i>	145
3.5.4.1	<i>Pins</i>	145
3.5.5	<i>Leisure</i>	147
3.5.6	<i>Fittings</i>	150
3.5.7	<i>Miniature objects</i>	150
3.5.8	<i>Unidentified</i>	151
3.5.9	<i>Missing items</i>	151
3.6	Coarse stone (Ann Clarke)	151
3.6.1	<i>General</i>	151
3.6.2	<i>Querns</i>	152
3.6.3	<i>Hammerstones</i>	153
3.6.4	<i>Stone disc</i>	153
3.7	Chipped stone (Bill Finlayson)	153
3.8	Pumice (Anthony Newton)	153
3.9	Copper alloy (Fraser Hunter)	154
3.10	Iron (Fraser Hunter)	154
3.11	The vitrified material (Dawn McLaren and Andrew Heald)	155
3.11.1	<i>Overview</i>	155
3.11.2	<i>Classification</i>	155
3.11.2.1	<i>Plano-convex hearth bottoms and slag amalgams</i>	155
3.11.2.2	<i>Unclassified slags – smithing?</i>	156

3.11.2.3	<i>Vitrified hearth or furnace lining</i>	156
3.11.2.4	<i>Other vitrified material</i>	156
3.11.2.5	<i>Fe conglomerate</i>	157
3.11.3	<i>Discussion</i>	157
3.12	Non-ferrous metalworking debris (Andrew Heald and Fraser Hunter)	158
3.12.1	<i>Moulds</i>	158
3.12.1.1	<i>Other</i>	159
3.12.2	<i>Discussion</i>	159
4	SUBSISTENCE AND ENVIRONMENT	161
4.1	Introduction	161
4.2	Animal bone (Finbar McCormick)	161
4.2.1	<i>Introduction</i>	161
4.2.2	<i>Cattle</i>	166
4.2.3	<i>Sheep</i>	168
4.2.3.1	<i>General</i>	168
4.2.3.2	<i>Sheep burials</i>	169
4.2.4	<i>Pig and dog</i>	169
4.2.5	<i>Red deer</i>	169
4.2.6	<i>Other wild animals</i>	171
4.3	Bird remains (Sheila Hamilton-Dyer)	172
4.4	The sieved fish remains (Ruby Cerón-Carrasco)	173
4.4.1	<i>Methods</i>	173
4.4.2	<i>Discussion by block</i>	175
4.4.3	<i>Discussion by phase</i>	177
4.4.4	<i>The hand-retrieved fish remains (Sheila Hamilton-Dyer)</i>	177
4.4.5	<i>Notes on the species identified</i>	178
4.4.6	<i>Discussion</i>	179
4.4.7	<i>Conclusion</i>	180
4.5	The marine molluscs, with notes on the echinoidea remains and terrestrial snails (Ruby Cerón-Carrasco)	180
4.5.1	<i>The marine molluscs</i>	180
4.5.1.1	<i>Methods</i>	180
4.5.1.2	<i>Results</i>	180
4.5.1.3	<i>Conclusion</i>	182
4.5.2	<i>A note on the echinoidea remains</i>	182
4.5.3	<i>A note on the terrestrial snails</i>	182
4.5.4	<i>Conclusion</i>	182
4.6	Carbonized plant macrofossils and charcoal (Mike Church and Mike Cressey)	182
4.6.1	<i>Summary</i>	182
4.6.2	<i>Sampling strategy</i>	184
4.6.3	<i>Methods</i>	184
4.6.3.1	<i>Carbonized plant microfossils</i>	184
4.6.3.2	<i>Charcoal</i>	184
4.6.4	<i>Results and discussion</i>	184
4.6.4.1	<i>Data presentation</i>	184
4.6.4.2	<i>Species represented</i>	184
4.6.4.3	<i>Distribution and origin of carbonized material</i>	191
4.6.4.4	<i>Other sites</i>	192

5	ANATOMY OF A WHEELHOUSE	195
5.1	The nature of the evidence	195
5.2	Reconstruction drawings	195
5.3	How to build a wheelhouse?	195
5.3.1	<i>Stage 1</i>	195
5.3.2	<i>Stage 2</i>	198
5.3.3	<i>Stage 3</i>	199
5.3.4	<i>Stage 4</i>	203
5.4	How typical is Cnip?	205
5.4.1	<i>Piers: bonded and unbonded</i>	205
5.4.2	<i>Revetted versus free-standing construction</i>	206
5.5	Material resources	206
5.6	Skill and labour requirements	207
5.7	The monumental home	207
6	CHRONOLOGY	209
6.1	Introduction	209
6.1.1	<i>Sample selection</i>	209
6.1.2	<i>Problems</i>	209
6.2	Calibration and analysis of radiocarbon dates (Magnar Dalland)	211
6.2.1	<i>Introduction</i>	211
6.2.2	<i>Statistical analysis</i>	211
6.2.2.1	<i>Contemporaneity of the dates from Phase 2</i>	214
6.2.2.2	<i>Stratigraphical adjustment</i>	214
6.2.2.3	<i>The duration of Phases 2 and 3</i>	216
6.3	Interpreting the chronological evidence (Ian Armit)	219
6.3.1	<i>Dating Phases 2 and 3</i>	219
6.3.2	<i>Dating Phase 1</i>	220
6.3.3	<i>Conclusion</i>	221
6.4	Cnip and the chronology of wheelhouses (Ian Armit)	221
7	LIVING IN IRON AGE LEWIS	225
7.1	Introduction	225
7.2	What happened at Cnip: a speculative summary	225
7.3	Cnip and the Hebridean wheelhouse tradition	227
7.4	Making a living: household, society and environment	233
7.4.1	<i>The neighbours</i>	233
7.4.2	<i>Arable agriculture</i>	236
7.4.3	<i>Animal husbandry</i>	236
7.4.4	<i>Wild resources</i>	237
7.4.5	<i>Craft-working</i>	238
7.4.6	<i>Fuel</i>	238
7.4.7	<i>Economy, environment and ideology</i>	239
7.4.8	<i>Seasonal patterning and movement through the landscape</i>	239
7.5	Life at Cnip	240
7.5.1	<i>Floor formation and the archaeology of the non-routine</i>	240
7.5.2	<i>Zoning of activities</i>	242

7.5.3 Structured deposition and the treatment of human remains	244
7.5.4 Unstructured deposition? Questioning the querns	248
7.5.5 Iron Age cosmologies	249
7.6 Why were wheelhouses built?	251
7.6.1 Breaking with the past	251
7.6.2 Land, inheritance and power	253
7.6.3 Wider changes	254
7.6.4 Conclusion	254
REFERENCES	257
INDEX	269