

# EARLY TIMES ON THE TAY



## INTRODUCTION

Neolithic stone circles, Bronze age burial tombs, Iron age hillforts, Roman forts and Pictish carved stones all provide evidence of people in Tayside from earliest times. Past these sites runs the Tay, the motorway and route finder of its age.

Below, we suggest some approaches for an investigation of a place or object in Tayside in 'early times' – from Neolithic times up to the time of the Picts (c. 800 AD). We have included material relating to a range of places and objects and recommend you choose whichever is closest to you, or a site similar to those on the list. We then include a programme of suggested learning activities relating to the site.

Following these, we provide background information, further resources and an link to the content for pupils shown on the website.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

Select a key place/object, ideally one local to your school – see the list below for our featured sites and objects. Look at the images and discussion points on our website.

**Neolithic (3500 – 2000 BC)**  
Croft Moraig stone circle, near Kenmore

**Bronze age (2000 – 1000 BC)**  
Carpow log boat  
Forteviot Bronze Age tomb

**Iron Age (1000 BC – 300 AD)**  
The Crannog, Loch Tay  
Moredun top fort (also known as Carnac) at Moncreiffe Hill, north of Bridge of Earn

**Romans in Scotland (AD 79 – 411)**  
Inchtuthill fort, near Caputh

**Picts (AD 250- 800)**  
Caisteal Mac Tuathall hillfort,  
Drummond Hill by Loch Tay  
Moredun Top hill fort (see Iron Age)  
Dupplin Cross, Dunning



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## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### CURRICULAR AREA

Social Studies: People,  
Past Events  
and Societies

### EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

I can interpret historical evidence from a range of periods to help to build a picture of Scotland's heritage and my sense of chronology.  
SOC 2-02a

I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past.  
SOC 2-01a

I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences.  
SOC 2-04a

### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Explore the place/object through photographs and satellite maps. What is there now? What might it have looked like in the past? How do we know? How can we find out?

#### Who lived here?

Find out in fairly general terms who lived here.

#### How long ago?

Help children begin to develop an understanding of chronology. Create a class timeline using strip of paper 12-13m long, marked off in metres and ten centimetres. Each metre represents 1000 years; each ten cm represents a century; each cm represents a decade. Mark AD 2000 clearly at the right hand end of the line. Help children count back in centuries and mark these on the line. Discuss terms AD/BC and talk about 'how many years ago'.

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### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

#### How long ago?

Find pictures of key events in history which may be familiar to pupils from previous work or general knowledge (e.g. mammoth from ice age, Egyptian pyramids, Battle of Bannockburn etc). See if together you can put them in order. Then add them to the timeline. Then place people from the era you are studying clearly on the timeline, which can be referred to throughout the topic.

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### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

#### How did they live?

Using books, websites and any other resources, pupils choose an aspect of the lives of these people to research e.g.

- **Housing** – what were their houses like? Following research, plan and construct model roundhouses/crannogs/hillforts/military garrisons. Draw cross sections. Make drawings on a piece of folded paper which show what the house looked like inside and out.

Recreate the site – make mini-stone circle, or create decorated clay or plasticene crosses.

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### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- **Clothing** – what did they wear? Where did the materials come from? Following research, create paper dolls and dress them appropriately using collage. Or dress pipe cleaner/Playmobil/Lego action figures appropriately and position them on the model house.

Using images from SCRAN ([www.scran.ac.uk](http://www.scran.ac.uk)) as a reference point, pupils could create their own objects (jewellery, shields, weapons etc) inspired by original objects.

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### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- **Food** – how did they find and cook food? What food could be gathered? What food could be farmed? What food was hunted or trapped, in woods and in rivers? Use SCRAN to find images of objects relating to hunting, gathering and farming in the past. Create a menu based on available foods.

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### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- **Travel** – how did they get around? Find out how people travelled in early times. The Tay itself is likely to have been the 'motorway' of its age, with river travel often easier than travel overland. Investigate the boats of the time.

Material on YouTube on the Bronze Age Carpow log boat may be of interest ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S\\_6xFmpfJGY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_6xFmpfJGY)). The Carpow boat was 9m long; you could mark this out in the classroom. How many children could have fitted in it? Try! How would it have moved?

SCRAN has a good set of images on early boatbuilding, including building a coracle. You could make mini model boats and test them.

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### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

If possible, visit your chosen site. Carry out measuring recording and interpretive activities. This resource has some good ideas:

<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/outdoor-archaeological-learning-resource.pdf>

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## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### CURRICULAR AREA

Expressive Arts: Drama

### EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

Inspired by a range of stimuli, I can express and communicate my ideas, thoughts and feelings through drama.  
EXA 2-13a

### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Prepare costumes and possibly a script to re-enact a ceremony or event to take place on site. This could be photographed or recorded at the time and then reworked and presented to an audience (of parents or other pupils).

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FURTHER RESOURCES

### NEOLITHIC OR STONE AGE (3500 - 2000 BC)

The first people to populate Tayside were the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers, who moved around, hunting prey and harvesting wild crops according to the season. From around 4000-3500BC people started to settle and begin to domesticate animals and grow crops: Scotland's first farmers. Stone circles aligned with the sun or moon, such as the one at Croft Moraig near Kenmore may have had a ritual significance, as may have cup-and-ring mark stone carvings found in Strath Tay.

- Investigating Early Carved Stones a resource from Historic Environment Scotland can be downloaded here: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=12431957-5e19-4e54-8c24-a58600e466c0>

It includes activities for investigating stone circles such as that at Croft Moraig near Kenmore.

- Gordon Barclay, Farmers, Temples and Tombs: Scotland in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, Historic Scotland/Birlinn 2005.

A good guide to the period of Scotland's first farmers.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FURTHER RESOURCES

### BRONZE AGE (2000 – 1000 BC)

People during this time continued to develop farming techniques and also began to develop skills in metalwork. The burial chamber at Forteviot dates from this period. When it was excavated in 2009 the chamber was found to contain the remains of a body together with personal possessions including a leather bag and a bronze dagger.

Other Bronze age finds in this area include several bronze swords found in the Tay and thought to be offerings to a river-god, and the Carpow log boat, excavated from the Tay estuary in 2006 and thought to be around 3000 years old.

- This website gives plenty of information about the logboat found at Carpow, and includes a short YouTube video showing how the boat was extracted from the waters of the Tay.

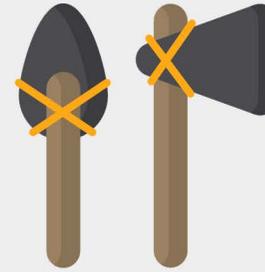
<http://www.pkht.org.uk/index.php/projects/carpow-logboat/>

- A short graphic novel, Settle Petal has been created featuring the Carpow logboat and can be viewed here:

<http://www.taylp.org/training-workshops/inspiring-people-bursary-scheme/>

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FURTHER RESOURCES

### BRONZE AGE (2000 – 1000 BC)

- The Crannog centre at Loch Tay has a replica of the Carpow log boat and is a great place to visit: <http://www.crannog.co.uk>
- At Forteviot there have been some remarkable excavations of an ancient site which was used over several millennia. Find out more here: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/humanities/research/archaeologyresearch/projects/serf/forteviotexcavations/prehistoricceremonialcomplex/>
- This resource, Wolf Brother's Wildwoods: Imagining Mesolithic life in Scotland's forests and woodlands supports the novel Wolf Brother, by Michelle Paver and includes a wealth of forest-based learning activities to explore hunter-gatherer life in Scotland: [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/PDF/fcms123.pdf/\\$FILE/fcms123.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/PDF/fcms123.pdf/$FILE/fcms123.pdf)

It's really based on Mesolithic life (8000BC – 4000 BC) but many activities can be adapted or used anyway.

- Gordon Barclay, Farmers, Temples and Tombs: Scotland in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, Historic Scotland/Birlinn 2005. A good guide to the period of Scotland's first farmers.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FURTHER RESOURCES

### IRON AGE (1000 BC – 300 AD)

Sometimes known as the Celts, Iron age people lived in Tayside from around 3000 years ago, and were the people encountered by the Romans when they invaded. They developed ironworking techniques, continued to farm and built defensive hilltop forts as well as crannogs in lochs.

#### Crannog

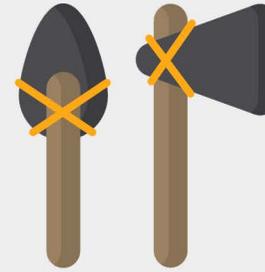
- The Crannog Centre [www.crannog.org.uk](http://www.crannog.org.uk) The website of the reconstructed crannog on Loch Tay. There is a good image gallery here: <http://www.crannog.co.uk/visitors/photo-galleries/202-special-gallery>
- A useful leaflet from Forestry Commission Scotland highlighting iron age sites in Tayside [http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/pdf/rec\\_pdfs/Iron\\_Age\\_Loch\\_Tay\\_Loch\\_Tummel.pdf](http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/pdf/rec_pdfs/Iron_Age_Loch_Tay_Loch_Tummel.pdf)
- This resource from the National Museums of Scotland is really to support a box of handling material, but includes useful images and information. <http://www.nms.ac.uk/media/59281/scots-early-people-handling.pdf>
- SCRAN ([www.scran.ac.uk](http://www.scran.ac.uk)) Numerous resources and Pathfinder packs featuring real and replica iron age objects (including a reconstruction of a roundhouse).

This resource from Forestry Commission Scotland includes a cut-out roundhouse to make: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/outdoor-archaeological-learning-resource.pdf>

Anna Ritchie, Scotland BC, Historic Scotland, 1999. A good overview of Scotland from around 3800 BC – AD 200.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FURTHER RESOURCES

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### IRON AGE (1000 BC – 300 AD)

Moredun Top hillfort, at Moncreiffe Hill

- There are lots of good aerial photographs here: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/28025/carnac-moredun>
- There is a photosphere on Google maps which you can look at if you search on Moncreiffe Hill Fort.
- A Minecraft map and activities relating to the fort can be downloaded here: <http://www.taylp.org/learning-zones/kids/>
- A summary of recent archaeological findings can be seen here: <http://www.aocarchaeology.com/key-projects/moredun>
- Quite an old interactive resource exploring people of the iron age at the time of the Roman invasion, but still useful: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/sysm/romans/index\\_choice.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/sysm/romans/index_choice.shtml)

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FURTHER RESOURCES

### ROMANS IN SCOTLAND(AD 79 – 411)

The Romans invaded Scotland under Agricola in the AD 70s, a sophisticated and literate military culture. Within seven years they had built a line of forts along the Gask Ridge in Perthshire as well as a line across the Central Belt along the line of the later Antonine Wall. They withdrew to Hadrian's Wall around AD 165 and finally abandoned Britain in AD 411. Key sites in Perthshire include the massive (but never finished) Inchtuthill fort near Caputh, and Ardoch fort just outside Braco.

- The website of the Antonine Wall includes numerous resources to support a study or site visit of the Romans in Scotland. See: <http://www.antoninewall.org/learning-centre/primary>
- A selection of interactive resources relating to the Romans from the National Museum of Scotland <http://www.nms.ac.uk/explore/games/discover-the-romans/>
- Some useful material on this BBC Bitesize website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zxv6pv4>
- Gordon Maxwell, A Gathering of Eagles, Scenes from Roman Scotland, Historic Scotland/Birlinn(2005). A clear account of the Roman campaigns and occupation of Scotland.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FURTHER RESOURCES

### THE PICTS (AD 250- 800)

The Picts were the descendants of Scotland's Iron Age people. They are best known for the stones they carved with enigmatic symbols. There are many fine examples of these in Tayside. Farmers, merchants, warriors – they were a sophisticated and skilled people.

Key sites in Perthshire include Caisteal Mac Tuathall hillfort, Drummond Hill by Loch Tay and Moredun Top hillfort, an Iron Age hillfort to the north of Bridge of Earn which was reoccupied by the Picts. The Dupplin Cross, in St Serf's Church in Dunning is a great example of a stone cross carved with a range of images. At Meigle Museum there is an outstanding collection of Pictish stones, while other stones still stand in the fields and moors where they were first placed.

- An excellent package, The Picts, a learning resource, produced by Forestry Commission Scotland can be downloaded here: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/the-picts-a-learning-resource.pdf>
- Investigating Early Carved Stones, from Historic Environment Scotland can be downloaded here: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=12431957-5e19-4e54-8c24-a58600e466c0> and includes many suggestions for investigating Pictish stones.
- Meigle Sculptured Stone Museum <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/meigle-sculptured-stone-museum/>  
A display of 26 carved Pictish stones.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FURTHER RESOURCES

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### THE PICTS (AD 250- 800)

- SCRAN has numerous images of the Dupplin Cross <http://www.scran.ac.uk>
- Martin Carver, *Surviving in Symbols: A Visit to the Pictish Nation*, Historic Scotland/Birlinn (2005). A lively, thorough introduction for the non-specialist.
- Jill Harden and Andrew Burnet, *The Picts*, Historic Scotland, (2010). An easy-to-read and informative introduction to the Picts.

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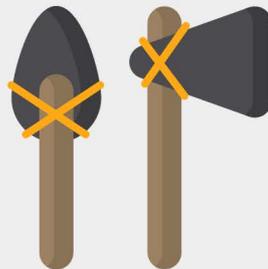
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### GENERAL

- This new resource from Forestry Commission Scotland includes lots of suggestions for outdoor learning at archaeological sites.  
<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/outdoor-archaeological-learning-resource.pdf>
- SCRAN has numerous resources relating to Scotland's culture, including Pathfinder packages and images of objects.  
<http://www.scran.ac.uk>
- CANMORE is an online catalogue to Scotland's archaeology and built past and includes lots of good images of sites, including aerial photography <http://www.canmore.org.uk>

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## CROFT MORAIG STONE CIRCLE

This stone circle is more than  
**4000 YEARS OLD!**

It was built on top of another  
circle, made out of **WOODEN POSTS.**

There are two flat carved stones.  
One is lined up with the  
**MIDSUMMER FULL MOON**, the other  
with the **MIDSUMMER SUNRISE.**

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## CARPOW LOG BOAT

This boat is around **3000 YEARS OLD**.

It is around **9M LONG** and was carved from a single oak tree trunk.

It was discovered in **2001** and was excavated from the mudflats of the estuary in **2006**.

It was probably used by **Bronze Age people** to fish, hunt for birds and for crossing the Tay.

**SEVEN OTHER LOG BOATS** were found in the Tay area in the 19th century, but only **ONE OF THEM STILL SURVIVES**. It is on display in Dundee museum.

The Carpow log boat is on display in **Perth Museum**.

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## FORTEVIOT TOMB

In 2009 archaeologists were amazed when they lifted a **HUGE STONE** with a crane in Forteviot. Under the stone was a **4000 YEAR OLD GRAVE**, with the remains of a body laid on a bed of **QUARTZ PEBBLES** and the remains of a **BIRCH COFFIN**.

There was also a **LEATHER BAG**, a **BRONZE DAGGER**, strange **WOODEN OBJECTS** and the **REMAINS OF PLANTS**.

Archaeologists think it must have been a **VERY IMPORTANT PERSON** who was buried here.

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## CRANNOG

This is a modern copy of a **2500 YEAR OLD** house on stilts in Loch Tay. It's called a **CRANNOG**.

People shared the crannog with their **ANIMALS**, to keep them safe and warm.

**UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGISTS** have found all kinds of objects in the loch which have been preserved for 2500 years. These provide **CLUES** as to how the crannog was built and how people lived long ago.

There would have been a **FIRE** in the central hearth of the crannog, but **NO CHIMNEY**.

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## MOREDUN TOP HILLFORT

About **3000 YEARS AGO**, a fort was built on top of this hill.

It would have had **WOODEN ROUND HOUSES** inside to keep people safe and a defensive wooden and earth **WALL** round the outside.

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## INCHTUTHILL FORT

**THE ROMANS** built a massive fort at Inchtuthill in the year **AD 82 OR 83**.

It was probably their **HEADQUARTERS** in Scotland, and was big enough to hold an entire legion, **5,400 SOLDIERS**.

It was only used for a very short time, and was **DEMOLISHED** in AD 86 when the Romans left.

They called it **PINNATA CASTRA**.

If you walked round all the walls of all the buildings, you would have walked **SEVEN MILES!** (10km).

Before they left, the Romans hid more than **750,000 NAILS** in a deep pit.

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## CAISTEAL MAC TUATHAL, DRUMMOND HILL

This fort was probably built in the **IRON AGE**, about 2500 years ago. It was defended by **STONE WALLS**.

The fort was used again hundreds of years later by the **PICTISH PEOPLE**. The name relates to a religious leader called **TUATHAL** who died in **AD 865**.

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### THE DUPPLIN CROSS, DUNNING

This stone used to stand outside  
on the banks of the **RIVER EARN**.

Each side of the cross is **CARVED**.

The writing on one side is said to  
show the name of a **PICTISH KING**.

It was carved by **PICTISH  
CRAFTSPEOPLE** in the AD 800s  
from one massive piece  
of **SANDSTONE**.

Some of the carvings show  
scenes from the **BIBLE** and were  
used to **HELP PEOPLE LEARN** about  
Bible stories.











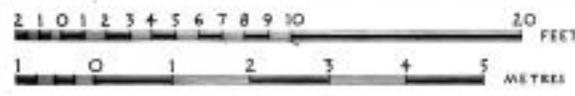
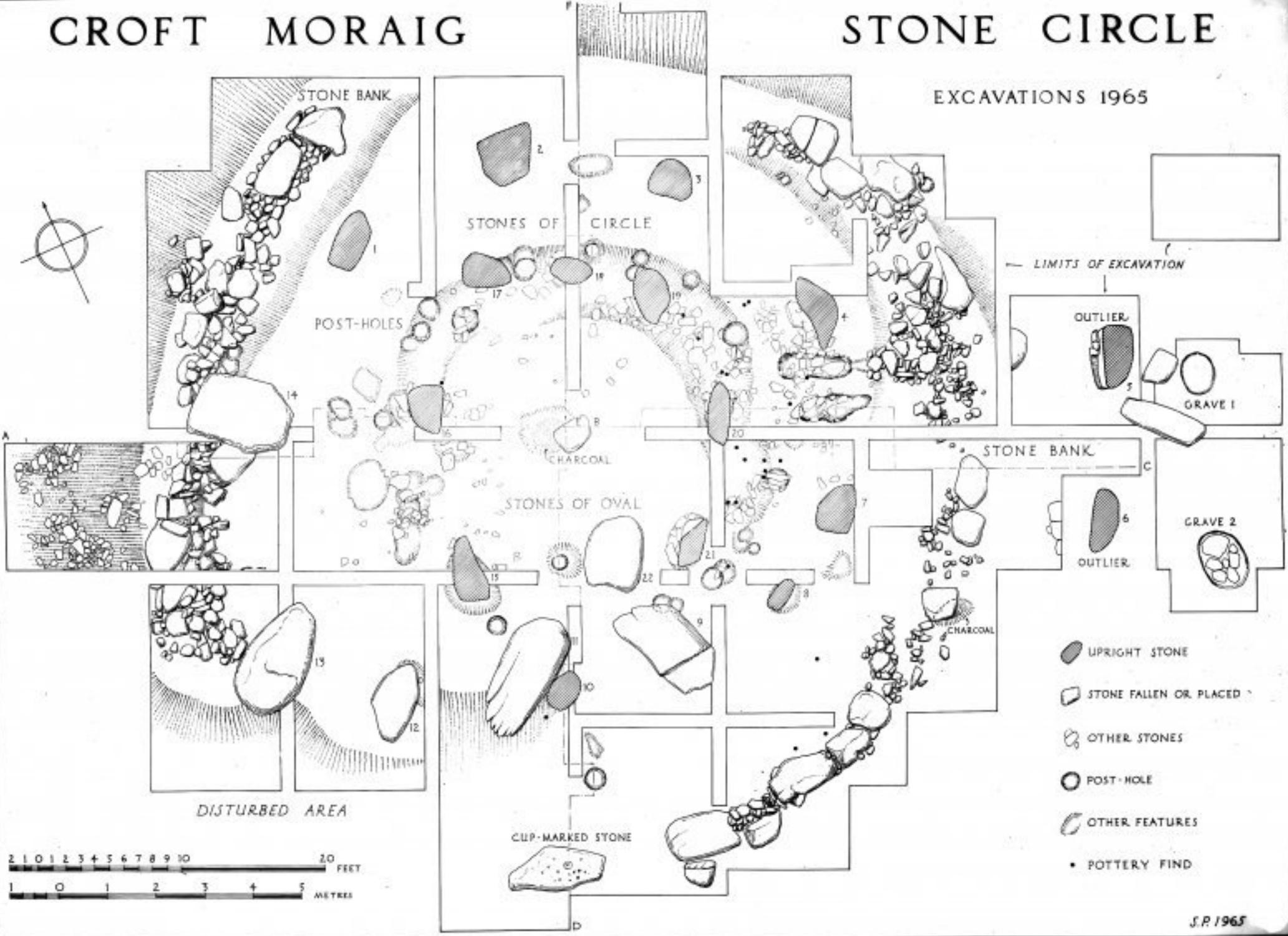




# CROFT MORAIG

# STONE CIRCLE

EXCAVATIONS 1965



- UPRIGHT STONE
- STONE FALLEN OR PLACED
- OTHER STONES
- POST-HOLE
- OTHER FEATURES
- POTTERY FIND





