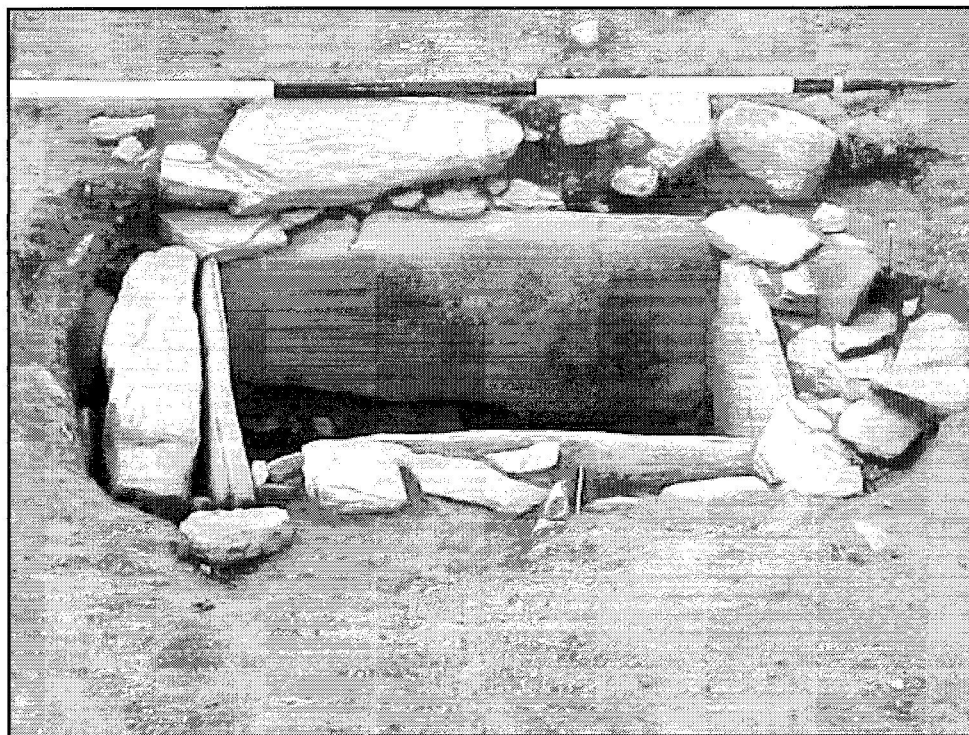


## Preliminary Report on the Excavation of a Short Cist Burial, Kildavanan Farm, Autumn 2002

*Edwina Proudfoot*



**The excavated short cist at Kildavanan**

A short cist burial was uncovered in 2002 on land farmed by Mr Duncan Lyon, Kildavanan. Robert Sinclair had ploughed the field early in the year and had noticed a large stone near the top of the field. Later, when he was clearing stones before ploughing and re-seeding he looked around the area and noted a deep hole, in which he could see part of the edge of a long, thin stone. He thought this could be a short cist and so he reported this to Bute Museum and the information was passed to Edwina Proudfoot.

A visit was arranged with members of the society to examine the site (NS 0253 6685). The possibilities were limited— a naturally deposited stone in a stony part of the field, a possible new short cist or the rediscovery of a short cist excavated in this area by Dorothy Marshall in 1952 and reported in the *Transactions*, 1955.

Preliminary examination revealed that this was a previously unknown short cist and it soon became clear that it had only been disturbed when the cap-stone was dislodged. Therefore we thought that the burial and any items deposited in the cist could survive. Working over several weekends the excavators uncovered traces of a burial, probably cremated, a small Food Vessel, and a large organic deposit as well as the paved base and details of construction. After all deposits had been removed for study the cist was refilled, the cover stone replaced and the site re-seeded.

Work was carried out by members of the Society, directed by Edwina Proudfoot.

Historic Scotland gave a grant towards the excavation and for the post- excavation laboratory study of the deposits. This will take some time to complete. A note was published in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* 2002.