

Church, M J & Rowley-Conwy, P A (2013). Pabaigh Mòr. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, New Series 14: 198.

Pabaigh Mòr (South)

M J Church, P A Rowley-Conwy

Durham University

Excavation

In September 2013, bulk samples were taken from an unidentified shell midden eroding from the base of the machair at Briomanish, on the southern coastline of the island of Pabaigh Mòr. The midden was revealed by coastal erosion and the eroding section measured c.4 m in length and over 0.3 m deep. The midden was very similar in character to the other Late Mesolithic shell middens discovered across the bay at Tràigh na Beirigh (DES 2011: 194-5; DES 2012: 190: DES this volume), with an old ground surface and shell midden deposits immediately overlying glacial till, which were in turn overlain by machair.

The section was drawn and photographed, before bulk samples were taken for laboratory analysis. Initial processing of the samples has indicated the deposits contain struck quartz and flint, burnt and unburnt fish and mammal bones, shellfish, crustacean, charred hazel nutshells and charcoal. Radiocarbon dates will be obtained following the submission of suitable dating material to establish the chronology of the site.

Funders: National Science Foundation of America (Grant number 1202692), Historic Scotland and Durham University.