

Annex A

Documents

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- 2 E-mail 12-11-2024 to NT with Final Consent re Giant's Causeway and Dunseverick ASSI
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	Document Title
1	E-mail 07-11-2024 to NT re Consent Application – Giant's Causeway and Dunseverick ASSI

From: DAERA NIEA CDP
Sent: 07 November 2024 15:12
To: [REDACTED]@nationaltrust.org.uk
Subject: ID 2959 - Consent Application - Giant's Causeway and Dunseverick ASSI

Dear [REDACTED]

ID 2959

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY AND DUNSEVERICK AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (ASSI)

I refer to your consent application received 07th November 2024 regarding proposed operations within the above ASSI.

I would like to advise you that your application is being dealt with under legislation contained in The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (as amended).

This matter is being considered and the Department will respond to your request as soon as possible. You should note however, that under the above legislation the Department has up to 3 months to respond and a decision should be issued to you no later than 06th February 2025.

If you do not receive a response by this date your application may be considered to have been refused. In this situation you have the right of appeal under Article 33(2) of the above Order and have until the 06th April 2025 to contact the Planning Appeals Commission.

The Planning Appeals Commission can be contacted at 87 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AG (Tel: 028 9024 4710).

Regards

[REDACTED]

	Document Title
2	E-mail 12-11-2024 to NT with Final Consent re Giant's Causeway and Dunseverick ASSI

From: DAERA NIEA CDP
Sent: 12 November 2024 14:32
To: [REDACTED]@nationaltrust.org.uk
Subject: ID 2959 - Consent Application - Giant's Causeway and Dunseverick ASSI
Attachments: ID 2959 - Consent - National Trust - Giant's Causeway and Dunseverick ASSI - 12-11-2024.pdf

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached final consent regarding the above application.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

	Document Title
3	Consent – National Trust – Giant's Causeway and Dunseverick ASSI – 12-11-2024

Our reference: ID 2959

██████████
National Trust
60 Causeway Road
Bushmills
Co. Antrim
BT57 8SU

12th November 2024

Conservation, Designation & Protection
Floor 2, Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast
BT3 9ED
Telephone: 028 90 567 266
E-mail: CDP@daera-ni.gov.uk

Dear ██████████

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY AND DUNSEVERICK AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (ASSI)

I refer to your consent application received on 07th November 2024 notifying the Department about works which you propose to carry out within the above ASSI.

The Department has considered your application in accordance with Article 32 of the Environmental (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (as amended) and has determined that the scientific interest of the ASSI is not likely to be adversely affected due to the scale, method and location of the works.

A nominated officer from the Department may inspect the works during or after their completion.

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



If you require any further information please contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,



Natural Environment Division
Conservation, Designation and Protection

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

An Agency wí'ln the Depairtment o
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Standard

	Document Title
4	CCGHT In-Year Bid: WHS Stone Protection

Proposed in-year activity title	In-year work – environmental outcome and action required to deliver this outcome	Measurement	Total cost £	EF grant request £	Percentage of EF funding requested	Match funding proposed £	Priority ranking 1 (high) to 3 (low)
WHS Coin Removal	Detailed survey and mapping of the affected areas of Giant’s Causeway where coins have been jammed between columnar basalts will be followed by a careful pilot removal of coins to reduce coins present between columnar basalt at the World Heritage Site, safeguarding the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. <u>Environmental outcome</u> - Safeguarding UNESCO World Heritage Site Status. Acting to preserve the Integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the Site inscribed under Criterion VII and VIII. - Addressing Periodic Reporting Factor Affecting the Site 4.9.2 - Deliberate destruction of heritage. The World Heritage Committee expect Government Agencies to make effort to mitigate, redress or stop negative factors.		£22,500 Project	£19,800	88%	£2,700 CCGHT/ National Trust contribution secured	1

- Supporting Giant's Causeway & Dunseverick ASSI to maintain favourable condition. - Supporting Causeway Coast AONB, Giant's Causeway NNR, North Coast SAC. - Understand extent of coin deposition issue by providing a baseline of coin presence across the WHS, enabling future monitoring of the issue. - Reduce number of coins present with minimal disturbance to stones themselves. - Reduce chipping of columnar basalt from further hammering in of coins which weakens columnar joints. - Improved natural habitat by removing foreign objects from the Giant's Causeway. - Improved appearance of the Giant's Causeway by removing unsightly foreign objects which also result in discolouration and staining of the basalt columns. <u>Action required to deliver this outcome</u> Phase One Contract for an expert site survey and mapping of the area to quantify linear length of impacted joints. Provide a more detailed analysis of removal options setting tolerance thresholds for damage caused by removal. Identify: - 1 x standalone location (i.e. the boulders or the organ) and - 10 x 1 metre linear joints either across the	Phase One - Contract issued and awarded - Site survey and mapping complete and approved by Coin Task Group. - Terms for Reference for pilot provided. - Activity to take place July – October.					
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	Causeway or within a quadrant which will be the focus of a trial removal. A detailed survey will categorise the coins state (intact, delaminated, hammered in, accessible), and outline a relevant monitoring programme. Provision of a Terms of Reference for small-scale coin removal trial of a 1 x standalone site and 10 x 1 metre linear joints. Phase Two Contract for suitable experts run trial removal on 1 x standalone site and 10 x 1 metre linear joint, tracking effort needed to extract coins (see categories below) included. Coin removal will be completed using methods identified as appropriate during earlier conservation-led trial. The coin extraction survey will be carried out alongside the coin removal. Categories: - Easily removed coins (little or no force required to pull out) - Tight coins (require light tapping, or pulling) - Very tight coins (require significant force and/or cutting or drilling). Suitable trainees will be trained in survey and removal techniques by contracted experts as the work is being undertaken.	Phase Two - Contract issued and awarded for limited removal and impaction survey. - Report produced on process and quantity/volume removed including visuals. - Report providing next steps. - Reports circulated to stakeholders including WHS Steering Group and WHUK. - Staff training complete. - Activity to take place between September – January.					
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	Report on work carried out, volume of coins removed, impact and issues and suggested next steps. Removal sites will be monitored and surveyed regularly (directed by expert advice) determine if removal discourages coin deposition, reduces unsightly staining. Note, we anticipate a Phase Three to deal coin removal across the WHS but cannot propose this until Phase One and Phase Two are complete and monitoring of the trial sites is carried out. Phase Three would include further training for onsite coin removal, allowing maintenance to continue. <u>Background</u> Coin Task Group (a sub-group of the World Heritage Site Steering Group) has considered expert reports on the issue (British Geological Society and Cliveden Conservation) alongside site management understanding of the practice. The Task Group agrees the responsible action is to remove coins which can be removed without motorised tools. And that mapping and visuals of the issue is required for proper monitoring.						
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ENVIRONMENT FUND 2023 – 2028 IN-YEAR BID PROFORMA

ORGANISATION NAME: Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust

PROJECT CODE: EFSS 23 -- Conserving the Causeway Coast and Glens

	Document Title
5	E-mail to CCGHT and Acknowledgement of Funding

From: [REDACTED]@ccght.org>
Sent: 17 September 2024 11:59
To: DAERA efgrants
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: EFSS 23 CCGHT Environment Fund Strategic Strand In-Year Funding WHS Coin Removal

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Much appreciated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] – To note.

From: DAERA efgrants <EFgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 September 2024 11:55
To: [REDACTED]@ccght.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ccght.org>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA efgrants <EFgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: EFSS 23 CCGHT Environment Fund Strategic Strand In-Year Funding WHS Coin Removal

Hello [REDACTED]

I would like to inform you that we are in the process of developing a Letter of Offer associated with the below elements of Environment Fund Strategic Strand In-Year Funding requests. It will take us time to develop these letters but I thought I would inform you about the outcome ASAP to enable you time to prepare to deliver associated outcomes.

EF Project: EFSS23
WHS Coin Removal
Total Project Costs: £22,500
Grant % requested: 88%
EF Grant Funding request / Amount to Offer: £19,800

Regards

[REDACTED]

	Document Title
6	E-mail to CCGHT with Letter of Offer for Coin Removal Grant

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2024 11:15
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] DAERA
efgrants
Subject: EFSS 23 CCGHT In-Year Letter of Offer 2024-25 Conserving The Causeway Coast and Glens October 2024
Attachments: EFSS 23 - Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust - EF 24-25 in-year Offer Appendices October 2024.DOCX; EFSS 23 - Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust - EF 2023 to 2028 Front page 24-25 in-year offer letter October 2024.DOCX; EFSS 23 - Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust - EF 24-25 In-Year Grant Offer Acceptance Form October 2024.DOCX; EFSS 23 - Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust - EF 2023 to 2028 Appendix 2 Reporting Workbook (Grantee ~ October 2024.XLSX; EFSS 23 - Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust - EF 2023 to 2028 Front page 24-25 in-year offer letter October 2024.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

Hope all is well with you.

Please find attached the Department's 2024-25 In-Year letter of offer and Appendices for the above project.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Natural Environment Division, Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs,
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast
BT3 9ED

	Document Title
7	EF 2023-2028 Front Page: 2024-25 In-Year Offer Letter (October 2024)



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST
BT3 9ED

Applicant – by email only

██████████@ccght.org

Our Ref: EFSS 23

Direct Tel: ██████████

02 October 2024

Dear ██████████

In-Year Letter of Offer 2024-25: Conserving The Causeway Coast and Glens

Further to our letter of offer dated 23 October 2023, I am pleased to inform you that the Department is prepared to offer this project additional in-year funding of:

Up to £12,000 at up to 75% of eligible costs (WHS Marine Cleans).

Up to £19,800 at up to 88% of eligible costs (WHS Coin Removal).

for the period 1 April 2024–31 March 2025 towards the costs of the additional works / targets / objectives at set out in Appendices 1 & 2 attached.

If you are accepting this revised offer, and associated terms & conditions, you must sign and return the attached Grant Acceptance Form attached by 30 October 2024.

Yours sincerely

████████████████████
DAERA

Copy:

████████████████████
efgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk

██████████@ccght.org

	Document Title
8	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust – EF 2024-25 In-Year Offer Appendices (October 2024)

Appendix 1 – Additional Expenditure Profile

DAERA Environment Fund

File Ref:	EFSS 23
Applicant:	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Project Title:	Conserving The Causeway Coast and Glens

The grant claim breakdown must be submitted under the following headings in the relevant tables in section 2 of the grant claim

In Year Offer 2024/25

Non Capital Item of Expenditure	Maximum Expenditure
WHS Marine Cleans	£16,000
Maximum % of costs	75%
WHS Coin Removal	£22,500
Maximum % of costs	88%

Appendix 2: DAERA Environment Fund – Additional Outcomes for Reporting

Complete separate Reporting Workbook provided with Letter of Offer documentation

Appendix 3 – Grant Claim Summary Form

DAERA Environment Fund

This form must be submitted with each grant claim.

It is available in electronic format from efgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk.

1. Project Details

DAERA File Reference	EFSS 47
Applicant	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Project Title	EFSS 23 - Conserving The Causeway Coast and Glens
Grantee Contact	
E-mail	@ccght.org
Date of Offer	02 October 2024
DAERA Client Officer	
Offer	1 April 2024–31 March 2025: Up to £12,000 at up to 75% of eligible costs (WHS Marine Cleans). Up to £19,800 at up to 88% of eligible costs (WHS Coin Removal).
Date of Acceptance of Offer	

2. This Claim

Claim Period	
Claim date	
Claim amount (CAPITAL) (£)	

Claim Period	
Claim date	

Claim amount (NON CAPITAL) (£)	
---------------------------------------	--

3. Expenditure Profile Update

Please report your draw down of grant to date, including all payments since the project started.

Do you expect to claim your full offer this financial year? **Y/N**

If not, please explain the amount of and reason for any expected changes - these must be agreed with the Environment Fund Grant Team.

Funding period	Maximum grant for period (£)	Payments received to date (£)	Maximum Remainder for year (£)
01/04/23-30/06/23			
01/07/23-30/09/23			
01/10/23-31/12/23			
01/01/24-31/03/24			
Total 2023-2024			

4. Adherence to any additional conditions contained in In-Year Letter of Offer^{1,2}

Condition Number	Condition (précis)	Update on Progress	Attached Y/N

¹ This does not replace the full conditions in your letter of offer but focuses on relevant conditions of the additional in-year offer where we require more specific details to be supplied

² The following are some guidelines to help you:

- If you receive grant quarterly in advance, report on progress for the previous quarter. For the first claim, report on any progress on the project prior to the first claim.
- Only report on progress for the claim period. Earlier reports that are not relevant to the funding period should not be included.
- If a requirement does relate to the funding period, report on the date when the condition was met, for example, this might be the date a report was submitted.
- If a requirement is ongoing, report on activity during the funding period. For example, if promotional or interpretative material was prepared, briefly describe it and confirm whether Departmental assistance was acknowledged.

APPENDIX 4 – Assents / Consents Templates



EF Assent
Application Form 20



EF Consent
Application Form 21

Must be signed by authorised representatives.

I confirm that the grant has been used solely for the purposes of the project as defined in the application submitted and approved for financial assistance by DAERA under the terms & conditions detailed in the letter of offer.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful's financial controls continue to be of a satisfactory standard in relation to the administration of grant funding.

	Claimant	Countersignator
Signature		
Name		
Position in Organisation		
Date		

Please return this completed form and supporting information to the EF Grants inbox at:

Efgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk

Definition of Words and Expressions of Words used in this document

“The Applicant” applies to the organisation listed in the letter of offer.

“The Project” means the Project as specified in the application for financial assistance under the provisions of DAERA grant aid and as approved by the Department.

“Financial Assistance” means the grant funding, or any part or parts thereof as the case may be, specified in paragraph 1 of the letter of offer.

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER

1. If the Applicant is prepared to accept the foregoing offer on the terms and conditions stated, the Grant Acceptance Form appended hereto should be completed and returned to the Department by **30 October 2024**. This form must be signed by 2 authorised representatives.
2. If the Applicant is unable to accept the offer by the due date then a letter of explanation from the Applicant's CEO (or equivalent) must be submitted to the Department for consideration before the deadline date above; otherwise the offer may be withdrawn.

	Document Title
9	E-mail from CCGHT with Attached Signed Acceptance Form for In-Year Funding

From: [REDACTED]@ccght.org>
Sent: 03 October 2024 13:19
To: [REDACTED] DAERA efgrants
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: ACCEPTANCE
Attachments: EFSS 23 - Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust - EF 24-25 In-Year Grant Offer Acceptance Form October 2024.pdf

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see attached signed CCGHT acceptance Form for In Year Funding for which we are truly grateful.

Regards



**** Working from Home hours: 7am to 3pm Mon-Thurs; 7am to 2pm Friday.**

[REDACTED]@ccght.org



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST



A charity established in 2002, devoted to protecting & enhancing the heritage of special areas.

Main Office: The Old Bank, 27 Main Street, Armoy, Ballymoney BT53 8SL

Field Office: Magilligan Field Centre, 375 Sea Coast Road, Magilligan, Limavady BT49 0LF

www.ccght.org

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CCGHT is grateful for core & project funding from: DAERA, NIEA, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough

Council, Tourism NI, Dormant Accounts Fund, National Lottery Community Fund, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust is a registered charity NIC106064.

Companies House No: NI043293.

This e-mail is intended solely for the addressee. Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust Ltd will not accept liability for breach of confidentiality.

Your privacy and personal data are important to CCGHT. Follow the link to read the CCGHT

Privacy Policy <http://ccght.org/privacy-policy/>

Please do not print this e-mail unless you really need to.

	Document Title
10	Signed In-Year Grant Offer Acceptance Form from CCGHT (October 2024)

GRANT ACCEPTANCE FORM IN-YEAR LETTER OF OFFER 2024-25

DAERA Environment Fund 2023-2028

File Ref:	EFSS 23
Applicant:	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Project Title:	Conserving The Causeway Coast and Glens

The Applicant being the organisation referred to in the attached Letter of Offer hereby acknowledges that the Project is dependent upon and could not proceed without the grant being made available by the Department upon the terms of the Letter of Offer and hereby accepts the offer of grant upon and subject to the terms and conditions stated therein and in this acceptance thereof.

If the Applicant is prepared to accept the foregoing offer on the terms and conditions stated, the Grant Acceptance Form appended hereto should be completed and returned to the Department by **30 October 2024**. This form must be signed by 2 authorised representatives.

If the Applicant is unable to accept the offer by the due date then a letter of explanation from the Applicant's CEO (or equivalent) must be submitted to the Department for consideration before the deadline date above; otherwise the offer may be withdrawn.

SIGNED

NAME: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Signature

Position held CEO

Date 03.10.2024

COUNTERSIGNED

NAME: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Signature

Position held: Corporate Services Manager

Date: 03.10.2024

	Document Title
11	CCGHT In-Year Letter of Offer 2024-25: Conserving the Causeway Coast and Glens (October 2024) – Acceptance Form Acknowledgement

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2024 13:50
To: [REDACTED]; DAERA efgrants
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACCEPTANCE

That's great [REDACTED]

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]@ccght.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 1:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA efgrants <EFgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ccght.org>; [REDACTED]@ccght.org>
Subject: ACCEPTANCE

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Hi Peter

Please see attached signed CCGHT acceptance Form for In Year Funding for which we are truly grateful.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Corporate Services Manager

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@ccght.org



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organisation



Giant's Causeway
and Causeway Coast
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1986



Artisans at work
ECONOMUSÉE
NORTHERN IRELAND

A charity established in 2002, devoted to protecting & enhancing the heritage of special areas.

Main Office: The Old Bank, 27 Main Street, Armoyle, Ballymoney BT53 8SL

Field Office: Magilligan Field Centre, 375 Sea Coast Road, Magilligan, Limavady BT49 0LF

www.ccght.org

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CCGHT is grateful for core & project funding from: DAERA, NIEA, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, Tourism NI, Dormant Accounts Fund, National Lottery Community Fund, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust is a registered charity NIC106064.

Companies House No: NI043293.

This e-mail is intended solely for the addressee. Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust Ltd will not accept liability for breach of confidentiality.

Your privacy and personal data are important to CCGHT. Follow the link to read the CCGHT

Privacy Policy <http://ccght.org/privacy-policy/>

Please do not print this e-mail unless you really need to.

	Document Title
12	E-mail 26-09-2026 – DAERA NIEA In-Year WHS 24/25

From: [REDACTED]@ccght.org>
Sent: 23 September 2026 12:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: DAERA NIEA In Year WHS 2425
Attachments: Giants Causeway Coin Removal Pilot Study_Feb25NM.pdf; EF Strategic Strand in-year bid WHS Stone Protection 1.docx

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Hi [REDACTED]

I've returned to work [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I look forward to working together, specifically on WHS.

Here is the info I pulled together following [REDACTED] question about 24/25 WHS in year funding [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Summary of the 2024/2025 WHS in-year coins project:

- NIEA In- Year funding 2024/2025 = Up to £19,800 at up to 88% of eligible costs.
- Awarded end of October 2024. Completed before end of March 2025.
- Expenditure: CONSARC were contracted totalling £19,874 and a video to explain/promote issue and works, £1605. Total = £21479

Reports attached:

- EF Strategic Strand in-year bid WHS Stone Protection 1. The original In-Year format, provided March 2025 to [REDACTED]
- CONSARC Report.
- Video: [Causeway Coins Removal Project \(Video 2\).mp4](#)

Works to remove the coins and address the issue of visitor behaviour continues with onsite works carried out in 2025 and 2026. This has received a lot of press attention. National Trust records show 1020 articles/stories were created about the 2026 works. Importantly, these works uphold the OUV of the WHS. CCGHT, via our main project budget, are funding these recent works.

Links:

[Giant's Causeway visitors urged not to jam coins into rocks - BBC News](#)

[Tourists urged to stop jamming coins into iconic Giant's Causeway rocks | The Independent](#)

Link to recent activity: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1056514963473441>

[@ccght.org](mailto:info@ccght.org)



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST



A charity established in 2002, devoted to protecting & enhancing the heritage of special

Main Office: The Old Bank, 27 Main Street, Armoy, Ballymoney BT53 8SL

Field Office: Magilligan Field Centre, 375 Sea Coast Road, Magilligan, Limavady BT49 0LF

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	Document Title
13	CCGHT In-Year Bid: WHS Stone Protection (Version 1)

Proposed in-year activity title	In-year work – environmental outcome and action required to deliver this outcome	Measurement	Total cost £	EF grant request £	Percentage of EF funding requested	Match funding proposed £	Priority ranking 1 (high) to 3 (low)
WHS Coin Removal	Detailed survey and mapping of the affected areas of Giant’s Causeway where coins have been jammed between columnar basalts will be followed by a careful pilot removal of coins to reduce coins present between columnar basalt at the World Heritage Site, safeguarding the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. <u>Environmental outcome</u> - Safeguarding UNESCO World Heritage Site Status. Acting to preserve the Integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the Site inscribed under Criterion VII and VIII. - Addressing Periodic Reporting Factor Affecting the Site 4.9.2 - Deliberate destruction of heritage. The World Heritage Committee expect Government Agencies to make effort to mitigate, redress or stop negative factors.		£22,500 Project	£19,800	88%	£2,700 CCGHT/ National Trust contribution secured	1

- Supporting Giant's Causeway & Dunseverick ASSI to maintain favourable condition. - Supporting Causeway Coast AONB, Giant's Causeway NNR, North Coast SAC. - Understand extent of coin deposition issue by providing a baseline of coin presence across the WHS, enabling future monitoring of the issue. - Reduce number of coins present with minimal disturbance to stones themselves. - Reduce chipping of columnar basalt from further hammering in of coins which weakens columnar joints. - Improved natural habitat by removing foreign objects from the Giant's Causeway. - Improved appearance of the Giant's Causeway by removing unsightly foreign objects which also result in discolouration and staining of the basalt columns. <u>Action required to deliver this outcome</u> Phase One Contract for an expert site survey and mapping of the area to quantify linear length of impacted joints. Provide a more detailed analysis of removal options setting tolerance thresholds for damage caused by removal. Identify: - 1 x standalone location (i.e. the boulders or the organ) and - 10 x 1 metre linear joints either across the	Phase One - Contract issued and awarded - Site survey and mapping complete and approved by Coin Task Group. - Terms for Reference for pilot provided. - Activity to take place July – October.					
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Causeway or within a quadrant which will be the focus of a trial removal. A detailed survey will categorise the coins state (intact, delaminated, hammered in, accessible), and outline a relevant monitoring programme. Provision of a Terms of Reference for small-scale coin removal trial of a 1 x standalone site and 10 x 1 metre linear joints. Phase Two Contract for suitable experts run trial removal on 1 x standalone site and 10 x 1 metre linear joint, tracking effort needed to extract coins (see categories below) included. Coin removal will be completed using methods identified as appropriate during earlier conservation-led trial. The coin extraction survey will be carried out alongside the coin removal. Categories: - Easily removed coins (little or no force required to pull out) - Tight coins (require light tapping, or pulling) - Very tight coins (require significant force and/or cutting or drilling). Suitable trainees will be trained in survey and removal techniques by contracted experts as the work is being undertaken.	Phase Two - Contract issued and awarded for limited removal and impaction survey. - Report produced on process and quantity/volume removed including visuals. - Report providing next steps. - Reports circulated to stakeholders including WHS Steering Group and WHUK. - Staff training complete. - Activity to take place between September – January.					
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	Report on work carried out, volume of coins removed, impact and issues and suggested next steps. Removal sites will be monitored and surveyed regularly (directed by expert advice) determine if removal discourages coin deposition, reduces unsightly staining. Note, we anticipate a Phase Three to deal coin removal across the WHS but cannot propose this until Phase One and Phase Two are complete and monitoring of the trial sites is carried out. Phase Three would include further training for onsite coin removal, allowing maintenance to continue. <u>Background</u> Coin Task Group (a sub-group of the World Heritage Site Steering Group) has considered expert reports on the issue (British Geological Society and Cliveden Conservation) alongside site management understanding of the practice. The Task Group agrees the responsible action is to remove coins which can be removed without motorised tools. And that mapping and visuals of the issue is required for proper monitoring.						
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ENVIRONMENT FUND 2023 – 2028 IN-YEAR BID PROFORMA

ORGANISATION NAME: Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust

PROJECT CODE: EFSS 23 -- Conserving the Causeway Coast and Glens

	Document Title
14	Giant's Causeway Coin Removal Pilot Study Report



Pilot Study to Survey and Remove Coins placed in joints of the Columnar Basalt

Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site

by Consarc Design Group
for Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust
& The National Trust

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The placing of coins in the columnar basalts of the Giant's Causeway has been an ongoing concern to the National Trust and the Giant's Causeway & Causeway Cost World Heritage Site Steering Group. A report by the British Geological Survey (Parry and Rushton, 2024) concluded that there is demonstrable evidence that the practice of inserting coins into joints and fractures has a detrimental impact in the constituent basalt rock, both physically and aesthetically. In addition, the processes associated with the degradation of coins in the joints (rusting and bimetallic reactions etc.) are accelerating the break-up of Causeway basalt through physical and chemical weathering processes.

Given these findings, on behalf of the WHS Steering Group, the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT), in collaboration with the National Trust appointed the Consarc Conservation Team to carry out a pilot project to map, survey and remove coins from test sites (10 sites of 1 linear metre of coin removal), determine the conservation thresholds for coin removal, and establish a viable monitoring programme within the World Heritage Site

The team comprises:

Consarc Conservation	Joanne Curran, Geologist with experience in stone conservation and Project Manager for the project.
The Rock Stone Masonry	Nathan Morrow, Stonemason and IHBC certified CPD trainer
Farrimond MacManus Ltd	Ciara MacManus, Director, Archaeologist, and digital data survey specialist.

The Specific Project Objectives for this study include:

- Complete site survey resulting in a detailed map quantifying the linear length of joints and cracks affected by coin insertion.
- Identify 10 x 1m test sites (including the boulders site).

- Carry out removal of easily removeable coins across all affected areas, and careful removal of all coins on 10 metres of joints at the test sites.
- Track effort/method required to remove coins, producing a report.
- Create a guide for removal practices, informed by clear conservation practices, setting out parameters and thresholds for impact on the stones.
- Develop a monitoring programme, informed by stakeholders' input. Including training of someone(s) local in conservation led coin removal.
- Provide a project report noting key activities completed, findings and recommendations. Share this with the Steering Group at an in-person meeting.



Figure 1. Rusting coins and graffiti on the basalt columns

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast was Northern Ireland's first World Heritage Site and is one of only three in the UK inscribed solely for natural heritage. The dramatic and exceptional basalt columns, rock exposures and array of geological features not only present a spectacle of natural beauty but enable detailed analysis of geological activity of the Palaeogene era in the North Atlantic. The mechanism of formation of columnar basalt has been researched and debated throughout the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries and the Giant's Causeway remains one of the most important sites in the world to study this. The exact detail of the mechanisms of formation are still researched today, and whilst there is general acceptance that the vertical columns formation is related to the release of tensile energy on cooling, other detail such as the curvature of some vertical columns, the 'ball and socket' connections between columns and the 'hackle marks' seen on these surfaces is still being debated and the Giant's Causeway is one of the best preserved sites for this research (Figure 7.).

The easy access to the >40,000 columnar basalts of the Causeway allow us all to enjoy this natural phenomenon up close and personal! (Figure 2). We can walk and climb over 'the stones', touch and observe every aspect of the columnar basalt form. Geologists have done this for more than a century to try to understand every detailed shape of this cooled 60-million-year-old lava (Preston, 1930; Tomkeieff, 1940). Recent research (Hencher, 2025), using the Giant's Causeway as a case study, has suggested that some columns are not developed fully on cooling and joints are opened up at a later stage by weathering. It is theorised that the occurrence of curved columns and the striations on the ball and socket joint surfaces is related to twisting on wavy outer surfaces by exploiting lines imposed during cooling (Hencher, 2025). Clearly, there is still some ongoing scientific discussion on the detailed mechanisms of columnar basalt formation.

Despite the positive benefits to our easy access to the columnar basalt at the Giant's Causeway for scientists and visitors, there is a downside, that is the practice of some visitors placing of coins in joints that are integral feature of the columnar basalt (Figure 4). This practice is believed to be a tradition or good luck ritual (reports from the 1970s) at the site, but it has increased dramatically in the last 10-15 years. Unfortunately, the extent of the coin insertion is widespread. Coins are abundant in easily accessible locations – especially at the gateway and East elevation of the Grand Causeway (Figures 9 and 10). In some locations visitors have climbed up columns more than 5-6m to insert coins. The images below show the range of locations where the coins have been inserted including the 2 boulders at the blue trail before the Grand Causeway, at the Gateway location, along the East elevation of the Grand Causeway and coins in relatively shallow joints on the formation known as the 'Giant's Boot'.



Figure 2. Visitors enjoying climbing over the stones



Figure 3 a and b. Coin placement on the boulder on the Blue Trial

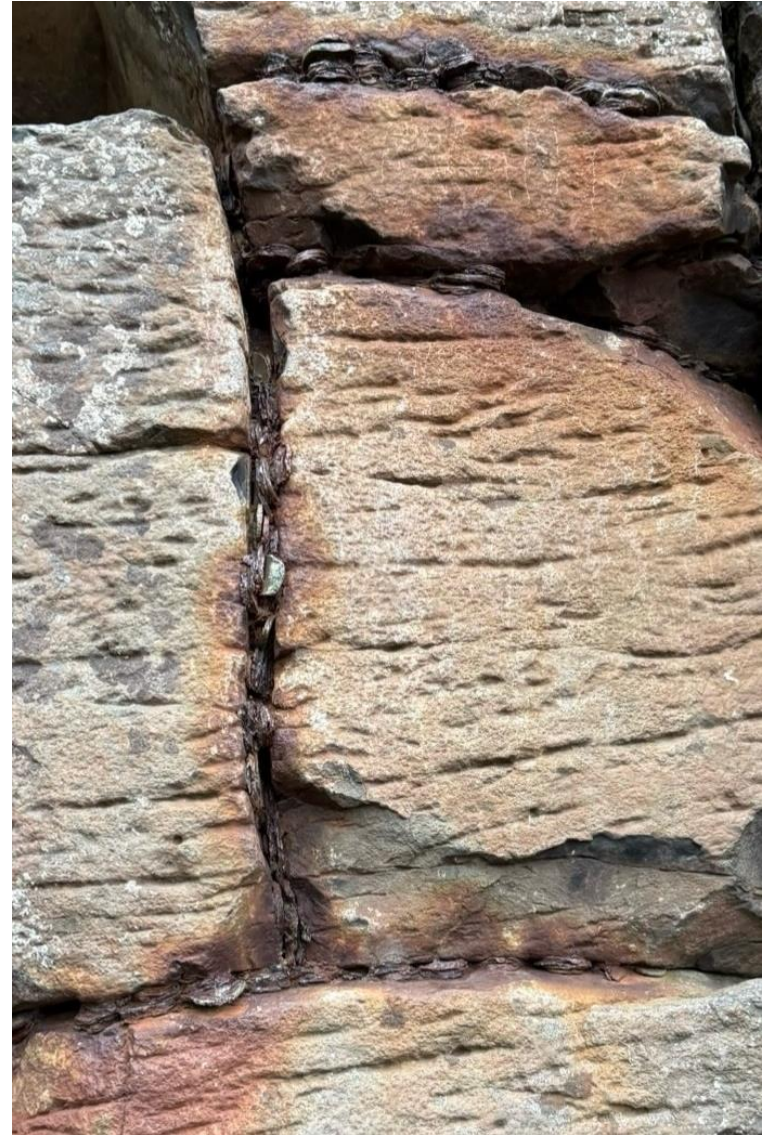


Figure 4. Corroding coins in horizontal and vertical joints of the basalt



Figure 5. Coins hammered in to joints



Figure 6. Coin placement on the 'Giant's Boot' on the shore



Figure 7. View of the 'ball-and-socket' joints

3.0 SITE SURVEY FOR SELECTION OF LOCATIONS FOR COIN REMOVAL

There are 2 previous reports (BGS and Cliveden Conservation) on the issue of coin placement at the Giant's Causeway that informed this study and should be read in conjunction with this report. The BGS report covers the geological background of the site, outlines general observations of the practice of coin placement and concluded that this is having a detrimental effect on the basalt rock. The Cliveden Conservation Report records the findings of a small trial of coin removal in one area (Boulder 1).

This 2025 Study carried out the following:

- A walk over the site to understand the main areas of coin placement.
- Use of digital data supplied by Queen's University Belfast (QUB) to produce a site plan and elevation (to scale) to allow us to locate the coin removal trial areas (10 areas);
- Selection of 10 sites for 1 linear metre coin removal;
- Coin removal trial on Boulder site (Site 1) and report to client (December 2024);
- Contribute to educational film to discourage the practice of placing coins;
- Coin removal at the 9 sites and general coin removal around these sites;
- Provide training to National Trust staff and volunteers.

3.1 MAPPING THE SITE

The client provided digital data from a large-scale laser scan of the site by Queen's University Belfast. Ciara MacManus, director of Farrimond MacManus, used this data to provide a plan and elevations to scale that are used in this study. The 10 sites are located on the drawings provided by Farrimond & MacManus to record the locations for coin remove (See Appendix A).

The 10 sites are:

Site 1 Boulder – TRIAL OF TOOLS USED

Site 2 – Boulder location on Blue Trial - similar to Site 1

Site 3 (Site Plan and Elevation 01 – south elevation of Grand Causeway). This is at north side of the Gateway. There is significant placement of coins to both north and south sides of the Gateway. On the south side, the basalt is quite fractured and has a soil overburden. No sites were selected here as there was a concern

by the National Trust that coin removal at this location could destabilise the sections of relatively fractured basalt (Figure 8).

Site 4 – First location on the East Elevation of Grand Causeway (Elevation 02 – opposite side to bus drop off). The basalt columns at the corner of the gateway gap and main elevation (Figure 9) lean naturally into the gap. The vertical joint to the outside columns is quite open allowing water/soil/coins etc. to collect. A useful point to note is that Hercher (2025) illustrated that the missing corners to the front face of columns (see Figure 9) is a natural weathering feature of all columnar basalt and therefore not related to the coins or human intervention at the Causeway.

Sites 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are on the main East elevation of the Grand Causeway progressing northwards down the slope. This is area of high concentration as it is out of view of the main National Trust Staff. In this area the coins have been inserted in both horizontal and vertical joints.



Figure 8. South side of Gateway. Fractured basalt, coins inserted in vertical fractures retaining moisture and graffiti on column surfaces



Figure 9. North side of Gateway (south elevation of Grand Causeway 02). The rust staining shows where the coins are placed.

Note the loss of corners (**red arrows**) is a recognised weathering feature of columnar basalt. The images show the leaning to the north of the outer columns and opening up of the vertical gaps between columns (**yellow arrows**) which could be exploited by both natural weathering processes and the impact of coin placement. This plus the natural lean suggest that these outer columns should be monitored.



Figure 10. South Elevation (at Gateway) - Inset image shows highlighted joints with coins inserted ~1 linear metre

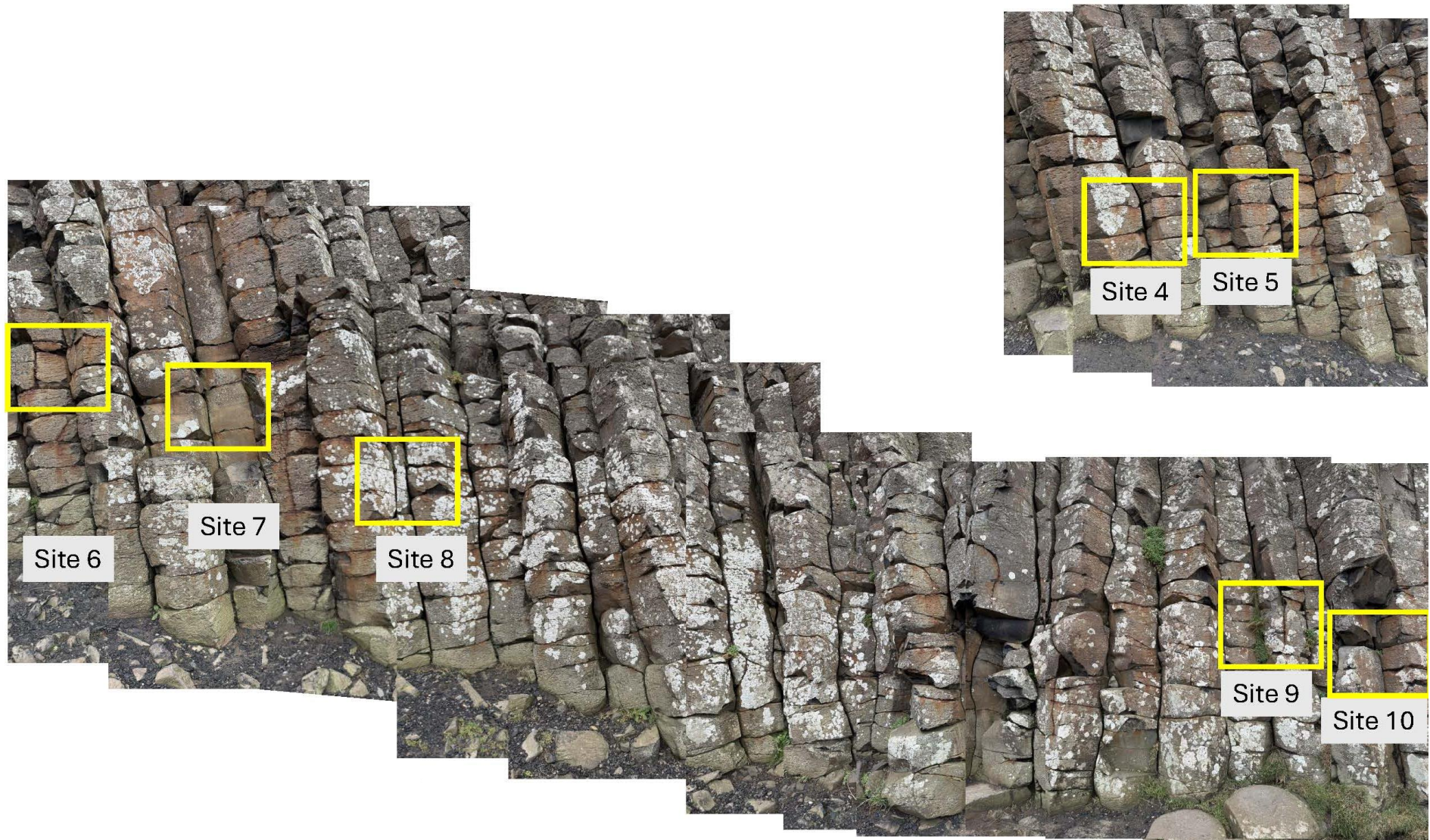


Figure 11. East Elevation Grand Causeway

3.2 ASSESSMENT OF LINEAR METRES OF COIN PLACEMENT

An accurate quantification of linear metres at the Causeway is difficult as the complexity of the column faces is not discernible in detail on the digital information (Appendix A). However, an estimate of the linear metre length of coins inserted into horizontal and vertical joints to the East elevation of the Grand Causeway can be gained. This is based on the average diameter of columns from the scan data, assuming 2 surfaces of columns are exposed for coin placement and each horizontal joint that is accessible up to 3 metres. We have also included an estimation for at a higher level based on visual assessment and vertical joints and a calculation of 300-400 linear metres for the East and South Elevations of the Grand Causeway alone.

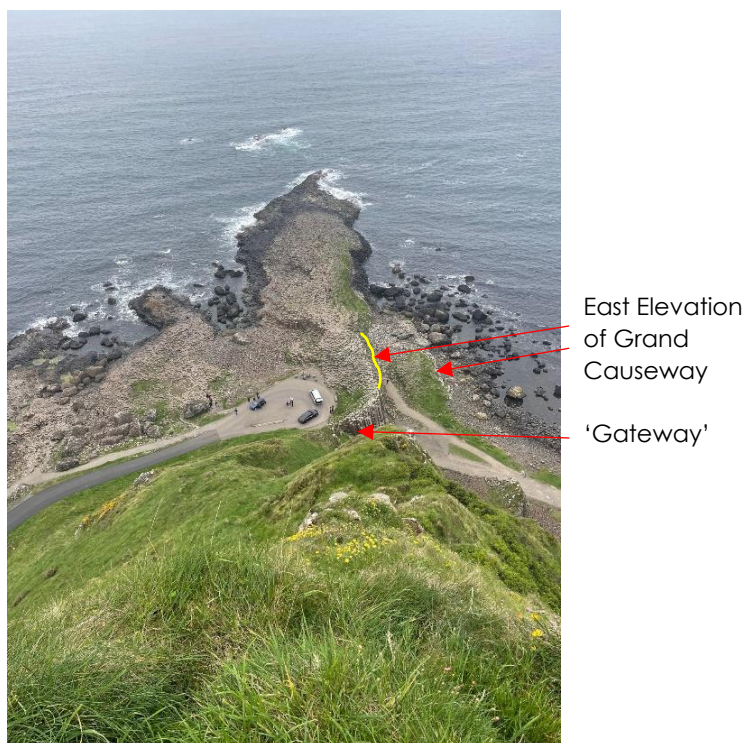


Figure 12. View of the Grand Causeway

4.0 COIN REMOVAL

4.1 Site 1 – Trial of Methods

The Boulder at Site 1 was used to trial the coin removal methods and report on the efficacy of each method and any damage caused to the basalt. This is reported in the Table below and provided important information on each method. The trial showed minimal damage to the stone for each method – even the reciprocating tools if the removal was carried out by an experienced person.

The review of each method in the Table below showed:

- Pointed tools (small chisels, pointing tools) were useful for dislodging but slow;
- Fencing pliers (various types) were very successful (25%) where the coins project out of the joints;
- Powered reciprocating tool (tools used by stone masons to rack out mortar joints without causing damage to the stone above and below joints) was also very successful for removed degraded coins deep into joints (25%).



Figure 13. Rusting coins in joints – note expansion of metal on corrosion of some coins

SITE 1

BOULDER – 11th December 2024. Approximately 180 coins removed from joints and cracks and retained for inspection.

Review of methods below

Method of Coin Removal	Description		Evaluation
Pointing tools – short and long 	Knocking the coin gently along its edge to spin or rotate it loose enough to pull out with fingers of pliers.	No damage to stone	Slow to use but effective for many coins that have been lodged in joints. Approx 10% of coins removed
Pliers, “needle nosed” 	 Gripping and pulling coins out.	No damage to stone.	As above. Approx. 10%

Method of Coin Removal	Description		Evaluation
Locking Pliers & Fencing Pliers  Fencing Pliers	Stronger Grip for pulling out  Locking Pliers	Mostly no damage Occasionally some small chips from edges of joint fracture with the movement of the coin in the joint	If coin can be reached with the grip this is a very effective method Approx. 35%
Screw driver with small hammer 	Used where coins are bent down in the joint. Used to bend up to allow pliers to be used to pull out coin	Mostly no damage to stone. Occasionally some small chips from edges of joint fracture with the movement of the coin in the joint	Used in conjunction with Pliers

Method of Coin Removal	Description		Evaluation
Slate 'ripper' 	Provides a narrow point with leverage to remove material from joints	No damage to stone	Good for wide joints and to clear out all remnants of rusted coins. Approx. 10%
Battery powered rotary tool Reciprocating tool 	Cutting into 'stacked' corroded coins lodged in joints	Some marks to the stone if it slipped off.	Useful and minimal damage as this tool vibrates and is intended for raking out of soft lime mortar. The percussive vibrations are effective as removing rusted coins Approx. 25%
Battery powered longer reciprocating tool with long hacksaw blade 	Accessing open joints in the basalt to get in behind coins and use vibrations to dislodge material	Some light abrasion/marks to the stone if blade slips.	Good for deep, narrow joints Approx. 10%



(a)



(b)

Figure 14. (a) Before and (b) After coin removal



(a)



(b)

Figure 15. (a) Before and (b) After coin removal



(a)



(b)

Figure 16. (a) Before and (b) After coin removal

4.2 COIN REMOVAL Site 2 to Site 10.

Following the trial at Site 1, coin removal to all remaining 9 sites was allowed to proceed with caution. This also included the general removal of any easily removed coins as a general sweep by the stone masons and the National Trust staff and volunteers (Friday 31st January 2025).

Appendix B provides the before and after images of each site and all have been recorded digitally using the App Scaniverse.

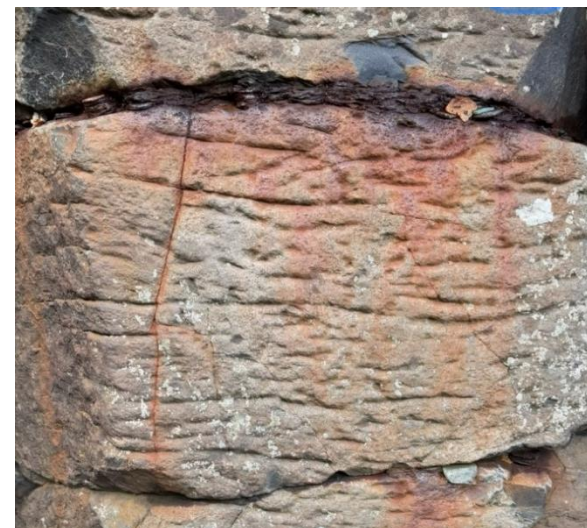
Site 2 – Boulder Similar to Site 1.

Site 3 – Gateway – very tight joints to basalt columns.

Sites 4 to 10 – East elevation both horizontal and vertical joints. Coin removal to the sites along this elevation proved to be a very different challenge to Sites 1 and 2 (Boulder Sites).

At these sites the coins have been inserted very deeply into joints compared to the Boulder sites 1 and 2 (see Figure 17 and Appendix B). This is in part due to the natural shape of the ball and socket joints – with the ‘square lip’ (Preston 1930 – Figure 7) providing a deep (up to 60mm deep) gap at the horizontal joints. In addition, as the coins corrode and undergo bimetallic reactions (see Parry & Rushton, 2024) they expand and exert pressure which further opens the joint and more coins are inserted by visitors (see Figure 12). The degrading coins also absorb and retain water in the joints and after periods of rainfall the moisture retention is visible. During cold period there would be an added risk of freezing causing more damage.

The work to remove the coins at sites 3 to 10 took significantly longer per linear metre than at the boulder sites because of this depth dimension to the horizontal. For comparison, Site 1 took one stonemason approx. 2 hours to remove >1 linear metre, by comparison, the 7 no. sites along the South and East Elevation of the Grand Causeway (Sites 3-10), it took more than double the length of time (4 hours plus). Based on this information, together with input from the stonemasons, a rough assessment of time for full coin removal to the main site (East Elevation and Gateway area) is approximately 4-5 weeks for a 2-person stonemasonry team full time.



(a)



(b)

Figure 17. (a) Before and (b) After coin removal



Figure 18. Use of Fencing pliers for coin removal



Figure 19. Coins removed during the pilot study
Approx. 9 kg of coins were removed

5.0 FINDINGS OF THIS PILOT STUDY

The Table below provides an assessment of what the Pilot achieved against the original objectives of the study and lessons learned and should be read in conjunction with Appendix B.

OBJECTIVE	FINDINGS AND LESSONS LEARNED
Complete site survey resulting in a detailed map quantifying the linear length of joints and cracks affected by coin insertion.	An estimate of the linear metre length of coins inserted in horizontal and vertical joints the East elevation of the Grand Causeway (~40m length x ~9m height) is approx. 300-400 linear metres. However, this study showed that we must consider a third dimension - DEPTH of insertion of the coins into the horizontal joints. This was a significant factor for Sites 3 to 10 where coins have been placed in the gaps at ball and socket joints and can be pushed in very deeply (up to 60mm).
Identify 10 x 1m test sites (including the boulders site).	See Site Plan, Elevations 01, 02 & 03, photo montage of elevations and photos of each site.
Carry out removal of easily removeable coins across all affected areas, and careful removal of all coins on 10 metres of joints at the test sites.	The Pilot Study showed that very few coins are removed easily – estimates are approx. 5%. A general sweep of coin removal was carried out by the stone masonry team over several days to remove as many coins as possible.

OBJECTIVE	FINDINGS AND LESSONS LEARNED
Track effort/method required to remove coins, producing a report.	'Site Trial 1' provides a detailed assessment of the tools and methods used for coin removal. Photos and videos were taken of the methods. Removal of coins from each site is shown in Appendix B. Site Trial 1 removed approximately 180 coins (0.75 Kg) 8 Kgs of coins were removed from the other 9 sites. The coin removal at the sites on the South and East Elevation (Site 3 to Site 10) took much longer than the two boulder sites because of the depth of inserted coins into horizontal and vertical joints and this must be taken into consideration when estimating the time for full removal of coins. Based on available digital data, site survey information and input from the stonemasons, a realistic assessment of time required for full coin removal is approximately 4-5 weeks for a 2-person stonemasonry team full time
Create a guide for removal practices, informed by clear conservation practices, setting out parameters and thresholds for impact on the stones.	The Report for 'Site Trial 1' provides an assessment of removal methods/tools. This is a very useful guide to tools and methods of removal starting with tools for dislodgment (thin chisels etc.) to battery powered reciprocating equipment. However, the study showed that as each coin placement is different, and it is very hard to gauge the level of difficulty or appropriate tool to use and this needs to be done on a trial basis of each tool. The study also showed that the difficulty of removal also depends on: • How the coin was placed (hammered/bent into position) • Level of corrosion of the coins in the joints and fractures.

OBJECTIVE	FINDINGS AND LESSONS LEARNED
Develop a monitoring programme, informed by stakeholders' input. Including training of someone(s) local in conservation led coin removal.	The Pilot Study including a morning for National Trust staff & volunteers to carry out coin removal. Most found the method of removal with small chisel/bolster and hammer was relatively easy to use and caused minimal damage to the basalt. Both the stonemasons and the volunteers found that the time taken to remove 'a coin' varies significantly for each location and is impossible to predict.
Provide a project report noting key activities completed, findings and recommendations. Share this with the Steering Group at an in-person meeting.	This Report covers this objective

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The placing of coins in the columnar basalts of the Giant's Causeway is an ongoing concern and there is demonstrable evidence that the practice has a detrimental impact in the constituent basalt rock. It is important that all visitors are discouraged from the practice through educational information from guides, films and literature.

Assessment of the amount of coins in horizontal and vertical joints indicates that 300-400 linear metres of joints are affected and in many cases the coins are pushed in very deeply.

This pilot study shows that it is possible to remove the coins without causing significant damage to the basalt using stone masonry tools but that this is a slow process. Estimate suggest that it will take 4-5 weeks to remove most of the coins placed in the Grand Causeway area.

It may be worth considering employing a stone masonry team for a few days each month for ~6 months to remove coins with volunteers working alongside. This would also further training of volunteers and education of visitors regarding the detrimental effects of the coins.



Figure 20. National Trust volunteers at work!

7.0 REFERENCES

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Parry, S. F. and Rushton, J. C (2023) The problem of coin insertion into joints of the Giant's Causeway: some observations and possible remedial measures. *British Geological Survey commissioned report CR/23/2012*. 8 pp.

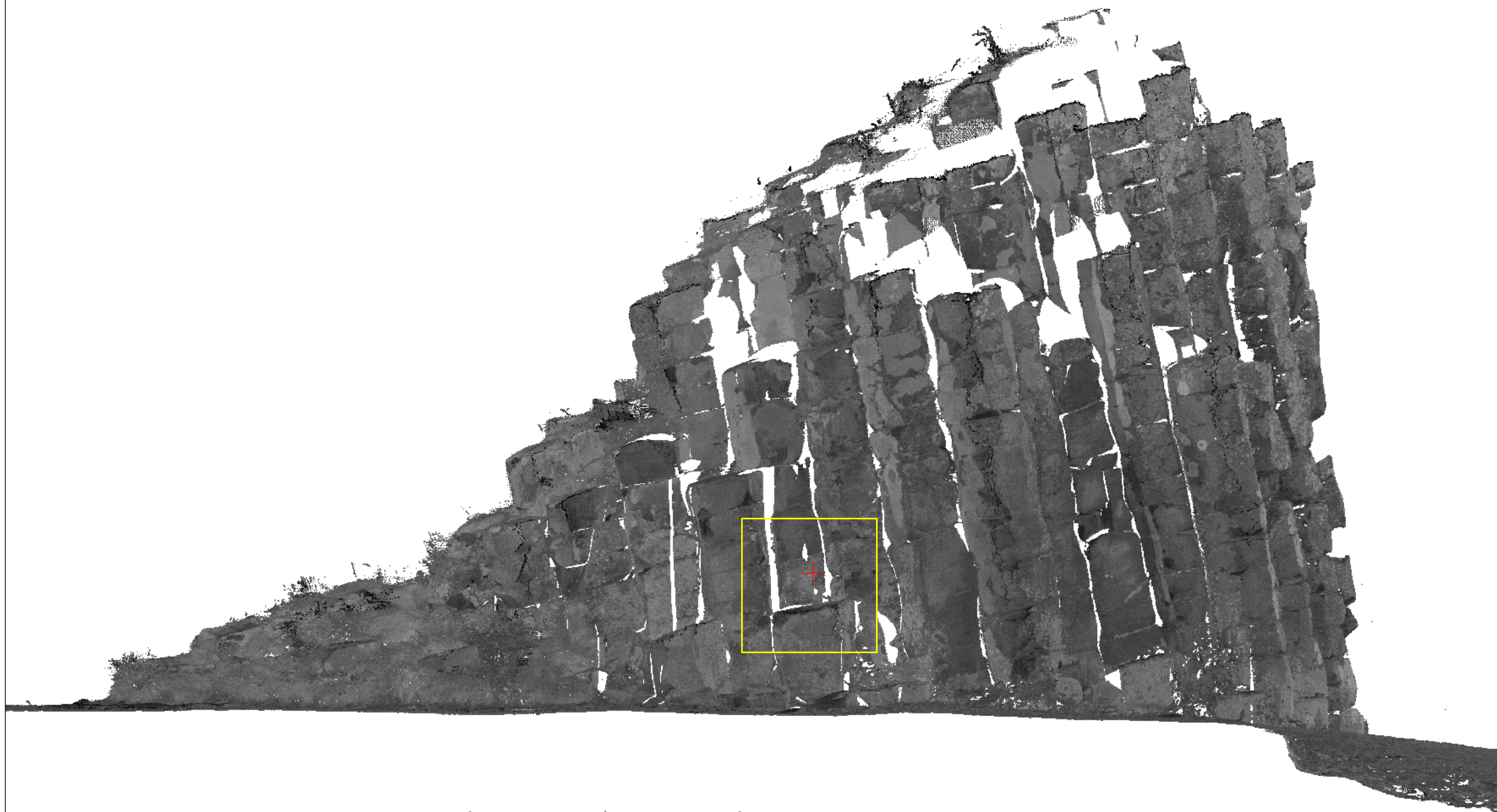
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Tomkeieff, S. I. (1940) The basalt lavas of the Giant's Causeway district of Northern Ireland. *Bulletin Volcanologique, Series 2*, vol. 6, 89-143.

APPENDIX A

Site Plan & Elevations

SITE PLAN AND ELEVATIONS SHOWING THE LOCATIONS OF THE 10 SITES FOR COIN REMOVAL
GIANT'S CAUSEWAY World Heritage Site

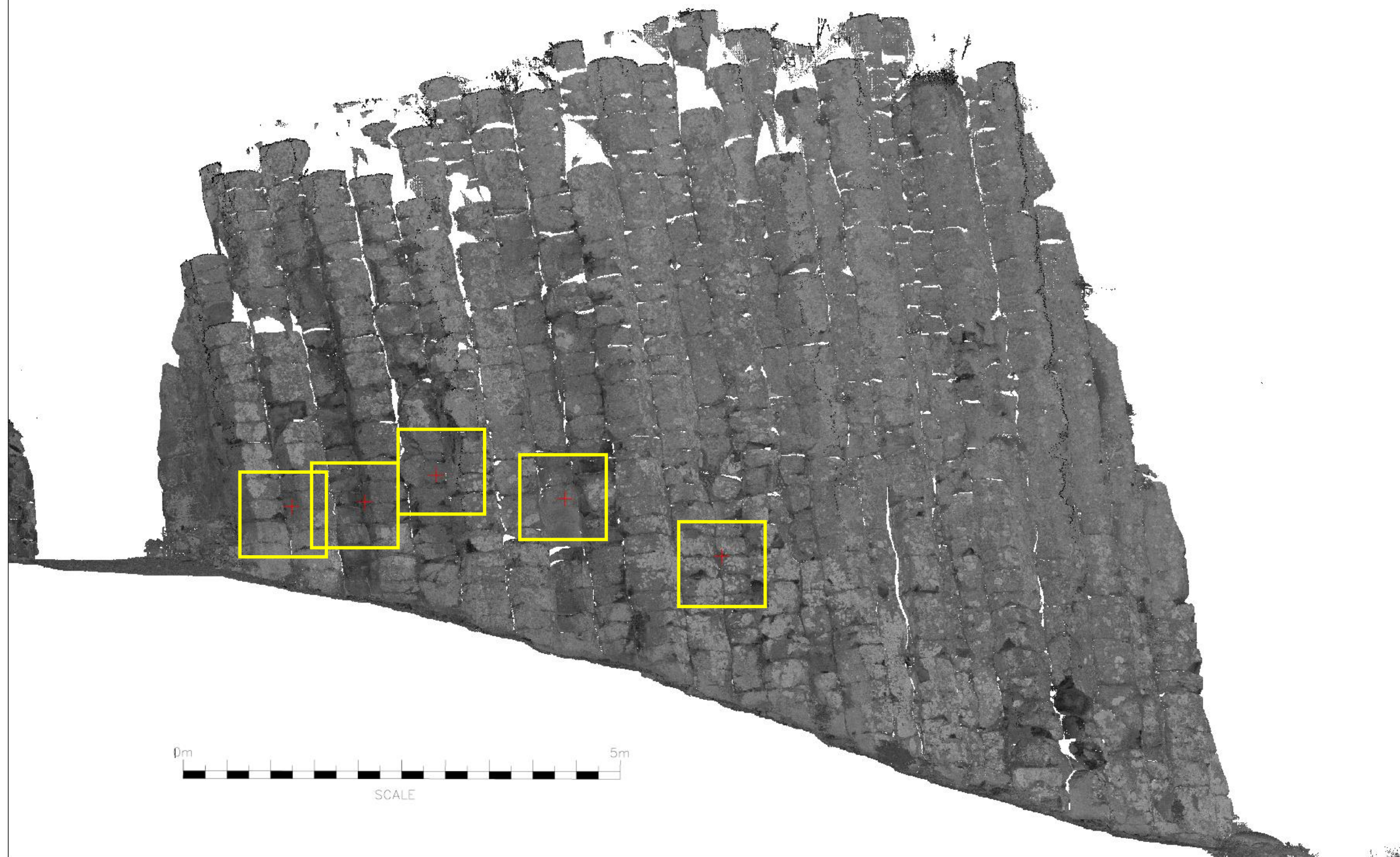


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Date: 09.12.24	 Coin Site
Scale: 1:20 (A2)	

DETAILS:

Project Name: GIANTS CAUSEWAY
Client: NATIONAL TRUST c/o CONSARC DESIGN

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0m 5m
SCALE

Project:
FMM24_117

Date:
09.12.24

Scale:
1:20 (A1)

Drawing Title:
Giants Causeway Coin Removal Test Sites 4 - 8 elevation

+ Coin Site

DETAILS:

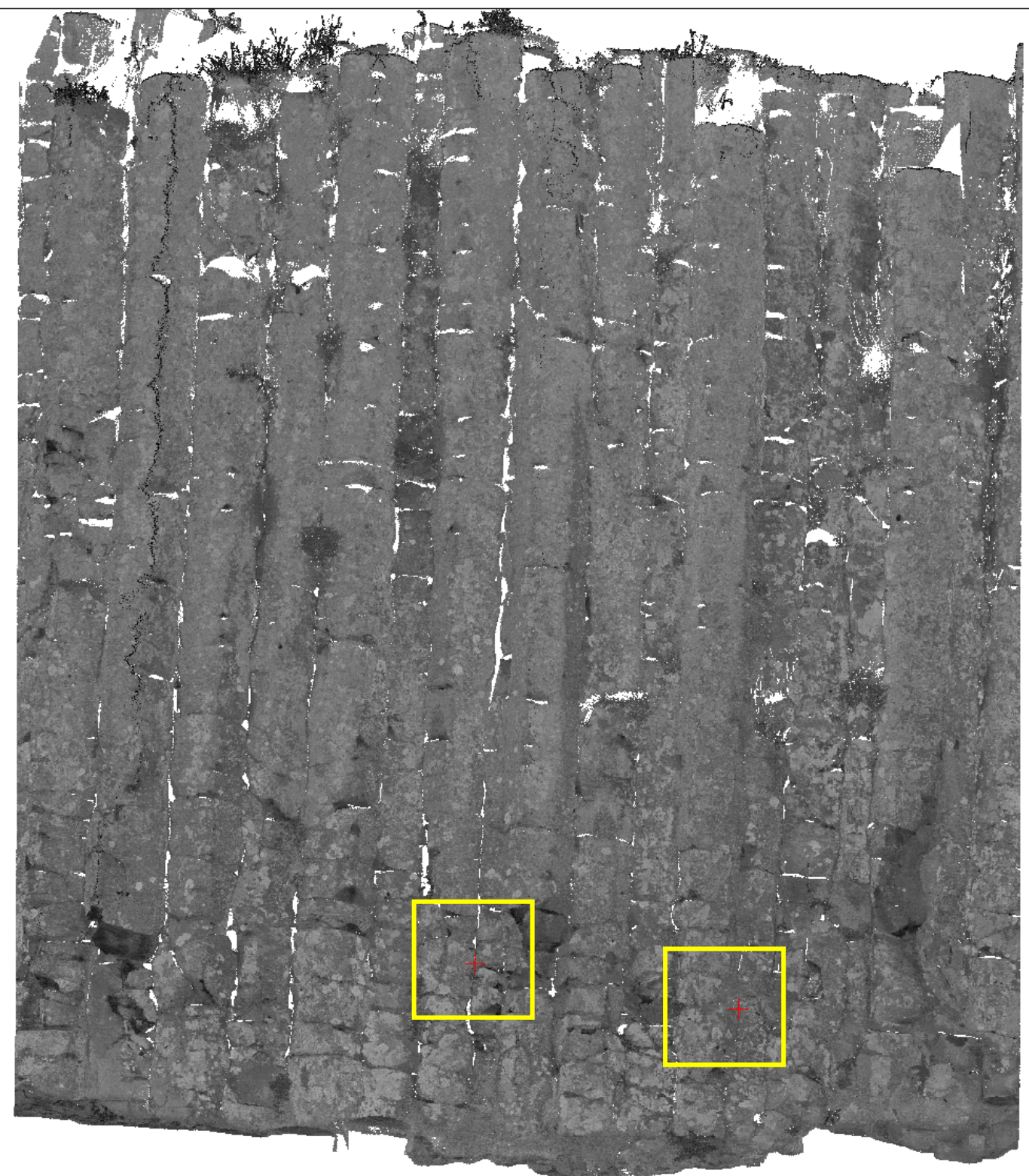
Project Name:
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Project: FMM24_117	Drawing Title: Giants Causeway Coin Removal Test Sites 9 & 10 elevation + Coin Site
Date: 09.12.24	
Scale: 1:20 (A1)	

DETAILS:

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Client:
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APPENDIX B

Sites Before & After Coin Removal

APPENDIX B

SITES BEFORE & AFTER COIN REMOVAL

LOCATION	BEFORE	AFTER
SITE 2 (BOULDER) BEFORE & AFTER (see Site Trial 1 for Boulder 1)	 	 

APPENDIX B

SITES BEFORE & AFTER COIN REMOVAL

LOCATION	BEFORE	AFTER
SITE 3		

APPENDIX B

SITES BEFORE & AFTER COIN REMOVAL

LOCATION	BEFORE	AFTER
SITE 4		

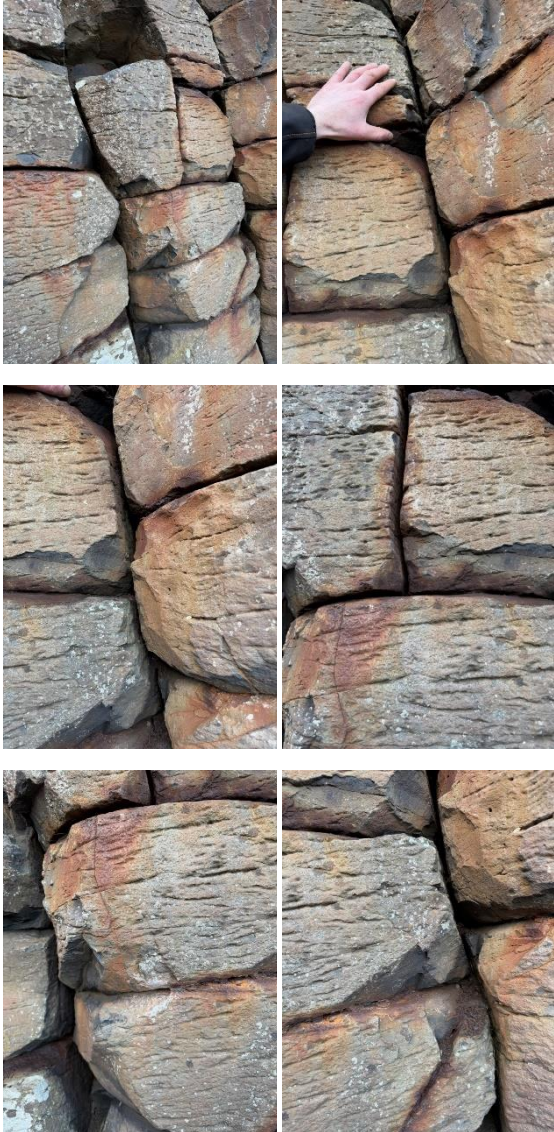
APPENDIX B

SITES BEFORE & AFTER COIN REMOVAL

LOCATION	BEFORE	AFTER
SITE 5		

APPENDIX B

SITES BEFORE & AFTER COIN REMOVAL

LOCATION	BEFORE	AFTER
SITE 6		

APPENDIX B

SITES BEFORE & AFTER COIN REMOVAL

LOCATION	BEFORE	AFTER
SITE 7	 	 

APPENDIX B

SITES BEFORE & AFTER COIN REMOVAL

LOCATION	BEFORE	AFTER
SITE 8	 	 

APPENDIX B

SITES BEFORE & AFTER COIN REMOVAL

LOCATION	BEFORE	AFTER
SITE 9	 	 

APPENDIX B

SITES BEFORE & AFTER COIN REMOVAL

LOCATION	BEFORE	AFTER
SITE 10	 	 