

Archaeological Evaluation at
East Inchmichael Farm
Errol
PERTH AND KINROSS
ER04

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new house and associated drainage centred on NGR NO 2502 2524, on the southern side of East Inchmichael Farm, Errol Perth and Kinross. The work (Alder site code ER04) was undertaken on 28th January 2010 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to evaluate 5% of the development area. Special attention was to be paid to any features or deposits relating to settlement of the later prehistoric period and the Pictish period that had been identified from aerial photography directly to the W of the farm (Scheduled Monument 7199).

Two trenches each measuring 11 X 2m were excavated. The evaluation trenches revealed relatively deep estuarine deposits with land drainage dating from the medieval period to the present day. Two sherds of medieval pottery and modern bovine remains were recovered. Nothing relating to the buried features of the Scheduled Monument to the W of East Inchmichael Farm were identified. Further archaeological work was not recommended.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Mr Michael Gillies commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new house and associated drainage on the southern side of East Inchmichael Farm, Errol, Perth and Kinross. The proposed development is on an area of open ground 0.35ha in size located on the E side of the residence of Rosewood, to the S of East Inchmichael Farm. The site is centred on NGR NO 2502 2524. The work (Alder site code ER04) was undertaken on 28 January 2010 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to evaluate a total area of 40m² with two evaluation trenches each measuring 10 X 2 m within a rectangular area measuring 16 X 37m (approximately 600m²). Special attention was to be paid to any features or deposits relating to prehistoric settlement (Scheduled Monument 7199) that had been identified from aerial photography directly to the W of East Inchmichael Farm.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 09/01563/FLL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this evaluation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area. Of particular interest would be any remains associated to the area of prehistoric mixed settlement that has been identified through aerial photography immediately to the W and NW of the site (Scheduled Monument 7199). The results of this investigation will be used to inform future mitigation strategies for the proposed development.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this evaluation. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust provides the archaeological planning service to Perth and Kinross Council following guidance set out in Scottish Planning Policy 23 *Planning and the Historic Environment*. Terms of Reference were provided by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and a Written Scheme of Investigation was provided by Alder Archaeology Ltd.

This evaluation is the final part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent development application reference 09/01563/FLL

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr Michael Gillies of Rosewood for his assistance throughout this project. Thanks are also due to Sarah Winlow of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for had her help and guidance throughout the project. The evaluation was entirely funded by Mr Michael Gillies.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The site is located at NGR NO 2502 2524, to the S of East Inchmichael Farm and to the E of the residence of Rosewood, 2.5km N of Errol, in the Carse of Gowrie. It is a rectangle of open ground measuring 16 X 37m which at the time of the evaluation contained rows of elderberry bushes.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The development site was considered to have archaeological potential given its situation above the 10m contour on a raised area of land or 'inch' on the Carse of Gowrie, as the name East Inchmichael implies. To the immediate W of the modern farm buildings is an area of extensive cropmarks. These cropmarks are the 'signatures' of archaeological deposits beneath the plough soil and represent the remains of past settlement. The settlement consists of a mix of enclosed and unenclosed settlement remains with at least two souterrains and a number of rectangular buildings, suggestive of multiple phases of settlement dating from the later prehistoric period into the Pictish period. Given the juxtaposition of the rectangular buildings and the souterrains, these remains have been recognised as nationally significant (Scheduled Monument 7199) and represent rare evidence of successive prehistoric settlement in the Carse of Gowrie. On the same neck of higher land, to the E of the current farmstead are the cropmarks of an additional three souterrains. Further record of the discovery of cists during quarrying for gravel for the railway in the mid-19th century indicates that the land to the E of East Inchmichael was used for burial as well as settlement

2.3 Archaeological Method

Two evaluation trenches, each measuring 11 X 2m, were excavated under archaeological supervision by a 360° tracked hymax type machine using a smooth-edged ditching bucket. The trenches were then hand cleaned and archaeologically recorded.

2.4 Results of Investigations (Illus 2 and 3)

Trench 01

Trench 01 was located in the NW quadrant of the development area. It measured 11 X 2m and was aligned E-W. Turf and topsoil (0101) were 0.33m thick, below which was a lighter humic loam (0102), 0.25m thick, in which a sherd of medieval pottery was found. Below (0102) was a further black humic loam layer (0103), 0.20-0.25m thick. Deposit (0103) directly overlay the natural mid-brown boulder clay (0107) reached at a depth of approximately 0.85m. Cut into (0102) and (0103) was a field drain (0104) comprising field boulders aligned NW-SE, having a depth of 0.17m and a maximum width of 0.39m. One sherd of medieval pottery was found in the fill (0104). A modern red ceramic field drain (0106) cut into the natural boulder clay was located 8.60m from the trench E end. Except for the modern field drain all features were machined out and the trench was excavated down to the natural boulder clay. No further features were found.

Trench 02

Trench 02 was located in the SE quadrant of the development area. It measured 11 X 2m and was aligned E-W. Turf and topsoil (0201) here were only 0.15m in depth

below which was deposit (0202) a moderately stony clay loam 0.22m thick, similar to (0102). Below (0202) was a layer of back silty clay loam (0203), 0.30m thick, the same as (0103). Layer (0203) was directly over natural boulder clay (0210), which was reached at a depth of approximately 0.70-0.74m. At 4.80m from the trench W end, cut into deposits (0202) and (0203), at a depth of 0.60m was a N-S alignment of small boulders (0204), 0.60m wide. These boulders were similar to (0104) and were also considered to be an early field drain, possibly medieval. To the E of the field drain at a depth of 0.30m was an area, 1.70m in width, of black stained loam (0206) containing animal bone which represented a modern cow burial in a shallow pit. Further related bovine remains were located to the E of (0206). A modern red ceramic field drain aligned N-S was located 3.30m from the trench W end, cut into natural at a depth of 0.80m. The trench was excavated down to the natural boulder clay and no further archaeological features were found.

3 Interpretation

3.1

Trench 01

Trench 01 revealed deeper than expected layers of dark clay loam which had a combined depth of approximately 0.85m over natural boulder clay. These were interpreted as estuarine deposits topped with a moderately deep ploughsoil. There were two phases of field drain, a field stone or hollow drain and a modern ceramic field drain. The field stone drain contained a medieval pottery sherd in its fill, and another medieval sherd was associated with the layer below the topsoil. The boulder field drain and the associated medieval pottery sherds indicate that the land at this location was being worked during the medieval period.

Trench 02

Trench 02 revealed the same overall stratigraphy as trench 01, but with slightly shallower layers. The field stone drain in this trench had no associated medieval pottery sherds but as its construction was very similar to the field drain in trench 01 it was also considered to be medieval. The finding of the modern cow remains indicate that for some unknown reason this appeared to be a good spot for its burial, perhaps, simply, because it was the spot where the animal had died. A modern field drain again attested to the ongoing need for good drainage to get maximum production from the land.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

It is concluded that the evaluation trenches revealed relatively deep estuarine deposits and land drainage dating from the medieval period to the present day. The bovine remains, as they are modern, are not considered to be archaeologically significant. Nothing relating to buried features revealed by the extensive cropmarks to the immediate west of the East Inchmichael Farm (Scheduled Monument 7199) was identified in the evaluation.

4.2 Further Work

It is considered that the medieval field drains, although interesting features in their own right, would not justify a requirement for further archaeological work. The final decision with regard to further work however, rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

5 References

Alder Archaeology Ltd 2009 *East Inchmichael Farm, Errol, Archaeological Evaluation* Written Scheme of Investigation

The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994 *Archaeology-the Planning Process and Scheduled Monument Procedures* Planning advice Note 42

The Scottish Government 2008 *Planning and the Historic Environment* Scottish Planning Policy 23

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust 2009 *Rosewood, East Inchmichael* Terms of Reference for Archaeological Evaluation. Date of Issue: 02/12/2008

Appendix 1 Context Register

No:	Description	
	Trench 01	
0101	Turf and topsoil, 0.33m deep, dark brown-black loam	
0102	Subsoil clay loam 0.25m thick, mid brown, similar to 0101 but slightly lighter brown	
0103	Black clayey loam (humic) similar to 0101, c 0.25-0.30m thick appears to be much earlier top soil directly over natural boulder clay. Medieval white gritty pottery sherd found in this layer	
0104	Alignment NW-SE of small boulders/large cobbles, in dark silty loam aligned N-S, c. 0.17m in depth from top of stones, interpreted as fill for an early field drain probably medieval, this backfill also contains yellow clay and is shown in section as starting just below the topsoil at a depth of c. 0.35m, top of stones start at 0.40m below site surface, S end of stones not visible until feature removed and then found to continue at a greater depth in a southward direction, one sherd of medieval pottery was found in this fill, field drain; evidence of medieval cultivation at Inchmichael	
0105	Cut, for fill 0104 field drain, max 0.39m wide, backfill shows that cut was made through 0102 and into 0103 so that bottom stones of 0104 rest on the natural boulder clay	
0106	Alignment of red ceramic pipes in brown clay loam fill, a modern field drain aligned N-S 0.92m down from site surface, located 8.60m from trench E end	
0107	Cut for modern field drain 0106, 0.25m wide not excavated but seen to be cut through 0102 and 0103	
0107	Natural boulder clay, at depth of approximately 0.85m	
	Trench 02	
0201	Black silty loam turf and topsoils same as 0101 but slightly less deep at only 0.15m	
0202	Subsoil moderately stony, same as 0102, 0.22m thick	
0203	Black silty clay loam as 0103, 0.30m thick, directly over natural boulder clay	
0204	Alignment of small boulders N-S. 0.60m in width considered to be field drain as 0104 but slightly wider, top of stone at 0.60m below site surface, early field drain possibly medieval	
0205	Cut for field drain 0204, 0.60m wide, no finds, about 0.15m in depth	
0206	Area of black stained loam and animal bone, shallow pit fill for modern cow burial, cuts E edge of stones 0204, cut through 0203 onto natural, area measures 1.70m in width, starts approximately 0.30m below site surface	
0207	Area of animal bone to E of 0206, probable extension of 0206, cow remains but with less black staining, located at 9.70m from trench W end	
0208	Modern red ceramic field drain at 3.30m from trench W end at depth of 0.80m, cut into	

	natural, same construction as 0106	
0209	Cut for 0208, 0105m wide cut through 0202 and 0203	
0210	Natural boulder clay, at depth of approximately 0.70-0.74m	

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01	General in NW corner of development area, elderberry bushes in rows	NE
02	General rows of elderberry bushes on development area	NE
03	General elderberry bushes on development area	NE
04	General elderberry bushes on development area	NW
05	General of elderberry bushes Rosewood in background	W
06	Commencement of excavation of trench 01,	W
07	Detail of field drain 0104 stones with sondage at S end	SW
08	As above	SE
09	General as above	SE
10	General of excavated trench 01	E
11	General of excavated trench 01	W
12	General of spoil and trench 01, Rosewood in background	W
13	Detail of field drain 0204	N
14	Detail of black stained area 0206	N
15	As above	NW
16	General of field drain and area 0206	NE
17	General of excavated trench 02	E
18	As above	W
19	General of trench 02 with Rosewood in background	W
20	Cairn O Mohr winery buildings to N of trial trenches, East Inchmichael Farm	SSE
21	Cairn O Mohr winery buildings to N of trail trenches, East Inchmichael Farm	NNE

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Plans of trenches 01 and 02 with context descriptions	1:50

Appendix 4 Finds Register

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material Type</i>	<i>Details</i>
0102	Ceramic	White Gritty pottery sherd (medieval)
0104	Ceramic	Pottery sherd (medieval)
0206	Animal bone	Partial bovine skeleton an immature modern cow

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	East Inchmichael Farm, Errol
PROJECT CODE:	ER04
PARISH:	Errol
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None for this site
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Possible prehistoric
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Medieval pottery and possible medieval field drain
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NO 2502 2524
START DATE	28 January 2010
END DATE	28 January 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None on this site
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new house and associated drainage centred on NGR NO 2502 2524, on the southern side of East Inchmichael Farm, Errol Perth and Kinross. The work (Alder site code ER04) was undertaken on 28 th January 2010 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to evaluate 5% of the development area. Special attention was to be paid to any features or deposits relating to settlement of the later prehistoric period and the Pictish period that had been identified from aerial photography directly to the W of the farm (Scheduled Monument 7199). Two trenches each measuring 11 X 2m were excavated. The evaluation trenches revealed relatively deep estuarine deposits with land drainage dating from the medieval period to the present day. Two sherds of medieval pottery and modern bovine remains were recovered. Nothing relating to the buried features of the Scheduled Monument to the W of East Inchmichael Farm were identified. Further archaeological work was not recommended.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Developer
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX

CONTRIBUTOR:	
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

Appendix 6 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

6.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

6.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

6.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

6.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

6.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

6.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.