

**Loch Leven Lodges,
Findatie Farm,
Perth and Kinross,
Archaeological Evaluation
Data Structure Report**



August 2015

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Executive Summary

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were contracted by Mr Jim Kinnaird of Loch Leven Lodges to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site at Findatie Farm on the southern shore of Loch Leven in Perth and Kinross.

The archaeological evaluation followed the placement of a planning condition upon the proposed development by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust through Perth and Kinross Council. In practice the evaluation involved the systematic mechanical excavation of 6 specifically placed evaluation trenches across the footprint of the proposed development. No archaeological features or deposits were noted in these trenches.

ARCHAS recommend that no further archaeological mitigation be required on site and that the planning condition can be deemed as having been met.

A record of the evaluation has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-220243) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1 Introduction

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Mr Jim Kinnaird of Findatie Farm to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed development of a green field site at Findatie Farm (centred on NGR: NT 17101 99153) on the south shore of Loch Leven, in Perth and Kinross. The client proposes to construct 16 chalets with associated infrastructure to form an extension on the east side of the existing holiday complex.
- 1.1.2 The site was identified by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) as lying in an area considered as having archaeological potential. PKHT provide archaeological advice to Perth and Kinross Council and recommended that an archaeological condition be placed upon the development.
- 1.1.3 Through planning application 14/00587/IPL, PKHT request through Perth and Kinross Council that:
- No development shall take place within the development site...until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, agreed by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, and approved by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in agreement with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.*
- 1.1.4 Prior to work commencing on site ARCHAS prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which investigated the history of the development area, and outlined the standards and methodology to be adhered to during the evaluation.
- 1.1.5 The work was completed on 5th August 2015 by Ross Cameron and Alastair Rees. The weather throughout was varied, with occasional showers and periods of sunshine.
- 1.1.6 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents produced by the CIfA.

1.2 Site Geology and Setting

General

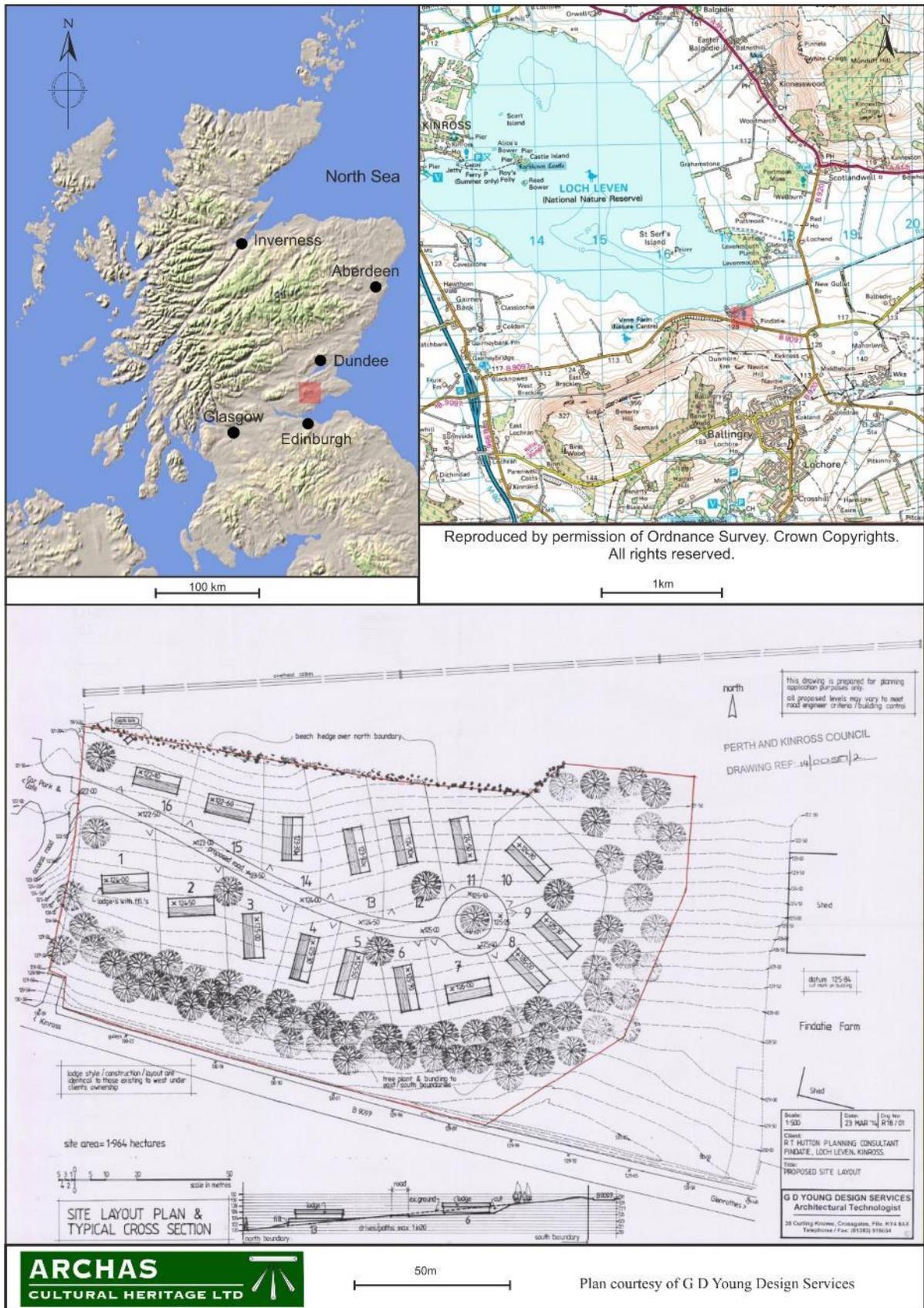


Figure 1: Site location with the indicative site location indicated

1.2.1 The development site is located in Perth and Kinross, on the south shore of Loch Leven. The site lies a short distance to the west of Findatie Farm, and is accessed from the existing chalet park off the B9097 (Figure 1). The proposed development area is centred on NGR: NT 17101 99153 and extends to around 1.964 hectares.

Study Area

1.2.2 The proposed development site is located on an area of flat, fertile farmland a short distance to the south of Loch Leven (Plate 1). The banks of the Loch are wooded, but separated from the development area by a large sluice or artificial water course.



Plate 1: Pre-excitation view across the development area from the south (Photograph 004)

Geology

1.2.3 The drift geology of the proposed development site comprises Till, Devensian - Diamicton. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period and are characteristic of a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. The underlying bedrock geology consists of undifferentiated sandstone of the Strathdeden and Inverclyde Group. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 345 to 385 million years ago in the Carboniferous and Devonian Periods in an environment characterised by rivers.¹

¹ www.bgs.ac.uk – 02/12/14

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 General Historical Background

- 2.1.1 The location of the site on the banks of Loch Leven means that it is thought possible that evidence for human occupation will survive on site. The rich and fertile lands around the loch were likely to have been cultivated from an early period.
- 2.1.2 There is evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. A denuded hill-fort of unknown date (Dunmore NMRs: NT 19 NE 10) lies a short distance to the south. In addition, two ring ditches are visible as cropmarks just to the north of Ballingry. These are considered of National Importance and as such protected as a Scheduled Monument (SM: 7604).
- 2.1.3 Of particular importance is the Scheduled Monument St. Serf's Priory (SM: 90271) on St. Serf's Island around 1km to the north. This early religious centre was reputedly founded before 843 AD and it is possible that infrastructure to service and support the community may have developed on the shore around the site in the medieval period. It must be noted however that the crossing between the development site and St Serf's Island is certainly not the shortest available.
- 2.1.4 All relevant available maps as held by NLS were consulted in order to chart the recorded development of the site as well as any additional features that may previously have gone unrecorded.
- 2.1.5 The area of the site is covered in a number of pre-Ordnance Survey maps, but none of these show any indication of structures and occupation of the proposed development area.
- 2.1.6 Some of the early maps show a good level of detail, but no features of historical significance in the site area. For example, the mid 17th century 'Keanrosse-shyre described / be Ja. Gordon, at Keanrosse' by James Gordon (c.1636-1652) (Figure 2) shows no development or occupation in the area of the site or along the southern shores of Loch Leven.



Figure 2: James Gordon's 'Keanrosse-shyre described / be Ja. Gordon, at Keanrosse' from c.1636-52. The general site area is indicated red. Note the lack of any significant occupation. NLS

2.1.7 William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland conducted 1747-1756 (Figure 3) revolutionised map making in Scotland, containing a lot more terrain detail. Although the map was the result of 'rapid reconnaissance rather than a measured topographic survey',² the various inaccuracies can be forgiven in providing us with the first cartographic view of Scotland with any level of detail – a snapshot of mid 18th century Scotland.

2.1.8 Roy's map clearly shows 'Finnetty' on the site of the current Findatie Farm. This appears as a small series of red structures surrounded by a designed landscape/square of trees and some irregular cultivation on the banks of Loch Leven. However none of these features seem to extend into the development area which is shown as unoccupied land.



Figure 3: 'Finnetty' on William Roy's 'Military Map of Scotland' from c.1750. © The British Library Board. All Rights Reserved (Roy Military Survey of Scotland)

2.1.9 The Ordnance Survey began their survey of the area in 1853. The most detailed maps produced in the 1st edition of the survey are the 25 inch to 1 mile maps, but unfortunately this coverage does not extend across the proposed development site. Both the 1 inch to 1 mile Sheet 40, Kinross and the 6 inch to 1 mile Fife, Sheet 23 cover the site however, revealing no structures or features of note in the development area.

2.1.10 A 25 inch to 1 mile map of the area (Fifeshire, Sheet 026.08) was published in 1895. This confirms the site to be devoid of any known archaeological or historical features.

2.1.11 Assessment of aerial images available online confirms the lack of any features or human occupation of the site. Aerial images from 1950 available online from the NLS³ as well as modern images on other online platforms revealed no features.

² Fleet C., Wilkes M. & Withers, C. 2011 Scotland – Mapping the Nation, 88

³ <http://maps.nls.uk/view/75221683>

3 Methodology

3.1 The Development

- 3.1.1 The development proposals cater for the construction of 16 new chalets to the east of the existing holiday park at Findatie Farm. Of these only four of the plots (chalets 6, 7, 8 and 9) will require significant below ground disturbance, with the others sited upon concrete pads placed atop the ground surface.
- 3.1.2 The development will also require the construction of an access road and service trenches.

3.2 Field Evaluation

- 3.2.1 The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological potential of a site in order to meet the requirements of PKHT. The results of the evaluation will be used to decide whether further archaeological mitigation is required. In practice, this requires strategically placed trenches to be opened across the site in order to provide good spatial coverage for assessing the potential of archaeological survival.
- 3.2.2 The results of this phase of works and subsequent recommendations by ARCHAS will allow PKHT to make an informed decision and recommendations to Perth and Kinross Council as to whether the site should be investigated further. ARCHAS will provide recommendations relating to any future archaeological mitigation, but the decision for any further archaeological intervention rests with PKHT and ultimately Perth and Kinross Council.
- 3.2.3 An archaeological evaluation investigates only a certain percentage of the development area through a series of carefully placed trenches. For the proposed development PKHT did not stipulate a percentage of the site to be investigated, but expect the trenching coverage to be comprehensive in order to provide an accurate view of archaeological survival.
- 3.2.4 Four linear trenches were proposed in the WSI, providing good spatial coverage of the proposed development area. It was also proposed to maintain a watching brief along the excavation of the access track. However, through discussions with PKHT, it was agreed that as the final location of the chalets was not finalised, a number of longer trenches could be opened in their prospective location, with further trenches dug along the length of the access track.
- 3.2.5 In the event, six trenches were excavated providing comprehensive coverage across the development footprint (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Indicative trench locations as excavated. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd after ©2015 Google

- 3.2.6 All trenches were excavated using an 8 tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.55m wide toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were opened under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist (Plate 2).



Plate 2: Opening Trench 2 (Photograph 012)

- 3.2.7 In all excavated trenches, natural subsoil was identified. Where any features of archaeological potential were encountered these were investigated by the ARCHAS on site team. Any archaeological deposits or artefacts recovered were recorded to ARCHAS Ltd and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*CIfA*) standards and relevant details noted down on ARCHAS *pro forma* sheets.

4 Results

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at Findatie Farm failed to reveal any deposits or artefacts of archaeological or historical significance.
- 4.1.2 Six trenches were opened across the footprint of the development (Figure 4). Of these, Trenches 1, 2 and 3 covered the area in which the chalets will be constructed, while Trenches 4, 5 and 6 were excavated along the length of the access track.
- 4.1.3 While the topsoil in each trench was a consistent moderately compact mid grey brown fine grain silty sand, the depth of this deposit varied from c.0.30-c.0.45m (Plate 4).



Plate 3: Post-excitation view of Trench 2 (Photograph 013)



Plate 4: WW facing section of Trench 1 (Photograph 010)

- 4.1.4 The natural subsoil also varied to a degree across the site, but on the whole comprised moderately compact grey brown silty sand with a slight orange hue (Plate 3). This became increasingly more orange towards the west end of the site, with more frequent small to large stone inclusions.

5 Summary and Discussion

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 The development site at Findatie Farm was proven to be essentially archaeologically sterile. No features were noted in the trenches opened, while there was a complete lack of any artefacts of any age noted in the topsoil.
- 5.1.2 The topsoil had clearly been heavily worked, although the horizon between this and the subsoil was clear, suggesting that ploughing had never been deep enough to disturb this.

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 There is no evidence of human occupation at the site of the proposed extension to Loch Leven Lodges at Findatie Farm. The trenches opened provided good spatial coverage across the site and failed to reveal any traces of earlier occupation.
- 6.1.2 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage do not recommend any further archaeological mitigation on site and believe the archaeological condition can be discharged.
- 6.1.3 While ARCHAS can provide recommendations as to any future work on site, the final decision for any further archaeological mitigation rests with Perth and Kinross Council as advised by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

Acknowledgements

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd would like to thank Mr Jim Kinnaird of Findatie Farm for commissioning us to undertake the work. Mr Kinnaird has our gratitude for facilitating the project and ensuring work was carried out on schedule.

We must also note the assistance provided by Sarah Winlow of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust in the planning phase of the project.

Appendix A Context Register

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimension</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initial</i>
101	1	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey brown silty sand	D: 0.32-0.35m	Turf and topsoil	05/08/2015	RC
102	1	Deposit	Moderately compact grey brown silty sand with slight orange hue and occasional small to medium stones	-	Undisturbed natural subsoil	05/08/2015	RC
201	2	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey brown silty sand	D: 0.34-0.42m	Turf and topsoil	05/08/2015	RC
202	2	Deposit	Moderately compact grey brown silty sand with slight orange hue and occasional small to medium stones	-	Undisturbed natural subsoil	05/08/2015	RC
301	3	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and rare small stones	D: 0.35-0.45m	Turf and topsoil	05/08/2015	RC
302	3	Deposit	Slightly grubby grey brown silty sand with an orange hue. Diffuse edge with (301)	-	Undisturbed natural subsoil	05/08/2015	RC
401	4	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey brown silty sand.	D: 0.32-0.42m	Turf and topsoil	05/08/2015	RC
402	4	Deposit	Slightly mottled grey brown silty sand with slight clay % and occasional small stones	-	Undisturbed natural subsoil. Quite varied, with a much more orange and clay element at the WNW end	05/08/2015	RC
501	5	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey brown fine grain silty sand	D: 0.35-0.40m	Turf and topsoil	05/08/2015	RC
502	5	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compact orange brown silty sand with frequent medium to large angular stones and boulders	-	Undisturbed natural subsoil	05/08/2015	RC

Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Dimension	Comments	Date	Initial
601	6	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey brown silty sand	D: 0.40-0.50m	Turf and topsoil	05/08/2015	RC
602	6	Deposit	Slightly mottled orange brown and mid grey brown silty sand with infrequent small stones	-	Undisturbed natural subsoil	05/08/2015	RC

Appendix B Trench Register

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (m²)	Orientation	Co-ordinates (Terminals)
1	6	1.55	9.3	N-S	NT 17249 99125 NT 17249 99133
2	7.3	1.55	11.315	W-E	NT 17258 99120 NT 17268 99120
3	11	1.55	17.05	NE-SW	NT 17275 99125 NT 17286 99132
4	43.3	1.55	67.115	ESE-WNW	NT 17254 99148 NT 17211 99158
5	16	1.55	24.8	WNE-ESE	NT 17198 99165 NT 17184 99174
6	5	1.55	7.75	WNW-ESE	NT 17172 99179 NT 17166 99183

Appendix C Photographic Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Facing</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>
001	E	-	-	Pre-excavation view of site	05/08/2015	RC
002	E	1	-	Pre-excavation view of site - Trench 1	05/08/2015	RC
003	NE	1	-	Pre-excavation view of site - Trench 1	05/08/2015	RC
004	N	2	-	Pre-excavation view of Site - Trench 1 & 2	05/08/2015	RC
005	NE	2	-	Pre-excavation view of Site - Trench 1 & 2	05/08/2015	RC
006	N	1	-	Working shot - Trench 1	05/08/2015	RC
007	NW	1	-	Working shot - Trench 1	05/08/2015	RC
008	NW	1	-	Working shot - Trench 1	05/08/2015	RC
009	N	1	-	Post-excavation view of Trench 1	05/08/2015	RC
010	E	1	(101), (102)	W facing section of Trench 1	05/08/2015	RC
011	W	1	-	Working shot - Deep pit at N end of Trench 1	05/08/2015	RC
012	E	2	-	Working shot - Trench 2	05/08/2015	RC
013	E	2	-	Post-excavation view - Trench 2	05/08/2015	RC
014	N	2	(201), (202)	S facing section - Trench 2	05/08/2015	RC
015	E	3	-	Working shot - Trench 3	05/08/2015	RC
016	E	3	-	Working shot - Trench 3	05/08/2015	RC
017	SW	3	-	Post-excavation view - Trench 3	05/08/2015	RC
018	NW	3	(301), (302)	SE facing section - Trench 3	05/08/2015	RC
019	S	3	-	Working shot - deep pit Trench 3	05/08/2015	RC
020	WNW	4	-	Pre-excavation view - Trench 4	05/08/2015	RC
021	SW	4	-	Pre-excavation view - Trench 4	05/08/2015	RC
022	WNW	4	-	Post-excavation view of Trench 4	05/08/2015	RC
023	SSW	4	(401), (402)	NNE facing section - Trench 4	05/08/2015	RC
024	W	5	-	Working shot - Trench 5	05/08/2015	RC
025	NW	5	-	Working shot - Trench 5	05/08/2015	RC
026	SSW	5	(501), (502)	NNE facing section - Trench 5	05/08/2015	RC
027	NNW	5	-	Post-excavation view - Trench 5	05/08/2015	RC
028	E	6	-	Working shot - Trench 6	05/08/2015	RC
029	SE	6	-	Working shot - Trench 6	05/08/2015	RC
030	SSW	6	(601), (602)	NNE facing section - Trench 6	05/08/2015	RC
031	ESE	6	-	Post-excavation view - Trench 6	05/08/2015	RC

Appendix D Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Loch Leven Lodges, Findatie Farm
PROJECT CODE:	194
PARISH:	Portmoak
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ross Cameron
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 17101 99153
START DATE (this season)	05/08/15
END DATE (this season)	05/08/15
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were contracted to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site at Findatie Farm on the southern shore of Loch Leven in Perth and Kinross.</p> <p>6 specifically placed evaluation trenches were opened across the footprint of the proposed development. No archaeological features or deposits were noted in these trenches.</p> <p>ARCHAS recommend that no further archaeological mitigation be required on site and that the planning condition can be deemed as having been met.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	n/a
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (intended)