

A9 Loaninghead Junction: Archaeological Excavation

Data Structure Report

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1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological excavation works required by Muir Homes in respect to the proposed plan for the A9 Loaninghead Junction Development, Auchterader. These works were designed to mitigate the adverse impact on the archaeological remains within their proposed development area, based on the findings of the preceding evaluation (Gordon 2008). The scope and remit of these works were agreed with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and Perth and Kinross Council through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2008).
- 1.2 The excavation area (NGR: NN9210 0964) , which was located to the immediate north of Peterhead Standing Stone (AMH 4061), covers the footprint of the proposed roadway in the area of Evaluation Trenches 11 and 12. It ran for a distance of 120m along the proposed roadway and was 7m wide, giving a total area of 840m² (see Figure 1).
- 1.3 The findings presented below inform on the character of any archaeologically significant features occurring within the excavation area and the appropriateness or requirement for further archaeological works. The character of any such further stages of work will need to be agreed with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and Perth and Kinross Council.
- 1.4 The development area currently comprises fallow pastoral ground, and lies in proximity to five Scheduled Monuments, protected under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. However, no element of the development or excavation area overlies these defined scheduled areas.
- 1.5 Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Muir Homes to undertake the programme of excavation works.
- 1.6 *Known Archaeology and Scheduled Ancient Monuments*
 - 1.6.1 In close proximity to the development area there are five Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). The Loaninghead symbol stone (AMH 2252) is a Class 1 Symbol Stone decorated with an incised rectangle and the carved representation of a goose. To the immediate southwest of the symbol stone is the Peterhead enclosure (AMH 7592) which was identified as a crop mark from oblique aerial photographs, and which is believed to be Iron Age in date. To the south of the site is another enclosure (AMH 4073) measuring 45m in diameter which was also identified from an aerial photograph. Also to the south, at the west end of the development area, is a second standing stone, the Peterhead Farm Standing Stone (AMH 4061). The last SAM, which is situated 200m to the north of the site beyond the A9 is Loaninghead Fort (AMH 7593), a multivallate fort. The excavation area was situated to the immediate north of AMH 4061.
 - 1.6.2 The only known archaeological remains occurring within the development area are three structures (NMRS NN90NW.39 & NN90NW41) which are depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866 as three roofed buildings. However, the location of these is now overlain by the modern road network, suggesting their wholesale loss.
- 1.7 *Previous Archaeological Work*
 - 1.7.1 A resistivity survey around the Symbol Stone (AMH 2252) was carried out in August 2008 by Dr. Meggen Gondek, University of Chester, in association with the Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot Project (SERF). The survey confirmed the presence of the enclosure (AMH 7592) and revealed a series of potential features including a possible roundhouse, a cairn surrounding the symbol stone, as well as potential Pictish type square burial monuments (Gondek 2008).
 - 1.7.2 A small investigative trench (measuring 5m by 1.5m in extent) was dug by Dr Gondek over part of the possible roundhouse. It confirmed the presence of a curvilinear ditch which had been much truncated, being only 100mm deep. Although no secure datable material was recovered, this investigation indicates the validity of the interpretation of the results obtained from the resistivity survey.

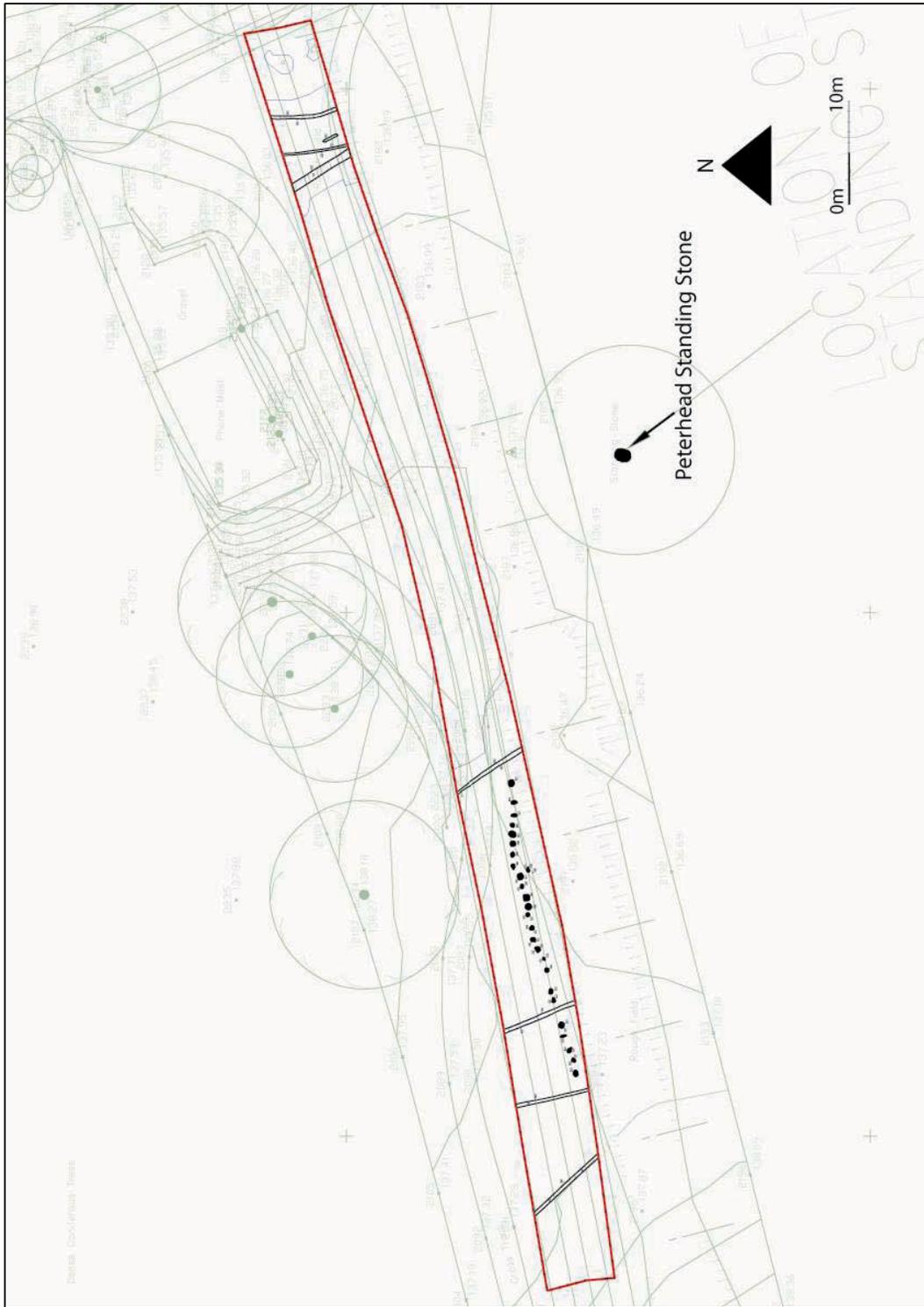


Figure 1: Site Layout

- 1.7.3 In response to the development proposal, an evaluation comprising sixteen trenches was carried out between the 21st and 23rd of October 2008 by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd. during the initial stages of this project. Part of the evaluation revealed a series of four negative linear features (Features [1103], [1105], [1204] and [1207]) of potential archaeological significance. These were recorded within Trenches 11 and 12, to the immediate north of Peterhead Standing Stone at the western end of the evaluation area. Unfortunately, no datable material was recovered from the fills of these features. However given its form and its location in close proximity to the Peterhead Standing Stone (AMH 4061), ditch [1105] was interpreted to be potentially prehistoric in origin.

2 Project Works

- 2.1 The programme of works commenced with the machine stripping of topsoil overlying those archaeological features revealed by the preceding evaluation, and in their immediate proximity. In total, an area of 840m² (measuring approximately 120m by 7m in extent) was revealed. This area was then cleaned by hand in order to define any archaeology surviving.
- 2.2 All of the exposed features were excavated, recorded and sampled according to the guidelines set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2008). The on-site works took place from the 19th to the 26th January 2009. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements. The objectives for these works were;
1. to determine the nature, form and extent through excavation of the archaeology within the archaeologically sensitive area, as defined by the evaluation, that will be adversely impacted upon by the development;
 2. to undertake a programme of analysis of archaeological materials (artefacts, ecofacts, sediment samples and records) recovered;
 3. to disseminate the findings of the works through reports to the local planning authority, an academic publication and public lecture where significant archaeology has been excavated.
- 2.3 A site visit was conducted by Sarah Winlow from Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, on the 22nd January 2009 in accordance with the monitoring of the archaeological works being conducted.

3 Findings: Excavation

- 3.1 Presented below is a summary of the archaeological findings from the works carried out within the excavation area. The findings have been subdivided by individual feature or feature groups. Detailed context descriptions and the registers of finds, samples, drawings and images are contained within the appendices at the rear of this document.
- 3.2 The topsoil across the site (001) ranged between 210mm to 450mm in depth, though typically it was no deeper than 300mm. The natural subsoil (002) and (023) were predominantly sandy gravels, and bioturbation was evident across the site, primarily in the form of small rodent and rabbit burrows.
- 3.3 *Linear features*
- 3.3.1 A total of four linear features of archaeological significance were recorded within the excavation trench. Towards its eastern end, two linear features were present, the first of which was a curvilinear feature [007] described previously as [1103] in the evaluation text (Fig. 3a). This feature ran roughly N-S and measured 360mm in width by 0.08m deep, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base.

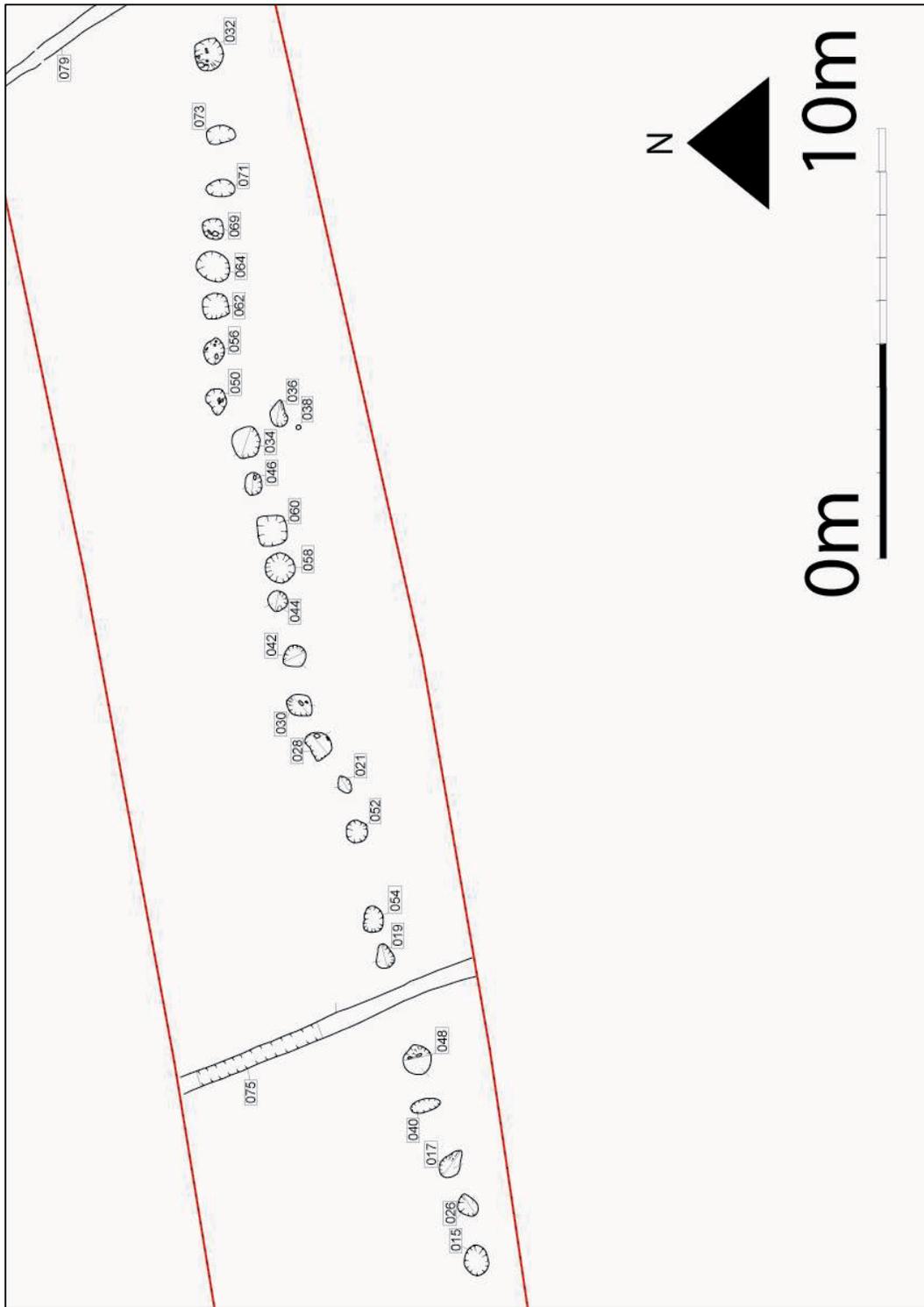


Figure 2: Pit/Post holes

- 3.3.2 The second was linear feature [011], described in the evaluation text as [1105] (Fig. 3b). It was filled with mid greyish brown silty sand (012) and measured 0.94m by 0.41m deep with sloping sides and a rounded base.
- 3.3.3 At the western end of the excavation trench, two more linear features were recorded. Lying furthest to the west was ditch [066], which ran from NW-SE measuring 0.34m wide by 0.09m deep with sloping sides and an irregular rounded base. The remaining ditch [075], described previously as [1204] in the evaluation text, was located approximately 16m to the east of this, running almost parallel and measuring 420mm by 110mm with sloping sides and an irregular base. Both features also contained very similar dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions (fills (067) and (076) respectively).

3.4 *Pit/Post Holes Features*

- 3.4.1 In the western half of the excavation trench, twenty six pit/post holes and one stake hole were revealed. The pit/post holes lay predominantly in a single row roughly aligned ESE-WNW, with an irregular spacing between each individual element that served to make up the feature. Overall the row bowed out slightly to the north while there was a slight suggestion that it may have been formed in discrete sections comprising straight blocks of six features with a slight step evident between each section.
- 3.4.2 The pit/post holes ranged in size from 0.33m in diameter to 0.76m by 0.79m, and varied from 0.08m to 0.26m in depth; they varied in form along the line, with some having flat bases ([021], [026], [028], [030], [032], [034], [040], [044] [050], [064] and [071]) and others rounded bases. They also varied in shape; pit/post holes [040], [071] and [073] were oblong in plan, whereas [028], [060] and [062] were sub-square, with the remainder being sub-circular/oval. The degree of truncation varied from east to west, with the western features being quite shallow in comparison with those in the east.
- 3.4.3 Some of these features ([028], [030], [032], [040], [042], [044], [048], [054] and [056]) contained medium sized stones ($\leq 120\text{mm}$) within their fill and [050] appears to have a possible post pipe present (Fig 3g).
- 3.4.4 Stake hole [038], which had shallow sloping sides and a rounded base, measured 130mm by 110mm and 30mm deep. It was situated to the immediate south of feature [036], possibly indicating a relationship. These two features were also anomalous as they did not appear to lie within the common row, rather being offset to the immediate south...

3.5 *Agricultural features*

- 3.5.1 No plough scarring was noticeable within the subsoil. However, feature [013], an oblong feature containing a very dark slightly clayey sandy silt (014), may represent deep truncation by farming equipment. The feature was 1.3m long, 0.25m wide and 0.04m deep, and contained a fragment of medieval green glaze (Find No.1).

3.6 *Area of Burning*

- 3.6.1 A few metres to the north of the line of pit/post holes, a small area or layer of burning (068) was revealed on the upper surface of the subsoil, measuring 0.75m by 0.4m by 0.07m. This deposit contained a lot of charcoal within a mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt and the subsoil under and around appeared to have been heat affected.

3.7 *Artefacts*

- 3.7.1 Four fragments of pottery were found within different contexts during the excavation. A fragment of medieval green glazed ceramic (Find No.1) was found within the agricultural scarring feature [013].
- 3.7.2 None of the ditches revealed any artefacts, but two of the postholes contained prehistoric pottery. Pit/post hole [034] contained two small fragments of a thick walled ceramic (Find No.2) whereas pit/post hole [050] contained one moderately sized fragment of a thin walled, possibly burnished ceramic (Find No.3).



Figure 3a: Curvilinear [007]



Figure 3b: SSE Facing section of

[011]



Figure 3c: NW facing section of [030]



Figure 3d: Linear [075]



Figure 3e: [046], [036], [038]



Figure 3f: Post excavation of [050]



Figure 3g: S facing section of [050]



Figure 3h: SSW facing section of [036]

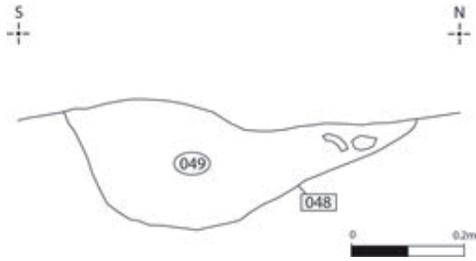


Figure 4a: E facing section of [017]



Figure 4b: Profile of [039]

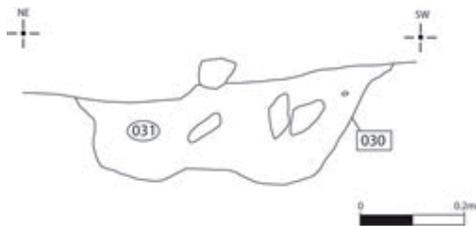


Figure 4c: NW facing section of [026]

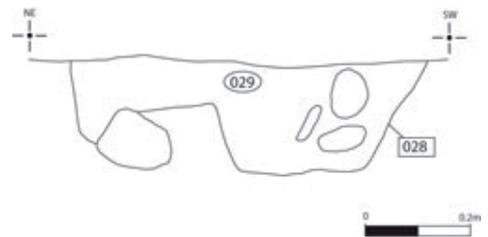


Figure 4d: NW facing section of [027]

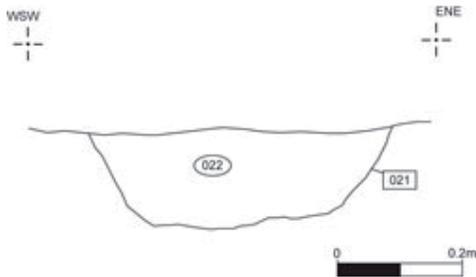


Figure 4e: SSE facing section of [010]

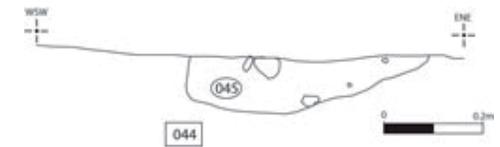


Figure 4f: SSE facing section of [018]

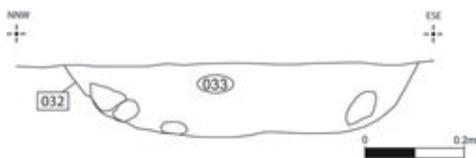


Figure 4g: SSW facing section of [020]

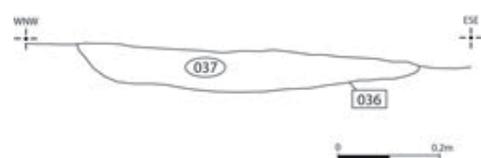


Figure 4h: SSW facing section of [022]

3.8 *Modern Disturbance*

- 3.8.1 Three linear features were recorded as being modern in date. The first of these, [009], which was situated immediately to the east of ditch [011], ran N-S over a distance of 4.9m from the southern edge of the trench, from where it became too ephemeral to record. It was 0.25m by 0.15m deep with a coarse sand and gravel fill (010).
- 3.8.2 The other two linear features were situated within the western half of the trench, to the W and E of the pit/post holes. The first of these, [077] (previously [1207] in the evaluation text) was 0.26m wide and contained a topsoil fill with glazed white earthenware found within it. The second was similar in size, being 0.36m wide with vertical sides. It again contained a topsoil-like fill that had been heavily disturbed by animal burrowing.

4 Discussion

4.1 *Linears*

- 4.1.1 A series of linear features were uncovered within the excavation area. In general these were ephemeral in nature and devoid of datable material. Curvilinear feature [007] was the most shallow, being only 80mm deep; if it continued onwards to form a circle it would circumscribe an area of approximately 6-8m diameter returning outwith the eastern end of the trench. It may represent the remains of a ring groove for a round house or the foundation trench of a small enclosure; however given the highly ephemeral nature of the feature any interpretation is highly speculative.
- 4.1.2 Linear feature [011] on the other hand was relatively substantial being 410mm deep, though unfortunately no further information was recovered during the excavation to add to that obtained during the evaluation phase. Given its form and its location in proximity to the Peterhead Standing Stone (AMH 4061) it has the potential to be prehistoric in origin as suggested in the original evaluation (Gordon 2008).
- 4.1.3 The other two linear features [066] and [075], located in the western half of the excavation area, were similar in form and fill to [011] and may be contemporaneous. Like [011] these two linears were initially interpreted as being prehistoric in origin given their form and position relative to the standing stone; however, no datable material was recovered from either which could elucidate their likely age. It is more probable that they may in fact be more recent agricultural boundaries, given that [075] cuts through the post row leaving an anomalous gap, suggesting that [075] was a later feature which obliterated a post hole.

4.2 *Pit/Postholes*

- 4.2.1 The row of pit/post holes in the western half of the excavation site formed an irregular curving line running from W to E. The presence of a post pipe in one of the features and stone packing in others suggests that some of them at least once contained upright timber posts, some of which rotted *in situ*. Certainly these features appear to be hand dug and potentially all were excavated for the setting of posts or uprights. The coherent form of the row is highly suggestive of this being a contemporaneous feature or structure.
- 4.2.2 Given the prescribed extent of the excavation area, any putative structure which these features form part of is difficult to identify and interpret; at this point; they are highly irregular in their alignment, forming a serpentine line when viewed in plan. This may indicate that they were created in piecemeal fashion, rather than being dug all at the same time. The line also doesn't appear to extend outwith the limits of the excavation.
- 4.2.3 The recovery of prehistoric pottery from features [034] and [050] suggests that this pit-row feature was prehistoric in origin. Indeed the provisional assessment of the pottery sherds are that they are prehistoric in date, possibly Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. This in turn raises the potential that the row could be broadly contemporaneous with the adjacent standing stone which would normally be ascribed an Early Bronze Age origin.
- 4.2.4 If the row formed part of a coherent structure, there are two possible suggestions with regards to its function. Firstly it may have formed a boundary or screen that was associated

with the nearby standing stone. It may also have formed part of a larger post defined structure, like those at Claish (Barclay Et Al 2002), Balfarg Riding School (Barclay & Russell-White 1993) and Littleour (Barclay & Maxwell 1998). Unfortunately this must remain highly speculative as there is not enough information available to give a precise interpretation.

- 4.2.5 Alternatively, there is a residual potential that the row is a non-contemporaneous landscape division and does not form a structure. This may be comparable to the pit alignments (Barber 1985) which subdivide the landscape, though in this instance it is formed in a different manner. While this is felt less likely given the arcing form and proximity to the standing stone, it is not impossible. The character of the individual features and artefact inclusions within would still evidence a prehistoric origin for this feature.

4.3 *Area of Burning*

- 4.3.1 The area of burning (068) situated on the northern edge of the trench, appears to have been the site of a fire, based on the clear heat alteration to the adjacent subsoil. The deposit was patchy which may be the result of plough truncation and there was also evidence of animal bioturbation.

- 4.3.2 Of note, was that the burnt layer was within a slight depression into the subsoil – beneath the homogenised topsoil. This suggests any fire was set within a scooped excavation, or that the fire was so prolonged and/or frequently reused as to lead to the progressive loss of the topsoil culminating in a depression that reached the subsoil. The character of this fire suggests that it may have been of considerable antiquity; however, without further works this must remain supposition.

4.4 *Modern Disturbance*

- 4.4.1 Given that the three linear features [009], [077] and [079] all had a topsoil fill as well as vertical to steep sides with flat bases and appear mechanically uniform, they have been interpreted as relatively modern agricultural features, most likely the results of a mole plough, which is used to break up compact soil and improve drainage.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 Rathmell Archaeology carried out archaeological works required by Muir Homes in advance of the proposed plan for the A9 Loaninghead Junction Development, Auchterader. The area of the study area is currently a greenfield site extending to 840m² in extent (NGR NS 85310 89505). The works, which were carried out from 19th to the 26th January 2009, involved the machine stripping and selective hand cleaning of an area measuring 120m by 7m and the subsequent excavation of exposed archaeological features. These works proceeded on the recommendations of earlier investigations (Gordon 2008)
- 5.2 The excavation revealed a series of negative features consisting of a possible ring groove, a curving post row of prehistoric date and linear ditches which showed evidence of prehistoric activity within close proximity to the Peterhead Farm Standing Stone. The role, date and function of this group of features remains speculative pending further works.
- 5.3 A number of artefacts, consisting of pottery and ecofacts were retrieved. From the further analysis of these it would be hoped that a number of questions about the site might be answered, particularly concerning issues of dating, subsistence and economy.

6 References

6.1 *Documentary*

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------|--|
| Barber, J et al | 1985 | <i>'The pit alignment at Eskbank Nurseries'</i>
Proc Soc Antiq Scot 51 |
| Barclay et al | 2002 | <i>'Claish, Stirling: an Early Neolithic structure in its context'</i>
Proc Soc Antiq Scot 132 |
| Barclay & Russell-White | 2004 | <i>'Excavations in the ceremonial complex of the fourth to second millennium BC at Balfarg and Balbirmie Glenrothes, Fife'</i> Proc Soc Antiq Scot 123 |
| Barclay & Maxwell | 1998 | <i>'The Cleaven Dyke and Littleour: Monuments in the Neolithic of Tayside'</i> Proc Soc Antiq Scot monograph |
| Gondek | 2008 | <i>'Report on the Geophysical Survey around the Peterhead Farm Symbol Stone, Blackford, Perthshire'</i> University of Chester |
| Matthews | 2008 | <i>'A9 Gleneagles Link (Loaninghead Junction): Archaeological Mitigation, Written Scheme of Investigation'</i> |
| Gordon | 2008 | <i>'A9 Loaninghead Junction: Archaeological Evaluation, Data Structure Report'</i> |

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site regardless of the process by which that information was gathered (e.g. evaluation or strip, map & sample).

Context Register

Context No.	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Deposit	Compact brown silty clay with some root inclusions and frequent small-medium stone inclusions	Topsoil
002	-	Deposit	Loose dark reddish brown sandy gravel	Subsoil
003	-	Cut	Oval shaped cut with steep sloping sides and a rounded base – 0.7m by 0.65m by 0.24m	Bioturbation – root hole for tree
004	-	Deposit	Loose dark brown sandy silt mixed with pale orange sand with frequent small stone inclusions and moderate rooting	Fill of [003]
005	-	Cut	Oval shaped cut with irregular, steep and gentle sides with a flattish base – 0.34m by 0.27m by 0.09m	Bioturbation – root hole for tree
006	-	Deposit	Loose dark brown sandy silt mixed with pale orange sand with frequent small stone inclusions and moderate rooting	Fill of [005]
007	-	Cut	Narrow curvilinear feature aligned mostly S-N with gently sloping sides and a rounded base – 6.4m (visible within trench) by 0.36m by 0.08m (max depth)	Curvilinear ditch – possibly agricultural
008	-	Deposit	Compact, very dark brownish grey, slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions and very few charcoal flecks	Fill of ditch [007] – very similar to topsoil
009	-	Cut	Narrow linear feature aligned N-S with steep sides and a rounded base, that appears to be rising into the topsoil at it's Northern end – 4.9m (visible within trench) by 0.25m by 0.15m (max depth)	Ditch – probably modern
010	-	Deposit	Moderate mid orangey brown coarse sand and small gravels	Fill of modern ditch [009]
011	-	Cut	Linear feature running NNW-SSE with moderate sloping sides and a rounded base - 7m (visible within trench) by 0.94m by 0.41m (max depth)	Ditch of unknown date
012	-	Deposit	Moderate mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions	Fill of ditch [011]
013	-	Cut	Narrow and shallow oblong shaped feature – 1.3m by 0.25m by 0.04m (max depth)	Medieval agricultural scar
014	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted, very dark slightly clayey sandy silt with	Fill of [013]

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			very occasional small stone and rare coal fragments	
015	-	Cut	Oval shaped feature with steep sides and a rounded, irregular base – 0.65m by 0.5m by 0.24m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
016	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [015]
017	-	Cut	Oval/oblong shaped feature with steep sides and a rounded base – 0.7m by 0.5m by 0.26m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
018	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [017]
019	-	Cut	Irregular oval shaped feature with steep sides and a rounded base – 0.56m by 0.47m by 0.19m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
020	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown silty sand	Fill of pit/post holes [019]
021	-	Cut	Oval shaped feature with steep sides and a flattish base – 0.46m by 0.33m by 0.16m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
022	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [021]
023	-	Deposit	Compact mid brown silty sand with frequent small gravel inclusions and occasional large, rounded stone inclusions	Subsoil
024	-	Deposit	Moderately compact pale orange sand with occasional small stone inclusions and frequent animal burrowing	Tree bowl fill
025	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mottled dark brown sandy silty with frequent charcoal inclusions	Upper fill of pit/post holes [019]
026	-	Cut	Oval shaped feature with irregular sides (steep to the SW and sloping to the NE) and a flattish base – 0.56m by 0.5m by 0.18m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
027	-	Deposit	Mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions and rare charcoal fragments	Fill of pit/post holes [026]
028	-	Cut	Sub-circular/square edged feature with steep sides and a stepped/flat base; shallower to the NE – 0.7m by 0.55m by 0.2m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
029	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mixed brown sandy silt with occasional small charcoal flecks and frequent small to medium, rounded stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [028]
030	-	Cut	Sub-circular feature with steep sides and an irregular but flattish base – 0.6m diameter by 0.19m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
031	-	Deposit	Compact mixed mid brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and chunks, and frequent small to medium, sub-rounded stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [030]

032	-	Cut	Circular feature with steep sides and flat base – 0.66m by 0.68m by 0.14m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
033	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt with occasional large stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [032]
034	-	Cut	Sub-circular feature with steep sides and a flat, sloping base (West to East) – 0.76m by 0.7m by 0.08m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
035	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt with occasional medium stone inclusions. Two fragments of prehistoric pottery found within the deposit	Fill of pit/post holes [034]
036	-	Cut	Irregular oval shaped feature with moderately sloping sides and a flattish/rounded base – 0.43m by 0.67m by 0.08m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
037	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt with occasional medium stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [036]
038	-	Cut	Very small circular feature with shallow sides and a rounded base – 0.13m by 0.11m by 0.03m	Stake hole – prehistoric
039	-	Deposit	Moderately compact id grey brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions	Fill of stake hole [038]
040	-	Cut	Oblong shaped feature with steep sides and a flattish base – 0.65m by 0.5m by 0.14m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
041	-	Deposit	Moderately compact grey brown silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [040]
042	-	Cut	Circular feature with steep sloping sides and a round base – 0.6m by 0.5m by 0.2m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
043	-	Deposit	Compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional small charcoal flecks and occasional rounded stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [042]
044	-	Cut	Circular feature with irregular sides (steep to the WSW, sloping to the ENE) and flat base – 0.5m diameter by 0.1m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
045	-	Deposit	Compact mid brown sandy silt with frequent flecks and chunks of charcoal and frequent small rounded stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [044]
046	-	Cut	Circular feature with steep sides and a potentially flat base made irregular due to truncation by animal burrow – 0.46m by 0.54m by 0.13m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
047	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt with occasional medium stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [046]
048	-	Cut	Circular feature with steep sides and a rounded base – 0.64m diameter by 0.23m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
049	-	Deposit	Moderately compact reddish brown silty sand with occasional small to medium stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [048]

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050	-	Cut	Irregularly sub-circular feature with moderately steep sides and a flattish, sloping base (West to East) – 0.69m by 0.69m by 0.14m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
051	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt with occasional large stone inclusions. Fragment of prehistoric pottery found within the deposit	Fill of pit/post holes [050]
052	-	Cut	Circular feature with moderately steep sides and a rounded base – 0.57m by 0.47m by 0.16m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
053	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt with occasional large stone inclusions and frequent small-medium stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [052]
054	-	Cut	Irregular oval shaped feature with moderately steep sides and a rounded base – 0.5m diameter by 0.2m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
055	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional medium stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [054]
056	-	Cut	Sub-circular feature with moderately steep sides and a stepped, rounded base – 0.76m by 0.79m by 0.19m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
057	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt with occasional large stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [056]
058	-	Cut	Circular feature with steep sides and rounded base – 0.68m diameter by 0.2m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
059	-	Deposit	Compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions and frequent charcoal flecks/chunks	Fill of pit/post holes [058]
060	-	Cut	Squared feature with irregular sides (steep to the ESE and gently sloping to the WNW) and an irregular/flattish base – 0.7m diameter by 0.12m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
061	-	Deposit	Compact mid brown sandy silt with frequent small rounded stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of pit/post holes [060]
062	-	Cut	Sub-circular and slightly squared feature with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base – 0.64m by 0.58m by 0.13m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
063	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt with occasional large stone inclusions	Fill of pit/post holes [062]
064	-	Cut	Sub-circular feature with steeply sloping sides and a flattish base – 0.7m diameter by 0.17m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
065	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt	Fill of pit/post holes [064]
066	-	Cut	Linear feature running N-S with an irregular rounded base and sloping sides – 7m (visible in trench) by 0.34m by 0.09m	Ditch
067	-	Deposit	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stone	Fill of ditch [066]

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			inclusions	
068	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions and occasional small stone inclusions – 0.75m by 0.4m by 0.07m	Spread of burnt debris pushed down into the subsoil in part and surrounded by heat affected natural
069	-	Cut	Circular and slightly squared feature with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base – 0.6m by 0.55m by 0.2m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
070	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of pit/post holes [069]
071	-	Cut	Oblong shaped feature with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base – 0.65m by 0.45m by 0.1m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
072	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions and rare charcoal flecks	Fill of pit/post holes [071]
073	-	Cut	Oblong shaped feature with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base – 0.67m by 0.5m by 0.18m	Pit/post holes – prehistoric
074	-	Deposit	Compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions and rare charcoal flecks	Fill of pit/post holes [073]
075	-	Cut	Linear feature running N-S with sloping sides and an irregular rounded base – 7m (visible within trench) by 0.42m by 0.11m	Ditch
076	-	Deposit	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions	Fill of ditch [075]
077	-	Cut	Linear feature running N-S with vertical sides and a flat base – 7m (visible within trench) by 0.26m	Modern ditch/gully
078	-	Deposit	Compact brown silty clay with some root inclusions and frequent small-medium stone inclusions. White glazed ceramic found within	Fill of ditch/gully [077]
079	-	Cut	Linear feature running N-S with vertical sides and a rounded, irregular base – 7m (visible within trench) by 0.36m by 0.3m (approximately)	Modern ditch/gully
080	-	Deposit	Compact brown silty clay with some root inclusions and frequent small-medium stone inclusions. Heavily truncated by animal burrowing	Fill of ditch/gully [079]

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
01	1	-	Section	1:10	NNW facing section of ditch [011] – slot 1	KP	21/01/09
02	1	-	Section	1:10	SSE facing section of slot 1 in ditch [007]	CW	21/01/09
03	1	-	Section	1:10	S facing section of slot 2 in ditch [007]	CW	21/01/09
04	1	-	Section	1:10	S facing section of slot 3 in ditch [007]	CW	21/01/09
05	1	-	Section	1:10	SSE facing section of ditch [011] – slot 2	KP	21/01/09
06	1	-	Section	1:10	NE facing section of [013]	CW	21/01/09
07	2	-	Section	1:10	N facing section of [015]	DG	21/01/09
08	2	-	Section	1:10	N facing section of [017]	DG	21/01/09
09	2	-	Section	1:10	N facing section of [019]	DG	21/01/09
10	2	-	Section	1:10	N facing section of [021]	DG	21/01/09
11	2	-	Plan	1:20	Plan of features in east end of trench	CW + KP	22/01/09
12	1	-	Section	1:10	N facing section through ditch [009] – slot 1	KP	22/01/09
13	1	-	Section	1:10	S facing section through ditch [009] – slot 2	KP	22/01/09
14	1	-	Section	1:10	NNW facing section through ditch [009] – slot 3	KP	22/01/09
15	1	-	Section	1:10	NW facing section of [026]	DG	22/01/09
16	1	-	Section	1:10	E facing section of [040]	DG	22/01/09
17	1	-	Section	1:10	E facing section of [048]	DG	22/01/09
18	3	-	Section	1:10	SSE facing section of pit/post holes [044]	CW	22/01/09
19	3	-	Section	1:10	ENE facing section of pit/post holes [042]	CW	22/01/09
20	1	-	Section	1:10	SSW facing section of pit/post holes [032]	KP	22/01/09
21	1	-	Section	1:10	SSW facing section of stake hole [038]	KP	22/01/09
22	1	-	Section	1:10	SSW facing section of pit/post holes [036]	KP	22/01/09
23	1	-	Section	1:10	S facing section of pit/post holes [034]	KP	22/01/09
24	1	-	Section	1:10	S facing section of pit/post holes [050]	KP	22/01/09
25	1	-	Section	1:10	S facing section of pit/post holes [046]	KP	22/01/09
26	3	-	Section	1:10	NW facing section of pit/post holes [030]	CW	22/01/09
27	3	-	Section	1:10	NW facing section of pit/post holes [028]	CW	22/01/09
28	1	-	Section	1:10	E facing section of pit/post holes [052]	KP	22/01/09
29	1	-	Section	1:10	S facing section of pit/post holes [054]	KP	23/01/09
30	3	-	Section	1:10	S facing section of pit/post holes [056]	KP	23/01/09
31	3	-	Section	1:10	Profile of [062] – SSE facing	KP	23/01/09
32	3	-	Section	1:10	Profile of [064] – SE facing	KP	23/01/09
33	3	-	Section	1:10	Profile of [058]	CW	23/01/09
34	3	-	Section	1:10	Profile of [060]	CW	23/01/09

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35	1	-	Section	1:10	SE facing section of [066]	DG	23/01/09
36	3	-	Section	1:10	SE facing section of [068]	CW	23/01/09
37	3	-	Section	1:10	SE facing section of [075]	DG	23/01/09
38	3	-	Section	1:10	Profile of pit/post holes [069]	CW	23/01/09
39	3	-	Section	1:10	Profile of pit/post holes [071]	CW	23/01/09
40	3	-	Section	1:10	Profile of pit/post holes [073]	CW	23/01/09
41	4-8	-	Plan	1:20	Plan of pit/post holes and ditches in west end of trench	CW & DG	26/01/09

Sample Register

Sample No.	Area / Trench	Context	Sample Type	Description / Quantity	Excavator	Date
01	-	012	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid greyish silty sand - fill of ditch [011] – Slot 1	KP	21/01/09
02	-	008	Bulk x 1 tub	Very dark brown/grey slightly clayey sandy silt with very few small charcoal flecks – fill of [007] – slot 1	CW	21/01/09
03	-	008	Bulk x 1 tub	Very dark brown/grey slightly clayey sandy silt with very few small charcoal flecks – fill of [007] – slot 3	CW	21/01/09
04	-	012	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid greyish silty sand - fill of ditch [011] – Slot 2	KP	21/01/09
05	-	014	Bulk x 1 tub	Dark slightly clayey sandy silt – fill of [013]	CW	21/01/09
06	-	018	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions and charcoal present	DG	21/01/09
07	-	031	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid brown sandy silt with charcoal – fill of pit/post holes [030]	CW	22/01/09
08	-	045	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid brown sandy silt with charcoal – fill of pit/post holes [044]	CW	22/01/09
09	-	059	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid brown sandy silt with charcoal – fill of pit/post holes [058]	CW	23/01/09
10	-	053	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions (large) – fill of pit/post holes [052]	KP	23/01/09
11	-	067	Bulk x 1 tub	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions	DG	23/01/09
12	-	057	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid grey and orangey brown sandy silt – fill of [056]	KP	23/01/09
13	-	033	Bulk x 1 tub	Fill of pit/post holes [032]	KP	23/01/09
14	-	068	Bulk x 1 tub	Dark brown/grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal – area of burning	CW	23/01/09
15	-	051	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid grey and orange brown sandy silt – fill of [050]	KP	23/01/09
16	-	035	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid grey and orange brown sandy silt – fill of [034]	KP	23/01/09
17	-	074	Bulk x 1 large bag	Mid brown sandy silt – fill of [073]	KP	23/01/09
18	-	037	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid grey and orange brown sandy silt – fill of [036]	KP	23/01/09
19	-	039	Bulk x 1 small bag	Mid grey brown sandy silt – fill of stake hole [038]	KP	23/01/09

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20	-	047	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid grey and orange brown sandy silt – fill of [046]	KP	23/01/09
21	-	063	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid grey and orange brown sandy silt – fill of [062]	KP	23/01/09
22	-	065	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid grey and orange brown sandy silt – fill of [064]	KP	23/01/09
23	-	016	Bulk x 1 tub	Fill of [015]	DG	23/01/09
24	-	055	Bulk x 1 tub	Mid grey and orange brown sandy silt – fill of [054]	KP	23/01/09

Finds Register

Find No.	Area/Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	-	014	Ceramic	1 x fragment of green glazed medieval pottery	KP	20/01/09
2	-	035	Ceramic	2 x fragments of possible Neolithic pottery (thick)	KP	22/01/09
3	-	051	Ceramic	1 x fragment of prehistoric pottery (fragmented into 3 pieces after lifting)	KP	22/01/09

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
01	1	7	1	25	120	General shot of E end of strip after cleaning	E	20/01/09
02	1	8	-	-	121	Pre ex of [003]	N	20/01/09
03	1	9	-	-	122	Pre ex of [005]	E	20/01/09
04	1	10	-	-	123+124	Pre ex of [007]	S	20/01/09
05	1	11	-	-	125	Pre ex of [009]	S	20/01/09
06	1	12	-	-	126	Pre ex of [011]	S	20/01/09
07	1	13	-	-	127	Pre ex of [013]	S	20/01/09
08	1	14	1	26	128	NNW facing section of [011]	NNW	21/01/09
09	1	15	-	-	129	NNW facing section of [011]	NNW	21/01/09
10	1	16	1	27	130	SSE facing section of slot 1 in ditch [007]	SSE	21/01/09
11	1	17	1	28	131	S facing section of slot 2 in ditch [007]	S	21/01/09
12	1	18	1	29	132	S facing section of slot 3 in ditch [007]	S	21/01/09
13	1	19	1	30	133	Post ex shot of ditch [007]	S	21/01/09
14	1	20	1	31	134	N facing section of pit [015]	N	21/01/09
15	1	21	1	32	135	NE facing section of pit [017]	NE	21/01/09
16	1	22	1	33	136	S facing section of pit [019]	S	21/01/09
17	1	23	1	34	137	SSE facing section of pit [021]	SSE	21/01/09
18	1	24	1	35	138	SSE facing section of ditch [011]	SSE	21/01/09

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Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
19	1	25	1	36	139	NE facing section of [013]	NE	21/01/09
20	1	26	2	1	140	Mid ex of [013]	SE	21/01/09
21	1	27	2	2	141	Post ex of ditch [009]	S	21/01/09
22	1	28	2	3	142	N facing section of ditch [009] – slot 1	N	21/01/09
23	1	29	2	4	143	S facing section of ditch [009] – slot 2	S	21/01/09
24	1	30	2	5	144	NNW facing section of ditch [009] – slot 3	NNW	21/01/09
25	1	31	2	6	145	Pre ex shot of [026]	N	22/01/09
26	1	32	2	7	146	Post ex of [013]	SE	22/01/09
27	1	33	-	-	147	Pre ex of pit/post holes [032]	S	22/01/09
28	1	34	-	-	148	Pre ex of pit/post holes [028]	SE	22/01/09
29	1	35	-	-	149	Pre ex of pit/post holes [030]	SE	22/01/09
30	2	1	-	-	150	N facing section of [026]	N	22/01/09
31	2	2	2	8	151	Pre ex of pit/post holes [034]	S	22/01/09
32	2	3	-	-	152	Pre ex of [040]	E	22/01/09
33	2	4	2	9	153	E facing section of [040]	E	22/01/09
34	2	5	2	10	154	NW facing section of [028]	NW	22/01/09
35	2	6	2	11	155	NW facing section of [030]	NW	22/01/09
36	2	7	2	12	156	Pre ex of [044]	NNE	22/01/09
37	2	8	2	13	157	Pre ex of [042]	ENE	22/01/09
38	2	9	-	-	158	Pre ex of [048]	N	22/01/09
39	2	10	2	14	159	Post ex of [046], [036], [038] and [034]	SW	22/01/09
40	2	11	2	15	160	SSW facing section of pit/post holes [032]	SSW	22/01/09
41	2	12	2	16	161	SSW facing section of pit/post holes [036]	SSW	22/01/09
42	2	13	2	17	162	S facing section of pit/post holes [032]	S	22/01/09
43	2	14	2	18	163	E facing section of [048]	E	22/01/09
44	2	15	2	19	164	SSW facing section of [044]	SSW	22/01/09
45	2	16	2	20	165	ENE facing section of [042]	ENE	22/01/09
46	2	17	2	21	166	S facing section of pit/post holes [046]	S	22/01/09
47	2	18	2	22	167	S facing section of pit/post holes [050]	S	22/01/09
48	2	19	2	23	168	S facing section of pit/post holes [054]	S	22/01/09
49	2	20	2	24	169	E facing section of pit/post holes [052]	E	22/01/09
50	2	21	2	25	170	S facing section of pit/post holes [056]	S	22/01/09
51	2	22	-	-	171	Pre ex of pit/post holes [058]	SSW	23/01/09
52	2	23	-	-	172	Pre ex of pit/post holes [060]	SSE	23/01/09

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Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
53	2	24	2	26	173	Post ex of pit/post holes [062]	SSW	23/01/09
54	-	-	-	-	174	Post ex of pit/post holes {058} (with flash)	SSW	23/01/09
55	2	25	2	27	175	Post ex of pit/post holes {058} (without flash)	SSW	23/01/09
56	2	26	-	-	176	Post ex of pit/post holes [060]	S	23/01/09
57	2	27	-	-	177	Post ex of linear [066]	SE	23/01/09
58	2	28	2	28	178	SE facing section of [066]	SE	23/01/09
59	2	29	2	29	179	Post ex of pit/post holes [064]	S	23/01/09
60	2	30	2	30	180	Pre ex of [068]	NW	23/01/09
61	-	-	-	-	181	SE facing section of (068) – Flash	SE	23/01/09
62	2	31	2	31	182	SE facing section of (068) – no flash	SE	23/01/09
63	2	32	-	-	183	Post ex of pit/post holes [056]	S	23/01/09
64	2	33	2	32	184	Post ex of pit/post holes [032]	S	23/01/09
65	2	34	-	-	185	Pre ex of pit/post holes [071]	SSW	23/01/09
66	2	35	2	33	186	Pre ex of pit/post holes [073]	S	23/01/09
67	2	36	-	-	187	Post ex of pit/post holes [050]	S	23/01/09
68	3	1	-	-	188	Post ex of linear [075]	SE	23/01/09
69	3	2	2	34	189	SE facing section of [075]	SE	23/01/09
70	3	3	2	35	190	Post ex of pit/post holes [069]	S	23/01/09
71	3	4	-	-	191	Post ex of pit/post holes [071]	SSW	23/01/09
72	3	5	-	-	192	Post ex of pit/post holes [073]	SSW	23/01/09
73	3	6	2	36	193	Post ex of pit/post holes [040]	E	23/01/09
74	3	7	-	-	194	Post ex of pit/post holes [015]	S	23/01/09
75	3	8	3	1	195	General shot of western end of site	E	26/01/09
76	3	9	3	2	196	General shot with line of pit/post holess	E	26/01/09
77	3	10	3	3	197	General shot with line of pit/post holess	SW	26/01/09
78	-	-	-	-	198	General site shot	WSW	26/01/09
79	3	11	3	4	199	General site shot from road (with standing stone)	ESE	26/01/09

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	A9 Gleneagles Link
PROJECT CODE:	08040
PARISH:	Blackford
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NN90NW3, NN90NW26, NN90NW.39, NN90NW41
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Ditch, Gullies, Pit/post holes
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Prehistoric Pottery
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 9233 0975
START DATE (this season)	19 th January 2009
END DATE (this season)	26 th January 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Geophysical Survey (Resistivity); Evaluation
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Rathmell Archaeology carried out works required by Muir Homes to conduct archaeological works in advance of the extension proposed plan for the A9 Loaninghead Junction Development, Auchterader. The area of the study area is currently a greenfield site extending to 840m² in extent (NGR NS 85310 89505). The works carried out from 19th to the 26th January 2009, involved the machine stripping and selective hand cleaning of an area 120m by 7m and the subsequent excavation of exposed archaeological features. These works proceeded on the recommendations of earlier investigations (Gordon 2008)</p> <p>The excavation revealed a series of negative features consisting of a possible ring groove, a prehistoric curving post alignment and linear ditches which showed the presence of prehistoric activity within close proximity to the Peterhead Farm Standing Stone. Given the truncation of the features and limited size of the excavation it is difficult to be anything other than speculative concerning the activity these features represent..</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Post excavation work
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Muir Homes
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL ADDRESS:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

Contact Details

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