

SUAT Ltd

archaeological
contractors



**Watching Brief
Barton Hill
KINNAIRD**

SUAT Ltd
55 SOUTH METHVEN STREET
PERTH PH1 5NX
Tel: 01738 622393
Fax: 01738 631626
E-mail :director@suat.co.uk

TB/CAM/JH06/15 October 2007

**WATCHING BRIEF
BARTON HILL
KINNAIRD
PERTH AND KINROSS
JH06**

1	<i>Background</i>	1
2	<i>Details of Work</i>	1
3	<i>Interpretation</i>	2
4	<i>Conclusions and Recommendations</i>	2
5	<i>Bibliography</i>	2
<i>Appendix 1</i>	<i>Context Register</i>	3
<i>Appendix 2</i>	<i>Photographic Register</i>	3
<i>Appendix 3</i>	<i>Drawing Register</i>	4
<i>Appendix 4</i>	<i>Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry</i>	4
<i>Appendix 5</i>	<i>Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork</i>	5

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Area observed

Illustration 3: SE facing section of the NW foundation trench

Author Tamlin Barton MA
Illustrator Tamlin Barton MA
Editor David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MIFA

ABSTRACT

Andrew Black Design commissioned SUAT Ltd to conduct a watching brief during the construction of an extension to the present house at Barton Hill, Kinnaird, Perth and Kinross. The work involved monitoring the foundations for a new garage to the NE of the main house. No significant features were found, but the foundations revealed deposits relating to the landscaping of the mound in the late 1990s.

The work was carried out on the 26th September 2007.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Andrew Black Design commissioned SUAT Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of Barton Hill at Kinnaird, Perth and Kinross. The site lies within the village of Kinnaird, to the east of the church at NO 2436 2865. The work (JH06) was undertaken on the 26th September 2007 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to record any surviving archaeological remains within the area to be affected by the proposed works.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 074/01452/FUL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area. In particular, it was important to find out if any remains relating to the medieval castle had survived in this area.

1.3 Reporting

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

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This watching brief is a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

2 Details of Work

2.1 Archaeological Potential

Barton Hill is the site of an important medieval castle or motte situated on a distinctive mound. Prior to the erection of a house in 1971, a rescue excavation was carried out on all but the NE quadrant of the mound. The excavation uncovered structural remains of what would have been a substantial timber tower house, plus occupation deposits including 13th and 14th century pottery.

In the late 1990s, the 1970s house was replaced. Although the construction of this second house involved the landscaping of the mound, many of the features recorded in the 1971 excavation were rock-cut. The new garage lies to the NE of the present house in what may be the area left unexcavated (see Illus 1).

2.2 Archaeological Method

The removal of topsoil and cutting of foundation trenches was carried out using a JCB excavator equipped with toothless buckets. All excavation was monitored by a SUAT archaeologist and sections were recorded using scaled drawings, measured sketches

and photographs. A measured sketch plan was produced in order to locate section drawings and foundation trenches on the main garage plan (see Illus 2). Any deposits encountered were recorded in detailed note form.

2.3 Results of Investigations

Excavation revealed no archaeological features of any importance. The depth of the bedrock varied across the site: to the south-east it lay only 0.45-0.1m below the surface and to the south-west it was deeper than the foundation trench. No rock-cut features were seen during the scraping back of the bedrock. A deposit of partially weathered rock lay just above the natural bedrock, which varied in colour from ochreous red and yellow (101) to more weathered and brown (103) (see Illus 3). To the NW and SW lay a series of loose deposits below the topsoil containing cobbles, sand and pieces of plastic (104), (102), (105), (106) as well as brushwood and a brick (107).

3 Interpretation

The loose deposits will have been created during the landscaping of the mound in the late 1990s. Layer (107) appears to be buried topsoil containing a brick from the 1970s house as well as garden vegetation.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

The work revealed that there is no archaeology within the development area. The discovery of modern deposits suggests that it is unlikely that any archaeology lies undisturbed immediately to the NW and SW, though it is possible that remains could be buried below the landscaping. It is also unlikely that any archaeology (apart from possible rock-cut postholes) survives to the SE and NE, because of the close proximity of the bedrock. Despite this, the importance of the Barton Hill as an ancient monument means that any further developments should be subject to watching briefs

However, the final decision ultimately rests with Sarah Winlow of the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

5 Bibliography

Stewart and Tabraham, M E C and C J 1975 'Excavations at Barton Hill, Kinnaird, Perthshire', *Scot Archaeol Forum*, 6, 1974.

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Type</i>
100	Topsoil - dark sandy silt	Deposit
101	Loose to moderately compact natural deposit of weathered bedrock. Colour: red/yellow ochre with occasional black patches. 60% angular fragments of andesite or basalt, more than 3cm diameter. 40% grit	Natural
102	Medium to fine yellow-orange sand, loose.	Deposit
103	Moderately compact mid-brown sandy silt, 30% with frequent angular fragments of andesite or basalt, 30%, 40% grit	Deposit
104	Loose light yellow medium sand with large rounded/sub-rounded cobbles 5% up to 20cm diameter. Contained plastic wrapping.	Deposit
105	Loose coarse yellow sand. Visible on surface.	Deposit
106	Course yellow sand with 30% rounded, sub-rounded and angular gravel between 3cm and 1cm diameter.	Deposit
107	Dark sandy silt, similar to (100) but buried under (104) and (106). Contained 5% twigs and wood and a brick.	Deposit

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Frames</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
1	Site ID	-
2	General shot of garage site before excavation	E
3	Removal of topsoil in progress	S
4	General shot of garage site	NE
5	House at Barton Hill	S
6	Removal of topsoil	SE
7 & 8	SW facing section in the NE foundation trench	NE
9	Digging the NE foundation trench	SE
10 & 11	Digging the NW foundation trench	SE
12-17	The SE facing section in the NW foundation trench	NW

18 & 19	The NE facing section in the SW foundation trench (N end)	SW
20	SW facing section in the NE foundation trench	NE
21-23	The NW facing section in the SE foundation trench	SE
24	The NE facing section in the SW foundation trench (N end)	SW
25 & 26	The NE facing section in the SW foundation trench (S end)	SW
27	General shot of site	N
28	General shot of site	NE
29	General shot of site	N

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Sketch of NE foundation trench section, measured plan, soil discriptions.	-
2	Scaled plan of NW foundation trench section, sketch sections of SW and SE foundation trench plans	1:20

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Erection of extension, Barton Hill, Kinnaird
PROJECT CODE:	JH06
PARISH:	Kinnaird
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Tamlin Barton MA
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	SUAT Ltd
TYPE OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO:	NO22NW 25
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE:	Motte
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR	NO 2436 2865
START DATE	26/09/07

END DATE	26/09/07
PREVIOUS WORK	<p>Stewart, M (1972 a) 'Barton Hill Kinnaird, motte', <i>Discovery Excav Scot</i>, 1972, 56-7,</p> <p>Stewart and Tabraham, M E C and C J (1975) 'Excavations at Barton Hill, Kinnaird, Perthshire', <i>Scot Archaeol Forum</i>, 6, 1974,</p> <p>Reid, A G (1984 i) 'Barton Hill (Kinnaird p), motte', <i>Discovery Excav Scot</i>, 1984, 40,</p>
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Andrew Black Design commissioned SUAT Ltd to conduct a watching brief during the construction of an extension to the present house at Barton Hill, Kinnaird, Perth and Kinross. The work involved monitoring the foundations for a new garage to the NE of the main house. No significant features were found but the foundations revealed deposits relating to landscaping the mound in the late 1990s.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Andrew Black Design
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	-
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	SUAT Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@suat.co.uk

Appendix 5 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

5.1 Recording Methodology

SUAT 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.

5.2 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*.

5.3 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.

5.4 Artefacts

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

5.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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

5.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

SUAT adheres to the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

SUAT has public liability insurance of £5,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

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

All SUAT 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.