

SUAT Ltd

archaeological
contractors



**Archaeological Evaluation
Gairneybridge
Kinross**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
GAIRNEYBRIDGE
KINROSS
KR08

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Illustration 1: *Site location plan*

Illustration 2: *Trench location plans*

Illustration 3: *Trench plans*

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ABSTRACT

SUAT Ltd was commissioned by John McNeeley of Carneil Homes to undertake an evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development. The proposed development is located in a green field site situated between Gairneybank Farm to the north and an existing housing estate to the south. To the east the site is bordered by the B996 road and to the west by the M90 motorway. The evaluation was requested as a number of archaeological sites are located within the vicinity of the proposed development, for example aerial photography has located prehistoric settlement remains and the site of an early historic cemetery.

Four evaluation trenches were excavated in order to determine whether any archaeology was present in the development area. The results indicated that there were no significant archaeological features located in the development area; in fact only one small pit and an irregular shaped linear feature were located within.

As a result SUAT recommended that further archaeological work is not required on the site. The evaluation was undertaken on the 10th and 11th of October and the SUAT site code was KR08. Carneil Homes funded this evaluation.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Carneil Homes commissioned SUAT Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed housing development at Gairneybridge, Kinross. The proposed development area is a green field site 4,000m² in size located between Gairneybank Farm and an existing housing estate at Gairneybridge, centred on NGR NT 1287 9860. The work (SUAT site code KR08) was undertaken on the 10th and 11th October 2007 in variable weather conditions. The requirement was to evaluate 5% of the available area, which is 200m².

The work was designed to fulfil the archaeological condition on development application reference 05/01633/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. 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 Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust's Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

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

1.5 Acknowledgements

SUAT wish to thank Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Carneil Homes funded this evaluation.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The proposed development is located in a green field site situated between Gairneybank Farm to the north and an existing housing estate to the south. To the east the site is bordered by the B996 road and to the west by the M90 motorway.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Aerial photographic survey has identified prehistoric settlements and the site of an early historic cemetery within the vicinity of the development site. At least five Bronze Age cist burials have been found to the north of the development, at

Gairneybank Farm in the 1960s and 70s. Due to the proximity of these archaeological remains to the development area it was possible that other remains might survive within the site itself.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Four 25m long and 2m wide evaluation trenches were situated across the site. A mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket excavated the trenches under archaeological supervision.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Trench 1: The trench measured 25m north-south and was 2m wide. The average depth of the trench measured from 0.5m to 0.7m. The topsoil depth (100) varied from 0.4m at the north end to 0.55m at the south end. The subsoil (101) had an average depth of 0.1m. The natural sand and gravel (102) was mid brown in colour and had 10% gravel inclusions. An east-west orientated land drain was situated 1m from the south end of the trench.

Trench 2: The trench measured 25m north-south and was 2m wide. The average depth of the trench measured 0.45m. The topsoil depth, Context 200, averaged at 0.25m. The natural (221) was generally similar to that in Trench 1 but had a greater frequency of gravel inclusions. An irregular shaped sub-linear feature (206), 0.80m x 3m long, was located 7m from the north end of the trench and was orientated in a north-east/south-west direction. A small tree throw (212), 0.7m wide x 0.3m deep, was located immediately on the north side of the linear feature, in between two pit-like features (214/16), 0.5m wide x 0.2m deep and 0.5m wide x 0.3m deep respectively, and a further small pit was situated 1m to the north-east, against the western baulk (201) 0.8m wide by 0.3m deep. A small shallow scoop (219), 0.5m wide x 0.3m visible length and 0.04m at its deepest point, was uncovered against the southern baulk of the trench extension. No artefacts were retrieved from these features.

Trench 3: The trench measured 25m long by 2m wide and was orientated north-west/south-east. The topsoil, Context 300, averaged at 0.36m depth and the natural was a yellow-brown sand (Context 301). There were no archaeological features in this trench.

Trench 4: The trench measured 25.5m long by 2m wide and was orientated north-west/south-east. The topsoil, Context 400, measured from 1.3m at the north-west end of the trench at the bottom of the slope to 0.3m at the south-east end on top of the hill. The natural was not reached along the first 9m of the trench due to health and safety considerations as the depth was over 1.3m, although a grey clay-like soil (401) was visible and this may have been a natural soil but it was not possible to confirm this. After 10.5m the natural yellow-brown sand (403) became visible and rapidly rose up the hillside. The butt end of linear feature (206) was present 1.5m from the south-east end of the trench in its east side; this was numbered (404) and measured 0.8m wide x 0.65m deep and 1.2m long.

3 Interpretation

3.1

Trench 1 and 3: No archaeology was present in either of these trenches.

Trench 2 and 4: The archaeology in this trench was situated within a 4m area towards the northern extent of Trench 2. This comprised of a group of small pits (216/14/01), possible tree throw (212) and an irregular shaped linear feature (206). The pits were situated immediately to the side of the linear feature. A further 2m of topsoil was cleared around the group in order to determine whether there were any other features associated with them, but no further archaeology was uncovered. One of the pits (216) may have had some packing stones so may actually have been a posthole, but no post pipe was visible. Shallow scoop (219) may have been the remains of vegetation. The linear feature (206) had a very irregular outline and was of indeterminate origin and use. It was very narrow and deep with almost vertical sides; bands of re-deposited natural were visible in the section. The eastern butt end of the feature was actually uncovered in Trench 2, as was the western butt end in Trench 4 thereby giving it an overall length of approximately 15m. The topsoil was cleared around both the butt ends in order to determine whether they were breaks in a continuous ditch. However, a continuation of the ditch was not uncovered in these areas. Unfortunately dating evidence was not present in any of the sections excavated.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations for Further Work

SUAT would recommend that further archaeological work is not required on this site. Although a short linear feature and some pits were uncovered, a large area was uncovered around them but further archaeological features were not found. It seems unlikely that there are other features within this area of the site or elsewhere.

However, the final decision ultimately rests with the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust area Archaeologist.

5 Bibliography

www.rchams.gov.uk Canmore, National Monuments Record of Scotland database.

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Topsoil, loam ploughsoil 0.5m to 0.7m in depth.
101	Subsoil, silty sand, 0.1m deep.
102	Natural, mid brown sand and gravel, 10% inclusions.
200	Topsoil, loam ploughsoil, 0.5m deep.
201	Cut of small pit, 0.8m x 0.3m.
202	Fill of 201. Dark grey brown sandy silt, 10% gravel inclusions. Moderate compaction.
203	Fill of 201. Dark brown-mid brown sandy silt, frequent gravel. Moderate compaction.
204	Fill of 201. Possible redeposited natural.
205	Same as 203.
206	Cut of steep sided linear feature, 0.8m x 3m long.
207	Fill of 206. Dark grey brown sandy silt. Firm compaction.
208	Fill of 206. Dark grey brown silt. Firm compaction.
209	Fill of 206. Redeposited natural.
210	Fill of 206. Redeposited natural.
211	Fill of 206. Similar to 207, very firm.
212	Cut of tree bole.
213	Fill of 212. Dark brown sandy silt, frequent gravel and compact.
214	Cut of pit, steep vertical sides, 0.5m wide x 0.2m deep.
215	Fill of 214. Mid brown sandy silt, loose compaction. Three possible packing stones.
216	Cut of pit, 0.5m wide by 0.3m deep.
217	Same as 215 but no packing stones.
218	Fill of 216. Mid brown sandy silt, moderate to loose compaction.
219	Cut of shallow scoop, max width 0.5m x 0.04 depth.

220	Black silt fill of 219.
221	Natural sand and gravel.
300	Topsoil, loam plough soil, 0.33/0.40m deep.
301	Natural sands and gravel.
400	Topsoil, loam plough soil, from 1.3m to 0.3m deep.
401	Possible grey clay natural, visible from 9m to 10.5m.
402	Small patch of grey silt visible in section.
403	Yellow-brown sand and gravel natural.
404	Cut of ditch feature, max width 0.8m x 0.65m x 1.25m long.
405	Sand lense, medium coarse.
406	Same as 405.
407	Sandy silt primary fill, 1% stone inclusions.

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Digital Frames</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
1	General view Trench 1.	N
2	Pre excavation, feature 201.	W
3	Pre excavation, feature 201.	W
4	Post excavation, feature 201.	W
5	Post excavation, linear feature 206.	SW
6	Detail of post excavation, linear feature 206.	SW
7	General view Trench 4.	NW
8	Pre excavation, feature 404.	NW
9	General view Trench 3.	SE
10	General view across site.	N

11	General view across site.	E
12	Pre excavation, butt-end of feature 212.	SW
13	Post excavation, feature 404.	NW
14	Post excavation, feature 212.	SW

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Drawing No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	1	Section of pit 201.	1:10
1	2	Section of linear feature 206.	1:10
1	3	Section of linear feature 404.	1:10
2	4	Plan of Trench 4.	1:50
3	5	Section of 212/214/216.	1:10
4	6	Plan of Trench 2.	1:50

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Gairneybridge
PROJECT CODE:	KR08
PARISH:	Cleish
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Kieran Haines
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	SUAT Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	Site centred on NT 1287 9860
START DATE	10-10-07
END DATE	11-10-07
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>SUAT Ltd was commissioned by John McNeeley of Carneil Homes to undertake an evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development. The proposed development is located in a green field site situated between Gairneybank Farm to the north and an existing housing estate to the south. To the east the site is bordered by the B996 road and to the west by the M90 motorway. The evaluation was requested as a number of archaeological sites are located within the vicinity of the proposed development, for example aerial photography has located prehistoric settlement remains and the site of an early historic cemetery.</p> <p>Four evaluation trenches were excavated in order to determine whether any archaeology was present in the development area. The results indicated that there were no significant archaeological features located in the development area; in fact only one small pit and an irregular shaped linear feature were located within. As a result SUAT recommended that further archaeological work is not required on the site. The evaluation was undertaken on the 10th and 11th October and the SUAT site code was KR08. Carneil Homes funded this evaluation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Carneil Homes.

CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	SUAT Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	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.