

SUAT Ltd

archaeological
contractors



**Archaeological Watching Brief
East Tempar (East)
KINLOCH RANNOCH**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
EAST TEMPAR (EAST)
KINLOCH RANNOCH**

KX04WB

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Illustration 1: *East Tempar site location plan*

Illustration 2: *Plan of Trenches and Features*

Illustration 3: *Sections of Features*

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ABSTRACT

Jennifer Skeaping and McKenzie Strickland Associates commissioned SUAT Ltd to undertake a watching brief at East Tempar, Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire. The work involved monitoring trenches dug within 20m of a cup marked rock. The trenches were excavated during the course of the conversion of the eastern part of the farm buildings into a dwelling house. The work was carried out on 13th of August 2008, and ground conditions were wet. The watching brief revealed a probable modern feature filled with black sand and a 19th century rubbish pit filled with pottery and glass.

The SUAT site code was KX04WB.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Jennifer Skeaping and McKenzie Strickland Associates commissioned SUAT Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at East Tempar, Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire. East Tempar is situated to the south of Dunalastair Water, approximately 3km south-east of Kinloch Rannoch. The NGR for this farmstead is NN 6911 5751. The work was given SUAT site code KX04WB.

The work was designed to satisfy the watching brief part of the archaeological condition on development application reference 06/00312/FUL, conversion of the east part of the farm buildings into a dwellinghouse.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of archaeological remains exposed in any trenches dug within a 20m radius of a cup marked rock (MPK240/NN65NE 8). It was particularly important to check if any of the rocks exposed during the trenching had cup marks.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on the watching brief required for the conversion of the eastern part of the farm buildings. Copies will be sent to the client and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust as well as being deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This programme of archaeological works is designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development. The approval of the planning application 06/00312/FUL is conditional on an archaeological watching brief being carried out on any excavations within 20m of the cup marked rock. The Terms of Reference for the work were set out by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

1.5 Acknowledgements

SUAT wish to thank Robert Black for his assistance and guidance throughout this project. Jennifer Skeaping funded this watching brief.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

East Tempar lies on gently sloping foothills overlooking Dunalastair Water to the north, and is overshadowed by Schiehallion to the south. The cup marked rock lies 16m to the west of the farm buildings in a flat yard enclosed to the north, west and south by dry stone dykes. Further to the west is another enclosure containing mature trees and a shed.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

A cup marked rock outcrop, with over 20 small cups, lies to the immediate west of East Tempar farmstead (MPK240). Cup marks are small hollows pecked into outcrops of rock or onto stones. They are often surrounded by pecked rings and date from the Neolithic period (*c* 4000 BC) to the Bronze Age (*c* 2000 BC). The function of prehistoric rock carving is unknown; many suggestions have been made, for example, to mark out good areas of pasture or to map the night skies. Cup marked stones and outcrops have been found in association or close proximity to ritual and funerary monuments (eg standing stones and cist burials) and so cup marks may have had ritual function.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Several trenches were excavated during the ongoing conversion of the eastern part of the farmstead into a dwelling house. These trenches, dug to the west of the farmstead, were monitored by a SUAT archaeologist, and archaeological features thus exposed were investigated by hand and recorded photographically and in detailed notes, and drawn at an appropriate scale in plan and section.

2.4 Results of Investigations

The digging of the trenches revealed several large stones and one large boulder which had to be avoided, but no traces of cup marks were found.

The excavation of a trench near the south-west corner of the farmstead revealed a section through a feature of modern appearance. This feature [03] had been cut steeply into the ground and had two fills, a light brown gritty clayey silt (04) and a black gritty compact sand (06). The black sand (06) appeared to fill a second cut [05] that had been made into (04). A sample of the black sand was retained though it contained no charcoal or organics. No finds were associated with this feature.

Excavation of the trench along the southwest–northeast stone dyke revealed a shallow pit cut steeply into the natural [08]. This feature was revealed in the north-west facing section of the trench and contained stones, porcelain and glass.

3 Interpretation

Water hampered the interpretation of feature [03] as the exact depth could not be gauged, however it is possible that this feature is part of a modern drain or soakaway channel.

Feature [08] seems to represent a 19th or early 20th domestic century rubbish pit, probably made by the people who lived at East Tempar.

4 Recommendations

As monitoring did not reveal any further cup marked stones and the two features that were encountered were probably both 19th or 20th century in origin, SUAT recommends no further work resulting from this watching brief. However, there is likely to be further watching brief when the conversion of the western part of the farm

buildings takes place. The final decision ultimately rests with Sarah Winlow the Perth and Kinross area Archaeologist.

5 Bibliography

Barton, T. *Historic Building Recording of East Tempar Farm Buildings Kinloch Rannoch*. 2007. SUAT Ltd. Unpublished grey literature report.

Winlow, S. *Terms of Reference for Standing Building Recording, Watching Brief and Fencing-off (MPK240). Conversion of steading into dwellinghouse including garage extension (east and west plots), East Tempar, Kinloch Rannoch*. 2006. Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust. Unpublished.

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Phase</i>
01	Turf	-
02	Dark brown silty loam with 20% angular/sub-angular stones 2-20cm dia. Topsoil.	-
03	Cut of linear feature. 0.85m + wide, 0.35m + deep (water level problematic).	Modern
04	A light brown stony gritty clayey silt which is cut by [05].	Modern
05	Cut of liner feature within (04). 0.55m wide, 0.25m + deep (water level problematic).	Modern
06	Fill of [05], a black compact sand (rounded).	Modern
07	Fill of 19th century pit. A mid brown sandy silt similar to topsoil. Many small stones (3-6cm dia) mixed in with pottery and glass were present at the west end.	19 th century
08	A shallow rubbish pit with a flat bottom. 0.45m deep, 4m long.	19 th century
09	A natural bright orange gritty, sandy deposit. 50% stones.	Natural
10	A natural dark reddish gritty, sandy deposit. 20% stones.	Natural

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Frames</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
KX04WB_001	Shot of section of feature [03].	W
KX04WB_002	Ibid.	W
KX04WB_003	Ibid.	NW
KX04WB_004	View of the trench near the SW corner of the farm buildings.	SE
KX04WB_005	Ibid.	SE
KX04WB_006	General shot of the developed land behind the steading.	SE
KX04WB_007	General shot of the site to south.	SW
KX04WB_008	Shot of the buffer zone round the cup marked rock and the trench with section of linear feature [03].	W
KX04WB_009	Shot of the site down the west side of the steading. The narrow trench leading from the door of the farm buildings can be seen.	NW

KX04WB_010	The narrow trench for the power cable on the west side of the farm buildings.	NW
KX04WB_011	The narrow trench for the power cable on the west side of the farm buildings. A large boulder was discovered in this trench.	NW
KX04WB_012	Ibid.	NW
KX04WB_013	The trench for the power cable near the NW corner of the farm buildings.	SE
KX04WB_014	Ibid.	SE
KX04WB_015	View of the trench cut next to the stone dyke north of the cup marked stone. Notice the bright orange natural.	SW
KX04WB_016	Ibid.	SW
KX04WB_017	Ibid.	SW
KX04WB_018	Ibid.	SW
KX04WB_019	Shot of the trench as it entered the enclosure and led up to the shed to the west of the site.	S
KX04WB_020	View of the trench cut next to the stone dyke north of the cup marked stone.	NE
KX04WB_021	Ibid.	E
KX04WB_022	View of the trench cut next to the stone dyke north of the cup marked stone as it turned a corner.	E
KX04WB_023	Shot of section of feature [03]. Two fills can be seen: black fill (06) and light brown fill (04).	W
KX04WB_024	Ibid.	W
KX04WB_025	Shot of the 19th century pit [08] full of ceramic waste which had been dug to the north of the cup marked stone and stone dyke. Notice how the west end has been filled with more stones. Two natural deposits can be seen in this photo, a lighter brown stony layer (09) and a darker gritty layer (10) underneath.	S
KX04WB_026	Ibid.	
KX04WB_027	General shot of the stone dyke north of the cup marked stone.	SW
KX04WB_028	General shot of the site around the cup marked stone.	S
KX04WB_029	Ibid.	S

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

Sheet No.	Description
1	Location of trenches, cup marked stone and features. Section of feature [03]
2	Section of 19 th century pit [08]

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Watching Brief at East Tempar, Kinloch Rannoch
PROJECT CODE:	KX04WB
PARISH:	Fortingall
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Tamlin Barton, MA
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	SUAT Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NN65NE 8
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	19 th century farmstead, cup marked stone, stone dyke
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NN 6911 5751
START DATE	13 August 2008
END DATE	13 August 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	SUAT site code KX04
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Jennifer Skeaping and McKenzie Strickland Associates commissioned SUAT Ltd to undertake a watching brief at East Tempar, Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire. The work involved monitoring trenches dug within 20m of a cup marked rock. The trenches were excavated during the course of the conversion of the eastern part of the farm buildings into a dwelling house. The work was carried out on 13th of August 2008 and ground conditions were wet. The watching brief revealed a probable modern feature filled with black sand and a 19th century rubbish pit filled with pottery and glass.</p> <p>The site code was KX04WB</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING	Jennifer Skeaping.

BODY:	
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	-
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.