

# Archaeological Evaluation

## North Balloch, Alyth, Perth and Kinross



Proposed site for new house looking East



31<sup>st</sup> January 2011

## **Introduction (Illus 1)**

This programme of archaeological works was carried out for Mr and Mrs Knox to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, as noted by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust in the Terms of Reference to Planning Application 10/01256/FLL dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010. It was undertaken by the author on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011 (site code NBL01); weather conditions were cold and damp.

## **Archaeological Background (Illus 2 and 3)**

The proposed development site lies within an area that is considered to have archaeological potential. Historic maps and documents suggest a castle stood on or close to the site now occupied by North Balloch farm. Archaeological monitoring during the redevelopment of the steading by SUAT Ltd in 2007 identified numerous worked and hewn stones clearly reused from this castle (Fyles and Hall 2007, 150). The exact location however remains unidentified and there is a possibility that it may have been situated within the development site.

## **Site Evaluation (Illus 4)**

Four trenches were opened across the proposed footprint of the new house and its associated drainage, three of these lay in the current garden area and the fourth lay in the field to the West.

### *Trench 1 (illus 5 and 6)*

This trench was aligned North to South and was 15m long by 2m wide. At its Northern end the natural clay and stones lay 0.20m below black topsoil (. At its Southern end natural light brown boulder clay and stones lay below 0.50m of black topsoil. No archaeological features, horizons or finds were located.

### *Trench 2 (illus 7 and 8)*

This trench was aligned North to South and was 16m long by 2m wide. At its Northern end natural clay and stones lay 0.17m below a deposit of black topsoil. At its Southern end natural clay and stones lay 0.56m below a deposit of black topsoil. A shallow linear foundation trench for the stone revetting wall which runs from East to West across this part of the garden was encountered cut into through the topsoil and into natural clay. No other archaeological features, horizons or finds were located.

#### *Trench 3 (illus 9 and 10)*

This trench was aligned North to South and was 15m long by 2m wide. At its Northern end natural clay lay 0.22m below a deposit of black topsoil. At its Southern end natural clay lay 0.57m below a deposit of black topsoil. No archaeological features, horizons or finds were located.

#### *Trench 4 (illus 11 and 12)*

This trench was aligned North to South and was 15m long by 2m wide. At its Northern end natural clay lay 0.40m below a deposit of black topsoil. At its Southern end natural clay lay at 0.70m below a deposit of black topsoil. No archaeological features, horizons or finds were located.

### **Conclusions**

All four trial trenches encountered natural light brown clay and stones below black topsoil at a shallow depth at the Northern end of the site or at a maximum depth of 0.70m at its Southern end. Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered.

### **Recommendations**

The 5% evaluation of the proposed housing plot located natural clay below a black topsoil with no sign of any archaeological features or deposits. There would appear to be no need for any further archaeological work prior to redevelopment, the final decision however rest with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

## References

Cartographic Sources (<http://www.nls.uk/maps>)

Stobie, James 1783 **A large scale map of Perth and Clackmannan**

**Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1843-1882.**

*Printed*

Fyles and Hall, C and D 2007 'North Balloch Steading, Perth and Kinross (Alyth parish), watching brief', *Discovery Excav Scot*, vol.8, 150

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Stuart the machine driver for his help with this evaluation.

## Illustration List

Illus 1 Site Location (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2010. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illus 2 Balloch 'Castle in ruins' marked on James Stobie's map of 1783 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illus 3 Site of castle as marked on 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illus 4 Trench location plan Scale 1:200

Illus 5 Trench 1 looking North

Illus 6 Trench 1 detail of natural clay below topsoil

Illus 7 Trench 2 looking North

Illus 8 Trench 2 detail of natural clay at Northern end

Illus 9 Trench 3 looking North

Illus 10 Trench 3 detail of natural clay at Northern end

Illus 11 Trench 4 looking North

Illus 12 Trench 4 detail of natural clay at Southern end

## **Full Photographic Archive**

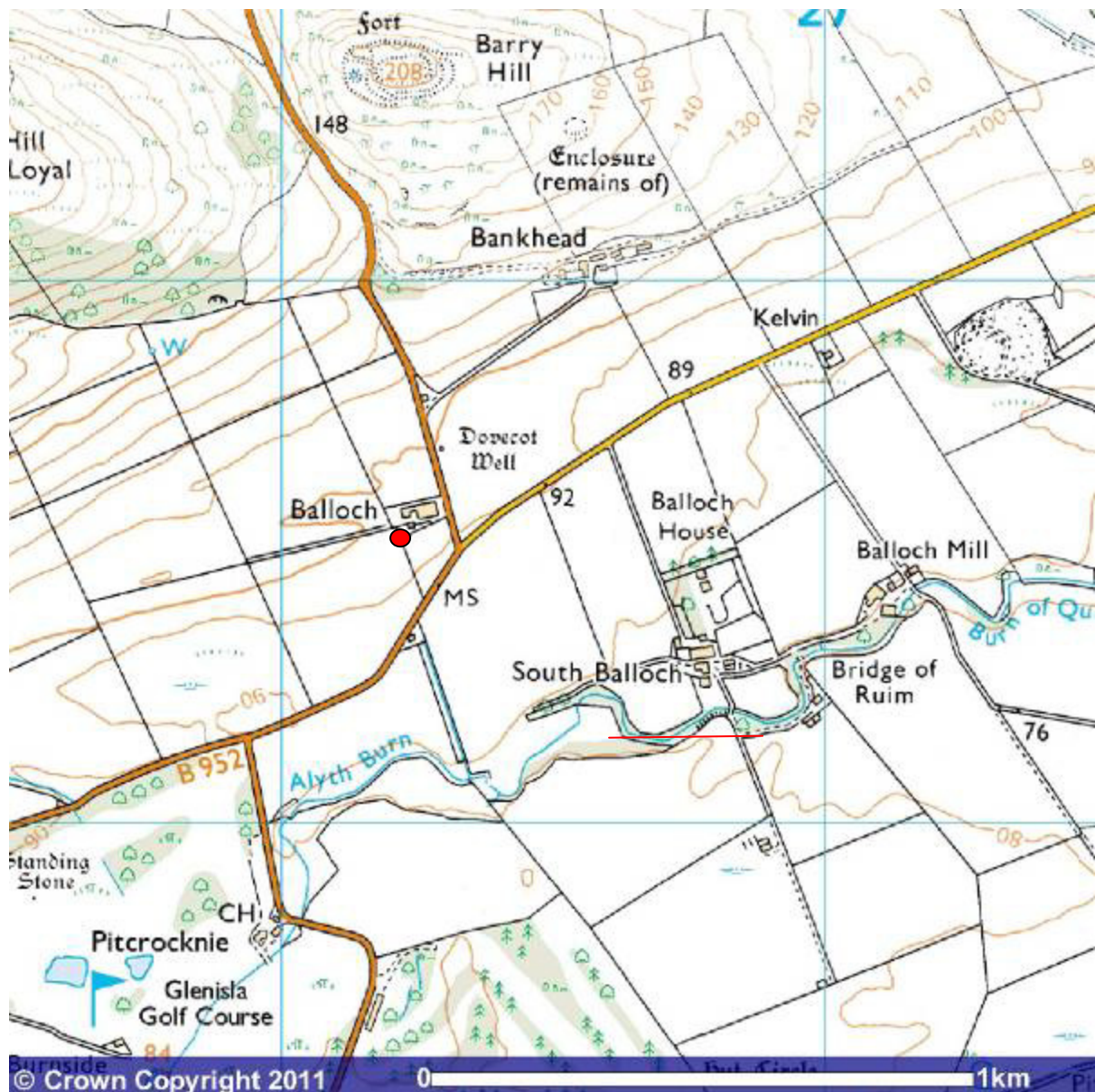
1. General view of garden area looking North East towards North Balloch Farmhouse.
2. Trench 1 looking North West (Barry Hill in background)
3. Trench 1 looking North
4. Trench 1 detail of natural clay at Southern end
5. General view of garden area looking South West
6. General view of site looking East
7. General view of site looking North East (Barry Hill in background)
8. General view of site looking East
9. General view of site looking North East
10. General of site looking East
11. General view of garden area looking South
12. As above looking South East
13. Trench 2 looking North
14. Trench 3 looking North
15. Trench 4 looking South
16. Trench 4 detail of natural clay at South end
17. Trench 4 looking North
18. General view of site looking East, Trench 4 in foreground
19. Trench 3 looking South
20. Trench 2 looking South
21. Natural clay at North end of Trench 2
22. Natural clay at North end of Trench 3
23. Natural clay at North end of Trench 1
24. Natural clay at Northern end of Trench 4
25. General view of site looking East
26. Trench 1 looking South

27. Trench 1 looking North

28. Trenches 1 to 3 looking North East

## Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	North Balloch
PROJECT CODE:	NBL01
PARISH:	Alyth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N024NE 24
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 26216 49540
START DATE	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
END DATE	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	<b>Fyles and Hall, C and D</b> (2007) 'North Balloch Steading, Perth and Kinross (Alyth parish), watching brief', <i>Discovery Excav Scot</i> , vol.8, 150
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Four trial trenches representing a 5% sample of the site of a new house in the vicinity of the possible site of Balloch Castle were opened by mechanical excavator. Natural light brown clay and stones was encountered in all four trenches below a black topsoil, nothing of archaeological interest was located.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr and Mrs Knox
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk



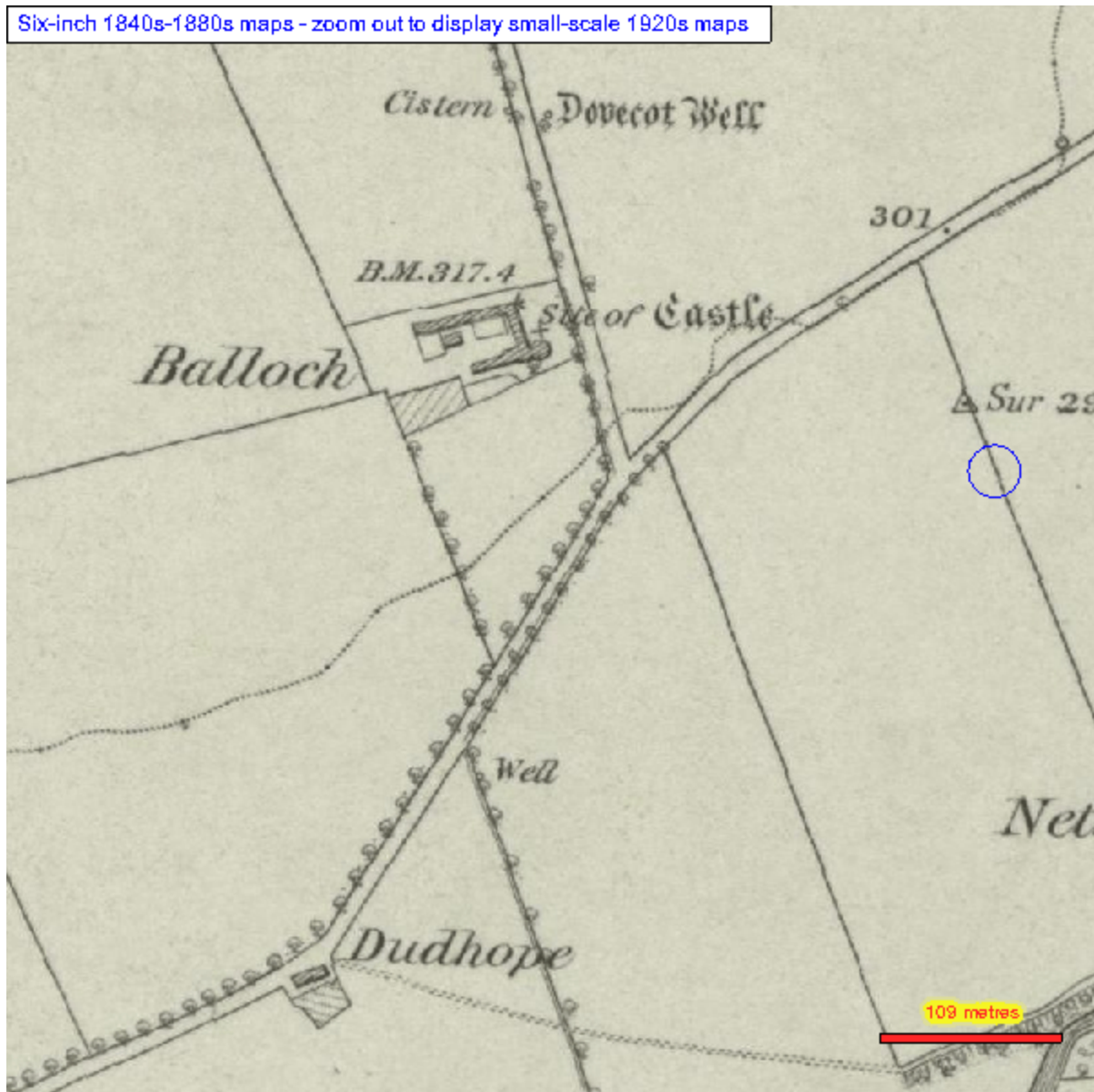
Illus 1 Site Location (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2010. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)



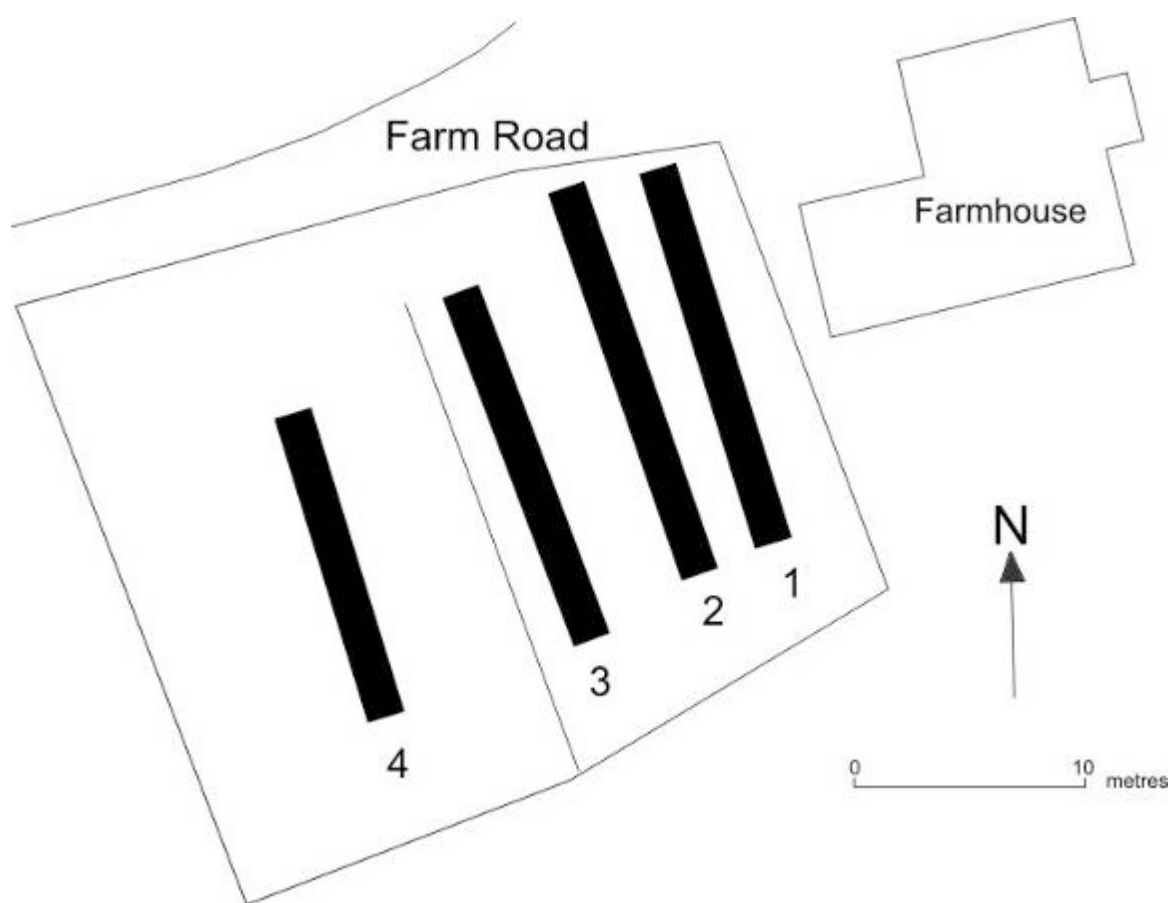


Illustration 2 Balloch 'Castle in ruins' marked on James Stobie's map of 1783 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Six-inch 1840s-1880s maps - zoom out to display small-scale 1920s maps



Illus 3 Site of castle as marked on 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



Illus 4 Trench location plan Scale 1:200



Illus 5 Trench 1 looking North





Illus 6 Trench 1 detail of natural clay below topsoil



Illus 7 Trench 2 looking North



Illus 8 Trench 2 detail of natural clay at Northern end





Illus 9 Trench 3 looking North





Illus 10 Trench 3 detail of natural clay at Northern end



Illus 11 Trench 4 looking North





Illus 12 Trench 4 detail of natural clay at Southern end