

Further Archaeological Evaluation
Proposed new house plot,
Adjacent to Marketknowe, Huntly Wood, Longforgan



Front of site looking North East (workshop in background)



11th March 2011

Introduction (Illus 1)

This further programme of archaeological works was carried out for Mr Andrew Leonard 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 10/01550/FLL dated 18th November 2010. It was undertaken by the author on Wednesday and Thursday 9th and 10th March 2011 (site code ROM02), weather conditions were cold and windy with bright sunshine.

Archaeological Background (Illus 2)

The development area is immediately adjacent to the Market Knowe (Scheduled Monument 2879), a possible large prehistoric burial cairn, locally known as the Roman Knowe. Recent research has identified the Market Knowe as being the 'Hundhil of Longforgan' the site of the Barony Court of Longforgan from at least the 14th century (O'Grady 2008). It is also claimed that the market of Longforgan took place at the Market Knowe until 1633 (Philip 1895). The Ordnance Survey Name Book of 1861 records the discovery of stone coffins in the vicinity of the Knowe however the exact location of these burials is unknown (OS Name Book 1861).

The first phase of archaeological evaluation on this site in December 2010 located a single stone built long cist to the rear of the standing workshop building in the footprint of the proposed new house and associated drainage (Hall 2010). Following this discovery it was recommended that a further phase of evaluation should be undertaken with the aim of stripping as much of the proposed new development plot as was feasible. Trench location was governed by the known location of live services, an overhead electrical cable and the canopy of a beech tree in Woodland Trust owned land under which no excavation was permitted (See Illus 3).

Site Evaluation (Illus 3-13)

Trench A (Illus 3-8, 13)

The northern half of the proposed new house plot and its associated drainage was stripped over an area measuring 16.5m from East to West and 9m from North to South. A layer of fairly compact grey hardcore (100) was located to a maximum depth of 0.10m. This layer of hardcore was machined off onto a layer of moderate grey brown silty clay (101) with occasional stones which had a maximum depth of 0.25m. This layer of silty clay directly overlay a natural subsoil (102) comprising an orange brown sandy clay with frequent stones. The long cist (Cist 1) located in the first phase site evaluation was re-exposed. Another smaller long cist (Cist 2) was revealed below layer 101 and cut into layer 102 at a distance 8.40m to the East of Cist 1. Cist 2 measured 1.15m in length and was 0.50m in width, it possessed a surviving capstone at its western end, the remainder of the feature was filled with a dark brown black silty clay with occasional stones (103). The stripped area was shovel scraped by hand and no other features were identified. At the end of this phase of evaluation both cists were covered with plastic and a thin layer of soil and gravel and their locations were marked with wooden stakes.

Trench B (Illus 9)

This trench was opened parallel to the Western gable end of the workshop building avoiding the line of a live electrical cable and measured 2.90m from North to South and 1.63m from East to West. A dark brown topsoil and stones 0.32m deep (100) overlay a natural subsoil comprising an orange brown sandy clay with frequent stones (102). No archaeological features were located.

Trench C (Illus 10 and 11)

This trench was opened parallel to the front of the standing workshop building and measured 21.80m East to West and 1.65m North to South. A dark brown topsoil and stones 0.20m deep (100) overlay a natural subsoil comprising an orange brown sandy clay with frequent stones (102). No archaeological features were located.

Trench D (Illus 12)

This trench was opened parallel to the Eastern gable end of the workshop building and measured 8m from North to South by 1.65m East to West. Tarmac and gravel 0.20m deep overlay a natural subsoil comprising an orange brown sandy clay with frequent stones (102). No archaeological features were located.

Conclusions

The discovery of two long cists would seem to tie in with the previous report of the discovery of cists at the site in the 19th century (OS Name Book 1861). The nature of these burials would seem to suggest that they are liable to be of an Early Historic or even Early Medieval date although long cists of an earlier date have been located elsewhere (Winlow 2010, 51).

Recommendations

Both long cists only lie at 0.35m below modern ground level and are liable to be disturbed or even destroyed by the proposed development work. It is recommended that both the long cists are fully excavated and recorded prior to any development work on the site, the final decision however rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

References

O'Grady, O 2008 **The Setting and Practice of Open Air assemblies in Medieval Scotland: A multi-disciplinary study** (submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow)

Philip, A 1895 **The Parish of Longforan A sketch of its church and people**

Winlow, S 2010 'Two new dates from two old investigations: a reconsideration of The Women's Knowe, Inchtuthil and Kingoodie Long Cist Cemetery, Invergowrie' *Tayside Fife Archaeol J* Vol 16, 48-56

Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge Oliver O'Grady for allowing him to consult his PhD thesis on assembly mounds and Jim Black and Mike the machine driver for their help and interest in the project.

Illustration List

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

Illus 2 Market Knowe as shown on 25" Ordnance Survey map (1855-1882) (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illus 3 Trenches A, B, C and D in relation to standing building and protected beech tree. Location of Cists 1 and 2 indicated.

Illus 4 Location of Cists 1 and 2 in relation to proposed footprint of new house Scale 1:300

Illus 5 Detail plan of long cist Scale 1:10

Illus 6 General view of trench A looking East (Cist 1 in foreground, Cist 2 beside ranging rod below spoil heap)

Illus 7 General view of Trench A looking East, Cist 2 visible to right of scale in trench, Cist 1 to right of mechanical excavator

Illus 8 Detail view of Cist 2 looking North

Illus 9 Trench B looking North East

Illus 10 General view of Trench C looking North East

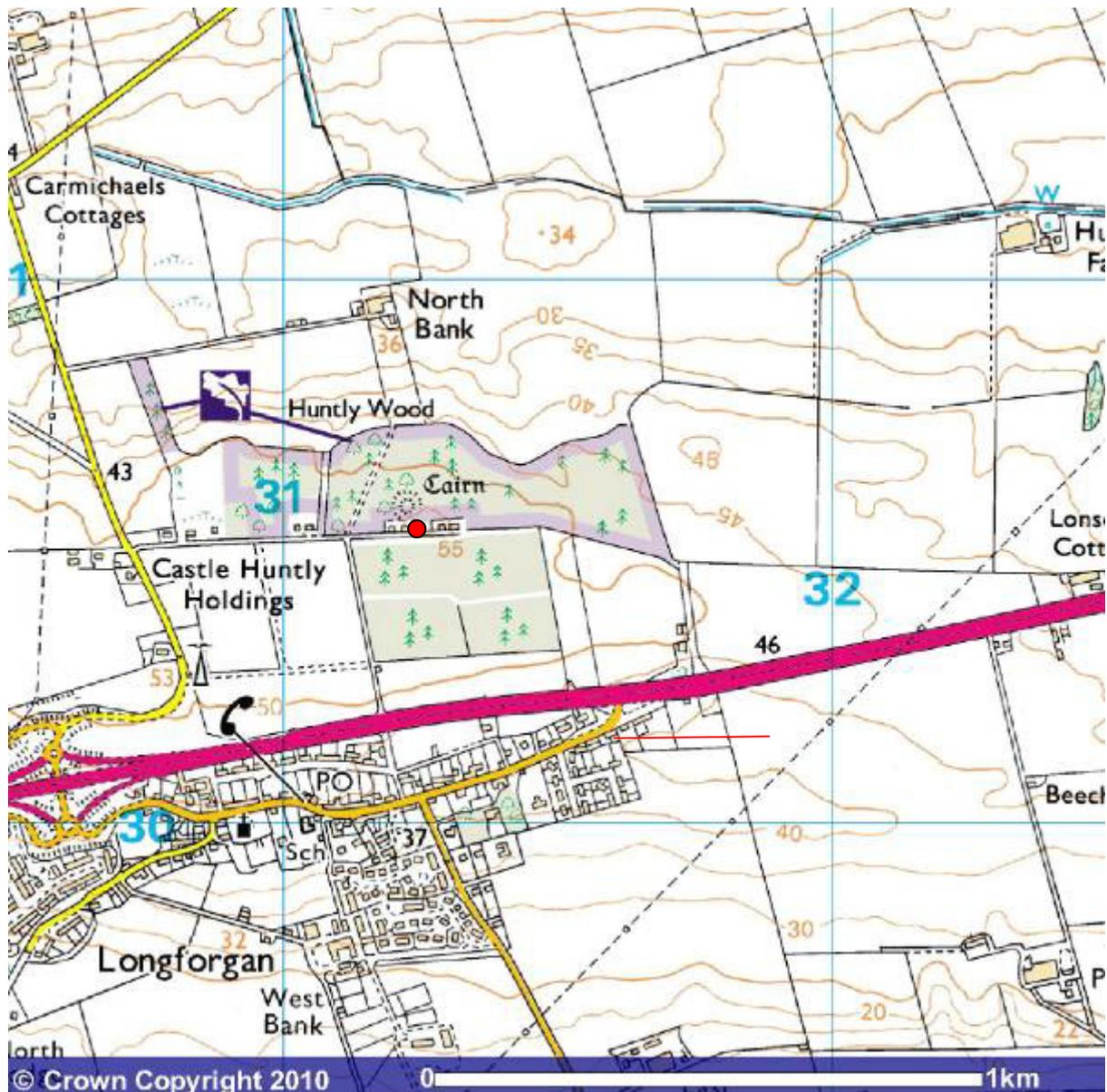
Illus 11 Trench C looking East showing natural subsoil below topsoil along its length

Illus 12 Trench D looking South showing natural subsoil along its length

Illus 13 Cist 1 and 2 covered with plastic and soil and staked out to enable location after backfilling of site

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Proposed house site adjacent to Marketknowe. Longforgan
PROJECT CODE:	LONG02
PARISH:	Longforgan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	In vicinity of putative burial cairn/assembly mound
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Long Cist
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 312 305
START DATE	10 th March 2011
END DATE	10 th March 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	First phase of evaluation December 2010
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	As much as was possible of the proposed house plot and drainage was machine stripped in an attempt to ascertain the number of cist burials on the site. A second long cist was located 8.40m to the E of the one recovered in the first evaluation at 0.35m below modern ground level. This cist was fully recorded and then covered with plastic and a layer of soil
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr and Mrs Todd
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

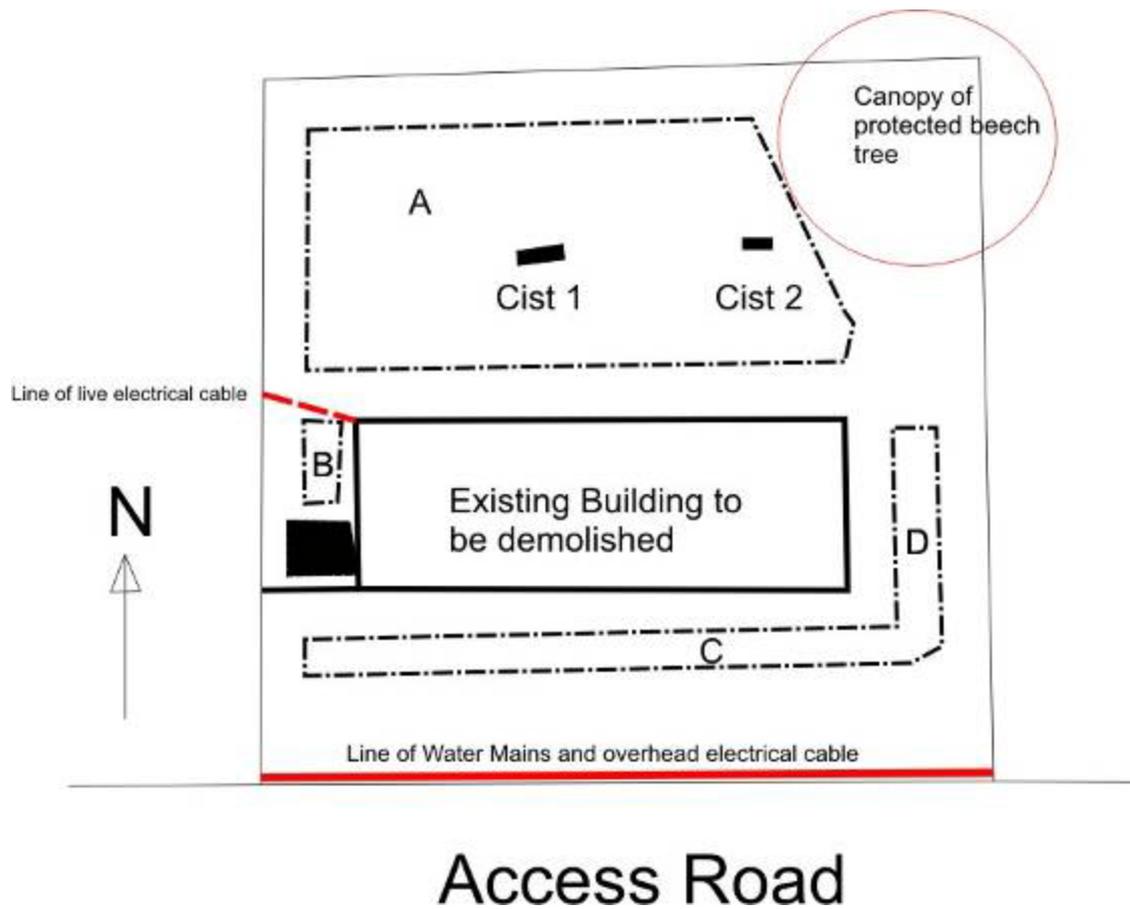


Illus 1 Site Location (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2010. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

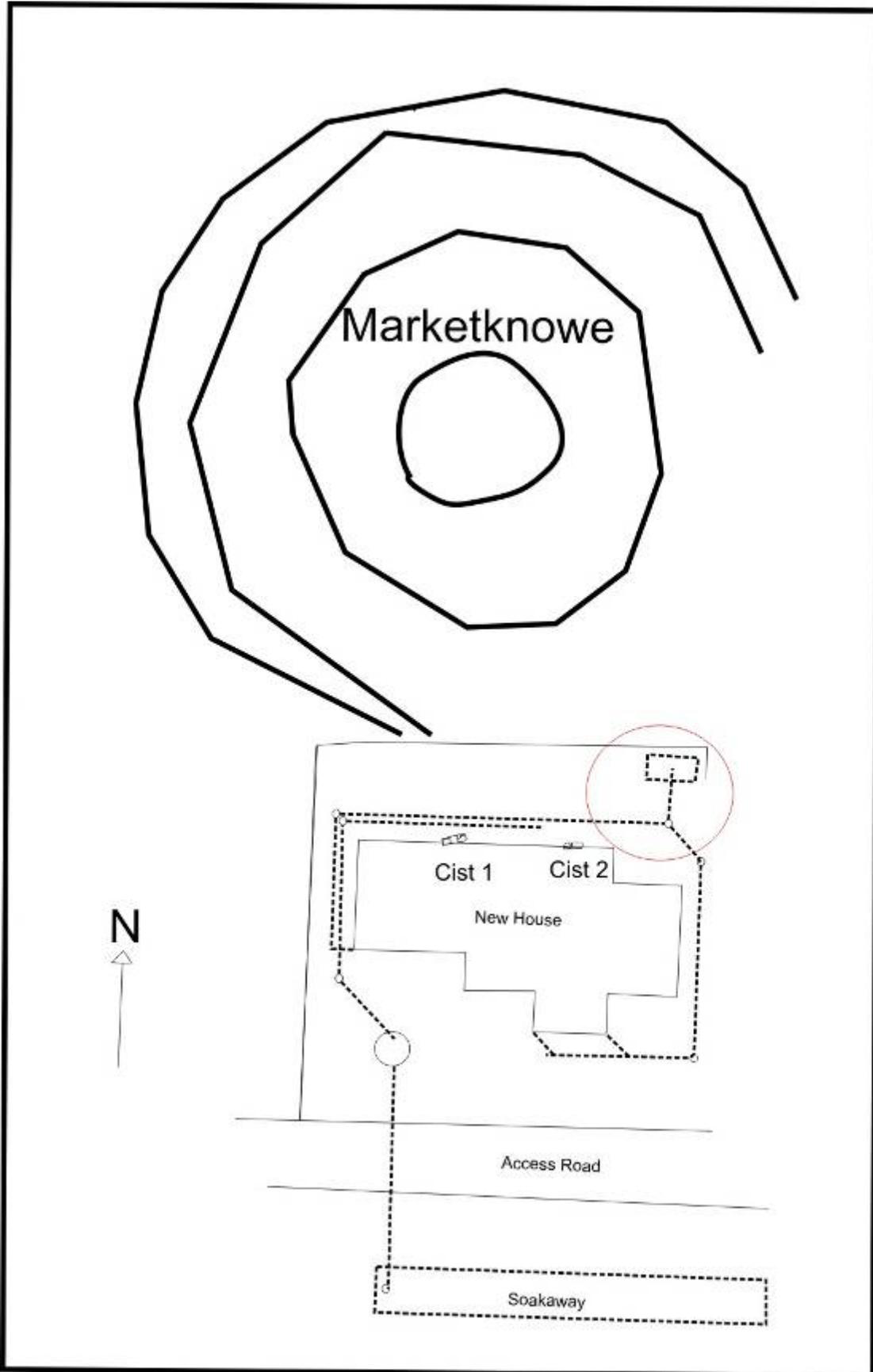
Six-inch 1840s-1880s maps - zoom out to display small-scale 1920s maps



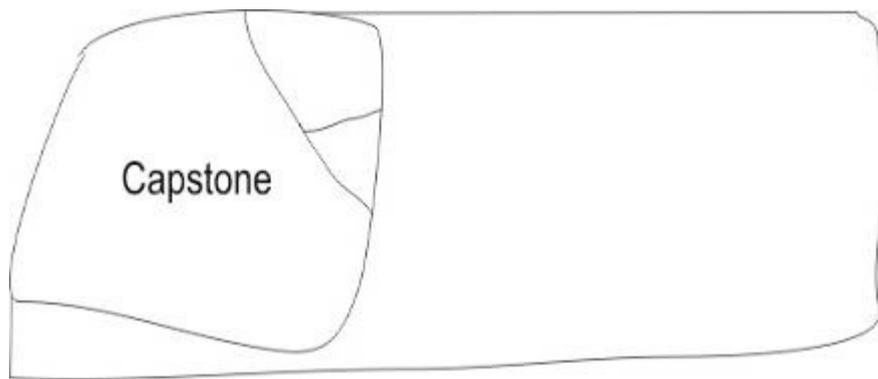
Illus 2 Market Knowe as shown on 25" Ordnance Survey map (1855-1882) (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



Illus 3 Trenches A, B, C and D in relation to standing building and protected beech tree. Location of Cists 1 and 2 indicated. Scale 1:300



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Illus 5 Detail plan of long cist Scale 1:10



Illus 6 General view of trench A looking East (Cist 1 in foreground, Cist 2 beside ranging rod below spoil heap)



Illus 7 General view of Trench A looking East, Cist 2 visible to right of scale in trench, Cist 1 to right of mechanical excavator



Illus 8 Detail view of Cist 2 looking North



Illus 9 Trench B looking North East, Marketknowe visible in background



Illus 10 General view of Trench C looking North East



Illus 11 Trench C looking East showing natural subsoil below topsoil along its length



Illus 12 Trench D looking South showing natural subsoil along its length



Illus 13 Cist 1 and 2 covered with plastic and soil and staked out to enable location after backfilling of site