

Archaeological strip, map and record
Clayholes
Carnoustie
ANGUS
CA09



Alder Archaeology Ltd
55 SOUTH METHVEN STREET
PERTH PH1 5NX
Tel: 01738 622393
Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP,
RECORD
CLAYHOLES
ANGUS
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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Stripped area of investigation

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Author Chris Fyles, MA, FSA Scot, PCIfA
Illustrator Chris Fyles, MA, FSA Scot, PCIfA
Editor David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MCIfA

ABSTRACT

An area measuring 240m² was stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision, in advance of the construction of a new switch room for Carnoustie Primary Substation. Lenses of rubble hardcore and decayed or carbonised vegetation were exposed, suggesting the recent presence of a compound or similar facility. No features of archaeological interest resulted.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record exercise on the site of a planned new switch room at Carnoustie Primary Substation, Balmachie Road, Clayholes. The planned development area is an open field alongside the substation, centred on NGR NO 55624 35384. The work (site code CA09) was undertaken on 14th December, 2020, in clear weather conditions. The requirement was to conduct a supervised topsoil strip of the entire development area, that is 240m².

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 20/00536/FULL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to record the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this strip, map and record exercise. Copies will be sent to the client, The National Record of the Historic Environment at Historic Environment Scotland, and Angus Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This strip, map and record exercise constitutes archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Lorna Williamson and Darrel Lindsay of SSEN for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. SSEN funded this strip, map and record exercise.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

Carnoustie Primary Substation is situated on the E side of Balmachie Road, at the S end of a row of housing to the E of Clayholes Farm. Carnoustie High School lies 250m to the SW, on the far side of a newly-constructed playing field. The area is located on the NW outskirts of Carnoustie. The land to be developed lies immediately to the SE of the substation and is currently open pasture, generally level but eventually sloping down towards a watercourse to the NE of the site.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The development area lies close to several sites of archaeological significance. To the NW of the area, aerial photography in 2000 recorded several cropmarks around NO

55500 35600 (NO53NE 62), probably representing a prehistoric pit alignment, medieval rig and furrow and an unenclosed settlement of uncertain date.

In 2016/17, an evaluation, watching brief and excavation conducted by GUARD Archaeology Ltd (NO53NE 132) in an area to the SW of the present development off David Moyes Road (centred on NO 55570 35219) resulted in 14 prehistoric structures and 28 prehistoric pit groups being recorded, many containing frequent lithics and potsherds and dating from the Early Neolithic through to the Late Bronze Age. Close to one of the structures, a Late Bronze Age hoard was recovered, consisting of a gold decorated bronze spearhead, a bronze sword with scabbard fittings and a swan's neck disc-headed pin. Rig and furrow was also recorded across the wider excavation.

Subsequent to this, an evaluation and watching briefs by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd (NO53NE 135) on land off Balmachie Road to the S of the development area (centred on NO 55660 35190) recorded pits and postholes and a six-post rectangular structure of probable prehistoric origin, along with a small quantity of prehistoric pottery.

2.3 Archaeological Method

A rectangular area measuring 30.00m NE-SW x 8.00m NW-SE (240m²), comprising the new building footprint and surroundings, was stripped of topsoil by a JCB excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was conducted under close archaeological supervision and proceeded down to undisturbed natural subsoil. A 3.00m wide strip was left between the substation fence and the edge of the stripped area, due to a CAT scanner indicating the presence of a cable or pipe.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Topsoil (101) was a uniform mid-brown, moderately compact ploughsoil with infrequent stones and occasional sherds of porcelain (not retained), averaging 0.40m thick at the SW end of the site, thinning to 0.15m around the midpoint on the NW long side (close to the substation fence), 0.30m thick at the NE end and SE long side. Natural subsoil (102) was an orange glacial sand at either end, with smooth yellow beach sand in the middle. Very occasional sub-rounded stones were scattered across the site.

Intermittent lenses of mixed rubble and gravel hardcore (103) were present across the site at the base of the topsoil; these were generally around 0.10m thick and frequently overlay lenses of black organic matter (104) of approximately the same thickness. This appeared to be a mixture of carbonised and decayed vegetation and contained occasional fragments of plastic pipes, bottles and bags, glass and drinks cans. In other areas, particularly on the NW side of the site, the topsoil terminated in parallel modern plough marks.

The evidence suggests that something like a site compound or storage dump, perhaps connected with the construction of the substation, may have stood on the site. The entrance to the field was extensively reinforced with gravel hardcore, with terram textile below this.

No features of archaeological interest were exposed during the strip.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

Alder Archaeology consider that the strip, map and record exercise was conducted correctly and do not recommend further work in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service, as curators of archaeology in Angus.

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
101	Topsoil, mid-brown silt, moderately compact, infrequent stones, 0.40m thick (SW end of site) – 0.15m thick (centre of site, NW side) – 0.30m (NE end of site)
102	Subsoil, orange glacial sand, moderately compact (SW and NE end of site), merging with smooth yellow beach sand, moderately compact (centre of site)
103	Intermittent lenses of crushed rubble and gravel hardcore, average 0.10m thick, spread across stripped area at base of topsoil
104	Intermittent lenses of mixed carbonised and decayed vegetation, average 0.10m thick, spread across stripped area below hardcore 103

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
1-3	Location shots, area to be stripped and substation	NW, N
4-5	Location shots, Carnoustie High School and playing field from site	S, SW
6-8	Location shots, housing at junction of Balmachie and David Moyes roads	SE, S
9-10	Location shots, area to be stripped, from field entrance	NE
11-23	Working shots, topsoil strip	NE, E
24-28	Hardcore (103), samples	NE, SE
29-31	Lens of organic matter (104)	SE
32	Location shot, lens of (104)	NW
33	Lens of organic matter (104)	NW
34-35	Lens of (104), half-sectioned	NW
36	Location shot, lens of (104), half-sectioned	NW
37	Working shot, topsoil strip	SE
38-40	Hardcore (103), sample	NE
41-43	Working shots, topsoil strip	NE
44-50	Hardcore (103) overlying organic matter (104) in NE end of stripped area	NE
51	Working shot, topsoil strip	NE

52-53	Crushed drinks can dragged from hardcore (103)/matter (104), not in situ	NE
54-58	Working shots, topsoil strip	NE
59-61	Organic matter (104) below hardcore (103) in NE end of stripped area	NE
62-67	Bases of modern ploughmarks on NW side of stripped area	NE
68-71	Working shots, topsoil strip	NE
72-73	Sample NE-facing section/SW baulk of stripped area, with terram and hardcore	SW
74	Sample NW-facing section/SE baulk of stripped area	SE
75-76	Lens of (104) against SE baulk	SE
77	Lens (104), middle of site	NW
78	Location shot, lens of (104)	NW
79-84	Working shots, topsoil strip, NE end of site	SE
85	Working shot, topsoil strip	NE
86	Box section through (104) against baulk	SE
87-91	Working shots, topsoil strip	NE
92-98	Stripped area, post-ex	NE, SW

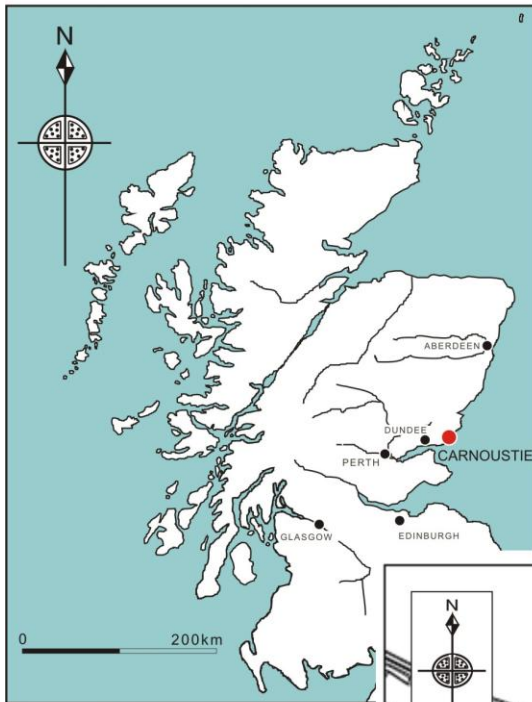
Appendix 3 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Clayholes
PROJECT CODE:	CA09
PARISH:	Carnoustie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Strip, map, record
NMRS NO(S):	NO53NE 62, 132, 135
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Rig & furrow, hoard (Bronze Age), pit groups (prehistoric), pottery scatters (prehistoric), structures (prehistoric)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 55624 35384
START DATE (this season)	14 th December, 2020
END DATE (this season)	14 th December, 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Evaluation, excavation, WB (<i>DES</i> vol. 18, 2017)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An area measuring 240m ² was stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision, in advance of the construction of a new switch room for Carnoustie Primary Substation. Lenses of rubble hardcore and decayed or carbonised vegetation were exposed, suggesting the recent presence of a compound or similar facility. No features of archaeological interest resulted.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	SSEN
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
EMAIL ADDRESS:	director@alderarchaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	HES (intended)

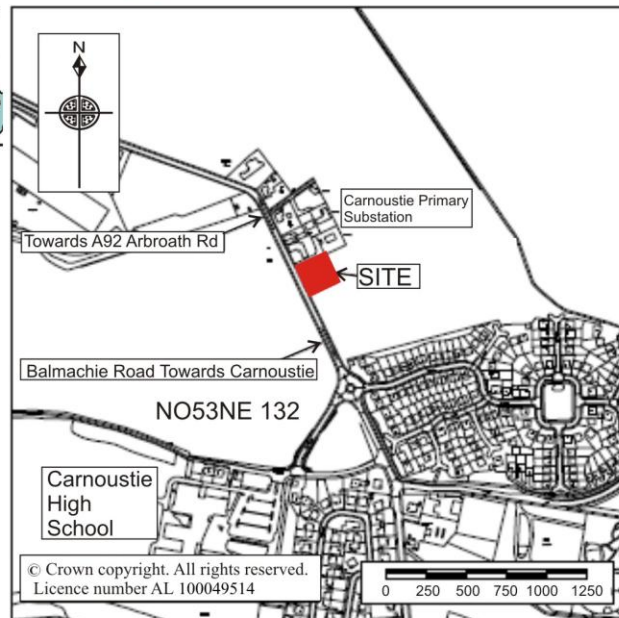
Illus 1

Carnoustie Primary Substation Extension

Site Location



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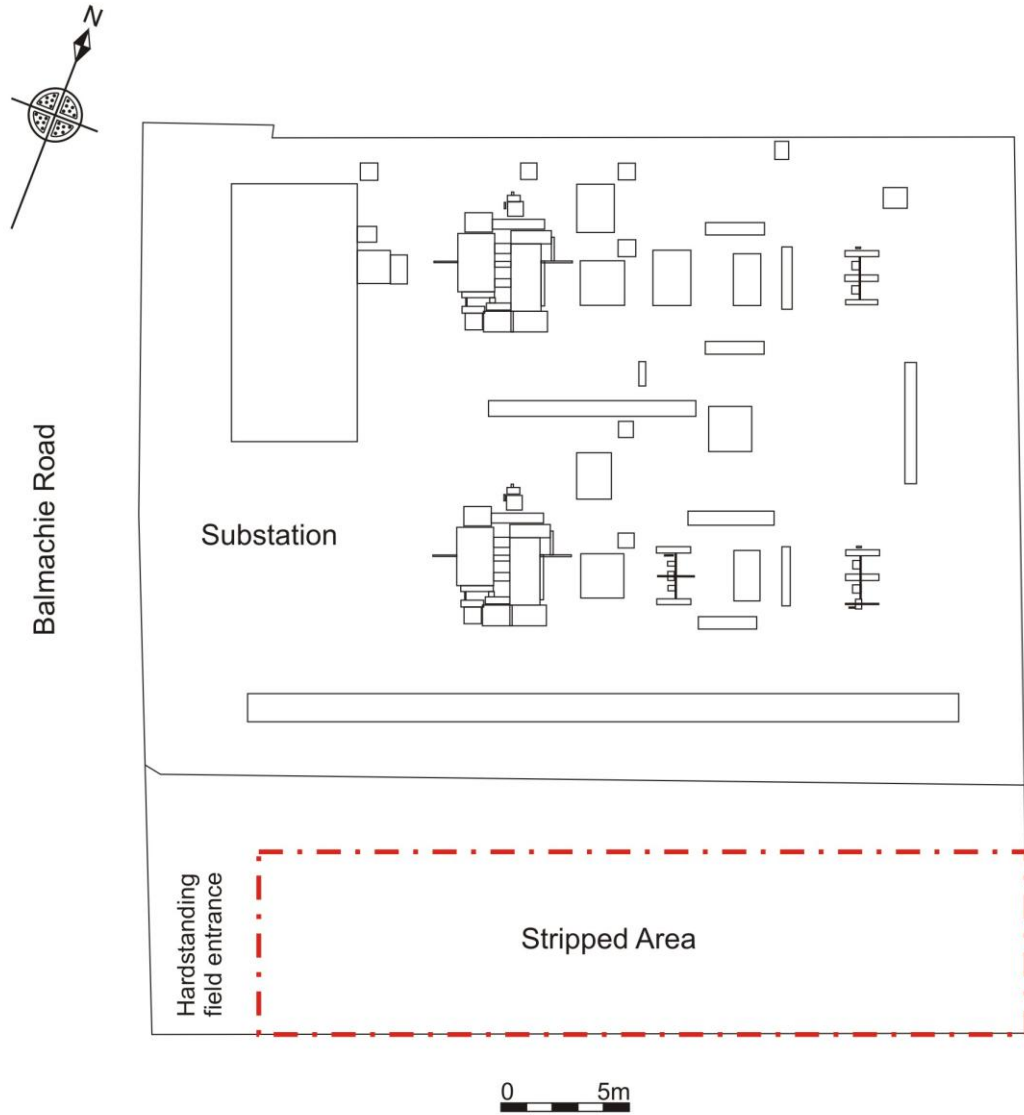
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Illus 2

Stripped area of investigation



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