

Archaeological Building Recording
Pittiely Burn
ABERFELDY

AF12



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AF 12

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Illustration 1: Site location plan

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Illustration 3: Proposed fence line Pittiely Burn, Aberfeldy.

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological building recording exercise was carried out by Alder Archaeology Ltd in advance of the development of a site at Pittiely Burn near Aberfeldy. The proposed development plan for the site called for the demolition of two ruinous drystone structures in the south east of the site to make way for a new dwelling house. A photographic survey was carried out to record the historic character of these structures and to provide a basic record prior to their demolition.

This work (site code AF12) was carried out on the 22nd August 2013. The other remains on the site, including all the other farmstead buildings, the lime kilns and the cup marked stone, are to be preserved during the development and to this end a protective fence has been placed around them. The line of this fence was designed by Alder Archaeology (with input from the developer) and approved by PKHT. David Wilson, the site developer, funded this work.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

David Wilson commissioned Alder Archaeology Ltd to undertake archaeological building recording at Pittielly Burn farmstead in advance of the construction of a new dwelling house on the site. The site is centred on NGR NN 8772 4818. The work (site code AF12) was undertaken on 22nd August 2013 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to record two structures in the SE of the site which were to be demolished by the proposed development.

In addition to this requirement it was stipulated that the remaining farmstead structures were to be preserved during the development. This was to be achieved by the erection of a protective fence around the other farmstead remains. The plan for the fence was drawn up by Alder Archaeology Ltd after consultation with the developer (Illus 3 shows the proposed plan that was subsequently accepted by PKHT). After this plan was approved by PKHT, the fence was erected by the developer and subsequently checked by Alder Archaeology during a monitoring visit.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological conditions on development, application reference 13/00187/FLL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to record the historic character of the buildings and to form a basic record of the structures to be demolished by the development. In addition to this first aim there was the requirement to fence-off the other remains on the site including the cup-marked stone and the lime kilns in the S of the site.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on the archaeological building recording. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and PKHT.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

The archaeological building recording exercise together with the fencing to protect additional remains forms the final part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological conditions on the planning consent for this development. Condition 3 on the consent requires that building recording be carried out and condition 4 is for the fencing-off of archaeological remains in advance of and during the development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the developer David Wilson, who also funded the work, for his assistance during the project. Sarah Winlow produced the terms of reference for this project on behalf of PKHT.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The site is located approximately 2 km SE of Aberfeldy on the A826. It is situated on a NW facing slope above Pittiely Burn at an elevation of approximately 260m OD. In terms of topographical positioning the main farmstead structures occupy an area of slightly flatter ground in what is otherwise sloping terrain. The farmstead comprises a series of ruinous drystone structures, both buildings and enclosure walls. The main farmstead buildings are in the N of the site and these are associated with an inner and outer enclosure (see Illus 2). In the NE part of the site there are a further three smaller structures and in the SE of the site are the two structures that are to be demolished and have been recorded.



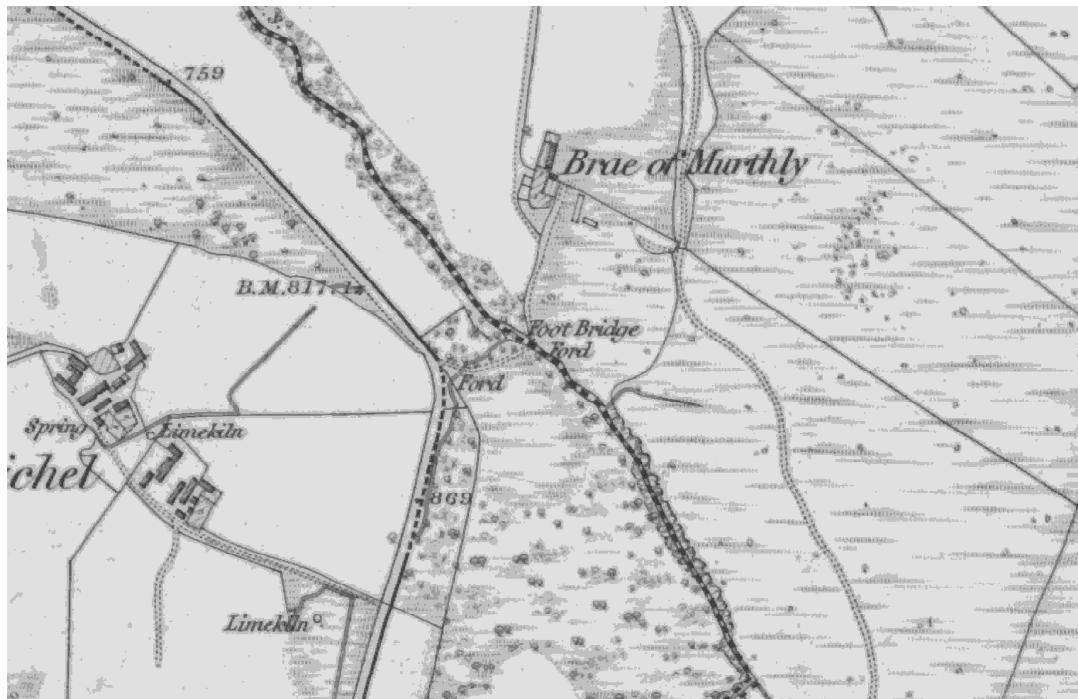
Looking over the farmstead from the higher ground in the E of the site

To the E of the farmstead the ground slopes up gradually towards the eastern boundary of the site. Numerous small rock outcrops can be found upslope of the farmstead illustrating that bedrock is close to the surface in many parts of the site. The lime kilns are located approximately 100m directly S of the main farmstead on steeper slopes above the Pittiely Burn (at approximately 256m OD).

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The farmstead at Pittiely Burn, known as 'Brae of Murthly', appears on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch map (Ordnance Survey 1862). This map shows an arrangement of buildings and enclosure walls similar to what can be observed on the ground today. This map shows several things about this settlement that are of interest for the purposes of this report. Firstly, two of the main farmstead buildings are shown as being roofed. The two structures in the SE of the site are depicted but they are not shown as being roofed or indeed having internal divisions. The three structures in the NE part of the site are not shown on this map at all.

The survey for the 2nd edition 6 inch maps (Ordnance Survey 1901) took place in 1899. By this time the settlement, which is not named on the later map, seems to have gone out of use to judge by the lack of roofed buildings recorded in this survey. Enclosures are depicted on the map in the location of the farmstead. The two structures in the SE of the site are illustrated and once again the structures in the NE are not shown.



An extract from the 1st Edition OS map showing Brae of Murthly

It is clear from the map evidence that the settlement known as Brae of Murthly predates the first Ordnance Survey mapping in the 1860's though by how much is not possible to say. This settlement went out of use in the later part of the 19th century prior to the 1899 resurvey. The buildings in the SE part of the site are shown on both OS editions but these maps don't record any other information about the function of these structures.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Photography was carried out with an Olympus E-510 digital SLR. The photographic survey was carried out using the following method. General views of the site were taken including images which showed the surveyed structures in their context. This was followed by closer and detailed views. One metre long ranging rods proved to be appropriate for use in this work with a 0.5m black and white scale used to highlight smaller features. The time of year that the survey was carried out provided for excellent lighting conditions.

A series of measurements and observations were made to add to the detail already recorded on the site survey (Illus 2). Although not originally made for this purpose the site survey contains a good level of detail about the surviving archaeological remains. For this reason it made an ideal base plan for the archaeological building recording.

In order to assist with the survey the developer removed thick vegetation from the S end of the larger building. This previously obscured much of the remains in this area.

2.4 Results of Investigations

What follows here is a general description of each structure followed by a discussion of features in more detail. Detailed descriptions of features have also been recorded in Appendix 1 Photographic Register.

2.4.1 The N-S aligned structure

General

This building is rectangular in plan measuring approximately 23.9m in length and approximately 5.8m in width. It is located on an area of gently sloping ground in the SE part of the farmstead at approximately 265m OD. This building is located approximately 17m SE of the other buildings of the farmstead. Some very faint traces of buried structures (approximate extent marked on Illus 2) are present in the area between the enclosure wall and this building. These are almost completely covered over with turf, hiding all detail of the shape of these remains. The presence of bedrock outcrops in this area also makes it difficult to identify archaeological features.

A NW-SE aligned drystone wall passes very close to the N end of this structure. Two phases of construction were identified in the survey, with a later addition butting up against the S wall of the original rectangular building. This original building is divided into three separate spaces; two square rooms in the N and a larger rectangular space. Turf has grown over much of the interior and some of the walls of this building, obscuring internal detail. This fact together with large spreads of rubble means that it is difficult, in many cases, to identify features such as entrances.



Looking S along the length of the larger building

This structure and indeed all the others on the site are constructed in drystone using locally occurring grey granite stone of varying shapes and sizes. White quartz inclusions are present in much of this granite and this is the same type of rock that outcrops slightly upslope from the site (as marked on Illus 2). Some massive stones have been employed as corner stones but neither these, nor any other of the building material, has been dressed in any way.

The two square rooms at the N end of the structure

The square room at the N end of the structure is quite heavily overgrown on its W side obscuring the wall lines and some of the collapsed rubble in the interior. The walls survive to a maximum of 0.8m. In terms of internal dimensions the room measures approximately 4m by 4m. It is difficult to gauge accurate wall thicknesses because of the presence of so much rubble and this factor also prevents the identification of an entrance in this part. The N end of the building is only 1m from the drystone wall which crosses the site NW-SE (shown on Illus 2).

The other small square room is slightly better preserved than the room at the N end with the result that it is possible to get a better indication of wall thicknesses. The external walls were found to be approximately 1m wide. The internal wall that divides these two square rooms survives to a height of 0.9m and is approximately 0.65m thick. The room is again overgrown with grass and this prevents the identification of internal details.

The main rectangular room

This room measures approximately 7.9m in length by 3.9m in width. The best preserved of the walls are at the S end of this room where they survive to a height of approximately 1m. The site survey shows an entrance in the NE corner of this room close to the partition wall defining the adjacent square shaped room. Rubble collapse and vegetation growth make it difficult to be precise about the width of this feature although it appears to be at least 1.5m wide. A large amount of rubble was noted against the external wall face on the W side of the building. This was initially obscured by vegetation but this was subsequently removed to assist in the survey.

The square addition to the S end of this building

The turf has not grown over this structure to the same extent as in the rest of this building. For this reason more of the wall structure and internal rubble collapse is visible. The N wall of this structure butts up against the S wall of the existing building indicating that this is a later addition. This structure is also narrower than the existing building being 4.4m wide instead of 5.7m. The S gable of this room is constructed of some large boulders, the largest of these being the quoins which are up to 1.1m in length and 0.6m in width.



The S gable of the N-S aligned building

2.4.2 The E-W aligned structure

This is located just to the E of the N-S aligned building and together they form an L-shaped arrangement when seen in plan (see Illus 2). The whole building is in a ruinous state and is overgrown in places with rough grass. The presence of thick turf at the W end of the building makes it particularly difficult to trace the line of the gable wall. In terms of its layout the building is formed of two spaces, a larger rectangular room at the W end (measuring approximately 9.1m in length and 4.1m in width) and a smaller rectangular space at the E end with a length of 2.8m and a width the same as the main structure.

The maximum height that the walls survive to is 0.8m, a similar level of preservation to that seen in the N-S aligned building. The same techniques of drystone construction were used for this structure as recorded for the N-S aligned building. In general terms it could be said that the level of preservation of this structure was very similar to that seen in the neighbouring larger building. A very heavily overgrown and indistinct wall was observed near the E end of this structure. The line of this wall has been picked up on the site survey (Illus 2).



Looking E along the length of the smaller building

2.4.3 A note of the likely preservation of archaeological deposits at this farmstead

It has been noted that bedrock is close to the surface in many parts of the site. We might therefore expect only a shallow build up of soils and sediments in many parts of the site, a factor which probably lessens the chances for the overall preservation of archaeological deposits. However, the preservation of archaeological deposits within the structures seems possible, especially in the areas which are enclosed by surviving walls.

In this context it is worth discussing the area around the well head bedside the main farmstead structure (marked on Illus 2). Here the presence of waterlogged ground may have increased the chances of good archaeological preservation. It should be noted that the spring and environs are within the protective fencing and as such are to be preserved during the development of the site.

3 Interpretation

Both the N-S and the E-W structures are shown on the 1st Edition OS map as unroofed buildings. They may have been roofed at some point but no traces of this have survived. With the possible exception of the small square addition at the S end of the N-S structure these buildings are in a very ruinous state. They are more poorly preserved than the other farmstead buildings a short distance to the NW, suggesting that they may have been earlier constructions. They were, however, still in use in the 1860's unlike the structures in the NE of the site which were not recorded on the 1st Edition map. In an unroofed state the L-shaped configuration of buildings could have been used as stalls for animals.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

Alder Archaeology Ltd carried out a monitoring visit on 02nd September 2013 to check the fence line erected by the developer against the approved plan (Illus 3). This visit confirmed that the fence had been erected in the specified location. The developer will maintain the fence throughout the development process. No further archaeological work is necessary in connection with this development.

5 Bibliography

Ordnance Survey, 1867 Six inch map 1st edition Perthshire Sheet XLIX, survey date 1862.

Ordnance Survey, 1901 Six inch map 2nd and later editions Perth and Clackmannan Sheet XLIX.SE, survey date 1899.

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scales</i>	<i>Facing</i>
	22nd July 2013		
	General views		
001	Looking down the track towards Pittiely Burn	-	SSW
002	Looking towards the farmstead from the track. The large Oak tree is beside the outer enclosure wall.	-	NNE
003	Large pile of field stone in the S of the site. Extent is marked 'Boulders' on the site survey.	-	NE
004	Looking down access road towards new burn crossing.	-	S
005-6	The area of the lime kilns and the bank formed by the cutting of the access road.	-	NE
007-8	The new crossing of Pittiely Burn and the newly formed access road.	-	SW
009-10	Area identified as containing the lime kilns	-	E
011	Looking along W boundary of farmstead from NW corner of site	-	S
012	Looking across farmstead buildings that are to be protected from N boundary of site	-	SW
013-14	The farmstead from a distance with small cluster of buildings in the NE part of the site in the foreground.	-	W
015	The structures in the SE of the site which were recorded. Note vehicles are on the track which goes through the centre of the site.	-	SW
016-17	Looking downslope at the farmstead from the wall that forms the E boundary of the site. Note cabins in the foreground are on an area of ground that has been levelled.	-	W
018	Looking upslope from the farmstead towards the E boundary of the site. The structures in the NE part of the site are in the foreground.	-	E
019-20	Looking S across the farmstead remains that are to be protected during this development.	-	S
021-022	The cup marked stone on the edge of the well. Note several cup marks are clearly visible on this stone.	1m	SW
023-24	Further images of the cup marked stone.	1m	SE
	General shots of the group of structures in SE part of site		

025	Looking down slope towards the structures to be surveyed	-	NW
026-28	Looking across the group of structures to be surveyed. Note vehicle is on the track that crosses the site.	-	NNW
029-30	Looking along indistinct wall line marked on site survey that terminates at NE corner of surveyed structures.	-	NW
031-32	Standing at NE corner of structures looking along indistinct wall line. Note rock outcrops in background are located on survey.	-	SE
033-34	E end of the smaller of the two structures.	-	WNW
035-36	South wall of smaller structure.	-	N
037-38	Looking along smaller E-W aligned structure. This WNW-ESE aligned structure has a maximum length of 11.8m. It is comprised of a larger rectangular structure and a much smaller addition at the E end. The length of the main structure is 9.1m. The maximum width of the structure is ~4.1m. The whole structure is heavily overgrown and collapsed. For this reason it is very difficult to trace the wall lines at the W end of the main structure.	-	E
039-40	N wall of E-W aligned structure.	-	S
041-42	Showing E side of larger N-S aligned structure. The total length of this structure is 23.9m a measurement that includes the addition at the S end. The width of the rectangular room at the S end is 5.7m with a width of 5.8m measured at the N end. The later addition in the S is narrower, being 4.4m wide.	-	W
043-44	S gable of N-S aligned structure. Note vegetation has been cleared away from this part of the building to aid in the survey work.	-	N
045-46	W side of N-S aligned structure. Note small Rowan tree is growing in the SW corner of the structure.	-	E
047-48	N gable of the N-S aligned structure and in front the drystone wall that crosses the site.	-	S
	Detailed shots of the N-S structure		
049-50	Drystone wall which crosses the site on a NW-SE alignment. Max width ~0.9m, max height ~0.5m.	Black and white 0.5m scale	SE
051-52	W elevation of the N room of the N-S aligned structure. The room is square in plan (approx 4m in internal dimension) and is very heavily overgrown particularly on the W side. Walls survive to a max of 0.8m. The entrance may have been on the W side though its difficult to be sure. The N end of the structure is only 1m from NW-SE boundary wall.	2x1m	E
053-54	E elevation of N room of the main structure.	2x1m	W
055	Internal wall separating the N room from the second square room in this structure surviving to a max height of 0.9m.	2x1m	N
056-57	Internal wall face of E elevation within second square room at N end of structure. Slightly better preserved than N room but still very overgrown inside. Internal dimensions approx 3.8m. Max surviving height of external walls 0.6m.	2x1m	E

	The partition wall between this room and the adjacent rectangular one is in very poor condition.		
058-59	E elevation of rectangular room within main N-S aligned structure. This room is approx 3.9m wide and 7.9m long. The best preserved walls are at the S end with the internal part being heavily overgrown and strewn with rubble. A possible entrance, with max width of 1.6m, is located in the E elevation and is marked on the site survey. The W elevation was heavily overgrown. Some of this vegetation was removed to reveal a lot of collapsed rubble against the outer face.	2x1m	W
060-61	Probable entrance into the main room. Heavily overgrown so it is impossible to identify any detail.	1m	W
062-63	Internal elevation in the S of the rectangular room. Upright ranging rod is placed in the angle. The foreground of this photo shows the heavily overgrown inside of this room.	2x1m	S
064-65	S gable of the N-S aligned structure. This is the best preserved section of wall seen in the surveyed structures. This small structure butts up against the S wall of the main structure indicating that it is a later addition. This may explain the slightly better preservation seen in this room. Note massive quoins visible in this image. One of these massive corner stones measured 1.1m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.25m in thickness.	2x1m	N
066-67	E elevation of the room added to the S end of the main structure. This room is 4.4m wide by 3.4m long in external dimensions. Note the upright ranging rod marks the point at which this structure butts up against the earlier building.	2x1m	W
068-69	Internal view of the small room at S end of main N-S aligned structure. The image shows the large piles of rubble inside this room. Unlike other rooms in this structure the rubble is not heavily overgrown in this area suggesting perhaps more recent construction? Note the ranging rods mark internal wall faces where these are visible.	2x1m	N
070-71	Internal view of later addition. Show large amounts of rubble inside this structure.	2x1m	S
072-73	W elevation of later addition at S end of main structure. The upright ranging rod marks the SW corner of the building.	2x1m	E
	Detailed shots of E-W aligned structure		
074-75	N side of structure. The upright rod marks the NE corner of the structure.	2x1m	S
076-77	W end of structure. Upright ranging rod marks the SW corner of the structure.	2x1m	E
078-79	S side of structure W part. The upright ranging rod is at the SW corner of the building.	2x1m	N
080-81	S side of the structure E part. The upright ranging rod is at the SE corner of the main rectangular structure.	2x1m	N
082-83	E gable of main rectangular structure. Upright ranging rod is at SE corner of this structure. The max wall height seen at this end is 0.8m.	2x1m	W
084-85	The small rectangular structure marking the E end of the building. The ranging rods mark the external wall faces. The length of this structure is 2.8m 9(E-W)	2x1m	W

086-87	N side of structure at E end of E-W aligned building. The ranging rods mark the external wall faces. The survey shows this side as having an opening.	2x1m	S
088-89	Internal view of the main rectangular structure. The ranging rods mark the internal wall faces.	2x1m	E
090-91	Internal view of the main rectangular structure. Note the ranging rod running across the structure only marks the approximate line of the internal wall face as this is difficult to pick out because of vegetation.	2x1m	W
	2nd September 2013 fencing		
01-02	Fencing off by lime kilns, site S end E side of track into development area		N
03-04	Fencing by track into site from S, W side of track		N
05-06	Fencing by track into site from S, W side of track		SW
07	Fencing off main ruins in NW quadrant of site		SW
08	Fencing off main ruins on N side of ruins on S side of track at NW corner of site		SE
09-10	Fencing off secondary ruins to SE of main ruins		NW

Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Pittiely Burn, Archaeological Building Recording
PROJECT CODE:	AF12
PARISH:	Dull
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Graeme Brown
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Building Recording
RCAHMS NO(S):	NN84NE 41 Brae of Murthly Farmstead NN84NE 1 Cup marked stone NN84NE 37 Double lime kiln
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Post-medieval farmstead; prehistoric cup marked stone; lime kilns
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NN 8774 4818
START DATE	22 nd August 2013
END DATE	02 nd September 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	-
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological building recording exercise was carried out by Alder Archaeology in advance of the development of a site at Pittiely Burn near Aberfeldy. The proposed development plan for the site called for the demolition of two ruinous drystone structures in the SE of the site to make way for a new dwelling house. A photographic survey was carried out to record the historic character of these structures and to provide a basic record prior to their demolition. This work was carried out on the 22nd August 2013. The other remains on the site, including all the other farmstead buildings, the lime kilns and the cup marked stone, are to be preserved during the development and to this end a protective fence has been placed around them. The line of this fence was designed by Alder Archaeology (with input from the developer) and approved by PKHT.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	David Wilson, the developer of the site, funded the work.
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX

CONTRIBUTOR:	
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	RCAHMS (intended)
EMAIL ADDRESS:	director@alderarchaeology.co.uk

Appendix 3 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

3.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology 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.

3.2 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*.

3.3 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.

3.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

3.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

3.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

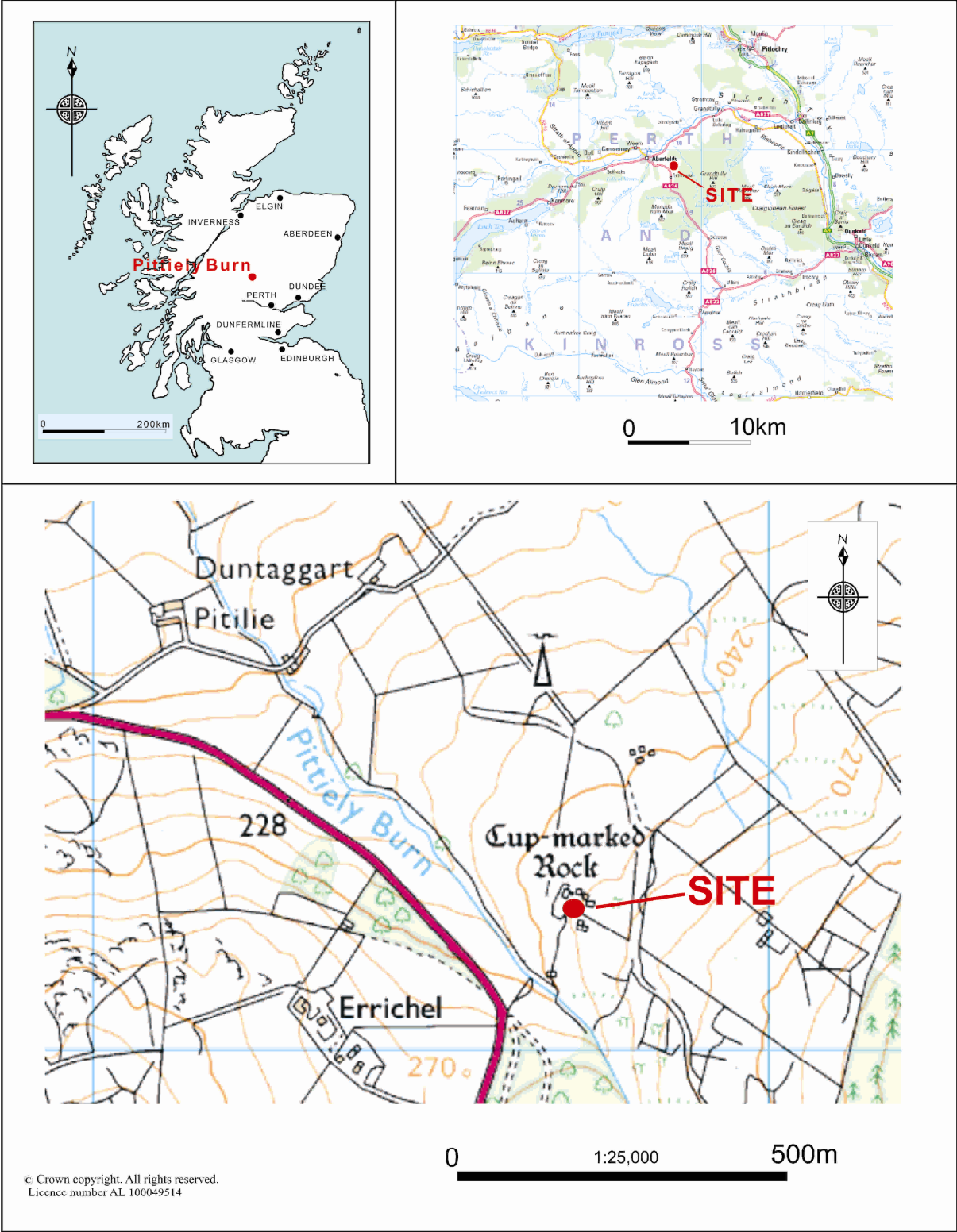
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

Alder Archaeology 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.

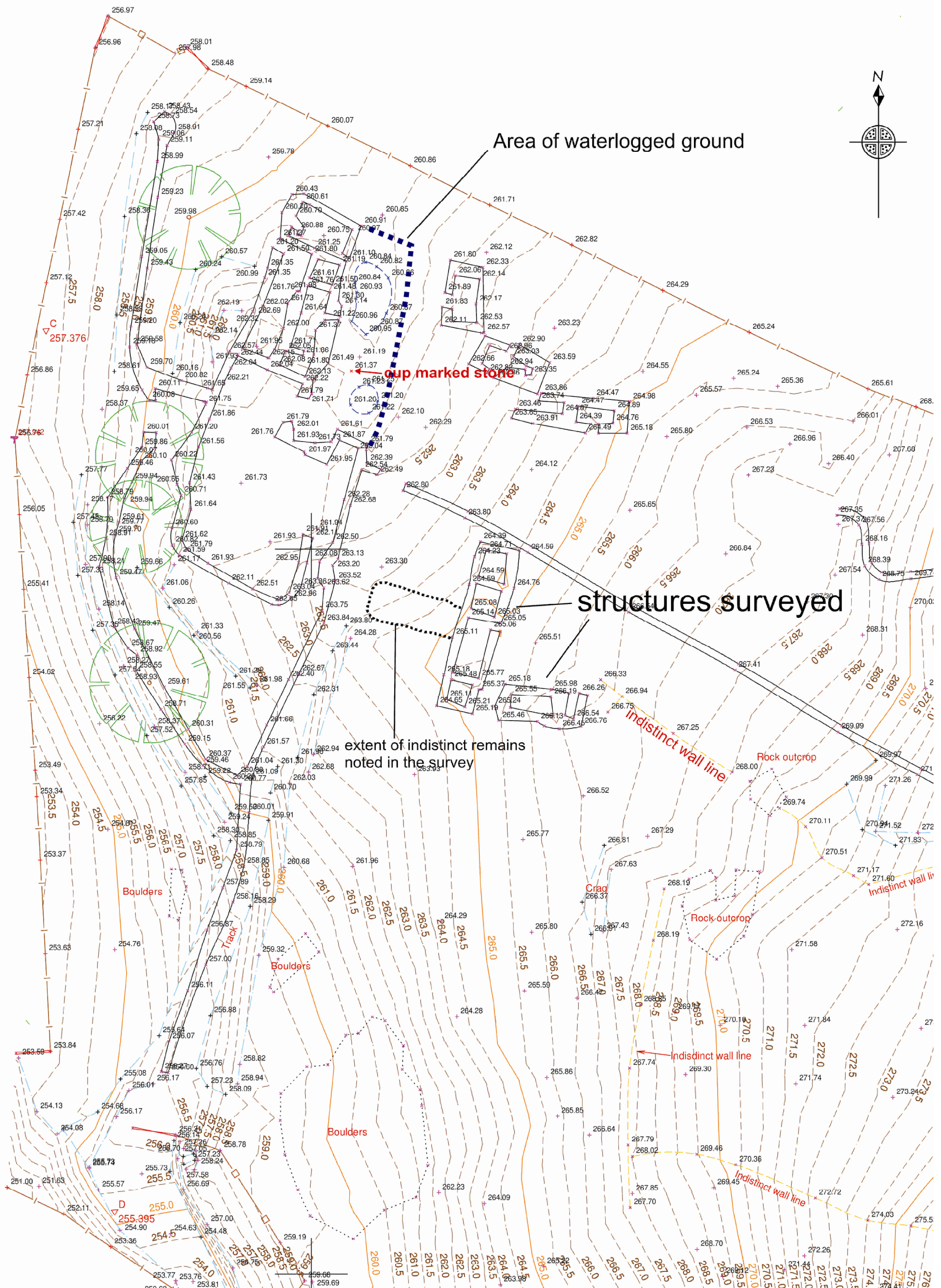
If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

Illus 1 Site Location Plan



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Illus 2 Plan of farmstead based on site survey

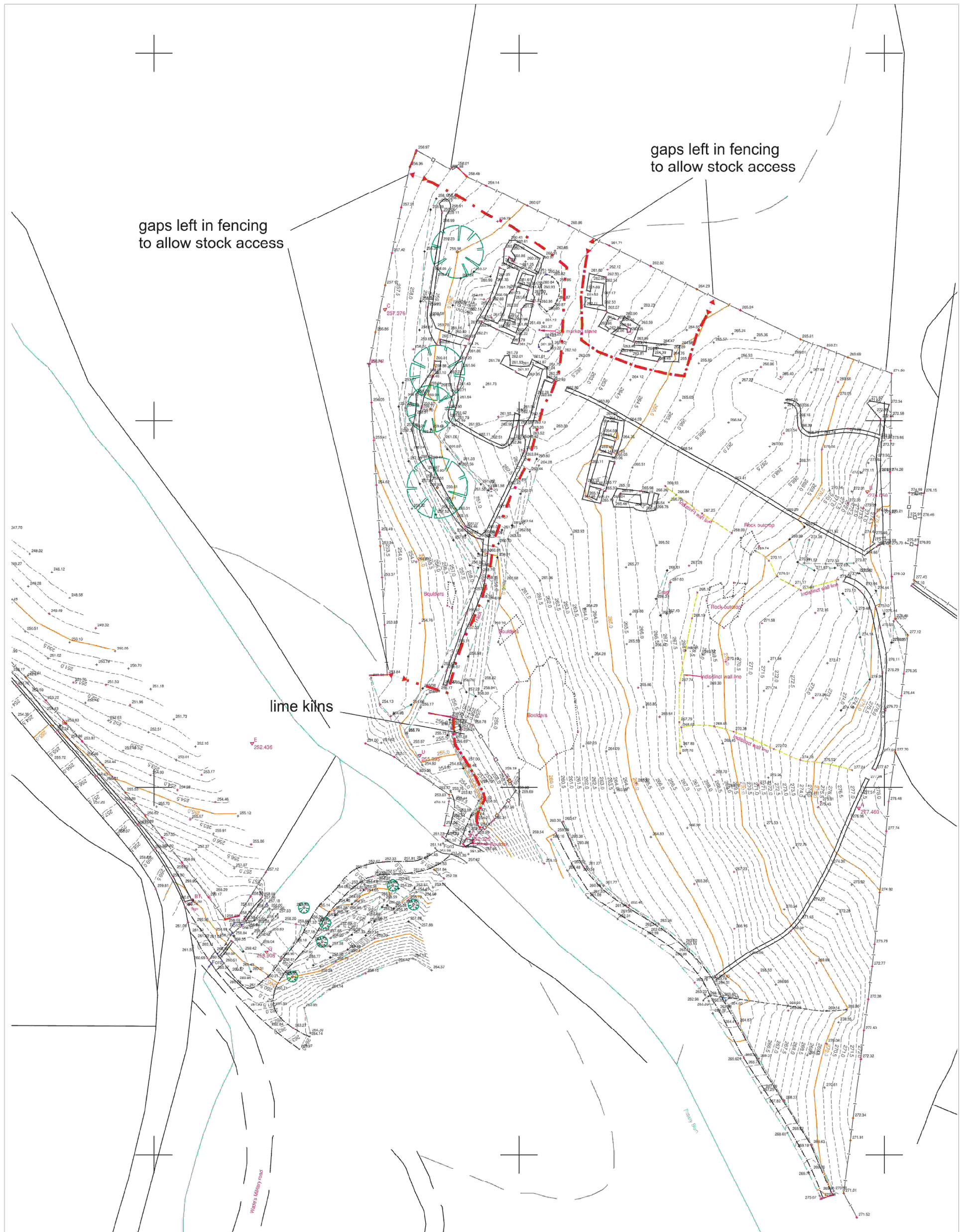


Based on existing ground survey by Ian Stokes dated 13.1.12

0 1:500 20m

AF12

Illus 3 Proposed fence line Pittielly Burn, Aberfeldy (App Ref 13/00187/FLL)



Notes:

----- proposed fence line

- 1) The proposed line includes all existing structures except for those buildings in the SE of the site which are to be demolished and which have been recorded. The line has been worked out by Alder Archaeology following a site visit and discussions with the developer.
- 2) The fencing in the S part of the site encloses the remains of the lime kilns.
- 3) The fence will be formed of metal road irons and rope with high viz pendant bunting. Plastic mesh fencing is not suitable for the weather conditions seen on this exposed site in winter.
- 4) Wherever possible existing post and wire fences have been used to complete the circuit.
- 5) ~5m wide gaps will be left where temporary fencing meets post and wire to allow stock access in order to maintain existing grazing regime and prevent excessive growth of vegetation.
- 6) The developer will put up the approved fence line. This will be checked by Alder Archaeology.

0 1:1000 50m