

Archaeological Watching Brief
Field Drain Repairs
Kellie Castle
CARNBEE, FIFE

AS07

KEC/13/2

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
FIELD DRAIN REPAIRS
KELLIE CASTLE
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Illustration 1: Location

Illustration 2: Location

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Illustrator	David Bowler
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ABSTRACT

A watching brief on field drain repairs at Kellie Castle was conducted on 15th and 16th April 2013, funded by the National Trust for Scotland. Eleven trial trenches were dug to find and repair the blocked drains. A 19th- or 20th-century clay tile drain was found running roughly E – W along the S side of the castle and walled garden. An earlier stone culvert was found running roughly N – S in the meadow to the S of the walled garden. Possible structural remains were found in trench D, close to the SE corner of the castle.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

The National Trust for Scotland commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on contractors' trial trenches to find and repair blocked field drains on the S and W sides of Kellie Castle, Carnbee, Fife. The work (Alder site code AS07, NTS project code KEC/13/2) was undertaken on 15th and 16th April 2013, in generally fine weather conditions.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the watching brief was to observe and record any archaeological remains exposed by the trial trenching.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this investigation. Copies will be sent to the National Trust for Scotland, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the Fife Council Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

As the work consisted entirely of repairs to field drains outwith the castle, it did not fall within the remit of planning or development control. The watching brief was carried out for the Trust's own internal requirements.

1.5 Acknowledgements

This project was initiated by Dr Shannon Fraser, of NTS, who also provided valuable background information. Thanks are due also to NTS staff at Kellie Castle, and to Stuart and Eddie Provan who carried out the trial trenching and repairs.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1 – 3)

Kellie Castle is located in the E Neuk of Fife at NO 5200 0522, between the hamlets of Arncroach and Carnbee, some 5km NW of the former burgh of Anstruther. The work was triggered by persistent flooding and waterlogging in a meadow to the S of the walled garden adjacent to the castle, especially around what later became Trench D (illus 3).

2.2 Archaeological Potential

It was known from inspection of a grating to the S of the meadow, and from a geophysical survey conducted by Rose Geophysical Consultants LLP in January 2013 (Ovenden 2013), that there were various culverts and field drains of various periods in the meadow to the S of the walled garden, and other areas around the castle, which evidently had failed, and would need to be traced, exposed and repaired.

Also, it was possible that other buried features would be exposed in the course of trial trenching.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Trial trenches were dug by Provan Brothers using a tracked mini-digger with a 1m ditching bucket. The trenches were dug in alphabetical order as shown on Illus 3, partly guided by the results of the geophysical survey, but also by trial and error. As red clay tile drains were found in each trench, they were probed with a long, flexible glass-fibre rod to establish the position of the next blockage downstream. If this could not be dislodged by probing, the next trench was dug to open up the blocked area. Naturally the trenches tended to flood rapidly as soon as the blocked drain was exposed, limiting the recognition and recording of stratigraphic detail. Trenches A – D were all dug in this way, in a line along the S wall of the walled garden.

Trenches E – G were also dug in the meadow, to trace the stone culvert running down to the grating, but this was found to be largely dry.

It was found that the tile drain passing through Trenches A – D was the active drain. It was found by probing that the active drain passed under the gravelled parking area to the S of the castle, and ultimately discharged somewhere into the burn and pond to the W of the castle. However, it was blocked somewhere to the W of Trench D, and its outfall was obscured by modern landscaping works along the edge of the burn.

It was undesirable to dig trial trenches in the gravelled parking area to the S of the castle. This led to the digging of Trenches H – K to the W of the castle, guided by the geophysical survey, probing, tracing visible gratings and covers on the surface, trial and error, and finally the insertion of a traceable radio-frequency probe. The active drain was ultimately found to pass along the line followed by Trench K, in which it was exposed, dismantled and replaced with plastic piping.

The watching brief was carried out by David Bowler of Alder Archaeology. The locations of the trial trenches and the features within them were recorded by sketch plans and notes, tape measurements from nearby features, and extensive digital photography using an Olympus E-510 digital SLR. The results are shown on the trench plans, Illus 4 – 5, and described in detail in the context and photographic registers, Appendices 1 and 2. They are summarised below.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Trenches A – D

Trenches A – D revealed an orange clay tile drain, (004, 008, 011, 014), set into the natural clay silt layers, between 0.6m and 0.9m down, falling E – W. The drain pipe was probably of late 19th-century date. The drain terminated at its E end, (008, Trench B), where it was deliberately stopped with a brick across its end. At the W end (014, Trench D), where it disappeared under the gravel parking area, it had been unsuccessfully repaired quite recently, with a length of pink clay pipe (015).

Trenches A, C and D contained traces of a makeup layer (002, 010, 017), which could relate to levelling up of the railed area in front of S wall of the Walled Garden.

Trench D, nearest the castle, revealed a stone plinth (012) at its N end, just under the turf, parallel to the railings, evidence of an earlier structure in this area. There was also a deposit of large stones (016), at the S end of the trench, which could have been related to the construction of the castle and or its adjacent buildings. It was not possible to investigate further as the trench was deeply flooded.

Trenches E – G

These trenches were dug in the meadow to trace the stone culvert seen through the grating at the S edge of the field. Trenches E and F successfully found the culvert, (020, 023). It had a clay base, rubble sides, and a sandstone cap 0.45m below the surface. It seemed to correspond to feature 4 in the geophysical survey (Ovenden 2013), and was of type which could be of 18th-or 19th-century date.

Trenches H – K

These trenches were dug on the W side of the castle, to find the outfall of the drain into the burn.

Trench H was intended to intersect geophysical feature 15 (Ovenden 2013), but in fact found a red clay tile drain (029) about 3m to the N. Discussion with Dr Ovenden (pers. comm.) indicates that this is unlikely to be an error of location. Feature 15 was a low-resistance anomaly associated with a soakaway on the surface, perhaps not visible in section. A high-resistance anomaly seen to the N of 15, and interpreted at the time as an edge effect of 15, is very probably identical with tile drain (029).

The pipe (029) was redder and of a more modern type than the sequence (004, 008, 011, 014) seen in Trenches A – D. It could have been of 20th-century date. It could not have connected with the sequence (004) etc, because it was completely dry, and also would have had to pass under the castle.

It is curious that the soakaway feature 15 seems to align so well with the drain sequence (004, 008, 011, 014) seen in Trenches A – D. Perhaps it originally served these drains, before they were re-routed. The formation of the gravel parking area to the S of the castle could have put the W projection of drain sequence (004) etc. out of use, necessitating a new outfall farther S, as found in Trench K (below).

Trench I produced an entirely modern plastic field drain pipe at its N end, close to the entirely modern log which formed a step at the beginning of the footpath to the bridge over the burn. However, in this same area, it also produced a deposit of limestone and masonry (030) in section in its NE corner. This is perhaps the remains of a previous step or kerb connected with the footpath. A large, rough sandstone block dug up by the machine could also have been part of this structure.

The natural in this area was a brown clay-silt (031).

Trench K finally found the continuation of the tile drain sequence (004, etc), falling steeply down the bank towards the burn. Many of the pipes were blocked or broken, so the entire stretch was replaced in plastic. No archaeological features were found.

Unstratified post-medieval pot and bottle glass was noted in Trenches A – G, but not retained.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

The two phases of field drains found in the meadow, stone culvert and clay pipe, could perhaps be related to stages in the improvement and management of the Kellie Castle estate in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

The only significant other features are those in Trench D, the plinth (012) and the deposit of large stones (016). It was not possible to investigate these in the present works, due to the limited and rapid nature of the intervention, and the difficult flooded conditions in the trench. However, the proximity of Trench D to the castle and ancillary buildings make it likely that there may be significant structural features in this area, and that future opportunities for investigation may arise from time to time, in the course of maintenance and alterations to access and services in and around the castle.

4 Bibliography

Ovenden, S M 2013 Geophysical Survey Report, Kellie Castle. Unpublished report for the National Trust for Scotland, Rose Geophysical Consultants, Orphir, Orkney.

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Phase</i>
	Trench A	
001	Turf and dark brown topsoil. To 0.2m down.	
002	Light brown sandy loam with charcoal, ash, stones, etc. Makeup layer.	
003	Large grey boulder, 0.5m down. Irregular shape.	
004	Red clay tile drain, 0.6m down, S of 003, diverts slightly round it. Drain tiles 15 inches (0.38 m) long. Water flooding out of drain.	
005	Dark grey clay silt 0.7m down.	
	Trench B	
006	Turf and dark brown humic loam topsoil.	
007	Soft grey clay, appears 0.5m down.	
008	Red clay tile drain, = 004. Stopped with brick at E end. Cut into 007. Top is 0.8m down.	
	Trench C	
009	Grey silty loam topsoil.	
010	Brown silty clay, with stones and pot fragments. 0.4m down.	
011	Red clay tile drain, = 004. 0.6m down.	
	Trench D	
012	Sandstone plinth, 0.25m down.	
013	Turf and topsoil, over 017.	
014	Red clay tile drain, = 004. 0.9m down.	
015	Failed modern repair to 014, pipe 2m long.	
016	Deposit of large stones, S end of trench. Flooded.	
017	Rough stones, soot, ashes, etc, to 0.6m down. Over 016.	
	Trench E	
018	Turf and light tan topsoil.	
019	Grey-brown subsoil. 0.2m down	

020	Culvert. Cover slab 0.45m down, 0.15m thick. Clay base 0.75m down.	
	Trench F	
021	Turf and grey topsoil.	
022	Rough hard sandstone packing under 021, 0.3m down.	
023	Top of culvert, = 020. 0.5m down.	
	Trench G	
024	Turf and grey topsoil.	
025	Brown stony clay subsoil, 0.3m down.	
026	Concentration of brown sandstone rubble etc, 0.3m down. Bottle glass and tile.	
	Trench H	
027	Turf and grey topsoil	
028	Brown sandy silt subsoil, 0.4m down.	
029	Red clay pipe set in 028, 0.5m down. = Geophysics pipe 15? Dry. Trench base 0.7m down.	
	Trench I	
030	Sandstone and crushed mortar in section in NE corner. Old steps? Trench 0.8m deep.	
031	Brown clay silt subsoil, 0.4m down.	
032	Dressed sandstone block	
	Trench J	
	~ 8m long. No archaeology. Not planned in detail.	
	Trench K	
	No archaeology. Not planned in detail.	

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
	For convenience of description, the castle and walled garden are treated as aligned E-W.	

	15th April 2013	
001	General view of waterlogged field, in relation to Castle and walled garden.	NW
002	General view of waterlogged field, in relation to Castle and walled garden.	N
003	General view of waterlogged field, in relation to Castle and walled garden.	NE
	Trench A	
004-5	Layers 001 and 002 removed to expose Clay Silt 005 at N end of trench.	E
006-8	Digging S to expose tile drain 004. Trench flooding.	SSE
009	Detail, broken tile drain 004.	E
010-11	Detail, segment of tile drain 004.	SE
012	Detail, segment of tile drain 004 and fragments of pantile.	S
013	Digging S beyond tile drain 004, exposed and in situ.	S
014	Detail, segment of tile drain 004.	SE
015	General, Trench A completed.	NW
	Trench B	
016-18	Detail, E end of drain 008 = 004 stopped with brick.	W
019	N end of trench B in relation to E end of walled garden.	NW
	Trench A	
020	Trench A completed, machine removed. Location in relation to green door into walled garden.	N
021-6	Trench A with flood water, and remains of drain 004 in situ. Yellow glass-fibre probe laid out. Scales 2m.	N
	Trench C	
027-8	Commencing Trench C. Wooden peg in topsoil 009.	W
029	Commencing Trench C. Wooden peg in topsoil 009.	S
030	Detail, segment of tile drain 011 = 004.	
031	Trench C aligned to walled garden door.	N
032-6	Hand digging tile drain 011 in clay 010.	E
037	Detail, white delft rim sherd from 010	
038-40	Drain 011 exposed and flooding	SE

041	Extracting probe from drain 011. Trenches A and B beyond.	E
042-3	Measuring forward from Trench C to position Trench D.	N
044	Tip of probe marks starting point for Trench D.	N
045-9	Trench C after removal of machine. Aligned near garden door. Scales 2m. Yellow glass fibre probe laid out to next obstruction. Broken drain 011 in flooded trench base. Layers 009 and 010 in section.	N
050	Scales 2m. Yellow glass fibre probe laid out to next obstruction. Broken drain 011 in flooded trench base. Layers 009 and 010 in section. Segment of drain 011 on trench edge.	E
	Trench D	
051	Topsoil 013 over stones etc 017.	E
052	Wooden block extracted from layer 016. Probably old railway sleeper.	SE
053	Stone layer 016	SE
054	Detail, hand-blown wine bottle neck from layer 016.	N
055	Stone slab extracted from layer 016.	SE
056	Trench D flooding. Stone plinth 012 at N end.	NNE
057-8	Trench D flooding. Stone plinth 012 at N end. Stone layer 016 at S end. Tile drain 014 in trench bottom.	NNW
059	Trench D flooding. Sandstone plinth 012 at N end. Stone layer 016 at S end. Tile drain 014 in trench bottom. Wooden block on trench edge.	SW
060	Detail, Trench D flooding. Tile drain 014 in trench bottom.	SW
061-2	Detail, sandstone plinth 012 next to base of iron railings.	W
	Culvert 4	
063-4	View from S edge of field, line of Culvert 4 identified in geophysical survey?	N
065-6	S end of stone culvert exposed beyond field edge, with inner grating.	N
067	Detail, displaced outer grating.	S
068-9	View from S edge of field, line of Culvert 4 identified in geophysical survey, aligned on trench D.	N
070-1	Trench D, flooded.	N
	Trench F	
072	Preparing to lay out Trench F.	NW
073-4	Opening Trench F.	S

075	Packing fill 022 exposed in Trench F.	S
	Trench G	
076	Opening Trench G	S
077	Opening W branch of Trench G. Stony layer 026 appearing.	SW
	Trench F	
078	Excavating packing fill 022	S
	Trench E	
079	Opening Trench E	SW
080	Opening Trench E	NW
081	Stone packing over Culvert 020 appearing.	E
082	Opening up Culvert 020	E
083	Culvert 020 open. Trenches F and G to N. Trench D in distance.	NNE
084	Detail, Culvert 020 open. Sealed by turf 018 and subsoil 019.	NNE
085-6	Culvert 020 open. Aligned towards Trench F. Scales 2m.	NNE
087	Detail, Culvert 020 open. Sealed by turf 018 and subsoil 019.	NNE
088	Culvert 020 open. Scale 2m.	W
	Trench G	
089	Detail, hand-made bottle glass in Trench G	
090	Detail, stony layer 026 in Trench G.	W
	Trench D	
091	Preparing to extend Trench D. Modern fence post at N end. Modern standpipe attached to re-used railway sleeper.	N
092	Detail, broken drain 014 in section under water. Failed repair 015.	W
093	Broken drain 014 extends W under castle forecourt.	W
094-6	Extending Trench D west. Failed repair 015 appearing. Fragments of tile drain.	W
097-9	Failed repair 015 extracted. Modern buff earthenware. Panel 'Extra Strength'.	W
	Trench I	
100-1	Rodding eye and surface drain, SW corner of castle.	NE
102-3	View E from rodding eye to location of Trenches H and I, possible line of	E

	geophysical feature 15.	
104	Opening Trench I	E
105-8	Opening Trench I. Turf 027 removed to expose subsoil 028.	S
109-10	Extending Trench I to N. Modern yellow plastic pipe and wooden revetting where trench crosses path.	W
111	Detail, sandstone block 032. Old step?	W
112-3	N end of trench, intersecting path. Sandstone and crushed mortar 030. Block 032 on trench edge.	E
	Trench H	
114	Preparing to open Trench H in line with S face of castle, and drain and rodding eye at SW corner.	E
115-9	Opening Trench H.	NE
120-1	Subsoil 028 and tree roots.	N
122	Trench H crossing path.	N
123	Trench H N of path.	N
124-5	Red clay tile drain in section. = Geophysics feature 15?.	W
126-7	Red clay tile drain in section. = Geophysics feature 15?. Clearly N of path and S wall of castle.	E
128-9	Trench H completed.	E
	Trench J	
130-1	Opening Trench J.	NE
132	Sandstone rubble in Trench J	NE
133	Shattered sandstone in Trench J	NE
134-9	Brown clay natural in Trench J. Digging S – N. Castle in background.	NE
140-3	Adding sondage at S end of Trench J.	SSW
	16th April 2013	
	Trench A	
144-7	Trench A dug and flooded. Scales 2m. Segment of tile drain 004 on trench edge. Broken drain 004 in trench base. Layers 001, 002 and 005 in section.	N
148-	Trench A dug and flooded. Scale 2m. Segment of tile drain 004 on trench edge. Broken drain 004 in trench base. Layers 001, 002 and 005 in section. Boulder 003 in trench base to left of drain 004, which diverts around it.	E

	Trench B	
150	Trench B at SE corner of walled garden.	N
151-2	Drain 008 in base of Trench B. Stopped with brick at E end. Layers 006 and 007 in section. Scales 2m.	N
153-4	Drain 008 in base of Trench B. Stopped with brick at E end. Layers 006 and 007 in section. Scales 2m.	W
155-6	Drain 008 in base of Trench B. Stopped with brick at E end. Layers 006 and 007 in section. Scales 2m.	E
	Trench C	
157-60	Trench C dug and flooded. Scales 2m. Segment of tile drain 011 on trench edge. Broken drain 011 under water in trench base. Layers 009 and 010 in section. Trench aligned on green door.	N
161	Detail, rim of delft plate from layer 010. Scale 150mm.	
162-3	Detail, segment of tile drain 011. Scale 0.5m.	
	Trench D	
164-7	Trench D dug and flooded. Failed repair pipe 015 on trench edge. Broken tile drain 014 in trench base. Plinth 012 at N end of trench. Layers 013 and 017 in section. Scales 2m.	N
168	W extension of trench. Broken tile drain 014 in trench base. Scale 2m.	W
169	W extension of trench. Broken tile drain 014 in trench base.	N
170	Plinth 012 at N end of trench. Scale 2m. (1m visible).	N
171-2	Trench D dug and flooded. Failed repair pipe 015 on trench edge. Broken tile drain 014 in trench base. Layers 013 and 017 in section. Scales 2m.	E
173	Trench D dug and flooded. Failed repair pipe 015 on trench edge. Broken tile drain 014 in trench base. Plinth 012 at N end of trench. Scales 2m.	S
174-5	Detail, failed repair pipe 015 on trench edge. Scale 2m.	S
176-8	Detail, bottle glass. Scale 150mm.	
	Trench E	
179	Trenches D, E, F, G. Scales 2m.	NW
180	Line of stone culvert 020, 023 in Trenches E and F. = geophysical feature 7. Scales 2m and 1.5m.	N
181-2	Trench E sighting to fence line. Scales 2m and 1.5m.	W
183-4	Sighting from fence post N to castle and Trench D.	N
185	Sighting from fence post E to Trench E.	E

186-7	Culvert 020 in Trench E. Scales 1.5m and 2m.	N
188-9	Sighting S from Trench E and Culvert 020. Scales 1.5m and 2m.	S
190	Detail, Culvert 20.	S
191	Sighting S from Trench E and Culvert 020. Scale 1.5m.	S
	Trench F	
192-3	Sandstone packing layer 022 and culvert 023 in Trench F. Scales 1.5m and 2m.	N
194	Sandstone packing layer 022 and culvert 023 in Trench F. Scales 1.5m and 2m.	S
195	Sandstone packing layer 022 and culvert 023 in Trench F. Scales 1.5m and 2m.	E
196-7	Trench F aligned on major trees. Trench G beyond.	W
	Trench G	
198	Trench G to the W of Trench F. Scales 1.5m and 2m.	N
199	Trench G aligned on major trees. Stony layer 026. Scale 2m.	NW
200	Trench G aligned on major trees. Stony layer 026. Scale 2m.	SE
201	Trench G aligned on major trees. Stony layer 026. Scale 2m.	NW
202	Detail, bottle glass from 026. Scale 150mm.	
	Trench H	
203	Trench H and Castle. Fragments of drain 029 on spoil heap.	E
204	Drain 029 in section. Layers 027, 028.	E
205	General, Trench H. Scales 2m.	S
206	General, Trench H. Scales 2m. Path and footbridge beyond. Also Trench I.	W
207	Drain 029 in section. Layers 027, 028.	W
	Trench K	
208	Segments of tile drain upcast from Trench K.	W
209	Looking W down Trench K. Tile drain removed, being replaced by plastic pipe. Water flowing.	W
210	Looking E up Trench K. Tile drain removed, being replaced by plastic pipe. Water flowing.	E
211-12	Looking W down Trench K. Tile drain removed, being replaced by plastic pipe. Water flowing. S end of Trench K intersects Trench J. Pond beyond.	W
213-4	Looking E up Trench K.	E

215	Looking W down Trench K.	W
216-7	Looking E up Trench K. Intersection with Trench J and Sondage.	E
218	Looking W down Trench K. Outfall to burn.	W
219	Intersection with Trench J and Sondage.	N
	Trench I	
220-1	N end of Trench I intersecting path. Scales 2m. Sandstone deposit 030.	E
222	Looking S along Trench I. Trench K beyond.	S
223	N end of Trench I intersecting path. Displaced sandstone block 032 in foreground.	W
224	Detail, displaced sandstone block 032.	W
	Trench J	
225	Trench J S to intersection with Trench K.	S

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Location, trench A	sketch
2	Trench locations.	sketch
3	Trench plans, A – E.	sketch
4	Trench plans, F – I.	sketch

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Watching Brief, Field Drain Repairs, Kellie Castle.
PROJECT CODE:	AS07
PARISH:	Carnbee
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	David Bowler
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
RCAHMS NO(S):	NO50NW 4.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Tower House
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NO 5200 0522
START DATE	15 th April 2013
END DATE	16 th April 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Smith, H 1995 'Kellie Castle' <i>DES 1995</i> , 26 Holden, T 2002 'Kellie Castle, Kellie' <i>DES 2002</i> , 54 Addyman Archaeology 2007 'Kellie Castle' <i>DES 2007</i> , 95 Bowler, D P 2013 'Kellie Castle' <i>DES 2012</i> , 86
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief on field drain repairs at Kellie Castle was conducted on 15 th and 16 th April 2013, funded by the National Trust for Scotland. Eleven trial trenches were dug to find and repair the blocked drains. A 19 th - or 20 th -century clay tile drain was found running roughly E – W along the S side of the castle and walled garden. An earlier stone culvert was found running roughly N – S in the meadow to the S of the walled garden. Possible structural remains were found in Trench D, close to the SE corner of the castle.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	National Trust for Scotland
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX

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