

Archaeological Watching Brief
Lochlands
Castle of Rattray
PERTH & KINROSS

BW06



Alder Archaeology Ltd
55 SOUTH METHVEN STREET
PERTH PH1 5NX
Tel: 01738 622393
Fax: 01738 631626
Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE NAME

LOCATION

SITE CODE

<i>1</i>	<i>Background.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Details of Work.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Interpretation.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Conclusions and Recommendations.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Bibliography.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Appendix 1</i>	<i>Context Register.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Appendix 2</i>	<i>Photographic Register.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Appendix 3</i>	<i>Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork.....</i>	<i>6</i>

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Author Chris Fyles
Illustrator Chris Fyles
Editor David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MifA

ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Robert Strachan to undertake an archaeological watching brief (Alder site code BW06) on groundworks for the erection of a new dwelling house on land 280 metres North West of Mains of Rattray, centred on NGR NO 2103 4530. The work was undertaken on 6th, 10th and 17th March 2014 in good weather conditions. The development area was located on the southern edge of the mound of a motte and bailey site known as Castle of Rattray. In July 2013, Alder undertook an archaeological evaluation of this site and the watching brief was recommended in mitigation for the proposed development work.

No remains of archaeological significance were exposed during the watching brief.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Robert Strachan of Lochlands Farm commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of a proposed new house. The proposed development area is partially wooded and partly an open area leading to an adjacent field to the S. It lies at the bottom edge of the SW slope of Castle of Rattray motte and bailey feature, centred on NGR NO 2103 4530. The work (site code BW06) was undertaken on the 6th, 10th and 17th March 2014 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to maintain a watch on ground-breaking works for the development, following an evaluation undertaken by Alder in July 2013. Special attention was to be paid to any outlying features or deposits that may have been associated with Castle of Rattray motte and bailey.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 13/00668/FLL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area. Any and all archaeological remains encountered were to be recorded using the methodology outlined in Appendix 3 (see below) and either preserved *in situ* if possible or fully excavated as the situation dictated.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Perth & Kinross Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This watching brief is the final part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Robert Strachan for his assistance and guidance throughout this project, which was funded by the developer.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The development site is roughly square, and comprises an area of approximately 2000m² centred on NGR NO 2103 4530. The site lies on the SE side of the base of SE slope of the motte and bailey feature known as Castle of Rattray. The NE side of the site is bounded by the farm road leading to Mains of Rattray, the SE and SW sides by an open field and the NW edge by ground forming the heavily overgrown and wooded

slope of the motte and bailey. Tree felling had taken place on the NW and SW parts of the site leaving large stumps, but some trees have been retained. The evaluation had included the excavation of trenches across the proposed footprint of the house; since this phase, the footprint had been migrated by 3m to the SW, avoiding part of the area evaluated.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The development site is situated in close proximity to the remains of a motte and bailey, which occupy the east summit of Castle Hill. The motte and bailey is oriented NNW-SSE, with the motte occupying the north end and the bailey, divided into an upper and a lower bailey by a broad deep cross-ditch, sloping away to the south. The flat-topped motte rises 1.0m above the bailey, and the remains of a stone wall can be traced around its edge. A portion of stone wall can be seen along the east edge of the "upper" bailey while a sub-oval hollow at the south end of the "lower" bailey probably indicates the site of a building. The probable existence of other buildings is indicated by considerable stone debris in the east half of the "upper" bailey. The lands of Rattray are said to have been in the possession of the family of that name from the reign of Malcolm Canmore (1057-93), and remained their principal seat until the early 16th century. (RCAHMS Canmore ID 30764).

The evaluation had shown that the site contained a deep build up of homogeneous topsoil or colluvium as a result of hillwash off the motte and bailey feature. The topsoil deposit revealed little evidence of any stratification and bottomed onto fine orange natural sands and gravels. Two of the trenches crossed a large ditch feature, cut into natural sands, which extended approximately NE-SW across the site. The ditch contained a fill of homogeneous silty loam virtually identical to the topsoil, and in each trench a narrow slot feature bottoming into natural sand seemed to be associated with the southern edge of the ditch. In one trench where the ditch appeared, some fragments of slag (possibly metal working) were recovered from the lower part of the topsoil and in the same trench one fragment of slag was recovered from the bottom of the ditch fill. The slag could indicate that metalworking had been taking place nearby. No significant archaeological features appeared in the other two evaluation trenches and apart from the fragments of slag there were no significant datable finds. The repositioning of the house footprint avoided the area where the ditch had been exposed, but it was thought possible that a continuation of this feature, or others like it, could be exposed during the watching brief.

2.3 Archaeological Method

A continuous watch was kept by an archaeologist on site on all ground-breaking works. Location photographs were taken and the sides and bases of the foundation trenches for the new building examined upon excavation.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Evidence of recent sand and gravel extraction and two areas of dumping were detected. Nothing of archaeological interest was exposed.

3 Interpretation

While the ditch feature encountered during the evaluation phase may have borne some relationship to the Castle of Rattray, no trace of this or similar features was noted during the watching brief phase. It is possible that the development took place on the “wrong” side of the castle motte to detect traces of outlying works; moreover, sand and gravel quarrying appears to have been fairly widespread in the vicinity in recent times, which could have resulted in the destruction of subterranean remains.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 No archaeological remains were detected on the site of the development.

4.2 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology considers the terms of the archaeological condition on this development to have been met and does not recommend further work. However, the final decision ultimately rests with the Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

5 Bibliography

Cachart, R. (2013) *Archaeological Evaluation, Lochlands, Castle of Rattray, Rattray, BW06*, Perth, Alder Archaeology Ltd (unpublished report)

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
0501	Turf and topsoil
0502	Group of 4 large field boulders, function unknown but not structural. Possible dump and/or levelling.
0503	Gravel levelling of sand extraction site, recent.
0504	Modern rubbish dump in NW of house footprint- slate, ceramic sink, bottles, pottery
0505	Bioturbated yellow/brown subsoil
0506	Bioturbated mid-brown subsoil across site, extensive root disturbance (two mature trees removed from the site)
0507	Yellow sandy subsoil beneath 0506

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
0001	Site location shot, from bailey	S
0002	Site location shot, from bailey	SE
0003	Site location shot, towards motte from bailey	N
0004	Site location shot, motte and bailey	N
0005	Site location shot, motte and bailey	NNW
0006	Site location shot, motte and bailey	NW
0007	Working shot, digger	N
0008	Working shot, initial stripping	NNW
0009	Working shot, initial stripping	NNE
0010	Stripped area with root disturbance	NE
0011	Stripped area with root disturbance	E
0012	Location/working shot, stripped area from bailey	E
0013	Location/working shot, stripped area from bailey	ESE

0014-15	Working shot, stripping	N
0016	Working shot, stripping	NW
0017	Working/location shot, stripped area	SSE
0018	Working/location shot, stripped area	S
0019	Working shot, stripping	NNW
0020	Working shot, stripping, showing soil depth	W
0021	Working shot, stripping, showing soil depth	WSW
0022	Working shot, stripping	NW
0023-25	Stones 0502	NW
0026-28	Stones 0502	NE
0029-30	Location shot, stones 0502	E
0031	Stones 0502	SE
0032-33	Stones 0502	S
0034-35	Working shot, stripping	N
0036	Location shot, stripped area	NNW
0037	Working shot, stripping	NW
0038	Location/working shot, stripped area	SE
0039	Location/working shot, stripped area, from motte	S
0040	Location/working shot, stripped area	E
0041	Location shot, stripped area	NNW
0042-43	Working shot, stripping	W
0044	Working shot, stripping on edge of bailey	NW
0045	Working shot, stripping on edge of bailey	W
0046-48	Working shot, stripping on edge of bailey	WSW
0049-50	Working shot, machines, from bailey	E
0051	Location shot, site from base of motte	S
0052	Working shot, stripping	S
0053-54	Working shot, stripping on edge of motte	WSW

0055	Working shot, stripping on edge of motte	NNW
0056	Working shot, spoil removal	WSW
0057	Working shot, spoil removal	N
0058-59	Working shot, spoil removal	S
0060	Working shot, stripping, subsoil 0505 becoming visible	N
0061	Working shot, stripping, subsoil 0505 becoming visible	E
0062	Subsoil 0505	N
0063	Working shot, stripping, subsoil 0505 becoming visible	E
0064	Working shot, stripping	N
0065-67	Working shot, stripping	E
0068-71	Working shot, stripping	S
0072	Working shot, stripping	SW
0073-74	Working shot, stripping on edge of motte	N
0075-76	Working shot, stripping on edge of motte	S
0077-78	Working shot, stripping	N
0079	Working shot, stripping	SE
0080	Location shot, hardstanding on site 17 th Mar	S
0081	Location shot, hardstanding, from motte	S
0082	Working shot, digging founds trench through hardstanding	NNE
0083-84	Subsoil 0506 in founds trench	SSE
0085-86	Working shot, excavating founds trenches	E
0087	Base of evaluation trench 01 in house footprint	W

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.

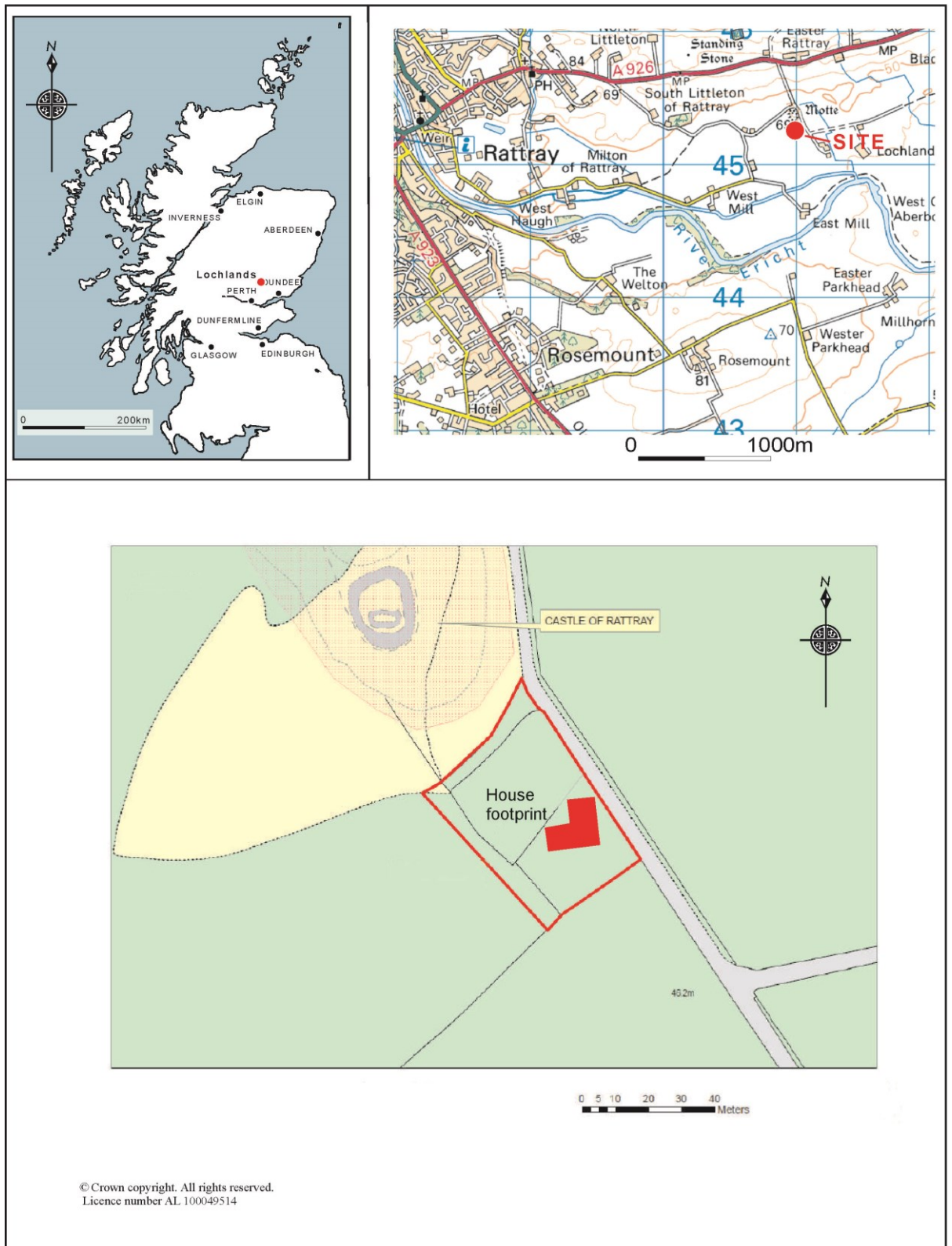
We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

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



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
Licence number AL 100049514

BW06