

Archaeological Watching Brief
11 Tinkletap Cottages
Upper Todhills
TEALING, ANGUS
TL01

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
11 TINKLETAP COTTAGES
UPPER TODHILLS, TEALING, ANGUS**

TL01

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Illustration 1: Location

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology Ltd carried out a watching brief (TL01) on a single house extension, on 22nd and 23rd August 2016. Only 20th-century deposits were found over natural. No archaeological remains were found, and nothing relating to prehistoric burials and standing stones previously discovered in the surrounding area.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Mr and Mrs Iain Ross commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief on the digging of foundation and service trenches for a kitchen extension at 11 Tinkletap Cottages, Upper Todhills, Tealing, Angus, located at NO 4192 3928. This is a single-storey dwelling house built in 1965 adjacent to a farm steading. The proposed extension is about 7 m x 6 m, at the E end of the existing house on what was previously gravel parking area. The work (site code TL01) was undertaken on Monday and part of Tuesday 22nd and 23rd August 2016 in generally fine weather conditions.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 16/00451/Full.

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 in the development area.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to the client, Historic Environment Scotland and Angus 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

The Terms of Reference for this project were provided by Claire Herbert of Aberdeenshire Council. Mr and Mrs Iain Ross funded this Watching Brief.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site

11 Tinkletap Cottages is one of a small group of cottages on the steading of Tinkletap farm, on rising ground just NE of Tealing, Angus, on the W side of the A90 from Dundee to Forfar. The cottage is a single-storey brick building constructed in 1965, and aligned E – W. The cottage is being extended eastwards, with the addition of a new kitchen / dining room at the E gable end, and a small utility room beyond this. This entailed the digging of foundation trenches for the new building, and the insertion of a rainwater drain pipe and soakaway in a lawn to the SSE of the house. The footprint of the new building was occupied by a gravel parking area between the E gable wall of the house and a narrow access track to the E. The sites slopes down very gently N – S.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Around 200m to the north, a prehistoric burial cist was discovered in 1964 (Angus SMR Ref NO43NW0014); c.500m to the west another prehistoric burial cist was found (Angus SMR Ref NO43NW0008); and c.500m to the north west is a prehistoric standing stone or stone circle (Angus SMR Ref NO43NW0010), and another prehistoric burial cist and cairn (Angus SMR Ref NO43NW0011).

These suggest a focus of prehistoric ritual activity in this area, and raised the possibility of similar discoveries on the present site.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Surface deposits were stripped off and the foundation trenches, pipe trench and soakaway were excavated by the building contractors, using a mini-excavator under archaeological supervision. A smooth-edged ditching bucket was used for general stripping, and a narrower bucket for trenching. Spoil was taken off site with a 1-tonne dumper. The work took place on the 22nd of August 2016, and the early morning of the 23rd, in generally fine weather.

The site was very small and confined. A thin surface layer of gravel 01 and a thin concrete slab 02 were stripped off, working generally W – E. The pipe trench and soakaway were dug in the S of the site, and the soakaway filled with concrete rubble. A small sondage 07 was dug in the S part of the site to confirm the location of an existing sewer pipe, to be retained. The foundation trenches were then dug, working generally E – W, starting with the new dining room, and proceeding to the small utility room. Care was taken to avoid breaking a live gas pipe running E – W across the site, and a N – S copper water pipe discovered during the excavations. As well as the visible wall foundation trenches, an E – W foundation was dug for a central dwarf wall to support the floor of the dining room. The foundations were generally dug to a depth of 0.5 – 0.6 m below modern ground surface. The soakaway was dug to a depth of 0.8 m, and filled with broken concrete blocks and rubble.

2.4 Results of Investigations

No significant archaeological remains were found.

The natural subsoil 06 and 11 was a light orange-brown sandy silt, becoming increasingly stony at depth, with abundant angular sandstone pebbles. In the bottom of the soakaway this graded down to sandstone cobbles 09, and slabs 10, possibly approaching the weathered rock head.

Under the concrete slab 02 and its bedding sand 03 was 0.2 m of brown silty soil 13 over the natural subsoil 11, probably 20th-century garden soil preceding the concrete.

A concentration of rubble 16 near the SE corner of the new extension included a large fragment of red ceramic tile drain, perhaps of 19th or 20th century date. The rubble might have been the foundation of a 20th-century garden feature.

The other deposits are listed and described in Appendix 1, below.

3 Conclusions

No significant archaeological remains were uncovered, probably due to the very limited extent of the development. No further work is recommended in connection with this development, although the final decision rests with the Council's archaeological advisor.

4 Bibliography

Herbert, C, 2016 Scope and Framework of an Archaeological Watching Brief at Tinkletap, Tealing.

Appendix 1 Context Register

| No: | Description |
|-----|--|
| 01 | Modern gravel surface within footprint of intended new kitchen block. 0.05 m deep |
| 02 | Modern cement slab under gravel 01. 0.05 m thick. |
| 03 | Light orange-brown silty sand. Modern bedding under cement 02. Covers line of known modern gas pipe, confirms modern date. |
| 05 | Turf and brown sandy topsoil S of gravel 01. 0.45 m deep. Contains modern china. |
| 06 | Light orange-brown sandy silt natural under 05. Equivalent to 011 under kitchen block. Becomes stony at depth, eg in soakaway square. |
| 07 | Sondage to find sewer pipe in SW corner of kitchen block footprint. 1.2 x 0.5 x 0.45 m. Modern brick fragments found. |
| 08 | Mixed orange-brown sand and soil in sondage 07. Not bottomed. |
| 09 | Yellow-brown sand with angular sandstone cobbles. Stony natural under 06 in deep soakaway pit in grass to S of kitchen block. |
| 10 | Big sandstone slabs in natural 09 at S end of soakaway. 0.8 m down. Weathered top of natural bedrock? |
| 11 | Natural orange-brown sandy silt under footprint of kitchen block, 0.6 m down from top of modern gravel 01. 0.5 m down in foundation trench for new N wall. Has abundant angular sandstone pebbles. |
| 12 | Mixed sand, gravel and topsoil. Fill of sewage pipe trench. |
| 13 | Brown silt under brown sand bedding 03 and over natural sand 11. About 0.2 m thick. Old (20 th cent) topsoil layer sealed by gravel 03. |
| 14 | Fill of 1965 house wall foundation cut. Extends 0.7 m E of wall face. |
| 15 | Sewer pipe cut found in trench for new N wall. Found 2 m out from E wall of house. |
| 16 | Concentration of rubble at SE corner of new utility room. Includes fragment of red ceramic field |

| | |
|----|---|
| | drain. Foundation of old garden feature? |
| 17 | Copper water pipe, runs N – S, just E of feature 16. Just W of E wall of new utility room. Parallel to kerb along W edge of access track at E side of property. |
| | |

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

| <i>Image No</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>View</i> |
|-----------------|---|-------------|
| | Monday 22nd August 2016 | |
| 001 | Information board. | - |
| 002 – 3 | General start of work. | N |
| 004 | General start of work. | S |
| 005 | General start of work. | N |
| 006 | Excavating gravel 01 and concrete 02 to expose bedding 03. | N |
| 007 – 8 | General progress | N |
| 009 | Starting soakaway pipe trench. Turf 05, natural 06. | S |
| 010 – 11 | Sondage 07 to find sewer pipe. | W |
| 012 | Soakaway excavation in progress. | S |
| 013 – 4 | Digging Soakaway Pit. Exposing stony natural 09. | NE |
| 015 – 16 | Stone Slabs 10 at S end of soakaway pit. Bedrock? 0.8 m down. | NE |
| 017 | Soakaway pit completed. | N |
| 018 | Resuming work in NW corner of site. | NW |
| 019 | Continuing to NE | NE |
| 020 | Bedding sand 003 now almost fully exposed. | N |
| 021 | New foundations marked out. | S |
| 022 | Starting excavation of S wall foundation trench. | S |
| 023 | Excavation of S wall foundation trench in progress. | N |
| 024 – 5 | S wall foundation trench complete. | NNE |
| 026 | Excavation of N wall foundation trench. | N |
| 027 | N wall foundation trench complete. | W |

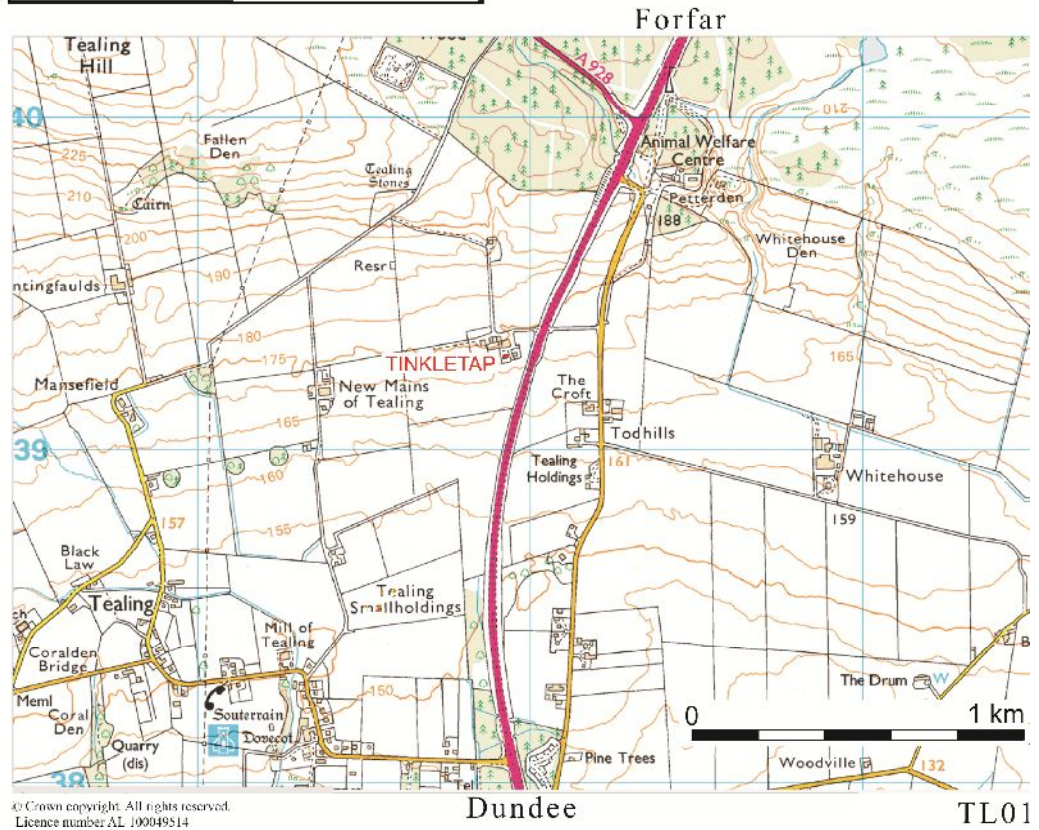
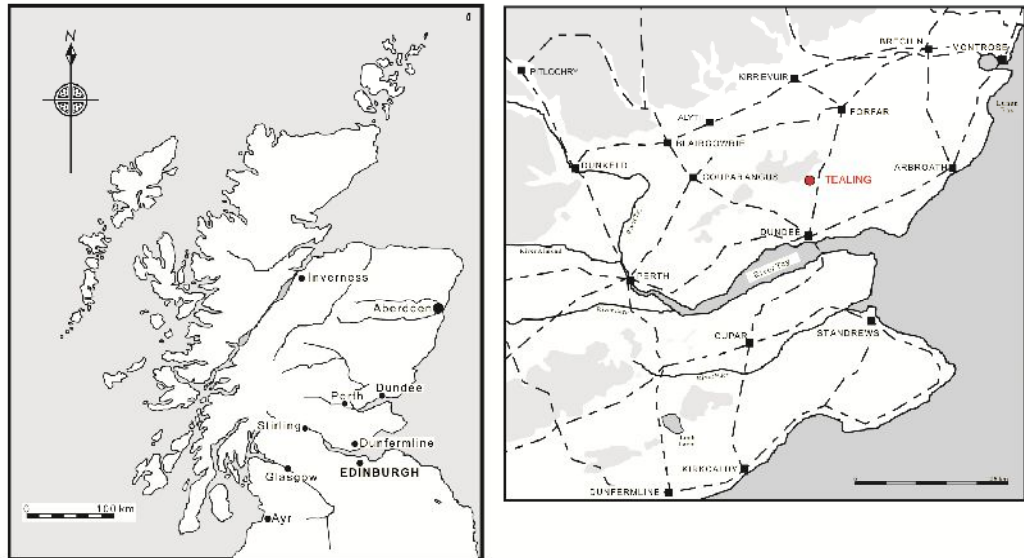
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| 028 | Excavation of E wall foundation trench. | N |
| 029 – 30 | Excavation of E wall foundation trench. Gas pipe visible. | N |
| 031 | Excavation of centre line wall foundation trench. | S |
| 032 – 3 | Excavation centre-line wall foundation trench. | E |
| | Tues 23rd August 2016 | |
| 034 | Continuing excavation of E wall foundation trench. | N |
| 035 | Excavation of E wall foundation trench finished. | NNE |
| 036 | Deposits in section. | NE |
| 037 | Starting excavation of utility room foundations. | N |
| 038 – 9 | Centre line wall foundations finished. | W |
| 040 | Soakaway pit backfilled. | N |
| 041 | Soakaway pit in line with conservatory | W |
| 042 | Starting Utility Room E wall foundation trench. | S |
| 043 | Continuing Utility Room E wall foundation trench. | S |
| 044 – 5 | Starting Utility Room S wall foundation trench. Gas pipe nearby. | S |
| 046 | Concentration 16 of rubble at SE corner of Utility Room. Foundation of garden feature? | N |
| 047 | Copper pipe 17 to E of 16, just W of Utility Room E wall foundation trench. | N |
| 048 | Detail of field drain fragment from 16, on spoil heap. | - |
| 049 | Utility Room E wall foundation trench complete. | N |
| 050 – 1 | Utility Room S wall foundation trench complete. | W |
| 052 | Starting Utility Room N wall foundation trench. Pipe 17 re-appears. | N |
| 053 | Utility Room N wall foundation trench complete. | E |
| 054 | All excavations complete. | NW |
| 055 | All excavations complete. c 9:20 am. | NNW |
| | | |

Appendix 3 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

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| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Angus Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | 11 Tinkletap Cottages, Upper Todhills, Tealing |
| PROJECT CODE: | TL01 |
| PARISH: | Tealing |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | David Bowler |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | Alder Archaeology Ltd |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Watching Brief |
| NMRS NO(S): | |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | None |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures) | NO 4192 3928 |
| START DATE (this season) | 22 Aug 2016 |
| END DATE (this season) | 23 Aug 2016 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | |
| MAIN DESCRIPTION: (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields) | A watching brief on a single house extension found 20 th -century deposits over natural. No archaeological remains were found, and nothing relating to prehistoric burials and standing stones previously discovered in the surrounding area. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | - |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Client |
| 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) |

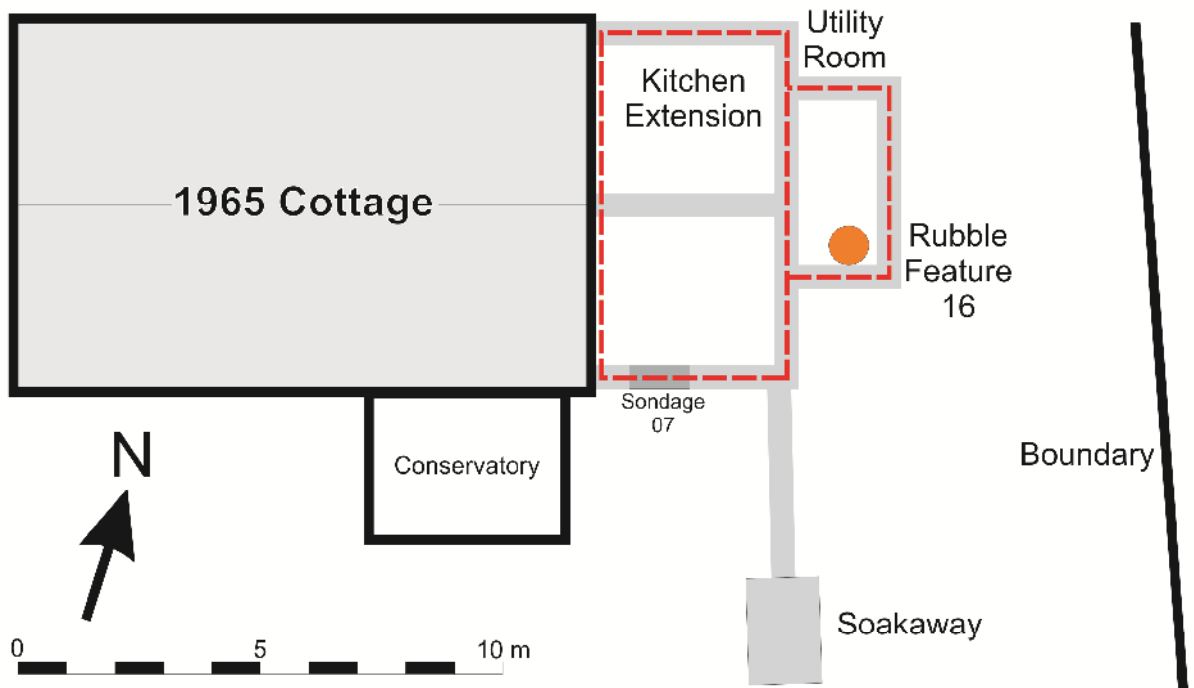
Tinkletap Cottage, Tealing, Angus Location

Illus 01



Tinkletap Cottage, Tealing, Angus

Illus 02



TL01