

Archaeological Watching Brief
Corbie Knowe
Inverkeilor
ANGUS
JL03



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Location of beach hut plot and local archaeological sites

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology conducted a watching brief during the excavation of the footprint of a new beach hut, centred on NGR NO 69198 48870, at Corbie Knowe near Inverkeilor. Groundworks were carried out by a mechanical mini-digger with a toothless ditching bucket, which dug through natural beach sand and recent made ground. The work (site code JL03) was undertaken on 25th September 2018 in fine weather. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Mr N and Mrs L Anderson commissioned Alder Archaeology to conduct an archaeological watching brief on the site of a proposed new beach hut at Corbie Knowe. The proposed development area is within a group of existing huts and centred on NGR NO 69193 48885. The watching brief was undertaken on 25th September 2018 in fine weather conditions. The requirement was to monitor all ground-breaking, including founds trenches and services

The work was designed to fulfil the archaeological condition on development application reference 18/00348/FULL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

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

1.3 Reporting

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

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This watching brief constitutes archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr N Anderson for his assistance and guidance throughout this project. Mr and Mrs Anderson funded this watching brief.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The site lay at the S end of Lunan Bay, within sight of the beach to the E, on the W side of a group of existing beach huts and caravans. The plot for the new hut was formerly beneath an old static caravan, now demolished, which had occupied an area of flagstones to the SE of a small but steep hillock, the Corbie Knowe, which gave its name to the site generally. To the S the land dropped into a valley containing the Keilor Burn, before rising to meet the cliffs bounding the bay, while to the N it ran along sand dunes and cliffs parallel with the shoreline. To the W, beyond the Knowe, the coastal dunes gave way to undulating pasture. The site was accessed via a rough track which ran from Newbarns Farm, to the SW, connecting with the road from Inverkeilor. While the plot covered by the planning application amounted to approximately 400m², the footprint of the new hut was much smaller, measuring 10.00m NE-SW x 5.00m NW-SE.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The immediate vicinity of the development contains a number of archaeological sites. The plot proposed for the beach hut lies approximately 30.00m SE of an artificial mound (NMRS site NO64NE 4), partially eroded by wartime Home Guard activity and the subsequent erection of a wind turbine (no longer standing), within which a skeleton was reportedly found in c.1915 (anecdotal evidence from a local farmer). Oblique aerial photographs have suggested that a possible enclosure (NO64NE 75) is situated on the slope of the mound, while c.50.00m NW of the mound, in an adjacent field, an auger survey revealed preserved ploughed surfaces sealed with sand, a ditch, truncated postholes and probable Early Medieval pottery (NO64NE 29). The nearby beach at Lunan Bay contains a number of WWII features including anti-tank blocks (NO64NE 73).

2.3 Archaeological Method

Groundworks were carried out by a mechanical mini-digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The flagstones comprising the surface of the W half of the plot had been removed prior to monitoring, leaving bare earth, while the E half of the plot had been built-up by Mr Anderson to double the available area by levelling previously sloping ground within a new retaining wall along the E side of the plot. Within the footprint of the new hut, three parallel foundation trenches aligned NE-SW and measuring 10.00m x 0.50m were excavated to a depth of 0.30-0.40m through beach sand on the W of the plot and re-deposited garden soil on the E. A small cable trench was dug through a newly created earth ramp at the N end of the site. All ground breaking was monitored by an archaeologist.

2.4 Results of Investigations

No features or finds of archaeological interest were encountered.

3 Interpretation

No evidence of human activity on the site, prior to the erection of the now-demolished static caravan, was found during the watching brief. It should be remembered that the trenches monitored were extremely shallow and short and that absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, as deeper or more extensive excavation in the area could still impact on subterranean archaeological remains.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology consider that the watching brief 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 Angus archaeology.

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
001-2	Location shots, plot and Corbie Knowe	N
003-4	Overview, plot prior to trenching	NE, E
005	Location shot, plot and Corbie Knowe	NE
006-10	Working shots, trenching W of plot	N, NE
011-12	Working shots, trenching centre of plot	NE
013-14	Location shots, Lunan Bay from plot	SE, E
015-19	Working shots, trenching E of plot	NE, N

Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Corbie Knowe, Inverkeilor
PROJECT CODE:	JL03
PARISH:	Inverkeilor
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	WB
NMRS NO(S):	NO64NE 4, NO64NE 29, NO64NE 73, NO64NE 75
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Mound (period unassigned), human remains (period unassigned), enclosure (period unassigned), field system, ditch, postholes, pottery (Early Medieval), beach defences (twentieth century)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 69198 48870
START DATE (this season)	25 th September 2018
END DATE (this season)	25 th September 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of the footprint of a new beach hut. Groundworks were carried out by a mechanical mini-digger with a toothless ditching bucket, which dug through natural beach sand and recent made ground. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr N & Mrs L Anderson
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)

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.

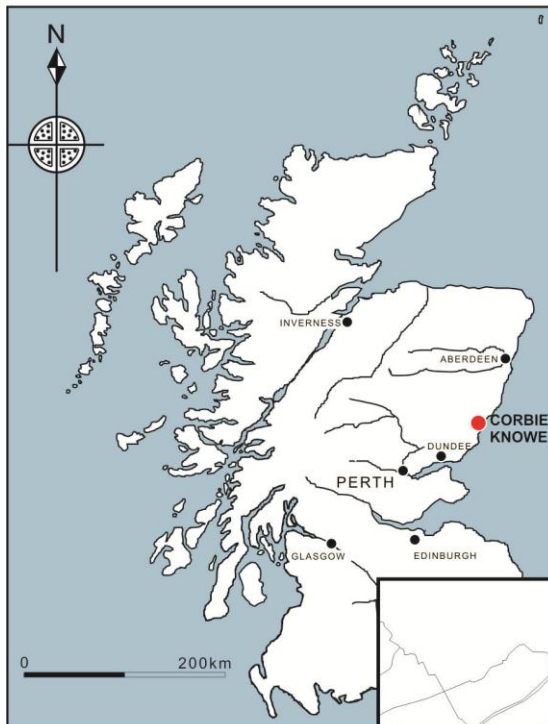
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

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

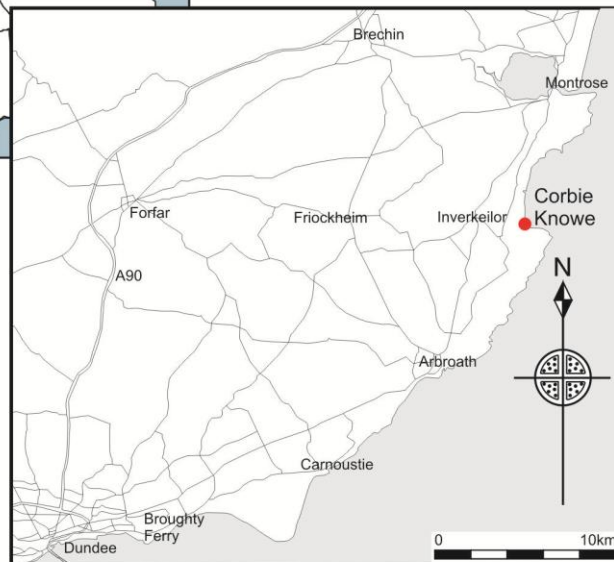
Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

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



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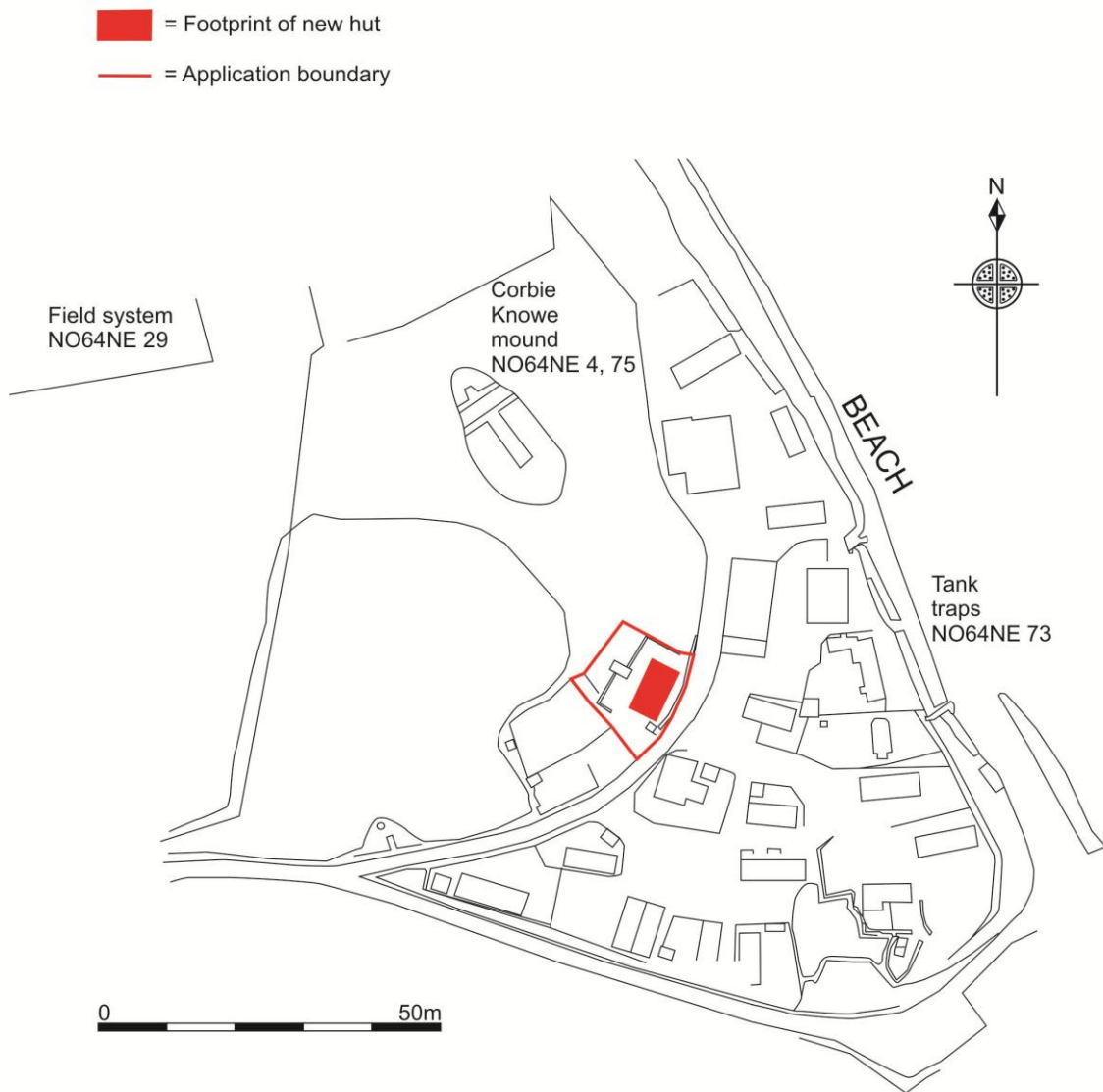
Corbie Knowe, Inverkeilor Angus

Site Location

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Illus 2 Location of beach hut plot and local archaeological sites



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