

Archaeological Monitoring
Fletcherfield Farm
Kirriemuir
ANGUS
KM10



Field drain and water pipe trenches in natural sand, looking W

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
FLETCHERFIELD FARM
KIRRIEMUIR, ANGUS**

KM10

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Front Cover: Field drain and water pipe trenches in natural sand, looking W.

Illustration 1: Location

Illustration 2: Site location

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Illustration 4: Sondages in water pipe trench 05 and field drain trench 03, looking W.

Illustration 5: Detail, field drain pipe 14 and clean fill 13 in trench 03. Scale 0.5 m.

Illustration 6-7: Lithic from fill 13.

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology conducted archaeological monitoring (site code KM10) on topsoil stripping in advance of an agricultural storage shed, 14 – 15th March 2018. Fletcherfield Farm lies within a cluster of prehistoric monuments, including four souterrains, an enclosure, a barrow and fallen standing stones, and also a possible Roman road.

Two crop mark monuments, a souterrain at NO 405 522, (NO45SW 11, Canmore ID 33850) and an enclosure at NO 4052 5218 (NO45SW 15, Canmore ID 33854) are in the same field as the development, directly to the SE of the new shed. The enclosure may be a prehistoric settlement or a Neolithic henge, and is a scheduled monument (SM5911).

None of these monuments were found on the present site. The only features were modern field drains and water pipe trenches, cut into the natural sand. However, the packing fill around a modern plastic field drain contained a quartzite lithic point, apparently prehistoric, but imported to the site from a quarry elsewhere.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Mr John Mackay commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping on the site of a new agricultural storage shed at Fletcherfield Farm, Kirriemuir, Angus. The proposed development area is 60 x 30 m, on the S side of the existing farm steading, centred on NGR NO 4043 5227. The work (site code MK10) was undertaken during the period 14th – 15th March 2018, in overcast and very windy conditions. The requirement was to observe and record topsoil stripping of the development area.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 17/01004FULL.

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, in particular relating to known archaeological sites in the area (see 2.2 below).

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this archaeological monitoring. Copies will be sent to the client, The National Record of the Historic Environment at Historic Environment Scotland, and Angus Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Claire Herbert of Aberdeenshire Council for assistance and guidance throughout this project. Mr John Mackay funded this monitoring.

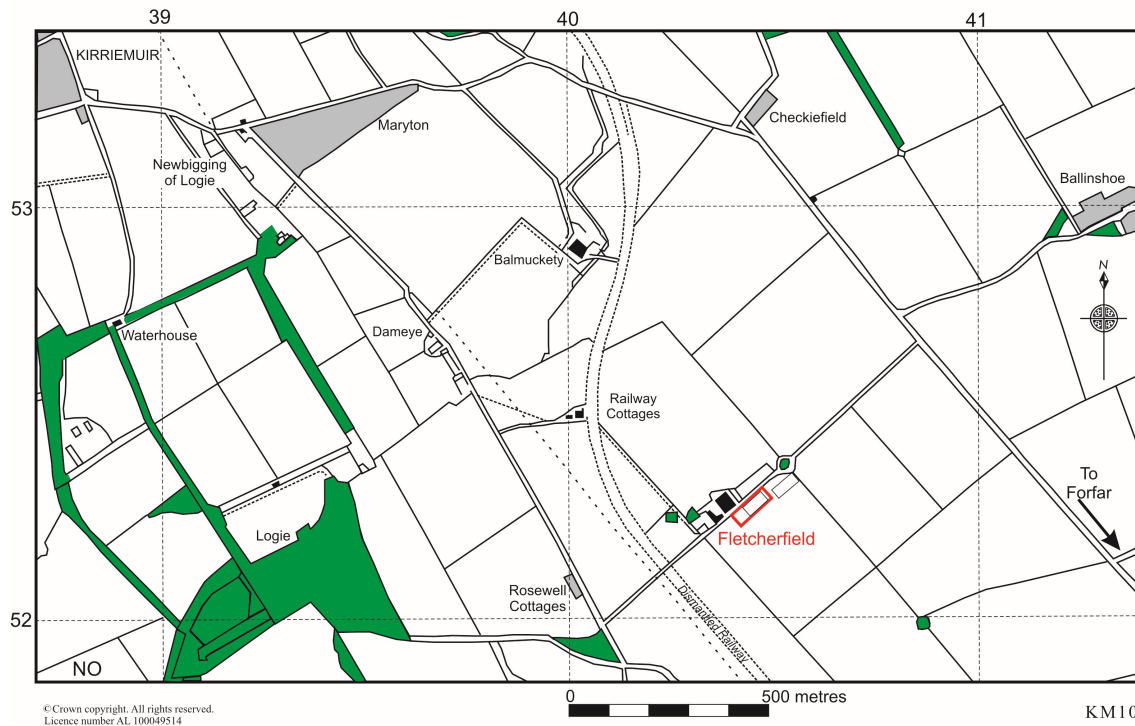
2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1 & 2)

Fletcherfield Farm is located on a generally flat site, about 2 km SE of Kirriemuir. The new shed is located to the SE of the existing steading. It is bounded to the NW and NE by existing buildings, and to the SE and SW by open fields. The site was part of an arable field until the present development. The new building is aligned SW – NE, but for convenience this is described as W – E.

Illus 2

Fletcherfield Farm, Kirriemuir
Site Location



2.2 Archaeological Potential

Fletcherfield Farm is within a cluster of prehistoric monuments, including four souterrains, an enclosure, a barrow and fallen standing stones, and also a possible Roman road. Two crop mark monuments, a souterrain at NO 405 522, (NO45SW 11, Canmore ID 33850) and an enclosure at NO 4052 5218 (NO45SW 15, Canmore ID 33854) are in the same field as the development, directly to the SE of the new shed. The enclosure may be a prehistoric settlement or a Neolithic henge, and is a scheduled monument (SM5911).

2.3 Archaeological Method

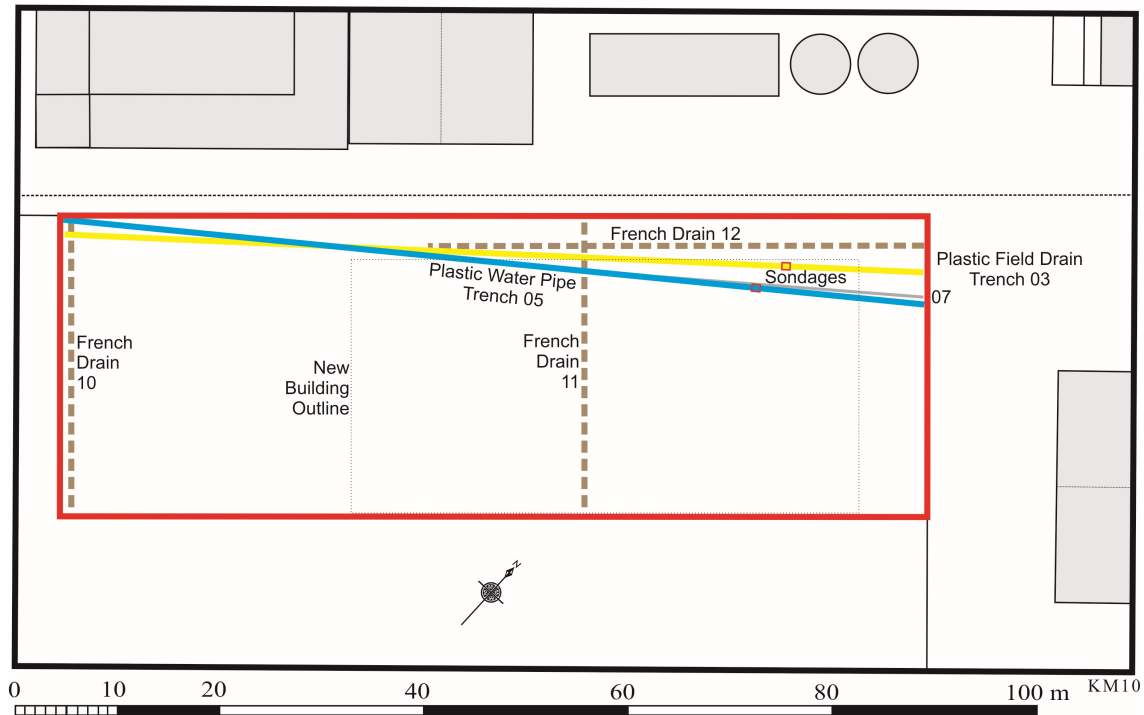
The topsoil was stripped off by a large tracked excavator, down to clean natural sand under continuous archaeological supervision. The machine started at the NE corner of the site, and worked in broad strips, starting E – W along the N boundary of the site, then turning S and returning W – E, and so on, in seven successive passes, until the whole site was stripped, ending in the SE corner. The topsoil was removed off site by a procession of trailers drawn by tractor and large dumpers, driving out and back over the field directly to the S of the machine, before it was stripped.

In addition, two small (less than 0.5 m square) sondages were hand dug in the fill of linear features, to confirm their modern origin.

The deposits and features were described and photographed. These are recorded in appendices 1 and 2, below.

Illus 3

Fletcherfield Farm, Kirriemuir
Site Layout



2.4 Results of Investigations

The topsoil 01 was a dark grey silty loam plough soil, about 0.5 m deep. This was stripped off to natural orange brown sand and gravel 02. Farther W, the sand and gravel 02 tapered away to reveal natural gravel 09.

Three E – W linear features were observed cut into the natural sand and gravel, and also three stone-filled features running N – S, but these all proved to be modern drainage and service tracks.

Feature 03 ran E – W, 0.55 m wide, and filled with 0.4 m of coarse sand, gravel and soil 04. A hand-dug sondage revealed a yellow corrugated plastic field drain pipe 14, about 0.7 m down, packed in clean crushed stone 13, obviously modern. This deposit contained a small, pointed quartzite lithic, probably prehistoric, but obviously imported with the crushed stone from a quarry elsewhere.

Feature 05 was similar to 03, but 2.13 m to S, (measured between centres). It was filled with deposit 06. A hand-dug sondage found a 19th-century fragment of glazed earthenware in the fill 06, and a blue plastic water pipe at the bottom, 0.6 m down from the top of natural sand 02.

Feature 07 was another E – W trench, filled with a grey deposit, and with a grey metal pipe, probably a cast iron water pipe, near the surface.

Three N – S trenches, 10, 11 and 12, were all cobble-filled French drains. French drain 11 was cut by the modern field drain 03.



Illustration 4: Sondages in water pipe trench 05 and field drain trench 03, looking W.



Illustration 5: Detail, field drain pipe 14 and clean fill 13 in trench 03. Scale 0.5 m.



Illustration 6: Lithic from fill 13.



Illustration 7: Lithic from fill 13.

3 Interpretation

All the features in the stripped area proved to be modern. The fact that they were seen at all, and the fairly strong contrast between the fills of features and the natural sand and gravel, suggest that if any prehistoric features had survived in the stripped area, continuing the crop-mark features seen in aerial photographs to the SE, they too would have been seen, unless they were very poorly defined or very small.

No further work was recommended in connection with the present development, but any future developments in the surrounding area would merit investigation.

4 Reference

Fletcherfield, Canmore ID 33850, 54, 60, 62, 70, 73, 73508, 09. Accessed 17th October 2018 at <https://canmore.org.uk/site/search/result?SITENAME=Fletcherfield&SITEDISCIPLINE=1&SITECOUNTRY=1>

Appendix 1 Context Register

No:	Description
01	Dark grey silty loam ploughsoil, 0.5 m deep.
02	Orange brown sand and gravel, natural, under 01.
03	Linear feature, E – W, cut in 02. 0.55 m wide, filled with 04. Field Drain. Contains yellow corrugated plastic drain pipe 14.
04	Course sands, gravel and soil, fill of drain 03. Backfill to 0.4 m down.
05	Linear feature, as 03. 2.13 m (7') to S of 03, measured between centres. Goes to NW corner of excavation.
06	As fill 04, in feature 05.
07	Narrow, grey-filled trench, oblique line E – W, deviates slightly to NNW. Merges with feature 05/06. Contains modern metal water pipe. Grey, cast iron? All 3 features (03, 05, 07) converge 20 paces [18 m] W of building E edge.
08	Rabbit hole in fill 06, feature 05.
09	Natural Sand 02 lenses out onto gravel 09.
10	Cobble-filled feature N – S at W end, 1 m E of building end. French drain.
11	Stone French drain, as 10, N – S. Cut by field drain 03. 30 paces [27 m] W of E wall.
12	As 11, E – W. 1.5 m N of NE corner. Stone French drain.
13	Cleaned crushed stone around plastic pipe 14 in field drain 03. Contains quartzite lithic.

14	Yellow corrugated plastic pipe in field drain 03. 0.7 m down.
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Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
	Wed 14 March 2018	
066 – 7	Orange brown sand and gravel 02, natural.	W
068	Linear feature 03, E – W, cut in 02. 0.55 m wide, filled with 04. Field drain.	W
069	Narrow, grey-filled trench 07, oblique line E – W, deviates slightly to NNW. Merges with 05/06. Contains modern metal water pipe. Grey, cast iron?	W
070 – 1	Rabbit hole 08 in fill 06 of feature 05. Detail.	W
072	Grey metal pipe in trench 07.	W
073	Detail of grey metal pipe in trench 07.	W
074	Sand 02 lenses out to gravel 09.	W
075	General. Stripped area about 4 m beyond building.	W
076	General. Soil in depression at NW corner.	W
077	Cobble-filled feature 10 N – S at W end, 1 m E of building end.	NW
078	Stone drain 10. Cut through by Feature 03.	N
079	Start of third pass, E – W.	W
080	Stone French drain 11, as 10, N – S. Cut by 03. 30 paces [27 m] W of E wall.	S
081	French drain 12, as 11, E – W. 1.5 m N of NE corner.	W
082	End of third pass.	W
083	Start fourth pass.	S
084	End fourth pass.	W
085	Start fifth pass.	W
086	End of day	W
	Thu 15 Mar 2018	
087	Start of day, ending fifth pass.	W
088	End of fifth pass.	W

089	Start of sixth pass.	W
090	DPB sondage in feature 05. Fragment of glazed earthenware in fill. C 19 th cent.	W
091	Detail, blue plastic water pipe at bottom of feature 05.	W
092	Sondage in feature 05. Scale 1 m.	W
093	Detail, blue pipe 0.6 m down from top of natural 02. Scale 0.5 m.	E
094	End of sixth pass.	W
095	Trench 05 goes to NW corner of excavation. Sondage.	WNW
096	Start of seventh pass, working E.	S
097 – 8	DPB Sondage in feature 03/04. Scale 0.5 m.	W
099	Backfill to 0.4 m down. Scale 0.5 m. Modern tile. Fills 04, 13, Corrugated yellow plastic pipe 14.	W
100	Sondage location, 8 paces [7 m] W of Bldg NE corner, 1 pace [0.9 m] S.	E
101	End of seventh pass. SE corner of site.	E
102	General, from NE corner. End of job.	SW
	Mon 22 October 2018	
001 - 10	Quartzite lithic, scale 2 cm	-

Appendix 3 Finds Register

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material Type</i>	<i>Details</i>
13	Quartzite?	01 Light grey-white, translucent, leaf-shaped point. 26 x 14 x 4 mm. Broken at base. Found in sondage in clean, crushed stone packing 13, above modern plastic field drain 14 in trench 03. Redeposited, brought in with modern fill 13.

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Fletcherfield Farm
PROJECT CODE:	KM10
PARISH:	Kirriemuir
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Bowler
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	NO45SW 11, NO45SW 15.
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Souterrain, Enclosure, Henge
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Quartzite point
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 4043 5227
START DATE (this season)	14 th March 2018
END DATE (this season)	15th March 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	n/a
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields)	<p>Alder Archaeology conducted archaeological monitoring (site code KM10) on topsoil stripping in advance of an agricultural storage shed, 14 – 15th March 2018. Fletcherfield Farm lies within a cluster of prehistoric monuments, including four souterrains, an enclosure, a barrow and fallen standing stones, and also a possible Roman road.</p> <p>Two crop mark monuments, a souterrain at NO 405 522, (NO45SW 11, Canmore ID 33850) and an enclosure at NO 4052 5218 (NO45SW 15, Canmore ID 33854) are in the same field as the development, directly to the SE of the new shed. The enclosure may be a prehistoric settlement or a Neolithic henge, and is a scheduled monument (SM5911).</p> <p>None of these monuments were found on the present site. The only features were modern field drains and water pipe trenches, cut into the natural sand. However, the packing fill around a modern plastic field drain contained a quartzite lithic point, apparently prehistoric, but imported to the site from a quarry elsewhere.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	Quartzite lithic point from modern field drain.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr John Mackay
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)