

Archaeological Evaluation
Nether Gothens
Meikleour
PERTH & KINROSS

BW13



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
NETHER GOTHENS
MEIKLEOUR**

BW13

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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Locations of archaeological trenches

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ABSTRACT

In advance of the construction of a new cottage beside an existing farmhouse at Nether Gothens (NGR NO 1703 4058), an evaluation was conducted of the proposed footprint, which lay within a rich archaeological landscape and less than 1km from the Cleaven Dyke, a major Neolithic earthwork. The work (site code BW13) was carried out on 20th May, 2019, in overcast weather. Two trenches measuring 10.00m x 2.00m were excavated by a mini-digger under archaeological supervision. No archaeological features or finds were exposed.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

The Meikleour Trust commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a new build cottage at Nether Gothens, near Meikleour. The proposed development area is part of an arable field, centred on NGR NO 1703 4058. The work (site code BW13) was undertaken on 20th May, 2019, in overcast weather conditions.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 18/01302/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.

1.3 Reporting

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

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This evaluation 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 Sam Mercer-Nairne for his assistance and guidance throughout this project. The Meikleour Trust funded this evaluation.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

Nether Gothens Farm comprises a stone farmhouse with a wooden cottage standing to the SW; the development included the demolition of this cottage and its replacement by a new building 60.00m to the N. The site as a whole lies on the E edge of a gravel ridge aligned N-S and rising above the River Isla and the Lunar Burn, to the S of Blairgowrie on the N side of Strathmore. The farm is surrounded by arable fields, with the A93 Blairgowrie-Perth road passing to the W. Immediately to the SE of the new building footprint, a brick garage had stood within living memory but had been demolished, while a N-S embankment, grassed-over, along the E edge of the footprint was composed of recently cleared field boulders collected during ploughing (details from Mr Andrew Graham, estate worker and mini-digger driver).

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Meikleour lies within a rich archaeological landscape of high sensitivity, with numerous nearby sites including the major Neolithic earthwork known as the Cleaven Dyke, a scheduled monument (SM1602). 20.00m South of the farm at Nether Gothens are the scheduled remains of a rectilinear palisaded enclosure (SM7162), visible from cropmark evidence, while the farm itself lies within the extended complex associated with this monument, noted in the HER as MPK5488. The Cleaven Dyke, less than 1km to the South-West, is likely to be the focus of much of this presumed prehistoric activity. Map regression suggests the proposed location of the new building, 60.00m North of the timber cottage, has not been subject to construction in the historic period, making the persistence of subterranean prehistoric remains more likely.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Two trenches measuring 10.00m x 2.00m were excavated within the footprint of the new building by a mini-digger equipped with a toothless bucket under close archaeological supervision. Photographs were taken of the work and the trench locations. Both trenches were aligned N-S, with T1 in the SW quadrant of the footprint and T2 in the NE quadrant.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Topsoil across both trenches was a stony black silt. Over T1, this reached a maximum thickness of 0.20m, declining to as little as 0.05m around the middle of the trench. Over T2, the soil thickened to 0.35m (maximum), particularly in the N end where the trench projected into the cultivated field. Below the topsoil was an undisturbed orange-brown gravel subsoil, very hard and compact, free-draining but difficult to dig into. A plough or wheel mark was noted in the base of T2, filled with topsoil and no more than 0.04m deep.

No archaeological features were exposed in either trench.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology consider that evaluation was conducted correctly and do not recommend further work in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
0001-2	Location shot, new build footprint and T1	N, W
0003	Location shot, Nether Gothens house and new build footprint	SE
0004	Working shot, commencing strip of T1	N
0005	Topsoil in T1	N
0006	Subsoil in T1	N
0007-9	Working shots, T1	N
0010-11	T1, post-ex	N, S
0012	Location shot, T2	S
0013	Working shot, commencing strip of T2	S
0014	Topsoil in T2	S
0015	Subsoil in T2	S
0016-17	Working shot, T2	S
0018-20	T2, post-ex	S, N, NW
0021	Sample, W-facing section, T2	E
0022	Plough/wheel mark in T2	S
0023	Location shot, plough/wheel mark	S
0024	Plough/wheel mark in T1	N
0025	Location shot, plough/wheel mark	N
0026	Sample, W-facing section, T1	E

Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Nether Gothens
PROJECT CODE:	BW13
PARISH:	Blairgowrie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NO14SE 28, 80, 89, 124
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Kiln, cursus, cropmarks, unenclosed settlement,
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 1703 4058
START DATE (this season)	20/05/19
END DATE (this season)	20/05/19
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	In advance of the construction of a new cottage beside an existing farmhouse, an evaluation was conducted of the proposed footprint, which lay within a rich archaeological landscape and less than 1km from the Cleaven Dyke, a major Neolithic earthwork. Two trenches measuring 10.00m x 2.00m were excavated by a mini-digger under archaeological supervision. No archaeological features or finds were exposed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Meikleour Trust
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

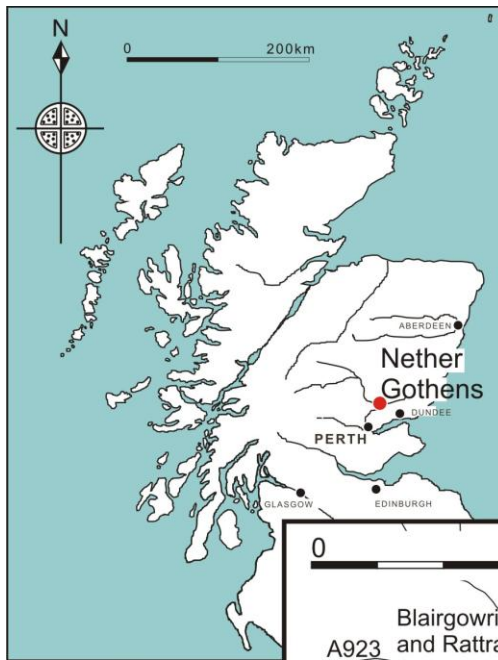
We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

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.

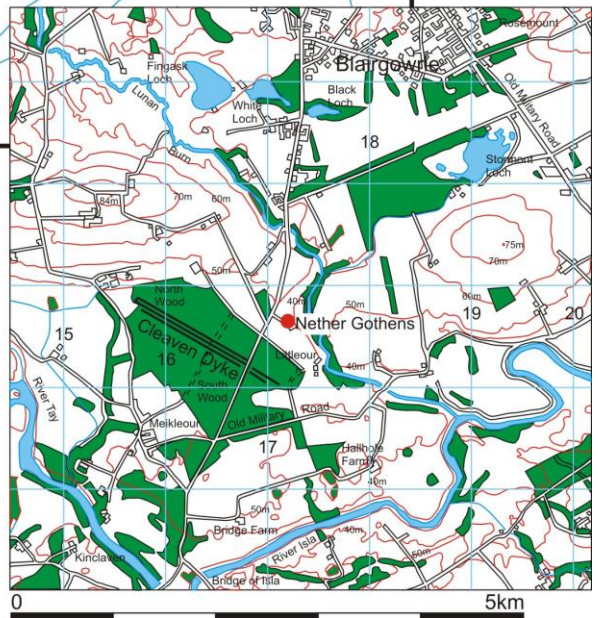
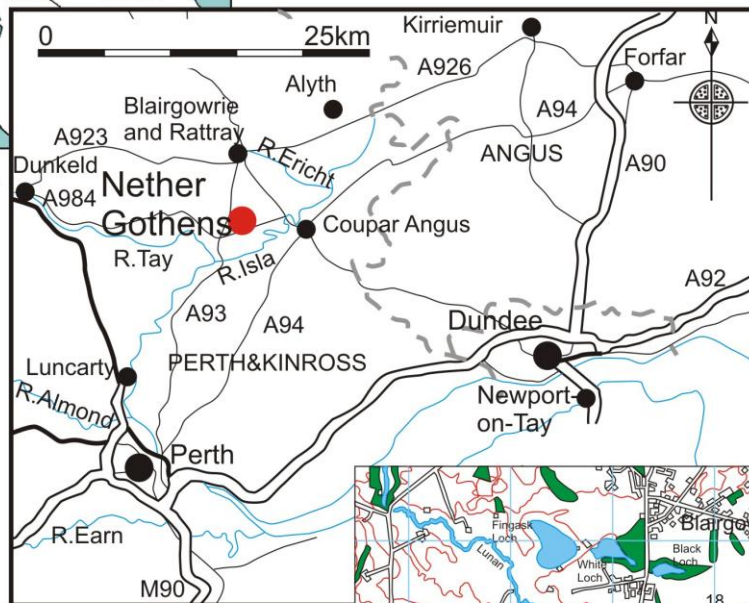


Illus 1

Nether Gothens,
Meikleour

Site Location

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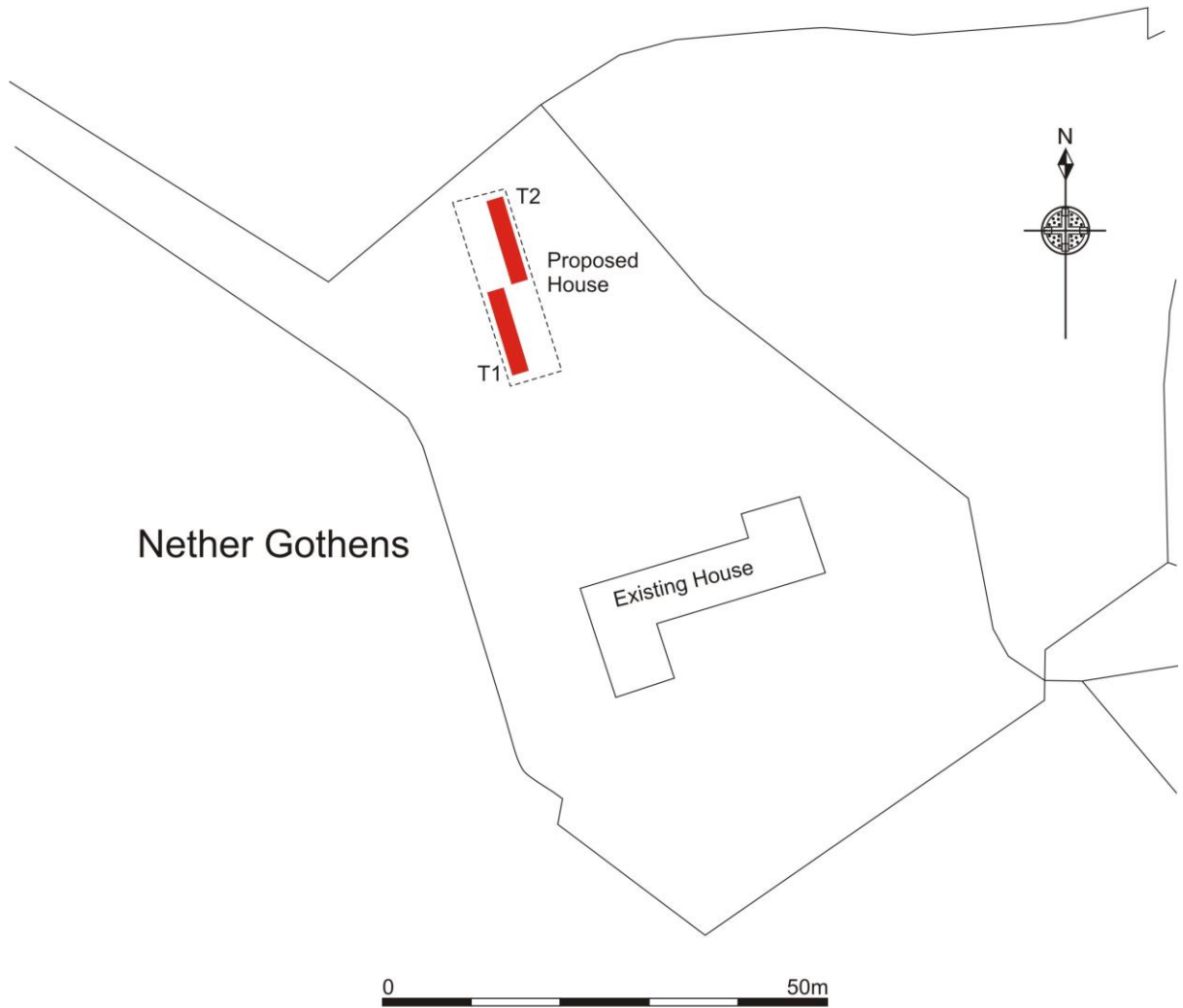


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Illus 2

Locations of archaeological trenches



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