

Archaeological Evaluation
Meikleour Arms Hotel
Meikleour
PERTH & KINROSS
BW12



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
MEIKLEOUR ARMS HOTEL
PERTH & KINROSS**

BW12

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Illustration 1: Site location plan

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ABSTRACT

The Meikleour Trust commissioned Alder Archaeology to conduct an evaluation of part of an arable field earmarked for an expansion to the existing overflow car park at the Meikleour Arms hotel and restaurant, centred on NGR NO 1581 3964. The work (site code BW12) was conducted on 23rd May, 2019. Five trenches were excavated across the site, resulting in no archaeological finds or features being exposed.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

The Meikleour Trust commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a car park expansion at Meikleour. The proposed development area is on the edge of a cultivated field, centred on NGR NO 1581 3964. The work (site code BW12) was undertaken on 23rd May, 2019, in fine weather conditions. The requirement was to evaluate 6% of the available area of 3200m², that is 192m², with provision for an additional 4% should features of archaeological significance be exposed.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 18/02168/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. Terms of Reference were provided by Clare Henderson of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. The Meikleour Trust funded this evaluation.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The existing overflow car park at the Meikleour Arms lies to the S of and across Carsie Road from the hotel itself, being a level, sub-triangular area of gravel with an entrance to the N, just E of the Old Military Road to Dunkeld, here running approximately N-S. The area of the planned expansion lay immediately to the E and S, forming a larger quadrilateral separated from the existing car park by a fence and bank and lying entirely within an arable field, most of which was under cultivation at the time of the evaluation. A watercourse formed the S boundary of the site, with Carsie Road forming the N boundary, while the E edge was marked out with temporary posts. A prominent NE-SW ridge occupied the N half of the site, which sloped down to the watercourse in the S.

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). The closest scheduled monument to the development area comprises two enclosures of probable prehistoric origin (SM7027, registered in the Perth & Kinross HER as MPK3265), visible as a series of cropmarks on oblique aerial photographs and located 265m East of the Meikleour Arms, close to the Cleaven Dyke and interpreted as a possible Neolithic mortuary enclosure. Both this site and the Cleaven Dyke itself are nationally important. Two additional enclosures are noted in the HER as MPK6060, adjacent to SM7027 but outwith the scheduled area; both are oval in plan and measure approximately 50m x 40m internally. Little archaeological evaluation work has been undertaken in or around the village, therefore the level of survival of archaeology was unknown prior to this evaluation.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Five trenches measuring 20.00m x 1.60m were excavated under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. A sixth trench proposed within the existing car park was not excavated following discussion with both the client and Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT), as the development plan did not include reducing the ground level in this part of the site.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Across much of the site, the natural subsoil was found to be a smooth sand, varying from light yellow to yellow-brown; in trench 4, located on the ridge, the subsoil was a yellow sand-gravel mix. Topsoil across the site was a rich loamy silt ploughsoil, thickest along the S of the site close to the watercourse (up to 0.70m thick). At the interface of the topsoil and subsoil, occasional natural features were exposed including bush and boulder hollows and animal burrows. Modern plough marks were also noted, indicating deep ploughing across the site.

No finds or features of archaeological interest were exposed in any of the trenches.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Recommendations for Further Work

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

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench</i>
0101	Topsoil, fine dark-brown/black sandy loam, moderately compact, occasional pebbles, 0.34m – 0.60m	1
0102	Moderate brown sandy loam with occasional pebbles and cobbles, 0.15m – 0.35m thick	1
0103	Natural subsoil, moderately compact yellow sand with occasional lenses of pebbles and occasional root channels/animal burrows	1
0201	Topsoil, as 0101, 0.30m – 0.60m thick	2
0202	As 0102, 0.17m – 0.33m thick, fading out 10.80m from SW end of trench	2
0203	Natural subsoil, yellow-brown sand becoming loose, very light-yellow sand 14.90m from SW end	2
0301	Topsoil, as 0101, 0.40m – 0.70m thick	3
0302	Natural subsoil, as 0103	3
0401	Topsoil, as 0101, 0.32m- 0.48m thick	4
0402	Natural subsoil, coarse yellow-white sand with frequent pebbles	4
0403	As 0102, 0.18m thick (max)	4
0404	Natural feature, small boulder hollow/burrow, sub-circular plan, uneven sides and base, sloping off-centre to E, fill of topsoil 0401	4
0405	Natural feature, bush bole/burrow amorphous plan, uneven and bifurcated sides and base, fill of 0402	4
0501	Topsoil, as 0101, 0.34m – 0.45m thick	5
0502	Natural subsoil, as 0203, occasional root channels/animal burrows	5
0503	Mottled brown/light brown sand, occasional pebbles, fill of 0504	5
0504	Cut, amorphous plan, concave/broken sides, uneven base, 0.56m x 0.58m, 0.14m deep, bush hollow	5

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
001-8	Location shots, car park expansion, pre-strip	NE, E, SE, S, SW, W,

		NW, N
009	Working/location shot, T1	N
010-11	Location shots, T1	NE, E
012	Working shot, T1	E
013	Subsoil 0103 in T1	E
014	Working/location shot, sondage in W end T1	E
015	Working shot, T2	NE
016-17	Location shots, T2	N
018	Subsoil 0202 in T2	NE
019-21	T2, post-ex	NE, SW
022	Location shot, T2	W
023-24	Location shots, T3	NW, W
025-26	Working shots, T3	SE
027-28	Location shots, T3	SSE, NE
029	Working shot, T3	SE
030-31	Site overview, from T3	SSE, S
032-33	T3, post-ex	NW, SE
034-35	T1, post-ex	E, W
036-38	Location shots, T4	W, NW, SW
039	Working shot, T4	E
040-41	Location shots, T4	SE, NE
042-44	T4, post-ex	E, W
045	Natural feature 0404	W
046	Location shot, 0404	W
047	0404, post-ex	W
048	Natural feature 0405	W
049	Location shot, 0405	W
050-51	0405, post-ex	W

052-54	Location shots, T5	SW, SSW, W
055	Working shot, T5	NE
056	Location shot, T5	N
057-58	Working shots, T5	NE, E
059-60	Modern machine plough marks in base of T5	E
061-62	Working shots/site overview	N
063-64	T5, post-ex	NE, SW
065-75	Site overview, post-ex	SW, S, NW, W, E, SE, NE
076-77	Natural feature 0504, half-sectioned	N

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Trench plans and context notes	1:100

Appendix 4 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

4.1 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.

4.2 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*.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

4.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

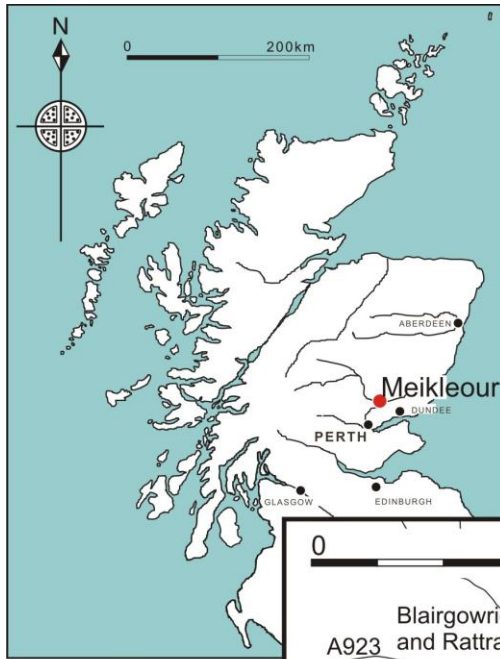
We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

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.

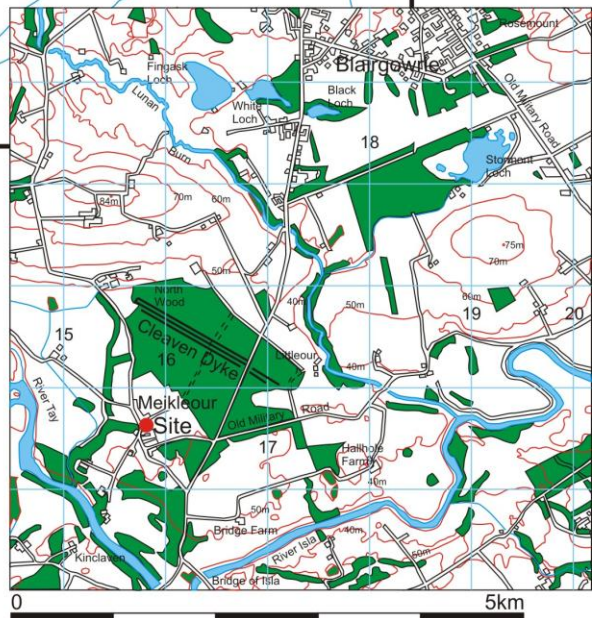
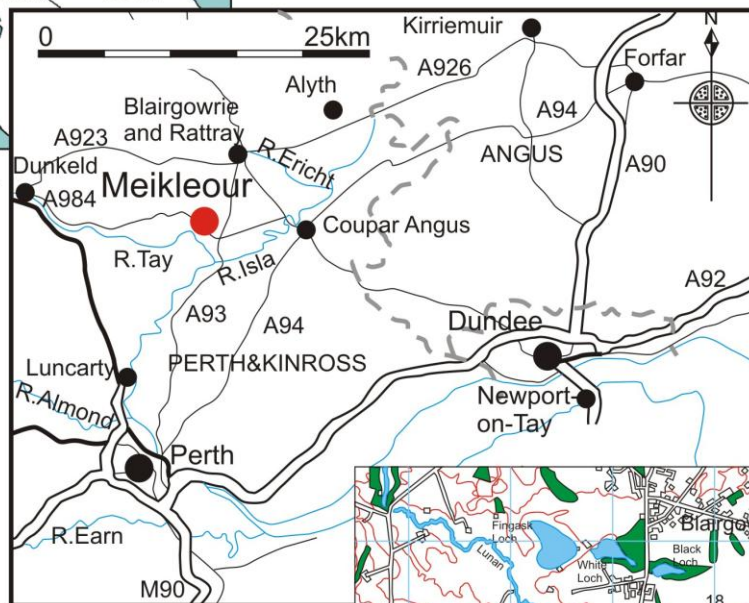


Illus 1

Meikleour Arms,
Meikleour

Site Location

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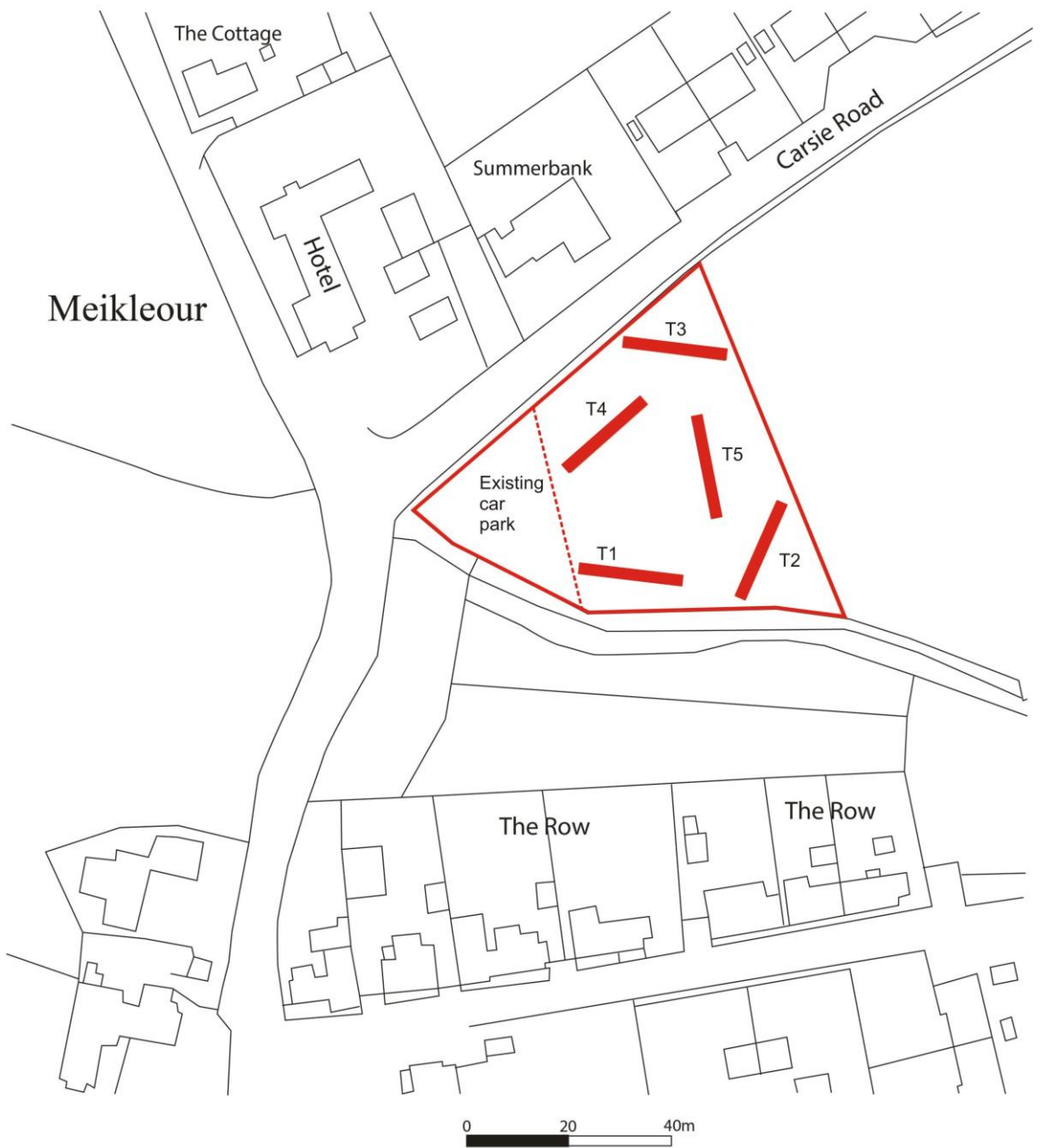


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Illus 2

Locations of archaeological trenches



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