

Archaeological Evaluation  
Land N of Flowerdale Cottage  
The Rhynd  
PERTH & KINROSS

PE67



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**  
**FLOWERDALE, RHYND**  
**PERTH & KINROSS**

**PE67**

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*Illustration 1: Site location plan*

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**ABSTRACT**

*Alder Archaeology conducted an evaluation of the steeply sloping edge of a field at The Rhynd (NGR NO 13998 21696) on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in advance of the construction of a new dwellinghouse. The site lay c.150m SW of the location of Elcho Priory, of which little remains above ground. Other nearby sites suggested prehistoric activity. Four trenches measuring 12.00m x 1.00m were excavated; no finds or features of archaeological interest resulted.*

# **1 Background**

## **1.1 Introduction**

Mr John Skipper commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new build dwelling house N of Flowerdale Cottage, Rhynd Road, near Grange of Elcho Farm. The proposed development area is the steeply sloping edge of a field, centred on NGR NO 13998 21696. The work (site code PE67) was undertaken on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in misty weather conditions. The requirement was to evaluate 6% of the available area, that is 48m<sup>2</sup> of 800m<sup>2</sup>, rising to 10% (80m<sup>2</sup>) in the event that significant remains were encountered .

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 15/01780/AML.

## **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. The results of this investigation will be used to inform future mitigation strategies for the proposed development.

## **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, excavation constitutes archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

## **1.5 Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank Ian Hiddleston of Hiddleston & Feist Architects and John Skipper for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Mr Skipper funded this evaluation.

# **2 Details of Work**

## **2.1 The Site (Illus 1)**

Approximately two-thirds of the site was on a steeply sloping bank immediately N of Rhynd Road and c.130m SE of the River Tay. The bank sloped down from S to N, the base of slope being on a paddock, generally level alongside the site but further away sloping up to the E and down to the N and W. Flowerdale Cottage lay to the SE of the proposed building plot, on top of the same bank and immediately alongside the road; Riverside Cottage lay immediately NW of the site, bordering the same paddock.

## 2.2 Archaeological Potential

The proposed building plot lay a little over 150m SW of the site of the Cistercian convent of Elcho, the only such institution N of the Forth and founded before 1241. The convent was burned down during the English invasion of 1547 and apparently never rebuilt. Excavations from 1968-1973 exposed the remains of 31 people, some or all of whom may have been buried while the convent was in use. The convent site was reportedly also the location of a find of a prehistoric flint borer (NO12SW 49), the whereabouts of which are now unknown.

One roofed and one unroofed building set within a large garden are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map of the area (1866) in the location of the present Flowerdale Cottage, immediately S/SE of the proposed building plot (NO12SW 293). Given the presence of an unroofed building, it is possible these structures predate the 1866 map by some time.

Aerial photography suggests the presence of two souterrains (NO12SW 206) in open fields 55m and 130m respectively NW of Elcho Grange, 150-200m SE of the proposed building plot.

Immediately across the road to the W of Flowerdale Cottage is a small, disused quarry (NO12SW 292).

There was thus the possibility that subterranean archaeological remains from various periods may have existed on or close to the site.

## 2.3 Archaeological Method

Four trenches each measuring 12.00m x 1.00m were excavated across the building footprint and accompanying soakaway location, by a mechanical digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision.

## 2.4 Results of Investigations

T1: aligned SE-NW along the base of the slope, generally level with a maximum depth of 0.30m through loam topsoil onto smooth yellow/orange sand subsoil. No archaeological finds or features. E end of trench located at NGR NO 14025 21692 ( $\pm 9$ m).

T2: aligned NE-SW up steep slope, topsoil similar to T1 but more rock and leaf mulch content, N end 0.20m deep, middle (at the break of slope) 0.50m deep, S end 0.25m deep. Rocky/sandy subsoil with tree roots in the S end. No archaeological finds or features. N end of trench at NGR 14015 21691 ( $\pm 9$ m).

T3: aligned NE-SW up steep slope (NB- the original intention had been to align this trench E-W, but the severity of the gradient prevented this), topsoil a loose, dumped orange-brown sand, frequent rabbit burrows, N end 0.15m deep, middle 0.50m deep, S end 0.50m deep, onto rocky-sandy subsoil. No archaeological finds or features. N end of trench at NGR NO 14002 21695 ( $\pm 9$ m).

T4: aligned SE-NW, 4.5m W of T1, on level ground at the base of slope, average 0.20m deep, topsoil and subsoil as in T1. No archaeological finds or features. W end of trench at NGR NO 13999 21704 ( $\pm 9$ m).

No archaeological deposits were exposed during the evaluation.

### **3 Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### **3.1 Recommendations for Further Work**

Alder do not recommend further work on this site 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>
001-8	Site location	NE, E, SE, S, SW
009-10	Working shots, T1	W
011	T1, post-ex	W
012-14	Location shots, T2	SW, N
015-19	Working shots, T2	S
020-23	T2, post-ex	S, E, N
024	T1, post-ex	W
025	Working shot, backfilling T2	S
026-27	T1, post-ex	E, S
028	Location shot, T3	E
029-30	Working shots, T3	N
031-35	T3, post-ex	N, S, E
036-39	Working shots, T4	W
040-42	T4, post-ex	W, N, E

## Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Perth & Kinross
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Flowerdale, Rhynd
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	PE67
<b>PARISH:</b>	Perth
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	C Fyles
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Alder Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NO12SW 49, 206, 292, 293
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Convent (medieval), flint borer (findspot, prehistoric), souterrains (prehistoric), quarry
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NO 13998 21696
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An evaluation was conducted of the steeply sloping edge of a field in advance of the construction of a new dwellinghouse. The site lay c.150m SW of the location of Elcho Priory, of which little remains above ground. Other nearby sites suggested prehistoric activity. Four trenches measuring 12.00m x 1.00m were excavated; no finds or features of archaeological interest resulted.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr J.Skipper
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:director@alderarchaeology.co.uk">director@alderarchaeology.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (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.

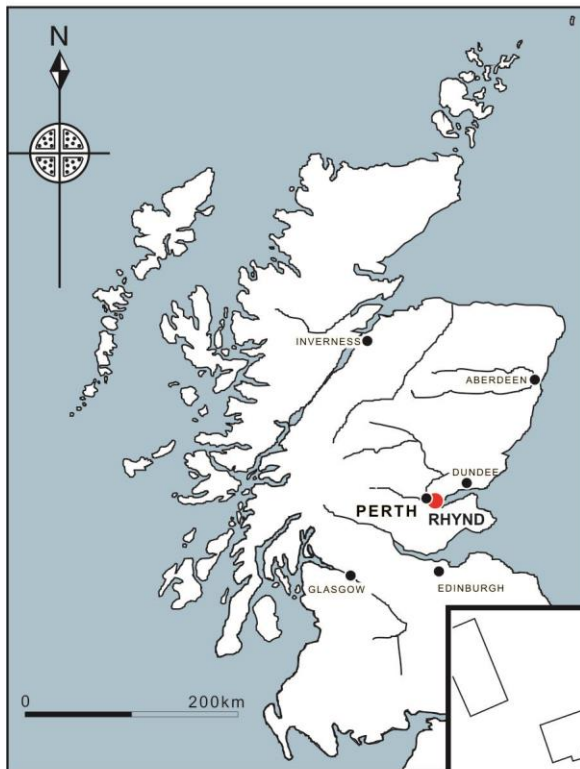
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

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.

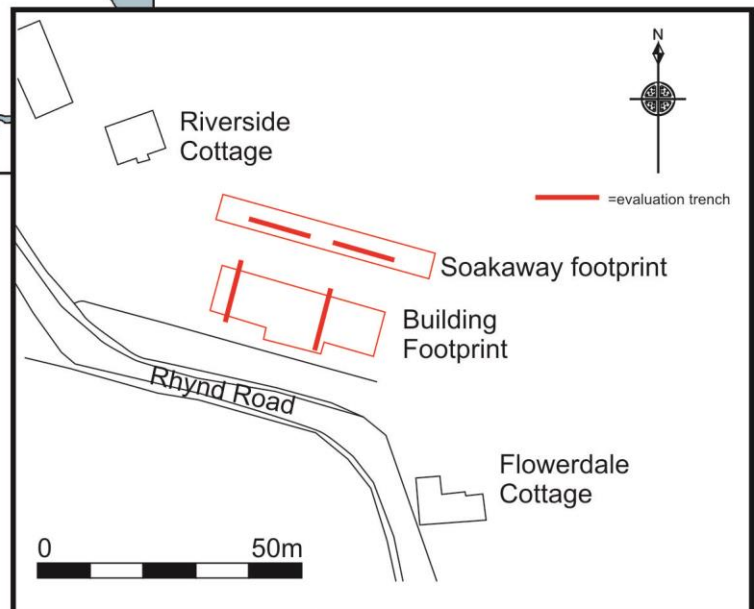
If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

Illus 1



Land N of Flowerdale Cottage  
Rhynd Road  
Perth & Kinross

Site Location



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