

Archaeological Evaluation
Westaugh of Tulliemet Farm
Ballinluig
PERTH & KINROSS

PL08



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
WESTHAUGH OF TULLIEMET FARM
PERTH & KINROSS**

PL08

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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Westhaugh of Tulliemet Farm, locations of archaeological evaluation trenches

Photographic images: 06, 13, 28, 60

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ABSTRACT

Trial trenching was conducted prior to the construction of a new agricultural shed and yard. The site lay between two scheduled monuments- a prehistoric standing stone and an early medieval cross slab- alongside the A9 road near Ballinluig. Four trenches were excavated, exposing in one the base of what may have been a drainage ditch. No significant archaeology resulted. The work was conducted on 2nd October, 2020.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Algo Design and Build, on behalf of Robert Laird, commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a planned new agricultural building at Westhaugh of Tulliemet Farm, near Ballinluig. The proposed development area is an open field, currently pasture, centred on NGR NN 98653 51135. The work (site code PL08) was undertaken on 2nd October 2020 in weather conditions ranging from mist to bright sunshine. The requirement was to evaluate 8% of the available area, that is 144m².

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 20/00421/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 Gregor Maclean of Algo and Robert Laird of Haugh of Tulliemet Farm for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Mr Laird funded this evaluation.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

Westhaugh of Tulliemet farm lies approximately 1km SE of Ballinluig and is connected to the latter by the A9 Perth-Inverness road, which forms the E boundary of the farm approximately 70.00m E of the development area. The Perth-Inverness railway line runs immediately SW of the farm buildings, with a level crossing accessing the fields beyond and eventually the River Tay, just SE of its confluence with the Tummel.

The development area lay along the SE edge of a working farm comprising a modern cattle shed, a farmhouse, a salt store serving the A9 and a steading block with attached circular horse mill. The proposed new building and yard area were to be constructed within an adjoining field, which was generally level; it was also planned to construct a track linking the A9 with the salt store. This would be along a line currently occupied

by an earth bund created during construction of the existing cattle shed approximately ten years previously.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The proposed development area lay within an archaeologically rich landscape containing several known or suspected sites of prehistoric origin. These included the Clach Glas standing stone and Haugh of Tulliemet cross slab, both of which are scheduled monuments (SM1515 and SM1628 respectively). In 2018, geophysical survey by AOC Archaeology detected the presence of two subterranean curvilinear features directly E of the development area, raising the possibility that associated remains lay within the site.

2.3 Archaeological Method

An 8% sample of the total development area was required, or 144m². It had been intended to excavate five trenches (T1-T5), each 15.00m long x 2.00m wide. Two of these trenches were to be positioned across the footprint of the storage yard, two across the new shed and one across the route of the track. However, on arrival at the site, it was discovered that the route of the proposed track was entirely occupied by a 2.00m high earth bund, representing topsoil removed during the construction of the existing shed. It was clearly impossible to excavate through the bund without causing it to collapse; moreover, the construction plan involved removing the bund down to present ground level before building up the surface to create the track. It would thus require no additional excavation into undisturbed soil. Accordingly, T5 (across the track) was not excavated; instead, three other trenches (T1, T2 and T4) were extended by 5.00m each to maintain the required sample area.

Excavation was conducted by a mechanical digger equipped with a 2.00m wide ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. Each trench was excavated in 0.10m spits down to undisturbed natural subsoil.

2.4 Results of Investigations

T1: This was located at the NE end of the site, parallel with the soil bund (ie, NE-SW) at the E end of the proposed yard. It measured 20.00m x 2.00m. Topsoil (101) of rich dark silt was 0.35m at the NE end of the trench, thickening to 0.80m towards the SW end. Compact glacial gravel (102) covered the majority of the trench base, turning to smooth sand (103) 5.00m from the SW end. No features of archaeological interest were exposed.

T2: Aligned NNW-SSE, 5.00m from the SW end of T1, this also measured 20.00m x 2.00m. Topsoil (201) was an average 0.40m thick, onto gravel (202). 5.70m from the NNW end of the trench, a linear feature (203) was exposed in the trench base, almost spanning the trench NW-SE but petering out 0.20m short of the SE side, 7.60m from the NNW end of the trench. A box-section showed it to be steep-sided, with a scooped, somewhat uneven base 0.22m deep (below the trench base) and 0.60m wide. It contained a fill (204) of smooth, light-brown sand with few pebbles, unlike the surrounding gravel but similar to sand patches exposed elsewhere. No charcoal was present and it seems likely this was either a natural feature, perhaps an offshoot from a boggy dip at the SW end of the site, or was otherwise the base of a drainage ditch feeding into this area. A similar feature (205) was exposed 4.00m from the SSE end of

the trench, but was found to be very shallow (0.05m-0.10m), very uneven and almost certainly natural in origin.

T3: This was located at the front end of the proposed shed and was 15.00m long, aligned with the bund and T1. Topsoil (301) was an average of 0.25m thick, onto glacial gravel (302). No features were exposed.

T4: This lay at the rear of the shed and was 20.00m long, aligned NW-SE. Topsoil (401) was an average of 0.40m thick over smooth yellow sand (402), sondaged and found to be 0.20m thick onto gravel and boulders (403). No features were exposed.

3 Interpretation

The evaluation exposed no significant archaeological features. Linear feature (203) was probably natural, but possibly the remains of a drainage ditch.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations for Further Work

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

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench</i>
101	Topsoil, smooth, dark grey-brown sandy silt, moderately compact, frequent pebbles, 0.35m-0.80m thick	T1
102	Compact yellow-orange gravel in sand matrix, very frequent sub-rounded pebbles, in base of trench	T1
103	Moderately loose light-yellow sand, very few pebbles, in base of trench 5.00m from SW end of trench	T1
201	Topsoil, as (101), 0.40m thick (average)	T2
202	Subsoil, gravel as (102), in base of trench	T2
203	Linear feature, spanning trench NW-SE but petering out 0.20m short of the SE side, 7.60m from the NNW end of the trench. Steep-sided, with a scooped, somewhat uneven base 0.22m deep (below the trench base), 0.60m wide. Natural feature or base of drainage ditch.	T2
204	Fill of (203), smooth, light-brown sand, moderately compact, infrequent pebbles, no charcoal	T2
205	Linear feature, 4.00m from SSE end of trench, aligned NW-SE, shallow (0.05m-0.10m), uneven base, indistinct edges, 1.50m long x 0.50m wide, slightly curvilinear. Natural feature.	T2
301	Topsoil, as (101), 0.25m thick (average)	T3
302	Subsoil, gravel as (102)	T3
401	Topsoil, as (101), 0.40m thick (average)	T4
402	Subsoil, smooth yellow sand similar to 103, moderately loose, 0.20m thick	T4
402	Subsoil, gravel similar to (102) but with more frequent cobbles/small boulders	T4

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
1-5	Location shots, NE end of site, SE of farm	W, NW, SW, SE
6	NE end of Berm occupying track route	SW
7	Location shot, T1, pre-ex	SW
8-12	Working shots, excavating T1	SW

13-15	T1, post-ex	SW, NE
16-18	Location shots, T2, pre-ex	SSE, NE
19-21	Working shots, excavating T2	SSE
22-23	Feature (203), pre-ex	SW, SE
24-25	Location shots, (203)	SSE
26-37	NW-facing section, (203)	SE
28-31	SE-facing section, (203)	NW
32-33	T2, post-ex	NNW, SSE
34	Feature (205), pre-ex	S
35	Location shot, (205)	SSE
36	Feature (205), box-sectioned showing shallow, uneven base	S
37-40	Location shots, T3, pre-ex	SW
41-43	Working shots, excavating T3	SW
44-46	T3, post-ex	SW, NE
47-49	Location shots, T4, pre-ex	SE, NE
50-53	Working shots, excavating T4	SE
54-59	Site overview	NE, E, N
60-63	T4, post-ex	SE, NW
64-65	Sondage through sand (402) to gravel (403)	SW

Appendix 3 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Westhaugh of Tulliemet Farm
PROJECT CODE:	PL08
PARISH:	Moulin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation (trial trenching)
NMRS NO(S):	NN95SE 5, 6
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Standing stone, cross slab
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 98653 51135
START DATE (this season)	2 nd October 2020
END DATE (this season)	2 nd October 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Trial trenching was conducted prior to the construction of a new agricultural shed and yard. The site lay between two scheduled monuments- a prehistoric standing stone and an early medieval cross slab- alongside the A9 road near Ballinluig. Four trenches were excavated, exposing in one the base of what may have been a drainage ditch. No significant archaeology resulted.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Robert Laird
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 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.

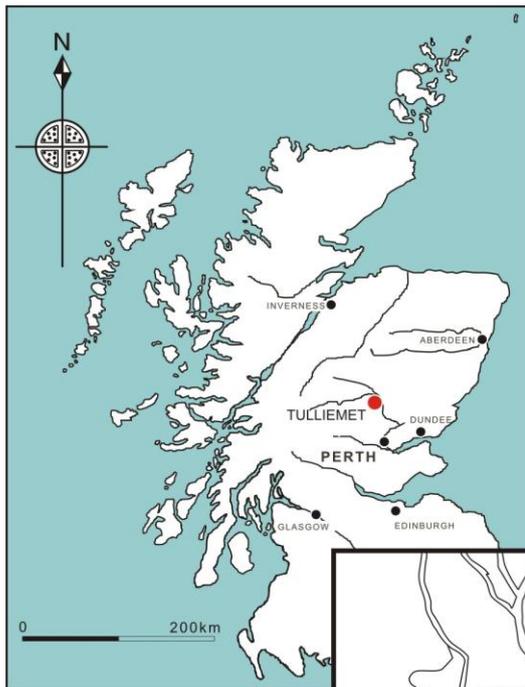
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

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.

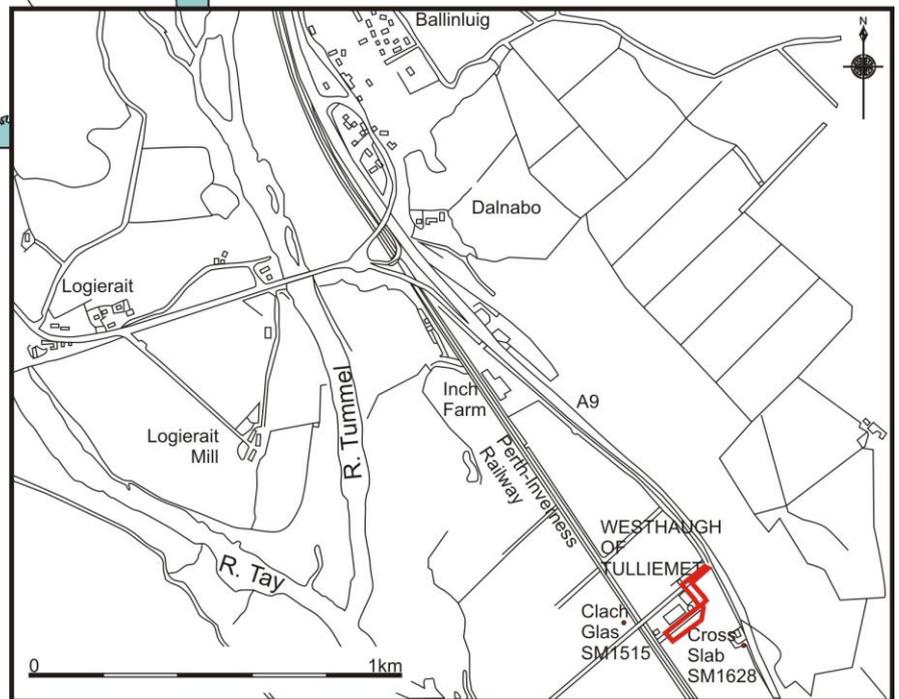
If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

Illus 1



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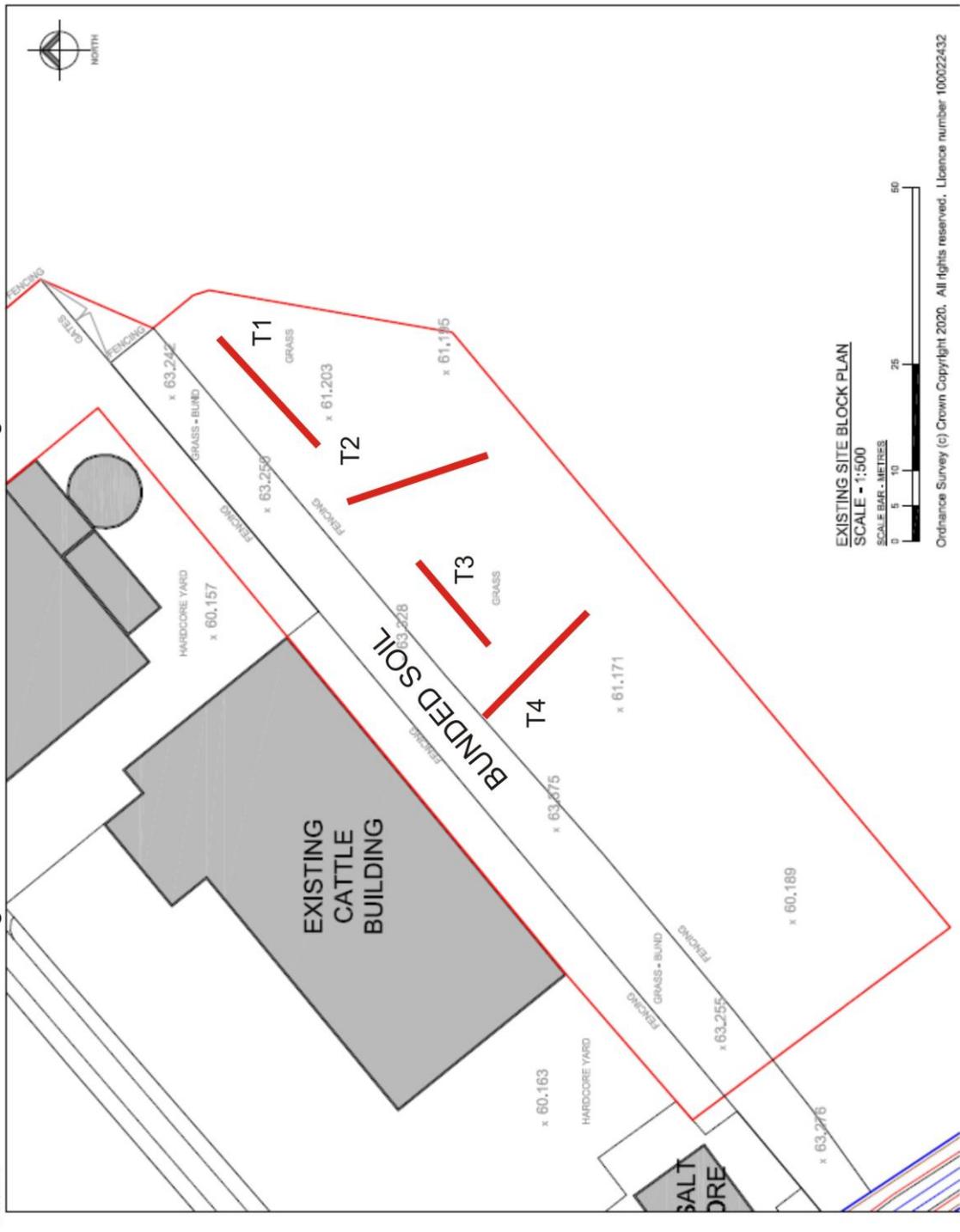
Westhaugh of Tulliemet Farm Site Location



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Illus2 Westhaugh of Tulliemet Farm locations of archaeological evaluation trenches



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NE end of berm, banded soil from shed



T1, post-ex



SE-facing section, feature (203)



T4, post-ex (Cross Slab SM1628 out of shot top left)