

GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



**Camserney Burn, Aberfeldy
Data Structure Report
Project 3257**

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Camserney Burn, Aberfeldy

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd

NGR: NN 81962 49014

Project Number: 3257

Project Manager: Ronan Toolis

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Illustrations: Alan Hunter Blair

Approved by:



Date:

30/03/2011

*This document has been prepared in accordance
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

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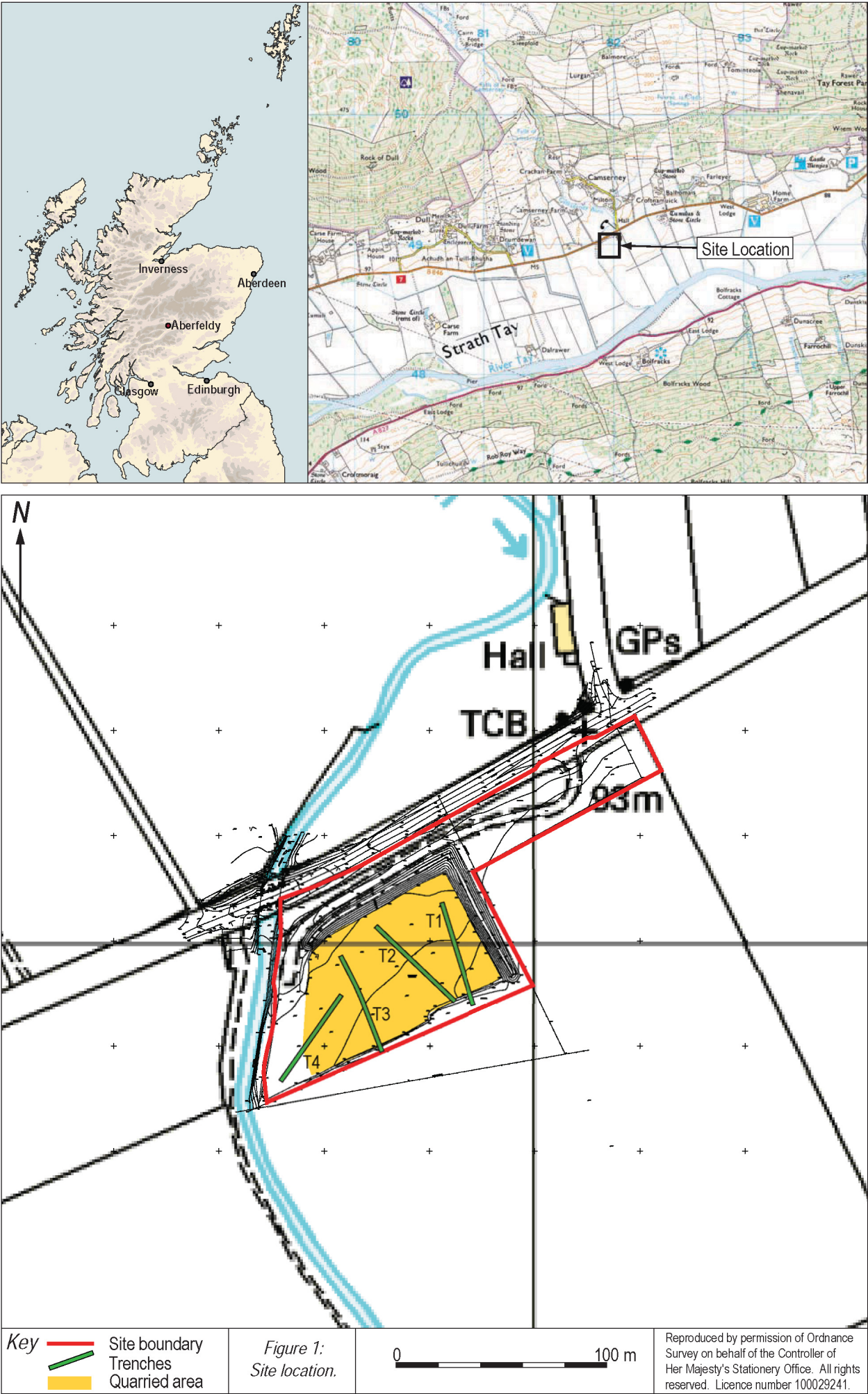
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Executive Summary

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by GUARD Archaeology Ltd of a proposed development area at Camserney Burn near Aberfeldy. The trial trench evaluation encountered substantial infill deposits below the existing compound surface suggesting that sand and gravel aggregate had been extracted before the site was previously developed into a storage yard. Undisturbed deposits of natural sand and gravel were only encountered around the fringes of the site. No archaeological remains were encountered.

Introduction

- 2.1 This data structure report sets out the results of the archaeological evaluation of the Camserney Burn Site Compound near Aberfeldy, required to meet Planning Condition 14 (Planning Reference: 10/01141/FLL) and the archaeological specification set by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) acting on behalf of Perth and Kinross Council, which required an archaeological evaluation of the compound area prior to development. GUARD Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd to undertake the work.

Site Location

- 3.1 The proposed site compound requiring evaluation covered 0.60 ha and is located c. 3 km to the west of Aberfeldy (NGR: NN 81962 49014; Figure 1). The proposed development area is bounded to the north by the B846 and the west, south and east by fields.
- 3.2 The site compound itself was built and has since operated as a compound/yard since the mid 2000s, most lately for Breadalbane Academy. Archaeological works required as a planning condition for the original construction of the compound were not, however, carried out. The 100m by 60 m area occupied by the site compound was assumed to have been reduced, during construction, by at least 0.5 m and covered with hardcore, with the topsoil banded around the northern and eastern edges of the compound.

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 While no archaeological remains have been identified within the development area, the land surrounding the development area has a dense distribution of prehistoric archaeological sites. In 1986, an RCAHMS aerial survey revealed the cropmarks of a barrow cemetery, an unenclosed settlement and other features in the field to the immediate east of the development area, while the upstanding remains of Balhomais Stone Circle and Barrow lie further north-east. To the immediate south-west of the development area lie the cropmarks of a ring-ditch house and a possible palisaded settlement.
- 4.2 The modern road that bounds the development area to the north also follows the course of the Crieff to Dalnacardoch section of General Wade's 18th century Military Road and there are a number of post-medieval cottages and farms within the surrounding area.
- 4.3 While it is possible that any archaeology present had already been detrimentally impacted by the construction of the compound, the evaluation nevertheless had the potential to encounter previously unknown archaeological remains related to the prehistoric and post-medieval occupation of the surrounding landscape.

Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aims and objectives of archaeological works are as follows:
 - evaluate 6 % of the development area by machine-cut trial trench excavation;
 - establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains;

- determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- establish whether there are any archaeological issues resulting from the proposed development and recommend how they may be addressed.

Fieldwork Methodology

- 6.1 The proposed development area was photographed and a brief written description made prior to the commencement of ground-breaking works.
- 6.2 The programme of archaeological works comprised a 6 % evaluation of the 0.6 ha compound area of the development site, comprising four trenches, each measuring 50 m long x 2 m wide (Figure 1).
- 6.3 All trenches were machine excavated with a c. 2 m wide flat-bladed (toothless) ditching bucket, under the direct supervision of an archaeologist, down to the first archaeological horizon or to natural, whichever was encountered first. The depth of stratigraphy apparent in all trenches was recorded.
- 6.4 A proportion of any minor or locally significant archaeological features encountered were to be sample excavated. All finds were to be recovered and a bulk soil sampling strategy was to be adopted for discrete negative features as exposed within trenches. All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, was to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork.
- 6.5 If features of regional or national archaeological significance were found within the evaluation trenches then further phases of work to mitigate the archaeologically adverse effects of the development might be required, subject to further discussion with PKHT, on behalf of Perth and Kinross Council.
- 6.6 Should significant archaeological remains be identified, Stage 2 would involve the implementation of appropriate archaeological mitigation measures, which may consist of further evaluation and/or excavation and recording of features that will be destroyed by development works. Stage 3 will include suitable post-excavation analysis, reporting, and publication of discovered archaeological remains, if appropriate.

Results

- 7.1 Four trenches were excavated, totalling 400 m² (Figure 1). The following text should be read in conjunction with the full trench descriptions in Appendix A and context descriptions in Appendix B.
- 7.2 The gravel [002] forming the present ground surface across the development measured 0.2 m deep and was found overlying a deep deposit of mixed infill materials [002] and [003] (Plates 1-2), which was excavated up to a depth of 1.3 m before water ingress into the trenches prevented the full depth of infill to be determined.
- 7.3 Topsoil [001] and natural gravel [005] were encountered in trenches 1 and 3 along the southern fringes of the development area not affected by quarrying. The topsoil measured 0.7 m deep and overlay orange sand and gravel [005].



Plate 1: View of infill deposits [002] and [003] in Trench 2, from the south west.

- 7.4 Natural gravel [005] was also encountered in Trench 4, 29 m from the north east end of the trench suggesting a small area of the development area had not been quarried. A strip of tarmac 6 m wide was found running northwest to southeast across the south western part of the trench, buried beneath the existing gravel surface [004] (Plate 3). The tarmac directly overlay natural gravel.



Plate 2: View showing truncation by quarrying in Trench 3, from the north.



Plate 3: Tarmac buried beneath the existing gravel yard surface [004] directly overlying natural gravel [005].

Discussion

- 8.1 The evaluation determined that a large part of the development area (see Figure 1) had been truncated probably by sand and gravel extraction during the original construction of the site compound in the mid 2000s. However, a small area towards the south west part of the development area was relatively undisturbed by comparison, but again no archaeological remains were encountered.

Conclusions

- 9.1 The evaluation encountered no archaeological remains. Given the level of modern disturbance across the development area, it is unlikely that any further archaeological work will be required by the local authority to meet Planning Condition 14.

Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD would like to thank Ken Quinn, Site Engineer to Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions and Sarah Winlow of PKHT for their assistance. Plant and driver were supplied via Balfour Beatty. Technical support was provided by Aileen Maule and John Kiely. The illustrations were produced by Gillian McSwan. The report was desk top published by Jen Cochrane. The project was managed for GUARD by Ronan Toolis.

**Camserney Burn, Aberfeldy
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices



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Appendices

Appendix A: Trench Summaries

Trench 1						
Dimensions	Length (m)	50.0	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	1.2
Total Area (m ²)	100					
Orientation	NW-SE					
Overburden	Topsoil 001 at south end of trench				Depth (m)	0.70
Overburden	Gravel 004 over yard area				Depth (m)	0.20
Subsoil	Re-deposited material 002				Depth (m)	1.0
Subsoil	Re-deposited material 003				Depth (m)	1.0
Subsoil	Natural orange gravel 005				Depth (m)	0.3 m
Significant features	N/A					
Finds	N/A					
Trench 2						
Dimensions	Length (m)	50.0	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	1.2
Total Area (m ²)	100					
Orientation	NW-SE					
Overburden	Gravel 004				Depth (m)	0.20
Subsoil	Re-deposited material 002				Depth (m)	1.1
Subsoil	Re-deposited material 003				Depth (m)	1.1
Significant features	N/A					
Finds	N/A					
Trench 3						
Dimensions	Length (m)	50.0	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	1.2
Total Area (m ²)	100					
Orientation	NW-SE					
Overburden	Topsoil 001 at south end of trench				Depth (m)	0.70
Overburden	Gravel 004 over yard area				Depth (m)	0.20
Subsoil	Re-deposited material 002				Depth (m)	1.0
Subsoil	Re-deposited material 003				Depth (m)	1.0
Subsoil	Natural orange gravel 005				Depth (m)	0.6 m
Significant features	N/A					
Finds	N/A					
Trench 4						
Dimensions	Length (m)	50.0	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.5 max
Total Area (m ²)	100					
Orientation	NE-SW					
Overburden	Gravel 004				Depth (m)	0.20
Subsoil	Re-deposited material 002				Depth (m)	0.3
Subsoil	Re-deposited material 003				Depth (m)	0.3
Subsoil	Natural orange gravel 005				Depth (m)	0.6 m
Significant features	N/A					
Finds	N/A					

Appendix B: Context Descriptions

Context	Area	Description	Dimensions				Above	Below
			Height (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)		
001	Trench 1 and 3	Deposit: A moist, firm, mid brown sandy loam with moderate inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones 40 mm<. Interpreted as: Topsoil	-	-	-	0.7	005	-
002	Site	Deposit: A mixture of brown gravel and green sandy clay with large stones and occasional modern debris. Interpreted as: Infill	-	-	-	Up to 0.1 m	003	001/004
003	Site	Deposit: Dark brown sand with frequent inclusions of large stones, building debris, tarmac rusty iron objects and other modern detritus. Interpreted as: Infill	-	-	-	Up to 1.1 m	-	001/004
004	Site	Deposit: A moist, firm, gravel/hardcore layer. Interpreted as: Yard surface	-	-	-	0.2	002/003	-
005	Trench 1,3 and 4	Deposit: Orange sand and gravel. Interpreted as: Natural	-	-	-	Excavated to 0.6m	-	001/004

Appendix C: Photographic Record

Digital Film No.1

No.	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration shot	-
2-7	-	General views of site	-
8-9	-	Undisturbed ground along the southern edge of site	N
10-11	1	North facing section	N
12-13	1	Infill layer 003	S
14-15	1	Infill layer 003 SW facing section	SW
16	1	General view of trench	NW
17-20	2	General views showing infill layers 002 and 003	SW
21	3	General view showing infill	NW
22-23	3	Northwest facing section	NW
24	3	General view showing infill	SE
25-26	4	General view of Trench	SW
27-28	2	Southwest facing section through infill layers 002 and 003	SW
29-36	-	General views of site	S

Appendix D: Discovery And Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Camserney Burn, Aberfeldy
PROJECT CODE:	3257
PARISH:	Dull
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Alan Hunter Blair
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	---
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	---
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	---
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 81962 49014
START DATE (this season)	21 st February 2011
END DATE (this season)	21 st February 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Due to the proximity of prehistoric and post-medieval archaeology, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by GUARD Archaeology Ltd prior to the redevelopment of a site compound at Camserney Burn near Aberfeldy. The trial trench evaluation encountered substantial infill deposits below the existing compound surface suggesting that sand and gravel aggregate had been extracted before the site was previously developed as a storage yard. Undisturbed deposits of natural sand and gravel were only encountered around the fringes of the site. No significant archaeological remains were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ronan.toolis@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.

Appendix E: Written Scheme Of Investigation

GUARD 3257: Camserney Burn, Aberfeldy

Written Scheme of Investigation

Planning Reference: 10/01141/FLL

Introduction

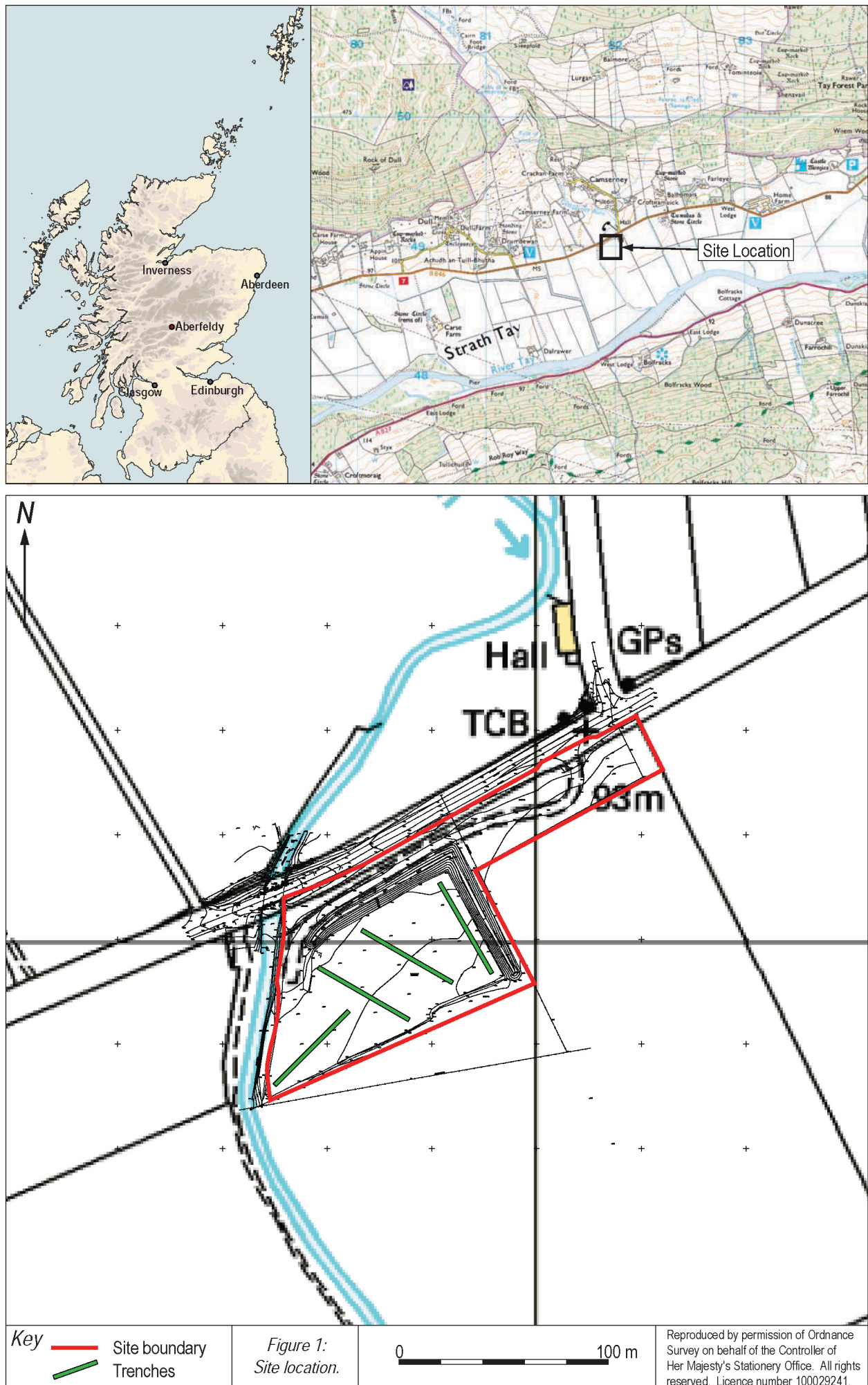
- 1.1 This document sets out a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a phased programme of archaeological works for the proposed development of the site known as 3257: Camserney Burn, Aberfeldy. In the first instance, an evaluation of the site will be undertaken to establish whether any significant archaeological remains are associated with the site. Should significant remains be identified and it is not possible to preserve them *in-situ* a further requirement for archaeological works to ensure their preservation through record is likely to be pursued.
- 1.2 This WSI outlines the entirety of the programme of archaeological works that may be needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. It details the methodology to be employed in implementing the Stage 1 archaeological works. The mitigation methodology to be employed during Stage 2 and Stage 3 post excavation analysis and publication, will be specified in *addenda* to this document. These *addenda*, if required, will be submitted for agreement of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) acting on behalf of Perth and Kinross Council, prior to the commencement of any archaeological work. All phases of work will be funded by the developer as required by the Planning Authority.

Site Location and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The proposed site compound development area requiring evaluation covers 0.60 ha and is located c. 3 km to the west of Aberfeldy (NGR: NN 81962 49014; Figure 1). The proposed site is bounded to the north by the B846 and the west, south and east by fields.
- 2.2 While no archaeological remains have been identified within the development area, the land surrounding the development area has a dense distribution of prehistoric archaeological sites. In 1986, an RCAHMS aerial survey revealed the cropmarks of a barrow cemetery, an unenclosed settlement and other features in the field to the immediate east of the development area, while the upstanding remains of Balhomais Stone Circle and Barrow lie further north-east. To the immediate south-west of the development area lie the cropmarks of a ring-ditch house and a possible palisaded settlement.
- 2.3 The modern road that bounds the development area to the north also follows the course of the Crieff to Dalnacardoch section of General Wade's 18th century Military Road and there are a number of post-medieval cottages and farms within the surrounding area.
- 2.4 The site compound itself was built and has since operated as a compound/yard since the mid 2000s, most lately for Breadalbane Academy. Archaeological works required as a planning condition for the construction of the compound were not, however, carried out. The 100m by 60 m area occupied by the site compound was reduced, during construction, by at least 0.5 m and covered with hardcore, with the topsoil banded around the northern and eastern edges of the compound.
- 2.5 While it is possible that any archaeology present has already been detrimentally impacted by the construction of the compound, the evaluation nevertheless has the potential to encounter previously unknown archaeological remains related to the prehistoric and post-medieval occupation of the surrounding landscape.

Planning Background

- 3.1 This WSI has been drafted in response to Planning Condition 14 and the terms of reference set by PKHT, archaeological advisors to Perth and Kinross Council, which requires an archaeological evaluation of the compound area.



Aims

- 4.1 The aims and objectives of archaeological works are as follows:
- evaluate 6 % of the development area by machine-cut trial trench excavation;
 - establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains;
 - determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered;
 - establish whether there are any archaeological issues resulting from the proposed development and recommend how they may be addressed.

Methodology

- 5.1 The programme of archaeological works will commence with a 6 % evaluation of the 0.6 ha compound area of the development site, comprising four trenches, each measuring 50 m long x 1.8 m wide (See Figure 1).
- 5.2 All trenches will be excavated by mechanical excavator, utilizing a toothless ditching bucket under direct supervision of an archaeologist, down to the first archaeological horizon or to natural, whichever is encountered first. The depth of stratigraphy apparent in all trenches will be recorded.
- 5.3 A proportion of any minor or locally significant archaeological features encountered will be sample excavated. All finds will be recovered and a bulk soil sampling strategy will be adopted for discrete negative features as exposed within trenches. All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, will be to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork.
- 5.4 If features of regional or national archaeological significance are found within the evaluation trenches then further phases of work to mitigate the archaeologically adverse effects of the development may be required, subject to further discussion with PKHT, on behalf of Perth and Kinross Council.
- 5.5 Should significant archaeological remains be identified, Stage 2 will involve the implementation of appropriate archaeological mitigation measures, which may consist of further evaluation and/or excavation and recording of features that will be destroyed by development works. Stage 3 will include suitable post-excavation analysis, reporting, and publication of discovered archaeological remains, if appropriate.

Reporting

- 6.1 Following the completion of the evaluation fieldwork, an illustrated Data Structure Report will be produced, detailing the results of the fieldwork and including recommendations for mitigation measures appropriate to any remains encountered by the evaluation. Hard and digital copies of the evaluation report will be produced and copies lodged, as a minimum, with the client, PKHT and the National Monuments Record for Scotland.
- 6.2 GUARD will also implement the standards and requirements of the Archaeological Standard Protocol for the Integrated Reporting of Events (ASPIRE), Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) and *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

Archive, Small Finds and Human Remains

- 7.1 The resultant site archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months of the completion of all work. Any small finds recovered will be declared to the Crown Agent in accordance with Scots Law, and if claimed, will be transferred to the appointed museum. In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered during the evaluation, the local police and the client will be notified immediately and no further work will take place on site until agreement on how to proceed has been reached with all parties.

Timetable and Staffing

- 8.1 The precise dates for the work will be agreed between the developer and GUARD and notified to PKHT at least two working days prior to work beginning on site. Once the dates of trenching have been agreed, a suitably qualified project officer from GUARD will be appointed. All project team members will be qualified and suitably experienced professional archaeologists and CVs will be supplied if required. The site mobile phone number will be notified to PKHT and the client prior to work commencing.

Health & Safety and Insurance

- 9.1 GUARD will conduct the evaluation in accordance with Health and Safety legislation and with the guidelines and standards governing archaeological fieldwork set down in the IFA approved Health and Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork document prepared by SCAUM. Prior to fieldwork commencing a risk assessment of the project will be undertaken, giving rise to a project-specific safety plan. GUARD also possess all necessary insurance cover, including employer's and public liability insurance cover, proofs of which will be supplied upon request.

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