

***Discovery and Excavation in Scotland – OASIS-type Form (2006)***

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Perth and Kinross
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Kirkhill Roman Signal Station
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HSCO-90332-2012-01
<b>PARISH:</b>	Trinity Gask
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Gordon Ewart
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Kirkdale Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological assessment
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NN91NE 4
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Watch Tower (Roman)
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NN 9676 1883
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	8 November 2012
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	8 November 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological assessment was carried out on parts of the monument damaged by pigs. The damage was seen to be at its worst towards the NW quadrant of the bank, ditch and inner platform. Despite the extent of turf damage, there appeared to be no serious, permanent effect on the monument, with clods of turf still <i>in situ</i> . It was clear however that continued erosion would have become an issue, and some remedial work to replace the disturbed turf was recommended.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Scotland
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE  
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2012**

**Kirkhill Roman Signal Station • Site Inspection • November 2012**

**HS PIC Index Number: 90332**

**SITE:** Kirkhill Roman Signal Station, Perth and Kinross

**N.G.R.:** NN 967 188

**DESCRIPTION:** An assessment of trample damage to the monument caused by the incursion of farm animals (pigs)

**PROJECT CODE:** HSCO-90332-2012-01

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**NOVEMBER 2012**

## **INTRODUCTION**

After reports of damage to the site of Kirkhill Roman Signal Station, Perth and Kinross (Fig.1) was received from members of the public, Kirkdale Archaeology was requested by Historic Scotland, under the terms of the PIC Call-Off contract, to undertake a site inspection. This took place on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

## **DESCRIPTION**

The site comprises a roughly circular, shallow, wide ditch with an outer bank, surrounding a circular, level platform with some evidence of an access route across the ditch, from the N.

The damage is the result of four factors:

1. Pigs actively rooting through the turf to subsoil level
2. The weight of the pigs and the trampling effect of their movement across the site
3. The wet ground conditions
4. The sensitivity of the shallow earthworks

The pigs appear to have entered the fenced area due to a breach in the fence line, immediately W of the present gateway. How long they were there is not known, but they could easily have all but destroyed the shallow contours of the site if they had been allowed to remain there for an extended period of time.

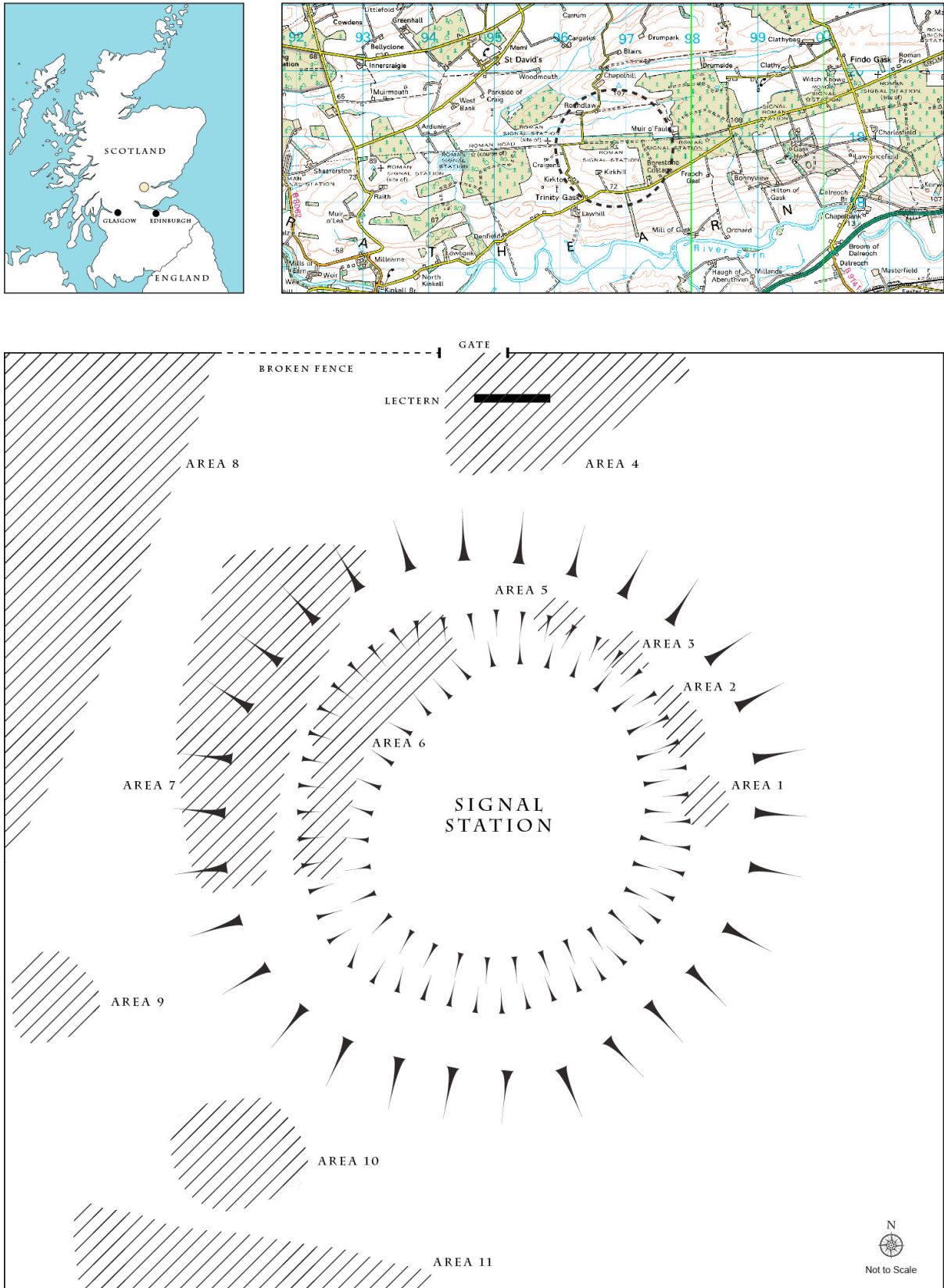
The damage is described in terms of the following areas (Fig.1):

### **Area 1**

A small, discrete patch of disturbance on the upper surface / outer face of the outer bank. The turf was lifted to depth of 100mm - 150mm. The subsoil was intact over an area up to 1m in diameter.

### **Area 2**

As per Area 1.



**Figure 1:** Plan showing the location of Kirkhill Roman Signal Station and the areas of damage.  
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**Area 3**

As per Area 1.

**Area 4**

An extensive area of trample and turf uplifted in the vicinity of the lectern. The broken ground was up to 150mm deep in parts.

**Area 5**

As per Area 1.

**Area 6**

An extensive area of significant damage to the E face of the ditch and NW edge and surface of the inner platform in the NW quadrant of the site. The result of deep rooting, trample and collapse of soft turf and subsoil deposits on the slope, up to 150mm – 200mm deep in parts.

**Area 7**

As per Area 6, located on the NW area of the outer bank and W face of the ditch.

**Area 8**

An extensive area of rooting and trample, located across an area of pine tree plantation towards the NW and W edge of the fenced area.

**Area 9**

Similar damage to Area 8, but localised in a patch approximately 1.5m in diameter.

**Area 10**

As per Area 9.

**Area 11**

As per Area 8, located below a pine tree and under the canopy of a large beech tree.

## CONCLUSIONS

The damage is worst towards the NW quadrant of the bank, ditch and inner platform. Despite the extent of turf damage, it has had a patchy, inconsistent effect on the buried archaeology, with clods of turf still *in situ*.

Two responses might be considered:

1. Simply replace turf where possible and carefully flatten / tamp down the disturbed areas, or
2. Remove the broken turf across Areas 6 and 7, clean the exposed surface, record archaeologically and returf. Elsewhere, simply replace turf clods and tamp down / stabilise the ground

## LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Number	Description	From	Date
1	Area 6	W	08/11/2012
2	Area 6	SW	08/11/2012
3	Area 7	N	08/11/2012
4	Broken fence immediately W of gate	W	08/11/2012
5	Area 4	NW	08/11/2012