



**Land 30 Metres North East of Arkle Cottage
Leslie Road
Scotlandwell**





**Archaeological Evaluation
Data Structure Report**



June 2021

Document control sheet

Client: Sarah Fisher and Andrea Shirley
 Project: Land 30 Metres North East Of Arkle Job No: 341
 Cottage Leslie Road Scotlandwell
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	Originator	Illustration by	Reviewed by	Approved by
ORIGINAL	NAME Alastair Rees	NAME Alastair Rees	NAME Alastair Rees	NAME Alastair Rees
DATE 15/06/21	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE 
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Contents

- 1 Introduction**
 - General**
 - Site Location and Setting**
 - General*
 - Study Area*
 - Geology*

 - 2 Brief Archaeological & Historical Background**
 - General**
 - Brief Historical Summary**
 - Prehistoric*
 - Previous Work*
 - Map Regression**
 - General*
 - Pre-Ordnance Survey Maps*
 - Ordnance Survey Maps*
 - Conclusions**

 - 3 Methodology**
 - Archaeological Monitoring**

 - 4 Results**
 - General**

 - 5 Summary**
 - General**

 - 6 Conclusions and Recommendations**
 - General**
- Acknowledgements**
- Bibliography**
- Appendix A Photographic Register**
- Appendix B Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland entry**

Non Executive Summary

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd was commissioned by Sarah Fisher and Andrea Shirley to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed construction of two dwelling houses on adjoining plots Land 30 Metres North East of Arkle Cottage, Leslie Road, Scotlandwell (NGR: NO 18686 01659 (centred)).

The evaluation was required by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) in advance of a proposed development for a single dwelling on the west half of the site on behalf of Ms S. Fisher. This evaluation will extend to the east side of the site under a pre-planning commission from Ms A. Shirley for an intended housing development comprising a single dwelling. For the purposes of this WSI, the two proposed building plots will be referred to as a single site. The planning application references are as follows: 19/01901/FLL & 19/01902/FLL.

As the site represents a gap site with no history of prior development or disturbance since early mapping, and is located near a known Medieval settlement PKHT recommended that:

"In line with Scottish Planning Policy historic environment section (paragraphs 135-137 and 150), it is recommended that the following condition be attached to consent, if granted":

"HE25 Development shall not commence until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of archaeological investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and agreed in writing by the Council as Planning Authority, in consultation with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. Thereafter, the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented including that all excavation, preservation, recording, recovery, analysis, publication and archiving of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken. In addition, the developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust or a nominated representative and shall allow them to observe work in progress.

Over the course of one day, evaluation trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed dwellings (Fig 2) as well as along the line of the proposed access track for vehicles which was sited centrally between both plots. The area was found to be sealed with a deep topsoil up to 0.60m in depth overlying an archaeologically sterile sandy clay subsoil.

No artefacts of any date were recovered and no archaeological features or deposits were noted. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the planning condition be discharged.

A record of the work has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-1-436527) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1 Introduction

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Ms Sarah Fisher and Andrea Shirley to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land 30 Metres North East of Arkle Cottage, Leslie Road, Scotlandwell (NGR: NO 18686 01659 (centred)).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was required by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) in advance of a proposed development for a single dwelling on the west half of the site on behalf of Ms S. Fisher. This evaluation will extend to the east side of the site under a pre-planning commission from Ms A. Shirley for an intended housing development comprising a single dwelling. For the purposes of this WSI, the two proposed building plots will be referred to as a single site. The planning application references are as follows: **19/01901/FLL & 19/01902/FLL**.
- 1.1.3 Following submission of a planning application for the new development, the site was identified as archaeologically sensitive by P & KHT. The archaeological potential of the site was identified primarily due to proximity of known Medieval and Prehistoric sites such and therefore

"In line with Scottish Planning Policy historic environment section (paragraphs 135-137 and 150), it is recommended that the following condition be attached to consent, if granted":

***"HE25** Development shall not commence until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of archaeological investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and agreed in writing by the Council as Planning Authority, in consultation with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. Thereafter, the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented including that all excavation, preservation, recording, recovery, analysis, publication and archiving of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken. In addition, the developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust or a nominated representative and shall allow them to observe work in progress.*

- 1.1.4 The area of ground that disturbed by this development was expected to potentially contain Prehistoric or more probably Medieval deposits.
- 1.1.5 As the site did not appear to have been subject to extensive ground disturbance during the 19th and 20th century, other than that associated with large scale gardening, there remained potential for the presence of previously un-recorded sub surface archaeological deposits within the area.
- 1.1.6 P&KHT expected a programme of works to be completed. Although not stipulated in terms of actual area examined through monitoring, it was proposed to excavate a total in square metres of a minimum of 72m² which would have been expected to properly evaluate and examine for the presence/absence and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the affected areas. In the event, a total of 92m² was investigated within the house footprints and access road comprising more than 15% of the total area and 40% of the affected area. No deposits or features were identified.
- 1.1.7 Thereafter ARCHAS produced a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation outlining the methodology to be followed, post excavation procedures and standards maintained during the work. This WSI was approved and accepted by P&KHT on 25/05/2021.

- 1.1.8 The archaeological evaluation was subsequently completed during one day on the 5th June 2021 by Alastair Rees and Stuart Mitchell. The weather during the project was fine, sunny and warm.
- 1.1.9 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd. conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (hereafter CIfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents.

1.2 Site Location and Setting

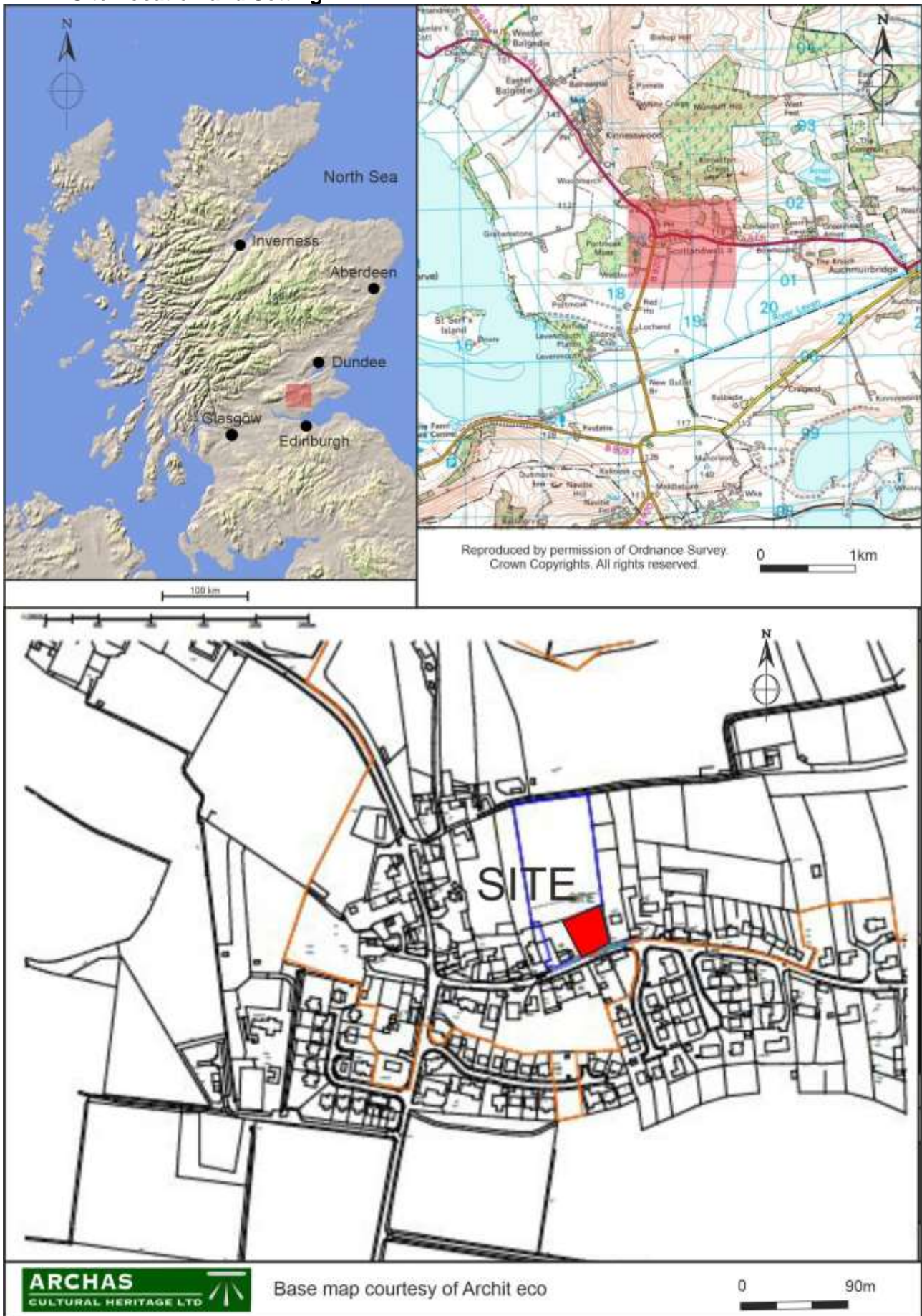


Figure 1: Site location

General

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the north side of Leslie Road, Scotlandwell, Perth and Kinross at the foot of a gently sloping south-facing field which backs onto the lower slopes of Bishop Hill in the Lomond Hills. The site topography is fairly level and is currently rough grazing.

Study Area

- 1.2.2 In plan the proposed development site is a roughly square plot measuring 450sq m (**Figures 1 & 2**).
- 1.2.3 The site is bordered on the east and west by housing. The north side is bordered by a large field and the south side is bounded by Leslie Road.

Geology

- 1.2.4 The drift geology of the proposed development site comprises Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age.
- 1.2.5 The underlying bedrock geology is from the Stratheden Group And Inverclyde Group (undifferentiated) - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 347 to 383 million years ago in the Carboniferous and Devonian Periods. Local environment previously dominated by rivers.

2 Brief Archaeological & Historical Background

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 Readily accessible historical and archaeological records were consulted in order to gain an understanding of the relevant history of the development area. These resources included the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), the National Map Library of Scotland (NLS) and the Statistical Accounts of Scotland. Consultation of these resources for the wider area allows the archaeological team to better understand the immediate archaeological landscape.
- 2.1.2 The proposed development site is archaeologically sensitive due to its location in an area where the immediate surrounding area has produced evidence of both Prehistoric and Medieval activity.
- 2.1.3 The original foundation of Scotlandwell was the hospital of St Mary. It was in existence c.1214 but was granted to the Trinitarians in 1250-1. The family of Arnot occupied the priory in 1543 and ejected the community. It had become secularised by 1591-2 and it is mentioned as in the King's hands in 1606. The ruins of the building were in existence in Spottiswoode's time (d.1637) but have since disappeared.
- 2.1.4 Archaeological work in 2013 uncovered a Bronze Age cinerary urn cemetery, and the area to the north of Scotlandwell has also produced isolated stray finds from the same broad period including; 2 Neolithic stone axe heads and a chert arrowhead, and a Bronze Age halberd, battle-axe and flint arrowhead. The village itself has Medieval origins and is likely to have developed around the hospital of St Mary which was founded by William de Malvoisin, (bishop of St Andrews) and was known to be in existence by c.1214. It was later granted to

the Trinitarian friars who established a friary that existed until 1543. The last reference to the friary is in 1606, and the ruins were still visible in 1794. Archaeological work in 1993 located structural remains and surfaces associated with the hospital, 140m south of the proposed development area. Historic mapping dating back as far as 1743 shows Scotlandwell established along the main north-south road, spreading east by the early 19th century.

Cartographic Study

- 2.1.5 Assessment of early and Ordnance Survey maps revealed that the development site has not been developed since the first Ordnance Survey map was surveyed in 1855 and published in 1856.

3 Excavation Results

3.1 Trial Trenching Methodology

- 3.1.1 The evaluation as required by the planning condition involved the excavation of a series of trenches encompassing monitoring of all ground-breaking works associated with the proposed development. It was decided on site that the contractor was happy to strip the entire footprint of the proposed dwelling in advance of foundation excavation. This also encompassed the drive and car parking area.
- 3.1.2 All topsoil stripping was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical excavator fitted, with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.3 This mechanical excavation work was monitored by a qualified ARCHAS archaeologist under watching brief conditions until:
- any archaeological horizons were noted;
 - undisturbed natural subsoil is apparent; or
 - the depth of the development impact (excavation) was reached.

3.2 Excavation Results

General

- 3.2.1 Excavation took place in warm sunny weather on the 5th June 2021. The site had previously been used for pasture and was slightly overgrown (**Plate 1**). The ground surface was elevated approximately 1.2m above the road height and the area sloped slightly to the north.
- 3.2.2 The topsoil was found to have a considerable depth across the entire site measuring up to 1.20m in places and comprising a sandy silt. In all, a total of six trenches were excavated totalling 93m² of investigated area. This comprises almost fifteen percent of the total area. Trench 1 was initially excavated using a mini digger, however, it was found that due to the depth of topsoil, a larger machine was going to be required. Subsequently a 3CX machine with a 1.6m wide smooth edged ditching was used.



Figure 2: Excavated trench locations

3.2 Trench Results (Fig 2)

Trench 1 (Plate 2)

3.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned east west and measured 8.0m in length by 1.0m in width. At the east end of the trench, a deeper sondage was opened to ensure that the soil/subsoil profile could be properly examined. It was found that the subsoil was overlain by a deep ploughsoil, dark slightly reddish brown in colour and up to 0.50m in depth. This in turn overlay a gritty, silty reddish clay subsoil. Within this deposit were occasional fragments of “honey” coloured sandstone. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 2

3.2.2 Trench 2 was aligned east west and measured 9.0m in length by 1.6m in width. The topsoil measured 0.60m in depth and comprised a fine, brown sandy silt with few inclusions or artefacts present within it. This in turn overlay a gritty, silty reddish clay subsoil with a high coarse sand component. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 3

3.2.3 Trench 3 was also aligned east west and measured 10.0m in length by 1.6m in width. The topsoil measured 0.60m in depth and comprised a fine, brown sandy silt with few inclusions or artefacts present within it. This in turn overlay a gritty, silty reddish clay subsoil with a

high coarse sand component. Within the interface between the topsoil and subsoil was a mixed deposit of large stones, brick fragments, cement mortar and occasional plastic fragments. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered from this trench.



Plate 1: Site prior to excavation looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench 1 post excavation looking east

Trench 4

- 3.2.3 Trench 4 was also aligned east west, measured 8.0m in length by 1.6m in width and was located parallel to and below . The topsoil measured 0.60m in depth and comprised a fine, brown sandy silt with few inclusions or artefacts present within it. This in turn overlay a gritty, silty reddish clay subsoil with a high coarse sand component. Within the interface between the topsoil and subsoil was a mixed deposit of large stones, brick fragments, cement mortar and occasional plastic fragments. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered from this trench.



Plate 3: Trench 6 looking east

Trench 5

- 3.2.3 Trench 5 was aligned north south and was placed in order to evaluate the joint access road to the two properties. The trench measured 13.0m in length by 1.6m in width. The topsoil measured 0.80m in depth and comprised a fine, brown sandy silt with few inclusions or artefacts present within it. This in turn overlay a gritty, silty reddish clay subsoil with a high coarse sand component. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 6 (Plate 3)

- 3.2.3 Trench 6 was aligned east west, measured 12.0m in length by 1.6m wide and was located parallel to trenches 1-4 to the east of the area. The topsoil measured 0.60m in depth and comprised a fine, brown sandy silt with few inclusions or artefacts present within it. This in turn overlay a gritty, silty reddish clay subsoil with a high coarse sand component. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered from this trench.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at Scotlandwell investigated more than 20% of the area affected by the two house footprints and joint access road. The investigation failed to identify any evidence of Historic, Prehistoric or Medieval *in situ* occupation or activity on the site.
- 4.1.2 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the proposed development be allowed to proceed and the planning condition be discharged.

Acknowledgements

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd would like to thank the clients for provision of appropriate machines for the excavation.

We must also note the assistance provided by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for their assistance and guidance during the project.

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Cartographic:

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Appendix A Photographic Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Direction Facing</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>
001/0785	S			Pre ex of development area	05/06/2021	AR
002/0786	SW			Pre ex of development area	05/06/2021	AR
003/0787	W			Pre ex of development area	05/06/2021	AR
004/0788	SE			Pre ex of development area	05/06/2021	AR
005/0789	N			Poss Feature	05/06/2021	AR
006/0790	N			Poss Feature	05/06/2021	AR
007/0791	N			Poss Feature	05/06/2021	AR
008/0792	N			Poss Feature	05/06/2021	AR
009/0793	E			Trench 1	05/06/2021	AR
010/0794	W			Trench 1	05/06/2021	AR
011/0795	E			Trench 2	05/06/2021	AR
012/0796	W			Trench 2	05/06/2021	AR
013/0797	E			Trench 3	05/06/2021	AR
014/0798	W			Trench 3	05/06/2021	AR
015/0799	E			Trench 4	05/06/2021	AR
016/0800	N			Trench 5	05/06/2021	AR
017/0801	S			Trench 5	05/06/2021	AR
018/0802	E			Trench 6	05/06/2021	AR
019/0803	W			Trench 6	05/06/2021	AR
020/0804	E			Poss Feature	05/06/2021	AR
021/0805	N			Poss Feature	05/06/2021	AR
022/0806	S			Poss Feature	05/06/2021	AR

Appendix B Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Scotlandwell, Leslie Road
PROJECT CODE:	341
PARISH:	Scotlandwell
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alastair Rees
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 18690 01648
START DATE (this season)	1/3/21
END DATE (this season)	12/6/2021
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd was commissioned by Sarah Fisher and Andrea Shirley to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed construction of two dwelling houses on adjoining plots Land 30 Metres North East of Arkle Cottage, Leslie Road, Scotlandwell (NGR: NO 18686 01659 (centred)). The evaluation was required by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) in advance of a proposed development for a single dwelling on the west half of the site on behalf of Ms S. Fisher. This evaluation will extend to the east side of the site under a pre-planning commission from Ms A. Shirley for an intended housing development comprising a single dwelling. For the purposes of this WSI, the two proposed building plots will be referred to as a single site. The planning application references are as follows: 19/01901/FLL & 19/01902/FLL.</p> <p>Over the course of one day, evaluation trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed dwellings (Fig 2) as well as along the line of the proposed access track for vehicles which was sited centrally between both plots. The area was found to be sealed with a deep topsoil up to 0.60m in depth overlying an archaeologically sterile sandy clay subsoil.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None proposed at the moment
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Sarah Fisher and Andrea Shirley
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd Office 37 Evans Business Space 1 Begg Road Kirkcaldy KY2 6HD
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Alastair.rees@archas.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and P&KHT SMR (intended)