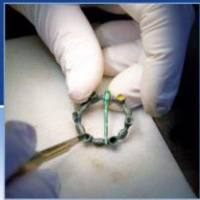


A9 Dualling, Bankfoot Temporary Compound: Monitored Topsoil Strip & Excavation Data Structure Report

Oasis No: aocarcha1-336742

AOC Project 24642

November- December 2018



A9 Dualling, Bankfoot Temporary Compound: Monitored Topsoil Strip & Excavation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **Balfour Beatty**
Perth A9/A85 Phase 1,
Crieff Road,
Perth
PH1 3JJ

National Grid Reference [NGR]: **NO 0780 3319**

AOC Project No: **AOC 24642**

Prepared by: **Jessica Lowther**

Illustration by: **Sam O'Leary**

Date of Fieldwork: **29th November – 13th December 2018**

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Jessica Lowther

Date: 17th December 2018

Approved by: Ross Murray

Date: 20th December 2018

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



Contents

	Page
List of illustrations.....	1
List of plates.....	1
List of appendices	1
Abstract	2
1 INTRODUCTION	3
2 OBJECTIVES	5
4 RESULTS.....	6
5 CONCLUSIONS	9
6 REFERENCES	10
APPENDIX 1: Context Register.....	12
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register	12
APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register	13
APPENDIX 4: Sample Register	13
APPENDIX 5: <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report</i>	14

List of illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Detailed site plan
- Figure 3 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map extract

List of plates

- Plate 1 Post clean photo of clearance cairn [003]
- Plate 2 Reinstated area and fence for preservation of clearance cairn [003]
- Plate 3 Post excavation of linear feature [004] from the NE

List of appendices

- Appendix 1 Context Register
- Appendix 2 Photographic Record
- Appendix 3 Drawing Register
- Appendix 4 Sample Register
- Appendix 5 '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' Report

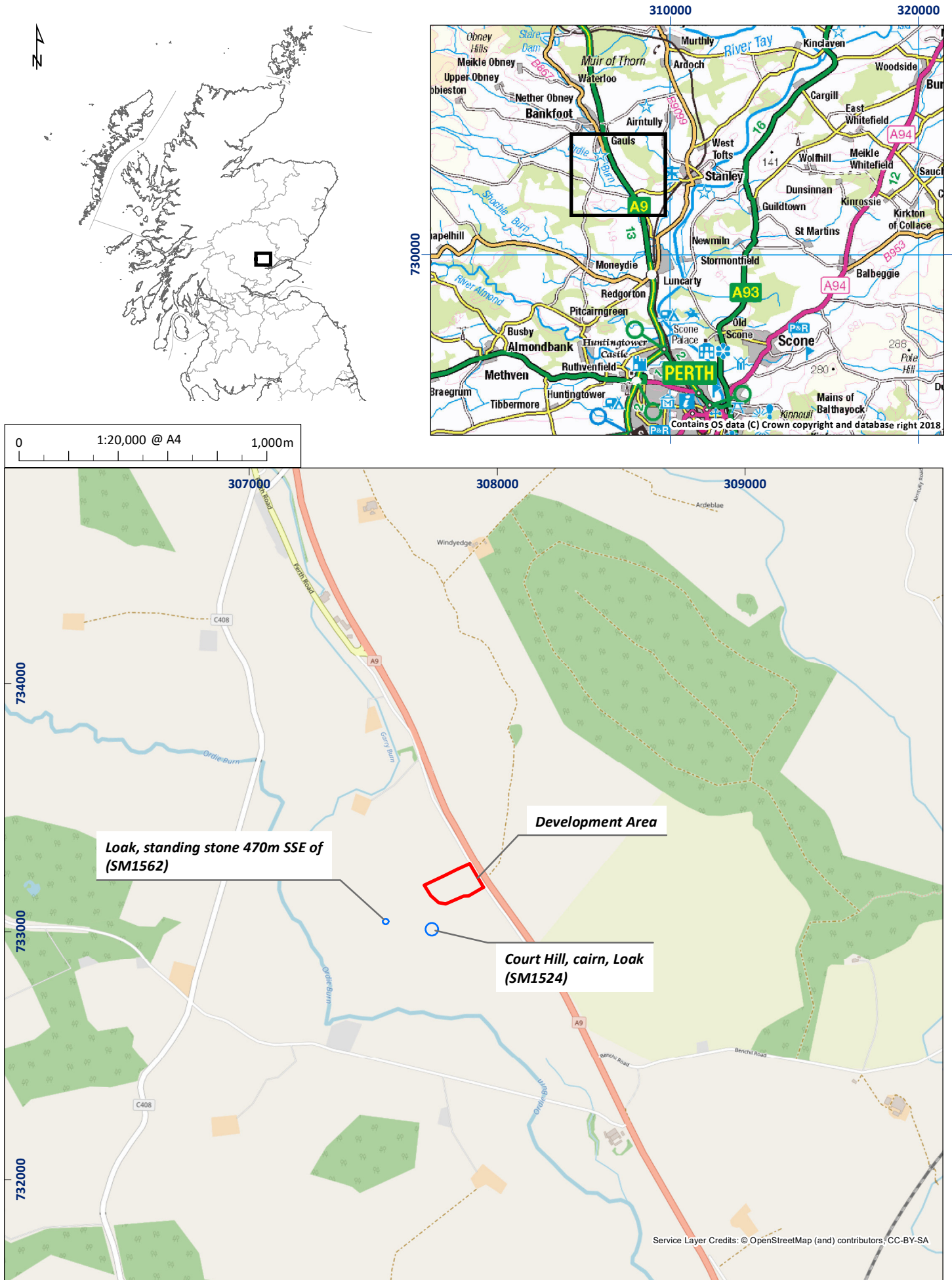


Figure 1: Site Location showing area subject topsoil strip

01/24642/DSR/01/01

Abstract

This report presents the results of archaeological works undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Balfour Beatty at the site of a temporary compound at Bankfoot, Perthshire (NGR: NO 0780 3319).

The works consisted of a monitored topsoil strip and subsequent excavation or preservation in situ of features; due to the temporary nature of the compound.

Three features were uncovered during the works: a post medieval pit; a possible clearance cairn of unknown date (preserved in situ) and a linear feature of unknown date and function.

The need for further work will be determined by the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust on behalf of the Perth and Kinross Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Balfour Beatty in respect of the construction of a Temporary Compound required as part of the A9 Dualling at Bankfoot, Perthshire. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Perth and Kinross Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Perth and Kinross heritage Trust, PKHT. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (Scottish Government 2011).
- 1.1.2 The site was flagged as archaeologically sensitive through a scoping request to Perth and Kinross Council. This work forms part of the works additional works separate to the main A9 road corridor and approved archaeological mitigation in the Environmental Impact Assessment, although it is still part of the wider A9 scheme.
- 1.1.3 PKHT had recommended that a monitored topsoil strip be undertaken of the Temporary Compound area prior to the compound being erected. This report presents the results of this phase of archaeological works.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the western side of A90 c.300 m south of Loak Farm centred on NGR NO 0780 3319. The A90 forms the eastern boundary to the site with the site lying wholly within long established arable fields.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The site of the Temporary Compound partially encompasses a single possible site, recorded by the PKHT HER as a cropmark site, showing a possible 'pit circle' (HER No. MPK7105). This site is listed by the HES database as a pit alignment, 'Court Hill' (HES No. NO03SE 53). This is described as in the HES entry as,

"Two parallel pit alignments have been recorded as cropmarks on oblique aerial photographs (RCAHMSAP 1992) some 80m NE of Court Hill barrow (NO03SE 3). Set 10m apart, both are about 30m long and are aligned NNE-SSW. A scatter of pits extends across the surrounding area. The pit circle recorded previously was not identified during a review of the photographs and has been removed as a classification"

This possible 'loss' of the pit circle could be down to misinterpretation of the original aerial photos or possibly plough truncation.

- 1.3.3 To the southwest just a little over 100 m from the Temporary Compound there lies the Scheduled Monument of 'Court Hill Tumulus' (SM No.1524, HES No. NO03SE 03). Scheduled back in 1958 this is an impressive monument described as in the HES entry as,
"A large turf-covered barrow, mainly of earth but with some stone evident, 4.0 m to 5.0 m high and formerly covered by trees. It is situated on relatively flat arable land and is readily visible from all directions. A slight terrace effect halfway down the east side of the tumulus is probably due to the tree-planting."
- 1.3.4 On the south side of the tumulus there is noted the presence of 'rig and cord' agriculture (HES No. NO03SE 51).
- 1.3.5 Further to the west lies another Scheduled site, 'Loak Standing Stone', (SM No.1562, HES No. NO03SE 02). This standing stone was designated a Scheduled Monument in 1929 but over the years it has suffered from extensive weathering, as noted in the HES entry,
"It is oriented NE-SW, and measures 1.3m high x 1.4m long x 0.5m thick. There are no markings on it."

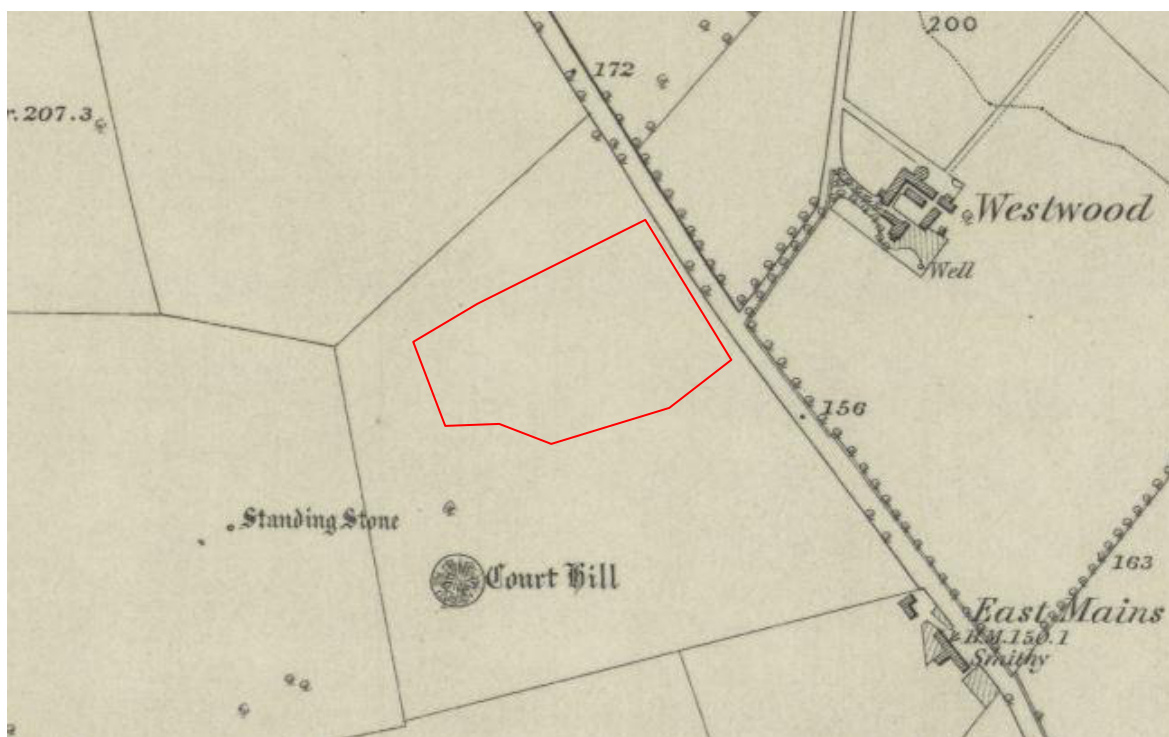


Figure 3 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map extract showing site boundary

- 1.3.6 The known sites close to the development area are predominantly prehistoric in date. It is possible that the development area will contain hitherto unknown prehistoric archaeological remains though plough truncation may have impacted on these. The present field boundaries been in existence for at least 150 years (Figure 3) and the presence of the 'rig and furrow' noted earlier are evidence for a much longer use of this ground for agriculture.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the monitored topsoil strip areas;
- the identification, excavation, soil sampling and recording of discrete clusters of archaeological features within the targeted topsoil strip areas;
- that larger or more significant areas of archaeology may be preserved *in situ* under a geotextile layer covered by a suitable depth of soil deposit for the duration of the compound use and then with monitored removal as part of the reinstatement works. Any decision regards the need for excavation and/or preservation *in situ* will be at the discretion of PKHT.
- the retrieval of a representative artefact assemblage;
- upon conclusion of any excavations, the preparation of a post-excavation research design (*PERD*) to be agreed with PKHT. The scope and appropriateness of the post-excavation analyses to be employed will be decided upon by the PKHT. The *PERD* will be pertinent to the quantity, quality, character, date and condition of retrieved small finds and soil samples when considered against the series of research questions raised by the excavated features;
- the post-excavation analysis of recovered material;
- publication of results of the excavation to bring the findings into the public and academic domain.

3 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

3.1 Monitored topsoil strip

3.1.1 The archaeological works, laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), were designed fully to meet the requirements of PKHT on behalf of Perth and Kinross Council. Furthermore, all works were in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which were present within the development area.

3.1.2 The whole development area was topsoil stripped apart from small areas around the periphery reserved for bunding topsoil for the duration of the compound (see Figure 2). The excavation was carried out with two 360° tracked excavators equipped with toothless ditching buckets operating under archaeological supervision.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological works were undertaken between the 29th November and the 13th December 2018. The works were conducted in predominantly poor weather conditions and low or angled sunlight allowing for fair archaeological visibility.

4.1.2 The excavation revealed topsoil comprising soft light brown silty clay with numerous small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. The topsoil ranged from 0.20 m deep in the high areas of site to 0.60 m deep downslope. The natural subsoil consisted of orange coarse gravels and small to medium sub rounded cobbles on the high ground; and in the low-lying area consisted of light grey brown to orange clay. It is likely that the low-lying ground in the centre of the compound area was previously inundated with water, as occasional pockets of peat were visible under the clay.

4.1.3 It was evident during the works due to the thin nature of the topsoil that the site has been subject to heavy ploughing. Several rubble field drains were present in the clay subsoil for drainage purposes; running in different directions.

4.2 Archaeological Features

4.2.1 A possible clearance cairn of uncertain date; a post medieval pit and a further feature of unknown date and function were uncovered during the works.

4.2.2 The possible clearance cairn [003] consisted of a large area of medium to large sub rounded stones and was contained within a mid red-brown silty sand matrix. This feature extended outside the limit of excavation with approximately 2m x 1.4m having been exposed by the works.



Plate 1 Post clean photo of cairn [103]

- 4.2.3 As it was at the site boundary and did not impact on important elements of the temporary compound it was preserved in-situ. Geotextile fabric was placed over the extent of the feature and the topsoil was reinstated. A suitable buffer was also reinstated, and a stock proof fence erected around its extent (see Plate 2 and Figure 2). It has now been excluded from the works and no further impact to this feature is expected.



Plate 2 Reinstated area and fence for preservation of cairn [003]

- 4.2.4 A sub-rectangular negative feature [006] was encountered in the east of the site (Figure 2). It measured 3.5m x 1.5m in plan and was up to 0.45m deep. Sherds of 19th-20th century pottery were present within its fill, but not retained. This feature therefore most likely relates to agricultural activity on site as these fields have been agricultural for the past 150 years and earlier rig and furrow suggests this may have been the case for even longer (see 1.3.5)
- 4.2.5 A linear feature [004] of unknown date and function was present towards the centre of the site (Figure 2). It measured 4.6m x 1.4m x 0.3m deep and was linear in plan. The base had an irregular and inconsistent shape, but predominantly sloped towards the south (see Plate 3). The fill consisted of mottled grey brown sandy silt with large patches of charcoal and discreet patches of possible in situ burning. No finds were present within the fill and therefore no date for the feature could be ascertained. It is likely, due to the nature of other features present, such as a clearance cairn and the afore mentioned agricultural evidence for use of these fields that this feature may also represent the remnants of agricultural activity. Samples were taken from the charcoal rich fill of this feature for further investigation if deemed necessary by PKHT.



Plate 3 Post excavation of linear feature [004] from the NE

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological features present on site likely represent the remains of agricultural activity in the area. It is evident from the ground conditions on site that the development area has been subject to heavy agricultural alteration. Plough truncation is extensive on the higher ground and will have likely removed any earlier features.
- 5.2 Two of the features were excavated and recorded and the possible clearance cairn was excluded from the site compound area and preserved in situ. Therefore, further work at the deconstruction of the temporary compound is not recommended. However; this will need ratification by the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust on behalf of Perth and Kinross Council. A post excavation programme of works may also be deemed necessary by PKHT to ascertain a date from the samples taken of the unknown linear feature.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2018 *A9 Dualling, Luncarty Temporary Compound: Monitored Topsoil Strip & Excavation. Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report.

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology*

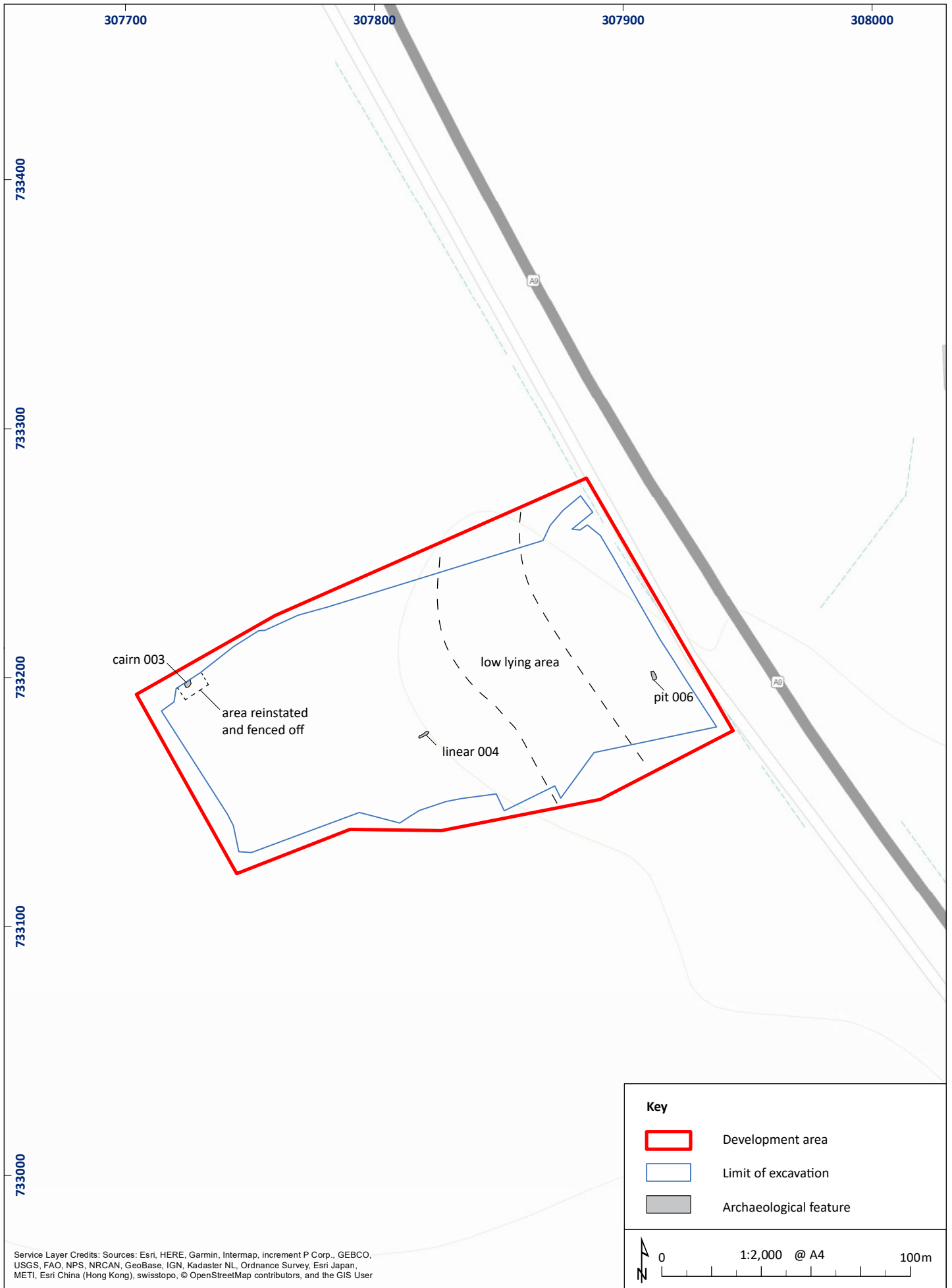


Figure 2: Detailed site plan

01/24642/DSR/02/01

A9 Dualling, Bankfoot Temporary Compound, Monitored Topsoil Strip & Excavation: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Feature	Description and Interpretation
002	Deposit	Mid red-brown sandy silt with inclusions of occasional small to medium sub rounded cobbles Clearance cairn
003	Fill	Large pile of sub rounded medium to large stones. Total area exposed measuring 2m x 1.4m. Unexcavated and reinstated. Possible clearance cairn of unknown date
004	Cut	Linear in plan, measuring 4.6m x 1.4m x 0.30m deep. Base slopes down to the south. Cut of linear feature
005	Fill	Friable mottled grey brown sandy silt with large patches of charcoal and burnt soil. Heavily plough truncated. Fill of [104]
006	Cut	Sub rectangular in plan measuring 3.5m x 1.6m x 0.45m deep. Sloping sides and a flat base. Post medieval pit feature
007	Fill	Friable to loosely compacted mid grey silty sand with inclusions of large sub rounded cobbles. Fill of [106]

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-3	Pre-ex shots of compound area	NE-E-SE	29/11/18
4	Access track stripped to clay	WSW	29/11/18
5	Access track stripped to clay	ENE	29/11/18
6	Access track stripped to clay – transitioning to gravel on slope	E	29/11/18
7-11	Cabin area begun to be stripped	Var	30/11/2018
12-17	Post clean of clearance cairn [003]	Var	4/12/2018
18-61	Photogrammetry of clearance cairn [003]	Var	4/12/2018
62-67	Reinstatement of clearance cairn [003]	Var	5/12/2018
68-72	Pre-ex linear [004]	Var	7/12/2018
73	WSW facing section of WSW terminus of [004]	WSW	7/12/2018
74-75	Possible discreet patches of in situ burning in slot in linear [004]	Var	7/12/2018
76	WSW facing section of slot in linear [004]	WSW	7/12/2018
77	ENE facing section of slot in linear [004]	ENE	7/12/2018
78-79	Post ex slot in linear [004]	Var	7/12/2018
80	ENE facing section of ENE terminus of linear [004]	ENE	7/12/2018
81	Post ex ENE terminus of linear [004]	SSE	7/12/2018
82-87	Post ex linear [004]	Var	7/12/2018
88-91	Panoramic working shots from south	S	10/12/2018
92-93	Area stripped adjacent to access road	SW	11/12/2018
94-95	Area stripped in NE of site	SE	11/12/2018
96-98	Panoramic view of low-lying ground	SE	11/12/2018
99-119	Clear areas of site in West of site and start of compound build	Var	4-5/12/2018
120-121	South facing section of pit [006]	S	12/12/2018
122	Post excavation of pit [006]	W	12/12/2018
123-125	End of strip shots	Var	13/12/2018

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Details	Scale
1	WSW facing section of WSW terminus of linear [004]	1:10
2	WSW facing section of linear [004]	1:10
3	ENE facing section of ENE terminus of linear [004]	1:10
4	Post ex plan of linear [004]	1:20

APPENDIX 4: Sample Register

Context No	Quantity
105(1) From Slot	20 L
105(2) From ENE terminus	10 L

APPENDIX 5: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report*

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	A9 Dualling, Bankfoot Temporary Compound
PROJECT CODE:	24642
PARISH:	Bankfoot
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jessica Lowther
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitored top-soil strip & Excavation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Possible clearance cairn of unknown date
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None.
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 0780 3319
START DATE (this season)	29 th November 2018
END DATE (this season)	13 th December 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>(NARRATIVE)</p> <p>This report presents the results of archaeological works undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Balfour Beatty at the site of a temporary compound at Bankfoot, Perthshire (NGR: NO 0780 3319).</p> <p>The works consisted of a monitored topsoil strip and subsequent excavation or preservation in situ of features; due to the temporary nature of the compound.</p> <p>Three features were uncovered during the works: a post medieval pit; a possible clearance cairn of unknown date (preserved in situ) and a linear feature of unknown date and function.</p> <p>The need for further work will be determined by the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust on behalf of the Perth and Kinross Council.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Balfour Beatty Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS