

Invergowrie Primary School: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21680

17th August 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

Invergowrie Primary School, Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Perth & Kinross Council
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NO 3460 3030
AOC Project No:	21680
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Date of Fieldwork:	4 th August - 6 th August - 2010
Date of Report:	17 th August 2010

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

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed extension to Invergowrie Primary School, Invergowrie, Perth and Kinross.

The archaeological evaluation was originally designed around a 6% trenching sample (900 m²). However, approximately one third of the site was unavailable for evaluation at this time, as the land parcel was in the process of being purchased by Perth & Kinross Council. This led to a revised trenching sample (720 m²) being undertaken, after consultation with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT).

No archaeologically significant finds or features were encountered, although there was evidence of recent activity in the form of rubble field drains, modern pits and post-holes and two linear features of unknown function. A cinder path was also revealed running east to west along the northern half of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Perth & Kinross Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed extension to Invergowrie Primary School, Invergowrie, Perth & Kinross.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Perth & Kinross Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT). PKHT recommended a programme of archaeological works in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010) and *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2010) was agreed with PKHT in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The evaluation was originally designed around a 6% trenching sample (900 m²). However, approximately one third of the site was unavailable for evaluation at this time as this part of the land parcel was in the process of being purchased by Perth & Kinross Council. This led to a revised trenching sample (720 m²) being undertaken after consultation with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site is located immediately to the west of Errol Road, Invergowrie, Perth & Kinross (centred NGR: NO 3460 3030). The site is bounded to the north by All Souls Episcopal Church and to the south and west by the Scottish Crop Research Institute. Approximately one third of the site is currently under Institute crop, with the remainder of the evaluation area consisting of playing fields, mature gardens and existing school buildings. The majority of the site is low-lying, flat ground with a high point of 16.54 m OD.
- 1.2.2 The site is underlain by solid geology of Old Red Sandstone. The drift geology is comprised of Pleistocene deposits of reddish brown clay tills (Laing 1976, 27).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 There were no known archaeological sites within the proposed development. However, the surrounding landscape is rich in archaeological sites identified through aerial photography.
- 1.3.2 Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 6516, NMRS: NO33SW46) identified to the north-west of the development site comprises the remains of two souterrains and associated features represented by cropmarks visible on oblique aerial photographs. It lies on fairly level ground in arable farmland at around 20 m OD. It comprises a large souterrain, some 20 m long by about 4 m wide, truncated to the north by the modern road. Some 20 m to the south-south-east is a second souterrain, some 25 m long by approximately 3 m wide, curving around a dark circular cropmark that may represent an associated building. Overlapping with this second souterrain is a small rectangular cropmark which may represent a slightly later building.

- 1.3.3 A Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 6517, NMRS: NO33SW41) identified to the west of the site comprises the remains of a rectilinear enclosure of prehistoric date represented by cropmarks visible on oblique aerial photographs. It lies in arable farmland at around 20 m OD and comprises a trapezoidal enclosure measuring some 35 m north-south by about 35 m east-west at its north end, tapering to approximately 25 m at its south end, within a ditch some 2 m wide. Darker patches inside the enclosure appear to indicate the remains of former domestic structures.
- 1.3.4 A site identified from the Perth and Kinross Sites and Monuments Record through an Aerial photographic survey to the south of the development comprises the western edge, north-western corner and part of the northern edge of the Roman temporary camp first recorded by Maitland in 1757. The cropmarks reveal the camp's dimension to have been c. 400 m north to south by c. 300 m east to west.
- 1.3.5 Although aerial photographic survey has as yet failed to identify any cropmarks within the proposed development, this may have resulted from the existing land-use which comprises a combination of tarmac, grass playing fields, intensive cultivation rather than an absence of features. Based on the evidence from the surrounding area the proposed development therefore has the potential to contain previously unknown archaeological sites.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The trenching was designed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality, significance and date of any archaeological features present within the site area. The loss of approximately one third of the available evaluation area required a revision of the original 6% trenching sample after consultation with PKHT. This resulted in a sample reduction to 720 m². Trenches were 30 m in length (2 m wide) and set on varying orientations.
- 3.2 Stripping of the overburden was by means of a single JCB excavator equipped with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the

first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.

- 3.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 4th August and 6th August 2010. Overall weather conditions were generally fair and good archaeological visibility was present throughout the entire evaluation. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3, Figure 1 and Plates 1-3.

- 4.1.2 The excavation of the trenches revealed topsoil comprising soft, light brown loam. Numerous sherds of modern white ceramic and glass were observed scattered throughout the topsoil in all of the trenches. Underlying the topsoil, natural subsoil was a uniform sandy red clay. A narrow interface between these deposits varying between 0.10 and 0.20 m thick was observed across the site. Occasional medium sized sub-rounded and sub-angular stones were present in the subsoil.

- 4.1.3 Rubble field drains were encountered within trenches seven and eight and likely represent the same features. The drains ran approximately from north-east to south-west. Hand dug slots were excavated through these drains within each trench.

- 4.1.4 A small number of natural stone-holes caused by the displacement of boulders by agricultural activity were also present. All but the most obvious were initially treated as potentially significant features and investigated.

4.2 Features

- 4.2.1 The trial trenching revealed several features. These were located within Trenches 5, 6, 7, 10 and 12 (Appendix 1). Upon investigation all features were determined to be of modern origin and possibly relate to the initial construction of the school or agricultural activity.

- 4.2.2 The remains of a cinder path directly overlying the natural subsoil were observed in Trenches 6 and 7. In Trench 6 the path was visible for four metres aligned west to east and consisting of a mix of Type 2 hardcore and cinder 0.20 m in depth. In Trench 7 the path crossed the trench aligned west to east and was 2 m in width.

- 4.2.3 Two large pits were investigated in Trenches 5 and 7; both were oval in shape with a diameter of a metre. Wire, glass and modern building debris were found in each.

- 4.2.4 Two narrow linear features running parallel north to south were investigated within Trench 10. Slots were dug through each, revealing a depth of 0.30 m. White ceramics, glass and metal were observed within the fills of both features.

- 4.2.5 A small modern post-hole was investigated within Trench 10. This was 0.40 m in diameter and 0.12 m in depth. White ceramics and glass were observed within its fill.



Plate 1 West-facing section showing cinder path and imported topsoil in Trench 7



Plate 2 Modern linear features within Trench 10

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the evaluation of the currently accessible site area.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by PKHT on behalf of Perth & Kinross Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

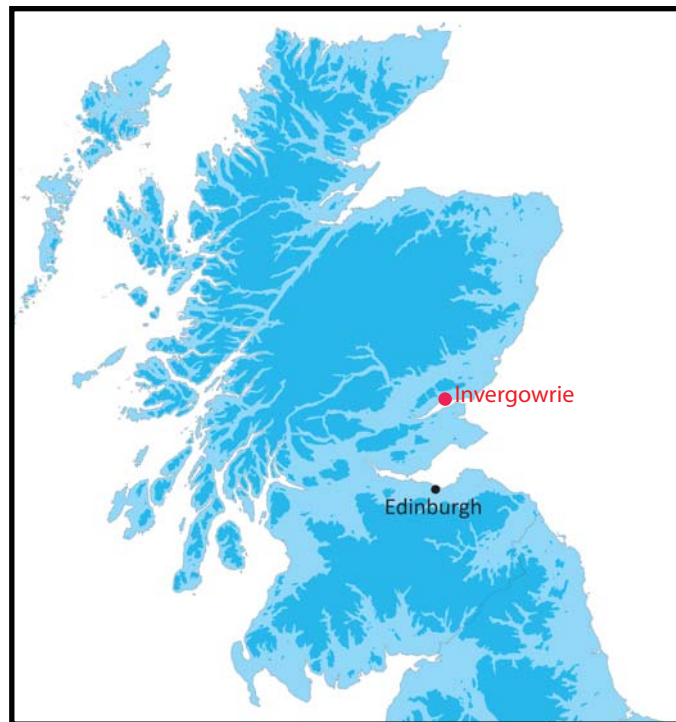
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Invergowrie
Primary
School

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Figure 1: Location maps of Invergowrie Primary School

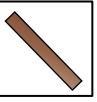
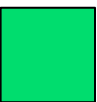


Invergowrie Primary School: Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

Figure 2:
Invergowrie Primary School
Evaluation Trench Locations



-  Evaluation Trench
-  Vegetation

Based on a drawing
supplied by the client

17.08.2010



APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	S/N
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25-0.0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand.
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic, glass and very occasional clay pipe through topsoil.

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Moderate fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic and glass fragments.

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Frequent fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic and modern glass throughout topsoil.

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Frequent fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic and glass throughout topsoil.

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
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<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	S/N
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30-0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40-0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Plough scars & modern pit containing wire and building debris
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic, and glass through topsoil.

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25-0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Cinder path running W/E 0.20 m in thickness, visible for approximately 4 m.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic, and glass throughout topsoil.

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Cinder path approximately 2 m wide running W/E across trench 0.20 m in thickness. Modern pit with wire & building debris. Rubble drain running NE/SW.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic, and glass throughout topsoil.

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	S/N
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m-0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drain running NW/SE.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic, and glass throughout topsoil.

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	S/N
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic, and glass throughout topsoil.

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern post, Parallel modern linear features running N/S at 5 m, features are 0.50 m wide and 0.30 m in depth.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic, and glass throughout topsoil.

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic, and glass throughout topsoil.

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern post-hole (0.40 m in diameter x 0.12 m deep)
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red clay sand
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of 19 th century and later white ceramic, and glass throughout topsoil.

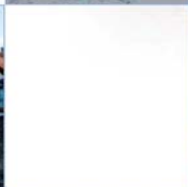
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Black & White Print/ /Digital Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1		Registration	
2	1	General post-excavation shot. Trench 1	S
3	2	General post-excavation shot. Trench 2	E
4	3	General post-excavation shot. Trench 3	W
5	4	General post-excavation shot. Trench 4	W
6	5	General post-excavation shot. Trench 5	N
7	5	Modern Pit Feature	E
8	6	Cinder Path	W
9	6	South facing section showing cinder path	S
10	7	General post-excavation shot. Trench 7	W
11	7	Rubble Drain	W
12	8	General post-excavation shot. Trench 8	N
13	8	Rubble Drain	SE
14	9	General post-excavation shot. Trench 9	N
15	10	Modern Linear Features	S
16	10	General post-excavation shot. Trench 10	S
17	11	General post-excavation shot. Trench 11	W
18	12	West facing section through modern post	W
19	12	General post-excavation shot. Trench 12	W

APPENDIX 3: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Invergowrie Primary School
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21680
PARISH:	Invergowrie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 3460 3030
START DATE (this season)	4 th August 2010
END DATE (this season)	6 th August 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a proposed extension to Invergowrie Primary School, Invergowrie.</p> <p>The archaeological evaluation consisted of twelve 30 m by 2 m trenches (720 m²)</p> <p>No archaeologically significant finds or features were encountered, although there was evidence of recent activity in the form of rubble field drains, modern pits and post-holes and two linear features of unknown function. A cinder path was also revealed running east to west along the northern half of the site.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Perth & Kinross Council
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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