LSPK-Phase 1

LAND AT LUNCARTY SOUTH, PERTH AND KINROSS

Archaeological Evaluation

for A & J Stephen Ltd

15/00511/SCOP

September 2016

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Redgorton	Parish:
Perth and Kinross Council	Council:
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LAND AT LUNCARTY SOUTH, PERTH AND KINROSS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Headland Archaeology Ltd conducted an archaeological evaluation on land south of Luncarty, Perth and Kinross, in support of a planning application for development of the site by A & J Stephen Limited. The evaluation, by means of trial trenching revealed a pit of unknown date probably excavated to extract sand. Four linear ditches filled with rounded cobbles were also excavated, which are interpreted as evidence of attempts to drain and improve the land in the post-medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

A & J Stephen Ltd (the developer) are preparing a planning application for a proposed residential development on an area of land south of Luncarty, Perth and Kinross. In support of the planning application the developer required an archaeological evaluation of part of the development area (Phase 1) and commissioned Headland Archaeology Ltd to prepare a project design, undertake the fieldwork and produce a report on the results (this document). The results will be used to determine the significance of any archaeological remains within the Phase 1 development area and to inform a strategy for further archaeological mitigation if appropriate.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The development area (DA) is centred on NGR: N0 0946 2925 (Illus 1). It comprises approximately 50 hectares of arable land bounded by the River Tay to the south and east, the Perth-to-Inverness Railway to the west and the village of Luncarty to the north. It lies between 30m and 40m OD. The superficial geology of the northern half of the DA comprises glaciofluvial deposits of gravel, silt and sand, while the southern half comprises alluvial clay silt sand and gravel deposited by river channels. The whole of the DA is underlain by sandstone geology from the Early Devonian period (British Geological survey online source).

A desk-based assessment (Fox 2014) relating to the site was produced and the full results need not be repeated here. Standing stones, roundhouses, a souterrain and an unenclosed settlement were all

identified within the vicinity of the DA. The fertile soil along the banks of the River Tay would have been attractive to prehistoric settlers and it is likely the area saw extensive habitation and cultivation during the prehistoric period.

Within 1 km to the south of the DA is the scheduled monument of Grassy Walls Roman Camp (SM4072), and other marching camps are known further afield. This and the presence of the possible site of the Battle of Luncarty (990AD) within the DA suggest that the area was of strategic importance throughout the Roman and medieval periods.

Traces of rig and furrow cultivation marks and field boundaries marking field systems within the DA are evidence that the area has been under cultivation since at least the 18th century. Such cultivation will have levelled any upstanding archaeological remains.

Luncarty was also known for its bleachfields. In the mid-18th century William Sandeman and his partner Hector Turnbull manufactured cotton in Perth and bleached it at Luncarty. IN 1752 12 acres of land were levelled to form the bleachfields and by 1790 these covered almost 80 acres.

The DA was deemed to have high potential to contain buried archaeological remains.

3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In accordance with the Project Design the main objectives of archaeological works were to provide sufficient evidence for the confident prediction of the archaeological significance and potential of the proposed development area. More specifically the aims of the evaluation include:

- Establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas targeted for trenching
- Establishing the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Site works

The work was undertaken as specified in the Project Design. The phase 1 development area was divided into two areas (Illus 2). 17 trenches were located in the northern part of the DA on undulating ground to the north of a hillock (Area A, Illus 3). Four trenches were located on the river terrace (Area B) close to the River Tay. Trenches one and two in Area A were split into two to avoid an overhead powerline, and are numbered 1 and 1A, and 2 and 2A.

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Trial trenching was carried out between 12th and 15th September 2016. All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Excavation continued until clean geological sediments or archaeological deposits were encountered. Excavation of archaeological features within the trench continued by hand until the objectives of the evaluation were satisfied. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

4.2 Recording

All recording was in line with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations, and in accordance with the project design. All trenches and contexts were given unique numbers and all recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey using a dGPS. A full photographic record comprising digital photography was taken and a graduated metric scale was clearly visible in all images

All aspects of the work were undertaken in accordance with the current Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (CIfA, 2014).

4.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. Full trench descriptions and technical details of individual contexts are presented in Appendix 7.1. A summary report has been prepared for submission to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 7.2) and the OASIS database (headland1-262833).

The complete project archive will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum.

5 RESULTS

All of trenches contained deposits of topsoil overlying natural subsoil. The thickness of the topsoil was fairly even across the DA largely between 0.25m and 0.35m with the overburden being thicker in Area B.

Archaeology was present in nine trenches in Area A and in one trench in Area B. One pit/ditch terminus was recorded in Trench 5 and a pit was recorded in Trench 21; otherwise the features uncovered were linear ditches with fills containing large rounded cobbles. Eight narrow cobble field drains were also observed but were not excavated or recorded. In the middle of Trench 4 a linear ditch [401] with steep sides measuring 1.3m wide and 0.85m deep and oriented north-west/south-east was observed and recorded. Its fill (402) comprised large mostly rounded cobble stones within a dark mottled blue/grey clay deposit.

At the western end of Trench 5 a linear ditch [503] (Illus 4) with steep sides measuring 1.7m wide and 1m deep oriented north-west/south-east was observed and recorded. Its fill (504) comprised large, mostly rounded cobble stones within a mid-greyishbrown sandy loam deposit. A fragment of modern glass was recovered from the upper level of the fill and is interpreted as residual.

Approximately 17m north-east of ditch [503] a pit [505] was uncovered which extended beyond the trench edge (and therefore could be interpreted as a ditch terminus). It measured 1.55m wide and 0.32m deep and was oriented north-west/south-east. Its fill (506) also contained large mostly rounded cobbles.

In the middle of Trench 7 two linear ditches [703] and [705] were observed and recorded. Both measured approximately 1.45m wide and 0.4m deep and their fills (704) and (706) contained large, mostly rounded cobbles. Fill (704) contained fragments of ceramic pipe and a fragment of glazed tile dating to the 19th century. Ditch [703] was oriented north/south and ditch [705] 4.5m to the south-east was oriented north-west/south-east.

At the southern end of Trench 15 two linear ditches [1501] and [1503] were observed and recorded. Both measured 1.05m wide and neither were excavated, although large, rounded cobbles were noted in each of the fills. Their positions indicated that they were likely to present two lengths of the sameditch system with a 90 degree turn outside the excavation area to the east. The alignment of [1501] indicated it was likely to be a continuation of ditch [503] 20m to the south-east

At the southern end of Trench 16 a linear ditch [1603] (Illus 5) measuring 1.12m wide and 0.34m deep and oriented north-east/south-west was observed and recorded. Its fill (1604) contained large mostly rounded cobbles within a sandy loam. The alignment of this ditch indicated that it was most likely a continuation of ditch [1503].

At the northern end of Trench 17 a linear ditch [1701] measuring 1.88m wide and 0.45m deep and oriented north-west/south-east was observed and recorded. Its fill (1702) contained large mostly rounded cobble stones within a sandy loam. The ditch was on the same alignment as ditch [705] to the south/east and was interpreted as a continuation of this ditch, however it was not noted in the southern end of Trench 9 where it would be expected to be found.

The only feature recorded in the trenches across Area B was found at the eastern end of Trench 21 (Illus 6). This comprised a large square shaped pit [2103] with rounded corners that continued beyond the trench edge to the south (Illus 7It measured 1.94m long and 0.41m deep, and contained a midbrown slightly stony sandy loam. The cut appeared to stop at a change in the natural subsoil from a midyellowish-brown clayey sand (2101) to a stony coarse sand.

5.1 Discussion

Initially the cobble-filled linear ditches recorded across the trenches in Area A were thought to represent the remains of earlier field boundaries. It was soon apparent that they did not form a coherent pattern indicative of a field system. A more likely interpretation is that they functioned as large drainage ditches potentially associated with the use of the land as bleachfields in the mid to late 18th century.

Pit [2103] was dug into a mid-yellowish-brown clayey sand and its excavators had stopped when they encountered a change in natural. It is interpreted as a pit dug to extract this sand, and is of unknown date.

5.2 Conclusion

The linear ditches uncovered in Area A are indicative of attempts to drain the land in the 18th century for use as bleachfields for the expanding Perth based cotton industry. The pit in Trench 21 is an isolated feature with no secure dating evidence. No further work in the Phase 1 development area is recommended.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographic sources

- CIfA 2014 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation
- Fox, S 2014 Land at Luncarty South, Perth and Kinross: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Headland Archaeology Ltd unpublished client report

6.2 Other sources

British Geological survey website http://www.bgs.ac.uk accessed Sept 2016

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Trench register

-	Trench no	Orientation	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Archaeology present
-	1	E-W	45	0.3	No archaeology present
	1a	E-W	40	0.3	No archaeology present
	2	E-W	20	0.45	No archaeology present
	2a	E-W	70	0.45	No archaeology present
	3	E-W	80	0.4	No archaeology present
	4	E-W	75	0.38	One cobble field drain, one stone-filled ditch
	5	NE-SW	90	0.45	One stone-filled ditch, one pit
	6	NE-SW	65	0.45	No archaeology present
	7	N-S	100	0.35	Two stone-filled ditches
	8	N-S	100	0.4	Two cobble field drains
	9	N-S	100	0.4	No archaeology present
	10	NE-SW	100	0.4	Two cobble field drains
	11	NW-SE	90	0.4	Three cobble field drains, one modern field drain
	12	NW-SE	100	0.42	No archaeology present
	13	N-S	90	0.35	No archaeology present
	14	N-S	95	0.35	No archaeology present
	15	N-S	100	0.4	Two stone-filled ditches
	16	N-S	100	0.4	One stone-filled ditch, one cobble field drain, one modern pipe cut
	17	NW-SE	120	0.4	One stone-filled ditch
	18	E-W	90	0.35	No archaeology present
	19	N-S	90	0.4	No archaeology present
	20	NE-SW	55	0.45	No archaeology present
	21	NE-SW	60	0.45	One large shallow pit

Context register

Context no.	Trench	Description	Interpretation	
101	1	Very dark reddish-brown loam with frequent stone inclusions	Topsoil	
102	1	Mid-orange sand and gravel with clay lenses	Natural subsoil	
201	2	Very dark reddish-brown loam with frequent stone inclusions	Topsoil	
202	2	Mid-orange sand and gravel with clay lenses	Natural subsoil	
301	3	Very dark reddish-brown loam with frequent stone inclusions	Topsoil	
302	3	Mid-orange sand and gravel with clay lenses	Natural subsoil	
401	4	Linear feature with steeply sloping sides	Cut of drainage ditch	
402	4	Dark blue / grey compact mottled clay with frequent stone inclusions	Fill of ditch [401]	
403	4	Very dark reddish-brown loam with frequent stone inclusions	Topsoil	
404	4	Mid-orange sand and gravel with clay lenses	Natural subsoil	
501	5	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil	
502	5	Mid-orange clayey sand changing to light yellow sand and gravel lenses	Natural subsoil	
503	5	Linear feature with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base oriented NW-SE	Cut of drainage ditch	
504	504 5 Mid-greyish-brown sandy loam with frequent large F rounded stones, one glass fragment			
505	5	Sub-circular feature with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	Cut of pit	
506	5	Dark grey loose sandy loam with frequent large rounded and angular stones	Fill of pit [505]	
601	6	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil	
602	6	Mid-orange clayey sand changing to light yellow sand and gravel lenses	Natural subsoil	
701	7	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil	
702	7	Light grey sand with frequent stone inclusions	Natural subsoil	
703	7	Cut of linear feature oriented north-south with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base	Cut of drainage ditch	
704	7	Mid-brownish-grey silty sand loam with frequent rounded and angular stones	Fill of ditch [703]	
705	7	Cut of linear feature oriented NW-SE with steeply sloping sides and a flat base	Cut of drainage ditch	
706	7	Mid-brownish-grey sandy loam with frequent large and medium rounded and angular stones	Fill of ditch [705]	

Context no.	Trench	Description	Interpretation
801	8	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
802	8	Light grey sand with frequent stone inclusions	Natural subsoil
901	9	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
902	9	Mid-grey sand changing to a light orangey-brown sand with frequent stone inclusions	Natural subsoil
1001	10	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
1002	10	Mottled light grey/yellow sand with frequent stone inclusions	Natural subsoil
1101	11	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
1102	11	Mid-grey sand changing to orange sand at north-west end	Natural subsoil
1201	12	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
1202	12	Mid-grey sand changing to a light orange sand with frequent stone inclusions	Natural subsoil
1301	13	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
1302	13	Mottled orange/grey stone rich sand	Natural subsoil
1401	14	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
		Mottled orange/grey stone rich sand	Natural subsoil
1501	15	Cut of linear feature with steeply sloping sides oriented NW-SE	Cut of drainage ditch
1502	15	Dark greyish-brown fine sand with frequent stone inclusions	Fill of ditch [1501]
1503	15	Cut of linear feature with steeply sloping sides oriented NE-SW	Cut of drainage ditch
1504	15	Dark greyish-brown fine sand with frequent stone inclusions	Fill of ditch [1503]
1505	15	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
1506	15	Mottled orange/grey stone rich sand changing to mid- bluish grey fine sand with gravel patches	Natural subsoil
1601	16	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
1602	16	Mid-bluish-grey soft sand changing to a grey stone rich sand	Natural subsoil
1603	16	Cut of linear feature oriented NE-SW with steeply sloping sides and a flat base	Cut of drainage ditch
1604	16	Mid-brownish-grey sandy loam with frequent large and medium rounded and angular stones	Fill of [1603]

Context no.	Trench	Description	Interpretation
1701	17	Cut of linear feature with steeply sloping sides	Cut of drainage ditch
1702	17	Mid-greyish-brown sand with frequent rounded stones	Fill of ditch [1701]
1703	17	Dark reddish-brown loam with frequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
1704	17	Mid-orange/grey mottled sand with frequent gravel inclusions	Natural subsoil
1801	18	Dark reddish-brown soft loam with occasional stone inclusions	Topsoil
1802	18	Mid-orangey-brown soft sand with gravel lenses	Natural subsoil
1901	19	Dark reddish-brown soft loam with occasional stone inclusions	Topsoil
1902	19	Mid-orangey-brown soft sand with gravel lenses	Natural subsoil
2001	20	Dark reddish-brown soft loam with occasional stone inclusions	Topsoil
2002	20	Light yellow clayey sand	Natural subsoil
2101	21	Dark reddish-brown soft loam with occasional stone inclusions	Topsoil
2102	21	Mid-yellowish-brown clayey sand changing to orange sand to the north-east	Natural subsoil
2103	21	Cut of rectangular pit with steeply sloping sides and a flat base.	Cut of pit
2104	21	Mid-brown slightly stony sandy loam	Fill of pit [2103]

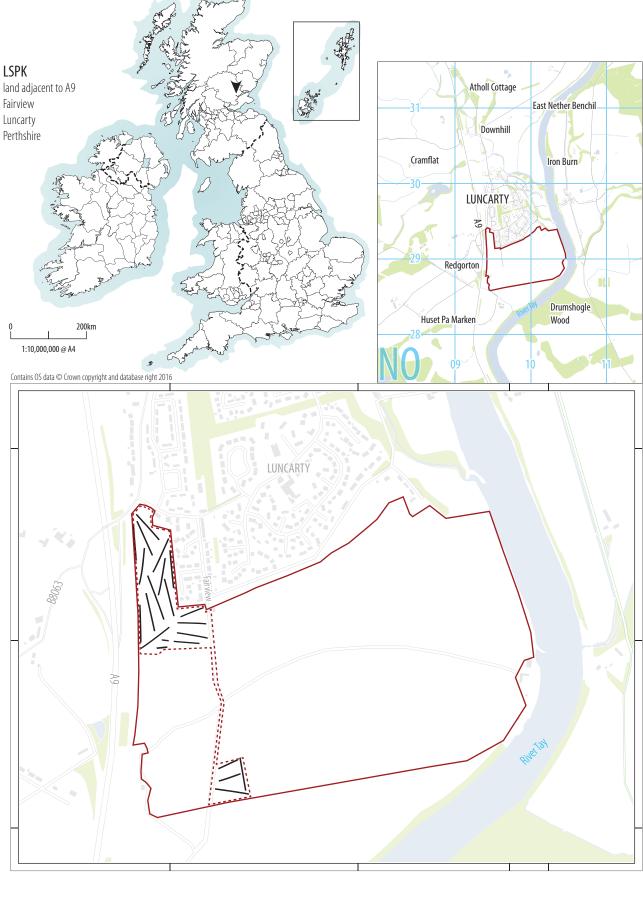
Photographic register

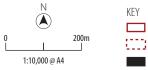
Photo no.	File name	Facing	Description
1	LSPK-001-01.jpeg	-	I. D. Shot
2	LSPK-001-02.jpeg	Е	General view of trench 1
3	LSPK-001-03.jpeg	W	General view of trench 1
4	LSPK-001-04.jpeg	Е	General view of trench 1A
5	LSPK-001-05.jpeg	W	General view of trench 1A
6	LSPK-001-06.jpeg	E	General view of trench 2
7	LSPK-001-07.jpeg	W	General view of trench 2
8	LSPK-001-08.jpeg	E	General view of trench 2A
9	LSPK-001-09.jpeg	W	General view of trench 2A
10	LSPK-001-10.jpeg	E	General view of trench 3
11	LSPK-001-11.jpeg	W	General view of trench 3
12	LSPK-001-12.jpeg	E	General view of trench 4
13	LSPK-001-13.jpeg	W	General view of trench 4
14	LSPK-001-14.jpeg	E	West-facing section of pit [505]
15	LSPK-001-15.jpeg	SE	North-west-facing section of ditch [503]
16	LSPK-001-16.jpeg	SE	North-west-facing section of ditch [503]
17	LSPK-001-17.jpeg	NW	South-east-facing section of ditch [503]
18	LSPK-001-18.jpeg	NW	South-east-facing section of ditch [503]
19	LSPK-001-19.jpeg	E	General view of trench 5
20	LSPK-001-20.jpeg	W	General view of trench 5
21	LSPK-001-21.jpeg	S	North-facing-section of ditch [703]
22	LSPK-001-22.jpeg	N	View of field
23	LSPK-001-23.jpeg	Ν	View of pin-flag in field
24	LSPK-001-24.jpeg	E	General view of trench 18
25	LSPK-001-25.jpeg	W	General view of trench 18
26	LSPK-001-26.jpeg	N	General view of trench 19
27	LSPK-001-27.jpeg	S	General view of trench 19
28	LSPK-001-28.jpeg	E	General view of trench 20
29	LSPK-001-29.jpeg	W	General view of trench 20
30	LSPK-001-30.jpeg	S	North-facing section of pit [2103]
31	LSPK-001-31.jpeg	S	North-facing section of pit [2103]
32	LSPK-001-32.jpeg	W	East-facing section of pit [2103]
33	LSPK-001-33.jpeg	W	General view of trench 21
34	LSPK-001-34.jpeg	E	General view of trench 21
35	LSPK-001-35.jpeg	W	General view of trench 6
36	LSPK-001-36.jpeg	Ν	General view of trench 7
37	LSPK-001-37.jpeg	Ν	View of damaged pipe in trench 7
38	LSPK-001-38.jpeg	N	View of cobble drain in trench 7
39	LSPK-001-39.jpeg	S	General view of trench 7
40	LSPK-001-40.jpeg	N	General view of trench 8
41	LSPK-001-41.jpeg	Ν	View of cobble drain in trench 8
42	LSPK-001-42.jpeg	Ν	View of cobble drain in trench 8
43	LSPK-001-43.jpeg	SW	General view of trench 9
44	LSPK-001-44.jpeg	NE	General view of trench 10

45	LSPK-001-45.jpeg	SW	View of cobble drain in trench 10
46	LSPK-001-46.jpeg	SW	General view of trench 10
47	LSPK-001-47.jpeg	NW	General view of trench 11
48	LSPK-001-48.jpeg	NW	General view of trench 12
49	LSPK-001-49.jpeg	S	General view of trench 13
50	LSPK-001-50.jpeg	SW	General view of trench 14
51	LSPK-001-51.jpeg	NE	General view of trench 14
52	LSPK-001-52.jpeg	NE	General view of trench 15
53	LSPK-001-53.jpeg	S	General view of trench 16
54	LSPK-001-54.jpeg	S	General view of trench 17
55	LSPK-001-55.jpeg	NW	General view of trench 16
56	LSPK-001-56.jpeg	Ν	General view of trench 15
57	LSPK-001-57.jpeg	Ν	General view of trench 15
58	LSPK-001-58.jpeg	Ν	General view of site from Turnagain Hillock
59	LSPK-001-59.jpeg	Ν	General view of site from Turnagain Hillock
60	LSPK-001-60.jpeg	Ν	General view of site from Turnagain Hillock
61	LSPK-001-61.jpeg	NW	General view of ditch [401]
62	LSPK-001-62.jpeg	NW	South-east-facing section of ditch [401]
63	LSPK-001-63.jpeg	S	North-facing section of ditch [705]
64	LSPK-001-64.jpeg	SE	View of ditch [1701]
65	LSPK-001-65.jpeg	SE	North-west-facing section of ditch [1701]
66	LSPK-001-66.jpeg	SE	North-west-facing section of ditch [1701]
67	LSPK-001-67.jpeg	NE	View of ditch [1501]
68	LSPK-001-68.jpeg	NW	View of ditch [1501]
69	LSPK-001-69.jpeg	NW	View of ditch [1503]
70	LSPK-001-70.jpeg	SW	View of ditch [1503]
71	LSPK-001-71.jpeg	Ν	General view of ditches [1501] and [1503]
72	LSPK-001-72.jpeg	SW	General view of ditches [1501] and [1503]
73	LSPK-001-73.jpeg	SW	North-east-facing section of ditch [1603]

7.2 Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Luncarty South, Perth and Kinross
PROJECT CODE:	LSPK-P1
PARISH:	Redgorton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stephen Cox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd.
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 0946 2920
START DATE (this season)	12 th September 2016
END DATE (this season)	15 th September 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	-
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology Ltd conducted a trial-trench archaeological evaluation on land south of Luncarty, Perth and Kinross, in support of a planning application for development of the site by A & J Stephen Limited. Trial trenching revealed a number of wide linear ditches filled with rounded cobbles which have been interpreted as evidence for attempts to drain the land potentially for use as bleachfields in the mid to late 18 th century.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Phase 2 archaeological evaluation.
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	A & J Stephen Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	steve.cox@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	HES









SCOTLAND

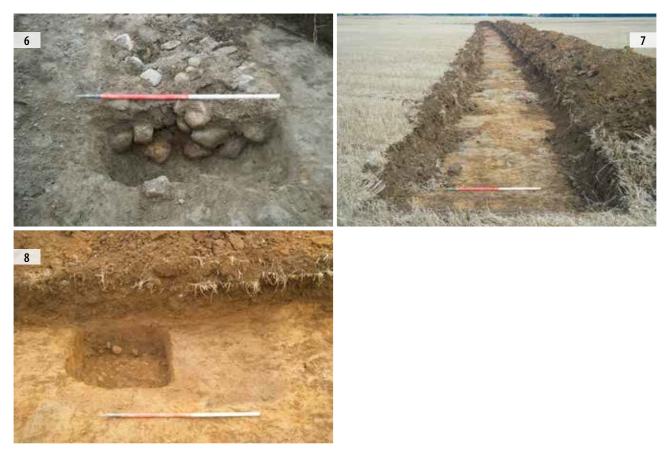
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ILLUS 2 Trench plan



ILLUS 3 General view of Area A facing N ILLUS 4 General view of Trench 3 facing SE ILLUS 5 View of NW facing section of ditch [05003]



ILLUS 6 View of NE facing section of ditch [16003] ILLUS 7 General view of Trench 21 facing E ILLUS 8 View of N facing section of pit [21003]