

NFMP20



NORWOOD FARM, MEIKLEOUR, PERTH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

PLANNING REF. 19/00021/FLL

commissioned by Ian Pick Associated Ltd
on behalf of JSR Services

February 2020

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PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **NFMP20** / NGR **NO 16311 41085** / Parish **Caputh** / Local Authority **Perth and Kinross** / OASIS Ref. **headland1-384016** / Archive Repository **Historic Environment Scotland**

PROJECT TEAM:

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part of the **RSK** Group



PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Norwood Farm, Meikleour, Perth in advance of the construction of additional farm buildings. The works were carried out to fulfil a planning condition placed on the development. A total of eight trenches amounting to 116m linear (or 185.6m²) were excavated. No archaeological features were identified.

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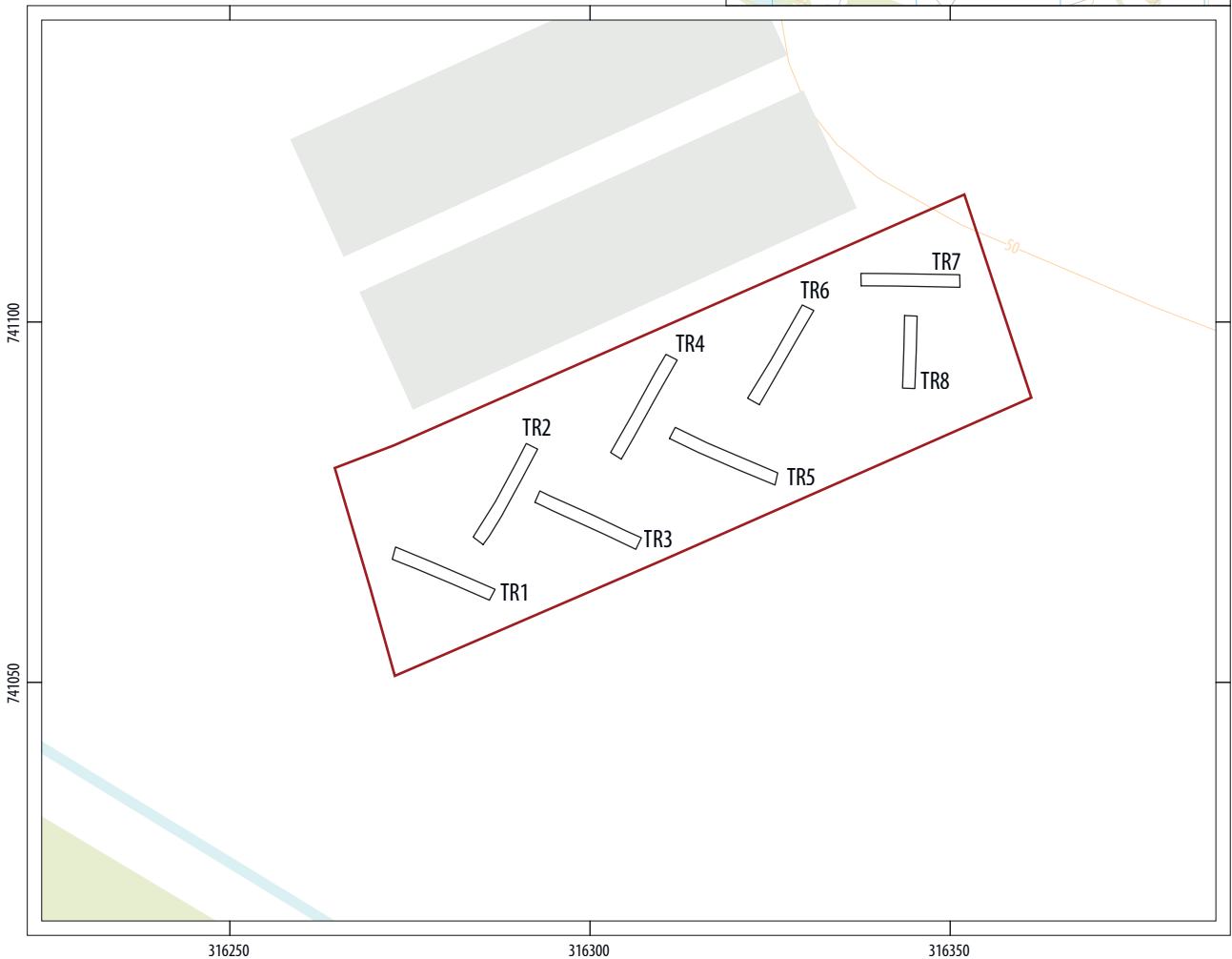
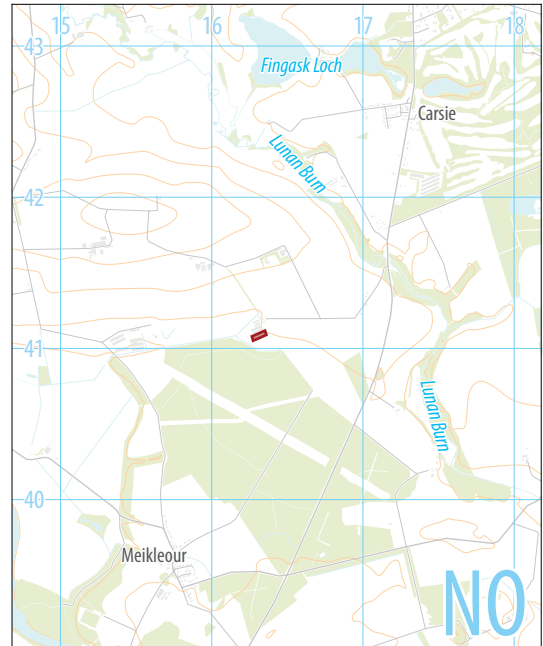
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Land at Norwood Farm
Meikleour
Perthshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 20m
1:1,000 @ A4

development boundary
trench location

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NORWOOD FARM, MEIKLEOUR, PERTH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Ian Pick Associates Ltd (the Consultant) on behalf of JSR Services (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching. The work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition placed on the development in advance of the construction of additional farm buildings at Norwood Farm, Meikleour, Perth (19/00021/FLL).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Headland Archaeology 2019) defined the scope of the evaluation and this was submitted for agreement with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT), the archaeological advisor to the planning authority. The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development area covered approximately 3000m² and was located roughly 2km north of the village of Meikleour at NGR NO 16311 41085. The site was characterised by arable farmland bound to the north by existing farm buildings, to the west and south by woodland and to the east by another arable field (Illus 1). The development area was generally flat with a gentle slope to the west (Illus 2).

The bedrock geology of the site consisted of Teith Sandstone Formation formed approximately 393 to 408 million years ago in the Devonian Period. This was overlaid by Superficial Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits such as gravel, sand and silt formed up to 3 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (NERC 2019).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric sites are present in the wider vicinity of the proposed development area. Approximately 400m south-west of the existing farm are the Cleaven Dyke earthworks (SM1602), a scheduled cursus monument of the Neolithic period. Also recorded is an enclosure mapped from aerial photography located directly east of the farm complex (Canmore ID 201310), an unenclosed settlement located approximately 400m south-east (Canmore ID163371) and the scheduled remains of a palisaded enclosure that was dated during excavation in 2000 to the Neolithic period (SM7169).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the location, character and extent of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area.

2.2 FIELD METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching comprised a 6% sample of the proposed development area. This amounted to 116m linear (or 185.6m²). All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Excavations continued until clean geological natural deposits were encountered. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full. Spoil was stored at the side of each trench.

All recording was in line with the ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations (ClfA 2014), and in accordance with the approved WSI. All trenches and contexts



ILLUS 2 North-west facing view of site showing slope to the west

were given unique numbers, and all recording was undertaken on pro form record cards (Appendix 1.1). An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey using a differential GPS. A full photographic record comprising digital photography was taken and a graduated metric scale was clearly visible in all images. A full list of photographs can be found in Appendix 1.2.

2.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

All aspects of reporting and archive were undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by ClfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (2011) and relevant local standards and guidelines. The results of the work are presented below. A summary report and boundary file were prepared for submission to Discovery & Excavation in Scotland (Appendix 2) and the Archaeological Data Service OASIS database (headland1-384016).

The complete project archives, including survey files and digital photographs forming part of the primary record will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland (HES), accompanied by the relevant metadata. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set by the Archaeological Archiving Forum (2011).

3 RESULTS

3.1 FIELDWORK

The fieldwork was carried out on the 27th January 2020. Full trench descriptions with length, depth and orientation are presented in Appendix 1.1. A total of eight trenches were excavated evenly across the proposed development area providing good coverage of the site (Illus 1). The trenches measured between 10m and 15m in length.

All the trenches had consistent geological subsoil composed of light brownish-grey sand (Illus 3). One trench (Trench 1) had a subsoil of 0.12m thickness. This overlay the geological subsoil and was composed of mid brownish-orange silty sand with gravel inclusions. Topsoil was notably thin across the site, ranging in thickness between 0.1m and 0.35m. The topsoil was thickest in Trench 1, which was excavated on a gentle slope at the west of site, whilst the topsoil in the flatter central and eastern extents of site averaged only 0.19m in thickness. The shallow topsoil is likely to have been caused by later truncation on the flatter central and eastern areas, associated with the construction of the sheds to the north-west.

No archaeological remains were identified during the trial trenching.



ILLUS 3 South-east facing view of Trench 5

4 DISCUSSION

During the archaeological evaluation no archaeological remains were identified. The relatively thin topsoil suggests that the area was truncated in the past and the ground level regraded. The deeper topsoil seen in Trench 1 is evidence of the original sloping ground surface and undisturbed stratigraphic sequence. Any archaeological remains that may have been present on site would have been removed by the regrading, and the site now has very low potential to contain unrecorded archaeology.

5 REFERENCES

Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF) 2011 *Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2nd edn) (ClfA: Reading) http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf accessed February 2020

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed February 2020

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) 2014b *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Reading) http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS&GFieldevaluation_1.pdf accessed February 2020

Headland Archaeology 2020 *Norwood Farm, Meikleour, Perth, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching* [unpublished client report]

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2019 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> accessed 04/02/2020

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench and context register

TR 1			
DEPTH TO GEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY:			0.35–0.50M
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS	DIMENSIONS
1001	Topsoil	dark brownish-grey sandy loam	0.35m thick
1002	Subsoil	mid brownish-orange silty sand/ gravel	0.12m thick
1003	Natural	light brownish-grey sand	–

TR 2			
DEPTH TO GEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY:			0.17–0.22M
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS	DIMENSIONS
2001	Topsoil, Same as (1001)	–	0.15m thick
2002	Natural, Same as (1003)	–	–

TR 3			
DEPTH TO GEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY:			0.05–0.10M
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS	DIMENSIONS
3001	Topsoil, Same as (1001)	–	0.10m thick
3002	Natural, Same as (1003)	–	–

TR 4			
DEPTH TO GEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY:			0.20–0.40M
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS	DIMENSIONS
4001	Topsoil, Same as (1001)	–	0.15m thick
4002	Natural, Same as (1003)	–	–

TR 5			
DEPTH TO GEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY:			0.12–0.40M
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS	DIMENSIONS
5001	Topsoil, Same as (1001)	–	0.15m thick
5002	Natural, Same as (1003)	–	–

TR 6			
DEPTH TO GEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY:			0.18–0.35M
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS	DIMENSIONS
6001	Topsoil, Same as (1001)	–	0.30m thick
6002	Natural, Same as (1003)	–	–

TR 7			
DEPTH TO GEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY:			0.10–0.18M
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS	DIMENSIONS
7001	Topsoil, Same as (1001)	–	0.18m thick
7002	Natural, Same as (1003)	–	–

TR 8			
DEPTH TO GEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY:			0.12–0.20M
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS	DIMENSIONS
8001	Topsoil, Same as (1001)	–	0.15m thick
8002	Natural, Same as (1003)	–	–

SITE	PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
NFMP20	0001	Trench 1	NW
NFMP20	0002	Trench 2	NE
NFMP20	0003	Trench 2	NW
NFMP20	0004	Trench 3	SE
NFMP20	0005	Trench 3	NW
NFMP20	0006	Site shots	–
NFMP20	0007	Site shots	–
NFMP20	0008	Site shots	–
NFMP20	0009	Site shots	–
NFMP20	0010	Site shots	–
NFMP20	0011	Site shots	–
NFMP20	0012	Site shots. Working shot	–
NFMP20	0013	Site shots. Working shot	–
NFMP20	0014	Site shots. Working shot	–

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

SITE	PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
NFMP20	0015	Site shots, Working shot	—
NFMP20	0016	Site shots	—
NFMP20	0017	Site shots	—
NFMP20	0018	Site shots	—
NFMP20	0019	Site shots	—
NFMP20	0020	Site shots	—
NFMP20	0021	Site shots, Working shot	—
NFMP20	0022	Site shots, Working shot	—
NFMP20	0023	Site shots, Working shot	—
NFMP20	0024	Site shots	—
NFMP20	0025	Trench 4	NE
NFMP20	0026	Trench 3	NW
NFMP20	0027	Trench 5	SE
NFMP20	0028	Trench 6	NE
NFMP20	0029	Trench 6	NW
NFMP20	0030	Trench 7	NW
NFMP20	0031	Trench 8	S

APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Norwood Farm, Meikleour, Perth
PROJECT CODE:	NFMP20
PARISH:	Caputh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Asta Pavilionyte
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Trial trenching
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 16348 41049
START DATE (this season)	27/01/2020
END DATE (this season)	27/01/2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Norwood Farm, Meikleour, Perth in advance of the construction of additional farm buildings. The works were carried out to fulfil a planning condition placed on the development. A total of eight trenches amounting to 116m linear (or 185.6m ²) were excavated. No archaeological features were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	—
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ian Pick Associated Ltd
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	Asta.Pavilionyte@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Historic Environment Scotland



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