

KBFP18



A9 DUALLING PROGRAMME: KILLIECRANKIE TO GLEN GARRY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING



commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd
on behalf of Transport Scotland

October 2018

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PROJECT INFO:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Candy Hatherley', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological trial trenching targeted on geophysical anomalies, consisting of thirteen trenches ranging from 10-15m in length. This work was undertaken in response to a request from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for investigations to inform their understanding of the potential impacts of the A9 Dualling: Killiecrankie to Glen Garry project on the site of the Battle of Killiecrankie (Ref BLT12). No archaeologically significant features were uncovered during the archaeological trial trenching, with the targeted geophysical anomalies identified as being geological in origin.

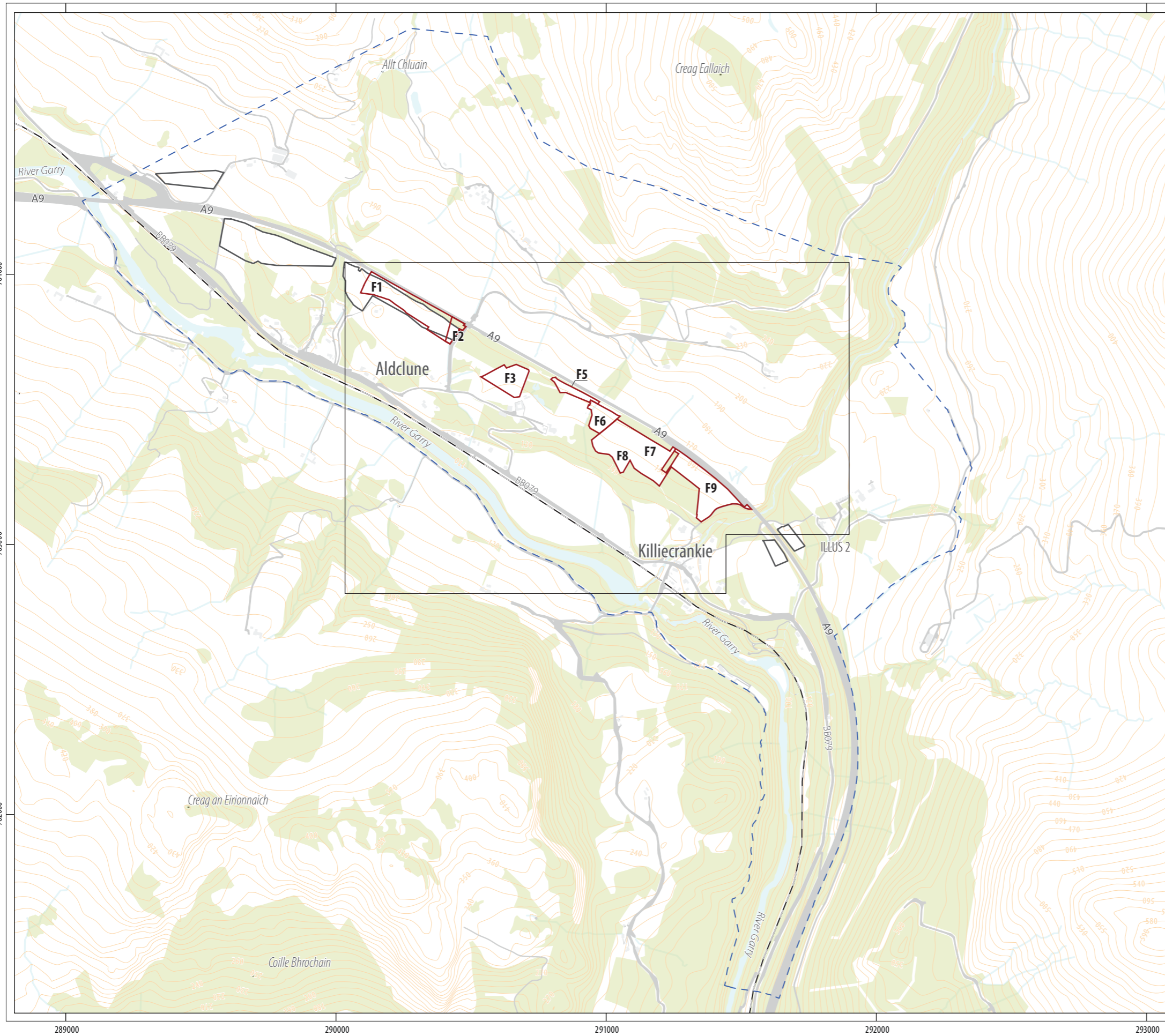
A single musket ball (SF0870) was recovered during the metal detecting of the topsoil of Trench K during the trial trenching.

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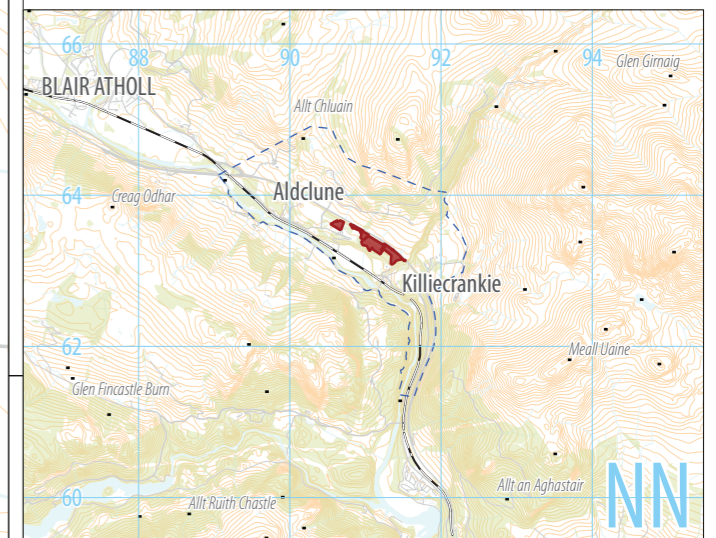
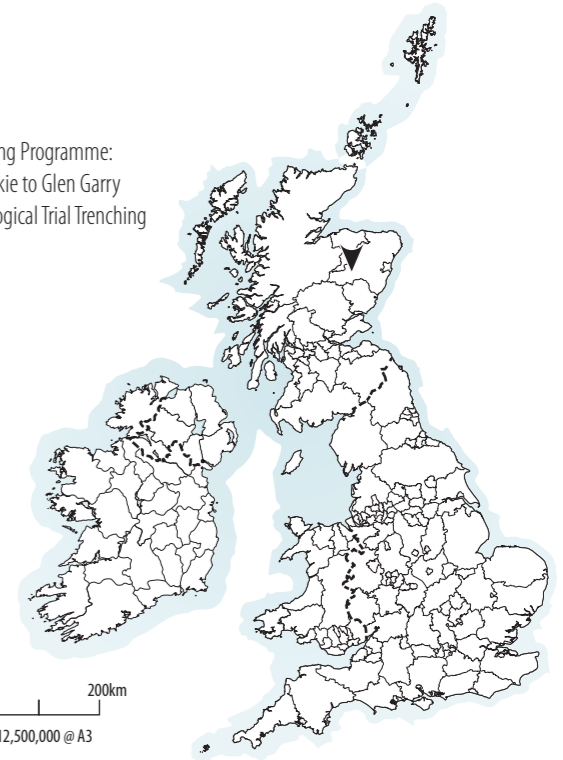
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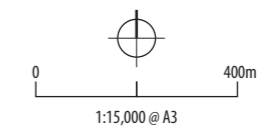
A9 Dualling Programme:
Killiecrankie to Glen Garry
Archaeological Trial Trenching



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- geophysical survey area
- previous geophysical survey parcels (AOC 2016)
- inventory of historic battlefields boundary



A9 DUALLING PROGRAMME: KILLIECRANKIE TO GLEN GARRY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd, on behalf of Transport Scotland, to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching at Killiecrankie in response to a request from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) that investigations are undertaken to inform their understanding of the potential impacts of the A9 Dualling: Killiecrankie to Glen Garry project on the site of Killiecrankie Battlefield (Ref BLT12). The archaeological trial trenching is part of a wider scheme of archaeological investigations including archaeological metal detecting survey and archaeological geophysical survey. The archaeological trial trenching was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Jacobs 2018) which was agreed with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and HES, and in line with current best practice (CIfA 2014). The archaeological trial trenching was carried out from the 18th to 22nd June 2018.

further four trenches were targeted on anomalies: Trenches J and K within Field F7 and Trenches L and M within Field F9 (Illus 2–3). Field F7 consisted of ploughed agricultural land, whilst Field F9 consisted of short pasture. These trenches were located between 160m AOD and 150m AOD.

The bedrock geology comprises Killiecrankie Schist Formation – semipelite and micaceous psammite which is overlain in the north and east by glacial till – diamicton (sand and gravel) and in the south by glaciofluvial deposits – gravel, sand and silt (NERC 2018). The soils are classified in the Strichen Soil Association, characterised as humus-iron podzols (Scotland's soils 2018).

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Killiecrankie Battlefield is located in the pass of Killiecrankie, on the south-west facing lower slopes of Creag Eallaich (Illus 1). The battlefield is bisected by the existing A9. The initial group of 9 trenches (Trenches A to I) were located within Field F1 on the southern side of the existing A9 as it passes to the north-west of the village of Killiecrankie (centred at NN 9109 6342; Illus 2). Topographically, the trenches were located between 160m above ordnance datum (AOD) and 150m AOD with localised undulations. At the time of the trenching, Field F1 was under short pasture. This group of trenches was targeted on pit-like anomalies identified by the 2016 geophysical survey (AOC 2016; Illus 3).

Following from the results of the 2018 geophysical survey undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (Harrison 2018), a

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Battle of Killiecrankie was fought on 27 July 1689 between the Jacobites, led by John Graham of Claverhouse, the Viscount Dundee, and the Government forces led by General Hugh Mackay. While the Jacobites were victorious, Dundee was killed during the battle, along with around 800 men on the Jacobite side and around 2000 on the Government side. This phase of work is subsequent to a desk-based survey (Jacobs 2017), a metal detecting survey (GUARD 2015), and a geophysical survey (AOC 2016) which are detailed in Chapter 15 (Cultural Heritage) of the Environmental Statement (Jacobs 2017). The previous metal detecting surveys undertaken in 2003 (Banks and Pollard 2004) and 2015 (GUARD 2015) recovered a number of significant finds relating to the battle including musket/carbine and pistol balls, copper alloy buttons, buckles, horse shoes, several fragments of a copper alloy bangle, a copper alloy pendant, a copper alloy harness boss and a part of the support for a sword belt. No anomalies of definite archaeological potential were identified by either previous phase of geophysical survey (AOC 2016; Harrison 2018), although a number of pit-type anomalies were identified (Illus 3).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the archaeological investigations was to provide HES with the requested information to inform their understanding of the potential impacts on the Battle of Killiecrankie that may result from the project.

For the archaeological trial trenching a specific aim was to determine the nature of the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, especially if these are the remains of burials pits associated with the battle as conservatively assessed in the ES.

The objectives of the archaeological trial trenching were:

- › to evaluate through archaeological trial trenching the pit-like anomalies within Field F2 identified by the geophysical survey undertaken in 2016 (AOC 2016);
- › to evaluate through archaeological trial trenching a sample of the geological features in Fields F7 and F9 identified by the archaeological geophysical survey undertaken in 2018 (Harrison 2018);
- › to use existing information from the archaeological and historical record and from the topography of the battlefield itself, to provide an interpretation of these remains in the context of the battle; and
- › to disseminate the results of the archaeological metal detecting survey through the deposition of an ordered archive and report at the National Record for the Historic Environment (NRHE) and a copy of the report at the Perth & Kinross Historic Environment Record (HER).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 SITE WORKS

The location of each archaeological trial trench was set out using GPS according to plans provided to Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.

Service plans and surveys were referred to before initial mechanical excavation took place.

Metal detecting took place prior to mechanical excavation being undertaken along the proposed locations of the trenches, and survey of the ground with a cable avoidance tool, by a staff member with CAT 4 Plus training, was carried out prior to any mechanical excavation taking place.

Mechanical excavation was stopped once natural subsoil or the first archaeological horizon had been encountered. Further excavation and cleaning of archaeological features and deposits began using hand tools and safe hand digging techniques.

All archaeological trial trenches were made secure at the end of each working day.

Metal detecting of removed subsoil, topsoil and stripped surfaces was undertaken, and find recorded and collected, in line with the metal detecting survey methodology set out below.

After the completion of archaeological trial trenching, materials removed were replaced in reverse order of removal.

5.2 RECORDING

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations (ClfA 2014). All contexts and small finds were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. Digital photographs were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible where appropriate.

A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded digitally. The site plan was accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to AOD.

5.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

The results of the works are detailed below with trench registers and descriptions presented in Appendix 1. A summary report has been prepared for submission to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (Appendix 2) and the OASIS database (headland 5-322778).

The complete project archive will be deposited with the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) 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.

6 RESULTS

A total of 13 trial trenches were excavated in Fields F2, F7 and F9 targeting a number of possible archaeological anomalies as identified during previous geophysical survey (AOC 2016; Harrison 2018). No archaeological features were identified during the archaeological trial trenching apart from one agricultural feature identified in Trench K in Field F7 which consisted of a single plough scar. This is likely to be post-medieval or later in date.

6.1 FIELD F2

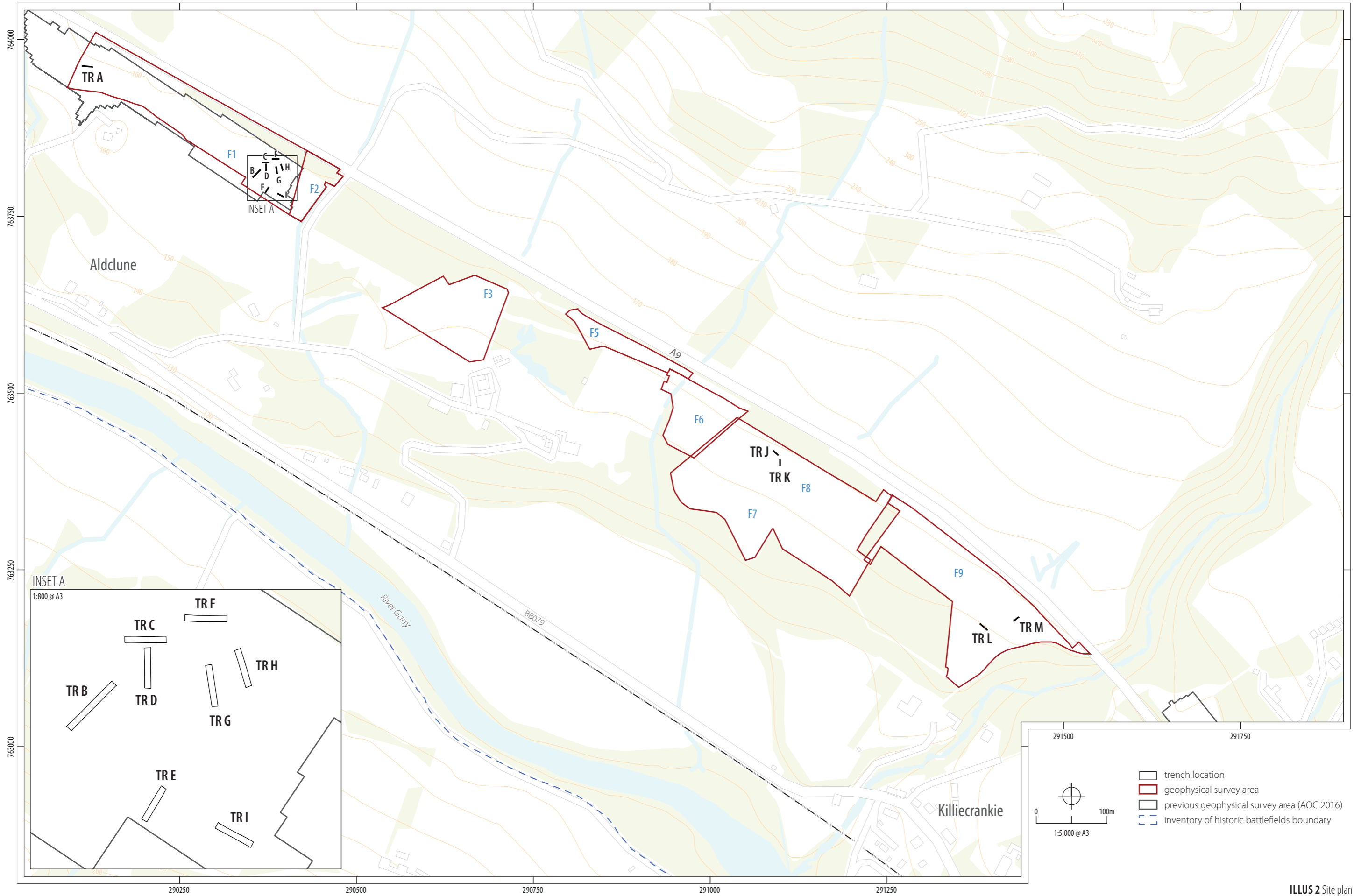
Nine trenches – Trenches A to I – were excavated in F2 (Illus 4–13).

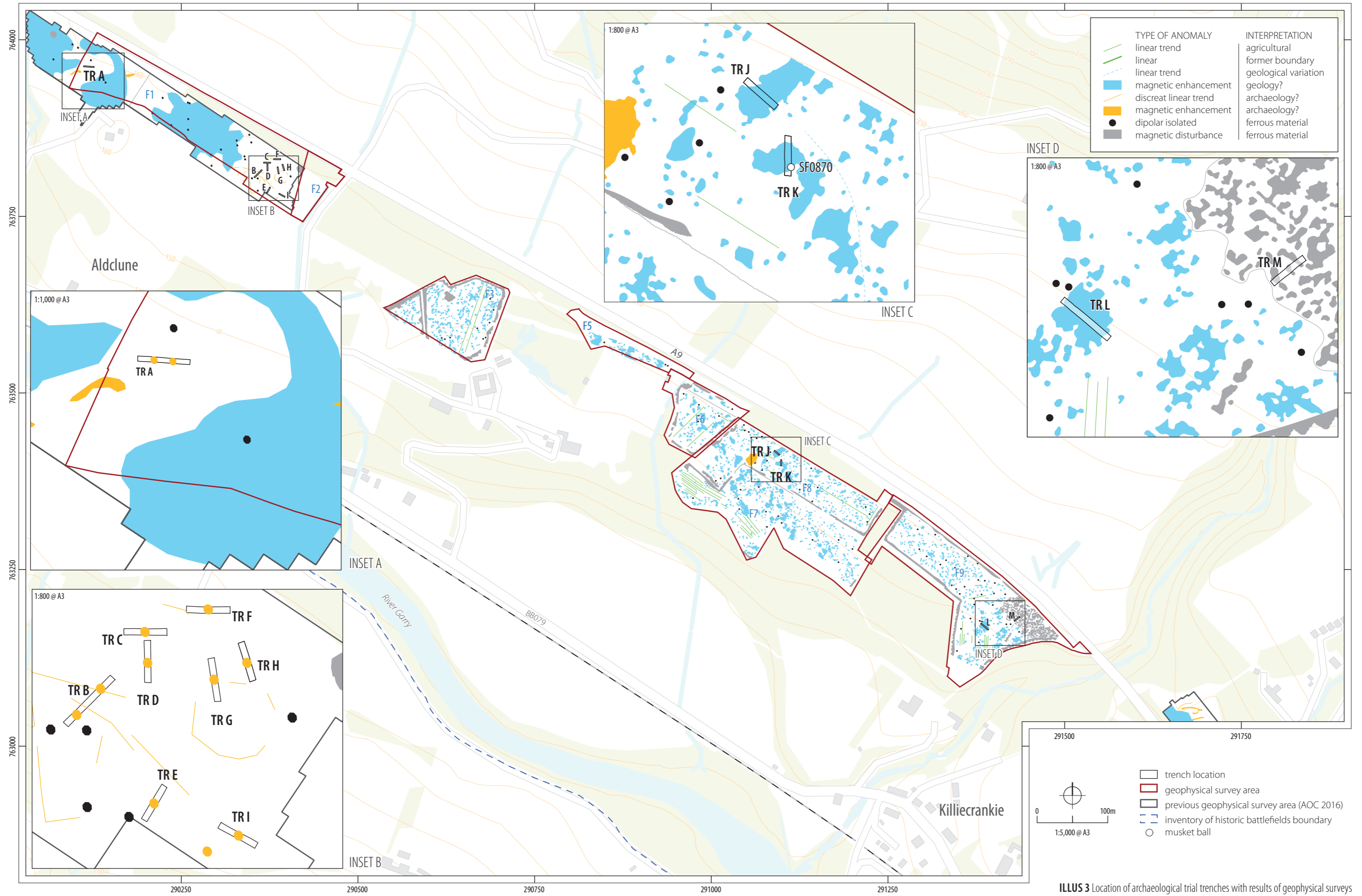
The topsoil consisted of a mid-brown sandy silt to silty clay, with a thickness of between 0.23m and 0.56m. In Trenches C, D, G, H a colluvial subsoil underlay the topsoil and overlay the natural. The colluvial subsoil was light brown orange sands, measuring up to 0.73m in thickness.

The natural for each trench was:

Trench A Mottled light yellow/grey/brown silty sand with frequent stones throughout.

Trench B Light orange yellow silty sand with patches of gravel. Frequent stones throughout.





ILLUS 3 Location of archaeological trial trenches with results of geophysical surveys



ILLUS 4 South facing shot of trenches B–I within Field F2

Trench C Mid brown/orange sandy silt.

Trench D Light orange/yellow sand with frequent small to medium stones throughout.

Trench E Grey/brown silty sand with occasional large stones.

Trench F Light orange/yellow silty sand with frequent small stones throughout.

Trench G Light orange/brown silty sand with occasional small to large stones throughout. Darker brown towards the north-west end.

Trench H Light brown/orange silty sand with small to large stones throughout. Patches of grey/blue silty sand to the south-east end of the trench.

Trench I Mottled dark greyish blue sandy clay with frequent stones.

Trench I (Illus 13) Contained pockets of peat-rich soil at the base, measuring 0.05m thick likely due to its location in close proximity to a wetland area within the field.

6.2 FIELD F7

Two trenches, Trench J (Illus 14) and Trench K (Illus 15), were excavated. The topsoil consisted of a mid-brown sandy silt to silty clay 0.35m thick with no subsoil present.

A single musket ball (SF0870) was recovered from the topsoil of Trench K (Illus 3). The metal detecting report (Gaunt 2018b) provides a detailed assessment and photograph of SF0870 and places this find alongside the results of the metal detecting survey.

The natural within Trench J and K was a light yellowish grey sand with frequent stones throughout. Patches of iron staining were identified across the natural within both trenches.

A single feature [003] was identified within Trench K (Illus 16), consisting of a plough scar measuring 2.3m in length, 0.14m in width and 0.04m in depth. It contained a loose mid-brown silty sand (004), likely topsoil infilling.

6.3 FIELD F9

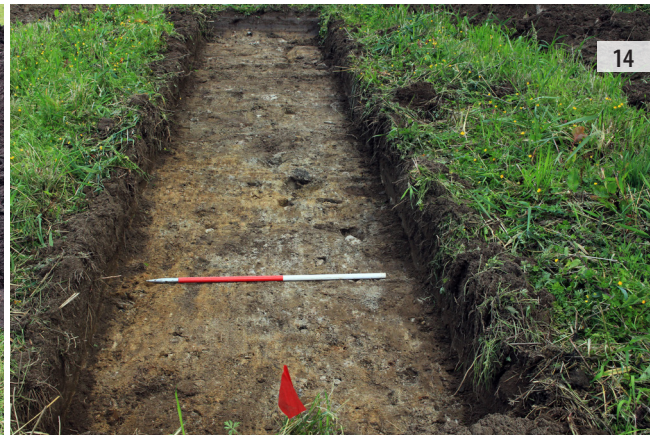
The topsoil of Trenches L (Illus 17) to M (Illus 18) consisted of a mid-brown sandy silt to silty clay with a thickness of 0.23m and 0.29m respectively. A colluvial subsoil underlay the topsoil and overlay the natural. It comprised light brown orange sands, measuring up to 0.73m in thickness. Neither trench contained the made ground identified by the geophysical survey (Harrison 2018, 3).

The natural for both trenches was a light orange/white yellow sand with stone throughout.

The natural within Trench L contained pockets of silt-rich soil located within natural dips in the natural. A tree boule was also identified in the natural in the centre of the trench.



ILLUS 5 General shot of Trench A **ILLUS 6** General shot of Trench B **ILLUS 7** General shot of Trench C **ILLUS 8** General shot of Trench D **ILLUS 9** General shot of Trench E **ILLUS 10** General shot of Trench F **ILLUS 11** General shot of Trench G **ILLUS 12** General shot of Trench H



ILLUS 13 General shot of Trench I **ILLUS 14** General shot of Trench J **ILLUS 15** General shot of Trench K **ILLUS 16** General shot of plough scar [003] in Trench K
ILLUS 17 General shot of Trench L **ILLUS 18** General shot of Trench M

7 DISCUSSION

The anomalies detected in both the previous geophysics surveys (AOC 2016 and Harrison 2018) were identified within the trenches as being caused by geological and natural processes. These anomalies are mostly due to localised variations in the depth and composition of the prevailing humus-iron podzols with broader amorphous anomalies caused by near-surface geological variation. These localised variations in depth and composition of the prevailing humus-iron podzols could be identified within the trenches; through the changes in the natural geology seen across many of

the trenches; the localised iron-panning within Trenches J and K; the peat or silt deposits formed within natural depressions within Trench I and L; and a tree boule within Trench L.

These results confirm the conclusions of the 2018 geophysics report (Harrison 2018) which indicated a low likelihood of the anomalies corresponding to archaeological features.

The digital and paper archive (including the trench record sheets, photographs, matrices and long sections) for each trench will now be archived with the NRHE.

7.1 REFERENCES

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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

TR	Field	Dimensions (m)			Topsoil Th (m)	Subsoil Th (m)
		L	Min D	Max D		
A	F2	15	0.43	0.87	0.31	0.32
B	F2	15	0.29	0.31	0.29	–
C	F2	10	0.36	0.57	0.26	0.26
D	F2	10	0.34	0.71	0.32	0.25
E	F2	10	0.40	0.54	0.45	–
F	F2	10	0.09	0.29	0.24	–
G	F2	10	0.51	0.65	0.27	0.36
H	F2	10	0.60	1.02	0.25	0.33
I	F2	10	0.54	0.73	0.56	0.12
J	F7	10	0.30	0.37	0.35	–
K	F7	10	0.27	0.34	0.35	–
L	F9	15	0.60	1.09	0.29	0.73
M	F9	10	0.12	0.66	0.23	0.36

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

Photo	Direction	Description
001	N	Pre-condition shot for F2
002	W	Pre-condition shot for F2
003	W	Pre-condition shot for F2
004	NW	Pre-condition shot for F2
005	S	Pre-condition shot for F2
006	SW	Pre-condition shot for F2
007	SW	Pre-condition shot for F2
008	W	Pre-condition shot for F2
009	W	Pre-condition shot for F10
010	E	Pre-condition shot for F10
011	E	Pre-condition shot for F10
012	W	Pre-condition shot for F10
013	E	Pre-condition shot for F10
014	NE	Pre-condition shot for F10
015	NW	Pre-condition shot for F10
016	N	Pre-condition shot for F10

Photo	Direction	Description
017	SE	Pre-condition shot for F3
018	NW	Pre-condition shot for F3
019	W	Pre-condition shot for F3
020	SW	Pre-condition shot for F3
021	W	Pre-condition shot for F3
022	NW	Pre-condition shot for F3
023	W	Pre-condition shot for F6/7/8
024	S	Pre-condition shot for F6/7/8
025	W	Pre-condition shot for F6/7/8
026	E	Pre-condition shot for F6/7/8
027	SW	Pre-condition shot for F6/7/8
028	S	Pre-condition shot for F6/7/8
029	SE	Pre-condition shot for F6/7/8
030	E	Pre-condition shot for F6/7/8
031	E	General shot of large Fe object
032	E	General shot of large Fe object
033	N	General shot of large Fe object
034	N	General shot of large Fe object
035	W	General shot of Trench I
036	E	General shot of Trench I
037	N	South facing section of Trench I
038	NE	General shot of Trench E
039	SW	General shot of Trench E
040	SE	North-west facing section of Trench E
041	SE	General shot of Trench H
042	NW	General shot of Trench H
043	SW	NE-facing section of Trench H
044	SE	General shot of Trench G
045	NW	General shot of Trench G
046	SW	NE-facing section of Trench G
047	NE	General shot of Trench F
048	SW	General shot of Trench F
049	NW	SE-facing section of Trench F
050	SW	General shot of Trench D
051	NE	General shot of Trench D
052	SE	NW-facing section of Trench D
053	SW	General shot of Trench B
054	NE	General shot of Trench B
055	NW	SE-facing section of Trench B
056	E	General shot of Trench C

Photo	Direction	Description	Photo	Direction	Description
057	W	General shot of Trench C	097	S	Pre-condition shot for F16
058	N	S-facing section of Trench C	098	S	Pre-condition shot for F16
059	SE	General shot of Trench A	099	S	Pre-condition shot for F16
060	NW	General shot of trench A	100	SW	Pre-condition shot for F16
061	NE	SW-facing section of Trench A	101	SE	Pre-condition shot for F16
062	S	Fencing around Trenches B-I	102	N	Pre-condition shot for F16
063	SW	Fencing around Trenches B-I	103	SE	Pre-condition shot for F16
064	SW	Pre-condition shot for F9	104	S	Pre-condition shot for F16
065	N	Pre-condition shot for F9	105	S	Pre-condition shot for F16
066	S	Pre-condition shot for F9	106	SW	Pre-condition shot for F16
067	E	Pre-condition shot for F9	107	E	Pre-condition shot for F16
068	E	Pre-condition shot for F9	108	N	Pre-condition shot for F16
069	E	Pre-condition shot for F9	109	W	Pre-condition shot for F16
070	SE	Pre-condition shot for F9	110	NW	Pre-condition shot for F16
071	S	Pre-condition shot for F9	111	NW	Pre-condition shot for F16
072	E	Pre-condition shot for F9	112	SW	Pre-condition shot for F16
073	S	General shot of Trench J	113	W	Post-condition shot for F10
074	N	General shot of Trench J	114	NW	Post-condition shot for F10
075	W	E-facing section of Trench J	115	W	Post-condition shot for F10
076	E	General shot of iron panning in Trench J	116	W	Post-condition shot for F10
077	NE	General shot of iron panning in Trench J	117	NW	Post-condition shot for F10
078	SW	General shot of iron panning in Trench J	118	W	Post-condition shot for F10
079	SE	General shot of trench K	119	N	Post-condition shot for F10
080	NW	General shot of Trench K	120	W	Post-condition shot for F10
081	NE	South-west facing section of Trench K	121	NW	Post-condition shot for F10
082	NE	General shot of Trench L	122	W	Post-condition shot for F2
083	SW	General shot of Trench L	123	SW	Post-condition shot for F2
084	NE	SW-facing section of Trench L	124	W	Post-condition shot for F2
085	N	Shot of natural staining/tree bowl	125	W	Post-condition shot for F2
086	SW	Shot of natural staining/tree bowl	126	SW	Post-condition shot for F2
087	SW	General shot of Trench M	127	S	Post-condition shot for F2
088	NE	General shot of Trench M	128	E	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
089	NW	SE-facing section of Trench M	129	E	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
090	NW	General shot of plough scar [003] Trench K	130	N	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
091	SE	General shot of plough scar [003] Trench K	131	E	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
092	N	Pre-condition shot for F16	132	E	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
093	W	Pre-condition shot for F16	133	NE	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
094	SW	Pre-condition shot for F16	134	E	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
095	SE	Pre-condition shot for F16	135	N	Working shot
096	SE	Pre-condition shot for F16	136	NE	Working shot

Photo	Direction	Description
137	NE	Working shot
138	NE	Working shot
139	N	Working shot
140	N	Working shot
141	SW	Working shot
142	SE	Working shot
143	SE	Working shot
144	SW	Working shot
145	SW	Working shot
146	NE	Post-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
147	E	Post-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
148	E	Post-condition shot for Skirmish Field 2
149	W	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
150	SW	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
151	SE	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
152	W	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
153	NE	Pre-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
154	SW	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
155	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
156	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
157	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
158	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
159	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
160	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
161	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
162	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
163	S	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
164	S	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
165	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
166	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
167	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
168	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
169	S	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
170	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
171	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
172	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
173	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1

Photo	Direction	Description
174	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
175	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
176	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
177	N	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
178	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
179	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
180	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
181	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
182	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
183	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
184	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
185	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
186	W	General shot of Skirmish Field 1
187	SW	Post-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
188	W	Post-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
189	NW	Post-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
190	E	Post-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
191	SW	Post-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
192	W	Post-condition shot for Skirmish Field 1
193	W	Post-condition shot for F16
194	N	Post-condition shot for F16
195	N	Post-condition shot for F16
196	E	Post-condition shot for F9
197	S	Post-condition shot for F9
198	W	Post-condition shot for F9
199	NE	Post-condition shot for F9
200	SE	Post-condition shot for F6/7/8
201	S	Post-condition shot for F6/7/8
202	SW	Post-condition shot for F6/7/8
203	E	Post-condition shot for F6/7/8
204	S	Post-condition shot for F6/7/8
205	E	Post-condition shot for F6/7/8
206	NW	Post-condition shot for F3
207	W	Post-condition shot for F3
208	SW	Post-condition shot for F3
209	NW	Post-condition shot for F3
210	NE	Post-condition shot for F3

APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	A9 Dualling Programme: Killiecrankie to Glen Garry Archaeological Trial Trenching
PROJECT CODE:	KBFP18
PARISH:	Moulin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Josh Gaunt
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Battlefield
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	–
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 909 634
START DATE (this season)	18/06/2018
END DATE (this season)	21/06/2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref)	–
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological trial trenching targeted on geophysical anomalies, consisting of 13 trenches ranging from 10-15m in length. This work was undertaken in response to a request from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for investigations to inform their understanding of the potential impacts of the A9 Dualling: Killiecrankie to Glen Garry project on the site of the Battle of Killiecrankie (Ref BLT12). No archaeologically significant features were uncovered during the works, the targeted geophysical anomalies being identified as geological in origin. A single musket ball was identified during the metal detecting of the topsoil of Trench K. A detailed assessment and report of this find is within the metal detecting survey undertaken as part of this programme of work (Gaunt 2018b).
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	–
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Transport Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh, EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	josh.gaunt@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NRHE



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