

Inchbare, Edzell: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report



by Sarah Krischer

issued 28th July 2020

on behalf of Stracathro Estates

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

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Signed  Date ...28th July 2020.....

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Checked  Date ...28th July 2020.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report covers the findings of the intrusive archaeological evaluation undertaken by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for Stracathro Estates in support of the proposed development at Inchbare, Edzell, Angus. The archaeological evaluation was designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the mitigation of impact on any archaeological remains.
2. Angus Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of the development works (Conditioned Planning Consent 19/00582/FU). Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), who advise Angus Council on archaeology matters provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required and the mitigation of the proposed development works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited were appointed by Stracathro Estates to undertake the implementation of archaeological investigative works prior to the development of the site. The project works were specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Rees 2019), which was agreed with ACAS.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. There are no archaeological sites within the development area. No heritage sites have been located that have reasonable potential to include human skeletal material.
5. The development area has consistently been mapped through the historic Ordnance Survey map sequence as enclosed arable ground (see Figures 1a & 1b).
6. Some 33 to 36m east of the eastern boundary of the development area is the Scheduled Area of Inchbare Cursus (SM6373), protected under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This is a plough-truncated archaeological site (i.e. all features survive beneath the depth of the ploughsoil) that was identified by cropmarks on aerial imagery from the 1970s and 1980s (see Figure 1c). The site (Canmore 35982) appears to be a pit-defined cursus, the western limit of which is at least 10m within the Scheduled Area.
7. A series of circular features (both ditch and post-bounded) are also visible on the same aerial images to the immediate west and south of the western terminal of the cursus. None of these features are within the development area.

Project Works

8. The archaeological evaluation for the development at Inchbare, Edzell was undertaken on the 22nd of June 2020 in dry and bright conditions. All works were carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the WSI (Rees 2019).
9. The works comprised the opening of a series of linear trenches to enable the inspection of the upper surface of the underlying natural subsoil. Topsoil-like material was excavated from the trenches, typically between 0.32m and 0.9m in depth. The excavating machine was supervised by an archaeologist. No trench was excavated deeper than 1.2m. Subsequent inspection enabled the identification of any potential archaeological features (pits, post-holes, ditches, wall foundations etc) with a sample of these subject to hand excavation to determine their character.
10. The development area consisted of the south-western corner of a large field to the immediate east of the B966. The area is bounded at the south end by a row of houses. A foul waste sewer ran north-south at the eastern side of the development area, which was given a safety buffer of 5m.
11. The trenches were topsoiled by machine using a broad, toothless bucket (2m broad) with arisings cast in an unconsolidated linear bund adjacent to the trench. Trenches were not normally longer than 25m. Subsequently, the trenches were filled with the arisings without specialist compaction. Trenches were reinstated within the same working day.



Figure 1a: 1st ed 6" Ordnance Survey 1865 (Forfarshire Sh XXVII)



Figure 1b: 2nd ed 6" Ordnance Survey 1904 (Forfarshire Sh XX.SW)



Figure 1c: Aerial image of cropmarks (1982) ©Historic Environment Scotland

12. The trench array exposed a total area of 405.4m² within the study area. The trenches specified by the WSI covered an area of 400m² to deliver the required 10% sample. Hence the trenches reported here slightly exceeded the 10% sample threshold for the available ground. All trenches were laid out using a DGPS and there was no prompt to alter the scheme of trenches agreed by the WSI.
13. All works were conducted in accordance with ACAS's Standard Conditions, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Policy Statements. ACAS was notified of works in advance of them taking place.

Findings

14. In total, eight evaluation trenches (T1-T8) were excavated across the development area at Inchbare, Edzell (see Figure 2). For full details on the trenches see Appendix 1.
15. The study area is fairly level. The ground has been improved and the field is commonly tilled, with the field bounded by a mix of post-and-wire fences and hedgerows.
16. The bedrock geology of the area consists of Cromlix Mudstone Formation. The superficial deposits are Alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel.

Ploughsoil

17. The development area was covered with a moderately compacted mid- blackish brown silty sand with frequent root inclusions (001). The deposit had a thickness of between 0.3m and 0.9m and was underlain by subsoils (002) and (003). The deposit did not contain any inclusions of stones, modern ceramic or glass.
18. Deeper topsoils were noted at the western side of the development area, away from the edge of the field. In addition, there were deeper deposits at the south end of the assessment area in T8 adjacent to an area of hard standing.

Subsoils

19. Two variants were identified amongst the naturally occurring subsoil across the development area. The first, (002), was a moderately compacted mid- red brown sand with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions (5mm-20mm). The second (003), which comprised compact, orange-brown gravel (size >10mm) in a sandy matrix, was the most common of the two. (002) was mainly present along the west side of the development area adjacent to the road.
20. For full details of the location of subsoil variants within the excavated trenches refer to the Trench Summary in Appendix 1.

Field drains

21. A series of parallel linear features, comprising cuts for linear drains (004), were identified within a number of trenches, running north-south. No *in situ* drain pipes were identified within these features when excavated.
22. The drains were located in T2, T3, T5 and T8. Their linear tracks were characterised by a sharp break of slope at the top, steep sides and a convex base. They each measured 300mm in width and 250mm in depth, and were filled by (001). They were located at a depth of between 0.6m and 0.9m. None of the drains appeared to contain running water at the time of excavation.

Discussion

23. No significant archaeological features or finds were identified during the evaluation works.
24. There was no evidence of disturbance except for modern agricultural features running north-south through the development area: (004). These were regular linear features filled with ploughsoil that likely originated in a failed programme of field drainage. Although no drain pipes were located within the features, their dimensions, shape and regular layout suggests that they were likely originally created for this purpose.



Figure 3a: Post-excavation shot of T3 from the northeast.



Figure 3b: Post-excavation shot of T4 from the south.



Figure 4a: Post-excavation shot of T5 from the northeast.



Figure 4b: Field drain track (004) in T2, photo taken from the south.

25. The ploughsoil was deep throughout the entire development area, with some areas of shallower soil to the far west of the area adjacent to the road. This appears to be a result of the undulating nature of the underlying topography, with regular ploughing having levelled the overlying deposits.

Recommendations

26. All of the features identified through this programme or works were associated with modern field drainage. No significant features or artefacts were identified within the site, hence Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological works should be carried out with regards to the development area.
27. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with Angus Council and their advisors, ACAS.

Conclusion

28. A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Stracathro Estates in support of proposed development at Inchbare, Edzell in Angus. The works tested the archaeological potential of the area to inform on any appropriate mitigation of impact.
29. The works consisted of an intrusive sample by trenching, carried on the 22nd of June 2020. Eight trenches were excavated within the development area with no significant archaeological remains identified during the works. As a result, no further archaeological works are recommended.

Acknowledgements

30. The author would like to thank Stracathro Estates for the opportunity to carry out these works and also Claire Herbert at Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) who gave guidance throughout. I would also like to thank Liam McKinstry for editing this report.

References

Documentary

Museum of London, 1994. *Archaeology Site Manual*

Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992. *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*

Rees, Thomas 2019 *Inchbare, Edzell: Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation* Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, unpublished grey literature report

Scottish Government, 2008. *Treasure Trove in Scotland: A code of Practice*

Scottish Government, 2010. *Scottish Planning Policy*

Scottish Government, 2011. *Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning & Archaeology*

Cartographic

1865 Ordnance Survey 1st edition Ordnance Survey, Forfarshire, Sh XXVII

1904 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, Forfarshire, Sh XX.SW

Aerial Photographs

DP 167032 (2013)

Appendix 1: Trench Details

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.

All distances quoted along the trench are based on the quoted orientation of the trench.

Trench Summary

Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	E-W	2m x 25.1m 50.2m ²	0.65m – 1m	0m- Mid red brown sand (002) +4.2m - Orange brown gravel (003)	None	None	None
2	SW- NE	2m x 25.5m 51m ²	0.63m – 0.65	0m - Orange brown gravel (003)	0m - Linear drain (004) running N-S +25.1m – Linear drain (004) running N-S.	None	None
3	SW- NE	2m x 24.9m 49.8m ²	0.45m – 1.1m	0m - Orange brown gravel (003)	+6m - Linear drain (004) running N-S +21.8m - Linear drain (004) running N-S	None	None
4	N- S	2m x 26m 52m ²	0.7m – 0.9m	0m - Orange brown gravel (003) +4m - Mid red brown sand (002) +15m - Orange brown gravel (003)	None	None	None
5	SW- NE	2m x 25.5m 51m ²	0.39m - 0.9m	0m - Orange brown gravel (003)	+7.7m - Linear drain (004) running N-S	None	None
6	SW- NE	2m x 25.2m 50.4m ²	0.54m – 0.8m	0m - Orange brown gravel (003)	None	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
7	SW - NE	2m x 25.2m 50.4m ²	0.32m – 0.6m	0m - Orange brown gravel (003)	None	None	None
8	N-S	2m x 25.3m 50.6m ²	0.7- 0.8m	0m - Orange brown gravel (003)	0 – Linear drain (004) running N-S	None	None

Appendix 2: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the evaluation.

Context Register

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	All	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid- blackish brown silty sand with frequent root inclusions. The deposit has an thickness of between 0.3m and 0.9m . It is underlain by (002) and (003).	Ploughsoil
002		Deposit	Mid- red brown sand with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions. Underlies ploughsoil (001).	Subsoil found at western side of development area, adjacent to the road.
003		Deposit	Orange brown gravel of small sub angular stones in a sandy matrix. Underlies ploughsoil (001).	Subsoil found throughout development area.
004		Deposit	Linear field drains filled with redeposited ploughsoil (001). Their linear tracks were characterised by a sharp break of slope at the top and steep sides and measured 300mm in width and 250mm in depth. All of the drains were found at a depth of between 0.6m and 0.9m.	Linear field drains

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	2256	Pre-excavation shot of site	N	22/06/20
002	2257	Pre-excavation shot of site	NW	22/06/20
003	2258	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	E	22/06/20
004	2259	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1.	SE	22/06/20
005	2260	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 with field drain.	SW	22/06/20
006	2261	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 with field drain.	S	22/06/20

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
007	2262	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2.	NE	22/06/20
008	2263	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2.	N	22/06/20
009	2264	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	NE	22/06/20
010	2265	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3.	N	22/06/20
011	2266	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4.	S	22/06/20
012	2267	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4.	SE	22/06/20
013	2268	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5.	NE	22/06/20
014	2269	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5.	E	22/06/20
015	2270	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6.	NE	22/06/20
016	2271	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6.	E	22/06/20
017	2272	Post-excavation shot of Trench 7.	NE	22/06/20
018	2273	Post-excavation shot of Trench 7.	E	22/06/20
019	2274	Post-excavation shot of Trench 8.	S	22/06/20
020	2275	Post-excavation shot of Trench 8.	SW	22/06/20

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Inchbare, Edzell
PROJECT CODE:	RA19059
PARISH:	Stracathro
NAME OF CONTRIBUTORS:	Sarah Krischer
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 6067 6573
START DATE (this season)	22 nd July 2020
END DATE (this season)	22 nd July 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Stracathro Estates in support of proposed development at Inchbare, Edzell in Angus. The works tested the archaeological potential of the area to inform on any appropriate mitigation of impact.</p> <p>The works consisted of an intrusive sample by trenching, carried on the 22nd of June 2020. Eight trenches were excavated within the development area with no significant archaeological remains identified during the works. As a result, no further archaeological works are recommended.</p>
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