

**Dron Cottage, Balruddery,
Perth & Kinross:
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report



by Peter Klemen

issued 16th November 2017

on behalf of Mr Ross Greig

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

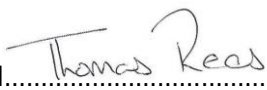
Quality Assurance

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Signed 

Date16th November 2017....

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked.....

Date16th November 2017....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Peter Klemen		
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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr Ross Greig, at Land 40 metres to the North of Dron Cottages, Balruddery. The In-Principle Planning Application (17/00942/IPL) is for the erection of a dwellinghouse and single garage at Balruddery, Invergowrie, DD2 5LH (NGR: NO 2965 3247).
2. These archaeological works are designed to determine the nature, form and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area so as to inform the mitigation of any adverse impact. The archaeological works have been structured to meet the requirements of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust who in advising that archaeological issues should be addressed have advised an initial evaluation at a 5% sample level.
3. The archaeological evaluation would aim to provide sufficient information to either evidence an absence of significant archaeology (hence seeking to purge any issue) or to define more closely the archaeological response necessary to deal with significant archaeology within the area.
4. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Mr Ross Greig to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological works prior to the development of the site.

Archaeological and Historical Background

5. Early mapping depicts the area in which the James Hutton Institute is located, but show little detail regarding the proposed development area. John Adair's (1683) *The Mapp of Strathern, Stormount and the Cars of Gowrie* (not shown) is the first to provide the name Dron but little other detail. William Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland* (Highlands 1747-52) (not shown) is the earliest map to provide a depiction of the area with Dron, spelt 'Drone' with four structures surrounded by a walled area. It is possible that the area depicted by Roy is a preceding phase of the current Dron Farm.
6. It's not until the 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1867) (Figure 1a) that Dron Parish Church (Canmore ID: 30615, HER ID: MPK4790) is depicted and labelled as a ruin. The field in which the proposed development is located is open with the current north-south running road to the west and track to the north.
7. The 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1867) (Figure 1a) also depicts three structures to the west running north to south along the current road. Two would appear to be dwellings with associated gardens with the furthest south being the Mill of Dron (Canmore ID: 210287, HER ID: 15025). Also depicted is a lade system (HER ID: MPK17424) associated with the Mill and running west-east and south of the remains of Dron Parish Church.
8. By the time of the 6-inch 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (1900) (Figure 1b) the field in which the proposed development is located is still as it was in the 1st edition survey. However, to the south and in close proximity to Dron Parish Church two rectangular and east-west aligned structures have been constructed. This is most likely the farm referred to by MacGibbon and Ross (1897).
9. MacGibbon and Ross (1897) provide a description Dron Parish Church as having only the chancel arch, foundations of the side walls and part of the east wall remaining. The church belonged to the Abbey of Coupar and dated from the late 15th to the early 16th century. They suggest that there was a transept on the north side and that a churchyard existed and had been absorbed into the neighbouring farm.

Project Works

10. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken over one day on the 15th November 2017, and was carried out in keeping with the methods outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Klemen 2017). This evaluation consisted of the excavation of a series of intrusive trenches to expose a 5% sample of the proposed development area, which was 1961m² – so 99m² of trenching (62m linear meters using a 1.6m bucket).

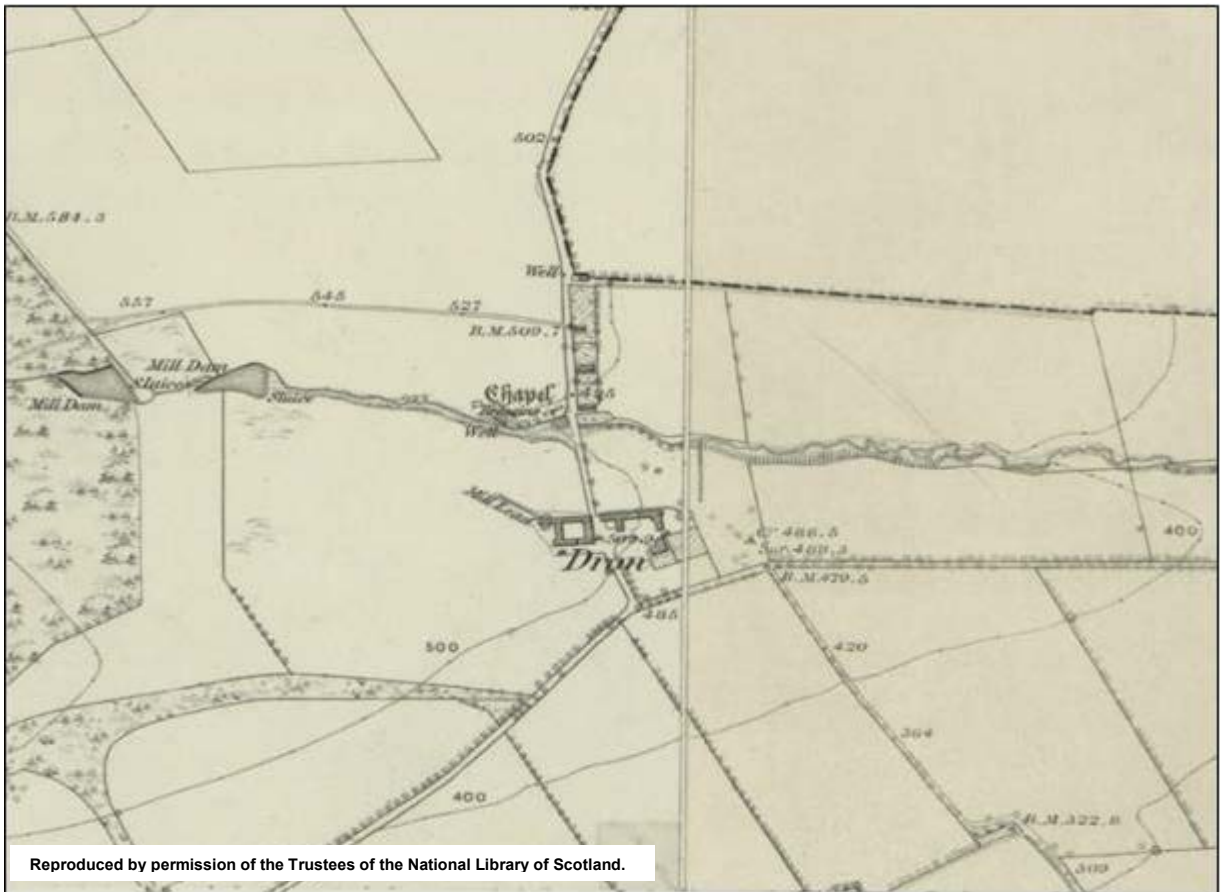


Figure 1a: Extract from the 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1867)

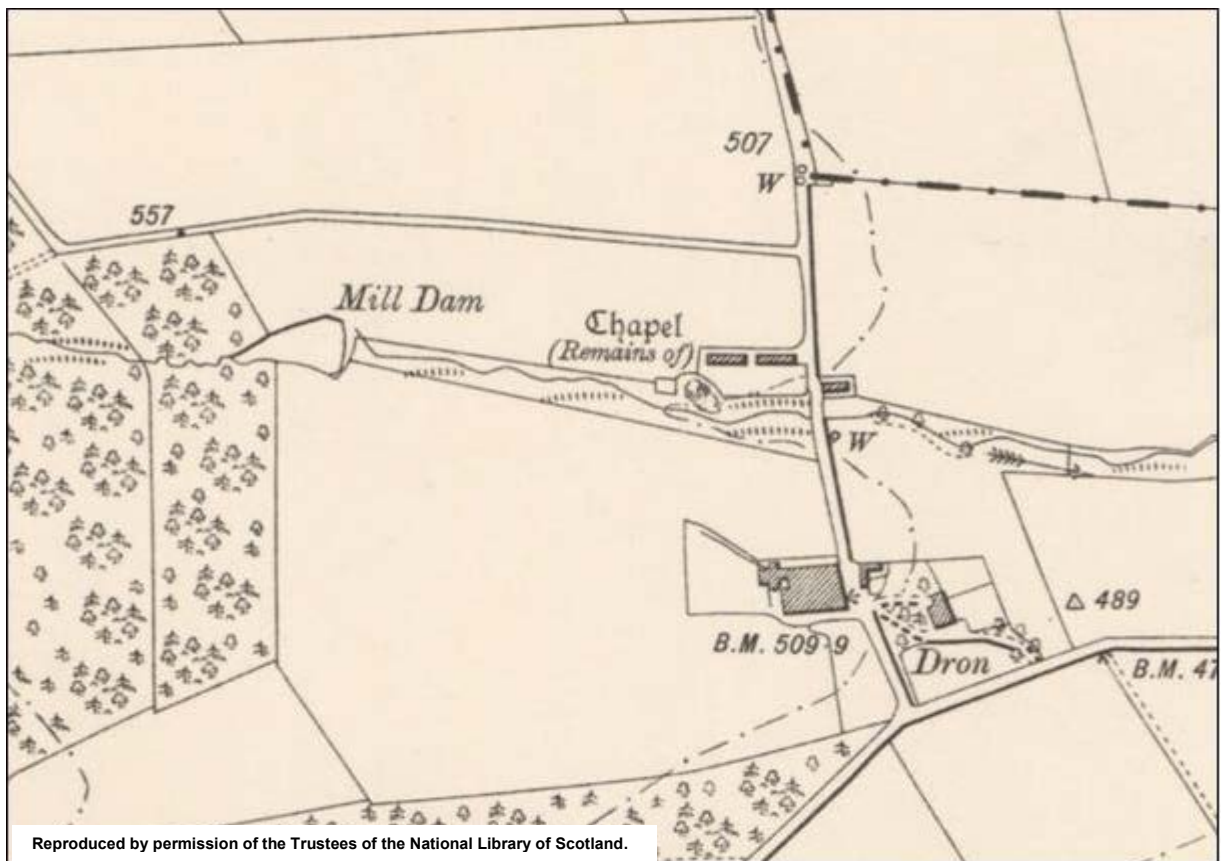


Figure 1b: Extract from the 6-inch 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (1900)

11. A CAT 432E wheeled excavator with a smooth 1.8m bucket was used to remove the topsoil down to the level of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the subsoil (Figure 3a). A 1.8m wide bucket instead of a 1.6m wide bucket was used in the excavations. The size of the bucket was bigger than outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Klemen 2017) and provided the benefit of a higher percentage to be excavated. In total 66.70 linear metres of trenching was excavated which equated to 120.11m², slightly exceeding the required 5% sample. The position of the trenches is shown on the site plan (Figure 2).
12. Located to the south of Dron Farm and northeast to the village of Knapp, the ruins of Dron Parish Church (Canmore ID: 30615, HER ID: MPK4790) are located to the south of the proposed development area and Dron Farm.
13. The proposed development site is a small rectangular open field between 155m and 150m OD with a naturally raised central area producing a moderately sloping ground to the south and north (Figure 3b). The field is bounded on all sides by fencing with the current north-south running road to the west and a track to the north.
14. All works were conducted in accordance with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust's Standards of Fieldwork, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

15. Six evaluation trenches were excavated across the proposed development area. The details of the trenches can be found in Appendix 1 within this report. All trenches were excavated as outlined in the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Klemen 2017).
16. Topsoil (001) covered all the trenches and consisted of a moderately compacted, mid-grey silty sand loam with some clay composition, approximately 80% silty sand and 20% clay. With frequent rootlets in the top 100mm. Sherds of modern ceramic; willow pottery were observed throughout the topsoil but not kept.
17. Across three trenches (Trenches 4, 5, 6) context (002) was formed by a moderately compacted orange brown sand and clay (50/50 mix) with frequent sub-rounded and sub-rounded angular stones (sandstone) ranging in size from 50mm-280mm. In areas there is a mix with the lower horizon of (001) (Figure 5a & 5b).
18. Across three trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3) context (003) was characterised by a moderately compacted, light brown orange sand and gravel. Occasional sub-angular stones (sandstone), small to medium in size (100mm-200mm) with the gravel size 30mm-70mm (Figure 6a & 6b).

Discussion

19. All of the trenches revealed natural subsoil which was a uniformed natural subsoil consisting of a sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions (002) and a slight variation consisting of sand and gravel (003).
20. The lack of any significant activity within the proposed development area as demonstrated by the historic mapping combined with the close location of Dron Parish Church (Canmore ID: 30615, HER ID: MPK4790) provided the possibility for archaeological features to survive in this area. However, no evidence of significant archaeological remains or artefacts were found during the course of the evaluation works within the proposed development area.

Recommendations

21. All of the trenches revealed natural subsoil which in the majority of the trenches was a uniformed sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions. No evidence of significant archaeological remains or artefacts were found during the course of the evaluation works within the proposed development area.

22. Given the lack of significant archaeological remains recovered during the course of the evaluation works, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends no further archaeological work be carried out within the proposed development area relating to planning application (17/00942/IPL).
23. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Perth & Kinross Council and their advisors, Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

Conclusion

24. A programme of archaeological works was required by Mr Ross Greig, at Land 40 metres to the North of Dron Cottages, Balruddery. The In-Principle Planning Application (17/00942/IPL) is for the erection of a dwellinghouse and single garage at Balruddery, Invergowrie, DD2 5LH (NGR: NO 2965 3247).
25. The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess a 5% sample of the proposed development area. In total 66.70 linear metres of trenching was excavated which equated to 120.11m², slightly exceeding the required 5% sample.
26. All of the trenches revealed natural subsoil which in the majority of the trenches was a uniformed sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions. No evidence of significant archaeological remains or artefacts were found during the course of the evaluation works within the proposed development area.

Acknowledgements

27. The author would like to thank Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust for their guidance on the structure of these archaeological works. We are grateful to Mr Ross Greig, who provided us the opportunity to carry out these works and for ensuring that the on-site works ran smoothly. Excavation of the trenches was undertaken by Mr John A McIntosh.

References

Documentary

Klemen, P. 2017 *Dron Cottage, Balruddery, Perth & Kinross: Archaeological Mitigation, Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished report: Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

MacGibbon and Ross, D and T. 1896-7. *The ecclesiastical architecture of Scotland from the earliest Christian times to the seventeenth century*, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): Vol.3, 497-9 fig.1455 RCAHMS Shelf Number: F.5.31.MAC

Cartographic

Adair, J	1683	The Mapp of Straithern, Stormount and the Cars of Gowrie
Roy, W	1747-52	Military Survey of Scotland (Highlands)
Ordnance Survey	1867	6-inch 1 st edition Ordnance Survey Perthshire, Sheet LXXV (includes: Abernyte; Cargill; Fowlis-Easter; Kettins; Longforgan; Lundie)
Ordnance Survey	1900	6-inch 2 nd edition Ordnance Survey Forfarshire Sheet LIII.NW (includes: Fowlis-Easter; Liff and Benvie; Longforgan)



Figure 3: Plan of trenches as excavated



Figure 4a: A CAT 432E was used to excavate the trenches



Figure 4b: Showing the location and topography of the proposed development area



Figure 5a: Trench 4 demonstrating context (002)



Figure 5b: Trench 6 demonstrating context (002)



Figure 6a: Trench 1 demonstrating context (003)



Figure 6b: Trench 3 demonstrating context (003)

Appendix 1: Trench Details

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

All measurement distances quoted along the trench measure based on the quoted orientation of the trench.

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	NE-SW	1.8m by 10.6m 19.08m ²	600mm to 600mm	The whole length of the trench is a uniformed deposit formed by (003)	None	None	None
2	NW-SE	1.8m by 10.5m 18.90m ²	400mm to 600mm	The whole length of the trench is a uniformed deposit formed by (003)	None	None	None
3	SE-NW	1.8m by 12.5m 22.55m ²	280mm to 460mm	The whole length of the trench is a uniformed deposit formed by (003).	None	None	None
4	SW-NE	1.8m by 10.5m 18.90m ²	400mm to 400mm	The whole length of the trench is a uniformed deposit formed by (002)	None	None	None
5	NW-SE	1.8m by 10.60m 19.08m ²	400mm to 330mm	The whole length of the trench is a uniformed deposit formed by (002)	None	None	None
6	SE-NW	1.8m by 12m 21.60m ²	500mm to 400mm	The whole length of the trench is a uniformed deposit formed by (002)	None	None	None

Appendix 2: Registers

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

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	All trenches	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid-grey silty sand loam with some clay composition, approximately 80% silty sand and 20% clay. With frequent rootlets in the top 100mm. A sherds of modern ceramic; willow pottery was observed.	Topsoil
002	Trenches 4, 5, 6	Deposit	Moderately compacted orange brown sand and clay (50/50 mix) with frequent sub-rounded and sub-rounded angular stones (sandstone) ranging in size from 50mm-280mm. In areas there is a mix with the lower horizon of (001).	Natural subsoil
003	Trenches 1, 2, 3	Deposit	Moderately compacted, light brown orange sand and gravel. Occasional sub-angular stones (sandstone), small to medium in size (100mm-200mm) with the gravel size 30mm-70mm.	Natural subsoil

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	5484	Pre-excavation of the site	NE	15/11/17
002	5485	Pre-excavation of the site	NW	15/11/17
003	5486	Pre-excavation of the site	SW	15/11/17
004	5487	Pre-excavation of the site	SE	15/11/17
005	5488	Post-excavation Trench 6	NW	15/11/17
006	5489	Post-excavation Trench 5	SE	15/11/17
007	5490	Post-excavation Trench 4	SE	15/11/17
008	5491	Post-excavation Trench 1	SW	15/11/17
009	5492	Working shot	NE	15/11/17
010	5493	Post-excavation Trench 2	NE	15/11/17
011	5494	Post-excavation Trench 3	SW	15/11/17
012	5495	Trenches all opened	W	15/11/17
013	5496	Trenches all opened	W	15/11/17

Drawing Register

Drawing	Sheet	Trench	Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
1	1	1	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation Trench 1	PK	15/11/17
2	1	2	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation Trench 2	PK	15/11/17
3	1	3	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation Trench 3	PK	15/11/17
4	1	4	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation Trench 1	PK	15/11/17
5	1	5	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation Trench 2	PK	15/11/17
6	1	6	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation Trench 3	PK	15/11/17

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dron Cottage, Balruddery, Perth & Kinross
PROJECT CODE:	RA17095
PARISH:	Longforgan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Peter Klemen
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 2965 3247
START DATE (this season)	15 ^h November 2017
END DATE (this season)	15 ^h November 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works was required by Mr Ross Greig, at Land 40 metres to the North of Dron Cottages, Balruddery. The In-Principle Planning Application (17/00942/IPL) is for the erection of a dwellinghouse and single garage at Balruddery, Invergowrie, DD2 5LH (NGR: NO 2965 3247).</p> <p>The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess a 5% sample of the proposed development area. In total 66.70 linear metres of trenching was excavated which equated to 120.11m², slightly exceeding the required 5% sample.</p> <p>All of the trenches revealed natural subsoil which in the majority of the trench was a uniformed sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions. No evidence of significant archaeological remains or artefacts were found during the course of the evaluation works within the proposed development area.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Ross Greig
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and archive to HES Collections.

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