

Craignavar, Perth & Kinross: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Jack Portwood

issued 31st May 2018

on behalf of West Glenalmond Estate

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed *J. Portwood* Date31st May 2018....

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

Checked *L M Clancy* Date31st May 2018....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the Glenalmond Estate in support of works at Craignavar, Perth & Kinross. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate adverse impact on the archaeological remains from the retrospective reinstatement of two drainage ditches.
2. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) specified that the developer should secure the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be applied over any reinstatement works within the scheduled area. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by the Glenalmond Estate to undertake the implementation of archaeological mitigation works.
3. The scope of these works has been agreed with HES through the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Rees 2018). All works undertaken comply with the agreed WSI.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The deserted township at Craignavar, Glenalmond is a Scheduled Monument (SM10853) protected due to its national importance by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Scheduled Monument Consent (Case ID 300021807) for the planned works has been agreed with Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The following text is extracted from their Report on Handling of the application:

The monument is a deserted township of post-medieval date, visible as upstanding remains. The site is situated on a terrace 240m above the northern bank of the River Almond. The remains of the township comprise at least 15 unroofed structures, six enclosures and a corn kiln. Several of the buildings are divided into two and three compartments, a typical building measures 23m by 5.5m with walls 0.60m in width and upto 3m in height. The buildings exist in varying states of preservation indicating a range of structures and possible continual re-use of a settlement area over time.

The scheduled area is the remains described and an area around them within which related material may be expected to be found. It is irregular in shape and measuring at most 350m E-W by 80m N-S.

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to contribute to an understanding of post-medieval settlement and economy. Its importance is increased by its proximity to other monuments of potentially contemporary date. However, although there are a number of deserted settlements within the locality, there are no others in the Glen Almond valley as large or as well preserved as this site. The corn-drying kiln in particular is exceptional, both in size and condition. Although large kilns are not uncommon in Perthshire, ones as large as this are normally associated with lairdship sites.

This application relates to the southern edge of the scheduled area, a part of the designation where there are no visible historic structures. The application is for excavation of two drainage ditches (retrospective). It also covers a proposal to lay perforated drainage pipes in the ditches and back fill under archaeological supervision. It has been submitted by the owner.

The application is accompanied by two location maps, a photograph of the site and a plan showing the location of the drainage ditches.

HES Heritage Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of works, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions. Officers from HES Heritage Directorate visited the site on 3 May 2017 and inspected the ditches.

5. The Report on Handling goes on to explain that the drainage ditches were cut as a consequence of a misunderstanding in 2015-16. The Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for these works on the 13th December 2017. The consent was subject to a single condition:

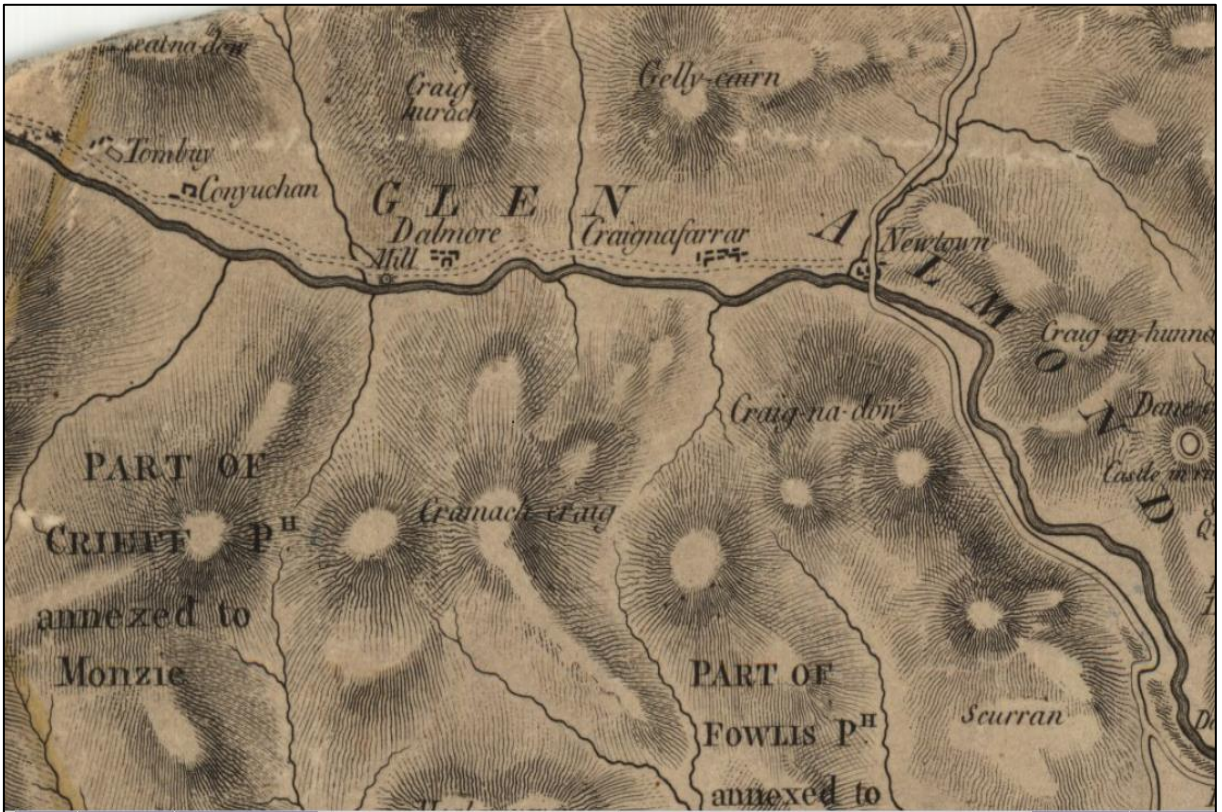


Figure 1a: Extract from Stobie's the counties of Perth and Clackmannan (1783).

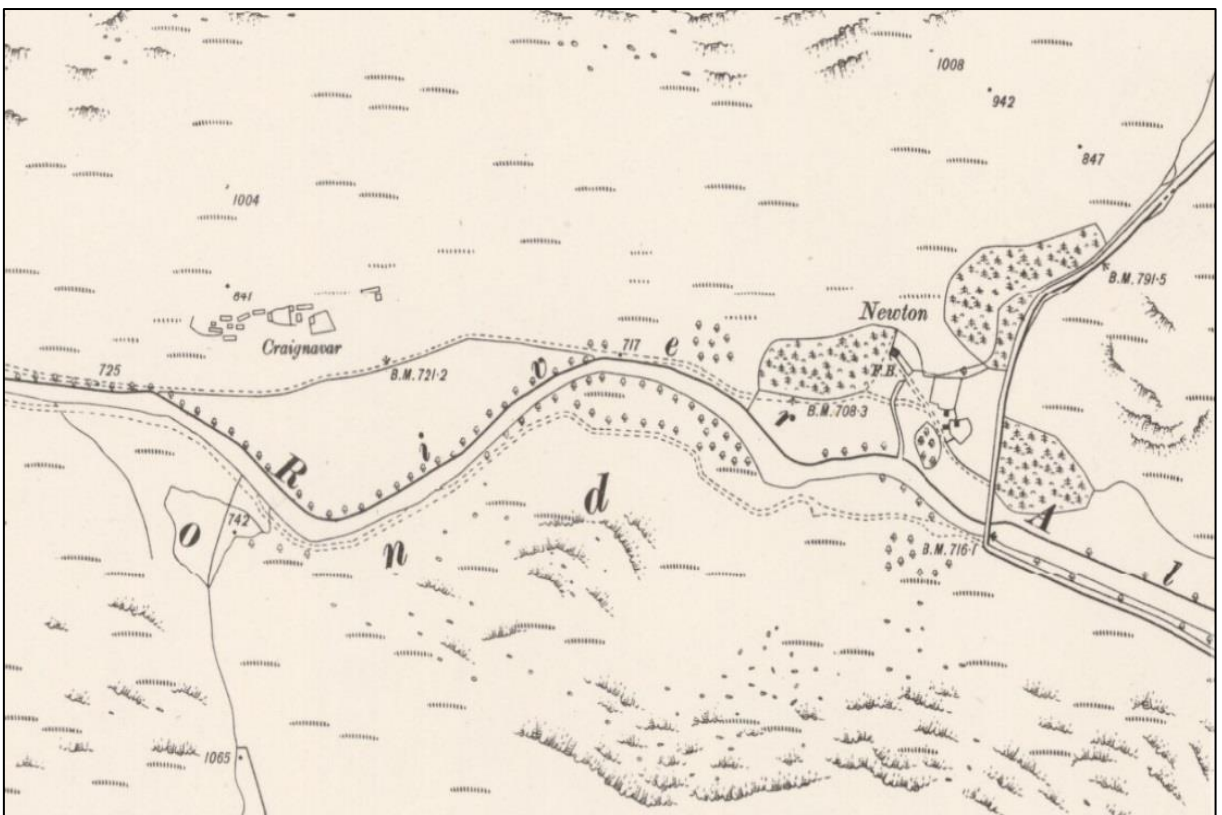


Figure 1b: Extract from the 6-inch 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Perth and Clackmannan Sheet LXXXIII (includes: Fowlis Wester) (1901).

Condition 1

No work requiring scheduled monument consent shall take place within the scheduled area until the applicant has secured the initiation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)/project design and has had this WSI approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland. This scheme of works shall be fully implemented during the course of the approved works.

Project Works

6. The programme of works consisted of the monitoring of the reinstatement of two drainage ditches with the works taking place on the 22nd May 2018. The area was reinstated by a 1-tonne 360° mechanical excavator using a flat trenching bucket and rubber tracks, under archaeological supervision.
7. In compliance with the WSI (Rees 2018) any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded. All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

8. The scheduled area sits 240m above the northern bank of the River Almond. The deserted township is now situated on rough open pasture used for grazing livestock, with an access road running along its southern axis. The scheduled area is sub-rectangular in plan, running roughly east-west, measuring approximately 350m east-west and 80m north south (Figure 2-3a).
9. The topsoil, (001), which was identified in both areas of reinstatement was a, friable, mid-grey brown, silty sand with small to medium sub rounded stone inclusions. The topsoil had a depth range of between 0.1m to 0.27m. Beneath the topsoil layer was a natural subsoil layer, (002), which comprised a loosely compacted, light yellow orange, sand with small to medium sub rounded stone inclusions. This subsoil layer was identified in both of the reinstatement areas (Figure 3b).
10. Prior to reinstatement, it was observed that along the southern edge of each drainage ditch ran a bund (005) from the initial excavation. These bunds were both a friable mix of (001) and (002) and contained small to large stone inclusions. The bunds measured 45m ditch and 125m long, 1m wide by 0.4m deep.
11. At the western extent of the site the first of the modern drainage ditches, [003], was observed running northwest-southeast. The ditch was linear in plan with gently sloping sides, a flat base with a gradual break of slope. The ditch measured 45m long, 1.20m wide and 0.55m deep. The ditch was reinstated using the pre-existing bund (005) (Figure 4a-4b).
12. At the eastern extent of the site the second modern drainage ditch, [004], was observed running east-west. The ditch was linear in plan with vertical sides and a flat base with a sharp break of slope. The ditch measured 125m long 0.9m wide by 0.5m deep. The ditch was reinstated using the pre-existing bund (005) (Figure 5a-5b).

Discussion

13. During the course of the reinstatement of the two drainage ditches at Craignavar only the previously excavated bund material (005) was excavated into the ditches. The use of the 1-tonne 360° mechanical excavator which used a flat trenching bucket and was equipped with rubber tracks ensured that no damage was caused to the surrounding scheduled area during the reinstatement. Particular care was also taken at the base of the bunds so as not to cut into the undisturbed ground underlying them.
14. As none of scheduled area was disturbed it was only through observation of the already open ditches prior to their reinstatement that an understanding of the makeup of the underlying topsoil and subsoils within the site could be achieved. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed within these layers.

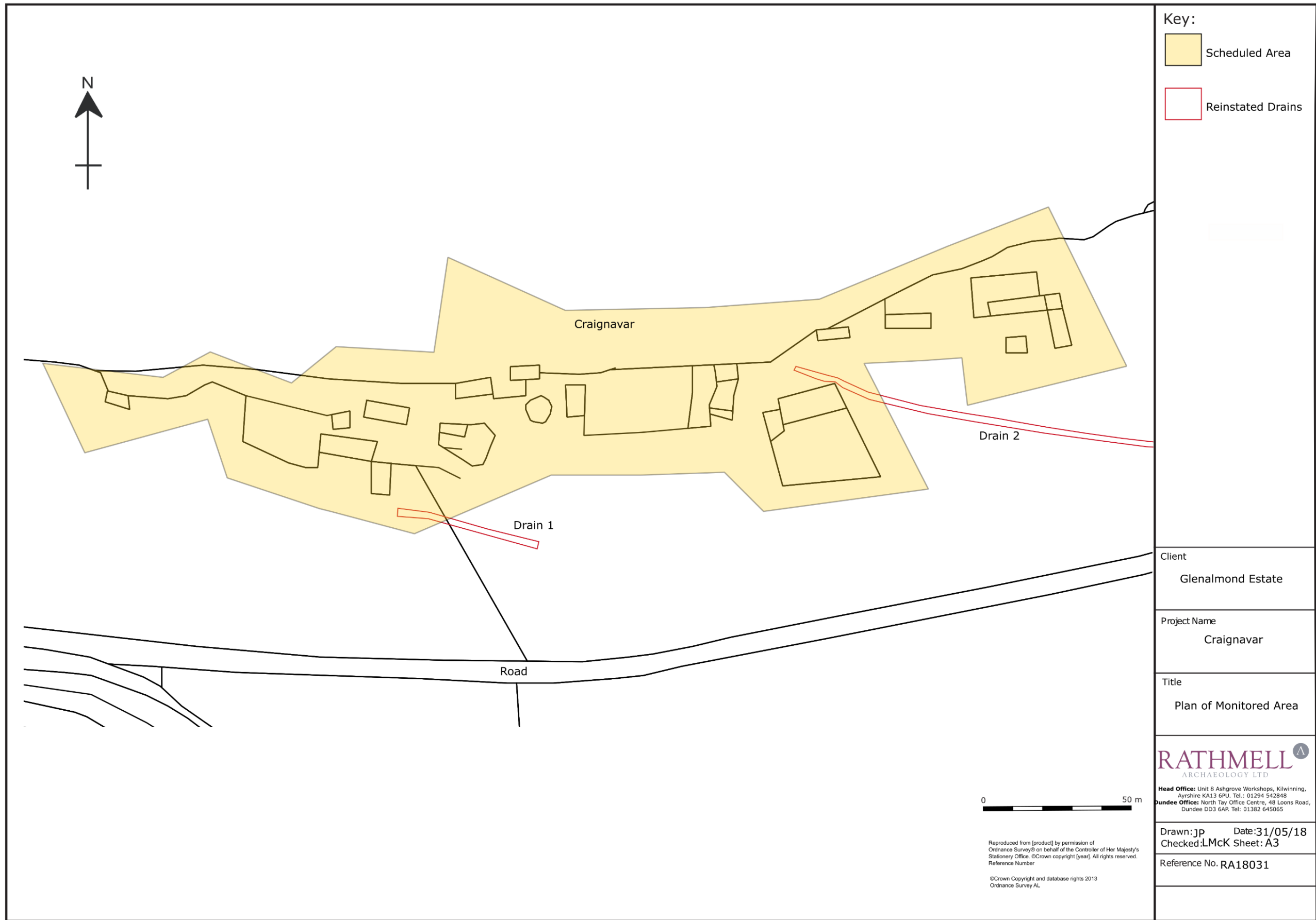


Figure 2: Plan of monitored area.



Figure 3a: General shot of rough pasture from the NNW facing into Glen Almond.



Figure 3b: South facing section of [004].



Figure 4a: Pre-Reinstatement of ditch [003] from the east



Figure 4b: Ditch [003] after reinstatement complete from the west



Figure 5a: Pre-Reinstatement of ditch [004] from the west.



Figure 5b: Ditch [004] after reinstatement complete from the east.

Recommendations

15. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works undertaken in support of the reinstatement of two modern drainage ditches at Craignavar. Care was taken to ensure that no damage was caused during this reinstatement process. No material other than existing soil bunds was excavated and no archaeological features or artefacts were identified within this material.
16. As such no further archaeological works are required. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Historic Environment Scotland.

Conclusion

17. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the Glenalmond Estate to present the findings of the archaeological works undertaken at Craignavar, Perth & Kinross. These works were in support of the planned reinstatement of two modern drainage ditches to the east and west of the scheduled area. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the affected areas.
18. A 1 tonne 360 machine with rubber tracks and a flat edged bucket was used to reinstate the two drainage ditches and minimise the impact from reinstatement within the scheduled area at Craignavar. Both ditches were fully reinstated with minimal disturbance to the monument. No other features or artefacts were identified during the monitoring.

References

Bibliographic

Rees, T. 2018 Drainage Works, Craignavar, Perth & Kinross: Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation Unpublished, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

Cartographic

Stobie, J.	1783	<i>The counties of Perth and Clackmannan</i>
Ordnance Survey	1901	<i>6-inch 2nd edition Perth and Clackmannan, Sheet LXXXIII (includes: Fowlis Wester)</i>

Appendix 1: Registers

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

Context Register

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Friable, mid-grey brown, silty sand with small to medium sun rounded stone inclusions Measured 0.27m deep.	Top soil
002	Deposit	Loose, light yellow orange, sand with small to medium sub rounded stone inclusions.	Sub soil
003	Cut	Liner in plan, gently sloping side with a flat base and a gradual break of slope. Measuring 45m long, 1.20m wide and 0.55m deep.	Modern drainage ditch
004	Cut	Linear in plan, vertical sides with a flat base and a sharp break of slope. Measuring 125m long 0.9m wide by 0.5m deep	Modern drainage ditch
005	Deposit	Friable mix of (001) and (002) contained small to large stone inclusions. Measured 1m wide by 0.4m deep	Modern bund from excavation of ditches [003] and [004]

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	9578	Ditch [003] pre reinstatement	E	22/5/18
2	9579	Ditch [003] pre reinstatement	W	22/5/18
3	9580	Ditch [003] pre reinstatement	W	22/5/18
4	9581	Ditch [004] pre reinstatement	NW	22/5/18
5	9582	Ditch [004] pre reinstatement	SE	22/5/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
6	9583	Ditch [004] pre reinstatement	ESE	22/5/18
7	9584	General shot ditch [004]	E	22/5/18
8	9585	Line of bund ditch [004]	ESE	22/5/18
9	9586	Reinstatement ditch [004]	ESE	22/5/18
10	9587	Reinstatement ditch [004]	NW	22/5/18
11	9588	Reinstatement ditch [004]	E	22/5/18
12	9589	Reinstatement ditch [004]	SE	22/5/18
13	9590	South facing section ditch [004]	S	22/5/18
14	9591	Working shot ditch [004]	NNW	22/5/18
15	9592	Working shot ditch [004]	E	22/5/18
16	9593	Ditch [004] reinstated	E	22/5/18
17	9594	Ditch [004] reinstated	W	22/5/18
18	9595	Ditch [004] reinstated	W	22/5/18
19	9596	Ditch [004] reinstated	E	22/5/18
20	9597	Ditch [004] reinstated	SE	22/5/18
21	9598	Ditch [003] pre reinstatement	NE	22/5/18
22	9599	Area were ditch [003] is shown on plan	S	22/5/18
23	9600	Area were ditch [003] is shown on plan	SE	22/5/18
24	9601	Working shot ditch [003]	E	22/5/18
25	9602	Working shot ditch [003]	E	22/5/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
26	9603	Working shot ditch [003]	E	22/5/18
27	9604	Area were ditch [003] is shown on plan	NNW	22/5/18
28	9605	Area were ditch [003] is shown on plan	N	22/5/18
29	9606	Plant off site	W	22/5/18
30	9607	Ditch [003] reinstated	W	22/5/18
31	9608	Ditch [003] reinstated	E	22/5/18
32	9609	Ditch [003] reinstated	SE	22/5/18

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perthshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Craignavar, Perth & Kinross: Archaeological Mitigation
PROJECT CODE:	RA18031
PARISH:	Parish Fowlis Wester
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jack Portwood
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	SM10853
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Deserted township
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 87785 31764
START DATE (this season)	22 nd May 2018
END DATE (this season)	22 nd May 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>The Data Structure Report has been prepared for the Glenalmond Estate in support of works at Craignavar, Perth & Kinross. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate adverse impact on the archaeological remains from the retrospective reinstatement of two drainage ditches.</p> <p>Historic Environment Scotland (HES) specified that the developer should secure the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be applied over any reinstatement works within the scheduled area. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by the Glenalmond Estate to undertake the implementation of archaeological mitigation works.</p> <p>A 1 tonne 360 machine with rubber tracks and a flat edged bucket was used to reinstate two modern drainage ditches and minimise the impact of reinstatement within the scheduled area at Craignavar, both ditches were fully reinstated with minimal disturbance to the monument. No other features or artefacts were identified during the monitoring.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	West Glenalmond Estate
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU

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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment

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