

Panmure Testimonial, Downie Hills: Archaeological Mitigation:

Data Structure Report



by Sarah Krischer
issued 23rd October 2018
on behalf of Rapier Systems

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  Date23rd October 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  Date23rd October 2018.....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Sarah Krischer		
Date of Issue	23 rd October 2018	Version	1.0
Commissioning Body	Rapier Systems		
Event Name	Panmure Testimonial, Downie Hills		
Event Type	Watching Brief		
Event Date(s)	11 th October 2018		
Rathmell Archaeology Code	RA18080	OASIS Ref	rathmell1- 331059
Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : Angus		
NGR	NO 51522 37729	Parish	Monikie
Designation(s)	Listed Building		
Canmore IDs	34557		

Contents

Introduction 4

Historical and Archaeological Background 4

Project Works 5

Findings 5

Discussion 10

Recommendations 10

Conclusion 10

Acknowledgements 10

References 10

 Cartographic 11

Appendix 1: Registers 12

 Context Register 12

 Photographic Register 12

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland 15

Contact Details 16

Figures

Figure 1a: 1st edition (1859) 25” Ordnance Survey, Forfarshire LI.6 6

Figure 1b: 4th edition (1922) 25” Ordnance Survey, Forfarshire LI.6 6

Figure 2: Plan showing excavated area. 7

Figure 3a: Post-excavation shot of service trench showing bedrock (003). Photo taken from the northwest. 8

Figure 3b: Shot of service trench showing subsoil (002). Photo taken from the northwest. 8

Figure 4a: Post-excavation shot of service trench showing subsoil (006) and modern service 9

Figure 4b: Monument foundation [007] taken from above. 9

Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Rapier Systems in support of the installation of an antenna and associated development work at Panmure Testimonial, Downie Hills, Angus. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. The works have been granted conditioned Planning Consent by Angus Council (Planning App: 18/00159/LBC; centred NO 5153 3772). A requirement for archaeological monitoring of ground breaking works (e.g. the excavation of the cabling track) has been specified by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). ACAS provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works appropriate on this site.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by Rapier Systems to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works.
4. The Written Scheme of Investigation (Williamson 2018) provided the detail of the works for the mitigation pertaining to ground breaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

Historical and Archaeological Background

5. The site consists of a category B-listed monument built on the site of a prehistoric burial. The Panmure Testimonial (LB17607, Angus SMR NO53NW4, Canmore 34557) was built to a design by John Henderson. It has a neo-Gothic pedestal flanked by arched buttresses, surmounted by a circular fluted column that is balustraded above the capital and terminates in a stone urn. It is 105 feet (32 metres) high. A viewing platform at the top is reached by a spiral staircase. The extent of this structure and associated buildings is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 1a) with the supporting name book providing a detailed commentary on this monument:

This monument which was erected in 1839, as a tribute of gratitude and respect by the Tenantry of the late Lord Panmure "who is stated to have been a most benevolent man and excellent Landlord." The design was executed by John Henderson Esqr. Edinburgh, The height of this Column is 105 feet, and commands a view of St. Andrews in Front, the old steeple of Dundee on the west, and the Abbey of Arbroath on the East, It is situated a few hundred yards to the west of the Cross of Camus and occupies the most elevated position of the Downie Hills. The name Live and Let Live, no doubt arose from the late Lord Panmure being in the habit of signing his leases with these words attached to his name. This monument is erected upon the site of a large Tumulus which was excavated for the Purpose of laying the foundation. (Ordnance Survey Name Book, Forfar Volume 71, page 66)

6. The gratitude that prompted this monument appears to have been in large part from the waiving of rent by the 1st Baron of Panmure during 1826 – ‘the year of the short corn’ – when poor harvests threatened the livelihoods of his tenant farmers.
7. The tumulus (sharing the same HER and Canmore references) appears to have been an early prehistoric burial cairn (Figure 1b). Again, the name book affords a description of what was revealed in 1839:

This tumulus which was excavated and removed for the purpose of laying the foundation of the Panmure Live and Let Live Testimonial, The excavation took some time as there had to be removed some 500 cart loads of rough stones, before the contents was brought to light, which consisted of a stone coffin and urn with some human bones, a spear and Gold Ferrule, This tumulus was undoubtedly erected as a sepulchral monument, Sepulchral Tumuli are scattered over the whole district, stone coffins and found in clusters and skulls as well as parts of human skeletons and frequently turned up by the plough, The neighbourhood has every appearance of having been the scene of at least one, if not a series of dreadful conflicts, whether arising from the invasion of the Danes

or otherwise (Ordnance Survey Name Book, Forfar Volume 71, page 67)

Project Works

8. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of ground breaking works to the immediate northwest of Panmure Testimonial (See Figure 2).
9. The works consisted of a single trench running from a nearby telephone pole to the base of the monument. The trench ran northwest-southeast. It measured 0.45m wide, 23.5m long and had a maximum depth of 0.6m. The works were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator with a smooth ditching bucket and took place on the 11th October 2018.
10. In compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Williamson 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

11. A service trench was dug running southeast-northwest between the western edge of the monument and a nearby telephone pole (Figure 2). The trench measured 23.5m long, 0.45m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.6m. At the northwest end the trench was expanded to 1.1m wide for a length of 2.5m. The trench ran through the short lawn surrounding the monument for 15m before entering an area of rough grass and small trees.
12. The southeastern 15m of the trench was excavated through topsoil (001), a loose dark red brown silty sand with root inclusions that measured 0.08m thick. At the southeastern end of the deposit, (001) was underlain by (002). This comprised a loose dark red brown sand with frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions (Figure 3b). This deposit was cut into for a depth of 0.35m and was revealed in the trench for a length of 7.2m.
13. At the far southeastern end of the trench, immediately adjacent to the base of the monument, a rectangular block of red sandstone [007] was found underlying (002) at a depth of 0.35m from the surface (Figure 4b). The block was 0.2m wide, 0.14m high and sat across the entire width of the trench. Starting at 7.2m from the southeastern end, (001) was underlain by subsoil (004): a loose light orange brown sand with small sub-angular stone inclusions and occasional roots. At its southeastern end, (004) measured 0.31m thick and was underlain by mottled yellow and black bedrock (003) of the Ochil Volcanic Formation - Andesite, Pyroxene (Figure 3a). The bedrock was cut into to a depth of 0.54m. At its northeastern end, (004) was revealed for the full depth of the trench.
14. At 15m from the southeastern end, the trench passed from the short lawn surrounding the monument through a stand of trees into a roughly vegetated area. At this point, the topsoil changed to (005), a 0.2m thick deposit of loose light brown sand with small sub-angular stone inclusions and roots. This was underlain by loose mid-brown sand subsoil with frequent sub-angular stone and root inclusions (006). The subsoil was cut into to a depth of 0.5m (Figure 4a). In this area the trench was widened to 1.1m and a black plastic service pipe was identified running southwest-northeast across the trench. It entered the southwest corner of the trench 20.5m from the southeastern end and exited at 22.9m. It had a diameter of 0.02m and was found at a depth of 0.3m.
15. No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were found within the development area.

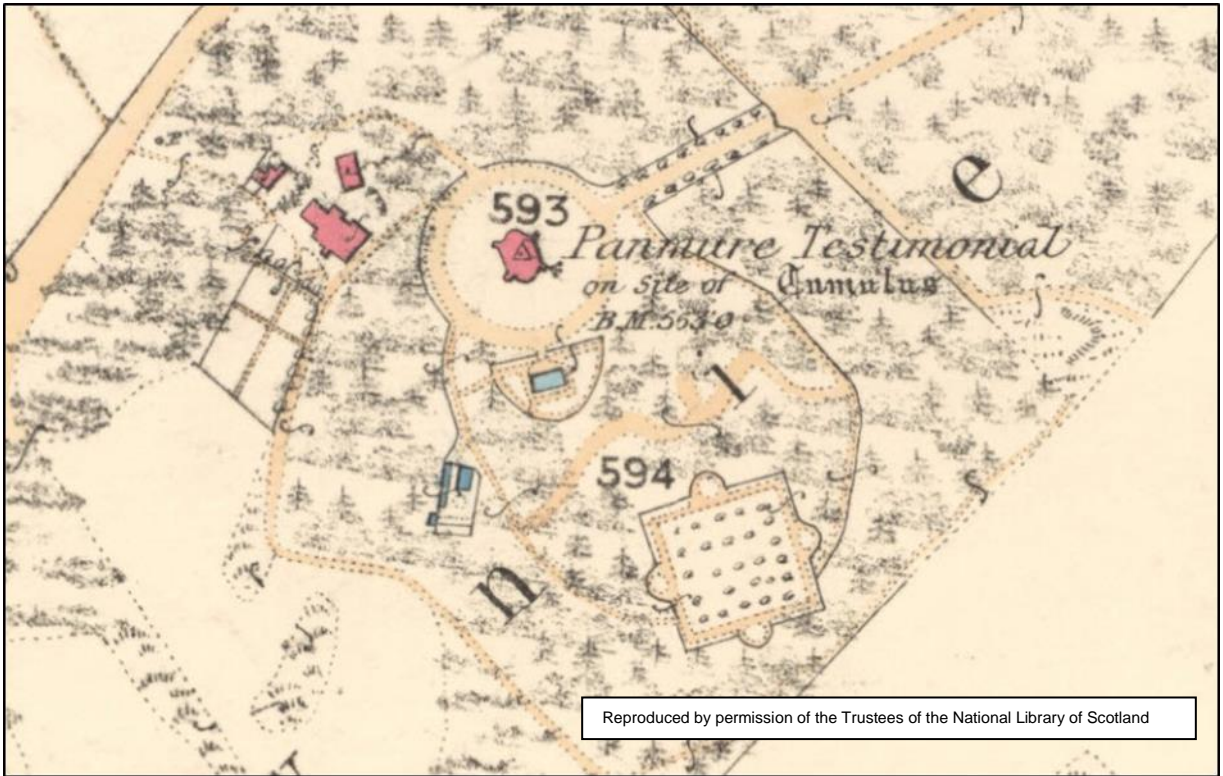


Figure 1a: 1st edition (1859) 25" Ordnance Survey, Forfarshire LI.6

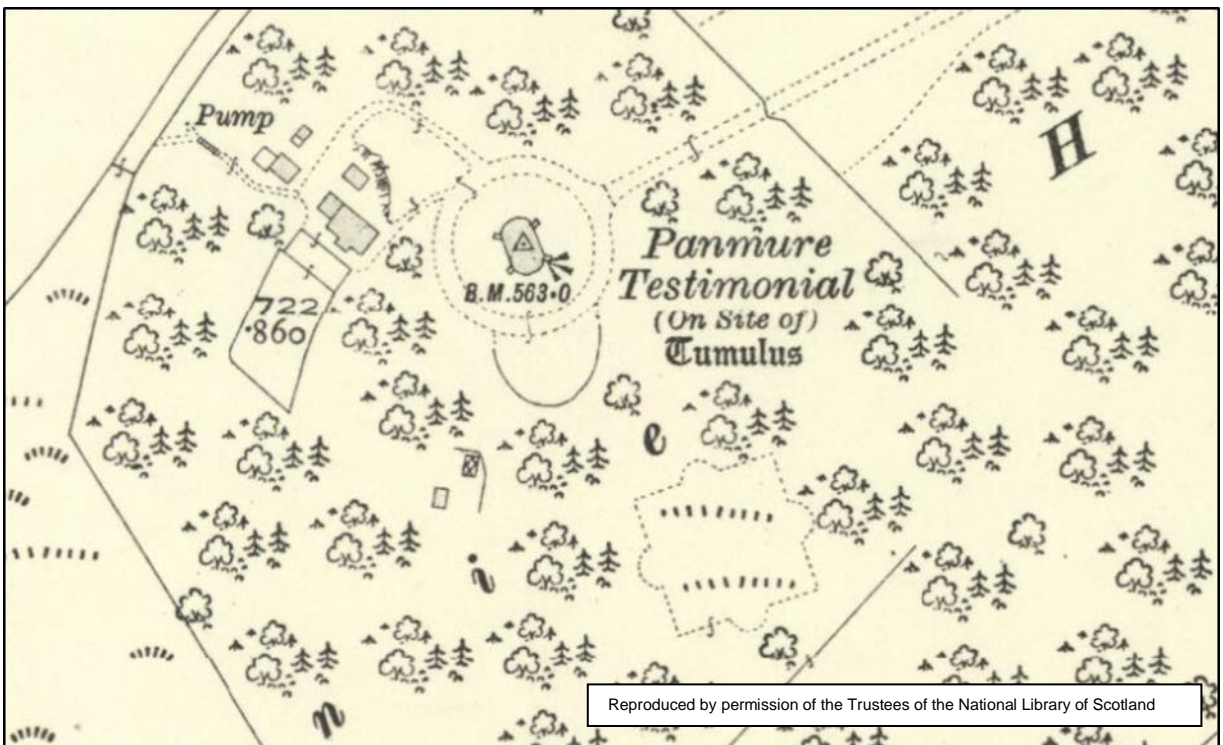


Figure 1b: 4th edition (1922) 25" Ordnance Survey, Forfarshire LI.6

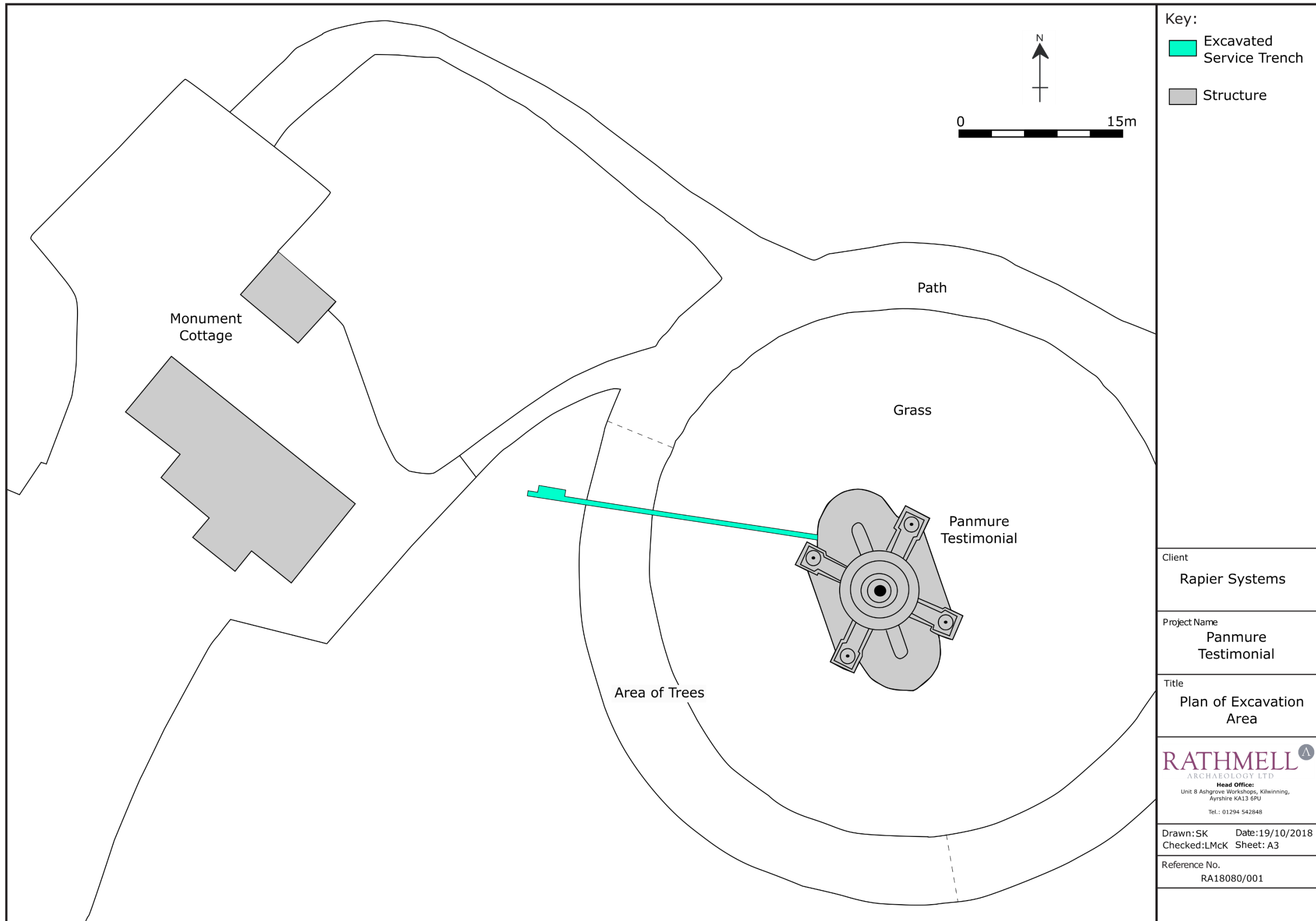


Figure 2: Plan showing excavated area.



Figure 3a: Post-excitation shot of service trench showing bedrock (003). Photo taken from the northwest.



Figure 3b: Shot of service trench showing subsoil (002). Photo taken from the northwest.



Figure 4a: Post-excitation shot of service trench showing subsoil (006) and modern service



Figure 4b: Monument foundation [007] taken from above.

Discussion

16. The development area included the mound of the monument and an area of small trees and rough grassland between the monument and the nearby cottages (Figure 2). No significant archaeological deposits were found in the excavated trench. A small block of red sandstone was located immediately adjacent to the monument and formed part of its foundations.
17. The monument was visited by the OS in 1958 (see Canmore entry), who believed that the current mound surrounding Panmure Testimonial was entirely modern in construction and had been built after the earlier tumulus was removed. As deposit (002) overlies the foundation stone [007], then this deposit post-dates the erection of the monument. It is therefore possible that some of the deposits found within the excavated trench, particularly (002), were deposited for the purpose of forming the current mound. However, it is impossible to give a definitive statement on this due to the small size of the excavated area.
18. No evidence of prehistoric activity was found within the excavated trench.

Recommendations

19. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological monitoring works carried out on behalf of Rapier Systems in support of the installation of an antenna and associated development work at Panmure Testimonial, Downie Hills as a requirement of the granted planning consent (18/00159/LBC).
20. The archaeological monitoring works did not identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. No evidence of earlier prehistoric activity was identified.
21. As no significant archaeological features were identified within the development area, it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required as a direct consequence of these works.
22. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Angus Council and their advisors, the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

23. Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in support of development work on land to the west of Panmure Testimonial. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
24. The monitoring works did not identify any significant archaeological features.

Acknowledgements

25. The author is grateful to Rapier Systems for the chance to carry out these works and also to the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service who gave guidance throughout the project. The author would also like to thank Liam McKinstry for his support throughout the project and Claire Williamson for her editing of this report.

References

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Williamson, Claire 2018 *Panmure Testimonial, Downie Hills, Angus: Archaeological Monitoring, Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished commercial document by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1859, 1st Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey, Forfarshire LI.6

Ordnance Survey, 1922, 4th Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey, Forfarshire LI.6

Appendix 1: Registers

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

Context Register

Context	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Deposit	Loose dark red brown silty sand with root inclusions 0.08m thick. This deposit was found in the southeastern 15m of the trench.	Topsoil
002	-	Deposit	Loose dark red brown sand with frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions. This deposit was found underlying topsoil (001) and had a minimum thickness of 0.35m. It overlay bedrock (003) in places.	Potential made ground material used to form the mound surrounding the monument, of 19 th /20 th century
003	-	Deposit	Compact mottled black and yellow stone that broke in angular chunks. The bedrock was cut into to a maximum depth of 0.15m.	Bedrock of the Ochil Volcanic Formation - Andesite, Pyroxene
004	-	Deposit	Loose light orange brown sand with small sub-angular stone inclusions and occasional roots. The deposit is 0.24m thick and underlay topsoil (001). The deposit overlay bedrock (003).	Natural subsoil
005	-	Deposit	Loose light brown sand with small sub-angular stone inclusions and roots. The deposit is 0.2m thick.	Topsoil
006	-	Deposit	Loose mid-brown sand with frequent sub-angular stone and root inclusions. The deposit is 0.3m thick and underlies topsoil (005).	Natural subsoil
007	-	Structure	A block of red sandstone measuring 0.2 wide by 0.14 deep was found running across the trench at the far northeastern end. The block was found at a depth of 0.2m and is overlain by topsoil (001). It underlies (002).	Foundations of Panmure Testimonial

Photographic Register

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	4777	Southeast end of service track.	SW	11/10/2018
2	4778	VOID	VOID	VOID
3	4779	Southeast end of service track.	NE	11/10/2018

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
4	4780	Southeast end of service track.	SW	11/10/2018
5	4544	Pre-excavation shot of site	NE	11/10/2018
6	4545	Post-excavation shot of far northeastern end of trench.	SE	11/10/2018
7	4546	Post-excavation shot of far northeastern end of trench.	SE	11/10/2018
8	4547	VOID	VOID	VOID
9	4548	Post-excavation shot of southeastern end of trench.	S	11/10/2018
10	4549	Post-excavation shot of southeastern end of trench.	S	11/10/2018
11	4550	Post-excavation shot of southeastern end of trench.	SW	11/10/2018
12	4551	Post-excavation shot of southeastern end of trench.	NW	11/10/2018
13	4552	Post-excavation shot of southeastern half of trench.	NW	11/10/2018
14	4553	Post-excavation shot of southeastern half of trench.	NW	11/10/2018
15	4554	Shot showing exposed bedrock.	NW	11/10/2018
16	4555	Shot showing exposed bedrock.	NW	11/10/2018
17	4556	Shot showing exposed bedrock.	NW	11/10/2018
18	4557	Post-excavation shot of northwest half of trench.	NE	11/10/2018
19	4558	Post-excavation shot of northwest half of trench.	NE	11/10/2018
20	4559	Shot of sandstone foundation [007].	NW	11/10/2018
21	4560	Shot of sandstone foundation [007].	Above	11/10/2018
22	4561	Post-excavation shot of northwest half of trench.	NE	11/10/2018
23	4562	Post-excavation shot of northwest half of trench.	SW	11/10/2018
24	4563	Post-excavation shot of southeast half of trench.	SW	11/10/2018
25	4564	Post-excavation shot of southeast half of trench.	W	11/10/2018
26	4565	Post-excavation shot of northwest half of trench.	NE	11/10/2018
27	4566	Post-excavation shot of northwest half of trench.	NE	11/10/2018
28	4567	General shot of site	W	11/10/2018

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
29	4568	General shot of site.	W	11/10/2018

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Panmure Testimonial
PROJECT CODE:	RA18080
PARISH:	Monikie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Sarah Krischer
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 5153 3772
START DATE (this season)	11 th October 2018
END DATE (this season)	11 th October 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in support of development work on land to the west of Panmure Testimonial. A trench was excavated running southeast-northwest from the monument to a nearby telephone pole. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>The monitoring works did not identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Rapier Systems
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 the National Record of the Historic Environment.

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