

**Land at Wester Greenside, Newburgh:
Archaeological Evaluation
and Building Recording**
Data Structure Report

by Alan Matthews and Claire Williamson

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Rathmell
Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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Signed

Date

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Checked

Date

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Overview

1. This Data Structure Report is for a programme of archaeological works required by Mr Miller in respect to proposed residential development on land at Wester Greenside, Newburgh (NO 2058 1734). The archaeological works are designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. Perth & Kinross Council has conditioned the outline planning consent (06/02626/OUT) on archaeological grounds with a negative suspensive condition. They require a programme of archaeological works consisting of a desk-based assessment, building recording and an intrusive evaluation within the ground to inform the appropriateness of subsequent stages of archaeological work. The character of these works has been defined by Terms of Reference issued by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, advisors to Perth & Kinross Council.
3. The archaeological works were intended to minimise the impact of the development upon any archaeology present. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed to act with regard to the archaeological issue by Mr Miller. The project works described below have been designed to comply with the identified requirements of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

Archaeological and Historical Background

4. Several known archaeological sites exist in the immediate vicinity of the development area. Perhaps most notably the development area is immediately to the west of an area which has been classified as a nationally significant Scheduled Monument (AMH2275). The area includes the remains of a Roman legionary fortress associated with the Severan campaigns (AD208-211), an aqueduct and a Roman temporary camp. Excavation of the fortress was undertaken on several occasions between 1961 and 1979. Structural evidence suggests that the occupation was confined to a single period, of short duration, and ceramic and numismatic evidence suggest this occurred between AD 180 and AD 220. The path of the aqueduct is marked by a linear cropmark and other cropmarks have also been used to identify the location of the temporary camp. The temporary camp is most likely of Flavian date although this is unconfirmed.
5. A number of other cropmarks within the boundary of the scheduled area are likely to represent prehistoric settlement. To the east of the Roman fortress cropmark evidence has revealed a roundhouse and possibly an associated souterrain. Two other possible ring ditch structures have also been identified and these provide further evidence for potential prehistoric occupation in the vicinity of the development area. Evidence for the archaeological potential of the area is also revealed in the number of isolated finds; especially coins, both Roman and medieval, from around the scheduled area.
6. Historic mapping shows nothing of note within the development area. Roy's Military Survey (1747-55) marks the general area as cultivated land. Subsequent mapping including James Stobie (1783) (Figure 1a) and John Thomson (1832) show the location of Carpow House and Mains of Carpow but give no additional detail of landuse. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (c.1860) shows the immediate vicinity of the development area much as it appears today; the area is cultivated land to the south-east of Old House of Carpow. The depiction of the area does not significantly change on either the 2nd Edition (1898) or 3rd Edition (1908) Ordnance Survey maps.
7. The remains of a farmstead survives within the development site; the farmstead is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1860) (Figure 1b) and comprised three roofed buildings and what is probably a garden plot referred to as Easter Greenside (Figure 1b). A single structure is visible on the 1783 Stobie plan in the same location as the largest (east to west aligned) structure from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey. By 1996, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) could only identify the NE end of the longest building in the steading and the robbed footings of the building that lay immediately to its SE. Nothing could be seen of the third building.



Figure 1a: James Stobie 1783

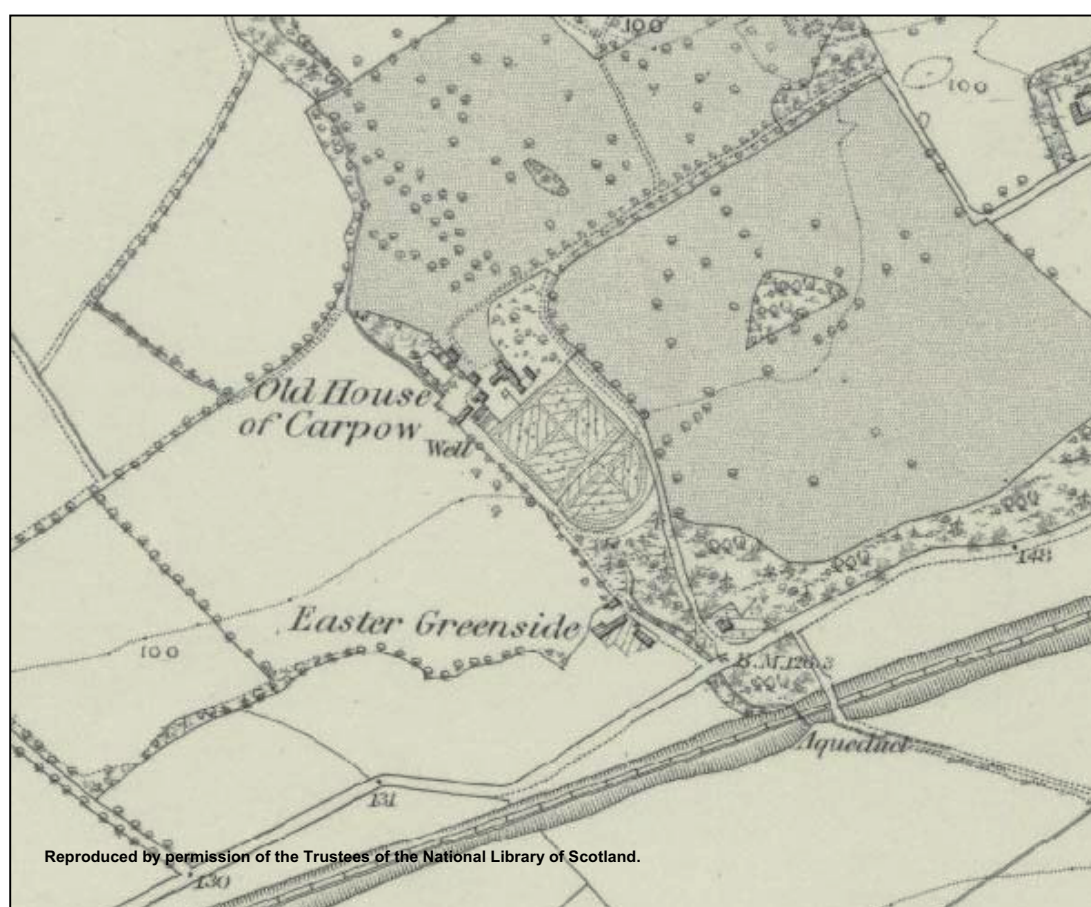


Figure 1b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1860

Project Works

8. The programme of works was undertaken on the 6th of July 2009 and included level 1 building recording on the remaining elements of Easter Greenside farm and an evaluation through machined trenching of 5% of the study area. The findings of each of these elements will be presented separately but the results will be combined in the Discussion to give an overall picture of the archaeological potential of the study area. In this case the study area is taken to be the red line boundary of the planning application.
9. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings: Building Recording

10. The purpose of the building recording was to investigate and record the surviving upstanding remains of Easter Greenside Farm on the north-east boundary of the study area. The results of the building recording were limited by the conditions on site; very few upstanding remains survived and those that did were almost completely overgrown. The surviving upstanding remains existed within an area of established woodland and were therefore surrounded by large trees and covered with a thick carpet of ivy (Figure 2a). Foliage was removed where possible and a careful walkover of the immediate area was carried out to located remains which may not have been visible in passing.
11. Upstanding remains (Figure 3) consisted of two boundary walls ((101) and (102)) and a third wall believed to be the remaining wall of a structure (103). In addition two potentially associated structures were located just to the south-east of wall (103). These two structures ((104) and (105)) were overgrown and in extremely poor repair.
12. Both boundary walls were of similar character; formed of coursed rubble with mortar bonding. Surviving too approximately 1.5 meters in height, both walls were about 400mm wide. They also had a return at the north-west end so that they formed an L-shape and this seemed to align with the north-western and north-eastern boundaries of the field. On the north-eastern boundary of the field a burn ran immediately adjacent to wall (102).
13. Wall (103) (Figure 2b) survived to a length of 9.8m, a height of 0.8m and a width of 0.45m. It was composed of coursed rubble bonded with mortar. In this way the wall was very similar in composition to (101) and (102). Characterisation of the details of wall (103) (Figure 4a) was difficult due to the conditions on site. There appeared to be evidence of collapse at the north-west end of wall (103) but there was little evidence of further collapse in the area. The top of wall (103) also appeared to be level with the ground on its south-west side, whether this is the result of sediment build-up or the structure being sunken in its original form is unclear.
14. Two associated features to the south-east of wall (103) were both very poorly preserved and overgrown. Feature (104) survives as two courses of coursed rubble bonded with mortar. It is 1.9m long and 0.4m wide. Feature (105) (Figure 4b) survives only as an area of stones one course high covering an area roughly 0.7m by 0.6m.



Figure 2a: Area of trees containing Easter Greenside (and Trench 5)



Figure 2b: Wall (103) from the south-east

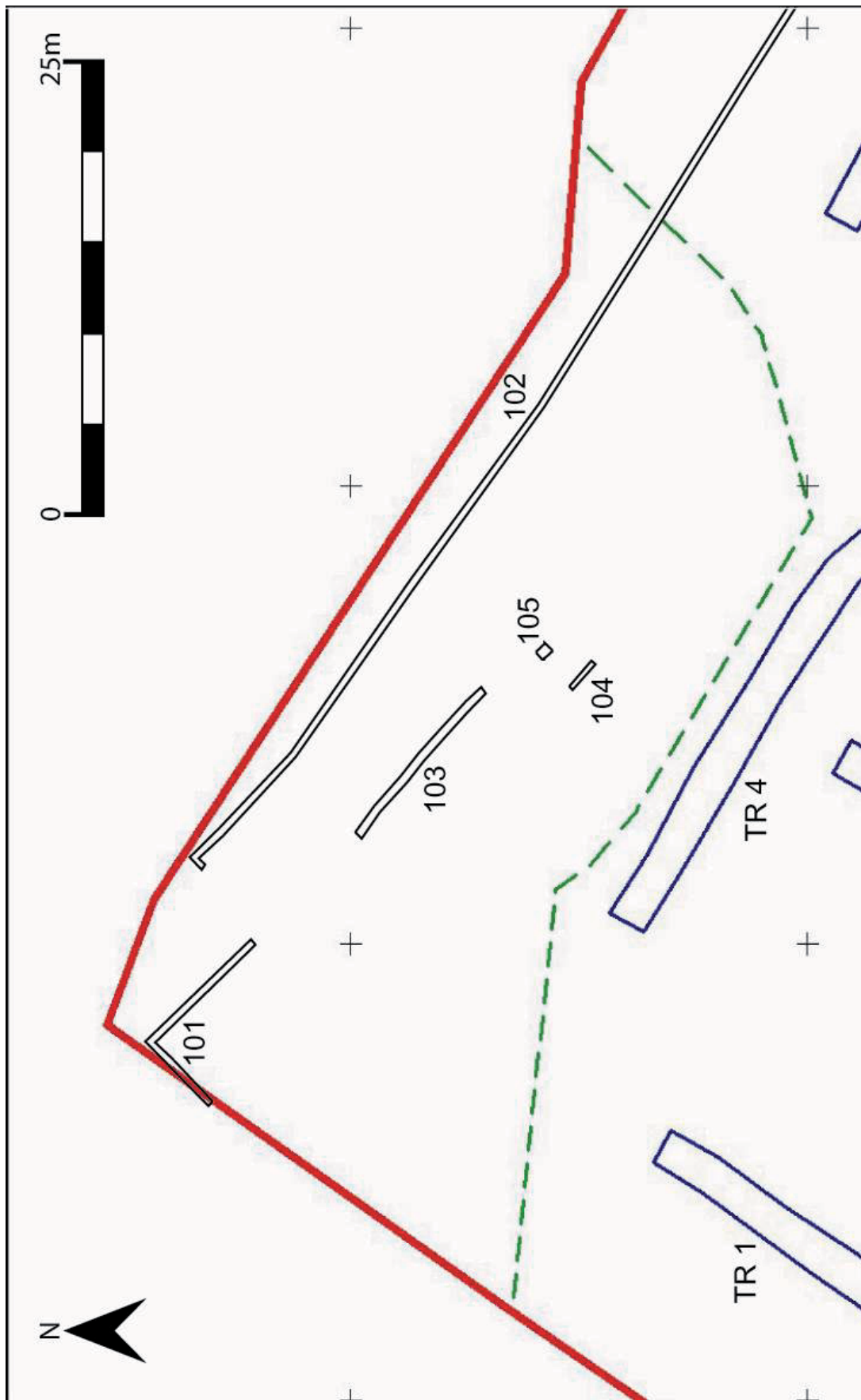


Figure 3: Plan of remains of Easter Greenside farmstead



Figure 4a: Wall (103) with overgrowth cleared



Figure 4b: Possible footing (105)

Findings: Evaluation

15. In all six evaluation trenches were excavated according to the plan provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gordon & Matthews 2009). Some minor changes were made to trench locations in order to avoid dense woodland on the north-east boundary of the study area. It is likely that outer parts of this wooded area had encroached further into the study area than had been indicated by maps. As has been demonstrated by the Building Recording the wooded area completely encompassed Easter Greenside Farm. The result was that Trench 4 (Figure 5b) was moved 4m south-west and that the location of Trench 3 was adjusted slightly to correspond safely with Trench 4.
16. The trenches were excavated in numerical order. All trenches were excavated to at least their full length (Figure 6). Trenches 1,2,3,4 and 6 were 30m or more and trench 5 was 15m meaning that slightly more than the intended percentage of the study area was exposed in the trenches. In all archaeologically sterile natural drift geology was reached however the character of the subsoil varied considerably across the site. In Trench 1 the subsoil varied from light orange sandy silt (002) to light yellow-grey sandy silt (003) to orange brown sandy gravel (004). Generally speaking the subsoil to the west of the study area appeared to be (002), (004) appeared to be uniform along the eastern edge and (003) existed in patches in the centre.
17. There was very little evidence of disturbance to the subsoil, only in Trench 1 were potential features excavated these could confidently be shown to be the result tree roots as the disturbance to the subsoil was extremely shallow (less than 50mm) and their form and depth was extremely uneven. One surprising characteristic of the evaluation trenches was the depth at which archaeologically sterile natural drift geology was reached. In the north-west corner of the study area (Trench 1) the depth to subsoil (003) was as little as 300mm (Figure 5a); similarly in the south-east corner (Trench 5) the depth to subsoil (004) was uniformly (003). However, in most other places, notably across the centre of the area (Trench 3) (Figure 7a) the depth to subsoil (004) was as much as 900mm and this was repeated in parts of trenches 2 and 4. Between the topsoil (001) and the natural drift geology was b-horizon (005).
18. Deposit (005) could be characterised as light brown sandy silt, with frequent small stones and flecks of charcoal. No anthropic material was recovered from this deposit and it may be that the reason for its build up is a combination of hillwash from high ground to the south and the repeated action of ploughing (Figure 7b). It is also possible that a natural dip in the subsoil exists within the study area which had been progressively backfilled by ploughing.
19. No anthropic material was recovered from any of the evaluation trenches and no archaeological features or structural features were observed.

Discussion

20. The only potentially significant archaeology located within the study area was the likely remains of Easter Greenside referred to in the Building Recording. The remains observed were both overgrown and in poor repair. Where the boundary wall appears to be basically intact the remaining walls or structural footings survive only slightly. The only substantial upstanding feature is wall (103) which showed signs of recent collapse at the south end; this can be identified as the north-east end of the longest building in the steading. In addition the two other structures to the south-east can be identified as severely robbed footings of a building to the south-east of (103). No structural details of Easter Greenside have survived and no associated features were recorded.



Figure 5a: Trench 6 from the north-east



Figure 5b: Trench 4 from the south-east

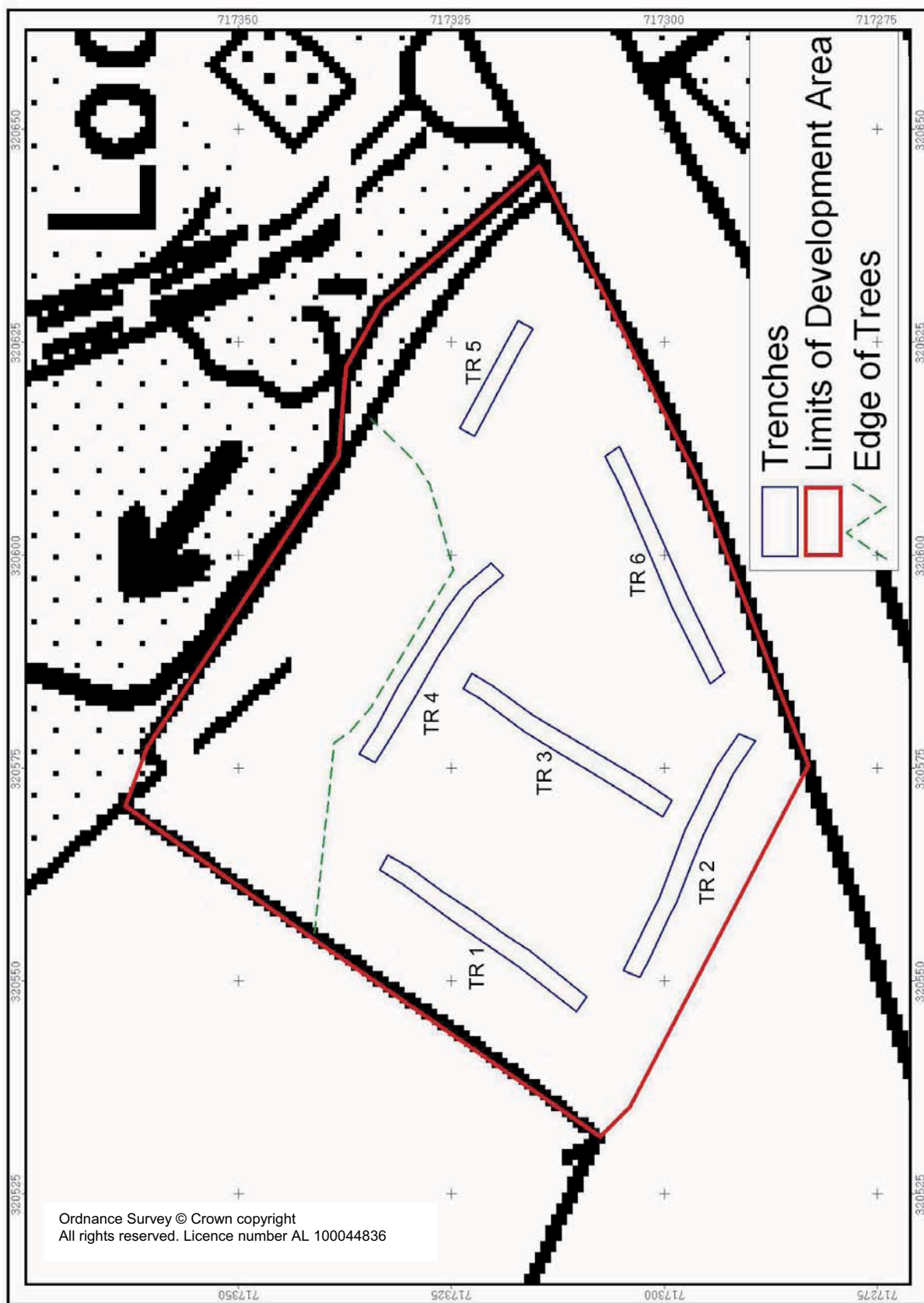


Figure 6: Plan of evaluation trenches.



Figure 7a: Trench 3 from the south-west



Figure 7b: Site from west, Trench 2 in foreground

21. The archaeological evaluation works included some 167 linear meters of trenching out of a proposed 165m. Difficulties were overcome because it was repeatedly necessary to excavate to depths of more than 800mm in order to reliably reach archaeologically sterile drift geology. However, this was achieved in all parts of all trenches. No significant archaeological remains were observed in any of the evaluation trenches, no features were located and no anthropic material was recovered.
22. No significant archaeological material was located within the study area with the exception of those remains of Easter Greenside which were already known. The few surviving upstanding remains were recorded and surveyed according to the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gordon & Matthews 2009).

Recommendations

23. The only significant archaeological remains located within the study area were the previously known upstanding remains of Eastern Greenside farm. No significant features were located in any of the evaluation trenches and no anthropic material was recovered from anywhere on site. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological work is required within the redline area of the planning application given that no significant archaeological remains were uncovered in the course of the archaeological works.

Conclusion

24. A programme of archaeological works was required by Mr Miller in respect to proposed residential development on land at Wester Greenside, Newburgh. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. Perth & Kinross Council required a programme of archaeological works consisting of a desk-based assessment, building recording and an intrusive evaluation within the ground to inform the appropriateness of subsequent stages of archaeological work.
25. The only potentially significant archaeology located within the study area was the likely remains of Easter Greenside referred to in the building recording which had previously been located on cartographic sources. The remains observed were overgrown and in poor repair and the only substantial upstanding feature was wall (103) No structural details of Easter Greenside have survived and no associated features were recorded. The archaeological evaluation works uncovered no significant archaeological remains, no features were located and no anthropic material was recovered.

References

Documentary

Hanson, W S	1980	Roman campaigns north of the Forth-Clyde isthmus: the evidence of the temporary camps, 143-4, 146
Gordon & Matthews	2009	Land at Wester Greenside Newburgh – Written Scheme of Investigation, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
Scot Gov	1994	SPP23 Planning and the Historic Environment.
SOEnv	1994	Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology, Scottish Office Environmental Department.
Wooliscroft, D	2003	Carpow, Abernethy Parish, <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> 4 104

Cartographic

Roy, W	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland
Stobie, J	1783	The counties of Perth and Clackmannan
Ordnance Survey	1860	1 st edition map
Ordnance Survey	1895	2 nd edition map
Ordnance Survey	1903	3 rd edition map

Appendix 1: Trench Details

26. Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.
27. All measurement distances quoted along the trench measure based on the quoted orientation of the trench. See Figure 5 for trench locations.

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
01	West to East	1.6m by 30m 48m ²	300 to 450mm	Subsoil banded including 002, 003 and 004. Signs of disturbance appear to be result of tree roots on animal burrows.	None	None	None
02	Northwest to Southeast	1.6m by 31m 49.6m ²	350 to 900mm	Subsoil banded including 002, 003 and 004.	None	None	None
03	West to East	1.6m by 30m 48m ²	550 to 900mm	Subsoil is uniform 004	None	None	None
04	Northwest to Southeast	1.6m by 30m 48m ²	300 to 900mm	Subsoil is banded at north end of trench 002 and 004. Remainder of trench is 003.	None	None	None
05	North to South	1.6m by 15m 24m ²	300 to 300mm	Subsoil is uniform 004	None	None	None
06	Southeast to Northwest	1.6m by 31m	300 to 650mm	Subsoil banded to include 004 and 002	None	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
		49.6m ²					

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	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown sand silt, occasional small stones, plant roots.	Topsoil
002		Subsoil	Light orange, compact sandy silt	Subsoil
003		Subsoil	Light yellow grey sandy silt, compact	Subsoil
004		Subsoil	Orange brown sandy gravel, compact, frequent small stones.	Subsoil
005		Deposit	Light brown sandy silt, frequent small stones and flecks of charcoal	B-horizon
101		Structure	Old stone boundary wall. Running NE-SW. Measures 0.3m-1.3m high, 0.3m wide 4.8m long. Appears to be coursed rubble with mortar bonding. Looks to be carried on along NW of field connecting to wall 102 in other direction. V badly overgrown.	Old stone boundary wall.
102		Structure	Old stone boundary wall with slight return at the west end which may originally have joined with wall 101. Measures 1m high by 0.3m wide. SE end still used as boundary along NE edge of field. Coursed rubble with mortar bonding. Badly overgrown.	Old stone boundary wall.
103		Structure	Stone wall believed to be NE wall of larger structure of 3 named Wester Greenside present on 1 st OS. Measures approximately 9.8m long by 0.45m wide by 0.8m high. Ground level on SW side at the same height as top of wall. Comprised of coursed rubble bonded with mortar. Roughly three courses high. No details can be seen. Badly overgrown with leaves and trees. Tumble at NW end.	Wall of building
104		Structure	Related to building of three shown on 1 st OS. Measures 1.9m long by 0.26m wide by max height 0.4m. One or two courses high. Comprised of coursed rubble with mortar bonding. Some random tumble around area. Badly overgrown leaves in trees nearby. Runs SE-NW.	Possible footings related to structures
105		Structure	Area of stones 1 course high that could possible represent footings for a structure related to Wester Greenside on 1 st OS. Rubble with some mortar bonding present. Badly overgrown with leaves.	Possible footings related to structures

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	1	11	1	16	43	General view of treed area around the house.	SW	6/7/09
2	1	12	1	17	44	General view of treed area around the house.	WSW	6/7/09
3	-	-	-	-	45	General view of treed area around the house.	SW	6/7/09
4	-	-	-	-	46	General shot of NW boundary	ENE	6/7/09
5	1	13	1	18	47	Shot of boundary wall 101	SW	6/7/09
6	1	14	1	19	48	Shot of return of wall 101	SW	6/7/09
7	1	15	1	20	49	Shot of boundary wall 102	SW	6/7/09
8	1	16	-	-	50	Shot of boundary wall 102	NW	6/7/09
9	1	17	-	-	51	Shot of boundary wall 102	NNW	6/7/09
10	1	18	-	-	52	Shot of area of 103	NW	6/7/09
11	1	19	1	21	53	Shot of area of 103	NW	6/7/09
12	1	20	-	-	54	Detail of exposed part of wall 103	NE	6/7/09
13	1	21	-	-	55	General shot of wall 103	SE	6/7/09
14	-	-	-	-	56	Shot showing continuation of wall 102	W	6/7/09
15	1	22	1	22	57	Showing area to SE of 103	NW	6/7/09
16	1	23	-	-	58	Possible footings 104 and 105	ENE	6/7/09
17	1	24	-	-	59	Footings 104	ENE	6/7/09
18	1	25	1	23	60	Footings 104	ENE	6/7/09
19	1	26	-	-	61	Footings 105	NE	6/7/09
20	1	27	-	-	62	Towards 103	SE	6/7/09
21	1	28	-	-	63	Towards 104 and 105	NE	6/7/09

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
22	1	29	-	-	64	Towards 103, 104 and 105	SE	6/7/09
23	-	-	-	-	65	Clearance stones	NNE	6/7/09
24	1	30	-	-	66	Treed area	SE	6/7/09
25	1	31	1	24	67	TR 6	NE	6/7/09
26	1	32	1	25	68	TR 5	SE	6/7/09
27	1	33	-	-	69	TR 4	SE	6/7/09
28	1	34	-	-	70	TR 3	SW	6/7/09
29	1	35	-	-	71	TR 1	SW	6/7/09
30	1	36	-	-	72	TR 2	NW	6/7/09
31	2	1	-	-	73	General site shot	WNW	6/7/09
32	2	2	-	-	74	General site shot	SW	6/7/09
33	2	3	-	-	75	General site shot	S	6/7/09
34	2	4	-	-	76	General site shot	SW	6/7/09
35	2	5	-	-	77	General site shot	SE	6/7/09

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
001	1	1	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 1	AM	6/7/09
002	1	2	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 2	AM	6/7/09
003	1	3	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 3	AM	6/7/09
004	1	4	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 4	AM	6/7/09
005	1	5	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 5	AM	6/7/09
006	1	6	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 6	AM	6/7/09

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Wester Greenside
PROJECT CODE:	09036
PARISH:	Abernethy
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Matthews
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation and Building Recording
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 205 173
START DATE (this season)	6 th July 2009
END DATE (this season)	6 th July 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	The only potentially significant archaeology located within the study area was the likely remains of Easter Greenside referred to in the building recording which had previously been located on cartographic sources. The remains observed were overgrown and in poor repair and the only substantial upstanding feature was a wall and associated footings. The archaeological evaluation works uncovered no significant archaeological remains, no features were located and no anthropic material was recovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Millar
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

Contact Details

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