

SUAT Ltd

archaeological
contractors



**Archaeological Watching Brief
Grieve's House
Snabs Farm
Longforgan
PERTSHIRE**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
GRIEVE'S HOUSE
SNABS FARM
LONGFORGAN**

LF03

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Illustration 1: Site location plan
Illustration 2: Site of New Garage
Illustration 3: Plan of Excavations

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ABSTRACT

Gordon Rodgers commissioned SUAT Ltd to carry out a watching brief on the site of a new double garage at Snabs Farm, Longforgan. Snabs Farm was built on the site of Greenebourne Roman marching camp, which was identified from aerial photos and work on the A90. The site of the new double garage was on the projected line of the south-west side of the camp; the camp perimeter would have been of bank and ditch construction. The work, carried out on 18th April 2009, comprised watching the digging of the foundations for the garage. Excavations revealed that thick deposits dating to the 19th/20th century had built up on this part of the farm. No Roman remains were found.

The SUAT site code for this work is LF03.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Gordon Rodgers commissioned SUAT Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of a new double garage near Grieve's House, Snabs Farm, Longforgan. The proposed development area is a strip of waste land, formally a garden, 49 square metres in size centred on NGR NO 31438 30142. The work (SUAT site code LF03) was carried out on 18th April 2009 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to record and surviving archaeological remains affected by the development.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 08/02445/FUL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area. In particular, it was important to look for traces of the Roman ditch and bank belonging to Greenbourne Roman camp on which the site possibly lay.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the local authority Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This watching brief is designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

SUAT wish to thank Gordon Rodgers for his on-site help, as well as Sarah Winlow and Oliver O'Grady of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Gordon Rodgers funded this watching brief.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 2 and 3)

The site is a small piece of waste land which lies across the tarmac track (SSE) from the eastern steading conversion. Previously, this piece of land had belonged to Grieve's House and had been used as a garden. The site had been planted with various shrubs that had overgrown their pots, but these had been cut down to stumps prior to the watching brief. The site bordered onto an existing garage to the SSE.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The remains of Greenbourne Roman camp have been identified by aerial photographic survey and the presence of surviving archaeological remains recorded to the south in

advance of works at the A90 slipway improvements. The Roman camp consists of a large rectangular enclosure and would have been used by the Roman army during military campaigns in north-east Scotland. The dimension and plan of the Greenbourne camp indicate that the site probably derives from the Severan campaign, dating to the early 3rd century AD. Archaeological investigations at comparable sites such as at Kintore in Aberdeenshire have indicated that Roman camps could be occupied for extended periods of time, in contrast to what their name suggests. The historic farmstead of Snabs dates from the 19th century and has been accruing with successive housing over the last century though the land the garage is to be built upon has not yet been developed. Based on aerial photographic survey it is clear that Snabs Farm is located over the south-west corner of the Greenbourne Roman camp's defensive enclosure (see Illus 2). Aerial survey has also shown that a possible annexe enclosure adjoining the camp or earlier fortification is located on the south-west side of Snabs Farm.

The archaeological potential of the development site was thought to be high because the area is bisected by the projected line of the ditch and bank enclosure of Greenbourne Roman camp.

2.3 Archaeological Method

The removal of tree/shrub stumps was carried out carefully under archaeological supervision using a JCB prior to any excavation taking place. The JCB, equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, then proceeded to slowly excavate the footprint of the garage in spits. All excavations were monitored by a SUAT archaeologist and any deposits encountered were recorded using detailed notes, photographs and on a sample section. The extent of the excavation was recorded using tape and offsets and marked on the architect's plan.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Under the topsoil, which varied in thickness, a mixed orange silty deposit (02) was encountered that contained 19th and 20th century pottery and other modern material. This was excavated until the garage foundation level was reached; this was still within (02) and no archaeological features were noted. To the north, a red deposit of crushed sandstone and silt was found over (02) close to the tarmac drive. To gauge the depth of (02) and try to find the natural, a 20-30cm deep sondage was excavated down the centre of the garage foundation. This revealed deposit (04), a similar deposit to (02) though it contained charcoal and no pottery. The sondage also revealed a copper water pipe running ENE-SWS across the site; the trench for this service had been cut into (04). A small test pit was excavated into the sondage to locate the natural which was found 1.1m below the site surface. The natural was also followed in a small curved trench to the south of the water pipe to look for further services, but none were found. No archaeological features were noted during these investigations.

3 Interpretation

The excavations for the garage show that fairly thick deposits (*c* 0.8m) of modern and possibly 19th century material have been deposited over this part of the site. These deposits may have been laid down to level the ground on this part of the farm and to create a platform on ground which naturally slopes downhill to the south. The current investigations found no evidence of a surviving Roman ditch or bank, though one would have to strip the whole site down to the natural to be absolutely sure that no early remains exist, an exercise which would have severely disrupted the development and would have been beyond the scope of this watching brief.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

This watching brief did not find any evidence of the bank and ditch belonging to Greenbourne Roman camp; SUAT recommends no further work. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, advisers to Perth and Kinross Council.

5 Bibliography

- Terms of Reference for Archaeological Monitoring *Grieve's House, Snabs Farm, Longforgan* Issued 06/03/2009. Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Phase</i>
01	Topsoil, a mid-brown sandy loam with tree/shrub roots	Mod
02	Made ground below (01) A mid to light orangey-brown silt with 5% fragments of coal, 19th and 20th century pottery, brick fragments, glass, Tin Glazed Earthenware and animal bone. c38cm thick	Mod
03	A light red deposit of crushed sandstone and silt, probably former surface of driveway before tarmac laid down. Above (02) below (01).	Mod/19th century
04	A mid to light orangey-brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks below (02)	19th century?
NAT	A light orangey-beige compact silt with fragments (20%) of fractured angular stone, probably weathered whinstone.	Natural

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Frames</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
LF03_01-02	The site before excavation, hole in foreground over a sewer.	SW
LF03_03	The site before excavation, note shrub/tree stumps.	SE
LF03_04	The site before excavation.	WNW
LF03_05	The JCB	NNW
LF03_06	The JCB collecting the shredded shrubs	WNW
LF03_07	Removal of tree/shrub stumps	WSW
LF03_08-10	Removal of tree/shrub stumps	SW
LF03_11	Removal of tree/shrub stumps	W
LF03_12	JCB collecting the tree/shrub stumps	WNW
LF03_13	Scraping back the topsoil	WNW
LF03_14	Down onto layer (02)	W
LF03_15	Continuing excavation	E
LF03_16	Continuing excavation, porcelain and coal can be seen in (02)	E

LF03_17	Continuing excavation, porcelain and coal can be seen in (02)	ENE
LF03_18	Excavation of the sondage, southern end	E
LF03_19	As above	E
LF03_20	Scraping back the topsoil on the north part of the site	NE
LF03_21	Exposing (03) at the north end of the site	NE
LF03_22	Excavation of the sondage in the centre of the site	ENE
LF03_23	The test pit which was excavated down through (04) to the natural	NNE
LF03_24	The natural at the bottom of the test pit	-
LF03_25	Discovery of the copper water pipe	SE
LF03_26	Excavation of the curved trench S of the water pipe	E
LF03_27	Shot of the curved trench to the S of the water pipe	NNW
LF03_28	General view of site	N
LF03_29	As above	ESE

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Plan of excavations, notes and sample section	1:50, 1:10

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perh and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Grieve's House, Snabs Farm, Longforgan
PROJECT CODE:	LF03
PARISH:	Longforgan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Tamlin Barton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	SUAT Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO23SE27
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Roman Marching Camp
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NO 31438 30142
START DATE	18 April 2009
END DATE	18 April 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	-
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Gordon Rodgers commissioned SUAT Ltd to carry out a watching brief on the site of a new double garage at Snabs Farm, Longforgan. Snabs Farm was built on the site of Greenebourne Roman marching camp, which was identified from aerial photos and work on the A90. The site of the new double garage was on the projected line of the south-west side of the camp; the camp perimeter would have been of bank and ditch construction. The work, carried out on 18th April 2009, comprised watching the digging of the foundations for the garage. Excavations revealed that thick deposits dating to the 19th/20th century had built up on this part of the farm. No Roman remains were found. The site code was LF03.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Gordon Rodgers
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	-
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	SUAT Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@suat.co.uk

Appendix 5 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

5.1 Recording Methodology

SUAT employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

5.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

5.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

5.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. SUAT will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

5.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

5.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

SUAT adheres to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

SUAT has public liability insurance of £5,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

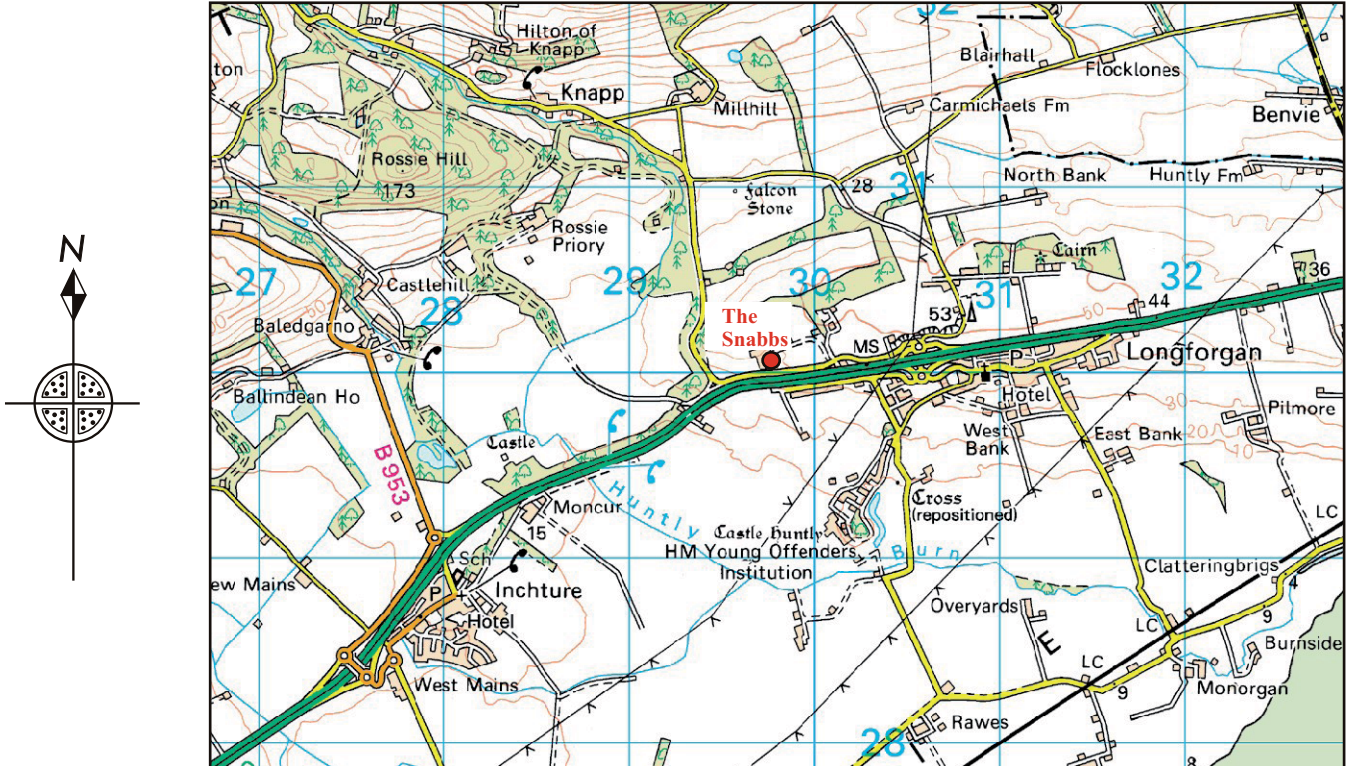
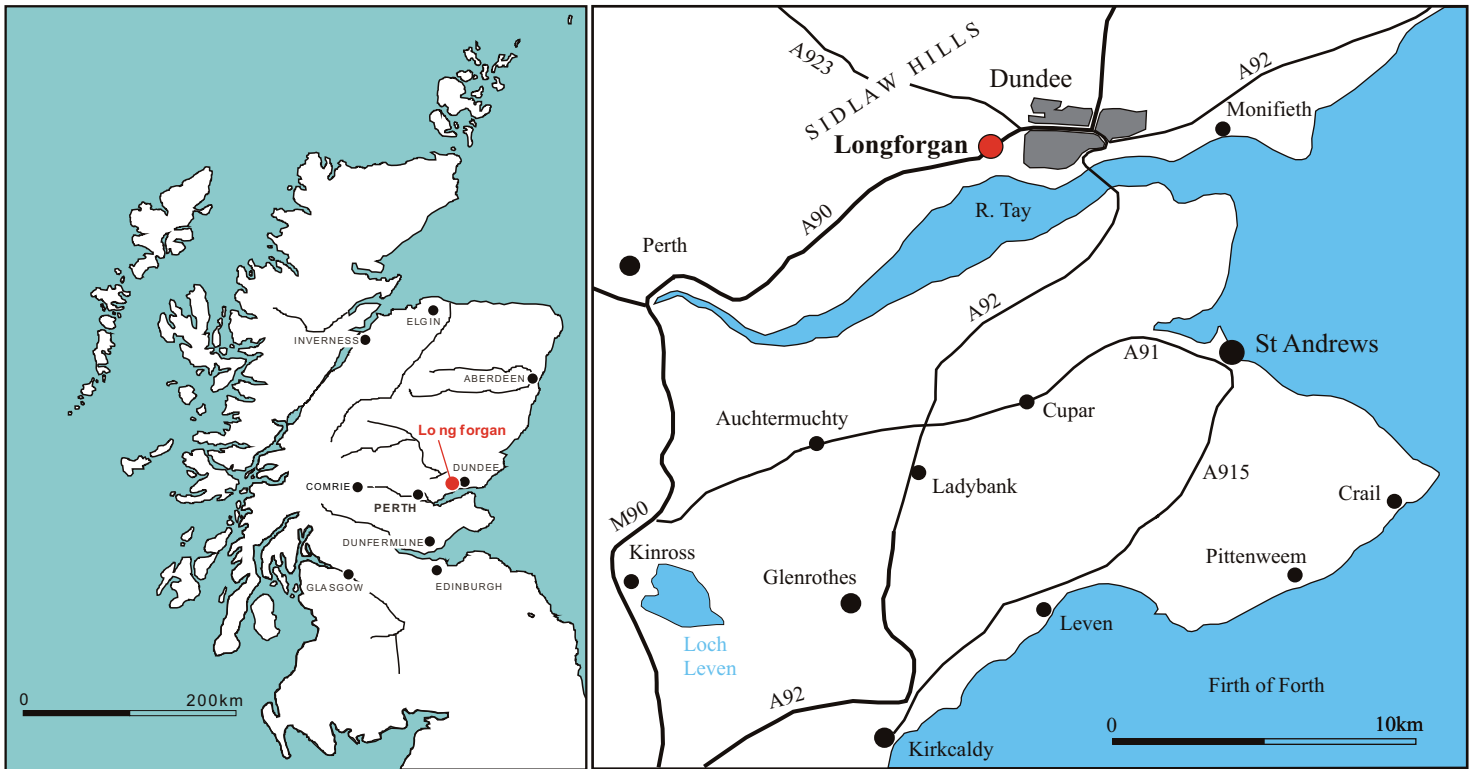
SUAT operates a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. SUAT undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

All SUAT representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

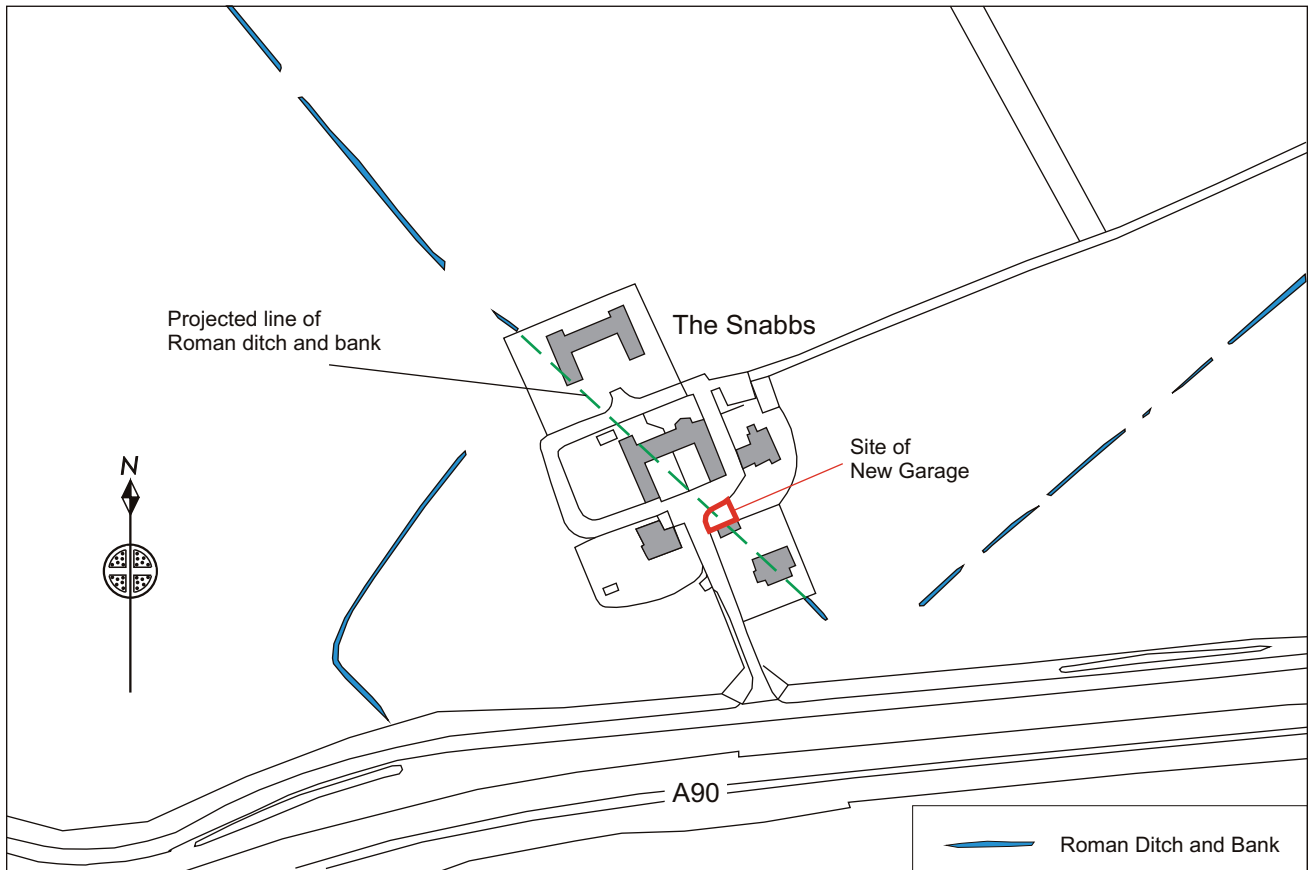
If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

Illus 1

Site Location Plan



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Plan of Excavations

