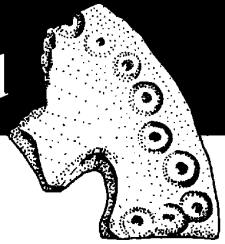


SUAT Ltd

archaeological
contractors



Mylnefield House Invergowrie

Archaeological Evaluation

JG02



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
MYLNEFIELD HOUSE
MYLNEFIELD, INVERGOWRIE**

GJ02

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Front Cover Illustration: Mylnefield House 2009

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Detailed Site Location Plan

Illustration 3: Location of Trenches Within the Development Area Showing Features

Illustration 4: Sample of Trench 03 E Facing Section

Illustration 5: Surface 0104

Illustration 6: Box Drain sides 0204

Illustration 7: OS 1st edition plan

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ABSTRACT

SUAT Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation (SUAT site code JG02) on May 26th 2009 at the site of a proposed swimming pool within the grounds of Mylnefield House, Invergowrie. The proposed development was considered to have archaeological implications because the grounds of Mylnefield House were recorded as the site of a prehistoric stone circle in 1911 by A Elliott. In addition the fields to the east, south and west of the grounds contain the remains of unenclosed prehistoric settlements identified by aerial photographic survey. Three evaluation trenches (01-03) each measuring 2 x 5m were excavated over an area measuring 18 x 8m which equated to an evaluation of 20% of the available area.

The three evaluation trenches each produced similar archaeological sequences. Below turf and topsoil was clay, sealing a loose rubble/demolition makeup layer between 0.25m and 0.90m thick. Below the rubble a former ground surface was reached. A crude box drain cut into a former ground surface lay below the rubble in Trench 02. The old ground surface deposits were sterile with regard to finds but the rubble contained late 18th or early 19th century pottery. Natural clay and sand deposits were reached between 1.25 and 1.35m below site surface. It was concluded the rubble sealed by clay had been used to infill a hollow or a dip in the landscape at this location and that this had probably taken place at the time of the demolition of the former Mylnefield House which had stood close to the site of the proposed swimming pool. No deposits or features relating to the stone circle or any other prehistoric remains were identified.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

On behalf of their client, FMS Architectural Services commissioned SUAT Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed swimming pool centred on NGR NO3348 3023 in the grounds of Mylnefield House, Invergowrie. This evaluation was designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development. The proposed development site is an area of well-kept lawn located approximately 23m to the E of the site of original Mylnefield House. The requirement was to evaluate a minimum of 20% of the total area of the proposed site of the swimming pool which equated to an area of 30m². The work (SUAT site code JG02) was undertaken on 26th May 2009 in good weather conditions. Three evaluation trenches were excavated and recorded, each measuring 5 x 2m.

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, especially those relating to the stone circle and other prehistoric features. The results of this investigation will be used to inform future mitigation strategies for the proposed development.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this evaluation. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

A condition for a programme of archaeological works on this development, application reference 09/00043/FUL, was attached by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, as the development was considered to have archaeological potential. The condition was placed in compliance with Scottish Planning Policy 23 'Archaeology and the Historic Environment'. Terms of Reference for archaeological works prepared 14/05/09 were issued by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. A written scheme of investigation was supplied by SUAT.

1.5 Acknowledgements

SUAT wish to thank Grahame McLaren of FMS Architectural Services and Dr Oliver O'Grady of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. The evaluation was fully funded by the developer.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The site of the proposed swimming pool is within an area of well-kept lawn located in the SE part of the grounds of Mylnefield House. This lawn area has a slight rise to the W and N which may represent the buried remains of walls. To the N and E of the lawn area is a mix of deciduous trees and some conifers. To the S is a post and wire fence which bounds open field containing a scattering of mature trees. To the W at a distance of 23m is a rectangular ornamental garden measuring approximately 22m N-S and 11m E-W, quartered by pathways with each quadrant containing a rectangular flower bed. In the centre of the garden is an ornamental but functioning well. The ornamental garden is bounded by a hedge and a footpath running down its E side. The ornamental garden is considered to be on the site of the original Mylnefield Mansion as shown on the 1st edition OS plan. The present Mylnefield House, to the NW of the ornamental garden, appears to be the much altered lodge for the original mansion. The area evaluated lay centrally on the S edge of the lawn, approximately 2.35m to the N of the field boundary post and wire fence.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The grounds of Mylnefield House were recorded as the site of a prehistoric stone circle, in 1911 by A Elliott who described an elliptical arrangement of six large boulders (Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust Sites and Monuments Record, MPK5189). Although the stone circle's original location is at present unknown, it was thought possible that archaeological remains associated with the stone circle could be present within the development area (the proposed swimming pool). In addition, the fields to the east, south and west of the grounds of Mylnefield House contain the remains of unenclosed prehistoric settlements (MPK5129, 5130, 7211). These remains have been identified from cropmarks recorded by aerial photographic survey. The extent, density and proximity of known archaeological remains in the areas adjacent to the grounds of Mylnefield House indicated the significant potential for further as yet unidentified archaeology being present within the development area.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Three evaluation trenches were excavated by mechanical digger using a toothless ditching bucket, under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Where necessary archaeological features were hand cleaned and recorded. After recording features, excavation in each trench continued until natural deposits were exposed.

2.4 Results of Investigations (Illus 3 and 4)

Numbers in parenthesis are context numbers. Three trenches each measuring 2 x 5m were excavated within an area measuring 18 x 8m.

Trench 01 (Illus 5)

Trench 01 was the westernmost trench, aligned N-S. Below turf was a mix of soil and small stone gravel. Below the gravel was a thin layer of clay. These deposits overlay a 0.90m thick layer of loose rubble, (0103), with an overall thickness of 0.90m. Rubble (0103) comprised mainly large irregular fragments of split sandstone with a smaller amount of field cobbles and boulders, within the rubble dump were some pockets of loose white mortar. Pottery recovered within (0103) dated from the

late 18th century/early 19th century. At about 1.20m below the site surface the stone rubble fragments had been arranged so as to form a crude flattish floor or surface (0104). Excavation continued and it was seen that below floor (0104) there was further rubble (0105) similar to (0103). Floor (0104) appeared to be a temporary surface within the general rubble layer. The overall thickness of the rubble was 0.90m. Below the rubble, natural orange/brown clay containing small fragments of stone, was reached at a depth of 1.25m.

Trench 02 (Illus 6)

Trench 02 was the mid trench aligned NNW-SSE. Turf and topsoil had a thickness of 0.26m, below which was a 0.25m thick layer of brown orange clay. Sealed by the clay was a dump of demolition rubble similar to (0103), mixed with grey brown clayey silt with a maximum thickness of 0.60m. Some late 18th/early 19th century pottery sherds and glass bottle fragments were found in this deposit. Below rubble (0203) was a deposit of grey clay loam with some charcoal flecks (0204) which represented a former ground surface, 0.20m thick. No finds were recovered from deposit (0204). In the NW corner of the trench cut into the former ground surface (0204) was a box culvert which ran through the trench from the NE facing section into the SW facing section. The culvert comprised a channel 0.30m wide and 0.25m deep with side walls (0206) of irregular shaped stone roofed with irregular shaped flagstones (0205). The channel extended westwards for at least 3m on the W side of the trench. Inside the channel grey clayey silt (0207) 0.08m thick overlay natural compacted sand and small stone fragments (0209). No finds were recovered from the silt deposit in the channel. Natural deposits were exposed at a depth of 1.25m

Trench 03

Trench 03 was the easternmost trench and was aligned N-S. This trench contained no features, and the deposits comprised turf and topsoil 0.30m thick. Below turf and topsoil clay and with small rubble (0302), 0.26m thick sealed a dump of loose rubble (0303), similar to (0103) and (0203), 0.26m thick. Below the rubble (0203) a former ground surface was found (0304), comprising a deposit of grey clay silt, a developed soil, which contained no finds. Below the former ground surface was a deposit of orange brown silt subsoil which was removed to a depth of 0.14m. A 0.25m deep sondage was cut across the trench and bottomed onto compacted silty sand at a depth of 1.40m below the site surface.

3 Interpretation

3.1

Trench 01

Trench 01 revealed a thick infilling/dumping layer of demolition deposits below a thin layer of clay. The demolition layer appeared to have a rough floor (0104) towards the bottom which may have represented a temporary surface or platform. The stones for the rough floor were embedded in grey silt which may have been the remains of a former ground surface into which the stones had been compacted. The demolition deposits below the floor (0104) bottomed onto the natural. It is possible that the rough surface was originally a pathway or part of a yard for outbuildings associated with the original manor house located only 23m to the W of the evaluation site. No such outbuildings however, are shown on the 1st edition OS plan.

3.2

Trench 02

Trench 02 revealed dumping as in Trench 01. This time the dumping (0203) overlay a box culvert with a slab top. The loam (0204) through which the culvert had been cut indicated an old ground surface, showing that this area was external. The culvert appeared to be descending towards the SW.

3.3

Trench 03

Trench 03 revealed that the dumping found in Trenches 01 and 02 continued to the W. No features were found below the dumping (0303), only a developed soil (0304), 0.24m deep, probably deep enough to suggest that there may have been some horticultural/gardening activity. No dating evidence was found within deposit (0304).

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

The evaluation revealed that the area investigated comprised a ground surface that was up to a maximum of 0.90m lower than the present ground surface. Features such as rough flooring in Trench 01 and a box drain in Trench 02 suggested nearby habitation, perhaps to the north or west as indicated by the slight rise in the ground at these locations and also possibly associated with the former mansion house. Developed soil over subsoil in Trench 03 appeared to suggest an area of horticultural/gardening on the E side of the drain. There is no surface or map evidence to show why there should be such a difference in level between the present lawn surface and old ground surface.

It appears that the former level (with its developed soil) is the original old ground surface and not just the result of excavation for a basement or terracing, and that in comparatively recent times the ground has been levelled up for the formation of the present lawn, bringing it up to the level of the surrounding gardens. It seems likely then that the evaluation area was in a natural dip, undulation or hollow that has subsequently been levelled up. The levelling up may have occurred when the original mansion house was demolished and the present garden feature installed in its place. It is interesting to speculate that the prehistoric stone circle, noted in 1911 by A Elliott may in fact still exist buried under rubble below the present raised surface level. No features were found to be earlier than the late 18th century/early 19th century and nothing relating to prehistoric activity was identified.

4.2 Recommendations

SUAT recommends that since no features were found that were earlier than the late 18th century/early 19th century and nothing relating to prehistoric activity was identified, that no further archaeological work is required on this site. However, the final decision with regard to the need for further work rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

5 Bibliography

Ordnance Survey One-inch 1st edition Sheet 48 Perth, surveyed 1853-1866, published 1890

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, *Terms of Reference for Archaeological Works Construction of Swimming Pool, Mylnefield, Invergowrie*. Date of issue 14/05/2009. Perth

SUAT Ltd, *Mylnefield House, Invergowrie, Archaeological Evaluation, Written Scheme of Investigation*. Perth 2009

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
Trench 01	
0101	Deposit, turf and topsoil, 0.25m thick
0102	Deposit gravel in silty loam with clay, levelling over rubble 0103, slightly thicker along its E side
0103	Deposit, mainly large loose rubble comprising irregular shaped stone fragments with lesser amount of small-large field or river cobbles, some inclusions of loose mortar, late 18th or early 19th century pottery 0.90m thick, general makeup
0104	Structure/deposit, irregular shaped stones laid flat, platform or surface compacted into clay silt loam, further rubble below this surface, 19th century pottery below top stones at depth of 1.20m below site surface, a rough surface
0105	Deposit, fragmented stone in clay below 0104
0106	Deposit, natural clay orange brown with abundant small fragments of stone
Trench 02	
0201	Deposit, turf and topsoil, 0.26m deep
0202	Deposit, orange brown clay 0.25 thick, sealing rubble 0203
0203	Deposit, rubble as described for 0103, 0.60m thick
0204	Deposit, former ground surface charcoal flecked, clay loam moderate amount of small stone fragments, former ground surface, 0.20m thick
0205	Structure, slabs or flags covering box culvert which runs from W baulk into N baulk, roughly formed irregular in shape typical is 0.06m thick 0.47m wide
0206	Structure, stone side walls for culvert, irregular shaped, various sizes, one 0.18 x 0.33 x 0.12m thick, forming channel 0.30m wide with straight inner edge, curving NW from W baulk and into N baulk, culvert extends for at least 3m to SW and similar distance to NNW
0207	Deposit, clay silt, formed in channel of drain, 0.08m thick over 0208 and natural sand
0208	Deposit, thin deposit below 0207
0209	Deposit, natural hard packed sand at bottom of channel, channel bottom to underside of roofing stone is 0.25m
Trench 03	
0301	Deposit turf and topsoil, 0.30m thick
0302	Deposit, clay and small rubble, 0.26m thick, sealing loose rubble 0303

0303	Deposit, loose rubble as described as 0103
0304	Deposit, developed soil grey clay silt, 0.24m thick no finds from this
0305	Deposit, orange brown silt up to 0.14m thick natural/subsoil
0306	Deposit, light brown natural silty clay, compacted

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Frames</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01	General view of area of evaluation	NE
02	As above	NW
03	As above	S
04	As above	NW
05	Mylnefield lodge/house with ornamental garden (site of former Mylnefield Mansion) in foreground	N
06-07	Floor slabs 0104	N
08	General of Trench 01	N
09	Floor slabs 0104	N
10	General of Trench 01	S
11	As above	SW
12	Box drain sides 0203	SW
13	As above	SW
14	General of Trench 02 with box drain	SE
15	Box drain sides 0203	SE
16	As above	S
17	General Trench 02 box drain	SE
18	General Trench 03, rubble 0303	N
19	As above	NW
20	General view of Trench 03 with rubble 0303 showing in section	NE
21	General of evaluation trenches, machine working	W

22	As above	E
23	Machine working Trench 02	NE
24	Drain 0205 entering N baulk of Trench 02	N
25	Natural deposits in Trench 02, 0209	N
26	Trench 01, removing the remaining rubble	N
27	Trench 01, natural deposit, 0106	N
28	As above, showing rubble in section	NW
29	Trench 01 natural deposits	N

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Permatrace sheet with plan at 1:100 of evaluation trench features; context descriptions of trenches 01 and 02	1:100
2	Permatrace sheet with section drawing of W baulk, S end at 1:20; drawing of final levels in trenches 01 and 02 at 1:50	1:20 and 1:50

Appendix 4 Finds List

TGE tin glazed earthenware

CBM ceramic building material

Context	Material type	Details
0103	Pottery	1 TGE base sherd, plain brown glaze 1 TGE base sherd, brown glaze with cream slipped decoration 6 TGE body sherds, cream glaze
0105	Pottery	2 TGE body sherds, brown glaze
0203	Pottery	2 TGE rim sherds 1 TGE handle 3 TGE body sherds 1 porcelainous body sherd, blue/white glaze

0203	CBM (tile)	1 glazed TGE floor/wall tile
0203	CBM (pantile)	3 pantile fragments
0203	CBM (mortar)	1 small mortar fragment
0203	Glass	2 green bottle bases (deep kick-up; no mould seams) 1 green bottle sherd 2 sherds clear window glass
0303	Pottery	1 stoneware body sherd
0303	CBM (pantile)	1 pantile fragment

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Mylnefield House, Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	JG02
PARISH:	Longforgan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	SUAT Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Possible prehistoric
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Lower ground surface, rough paving, culvert
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NGR NO3348 3023
START DATE	26 May 2009
END DATE	26 May 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None known on this site
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	SUAT undertook an archaeological evaluation (SUAT site code JG02) on May 26th 2009 at the site of proposed swimming pool within the grounds of Mylnefield House, Invergowrie. The proposed development was considered to have archaeological implications because the grounds of Mylnefield House were recorded as the site of a prehistoric stone circle in 1911 by A Elliott. In

	addition the fields to the east, south and west of the grounds contain the remains of unenclosed prehistoric settlements identified by aerial photographic survey. Three evaluation trenches (01-03) each measuring 2 x 5m were excavated over an area measuring 18 x 8m which equated to an evaluation of 20% of the available area. The three evaluation trenches each produced similar archaeological sequences. Below turf and topsoil was clay sealing a loose rubble/demolition makeup layer up to between 0.25 and 0.90m thick. Below the rubble a former ground surface was reached. A crude box drain cut into a former ground surface lay below the rubble in Trench 02. The old ground surface deposits were sterile with regard to finds but the rubble contained late 18th or early 19th century pottery. Natural clay and sand deposits were reached between 1.25m and 1.35m below site surface. It was concluded the rubble sealed by clay had been used to infill a hollow or a dip in the landscape at this location and that this had probably taken place at the time of the demolition of the former Mylnefield House which had stood only 23m to the W of the site of the proposed swimming pool. No deposits or features relating to the stone circle or any other prehistoric remains were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Developer
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	SUAT Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@suat.co.uk

Appendix 6 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

6.1 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.

6.2 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*.

6.3 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.

6.4 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.

6.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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

6.6 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.