

Archaeological Evaluation

Land 70m SE of Main Street, Longforgan, Perth and Kinross



Evaluation area looking South East



26th June 2014

Introduction

This programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out for Dr and Mrs A Reid to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, as noted by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust in the Terms of Reference to Planning Application 14/00035/FLL, dated 2nd June 2014. . This work was carried out by the author on Tuesday 17th June 2014 (site code LON01). Weather conditions were bright and sunny.

Archaeological Background (Illus 1 and 2)

The area proposed for development was considered to have archaeological potential. It is situated in close proximity to the centre of Longforgan, an historic settlement, dating back at least to the Pictish period, as evidenced by finds of a Pictish symbol stone and prehistoric souterrains. Further, whilst the development site is to the south of Main Street - and therefore slightly lower than the medieval / post-medieval settlement of Longforgan – it remains on the ‘inch’, an area of raised ground above the Carse. Aerial photography has revealed a possible prehistoric settlement on a similar contour to the west.

Site Evaluation (Illus 3 to 15)

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust requested that a 6% sample of the development area was trenched in order to assess for the presence of archaeological remains. Currently planted areas of the site were to be avoided, therefore two trenches measuring 21m by 1.3 m and 20m by 1.3 m and a third one measuring 8m by 1.3m were opened in the footprint of the proposed development area.

Trench A (Illus 4 to 9 and 15)

This trench was opened on a NW – SE alignment running down the hill. At its northern end 0.60m of dark brown silty clay (100) was revealed overlying an orange brown sandy gravel with occasional stones (105, natural), half way along its length 0.70m of dark brown silty clay was located overlying natural and at its southern end 0.80m of dark brown silty clay overlay natural. Two apparently linear cut features (102 and 104) were located running through this trench. Both these features were sectioned and 102 was 0.13m deep and filled with a light brown silty clay with occasional charcoal (101) and 104 was 0.13m deep and filled with a grey black silty clay with occasional charcoal and stone (103). There were no finds from either of these features.

Interpretation

Both linear features (102 and 104) had single fills and were not very deep (0.12m and 0.13m respectively) and are not dated. Roy's 18th century map of Long Forgan (Illus 2) shows rig cultivation on this part of the site and this maybe what these features relate to, although it is worth pointing out that they did not appear in Trench B.

Trench B (Illus 4, 5, 10, 11 and 15)

This trench was opened on the eastern side of the site and ran on an N-S alignment. Along its entire length a dark brown silty clay (300) was located overlying an orange red sandy gravel with stones (301, natural), this varied in depth from 0.60m at the north end to 0.50m at the south end. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Trench C (Illus 4, 5 and 12 to 15)

This trench was opened between trenches A and B at the northern end of the site and ran on an E-W alignment. A dark brown silty clay (200) was located overlying an orange red sandy gravel (201) and two groups of large laid flat stones (202 and 203). These two areas of stone appeared to be related to features cut into the natural and did not produce any dating evidence.

Interpretation

The flat stones in features 202 and 203 give the impression that they are covering something and the closest parallel that this author can think of is that they might be covering Prehistoric burial cists. Nothing datable was recovered from either of these features.

Recommendations

Trenches A and C produced undated features of archaeological interest that will be destroyed by the proposed development plan for the site. Of most interest are the stone features in Trench C which may be related to Prehistoric burial cists and if it is not possible to avoid their destruction by the proposed foundation design of the new house they will need to be totally excavated and recorded prior to any construction work. The final decision on the need and scale of any further work however rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank George of Dundee Plant for operating the machine to open the evaluation trenches and Bob Gunn, site architect for his advice regarding the development proposal.

Illustration List

Illustration 1 Site Location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2012. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illustration 2 Long Forgan as shown on General Roy's Military Survey of 1747-55 showing rig and furrow cultivation to South of the settlement (©Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 3 General view of site of proposed new house looking South prior to evaluation

Illustration 4 General view of site of proposed house showing excavated Trenches A, B and C looking East

Illustration 5 Trench locations showing linear features in Trench A and laid stones in Trench C (based on supplied architects survey)

Illustration 6 Trench A looking South East linear features 102 and 104 marked with red arrows

Illustration 7 Excavated section across linear feature 102 looking North West

Illustration 8 Excavated section across linear feature 104 looking North

Illustration 9 Excavated South facing sections of linear features 102 and 104 Scale 1:10

Illustration 10 Trench B completely excavated looking South showing natural subsoil

Illustration 11 Detail shot of Trench B showing garden soil above natural subsoil

Illustration 12 General view of Trench C looking East showing laid stone features 203 (in foreground) and 202 separated by band of natural subsoil

Illustration 13 Detail view of laid stonework 202 looking South

Illustration 14 Detail view of laid stonework 203 looking South

Illustration 15 House footprint in red in relation to evaluation trenches (based on supplied architects plans)

Context List

Trench A

100 – Dark brown silty clay (garden soil)

101 – Light brown silty clay with occasional charcoal (fill of 102)

102 – Linear cut feature

103 – Grey black silty clay with occasional stone (fill of 104)

104 – Linear cut feature

105 – Orange red sandy gravel and stones (natural)

Trench B

300 – Dark brown silty clay (garden soil)

301 – Orange red sandy gravel and stones (natural)

Trench C

200 – Dark brown silty clay (garden soil)

201 – Orange red sandy gravel and stones (natural)

202 – Laid flat stones

203 – Laid flat stones

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

| | |
|--|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Perth and Kinross |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Land 70m SE of Main Street, Longforgan |
| PROJECT CODE: | LON01 |
| PARISH: | Longforgan |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S): | Derek Hall |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological Evaluation |
| NMRS NO(S): | N/A |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | N/A |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NO 18057 02119 |
| START DATE | 17 th June 2014 |
| END DATE | 17 th June 2014 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | Three evaluation trenches were opened in the footprint of a proposed new house. Two of these located features of archaeological interest, the third garden soil above natural sandy gravel. Further work was recommended. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | Excavation |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Dr and Mrs A Reid |
| CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS | N/A |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | 34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended) | NMRS |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk |

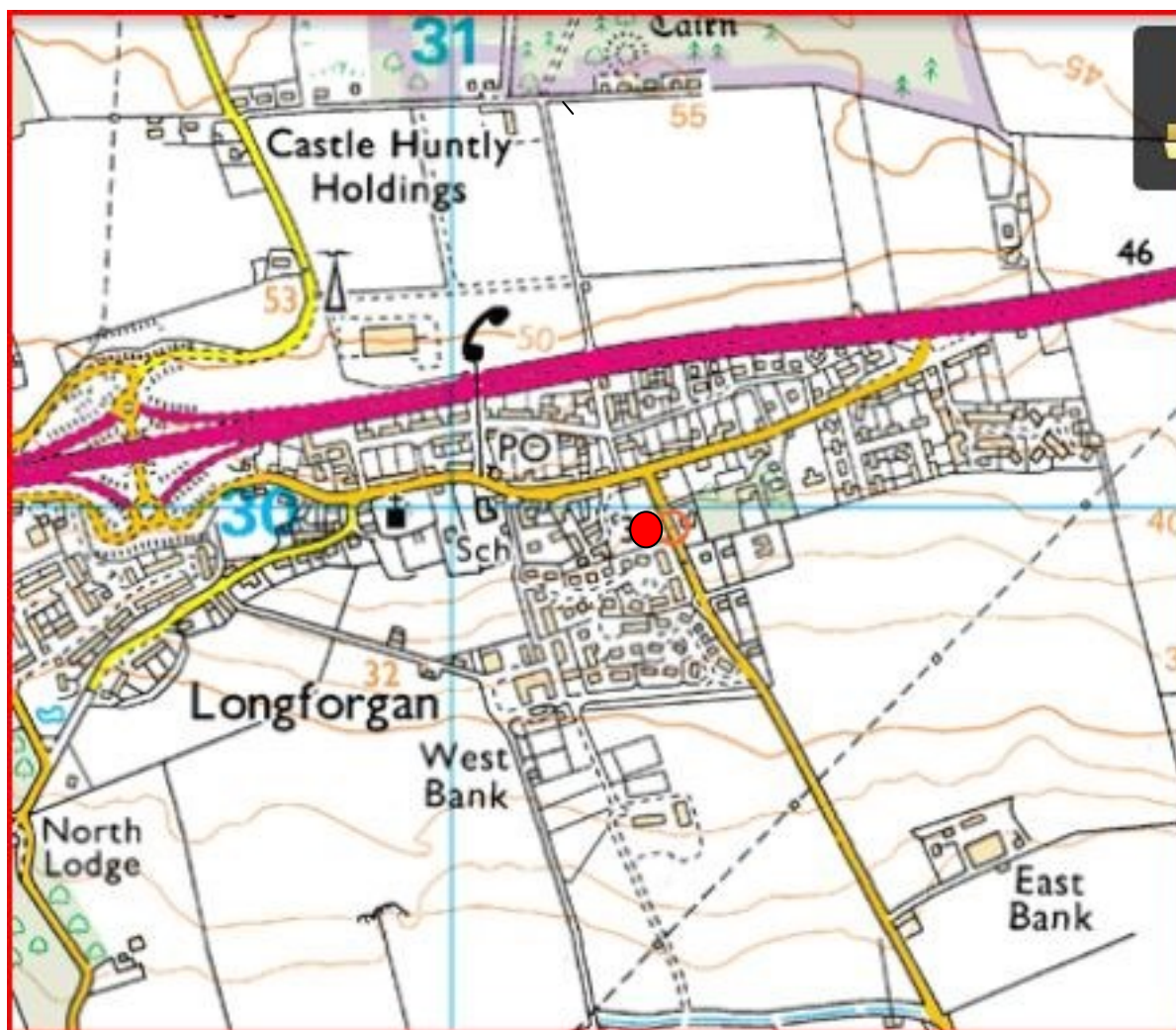


Illustration 1 Site Location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2014. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)



Illustration 2 Long Forgan as shown on General Roy's map of 1747-55 showing rig and furrow cultivation to South of settlement (©Trustees of the National Library)



Illustration 3 General view of site of proposed new house looking South prior to evaluation



Illustration 4 General view of site of proposed house showing excavated Trenches A, B and C looking East

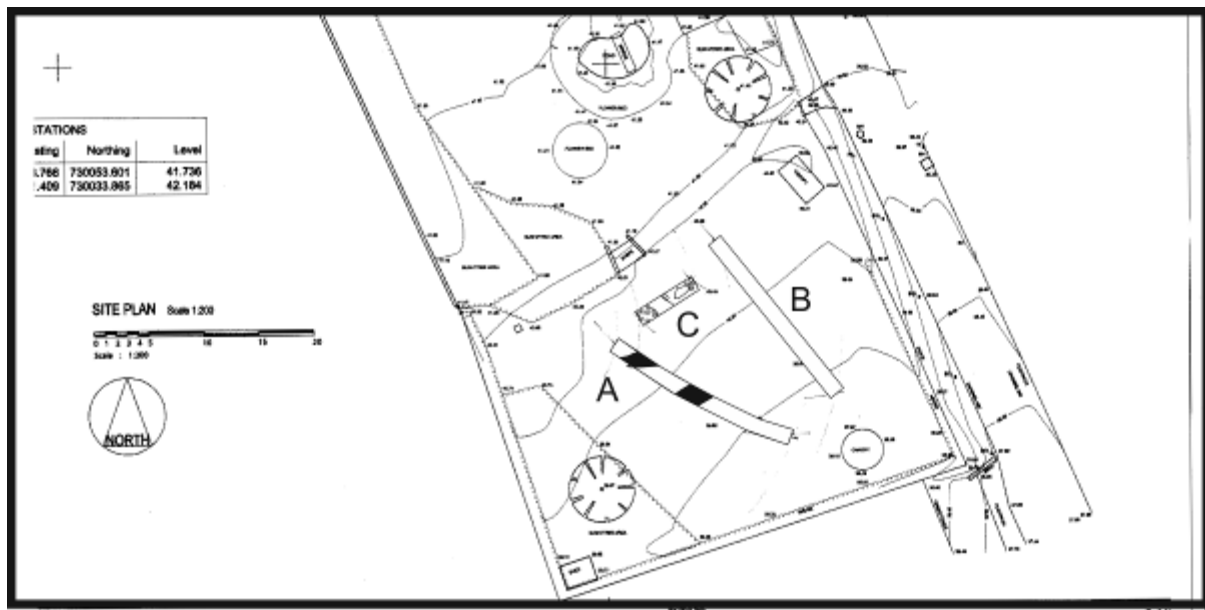


Illustration 5 Trench locations showing linear features in Trench A and laid stones in Trench C (based on supplied architects survey)



Illustration 6 Trench A looking South East linear features 102 and 104 marked with red arrows



Illustration 7 Excavated section across linear feature 102 looking North West



Illustration 8 Excavated section across linear feature 104 looking North

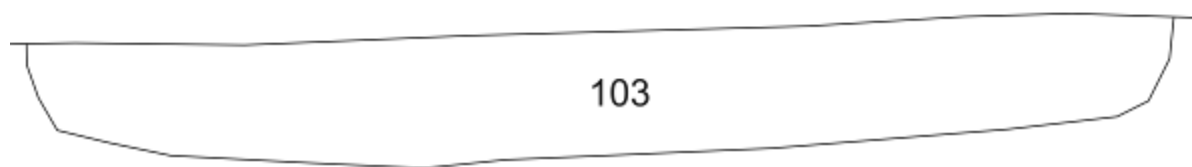
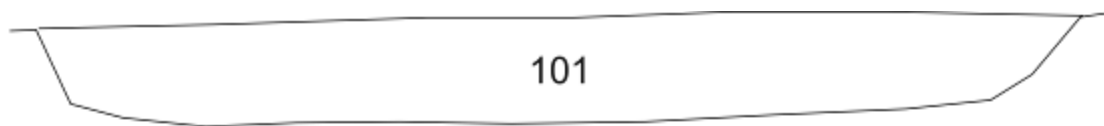


Illustration 9 Excavated South facing sections of linear features 102 and 104 Scale 1:10



Illustration 10 Trench B completely excavated looking South showing natural subsoil



Illustration 11 Detail shot of Trench B showing garden soil above natural subsoil



Illustration 12 General view of Trench C looking East showing laid stone features 203 (in foreground) and 202 separated by band of natural subsoil



Illustration 13 Detail view of laid stonework 202 looking South



Illustration 14 Detail view of laid stonework 203 looking South

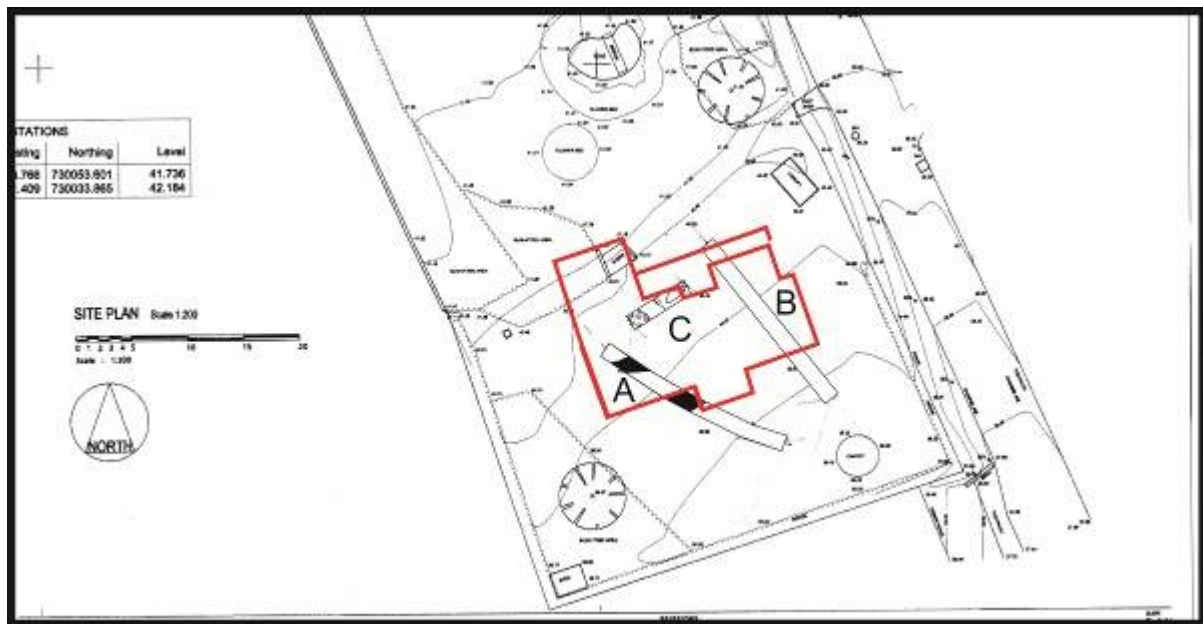


Illustration 15 House footprint in red in relation to evaluation trenches (based on supplied architects plans)