

Archaeological Evaluation  
Land 100m NE of Shepherd's Cottage,  
Urlar, Aberfeldy, Perth and Kinross



General view of crop marked rocks in vicinity of development area looking east



31<sup>st</sup> October 2014

## **Introduction**

This programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out for Mr Donald Watson Ogilvy 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 14/00470/FLL, dated 5th May 2014. This work was carried out by the author on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (site code URL01). Weather conditions were overcast and very wet to begin with.

### **Archaeological Background (Illus 1, 2 and 3)**

Urlar Cup and Ring Marked Stone (MPK1011) is located within the development site on the SE lip of a knoll and consists of a partially turf-covered out crop bearing at least 34 cup marks on its upper surfaces. They include 3 possible dumb-bells and 2 cup and ring marks and range from 3cms to 8cms in diameter and up to 4cms in depth. The site also contains the remains of a possible cairn. On the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867 a lime kiln is marked in the vicinity of the cup marked stones (Illus 2). Archaeological excavations carried out at Ben Lawers in Perth and Kinross between 2007 and 2010 has shown that prehistoric archaeological remains associated with cup and ring marked stones survive in the vicinity of the sites (Bradley, Watson and Anderson-Whymark 2012). It was felt possible that archaeological remains might also survive in proximity to the cup marked rocks at Urlar.

## **Site Evaluation (Illus 4 to 11)**

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust requested that a 5% sample of the development area was trenched in order to assess for the presence of archaeological remains. Four trenches measuring 20m by 2m were opened in the footprint of the proposed development area.

### **Trench A (Illus 8)**

This trench was opened on a NW – SE alignment at the northern end of the area. At its SE end 0.20m of brown sandy clay ploughsoil was removed to reveal a deposit of natural broken stone and yellow clay. At its northern end 0.40m of brown sandy clay ploughsoil was removed to reveal natural broken stone and yellow clay. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

### **Trench B (Illus 9)**

This trench was opened on an E-W alignment at the western side of the area. Along its length 0.30m of brown sandy clay ploughsoil was located overlying a brown sandy clay subsoil 0.45m deep which overlay natural broken stone and yellow clay. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

### **Trench C (Illus 10)**

This trench was opened on a SSW-NNE alignment across the southern end of the house footprint. At its NNE end 0.20m of brown sandy clay ploughsoil was located overlying natural broken stone and yellow clay. At its SSW end 0.50m of brown sandy ploughsoil was located overlying natural broken stone and yellow clay. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

### **Trench D (Illus 11)**

This trench was opened on a SW-NE alignment towards the southern end of the area. At its North Eastern end 0.30m of brown sandy clay ploughsoil was located overlying natural broken stone and yellow clay. At its South Western end 0.50m of brown sandy clay ploughsoil was located overlying natural broken stone and yellow clay. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

## **Recommendations**

The same deposit pattern was recorded in all four of the evaluation trenches and nothing of archaeological interest was located. The author feels that this evaluation suggests that there is no need for any further work prior to any development on the site. 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 Peter Lambie for operating the machine to open the evaluation trenches.

### **Reference**

Bradley, R, Watson, A and Anderson-Whymark, H 2012 'Excavations at four prehistoric rock carvings on the Ben Lawers Estate 2007-2010', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 142, 27-61

## **Illustration List**

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

Illustration 2 Urlar as shown on First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867 (©Trustees of the National Library)

Illustration 3 General view of location of cup marked rocks looking East, Urlar Farm in background

Illustration 4 and 5 Detail views of sets of cup marks

Illustration 6 Trench location in relation to footprint of new house and location of cup marked rocks  
Scale 1:2000

Illustration 7 General view of site looking North East showing all four trenches open, location of cup marked rocks are indicated by red arrow

Illustration 8 General view of excavated Trench A looking north west showing natural broken stone and clay

Illustration 9 General view of excavated Trench B looking north north west showing natural broken stone and clay

Illustration 10 General view of excavated Trench C looking north north east showing natural broken stone and clay, knoll with cupmarks visible in background

Illustration 11 General view of excavated Trench D looking south south west showing natural broken stone and clay, Shepherd's Cottage visible in background.

## Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land 100m NE of Shepherd's Cottage, Urlar, Aberfeldy
PROJECT CODE:	URL01
PARISH:	Aberfeldy
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NN84NW 125
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cup marked rocks
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 8406 4669
START DATE	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
END DATE	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Four evaluation trenches were opened in the development area associated with a new house and associated services to the west of the cup marked rocks. Ploughsoil varying in depth from 0.20m to 0.75m was located overlying natural broken stone and yellow clay in all four trenches. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Donald Watson Ogilvy
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

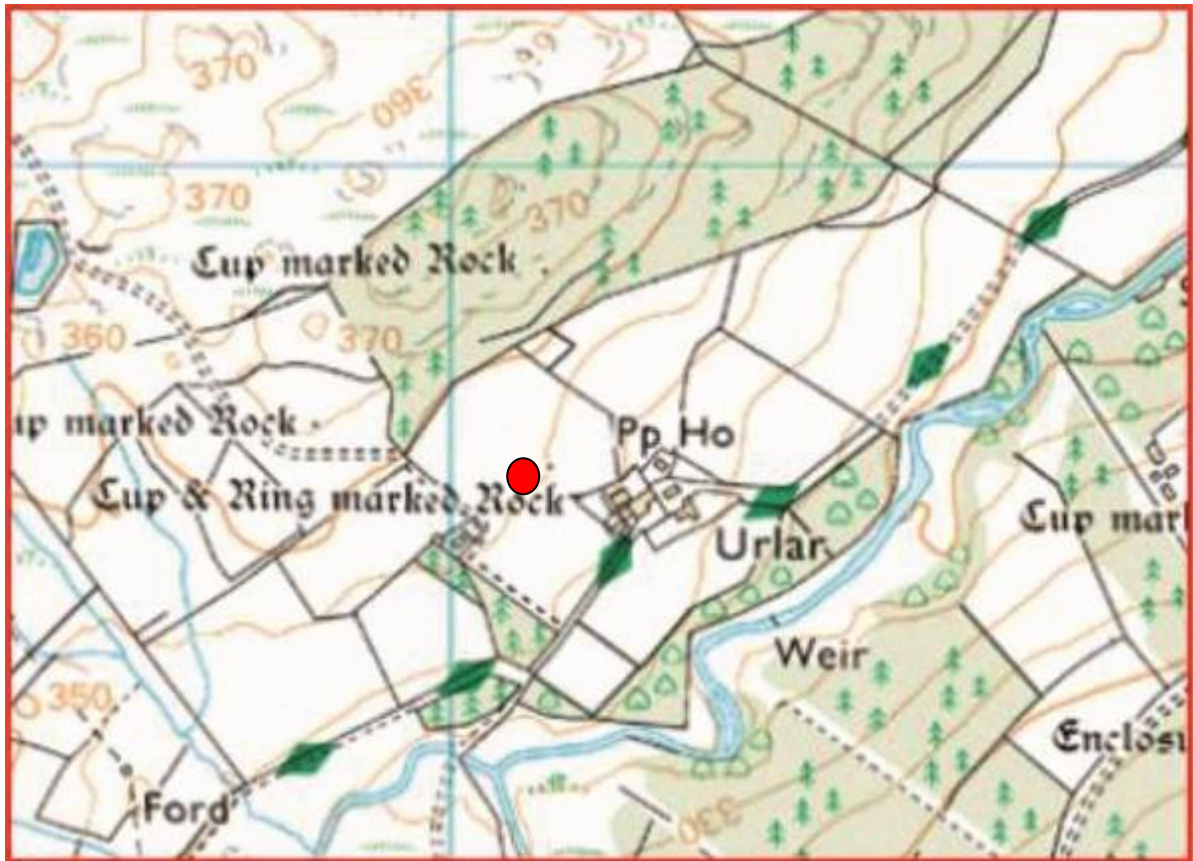


Illustration 1 Site Location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2014. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

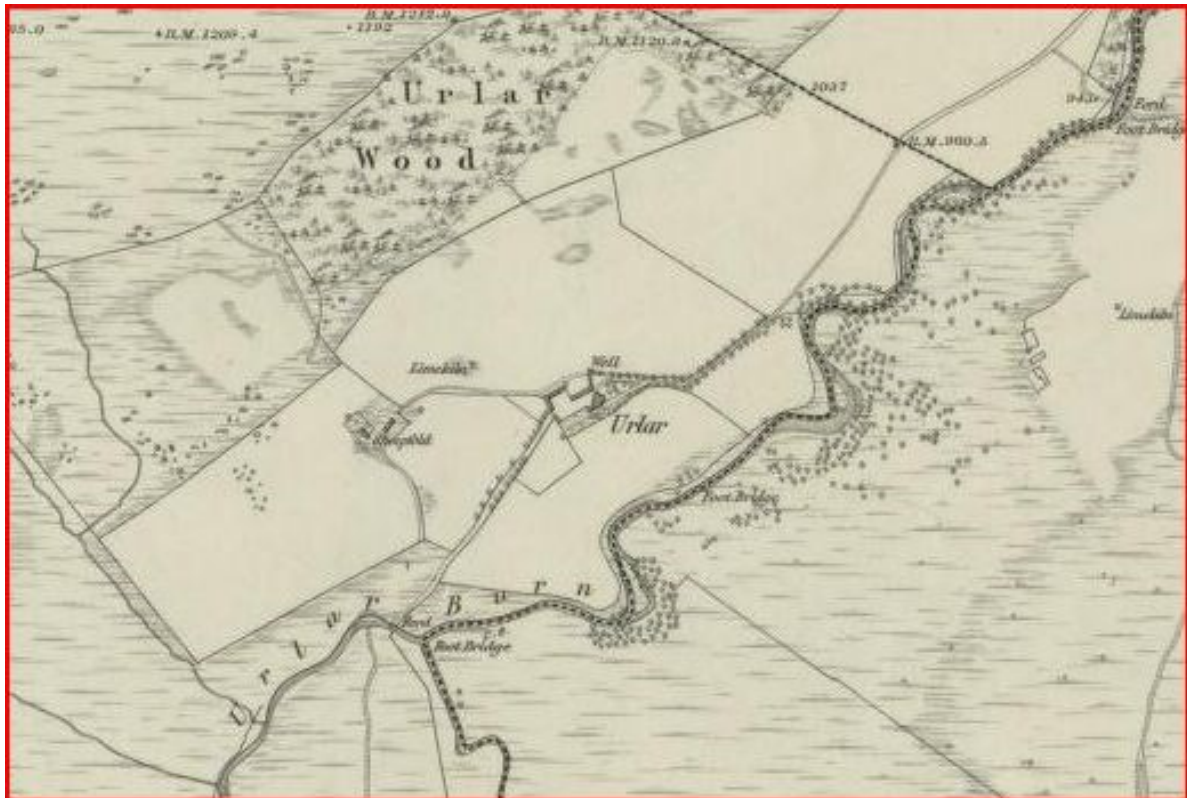


Illustration 2 Urlar as shown on First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867, the lime kiln is in the vicinity of the cup marked stones (©Trustees of the National Library)





Illustration 3 General view of location of cup marked rocks looking East, Urlar Farm in background



Illustration 4 and 5 Detail views of sets of cup marks

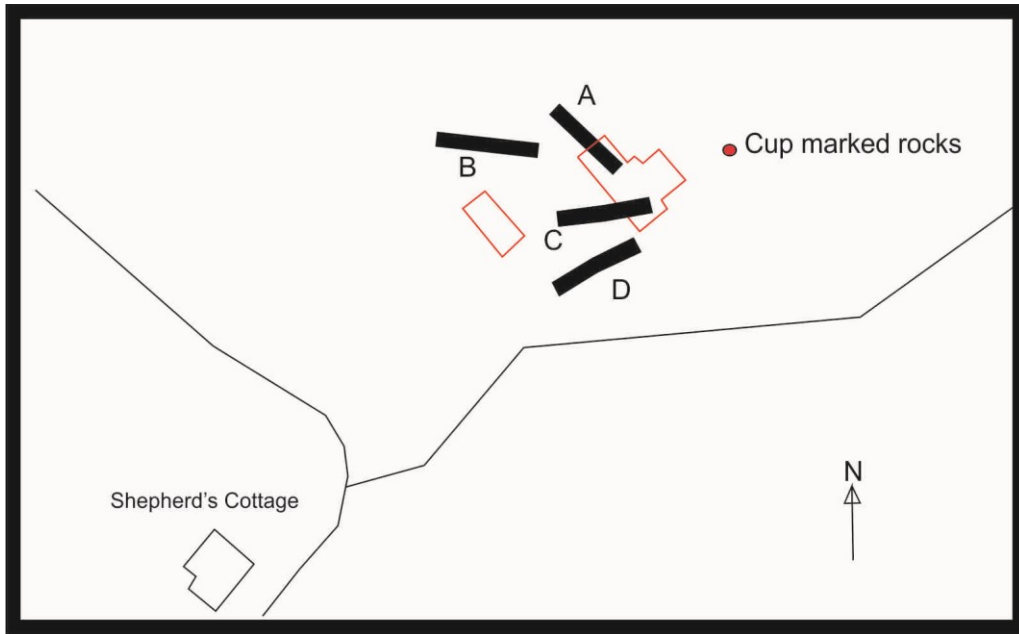


Illustration 6 Trench location in relation to footprint of new house and shed and the location of the cup marked rocks Scale 1:2000



Illustration 7 General view of site looking North East showing all four trenches open, location of cup marked rocks are indicated by red arrow



Illustration 8 General view of excavated Trench A looking north west showing natural broken stone and clay



Illustration 9 General view of excavated Trench B looking north north west showing natural broken stone and clay



Illustration 10 General view of excavated Trench C looking north north east showing natural broken stone and clay, knoll with cupmarks visible in background



Illustration 11 General view of excavated Trench D looking south south west showing natural broken stone and clay, Shepherd's Cottage visible in background.