

Archaeological Watching Brief  
Land adjacent to Church Cottage,  
School Road, Kettins, Perth and Kinross



Development site looking east, Kettins Church in background



14<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## **Introduction**

This archaeological watching brief was carried out for Mr Brian Lundie 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 12/01097/FLL, dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015. This work was carried out by the author on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (site code KET01). Weather conditions were bright and sunny.

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

The development site is located within an area that is considered to have archaeological potential given its location immediately to the west of Kettins church. Little is known about the early history and development of Kettins other than it probably dates to the early historic period. Documentary evidence indicates Kettins church, was founded in 13th century. A large Pictish cross-slab was discovered in use as a footbridge spanning the Burn in the 1860s and now stands within the churchyard. This slab and the use of the term 'abthen' in medieval documents suggest an early Christian monastic community may have been located at Kettins, as at Abernethy, Dunning and Dull. The proposed development site may therefore contain evidence of the early development of Kettins. Furthermore, the cropmarks of prehistoric archaeology have been identified to the west of the development area. The site is shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1898 as garden ground.

### **Archaeological Watching Brief (Illus 3 to 9)**

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust requested that all below ground excavations associated with the construction of a new house on this site should be monitored by an archaeologist.

#### **Foundation trenches for new house**

Prior to the presence of an archaeologist on the site it had been stripped of black topsoil to the top of a grey brown sandy subsoil (Illus 3). This soil was a consistent depth of 0.40m -0.50m across the site and did not contain anything of archaeological interest. The machine excavation of the new foundation trenches for the house was monitored archaeologically and a layer of grey brown subsoil was recorded overlying a natural grey sandy silt on the Western side of the site, a natural orange brown gravel and stones on the Northern side of the site and a natural brown sand on the Eastern and Southern sides. This subsoil deposit was 0.40m deep on the Western side of the site, 0.50m deep on the Northern side of the site and 0.20m deep on the Southern and Eastern sides. No archaeological finds, deposits or features were located.

#### **Recommendations**

Nothing of archaeological interest was revealed by the below ground excavations for the new building and it is recommended that no further archaeological work s are required. 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 Colin Davidson of Davidson Construction for operating the machine to dig the foundation trenches of the proposed building.

## **Illustration List**

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

Illustration 2 Site (outlined in red) as shown on Second Edition Ordnance survey map of 1898 (©Trustees of the National Library)

Illustration 3 Plan of excavated foundation trenches (based on supplied architects plan and field measurements) Scale 1:500

Illustration 4 Site after stripping of topsoil and marking out of proposed foundation lines looking North

Illustration 5 Development site before commencement of foundation works looking East (Kettins Church and Manse visible in background)

Illustration 6 Excavated foundation trenches at Western end of site (top of water table is visible)

Illustration 7 Excavated trench section showing subsoil sitting above natural grey sandy silt at Western end of site

Illustration 8 Excavated foundation trenches at Eastern end of site

Illustration 9 Excavated trench section showing grey brown subsoil above natural grey sandy silt at Eastern end of site

## Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land adjacent to Church Cottage, School Road, Kettins
PROJECT CODE:	KET01
PARISH:	Kettins
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 2375 3899
START DATE	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2015
END DATE	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	All below ground excavations for the construction of a new house to the West of Kettins Church were monitored. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr B Lundie
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

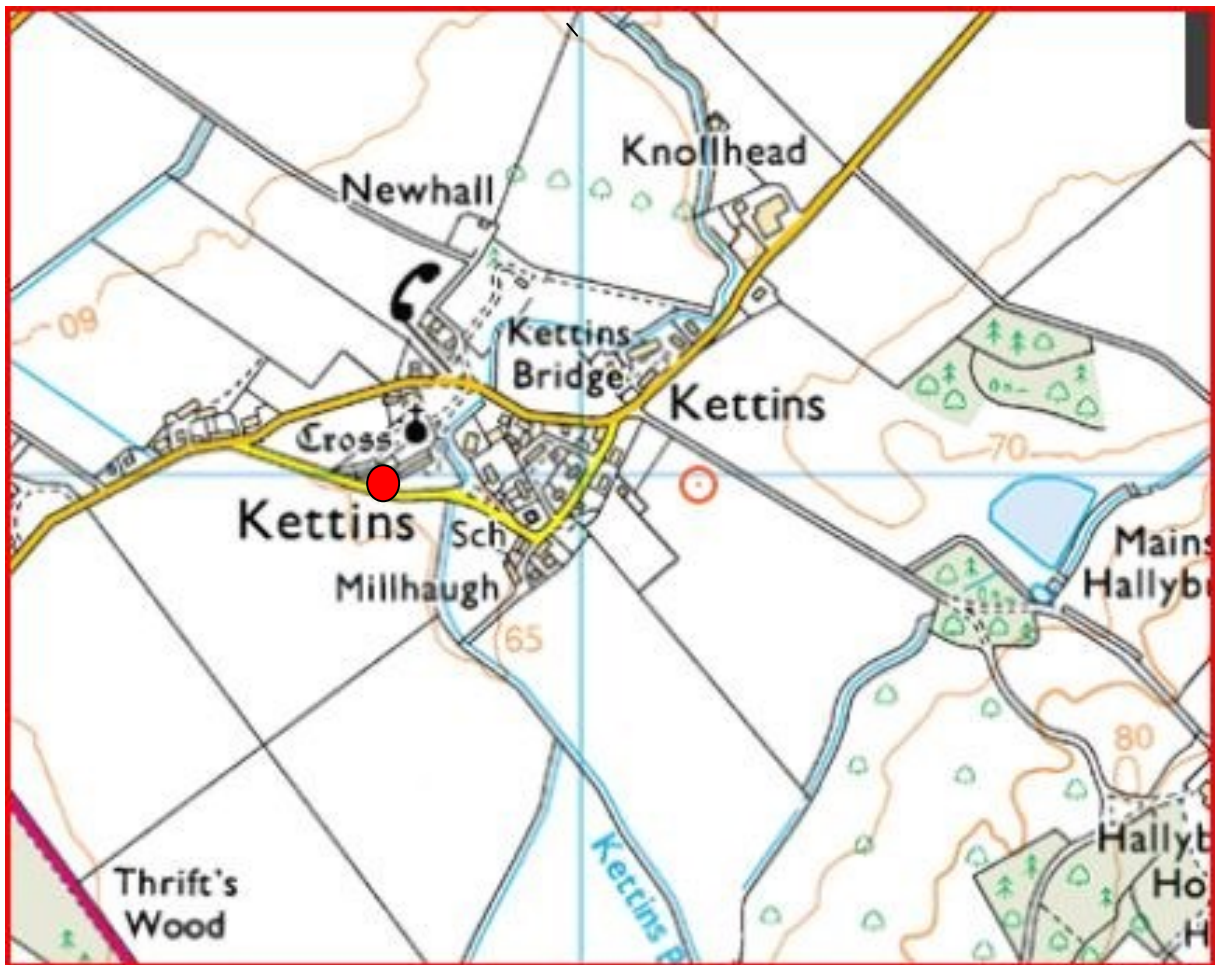


Illustration 1 Site Location (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2014. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

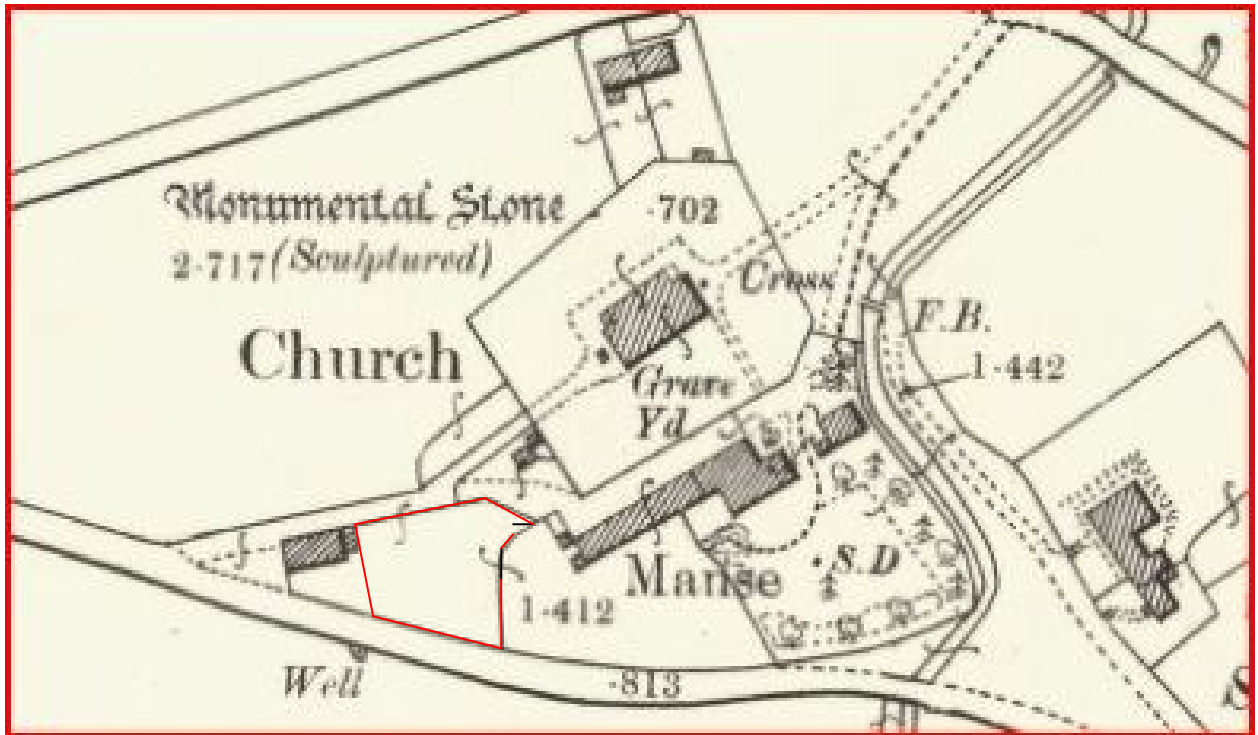


Illustration 2 Site (outlined in red) as shown on Second Edition Ordnance survey map of 1898  
(©Trustees of the National Library)

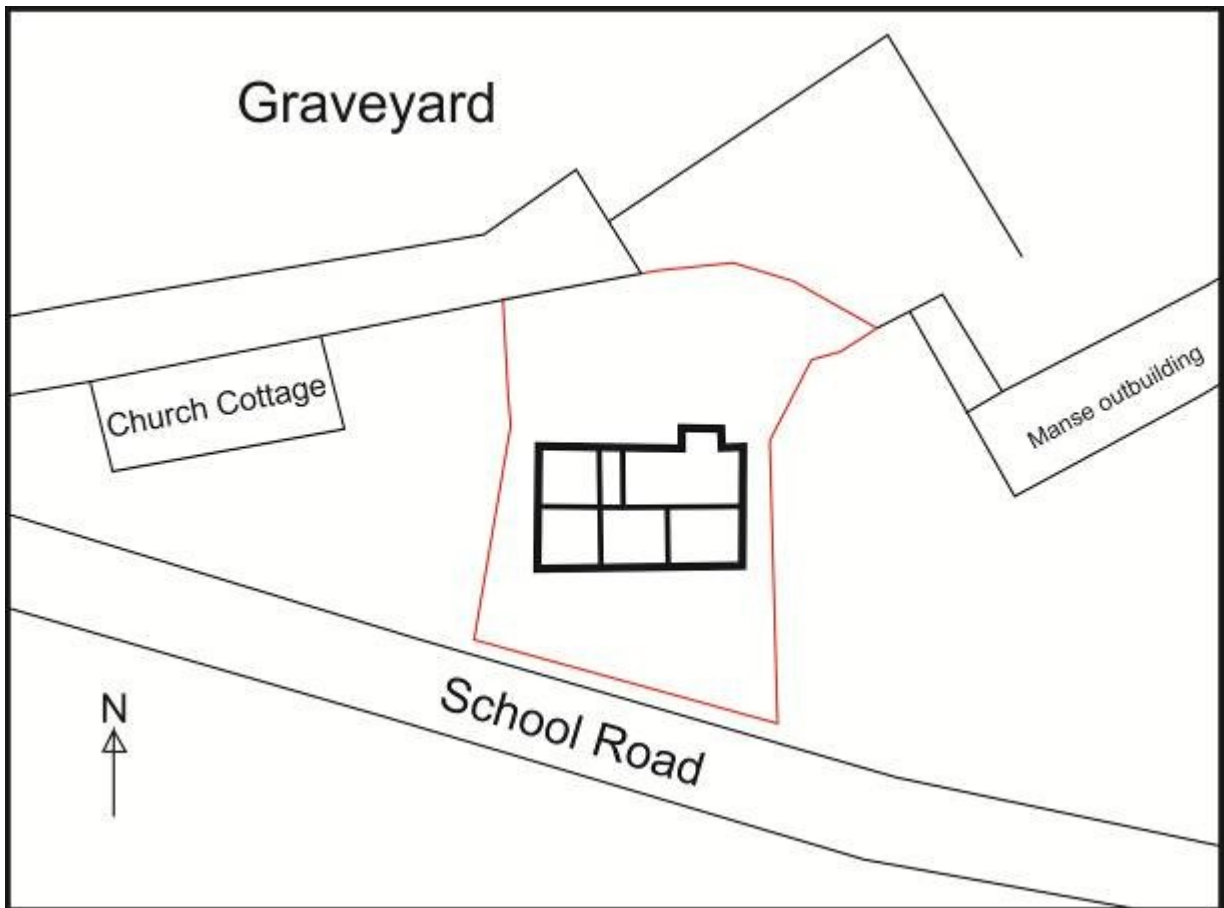


Illustration 3 Plan of excavated foundation trenches (based on supplied architects plan and field measurements) Scale 1:500





Illustration 4 Site after stripping of topsoil and marking out of proposed foundation lines looking North



Illustration 5 Development site before commencement of foundation works looking East (Kettins Church and Manse visible in background)



Illustration 6 Excavated foundation trenches at western end of site (top of water table is visible)



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