

Archaeological Watching Brief
New extension to
South Villa, Carmichael Farm, Longforgan



Aerial photograph looking West showing cropmarks of cursus heading in direction of South Villa (left hand house to bottom right) © RCAHMS



14th March 2016

Introduction

This archaeological watching brief was carried out for Mr R Laing and Mrs L Laing 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 15/01105/FLL, dated 6th August 2015. This work was carried out by the author on Tuesday 8th March and Thursday 10th March 2016 (site code LON03). Weather conditions were overcast and damp on the first visit and overcast and cold on the second visit.

Archaeological Background (Illus 1, 2)

An archaeological site known as a cursus has been identified from aerial photographic survey in the field immediately to the west of the development site. Cursus monuments date from the Neolithic period (c 3800BC to 2500BC) and are thought to be ceremonial enclosures or 'ways' associated with burial monuments such as mortuary enclosures and bank barrows. The monument is aligned WSW-ENE and is defined by two ditches, the northernmost of which may extend into the development site. Further archaeological sites, including a later prehistoric settlement, surviving beneath the topsoil have also been recorded in the vicinity of the development site, indicating the area's high archaeological potential. The settlement is protected as Scheduled Monument (SM 6506). No archaeological investigation was carried out when South Villa was built and it was felt that there was a possibility that archaeological remains associated with the cursus, or other archaeological features, may survive within the footprint of the new extension.

Watching Briefs (Illustrations 3 -11)

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

Footprint for extension

The initial machine stripping of the footprint of the new extension to a depth of 0.20m below modern ground level removed a grey brown silty clay with abundant stones (100). There were no finds from this material.

The machine digging of all of the foundation trenches for the new extension was then monitored. These are labelled alphabetically as shown on Illustration 4.

Main Eastern foundation trench(A) (Illus 6)

This trench was 0.75m wide and dug to a depth of 0.75m below existing ground level. 0.40m of grey brown silty clay (101) was removed to expose the top of an orange brown sandy gravel (102). A modern pipe trench containing a ceramic pipe was visible cutting across the North Eastern end of this trench. There were no finds from this trench.

Internal Eastern trench for wall division(B)(Illus 7 and 8)

This trench was also 0.75m wide and was dug to depth of 0.50m below the stripped footprint. 0.20m of grey brown silty clay (106) was removed to expose the top of an orange brown sandy gravel (105). A single cut feature (103) was located in the eastern section of this trench. 102 was 0.90m wide from North to South and 0.50m deep (to formation level). It was filled with a dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional orange gravel bands (104) and produced no finds or charcoal.

Internal Western trench for wall division(C)(Illus 9)

This was 0.75m wide and was dug to a depth of 0.35m below the stripped footprint. 0.10m of grey brown sandy clay (107) was removed to expose the top of an orange brown sandy gravel (108). There were no finds from this trench

Main Northern foundation trench (D)(Illus 10)

This was 0.75m wide and was dug to a depth of 1m below the modern ground level. 0.40m of black sandy topsoil (109) was machined off onto a grey brown sandy clay (110) which was 0.65m deep and overlay an orange brown sandy gravel (111). There were no finds from this trench.

Main Western foundation trench (E)(Illus 11)

This was 0.75m wide and was dug to a depth of 0.65m below the modern ground level. 0.20m of grey brown sandy clay (112) was machined off to the top of orange brown sandy gravel (113). There were no finds from this trench.

Discussion and Recommendations

Monitoring of the excavations of the foundations for the new house extension located no evidence relating to the line of the cursus. Any features encountered were existing trenches for drainage pipes and electrical cables, there was a single cut feature (102) which could potentially be of an earlier date but this produced no datable finds or charcoal. Following these watching briefs it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Chris, George and Del for their help and interest during the machining.

Reference

Context List

- 100 Orange brown silty clay with abundant stones
- 101 Grey brown silty clay
- 102 Orange brown sandy gravel
- 103 Cut feature
- 104 Dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional orange gravel bands
- 105 Orange brown sandy gravel
- 106 Grey brown silty clay
- 107 Grey brown silty clay
- 108 Orange brown sandy gravel
- 109 Black sandy topsoil
- 110 Grey brown sandy clay
- 111 Orange brown sandy gravel
- 112 Grey brown sandy clay
- 113 Orange brown sandy gravel

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	South Villa, Carmichael Farm, Longforgan
PROJECT CODE:	LON03
PARISH:	Longforgan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Briefs
NMRS NO(S):	NO33SW 50; NO33SW 39
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cursus; Field boundaries, pits, rig and furrow, ring and ditch house
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 2188 3774
START DATE	8 th March 2016
END DATE	10 th March 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Watching briefs were carried out on the excavation of foundation trenches for a new house extension. A single undated cut feature was recorded.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr R and Mrs L Laing
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 List

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

Illustration 2 General view of cropmarks to West of site looking South, line of cursus marked with red arrows (©RCAHMS <https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1093709>)

Illustration 3 Site plan showing location of new extension (based on supplied architects plan)

Illustration 4 Site plan showing excavated foundation trenches (as labelled in text) and location of single cut feature (103). Existing house in black, chain dot line shows site boundary (Scale 1:200 based on supplied architects drawing)

Illustration 5 General view of site of new extension looking West, wall lines marked out in yellow

Illustration 6 Excavated trench for Eastern wall line (A) looking South

Illustration 7 Excavated trench for eastern internal wall division (B) looking South East, red arrow indicates location of cut feature 103.

Illustration 8 Cut feature 103 (marked with red arrow) located in section of internal eastern wall division looking East

Illustration 9 General view of excavated line of western internal wall (C) looking South, showing line of existing services.

Illustration 10 Excavated line of northern wall trench (D) looking West.

Illustration 11 Excavated line of western wall line (E) looking North East.

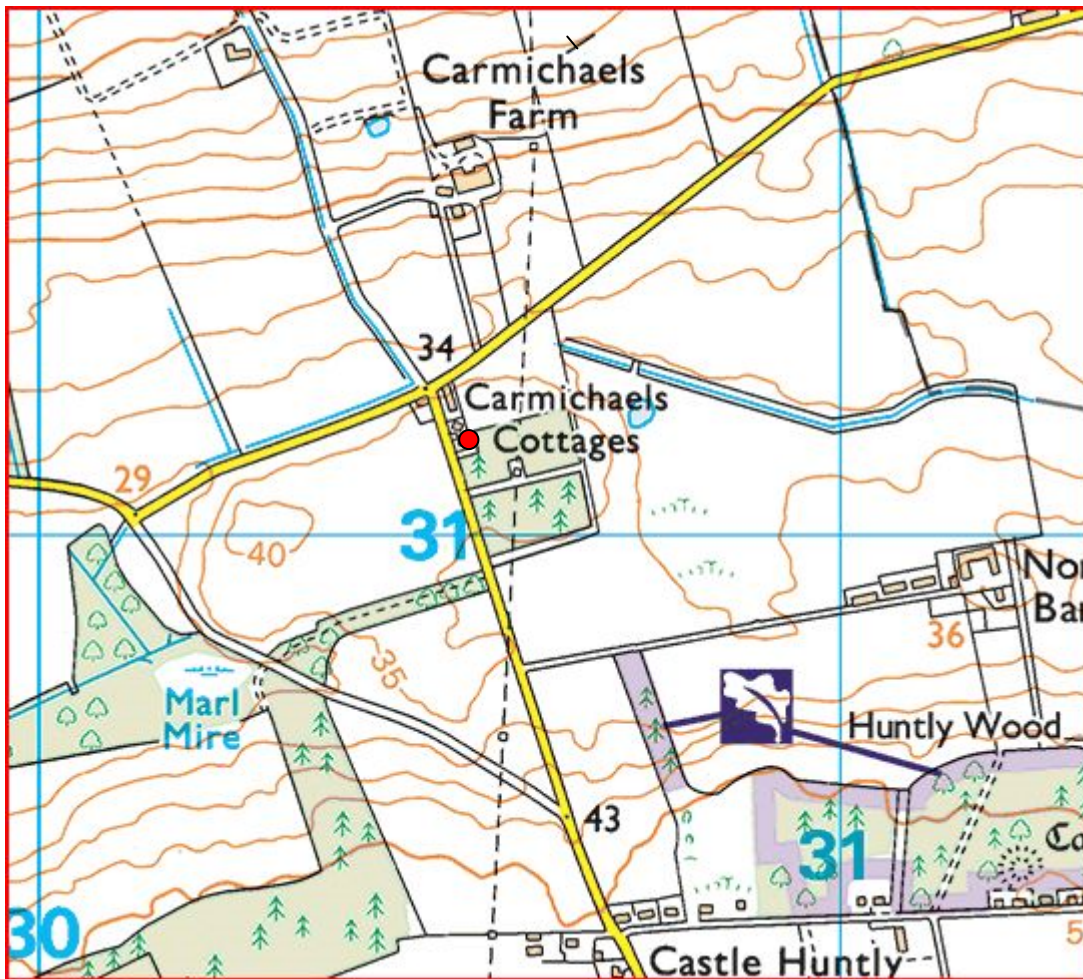


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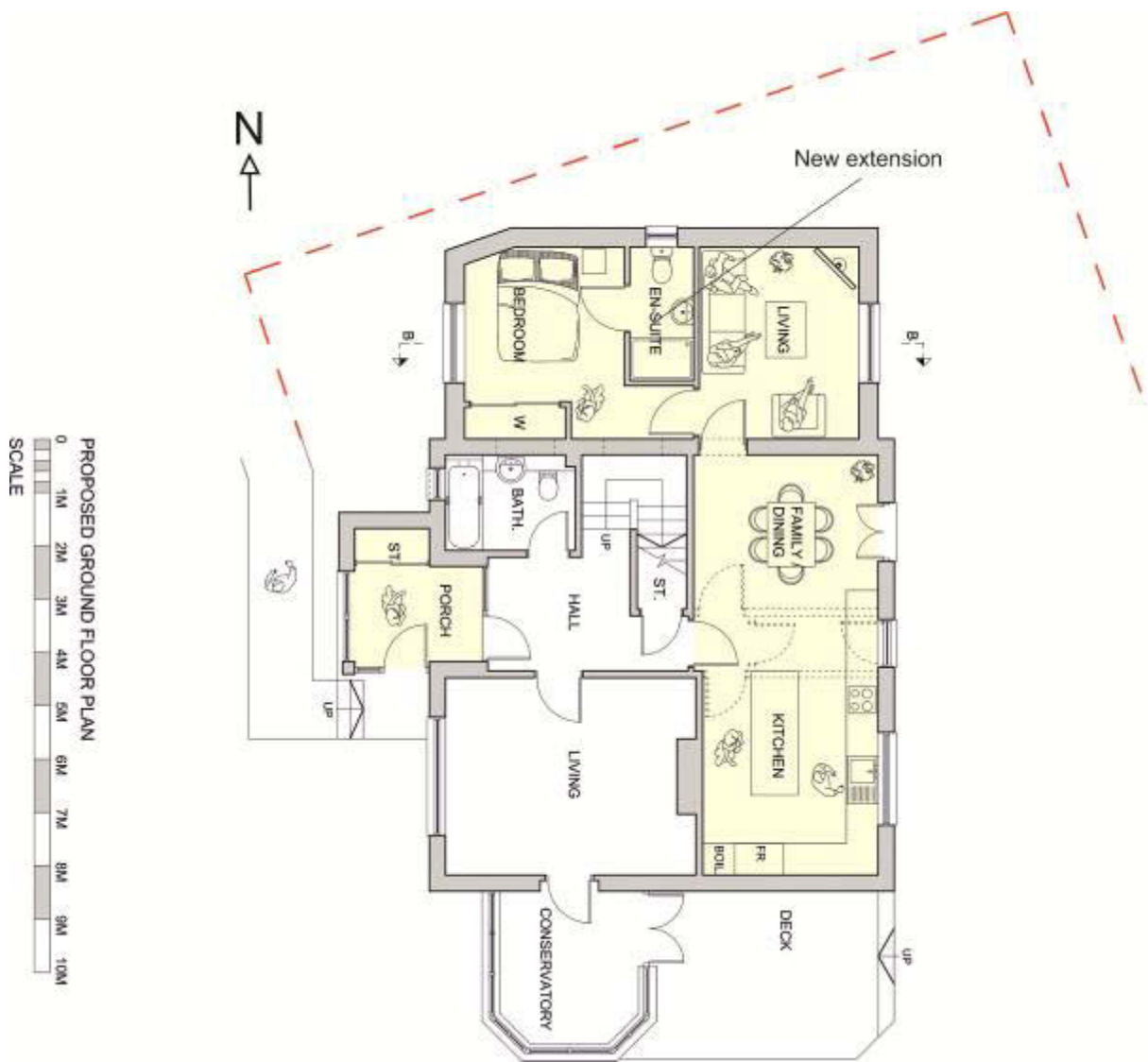


Illustration 3 Site plan showing location of new extension (based on supplied architects plan)

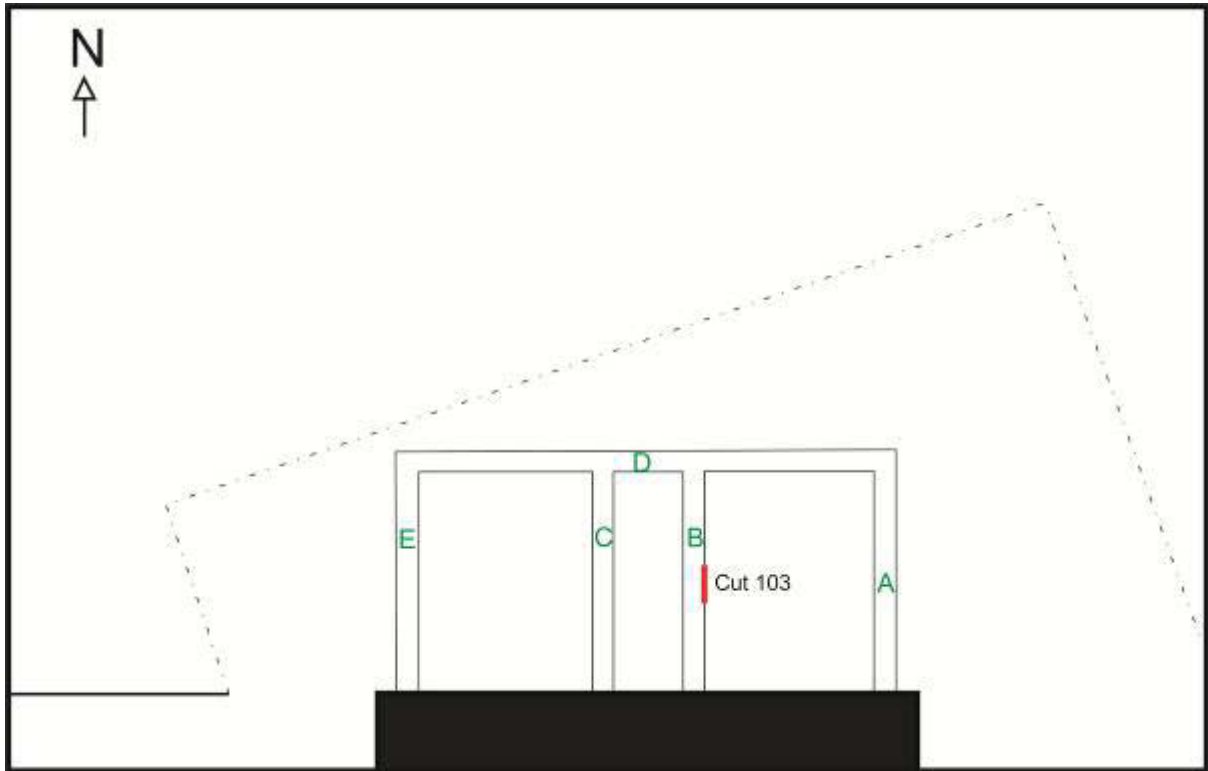


Illustration 4 Site plan showing excavated foundation trenches (as labelled in text) and location of single cut feature (103). Existing house in black, chain dot line shows site boundary (Scale 1:200 based on supplied architects drawing)



Illustration 5 General view of site of new extension looking West, wall lines marked out in yellow



Illustration 6 Excavated trench for Eastern wall line (A) looking South



Illustration 7 Excavated trench for eastern internal wall division (B) looking South East, red arrow indicates location of cut feature 103.



Illustration 8 Cut feature 103 (marked with red arrow) located in section of internal eastern wall division (B) looking East.



Illustration 9 General view of excavated line of western internal wall (C) looking South showing line of existing services.



Illustration 10 Excavated line of northern wall trench (D) looking West.



Illustration 11 Excavated line of western wall line (E) looking North East.