

# Archaeological Evaluation

## West Woodend, Ballathie, Perth and Kinross



The Ballathie barrow looking South from development site boundary



30<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## **Introduction**

This archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed new house and its associated infrastructure was undertaken for Mr W 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 regarding Planning Application (18/01366/FLL) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. It should be noted, however, that if further work and/or mitigation is required, these archaeological works may not be enough to satisfy the relevant conditions on their own. This work took place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (Site Code WOOD01) weather conditions were slightly overcast and windy.

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

The proposed development site lies within an area that is considered to have archaeological potential given its location directly to the north of a prehistoric monument that may be a burial mound or badly damaged stone circle

Whilst the exact date of this monument is unknown, it is likely to have been in use at some point between the late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (c 3000BC to c 2000BC). In 1909 Fred Coles reports that 'when the mound was being excavated for its sand, several stone cists were disclosed, and human remains were found. These, so far as I have yet been able to ascertain, were not preserved; but some of the partly broken side and end-stones of the cists may yet be seen protruding from the inner face of this Circle' (Coles 1909, 121). It is not clear from this description what date these burial cists may have been. Although the Ballathie Barrow has been mutilated by this sand extraction there remains the potential for significant remains – for example, cist burials associated with the barrow - to survive below ground within the development plot.

## **Site Evaluation (Illustration 2)**

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust requested that a 10% sample of the development area was trenched to assess for the presence of archaeological remains. A total of twelve trenches were therefore opened across the development plot, five of these measuring 15m by 2m were opened close to the site of the Ballathie barrow, the other seven trenches measuring 30m by 2m were randomly placed to sample the remainder of the proposed development area. There were no excavation trenches opened within the 10m wide protective corridor which had been defined to the West of the trees.

### **Trenches 3 to 7 (Illustrations 5 to 10)**

These five trenches were located near the site of the Ballathie barrow to test for associated satellite burials or other features.

#### *Trench 3 (Illus 5)*

This trench measured 15m in length and was 2m wide. 0.42m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and abundant stones. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

#### *Trench 4 (Illus 6)*

This trench measured 15m in length and was 2m wide. 0.31m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and abundant stones. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

#### *Trench 5 (Illus 7)*

This trench measured 15m in length and was 2m wide. 0.45m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and abundant stones. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

#### *Trench 6 (Illus 8)*

This trench measured 15m in length and was 2m wide. 0.21m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and abundant stones. Nothing of archaeological interest was exposed.

#### *Trench 7 (Illus 9)*

This trench measured 15m in length and was 2m wide. 0.22m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and abundant stones. Nothing of archaeological interest was exposed.

### **Discussion (Illus 10)**

All these trenches exposed varying shallow depths of topsoil/plough soil above natural sandy clay and stones. No archaeological features or deposits associated with the Ballathie barrow were located.

### **Trenches 1, 2 and 8 to 12 (Illustrations 3, 4 and 11 to 22)**

These seven trenches were opened to sample the remainder of the proposed development area.

#### *Trench 1 (Illus 3)*

This trench measured 30m in length and was 2m wide. 0.23m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy gravel and abundant stones. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

#### *Trench 2 (Illus 4)*

This trench measured 30m in length and was 2m wide. 0.25m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy gravel and abundant stones. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.

#### *Trench 8 (Illus 11)*

This trench measured 30m in length and was 2m wide. At its Eastern end 0.35m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and abundant stones. At its Western end the topsoil was 0.33m deep over natural. Nothing of archaeological interest was exposed.

#### *Trench 9 (Illus 12 to 19)*

This trench measured 30m in length and was 2m wide. At its South Eastern end 0.40m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and abundant stones. At its North Western end 0.37m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and abundant stones. A single cut feature 903 was exposed cut into the natural, this was filled with 902 a dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional stones. Fill 902 produced two sherds of handmade Redware pottery containing very abundant volcanic stone inclusions and a single piece of clear modern glass.

#### *Trench 10 (Illus 20)*

This trench measured 30m in length and was 2m wide. At its South Western end 0.32m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and gravel, at its North Eastern end 0.12m of dark brown black topsoil over the natural. Nothing of archaeological interest was exposed.

#### *Trench 11 (Illus 21)*

This trench measured 30m in length and was 2m wide. At its North Eastern end 0.30m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and gravel, at its South Western end 0.34m of dark brown black topsoil overlay natural. Nothing of archaeological interest was exposed.

### *Trench 12 (Illus 22)*

This trench measured 30m in length and was 2m wide. At its Western end 0.21m of dark brown black topsoil overlay a natural orange brown sandy clay and gravel, at its Eastern end 0.30m of dark brown black topsoil overlay natural. Nothing of archaeological interest was exposed.

### **Discussion and Conclusions**

The five trenches opened near the Ballathie barrow located only dark brown black topsoil overlaying a natural orange brown sandy clay and abundant stone, there was no evidence for any archaeological deposits or features. Of the other seven trenches across the proposed development area only Trench 9 contained a single cut feature (F903) of archaeological interest, probably a small pit or posthole. Finds from this feature include two sherds of Prehistoric pottery (probably Bronze Age) (Illus 18), the same fill also contained a piece of modern glass (Illus 19). The presence of the glass suggests that this possible Prehistoric feature had been slightly disturbed at some point in time, the pot sherds are not abraded suggesting that they have not been moved around on site and are in situ. A charcoal sample was taken from fill 902.

### **Recommendations**

This site evaluation only located one feature of archaeological interest on the North Western edge of the development area. The site of the proposed new house and associated soakways lie on parts of the site that showed no evidence for archaeological deposits or features. It seems likely that further Prehistoric settlement may lie on the plateau to the West of the boundary of this development site and any future planning applications for this area should be considered for potential archaeological implications.

The author feels that the evaluation of this site suggests that there is no need for any further work prior to any development. 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 the sites developer Mr W Reid for his help with the on-site machining. He would also like to thank Dr Ann MacSween of HES for her views on the pieces of pottery.

### **Reference**

Coles, F R 1909 'Report on Stone Circles surveyed in Perthshire (South East District), with measured plans and drawings obtained under the Gunning Fellowship' *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 44 (1909-10), 93-130

## **Illustration List**

Illustration 1 - Location of site at West Woodend, Kinclaven (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2007. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illustration 2 Location of excavated trenches 1 to 12, location of F903 in Trench 9 is marked, red line indicates site boundary, yellow areas show sites of new house and soakaways. Chain dot line indicates boundary of tree protection zone. Black circle shows the position of the Ballathie barrow.

Illustration 3-Trench 1 fully excavated looking West

Illustration 4- Trench 2 fully excavated looking East

Illustration 5- Trench 3 fully excavated looking North East

Illustration 6- Trench 4 fully excavated looking East

Illustration 7- Trench 5 fully excavated looking North East

Illustration 8- Trench 6 fully excavated looking North East

Illustration 9- Trench 7 fully excavated looking North East

Illustration 10-Trenches 4 to 7 looking North East from the top of the Ballathie barrow

Illustration 11- Trench 8 fully excavated looking South

Illustration 12- Trench 9 fully excavated looking North East

Illustration 13- Northern end of Trench 9 showing cut feature 903 looking West (Trench 1 visible in background)

Illustration 14- Cut feature 903 half sectioned looking West

Illustration 15-Cut feature 903 fully excavated looking West

Illustration 16- Trench 9 looking South West showing cut feature 903's (yellow arrow) relationship to the Ballathie barrow (red arrow)

Illustration 17- F903 at Northern end of Trench 9, plan at 1:20 and half section at 1:10

Illustration 18- Two sherds of Prehistoric pottery (Bronze Age?) from fill 902 in F903 in Trench 9

Illustration 19-piece of modern clear glass from fill 902 in F903

Illustration 20- Trench 10 fully excavated looking South East

Illustration 21- Trench 11 fully excavated looking South East

Illustration 22- Trench 12 fully excavated looking South

## Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

|  |   |
|--|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY:   | Perth and Kinross   |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:   | West Woodend, Kinclaven   |
| PROJECT CODE:  | WOOD01  |
| PARISH:  | Kinclaven   |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):  | Derek Hall  |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION:  | Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist  |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:  | Archaeological Evaluation   |
| NMRS NO(S):  | NO13NW 3  |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):   | Site lies adjacent to the Ballathie barrow  |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS:   | 2 sherds of Prehistoric pottery   |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)   | NO 1359 3700  |
| START DATE   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2018   |
| END DATE   | 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2018   |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)  | N/A   |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:<br>(May include information from other fields) | A 10% evaluation of the site of a proposed new house and its associated infrastructure to the East of the Ballathie barrow located one small pit that contained two sherds of Prehistoric pottery and a single piece of modern window glass. Nothing of archaeological interest was found in the other eleven trenches. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:  | Not Known   |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:   | Mr W Reid   |
| CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS  | N/A   |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:   | 34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP   |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)  | NMRS  |



Illustration 1 - Location of site at West Woodend, Kinclaven (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2007. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)



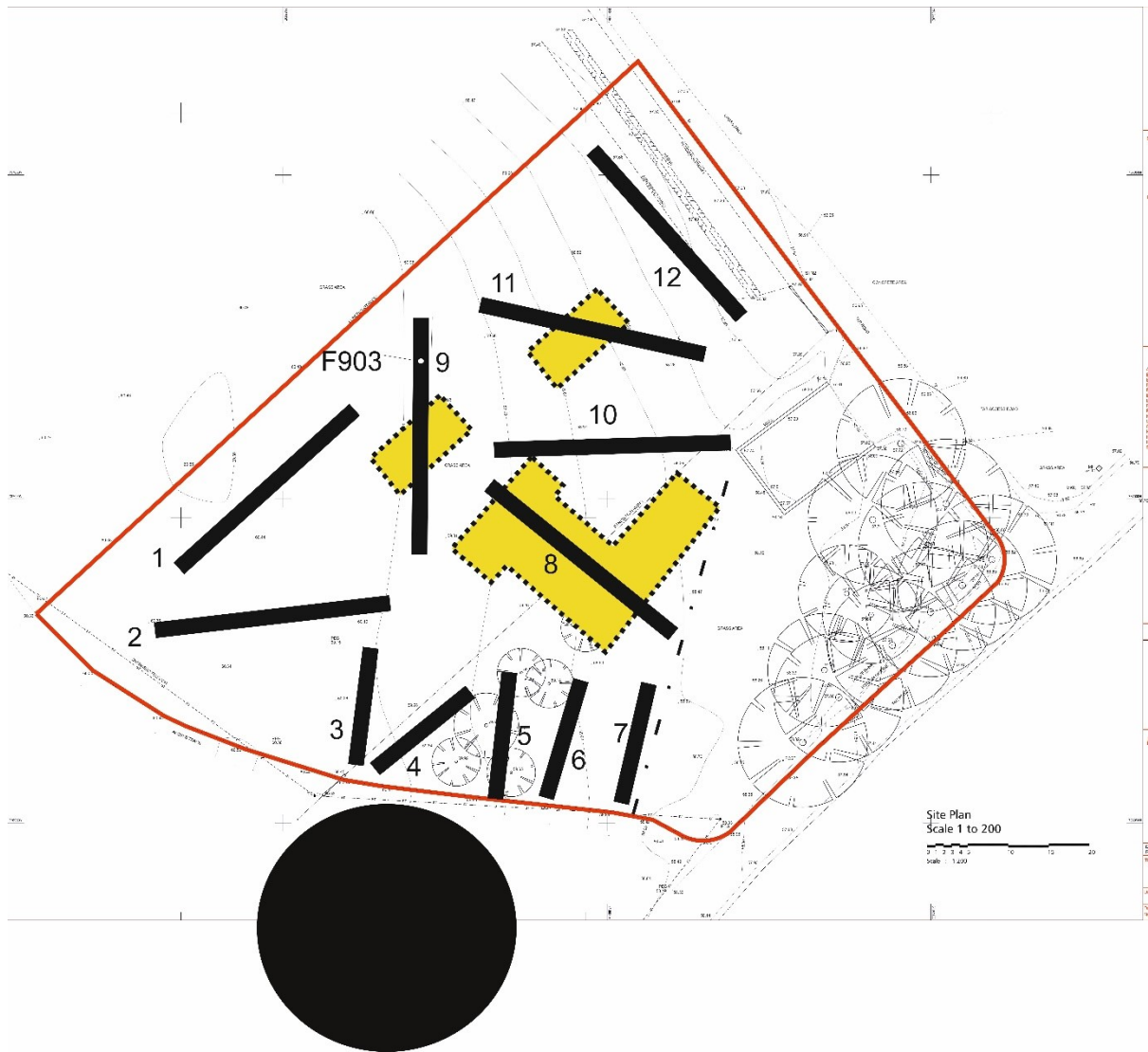


Illustration 2- Location of excavated trenches 1 to 12, location of F903 in Trench 9 is marked, red line indicates site boundary, yellow areas show sites of new house and soakaways. Chain dot line indicates boundary of tree protection zone. Black circle shows the position of the Ballathie barrow.



Illustration 3-Trench 1 fully excavated looking South West



Illustration 4- Trench 2 fully excavated looking East





Illustration 5- Trench 3 fully excavated looking North



Illustration 6- Trench 4 fully excavated looking North





Illustration 7- Trench 5 fully excavated looking North East



Illustration 8- Trench 6 fully excavated looking North East





Illustration 9- Trench 7 fully excavated looking North





Illustration 10-Trenches 4 to 7 looking North East from the top of the Ballathie barrow



Illustration 11- Trench 8 fully excavated looking South East





Illustration 12- Trench 9 fully excavated looking North West





Illustration 13- Northern end of Trench 9 showing cut feature 903 looking West (Trench 1 visible in background)





Illustration 14- Cut feature 903 half sectioned looking West



Illustration 15-Cut feature 903 fully excavated looking West





Illustration 16- Trench 9 looking South showing cut feature 903's (yellow arrow) relationship to the Ballathie barrow (red arrow)

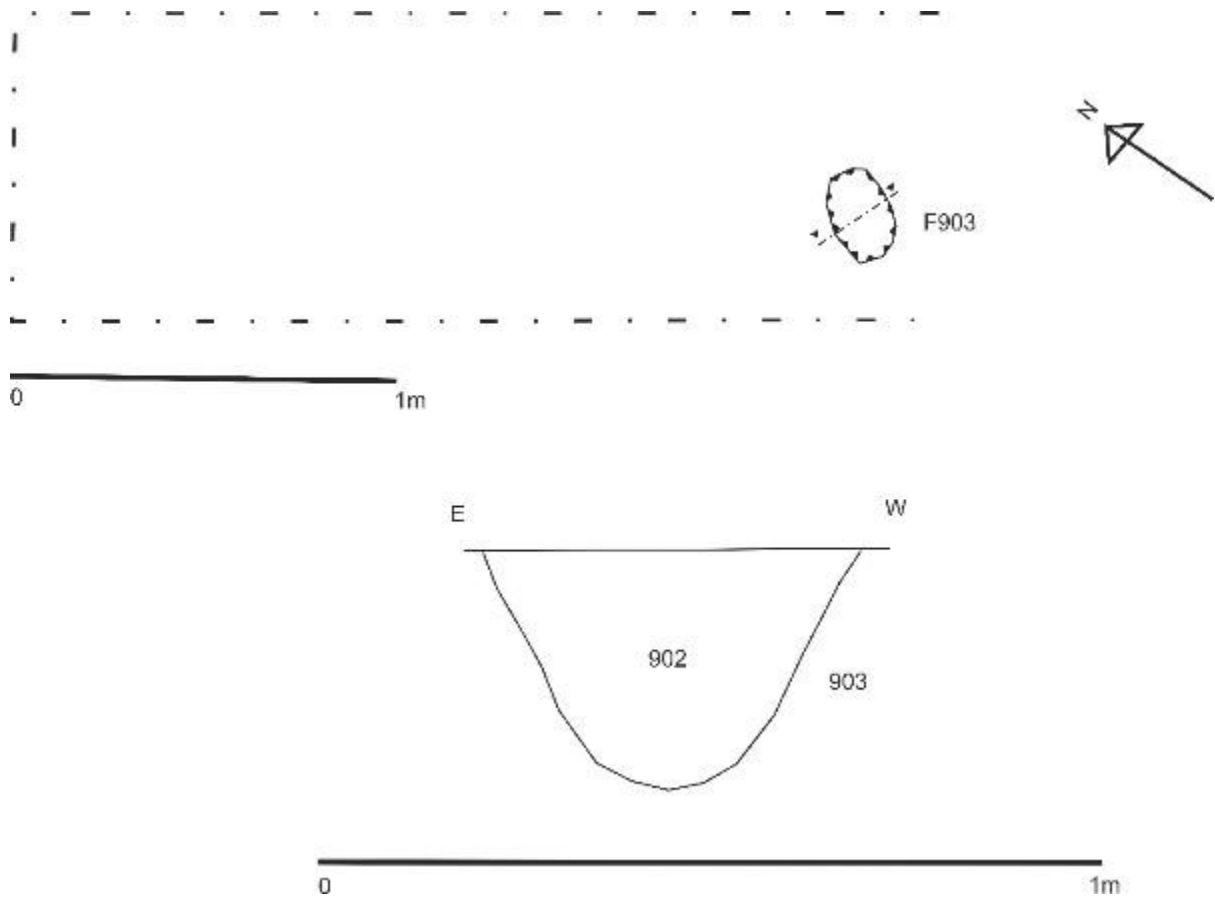


Illustration 17- F903 at Northern end of Trench 9, plan at 1:20 and half section at 1:10





Illustration 18- Two sherds of Prehistoric pottery (Bronze Age?) from fill 902 in F903 in Trench 9

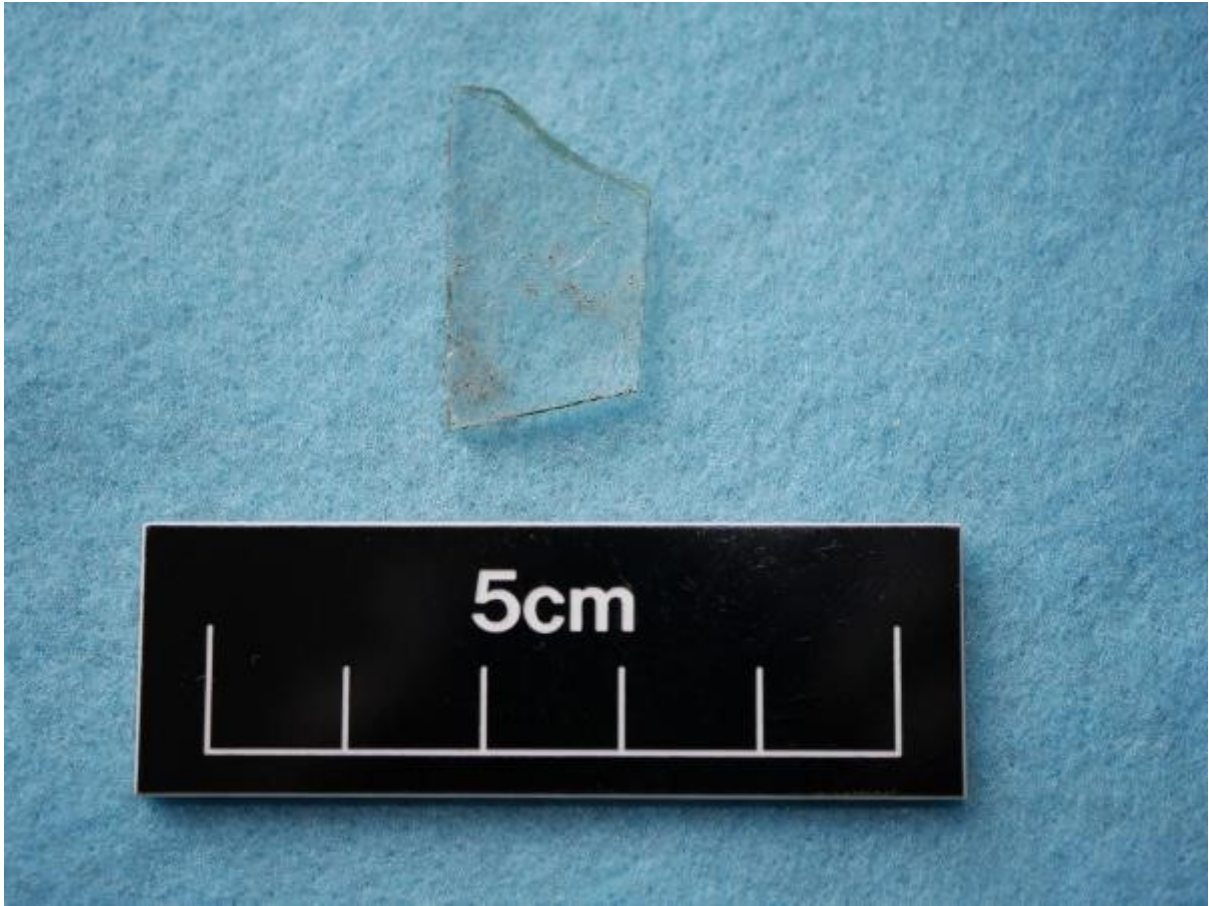


Illustration 19-piece of modern clear glass from fill 902 in F903



Illustration 20- Trench 10 fully excavated looking East





Illustration 21- Trench 11 fully excavated looking East



Illustration 22- Trench 12 fully excavated looking South