

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 Newbarns Cottage, Inverkeilor.

Angus



Oblique aerial photograph of cropmarks surrounding Newbarns Cottage (© CANMORE)



19th August 2019

Introduction (Illus 1)

This programme of archaeological works was carried out for Ms Susan Stewart to satisfy the archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development noted by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Services (on behalf of Angus Council) in the Terms of Reference for this development 18/00884/FUL, dated 16th January 2019. It was undertaken by the author on Wednesday 14th August 2019 (site code NEW01); weather conditions were cloudy with occasional showers.

Archaeological Background (Illustration 2)

Newbarns Farm Cottages are surrounded on the north, east and south by previously recorded archaeological sites. Wrapping around the south and the east of the development site is the archaeology site NO64NE0046, an extensive area of cropmarks indicating prehistoric settlement part of which is designated as a Scheduled Monument (SM 6361). On the north side of the unclassified road (which bounds the development site on the north), are two further areas of cropmarks (Angus SMR NO64NE0026 and NO64NE0049), indicating prehistoric settlement, farming and funerary activity, both sites having been subject to archaeological investigation. The latter of these two sites is considered to be of regional significance. Although the proposed development site was small, it was felt that the density of archaeological remains in the immediate surrounding landscape indicated the potential for previously unrecorded archaeology within the development site.

Foundation trenches for new extensions to existing building (Illustrations 3 to 10)

The machine and hand excavation of the foundation trenches for the new extension to the Eastern side of the cottage were monitored.

Foundation Trenches (Illustrations 3 to 10)

Three joining trenches 0.75m wide and 0.45m deep were opened to form the Northern, Eastern and Southern sides of the new extension. Generally, across the footprint 0.10m of turf was removed to reveal 0.40m of grey brown sandy clay (200). On the Western side of the footprint a linear feature (202) was revealed running East to West for a distance of 2m, this was filled with loose mixed gravel, slate and sandy clay (203) and was 0.14m deep (Illustration 6). This feature was probably a former fence line associated with the cottage. 200 was then removed to reveal natural yellow brown sand (201). On the Northern side of the new extension 200 was overlain by 0.30m of gravel laid on plastic bags (204) and natural sand 201 was revealed at a depth of 0.54m.

Finds (Illustration 12)

The fill of linear feature 203 contained sherds of Early Modern Tin Glazed Earthenware (1920's). There were no other finds.

Soakaway (Illustrations 3 and 11)

A trench measuring 2m by 1m was opened to the East of the extension to a depth of 0.50m. 0.10m of turf overlay a light brown sandy clay (100) which was 0.30m deep. 100 overlay yellow brown sand 101. There were no finds and nothing of archaeological interest.

Conclusions

The excavation of the footprint and foundation trenches for the new extension on the Eastern side of 1 Newbarn's Cottage only revealed a single feature of Early Modern date (a former fence line?), there was no sign of anything relating to the extensive cropmark features visible in neighbouring fields. The soakaway trench revealed a similar sequence of soils and nothing of archaeological interest.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Gavin and Curly of MCK Construction for their interest and good humour during these excavations.

Context List

Soakaway

100 Light brown sandy clay

101 Yellow brown sand

Foundations for extension

200 Grey brown sandy clay

201 Yellow brown sand

202 Linear cut

203 Loose mixed gravel, slate and sandy clay

Finds List

Context 203 – 2 bodysherds of Transfer printed tin glazed earthenware.

Illustration List

Illustration 1 Site Location (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2016. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illustration 2 Map showing Scheduled Monument No 6361 adjacent to site at 1 Newbarn's Cottage (red arrow) (<http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM6361>)

Illustration 3- Plan of site at 1 Newbarns Cottage showing location of new extension and soakaway (based on Architect's Plan).

Illustration 4- Plan of excavated foundation trenches (in red) and position of linear feature 202. Existing cottage shown in black.

Illustration 5- General view of site of new extension prior to excavation looking North.

Illustration 6- General view of footprint of extension showing linear feature 202 and its gravel and stone fill 203.

Illustration 7- Southern foundation trench totally excavated showing Context 200 lying on natural sand 201.

Illustration 8- Eastern foundation trench totally excavated showing Context 200 lying above natural sand 201 looking South East.

Illustration 9- Northern foundation trench totally excavated showing Context 200 lying above natural sand 201, gravel and plastic 204 visible in section.

Illustration 10- General view of totally excavated footprint and foundation trenches for new extension.

Illustration 11- Trench for soakaway totally excavated showing Context 100 overlying Natural sand 101.

Illustration 12- Bodysheerds of Early Modern Tin Glazed Earthenware from Context 203.

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

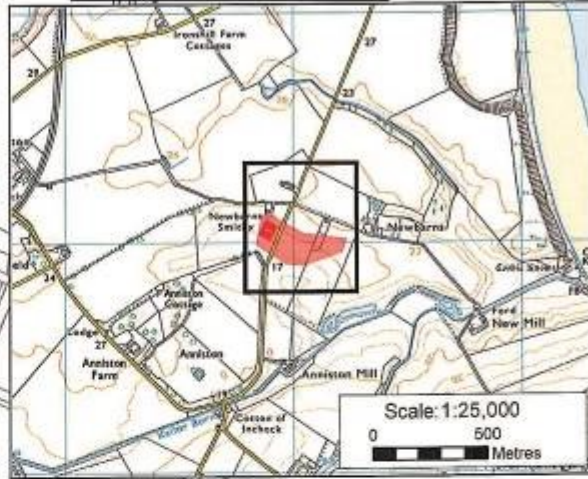
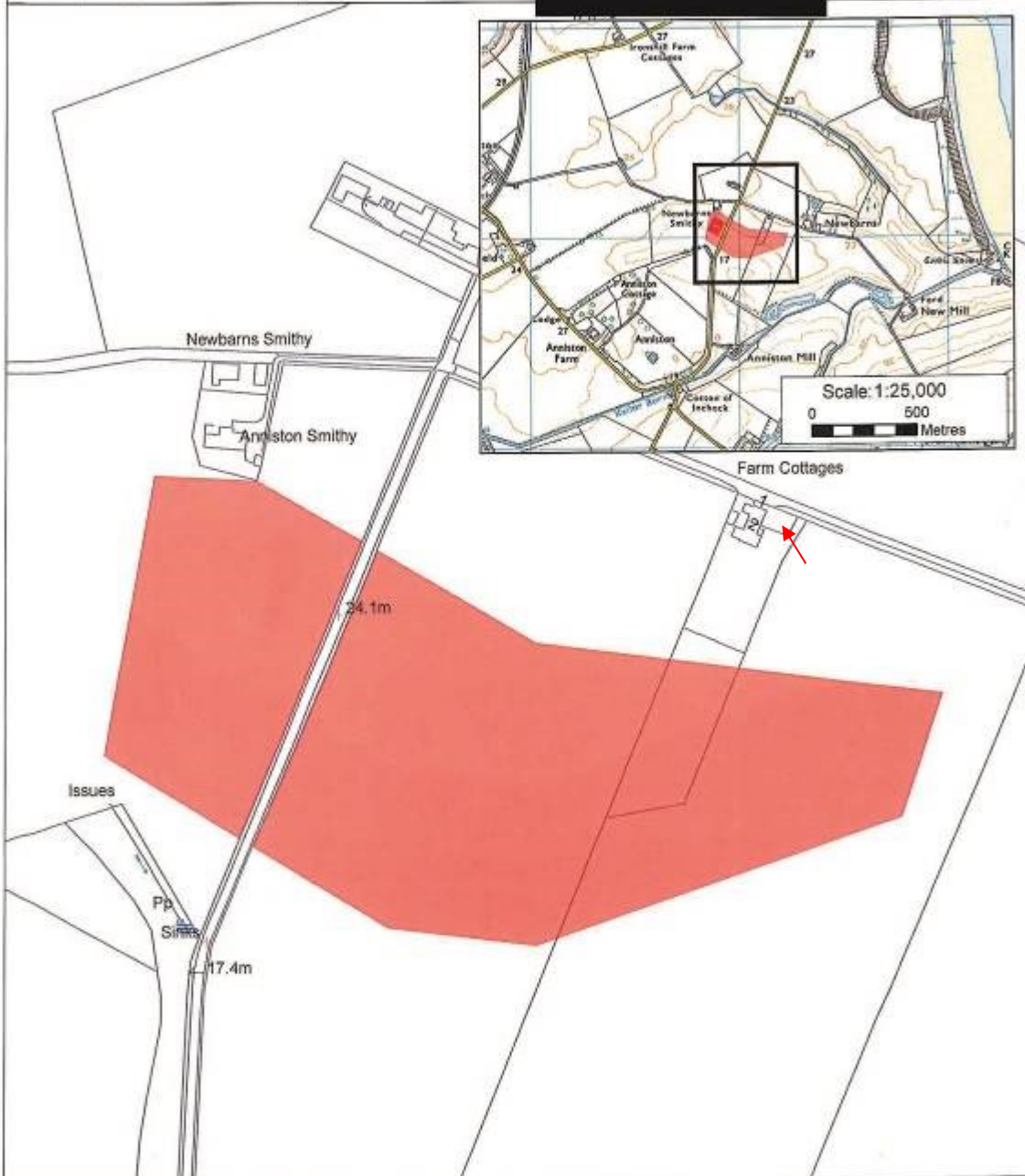
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	1 Newbarns Cottage, Inverkeilor
PROJECT CODE:	NEW01
PARISH:	Inverkeilor
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO64NE0046 – Unenclosed settlement
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 681 491
START DATE	14 th August 2019
END DATE	14 th August 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the digging of new foundation trenches and a soakaway for an extension to 1 Newbarns Cottage, Inverkeilor. Deposits of turf and subsoil were removed to reveal natural yellow brown sand. Nothing of archaeological interest was found.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ms Susan Stewart
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



Illus 1 Illustration 1 Site Location (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2016. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

This is the plan referred to in the entry in the Schedule affecting:
Newbarns, unenclosed settlement, SE of Anniston Smithy

dated: 1312/115 and is signed as relative thereto. [REDACTED]





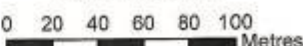
<p>Index No: 6361 Newbarns, unenclosed settlement, SE of Anniston Smithy Inverkeilor Parish Scheduled Area </p>	<p>N  Map Sheet(s): NO64NE</p>	<p>Scale: 1:2,500  0 20 40 60 80 100 Metres <small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic Scotland Licence No. 100017509 [2014].</small></p>
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Illustration 2 Map showing Scheduled Monument No 6361 adjacent to site at 1 Newbarns Cottage (red arrow)



Illustration 3- Plan of site at 1 Newbarns Cottage showing location of new extension and soakaway (based on Architect's Plan).

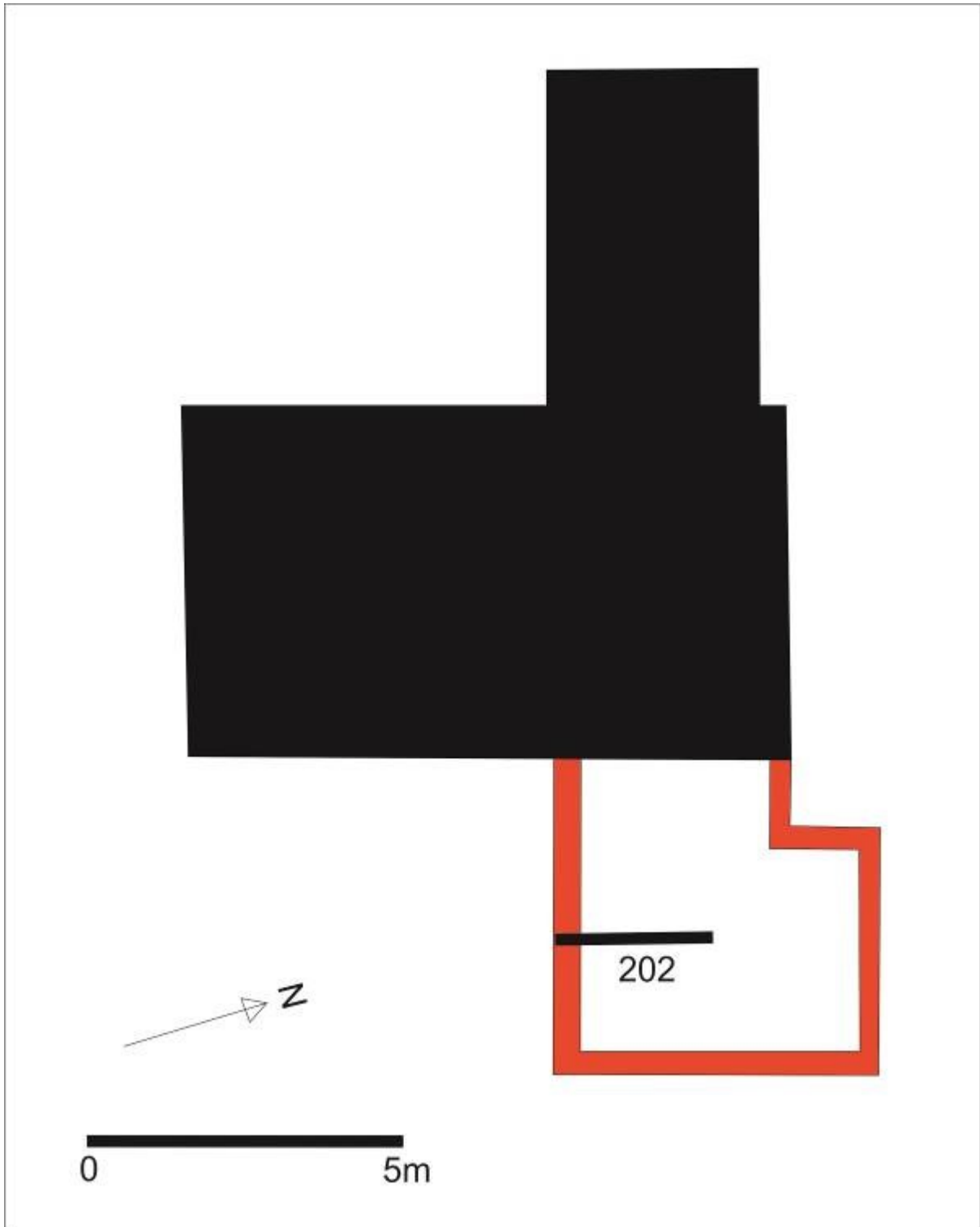


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Illustration 5- General view of site of new extension prior to excavation looking North.



Illustration 6 General view of footprint of extension showing linear feature 202 and its gravel and stone fill 203.



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Illustration 11- Trench for soakaway totally excavated showing Context 100 overlying Natural sand 101.



Illustration 12- Bodysherds of Early Modern Tin Glazed Earthenware from Context 203.