

Metal detector survey and site evaluation,
Land adjacent to Muirlands Schoolhouse,
Fintry, Stirling Council



Location of proposed new house and garage looking North



13th May 2020

Introduction

This programme of archaeological works was carried out for Kevin Byrne to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, the construction of a new house, garage and associated infrastructure on land adjacent to Muirlands Schoolhouse, as noted by Stirling Council Archaeology Service in the planning condition attached to Planning Approval Reference 20/00141/FULL. It was undertaken by the author on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th May (site code MUR01); weather conditions were bright and chilly on both days.

Archaeological Background (Illustration 1 to 6)

The proposed development area lies in current garden ground lying on the Western side of the B818 to Fintry and impacts on the immediate environs of an unnamed farm recorded on Roy's mid-18th century map, which may indicate older medieval origins, which could be of probably Regional Significance (Illus 2). This farm is not shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1869 (Illus 3). The proposed development would destroy these putative remains.

Metal Detector Survey (Illustrations 7 and 8)

The whole area of the development was surveyed by the author using a Lander XD100 PRO detector on Monday 11th May 2020. Detected locations were marked with wooden markers and their positions recorded using a tape baseline and taped offsets, each of them was then shovel tested until the top of the natural subsoil was located. The thirty spots recorded all produced high iron readings on the detector. On hand excavation all of these readings were discovered to have been produced by high iron panning on stones in the natural gravels which lay at most 0.29m below the modern ground level.

Trial Excavations (Illustration 9)

Three trenches, A, B and C were opened in the proposed footprints of the new house, garage and soakaway using a mini excavator with a toothless bucket.

Trench A (Illustrations 10 and 11)

This trench measured 10m from North to South and was 2m wide. 0.29m of dark brown black turf and topsoil with occasional roots (100) was excavated to expose a natural moderate to loose orange brown gravel with medium to large stones (101). There were no finds.

Trench B (Illustrations 12 and 13)

This trench measured 5m from East to West and was 2m wide. 0.20m of dark brown black turf and topsoil with frequent roots (200) was excavated to expose a natural moderate to loose orange brown gravel with medium to large stones (201). There were no finds.

Trench C (Illustrations 14 and 15)

This trench measured 5m from North East to South West and was 2m wide. 0.21m of dark brown black turf and topsoil with occasional roots (300) was excavated to expose a natural moderate to loose range brown gravel with medium to large stones (301). There were no finds.

Conclusions

All the potential find spots located in the metal detector survey of the site proved to be of natural origin. All three trenches (A, B and C) located a varying, fairly shallow depth of turf and topsoil overlying natural gravel and stones, there were no finds. Nothing of archaeological interest was revealed. Both pieces of archaeological fieldwork on site suggest that there is no need for any further work prior to redevelopment. However, the final decision on that conclusion rests with Stirling Council's Archaeologist.

References

Cartographic Sources(<http://www.nls.uk/maps>)

Roy, William 1747 Military Survey of Scotland

Ordnance Survey Maps – Twenty-Five Inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1843-1882

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Barry for driving the machine used to open the trial trenches.

Context List

Trench A

100 Dark brown black topsoil with occasional roots

101 Moderate to loose orange brown gravel with medium to large stones (Natural)

Trench B

200 Dark brown black topsoil with frequent roots

201 Moderate to loose orange brown gravel with medium to large stones (Natural)

Trench 3

300 Dark brown black topsoil with occasional roots

301 Moderate to loose orange brown gravel with medium to large stones (Natural)

Illustration List

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

Illustration 2 General Roy's military survey of 1715 showing farm possibly located on development site (red arrow) (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 3 1859 Ordnance Survey map of site (red dot) and surrounding area (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 4- Development site looking South West (accessed through gate)

Illustration 5- Development area looking North, ranging rods are located in proposed house footprint.

Illustration 6- Development area looking South (Garage footprint on right hand side of photo)

Illustration 7 -Metal detected spots shovel tested to natural (black dots) (based on supplied architects drawing)

Illustration 8- Typical example of iron panned rock producing metal detector readings (red arrow indicates area of iron pan)

Illustration 9- Location plan of trial trenches A, B and C (based on supplied architects plan)

Illustration 10- Trial trench A looking North

Illustration 11- Detail view of natural gravel and stones (101) in Trench A looking West

Illustration 12- Trial trench B looking East

Illustration 13- Detail view of natural gravel and stones (201) in Trench B looking South

Illustration 14- Trial trench C looking North East

Illustration 15- Detail view of natural stones and gravel in Trench C looking North West

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land adjacent to Muirlands Schoolhouse, Fintry
PROJECT CODE:	MUR01
PARISH:	Fintry
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)	NS 72693 84014
START DATE	11 th May 2020
END DATE	12 th May 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A metal detector survey and site evaluation was carried out on the proposed site of a new house, garage and associated infrastructure. The site was located on the possible site of a farm depicted on Roy's 18 th century map. All detected readings in the survey proved to be caused by heavily iron panned natural rocks, the three evaluation trenches all located brown black topsoil over lying moderate to loose natural gravel and stone. Nothing of archaeological interest was discovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Kevin Byrne
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

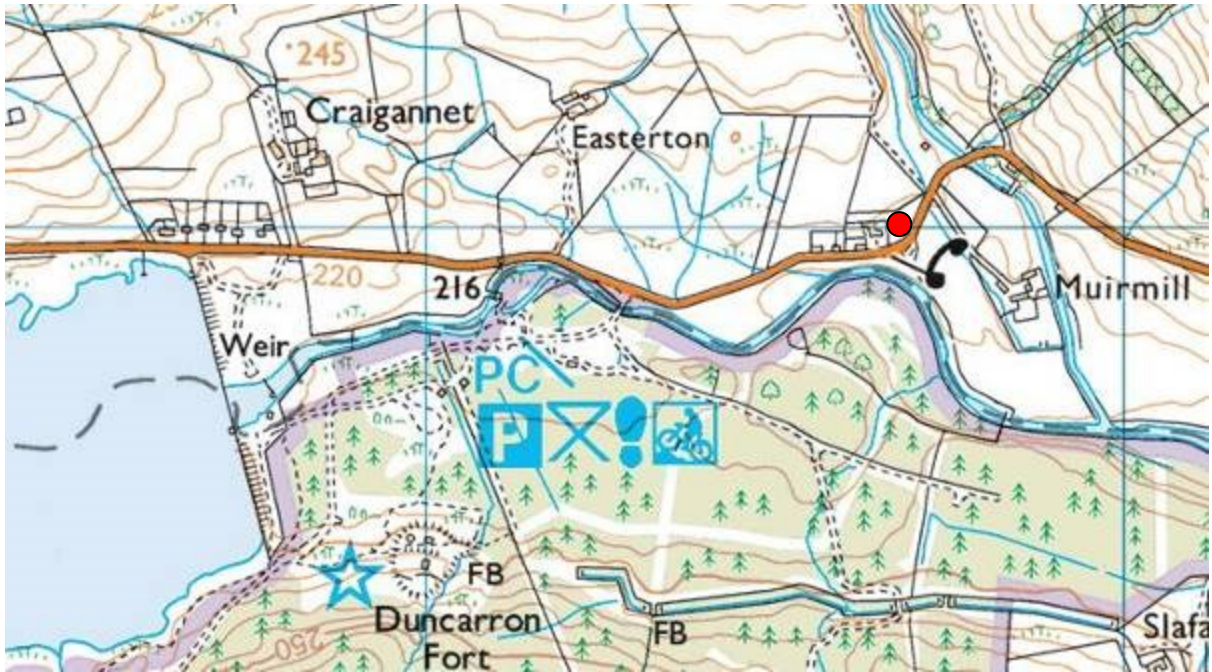


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Illustration 4- Development site looking South West (accessed through gate)



Illustration 5- Development area looking North, ranging rods are located in proposed house footprint.



Illustration 6- Development area looking South (Garage footprint on right hand side of photo)



Illustration 8- Typical example of iron panned rock producing metal detector readings (red arrow indicates area of iron pan)

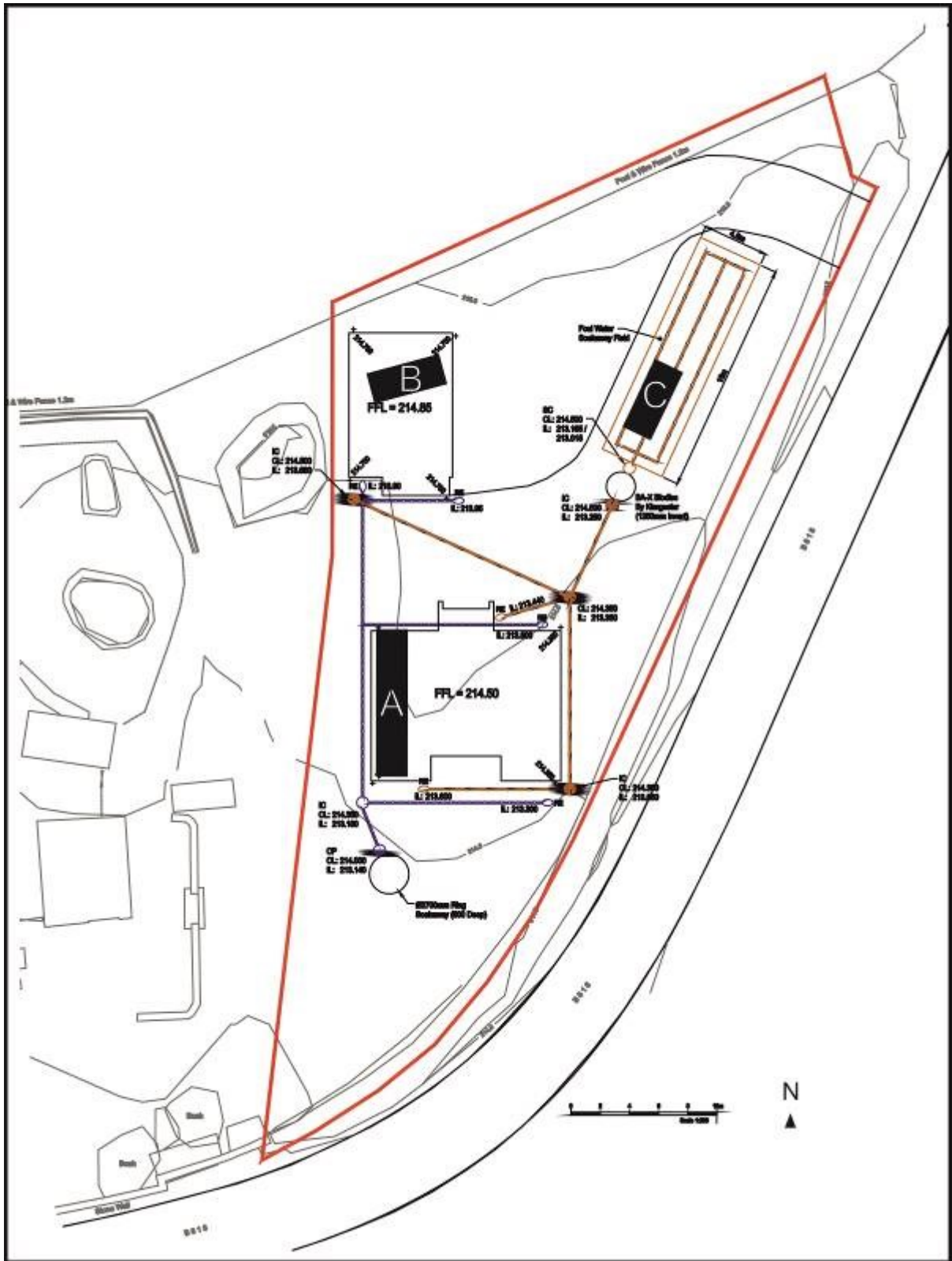


Illustration 9- Location plan of trial trenches A, B and C (based on supplied architects plan)



Illustration 10- Trial trench A looking North



Illustration 11- Detail view of natural gravel and stones (101) in Trench A looking West



Illustration 12- Trial trench B looking East



Illustration 13- Detail view of natural gravel and stones (201) in Trench B looking South



Illustration 14- Trial trench C looking North East



Illustration 15- Detail view of natural stones and gravel in Trench C looking North West