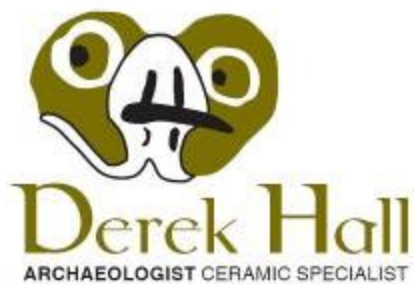


Metal detector survey and site evaluation,
Castleton Farm, Dollar, Clackmannanshire
Council



General view of proposed development site looking West.



15th April 2021

Introduction

This programme of archaeological works was carried out for Mr Tom Biggart to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, the construction of a new steel framed building on land adjacent to Castleton Farm, as noted by Clackmannanshire Council Archaeology Service in the planning condition attached to Planning Approval Reference 21/00037/FUL. It was undertaken by the author on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th May (site code CAS01); weather conditions were bright and chilly on both days.

Archaeological Background (Illustration 1 to 8)

This development lies in close proximity to Castleton prehistoric standing stone which lies 164m to the South East of the development area. The Ordnance Survey Name Book of 1859 records the stone as "A large standing stone about 8' high in the angle of the garden wall close to the W side of the farm steading, which gave name to the farm. It is considered a stone of memorial of some event" (Ordnance Survey 1859). The Ordnance Survey map of 1862 shows the stone as described beside a farm named as 'Standingstone' which lies on its Eastern side, at that date buildings at the current site of Castleton Farm are named as 'Cottartown' (Illus 2). By the Ordnance Survey map of 1920 'Standingstone' Farm has disappeared but the stone is shown in the same position and at that date the buildings at Castleton Farm are called Home Farm (Illus 3).

Field observation of the standing stone by the author on 13th April 2021 recorded that it stands 2.19m high on a cobble stone foundation. The stone has four faces, three of which have visible 'cup' marks (N, W and E), the S face is blank (Illus 5 to 8).

Such stones are often associated with associated prehistoric activity such as burials and ritual deposits, all which have the potential to be of National Significance. The proposed development was felt to have the potential to destroy any such deposits or finds.

Metal Detector Survey (Illustrations 9 and 10)

The proposed footprint of the new development was surveyed by the author using a Lander XD100 PRO detector on Tuesday 13th April 2021. Detected locations were marked with wooden markers and their positions then recorded using a handheld Etrex 2x GPS. On hand excavation all of these readings were discovered to have been produced by iron nails or fittings.

Trial Excavations (Illustrations 11 and 12)

On Wednesday 14th April 2021 three trenches labelled A, B and C were opened in the proposed footprint of the new development using a mini excavator with a toothless bucket.

Trench A (Illustrations 13 and 14)

This trench measured 15m from North East to South West and was 2m wide. A dark grey brown sandy clay (100) was excavated to expose a compact natural yellow clay and small stones (101). 100 was 0.38m deep to the top of natural at the South Western end of the trench and 0.50m deep at the North Eastern end of the trench. A linear cut feature (103) filled with loose stone and brown sandy clay (102) ran from North to South through the trench and represents a field drain. There were no finds.

Trench B (Illustration 15)

This trench measured 8m from North to South and was 2m wide. A dark brown sandy clay (200) was excavated to expose a compact natural yellow clay and occasional stones (201). 200 was 0.30m deep at the Southern end of the trench and 0.35m deep at the Northern end. A linear cut feature (203) ran from North to South through the trench and represents a field drain. There were no finds.

Trench C (Illustration 16)

This trench measured 15m from North West to South East and was 2m wide. A dark brown sandy clay (300) was excavated to expose a compact natural grey brown clay and occasional stones (301). 300 was 0.28 deep at the South Eastern end of the trench and 0.40m deep at the North Western end. There were no finds.

Conclusions

All the potential find spots located in the metal detector survey of the development site were either iron nails or fittings. All three trenches (A, B and C) located a varying depth of turf and subsoil overlying natural clay 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 Clackmannanshire Council's Archaeologist.

References

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

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

Ordnance Survey Maps – Twenty-Five inch 2nd edition, Scotland, 1892-1949.

Acknowledgements

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

Context List

Trench A

100 Dark grey brown sandy clay

101 Compact yellow clay and small stones (Natural)

102 Loose stone and brown sandy clay (fill of cut 103)

103 Linear cut for field drain

Trench B

200 Dark brown sandy clay

201 Compact yellow clay and occasional stone (Natural)

202 Loose stone and brown sandy clay (fill of cut 203)

203 Linear cut for field drain

Trench 3

300 Dark brown sandy clay

301 Compact grey brown clay and occasional stone (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- 1859 Ordnance Survey map of site (red dot) and surrounding area showing location of standing stone (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

Illustration 3- 1920 Ordnance Survey map of site showing development location (red dot) and surrounding area showing location of standing stone (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

Illustration 4- Development site looking West, Castleton Farm in background.

Illustration 5- Location of standing stone looking North East, trees in background are on the former site of 'Standingstone' farm.

Illustration 6- Blank South facing side of standing stone.

Illustration 7 – West facing side of standing stone, red arrows indicate location of 'cup' marks.

Illustration 8- North facing side of standing stone with visible 'cup' marks.

Illustration 9- Metal detected findspots (black dots) (based on supplied architects plan).

Illustration 10- Selection of iron nails and fitting from metal detected findspots.

Illustration 11- Location plan of evaluation trenches A, B and C.

Illustration 12- General view of evaluation trenches looking NE.

Illustration 13- Evaluation trench A excavated to top of natural 101 looking NE.

Illustration 14- Evaluation trench A excavated to the top of natural 101 looking SW, red arrow marks position of field drain 103.

Illustration 15- Evaluation trench B excavated to top of natural 201 looking S, line of field drain 203 visible at red arrow.

Illustration 16- Evaluation trench C excavated to top of natural 301 looking SW, red arrow shows location of standing stone.

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Clackmannanshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Castleton Farm, Dollar
PROJECT CODE:	CAS01
PARISH:	Muckhart
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal detector survey and site evaluation
CANMORE ID:	25931
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Standing stone
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 97291 98914
START DATE	13 th April 2021
END DATE	14 th April 2021
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 steel framed agricultural building. The site was located in the vicinity of a cup marked standing stone. All detected readings in the survey proved to be caused by iron nails and fittings, the three evaluation trenches all located grey brown subsoil over lying compact natural clay and occasional stones. Nothing of archaeological interest was discovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Tom Biggart
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 2- 1859 Ordnance Survey map of site (red dot) and surrounding area showing location of standing stone (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).



Illustration 3- 1920 Ordnance Survey map of site showing development location (red dot) and surrounding area showing location of standing stone (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).



Illustration 4- Development site looking West, Castleton Farm in background.



Illustration 5- Location of standing stone looking North East, trees in background are on the former site of 'Standingstone' farm.



Illustration 6- Blank South facing side of standing stone.



Illustration 7 – West facing side of standing stone, red arrows indicate location of 'cup' marks.



Illustration 8- North facing side of standing stone with visible 'cup' marks.



Illustration 9- Metal detected findspots (black dots) (based on supplied architects plan).



Illustration 10- Selection of iron nails and fitting from metal detected findspots.

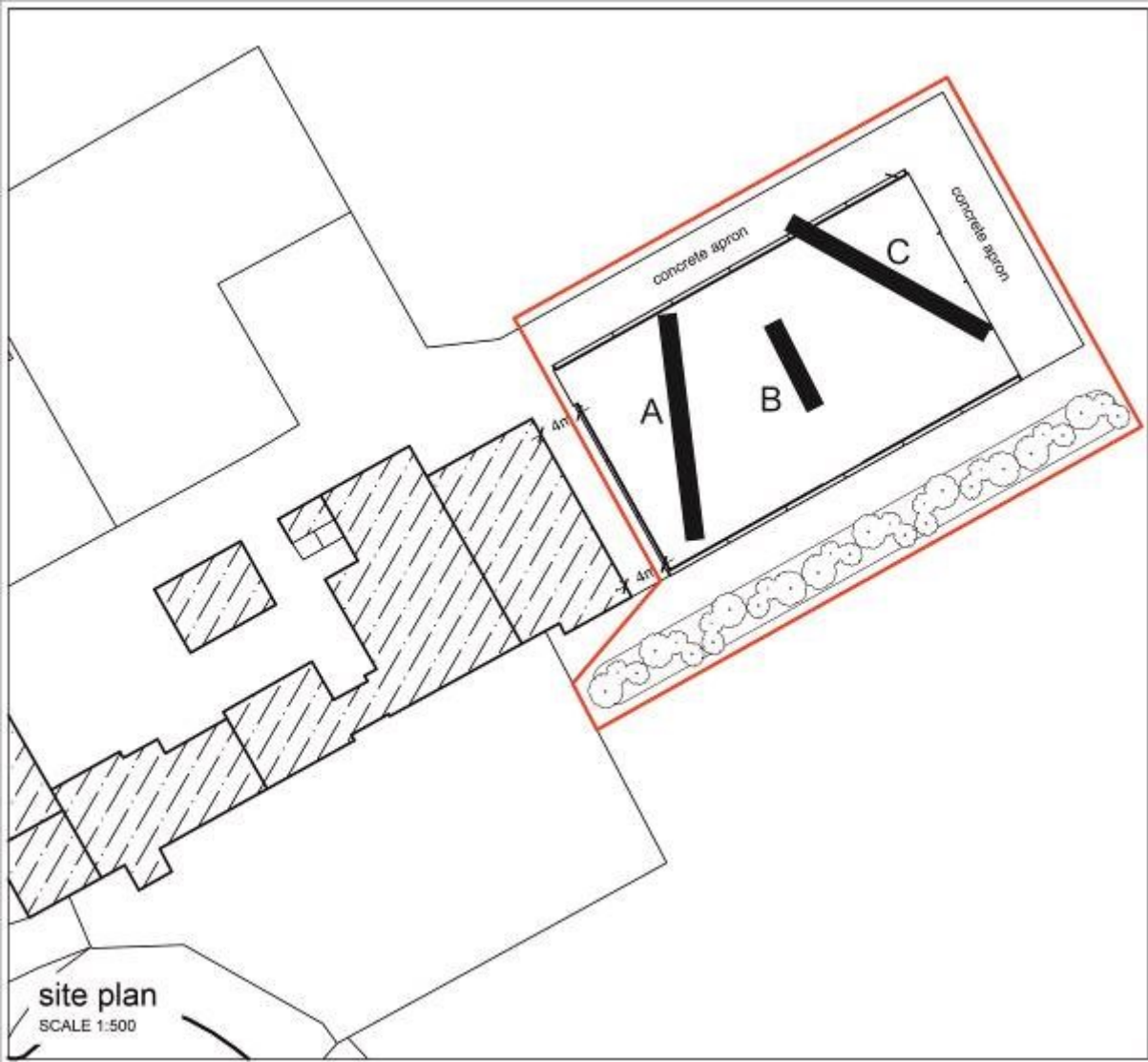


Illustration 11- Location plan of evaluation trenches A, B and C.



Illustration 12- General view of evaluation trenches looking NE.



Illustration 13- Evaluation trench A excavated to top of natural 101 looking NE.



Illustration 14- Evaluation trench A excavated to the top of natural 101 looking SW, red arrow marks position of field drain 103.



Illustration 15- Evaluation trench B excavated to top of natural 201 looking S, line of field drain 203 visible at red arrow.



Illustration 16- Evaluation trench C excavated to top of natural 301 looking SW, red arrow shows location of standing stone.