

Archaeological Evaluation
Land 80m North of Castlecroft, Forgandenny,
Perth and Kinross Council



Location of proposed house plot, Castlecroft, Forgandenny looking North West.



14th September 2021

Introduction

This programme of archaeological works in advance of the construction a new house and its associated services at land 80m North of Castlecroft, Forgandenny, Perth and Kinross Council was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs Black to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development (21/00165/FLL), as recommended by Sophie Nicol of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust in a planning consultation note dated 9th March 2021. The site evaluation was undertaken by the author on Friday 10th September, weather conditions were overcast with occasional rain.

Archaeological Background (Illustration 1-3)

The development site lies at the Northern end of the garden of the house known as Castlecroft directly north west of Forgandenny Parish Church and graveyard. That church is one of a handful of pre-Reformation Perthshire churches to survive abandonment or demolition in the 19th century. However, it has undergone alterations with only remnants of its early fabric surviving, for example, the Norman dog-toothed arch. According to Roy's Military map of Scotland (1747-52) (Illus 2) the Kirk sat north of the main road through the village where dwellings were mostly located along the main road. The Ordnance Survey map of 1860 still shows the site to be undeveloped (Illus 3) but, given the close proximity to the church grounds, the wealth of archaeology in the surrounding area and at nearby Forteviot there is a possibility that earlier occupation or archaeology relating to occupation associated with the earlier church or settlement may extend to within the development area.

Site Evaluation (Illustration 4)

Three trenches (A, B and C) were opened by mechanical excavator to provide an 6% sample of the proposed footprint of the new house and associated services.

Trench A (Illustrations 4, 5, 6 and 7)

This trench ran on a North West to South Eastern alignment on the Northern side of the proposed house footprint and was 25m long. 0.30m of turf and dark brown sandy clay (100) was removed to expose a moderate natural brown gravel, sand and stones (101). An operational plastic septic tank overflow pipe was located 1.60m from the East end of this trench. There were no finds and nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench B (Illustration 4, 5 and 8 to 12)

This trench ran on a North East to South Western alignment across the Eastern side of the proposed house footprint and was 21m long. At its South Western end 0.60m of turf and dark brown sandy clay (200) overlay 0.20m of loose stone (201) which overlay 0.50m of dark grey brown silty clay (202) which overlay 0.20m of light brown sandy clay (203). 203 lay above a moderate natural brown gravel and stone (204) which lay at 1.60m below modern ground level. At 9.20m from the South Western end of this trench a Wolseley Mk 1 1500 car 2.3m wide had been dumped on its roof and covered by context 200 (Illus 10, 11 and 12). From that point onwards 0.30m of context 200 overlay a light grey silty clay (205) which overlay a moderate natural brown gravel and stone (204). There were no other finds and nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Trench C (Illustrations 4, 5 and 13 to 15)

This trench ran on a West to East alignment across the Western side of the proposed house footprint and was 12m long. 0.60m of loose dark grey brown sandy clay (300) overlay 0.20m of loose brown sand (301) which overlay 1.10m of brown sandy clay (302). 301 and 302 were fills of a cut feature 303 whose edge lay 8.20m from the Western end of the trench. This cut also contained a brick-built manhole (304) and is probably a modern soakaway for Castlecroft. For the remainder of the trench beyond the edge of cut 303 0.40m of turf and topsoil overlay 305 a moderate natural brown gravel, sand and stones. There were no finds and nothing of archaeological interest was located.

Summary and Conclusions

Nothing of archaeological interest was located in any of the three trenches opened. It is clear that this end of the garden for Castlecroft has been artificially raised by the dumping of topsoil (confirmed by Mr and Mrs Black), the dumped Wolseley Mark 1 sports car in Trench B (dating between 1957 and 1965) was unexpected. Where the soil dumping has not taken place natural gravel, sand and stone lies only 0.40m below modern ground level and there are no signs of any archaeological deposits or cut features in the natural deposits. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required on site. The final decision however on this recommendation however rests with Sophie Nicol of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

Context Register

Trial Trenches

Trench A

100 Turf and dark brown sandy clay.

101 Moderate brown gravel, sand and stones (natural).

Trench B

200 Turf and dark brown sandy clay.

201 Loose stone.

202 Dark grey brown silty clay.

203 Light brown sandy clay.

204 Moderate brown gravel, sand and stones (natural).

Trench C

300 Loose dark grey brown sandy clay.

301 Loose brown sand.

302 Brown sandy clay.

303 Moderate brown gravel, sand and stone (Natural).

304 Brick built manhole.

305 Deep cut feature (soakaway)

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Stuart of Ian Bonthron Building and Groundworks Ltd for driving the machine and Ian, Sheena and Jordan Black for their interest in the evaluation.

References

Cartographic (www.maps.nls.uk)

Roy Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55 <https://maps.nls.uk/roy/index.html>

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1855-92 <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74962976>

Illustration List

Illustration 1- Site Location (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2019. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628).

Illustration 2 – Site as shown on William Roy's map of 1747-52 (red arrow) (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

Illustration 3- Site as shown on Ordnance Survey map of 1860 (red arrow) (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

Illustration 4- Location of evaluation trenches A, B and C. Red square in Trench B indicated location of dumped car (based on supplied architects plan).

Illustration 5- Excavated trenches A, B and C looking North West.

Illustration 6- Trench A in process of excavation looking South East, Forgandenny churchyard is just visible behind the trees at the top of the photograph (red arrow).

Illustration 7- Trench A Context 101 moderate natural brown gravel, sand and stones below turf and dark brown sandy clay 100.

Illustration 8- Trench B under excavation looking North East.

Illustration 9- North eastern facing section of Trench B showing contexts 200, 201, 202 and 203 above natural gravel and stone 204.

Illustration 10- Dumped Wolseley car (1500 Mk 1) becoming visible in Trench B.

Illustration 11- North Eastern end of Trench B showing natural gravel and stone (204) below turf and topsoil (200), rod dumped car is visible behind.

Illustration 12- Top- Hubcap from dumped Wolseley car in Trench B.

Bottom- library photo of Wolseley Mk 1 1500

Illustration 13- Trench C under excavation looking South East.

Illustration 14- North Western facing section of Trench C showing Contexts 300, 301, 302 and 303 filling cut 305 (modern soakaway).

Illustration 15- Natural gravel and stone 303 at Eastern end of Trench C.

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land 80m N of Castlecroft, Forgandenny
PROJECT CODE:	FOR01
PARISH:	Forgandenny
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	archaeological evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Adjacent to Forgandenny churchyard.
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 08700 18406
START DATE	10 th September 2021
END DATE	10 th September 2021
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A 6% evaluation was carried out on the site of a proposed new house and its associated services in a garden adjacent to Forgandenny churchyard. Nothing of archaeological interest was located.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr and Mrs Black
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRATIONTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk

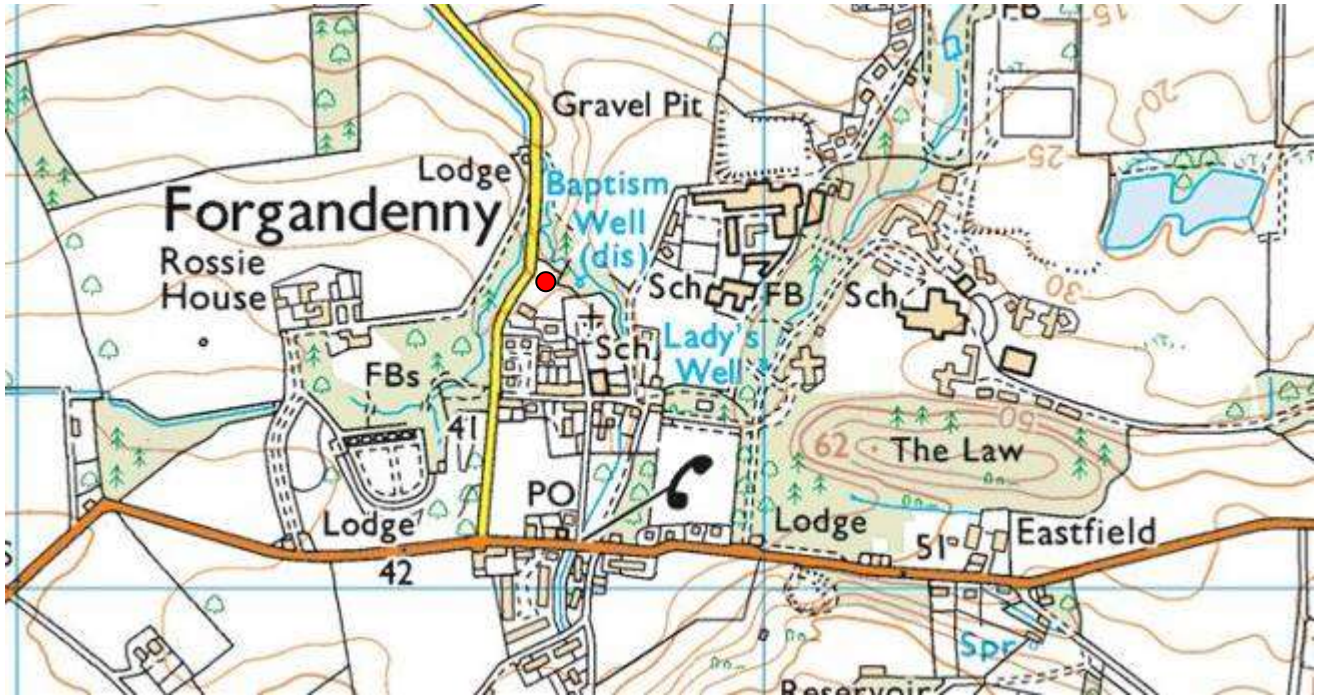


Illustration 1- Site Location (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2019. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628).

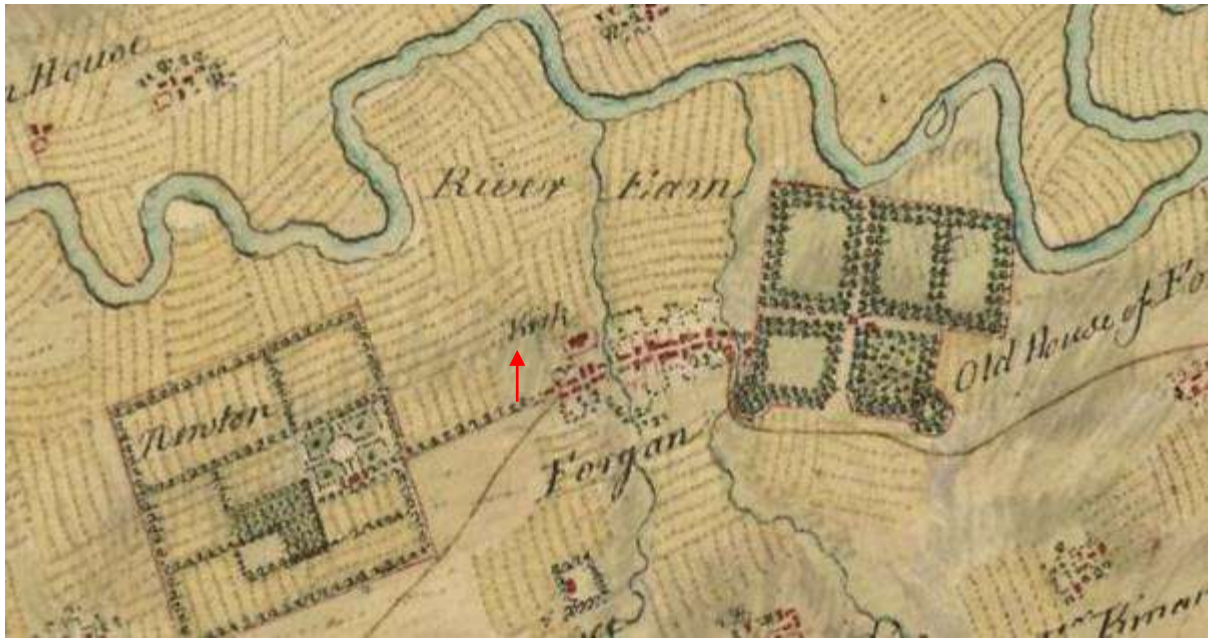


Illustration 2 – Site as shown on William Roy's map of 1747-52 (red arrow) (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

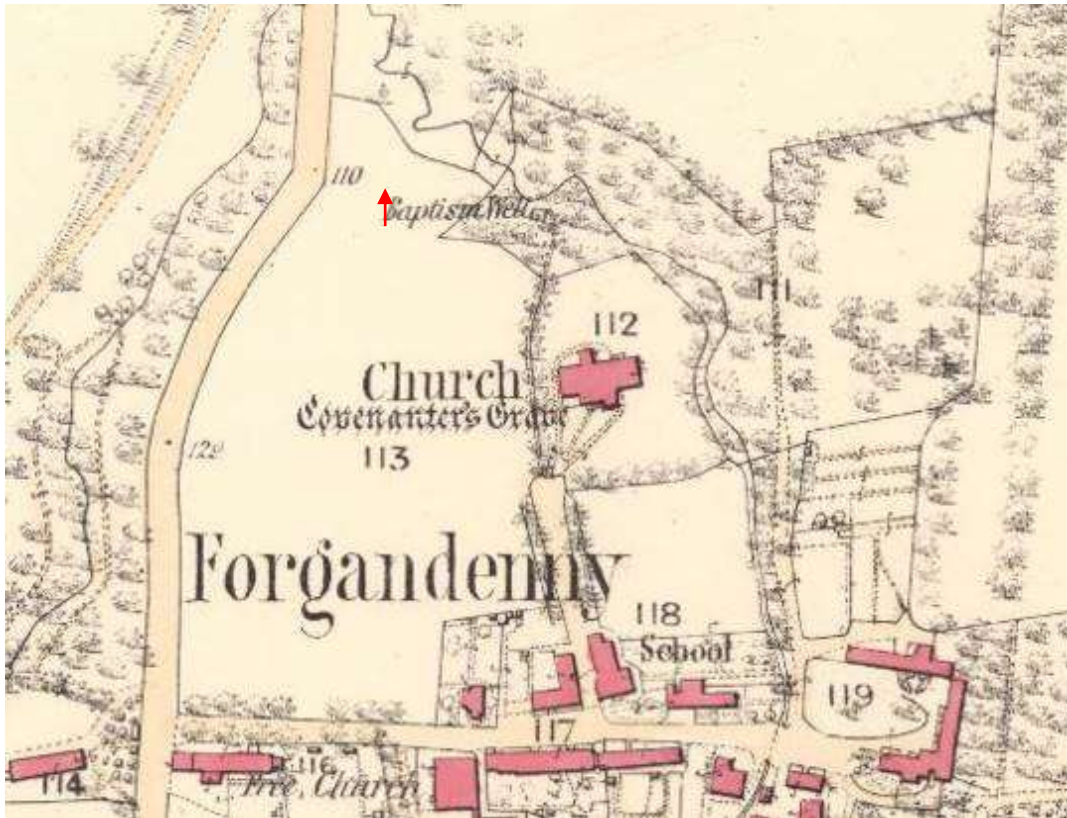


Illustration 3- Site as shown on Ordnance Survey map of 1860 (red arrow) (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

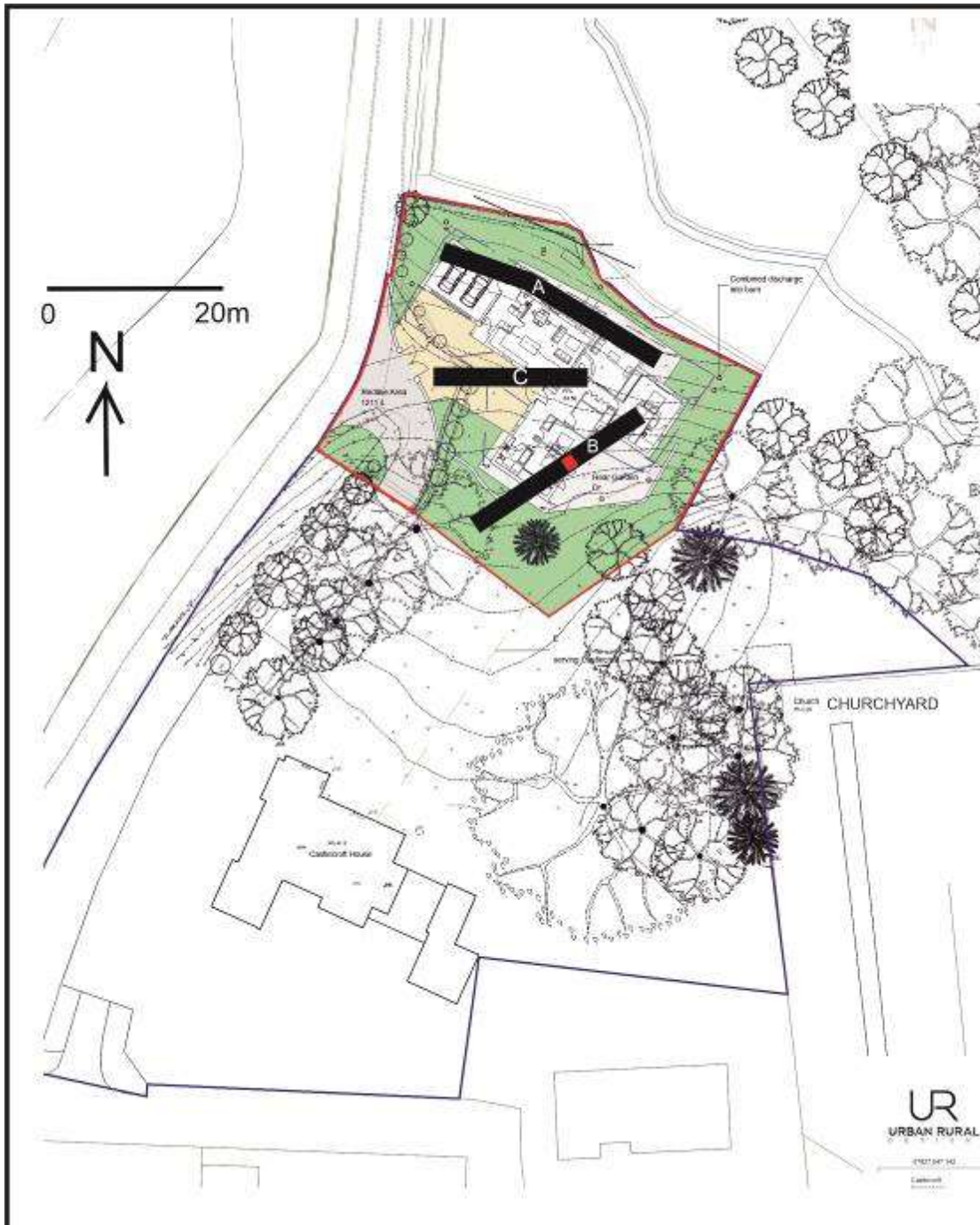


Illustration 4- Location of evaluation trenches A, B and C. Red square in Trench B indicated location of dumped car (based on supplied architects plan).



Illustration 5- Excavated trenches A, B and C looking North West.



Illustration 6- Trench A in process of excavation looking South East, Forgandenny churchyard is just visible behind the trees at the top of the photograph (red arrow).



Illustration 7- Trench A looking North, Context 101 moderate natural brown gravel, sand and stones below turf and dark brown sandy clay 100.



Illustration 8- Trench B under excavation looking North East.



Illustration 9- North eastern facing section of Trench B showing contexts 200, 201, 202 and 203 above natural gravel and stone 204.



Illustration 10- Dumped Wolseley car becoming visible in Trench B.



Illustration 11- Top- Hubcap from dumped Wolseley car in Trench B.

Bottom- library photo of Wolseley Mk 1 1500



Illustration 12- North Eastern end of Trench B showing natural gravel and stone (204) below turf and topsoil (200), dumped car is visible behind ranging rod.



Illustration 13- Trench C under excavation looking South East, ranging rod is in deep modern soakaway.



Illustration 14- North Western facing section of Trench C showing Contexts 300, 301, 302 and 303 filling cut 305 (modern soakaway).



Illustration 15- Natural gravel and stone 303 at Eastern end of Trench C.