

# Archaeological Evaluation

## Plot 3, East of Auchsheen, Urlar Road, Aberfeldy



Plot 3, East of Auchsheen, Urlar Road, Aberfeldy looking North East, deturfed area is marked out house plot



23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

## **Introduction**

This programme of archaeological works in advance of the construction a new house and its associated services at Plot 3, East of Auchsheen, Urlar Road, Aberfeldy, Perth and Kinross Council was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs Wallace to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development (20/01800/FLL), as recommended by Sophie Nicol of PKHT, in a consultation note dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. The work was undertaken by the author on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021. Weather conditions were slightly overcast with occasional showers.

## **Archaeological Background (Illustration 1-7)**

The proposed development site lies within an area that is considered to be archaeologically sensitive as it is closely located to a hillfort of unknown date known as Torr Hill (MPK966). In addition, the development site sits on the possible route of a path to an entrance to the fort and according to historic mapping this area has been greenfield until current times. Any groundworks associated with the re-development of the site therefore have the potential to impact on archaeological remains associated with the hillfort. The fort itself is sub-rectangular in shape with traces of three ramparts and a probable entrance in its Eastern side. Excavation by Dr Margaret Stewart in 1962 in advance of the house built on top of the fort discovered within the inner rampart the remains of a burnt palisade, though other trenches revealed little in the way of archaeological remains (Atlas of Hillforts). However, despite this disturbance there is still potential for archaeological remains contemporary with the fort to exist.

## **Site Evaluation (Illustrations 5, 8 to 13)**

Three trenches (A, B and C) were opened by mechanical excavator with a toothless 2m wide bucket avoiding the already laid out footprint of the house and the location of services to provide a sample of the proposed development area.

### *Trench A (Illustrations 8 and 9)*

This trench ran on a South West to North East alignment and measured 14m by 2m. An homogenous dark brown sandy clay (100), 0.70m deep at the Eastern end of the trench and 0.90m deep at the Western end, was removed to reveal a moderate natural light-yellow sand (101). There were no finds and nothing of archaeological interest was located.

### *Trench B (Illustrations 10 and 11)*

This trench ran on a North West to South East alignment and measured 14m by 2m. An homogenous dark brown sandy clay (200) 0.80m deep was removed to reveal a moderate light-yellow sand (201). There were no finds and nothing of archaeological interest was located.

### *Trench C (Illustrations 12 and 13)*

This trench ran on a North North West to South South East alignment and measured 5m by 2m. An homogenous dark brown sandy clay (300) 0.80m deep was removed to reveal a moderate light-yellow sand (301). Apart from an electrical cable there were no other finds and nothing of archaeological interest was located.

### *Summary and Conclusions*

The evaluation of the house site located a consistent sequence of deep brown sandy clays (plough soil) overlying a moderate natural yellow sand. There were no signs of any cut features in the natural sand and nothing of archaeological interest was located. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required on site. The final decision however on this recommendation rests with Sophie Nicol at Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

### **Context Register**

#### **Trench A**

100 Dark brown sandy clay.

101 Moderate light-yellow sand (natural).

#### **Trench B**

200 Dark brown sandy clay

201 Moderate light-yellow sand (natural)

#### **Trench C**

300 Dark brown sandy clay

301 Moderate light-yellow sand (natural)

### **Finds**

### **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Andy for driving the machine for the site evaluation and the two other Derek's for their help and interest with the site works.

## References

Cartographic ([www.maps.nls.uk](http://www.maps.nls.uk))

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

## Online Resources

Atlas of Hillforts <https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk/> Torr Hill, Aberfeldy SC2639

## **Illustration List**

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

Illustration 2 – Aberfeldy as shown on Ordnance Survey map of 1899, site location marked with red arrow (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

Illustration 3- Plane table survey of hillfort on Torr Hill dating to 1957, red arrow shows location of photo in Illustration 4 (© CANMORE)

Illustration 4- surviving rampart line on West facing side of fort on Torr Hill above the site (September 2021).

Illustration 5- Location of evaluation trenches A, B and C, in relation to proposed house plot (yellow). Red area indicates location of buried wastewater tank.

Illustration 6- General view of proposed development area looking North East (marked out house plot visible in deturfed area).

Illustration 7- General view of proposed development area looking North East with Torr Hill visible in the background (red arrow)

Illustration 8- Trench A looking West showing moderate light-yellow natural sand 101 below overlying dark brown sandy clay 100.

Illustration 9- Detail of North facing section of Trench A showing dark brown sandy clay 100 overlying moderate light-yellow natural sand 101.

Illustration 10- Trench B completely excavated looking South showing moderate light-yellow sand 201 below dark down sandy clay 200.

Illustration 11- Detail shot of East facing section of Trench B showing dark brown sandy clay 200 overlying moderate light-yellow natural sand 201.

Illustration 12- Trench C completely excavated looking East showing dark brown sandy clay 300 overlying moderate light-yellow natural sand 301.

Illustration 13- Trench C completely excavated looking South showing dark brown sandy clay 300 overlying moderate natural light-yellow sand 301.

## Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Plot 3, East of Auchasheen, Urlar Road, Aberfeldy
PROJECT CODE:	ABER01
PARISH:	Dull
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 hillfort
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 85321 48728
START DATE	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021
END DATE	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new house to the North West of the fort on Torr Hill. Three trenches were opened and all revealed homogenous plough soils up to 0.90m in depth sitting directly on natural sand. There were no finds and nothing of archaeological interest was located.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr and Mrs Wallace
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

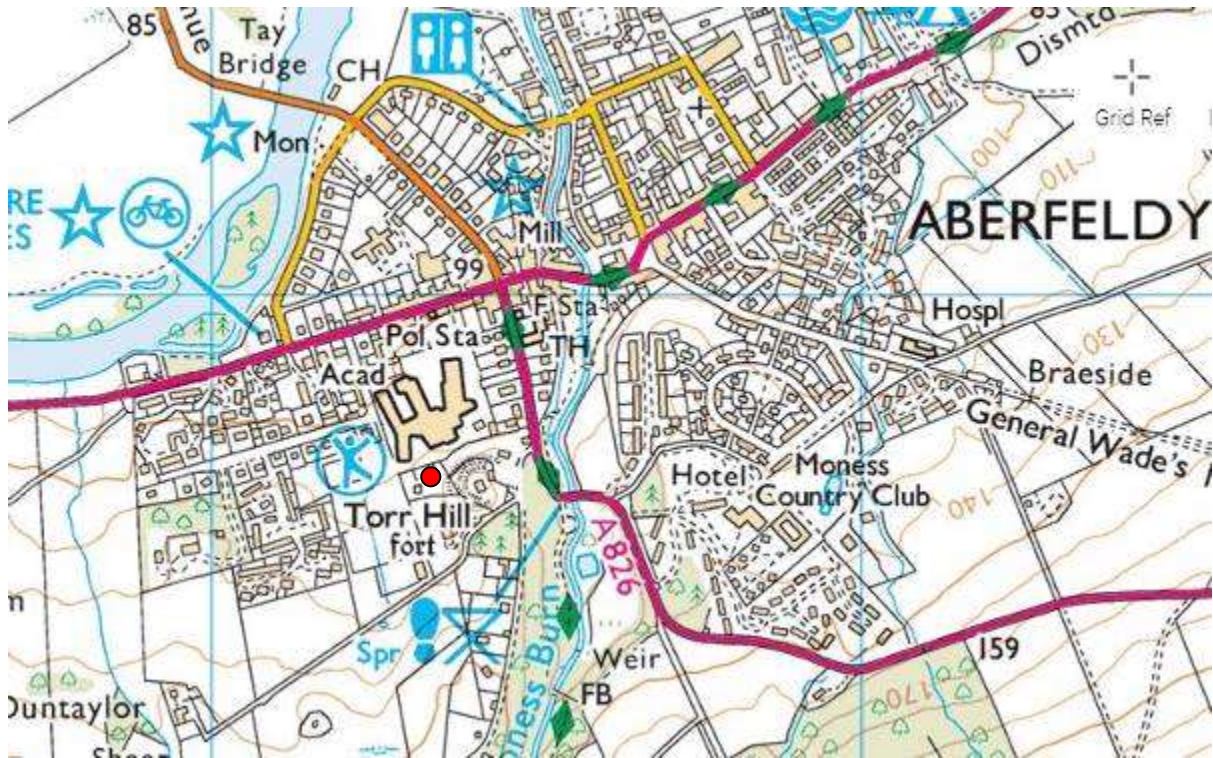


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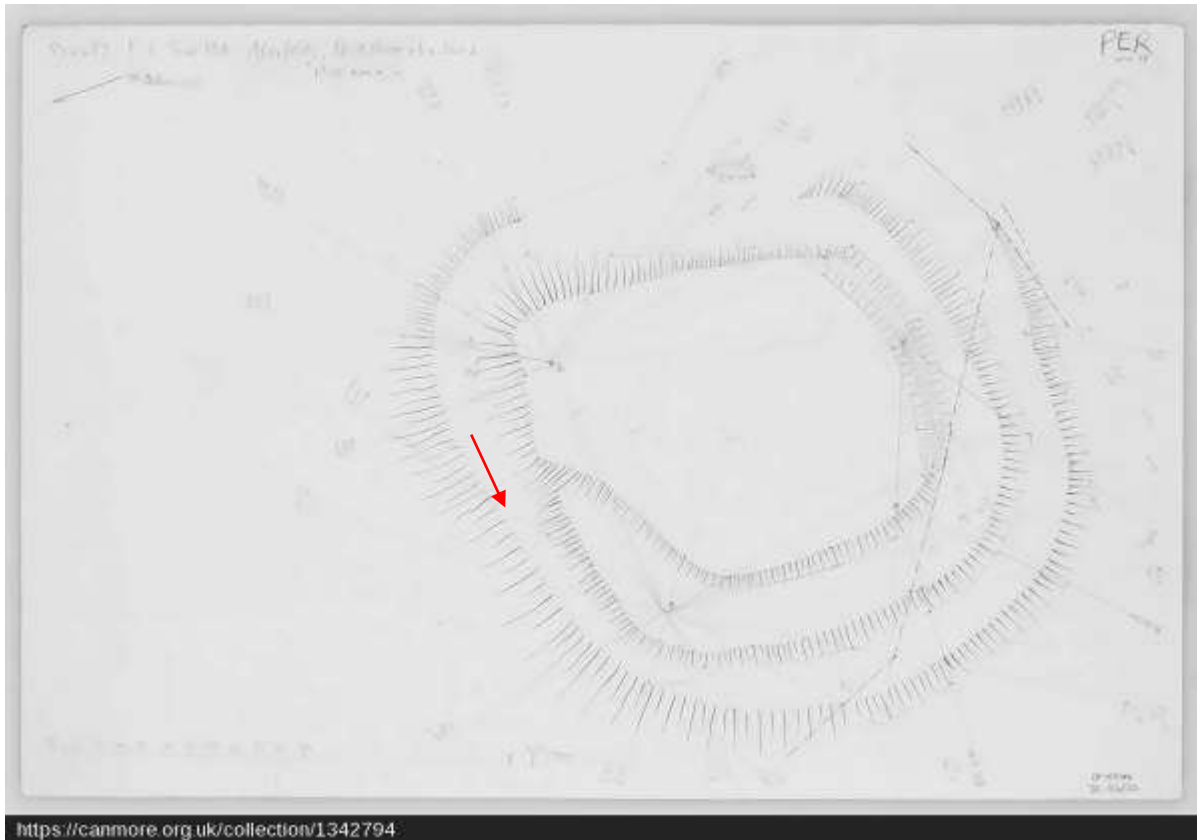


Illustration 3- Plane table survey of hillfort on Torr Hill dating to 1957, red arrow shows location of photo in Illustration 4 (© CANMORE)



Illustration 4- surviving rampart line on West facing side of fort on Torr Hill above the development site (September 2021).

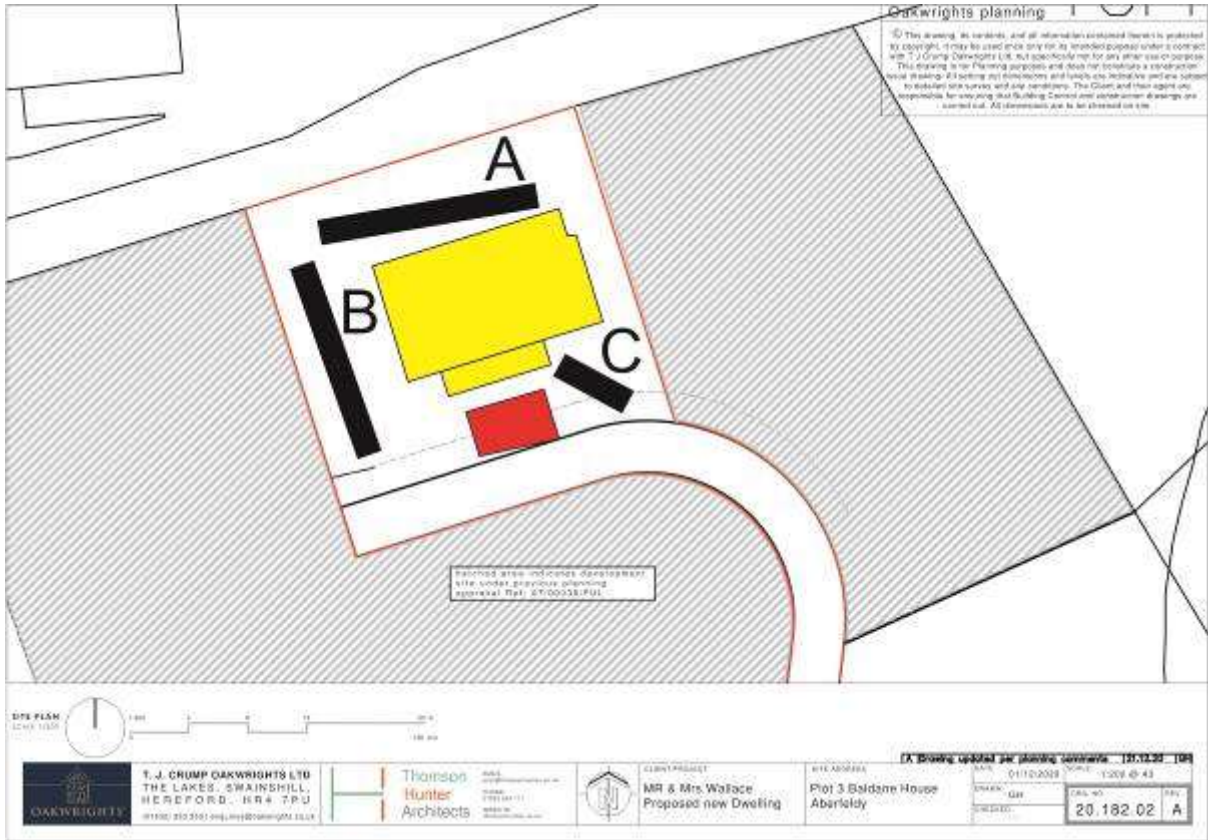


Illustration 5- Location of evaluation trenches A, B and C, in relation to proposed house plot (yellow). Red area indicates location of buried wastewater tank.



Illustration 6- General view of proposed development area looking North East (marked out house plot visible in deturfed area).



Illustration 7- General view of proposed development area looking North East with Torr Hill visible in the background (red arrow)



Illustration 8- Trench A looking West showing moderate light-yellow natural sand 101 below overlaying dark brown sandy clay 100.



Illustration 9- Detail of North facing section of Trench A showing dark brown sandy clay 100 overlying moderate light-yellow natural sand 101.



Illustration 10- Trench B completely excavated looking South showing moderate light-yellow sand 201 below dark down sandy clay 200.





Illustration 11- Detail shot of East facing section of Trench B showing dark brown sandy clay 200 overlying moderate light-yellow natural sand 201.



Illustration 12- Trench C completely excavated looking East showing dark brown sandy clay 300 overlying moderate light-yellow natural sand 301.



Illustration 13- Trench C completely excavated looking South showing dark brown sandy clay 300 overlying moderate natural light-yellow sand 301.