

Archaeological Evaluation
Proposed new house plot,
Adjacent to Marketknowe, Huntly Wood, Longforgan



Site looking South West (workshop in background)



16th December 2010

Introduction (Illus 1)

This programme of archaeological works was carried out for Mr Andrew Leonard to satisfy the archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, as noted by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust in the Terms of Reference to Planning Application 10/01550/FLL dated 18th November 2010. It was undertaken by the author on Tuesday 14thth December (site code LONG01), weather conditions were cold and slightly overcast with moderate snow cover.

Archaeological Background (Illus 2)

The development area is immediately adjacent to the Market Knowe (Scheduled Monument Number 2879), a possible large prehistoric burial cairn, locally known as the Roman Knowe. Recent research has identified the Market Knowe as being the 'Hundhil of Longforgan' the site of the Barony Court of Longforgan from at least the 14th century (O'Grady 2008). It is also claimed that the market of Longforgan took place at the Market Knowe until 1633 (Philip 1895). The Ordnance Survey Name Book of 1861 records the discovery of stone coffins in the vicinity of the Knowe however the exact location of these burials is unknown (OS Name Book 1861).

Site Evaluation (Illus 3-10)

Trench 1

A single trench 15.6m long by 1.6m wide was opened on a NE-SW alignment on the northern side of the standing workshop building. A layer of fairly compact grey hardcore (1) was located to a maximum depth of 0.10m. This layer of hardcore was machined off onto a layer of moderate grey brown silty clay (2) with occasional stones which had a maximum depth of 0.25m. This layer of silty clay directly overlay a natural subsoil (3) comprising an orange brown sandy clay with frequent stones. Sealed beneath layer 2 and cut into the natural subsoil was a stone long cist (4). The long cist measured 1.56m in length and was 0.53m wide; it still possessed a surviving slightly cracked capstone from its middle to its eastern end, the capstone at its western end no longer survived. Two small cut features (5 and 6) were also located cut into the natural subsoil both were filled with a grey black silty clay and had been dug through layer 2, cut 5 was 0.12m deep and cut 6 was only 0.05m deep. The entire length of the trench was cleaned by hand and no other features were located. Following full recording of the cist and cut features the cist was covered by a layer of plastic finds bags topped with grey hardcore and the trench was then carefully backfilled.

Conclusions

The discovery of a single long cist would seem to tie in with the previous report of the discovery of cists at the site in the 19th century (OS Name Book 1861). The nature of this burial would seem to suggest that it is liable to be of an Early Historic or even Early Medieval date although long cists of an earlier date have been located elsewhere (Winlow 2010, 51). Whether the long cist on site is part of a larger concentration of cist burials or is a satellite burial to the Marketknowe is not clear, in the area opened there was no trace of any other burials to North East or South West. The two small cut features dug through the layer of silty clay (2) appeared to be postholes and may relate to the former plot boundary which ran across the middle of the site; they are certainly not associated with the cist burial.

Recommendations (Illus 11)

The long cist only lies at 0.35m below modern ground level (60m OD) and on the proposed line of the back wall of the new house. It will therefore be destroyed by the proposed development work. Due to the amount of excavations proposed for both the new house and associated drainage there would appear to be a strong case for further evaluation and possibly full excavation of the site. The final decision on the scale and nature of the archaeological response however rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

References

O'Grady, O 2008 **The Setting and Practice of Open Air assemblies in Medieval Scotland: A multi-disciplinary study** (submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow)

Philip, A 1895 **The Parish of Longforgan A sketch of its church and people**

Winlow, S 2010 'Two new dates from two old investigations: a reconsideration of The Women's Knowe, Inchtuthil and Kingoodie Long Cist Cemetery, Invergowrie' *Tayside Fife Archaeol J* Vol 16, 48-56

Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge Oliver O'Grady for allowing him to consult his PhD thesis on assembly mounds and Andrew Leonard and Colin the machine driver for digging him out of a snowdrift.

Illustration List

Illus 1 Illus 1 Site Location (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2010. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628

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Illus 11 Plan of proposed new house and associated drainage (based on architects plan) with evaluation trench superimposed (in red) and location of long cist (black rectangle) Scale 1:300

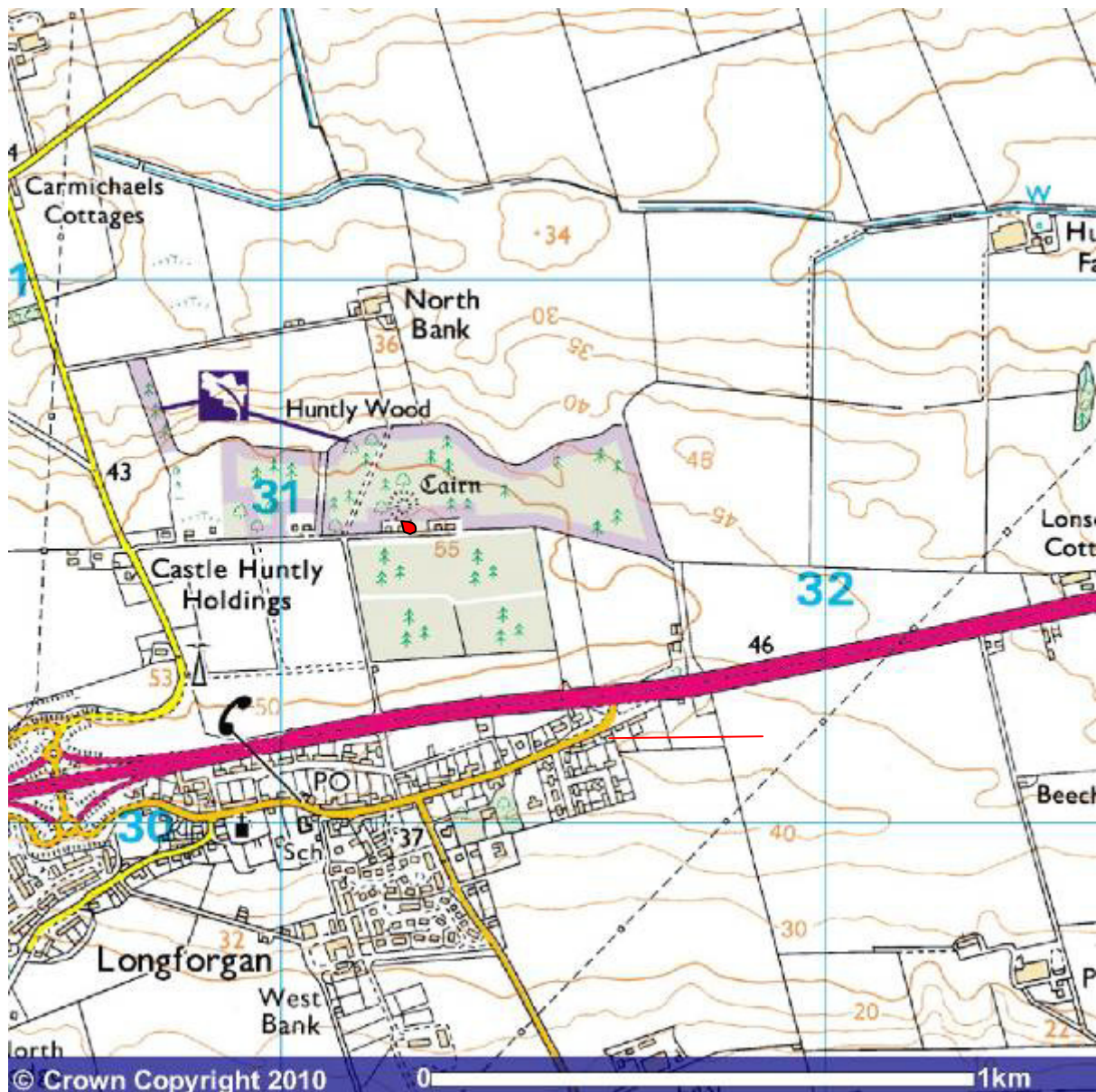
Complete Photographic Archive

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Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Proposed house site adjacent to Marketknowe. Longforgan
PROJECT CODE:	LONG01
PARISH:	Longforgan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NO33SW 19 (Market Knowe)
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	In vicinity of putative burial cairn/assembly mound
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Long Cist
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 312 305
START DATE	14 th December 2010
END DATE	14 th December 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A single trial trench was opened on a NE-SW alignment on the part of the site directly adjacent to the Marketknowe (SAM no 2879). A single long cist was located towards the South Western end of the trench at a depth of 0.35m (60m OD) below modern ground level. Two small cut features were also located post dating the cist and probably relating to a former property boundary. The cist was fully recorded and then the trench carefully backfilled.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Not Known
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Andrew Leonard
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

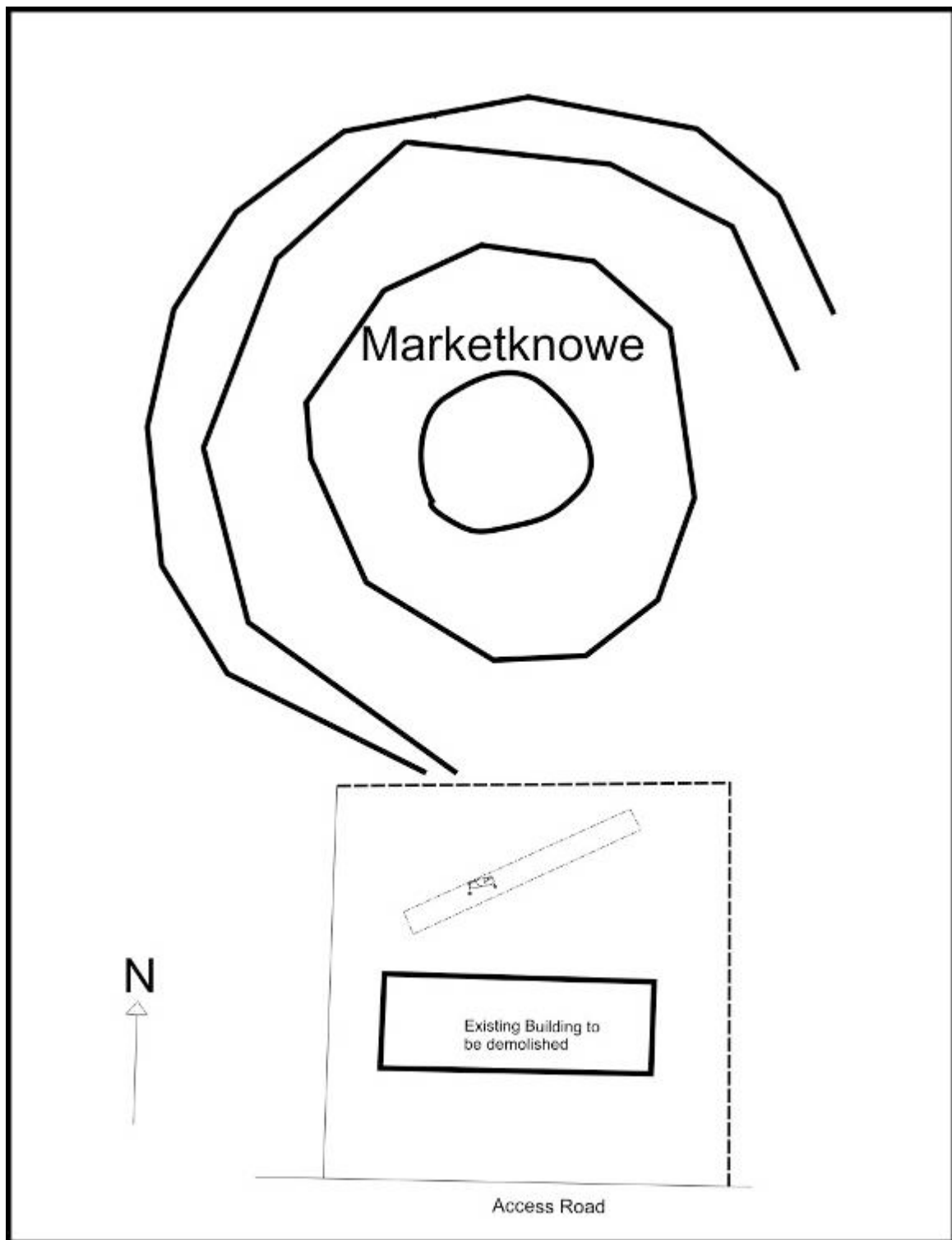


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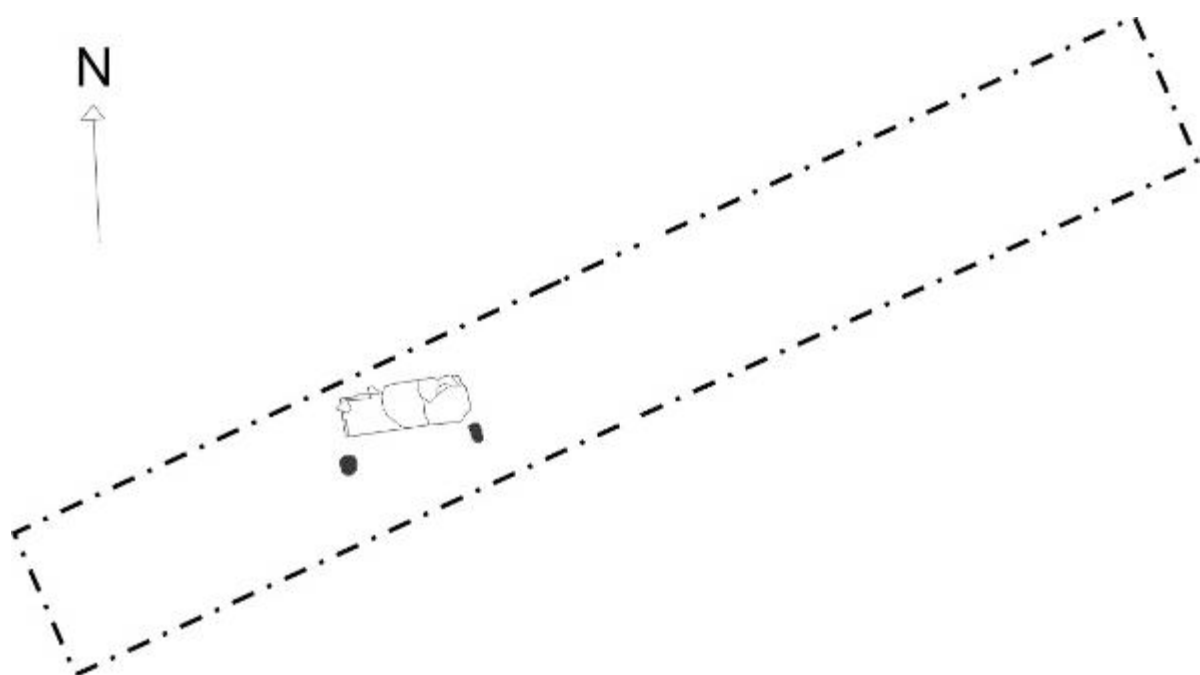
Six-inch 1840s-1880s maps - zoom out to display small-scale 1920s maps



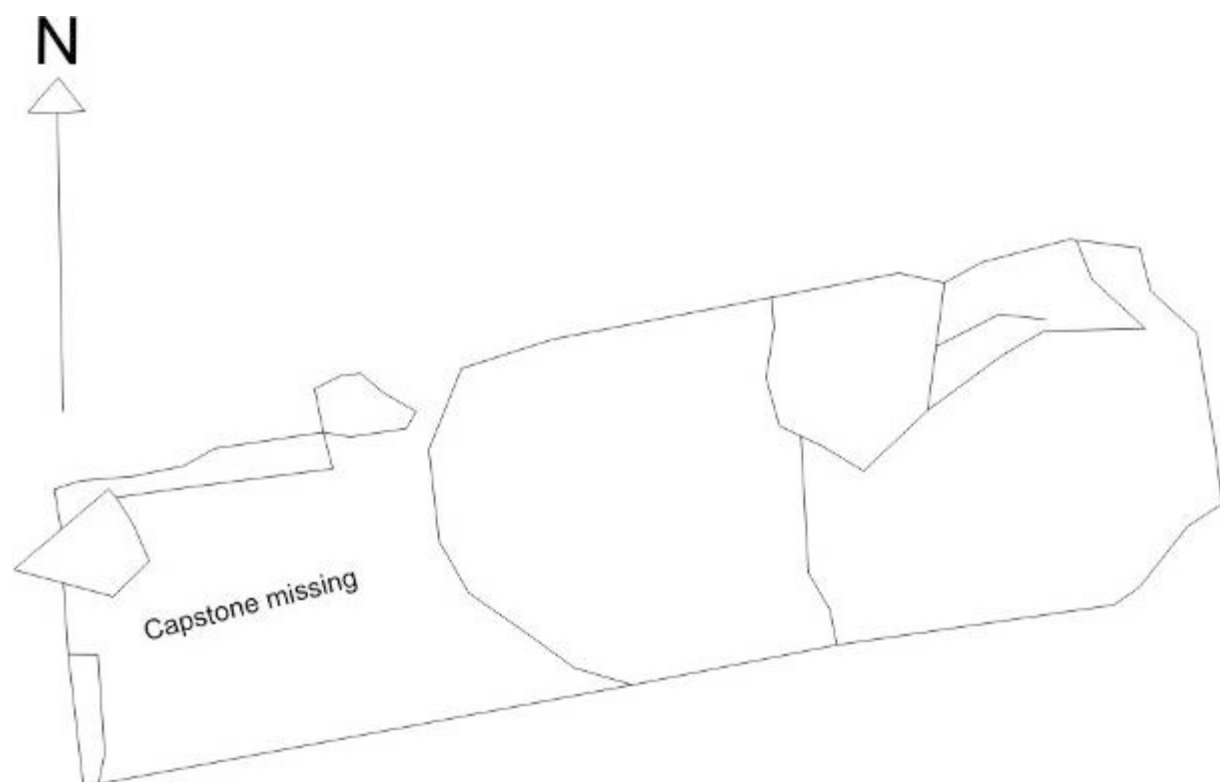
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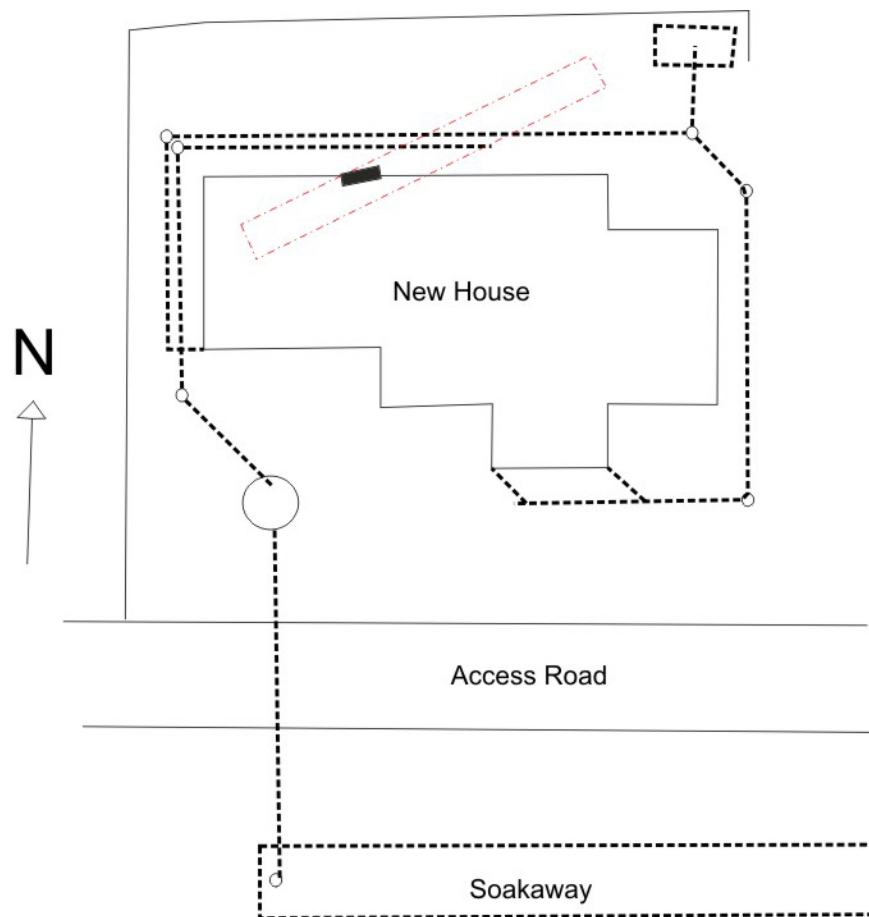
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