Written Scheme of Investigation
for
Archaeological Excavation
at
Chancefield Trenches,
Falkland Estate, Fife
2016



On behalf of Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership

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Text and images by Dr Oliver J T O'Grady unless otherwise stated.

1.0 Summary

1.1 This WSI describes the methodology and procedures for proposed excavations at Chancefield Trenches.

1.2 This document will be used as a reference guide during the project and has been issued in support of SMC application for the proposed excavations and should be read in conjunction with the enclosed Research Design.

2.0 Background

2.1 Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership

The proposed investigations are part of a wide-ranging scheme of community archaeology events being delivered by OJT Heritage on behalf of the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership, as part of the Discover the Ancient Lomonds Project. The Living Lomonds is a landscape conservation programme running between 2013 and 2016 and being delivered by the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership (LLLP), an association of organisations in Fife and Perth & Kinross, a lead partner in which is Falkland Centre for Stewardship. The overall vision of the programme is to reconnect people with the living legacy of the Lomond and Benarty hills. Further information can be found on the Living Lomonds website: www.livinglomonds.org.uk.

2.2 Discover the Ancient Lomonds Project

The community archaeology project, 'Discover the Ancient Lomonds' is funded by the core Heritage Lottery Grant and a grant from Historic Scotland's (Historic Environment Scotland) Voluntary Sector Fund. Three annual excavations at key sites in the area form the core of a programme of fieldwork and training events for the project. The project aims to engage over 600 days of volunteer involvement, to deliver a suite of new informative reports and accessible interpretive products

about the area's historic landscape, and to encourage a wide demographic of communities to get excited and engage with their local heritage.

2.3 Chancefield Trenches

A Landscape Conservation Action Plan undertaken for development of the project identified Chancefield Trenches in the top ten archaeological sites in the Living Lomonds area and a priority site for excavation. This was based on recognition of the monument's cultural and historic significance and the Trenches need for long-term conservation and improved care.

2.4 Physical Description of the Site

Chancefield Trenches in Fife is located at NT175958 in the fenced area of an old forestry planation (now felled), on the west side of Falkland Estate at 85m OD (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). The site comprises linear cuttings arranged in two large V-shaped earthworks that form a funnel shape. There are five trenches each around 2.5m to 3m deep and up to 220m in length. In places the trenches have been cut through natural sandstone.

2.5 Previous Investigations

No previous archaeological investigations are recorded at the site. A topographic survey of the earthworks was undertaken in the 2000s at the behest of Fife Archaeological Services.

2.6 Historians Simon Taylor (2009) and John Gilbert (1979; 2014) have made cases for the site being linked to the late medieval deer park associated with Falkland Palace as a feature for sorting and trapping deer (see Research Design). A copper-alloy dress-fitting or mount the shape of a deer's head was found at the site in 2007 (Taylor 2009: 240).

2.7 Potential Archaeological Features

The following types of archaeological artifacts, features and deposits may be expected during excavation of the site, based on the historical background and previous descriptions of finds in the vicinity:

- Modern fencing debris, metal tools and forestry machinery.
- Post-medieval stray finds.
- Medieval cut and boundary features (post-holes, timber slots, stone walls, earth banks, stone-lined banks, ditches).
- Medieval deposits and finds (animal bone, ceramics, stray finds, simple dress-fittings, horse harness fragments, metal weapons, arrowheads, spearheads, knife blades).
- Medieval high status finds (dress fittings, coinage).
- Medieval military finds (hand weapons, musket shot).
- Prehistoric stray finds and features (post-holes, ceramics, flint tools/debris, stone tools, animal bone).

2.8 The proposed excavations outlined in this WSI will be the first scientific investigation of their kind at the site. The aims, objectives and methodology for the proposed trenching scheme are described in the next section. These have been devised based on the assessment of potential archaeological remains that may be encountered, as outlined in this section and in the accompanying Research Design, and to mitigate environmental constraints.

3.0 Aims

3.1 The proposed excavations have been devised to achieve defined aims in advancing the understanding of the monument's cultural significance, improving the long-term care of the monument and enhancing public knowledge and enjoyment of the monument. A detailed description of the research aims are provided in the accompanying Research Design.

3.2 The excavations are devised to achieve the following aims:

1) To improve the long-term care of the monument by advancing understanding of the site's development, helping to enhance public knowledge and foster civic interest, and proving support to conservation works by land managers.
2) To assess whether Chancefield Trenches was associated with late medieval deer hunting and management.
3) To reconstruct the environmental history of the Trenches.
4) To understand the structural development of the Trenches.
5) To assess the veracity of historical research about the site.

4.0 Objectives

4.1 The excavations will have the following objectives:

1) To open a targeted excavation trench under supervision of professional archaeologist at one location across a truncated gully/trench and its junction with another gully/trench.
2) To organise the excavations as a high-profile public education event for visitors and with managed participation by community volunteers.
3) To characterise the make-up and composition of a single gully/trench.
4) To assess the character, nature, date, extent and start of preservation of archaeological remains with a gully/trench.
5) To assess the extent of disturbance to the archaeology from vegetation growth and root action.

5.0 Trenching Scheme

5.1 A single targeted excavation trench of limited size is proposed at a location on the northern perimeter of the site. No trenches have been

proposed toward the centre of the site or across the best preserved gullies due to vegetation overgrowth and steep slopes in these areas. This section provides a detailed descriptive breakdown of the proposed trench. This should be read with reference to Fig. 1.

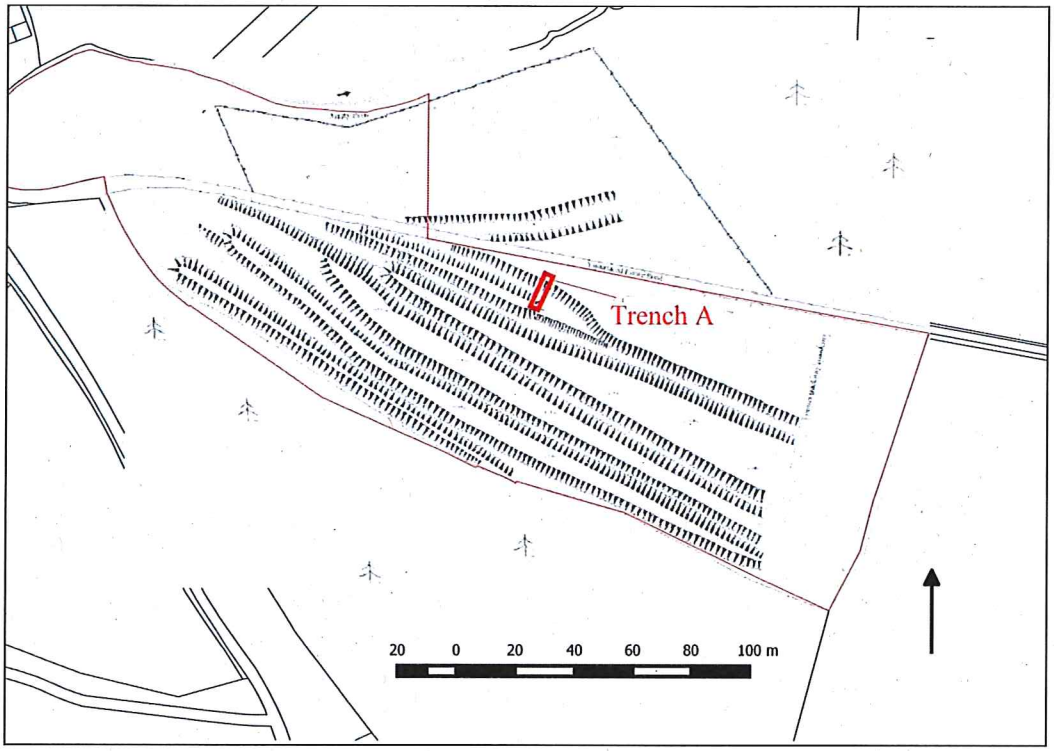


Figure 1. Plan showing the location of the proposed trench (Background Fife Archaeological Service / OS mapping).

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5.2 Trench A

This trench will be positioned to investigate one of the reduced trenches and its junction with another (Fig. 2):

- Size: 2m x 12m.
- Location: North side of the site beside modern fence (Fig. 1).
- Purpose:

  1) Investigate the composition and sequence of deposits in a one of the gully/trench features.

  2) Reveal the make-up of a section of a gully/trench feature.

3) Retrieve samples for dating and paleo-environmental analysis.

4) Characterise a sample of archaeological remains on the 'up cast' of the Trench and its relationship with an adjoining gully/trench feature.

- Mitigation: Located to avoid disturbance of the best preserved parts of the site by sampling a reduced / truncated area.
- Intended Outcomes:

1) Record of a dated stratigraphic sequence for this part of the site.

2) Assessment of whether the Trenches were artificially created or the result of natural processes.

4) Enhance understanding and public interpretation of the site's development to improve long-term care of the monument.



Figure 2. Location of proposed trench A from the north-west.

6.0 Methodology

6.1 Turf / soil management and ground reinstatement:

- All excavation will be by hand tools.
- Removal of turf will be by hand tools and where possible in regular sized pieces.
- Turf will be removed and stacked nearby to the trench and outside the Schedule Monument area at a location agreed with the land manager, where it will be regularly watered, to allow for replacement at the end of the excavation and maintenance of the historic character.
- Spoil will be placed on terram sheets at least two metres from the trench edge.
- All trenches will be backfilled and restored to the state in which they were found with hand tools and a machine digger equipped with soft treads and a non-toothed bucket to minimise disturbance of ground surfaces.
- Backfilled soil will be re-compacted in stages to ensure stability.

6.2 Excavation at depth

- In the event that excavation below a depth of 1.5m is required, excavation trenches will be stepped within the trench area to mitigate potential for collapse.
- This will be made necessary for health and safety compliance and insurance purposes.
- Proposed trench A may require stepping. Shoring of trench sides is not anticipated, but provision of shoring will be discussed in advance with the land managers to cover the eventuality.

6.3 Sampling

- The preference will be for preservation of archaeological remains *in situ* throughout the excavation and it is not intended that all

features and deposits that are encountered should be fully excavated during the investigation.

- A single context excavation method will be utilised.
- The first archaeological sensitive layers encountered will be exposed to the extent of the trench area, cleaned and recorded *in situ*.
- Only where it is deemed necessary to answer specific questions described in the project Research Design and WSI will features be sampled and excavated into, such as, but not exclusively:
  - Half-sectioning of post-holes.
  - Soil sampling of ditch fills.
  - Half-sectioning of banks, stone-lined features or walls.
- Soil samples will be removed for paleoenvironmental analysis with preference given to *in situ* fills, layers, water-logged and organically rich deposits. In such cases no more than 50% of the exposed extent of features will be excavated and sampled for analysis unless in the case of small features (<500mm diameter) – within the scheduled area advice will be taken from Historic Environment Scotland about the application of this methodology if particularly sensitive remains are encountered.

6.4 Recording

- The excavation results will be recorded on *pro forma* context sheets, with photography and a mixture of single and multi-context scale drawings. A reflective 'daybook' will also be kept and any samples given individual record sheets. Photographs, drawings, levels, samples and contexts will be listed on separate registers.
- The trenches will be excavated in plan using hand tools. Archaeological remains will be fully recorded by means of written context descriptions, scale drawings and photographs.
- All recording will be done to industry standard, such as those in the Museum of London Archaeology Service *Archaeological Field Manual*, 3rd edn 1994.

- A sequential block of numbers will be allocated to each trench, with individual numbers from these assigned to each stratigraphic unit.
- A written record (both factual and interpretative) and a 'Harris' matrix of the stratigraphic units will be compiled on *pro forma* sheets and in site notebooks.
- Plans and sections will be drawn at an appropriate scale (usually 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10) according to the detail necessary to provide a full record, and logged on a register.
- Sections and spot heights will be related to the level of the Ordnance Datum. 3-D record will also be made of each trench outline and main excavated features/structures using dGPS.
- A full photographic record will be compiled using still digital and video media, and registered on a standard form. The photographs will illustrate details, principal features, generalized contexts and working shots of the fieldwork.
- All identified finds and artefacts will be recovered and recorded by stratigraphic unit and/or spit, quantified, identified and scanned for dating evidence, with the 3-D find-spot recorded for all significant finds using dGPS. Some materials (such as modern pottery or post-medieval brick) may be discarded after recording as long as a representative sample is kept.
- Finds will be bagged and packed by artefact class and stratigraphic unit and/or spit in a manner that accords with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's (Archaeology Section) *First Aid for Finds*.

7.0 Finds and Conservation

7.1 Finds will be recorded by context as above.

7.2 In the event that fragile objects are uncovered, advice will be sought from conservation specialists at the Scottish Conservation Studio.

Provision will be made to ensure such objects are packed appropriately on site and prepared for immediate dispatch to a conservation laboratory. This will include on site call-out, if required.

7.3 Waterlogged materials and deposits are not anticipated, but may be encountered in trench A, depending on the depositional processes and preservation of archaeological remains within the gullies/trenches. In the event that such materials are uncovered the following course of action will be taken: artefactual materials will be packaged in a wet condition, maintained at a temperature of below 5 degrees C and delivered to an approved conservation laboratory as soon as possible; waterlogged anthropogenic deposits (i.e. containing preserved ecofactual materials) will generally be sampled as per dry deposits, although additional samples may be taken where particularly significant deposits are encountered. The recovered samples will be maintained at a temperature of below 5 degrees C and will be delivered to appropriate specialists for analysis.

8.0 Recovered Materials

8.1 Following post-excavation analysis (barring any intrusive analysis) all artefactual finds recovered will be declared under the Treasure Trove/*bona vacantia* system by reporting to the Treasure Trove Unit. The Crown can claim any find under these laws. Finds will be treated in accordance with Scottish Museums Council Guidelines.

9.0 Environmental sampling and dating

9.1 Sampling will be carried out, geared towards the recovery of data to investigate the composition and deposition of fill deposits with four main aims:

- The recovery of environmental information e.g. macroplant and small faunal remains to help reconstruct past environmental.

- The recovery of material suitable for C14 dating.
- The recovery of small artefacts which might not be recovered by hand.
- The assessment of the soils in order to inform site management and future sampling strategies.

9.2 Environmental sampling will focus on thin-section micromorphology, plant macro-fossil analyses, and pollen analyses. If suitable sections can be exposed thin-section micromorphology will permit the assessment and interpretation of sediment accumulation processes in the fills and layers within the gully/trench.

9.3 Undisturbed samples will be collected in Kubiena tins through the length of the exposed trench section. Advice will be sought were necessary from Stirling University's CEHP and Dr Clare Ellis (Argyll Archaeology), with consideration given to the thin-section preparation and analysis of these samples during the post-excavation phase.

9.4 Soil samples will be collected from archaeological contexts identified as potentially significant for answering the set research questions. Additional samples will be collected in the case of rich deposits, or deposits in interesting physical or stratigraphic locations.

9.5 Where appropriate the recovered materials will be dried and packed on site prior to storage.

9.6 A major aim of the sampling programme is the recovery of material which will be suitable for C14 dating. In general terms it is intended that the dating programme uses single entity dates only, or articulated bone (if present). Samples for C14 dating will be selected by the project director and sent to a specialist for species identification and approval before onward transmission to an approved laboratory.

10.0 Treatment of human remains

10.1 The discovery of human remains is not anticipated. Any finds of human remains will initially be left *in situ*, covered and protected.

10.2 It is a legal requirement to inform the local police of such a discovery. If it is necessary to remove the human remains, this will be done with police approval and in accordance with Historic Scotland's Operational Policy Paper 5 *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology.* However, the removal of human remains is not anticipated and will only be attempted as part of the proposed excavations where remains can assist the project's objectives.

11.0 Staffing

11.1 The proposed trench will be staffed by a professional archaeologist with appropriate qualifications and experience.

11.2 The archaeologist will be assisted by a maximum of 10 community volunteers in support roles. Technical excavation will be led by the archaeologist with supporting duties appropriate to individual skill levels undertaken by assistant volunteers.

11.3 Excavation processes that require additional aptitude from staff, for example thin-section sampling or excavation of sensitive remains, will only be undertaken by a sufficiently trained archaeologist. No unsupervised excavation or recording will be undertaken by voluntary staff..

11.4 Volunteers from the local community will form the majority of support staff in the workforce and will receive training and supervision in archaeological techniques and finds processing. Volunteers will be primarily drawn from the local community and university students. The Living Lomonds Community Liaison Team and Falkland Centre

for Stewardship (FcS) will provide assistance in organising the involvement of volunteers.

11.5 Before beginning fieldwork all staff will be briefed on the aims of the project and the content of the WSI, will be given a full health and safety induction and supplied with necessary PPE.

11.6 A CV for the director of the excavation is enclosed with this WSI.

12.0 Products

12.1 The products of the proposed works will be:

- A Data Structure Report to be completed within 2 months of the completion of the fieldwork. This will be accompanied by a costed post-excavation research design (PERD).
- A brief summary of the results for Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.
- A set of images characterising the main features of the site.
- A popular report for local dissemination via the LLLP website and social media.

12.2 Copies of each major product (including but not limited to DSR) will be deposited with HES, NMRS, FcS and Fife Archaeological Service.

12.3 The site archive will be deposited with NMRS at the completion of the project.

12.4 Finds disposal will be undertaken at the completion of the project.

13.0 Insurance and Health and Safety

13.1 OJT Heritage carry appropriate specialist insurance with Towergate Risk Solutions. This is defined under Towergate's Archaeology Combined policy and covers the project against public liability,

employer's liability, general personal accident cover, 'all-risks' to equipment and professional liability.

13.2 Standard and appropriate Health and Safety procedures will be followed during the excavations, including preparation and dissemination of a bespoke Risk Assessment document. Special consideration will be given to protecting visitors and staff around trenches, barbed wire fences and farm traffic – these aspects will be risk assessed and have been discussed in detail with the land managers.

13.3 Site staff trained in First Aid will be clearly identified at the start of each day and the location of a site medical kit communicated to all staff. All H&S incidents are to be reported to the site director.

13.4 Potentially dangerous work areas and overgrown zones will be cordoned off and made inaccessible to digging staff as appropriate.

14.0 Consents and Access

14.1 Access to Chancefield Trenches for the purposes of the proposed excavation has been granted through the co-operation of [redacted]

14.2 Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Scotland has been applied for following initial contact with Senior Heritage Management Officer, Rory McDonald (Ancient Monuments, East), the LAA Fife Archaeology Service (Douglas Speirs), LLLP Manager (Ed Heather-Hayes) and [redacted] A pre-application site visit was held with the land manager on 16th February, which has assisted in the preparation of this WSI.

14.3 No excavation or other ground breaking works will commence prior to written confirmation of SMC. The works will not deviate from the proposals laid out in this WSI or from conditions that may be advised by HES as part of SMC, without further amendment to consent. Additional site visits may be arranged with HES staff and the LAA as appropriate. The excavation would provisionally take place on 4th-15th May 2016.

14.4 The proposals do not affect any other form of designation such as a SSSI. SNH have been advised of the proposals.

14.5 Public access to the excavations will be controlled by fencing.

14.6 Temporary access beyond the fencing will be provided for the purposes of weekend public site tours. These will be planned to take place in the morning and afternoon, numbers will be restricted and members of the public will be supervised throughout during tours by a trained guide.

14.7 Further copies of this WSI can be made available on request.

15.0 References

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