

**Report of Radiocarbon Dating
From Watching Brief at
Garblies Farm, by Auldearn
NH 9320 / 5498**

Client: Mr. J G Downie

Planning Application No: 01/00130/FULNA

**By
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October 2003**

1. Introduction

This is the report is for a radiocarbon date from charcoal recovered from an archaeological watching brief conducted by the author at Garblies Farm, by Auldearn per planning application 01/00130/FULNA.

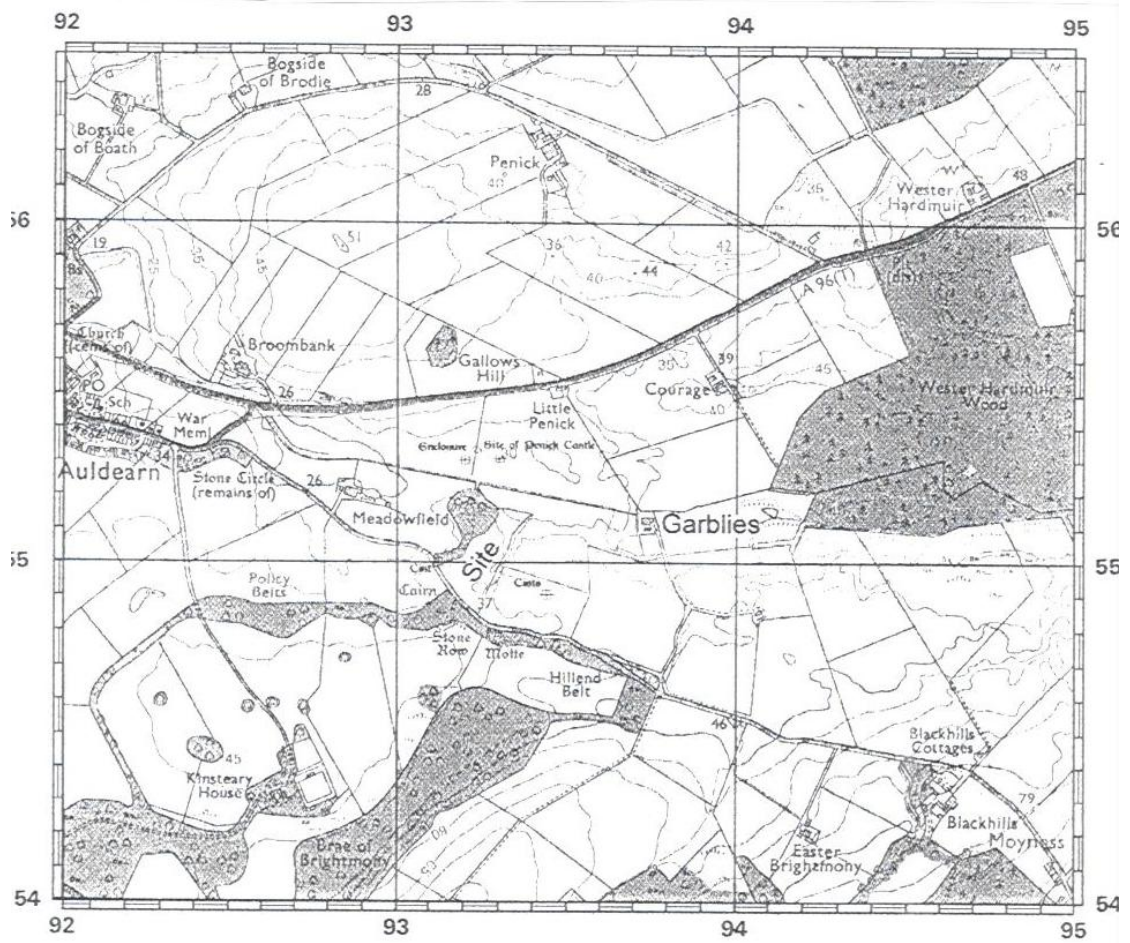
2. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help during the work:

- Dr. G Cook, of the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre.

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Figure 1 – General Location



SITE

Garbilles Farm,
Auldearn, IV12 5JZ

boundary - proposed post and wire fence

septic tank

s.a.

s.a.

s.a.

s.a.

s.a.

s.a.

s.a.

driveway
(chipped
finish on
hardcore
base)

boundary - proposed post and wire fence

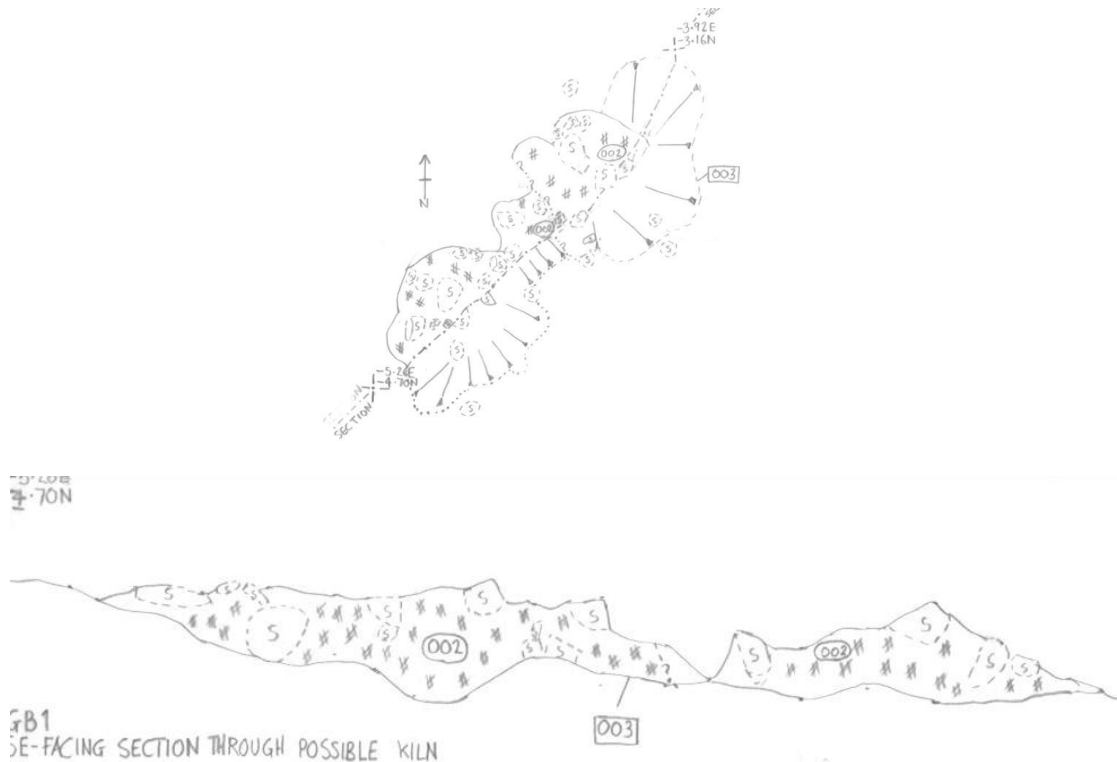
Owner -
Mr W Downie,
Garbilles Farm,
Auldearn, IV12 5JZ

Proposed county building
At Garbilles Farm
For Dr and Mrs
(SCALE 1:500)

Background

A monitoring of the removal of topsoil and subsoil for the house plot in April 2003 (Farrell, 2003) had revealed a number of archaeological features and therefore required excavation. Of these feature 1 from the NE corner of the house plot produced an amount of charcoal:

1 – Possible corn drying kiln or hearth of two shallow scoops c50cm in diameter into natural in figure 8. Stones to west side more fire-cracked and lying flat with occasional upright stones set on northern edge. Larger pieces of charcoal indicating area of hearth within area of stones. (Below - view of feature upon ½ section facing north – scale 1m x 0.5m; plan 1:20, section 1:10) No cereal grains were located in fill, though amount between stones was very limited and not enough for a bulk flotation sample.



The C14 date of a sample of burnt wood submitted to the SURRC was uncalibrated at 4355 ± 60 BP which in conventional years is 2405 ± 60 giving a date range of 2465 to 2345 BC giving a Bronze Age date.

Discussion

Apart from a single feature as a probable hearth none of the other features revealed during the watching brief in 2003 or the trial trenching conducted in 1998 (Farrell, 1998) were very evident to their function or date. The dating of the hearth to the Bronze Age stands alone in area where although numerous cists have been located no evidence has been found previously for domestic occupation.

Recent studies in the Bronze Age in Nairn and surrounding area are lacking though it is hoped that this feature may help towards any wider study made.

Recommendations

No recommendations with regard any further post-excavation work for this project is to be proposed.

References

Farrell, S (1998) Garblies Farm, Auldearn. Report of Trial Trenching November 14th – 15th 1998. Unpublished report – copy held by HSMR.

Farrell, S (2003) Report of Archaeological Watching Brief April 9th – 10th 2003 Garblies Farm, by Auldearn. Unpublished report – copy held by HSMR.