

SERF Community Programme 2016

Millhaugh Visitors Information



SERF - Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot Project

Dunning has been the focus of activity from prehistory to present. Modern investigations by the University of Glasgow SERF project have identified fragments of evidence for this activity through time.

Since 2006 archaeologists from the University of Glasgow, with the help of local volunteers, have been exploring Forteviot and the neighbouring parishes of Dunning and Forgandenny. The last few years has seen the project focus on researching, surveying and excavating sites in and around Dunning, including: Neolithic farming at Wellhill; early prehistoric ritual sites at Leadketty; prehistoric barrow at Millhaugh; Roman temporary camp at Kincladie and Pitcairns; early medieval evidence at St Serfs, Dunning; and multiple seasons on an Iron Age hillfort at the Dun Knock, Dunning. This has been complemented by investigations characterising the wider landscape using fieldwalking, walkover survey and geophysics at sites throughout Strathearn.

We have always been very lucky to enjoy the support of the local community every summer, with locals getting involved in our survey and excavation work, digging up gardens, visiting sites and turning out for walks and talks. This year we are running a series of events as part of the Dunning Community Programme, focussed around the origins of the village of Dunning. We are also running excavations at Millhaugh investigating a series of possible prehistoric cropmark sites.

More information on the SERF project results from the past ten years can be found here: SERF project website:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/humanities/research/archaeologyresearch/projects/serf/>

Information on our events can be found at: www.dunningheritage.com

Follow the SERF Project on Twitter for up to the minute developments: <https://twitter.com/serfproject> @serfproject

Or go on our blog for weekly updates: <http://serf-dig.blogspot.co.uk/>

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Events List

Come and get involved in the SERF Project Community Programme for 2016.
Whether you want to join a workshop, attend a talk or
dig on our exciting excavations there is lots to get involved with.

Volunteers Wanted! to dig at prehistoric Millhaugh. **19th June to 6th July inclusive. 10am – 4pm.**
(NOT 24th or 1st - project days off). Sign up to volunteer on our dig for a couple of days, a week or
even the whole thing! Beginners welcome, training and tools provided.

Booking essential for dig: cathy.maciver@aocarchaeology.com

**Discovering Dunning:
Introducing a Landscape
Archaeology of Dunning.**
19th June 2-4pm

**Mapping Workshop: Chart the
development of Dunning
through old maps.**
21st June 10am-12

**Archive Workshop: An
introduction to the archives
available for Dunning.**
22nd June 10am-12

**Archive Workshop: Explore
Dunning's past through the
archives.**
26th June, 2-4pm

**Survey Day: Visit and record
sites in Dunning that help us
understand how the village
developed.**
27th June, 10am-3

**Talk by AOC Archaeology
conservators explaining what
happens to finds after
excavation. Find out more
about what has happened to
some of the SERF Project finds
from the past years.**
30th June, 10.30am

**Open Day: Tours of the sites and
exhibitions of SERF Project finds
and results. Activities for all ages.**
2nd July, 11am-3

**Survey Day: Visit and record sites in
Dunning that help us understand
how the village developed.**
4th July, 10am-3

**Connect the research workshop:
Come along to see what we have
discovered and help us piece it all
together.**
5th July, 10am-12

**Talk on Black Loch excavations: Anne
Crone AOC Archaeology: Find out
more about an exciting site where
exceptional preservation provides an
unusual insight into the past.**
4th July, 7pm

**Connect the research
workshop: Come along to see
what we have discovered and
help us piece it all together.**
6th July, 10am-12

**Talk on Treasure Trove process:
Find out what happens to the
finds after excavation and
analysis. Dr Natasha Ferguson.**
7th July, time tbc

All events (except dig) to be held in **Dunning Church Hall**,
Perth Rd Dunning PH2 0RY.

Some details are still tbc. Please check www.dunningheritage.com events page
for up to date information, maps and directions to parking and venue.

Booking is recommended, please email cathy.maciver@aocarchaeology.com



SERF

Visitor Information

If you are planning on visiting the site at Millhaugh outwith the open day please follow these instructions for parking and access. The site is located in farmland at Millhaugh about a 1km walk from Dunning on the B8062 (the field where toilets are marked on the map, figure 2, below). We have very limited parking on site so visitors will need to park in Dunning Village and walk along the road to the site. Please do not park on the road by the site or on the farm itself, the landowner only has space for the university vehicles which are used to transport tools and soil samples. The permitted access route (walking) is marked on the map (Figure 2) below and has been agreed upon with the landowner to minimise disturbance to crops.

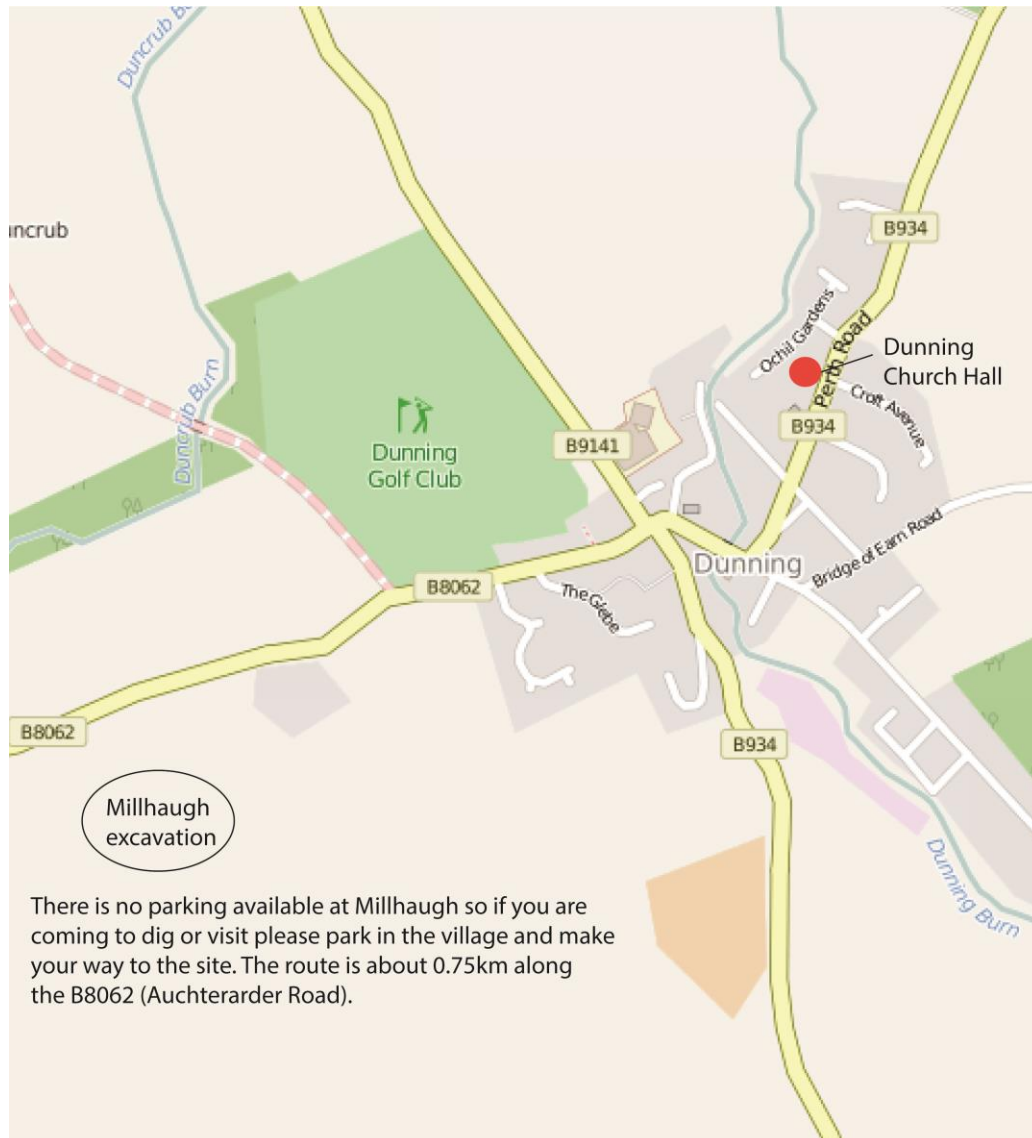


Figure 1: Map of Millhaugh excavation site in relation to Dunning (park in village)

Please only access the Millhaugh excavation on foot along the route marked below. Don't walk through the field with the trench in it other than by the marked route from the toilets to the trench. This is to avoid crop damage. Thank you.



Figure 2: Map of access route from B8062 to the trench (follow white arrows)

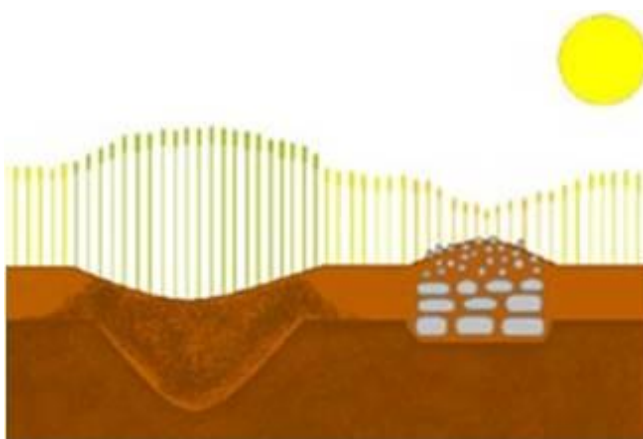
Safety: Please be careful on the walk to and from site each morning and evening. The road from Dunning to the site is narrow, people drive fast on this road and there are a number of corners and no pavement for the last short section. You undertake this walk at your own risk, please stay to the side of the road, facing oncoming traffic and observe the Highway Code. Once you are off the main road please continue to take care – you will be travelling to site though a working farm. As you are working in farmland please observe the country side code, leave gates and properties as you find them. Protect plants, crops and animals and take litter home.

Cathy MacIver is the site first aider at Millhaugh and there will be a site first aid kit. It would also be useful to have a small personal first aid kit for plasters, tick tweezers, personal medication etc.

Archaeological Investigation to date

Existing Survey Work

This site is known about through aerial photography picking out cropmarks caused by archaeological features remaining beneath the plough soil. These features have been truncated by intensive agriculture but the base of the features remain preserved beneath the plough zone.



Cropmarks show up because crops grow to different heights over different features. The example to the left shows higher greener crops over buried ditches and lower crop over buried walls. When these are photographed in low light features that are not visible on the ground suddenly become clear.

Aerial photography surveys record cropmarks at different times of year and over different years, building up a record of the features in a field, different features show differently on different photos. Millhaugh, the field where we are excavating is shown below:

Research Design

Our investigation of Millhaugh will aim to better understand the character of these cropmark features, to better identify and define the surviving or possibly buried structures and to gain more in-depth understanding of the character, layout and construction, use, abandonment and dating of this particular site.

The trench for the 2016 June/July season will investigate the ditched enclosure, the pit alignment and the pit/post defined enclosure.



These aerial photos have been analysed and archaeological features transcribed off them. These transcriptions are just an interpretation and to fully understand them the features need to be excavated. The current interpretation for Millhaugh features is shown below:

