



We safeguard the nation's built heritage and promote its understanding and enjoyment

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Our ref: AMN/3/3
 Your ref: S100630/SR001 dated 12 September 2007

23 November 2007

Dear Mr Maxwell

A96 Threapland Junction Improvements

I refer to your letter of 12 September 2007, and the accompanying Scoping Report. I apologise for the lengthy delay in replying to you. We have now considered the information provided in the Report, and have the following comments to offer.

We note that the new access road/track to Larchfield transects the D-shaped crop mark, known on the local SMR as Larchfield NJ26SE0034 (NB not an NMRS label).

We also note that the present road between the milestone, east of Threapland (Thraipland on Pont's map) and Kennieshillock (Kennethsmount on the 1st Edition OS map) runs along what was a track on the 1st Edition OS called 'The King's Road'. Given the discovery of a stone axe near here (NMRS NJ26SE 59), there is a possibility that this was once a long barrow.

We recommend the following sequential actions:

1. enhanced Desk Based Assessment to consider the above more carefully and look closely at all aerial photographs,
2. 10% evaluation by excavation – structured on the basis of the DBA – and the production of a rapid report,
3. prior excavation of any parts of the D-shaped enclosure which will be affected plus anything significant which appears in the evaluation,
4. topsoil strip monitoring during the Construction phase.



We would be happy to provide comment at the end of each stage.

If you require further advice on the appointment of archaeological contractors, please contact Rod McCullagh at this address, or on 0131 668 8757.

Yours sincerely



William Kidd

