



## Moredun Top Volunteer Information Sheet

### Moredun Top

The site is a complex Iron Age hillfort, first excavated in 2015, this will be our last year there. In previous years we've found a possible Broch or Dun, part of a shale bracelet, tools, a gaming piece, a bead and many other finds. There's more information about previous digs on the [website](#) and [the AOC dig diary](#)

### Management

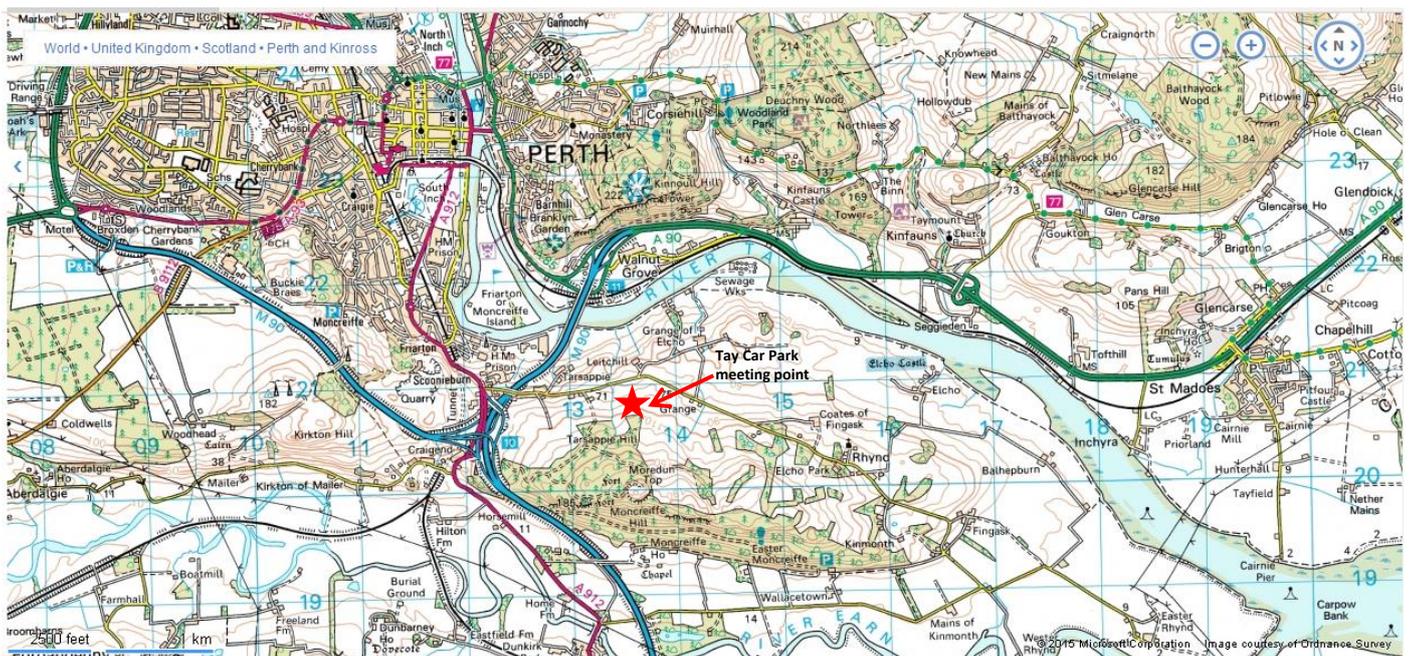
The event will be led by Sophie Nicol, the Tay Landscape Partnership's Historic Environment Officer and David Strachan, Manager of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and will be supported AOC Archaeology.

### Dig Schedule

The dig will be running from Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April until Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. The working week will be from Tuesday – Saturday (Sundays & Mondays are the diggers days off!). The working day will be from 9am – 5pm each day – starting and ending at the Tay car park. All volunteers will be expected to keep to this daily time schedule as there is a lot of work to be done and we have to keep to the overall dig schedule. We ask for minimum two day commitment with your first day being either a Tuesday or a Friday as you need to have a site induction before starting.

### Dig Location

The dig itself is at the top of Moncreiffe Hill at Moredun Top. It's about 3km/ 1.9 miles to the site and we find it takes about 25 minutes to get there. It's a sustained, uphill walk to reach the dig site and you will be bending, kneeling, digging, scraping, turf cutting, shovelling and moving earth through the days.



## Meeting Point

There are two car parks on Moncreiffe Hill, the big Tay car park on the road to Elcho Castle and the very small Earn car park accessed from Bridge of Earn.

The meeting point is at **Tay car park** on road to Elcho Castle at 9am (8:30am if you're the meet & greet volunteer). We should be back at the car park no later than 5pm. Please try not use the Earn car park as it's so small we can't risk taking it over and excluding other users. If you find yourself at the Earn car park it will be signposted to the dig, please check in with Sophie when you arrive so we know you're on site.

For more information about Moncreiffe Hill and directions to the car park see The Woodland Trust's [Moncreiffe Hill information leaflet](#)

There will be sign posting on the way up the hill and from both car parks, but please do ring Sophie if you get lost or are unsure where to go.



## Kit

Please wear practical clothes and shoes.

Ensure you have sturdy boots with ankle support plus layered clothing as it may get very hot or very cool in the wind! All volunteers should bring a rucksack with full waterproofs, hat, midge repellent and sunscreen.

AOC Archaeology should provide gloves and trowels but if you prefer to bring your own please do. Knee pads are highly recommended by our diggers, there will be some kneelers available but you may wish to bring your own.

## Welfare Facilities

There will be portaloos on site.

There is no shop close by, and you will be on the hill all day, so you will need to make sure you bring a packed lunch and snacks as well as plenty of water and / or a flask of hot drink to see you through the day.

## Health and Safety

As part of your induction you will be provided with a risk assessment. Please read over the risk assessment and feel to ask about anything you are unsure of as you will be required to sign it before starting work.

If you are feeling unwell, tired, or have any concerns during the dig please do talk to Sophie whilst on site as we are responsible for making sure you are safe and happy.

## Training

There will be a mixture of experienced and inexperienced volunteers taking part in the dig. Previous experience is not necessary as full training will be provided.

Professional archaeologists will provide training and guidance on site, and although some fitness is required, there are plenty tasks to suit most.

Inductions will be provided on Tuesdays and Fridays in weeks 1-3, and on Tuesday only in week 4. If you do not attend on the first day of your agreed volunteer slot you will miss the group induction. This will mean that a member of staff will have to devote unscheduled time to complete another induction for a single person, so it is very important that you make every effort to attend on the days you have agreed with us.

## Getting to the site

There will be a free Diggers Bus running from Bridge of Earn and Perth out to the dig site in the morning and back again in the evening. Just turn up but if you're running late the bus won't wait. If you do miss the dig bus, give Sophie a call and she'll help if she can. Approximate times are:

<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Pick up point</i>
8:15	Bridge of Earn	Triangle at end of Wick O'Baiglie Road
8:30	Perth	Broxden Park & Ride
8:40	Perth	Train Station
8:45	Perth	Bus stop outside Edinburgh Road Tesco
9:00	Moncreiffe Hill	

<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Pick up point</i>
4:45	Moncreiffe Hill	
5:00	Perth	Bus stop outside Edinburgh Road Tesco
5:05	Perth	Train Station
5:15	Perth	Broxden Park & Ride
5:30	Bridge of Earn	Triangle at end of Wick O'Baiglie Road

If for some reason, e.g. bad weather, the dig has to finish early for the day we will try to arrange for the dig bus to come back early, if that isn't possible we will make sure everyone can get back to where they need to so you won't be stranded.

Car - Sat Nav is not helpful! There's no postcode for the site and it has taken people to the wrong place so please don't rely on it. The best way to get to the site is from the A912 Edinburgh Road onto the Rhynd Road, follow the signs for Elcho Castle. The Woodland Trust Tay car park is approx. half a mile up on the right.

Public Transport - There are buses which will drop you at the turn for Rhynd Road and then you have to walk from there or wait for someone to pick you up.

We'd like people to car share as much as possible so we don't take over the whole car park, so if know anyone else who is going, or meet up with someone travelling your way during the dig, we would encourage you to share cars. It is also better for the environment

You can use Perth & Kinross Liftshare website to help match up drivers with passengers. It's easy to use and lets you talk to each other quickly. Simply log in with your lift offer or request and see if you get a response <https://perthandkinross.liftshare.com/>

### **Cost**

There's no charge for the dig but you will need to cover your own travel, food and accommodation (if required).

Accommodation is not provided. April/May are very busy for accommodation in this area so if you do need somewhere, book early.

### **Accommodation FAQs:**

*Where's the nearest accommodation to the dig?*

The nearest places with B&Bs and Hotels are [Perth](#) & [Bridge of Earn](#). The free Diggers Bus will stop at both Bridge of Earn and in three different locations in Perth.

*Where's the nearest camping or caravan sites?*

There are a number of camping & caravan sites in the area; this link has a good list.

<http://www.ukcampsite.co.uk/sites/results.asp?county=Perthshire>

*Where's the nearest hostel?*

The nearest hostel is [Jessie Macs](#) in [Dunkeld](#), about 30 mins drive from the dig. You can get a bus/train to Perth then pick up the free diggers bus.

The nearest [Youth Hostel](#) is in [Pitlochry](#) – about 45 mins drive from the dig. You can get a bus/train to Perth then pick up the free diggers bus.

[Dundee](#) - about 45 mins drive from the dig site – has various Youth Hostels and Backpackers. You can get a bus/train to Perth then pick up the free diggers bus.

### **Tours & visits**

Anyone can visit the dig and can get a tour so invite your friends and family along to see what you've been up too. If a group would like to prebook a tour please let me know.

### **Awards**

We support the [Archaeology Skills Passport](#), Archaeology Scotland's [Heritage Heroes](#), the [Saltire Award](#), Duke of Edinburgh, Queen's Scouts among others and are happy to help anyone completing these and other awards. If you're a student we can provide an Archaeology Skills Passport for free, please tell us when booking if you need one so know how many are required.

## Dogs

We have a no dog policy on our activities so please leave your pooch at home if you're volunteering on the dig, while they're excellent at digging holes and finding things it's not quite right for a dig! The car park is a good 20 minute walk away and out of sight so you can't leave your dog in the car either. The police and dog wardens do monitor the site. If you want to visit the dig at any time you're welcome to bring Fido with you, it's a regular dog walking area so you may find the dogs accompanying their human on a visit, on lead of course!

## Booking

You can book using this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MoredunTop2017> or contact Lindsey on the details below.

## **Lindsey Gibb • Volunteer Coordinator (part time – two days a week) • Tay Landscape Partnership**

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