

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Buchan Street,
MacDuff:**

Data Structure Report

For: Springfield Properties PLC
Pentland House
Grampian Road
Elgin
Moray
IV30 1XJ

National Grid Reference (NGR): NGR: NJ 7128 6446

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20712

Prepared by: Martin Cook

Graphics Graeme Carruthers

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Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
Midlothian
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
Email. admin@aocscot.co.uk

1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Buchan Street, MacDuff, Aberdeenshire (centred NGR: NJ 7128 6446). The programme of archaeological works was required by Springfield Properties PLC in respect to a proposed housing development of a greenfield site covering 45,069 m².
- 1.2 The proposed development area lies within the administrative area of Aberdeenshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The archaeological works undertaken were in keeping with the policies outlined in PAN 42 and NPPG 5 in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.
- 1.3 The objective of the investigation was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area. The work was carried out during September 2007 and was conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2007) which was agreed by Mrs Moira Greig of ACAS, and approved by the planning authority. The evaluation consisted of twenty-six trenches totalling 3,828 m².
- 1.4 Despite the presence of cropmarks within the development area, neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were observed during the course of the evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning background

- 2.1.1 Planning consent is being sought by Springfield Properties PLC for a housing development at the site of Buchan Street, MacDuff, Moray. A programme of works was designed to satisfy fully the requirements of the local planning authority. AOC Archaeology group was commissioned by Springfield Properties PLC to undertake this programme of works.

2.2 Location

- 2.2.1 The land proposed for development at Macduff (Figure 1) is located at the eastern edge of the town, bounded by Law Hill to the west. An industrial estate and electricity sub-station lie to the south with residential buildings and Buchan Street to the north and east. The geology of the area around Macduff is characterised by freely drained, intermediate fluvio-glacial sands of the Boydie Association (Glenworth 1954).

2.3 Archaeological background

- 2.3.1 Macduff is present on maps from as early as 1820 when it appears on a map by Thomson and Johnson; however, unnamed buildings are depicted in the location of Macduff on General Roy's map of 1747 to 1755. Thomson and Johnson's map depicts a building lying at the southern edge of the proposed development area. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (c. 1860) indicates that a road ran through the eastern portion of the site. The road was generally aligned north/south and was still depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping in 1964. The 1904 Ordnance Survey map shows the development area segmented into several thin north/south running fields, though these had been merged into larger fields by 1964. The 1978 Ordnance Survey plan indicates that the road within the proposed development area had been removed and the buildings to the north, along the street frontage, had been constructed.
- 2.3.2 Aerial photograph reconnaissance had previously revealed that several cropmarks were present within the proposed development area. These included to possible two rectangular enclosures, one within the other. To the immediate west there was a possible square enclosure (Greig 2002). These enclosures may relate to the building depicted on Johnson and Thomson's 1820 map.

3 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the defined subject area;
 - ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Twenty-six trenches (Figure 1) were excavated covering a total basal area of 3828 m², representing a near 10% sample of the development area. The total amount of trenching was reduced from 4,507 m² to 3,828 m² due to the presence of unmarked services in the area. This reduction was agreed in the field after consultation with Mr Bruce Mann of the Aberdeen Council Archaeological Service (ACAS).
- 4.2 The trial trenching aimed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality, date and significance of any archaeological features present within the development area. The trenches were of varying lengths and set on different orientations (Figure 1). Weather conditions during the evaluation varied between heavy showers and dry cold weather.

- 4.3 Stripping of the overburden was by means of a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket approximately 2.0 m wide. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 4.4 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 24th and 27th September 2007. Twenty-six trenches, approximately 2.0 m wide were machine excavated (Figure 1).



Figure 3: General view of trench, post-excavation

- 5.2 The following should be read together with the various data gathered from the evaluation presented in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 5.4 The topsoil across the site varied in depth from 0.20 to 0.70 m depending on the topography of the field, and was found to overlie a combination of yellow and orange sand natural subsoil. Field drains (clay tile and rubble) were identified across the entire field.
- 5.5 The archaeological evaluation identified neither significant features nor artefacts. The trenches located in the south-western part of the field over the aerial photograph anomalies revealed no archaeological features. It seems likely that any features which may once have been present have now been eradicated by ploughing.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified. It is concluded that any underlying features which may once have been present, as revealed by cropmark anomalies, have been finally removed by recent plough activity. No further works are recommended.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	200 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-east to south-west
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	165 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-east to south-west
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30-0.70 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.35-0.75 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-east to south-west
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-east to south-west
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	80 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-east to south-west
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	65 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-east to south-west
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	31 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-east to south-west
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m

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<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	39 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	110 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	120 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 13

<i>Dimensions</i>	120 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 14

<i>Dimensions</i>	115 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 15

<i>Dimensions</i>	105 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 16

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 17

<i>Dimensions</i>	80 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 18

<i>Dimensions</i>	70 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 19

<i>Dimensions</i>	70 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 20

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None

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<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 21

<i>Dimensions</i>	55 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 22

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 23

<i>Dimensions</i>	47 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 24

<i>Dimensions</i>	32 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 25

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 26

<i>Dimensions</i>	15 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/orange sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Evaluation Black & White Print and Colour Slide 1

Frame	Detail	From
1-2	Registration	
3-4	General post-excavation shot of Trench 8	S
5-6	General post-excavation shot of Trench 10	SW
7-12	General shot of trenches in the west of the area	SW
13-14	General shot of trenches in the north-east of the area	SW

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APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Buchan Street, MacDuff
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20712
PARISH:	Gamrie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Martin Cook
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 7128 6446
START DATE (this season)	24 th September 2007
END DATE (this season)	27 th September 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A 10% sample evaluation was undertaken prior to a proposed residential development of a greenfield site lying on the east side of MacDuff. The evaluation consisting of twenty-six trenches totalling 3828 m ² encountered neither significant features nor artefacts.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Springfield Properties PLC
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	martinc@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS