

An archaeological evaluation at Pinefield, Elgin, Moray.

Data Structure Report

Prepared for: Springfield Properties PLC
Pentland House
Grampian Road
Elgin
IV30 1XJ

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20836

National grid reference: NJ 2322 6254

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1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology on behalf of Springfield Properties PLC in advance of a proposed residential development at Pinefield, Elgin, Moray.
- 1.2 Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were recorded during the course of the works.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project and archaeological background

- 2.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Springfield Properties Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed residential development at Pinefield, Elgin, Moray (NGR: NJ 2322 6254; Figure 1). These works were in compliance with the requirements of a planning condition (Ref: 07/00274/FUL) imposed on the proposed development by Moray Council, as advised on such matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). All works were in accord with the guidelines set out in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the development area.
- 2.1.2 No archaeological remains were previously known within the development area, however the banks and floodplain of the River Lossie and Tynock Burn would have offered an attractive area for settlement in prehistory. The Lossie corridor forms a natural route through the landscape and the fertile floodplain would have provided a rich source of food.
- 2.1.3 Previous excavations in the vicinity of the A96 and Tynock Burn have recovered the remains of 16 burials in close proximity to, and possibly associated with, the site of a possible Medieval leper hospital (Shepherd 1982). Nearby excavations in advance of roadworks on the A6 have also revealed evidence for medieval soils (Coleman 113, 40).
- 2.1.4 In the wider area prehistoric remains, visible as cropmarks during aerial reconnaissance, have been recorded on the eastern periphery of New Elgin.
- 2.1.5 Cartographic sources show the development area to have been used as open agricultural land. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps from 1868 show the proposed development area bounded on the east by a north-south aligned field boundary. South-west of the site lies the farmstead of Tyockside, it is probable that the development area functioned as agricultural land associated with this farm.
- 2.1.6 The proposed development area continued to be rural in nature during the early

20th century as demonstrated by OS editions from 1938. During World War II the Pinefield Barracks were established on the site of the proposed development. The barracks are visible on Post-war vertical air photographs as a group of huts, buildings and H-blocks surrounding a large parade ground. The OS 1959 edition shows that the centre of the barracks was focused south of the site and the proposed development site was occupied by a single rectangular building.

2.2 Location & geology

- 2.2.1 The development area lies approximately 1.5 km to the west of the medieval Burgh of Elgin. It is bounded to the north by the A96 trunk road, to the east and south by existing residential development and to the west by industrial properties. Most recently the site has housed a community centre with associated car parking, trees and grassland.
- 2.2.2 The solid geology of Elgin consists of Old Red Sandstone over which lies a drift deposit of glacial sand and gravelly overlain by alluvium (Macaulay Institute 1978). Permo-Triassic sandstone, together with some Jurassic rocks, crop out near Elgin. The soils are generally imperfectly or poorly drained with loamy and sandy textures (Futty & Towers 1982).

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

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

4 METHOD

- 4.1 The details of the archaeological works, laid out below, were designed to fully meet the works agreed by ACAS.
- 4.2 The evaluation was achieved through the excavation of four linear trenches using a mechanical, 360° tracked excavator equipped with a 2 m wide, smooth bladed ditching bucket. The trenches were 4 m wide, between 25 - 30 m in length and were set on varying orientations (Figure 1). The trench layout was previously agreed with ACAS, although the length of two of the trenches was changed in the field to accommodate previously unrecorded services. The total basal trench area amounted to 480 m², which equates to an 8% sample of the development area.

- 4.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (WSI Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29). Spoil was placed to the side of the evaluation trenches. No attempt was made to separate topsoil, made ground and subsoil. Trench descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.4 Black and white print, colour slide, and digital photographs, were taken during the course of the works (Appendix 2).

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The evaluation was undertaken between 12th and 13th December, 2007 in generally fair weather conditions amenable to archaeological visibility. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded.
- 5.2 Trenches 1 and 2 recorded 0.10 m of tarmac overlying 0.30 m of hardcore. Trenches 3 and 4 recorded up to 0.80 m of topsoil. All trenches were excavated to the depth of the underlying natural subsoil which consisted of light brown sands.
- 5.3 A large water main (c 3 m wide) was recorded in Trench 3, running in an east to west direction. Two smaller water pipe trenches (up to 0.40 m wide) were recorded in Trench 4, also on an approximate east to west orientation. These have been annotated onto the trench layout plan (Figure 2).

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological evaluation recorded neither significant archaeological features nor artefactual material. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

7 REFERENCES:

Coleman, R 1993 'A96 East Road Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin: site of medieval leper hospital' *Discovery Excavation Scotland*, 1993, 40.

Futty, D.W & Towers, W 1982 *Soil and Land Capability for Agriculture: Northern Scotland* The Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen.

Macaulay Institute for Soil Research 1978 *Soil Survey of Scotland* Rothes & Elgin Sheets 85 and 95. Scale 1:63360.

Shepherd, I 1982 'Elgin, Tyock (Elgin parish) graves' *Discovery Excavation Scotland* 1982, 13

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The Scottish Office Development Department 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG5. Archaeology and Planning.*

The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994a *Archaeology - the Planning Process and Scheduled Monument Procedures. Planning Advice Note PAN42.*

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH RECORDS

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 4 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Alignment</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Overburden</i>	0.40 m of tarmac and hardcore
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other features</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	35 m by 4 m
<i>Total Area</i>	140 m ²
<i>Alignment</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Overburden</i>	0.40 m of tarmac and hardcore
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other features</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 4 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120 m ²
<i>Alignment</i>	North-west to South-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.60 – 0.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other features</i>	Water main trench c 3 m wide

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 4 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120 m ²
<i>Alignment</i>	North-west to south east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.60 – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other features</i>	2 water pipe trenches up to 0.40 m wide.

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

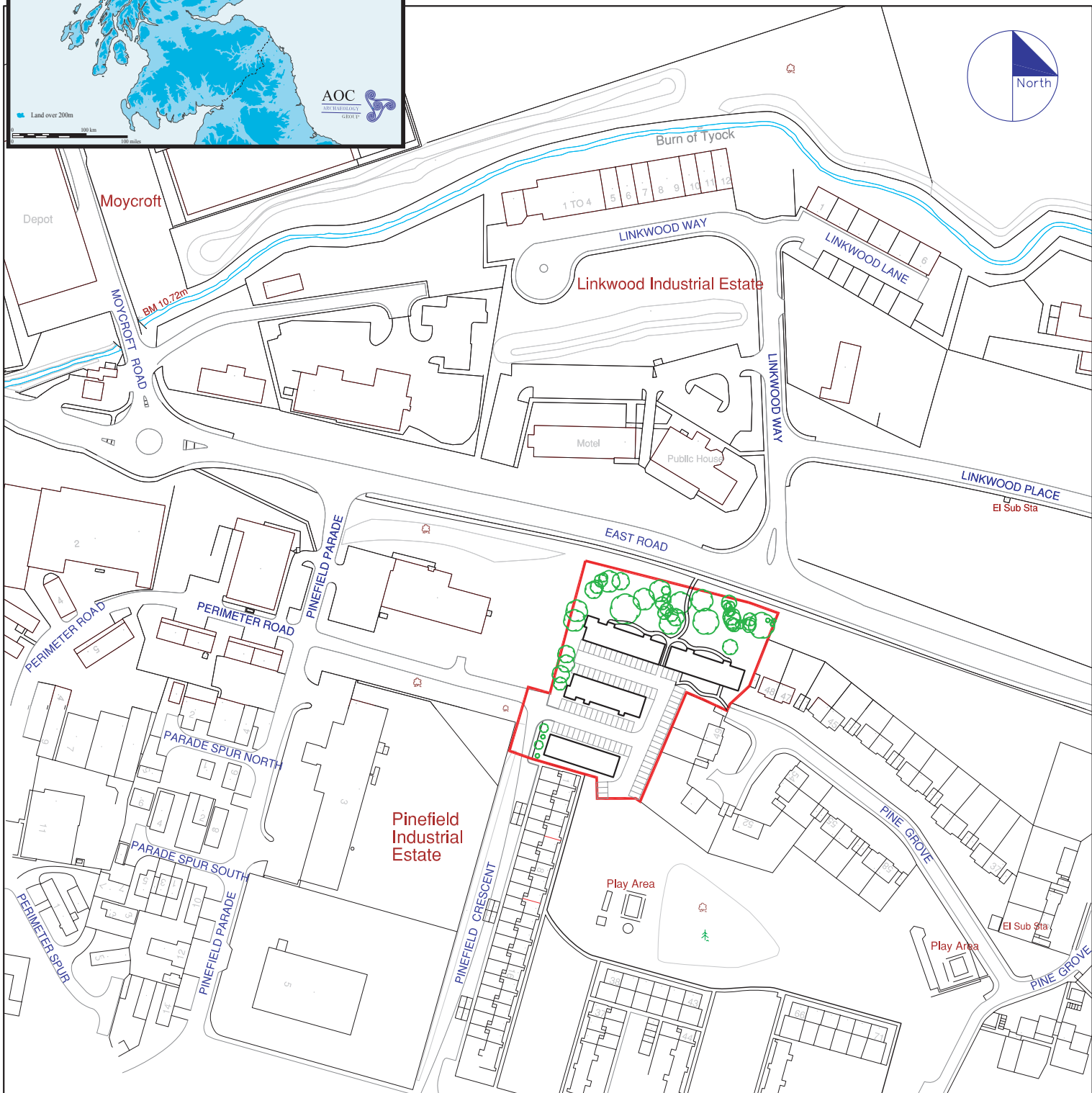
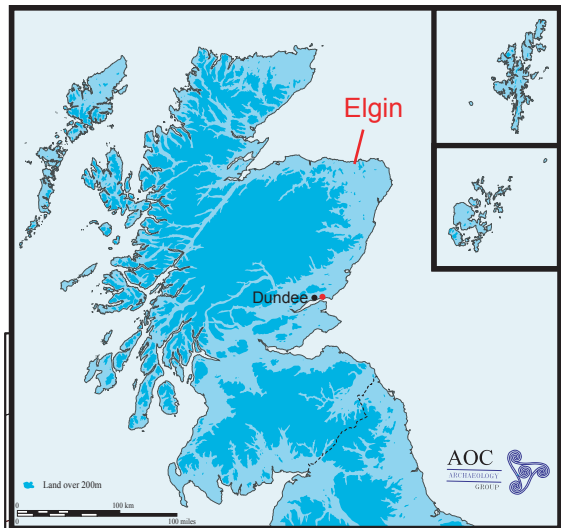
Black and white Print, Colour slide and Digital

Frame no.	Detail
1 & 2	Registration shot
3 & 4	Trench 1 from north-west
5 & 6	Trench 2 from south
7 & 8	Trench 3 from north-east
9 & 10	Trench 4 from south
11 & 12	General shot showing Trenches 1 & 2 from north
13 & 14	General shot showing Trenches 3 & 4 from west

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APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Pinefield, Elgin
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20836
PARISH:	Spynie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
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 2322 6254
START DATE (this season)	12 th December 2007
END DATE (this season)	13 th December 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation, consisting of four trenches with a total basal area of 480 m ² , was undertaken by AOC Archaeology on behalf of Springfield Developments Limited in advance of a proposed residential development. No significant archaeological remains were observed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Springfield Developments Limited
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



Proposed development area

Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches

- proposed development area
- area of tree retention
- services buffer zone
- evaluation trenches
- service

