

**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

**Timing:** Fieldwork September 2007  
Report September 2007

**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](mailto: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 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 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 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 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 m<sup>2</sup>, representing a near 10% sample of the development area. The total amount of trenching was reduced from 4,507 m<sup>2</sup> to 3,828 m<sup>2</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 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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c.1860 Ordnance Survey *Banffshire Camerie Parish Sheet V.9*, 1:2500

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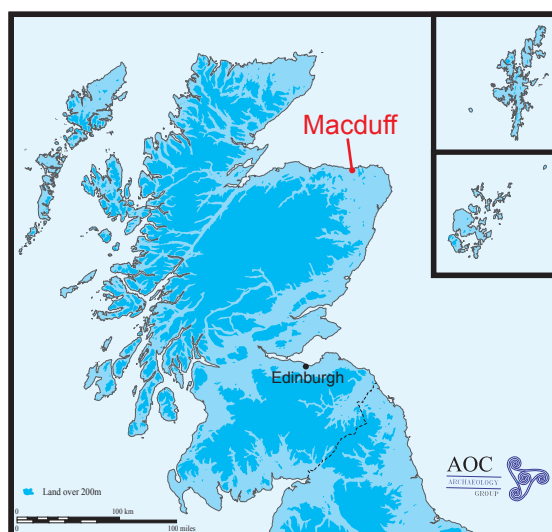
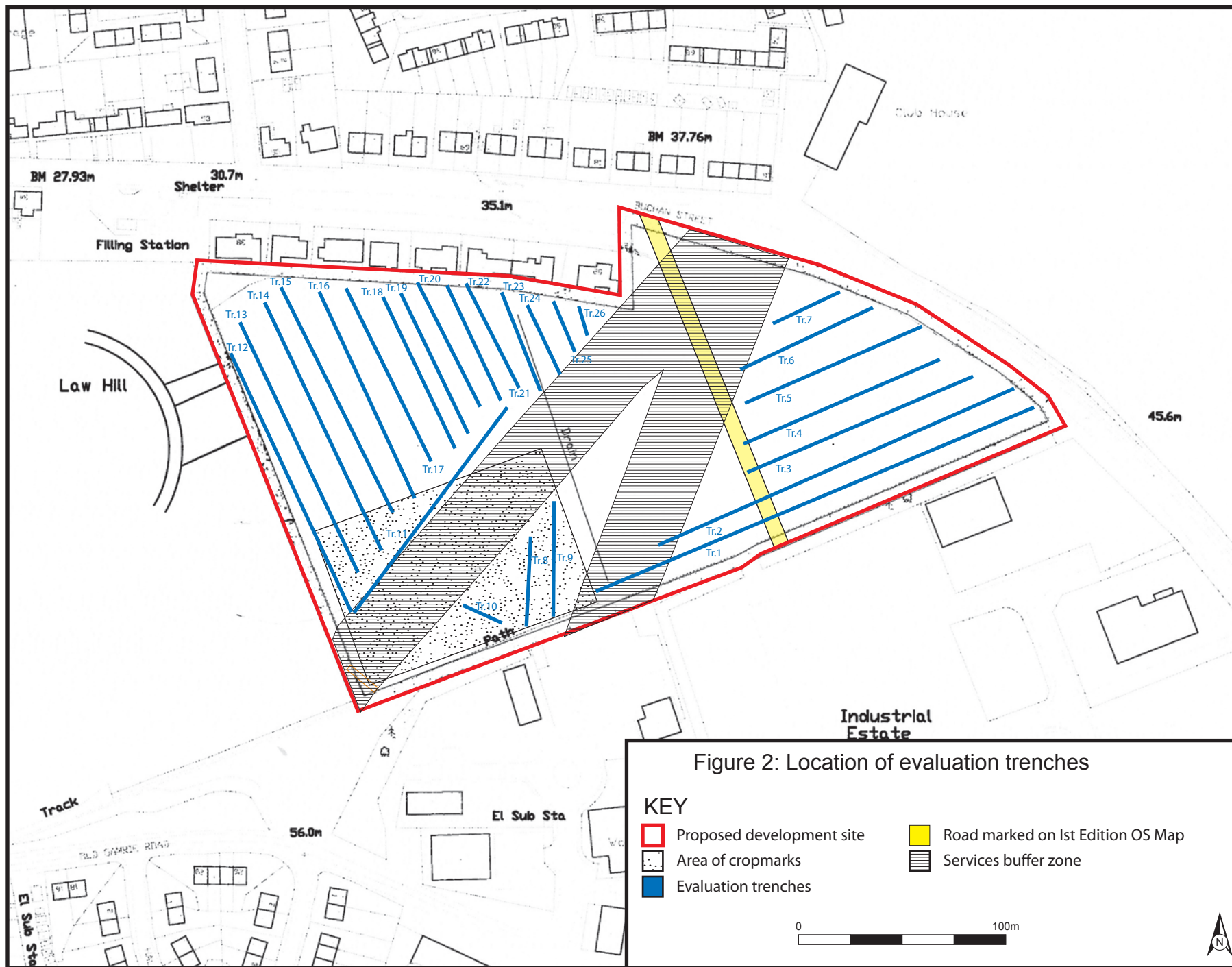


Figure 1: Site location

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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

<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

<b>Frame</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>From</b>
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

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Moray Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Buchan Street, MacDuff
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 20712
<b>PARISH:</b>	Gamrie
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Martin Cook
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 7128 6446
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	24 <sup>th</sup> September 2007
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2007
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (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 <sup>2</sup> encountered neither significant features nor artefacts.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	--
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Springfield Properties PLC
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:martinc@aocscot.co.uk">martinc@aocscot.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS