

**ERECTION OF A POTATO STORE
BALLOWNIE, STRACATHRO, BRECHIN, DD9 7QE, ANGUS,**



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1.8.12**

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SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out on 26th July 2012. Fifteen foundation pits were monitored and no archaeological deposits or finds were recovered. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development subject to agreement by Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

1 INTRODUCTION

Angus Council planning reference 12/00558/FULL for full planning permission for erection of a potato store. The site is in Stracathro parish, the NGR for the site is NO 61122 64940 which lies at 50-55m OD. A watching brief is required as a condition of the planning permission. The work was commissioned by Mr Keith Cuthill, Ballownie Farm.

The watching brief was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 There are nine Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the immediate vicinity of Ballownie Farm. These include Stracathro (NO66NW0013) and Keithock (NO66SW0001) both cropmarks of a Roman temporary camps, Westside (NO66NW0039) a square barrow and at least one ring-ditch 1km NNE of Ballownie, Inchbare (NO66NW0071) cropmarks of a pit-defined cursus and pit-alignments, Inchbare South (NO66NW0041) cropmarks of a pit-defined cursus, 400m north of the farm cropmarks of an unenclosed settlement including up to five irregular linear features and at least one crescentic structure (NO66NW0047) and Westerton, east of Ballownie are an enclosure and other indeterminate cropmarks (NO66SW0020).



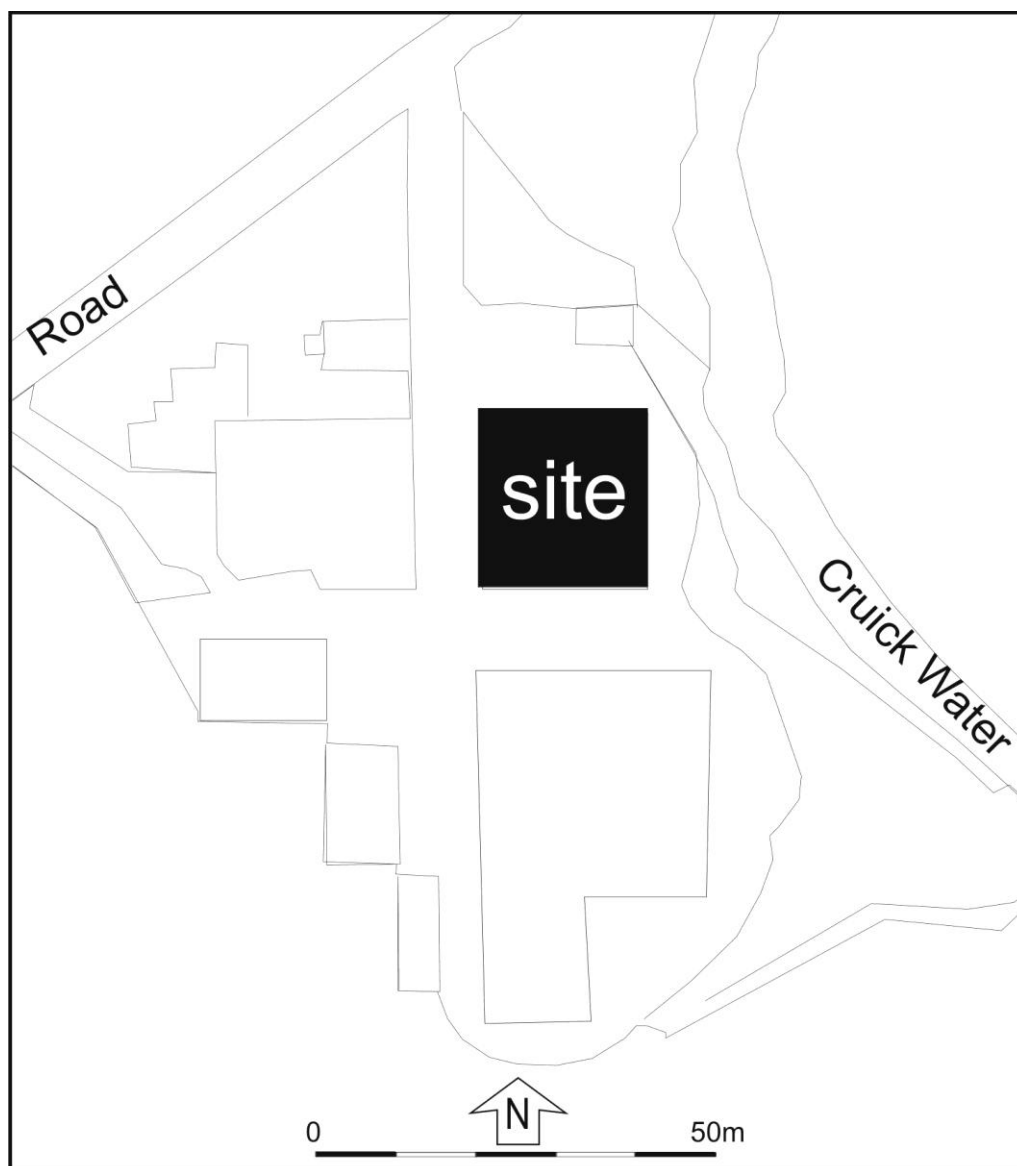
Illus 2 Aerial photograph showing Roman camp (centre) facing NNE with tree-lined Cruick Water (right); Ballownie is just off the bottom of the photograph (copyright RCAHMS).

2.2 Other sites in the area include the site of a barrow (NO66NW0021) at Lucy or Lousy Hillock, removed by the farmer in the 1830s, the possible remains of a barrow (NO66NW0035), cropmarks of a possible ring ditch (NO66NW0051) and pit alignment (NO66NW0107) and the find-spot of a Middle Bronze Age bronze flanged axe (NO66SW0005) all on the farm land of Ballownie. The site of a cairn at Rye or Re Hillock may have been a cist burial (NO66NW0007).

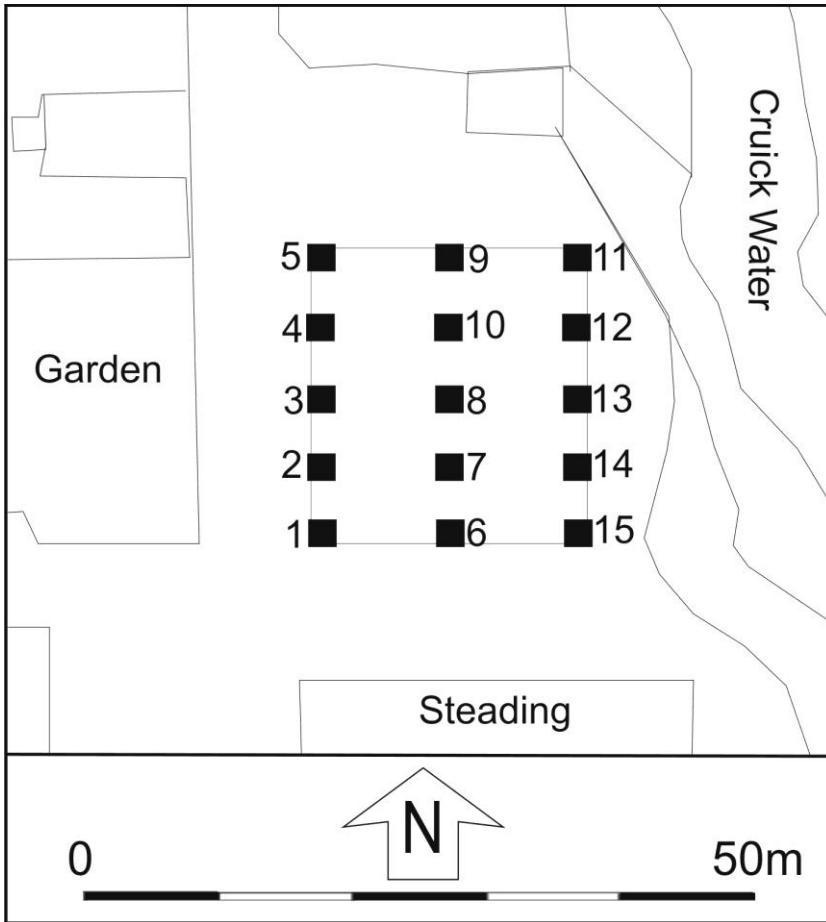
2.3 The line of a Roman road (NO66SW9914) passed through this area according to antiquarian accounts and Stracathro was allegedly fought in this locality between Angus, Earl of Moray and King David I, in AD 1130 (NO56NE0017).

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was carried out on 26th July 2012. Fifteen foundation pits (1.8 x 1.8m in size and up to 3m deep) were monitored. A shed had previously been located at the site, built in the late 1950s but no buildings appear at this precise location on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps. Topsoil up to 1m in depth at the west of the site had been imported into the area but there was no topsoil in the footprint of the demolished shed. Subsoil was sand and gravels and no archaeological deposits or finds were recovered during this watching brief.



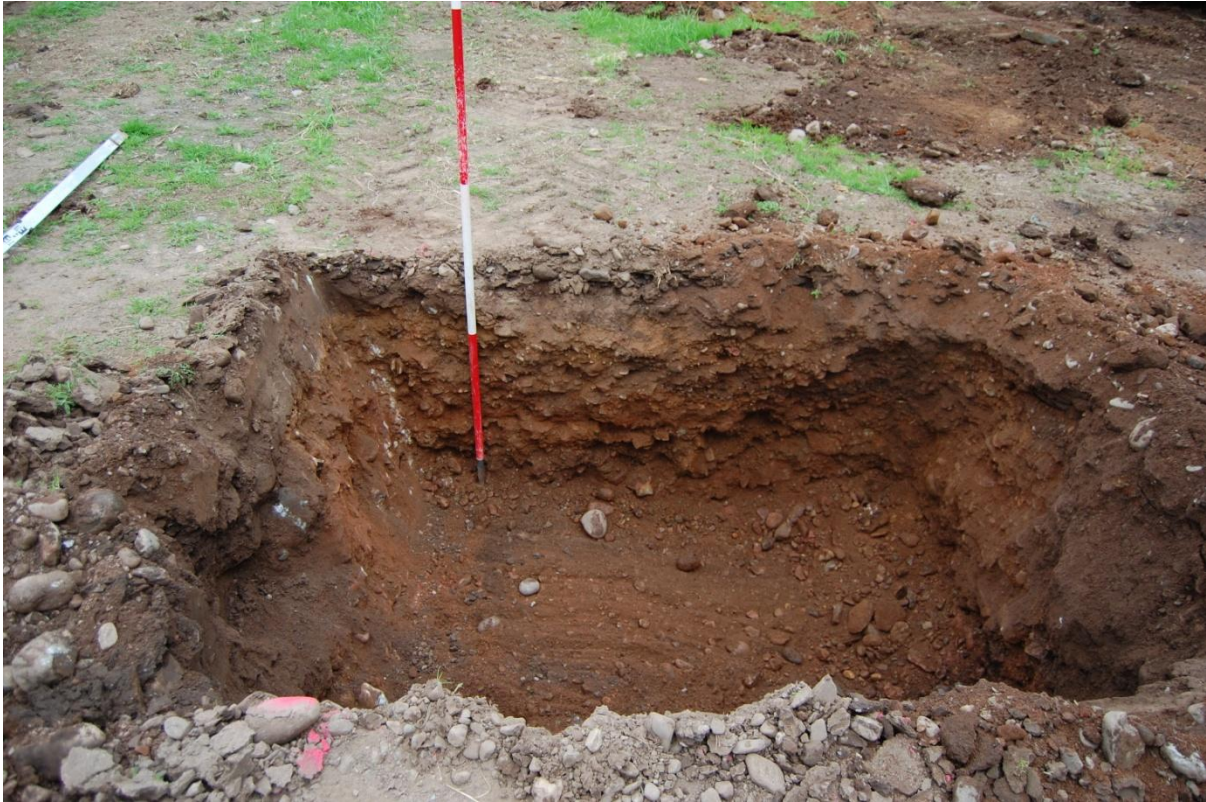
Illus 3 Plan showing location of new agricultural building



Illus 4 Plan showing 15 pits monitored



Illus 5 Pit 1 facing north showing redeposited topsoil adjacent to current track



Illus 6 Pit 6 showing absence of topsoil in area of previous agricultural building

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

15 pits were monitored and no archaeological deposits or finds were recovered. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development subject to agreement by Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Keith Cuthill, Ballownie and Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Council, Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray & Angus Councils.

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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



DSC_0005



DSC_0013



DSC_0020



DSC_0025



DSC_0031



DSC_0037



DSC_0041



DSC_0042



DSC_0043



DSC_0044



DSC_0052



DSC_0059



DSC_0065



DSC_0079



DSC_0086



DSC_0093



DSC_0098



DSC_0099



DSC_0109



DSC_0114



DSC_0120



DSC_0128



DSC_0132



DSC_0139



DSC_0148



DSC_0158



DSC_0176



DSC_0177



DSC_0183



DSC_0189



DSC_0195



DSC_0203



DSC_0216



DSC_0228



DSC_0236

Photo number	Description	Facing
DSC_0001-0004	Pit 1 location	NE/N
DSC_0005-0010	Pit 1	E
DSC_0011-0016	Pit 1	N
DSC_0017-0023	Pit 1	W
DSC_0024-0029	Pit 1	SE/S
DSC_0030	Pit 1	E
DSC_0031-0035	Pit 1	E
DSC_0036-0040	Pit 1	N
DSC_0041-0043	Pit 1	SE/S
DSC_0044-0050	Pit 1	NW
DSC_0051-0056	Pit 2	E
DSC_0057	Pit 2	SE/S
DSC_0058-0062	Pit 2	N
DSC_0063-0064	Pit 2	SE/S
DSC_0065-0075	Pit 3	E
DSC_0076-0085	Pit 3	E/SE
DSC_0086-0090	Pit 4	E
DSC_0091-0097	Pit 4	N
DSC_0098	Pit 4	SW
DSC_0099-0104	Pit 4	W
DSC_0105-0106	Pit 4	NE/N
DSC_0107-0113	Pit 5	E
DSC_0114-0119	Pit 5	S
DSC_0120-0131	Pit 5 location	SE/S
DSC_0132-0137	Pit 6	E
DSC_0138-0143	Pit 6	N
DSC_0144-0152	Pit 7	E
DSC_0153-0155	Pit 8	SW
DSC_0156-0161	Pit 8	W
DSC_0162-0164	Pit 8	S/SW
DSC_0165-0174	Pit 9	S/SSW
DSC_0175-0187	Pit 10	NE/E/S
DSC_0188-0194	Pit 11	S
DSC_0195-0200	Pit 11	W
DSC_0201	Pit 12	N
DSC_0202	Pit 12 location	S
DSC_0203-0209	Pit 13	W
DSC_0210	Pit 13	N
DSC_0211	Pit 14	W
DSC_0212	Pit 15 location with steadings	S
DSC_0213-0221	Pit 14	W
DSC_0222-0230	Stone discs from Pit 15	
DSC_0231-0236	Pit 15	W

APPENDIX 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS



Illus 7 Archaeological sites within 1000m of Ballownie (From Aberdeenshire Archaeology - Angus SMR online)

SiteRefNo	Name	Description
NO66SW0019	BRIDGE OF CRUICK	Cropmarks. A pit alignment was recorded by the RCAHMS during aerial reconnaissance in 1982.
NO66SW0037	CRUICK WATER	Site of a now destroyed croft only shown on the 1st edition OS map (c.1867).
NO66NW0121	CRUICK COTTAGES	Two Cottages, still in use. Depicted on the 2nd edition OS map (c.1888) as a T-shaped building
NO66NW0035	BALLOWNIE	Probable remains of a barrow. A mutilated turf covered mound of earth and few stones
NO66SW0015	WARD END OF KEITHOCK	Cottage still in use, c.1840, which is shown on the OS maps from the 1st edition onwards (c.1867).
NO66SW0020	WESTERTON	Cropmarks. An enclosure and other indeterminate cropmarks were recorded by the RCAHMS during aerial photography

NO66NW0047	BALLOWNIE	Cropmarks of an unenclosed settlement; recorded by CUCAP in 1977 and by the RCAHMS and AAS
NO66NW0083	STRACATHRO PARISH MANSE	Parish manse, now in secular residential use. Depicted on the 1st edition OS map (c.1846)
NO66NW0085	SMIDDYHILL	Cropmarks of a circular enclosure; recorded by AAS during aerial reconnaissance in 1981
NO66NW0115	STRACATHRO	Findspot of an Early Bronze Age decorated bronze flat axe, with very slight flanges from - Stracathro
NO66SW0021	WESTERTON	Cropmarks. Undescribed cropmarks which were recorded by CUCAP during aerial reconnaissance in 1957.
NO66SW0038	FIDRA COTTAGE	Cottage still in use. It is shown on the 2nd edition OS map (c.1888) as a rectangular building
NO66SW0001	KEITHOCK	Cropmarks of Roman temporary camp. First discovered by Melville on 10th August 1754
NO66NW0043	SMIDDYHILL	Cropmarks of a ring-ditch; recorded in 1955 by CUCAP and subsequently by the RCAHMS and AAS
NO66NW0113	WESTERTON	Linear cropmarks; recorded during aerial reconnaissance by CUCAP in 1958 and 1959.
NO66NW0021	BALLOWNIE	Site of a barrow. The -Lousy- or -Lucy- Hillock which measured about 40 yards in diameter
NO66SW0007	BRIDGE OF CRUICK	Possible site of a medieval hospital. A -hospice- is mentioned in a 13th century grant of rights
NO66SW0023	NEWTONMILL, MILL HOUSE	Miller's house still in use. Dating to c.1770 it is a single-storey and attic building with dormers
NO66NW0067	SMIDDYHILL	Cropmarks of a probable unenclosed settlement. Three crescentic cropmarks revealed by air photography
NO66NW0025	STRACATHRO PARISH CHURCH	Church, still in use, and site of its medieval predecessor. Built in 1799
NO66SW0024	NEWTONMILL THRESHING MILL	Remains of a watermill. A threshing mill of the mid 19th century. A two-storey, three-bay rubble building
NO66SW0005	BALLOWNIE	Findspot of a Middle Bronze Age bronze flanged axe. Classified as Coles' Class III
NO66NW0071	INCHBARE	Cropmarks of a pit-defined cursus and pit-alignments; recorded by the OS in 1971
NO66SW0006	BRIDGE OF CRUICK	Site of a village. The medieval hamlet of Clochmashiels or Clochnashiels
NO66SW0025	NEWTONMILL WEST MILL	Remains of a watermill of the 18th century (c.1780). It is a two-storey rubble building
NO66SW0042	BRIDGE OF CRUICK	Site of an excavation. In June 1956 the Abertay Historical Society carried out an excavation
NO66NW0013	STRACATHRO	Cropmarks of a Roman temporary camp, discovered during aerial reconnaissance in 1955 by CUCAP
NO66NW0051	BALLOWNIE	Cropmarks of a possible ring-ditch; recorded by CUCAP in 1969. The site is 140m ENE of Ballownie Cottage
NO66NW0041	INCHBARE SOUTH	Cropmarks of a pit-defined Cursus; recorded by

		CUCAP in 1975 and subsequently also by the RCAHMS
NO66SW9914	ROMAN ROAD	Line of roman road, according to antiquarian account. W G Don, in 1896
NO66NW0069	STRACATHRO	Findspot of long-flanged bronze axe, a Broadford variant of the Caverton type. Brechin Museum.
NO66NW0007	BALLOWNIE/RE/RYE HILLOCK	Site of a cairn. Jervise cites a passage from Tytler's History of Scotland
NO66NW0091	WESTWATER BRIDGE	Site of two cottages, depicted at this location on the 1st edition OS map (c.1846).
NO66NW0059	STRACATHRO	Bridge, still in use, depicted on the (c.1846 & c.1888) 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.
NO66NW0009	STRACATHRO	Findspot of an Early Bronze Age bronze flat axe with the merest traces of flanges.
NO66NW0049	INCHBARE	Cropmark of a pit-enclosure and pit-alignment; recorded by CUC AP in 1975 and by the RCAHMS and AAS
NO66NW0033	STRACATHRO	Cropmarks of a Roman fort, (the most northerly known), recorded during aerial reconnaissance by CUCA
NO66NW0105	STRATHCATHRO CHURCH	War memorial standing within the churchyard at the entrance gate, and facing SE.
NO66NW0045	STRACATHRO HOSPITAL	Cropmarks of a possible ring-ditch recorded by CUCAP in 1957; the site is immediately N of the cottage
NO66NW0107	BALLOWNIE	Cropmark of pit alignment identified during aerial reconnaissance by AAS in 2008.