

**Site at Lincrief, Gauchhill Road, Kintore, AB51 0XQ  
(Gauchhill Phase 2)**



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# Site at Lincrief, Gauchhill Road, Kintore, AB51 0XQ (Gauchhill Phase 2)

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: west end of Trench 3 showing deep plough marks, shallow topsoil and Phase 1 Gauchhill development in background.

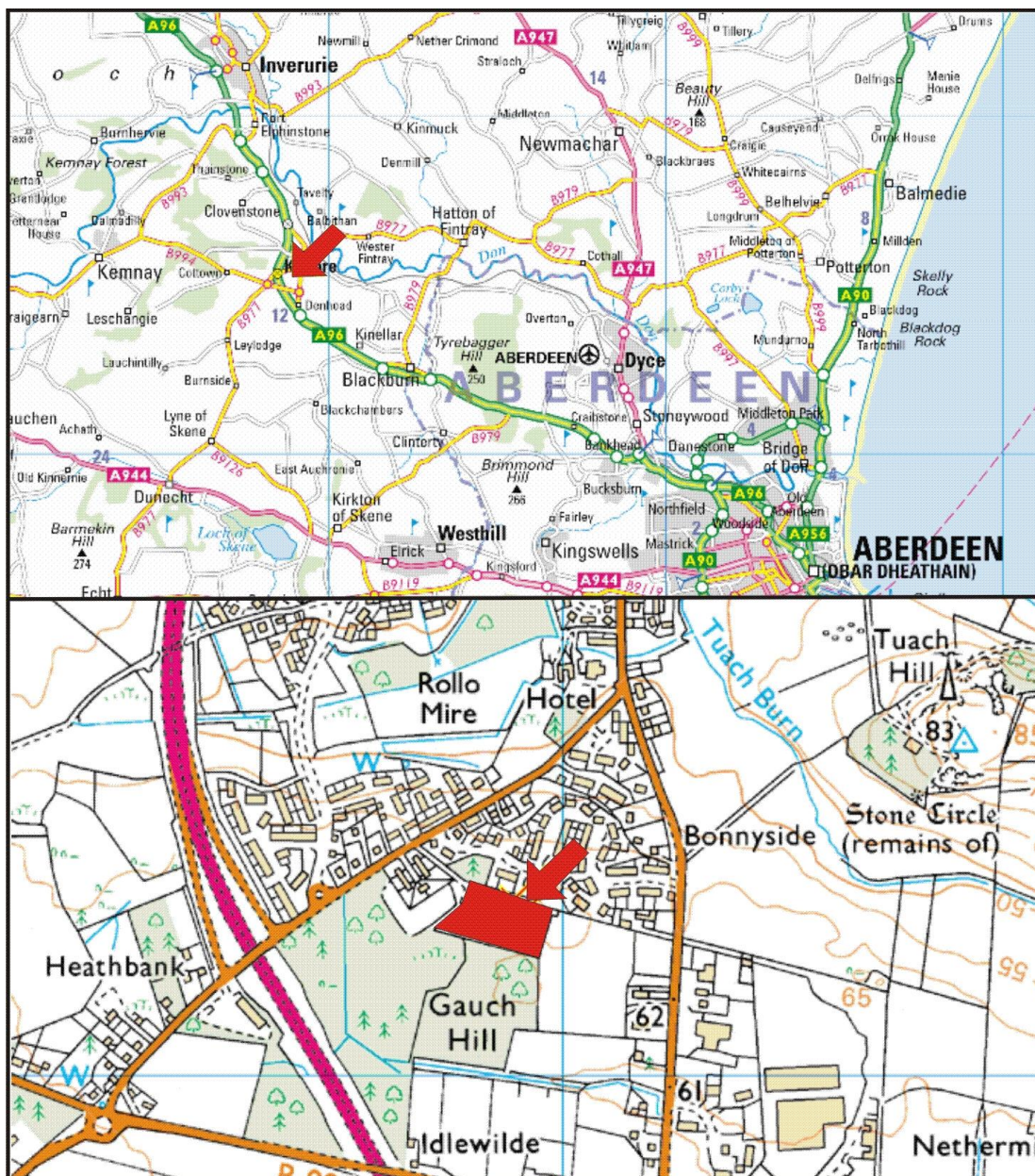
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## SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at this site on 6 May 2013. The site comprises a field to the south and a house and garden to the north. The garden area was inaccessible and so a 10% evaluation was carried out in the adjoining field. No significant archaeological features were uncovered and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required at the site. This is subject to advice from Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service who may require an evaluation of the garden area prior to development.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is located at Lincriff, Gauch Hill, Kintore and is accessed from the B977 the Gauch Hill Road. The site is located at NJ 78799 15248, at a height of 60-65m OD in the parish of Kintore. The site has a modern house, shed and garden in the north part of the site and the garden was in use as a turnip field when the current owner purchased the property. The south field is former agricultural land last ploughed in the mid-1990s. The site is owned by Mr and Mrs Hendron who have lived at the site since 1990.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Brian Pirie of AJC Homes Scotland Ltd and there are two planning applications for the site APP/2012/1398 and 2212 for erection of a total of 17 dwellinghouses. The applications were passed on 4.12.12 with a standard archaeology condition (Condition 10).
- 1.3 All the archaeological work will be 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 2013)

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There are no known archaeological or historical sites within the current development area. The early maps (Appendix 2) show the site as a wooded area with the name Gauch Hill being used from the mid 19th century. There are four scheduled ancient monuments within 1km of the development site but none are affected by the current development. They are Midmill long cairn (Shepherd and Ralston 1979, 9), Tuach Hill, Aberdeenshire Canal and Deer's Den (Cook and Dunbar 2008).

There have been several archaeological interventions in the vicinity of this site. Three at Midmill, Kintore included an evaluation was carried out at this site in February 2008 by AOC in advance of redevelopment of the area. In total, 21 trenches were excavated comprising 7% of the development area. The evaluation revealed no features or artefacts of archaeological significance (NJ71NE247) (Clements 2008, 24).

Also at Midmill an evaluation was carried out prior to development by Murray Archaeological Services between 29 January and 3 February 2007 (Murray 2007, 25-26). A total of 15 trenches were excavated. Prehistoric activity was evident in two of these, comprising only isolated ploughed out features. A quantity of sherds of one pot - possibly of the Carinated Bowl tradition - was recovered from an area of charcoal, possibly the base of a pit. Two C14 samples of charcoal sealed by the pottery were dated within the range 3650-3370 BC (NJ71SE91).

A 10% evaluation was undertaken of a 5 hectare site lying to the S and E of the existing Midmill Industrial Estate, where previous excavations had exposed Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement and ritual activity. The only finds were five abraded sherds of medieval pottery, thought to represent midden manuring, and three flints in the plough soil. Apart from medieval or post-medieval rig and furrow, no archaeological features were evident (Murray and Murray 2010, 25-26).

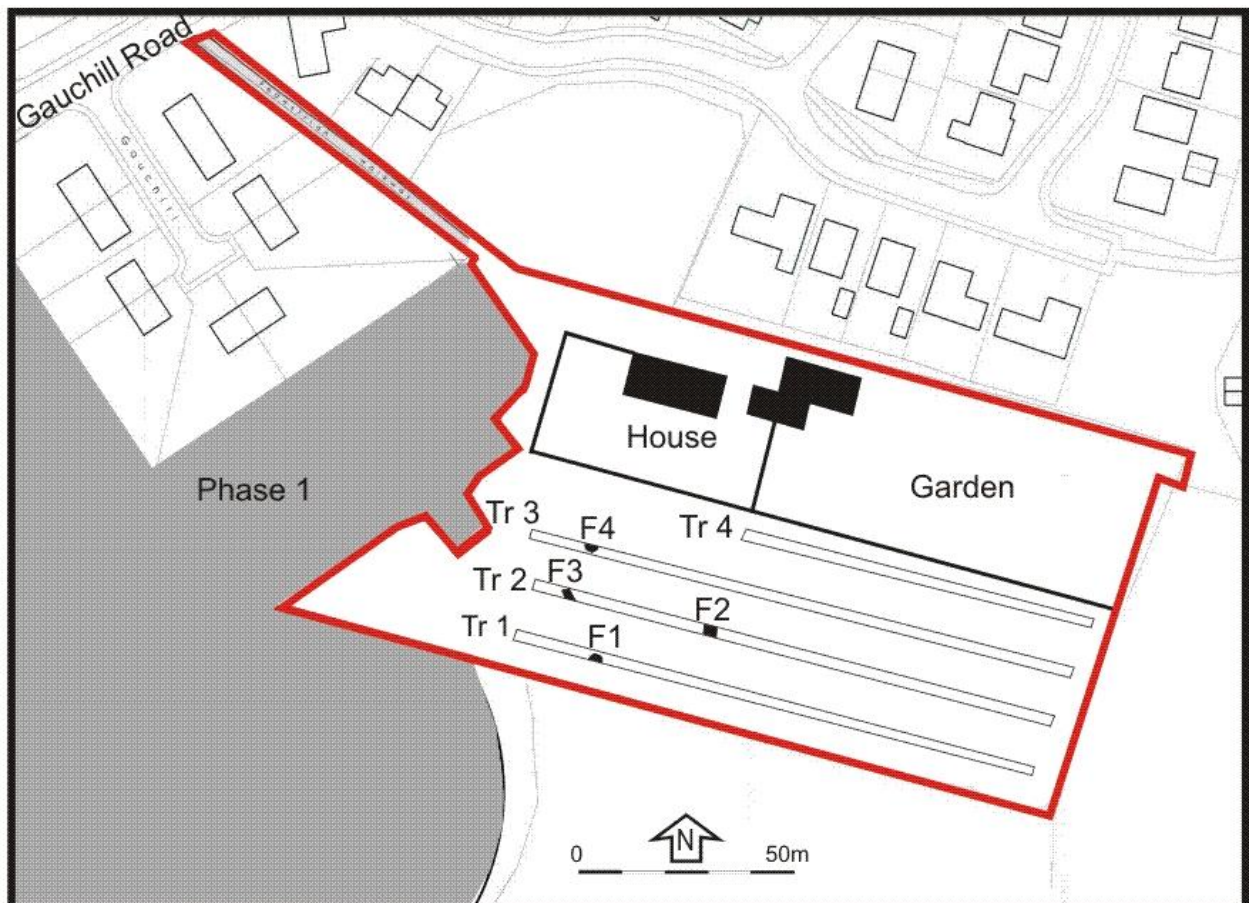
Torryburn (NJ71NE0170) is the site of a hydro-electric power station, reservoir and feeder pipe. The power station is depicted on the OS 3rd edition map (c.1933). As a power House of the Aberdeen Electric Supply Company. Sections of a concrete pipe which carried water to the station were uncovered and removed during development work in 2007, running from c. NJ79065 14318 to NJ 79085 14383. Further south the pipe had been destroyed when the A96 was built or widened. It had run to the station from a reservoir located NJ7904 1421, also owned by the company and shown on the 3rd edition OS map with an overflow at the west end of the dam. The reservoir has since been drained and its north end is now occupied by a roundabout. The pipe is not shown on the OS map, but further investigation in 2007 by MAS recorded a section where it is carried across the Tuach Burn on the east side of the bridge carrying the B994. Much of the rest of the pipe is likely to have been removed during construction of the industrial estate. The date of construction is not known but must postdate 1905, the first recorded use of reinforced concrete. At the site of the power station - now an Electric substation - two cast iron pillars which may have belonged the original works are extant, but although they appear to have been used as gateposts their original function is unclear. No trace was observed of the tail race which must have existed to carry the outflow water away.

A mould for bronze axes was found at Burgh Muir (NJ71NE26) , a stone axe at View Bank. Kintore (NJ71NE52) and a barbed and tanged arrowhead in the Kintore area (NJ71NE64).

### 3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

A 10% archaeological evaluation was carried out on 6 May 2013 in the field at the south of the proposed development as no access was possible into the garden area (Illus 2). The work was carried out using a 2.5 ton tracked New Holland with a 1.2m flat-edged ditching bucket. There are two wells within the current evaluation area, one overgrown and surrounded by undergrowth and a buried well immediately west of the west end of Trench 4. There was much undergrowth in the south field.

Four trenches were excavated. The topsoil was 0.2-0.25m deep and was well-drained sandy loam. The subsoil was medium to rusty brown compact sand. The subsoil had contained many stones and many stone-holes were investigated during this work. This included two large stone-holes up to 1.5m wide and filled with angular granite fragments and ploughsoil (F1 and F4). The edges of these features are irregular and fragments of granite are embedded in the surrounding natural subsoil. It would appear that large earthfast boulders at these locations had been removed (possibly with the use of explosives) during the improvement of this land for agricultural use, possibly in the late 19th or early 20th century. F3 was assumed to be a modern test pit and F2 an organic filled depression not seen in any other trenches.



Illus 2 Site plan showing current house and garden at the north of the site and the archaeological trenches.



Illus 3 Trench 1 F1 prior to half-sectioning; facing east.



Illus 4 Trench 3 F1 modern deep plough marks seen in all trenches; facing west.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological remains were uncovered during this evaluation and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site but this is subject to advice from Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

## 5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Alistair Aboyne and Brian Pirie, AJC Homes Scotland Ltd; Gary Brown, A&S Brown and to Bruce Mann at Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

## 6 REFERENCES

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Page(s): 25-26.

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## APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT LIST

Context no	Description	Trench
F1	1.5m diameter stone hole with angular granite fragments and loose topsoil	1
F2	2m wide shallow trench filled with rounded boulders and topsoil; not recorded in other trenches	2
F3	1.5m diameter stone hole with angular granite fragments and loose topsoil	2
F4	1.5m diameter stone hole with angular granite fragments	3
5	Light sandy topsoil	all

## APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

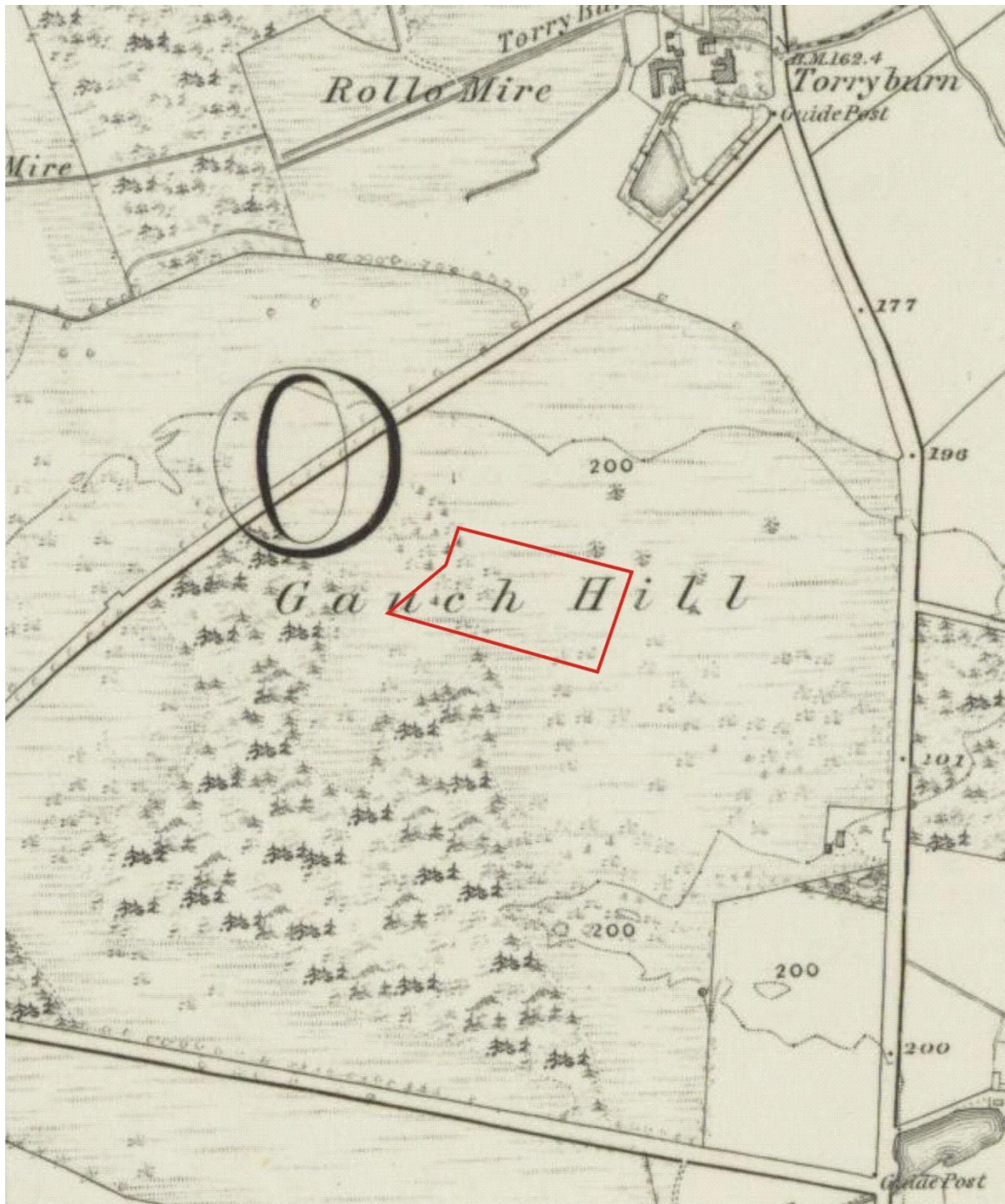
Photo no	Description	Trench	Facing
DSCF2338	Tr 1 west end	1	E
DSCF2339	Tr 1 west end	1	E
DSCF2340	West end deep plough marks	1	E
DSCF2341	F1	1	E
DSCF2342	F1	1	E
DSCF2343	F1	1	W
DSCF2344	F1	1	W
DSCF2345	East end of trench with deep plough marks	1	E
DSCF2346	Trench 1 complete	1	W
DSCF2347	East end Tr2	2	W
DSCF2348	East end Tr2	2	W
DSCF2350	East end Tr2	2	W
DSCF2352	Centre Tr2 with deep plough marks	2	W
DSCF2353	Centre Tr2 with deep plough marks	2	W
DSCF2354	Centre Tr2 with deep plough marks	2	W
DSCF2355	Centre Tr2 with deep plough marks	2	W
DSCF2356	Centre Tr2 with deep plough marks	2	W
DSCF2357	F2	2	W
DSCF2358	F2	2	N
DSCF2359	West of F2 Tr2 with deep plough marks	2	W
DSCF2360	F3	2	W
DSCF2361	West end Tr 2	2	E
DSCF2362	West end Tr 3	3	E
DSCF2363	West end Tr 3 with deep plough marks	3	E
DSCF2364	West end Tr 3 with deep plough marks	3	W
DSCF2365	F3		W
DSCF2366	Centre Tr 3 with modern deep plough marks	3	W
DSCF2367	Centre Tr 3 with modern deep plough marks	3	W
DSCF2368	Centre Tr 3 with modern deep plough marks	3	W



DSCF2369	Site from east end of field		W
DSCF2370	Site from east end of field		W
DSCF2371	East end Tr 4	4	NW
DSCF2372	Site from west end of field		SW/W
DSCF2373	Site from west end of field		SW/W
DSCF2374	Site from west end of field		SW/W
DSCF2375	East end Tr 4	4	W
DSCF2376	Stone holes at east end Tr 4 prior to half sectioning	4	W
DSCF2377	Tr 4 completed	4	E
DSCF2378	Tr 4 completed	4	E
DSCF2379	Tr 4 completed	4	E
DSCF2380	site from the west end Tr 3 (left) Tr 2 (centre)		E
DSCF2381	site from the west end Tr 3 (left) Tr 2 (centre)		E



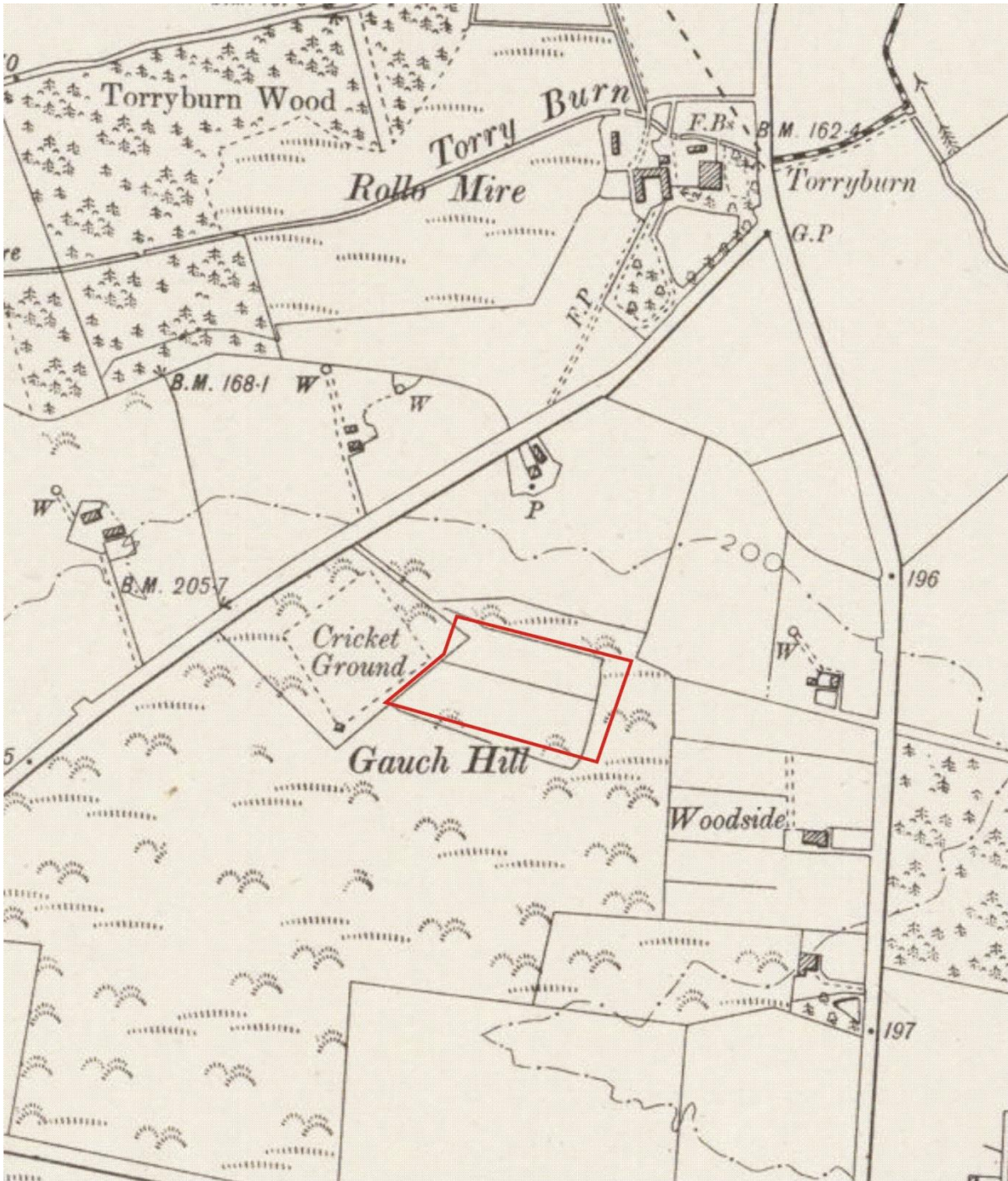
## APPENDIX 3 MAPS



Illus 5 Historic map with site outline in red

Title: Aberdeenshire, Sheet LXV

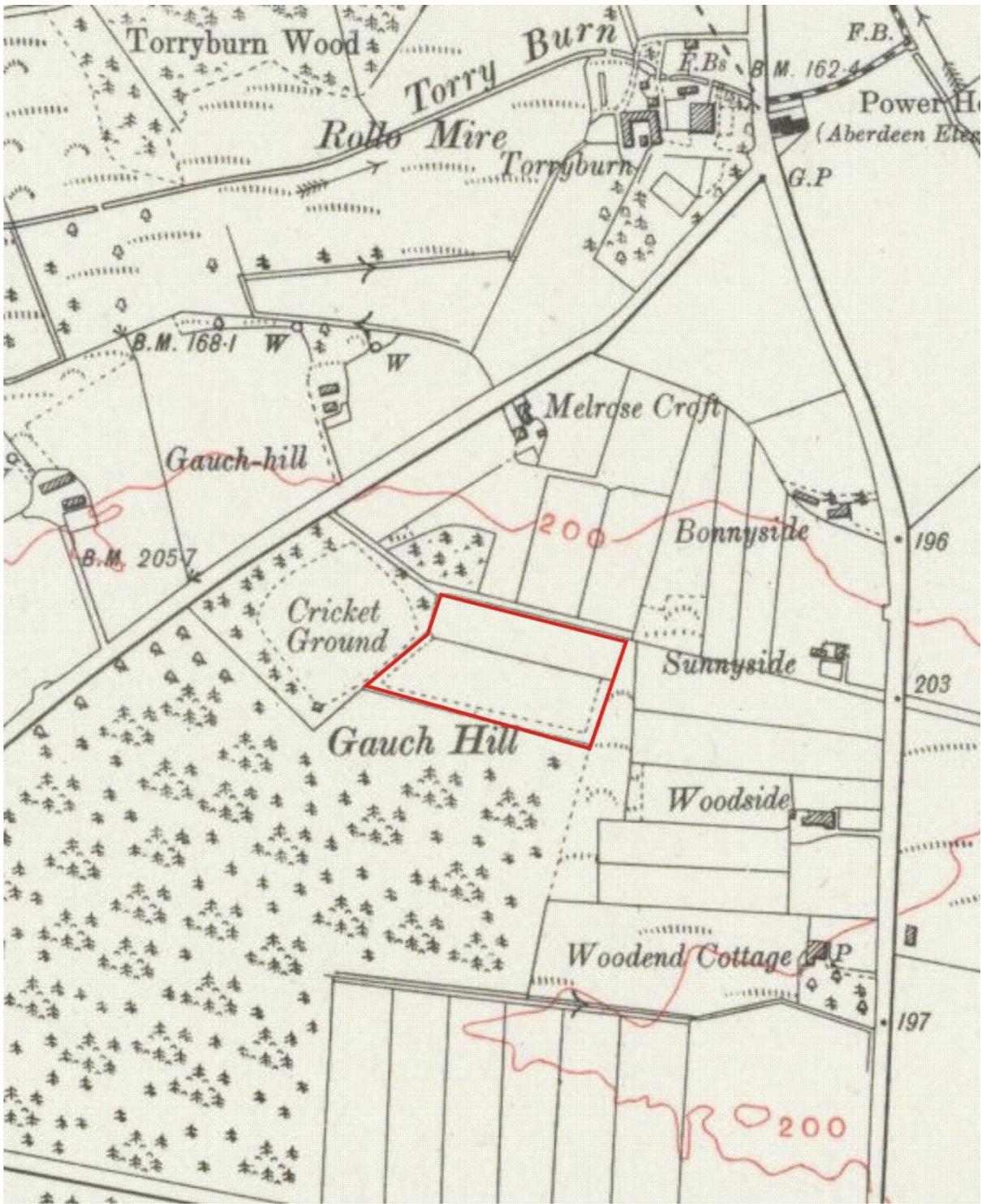
Survey date: 1865-66 Publication date: 1869



Illus 6 Historic map with site outline in red

Title: Aberdeenshire Sheet LXV.NW

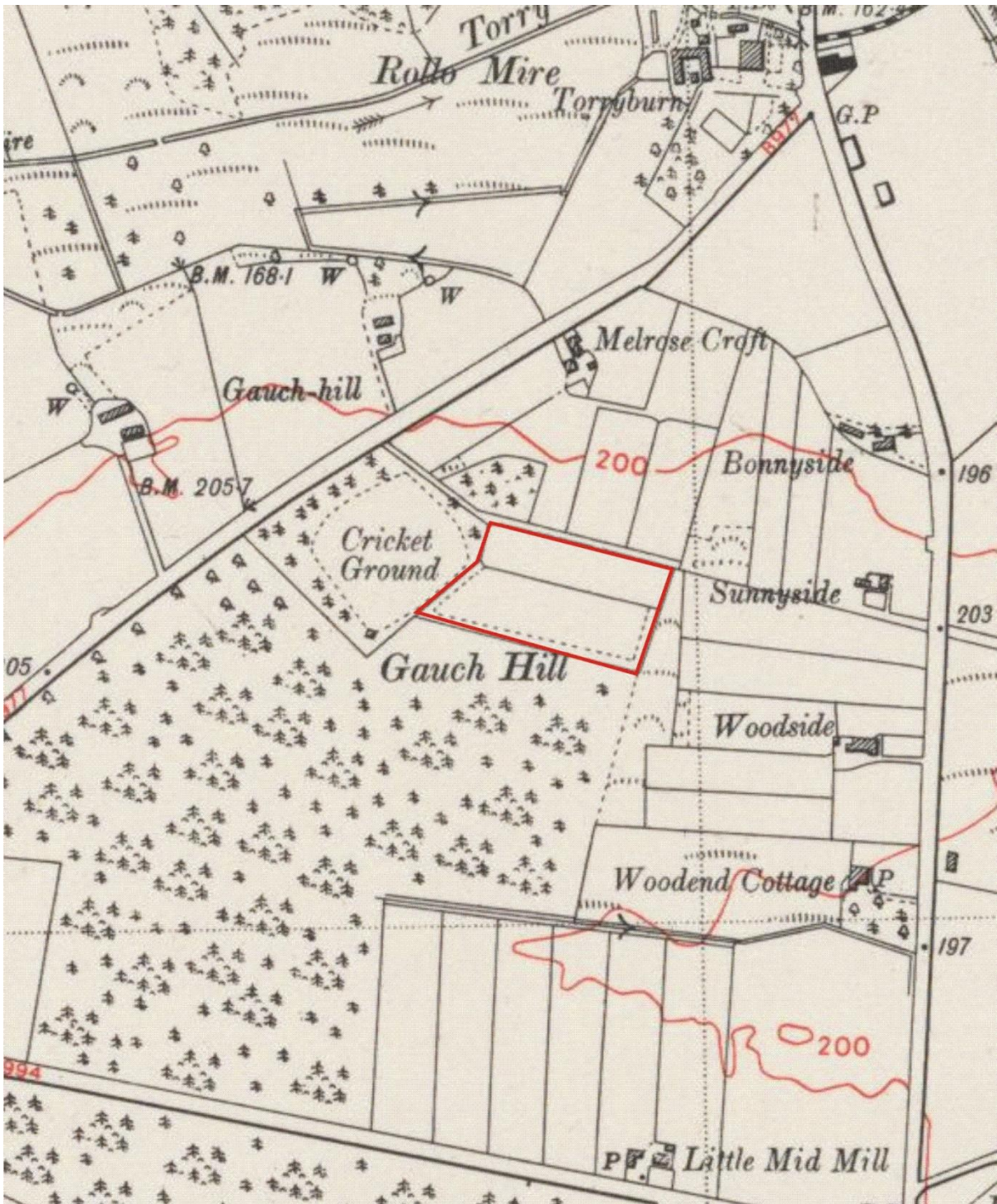
Publication date: 1901 Date revised: 1899



Illus 7 Historic map with site outline in red

Title: Aberdeenshire Sheet LXV.NW

Publication date: 1928 Date revised: 1924



Illus 8 Historic map with site outline in red

Title: Aberdeenshire Sheet LXV.NW

Probable Publication date: ca. 1949

Date revised: 1938



Illus 9 Modern aerial photograph showing grass and buildings on the north half of the site and ploughed field to the south; site outline in red (copyright Google)