

**Land to West of Monymusk School  
Monymusk, AB51 7HJ  
Evaluation report**



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12 November 2013**

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

(top) Trench 3 showing Phase 1 evaluation house (right), facing NE; (bottom) trenches with Bennachie in background, facing north

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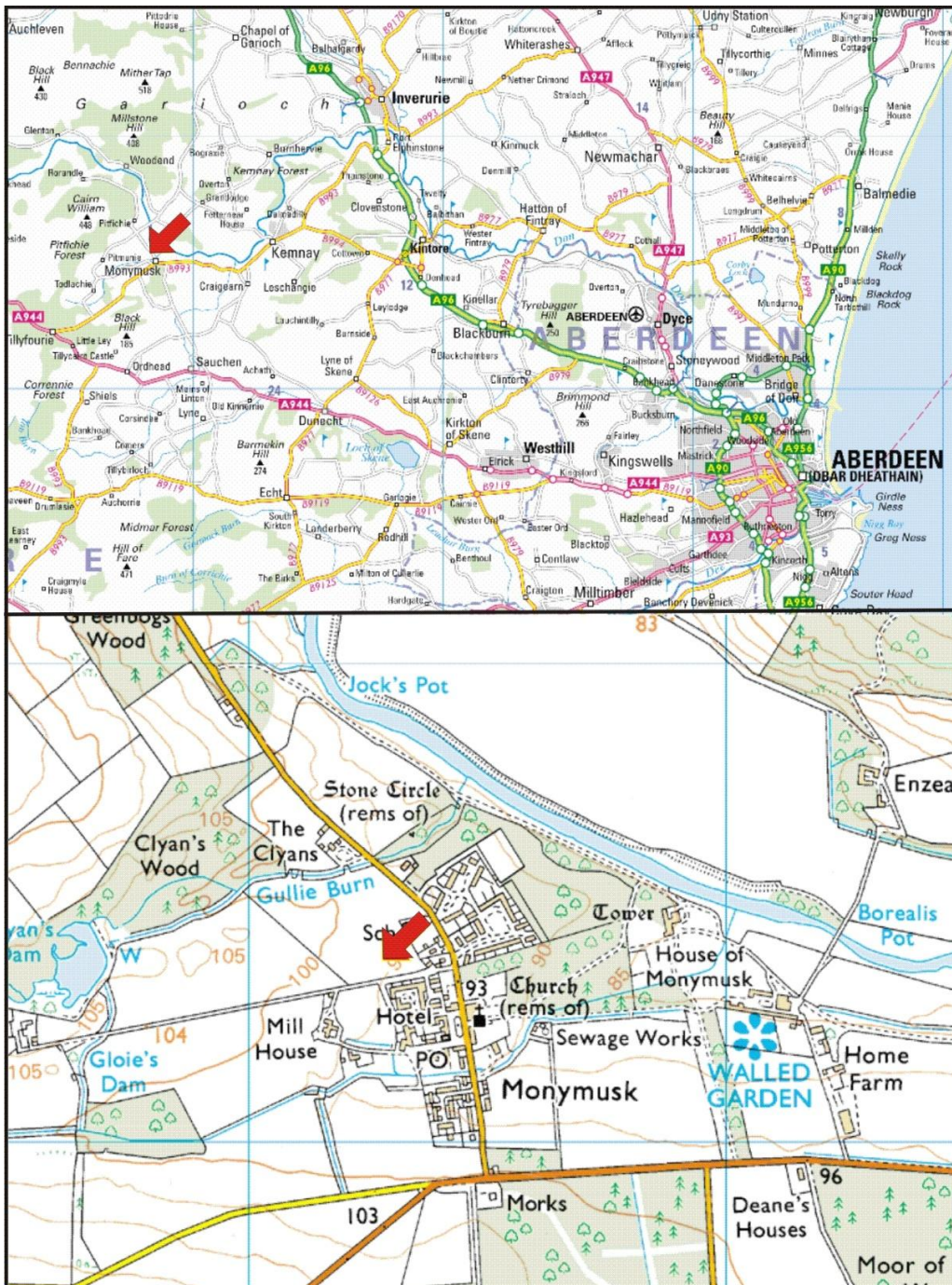
## SUMMARY

A 7% archaeological evaluation took place on 8th November 2013. No archaeological finds or features were identified and therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.



# 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site is located immediately west of Monymusk School, Monymusk in a cultivated field at the north of the current village. The site is 2.5 hectares in size and is located at NJ 78799 15248, at a height of 92-100m OD in the parish of Monymusk.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Allan Rae, Kirkwood Homes and the Aberdeenshire Council planning application APP/2011/2994 for the erection of Residential Development of up to 44 Units was granted on 28.1.2013.
- 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.



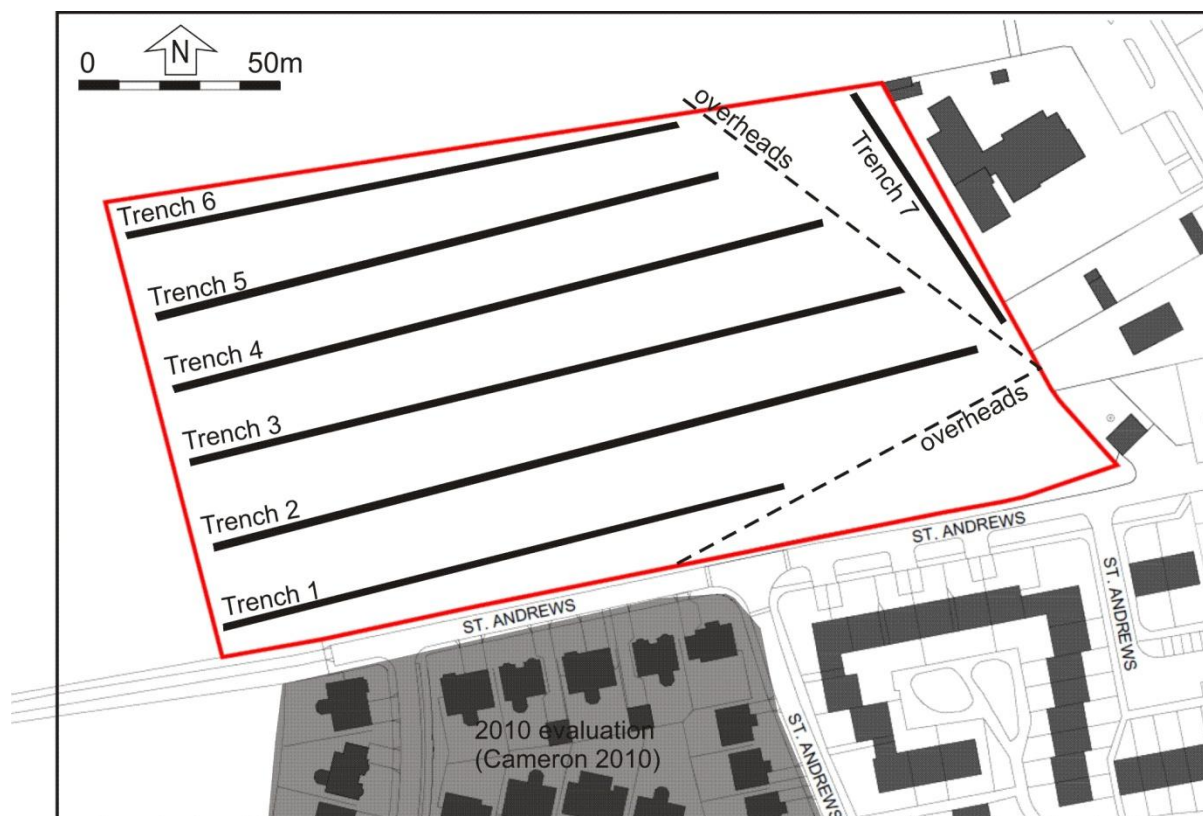
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013)

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Monymusk is a planned village which evolved during the age of improvement. The village square was laid out on the axis of the church by Sir Archibald Grant in 1716; the centre of the square formed a cattle pound for drovers. The original houses were clay-bonded stone and thatched with heather. The village was almost entirely rebuilt in 19th century and gradually tudorised by Sir Arthur Grant between 1889-1902 (Aberdeenshire SMR; NJ61NE0027)
- 2.2 North of the village a multiperiod site including remains of palisaded settlement and round houses was excavated at NJ 680161 (NJ61NE0028) (Greig 1996, 9-10). The remains of a stone circle north of the village is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NJ61NE 1). Deer Park is a stone circle 65m N of comprises a stone circle of late-Neolithic or Bronze-Age date, visible as three standing stones set at the edges of a low mound. It is situated at 100m above sea level, in an area of sparse mature woodland at the edge of an arable field.
- 2.3 Many archaeological finds have been recovered from the vicinity of Monymusk village including a cinerary urn (NJ61NE 10), lithic implements (NJ61NE 11), carved stone balls (NJ61NE 12-16, 18, 21), a stone axe hammer (NJ61NE 17), a battleaxe (NJ61NE 31) and an incised cross stone (NJ61NE 4.01).
- 2.4 Immediately east of the proposed development a carved stone ball was found when the school was built in 1907 (NJ61NE 13). It is 70mm in diameter and was lent by W Moir Bryce, for display at the Scottish Exhibition, Glasgow in 1911. It had many small hemi-spherical knobs but its current location is unknown (Palace of History 1911).
- 2.5 Immediately east of Monymusk School is the site of a Prisoner of War camp (NJ61NE 37) located by vertical air photography (58/RAF/1296 F21 0071, dated 15 October 1953). No trace can now be identified (NMRS, MS/712/10).
- 2.6 An evaluation was carried out 16 August–6 October 2010 on 1.5ha, previously part of Monymusk Estate, to be developed for housing. Extensive rig and furrow cultivation marks were seen over the area. In the SE of the area postholes were recorded, which proved to be part of the 19th-century farmyard boundary. A standing building survey of Kirkton of Monymusk Mill and Gloie's Farm was undertaken. The mill was originally built in the mid-18th century and was extensively altered and added to in the late 19th century when the current millwheel was added. Gloie's Farm was originally built in the 18th century as a lint mill and then added to and converted to a mill in the late 19th century. The gablet above the original E entrance shows inscriptions with the dates and initials of SAG 1749 and SAHG 1899 (Sir Archibald Grant and Sir Archibald H Grant) (Cameron 2010, 26).

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

A 7% archaeological evaluation took place on 8th November 2013. Seven trenches were excavated with an average topsoil depth of 0.25-0.35m. The subsoil was sandy clay. The site showed evidence of intense agricultural use in a similar way to the evaluation to the south (Cameron 2010, 26) and there were ceramic field drains, stone drains and plough marks across most of the field. There were also remains of rig and furrow cultivation in areas of deeper topsoil. No archaeological finds or features were identified and therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.



Illus 2 Trench plan (copyright Kirkwood Homes).

### 3 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological finds or features were identified and therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

### 4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Bruce Mann and Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service and to Allan Rae and staff at Kirkwood Homes.

### 5 REFERENCES

Cameron, A 2010 'Gloie's Farm and Kirkton of Monymusk Mill, Aberdeenshire (Monymusk parish), evaluation and standing building recording', *Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol.11* Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England, 26.

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## APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
DSC_8327-33	Trench 1 post ex	W
DSC_8334-39	Trench 2 post ex	W
DSC_8340-45	Trench 3 post ex	W
DSC_8346-51	Trench 3 post ex	SE
DSC_8352-58	Trench 1 post ex	E
DSC_8359-64	Trench 2 post ex	E
DSC_8365-69	Trench 2 post ex	NE
DSC_8370-75	Trench 3 post ex	E
DSC_8376-81	Trench 4 post ex	E
DSC_8382-87	Trench 5 post ex	E
DSC_8388-93	Trench 6 post ex	S
DSC_8394-99	Trench 6 post ex	N
DSC_8400-404	Trench 7 post ex	E
DSC_8405-10	Trench 7 post ex	W
DSC_8411-16	Trench 5 post ex	W
DSC_8417-22	Trench 4 post ex	W
DSC_8423-50	Location shots	
DSCF6575-6	Trench 1 rig and furrow at west end	W
DSCF6577-78	Trench 1 stone drain	E
DSCF6579	Trench 1 field drain down centre east end	E
DSCF6580-86	Trench 2 rig and furrow at west end	W
DSCF6587	Trench 2 centre modern trench	
DSCF6588	Trench 3 ceramic field drains	
DSCF6589	Trench 3 ceramic field drains	
DSCF6591-97	Panoramic shots of trenches	





DSC\_8333



DSC\_8334



DSC\_8342



DSC\_8351



DSC\_8352



DSC\_8364



DSC\_8365



DSC\_8375



DSC\_8376



DSC\_8387



DSC\_8388



DSC\_8395



DSC\_8401



DSC\_8409



DSC\_8414



DSC\_8421



DSC\_8423



DSC\_8424



DSC\_8425



DSC\_8428



DSC\_8432



DSC\_8433



DSC\_8434



DSC\_8435



DSC\_8436



DSC\_8437



DSC\_8438



DSC\_8439



DSC\_8440



DSC\_8441



DSC\_8442



DSC\_8443



DSC\_8444



DSC\_8445



DSC\_8446



DSC\_8447



DSC\_8448



DSC\_8449



DSC\_8450



DSCF6576



DSCF6577



DSCF6578



DSCF6579



DSCF6580



DSCF6584



DSCF6586



DSCF6587



DSCF6588



DSCF6589



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