

Residential Development North of B9119, Echt, Westhill, Phase 2 (Forbes Park)



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ILLUSTRATIONS

COVER: Trench 5 showing Phase 1 Forbes Park Houses (right), facing east

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SUMMARY

A 7% archaeological evaluation was carried out on 21 October 2013. Five trenches were excavated but no archaeological features or finds were recorded. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation is for a residential development north of B9119, Echt, Westhill, AB32 7AA on rough grazing land between Bank House to the west and Myriewell Cottages to the east. The area is 1.75 hectares in size and is located at NJ 73961 05783, at a height of 95-100m OD in the parish of Echt. Phase 1 of the site (Illus 1) was completed in 2011 (site code CA20-2010).
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Allan Rae, Kirkwood Homes and this WSI has been compiled by Alison Cameron, Cameron Archaeology. This WSI is being written pre-application.
- 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.



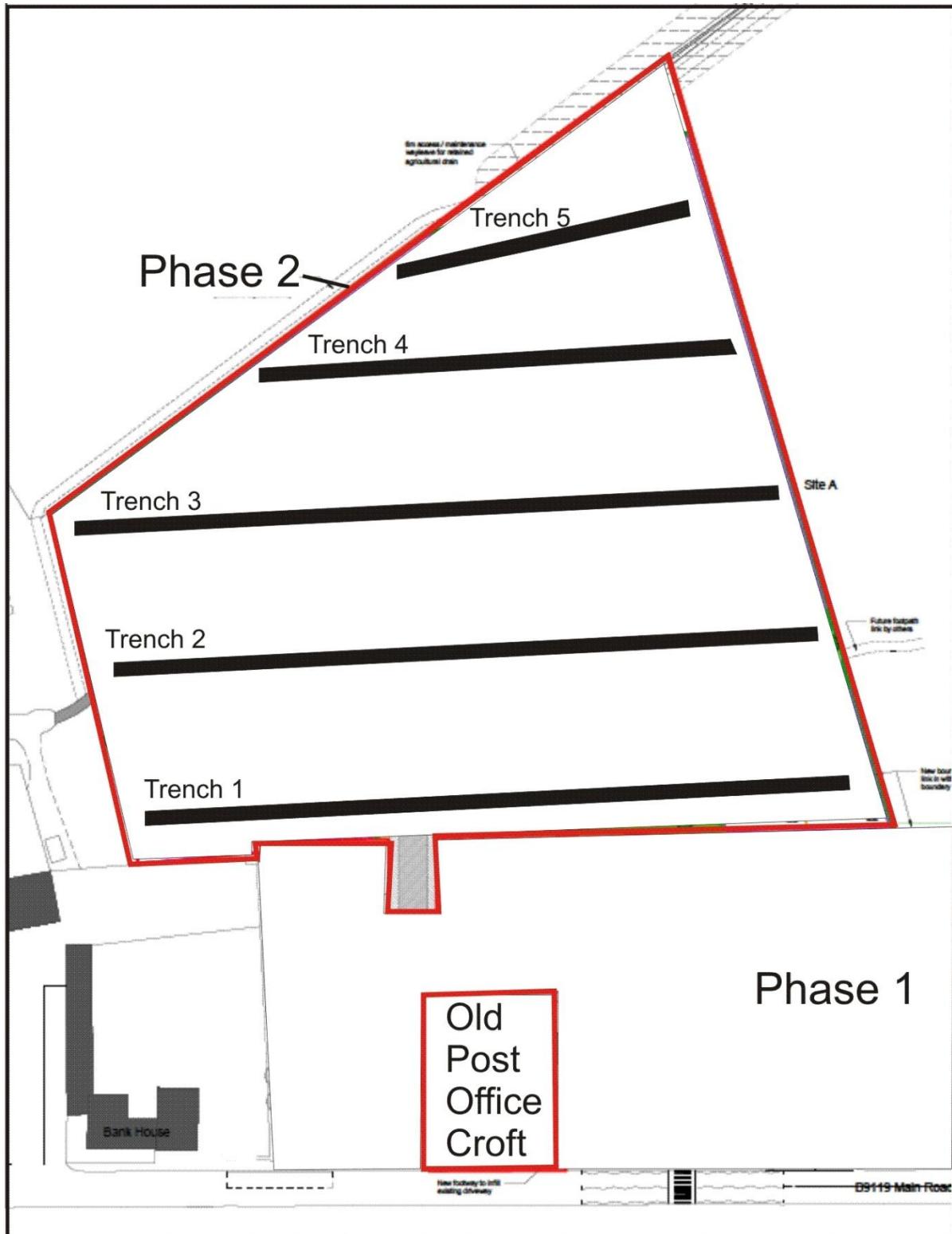
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the vicinity of the current development area. Echt Kirk and associated buildings appears on Pont's map of the late 16th century. General Roy's mid 18th-century map shows Old Echt, Kirkton of Echt Church as well as Sunhoney and the Barmekin but no settlement in the area of the current development. At that date Echt was dispersed and Old Echt was located 500m WNW of the current village. There are no buildings in the area under discussion on the 1st or 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps.
- 2.2 Several sites of archaeological and historical interest survive in the vicinity of the development location. These include the Barmekin of Echt hillfort, 1.5km NW of the village, New Wester Echt stone circle 2km north, Sunhoney stone circle 2km to the west, cairns, standing stones and areas of hut-circles.
- 2.3 The closest known archaeological sites include an area of rig and furrow at North Kirkton Wood 500m SE of current site.
- 2.4 Myriewell Wood quarries are depicted on 1867 First Edition Ordnance Survey map 200m east of the current site.
- 2.5 Monecht House, the former Free Church manse stands 170m east of current site and the adjacent Kirk Cottages was the Free Kirk.
- 2.6 Several farmsteads in the area include Myriewell Farmstead 200m NE of current site, North Main farmstead 500m north of current site, North Mains farmstead (NJ70NW38) 500m north of site and Upper Mains 500m NW.
- 2.7 A granite boundary stone 145m WSW of Monecht House bears an incised letter E standing for Echt estate. The stone is not marked on either the 1st or the 2nd edition OS maps.
- 2.8 Echt is a village and burgh to the west and south of the development site includes nine listed buildings. It was established as a burgh of barony in 1698.
- 2.9 The site of Kirkton of Echt Church which dates to the early 13th century is 500m SSW of the development site.
- 2.10 A 7% archaeological field evaluation took place in 2011 (Cameron 2011; cameron1-100595) but no archaeological remains were uncovered.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

A 7% archaeological evaluation was carried out on 21 October 2013. Five trenches were excavated; the topsoil was 0.25-0.3m deep and the subsoil was sandy clay. No archaeological features were identified; there were modern plough scores running N-S across all trenches and a series of narrow trenches SW-NE containing ceramic drains.



Illus 2 Site plan with evaluation trenches (copyright Kirkwood Homes)

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

5 REFERENCES

Cameron, A (2011) 'Echt, Westhill, Aberdeenshire (Echt parish), evaluation', *Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol.12* Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.
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6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Trench	Facing
DSC 7628-30	1	E
DSC 7631-34	1, 2	NE
DSC 7635-37	2	E
DSC 7638-42	3	E
DSC 7643-45	4	E
DSC 7646-49	5	E
DSC 7650-52	4, 3	SW



DSC_7630



DSC_7631



DSC_7637



DSC_7638



DSC_7645



DSC_7646



DSC_7652