

**Proposed biomass boiler,  
Glen Moray Distillery, Elgin, IV30 1TS  
Report on archaeological evaluation and standing building  
survey; Data Structure Report**



**Alison Cameron  
Cameron Archaeology  
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## SUMMARY

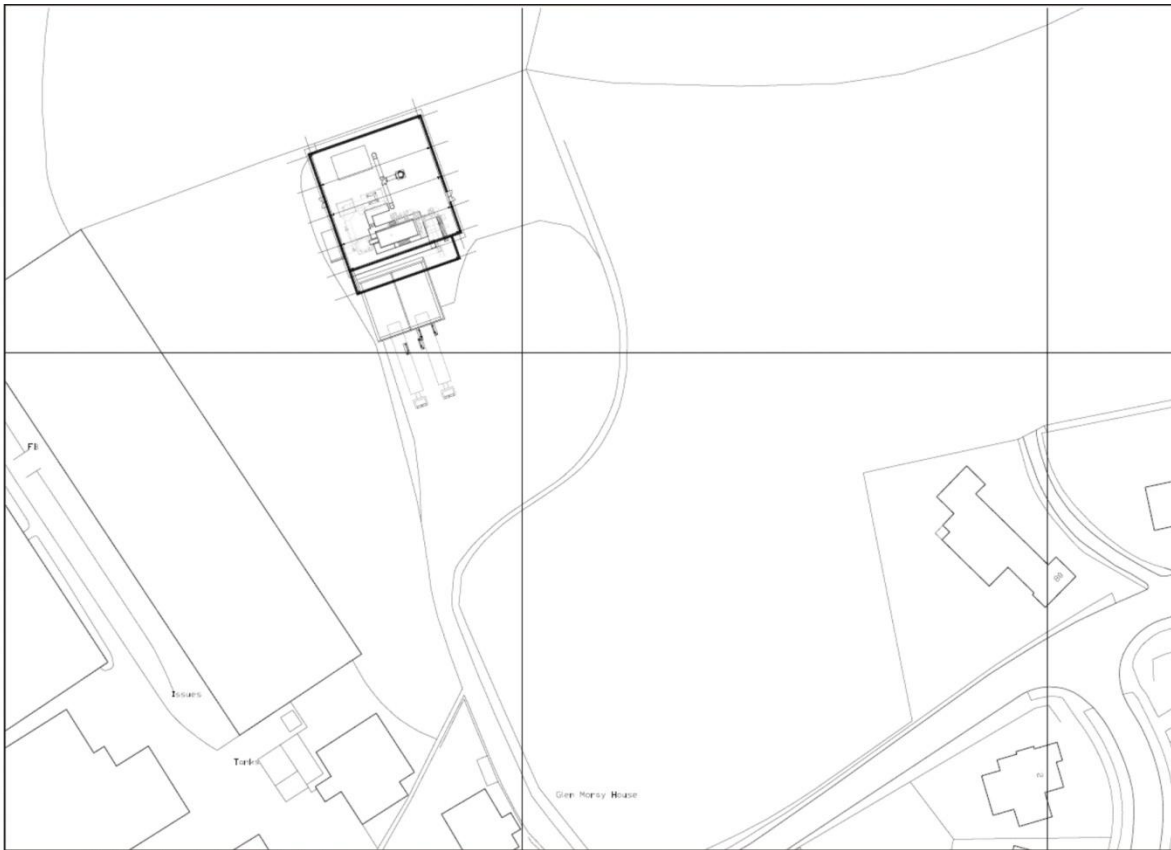
The archaeological evaluation took place on 6-7 March 2014. Five trenches were excavated totalling 7% of the proposed development area. A standing building survey was also carried out on Hattonhill House and the Glen Moray Distillery cottages. Two burials and disarticulated bones were found in Trenches 1 and 5 and it is recommended that an archaeological excavation in the garden is carried out prior to any further work within the current development area.

# 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The proposed development site, centred on NJ20085 62506, lies on the north side of Bruceland Road at the NE edge of the Glen Moray distillery. The site is occupied by Hattonhill House and gardens. This work is being carried out pre-planning application but Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service required a Level 1 standing building survey of Hattonhill House and a 7-10% archaeological evaluation of the area outwith the footprint of Hattonhill House.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Ian Palmer, John Fergus and Co for Glen Moray Distillery.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work 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 2014)



Illus 2 Site plan showing proposed boiler house (copyright ARUP)

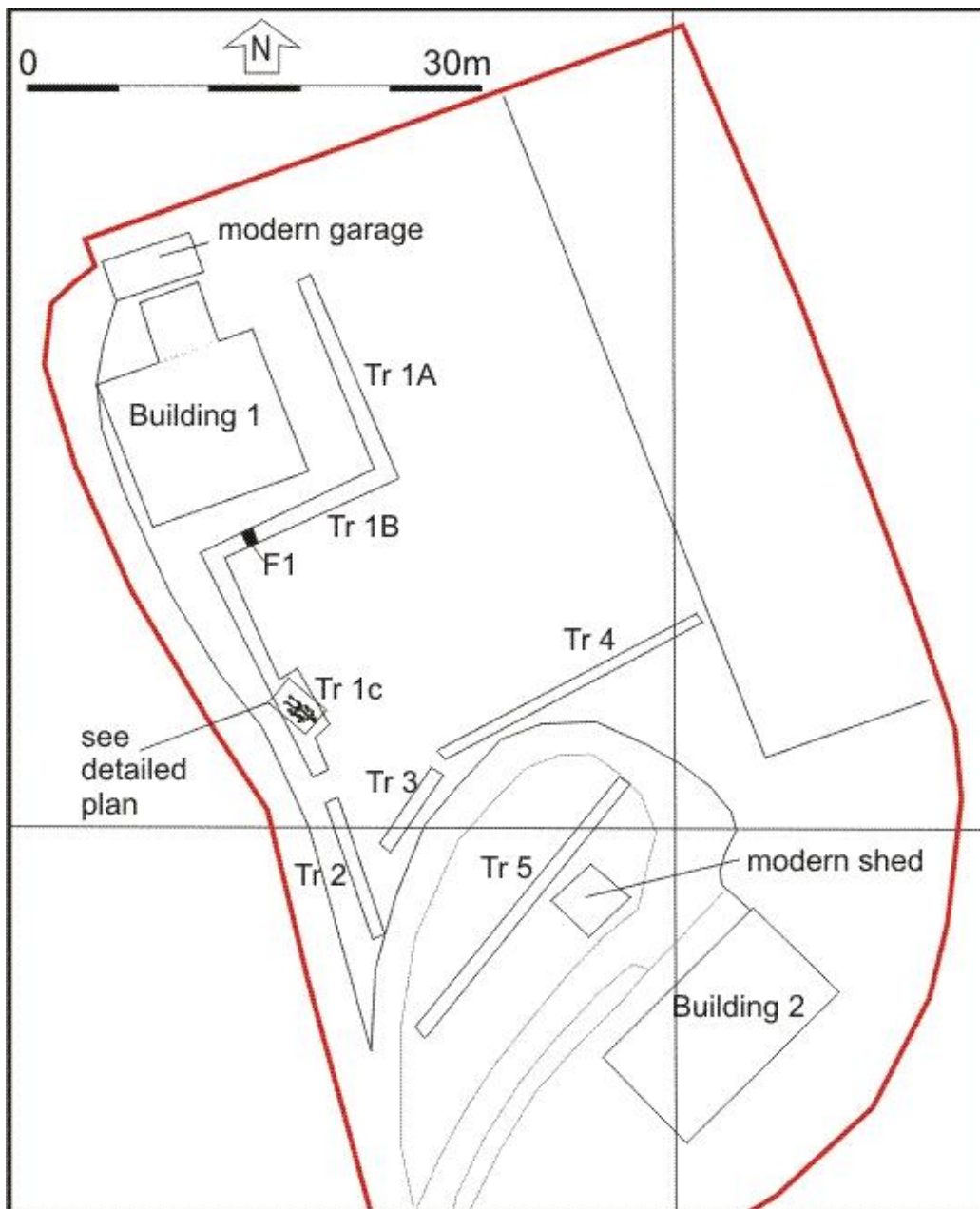
## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the proposed site (although Elgin Castle is c 1.1km from the site). The area of the proposed biomass boiler is on the top of the south end of the Gallowhill, 'a small, natural hill of three small knolls between which human bones have been turned up at several times' (OS Name Book 1868, 11; NJ26SW 4; see Illus 6). 'There have been found, covered by a 12 foot thick layer of sand and gravel, nodules of roasted iron ore, wood charcoal, bones and teeth of oxen, a flint scraper and curiously fractured stones' (*Trans Inverness Sci Soc Fld Club* 1915, 72-3).
- 2.2 A late Bronze Age socketed axehead (NJ26SW 167) was found by a metal detectorist in a field beside the River Lossie on the W edge of Elgin. The item was declared Treasure Trove (TT 43/96) and allocated to the Elgin Museum (National Museums of Scotland 1996, 76).
- 2.3 A cropmark (NJ26SW0168) 200m ENE of the current site is a possible ring ditches and at least one possible square barrow are visible on a vertical aerial photograph taken in 1976. There are also several circular solid marks which could indicate hut-stances, as well as possible sub-circular enclosures showing faintly. Immediately north of the current site at Sheriffmills (NJ26SW0169) a number of features show faintly as crop marks on a vertical aerial photograph taken in 1976. These include possible circular enclosures, and at least two solid circular features which may represent hut stances.

- 2.4 Three coins have been found in the vicinity of Gallowcreek; one originally thought to be a penny of Mary, Queen of Scots; now considered to be James IV (NJ26SW0115). Another coin (NJ26SW0114) an Edinburgh groat of either David II or Robert II, though probably latter was very worn, in poor condition and in two pieces. The third coin (NJ26SW0118) is a cut penny of Henry III; short cross with sceptre; ASOH/or N on reverse and in poor condition.
- 2.5 A bronze buckle (NJ26SW0116) with mouldings at flat end; thick, heavy, corroded; chipped on one side; diameter 20mm, thickness 5mm; ? 12thC possibly was found at Gallowcreek.
- 2.6 A lead button (NJ26SW0120) was also found at Gallowcreek.; traces of button attachment; decorated with stripes; diameter 25mm, thickness 5mm.
- 2.7 Possible spindle whorl of lead (NJ26SW136); 13/14th century; embossed design of dots and stripes on both sides; diameter 25mm, thickness 5mm was also found at Gallowcreek.
- 2.8 300m NE of the current site is Connet (Conet) Hill which is the alleged site of two stone circles (Douglas 1936, NJ26SW 30).

### **3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

The archaeological evaluation took place on 6-7 March 2014. Five trenches were excavated totalling 7% of the garden area between Hattonhill House and Glen Moray Distillery Cottages. The weather was mild and sunny throughout. There were limited locations for trenching as the garden has paths, driveway, sheds and garage as well as trees and other undergrowth. Five locations were identified including a long trench around the house (Trench 1; Illus 3) and trenches around the driveway (Trench 2-5).



Illus 3 Trench plan showing location of SK1 and SK2 and buildings on the site

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was dug around the east and south side of Hattonhill House. A path leading from the front door of the house (F1; Illus 3) was constructed of cinders on a bedding of sand which contained three fragments of human tibia and femur, probably reburied in the path foundation. In the south arm of the trench (1c) two extended supine burials were excavated. They were buried with their heads to the SE and trace of a cut (F2) survived on the east side of SK1. On sherd of local redware pottery with applied decoration (Illus 23) was found in the loose soil above the graves.

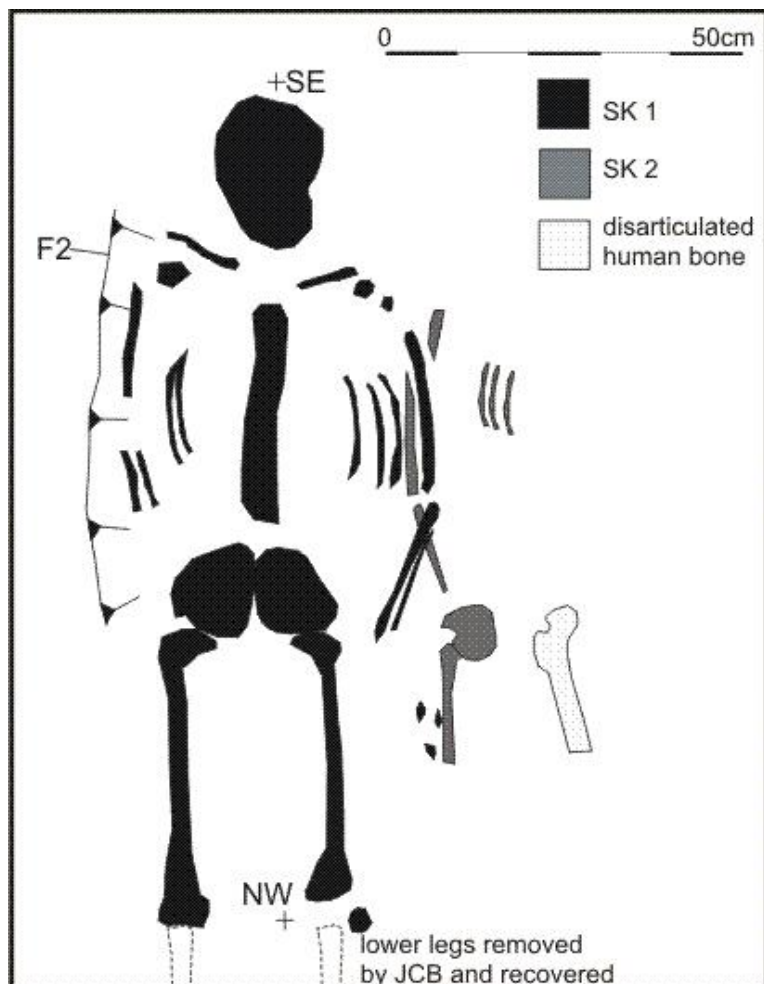
### SK 1 (Illus 20-21)

SK 1 was complete although the lower legs and feet were recovered from the JCB bucket. The burial was buried 5cm below the turf and had a path of random paving slabs constructed over the top. There is no evidence of the burial being in a shroud or coffin and there were no finds to date the burial. The bones were in a very poor condition as roots from the

surrounding vegetation has grown through the bones as well as damage from gardening works.

SK 2 (Illus 22)

SK 2 lay under SK 1 (Illus 4). It was also extended and supine but most of the skeleton had been disturbed, probably by past gardening activities. The right arm was position under the left arm of SK 1 and the right pelvis, proximal end of the right femur and right ribs were present.



Illus 4 Plan of SK 1 and SK 2



Illus 5 SK 1 (top) and SK 2 (below); facing NE. The right arm of SK 2 can be seen under the left arm of SK 1.



Illus 6 Find spot of SK 1 and SK 2 from window of Hattonhill House.

**Trench 2**

Trench 2 was 10m long NNW-SSE and contained undulating sand dunes into which had been dumped up to 0.8m modern metal rubble.

**Trench 3**

Trench 3 was up to 1m deep and contained 0.4m modern rubbish on top of laminated sands.



Illus 7 Trench 3 showing modern upfill and sand dunes below; facing NW



#### Trench 4

Trench 4 was excavated WSW-ENE between the undergrowth to the north and the driveway to the south. There was a layer of modern loam and plant roots 0.1-0.2m deep and under this were clean sands. The loam contained numerous fragments of china, glass and metal.



Illus 8 Trench 4 showing sand dunes facing NE

#### Trench 5

Trench 5 was excavated in the grass island between the access roads adjacent to a shed. The trench contained the remains of undulating sand dunes from 0.1-0.6m below the current ground surface. There were many sherds of modern china, glass and metal and one broken distal fibula fragment.



Illus 9 Trench 5 showing sand dunes; facing SW

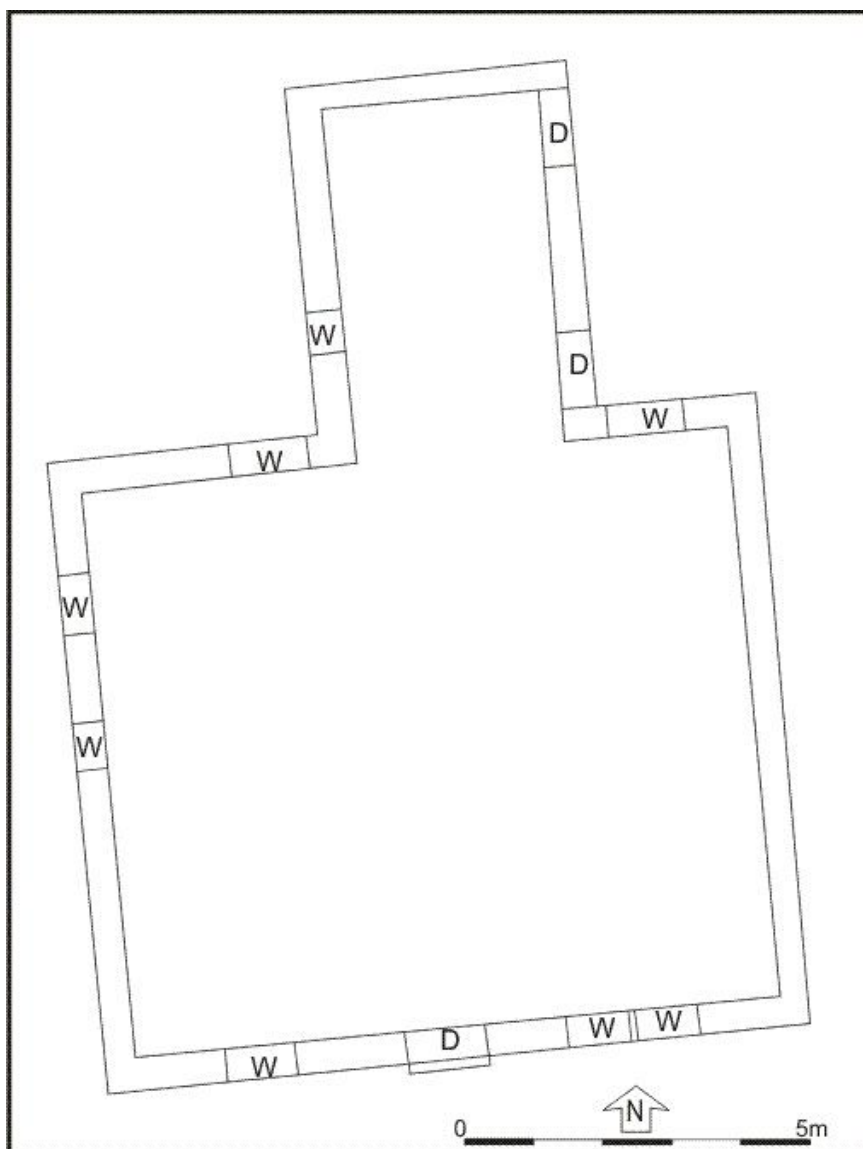
## 4 THE STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

The standing building survey took place on 6-7 March 2014. The weather was mild and sunny throughout.

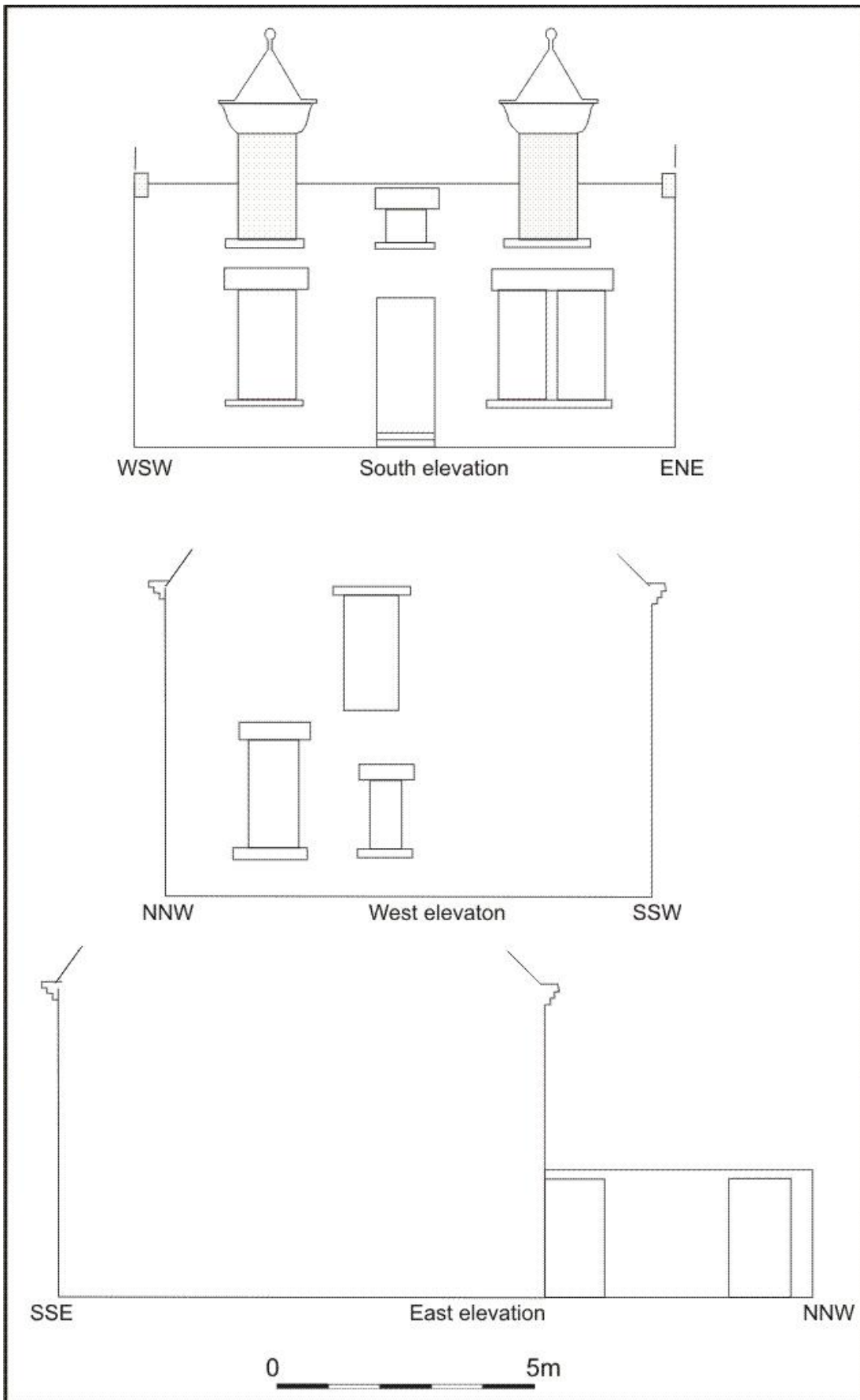
### BUILDING 1 HATTONHILL HOUSE

The house is 10.5m W-E and oriented with the frontage to the SSE. It is 9.4m N-S and has an extension 5.2 x 4m wide on the north (rear) side. The house is constructed of large and medium sized light brown sandstone blocks which have been hand-tooled (Illus 13). The first floor windows on the front facade have decorated finials (Illus 12).

The interior of the building has been recently renovated and there are few original features present. There is a central hallway with two reception rooms at the south side of the house. A rear reception room in the Ne corner and bathroom at the NW leads into the extension which is now a kitchen and laundry. There is a central stair leading to the first floor central window on the west gable, leading to upstairs bedrooms and bathroom.



Illus 10 Plan of ground floor Building 1 Hattonhill House



Illus 11 Elevations of Building 1 Hattonhill House



Illus 12 South facade Hattonhill House showing finials and roof detail



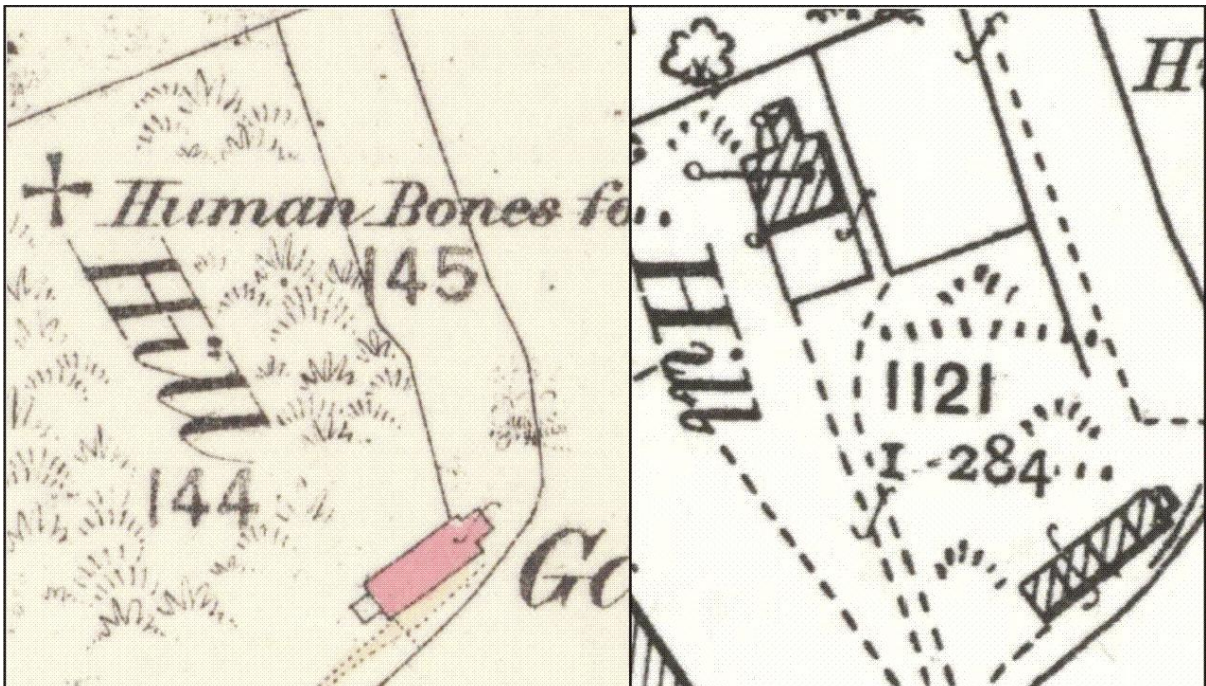
Illus 13 East gable showing tooling marks

## BUILDING 2 GLEN MORAY DISTILLERY COTTAGES

A photographic survey of Glen Moray Distillery Cottages was carried out. There were four cottages on the First Edition (1868) and they have now been rebuilt into two larger cottages probably reusing stone with new window surrounds.



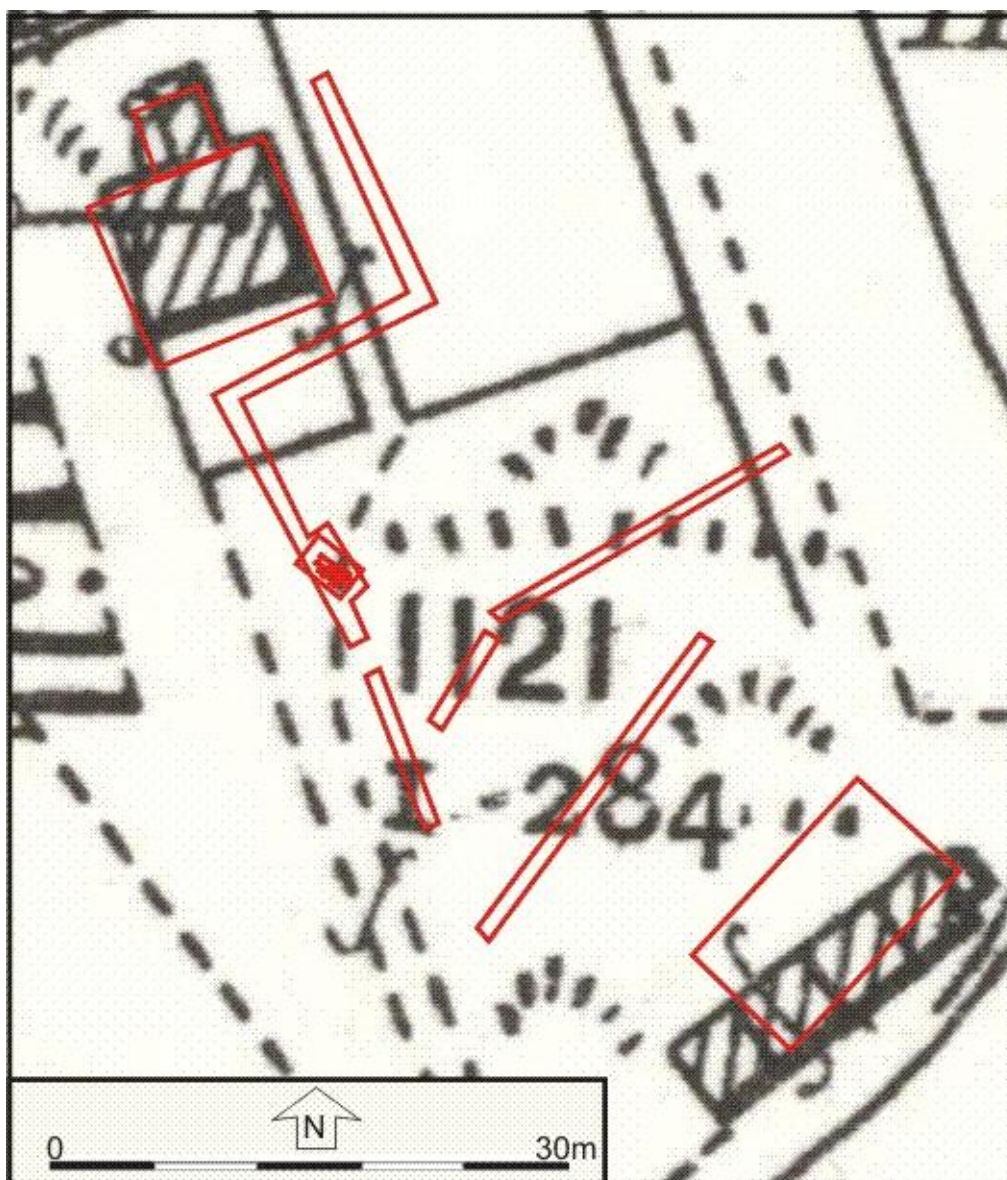
Illus 14 Glen Moray Distillery Cottages showing older stone reused in south facade with newer addition; facing WSW



Illus 15 Detail of First Edition (left) and Second Edition (right) OS map showing Hattonhill House (not present in 1868 (left) and Glen Moray Distillery Cottages (bottom right) (copyright National Library of Scotland).

## 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The 7% archaeological evaluation revealed two supine burials and disarticulated human bones in Trenches 1 and 5. No dating for the burials survived within the grave and the condition of the bone was very poor.
- 5.2 The standing building recording revealed that Hattonhill House is a late 19th or early 20th-century country house built in the same stone and style as the brewery (Illus 19) which occupied the site prior to the distillery taking over the site in 1897 (<http://www.glenmoray.com>). The house was built as the Manager's house. The Glen Moray Distillery Cottages are earlier than the house and are on the First Edition OS map (Illus 18); however they have been rebuilt in the mid-late 20th century possibly using some of the stone from the four cottages.
- 5.3 A report on the burials and a radiocarbon date will now be carried out.
- 5.4 If further work is to take place within the development area (Illus 3) archaeological work will be required to check for and excavate further burials or other archaeological remains.



Illus 16 Second Edition OS map 1905 with overlay of current buildings and archaeological trenches in red

## 6 REFERENCES

**ISSFC** 1915 'Joint meeting at Elgin, June 26 and 27, 1908', *Trans Inverness Sci Soc Fld Club*, vol.7, 72-3.

**Ordnance Survey (Name Book)** Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (6 inch and 1/2500 scale), Book No. 11, 16.

**NMS** 1996 'River Lossie (Elgin parish), late Bronze Age socketed axehead', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 76.

**Douglas, R** 1936 Market and other crosses in Moray, 4.

## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Claire Herbert and Bruce Mann at Aberdeenshire Archaeology; Ian Palmer, John Fergus and Co; Gary Gibson, Terry Ward and site staff, Colorado Group Ltd.

# APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

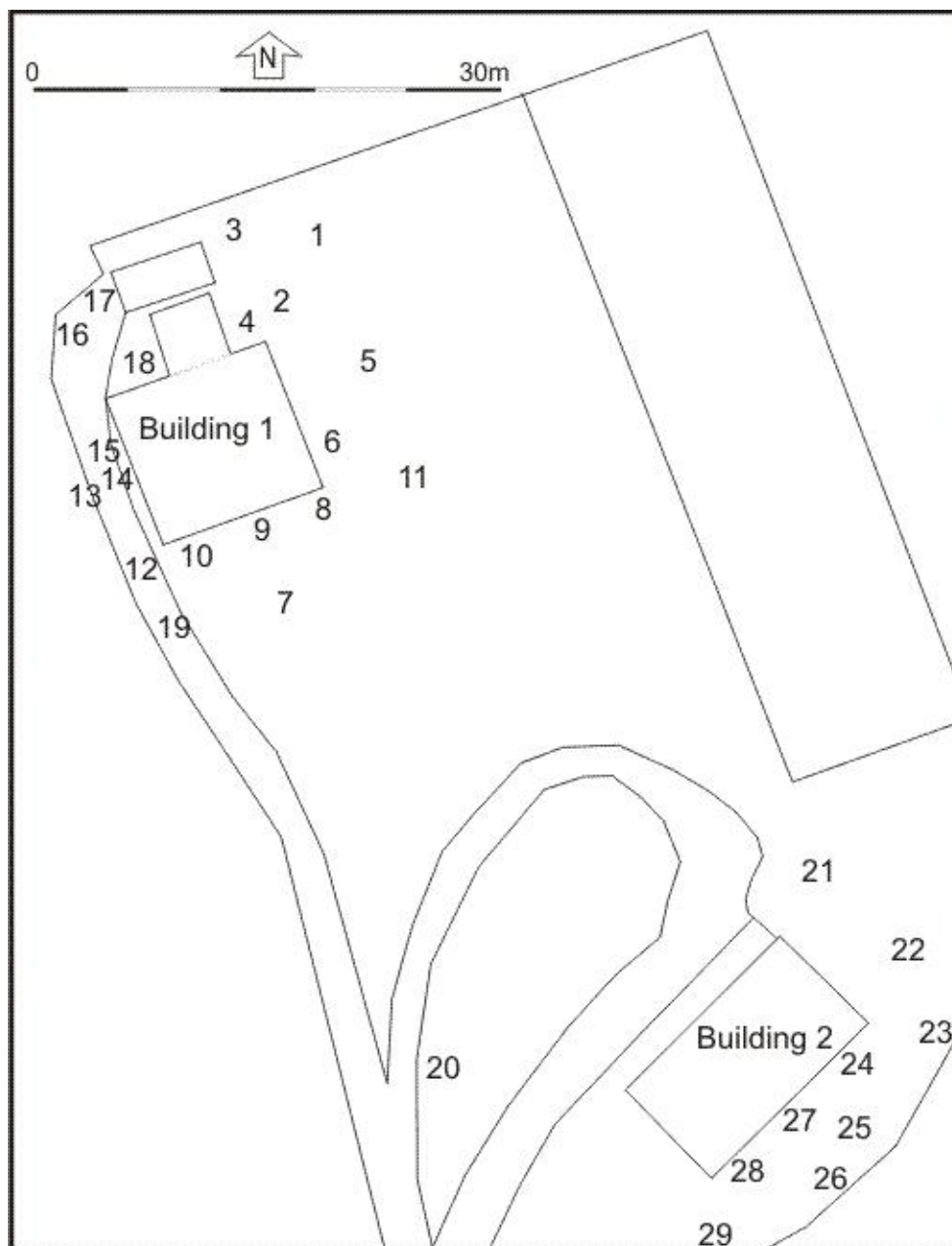
## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION





Photo no	Description	Facing
Evaluation		
DSC_967-970	Trench 1b	ENE
DSC_971-974	Trench 1b with Hattonhill House	N
DSC_975-984	Trench 1c section through path F1	NNW
DSC_985-992	Trench 1b section through path F1	SSE
DSC_993-995	Trench 1b east end showing raised beach profile	ENE
DSC_996-998	Trench 1b east end showing raised beach profile	NE
DSC_999-1005	Trench 1b north end	SSE
DSC_1006-1012	Trench 1b north end with Hattonhill House (right)	SW
DSC_1312-1317	SK 1 pre excavation	SE
DSC_1318-1331	Excavating SK1	
DSC_1332-1336	SK1	SE
DSC_1337-1346	SK1	NE
DSC_1347-1351	SK1	SW
DSC_1352-1356	SK1 skull	SE
DSC_1357-1361	SK 2 ribs (bottom) SK 1 left arm above SK2 right arm (top)	NE
DSC_1362-1366	SK1 L arm (top) disarticulated femur (bottom)	NE
DSC_1367-1371	SK 1 torso	NE
DSC_1372-1377	SK 1 upper legs	NE
DSC_1378-1382	Tr 2	N
DSC_1383-1391	Tr 2 showing cut in sand filled with metal	NW
DSC_1392-1396	Tr 3 showing modern rat and metal in sand dunes	NW
DSC_1397-1402	Tr 3	SW
DSC_1403-1408	SK1 (top) SK 2 (bottom)	NE
DSC_1409-1421	SK1 (top) SK 2 (bottom)	NE
DSC_1422-1427	TR 4 showing sand dunes	NE
DSC_1428-1433	TR 4 showing sand dunes	NNE
DSC_1434-1438	TR 4 NE end showing sand dunes	NW
DSC_1439-1443	Tr 4	SW
DSC_1444-1448	Tr 5	SW
DSC_1449-1453	Tr 5 showing sand dunes	SSW
DSC_1454-1459	Tr 5 showing sand dunes	SE
DSC_1460-1464	Tr 5 showing sand dunes	SW
DSC_1465-1474	Tr 1c charcoal 6 under pelvis SK 1	NE
DSC_1510-1530	Trench 1 from Hattonhill House windows	SE/S

## STANDING BUILDING SURVEY



Illus 17 Camera points used in standing building survey

Standing building survey	Description	Facing	Camera point
DSC_1013-1018	Hattonhill House north extension (left) and modern garage (right)	WSW	1
DSC_1019-1023	Hattonhill House north extension	WSW	2
DSC_1024-1029	Hattonhill House north extension	SW	3
DSC_1030-1035	Hattonhill House north extension rear door	WSW	4
DSC_1036-1040	Hattonhill House north extension (right) north face	S	3
DSC_1041	Hattonhill House north face upper floors	S	3
DSC_1042	Hattonhill House north face east window	S	4
DSC_1043-1045	Hattonhill House north face tooling around ground floor	S	4

	window		
DSC_1046-1056	Hattonhill House east gable	SW	1
DSC_1057-1071	Hattonhill House east gable	WSW	5
DSC_1072-1076	Hattonhill House east gable tooling	WSW	6
DSC_1077-1086	Hattonhill House south facing frontage	NNW	7
DSC_1087-1091	Hattonhill House south facade ground floor east window	NNW	8
DSC_1092-1095	Hattonhill House south facade first floor east window	NNW	8
DSC_1096-1099	Hattonhill House east gable	NE	8
DSC_1100-1102	Hattonhill House south facade first floor east window	NNW	8
DSC_1103-1104	Hattonhill House south facade ground floor east window	NNW	8
DSC_1105-1108	Hattonhill House roof details inc finials over first floor windows	NW	11
DSC_1109-1111	Hattonhill House roof details inc finials over first floor windows	NW	11
DSC_1112-1114	Hattonhill House roof details inc finials over first floor windows	NW	11
DSC_1115-1119	Hattonhill House front door	NNW	9
DSC_1120-1124	Hattonhill House south facade first floor central window	NNW	9
DSC_1125-1126	Hattonhill House door bell and nameplate	NNW	9
DSC_1127-1132	Hattonhill House south facade ground floor west window	NNW	10
DSC_1133-1137	Hattonhill House south facade first floor west window	NNW	10
DSC_1138-1150	Hattonhill House	NE	12
DSC_1151-1165	Hattonhill House roof finials	NE	12
DSC_1166-1183	Hattonhill House west gable	ENE	13
DSC_1184-1187	Hattonhill House west gable central ground floor window	ENE	14
DSC_1188	Hattonhill House west gable central first floor window	ENE	14
DSC_1189-94	Hattonhill House west gable north ground floor window	ENE	15
DSC_1195-99	Hattonhill House	SE	16
DSC_1200-01	Hattonhill House modern garage (left) and house (right)	ENE	16
DSC_1202-06	Hattonhill House north face west end	SSE	17
DSC_1207-11	Hattonhill House north extension	ENE	18
DSC_1212-16	Hattonhill House north face west end upper floor	SSE	17
DSC_1217-21	Hattonhill House north face west end window ground floor	SSE	18
DSC_1222-25	Hattonhill House north extension central window	ENE	18
DSC_1226-34	Hattonhill House	SE	17
DSC_1235-39	Hattonhill House north extension north wall with modern garage (left)	ENE	18
DSC_1240-45	Hattonhill House north facade	SSE	17
DSC_1246	Hattonhill House north facade first floor window	SSE	17
DSC_1247-1250	Hattonhill House front door step	NNW	9
DSC_1252-1256	Hattonhill House front	N	19
DSC_1257-1266	Hattonhill House front	NNW	7
DSC_1267	Hattonhill House front	NW	12
DSC_1268	Hattonhill House front from cottages	NNW	20
DSC_1269	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages	SE	20
DSC_1270	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages	SW	21
DSC_1271	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages	SW	21
DSC_1272	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages	SW	21
DSC_1273-77	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages	W	22
DSC_1278-82	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages	W	23

DSC_1283-87	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages door SE wall east end	NW	24
DSC_1288-92	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages east cottage SE frontage	NW	25
DSC_1293-97	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages	NW	26
DSC_1298-99	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages junction between 2 cottages	NW	27
DSC_1300-04	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages west cottage	NW	28
DSC_1305-09	Glen Moray Distillery Cottages	NE	29
DSC_1310-11	Hattonhill House from cottages	N	29
DSC_1475-78	Hattonhill House south facade	NNW	7
DSC_1479-94	Hattonhill House east gable	WSW	5
DSC_1495	Hattonhill House interior ground floor left reception room	SW	
DSC_1496	Hattonhill House interior hall from front door	NNW	
DSC_1502	Hattonhill House interior ground floor right reception room	SE	
DSC_1503	Hattonhill House interior stair	W	
DSC_1504	Hattonhill House interior rear right reception/old kitchen	NE	
DSC_1505	Hattonhill House interior kitchen now at NW of ground floor	NW	
DSC_1506	Hattonhill House interior north extension now kitchen/utility room	N	
DSC_1508	Hattonhill House interior first floor window centre of west gable which was a full length window but has been reduced in height	WSW	



DSC\_1013



DSC\_1023



DSC\_1024



DSC\_1031



DSC\_1032



DSC\_1039



DSC\_1040



DSC\_1041



DSC\_1042



DSC\_1043



DSC\_1045



DSC\_1046



DSC\_1057



DSC\_1058



DSC\_1073



DSC\_1074



DSC\_1076



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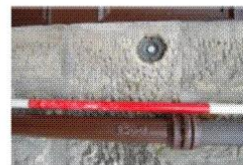
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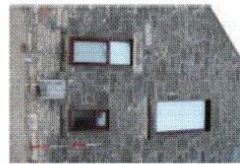
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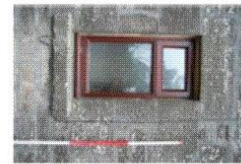
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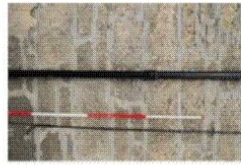
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DSC\_1484



DSC\_1485



DSC\_1489



DSC\_1490



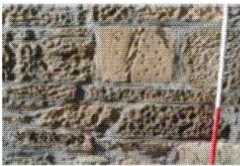
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DSC\_1496



DSC\_1502



DSC\_1503



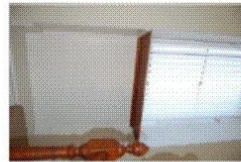
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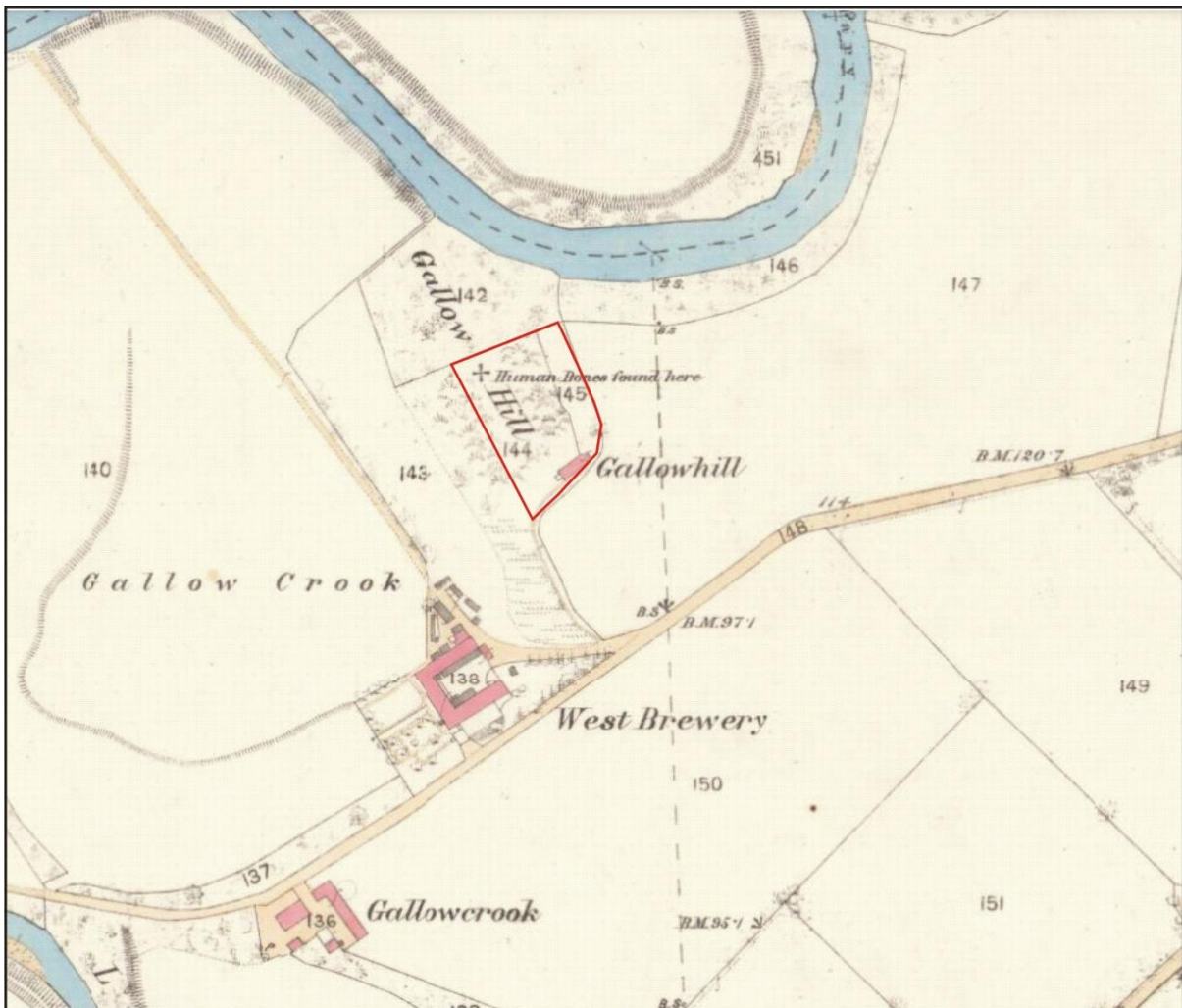
DSC\_1508

## APPENDIX 2 DATA STRUCTURE REPORT

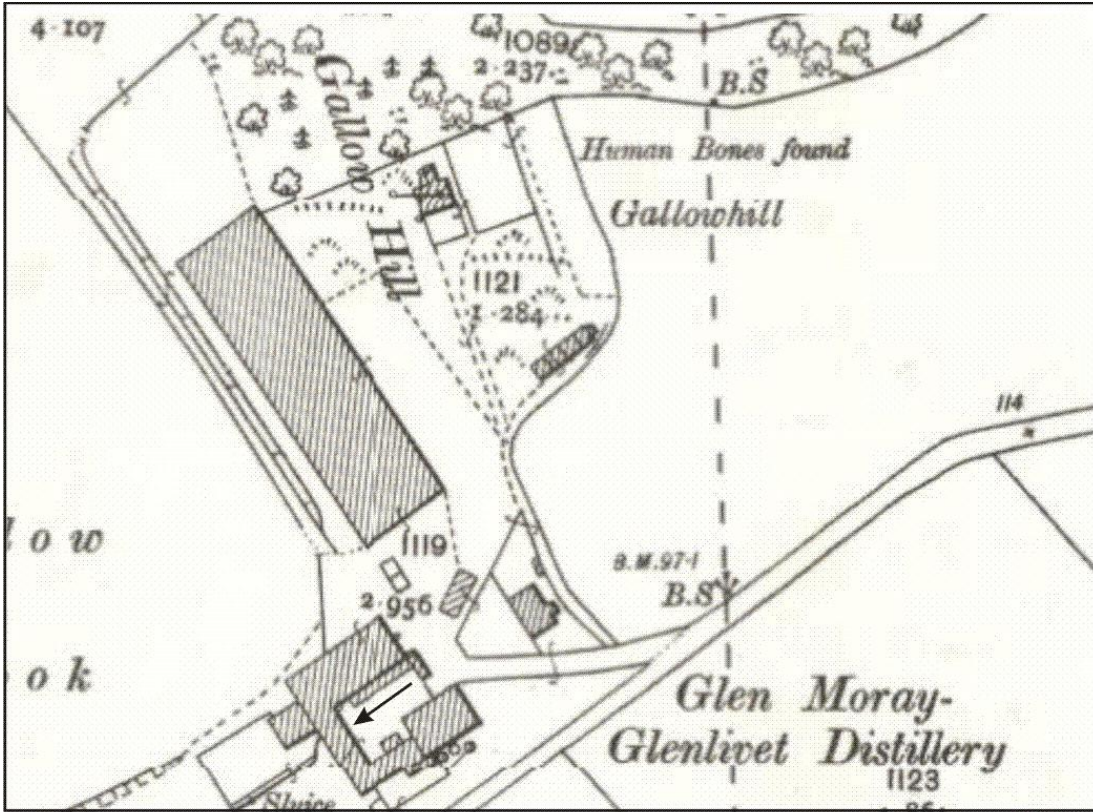
Context no	Trench	Feature no	Description
1	1		Medium grey sandy topsoil
2	1b	F1	Black clinker and small stones in path F1
3	1b	F1	Clean light brown sand under 2 in path F1
4	1		Dark grey silty sand - sand dunes on top of compact orange sandy gravel and waterwashed cobbles
5	1c	F2	Dark grey sandy loam around SK 1
6	1c		Charcoal and burnt twigs under pelvis SK 1
F1	1b		Path from front door Hattonhill house to SSE
F2	1c		Cut on NE side Grave SK 1
20	2		Rubbish, metal, china up to 0.8m deep on top of sand dunes
30	3		Rubbish, metal, china up to 0.4m deep on top of sand dunes
40	4		0.1-0.2m deep loam with plant roots, china, glass, metal
50	5		0.1-0.6m sandy loam containing sherds of modern china, glass and metal and one broken distal fibula fragment from the sand. On top of undulating sand dunes
Sample No	Trench	Context	Description
1	1c	5	Soil around SK 1 including disarticulated frags
2	1c	6	Charcoal under pelvis of SK1; burnt vegetation?
SK no	Trench	Context	Description
1	1c	5	extended supine burial, no coffin or shroud
2	1c	5	extended supine burial, no coffin or shroud



## APPENDIX 3 MAPS



Illus 18 First Edition OS map showing approximate outline of site in red and 'Human bones found here' and West Brewery (now the distillery). Elgin Sheet VII.15 (Elgin) Survey date: 1868  
Publication date: 1873 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 19 Second Edition (top). Elginshire, Sheet 007.15 Publication date: 1905 Revised: ca. 1904 (copyright National Library of Scotland) with brewery buildings (bottom). Photo location arrowed in map.



Illus 20 SK 1 right leg and pelvis



Illus 21 SK 1 skull



Illus 22 SK 2 right femur and pelvis



Illus 23 Trench 1c sherd of 13th-early 14th century local redware