# Land NW of Deeview Gardens, Drumoak, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 5AU





Alison Cameron Cameron Archaeology 23 May 2014

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#### **SUMMARY**

The archaeological evaluation and Level 1 Standing Building Survey were carried out on 21 May 2014 using a 13 ton tracked machine and 2m ditching bucket. Six trenches representing 7% of the site were excavated. No finds or archaeological features were identified and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

#### 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site is located on the south side of the A93 Peterculter to Banchory road and north of Deeview Gardens. The site is at NO 79091 98704, at 50-55m OD and in Drumoak parish. The land is parts of two arable fields (Illus 9) and the NE corner is occupied by the remains of Nether Sunnyside Farm.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Harry McNab, Bancon Developments Ltd. An application APP/2007/2614 for housing was passed by Aberdeenshire Council on 8.6.10 and a standard archaeology condition (condition 4) attached. Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service require a 7-10% archaeological evaluation and Level 1 standing building survey.
- 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.



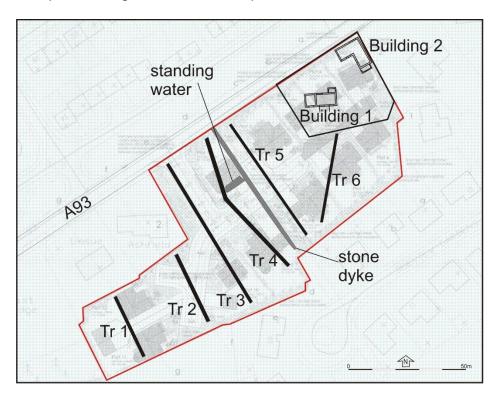
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014)

#### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is on the south-facing slope of the river Dee valley. There are no archaeological sites known within the current site but the former Nether Sunnyside Farm buildings due to be demolished date from the early- mid 19th century and there is a saw mill on the Second Edition OS map (Illus 10) which is not on the First Edition (Illus 9) and therefore dates to the late 19th century. Sunnyside is shown on Thomson's map of 1832.
- 2.2 A Late Bronze Age facet-type socketed axe (NO79NE 12) from Drumoak, is in the Marischal Museum, Aberdeen (247.10) (Schmidt and Burgess 1981, 191; Coles 1962, 66). Flints including an arrowhead have been found on Keith's Moor (NO79NE 15) (New Statistical Account (NSA) 1845, 887; Name Book 1864, 37).

#### 3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The archaeological evaluation was carried out on 21 May 2014 using a 13 ton tracked machine and 2m ditching bucket. Six trenches representing 7% of the site were excavated. The topsoil was generally shallow (10-20cm) and the subsoil sandy clay with large boulders. The field is relatively unimproved and there were many medium to large sized boulders. There was no evidence of the saw mill or other buildings on the First Edition OS map. At the south end of Trench 6 (the location of the former saw mill) there was a pit with glass, pottery and metal, probably buried in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. There were various field drains across the site and current and historical flooding was noted at the site. No finds or archaeological features were identified and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.



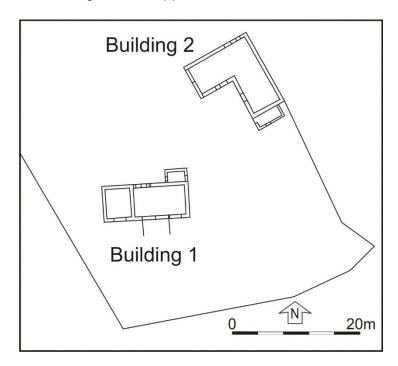
Illus 2 Plan showing archaeological trenches and Buildings 1 and 2



Illus 3 Trench 6; facing SW

# 4 THE STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

The standing building survey was carried out on 21 May 2014. Building 1 the farmhouse and Building 2 part of the former steading were photographed and measured (Illus 4). Details of the building features appear in the archive.



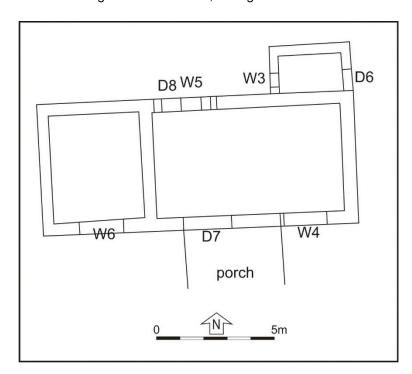
Illus 4 Plan showing Buildings 1 and 2

# **Building 1**

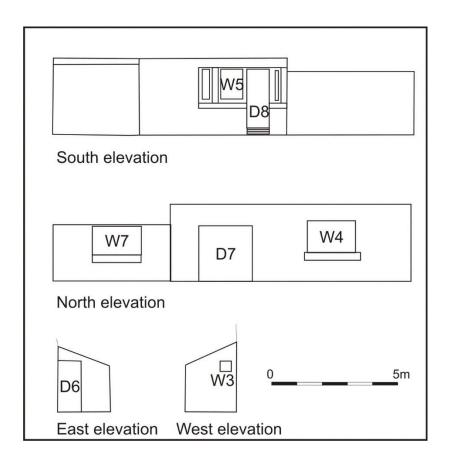
The farmhouse is 13.4m long and 5m wide with a lean-to shed on the north wall and a modern porch on the south side. It is harled has been modernised internally.



Illus 5 Building 1 the farmhouse; facing south



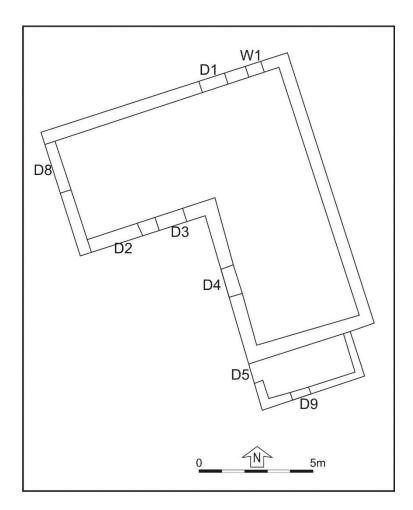
Illus 6 Plan of Building 1



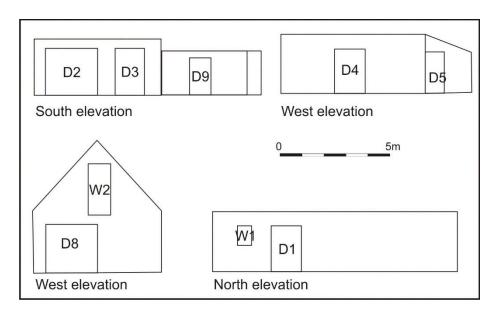
Illus 7 Elevations of Building 1

# **Building 2**

Building 2 is part of the former steading buildings (First Edition OS map), an L-shaped section 12m x 10m in size with a lean-to shed on the south wall. The building is constructed of large faced granite blocks with cherry cocking and the walls are 0.5m thick. The interior has been partially modernised but the original waterwashed beach pebble floor (grepe) can be seen in two rooms where the more modern concrete floor has been worn away.



Illus 8 Plan of Building 2



Illus 9 Elevations of Building 2



Illus 10 Floor of north room showing waterwashed pebble floor (grepe)

#### 5 REFERENCES

Coles, J M 1962 'Scottish Late Bronze Age metalwork: typology, distributions and chronology' *Proc Soc Antig Scot, vol.93*, 66.

NSA 1834-1845 The new statistical account of Scotland by the ministers of the respective parishes under the superintendence of a committee of the society for the benefit of the sons and daughters of the clergy, 15v Edinburgh, Vol. 12, (Aberdeen).

Ordnance Survey (Name Book) Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (6 inch and 1/2500 scale), Book No. 26, 37.

Schmidt, PK and Burgess, CB 1981 'The axes of Scotland and Northern England', *Prahistorische Bronzefunde, vol.9, 7* Munchen, Germany, 191, no. 1106.

# 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Harry McNab and Bob MacArthur, Bancon Developments Ltd and to Bruce Mann and Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council for their advice during this work

# APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN 1KM OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

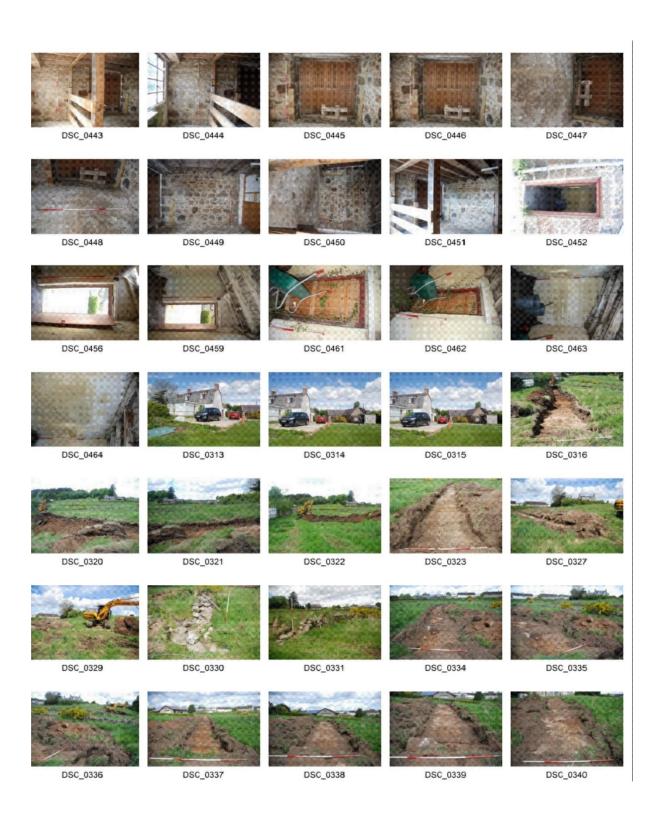
# SMR SITES WITHIN 1KM OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Name	OS NGR	Classification
	NO 79000	
DRUMOAK	99000	SOCKETED AXEHEAD (BRONZE)
	NO 79500	
KEITH'S MUIR	98500	ARROWHEAD (FLINT)
	NO 79260	
PARK STATION	98760	RAILWAY STATION
PARK HOUSE, EAST	NO 78970	GATE LODGE. ALTNAME = PARK HOUSE ESTATE, PARK HOUSE
LODGE	98640	POLICIES
	NO 79190	
DRUMOAK	98970	VILLAGE

# **APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS**

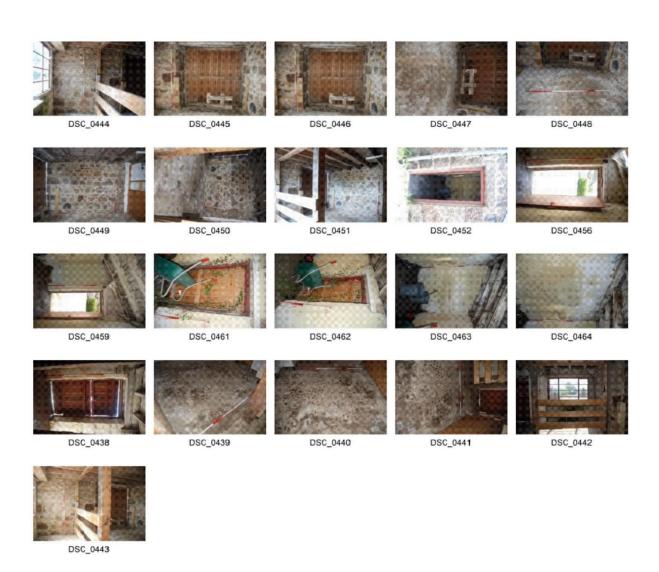
Photo no	Description	Facing	
		1 0.08	
DSC0313-315	Nether Sunnyside farm	NNW/N	
DSC0316-319	Trench 6	SW	
DSC0320-322	DSC0320-322 Trench 6 being backfilled		
DSC0323-326	Trench 5	NNW/N	
DSC0327-329	Trench 5 left with farm (top right)	NE	
DSC0330	Drystone dyke running NNW-SSWEthroiugh middle of site	NNW	
DSC0331-2	Drystone dyke running NNW-SSWEthroiugh middle of site	NW	
DSC0333-4	Trench 4	NNW	
DSC0335-6	Trench 4	N	
DSC0337-9	Trench 3	NNW	
DSC0340-41	Trench 2	NNW	
DSC0342-43	Trench 1	NNW	
DSC0344-50	Site with farm in background from Tr 3	NE	
DSC0351	Trench 6 being backfilled	NE	
DSC0352-4	Building 1	NW/NNW	1
DSC0355	Building 1	W	2
DSC0356-7	Building 1	SW	3
DSC0358-63	Building 1 window W4	N	4 5
DSC0364-68	Building 1 interior modernised		
DSC0369	Building 1	NNE	6
DSC0370-73	Building 1 W6	N	7
DSC0374-75	Building 1	S	8

DSC0376	Building 1	S	8
DSC0377	Building 1 W5 D8	S	9
DSC0378	Building 1	S	11
DSC0379	Building 1	S	10
DSC0380	Building 1	S	10
DSC0381-88	Building 1	SE	12
DSC0389-90	Building 1 W3	Е	11
DSC0391-92	Building 2	NE	13
DSC0393-94	Building 2	NE	14
DSC0395-96	Building 2 lean to door D5	NE	15
DSC0397-99	Building 2 door 4 left D5 right	NE	16
DSC0401-03	Building 2 door D4	NE	16
DSC0404-06	Building 2 (former) D2 left D3 right	NW	16
DSC0407	Building 2 D3	NW	16
	Building 2 former D2 breeze block infilled to		
DSC0409	form window	NW	16
DSC0410-12	Building 2 west gable D8 below W2 above	NE	17
DSC0413-15	Building 2	E	18
DSC0416	Building 2	SE	19
DSC0417	Building 2	SE	20
DSC0418-426	Building 2	SSE	22
DSC0427	Building 2 D1	SE	20
DSC0428	Building 2 W1	SE	21
DSC0429	Building 2 interiors south room	SE	23
DSC0430	Building 2 south room NE wall	NE	23
DSC0431	Building 2 south room NE wall	NE	23
	Building 2 south room NW wall and door		
DSC0432-34	into Room 2	NW	24
DSC0435-36	Building 2 Door D4	SW	24
DSC0437-38	Building 2 D3 centre D2 right	SW	26
DSC0439	Building 2 floor central room		24
DSC0440	Building 2 floor central room		24
DSC0441	Building 2 floor central room		24
DSC0442	Building 2 D2	SW	26
DSC0443-4	Building 2 SW wall Door D8 right	NW	24
	Building 2 D8 and waterwashed pebble		
DSC0445-8	,		25
DSC0449-51	Building 2 N room NE wall	NNE	24
DSC0452	Lean-to on south side Building 2 Door D5	NE	15
DSC0453-60	Lean-to on south side Building 2 Door D5	SW	27
DSC0461-62	Lean-to on south side Building 2 Door D9	ENE	27
DSC0463-64	Lean-to on south side Building 2	NE/NNE	27









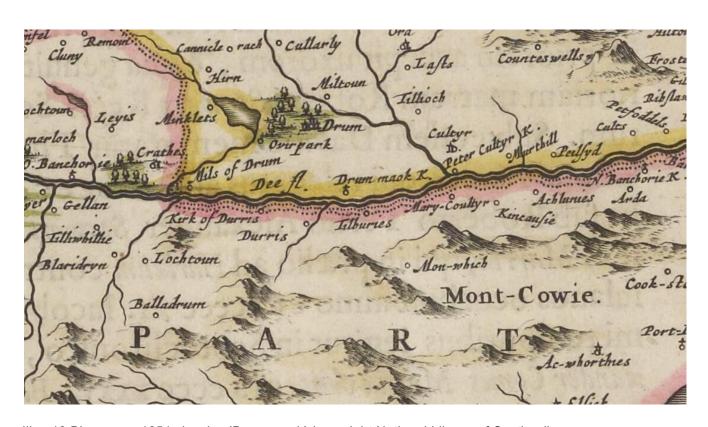
# **APPENDIX 3 MAPS**



Illus 11 Pont 1583-1614 showing 'Torseats' (Tersets) and Nether Park, both west of the current site (copyright National Library of Scotland)



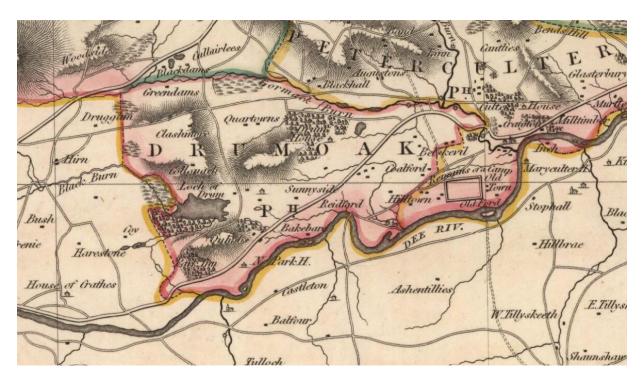
Illus 12 Gordon map 1636-52 showing 'Drumoakk' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



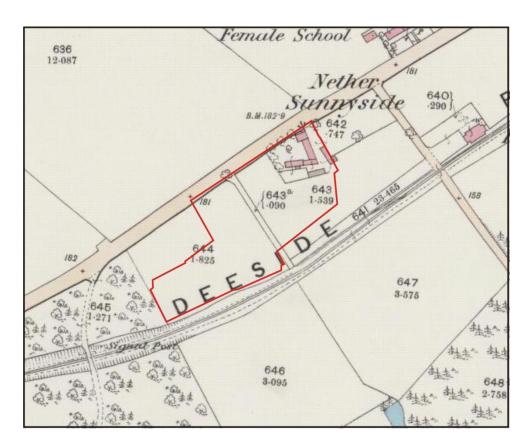
Illus 13 Blaeu map 1654 showing 'Drum maok' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



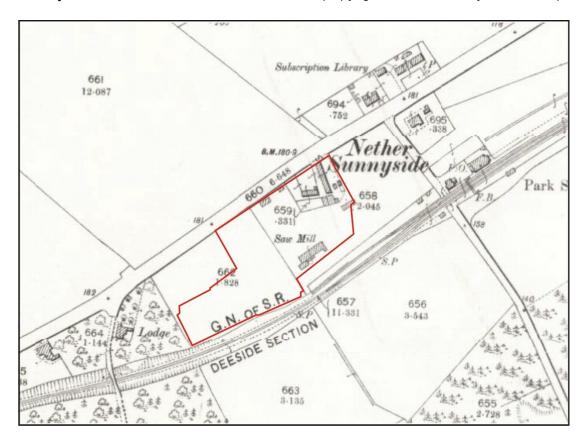
Illus 14 Moll map 1745 showing 'Drum mack' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 15 John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland 1832 showing 'Sunnyside' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 16 First Edition OS map Aberdeen Sheet LXXXV.13 (Combined)
Survey date: 1865 Publication date: 1869 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 17 Second Edition OS map Aberdeenshire, Sheet 085.13 Publication date: 1900 Revised: ca. 1899 (copyright National Library of Scotland)