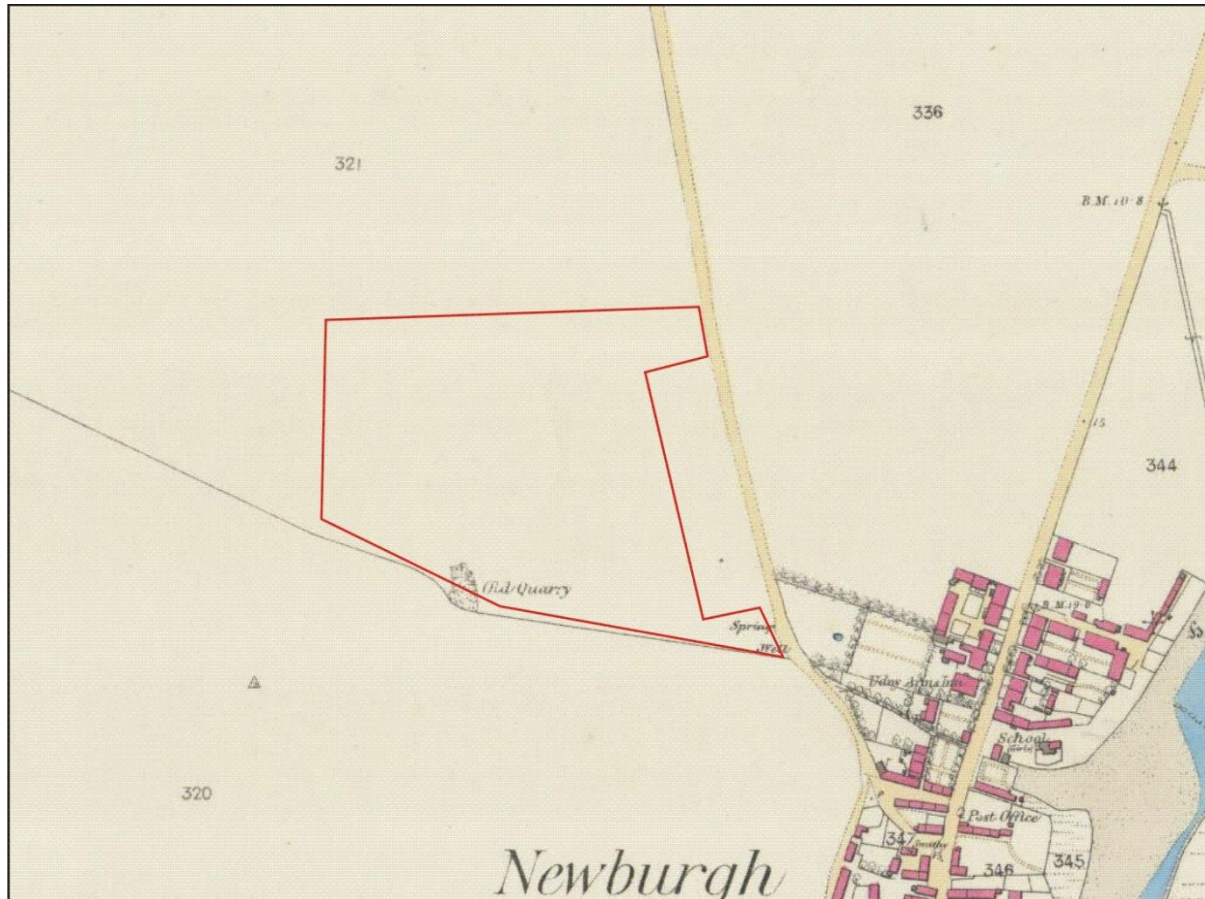


Report on the Archaeological Evaluation

Proposed housing development, west side, Knockhall Road, Newburgh, AB41 6DZ



Alison Cameron
Cameron Archaeology Ltd
17 September 2014

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SUMMARY

Seven trenches totaling 5% of the proposed development (1750m²) were evaluated on 8-10 September 2014 by Stuart Farrell for Cameron Archaeology. The topsoil was up to 1.1m deep but no archaeological features were identified. Seven flints and one sherd of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the topsoil and two waste flints from gravels at the east end of trench 1. It is therefore recommended that a watching brief be maintained during the soil strip for the east end of the new road and SUDS basin.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site is located on the west side of Knockhall Road, Newburgh north of St Clair Wynd. It is centred on NGR NJ 9967 2554, at 5-20m OD, on land sloping steeply uphill to the NW.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Martin Forbes, Scotia Homes Ltd the Aberdeenshire Planning application APP/2014/1408 is pending. Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service would require a 5% archaeological evaluation.
- 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 development site (dotted in red) (copyright Scotia Homes)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the proposed development site. There is one known historic site within the proposed development boundary; a small quarry (NJ92NE 117) 590m SE of Little Haddo farmstead appears on the First Edition OS map (Illus 7) which has gone out of use by the Second Edition (Illus 8).
- 2.2 The Burgh and town of Newburgh on the spreading estuary of the Ythan, was a significant port for fish and Ellon-bound cargo and also was a resort of retired seamen (Aberdeenshire SMR NJ92NE0036). The town was the site of a market cross (NJ92NE 14). The cross of Newburgh was referred to in a service before the Sheriff of Aberdeen on 10 January 1558: the cross was broken by a cart some years ago but the site is well known (Name Book 1866, 32, 30).
- 2.3 Alexander Comyn, the Earl of Buchan, founded a hospital at Newburgh c1261 for six poor men and a chaplain (NK 0001 2543; Easson 1957). Monks from the Cistercian Abbey of Deer lived at the Monkshome. The site of the Monkshome was occupied by an inn where the Old Pretender lodged on his journey south from Peterhead in 1715. (Walton 1966, 45-7) At the end of the 18th century the inn was known as 'Monkshome' and was believed to be on the site of the hospital

(Ordnance Survey Name Book [ONB] 1866, 32, 31).

- 2.4 Remains of an area of denuded rig and furrow, visible in low light (NK02NW30) is located on Newburgh Golf Course.
- 2.5 650 ENE of the proposed site there was a chapel of the Holy Rood which belonged to the Abbey of Deer in Foveran parish. (H Scott et al 1926) A charter of 1474 confirms earlier grants of annual rents, lands and fishings to the chapel. (K Walton 1966) The remains of the chapel were still visible within a burial ground in 1840 (NSA 1845) but the cemetery has been levelled off and the chapel was removed (Scott et al 1926, 193; K Walton 1966, 44; New Statistical Account 1845, 12, 699; Third Statistical Account (TSA) 1960, 446).
- 2.5 A watching brief was carried out in November 2004 during the upgrading of the waste water treatment plant. The site is located at the eastern extremity of Inch Road, immediately adjacent to the 18th-century churchyard and the Udny family burial vault. This was the location of the Chapel of the Holy Rood which belonged to the Abbey of Deer and probably dated to the 13th century. Although no archaeological features associated with the chapel or graveyard were evident, two pieces of medieval pottery were recovered. One is a portion of medieval redware jug handle, probably of local manufacture, while the second is a rim sherd of lustrous green-glazed Scarborough ware imported from North Yorkshire (Murray 2004, 16).
- 2.6 Mesolithic cores and blades of flint have been recovered from a surface below estuarine mud at 17 ft (5.2m) OD, at a meander scar cut by Foveran Burn immediately to the south of Newburgh (NK02NW 21; Kirk 1958, 30). A flint flake from Newburgh is in Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (Z.32791). A collection of flint flakes, mostly unworked, from an old bed of the river Ythan at Newburgh, was presented to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMA) on 13 March 1905. (Proc Soc Antiq Scot 1905, 245). The river is constantly making minor changes of course at its estuary. No more accurate siting could be obtained from these finds, but occupation sites have been noted in the area on each side of the river (NK02NW 5).
- 2.7 An 'axe-hammer' (NJ92NE 9) of diorite, 13" long, 5" wide and 3" thick, was found near Newburgh (NJ 99 25) and donated to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMA) (Proc Soc Antiq Scot 1893, 49). Three worked flints found in the vicinity of Newburgh (NJ 99 25; NJ92NE 11) are in the Mrs Irvine collection at Barra Castle.
- 2.8 Knockhill Castle (NJ92NE2) is just over 1km to the NNW of the proposed site and is the remains of an L-plan towerhouse of 3 storeys with projecting staircase on the N side. Above the doorway in the re-entrant angle is a stone dated 1565. Basic fabric is 16th century, the re-construction is late 17th century, being confined to windows, internal details and probably the square projecting tower at the N side. It was accidentally burnt in 1734 when it fell into ruins. There is a vaulted ground floor, E vault intact, the W kitchen vault has fallen. A courtyard lay to the S, in the SE corner of which stood a circular tower with vaulted basement and shot-holes. The upper storey was a dovecot. Now only a stump remains. The castle also has Remains of a 17th to 19th century designed landscape (NJ92NE2; Shepherd 1994, 212).

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Seven trenches totaling 5% of the proposed development (1750m²) were evaluated on 8-10 September 2014 by Stuart Farrell for Cameron Archaeology. The topsoil was up to 1.1m deep but no archaeological features were identified. Seven flints and one sherd of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the topsoil and two waste flints from gravels at the east end of Trench 1.



Illus 3 Plan showing the evaluation trenches and area of watching brief required (*copyright Scotia Homes*)

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although no features were recorded in the trenches, six flints and a sherd of prehistoric pottery were recovered from topsoil and two flints were recovered from gravels at the south edge of the site adjacent to the burn. It is therefore recommended that a watching brief be maintained during the soil strip for the east end of the new road and SUDS basin.

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6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Martin Forbes, Scotia Homes for initiating this project and to Bruce Mann at Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

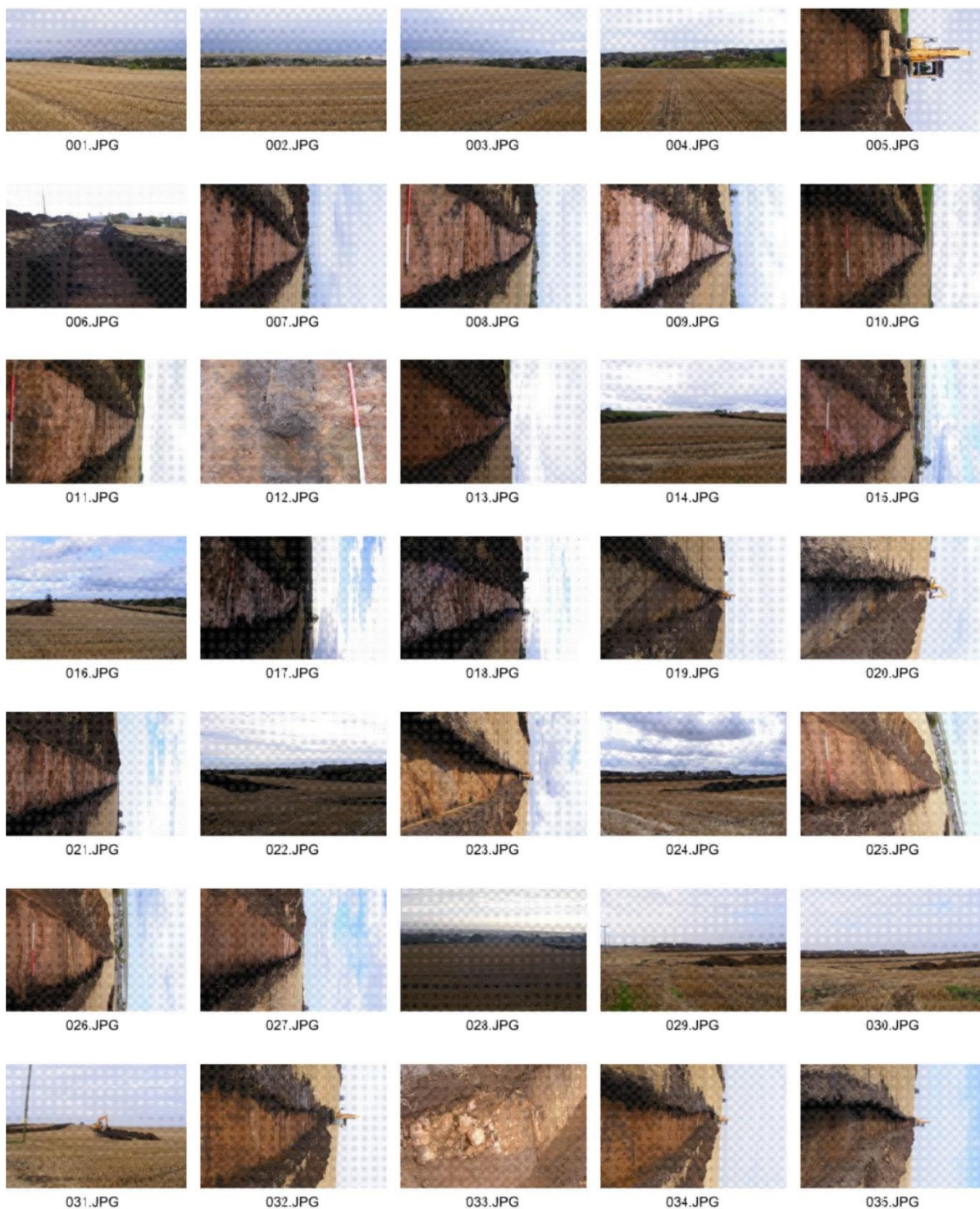
Cameron Archaeology
45 View Terrace
Aberdeen
AB25 2RS
01224 643020
07581 181057
cameronarch@btinternet.com
www.cameronarchaeology.com
Company registration no 372223 (Scotland)
VAT registration no 990 4373 00

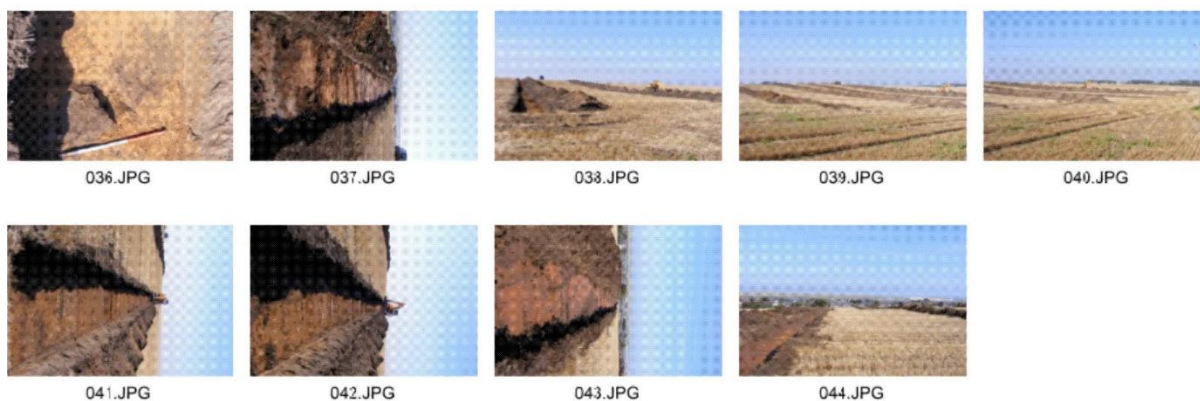
APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

Newburgh TT Photo Register
Scales 1m

- 1 – View of site facing N.
- 2 – View of site facing E.
- 3 – View of site facing SE.
- 4 – View of site facing S.
- 5 – View of machining in progress facing W.
- 6 – View of red-brown subsoil in trench 1 facing E.
- 7 – View of trench 1 upon excavation facing E.
- 8 – View of trench 1 upon excavation facing E.
- 9 – View of trench 1 upon excavation facing E.
- 10 – View of trench 2 upon excavation facing W.
- 11 – View of trench 2 upon excavation facing W.
- 12 – View of v-shaped cut Trench 2.
- 13 – View of trench 2 upon excavation facing W.
- 14 – View of trenches 1 and 2 upon excavation facing W.
- 15 – View of trench 3 upon excavation facing E.
- 16 – View of trenches 1 and 2 upon excavation facing E.
- 17 – View of trench 3 upon excavation facing E.
- 18 – View of trench 3 upon excavation facing E.
- 19 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing W.
- 20 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing W.
- 21 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing E.
- 22 – View of trenches 2 and 3 upon excavation facing SE.
- 23 – View of trench 5 upon excavation facing W.
- 24 – View of trenches 2 to 4 upon excavation facing SW.
- 25 – View of trench 5 upon excavation facing E.
- 26 – View of trench 5 upon excavation facing E.

- 27 – View of trench 5 upon excavation facing E.
- 28 – View of site facing E.
- 29 – View of trenches 3 to 5 upon excavation facing S.
- 30 – View of trenches 3 to 5 upon excavation facing SW.
- 31 – View of trench 6 in progress facing W.
- 32 – View of trench 6 upon excavation facing W.
- 33 – View of engineers test trench in trench 6.
- 34 – View of trench 6 upon excavation facing W.
- 35 – View of trench 6 upon excavation facing W.
- 36 – View of natural feature in trench 6.
- 37 – View of trench 6 upon excavation facing E.
- 38 – View of trenches 5 to 7 upon excavation facing NW.
- 39 – View of trenches 2 to 7 upon excavation facing NW.
- 40 – View of trenches 2 to 7 upon excavation facing N.
- 41 – View of trench 7 upon excavation facing W.
- 42 – View of trench 7 upon excavation facing W.
- 43 – View of trench 7 upon excavation facing E.
- 44 – View of trenches 6 and 7 upon excavation facing E.





APPENDIX 2 Archaeological and historical sites within 1km of the proposed site (Pastmap and Aberdeenshire SMR online)

Dataset UID	Name	Classification
NK02NW0008	CHAPEL OF THE HOLY ROOD	Standing Structure
NK02NW0015	NEWBURGH MILL AND QUAY	Documentary Record Only
NK02NW0016	NEWBURGH WAREHOUSE	Standing Structure
NK02NW0019	UDNY LINKS	Earthwork
NK02NW0035	NEWBURGH GOLF COURSE	Earthwork
NJ92SE0072	MEIKLE HADDO	Standing Structure
NK02NW0039	INCHES	Standing Structure
NJ92NE0052	KNOCKHALL CASTLE	Standing Structure
NK02NW0053	NEWBURGH	Documentary Record Only
NJ92NE0007	NEWBURGH	Findspot
NJ92NE0009	NEWBURGH	Findspot
NJ92NE0025	CROSS OF NEWBURGH	Documentary Record Only
NJ92SE0136	NEWBURGH WAR MEMORIAL	Documentary Record Only
NJ92NE0036	NEWBURGH	Standing Structure
NK02NW0009	MONKSHOME	Documentary Record Only
NK02NW0043	NEWBURGH	Findspot
NK02NW0040	FOVERAN BURN	Findspot
NK02NW0115	150 MAIN STREET, NEWBURGH	Standing Structure
NJ92SE0137	LOANHEAD, NEWBURGH	Documentary Record Only
NJ92NE0077	1-2 BRIDGE TERRACE, NEWBURGH	Standing Structure
NK02NW0117	TOORS O'YTHAN	Documentary Record Only
20342	NEWBURGH, MARKET CROSS	MARKET CROSS
20360	NEWBURGH	AXE HAMMER
20849	NEWBURGH, WAREHOUSE	PIER, WAREHOUSE. ALTNAME = NEWBURGH HARBOUR
20851	NEWBURGH, INCHES, QUAY AND WAREHOUSE	QUAY, WAREHOUSE. ALTNAME = NEWBURGH HARBOUR, FOVERAN BURN
20852	FOVERAN BURN	FLINT SCATTER. ALTNAME = NEWBURGH
20855	NEWBURGH	FLAKE (FLINT)
20858	NEWBURGH	FLAKE(S) (FLINT). ALTNAME = RIVER YTHAN

20862	NEWBURGH, MONKSHOME	HOSPITAL (POSSIBLE)
20861	FOVERAN, CHAPEL OF THE HOLY ROOD	BURIAL GROUND, CHAPEL. ALTNAME = NEWBURGH, CHAPEL, NEWBURGH, OLD CHURCH AND CEMETERY, NEWBURGH, OLD CHURCHYARD
20339	NEWBURGH	WORKED OBJECT(S) (FLINT)
20848	NEWBURGH MILL	GRANARY, MILL, QUAY. ALTNAME = NEWBURGH, QUAY AND MILL, RIVER YTHAN, CULTERTY MILL, NEWBURGH HARBOUR, MITCHELL AND RAE
76272	NEWBURGH	BURGH, TOWN
111260	UDNY LINKS	RIG AND FURROW. ALTNAME = NEWBURGH GOLF COURSE
130905 130907	KNOCKHALL, COTTAGE KNOCKHALL, YTHAN LODGE	COTTAGE. ALTNAME = KNOCKHALL CASTLE HOUSE (18TH CENTURY)
130908	EAST KNOCKHALL	COTTAGE, FARMHOUSE. ALTNAME = KNOCKHALL CASTLE
130909	LITTLE HADDO	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD. ALTNAME = HADDO HOUSE POLICIES
149844	NEWBURGH, 31 MAIN STREET, SHANGHAI	HOUSE (19TH CENTURY)
149845	NEWBURGH, MAIN STREET, ERROL HOUSE	HOUSE
149847	NEWBURGH, 15 MAIN STREET, HOLYROOD CHAPEL	CHAPEL, SCHOOL. ALTNAME = NEWBURGH VILLAGE, SCHOOL ROAD, CLOCK TOWER
149851	NEWBURGH, OLD CHURCHYARD, UDNY FAMILY VAULT	BURIAL VAULT. ALTNAME = UDNY FAMILY VAULT, OLD CHURCHYARD, NEWBURGH
149854	MILL OF NEWBURGH	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
180577	NEWBURGH, GALLOWS HILL, WAR MEMORIAL	WAR MEMORIAL (20TH CENTURY). ALTNAME = GOLA HILL
191603	NEWBURGH, 1 MAIN STREET, NEWBURGH HOUSE	HOUSE
201456	LITTLE HADDO, QUARRY	QUARRY. ALTNAME = HADDO HOUSE POLICIES
203686	NEWBURGH	LEAF ARROWHEAD (FLINT)
204498	NEWBURGH, GRAVEL PIT	SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS. ALTNAME = MILL OF NEWBURGH, GALLOWS HILL
275791	DIANA: YTHAN MOUTH, NORTH SEA	CRAFT (19TH CENTURY). ALTNAME = YTHANMOUTH, 'NEAR NEWBURGH', 'EIGHT MILES SOUTH OF PETERHEAD', SANDS OF FORVIE, DIANA
273020	NEWBURGH, INCH ROAD	NO CLASS (EVENT)
280477	NEWBURGH, MAIN STREET, OCEANLAB	LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY
308280	NEWBURGH, BEACH ROAD, NEWBURGH-ON-YTHAN GOLF COURSE	GOLF COURSE

APPENDIX 3 MAPS



Illus 4 Robert Gordon, A map of Eastern Scotland, including basins of Rivers Don, Dee, Tay, Forth, and Tweed imprint c 1636-52 (copyright National Library of Scotland).



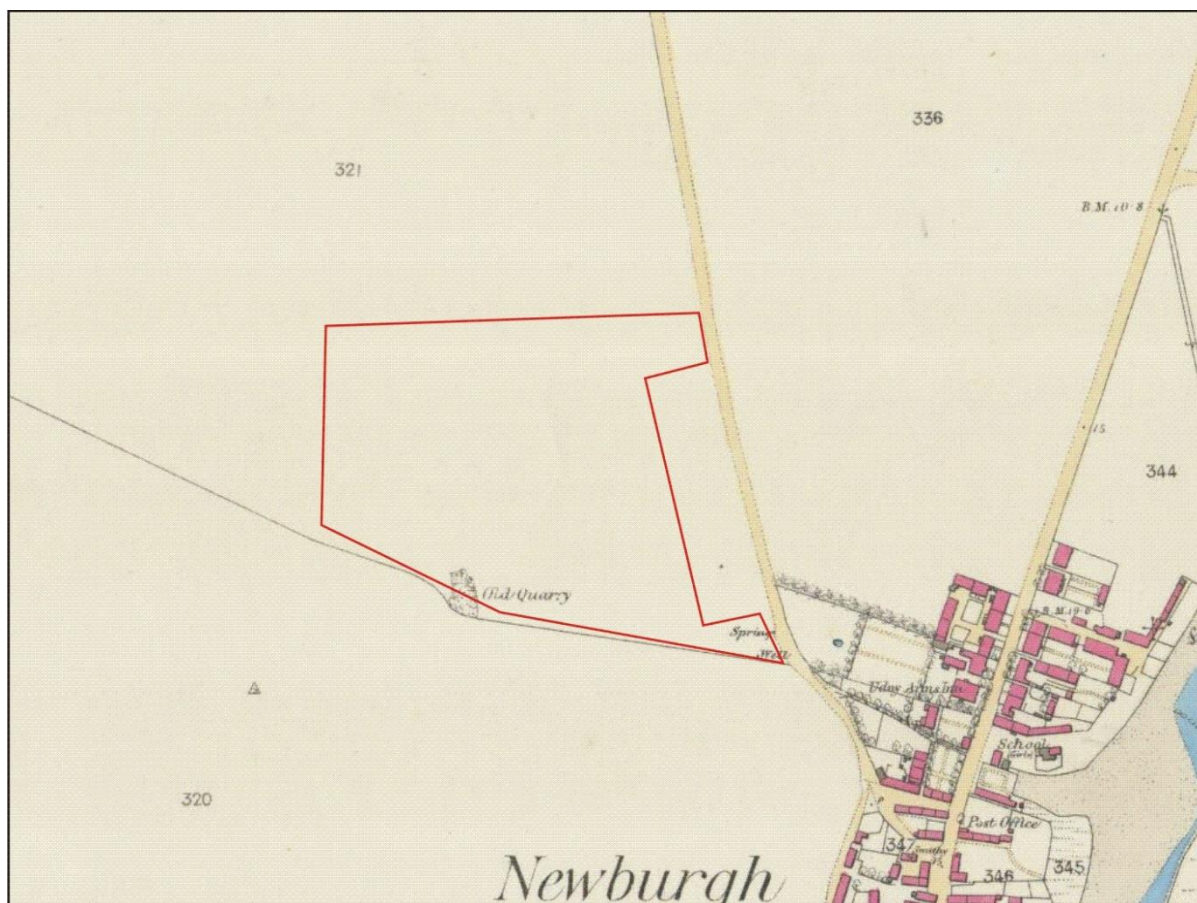
Illus 5 Blaeu 1654 Duo Vicecomitatus Aberdonia & Banfia, una cum Regionibus & terrarum tractibus sub iis comprehensis / Auctore Roberto Gordonio à Straloch.
Description of the two Shyres Aberdene and Banf (copyright National Library of Scotland).



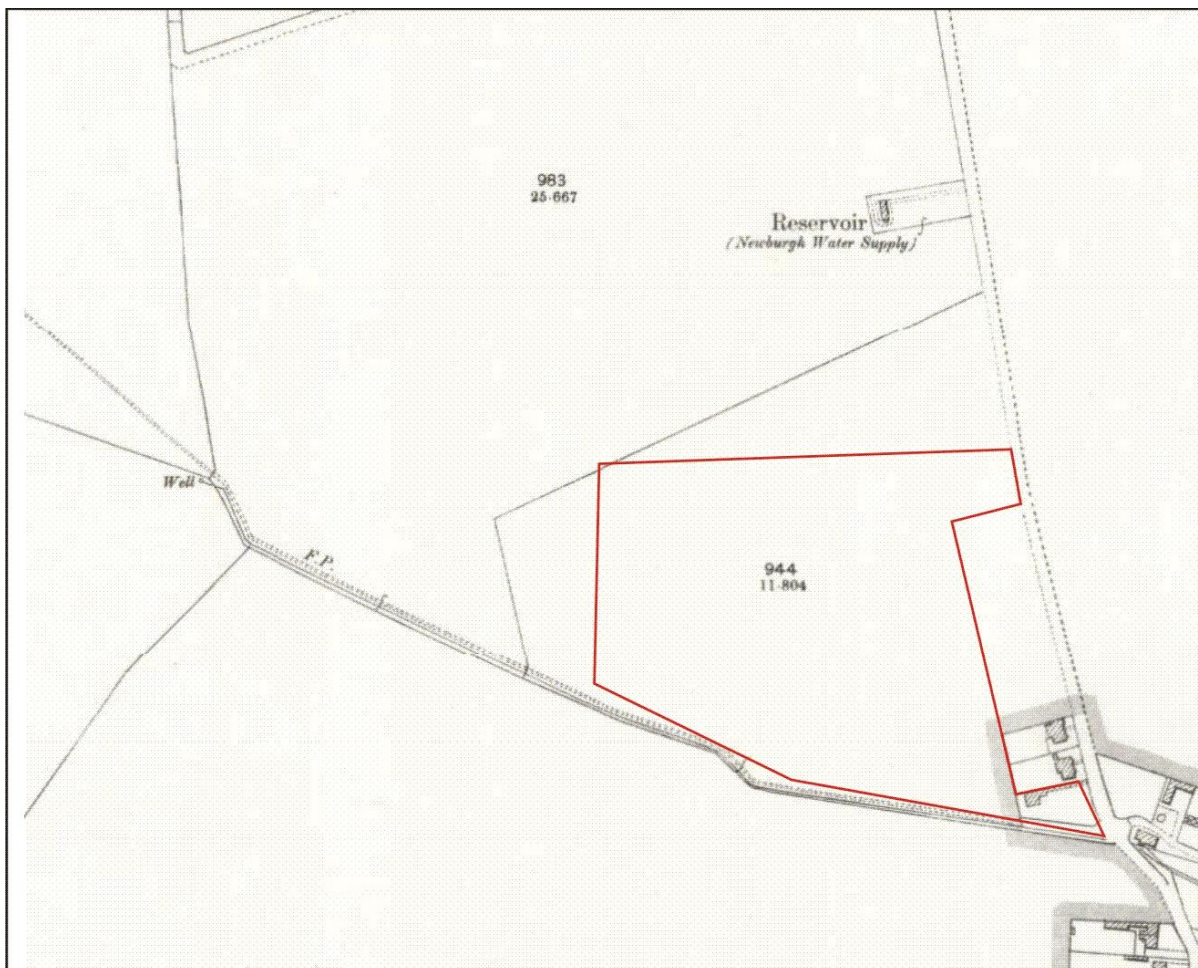
Illus 6 James Robertson Topographical and military map of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine 1822 showing approximate area of site in red (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 7 Alexander Gibb, Map of the north eastern districts of Aberdeenshire, 1858 showing approximate area of site in red (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 8 First Edition OS map with site outlined in red. Aberdeen Sheet XLVIII.9 (Foveran) Survey date: 1867 Publication date: 1870 (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 9 Second Edition OS map with site outlined in red. Aberdeenshire, Sheet 048.09
 Publication date: 1900 Revised: ca. 1899 (copyright National Library of Scotland).