

**LAND TO WEST OF HILLBRAE WAY,
NEWMACHAR, AB21 0JN
REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND DATA STRUCTURE REPORT**



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15 March 2015**

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover top: Trench 41 furrow AE; facing NE; bottom excavating Trench 44 panorama of trenches

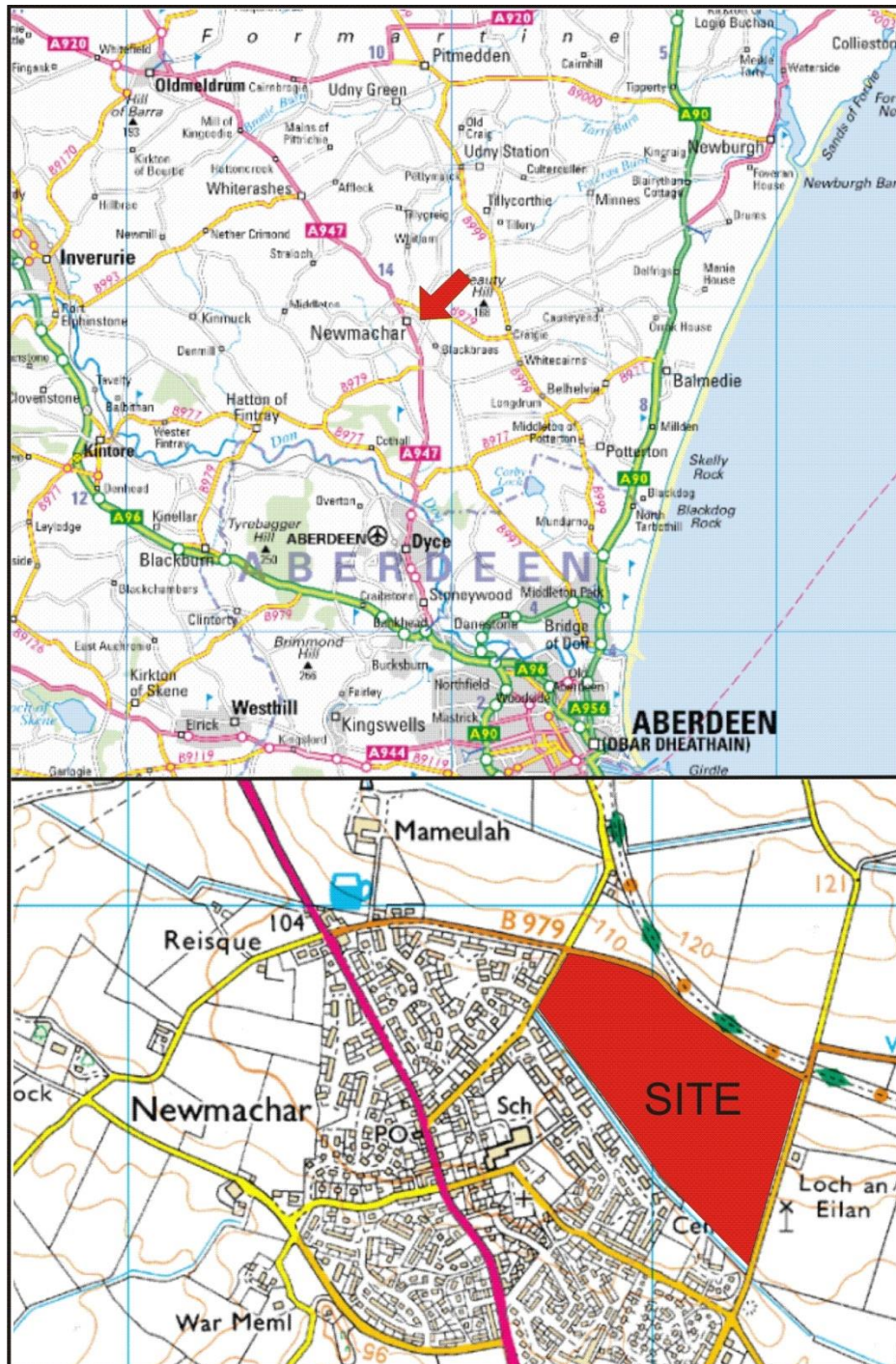
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SUMMARY

A 7% archaeological evaluation was carried out from 2-13 March 2015; 44 trenches were excavated. The archaeological evaluation revealed that the fields have been intensively cultivated and there was evidence of rig and furrow cultivation as well as more modern ploughing and subsoiling. No other archaeological features were identified and no archaeological finds recovered. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the proposed development.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The proposed development area comprises three fields (Illus 1) which lies on the south side of the A979, Hillbrae Way to the east, Station Road to the west and a modern housing estate to the south (Mameulah Road). It is also bounded on the south side by an unnamed burn which joins the Pinkie Burn to the SE of the current site. The site lies at NJ 8902 1960 (centred) in New Machar Parish and it is at 98-116m OD; the site slopes slightly from the north to the south. Aberdeenshire Council Planning application APP/2012/3943 for residential development, primary education provision and infrastructure including roads and drainage is pending consideration; Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service require a 7-10% trial trenching evaluation of the total development area.

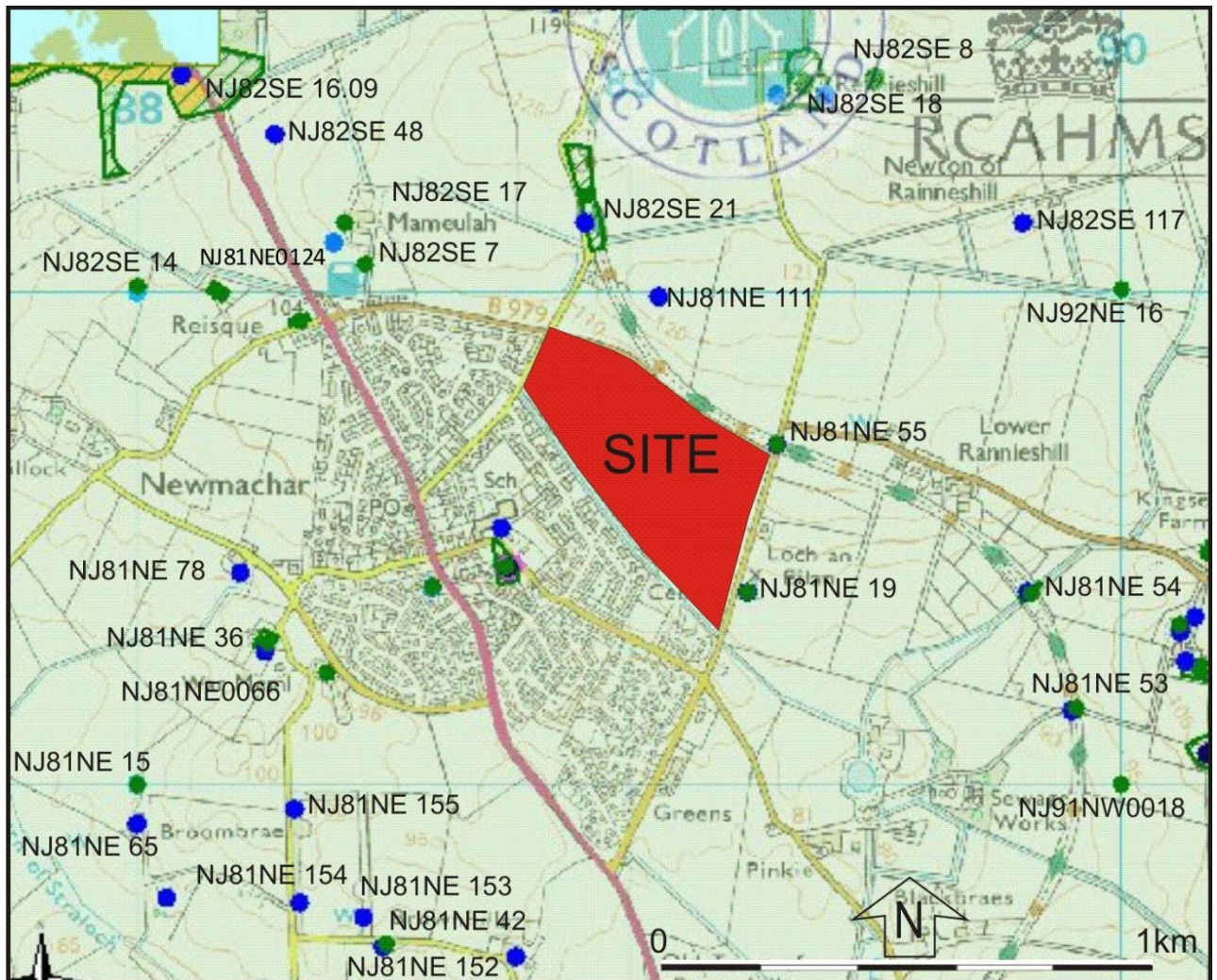


Illus 1 Location plan showing the area of proposed development (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area. The site has been fields since the earliest mapping and maps of the area can be seen in Appendix 1. Pre OS maps including Pont Gordon (Illus 4), Moll (Illus 3), and Blaeu (Illus 5) give no indication of previous land use or possible archaeological sites within the area under discussion.
- 2.2 There are several archaeological sites within 1km of the current site. Areas of rig-and-furrow (NJ81NE 155, NJ81NE 153, NJ81NE 154, NJ81NE 65) are visible near Brownhills farmstead (NJ81NE 152). In the western area, where they lie on the N flank of a prominent knoll, the rigs measure about 6m in breadth and are aligned N and S. In the eastern area, where they lie on flat ground, the rigs measure about 4m in breadth and are aligned E and W. The latter rigs probably extend into the cultivated fields to the N and S, but they are no longer visible there.
- 2.3 Two arrowheads (NJ82SE 8), the one lozenge-shaped and 2 1/4 inches in length, the other barbed-and-stemmed and 2 inches in length, both from 'Rainneshills' were found in or before 1873 (Anderson and Black 1888, 362; Proc Soc Antiq Scot 1875, 192). The current whereabouts of the flints is unknown.
- 2.4 A sandstone cup (NJ92NE 16), 63mm in diameter and 26mm high, found at Logie Buchan (parish centred NJ 98 29) in 1880 is in the Anthropological Museum, Marischal College, Aberdeen University along with two greenstone axes, both found at Logie Buchan in 1886. One measures 178 by 76 by 35mm while the other, imperfect, is 72 by 54 by 30mm. All three items were purchased from the Wilson Collection in 1908 (Reid 1912, 5, 9). A stone whorl from Newmachar (NJ81NE 15) but the current whereabouts of the spindle whorl is unknown.
- 2.5 A flanged bronze axe (NJ82SE 14) classified by Schmidt and Burgess (1981) as a Baldersby variant of Lisett type, from Mameulah (farm at NJ 884 201) is in Aberdeen Regional Museum (52.10.2). It measures 118mm long, cutting edge 46mm, butt 21mm (Coles 1966, 132; Schmidt and Burgess 1981, 681).
- 2.6 In 1888 (NJ82SE 7) a barbed and tanged arrowhead was found 'at Mameula, New Machar', preserved in the Museum of the Free Church College, Aberdeen. (Anderson and Black 1888, 361). The current whereabouts of the flint is unknown.
- 2.7 A burn at the south edge of the site probably fed a Saw Mill which can be seen immediately east of the proposed development on the First Edition OS map (Illus 7); it supplies farms to the north and west of the current development and carries water south to the corn mills at Boddams. There are several wells including NJ91NW0018 Betteral Well documentary.
- 2.8 The sites of two manors survive north of the current site: Renniehill (NJ82SE 18) is the site of manor (Bogdan and Bryce 1991, 30; Scottish Castle Survey 1988, 34) and Mameulah House (NJ82SE 17) is also the site of a manor (Bogdan and Bryce 1991, 30; Scottish Castle Survey 1988, 34).
- 2.9 Several farmsteads and cottages in the area include NJ81NE 42 Brownhills Cottage NJ81NE 152 Brownhills farmstead, NJ81NE 36 Newmachar House NJ81NE 78 Cunninghar farmstead NJ81NE0124 Reisque cottage NJ82SE 117 Newton Farmstead NJ82SE 16.09 Straloch House and Policies NJ82SE 72.03 Westside Cottage.

- 2.10 Railway and road bridges associated with the nearby railway line (disused) include NJ81NE 55 road bridge over the railway, NJ81NE 54 railway bridge, NJ81NE 53 railway bridge and NJ82SE 21 Newmachar railway station
- 2.11 Two rubbing stones north of the current site NJ81NE 111 Newton rubbing stone and NJ82SE 48 Tillygrieg rubbing stone.
- 2.12 In the field to the east of the current site a wind pump (NJ81NE 19) is located.
- 2.13 On the west side of Newmachar is NJ81NE0066 Newmachar war memorial.



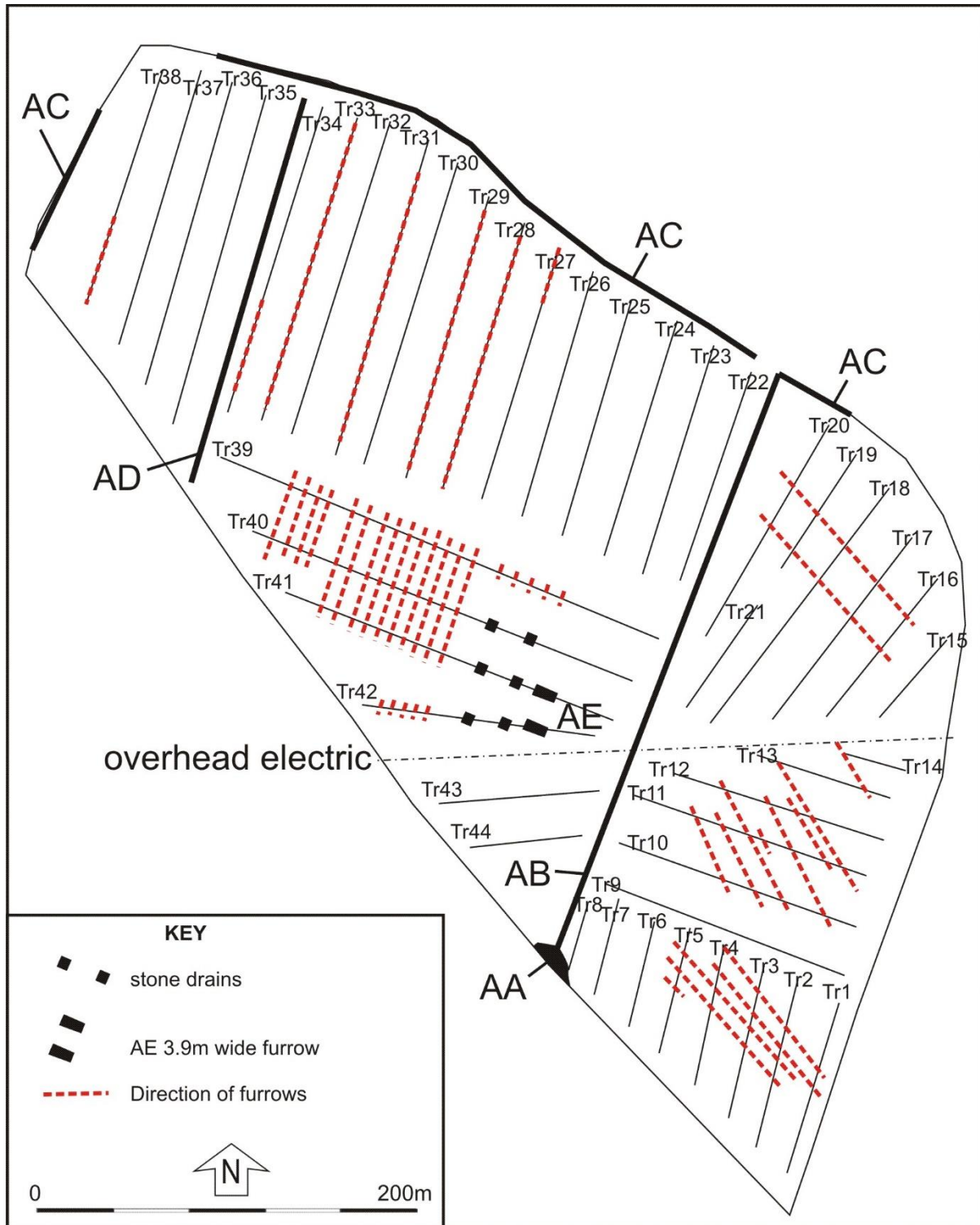
Illus 2 Plan showing PASTMAP sites collated with Aberdeenshire SMR (copyright RCAHMS)

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

A 7% archaeological evaluation was carried out from 2-13 March 2015; 44 trenches were excavated. The two fields are surrounded on the north and west by a stone dyke, AC (Illus 3) and the fields are divided by a low overgrown stone dyke AB (constructed since First Edition OS; Illus 3). At the south end of AB is a pile of large field clearance created by the current farmer (AA; Alan Buchan, pers comm). Sub division AD is a recent earthen field boundary. There are ceramic field drains over much of the west half of the site and

occasional stone drains and scars in the subsoil where the subsoil has been scraped to allow water to flow through ('subsoiling').

The north end of the west field is on a SSW facing slope which flattens off at the south end of the field adjacent to the burn. The north end of the east field is south facing and the south end of this field is gently SE facing. The topsoil is shallow over all areas typically 0.2m at the north end of the site and 0.15m at the south end. There is evidence of rig and furrow cultivation over most of the site. In the north and west the furrows are NNE-SSW and on the east side of the site they are NW-SE (Illus 3).



Illus 3 Plan showing trenches excavated during the evaluation and main features recorded

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A 7% archaeological evaluation was carried out from 2-13 March 2015; 44 trenches were excavated. The archaeological evaluation revealed that the fields have been intensively cultivated and there was evidence of rig and furrow cultivation as well as more modern ploughing and subsoiling. No other archaeological features were identified and no archaeological finds recovered. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the proposed development.

5 REFERENCES

Anderson and Black, J and G F 1888 'Reports on local museums in Scotland, obtained through Dr R H Gunning's Jubilee gift to the Society', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, vol.22

Bogdan and Bryce, N and I B D (1991) 'Castles, manors and 'town houses' survey', *Discovery Excav Scot*.

Coles, J M 1966 'Scottish Middle Bronze Age metalwork', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, vol.97.

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Reid, R W (1912) Illustrated catalogue of the Anthropological Museum, Marischal College, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen.

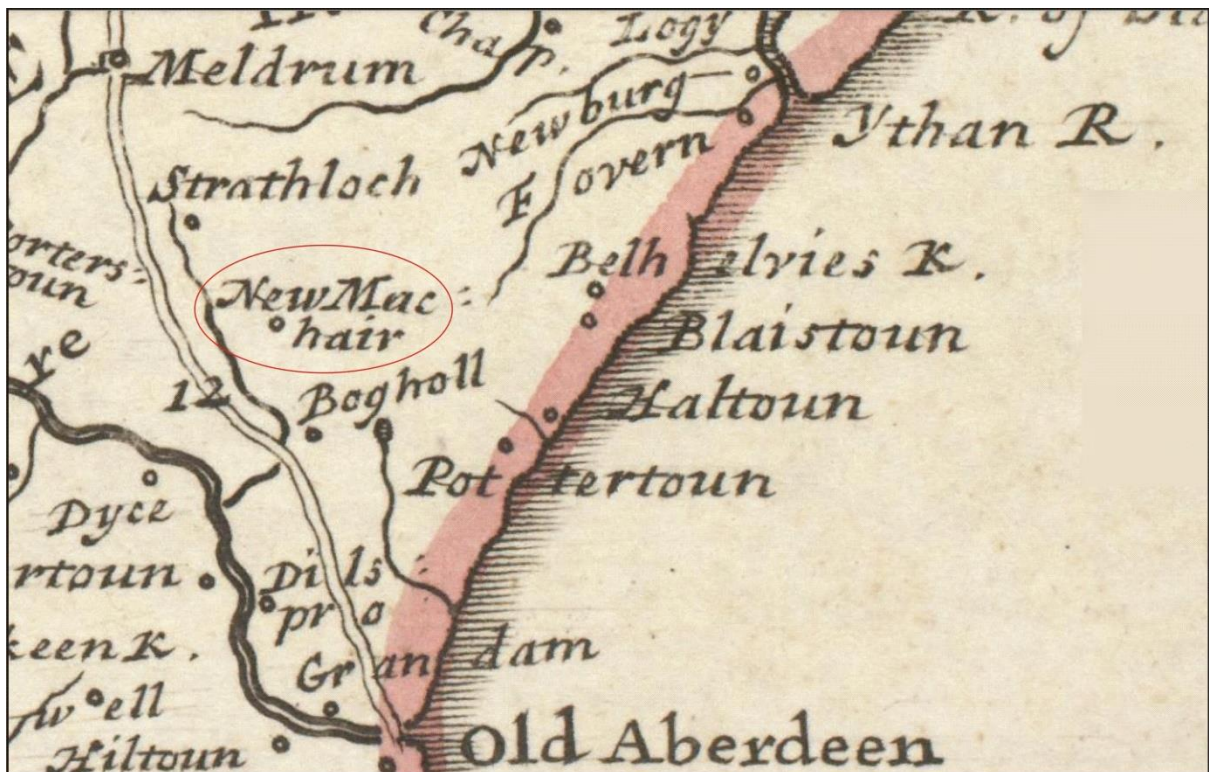
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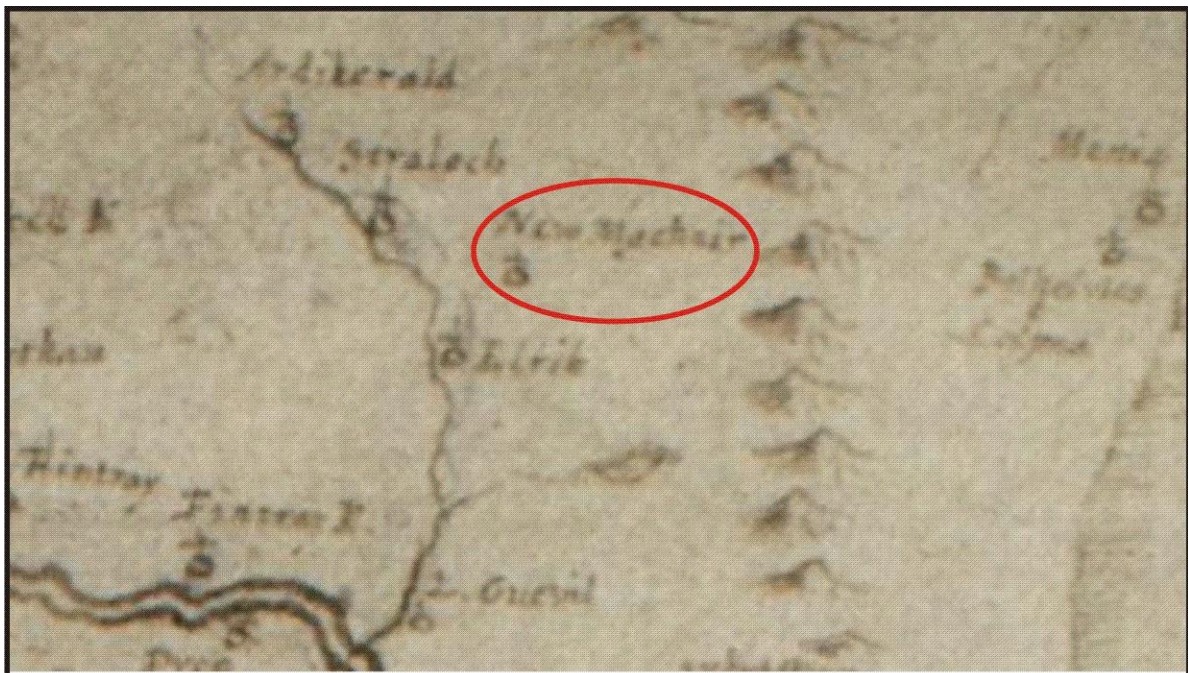
6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Nicola Edward, Archial Norr for initiating this project, Alan and Sandy Buchan onsite for discussion of the history of the fields and Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Archaeology for her advice during this work.

APPENDIX 1 MAPS



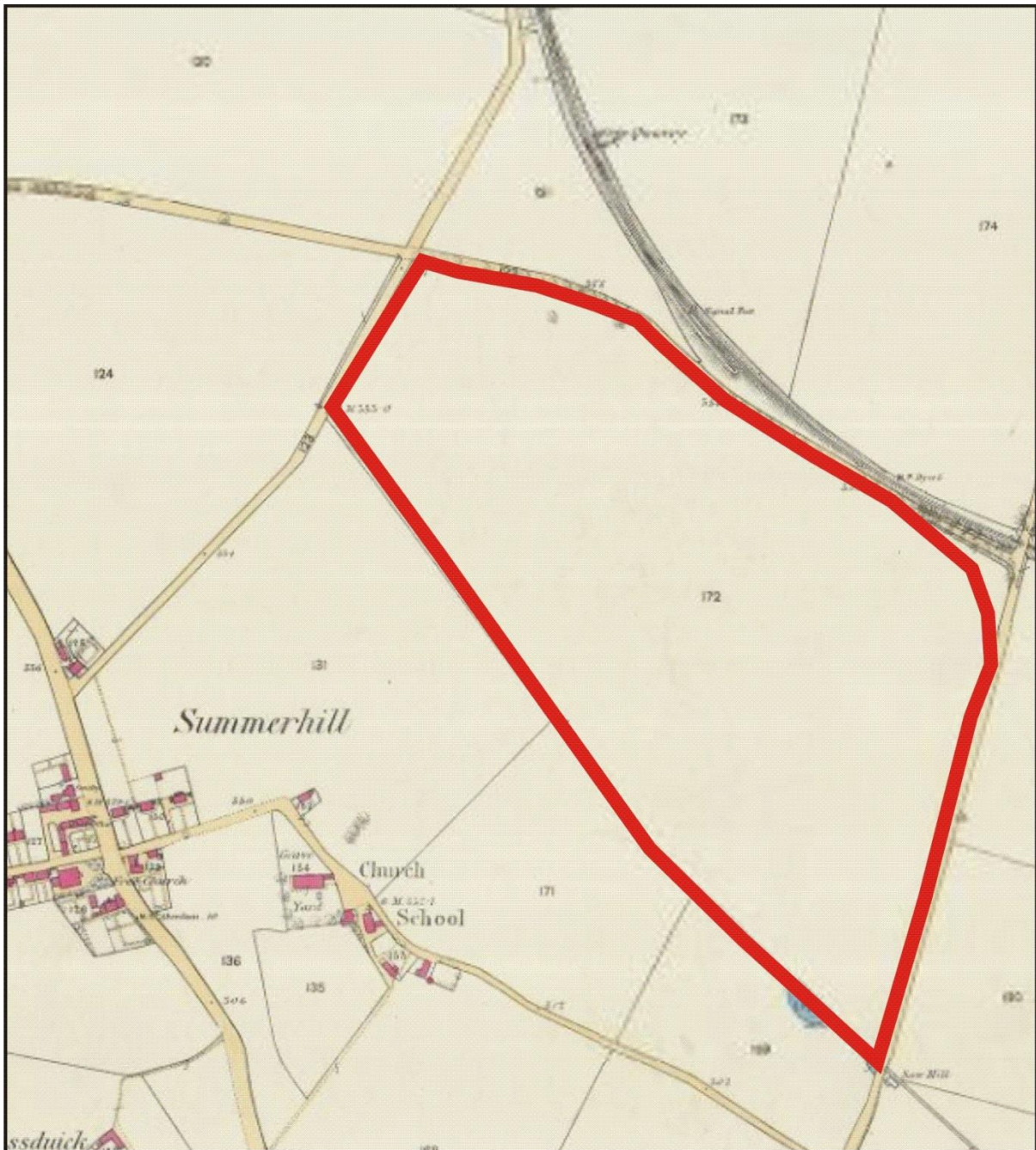
Illus 4 Extract from Herman Moll, 1732, showing 'New Machair' (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 5 Extract from Gordon, 1640 showing 'New Machar [kirk symbol]' (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 6 Extract from Blaeu, 1654 showing 'New Machair K[irk]' (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 7 Ordnance Survey First Edition showing potential development area (*copyright National Library of Scotland*).

Title: Aberdeen Sheet LVI.9 (New Machar)
 Survey date: 1866 Publication date: 1870



Illus 8 Ordnance Survey Second Edition showing potential development area (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire, Sheets 048.13 and 048.09 Publication date: 1900. Title: Aberdeenshire, Sheet 056.09 Publication date: 1900 Revised: ca. 1899

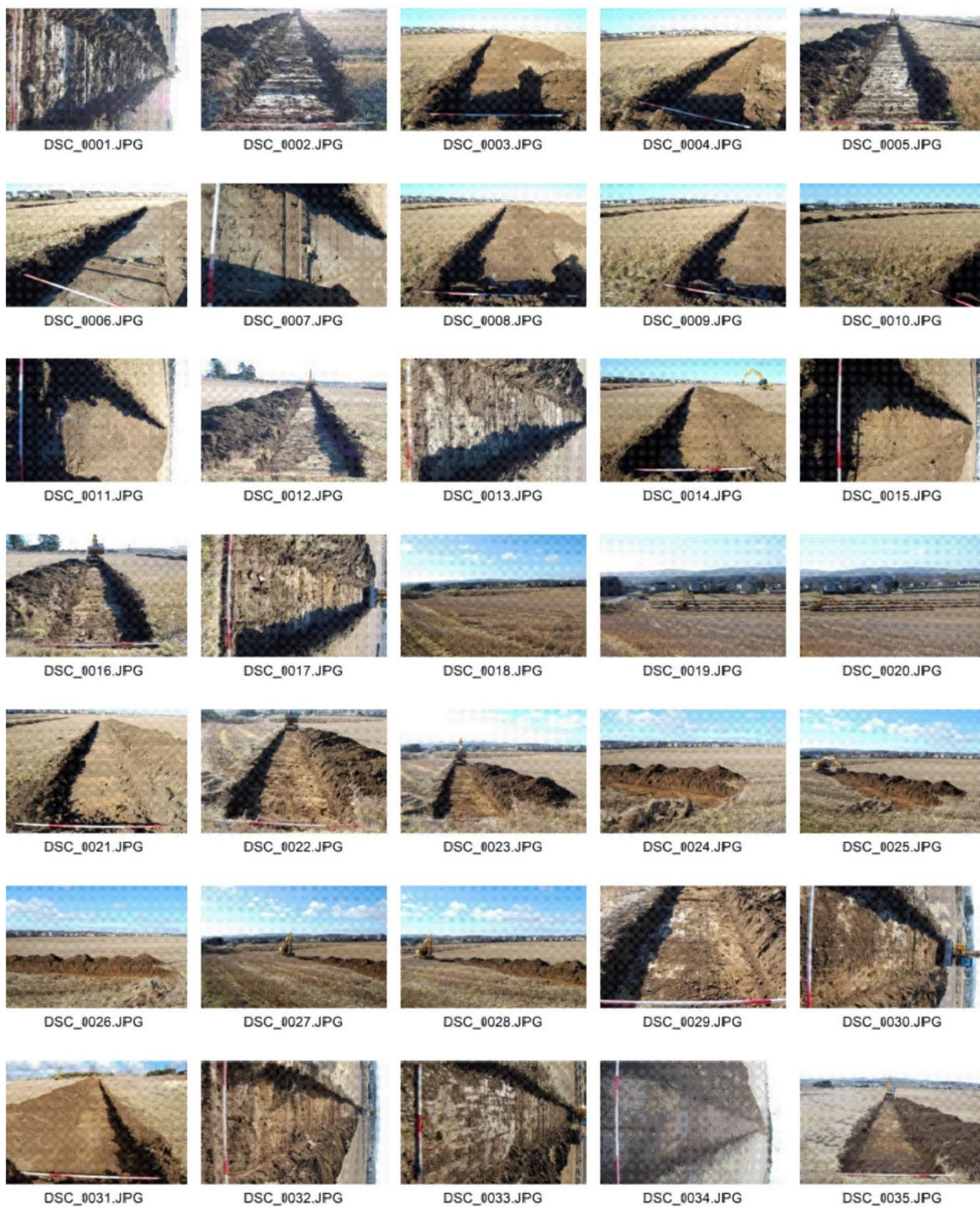
APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

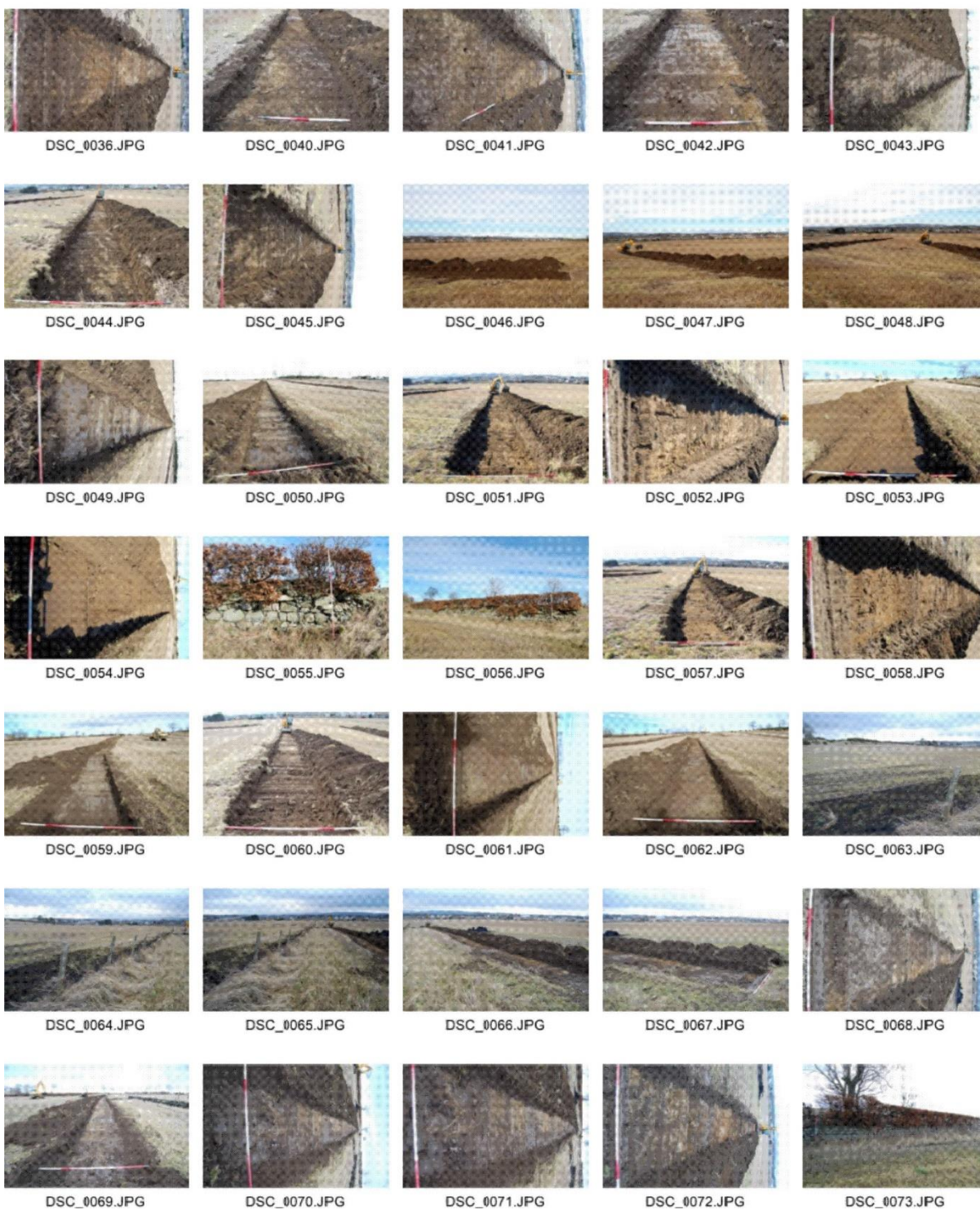
Photo no	Description	Facing
DSC_0932	Trench 1	S
DSC_0934	Tr 1 (right) Tr 2 (left)	SW
DSC_0935	Trench 1	S
DSC_0936-40	Tr 1 NW-SE furrows	S
DSC_0941-44	Tr 2	S
DSC_0945	Tr 3	SE
DSC_0946-7	Tr 3	S
DSC_0948	Tr 2 and 1 from S end Tr 3	E
DSC_0949-52	Tr 3	N
DSC_0953	Tr 1-3 backfilled	E
DSC_0954-59	Tr 4 furrows and deep plough marks/subsoiling	N
DSC_0960-61	Tr 4	S
DSC_0962-63	Tr 5	N
DSC_0964	Tr 5 S end deep plough scars	S
DSC_0968-70	Tr 1-3 backfilled	
DSC_0971-3	Tr , 6, 7, 8	S
DSC_0974-79	Stone pile AA and low stone dyke AB	
DSC_0980-82	Tr 4-8	
DSC_0983-84	Low stone dyke AB	
DSC_0985-86	Tr 9	E
DSC_0987-88	Tr 9	W
DSC_0989-90	Tr 10	E
DSC_0990-93	Tr 9 (left) Tr 10 (right)	W/WSW
DSC_0994-96	Tr 9 E end; Tr 1-3	S
DSC_0997-99	Tr 10	W
DSC_0001-2	Tr 10	E
DSC_0003-4	Tr 11	W/WSW
DSC_0005	Tr 12	E
DSC_0006-7	Tr 12 furrows W end	W
DSC_0008-9	Tr 12	W
DSC_0010	Tr 12, 11	SW
DSC_0011	Tr 12	W
DSC_0012-13	Tr 13 furrow W end	E
DSC_0014-15	Tr 13	W
DSC_0016-17	Tr 14	E
DSC_0018-20	Tr 1-10 backfilled Tr 11-14	E/ESE
DSC_0021	Tr 14	W
DSC_0022-23	Tr 15	SW
DSC_0024-28	Tr 15 with Bennachie and Tr 10-14 (background)	SW/W
DSC_0029-30	Tr 16	SW
DSC_0031	Tr 16	NE
DSC_0032-33	Tr 16	SW
DSC_0034	Tr 16	NE

DSC_0035-6	Tr 17	SW
DSC_0040-42	Tr 17 furrows	SW
DSC_0043	Tr 17	NE
DSC_0044-45	Tr 18	SW
DSC_0046-8	Tr 17, Tr 18	SW
DSC_0049-50	Tr 18	NE
DSC_0051-52	Tr 19	SW
DSC_0053-54	Tr 19	NE
DSC_0055-56	Stone dyke AC east end with beech hedge on top	NNE/NE
DSC_0057-8	Tr 20	SW
DSC_0059	Tr 20	NE
DSC_0060	Tr 21	SW
DSC_0061-2	Tr 21	NE
DSC_0063-64	Tr 18-21 backfilled	SE
DSC_0065-67	Tr 22	SW/W
DSC_0068	Tr 22	SSW
DSC_0069-71	Tr 22	NNE
DSC_0072	Tr 23	SSW
DSC_0073-75	Stone dyke AC east end with beech hedge on top	NNE/NE
DSC_0076-78	Tr 23	NNE
DSC_0079-80	Tr 24	SSW
DSC_0081-83	Tr 24	NNE
DSC_0084-86	Tr 25	SSW
DSC_0087-89	Tr 25	NNE
DSC_0090-91	Tr 25	SSW
DSC_0092-3	Tr 26, 25, 24, 23, 22	SE/ESE
DSC_0094-95	Tr 26	SSW
DSC_0096-7	Tr 26	NNE
DSC_0098	Tr 27	SSW
DSC_0099-100	Tr 27	SE
DSC_0101	Tr 27	NNE
DSC_0102	Tr 28	SSW
DSC_0103	Tr 28	NNE
DSC_0104-5	Tr 29	SSW
DSC_0106	Tr 29	NNE
DSC_0107	Tr 29, 28	NE
DSC_0108-9	Tr 29	NNE
DSC_0110	Tr 30	SSW
DSC_0111	Tr 30	SE
DSC_0112-4	Tr 30	SSW
DSC_0115	Tr 30	NNE
DSC_0116-7	Tr 31	SSW/SE
DSC_0118	Tr 31	NNE

DSC_0119-20	Tr 32	SSW
DSC_0121-22	Tr 32	NNE
DSC_0123-24	Tr 33	SSW
DSC_0125	Tr 33	SE
DSC_0126-27	Tr 33	NNE
DSC_0128-30	AC north of Tr 30-33	N/NNE/NE
DSC_0131	Tr 33, 32	ESE
DSC_0132	Tr 34	SSW
DSC_0133	Tr 34, 33, 32	SE
DSC_0134-5	Tr 34	NNE
DSC_0136	Tr 35	SSW
DSC_0137	Tr 35 (left) Tr 30-34 backfilled (right)	N
DSC_0138-9	Tr 35	NNE
DSC_0140	Tr 36	SW
DSC_0141	Tr 36	SSW
DSC_0142	Tr 36	SW
DSC_0143-5	Tr 36	NNE
DSC_0146	Tr 37	SSW
DSC_0147-8	Tr 37	NNE
DSC_0149	Tr 38	SSW
DSC_0150-1	Tr 38 with Station Rd (right)	S
DSC_0152	Tr 38	NNE
DSC_0153	Tr 38 with Station Rd (right)	NW
DSC_0154	Tr 39	E
DSC_0155-6	Tr 39	ENE
DSC_0157-8	Tr 39	SE
DSC_0159-62	Tr 39 furrows	S
DSC_0163-4	Tr 39 furrows	E
DSC_0165-6	Tr 39	W
DSC_0167	Tr 39 with machine starting Tr 40	SSW
DSC_0168	Tr 40	W
DSC_0169-70	Tr 40	NW
DSC_0171-2	Tr 40 stone drain	N
DSC_0173-4	Tr 40 stone drain	NW
DSC_0175-6	Tr 40 stone drain	N
DSC_0177	Tr 40	WNW
DSC_0178-9	Tr 40	W
DSC_0180-1	Tr 41	E
DSC_0182-4	Tr 41 AE 3.9m wide, 0.4m deep	N
DSC_0185	Tr 41 AE 3.9m wide, 0.4m deep	NE
DSC_0186-88	Tr 42	W
DSC_0189	Tr 42	E
DSC_0190-91	Tr 43	SW
DSC_0192	Tr 43	SSW
DSC_0193	Tr 43 with deep modern plough marks	SW

DSC_0194-5	Tr 43 with deep modern plough marks	N
DSC_0196	Tr 43	NE
DSC_0197	Tr 43 with N-S trenches (top)	N
DSC_0198	Tr 44	NNW
DSC_0199-206	Views from NE end Tr 44	
DSC_0207	Tr 44	SW
DSC_0208-9	Tr 44 deep pough marks	N
DSC_0210	Tr 44	NE
DSCF7499-7509	Panoramas of site	
IMG_9089-9124	Panoramas of site	







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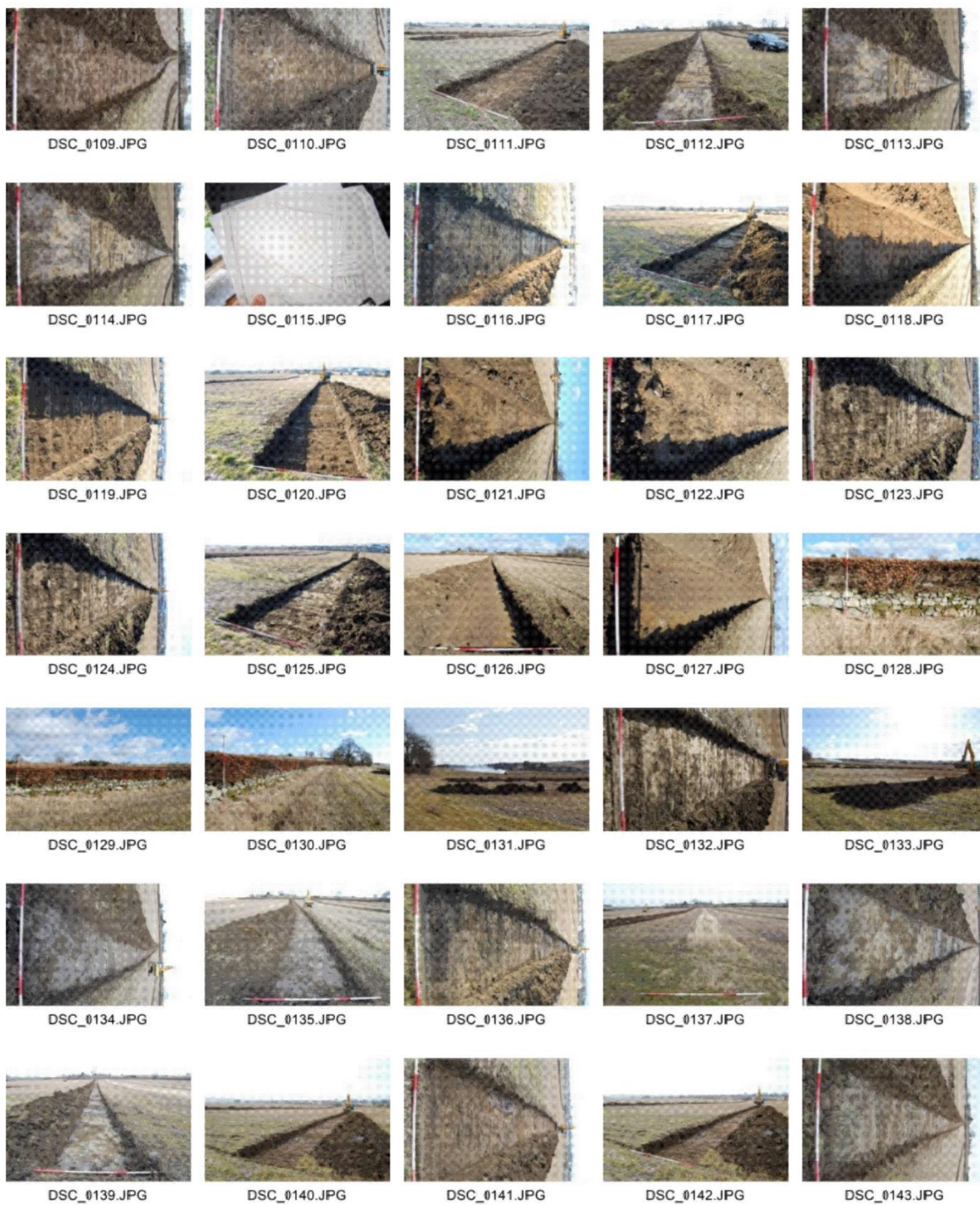
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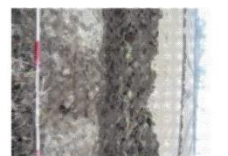
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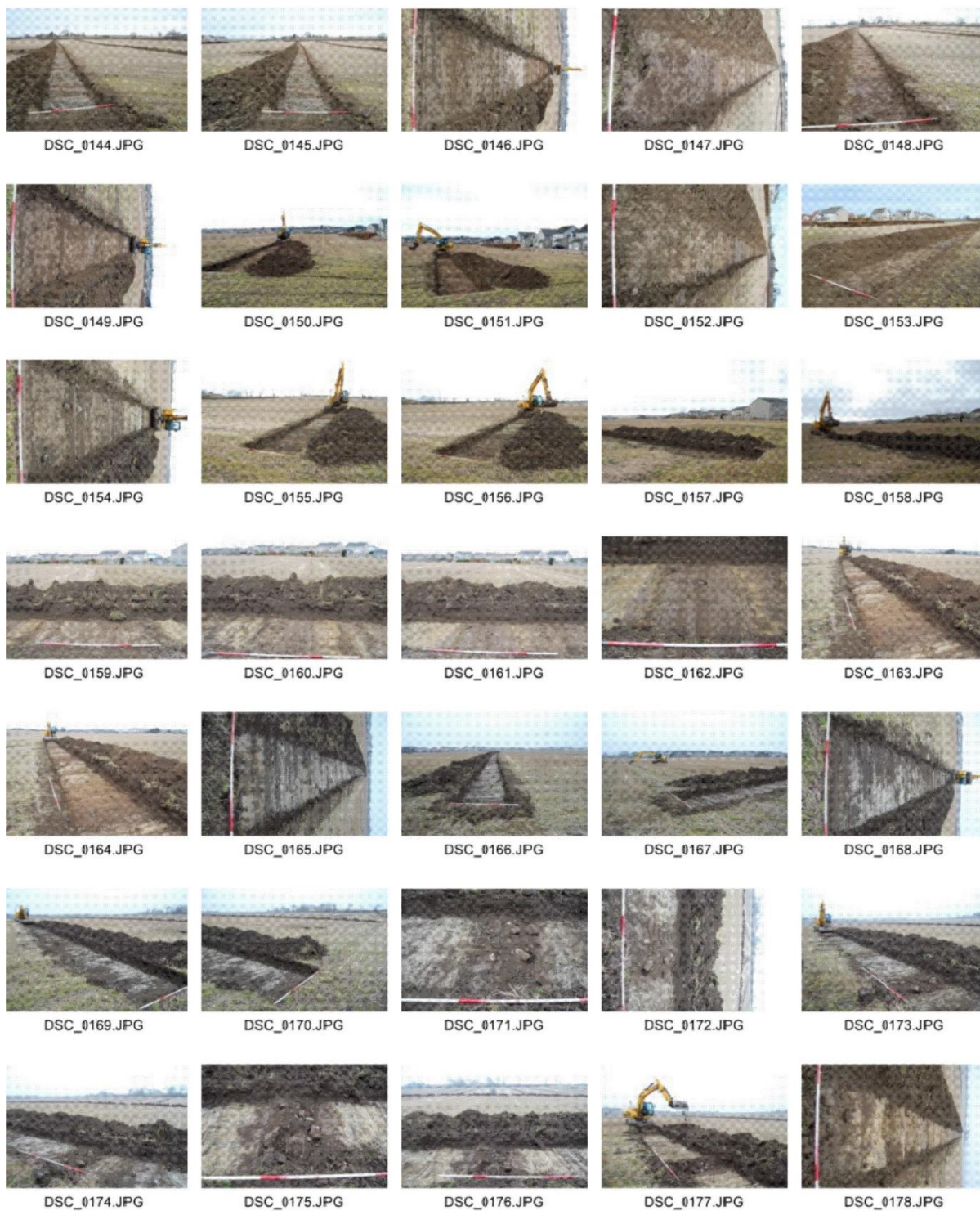
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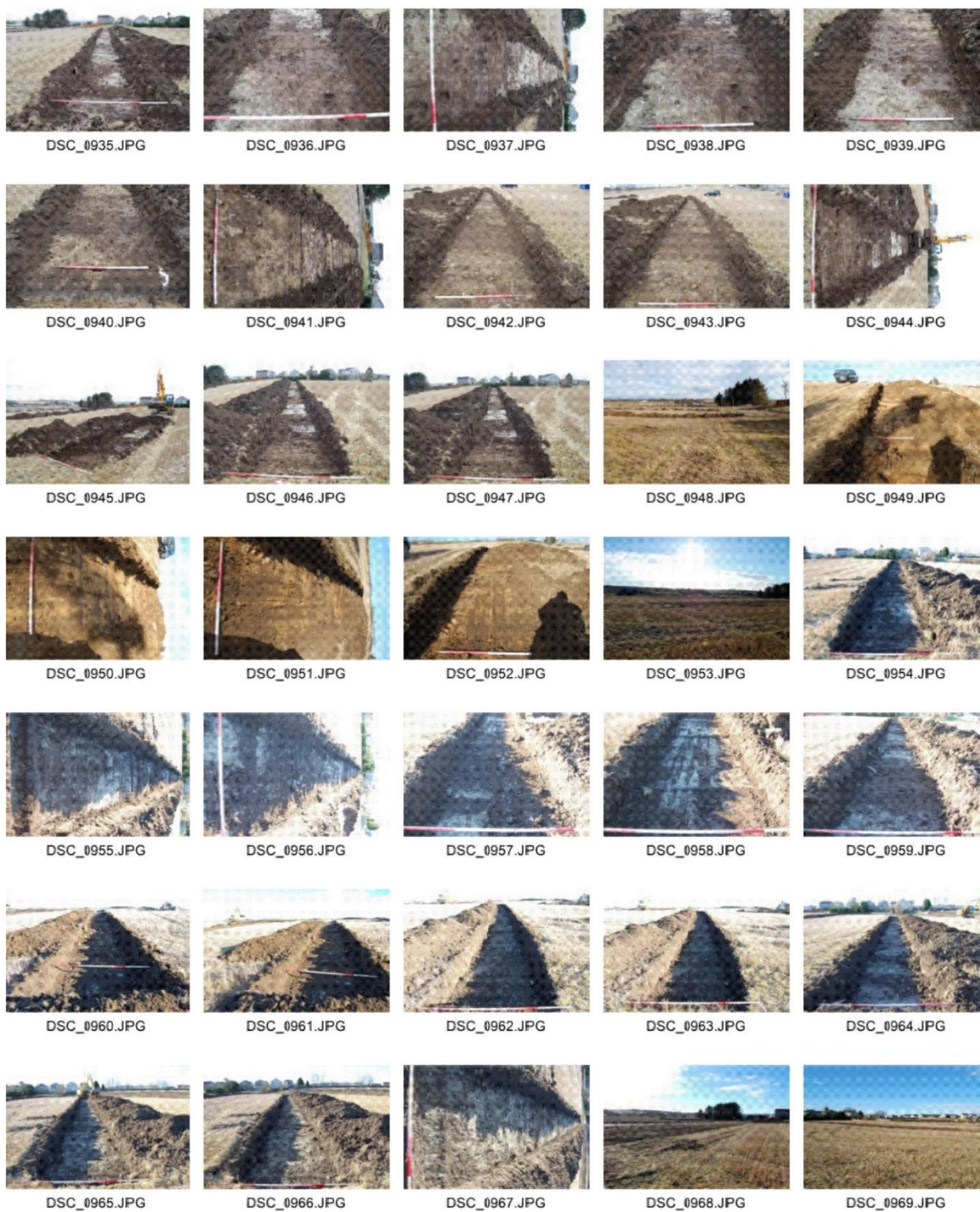


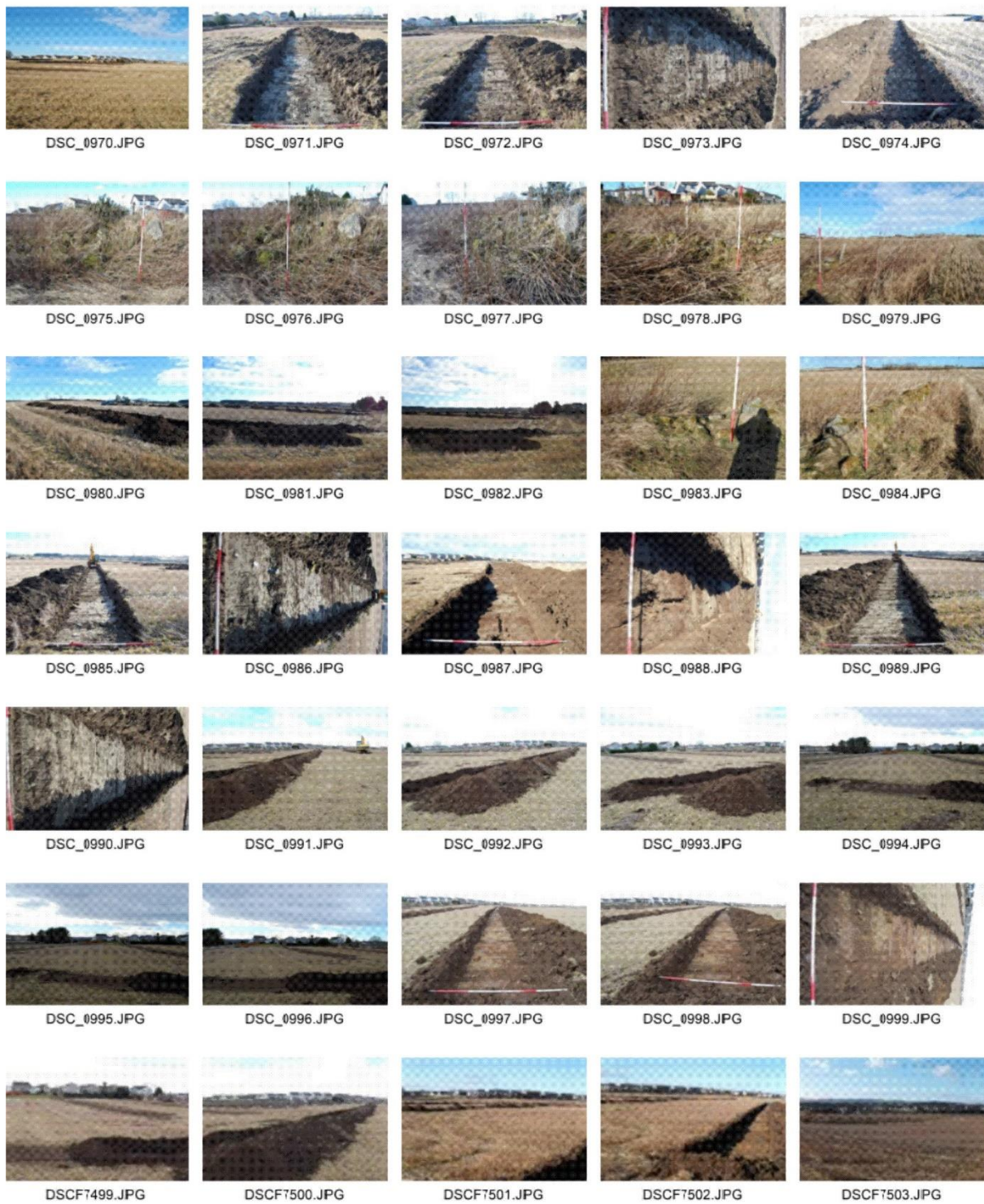
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APPENDIX 3 FEATURES

Feature no	Description	Size
AA	Large stone field clearance	C 30 x 10m
AB	Stone field boundary constructed since First Edition OS	0.7m wide; 320m long
AC	Stone boundary on north and west sides of site; topped with a beech hedge	c1m wide
AD	Earthen bank; modern field sub division	1m wide; 210m long
AE	Wide furrow; former field edge?	3.9m wide; 0.4m deep