# BEECH LODGE/SITE ADJACENT TO KINGSFORD FARM, DAVIOT, AB51 0JH REPORT ON WALKOVER AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION





Alison Cameron Cameron Archaeology Ltd 5 April 2015

#### CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3	THE WALKOVER	9
4	THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION	9
5	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	10
6	REFERENCES	10
7	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	11
AP	PENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS	12
AP	PENDIX 2 MAPS	15

#### ILUSTRATIONS

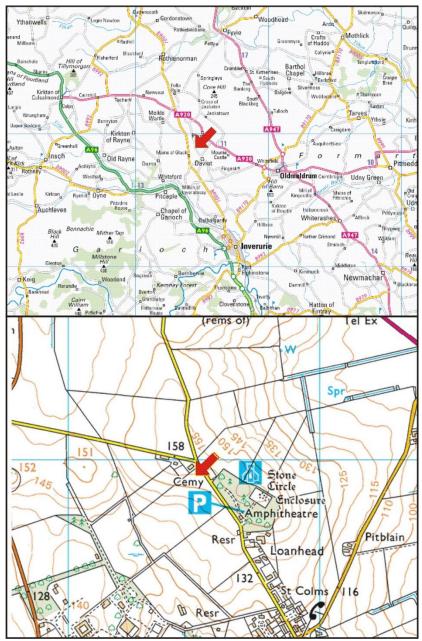
Cover (top) Trenches from the NE facing Bennachie (bottom) Trench 1; facing SE	
Illus 1 Site location	
Illus 2 Loanhead of Daviot recumbent stone circle.	4
Illus 3 Newcraig stone circle	5
Illus 4 Newcraig cup-marked stone	6
Illus 5 Plan showing Plots 1, 2 and 3 and six trenches	9
Illus 6 Gordon map of 1636-52 showing Daviot Kirk outlined in red	15
Illus 7 Blaeu map of 1654 showing Daviot Kirk outlined in red	16
Illus 8 Thomson map of 1826 showing Daviot Kirk outlined in red	16
Illus 9 First Edition OS map showing area of site in red.	17
Illus 10 Second edition OS map showing area of site in red.	17

#### SUMMARY

A walkover on 2 April 2015 of the previously stripped area revealed no archaeological finds or features. Six trenches totalling 7% of the remaining area were excavated. No significant archaeological features or finds were recorded during this evaluation and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during these planning applications.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The site is located on the SW side of the A920 Colpy to Oldmeldrum Road on the east of the B9001 Rothienorman to Inverurie Road north of the village of Daviot. It is at NJ 74503 28935, in the parish of Daviot and at 150-160m OD. One planning application is adjacent to Beech Lodge, Daviot, AB51 0JH. Aberdeenshire Council Planning application APP/2014/3941 & 2015/0576 for erection of dwellinghouse was passed by Aberdeenshire Council on 22.12.14 with an archaeology condition (condition 3); the soil strip has already taken place and Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service require a walkover of the stripped area to determine whether archaeological features or finds can be identified. A second application APP/2014/2145 for the adjacent area (submitted as Kingsford Farm, Daviot, AB51 0JH) for erection of 3 dwellinghouses and garages was passed by Aberdeenshire Council on 14.7.14 with archaeology condition (condition 8); Aberdeenshire Archaeology require a 5-7% archaeological evaluation of the complete plot of land.



Illus 1 Site location (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There are no known archaeological sites within the development area but there are 2.1 three Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) within 1km of the proposed development. Loanhead stone circle (Illus 2) and enclosed cremation cemetery is 220m ESE of the proposed site. The monument comprises a stone circle and enclosed cremation cemetery of prehistoric date. The monument lies in rough grassland near the summit of a small hill, at around 160m OD. It comprises a circle of 11 stones, with a diameter of about 21m. At the SW of the circle is a large recumbent stone measuring about 3m long. It is flanked closely by two upright stones which form part of the circle. Within the stone circle is a ring cairn with a diameter of about 16m, the outer limit of which is defined by a low kerb. Stone circles of this type are known as recumbent stone circles and have a distribution concentrated in Grampian. They are characteristic of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. Their exact function remains unclear, but they were of ritual and ceremonial purpose. Recumbent stone circles often have a central ring cairn. The monument was excavated in 1934. Immediately to the SE of the stone circle is an enclosed cremation cemetery of Bronze Age date, now defined by two arcs of low stone walling, with entrances at the W and E. The cemetery was excavated and reconstructed in 1935, revealing a central cremation burial and twenty other cremation burials, 12 of which were in beakers (Coles 1962, 93, 89; Shepherd 1986). The area proposed for scheduling comprises the remains described and an area around them within which related material may be expected to be found. The monument is of national importance because of its potential to contribute to our understanding of prehistoric funerary and ritual practices.



Illus 2 Loanhead of Daviot recumbent stone circle (copyright RCAHMS).

2.2 Newcraig stone circle is a SAM (NJ745296; Illus 3) 700m N of the proposed development. At 400ft (122m) above sea level, at New Craig, and incorporated in the enclosing dyke of a wood, are the remains of a recumbent stone circle comprising the recumbent stone and two flankers, all of unusually large proportions. Projecting inwards from the face of the recumbent stone is an earth-fast block, 1ft 10ins (0.56m) high and 3ft (0.9m) broad, and almost touching the outer edge of this pillar is another stone, 3ft in height, apparently in situ. Three other stones are all prostrate (Coles 1902, 521-4). The recumbent stone, in common with some of the other stones, exhibits a number of cup marks, and similarly marked stones said to have been brought from the circle, or the hill on which it stood, were built into the old farmhouse of New Craig, but no trace of these can now be found (Jervise 1875-9, 414).



Illus 3 Newcraig stone circle (copyright RCAHMS)

2.3 Newcraig cup-marked boulder is 750m N of the proposed development (Illus 4). There is a very large mossgrown boulder, over 9ft (2.74m) long, 4ft (1.2m) broad and 3ft 6ins (1.07m) high, with 19 cup-marks on its surface, the largest 3ins (76mm) in diameter and 3/4ins (19mm) deep (Ritchie 1918), 84ft (25.6m) E from the point 'S' on the plan of New Craig stone circle (NJ72NW 3). There is no apparent association with the stone circle (Coles 1902, 524; Coles 1903, 226-7; Ritchie 1918, 95-6). At least 50 cup marks recorded (Currie, 2006, 17).



Illus 4 Newcraig cup-marked stone (copyright RCAHMS)

- 2.4 A small area of rig-and-furrow (NJ72NW 128) is visible in woodland about 200m NW of Loanhead farmsteading (<u>NJ72NW 213</u>). The rigs measure up to 7 in breadth and are aligned NE and SW. A small area of rig-and-furrow (NJ72NW 129) is visible in woodland about 50m N of Loanhead farmsteading, and in the enclosure around the recumbent stone circle. The rigs measure up to 7 in breadth and are aligned NE and SW.
- 2.5 A small perforated disc of slate (NJ72NW 38), irregularly oval in shape, measuring 1 1/8in (29mm) in greatest diameter, found near the circle at Loanhead (NJ72NW1) was presented to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS) in 1935 by H E Kilbride-Jones (Proc Soc Antig Scot 1936, 22). A decorated handled stone bowl or lamp (NJ72NW 242) was found by chance near Loanhead of Daviot. Much of the rim and upper body has been lost. The vessel has a flat rim, angled in towards the cup, and a short rectangular-sectioned handle (orientated vertically), the sides converging to a near-triangular end. Decoration was restricted to the side opposite the handle. It can be reconstructed as a pair of horizontal lines containing a band of slightly-angled vertical incisions. A short horizontal line lower on the body may be a marking-out line. Parts of the surface are blackened. The central hollow (with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base), has plentiful peck marks from manufacture. It is made of red-brown sandstone and measures 111 x 117mm externally in diameter, hollow 66mm in diameter, depth c50mm; length (with handle) 129mm, height 76mm; handle 30mm wide, 39mm high. This object was claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 90/10), allocated to Aberdeen University Museums (Hunter 2011, 16). There is a stone axe (ABDUA: 19818; NJ72NW 156) from Daviot in the Marischal Museum, Aberdeen. It is made of sandstone, it has splayed blade and a narrow butt.

Five stone axes have been found in the Daviot area. There is a stone axe, measuring 3 1/2 by 1 1/2ins, from Daviot (NJ 750 281) in Aberdeen Regional Museum. Part of the collection of the late Dr Johnson, acquired in 1967 (Information from Accession Register, Aberdeen Regional Museum). A second stone axe from Daviot, 'measuring 6 1/2 by 2 1/4ins', was in the collection of John Rae, Aberdeen, sold in 1892; and a third axe, of flagstone, also from Daviot, is in the Anthropological Museum, Marischal College, Aberdeen University. It was purchased from the Wilson Collection in 1910 and measures 122 by 66 by 33mm (Rae 1892, 465; Reid 1912, 7). There is also an axe of quartz-dolerite from Daviot which is in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow (Acc. No: B.1914.105b; Ritchie and Scott 1981, 9). Another axe of Aberdeen granite was found at Glack House in 1881, 'measuring 6 by 2 1/2 by 1 3/8ins', was an item in the collection of John Sturrock, Monikie, sold in 1889. (Glack House: NJ 742 283 on OS 6" map, 1874; Sturrock 1889, 31).

A Late Bronze Age ribbed socketed axe (NJ72NE 20) was found in March 1913 on the farm of Grassieslack (NJ 75 28) by the farmer's son whilst ploughing within a few feet of the spot where he found the Late Bronze Age sword (NJ72NE 21). The accession number of this socketed axe in Marischal Museum, Aberdeen, is ABDUA: 19663. Two parallel-sided flint blades (no accession nos.), found at Daviot (NJ 75 28), are in Inverurie Museum (NJ72NE 28). Information from Accession Register, Inverurie Museum (NJ72NE 39). A stone chisel (NJ72NE 61) from Daviot was exhibited in Glasgow in 1911, on loan from L M Mann (Palace of History 1911, 857). A barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead (NJ72NE 62), 4.2cm long, from Daviot is in Dundee Museum (1966-118) (Coutts 1971, 86). A Late Bronze Age, Ewart Park type, leaf-shaped sword (NJ72NE 21) was found in the autumn of 1906 on the farm of Grassieslack (NJ 75 28) by the farmer's son while cutting roads for the reaping machine, the scythe contacting a part of the sword that projected from the ground (Coles 1962, 82, 96).

- 2.6 Fourteen Iron Age potsherds were discovered near the middle of a saucer like depression 'about 50ft' (15.2m) W from the Loanhead of Daviot Stone Circle (NJ72NW 45). Excavation revealed an Early Iron Age bloomery 'covering an area 22ft' (6.7m) in length 'by 13ft 6ins' (4.12m) in width, easily determinable owing to the bright red nature of the soil. Quantities of charcoal and pottery were recovered. The scattered nature of the remains indicated a destruction shortly after the bloomery fell into disuse (Kilbride-Jones 1937, 401-5).
- 2.7 A short cist (NJ72NW 19), oriented E-W was found near Loanhead of Daviot containing 'wasted' bones and earth, was found while trenching the ground in 1832 (OSNB 1867, 22). Nothing is now visible of this cist, which was found in 1832 in a cultivated field about 200m E of the recumbent stone circle. Another cist was found at Old Craig Farm (NJ72NW 15). A stone cist containing burnt bones was found in 1865, whilst clearing away a part of the rock for the foundations of the new steading. It consisted of rough blocks of stone or flags with a large cap-stone (OS Name Book 1867).
- 2.8 A corroded 'brass dirk' (NJ72NW 18), '6 inches' (152mm) long, was found in 1832 whilst trenching (OSNB 1867, 22) but the present whereabouts of the dagger is not known. An Elizabethan silver coin was dug up some years prior to 1845 in the small kitchen garden where the old manse formerly stood. Presumably Manse at NJ 7501 2825 (OS 6" map, 1959) (NSA 1845). The present whereabouts of the coin is unknown.

- 2.9 In 1817 whilst levelling a small hillock, an inverted urn was found (NJ72NW 20). It was apparently ornamented, and 'measured 15 inches' (381mm) high and '12 inches' (309mm) in diameter, with a content of bones and burnt matter. It was broken by the workmen's picks (OSNB 1867, 21). The present location of the urn is unknown.
- 2.10 On the west of the proposed development is House of Daviot (NJ72NW 46), the remains of a designed landscape. The landscaped parkland and woodlands date back to back to the 1700s. The Old House of Glack (Daviot Hospital) (NJ72NW 68) is the original part of the hospital complex which was the mansion house of the estate of Glack which was built in 1723 and used as a nurses' house with alterations in 1889 and 1934. The new Mansion House was built in 1870. The old house of Glack was acquired in 1887 by the Royal Mental Hospital, Aberdeen. (Shepherd 2006, 107-8).
- 2.11 There are many farmsteads in the area including Loanhead farmstead (NJ72NW 213), Broadplace (J72NW 216), Mains of Glack (NJ72NW 99), Old Craig Farm (NJ72NW 15), Pardes of Glack (NJ72NW 108), New Craig Farm (NJ72NW 206), Wicketslap (NJ72NE 171), Pitblain (NJ72NE 77). There is also the site of a church which once stood in the vicinity of Pitblain (NJ72NE 54), also Petblane or St Blaan's Share (Simpson 1935, 81).
- 2.12 Quarries at House of Daviot (Glack House; NJ72NW 180) include a disused quarry which lies within a conifer plantation in the former policies of Glack House (now House of Daviot); it measures about 10m in diameter and is 2m in depth on the NW, where it has been dug into a SW-facing slope. The quarry is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Aberdeenshire, 1870, sheet xlv), but it is not shown on the 2nd edition of the map (1901, sheet xlv.NE). Another disused quarry (NJ72NW 181) is situated within a conifer plantation immediately E of the B9001 public road about 100m NNE of Mains of Glack farmsteading (NJ72NW 99), immediately within the former policies of Glack House (now House of Daviot). It measures about 30m from N to S by 10m transversely, forming a series of shallow hollows dug into a W-facing slope. The quarry is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Aberdeenshire, 1870, sheet xlv), but it is not shown on the 2nd edition.

Old Craig Farm quarry (NJ72NW 165) is not now visible but this site lies in a cultivated field about 230m SE of Old Craig Farm farmsteading (NJ72NW 164). The quarry, which measured about 80m from E to W by 65m transversely, is first depicted on the 2nd edition of the OS 6-inch map (Aberdeenshire, 1901, sheet xlv.NW).

New Craig quarry (NJ72NW 207) is not now visible but the site of this small quarry that lay at the edge of a cultivated field 360m SW of New Craig farmsteading (NJ72NW 206). The quarry is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Aberdeenshire, 1870, sheet xlv), but it is not shown on the 2nd edition of the map (1901, sheet xlv.NW).

- 2.13 Daviot (NJ72NE 143) is a village, comprising nineteen roofed buildings, one of which is a church, and two unroofed buildings as depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Aberdeenshire, 1870, sheet xlv). Twenty-six roofed buildings are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1980). The village includes Daviot Parish Church (St Colm's) and churchyard (NJ72NW 32.01; Listed Category C) and War Memorial (NJ72NW 250).
- 2.14 The proposed development lies in farmland on the First and Second OS maps (Illus 10, 11). A reservoir was constructed between the two map dates at the north of the site on the land now occupied by Beech Lodge.

## 3 THE WALKOVER

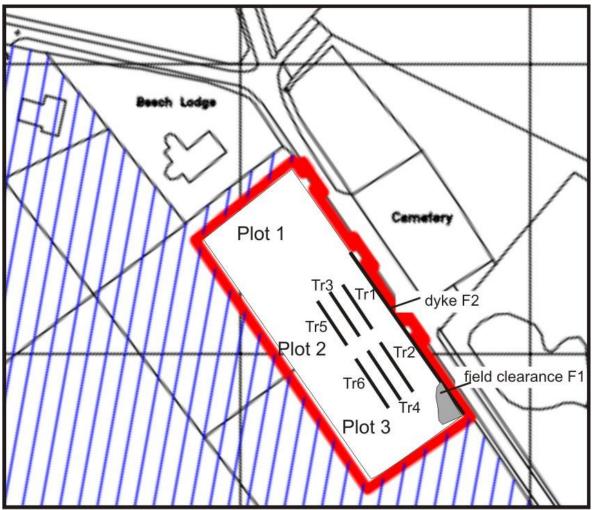
A walkover of Plot 1 (APP/2014/3941 & 2015/0576), which had already been stripped of topsoil, took place and no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

## 4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Six trenches totalling 7% of Plots 2 and 3 (Illus 5; APP/2014/2145) were excavated using an 8 tonne tracked machine with a 1.5m ditching bucket. The topsoil was sandy clay 0.25-0.3m deep and the subsoil is light brown sandy clay with some large stones.

Furrows were recorded running NW-SE in Trenches 1 and 2 but no other archaeological features were recorded and no finds identified.

Field clearance in the SE corner of the field (F1) was photographed as was the drystone dyke on the east boundary with the road (F2).



Illus 5 Plan showing Plots 1, 2 and 3 and six trenches (from copyright Prosnag).

## 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No significant archaeological features or finds were recorded during this evaluation and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during these planning applications.

#### 6 **REFERENCES**

Coles, J M, 1962, 'Scottish Late Bronze Age metalwork: typology, distribution and chronology' Proc Soc Antiq Scot, Vol. 93, 89.

Clough and Cummins, T H McK and W A 1988 'Lists of identifications', in Clough, T H McK and Cummins, W A *Stone axe studies, volume 2: the petrology of prehistoric stone implements from the British Isles* Council for British Archaeology research report no. 67 London, 231.

Coles, F R 1902 'Report on stone circles in Aberdeenshire (Inverurie, Eastern Parishes, and Insch Districts), with measured plans and drawings, obtained under the Gunning Fellowship', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot, vol.36* 

Coles, F R 1903 'Notices of (1) the camp at Montgoldrum ... in Kincardineshire; (2) a stone circle called The Harestones in Peeblesshire; (3) a cairn and standing stones at Old Liston, and other standing stones in Midlothian and Fife; (4) of some hitherto undescribed cup and ring-marked stones; and (5) recent discoveries of urns', of urns', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot, vol.37*, 226-7.

Coles, J M 1962 'Scottish Late Bronze Age metalwork: typology, distributions and chronology' *Proc Soc Antiq Scot, vol.*93, 82, 96.

Coutts, H 1971 Tayside before history: a guide catalogue of the collection of antiquities in Dundee Museum, Catalogue no. 1, {Dundee}, 86, No. 26.

Currie, G 2006 'New Craig, Aberdeenshire (Daviot parish), cup and ring marked rock', *Discovery Excav Scot, vol.7* Dorchester, 17.

Hunter, F 2011 'Loanhead of Daviot, Aberdeenshire (Daviot parish), casual find', *Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol.12* Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England, 16.

Jervise, A 1875-9 Epitaphs and inscriptions from burial grounds and old buildings in the north-east of Scotland with historical, biographical, genealogical and antiquarian notes, 2v Edinburgh, Vol. 2, 414.

Kilbride-Jones, H E 1937 'notes on (A) a new discovery on the line of the so-called Catrail at Torwoodlee, Galashiels; (B) An early Iron Age bloomery at Loanhead of Daviot, Aberdeenshire', *Proc Soc Antig Scot, vol.71*, 401-5.

Ordnance Survey (Name Book) Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (6 inch and 1/2500 scale). Held at RCAHMS on micro fiche, Book No. 24, 21.

Palace of History 1911 Scottish exhibition of national history, art and industry, Glasgow (1911): Palace of History catalogue of exhibits, in Glaister, J (et al) 2v Glasgow, 857.

PSAS 1936 'Donations to and purchases for the Museum and Library', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot, vol.70*, 22.

Rae, J 1892 Sale Catalogue. Catalogue of the Museum of Pre-historic and Medieval Antiquities and Curiosities.....formed by the Late Mr John Rae, Hanover Street, Aberdeen, to be Sold by Auction by Mr Dowell..... No.18 George Steet, Edinburgh.....15th, 16th, and 17th November, 1892, 21, No. 465.

Reid, R W 1912) Illustrated catalogue of the Anthropological Museum, Marischal College, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, 7, No. 96.

Ritchie, J (1918) 'Cup-marks on the stone circles and standing-stones of Aberdeenshire and part of Banffshire', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot, vol.52*, 95-6.

Ritchie and Scott, P R and J G 1981 Petrography of Scottish stone implements, Page(s): No. ABN 9.

Shepherd, I, 1986, Exploring Scotland's Heritage, Grampian. HMSO. Edinburgh.

Shepherd, I A G 2006 Aberdeenshire, Donside and Strathbogie: an illustrated architectural guide, in Charles McKean [Edinburgh], 107-108.

Simpson, W D 1935 The Celtic church in Scotland: a study of its penetration lines and art relationships, Aberdeen, 81.

Sturrock, J 1889 John Sturrock Collection: auction catalogue 1889, {Edinburgh}, 31, No. 78.

#### 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank David Urquhart, Prosnag for initiating this project, Mr and Mrs Robertson, Kingsford Lodge and Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council for her advice during the work.

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

## **APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photo no	Photo no Description				
DSC_0355-364	Plot 1 previously topsoil stripped				
DSC_0365	Trench 1	SE			
DSC_0366	Trench 3	SE			
DSC_0367	Trench 5	SE			
DSC_0368	Trench 2, 4, 6				
DSC_0369	Trench 2, 4, 6	E			
DSC_0370	Trench 1	NW			
DSC_0371					
DSC_0372					
DSC_0373-4					
DSC_0375 all trenches					
SC_0376 Tr 2, 4, 6		SW			
DSC_0377-8 Trench 2		SE			
DSC_0379 Trench 4		SE			
SC_0380 Trench 6		SE			
SC_0381 Trench 6		NW			
DSC_0382	6C_0382 Trench 4				
DSC_0383	C_0383 Trench 2				
DSC_0384-6 General views of site with Bennachie and Beech Lodge (built by Mr Robertson in 1980s and poured concrete reservoir infilled by Jim the digger driver					
DSC_0387-9	Field clearance F1 in SE corner of Plot				
DSC_0390-6	SC_0390-6 Drystone dyke on east side of Plot				
DSC_0397-411 Views of site from road					
DSC_0412-418	Views of trenches				

DSC_0353.JPG	DSC_0354.JPG	DSC_0355.JPG	DSC_0356.JPG	DSC_0357.JPG
DSC_0358.JPG	DSC_0359.JPG	DSC_0360.JPG	DSC_0361.JPG	DSC_0362.JPG
DSC_0363.JPG	DSC_0364.JPG	DSC_0365.JPG	DSC_0366.JPG	DSC_0367.JPG
DSC_0368.JPG	DSC_0369.JPG	DSC_0370.JPG	DSC_0371.JPG	DSC_0372.JPG
DSC_0373.JPG	DSC_0374.JPG	DSC_0375.JPG	DSC_0376.JPG	DSC_0377.JPG
DSC_0378.JPG	DSC_0379.JPG	DSC_0380.JPG	DSC_0381.JPG	DSC_0382.JPG

DSC\_0383.JPG



DSC\_0385.JPG



DSC\_0386.JPG



DSC\_0387.JPG

DSC_0388.JPG	DSC_0389.JPG	DSC_0390.JPG	DSC_0391.JPG	DSC_0392.JPG
DSC_0393.JPG	DSC_0394.JPG	DSC_0395.JPG	DSC_0396.JPG	DSC_0397.JPG
DSC_0398.JPG	DSC_0399.JPG	DSC_0400.JPG	DSC_0401.JPG	DSC_0402.JPG
DSC_0403.JPG	DSC_0404.JPG	DSC_0405.JPG	DSC_0406.JPG	DSC_0407.JPG
DSC_0408.JPG	DSC_0409.JPG	DSC_0410.JPG	DSC_0411.JPG	DSC_0412.JPG
DSC_0413.JPG	DSC_0414.JPG	DSC_0415.JPG	DSC_0416.JPG	DSC_0417.JPG



#### **APPENDIX 2 MAPS**



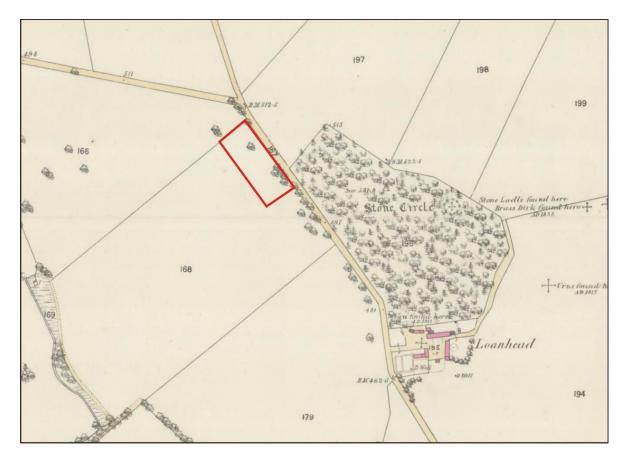
Illus 6 Gordon map of 1636-52 showing Daviot Kirk outlined in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*).

Lentush M. Warthill +rhabase Glack 1 Cotinell

Illus 7 Blaeu map of 1654 showing Daviot Kirk outlined in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*).



Illus 8 Thomson map of 1826 showing Daviot Kirk outlined in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*).



Illus 9 First Edition OS map showing area of site in red. Aberdeen Sheet XLV.3 (Daviot) Survey date: 1867 Publication date: 1870 (*copyright National Library of Scotland*).



Illus 10 Second edition OS map showing area of site in red. Aberdeenshire 045.03 (includes: Daviot) Publication date: 1900 Revised: ca. 1899 (*copyright National Library of Scotland*).