

**Report on Archaeological Evaluation
Proposed housing development, East Lodge,
Ury Estate, Stonehaven, AB39 3QA**



**Alison Cameron
Cameron Archaeology
14 August 2015**

CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
3	THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION	7
4	Environmental assessment Laura Bailey and Tim Holden	8
4.1	Method.....	8
4.2	Results.....	8
4.3	Wood Charcoal.....	8
5	DISCUSSION.....	9
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	9
7	REFERENCES.....	9
	APPENDIX 1 CONTEXTS.....	10
	APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS	10

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover Hearth 204 facing north

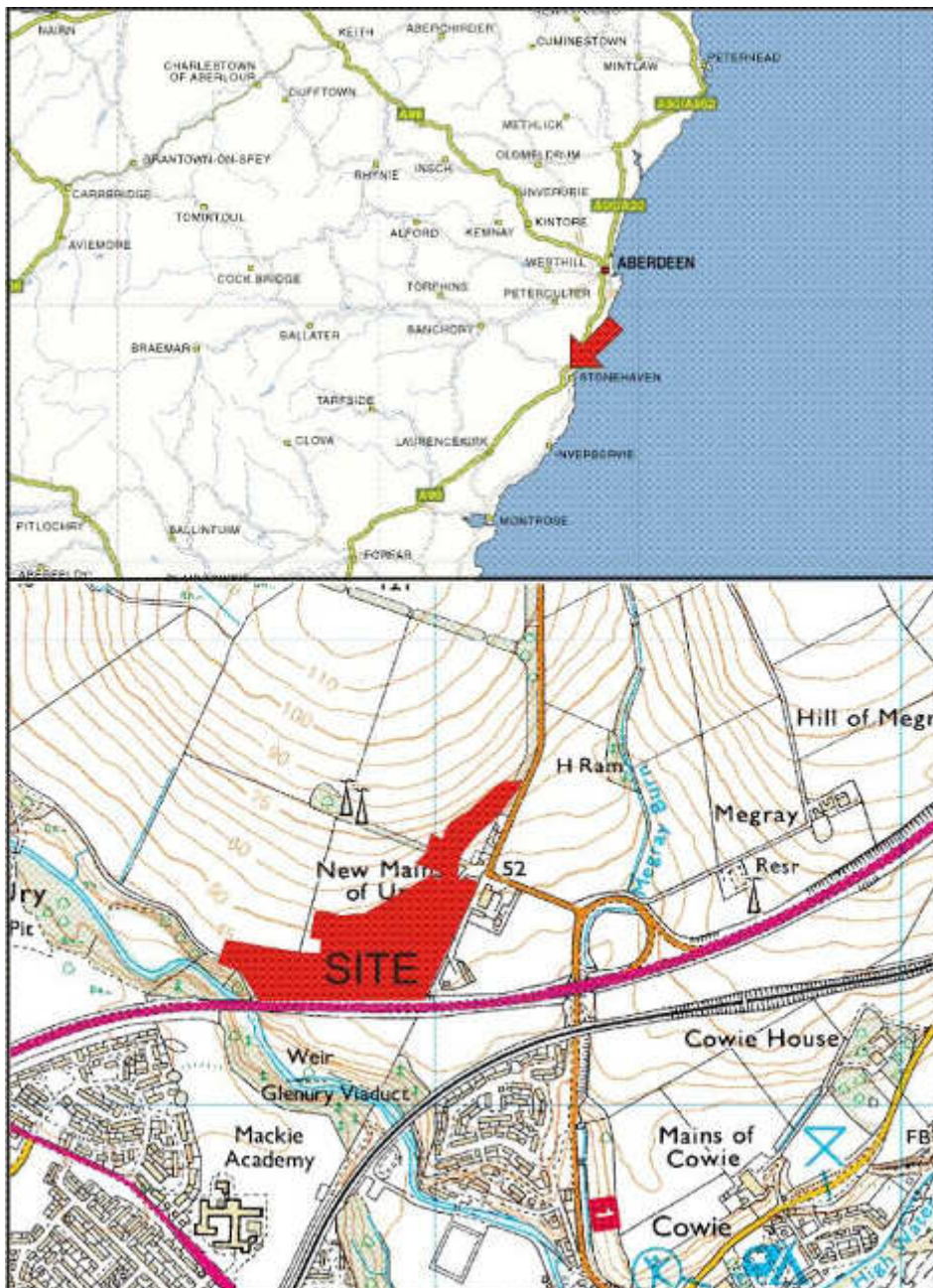
Illus 1	Location plan	3
Illus 2	Vertical aerial photograph showing the development area in red.....	4
Illus 3	Oblique aerial photograph showing approximate outline of site in red	4
Illus 4	Plan showing evaluation trenches and two 20x20m box trenches	7
Illus 5	Plan of hearth 204 and section	8

SUMMARY

A 7% archaeological evaluation was carried out from 11-19th September 2014. One hearth was excavated and two unworked flints recovered from topsoil. A sample of charcoal from one hearth was sent for environmental analysis and dating; the hearth is early to middle Neolithic in date.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the north side of the A90 west of its junction with the B979 Netherley Road and NE of the Cowie Water. It is centred on NGR NO 86882 87341, at 40-80m OD, on land sloping steeply uphill to the NNE.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Allan Rae, Kirkwood Homes. Aberdeenshire Planning Applications APP/2008/0113, 2007/2011 and 2014, 2007/2015, 2008/0114 and 2004/2267 apply to the Ury Estate. This application APP2007/0114 was passed on 6.12.2011 with a standard archaeology condition (condition 25). Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service required a 7-10% 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 Vertical aerial photograph showing the development area in red (copyright Google)



Illus 3 Oblique aerial photograph showing approximate outline of site in red (copyright RCAHMS; Ian B M Ralston Aberdeen Archaeological Surveys 5/4/1985 General oblique aerial view AAS/85/4/R10/1)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is one Scheduled Ancient Monument within 1km of the proposed development. Cowie Line, pill boxes (NO88NE 88.01, 88.02) & anti-tank blocks (NO88NE 88.05) is 200m SW to 275m SE of Ury House. The monument comprises two Type-22 pill boxes, situated on high ground to the south of the Cowie Water, covering the bridge over the river SE of Ury House, and its approaches. The pill boxes are 6-sided, made of a mixture of granite, concrete and brick. The western pillbox has additional firing loops on two sides. There are also concrete tank blocks on both sides of the bridge and 6 fine examples to the NW of the western pill box on the south bank of the Cowie Water. To the west of the bridge the southern bank of the Cowie Water has been made vertical to provide a further obstacle. To the east of the bridge, in a wood, is a possible weapon pit. Three areas are to be scheduled. The westernmost contains one pill box and 6 concrete tank blocks. It measures a maximum of 100m WSW to ENE by 60m transversely. The middle area contains the second pill box, the artificially-altered section of the river bank, and one concrete tank block. It measures a maximum of 100m E to W by 40m transversely. The easternmost area contains two tank blocks and the possible weapon pit. It measures 40m NNE-SSW by 30m transversely. All three areas are bounded on their northern sides by the river bank, and are as marked in red on the accompanying map. The monument is of national importance as a well-preserved element of the Cowie Line, one of the strategic stop-lines of the anti-invasion defences of the Second World War. The individual features of the monument are well preserved and provide a concrete expression of an important period in British history.
- 2.2 The proposed development is within the estate of Ury House (NO88NE0104). remains of a designed landscape possibly dating back to the 1700s. The house is B Listed Country house by John Baird of Glasgow, 1855, with a wing added in 1884 by an unidentified architect. The gardens have a buttressed, stepped, channeled and rock-faced terrace wall. The house had an ice-house (NO88NE 32.15; Buxbaum 1992, 7). Immediately north of the current site is a circular cropmark (NO88NE0113 possibly representing the site of a small roundel of planted trees which are shown on the 1st and 2nd edition OS map is visible on vertical aerial photographs taken in 1977 and 1988.
- 2.3 At Redcloak (NO 8579 8716), 700m WSW of the west edge of the current site is a field system of pits, possible roundhouses and an unenclosed settlement identified as a cropmark on aerial photographs.
- 2.3 At Glen Ury WNW of the proposed site is an area of hut circles and clearance cairns (NO88NE 73) identified from aerial reconnaissance.

- 2.4 There is an earthwork or possible Roman camp (NO88NE 7) at Fetteresso Glebe. The evidence for the siting of this 'camp' seems to derive ultimately from Barclay's sketch-map of 1785 on which it is shown as a square with rounded corners, although it is mentioned as early as 1722 in Camden's *Britannia*. The Name Book authorities remember the site being called 'The Camp' about 1800 but the ground was already under cultivation and no remains were evident. Crawford thought the site too narrow for a Roman camp, or even a normal-sized Roman fort and suggested that it was probably a native fort (Barclay 1792, 566; Crawford 1949; Name Book 1865, 10,248; Jones 2011, 335). The area is now a housing estate.
- 2.5 A copper alloy ewer (NO88NE 11) was found at Glen Ury in 1857. A sketch by the surveyor shows this to be a medieval tripod ewer. It was found two feet below the surface and was broken by the finders but the pieces were preserved at Ury House (OS Name Book 10, 198).
- 2.6 St Ciaran's Well a chalybeate well (NO88NE 17) is near the distillery at the west end of Mineral Well Road, immediately below the Glenury railway viaduct. It is an elegant fountain of Peterhead granite into which once ran the water of chalybeate spring for many years famous for its health-giving properties. The fountain was built on the site of the old holy well of St Kieran which dried up when the supply was cut to build the fountain and it was impossible to find it again (Morris and Morris 1982, 122).
- 2.7 Industrial remains in the area include Glen Ury railway viaduct (NO88NE 60) 400m south of the current site (Hume 1977, 223) and Glen Ury Distillery founded c. 1836 by Captain Barclay. A much altered group of buildings, of which the oldest is probably a 3-storey, 10-bay range of malting floors survive. There are twin detached kilns linked to the malting floors by gangways (ibid; NO88NE 59).
- 2.8 The Aberdeen Western Peripheral route is due to terminate 200m east of the eastern side of the proposed development. Archaeological work has been carried out along the line of the route; AOC carried out a watching brief of trial pits in 2008 (NO89SE0089) but little of archaeological significance, CFA Archaeology have carried out an evaluation in 2013 of this section of the route and an excavation is ongoing at time of preparing this WSI (CFA forthcoming).
- 2.9 Ury or Urie appear on the 17th-century Blaeu (Illus 8) and Gordon (Illus 7) maps and Ury House on the 19th-century maps. The First Edition OS map (Illus 10) shows the area as farmland divided into several fields with an old field boundary still marked with a liene of trees. These persist into the 2nd and 3rd OS maps (Illus 11, 12) and the track across the site from the road to the east was realigned between the 1st and 2nd OS maps. There was a band of trees running along the east edge of the site adjacent to the road.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

A 7% archaeological evaluation was carried out from 11-19th September 2014 by Stuart Farrell. 23 trenches were excavated with a 14 ton tracked machine with a 1.8m ditching bucket and two areas opened with 20 x 20m box trenches. The topsoil was shallow (c25cm) in most trenches and deep modern plough scars were seen in Trenches 9-23.

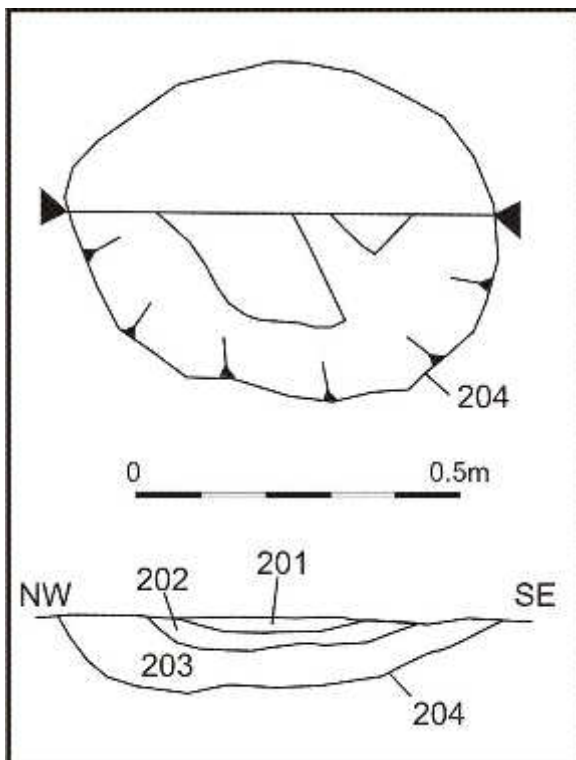
One hearth, 204, in Trench 2 was 0.64 x 0.54cm in size and 0.1m deep (Illus 5). Two stones survived *in situ* in the centre of the hearth which was filled with charcoal. No finds were recovered from the fill but a sample was retained from the feature. A 20 x 20m box trench around the hearth revealed that there were no other features surviving in the vicinity.

An irregular charcoal spread was uncovered in Trench 6 but a box trench 20 x 20m in size revealed that this was the remains of a burnt tree bole and no further features were identified in the trench.

No other features were identified during the evaluation and the only finds recovered were two unworked flints from topsoil.



Illus 4 Plan showing evaluation trenches and two 20x20m box trenches (*copyright Kirkwood Homes*)



Illus 5 Plan of hearth 204 and section

4 Environmental assessment Laura Bailey and Tim Holden

One sample recovered during archaeological works at East Lodge, Ury Estate, Stonehaven, was received for palaeoenvironmental assessment. The site comprised a single hearth. The sample was taken from the fill (203) of the hearth [204]. The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any environmental remains in the samples. The environmental remains are quantified in Tables 1 and 2.

4.1 Method

The sample was subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 µm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. The sample was scanned using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al.* (2006). Where preservation allowed charcoal, in the flot, was categorized as oak or non-oak at this assessment stage

4.2 Results

Results of the assessment are presented in Table 1 (Flot samples). Material suitable for AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) radiocarbon dating is shown in the tables.

4.3 Wood Charcoal

A large amount of charcoal was present in both the flots and retents. The charcoal was relatively unabraded, in good condition and was all found to be non-oak.

5 DISCUSSION

A early to middle neolithic radiocarbon date of 3241-3140 cal BC was obtained for a sample of charcoal from the hearth. The environmental assemblage offers little insight into site economy as charcoal was the only material recovered. The good condition and unabraded nature of the charcoal suggests that it has not moved far from the place where it had been burnt.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Allan Rae, Kirkwood Homes for initiating this project and to Bruce Mann at Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service for his advice during this work.

7 REFERENCES

- Barclay, R** 1792 'On Agricola's engagement with the Caledonians, under their leader Galgacus', *Archaeol Scot*, vol. 1.
- Barclay, G J** 2005 'The Cowie Line: a Second World War 'stop line' west of Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, vol. 135, 118-161.
- Buxbaum, T** 1992 Icehouses, Shire Albums, 278 Princes Risborough.
- Cappers RTJ, Bekker, RM and Jans**, JEA 2006 *Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands*. Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library, Groningen.
- CFA forthcoming** Archaeological work on the fastlink of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route.
- Crawford, O G S** 1949 Topography of Roman Scotland north of the Antonine Wall, Cambridge.
- Jones, R H** 2011 Roman Camps in Scotland, Edinburgh.
- Morris and Morris, R and F** 1982 Scottish healing wells: healing, holy, wishing and fairy wells of the mainland of Scotland, Sandy.
- Ordnance Survey (Name Book)** Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (6 inch and 1/2500 scale).

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 CONTEXTS

Context no	Trench	Description
201	2	Mixed loam
202	2	Stones in situ in hearth
203	2	Black charcoal fill with burnt bone
204	2	Cut for hearth 0.64 x 0.54m

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

Scales 1m

1 – View of site facing W.

2 – View of trench 1 upon excavation facing W.

3 – View of site facing NE.

4 – View of site facing E.

5 – View of trench 1 upon excavation facing W.

6 – View of trench 1 upon excavation facing E.

7 – View of trench 2 upon excavation facing W.

8 – View of trenches 1 and 2 facing W.

9 – View of trench 2 upon excavation facing W.

10 – View of pre-ex of hearth trench 2 facing N – scale 0.5m.

11 – View of ½ section of hearth trench 2 facing N – scale 0.5m.

12 – View of ½ section of hearth trench 2 facing N – scale 0.5m.

13 – View of trench 2 upon excavation facing W.

14 – View of ½ section of hearth trench 2 facing N – scale 0.5m.

15 – View of ½ section of hearth trench 2 facing N – scale 0.5m.

16 – View of post-ex of hearth trench 2 facing N – scale 0.5m.

17 – View of post-ex of hearth trench 2 facing N – scale 0.5m.

18 – View of site facing E.

19 – View of site facing E.

20 – View of site facing E.

21 – View of site facing E.

22 – View of site facing W.

- 23 – View of site facing W.
- 24 – View of trench 3 upon excavation facing W.
- 25 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing NE.
- 26 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing SW.
- 27 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing SW.
- 28 – View of trench 5 upon excavation facing NE.
- 29 – View of trenches 4 and 5 facing SW.
- 30 – View of burnt spread trench 6 facing W.
- 31 – View of burnt spread trench 6 facing NE.
- 32 – View of burnt spread trench 6 facing N.
- 33 – View of burnt spread trench 6 facing N.
- 34 – View of trench 6 upon excavation facing W.
- 35 – View of trench 6 upon excavation facing E.
- 36 – View of site facing W.
- 37 – View of trench 7 upon excavation facing E.
- 38 – View of trench 8 upon excavation facing W.
- 39 – View of trench 9 upon excavation facing W.
- 40 – View of trenches 6 to 8 facing NW.
- 41 – View of trenches 9 and 10 facing E.
- 42 – View of trench 10 upon excavation facing E.
- 43 – View of trenches 10 and 9 facing W.
- 44 – View of trench 11 upon excavation facing E.
- 45 – View of trench 11 upon excavation facing W.
- 46 – View of trench 11 upon excavation facing W.
- 47 – View of trench 12 upon excavation facing W.
- 48 – View of trench 12 upon excavation facing E.
- 49 – View of spread in trench 13 facing SW.
- 50 – View of spread in trench 13 facing SW.

- 51 – View of spread in trench 13 facing NE.
- 52 – View of spread in trench 13 facing NE.
- 53 – View of trench 13 upon excavation facing NE.
- 54 – View of trenches 11 and 12 facing E.
- 55 – View of trench 13 upon excavation facing NE.
- 56 – View of field drain trench 13.
- 57 – View of trench 13 upon excavation facing SW.
- 58 – View of trench 14 upon excavation facing E.
- 59 – View of trench 14 upon excavation facing W.
- 60 – View of building remains on east boundary facing E.
- 61 – View of building remains on east boundary facing E.
- 62 – View of building remains on east boundary facing E.
- 63 – View of trench 15 upon excavation facing E.
- 64 – View of trench 16 upon excavation facing NE.
- 65 – View of trench 16 upon excavation facing SW.
- 66 – View of trenches 15 and 16 facing W.
- 67 – View of trenches 16 and 17 facing W.
- 68 – View of trench 17 upon excavation facing NE.
- 69 – View of trench 18 upon excavation facing SW.
- 70 – View of trench 19 upon excavation facing NE.
- 71 – View of trench 19 upon excavation facing SW.
- 72 – View of trench 20 upon excavation facing S.
- 73 – View of trench 21 upon excavation facing S.
- 74 – View of trench 22 upon excavation facing N.
- 75 – View of trenches 21 to 23 facing E.
- 76 – View of trench 23 upon excavation facing SE.
- 77 – View of tree-bole in trench 6 upon area excavation facing N.
- 78 – View of tree-bole in trench 6 upon area excavation facing N.
- 79 – View of tree-bole in trench 6 upon area excavation facing S.

- 80 – View of tree-bole in trench 6 upon area excavation facing N.
- 81 – View of tree-bole in trench 6 upon area excavation facing NW.
- 82 – View of tree-bole in trench 6 upon area excavation facing W.
- 83 – View of tree-bole in trench 6 upon area excavation facing NW.
- 84 – View of trench 2 upon area excavation facing W.
- 85 – View of trench 2 upon area excavation facing NW.
- 86 – View of trench 2 upon area excavation facing NE.
- 87 – View of trench 2 upon area excavation facing N.



1.JPG



2.JPG



3.JPG



4.JPG



5.JPG



6.JPG



7.JPG



8.JPG



9.JPG



10.JPG



11.JPG



12.JPG



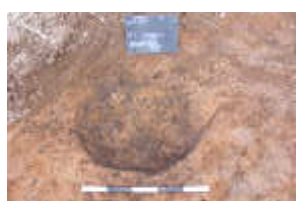
13.JPG



14.JPG



15.JPG



16.JPG



17.JPG



18.JPG



19.JPG



20.JPG



21.JPG



22.JPG



23.JPG



24.JPG



25.JPG



26.JPG



27.JPG



28.JPG



29.JPG



30.JPG



31.JPG



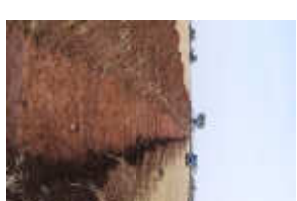
32.JPG



33.JPG



34.JPG



35.JPG



36.JPG



37.JPG



38.JPG



39.JPG



40.JPG



41.JPG



42.JPG



43.JPG



44.JPG



45.JPG



46.JPG



47.JPG



48.JPG



49.JPG



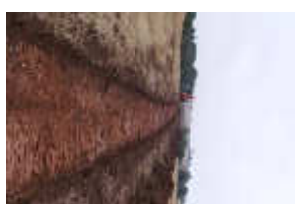
50.JPG



51.JPG



52.JPG



53.JPG



54.JPG



55.JPG



56.JPG



57.JPG



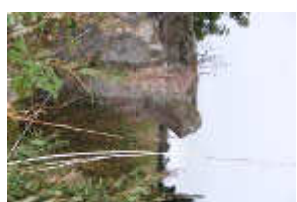
58.JPG



59.JPG



60.JPG



61.JPG



62.JPG



63.JPG



64.JPG



65.JPG



66.JPG



67.JPG



68.JPG



69.JPG



70.JPG



71.JPG



72.JPG



73.JPG



74.JPG



75.JPG



76.JPG



77.JPG



78.JPG



79.JPG



80.JPG



81.JPG



82.JPG



83.JPG



84.JPG



85.JPG



86.JPG



87.JPG