

**Westfield, Foveran, Aberdeenshire AB41 6AY
Report on archaeological evaluation**



**Alison Cameron
Cameron Archaeology
16 October 2015**

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3	THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION	5
4	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	6
5	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
	APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS	7

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: S end Trench 9 with Trench 8 (left); facing NNW with Westfield Cottage (top right) and The Store (top centre)

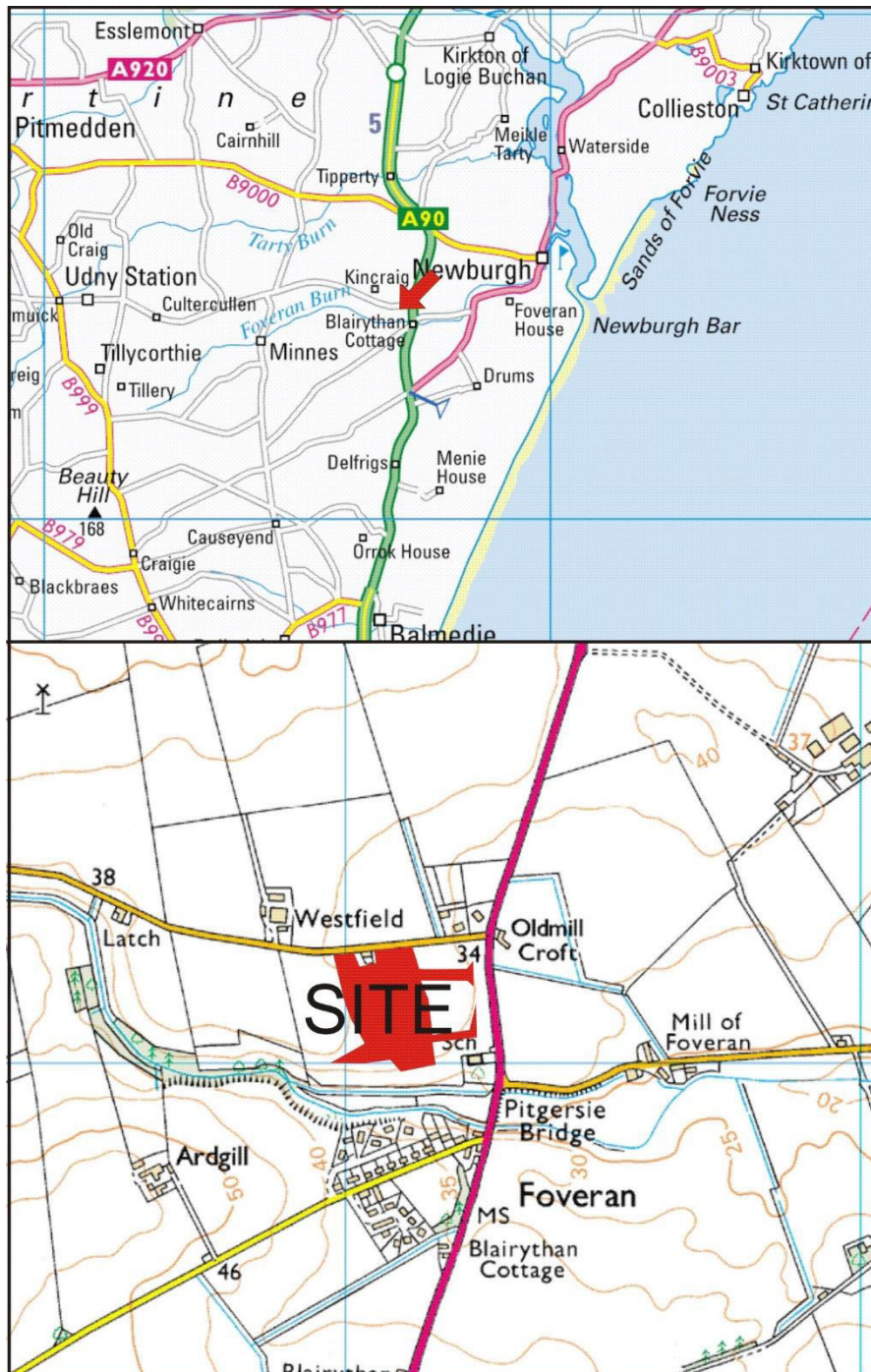
Illus 1	Location plan	3
Illus 2	Plan showing evaluation trenches and location of furrows recorded.....	5
Illus 3	Trench 12 NNW-SSE furrow; facing N.....	6

SUMMARY

A 5% archaeological evaluation was carried out on 12-13 October 2015. Twelve trenches were opened totalling 1000 linear metres with a 14 ton tracked machine and 1.8m ditching bucket. The subsoil was mainly reddish brown compact clay and the topsoil was heavy waterlogged grey clay loam 0.25-0.5m deep. In the north of the field traces of furrows 1m wide and c 6m apart ran W-E across the field. In the south of the field furrows survived running NNW-SSE. There were up to 0.05m deep and filled with dark grey clay loam. There were also several clay drains mainly running NW-SE and many areas where the field was waterlogged causing flooding in the trenches. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current phase of the development.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the NW side of the village of Foveran. The Foveran Burn runs through the site and the development area is primarily farm land. It is centred on NGR NJ 97107 24136, at 35-50m OD.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Martin Forbes, Scotia Homes Ltd and it forms Phase 1 of this development. Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service 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 2015)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Foveran is a village and parish 11 miles north of Aberdeen. It developed in the 20th century from three farmsteads and named after the Mill of Foveran to the east of the village.

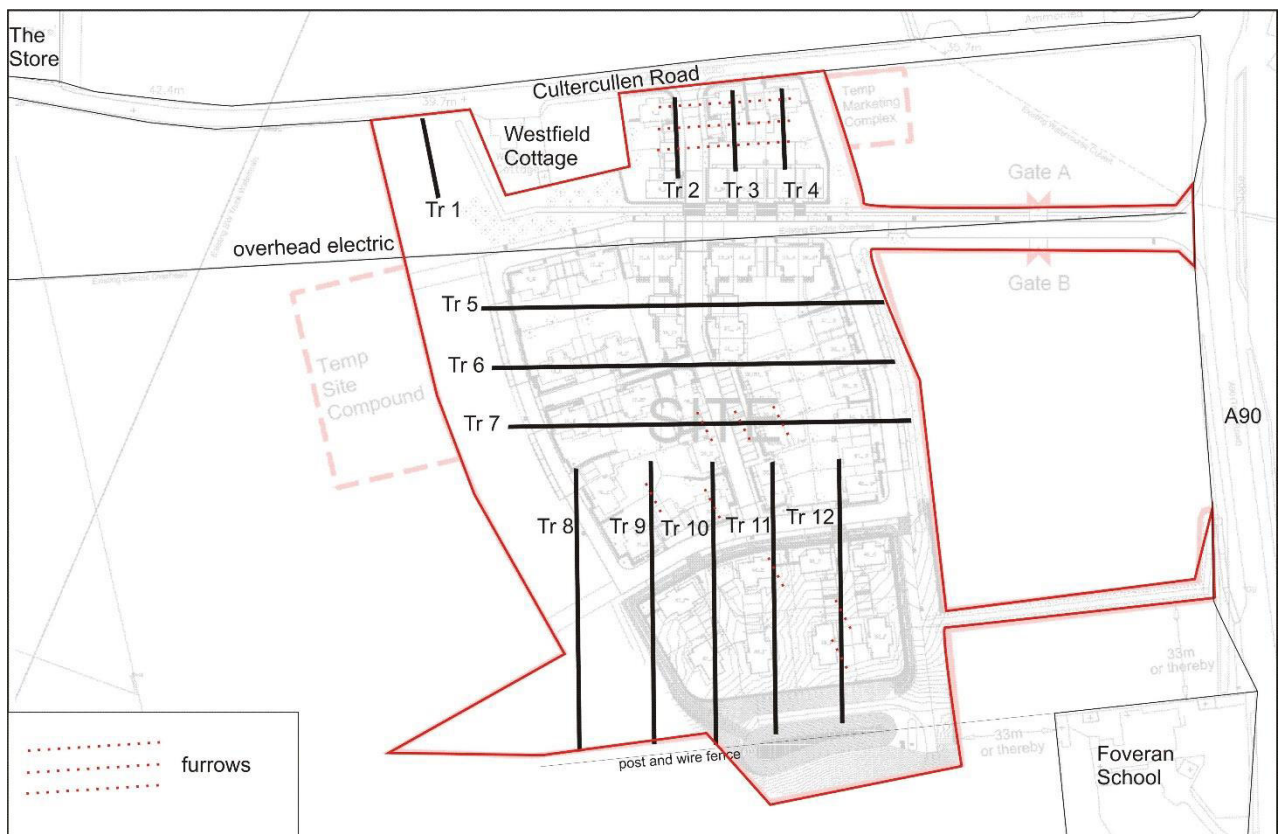
- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the proposed development. There is one listed building within 1km, the Watermill of Foveran dated to 1609(?) and remodeled in the mid 19th century.
- 2.2 Three sites of historic interest lie within the proposed development site. The lade for the Mill of Foveran runs through the site culverted from the Foveran Burn to the mill at the east. Westfield Farmstead at the north of the site is a 19th-century farmstead. SW of the farmstead is an area of historic quarrying depicted on the 1st and 2nd Edition OS map (Illus 3, 4) and the land has been returned to farmland; the area of historic quarrying can be seen on the 1946 aerial photograph (Illus 5) but no other archaeological features are visible on the APs of the area.
- 2.3 Immediately east of the proposed site a geophysical survey was carried out in 2012 by Headland Archaeology ahead of the proposed A90 Balmedie to Tippetty road scheme identified a number of possible archaeological features (NJ92SE0146). Linear features and parallel markings which may be indicative of former ditches and field boundaries, and of rig and furrow were recorded at a number of locations. At c. NJ 97807 25139 a group of linear features may be the remains of rig and furrow. At c. NJ 97458 23807 two intersecting anomalies may be part of a wider pattern of enclosures and cultivation. Curving linear anomalies at c. NJ 9732 2346 may also be part of an enclosure. Cultivation associated with enclosure type anomalies was also recorded at NJ 96479 18815
- 2.4 Adjacent to the 19th-century Ardgill farmstead (NJ92SE 51) is the cropmark of a possible ring-ditch recorded on vertical air photography (NJ92SE 73; NMRS, MS/712/86).
- 2.5 Immediately east of the proposed development at Pitgersie Bridge, two circular features of unknown origin are visible on the aerial photograph overlay at the Aberdeenshire SMR and on vertical aerial photographs taken in 1976 and 1988 (NJ92SE01000). The smaller is within the larger which is 43.5m diameter.
- 2.6 There is an 11-milestone (NJ92SE0124) still in use on the A90 at Upper Pitgersie.
- 2.7 There are 19th-century farmsteads around the development at Kinraig (NJ92SE 48), Ardgill (NJ92SE 51), Overhill (NJ92SE 46), Pitmillan (NJ92SE 58), Pitgersie (NJ92SE 67) and Pitscaff (NJ92SE 66).
- 2.8 At Overhill there are two cattle rubbing stones (NJ92SE 34 and NJ92SE 36) not visible on the 2nd Edition OS map suggesting that they have been set up in the 20th century.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

A 5% archaeological evaluation was carried out on 12-13 October 2015. Twelve trenches were opened totalling 1000m with a 14 ton tracked machine and 1.8m ditching bucket. The subsoil was mainly reddish brown compact clay and the topsoil was heavy waterlogged grey clay loam 0.25-0.5m deep.

In the north of the field traces of furrows 1m wide and c 6m apart ran W-E across the field (Illus 2). In the south of the field furrows survived running NNW-SSE (Illus 2, 3). There were up to 0.05m deep and filled with dark grey clay loam.

There were also several clay drains mainly running NW-SE and many areas where the field was waterlogged causing flooding in the trenches.



Illus 2 Plan showing evaluation trenches and location of furrows recorded (*copyright Scotia Homes Ltd*)



Illus 3 Trench 12 NNW-SSE furrow; facing N

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Rig and furrow cultivation was identified and recorded but no other archaeological finds or features. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current phase of the development.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Martin Forbes, Scotia Homes Ltd for initiating this project and to Bruce Mann at Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for his advice during this work.

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

Photo no	Description	Facing
img_2528.JPG	Trench 9 south end with Tr 8 (left)	NNW
PA120038	Tr 1 with Westfield Cottage	E
PA120039	Tr 1	S
PA120040-1	Tr 2	N
PA120042-3	Tr 3	N
PA120044-5	Tr 4	N
PA120046	Tr 4, Tr3, Tr 2 and Westfield Cottage	NW
PA120048	Tr 5	W
PA120049	Tr 5 flooded central area	E
PA120050-1	Tr 5 field drain W of flooded central section	W
PA120052	Tr 5 field drain W of flooded central section	ESE
PA120053	Tr 5 field drain W of flooded central section	WSW
PA120054	Tr 5 field drain W of flooded central section	E
PA120055-6	Tr 5 field drain W of flooded central section	ESE
PA120057-8	Tr 6	E
PA120059	Tr 6, Tr 5 and Westfield Cottage	N
PA120060-2	Tr 6 clay field drain and waterlogging in centre of trench	E/SE/W
PA120063	Tr 6 plough marks in shallower areas of topsoil	E
PA120064-7	Tr 6 field drains and remains of furrows	E
PA120068-72	Tr 7	W
PA120073	Tr 7 W end w1th waterlogging	W
PA120074-6	Tr 8 N end	S
PA120077	Tr 9 S end	NW
PA120078	Tr 8	S
PA120079	Tr 9	S
PA120080	Tr 8 and 9	E
PA120081	Tr 10	N
PA120082	Tr 10	N
PA120083	Tr 11	S
PA120088-9	Tr 11	N
PA120090	Tr 12	S
PA120091-6	Tr 12 furrows	S
PA120097	Tr 8-12	E



IMG_2528.JPG



PA120038.JPG



PA120039.JPG



PA120040.JPG



PA120041.JPG



PA120042.JPG



PA120043.JPG



PA120044.JPG



PA120045.JPG



PA120046.JPG



PA120048.JPG



PA120049.JPG



PA120050.JPG



PA120051.JPG



PA120052.JPG



PA120053.JPG



PA120054.JPG



PA120055.JPG



PA120056.JPG



PA120057.JPG



PA120058.JPG



PA120059.JPG



PA120060.JPG



PA120061.JPG



PA120062.JPG



PA120063.JPG



PA120064.JPG



PA120065.JPG



PA120066.JPG



PA120067.JPG



PA120068.JPG



PA120069.JPG



PA120070.JPG



PA120071.JPG



PA120072.JPG



PA120073.JPG



PA130074.JPG



PA130075.JPG



PA130076.JPG



PA130077.JPG



PA130078.JPG



PA130079.JPG



PA130080.JPG



PA130081.JPG



PA130083.JPG



PA130088.JPG



PA130089.JPG



PA130090.JPG



PA130091.JPG



PA130092.JPG



PA130093.JPG



PA130094.JPG



PA130095.JPG



PA130096.JPG



PA130097.JPG