Phase 5, Greenacres, Wester Clerkhill, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, AB42 3PT

Report and Data Structure Report (DSR)



Alison Cameron Cameron Archaeology 17 February 2016

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out from 2-10 December 2015. 29 trenches totalling 5000 linear metres were excavated with a 14 ton tracked machine and 2m ditching bucket totalling 5% of the total proposed development area. 997 flints were collected from two fields and in topsoil in the 29 trenches over the area of the proposed development. They include bipolar and platform cores and possible scraper (Torben Ballin pers comm). No features were identified and with the shallow topsoil and extensive damage from agricultural practices it is unlikely that shallow features will survive on this site.

Claymore Homes have confirmed that the field will not be ploughed and after discussion with Aberdeenshire Archaeologist Bruce Mann it is recommended that no further fieldwork is required at this site. A Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) has been prepared for the report on the flints and publication.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the E side of the A90 on the W side of Peterhead between Meethill and Richmondhill. It is centred on NGR NK 10886 45257, at 35-45m OD (Illus 1) and in the parish of Peterhead.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Alastair Rennie, Claymore Homes. The site is being prepared for a planning application to Aberdeenshire Council and they 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

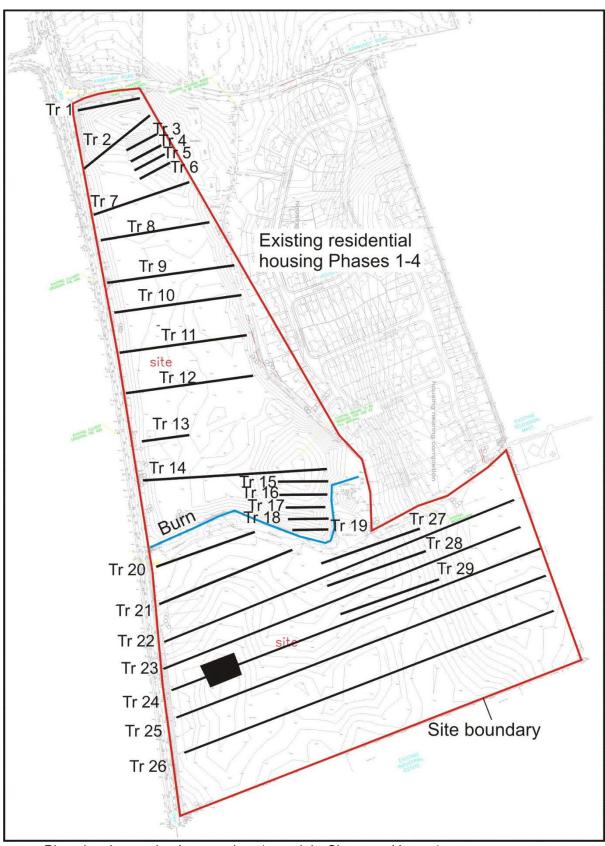
- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the proposed development.
- 2.2 300m to the S of the proposed development is the site of Fairy Hillock (NK14SW 68), a natural mound formed into an 18th or 19th-century garden feature. A trench revealed that this was a natural mound and it has now been removed to create an industrial yard (Murray and Murray 2008, 27).
- 2.3 There are 19th-century farmhouses at Wester Clerkhill, Richmond Farm (NK14NW 360), Richmondhill House (NK14NW 361; Listed B), Cocklaw Mains (NK14NW 69), Whitehill House (NK14SW 13) and Lodge (NK14SW 13.1), Dales Cottage (NK14NW 362) and Wellington (NK14SW 12).
- 2.4 Early maps (Illus 3-5) show Clerkhill and Clarkhill but nothing in the area of the proposed development.
- 2.5 1st, 2nd and 3rd edition OS maps (Illus 6-8) show the proposed development area as fields associated with the farm (Easterton of Clerkhill, later Westerton of Clerkhill).
- 2.6 Aerial photographs reveal no obvious features which may be archaeological (Illus 9).

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out from 2-10 December 2015. 29 trenches totalling 5000 linear metres were excavated with a 14 ton tracked machine and 2m ditching bucket totalling 5% of the total proposed development area. A total of 997 flints were recovered from the topsoil and fieldwalking the site (Appendix 2). They include bipolar and platform cores and possible scraper (Torben Ballin pers comm).

The northern field has two raised knolls and 19 trenches were excavated in this field. A small number of flints were found in topsoil across the field (Appendix 2). The topsoil was shallow (0.1-0.2m deep) and the subsoil was mostly pink and grey clay. The field is waterlogged and there were numerous stone field drains and ceramic drains running across the field. Plough scars into the natural were identified in most trenches. No archaeological features were identified.

The southern field was also waterlogged with shallow topsoil, field drains and plough scars in most trenches. There were two areas of raised elevation with a palaeochannel between up to 0.5m deep (see cover illus). Flints were found throughout the field but concentrations were recovered from the higher elevations of Trenches 23-26 (Appendix 2). A concentration of flints were found at the west end of Trench 24 along with potential features and an area 20x30m was opened. The features were half sectioned but were identified as stone hole; there were several large stones *in situ* in the natural subsoil in this area wheras the remainder of the site was stone free. The damage to the site by intensive ploughing was evident in this area (Illus 2).



Illus 2 Plan showing evaluation trenches (copyright Claymore Homes)



Illus 3 Trench 24 showing area of stone holes, field drains and plough scars

4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

997 flints were collected from two fields and 29 trenches over the area of the proposed development. They include bipolar and platform cores and possible scraper (Torben Ballin pers comm). No features were identified and with the shallow topsoil and extensive damage from agricultural practices it is unlikely that shallow features will survive on this site. Claymore Homes have confirmed that the field will not be ploughed and after discussion with Aberdeenshire Archaeologist Bruce Mann it is recommended that no further fieldwork is required at this site. A Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) has been prepared for the report on the flints and publication.

5 REFERENCES

Murray and Murray, HK and JC. 2008 Fairy Hillock, Dales Industrial Estate, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire (Peterhead parish), watching brief and recording', Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 9, 2008. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England, 27.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Alastair Rennie, Claymore Homes for commissioning this project, staff of Claymore Homes on site and to Bruce Mann and Claire Herbert for their advice during the work.

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APPENDIX 1 MAPS



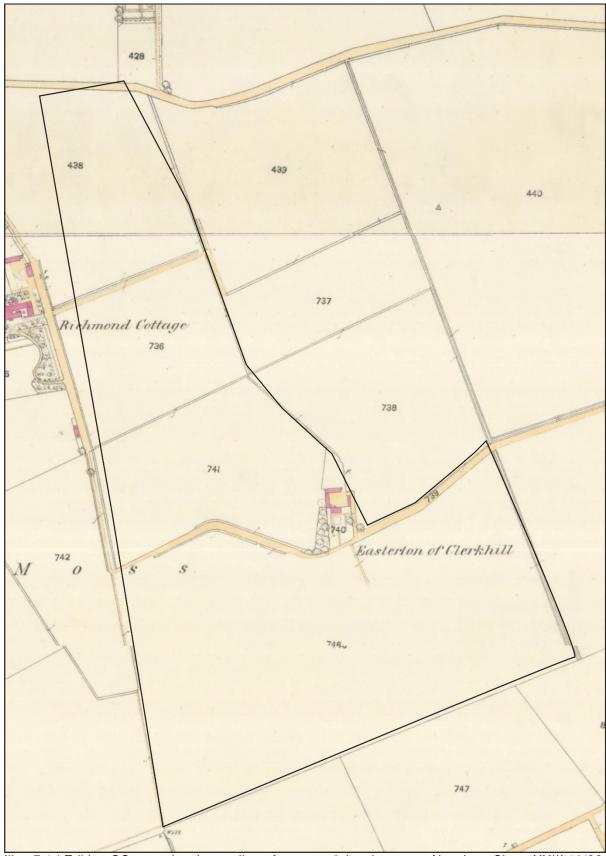
Illus 4 Gordon's map of c 1636-52 showing 'Clerkhill' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



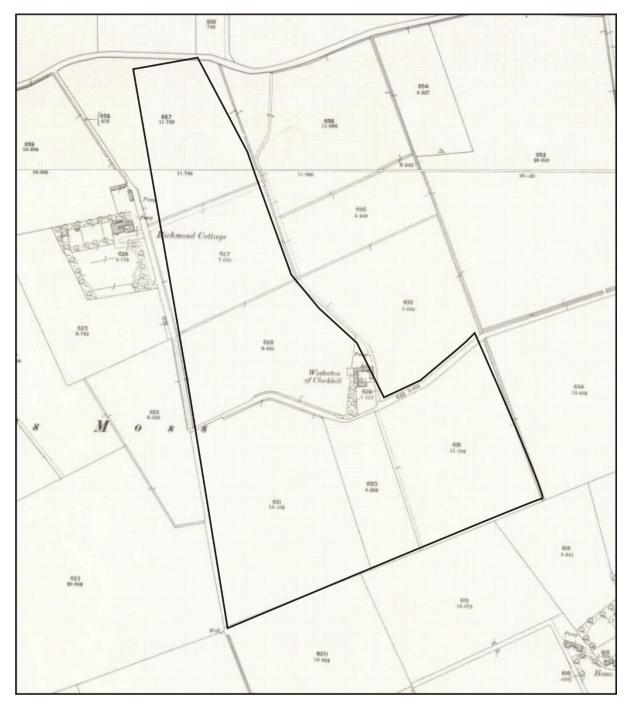
Illus 5 Blaeu's map of 1654 showing 'Clerkhill' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



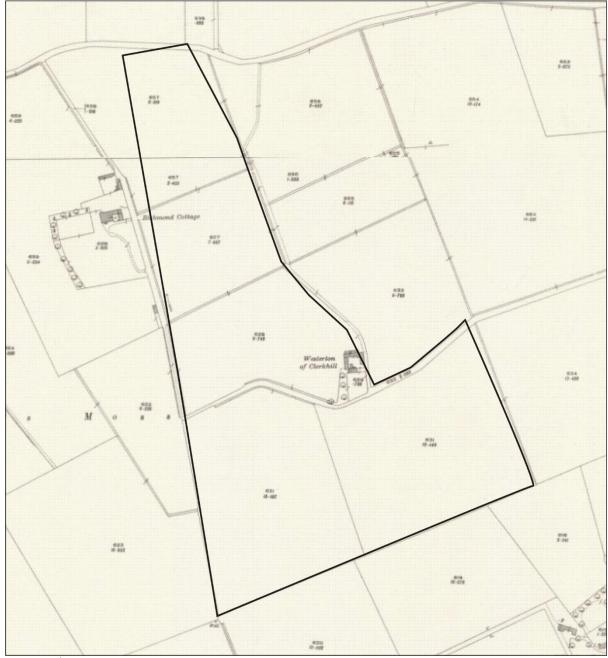
Illus 6 Roy Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55 showing 'Clarkhill' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 7 1st Edition OS map showing outline of proposed development. Aberdeen Sheet XXIII.10/06 (Peterhead) Survey date: 1868 Publication date: 1872 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 8 2nd Edition OS map showing outline of proposed development. Aberdeenshire 023.10/**06** (includes: Peterhead) Publication date: 1901 Revised: 1900 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 9 3rd edition OS with proposed development outlined. Aberdeenshire 023.06/**10** (includes: Peterhead) Publication date: 1926 Revised: 1924 Levelled: 1900



Illus 10 1973 aerial photograph of the approximate outline of proposed development area UNI: NCAP-000-000-073-908 (copyright NCAP)

APPENDIX 2 FINDS

Context	Flint nodules	Struck flints?	SF no
Tr2 E	3	2	17
Tr3/4 E end	10	1	1
Tr7 E end	4	1	8
Tr8/9	1	0	10
Tr 11	2	0	14
Tr14	10	1	20
Tr19	2	0	11
Tr22 E	0	14	16
Tr22/23	22	17	15
Tr23 west	47	19	6
Tr24	3	1	2
Tr24 west	64	79	7
Tr24 stone hole	6	2	12
Tr24 E centre	20	32	9
Tr24 E	14	14	18
Tr24 W	31	31	19
Tr24	10	3	13
Tr24/25 west	14	5	4
Tr 25 centre	28	43	5
Tr25W	3	1	3
Tr25 E	34	69	21
Tr25W	30	19	24
Tr26 E	10	9	23
Tr26W	80	26	25
Tr26 centre	80	42	27
Tr28	11	7	26
Tr29	10	10	22



Illus 11 Flints collected from Tr 22/23



Illus 12 Flints collected from Tr 24 west



Illus 13 Flints collected from Tr 24/25 west

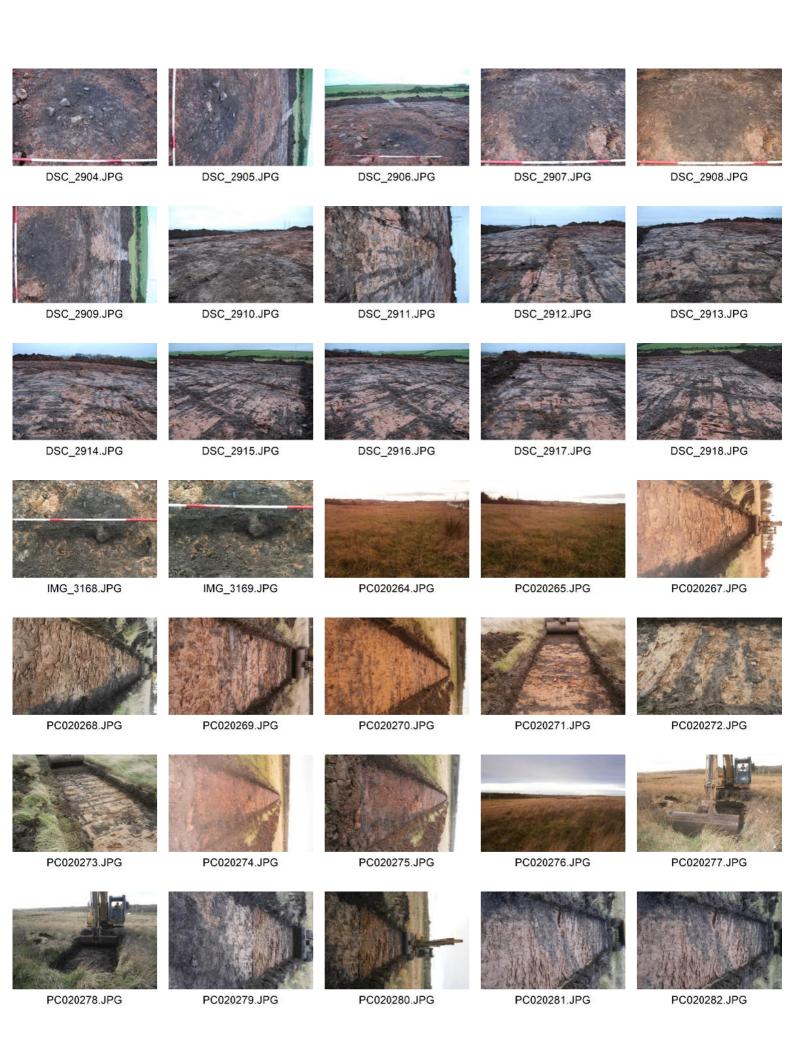


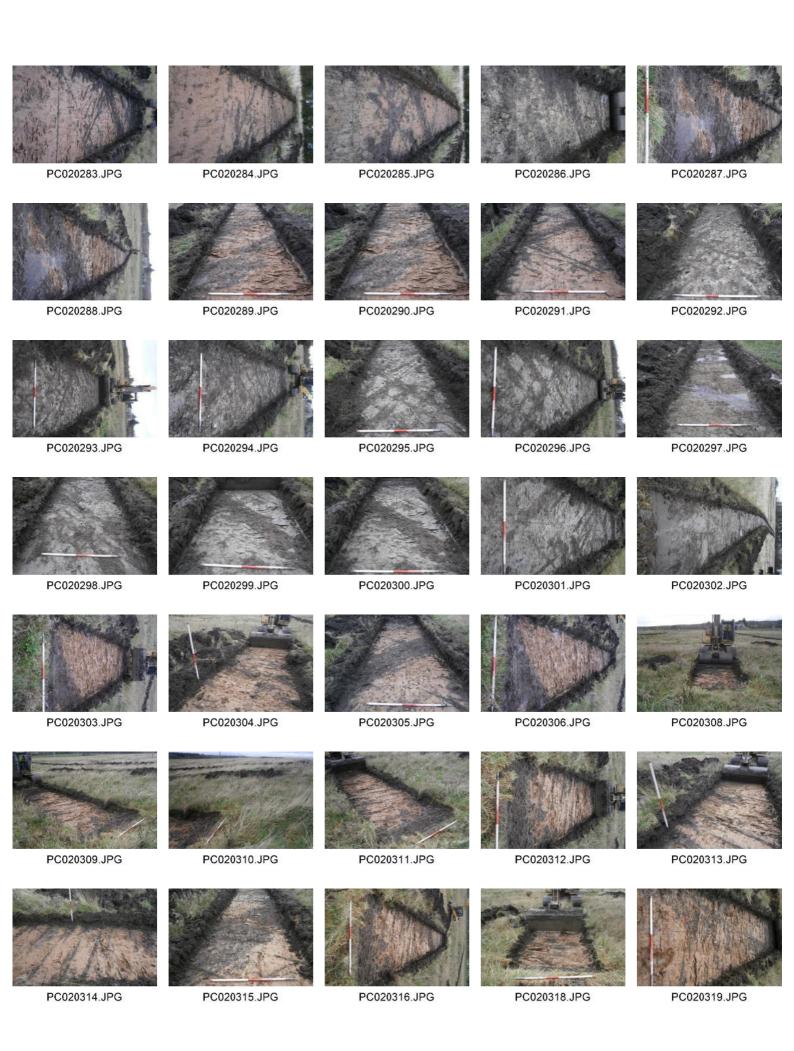
Illus 14 Flints collected from Tr 25 west

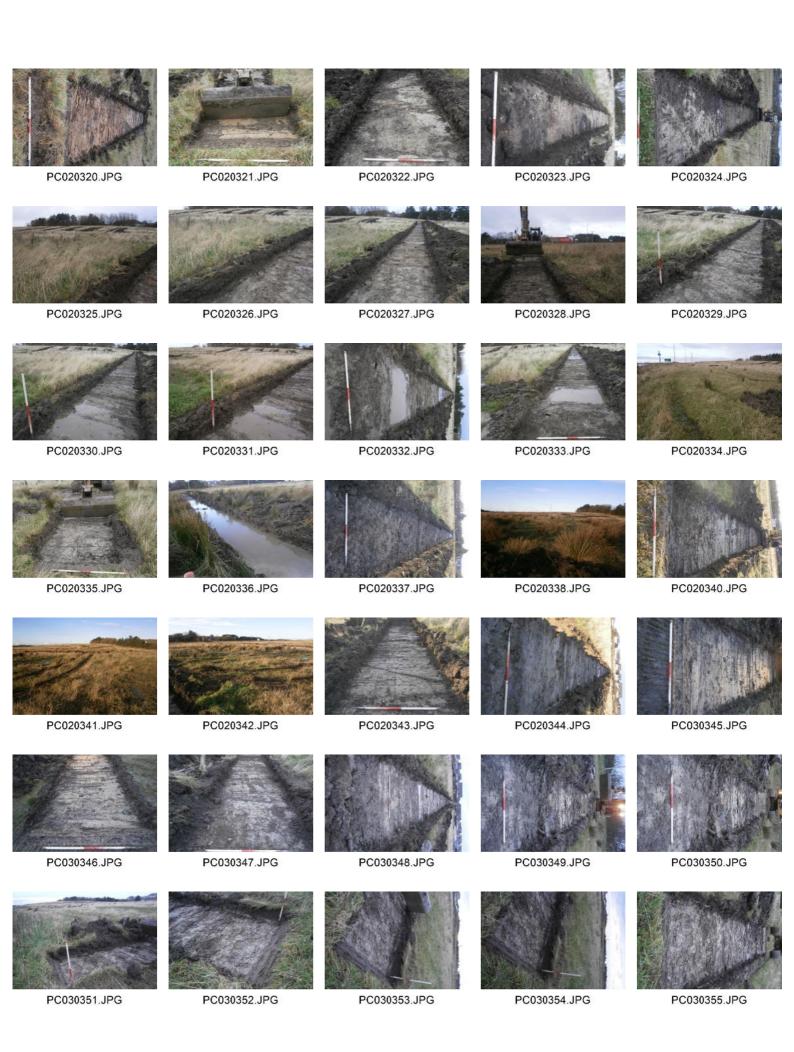
APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
DSC_2904-9	Stone holes infilled with black soil; ceramic drain pipe on base of one	
DSC 2910-18	20-30m area opened around stone holes showing	
	extensive field drains and ploughing scars; area of many flints	
IMG 3168-9	Stone hole half sectioned Tr 24	E
PC020264-5	Field 1 from N end	S/SSE
PC020267-9	Tr 1 showing shallow topsoil (0.15-0.2m) and plough scars	E
PC020270-1	Tr 1 showing shallow topsoil (0.15-0.2m) and plough scars	W
PC020272-3	Tr 1 plough scars	ESE/S
PC020274-5	Tr 1	W
PC020276	View from Tr 1	S
PC020277-8	Tr 2 NE end	SW
PC020279-80	Tr 2 NE end	SW
PC020281-302	Tr 2 field drains and plough scars	SW
PC020303-4	Tr 3 NE end	SW
PC020308-16	Tr 4 showing plough scars, field drains and shallow	SW/NE
	topsoil, 15-20cm max	
PC020318-20	Tr 5 showing plough scars, field drains and shallow topsoil, 15-20cm max	SW/NE
PC020321-23	Tr 6 showing plough scars, field drains and shallow topsoil, 15-20cm max	SW/NE
PC020324	Tr 7 E end	W
PC020325-34	Tr 7 (with Tr 2-6 in background) showing shallow topsoil and flooding	W/WNW
PC020335	Tr 8 W end	E
PC020336-39	Tr 8 flooding and shallow topsoil	E/ENE
PC020340	Tr 9 E end	W
PC020341-2	View of Tr 1-8	NNE
PC020343-44	Tr 9 showing plough scars, field drains and shallow	W
	topsoil, 15-20cm max	
PC020345-50	Tr 10 showing plough scars, field drains and shallow topsoil, 15-20cm max	E
PC020351-61	Tr 11 showing plough scars, field drains and shallow topsoil, 15-20cm max	W
PC020362-66	Tr 12 showing plough scars, field drains and shallow topsoil, 15-20cm max	W
PC020367-74	Tr 13 showing plough scars, field drains and shallow topsoil, 15-20cm max and dumping and disturbance at E end of trench	E
PC020375	Tr 14	E
PC020376-81	Tr 14 palaeochannel with buried articulated ?sheep	E
PC020382-91	bones Tr 14 (waterlogged in centre)	E
PC020382-91 PC020392		W
PC020392 PC020393	Tr 14 complete Tr 15 E end	W
PC020393 PC020394-7	Tr 15 E end Tr 15 field drain trenches	VV
PC020394-7 PC020398-9	Tr 15 W end	E
PC020398-9 PC020400	Tr 16 E end	W
		E
PC020402	Tr 16 W end	
PC020403-4	Tr 17 E end showing pink clay with plough scars and shallow topsoil	W/NW
PC020405	Tr 17 field drain	
PC020406	Tr 17 W end	E
PC020407	Tr 18 E end	W

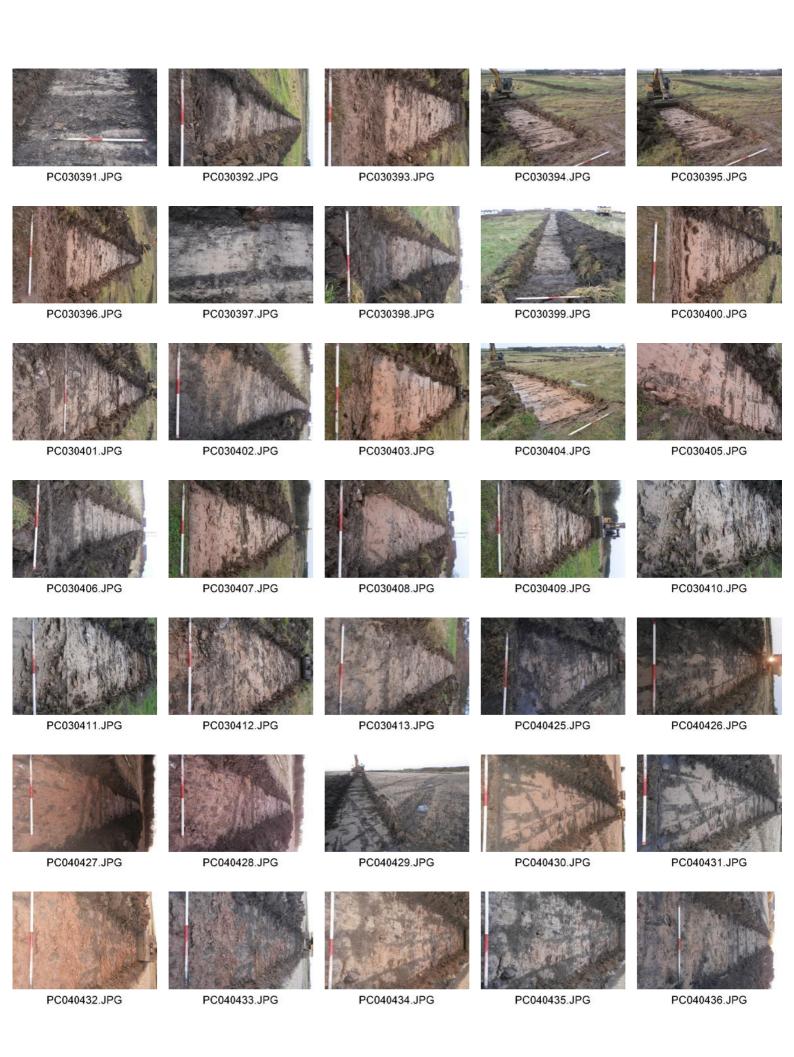
PC020408	Tr 18 W end	E
PC020409	Tr 19 E end	W
PC020410-24	Tr 19 field drains, shallow topsoil and plough scars	W
PC020425-6	Tr 20 W end plough scars and shallow topsoil	Е
PC020427-28	Tr 20 E end	W
PC020429-36	Tr 21 E end field drains and plough scars	W
PC020436	Tr 21 W end	Ē
PC020437-53	Tr 22 W end and trench with field and stone drains and	Ē
1 0020407 00	plough scars	_
PC020454-60	Palaeochannel with deeper (0.4m) organic soil and filed	E
. 0020.01.00	drain at base	
PC020467-70	Tr 22 E end	W
PC020471	Tr 23 E end	W
PC020472-91	Tr 23 field drains, plough scars, shallow topsoil, stone	W
1 0020472 31	drains	**
PC020493	Tr 24 W end	E
PC020494-500	Tr 24 20x30m opened showing stone holes and plough	L
F C020494-300	marks	
PC020501-12	Tr 24 E end showing deeper areas of palaeochannels,	E
PG020301-12	stone drains, field drains and plough scars	<u> </u>
PC020513-15	View from E end Tr 25	W
		W
PC020516-21	Tr 25	1 2 2
PC020522-28	Tr 26	E
PC020529-30	Tr 26 palaeochannel	E
PC020531-43	Tr 26	E
PC020544-49	Tr 27 E end	W
PC02050-54	Tr 28	E
PC02055-58	Tr 29	W
FINDS		
DSC_2928-32	Tr 25 centre flints	
DSC_2933-35	Tr 24 flints	
DSC_2936-39	Tr 24 west	
DSC_2940-42	Tr 24 stone hole flints and field drain from base of pit	
DSC_2943-45	Tr 24 centre east flints	
DSC_2946-49	Tr24/25 west flints	
DSC_2950-54	Tr 24 west flints	
DSC_2955-57	Tr 23 west flints	
DSC_2958-60	Tr 19 flints	
DSC_2961-63	Tr 7 east flints	
DSC_2964-65	Tr 8/9 flints	
DSC_2966-67	Tr 11 flints	
DSC_2968-70	Tr 24 flints	
DSC 2971-74	Tr 25 west flints	
DSC_2975-79	Tr 24 west flints	
DSC 2980-81	Tr 23/24 east flints	
DSC 2982-84	Tr 22/23 flints	
DSC 2985-88	Tr 23 flints	
DSC 2989-91	Tr 2 east flints	
DSC 2992-94	Tr 24 east flints	
DSC 2995-98	Tr 24 west flints	+
DSC 2999-3000	Tr 14 flints	
DSC 3001-6	Tr 25 east flints	
DSC_3001-0 DSC_3007-9	Tr 24 stone hole ceramic drain pipe flints	<u> </u>
DSC_3007-9 DSC_3068-75	Tr 29 flints	+
DSC_3066-75 DSC_3076-79	Tr 26 east flints	+
DSC_3076-79 DSC_3080-83		
	Tr 25 west flints	
DSC_3084-90	Tr 26 west flints	
DSC_3091-94	Tr 28 flints	
DSC_3095-3100	Tr 26 centre flints	

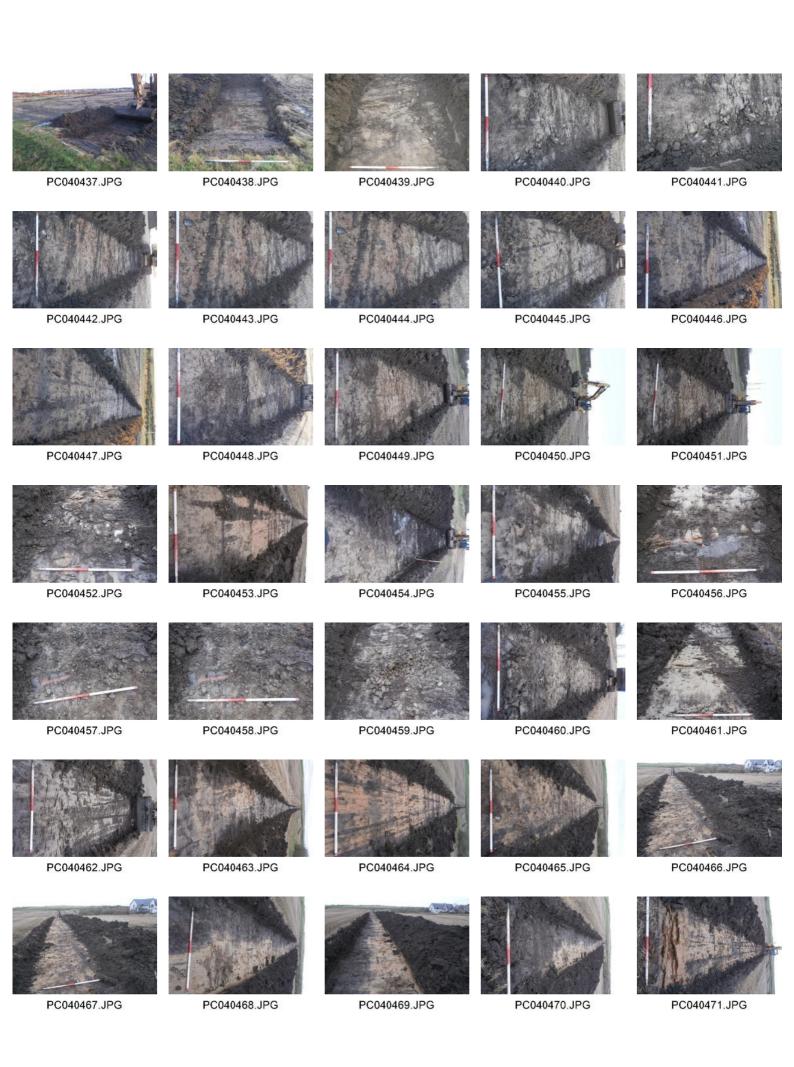


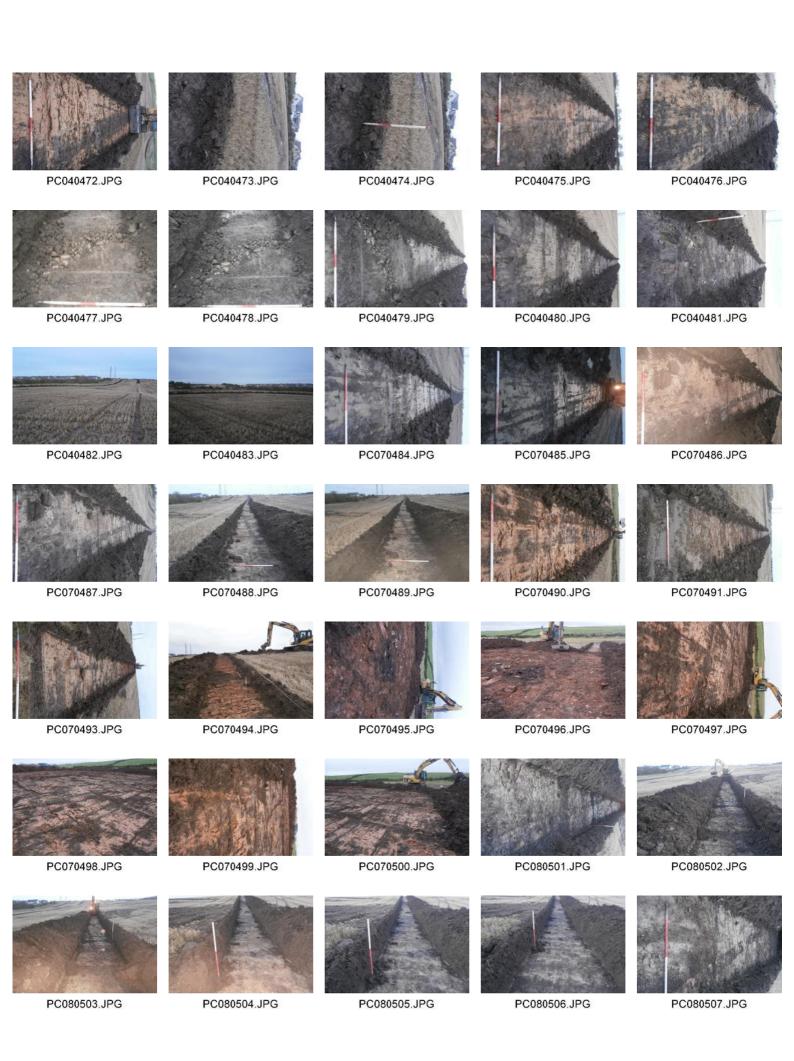


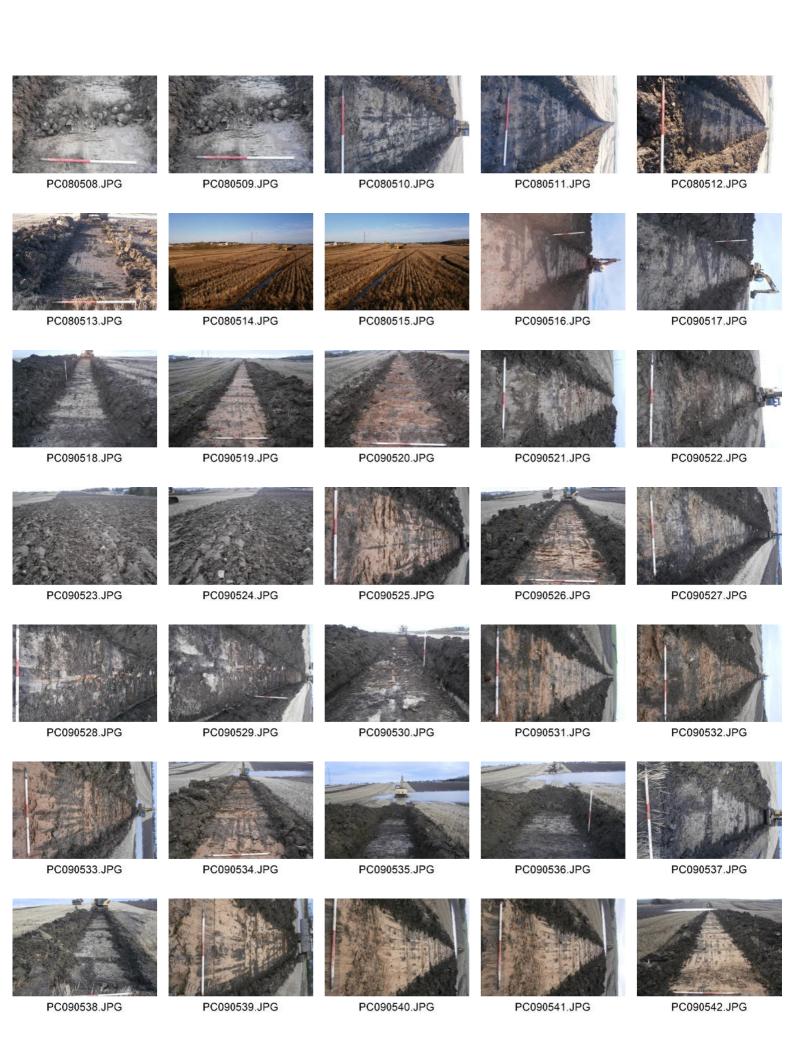








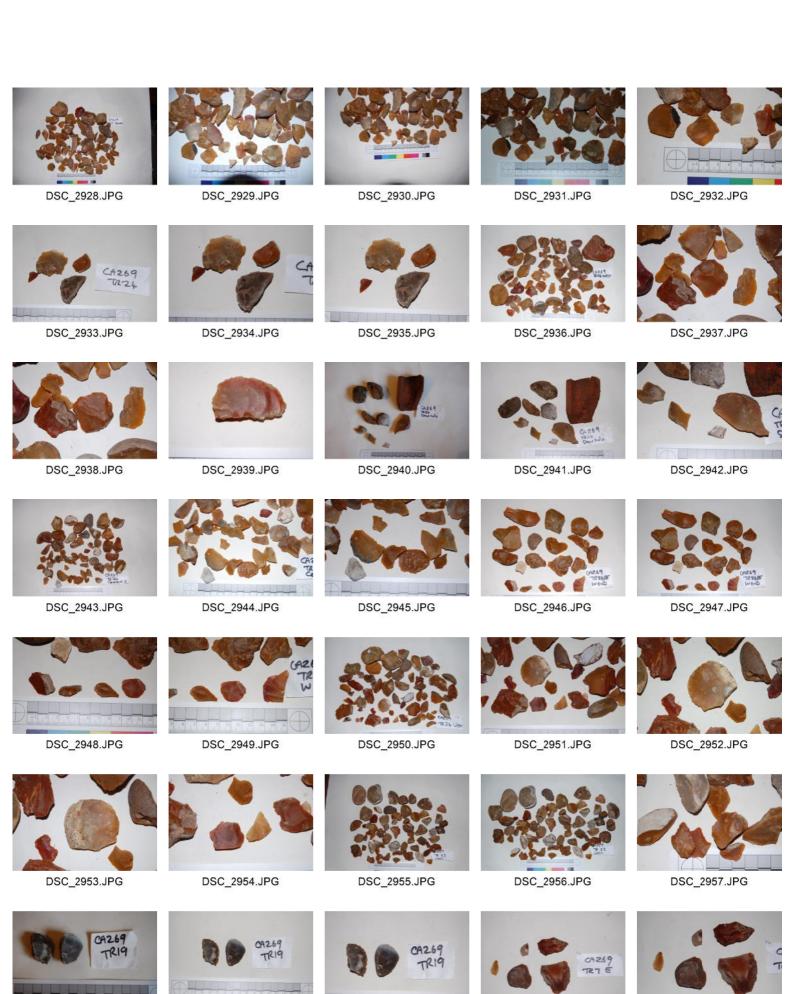








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