

**Land to the South of Balfeich Saw Mill (B966), Adjacent To
Old Aberdeen Road, Fordoun, Laurencekirk, AB30 1LA
Report on Archaeological Evaluation**



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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: Trench 4 NE end showing deep, plough scores; facing SW

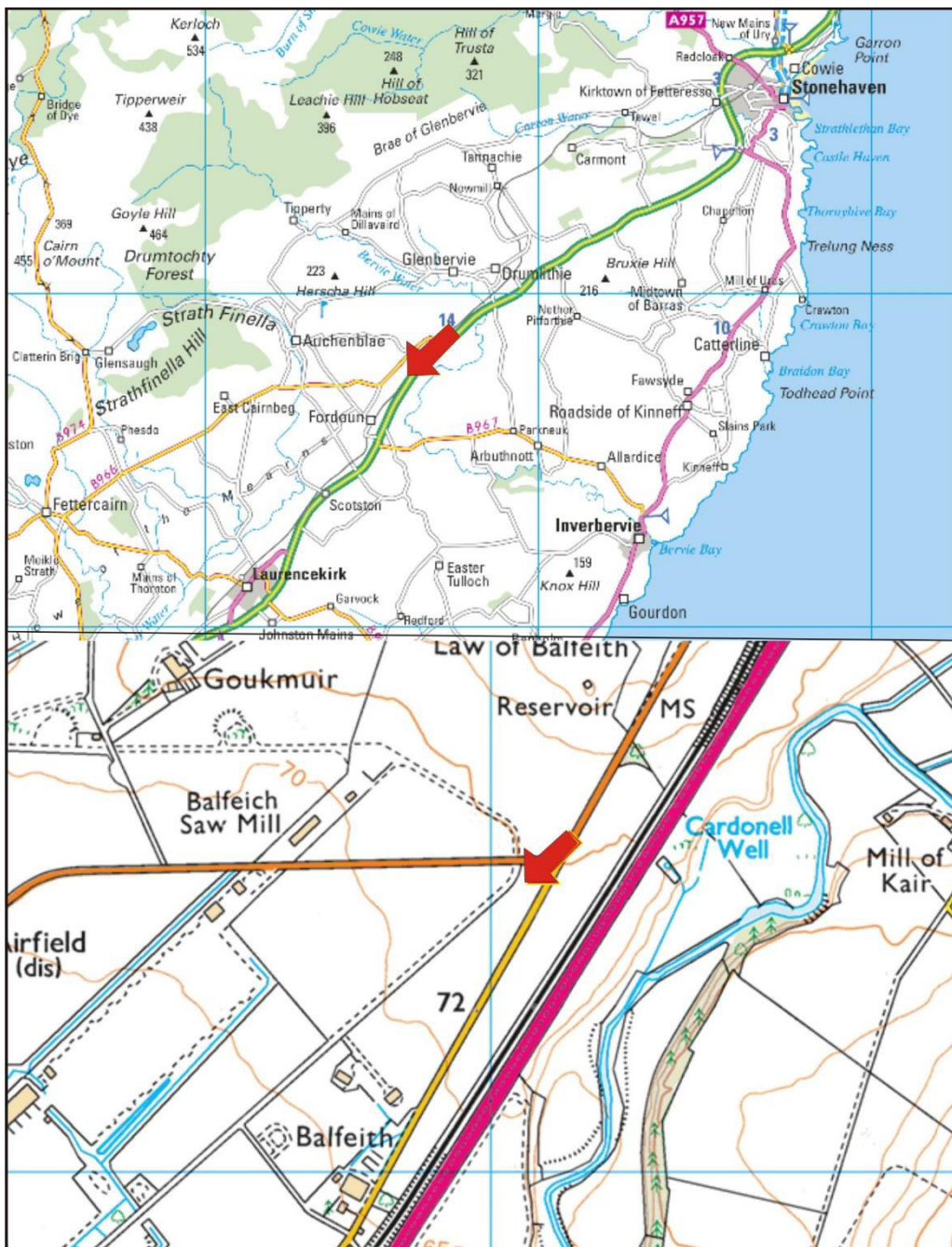
Illus 1	Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017).....	3
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SUMMARY

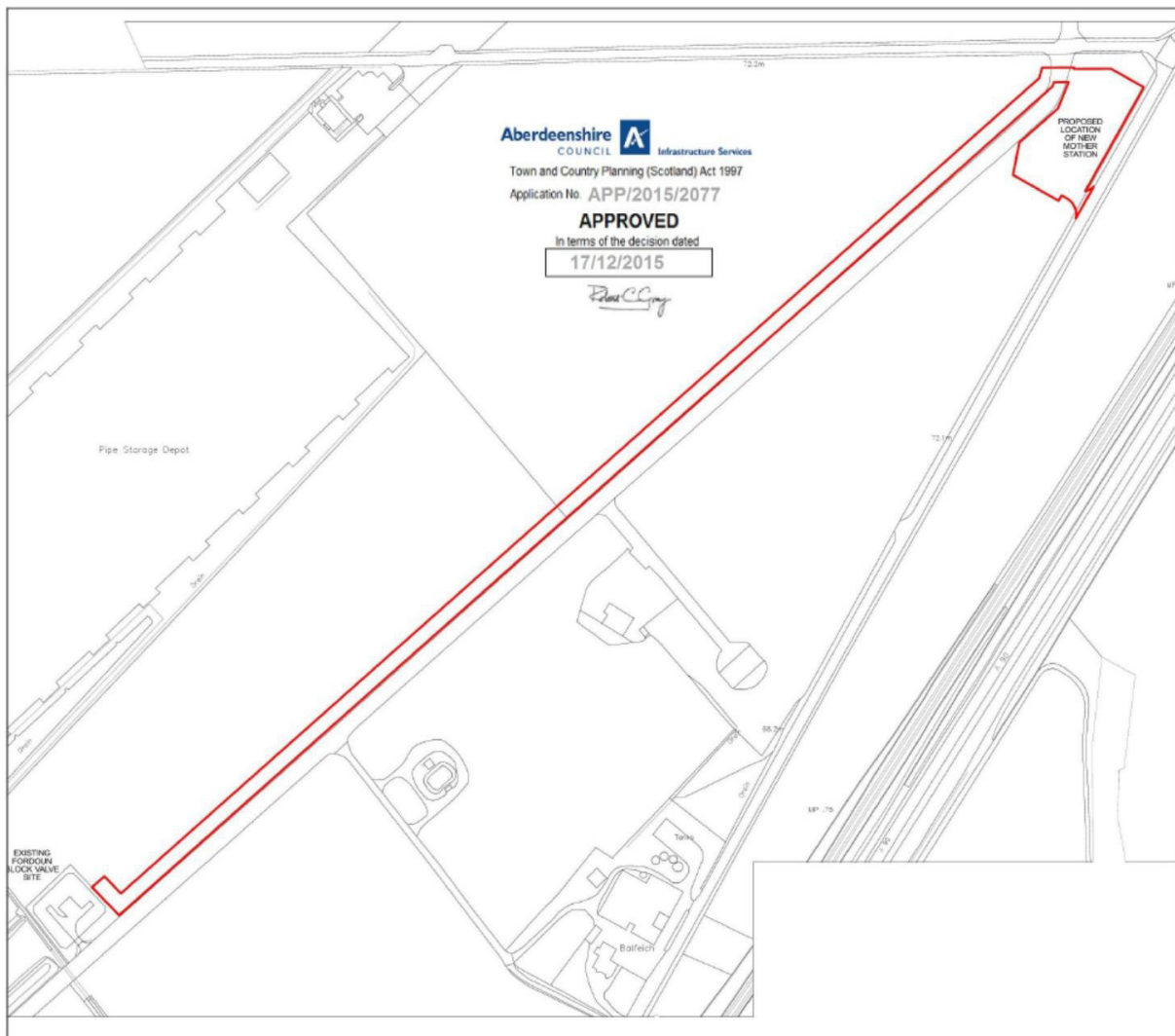
Four trenches totaling 7% of the development site were excavated on 1 May 2017 (Illus 3). The topsoil was shallow in most areas and deep modern plough scores were recorded in most trenches. NE-SW furrows were recorded 10m apart across the site but no other archaeological features or finds were identified. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the NW side of the A90 NE of Fordoun. It is centred on NGR NO 76061 77503, at 70-75m OD in the parish of Fordoun.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Nick King, CNG Services. An application APP/2015/2077 for erection of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Mother Station, Pipework and Associated Infrastructure was approved on 17.12.15 with archaeology condition (condition 1) requiring an archaeological evaluation (in the region of 7-10%) of the Northern end of the development site where the Mother Station is located. This mitigation has been requested owing to the proximity of cropmarks of souterrains and pits (HER Ref No NO77NE0051)
- 1.3 All the archaeological work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) 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 2017)



Illus 2 Site plan showing proposed development (*copyright CNG Services*)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

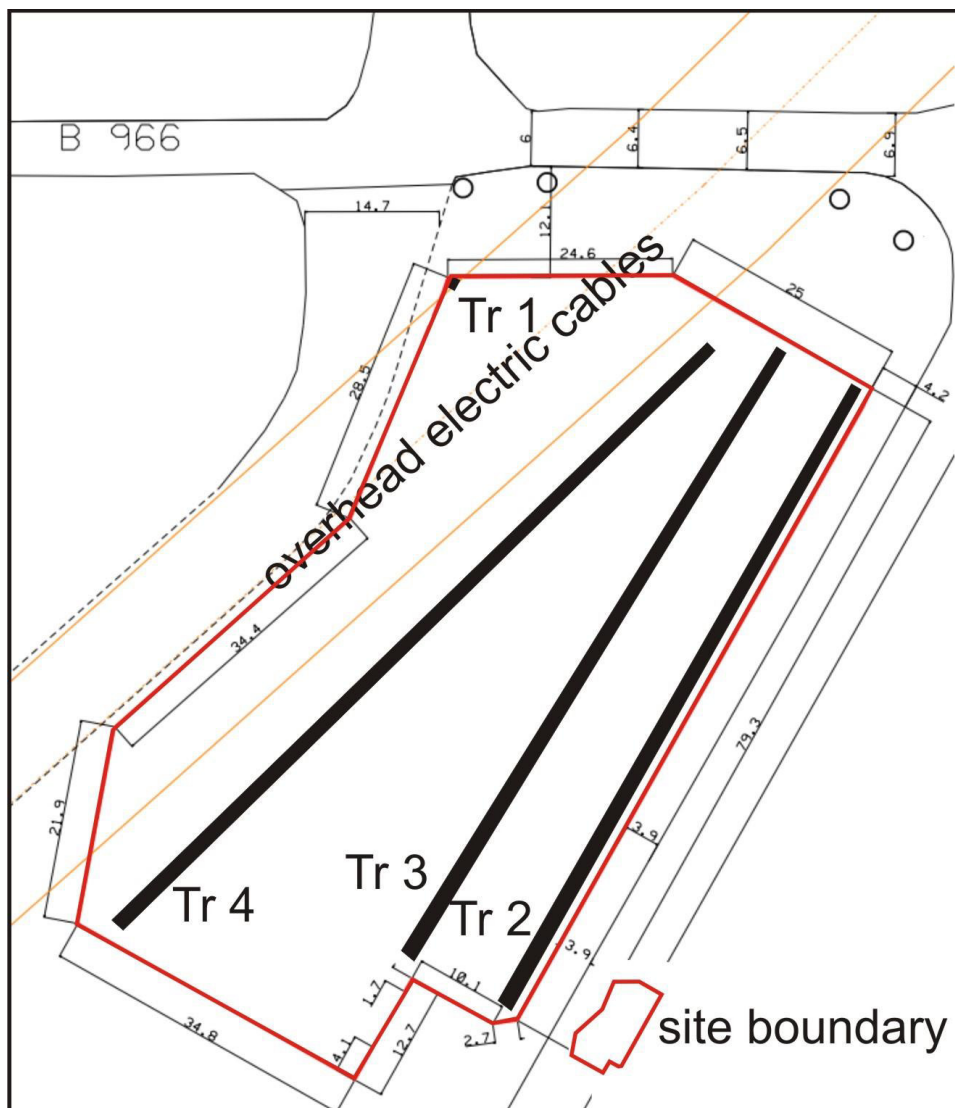
- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the proposed development site.
- 2.2 At Balfeith, immediately SW of the proposed development, there are crop marks of two possible souterrains and faint traces of possible pits are showing in a field of barley (HER NO77NE0051; Greig 2001, 8).
- 2.3 Immediately to the W of the proposed development is Fordoun Airfield (NO77NE0041). The airfield used during World War II between 1942 and 1944 as a satellite to Peterhead Airfield before being closed. It is now part used for light industry and agriculture. It was also used as base for a small flying club from 1965 (Smith 1983, 106-7); some hangars still survive and air-raid shelters around the dispersal area to the northeast (Francis 1996, 106; Innes 1995, 20, 45, 90, 92, 95; Quarrie 1987, 49).
- 2.4 A watching brief was undertaken to monitor ground-works for a single wind turbine at Fordoun Sawmill, Fordoun, Aberdeenshire. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief (Kirby 2014).
- 2.5 SE of the proposed development is Kair House, a Roman marching camp (NO77NE0001). The camp at Kair House in the Howe of the Mearns was first recorded from the air in 1945, although the area had been noted as a potential site

for the Roman army by Roy (1793). Subsequent aerial survey has recorded most of all four sides as a crop marks. The camp lies along the south west part of a small hill above the Bervie Water, some 15km from the coast at Inverbervie. It is also located almost midway between the large camps of Raedykes and Balmakewan. The camp measures around 870m from north east to south west by about 600m transversely, enclosing an area of some 53.5ha. A titulus is clearly visible in the centre of the south west side, and a possible titulus in the north east side, just to the west of the road. Given this size of the camp it is assumed that it probably had six gates. Most of the camp lies in arable fields, but a small stretch of upstanding rampart survives on the north east side. The rampart is spread about 3.7m wide and measures 0.3m high in the plantation, and is 5.4m wide and up to 1.1m high in the grass, although it is increasingly disturbed and reduced as it approaches the road (Hanson 1980, 146; Jones 2011, 241; Maxwell 1908, 409).

2.6 The land has been farmland since the 19th century (Illus 6-8)..

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Four trenches totaling 7% of the development site were excavated on 1 May 2017 (Illus 3).



Illus 3 Plan showing evaluation trenches (copyright CNG Services)

The topsoil was light sandy loam and the subsoil heavy compact red clay with sandstone. The topsoil was between 0.1 and 0.4m deep and there were plough score marks in the natural subsoil in most areas of the trenches (Illus 4). There were furrows surviving in all trenches up to 0.4m wide, 0.05m deep and spaced 10m apart running NE-SW (Illus 5).



Illus 4 Trench 1 plough scores and shallow topsoil; facing SW



Illus 5 Trench 2 SW end showing faint traces of furrows; facing SW

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Four trenches totaling 7% of the development site were excavated on 1 May 2017 (Illus 3). The topsoil was shallow in most areas and deep modern plough scores were recorded in most trenches. NE-SW furrows were recorded 10m apart across the site but no other archaeological features or finds were identified. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

5 REFERENCES

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6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Nick King, CNG Services for initiating this project and to Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for his advice during this work.

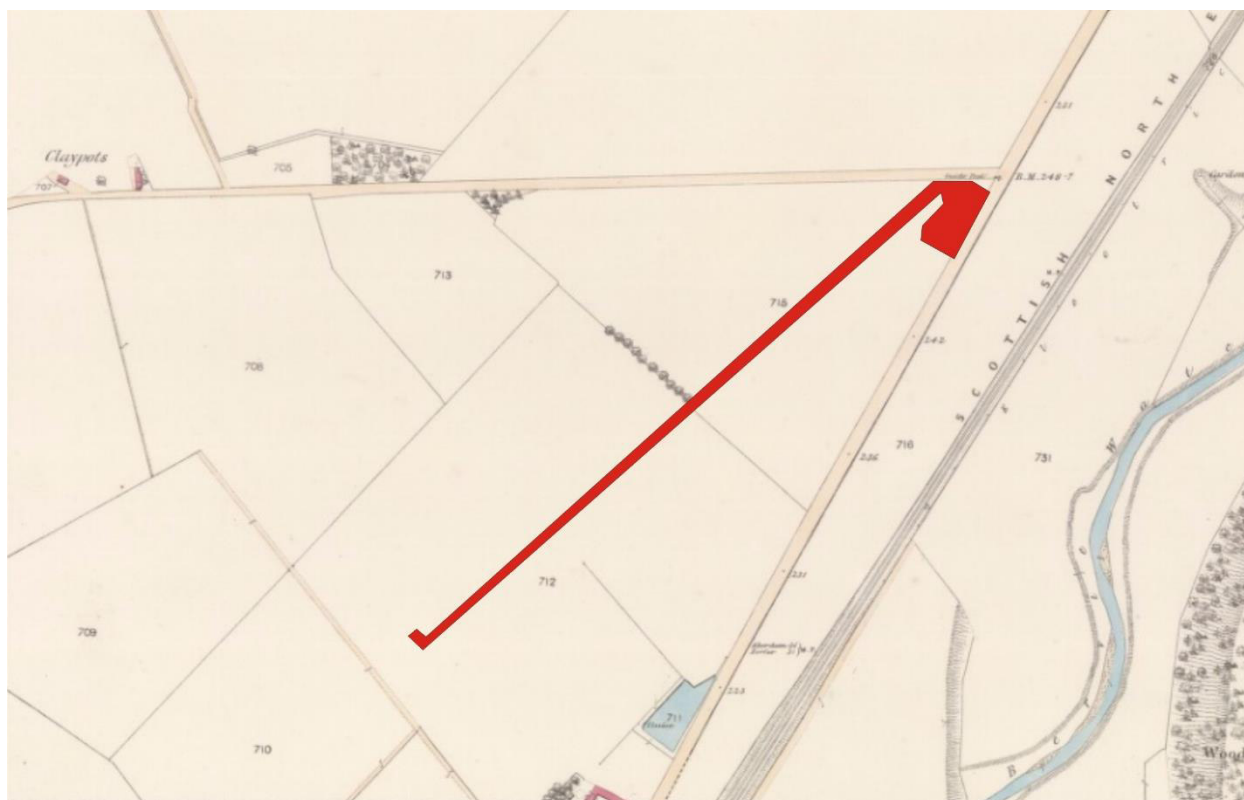
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APPENDIX 1

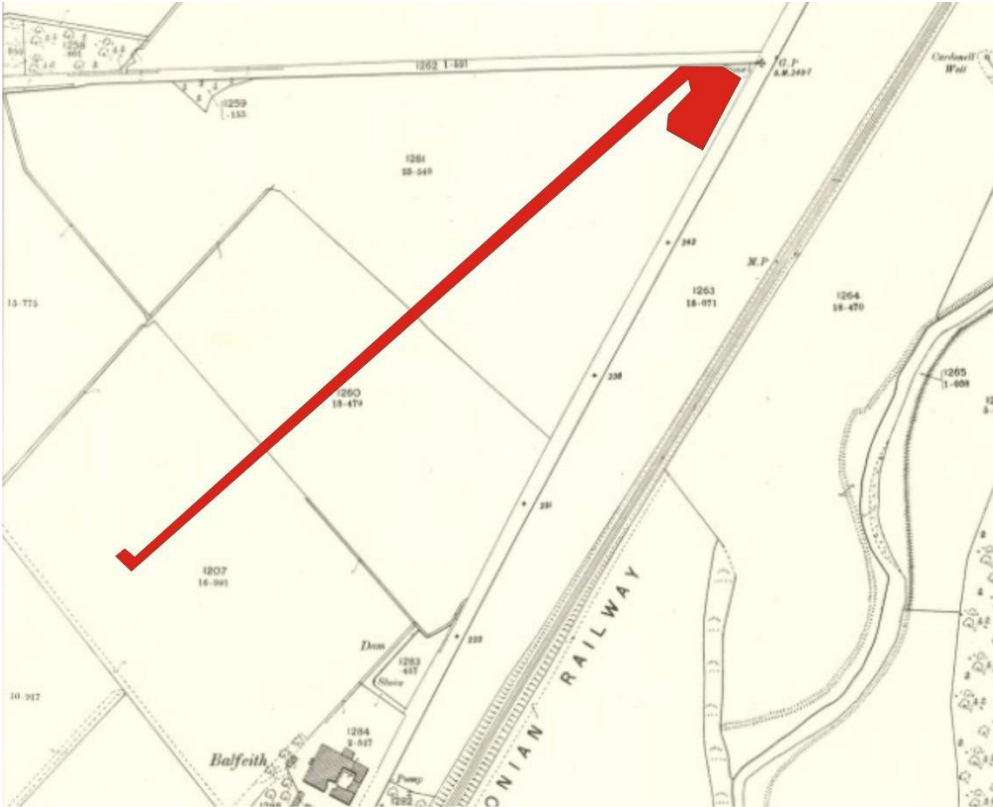
Archaeological and historical sites within 1km of the proposed site (RCAHMS and Aberdeenshire HER online)

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name
HERABER	NO77NE0001	KAIR HOUSE
HERABER	NO77NE0026	BALFEITH
HERABER	NO77NE0041	FORDOUN AIRFIELD
HERABER	NO77NE0051	BALFEITH
HERABER	NO77NE0059	MAINS OF KAIR
RCAHMS	NO 76830 77580	MILL OF KAIR
RCAHMS	NO 75950 77350	BALFEITH
RCAHMS	NO 75747 77164	FORDOUN AIRFIELD, NE DISPERSALS
RCAHMS	NO 75700 77080	FORDOUN AIRFIELD
RCAHMS	NO 75261 77796	FORDOUN AIRFIELD, N DISPERSALS
RCAHMS	NO 75380 76860	FORDOUN AIRFIELD
RCAHMS	NO 76700 76700	KAIR HOUSE
RCAHMS	NO 76700 77000	KAIR HOUSE
RCAHMS	NO 75800 77000	BALFEITH
RCAHMS	NO 75140 77070	FORDOUN AIRFIELD

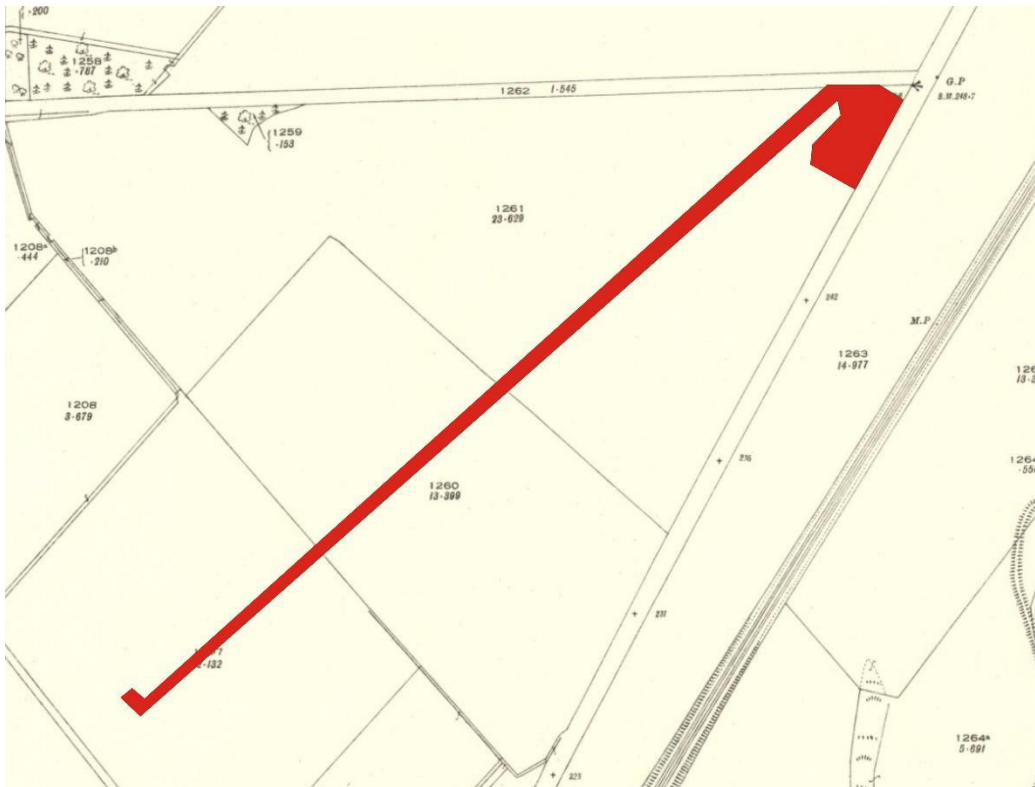
APPENDIX 2 MAPS



Illus 6 First Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Kincardine Sheet XX.7 (Fordoun) Survey date: 1863 Publication date: 1868



Illus 7 Second Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Kincardineshire 024.04 (includes: Arbutnott; Fordoun) Publication date: 1903 Revised: 1901



Illus 8 Third Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Kincardineshire 024.04 (includes: Arbutnott; Fordoun) Publication date: 1925 Revised: 1923 Levelled: 1902

APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
P5010413	Tr 1	SW
P5010414	Tr 2	E
P5010415-6	Tr 2 deep plough scores, shallow topsoil	SW
P5010417-8	Tr 2 furrows	NE
P5010419	Tr 2	NE
P50104120	Tr 2 furrow	SW
P50104121	Tr 2 completed	NE
P50104122	Tr 3 SW end	NE
P50104123-8	Tr 3 furrows	NE
P50104129	Tr 3 completed	SW
P50104130	Tr 4 shallow topsoil deep plough scars	SW
P50104131	Tr 4 shallow topsoil deep plough scars with Tr 1 and 2 in background	E
P50104132	Tr 4 completed	NE



P5010413.JPG



P5010414.JPG



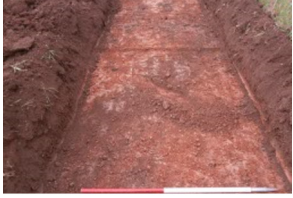
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