

**CA356-2017 March Road, Rathven, Buckie,
AB56 4BS Evaluation Report
Cameron Archaeology**



**Dr Robert Lenfert, ACIfA
Cameron Archaeology
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Contents

1	BACKGROUND	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
3	THE EVALUATION.....	6
4	CONCLUSIONS.....	6
5	REFERENCES.....	7
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
	APPENDIX 1	8
	APPENDIX 2 PHOTOS	12
	APPENDIX 3 MAPS.....	13

Illustrations

Illus 1	Location plan.....	3
Illus 2	Site plan showing trench locations.....	6
Illus 3	Pont map of 1583-96 showing 'Raffen'.....	13
Illus 4	Moll map of 1745 showing 'Raffan'.....	14
Illus 5	Roy's map of 1747-55 showing approximate area of site.....	15
Illus 6	Thomson map of 1826.....	16
Illus 7	First Edition OS map showing site outline in red.....	17
Illus 8	Second Edition OS map.....	18
Illus 9	Third Edition OS map.....	19
Illus 10	1974 aerial photograph.....	20

Cover: Trench 17 nearing completion

SUMMARY

From July 10th to July 17th 2017, a 5-7% archaeological evaluation took place at land near Rathven, Moray in the field adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant just outside Buckie. 17 trenches were excavated in total covering some 5500m². While possible traces of furrows and a modern drain were observed, no archaeological finds or features were identified. It is recommended that no other archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

1 BACKGROUND

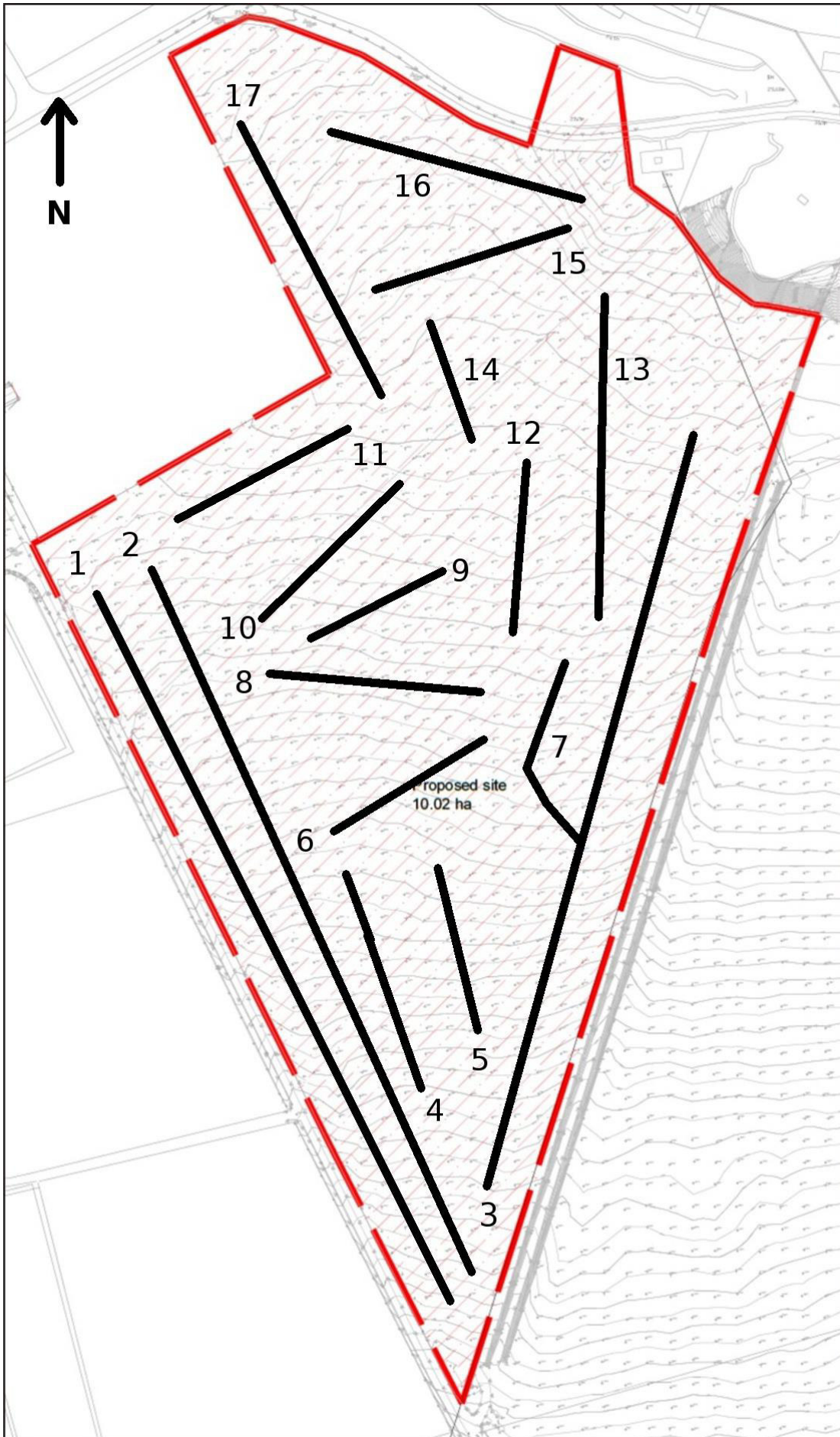
1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the east side of March Road, Rathven south of the junction with Main Road. It is centred on NGR NJ43963 65460, at 30-45m OD in the parish of Rathven.

1.2 The work was commissioned by Moray Council. An application 17/00193/APP to Moray Council for a proposed road development and associated landscaping requires a 5-7% archaeological evaluation and this report is as a result of that work.

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



Illus 4 Site plan showing trench locations (copyright Moray Council)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 There is one Scheduled Monument within 1km of the proposed development. Tarrieclerack long cairn is 700m from the southern boundary of the site. The monument comprises a long cairn of prehistoric date, visible as a low mound. Cairns of this type are funerary monuments dating to the Neolithic or Bronze Age, and may be expected to contain material relating to their mode of construction and use. The monument was first scheduled in 1971, but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains. The present rescheduling rectifies this. The monument is situated within a small plantation at about 50m OD. It comprises a long cairn composed of small sub-rounded stones and earth and with an overall length of c.37m. The mound was originally trapezoidal and wedge-shaped, with its main axis orientated ENE-WSW. The mound has been robbed in antiquity. A robber trench divides the mound into two portions, measuring c.21m and 16m E-W respectively. The western portion is slightly wider and higher than the eastern portion, with a maximum width of c.15m and a maximum height of 1.8m. In comparison, the eastern portion has a maximum width of 10m and a maximum height of 1.2m. There is a suggestion of the presence of horns, particularly marked on the NE corner of the mound, though these may be entirely due to later stone robbing.

2.2 There are no known archaeological sites within the boundary of the proposed development. The site has been fields since the earliest mapping of the area and ploughed fields since the First edition OS map.

2.3 In the field to the east of the site is the findspot of a cist (HER NJ46NW0002), which contained a partially cremated skeleton. It was found in 1895, and more cists were recorded in the vicinity, 2 or 3 of which contained urns, flint implements and arrowheads.

2.4 Rathven village contains St Peter's Church (NJ46NW0001), the remains of parish church and graveyard. It was replaced in 1794 by the present parish church (NJ46NW0012), at which time the church was partially destroyed to provide building materials for this. The only remnant of the church, known as the Rannas Aisle, is in the North-East of the graveyard, and is a much restored structure that formed the South aisle of the demolished church, and is dated 1612. It is rectangular, and constructed of harl pointed rubble with ashlar dressings. It is vaulted, with a large Gothic round-headed arch with chamfered ashlar margins, a concave moulded eaves cornice and a flush faced slab roof. Inside is a substantial marble memorial to Andrew Hay of Rannas, who died in 1789, and other memorials to his ancestors from the 15th to the 18th Centuries. The graveyard is large and irregular, and contained by a rubble wall with tooled ashlar cope. Cast-iron railings at the North-West flank a simple entrance with a pair of slender cast-iron gatepiers, and closed by plain spearhead carriage gates. The Southern end of the railings on the West side of the graveyard go into one of a pair of tall square ashlar gatepiers with pyramidal caps supporting a blocked entrance consisting of a round-headed harl pointed rubble and coped wall. A second cast-iron spearheaded gate supported by square gatepiers with pyramidal caps is in the South-West re-entrant angle. There are various tombstones from the 18th century and subsequent dates, and the burial enclosure of Gordons of Farskan and Nether Buckie, erected in 1799, but incorporating a memorial from 1592 (Cramond 1885, 76-7; OSNB, 26, 92).

2.5 Rathven Mill (HER NJ46NW0011) is a Barley Mill probably built in the mid-19th century and it is depicted on the 1st edition OS map of 1867. Consists of a 2 storey and attic rubble building on an L plan with corrugated iron additions, with a second rectangular building to the W. There is an 8 spoke all iron overshot wheel, 1.01m by 4.42m. Mill dam, lade and sluice lie to the S of the buildings. The two buildings appear to survive, but the dam and sluice do not. Also, the remains of a corn mill, pond and lade (HER NJ46NW0020) that are depicted on both the 1846 1st edition and the 1888 2nd edition OS maps. The maps show the mill as a rectangular building with the pond to the

NE and the lade extending for some distance to the east. The mill is now used as a house.

2.6 West of the proposed development is Stripeside (HER NJ46NW0018) the site of cropmarks (including soil marks) of a possible ring-ditch seen on aerial photographs.

3 THE EVALUATION

On July 10th, the evaluation commenced using a 14-ton excavator with a 2m wide bladed bucket. The entire site required some care and consideration whilst digging, as water, gas and overhead electric services ran through an extensive area of the site. As a result, not all of the area was accessible, primarily within 10m of the overhead electric lines and within c.15m of the buried water and particularly the medium pressure gas line, as it was not clearly marked on the ground over large extents of the route. This reduced the watching brief area to approximately 9ha, within the margins of the services which tended to hug the perimeter of the site.

In total 17 trenches were dug of varying lengths and orientation to obtain a suitable sample across the site. The topsoil/subsoil depths remained largely consistent throughout. Topsoils averaged some 0.30m in depth, though in discreet areas in the north extent, extended down to 0.70m. Underlying the topsoil was a sporadic thin grey-black silty sand, largely free of grit or stones, averaging 0.10m in depth. This layer was not consistent, yet did appear frequently in trenches throughout the northern half of the site. Throughout the site, the subsoil was consistently revealed as an extremely compact, reddish-brown silty clay with frequent stony inclusions, ranging from pebbles up to sub-angular 'whinstone' or granite-type rocks some 0.40m across. The machine bucket could clearly be heard scraping this almost concrete-like subsoil from a considerable distance, and struggled to clear any low-lying topsoil deposits.

4 CONCLUSIONS

No significant finds or features were noted beyond shallow (<0.10m) traces of possible furrow in Trenches 11, 12 and 14 running approximately SW-NE and a modern drain/ditch cut (Trench 7) which meandered away from Trench 3 in an irregular fashion. This was closely inspected and a section was cut to ascertain the nature of the fill which contained partial pieces of modern drinks containers. All spoil was also visually inspected for flints or other artefacts as well. This proved negative. Although the site sits on the edge of slightly higher ground above the coastal margins (some 41m OD at the southern end, gently sloping down to c.32m OD at the northern end) which affords excellent sea views over the Moray Firth, albeit from a distance - the northern-most part of the site is some 800m inland - the extremely compact nature of the subsoil would have made insertion of any hand-dug features below topsoil depth, such as ring ditches, pits or even simple postholes, an arduous task without the use of metal implements. In fact, during the evaluation, small metal shavings from the excavator bucket, discoloured blue from intense heat, were commonly seen lying in the trench after contact with the rocky subsoil, highlighting the dense nature of this strata. This difficult subsoil, along with the general lack of natural water courses within the site (the Burn of Rathven passes the NW corner of the site, but gas mains prevented trenching along this area) seems to have dissuaded attempts at settlement or other human activity within the site.

It is recommended that no other archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

5 REFERENCES

Cramond, W. (1885) The church and churchyard of Rathven. Banff.

Ordnance Survey (Name Book. Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (6 inch and 1/2500 scale).

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mahssa Pahlavan, Moray Council for initiating this project and to Bruce Mann and Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for their advice during this work.

APPENDIX 1

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

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name	Details
RCAHMS	NJ 43364 66171	BUCKIE, COMMERCIAL ROAD, HERD AND MACKENZIE, BOATBUILDERS AND REPAIRERS	BOAT YARD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED). ALTNAME = BUCKIE HARBOUR, CLUNY HARBOUR, IANSTOWN, GORDONSBURGH, BUCKIE SHIPYARD
RCAHMS	NJ 43420 66340	BUCKIE, IANSTOWN, BLANTYRE TERRACE, JONES BUCKIE SHIPYARD LTD	BOAT YARD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED). ALTNAME = BUCKIE HARBOUR
RCAHMS	NJ 42950 65880	BUCKIE HARBOUR, MARKET	FISH MARKET (19-20TH CENTURY). ALTNAME = BUCKIE, COMMERCIAL ROAD, FISH MARKET
RCAHMS	NJ 42860 65780	BUCKIE, STATION	RAILWAY STATION (19-20TH CENTURY). ALTNAME = BUCKIE STATION (GREAT NORTH OF SCOTLAND RAILWAY)
RCAHMS	NJ 42819 65632	BUCKIE, RAILWAY STATION	RAILWAY STATION (19-20TH CENTURY). ALTNAME = BUCKIE STATION (HIGHLAND RLY)
RCAHMS	NJ 44446 65696	RATHVEN PARISH CHURCH	CHURCH (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), WAR MEMORIAL(S) (20TH CENTURY). ALTNAME = WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUES AND WINDOW
RCAHMS	NJ 44447 65650	MILL OF RATHVEN	WATERMILL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED). ALTNAME = RATHVEN MILL
RCAHMS	NJ 44500 65620	MILL OF RATHVEN, MILL POND AND DAM	DAM (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), POND (PERIOD UNASSIGNED). ALTNAME = RATHVEN MILL
RCAHMS	NJ 43000 65900	BUCKIE, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WAREHOUSES	WAREHOUSE(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED). ALTNAME = BUCKIE HARBOUR
RCAHMS	NJ 44140 64540	RATHVEN STATION	RAILWAY STATION (19-20TH CENTURY)

RCAHMS	NJ 44300 65700	RATHVEN	CEMETERY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), GRAIN MILL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), SCHOOL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), SMITHY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), TOWNSHIP (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
RCAHMS	NJ 43940 65820	BURN OF RATHVEN	BUILDING (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
RCAHMS	NJ 43093 65826	BUCKIE, CLIFF TERRACE, LEADING LIGHT	BEACON (PERIOD UNASSIGNED). ALTNAME = BUCKIE 2, BUCKIE HARBOUR, LEADING LIGHT, EAST CHURCH STREET
RCAHMS	NJ 44390 65700	RATHVEN	VILLAGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
RCAHMS	NJ 44330 65680	RATHVEN, BEDE HOUSE	HOSPITAL (MEDIEVAL)
RCAHMS	NJ 44317 65656	RATHVEN, ST PETER'S CHURCH AND OLD BURIAL-GROUND	BURIAL GROUND (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), CHURCH (PERIOD UNASSIGNED). ALTNAME = RANNAS BURIAL-AISLE
RCAHMS	NJ 44580 64740	TARRIECLERACK	LONG CAIRN (NEOLITHIC)
RCAHMS	NJ 44473 65700	RATHVEN OLD SCHOOL	SCHOOL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
RCAHMS	NJ 44200 66300	PORTESSIE	NO CLASS (EVENT)
RCAHMS	NJ 43574 66047	BUCKIE, MARCH ROAD, RATHBURN HOUSE HOTEL	HOTEL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
RCAHMS	NJ 44065 65823	BURNSIDE CEMETERY	CEMETERY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
RCAHMS	NJ 44020 66397	PORTESSIE, CHANCELLOR ROAD, RATHVEN PARISH CHURCH HALL	CHURCH HALL (20TH CENTURY), HOSPITAL (FIRST WORLD WAR). ALTNAME = BUCKIE RED CROSS HOSPITAL, VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT (VAD) HOSPITAL
RCAHMS	NJ 44000 65000	RATHVEN	HOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0017	PORTESSIE	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0018	STRIPESIDE	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0001	ST PETER'S CHURCH, RATHVEN	

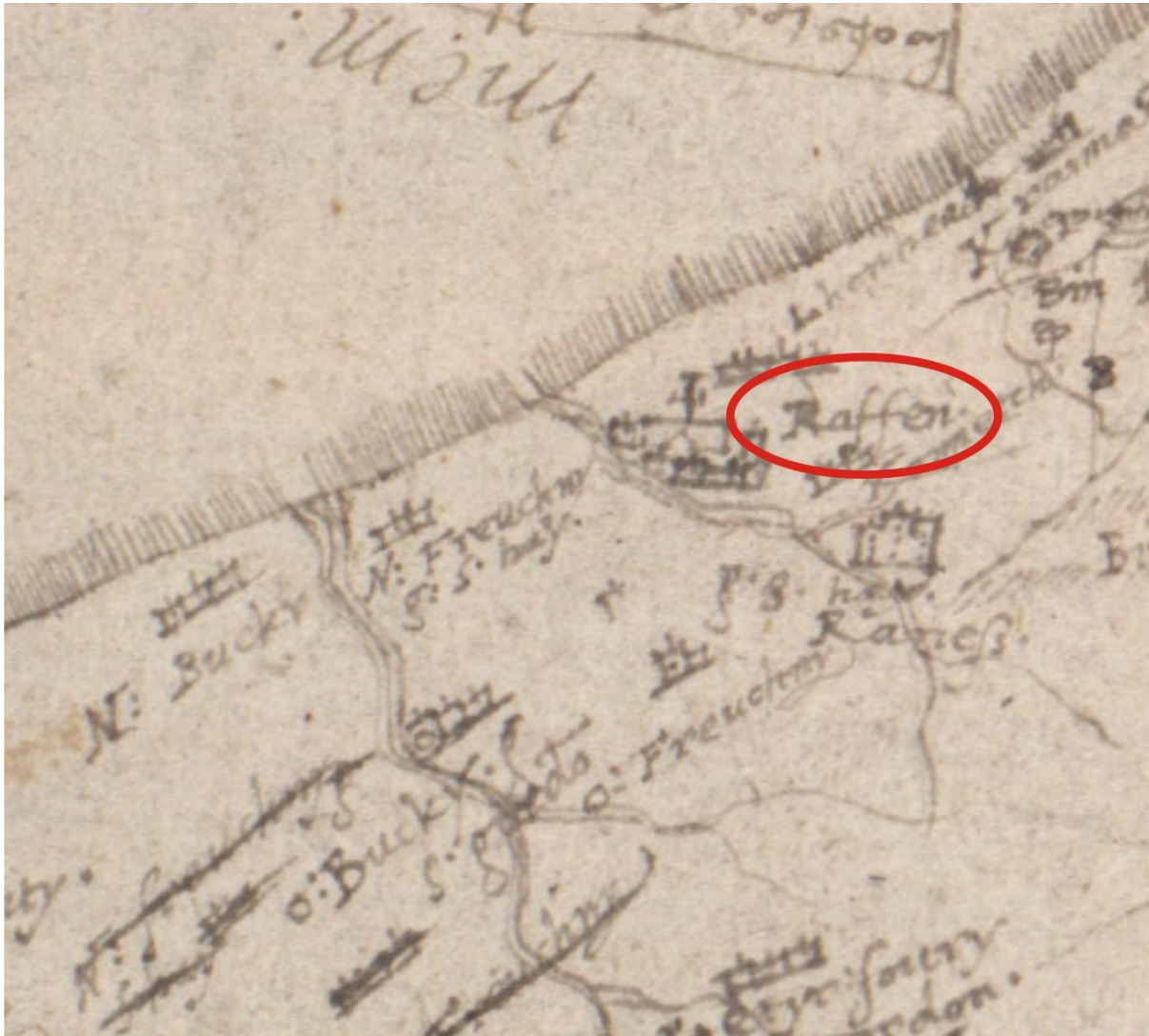
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0006	BUCKIE HARBOUR	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0007	BUCKIE STATION	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0011	RATHVEN MILL	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0012	RATHVEN PARISH CHURCH	
HERMORAY	NJ46SW0014	TARRIECLERACH	
HERMORAY	NJ46SW0085	BRANKUMLEYS	
HERMORAY	NJ46SW0086	RANNACHY	
HERMORAY	NJ46SW0087	RANNACHY	
HERMORAY	NJ46SW0088	ST PETERS FAIRGROUND	
HERMORAY	NJ46SW0089	RANNACHY	
HERMORAY	NJ46SW0092	BRANKUMLEYS	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0020	RATHVEN	
HERMORAY	NJ46SW0093	BRANKUMLEYS	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0024	BROTHERS: BUCKIE HARBOUR, M...	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0032	GEORGE: BUCKIE HARBOUR, MOR...	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0033	YOUNG BIRD: BUCKIE HARBOUR,...	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0034	GOWAN BRAE: BUCKIE HARBOUR,...	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0035	OLIVE: BUCKIE HARBOUR, MORA...	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0002	RATHVEN	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0037	ALEXANDER AND HELEN, CLUNY,...	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0038	ALABAMA, WEST CLUNY HARBOUR...	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0040	UNKNOWN: BUCKIE, MORAY FIRTH	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0043	ZYPHER: CLUNY HARBOUR ENTRA...	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0046	LOOK OUT: BUCKIE HARBOUR, M...	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0008	BUCKIE	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0015	RATHVEN	
HERMORAY	NJ46NW0016	BEDE HOUSE	

HERMORAY	NJ46SW0111	MAINS OF BUCKIE	
HERMORAY	NJ46SW0125	BUCKIE	

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOS

PHOTO ID	DIRECTION FACING	COMMENTS
DSC2688	N	Trench 1 in progress
DSC2700	N	Trench 1 in progress
DSC2707	N	Trench 1 nearing completion
DSC2712	N	Trench 2 underway
DSC2713	N	Trench 2 completed
DSC2717	NNE	Trench 3 underway
DSC2721	S	Trench 3 completed
DSC2725	N	Trench 13 completed
DSC2728	--	Section of T13 depicting depth of topsoil in this area.
DSC2733	S	Trench 12 in progress
DSC2738	NE	Trench 9 in progress
DSC2740	NE	Trench 9 in progress
DSC2742	W	Trench 10 completed
DSC2746	NE	Trench 4 completed
DSC2748	NE	Trench 4 completed
DSC2751	NE	Modern ditch in T3
DSC2754	NE	Stone field drain near modern ditch in T3
DSC2757	NE	Modern ditch in T3 being investigated prior to dismissal as a non-significant feature
DSC2762	NW	Modern ditch in T3 being investigated prior to dismissal as a non-significant feature
DSC2775	N	Trench 5 in progress
DSC2776	E	Trench 8 completed
DSC2781	E	Trench 6 in progress
DSC2784	N	Trench 7 (modern ditch) being examined in detail. Note stone field drain bisecting ditch.
DSC2789	NE	Trench 16 in progress
DSC2793	E	Trench 14 in progress
DSC2798	N	Trench 17 in progress
DSC2800	N	Trench 16, general view
DSC2802	W	Trench 15 completed
DSC2806	S	Trench 12 in progress
DSC2812	S	Trench 12 in progress
DSC2816	WSW	Trench 11 completed
DSC2818	WSW	Possible furrow remnant in T11
DSC2822	ENE	Trench 15 depicting grey-black sandy lens between topsoil and subsoil.

APPENDIX 3 MAPS



Illus 3 Pont map of 1583-96 showing 'Raffen' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 4 Moll map of 1745 showing 'Raffan' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



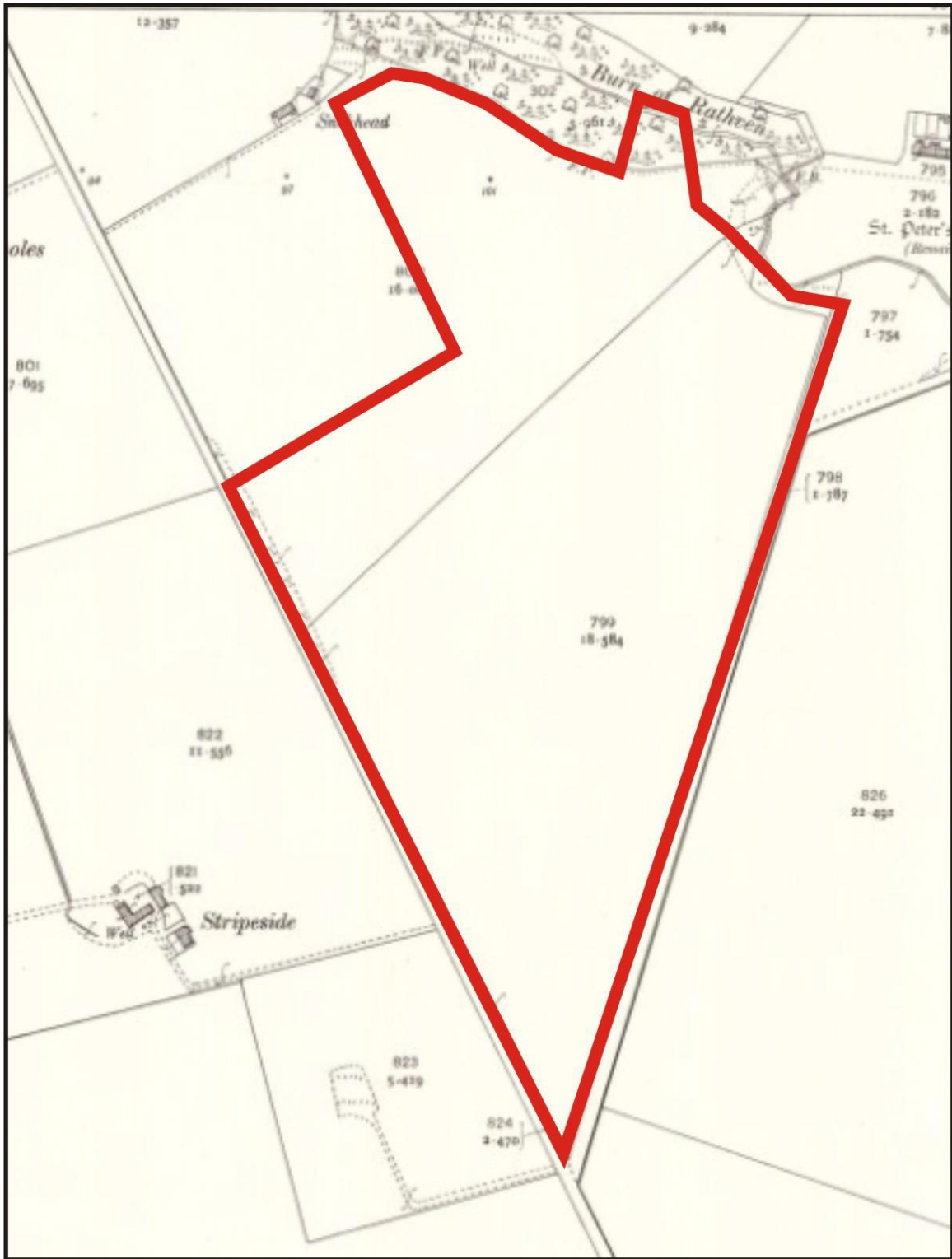
Illus 5 Roy's map of 1747-55 showing approximate area of site (*copyright National Library of Scotland*)



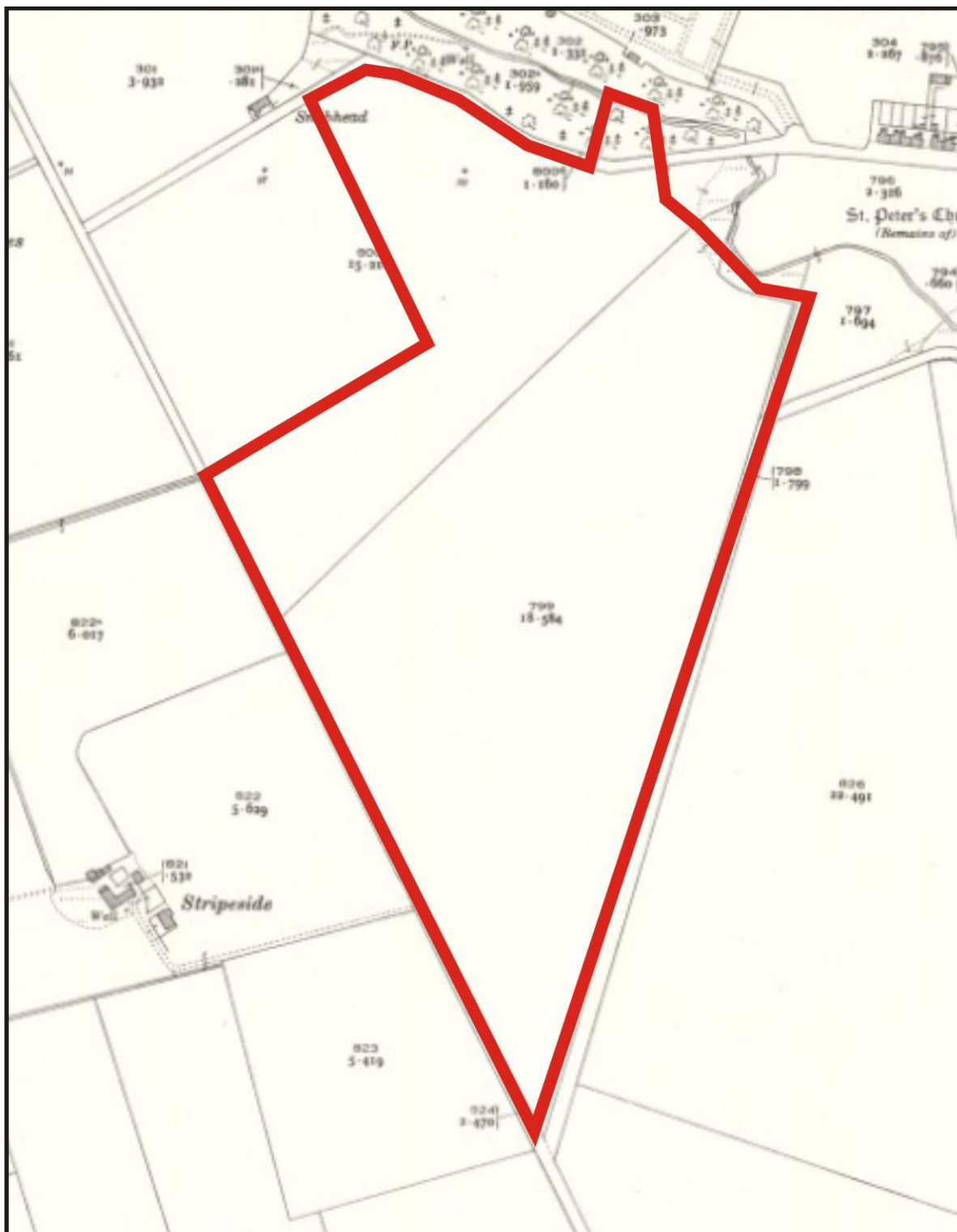
Illus 6 Thomson map of 1826 showing the area of the site (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 7 First Edition OS map showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Banff Sheet II.10 (Rathven) Survey date: 1867 Publication date: 1870



Illus 8 Second Edition OS map showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Banffshire 002.10 (includes: Rathven) Publication date: 1904 Revised: 1902



Illus 9 Third Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Banffshire 002.10 (includes: Rathven) Publication date: 1930 Revised: 1928



Illus 10 1974 aerial photograph with site outline in red; facing N (Copyright HES NCAP)



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_DSC2700.JPG



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_DSC2712.JPG



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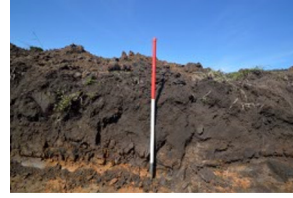
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