

**Aberdeen Harbour development, Nigg Bay,
Aberdeen, AB12 3LT**

**Data Structure Report
For archaeological evaluation and watching briefs**



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SUMMARY

Cameron Archaeology carried out a 7% archaeological evaluation of the North and South compound areas and the Central Compound (North Storage Area) between 6-23rd February 2017. Watching briefs were undertaken in the central compound during test pitting on 23 April and soil strips at the S end on 12 July 2017 and for the new road 29-30 January 2018. A slipway was recorded 5 -11 May 2017 and there is a separate report for this (Lenfert 2017).

The groundworks are completed for this development and no significant archaeological remains were recovered and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site unless further groundworks take place within the North Compound or finds are recovered during the works.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is located at Nigg Bay, Aberdeen is at AB12 3LT, NJ 96590 04650, at 0-10m OD and in the parish of Aberdeen (Illus 1).
- 1.2 An application has been lodged with Aberdeen City Council (P151158) for a National development comprising construction of new infrastructure to facilitate the creation of a new deep water harbour, including new roads, parking and means of access, temporary construction and fabrication areas and other associated development which may include public realm areas, paths, lighting and signage and there is a standard archaeology condition.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are five Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the current site. These include two Bronze Age cairns on Tullos Hill (Crab's Cairn NJ90SE.4 ; Tullos Cairn NJ90SE.2), medieval and early post-medieval St Fittick's Church (NJ90SE.1), Balnagask Motte, a possible motte or garden feature (NJ90NE.13) and Torry Battery (NJ90NE.22.0) a mid -19th century coastal defence battery. St Fittick's Church is Listed Category A. None will be directly affected by the current works and Chapter 24 of the EIS deals with the mitigation for these sites.
- 2.2 Nigg Bay is the coastal bay between Girdle Ness and the north and Greg Ness at the south. Previous archaeological work includes a watching brief carried out prior to tree planting on the links between St Fittick's Church and the sewage works (Buchanan 2009); no archaeological contexts were recorded but two broken flint nodules were recovered. A watching brief at Upper Kirkhill Farm (Peters 2008) and a watching brief during the construction of the sewage works (Cameron 2000, 147) both produced no archaeological finds or contexts. An excavation and research project at St Fittick's Church (Cameron 2009) revealed the foundations of the former manse on the NW side of the church and produced medieval pottery associated with a terraced field system. A series of trial pits were observed in preparation for this harbour development on the Nigg Bay beach and foreshore in 2013 but no archaeological deposits were identified during this work (Cameron 2013, 11).
- 2.3 A shell midden (NJ90SE 8) was recorded on the '25 feet raised beach' at Bay of Nigg and was excavated and found to contain periwinkle, limpet and mussel shells as well as fish and mammal bones (Reid 1912, 15; Simpson 1943, 11). The exact location is unknown and there is now nothing visible of this midden.
- 2.4 A flint arrowhead was also found near the church and now resides in the Marischal Museum (ABDUA; 17209; NMRS No: NJ90SE 100).
- 2.5 A silver chain was found 'at Nigg' (NJ90SW 13) and was presented to Marischal Museum by Jonathan Troup, Surgeon, in 1796. The links are circular, and pairs alternate with single links. They are 115mm long and the diameter of the rings is 33mm (Reid 1912, 18). The chain is probably 7th century in date and is in University of Aberdeen Collections (ABDUA 15644).
- 2.6 St Fittick's well was located on the bay in the south-west edge at the high tide level; it is marked on the First and Second Ordnance Survey maps (1867/1091) but by the Third Edition (dated 1923) the well is recorded as 'site of'. This well is associated with St Fittick, a saint of the 7th century. The well is mentioned after the reformation when the Protestant authorities attempted to ban people from using the well for its curative powers (Aberdeen City Council leaflet).
- 2.7 Nigg Bay salt pans (NJ90SE 12) is recorded in 1845 to have been out of use for many years and nothing of these pans now survives (NSA 1845, 209). This sea salt manufactory and refinery was established in 1796 by Alexander Smith, a merchant from Old Aberdeen A building and slipway (NJ90NE 42) is visible on Ordnance Survey maps from the first edition onwards. On the 1901 version, a well is marked nearby and even today the remains of a slipway can be seen. Local people recall it being used seasonally by lobster and crab fisherman up until the 1960s (Aberdeen City Council leaflet).
- 2.8 A kelp works was in use by 1728 by John Gordon, a merchant from Aberdeen, who had been collecting 'sea ware' in the Bay of Nigg and burning it in his nearby kilns. The Town Council objected to this because it encroached on the rights of those who lived there and collected the seaware for dung for their fields. On 8 March 1750, George Leslie, a merchant trading in Aberdeen, applied to Aberdeen Council for a warrant to cut and burn

kelp. He wanted to undertake this work as part of what he described as his 'soapere' (Aberdeen City Council leaflet).

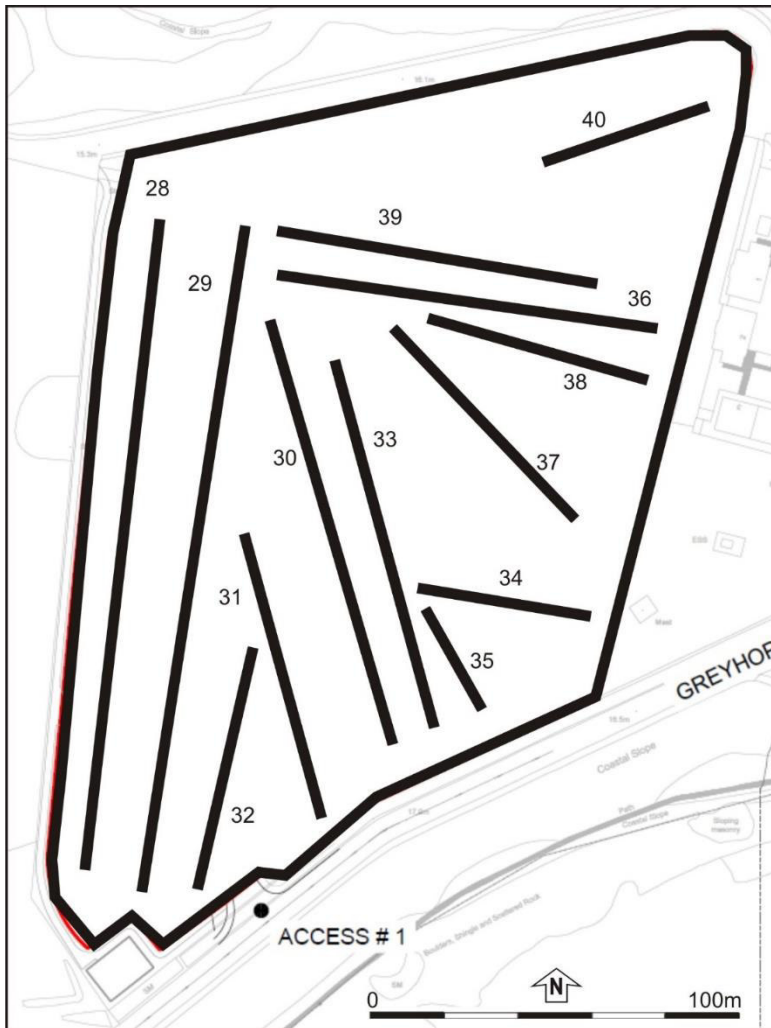
- 2.9 There are two house platforms on the south side of Greg Ness depicted on the 2nd Edition OS map and recorded during the walkover (Wessex Archaeology 2015, EIA Chapter 24).
- 2.10 There are possible rig and furrow cultivation marks on Balnagask Golf course (NJ90NE 44; (Harding 1997, 5).
- 2.11 A pillbox (NJ90SE 57) and anti-tank blocks (NJ90SE 58) have been identified on aerial photographs of Nigg Bay but nothing now survives. There are circular depressions in the intertidal zone which may be bomb craters but this is undetermined and uncertain (Aberdeen City Council SMR). This work may clarify these features.
- 2.12 Early maps show the bay between Girdle Ness and Greys Ness (for example Moll c 1745; Illus 14) but no detail of features or sites. First Edition Ordnance Survey (Illus 17) shows the west foreshore was occupied by a firing range including target areas. The area had been occupied by a series of boundary stones (V, W, X, Y and 10) none of which now survive.
- 2.13 There are 89 shipwrecks in the study area; details of these appear in the EIA and appendices (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and in the PAD (Cameron 2016).

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Cameron Archaeology carried out a 7% archaeological evaluation of the compound areas. The south, north and east half of the central compound evaluation was carried out between 6-23rd February 2017. An Unexploded Ordnance survey had been carried out and around 80 hits in each compound area had not been investigated. The archaeological trenches were positioned 10m away from each hit. There were also services in the central and south compounds that were avoided.

3.1 North Compound.

Thirteen trenches totalling 7% of the northern compound area were evaluated. The field adjacent to Girdleness lighthouse (built by Stevenson 1819) with stone wall around – possibly associated with lighthouse. Currently grass-field used by dog-walkers on a slight N-facing slope.



Illus 2 North compound evaluation trenches (from copyright ARUP)

Trench 28

Aligned N-S – 147m.

NJ96980/05367 – NJ 96964/05223

Topsoil 200-500mm with mixed natural of red-brown gravels, orange clay, mud clays and mixed dirty sand.

Rig & furrow at 22.3m aligned NW-SE 0.5m wide continues to 45m, about 0.3-0.4m apart. Very shallow.

Field drain (rubble) at 93.4m aligned E-W 0.6m wide.

Rig & furrow at 80m to 90m 0.8m wide, 0.3m apart aligned NW-SE.

Trench 29

Aligned N-S – 175.6m

NJ 96997/05366 – NJ 96970/05193

Rig & Furrow at 4m 0.6m wide and 0.3m apart aligned NW-SE, as before very shallow, to 51m and from 62m to 76m 0.7m wide and 0.2m apart.

Trench 30

Aligned NW-SE – 86m – No features or deposits.

NJ 97004/05305 – NJ 97043/05230

Infill at 16m rounded and angular stones 3.7m wide - probably modern.

Field drain (rubble) at 44m 0.7m wide aligned NE-SW.

Large stones to SE in natural.

Trench 31

Aligned NW-SE – 69m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96994/05272 – NJ 97014/05208
Topsoil only 250mm – modern infill of angular stones at 16m spread to 2m.
Large stones to SE in natural.

Trench 32

Aligned N-S – 56.4m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96990/05242 – NJ 96981/05187
Topsoil 250-400mm large stones in natural throughout trench. Modern armoured cable dumped in topsoil to S.

Trench 33

Aligned NW-SE – 103.5m – No features or deposits.
NJ 97003/05382 – NJ 97056/05232
Large stones in natural throughout trench.
Field drain (rubble) at 51.1m aligned NWN-ESE 0.4m wide.

Trench 34

Aligned WNW-ESE – 48.5m – No features or deposits.
NJ 97034/05277 – NJ 97082/05269
Lots of large stones in natural throughout trench. Topsoil to maximum depth of 0.65m towards centre of trench.
Layer of debris at 0.3m in south-facing section of crushed sandstone, find of hand-made brick at depth of 0.7m (retained) and fragments of slate in topsoil – possibly from house as shown on 1st edition OS – reputed to be Stevenson's workshop from 1819.

Trench 35

Aligned NNW-SSE – 31.6m – No features or deposits.
NJ 97054/05268 – NJ 97067/05237.
Topsoil to max depth of 0.5m with large stones in natural to N end trench, dirty mottled sand to SSE.

Trench 36

Aligned W-E – 101.8m – No features or deposits.
NJ 97000/05355 – NJ 97112/05334
Dumps of cinder and ash possibly recent as mostly in topsoil, large stones in natural (some of them boulders) with depth of topsoil varying between 0.5m and 0.7m.
Field drain (rubble) at 56.1m aligned N-S – 0.6m wide.

Trench 37

Aligned NW-SE – 87.5m
NJ 97034/05340 – NJ 97085/05280
0.3m topsoil with large stones in natural.
Edge of building – mortared stone at 57.1m aligned N-S 0.7m in length, 2nd more substantial mortared stone to E 0.85m by 1.5m – area between could not be investigated due to rising water table. To SE dumps of coal, ash, cinders with fragments of pantile, handmade-brick 0.25m deep possibly yard for house. (See plan)

Trench 38

Aligned WNW-ESE – 52m – No features or deposits.
NJ 97057/05331 – NJ 97137/05318
0.5m topsoil, sandy large stones in natural throughout trench. 0.6m of topsoil to centre of trench.

Field drain (rubble) at 13.5m aligned N-S 0.6m wide.

Trench 39

Aligned W-E – 101.5m

NJ 97011/05368 – NJ 97113/05351

Topsoil 0.5m deep, large stones in natural through most of trench. Infill of sandy mortar 3m in diameter – similar to that found in building in trench 37.

To E end of building was found concrete foundations of building, with traces of building line along edge – Information from local residents that this was a former changing room used when area was used as a football pitch.

No other features or deposits.



Illus 3 Trench 39 concrete foundation

Trench 40

Aligned WSW-ENE – 41.2m – No features or deposits.

NJ 97069/05377 – NJ 97110/05386

0.45m of topsoil onto sandy natural.

3.2 Central compound.

Two areas, one on the north side of St Fittick's Road (central compound storage area north and area of road realignment) and south of the road (central compound south storage area) were

available for evaluation. The north area has a large number of services running along the road edge and across the south half of the site; nine trenches were dug totalling 7% of the area not disturbed by services. The field is on a south facing slope by edge of golf course. Heavy with services to south side of field and main sewers running NW-SE across field to centre and to South.

Trench 41

Aligned NW-SE – 32m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96337/05002 – NJ 96361/04981
0.5m – 0.6m topsoil to 0.9m deep to SE.

Trench 42

Aligned NW-SE – 40.2m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96347/05015 – NJ 96377/04991
Topsoil 0.25m to 0.8m deep.

Trench 43

Aligned NW-SE – 43.4m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96361/05024 – NJ 96397/04997
Plough scaring to NW of trench. Topsoil 0.35m to 0.7m.

Trench 44

Aligned NW-SE – 20.5m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96388/05022 – NJ 96405/05013
Trench was stopped due to being over 1.2m deep, and sides starting to collapse due to subsoil being very sandy and loose.

Trench 45

Aligned WNW-ENE – 4.7m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96444/05021 – NJ 96448/05019
Trench was stopped due to being over 1.2m deep, and sides starting to collapse due to subsoil being very sandy and loose.

Trench 46

Aligned SSW-NNE – 26m
NJ 96479/04970 – NJ 96490/04993
0.4m topsoil. Pile of stones against both sides of a boulder at 14.1m possibly remnants of clearance cairn – too loose to be natural, with subsoil between stones – spread to 1.3m and 0.5m high. Trench was stopped due to being over 1.2m deep, and sides starting to collapse due to subsoil being very sandy and loose.



Illus 4 Trench 46 stones in soil, possible clearance cairn

Trench 47

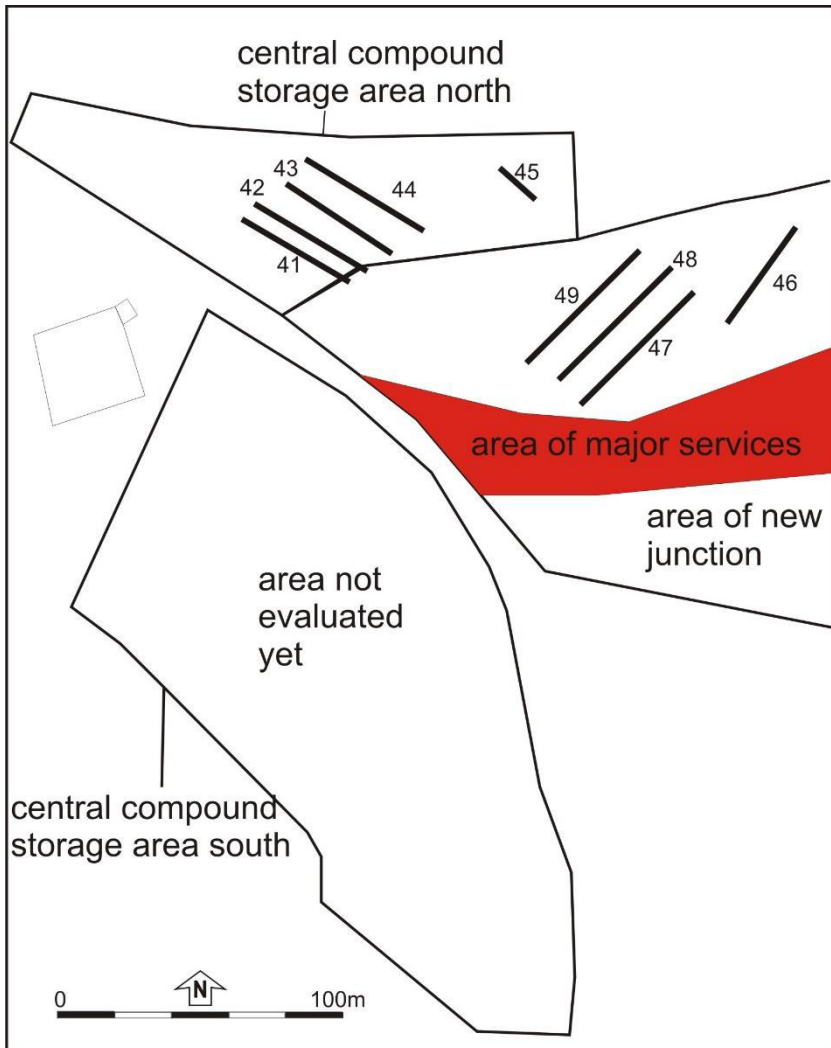
Aligned SSW-NNE – 59m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96450/04928 – NJ 96475/04984
Topsoil 0.25m to 0.7m. Large stones in natural at 44m.

Trench 48

Aligned SSW-NNE – 55.2m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96440/04937 – NJ 96464/04987
0.6m of topsoil.

Trench 49

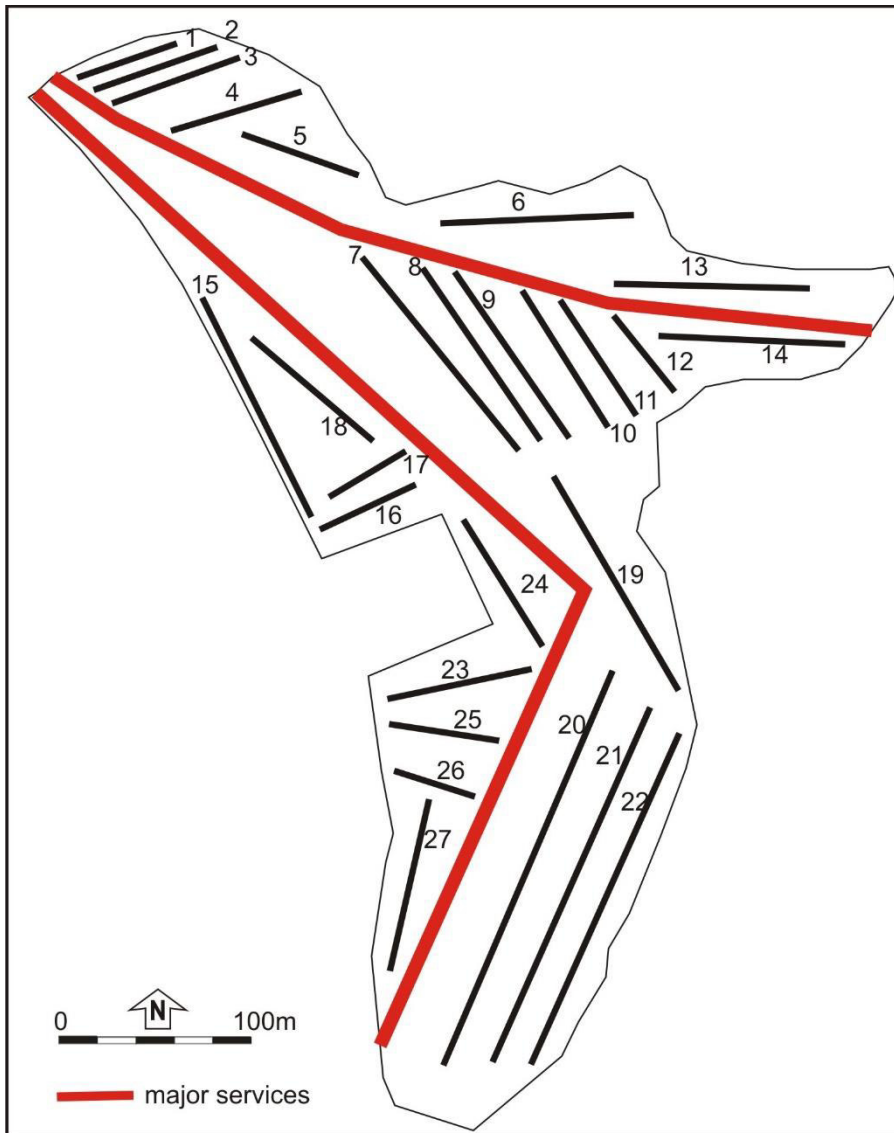
Aligned SSW-NNE – 53.6m – No features or deposits.
NJ 96436/04942 – NJ 96452/04989
BT cable at 5.4m (though service plan shows it to close to fence 12m away) – area inside from 0m to 3.5m stone natural. Topsoil 0.2m to 0.6m deep.



Illus 5 Central compound evaluation trenches (from copyright ARUP)

3.3 South compound.

27 trenches were excavated within the area of the south compound (Illus 6) totalling 7% of the total area. There is a sewer running across the site from the north corner and out of the south corner and a sewer outfall running across the north of the area.



Illus 6 South compound evaluation trenches (from copyright ARUP)

Topsoil 150-200mm through most of both North and South fields with mixed naturals of orange-brown gravels, orange-brown clay, patches of brown-yellow sand and occasionally medium to small stones of sandstone and granite especially to the North.

Many of the trenches have heavy modern plough scaring, with finds of 19th century pottery, glass sometimes embedded into natural. South field heavy with machine cut drainage. Only features noted were traces of rig & furrow in a very small part of the North field, probably post-medieval in date, to trenches 15-18 and not surviving to any great extent.

Trench 1

Aligned E-W - 45.2m - No features or deposits.

NJ 96694/04318 – NJ 96736/04332

Trench 2

Aligned E-W - 71m - No features or deposits.

NJ 96683/04304 – NJ 96756/04323

Trench 3

Aligned E-W - 83.5m - No features or deposits.

NJ 96689/04292 – NJ 96769/04314

Trench 4

Aligned W-E - 77m - No features or deposits.
Plough scars to west end of trench.
NJ 96710/04282 – NJ 96787/04295

Trench 5

Aligned E-W - 71.5m - No features or deposits.
Plough scars to centre of trench.
NJ 96794/04268 – NJ 96721/04270

Trench 6

Aligned W-E - 91m - No features or deposits of interest.
Plough scaring heavy throughout trench.
Field drain (rubble) at 59.5m N-N 0.3m wide.
NJ 96856/04247 – NJ 96949/04244

Trench 7

Aligned NW-SE - 152m - No features or deposits of interest.
Plough scaring heavy throughout trench.
Field drain (plastic) at 98.2m aligned N-S.
Field drain (rubble) at 118.7m aligned N-S 0.2m wide.
NJ 96777/04235 – 96884/04130

Trench 8

Aligned NW-SE - 22.6m - No features or deposits.
Trench stopped due to angle being close to trench 7
NJ96788/04234 – NJ 96804/04219

Trench 9

Aligned NW-SE - 143m - No features or deposits of interest.
Plough scarring very heavy to centre of trench
Field drain (rubble) at 37.5m aligned N-S 0.25m wide.
Field drain (rubble) at 83.9m aligned N-S 0.2m wide.
Field drain (rubble) at 94.3m aligned N-S 0.2m wide.
NJ 96797/04237 – NJ 96897/04137

Trench 10

Aligned NW-SE - 138.2m - No features or deposits of interest.
Plough scaring heavy to most of trench.
Field drain (rubble) at 9.2m aligned NE-SW 0.2m wide.
Field drain (rubble) at 47m aligned NE-SW 0.2m wide.
Field drain (rubble) at 113m aligned N-S 0.2m wide.
NJ 96813/04239 – NJ 96915/04141

Trench 11

Aligned NW-SE - 130m - No features or deposits of interest.
Plough scarring throughout trench.
Field drain (rubble) at 14.4m aligned N-S 0.2m wide.
Field drain (rubble) at 16.2m aligned N-S 0.3m wide.
NJ 96837/04233 – NJ 96934/04146

Trench 12

Aligned WNW-ESE - 70m - No features or deposits.
Plough scaring throughout trench.

NJ 96899/04200 – NJ 96957/04151

Trench 13

Aligned W-E - 77.7m - No features or deposits of interest.
Plough scaring throughout trench.
Field drain (rubble) at 47m aligned N-S 0.2m wide.
NJ 96937/04221 – NJ 97014/04214

Trench 14

Aligned W-E - 80m - No features or deposits of interest.
Plough scaring to W end and E end of trench, dip in natural to centre
Field drain (rubble) at 51m aligned SW-NE 0.2m wide.
NJ 96954/04184 – NJ 97037/04182

Trench 15

Aligned SSE-WNW - 110m.
NJ 96807/04093 – NJ 96756/94197
Plough scaring throughout trench. Remains of Rig & Furrow at 69.1m – 0.7m wide but very shallow only 2/3cms surviving 8 possibly 9 rigs visible aligned N-S. No other features or deposits.

Trench 16

Aligned WSW-ENE - 46.5m.
Rig & Furrow at 29m – 3 0.65m wide aligned N-S
Rig & Furrow at 35.6m – 1 0.65m wide aligned N-S
NJ 96810/04095 – NJ 96850/04115

Trench 17

Aligned WSW-ENE - 44.8m.
Plough scaring throughout trench.
Possible Rig & Furrow at 27.6m 1 only 0.6m wide aligned N-S – very faint.
Rig & Furrow at 32.6m 2 0.6m wide aligned N-S.
No other features or deposits.
NJ 96805/04106 – NJ 96844/04123

Trench 18

Aligned NW-SE - 54.5m.
Possible single Rig & Furrow at 7.1m 0.6m wide aligned N-S – very faint.
Plough scaring to SE end of trench.
NJ 96792/04178 – NJ 96829/04138

Trench 19

Aligned NW-SE - 102m - No features or deposits.
Plough scars to N end
NJ 96924/94114 – NJ 96971/04023

Trench 20

Aligned NNW-SSE - 223.3m - No features or deposits of interest.
Plough scaring to N end of trench.
NJ 96948/04308 – NJ 9619/03960 (dog-leg) to NJ 96860/03833
Field drain (rubble) at 115m aligned E-W 0.5m wide.
Field drain (rubble) at 129.5m aligned E-W 0.4m wide.
Machine cut drains 0.4m wide aligned E-W at 123.3m, 133m, 142.9m, 153m, 162.9m, 172.7m, 182.7m, 203.1m and 213.4m.

Trench 21

Aligned NNE-SSW – 174.5m – No features or deposits of interest.

NJ 96960/04021 – NJ 96896/03857

Machine cut drains 0.4m wide aligned E-W at 13m, 25.8m, 35.8m, 96.5m, 106.6m, 116.7m, 126.5m, 146.4m, 156.6m and 166.6m.

Field drain (rubble) at 75.9m aligned E-W 0.4m wide.

Field drain (rubble) at 101.9m aligned E-W 0.6m wide.

Field drain (rubble) at 114.6m aligned E-W 0.4m wide.

(All 3 silted up)

Trench 22

Aligned NNE-SSW – 157m – No features or deposits of interest.

NJ 96971/03995 – NJ 9609/03849

Machine cut drain 0.4m wide aligned N-S at 26.7m

Machine cut drains 0.4m wide aligned E-W at 34.2m, 44.2m, 54.5m, 64.6m, 74.7m, 84.8m, 94.8m, 104.8m, 115m, 125.1m and 135.5m.

Machine cut drain 0.4m wide aligned NW-SE at 147.4m.

Note – Natural very mixed – clay, sand, marl, with patches of peat. Plough scaring to centre of trench, large boulder at 122.5m.

Trench 23

Aligned WSW-ENE – 91.5m – No features or deposits.

NJ 96833/04015 – NJ 96917/04045

Only 100mm of topsoil with outcropping rock to W. Heavy plough scaring though centre to E end of trench.

Trench 24

Aligned SE-NW – 52m – No features or deposits of interest.

NJ 96925/04054 – NJ 96887/04095

Plough scaring throughout trench, less than 200mm of topsoil in places, also ground very wet.

Machine cut drains 0.4m wide aligned E-W at 9.5m, 26.1m and 42.7m.

Trench 25

Aligned W-E – 60m – No features or deposits.

NJ 96839/04000 – NJ 96899/04003

Plough scaring to centre of trench.

Machine cut drain 0.4m wide aligned NW-SE at 40m.

Trench 26

Aligned NW-SE – 45.2m – No features or deposits.

NJ96844/03984 – NJ 96885/03964

Plough scaring to NW with outcrops of loose stone.

Trench 27

Aligned NNE-SSW – 71.5m – No features or deposits.

NJ 96873/03949 – NJ 96844/03886

Machine cut drain 0.3m wide aligned E-W at 27.8m. Topsoil only 0.3m max.

4 WATCHING BRIEFS

Three watching briefs have been carried out as part of this project. Watching briefs were undertaken in the central compound during test pitting on 23 April and soil strips at the S end on

12 July 2017 and for the new road 29-30 January 2018. A slipway was recorded 5 -11 May 2017 and there is a separate report for this (Lenfert 2017).

4.1 Test pits 10-11 April 2017

On April 10th and 11th 2017, eight test pits (TP22-29) and one 'retest' pit were dug for geological inspection at Nigg Bay, south of Aberdeen City (illus x). A 14-ton excavator with a 1m wide bucket was used to excavate the nine pits with dimensions of 1m wide by 3-4m in length, and down to 4m in depth, unless the geologist reached satisfactory strata at shallower depths. Other than a ceramic sherd of glazed pottery located in TP24, no other archaeological finds or features were noted.

Topsoils and subsoils remained largely consistent throughout the test pitting process for TP22-25 and the retest pit, with mid-brown silty sand topsoils averaging 0.30m to 0.50m, overlying a clean light-to mid brown sandy subsoil. For TP26-TP29, the topsoils remained largely the same as the previous test pits, but a highly unstable sub comprising loose beach cobbles and gravels was encountered as the beach was approached. This layer collapsed with frequency. TP28 in particular was halted once this strata was reached.



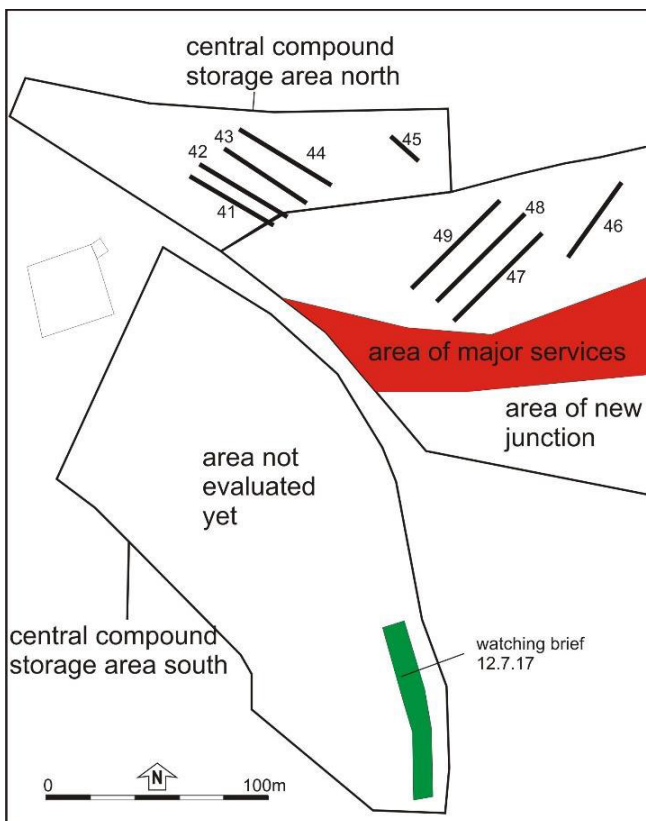
Illus 7: Location of test pits at Nigg Bay Development (image copyright Digital Globe 2017).



Illus 8: Ceramic sherd located in Test Pit 24

4.2 Watching brief 12.7.17

A watching brief was carried out on 12 July 2017 (Illus 9-10) prior to the siting of a large soil bund. The topsoil was 10cm deep and it contained metal, pottery and redeposited natural gravel subsoil possibly on top of tipped material. No archaeological finds or features were identified.



Illus 9 Watching brief 12.7.17 (from copyright ARUP)



Illus 10 Watching brief area 12.7.17 showing redeposited natural subsoil and metal sticking up through; facing S

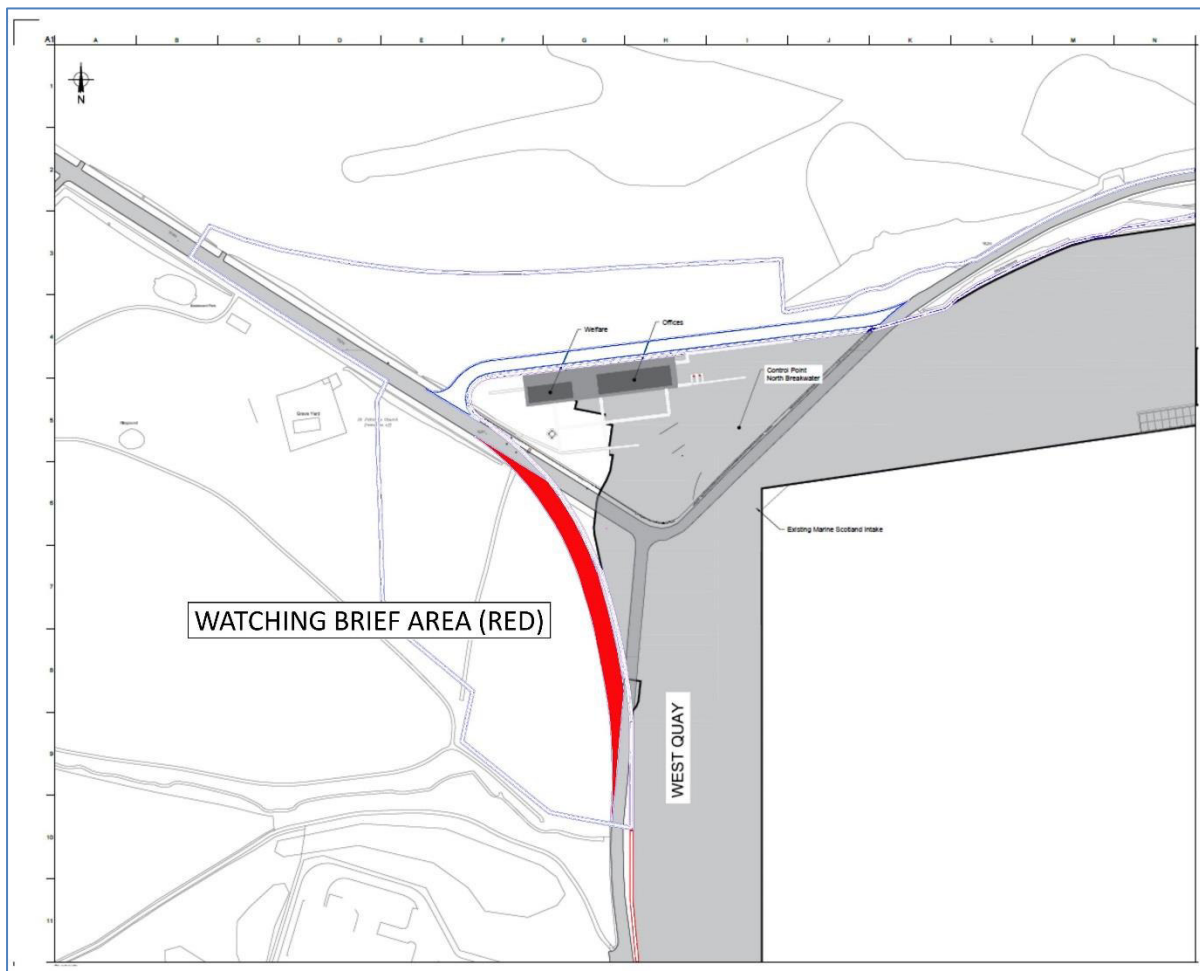
4.3 Proposed Roadway Diversion South watching brief 29-30.1.18

On January 29th and 30th, 2018 an archaeological watching brief took place in the area of a proposed road diversion at the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion project situated along Nigg Bay to the south of Aberdeen.

The watching brief covered the area of the proposed roadway (Illus 11) which is 8m wide and runs 170m, forming a gradual arc to the east which bypasses the sharp turn currently marking the junction of Coast Road and St. Fittick's Road at NJ96470 04888.

The soil strip was completed with a 14-ton excavator using a 1.8m wide bucket. Work commenced at the northern extent of the project area near St Fittick's Road, excavating south towards Coast Road. A rich organic topsoil layer some 0.25 - 0.30 m in depth was encountered which overlay a stony orange-brown gritty loam clay subsoil. Sporadically throughout the soil strip, pockets of redeposited natural soils interspersed with modern rubbish-laden topsoils were encountered. Items noted were of a modern nature with abundant plastic and wire rope, etc, but slightly older ceramic sherds (albeit modern as well) and perhaps early 20th C glass bottle fragments indicate that this dumping of refuse appears to have occurred sporadically over some period of time for around a century.

No finds or features of archaeological significance were noted and no further archaeological mitigation is deemed necessary in this area.



Illus 11 Location of soil strip for proposed diversion road (copyright ARUP)

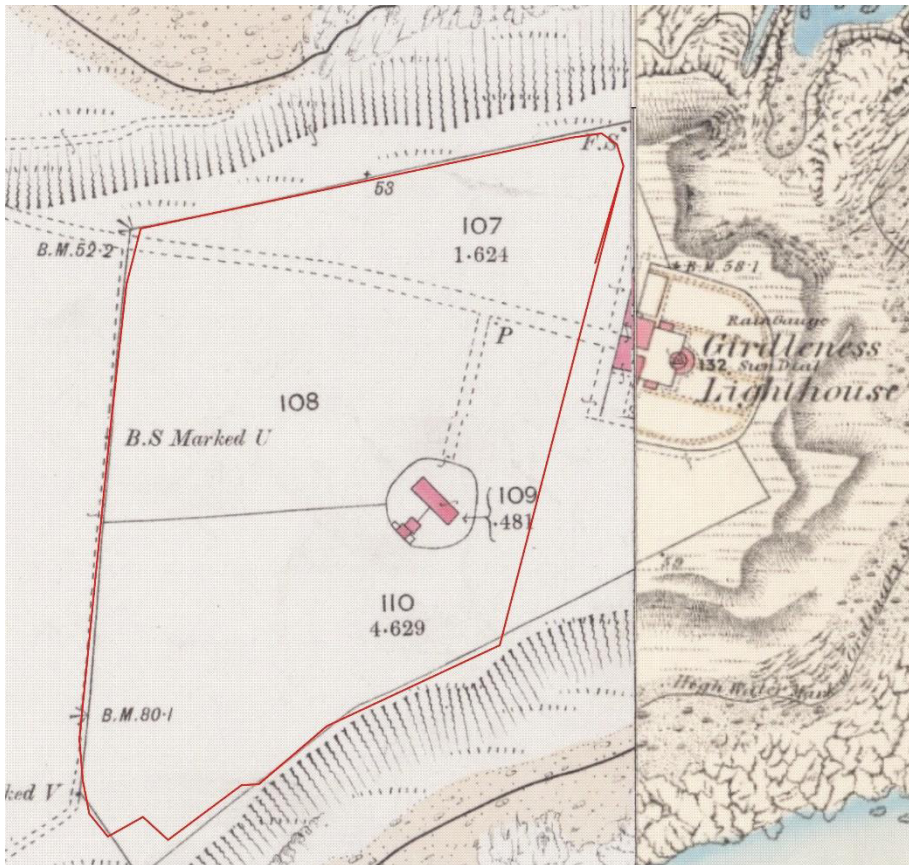
5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Apart from the very shallow remains of rig & furrow of a possible post-medieval and drains associated with agricultural improvement no features or deposits of interest were found in the two fields forming the South Compound.

In the area of the North compound Rig & Furrow was found to the North corner of the site, and a small section of wall probably related to the 'barns and byres' (Illus 7 and 8). It was not possible to fully excavate this area because of the UXO survey results and a watching brief is recommended as a result; this is subject to advice from Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (who cover Aberdeen City). A concrete foundation located close to the lighthouse, sits in an area known locally as the site of changing rooms as field formerly used as a football pitch. No other features or deposits were located. Ground to South very poor with large stones/boulders found in most trenches, site has also seen modern dumping in an attempt possibly to level ground.

Overall both fields due to shallow topsoil & subsoil have seen extensive damage by modern ploughing with the find of sherds of 19th century pottery in the natural. Potential for surviving archaeological deposits or features outwith the areas tested must be deemed very low.

In the Central Compound one possible feature was found of a possible clearance cairn; this was recorded but does not require further archaeological work. Plough scarring was observed in the trenches and the area to the south is heavily disturbed by services (to centre and along south and west edges).



Illus 12 North compound overlain on 1st edition OS map (©National Library of Scotland)



Illus 13 'Plan of Girdleness showing the lighthouse and grounds' carried out by Stephenson surveyors, c1830

Cameron Archaeology carried out a 7% archaeological evaluation of the North and South compound areas and the Central Compound (North Storage Area) between 6-23rd February 2017. Watching briefs were undertaken in the central compound during test pitting on 23 April and soil strips at the S end on 12 July 2017 and for the new road 29-30 January 2018. A slipway was recorded 5 -11 May 2017 and there is a separate report for this (Lenfert 2017).

The groundworks are completed for this development and no significant archaeological remains were recovered and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site unless further groundworks take place within the North Compound or finds are recovered during the works.

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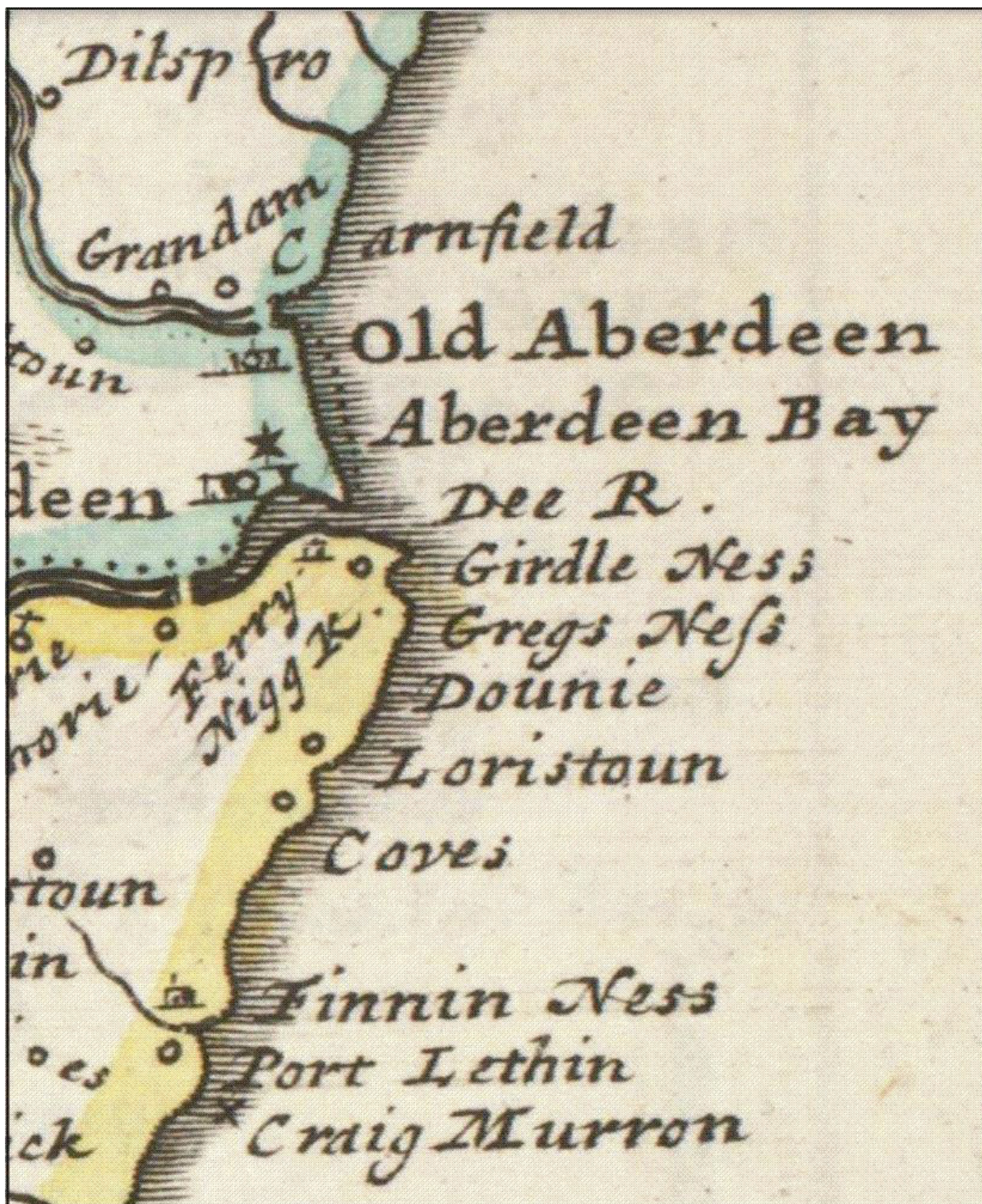
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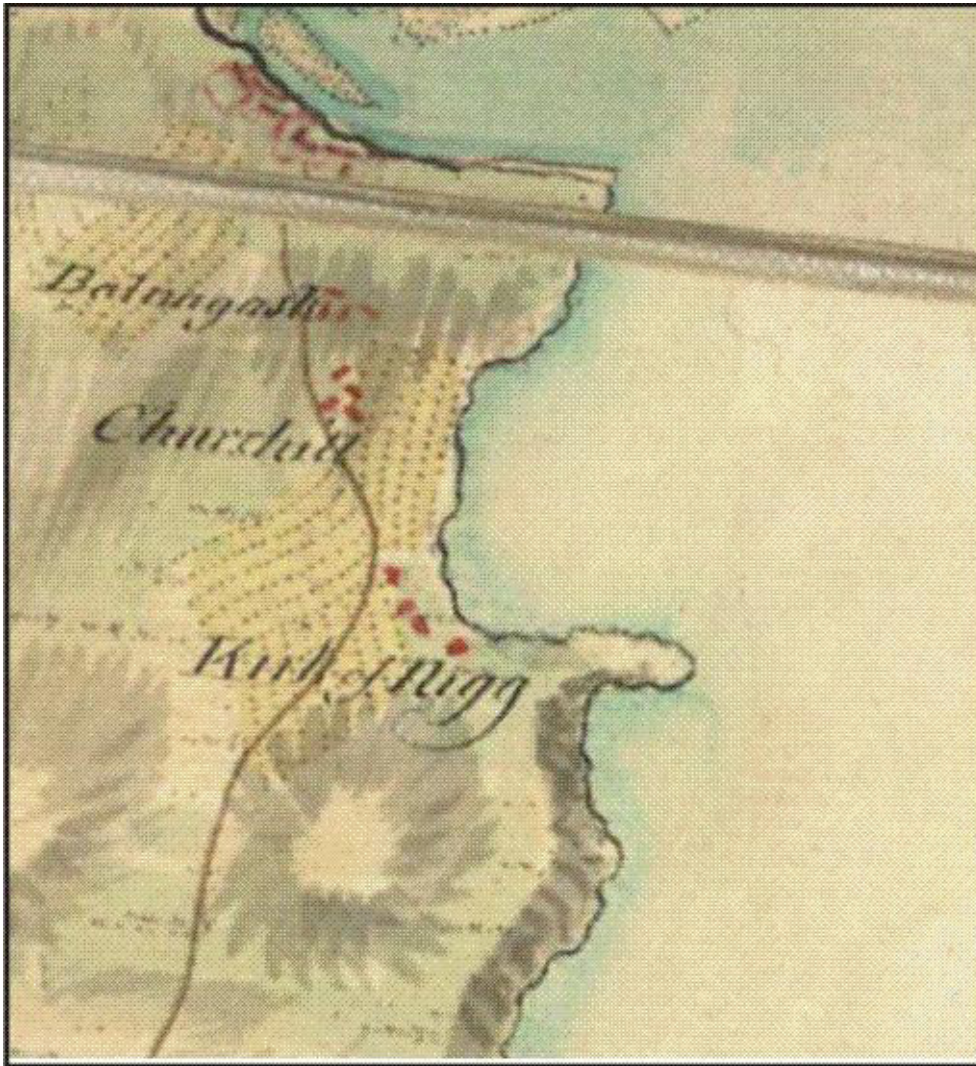
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Zoe Crutchfield, ARUP, for initiating this project, Samuel Palomo, Kevan Dabell, Colin Crichton and Edward Douglas, Dragados, Gary Brown and Ian Stannard, A&S Brown, Stuart Farrell and Dr Robert Lenfert for archaeological work and to Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (who cover Aberdeen City) for his advice during this work. Thanks to Mr Mockridge for allowing access to the Stephenson plan of the lighthouse c 1830.

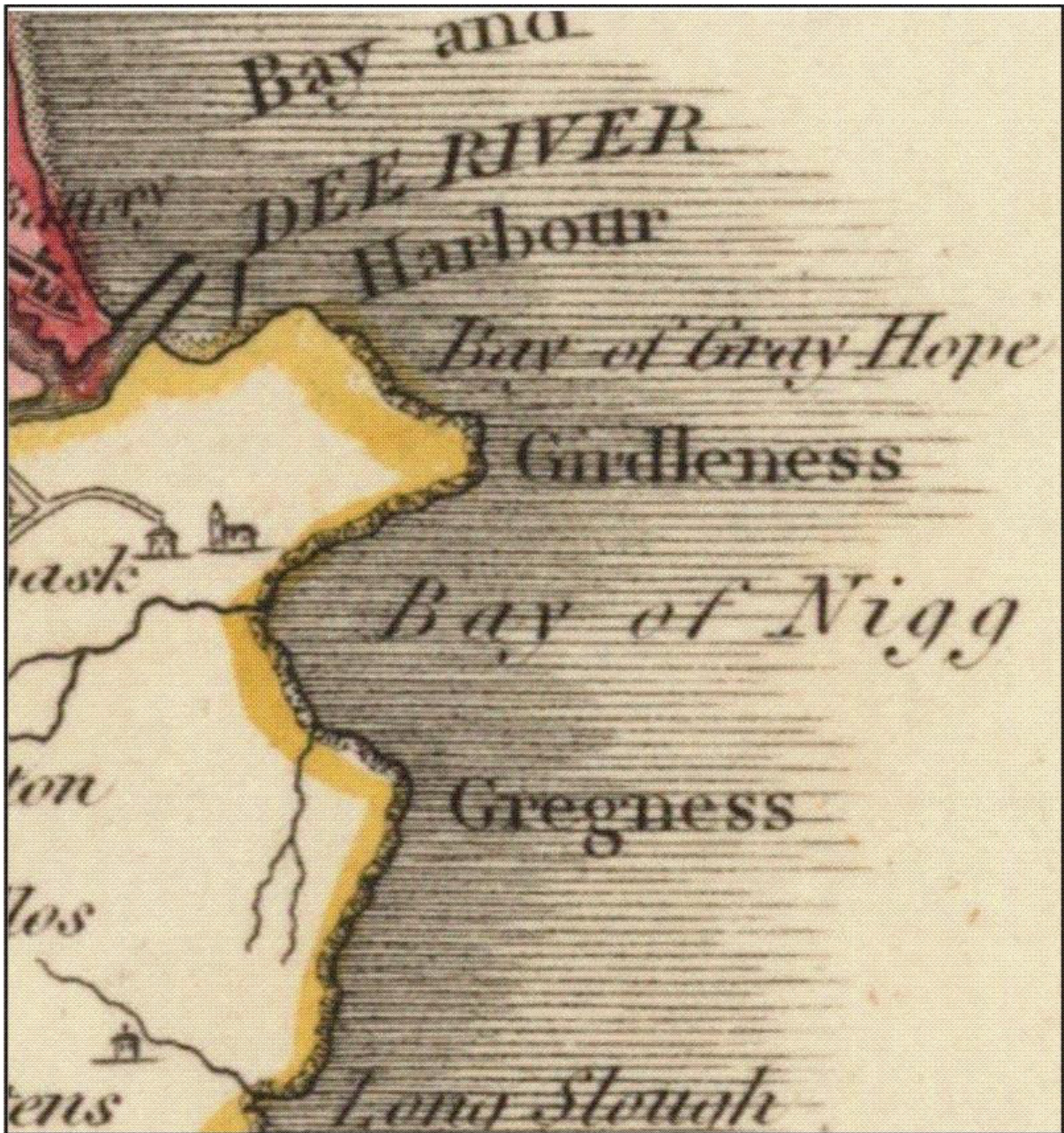
APPENDIX 1 MAPS



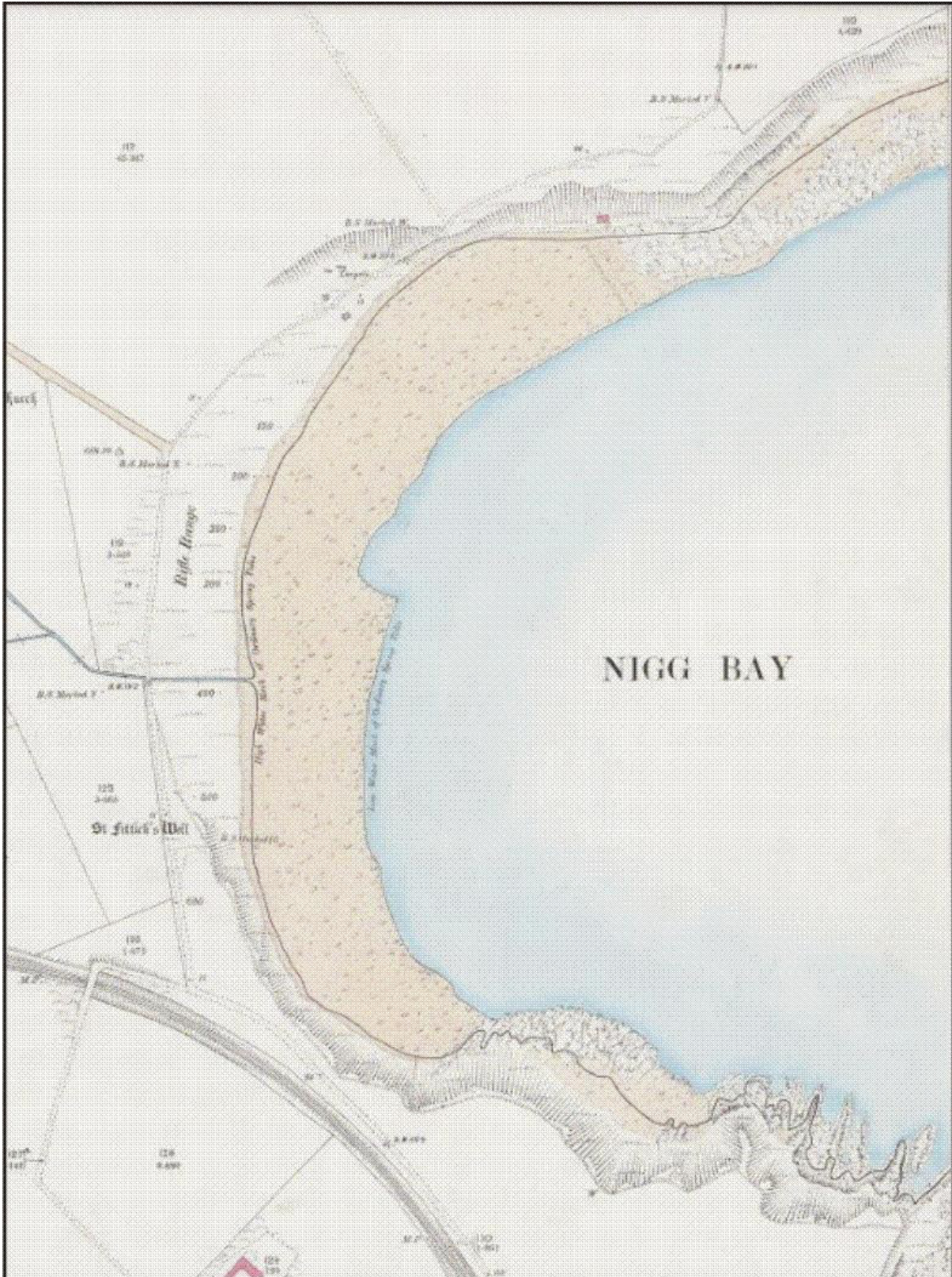
Illus 14 Hermann Moll, c. 1654-1732, The Shires of Bamf [i.e. Banff] and Aberdeen
Published: 1745 (©National Library of Scotland)



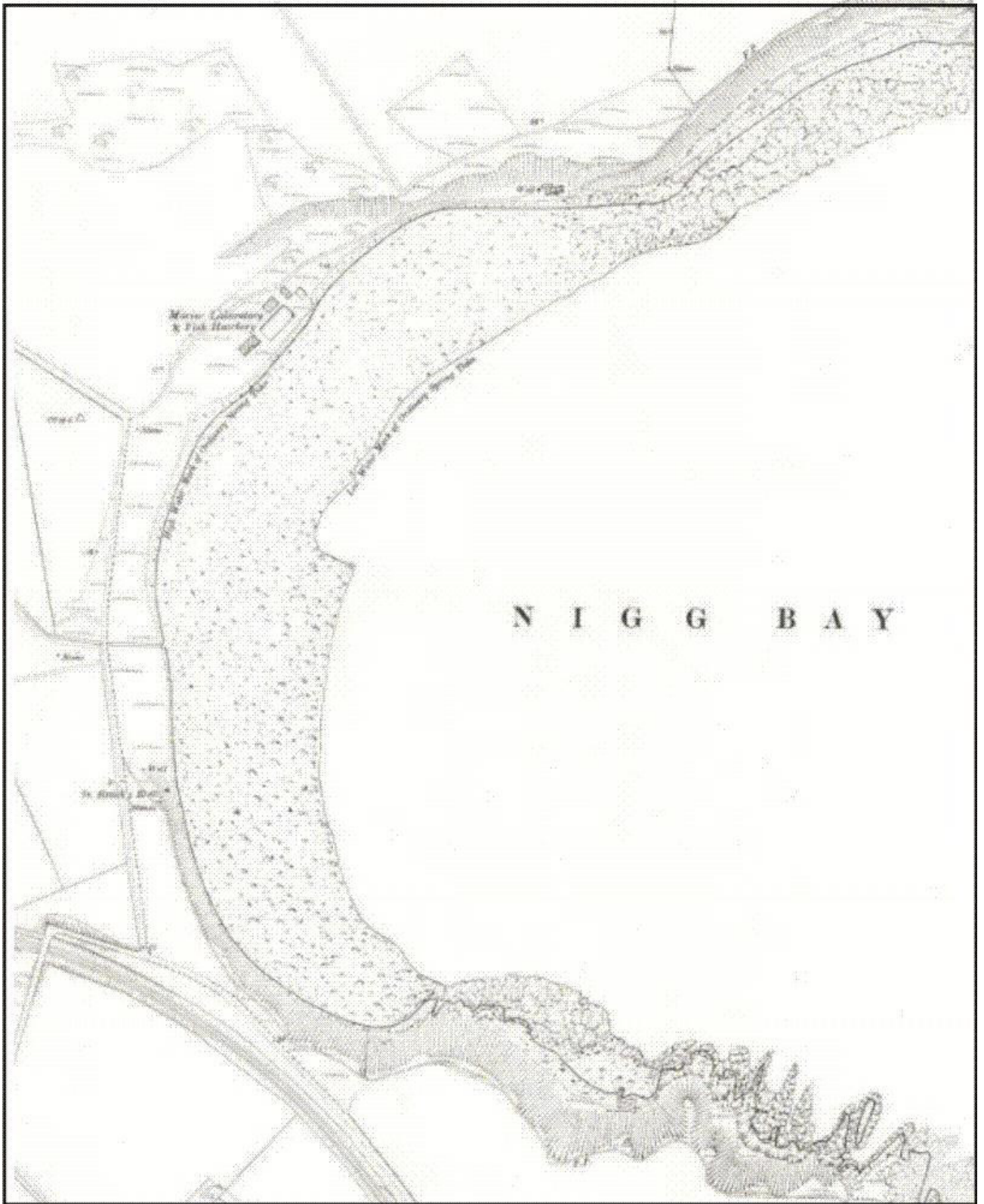
Illus 15 Roy Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55 (©National Library of Scotland)



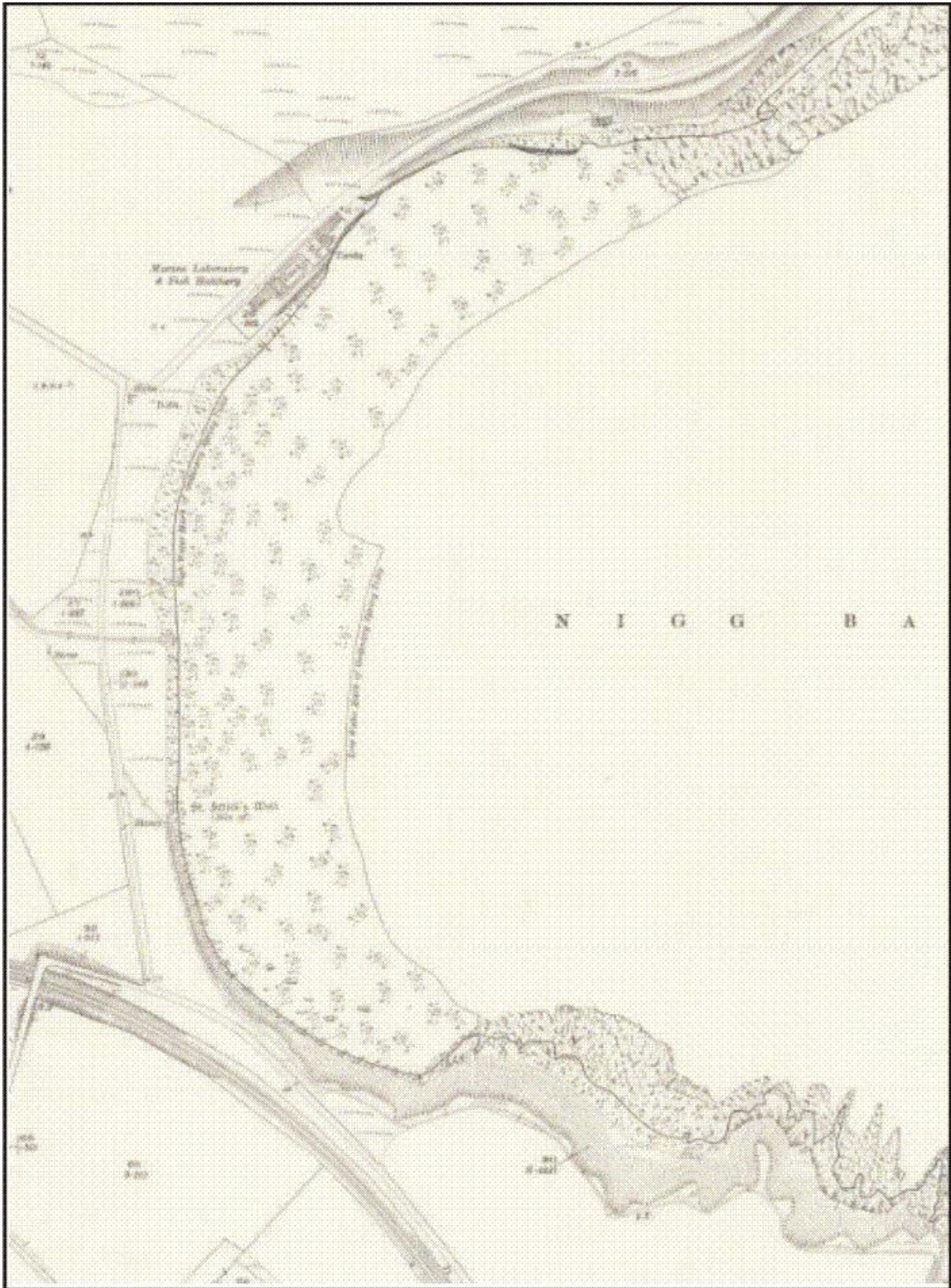
Illus 16 John Thomson, Northern Part of Aberdeen & Banff Shires. Southern Part.
Published: 1826 (©National Library of Scotland)



Illus 17 First Edition Ordnance Survey (©National Library of Scotland) Title: Kincardine Sheet IV.3 (Combined) Survey date: 1865 Publication date: 1868



Illus 18 Second Edition Ordnance Survey (©National Library of Scotland Title: Aberdeenshire, Sheet 075.16 Publication date: 1901 Revised: ca. 1900



Illus 19 Third Edition Ordnance Survey (©National Library of Scotland) Title: Aberdeenshire, Sheet 075.16 Publication date: 1926 Revised: ca. 1923 Levelled: 1899/1900

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo Register
Scales 1m c20m apart.

- 1 – View of north field of south compound facing NE.
- 2 – View of machining in progress north field of south compound facing NE.
- 3 – View of north field of south compound facing NE.
- 4 – View of north field of south compound facing E.
- 5 – View of north field of south compound facing SE.
- 6 – View of north field of south compound facing E.
- 7 – View of north field of south compound facing NE.
- 8 – View of north field of south compound facing N.
- 9 – View of trench 1 upon excavation facing SW.
- 10 – View of trench 2 upon excavation facing SW.
- 11 – View of trench 3 upon excavation facing SW.
- 12 – View of trenches 1 to 3 upon excavation facing NE.
- 13 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing NE.
- 14 – View of trench 5 upon excavation facing NE.
- 15 – View of trenches 3 to 5 upon excavation facing NE.
- 16 – View of trench 6 upon excavation facing W.
- 17 – View of trench 6 upon excavation facing W.
- 18 – View of field drain trench 6 – scale 1m.
- 19 – View of trench 7 upon excavation facing SE.
- 20 – View of trench 7 upon excavation facing SE.
- 25 – View of a day at Nigg Bay facing NE.
- 26 – View of trench 7 upon excavation facing NW.
- 27 – View of trench 7 upon excavation facing NW.
- 28 – View of trench 8 upon excavation facing NW.
- 29 – View of trenches 7 to 9 during excavation facing SE.
- 30 – View of trench 9 upon excavation facing NW.

- 31 – View of trench 9 upon excavation facing NW.
- 32 – View of trenches 7 to 9 upon excavation facing NW.
- 33 – View of trenches 7 to 9 upon excavation facing SE.
- 34 – View of trenches 7 to 9 upon excavation facing SE.
- 35 – View of trench 10 upon excavation facing NW.
- 36 – View of trench 10 upon excavation facing NW.
- 37 – View of trench 10 upon excavation facing NW.
- 38 – View of north field of south compound facing E.
- 39 – View of trench 11 upon excavation facing NW.
- 40 – View of trench 11 upon excavation facing NW.
- 41 – View of south field of south compound facing SE.
- 42 – View of south field of south compound facing S.
- 43 – View of trench 12 upon excavation facing NW.
- 44 – View of trench 13 upon excavation facing W.
- 45 – View of trench 13 upon excavation facing W.
- 46 – View of trenches 10 to 12 upon excavation facing SE.
- 47 – View of trench 14 upon excavation facing W.
- 48 – View of trench 14 upon excavation facing W.
- 49 – View of trench 15 during excavation facing NW.
- 50 – View of Rig & Furrow in trench 15 facing NW.
- 51 – View of trench 15 upon excavation facing NW.
- 52 – View of trench 16 upon excavation facing W.
- 53 – View of trench 17 upon excavation facing W.
- 54 – View of trench 18 upon excavation facing NW.
- 55 – View of trenches 15 to 17 upon excavation facing W.
- 56 – View of trench 19 during excavation facing SE.
- 57 – View of south field of south compound facing S.
- 58 – View of south field of south compound facing S.

- 59 – View of south field of south compound facing S.
- 60 – View of trenches 15 to 17 upon excavation facing E.
- 61 – View of trenches 15 to 18 upon excavation facing NE.
- 62 – View of trenches 15 to 18 upon excavation facing NW.
- 63 – View of trenches 15 to 18 upon excavation facing W.
- 64 – View of trench 19 upon excavation facing NW.
- 65 – View of trench 19 upon excavation facing NW.
- 66 – View of trench 20 upon excavation facing NE.
- 67 – View of trench 20 upon excavation facing NE.
- 68 – View of trenches 19 to 20 upon excavation facing W.
- 69 – View of trench 20 during excavation facing S.
- 70 – View of trench 20 upon excavation facing NE.
- 71 – View of trench 20 upon excavation facing NE.
- 72 – View of trench 20 upon excavation facing NE.
- 73 – View of trench 20 upon excavation facing S.
- 74 – View of trench 21 during excavation facing S.
- 75 – View of trench 21 upon excavation facing NE.
- 76 – View of trench 21 upon excavation facing NE.
- 77 – View of trench 21 upon excavation facing NE.
- 78 – View of trench 22 upon excavation facing NE.
- 79 – View of trench 22 upon excavation facing NE.
- 80 – View of trench 22 upon excavation facing NE.
- 81 – View of trenches 21 to 22 upon excavation facing NE.
- 82 – View of trench 23 upon excavation facing W.
- 83 – View of trenches 21 to 22 upon excavation facing S.
- 84 – View of trench 24 upon excavation facing SE.
- 85 – View of trenches 23 to 924 upon excavation facing SE.
- 86 – View of trench 25 upon excavation facing W.

- 87 – View of trench 26 upon excavation facing NW.
- 88 – View of trenches 25 to 26 upon excavation facing NW.
- 89 – View of trench 27 upon excavation facing NE.
- 90 – View of trenches 25 to 27 upon excavation facing NE.
- 91 – View of trenches 25 to 27 upon excavation facing SSW.
- 92 – View of north compound facing S.
- 93 – View of north compound facing SE.
- 94 – View of north compound facing SE.
- 95 – View of north compound facing E.
- 96 – View of lighthouse facing E.
- 97 – View of north compound facing S.
- 98 – View of north compound facing SE.
- 99 – View of north compound facing E.
- 100 – View of north compound facing NE.
- 101 – View of north compound facing N.
- 102 – View of trench 28 upon excavation facing N.
- 103 – View of trench 28 upon excavation facing N.
- 104 – View of trench 28 upon excavation facing N.
- 105 – View of trench 28 upon excavation facing N.
- 106 – View of trench 29 upon excavation facing N.
- 107 – View of trench 29 upon excavation facing N.
- 108 – View of trench 29 upon excavation facing N.
- 109 – View of trenches 28 to 29 upon excavation facing SW.
- 110 – View of trench 29 upon excavation facing N.
- 111 – View of infill trench 30 facing NW.
- 112 – View of infill trench 30 facing NW.
- 113 – View of trench 30 upon excavation facing SE.
- 114 – View of trench 30 upon excavation facing NW.

- 115 – View of trench 30 upon excavation facing NW.
- 116 – View of trench 31 upon excavation facing NW.
- 117 – View of trenches 30 to 32 during excavation facing S.
- 118 – View of trenches 30 to 32 during excavation facing SE.
- 119 – View of trench 32 upon excavation facing N.
- 120 – View of trenches 29 to 32 upon excavation facing N.
- 121 – View of trenches 29 to 32 upon excavation facing NE.
- 122 – View of trench 33 upon excavation facing NW.
- 123 – View of trench 33 upon excavation facing NW.
- 124 – View of debris layer in trench 34 facing N.
- 125 – View of handmade brick from trench 34.
- 126 – View of trench 34 upon excavation facing W.
- 127 – View of trench 35 upon excavation facing NW.
- 128 – View of trenches 33 to 35 upon excavation facing NW.
- 129 – View of trench 36 during excavation facing E.
- 130 – View of trench 36 upon excavation facing W.
- 131 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing S.
- 132 – View of mortared wall trench 37 facing NE.
- 133 – View of mortared wall trench 37 facing NE.
- 134 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing E.
- 135 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing E.
- 136 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing E.
- 137 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing S.
- 138 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing S.
- 139 – View of trench 37 upon excavation facing SE.
- 140 – View of trench 37 upon excavation facing NE.
- 141 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing NE.
- 142 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing NE.

- 143 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing NE.
- 144 – View of mortared stone trench 37 facing NE.
- 145 – View of trench 38 upon excavation facing W.
- 146 – View of trenches 36 to 38 upon excavation facing E.
- 147 – View of trench 39 during excavation facing E.
- 148 – View of dump of mortar in trench 40 facing S.
- 149 – View of concrete foundations trench 39 facing W.
- 150 – View of concrete foundations trench 39 facing W.
- 151 – View of concrete foundations trench 39 facing W.
- 152 – View of concrete foundations trench 39 facing W.
- 153 – View of concrete foundations trench 39 facing W.
- 154 – View of concrete foundations trench 39 facing W.
- 155 – View of concrete foundations trench 39 facing E.
- 156 – View of trench 40 upon excavation facing SW.
- 157 – View of trenches 39 to 40 upon excavation facing E.
- 158 – View of central compound facing NW.
- 159 – View of central compound facing N.
- 160 – View of central compound facing NE.
- 161 – View of trench 41 upon excavation facing NW.
- 162 – View of trench 42 upon excavation facing NW.
- 163 – View of plough scaring in trench 43 facing NW.
- 164 – View of trench 43 upon excavation facing NW.
- 165 – View of trench 44 upon excavation facing NW.
- 166 – View of trenches 41 to 44 upon excavation facing NW.
- 167 – View of trenches 41 to 44 upon excavation facing NW.
- 168 – View of trench 45 upon excavation facing SE.
- 169 – View of possible clearance cairn in trench 46 facing E.
- 170 – View of trench 46 upon excavation facing NE.

171 – View of trench 47 upon excavation facing NE.

172 – View of trenches 47 to 48 upon excavation facing NE.

173 – View of trench 48 upon excavation facing SW.

174 – View of trench 49 upon excavation facing SW.

175 – View of trenches 47 to 49 upon excavation facing NE.

Watching briefs

Photo ID	Direction Facing	Comments
DSC1091	E	TP22 commencing excavation
DSC1093	W	TP22 excavation underway
DSC1098	SSW	TP22 excavation underway
DSC1101	E	TP22 upper strata showing redeposited brick and assorted modern building materials
DSC1102	--	TP22 – modern building materials in spoilheap
DSC1103	S	TP22 completed
DSC1106	S	TP23 commencing excavation
DSC1108	SW	TP23 commencing excavation
DSC1111	SSW	TP23 nearing completion
DSC1113	ESE	TP23 detail of topsoil layer overlying sand. Note collapse of sandy subsoil.
DSC1118	SE	TP24 commencing excavation
DSC1120	--	Ceramic sherd located in TP24
DSC1122	NE	Detail of stratigraphy in TP24
DSC1125	S	TP24 nearing completion. Collapse due to unstable sandy subsoil was prevalent throughout the test pitting process.
DSC1129	SE	'Retest' pit excavation commencing
DSC1131	S	Retest pit nearing midpoint
DSC1133	S	Retest pit excavation underway
DSC1135	SE	TP25 commencing excavation
DSC1139	S	TP25 detail of stratigraphy in upper section
DSC1143	S	TP25 detail of stratigraphy in upper section. Excavation halted due to collapse.
DSC1146	SW	TP26 commencing excavation
DSC1149	S	TP26 revealing gravelly subsoils below topsoil layers
DSC1151	NE	TP26 section collapse of subsoils and loose gravels
DSC1156	NW	TP27 commencing excavation
DSC1164	N	TP27 excavation underway
DSC1165	N	TP27 nearing completion
DSC1166	N	TP27 completed
DSC1177	NNE	TP28 commencing excavation
DSC1184	N	TP28 excavation in progress
DSC1188	W	TP28 excavation completed – halted once coastal gravels were encountered
DSC1190	NW	TP29 commencing excavation
DSC1195	W	TP29 nearing completion due to unstable gravels
DSC1198	W	TP29 completed

PHOTO ID	DIRECTION FACING	COMMENTS
DSC4920	S	Soil strip commencing near St Fittick's Road junction
DSC4923	NW	Upper portion of site in progress
DSC4928	SSE	Upper portion of site in progress
DSC4930	S	Wire rope and other modern debris in redeposited area
DSC4938	S	Soil strip in progress, c.33% completed
DSC4942	N	Standing water on N margin of proposed roadway (drain was reopened shortly after photo)
DSC4949	N	Soil strip past 50% mark
DSC4956	N	Crushed stone surface present at midpoint of site.
DSC4959	S	Soil strip nearing completion
DSC4967	N	Soil strip nearing completion
DSC4969	N	Soil strip completed



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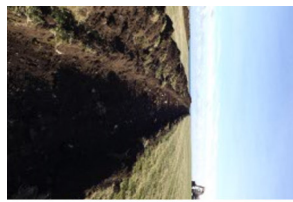
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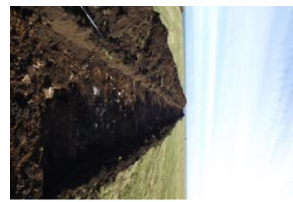
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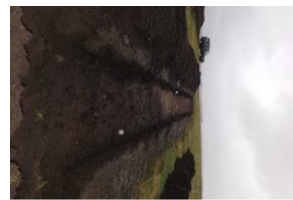
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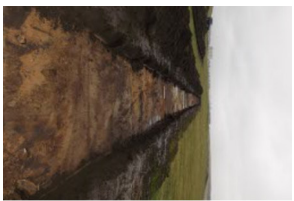
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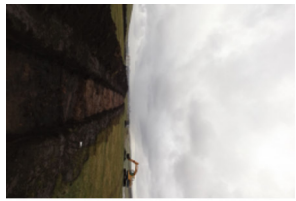
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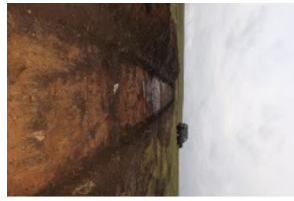
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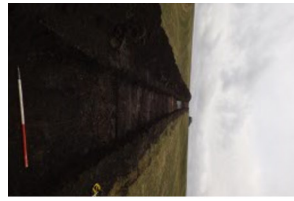
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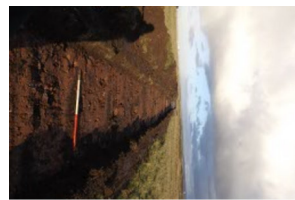
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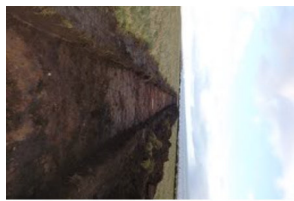
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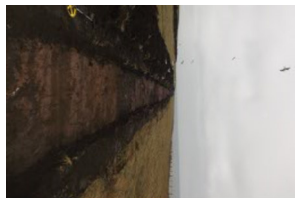
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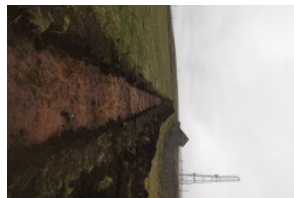
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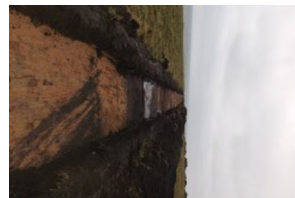
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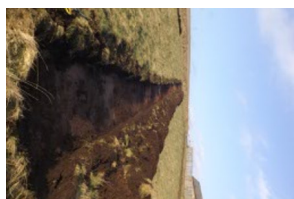
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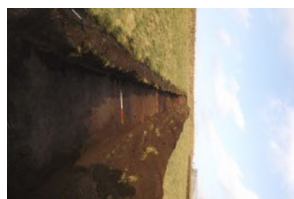
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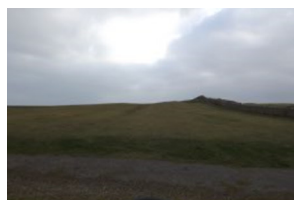
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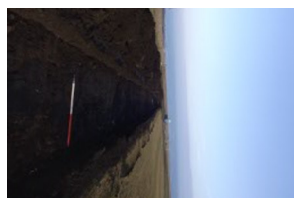
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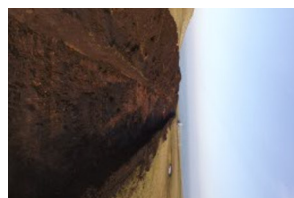
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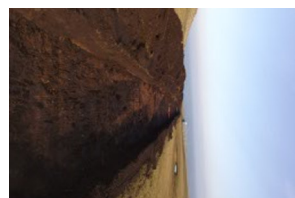
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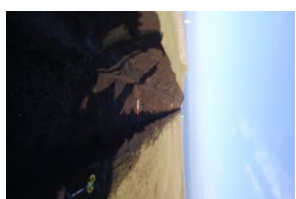
102.JPG



103.JPG



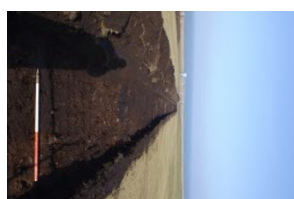
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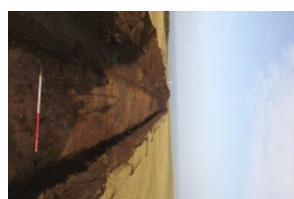
105.JPG



106.JPG



107.JPG



108.JPG



109.JPG



110.JPG



111.JPG



112.JPG



113.JPG



114.JPG



115.JPG



116.JPG



117.JPG



118.JPG



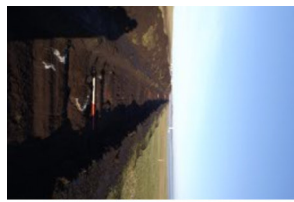
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120.JPG



121.JPG



122.JPG



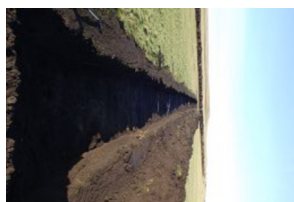
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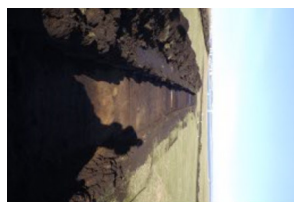
124.JPG



125.JPG



126.JPG



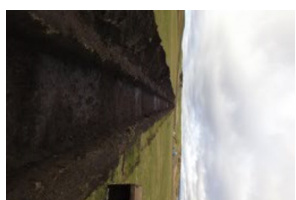
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128.JPG



129.JPG



130.JPG



131.JPG



132.JPG



133.JPG



134.JPG



135.JPG



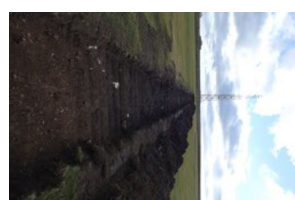
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137.JPG



138.JPG



139.JPG



140.JPG



141.JPG



142.JPG



143.JPG



144.JPG



145.JPG



146.JPG



147.JPG



148.JPG



149.JPG



150.JPG



151.JPG



152.JPG



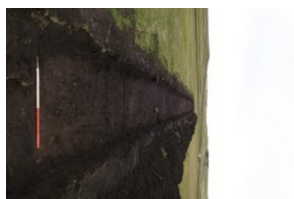
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157.JPG



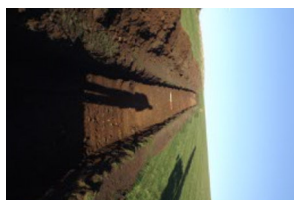
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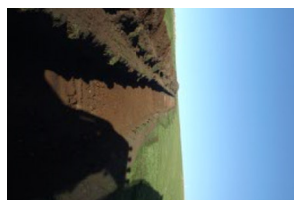
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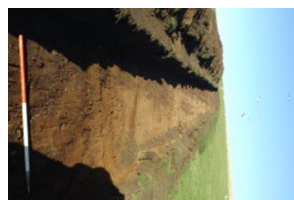
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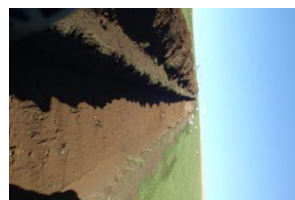
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162.JPG



163.JPG



164.JPG



165.JPG



166.JPG



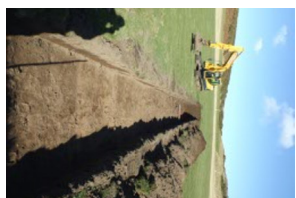
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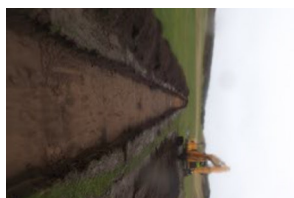
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169.JPG



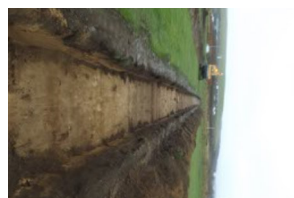
170.JPG



171.JPG



172.JPG



173.JPG



174.JPG



175.JPG



_DSC1091.jpg



_DSC1093.jpg



_DSC1098.jpg



_DSC1101.jpg



_DSC1102.jpg



_DSC1103.jpg



_DSC1106.jpg



_DSC1108.jpg



_DSC1111.jpg



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_DSC1165.jpg



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_DSC1190.jpg



_DSC1195.jpg



_DSC1198.jpg



DSC_2101.JPG



DSC_2102.JPG



DSC_2103.JPG



DSC_2104.JPG



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DSC_2122.JPG



_DSC4920.jpg



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