

**Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief
Land to The South East of North Lodge
Logie Pitcaple, Inverurie AB51 5EH
Cameron Archaeology CA386-2018**



**Dr Robert Lenfert
Cameron Archaeology
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Contents

1	BACKGROUND	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3	THE WATCHING BRIEF	5
4	CONCLUSIONS	6
5	REFERENCES.....	7
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
	APPENDIX 1 PHOTOS	7
	APPENDIX 2: Archaeological Sites within 1km of the Watching Brief Area.....	8

ILLUSTRATIONS

Illus 1: Location plan of agricultural building (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018).	3
Illus 2 GPS-derived location of garden shed foundations/watching brief area shaded in red (copyright Digital Globe 2018).	5
Illus 3: Topsoil depth at eastern end of soil strip area.	6
Illus 4: Soil strip completed – view looking east.....	7

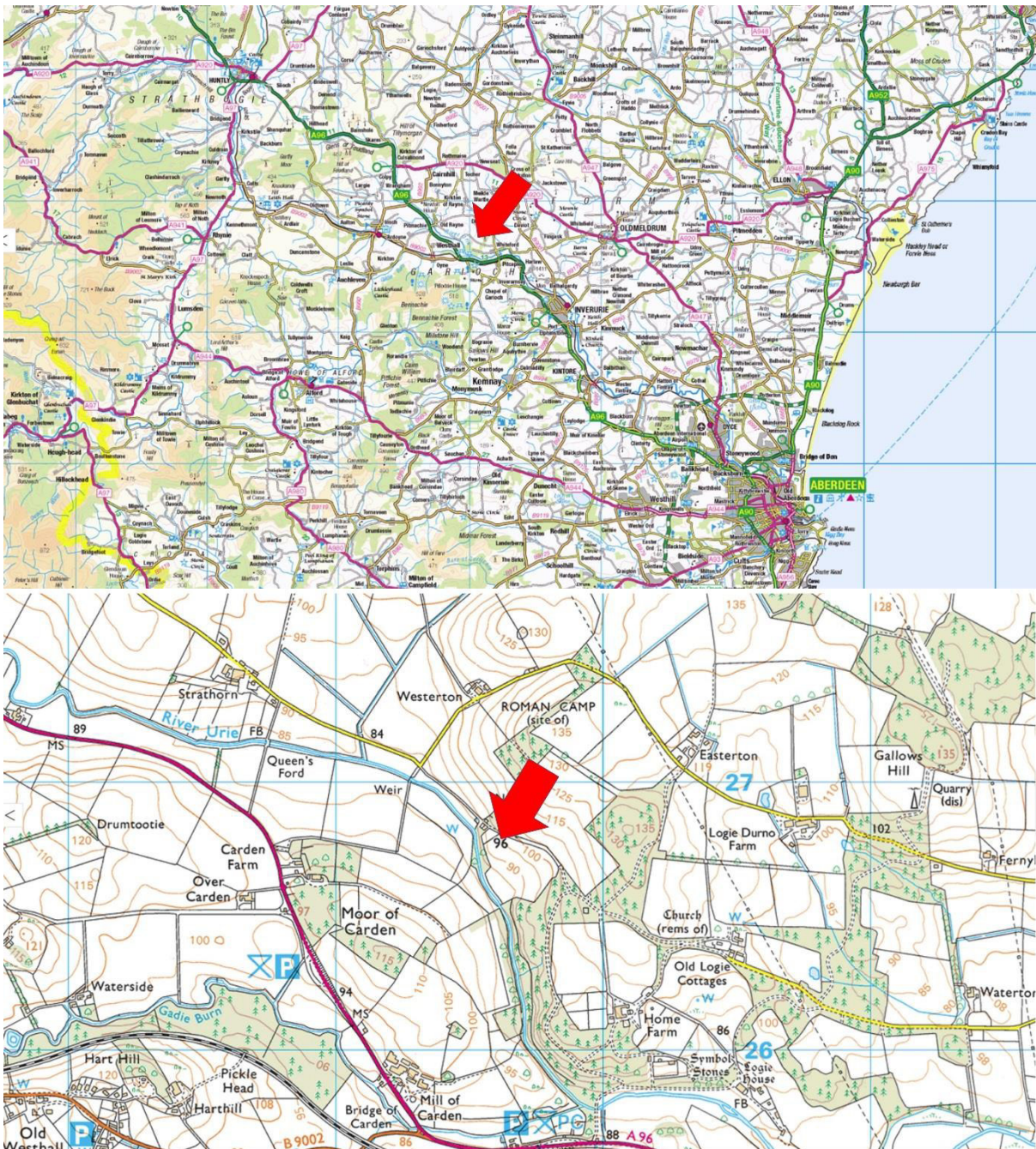
Cover illustrations: Soil strip for garden shed nearing completion

Summary

On April 3rd, 2018, an archaeological watching brief took place at land south-east of North Lodge, Logie Durno centered upon NJ 69640 26784. The soil strip and watching brief was performed in advance of construction for a 45m x 10m agricultural shed. Although the site is nestled between the Roman Marching Camp (Logie Durno) to the north on the other side of the track, and a series of possible linear cropmarks associated with the camp immediately to the south, no archaeological finds or features were noted. Therefore, no other archaeological work is deemed necessary for the current planning application.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is centred upon NJ 69640 26784, some 120m SE of North Lodge, Logie Durno, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Mr. Peter Brothers, who currently farms the property, under planning application APP 2017/1012.
- 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 of agricultural building (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Immediately to the north across the existing track is Logie Durno Roman Marching Camp (St Joseph 1978), a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM4123). The monument comprises the cropmarked remains of a Roman temporary camp, surviving as the buried deposits of the camp's defences, visible in aerial photography, and the interior area bounded by them. The camp at Durno covers a substantial area currently used mainly for arable farming, but also with some plantation forestry, stock fields and paddocks. It lies across the summits of three small hills on the E bank of the River Urie, and ranges from around 100m above sea level at its lowest point to around 135m at its highest. The camp is located around 6.5km NE of the summit of Bennachie.

Roman temporary camps were relatively safe defended areas where marching troops would camp overnight while on specific campaigns. Troops often erected the camps upon arrival, and partially dismantled them the following morning. Some examples were structures that are more permanent and successive units of troops moving through the area used them. This example represents the largest Roman temporary camp north of the Antonine wall. Although its SE corner is yet to be accurately located, projections of the surviving ditch features give measurements of around 980m NW-SE by around 700m transversely, enclosing an area of up to 59ha. There are five known entrances to the interior of the camp, one around the middle of the NW side and two each on the NE and SW sides. Each of these entrances has a traverse, in the form of a short section of bank and ditch a few metres outside the entrance gap, blocking any direct route to the interior of the camp. Archaeologists believe a sixth entrance was present on the missing SE section, roughly opposite to the example in the NW side. The SW side of the camp is visible as cropmarks for its entire length. Excavation of the S end and angle of this side revealed a ditch around 3.5m in width and 1.5 in depth with a V-shaped section. The NW side is also largely visible on aerial photography, and excavation of a small number of trenches defined the location of the gate and its traverse. The NE side of the camp is only visible from the air for less than half its assumed length. Excavation next to the Easterton of Logie steading revealed the continued line of the ditch and the location of the second gate in this side. The SE side is only locatable by the S corner, running for around 60m, and later ploughing appears to have removed any more evidence for this ditch. In the E angle of the camp there is no evidence for a ditch. Excavation in this area revealed the presence of bedrock at a shallow depth below the surface, which suggests its builders considered a rampart of earth and boulders sufficient for this section of the enclosure.

The area scheduled is irregular on plan, to include the remains described and an area around within which related remains may be expected to be found, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the roads and farm structures and yards within the overall extent of the camp, and the top 300mm of all existing tracks and the above-ground elements of all boundary fences and the two electricity transmission pylons within the scheduled area, to permit their maintenance. The scheduled area also excludes the above-ground elements of three sheds (the first, a small wooden shed in the paddock west of Easterton, and the remaining two, one wooden and one corrugated iron, in the new conifer plantation east of Easterton), again to allow for their maintenance.

2.2 Immediately to the south are a series of linear cropmarks identified in aerial photos and likely associated with the Roman Camp. They are located within the 'Moor of Carden' (Aberdeenshire SMR NJ62 NE0033). Air photography (CUCAP CAF 30 and CDE 24) has recorded linear cropmarks which may be associated with the Roman temporary camp NJ62NE 31.

2.3 Some 220m due south, just within the wooded conifer plantation, lies Lady's Well, Carden (NJ62 NE111). Although listed by Morris and Morris (1982), the well was not visited by the RCAHMS Strathdon Survey.

2.4 Some 235m SSE is Lady's Bridge, Carden. (NJ62 NE90) This bridge carries a footpath or farm track across the River Urie, which here forms the boundary between the parishes of Oyne and Chapel of Garioch. Information from RCAHMS (RJCM), 1 May 2001.

2.5 Much of the land to the south and south east, beginning at the conifer plantation some 200m south of the watching brief area, is listed as part of Logie House, Aberdeenshire SMR NJ72 NW0106, the remains of a 17th to 19th century designed landscape; depicted on the Historic Landuse Assessment map.



Illus 2 GPS-derived location of garden shed foundations/watching brief area shaded in red (copyright Digital Globe 2018).

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

On April 3rd, 2018 a soil strip covering the 10m x 45m shed foundation took place using a back-acting wheeled excavator. As the site was on a moderate slope and the topsoils were soft and muddy from snow and rain causing the machinery to become stuck fast, the area was inspected and cleared by the archaeologist in 20m spits, then a telescopic loader was allowed to run on the cleared surface to move spoil away to the edges of the site. Topsoil depth varied from 0.4m at the east end of the site, to as little as 0.2 in the

centre, then abruptly regaining depth to over 0.5m in the western portion of the soil strip area. The subsoil consisted of a very compact dark reddish-brown silty clay with gritty gravels and stony inclusions, predominately in the western end of the watching brief area. No archaeological finds or features were noted, either in-situ, or in the spoil or topsoils.



Illus 3: Topsoil depth at eastern end of soil strip area.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Despite the relatively small 450m² footprint of the shed foundation, the site lies 'sandwiched' between the possible Roman cropmarks within the Moor of Carden immediately to the south, and some 50m from the south gate of Logie Durno Roman Camp to the north. As a result, particular care was taken to ensure that any archaeological remains were identified after each pass of the bucket. Despite this, no finds or features were noted, although two small fragments (>8.0mm) of charcoal bedded into the subsoil/topsoil interface were identified at a distance of approximately 10m from one another. These appeared as deposits on the former ground surface and were not located within identifiable features. No traces of human activity, including modern ceramic sherds or field drains, were noted. Therefore, it is felt that no other archaeological work is required for this planning application.



Illus 4: Soil strip completed – view looking east. Note natural stony inclusions to right of frame.

5 REFERENCES

Morris and Morris, R and F. (1982) *Scottish healing wells: healing, holy, wishing and fairy wells of the mainland of Scotland*. Sandy.

St Joseph, J K. (1978) *The camp at Durno, Aberdeenshire, and the site of Mons Graupius*, *Britannia*, vol. 9, 1978.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the client Peter Brothers, and to Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for his advice during this work.

APPENDIX 1 PHOTOS

PHOTO ID	DIRECTION FACING	COMMENTS
DSC5462	S	Soil strip commencing
DSC5464	E	Section of W facing trench showing topsoil depth and clarity of subsoils.
DSC5469	W	Soil strip in progress
DSC5473	W	Soil strip in progress
DSC5479	N	Soil strip in progress
P1010002	S	Soil strip nearing mid-point
P1010004	SW	Soil strip at approximately two-thirds mark

P1010013	W	Soil strip at approximately two-thirds mark
P1010015	W	Soil strip nearing completion
P1010016	W	Soil strip completed
P1010025	E	Soil strip completed

APPENDIX 2: Archaeological Sites within 1km of the Watching Brief Area

Site Name	SM/HES or Aberdeenshire SMR Reference and site-type	Online Archive(s) Link
Logie Durno Roman Marching Camp	SM4123 (Roman Marching Camp)	http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM4123
Moor of Carden	Aberdeenshire SMR NJ62 NE0033 (Linear Cropmarks)	https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NJ62NE0033
Lady's Well, Carden	Aberdeenshire SMR NJ62 NE111 (Well)	https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NJ62NE0049
Lady's Bridge, Carden	Canmore NJ62 NE90 (Footbridge)	https://canmore.org.uk/site/126424/moor-of-carden-ladys-bridge
Logie House	Aberdeenshire SMR NJ72 NW0106, (Remains of a 17th to 19th century designed landscape)	https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NJ72NW0106



_DSC5462.jpg



_DSC5464.jpg



_DSC5469.jpg



_DSC5473.jpg



_DSC5479.jpg



P1010002.jpg



P1010004.jpg



P1010013.jpg



P1010015.jpg



P1010016.jpg



P1010025.jpg