

**Castle Round House, Brucklay Castle, Maud,
Peterhead, AB42 4QN
Installation of electric cable
Data Structure Report (DSR)**



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Cover: trench (foreground) showing area of hut bases in trees (top); facing NNE

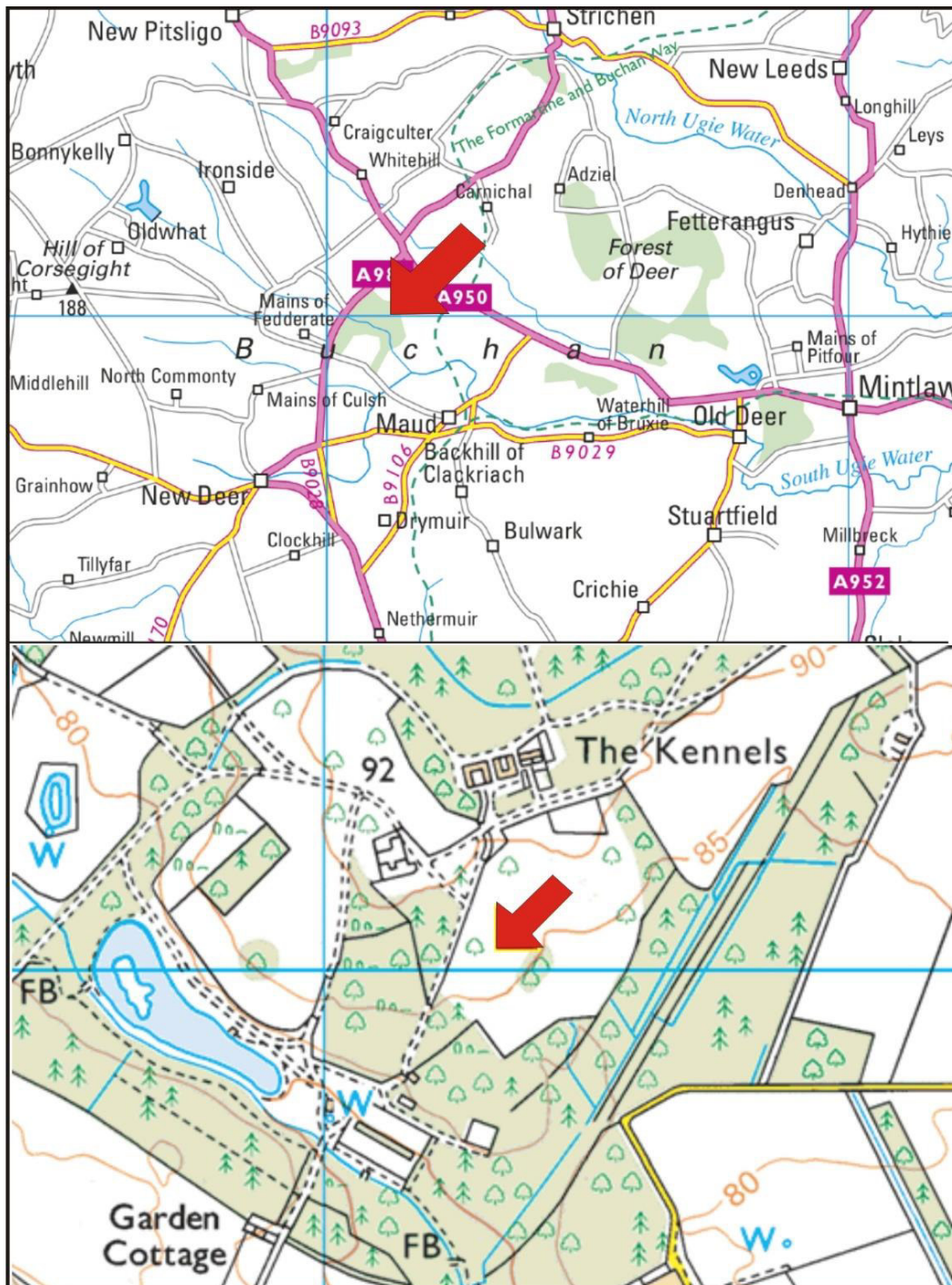
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SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a trench for a new electricity supply for a new house on 5 April 2018. The trench was located within an area formerly occupied by a WW2 prisoner of War camp and bases and other features are visible in the area. The trench was deviated around the concrete hut base and ended at the corner of one of the bases where a junction box had been built without damage to the adjacent hut base. The topsoil was 0.3m deep and the subsoil was wet grey to light brown clay. There were two ceramic drains in a trench in the natural subsoil and these coincided with two hut bases suggesting that they are drains from the former huts. No other archaeological features or finds were identified and the trench is now complete.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located within the grounds of Brucklay Castle. It is centred on NGR NJ 91235 49997, at 85-90m OD in the parish of New Deer.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Nikki Black, SSE. An archaeological watching brief is required during the excavation of this cable trench, consultation no EHP614.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work will be 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 2018)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the proposed development.
- 2.2 The proposed trench is within the grounds of Brucklay Castle (HER NJ95SW0073), the remains of a 17th-19th Century Designed Landscape. The date of the original castle is not known, but it was very plain, and similar to many late 17th century houses. A lofty central round tower, containing a staircase, was its principal feature. Considerable additions and alterations in 1765 and 1814 maintained the original style of the building, but elaborate reconstruction in 1849 has given it the appearance of an old Scottish castellated mansion (Bogdan and Bryce 1991, 26; Pratt 1858, 136). There are kennels (HES NJ95SW 15.03), walled garden (HES NJ95SW 15.01), stable block (HES NJ95SW 15.04), burial ground and obelisk (HES NJ94NW 71), boathouse (HES NJ94NW 87), bridge (HES NJ95SW 15.05), E Lodge (HES NJ95SW 15.02) within the estate.
- 2.3 The proposed trench is within the area of the remains of a World War II prisoner of war camp (HER NJ95SW0039). The concrete hut bases can still be seen clearly on a vertical aerial photograph taken in 1977. There is a group of seven huts ranged around an oval depression in the ground, with a further four bases to the east and four to the north of them beside the wood. A further group of ten bases are ranged around a small oval plantation near the centre of the field. To the northwest of the field are two larger areas of concrete bases, and to the west and south are scattered huts. A flight taken in 2000 shows features still survive and a number of depressions, where features stood, are visible from the air. Walkover survey carried out in 2003 by HK and JC Murray revealed that at least 8 more huts are located in wooded area, which were not visible on the aerial photo AP from 2000. The hut bases varied in size from 11.2m x 5m and 13m x 5m. Hut 1 was recorded in detail as was to be destroyed by development.
- E of Brucklay Estate three buildings and an enclosure (HER NJ95SW0055) are depicted at this location on the OS maps of 1867 and 1888. One is Z-shaped, orientated NW/SE. To the south of it is another building of similar orientation with an attached enclosure to its south side. To the east is a single building orientated NNW/SSE. Now only the southerly building and the central part of the Z-shaped one still survive.
- 2.4 Two stone axes, a stone hammer, and an unspecified number of flint tools from Atherb (NJ 921 494; HES NJ94NW 36) were items in the collection of Mr W Smith, station agent at Maud, which was shown to the members of the Buchan Field Club in 1894 (1895, 117). No details of these items are given. A hearth, flints and pottery were found at Atherb (HES NJ94NW 39) and a beaker (HES NJ94NW 38). Sherds of cord-zoned beakers from Atherb farm (at NJ 921 494) are in RMS (NMAS), (EO 917-21). Their exact provenance is unknown; they did not come from cairn 1 (NJ94NW 31), and further sherds were donated at the same time in a box separately labelled 'Powsode Cairn' (Clarke 1970, 39; Henshall 1983, 107, 108).
- 2.5 At Shevado there is a good example of a whin-mill at the farm of Shevado, about a mile south of Brucklay Castle and three miles north of New Deer. It was originally employed in the neighbourhood of New Aberdour, from which district it was brought by Mr Dingwall Fordyce, and re-erected at his farm at Shevado. The central pivot-pin, shaft, and crushing stone are complete and in good order, but the course is awaiting. The apparatus is of the usual dimensions but is now regarded more as a curiosity than a usual farm implement (Ritchie 1925, 141; Collie 2009, 46).
- 2.6 At Atherb there are the remains of a farmstead (HER NJ94NW0073). The foundations of a farmstead lie immediately east of the dis-used railway line north of Maud. It is

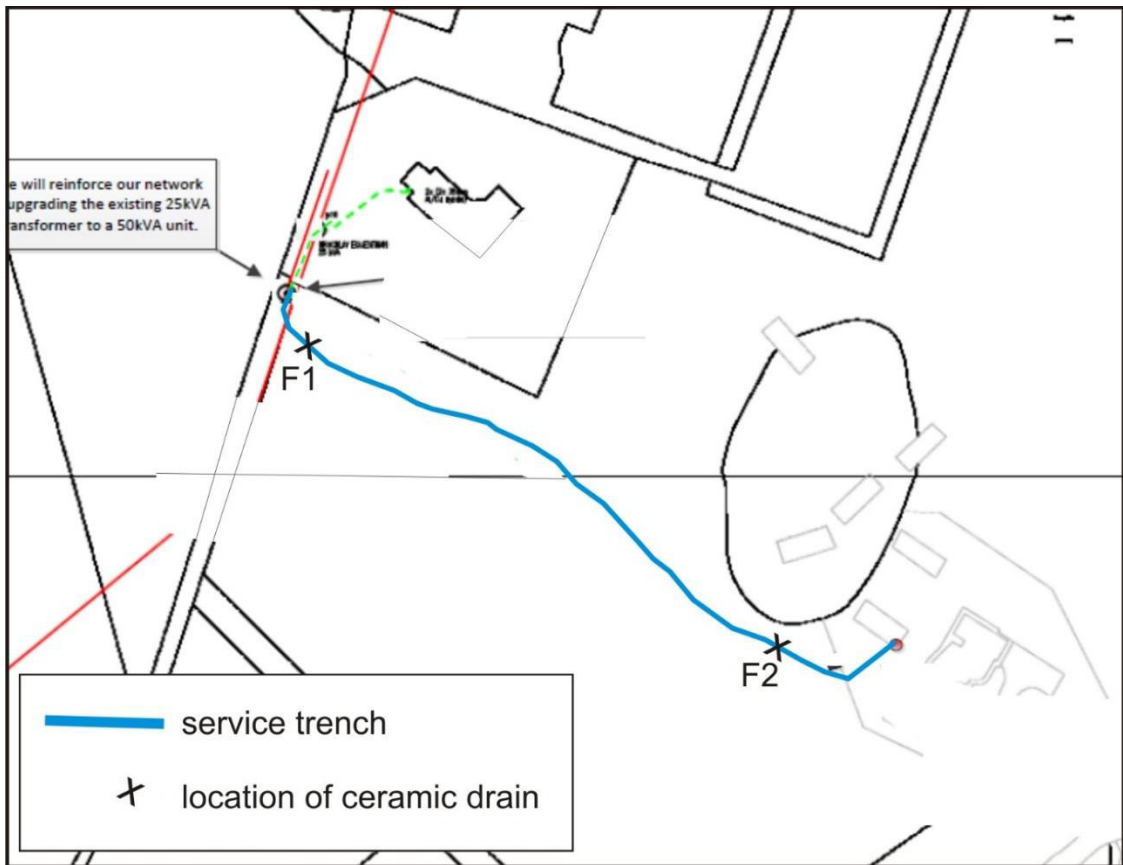
depicted on the 1st edition OS map as a U-shaped building around an open court to the south. A further structure is attached to the north-west arm. Some buildings had been removed by the time of the 1888 2nd edition OS map which shows only an L-plan building. Little now survives on the surface. The site is wooded on recent aerial photography. To the N there is the remains of another farmstead (HER NJ94NW0074), depicted on the 1st edition OS map as two buildings arranged at right angles and forming the S and E sides of an enclosure, to the south of which is a third building. The layout is unchanged on the 2nd edition OS map. It also denotes one of the buildings as a windmill. Much of the site is under woodland on recent aerial photographs, on which one unroofed building is visible. To the E is the remains of another farmstead. Only one building survives of the farmstead of Mains of Atherb which is depicted on the 1st edition OS map as U-shaped buildings around an open court on the south side. Two further buildings lie to the south and south-west. On the west side are two attached enclosures, and a larger one to the north. Only one building 'that now ruinous' is shown on the OS 2nd edition 1888 map, and the farmstead c.400m to the east (NJ94NW0106), also shown on the 1st edition map is now named Mains of Atherb. To the E is Mains of Atherb (HER NJ94NW0106) a farmstead, still in use, depicted on the 1867 and 1888 OS maps. The 1st edition map shows two ranges of buildings arranged around an irregular court, and with an attached horsemill to the west. The farm is not named on this sheet, Mains of Atherb being the farmstead c.400m to the east - NJ94NW0072. By the time of the 2nd edition map the buildings had been significantly modified to an essentially H-plan steading with courts to N and S, and with an L-plan house to the SW in an L-plan enclosure. The horsemill has been removed. This farmstead is now named Mains of Atherb. These buildings remain in use with some later additions. The Farmstead of Oldtown of Atherb (HER NJ94NW0077), depicted on the OS map of 1867. It shows an L-plan and long range forming three sides of a court, on the south side of which is a smaller building. Another building with attached enclosure lies to the south across the road. There are also two other single buildings, one a long range, to the north and the northwest. By the 1888 edition the south side of the farmstead has a range of buildings instead of the single one. Current OS maps show the farmstead to be now much altered with later buildings occupying the former court. The building to the north has been removed and that to the NW is shown as ruinous.

- 2.7 At Aulton of Atherb (HER NJ94NW0029) is the site of cairn. It measured circa 18.28m in diameter and circa 1.83m high, located 0.75 miles from the Pow Sod of Atherb. Burnt bones were found when it was cleared away in 1845, but the outline it was claimed could still be traced. No trace can now be seen (Milne 1892, 105).
- 2.8 The proposed trench has been within the grounds of Brockla (Illus 6) Brucklay (Illus 7), Bruckla (Illus 8), Bruckley Castle (Illus 9), and in farm land of Brucklay House (Illus 10-15).

3 WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a trench for a new electricity supply for a new house (APP/2016/1713) on 5 April 2018. The trench was located within an area formerly occupied by a WW2 prisoner of War camp and bases and other features are visible in the area. The trench was deviated around the concrete hut base and ended at the corner of one of the bases where a junction box had been built without damage to the adjacent hut base. The topsoil was 0.3m deep (Illus 3) and the subsoil was wet grey to light brown clay. There were two ceramic drains in a trench in the natural subsoil (F1, F2; Illus 2, 4) and these coincided with two hut bases suggesting that they

are drains from the former huts (Illus 5). No other archaeological features or finds were identified and the trench is now complete.



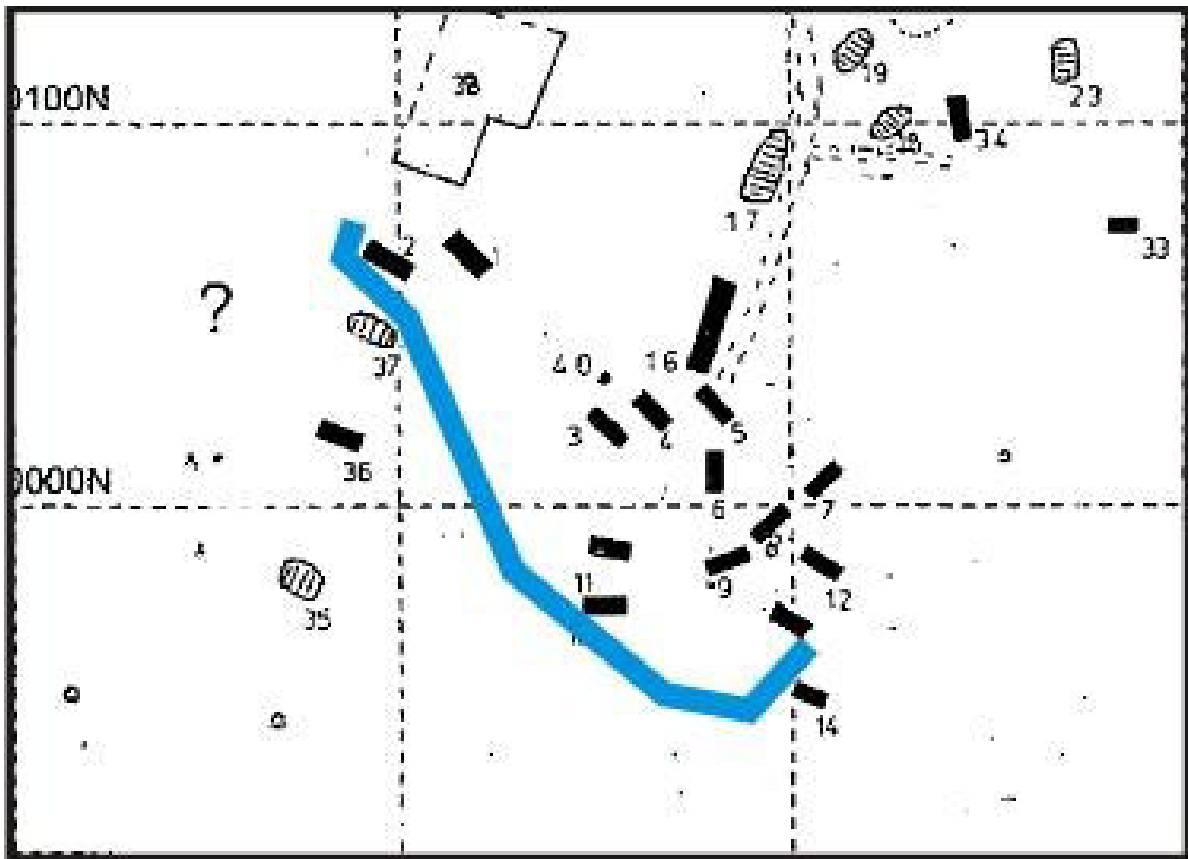
Illus 2 Site plan showing service trench (copyright SSE)



Illus 3 The W end of the trench; facing NW



Illus 4 The ceramic drain pipe from F2



Illus 5 Murray 2003 plan showing approximate location of this service trench

4 REFERENCES

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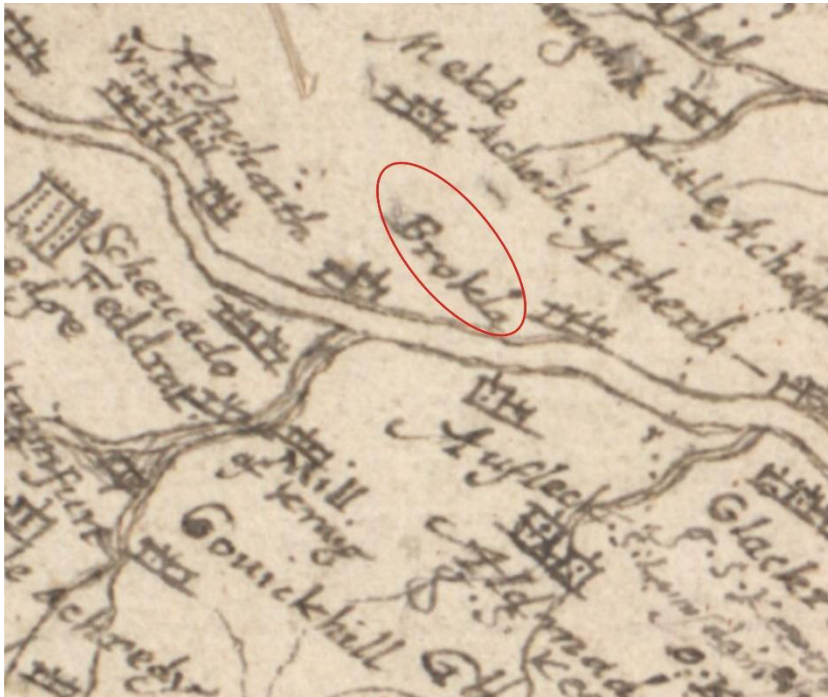
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5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

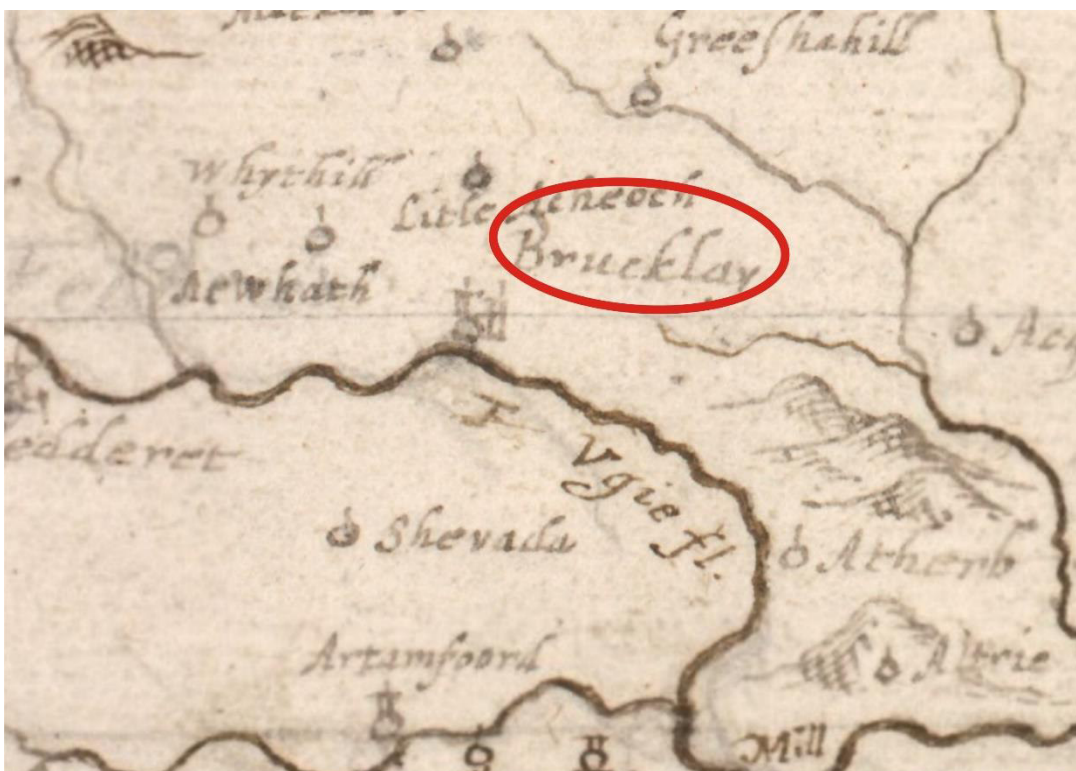
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APPENDIX 1 MAPS



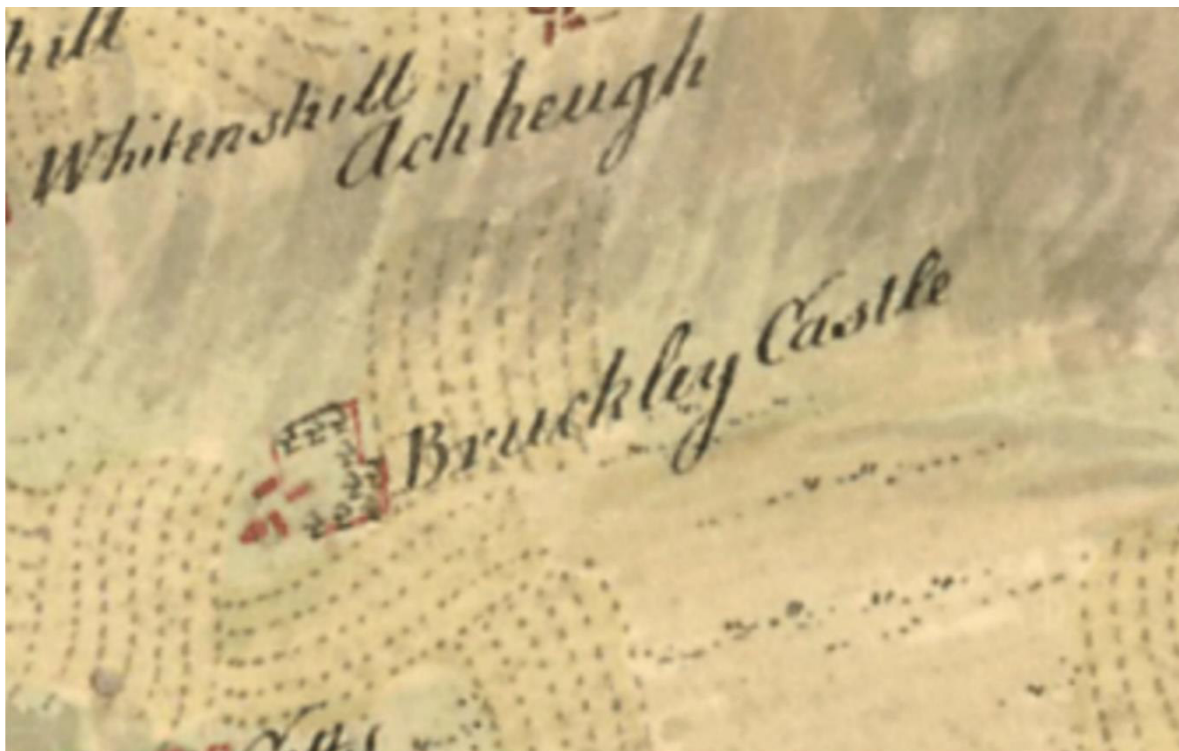
Illus 6 Pont map of 1583-96 showing 'Brokla' in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 7 Gordon map of 1636-52 showing 'Brucklay' in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



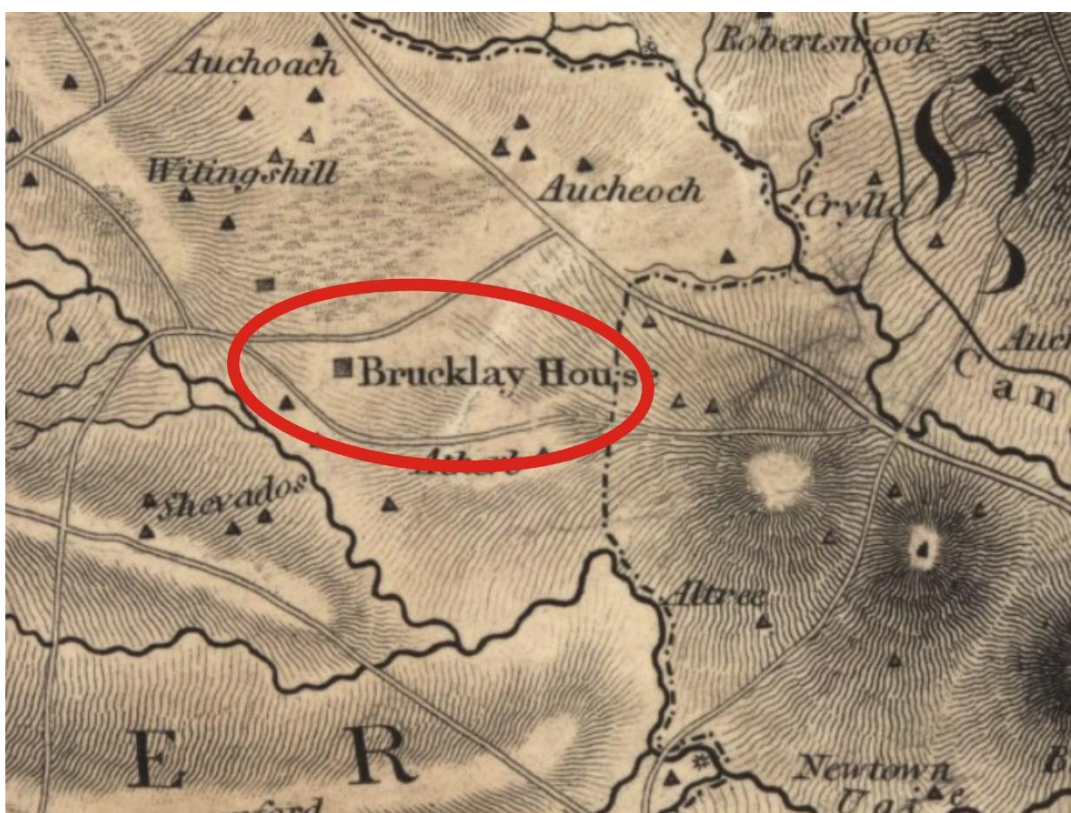
Illus 8 Blaeu map of 1654 showing 'Bruckla' in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 9 Roy's map of 1747-55 showing 'Bruckley Castle' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



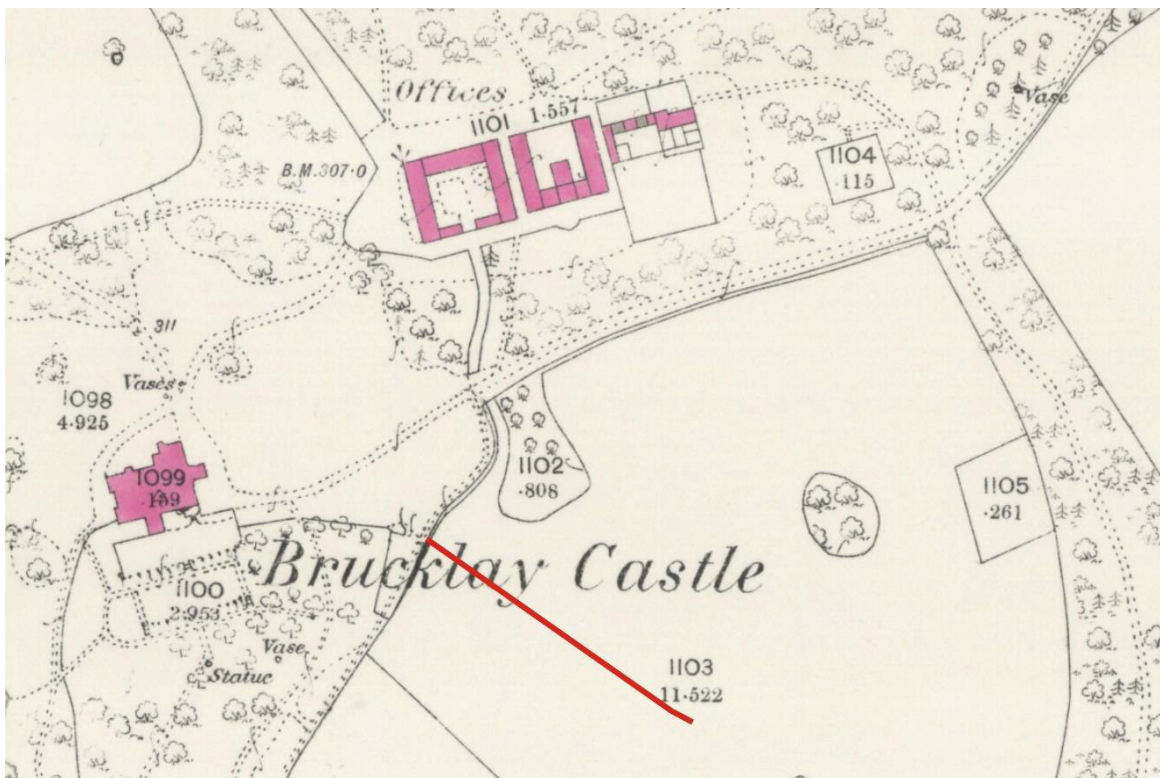
Illus 10 Thomson map of 1826 showing Brucklay House in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



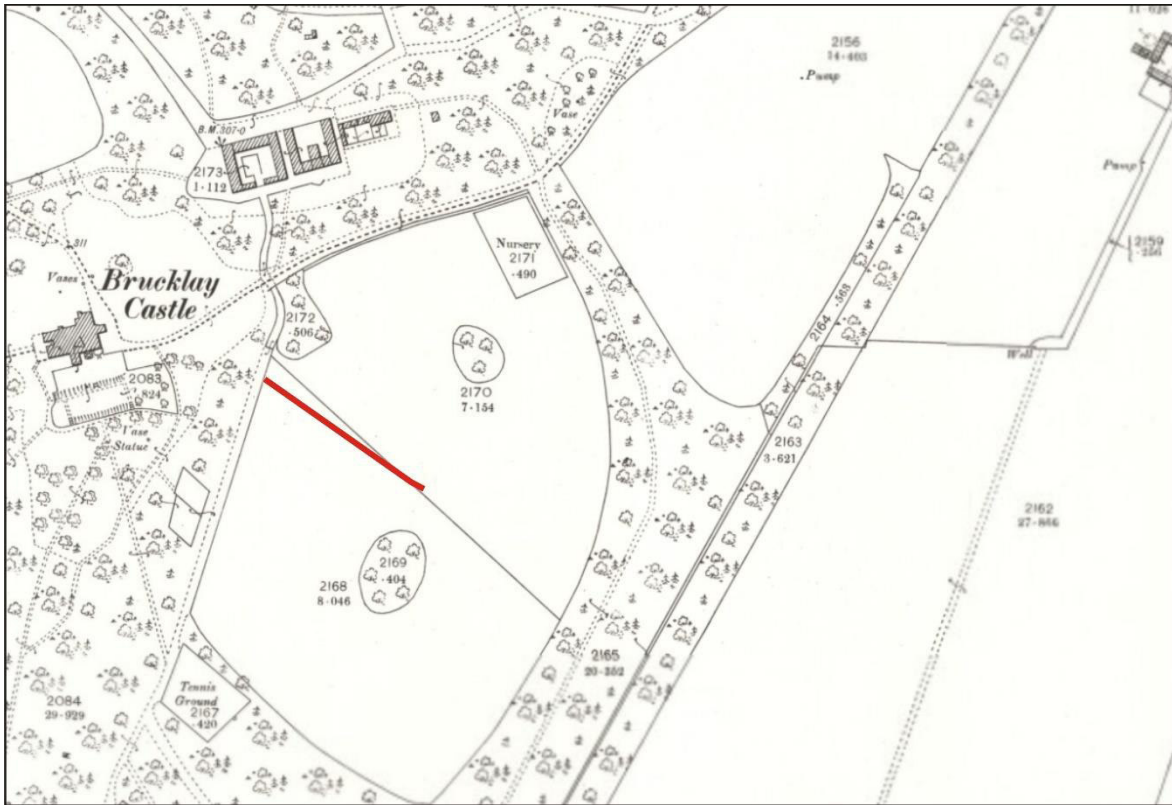
Illus 11 Robertson map of 1822 showing Brucklay House in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 12 Gibb map of 1858 showing approximate site location in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*)



Illus 13 First Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*)
Aberdeenshire XIII.14 (Combined) Survey date: 1869 to 1870 Publication date: 1895



Illus 14 Second Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire XIII.14 (New Deer; Old Deer) Publication date: 1902 Revised: 1900



Illus 15 1988 aerial photograph with approximate area of trench arrowed (*copyright NCAP*).

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo number	Description	Facing
IMG_2965-8	W end of trench showing hut base	E/ESE
IMG_2969-70	Trench	W
IMG_2971-2	Trench	NNW
IMG_2975	Trench	SW
IMG_2982	Trench	W
IMG_2983-5	Trench	
IMG_2986	F2 ceramic pipe	
IMG_2987-97	E end of trench	W
IMG_3001-4	Electricity junction box installed at hut base	
IMG_3005	E end of trench	S
IMG_3006-13	Hut bases in roundel of trees	
P4050848-63	Trench	



IMG_2965.JPG



IMG_2966.JPG



IMG_2967.JPG



IMG_2968.JPG



IMG_2969.JPG



IMG_2970.JPG



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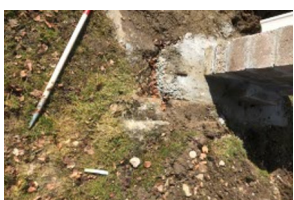
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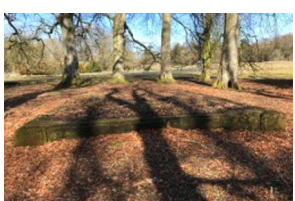
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