

**Site at Brucklay Estate, Maud,
Peterhead, AB42 4QN
Data Structure Report (DSR)
APP/2016/1713**



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Cameron Archaeology
7 May 2018**

CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND	4
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
3	WATCHING BRIEF	7
4	RECORDING OF HUT-BASES	7
5	METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY AND FINDS	9
6	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	11
7	REFERENCES.....	12
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	12
	APPENDIX 1 CONTEXTS	13
	APPENDIX 2 FINDS	13
	APPENDIX 3 MAPS.....	14
	APPENDIX 4 PHOTOS	18

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: top hut base F4; bottom NAAFI stamped plate

Illus 1	Location plan (<i>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018</i>).....	4
Illus 2	Site plan showing watching brief area and the locations of hut bases 12, 13 and 14, metal detector finds locations 1-5 and furrows (<i>copyright Baxter Design</i>).	7
Illus 3	Hut base F4; facing WSW	8
Illus 4	Wood shuttering in situ along the base of the concrete plinth (centre); facing WNW	8
Illus 5	Plan of corner of hut base F4 which was uncovered but not removed	9
Illus 6	Used ordnance uncovered in find-spot 2.....	9
Illus 7	Cabling uncovered in finds spot 3	10
Illus 8	Copper alloy 'box' uncovered in finds spot 5.....	10
Illus 9	NAAFI logo on dinner plate recovered from spoil heap	10
Illus 10	Base of dinner plate stamped '150/ENGLAND' with NAAFI logo on upper surface recovered from spoil heap	11
Illus 11	Selection of metalwork, pottery and glass recovered from F6; this might be a later dump of rubbish and ash	11
Illus 12	Pont map of 1583-96 showing 'Brockla' in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>).....	14
Illus 13	Gordon map of 1636-52 showing 'Brucklay' in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>).....	14
Illus 14	Blaeu map of 1654 showing 'Bruckla' in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>).....	15
Illus 15	Roy's map of 1747-55 showing 'Bruckley Castle' (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>).....	15

Illus 16 Thomson map of 1826 showing Brucklay House in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>).....	16
Illus 17 Robertson map of 1822 showing Brucklay House in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>).....	16
Illus 18 Gibb map of 1858 showing approximate site location in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>).....	17
Illus 19 First Edition OS map showing site outline in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>) Aberdeenshire XIII.14 (Combined) Survey date: 1869 to 1870 Publication date: 1895	17
Illus 20 Second Edition OS map showing site outline in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>) Aberdeenshire XIII.14 (New Deer; Old Deer) Publication date: 1902 Revised: 1900.....	18

SUMMARY

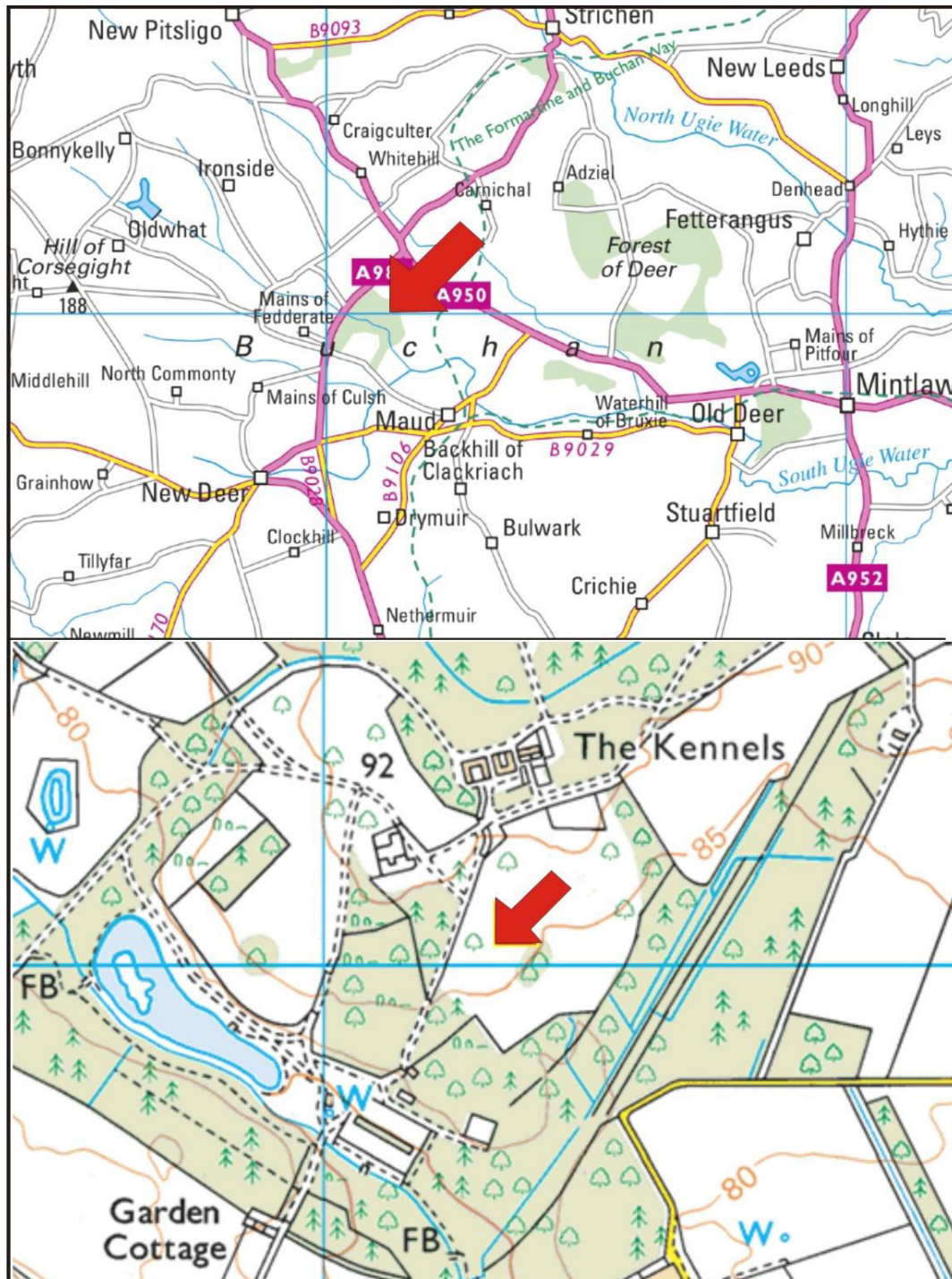
A metal-detector survey, watching brief and building recording was carried out on 1 May 2018. The watching brief revealed the corner of one of the poured concrete hut bases with sand underneath and wood still *in situ* from the shuttering constructed in advance of pouring the concrete. Finds include a dump of ordnance, batteries, wire and cabling, copper alloy box, metal fittings, ceramic including a white dinner plate with NAAFI logo and glassware.

Limited research suggests that the camp may have been used as a recuperation base for troops during WW2, possibly as an internment camp for Italians (and possibly Germans) after which it may have been used as a Displaced Persons camp. Further research is ongoing at time of writing this report.

The soil strip is now complete and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located within the grounds of Brucklay Castle. It is centred on NGR NJ 91299 49978, at 85-90m OD in the parish of New Deer.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by John Buchan. A planning application 2016/1713 for a new house was approved by Aberdeenshire Council on 8.12.16 with a requirement for this WSI (condition 2).
- 1.3 All the archaeological work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 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 show features still survive and a number depressions, where features stood, are visible from the air. A 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 from 2000. The hut bases varied in size from 11.2m x 5m and 13m x c5m. Hut 1 was recorded in detail as it was to be destroyed by development. Andrew Dingwall-Fordyce, the former owner of the Brucklay estate, still holds part of the Estate and deeds but there are no plans of the camp. He has almost no documented evidence of the camp but the Ministry of Defence requisitioned the Castle and two fields beside it in 1941 and in was decommissioned in 1947. The army and officers lived in the Castle and the soldiers in the grounds. The Prisoners of War were, by and large German and the soldiers were Polish. The army treated the Castle badly and when they left it was, to all intents and purposes, uninhabitable. The highlight for the camp seems to have been in 1942 when the Duchess of Gloucester came by train to Maud and inspected the guard. It is also worth noting that until about 20 years ago German families visited the camp; the Germans seemed to have enjoyed their time there and brought the family back to see where they spent the war (Dingwall-Fordyce pers comm). Sandy Cowie (local Book of Deer member) remembers the camp well when in use. He says early in the World War 2 it was used as a recuperation base for troops then as an internment for Italians after which it was used as a Displaced Persons camp.
- 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 stones 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 were 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).

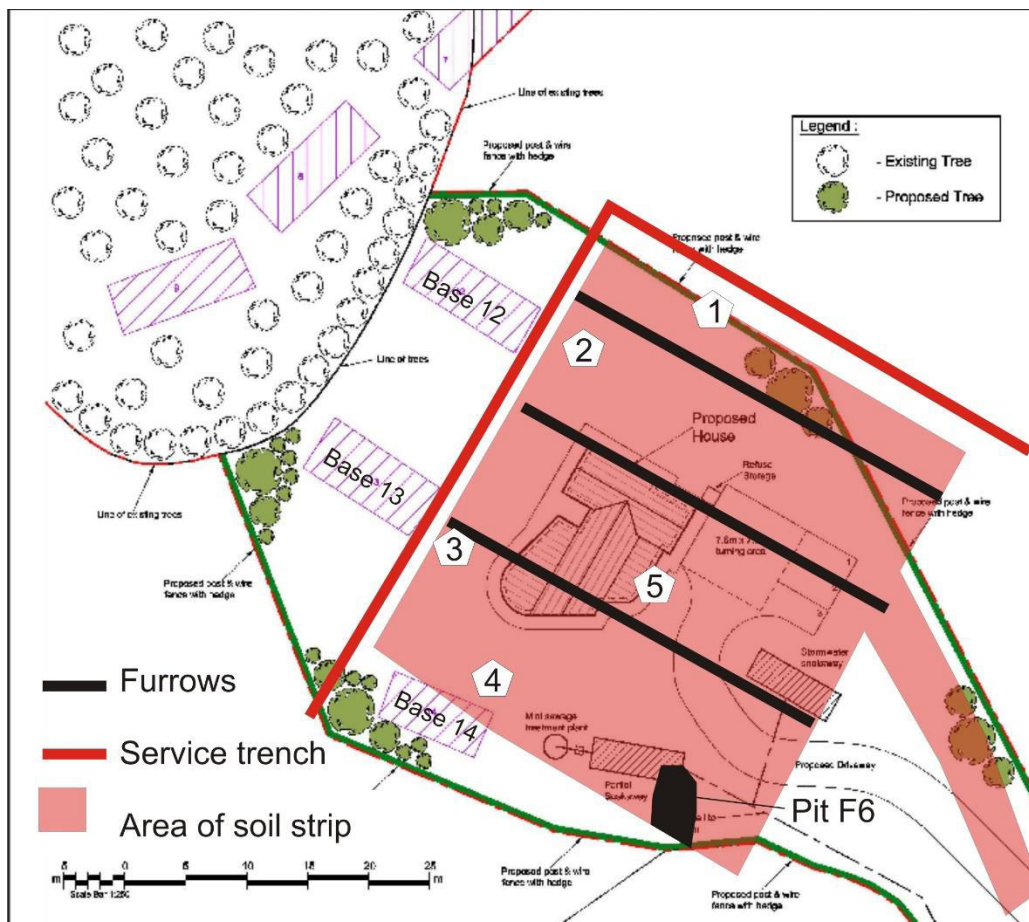
Sherds of cord-zoned beakers from Atherb farm (at NJ 921 494) are in RMS (NMAS), (EO 917-21). Their exact provenance is unknown; they did not come from cairn 1 (HES NJ94NW 31), and further sherds were donated at the same time in a box separately labelled 'Powsode Cairn' (Clarke 1970, 39; Henshall 1983, 107, 108).

- 2.5 At Shevado Farm there is a good example of a whin-mill, 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 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 is within the grounds of Brockla (Illus 12) Brucklay (Illus 13), Bruckla (Illus 14), Bruckley Castle (Illus 15), and in farm land of Brucklay House (Illus 16-20).

3 WATCHING BRIEF

The metal-detector survey and watching brief were carried out on 1 May 2018 for the footprint of the house and a service trench on the NW and NE of the proposed house plot. There was an abundance of hits and each was dug separately and recorded. There were five main dumps of metallic material and one pit with china, glass and metal. The finds are discussed below. The watching brief revealed WNW-ESE furrows up to 1m wide and 8m apart in the natural clay subsoil.



Illus 2 Site plan showing watching brief area and the locations of hut bases 12, 13 and 14, metal detector finds locations 1-5 and furrows (copyright Baxter Design).

4 RECORDING OF HUT-BASES

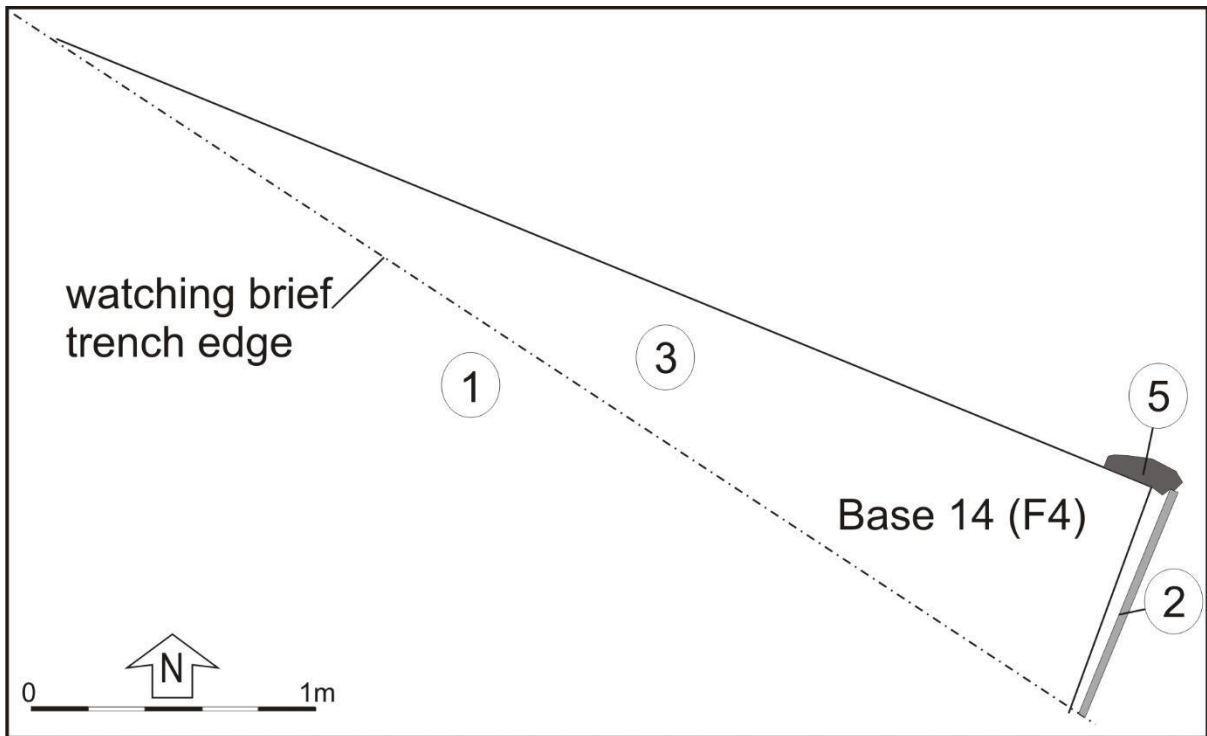
One hut-base (Base 14) was exposed during this watching brief; the other bases (Bases 12 and 13) which were included within the footprint of this new build are now (since 2003) covered in a layer of soil from the preparation of ground at the manege (J Buchan pers comm) and they are not visible. They are within the ground of the new house but are not going to be uncovered by the current owner either during the construction of the house or subsequent garden preparation. Base F4 (Base 14; Illus 3-5) was constructed of concrete (Illus 5, context 3) which was 0.2m thick and had been poured onto a bed of sand. Wood from the shuttering (Illus 5, context 2) was recorded in situ along the ESE edge of the base (Illus 4).



Illus 3 Hut base F4; facing WSW



Illus 4 Wood shuttering in situ along the base of the concrete plinth (centre); facing WNW



Illus 5 Plan of corner of hut base F4 which was uncovered but not removed

5 METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY AND FINDS

A metal-detector survey was carried out prior to the soil strip, during the work and over the spoil heaps. There were five groups or dumps of metallic finds. The majority of the finds were bullets (both live and spent; Illus 6), cabling (Illus 7), a small amount of sheet metal, nails and a number of small items including a small copper-alloy box (Illus 8) with five pierced holes in the upper surface, a hinge on one edge and a lump of very corroded iron in the interior. These are all potentially associated with the military camp. During a scan of the spoil heaps a fragment of white dinner plate with a NAAFI logo (Illus 9-10) was recovered from the spoil heap next to F6, a dump or pit. Other finds from F6 include ceramic plates, glass jars, leather, bone, wood and clinker (Illus 11); none of the finds recovered from F6 were directly related to the camp and it is possible that this is a later rubbish dump.



Illus 6 Used ordnance uncovered in find-spot 2



Illus 7 Cabling uncovered in finds spot 3



Illus 8 Copper alloy 'box' uncovered in finds spot 5



Illus 9 NAAFI logo on dinner plate recovered from spoil heap



Illus 10 Base of dinner plate stamped '150/ENGLAND' with NAAFI logo on upper surface recovered from spoil heap



Illus 11 Selection of metalwork, pottery and glass recovered from F6; this might be a later dump of rubbish and ash

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The watching brief revealed the corner of one of the poured concrete hut bases with sand underneath and wood still *in situ* from the shuttering constructed built in advance of pouring the concrete. Finds include a dump of ordnance, batteries, wire and cabling, copper alloy box, metal fittings, ceramic including a white dinner plate with NAAFI logo and glassware.

Limited research suggests that the camp may have been used as a recuperation base for troops, possibly as an internment camp for Italians (and possibly Germans) after which it was used as a Displaced Persons camp. Further research is ongoing at time of writing this report.

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mr John Buchan for initiating this project, Derek Jennings for carrying out the metal-detector survey and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during this work. Also thanks to local and internet contacts for their research into the camp and others who are still following up leads and planning a visit to The National Archives.

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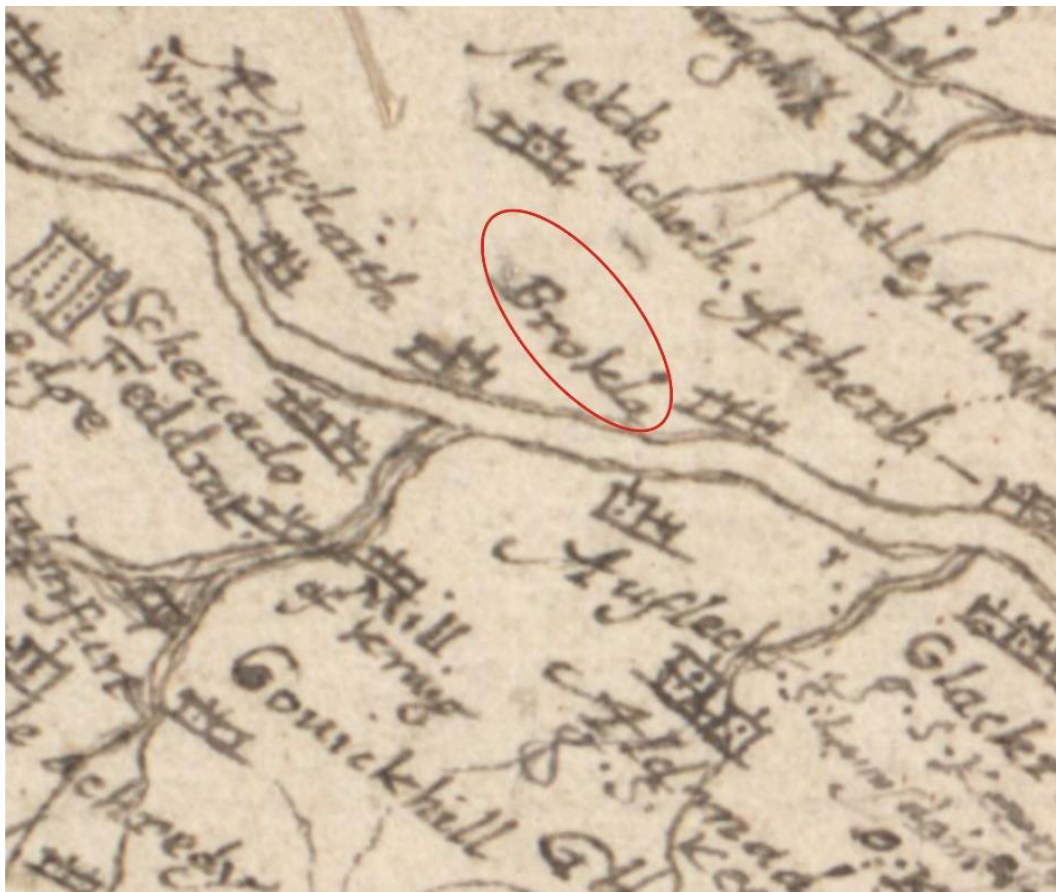
APPENDIX 1 CONTEXTS

Context no	Details
1	Compact, clayey, waterlogged compact grey clayey loam; not ploughed since WW2
2	Wood in situ from shuttering F4
3	Concrete make-up of F4
F4	Concrete hut base corner revealed but not damaged or removed
5	Sand under F4
F6	Pit or dump
7	Fill of F6 including ash, clinker, leather, wood, metal, pottery, glass

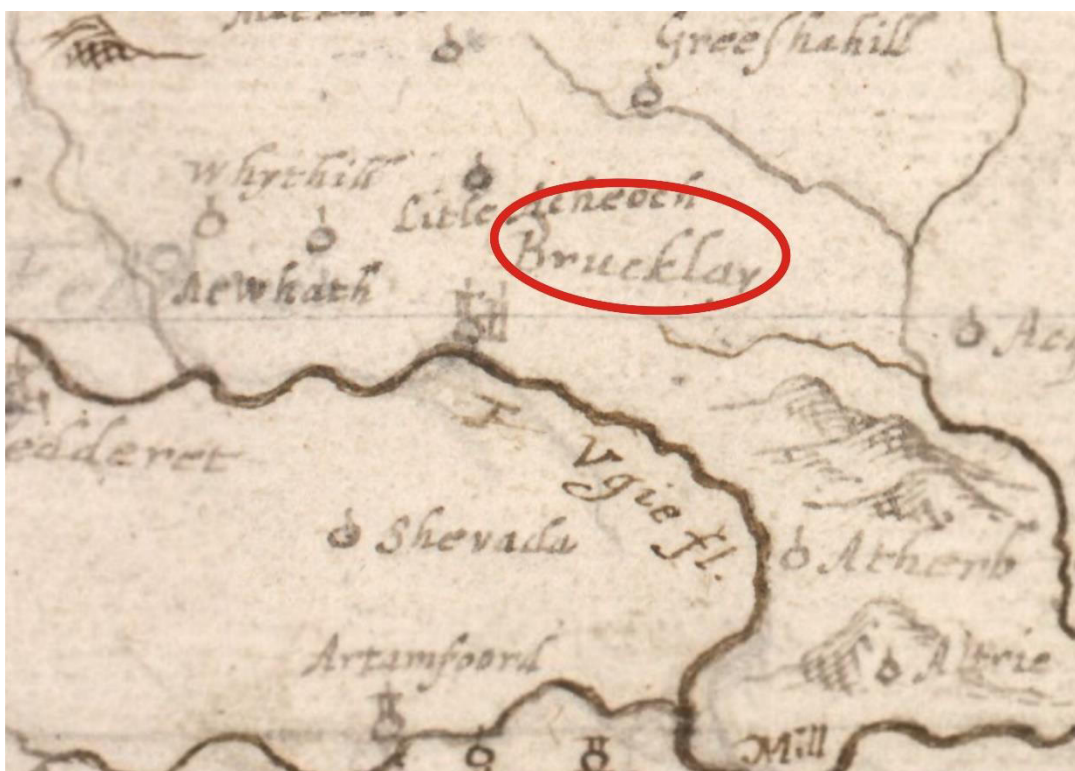
APPENDIX 2 FINDS

Context	Details
F6	Pottery, iron, zinc fittings, glass bottles including complete Sangs soft drink bottle with stopper, bone, sewer pipe
SF1	Bullets, bolt, batteries
SF2	Bullets, cabling
SF3	Pottery and glass
SF4	Bolts
SF5	Bullets, spoke/bolt, copper alloy box
Spoil heap	NAAFI plate, pottery and glass some discarded

APPENDIX 3 MAPS



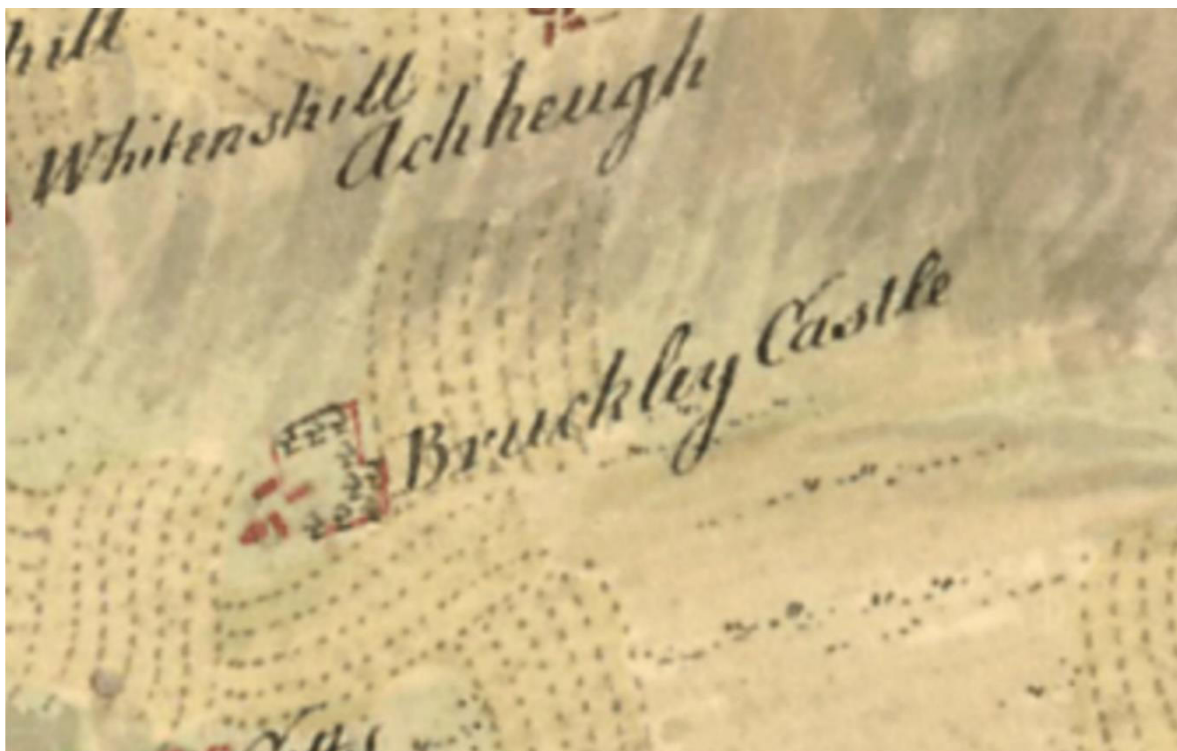
Illus 12 Pont map of 1583-96 showing 'Brokla' in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 13 Gordon map of 1636-52 showing 'Brucklay' in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



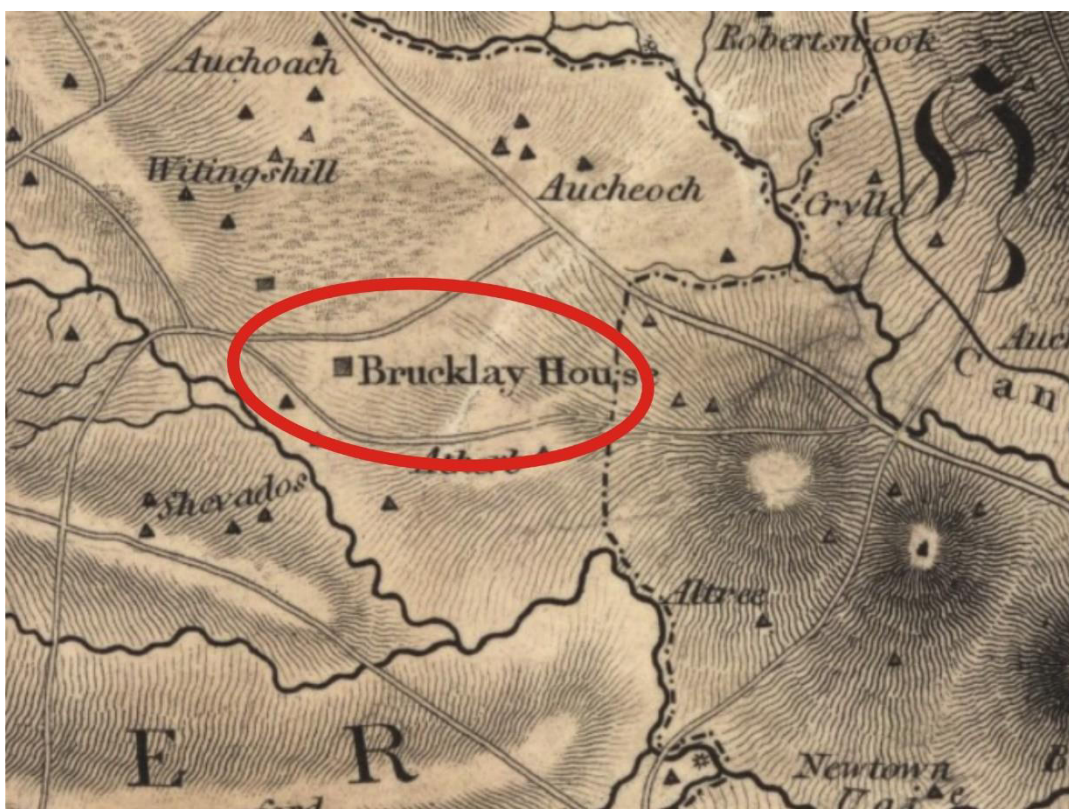
Illus 14 Blaeu map of 1654 showing 'Bruckla' in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 15 Roy's map of 1747-55 showing 'Bruckley Castle' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



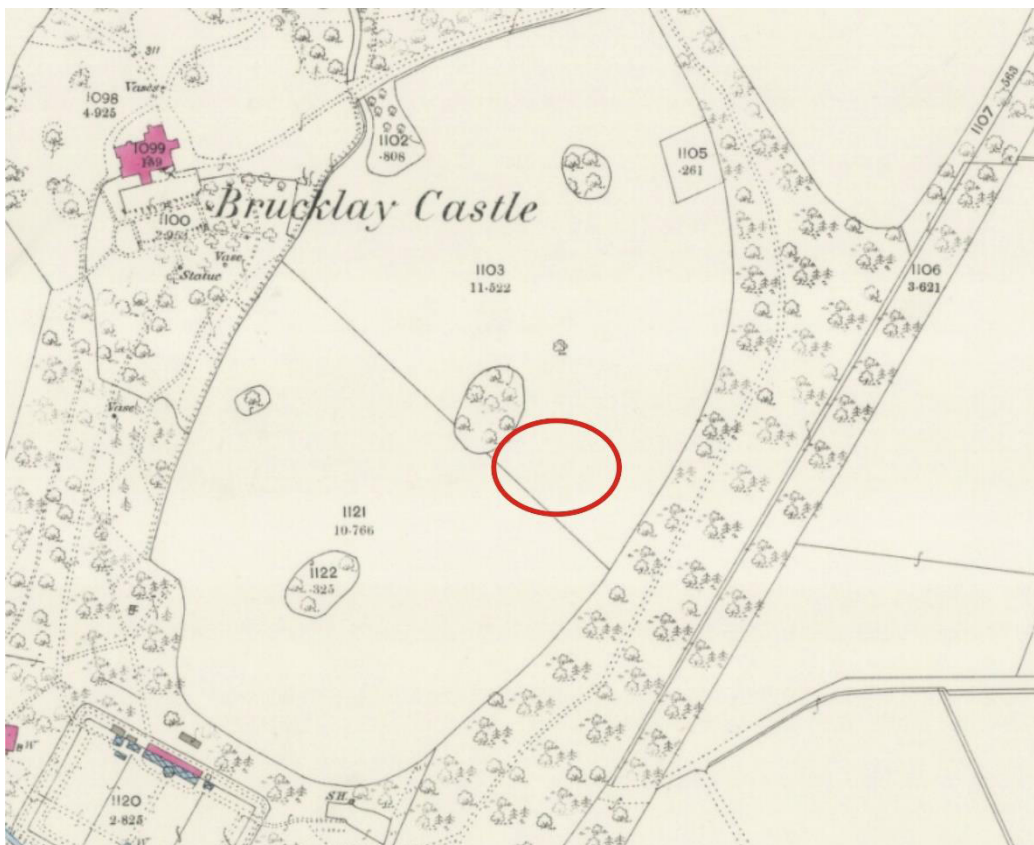
Illus 16 Thomson map of 1826 showing Brucklay House in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



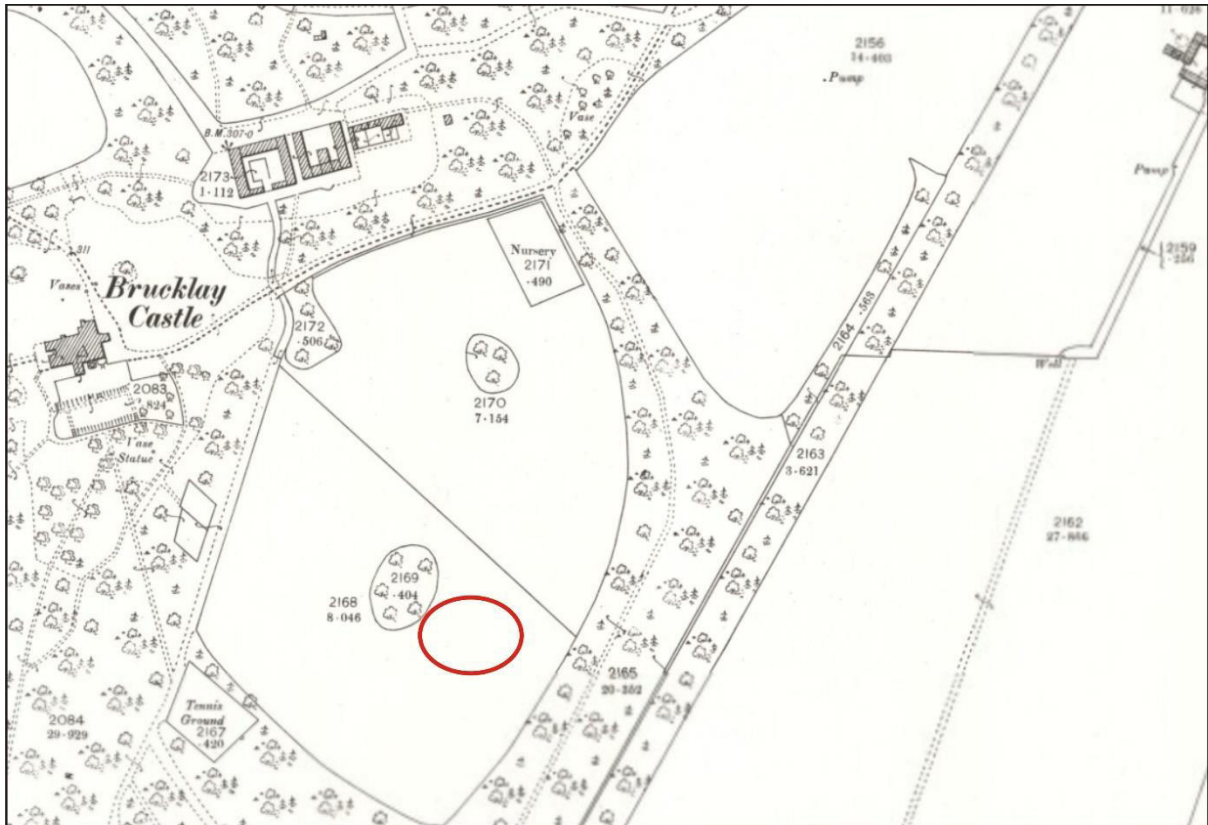
Illus 17 Robertson map of 1822 showing Brucklay House in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 18 Gibb map of 1858 showing approximate site location in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 19 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 20 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

APPENDIX 4 PHOTOS

Photo no	Details	Facing
DSC 8732-7	F4	SE/SW
8738-44	F4 wood shuttering detail	NW/SE
8745-7	Watching brief area	
8748-53	F4 wood shuttering detail	NW/SE
8754-68	Watching brief area and furrows	
8769-76	Ordnance	
8777-81	F6	NW
8782-87	Watching brief area and furrows	
9613-56	Finds	
IMG 3662-3	Drains filled with scallop shells	
3664-3699	Watching brief, metal-detector survey, finds as discovered on site	



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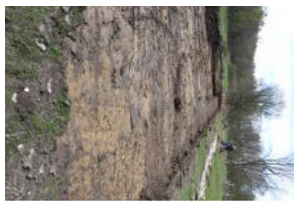
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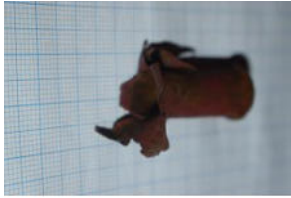
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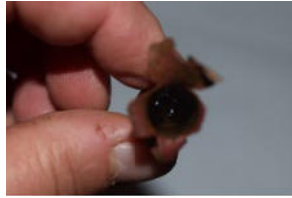
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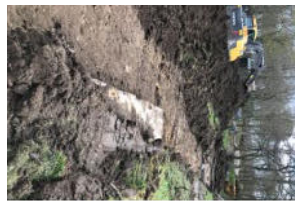
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