

**Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief
CA417 Hobshill, Hatton, Aberdeenshire, AB42 0QT**



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10-08-2018**

CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
3	THE WATCHING BRIEF.....	6
4	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	7
5	REFERENCES.....	7
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
	APPENDIX 1	7
	APPENDIX 2 MAPS.....	8
	APPENDIX 3 PHOTOS	10

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover illustration: Soil strip underway

Illus 1	Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018).....	3
Illus 2	Plan of proposed dwelling-house location (<i>copyright Caledonia Homes 2018</i>).....	4
Illus 3	Location of the completed soil strip for dwelling-house and parking area (red). The rest of the property within this plot will remain undeveloped.	4
Illus 4	Archaeological and Historical Sites of interest within 1km (<i>image copyright Google & Digital Globe 2018</i>).....	5
Illus 5	Soil strip nearing completion. Hand-cleaning was required in several areas to clear patches of loose topsoil. No finds or features were visible.	7
Illus 6	Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55 showing approximate location of site (Map copyright National Library of Scotland).....	8
Illus 7	First Edition OS map showing approximate location of site (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>). Aberdeenshire, Sheet XXXI (includes: Cruden; Longside; Old Deer) Survey date: 1868-70 Publication date: 1872	9
Illus 8	One-inch Scotland 1885-90 map showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland). Peterhead (87), Revised 1894, Published 1896.	9
Illus 9	Second Edition OS map showing approximate location of site (copyright National Library of Scotland). Aberdeenshire XXXI.15 (Cruden) Survey date: 1868 Publication Date 1869.	10

SUMMARY

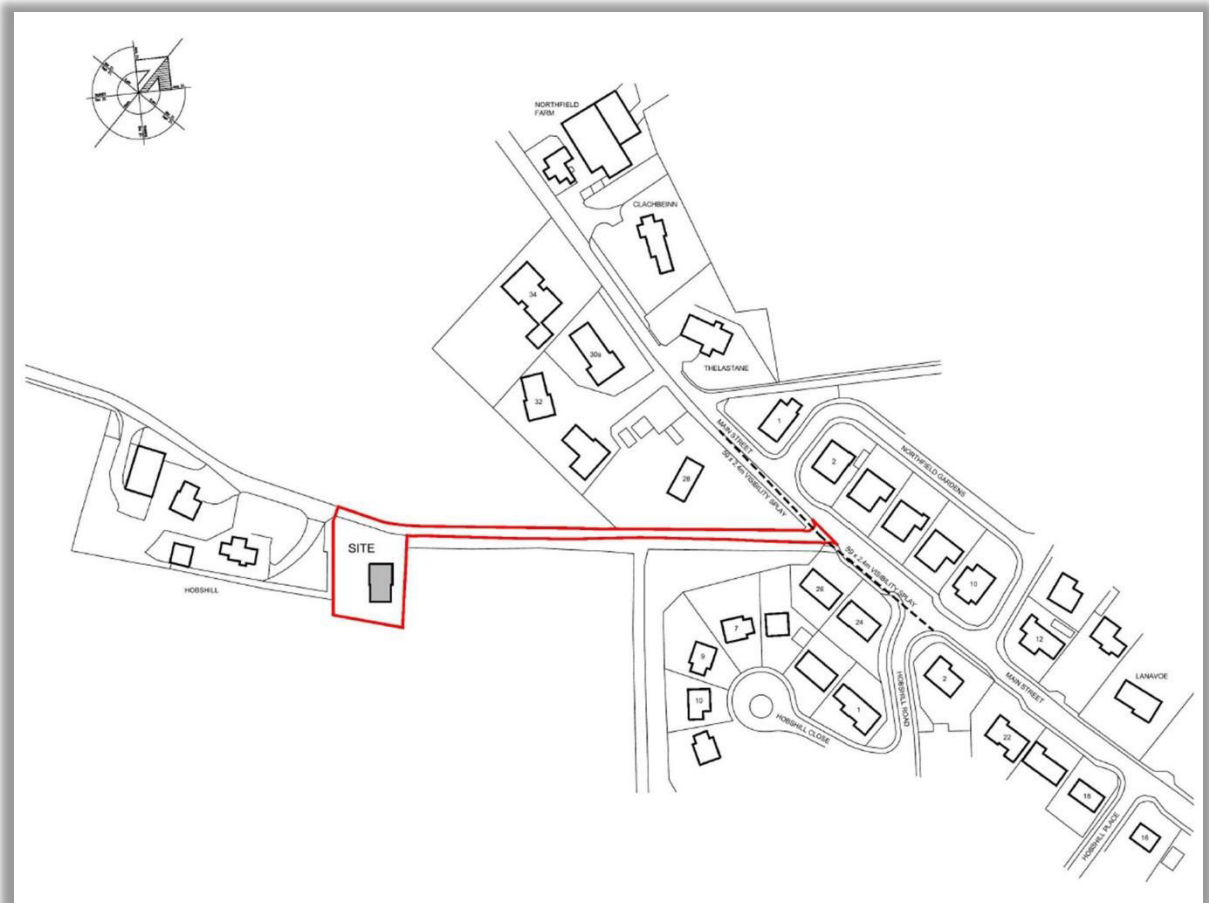
On Monday, August 6th, 2018, a watching brief took place at Hobshill, Hatton during the soil strip in advance of construction of a single-family dwelling. Although historical reports from the early 19th C indicate the presence of a burial cairn some 35m to the NW of the site (Hobshill NK03NW15), no archaeological finds or features were noted. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is needed on this planning application, although the council may wish to impose archaeological conditions on planned future single-family dwellings immediately to the NE of this site.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located 4.5km due west of Cruden Bay and also 0.6km due west of the village of Hatton. It is centred on NGR NK 04443 37056, at 70-73m OD in the parish of Cruden.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Caledonia Homes under planning application APP/2018/1076 for the erection of a dwelling-house. Aberdeenshire Archaeology Services requires an archaeological watching brief during groundbreaking works to safeguard and record the archaeological potential of the area.
- 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.



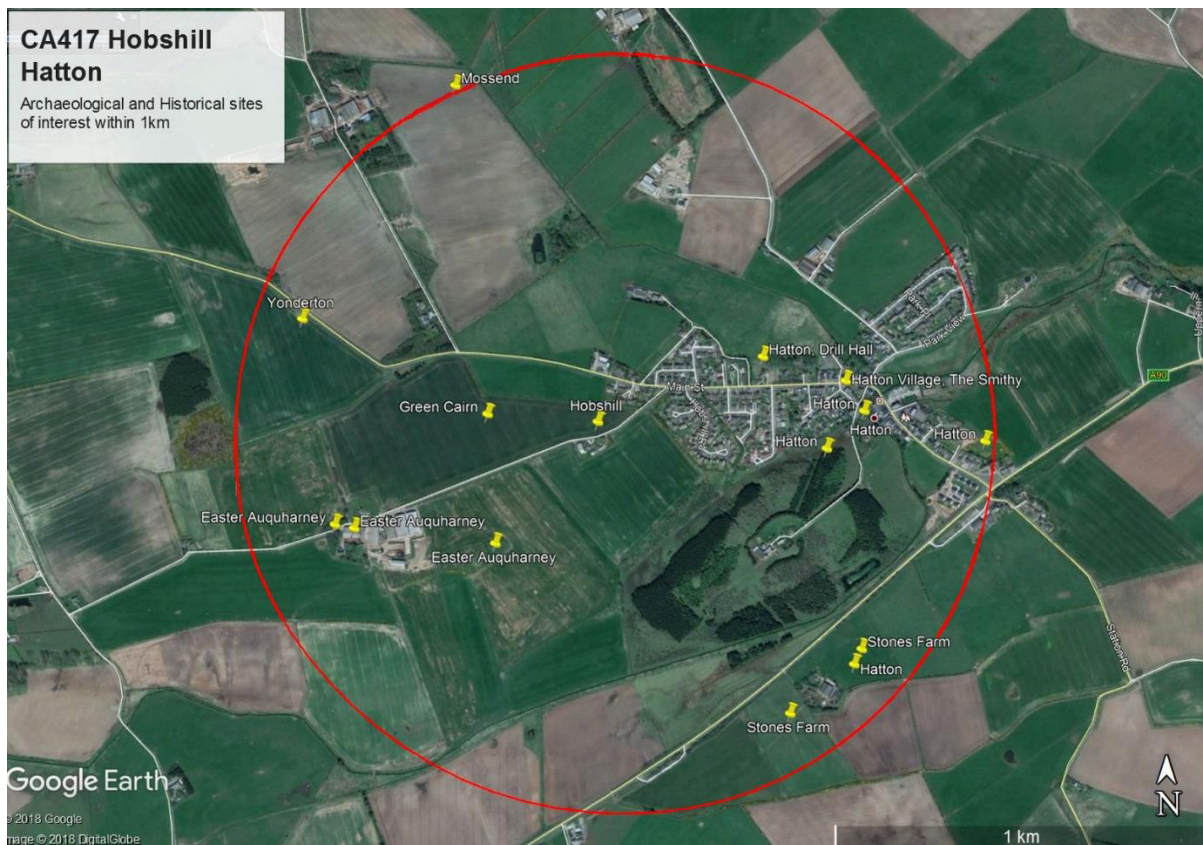
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018).



Illus 2 Plan of proposed dwelling-house location (copyright Caledonia Homes 2018).



Illus 3 Location of the completed soil strip for dwelling-house and parking area (red). The rest of the property within this plot will remain undeveloped.



Illus 4 Archaeological and Historical Sites of interest within 1km (*image copyright Google & Digital Globe 2018*).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the proposed development.
- 2.2 35m NN of the NW corner of the site lies Hobshill (NK03NW15), the site of a large cairn which was removed sometime around 1811 revealing 'black earth'. No trace is currently visible.
- 2.3 350 WNW of the site lies Green Cairn (NK03NW14), the site of a large stone cairn, removed c.1848, where fragments of human bone were reputedly discovered. No trace is currently visible (Name Book 1868).
- 2.4 780m WSW of the site lies Easter Auquharney (NK03 NW20), a very finely polished stone axe of chalcedonic flint was found in this area. It measures 222mm x 63mm across the cutting edge narrowing to 45mm across the butt x 29mm.
- 2.5 425m SW lies Easter Auquharney (NK03NW0033), the site of a farmstead enclosed within a small area planted with deciduous trees. The OS 1st edition map, 1867, shows a group of four rectangular buildings and five enclosures. Three of the buildings had been removed by the time of the OS 2nd edition map, 1888, but another one added within the southwestern enclosure.
- 2.6 875m SE lies Stones Farm (also known as Standingstones Farm, NK03 NE0086), depicted on the OS map of 1867 and 1888 as an almost L-shaped steading, orientated NW/SE, with another range extending to the north from the S end of the southern range. Another small range extends to the west from the northern end of the main range. The house lies to the west of it, with an attached garden enclosure. South of the house is another small building close to a millpond and may therefore

have been a mill. To the east of the farm is another small building, with an attached enclosure on its eastern side. Today the pond has gone, and a number of the original buildings appear to have either gone or have been integrated with later buildings.

- 2.7 880m SE of the site lies Stones Farm, NK03NE10, the site of stone circle, removed 1831, which consisted of 7 or 8 upright stones. On removal of the stones, the earth was found to be of a black, soft nature, very different from the neighbouring ground. Now no trace.
- 2.8 890m SE of the site a stone axe (NK03NE9) was reported to have been found here in the mid-19th century, in close proximity to the former stone circle of Stones Farm mentioned above.
- 2.9 560m due E of the site, a Bronze flat axe (Type Ba) was discovered at Hatton (NK03NE12). No further information is available.
- 2.10 980m due E of the site lies Uppermill, NK03NE25, where two Cists were found sometime between 1818 and 1841, during the removal of sand from a conical mound. The first cist, found at a depth of 2.43m, was formed of slabs of gneiss. It was unpaved and covered by a rough slab of slaty rock and a flattish block of granite. It contained two beakers (Clarke N2 type); seven flint arrowheads, at least one of which was barbed and tanged; a flint knife; a large unworked flint flake; a bracer of polished felstone; and parts of the skeletons of a man and a boy, aged 12 or 13, accompanied by the remains of a dog. The second cist contained one urn; human bones; a stone axe and several flint arrowheads (Name Book 1868).
- 2.11 750m NE of the site lies Hatton Farm, NK03NW50, where during a new development in 1998, a number of worked flints were noted in the spoil excavated from the foundations of the house. These appear to represent a flint-knapping site.
- 2.12 1000m NNW of the site lies Nether Mossend, NK03NW2, where three stone axes were found during 'the early mid-19th century'. No further information is currently known.
- 2.13 c.1000m NNW of the site lies Yonderton (339576). Cropmarks recorded on oblique aerial photographs (RCAHMSAP) may be partly natural in origin, but may also include features associated with a farmstead shown on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map.
- 2.14 635m E is the Hatton Village Smithy (164478) which comprises a mid-19th century single-story rubble building, modified by the insertion of a larger door. The building is still in use (Hume, 1977).
- 2.15 430m NE is the Hatton Village Drill Hall (333961) which was depicted and annotated on the 2nd edition of the OS 25-inch map (Aberdeenshire). The building has been demolished (RCAHMS/HES 2018).

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

The work was carried out on August 6th, 2018 using a back-acting excavator with a bladed bucket. The area to be developed was relatively small at 20x15m (please refer to Illus 4&5). Areas outwith the soil strip within this particular housing plot were to remain undeveloped as garden areas. The topsoil depth ranged from 210mm to 330mm, and overlay a smooth, loose orangish-brown sandy subsoil largely void of grits, gravels or stony inclusions. The spoil heap and sections were closely inspected for any stray finds and changes in stratigraphy – none were noted.



Illus 5 Soil strip nearing completion. Hand-cleaning was required in several areas to clear patches of loose topsoil. No finds or features were visible.

4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

No archaeological finds or features were noted, despite the presence of the burial cairn reported in the early 19th C. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is needed during this planning application, however future plots anticipated to the NE may require archaeological planning conditions if the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service deems necessary.

5 REFERENCES

Historic Environment Scotland. 2018. 'Hatton Village Drill Hall' *accessed online at: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/333961>* as of 24-07-2018.

Hume, J R. (1977a) *The industrial archaeology of Scotland, 2, the Highlands and Islands*. London. Page(s): 94-5 RCAHMS Shelf Number: J.4.11.HUM

Ordnance Survey, 1868. *Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (6 inch and 1/2500 scale)*. Page(s): Book No.22, 60 RCAHMS Shelf Number: Ref

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

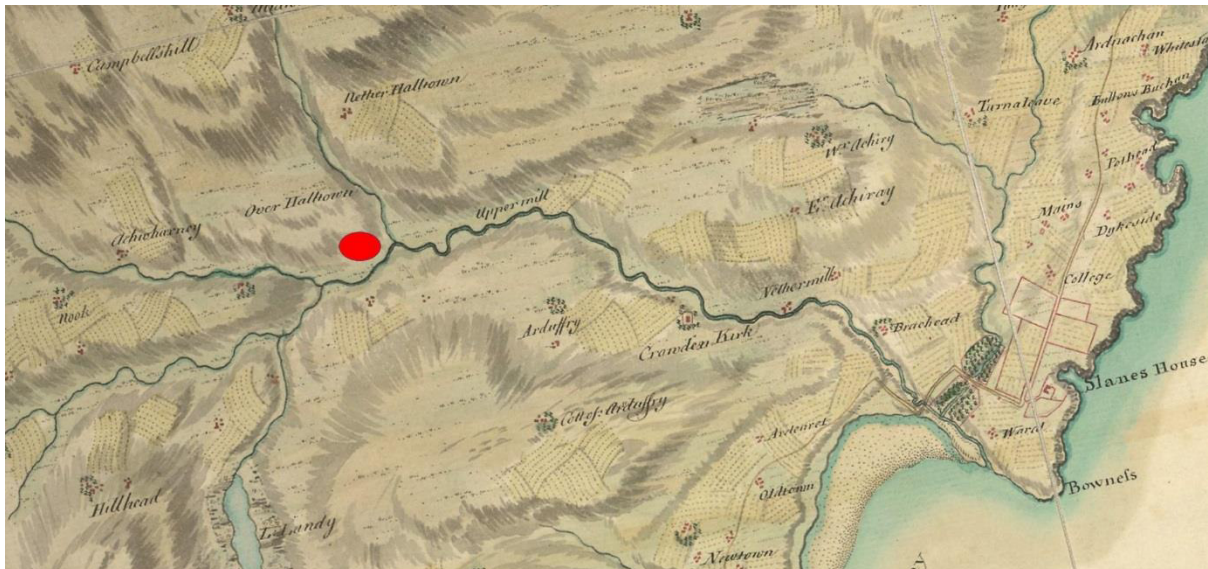
Thanks to Mr. Wright, and Caledonia Homes for initiating this project, and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service, for her advice during this work.

APPENDIX 1

Archaeological and historical sites within 1km of the proposed site (Pastmap and Aberdeenshire SMR online)

Dataset UID	Name	Classification
NK03NW15	Hobshill	Cairn
NK03NW14	Green Cairn	Cairn
NK03 NW20	Easter Aquharney	Stone Axe
NK03NW0033	Easter Aquharney	Farmstead
NK03NE0086	Stones Farm (Standingstone)	Farmstead
NK03NE10	Stones Farm	Stone Circle
NK03NE9	Stones Farm	Stone Axe
NK03NE12	Hatton	Brone flat axe (Type Ba)
NK03NE25	Uppermill	Human remains, animal remains, cist burial(s), lithics, pottery (urn) (beakers)
NK03NW50	Hatton Farm	Lithic scatter
NK03NW2	Nether Mossend	Stone axes (3)
339576	Yonderton	Cropmark (period unknown), Farmstead, Rig and Furrow (Medieval)
164478	Hatton Village, The Smithy	Smithy (period unassigned)
333961	Hatton, Drill Hall	Drill Hall (First World War)

APPENDIX 2 MAPS



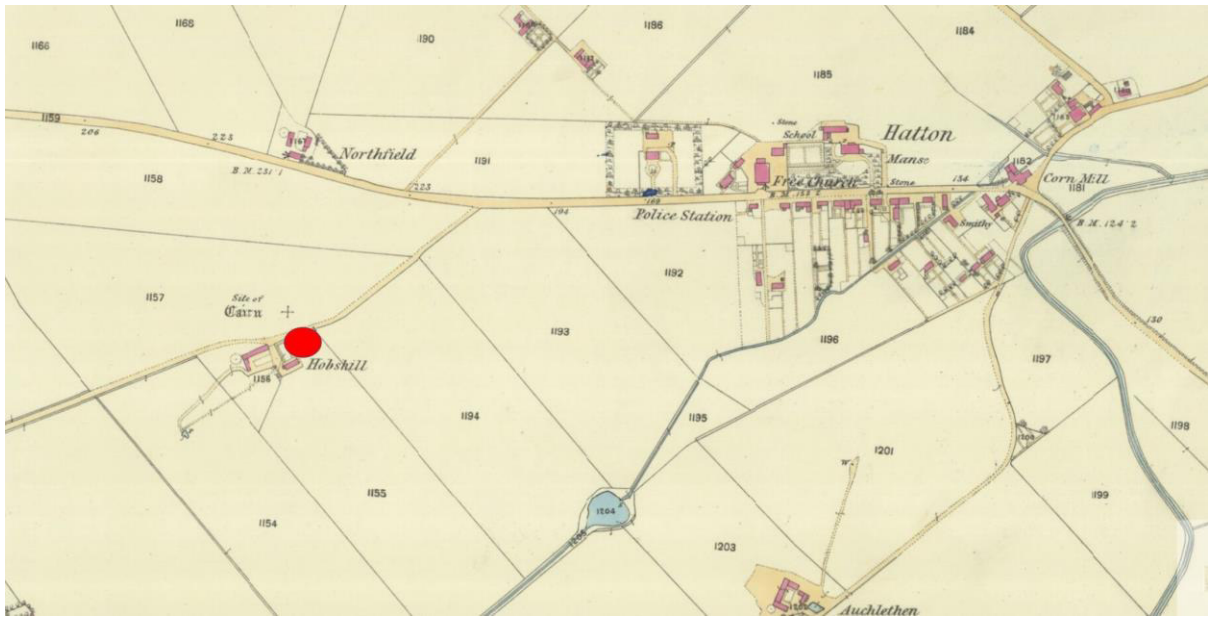
Illus 6 Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55 showing approximate location of site (Map copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 7 First Edition OS map showing approximate location of site (copyright National Library of Scotland). Aberdeenshire, Sheet XXXI (includes: Cruden; Longside; Old Deer) Survey date: 1868-70 Publication date: 1872



Illus 8 One-inch Scotland 1885-90 map showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland). Peterhead (87), Revised 1894, Published 1896.



Illus 9 Second Edition OS map showing approximate location of site (copyright National Library of Scotland). Aberdeenshire XXXI.15 (Cruden) Survey date: 1868 Publication Date 1869.

APPENDIX 3 PHOTOS

Photo ID	Direction Facing	Comments
DSC6801	SW	Soil strip commencing
DSC6802	WNW	Soil strip underway
DSC6803	SE	Soil strip underway
DSC6804	E	Soil strip underway
DSC6805	SE	Soil strip underway
DSC6806	SE	Soil strip underway
DSC6807	SE	Soil strip underway
DSC6808	SE	Soil strip nearing completion
DSC6809	SE	Soil strip nearing completion



DSC6801.jpg



DSC6802.jpg



DSC6803.jpg



DSC6804.jpg



DSC6805.jpg



DSC6806.jpg



DSC6807.jpg



DSC6808.jpg



DSC6809.jpg