

**Plot 1, Land At Ravenscraig, Inverugie,  
Peterhead, AB42 3DS  
Data Structure report (DSR)  
For archaeological evaluation**

**Aberdeenshire Council Planning application APP/2018/0246**



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## SUMMARY

Five trenches were excavated on 3 May 2019 by Stuart Farrell for Cameron Archaeology. The area is a flattish terrace situated close to the River Ugie, the field is currently under grass. No archaeological finds or features were identified, 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 S of Ravenscraig on the NNW side of Inverugie. It is centred on NGR NK 09951 48465, at 10-15m OD in the parish of Peterhead.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by David Gauld for ARD Properties. An application APP/2018/0246 for Erection of Dwellinghouse was approved on 11 July 2018 with a condition (condition 13) requiring this WSI and a 7-10% archaeological evaluation.
- 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 2019)

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Historic Environment Record (HER) and Canmore (HES) were consulted online within 1km of the proposed development.

- 2.1 There are four Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the proposed development. Mount Pleasant (SMR NK14NW0022) is an earthwork, in the form of a sub-circular grass-covered mound whose interior is slightly higher than the surrounding ground. There is no suggestion of a moat, and the defences consist of an earth and stone bank present for the entire circuit except on the ENE side, where there is a steep bank down to the River Ugie. It is possible that some of the material for the site comes from this bank. Defences absent on NE for 19m. Two gaps are cut into the bank, one in the S may be the original entrance, 3m wide, the other in the W, 2m wide, is modern.
- 2.2 Scheduled Monument Inverugie Castle is the Remains of a castle and tower (SMR NK14NW0003). Inverugie Castle takes the form of a towerhouse, probably late 16th or early 17th Century, with two towers at its north-east and south-east angles, one of which is known as the Cheyne tower. The buildings which flank the large courtyard appear to be of more recent date than the castle and are possibly associated with the renovation by Ferguson in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. The tower house was blown up in 1899, now only a stump remains. The courtyard, two storeys of the south range of the south court and inner gate are fairly complete but roofless. The outer gate of 1670 has been removed. The range between the north and south courts is very ruined. The east wing of the north court is overgrown. Running south from the outer gateway was a wall with a massive moulded cope ornamented with figures representing a close carriage with four horses and the date 1670 - an early illustration and instance of such a vehicle in Scotland. In front of this are two mounted horsemen galloping at full speed, the Scottish thistle, and a lion close to the gateway.
- 2.3 Scheduled Monument Castle Hill (SMR NK14NW0006) is a grass-covered earthen motte is conspicuously sited on top of a slight rise. A slight depression in the SW may be remains of a ditch but ploughing has obliterated any trace of it elsewhere. The mound was the site of the early earthwork castle of the Cheynes, who held the barony of Inverugie in the 13th Century. The hill is 31m in diameter, 3.6m high and has a summit diameter of 14m. There is a slight depression in the southwest which could be the remains of a ditch. On an aerial photograph there is a slight suggestion that there may have been a large enclosure adjoining the motte on the W side, a possible bailey (Yeoman 1988, 131).
- 2.4 Scheduled Monument Ravenscraig Castle is the remains of a castle (SMR NK04NE0001). A large tower house, L-plan, originally called Craig of Inverugie. The whole of the ground floor was vaulted but the arches have fallen except that of the SW chamber, which is still entire. Opposite the entrance door, in the thickness of the N wall, a straight flight of stairs led up to the first floor, where it stopped. There was a circular stair to the upper floors in the thickness of the wall at the re-entrant angle, rising above wall-head as a circular turret. Rubble-built with dressed quoins, dressed stones of all openings except cross-arrowlets were robbed prior to 1839. The footings of a curtain wall are traceable to the S and E of the tower on the inner lip of the rock-cut moat, c.10m wide by 3m deep at E end. No buildings remain within the barmekin. Regularly disposed round all its sides at ground level is an array of loops in the form of long slits with a short crosslet slit near the top and a circular aperture at the bottom. The internal embrasures are wide, with jambs deeply slotted at the outer end. In these slots the wooden cills were housed which held the spiked gun-mounting (Cruden). Only two of the transverse stone-built dykes across the moat can be seen, but an entrance causeway on the S side is

referred to as the third. The broken ground to the W of the moat, described by Macgibbon and Ross, may be defensive, but seems more likely to be surface quarrying, possibly contemporary with the castle. Originally the property of the Cheynes, passed to the Keiths by marriage in mid 14th Century. Still a substantial castle in a spectacular situation (Simpson 1934, 4; Bogden and Bryce 1991, 26).

- 2.5 Flint blade of the early Mesolithic period (SR NK04NE0077). Found during metal detecting; claimed as Treasure Trove.
- 2.6 A stone pestle (SMR NK14NW0009) was found near Inverugie.
- 2.7 A sub-oval cropmark (SMR NK14NW0068), possible internal features, is visible in a field above the river embankment at Inverugie.
- 2.8 Road bridge over the River Ugie (SMR NK14NW0028), dating to 19th Century. It is a three span bridge with segmental arches of unequal size and triangular cutwaters. The arch rings are of dressed stone and the spandrels of coursed rubble.
- 2.9 Remains of a lime mortar built building (SMR NK14NW0091), only 2 sides still standing at Inverugie. N side curtain arched entrance near centre. Possible blocked slit to E of doorway and possible blocked window. At W end of N wall is a curved wall which may have formed part of a newal stair.
- 2.10 Site of dovecot (NK14NW0062), originally 17m in circumference at Inverugie. Now no trace.
- 2.11 Site of a souterrain (SMR NK14NW0001) at Lunderton Farm found in the 1860s in a natural hillock. The chamber was aligned N-S with a narrow entrance passage at the South end c.0.61m wide. The sides were 1.21-1.82m high and built of rough boulders, clay and turf. The floor was of earth with the remains of a fireplace, covered with 76cm deep of burned peat ashes, on the east side of the floor. No artefacts were found. No trace remains to indicate site.
- 2.12 Remains of either a building (SMR NK14NW0074) or a small rectangular enclosure at Castle Hill, not depicted on the 1st or 2nd edition OS maps.
- 2.13 Cropmarks of rigs and a number of maculae (SMR NK14NW0090) at Balmoor, several of which are sub-rectangular in plan. The rigs run NE-SW.
- 2.14 Site of Barony of Balmoor/ Balmuir/ Balmore (SMR NK14NW0049).
- 2.15 Balmoor Bridge is a road bridge (SMR NK14NW0072), built in 1884. It has two semi-circular arches and a wide centre pier, constructed of bull-faced coursed granite with voussoirs. It has long wider approaches with steeply battered coursed granite retaining walls, terminal piers at S end and an inscription on W face .
- 2.16 Wester Barnyards (SMR NK04NE0031) is a farmstead, depicted on the 1st edition OS map of 1867 as a U-shaped steading with open court to the SSE. A horsemill lies against the western side and a small range extends to the east at the southern end of the east range. Two small buildings lie within the court. Another L-shaped building, probably the house, lies to the south. By the 2nd edition OS map of 1888 the horsemill and the eastern extension, plus the two buildings within the court have gone. Today another building lies to the west of the house.

- 2.17 Stonemills (SMR NK04NE0039) is the remains of corn mill complex and farmstead, depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps as a group of 4 buildings. Only the most north-easterly building appears to survive.
- 2.18 Easterton is a bridge (SMR NK04NE0014), carrying road over now disused railway line. Masonry parapet, coped, with abutments and wing walls, also brick arch. 41.50 miles from Aberdeen, No.731.
- 2.19 At Ravenscraig is a scatter of flints (SMR NK04NE0026) found over an area c.100m wide suggesting a possible area of prehistoric flint working. Finds include debitage with cores, primary flakes, waste flakes and chips. Also found were two arrowheads, one of which is a fine, thin barbed and tanged arrowhead. The flints are from several periods (NMS 1994, 24).
- 2.20 Cairnhill (SMR NK04NE0030) is a farmstead, depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps as an L-plan range and rectangular building forming three sides of a court open to the south. To the east is a T-plan house with attached garden enclosure. Current maps indicate that the west wing of the range and the smaller building have since been removed, and the rest of the range has been altered and extended.
- 2.21 Easterton of Barnyards (SMR NK04NE0003) is the site of graves, found in 1903. Situated in quite a restricted area and evidenced by darkened and discoloured sand, the outlines of four graves of 'dark mould' were distinct against the red sand, at a depth from the surface of c.0.25m. The bottom of the graves were 0.83m below surface. Two were aligned north-south, and two east-west. Conspicuous throughout the graves was a large amount of charcoal, numerous fragments of coarse pottery and many angular flints of arrowhead shape, but no perfect specimen; also some cremated bone was present.
- 2.22 Two small malleable shot were found at Ravenscraig (SMR NK04NE0022), one whilst excavating the disused canal where it is closest to Ravenscraig Castle, the other at the base of Raven's Craig. Both are in the Arbuthnott Museum, Peterhead.
- 2.23 A stone axe (SMR NK04NE0002), measuring 82mm by 58mm, was found within the vicinity of castle of Ravenscraig in 1864 (Anderson and Black 1888, Vol 22, 365).
- 2.24 Railway bridge with culvert for burn (SMR NK04NE0015) at Eastburn. Masonry parapet, coped wing walls and brick arch. 41.75 miles from Aberdeen, No.732.
- 2.25 At Mink Farm there was a building which is now destroyed (SMR NK04NE0032).
- 2.26 At Ravenscraig there is the remains of a corn mill (SMR NK04NE0055) depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps, with a lade running to the mill directly from the River Urie. Today the lade is used as a field drain, while traces of the mill walls also appear to survive.
- 2.27 At Ellieshill is the Cropmark of a possible ring-ditch (SMR NK04NE0033).
- 2.28 At Ravenscraig there is a large fragment of stone (NK04NE0056) noticed protruding from a derelict drystone dyke at this location in 2003. The weathered and lichen-encrusted edge was seen to bear interlace carving. The stone is a sub-rectangular fragment of reddish sandstone (not local to Buchan), which has been broken-off a larger carving. It measures overall: 310mm in length by 258mm and 150mm thick. The interlace occurs on a slightly angled edge and is deeply cut. The face of the stone bears relief carving in two fragmentary panels, defined by a

horizontal band of raised stone which itself appears to bear traces of incised lettering. The left hand side of the upper panel bears a deeply incised recess in which are the relief carving of a T-form, above which is the possible reverse of the form, although the 'stem' thickens and could be interpreted as the widely splayed legs of a human figure. The rest of the upper part of the stone is unclear. There is an L-shaped area in relief which has a slightly raised border; it is conceivably the head of a beast, possibly a calf. Below this is a diagonally-set image which might be read as that of a grotesque human figure, leaning on one elbow and with an over-sized head. A fish-like form lies just above it. The field below the raised band contains, at right, almost half of a human face, full on, with almond eyes below brow ridges and a sub-triangular nose. To its left is a small lizard-like beast with a tail that loops around it, possibly passing into its mouth. The inscription on the band is very worn but may possibly be transcribed as: [..][i]DR[o]. This might be a reference to St. Drostan, founder of the Celtic monastery at Deer in the sixth century, and may indicate that the cross-slab was one of the boundary stones of that monastery. The findspot is close to the mouth of the River Ugie, approximately 300 m SE of Ravenscraig Castle (Shepherd 2003, 21-1).

- 2.29 At Mount (SMR NK04NE0037) is the site of a Spitfire which crashed during WWII.
- 2.30 At Ugie (SMR NK04NE0025) is the remains of canal, now disused, which runs from NK 082 499 - NK 099 490.
- 2.31 A flint blade (L104.3 x B33.2 x Th11.6mm; wt 38.8g). A grey-brown flint with slight pinkish-red tinge. Essentially a tertiary piece but with two very small patches of cortex on the top LHS edge, which indicate derivation from a weathered, chatter-marked cobble. The blade has a prismatic form, with all the main negative dorsal scars struck from the same direction as the blade, but retaining a small zone of cresting at the feathered distal terminal, perhaps suggesting more complexity than a unipolar core. The striking platform is partially faceted giving a trihedral form, but the faceting is post-dated by frontal trimming of the platform edge. The blade is unretouched, and without any obvious signs of use-wear. On typological grounds this piece can best be paralleled in Britain within the long-blade assemblages of southern and eastern England, conventionally related to the Ahrensburgian complex and dated to the Pleistocene/Holocene transition (roughly around 12000 years ago). The usual caveats must apply to what is a single, uncontexted find with unknown depositional history. However, assuming this to be a genuine local prehistoric object (and the use of local flint related to the Buchan deposits is possible), this could be a very exciting indication of Late Upper Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic activity in this part of Scotland and therefore must be regarded as a highly significant find (Savile 2015, 32-3).

2.32 Historic maps show the area has been farmland (Illus 3-10).

### **3 THE EVALUATION**

Five trenches were excavated on 3 May 2019 by Stuart Farrell for Cameron Archaeology. The area is a flattish terrace situated close to the River Ugie, the field is currently under grass and the work was carried out using an 8 ton machine with a 1.6m wide straight edged bucket. The weather was slightly overcast with showers and sunny periods. Five trenches were excavated (Illus 2).

Trench 1 – Aligned ENE-WSW – Topsoil and subsoil – brownish-black to a depth of 0.45m, onto a natural of orange-yellow brown marl with large rounded and angular stones, no features or deposits. 11m in length.

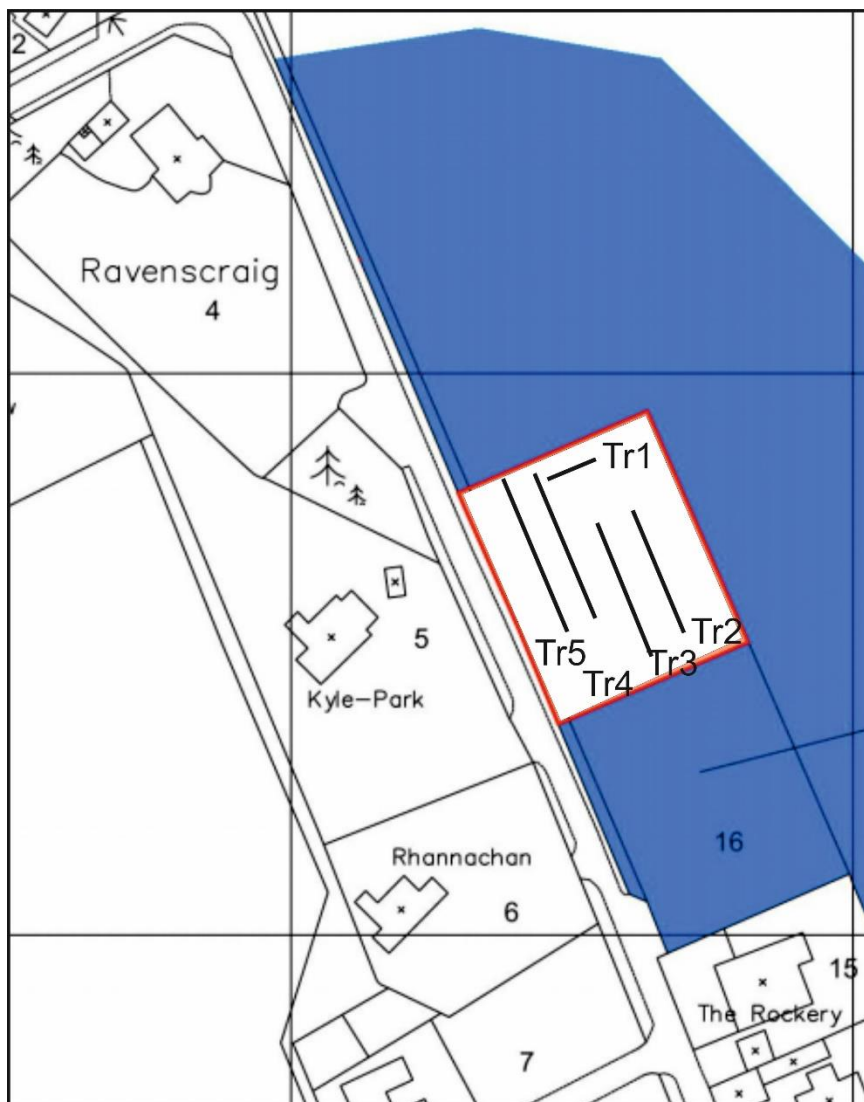
Trench 2 – Aligned NNW-SSE – Topsoil and subsoil – brownish-black to a depth of 0.4m, onto a natural of orange-yellow brown gravel with numerous large rounded and angular stones, no features or deposits. 31m in length. Find of 19<sup>th</sup> glass in topsoil (not retained).

Trench 3 – Aligned NNW-SSE – Topsoil and subsoil – brownish-black to a depth of 0.4m, onto a mixed natural of orange-yellow brown marl and gravel with numerous large rounded and angular stones, no features or deposits. 31.7m in length. Find of 19<sup>th</sup> century tin-glazed pottery in topsoil (not retained).

Trench 4 – Aligned NNW-SSE – Topsoil and subsoil – brownish-black to a depth of 0.35m (deepening to 0.4m to centre of trench), onto a natural of orange-yellow brown sandy marl with numerous large rounded and angular stones, no features or deposits. 35m in length.

Trench 5 – Aligned NNW-SSE – Topsoil and subsoil – brownish-black to a depth of 0.5m, onto a natural of orange-grey brown marl with clay with numerous large rounded and angular stones, no features or deposits. 25m in length.

No features or deposits found in any trenches, numerous large stones in area likely precludes area having archaeological activity except 19<sup>th</sup> finds in topsoil.



Illus 2 Plan of evaluation trenches (copyright David Gault Architects Ltd)



## 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As no archaeological contexts or finds were recovered it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

## 5 REFERENCES

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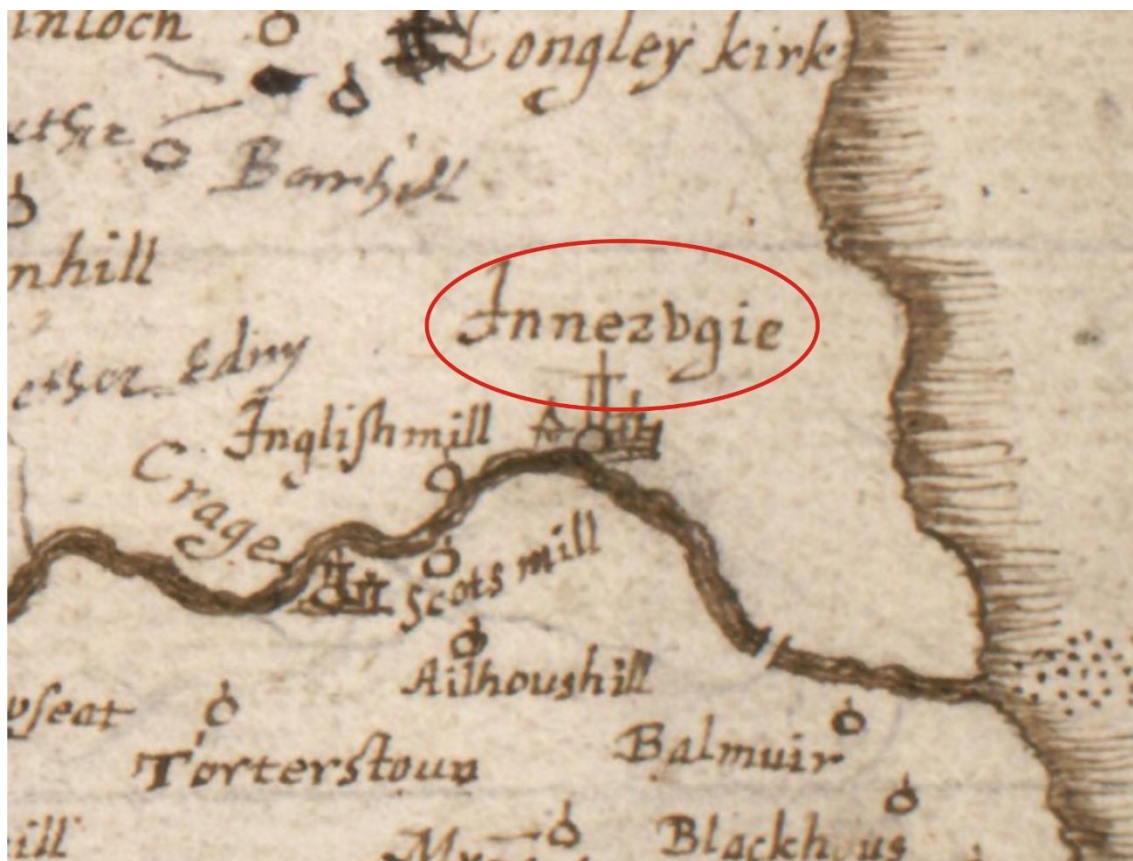
## APPENDIX 1

### Archaeological and historical sites within 1km of the proposed site (HES and Aberdeenshire HER online)

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name	Classification
HERABER	NK04NE0077	Inverugie	Flint blade
HERABER	NK14NW0022	Mount Pleasant	Earthwork, Scheduled
HERABER	NK14NW0009	Inverugie	Pestle
HERABER	NK14NW0068	Inverugie	Cropmark
HERABER	NK14NW0028	Inverugie Bridge	Bridge
HERABER	NK14NW0091	Inverugie	Building
HERABER	NK14NW0003	Inverugie Castle	Castle, Scheduled
HERABER	NK14NW0062	Inverugie	Dovecot
HERABER	NK14NW0006	Castlehill Of Inverugie	Castle, Scheduled
HERABER	NK14NW0001	Lunderton Farm	Souterrain
HERABER	NK14NW0074	Castle Hill	Building
HERABER	NK14NW0090	Balmoor	cropmarks
HERABER	NK14NW0049	Balmoor	Barony
HERABER	NK14NW0072	Balmoor Bridge	Bridge
HERABER	NK04NE0031	Wester Barnyards	Farm
HERABER	NK04NE0039	Stonemills	Mill
HERABER	NK04NE0014	Easterton	Bridge
HERABER	NK04NE0026	Ravenscraig	Flints
HERABER	NK04NE0030	Cairnhill	Farmstead
HERABER	NK04NE0003	Easterton Of Barnyards	Graves
HERABER	NK04NE0022	Ravenscraig	Shot
HERABER	NK04NE0001	Ravenscraig Castle	Castle, Scheduled
HERABER	NK04NE0002	Easterton Of Barnyards	Axe
HERABER	NK04NE0015	Eastburn	Bridge
HERABER	NK04NE0032	Mink Farm	Building
HERABER	NK04NE0055	Ravenscraig	Mill
HERABER	NK04NE0033	Ellieshill	Cropmark, ring-ditch
HERABER	NK04NE0056	Ravenscraig	Stone
HERABER	NK04NE0037	Mount Pleasant	Spitfire (crash)
HERABER	NK04NE0025	Ugie Canal	Canal
RCAHMS	20994	Ravenscraig	Polished Axehead (stone)
RCAHMS	143696	Cairnhill	Farmstead (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	20992	Ravenscraig Castle	Tower House (medieval), Craig Of Inverugie Castle
RCAHMS	86535	Ravenscraig Castle	Flint Scatter (prehistoric), Barbed And Tanged Arrowhead(s) (flint), Inverugie
RCAHMS	259962	Ravenscraig	Carved Stone (period Unassigned), Ravenscraig Castle, River Ugie
RCAHMS	350857	Inverugie	Blade (palaeolithic)
RCAHMS	156539	Hallmoss Cottage	Farmstead (period Unassigned)(possible)

RCAHMS	216300	Saint Fergus And North Ugie Water Canal, Hallmoss Basin	Canal Basin (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	216364	Saint Fergus And North Ugie Water Canal, Hallmoss Bridge	Bridge (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	216363	Saint Fergus And North Ugie Water Canal, Hallmoss Basin East	Canal Basin (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	86541	Inverugie	Enclosure (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	81849	Saint Fergus And North Ugie Water Canal, Inverquinzie Branch, Hallmoss Aqueduct	Aqueduct (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	81846	Saint Fergus And North Ugie Water Canal, Peterhead Line	Canal (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	21248	Inverugie Castle, Dovecot	Dovecot (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	21259	Castle Hill, Inverugie	Motte (medieval), Hallmoss, Old Inverugie, Castlehill Of Inverugie, Inverugie Motte, Hangmans Hill
RCAHMS	143810	Castle Hill	Enclosure (period Unassigned), Hallmoss Farm, Inverugie
RCAHMS	21152	Lunderton	Souterrain (prehistoric)
RCAHMS	81848	Saint Fergus And North Ugie Water Canal, Inverquinzie Branch	Canal (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	230387	Lunderton House	House (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	159547	Lunderton	Unidentified Flint(s) (flint)
RCAHMS	21250	Mountpleasant House	Country House (period Unassigned), Mount Pleasant
RCAHMS	20999	Mountpleasant House, Dovecot	Dovecot (period Unassigned), Mount Pleasant House, Dovecot
RCAHMS	21164	Mount Pleasant	Earthwork (period Unassigned), House Of Inverugie
RCAHMS	21175	Inverugie	Pestle (stone)
RCAHMS	120944	Inverugie, English Mill	Watermill (period Unassigned), River Ugie, Inverugie Mill
RCAHMS	187770	Ellishill House	House (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	176657	Inverugie, General	Village (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	77145	Balmoor	House (period Unassigned), Balmuir, Balmure
RCAHMS	120943	Inverugie, Inverugie Bridge	Road Bridge (period Unassigned), River Ugie
RCAHMS	20995	Easterton Of Barnyards	Grave(s) (period Unassigned), Unidentified Flint(s) (flint), Unidentified Pottery, Ellishill
RCAHMS	21204	Inverugie Castle	Castle (medieval), Tower House (medieval), Cheyne's Tower
RCAHMS	143698	Ellishill	Ring Ditch (period Unassigned)(possible), Easterton Of Barnyards
RCAHMS	120267	Inverugie, Balmoor Bridge	Road Bridge (period Unassigned), River Ugie, Inverugie Bridge

APPENDIX 2 MAPS



Illus 3 Gordon's map of c1636-52 showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 4 Blaeu's map of 1654 showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



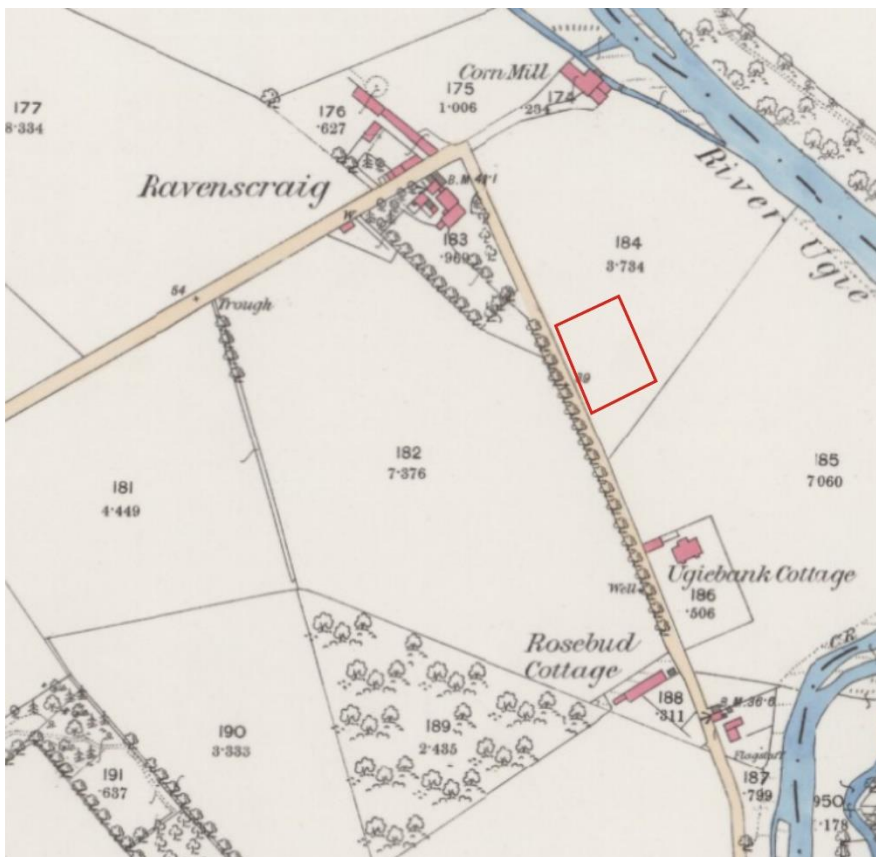
Illus 5 Moll's map of 1745 showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 6 Roy's map of 1747-55 showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



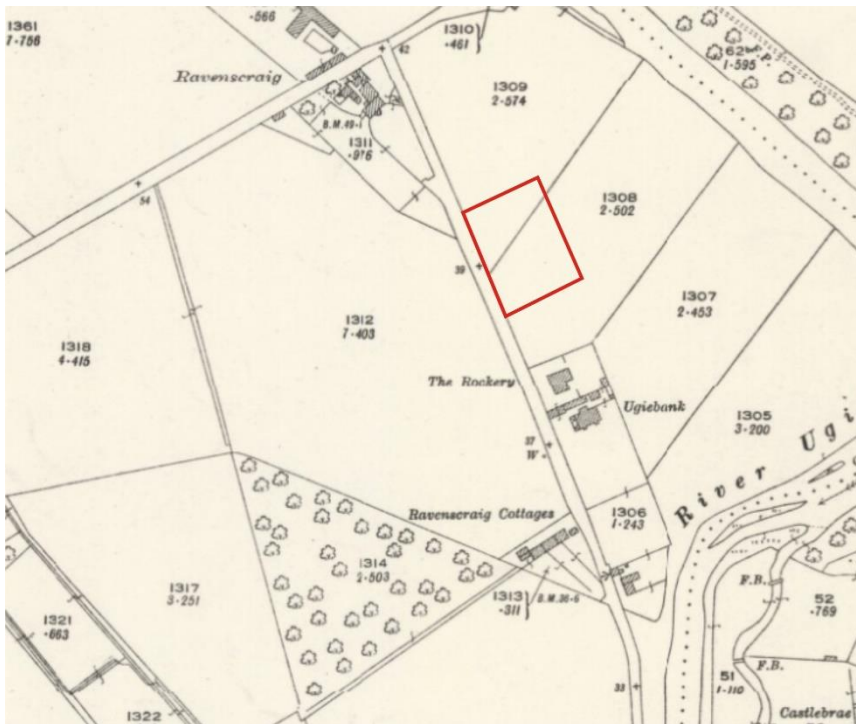
Illus 7 Thomson's map of 1826 showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 8 First Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire XXIII.1 (Combined) Survey date: 1868 to 1869 Publication date: 1892



Illus 9 Second Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire XXIII.1 (Peterhead; St Fergus) Publication date: 1901 Revised: 1900



Illus 10 Third Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Kincardineshire, Sheet 024.14/ Sheet 027.02 Publication date: 1925/4 Revised: ca. 1923 Levelled: 1902

### **APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS**

- 1 – View of site facing NNNW. (all scales 1m)
- 2 – View of site facing SSE.
- 3 – View of trench 1 upon excavation facing ENE.
- 4 – View of trench 1 upon excavation facing WSW.
- 5 – View of trench 2 upon excavation facing SSE.
- 6 – View of trench 2 upon excavation facing NNW.
- 7 – View of trench 3 upon excavation facing NNW.
- 8 – View of trench 3 upon excavation facing SSE.
- 9 – View of trenches 2 & 3 facing SSE.
- 10 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing SSE.
- 11 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing SSE.
- 12 – View of trench 4 upon excavation facing NNW.
- 13 – View of trenches 1 to 4 facing NNW.
- 14 – View of trenches 1 to 4 facing NW.
- 15 – View of trenches 1 to 4 facing SW.
- 16 – View of trenches 1 to 4 facing SE.
- 17 – View of trench 5 upon excavation facing NNW.
- 18 – View of trench 5 upon excavation facing SSE.
- 19 – View of trenches 1 to 5 facing NNW.
- 20 – View of trenches 1 to 5 facing NNW.

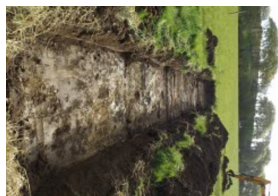




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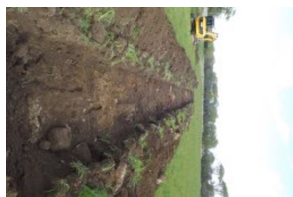
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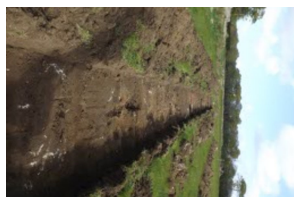
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