

**Main House, Croft Road, Drumlithie,
Aberdeenshire, AB39 3YS
Data Structure Report (DSR)**

Aberdeenshire Council planning ref APP/2018/1657



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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: Area C south; facing N

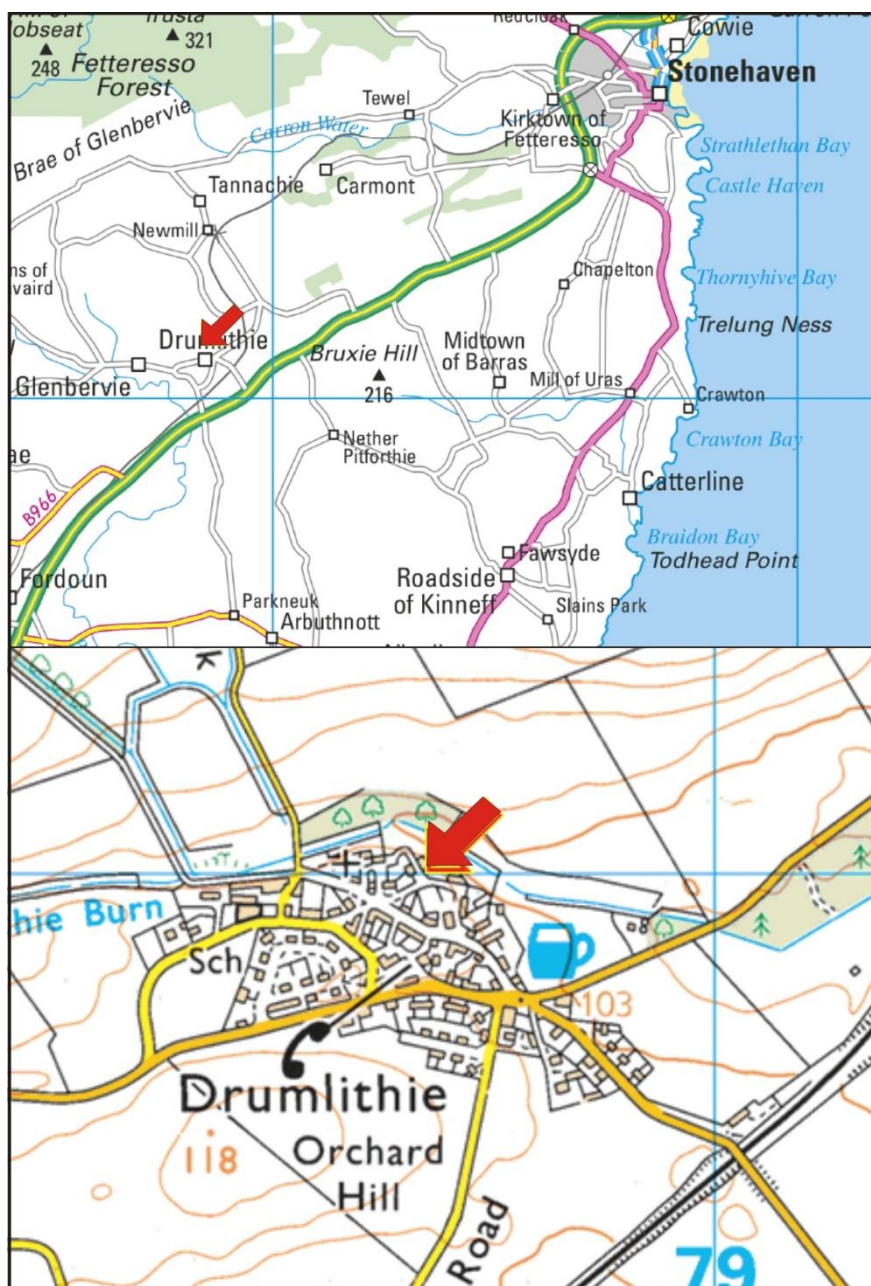
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SUMMARY

A watching brief was maintained on 4 and 25 March and 16 May 2019. Three areas were cleared down to natural subsoil which was rusty brown sandy gravel throughout. Topsoil was up to 1.2m deep at the W end of the garden where the new garage is to be sited. No archaeological finds or features were recorded during this work and the excavation is now complete. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site during the current planning application.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on Croft Road, Drumlithie. It is centred on NGR NO 78617 81002, at 100-110m OD in the parish of Glenbervie.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Stephen Pirie, AB Roger and Young for Mr Norman Hessler. An application to Aberdeenshire Council APP/2018/1657 for alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse, Conversion of Bothy to Ancillary Accommodation and Erection of Garage/Car Port was approved on 19 September 2018 with condition requiring a photographic survey of all buildings on the site prior to any work and watching brief during soil stripping for the new garage (condition 2).
- 1.3 All the archaeological 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)

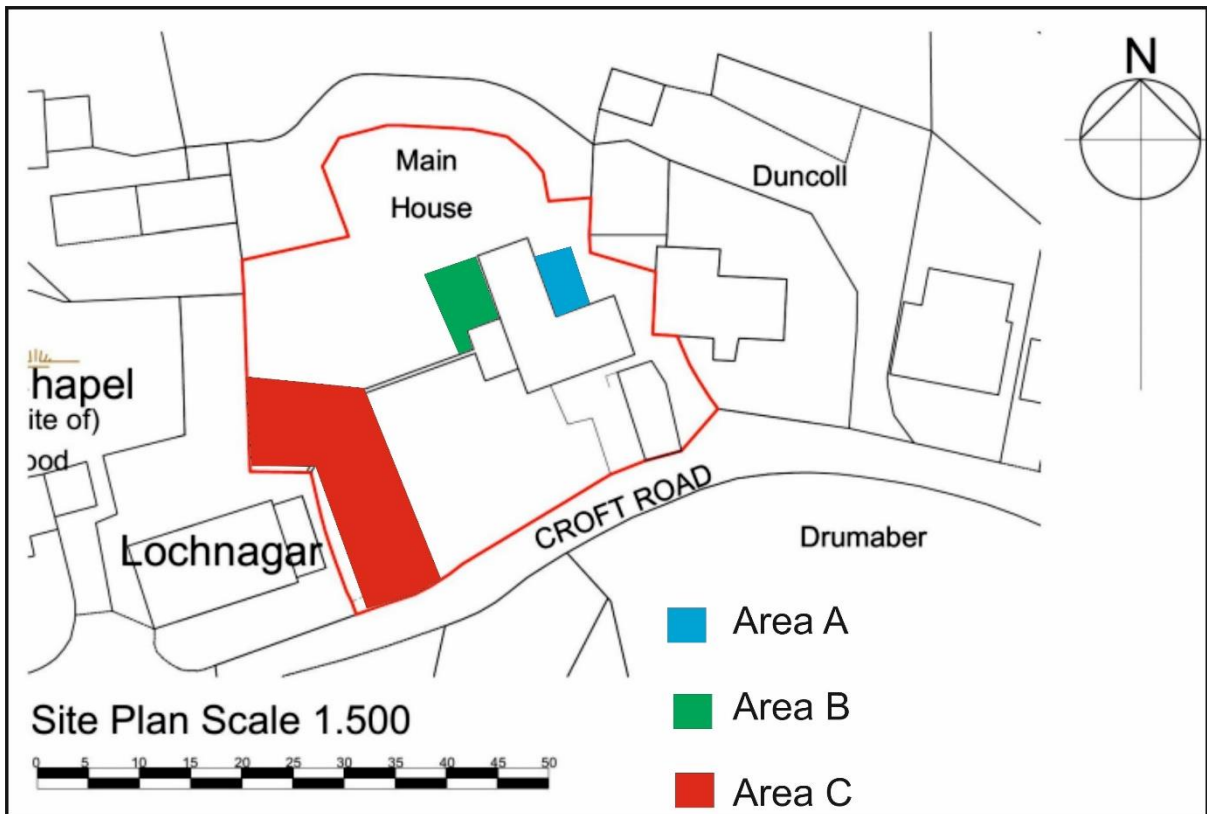
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

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

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the proposed development. Main House, Drumlithie (SMR NO78SE0086) is House and bothy, still in use, probably built in the late 18th century. The house (C-Listed) is a two-storey, harled double house with exposed margins and a slate roof. The bothy is a single storey stone-built building.
- 2.2 A stone axe (SMR NO78SE0011) was an item in the Anderson collection which was sold in 1898. It is not clear whether this is the same axe as that found 'near Drumlithie' recorded in 1914 as being in the collection of a Mr J Milne, Auchenclochy. No further information (Anderson 1898, 11).
- 2.3 Cropmark of possible circular enclosure (SMR NO78SE0037) at Drumlithie.
- 2.4 Site of chapel (SMR NO78SE00340); mentioned in the early 16thC and the well of St Conan probably indicates the dedication, though it is said there was a chapel of St Conan at Drumlithie; established ever since episcopacy was introduced; burnt down by the Duke of Cumberland in mid 17th Century. Now no trace and no further information regarding dedication (Scott et al 1915-61, Vol 8, 522).
- 2.5 Roman coin (SMR NO78SE0012) found at Stanley Cottage, Drumlithie; a fairly worn Alexandrian coin of Diocletian 3-4th century AD. Found by a schoolboy at a depth of 2ft while digging a garden, c.1955 (Robertson 1963, 142).
- 2.6 A free standing circular rubble tower (SMR NO78SE0031) on a stepped base, surmounted by a belfry and pyramidal steeple, on top of which is a weather-cock. Steeple renewed c.1880. It was built 1777 to summon weavers of the village to their looms, and so regulate their meal hours.
- 2.7 A number of earlier field boundaries (SMR NO78SE0026), visible as linear crop marks, were recorded during aerial reconnaissance in 1983.
- 2.8 Cropmarks (SMR NO77NE0030) of an indeterminate nature are visible in an arable crop at Drumlithie.
- 2.9 Cropmarks of an indeterminate nature are visible in an arable crop at Pade O'France (SMR NO77NE0030).
- 2.10 A watching brief (SMR NO78SE0070) was carried out by MAS in 2014 during excavation of an electricity cable trench at Broombank. Although located in an area of recorded archaeological sites, no archaeological features or finds were observed during the watching brief (Murray 2014).

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A photographic survey was carried out prior to the start of the project (Cameron 2018). A watching brief was maintained on 4 and 25 March and 16 May 2019. Three areas were cleared down to natural subsoil which was rusty brown sandy gravel throughout.



Illus 2 Site plan showing watching brief areas (copyright AB Roger and Young)

3.1 AREA A

Area A was cleared 4 March 2019. It was mainly topsoil c0.3m deep with some stone and roofing rubble above reddish brown sand and gravel subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were recorded in this area.



Illus 3 Area A showing topsoil and cleared subsoil; facing ENE

3.2 AREA B

Area B was cleared 25 March 2019. The top surface was removed and under this was soil and concrete. No archaeological features or finds were recorded in this area.



Illus 4 Area B stripped of concrete showing soil and concrete mix below; facing WSW

3.3 AREA C

Area C was cleared 25 March and 16 May 2019 for a new driveway and garage. The topsoil in the S half of the garden was 0.8m deep with the depth rising to 1.2m in the N end of the garden. At the N of the site where the garage is to be sited the ground had previously been dug out and parts of the garden wall and stone and other rubble had been dumped in a hole and backfilled with garden soil. No archaeological features or finds were recorded in this area.



Illus 5 Area C S end showing 0.8m topsoil next to Croft Road; facing N



Illus 6 Up to 1.2m topsoil at the W edge of the site; facing W

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological finds or features were recorded during this work and the excavation is now complete. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site during the current planning application.

5 REFERENCES

Anderson, D. (1898) *Catalogue of the Collection of D Anderson*. Aberdeen

Cameron, A (2018) Photographic Surbey, Croft Rd, Drumlithie. Submitted to Aberdeenshire Council.

Murray, JC (2014) Broombank. OASIS ID: mas1-207290.

Robertson, A S. (1963) '*Roman coins found in Scotland, 1951-60*', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, vol. 94, 1960-1.

Scott, H et al (eds.. (1915-61) *Fasti ecclesiae Scoticae: the succession of ministers in the Church of Scotland from the Reformation, Revision*. Edinburgh.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Stephen Pirie, AB Roger and Young and Mr Norman Hessler for initiating this project, to Graeme Davidson and his staff for assistance on site and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during this work.

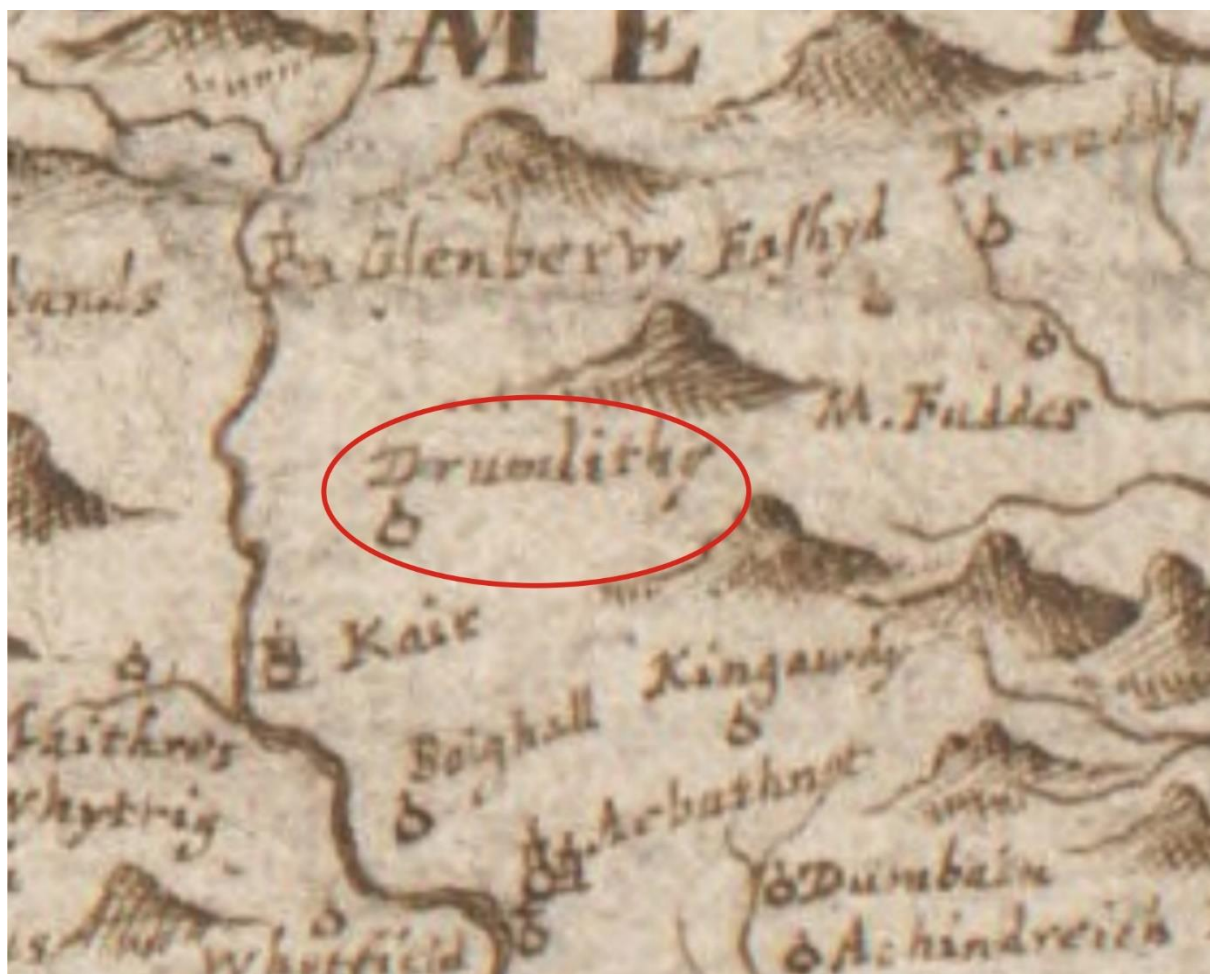
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APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES
within 1km of the proposed site (HES and Aberdeenshire HER online)

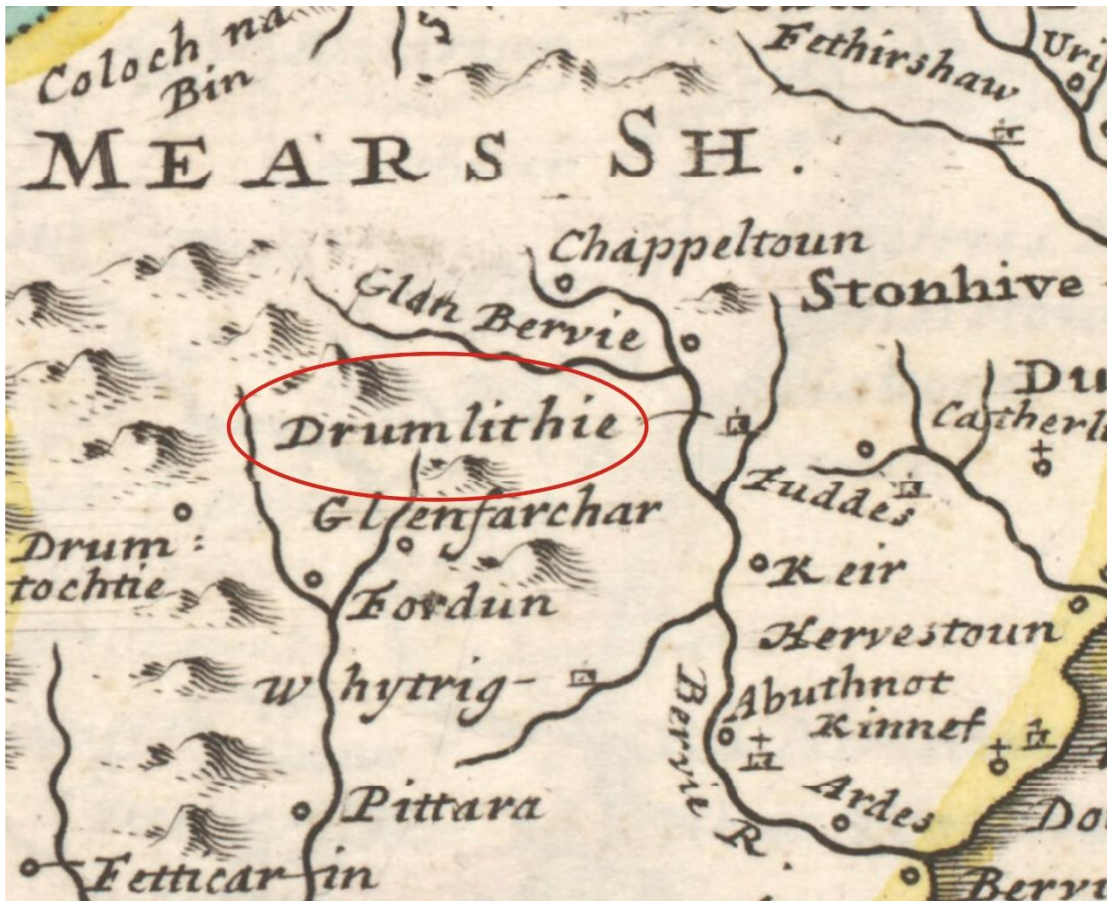
Dataset	Dataset UID	Name	Classification
HERABER	NO78SE0011	Drumlithie	Stone axe
HERABER	NO78SE0037	Drumlithie	Cropmark circular enclosure
HERABER	NO78SE0034	Drumlithie	Chapel
HERABER	NO78SE0012	Stanley Cottage, Drumlithie	Coin
HERABER	NO78SE0031	Drumlithie	Tower
HERABER	NO78SE0026	East Kinmonth	Field boundaries
HERABER	NO77NE0030	Pade O'france	Cropmark
HERABER	NO78SE0070	Broombank	Watching brief
RCAHMS	36582	Drumlithie, Stanley Cottage	Coin (roman)
RCAHMS	36602	Drumlithie, High Street, Steeple	Steeple (18th Century)
RCAHMS	183683	Drumlithie, School Road, Melrose Cottage	Cottage (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	183681	Drumlithie, High Street, Angleside	Term Pending, Kinmonth Road, The Holm
RCAHMS	183680	Drumlithie, High Street, St John's Cottage	Cottage (period Unassigned), Kinmonth Road
RCAHMS	36580	Drumlithie	Chapel (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	36581	Drumlithie	Axehead (stone)
RCAHMS	183682	Drumlithie, Main House	House (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	183679	Drumlithie, St John's Episcopal Church	Chapel (period Unassigned), St John The Baptist, Drumlithie Episcopal Church
RCAHMS	183687	Drumlithie, Parsonage	Rectory (18th Century)
RCAHMS	140093	Drumlithie	Enclosure (period Unassigned), Drumlithie Burn
RCAHMS	36595	Drumlithie, Railway Bridge	Railway Bridge (19-20th Century)
RCAHMS	259989	Mid Kinmonth	Farmhouse (period Unassigned), Farmstead (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	259991	East Kinmonth	Farmhouse (period Unassigned), Farmstead (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	277858	Pitdrichie	Field Boundary(s) (period Unassigned), Blackhill Wood
RCAHMS	259992	East Kinmonth Cottage	Cottage (period Unassigned)

RCAHMS	36594	Mondynes, Railway Bridge	Railway Bridge (19-20th Century)
RCAHMS	183476	Drumlithie, Broombank	Farmhouse (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	183686	Drumlithie, Station	Railway Station (19-20th Century)
RCAHMS	70814	Drumlithie, General	Burgh (medieval), General View, Village (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	183685	Drumlithie, Glenbervie Road, Finella House	House (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	183684	Drumlithie, Glenbervie Road, Lochend	House (18th Century)
RCAHMS	242378	Drumlithie, Glenbervie Road, Joiner's House	Cottage (18th Century), Croft (period Unassigned), Joiners Shop (period Unassigned)

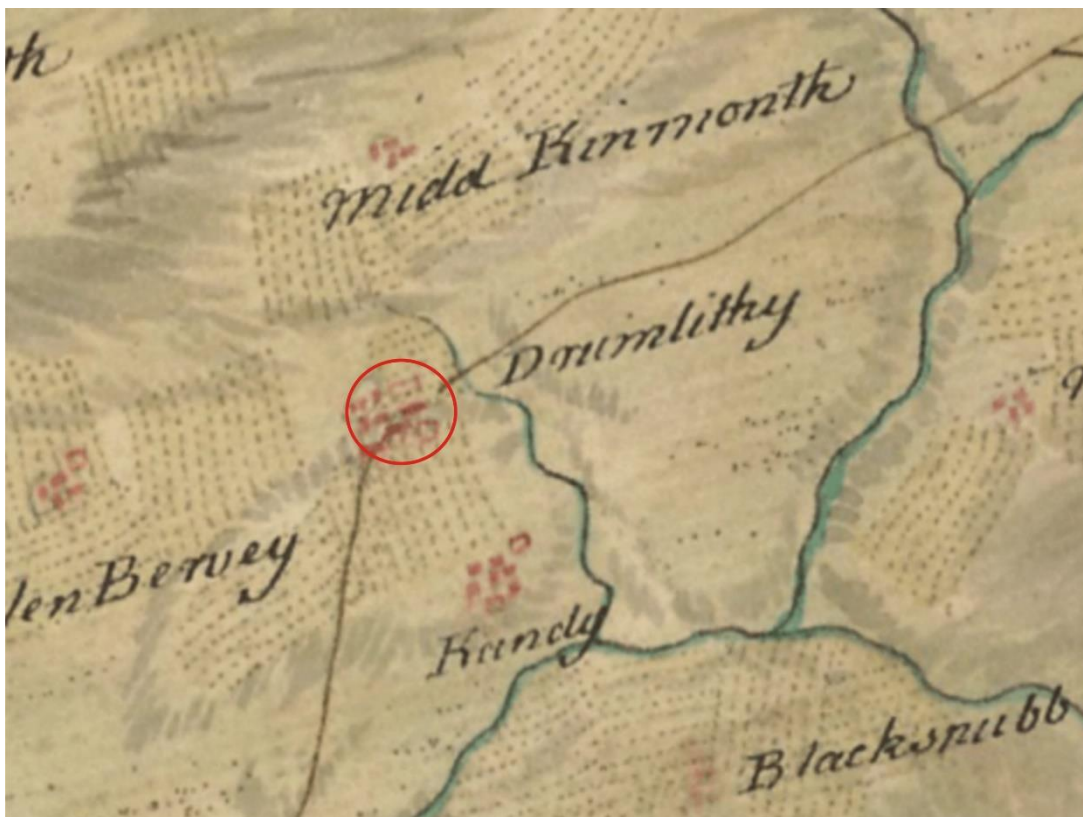
APPENDIX 2 MAPS



Illus 3 Gordon's map of c1636-52 with 'Drumlithie' circled (copyright National Library of Scotland)



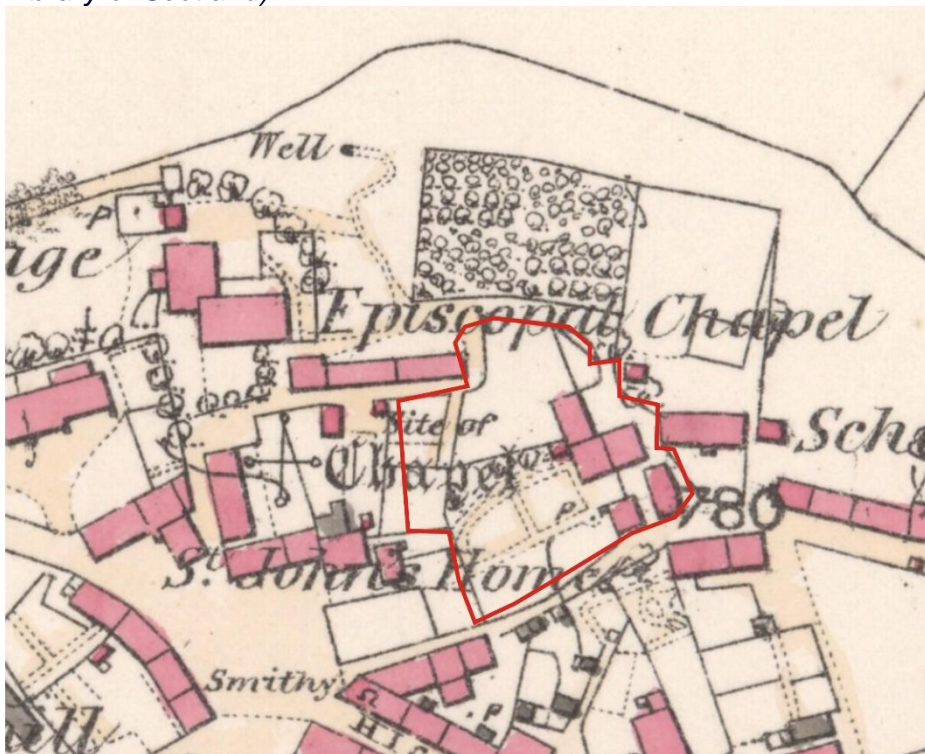
Illus 4 Moll's map of 1745 with 'Drumlithie' circled (copyright National Library of Scotland)



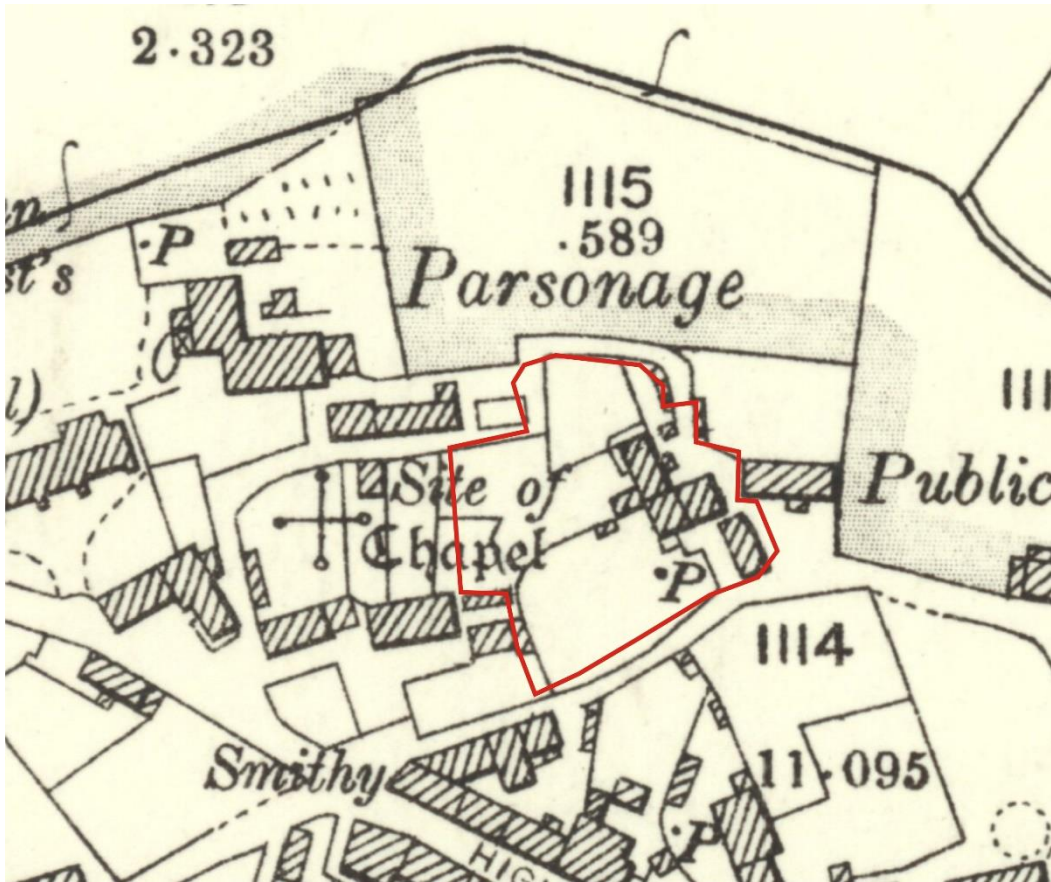
Illus 5 Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55 with 'Drumlithy' circled (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 6 Thomson's map of 1822 with the site approximately circled (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 7 First Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Kincardineshire XVI.16 (Glenbervie) Survey date: 1864 to 1865 Publication date: 1865



Illus 8 Second Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Kincardineshire XX.9 (Arbuthnott; Fordoun; Glenberrie) Publication date: 1903 Revised: 1901

APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Details
6159-6166	Area A soil strip facing NE/SSE
6167-6180	House interior after soft strip
6326-6328	Area B
6329-3590	Area C south section
5357-62	Area C north section



DSC_6159



DSC_6160



DSC_6161



DSC_6162



DSC_6163



DSC_6164



DSC_6165



DSC_6166



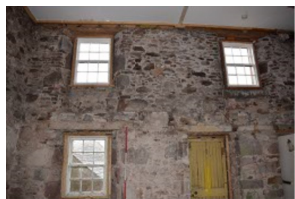
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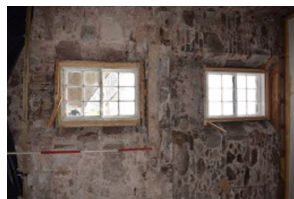
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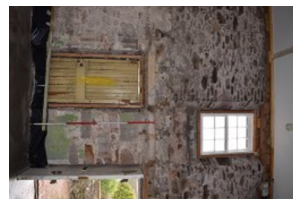
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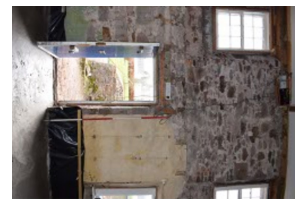
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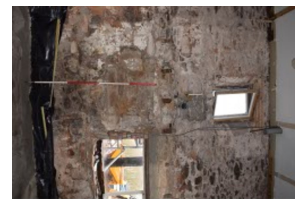
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