# Land At Kintore Business Park, Kintore, Aberdeenshire, AB51 0YQ

### **Data Structure Report (DSR)**



Alison Cameron Cameron Archaeology Ltd 13 June 2019

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#### **ILLUSTRATIONS**

Cover: Trench 1 facing NE showing upfilling with at least 1m of gravel, sand and dumped concrete, tar and wood

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Kintore) Publication date: 1926 Revised: 1924 Levelled: 1899	13

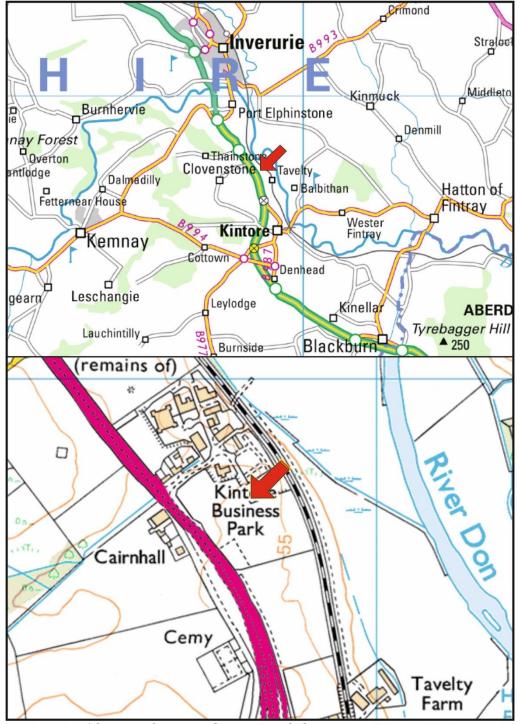
#### **SUMMARY**

A 5% archaeological evaluation was carried out on 11 June 2019. The site is raised above the surrounding fields and Aberdeen-Inverness railway line immediately to the NE. At least 1m of compacted sand and gravel as well as layers of tar, concrete, metal and wood had been laid on the field presumably in preparation for a unit to be constructed at the Kintore Business park. There is a high soil bund on the SE and SW sides of the site. Topsoil had been stripped prior to this preparation and the foundations of the proposed building will be dug less than 1m deep.

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 on the S side of the Kintore Business Park. It is centred on NGR NJ 7873 1774, at 55-60m OD in the parish of Kintore.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Mark Cargill, Scot-Steel Buildings Limited. An application APP/2018/3005 to Aberdeenshire Council requires this 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 is one scheduled ancient monument within 1km of the proposed development Fullerton ring ditches and cairn circle (SMR NJ71NE0094). Fullerton comprises a complex of prehistoric funerary remains, probably some 3500 years old. The remains of the cairn circle survive as a standing structure and the other remains are visible as cropmarks. Experience shows that further remains will lie in the vicinity of these cropmarks. The complex occupies part of a terrace of the river Don. The cairn circle now survives as a single standing stone about 1.9m high, standing on the SW arc of a circular bank, enclosing a low central mound. Immediately to the NE two ring-ditches appear on aerial photographs. These are probably ploughed-down burial mounds. The complex appears to be surrounded by an alignment of pits. There are other cropmarks in the area.
- 2.2 An evaluation was carried in the field immediately S of this site in 1992 by CFA (SMR NJ71NE0124). The evaluation consisted of machine stripping and hand-cleaning approximately a 2 percent sample (c. 575 sq m) of the 2.88 ha to be affected by the proposed development. Examination demonstrated the presence of a small number of features of potential archaeological interest, notably one probable post-hole, and a suite of probable field boundaries (CFA 1993, 34).
- 2.3 Just S of the proposed development is Tavelty encampment, (SMR NJ71NE0086) the site of a 17th Century encampment. 'Montrose camped with 3,000 men on his way north at the Camp-fields nearly opposite the 13th milestone near Tilty farm' (Watt 1865, 131). This farm is now called Tavelty. There is no visual evidence nor local knowledge of this camp but from the topographical description given, it can be reasonably ascertained that it was centred in this area. A watching brief was carried out in April 1996 during the diversion of a main gas transmission pipeline through the site. An area measuring 160m by 25m was topsoiled. One undated isolated pit/post hole was identified cut into the undisturbed subsoil. Numerous finds recovered from topsoil but none predated 19th century. A watching brief was carried out in 2005 by MAS during the replacement of an electricity supply pole (at NJ 7890 1724); no archaeological finds or features were encountered. During work on the A96 Kintore Bypass (Kintore parish): military encampment. Monitoring of contractors' groundworks during the diversion of a main gas transmission pipeline through the site of a 17thcentury military encampment was carried out (by SUAT) in April 1996. An area measuring 160m by 25m was topsoiled. One undated isolated pit/posthole was identified cut into the undisturbed subsoil. Numerous finds were recovered from the topsoil but none predate the 19th century (Mackenzie 1996, 8). A programme of evaluation and excavation was carried out between February and July 2001 on the route of the St Fergus to Aberdeen gas pipeline. The evaluation sites were targeted via desk-based work and geophysics. The excavated sites were initially identified during a watching brief on all topsoiling operations (conducted by K Sabine). The pipeline route passed through an area in which a range of cropmarks were identified. Resistivity survey blocks were dominated by geomorphological variations and nothing could be seen which matched the aerial photographic evidence. Nineteen trenches were excavated. None of the features visible on aerial photographs were identified by the trial trenching exercise. A series of agricultural traces were identified which can also be seen on the geophysics plots as the remains of extensive earlier land use (Cameron 2001, 12). A watching brief was maintained in March 2005 during the replacement of an electricity pole at the summit of an embankment on the W side of the Aberdeen to Inverness railway, in the centre of a 17th-century encampment where Montrose

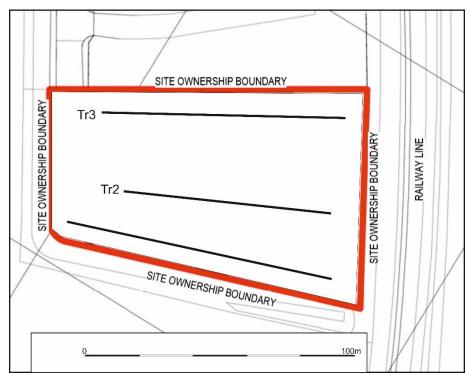
camped with 3000 men on his march north. No archaeological features or finds were evident.

- 2.4 A bronze flanged axe, probably of the Lissett type (Schmidt and Burgess 1981) was found at Tavelty in July 1988 through metal detecting. (SMR NJ71NE0184). The axe was badly corroded, and the butt had been hammered and bent over suggesting that it may have been used as a chisel, while the blade was considerably worn, giving the axe a rather fore-shortened appearance. The field in which the axe was found was then subjected to a more extensive metal detector survey, during which various other metal objects were recovered including iron nails, copper alloy coins, cartridge cases, lead shot or musket balls, and a copper alloy domed stud, as well as a number of unidentified metal pieces/objects. In view of the considerable area searched with the metal detectors in a reasonably systematic fashion, it is suggested with some confidence that the bronze axe should be described as a stray or single find, although the depth of the plough soil (in excess of 40cm) precludes any certainty as the subsoil was outwith the range of the metal detector available at the time.
- 2.5 At Cairnhall are possible small rectangular cropmarks are very faintly visible, as well as a possible small circular enclosure on the W side of the A96 (SMR NJ71NE0073) and cropmarks of frost polygons (SMR NJ71NE0071). There is also cropmarks of a possible Roman camp (SMR NJ71NE0066), showing as a straight cropmark consisting of two straight sections separated by a gap, at which there is a change of direction of about 1 degree. A small V-shaped ditch was discovered by excavation, cut into loose gravel. J. K. St Joseph stated that it was 'most likely' that this is a Roman camp. The configuration of the ground limits the possible area to not much more than 30 acres (Jones 2011, 335; St Joseph 1977, 140). There is also a Cropmark of what appears to be a large almost circular enclosure showing as a wide dark trace (SMR NJ71NE0081). Later transcription shows an entrance gap in the NE.
- 2.6 A watching brief was carried out by MAS in June 2013 on groundworks for a new underground electricity cable between NJ 7813 1804 to the N and NJ 7843 1712 (SMR NJ71NE0188). Although the underground cable track passed in close proximity to a number of known archaeological sites. The southern section of the route between c. NJ 78331721 and c. NJ 7814 1715 was parallel to and slightly north of the line of the Alford Valley Railway, opened in 1859 and closed 1966. Along this section the topsoil overlay a deposit which contained metal bolts, red bricks, small glass bottles and other waste debris from the railway. No archaeological features or finds were evident along the cable route (Murray 2014, 26).
- 2.7 To the N of Kintore Business Park is also the remains of a stone circle (SMR NJ71NE0011), consisting of a low central mound, a vaguely defined ditch and an equally vague enclosing ridge upon which stands a single stone to the SW. Originally there were around 7 stones. An 'oriented grave', containing an unburnt skeleton and a cremated burial with urn fragments, was found at the centre of a fire-marked area just below the surface at the centre of the stone circle (Bradley 2011, 84-7). Seven deposits of burnt bones, some in small circular cists were found around the central burial. Fragments of Bronze Age urns were found with some of the burials. The 13 fragments in the NMAS are from 13 vessels (possibly flat rimware; Sheridan 2003, 169). The circle is now tree planted and resembles a saucer-barrow in appearance. A low stone wall revetment on the outer edge of the circle is probably comparatively modern. To the N of Kintore Business Park is the site of cropmarks of a pit alignment (SMR NJ71NE0094), which curves around the remains of Fullerton stone circle (NJ71NE0011), and runs SE/NW before curving round towards the NE.

- 2.8 Kintore Business Park is the site of a World War II ROC (Royal Observer Corps) post opened in July 1939 (SMR NJ71NE0145).
- 2.9 Remains of the Aberdeen to Inverurie canal ran to the E of the proposed development (SMR NJ72SE0131; Illus 4). It originally ran from NJ778 203 - NJ783 200, was built in the 19th century and designed by John Rennie. The original project envisaged a canal running from Aberdeen Harbour to Monymusk, with a branch following the Urie and ultimately reaching Insch. But the canal that was actually built carried no further than Inverurie, terminating at Port Elphinstone (NJ72SE0172). The canal apparently drew its water supply from the River Don in the vicinity of Inverurie Bridge. The canal opened in 1805 and in 1845 the Great North of Scotland Railway bought it and in 1849 began to build upon it a railway line from Aberdeen to Inverness. This section of canal takes a different route from the North of Scotland Railway and is clearly marked on the 1st edition of the OS map. It heads generally in a NW direction, down the w side of the River Don, to the terminus at Port Elphinstone. Inlet sluices and channels are noted at NJ 7764 2059 and 7769 2059 respectively. The disused canal remains noted on the 1965 OS map. It appears to have been re-used as a lade for water supply to the Paper Mills (NJ71NE0063), where the surviving section is depicted as terminating. The water inlet, Port Elphinstone and the line of the canal are at an elevation of between 50 and 55m OD.
- 2.10 Near this proposed development are the site of manor at Balbithan (SMR NJ71NE0076), farmsteads Tavelty (SMR NJ71NE0143). There is a boundary stone at Bridgend (SMR NJ71NE0158). Historic mappinmg shows the land has been in agricultural use (Illus 4-6).

#### 3 THE EVALUATION

Three trenches totalling 5% of the proposed development site were excavated on 11 June 2019 (Illus 2) with a 20 ton tracked machine with 2m ditching bucket. The ground made up at least 1m with sand, gravel, tar, railway sleepers, plastic and metal on top of natural sand; the topsoil had been stripped from the site prior to this site preparation.



Illus 2 Site plan showing proposed development (copyright Gauldie Wright & Partners)



Illus 3 Trench 1 showing 1m depth of layers of sand, gravel and rubble; facing SE

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A 5% archaeological evaluation was carried out on 11 June 2019. The site is raised above the surrounding fields and Aberdeen-Inverness railway line immediately to the NE. At least 1m of compacted sand and gravel as well as layers of tar, concrete, metal and wood had been laid on the field presumably in preparation for a unit to be constructed at the Kintore Business park. Topsoil had been stripped prior to this preparation and the foundations of the proposed building will be dug less than 1m deep. There is a high soil bund on the SE and SW sides of the site.

It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

#### 5 REFERENCES

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#### 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mark Cargill, Architectural Technician, Scot-Steel Buildings Limited, for initiating this project 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)

#### HES

Dataset	Name	OS NGR	Classification
			Rig And Furrow (medieval), Ardmurdo House, Spy
RCAHMS	Ardmurdo	NJ 79300 18400	Far
	Tavelty, Boundary		
RCAHMS	Stones	NJ 79310 17320	Boundary Stone(s) (period Unassigned)
	Tavelty, Boundary		
RCAHMS	Stones	NJ 79310 17290	Boundary Stone(s) (period Unassigned)
			Cottage (period Unassigned), Croft (period
RCAHMS	Densyburn	NJ 79500 18000	Unassigned), Densy Burn, West Balbithan
	Tavelty, Boundary		
RCAHMS	Stone	NJ 79430 17090	Boundary Stone (period Unassigned)
	Kintore, Northern		
D.C.A.I.I.A.C.	Road, Bridgend,	NU 70000 46750	5
RCAHMS	Steading	NJ 78920 16759	Farmstead (19th Century)
	Kintore, Northern		
DCALINAC	Road, Bridgend,	NI 70002 16772	Outhwilding (10th Contunt)
RCAHMS	Ancillary Building Kintore, Northern	NJ 78883 16773	Outbuilding (19th Century)
	Road, Bridgend,		
RCAHMS	Summer House	NJ 78917 16775	Summerhouse (20th Century)(possible)
ICALIIVIS	Kintore, Northern	143 76517 10775	Summermouse (20th century)(possible)
RCAHMS	Road, Bridgend	NJ 78898 16779	Inn (19th Century), Bridgealehouse, North Street
110/111110	Aberdeenshire Canal,	113 7 0030 10773	min (15th centary), bridgedichouse, heren street
	Kintore, Bridgend		Milestone (19th Century), Aberdeen-inverurie
RCAHMS	House, Milestone 15	NJ 78920 16780	Canal, Northern Road, Kintore
RCAHMS	'old Balbithan'	NJ 79000 17000	House (period Unassigned), Balbithan
	Kintore, Overdon,		
RCAHMS	Free Church Manse	NJ 78846 17105	Manse (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	Tavelty, Farmhouse	NJ 79002 17135	Farmhouse (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	Tavelty, Farmsteading	NJ 78978 17225	Farmstead (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	Kintore, Tavelty Farm	NJ 78900 17240	No Class (event)
RCAHMS	•	NJ 78700 17250	No Class (event)
RCAHMS	Kintore	NJ 78600 17300	No Class (event)
			Pit(s) (period Unassigned), Site (period
RCAHMS	Tavelty	NJ 78740 17300	Unassigned), A96 Kintore And Blackburn By-pass, Cairnhall
	·		
RCAHMS	Tavelty	NJ 78700 17300	Cropmark(s) (period Unknown)
RCAHMS	Tavelty	NJ 78830 17330	Encampment (period Unassigned), Tilty, A96 Kintore By-pass
	,		
RCAHMS	Kintore Cemetery	NJ 78600 17400	No Class (event)
DCVTIVAC	Cairnhall, 'roman	NI 79400 17500	Linear Feature(s) (period Unassigned), Temporary Camp (roman)(possible)
RCAHMS	Temporary Camp' Cairnhall, Airfield,	NJ 78400 17500	Camp (roman)(possible)
RCAHMS	Hangar	NJ 78518 17582	Aircraft Hangar (20th Century)
RCAHMS	Cairnhall	NJ 78500 17590	Stone Circle (neol/bronze Age) Field Boundary(s) (period Unassigned), Post Hole
DCVHVVC	Cairphall	NI 79600 17700	7.7.1
RCAHMS	Cairnhall	NJ 78600 17700	(period Unassigned), Tavelty

RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78300 17800	Enclosure (period Unassigned), Cairnhall
RCAHMS	Cairnhall	NJ 78244 17820	Plantation Bank (19th Century)
-			
RCAHMS Fullerton		NJ 78360 17970	Pit Alignment (prehistoric), Cairnhall
RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78390 17970	Stone Circle (neol/bronze Age), Unidentified Pottery (iron Age), Cairnhall, Fulerton
RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78435 17972	Barrow (prehistoric), Cairnhall, Foularton Rig And Furrow (medieval), Ring Ditch (period
RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78460 17980	Unassigned), Cairnhall
RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78000 18000	Axehead(s) (stone), Fullarton, Fullarton Farm
RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78000 18000	Spindle Whorl(s)  No Class (event), Inverurie - Leylodge 33kv
RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78130 18040	Underground Cable
RCAHMS	Murrayfield, Tollhouse	NJ 78160 18140	Toll House (post Medieval)
NCATIVI3	iviui rayileiu, roililouse	NJ 76100 16140	Ring Ditch (period Unassigned), Fullerton,
RCAHMS	Foulertown Cottage	NJ 78280 18170	Fullerton Cottage
TC/ (I IIVIS	Touler town cottage	143 70200 10170	Roman Road (roman), 'roman Road', Kintore To
	Normandykes -		Port Elphinstone, Cairnhall, Fullerton, Broomend,
RCAHMS	Fochabers	NJ 78140 18270	Thainstone
			Farmhouse (period Unassigned), Farmstead
RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78130 18310	(period Unassigned)
			Cropmark(s) (period Unknown), Promontory Fort
			(period Unassigned), Ring Ditch(s) (period
RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78100 18400	Unassigned)
	Aberdeenshire Canal,		Milestone (19th Century), Aberdeen-inverurie
RCAHMS	Milepost 15, Fularton	NJ 78170 18490	Canal, Milepost 15, Fularton
RCAHMS	Cairnhall	NJ 78000 17000	Natural Feature(s) (period Unknown)
RCAHMS	Cairnhall	NJ 78380 17180	Arrowhead(s) (flint)
RCAHMS	Overdon, Sand Pit	NJ 78480 17190	Sand And Gravel Workings (period Unassigned)
			Pit(s) (period Unassigned), Site (period
			Unassigned), A96 Kintore And Blackburn By-pass,
RCAHMS	Deepdale	NJ 78600 16800	Forest Road
DCVTVVC	Cairnhall	NI 70000 17200	Unidentified Pottery (prehistoric), A96 Kintore
RCAHMS	Callillall	NJ 78800 17200	And Blackburn By-pass, Tavelty Cist (period Unassigned), Barbed And Tanged
			Arrowhead (quartz), Beaker, Dagger (bronze),
			Unidentified Flint(s) (flint), Kintore Cemetery,
RCAHMS	Tavelty	NJ 78800 17200	Cairnhall, Tavelty Farm
RCAHMS	Bridgend, Stone	NJ 78820 16730	Stone (period Unassigned), Kintore
	<u> </u>		Enclosure (period Unassigned)(possible), Flake
RCAHMS	Tavelty	NJ 78840 17190	(flint), Cairnhall, Overdon, Whinstone
			Barbed And Tanged Arrowhead(s) (flint), Blade
			(flint), Leaf Arrowhead(s) (flint), Scraper (tool)
RCAHMS	Fullerton	NJ 78000 18000	(flint), Spindle Whorl(s) (stone)

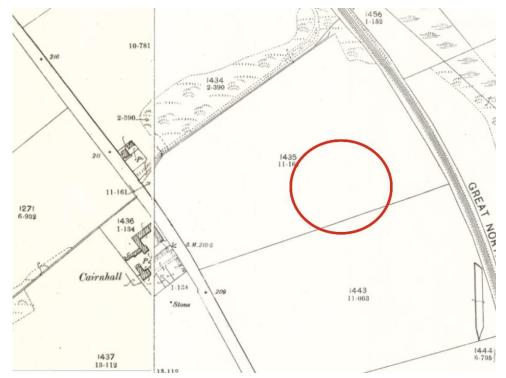
#### HER

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name
HERABER	NJ71NE0094	Fullerton
HERABER	NJ71NE0058	Fullerton
HERABER	NJ71NE0011	Fullerton
HERABER	NJ71NE0082	Fullerton
HERABER	NJ71NE0047	Fullerton
HERABER	NJ71NE0039	Fullerton Farm
HERABER	NJ71NE0050	Fullerton
HERABER	NJ71NE0107	Thainstone Market
HERABER	NJ71NE0065	Tollhouse
HERABER	NJ71NE0059	Fullerton Cottage
HERABER	NJ71NE0196	Fullerton
HERABER	NJ71NE0070	Fullerton
HERABER	NJ71NE0183	Thainstone
HERABER	NJ71NE0171	Boat Of Thainstone
HERABER	NJ71NE0111	Ardmurdo House
HERABER	NJ71NE0156	Bridgend
HERABER	NJ71NE0160	Bridgend
HERABER	NJ71NE0157	Bridgealehouse
HERABER	NJ71NE0112	Bridgend House
HERABER	NJ71NE0158	Bridgend
HERABER	NJ71NE0159	Tavelty
HERABER	NJ71NE0076	Balbithan
HERABER	NJ71NE0184	Tavelty
HERABER	NJ71NE0086	Tavelty
HERABER	NJ71NE0073	Tavelty
HERABER	NJ71NE0188	Leylodge - Inverurie
HERABER	NJ71NE0071	Cairnhall
HERABER	NJ71NE0108	Cairnhall
HERABER	NJ71NE0007	Bridgealehouse Burn
HERABER	NJ71NE0143	Tavelty
HERABER	NJ71NE0069	Tavelty Farm
HERABER	NJ71NE0135	Kintore
HERABER	NJ71NE0066	Cairnhall
HERABER	NJ71NE0146	Kintore Bypass
HERABER	NJ71NE0185	Clovenstone
HERABER	NJ71NE0164	Clovenstone
HERABER	NJ71NE0124	Cairnhall
HERABER	NJ71NE0079	Cairnhall
HERABER	NJ71NE0014	Cairnhill
HERABER	NJ71NE0081	Cairnhall
HERABER	NJ71NE0145	Kintore
HERABER	NJ71NE0055	Deers Den

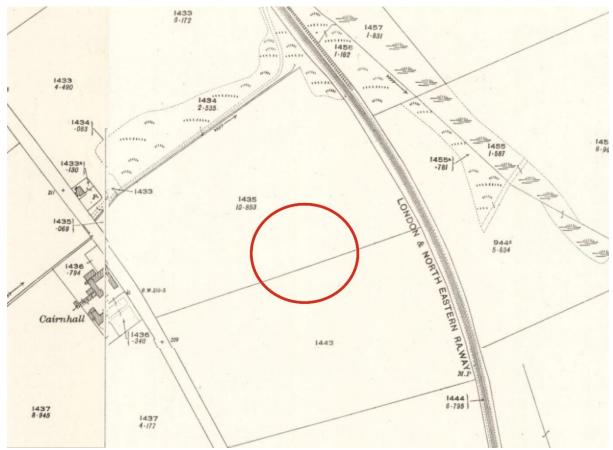
#### **APPENDIX 2 MAPS**



Illus 4 First Edition OS map showing approximate area of site outlined in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire LV.13/16 (with inset LV.9) (Kintore) Survey date: 1866 Publication date: 1867



Illus 5 Second Edition OS map showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire LIV.13/16 (Keithhall and Kinkell; Kemnay; Kintore) Publication date: 1900 Revised: 1899



Illus 6 Third Edition OS map showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire LIV.13/16 (Keithhall and Kinkell; Kemnay; Kintore) Publication date: 1926 Revised: 1924 Levelled: 1899

#### **APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photo no	Description	Facing
8068-9	Site prior to evaluation	NE/E
8070	Trench 1	NE
8071	Trench 1 with Tr2 and 3 in background	N
8072	Trench 1 showing 1m sand, gravel and rubble upfill	SE
8073	Trench 2	NE
8074	Trench 3	NE
8075	Trench 3 with Tr2 and 1 in background	Е

