

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Data Structure Report (DSR)
Site Adjacent To Ironrieves Wood, Udney,
Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 6QY
APP/2018/2945**



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SUMMARY

On August 21st, 2019 a monitored soil strip covering 772m² was carried out in advance of construction of a single dwelling-house situated adjacent to the SE corner of Ironreives Wood. No archaeological finds or features were noted while the building plot itself was stripped in its entirety; the tank and water pipe which were planned to the farm are not now going ahead. It is therefore the author's opinion that no further archaeological mitigation is deemed necessary during the current planning application.

1 General Background

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the E side of the B999 SE of Udny Station. It is centred on NGR NJ 9265 2204, at 80-85m OD in the parish of Belhelvie.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Laura Barron. An application to Aberdeenshire Council APP/2018/2945 for erection of a dwellinghouse requires this WSI and
- 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.

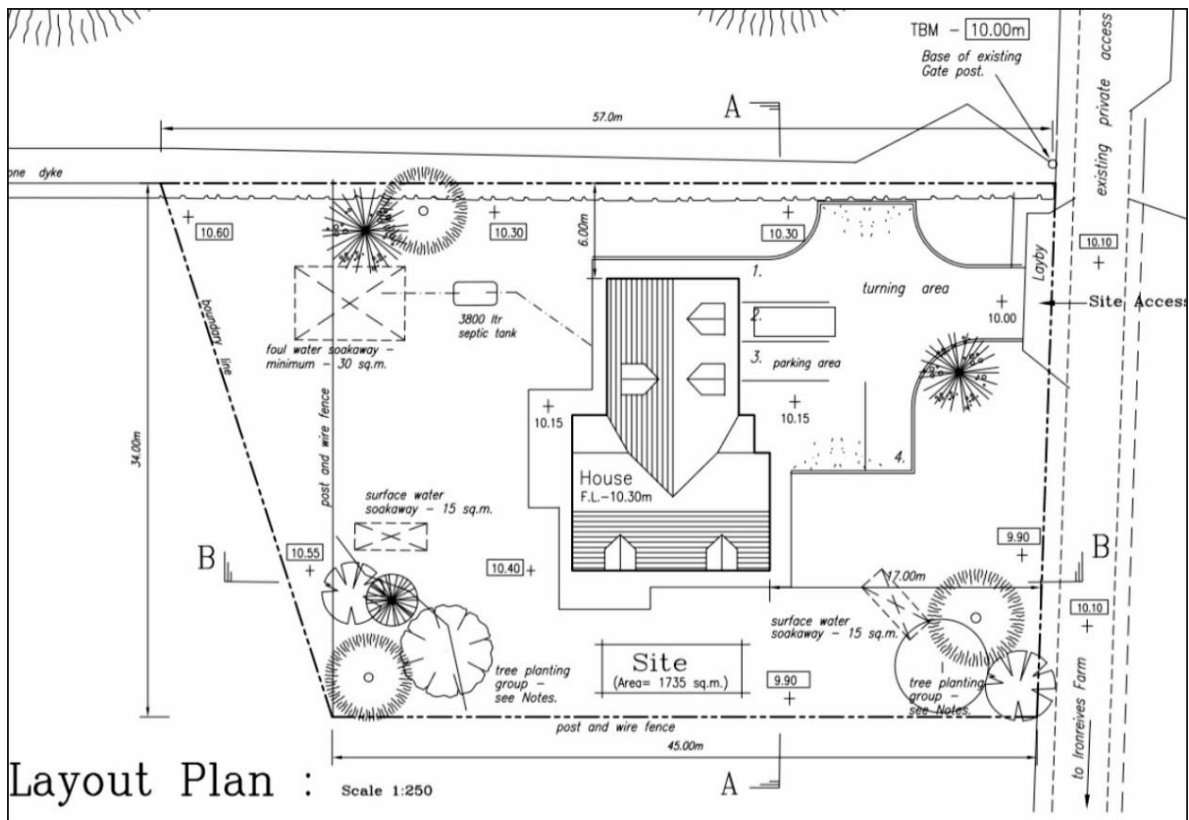
- 2.1 There are no scheduled monuments within 1km of the proposed site. Within the field and to the SW of the site is a Cropmark (HER NJ92SW0007); possible ring ditch cropmark. Vertical air photography (NJ92S 2608015, flown 1976) has recorded the cropmark of a possible ring-ditch measuring 8m in diameter.
- 2.2 At Moss-side is the site of three boundary stones (HER NJ92SW0156); depicted on the 1867 1st edition OS map forming part of the boundary of Belhelvie and Foveran parishes in a field to the south of Moss-side farm. On the 1888 2nd edition only two stones appear and none appear on the modern OS maps.
- 2.3 Ironrieves Farmstead is still in use (HER NJ92SW0120). The 1867 1st edition OS map shows this as a C-shaped building with the court open to the north-east. A horse-mill and a possible disused building are also shown to the north of the main building. By the 1888 2nd edition OS map, the main building has become completely enclosed and an irregularly shaped enclosure with two outbuildings is shown to the north-west. A mill dam is also shown to the south of the buildings. The main building is today part of a much larger structure and only the northernmost of the outbuildings survives. There are crofts, cattle rubbing stones and cottages within the area, confirming this area as an area of intense agricultural use. The 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps (Illus 6,7) show the area was agricultural fields between Ironrieves Wood and Farm.

3 The Watching Brief

On August 21st, 2019, a watching brief took place at the site adjacent to Ironrieves Wood at the location shown in Illustrations 1-3. The site is located against the SE corner of Ironrieves wood and stands in the adjacent field NNE of Ironrieves Farm. A 13-ton excavator with a narrow 1m toothed bucket (with the teeth ground flat) and a normal 1.8m bladed bucket were used. The area stripped measured 772m² in area via GPS and consisted of a square area with sides approximately 28m in length (Illus 4).

Topsoil depth (Illus 5) remained largely consistent throughout the site from 0.25 – 0.32m with minimal stones, likely due to intensive agricultural activity. The subsoil/topsoil horizon was clearly delineated, with the subsoil consisting of a very compact orangish mid-brown sandy clay loam.

The soil was cleared along the perimeter first, then when a suitable area was inspected for archaeological finds or features, a dumper was allowed to run in and out to remove spoil. No machinery was operated on areas not inspected by the archaeologist in advance. A c.4m strip along the N edge of the site will comprise part of the garden area shown in Illus 2.



Illus 2 Site plan showing proposed development (copyright Michael Slessor).



Illus 3 Area of soil strip during the watching brief (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019).



Illus 4 The watching brief area nearing completion.



Illus 5 The topsoil depth remained consistent throughout, with the minimum/maximum depths between 250-320mm.

4 Conclusions

Despite the presence of an 8m circular cropmark approximately 75m from the SW corner of the soil strip area (HER NJ92SW0007 – section 2.1, above), no archaeological finds or features were noted. The plot for the dwelling-house was stripped in its entirety and therefore the author is of the opinion that no further archaeological mitigation is deemed necessary during the current planning application.

5 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Laura Barron for initiating this project, thanks to Ian Barron for his assistance and help onsite 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 (HES and Aberdeenshire HER online)

HES

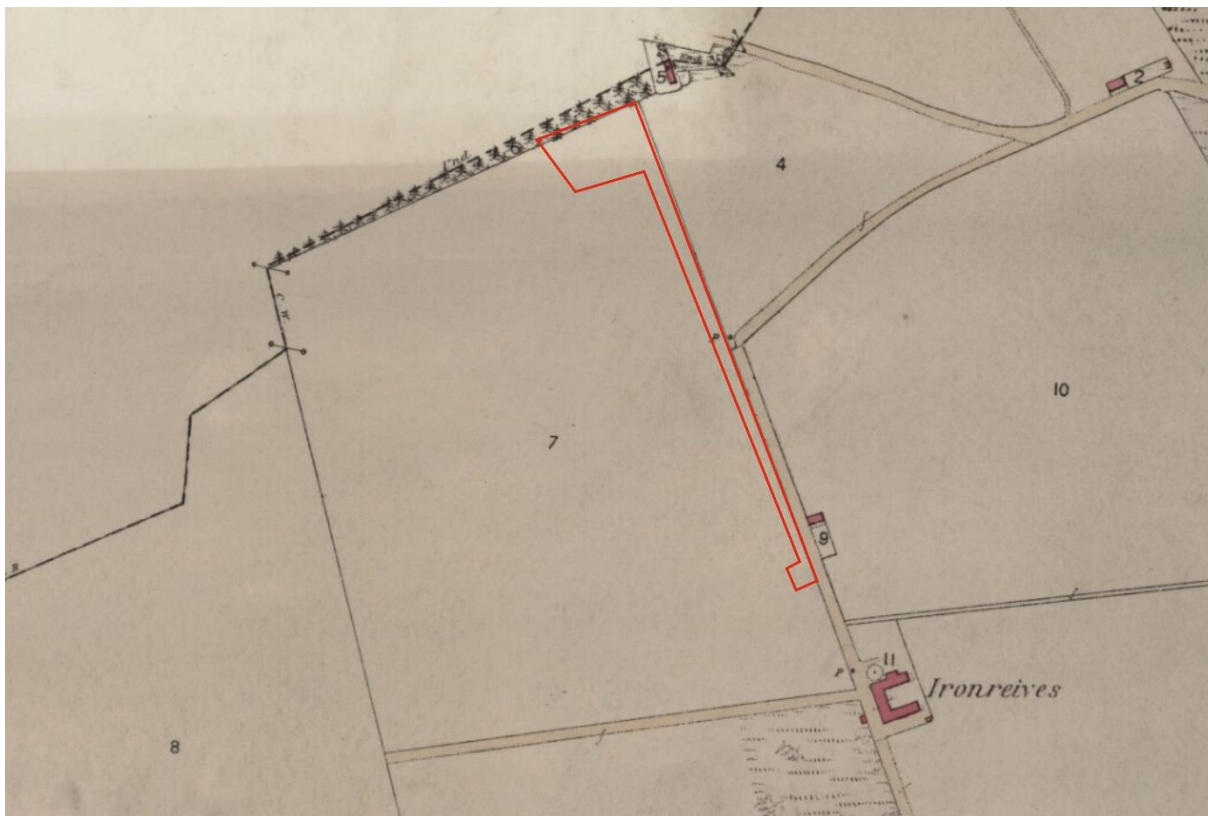
Dataset UID	Name	OS NGR	Classification
130370	Auchloan Cottage	NJ 92530 22120	COTTAGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
130368	Auchloan Cottage	NJ 92100 22130	COTTAGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
204918	Auchloon	NJ 91970 22120	BUILDING (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
204903	Craibadona Moss, Boundary Stone	NJ 92860 22220	BOUNDARY STONE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
204904	Craibadona Moss, Boundary Stone	NJ 92830 22290	BOUNDARY STONE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
204902	Craibadona Moss, Boundary Stone	NJ 92850 22350	BOUNDARY STONE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
130367	Auchloan	NJ 92210 22250	FARMHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
130299	East Cannahars, Cattle Rubbing Stone	NJ 92620 21470	RUBBING STONE (POST MEDIEVAL)
130295	East Cannahars, Cattle Rubbing Stone	NJ 91990 21560	RUBBING STONE (POST MEDIEVAL)
130365	Ironrieves	NJ 92810 21730	FARMHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
204905	Ironrieves, Cottage	NJ 92770 21830	COTTAGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
204901	Darrahill	NJ 93610 21910	FARMHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
130360	Darrahill	NJ 93540 22010	FARMHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
148264	Ironrieves	NJ 92580 21970	RING DITCH (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)(POSSIBLE)

HER

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name
HERABER	NJ92SW0007	Ironrieves cropmark
HERABER	NJ92SW0122	Auchloan Cottage, cottage
HERABER	NJ92SW0156	Moss-Side, boundary stone
HERABER	NJ92SW0156	Moss-Side, boundary stone
HERABER	NJ92SW0123	Auchloan
HERABER	NJ92SW0156	Moss-Side, boundary stone
HERABER	NJ92SW0151	Tillery House

HERABER	NJ92SW0156	Moss-Side
HERABER	NJ92SW0117	Darrahill
HERABER	NJ92SW0120	Ironrieves farm
HERABER	NJ92SW0069	East Cannahars
HERABER	NJ92SW0073	East Cannahars
HERABER	NJ92SW0155	Old School Croft
HERABER	NJ92SW0121	Auchloan Cottage

APPENDIX 2 MAPS



Illus 6 First Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire LVI.2 (Belhelvie) Survey date: 1865 Publication date: 1867.



Illus 7 Second Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire LVI.2 (Belhelvie; Foveran; Udney) Publication date: 1900 Revised: 1899.

APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTO ID	DIRECTION FACING	COMMENTS
CA479-1	SSE	Soil strip commencing along stone dyke bordering farm track.
CA479-2	SSE	Soil strip commencing along stone dyke bordering farm track. The large stone in the centre of the frame was inspected and appears to have been part of the original dyke foundation.
CA479-3	SW	Machine commencing topsoil removal in NW corner of site
CA479-4	SSE	Soil strip commencing in NW corner of site
CA479-5	SE	Soil strip commencing in NW corner of site, general site view
CA479-6	SE	Soil strip commencing in NW corner of site, general site view
CA479-7	SW	Section view of maximum topsoil depth encountered on site
CA479-8	NE	Perimeter soil strip underway
CA479-9	NE	Perimeter soil strip underway
CA479-10	ENE	Soil strip approaching halfway point
CA479-11	NE	Soil strip approaching halfway point
CA479-12	N	Soil strip approaching halfway point
CA479-13	ENE	Soil strip in progress
CA479-14	NE	Soil strip in progress
CA479-15	N	Soil strip approximately 80% completed
CA479-16	NE	Soil strip approximately 90% completed
CA479-17	NE	Soil strip approximately 90% completed
CA479-18	NE	Soil strip approximately 90% completed
CA479-19	SW	Soil strip nearing completion
CA479-20	W	Soil strip nearing completion
CA479-21	NW	Soil strip nearing completion
CA479-22	NE	Soil strip completed



CA479-1



CA479-2



CA479-3



CA479-4



CA479-5



CA479-6



CA479-7



CA479-8



CA479-9



CA479-10



CA479-11



CA479-12



CA479-13



CA479-14



CA479-15



CA479-16



CA479-17



CA479-18



CA479-19



CA479-20



CA479-21



CA479-22