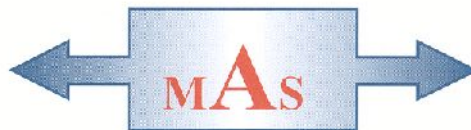


LAKEVIEW DEVELOPMENT STRICHEN ABERDEENSHIRE



- Archaeological Evaluation -
Carried out 9th April 2012
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2012-10
by
H K Murray & J C Murray

H K Murray BA, PhD, MIFA, FSA Scot
J C Murray BA, MIFA, FSA Scot, FMA
Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN
Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: cmurray@btinternet.com

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-Archaeological Evaluation-

H K Murray and J C Murray

1. Background

- 1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2011/2173) was granted permission for the erection of houses on the site of the old saw mill, now called Lakeview, Strichen, Aberdeenshire.

An archaeological condition was applied to this application in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP).

The condition required that no development should take place before the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to be agreed with Bruce Mann, Archaeologist, Aberdeenshire Council.

- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Colin Smith of Smith Estates Ltd to undertake the work.
- 1.3 Following discussion with Bruce Mann it was determined that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken.
- 1.4 The field element of the work was carried out on 9th April 2012.

2. Desktop Survey

- 2.1 A search was carried out in the Sites and Monuments Records of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS) through Canmore and Pastmap.
- 2.2 Roy's Military map of Scotland 1747-55 shows the Kirk of Stichen with a small cluster of buildings, to the E of the road leading to the bridge of the North Ugie Water. However this appears to be on the slightly higher ground near the church, rather than adjacent to the road.
- 2.3 The 1st OS 25" map of Aberdeen Sheet XIII.3 Strichen 1870 (Published 1874)

and 2nd 25” OS map of Aberdeenshire 013.03 1901 (published 1903) both show this area of ground between the roads and W of the Old Parish church as woodland.

- 2.4 To the E of the present site is the remains of the Old Parish church of Strichen built in 1620 within the graveyard (SMR No: NJ95SW 12.01). The graveyard includes some 18th century grave slabs. The 1799 parish church, now also redundant, lies nearby.

3. The Site

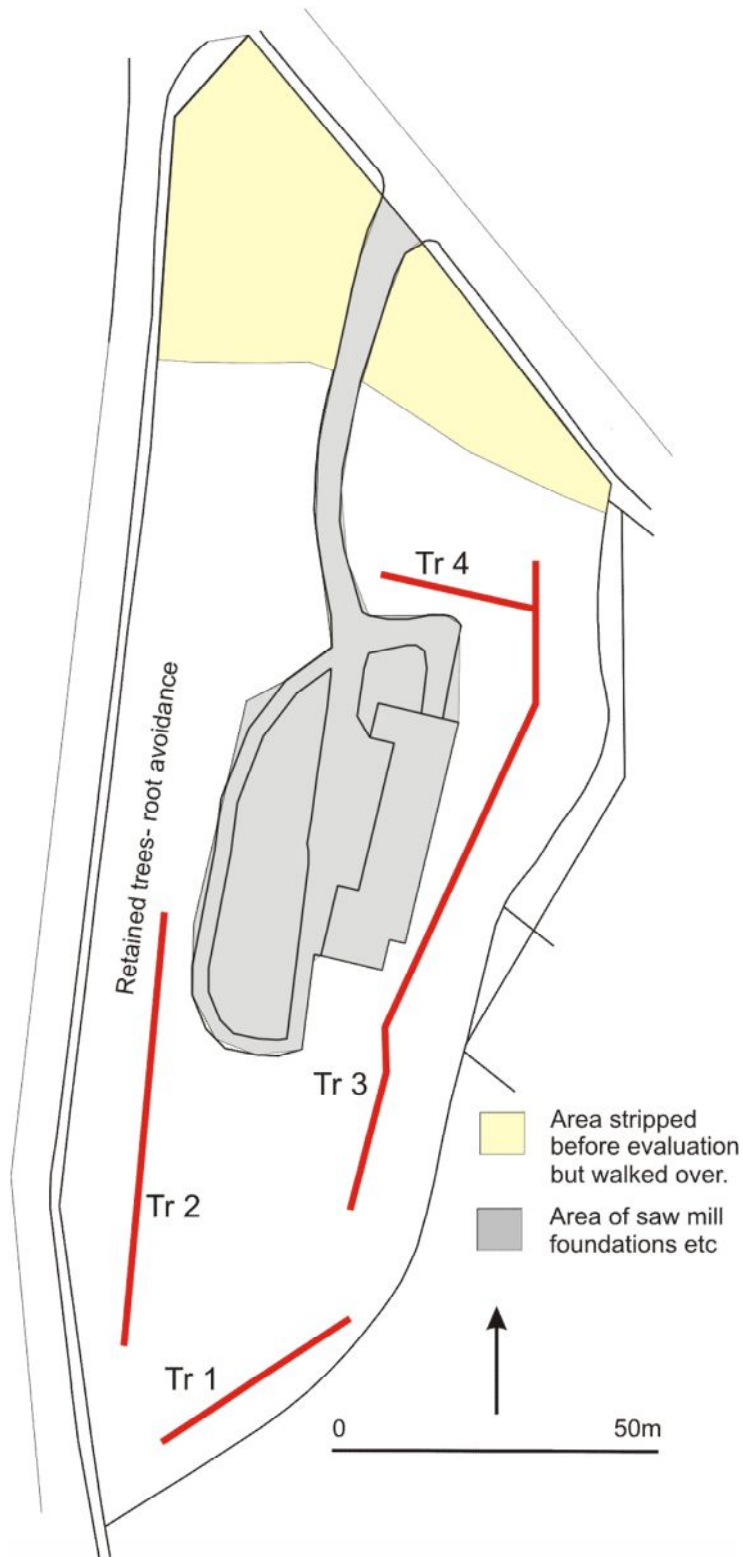
- 3.1 The proposed site lies between the junction of the A981 road from New Deer to Strichen and a minor road leading E towards the Forest of Deer. It is located directly to the W of the existing graveyard.

NGR: NJ 9457 5483 (centre of site). Parish: Strichen

- 3.2 The site lies on a slight slope down towards the W. Until c 15 years ago this had been the site of a sawmill. The sawmill structures and a loop road system around them covered much of the centre of the site and were removed c. a month prior to the evaluation. The buildings had been of concrete block construction with corrugated roofs (pers. comm. Digger driver). This area is shown grey on Illus 1 and was not further excavated.
- 3.3 A line of mature trees are being preserved alongside the A981 road. An area alongside the road was avoided to minimize damage to tree roots.
- 3.4 An area beside the N boundary of the site had been stripped prior to the evaluation (shown yellow on Illus 1). This was walked over during the evaluation.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 Four evaluation trenches were excavated. Topsoil was removed using a full slew excavator with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Any possible features were cleaned and excavated by hand.
- 4.2 All mapping was done with a Magellan Mobile Mapper CX.



Illus 1 Plan of the site showing evaluation trenches (red) and disturbed areas (grey and yellow).

5. The Results

Trench 1

GPS E end: 394570,854746 W end: 394541,854726

Orientation: ENE/WSW Length: 35m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil 200-300mm deep with much root disturbance overlay yellow gravelly boulder clay.

No features.



Illus 2 Trench 1 looking E with 1799 church in background

Trench 2

GPS N end: 394543,854809 S end: 394535,854742

Orientation: N/S Length: 67m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil 200-250mm deep on the E side of the trench, and up to 400mm on the W (downhill) side overlay yellow gravelly boulder clay. There was much root disturbance.

No features.

Trench 3

GPS N end: 394599,854863 S end: 394570,854762

Orientation: roughly N/S Length: 106m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil generally 200-400mm deep overlay yellow gravelly/stony boulder clay. Disturbance of the topsoil to natural with plastic sacks and other debris from the sawmill in places. Some areas with only 100mm topsoil remaining.

No features.



Illus 3 Trench 2 looking N. showing root marks in natural

Trench 4

GPS E end: 394598,854853 W end: 394574,854858

Orientation: E/W Length: 24m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil 200-300mm deep with some deeper disturbance with plastic sacks etc to 600mm overlying yellow gravelly boulder clay.

No features.

6. Discussion

There was no evidence in the evaluation trenches or in the observed areas of any activity related to the settlement beside the 17th century church or to any earlier medieval settlement.

7. Impacts and Mitigations

Impacts There was no evidence of surviving archaeology.

Mitigations None

This does not preclude the possibility of chance finds or archaeological discoveries outwith the evaluation trenches. Should such chance finds occur, then the Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council, or Murray Archaeological

Services Ltd, must be informed immediately so that an appropriate archaeological response can be formulated and agreed by all parties concerned.



Illus 4 NW area of site soil stripped.

Photographs supplied to archive on CD

Photographic catalogue	
Digital frame no	Content
1-3	T1, looking NNE
4	T1, with church on RHS
5 – 6	T2, looking N
7	T2, looking NW to pond
8	N end of T2, looking N to Strichen
9 – 11	General views of NW of site
12 – 16	Soil strip in NW sector of site