

**INVERURIE PAPER MILL REED BEDS
PORT ELPHINSTONE
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Archaeological Evaluation

Carried out 10th January 2013

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2013-2

by

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-Archaeological Evaluation -

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1. Background

- 1.1 A Planning Application (Ref: G/APP/2012/1615) was granted permission for the establishment of a reed bed and associated works related to a landfill site containing waste from the former paper mill, International Paper, Port Elphinstone, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. An archaeological condition requiring a 10% evaluation was placed on the work. The archaeological condition was applied to this application in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP).
- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by International Paper (UK) Ltd to undertake the work.
- 1.3 The evaluation was undertaken on 10th January 2013.

2. The Site

- 2.1 The site is situated to the E side of the A96 some 2 miles S of Inverurie, on low ground to the W of the Aberdeen to Inverness railway line and W of the former paper mills.
Parish: Kintore. NGR: 377962, 818937(approx centre of evaluation site)
- 2.2 The field is in rough uncultivated grass and weeds.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 The cultivated topsoil was removed by a JCB with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Any possible features were cleaned and excavated by hand.
- 3.2 All mapping was done with a Magellan Mobile Mapper CX.



Illus 1 Location of site (red star). Plan courtesy of Mott MacDonald.

4. Background

- 4.1 The development is taking place on lower ground adjacent to, and to the NE of, a site of prehistoric importance (Neolithic and Bronze Age domestic occupation and ritual cremation) evaluated in 2010 and excavated in 2012 by MAS Ltd (NJ 7790 1870. Murray & Murray 2010 and forthcoming).

This area alongside the River Don is rich in evidence of prehistoric activity stretching from the henge at Broomend of Crichie and the related monuments in that area to the N of the present site and S to the stone circle at Fullerton.



Illus 2 Evaluation trenches 1 and 2, looking SW to higher ground on back RHS where Neolithic and Bronze Age evidence has been recorded.

4.2 Map evidence

1st Ordnance Survey Map. 1867 (published 1869) (www.nls.ac.uk)

Aberdeenshire LIV.12

Shown as open ground.

Ordnance survey 1899 (published 1900) (www.nls.ac.uk)

Aberdeenshire, 054.12

Shown as open ground.

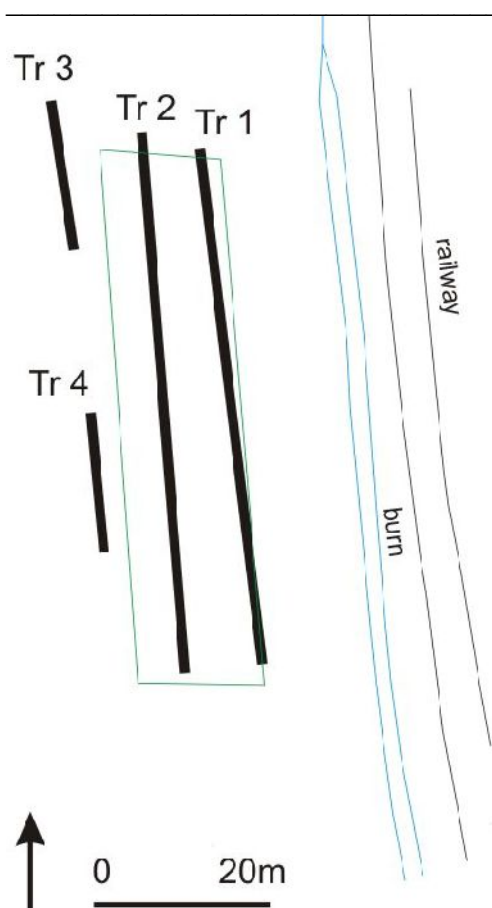
Ordnance survey 1924 (published 1926) (www.nls.ac.uk)


Aberdeenshire, 054.12

Shown as open ground.

5 Results of the Evaluation

Four evaluation trenches were excavated.



 Approx outline of proposed reed bed

Illus 3 Location of trenches (black). Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data, © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. 2013. License No 100041040

Trench 1

GPS NE end: 377959, 818974 SW end: 377963, 818913

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 61m Width: 2m

Stratigraphy: At the NE end there was c500mm of light grey/brown fine silt over yellow natural gritty clay. Towards the centre of the trench the natural was higher, with only c 300mm of topsoil but for most of the S 20m of the trench there was an increasingly clay-rich natural with ingress of water.

Features: A small spread of charcoal fragments (c. 500mm diam) on the top of the natural at 12.3m from the NE end of the trench had no associated artefacts and may be of natural origin.

A stone drain ran E/W across the trench at 49m from the NE end.

Trench 2

GPS NE end: 377965, 818972 SW end: 377972, 818913

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 59m Width: 2m

Stratigraphy: 400-420mm light grey/brown fine silt over yellow natural gritty clay. The S 10m of the trench was waterlogged.

Features: None

Trench 3

GPS NE end: 377948, 818978 SW end: 377951, 818959

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 18 m Width: 2m

Stratigraphy: 550-700mm light grey/brown fine silt over natural clay. Water ingress.

Features: None



Illus 4 Detail Trench 3 looking SW.

Trench 4

GPS NE end: 377953, 818942 SW end: 377955, 818926

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 16 m Width: 2m

Stratigraphy: 380-400mm of light grey/brown fine silt over yellow natural gritty clay

Features:

A stone drain ran E/W across the trench at 11m from the NE end.



Illus 5 Detail of Trench 4 looking SW

6 The Finds

None

7 Discussion

No archaeological features or artefacts were found. The evidence suggests that this was low lying ground with the probability that it was intermittently part of the River Don flood plain.

8 Impacts and Mitigations

Impacts None

Mitigations

1. The lack of surviving archaeology 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.

9 References

Murray, H K & Murray, J C 2010 *Inverurie Paper (UK) Ltd. Inverurie, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Evaluation*. Grey Literature report. MAS 2010-20.

Murray, H K & Murray, J C forthcoming. *Site West of Inverurie Paper, Port Elphinstone, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Excavation*. Grey Literature report. MAS 2012-15.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Catalogue of digital photographic record in archive Aberdeenshire SMR and NMRS

| Digital frame number | Content |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 001-003 | Trenches 1 and 2 looking SW |
| 004 | Trench 2, detail looking SW |
| 005-006 | Trench 3 looking SW detail. |
| 007-008 | Trenches 3 and 4 looking SW towards the higher ground |
| 009 | Trench 3 detail, looking SW |
| 010 | Trenches 1 and 2 backfilled and trenches 3 and 4. Looking SW |
| 011-012 | Trench 3 looking N to existing landfill |
| 013-014 | Trench 4, detail, looking SW |