

**ROADSIDE OF CORSINDAE
MIDMAR
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Archaeological Evaluation

Carried out August 2013

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2013-24

by

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-Archaeological Evaluation -

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1. Background

1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2007/5027 and 2008/2582) was granted permission for the erection of houses on a green field site at Roadside of Corsindae, Midmar, 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 7-10% archaeological evaluation.

1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Callan Homes Ltd to undertake the work.

1.3 The evaluation was undertaken on 5th August 2013.

2. The Site

2.1 The site lies to the N of Midmar School on a minor road on the N side of the B9119.

Parish: Midmar. NGR: NJ 6836, 0789 (centre of evaluation site)

2.2 The site rises towards the N boundary where at the N and NW there is a fairly level plateau. The ground at the N end also rises E towards the road. There are wide views to S, W and NW.

4.1 Trenches 1-5, in the housing area, were on fairly level, slightly lower ground and trenches 6-8 were on the higher ground which is intended for landscaping only.



Illus 1 General view across site looking NE to rig and furrow on higher ground on the horizon.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 The cultivated topsoil was removed by a full slew excavator with a 1.9m 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.

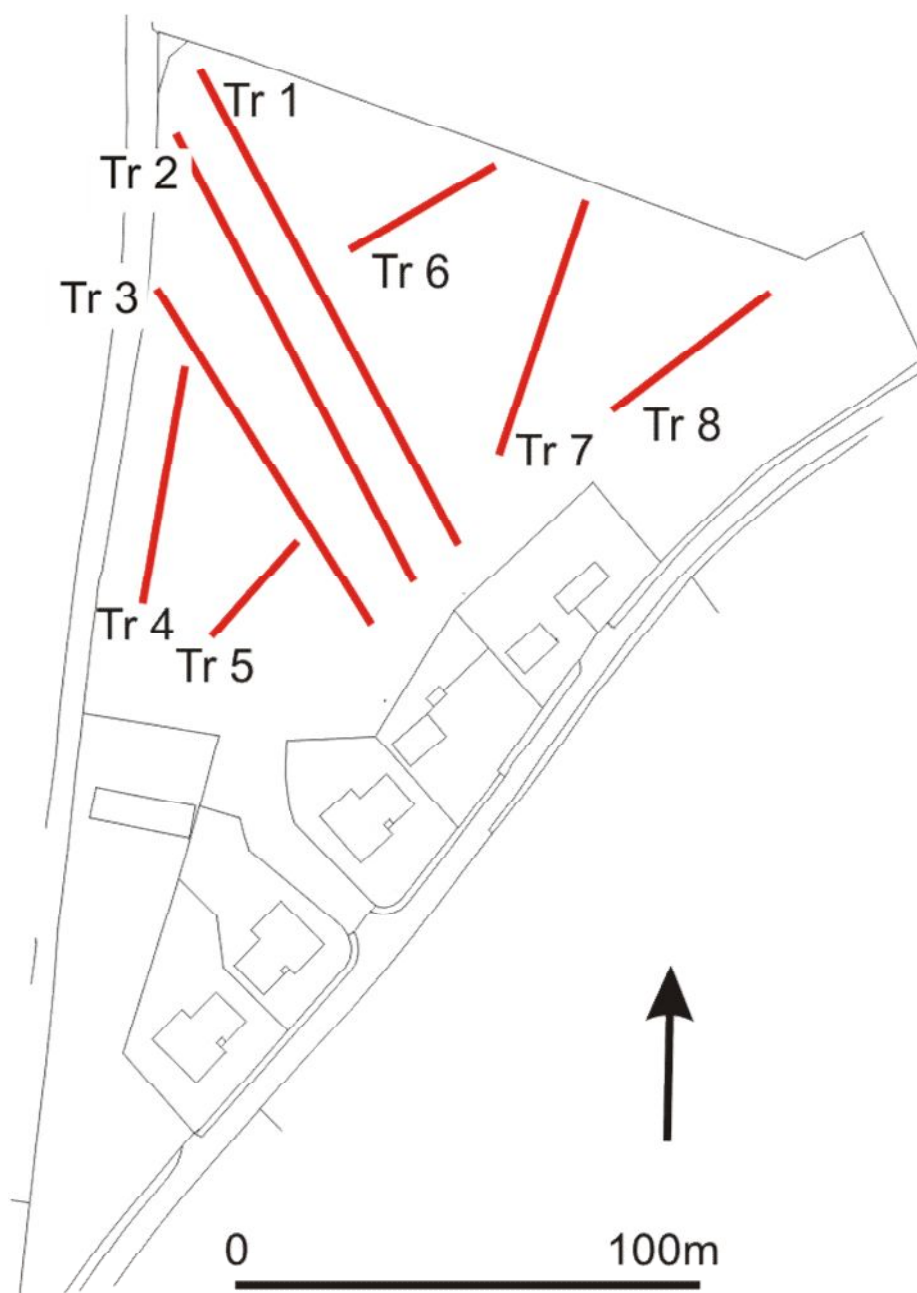
4. Archaeological background

- 4.1 There is a large area of rig and furrow (Aberdeenshire SMR NJ60NE0008; RCAHMS NJ60NE 10; centred at NJ 6854 0817) on higher ground to the NE in the neighbouring field (Illus 1). This may relate to the tower house at Corsindae Mains directly N of it. Roy's Military map of 1747-55 shows Carsenday (sic) as a settlement in the middle of an area of rig and furrow on either side of a road. Most of the area of rig and furrow is shown under trees in both 1865/6

(Aberdeenshire sheet lxxii pub 1869) and in 1899 (Aberdeenshire sheet 072.08 pub 1900). The lack of constant cultivation may have preserved the rig and furrow in that area. Roadside is shown as cultivated ground both in 1865/6 and in 1899.

5 Results of the Evaluation

Eight evaluation trenches were excavated in total (Illus 2).



Illus 2 The site showing all evaluation trenches (red). Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data, © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. 2012. License No 1000410404

Trench 1

GPS NW end: 368338, 807997 SE end: 368394,807894

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 117 m Width: 1.9m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil c. 400mm at NW near the boundary dyke but c. 300mm for most of trench. In general this overlay hard gritty boulder clay with abundant large rocks and boulders. Occasional stone pull holes or buried broken-up boulders.

Features: None

Trench 2

GPS NW end: 368332, 807983 SE end: 368384,807886

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 110 m Width: 1.9m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil c. 360mm at NW near the boundary dyke but c. 300mm for most of trench. In general this overlay hard gritty boulder clay with abundant large rocks and boulders. Occasional stone pull holes or buried broken-up boulders.

Features: None

Trench 3

GPS NW end: 368328, 807950 SE end: 368375,807877

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 87 m Width: 1.9m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil c. 360mm at NW near the boundary dyke but c. 300mm for most of trench. In general this overlay hard gritty boulder clay with abundant large rocks and boulders. Occasional stone pull holes or buried broken-up boulders.

Features: None

Trench 4

GPS N end: 368336, 807933 S end: 368327,807880

Orientation: approx N/S Length: 53 m Width: 1.9m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil 250-300mm. In general this overlay hard gritty boulder clay with abundant large rocks and boulders. Occasional stone pull holes or buried broken-up boulders.

Features: None



Illus 3 Trench 3 looking NW

Trench 5

GPS NE end: 368361, 807895 SW end: 368341,807874

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 29 m Width: 1.9m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil 250-300mm. In general this overlay hard gritty boulder clay with abundant large rocks and boulders. Occasional stone pull holes or buried broken-up boulders.

Features: None

Trench 6

GPS NE end:368402, 807975 SW end: 368370,807957

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 36 m Width: 1.9m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil c. 400mm at S end near base of slope but c. 250mm at the top of the ridge. In general this overlay much sandier natural with fewer large rocks and boulders.

Features: None

Trench 7

GPS NE end:368421, 807969 SW end: 368402,807913

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 57 m Width: 1.9m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil 280-300mm. In general this overlay hard gritty boulder clay with abundant large rocks and boulders.

Features: None

Trench 8

GPS ENE end:364618, 807948 WSW end: 364264,807923

Orientation: ENE/WSW Length: 43 m Width: 1.9m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil c. 250-300mm. In general this overlay hard gritty boulder clay with abundant large rocks and boulders.

Features: None

6 The Finds

There were no finds.

7 Impacts and Mitigations

Impacts None. No archaeological finds or features were identified in the evaluation.

Mitigations

1. The lack of surviving archaeology within the evaluation area 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.

8 References

Roy. Military Map of 1747-55 on line at <http://www.nls.uk/maps>

Appendix 1: Catalogue of digital photographic records

(Supplied to Aberdeenshire SMR on CD)

Digital frame number	Content
Roadside of Corsindae 1-3	Trench 3
4-5	General views looking NW. Rig and furrow on high ground behind
6-8	General views looking S