

**INVERURIE-CONGLASS  
CARE HOME AND CARE VILLAGE  
INVERURIE  
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**Archaeological Evaluation**

Carried out 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014

by

**Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2014-11**

by

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**-Archaeological Evaluation -**

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**1. Background**

1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2011/3487) was granted permission for the erection of a Care Home and Care Village, parking, access and landscaping on a green field site at Crawford Road, Conglass, Inverurie Aberdeenshire.

An archaeological condition (No 10) 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 Desktop Survey and a 5-7% archaeological evaluation.

1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Aberdeenshire Council to undertake the work.

1.3 The evaluation was undertaken on 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

**2. The Site**

2.1 The site lies on the W side of Inverurie and N of the A96, lying on the S side of Crawford Road.

Parish: Inverurie

Map ref: 375600, 822860 (approx centre of evaluation site).

2.2 The site lies in former agricultural land, sloping down to the S towards the river Urie which runs N of Crawford Road.

The site was partly in stubble at the time of the evaluation.

### 3 Methodology

3.1 The cultivated topsoil was removed by a full slew excavator with a 2.1m wide toothless ditching bucket. Any possible features were cleaned and excavated by hand.

3.2 All mapping was done with a Magellan Mobile Mapper 120 GPS and Glonass.

### 4. Desktop Survey: Archaeological and historical background

#### 4.1 Map evidence

*25"/mile OS map 1867 (pub. 1869) (Aberdeen sheet liv.3.* This shows the field system essentially as it is now, with the field being part of Conglass Farm.

*25"/mile OS map 1899 (pub. 1900) (Aberdeenshire sheet 054.03).* No change

*25"/mile OS map 1924 (pub. 1926) (Aberdeenshire sheet 054.03).* No change.

4.2.1 A number of surface finds have been recorded from Conglass but the majority are 19<sup>th</sup> century finds and have no exact location within the farm. They give a general background for activity in the immediate area, but were not necessarily found on the field where the development is taking place. The date of the objects ranges from Neolithic to possible Iron Age.

NMRS No	Location given	Grid ref given	Artefact	Present location
NJ72SE302	Conglass	NJ753 231	Spindle whorl	Marischal Museum ABDUA 19058

NJ72SE308	Conglass	NJ753 231	Stone axe	Marischal Museum ABDUA 19708
NJ72SE98	Conglass	NJ75 23	Stone axe	Hunterian Museum. GLAHM: B.1914.10B
NJ72SE61	Conglass	NJ75 23	Barbed and tanged arrowhead	Inverurie Museum
NJ72SE78	Conglass	NJ75 23	2 stone axes, leaf-shaped flint arrowhead	Inverurie Museum

4.3 The following sites are recorded:

- Alleged Roman Road. NMRS NJ72SE27. The road was meant to run S of the present site, being part of an alleged road from Kintore camp, through Inverurie and to the Spey. There is no sign of the alleged road.
- A number of upright stones in fields of Conglass farm were originally described as standing stones but more recently have been named as cattle rubbing stones following oral information from the then farmer at Conglass that, in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, cattle rubbing stones were set up in each of the farm's fields. NMRS Nos NJ72SE18 and 19.

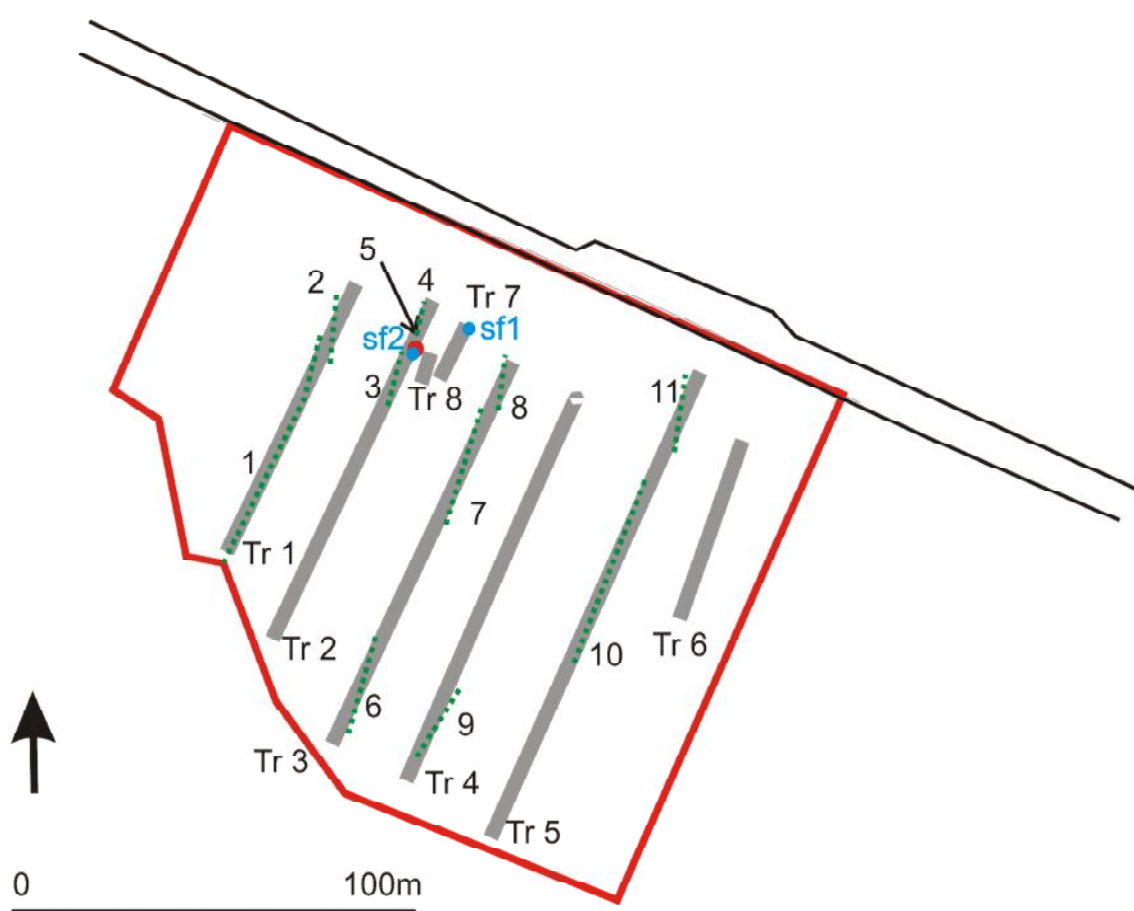
4.4 Two areas of recent excavation are relevant.

- Evaluation at Conglass Cottages to SE of present site. Aberdeenshire ref: NJ72SE0303. An evaluation by Cameron Archaeology in 2013 in the field to the E of Conglass Cottages, opposite the present site, revealed a small truncated feature containing 5 sherds of prehistoric pottery and a burnt stone, interpreted as a hearth.

- Evaluation and Excavations N of A96 in area around Dilly Hill at Westgate, Inverurie. Excavations to the S of the A96 and S of the present site between 2006 and 2011 revealed settlement and other features from the Neolithic to the Iron Age ( Murray & Murray 2013). NMRS No: NJ72SE359.

## 5 Results of the Evaluation

Eight evaluation trenches were excavated in total (Illus 1).



**Illus 1** Location of the evaluation (trenches in grey). Approx site outline red. Green dotted lines denote rig and furrow. Blue dots and numbers denote finds. Red dot denotes incut feature 5.

Based on plan courtesy of Aberdeenshire Council. Survey based on Ordnance Survey digital map data, © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. 2014. License No 1000410404

### Trench 1

GPS NE end: 3775585,822926 SW end: 375554,822860

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 74 m Width: 2.1m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over stony boulder clay natural. Topsoil depths 400-500mm, increasing to c 600mm below break of slope.

Two lines of rig and furrow indicated by furrows 0.80-1.0m wide and, where sectioned, cut c100mm into the underlying natural.

1. SW/NE, turning slightly at N end to run NS. From 375554,822860 to 375576,822909
2. N/S from 375576,822909 to 375582,822920

### Trench 2

GPS NE end: 375604,822922 SW end: 375564,822838

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 93m Width: 2.1m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over stony boulder clay natural. Topsoil depth 400mm, increasing to c 500mm below break of slope.

Two lines of rig and furrow indicated by furrows 0.80-1.0m wide which crossed the trench from E to W.

3. Approx N/S from 375592,822894 to 375595,822906
4. Approx N/S from 375600,822911 to 375601,822918

A possible pit (5) was sectioned. It was a curved oval c1.32m x 0.64m. The depth ranged between 60 and 200mm. Fill: grey silty, slightly finer than topsoil. It appeared to be an animal burrow or stone hole (Illus 2). Flint SF2 and a fragment of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe stem were found in the fill; both presumably coincidental inclusions.



**Illus 2 Animal burrow/stone hole context 5 in Trench 2**

### Trench 3

GPS NE end: 375624,822907 SW end: 375578,822812

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 106 m Width: 2.1m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over stony boulder clay natural. Topsoil depth 400mm, increasing to c 500mm below break of slope.

Three lines of rig and furrow indicated by furrows 0.80-1.0m wide which crossed the trench from E to W.

6. Approx NE/SW from 375582,822819 to 375586,822827

7. Approx NE/SW from 375608,822871 to 375613,822888

8. Approx N/S from 375620,822897 to 375620,822903.

### Trench 4

GPS NE end: 375639,822898 SW end: 375597,822803

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 104m Width: 2.1m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over stony boulder clay natural. Topsoil depth 400mm, increasing to c 500mm below break of slope.

One line of rig and furrow indicated by furrow 0.80-1.0m wide which crossed the trench from E to W.

9. Approx SW/NE from 375598,822807 to 375605,822820

### Trench 5

GPS NE end: 375670,822905 SW end: 375618,822798

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 127m Width: 2.1m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over stony boulder clay natural. Topsoil depth 400mm, increasing to c 500mm below break of slope. Natural dip c 3m wide and 650mm deep at S end at 375323,822797

Two lines of rig and furrow indicated by furrows 0.80-1.0m wide which crossed the trench from E to W.

10. Approx NE/SW from 375639,822837 to 375653,822872

11. Approx N/S from 375663,822889 to 375665,822898

### Trench 6

GPS NE end: 375681,822888 SW end: 375664,822842

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 49 m Width: 2.1m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over stony boulder clay natural. Topsoil depths 300-400mm.

No features or finds were observed.

### Trench 7

This trench was excavated in the area of the surface find of flint flake SF1, to see if there were any related features in this area.

GPS NE end: 375612,822916 SW end: 375605,822902

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 15m Width: 2.1m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over stony boulder clay natural. Topsoil depth 400mm

No features or finds were observed.

### Trench 8

This trench was excavated adjacent to Trench 2, feature 8 where flint SF 2 was found to see if there were any related features.

GPS NE end: 375603,822909 SW end: 375601,822902

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 8m Width: 2.1m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over stony boulder clay natural. Topsoil depth 400mm

No features or finds were observed.



## 6 The Finds

Two flints were found.

SF 1 Flint flake with secondary working along one edge. 26 x 16mm. Found unstratified on top of rutted ploughsoil. Trench 7 was subsequently dug in this area. GPS: 375611, 822914

SF 2 Large flint flake from pebble with cortex remaining on one surface.

Secondary working along one edge. 47 x 31mm. Trench 2, context 5.

GPS: 375598, 822907. A stem fragment from a L19th/E20th C clay tobacco pipe was found in the same context.

## 7 Discussion

The two flints indicate some prehistoric activity in the area, which agrees with the number of stray finds from Conglass Farm and the evidence of the evaluation undertaken by Cameron Archaeology to the N of the road in 2013. However, as the surviving rig and furrow suggests, there has been intensive agricultural activity on the site for several hundred years and no features of prehistoric date were observed surviving in any of the evaluation trenches.



Illus 3 Trench 2 looking SW showing rig and furrow

## 8 Impacts and Mitigations

### 8.1 Impacts

None

### 8.2 Mitigations

None

8.3 The lack of surviving archaeology does not preclude the possibility of chance finds or archaeological discoveries elsewhere on the site, 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.

## References

Murray H K & Murray J C 2013 *Westgate, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Evaluations and Excavations 2006-2010* Unpublished report MAS 2013-12 in archive at Aberdeenshire SMR and NMRS.

## Appendix 1: Catalogue of digital photographic records

(Supplied to Aberdeenshire SMR on CD)

Digital frame number	Content
Inverurie Care Village	
01	General view of site looking S
02-04	Trench 2, feature 5
05-08	Trench 2 looking SW showing rig and furrow
09	View looking E
10-11	View looking ENE
12-13	View looking NE
14	View looking E
15-16	View looking W
17-18	View looking SW
19	View looking W
20-21	View looking SW