

OLD RAILWAY YARD, SCOTSTOWN BANFF ABERDEENSHIRE



- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 18th August 2014
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2014-24
by

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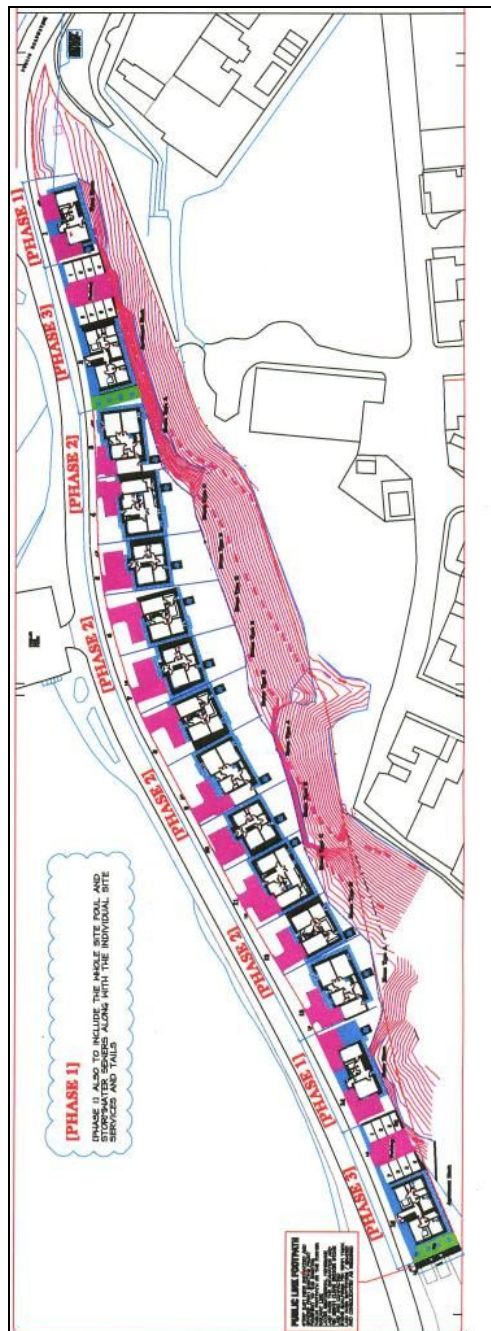
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1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of houses at the site of the former Old Railway Yard, Scotstown, Banff [Planning ref: BB/APP/2009/3786], required that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during ground works [Planning Condition 15].
- 1.2 Aberdeenshire Council's reason for requesting the watching brief was to observe and record any items of archaeological interest during the ground disturbance phase of the development. The Condition was applied in the context of PAN (Planning Advise Note) 2/2011, SPP and SHEP, which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological work to take place prior to development, in appropriate circumstances.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Gordon J Philip, Architectural & Building Design, on behalf of his client, Carriag Homes Ltd, to undertake the work, which was carried out on 18th August 2014.

2. The Site

- 2.1 The site is located to the W of Banff Old Harbour and the 19th century railway station, opened in 1859 by the Banff, Portsoy and Strathisla Railway [NGR: NJ 6876 6465; NMRS No: NJ66 SE 123]; Parish: Banff.
- 2.2 The housing development extends from the site of the railway station to the W and encompasses the old railway yard (Illus. 1)



Illus 1: Plan of site

3. The Watching Brief

- 3.1 The development occupies a strip of land between a steep rocky incline to the S and the seashore to the N.



Illus 2: View of site, looking E

- 3.2 It became evident as the watching brief commenced that rather than the ground level being reduced, it was to be made by c.400mm. In any event, two test holes dug to ascertain the likelihood of surviving deposits below a thin layer of topsoil, showed the underlying strata to be solid rock.



Illus 3: Test hole, looking E

3.3 As a consequence of this and the fact that the ground level was to be raised, the watching brief ceased following discussions with the Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council.

4. Results

4.1 For the reasons stated at 3, above, the watching brief was discontinued after the initial assessment.



Illus 4: Site of Railway Station lies to the E of the site fence, where the ground is to be made-up



Illus 5: general view of site, looking W