

ASHFIELD FARM GARMOUTH MORAY



- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 11th June 2014
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



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by

H K & 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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1. Background

- 1.1 A Planning Application to the Moray Council (Ref: 14/00116/APP) for the erection of a new general purpose agricultural building at Ashfield Farm, Garmouth, Moray, was granted permission subject to a condition (Condition 1) requiring an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during any groundbreaking and development work.
- 1.2 The Council's reason for imposing the condition was to observe and record any items of archaeological interest disturbed during the construction phase of the development. The Condition was applied in the context of PAN (Planning Advice 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 W J & J Green to undertake the work, which was carried out on 11th June 2014.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Ashfield Farm is located on the W side of the village of Garmouth, Moray (NGR: NJ 33165 64378; Illus.1). The farm itself is located a short distance to the E of Corskie Farm, where a number of crop marks have been identified. The crop marks show a possible prehistoric field system and small settlement. There are a series of linear enclosures bordered by irregular boundaries, one of which overlies a small sub-oval enclosure. There are also faint traces of pits scattered over the area and two possible ring ditches (Moray SMR ref: NJ36SW0045)

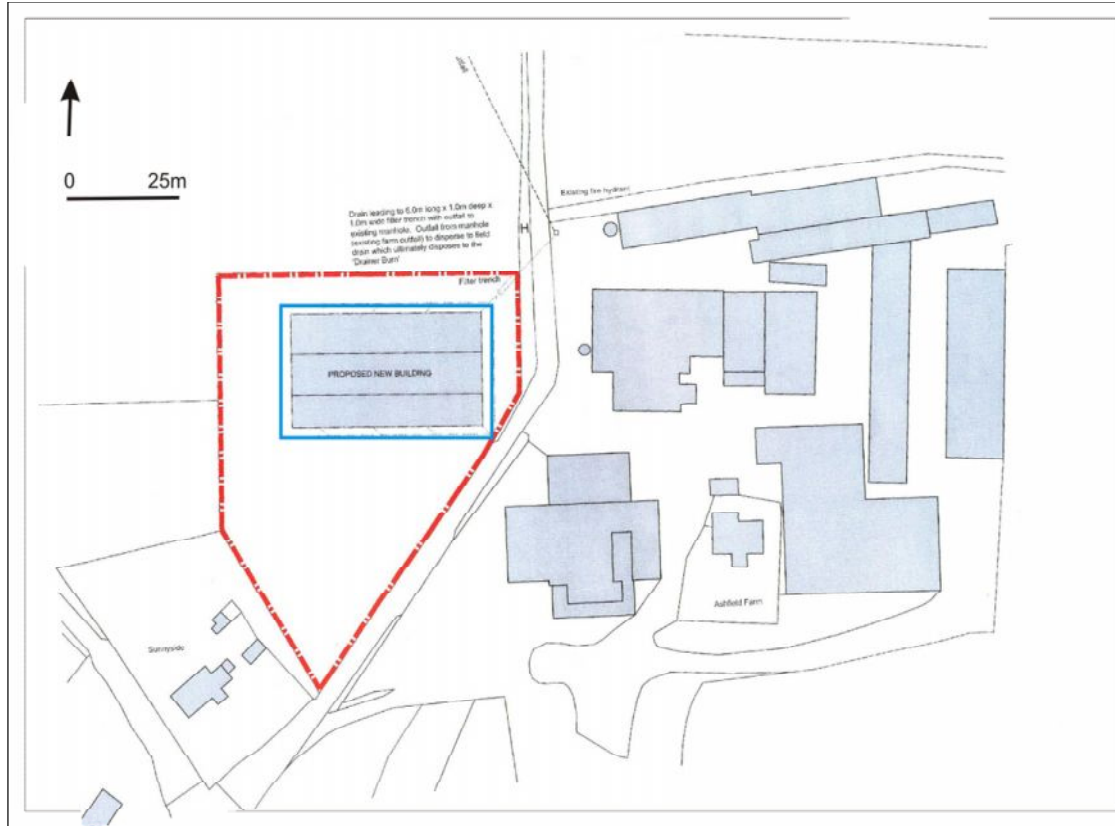


Illus 1: Map showing site location circled in red. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved License No.100049810.

3. The Watching Brief

3.1 The location of the new agricultural building is on an area of ground immediately E of existing farm buildings and steadings (Illus.2).

3.2 The area soil stripped measured 42m (E-W) x 27m (N-S). The work was carried out by a full-slew mechanical digger using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.



Illus 2: Site plan showing the area observed outlined in blue.



Illus 3: View, looking W, at soil strip in progress

- 3.3 The depth of topsoil removed varied between 380mm in the SE of the site, 450mm in the NE and 250mm in the W. The underlying natural was beige-yellow sand. The SE quadrant of the site was much disturbed by periodic rubbish burning.

No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus 4: Natural sand below topsoil, looking N



Illus 5: Site following soil strip, looking E

4. Results

- 4.1 Although the site at Ashfield farm lies in close proximity to the crop mark sites at Corskie Farm, no archaeological features or finds were evident.

Catalogue of Digital Photographs (Supplied to Archive)

- 1-6 General views of soil strip in progress, looking W
7-8 Natural sand, looking N
9-11 Soil strip, looking E