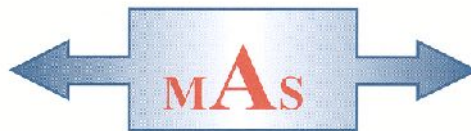


**SUPERMARKET SITE
SCHOOL ROAD
KINTORE
ABERDEENSHIRE**



- Archaeological Evaluation -
Carried out 18th - 19th September 2014
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2014-37
by
H K Murray & J C Murray

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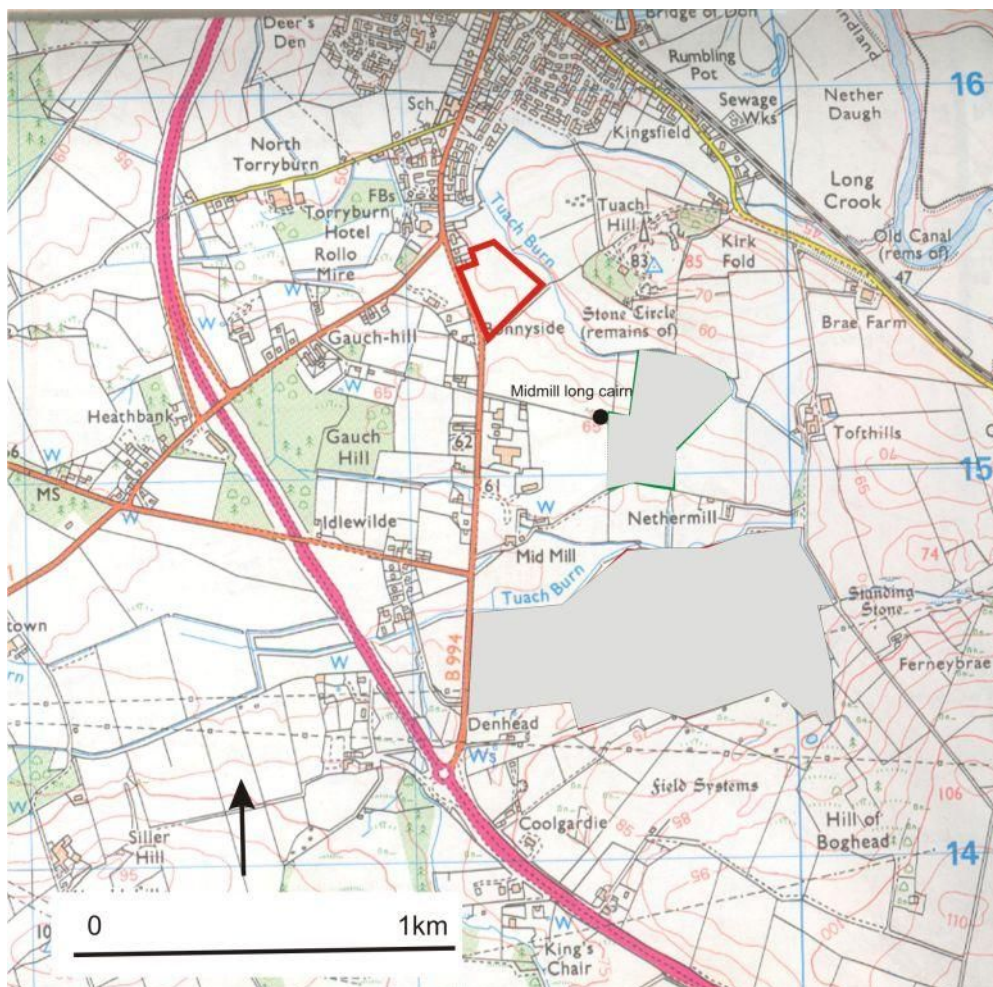
1. Background
 - 1.1 A planning application for the erection of a supermarket at School Road, Kintore, Aberdeenshire, was granted planning permission (Planning Ref: APP/2014/1953) subject to conditions. Condition 12 required that a 5% archaeological evaluation be carried out prior to the soil strip.
 - 1.2 The Conditions were applied in the context of PAN (Planning Advise Note) 2/2011, SPP and SHEP.
 - 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Malcolm Allan Housebuilders Ltd to undertake the work, the field element which was undertaken on 18th and 19th September 2014.
 - 1.4 As the same developer has proposals for the further development and landscaping of the ground lying to the E of the current development, Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was also commissioned by Malcolm Allan Housebuilders Ltd to extend the evaluation to cover the area between the road/supermarket site and the Tuach Burn to the E.
2. Desktop Survey
 - 2.1 A search was carried out in the Sites and Monuments Records of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS) through Canmore and Pastmap. The historic OS maps for the area were also consulted.
 - 2.2 **Roy's Military map of Scotland 1747-55** shows the area between the road and the Tuach Burn to the S of Kintore as partly uncultivated, with rig cultivation only directly S of the core of the 18th -century burgh.

- 2.3 **OS 25" Aberdeen Sheet LXV.1 (Kintore) 1865 (pub 1869)**
shows this area as enclosed cultivated ground..
- 2.4 **OS 25" Aberdeenshire 065.01 1899 (pub 1900)** shows the area unchanged.
- 2.5 **OS 25" Aberdeenshire 065.01 1924 (pub 1925)** shows the field unchanged.

3. The Site

- 3.1 The area evaluated extended between the B994 to the S edge of the town and the Tuach Burn. It extended to c2.61 hectares, some 2126sqm of which was the supermarket site.

NGR: NJ 7923, 1554 (centre of site). Parish: Kintore



Illus 1 Location of the School Road site (red) in relation to the 2007-2014 evaluations and excavations at Midmill and at Kintore Primary School (grey). Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100049810.

3.2 The E side of the site was fairly level with a pronounced dip some 2/3 across the field, sloping down towards the Tuach Burn (illus 2, 3).

3.3 At the time of the evaluation the field was in grass.

4. Methodology

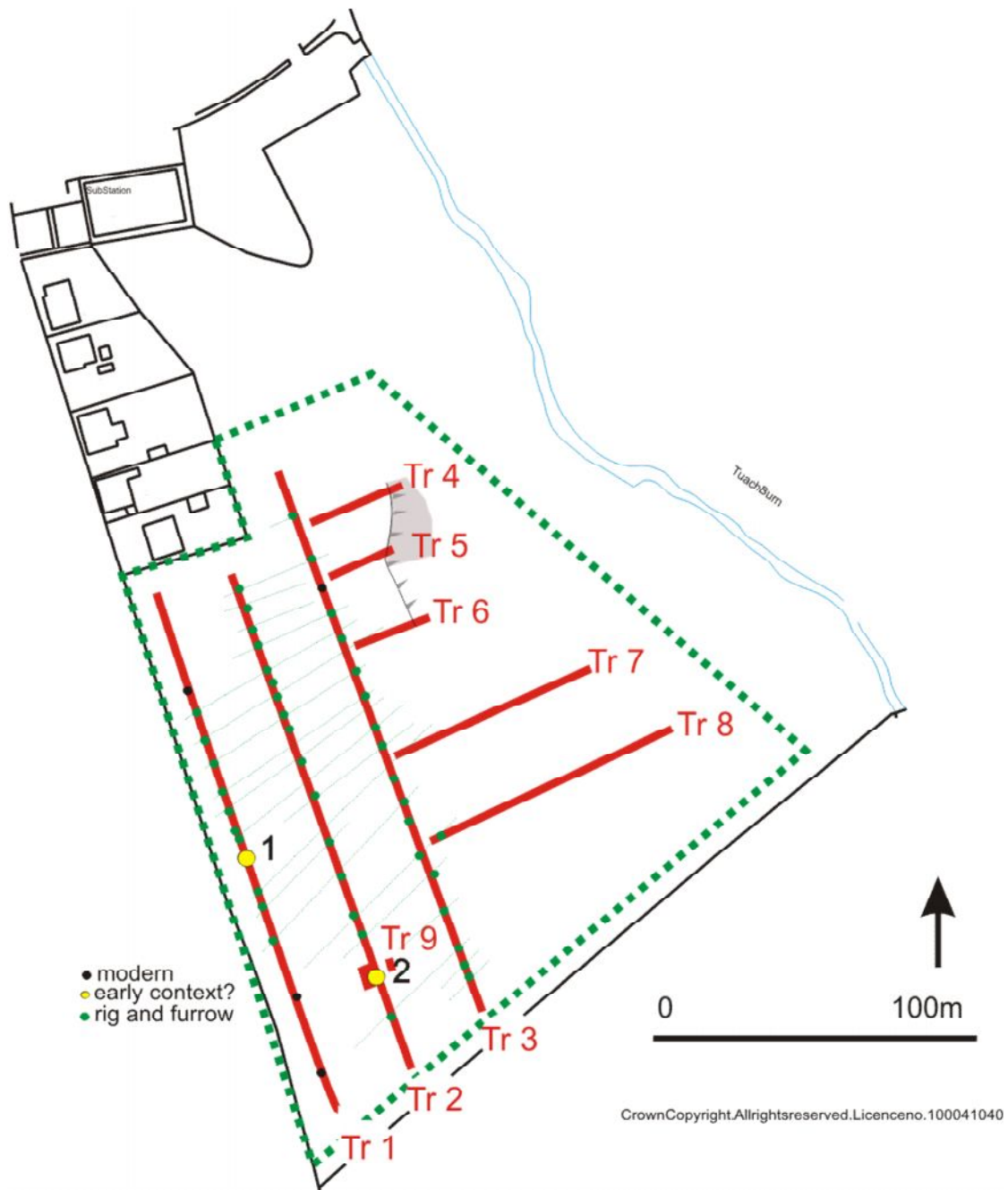
4.1 Initially eight evaluation trenches were excavated. Later a small additional area was excavated to the W of Trench 2 and a short additional trench (Tr 9) excavated to the E of Trench 2.

Topsoil was removed using a full slew excavator with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket. Any possible features were cleaned and excavated by hand.

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



Illus 2 General view of site looking across the Tuach Burn towards the road (to W)



Illus 3 Site outline shown by green dotted line. Plan of trenches (red) evaluated. Green dots and fine dotted lines indicate rig and furrow. Black dots indicate modern test pits or service trenches. Modern infill of slope shaded grey. Prehistoric or possible prehistoric features 1 and 2 = yellow dots. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data, © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. 2014.

5. The Results

Trench 1

GPS N end: 379147,815537 S end: 379203,815376

Orientation: N/S Length: 170m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil of 300-350mm overlay fine sandy natural.

Possible prehistoric features

Context 1 A & B. Two small possible post pits were sectioned. Neither feature produced any artefacts and there was no indication of date. They would however have been below the rig of the rig and furrow and therefore might have been the residue of earlier features protected by the mounded rig soil. No associated features were observed in the surrounding area.

A: 379172, 815462. Diam 240mm Depth into natural 100mm. Fill: Black sand with limited charcoal.

B: 379172, 815463. Diam 270mm Depth into natural 100mm. Fill: Dark grey/black sand.

Rig and furrow

Ten possible furrows of rig and furrow cultivation have been identified. These showed as shallow dips in the natural generally c 2m wide and c 6m apart, filled with greyer, more humic soil. They crossed the trench approximately NNE/SSW. In one area there appeared to have been a slight change in the rigs with narrower surviving furrows only c 3m apart.

Modern features

From the N end of the trench, extending S along and across the trench to 379155,815506 there was a modern service trench. Another modern service cut ran along the E section from the S end to 379199, 815390.

A test pit was encountered at 379189,815413.

Trench 2

GPS N end: 379170,815543 S end: 379225,815389

Orientation: N/S Length: 164m Width: 2.0m

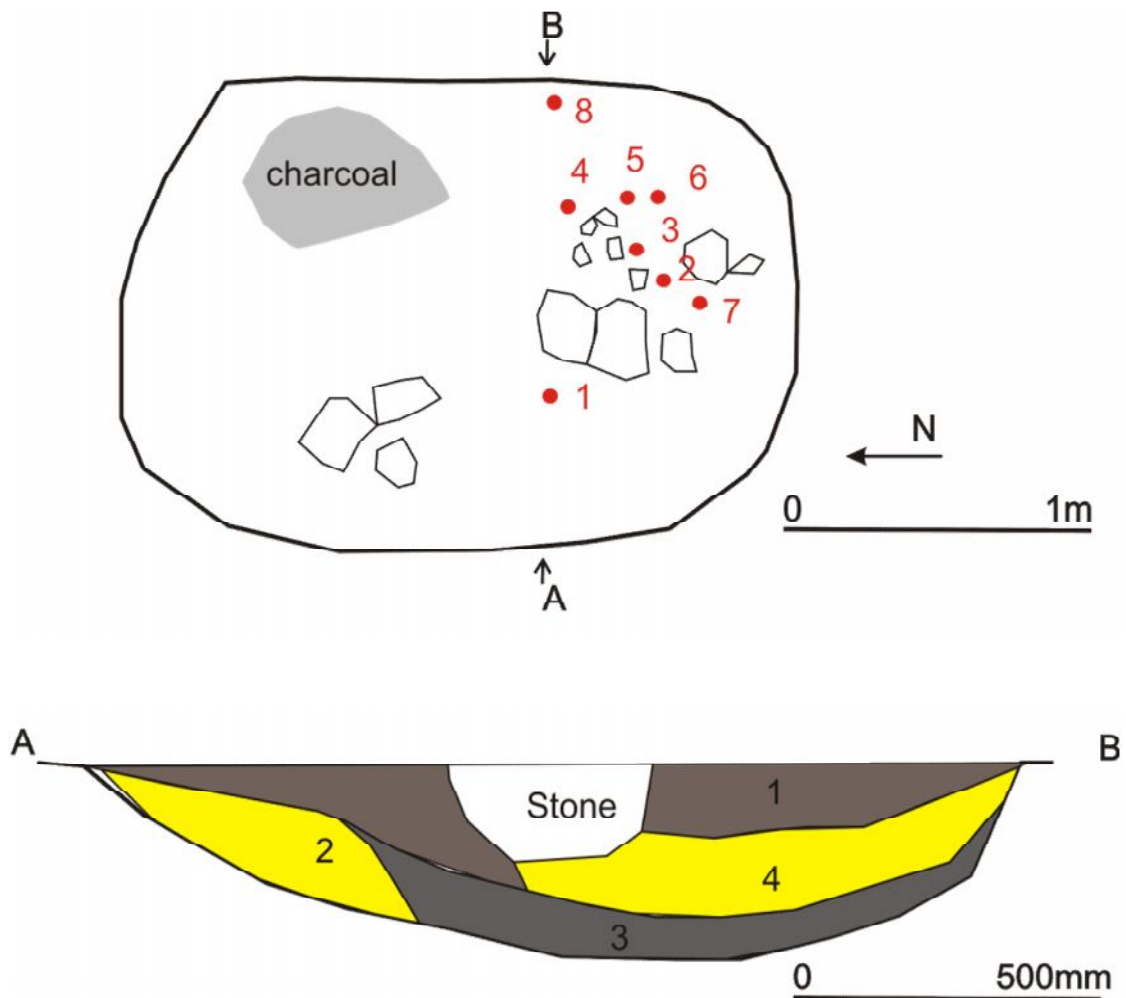
Stratigraphy: Topsoil of 300mm overlay fine sandy natural.

Prehistoric features

Context 2 (illus 4-6)

After topsoil removal an area of darker soil with some charcoal was revealed. On hand cleaning this yielded a number of sherds of Bronze Age pottery. The trench was then extended on the W side by an area 6m N/S by 4m E/W but no further features were observed. A small trench (Trench 9) 4.5m long was also excavated to the E, also

with negative result. The pit (context 2) therefore appears to be an isolated feature or an isolated survival. It would appear to have survived below the mounded soil of the rig of rig and furrow as it lay between two furrows.



Illus 4 Plan and section of context 3. Red dots and numbers indicate sherds of prehistoric pottery.

The pit (illus 4-6) was 2.15m N/S by 1.52m E/W and 280mm maximum surviving depth. There was some charcoal on the base on the NE quadrant but there was no great quantity of charcoal in the fills. A number of stones, some blackened and some partially heat-shattered, lay in the top fill (1).

Fills: 1- Grey/brown humic sand. All the pottery was in this layer.

2- Clean yellow/grey sand in from W.

3- Black silt no obvious charcoal except NE quadrant

4-Clean yellow sand in from E

Pottery: Eight small sherds of pottery were identified, ranging in size from 15 x 17mm to 45 x 25mm. Sherd 2 (illus 4:2) was a very small sherd of Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery, the rest was coarse and undiagnostic but probably of Bronze Age date.

Discussion: It would appear that the stones and upper fill (1) including the perhaps incidental inclusion of several sherds of pottery were thrown into a pit partially filled by clean sand over its primary fill (3). The stones appeared to have been from a fire but were not *in situ*. The small amount of charcoal in the primary fill may indicate that the pit had been used as a fire pit but if this was the case it does not appear to have been of long duration or intense as there was limited charcoal and no fire-reddening.



Illus 5 Trench 2, context 2 (originally numbered 19) when layer 1 excavated showing dumped stones and pottery (white tags)



Illus 6 Trench 2, context 2 after sectioning (Note N arrow is incorrect- photograph is looking N)

Rig and furrow

Sixteen possible furrows of rig and furrow cultivation have been identified. These were in the same range and orientation as those in Trench 1.

Trench 3

GPS N end: 379185,815547 S end: 379248,815406

Orientation: N/S Length: 180m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil of 300mm overlay fine sandy natural.

Possible prehistoric features

None

Rig and furrow

Seventeen possible furrows of rig and furrow cultivation have been identified, one being observed running into Trench 8. These were in the same range and orientation as those in Trench 1.

Modern features

A test pit was observed at 379189,815539

Trench 4

GPS E end: 379223,815570 W end: 379194,815558

Orientation: E/W Length: 31m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil of 300mm overlay fine sandy natural at W end but from 379220,815547 to the E end of the trench the ground sloped down to c 600mm and the slope was infilled with modern rubble and earth.

No features were observed.

Trench 5

GPS E end: 379220,815551 W end: 379199,815541

Orientation: E/W Length: 22m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil of 300mm overlay fine sandy natural at W end but from 379216,815548 to the E end of the trench the ground sloped down and the slope was infilled with modern rubble and earth. This was not excavated to natural.

No features were observed.

Trench 6

GPS E end:379231,815529 W end: 379207,815520

Orientation: E/W Length: 25m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil of 300mm overlay fine sandy natural at W end but from 379225,815527 to the E end of the trench the ground sloped down and the slope was infilled with modern rubble and earth. This was excavated to natural at 1.2m.

No features were observed.



Illus 7 Trench 6, E end showing modern infill of slope

Trench 7

GPS E end: 379281,815514 W end: 379220,815486

Orientation: E/W Length: 66m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil of 300mm overlay fine sandy natural at W end but from 379248,815498 to the E end of the trench the ground sloped down to 400-500mm depth. There was no infill in this area.

No features were observed.

Trench 8

GPS E end: 379306,815495 W end: 379231,815460

Orientation: E/W Length: 82m Width: 2.0m

Stratigraphy: Topsoil of 300mm overlay fine sandy natural at W end but from 379264,815475 to the E end of the trench the ground sloped down to 400-700mm depth. There was no infill in this area.

Rig and furrow

One furrow of rig and furrow cultivation was identified, being observed running from Trench 3.



Illus 8 Trench 8 showing furrow of rig and furrow (ranging rod lies along it)

Trench 9

GPS N end: 379218,815424 W end: 379220,815420

Orientation: N/S Length: 4.5m Width: 2.0m

Excavated parallel to Trench 2, context 2. No features observed.

6. Discussion

The evidence of prehistoric activity was confined to a small pit of Early Bronze Age date and two undated possible post-holes which might have been prehistoric but were undatable. No other features or artefacts were found or survived around these isolated features. In both instances these had survived in areas between the furrows of rig and furrow cultivation, protected below the mounded earth of the rigs and deep enough not to have been denuded by modern ploughing.

It is not possible to determine if the low level of activity observed is a matter of survival or of low intensity of use in the prehistoric period.

The rig and furrow cultivation could be medieval but is more likely of 18th century date as Roy's map shows the rig cultivation only beginning to extend into this area S of the burgh by 1747-55.

7. Impacts and Mitigations

Impacts There was limited evidence of surviving archaeology.

Mitigations None

This 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.

Photographs supplied to archive on CD

Photographic catalogue	
Digital frame no	Content
1-3	General views looking E towards Tuach Burn with Trench 3 in foreground
4-5	Looking W across Tuach Burn towards the road
6-7	Looking NW across Tuach Burn
8-9	Looking W across Tuach Burn towards the road. Excavator working on pit in Trench 2
10-12	Looking W across Tuach Burn towards the road
13-14	Trench 8 ranging rod on rig and furrow
15-16	Trench 6. W end with modern ploughmarks in sand
17-20	Trench 6 E end with modern infill of slope
21	General view looking N
22	General view looking E
23-28	Trench 2, context 2 (originally numbered 19) White flags on finds
29-31	Trench 2, context 2 sectioned (N arrow incorrect)