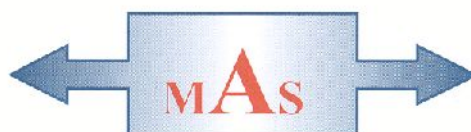


UGIE BRAE HOUSE OLD DEER ABERDEENSHIRE



- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 22nd October 2014
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2014-41
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

**UGIE BRAE HOUSE
OLD DEER
ABERDENSHIRE**

- Archaeological Watching Brief –

H K & J C Murray

1. Background

- 1.1 A Planning Application to Aberdeenshire Council (APP/2011/3697) for the erection of a detached garage at Ugie Brae House, Russell Street, Old Deer, Aberdeenshire, was granted permission subject to a condition (Condition 4) 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 groundworks. 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 Kevin McLean to undertake the work, which was carried out on 22nd October 2014.



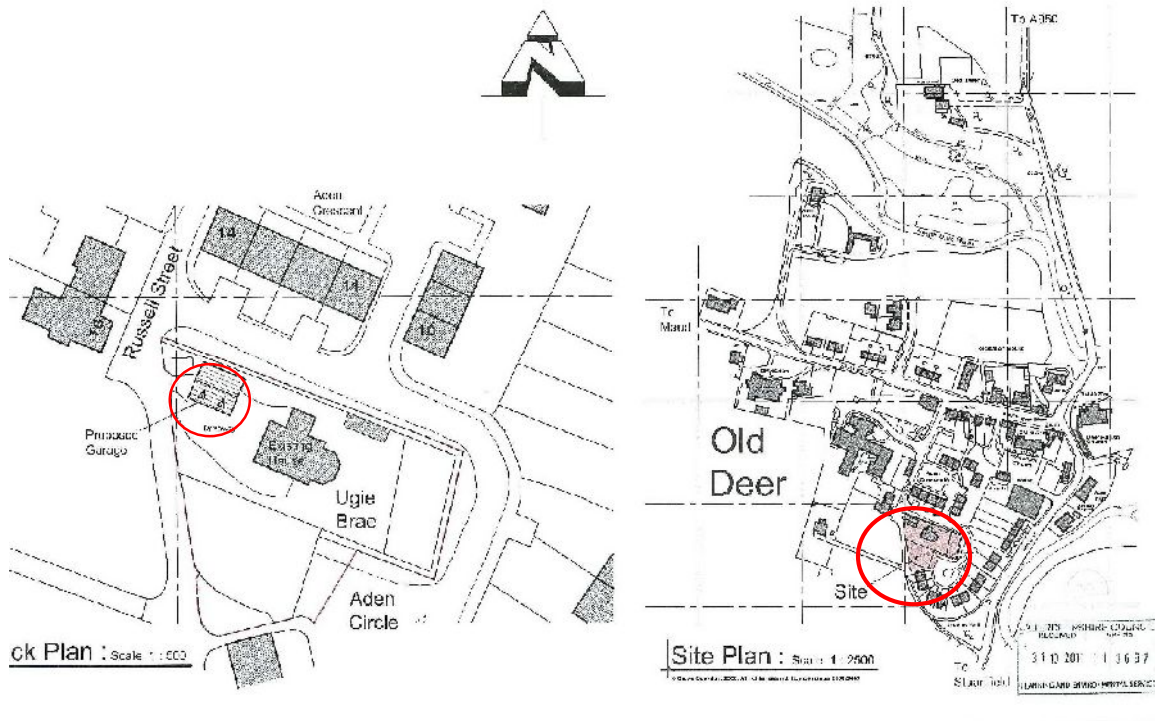
Illus 1 The site looking towards the house.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Ugie Brae House is situated on Russell Street at the S end of the village of Old Deer.

GPS: 397709, 847581 (centre)

Parish : Old Deer



Illus 2: Map showing site location circled in red. Plans courtesy of Baxter design.

3. The Watching Brief

- 3.1 The location of the new garage is on open ground directly to the W of the existing house.
- 3.2 The area soil stripped measured 7.73m (N-S) x 8.93m (E-W). The work was carried out by a mechanical digger using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3 The depth of topsoil removed was 400mm deep over most of the site, increasing to 800mm along the fence/dyke line on the W boundary of the property where soil had accumulated. The underlying natural was yellow natural clay.
- 3.4 The natural had been cut by a series of N/S services: a sewer, electricity cable and water pipe.
- 3.5 No archaeological features or finds were evident.

4. Results

- 4.1 Although it is possible that Russell Street may have been laid out along the perimeter of an outer enclosure associated with the possible site of the monastery of Old Deer (Forsyth 2008, 400-1)) no archaeological features or finds were evident.
- 4.2 Nearby test pits on the S boundary of the property (Murray & Murray 2011, 29), in open ground to the N and on the site of the former St Drostan's Home (Murray & Murray 2014) have also proved negative.

References

- Forsyth, K (ed) *Studies on the Book of Deer*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.
- Murray H K & Murray, J C 2011 *The Book of Deer Project. Excavations 2011, Old Deer, Aberdeenshire*. MAS 2011-25. Archive report and in Aberdeenshire SMR.
- Murray H K & Murray, J C 2014 *St Drostan's Home, Old Deer, Aberdeenshire*. MAS 2014-14. Archive report and in Aberdeenshire SMR.

Catalogue of Digital Photographs (Supplied to Archive)

- 1-4 View of the site looking towards house.