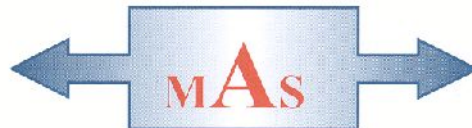


**BLACKIEMUIR AVENUE,
LAURENCEKIRK
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Archaeological Evaluation
Carried out May 2015
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2015-14
by
H K Murray and J C Murray

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**BLACKIEMUIR AVENUE
LAURENCEKIRK
ABERDEENSHIRE**

-Archaeological Evaluation -

H K Murray and J C Murray

1. Background

- 1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2008/1644) was granted permission for the development of a housing estate on a green field site at Blackiemuir Avenue, Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire.

An archaeological condition was applied to this application in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP).

The condition required that there should be a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council. This stipulated that no development should take place before the implementation of a 7-10% archaeological evaluation.

- 1.2 The archaeological condition was applied in the context of planning legislation (PAN 2/2011, SPP, 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 Muir Homes Ltd to undertake the work.

1.4 The evaluation was undertaken between 25th and 1st June 2015.

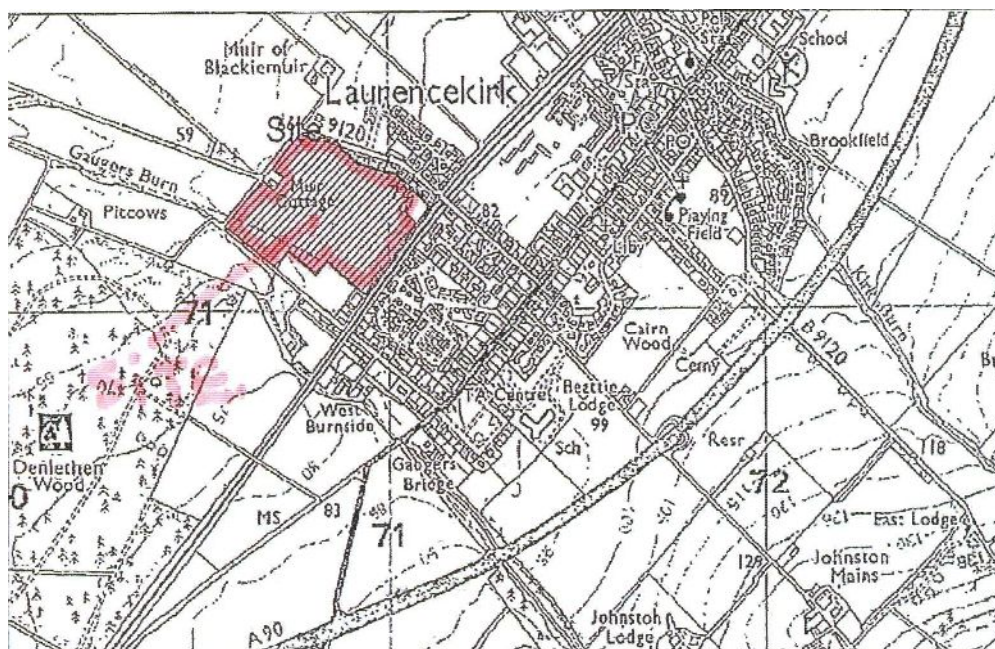
2. The Site

2.1 The evaluation area lay to the SW of the village, extending between Blackiemuir Avenue (B9120), the railway and two public footpaths.

The total area was 11.3 hectares (Illus 1, 7). However the area that could be evaluated was limited by a number of factors such as proximity to neighbouring properties and overhead cables. At the time of the evaluation the site was in crop so some effort was made to avoid tram lines where possible.

Parish: Laurencekirk

NGR (central) NO 70844, 71272



Illus 1 Location of site. Courtesy of Muir Homes Ltd

2.2 The site slopes gently down from 75m OD at the E side to c 65m OD at the lowest SW corner. The Gaugers Burn lies parallel to the SW side of the site.

3 Methodology

3.1 The cultivated topsoil was removed by a full slew excavator with a 2m 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.



Illus 2 General view of site looking E

4. Desktop survey

4.1 Map evidence

Roy's Military map 1747-55

Roy shows the settlement of Laurencekirk to the S of the Kirk Burn. The ground to the SW towards the Mill of Blackymuir (sic) which includes the present site is shown as largely rig and furrow.

William Garden. A Map of Kincardineshire. Surveyed 1774, published 1797

This shows rig and furrow cultivation to the SW of the kirk in the area of Blacky Moor (sic). The area of the present site appears to be divided into four enclosed fields with rig and furrow shown (illus 3).

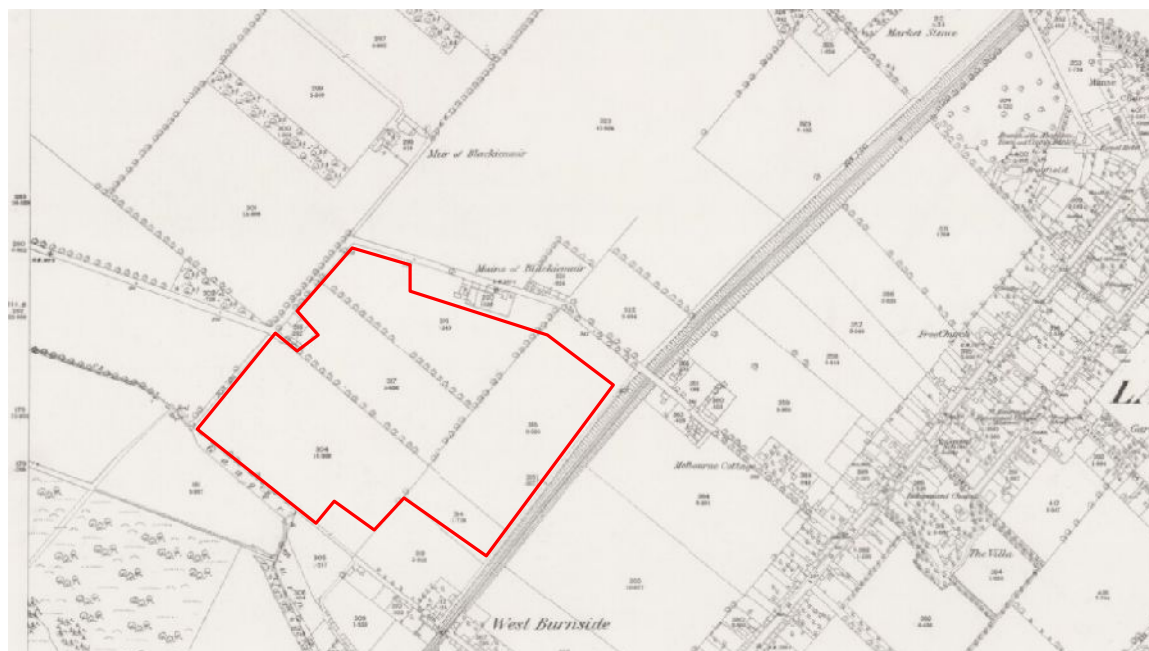


Illus 3 William Garden. A Map of Kincardineshire. Surveyed 1774, published 1797. www.nls.ac.uk
(Approximate area of site outlined in red).

1st Ordnance Survey Map. 1864 (published 1868)

Kincardine sheet xxiv.5

The railway is now shown cutting across the SE side of the area, with the area of the site divided into a number of smaller fields, but retaining the main NE/SW line of the earlier division. Mains of Blackiemuir farm and West Muir/Muir Cottage are shown, both of which still remain (Illus 4).



Illus 4 OS Map of 1864 (pub 1868) www.nls.ac.uk (Approximate site outline in red)

Ordnance survey 1901 (published 1904)

Kincardineshire sheet 027.02

By 1901 more cottages have been built along Blackiemuir Avenue and the field divisions have been simplified to three fields in the site area (Illus 5).



Illus 5 OS map of 1901 (pub 1904) www.nls.ac.uk

Ordnance survey 1923 (published 1925)

Kincardineshire sheet 027.02

There is no change to the area of the site by 1923 (Illus 6).



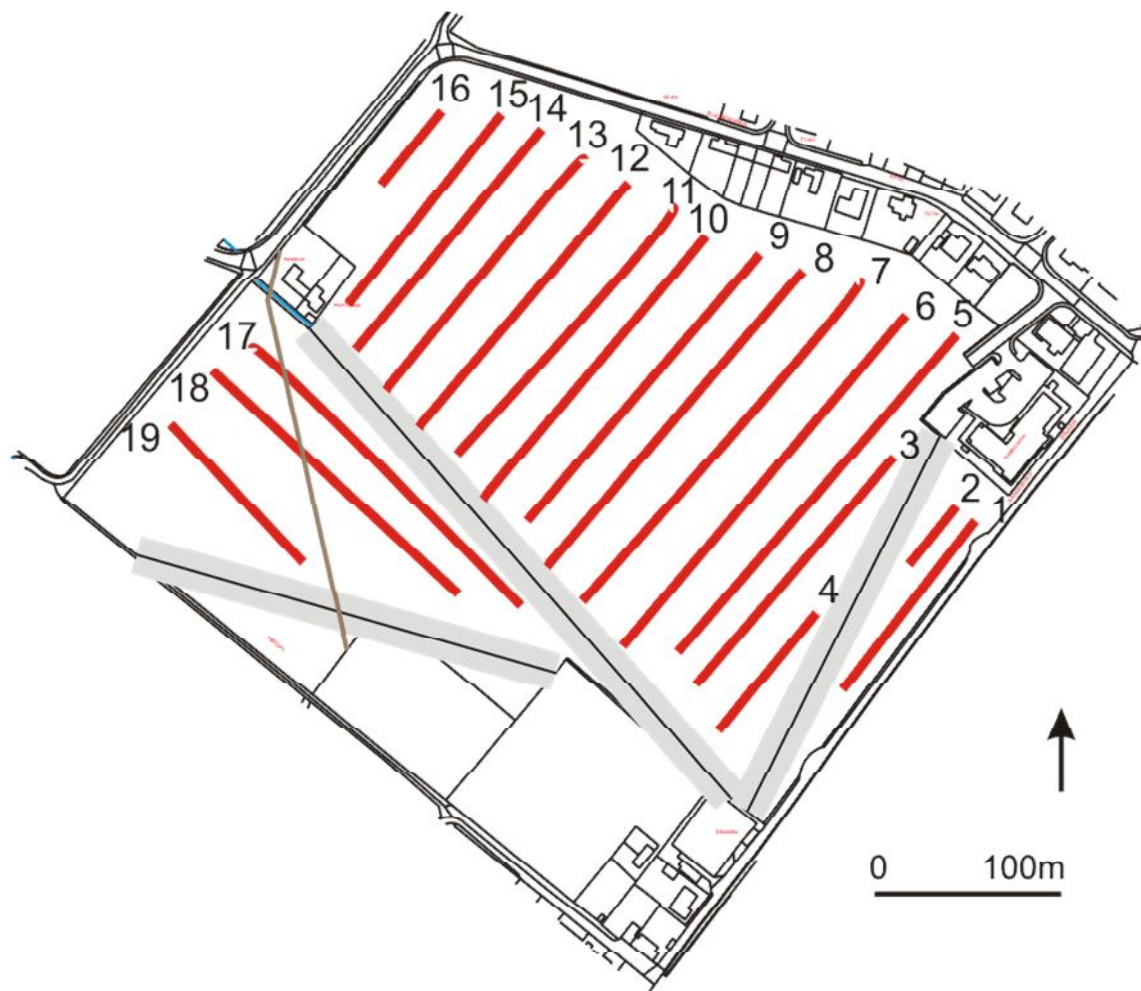
Illus 6 OS map of 1923 (pub 1925) www.nls.ac.uk

4.2 General background

Laurencekirk was a planned town developed from 1765 by Francis, Lord Gardenstone as a weaving town. It became a burgh of barony in 1779. This replaced an earlier settlement. According to the 2nd statistical Account of 1834-45, the earlier settlement of Kirkton was on the Haulkerton Estate and was shown on Haulkerton estate plans as the Kirkton of Conveth.

4 Results of the Evaluation

Nineteen evaluation trenches were excavated in total (Illus 7).



Illus 7 Plan showing location of trenches (red). The exclusion zone on either side of the overhead electric cables is shown in grey. A sewer line is shown as a brown line. OS map reproduced Crown Copyright. Licence 100041040

Trench 1

GPS NE end: 371054,771202

SW end: 370982,771109

Orientation: NE/SW

Length: 116m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350-400mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|----|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 370986.4 | 771115.2 | Drain | |
| 2 | 370990.3 | 771119.8 | Drain | |
| 3 | 371013.4 | 771149 | Drain | |

4 371019.3 771156.8 Drain

Trench 2

GPS NE end: 371044,771208

SW end: 371017,771176

Orientation: NE/SW

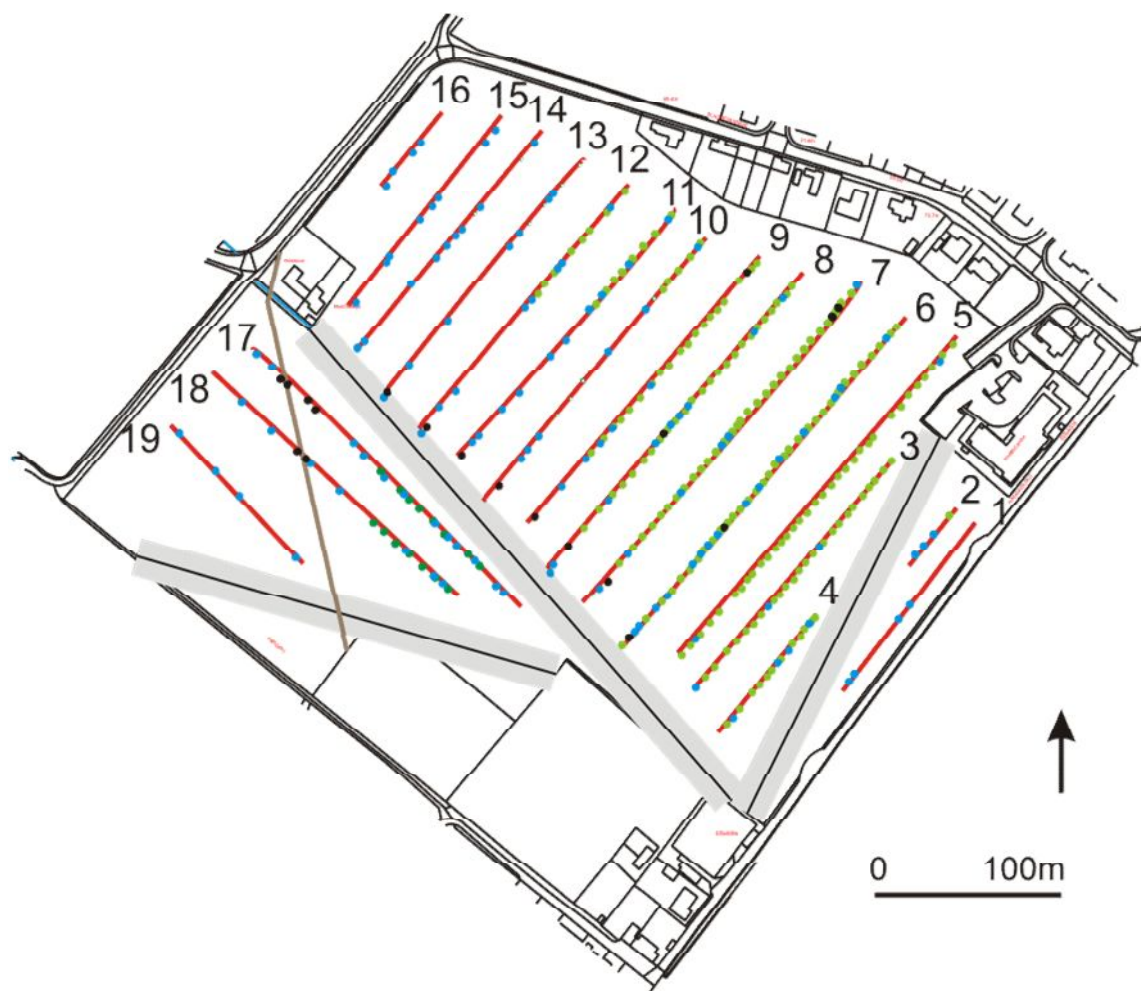
Length: 41m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 400mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|----|----------|----------|----------------------|---------|
| 5 | 371022.5 | 771182.9 | Drain | EW |
| 6 | 371027.2 | 771188.6 | Drain | EW |
| 7 | 371032.1 | 771194.3 | Drain | EW |
| 8 | 371040.3 | 771204.2 | Rig and furrow NE/SW | |



Illus 8 Plan of trenches with all features (green=rig and furrow. Blue=drains. Black=Other features [all modern]) OS map reproduced Crown Copyright. Licence 100041040

Trench 3

GPS NE end: 371103,771236

SW end: 370903,771110

Orientation: NE/SW

Length: 166m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350-400mm to 600mm in furrows

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

(Illus 9)



Illus 9 Trench 3 looking S. Furrows of rig and furrow marked by red flags

Features

In trench 3 the width, orientation and depths of furrows were recorded to give a range for the site. In other trenches only atypical examples were recorded in this detail.

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|----|----------|----------|----------------|---|
| 9 | 371009.6 | 771233.5 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.2m. Depth:600mm from surface |
| 10 | 371004.9 | 771228.7 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.8m. Depth:550mm from surface |
| 11 | 371000.9 | 771223.8 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.5m. Depth:550mm from surface |
| 12 | 370997.8 | 771219.4 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.3m. Depth:500mm from surface |
| 13 | 370993.8 | 771215.3 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.0m. Depth:500mm from surface |
| 14 | 370988.8 | 771209.4 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.2m. Depth:550mm from surface |
| 15 | 370985.8 | 771205.7 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.3m. Depth:550mm from surface |
| 16 | 370981.6 | 771200.9 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.0m. |

| | | | | |
|----|----------|----------|----------------|--|
| 17 | 370977.7 | 771196.7 | Rig and furrow | Depth:550mm from surface NE/SW. W: 2.4m. Depth:600mm from surface |
| 18 | 370973.3 | 771190.5 | Drain | |
| 19 | 370971.2 | 771187.8 | Drain | |
| 20 | 370967.2 | 771183.7 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.5m. Depth:500mm from surface |
| 21 | 370963 | 771179.3 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.1m. Depth:550mm from surface |
| 22 | 370960.7 | 771175.6 | Rig and | NE/SW. W: 2.0m. Depth:500mm from surface |
| 23 | 370956.6 | 771170.2 | Rig and | NE/SW. W: 2.3m. Depth:600mm from surface |
| 24 | 370952.5 | 771166.5 | Drain | NE/SW. W:0.60 |
| 25 | 370949.2 | 771162.4 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.0m. Depth:500mm from surface |
| 26 | 370946.8 | 771159.3 | Drain | |
| 27 | 370943.6 | 771155.9 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 3m. Depth:450mm from surface Later drain along edge of furrow |
| 28 | 370939.5 | 771151.2 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.1m. Depth:600mm from surface |
| 29 | 370936.3 | 771146.2 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 1.8m. Depth:550mm from surface |
| 30 | 370931.6 | 771142.6 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 1.8m. Depth:500mm from surface |
| 31 | 370926.9 | 771137.4 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 1.9m. Depth:600mm from surface |
| 32 | 370921.7 | 771131.5 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2m. Depth:600mm from surface |
| 33 | 370914.6 | 771123.4 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2.2m. Depth:600mm from surface |
| 34 | 370910 | 771118 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW. W: 2m. Depth:500mm from surface |
| 35 | 370904.5 | 771112 | Drain | |

Trench 4

GPS NE end: 370969,771151 SW end: 370916,771086

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 85m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 400mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|----|----------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 36 | 370921.5 | 771093 | Rig and furrow | |
| 37 | 370924.5 | 771096.2 | Water pipeline | |
| 38 | 370928.6 | 771101.2 | Water pipeline. Or rig and | |
| 39 | 370935 | 771109.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 40 | 370938.8 | 771114.2 | Rig and furrow | |
| 41 | 370942.9 | 771118.9 | Rig and furrow | Drain cut in base of furrow |
| 42 | 370945 | 771121.2 | Rig and furrow | Drain cut in base of furrow |

| | | | |
|----|----------|----------|----------------|
| 43 | 370949.4 | 771125.7 | Drain |
| 44 | 370950.4 | 771127.1 | Rig and furrow |
| 45 | 370954.6 | 771132.4 | Stone drain |
| 46 | 370955.7 | 771135.5 | Rig and furrow |
| 47 | 370959.6 | 771140.1 | Rig and furrow |
| 48 | 370962.5 | 771143.4 | Rig and furrow |
| 49 | 370964.1 | 771145.6 | Drain |
| 50 | 370965.6 | 771147.2 | Rig and furrow |
| 51 | 370968.6 | 771150.3 | Rig and furrow |

Trench 5

GPS NE end: 371044,771298 SW end: 370893,771126

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 235m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350-400mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|----|----------|----------|----------------|---------|
| 52 | 371042.6 | 771296.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 53 | 371037.8 | 771291 | Rig and furrow | |
| 54 | 371034.5 | 771287 | Drain | |
| 55 | 371033.1 | 771285.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 56 | 371026.9 | 771278.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 57 | 371023.3 | 771274.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 58 | 371018.5 | 771269.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 59 | 371014 | 771264.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 60 | 371009.4 | 771259 | Rig and furrow | |
| 61 | 370999.6 | 771247.2 | Rig and furrow | |
| 62 | 370997.1 | 771245 | Rig and furrow | |
| 63 | 370992.6 | 771240 | Rig and furrow | |
| 64 | 370988.8 | 771234.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 65 | 370984.7 | 771230 | Rig and furrow | |
| 66 | 370980.8 | 771225.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 67 | 370977 | 771221.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 68 | 370972.3 | 771216.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 69 | 370969 | 771212.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 70 | 370964.5 | 771207 | Rig and furrow | |
| 71 | 370960.5 | 771202.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 72 | 370957.1 | 771198.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 73 | 370953.8 | 771194.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 74 | 370950.2 | 771191 | Rig and furrow | |
| 75 | 370947.5 | 771187.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 76 | 370943.3 | 771182.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 77 | 370939.6 | 771178.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 78 | 370935.3 | 771173.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 79 | 370932 | 771170.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 80 | 370928.4 | 771166 | Rig and furrow | |
| 81 | 370925.5 | 771162.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 83 | 370917.4 | 771153.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 84 | 370911.9 | 771147.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 85 | 370906.3 | 771140.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 86 | 370904.3 | 771137.9 | Drain | |

| | | | |
|----|----------|----------|----------------|
| 87 | 370901.3 | 771135 | Rig and furrow |
| 88 | 370896.9 | 771129.6 | Rig and furrow |

Trench 6

GPS NE end: 371017,771311 SW end: 370863,771132

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 237 m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 300- 400mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|-------------------------|---------|
| 89 | 370865.5 | 771134.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 90 | 370868.3 | 771138.8 | Disturbed shallow patch | Modern |
| 91 | 370871.5 | 771143 | Drain | |
| 92 | 370873.8 | 771145.8 | Drain | |
| 93 | 370877.5 | 771149.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 94 | 370883.3 | 771155.3 | Drain | |
| 95 | 370885.7 | 771158.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 96 | 370889.1 | 771161.5 | Drain | |
| 97 | 370891.6 | 771164.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 98 | 370897.2 | 771171.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 99 | 370901.3 | 771176.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 100 | 370903.1 | 771178.8 | Drain | |
| 101 | 370905.1 | 771181.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 102 | 370907.3 | 771184.4 | Drain | |
| 103 | 370909.2 | 771186.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 104 | 370910.6 | 771188.2 | Drain | |
| 105 | 370913.4 | 771191.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 106 | 370917.1 | 771195.7 | Drain | |
| 107 | 370918.1 | 771196.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 108 | 370920.1 | 771198.6 | Burnt patch | Modern |
| 109 | 370922.1 | 771201.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 110 | 370925.3 | 771205.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 111 | 370928.9 | 771208.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 112 | 370931.4 | 771211.7 | Drain | |
| 113 | 370932.3 | 771213.2 | Rig and furrow | |
| 114 | 370936.8 | 771218.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 115 | 370939 | 771220.5 | Stone drain | |
| 116 | 370940.6 | 771222.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 117 | 370944.1 | 771227.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 118 | 370948.1 | 771232.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 119 | 370950.1 | 771234.5 | Drain | |
| 120 | 370952.2 | 771237 | Rig and furrow | |
| 121 | 370955.2 | 771240.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 122 | 370959.9 | 771246 | Rig and furrow | |
| 123 | 370962.8 | 771249.3 | Drain | |
| 124 | 370964.2 | 771250.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 125 | 370968.8 | 771256.2 | Rig and furrow | |
| 126 | 370972.9 | 771260.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 127 | 370977.2 | 771265.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 128 | 370978.7 | 771267.9 | Drain | |

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|----------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 129 | 370980.7 | 771270.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 130 | 370983.3 | 771273.5 | Drain | |
| 131 | 370985.1 | 771275.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 132 | 370989.8 | 771280.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 133 | 370994.4 | 771286.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 134 | 370998.7 | 771290.9 | Rig and furrow | Modern drain along edge of furrow |
| 135 | 371003.1 | 771295.7 | Rig and furrow | Modern drain along edge of furrow |
| 136 | 371007.2 | 771300.3 | Drain | |
| 137 | 371008 | 771301.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 138 | 371012.9 | 771306.6 | Rig and furrow | Modern drain along edge of furrow |

Trench 7

GPS NE end: 370993,771330

SW end: 370842,771155

Orientation: NE/SW

Length: 230m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350-400mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 139 | 370991.7 | 771328.2 | Drain. | Along trench. Cuts furrow 140 |
| 140 | 370987.8 | 771324.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 141 | 370983.1 | 771319 | Rig and furrow | |
| 142 | 370980.3 | 771316.4 | Modern disturbance | Shallow with stony fill. |
| 143 | 370979 | 771313.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 144 | 370978 | 771312 | Modern disturbance | |
| 145 | 370974.9 | 771308.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 146 | 370970.7 | 771304 | Rig and furrow | |
| 147 | 370966.7 | 771299.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 148 | 370962.5 | 771294.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 149 | 370958.4 | 771289.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 150 | 370954.5 | 771285.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 151 | 370950.3 | 771280.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 152 | 370946.1 | 771275.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 153 | 370941.4 | 771270.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 154 | 370937.4 | 771265.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 155 | 370932.6 | 771259.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 156 | 370927.9 | 771254.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 157 | 370926.3 | 771252.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 158 | 370923.9 | 771250.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 159 | 370922.2 | 771247.8 | Drain | |
| 160 | 370920.1 | 771245.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 161 | 370917.7 | 771242 | Drain | |
| 162 | 370915.9 | 771239.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 163 | 370911.3 | 771234.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 164 | 370907.3 | 771229.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 165 | 370903.5 | 771225.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 166 | 370898.5 | 771219.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 167 | 370897.2 | 771217.8 | Drain | |
| 168 | 370894.7 | 771215.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 169 | 370890 | 771209.6 | Rig and furrow | |

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 170 | 370885.8 | 771205.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 171 | 370880.6 | 771199.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 172 | 370876 | 771194.2 | Rig and furrow | |
| 173 | 370871 | 771188 | Rig and furrow | Not very clear as more ploughed out |
| 174 | 370867.9 | 771184.5 | Drain | |
| 175 | 370863.6 | 771179.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 176 | 370856.2 | 771170.2 | Drain | |
| 177 | 370852.2 | 771165.6 | Drain | |
| 178 | 370849.2 | 771162.4 | Possible rig and furrow. | Not very clear as more ploughed out |

Trench 8

GPS NE end: 370961,771335 SW end: 370822,771172

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 215m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 179 | 370825.3 | 771174.7 | Drain | |
| 180 | 370827 | 771177.8 | Drain | |
| 181 | 370836.3 | 771188.2 | Ditch | |
| 182 | 370844.8 | 771198.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 183 | 370853 | 771207.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 184 | 370858.7 | 771213.6 | Drain | |
| 185 | 370860 | 771215.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 186 | 370865.6 | 771221.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 187 | 370870.9 | 771227.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 188 | 370876.4 | 771234 | Rig and furrow | |
| 189 | 370881 | 771240.2 | Rig and furrow | |
| 190 | 370883.3 | 771243.6 | Drain | SE/NW |
| 191 | 370885.2 | 771245.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 192 | 370886.8 | 771247.7 | Test pit? | |
| 193 | 370889.2 | 771250.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 194 | 370890.9 | 771252.3 | Drain | SE/NW |
| 195 | 370893.4 | 771255.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 196 | 370897.1 | 771259.1 | Drain | SE/NW |
| 197 | 370898.5 | 771260.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 198 | 370901.5 | 771264.7 | Drain | SE/NW |
| 199 | 370903.1 | 771266.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 200 | 370907.9 | 771271.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 201 | 370912.6 | 771277.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 202 | 370916.9 | 771282.2 | Rig and furrow | |
| 203 | 370921 | 771287 | Rig and furrow | |
| 204 | 370925.4 | 771292.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 205 | 370929.2 | 771296.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 206 | 370933.7 | 771301.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 207 | 370935.9 | 771303.8 | Drain | |
| 208 | 370937.6 | 771305.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 209 | 370941.6 | 771310.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 211 | 370949 | 771319.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 212 | 370952.1 | 771323 | Drain | NE/SW along trench. Cuts 211 & 213 |

| | | | |
|-----|----------|----------|----------------|
| 213 | 370952.6 | 771323.6 | Rig and furrow |
| 214 | 370956 | 771327.9 | Rig and furrow |

Trench 9

GPS NE end: 370939,771343 SW end: 370811,771197

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 193m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 300-450mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural – S end more gravelly. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|----------------|--|
| 212 | 370937 | 771341.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 213 | 370934 | 771338.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 214 | 370931.7 | 771335.7 | Disturbance | Modern |
| 215 | 370928.2 | 771330.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 216 | 370919.3 | 771320.2 | Rig and furrow | |
| 217 | 370915.4 | 771316 | Rig and furrow | |
| 218 | 370912.3 | 771312.2 | Rig and furrow | Almost ploughed out |
| 219 | 370908.5 | 771307.4 | Rig and furrow | Later stone drain along base of furrow |
| 220 | 370904.1 | 771302.2 | Rig and furrow | Almost ploughed out |
| 221 | 370900.1 | 771297.5 | Rig and furrow | Almost ploughed out |
| 222 | 370896.5 | 771293.5 | Rig and furrow | Almost ploughed out |
| 223 | 370890.1 | 771286.6 | Rig and furrow | |
| 224 | 370885.9 | 771281.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 225 | 370881.3 | 771276.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 226 | 370879.5 | 771274 | Drain | NW/SE |
| 227 | 370874.7 | 771268.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 228 | 370869.4 | 771262.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 229 | 370864.3 | 771256.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 230 | 370860.2 | 771251.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 231 | 370859.2 | 771250.8 | Drain | Cuts along edge of furrow 230 |
| 232 | 370854.8 | 771245.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 233 | 370852.7 | 771243.5 | Drain | |
| 234 | 370848.5 | 771239 | Rig and furrow | |
| 235 | 370846 | 771236 | Drain | |
| 236 | 370833.1 | 771221 | Drain | Runs c 6m along trench from this point |
| 237 | 370818.2 | 771204.5 | Drain | |

Trench 10

GPS NE end: 370909,771352 SW end: 370788,771208

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 188m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350-500mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural – quite gravelly/pebbly in places.

Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 238 | 370798.3 | 771221.3 | Drain (Concrete pipe) | with later drain cut into it |
| 239 | 370810.4 | 771235.2 | Drain | |
| 240 | 370814.3 | 771240.5 | Drain | |
| 241 | 370820 | 771247.6 | Drain | |
| 242 | 370830.3 | 771258.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 243 | 370837.6 | 771268.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 244 | 370844.3 | 771276.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 245 | 370857.6 | 771293 | Drain | |
| 246 | 370877.5 | 771315.5 | Drain | |
| 247 | 370882.4 | 771321.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 248 | 370886.5 | 771326.3 | Rig and furrow | Stone drain cut along edge |
| 249 | 370889.9 | 771330.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 250 | 370895.3 | 771336.2 | Rig and furrow | |
| 251 | 370901.6 | 771343.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 252 | 370905.2 | 771348.2 | Drain | |
| 253 | 370907.1 | 771350.5 | Rig and furrow | |

Trench 11

GPS NE end: 370893,771368 SW end: 370775,771233

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 180 m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350-500mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 254 | 370890.2 | 771365.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 255 | 370889.3 | 771364.4 | Drain | |
| 256 | 370882.2 | 771356.1 | Rig and furrow | |
| 257 | 370876.6 | 771349.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 258 | 370870.7 | 771342.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 259 | 370869.6 | 771341 | Drain | |
| 260 | 370865.5 | 771336.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 261 | 370861.4 | 771331.5 | Rig and furrow | |
| 262 | 370856.4 | 771325.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 263 | 370854.5 | 771323.4 | Rig and furrow | |
| 264 | 370851.3 | 771318.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 265 | 370847.6 | 771315.6 | Stone drain | |
| 266 | 370834.7 | 771299.9 | Drain | |
| 267 | 370826.5 | 771291.1 | Drain | |
| 268 | 370809.3 | 771271.6 | Stone drain | |
| 269 | 370801.6 | 771262.5 | Drain | |
| 270 | 370800.7 | 771261.5 | Stone drain | NNW/SSE along trench 6m |
| 271 | 370787.7 | 771247.9 | Drain | |
| 272 | 370785.5 | 771245.2 | Drain | |
| 273 | 370779.1 | 771237.9 | Ditch | Concrete pipe |

Trench 12

GPS NE end: 370869,771382 SW end: 370755,771248

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 177 m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350-600mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 274 | 370757.6 | 771249.5 | Stone drain | |
| 275 | 370759.7 | 771252.4 | Ditch | Concrete pipe |
| 276 | 370767.4 | 771263.7 | Stone drain | |
| 277 | 370775.7 | 771272.4 | Drain | |
| 278 | 370813.9 | 771316.8 | Drain | |
| 279 | 370817.1 | 771320.9 | Drain. | |
| 280 | 370819.3 | 771323.9 | Rig and furrow? | |
| 281 | 370823.5 | 771328.9 | Rig and furrow? | |
| 283 | 370828.9 | 771335.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 284 | 370831.1 | 771337.8 | Drain | |
| 285 | 370831.9 | 771339.7 | Drain south | |
| 286 | 370839.2 | 771347 | Rig and furrow | |
| 287 | 370843.7 | 771352.8 | Rig and furrow | Later drain cut into it |
| 288 | 370847.7 | 771357.9 | Rig and furrow poss disturbance | |
| 289 | 370857.8 | 771368.5 | Rig and furrow poss | |
| 290 | 370858.9 | 771369.5 | Drain | |
| 291 | 370867.3 | 771379.9 | Rig and furrow | |

Trench 13

GPS NE end: 370845,771396 SW end: 370737,771269

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 168m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 300-450mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural with stony patches to N end. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|--------------------|---------------|
| 292 | 370738.1 | 771269.4 | Stone drain | Cuts 293 |
| 293 | 370738.7 | 771271 | Drain | Concrete pipe |
| 294 | 370751.6 | 771285.7 | Stone drain | |
| 295 | 370771.5 | 771309.9 | Stone drain | |
| 296 | 370805.5 | 771349.9 | Drain | |
| 297 | 370811 | 771356.5 | Drain | |
| 298 | 370815.3 | 771362.3 | Rig and furrow | |
| 299 | 370823.8 | 771372.2 | Rig and furrow? | |
| 300 | 370825.5 | 771374 | Drain | |
| 301 | 370827.7 | 771376.5 | Drain | |
| 302 | 370832.6 | 771382.2 | Rig and furrow? | |
| 303 | 370841.9 | 771393.1 | Rig and | |

furrow?

Trench 14

GPS NE end: 370822,771410 SW end: 370721,771291

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 157m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 300-350mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 304 | 370724.6 | 771295.5 | Stone drain | |
| 305 | 370726 | 771297.1 | Stone drain | |
| 306 | 370752.9 | 771329 | Drain | |
| 307 | 370765.6 | 771344 | Drain | |
| 308 | 370771.1 | 771349.8 | Drain | |
| 309 | 370775.7 | 771355.1 | Rig and furrow ? | Very ploughed out |
| 310 | 370778.8 | 771358.8 | Drain | |
| 311 | 370785.4 | 771366.9 | Rig and furrow? | Very ploughed out |
| 312 | 370788.3 | 771370.3 | Drain | |
| 313 | 370810.5 | 771396.7 | Rig and furrow ? | Very ploughed out |
| 314 | 370817.2 | 771405.1 | Stone drain | |

Trench 15

GPS NE end: 370803,771419 SW end: 370721,771318

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 130m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 300-500mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|-------------|---------|
| 315 | 370722.2 | 771320 | Drain | |
| 316 | 370738.5 | 771340.9 | Drain | |
| 317 | 370739.8 | 771342.9 | Drain | |
| 318 | 370758 | 771365 | Drain | |
| 319 | 370763.2 | 771371.5 | Drain | |
| 320 | 370766.1 | 771375 | Stone drain | |
| 321 | 370791.7 | 771405.9 | Drain | |
| 322 | 370796.5 | 771411.9 | Drain | |

Trench 16

GPS NE end: 370768,771421 SW end: 370734,771379

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 54m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 400mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

(Illus 10).

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| 323 | 370737.5 | 771382.6 | Drain | |
| 324 | 370742.6 | 771389.4 | Drain | |
| 325 | 370752.5 | 771400.4 | Drain | |
| 326 | 370756.8 | 771405.9 | Drain | |



Illus 10 Trench 16 looking SW

Trench 17

GPS NW end: 370666,771293

SE end: 370812,771153

Orientation: NW/SE

Length: 200m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 327 | 370800.3 | 771163.9 | Drain | |
| 328 | 370798.5 | 771166.9 | Drain | WNW/ESE c 6m along trench |
| 329 | 370788.1 | 771177.5 | Drain | |
| 330 | 370785.6 | 771179.8 | Drain | |
| 331 | 370782.2 | 771183.1 | Stone drain | Possible furrow |
| 332 | 370775.6 | 771189.6 | Drain | Possible furrow |
| 333 | 370770.7 | 771194.4 | Drain | |
| 334 | 370769.2 | 771195.9 | Drain | Possible rig and furrow |
| 335 | 370763.9 | 771201 | Stone drain | NNW/SSE |
| 336 | 370762.9 | 771202 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW |
| 337 | 370755.7 | 771208.8 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW |
| 338 | 370749.9 | 771214.2 | Rig and furrow | NE/SW |
| 339 | 370747.9 | 771216.9 | Drain | |
| 340 | 370745.9 | 771218.7 | Rig and furrow | |
| 343 | 370737.6 | 771225.9 | Stone drain | Along S edge of trench |
| 344 | 370735.6 | 771228.6 | Rig and furrow | Almost ploughed out |
| 345 | 370726.9 | 771237.1 | Stone drain | NW/SE along trench c8m |
| 346 | 370721.6 | 771243.5 | Drain | NW/SE along trench c22m |
| 347 | 370700.5 | 771261.7 | Disturbance | Modern |
| 348 | 370696.4 | 771266.6 | Cut across trench | Modern |
| 349 | 370685.3 | 771275.4 | Sewer trench | |
| 350 | 370682.4 | 771277.7 | Sewer trench? | |
| 351 | 370676.4 | 771285 | Stone drain | C16m along trench |
| 352 | 370668.1 | 771291.8 | Stone drain | |

Trench 18

GPS NW end: 370645,771280 SE end: 370778,771160

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 179m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|----------------|------------------------|
| 353 | 370661 | 771266.5 | Drain | NW/SE c5m along trench |
| 354 | 370677 | 771250.6 | Stone drain | NW/SE 21m along trench |
| 355 | 370690.8 | 771239.3 | Sewer trench | |
| 356 | 370695.4 | 771234.6 | Sewer trench? | |
| 357 | 370697.6 | 771232.9 | Drain | |
| 358 | 370713.2 | 771218.2 | Drain | |
| 359 | 370732.1 | 771201 | Rig and furrow | |
| 360 | 370738.1 | 771196.8 | Rig and furrow | |
| 361 | 370744.4 | 771191 | Rig and furrow | |
| 362 | 370749.2 | 771186.7 | Drain | |
| 363 | 370751.3 | 771184.9 | Rig and furrow | |
| 364 | 370758.5 | 771178.1 | Rig and furrow | |

| | | | |
|-----|----------|----------|----------------|
| 365 | 370764.2 | 771173 | Drain |
| 366 | 370765.2 | 771172 | Rig and furrow |
| 367 | 370769.1 | 771168.6 | Drain |
| 368 | 370772.2 | 771166.1 | Rig and furrow |

Trench 19

GPS NW end: 370623,371251 SE end: 370693,771177

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 103m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over red gritty clay natural. Features only visible cut into natural.

Features

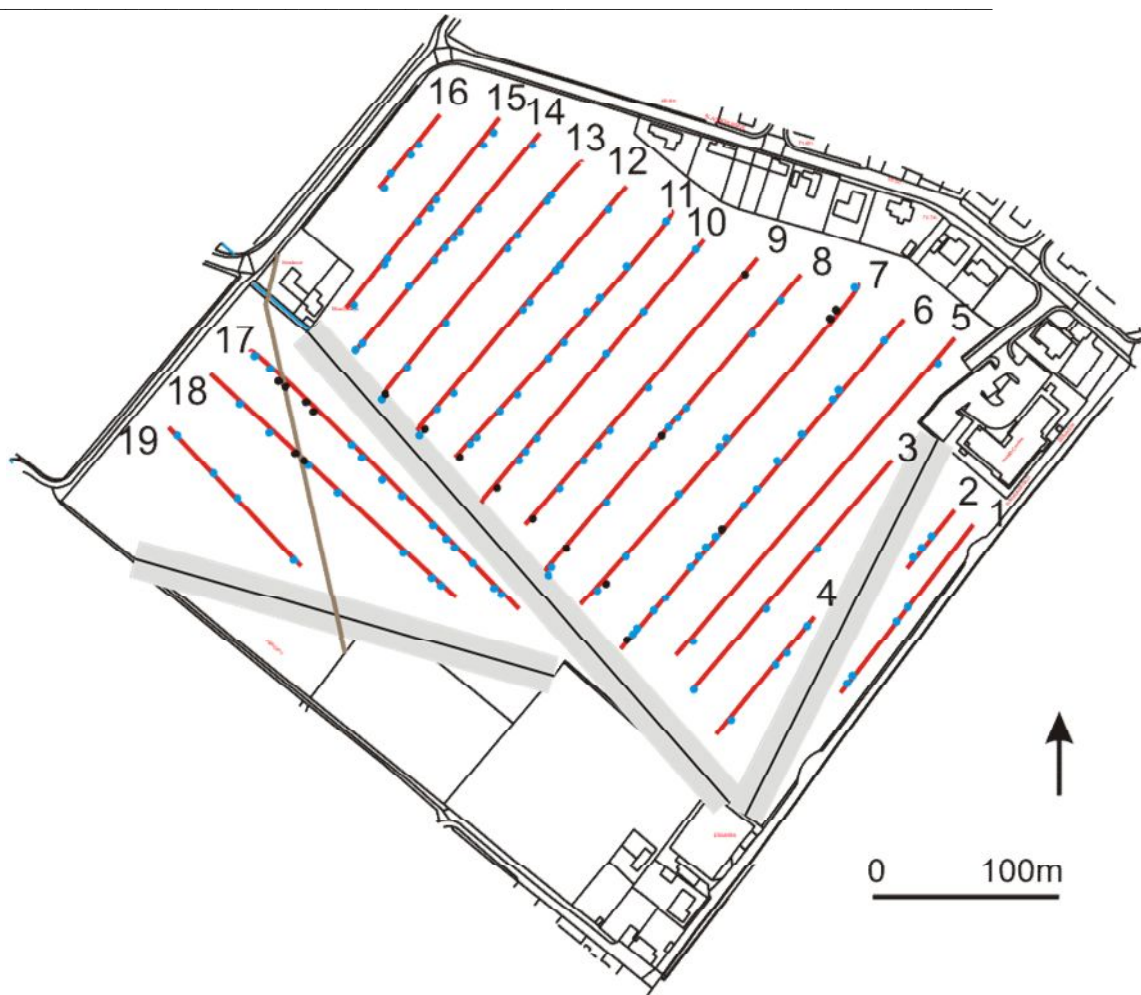
| No | Easting | Northing | Feature | Comment |
|-----|----------|----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 369 | 370690.1 | 771182.7 | Stone drain | NW/SE along trench c8m |
| 370 | 370659.3 | 771215.6 | Stone drain | NW/SE along trench c14m |
| 371 | 370646.4 | 771228.6 | Stone drain | |
| 372 | 370627.1 | 771248.7 | Stone drain | |

6 The Finds

There were no finds apart from small quantities of L 19th and E 20th-century china and glass which would have been incorporated into midden material spread on the fields. These were, not surprisingly more frequent near the backs of the 19th-century buildings at Blackiemuir farm and cottages, West Muir and Burnside. Not retained.

7 Discussion

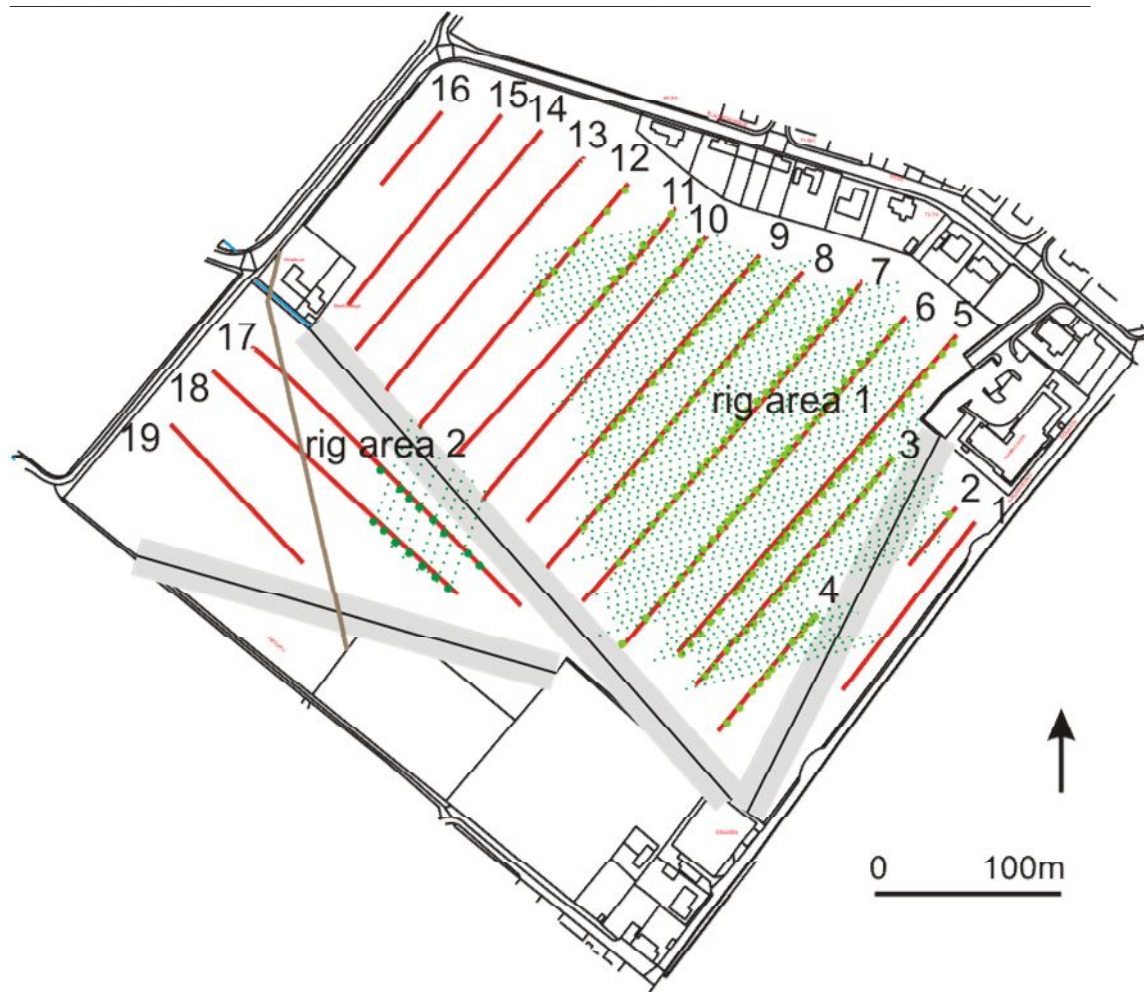
The large number of drains (Illus 11) is indicative of the efforts to drain the area from at least the early 19th century. The place names with 'muir' suggest this had been poor, possibly boggy ground. In a number of cases there were drains cut across the earlier rig and furrow.



Illus 11 Plan of modern drainage (blue) and other features (black). OS map reproduced Crown Copyright. Licence 100041040

Rig and furrow was clearly found in two areas (Illus 12, 13). In Area 1 (trenches 2-12) the furrows were 2.2-2.8m width with depths from the present surface to the base of the furrow of up to 550-600mm. The fill was a lighter, greyer colour than the topsoil and tended to be slightly stony. In this area the rigs were c 3.5-4m apart and orientated between 70° and 80° E of N.

In rig Area 2 the rigs were orientated c 20° E of N and appeared to be wider spaced. The difference of orientation appears to coincide with the NW/SE boundary running SE from near West Muir which is shown on maps from the 18thC onwards (Illus 2-5). The rigs may therefore represent 18th century cultivation.



Illus 12 Plan of rig and furrow. Dotted lines show orientation and known extent. OS map reproduced Crown Copyright. Licence 100041040



Illus 13 Trench 5 looking N towards Blackiemuir Avenue. Furrows of rig and furrow show as dark bands across trench. Modern plough lines visible along the trench

There was no evidence of any prehistoric or medieval activity in any of the evaluation trenches. Features such as the stone drains and the later clay drains emphasize the improvement of the land from the late 18th/early 19th century onwards. In many areas, the topsoil was so thin that modern plough marks were visible on the surface of the natural clay.

Impacts and Mitigations

8.1 Impacts There were no finds and no evidence of surviving archaeology other than post-medieval rig and furrow.

8.2 Mitigations

(i) On the basis of the evaluation there is no perceived need for any further archaeological investigation in the area.

(ii) The lack of surviving archaeology within the evaluation area 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.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Catalogue of digital photographic record

| Digital frame number | Content |
|----------------------|---|
| 1-5 | Looking S along Trench 3. Furrows of rig and furrow marked by red flags |
| 6 | Looking SW from Trench 3 |
| 7 | Looking E from Trench 3 with railway to LHS |
| 8-12 | Trench 5 showing furrows of rig and furrow |
| 13-14 | Trench 16, looking S with West Muir behind |
| 15 | Looking S from Trench 16 |
| 16-18 | Looking E from Trench 16 (Health Centre in background) |
| 19 | Looking S from Trench 16 |
| 20-22 | Looking E from Trench 16 |
| 23-24 | Looking SE from Trench 16 |