

**1 QUARRYWOOD COTTAGES
QUARRYWOOD
SPYNIE
MORAY**



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 5th December 2011 & 7th August
2015**

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2015-26

by

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1. Background

- 1.1 A Planning Application to Moray Council (09/00546/FUL & 12/00251/APP) for the erection of a new dwelling in ground behind 1 Quarrywood Cottages, Quarrywood, Spynie, Moray was granted permission subject to a condition (Condition 6 in approval of the original application 09/00546/FUL) requiring an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during any groundbreaking work.
- 1.2 The Council's reason for imposing the condition was to observe and record any items of archaeological interest disturbed during the ground works. 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 Kenneth J King, Architectural Drafting Service on behalf of his clients Mr VL Miele and Mrs L H Miele, to undertake the work, part of which was carried out on 5th December 2011 and the remainder on 7th August 2015.

2. The Site

2.1 The site is situated at the rear (N) of No 1 Quarrywood Cottages, Spynie, Moray on the W side of a minor road on the N of the A96 some 4km from the centre of Elgin..

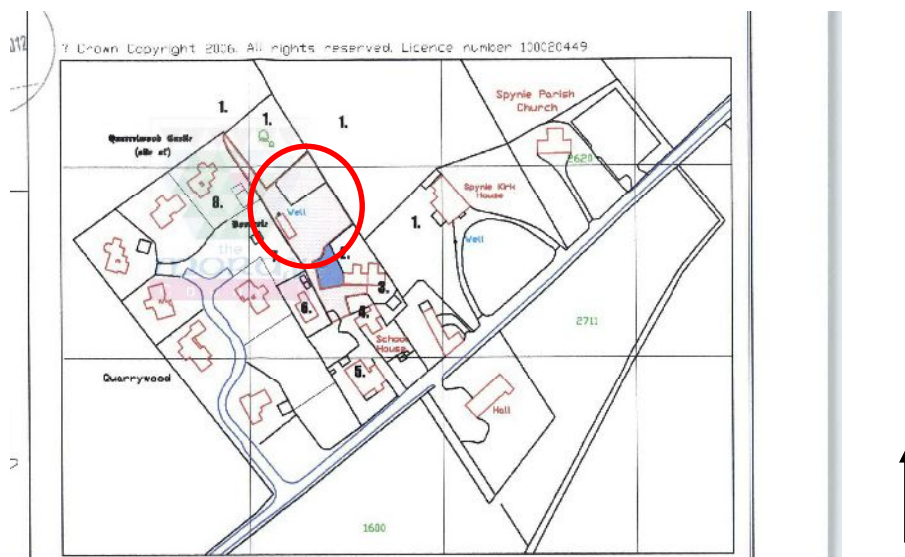
GPS: 318130,864179 (centre of site)

Parish : Spynie

Relates to:

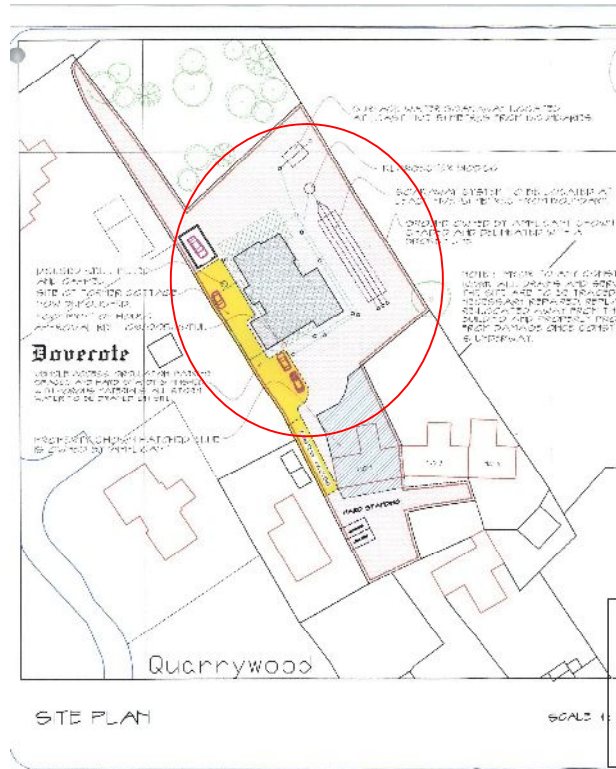
Quarrywood Castle Moray SMR NJ16SE0025; NMRS NJ16SE12; Canmore id: 16251.

Quarrywood Doocot Moray SMR: NJ16SE0087; NMRS NJ16SE13; Canmore id: 16216



Illus 1 Location of site. Plan courtesy of Kenneth J King, Building Consultant

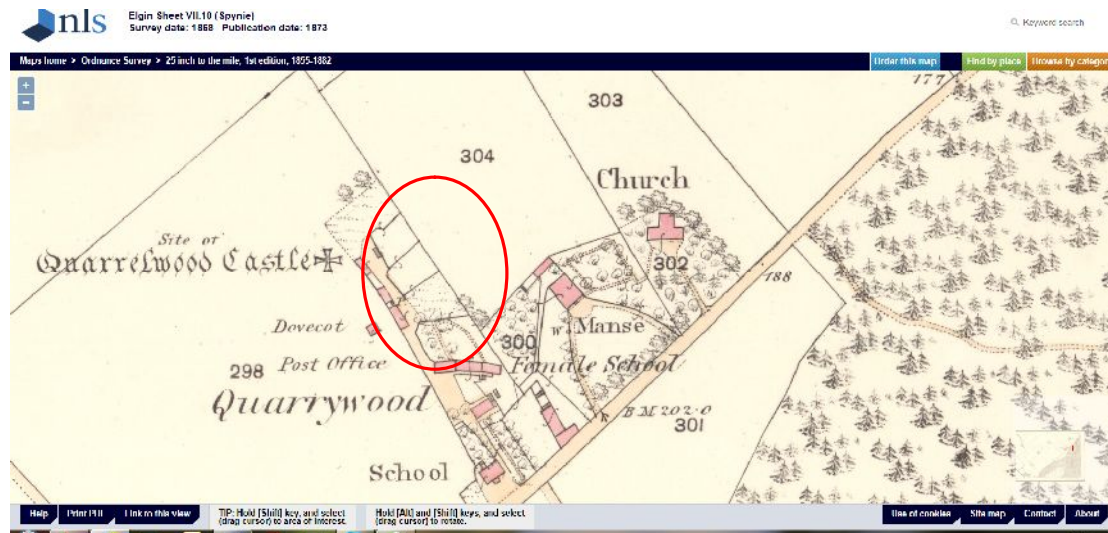
2.2 The site lies to the E of the site of the former Quarrywood Castle and the existing Quarrywood doocot. Evaluation in 2001 of the building site around the area that was considered to be the site of the castle, near the doocot, revealed a substantial ditch and pottery of 14th-century date (Murray 2001). A recommendation for further monitoring of the soil strip was not followed up.



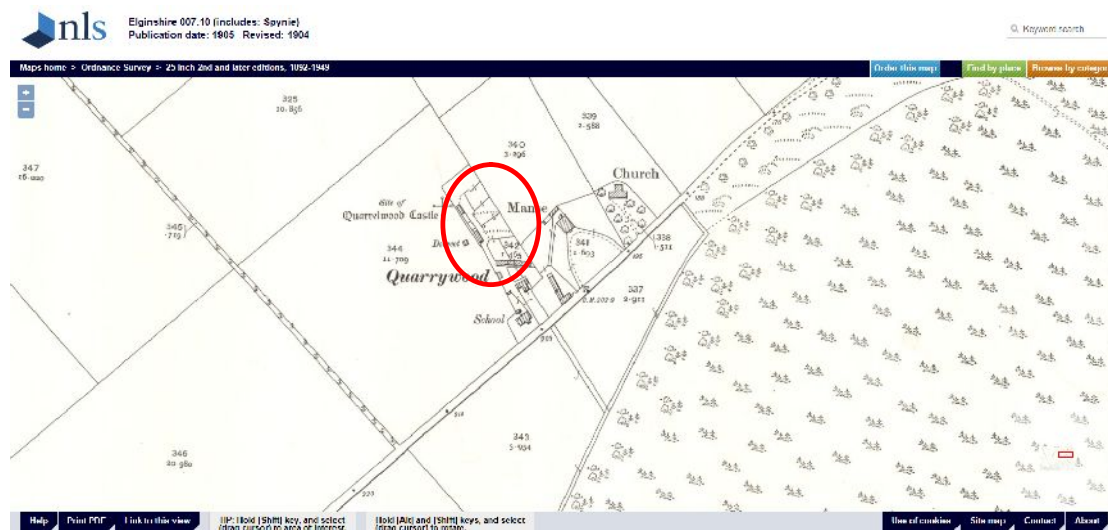
Illus 2 Detail of site in relation to doocot. Plan courtesy of Kenneth J King, Building Consultant

2.3 There is a documentary reference dated 1936 to the former existence of a stone circle or henge on or near the area to the W of the present site. The 2001 evaluations did not reveal any evidence of prehistoric activity.

2.4 During the 19th century there was a line of buildings, possibly cottages with gardens behind, along the W boundary of the present site. These can be seen on the 1st OS map of 1868 (Illus 3) and the 2nd OS map of 1904 (Illus 4). Rubble from these buildings had been spread over much of the present site.



Illus 3 Detail of 1st OS map Elgin sheet VII.10 (Spynie) 1868, pub 1873. Site indicated in red. www.nls.ac.uk



Illus 4 Detail of Elginshire 007.10 1904, pub 1905. Site indicated in red. www.nls.ac.uk

3. The Watching Brief

3.1 The location of the new house is on open ground directly to the N of the existing house No 1 Quarrywood Cottages.

3.2 Area 1. In 2011 an area approx 30m x 4m was stripped alongside the W boundary (Illus 11: 1). The ground was reduced by 250mm. It comprised made-up ground

with gravel at the S end and some rubble from the former cottage or cottages at the N end.



Illus 5 Dec 2011. N end of Area 1, showing rubble of former cottage. Doocot in background



Illus 6 Dec 2011. S end of Area 1 showing the soil strip.

3.3 Area A Area A, the main footprint of the building was not watched. On the site visit August 2015 the rubble of the former cottages had been cleared off the area (Illus 11: A). The ground was to be levelled up to the level of the ground at S end prior to the construction. No further watching brief was applicable.



Illus 7 Area A looking NE

3.4 Area 2 Observed August 2015. A main soakaway 18 x 4m was to be dug to a depth of 2.75m. At the N end of the trench there was 300-400mm very disturbed ground above yellow natural boulder clay. The S $\frac{3}{4}$ of the trench (S of 318381, 864181) consisted of a large cut filled with field stone/ rubble and incorporating 19th/20th century glass and china (Illus 8 and grey on plan Illus 11). This extended over an area at least 13 x 4m and to a depth of 1.6m, at which point no further observation was undertaken.



Illus 8 Disturbed modern infill at S end of Area 2

3.5 Area 3 Observed August 2015. A trench 1.3m wide was dug from the E side of Area 2 extending N to cross the area where a septic tank was to be installed. Apart from a small pit (Diameter 1.5m, depth: 1.2m. GPS: 318134, 864187) filled with rubble and modern china, there was c. 400mm disturbed soil over natural yellow clay.

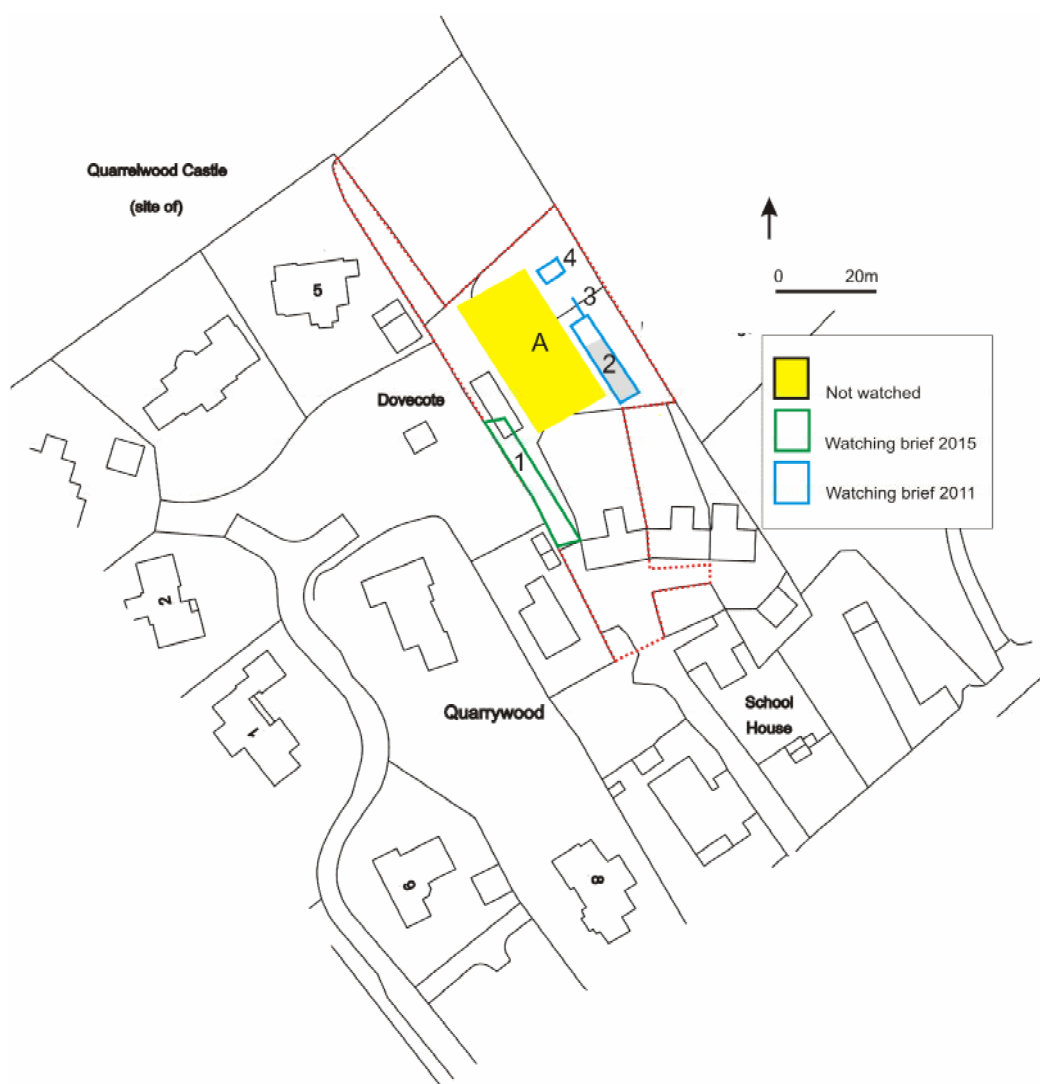


Illus 9 Area 3 looking S to Area 2

3.6 Area 4 Observed August 2015. A surface water soakaway 5 x 3m was to be dug to a depth of 2.75m. There was 300-400mm very disturbed ground above yellow natural boulder clay.



Illus 10 Area 4 looking N



Illus 11 Plan of site showing areas of watching brief. Red =site outline. Green =area watched in 2011. Blue = area watched in 2015. Yellow = area not watched. Crown copyright: All rights reserved Licence No 10004140

4. Results

4.1 There was no evidence of any archaeological features or finds. The large pit full of rubble and 19th-20th-century material in Area 2 would appear to relate to the former cottages or their demolition.

5 References

Murray, J C 2001 *Quarrywood, Spynie, Moray: Results of archaeological evaluation prior to housing development*. Report in Moray SMR and NMRS.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Catalogue of digital photographic supplied to Moray SMR

Photographic catalogue	
Digital frame no	Content
Quarrywood	
1	2011. Area 1 looking N. Rubble of former cottage
2-3	2011. Area 1 looking W, with doocot in background
4-7	2011. Area 1 looking N. Soil strip
8-10	2015. Area A looking NNE
11-14	2015. Doocot
15-16	Area 4
17-18	Area 3 looking S to Area 2
19-22	Area 2. S end