

**AULTDAVIE
YTHANWELLS
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 7th February 2016
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2016-03
by**

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1. Background

1.1 A Planning Application to Aberdeenshire Council (APP/2012/4226) for the erection of a dwelling house at Aulldavie, Ythanwells, Aberdeenshire, was granted permission subject to a condition 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 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 by Mark Duncan to undertake the work, which was carried out on 7th February 2016.

2. THE SITE

2.1 The site, which was in grass, lies on the S side of a minor road to Ythanwells at approx 190m OD between the road and an L-shaped shelter belt of mature trees, to the N of Dry Burn. A Roman marching camp lay S of the burn and is

still visible in cropmarks. It lies between the farms of Aulldavie and Glenmellan, both on the N side of the road.

GPS: 365269, 838649 (centre)

Parish: Forgue



Illus 1 General view of site with topsoil stripped, looking SW



Illus 2 Map showing site location circled in red. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved License No.100049810.

2.2 The 1st OS map of 1871 (illus 3) shows no features on the site. However Roy's military map of 1747-55 (illus 2) shows a settlement cluster at Glemellan with rig and furrow cultivation around it.



Illus 3 Roy's Military map of 1747-55. (www.nls.ac.uk) Red arrow indicates approx position of site.



Illus 4 1st OS map. Aberdeen sheet xxvii.11 1871 (pub 1873) www.nls.ac.uk Red arrow indicates approx position of site.

3. The Watching Brief

- 3.1 The total area of the site was 80m NE/SW by 40-70m NW/SE. The area of the house itself was c 12m NE/SW by 20m NW/SE.
- 3.2 The topsoil was stripped by a mechanical digger using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3 The depth of topsoil removed was 300mm deep over most of the site, increasing to 400mm along the S boundary of the property where soil had accumulated. The underlying natural was fractured schist, similar to the nearby Foudland slate.



Illus 5 Detail of schist natural.

- 3.4 No archaeological features were evident, but two sherds of medieval or post-medieval pottery and a sherd of 19th/20th- century Redware are indicative of some spreading of midden material.

4. Results

4.1 No archaeological features or significant finds were observed.

Catalogue of Digital Photographs (Supplied to Archive)

- 1-2 Site after soil strip looking SW
- 3-4 Site after soil strip looking S
- 5 Detail of schist natural
- 6-7 Detail of fresh scraped area of house footprint, looking SE
- 8-10 Detail of fresh scraped area of house footprint, looking E