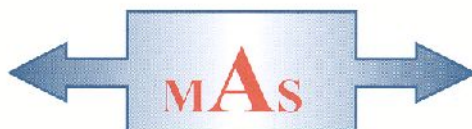


**GLENGLASSAUGH
PORTSOY
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Archaeological Evaluation
Carried out April 20th 2016
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2016-19
by
H K Murray and J C Murray

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-Archaeological Evaluation -

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1. Background

- 1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2015/3049) was granted permission for the development of six new warehouses on a green field site beside Glenglassaugh Distillery, near Portsoy, 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% 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 William Lippe Architects Ltd on behalf of their client, Ben Riach Distillery Company Ltd to undertake the work.

1.4 The evaluation was undertaken on April 20th 2016.

2. The Site

2.1 The evaluation area lay to the E of Sandend, directly N of the A98. The existing buildings of Glenglassaugh distillery lie directly to the N of the site.

The total area was 1.75 hectares (Illus 1, 2).

Parish: Fordyce

NGR (central) NJ 5606 6562

GPS 356065, 865624



Illus 1 Location of site. Courtesy of William Lippe Architects Ltd

- 2.2 The field, which was in grass at the time of the evaluation, was fairly level, with a slight slope down at the E end.

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.

4. Desktop survey

4.1 Sites nearby

1. Glassaugh windmill. (Scheduled Monument and A-Listed building HS4271).
NMRS: NJ56NE 3.00. Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ56NE0002,
To the NW of the present site, the windmill was built in 1761 by General James Abercrombie of Glassaugh House for producing flour and oatmeal. Built on site of a cairn over a cist which was destroyed c.1760. (NMRS: NJ56NE 3.01)
2. Cropmarks of ring ditches and pits in field to W of site. NMRS: NJ56NE12, 16 and 17. Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ56NE0018.
3. Glenglassaugh Distillery founded 1875. NJ56NE29.

4.2 Map evidence

1st Ordnance Survey Map.

Banff sheet III.11 1866 (pub 1871) and Banff sheet III.7 1866 (pub 1871)

No features shown on the site,

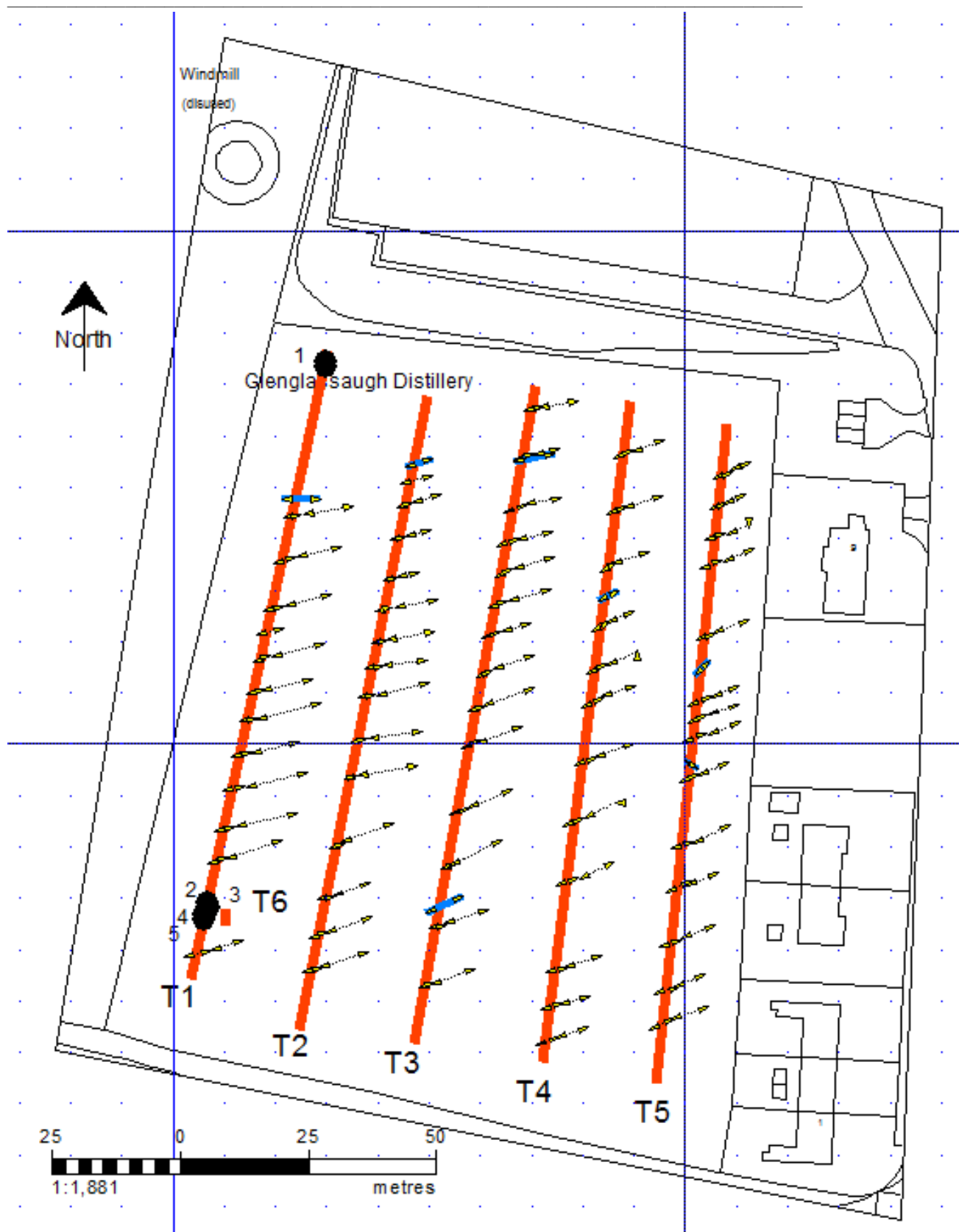
2nd Ordnance Survey Map

Banffshire 003.11 1902 (pub 1904).

No features shown on the site.

4 Results of the Evaluation

Six evaluation trenches were excavated in total (Illus 2).



Illus 2 Plan showing location of trenches (red). Rig and furrow shown as dotted lines. Drains as blue lines. Features 1-5 numbered black dots. OS map reproduced Crown Copyright. Licence 100041040

Trench 1

GPS N end: 356030,865676 S end: 356003,865554

Orientation: N/S Length: 125m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 400-600mm

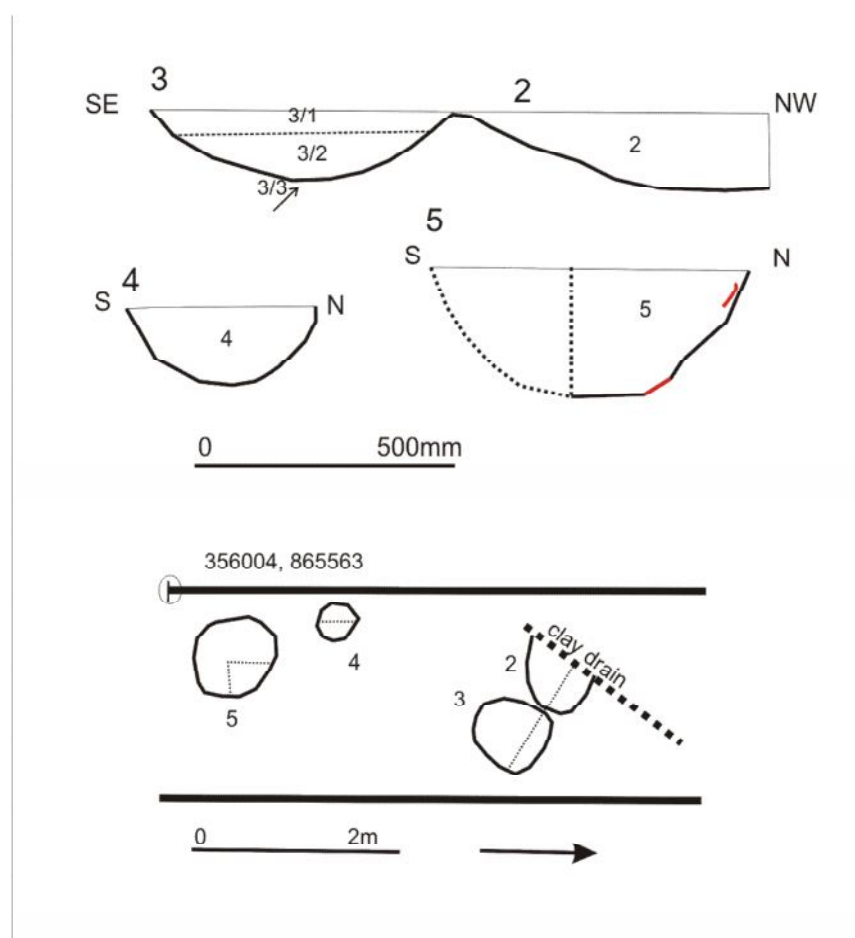
Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural clay, with the exceptions of features 1-5. Rig and furrow visible as dirty, looser, grey clay in the furrows.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
1	356030	865674	Stone spread	Single layer of beach pebbles. 1.8-2.8m wide N/S and full width of trench with possible stone drain at base. Possible fill of wet patch
2	356006	865569	Pit	720 x 500mm cut by clay drain at N end. Depth: 120mm. Fill grey slightly silty clay onto hard red-fired natural clay at base with unstructured charcoal staining.
3	356007	865568	Pit	720 x 680mm. Depth: 130mm
3/1				Top fill. 0.40mm grey silty clay
3/2				<90mm mottled clay, occasional small stones. Not burnt
3/3				Base and edges natural clay burnt pink, with unstructured charcoal smears and v rare charcoal frags.
4	356006	865567	Pit	380mm diam. Depth: 140mm Fill grey silty clay. No evidence burning
5	356006	865566	Pit	750 x 640mm. Depth: 250mm. Fill mottled clay. Occasional unburnt stones. Natural clay red fired at edge with rare small roundwood charcoal
6	356004	865559	clay drain	NE/SW
7	356007	865569	Clay drain	NE/SW
8	356008	865577	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
9	356009	865579	Clay drain	NE/SW
10	356010	865583	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
11	356010	865585	Clay drain	NE/SW
12	356012	865591	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
13	356013	865596	Clay drain	NNE/SSW
14	356013	865598	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
15	356015	865604	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
16	356016	865601	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
17	356017	865614	Clay drain	NE/SW
18	356017	865616	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
19	356018	865621	Clay drain	NE/SW
20	356019	865626	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
21	356022	865636	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
22	356024	865644	Rig & furrow ?	NE/SW
23	356025	865247	Drain	E/W



Illus 3 Trench 1, context 1 in relation to windmill



Illus 4 Plan and sections Trench 1, contexts 2-5



Illus 5 Trench 1, contexts 3 and 2



Illus 6 Trench 1, context 4



Illus 7 Trench 1, context 5

Trench 2

GPS N end: 356049,865667 S end: 356024,865544

Orientation: N/S Length: 126m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350-500mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural clay. Rig and furrow visible as dirty, looser, grey clay in the furrows.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
24	356025	865548	Clay drain	NE/SW
25	356026	865556	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
26	356028	865563	Rig & furrow ?	NE/SW
27	356028	865569	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
28	356029	865578	Drain ?	NE/SW
29	356030	865579	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
30	356032	865593	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
31	356034	865600	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
32	356036	865609	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
33	356037	865614	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
34	356038	865616	Clay drain	NE/SW
35	356038	865619	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
36	356039	865625	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
37	356040	865631	Rig & furrow ?	NE/SW
38	356042	865639	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
39	356044	865646	Rig & furrow	NE/SW

40	356046	865651 Cut	Shallow cut NW/SE. W: 500mm. Depth <100mm. disturbed grey clay in fill.
41	356047	865654 Drain	NE/SW

Trench3

GPS N end: 356071,865669 S end: 356046,865541

Orientation: N/S Length: 130m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 400-500mm Rig and furrow visible as dirty, looser, grey clay in the furrows.

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural clay.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
42	356049	865553	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
43	356051	865564	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
44	356052	865568	Drain ?	NE/SW
45	356053	865576	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
46	356055	865586	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
47	356058	865599	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
48	356059	865607	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
49	356060	865613	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
50	356061	865621	Rig & furrow ?	NE/SW
51	356062	865627	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
52	356064	865633	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
53	356064	865639	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
54	356066	865645	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
55	356067	865655	Rig & furrow with drain along S side	NE/SW
56	356069	865665	Rig & furrow	NE/SW

Trench 4

GPS N end: 356089, 865666 S end: 356072, 865537

Orientation: N/S Length: 130m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 400-500mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural clay. Rig and furrow visible as dirty, looser, grey clay in the furrows.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
57	356073	865542	Rig & furrow ?	NE/SW

58	356073	865548 Rig & furrow	NE/SW
59	356074	865556 Rig & furrow ?	NE/SW
60	356076	865573 Rig & furrow	NE/SW
61	356078	865584 Rig & furrow	NE/SW
62	356079	865596 Rig & furrow	NE/SW
63	356081	865607 Rig & furrow	NE/SW
64	356081	865614 Rig & furrow	NE/SW
65	356082	865623 Rig & furrow	NE/SW
66	356083	865628 Drain?	NE/SW
67	356084	865634 Rig & furrow	NE/SW
68	356086	865645 Rig & furrow	NE/SW
69	356087	865656 Rig & furrow	NE/SW

Trench 5

GPS N end: 356108, 865661 S end: 356094, 865533

Orientation: N/S Length: 129m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 300-400mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural clay over most of trench. Natural sandier at N end.

Rig and furrow visible as dirty, looser, grey clay in the furrows.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
70	356095	865545	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
71	356094	865551	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
72	356096	865561	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
73	356097	865571	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
74	356099	865580	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
75	356100	865593	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
76	356100	865596	Drain	NW/SE
77	356101	865601	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
78	356101	865604	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
79	356101	865608	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
80	356102	865614	Stone drain	NE/SW
81	356103	865620	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
82	356104	865634	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
83	365105	865640	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
84	356106	865646	Rig & furrow	NE/SW
85	356106	865652	Rig & furrow	NE/SW

Trench 6

GPS N end: 356010, 865567 S end: 356010, 865564

Orientation: N/S Length: 4m Width: 4.0m

Depth above natural: 500mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over clay

Features None. This trench was excavated to see if features related to Trench 1, contexts 2-5, extended E. None were identified.

6 Discussion

Rig and furrow was clearly found across most of the field. All was orientated NE/SW and was identified by the grey, slightly silty disturbed clay in the furrows. Later clay drains were in many cases beside or sometimes in the furrows, which would have been wetter. Essentially the rig and furrow would have reduced the potential for survival of archaeological features.

Trench 1, context 1- a stoney spread at the N end of the trench, nearest to the windmill was excavated by hand in case it was a survival of stone scatter from the cairn that was destroyed before the windmill was built in the 18th century. However, it appeared to be a thin spread of stones, probably filling in a wet hollow or poached area of the field. There was nothing to indicate it had any antiquity.



Illus 8 Trench 1, contexts 2-5

Trench 1, contexts 2-5 comprised a cluster of small shallow features, three of which had some evidence of burning but very little charcoal and no artefacts. Only context 5 had charcoal potentially suitable for C14 dating but it was not considered that a date was of great value, given the lack of evidence of function and the isolated nature of these features. They may relate to the cropmarks in the neighbouring field, but could equally be modern.

Impacts and Mitigations

8.1 Impacts There were no finds and there was no evidence of surviving archaeology other than four small undiagnostic pits in Trench 1 and the 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
1-2	Tr 1 looking N
3-4	Tr1 1, features 2-5 looking N
5-6	Tr 1, Features 2-5 looking S
7-8	Tr 1, features 2& 3 (R-L)
9	Tr 1, feature 4
10	Tr 1 feature 5
11-15	Tr 1, feature 1, looking W/NW
16-18	General view looking SE
19-20	General view looking NW