NORTH LASTS QUARRY PETERCULTER ABERDEEN



Archaeological Evaluation 2015

Carried out 27th and 30th November 2015

by Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2015-36A by H K Murray & J C Murray

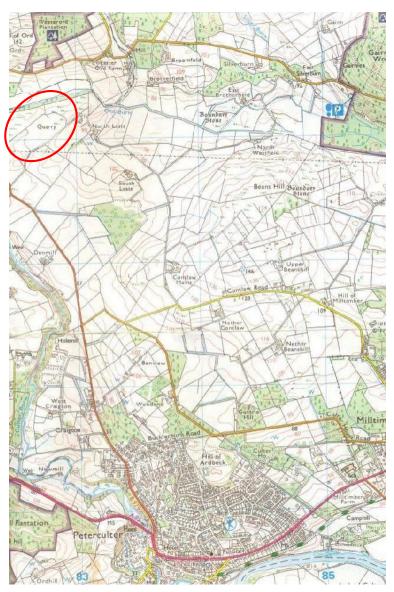
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Archaeological Evaluation 2015

1. Background

- 1.1 In the light of proposals to create settling ponds for a sand washing process at the N side of the quarry at North Lasts, Peterculter, it was decided that a 7% evaluation should be carried out to assess the survival and nature of any archaeological remains on the proposed site.
 This work was undertaken in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP).
- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Leiths Scotland Ltd to undertake the work.
- 2. The Site
- 2.1 The site (illus 1) lies some 2.5km N of Peterculter, to the W of the B979.Parish: Peterculter.NGR: NJ 8240 0410 (approx centre of site)
- 2.2 At the time of the evaluation (Illus 2) Area 1 was in very rough tussocky grass with some gorse. The field slopes down to the burn to the N and to the wet ground near the bridge at the NW. A slight ridge lies just to the W of the W end of Trench 1.



Illus 1 Site location. . Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright (2007) All rights reserved. Licence number (100049810). Site indicated by red circle.

- 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 General background

A desktop survey of the site had been undertaken in October 2015 (MAS 2015-36.

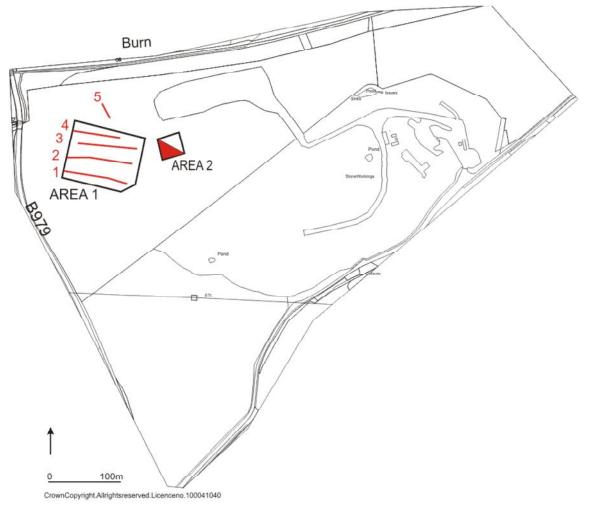
Murray & Murray 2015) and has been sent to the Aberdeen SMR.

The desktop survey indicated that, while there are no known sites on the proposed quarry land, there is a significant level of prehistoric activity known nearby, the nearest being to the N of the burn.

5 Results of the Evaluation

Four evaluation trenches were excavated in Area 1. A further trench (trench 5) was positioned in an area of possible extension of the ponds. The soil strip of approximately half of Area 2 was observed as a watching brief.

Total areas: Area 1: 0.80 hectares Area 2: 0.09 hectares



Illus 2 Plan showing location of trenches in Area 1 (red). Red shading shows watched area of Area 2. OS map reproduced Crown Copyright. Licence 100041040

AREA 1

Trench 1GPS E end: 382406,804066W end: 382319,804084Orientation: Approx E/WLength: 90mWidth: 2.0mDepth above natural: 200-300mmStratigraphy: Peaty topsoil over sand and rocks. Occasional plough marks SW/NEacross trench.Features: None.

Trench 2

GPS E end: 382413,804095 W end: 382319,804104 Orientation: Approx E/W Length: 95m Width: 2.0m Depth above natural: 200-300mm Stratigraphy: Peaty topsoil over sand and rocks. Occasional plough marks SW/NE across trench.

Features: None.



Illus 3 Trench 2, looking W

Trench 3

GPS E end: 382418,804115 W end: 382337,804123

Orientation: Approx E/W Length: 82m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 200-300mm

Stratigraphy: Peaty topsoil over sand and rocks. Occasional plough marks SW/NE across trench.

Features: None.



Illus 4 Trench 3, looking W, note plough marks.

Trench 4

GPS E end: 382396,804131 W end: 382331,804140
Orientation: Approx E/W Length: 65m Width: 2.0m
Depth above natural: 200-300mm
Stratigraphy: Peaty topsoil over sand and rocks. Occasional plough marks SW/NE across trench.
Features: None.

 Trench 5
 NW end: 382370,804178

 Orientation: Approx SE/NW
 Length: 27m
 Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 200-300mm

Stratigraphy: Peaty topsoil over sand and rocks.

Features: None.

AREA 2

There were no archaeological finds or features in Area 2. There was 200-300mm peaty soil over natural.



Illus 5 Area 2 after soil strip.

6 Impacts and Mitigations

- 6.1 <u>Impacts</u> There were no finds and no evidence of surviving archaeology.
- 6.2 <u>Mitigations</u>
 - (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	General views of Area 1 looking W. Area 2 in foreground.
3-4	Trench 3 looking W
5-6	Area 1, looking E
7-8	Trench 2 looking W

8 References

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Murray, H K & Murray, J C 2015 *North Last Quarry, Peterculter. Desk top survey.* MAS 2015-36. Unpublished report available in Aberdeen SMR.