

**BOWLING CLUB EXTENSION
KINTORE
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Watching Brief and Evaluation

Carried out 9th May 2017
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



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by
H K Murray & J C Murray
H K Murray BA, PhD, MCI(A), FSA Scot
J C Murray BA, MCI(A), FSA Scot, FMA
Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN
Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: cmurray@btinternet.com

**KINTORE BOWLING CLUB
CLUBHOUSE EXTENSION
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Watching Brief & evaluation**

1. Background

- 1.1 A new extension to the clubhouse of Kintore Bowling Club required a watching brief for ground works. (APP/2013/2877)
- 1.2 The archaeological condition (Condition 4) was applied to this application in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP). As it is within the corner of a Roman temporary camp and in an area of considerable prehistoric archaeology, an archaeological watching brief was placed as a condition.
- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work by the Kintore Bowling Club. The work was carried out on 9th May 2017.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 A watching brief was undertaken during machining and the stratigraphy recorded.
- 2.2 A full set of photographs will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR in Aberdeen and to the National Sites and Monuments Records at HES.

3. The Site

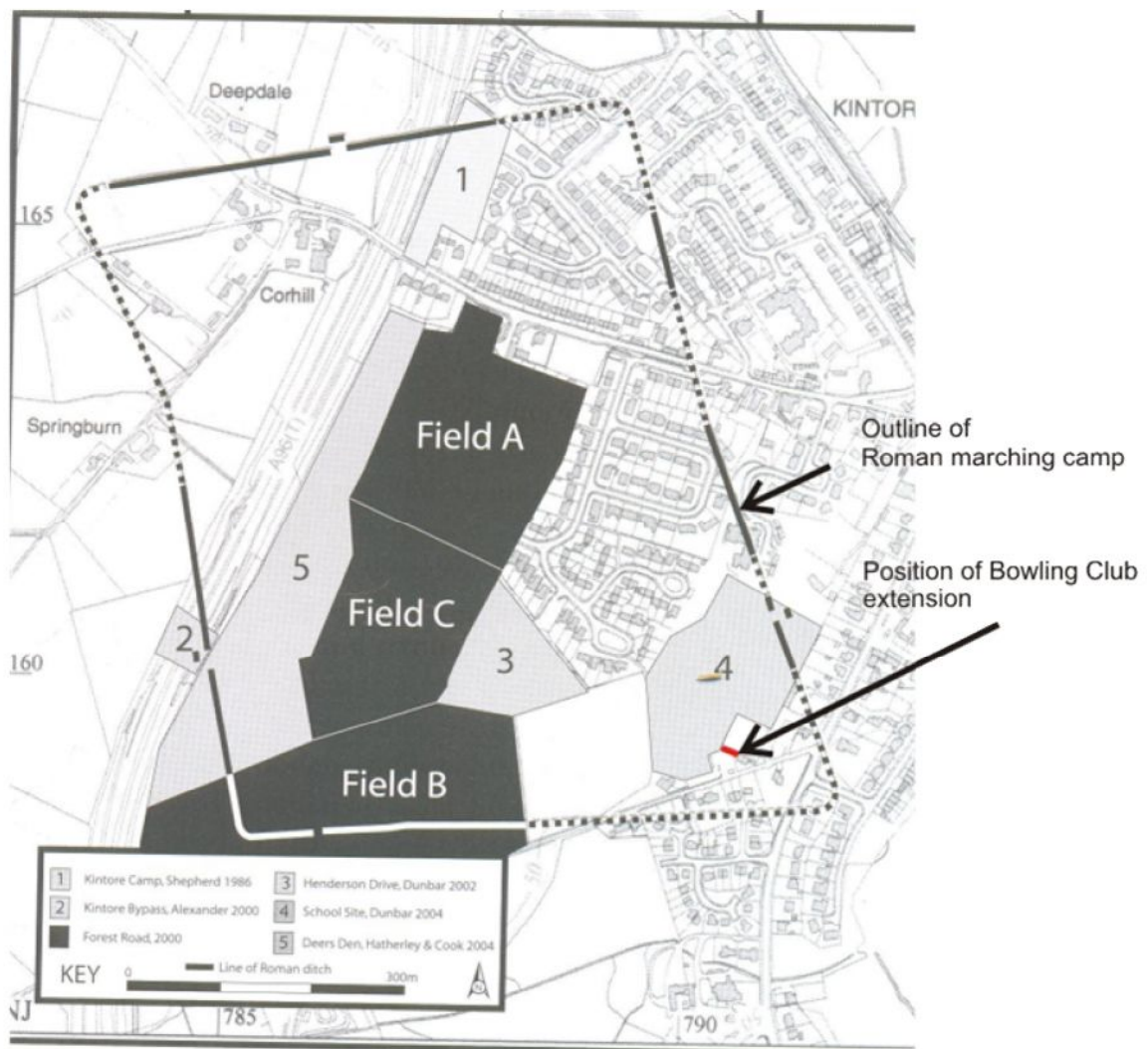
- 3.1 The Bowling Club lies in the angle between Castle Walk and Castle Road, to the S of Kintore Primary School. It is within the SE corner of a Roman temporary camp (Aberdeenshire SMR NJ71NE0182). Excavations on the Primary School site in

2003-2004 revealed prehistoric roundhouses. Roman ovens and rubbish pits were found within the temporary camp (Dunbar, 2004, 16-17).

3.2 Prior to the preparation for the extension, the site was bisected by a path. To the W of the path the ground had been landscaped in 2004 when the Primary School was built. To the E of the path, beside the existing clubhouse, there was a small triangular area which, it was hoped might have been less disturbed.

Parish: Kintore

NGR (centre of whole area) NJ7906 1593



Illus 1 Location of site in relation to Roman temporary camp. The Primary School Site is No 4 on plan (Dunbar 2004) (annotated from Cook and Dunbar 2008, fig 2)

4 Methodology

- 4.1 The area E of the path, which was thought to have been less disturbed, was fully excavated to natural (Trench 2).
Trenches 1, 2 and 3, to the W of the path and on the lines of the new foundations, showed that this area, landscaped in 2004 by Aberdeenshire Council, had been deeply disturbed and infilled with imported stony sub-base. As a result it was not deemed necessary to watch the removal of topsoil over the centre of the area.
- 4.2 Topsoil was removed using a small tracked excavator with a 1.2 wide toothless ditching bucket. Any possible features were cleaned and excavated by hand.
- 4.3 All mapping was done with a Magellan Mobile Mapper 120 GPS and Glonass.

5. The Results



Illus 2 Plan of site. Site outline dotted in red.

Trench 1

GPS NW end: 379041, 815928

SE end: 379038, 815922

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 6.5m Width: 1.2m

Depth above natural: NW end: 900mm SE end : 1m

Stratigraphy: At N end redeposited topsoil from ground surface to top of natural. For much of trench and S end there was c300mm redeposited topsoil over up to 800mm grey stony sub-base. Natural was fine yellow gravel.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
1	379041	815927	Hollow 400mm diameter, 120mm deep cut into natural. Fill compact mid brown silty topsoil	Possibly stone hole
2	379040	815925	Hollow 300 x 250mm. 60mm deep. Fill dark brown gravelly silt	Possibly stone hole
3	379040	815924	Hollow 300 x 200mm. 100mm deep. Fill dark brown gravelly silt.	Possibly stone hole



Illus 3 Trench 1 looking S. Contexts 1-3 shown excavated. Grey sub-base visible in sections.

Trench 2

GPS N end: 379051, 815924

S end: 379051, 815918

Orientation: N/S Roughly triangular area 5.5 x 4.3m maximum.

Depth above natural: N end: 1m, S end: 750mm

Stratigraphy: At the E (clubhouse) end there was a considerable amount of buried building rubble, presumably buried when the clubhouse was built in 1980. Elsewhere there was redeposited topsoil over fine yellow gravel natural.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
4	379049	815922	Square, vertically sided cut 350 x 350mm and 220mm deep. Fill grey v compact silt.	Contexts 4 & 5 appeared so regular that they are more likely to have been created mechanically- for example the 'legs' of a machine during clearance.
5	379050	815920	As 4 (above)	As (4)
6	379052	815920	Patch of gravel 1.2m diameter burnt reddish, with smaller patch black charcoal dust c 800mm across and c50mm deep. No chunks of charcoal.	No evidence of date



Illus 4 Trench 2 looking E to existing clubhouse



Illus 5 Trench 2, E section, below existing clubhouse, showing buried building rubble in section.



Illus 6 Trench 2, context 4

Trench 3

GPS NW end: 379041, 815926 SE end: 379046, 815924

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 5.3M Width: 1.2m

Depth above natural: N side: c 1m.S side : 600mm

Stratigraphy: N side : topsoil where a hedge had been removed. On S side up to
600mm sub-base with chunks of buried tarmac etc

Features: None



Illus 7 Trench 3 looking NW



Illus 8 Trench 3 W section with sub-base to natural

Trench 4

GPS NW end: 379039, 815921

SE end: 379044, 815919

Orientation: NW/SE

Length: 5.4m Width: 1.2m

Depth above natural: 700-900mm

Stratigraphy: 300-500mm of redeposited topsoil over 400mm grey stony sub-base on to natural.

Features: None



Illus 9 Trench 4 looking SE

6. Discussion

No artefacts or features were observed that could be attributed to the prehistoric or Roman periods. The overall impression was that the site, especially the area to the W of the path which had been roadside landscaping, had been extensively stripped to natural during the 2004 building operations associated with the school and subsequently levelled up with imported sub-base.

The area nearest the existing clubhouse, which it had been hoped would have been less disturbed, proved also to have been previously largely stripped to natural, with some infilling with building rubble around 1980 when the clubhouse was built.

No artefacts were found on the site and the few features appeared either to be natural (contexts 1-3) stone holes etc) or possibly related to the earlier building and site stripping works (contexts 4 & 5). Only an area of in situ burning (context 6) could have been earlier but there was no evidence of date to support this possibility.

7 References

Cook, M and Dunbar, L 2008 *Rituals, Roundhouses and Romans: Excavations at Kintore, Aberdeenshire 2000-2006. Vol 1: Forest Road.* Edinburgh: STAR.

Dunbar, L 2004 'Kintore School, Kintore', *Discovery & Excavation Scotland* 5, 16-17.

Photograph Catalogue

1-4	Site looking S to Castle Walk
5	Site looking E towards existing clubhouse
6-9	Trench 1
10-12	Trench 2
13-15	Trench 2, context 4
16	Area 2, E section below existing clubhouse
17-19	Trench 3 looking W
20-21	Trench 3 section
22-24	General views from bowling green
25-27	Trench 4 looking E