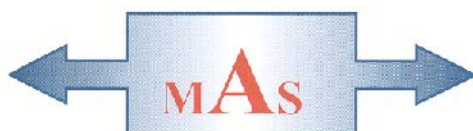


**LAND WEST OF THE SHEILING
DAVIOT
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Archaeological Evaluation
Carried out 13th July 2017
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2017-13
by
H K Murray and J C Murray

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

LAND WEST OF THE SHEILING

DAVIOT

ABERDEENSHIRE

-Archaeological Evaluation -

H K Murray and J C Murray

1. Background

- 1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2015/0804) was granted permission for the development of 3 dwelling houses and garages on a green field site on the N edge of the village of Daviot, Aberdeenshire.

An archaeological condition (No 4) 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 - 10% 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 to undertake the work by Norman P Lawrie Ltd on behalf of Mr J Downie,

1.4 The evaluation was undertaken on 13th July 2017.

2. The Site

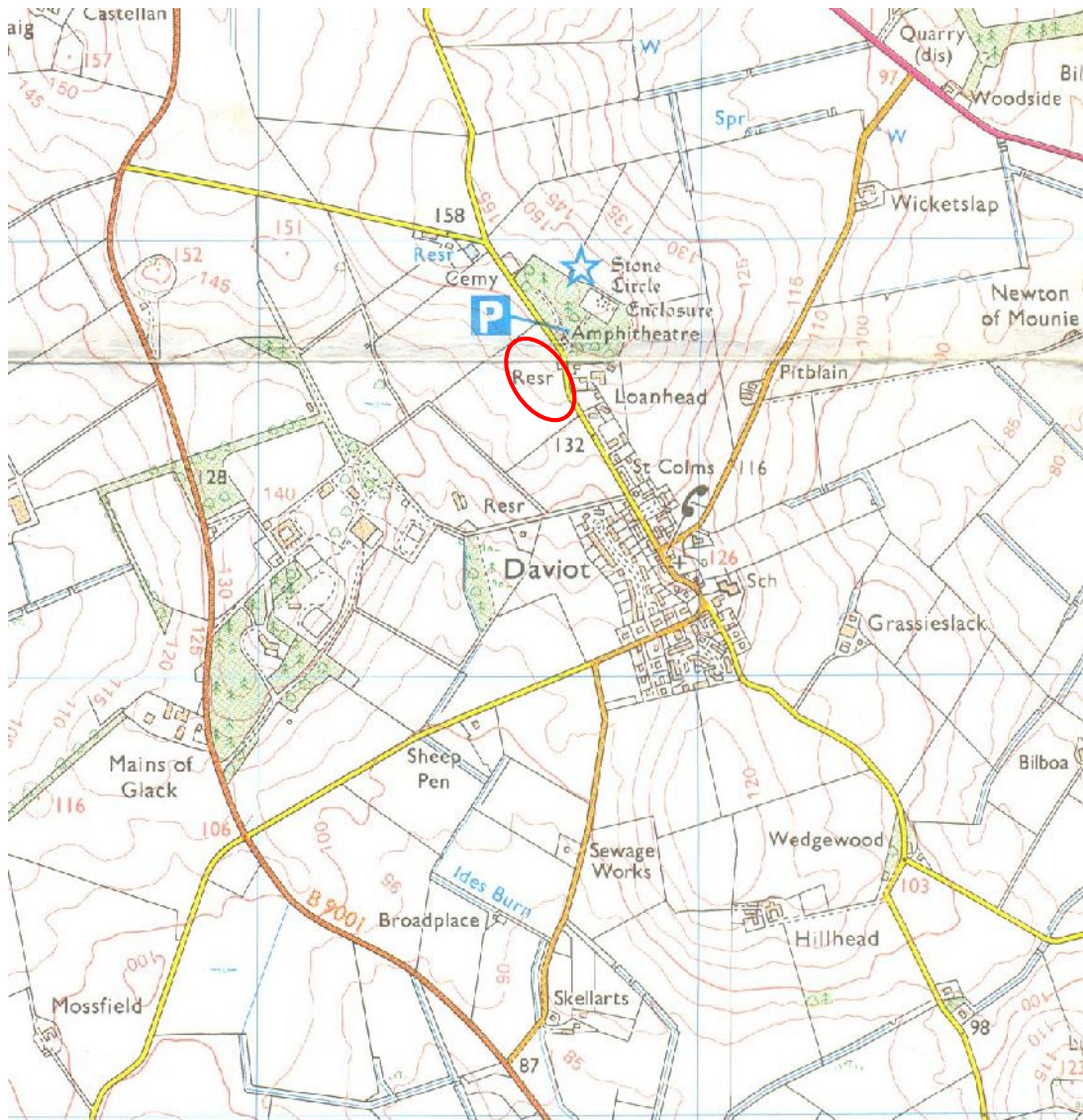
2.1 The evaluation area lay in a grass field on the N edge of the village of Daviot, directly across the road and down slope from the Loanhead of Daviot stone circle (Illus 1).

The total area was approximately 1 hectare (Illus 6).

Parish: Daviot

NGR (central) NJ 4764 2875

GPS 347642, 828754



Illus 1 Location of site, marked by red circle. OS map reproduced Crown Copyright. Licence 100049810

2.2 The field, which was in grass at the time of the evaluation, was generally level, with a slight slope down towards the S. There was a low ridge at the East side of the ground, some 40-50m from the S end of the site. A covered water reservoir was cut into part of this ridge (Illus 2).



Illus 2 Looking SW. Trench 2 in foreground. Slight ridge between machine and the water reservoir on mid LHS

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.



Illus 3 General view of site looking W

4. Desktop survey

4.1 Sites nearby

The site lies between c 130 and 160m west of the stone circle and Bronze Age cremation cemetery at Loanhead of Daviot (Aberdeenshire SMR NJ72NW0001 and NJ72NW0040). During the 19th century a number of Bronze Age urns (NJ72NW0016) and a short cist (NJ72NW0018) had been found east of the road. An urn was found in 1817 by Loanhead cottage, just across the road from the S end of the site (NJ72NW0019).

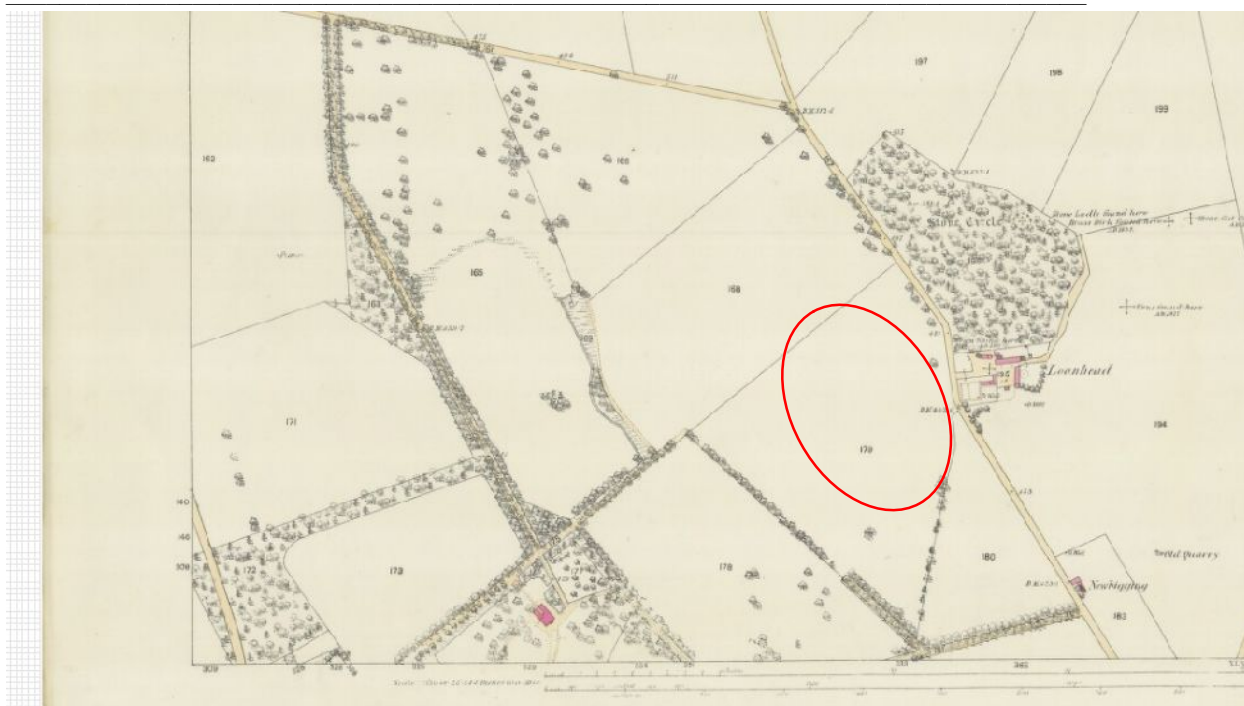
An archaeological evaluation of the site of a new house at Beech Lodge, directly N of the present site, was undertaken by Cameron Archaeology in 2015 (NJ72NW0147) but no finds or features were observed.

4.2 Map evidence

1st Ordnance Survey Map.

Aberdeen sheet xlv.3 1867 (published 1870).

The site is shown as an enclosed field with no additional features.



Illus 4 Aberdeen sheet xlv.3 1867 (published 1870). Site indicated by red circle. www.nls.ac.uk

2nd Ordnance Survey Map

Aberdeenshire 045.03. 1899 (published 1900).

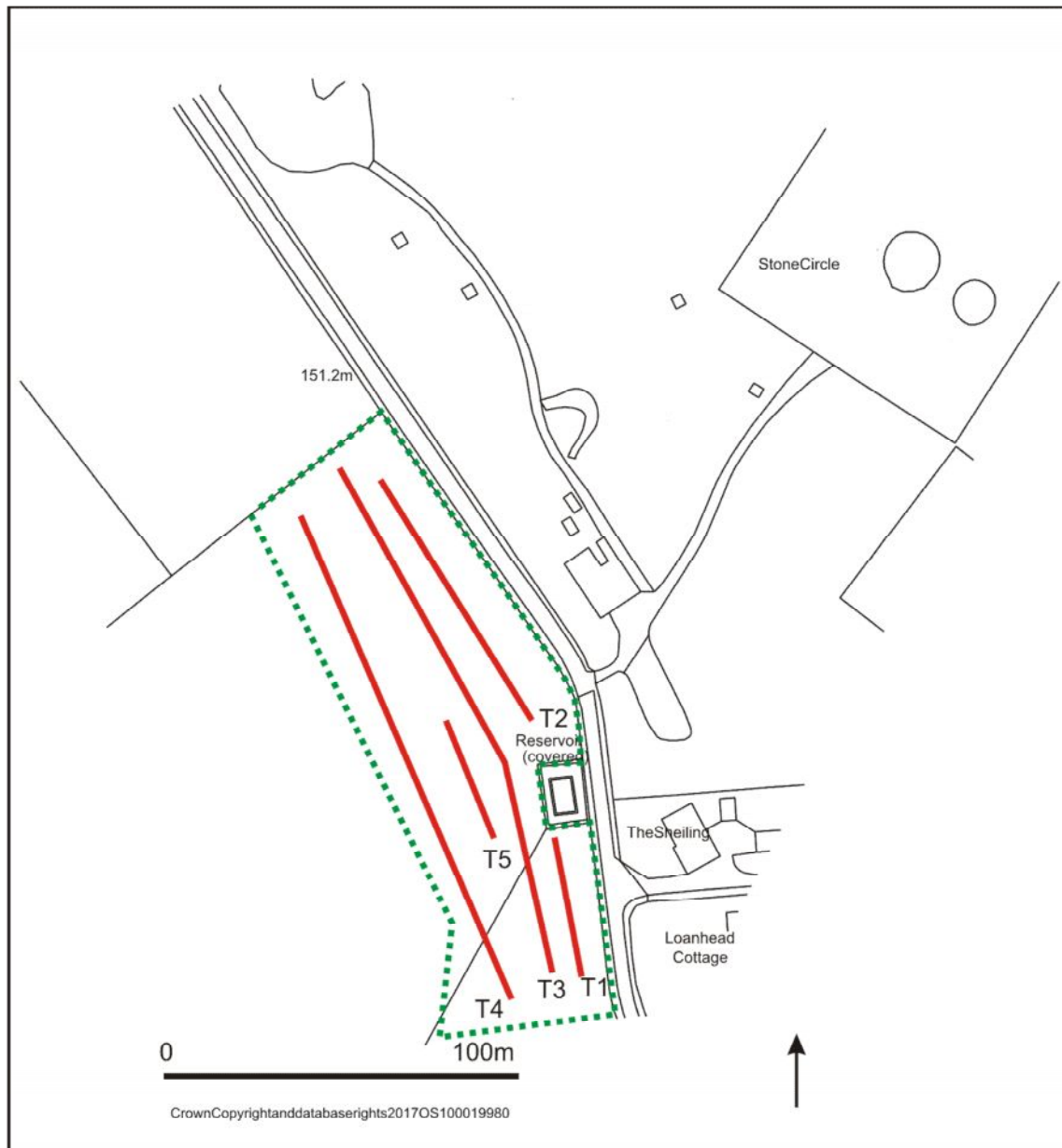
There is no change to the site by 1899.



Illus 5 Aberdeenshire 045.03. 1899 (published 1900). Site indicated by red circle. www.nls.ac.uk

5 Results of the Evaluation

Five evaluation trenches were excavated in total (Illus 6).



Illus 6 Plan showing location of trenches (red). Site outline :green. OS map reproduced Crown Copyright. Licence 100041040

Trench 1

GPS N end: 374669, 828699

S end: 374677, 828659

Orientation: N/S

Length: 40 m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 350mm at N end, 300mm at S end. Shallower over ridge: 200mm.

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural. Clay natural with some boulders, especially at centre which crossed part of stoney ridge (Illus 7).

Features Modern trench along the S 20m of trench- probably water pipe from reservoir.



Illus 7 Trench 1 looking S. Note boulders at N end by ranging rod.

Trench 2

GPS NW end: 374622, 828797 SE end: 374663, 828731

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 78 m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 300mm at N end, 250mm at S end.

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural. (Illus 8).

Features Modern plough marks.



Illus 8 Trench 2 looking N

Trench 3

GPS NW end: 374611,828800 mid:374656,828719 SE end: 374670, 828660

Orientation: NW/SE (dog-legged) Length: 152 m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 300-350mm at N end, 400mm at S end.

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural, boulders at S end at ridge

Features Modern disturbance, possibly a test pit, at 374632, 828761.

Trench 4

GPS NW end: 374601, 828788 SE end: 374658, 828654

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 146 m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 280mm at N end, 300mm at S end.

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural (Illus 9).

Features

Modern trench E/W at 374635, 828709- probably water pipe from reservoir.



Illus 9 Trench 4 looking S

Trench 5

GPS N end: 374640, 828730 S end: 374653, 828698

Orientation: N/S Length: 34 m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: 280mm at N end, 300mm at S end.

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural, some boulders at S end at ridge.

Features None

6 Finds

None.

7 Discussion

Although the site lies near an area of extensive prehistoric activity, there was no evidence of surviving archaeology in the areas evaluated.

8 Impacts and Mitigations

8.1 Impacts The evaluation did not yield any archaeological finds or features.

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 paucity 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 looking W
3-6	General views looking SW
7-9	Trench 1 looking S
10	General view looking W
11-12	Trench 2, looking N
13-14	General views looking SW
15	General view looking W
16-19	Trench 4 looking S