

**SPRINGBURN
KINTORE
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Archaeological Watching Brief

Carried out 11th December 2017

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2017-31

by

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1. Background
 - 1.1 A planning application for the building of a replacement dwelling house at Springburn, Kintore, Aberdeenshire required a watching brief for ground works. (G/APP/2011/4071)
 - 1.2 The archaeological condition was applied in the context of planning legislation (PAN 2/2011, SPP, HESPS), which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological work to take place prior to development, in appropriate circumstances.
 - 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Malcolm Allan (Housebuilders) Ltd to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of a trench for the electricity supply and a trench for the water supply. The work was carried out on 11th December 2017.
2. Methodology
 - 2.1 A watching brief was undertaken during machining. The trenches were dug by a mechanical excavator. Any possible features were investigated and the stratigraphy recorded.
 - 2.2 All mapping was done with a Magellan Mobile Mapper 120 GPS and Glonass.
 - 2.3 A full set of photographs will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR in Aberdeen and to the National Sites and Monuments Records at HES.



Illus 1 Detail of OS map. Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright (2015) All rights reserved.
Licence number (100049810). Site indicated by red circle

3. The Site

- 3.1 The trench for the electricity supply ran along the edge of the road to the E of the property.
- 3.2 The trench for the water ran NW/SE through a small grass field adjacent to the N side of the property.
- 3.3 The site lies within an area within the site of Deers Den Roman Camp (NJ71NE0055) with potential survival of Roman archaeology.

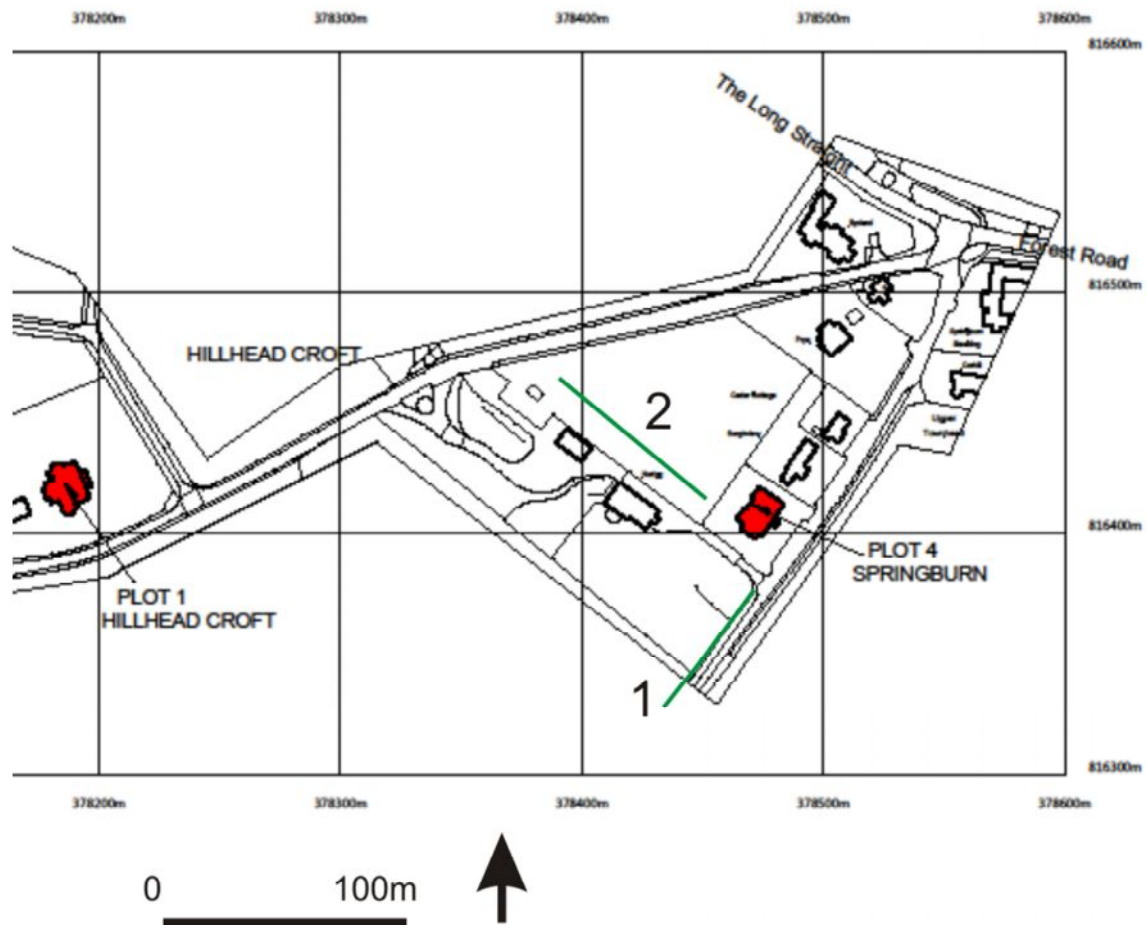
Parish: Kintore

NGR (centre of whole area) NJ 7846, 1640.

4. Map evidence

1864/5 1st OS maps 1864 (published 1869). Aberdeen sheet lxiv.4 and 1865 (published 1869) Aberdeen sheet lxiv.1 show a series of small cultivated crofts running between the Springburn Road and the Forest Hall Road, with small croft houses beside Springburn Road.

1899 OS maps 1899 (published 1900) Aberdeenshire sheet 064.04 and 065.01 show no further details within area of site.



Illus 2 Location of trenches (green). 1=Electricity cable trench. 2= water pipe trench. Based on plan courtesy of Norman P Lawie Ltd. Architectural Design

5. The Results

The electricity cable trench. (Illus 2:1)

The trench for the electricity cable ran along the W side of Springburn road from an existing pole at 378435,816329 to the front of the property at 378471, 816376. From the pole to 378456,816355 a drain ran along this side of the road so the ground had already been disturbed; the cable was ducted in this area. The stratigraphy comprised between 500 and 700mm of stoney made-up ground over 300-500mm of topsoil above yellow gritty sandy natural. No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus 3 Trench for electric cable looking NE

The water pipe trench. (Illus 2:2)

The trench for the water pipe ran for 79m from the water main at the NW end of the field behind the property at 378392, 816464 to 378453,816414.

It was stripped to the top of natural with a toothless bucket 900mm wide, then a narrower toothed bucket 400mm wide excavated through the natural to a depth of 1-1.2m.

The stratigraphy comprised 300-350mm of topsoil over yellow sandy, stony natural.

No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus 4 Trench for water pipe, looking SE

6. Discussion

There was no evidence of archaeological features or finds.

Photograph Catalogue

1	Trench for electric cable, looking SW
2-5	Trench for electric cable, looking NE
6-9	Trench for electric cable, detail
10-11	Trench for water pipe looking NW
12-13	Trench for water pipe looking SE