

**ROLLOMIRE**  
**(Land to the rear of 20 Wyness Way)**  
**KINTORE**  
**ABERDEENSHIRE**



**Archaeological Evaluation**  
Carried out 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
by  
**Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2018-02**  
by  
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**-Archaeological Evaluation -**

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**1. Background**

- 1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2014/3609) was granted permission for the development of 5 dwelling houses and associated infrastructure on a green field site on the N side of the B077, Gauchhill Road, on the SE side of the village of Kintore, Aberdeenshire.

An archaeological condition (Condition 9) was applied to this application in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (PAN 2/2011, SPP, HESPS).

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 5-7% archaeological evaluation.

- 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.

- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work by Ken Mathieson Architectural Design Ltd on behalf of Mr L Spence.

1.4 The evaluation was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

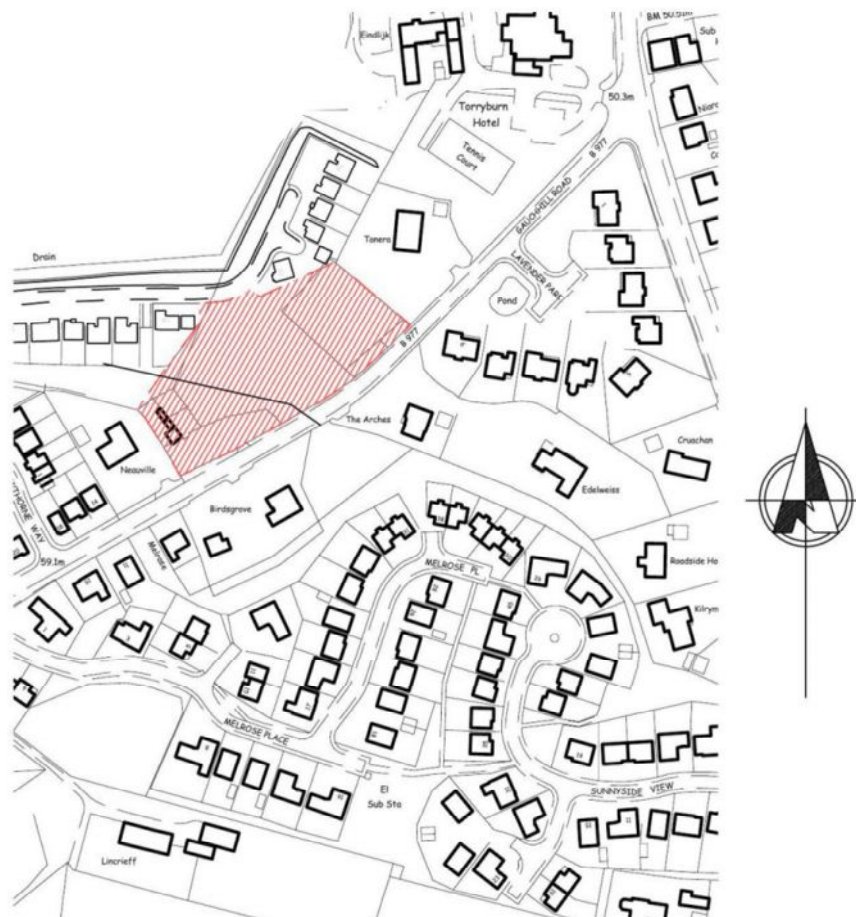
## 2. The Site

2.1 The evaluation area comprised a small grass field, gently sloping down to the N away from the B977. The SW corner of the field at the entry from the road was artificially raised. The W end comprised a stable. These two areas were not excavated apart from a test pit through the raised entry area.

The total area was 0.614 hectares (including the two areas that were excluded) (Illus 1).

Parish: Kintore

NGR (central) NJ 78931551 GPS: 378932, 815511



**Illus 1 Location of site. Plan courtesy of Ken Mathieson Architectural Design Ltd**

2.2 The field, which was in grass at the time of the evaluation, sloped very gently down to the NW, away from the road and towards the former Rollo Mire. There was also a

slope down from the W end of the site to what appeared in the evaluation trenches to be a palaeochannel draining to the Rollo Mire.



**Illus 2 View SW across the site from beside trench 1. The slope down to palaeochannel is visible (arrow).**

### 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

The site lies S of the Deer's Den Roman marching camp, which lay N of the Rollo Mire. A large number of prehistoric sites are known, both from within the marching camp area and from a series of sites on the Midmill industrial estate beside Tuach Hill, to the E of the present development. There is a reasonable presumption of the possibility of prehistoric activity in most areas of Kintore.

## 4.2 Map evidence

### *1<sup>st</sup> Ordnance Survey Map. 1865-66*

Aberdeen sheet lxv 1865-66 (published 1869).

The site is shown as un-built cultivated ground with no additional features.



Illus 3 Aberdeen sheet lxv 1865-66 (published 1869). Site indicated by red circle. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Ordnance Survey Map 1898*

Aberdeenshire lxv.nw 1898 (published 1901).

The site is shown as un-built cultivated ground with a footpath crossing it.



Illus 4 Aberdeenshire lxv.nw 1898 (published 1901). Site indicated by red circle. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

### *Ordnance Survey Map 1924*

Aberdeenshire lxv.nw 1924 (published 1928).

The site is shown as un-built cultivated ground with no additional features.

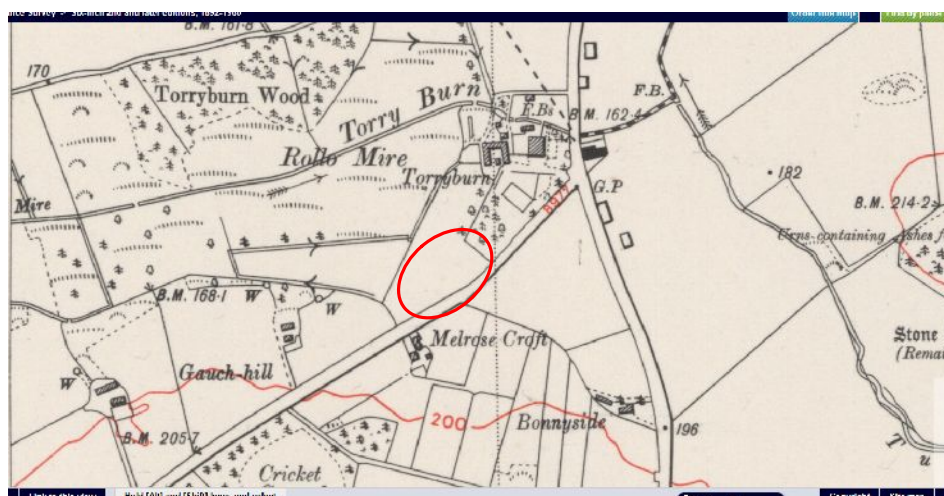


Illus 5 Aberdeenshire sheet lxxv.nw 1924 (published 1928) [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

*Ordnance Survey Map c 1949*

Aberdeenshire lxxv.nw (published c 1949).

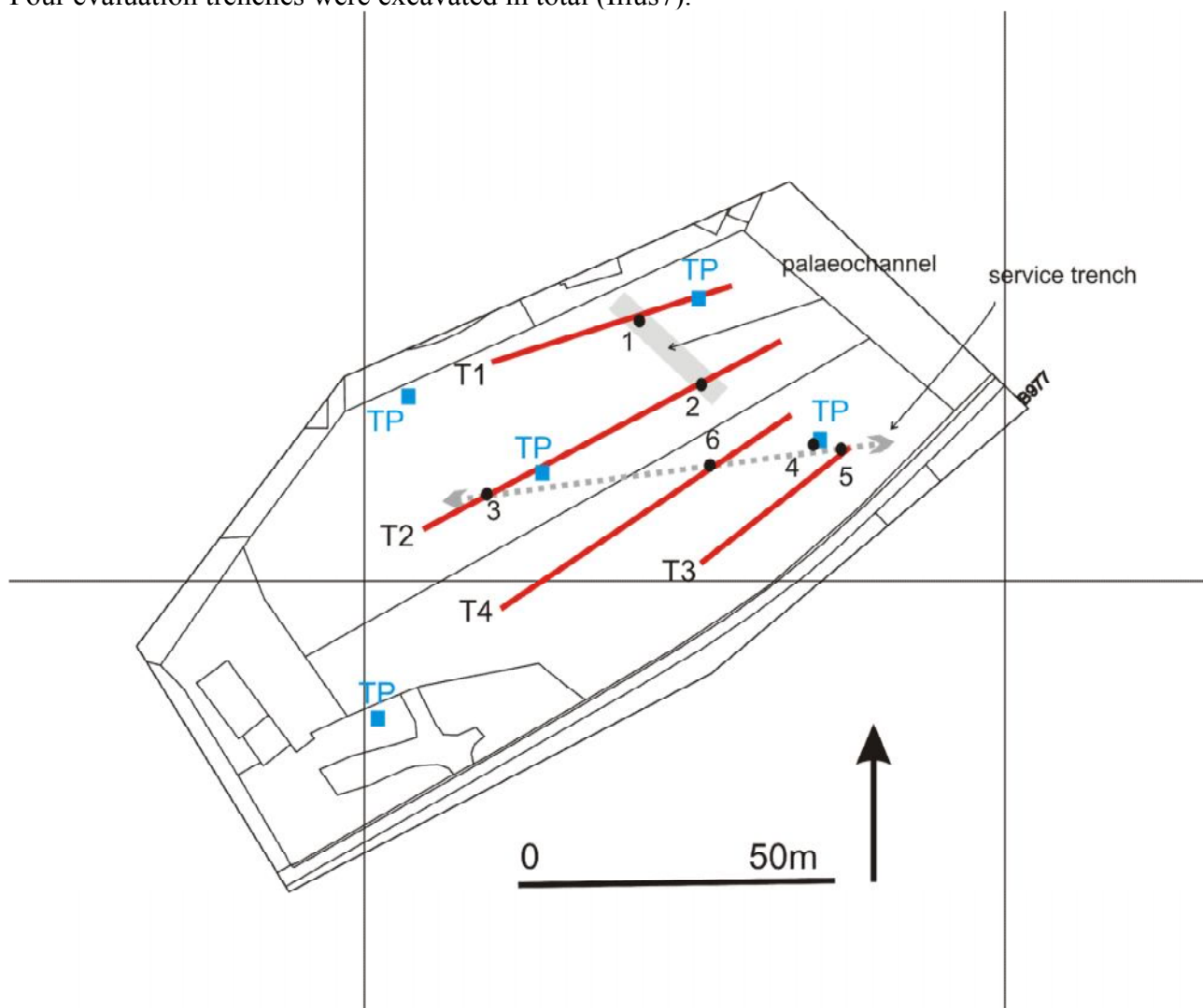
The site is shown as un-built cultivated ground with no additional features.



Illus 6 Aberdeenshire sheet lxxv.nw published c.1949. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

## 5 Results of the Evaluation

Four evaluation trenches were excavated in total (Illus7).



**Illus 7 Plan showing location of trenches (red). OS map reproduced Crown Copyright. Licence 100041040**

### Trench 1

GPS NE end: 378956, 815546 SW end: 378919, 815533

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 39m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: SW :100mm NE 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural . Higher SW end stoney sandy ridge sloping down to palaeochannel at 378944, 815541. N of this natural was sandier with no stones.

### Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
1	378944	815541	Palaeochannel	Natural feature



**Illus 8 Trench 1 looking W**

### Trench 2

GPS NE end: 378964, 815937 SW end: 378908, 815507

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 63m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: SW :300mm NE 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural . Higher SW end stoney sandy ridge sloping down to palaeochannel. N of this natural was sandier with no stones.

### Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
2	378950	815530	Palaeochannel	Natural feature
3	378919	815503	Service trench	c. 2m wide, machine cut. Not excavated.





**Illus 9 Trench 2 looking W**

Trench3

GPS NE end: 378975, 815520 SW end: 378951, 815502

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 30m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: SW :300mm NE 280mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural sandy gravel.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
5	378974	815519	Service trench	c. 2m wide, machine cut. Not excavated.



**Illus 10 Trench 3 looking W. Service trench (context 5) marked by red arrow**

#### Trench 4

GPS NE end: 378966, 815525 SW end: 378920, 815425

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 55m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: SW 300mm NE 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over natural sandy gravel.

#### Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
6	378956	815517	Service trench	c. 2m wide, machine cut. Not excavated.



**Illus 11 Trench 4 looking W**

### Test pits

Five site investigation test pits were undertaken by Sarah McGregor (Geotechnical and Environmental onsite services). These were observed to the top of natural. No archaeological finds or features were observed in the test pits.

### 6 Finds

None.

### 7 Discussion

No archaeological features or finds were observed. A palaeochannel, or pool, was evident in the visible dip towards the NE end of trenches 1 and 2. This presumably had at one time been part of the Rollo Mire. The lack of evidence for prehistoric activity may be attributed to the ground having been, at least seasonally, waterlogged.

A machine cut service trench of some sort was observed in trenches 2, 3 and 4 and in one of the test pits. This was not excavated. It does not correlate to any of the services shown on the service plans provided although the gas pipe is perhaps the nearest at the NE corner of the site.



**Illus 12 Service trench (red arrow) in trench 4 (looking W)**



**Illus 13 Service trench in test pit beside trench 3. Hand dug to a depth of c 1.4m from ground surface. Fill was stones and re-deposited topsoil.**

The test pit to the W of trench 1 was abandoned as there was deep, packed hard core below the topsoil. A neighbour confirmed that this area had been the compound of the housing development to the W and said that the hardcore was at least 1m in depth. The thin topsoil in this area is also indicative of earlier site disturbance. The test pit through the higher ground at the SW corner of the site showed that the ground here had been built up with at least 1m of imported topsoil.

## 8 Impacts and Mitigations

### 8.1 Impacts None

### 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 (photographs supplied to Aberdeenshire sites and monuments record).**

<b>Digital frame number</b>	<b>Content</b>
1-2	General views across site looking N
3	General view S across site from beside trench 1
4-5	Trench 1 looking W
6-7	Trench 2 looking W
8-9	Service trench in test pit beside trench 3
10-11	Trench 3 looking W
12-13	Trench 4 looking W
14	Trench 4, context 6, service trench.