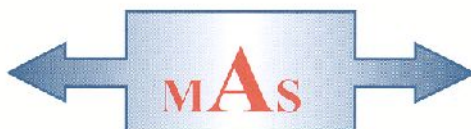


**CONGLASS  
INVERURIE  
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**Archaeological Evaluation**  
Carried out 28<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May 2018  
by  
**Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2018-12**  
by  
H K Murray and J C Murray

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**CONGLASS**  
**INVERURIE**  
**ABERDEENSHIRE**  
**-Archaeological Evaluation -**  
**H K Murray and J C Murray**

1. Background
  - 1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2017/3188) was submitted for a residential development and associated infrastructure on a green field site at Conglass Farm, on the W side of Inverurie, between the A96 and Crawford Road, Aberdeenshire. An archaeological condition 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 7-10% 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 Cala Homes (North) Ltd.
  - 1.4 The evaluation of the Phase 1 area, comprising the N part of the site, was undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

## 2. The Site

2.1 The evaluation area comprised a field sloping down to the N. Most of the area was in crop at the time of the evaluation. However the SW part of the site, to the S of the Bennachie View Care Village, was in set-aside and comprised rough weedy ground.

The field slopes up to the S towards the A96, with another slope up towards the E. There is a distinct N/S dip across the middle of the field, where topsoil depths tended to be greater.

The total area was 14.02 acres (5.67 hectares) hectares. (Illus 1).

Parish: Inverurie

NGR (central) NJ 75470 22916



**Illus 1 Location of site. Plan courtesy of Lippe Architects and planners**



**Illus 2 General view of site looking N with Conglass farm in background LHS and Bennachie Care Home to RHS.**

### 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

A number of surface finds have been recorded from Conglass but the majority are 19<sup>th</sup> century finds and have no exact location within the farm. They give a general background for activity in the immediate area, but were not necessarily found on the field where the development is taking place. The date of the objects ranges from Neolithic to possible Iron Age.

NMRS No	Location given	Grid ref given	Artefact	Present location
NJ72SE302	Conglass	NJ753 231	Spindle whorl	Marischal Museum ABDUA 19058
NJ72SE308	Conglass	NJ753 231	Stone axe	Marischal Museum ABDUA 19708
NJ72SE98	Conglass	NJ75 23	Stone axe	Hunterian Museum. GLAHM: B.1914.10B
NJ72SE61	Conglass	NJ75 23	Barbed and tanged arrowhead	Inverurie Museum
NJ72SE78	Conglass	NJ75 23	2 stone axes, leaf-shaped flint arrowhead	Inverurie Museum

The following sites are recorded:

- Alleged Roman Road. NMRS NJ72SE27. The road was meant to run S of the present site, being part of an alleged road from Kintore camp, through Inverurie and to the Spey. There is no sign of the alleged road.
- A number of upright stones in fields of Conglass farm were originally described as standing stones but more recently have been named as cattle rubbing stones following oral information from the then farmer at Conglass that, in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, cattle rubbing stones were set up in each of the farm's fields. NMRS Nos NJ72SE18 and 19.

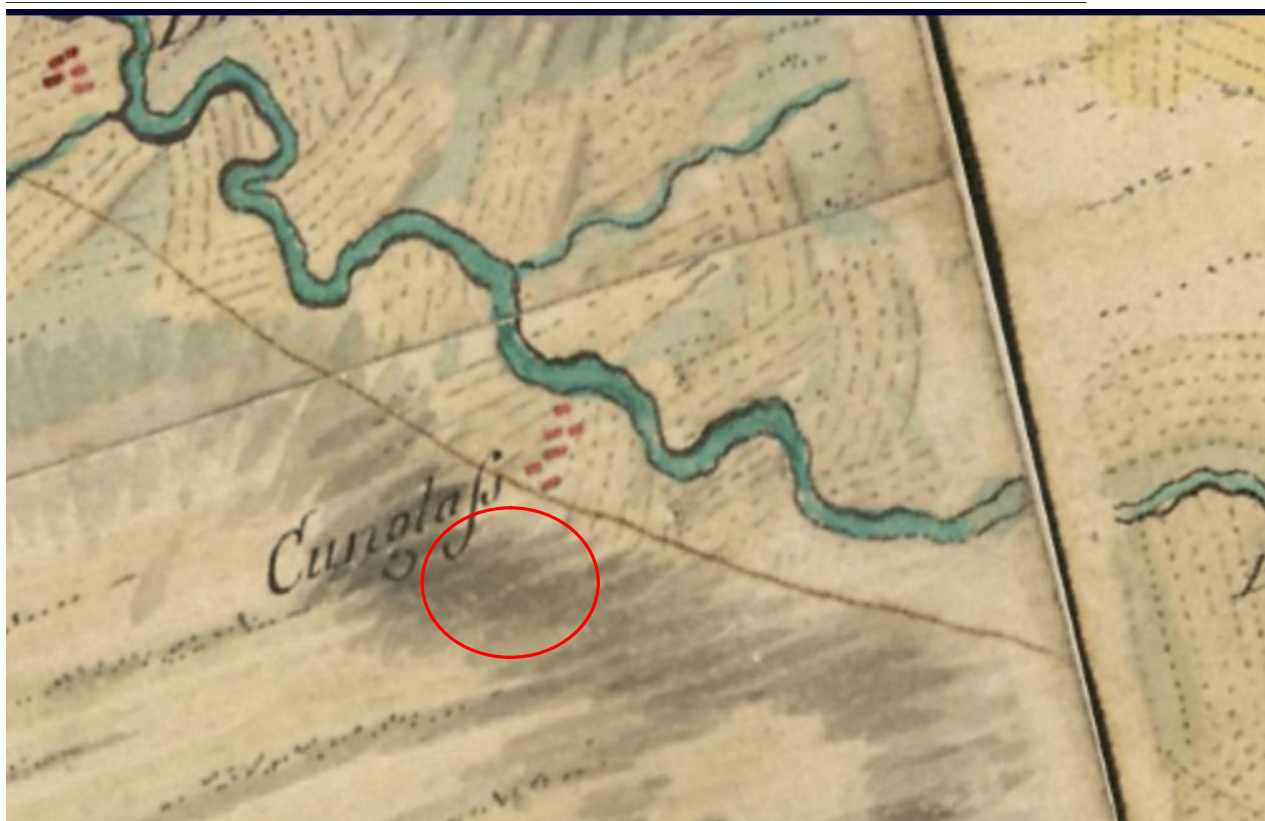
Three areas of recent evaluation and excavation are relevant.

- 
- Evaluation at Conglass Cottages to SE of present site. Aberdeenshire ref: NJ72SE0303. An evaluation by Cameron Archaeology in 2013 in the field to the E of Conglass Cottages, opposite the present site, revealed a small truncated feature containing 5 sherds of prehistoric pottery and a burnt stone, interpreted as a hearth.
  - Evaluation and Excavations N of A96 in area around Dilly Hill at Westgate, Inverurie. Excavations to the S of the A96 and S of the present site between 2006 and 2011 revealed settlement and other features from the Neolithic to the Iron Age ( Murray & Murray 2013). NMRS No: NJ72SE359.
  - Evaluation of the adjacent site at the Inverurie- Conglass Care Home and Care Village in 2014 revealed a number of flints that indicate some prehistoric activity in the area, which agrees with the number of stray finds from Conglass Farm and the evidence of the evaluation undertaken by Cameron Archaeology to the N of the road in 2013. Surviving rig and furrow suggests there has been intensive agricultural activity on the site for several hundred years (Murray & Murray 2014).

#### 4.2 Map evidence

##### *Roy's Military Map. 1747-55*

A cluster of buildings named Cunglas(sic) is shown on the site of the present farm, between the old road (Crawford Road) and the river (Illus 3). The ground S of the old road (the present site) is shown as generally uncultivated and sloping down towards the road. Rig cultivation is shown beside and N of the road.



Illus 3 Roy's Military Map 1747-55 Site approximately indicated by red circle. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

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

Aberdeenshire sheet liv.3 1866/7 (published 1886). The site is shown as un-built cultivated ground. The mill pond for the farm is shown at the NW corner of the field, opposite the farm buildings (Illus 4)



Illus 4 Aberdeenshire sheet liv.3 1866/7 (published 1886). Site indicated by red circle. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> Ordnance Survey Map 1899

Aberdeenshire liv.3 1899 (published 1900).

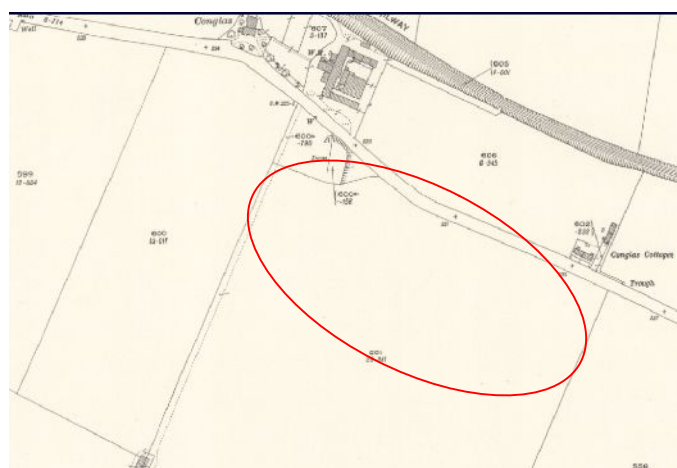
The site is unchanged (Illus 5).



Illus 5 Aberdeenshire sheet liv.3 1899 (published 1900). Site indicated by red circle. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

Aberdeenshire liv.3 1924 (published 1926).

The site is unchanged (Illus 6).



Illus 6 Aberdeenshire sheet liv.3 1924 (published 1926). Site indicated by red circle. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)



## 5 Results of the Evaluation

Eleven 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 NW end:375364, 822880 SE end: 375614,822714

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 300m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: NW : 300mm SE : 300mm

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

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
1	375611	822715	Water pipeline	
2	375602	822721	Rig and furrow	
3	375599	822723	Rig and furrow	



**Illus 8 Trench 1 looking E**

Trench 2

GPS NW end:375353,822904 SE end: 375618,822730

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 315m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: NW : 300mm SE 350mm. Deepens to 400mm in slight dip at midfield.

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
4	375592	822747	Water pipeline	
5	375548	822776	Drain	
6	375542	822779	Rig and furrow	
7	375514	822798	Rig and furrow	

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### Trench 3

GPS NW end: 375359, 822918 SE end: 375625, 822746

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 317m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: NW : 300mm SE ; 300mm. Deepens to 400-500mm in dip at midfield.

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural.

### Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
8	375532	822809	Rig and furrow	
9	375568	822784	Riga and furrow	
10	375571	822782	Rig and furrow	
11	375577	822778	Water pipeline	
12	375590	8222769	Rig and furrow	

### Trench 4

GPS NE end:375530 SW end: 822970

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 135m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: NE : 400mm SW : 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural.

### Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
16	375498	822901	Water pipeline	

### Trench 5

GPS NE end: 375508, 822982 SW end: 375452, 822861

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 134m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: NE : 300mm SW : 280-300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural.

### Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
15	375488	822936	Water pipeline	

### Trench 6

GPS NE end: 375489, 822998 SW end: 3754331, 822874

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 136m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: NE : 400mm SW : 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
13	375488	822994	Stone drain?	
14	375471	822956	Water pipeline	

Trench 7

GPS NE end: 375470,823012 SW end: 375412, 822886

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 138m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: NE : 500-600mm SW : 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural.

Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
17	375466	823002	Lade?	Cut c. 3m wide NW/SE across trench towards former mill dam. Not bottomed.
18	375455	822980	Water pipeline	



**Illus 9 Trench 7, general view looking N**

Trench 8

GPS NE end:375428, 822978 SW end: 375392, 822899

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 86m Width: 2.0m

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Depth above natural: NE : 300mm SW : 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural.

Features None

#### Trench 9

GPS NE end: 375403, 822979 SW end: 375351, 822869

Orientation: NE/SW Length: 120m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: NE : 300mm SW : 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural.

Features None

#### Trench 10

GPS NW end: 375351, 822870 SE end: 375509, 822756

Orientation: NW/SE Length: 190m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: NW: 300mm SE : 300mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural.

#### Features

No	Easting	Northing	Feature	Comment
19	375510	822766	Drain?	19-20 E/W cut c. 1m wide along and across E end of trench 10 for c. 5m
20	375502	822769	As 19	
21	375500	822771	Rig and furrow	
22	375498	822773	Drain	Cut c 300mm wide NE/SW
23	375495	822775	Rig and furrow	1.3m wide
24	375487	822780	Drain	As 22
25	375485	822781	Rig and furrow	1.5m wide
26	375480	822784	Rig and furrow	1.5m wide
27	375474	822788	Rig and furrow	
28	375470	822790	Field drain?	
29	375469	822792	Rig and furrow	
30	375466	822794	Test pit?	
31	375451	822804	Rig and furrow	

#### Trench 11

GPS N end: 375572, 822847 S end: 375550, 822806

Orientation: N/S Length: 48m Width: 2.0m

Depth above natural: N: 300mm S: 350mm. Deepens to 500mm in middle of trench.

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over recently disturbed ground above yellow clay natural. This area on the high ground above the Care Home appeared to have been previously topsoil stripped and then built up with redeposited topsoil.

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Features None.

## 6 Finds

With the exception of two small flints, the only artefacts observed were a few sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century china and redware, occasional sherds of bottle glass and a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem. These are all likely to have derived from spreading of midden material.

While the flints are not natural to the site, and therefore show probable low level prehistoric activity, they were of no intrinsic significance.

SF1 Small unworked flint, very plough abraded. Trench 1. Top of natural.

375484/822798

SF2 Flint flake with some secondary working. Trench 2. Top of natural.

375522, 822793

## 7 Discussion

### *Prehistoric activity*

The two small flints found on the top of natural are indicative of low density use within the prehistoric period; this accords with the evidence from the adjacent sites at the Bennachie Care Home (Murray & Murray 2014) and at Conglass Cottages (Cameron, 2013). This area appears to have been marginal to the much more established settlement to the S on the Westgate site (Murray & Murray 2013) and the evidence may reflect movements looking after livestock, gathering wood etc.

### *Post-medieval cultivation*

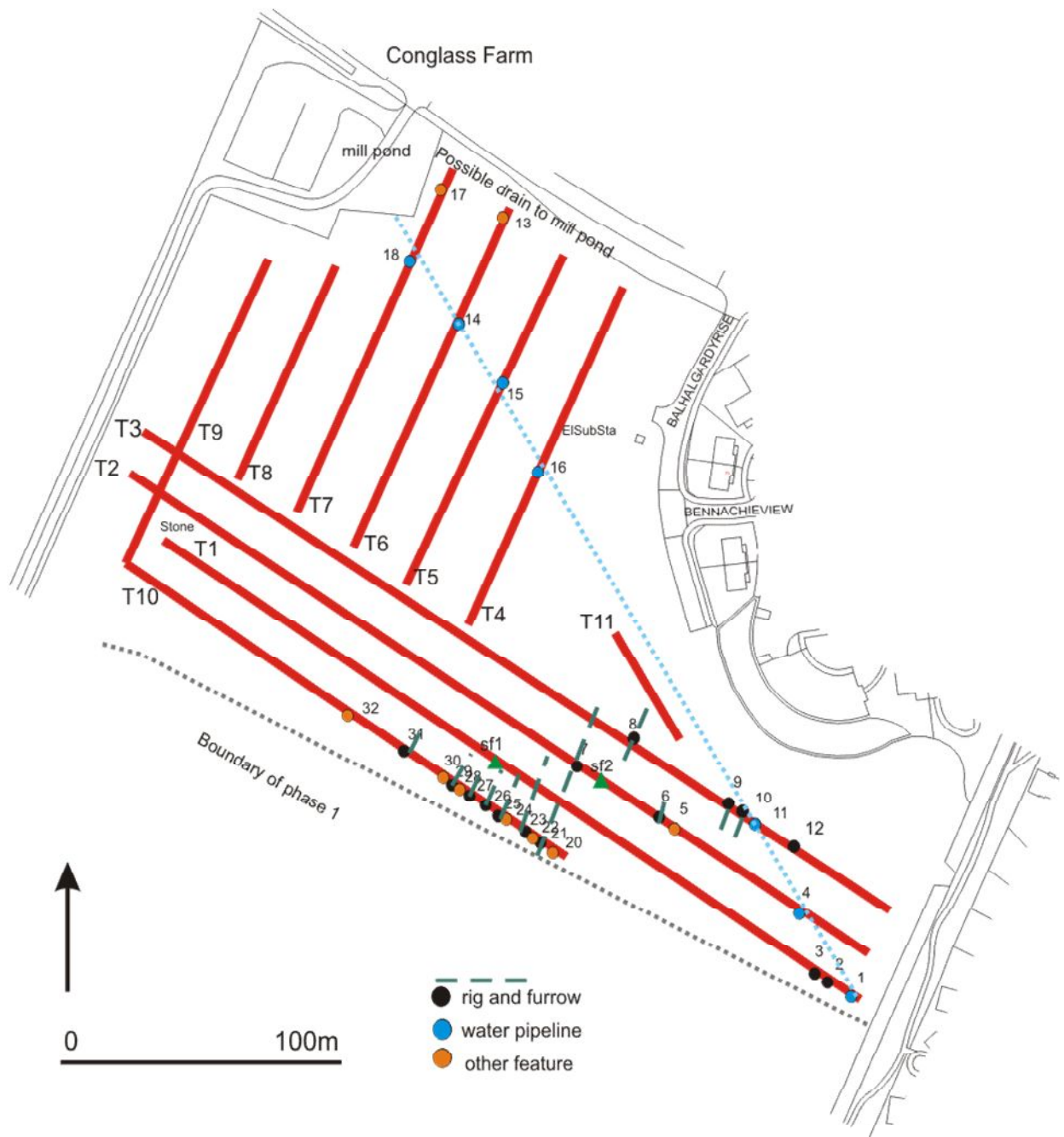
Furrows of rig and furrow cultivation were found at the S end of the E side of the site. They showed up as parallel shallow cuts into the top of natural, generally some 1.3 to 2m in width and 6 to 7m apart (centres), filled with fine greyish silt (Illus 10 and 11). They extended NE/SW and were on the same alignment as rig and furrow recorded at the adjacent site at the Bennachie Care Home (Murray & Murray 2014) (Illus 12).

Roy's Military map of 1747-55 shows rig and furrow cultivation to the N around the Conglass buildings but not S of the road; this is not conclusive as details of cultivation were not the major concern of the military cartographers, but suggests a date from the

second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century is possible. The Stephen family have farmed at Conglass since the 18<sup>th</sup> century (pers. comm. Patrick Stephen).

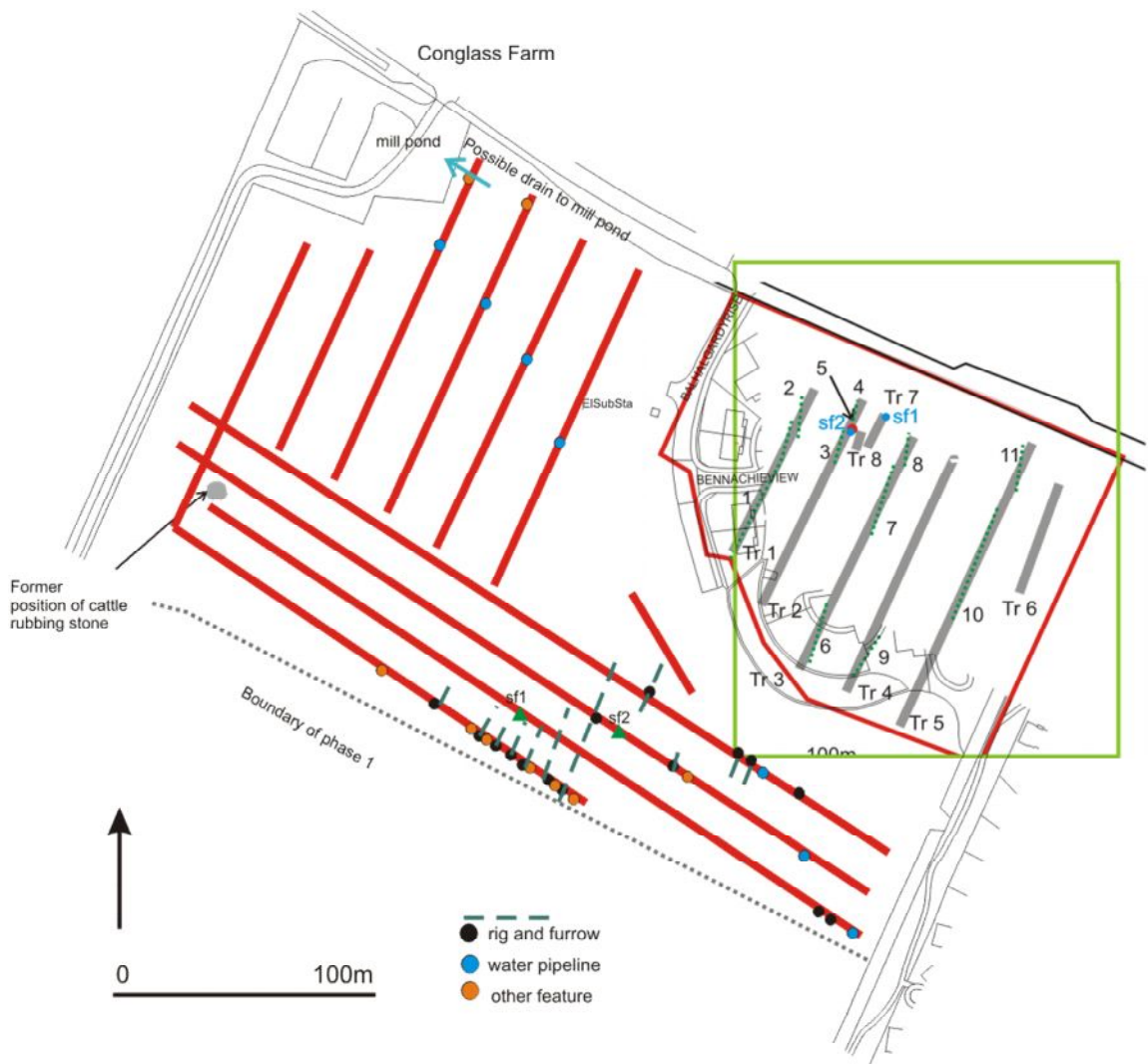


**Illus 10 Trench 10, looking W. Horizontal ranging rods mark furrows of rig and furrow**



Illus 11 Plan with lines of rig and furrow extended.





**Illus 12 Simplified plan with rig and furrow. Inset shows plan from Bennachie Care Home site (Murray & Murray 2014) with rig and furrow ( along line of trenches 1-5) on same alignment as the present site.**

### *19<sup>th</sup> century mill infrastructure*

A cut across the N end of Trench 7 is interpreted as a possible lade associated with the filled mill pond at the NW corner of the site. The client's services plan indicated another culvert running downhill across the W end of the site to the former pond but this was not picked up in any of the trenches.



**Illus 13 Trench 7, N end. Detail of context 17 possible mill lade (red arrow)) with in-filled mill pond behind**

## 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.

## 8 References

Cameron, A 2013 Information from Oasis (camerona1-167585)

Murray, HK & Murray JC 2013 *Westgate, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological evaluations and excavations 2006-2010*. MAS 2013-12. Grey literature report available in Aberdeenshire SMR and on OASIS.

Murray, HK & Murray, JC 2014 *Inverurie-Conglass. Care Home and Care Village, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire*. MAS 2014-11. Grey literature report available in Aberdeenshire SMR and on OASIS.

## 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 view looking NE towards Care Home
3	View N towards Conglass farm
4	Trench 1 looking E
5	Trench 3 looking E
6	Trench 4 looking N
7	Looking NW from trench 4
8-9	Trench 7 looking N
10-13	Trench 4, looking N, detail of context 17, cut for possible mill lade
14-15	Trench 4, context 17 with in-filled mill pond in among trees to LHS of trench
16	Trench 10 looking W. Horizontal rods indicate rig and furrow
17-18	Trench 10, looking W. details of rig and furrow, contexts 21, 23, 25-27
19-22	Looking NW towards far from SE end of trench 10
23-24	Site backfilled.