

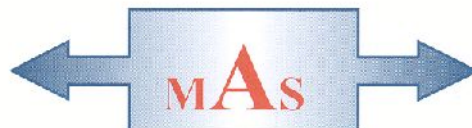
# KIRKTON OF KINELLAR

## ABERDEENSHIRE



### Archaeological Evaluation

Carried out 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
by  
**Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2018-26**  
by  
H K Murray and J C Murray

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**KIRKTON OF KINELLAR**  
**ABERDEENSHIRE**  
**-Archaeological Evaluation -**  
**H K Murray and J C Murray**

1. Background
- 1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2017/2231) was submitted for a dwelling house on a green field site adjacent to Kirkton of Kinellar, Blackburn, 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 5% 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 John Wink Design on behalf of his clients I and N Campbell.
- 1.4 The evaluation was undertaken on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

## 2. The Site

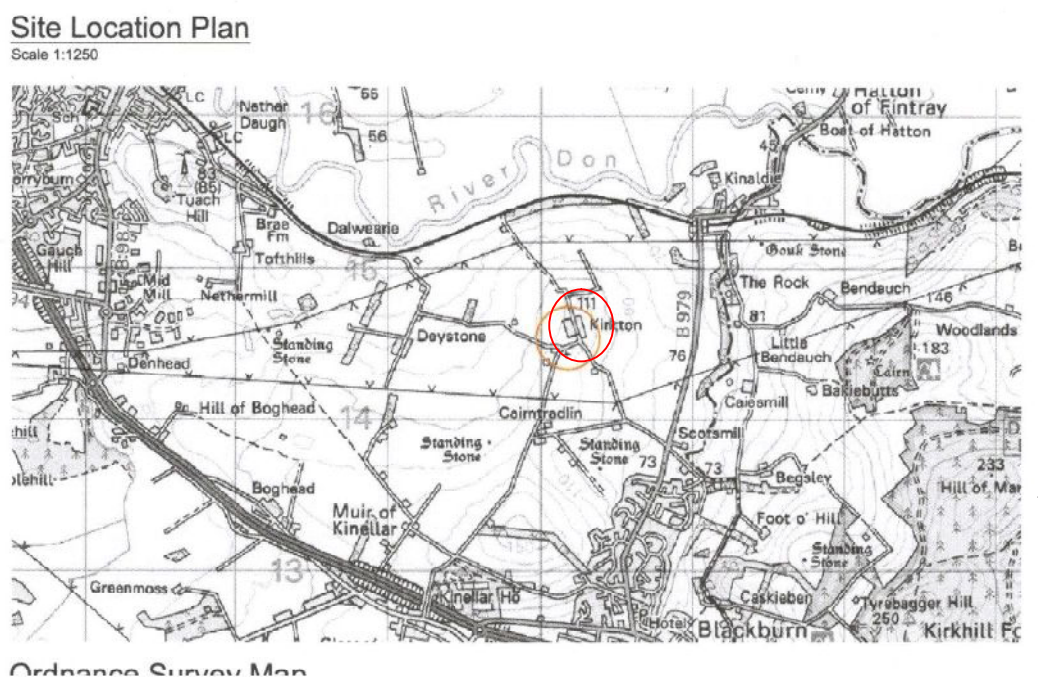
2.1 The site is in the corner of a field beside the existing farm of Kirkton of Kinellar. It was in grass at the time of the evaluation but part of the topsoil had been stripped prior to the evaluation.

The total area was 3300m<sup>2</sup> (Illus 1).

Parish: Kinellar

NGR (central) 382179, 814541

NJ8217 1454



Illus 1 Location of site indicated by red circle. Plan courtesy of John Wink Design



**Illus 2 Location of site looking NE**

### 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 evaluation was undertaken in the context of its proximity to the Kinellar Parish church ( Aberdeenshire SMR NJ81SW0051). The present church, now a private dwelling, was built in 1801 but is on the site of a pre-Reformation church. The Pictish symbol stone (Aberdeenshire SMR NJ81SW0004), which was found in 1801 built into the foundations of the pre-Reformation church suggests that there had been a church site from the Early Christian period.

The remains of a stone circle and an associated cropmark (NJ81SW0001) to the S of the church indicate that this hilltop location with wide views had also been of importance in the prehistoric period.

#### 4.2 Map evidence

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

A cluster of buildings named Keneller (sic) is shown to the W of the church, with the present site apparently hill with cultivation on the lower slopes (Illus 3).



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 lxxv.6 of 1864/65 (published 1866). The site is shown as un-built cultivated ground. (Illus 4)*



Illus 4 Aberdeenshire sheet lxxv.6 (published 1866). Site indicated by red circle. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

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

Aberdeenshire lxxv.6 1899 (published 1900).

The site is unchanged (Illus 5).



Illus 5 Aberdeenshire sheet lxxv.6 1899 (published 1900). Site indicated by red circle. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

## 5 Results of the Evaluation

Six evaluation trenches were excavated in total (Illus 6). As part of the topsoil had been removed prior to the evaluation, trenches T2 to T4 were clean scraped to the top of natural. Trenches 1, 5 and 6 were outwith the area of previously stripped ground and were excavated from the top of the topsoil.

### Trench 1

GPS N end: 382169, 814548 S end: 382171, 814530

Orientation: N/S Length: 19m Width: 2.1m

Depth above natural: 300-350mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural

Features None

### Trench 2

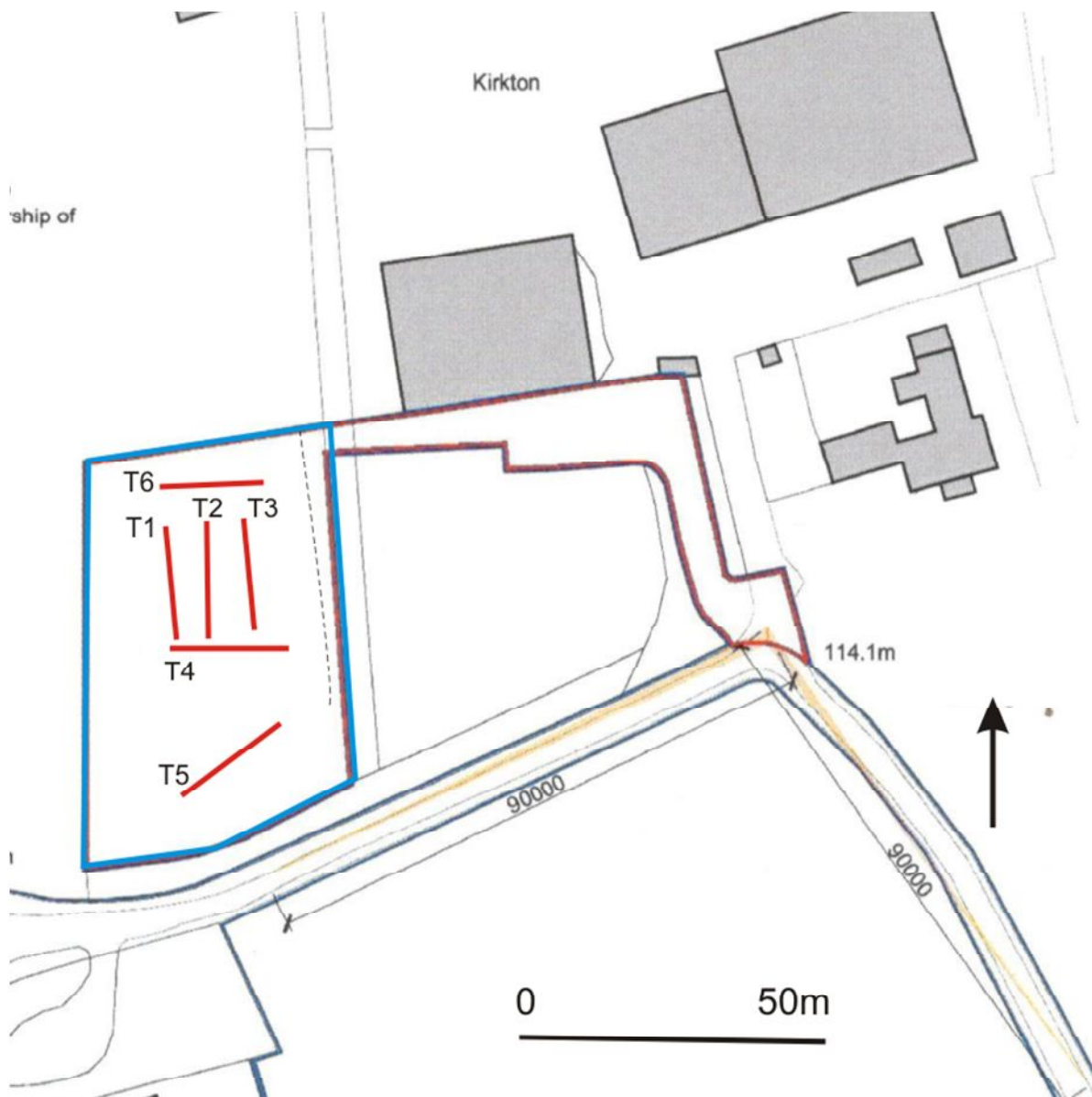
GPS N end: 382176, 814550 S end: 382177, 814531

Orientation: N/S Length: 19m Width: 2.1m

Depth above natural: 300-350mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural

Features None



Illus 6 Plan showing location of trenches (red). Plan courtesy of John Wink Design.

Trench 3

GPS N end: 382182, 814550 S end: 382183, 814532

Orientation: N/S Length: 19m Width: 2.1m

Depth above natural: 300-350mm

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Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural

Features        None



**Illus 7 Looking SW across scraped trenches 1 and 2**

Trench 4

GPS W end: 382170, 814530 E end: 382189, 814529

Orientation: E/W                      Length: 19m Width: 2.1m

Depth above natural: 300-350mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural

Features        None

Trench 5

GPS NE end: 382188, 814518 SW end: 382172, 814506

Orientation: NE/SW                      Length: 20m Width: 2.1m

Depth above natural: 300-350mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural

Features        None





**Illus 8 Trench 5 looking W**

Trench 6

GPS W end: 382168, 814555 E end: 382185, 814556

Orientation: E/W Length: 21m Width: 2.1m

Depth above natural: 300-350mm

Stratigraphy: Topsoil over yellow clay natural

Features None



**Illus 9 Trench 6 looking W**

## 6 Finds

None

## 7 Discussion

There was no evidence of archaeological finds or features.

## 8 Impacts and Mitigations

8.1 Impacts None

8.2 Mitigations None

## Appendices

### **Appendix 1: Catalogue of digital photographic record (photographs supplied to Aberdeenshire sites and monuments record).**

<b>Digital frame number</b>	<b>Content</b>
1-3	Trench 6 looking W
4-6	Trenches 1-2 and partly stripped area looking SW
7-8	Trench 5 looking W
9	Location
10-11	Location looking NE