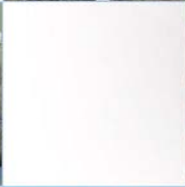


Tomidhu, Crathie, Ballater, Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

AOC 21616
27th June 2010



Tomidhu, Crathie, Ballater Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: A Kales,
Tomidhu,
Crathie,
Ballater,
Aberdeenshire
AB35 5UL

National Grid Reference (NGR): NO 2720 9500

AOC Project No: 21616

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Illustration by: Stefan Sagrott

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks associated with a residential re-development at Tomidhu, Crathie, near Ballater.

The watching brief encountered no significant *in situ* archaeological features or recovered any diagnostically significant unstratified artefacts.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 Archaeological works comprising a watching brief was required by Mr. A Kales during groundworks associated with a residential re-development at Tomidhu, Crathie, Ballater. The need for, and scope of archaeological works was determined by Angus Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The work required was in accordance with SPP 23 (2008) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994) in order to safeguard any previously unknown archaeological remains within the proposed development area (Building Warrant BW/2009/2319).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The site lies a little over 1 km east of Balmoral Castle on the outskirts of the village of Crathie, Aberdeenshire. The development area covered an area approximately 16.0 m by 15.0 which lay immediately north of the existing Tomidhu property on the north side of the main A93 road (centred on NGR: NO 2720 9500; Figures 1 & 2).

1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.2.1 This programme of works was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of the Moray Council, as advised by ACAS. The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2009) outlined the entirety of the archaeological programme of work which may have been needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. It detailed principally the methodology to be employed in implementing the Watching Brief.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The development site at Tomidhu is listed within the Aberdeenshire Council's 'Sites and Monuments Record', SMR, as being the potential site of two buildings with an attached enclosure which are depicted on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (SMR record NO29NE0047). Within 250 metres of the development site lie a further four SMR sites (SMR records, NO29NE0026, 0027, 0046 and 0048) all of which depicted various buildings, enclosures and structures that are present on either the 1st or 2nd Edition OS maps of 1867 and 1888 respectively. These sites collectively fall within the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland archives as a single township of 'Tomidhu' (National Monuments Records Scotland, NMRS No. NO29NE 37).
- 1.3.2 The last SMR record close to the site describes a possible souterrain, a later prehistoric subterranean structure (SMR record NO29NE0028). Its exact location is unclear and it

is possible that the insertion of a track by a mechanical machine may have disturbed the remains.

- 1.3.3 Lastly two more RCAHMS records show further possible prehistoric activity close to the development area. Firstly lying above the river on the south side A93 there has been identified a cropmark enclosure, (NMRS NO29NE 24) described as a circular terrace positioned on a terrace above the river some 200 m east of the development site. The final site is a findspot of a large Neolithic polished stone axe, (NMRS NO29NE 47).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to monitor ground-breaking works (specifically the excavations of any new foundations or associated ground reduction works) and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that would be disturbed by the scheme, with the intention that works would be moved to allow preservation *in situ* if at all feasible;
- iii) given the discovery of significant archaeological material in quantity that that would suffer an adverse impact from development (ie where preservation *in situ* was impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be agreed with ACAS.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 All excavations were undertaken by an tracked excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket operating under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The Watching Brief was carried out intermittently under mostly clear weather conditions on 3rd May 2010. The weather conditions and use of a ditching bucket meant that had

any significant archaeology been present the working practises utilised would have rendered such remains visible.

- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 The watching brief was focused on topsoil stripping associated with ground reduction works and foundations directly associated with the footprint of the new build, an area approximately 16.0 m by 15.0 m (Figure 2).

- 4.2.2 The watching brief oversaw the removal of topsoil across the building footprint. The topsoil was between 0.30 m and 0.42 m deep and overlay a subsoil consisting of sands and gravels.



Plate 1 House foundations under excavation

5 CONCLUSION

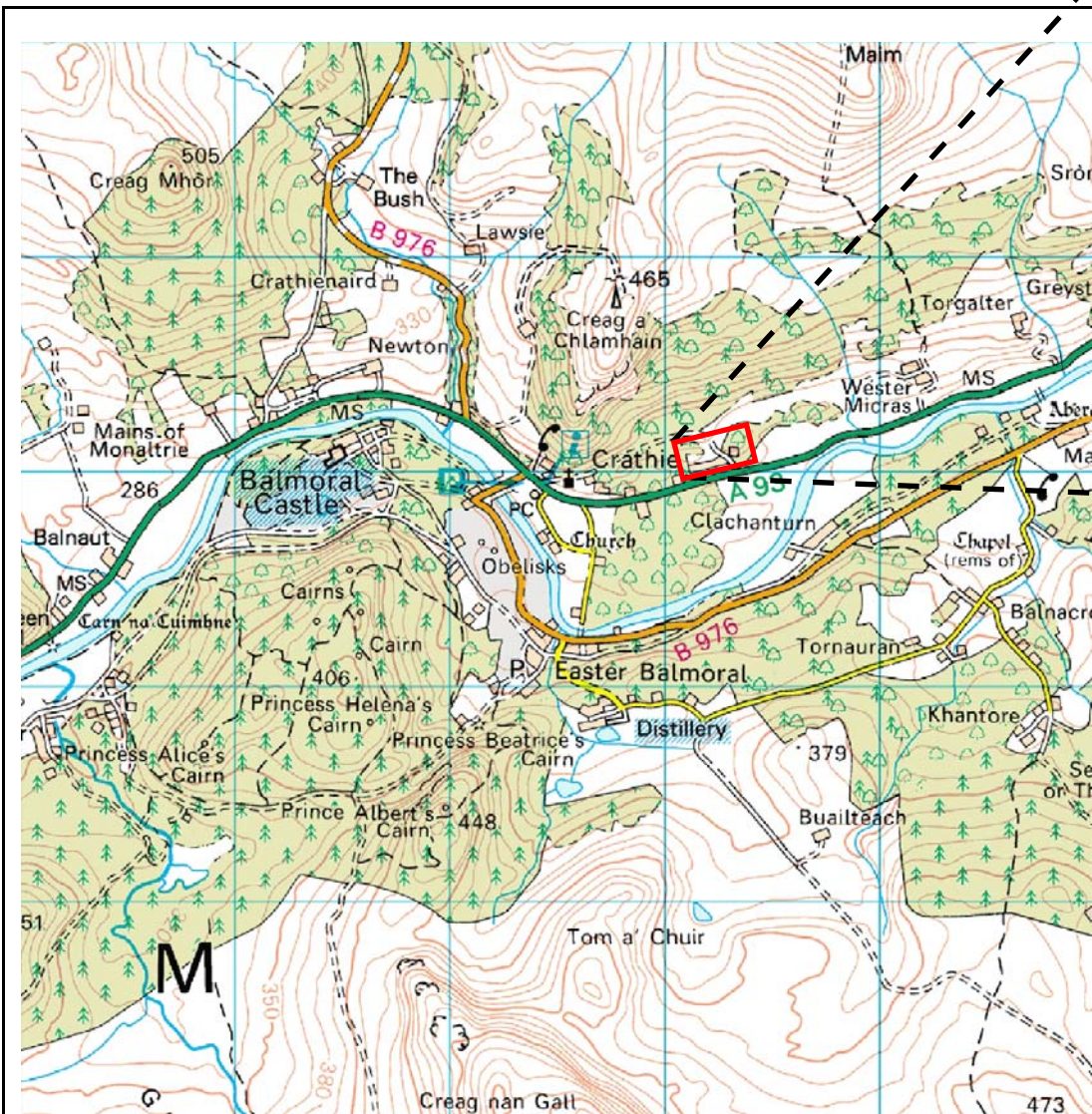
- 5.1 The watching brief provided a comprehensive safeguard against the damage of any hitherto unknown remains that this new build development may have disturbed during its construction. The watching brief encountered no *in situ* features or deposits of archaeological significance and careful study of the removed topsoil and associated material did not lead to the recovery of any unstratified material of significance.

6 REFERENCES

Dunbar, L 2010 *Tomidhu, Crathes, Ballater Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning. Nov.2008.

The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994a. *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994.



Development site



Scale 1:50000

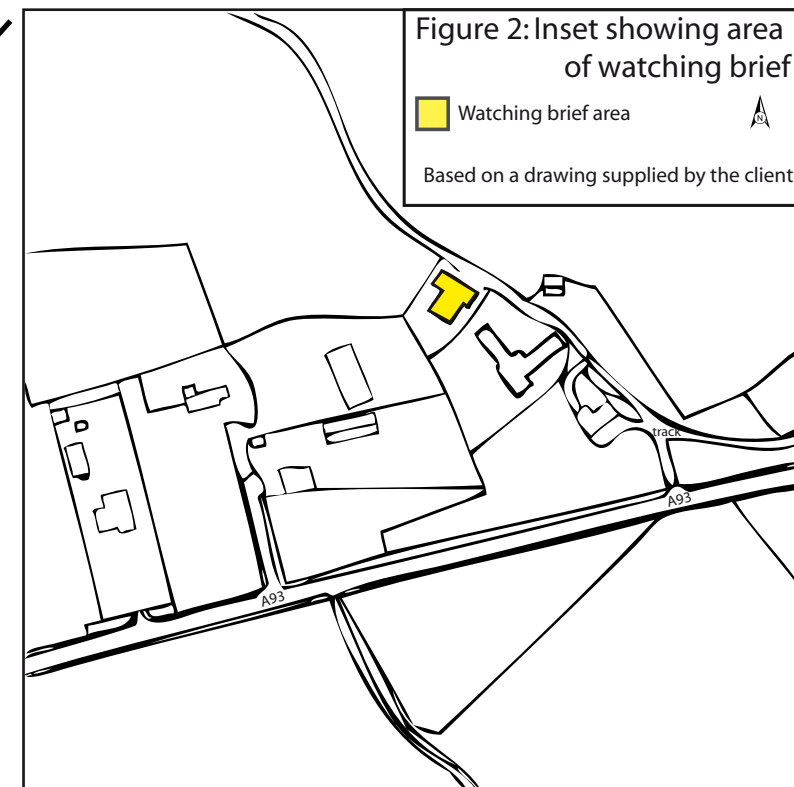
Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Inset showing area of watching brief

 Watching brief area



Based on a drawing supplied by the client



Tomidhu, Crathie, Ballater

Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black & White Print and Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	-
3-5	Pre-Excavation views of development area	SE
6-8	Post-Excavation views of development area	E
9	Existing Tomidhu steading	NE

APPENDIX 2: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Tomidhu, Crathes, Ballater Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	21616
PARISH:	Crathes
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	N0 2720 9500
START DATE (this season)	5 th May 2010
END DATE (this season)	5 th May 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with a small domestic development at Tomidhu, Crathes, Ballater.</p> <p>The watching brief encountered no significant <i>in situ</i> archaeological features or recovered any diagnostically significant unstratified artefacts.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	A. Kales
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	lindsay.dunbar@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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