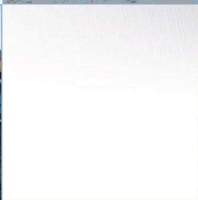
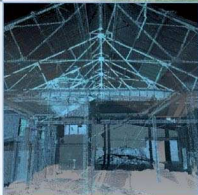
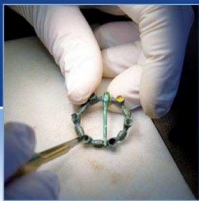


Cossack Wood, Craigellachie, Moray: Monitored Topsoil Strips Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22484

OASIS No. AOCarcha1-155150

23rd July 2013



Cossack Wood, Craigellachie, Moray: Monitored Topsoil Strips Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Grant and Geoghegan
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National Grid Reference (NGR): NJ 2448 4415

AOC Project No: 22484

Prepared by: Kevin Paton

Illustration by: Kevin Paton

Date of Fieldwork: 15th & 16th July 2013

Date of Report: 23rd July 2013

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

Author: Kevin Paton

Date: 22/07/2013

Approved by: Lindsay Dunbar

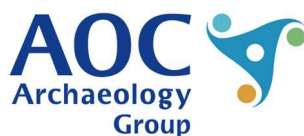
Date: 23/07/2013

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Date:

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeologically monitored topsoil strip in relation to two single house developments at Cossack Wood, near Archiestown, Moray.

The development area is within 200 m of a prehistoric cairn with other possible cairns (clearance) noted nearby. The topsoil strips both took place within adjacent plots of land that was formerly utilised as forestry. A total of 791 m² was stripped covering two house plots and the associated driveway.

No significant features or artefacts were revealed during the archaeological works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Grant and Geoghegan on behalf of their clients to undertake an archaeological monitored topsoil strip of two single house plots at Cossack Wood, near Archiestown, Moray. The topsoil strips were undertaken in order to satisfy a condition set by Moray Council as advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeen Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of an *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013) approved by ACAS and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The development area (centred on NGR: NJ 2448 4415) is 1.5 km east of the village of Archiestown, Moray (Figure 1). The site was formerly forestry land situated next to a small area of natural woodland named Cossack Wood, immediately south of the B9102 between Archiestown and Craigellachie.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) does not list any known archaeological sites within the development boundaries. However, the site is located within 200 m of a site called Campbell's Cairns, (NMRS: NJ24SW 8), which is listed as a group of cairns lying within Cossack Woods. The road (B9102) when built in 1835 removed some of the northernmost cairns to reuse the stones within walls that lined the road and it is reputed that stone arrowheads were recovered from the cairns. An Ordnance Survey from the 1970's noted that the few cairns located within the woods were almost certainly field clearance though the largest cairn at NJ 2443 4401 measured 12.5 m in diameter and was either the remains of a hut circle or the kerb of a robbed out burial cairn.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeologically monitored topsoil strip were:

- i) to monitor the Topsoil Strip of the proposed house plot of each development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) given the discovery of significant archaeological material in quantity that will suffer an adverse impact from the development (i.e. where preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with ACAS.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The groundworks involved the topsoil stripping of an approximate 791 m² area throughout the development area that includes two house plots and the driveway (Figure 2). House Plot 1 measured 27 m by 15 m, House Plot 2 measured 19 m by 8 m and the driveway measured approximately 33 m by 5 m with a parking area 12 m by 8 m. Topsoil stripping was conducted by a 17 tonne 360° tracked excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket. All excavation was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.



Plate 1 - Driveway stripped showing root bowls from forestry

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The topsoil on the site measured between 0.1 m to 0.2 m in depth and was a mid greyish brown organic silt/peat with abundant root and frequent medium to large stone inclusions. The subsoil was a mixture of pale yellow and orange clayey sand with frequent large stone inclusions.
- 4.2 Previous forestry ploughing and rooting from the planted trees had caused serious disturbance to the subsoil. No archaeological features were present within the stripped areas. Careful examination of the spoil did not yield any artefacts of archaeological significance.



Plate 2 - Section of House Plot 2 trench edge showing topsoil depth

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the monitored topsoil strips. No further archaeological works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation will require confirmation by the Aberdeen Council Archaeology Service.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2013 *Cossack Wood, Craigellachie, Moray: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished AOC client report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.

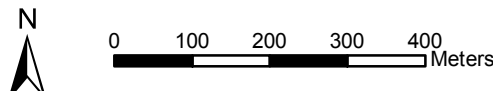
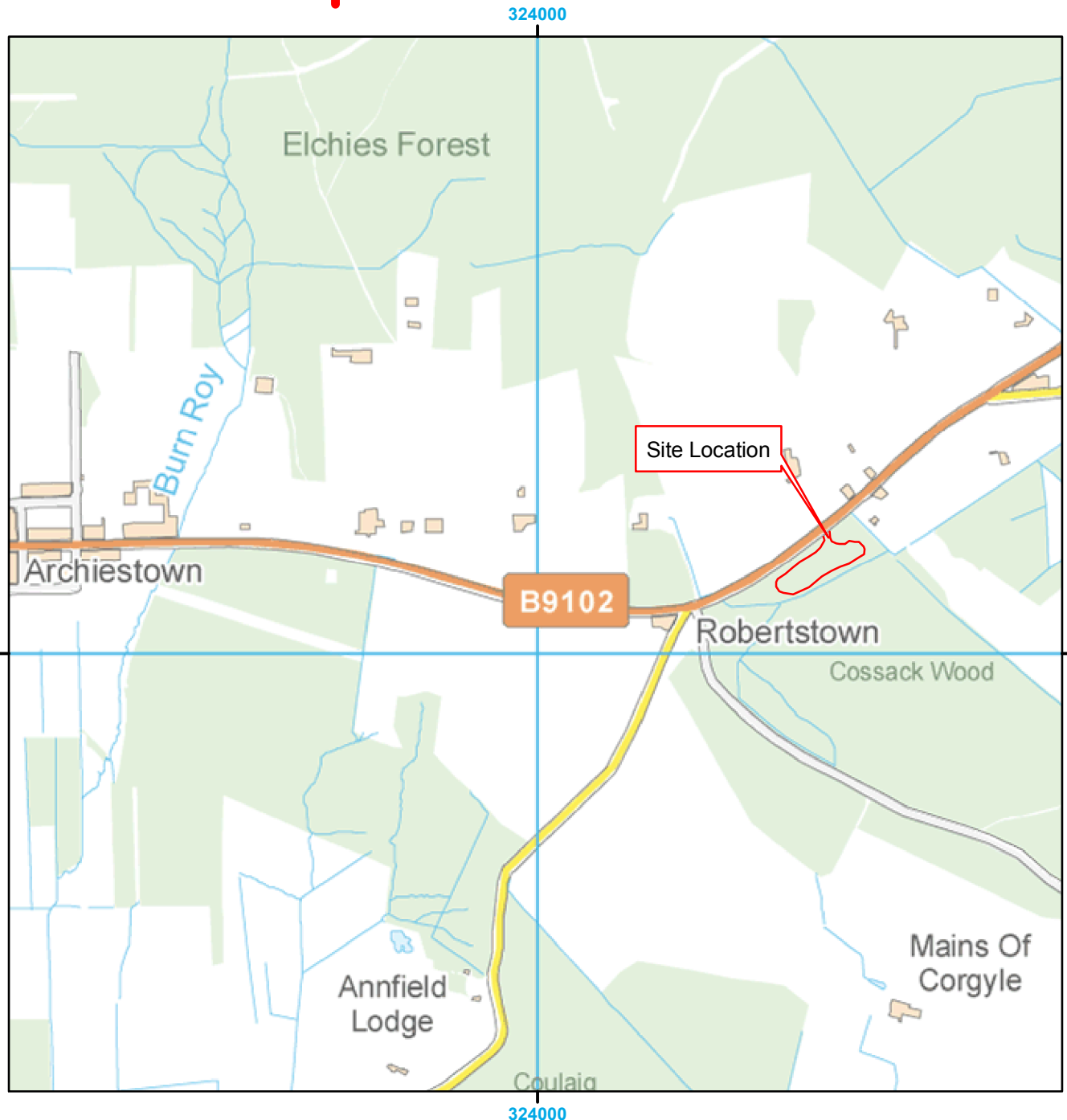
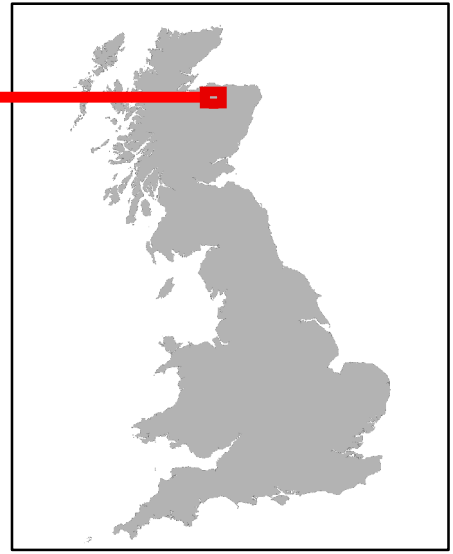
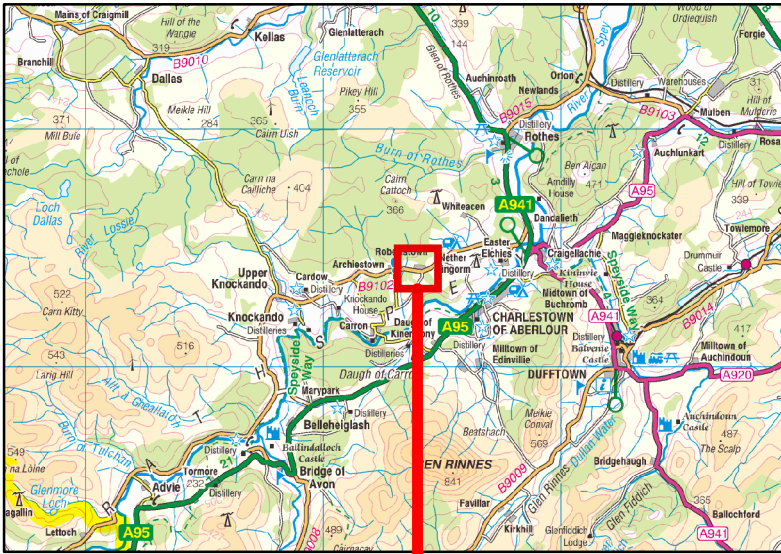


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

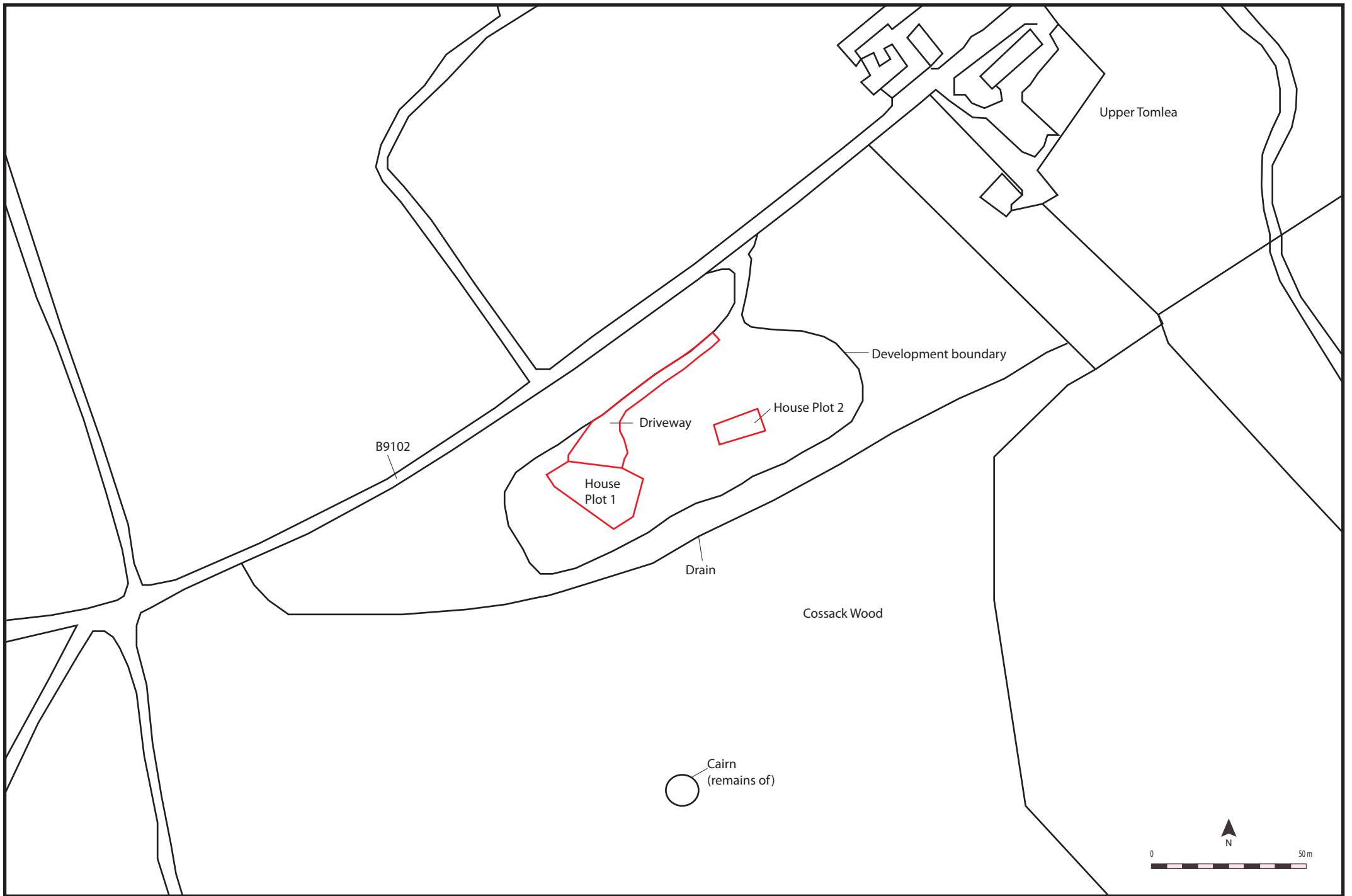


Figure 2 - Location of stripped areas

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Section 2: Appendices

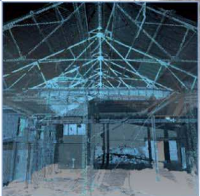
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-3	General view of site from access road	Var	15/7/13
4-7	General view of site from House Plot 1	Var	15/7/13
8	Drain at back edge of site	W	15/7/13
9	Working shot House Plot 1	E	15/7/13
10	Topsoil depth	E	15/7/13
11	Tree bowls recently uprooted	NE	15/7/13
12-13	House Plot 1 stripped	N	15/7/13
14	Driveway working shot	E	15/7/13
15	Driveway stripped	E	15/7/13
16	House plot 2 pre-ex shot	W	16/7/13
17	House Plot 2 working shot	E	16/7/13
18	Section of topsoil in House Plot 2	N	16/7/13
19	House Plot 2 stripped	N	16/7/13

APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Cossack Wood, Craigellachie, Moray: Monitored Topsoil Strips
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22484
PARISH:	Rothes
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitored Topsoil Strip
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	Centred on NJ 2448 4415
START DATE (this season)	15 th July 2012
END DATE (this season)	16 th July 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeologically monitored topsoil strip was conducted in relation to two single house plots at Cossack Wood, near Archiestown, Moray.</p> <p>The development area is within 200 m of a prehistoric cairn with other possible cairns (clearance) noted nearby. The topsoil strips both took place within adjacent plots of land that was formerly utilised as forestry. A total of 791 m² was stripped covering two house plots and the associated driveway.</p> <p>No significant features or artefacts were revealed during the archaeological works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Grant and Geoghegan
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	kevin.paton@aacarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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