

# Fasque Estate, Aberdeenshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

### Data Structure Report

Oasis Report No. 1-191102

30<sup>th</sup> September 2014

AOC22736



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Fasque Estate, Aberdeenshire, Archaeological Evaluation

## Data Structure Report

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<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NO 651 755 &amp; NO 653 751</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>22736</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> September 2014</b>

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

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**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014

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**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014

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## Summary

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*AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Fasque Estates to undertake an archaeological evaluation on two land parcels (Zones 1 & 2) at Fasque Estate, Aberdeenshire (NGR: NO 651 755 & NO 653 751). The development encompasses eight separate areas in total, currently used as pasture and crop.*

*In total a 7% evaluation was required totaling some 3,605 linear meters of evaluation trenches. A total of 2,700 linear meters was achieved due to the presence of live services.*

*No significant archaeological features or material were identified.*

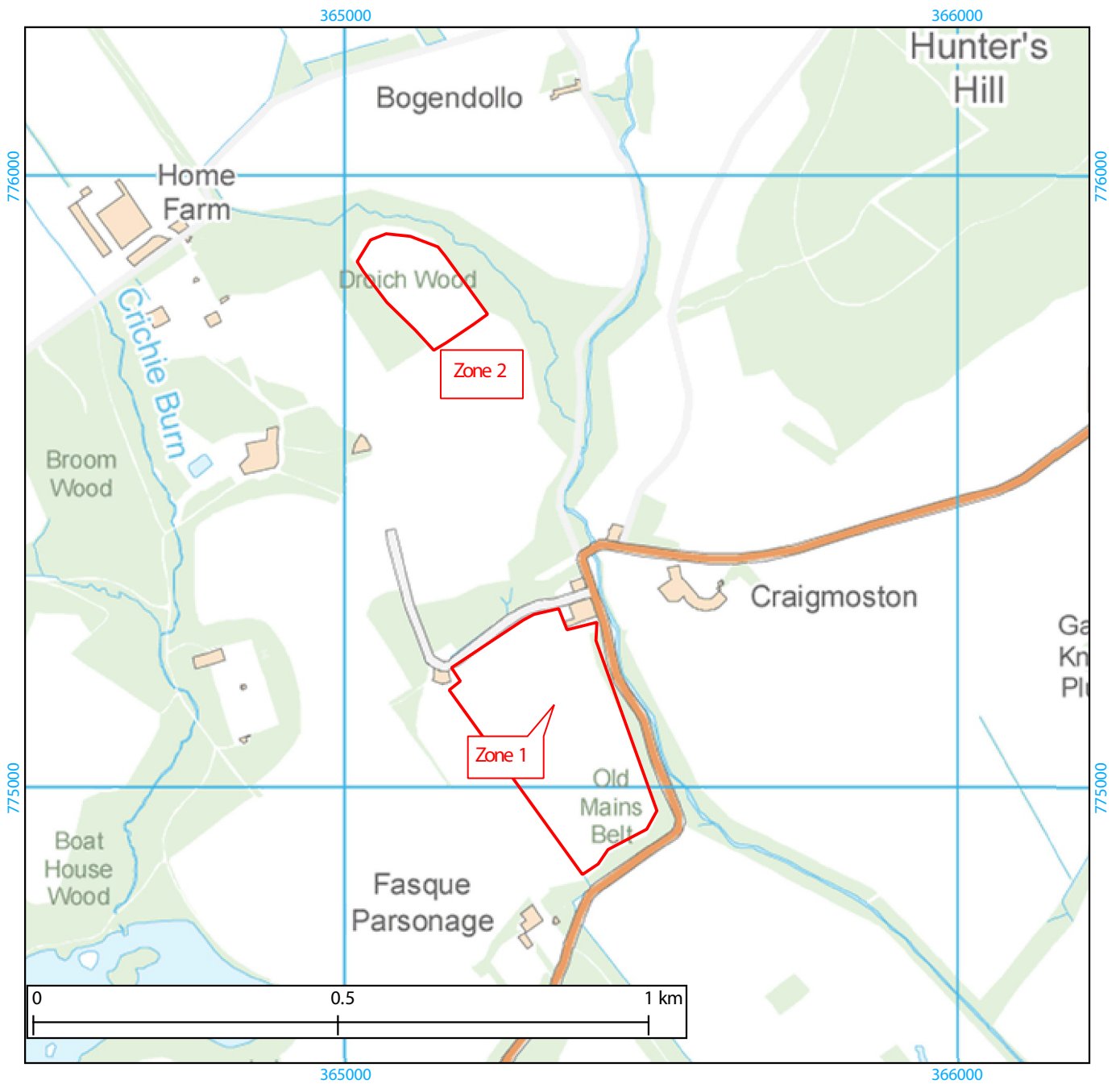
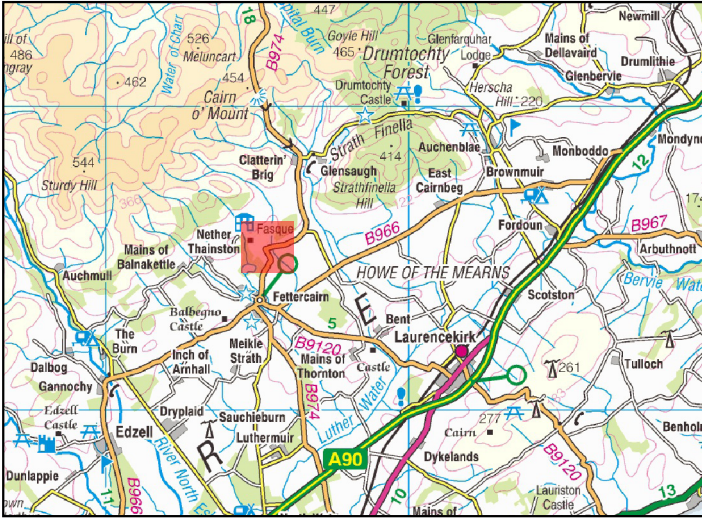


FIGURE 1: Site location

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by *@rchitects Scotland Ltd*, on behalf of their client Fasque Estate, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on two land parcels at Fasque Estate, Aberdeenshire. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Aberdeenshire County Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles as set out in *Scottish Planning Policy (2010)* and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)*.

1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological works was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development areas by means of a programme of trial trenching (Phase 1). If required, Phase 2 would involve the implementation of appropriate archaeological mitigation measures, which may consist of further fieldwork (eg excavation) or provision by the development proposals which would allow *preservation in situ* of any buried archaeological material. Phase 3 would include suitable post-excavation analysis and publication of discovered archaeological remains, if appropriate. All such further works would be undertaken to the satisfaction of ACAS and Aberdeenshire Council. All archaeological works associated with this development, as required by the planning authority, would be funded by the developer.

1.1.3 No significant archaeological features or material was observed.

## 1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The proposed development areas are located within Fasque Estate, Aberdeenshire (centered on NO 64830 75525). Zone 1 (NO 653 751) covers approximately 8.0 ha with Zone 2 (NO 651 755) covering 2.3 ha. Both zones consist of arable land fringed with mature woodland (see Figure 1).

## 1.3 Historical background (Taken from AOC Archaeology Desk Based Assessment)

### *Fasque Estate*

1.3.1 The first known records relating to Fasque Estate date to 1433 when Sir John Ramsay, Knight of Balmain and Fasque was created a Lord of Parliament. The original house (**Site 3**) is said to have stood to the northwest of the current house and the estate was greatly improved in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century by Sir Alexander Ramsay who improved drainage, enclosed fields and began planting on the site. A drawing of proposed improvements to the original house is depicted in William Adam's *Vitruvius Scoticus* which contains drawings, most of which are by Adam's himself, of the house of Scotland primarily dating to the early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

1.3.2 However, these improvements were never carried out and by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the estate had passed to Alexander Burnet who took the name Ramsay. Burnet began work on the new house (**Site 8**) in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century though he died before seeing it completed and building was finished by his son. Many of the design landscape features which remain on site and form part of the Category Group A Listing also date to the turn of the century.

1.3.3 The walled garden (**Site 5**) to the southwest of the mansion house for example probably dates to 1792 and was constructed to a design by John Paterson. The Octagon (**Site 10**), a gothic folly over-looking the ornamental lake (**Site 34**), is also attributed to John Patterson and thought to be of a c. 1800 date.

- 1.3.4 The estate was sold in the late 1820s to John Gladstone, a Scottish born merchant, who made his fortune in Liverpool in the corn, cotton and sugar trade. Gladstone built St Andrew's Episcopal Church (**Site 1**) to the east of the mansion house in the late 1840s. The church was built to the design of John Henderson with the chancel being added in 1867. Alterations were made by between 1907 and 1923. The chapel was gifted to the Diocese of Brechin and remains in the church's ownership.
- 1.3.5 While most of the recorded heritage sites and monuments within and surrounding the red line boundary on the Masterplan are understandably related to the construction and laying out of the Fasque House and its associated parkland in the later 18<sup>th</sup> and earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century by Sir Thomas Ramsay, several sites in the area have been identified which are associated with early activity.
- 1.3.6 A cropmark (**Site 14**) to the south of Bogendollo indicates the presence of a souterrain and a possible circular enclosure; these have been interpreted as a possible unenclosed prehistoric settlement. In addition to these cropmarks, a few Bronze Age finds have been located in the area. A Late Bronze Age socketed axe head (**Site 26**) was recovered near Bogendollo in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Schmidt & Burgess 1981). The Royal Commission has indicated that a sandy mound measuring 17 m in diameter and 2 m in height in the grounds of Fettercairn House was a barrow (**Site 20**) (1982). The base and partial body of short-necked beaker was recovered from the Scheduled barrow in the 1940s (Stevenson 1950; Clarke 1970).
- 1.3.7 Rectangular and circular cropmarks (**Site 38**) including at least two ring ditches is located to the east of Mains of Faque and likely date to the Iron Age.
- 1.3.8 Several sites dating to the medieval period have also been identified in the area. A house near Craigmoston (**Site 4**) was noted in a list of castles, fortalices and manor houses erected between c. 1052 and c. 1707 in the Grampian Region though no other details about are noted (Bogdan & Bryce 1991). A bronze vessel likely dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century was found in the garden at Craigmoston Cottage (**Site 18**) (Hunter 2000).
- 1.3.9 Medieval agricultural remains survive in the form of rig and furrow (**Site 30**) to the northwest of Home Farm and red line boundary. A medieval field system at Arnbarrow Farmstead (**Site 37**) in the form of rig and furrow in a northeast to southwest alignment along the eastern bank of Burn of Garrol; and rig and furrow on a north to south alignment is located immediately to the west.
- 1.3.10 To the north of the designed landscape at Fasque are the remains of Kincardine Castle Deer Dyke (**Site 29**). The remains of the park pale have been described as the most outstanding to survive in Scotland. These may have been laid out by William the Lion in the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> Century and were extended by Alexander III in 1266 (Gilbert 1979; RCAHMS 1982). Where the dyke survives, it generally measures up to 4.5 m in width with external ditches being 3.5 m wide and 0.6 m deep. Where there are internal ditches these generally measure 2 m wide. A wooden stockade probably stood on the top to keep the deer within the park.
- 1.3.11 Post-medieval remains which have been identified in the assessment that are not directly related to the estate at Fasque include Cramoston Bridge (**Site 13**) and farmhouse (**Site 15**). The bridge dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Fettercairn to Fochabers Military Road (**Site 25**) generally follows the line of the modern B974 which runs north from Fettercairn and forms the southeastern boundary of Fasque Estate.



## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- to advise and implement an appropriate form of any require mitigation, such as excavation (Phase 2), post-excavation analyses and publication (Phase 3), should significant archaeological remains be encountered compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* proposed the excavation of trenches equating to a 7% sample of the two areas of proposed development. The development areas measured approximately 8.0 ha (Zone 1) and 2.3 ha (Zone 2) respectively. The latter incorporating the area of access road linking the two proposed developments. ACAS requested an initial 7% evaluation to be undertaken with a further 3% based on findings. A 7% sample equates to c.7210 m<sup>2</sup> in total which is equivalent to 3605 linear metres of trenching utilising a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. A further 3% (1545 linear metres) was available if findings necessitated the increase to 10%.



Plate 1: Trench 18 from south-east



Plate 2: Trench 18 from south-east

3.2 The area available for evaluation was curtailed due to the presence of live services in the form of overhead power-lines and a drainage culvert, as well as mature trees. The total area trenched totalled 2,700 linear meters. All trenches were excavated by tracked machines using a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014).

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The various detailed data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices:
- Appendix 1 Trench Summaries;
  - Appendix 2 Photographic Register;
  - Appendix 3 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry
- 4.2 Figure 2 identifies the position and orientations of all excavated trenches. The works were conducted between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The weather conditions during the evaluation were favourable. Overall archaeological visibility was good.
- 4.3 The area of Zone 1 was covered by an unimproved active plough soil of dark red/brown sandy loam. This varied from 0.20m to 0.40m in depth. The top-soil directly overlay natural drift geology of orange sandy clays and gravels with little evidence of an interface between the two. Modern ceramic and rubble drains were in evidence alongside numerous stone-holes and drags. The majority of these were tested by excavation. No significant archaeological remains were recorded and very few pieces of modern ceramics were observed within the top-soil.
- 4.4 Zone 2 was situated on more rolling topography. The top-soil consisted of dark red/brown sandy loam ranging between 0.20 m to 0.40 m in depth. This also overlay glacial drift geology of sands and gravels. Occasional rubble land drains were present. As in Zone 1 numerous stone-holes and drags were tested. No significant archaeological remains were recorded.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features or finds were observed during the evaluation. This suggests that these two proposed development areas are archaeologically sterile.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works within these two areas are considered necessary. The recommendation will require confirmation by ACAS on behalf of Aberdeenshire County Council. However, the remainder of the site will require further archaeological evaluation.

## 7 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2014 *Fasque Estate, Aberdeenshire, Archaeological Evaluation, Written Scheme of Investigation.*

AOC Archaeology 2014 *Fasque Estate, Aberdeenshire, Desk Based Assessment. Unpublished Client Report.*

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy.*

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

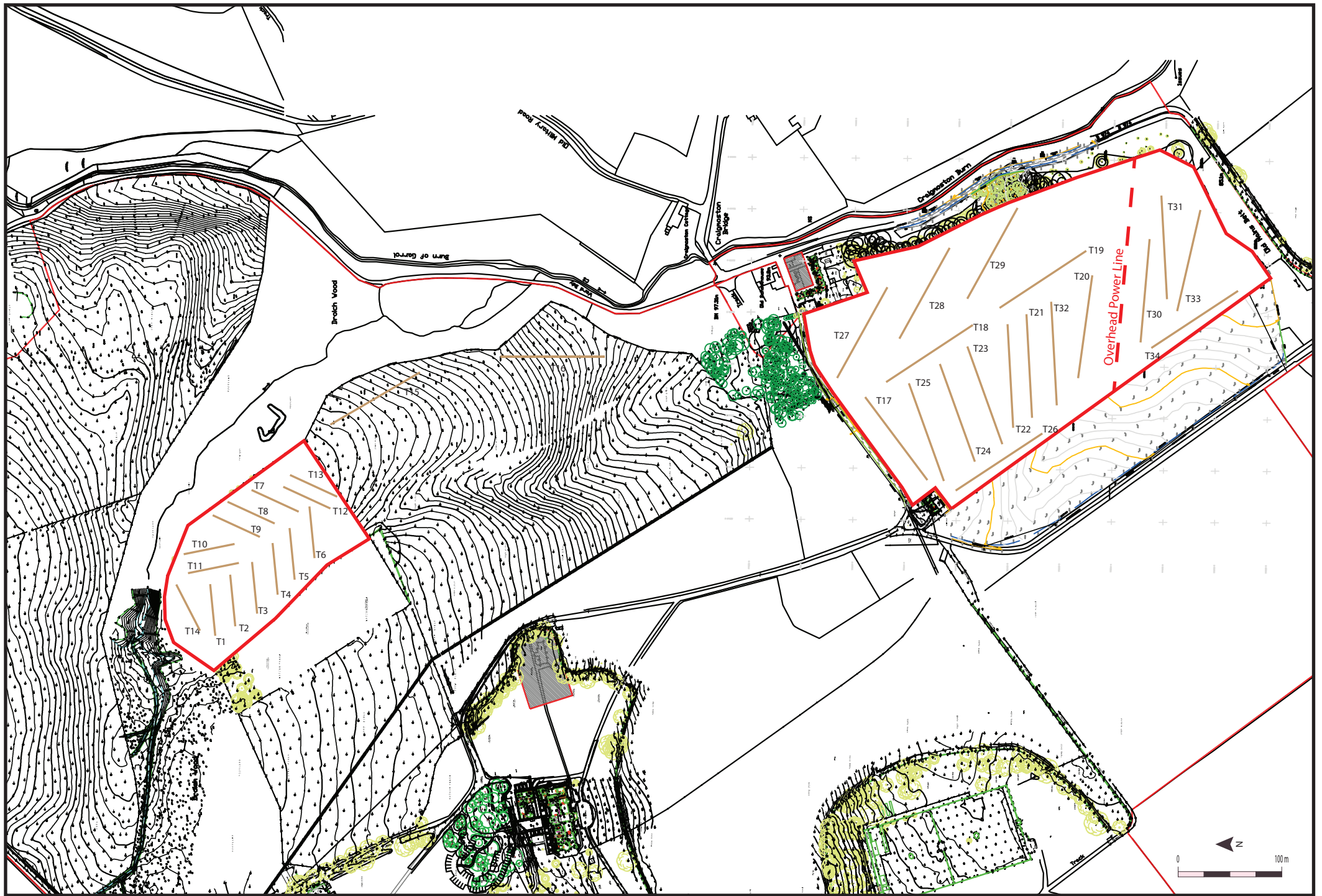


Figure 2 - Trench location plan

**Fasque Estate,  
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**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

### Trench 1

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m – 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 2

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m – 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 3

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m – 0.35m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 4

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m – 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 5

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.27m – 0.35m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 6

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m – 0.35m
Features	None

Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 7**

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m – 0.35m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 8**

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m – 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 9**

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m – 0.32m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 10**

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.28m – 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 11**

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m – 0.35m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 12**

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	NE-SW

Depth of Topsoil	0.30m – 0.33m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 13**

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m – 0.33m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 14**

Dimensions	50m by 2.0m
Orientation	SE-NW
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m – 0.38m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 15**

Dimensions	100m by 2.0m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.28m – 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 16**

Dimensions	100m by 2.0m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m – 0.46m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 17**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	W-E
Depth of Topsoil	0.32m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 18**



Dimensions	100m by 2.0m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.29m – 0.32m
Features	None
Drains	Rubble at 23.0m SW-NE
Subsoil	Red/brown clay sands & gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 19**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m-0.38m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 20**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m-0.32m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 21**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m-0.38m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 22**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m-0.32m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 23**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m-0.32m
Features	None
Drains	Rubble at 64m NE-SW
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 24**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m-0.33m
Features	None
Drains	Rubble at 34m NE-SW
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 25**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m-0.37m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 26**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m-0.35m
Features	None
Drains	Clay at 5.0m
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 27**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m-0.33m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	Occasional modern white ceramics

**Trench 28**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.27m-0.32m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 29**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.35m-0.42m
Features	None
Drains	Rubble at 10m SW-NE

Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 30**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35m-0.42m
Features	None
Drains	Rubble at 10m SW-NE
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 31**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35m-0.42m
Features	None
Drains	Rubble at 10m SW-NE
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 32**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.18m-0.27m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 33**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.27m-0.29m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

**Trench 34**

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.18m-0.27m
Features	None
Drains	Clay at 16.0m E-W
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

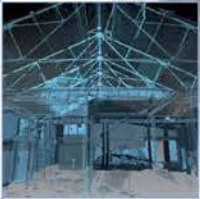
**APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER****Digital**

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration shot	-
2	Tr.1	PX view of Trench 1	NW
3	Tr.2	PX view of Trench 2	SE
4	Tr.3	PX view of Trench 3	SE
5	Tr.4	PX view of Trench 4	SE
6	Tr.5	PX view of Trench 5	SE
7	Tr.6	PX view of Trench 6	NW
8	Tr.7	PX view of Trench 7	SE
9	Tr.8	PX view of Trench 8	NE
10	Tr.9	PX view of Trench 9	SW
11	Tr.10	PX view of Trench 10	NE
12	Tr.11	PX view of Trench 11	NE
13	Tr.12	PX view of Trench 12	NE
14	Tr.13	PX view of Trench 13	NE
15	Tr.14	PX view of Trench 14	SE
16	Tr.15	PX view of Trench 15	S
17	Tr.16	PX view of Trench 16	SW
18	Tr.17	PX view of Trench 17	W
19	Tr.18	PX view of Trench 18	S
20	Tr.19	PX view of Trench 19	S
21	Tr.20	PX view of Trench 20	SE
22	Tr.21	PX view of Trench 21	SE
23	Tr.22	PX view of Trench 22	SE
24	Tr.23	PX view of Trench 23	SE
25	Tr.24	PX view of Trench 24	SE
26	Tr.25	PX view of Trench 25	SE
27	Tr.26	PX view of Trench 26	S
28	Tr.27	PX view of Trench 27	SE
29	Tr.28	PX view of Trench 28	SE
30	Tr.29	PX view of Trench 29	SE
31	Tr.30	PX view of Trench 30	SE
32	Tr.31	PX view of Trench 31	SE
33	Tr.32	PX view of Trench 32	SE
34	Tr.33	PX view of Trench 33	SE
35	Tr.34	PX view of Trench 34	S

**APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' (DES) REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeenshire County Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Fasque Estate, Aberdeenshire
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 22736
<b>PARISH:</b>	Aberdeen
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rob Engl
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NO 651 755 & NO 653 751
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	22 <sup>th</sup> September 2014
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)</b>	<p><i>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Fasque Estates to undertake an archaeological evaluation on two land parcels (Zones 1 &amp; 2) at Fasque Estate, Aberdeenshire (NGR: NO 651 755 &amp; NO 653 751). The development encompasses eight separate areas in total, currently used as pasture and crop.</i></p> <p><i>In total a 7% evaluation was required totaling some 3,605 linear meters of evaluation trenches. A total of 2,700 linear meters was achieved due to the presence of live services.</i></p> <p><i>No significant archaeological features or material were identified.</i></p>

<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	n/a
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Fasque Esates
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead. Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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