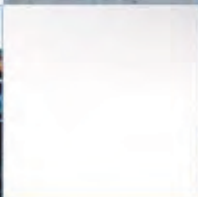
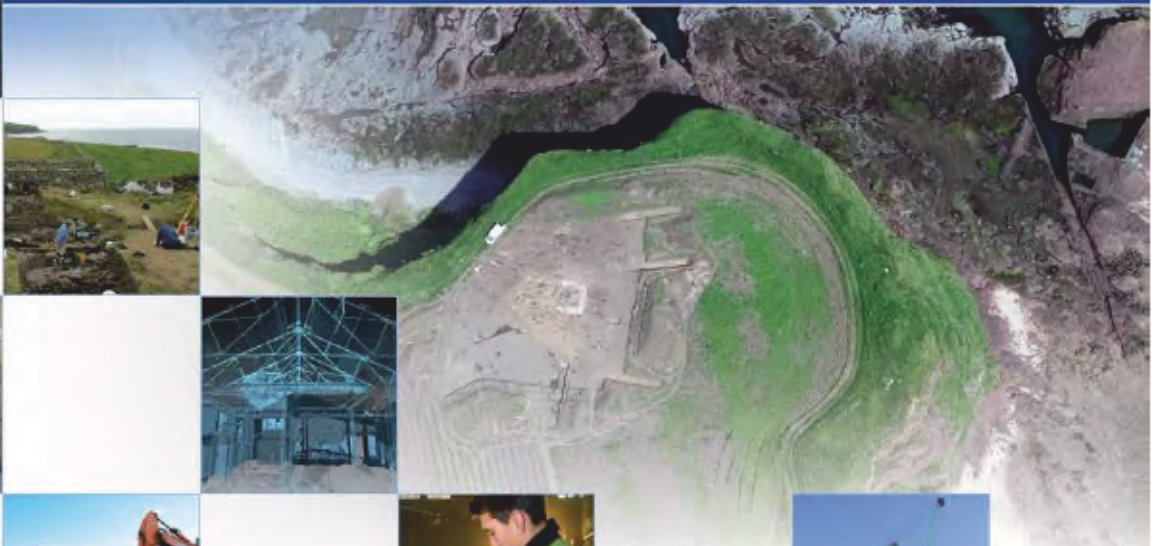


# New Primary School, Meadowbank Road, Markethill, Turriff, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23381  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2016



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Meadowbank Road, Markethill, Turriff, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Halliday Fraser Munro
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NJ 7222 5062
OASIS No:	1-247672
AOC Project No:	23381
Prepared by:	Rob Engl
Date of Fieldwork:	21 <sup>st</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Date of Report:	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2016

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

Author: Rob Engl	Date: 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Approved by: Lindsay Dunbar	Date: 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft	Date: 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Enquiries to:** AOC Archaeology Group  
Edgefield Industrial Estate  
Edgefield Road  
Loanhead  
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593  
Fax. 0131 440 3422  
e-mail. [admin@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)



## Contents

	Page
List of Illustrations .....	3
List of Plates .....	3
List of Appendices .....	3
Abstract.....	4
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Background .....	5
1.2 Location.....	5
1.3 Development Background .....	5
1.4 Archaeological Background (taken from a DBA prepared by AOC Archaeology 2016).....	5
<b>2 OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3 METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4 RESULTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6 REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>APPENDIX 7: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report.....</b>	<b>16</b>

## List of Illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location  
Figure 2 Evaluation trench locations

## List of Plates

- Plate 1: Trench 1 north-east facing section showing plough furrow  
Plate 2: Trench 10 post-excavation from south-east

## List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 Trench Descriptions  
Appendix 2 Photographic Record  
Appendix 3 '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' Report

## Abstract

---

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to the construction of a proposed new Primary School at Meadowbank Road, Markethill, Turriff Aberdeenshire (NGR: NJ 7222 5062).

The evaluation required an initial 7% trenching sample (2,140 linear metres) of the proposed 3.25 hectare development area. The area is currently used as arable land. Due to the presence of numerous live services the total trenching undertaken amounted to 750 linear metres.

Trenching revealed drift geology of relatively free draining glacial boulder clay. Numerous plough scars were observed. The natural was immediately overlain by an improved plough-soil of organic sandy clay loam. No interface was observed between the topsoil and the subsoil

Several evaluation trenches targeted possible enclosures identified on aerial photographs of 1977 and 1988. No remains associated with the enclosures were observed. The truncated remains of rig and furrow were recorded within the north eastern corner of the development area. This was shown to formerly cover the area on Roy's Highland Survey 1747-52. No other archaeologically significant features or material was recovered during the evaluation. Evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> century improvement occurred in the form of ceramics and glass which were observed in almost all of the trenches. No further works are considered necessary. This will be decided by Ms Claire Herbert of Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service who advises Aberdeenshire Council on archaeological matters.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Halliday Fraser Munro on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed new Primary School situated at Meadowbank Road, Markethill, Turriff, Aberdeenshire (NGR: NJ 7222 5062).

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Aberdeenshire Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2016) approved by ACAS on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.1.3 Several evaluation trenches targeted possible enclosures identified on aerial photographs taken during 1977 and 1988. No remains associated with the enclosures were observed during the works. The truncated remains of rig and furrow were recorded within the north eastern corner of the development. This was shown to formerly cover the area on Roy's Highland Survey 1747-52. No other archaeologically significant features or material was recovered during the evaluation. Evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> century improvement occurred in the form of ceramics and glass which were observed in almost all of the trenches

### 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR: NJ 7222 5062 and extends to 3.25 hectares, with an altitude of approximately 70 m AOD. It is currently open agricultural land, bordered by Meadowbank Road to the south, a housing estate to the west, open fields to the north and an unnamed road to the east. Further fields extend east of the unnamed road, while a housing estate fronts the opposite, southern, side of Meadowbank Road (Figure 1).

### 1.3 Development Background

1.3.1 Aberdeenshire Council granted Planning Permission for the erection of a primary school on the site in May 2015 (Planning Ref: APP/2014/3110).

### 1.4 Archaeological Background (taken from a DBA prepared by AOC Archaeology 2016)

#### 1.4.1 Context

1.4.1.1 The development site is located on the northern edge of Turriff, on land currently occupied by undeveloped agricultural land. The site has a history of arable cultivation and one or two possible enclosures (**Sites 1 & 32**) have been identified (Figure 1) on aerial photographs of 1977 and 1988. The historic core of Turriff (**Site 15**), a small Aberdeenshire burgh, is located c.390m south of the Site.

#### 1.4.2 Undated Evidence

1.4.2.1 The Aberdeenshire SMR records a possible circular enclosure, indicated by a faint cropmark on a vertical aerial photograph taken in 1988, within the Consented Development Site at Wellhead (**Site 1**). Cropmarks are by their nature not closely dated, although in their brief for this desk-based assessment ACAS note that the possible enclosure is potentially prehistoric (ACAS n.d). ACAS kindly undertook an additional search of their aerial photographic archive in March 2016 in order to identify any further images which could potentially show this feature. This second search identified a clearer image of a circular enclosure (**Site 32**) on a 1977 vertical aerial photograph. The enclosure shown in 1977 appears to be positioned slightly to the east of the one plotted from the 1988 image (**Site 1**) and it has therefore been numbered separately (**Site 32**) although the two features may well be the same.

#### 1.4.3 Prehistoric Evidence (-AD 43)

1.4.3.1 While no prehistoric remains or artefacts are confirmed within 500m of the Consented Development Site, as noted above it is possible that the cropmark enclosure or enclosures (**Sites 1 & 32**) visible on aerial photography of the Site represent evidence of Bronze Age settlement or burial, or alternatively Iron Age settlement. It is possible that other features and artefacts associated with the usage of the enclosure(s) would be located both within, and potentially outwith the monument(s). These could also potentially be prehistoric.

#### 1.4.4 Roman and Early Historic Evidence (AD 43 – AD 1100)

1.4.4.1 No Roman or Early Historic remains or artefacts are recorded either on the Site or within 500m of it, although the possibility of previously unrecorded remains or artefacts being encountered cannot be discounted. There is also a possibility that the cropmark enclosure(s) recorded within the site (**Sites 1 & 32**) could prove to be Early Historic in date, although on morphological evidence they are more likely to be prehistoric.

#### 1.4.5 Medieval Evidence (AD1100 - AD 1560)

1.4.5.1 No Medieval remains or artefacts are recorded on the Consented Development Site.

1.4.5.2 The historic core of Turriff (**Site 15**) is located c.390m south of the Site. Turriff was granted burgh status by James IV in 1511 and given the right to hold three fairs annually and to trade in wine, wax, wool and leather. Turriff was later expanded beyond its medieval core through the creation of a planned village, becoming an important agricultural centre by the late 1700s – by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century its market was one of the largest in the country.

#### 1.4.6 Post-medieval and Modern Evidence (AD 1560-)

1.4.6.1 Early maps of the area are schematic. Blaeu's 1654 '*Duo Vicecomitatus Aberdonia & Bamfia*', for example, shows the burgh of *Turreff* to the west of the River Deveron, surrounded by open ground to the north – the location of the Consented Development Site cannot be determined. Herman Moll's subsequent map, published in 1745, is similarly schematic and is consequently not reproduced here.

1.4.6.2 William Roy's Highland Military Survey of 1747-52 records the Consented Development Site as open ground to the north of Turriff. The road which extends along the Site's eastern boundary is shown clearly extending north from Turriff before crossing the Burn of Dulcerstone via a bridge to the north of the Site. The present Dulcerstone Bridge (**Site 4**) slightly post-dates Roy's survey, dating from c.1800 and is Category C Listed. The road is omitted from Robertson's 1822 *Topographical and Military Map of the Counties of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine* which appears to show the Site as

open ground, although the map is so schematic that the possibility that the Site is located beyond the boundary of the map cannot be discounted.

1.4.6.3 Detailed Ordnance Survey mapping commences with the First Edition Aberdeenshire six inch to the mile map, which was surveyed in 1870-1 and published in 1874. This shows the Consented Development Site as open ground split between four linear east/west-aligned fields. The site is shown unchanged, with the exception of an additional field boundary on the Second Edition six inch to the mile map, which was surveyed in 1900 and published in 1902.

1.4.6.4 Turriff continued to develop throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, particularly following the arrival of the railway in 1856. Two post-medieval Listed Buildings stand within 500m of the Consented Development Site: the Category C Listed Dulcerstone Bridge (**Site 4**), noted above, and the Category B Listed Parish Church (**Site 23**), which is located to the south of the Site at the northern edge of the town's historic core. Markethill Primary School takes its name from 'Markethill' the area to the south-east of the Consented Development Site where a range of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century market buildings including a slaughterhouse (**Site 9**); buildings and ranges (**Sites 10, 11 & 12**), and a fruit and vegetable market (**Site 16**) are recorded on the NMRS and the SMR. A wide range of other non-designated 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings, and the sites of demolished structures, are recorded within 500m of the Consented Development Site on the NMRS, including cottages (**Sites 2 & 22**), crofts (**Sites 8 & 13**), houses (**Sites 5, 6, 19, 20, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29 & 30**), bungalows (**Sites 17, 26 & 31**), a garage (**Site 21**), apartments (**Site 18**) and an unidentified building (**Site 7**).

1.4.6.5 Two landscape features are recorded within 500m of the Consented Development Site by the SMR. The site of a small sub-rectangular enclosure (**Site 14**), depicted on a First Edition Ordnance survey map of 1867 at Dulcerstone, was probably associated with an adjacent croft (**Site 13**). A rifle range (**Site 3**) is recorded north of the Consented Development Site on both the First and Second Edition Ordnance Surveys.

1.4.6.6 Twentieth century Ordnance Survey maps, including the 1:2,500 map of 1926, the 1:10,560 surveys of 1959, 1970 and 1987, and the 1:2,500 map of 1991 show the Consented Development Site as open agricultural land, although the field boundaries have gradually amalgamated.

#### 1.4.7 Aerial Photographic Evidence

1.4.7.1 AOC was unable to undertake a comprehensive study of aerial photographic evidence for this assessment as the Historic Environment Scotland search room at Bernard Terrace Edinburgh is currently (March 2016) closed for refurbishment. However, a copy of a 1988 vertical photograph (Jasair NJ75 no.0788222 (HES copyright)), which shows a possible cropmark enclosure (**Site 1**) on the Site was obtained from ACAS. The 1988 image is extremely vague but appears to show a single dark sub-circular cropmark with potentially two further smaller dark sub-circular cropmarks immediately to its north surrounded by the very faint outline of a possible circular enclosure (**Site 1**). It is not possible to verify or date the cropmark from the 1988 image alone and it is unclear whether the dark marks within **Site 1** represent features within it or modern disturbance.

1.4.7.2 ACAS kindly undertook a second search of aerial photographs held within their archives in order to identify any clearer images showing the possible cropmarks on the Site. This search produced a 1977 vertical image (BKS 2730187 07-07-1977), showing a much clearer view of a circular enclosure (**Site 32**). This enclosure plots slightly to the east of the position plotted for the enclosure as seen in the 1988 image (**Site 1**). Whilst it is possible that both photographs show the same enclosure, they



could potentially represent separate adjacent enclosures, (Figure 2) and have consequently been numbered separately (**Sites 1 & 32**).

1.4.7.3 The images received from ACAS, which show visible enclosure(s) (**Sites 1 & 32**), will inform the location of trial trenches

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The evaluation was undertaken by a single tracked excavator equipped with 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken until natural was reached. Eleven trenches were excavated and these ranged between 30 m and 100 m in length. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2016).



**Plate 1: Trench 1 north-east facing section showing plough furrow**

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Weather conditions were settled and fine and good archaeological visibility was present throughout. Initially the evaluation was to consist of a 7% sample (1,140 linear metres) of the 3.25 hectare area. However, the presence of several live services running across the site reduced the area available for evaluation. A total of 750 linear metres was achieved.



Plate 2: Trench 10 post-excitation from south-east

- 4.2 The evaluation trenches revealed an improved plough-soil of organic clay loam. This contained occasional shards of 19<sup>th</sup> century glass and ceramics. The top-soil ranged from 0.20 m to 0.40 m metres in depth. In most of the development area the top-soil immediately overlay drift geology of relatively free draining sandy boulder clay with no apparent interface. The truncated remains of an older, paler plough soil were observed within Trenches 1, 2, 3 & 4 located within the north-eastern corner of the development (see Fig 2). This deposit ranged between 0.05 to 0.10 m in depth and had been largely removed by modern farming practices. Intensive modern plough scarring was evident in all of the excavated trenches. Occasional modern drain cuts were recorded aligned north-east to south-west. Drainage was not intensive probably the result of the relatively free draining natural.
- 4.3 Trenches 1, 3, 4 & 5 were targeted on the locations of the possible enclosure features. No remains associated with such features were observed.
- 4.4 The truncated remains of 'rig and furrow' were recorded within Trench 1, 3 & 4. The furrows were 2.0 m in width and set at 5.0 m intervals aligned north-west to south-east. One example was excavated revealing a depth of 0.20 m.
- 4.5 No other archaeologically significant features or materials were observed.

## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 With the exception of the truncated 'rig and furrow' the evaluation revealed no archaeologically significant features or remains. Roy's Highland Survey of 1747-52 shows this agricultural feature was common across the vicinity during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.2 Given the relative paucity of the findings produced by the evaluation no further archaeological works associated with the Meadowbank Road site are considered necessary. This will be decided by Ms Claire Herbert of Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service (ACAS) who advises Aberdeenshire Council on archaeological matters.

## 6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2016, *New Primary School, Meadowbank Road, Markethill, Turriff, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC project design

AOC Archaeology 2016, *New Primary School, Meadowbank Road, Markethill, Turriff, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment* Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*



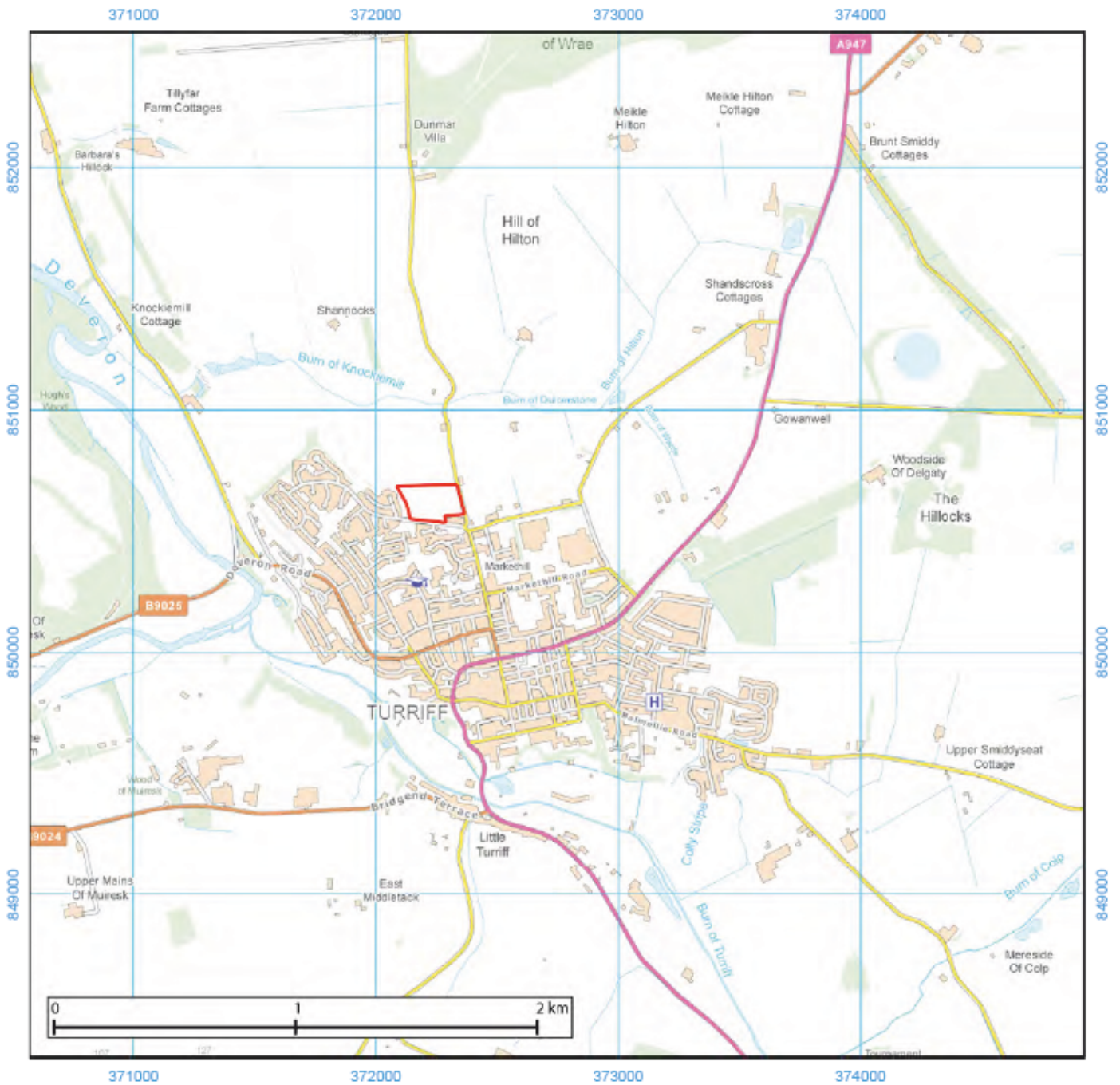
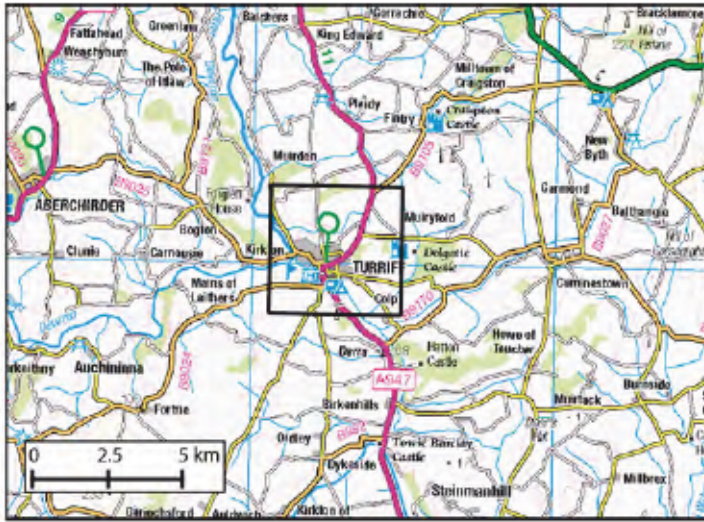
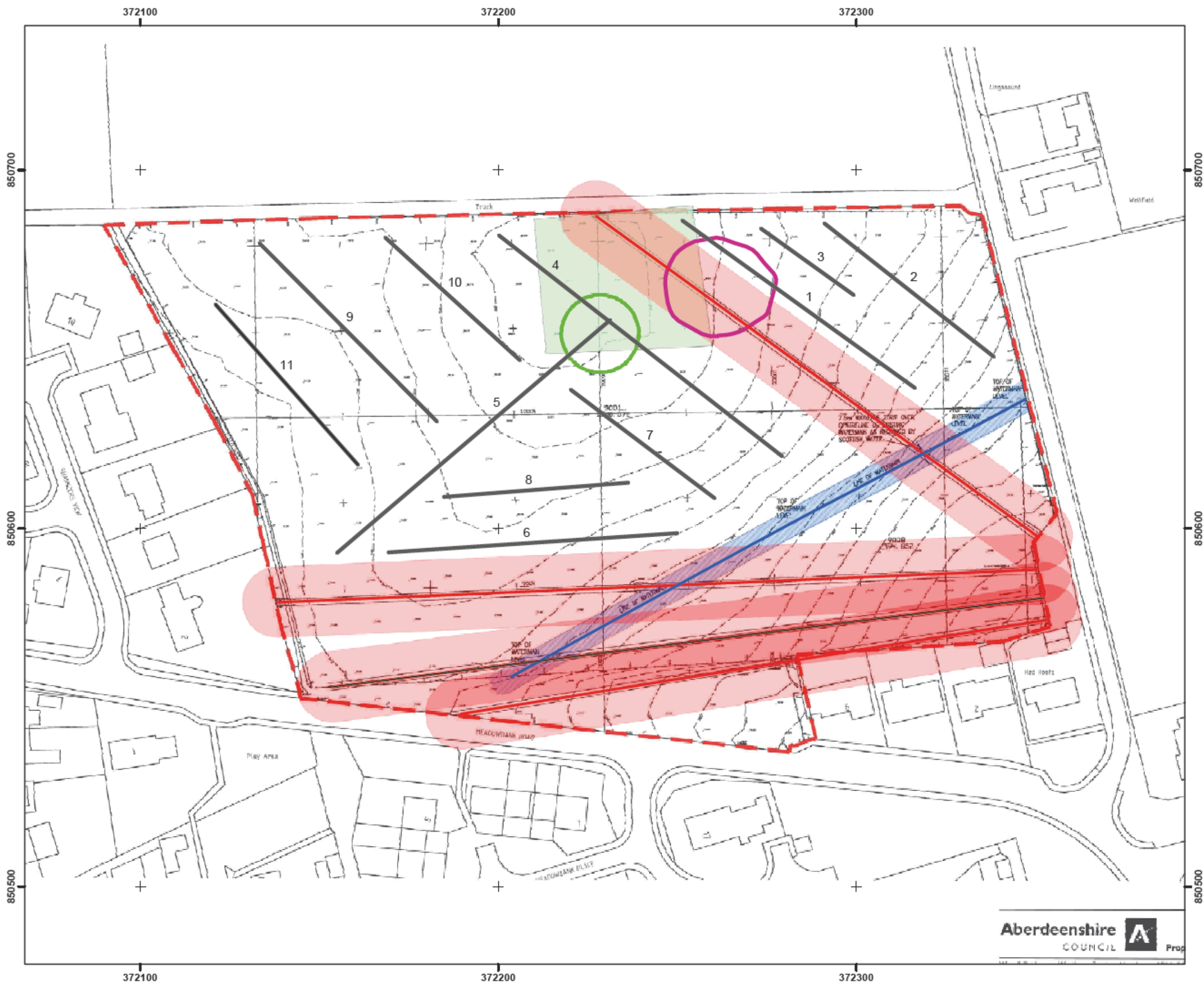


Figure 1: Site Location





**Figure 2 - Plan of the Site showing Location of Trial Trenches & Constraints**

2 hectares available for trenching due to constraints.  
 7% sample size  
 750m x 2m wide trenching undertaken  
 Trenches between 40m & 100m long

- Legend**
- Proposed Trial Trench
  - Site 32 Rectified Position
  - Site 1 Approximate Position
  - SMR Polygon
  - Overhead Power Line (OHP)
  - OHP10m Buffer
  - Buried Water Main
  - Water Main Wayleave

0 10 20 30 40 Meters

Cartographic data derived from OS OpenData, Crown Copyright

<b>Project No.:</b>	23381
<b>Date:</b>	11.3.2016
<b>Scale at A3:</b>	1:1,000

**Meadowbank Road, Markethill, Turriff,  
Aberdeenshire:  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	80 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Old Plough soil</i>	0.5 m-0.10 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	'Rig & furrow' set at 5.0 m intervals aligned NE-SW
<i>Other Features</i>	Numerous modern plough scars
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellow sandy boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Old Plough soil</i>	N/A
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern drain at 5.0 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellow sandy boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Old Plough soil</i>	0.5 m-0.10 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	'Rig & furrow' set at 5.0 m intervals aligned NE-SW
<i>Other Features</i>	Numerous modern plough scars
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellow sandy boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

### Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Old Plough soil</i>	N/A
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	Numerous modern plough scars
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellow sandy boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

### Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m-0.40 m
<i>Old Plough soil</i>	N/A
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A

*Other Features* Numerous modern plough scars  
*Natural Subsoil* Yellow sandy boulder clay  
*Finds* 19<sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

#### **Trench 6**

*Dimensions* 60 m by 2.0 m  
*Excavated Orientation* E to W  
*Top-soil* 0.30 m  
*Old Plough soil* N/A  
*Depth of Excavation* 0.40 m  
*Significant Features* N/A  
*Other Features* Numerous modern plough scars  
*Natural Subsoil* Yellow sandy boulder clay  
*Finds* 19<sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

#### **Trench 7**

*Dimensions* 50 m by 2.0 m  
*Excavated Orientation* SE to NW  
*Top-soil* 0.30 m  
*Old Plough soil* N/A  
*Depth of Excavation* 0.40 m  
*Significant Features* N/A  
*Other Features* Numerous modern plough scars  
*Natural Subsoil* Yellow sandy boulder clay  
*Finds* 19<sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

#### **Trench 8**

*Dimensions* 50 m by 2.0 m  
*Excavated Orientation* E to W  
*Top-soil* 0.40 m  
*Old Plough soil* N/A  
*Depth of Excavation* 0.45 m  
*Significant Features* N/A  
*Other Features* Numerous modern plough scars  
*Natural Subsoil* Yellow sandy boulder clay  
*Finds* 19<sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

#### **Trench 9**

*Dimensions* 80 m by 2.0 m  
*Excavated Orientation* SE to NW  
*Top-soil* 0.30 m  
*Old Plough soil* N/A  
*Depth of Excavation* 0.40 m  
*Significant Features* N/A  
*Other Features* Numerous modern plough scars  
*Natural Subsoil* Yellow sandy boulder clay  
*Finds* 19<sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

#### **Trench 10**

*Dimensions* 60 m by 2.0 m  
*Excavated Orientation* NW to SE  
*Top-soil* 0.30 m  
*Old Plough soil* N/A



<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	Numerous modern plough scars
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellow sandy boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

#### **Trench 11**

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m by 2.2 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW to NE
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.40 m
<i>Old Plough soil</i>	N/A
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	Numerous modern plough scars
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellow sandy boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> century white ceramics

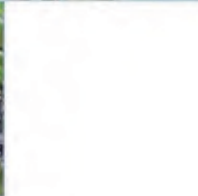
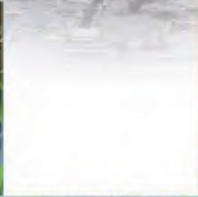
## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

### Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration shot	-
2	Post ex shot of Trench 2	SE
3	Post ex shot of Trench 3	SE
4	Post ex shot of Trench 4	SE
5	Post ex shot of Trench 5	SW
6	North-west facing section Trench 5	NW
7	Post ex shot of Trench 6	W
8	Post ex shot of Trench 7	SE
9	Post ex shot of Trench 8	W
10	Post ex shot of Trench 9	SE
11	Post ex shot of Trench 10	NW
12	Post ex shot of Trench 11	NW
13	North-east facing section through rig and furrow Trench 1	SE
14	Post ex shot of Trench 1	SE

### APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeenshire Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	New Primary School, Meadowbank Road, Markethill, Turriff, Aberdeenshire
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 23381
<b>PARISH:</b>	Turriff
<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>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	'Rig and Furrow'
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NJ 7222 5062
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2016
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to the construction of a proposed new Primary School at Meadowbank Road, Markethill, Turriff Aberdeenshire (NGR: NJ 7222 5062).</p> <p>The evaluation required an initial 7% trenching sample (2,140 linear metres) of the proposed 3.25 hectare development area. The area is currently used as arable land. Due to the presence of numerous live services the total trenching undertaken amounted to 750 linear metres.</p> <p>Trenching revealed drift geology of relatively free draining glacial boulder clay. Numerous plough scars were observed. The natural was immediately overlain by an improved plough-soil of organic sandy clay loam. No interface was observed between the topsoil and the subsoil</p> <p>Several evaluation trenches targeted possible enclosures identified on aerial photographs of 1977 and 1988. No remains associated with the enclosures were observed. The truncated remains of rig and furrow were recorded within the north eastern corner of the development area. This was shown to formerly cover the area on Roy's Highland Survey 1747-52. No other archaeologically significant features or material was recovered during the evaluation. Evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> century improvement occurred in the form of ceramics and glass which were observed in almost all of the trenches. No further works are considered necessary.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Halliday Fraser Munro
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY  
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: [admin@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)