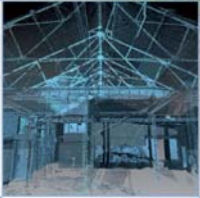


# Blackdog, Aberdeen; Archaeological Monitored Top-soil Strip & Excavation Report

OASIS No: aocarcha1-  
AOC 21348  
May 2016



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Blackdog, Aberdeen: Archaeological Excavation

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**On Behalf of:** Kirkwood Holmes Limited & Ashfield Land  
Kirkwood Business Park  
Sauchen  
Inverurie  
AB51 7LE

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NJ 9588 1514

**OASIS No:** aocarcha1-

**AOC Project No:** 21348

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**Illustration by:** Steven Watt

**Date of Fieldwork:** May 2016

**Date of Report:** May 2016

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

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**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

**Draft Report Stage:**

**Date:**

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## Abstract

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AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Kirkwood Holmes Ltd & Ashfield Land to undertake an archaeological top-soil strip and excavation on agricultural land at Blackdog.

The archaeological works sought to ascertain the extent, nature and identity of remains discovered during an earlier evaluation where a number of prehistoric features were discovered. The top-soil strip involved the opening of two 50 m by 50 m areas centred on the features previously discovered.

The top-soil strip revealed a ring-ditch enclosure along with a number of post-holes indicative of two different phases of roundhouse construction, in addition to a selection of undated pit. A number of flint and pottery fragments were retrieved during the excavation of these features.

A number of pits medieval or possibly post-medieval were also discovered within the area containing pottery fragments.

A programme of post-excavation analyses will be required on the material recovered from the site.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Kirkwood Homes Limited & Ashfield Land to undertake a programme of archaeological works consisting of an archaeological top-soil strip and excavation at Blackdog, Aberdeen as a condition of planning consent prior to development. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of the Aberdeen Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeen Council Archaeological Service (ACAS). A programme of archaeological works had been specified by ACAS in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011)*.
- 1.1.2 The works followed on from a previous phase of archaeological works undertaken in 2009 by AOC Archaeology in the form of an archaeological evaluation. (Cook, 2009). The evaluation uncovered a ring ditch structure containing a flint scraper and a series of possible prehistoric pits one of which contained a single ceramic piece. Given these archaeologically significant findings ACAS requested that a targeted monitored topsoil strip be undertaken around these features followed by hand excavation in order to preserve these archaeological features by record.
- 1.1.3 The subsequent monitored top-soil strip revealed a selection of post medieval pits, field drains and a prehistoric 'horseshoe' shaped ring ditch enclosure in area A. Area B contained several pits of various sizes and depths, upon further examination, a number of these pits were revealed to form two separate curving patterns indicating the remains of two separate roundhouses. Small finds consisted mainly of flint fragments retrieved from the ring ditch enclosure in area A along with a single fragment of prehistoric pottery. A number of fragments of post medieval pottery were found within the pits and linears in area A. Finds were largely absent from area B except for two fragments of fired pottery recovered from two of the pits. A number of unstratified flint fragments were also recovered during the topsoil strip. The flint and prehistoric pottery fragments appear to be indicative of Bronze Age activity; this will hopefully be clarified in post-excavation.

## 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area was a predominantly well drained agricultural land currently under grass. The site, centred on NGR NJ 9588 1514 and is bounded by agricultural land to the North, South, West and by a rifle range to the East (Figure 1).

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development is located in and around Blackdog, a hamlet that has grown up around the Blackdog Farm (NMRS: NJ91SE0006): a farm depicted on cartographic evidence from at least 1867 (Figure 2, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map). The Blackdog Farm changed little between the publication of the 1<sup>st</sup> (1884) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Maps (1896), the farm comprising three adjoining buildings, accessed by a farm track. A single dwelling, Blackdog Croft was identified by the immediate east of the main road.



Figure 2: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map, 1867

- 1.3.2 The intervening years between the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS Maps witnessed the development of Blackdog through the foundation and construction of the Seaton Tile and Brick Works (NMRS: NJ91SE9) to the immediate south of the farm complex. The works operated on the site between 1898 and the 1920s, taking advantage of the local clay sources. The works itself comprised several buildings including two Hoffman kilns and an associated railway. By this stage a more substantial road had also been constructed to the site and farm. The actual land usage within the proposed development itself changed little over this period, remaining agricultural land throughout.

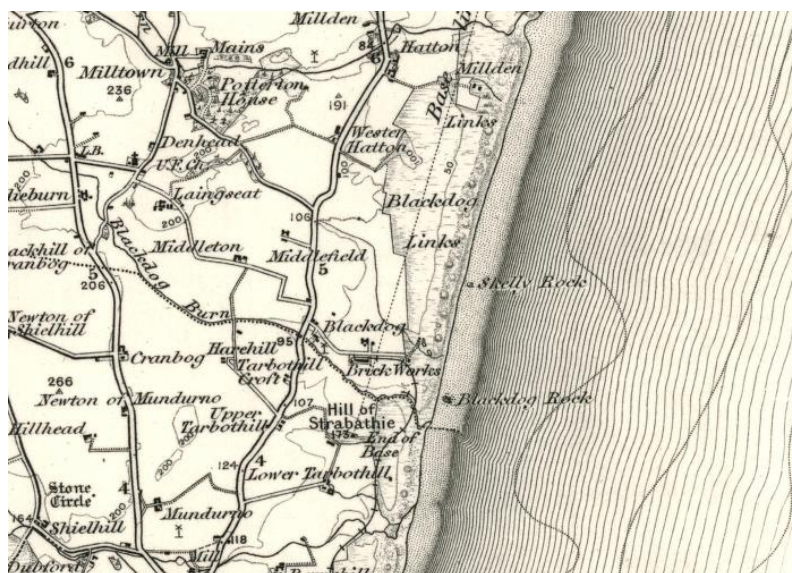


Figure 3: 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS Map, 1909

- 1.3.3 The proposed development area contained only two known sites; the still occupied Wester Hatton Cottages (NMRS: NJ91NE0077) and the adjacent site of the now destroyed Fife farmsteads (NMRS: NJ91NE077). The latter comprises a G-shaped range of steadings with a central courtyard and a small building to the North. A horsegang was attached to the range of buildings on the outside wall while a sub-rectangular garden lay to the South-west.

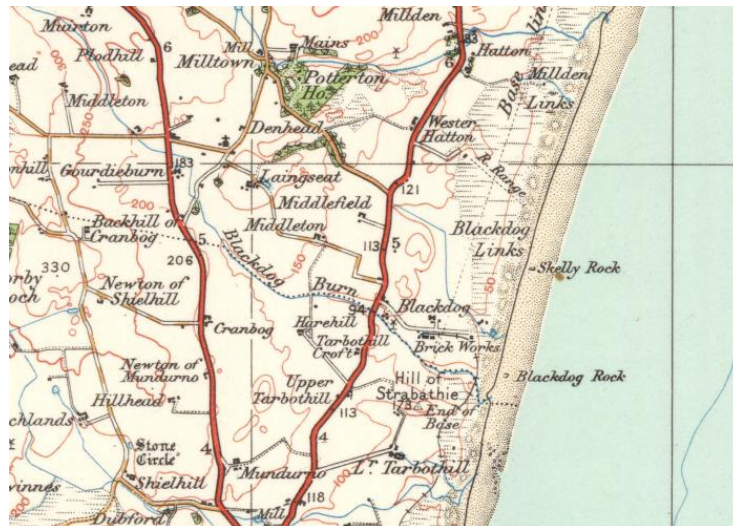


Figure 4: 1927 OS Map

- 1.3.4 More general the area around the proposed development is rich in archaeological remains. As with much of Aberdeenshire, sites in the immediate vicinity identified from the aerial photography comprise a combination of evidence for funerary monuments, settlement and agricultural remains. For example, a possible prehistoric roundhouse (NMRS: NJ91NE36) and a souterrain (NMRS: NJ91NE0046) lie to the immediate North-west of the development; while a series of possible Bronze Age Barrows (NMRS: NJ91NE0012) lie to the West of the site. Evidence for rig and furrow (NMRS NGR: 9565 1513) was also identified to the North-west of the proposed development. An archaeological evaluation in the field to the North-west identified linear and cut features excavated through the natural subsoil (NMRS: NJ91NE0074).
- 1.3.5 A number of potential Mesolithic flint fragments were also recovered in the wider area (pers comm. Bruce Mann)

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the present archaeological works were:

- to conduct a monitored topsoil strip of the two areas marked A & B to expose the features along with any other associated features that were first discovered during the previous evaluation.
- to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the targeted topsoil strip areas;
- identification, excavation, soil sampling and recording of all significant archaeological features within the targeted topsoil strip areas;
- the retrieval of a representative artefact assemblage;
- upon conclusion of any excavations, the preparation of a post-excavation research design (PERD) to be agreed with ACAS. The scope and appropriateness of the post-excavation analyses to be employed will be decided upon by ACAS. The PERD will be pertinent to the quantity, quality, character, date and condition of retrieved small finds and soil samples when considered against the series of research questions raised by the excavated features;
- the post-excavation analysis of recovered material;
- publication of results of the excavation to bring the findings into the public and academic domain.



### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Based on the findings of the initial archaeological evaluation (Cook, 2009) A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2016) was agreed with ACAS which proposed that two 50 m x 50 m squares within the proposed development area be subject to topsoil stripping and excavation. The initial stripping of the areas sought to remove the overburden to natural drift geology or the first significant archaeological horizon. This was to be followed by the hand excavation of all exposed features.
- 3.2 The initial top-soil strip was undertaken with a 20 tonne tracked excavator using a 2.2m wide ditching bucket. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. All top-soil stripping was carried out under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist and was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2016).
- 3.3 Following the surface cleaning of the top-soil stripped areas, all exposed archaeological features were subject to hand excavation. All structural features were excavated to 100% while all non structural elements and isolated features were 50% excavated. Large linear features were excavated to 20% to establish their significance, function etc.
- 3.4 Upon completion of all excavations the areas were backfilled and tracked in prior to leaving the site.

### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Archaeological Excavation

- 4.1.1 The works were conducted during May 2016. The weather conditions during the excavation were good overall and archaeological visibility was excellent.
- 4.1.2 Topsoil across site consisted of a medium brown silty loam ranging between 0.5 m - 0.6 m in depth and revealed a mid orange sandy gravel subsoil.

#### 4.2 Area A

##### 4.2.1 Pits [002], [004], [006]

Three isolated pits were discovered at the South-eastern most corner of Area A (Figure 5). All three were circular in plan ranging from 0.42 m x 0.5 m x 0.12 m to 0.5 m x 0.47 m x 0.13 m in depth with moderate to steep sides onto rounded bases. A single fragment of what appears to be post-medieval pottery was removed from the fill of pit [002]. The two remaining pits contained no finds though it is assumed based on the similarity to [002] in both size and shape they are also most likely post medieval.



Plate 1: West facing section of [002]

#### 4.2.2 Pits [012], [014], [016]

A further three pits were discovered at the North-eastern most corner of Area A (Figure 5). The pits were either oval or sub circular in plan and ranged in size from 0.37 m x 0.21 m x 0.06 m to 0.65 m x 0.59 m x 0.14 m. Pits [014] & [016] were found to have steep sides with a u-shaped base where as pit [002] was found to be very shallow with a flat base. No finds were recovered from any of the features therefore it is impossible to determine if the pits are prehistoric, medieval or post-medieval in origin.



Plate 2: South-east facing view of [014]

#### 4.2.3 Linears [008], [018],[023] & Pit [010]

4.2.3.1 Three linear features were encountered during the topsoil strip all running NW-SE down the slope heading towards the stream at the bottom of the field (Figure 5). Due to how evenly they were spaced apart and the overall straightness of the features they are initially considered to be the base deposits of field drains associated with the agricultural works conducted throughout the area.



Plate 3: NW facing section of linear of [008]

4.2.3.2 Slots were created through each linear to confirm that they were indeed field drains. Linear [008] was found to be 1.0 m wide x 0.14 m deep with gently sloping sides onto a flat base. The linear cut feature [010], a oval shaped pit with a gentle slope onto a bowled shape base measuring 0.8 m x 0.7 m x 0.12 m. A single piece of post medieval pottery was retrieved from pit. Linears [018] and [023] were almost exactly the same in terms of size and form. No finds were recovered from any of the linears.

#### 4.2.4 *Ring-ditch enclosure*

Upon re-excavating the ring ditch enclosure [020], previously recorded as [2102] (Cook, 2009) the structure was revealed to be 'horseshoe shaped' with an entrance at its southern extent (Figure 7). The ditch formed a mainly circular pattern and was found to be substantial in both depth and width with several large sub rounded stones throughout (Plate 5). The fill was made up of two contexts (021) which consisted of the previously mentioned sub rounded stones and a mid brown silty sand measuring between 0.20 m to 0.37 m in depth. The lower fill (022) consisted of light brown yellow sandy clay, moderately compacted with small sub angular stones throughout (Figure 8).



Plate 4 & 5: 'Horseshoe' shaped enclosure [020] from North-west pre excavation and post excavation

- 4.2.4.1 The enclosure measured between 0.25 m to 0.29 m in depth and between 0.53 m to 0.87 m in width with a steep almost vertical outer edge but a more gradual slope on the inner edge. The base varied between being mainly flat to u-shaped particularly along the Eastern and Western edges.



Plate 5 & 6: South facing slots of [020], (021), (022)

- 4.2.4.2 The structure was first investigated with four slots to explore its overall form and depth before the entire structure was 100% excavated and sampled extensively. Small finds recovered were somewhat sparse and spread throughout (021) however five flint fragments were recovered along with a single fragment of prehistoric pottery in (021) of slot B.

### 4.3 Area B

#### 4.3.1 Pits [025], [027], [029], [039], [041], [071] & [069]

A number of scattered pits were encountered throughout Area B, these weren't considered to be structural and were treated as isolated features (Figure 6). Many of these appear to be heavily truncated most likely due to prolonged exposure to agricultural activity. All pits appear to be circular to sub circular in design with moderate to steeply sloping edges onto a rounded base. They ranged in size from 0.25 m x 0.30 m x 0.09 m to 0.77 m x 0.75 m x 0.45 m. They all consisted of a single fill and no finds were recovered from these particular features.

#### 4.3.2 Postholes [033], [035] & [037]

These three postholes formed a semi curving linear pattern (Figure 6) which may have been part of a structure possible a temporary shelter or boundary. All three were circular in plan with mainly steep sides onto rounded bases. They ranged between 0.5 m x 0.5 m x 0.3 m and 0.7 m x 0.5 x 0.2 m in size and all consisted of a single fill. A single piece of pottery was recovered from pit [035] however no further artefacts were recovered from any of the features.

#### 4.3.3 Pits [057], [063] & [065]

Three isolated pits located to the Northern extend of the site with no immediate observable relationship to each other or any other features (Figure 6). The pits were sub-circular, circular and sub-oval in shape all with moderately sloping sides onto a flat base. Each pit consisted of a single fill with no artefacts found within although there proximity and overall size/design to the other features on site means they are probably prehistoric in origin. They ranged in size from 0.25 m in diameter x 0.17 m deep to 0.65 m x 0.70 m x 0.10 m.

#### 4.3.4 Structure 1 - Pits [077], [056], [059] and [061]

These clusters of pits/postholes are representative of the extent of a roundhouse. It is likely that the remaining postholes have been entirely removed by agricultural practices. The line of the postholes ran from South to West approximately (Figure 9). A number of the postholes demonstrated evidence of having been truncated heavily due to farming activity as mentioned earlier. All features appeared circular in shape with steep almost vertical sides onto rounded bases. All pits were of a similar size ranging from 0.44 m in diameter

x 0.26 m deep to 0.45 m in diameter to 0.35 m deep (Figure 10). All pits consisted of a single brown sandy silt fill and were fully excavated however no artefacts were recovered from any of the features.

#### 4.3.5 Structure 2 – Pits [073], [053], [051], [049] and [075]

These clusters of pits/postholes are probably representative of a roundhouse that may be later than that of Structure 1. The direction of the pits runs South to West essentially cutting Structure 1 (figure 9). Pits [077] and [049] were discovered during the previous archaeological works recorded as [2415] & [2406] in which a flint scraper (Cook, 2009) was recovered. The remaining pits were all circular in plan with steep almost vertical sides onto rounded or u-shaped bases as seen in Structure 1. All pits consisted of a single fill either dark or mid brown sandy silt with occasional small sub rounded inclusions (Figure 10). All features were 100% excavated with only a single fragment of prehistoric pottery recovered from [053].



Plates 7 & 8: Post excavation shot of Structures 1 & 2

#### 4.3.6 Pits [067] & [031]

Two large stone filled pits were observed to the North-east and to the South-west at the extent of the collection of postholes and pits (Figure 6). Pit [031] was sub circular in shape with steep sides onto a mostly flat base measuring 2.1 m x 1.5 m x 0.72 m with an E-W orientation (Figure 10). The pit consisted of a single mid brown-grey sandy silt with large sub-rounded stones. The fill was particularly loose especially near the surface indicating that the feature was heavily truncated by modern farming practices. Pit [067] was also sub-circular in shape with a gentle slope on the Eastern edge but considerably steeper on the West with a bowl shaped base. The pit measured 1.8m x 2.02 m x 0.75 m consisting of an upper fill measuring 0.41 m made up of brown silty sand and large rounded stones throughout. The lower fill was a dark grey silty sand of moderate compaction with occasional small angular stones. No finds were recovered in either of the pits but due to their proximity to adjacent prehistoric features it is assumed that they are somehow related.

## 5 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Despite extensive ploughing of the area over time the archaeological features have survived for the most part exceptionally well. There is evidence for two separate phases of occupation from the possible roundhouse remains encountered in Area B. The majority of the post holes have been removed however the two separate sets of curving pits is strongly indicative of two separate roundhouses with Structure 2 apparently cutting Structure 1. There is evidence for a further structure to the South consisting of [037], [035] and [033]. Due to the lack of curve it was assumed that these pits were not part of a roundhouse but may have instead acted as a screen or temporary shelter. The prehistoric pottery fragments retrieved from [035] and [053] of Structure 2 aid with the dating, suggesting that these structures are likely Bronze Age or Iron Age in origin.

- 5.2 The ring-ditch encountered in Area A although obviously structural was not designed for habitation due to its small size and lack of postholes to support a more permanent structure. The structure is in fact believed to be the remnants of an Early Bronze Age ring-ditch, a type of burial monument previously identified at Upper Largie, Kilmartin (Cook 2008) and Newmills (Watkins and Shepherd 1980), but generally extremely rare in Scotland. It is possible that the centre of the structure may have contained a cist burial, or more likely a cremation pit that has been scarped away during farming activities. The structure contained several flint fragments and a single fragment of prehistoric pottery, which is hoped after post excavation analysis will confirm the origin of the feature.
- 5.3 The evaluation revealed that despite extensive farming in the area the archaeological features in the area had survived moderately well though some features were heavily truncated. The features discovered and recorded from this site will further aid in our understanding of prehistoric activities in the Aberdeenshire area.
- 5.4 This DSR report is both preliminary and provisional, with many issues raised by the excavation data still to be addressed. In ascertaining a fuller knowledge of the excavation results, a post-excavation research design will be prepared for approval by the planning authority's archaeological advisor. This will describe all necessary and appropriate assessment processes and consequent post-excavation analyses together with publication proposals for the final report. This report will integrate the stratigraphic, contextual and descriptive data from the excavation with specialist post-excavation analyses covering dating, palaeoenvironmental and economic issues, culminating in an article fit for academic publication.

## 6 REFERENCES

### 6.1 Bibliographical references

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Cook M, Ellis C, Sheridan A, 2010 *Excavation at Upper Largie Quarry, Argyll & Bute, Scotland: New Light on the Prehistoric Ritual Landscape of the Kilmartin Glen*

Cook, M and Dunbar, L 2008 *Rituals, Roundhouses and Romans*, STAR Monograph 8.

Scottish Government 2008 *Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning*.

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

Watkins, T & Shepherd, I A G 1980 A Beaker burial at Newmill, near Bankfoot, Perthshire. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* 110 (1978-80), 32-41

## 6.2 Cartographic References

1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Aberdeenshire (Sheet 1xviNE) 1884

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Aberdeenshire, (Sheet 1xviNE) 1896

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Aberdeenshire, (Sheet 1xviNE) 1909

4<sup>th</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Aberdeenshire, 1927

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

### Colour Digital: Camera 1

No.	Area	Description	Taken From
1-2	A	Stripping of Area from Northern end	W
3-4	A	Stripping of Area from Northern end	W
5-6	A	Stripping of Area from Northern end	W
7-8	A	Stripping of Area from Northern end	W
9	A	Plan view of [002]	S
10	A	W-facing section of [002]	W
11	A	Plan view of [004]	S
12	A	E-facing section of [004]	E
13	A	Plan view of [006]	N
14	A	E-facing section of [006]	E
15-16	A	Views of Pits [002], [004] and [006]	Various
17-18	A	Possible stone platform pre-excavation	E
19-20	A	Stripping of Area at Northern end	W
21	A	Plan of pit [010] and linear [008]	SE
22	A	SE-facing section of [008] and [010]	SE
23	A	Plan view of Slot 1 through [008]	SW
24	A	NW-facing section of [008]	NW
25	A	Plan view of [012]	SE
26	A	W-facing section of [012]	SE
27	A	Plan view of [016]	SE
28	A	SE-facing section of	SE
29	A	Plan view of [016]	NE
30	A	NE-facing section of [016]	NE
31	A	SW-facing section of [008] – Slot 2	SW
32	A	NE-facing section of [008] – Slot 2	NE
33	A	NE-facing section of [008] – Slot 3	NE
34	A	SW-facing section of [008] – Slot 3	SW
35	A	General view of linear [008]	N
36-38	A	Pre-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020]	S
39-41	A	Pre-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020]	E
42-44	A	Pre-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020]	NE
45-47	A	Pre-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020]	W
48-50	A	Pre-excavation oblique shot of Ring Ditch [020]	W
51-53	A	Pre-excavation oblique shot of Ring Ditch [020]	SW
54-56	A	Pre-excavation oblique shot of Ring Ditch [020]	NW
57-59	A	Pre-excavation oblique shot of Ring Ditch [020]	W
60-62	A	Pre-excavation oblique shot of Ring Ditch [020]	S
63	A	SE-facing section of [018]	SE
64	A	General view of [018]	SE
65	A	NW-facing section of [018]	NW
66	A	SE-facing section of [023]	SE
67	A	NW-facing section of [023]	NW



68	A	General view of [023]	N
69-70	A	Mid-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020]	N
71-72	A	Mid-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020]	NW
73-74	A	SW-facing section of [020] – Slot A	SW
75-76	A	SW-facing section of [020] overhead – Slot A	SW
77-78	A	NE-facing section of [020] – Slot B	NE
79-80	A	NE-facing section of [020] overhead – Slot B	NE
81-82	A	NE-facing section of [020] overhead – Slot B	NE
83-84	A	SE-facing section of [020] – Slot B	SE
85-86	A	SE-facing section of [020] overhead – Slot B	SE
87-88	A	W-facing section of [020] – Slot C	W
89-90	A	W-facing section of [020] overhead – Slot C	W
91-92	A	NE-facing section of [020] – Slot C	NE
93-94	A	NE-facing section of [020] overhead – Slot C	NE
95-96	A	S-facing section of [020] – Slot D	S
97-98	A	S-facing section of [020] overhead – Slot D	S
99-100	A	NW-facing section of [020] – Slot D	NW
101-102	A	NW-facing section of [020] overhead – Slot D	NW
103-105	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020]	S
106-108	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	SW
109-111	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	W
112-114	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	NW
115-117	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	NW
118-120	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	N
121-124	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	N
125-127	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	E
128-130	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	SE
131-133	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	NW
134-136	A	Post-excavation shot of Ring Ditch [020] oblique	NW

**Colour Digital: Camera 2**

No.	Area	Description	Taken From
1-3	B	Area Strip working shot	Various
4	B	S-facing section of [025]	S
5	B	S-facing section of [027]	S
6	B	S-facing section of [029]	S
7	B	General shot of [029]	E
8	B	S-facing section of [033]	S
9	B	S-facing section of [035]	S
10	B	S-facing section of [037]	S
11	B	S-facing section of [039]	S
12	B	S-facing section of [073]	S
13	B	S-facing section of [041]	S
14	B	S-facing section of [053]	S
15	B	S-facing section of [051]	S
16	B	S-facing section of [049]	S

17	B	N-facing section of [077]	N
18	B	S-facing section of [055]	S
19	B	S-facing section of [057]	S
20	B	S-facing section of [063]	S
21	B	S-facing section of [065]	S
22	B	S-facing section of [067]	S
23	B	S-facing section of [069]	S
24	B	S-facing section of [071]	S
25	B	S-facing section of [075]	S

**Colour Digital: Camera 3**

No.	Area	Description	Taken From
1-2	B	Shots of [075]	S
3-8	B	Post-excavation shots of Structure 1	Various
9-10	B	Post-excavation shots of Structure 2	Various
11-18	B	Post-excavation shots of Structure 1	Various
19-27	B	Post-excavation shots of Structure 2	Various
28-31	B	Post-excavation shots of Structure 1	Various
32-39	B	Close down shots of Area A	Various
40-46	B	Close down shots of Area B	Various

**APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER**

Context	Description
(000)	Mid orange sandy gravel across site. <b>Natural</b>
(001)	Mid brown silty loam 0.5 m to 0.6 m deep across site. <b>Topsoil</b>
[002]	Circular shaped pit with steep sides onto a rounded base. 0.42 m x 0.5 m x 0.12 m <b>Pit</b>
(003)	Mid brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal and small sub rounded stones throughout. <b>Fill of [002]</b>
[004]	Subcircular shaped pit with gently sloping sides onto a rounded base. 0.5 m x 0.47 m x 0.13 m <b>Pit</b>
(005)	Mid orange/brown sandy silt with occasional small sub rounded stones throughout. <b>Fill of [004]</b>
[006]	Sub circular shaped pit with gentle sloping sides onto a rounded base. 0.5 m x 0.49 m x 0.16 m <b>Pit</b>
(007)	Mid orange/brown sandy silt with a very few number of small sub rounded stones. <b>Fill of [006]</b>
[008]	Cut of linear. NW-SE orientation. Gently sloping sides. 1.4 m x 0.14 m. Cut by [010] <b>Linear</b>
(009)	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and sub rounded stone throughout, <10%. <b>Fill of [008]</b>
[010]	Oval shaped pit with very gentle sloping sides onto a bowled base. Cuts linear [008] 0.8 m x 0.7 m x 0.12 m

	<b>Pit</b>
(011)	Mid dark brown sandy silt with infrequent charcoal inclusions. <b>Fill of [010]</b>
[012]	Oval shaped pit with steep sides onto a flat base. 0.37 m x 0.21 m x 0.06 m <b>Pit</b>
(013)	Mid dark brown sandy silt with small angular stones throughout <5%. <b>Fill of [012]</b>
[014]	Sub circular shaped pit with gently sloping sides onto a u-shaped base. 0.41 m x 0.35 m x 0.11 m <b>Pit</b>
(015)	Mid dark brown sandy silt small stone inclusions throughout <1% and very infrequent charcoal <b>Fill of (015)</b>
[016]	Sub circular shaped pit with moderately sloping sides onto a u-shaped base. 0.65 m x 0.59 m x 0.14 m <b>Pit</b>
(017)	Mid dark brown sandy silt with medium sub rounded stones throughout and occasional charcoal, concentration in SE half. <b>Fill of (016)</b>
[018]	Cut of linear. NW-SE orientation. Gently sloping sides. 1.4 m x 0.14 m. <b>Linear</b>
(019)	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and sub rounded stone throughout, <10%. <b>Fill of [018]</b>
[020]	Steep almost vertical sides on outer edges but a more gentle slope on the inner edge. Base is mostly flat but occasionally changes to be more u-shaped. Depth measures between 0.25 m and 0.29 m deep while width measures between 0.53 m to 0.87 m <b>Enclosure</b>
(021)	Mid brown silty sand, moderately compacted with >10% of large sub rounded stones throughout poorly sorted. <b>Upper fill of [020]</b>
(022)	Light brown yellow sandy clay, heavily compacted with >5% sub angular stones throughout, poorly sorted. <b>Lower fill of [020]</b>
[023]	Cut of linear. NW-SE orientation. Gently sloping sides. 1.4 m x 0.14 m. <b>Linear</b>
(024)	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and sub rounded stone throughout, <10%. <b>Fill of [023]</b>
[025]	Sub-circular, shallow cut. Gently rounded base. 0.30m x 0.35m x 0.09m <b>Truncated prehistoric posthole</b>
(026)	Light grey-brown sandy silt with >5% gravel-appears sterile <b>Fill of [025]</b>
[027]	Sub-circular cut, gently round base. 0.25m x 0.30m x 0.09m <b>Truncated prehistoric pit/posthole</b>
(028)	Light grey-brown sandy silt with >5% gravel – appears sterile <b>Fill of [027]</b>
[029]	Circular pit, irregular shape, steep sloping E edge, gently sloping W edge, with rounded base. 0.60m x 0.20m <b>Pit/posthole</b>
(030)	Pale grey-brown sandy silt >5% gravel inclusions with several large sub-rounded stones. Heavily bioturbated. <b>Fill of [029]</b>

[031]	Sub-circular cut, steep sides onto flatish base. 2.10m x 1.50m x 0.72m <b>Large pit/posthole</b>
(032)	Very loose mid brown-grey sandy silt. Occasional lenses of charcoal. >5% medium to large sub-angular and rounded stones. <b>Fill of [031]</b>
[033]	Circular cut with steep sides and round base. 0.50m x 0.30m <b>Posthole</b>
(034)	Compact dark brown organic sandy silt <b>Fill of [033]</b>
[035]	Sub-oval cut, steep sides onto flat base. 0.70m x 0.50m x 0.20m. Prehistoric pot sherd found <b>Posthole</b>
(036)	Mid-brown sandy silt with charcoal lenses. <5% small rounded stones <b>Fill of [035]</b>
[037]	Circular in plan with steep sides and rounded base. 0.45m x 0.42m x 0.16m. <b>Posthole</b>
(038)	Mid-brown sandy silt >5% small sub angular stone inclusions. <b>Fill of [037]</b>
[039]	Circular cut with steep sides onto flattish base, truncated. 0.40 m x 0.39 m x 0.10m <b>Posthole</b>
(040)	Mid brown sandy silt, frequent stone inclusions. <b>Fill of [039]</b>
[041]	Circular cut with steep sides and rounded base. 0.35m x 0.30m x 0.18m. <b>Posthole</b>
(042)	Mid brown sandy silt, some charcoal inclusions. <5% small stone. <b>Fill of [041]</b>
043	<b>Void</b>
044	<b>Void</b>
045	<b>Void</b>
046	<b>Void</b>
047	<b>Void</b>
048	<b>Void</b>
[049]	Large circular cut, gentle – steep sides onto rounded base. 0.95m x 0.30m <b>From Evaluation – Posthole</b>
(050)	Mid-dark black brown sandy silt. <5% small-medium stone inclusions. <b>Fill of [049]</b>
[051]	Sub-circular cut, U-shaped. 0.80m x 0.77m x 0.32m <b>Pit</b>
(052)	Dark-mid brown sandy-silt, large stone with occasional medium stones <b>Fill of [051]</b>
[053]	Small sub-circular cut, u-shaped. 0.36m x 0.18m. Prehistoric pot find. <b>Prehistoric pit</b>
(054)	Mid-dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions and flecks of charcoal. <b>Fill of [053]</b>
[055]	Circular cut, with steep sides onto round base. 0.40m x 0.21m. <b>Posthole</b>
(056)	AS 062 <b>Fill of [055]</b>
[057]	Circular shallow cut, flat base. 0.25m x 0.07m. <b>Truncated prehistoric posthole</b>
(058)	Compact red-brown sandy silt, some organic material <5% gravel <b>Fill of [057]</b>

[059]	Circular cut with steep, almost vertical sides, onto rounded base. 0.40m x 0.20m. <b>Prehistoric posthole</b>
(060)	Compact red-brown sandy silt, some organic material <5% gravel <b>Fill of [059]</b>
[061]	Circular cut with steep, almost vertical sides and rounded base. 0.40m x 0.26m. <b>Prehistoric posthole</b>
(062)	Compact red-brown sandy silt, some organic material <5% gravel <b>Fill of [061]</b>
[063]	Sub-circular cut with moderately sloping sides onto flat base. 0.65m x 0.70m x 0.17m <b>Prehistoric pit</b>
(064)	Medium grey brown sandy silt <5% gravel inclusions. Several medium sub rounded stones. <b>Fill of [063]</b>
[065]	Sub-oval shallow cut, flat base. 0.80m x 0.70m x 0.10m. <b>Truncated pit/posthole</b>
(066)	Medium red-brown sandy silt <2% gravel inclusions. Slightly organic. <b>Truncated pit</b>
[067]	Circular cut, gently sloping sides on western edge but steeper on eastern. Flat/bowled base. 2.02m x 1.80m x 0.75m <b>Pit</b>
(068)	Mid brown silty loam with moderate to large rounded stones throughout. Poorly sorted <20% very loose compaction. <b>Upper fill of [067]</b>
[069]	Circular cut, shallow sides onto rounded base. 0.70m x 0.13m <b>Pit</b>
(070)	Mid brown sandy silt, occasional small stone inclusions <b>Fill of [069]</b>
[071]	Circular cut with steep sides onto rounded base. 0.77m x 0.75m x 0.45m <b>Pit</b>
(072)	Mid-brown sandy-silt with occasional small to medium stone inclusions <b>Fill of [071]</b>
[073]	Sub-circular cut, truncated, rounded base. 0.41m x 0.10m <b>Posthole</b>
(074)	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions <b>Fill of [073]</b>
[075]	Circular cut with rounded base. Truncated <b>Posthole</b>
(076)	Mid brown sandy silt with infrequent stone inclusions <b>Fill of [075]</b>
[077]	Circular cut with steep sites onto rounded base. 0.45m x 0.25m <b>From evaluation – posthole</b>
(078)	Mid brown sandy silt, frequent small-medium stone inclusions. <b>Fill of [077]</b>
(079)	Dark grey silty sand, moderate compaction with small sub angular stones. Poorly sorted. <b>Lower fill of [067]</b>
[080]	Truncated roundhouse ring consisting of Posthole's [077], [056], [059] and [061]. Immediately North of Structure 2 [081] <b>Structure 1 - Roundhouse</b>
[081]	Truncated roundhouse ring consisting of posthole's [075], [049], [051], [053] and [073]. Possibly includes [041]. South of Structure 1. <b>Structure 2 - Roundhouse</b>

## APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

No.	Context	Description	Scale
1	[002]	N-facing section of pit [002]	1:10
2	[004]	E-facing section of pit [004]	1:10
3	[006]	E-facing section of pit [006]	1:10
4	[008]/[010]	SE-facing section of pit [008] and linear [010] – Slot 1	1:10
5	[010]	NW-facing section of linear [010] – Slot 1	1:10
6	[012]	SW-facing section of pit [012]	1:10
7	[014]	SE-facing section of pit [014]	1:10
8	[016]	NE-facing section of pit [016]	1:10
9	[008]	SE-facing section of linear [008] – Slot 3	1:10
10	[008]	NW-facing section of linear [008] – Slot 3	1:10
11	[008]	SE-facing section of linear [008] – Slot 2	1:10
12	[008]	NW-facing section of linear [008] – Slot 2	1:10
13	[018]	SE-facing section of linear [018]	1:10
14	[018]	NW-facing section of linear [018]	1:10
15	[023]	NW-facing section of [023]	1:10
16	[023]	SE-facing section of [023]	1:10
17	[020]	SW-facing section of [020] – Slot A	1:10
18	[020]	NNE-facing section of [020] – Slot B	1:10
19	[020]	ESE-facing section of [020] – Slot B	1:10
20	[020]	WSW-facing section of [020] – Slot C	1:10
21	[020]	N-facing section of [020] – Slot C	1:10
22	[020]	S-facing section of [020] – Slot D	1:10
23	[020]	NW-facing section of [020] – Slot D	1:10
24	[020]	Plan of Ring Ditch [020]	1:20
25	[033]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [033]	1:10
26	[065]	S-facing section of Pit [065]	1:10
27	[035]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [035]	1:10
28	[063]	S-facing section of Pit [063]	1:10
29	[037]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [037]	1:10
30	[061]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [061]	1:10
31	[031]	S-facing section of Pit [031]	1:10
32	[059]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [059]	1:10
33	[057]	S-facing section of truncated Posthole [057]	1:10
34	[055]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [055]	1:10
35	[053]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [053]	1:10
36	[025]	S-facing section of truncated Pit/Posthole [025]	1:10
37	[027]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [027]	1:10
38	[049]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [049] – From previous Eval	1:10
39	[029]	S-facing section of Pit [029]	1:10
40	[051]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [051]	1:10
41	[041]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [041]	1:10
42	[069]	S-facing section of Pit [069]	1:10
43	[071]	N-facing section of Pit/Posthole [071]	1:10

44	[071]	S-facing section of Pit [071]	1:10
45	[069]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [069]	1:10
46	[031]	S-facing section of Pit [031]	1:10
47	[075]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [075]	1:10
48	[067]	S-facing section of Pit/Posthole [067]	1:10

#### APPENDIX 4: SMALL FINDS REGISTER

No.	Context	Area	Description
1	(003)	A	Possible Medieval Ceramic – red gritty ware
2	(011)	A	Ceramic Fragment
3	(009)	A	Ceramic Sherd
4	(017)	A	Flint Nodule
5	(021)	A	Flint Nodules x 2
6	(021)	A	1 x Prehistoric Pottery Fragment
7	(021)	A	1 x Flint Nodule
8	(021)	A	Flint Fragment
9	(054)	B	1 x Prehistoric Pottery Fragment
10	(036)	B	1 x Prehistoric Pottery Fragment

#### APPENDIX 5: SAMPLE REGISTER

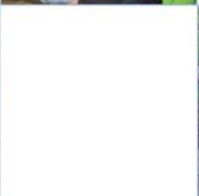
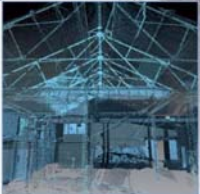
Context	Area	Quantity (Litres)	Notes
(017)	A	10	
(003)	A	10	
(005)	A	10	
(007)	A	10	
(009)	A	10	Slot 1
(009)	A	8	Slot 2
(009)	A	8	Slot 3
(011)	A	10	
(013)	A	3	
(015)	A	5	
(023)	A	10	
(021)	A	20	Slot A
(021)	A	20	Slot B
(022)	A	10	Slot B
(022)	A	7	Slot C
(022)	A	10	Slot C
(042)	B	10	
(056)	B	20	
(074)	B	10	
(060)	B	10	
(032)	B	10	
(064)	B	10	
(066)	B	10	
(028)	B	10	
(026)	B	10	

(030)	B	20	
(040)	B	10	
(038)	B	10	
(036)	B	10	
(062)	B	10	
(034)	B	20	
(068)	B	17	
(052)	B	20	
(054)	B	7	
(072)	B	10	
(050)	B	10	
(078)	B	8	
(076)	B	0.1	
(058)	B	0.1	
(078)	B	10	



## APPENDIX 6: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND (DES) REPORT

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeen Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Blackdog
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	23148
<b>PARISH:</b>	Aberdeen
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Stuart Wilson and Rob Engl
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip & Excavation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Bronze Age ring-ditch and prehistoric occupation
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Prehistoric pottery fragments and flint fragments
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NJ 9588 1514
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	May 2016
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	May 2016
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	AOC 2009; Cook, M
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)</b>	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Kirkwood Holmes Ltd &amp; Ashfield Land to undertake an archaeological top-soil strip and excavation on agricultural land at Blackdog.</p> <p>The archaeological works sought to ascertain the extent, nature and identity of remains discovered during an earlier evaluation where a number of prehistoric features were discovered. The top-soil strip involved the opening of two 50 m by 50 m areas centred on the features previously discovered.</p> <p>The top-soil strip revealed a ring-ditch enclosure along with a number of post-holes indicative of two different phases of roundhouse construction. A selection of pits was also discovered during the excavation which although considered to be related to the roundhouses their true purpose remains unknown. A number of flint and pottery fragments were retrieved during the excavation of these features.</p> <p>A number of pits medieval or possibly post medieval were also discovered within the area containing pottery fragments.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Kirkwood Holmes Limited & Ashfield Land
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Stuart.wilson@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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