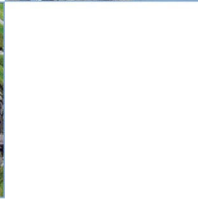
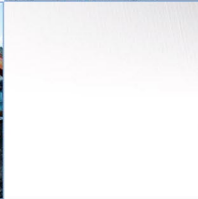
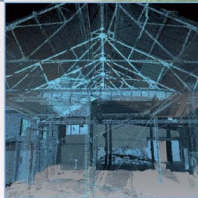


Marchfield (North Plot) Lhanbryde, Moray Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

AOC Project 24124

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-300607



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Marchfield (North Plot) Lhanbryde, Moray

Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Grant and Geoghegan Ltd.
Unit 4 Westerton Road Business Centre,
4 Westerton Road South,
Keith
AB55 5FH

National Grid Reference (NGR): NJ 29220 60524 (centred)

AOC Project No: 24124

Prepared by: Steven Watt

Illustration by: Sam O'Leary

Date of Fieldwork: 7th November 2017

Date of Report: 14th November 2017

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

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Date: 14th November 2017

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Date: 14th November 2017

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Grant and Geoghegan Ltd ahead of the proposed development of a single dwelling at Marchfield (North Plot), Lhanbryde, Moray (NGR: NJ 29220 60524). The scope of the works was determined by Moray Council as advised by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and was designed to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impact within the development area.

A monitored top soil strip of the house plot and surrounding area was undertaken. In total an area of 600m² was stripped. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Grant and Geoghegan Ltd., on behalf of their client, at Marchfield, Lhanbryde, Moray, ahead of a residential development (Planning Application No. 15/00548/APP).

1.1.2 The site lies within the local authority of Moray Council who are advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Services (ACAS), Aberdeenshire Council. These works are required in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) and are set out in the following Planning Condition:

“13. The developer shall secure the implementation of an archaeological watching brief, to be carried out by an archaeological organization acceptable to the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service on behalf of the planning authority, during any groundbreaking and development work (including works associated with the foul sewerage system). The retained archeological organization shall be afforded access at all reasonable times and allowed to record and recover items of interest and finds. Terms of reference from the watching brief will be supplied by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.”

1.1.3 This Planning Condition has been laid out in order to expose, excavate and record any archaeological remains that would be subject to an adverse impact by the development proposals.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The housing plot measures approximately 600m² and is one of three plots that have been granted planning permission for residential development. The plot is located within a wooded area, known as Threapland Wood. The plot lies approximately 2.2 miles to the southeast of Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray (**Figure 1**). The site is accessed from a single-track road which forks south off the A96.

1.3 Historical Background

1.3.1 There are no archaeological sites or find-spots recorded within the development area itself.

1.3.2 **Table 1** lists sites of archaeological significance situated within a 1km radius of the site and taken from the Moray Sites and Monuments Records, which are still standing or noted from documentary records.

Name	Primary	Description	NHRE
------	---------	-------------	------

Marchfield (North Plot), Lhanbryde, Moray: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

	reference		numlink
WESTER MARCHFIELD	NJ26SE0130	Various cropmarks visible including an oval enclosure, circular ring features, and other indeterminate marks.	
WESTER MARCHFIELD	NJ26SE0020	Flint arrowheads; 6 leaf and barbed and tanged. Found in fields around the farm over a period of c.50 years from the 1920s.	16542
QUEENSPARK	NJ26SE0132	Site of a now destroyed farmstead, depicted on the 1st edition OS map of 1867 as a U-shaped steading.	
LARCHFIELD	NJ26SE0034	Site of an enclosure, recorded by aerial photography in 1967 and destroyed by gravel quarrying by 1976.	
WESTER MARCHFIELD	NJ26SE0018	Two stone axes, both polished, found during ploughing in the 1920s.	16540
KENNIE'S HILLOCK	NJ36SW000 9	Polished stone axe, found in 1920 while ploughing c70mm long.	16952
KENNIE'S HILLOCK FARM	NJ36SW001 2	Flat bronze axe; 141mm by 31mm at butt by 69mm at blade.	16963
WESTER MARCHFIELD	NJ26SE0136	A possible oval enclosure and a ring-ditch visible on a vertical aerial photograph taken in 1976.	
EVERGREEN	NJ36SW005 6	At least three ring-ditches, pits and other indeterminate crop marks visible on a vertical aerial photograph taken in 1976 in a field to the south of the farm.	
KENNIESHILLOCK	NJ36SW005 4	Farmstead, still in use. Depicted on the 1st edition OS map of 1867 as an L-shaped steading with horse-mill attached to the W face and a farmhouse with attached garden enclosure to the S.	
KENNIE'S HILLOCK	NJ36SW000 2	Flint working site; evidence of working occurs in the neighbourhood of Kennie's Hillock in the form of implements complete and incomplete such as flakes, chips, knives and axes.	16965
KENNIE'S HILLOCK	NJ36SW000 3	Macehead; faceted with ornamentation incomplete; of white quartz streaked with red.	16966
KENNIE'S HILLOCK	NJ36SW001 7	A number of crop marks visible in fields around Kennie's Hillock, where a tumulus once stood (NJ36SW0004) prior to 1870. A number of pits of various sizes have also been found (NJ36SW0005) in the area.	16968
EVERGREEN	NJ36SW005 7	Farmstead depicted on the OS map of 1846 as three rectangular buildings orientated NW/SE lying parallel to each with a gap between.	
SLEEPIESHILL	NJ26SE0019	Cairn; a content of earth and stones visible in	16541

WOOD		the furrows; ploughed over and afforested but otherwise not disturbed.	
SLEEPIESHILL WOOD	NJ26SE0013	Two beakers, thought to have been found in the mid-1800s.	16534
THREAPLAND	NJ26SE0014	A slug knife made of black flint found in a cist in or before 1869.	16535
THREAPLANDS	NJ26SE0134	Farmstead, still in use, depicted on the 1st edition OS map of 1867 as an L-shaped steading open to the S with a small building in its courtyard and an additional building to the SE.	
PITTENSAIR	NJ26SE0033	Cropmark of part of a rectangular enclosure with one curved corner showing. Eastern side would appear to have part of a double ditch.	
PITTENSAIR HOUSE	NJ26SE0057	House of James Ogilvie, built in 1735, and steading.	172149
THREAPLAND	NJ26SE0016	A cist: skeleton and flint within; no further information.	16538

Table 1. Sites of archaeological significance within a 1km radius of the site

- 1.3.3 The majority of the archaeological sites recorded in the vicinity are assumed to be prehistoric in date. The archaeological sites consist of enclosure cropmarks identified from aerial photographs.
- 1.3.4 To the northwest of the development area, the earliest map depicting Loch Oire is the OS map of 1921-1930. This suggests that the lake is an artificial man-made loch dating to the early 20th century. Prior to this a farm estate labelled Threapland is shown (OS Six Inch 1843-1882). The Inverness to Keith railway line to the south of the development area is also in use by this period.
- 1.3.5 A Rifle Range is known at this location dating back to 1899. Part of the Rifle Range may extend into the development area.

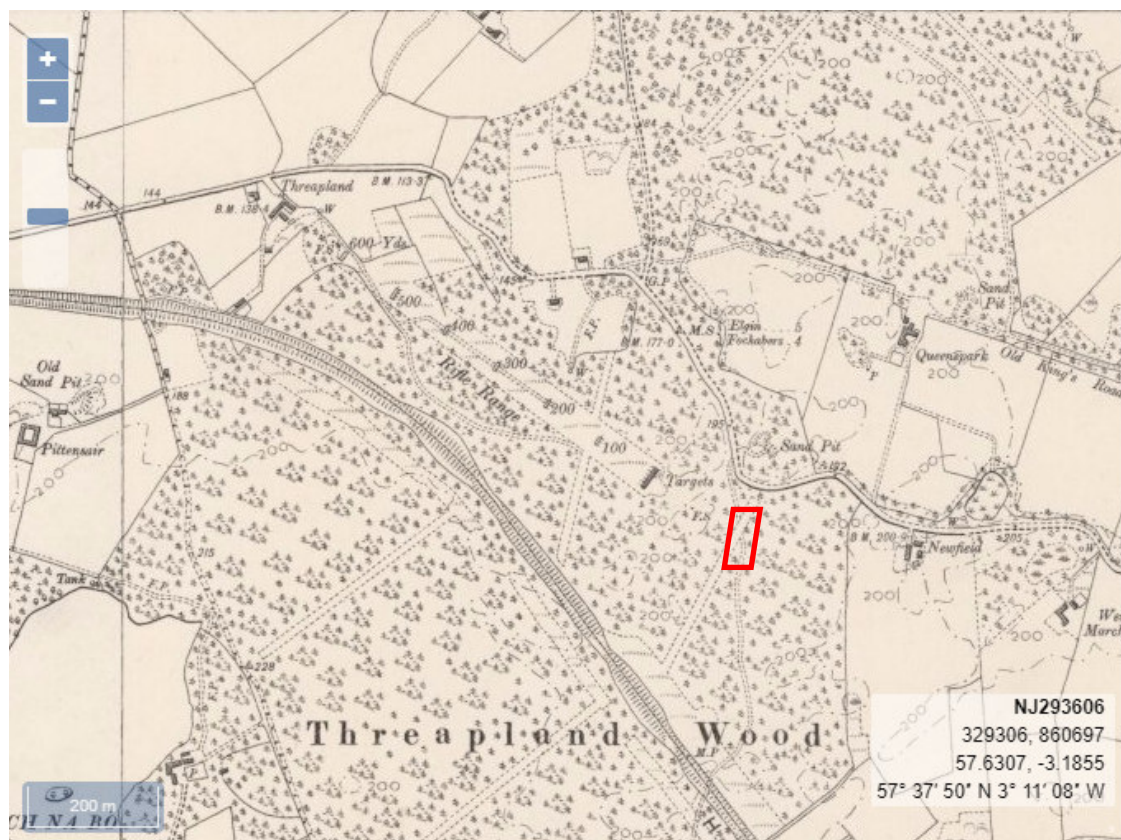


Plate 3 Extract from Ordnance Survey Six Inch Map Series 1888-1913 with the development area red line boundary superimposed.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are:

- i) to monitor all ground-breaking works associated within the development as shown on **Figure 1**;
- ii) given the discovery of significant archaeological/historic structural building material in quantity that will suffer an adverse impact from the groundworks associated with the development (i.e. where preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological and structural features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with the Planning Authority as advised by ACAS.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 All excavations were undertaken by a 22 tonne, 360 tracked excavator equipped with toothless ditching bucket. The excavations were carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. Due to tree coverage bounding the north, east and south of the site, the access track could not be excavated. All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Groups' standard practices (AOC 2017).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 7th November 2017 in fair weather conditions which provided good archaeological visibility throughout.
- 4.2 An area of 600m² (Figure 1) was stripped of topsoil. This revealed a substratum of mid orange and grey gravelly sand. Topsoil ranged from a depth of 0.05-0.20 m and the area was heavily bioturbated through tree root and animal activity.



Plate 4 View of stripped area

- 4.3 No significant archaeological features or artefactual material were observed.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The monitored topsoil strip revealed no significant archaeological features or finds.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are recommended within the proposed development area. This will need to be confirmed by ACAS on behalf of Moray Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2017 *Marchfield North Plot, Lhanbryde: Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished Client Report

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, April 2014.

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

Cartographic Sources

Ordnance Survey Six Inch Map Series 1843-1882

Ordnance Survey Six Inch Map Series 1888-1913

Marchfield, North Plot, Lhanbryde, Moray
Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

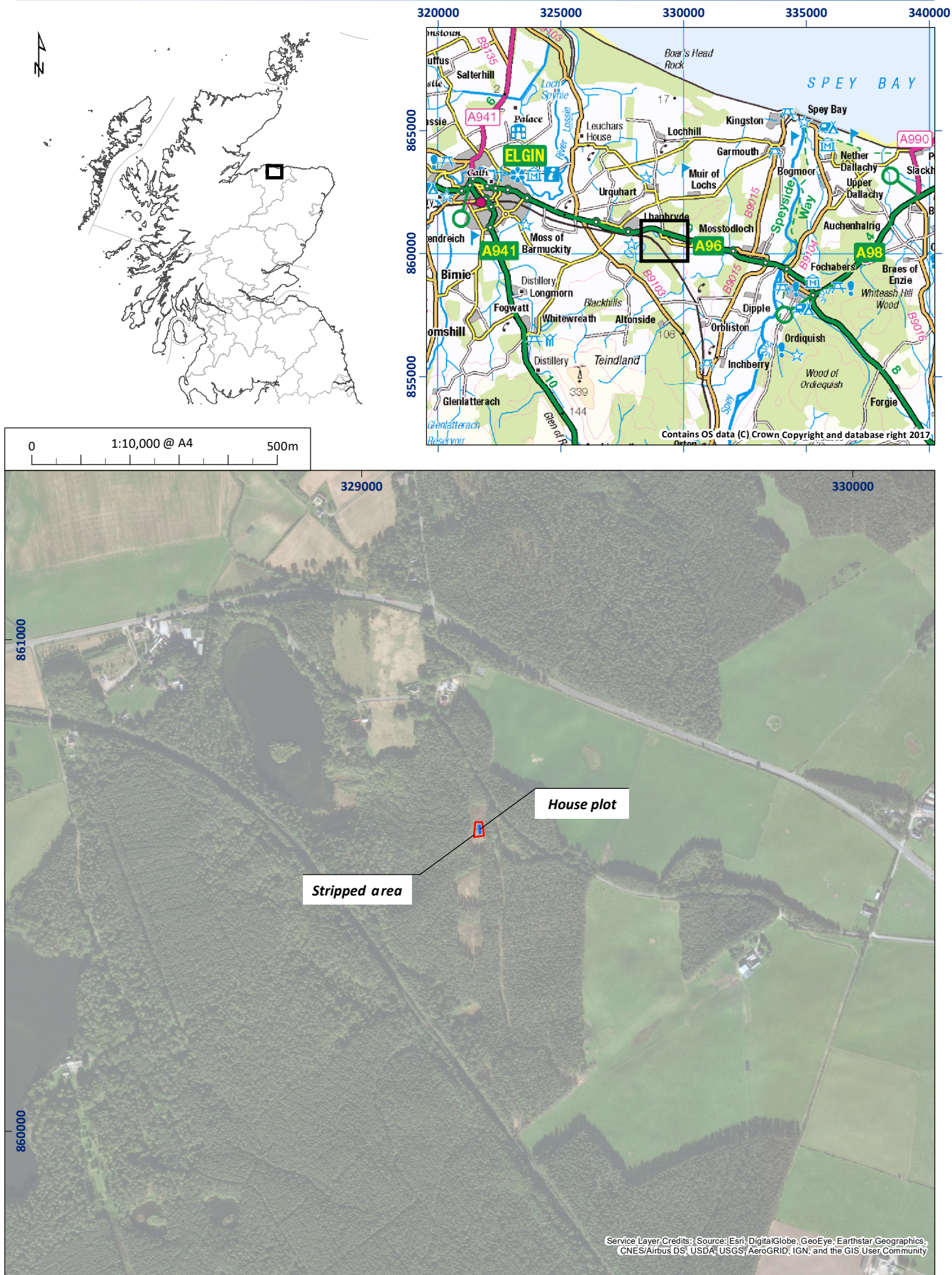


Figure 1: Site location plan showing stripped area

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Marchfield, North Plot, Lhanbryde, Moray: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

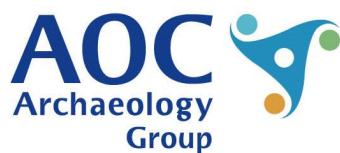
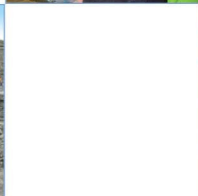
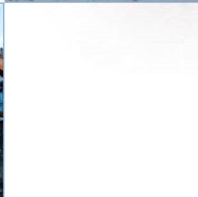
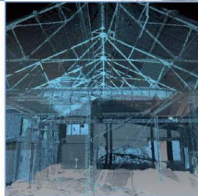
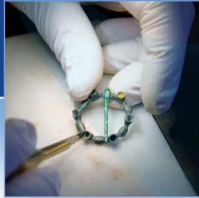
Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

No.	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2-6	General shots of North Plot	Various
7	Initial Strip	S
8-9	General shots North Plot	Various
10-12	Post excavation shots of North Plot	S
13-20	General shots of Middle Plot	Various
21-28	Post excavation shots of Middle Plot	Various
29-32	General shots of South Plot	Various
33-38	Post excavation shots of South Plot	Various

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Marchfield, North Plot, Lhanbryde
PROJECT CODE:	24124
PARISH:	Elgin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Steven Watt
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NJ 26SW1.06
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 2197 6314
START DATE (this season)	7 th November 2017
END DATE (this season)	7 th November 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Grant and Geoghegan Ltd ahead of the proposed development of a single dwelling at Marchfield (North Plot), Lhanbryde, Moray (NGR: NJ 29220 60524). The scope of the works was determined by Moray Council as advised by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and was designed to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impact within the development area.</p> <p>A monitored top soil strip of the house plot and surrounding area was undertaken. In total an area of 600m² was stripped. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Grant and Geoghegan Ltd. Unit 4 Westerton Road Business Centre, 4 Westerton Road South, Keith AB55 5FH
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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