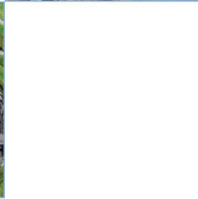
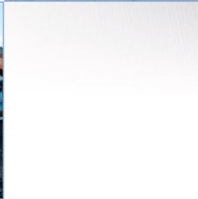
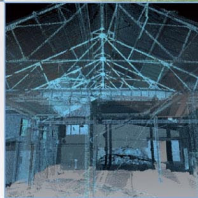
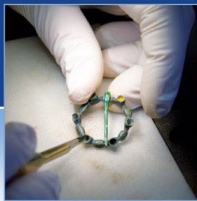


Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde, Moray Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

AOC Project 24187

OASIS ID: 1-305533



Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde, Moray

Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Grant and Geoghegan Ltd.

Unit 4 Westerton Road Business Centre,
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Keith
AB55 5FH

National Grid Reference (NGR): NJ 29096 60851 (centred)

AOC Project No: 24187

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Date of Fieldwork: 18th December 2017

Date of Report: 21st December 2017

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

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Date: 18th December 2017

Approved by: Rob Engl

Date: 8th January 2018

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 8th January 2018

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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 Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde, Moray (NGR: NJ 29096 60851). The scope of the works was determined by Moray Council as advised by the 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 was undertaken. In total, an area of 229m² 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 is required by Grant and Geoghegan Ltd., on behalf of their client Graham Main, at Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde, Moray in advance of a residential development (Planning Application No. 17/01868/APP).

1.1.2 The site lies within the local authority of Moray Council and is 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 has been granted planning permission for residential development and is located within an area of woodland situated to the east of Loch Oire (NGR NJ 29096 60851). The development area is approximately 2.2m to the southeast of Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray (**Figure 1**). The site is accessed from a single-track road which forks south off the A96.

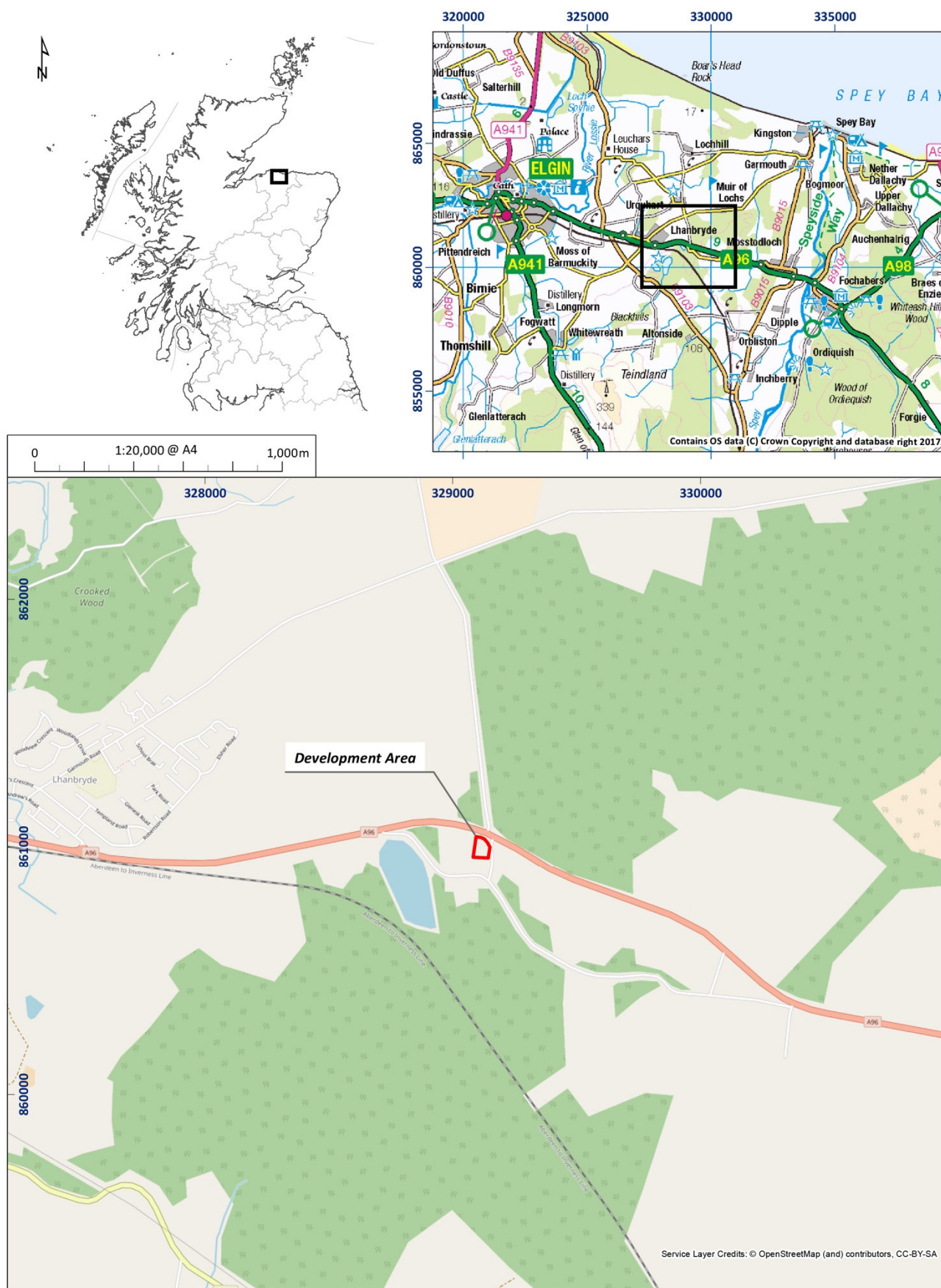


Figure 1 Site Location

1.3 Historical Background

1.3.1 There are no archaeological sites or findspots recorded within the immediate development area.

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

Name	Primary Reference	Description	NHRE 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	NJ36SW0009	Polished stone axe, found in 1920 while ploughing c70mm long.	16952
KENNIE'S HILLOCK FARM	NJ36SW0012	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	NJ36SW0056	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	NJ36SW0054	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	NJ36SW0002	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	NJ36SW0003	Macehead; faceted with ornamentation incomplete; of white quartz streaked with red.	16966
KENNIE'S HILLOCK	NJ36SW0017	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	NJ36SW0057	Farmstead depicted on the OS map of 1846 as three rectangular buildings orientated NW/SE lying parallel to each with a gap between.	
SLEEPIESHILL WOOD	NJ26SE0019	Cairn; a content of earth and stones visible in the furrows; ploughed over and afforested but otherwise not disturbed.	16541
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 An archaeological monitored top-soil strip was undertaken at the nearby land plot of Marchfield, Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray (AOC 2017). No significant archaeology was revealed during the works.

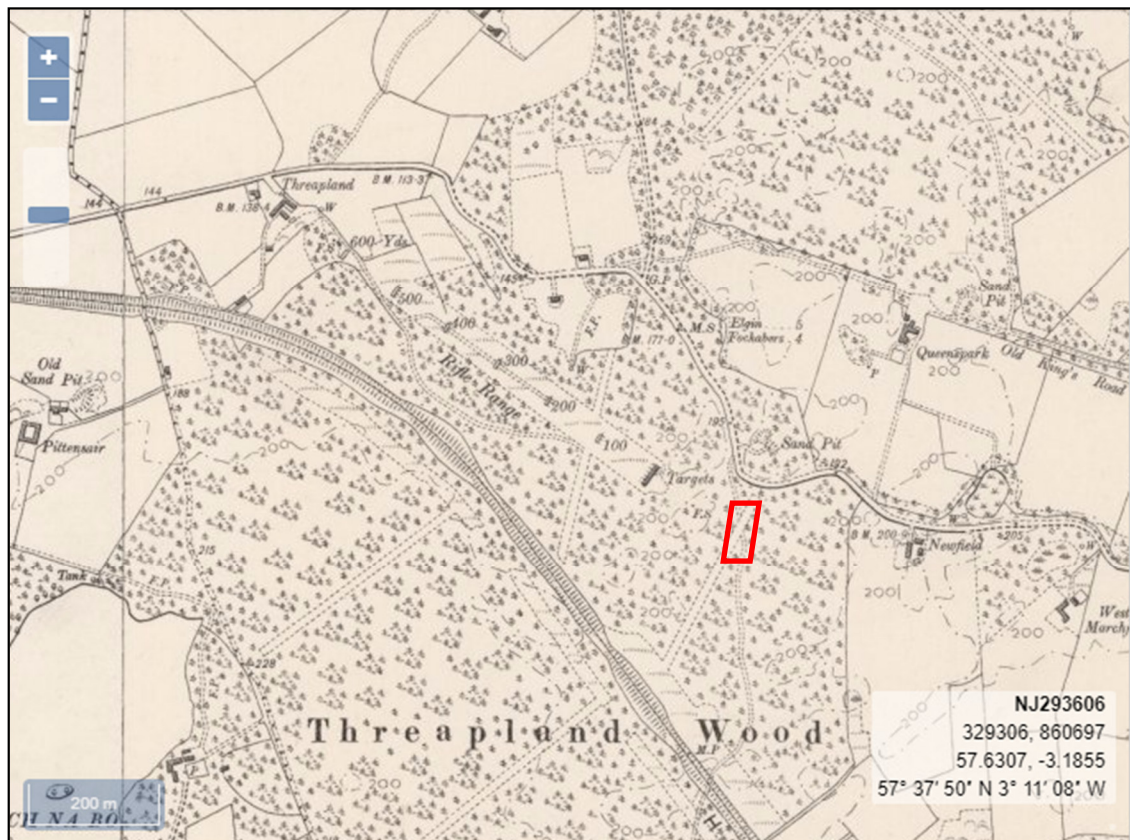


Plate 3 Extract from Ordnance Survey Six Inch Map Series 1888-1913 with the development area red line boundary superimposed.

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 Excavations were undertaken by a JCB JS145 360° tracked excavator equipped with 1.8m toothless ditching bucket and a Takeuchi mini excavator equipped with a 1.2m toothless ditching bucket. The excavations were carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Groups' standard practices (AOC 2017).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 18th December 2017 in fair weather conditions which provided good archaeological visibility throughout.
- 4.2 Two areas within the development plot (**Figure 1**) were subject to ground-breaking works totaling 229m². The proposed construction area measuring 22m x 10m and septic tank and soak-away area (to the NE of main construction area) measuring 3m x 3m were stripped to the natural substratum of mid orange and grey gravelly sand.
- 4.3 Evidence of heat affection to the natural and the presence of burnt roots within the main excavation area, suggest a previous clearance event such as scrub-burn.



Plate 4 View of stripped area

- 4.4 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 *Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde: Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished Client Report

AOC 2017 *Marchfield, South Plot, Lhanbryde: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report* 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

Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde, Moray: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

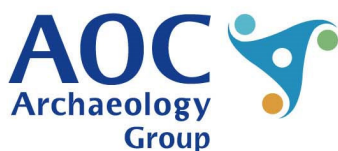
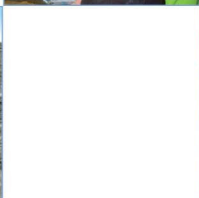
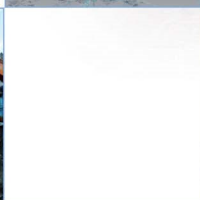
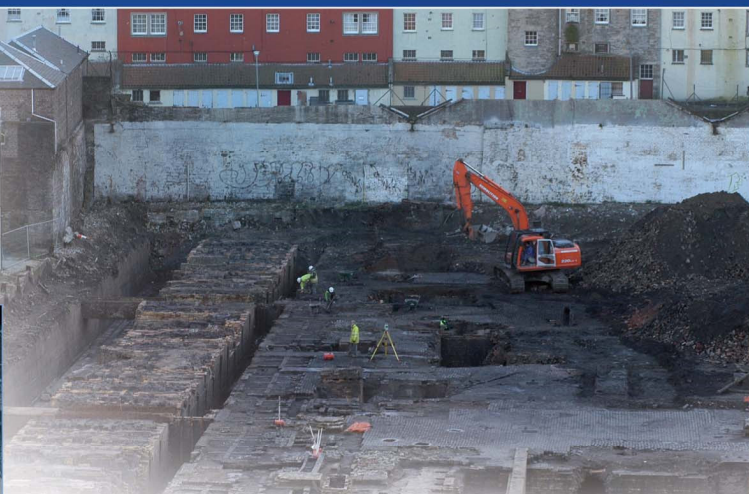
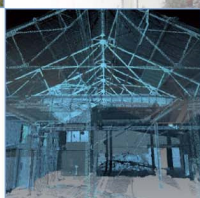
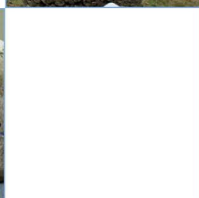
Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

No.	Description	Direction Facing
1	General shot of development site on arrival	SW
2	General shot of development site on arrival	SW
3	General shot of development site on arrival	SSE
4	General shot of development site on arrival	ESE
5	General shot of development site on arrival	SSW
6	Proposed soak away area pre-excavation	WSW
7	Proposed soak away area pre-excavation	WSW
8	From house plot looking towards access	ENE
9	Wide shot showing site from access	SW
10	Wide shot showing site from access	SW
11	Working shot	-
12	Working shot	-
13	Soak away area post-excavation	NNW
14	Soak away area post-excavation	WNW
15	Soak away area post-excavation	NE
16	Working shot house plot pre-excavation	SSE
17	WNW extent of excavation post-excavation	ENE
18	WNW extent of excavation post-excavation	ENE
19	WNW extent of excavation post-excavation	SE
20	Central area of excavation showing heat affected area	NE
21	Post-excavation central area of trench	NNE
22	ESE extent of excavation showing burnt roots and heat affected area	NNW
23	Post-excavation general view	SE
24	Post-excavation view from access	SW

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde
PROJECT CODE:	24187
PARISH:	Elgin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Leanne Demay
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 29096 60851
START DATE (this season)	18 th December 2017
END DATE (this season)	21 st December 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 Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde, Moray (NGR: NJ 29096 60851). The scope of the works was determined by Moray Council as advised by the 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 was undertaken. In total, an area of 229m² 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.
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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