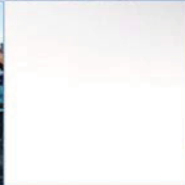


Denwell Road, Inch: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21275

14th October 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

Denwell Road, Inch, Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Scotia Homes Balmacassie Ellon AB41 8QR
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NJ 6349 2873
AOC Project No:	21725
Prepared by:	Martin Cook and Rob Engl
Illustration by:	Stefan Sagrott
Date of Fieldwork:	27th to 28th September - 2010
Date of Report:	14th October 2010

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

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed residential development at Denwell Road, Insch, Aberdeenshire.

The archaeological evaluation comprised a 7% trenching sample equating to 2240 m².

Generally, the site was archaeologically sterile, with only modern features such as field drains being identified.

No further works are considered necessary.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Scotia Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed residential development at Denwell Road, Inch, Aberdeenshire.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Aberdeenshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). ACAS recommended a programme of archaeological works in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010) and *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2010) was agreed with ACAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The evaluation was designed around a 7% trenching sample equating to 2240 m².
- 1.1.4 Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified and no further works are considered necessary.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is situated off Denwell Road (NGR: NJ 6349 2873). The Site fh4 development area, presently arable farmland, is located to east of Denwell Road. Recent housing development is situated to the south, with open farmland to the east, west and north.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 There were no known archaeological sites within the proposed development. However, the surrounding landscape is rich in archaeological sites identified through aerial photography.
- 1.3.2 Inch was granted a charter as a burgh of barony in 1677. Roy's military survey (1745-55) shows Inch as a trackless area between two roads linking Inverurie with Strathbogie with the actual village comprising a square north of the church and the Mill of Inch lying to the south (Smith 1999, 479).
- 1.3.3 No archaeological sites are currently known within this greenfield development area. However at NGR: NJ 6335 2839, to the south of Site fh4, a group of eight buildings (NMRS NJ62NW 215), annotated '*Drumrossie*', is located east of the road leading north out of Inch on the 1797 plan of the lands of Inch. A garden-like enclosure lies west of the road beside one of the buildings. Within the same immediate area (Aberdeenshire SMR NJ62NW0044; NMRS NJ62NW51; NGR NJ 6330 2840) lies the possible site of a motte as proposed by Bogden and Bryce (1991). The assertion was based on a reference to the place-name

Moathill, but no details of the source of that reference are given with the 4-figure grid reference placing the site on the north-east side of Insch.

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 trenching was designed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality, significance and date of any archaeological features present within the site area. The trenching comprised the excavation of 12 trenches of varying size and orientation totalling 2240 m²
- 3.2 Stripping of the overburden was by means of a single 360 tracked excavator equipped with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 27th and 28th September 2010. Overall weather conditions were poor, comprising heavy rain and overcast conditions. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3 and Figure 2.
- 4.1.2 The excavation of the trenches revealed topsoil comprising soft, sticky red silty material. Very few modern finds were identified within the topsoil. Underlying the topsoil, natural subsoil was a uniform red/orange clay.
- 4.1.3 Only modern orange ceramic drains were identified within the field, reflecting the poor drainage of the clay subsoil.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the evaluation.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by ACAS on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2010 Whitehall Road, Insch (Site C) and Denwell Road, Insch (Site fH4): *Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpubl AOC Archive Document.

Bogdan & Bryce, N & IBD 1991 'Castles, manors and 'town houses' survey', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 29.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy* (February 2010)

Smith, R 2001 *The Making of Scotland*. Canongate.

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

**Denwell Road, Inch:
Evaluation Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25-0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30-0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic field drain at 16.30 m from W
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50-0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic field drain at 35 m from W
<i>Subsoil</i>	Pale yellow sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic field drains at 58 m and 95 m from W
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25-0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40-0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic field drain at 40 m from W
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25-0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40-0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic field drains at 11.20 m, 25 m and 30 m from W
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
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<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30-0.33 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.33-0.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic field drain at 35 m from E
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW/NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30-0.32 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW/NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30-0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40-0.42 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25-0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30-0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None

<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic field drain at 10 m from SW
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25-0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.65 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	none
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

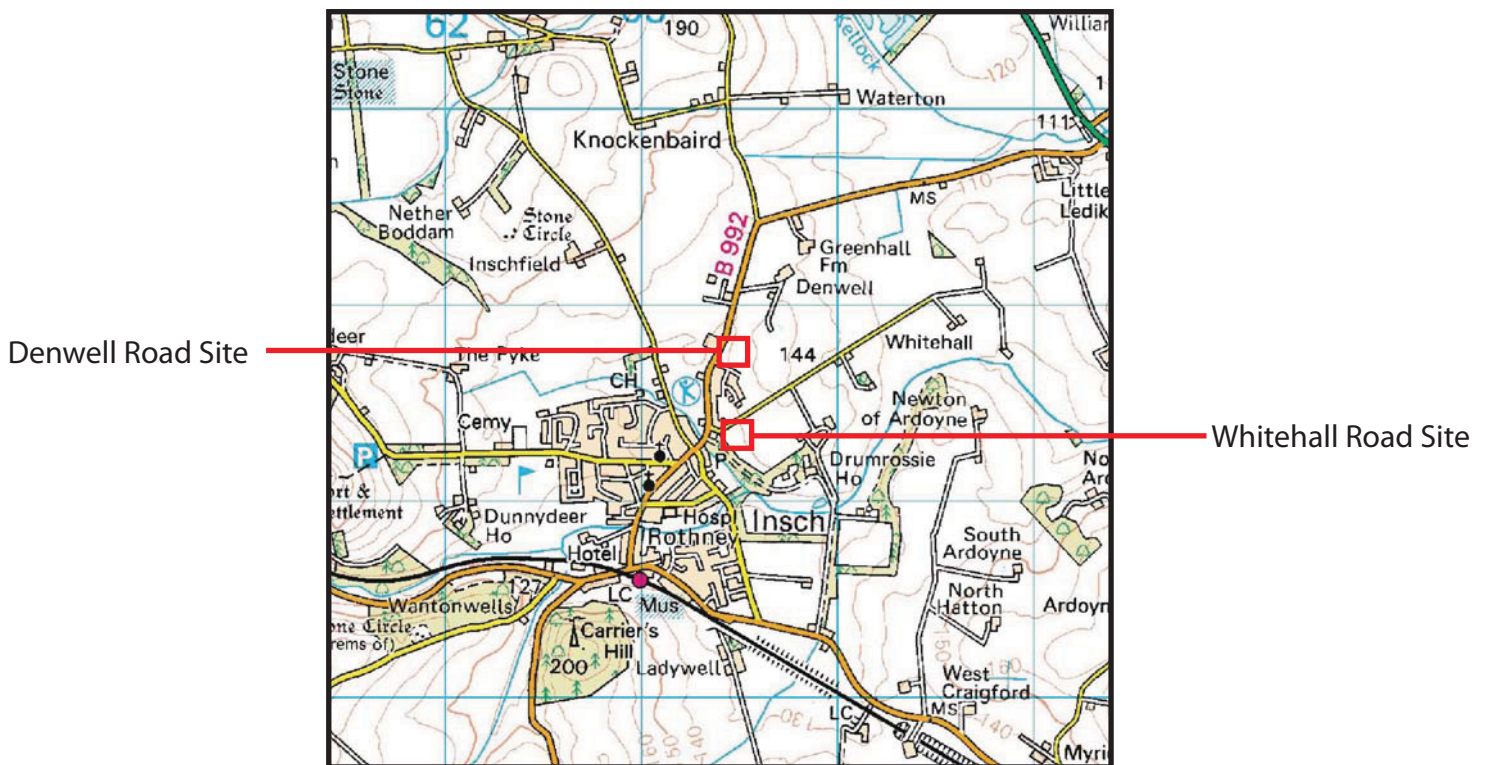
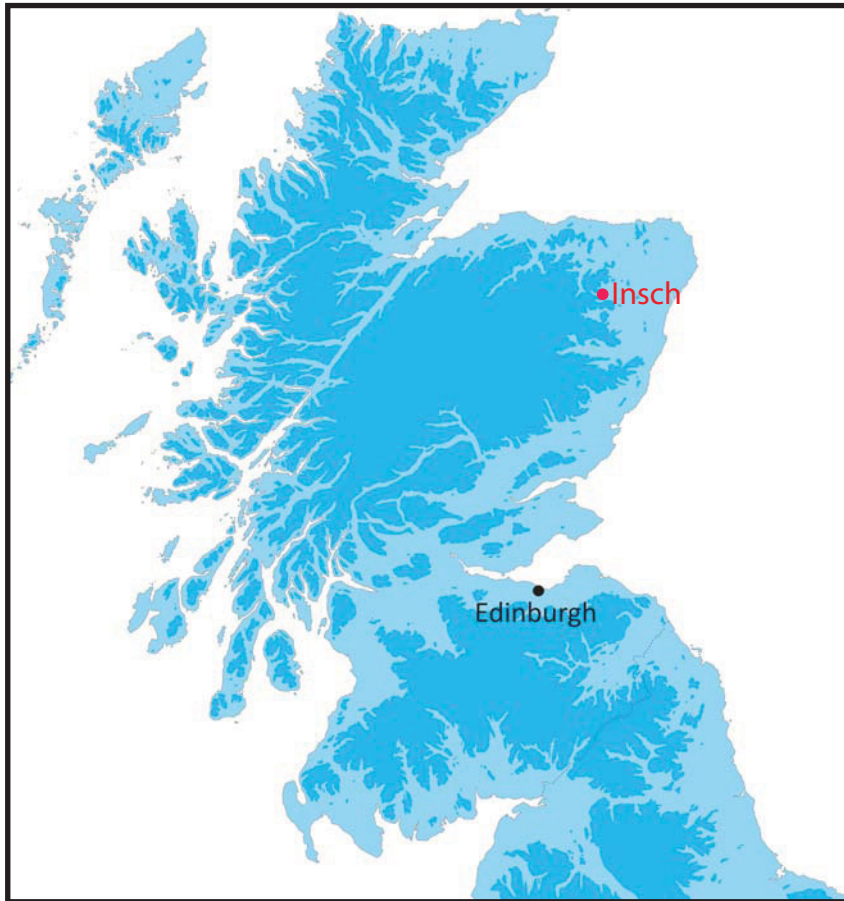
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Black & White Print/ /Digital Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
0-2		Registration	
3	1	Post-excavation shot of trench	W
4	2	Post-excavation shot of trench	W
5	3	Post-excavation shot of trench	W
6	4	Post-excavation shot of trench	W
7	5	Post-excavation shot of trench	E
8	6	Post-excavation shot of trench	E
9	7	Post-excavation shot of trench	W
10	12	North facing section through trench	N
11	12	Post-excavation shot of trench	NE
12	11	Post-excavation shot of trench	NE
13		Shot of backfilling	NE

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

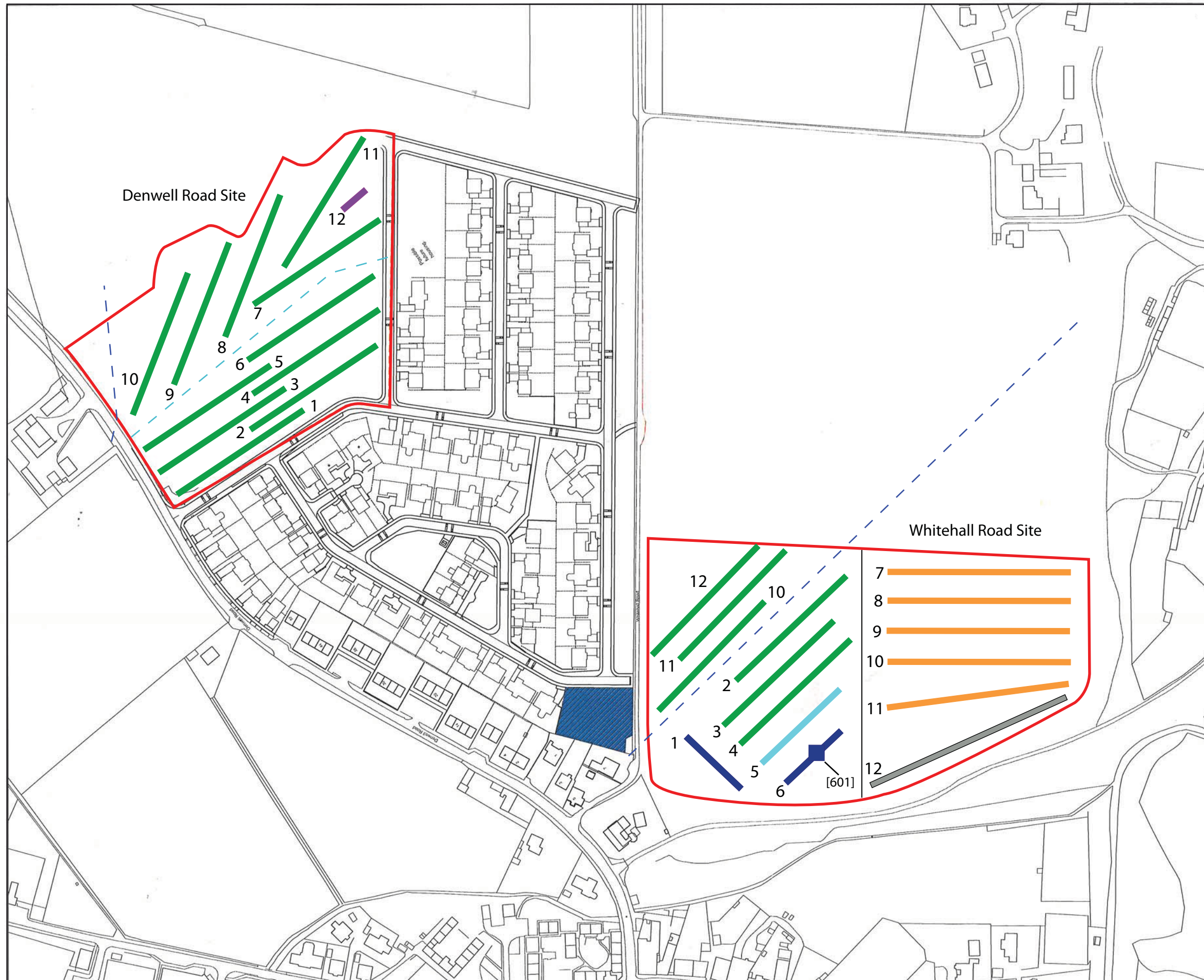
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Denwell Road
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21725
PARISH:	Insch
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Martin Cook and Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 6349 2873
START DATE (this season)	27 th September 2010
END DATE (this season)	28 th September 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a proposed residential development, Denwell Road, Insch, Aberdeenshire. The archaeological evaluation consisted of 12 trenches (2240 m ²) Neither archaeologically significant finds nor features were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Aberdeenshire Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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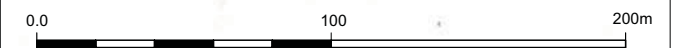
Figure 1: Location of the sites at Whitehall Road and Denwell Road, Insch

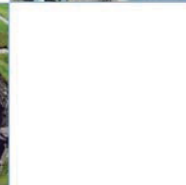
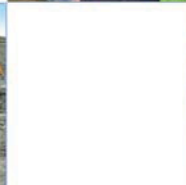
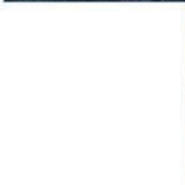
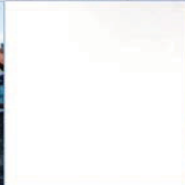
Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches at Whitehall Road and Denwell Road



- 140m evaluation trench
- 120m evaluation trench
- 100m evaluation trench
- 60m evaluation trench
- 40m evaluation trench
- 20m evaluation trench

- - - Services (Overhead)
- - - Services (Water)





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