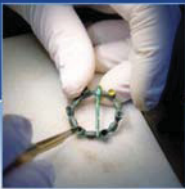


Greystone Road, Alford Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

AOC 21124
26th August 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Greystone Road, Alford Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **Stewart Milne Homes**
Osprey House,
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National Grid Reference (NGR): **NJ 5697 1618**

AOC Project No: **21124**

Prepared by: **Lindsay Dunbar**

Illustration by: **Stefan Sagrott**

Date of Fieldwork: **20th - 30th July 2010**

Date of Report: **26th August 2010**

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

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Draft Report Stage: Draft	Date: 26 th August 2010

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Abstract

A programme of archaeological works was required by Stewart Milne Homes in respect to a proposed housing development at Greystone Road, Alford. The proposed development consists of a greenfield site covering c 14 ha. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Angus Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). A programme of archaeological works is required in keeping with the policies outlined in SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994), in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

A 7% sample of the c12.5 ha area available for development equated to trenching totalling 8750 m². In total 41 trenches with a combined basal area of 8764 m² were excavated during the course of the evaluation. No archaeological features were encountered and no artefacts of any significance were recovered from the topsoil.

0 Non Technical Summary

0.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Stewart Milne Group in respect to a proposed development on land at Greystone Road, Alford, Aberdeenshire (Planning Application No APP/2008/1895). The development area consisted of a greenfield site covering approximately 14 ha, centred on NGR: NJ 5697 1618. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Aberdeenshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Unit (ACAS). A programme of archaeological works was specified by ACAS in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government, February 2010) and PAN 42 (1994) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

0.2 In order to conduct an assessment of the site's archaeological potential a phased response was required, which was outlined within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2010) and consisted of:

Phase 1 the undertaking of an intrusive archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) based on a 7% sample of the 14.0 ha development area. However due to a large bank of mature trees that are to be retained the area available for trenching is approximately 12.5 ha of which 7% equals 8750 m². This work was designed to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed site area. Additionally a targeted metal detecting survey was undertaken due to the proximity of the evaluation area to the Battle of Alford battlefield (1645 AD);

Phase 2 the provision of an evaluation Data Structure Report detailing the findings of Phase 1. Should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, a mitigation strategy will be prepared compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government, February 2010) and PAN 42 (1994);

Phase 3 given the discovery of significant archaeological material where preservation *in situ* proves infeasible the undertaking of a programme of archaeological mitigation works as defined in a further *Written Scheme of Investigation* approved by Aberdeenshire Council.

0.3 This *Data Structure Report* forms Phase 2 as outlined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2010). In summary the evaluation works uncovered no significant archaeological features and no unstratified artefacts. The metal detecting survey recovered no significant metal small finds. Given these findings it is unlikely that any Phase 3 works will be required though the final decision rests with ACAS.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

1.1.1 The development area lies to the west of the village of Alford immediately to the north of Greystone Road. The eastern portion of the site is covered by mature woodland which backs onto modern housing development with Alford cemetery forming the north-east corner of the site. Parkhill Road which extends to Cedar Cottage forms the northern site boundary with the western site boundary marked by long established fence lines (Figure 1).

1.2 Development proposal

1.2.1 The development involves the creation of a phased housing development together with associated access roads and landscaping.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 No archaeological sites are currently known within this greenfield development area. However just beyond Greystone Farm (NMRS NJ51NE 140), to the west of the development area, lies '*The Auld Kirk of Alford*' (NMRS NJ51NE 3). This is the site of what is described (where, NMRS?) as a ring cairn, though earlier descriptions refer to the site as a triple concentric stone circle. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No.1834). Closer to the development area lies Alford Cemetery, (NMRS NJ51NE 218) adjacent to the north-east corner of the site and close by Alford War Memorial (NMRS NJ51NE219). Woodside Cottage (NMRS NJ51NE 168) lies a few hundred metres north of the development area.

1.3.2 The most intriguing site in relation to this development is the Battle of Alford (NMRS NJ51NE 14). This battle took place on 2nd July 1645 between the victorious Royalist Montrose and the Covenanting General Baillie. It is believed that Montrose sited his troops on Gallow Hill (c.700 m west of development area) with the battle occurring on lower lying ground to the north-east of Gallow Hill (c.500 m north-west of the development area). However much of the evidence derives from 18th century or later plans and studies. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map places the battle site to the immediate north of the development area. Therefore it is possible that the battle, or the fringes of it, may have intruded into the development area.

1.3.3 A number of general find spots attributed to Alford and the immediate surrounding farmland include two stone cups (NMRS NJ51NE 18 & 38), a stone axehead (NMRS NJ51NE 25), a carved stone ball (NMRS NJ51NE 34), a flint knife (NMRS NJ51NE 35), a stone mould (NMRS NJ51NE 36), a perforated stone (NMRS NJ51NE 40) and a silver bracelet (NMRS NJ51NE 41), which together attest to a continued and persistent population from prehistoric times. Given the degree of prehistoric

and later activity in the local area there was a significant possibility of related archaeological material occupying the proposed development area.

1.4 Curatorial control

1.4.1 National planning policies and planning guidance, *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government, February 2010) and PAN 42 (1994), as well as the local plan policies, require a mitigation response that is designed to investigate the potential for archaeological sites within the development area and thence allow the preservation or recording of any significant remains.

1.4.2 The site is located within the Local Authority administrative area of Aberdeenshire Council. The Council is advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). A programme of evaluation works that fully met the advice rendered by ACAS was undertaken.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the development area through a 7% field evaluation;
- ii) whilst the over-riding aim of the development was to provide information allowing preservation *in situ* of specifically identified archaeological sites, the evaluation was also designed to inform an appropriate mitigation scheme, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should further, less significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHOD

3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Dunbar 2010) proposed the excavation of trenches equating to a 7% sample of the 14.0 ha development area. However due to a large bank of mature trees that are to be retained, the area available for trenching was approximately 12.5 ha of which 7% equals 8750 m². The forty-one trenches excavated correspond to a little over the 7% sample specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Dunbar 2010).

3.2 All trenches were excavated with a 13 tonne tracked excavator using a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Dunbar 2008).

- 3.3 As the trenching was being undertaken a systematic metal detecting survey was also conducted along the northern portion of the development site. This was conducted to determine the presence/absence of artefacts that may have derived from the fighting or immediate aftermath of the Battle of Alford.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was conducted between 20th and 30th June 2010. The weather conditions during the evaluation were mostly overcast with showers; overall archaeological visibility was good. Forty-one trenches, with a combined basal area of 8764 m², were excavated. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3 and Figure 2.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices: Appendix 1 contains the trench summary descriptions; Appendix 2 contains the photographic register and Appendix 3 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.



Plate 1: Trench 27 from south

4.2 Evaluation Overview

- 4.2.1 The topsoil across the site was generally shallow between 0.28 and 0.35 m deep and contained rare sherds of modern ceramics and glass. It overlay a natural subsoil comprising orange sandy clay.
- 4.2.2 The only features encountered derived from phases of late agricultural improvement: both a series of red clay tile field drains and, presumably, a suite of earlier rubble/stone drains. No significant archaeological features were identified and no unstratified artefactual material of any significance was observed. Plate 1 (Trench 27) shows the general character of the trenching undertaken.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The evaluation has revealed that the ground directly impacted upon by the development is apparently free from any significant archaeological material. Neither archaeologically significant features nor artefacts were uncovered by the evaluation trenching. No significant metal artefacts were unearthed by the metal detector survey. The significant balance of probability is that the development area is effectively archaeologically sterile.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

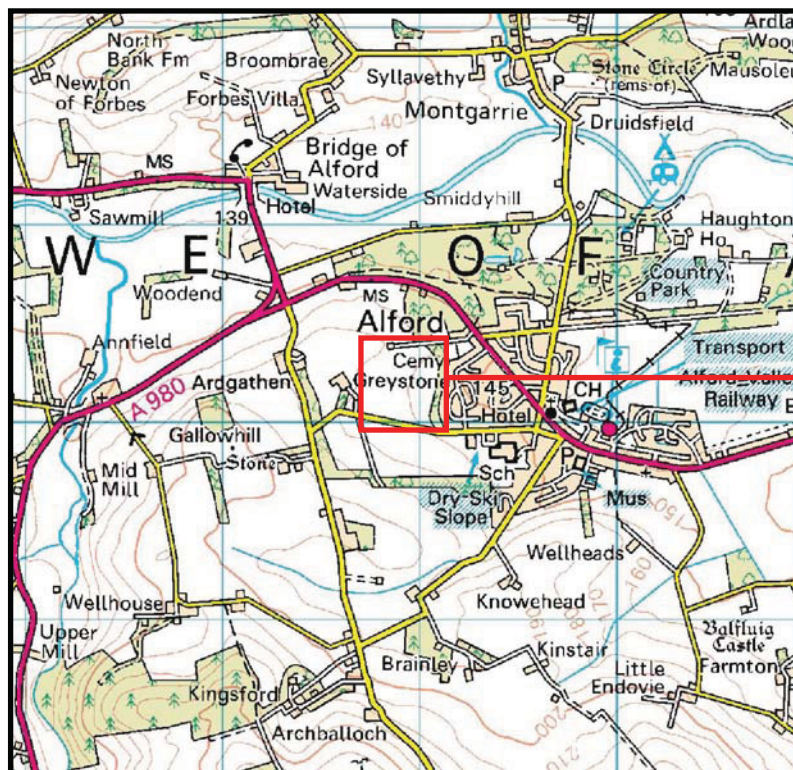
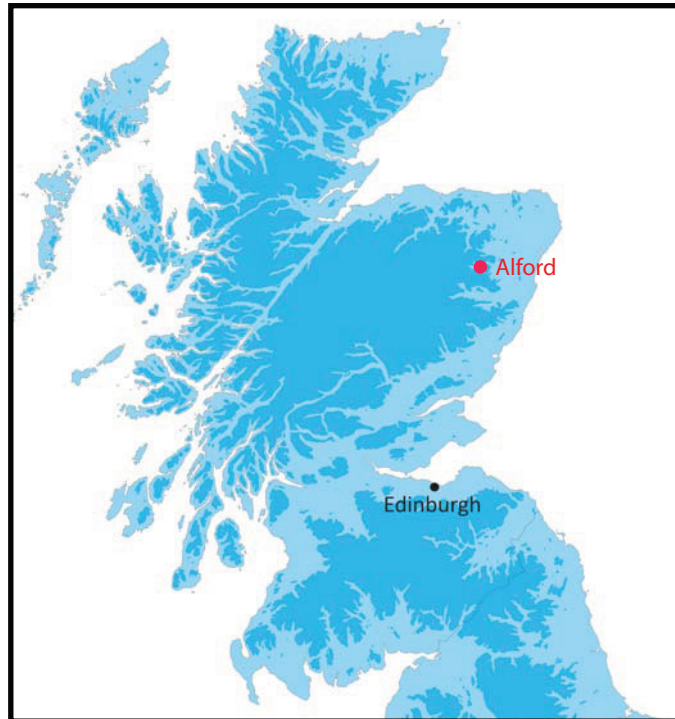
- 6.1 The results of the evaluation suggest that the development area has no or very limited archaeological potential, given that no significant archaeological features or any unstratified significant artefacts were uncovered by the evaluation works.
- 6.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Aberdeenshire Council as advised by ACAS.

7 REFERENCES

Dunbar, L. 2010 *Greystone Road, Alford Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*
AOC Archaeology Client Report

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

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



Greystone
Road
Site

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Figure 1: Location of the site at Greystone Road, Alford

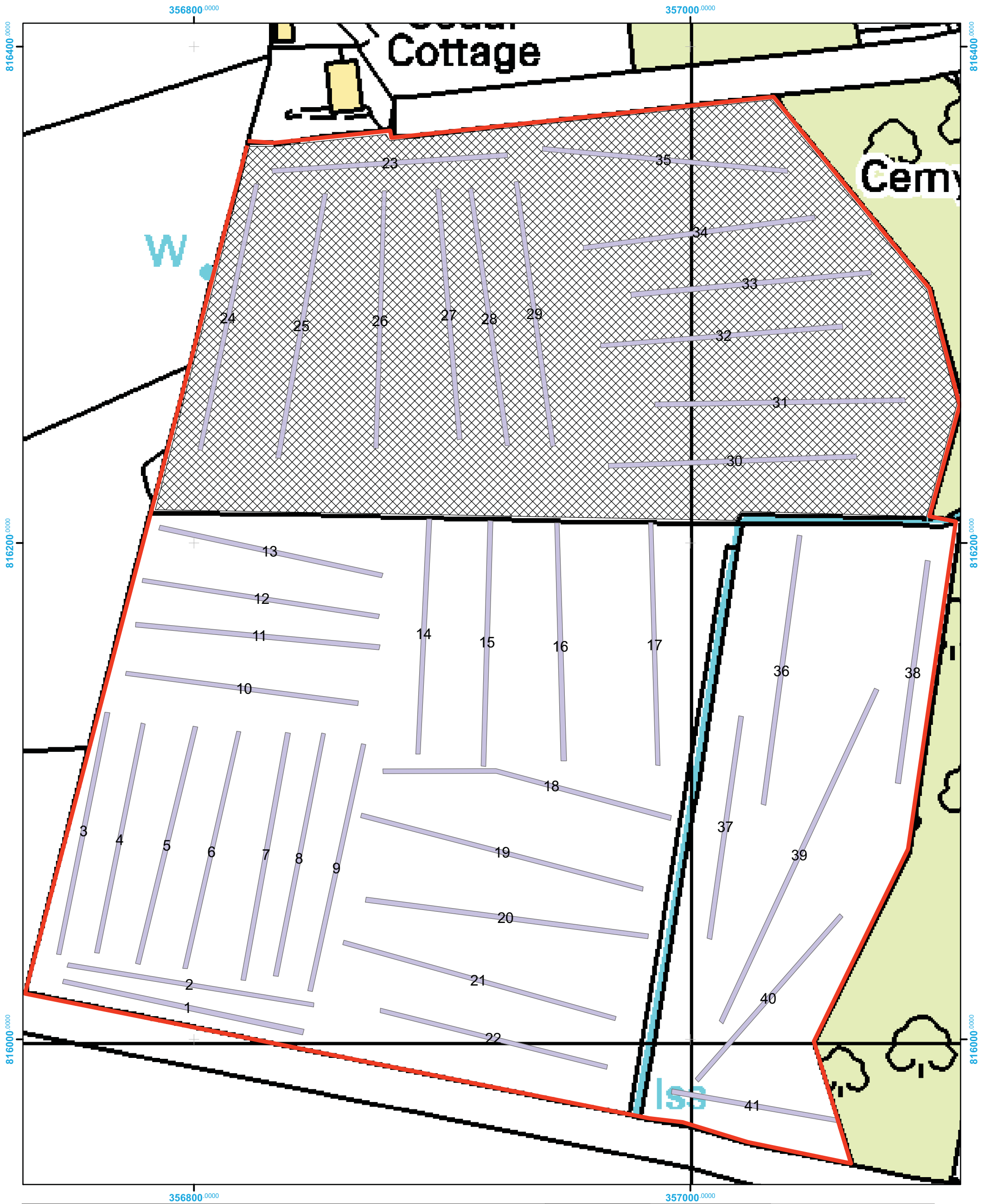


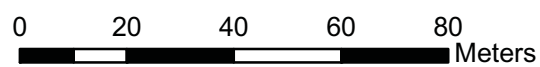
Figure 2: Trench plan, Greystone Road, Alford

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Evaluation Trench
- Metal Detector Survey Area

Project No.:	21124
Date:	19.08.2010
Scale at A3:	1:1250

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 Archaeology Group
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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	102 m by 2 m
Total Area	204 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	3 rubble drains; 1 ceramic drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 2

Dimensions	104 m
Total Area	208 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	1 rubble drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 3

Dimensions	102 m
Total Area	204 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	2 rubble drains
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	White ceramic

Trench 4

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 5

Dimensions	101 m
Total Area	202 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None

Subsoil Orange Sandy Clay
 Finds None

Trench 6

Dimensions 102 m
 Total Area 202 m²
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.30 m
 Features None
 Field Drains None
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Clay
 Finds None

Trench 7

Dimensions 105 m
 Total Area 210 m²
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.30 m
 Features None
 Field Drains None
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Clay
 Finds None

Trench 8

Dimensions 105 m
 Total Area 210 m²
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.35 m
 Features None
 Field Drains 1 rubble drain
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Clay
 Finds None

Trench 9

Dimensions 105 m
 Total Area 210 m²
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.33 m
 Features None
 Field Drains None
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Clay
 Finds None

Trench 10

Dimensions 100 m
 Total Area 200 m²
 Orientation E-W
 Depth of Topsoil 0.28 m

Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 11

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	2 rubble drains
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 12

Dimensions	105 m
Total Area	210 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	2 rubble drains
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 13

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	1 rubble drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 14

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	2 rubble drains; 1 ceramic drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 15

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²

Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	5 rubble drains.
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 16

Dimensions	105 m
Total Area	210 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	4 rubble drains
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 17

Dimensions	105 m
Total Area	210 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	6 rubble drains
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 18

Dimensions	125 m
Total Area	250 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	1 ceramic drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 19

Dimensions	130 m
Total Area	260 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None.
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 20

Dimensions	125 m
Total Area	250 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	1 ceramic drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 21

Dimensions	125 m
Total Area	250 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	2 ceramic drains
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 22

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	W-E
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	1 rubble drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 23

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 24

Dimensions	110 m
Total Area	220 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	1 rubble drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 25

Dimensions	110 m
Total Area	220 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	1 rubble drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 26

Dimensions	110 m
Total Area	220 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	1 rubble drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 27

Dimensions	110 m
Total Area	220 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 28

Dimensions	110 m
Total Area	220 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 29

Dimensions	110 m
Total Area	220 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay

Finds None

Trench 30

Dimensions 100 m
 Total Area 200 m²
 Orientation W-E
 Depth of Topsoil 0.35 m
 Features None
 Field Drains 2 ceramic drains; 1 rubble drain
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Clay
 Finds None

Trench 31

Dimensions 100 m
 Total Area 200 m²
 Orientation E-W
 Depth of Topsoil 0.35 m
 Features None
 Field Drains None
 Subsoil Rubble at 85 m
 Finds None

Trench 32

Dimensions 100 m
 Total Area 200 m²
 Orientation W-E
 Depth of Topsoil 0.30 m
 Features None
 Field Drains None
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Clay
 Finds None

Trench 33

Dimensions 100 m
 Total Area 200 m²
 Orientation E-W
 Depth of Topsoil 0.30 m
 Features None
 Field Drains None
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Clay
 Finds None

Trench 34

Dimensions 100 m
 Total Area 200 m²
 Orientation W-E
 Depth of Topsoil 0.30 m
 Features None

Field Drains	1 rubble drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 35

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	SE-NW
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 36

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 37

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 38

Dimensions	100 m
Total Area	200 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	Occasional White Ceramic

Trench 39

Dimensions	150 m
Total Area	300 m ²
Orientation	NE-SW

Depth of Topsoil	0.25 m
Features	None
Field Drains	1 rubble drain
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 40

Dimensions	75 m
Total Area	150 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	3 rubble drains
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

Trench 41

Dimensions	102 m
Total Area	204 m ²
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Field Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER**Black & White Print & Colour Slide Film 1**

Frame	Area	Detail	From
1-2	-	Registration	
3-5	-	General View of Site	S, SW, W
6	Tr 1	Post-excavation Shot	W
7	Tr 2	Post-excavation Shot	W
8	Tr 3	Trench Under Excavation	S
9	Tr 4	Post-excavation Shot	S
10	Tr 5	Trench Under Excavation	S
11	Tr 6	Post-excavation Shot	S
12	Tr 7	Post-excavation Shot	S
13	Tr 8	Post-excavation Shot	S
14	Tr 9	Trench Under Excavation	S
15	Tr 10	Post-excavation Shot	E
16	Tr 11	Post-excavation Shot	E
17	Tr 12	Post-excavation Shot	E
18	Tr 13	Post-excavation Shot	E
19	Tr 14	Post-excavation Shot	N
20	Tr 15	Post-excavation Shot	N
21	Tr 16	Trench Under Excavation	N

22	Tr 18	Post-excavation Shot	W
23	Tr 19	Post-excavation Shot	W
24	Tr 20	Post-excavation Shot	W
25	Tr 21	Trench Under Excavation	W
26	Tr 21	View of Slot Through Drainage Feature	SW
27	Tr 30	East facing Section Through Stone-hole	E

Digital Record

Frame	Area	Detail	From
1	-	Registration	
2-4	-	General Views of Site	S, SW, W
5	Tr 1	Post-excavation Shot	W
6	Tr 2	Post-excavation Shot	W
7	Tr 3	Trench Under Excavation	S
8	Tr 4	Post-excavation Shot	S
9	Tr 5	Trench Under Excavation	S
10	Tr 6	Post-excavation Shot	S
11	Tr 7	Post-excavation Shot	S
12	Tr 8	Post-excavation Shot	S
13	Tr 9	Trench Under Excavation	S
14	Tr 10	Post-excavation Shot	E
15	Tr 11	Post-excavation Shot	E
16	Tr 12	Post-excavation Shot	E
17	Tr 13	Post-excavation Shot	E
18	Tr 14	Post-excavation Shot	N
19	Tr 15	Post-excavation Shot	N
20	Tr 16	Trench Under Excavation	N
21	Tr 18	Post-excavation Shot	W
22	Tr 19	Post-excavation Shot	W
23	Tr 20	Post-excavation Shot	W
24	Tr 21	Trench Under Excavation	W
25	Tr 22	Post-excavation Shot	E
26	Tr 24	Post-excavation Shot	S
27	Tr 25	Post-excavation Shot	S
28	Tr 26	Post-excavation Shot	S
29	Tr 27	Post-excavation Shot	S
30	Tr 28	Post-excavation Shot	S
31	Tr 29	Post-excavation Shot	S
32	Tr 23	Post-excavation Shot	E
33	Tr 21	View of Slot Through Drainage Feature	SW
34	Tr 34	View of Possible Feature Pre-excavation	W
35	Tr 30	East Facing Section Through Stone-hole	E
36	Tr 32	View of Possible Feature Pre-excavation	W
37	Tr 27	View of Possible Feature Pre-excavation	N
38	Tr 35	Post-excavation Shot	W
39	Tr 39	Post-excavation Shot	W

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Greystone Road Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21124
PARISH:	Alford
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NMRS NJ51NE 14
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Battle field
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 5697 1618
START DATE (this season)	20 th July 2010
END DATE (this season)	30 th July 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation based on a 7% sample was undertaken on this 14 ha residential development area. Additionally a targeted metal detecting survey was carried out due to the proximity of Battle of Alford (1645) battlefield.</p> <p>The evaluation works uncovered neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts. The metal detecting survey recovered no significant metal small finds.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Stewart Milne Homes
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Lindsay.Dunbar@aacarchaeology.com



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