

Archaeological evaluation Tillyoch, Peterculter, Aberdeen



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Archaeological evaluation, Tillyoch, Peterculter, Aberdeen

The area of the site (NJ 83540178) lies immediately to north of the built up area of Peterculter. The development consists of the construction of a house, cattery, associated buildings and access road. The evaluation was based on Portico Design plan no 9807/09.

The area of the site appears as open fields on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867, lying between the farming settlements of Tillyoch to north, Woodend to east, Parkhill to west and Bucklerburn to south. Several well-preserved portions of rig and furrow remnants in close proximity to the site attest to earlier agricultural activities in this area. The settlement of Tillyoch is first mentioned in a document in 1446. In that year Agnes de Wynde resigned several of her lands, including those at Tillyoch, in the Barony of Culter. Tillyoch Farm is probably a descendant of the fermtoun of the medieval period, with its name possibly deriving from the Gaelic root *tulach each*, meaning something like 'knoll of the horse'. It is fairly certain that farming has taken place in this area since at least the 15th century (Aberdeen City Council Sites and Monuments Record).

The evaluation

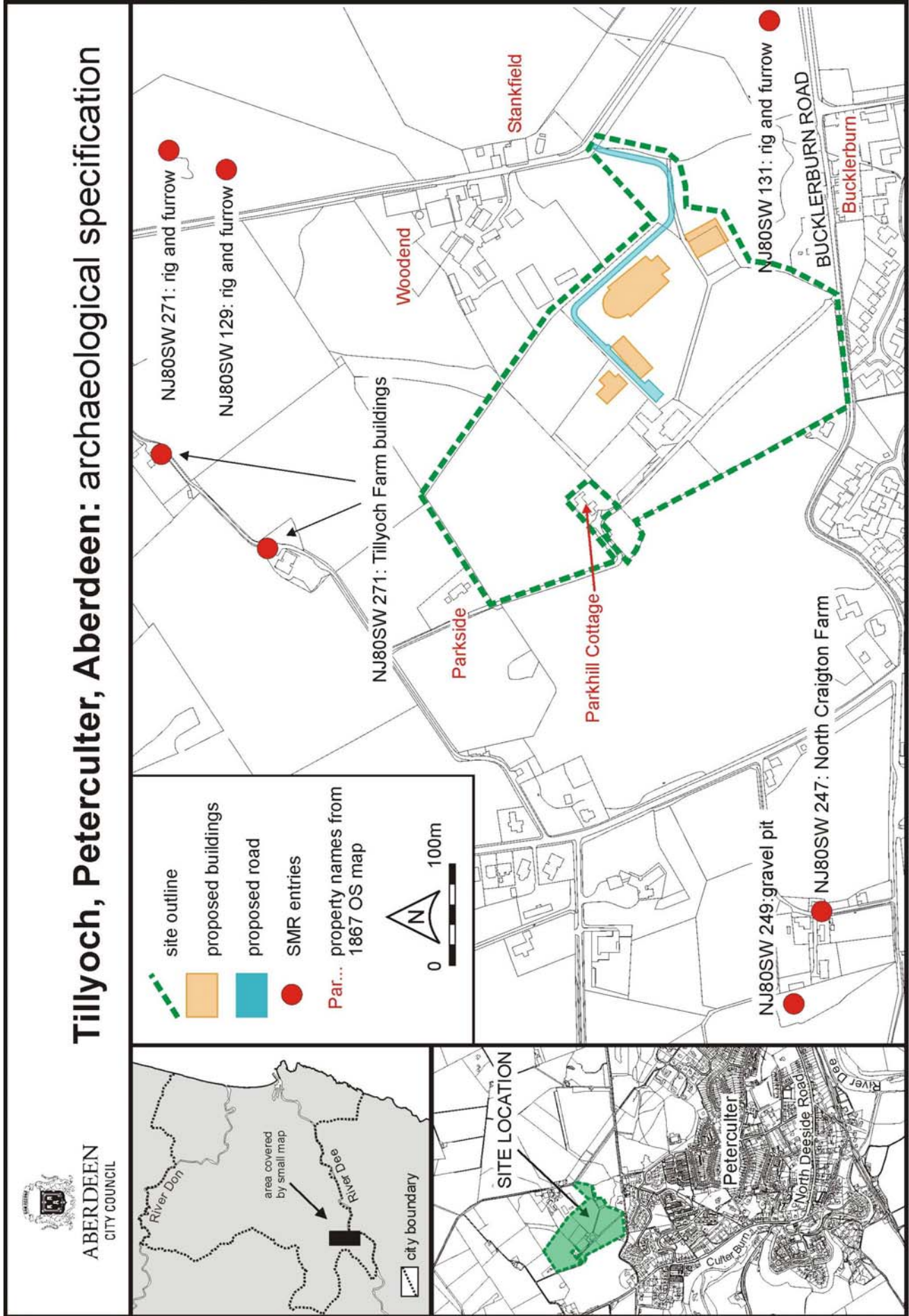
Seven trenches totalling 330m² (7% of the development area) were excavated between 30th January and 2nd February 2009. Topsoil was 25-30cm deep except at the SW end of Trench 1 where it was up to 40cm deep. Three trenches containing ceramic land drains were recorded (AA, AB and AC), probably dating to the late 19th or early 20th century. No deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

Trench 5 was excavated in an area of previously recorded rig and furrow (Ill 2) but did not cut through or reveal any archaeological deposits.

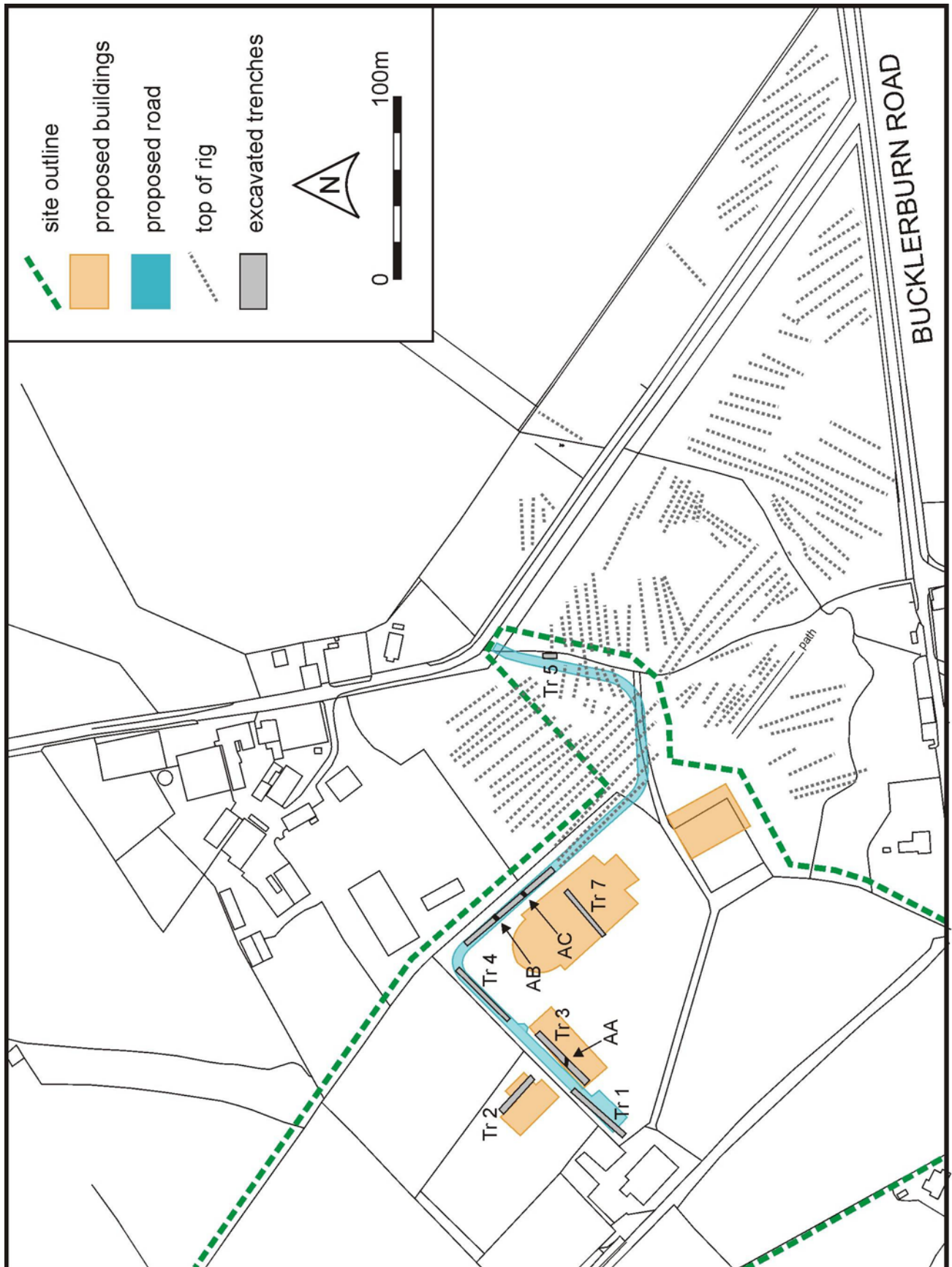
The clean interface between the orange sandy clay subsoil and the topsoil suggests that this area had not been subjected to modern deep ploughing. Current landowner, George Jamieson, provided a summary of land use since the 1970s and confirms that shallow ploughing had taken place in the field of trenches 1,3, 4, 6 and 7, and that the field including Trench 2 had been used by him as a market garden, thereby explaining the good quality loam encountered in this trench.

Recommendations

- No further work is required during this development (based on Portico Design plan no 9807/09) in the fields to the west of the site evaluated with Trenches 1-4 and 6-7.
- The new road will cut through an area of rig and furrow which has already been disturbed by the current track through the site. The rig and furrow has been planned previously (see Ill 2) and it is recommended that an archaeologist be present during the earthmoving for the new road to record the rig and furrow in section and collect samples as necessary.



Ill 1 Plan of the development and associated archaeological sites



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Ill 2 Plan of site showing survey of rig and furrow recorded previously

APPENDIX 1

**ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CENTRAL AREA
MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES****Tillyoch, Peterculter, Aberdeen**Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**Summary**

This specification outlines the historic importance of this area and indicates the works which will be required to ensure that historic and archaeological features are evaluated, and where necessary recorded and protected during development work.

1.0 Site Location and Description

The area of the site (NGR NJ 83540178) is shown on the enclosed map extract. It lies immediately to west of the built up area of Peterculter, which forms the western extremity of the suburbs of Aberdeen. There are currently some structures within the site, including sheds and a sand arena. The development will include the construction of several new buildings and an associated access road.

2.0 Planning Background

The request for this archaeological evaluation is made in the context of National Planning Policy Guideline no 5, Archaeology and Planning, which states that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed. In paragraph 14, planning authorities are advised that they should ensure that archaeological factors are fully considered in both the development planning and development control processes. Paragraph 16 urges planning authorities to regard archaeological remains as a finite and often highly fragile resource vulnerable to needless or thoughtless damage or destruction. Paragraph 25 states that the implications of development proposals for ancient monuments and their settings should be considered at the outset of the development control process. It is appropriate for planning authorities to request, where appropriate, the prospective developer to arrange for archaeological fieldwork and ensure that relevant information on the cultural heritage is taken into account in any environmental assessment that may be necessary (paragraph 24).

National Planning Policy Guideline 18, Planning and the Historic Environment, paragraph 52 states that ‘in cases of demolition or significant alteration of historic buildings, structures or streetscape, planning authorities are encouraged to make it a condition of consent that applicants arrange suitable programmes of recording features that would be destroyed in the course of the proposed works...’

3.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

The area of the site appears as open fields on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867, lying between the farming settlements of Tillyoch to north, Woodend to east, Parkhill to west and Bucklerburn to south. Several well-preserved portions of rig and furrow remnants in close proximity to the site attest to earlier agricultural activities in this area. The settlement of Tillyoch is first mentioned in a document in 1446. In that year Agnes de Wynde resigned several of her lands, including those at Tillyoch, in the Barony of Culter. Tillyoch Farm is probably a

descendant of the fermtoun of the medieval period, with its name possibly deriving from the Gaelic root *tulach each*, meaning something like ‘knoll of the horse’. It is fairly certain that farming has taken place in this area since at least the 15th century.

It is very possible that the other farms in the area may also have early origins, in which case names such as ‘Woodend’ and ‘Parkhill’ may have resulted from name-changes associated with 18th to 19th century improvement.

4.0 Requirement for Work

Field Evaluation

The archaeological potential of the site must be tested in the field by a series of trial trenches. The layout and location of the trenches are to be agreed in advance by the archaeological contractor and the Keeper of Archaeology, but it is anticipated that 7% of the development area will be sampled. The purpose of the evaluation process is to establish the location, condition, depth and date of any archaeological features and deposits which may survive on the site – and to determine to what extent they are in danger of being affected by the development.

5.0 Further Work

Following the fieldwork exercise, a written evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site must be produced, along with a suggested strategy for final investigation, recording and protection of any significant features. This final investigation or protection strategy must be acceptable to the planning authority and its implementation, including all fieldwork, post-excavation and publication requirements, must be secured by the developer.

7.0 Timetable

A timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work so that provision can be made for monitoring by the Keeper of Archaeology.

8.0 Staff Structure

A list of key project staff with qualifications and experience will be submitted by the contractor. The use of unwaged staff will not normally be acceptable.

9.0 Health and Safety /PLI

Such concerns and responsibilities are primarily a matter for the archaeological contractor who must submit evidence of conformity to the Health and Safety at Work Act and possession of public liability insurance to Aberdeen City Council.

10.0 Field Evaluation

- 10.1 An appropriate machine must be used to minimise damage to underlying archaeological deposits
- 10.2 All machine work must be carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist acceptable to the planning authority and the Keeper of Archaeology.
- 10.3 All excavation, both by machine and by hand, must be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be worthy of preservation *in situ*.
- 10.4 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left *in situ*. Their removal will be a matter of discussion with the Keeper of Archaeology (who must be notified within 12 hours of their discovery) and will comply with the provisions of Scots Law.

11.0 Recording Systems

These must be specified and should include the structure for site record.

12.0 Monitoring Arrangements

It is necessary for the planning authority to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the archaeological work in order to ensure the proper execution of the specification and therefore conformity to the brief. Stages at which monitoring is appropriate will be agreed between the archaeological contractor and the Keeper of Archaeology. The possibility of random inspections should not be excluded.

13.0 Reporting Requirements for Field Evaluation

Provision must be made for:

- 13.2 Specialist examination of animal and human bone and of any preserved or organic material.
- 13.3 Specialist conservation and examination of artefacts found during the fieldwork
- 13.4 Preparation of plans, sections and finds drawings to publication standards.
- 13.5 The sorting and analysis of records and the production of a written report on the work, published in a manner appropriate to its scale.
- 13.6 The preparation of a catalogued archive and its deposition in the City Council's Sites and Monuments record and the National Monuments Record of Scotland within six months of the end of the fieldwork.
- 13.7 Copies of all reports should be sent to the Keeper of Archaeology, the applicant and the planning authority. A brief survey of results should be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, along with the appropriate fee. An OASIS report must also be provided.

14.0 Small finds

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia and reported by the archaeological contractor to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel

(Nicholas Holmes, National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.

15.0 Timescale

The evaluation report must be produced within four weeks of the end of the field work.

16.0 Further Information

Additional information about the site, or this brief, can be obtained from the Keeper of Archaeology, Whitespace, 60 Frederick Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5HY Tel (01224) 523658 – judiths@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

17.0 Conclusion

The archaeological work is to be carried out in compliance with this brief and in the context of NPPG 5. The selection of any contractor will be subject to approval of the Keeper of Archaeology. Work should be carried out in close liaison with the Keeper of Archaeology.

January 2009

APPENDIX 2 CONTACT SHEET DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Tr 1 SW end (1)



Tr 1 SW end (2)



Tr 1 SW end (3)



Tr 1 SW end (4)



Tr 1 SW end (5)



Tr 1 SW end (6)



Tr 1 SW end



Tr 1 from SW facing NE (1)



Tr 1 from SW facing NE (2)



Tr 1 from SW facing NE



Tr 1 from NE facing SW



Tr 1 from SW facing NE



Tr 2 SE end facing NW (1)



Tr 2 SE end facing NW (2)



Tr 2 SE end facing NW



Tr 2 George Jamieson left
Brian McIntosh Plan right



Tr 2 George, Brian, Michael
facing E



Tr 2 facing SE (1)



Tr 2 facing SE (2)



Tr 2 facing SE



Tr 2 facing NW (1)



Tr 2 facing NW



Tr 3 facing SW (1)



Tr 3 facing SW



Tr 3 facing NE (1)



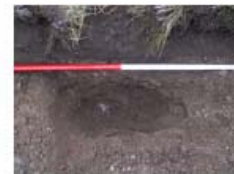
Tr 3 facing NE



Tr 3 facing NE (1)



Tr 3 facing NE



Tr 3 land drain AA (1)



Tr 3 land drain AA



Tr 5 facing S



Tr 5 location facing S



Tr 5 being backfilled



Tr 5 location facing SE



Tr 4 facing SW (1)



Tr 4 facing SW



Tr 6 facing SE (1)



Tr 6 facing SE



Tr 6 facing NW



Tr 6 central area facing SE



Tr 6 facing NW in snow shower (1)



Tr 6 facing NW in snow shower



Tr 6 facing SE in snow shower



Tr 6 AB facing SE (1)



Tr 6 AB facing SE (2)



Tr 6 AB facing SE (3)



Tr 6 AB facing SE



Tr 6 complete length facing NW



Tr 6 complete length facing SE



Tr 7 NE end facing S (1)



Tr 7 NE end facing S



Tr 7 facing SW (1)



Tr 7 facing SW (2)



Tr 7 facing SW