

**Report of Archaeological Watching Brief
October 16th 2002
Scotsburn, Moray
NJ 273/606 (centred)**

**By
Stuart Farrell
B.A A.I.F.A F.S.A.Scot.
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Introduction

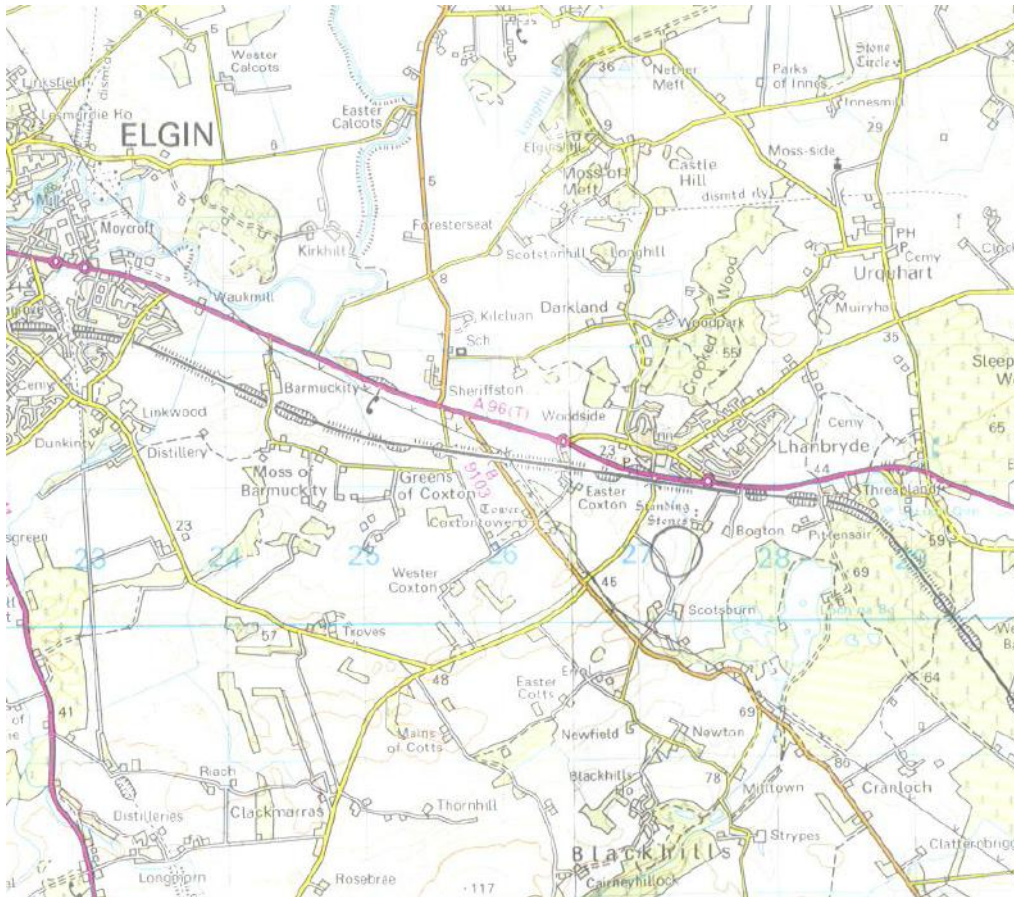
This report is for an archaeological watching brief conducted for Posford Haskoning on behalf of Moray Council by the author for engineering test holes at Scotsburn, Moray for the Moray Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help during the work :

- Ms J Clarkson, of Posford Haskoning;
- Staff of Allied Exploration & Geotechnics Ltd for onsite works;
- Mrs. M Greig of Aberdeenshire Archaeology Unit.

Location



Archaeological Background

The development area (area marked in red over) lies close to the following sites as recorded by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service Records (formerly Grampian) provided on behalf of Moray Council:

1 – Bogton

ASMR – NJ26SE 7

NMRS – NJ26SE 11

Grid Ref: - NJ 2743/6077

Type – Stone circle

Noted as 'stone circle; remains of, only two stones left, no sign of any other stones in area, rest destroyed in 1810 for materials for road bridge. Site is Scheduled Ancient Monument'.

2 – Lhanbryde

ASMR – NJ26SE 31

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: - NJ 2700/6088

Type – Cropmark

Noted as 'cropmark of an oval enclosure visible in a field of cereal crop'. Noted on aerial photographs for 1972, 1984 and 1995.

3 – Bogton

ASMR – NJ26SE 32

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: - NJ 2715/6064

Type – Cropmark

Noted as 'several enclosures, both circular and oval are visible as cropmarks in a field of cereal crop. One of the enclosures contains a possible round house'. Noted on aerial photograph for 1975.

4 – Scotsburn

ASMR – NJ26SE 80

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: - NJ 2704/6022

Type – Cropmarks (includes soil mark)

Noted as 'cropmark of a large sub-circular enclosure is visible on a vertical aerial photograph. There is also a possible smaller enclosure in the field to the south and a possible third immediately to the west. There are scattered pits showing as well as a number of geomorphological marks'. Noted on aerial photograph for 1976.

Objectives

To conduct a watching brief on the excavation of the engineering test holes to record those features revealed by excavation work.

Site Conditions

Weather on the day of work (October 16th 2002) was some heavy showers, later being bright and sunny. The site forms an area of grass pasture lying beside Scotsburn burn.

Watching Brief Investigation

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with accepted professional archaeological standards as published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). Over the works period a suitably qualified archaeologist was on site to carry out observations and assessment of the area affected by the excavations.

Results

A monitoring of the excavations revealed no archaeological features or deposits only natural ground of sand and gravel. Results of test trenches (as marked on plan - see over) were as follows:

Grid references were obtained using a Garmin II GPS using OS data. All trenches were machine made using a back-acting machine and were all about 2m x 0.8m in size and aligned E-W, except trench 2 that was aligned SW-NE.

Test trench 1 (TP 220) – NJ 27384/60523 – topsoil and subsoil to 0.4m depth onto natural of sand.

Test trench 2 (TP 221) – NJ 27358/60540 - topsoil and subsoil to 0.3m depth onto natural of sand.

Test trench 3 (TP 222) – NJ 27377/60532 - topsoil and subsoil to 0.3m depth onto natural of sand.

Test trench 4 (TP 223) – NJ 27390/60552 - topsoil and subsoil to 0.2m depth onto natural of sand.

Test trench 5 (TP 224) – NJ 27287/60581 - topsoil and subsoil to 0.25m depth onto natural of sand.

In test trench 4 at a depth of 0.2m a peat like deposit was revealed consistent with indicating an open wet area (included wood fragments, roots, leaves and layers of sand) also above this deposit the stratigraphy showed lenses of similar deposits giving an indication that the overall area has in the past been flooded regularly due to it being low lying. Deposits of thin lenses of sand consistent of indicating wet and dry periods were also visible in trenches 1 and 3.

Recommendations

No recommendations with regards to this project are to be proposed.

Archive

Notebook of results to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh. A set of colour slides showing the progress of the work has been deposited with Aberdeen-shire Council Sites and Monuments Record.

References

Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service Record for NJ26SE 7, 31, 32 & 80.

IFA (1999) By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Reading.

National Monuments Record CANMORE database entries for NJ26SE 11.

Stuart Farrell
39a Park Street
Fishertown
Nairn
IV12 4PP

Appendix 1 – Details of Slides

- 1 – General view of site facing SSE
- 2 – General view of site facing S
- 3 – General view of site facing S
- 4 – General view of site facing SSW
- 5 – General view of site facing E
- 6 – General view of site of trench 1 facing E
- 7 – Detail of trench 1 – scale 2m
- 8 – View of site of trench 2 facing W
- 9 – View of machining of trench 2
- 10 – Detail of trench 2 – scale 2m
- 11 – Detail of trench 3 – scale 2m
- 12 – Detail of trench 4 – scale 2m
- 13 – Detail of trench 5 – scale 2m