



Aberdeenshire Council - Sites and Monuments Record

Printing 7 Angus SMR records where:

- the Period matches **Mesolithic (8000 - 4000 BC)**

NO53SW0016 - BALHUNGIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NO53SW0016

Name BALHUNGIE

Details Cropmarks recorded by the RCAHMS in 1983 and subsequently in 1990, 1995 and 2003 and by AAS in 2000. They represent the remains of a settlement, with ring-ditches, hut stances and enclosures. At least one of the ring-ditches has internal pits. There is an irregular sub-square ditched enclosure and an incomplete curved ditch that encloses the eastern corner of the field. There is also an irregular line of at least ten pits forming an alignment. The area is overlain with the crop marks of rig and furrow cultivation remains. The pit-alignment is similar to that of Warren Field, Crathes in Aberdeenshire (NO79NW0012) which when excavated proved to be Mesolithic in date.

Easting 351254

Northing 734475

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO64NW0025 - BALNEAVES COTTAGES

Main Details

Primary Reference NO64NW0025

Name BALNEAVES COTTAGES

Details Cropmarks of a pennanular ring-ditch with internal features recorded by CUCAP (date not held at NMRS) and by the RCAHMS since 1976 during aerial reconnaissance. The area enclosed by the broad ditch measures about 8m in diameter and contains what appear to be four pits disposed as a square. Excavation in 1988, in advance of gravel extraction, revealed that the site was an enclosed cremation cemetery dating from the Bronze Age. The site lies in the corner of the field immediately northeast of Balneaves Cottage. The trench, 15m east-west and 20m north-south resulted in the total excavation of the feature. The ditch was shallow, only 20-50cm surviving below the subsoil and 1.70m at its widest point. The opening was 2.5m wide at the northeast. Two distinct fills were noted. Sixteen pits were discovered in the interior, in two groups (closely grouped but not overlapping) which contained two pits each with an inverted urn cremation burial (one also containing a fusiform [barrel-shaped] jet bead and some burnt flints), burial pits without urn and miscellaneous features. The most distinctive of the latter was a pit at the west, a roughly rectangular pit (2 x 1.5 x 1.3m deep) which cut into the ditch and contained a large broken stone (c.1m x 1.5m, probably a glacial erratic of mica schist) and some post-medieval pottery. Apart from this pit all of the others respected the line of the ditch. One of the -miscellaneous- pits cut the urn burial pit which had the flints and jet bead, this pit contained a flint and three sherds of pottery, probably redeposited, the remainder of the pits contained stones within their fills. One of the burials without an urn may have been contained within an organic container. The cremations were of adults, two males and three females, and one where it was not possible to sex the remains. Some of the bones showing contact with bronze items and other grave goods. The urns are all collared urns, two of which are decorated. Radiocarbon dates were obtained from samples of oak charcoal. Botanical analysis of the site revealed little cultivated species and no traces of a possible 'floral tribute' of Meadowsweet (filipendula) as has been recorded at other sites. The site is interpreted as a single phase cremation cemetery dating to c.1800 BC, with the pit containing the stone being a later intrusion, however this may have been burial of a standing stone which may have been part of the monument.

Easting 360512

Northing 749699

NO66SE0079 - FORDHOUSE

Main Details

Primary Reference NO66SE0079

Name FORDHOUSE

Remains of a barrow. This may be the alleged unopened burial mound noted in passing by Lumsden in 1897. When visited by the OS in 1958 the northern portion was 2.5m high and it was c.20m in diameter. Nineteenth-century quarrying into this mound, combined with severe rabbit and tree root disturbance led to the excavation of the site over several seasons from 1994-7. This fieldwork was carried out under the auspices of an NTS Thistle Camp project, using volunteers under the supervision of a team of professional archaeologists. The barrow appears to have been constructed as an earthen mound overlain by a stone -capping- to give the appearance of a cairn. The cairn material seems to be of a number of phases, consisting of both rounded glacial boulders and angular sandstone blocks. A large central feature was found to cut through the -cairn- material, the earthen mound below and into the buried land surface. This feature was stone filled in its lower levels, with an earth fill above and an earth and stone cap. The compact fill and the lack of slumping in the profile of the mound suggest that this does not represent antiquarian disturbance. The monument is of multi-phase construction. Six phases of activity have so far been identified on the site. Phase One: The earliest features, probably Mesolithic, were two parallel sets of shallow slots and three larger pits in sandy earth. Burnt hazelnut shells and blades of Arran pitchstone were recovered from one of the pits. This was followed by a series of discontinuous patches of pre-barrow surface. The majority of these layers appeared to represent preserved turf lines, except on the south-west side of the site where there was evidence of disturbed scrub vegetation. Perhaps also Early Neolithic in date, a 1.5m deep pit in the centre of the site was lined with drystone walling to form a passage grave. The chamber was 2m in diameter with a 2m long passage facing W. The construction of this monument was absolutely contemporary with the first mound construction, which was made up of a number of different deposits of stone, earth and timber. The floor of the chamber produced a large quantity of very small pieces of fragmentary human bone and some flintwork, including a small scraper. After a period of use the passage was blocked. Rim fragments from an Early Neolithic bowl were found in the blocking material. A large slab of rock found in the post-medieval disturbance possibly formed the capstone to the chamber. The destroyed upper walls of the chamber had been corbelled inwards to support this stone. During the construction of the Early Bronze Age earthen ring bank the passage grave roof had been partly destroyed and the chamber had been filled in. Following this, parts of the upper walls either collapsed as a result of this disturbance or were deliberately destroyed. The collapsed layers were incorporated into the remodelled and enlarged mound to form the central area of the ring cairn. Further dumps of material were also added to the outside edge of the mound. These dumps overlay a number of pits containing Early Bronze Age ceramics, including a single pit containing two complete Collared Urns and an Accessory Vessel and another pit with a complete Food Vessel. Phase Two: A circular bank of sandy earth and large sandstone blocks which surrounded a central, unembanked area. Sherds of two beakers and three arrowheads of tranche, leaf-shaped and barbed-and-tanged type were recovered from this bank material. This phase of bank construction was interrupted on the E side by a feature interpreted as an entrance, through which the central area would have been visible. A narrow stone-filled slot ran E-W through the entrance feature and suggests a structural element, although no post-holes were found. Sherds of five Early Neolithic bowls were found in contexts disturbed by rabbit activity on the outside of this entrance. On the north edge of the entrance were many large tabular sandstone blocks, over which a very loose and gritty yellow sand extended across the feature. This fill indicates deliberate blocking rather than gradual silting. Phase Three: To the east of the entrance a secondary cremation burial was cut into the second phase of ring bank: A vessel of indeterminate form with no surviving outer surface was discovered amongst a considerable depth of charcoal, the remains of a large fire. A third vessel, a bipartite urn, came from a cut feature on the N edge of the ring bank and was associated with a five-pointed faience bead. On the NE edge of the ring bank was a small undisturbed cist c 0.5 x 0.3m, containing a large amount of broken bone as well as a flint flake with a retouched edge, and a broken bone pin with a (possibly hourglass) perforation just below the articular end. Phase Four: Following the construction of the second phase of ring bank, the primary filling of the entrance, and the building and use of the cist, rounded glacial boulders were deposited over the whole site, so that the mound appeared to be a cairn. The entrance had been filled by the boulder covering, and in this layer a complete inverted Collared Urn (Longworth's primary series) with its cremation in-situ was found, one of five such associated with secondary burials. Parts of a second primary series Collared Urn, and a fragmentary Food Vessel Urn were also found. A fragment of what may be a second bead (probably of a canneloid shale) was found in the fragmentary Collared Urn. The fragmentary Collared Urn and several vessels found in the previous season were inserted into the boulder layer. An interrupted -kerb- of three large irregular stones, which retained the boulder cairn phase of building, was found beyond the outer edge of the earthen ring bank on the NE side of the monument. This kerb seems to have respected the earlier alignment of the site and did not cross the line of the entrance. However, the kerb was found only in the NE quadrant, and whilst it may have existed in inaccessible parts of the site it might not have been more extensive or continuous. Phases Five and Six: Two large cut features in the centre of the monument extended into the old ground surface. They contained objects of 18th-century date and disturbed prehistoric and early medieval material. The passage grave has been backfilled but has been left largely intact, and may in the future be consolidated for presentation to visitors.

Easting 366582

Northing 760520

NO54NE0020 - FRIOCK MAINS

Main Details

Primary Reference NO54NE0020

Name FRIOCK MAINS

Details Cropmarks of a possible pit alignment recorded by the RCAHMS during aerial reconnaissance in 1978 and subsequently. It stretches SW-NE, 200m N of Friock Mains. It measures about 40m and comprises at least eight pits. A number of other pits are visible immediately to the NE. The pit-alignment is similar to that of Warren Field, Crathes (in Aberdeenshire, NO79NW0012) which when excavated proved to be Mesolithic in date. Approximately 100m northwest of Friock Mains is the cropmark of a possible rectilinear enclosure measuring 30m by 25m. RCAHMS aerial photographs taken in 1995 additional cropmarks of possible souterrains and round houses, as well as rig and cropmarks. Two souterrains and two round houses, each measuring about 10m in diameter, are situated to the northwest of the enclosure. An area with rig stretches northwest to southeast across the field. There are also a number of indeterminate cropmarks and pits scattered across this area. A watching brief was carried out by Cameron Archaeology in June 2017 on groundworks for an agricultural building adjacent to an existing hard standing at NO 5872 4927. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.

Easting 358582**Northing** 749336

NO54SW0033 - KIRKBUDDO

Main Details

Primary Reference NO54SW0033**Name** KIRKBUDDO**Details** Approximate findspot of a flint microlith -from Kirkbuddo-. It is 2.5cm long, has backed rod, point and butt missing and is now in Dundee Museum.**Easting** 350001**Northing** 743050

NO43SE0093 - MONIFEITH QUARRY

Main Details

Primary Reference NO43SE0093**Name** MONIFEITH QUARRY**Details**

A walkover survey was carried out across this site by MAS in August 2009 as part of an environmental impact assessment in advance of a proposed quarry extension. Three areas of archaeological potential were identified during the survey. Area one has been disturbed in recent times and it is unclear if archaeological remains would survive in this area. Area two is within the area of proposed extraction and will be completely removed. It is currently under grass and archaeological features may survive cut into the natural below the plough soil. Area three is shown as part of the tree-screening and will not be quarried. It is suggested that Area two and possibly the W part of Area one should be examined by a series of evaluation trenches prior to any ground breaking works going ahead. Four previously unrecorded sites were noted within the proposed development area, of which one site will be partially damaged (Ethiebeaton Estate deigned landscape) while there is a possibility of impact on two other sites (Possible burials at Gallow Hill; railway bridges). Further work in the form of an evaluation was undertaken by MAS in 2010. In total, 4 trenches were excavated in Area one, but no finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded. Another 11 trenches were excavated in Area two. A small scatter of pink agate fragments at the E end of trenches 3, 4 and 5 may have been related to charcoal fragments in patches of grey soil which appeared to have been preserved in hollows in the natural bedrock and in animal burrows. Although this appears to be a remnant of anthropomorphic activity it is so vestigial that there are no coherent features or layers and there would appear to be nothing more to be gained by further excavation. The lithic assemblage comprised 22 pieces of agate, in the form of chips, flakes, cores and indeterminate pieces of debitage; 2 may be natural pieces. While the assemblage contains no strictly diagnostic pieces, the use of small agate nodules in this way was quite common during the Mesolithic period in this general area.

Easting 348854**Northing** 734174

NO55SE0033 - MONTREATHMONT MOOR

Main Details

Primary Reference NO55SE0033**Name** MONTREATHMONT MOOR**Details** Approximate findspot of nine Mesolithic flints; found -on Montreathmont Moor- before 1978; now in Montrose Museum.**Easting** 358003**Northing** 754005