



Aberdeenshire Council - Sites and Monuments Record

Printing 9 Moray SMR records where:

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

NJ35NE0001 - BOGHEAD

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ35NE0001

Name BOGHEAD

Details

Site of a barrow. During Forestry Commission road laying in 1971, the side of a tree-grown mound was bulldozed revealing several skulls and human long bones. Around a quarter of the site was excavated in 1972 by A. S. Henshall. The mound measured c.17m in diameter and 1.7m high. It was found to consist of a cairn of boulders 1.3m high capped overall by a thick layer of sand. A post had stood near the centre. The cairn was constructed on a layer of burnt material and near the centre of the mound the underlying natural sand was burned bright red. Flecks of burnt bone suggested the presence of a funeral pyre from which cremated remains were subsequently carefully removed. Throughout the cairn, and the blackened layer beneath, were chips of flint and many pottery sherds. Outside the edge of the mound, a small pit was found with the remains of at least three beakers. Altogether 265 sherds of Neolithic pottery were recovered from this first phase of excavation, as well as 23 flints and a whetstone. Excavation of the site was completed in 1974 by H. A. W. Burl. This second excavation revealed the remains of stakeholes and hearths and hollows with early Neolithic pottery and flint implements, indicating occupation, perhaps a longside a midden which was later levelled over the area creating a black layer containing many sherds of plain and fluted pottery. Over this was heaped a low barrow of sand 6m across. At least three cairns, about 4 m in diameter and 1.3m high, which overlapped the perimeter of the barrow, were erected to the E, N and W around a central open space. A fourth cairn to the S may have been destroyed by the widening of the forest road in 1971. A bright yellow sand capping, up to 0.5m thick, was piled over the whole site to make a mound c.17m in diameter. This layer also held many Neolithic sherds, some of which fitted others from the black layer. Five graves had been dug along the crest of the mound in an E-W line, each holding a well preserved skeleton, four being extended. A sixth skeleton was discovered between the N and the E cairns on the old land surface. Although there were no grave goods, a small cremation cist at the top of the mound overlay the skull of one skeleton and provided a prehistoric terminus ante quem for it. Other isolated bones were discovered near the bodies and may be associated with the skeletal remains removed in 1971 to Aberdeen Museum, by Prof. Lockhart, following the site's discovery. A central pit 0.7m deep, large enough for a primary inhumation, held only layers of dirty sand and two rim sherds of fine Western Neolithic ware. The pottery from this mound is analogous with that found at Easterton of Roseisle. Many carbonized cereal grains, seeds and hazel nut shells recovered from the site.

Easting 335940

Northing 859220

NJ26SW0262 - CLODDACH QUARRY

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ26SW0262

Name CLODDACH QUARRY

Details

Geomorphological investigations were undertaken in the Lossie Valley in 2008 by Richard Tipping. From an area within the Cloddach Quarry complex, two samples of peat were sampled for C14 dating, from the base and top of the organic palaeochannel fill at NJ 20810 60074. Samples were 1.0cm thick slices from a freshly exposed, cleaned section in the quarry face. These two samples have been submitted to Gordon Cook (SUERC). One, from the base of the peat gives a date of 5250 +/- 35 C14 BP, 4180-3970cal BC. The second from the top of the peat gives a date of 3405 +/- 35 C14 BP, 1780-1610 cal BC. A length of stem from a vertical in situ multi-stemmed trunk of cf. Willow (Salix) was sampled for C14 dating because the upper surface of the peat may be truncated, and the age of the succeeding flood event over-estimated, whereas the tree was probably killed by that flood. This sample has not as yet been submitted(04/09/2008).

Easting 320810

Northing 860074

NJ06SW0004 - CULBIN SANDS

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ06SW0004

Name CULBIN SANDS

Details Variety of flint implements found on the sands.

Easting 301000

Northing 864005

NJ06SW0023 - EARNHILL

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ06SW0023

Name EARNHILL

Details The cropmark of a sub-circular enclosure is visible in a field of cereal crop. There are also very faint traces of two possible sub-oval attached enclosures on the north and south-west sides. To the south-east are two possible pit-alignments. The whole area is overlain with cropmarks of rig and furrow. The pit-alignments are similar to that of Warren Field, Crathes in Aberdeenshire (NO79NW0012) which when excavated proved to be Mesolithic in date.

Easting 300675

Northing 860773

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ06SE0010 - FINDHORN

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ06SE0010

Name FINDHORN

Details Erosion site. The old land surface visible c.5m from top of dune, and flint flakes and spalls have been found in this area. Shattered cooking stones and a substantial midden largely of mussel shells and other shellfish, along with animal bones have also been noted in the area. Dozens of flint and chert flakes and several worked pieces including an arrowhead have been recovered along with several sherds of coarse pottery and at least one piece of incised pottery. A number of glass beads have also been found including one toroidal yellow glass bead; one fine cylindrical light turquoise glass bead; and several coarse, turquoise, slightly tapering glass beads. Also found was one half of a cylindrical black stone bead, which appears to have fractured during working; several fragments of bronze which may have come from a brooch pin; and small fragments of bone, stained turquoise that may have had contact with the bronze fragments. In 1997, W. Anderson of Findhorn reported that the site had become disturbed by walkers and vehicles using the area. In 2008, further material was reported as having been found: five beaker fragments (late and incised), fragments of cinerary urn, part of a tubular faience bead, several bronze awl or pin fragments, pieces of a steatite vessel, sand polished flints including a possible strike-a-light rod, a tiny glass bead (similar to Iron Age Culbin beads), a small ball of ochre, 3 fragments of faience, 12 pieces of burnt bone with bronze-like staining, 2 broken fusiform beads of blackish stone/bone, a triangular arrowhead and lots of debitage, a fire-cracked stone, and various sand-whitened animal bones. (Collected over 4 years by M. Sharp, Findhorn Community).

Easting 305349

Northing 864594

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ26SW0153 - LESMURDIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ26SW0153

Name LESMURDIE

Details

An extended programme of archaeological evaluation, excavation, standing building survey and a watching brief were undertaken by CFA between March and June 2002 within a residential housing site at Lesmurdie Road. The site covers part of the summit and the E and S flanks of a prominent hill on the NE outskirts of Elgin. Initial trial trenching covered 6%, rising to 10% in areas where archaeological remains were found. This revealed a notable movement of soil downhill, mainly as a result of ploughing, with up to 1.5m of topsoil, windblown sand and buried soil deposits being recorded. In total, 25 trenches were excavated and a number of archaeological finds and features were revealed. At NJ 2235 6395 a small penannular ring-ditch was found, measuring 7.5 x 5.5m with an entrance gap in the SE. A complete inverted urn was recovered from an unlined pit in the middle of the entrance, and further urns in both stone-lined and unlined pits were present inside. A pit in the centre of the Bronze Age enclosed cremation cemetery was 1.4m long, 1m wide and 0.6m deep, and contained pyre debris and burnt bone, perhaps an unurned burial. The ditch itself was V-shaped in profile and contained very few finds.

Easting 322295

Northing 863937

NJ26SW0154 - LESMURDIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ26SW0154

Name LESMURDIE

Details

A pre-development evaluation, and subsequent watching brief and excavation, was carried out at this site in 2002 by CFA. In total, 12 trenches were excavated over two fields. In field 2, the northernmost field, no finds or features of archaeological significance were encountered. In field 3, to the South, two circular arrangements of post-holes were revealed along with a number of other pits and post-holes which were less easily related to one another. These features appear to date in the main to the Bronze Age and to the Medieval period. At least one, possibly three, Medieval ovens were found and in close proximity, Bronze Age pits and a Beaker. The Beaker did not appear to accompany an inhumation burial but may contain a cremation burial. Samples from the post-circle features gave radiocarbon dates of 7537-7190 BC and 6226 - 5986 BC, indicating that these date to the Mesolithic. Lithics recovered during the excavations and watching brief were concentrated on a sandy terrace. Many of these lithics were Neolithic but they included some of Mesolithic types including microliths, blades and blade cores and a few microburins.

Easting 322505

Northing 864011

NJ26NE0011 - MILLTOWN

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ26NE0011

Name MILLTOWN

Details

Cropmark complex including two possible ring-ditches and a short alignment of pits, rig and furrow and linear marks (which may represent modern drainage). The pit-alignment is similar to that of Warren Field, Crathes in Aberdeenshire (NO79NW0012) which when excavated proved to be Mesolithic in date.

Easting 325812

Northing 866214

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ05NE0008 - TULLOCH WOOD

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ05NE0008

Name TULLOCH WOOD

Details

Settlement and field system, consisting of at least four stone-walled circular huts. Field system is marked by stone clearance heaps, lynchets and extensive walls. Partly in forest, part cultivated, and part whin-covered. Northern 2/3 of wood felled November 1988. South half now bulldozed flat. Clearance cairns c.4m in diameter by 1m high; enclosure beside East hut 11.0m by 9.0m. Hut diameter 11-15m. Clearance cairn lies against hut C in SE. Entrance to hut D blocked by modern field clearance. Hut E lies immediately outside rectangular enclosure. The settlement and field systems were surveyed in February 1990 by AOC. A programme of sample excavation was carried out in March 1991 by AOC and 15 radiocarbon dates were obtained from beneath a range of monument types. Negative features overlain by later banks and cairns were found to be Mesolithic in date but may not be man-made. The earliest dated surface feature is a clearance cairn which is no older than c.2000 BC (uncalibrated). A coaxial bank system, established at about 1350-1150 BC (uncalibrated), may be contemporary with at least one of the hut circles. Three other hut circles, and modifications to the bank system, appear to be Iron Age in date, c.450 BC to AD 250 (uncalibrated). The excavation was arranged and funded by Historic Scotland.

Easting 308964

Northing 855875

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

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