

**Aberdeenshire Council - Sites and Monuments Record**

Printing 81 Aberdeenshire SMR records where:

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

NJ94NE0098 - ADEN ARBORETUM

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ94NE0098

Name ADEN ARBORETUM

Details Evaluation carried out at this site in April 2009 by GUARD as part of the Book of Deer Project. Eleven trenches were excavated in an attempt to locate the site of the Monastery of Deer. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from the evaluations: one Mesolithic date (4910-4710 BC) from a firepit in Trench 3, and one Iron Age date (50BC - 140AD) from the matrix of a disturbed wall with stake-hole located outside the churchyard wall. Other trenches revealed traces of probable later prehistoric cultivation and a substantial mortared wall of post-medieval date. These were sealed beneath deep waterborne and hillwashed deposits, which lay across the area to the east of the church. Thick modern midden deposits over waterlogged subsoil were found around Grains Well, in the south of the village. The results indicate that if Old Deer is the site of the original monastery, the low lying ground to the east of the church was not used to accommodate dwellings, workshops or other permanent components of the monastery's infrastructure, probably because of its propensity to flooding, while the area around the well appears to have been historically boggy.

Easting 397972

Northing 847635

NK06SW0120 - ARDGLASSIE HILL

Main Details

Primary Reference NK06SW0120

Name ARDGLASSIE HILL

Details Worked flint, found by a member of the public and reported in January 2019.

Easting 401019

Northing 861686

NJ93SW0019 - ARDLETHEN

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ93SW0019

Name ARDLETHEN

Details Findspot of flint scatter. It was recorded in 1960 that near Ardlethan Farm, there is a Mesolithic flint chipping site, where over 176 mesolithic flint flakes (worked) found in ploughed field. OS (1972) noted that the site was in a ploughed field and is believed locally to have been in the vicinity of the chapel site (NJ93SW0007) but no one could indicate the exact spot.

Easting 391712

Northing 831707

NJ93SW0062 - ARDLETHEN QUARRY

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ93SW0062

Name ARDLETHEN QUARRY

Details An archaeological evaluation was carried out at this in 2000 by Kirsty Sabine in advance of submission of a planning application for sand and gravel extraction. The area in question was approximately 100m by 100m, in which two trenches and a series of test pits were excavated. No archaeological features were recorded in trench 1, but an uneroded tertiary waste flint chip was found on top of the subsoil. Due to ploughing damage, it was not possible to identify any archaeological features in trench 2, but two more waste flints were recovered from this trench. Through possible features noted in the test pits, in conjunction with the flint artefacts, it was concluded that the site was located on a Mesolithic flint working area with possible settlement features surviving beneath the surface.

Easting 391783

Northing 831939

NJ72SE0048 - ARDTANNES

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ72SE0048

Name ARDTANNES

Details Site of a flint working 'factory', using Buchan flint. The present whereabouts of these flints are not known.

Easting 376200

Northing 820100

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO89SE0098 - BACKBURN MOSS

Main Details

Primary Reference NO89SE0098

Name BACKBURN MOSS

Details Peat sampling was carried out by CFA in 2013 at Blackburn Moss at the deepest point of the Moss as identified by preliminary peat reconnaissance work by Headland Archaeology in 2012 along the proposed Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route. The radiocarbon dates, stratification and microfossil content from the coring suggest a continuous Holocene record from c. 7940 BC to the present.

Easting 386864

Northing 790451

NO79NW0014 - BALBRIDIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NW0014

Name BALBRIDIE

Details Timber hall, first identified during the dry summer of 1976 when an aerial photograph was taken of a cropmark of a timber hall. Initially it was thought to be a Dark Age or Medieval building but excavation proved it to a Neolithic structure of considerable size. The wall posts had been set into a continuous foundation trench while the ends of the hall had been angled outwards on a slight v-shape. Some of the large internal posts had been of squared oak. Pottery sherds of Unstan Ware, some flints and burnt grain were found inside. The hall was subdivided by two internal divisions and two types of screens stood in front of the entrances at the E and W ends. The hall measured 24.5m in length and 13m wide, rising 8.5m to a roof ridge. It appears to have been a substantial house/barn for an extended family of farmers. The hall came to an end when it burnt down. Fully excavated over summer seasons between 1977 - 1981.

Easting 373298

Northing 795942

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO79NW0010 - BALBRIDIE FARM

Main Details

Primary Reference	NO79NW0010
Name	BALBRIDIE FARM
Details	Mesolithic flints picked up when field walking by Dr Greive in 1974. Fieldwalkng as part of the Mesolithic Deeside project recovered further lithic scatters, concentrated mostly in the northern part of the field.
Easting	373689
Northing	795905

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ72SE0049 - BASS OF INVERURIE

Main Details

Primary Reference	NJ72SE0049
Name	BASS OF INVERURIE
Details	Site of flint knapping 'factory', using Buchan flint, which may date to the Mesolithic period although Simpson also dates flints frequently found here to the Neolithic or Bronze Age.
Easting	378068
Northing	820516

NO67SE0012 - BENT

Main Details

Primary Reference	NO67SE0012
Name	BENT
Details	A short pit-alignment is showing as a cropmark on aerial photographs with other pits all around, some of which are grouped and some are aligned. An oval group lies to the S with possible traces of an enclosure around them. The pit-alignment is similar to that of Warren Field, Crathes (NO79NW0012) which when excavated proved to be Mesolithic in date.
Easting	369235
Northing	773256

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ62NE0028 - BERRYHILL

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ62NE0028

Name BERRYHILL

Details

A stonewalled enclosure surrounds the summit of Berry Hill. Within it lies a longhouse. A watching brief was carried out by MAS in 1996 over the construction of paths across Berryhill. In general very little emerged on the paths on the lower slope of the hill, with the exception of two possibly modern boundaries. Further uphill, near the Iron Age hut foundation, two apparently linked sections of a boulder and stone alignment crossed the path lines. These may be the remains of a clearance line / field boundary (possibly Iron Age in date). Several interesting features were revealed relating to the hill top enclosure. There appears to have been a fairly prominent kerb of large boulders parallel to the outside drystone wall of the enclosure. Another feature suggesting a level of sophistication in the construction of the hill top enclosure was an area of stones set horizontally and interlocked, as if forming a revetting. A band of small cobble-sized stones some 12m wide between this and the enclosure wall might be considered as a possible path. Both of these features were left in situ, covered by the modern path fill. Excavations of longhouse and surrounding area exposed flint debitage of probable Mesolithic date. Excavation of resistivity anomalies revealed a further flint scatter but no structural remains. Three hut circles lie on the lower west facing slope.

Easting 366805

Northing 825250

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO79NW0006 - BIRKWOOD

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NW0006

Name BIRKWOOD

Details

Mesolithic artefacts, of flint, schistose grit and quartz, collected by Miss H M L Paterson and now lodged in the NMAS. The collection is mainly the result of the gleaning of ploughed fields on two river terraces of the Dee between the Water of Feugh to two miles downstream to Knappach, but also derived from a methodical excavation at NO7103 9569 by H Paterson, Lacaille and Dr G Callender in 1935. The collection includes flakes, scrapers, micro-burins and cores and also microliths, some of which have been made by the micro-burin technique.

Easting 371112

Northing 795732

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO79NW0009 - BIRKWOOD

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NW0009

Name BIRKWOOD

Details

Mesolithic flints have been found here (Known as Dr Grieve's Site G). In total, 26 worked flints were found at this site. The scatter was a very localised surface collection, discovered after ploughing and heavy rain. The flints were donated to Aberdeen Museum.

Easting 371742

Northing 796124

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ91SE0078 - BLACKDOG

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ91SE0078

Name BLACKDOG

Details

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in 2015 and a watching brief in 2016 were carried out by Cameron Archaeology prior to proposed development. A total of 66 trenches were excavated, covering 7-10% of the site. No intact features of archaeological significance were recorded during the evaluation, however a total of 68 lithic artefacts were recovered, with the majority recovered from the field at NJ 9616 1447. The watching brief, centred at NJ 9587 1423, similarly recorded no features, but recovered 102 flints. Of the total assemblage of 170 flints, 75% of the assemblage is debitage, 15% is cores and 10% are tools. The assemblage includes elements from a number of prehistoric periods, but is dominated by later prehistoric material, probably dating to the later Bronze Age.

Easting 396049

Northing 814898

NK04SE0021 - BLACKHILL

Main Details

Primary Reference NK04SE0021

Name BLACKHILL

Details

Flint working site, indicated by the occurrence of hundreds of flakes of the local flint. They were exposed by the plough on what had been a dry knoll in the middle of an extensive wetish tract. The knoll has since been levelled.

Easting 408500

Northing 843200

NJ93SE0043 - BOAT OF FECHEL

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ93SE0043

Name BOAT OF FECHEL

Details

Flint artefacts, found during fieldwalking in 1990 prior to forestry ploughing. The finds were mainly concentrated on the higher ground in the northern part of the field, comprising the gravel banks lying on the terrace 10m above the river. All flint is debitage or artifacts but little retouched blades, flakes, cores and waste. There were two noticeable concentrations, one on the NW part of the field where the most southerly gravel ridge is truncated by the river and forms a bluff. The flints from the top of the ridge included smaller blades and flakes than average across the rest of the field. More finds of flint were reported during tree planting operations. The second concentration lay around the cottage garden and field wall, in particular at the top of the ridge. Here the pieces were small, often small blades.

Easting 397190

Northing 830120

NJ93SE0009 - BOAT OF FECHIL

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ93SE0009

Name BOAT OF FECHIL

Details

Numerous worked flints found in the area over a number of years. These include abundant single, double and triple platform cores, blades,

scrapers, saws, perforators, points, knives and flakes. Post ploughing field walking in 1990 prior to tree planting revealed more flints of a similar nature. They were concentrated notably on the top of the ridge. A visit in spring of 1991 showed that land removal had destroyed the most area of flint concentrations. Many of the flints found by a private collector may have been burnt in a house fire at Ladymire, Ellon. Other flints are in private hands as well as museum and GRC.

Easting 397550

Northing 830091

NJ40SE0047 - BRAERODDACH LOCH

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ40SE0047

Name BRAERODDACH LOCH

Details A sample of the loch deposits was undertaken in 1980, which obtained a sediment deposition sequence to a depth of 6.5m. Subsequent inferential evidence from the palaeoecological techniques of pollen and land snail analysis and the pedological work on palaeosols indicated human activity around the site that was generally continuous throughout the prehistoric period. The occurrence of barley pollen indicates presence of cleared land and bare soils. A radiocarbon date of 5390 BP (4240 cal BC) was obtained for the advent of pastoralism as increased sediment deposits demonstrated that the surrounding areas were being cleared of vegetation, leading to soil erosion. The maximum sediment deposits, indicating the most intense periods of farming in the area, were around 3405 BP and 2100 BP (1690 - 100 cal BC), a period extending from the late Bronze Age into the Iron Age.

Easting 348153

Northing 800301

NJ51NE0006 - BRED A

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ51NE0006

Name BRED A

Details A flint knapping site, using Buchan flint, said to exist near junction of the Leochel Burn with the River Don. No further information.

Easting 355000

Northing 816000

NJ71NE0175 - BROOM LODGE, MILL ROAD

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ71NE0175

Name BROOM LODGE, MILL ROAD

Details An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Murray Archaeology Services at this site in September 2007 prior to the submission of a planning application for development of an area to the SW of Broomend of Crichton henge monument and avenue. Three trenches were excavated all running NW/SE, parallel to the road leading to Broom Lodge. A number of features were recorded mainly in the most northerly trench, two of which were of early prehistoric date. Radiocarbon dates indicate that the small group of features at the west end of the trench were of Mesolithic date. The NW part of the site was subsequently excavated by MAS in July 2010. A small number of prehistoric features where there was slightly deeper topsoil. Modern ploughing and earlier cultivation, tree roots and animal activity had severely damaged the evidence of earlier activity. Two sherds of coarse pottery, probably Bronze Age in date were found in F1, while a flint which may also date to the Bronze Age was recovered from F2. A second flint found in the topsoil is thought to be Neolithic in date.

Easting 377840

Northing 819530

NO49NW0050 - CAMBUS O' MAY

Main Details

Primary Reference NO49NW0050

Name CAMBUS O' MAY

Details A scatter of flints of Late Mesolithic date were recovered during fieldwalking from molehills on pasture land. The site forms a crescent shape and is located on a raised terrace above the River Dee. The scatter comprises 110 pieces of flint in total, including flakes, scrapers, blade ends and waste flakes. The flint is of Cruden Bay type.

Easting 341688

Northing 798081

NN98NW0004 - CAOCHANAN RUADHA

Main Details

Primary Reference NN98NW0004

Name CAOCHANAN RUADHA

Details A worked stone scatter, including flint and quartz, first identified in 2005, and structure of Mesolithic date with central fire setting recorded during subsequent field investigation in 2013-15. The site demonstrates hunter-gatherer used the uplands during a period of significant climatic deterioration. Worked lithics were first discovered in August 2005 during footpath works in Glen Geldie. The artefacts were eroding out of fine sands which have been revealed under the peat along a 4m stretch of eroding footpath. The site lies on rising ground above the north bank of the Geldie Burn, overlooking a broad basin through which the stream channels of the Caochanan Ruadha flow before joining the Geldie. None of the artefacts collected are diagnostic as to date, but at least one scraper has been identified. The lithics appear to be very fresh; there is a strong possibility that they were in situ. The site was further investigated in May-June 2013. Gophysical survey over an area of 1ha centred on the flint scatter recorded a relatively coherent cluster of pit type anomalies in the vicinity of the scatter, although these may be of natural origin. Subsequent trial excavation by UCD comprising 80 test pits and three small trenches further examined these anomalies. Only one feature was identified, a substantial deposit of charcoal in Trench 3. Geomorphological assessment of the area demonstrate that the main area of the lithic scatter is a landform of pre-Mesolithic age and that the archaeological material may be in situ. Only a small number of artefacts were recovered during the fieldwork: 10 flints and a small number of pieces of possible worked quartz. The flints were small with a high proportion of fragmentary microliths characteristic of the later Mesolithic, a retouched flake and small debitage. Further field work was carried out in June - July 2014. The excavation of almost 80 test pits produced no worked flint. Walkover survey of erosive contexts in the area found a very fine large blade core, upstream from the scatter, and possibly of Mesolithic date, although distinguished by its size from the scatter material. A possible arrowhead was also recovered by this survey. Excavation (trench 4) focused on the concentration of artefacts found in a test pit in 2013 produced a clear concentration of flint, a total of 61 artefacts mostly of flint but including some quartz, and including fragmentary blades and microliths, microburins and production waste. The majority was less than 10mm in maximum dimension, and was frequently lightly burnt. A small pit was also recorded in this area of the trench; the artefacts appear to have been clustered around a fire setting/pit, from which yew charcoal has been dated to 6215 - 6050 cal BC. A further season of fieldwork was undertaken by University College Dublin in July 2015, mainly to extend the 2014 trench. It confirmed that the cluster of artefacts covered and area of c.2.5 by 3m, focused on the charcoal rich fire-setting. The tight distribution of artefacts suggests that there had been some kind of structure in this area. From the two seasons of fieldwork the lithic assemblage includes c.100 flint artefacts (with small amounts of worked quartz) technologically dominated by microliths. The site appears to be a very specialist and possibly short-term settlement. Some 50m downslope from this excavation trench, four lithics were identified in an eroding footpath, corresponding to the location of 2005 surface finds, and focus of a 2013 test pit which had produced no artefacts. Excavation of a 2m by 2m trial trench in 2015 uncovered an irregular charcoal spread associated with a further 12 flint artefacts, some burnt and fragmented in situ.

Easting 294404

Northing 787421

NN99SE0003 - CARN FIACLACH BEAG

Main Details

Primary Reference NN99SE0003

Name CARN FIACLACH BEAG

Details Lithic scatter; discovered in October 2006 by Shannon Fraser. The site is an old vehicle track known to be bulldozed in the 1960s and reduced to a footpath in 2003 by pushing the spoil back over the track. The lithic scatter, one worked piece of quartz with retouch down one edge and two worked and burnt pieces of flint, were discovered in the path. Although not in situ they are unlikely to have moved far. Initial examination of the flakes suggested a prehistoric origin, later confirmed as most likely being Mesolithic.

Easting 299636

Northing 790409

NO69SE0001 - CASTLE HILL, STRACHAN

Main Details

Primary Reference NO69SE0001

Name CASTLE HILL, STRACHAN

Details

Remains of a motte; circular motte created by scarping and levelling a natural gravel knoll, the W quadrant of which has been recently quarried; lies within a loop in the River Feugh. This was probably a hunting lodge of the Gifford Family who held the forest of Strachan in the 13thC. Excavation revealed post pits of a building c9m by 12m on the top of the mound with a palisade round the edge. Ovens were found which had re-used mill stones as bases for the ovens. The remains of a V-shaped ditch, 1m deep and 4m wide, was found round the base of the motte. A large quantity of pottery of 13th-14thC date was found along with some bronze and silver jewellery. There is some evidence to suggest that the site was probably set on fire sometime in the 14thC and never re-occupied. Burnt post remains were found, both collapsed and in situ with stones on the summit showing signs of extreme burning. The ditch round the base was almost certainly intentionally back-filled.

Easting 365745

Northing 792100

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ52NE0022 - CASTLE OF WARDHOUSE

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ52NE0022

Name CASTLE OF WARDHOUSE

Details

Remains of Homestead Moat/ Castle. All that is now visible is a dry ditch and outer rampart, now spread by cultivation. No traces of structures survive within area. The earliest reference to the castle, as 'Weredors Castle', was in the 1220s when it was described as 'the moated homestead' of Sir Bartholomew the Fleming. Between 1453 - 1650, Wardhouse Castle, or 'Wardres Castle', was owned by the Leslies of Balquhain. In 1730, James Gordon of Beldorney is mentioned as the owner of 'Warderis'. A brief battle is recorded as having taking place at the castle on 25th March 1647 during the Covenanter Wars, when the 'Young Leith of Harthill' attempted to defend the castle against General Alexander Leslie. Leslie was victorious, and Harthill was captured, imprisoned and executed in Edinburgh. The castle is reported to have been in a ruinous state by the 18th Century. Advanced plough erosion prompted rescue excavation at the moated site of Castle of Wardhouse in 1988, overseen by P. Yeoman under the auspices of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Directorate (now Historic Environment Scotland). An integrated programme of work involving aerial photography, field survey, geophysical survey, palynological analysis and excavation was carried out enabling interpretation of the complex development of the site in its historic environment (beyond this, palynology indicates human intervention in the environs since at least 5000 BP). The geophysical survey was carried out first, in 1987, by Geophysical Surveys Ltd. Resistivity was employed to detect possible stone structures within the enclosed summit area, and magnetometry was used to investigate the nature of the ditch network. Both techniques worked well, even though the igneous bedrock was close to the surface in places. Areas of high resistance on the platform were identified as the possible remains of stone buildings and surfaces. The line of a curtain wall or rampart was also recorded, curving around the summit edge. The magnetometer survey located the triple set of main enclosing ditches already seen on aerial photos. Additional possible concentric outer ditch lines were also recorded, especially to the NW. A complicated and confused pattern of ditches was indicated to the N and highlighted as a possible entrance, including a terminal of the inner ditch. A large feature was indicated running across the contours on the south-west summit edge. Subsurface Interface Radar (SIR) was also carried out, the first application of the technique in Scotland. Two transects were surveyed, producing a trace representing a vertical slice through the site, displaying all major interfaces. As well as displaying the profiles of the three ditches investigated in 1988 through excavation, the SIR also provided a section through a fourth ditch, which was 2.5 m wide by 1.2m deep. This transect produced the only evidence of a curtain wall located on the summit edge, just inside the inner ditch. Four areas across the site were investigated. In area 1, a trench, 25m north/south by 9m in width, was stripped from the top of the platform north to the base of the mound, an overall drop in height of around 2m. This identified a segment of the inner ditch and, on the summit, two large pits and an area of paving with a stone-built drain. In Area 2, the results of the geophysical survey had indicated the possibility of surfaces and stone buildings surviving in the central part of the summit area. A large trench was laid out here, aligned north/south and measuring 24m by 5m. The topsoil was fairly rich in finds of all periods, ranging from prehistoric flints to post-medieval pottery and bottle or window glass. This was removed to reveal a considerable number of cut features - including two shallow trenches and numerous postholes - all of which were severely truncated by ploughing; recent plough furrows were observed throughout the area. There were two possible hearth sites, but no stone surfaces or stone structures survived. Almost all of the infilled features had been modified by burrowing animals. Area 3 was laid out across the contours on the south-west side of the mound, to provide a transect through the defences and into the interior. The trench was 38m long (NE/SW) by 3.3m in width, with the upper part - on the shoulder of the mound - enlarged to 6m in width. Four stratigraphic phases could be identified in this area, representing an old ground surface (OGS) consisting of tilled soil, followed by two separate episodes of earthwork construction and, finally, the infilling of the ditches. Area 4 was located at the base of the naturally steep E side of

the castle mound, an area which has been persistently wet. Two trenches were excavated, during which thick organic mud was revealed below the topsoil at a depth of 0.7 m. However, proper sampling was prevented due to the trenches rapidly filling with water. A small quantity of the organic material was successfully collected, and was analysed soon after the excavation was completed; it was found to contain sufficient pollen to justify further investigation. A comprehensive programme of environmental analysis was carried out as part of the 1988 excavations, including soil analysis, plant remains analysis, faunal remains analysis and pollen analysis. A subsequent programme of pollen coring was carried out at the site in 1989, by P. Yeoman with P. Cundhill of St Andrews University. A variety of artefacts were recovered during the excavations, including pottery, metal work, lithics and fabric. The pottery assemblage consists of 187 medieval sherds and 49 sherds of 18th and 19th century pottery. Most of the medieval sherds appear to be of local manufacture, dating from the 14th or 15th centuries. Imports from the north of England and the Low Countries are also present. The assemblage was examined for 'joins' (ie joining sherds); a large number of these were found, particularly between sherds from different features, which must reflect the disturbed nature of the site. The sherds from Area 1 and 3 seem to be the least disturbed, as the sherds were larger and less abraded than in Area 2 where the site had suffered severe plough damage. The sherds mainly represent jugs, although this is probably a reflection of the small size of the assemblage and sherd survival; only 13 base sherds, 10 handles and four rim sherds were recovered, the rest being body sherds. The jugs appear to be partly glazed, with clear glaze on the neck and shoulders, and with some occurrence of applied pellet and strip decoration. Nine pieces of worked flint and a large number of pieces of quartz were recovered. A number of copper-alloy objects were found, mostly dating to the 16th and 17th centuries, including a lace end with fabric attached. Various iron objects were found, including horse equipment, leather and textile working equipment and structural ironwork, as well as residual iron-working debris. Two coins were recovered, both from Area 2, one a Charles I or Charles II copper turner (1642-50 or 1663 issue) and one Charles VII-Francois I (France) copper double tournois (probably c 1436-1540). Many sherds of wine bottle and window glass were found, as well as 26 fragments of clay tobacco pipes (17th century). An additional unusual discovery was made in the dyke surrounding a modern house, 300m NE of the site. Incorporated into the dyke is a stone displaying a skull and single longbone, framed by the crudely cut letters spelling MIMNTO MORI. The 'N' is reversed, indicating that this is probably the work of an illiterate stonecarver. The stone measures 0.82m by 0.55m. The image is commonly found on tombstones of 17th century date, although this is considered more likely to be from a window pediment of the tower house.

Easting 359322

Northing 828903

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO66NW0028 - CHAPELTON

Main Details

Primary Reference NO66NW0028

Name CHAPELTON

Details Possible pit-alignment with at least 5 possible pits showing as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The pit-alignment is similar to that of Warren Field, Crathes (NO79NW0012) which when excavated proved to be Mesolithic in date.

Easting 361793

Northing 768534

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO08NW0042 - CHEST OF DEE

Main Details

Primary Reference NO08NW0042

Name CHEST OF DEE

Details Mesolithic and Neolithic lithics. In October 2003 a scatter of worked lithic material was revealed by footpath maintenance works along the north bank of the River Dee, and eroding out of the river bank itself. The lithics lie in river silts immediately below the peat; 83 pieces of worked flint/chert (some of which show signs of exposure to heat) and 5 pieces of potential struck quartz were collected for analysis. Their pristine condition indicates that they have not been subject to river action in the past. Fragments of charcoal are also eroding out of the silt. The assemblage includes cores, narrow flakes and blades, and debitage flakes, chips and chunks. Only one artefact appears to have been retouched: a fragment of an end scraper formed from a narrow blade. The character of the collection indicates tool production on site, while the narrow blade technology apparent in a large number of the lithics suggests a Mesolithic date for a least part of the collection. The site lies at the southern end of a key route of passage through the Cairngorm massif which connects Deeside with Speyside, and provides the first material evidence for Mesolithic activity in the heart of the Cairngorms. Radiocarbon dates from charcoal confirm activity in the

Mesolithic (5310-5030 BC) and latest Mesolithic/early Neolithic (3950-3780), but also mid Bronze Age (2880 - 2630 and 1660-1510 BC). Further investigation was carried out in 2013. Fieldwalking by University College Dublin in June along the path from White Bridge to the waterfalls recovered 152 artefacts, the lithics including many pieces of Later Mesolithic type. Subsequently a series of test pits were excavated by University of Aberdeen in October aimed at establishing the location of the lithics in relation to the peat deposits. Near the confluence of the Geldie and the Dee there were traces of possible features dug into the subsoil below the peat. A single microlith was recovered below the peat in area C. In area D, a line of test pits recorded increasing numbers of lithics as the test pits approached the Dee, although the numbers of lithics were small; all were found towards the base of the peat. Some test pits contained layers of burning. Near to the line of test pits in area D two small eroding pits were found near the N bank of the Dee; both were associated with lithics and both contained significant quantities of charcoal which were sampled for dating. One pit contained an isosceles triangle microlith. Near the waterfalls at Chest of Dee another eroding face revealed over 60 lithics, including a microblade core and flakes, mainly of flint but with other raw materials present. Extensive evidence of pits and cultural layers were evident in the erosion face below the peat. Test pits dug in this area (F) revealed extensive evidence for repeated pit digging; these pits contained extensive deposits of charcoal which were sampled for dating. In total over 100 lithics were recovered by the 2013 excavations, including microblade cores, isosceles triangles, obliquely backed points, flakes and blades, all on very fresh flint. The assemblage is a classic Scottish Narrow Blade type. Further fieldwork in 2014 continued investigation of sites identified in 2013, focusing on Areas F, G and D. Eight test pits and two larger areas were excavated on the north side of the river in Area F, a single test pit dug on the south side of the river opposite Area F, and a small area investigated in Area D to look in further detail at the feature(s) dated to the 4th millennium BC. Profiles in test pits in area F indicated several flood events; a small number of lithics were recovered, and evidence of discrete fire pits/hearths recorded. Investigation of the eroding river bank in Area F also recorded fire pits, a large pit and lithics. Further investigation of a large pit within Area G which was dated in 2013 to the late Neolithic recut in the Bronze Age produced no evidence of its function. Radiocarbon samples from the 2014 investigations included a date of 8281-7990 BC from a sealed occupation layer, dates of 7050-6687 BC for firepit 2 and 5304-5063 BC for firepit 1 in the riverbank section, and 6207-6021 BC for a layer associated with a microblade core.

Easting 301697

Northing 788542

NO79NE0022 - CRATHES MAINS

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NE0022

Name CRATHES MAINS

Details

Flint scatte first noted by Dr Grieve's in the 1970s (Grieve Site A) from which over 872 worked flints were found as a surface collection after ploughing and heavy rain. Further fieldwalking has been carried out over this river terrace site, and extending eastwards and westwards by OFARS 2008-12 (see also NO79NE0099). Fieldwalking in 2008 recovered over 3000 worked flints have been collected, largely Mesolithic in date of the 'Narrow Blade' (later) technology, with all phases of work from preparation of raw material to finished tools represented. The assemblage includes diagnostic microburins and microliths, cores and a variety of scrapers. It also included material of Neolithic date, including a polished Neolithic knife/axehead, a broken leaf-shaped arrowhead and a small sherd of Neolithic pottery. Further fieldwalking was carried out by OFARS in January-February 2012 as a continuation of the 2008 survey. A total of c.500 flints were recovered, the assemblage similar to that recorded previously with cores (mainly single platform), scrapers and material representing all stages of preparation but no diagnostic late Mesolithic microliths. Three wide based triangles were picked up confirming an Early Mesolithic occupation. The lithics appear to be part of a single concentration which extends eastwards (NO79NE0099).

Easting 375050

Northing 795952

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ71NE0213 - CRICHIE, INVERURIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ71NE0213

Name CRICHIE, INVERURIE

Details

A trial trenching evaluation was carried out by Cameron Archaeology between October 2018 and January 2019 ahead of proposed development. A total of 238 trenches were excavated across the non-wooded areas. A total of 43 archaeological features were recorded across the area, comprising postholes, pits and ditches. Seven of the features contained sherds of prehistoric pottery, two of these nearly complete vessels possibly of Bronze Age date. Seven trenches contained worked flint or chert flakes, including two flint cores and one possible Mesolithic quartz core.

Easting 377190

Northing 819697

NO89NW0017 - DALMAIK FARM

Main Details

Primary Reference NO89NW0017

Name DALMAIK FARM

Details Mesolithic flints, found in the spring of 1973 after ploughing and heavy rain. Dr Grieve's Site D.

Easting 380350

Northing 798500

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ71NE0055 - DEERS DEN

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ71NE0055

Name DEERS DEN

Details Roman camp dating to Severan period. Most of the North and South sides of the camp and fragmentary stretches of the West and East sides show as cropmarks. Field investigation revealed no surface indication of camp or road and no recent finds. A small excavation revealed a bank 5.48m wide at base x 2.03m high, and a ditch 2.43 - 3.04m wide. Two possible field ovens were found on the interior of the fort. In 1996 excavation was carried out by CFA in advance of the A96 Kintore bypass. A total length of 58m of the perimeter ditch was exposed. It was excavated at the ditch terminal and 3 sections along its length. Fills of the ditch indicated gradual silting up. On the surface a band of gravel was noticeable along the eastern edge and represents where the defensive bank had eroded back into the ditch. No evidence for re-cutting visible in the main length of the ditch, although the terminal revealed clear traces of being re-cut by a pit. The titulus was located 12m west of the line of the perimeter ditch. It was 12m long. No diagnostic artefacts were recovered from either the fill of the perimeter ditch or the titulus. A series of pits extending along the inside edge of the camps perimeter ditch may represent the remains of a light fence respecting the line of the ditch, but it is difficult to demonstrate that these features were contemporary with the initial use of the camp. The excavation also revealed a dense spread of plough truncated features of various periods. This included a spread of pits containing Neolithic material: plain bowls, flint, quartz, Arran pitchstone, a leaf shaped arrowhead, and burnt hazelnut shells. One pit contained decorated sherds of either late Neolithic Impressed Ware or an urn. The remains of 4 possible structures were recorded. Structure 1 consisted of a shallow scoop containing numerous sherds of coarse pottery surrounded by truncated post-holes and pits. Structure 2 was extremely truncated and consisted of a concentration of very shallow pits and stakeholes. Structure 3 consisted of a shallow circular scoop (c. 0.25m deep) and c.10m in diameter. It had a slight ring ditch enclosing a central area c.6m long by 4m wide, which bore traces of ard marks. There was a four-post arrangement to the southeast presumably for a porched entrance. The structural timbers appear to be located around the outer edge of the scoop. Finds from this structure include portions of 2 crushed coarse ware vessels. Structure 4 consisted of an arc of burnt material and a number of post-holes. There is a possible hearth in the centre of the structure. To the north and east of the burnt arc there was a shallow curvilinear slot that cut across the top of the infilled Roman ditch. In 2000, plans to build houses on site (Forest Road development) resulted in large-scale excavation by AOC May - Dec 2000 (see NJ71NE0204). An evaluation by AOC in March 2002 on a c. 1ha proposed development site at Henderson Drive recorded archaeological remains ranging in date from Neolithic to the Roman period, including a possible henge, five possible ring ditch houses and 13 Roman ovens. In 2003-4 evaluation and excavation were carried out by AOC in advance of a new Primary School (NJ71NE0182), with the SW corner of the camp. A watching brief carried out in 2004 by S. Farrell at a site on Forrest Road revealed shallow ditch within camp perimeter, no archaeological finds.

Easting 378735

Northing 816197

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ93NE0017 - DUDWICK

Main Details

Primary Reference	NJ93NE0017
Name	DUDWICK
Details	Site of flint working 'factories'; found in the Dudwick district where they were known as 'flint smiddies'; 'every kind of flint tool made was found here';
Easting	397000
Northing	837000

NO79NE0124 - DURRIS

Main Details

Primary Reference	NO79NE0124
Name	DURRIS
Details	A Neolithic stone axehead and two narrow flint blades of Mesolithic or Neolithic date were found by chance in 2012. The axehead is made from a locally sourced cobble. The blades are of honey coloured flint.
Easting	378797
Northing	795939

NO79NE0126 - EAST PARK

Main Details

Primary Reference	NO79NE0126
Name	EAST PARK
Details	Fieldwalking in 2017 by the Mesolithic Deeside Project recorded an lithics scatter concentrated along the river side of the field, including the area of the previously recorded scatter (NO79NE0023). Test pitting was carried out by Cameron Archaeology and volunteers in November 2018. A total of 37 test pits were dug on three river terraces in the field, and 305 worked flints recovered. The third terrace, circa 30m above sea level, recorded the highest number of lithics in 2017, and is thought to be post Mesolithic in age suggesting that the finds were washed onto this terrace from above. Lithics from the test pits comprised mainly flakes and blades, with a number of small flakes and spalls. Only seven cores were found, from five test pits in the southeast corner of the field. Several retouched tools were also concentrated in the same area, and including a narrow blade microlith and two edge retouched blades. Most of these are likely to date to the Mesolithic but a knife form made on a broad blade may date to the Neolithic.
Easting	379382
Northing	798102

NO88NE0051 - FARROCHIE

Main Details

Primary Reference	NO88NE0051
Name	FARROCHIE
Details	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 1993 in advance of the realignment of an unclassified road connecting Auchenblae Road and Cemetery Road, west of the Spurryhillock Junction on the A90 Aberdeen-Stonehaven Trunk Road (NGR: NO852 861). This loop road impinged on the south-eastern part of a scheduled cropmark complex (NO88NE0038) which appears to represent the remains of an open settlement thought to be of later prehistoric date. The remains of a shallow curvilinear ditch and eight pits were recovered in one area which produced evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity. One pit dated to the Neolithic with Unstan Ware pottery being found within it. Furthermore a flint flake, charcoal deposits and flint blades, along with radiocarbon dating, confirmed a Mesolithic date for the lower fill of another pit. In another trench a number of truncated pits with no associated artefacts were recorded.
Easting	385260
Northing	786195

Regional Status

NK03SW0014 - FERNIE BRAE

Main Details

Primary Reference NK03SW0014

Name FERNIE BRAE

Details A number of flint flakes and a core (allegedly Mesolithic) were found in a peat bog. Other finds included a canoe, with broken oars, found under several feet of peat; a broken stone axe, 254mm long; a flint spearhead, 115mm long, and two leaf-shaped arrowheads.

Easting 404000

Northing 833000

NK02SW0002 - FOVERAN LINKS

Main Details

Primary Reference NK02SW0002

Name FOVERAN LINKS

Details Flint working site, consisting almost entirely of waste flakes or blades with a high percentage of the surface covered by an abraded pebble cortex. The majority of this flint is white speckled, light grey in colour, but there are also some white, red-brown and dark grey pieces. No retouched pieces found and no cores.

Easting 400400

Northing 824300

NO99NW0075 - GALLOWHILL

Main Details

Primary Reference NO99NW0075

Name GALLOWHILL

Details A pre-development evaluation was carried out on a large area which is part of a raised bog and extends into Aberdeen City boundary. There was a lack of structures and artefacts but a large area of timber was found beneath the bog level with quantities of stripped bark. Dating of timber samples prove to be from the Mesolithic period. Environmental analysis of the site (through wood, plant macrofossil and insect analyses) concluded that the timber remains were the remnants of an in-situ former woodland. On the higher ground a number of ploughed out features were associated with Early Neolithic Carinated pottery.

Easting 393578

Northing 799695

NO99NW0079 - GALLOWHILL

Main Details

Primary Reference NO99NW0079

Name GALLOWHILL

Details A watching brief and 7% evaluation was conducted across this area in May 2009 by Murray Archaeological Services after a planning application was made to change use of the land from agricultural to form part of an industrial waste treatment and recycling centre. The watching brief was carried out on the soil strip of a mound, the Gallowhill, at the south side of this industrial site. The area had been farmed

and, in the more recent past, cultivated for market gardening. At the time of excavation it was covered with gorse, broom and scrub trees. No archaeological finds or features were evident in the soil strip of the top and slope of the mound. However, at the base of the mound, on the lower ground, preserved timbers in peat were uncovered. These almost certainly represent an extension of the Mesolithic, non-anthropogenic, woodland extending South from Moss-Side, Aberdeen, an area which was investigated in 2008.

Easting 393433

Northing 799421

NJ41NE0033 - GALLOWS HILLOCK

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ41NE0033

Name GALLOWS HILLOCK

Details Site of gallows; according to Simpson waste products of possibly Mesolithic flint industry were dug up; no evidence of flint working could be found; name known locally but nothing known of gallows or human remains.

Easting 346620

Northing 817620

NO09SE0001 - GLEN LUI

Main Details

Primary Reference NO09SE0001

Name GLEN LUI

Details Remains of a depopulated settlement consisting of rectangular footings of houses and other structures, as well as field banks and areas of rigs below a head-dyke. The settlement was probably cleared circa AD1776. Studies into the palaeoecology of Mar Lodge Estate included sampling of peat next to this site, carried out in 2002. This established a Mesolithic date for the basal 5cm of organic sediment of 8206 BC - 7524 BC. Pollen analysis also carried out.

Easting 305485

Northing 792286

NO09SW0009 - GLEN LUI

Main Details

Primary Reference NO09SW0009

Name GLEN LUI

Details A possible Mesolithic flint found 1m southwest of the path. Subsequent site visit found no further objects.

Easting 304902

Northing 792754

NO59NW0116 - HEUGHHEAD

Main Details

Primary Reference NO59NW0116

Name HEUGHHEAD

Details An excavation was carried out in on the weekend of 30 September – 1 October 2017 by a group from Mesolithic Deeside, directed by Cameron Archaeology. It was on an area where flints had previously been found by members of the public and a platform area is visible,

which was the focus of the excavation. Three trenches were excavated, with structural remains in the form of four post-hole bases recorded and 162 flints recovered. The flints were recovered from all three trenches, although a greater proportion was recovered from Trench 3. The flints mostly date from the late Mesolithic or early Neolithic but there is also a small group of late Neolithic flints. Possible ballast flint was recovered from one of the post-holes, and the earlier flints were recovered from outside the limits of the structure suggesting it is later, with the possible ballast suggesting its last use was historic.

Easting 350182

Northing 798787

NO69SE0008 - HEUGH-HEAD

Main Details

Primary Reference NO69SE0008

Name HEUGH-HEAD

Details Mesolithic flints; 11 flakes and 7 small worked flints found by Dr Grieve and now in Aberdeen City Museums.

Easting 368700

Northing 792700

NJ75NW0032 - HILL OF FOULZIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ75NW0032

Name HILL OF FOULZIE

Details Site of a Mesolithic flint knapping site covering approx. 50m x 30m. Over two hundred flints including scrapers and cores have been recovered from the surface. There are also several large stones and one piece of burnt orange daub from here that may indicate remains of a structure. Fieldwalking in spring 2002 and excavation of 24 test pits in autumn 2002 recovered over 1000 pieces of chert and revealed several cut features. A resistivity survey was also completed. In Autumn 2003 a further excavation of 42 square metres revealed a small pit containing heated rock fragments and charcoal. Also an area of heated clay and a possible line of shallow postholes were also excavated. More than 1500 pieces of chert dating to Mesolithic and the late Neolithic were recovered as well as a single flint belonging to a musket. Other finds included hammerstones, an anvil and a bevelled implement made from readily available quartzite pebbles on the hill. 7 pottery fragments of prehistoric date were recovered, all from one small pit. One sherd has cordon decoration, another three groove decoration. Further field survey in 2004-2005 produced another 1788 pieces of chert/flint.

Easting 371972

Northing 859502

NO69NE0001 - INCHMARLO COTTAGE

Main Details

Primary Reference NO69NE0001

Name INCHMARLO COTTAGE

Details Mesolithic flint tools; a selection of microliths including a worn blade, a core, a fragment of a steeply edge-blunted blade, and a characteristically dressed small triangle were found two miles upstream from Inchmarlo Cottage, west of Banchory.

Easting 367196

Northing 796403

NO69NE0013 - INVERCANNIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NO69NE0013**Name** INVERCANNIE**Details** Flint scatter; c600 microliths from a fairly small area; were found by the late Dr Grieve.**Easting** 366800**Northing** 796450

NK04NE0077 - INVERUGIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NK04NE0077**Name** INVERUGIE**Details** Flint blade of the early Mesolithic period. Found during metal detecting; claimed as Treasure Trove.**Easting** 409990**Northing** 848696

NJ71NE0182 - KINTORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ71NE0182**Name** KINTORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Details Evaluation and excavation carried out in 2003/2004 by AOC in advance of construction of a new Primary School. Overall, a 10% evaluation was conducted in 2003 over three different parcels of land totalling 3.1ha. The whole of the development lies within the SW corner of the Deer's Den Roman temporary camp (NJ71NE0055). The evaluation identified around 30 Roman ovens, a section of the temporary camp ditch including an entrance, and a variety of prehistoric features. The excavation was carried out between November 2003 and January 2004, and was zoned into 13 different areas across the site on the basis of the evaluation results. The prehistoric remains uncovered at the site included an extremely well-preserved ring-ditch roundhouse from which a number of pottery vessels, flint artefacts and coarse stone tools were recovered. Traces of a stake-hole outer wall of this roundhouse were also recorded. A further four post-ring roundhouses and numerous pits were found across the site. A large circle of nine substantial posts has been provisionally identified as a timber circle, though as yet the feature remains undated. The Roman remains included a section of the eastern side of the temporary camp, with entrance complete with titulus. Over 40 Roman ovens were discovered, of which some yielded metal artefacts. Twelve pits, identified as Roman rubbish pits, were uncovered, along with a further seven sub-square pits with burning which are also thought to be of Roman date. Material recovered for Radiocarbon dating provided dates for 20 different structures.

Easting 379045**Northing** 816003

NO69NE0031 - LAIRD'S CAST

Main Details

Primary Reference NO69NE0031**Name** LAIRD'S CAST

Details An archaeological evaluation was carried in this area in advance of the construction of a new pumping station and associated pipework. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the fieldwork. The land owner however, did indicate a large flint scatter of Mesolithic date had been found just to the SE. This was reported to Marishal Museum in 1998. From 1990-98 Mr Paul Gibson collected flints from the banks of the Dee. The collection comprised 591 struck flints including cores, blades, microburins, edge retouched flakes and blades, one arrowhead and various retouched microliths. The material shows many affinities with other mesolithic sites in the valley, and the collection appears to represent 'later mesolithic' occupation dating to c. 7500 - 4000 BC. The range of tool types suggests that a range of tasks were being undertaken in the area.

Easting 367745**Northing** 796316

NJ51NE0038 - LEOCHEL BURN, ALFORD

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ51NE0038

Name LEOCHEL BURN, ALFORD

Details Flint working site; scatters of microliths and other flints have been found along the river and burnside.

Easting 355461

Northing 816758

NJ83NW0024 - LITTLE GIGHT

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ83NW0024

Name LITTLE GIGHT

Details A number of flints have been found in field including thumbnail scrapers, suggesting a Mesolithic occupation site; A particularly high concentration of microliths in an area to the SE.

Easting 383960

Northing 839659

NJ92NE0047 - MACHARMUIR

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ92NE0047

Name MACHARMUIR

Details A considerable quantity of flints, over 1000 in a fairly concentrated area, were found while field walking on the N side of the Ythan. Finds include cores, waste flakes, retouched flakes, blades, scrapers, microburins and microliths. They were found on a river terrace between Macharmuir and Waulkmill by Mr A Barrow in 2003-4.

Easting 399967

Northing 829363

NO59NE0049 - MAINS OF MIDSTRATH

Main Details

Primary Reference NO59NE0049

Name MAINS OF MIDSTRATH

Details Cropmarks of a pit-alignment up the middle of the field. There is also a possible circular enclosure at NO5904 9536. The pit-alignment is similar to that of Warren Field, Crathes (NO79NW0012) which when excavated proved to be Mesolithic in date.

Easting 359004

Northing 795478

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ93SE0036 - MAINS OF WATERTON

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ93SE0036

Name MAINS OF WATERTON

Details Flints; approximately 300 flints collected from cattle tracks below S facing crags to the S of Mains of Waterton. Possibility exists that some of this material is derived from the crags by slumping. Finds include 2 barbed and tanged arrowheads (20mm and 25mm long), 4 cores (30-50mm long), 4 rough hewn quartzite-type arrowheads, 25 bulb spalls (25mm long), 60 small knappings, 150 flint chips (some possibly microliths), 3 large flints (130 x 70mm), 10 burned flints and 6 tools.

Easting 398700

Northing 830100

NJ80SE0132 - MARYCULTER BRIDGE

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ80SE0132

Name MARYCULTER BRIDGE

Details Pits recorded during trial trenching by Headland Archaeology in 2013 ahead of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route. Features were recorded in three trenches in the area adjacent to the River Dee to the SE of Maryculter Bridge. A total of 90 lithics were recovered from a crescent shaped pit in Trench SL0368, the fill also containing fragments of charcoal and nutshell. Some of the lithics had indications of dual platform technology and are suggested to be Mesolithic in date. Samples from a circular pit in the same Trench contained fragments of charcoal and possible slag material. A sub-circular pit in Trench SL0368A contained large amounts of charcoal and possible slag deposits. The group of features lie around 13m above sea level, some 50m back from the water. The presence of debitage and broken blade fragments may indicate opportunistic small-scale tool production and the ecofactual remains support some form of temporary localised activity.

Easting 385933

Northing 800320

NJ92SE0028 - MENIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ92SE0028

Name MENIE

Details Microliths and flints; shows evidence of Mesolithic occupation. No further information. A walkover survey by Headland Archaeology in 2009 ahead of proposed golf course development did not record any finds at this particular location.

Easting 399000

Northing 821024

NJ92SE0005 - MENIE LINKS

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ92SE0005

Name MENIE LINKS

Details Flint working site. Four areas centred on NJ 993 212 were recorded in site visit 1977. Area I (20m x 10m) contained a surface scatter of very small flint flakes. Area II (15m x 6m) contained very small flints in a sparse scatter on an exposure of gravelly material. Area III (6m x 2m) consisted of a very dense scatter of flints. These were large flakes, both primary and secondary. The colour ranges from honey to grey. Area IIIa (c.3m diameter) had a very concentrated collection of flint on a small circular rise. There were also other small but dense concentrations of flint in the same area. A walkover survey in 2006 by AOC Archaeology recorded a number of lithic scatters, including

exposure of part of an undisturbed knapping floor: Scatter 1 at NJ 9921521106 - flints eroding out of the base of a large dune on the E edge of the deflation area, and c. 5m to the S of the cairn (NJ92SE0134) this possibly corresponds with Area III; four scatters - 2 (NJ9920021093), 3 (NJ9918221095), 4 (NJ9920021093) and 5 (NJ9920221115) which form part of a larger spread of lithic material situated on a probably exposed raised beach: diffuse scatters 6 (NJ9904921277) and 7 (NJ9903921255) which lie to the NW of the deflation scar at the base of a dune system: scatter 8 (NJ9907021282) a small diffuse scatter eroding from a small dune: An archaeological walkover survey carried out by Headland Archaeology in June 2009 ahead of golf course development concentrated on two groups of flint scatters recorded by AOC. In the E area, the group of four distinct flint scatters (Areas I - IIIa) was found to lie within an elongated area (named Flint Scatter 1 centred NJ 9920 2113) measuring c.100m N-S and from 25m to 25m wide containing worked flints, including two microliths. The flints lay on a deflation surface amongst numerous pebbles. It is likely that vegetation cover to the W and recent windblown sand deposits to the E obscured the full extent. The second group (Flint Scatter 2) was situated to the NW c.200m inland at the foot of large dunes, and the 2009 survey recorded an irregular deflation surface containing worked flints centred at NJ 9898 2122. Struck flints were found over an area extending up to 140m NE-SW and up to 40m wide. A buried ground surface was also exposed in a section cut by wheel ruts. A photographic and electronic survey was carried out on the two groups (Flint Scatters 1 and 2) by Headland Archaeology in June 2009. The flint scatters were also sampled for a study of the source material and technology used in their manufacture. The results show that the assemblage is likely to be multi-phased, but pointing to earlier prehistoric, with good evidence (blades, blade core and backed blades) for Mesolithic activity. A fossil pebble storm beach was recorded dating to the 7th millennium BP; it included some flint pebbles which may have been the source for the flint tools. Site visit during a watching brief on Marram grass planting for the golf course, noted disturbance of some of the deposits of Flint Scatter 1 through reuse of existing tracks for access, as well as a new flint scatter to the south (NJ92SE0139). A test pit evaluation (NJ92SE0147) along a drain for the golf course did not record any flints beyond the already known extent of the flint scatter.

Easting 399193

Northing 821221

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ92SE0140 - MENIE LINKS

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ92SE0140

Name MENIE LINKS

Mesolithic struck stone scatter, exposed as a result of golf course development, one of two scatters (the other NJ92SE0141) noted during site visit in June 2011. A gridded retrieval of the exposed material was carried out in July 2011. The lithic scatter was exposed within an area 28x14m adjacent to the 18th fairway. Occasional lithics occurred across the area, with a dense concentration within an area c.10m by 7m. Trial trenching across the NW edge of the area recoded fine wind blown sand containing no lithics to a depth of at least 1.2m. A total of 1681 finds were recovered, almost exclusively flint. The majority of the assemblage is flakes, chips and cores (typically bipolar which indicate Mesolithic date). There are also examples of multi-platform cores, including a small blade core. The scatter survives as a lag deposit, concentrated at a certain level within mobile dunes by deflation of the surrounding land. They may have been displaced some distance vertically and horizontally and can not be identified with a contemporary buried soil, but there is good evidence for this representing a single episode of activity.

Easting 399043

Northing 820947

NJ92SE0141 - MENIE LINKS

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ92SE0141

Name MENIE LINKS

Mesolithic struck stone scatter, exposed as a result of golf course development, one of two scatters (the other NJ92SE0140) noted during site visit in June 2011. A gridded retrieval of the exposed material was carried out in July 2011. Lithics were observed eroding out of the edge of a dune on the NW side of the 18th fairway. Finds were collected on a 15 by 2m and a trial trench excavated across the centre of the area. A total of 948 finds were recovered, almost exclusively flint. The majority of the assemblage is flakes, chips and cores (typically bipolar which indicate Mesolithic date). The scatter survives as a lag deposit, concentrated at a certain level within mobile dunes by deflation of the surrounding land. They may have been displaced some distance vertically and horizontally and can not be identified with a contemporary buried soil, but there is good evidence for this representing a single episode of activity.

Easting 399075

Northing 821064

NO79NW0011 - MILTON COTTAGE

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NW0011

Name MILTON COTTAGE

Details

Mesolithic flint scatter. Flints were recovered from the eastern field by Dr Grieve (Grieve's Site F). Further concentrations of flints were recorded by fieldwalking carried out between 2008-12 by OFARS (which also included another four fields to the east -see also NO79NE0022, NO79NE0099, NO79NE0021). Although the bulk of material from the project was along the middle river terrace the flints from this site (Milton Cottage - MC) was mostly on the higher areas along the river bank (the lower terrace). The concentrations were less intensive than in the fields to the east. The flints include cores, Mesolithic broad blade and narrow blade microliths, scrapers, blades and flakes.

Easting 374592

Northing 796069

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO79NE0021 - NETHER MILLS CRATHES

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NE0021

Name NETHER MILLS CRATHES

Details

Mesolithic site, a settlement first recognised as a scatter of flints on the first terrace above the River Dee. Between 1973 and 1975, a large number of worked flints, including thumbnail scrapers and end scrapers, complete tools and waste flakes, have been found across the site. In total, over 3151 worked flints have been found (31 lb 4oz in weight). Dr Grieve's Site C. Excavation was carried out on the settlement 1978-81, the site interpreted as a hunter gatherer camp with probable evidence for a circular structure. Some 20,000 pieces of flint were recovered (suggested to be derived from sources along the coast and in Buchan). The work in 1980 identified an occupation derived from discoloured subsoil covering much of the area investigated, with a few associated features including stake holes and post holes. The site was dated to the late Mesolithic and it was suggested that it was a camp occupied in winter and spring. In January - March 2009 adjoining areas of two recently ploughed fields were fieldwalked by OFARS at 2m intervals to include this site and its surrounds. Over 4300 flints were collected from an area of c.100000m², extending 500m along and 250m from the terrace edge. The assemblage contains all stages of production, from the preparation of raw material to finished tools. The major element represents later (Narrow Blade) Mesolithic technology, with diagnostic microliths, microburins, and cores, but only a few scrapers. However, larger broad-bladed isosceles triangles, retouched on both sides, and one obliquely retouched 'point' may represent an earlier Broad Blade industry.

Easting 375784

Northing 796261

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO79NE0099 - NETHER MILLS OF DRUM

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NE0099

Name NETHER MILLS OF DRUM

Details

A considerable number of flints were found within a 10m radius on the river terrace to the SSW of Nether Mills of Drum Farm while field walking. Further fieldwalking has been carried out over this river terrace site, in 2010 and 2011 by Prof. Sabnis with help from OFARS and JBK. Further work was carried out in 2012. The concentration of flints in this field is a continuation of the scatter in the field to the west (see also NO79NE0022).

Easting 375356

Northing 796029

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO79NE0125 - NETHER PARK QUARRY

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NE0125

Name NETHER PARK QUARRY

Details

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in July 2018 by Murray Archaeological Services prior to proposed quarrying. A total of ten evaluation trenches were excavated. A total of 18 flints was recovered, one being found during field walking and the rest during the evaluation. The flints found during the evaluation were concentrated within a band of grey silty sand at circa NO 7725 9718, suggested as being part of a palaeochannel. One of the grey silt features was fully excavated, with both burn and unburnt flint flakes being recovered. Lithic material indicates activity at the site in both the Later Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal samples, gave some Mesolithic dates (7170-7044 BC and 6588-4645 BC), both in the backfill of features which were likely on structural evidence to be of Neolithic date. It suggests that residual Mesolithic material was incorporated when the pits were backfilled. Four radiocarbon samples have dates ranging around the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic ranging between 4531-4372 BC and 3924 and 3707 BC, two from part of trench which held vertical posts. Given the lack of Neolithic pottery from the site it is possible that this was a short term encampment or shelter. Further excavation carried out by MAS in August - September 2018 recorded two trenches which appeared to have been constructed to hold a number of post pits. No post shadows survived but many of the pits were 300mm - 400mm in diameter and would have contained large timbers. It is not clear what type of structure these represent. A total of 463 lithic finds were recorded, almost all of flint, ranging from pebbles used as cores to tools and waste flakes. A significant concentration in one area suggests that it was a knapping site. No prehistoric pottery was found.

Easting 377184

Northing 797204

NO79NE0023 - PARK BRIDGE

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NE0023

Name PARK BRIDGE

Details Mesolithic flint scatter. A total of 662 worked flakes were found in a well-defined scatter of c.25yds radius. The surface collection was found after ploughing and heavy rain. Dr Grieve's site B. See also NO79NE0126.

Easting 379570

Northing 798174

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ50SE0002 - PEEL OF LUMPHANAN

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ50SE0002

Name PEEL OF LUMPHANAN

Details Peel of Lumphanan, the remains of a shell keep atop an earthen mound, or motte, rising above the level of the surrounding moat, 15.24m wide. The ditch is bounded by an earthen bank, 3.04m high by 2.43m wide with another shallow ditch, 3.04m wide outside this. The surrounding bank is breached on W side. In 1829 the sluice for the water ditch was revealed and the position of the drawbridge discernible.

The lower courses of a curtain wall girdle the summit of the mound, with the foundations of a long hall building abutting it. A 13th Century motte was built on top of earlier fortifications by the Durwards. In the 15th Century a manor house, Halton House occupied the summit. Excavations carried out between 1975-9 uncovered a cobbled causeway across the ditch. A posthole and a possible palisade was also discovered. Several sherds of French pottery were also found. Two sherds came from a Rouen-type ware jug and one sherd from a North French whiteware jug. A visual impact assessment was undertaken by MAS in May 2009 in advance of proposed windfarm at Hirnely (centred on NJ 544 012). The monument is c.4km from the proposed windfarm which would be visible along a clear line of sight.

Easting 357611

Northing 803696

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO77NW0029 - PITTENGARDNER

Main Details

Primary Reference NO77NW0029

Name PITTENGARDNER

Details Unenclosed settlement showing as cropmarks of at least 12 timber round-houses, with some showing as solid circles with a thin ring around them. Also showing are pit-alignments, enclosures and a possible souterrain. In the corner of the field to the E are two ring-ditches. The area is overlain by rig and furrow showing as crop marks. The pit-alignment is similar to that of Warren Field, Crathes (NO79NW0012) which when excavated proved to be Mesolithic in date. A watching brief was carried out by MAS in 2002 during replacement of an electricity pole and associated works in the southwestern part of the site, but no archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.

Easting 374893

Northing 776384

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ72SE0335 - PORTSDOWN

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ72SE0335

Name PORTSDOWN

Details An archaeological evaluation was carried out in 2015 by MAS prior to proposed development. A total of 72 trenches were excavated, covering 7-10% of the site. Rig and furrow was recorded to the north of the site, which corresponds to Roy's map of 18th century cultivation. To the south of the rig and furrow, two small pits with no related artefacts were recorded. Radiocarbon dates from the fills of the pits produced dates of 4234-4005 cal BC and 3646-3522 cal BC. A further two areas of undated burning were recorded to the south of the site, again with no related artefacts. A small Bronze Age pit was recorded to the south of Portsdown steading (NJ72SE0266), producing a radiocarbon date of 1499-1310 cal BC. A flint pebble, a small sherd of thick-walled prehistoric pottery and a flint flake were recovered from the fill of the pit. A medieval or post-medieval handle sherd and a possible hone were recovered near the area the Bronze Age pit was recorded.

Easting 377134

Northing 823463

NO69NW0065 - POTARCH

Main Details

Primary Reference NO69NW0065

Name	POTARCH
Details	A line of possible pits visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Fieldwalking in 2017 as part of the Mesolithic Deeside Project has recovered a large number of flint artefacts of Mesolithic date from this field in the area of the cropmark features. They include seven cores, 11 retouched tools, 38 flakes and 13 blades. A number of burnt flints were also found.
Easting	360460
Northing	797462

NK02NW0004 - SANDS OF FORVIE

Main Details

Primary Reference	NK02NW0004
Name	SANDS OF FORVIE
Details	The remains of an area of settlement and flint-working lie about half a mile South of another known settlement (NK02NW0002), on both sides of the Ythan Estuary. Shell mounds and occupation areas, associated with great numbers of flint flakes, chips and microliths have been recorded. Two of these mounds were investigated by Dalrymple in the mid 19th century. One, close to high water mark, measured c. 150 ft by 30 ft and up to 16ft high, which excavation showed to comprise alternate layers of sand and burnt shell. The other, lower down the river also stood on an old beach and was an irregular horse-show shape;l a section recorded layers of sand and burnty shell and a hearth. Finds include burnt stones, animal bones and charcoal but no flints.
Easting	401152
Northing	825626

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NK02NW0005 - SANDS OF FORVIE

Main Details

Primary Reference	NK02NW0005
Name	SANDS OF FORVIE
Details	A collection of flint flakes, mostly unworked, has been accumulated from this general area. The river is constantly changing its course in a minor way at its estuary. No more accurate siting could be obtained for these finds but occupation sites have been noted in the area on each side of the river (see also NK02NW0004 and NK02NW0002).
Easting	400000
Northing	820000

NK02NW0018 - SANDS OF FORVIE

Main Details

Primary Reference	NK02NW0018
Name	SANDS OF FORVIE
Details	A flint scatter consisting of “several hundred waste flakes, one scraper and a small number of cores” was noted in this area by R. Turner. A small collection of flint was made but the vast majority were left in situ. In an area of breeding terns, so no access from April to August.
Easting	401198
Northing	825242

NK02NW0045 - SANDS OF FORVIE

Main Details

Primary Reference NK02NW0045

Name SANDS OF FORVIE

Details On the raised beach within the Forvie dune system are discrete Mesolithic flint scatters within an eroding organic matrix. These undisturbed features appear to result from individual knapping episodes, each containing cores, chunks and blades of a single parent material. They lie in close relationship to a series of burnt stone features, also probably of Mesolithic date. The scatters were discovered during fieldwork carried out by Graeme Warren in the summer of 1999. Although they appear to be completely undisturbed they are very fragile remains.

Easting 401021

Northing 825270

NJ93NW0068 - SKILMAFILLY

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ93NW0068

Name SKILMAFILLY

Details Cremation cemetery, one of eight previously unknown sites identified during a watching brief over the St. Fergus to Aberdeen Gas Pipeline in 2001. It was excavated by CFA in 2002. A tightly clustered cremation cemetery of at least 41 individual pits was identified, 29 of which contained cremated human bone. There were two distinct groups of burials, urned and un-urned and a group of pits without cremation deposits. Nine of the pits contained inverted urns that varied in size, shape and decoration and a single pit contained an upright urn; fragments of an urn were recovered from the surface of an earlier pit. Two of the vessels were Cordoned Urns, the rest Collared Urns. Many of the other cremations showed evidence of having been deposited within some form of organic container. Most of the pits contained separated burnt deposits and cremated bone and had an upper fill of redeposited subsoil. Some of the pits had been lined with burnt material prior to deposition of the bone. The cremations have been radiocarbon dated to 2040 to 1500 BC. A range of artefacts was found associated with the cremations including a flint foliate knife, antler toggles, bone pins and two Golden Eagle talons. A single, massive and stratigraphically complex pit located towards the east of the group measured 3.2m x 2.8m and had a depth of 1.4m. Radiocarbon dating (4510 - 3970 BC) indicates a late Mesolithic date. This feature contained layers of burnt ash and charcoal. Six cremation pits, including one urn, were cut into and around the upper edges of this feature.

Easting 390876

Northing 839908

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NK04SE0136 - STONEYHILL

Main Details

Primary Reference NK04SE0136

Name STONEYHILL

Details Trial excavation, test-pitting and a watching brief were carried out in this area between 2002 and 2003 by CFA in advance of the extension of Stoneyhill Landfill. A walkover survey identified 16 cairns (see also NK04SE0010), one surrounded by a large flint scatter, mostly knapping debitage. During the trial excavation, flint artefacts and several hammerstones were recovered from Test Pit J, while in another area 2 phases of activity were recorded: Bronze Age activity in the form of worked flints and numerous post-holes; land improvements of the 18th and 19th centuries. Three cairns were also excavated along with a flint scatter. Finds included a large quantity of lithics including hammerstones and blades. A complete leaf shaped arrowhead was recovered from one of the cairns as well as sherds and rims of decorated Beaker pottery. The watching brief revealed one further archaeological feature, a possible prehistoric pit or scoop; no artefacts were recovered from this. Final report issued in July 2009 concluded that the fieldwork revealed just how widespread traces of past human activity are within this inauspicious Buchan valley, with most of the test-pit grids revealing lithic assemblages characteristic of settlement-based activity. Overall these activities included a clearance cairn with a Late Bronze Age lithic assemblage and a burial cairn, with Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age lithics and Beaker ceramics. Other lithic scatters of similar date had no certain associations, although pits containing near-contemporary Impressed Wares were nearby. Additional lithic assemblages included material dated to the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic. What may be proto- Unstan Wares in an isolated pit were associated with radiocarbon dates (barley) of the first half of the

fourth millennium bc. These findings represent a substantial addition to the local area's archaeological record and form an important contribution to the understanding of lithic technology and ceramics in earlier prehistoric Scotland.

Easting 407418

Northing 841183

NO79NW0012 - WARREN FIELD, CRATHES

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NW0012

Name WARREN FIELD, CRATHES

Details

Pit-alignment showing as cropmarks with at least 22 pits extending for circa 80m NE to SW across a field. A small excavation was carried out in 2004, with one pit being sectioned and a further 6 pits and 5 features planned. In 2005, a further 5 pits were revealed and sectioned, with two more pits sectioned and sampled in 2006 to confirm the radiocarbon results. The pits range in size from 1m in diameter and 0.55m deep to 2.6m in diameter and 1.3m deep. Consistently, all the pits had a sequence of an initial cut with some slippages from the sides, then a thick deposit of charcoal followed by infilling from weathering of the edges and possibly erosion and slippage of upcast material. In each pit this process was then interrupted by a secondary cut, with a fill which again included large amounts of charcoal. The radiocarbon dates suggest that some of the pits were potentially dug 200 to 400 years later than the others, but that they are all Mesolithic in date with some having later Early Neolithic activity. The pits appear to represent some form of monumental symbolic site with earth piled around each open pit. The site then saw reuse in the Neolithic and the position of the nearby timber hall (NO79NW0013) may relate to knowledge of this earlier site. Analysis in 2013 suggests that the pits appear to have basic calendrical functions as they mimic the phases of the moon and is structured to track lunar months. It also aligns on the SE horizon and a prominent topographic point associated with the sunrise on the midwinter solstice. By acknowledging the solstice it gives the calendar an annual astronomic correction in order to maintain the link between the passage of time indicated by the moon, the asynchronous solar year, and the associated seasons. If these pits do represent a calendar then this would make them the earliest form of time measurer in the world (the next known formal calendars originate in Mesopotamia some 5000 years later).

Easting 373796

Northing 796660

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NO79NW0013 - WARREN FIELD, CRATHES

Main Details

Primary Reference NO79NW0013

Name WARREN FIELD, CRATHES

Details

Cropmark of a Neolithic timber hall; cropmarks reveal what is probably the wall-trench of a rectangular timber building with internal pits which probably indicates the positions of roof supports; appears to have a semi-circular annexe on W end. Originally thought to be Dark Age or medieval but with the excavation of a similar type of cropmark at Balbridie (NO79NW0014) which proved to be Neolithic, this site has also been proved of the same date. Partial excavation of the eastern end in May 2004 revealed a curving line of postholes. Several sherds of Neolithic pottery were recovered. Within a pit a small fragment of a possible wooden bowl and fragments of leather were recovered although date is uncertain at present. A more intensive season of excavation was undertaken in May and June 2005 during which the full plan of the building was revealed and its structure investigated. The building measured c.24 x 9m externally and 22.5 x 8m internally; the W segment of the structure may have been unroofed, while the interior was sub-divided by a series of partitions. The main entrance was to the NE, with 2 narrow gaps between the timbers in the side walls possibly providing light and air to the inner rooms. Outer walls built of large oak timbers; the internal partitions had been constructed of lighter timbers; 2 large pits lay on the longitudinal axis of the building, their function is unclear but they do not appear to have held roof supports. Preliminary analysis of finds distribution indicates there was little activity in the W end of the building; within the main area there was a concentration of flint artefacts to the W with a lower concentration at the E end and very few flints in the central area. The distribution of pottery was in reverse with little to the W and an increasing concentration towards the centre and E of the structure. This may suggest functional differences between the different areas of the structure. Systematic environmental sampling was undertaken throughout the building and analysis may show if there is any pattern in the distribution of grain. From the 2004 excavation, barley, emmer, bread/club wheat, and a possible grain of spelt were identified from the E end of the building.

Easting 373909

Northing 796707

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ81NW0031 - WESTER FINTRAY

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ81NW0031

Name WESTER FINTRAY

Details Cropmarks; a circular enclosure plus pits showing as faint dark traces and dark blobs; also faint trace of rig and furrow showing as a cropmark. Testpitting in 2004 (as part of the Kintore Landscape Project - see NJ81NW0198) revealed a flint narrow blade assemblage including debitage cores and burn material that has been tentively dated to the Mesolithic. An excavation was undertaken in 2005. Two sections were excavated across the ditch of the enclosure, which revealed contrasting ditch profiles: one was 1.5m wide and up to 1m deep, with 2 or 3 recuts. The second profile was 0.9m wide and up to 0.4m deep and was recut at least once. The variance might be due to the two features being unrelated. Within the enclosure was at least one roundhouse with a sunken floor.

Easting 380938

Northing 815805

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ81NW0039 - WESTER FINTRAY

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ81NW0039

Name WESTER FINTRAY

Details Cropmarks of at least ten ring-ditches, pits, a pit-alignment, field system and other indeterminate cropmarks are visible spread over two fields. The pit-alignment is similar to that of Warren Field, Crathes (NO79NW0012) which when excavated proved to be Mesolithic in date. Test-pitting was carried out at the N end of the eastern field in 2004 as part of a programme of investigation in the area (NJ81NW0198) for the Kintore Landscape Project. The work recovered 14 flint and two quartz artefacts, which appear to be part of a background level of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, although a concentration of probable Mesolithic flints was recovered from the field to the S (NJ81NW0031).

Easting 380679

Northing 816094

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

NJ81NW0198 - WESTER FINTRAY

Main Details

Primary Reference NJ81NW0198

Name WESTER FINTRAY

Details A programme of archaeological investigation comprising fieldwalking, test-pitting, metal detecting and keyhole excavation was carried out around Wester Fintray Farm in 2004 as Phase 1 of the Kintore Landscape Project. The area investigated included a number of known archaeological sites: NJ81NW0028, NJ81NW0076, NJ81NW0039, NJ81NW0031, NJ81NW0025, NJ81NW0032, NJ81NW0037, NJ81NW0036, NJ81NW0023. A total of 326 artefacts were recovered from the field walking and 110 test pits. In general the results appear to represent a background level of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. One concentration of lithics was identified from field C (NJ81NW0031), the assemblage representing a narrow blade lithic working assemblage of possible Mesolithic date. The results indicate a

Mesolithic site, probably a temporary camp resused over a number of years. Also within this area was an in-situ a metal working feature within an enclosure. Metal detecting carried out in two fields (B and the northern end of A) recovered four post-medieval coins. Excavation of a trench through cairn NJ81NW0028 revealed a charcoal rich layer at the base of the cairn; within the same field a cup-marked stone and two other possible examples were located.

Easting 381078

Northing 816077

NJ41SW0014 - WHITE HILL

Main Details

Primary Reference	NJ41SW0014
Name	WHITE HILL
Details	Flint flakes found a 'number of years' prior to 1968. Suggested by Simpson (1963) to be a Mesolithic flint-knapping site, using Buchan flint. OS (1968) found no trace of this site during OS field work.
Easting	340518
Northing	811818

Regional Status

Site of Regional Significance

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