

**A Report on an Archaeological Walkover Survey
Site to the East of Queens Lodge, Inchmarlo, Banchory
(Also known as Corsee/Banchory/Brathens Wood)**

On behalf of Deeside Bike Collective

Planning Application APP/2017/2447

CA425 Cameron Archaeology



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V2 17/10/2018

Walkover Survey: Site to East of Queens Lodge, Banchory, Aberdeenshire

National Grid Reference: NO 6826 9677

Parish: Banchory-Ternan

Height OD: c.110m OD

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SUMMARY

On September 17th, 2018, an archaeological walkover survey was undertaken within the proposed Deeside Bike Collective bicycle trails and pump track area (APP/2017/2447). There are at least three known archaeological sets of features within the project area: The first two are the Tor Na Dee cairnfield (which overlaps with Banchory Hospital) (NO69NE0040), an area of three possible prehistoric cairns. Second, Corsee Woods (NO 6821 9677 – NO 6821 9680), a previously known, largely destroyed pre-modern dyke located within the southern half of the Tor Na Dee cairnfield, and third, a possible hut circle noted by the Forestry Commission which is only described as located near the northern site boundary and was not located at the time of the survey. The walkover survey found that while a cluster of at least two possible prehistoric cairns - possibly funerary in nature - and

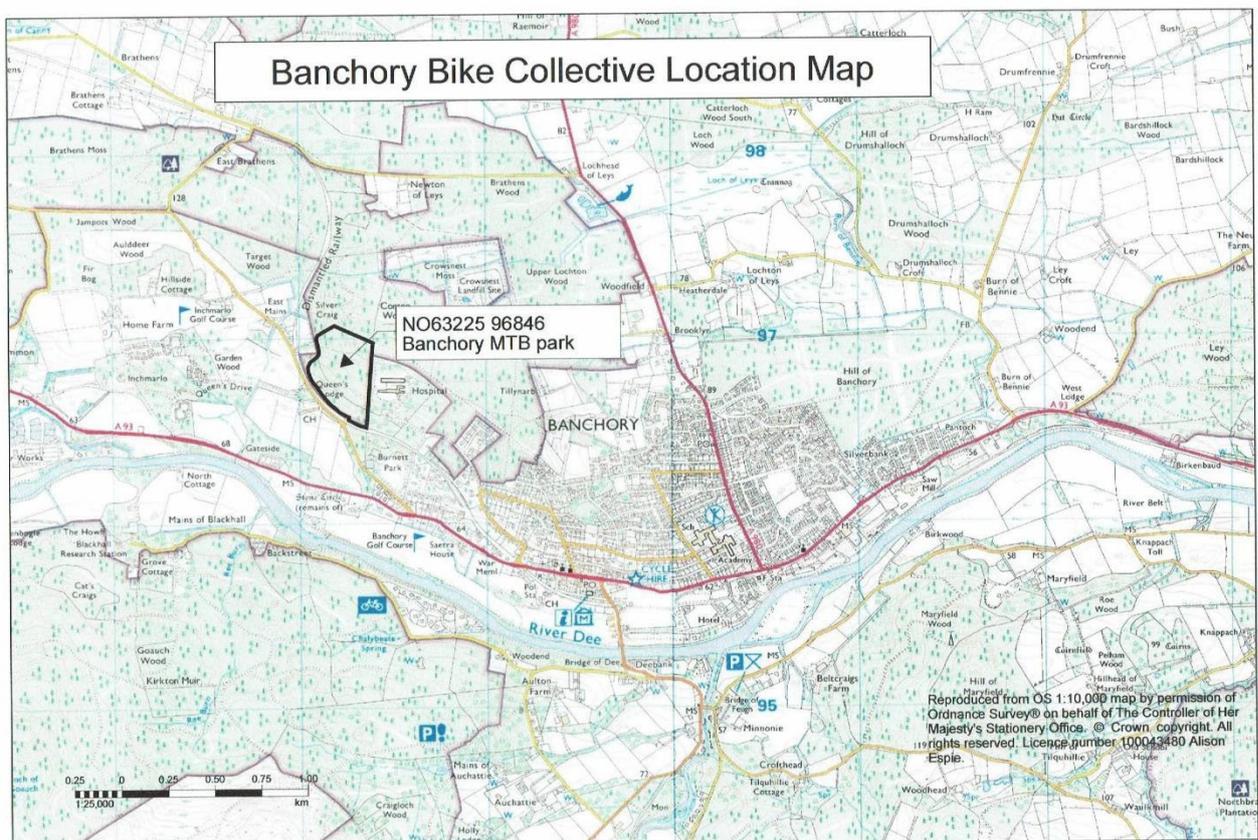
associated stones were visible (discussed in Sections 3 & 4) along with a short 22m section of the dyke, the three remaining cairns in the N/NE of the site and possible hut circle (reported by Forestry Commission but without coordinates) were not located or positively identified during the walkover. Given the likely prehistoric nature of the identified cairns versus the heavy vegetation, an archaeological watching brief or programme of monitoring is therefore recommended during groundworks within the project area which are expected to reveal additional cairns. It is therefore recommended that a 10m buffer zone be maintained around each of the cairns and a watching brief be carried out by an archaeologists during all ground disturbance.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The site (Illus 1&2) for Deeside Bike Collective's proposed bike trails and pump track is situated on c.12.9ha of largely forested land within the southwest corner of Corsee Wood, between the Glen O'Dee Hospital and Inchmarlo golf club. The site is bounded by a dyke along the eastern side, by the woods of Glen O'Dee Hospital. To the north and west it is bounded by commercial conifer woodland owned and managed by the Forestry Commission and finally, to the south-west by a forestry road and a narrow belt of mixed woodland.

1.2 The work was commissioned by Deeside Bike Collective under application APP/2017/2447. This application includes an archaeological walkover survey to identify the presence, or otherwise, of any archaeological remains within the project area, including their extent, condition, character, quality and date (if possible).

1.3 All the archaeological work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN 1KM

2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the site itself or within 1km.

2.2 Aberdeenshire SMR - NO69NE0040 - TOR NA DEE An area of cairns lie in the wood to the west of Tor Na Dee Hospital northwest of Banchory. On the summit of the hill may be the remains of a robbed burial cairn, as the situation is good, but this may just be stone dumping on top of an outcrop giving the impression of a cairn. Just slightly downslope are two elongated cairns, measuring c. 3-4m wide by 12m long and standing c. 0.75m high. These may be clearance cairns but are unlike the others lying in the area, which are generally round and c. 5-6m in diameter. Further downslope again a footpath cuts through a clearance cairn. No associated features could be seen but as the area is tree-covered more may be revealed when thinning takes place.

2.3 Aberdeenshire SMR - NO69NE0029 - GLEN O'DEE HOSPITAL Remains of former Edwardian convalescence hospital, hotel, war billet, and fever hospital. It was the first sanatorium to be built in Scotland. This timber-built sanatorium opened on the 24th December 1900 as the 'Nordrach-on-Dee' private tuberculosis sanatorium. It is built in the Bavarian-style, and once housed the author Somerset Maugham as a patient. Designed 'for the purpose of carrying out the open-air treatment of consumption and other forms of tuberculosis and lung disease. This is the first establishment in Scotland specially designed and erected on a specially-selected locality for carrying out the Nordrach treatment. It has been erected at a cost of over £600 per bed. The grounds extend to about 25 acres, and the lengths of the walks are graded according to the strength of the patient. Shelters are erected here and there among the trees, some of them being on the revolving principle. A winter garden is to be provided in the veranda that connects the sanatorium with the dining-room. The sanatorium has accommodation for 40 patients. The building, which was designed by Mr. George Coutts, architect, Aberdeen, after a visit to Germany with Dr. Lawson, has cost about £21,000, including the purchase price of the site'. The hospital closed in 1928, then re-opened as the 'Glen O'Dee' luxury hotel in 1934. During the Second World War the hotel was requisitioned by the army in 1941 and used to billet troops. In 1945, the building was purchased by the Scottish Red Cross Society and refitted as a sanatorium for ex-servicemen and women suffering from TB. It was transferred in 1955 to the NHS, becoming a convalescent hospital. Glen O' Dee briefly returned to its role as a sanatorium during the Aberdeen typhoid epidemic in 1964. The nurses' home was demolished in 1988, and it went out of use as a typhoid hospital in 1990, becoming a care home for elderly patients. Wet rot became an issue, and in 1994 the last of the patients left. In 1998, a purpose-built hospital building was erected to the North of the original building, which remains vacant and in poor repair. Significantly damaged by fire on 14th October 2016.

2.4 Aberdeenshire SMR - NO69NE0085 - CORSEE WOOD Boundary stone recorded by D Welch, 2015, but which does not appear on the OS 1st or 2nd edition maps. It bears the letters D and B and is situated in a dyke: it is suggested that it may have been carved in situ.

2.5 Aberdeenshire SMR - NO69NE0072 - QUEEN'S LODGE East Lodge of Inchmarlo House, also known as Queen's Lodge. Shown on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps, and still in use.

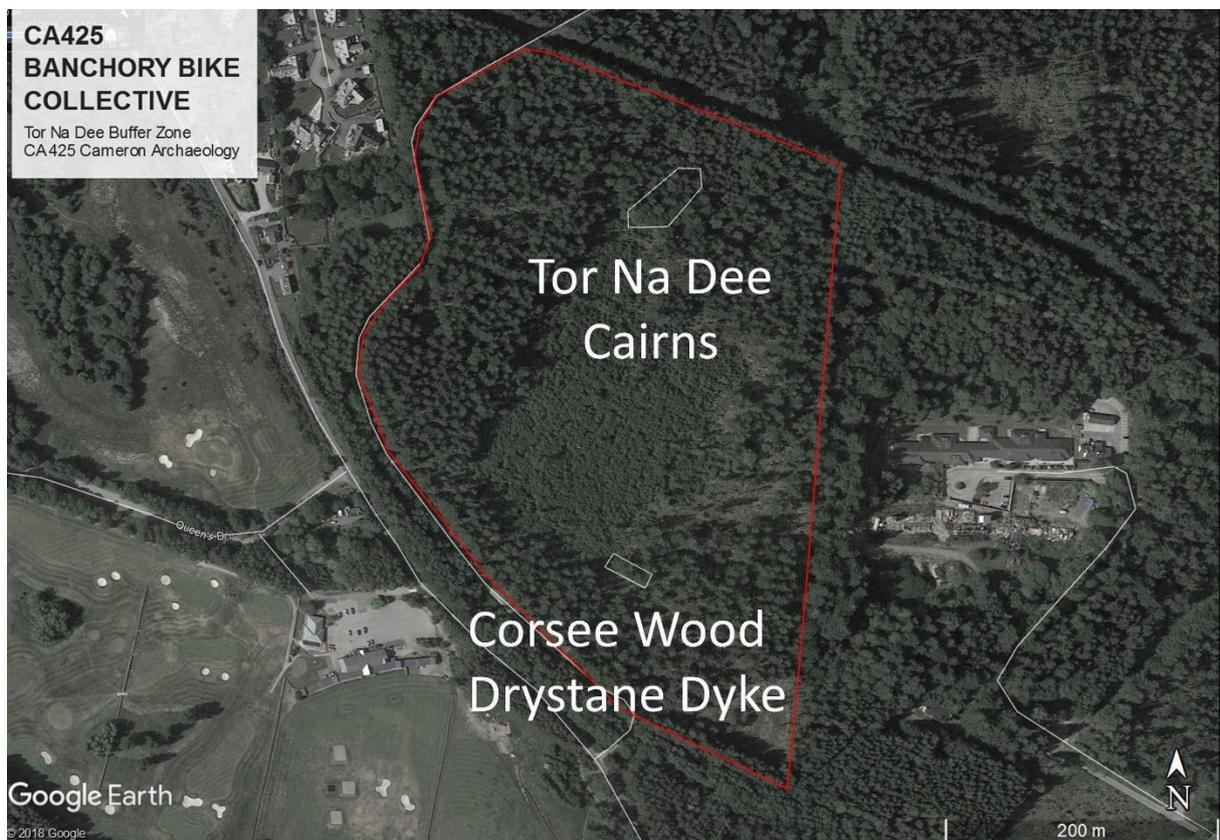
2.6 Aberdeenshire SMR - NO69NE0073 - EAST MAINS Farmstead, in use as residential. Shown on the 1st edition OS of 1867, and by the 2nd edition map of 1888 it has been altered to its present form of a U-plan steading open to the SW with a rectangular farm house to the NE.

2.7 Aberdeenshire SMR - NO69NE0041 - TOR NA DEE (II)

An area of clearance cairns lie in woods to the east of Tor Na Dee Hospital. This is probably an extension of the cairnfield to the west (NO69NE0040), part of which would have been destroyed when Tor Na Dee was built.

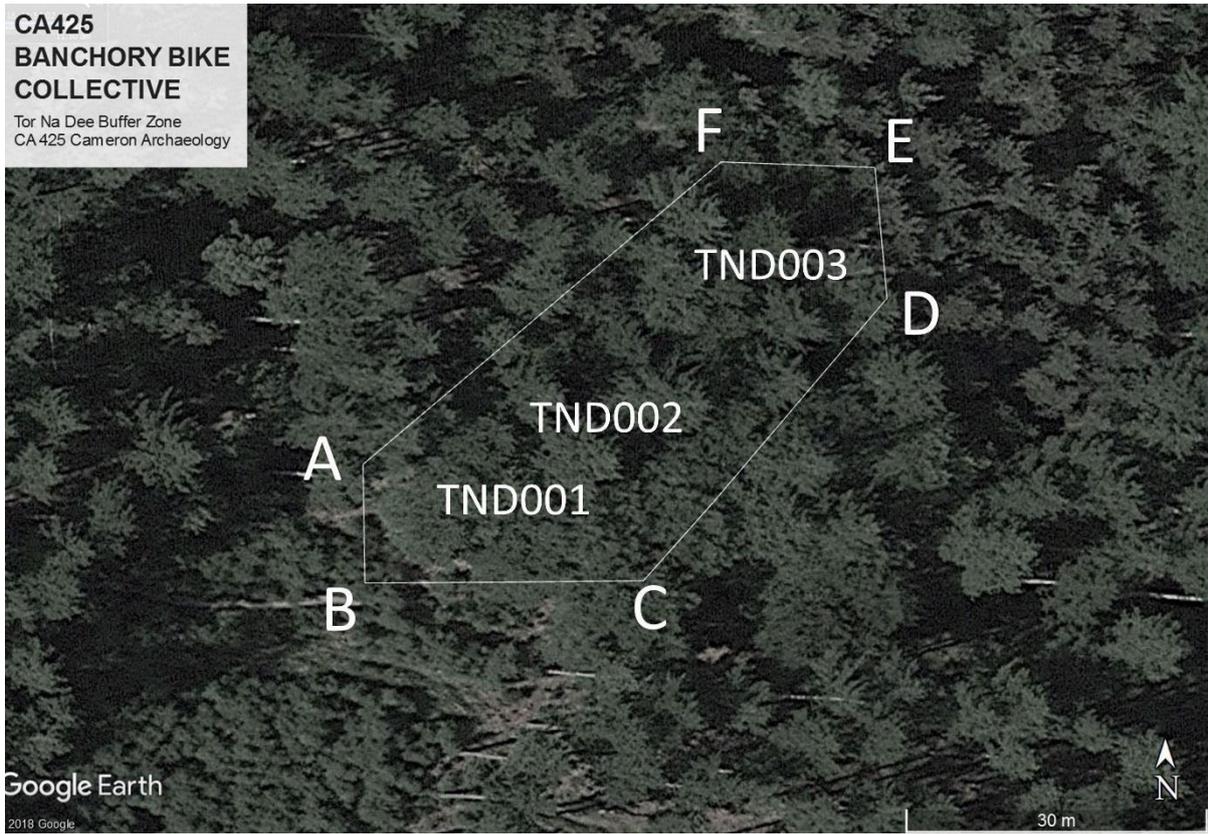
2.8 Aberdeenshire SMR - NO69NE0039 – BRATHENS A number of clearance cairns lie within coniferous woodland east of the large cairnfield at East Brathens (NO69NE0034) and may be in fact be an extension of it. The cairns are scattered and moss-covered, varying in size with largest observed being c6m in diameter. No evidence of field banks or hut-circles were noted at time of visit (2003), but thinning may mean more features will be revealed.

2.9 Canmore – Corsee Woods – NO69NE127 - A short curving section of pre-modern destroyed dyke located in an extensive area of clearance cairns.



Illus 2 Locations of sites identified during the walkover survey: cairnfield to the north at NO 68265 96936 and remnants of drystone dyke at NO 68250 96677 to the south (copyright Digital Globe/Google 2018).

CA425
BANCHORY BIKE
COLLECTIVE
Tor Na Dee Buffer Zone
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Illus 3 Locations of cairns (TND001-3) and points for buffer zone (coordinates given in Table 1, below) (copyright Digital Globe/Google 2018).

CA425
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Corsee Woods Dyke Buffer
Zone
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Illus 4 Points for buffer zone around Corsee Woods Drystane Dyke – coordinates given in Table 1, below (copyright Digital Globe/Google 2018).

Reference point for buffer zones/cairn ID	NGR	Site
A	NO68251 96942	Tor Na Dee Cairns
B	NO68251 96930	Tor Na Dee Cairns
C	NO68279 96930	Tor Na Dee Cairns
D	NO68303 96958	Tor Na Dee Cairns
E	NO68302 96971	Tor Na Dee Cairns
F	NO68287 96972	Tor Na Dee Cairns
G	NO68238 96695	Corsee Woods Drystane Dyke
H	NO68232 96685	Corsee Woods Drystane Dyke
I	NO68262 96669	Corsee Woods Drystane Dyke
J	NO68266 96680	Corsee Woods Drystane Dyke
TND001	NO 68263 96935	Cairn (1 of 3)
TND002	NO 68275 96946	Cairn (2 of 3)
TND003	NO 68293 96961	Cairn (3 of 3)

Table 1 NGR coordinates for buffer zone points and centred cairn locations shown in the aerial photos above (Illus 3 & 4).

3 THE WALKOVER SURVEY

On September 17th, 2018, an archaeological walkover survey was undertaken within the proposed Deeside Bike Collective bicycle trails and pump track area (APP/2017/2447). The area covers approximately 12.9ha of mixed woodland, mainly conifers with small pockets of open scrub. The site away from the established footpaths was intermittently open under the tree canopy and generally navigable on foot with fair to poor at times visibility of the surrounding forest floor. The central portion of the site contained exceptionally dense pockets of what appears to be birch (please see Espie 2018 for a detailed analysis) which prevented a thorough inspection. Off the footpaths, the southern/central areas in particular also contained sizable ruts from logging tractors which were largely obscured by grasses or other vegetation and occasionally presented awkward moments when traversing the site as some extended to a depth exceeding 0.5m.

There are at least three known archaeological sets of features within the project area: The first is the Tor Na Dee cairnfield (which overlaps with Banchory Hospital) (NO69NE0040), an area of possible prehistoric cairns. Second, Corsee Woods (NO69NE127) comprises a largely destroyed pre-modern dyke with the only visible segment at the time of the survey measuring 22.2m, and third, a possible hut circle noted by the Forestry Commission which is only described as located near the northern site boundary and was not located at the time of the survey.

The walkover survey identified a cluster of at least two possibly three, prehistoric cairns - perhaps funerary in nature with associated stone scatters centred upon NO 68265 96936, beginning less than 10m to the north of the main E-W footpath (Illus 2-4). The cairns remain

as described in the HER (Aberdeenshire HER 2018a 'Tor Na Dee' NO69NE0040) with maximum lengths approaching 12m, albeit with visible removal/robbing of stone in the centre of at least one of the cairns and general dispersal of many loose individual stones. If these are indeed funerary and not simple clearance cairns, the author suggests these are at risk from additional stone removal/dispersal and intrusive or even targeted activity. These cairns are located within an area of heavy foot traffic and adjacent to recent bushcraft constructions of brush shelters which in some instances abut the cairns. The shelters are perhaps from Scouting or other organised outings, or simply built by locals, but as they provide an easily visible attraction, they promote foot traffic immediately around and in some instances, over the cairns. The remaining cairns in the N/NE of the site as described in Tor Na Dee were not conclusively identified and are likely obscured by vegetation or less likely, removed. This area does not contain any footpaths running through the area and appears to have little to no foot traffic, thus suggesting the cairns are still present, though obscured.

To the south, a poorly preserved section of drystone dyke (Corsee Woods NO69NE127) measuring 22.2m at the visible extent at the time of the survey (Illus 2) was identified which ran into a dense thicket of birch saplings and brush. Visible traces of the drystone dyke into this area ceased, nor was the dyke visible as it was expected to emerge to the west into the conifer areas based on OS maps, suggesting that it is heavily damaged or destroyed in most areas. Thinning of the woodland may reveal additional traces.

A possible hut circle somewhere near the northern site boundary track (reported by Forestry Commission but without coordinates) was not located during the walkover in the area that delineates the northern site boundary. Thinning of the forest cover (in association with a watching brief or monitoring) may well reveal a hut platform or indeed visible foundations. The exact location was not obtained from the forestry commission prior to the survey, however, this is currently being requested by Cameron Archaeology.



Illus 5 Cairn TND002 at Tor Na Dee NO69NE0040 (centred around NO 68275 96946, with recent bushcraft shelters adjacent to the area).



Illus 6 Cairn TND003 at Tor Na Dee NO69NE0040 centred upon NO 68293 96961 located just north of Cairn TND002 in Illus 5 (note location of shelters). Note robbing of stone in centre of cairn, top centre of frame.

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While the drystone dyke to the south is heavily damaged and post-Medieval in origin, it is not located near any of the cairns identified in the survey. Given the absence of crofts, settlements or townships within this area on the Roy Map (Illus 5) this therefore suggests that the cairns within Corsee Woods are at the very least late Medieval in origin. More likely, given the size (up to 12m in length) and elongated shape, the author suggests that these cairns are prehistoric nature and quite possibly funerary. In addition, vegetation and tree cover prevents a positive identification of the remaining cairns reported to extend originally beyond the Glen O' Dee hospital to the east, suggesting that considerable archaeological activity has taken place within the NE corner of the woodland in particular. Therefore, an archaeological watching brief or programme of monitoring is therefore recommended during groundworks and cycle path construction within the project area. This would reliably be expected to reveal additional cairns and/or prehistoric features such as the possible hut circle reported by Forestry Commission staff.

It is therefore recommended that a 10m buffer zone (see Illus 2-4 and Table 1) be maintained around the group of cairns and the remaining section of drystone dyke, in conjunction with a watching brief to be carried out by an archaeologist during all ground disturbance.

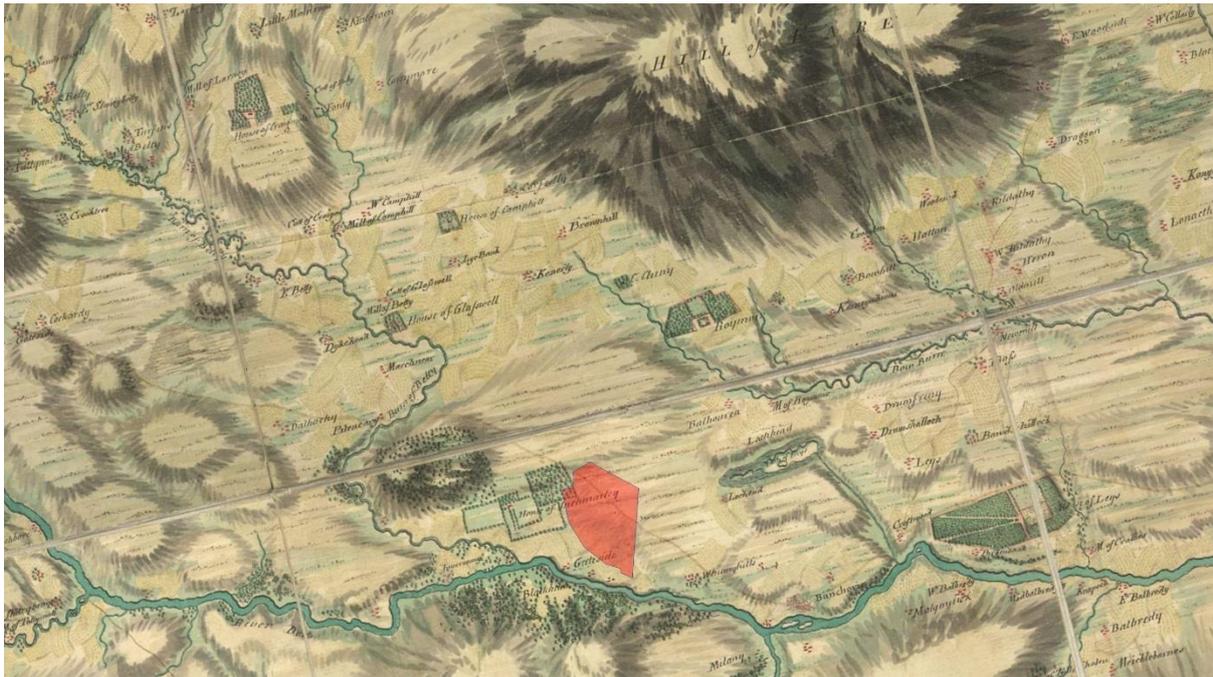
5 REFERENCES

- Aberdeenshire HER 2018: 'Glen O' Dee Hospital' available at <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NO69NE0029> as of 02-10-2018.
- Aberdeenshire HER 2018a: 'Tor Na Dee' available at <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NO69NE0040> as of 02-10-2018.
- Aberdeenshire HER 2018b: 'Corsee Wood Boundary Stone' available at <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NO69NE0085> as of 02-10-2018.
- Aberdeenshire HER 2018c: 'Queen's Lodge' available at <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NO69NE0072> as of 02-10-2018.
- Aberdeenshire HER 2018d: 'East Mains' available at <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NO69NE0073> as of 02-10-2018.
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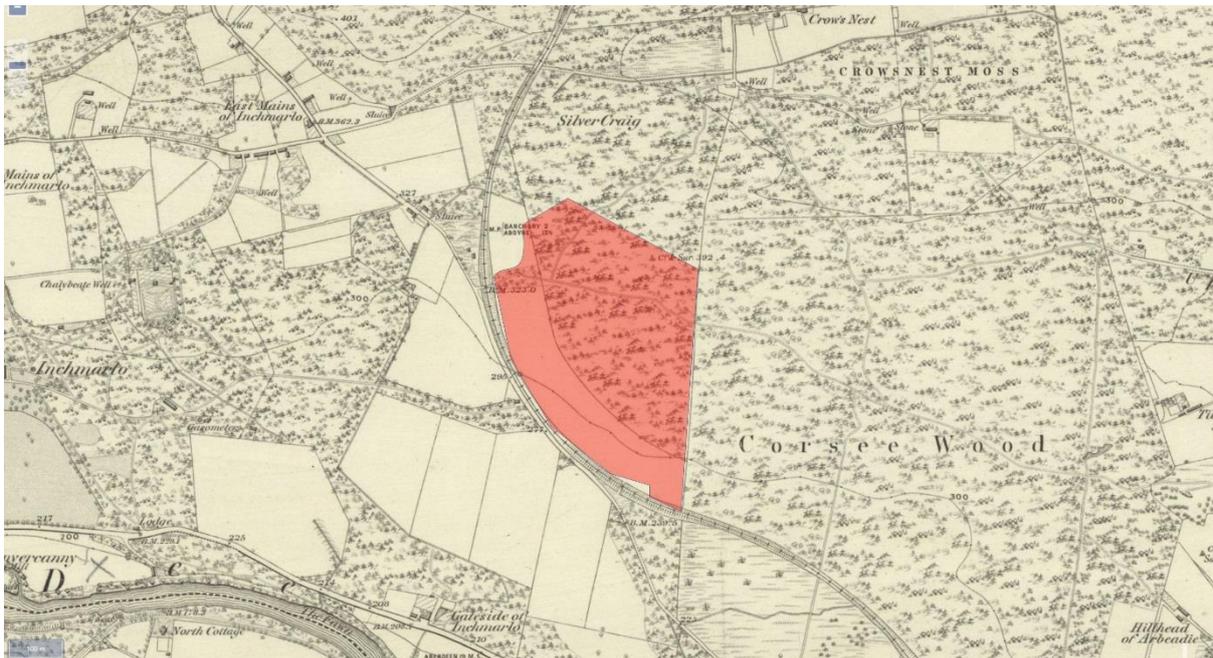
6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Deeside Bike Collective for initiating this project, and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Angus and Moray Council Archaeological Service, for her advice during this work.

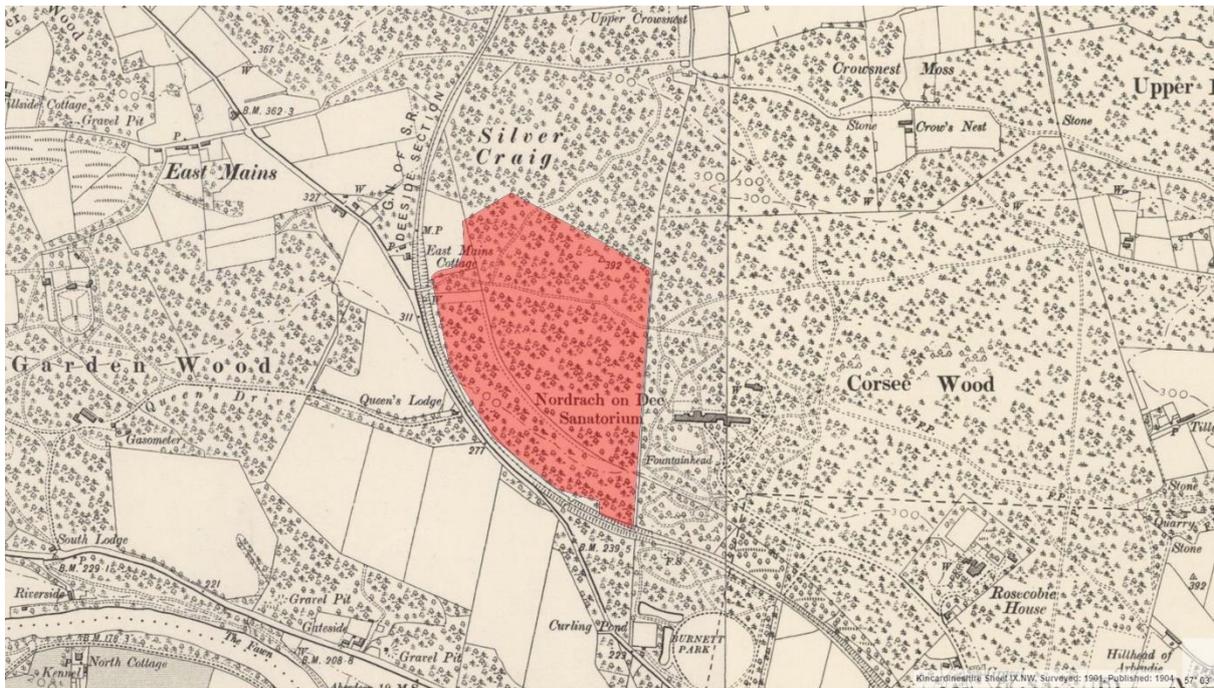
APPENDIX 1 MAPS



Illus 7 Roy Military Survey of Scotland Map (1747-1755 Highlands) showing approximate location of site shaded in red. (Copyright National Library of Scotland 2018).



Illus 8 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of approximate site location. Kincardineshire, Sheet V (includes: Banchory-Ternan; Birse; Kincardine O'Neil; Strachan) Survey date: 1864 Publication date: 1868 (Copyright National Museum of Scotland 2018).



Illus 9 Second edition Ordnance Survey Map of approximate site location. Kincardineshire, Sheet IX.NW Survey date: 1901 Publication date: 1904 (Copyright National Museum of Scotland 2018).

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOS

Photo ID	Direction Facing	Comments
CA425-1	N	Remnants of Corsee Woods drystone dyke running E-W within lower southern portion of site NO 68250 96677
CA425-2	NNE	Heavily damaged remnant of Corsee Woods drystone dyke running E-W within lower southern portion of site NO 68250 96677
CA425-3	W	General site view central portion of site.
CA425-4	E	Eastern drystone dyke marking E site boundary with hospital grounds visible in background
CA425-5	SE	Eastern drystone dyke marking E site boundary with hospital grounds visible in background
CA425-6	SE	Eastern drystone dyke marking E site boundary with hospital grounds visible in background
CA425-7	E	General view, main footpath bisecting N end of site
CA425-8	W	General view, main footpath bisecting N end of site
CA425-9	N	Three bushcraft shelters constructed within main area of cairns along E-W footpath
CA425-10	E	Disturbed but largely intact cairn TND003
CA425-11	W	Small visible section of possible stone kerbing along TND001
CA425-12	W	Northern site boundary track, general view
CA425-13	E	Northern site boundary track, general view
CA425-15	S	Large boulder noted along N boundary track.
CA425-16	S	Cairn TND001 with bushcraft shelters to the south beyond.
CA425-17	S	General site view from N central portion of site
CA425-18	N	Cairn TND002 located adjacent to bushcraft shelters.



CA425-1.jpg



CA425-2.jpg



CA425-3.jpg



CA425-4.jpg



CA425-5.jpg



CA425-6.jpg



CA425-7.jpg



CA425-8.jpg



CA425-9.jpg



CA425-10.jpg



CA425-11.jpg



CA425-12.jpg



CA425-13.jpg



CA425-15.jpg



CA425-16.jpg



CA425-17.jpg



CA425-18.jpg