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Our Ref: TR000009734
Your Ref: ENQ/2011/0525

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30th March 2011

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Dear Jamie,

**The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999
Proposal: EIA Screening/Scoping Opinion for New Settlement Incorporating 4045
Dwellinghouses (Mixed House Types), Business Land (Classes 4, 5 and 6) and
Associated Infrastructure
Address: Land to West of Newtonhill, Stonehaven**

Thank you for contacting ourselves in regard to the above Scoping Opinion being sought by Turnberry Consulting. I can confirm that the archaeological contractor employed by the Client for this stage of the EIA process, CFA Archaeology Ltd, has already approached ourselves to obtain baseline data and initial comments for the area concerned. That data was supplied to CFA Archaeology Ltd on the 24th March, 2011.

In addition to the baseline data, the following specific comments can be made on the Elrick Scoping Report which relate to the Cultural Heritage section and methodology:

1. In section 3.12 reference is made to the use of the PASTMAP website for an initial assessment of known archaeological sites occurring within the proposed development area and its immediate vicinity. The PASTMAP data is significantly out of date and is provided with the express caveat that it should not be used for development management purposes. Therefore, as part of any further work relating to this development, the PASTMAP data should be ignored.
2. In section 5.3 in the table entry for 'Cultural Heritage', the justification should also note the potential impact on the setting of Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

3. In section 6.6 an additional resource that could be made available to the archaeological contractor is Aberdeenshire Council's Archaeology Service collection of vertical aerial photographs from BKS, dating to the 1970s.
4. Relating to the work outlined in section 6.6, agreement has already been reached between CFA Archaeology Ltd and Aberdeenshire Council that a 1km radius buffer around the development zone is an acceptable scale for the Desk-Based Assessment.

Beyond these specific comments I can confirm that the approach outlined for the Cultural Heritage aspect of the EIA is acceptable. Considering the local topography of the area, and the prehistoric activity demonstrated by known archaeological sites in the general vicinity, there is certainly potential for archaeological remains to survive within the outlined development area. Therefore I would expect mitigation to include a 7%-10% evaluation where appropriate, an assessment on any potential impacts on the Scheduled Ancient Monuments to the north of the site, and a strategy for dealing with the medieval drove road of Causey Mounth.

Should you have any comments or queries on the above then please do not hesitate to contact me,

Kind regards

Bruce Mann
Archaeologist
Aberdeenshire, Moray & Angus Councils