

Mid Grampian Mesolithic Field Notes 2024

Haddoch, Blairdaff **HD1** **13/1/24**

North East **NJ 71094 16742**

South East **NJ 71138 16696**

South West **NJ 70956 16406**

North West **NJ 70635 16830**

Area 10.5 hectares

Canmore nil

Aberdeenshire HER nil

Weather clear skies, dry, 6°C, good visibility.

Underfoot well weathered, upper areas good conditions, lower areas very muddy and some areas had to be avoided

Soil gritty, stoney, glacial till, lots of quartz

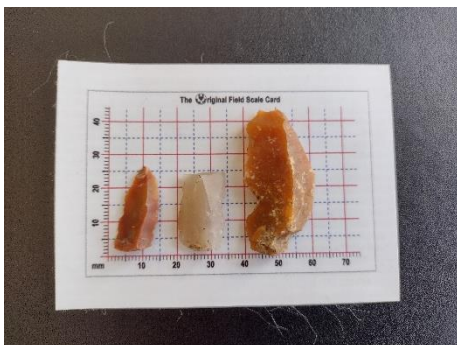
BGS Bedrock Granite – Tillyfourie pluton

BGS Superficial Banchory till sedimentary deposit

No. of Volunteers 8, walked NW-SE with plough furrows.

Lithics 86

Note, field not completed. For details of area covered, and finds distribution map, see entry for 17/3/24.



NeNether Balfour, Bridge of Alford NBF1

27/1/24

North East NJ 53680 17331

South East NJ 53797 17010

South West NJ 53617 17067

North West NJ 53567 17281

Area 4.2 ha

Canmore/Aberdeenshire HER Nil in this field, but finds in bordering field to north include bronze ornament, Queen Elizabeth1 shillings x 2, and 3 querns. In fields across road to east, finds in late 1800s included flint arrowheads and removal by farmer of feature originally thought to be stone circle and causeway, but later thought more likely to be hut circle and souterrain.

BGS Bedrock Suie Hill Formation - Semipelite. Metamorphic bedrock formed between 1000 and 541 million years ago between the Tonian and Ediacaran periods.

BGS Superficial Upper 2/3 - Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.

Lower 1/3 - River Terrace Deposits - Gravel, sand, silt and clay. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

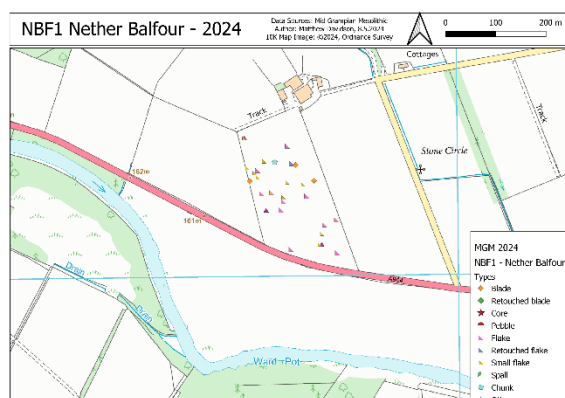
Underfoot Soil damp but not muddy, well weathered.

Soil Gritty, stoney soil, lots of quartz

Weather Breezy, dry, bright skies.

No. of Volunteers 14, inc 2 children, & 2 archaeo undergrads, walked with furrows N to S

Lithics 32



Kinaldie, Kinellar.

KD1

DATE 4/2/24

North East BNG Ref NJ 84089 15566

South East BNG Ref NJ 84060 15303

South West BNG Ref NJ 83566 15499

North West BNG Ref NJ 83592 15646

Area 13.5 ha, we started at the west end and walked about 10 ha,
stopping at NJ 83911 15314.

Canmore / Aberdeenshire HER - nil

BGS Bedrock Aberdeen Formation - Psammite and semipelite. Metamorphic bedrock

BGS Superficial Mostly alluvium - Clay, silt, sand and gravel.

At southern edge - Lochton Sand and Gravel Formation - Sand, gravel and boulders.

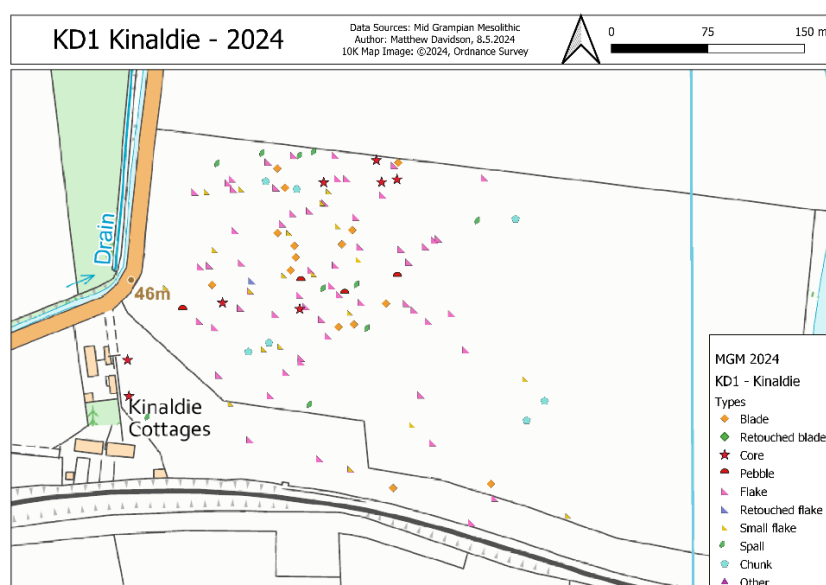
Underfoot well weathered, damp not muddy

Soil stoney, sandy, little debris.

Weather dry, light cloud, 7°C

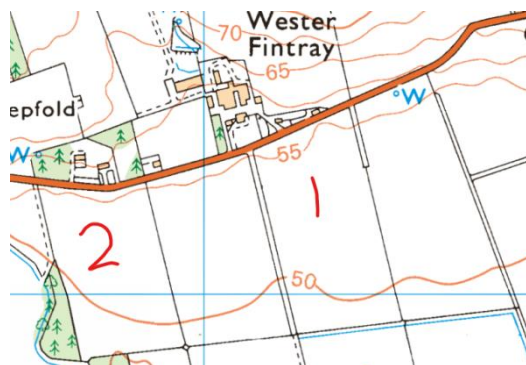
No. of Volunteers 13 , walked with furrows N/S

Lithics 132



Wester Fintray, Kintore**WY1****DATE 18/2/24**North East BNG Ref **NJ 81279 16366**South East BNG Ref **NJ 81379 15956**South West BNG Ref **NJ 81185 15930**North West BNG Ref **NJ 81102 16279****Area** 8ha**Canmore** Nil in this field, but in field to the S, ref 19500, is scheduled monument including palisaded enclosure and prehistoric roundhouse.**Aberdeenshire HER** Ref NJ81NW0198, Wester Fintray farm was investigated as part of the Kintore Landscape Project by excavation and field walking. The field WY1 is classed as regionally significant but not scheduled.**BGS Bedrock** Aberdeen Formation - Psammite and semipelite. Metamorphic bedrock**BGS Superficial** Most northerly 20% - Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits - Gravel, sand and silt.

Remaining 80% - River Terrace Deposits - Gravel, sand, silt and clay.

Underfoot Well weathered, damp but not muddy,**Soil** Stoney, significant shell scatter, also midden scatter including plastics.**Weather** Dry, sunny, warm.**No. of Volunteers** 16, including one family with 3 children. Walked with furrows N/S.**Lithics** 179

Fields 1 and 2 at Wester Fintray

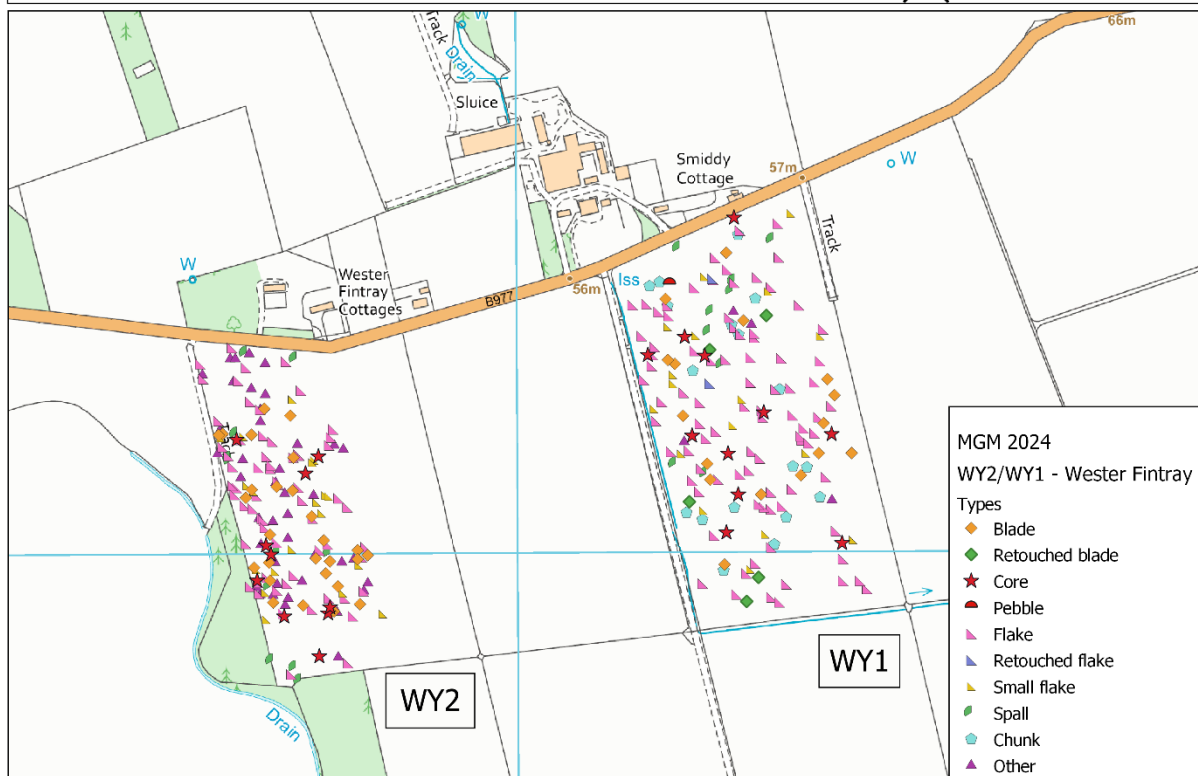
Wester Fintray 2 was walked on 9/3/24.

WY2 & WY1 Wester Fintray - 2024

Data Sources: Mid Grampian Mesolithic
 Author: Matthew Davidson, 8.5.2024
 10K Map Image: ©2024, Ordnance Survey



0 100 200 m





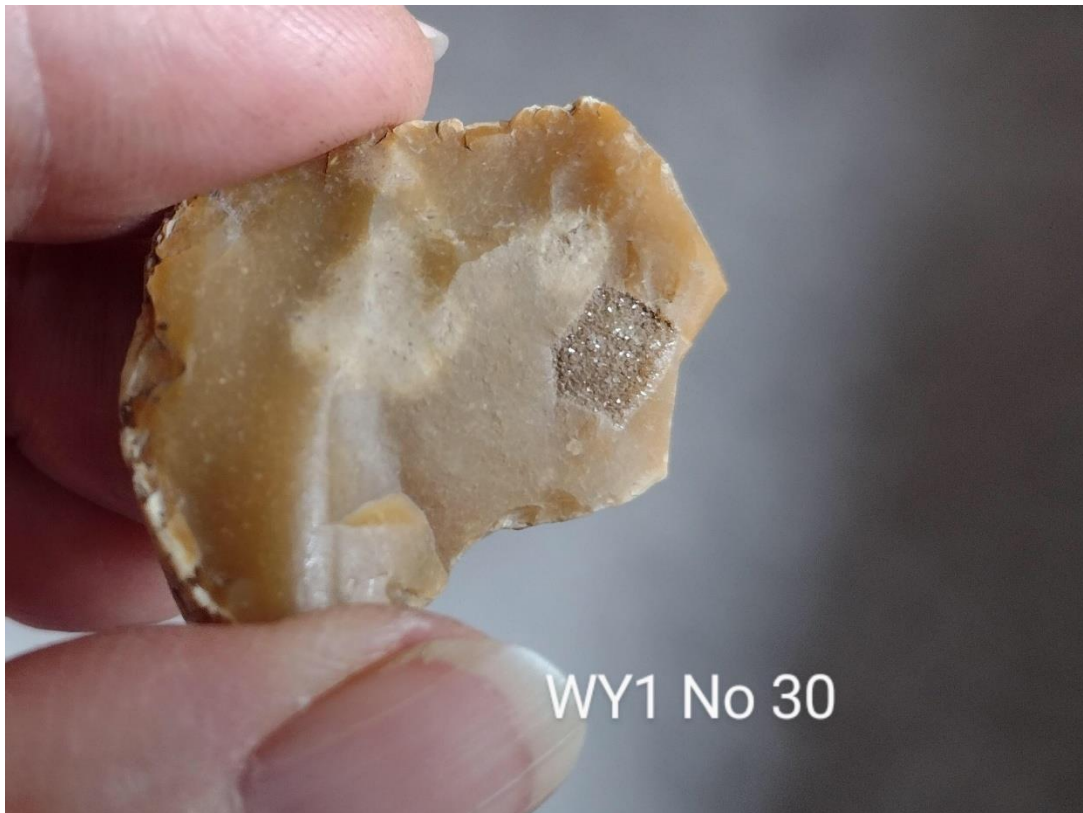
WY1 53 110 & 146



WY1 122 & 134



WY1 No. 168



WY1 No 30

Delab Farm, Monymusk DL1

DATE 23/2/24

North East BNG Ref **NJ 68504 16695**

South East BNG Ref **NJ 68862 16078**

South BNG Ref **NJ 68677 15705**

North West BNG Ref **NJ 68249 16618**

Area Total field 46 ha, this day walked 9.5ha

Canmore [NJ61NE 41](#) 6850 1610

Formerly also entered as [NJ61NE 38](#).

Oblique aerial photography (AAS/96/09-10/G25/2-5) has revealed the cropmarks of an extensive area of broad rig-and-furrow cultivation across the floodplain on the left bank of the River Don immediately SW of Delab farmstead ([NJ61NE 40](#)). The photographs record the presence of both straight and curved rig, and also rigs that appear to have been split along their centre-line.

Information from RCAHMS (JRS) 4 December 2003

Aberdeenshire HER Feature: NJ61NE0172 – DELAB

Collection of lithics recovered from the field, including some worked flint.

BGS Bedrock Tillyfourie Pluton - Foliated tonalite and foliated granodiorite. Igneous bedrock formed between 485.4 and 443.8 million years ago during the Ordovician period.

BGS Superficial Upper half - Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits - Gravel, sand and silt.

Lower half - Alluvium - Clay, silt, sand and gravel. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 11.8 thousand years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

Underfoot Soil damp, towards lower areas muddy and claggy.

Soil Upper slope stoney, well weathered.

Weather Dry, 6°C, morning sunny, afternoon light cloud.

No. of Volunteers 9 , walked with furrows NE/SW

Lithics 258

Delab Farm, Monymusk **DL1** **DAY 2** **DATE 3/3/24**

BNG Ref as prev page

Area Total field 46ha, this day walked 20ha

Canmore & Aberdeenshire HER as prev page

BGS Bedrock & BGS Superficial as prev page

Underfoot Soil damp but drying out, less muddy than last week.

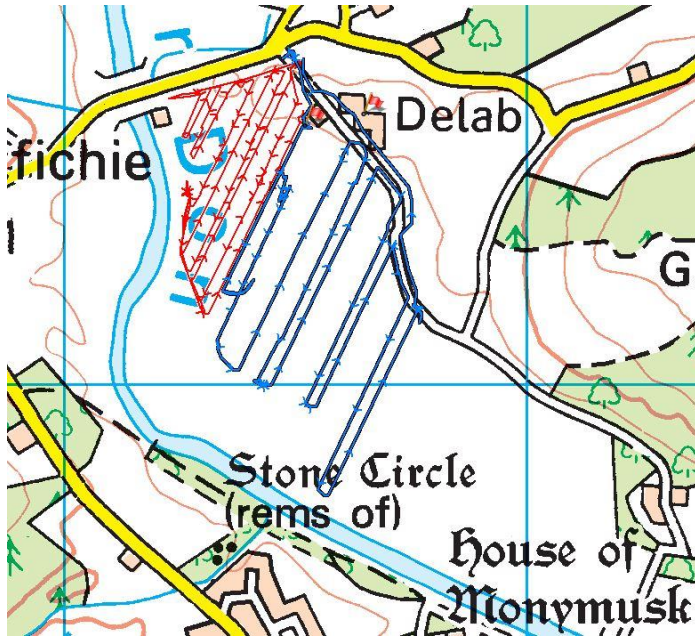
Soil Well weathered

Weather Dry, breezy, 7°C, light cloud.

No. of Volunteers 24, incl one family with 3 children , walked with furrows NE/SW.

Lithics 163

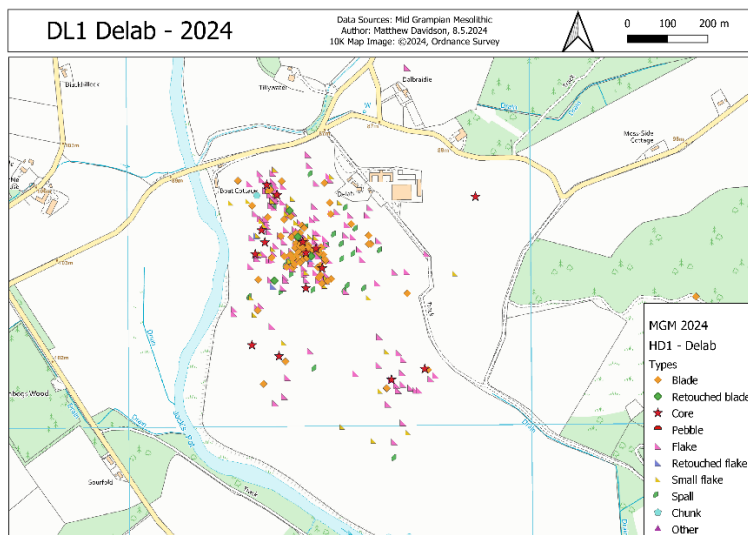
Total lithics for this field 421.

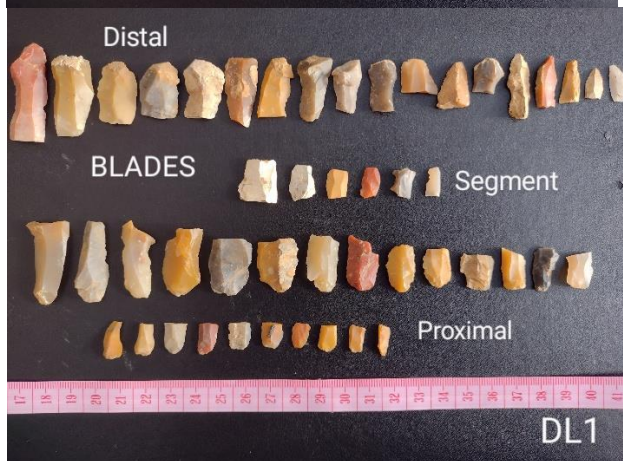


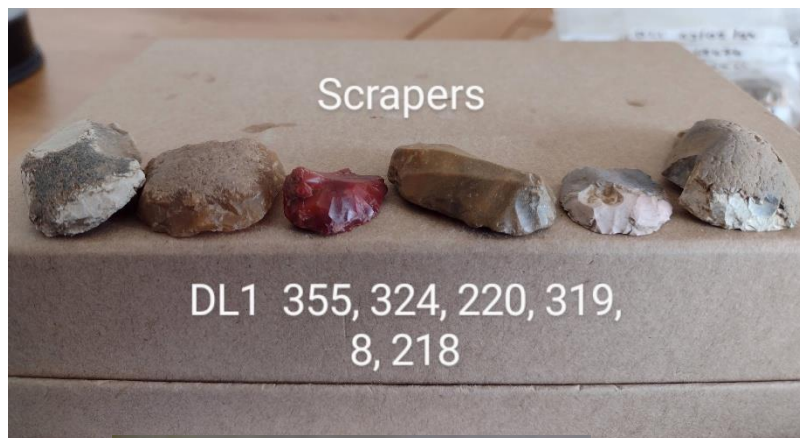
GPS Track showing areas walked.

Red = 23/2/24

Blue = 3/3/24







Wester Fintray, Kintore**WY2****DATE 9/3/24**North East BNG Ref **NJ 80879 16208**South East BNG Ref **NJ 80958 15932**South West BNG Ref **NJ 80768 15887**North West BNG Ref **NJ 80686 16203****Area** 6.5ha, we walked 4ha.**Canmore & Aberdeenshire HER** as for 18/2/24

BGS Bedrock Aberdeen Formation - Psammite and semipelite. Metamorphic bedrock formed between 1000 and 541 million years ago between the Tonian and Ediacaran periods.

BGS Superficial Upper half - Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits - Gravel, sand and silt. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

Lower half - River Terrace Deposits - Gravel, sand, silt and clay. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

Underfoot Damp, not muddy**Soil** Well weathered, stoney, lots of shell and plastic debris.**Weather** Overcast, dull light, cold east wind.**No. of Volunteers** 7 , walked N/S with furrows**Lithics** 177

Eastern edge of walked area between NJ 80798 16202 and NJ 80873 15894

For finds distribution map see entry for 18/2/24.



Blairdaff

BD1

DATE 17/3/24

North East	BNG Ref	NJ 69069 17869
South East	BNG Ref	NJ 69216 17583
South West	BNG Ref	NJ 69075 17493
North West	BNG Ref	NJ 68912 17776

Area 6ha

Canmore & Aberdeenshire HER Nil

BGS Bedrock Aberdeen Formation - Psammite and semipelite. Metamorphic bedrock formed

between 1000 and 541 million years ago between the Tonian and Ediacaran periods.

BGS Superficial Upper - Banchory Till Formation - Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed

between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.

Lower - Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits - Gravel, sand and silt. Sedimentary superficial deposit

formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

Underfoot Damp, not muddy.

Soil Mainly sandy and gravelly, with patches of peaty and clayey soil. Upper areas large cobbles.

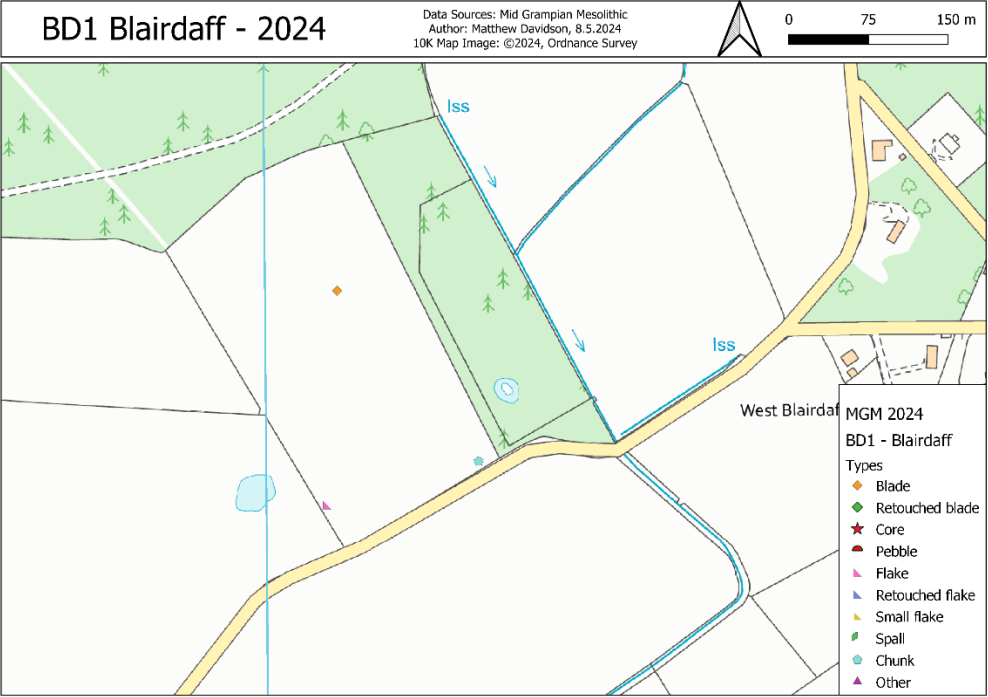
Well weathered

Weather Warm, dry, often sunny

No. of Volunteers 12 including 2 families, walked NW/SE with furrows

Lithics 3

Prior to walking, it was noted that this field was on the shores of the putative site of a post-glacial lake. In view of the virtual absence of flints, it is possible that the field was actually underwater.



Haddoch, Blairdaff **HD1 session 2**

17/3/24

North East **NJ 71094 16742**

South East **NJ 71138 16696**

South West **NJ 70956 16406**

North West **NJ 70635 16830**

Area 10.5 hectares

Canmore nil

Aberdeenshire HER nil

Weather warm, dry, variable sun/light cloud.

Underfoot well weathered, upper areas good conditions, lower areas very muddy and some areas had to be avoided

Soil gritty, stoney, glacial till, lots of quartz

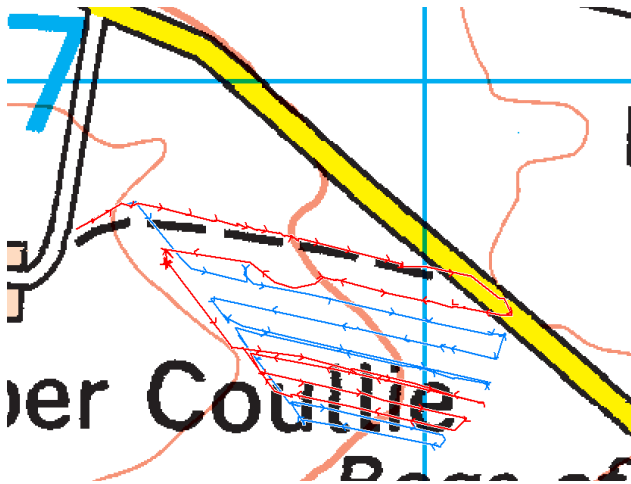
BGS Bedrock & Superficial – as for 13/1/24

No. of Volunteers 12 incl 2 families, walked NW-SE with plough furrows.

See map of tracks below. When first walked on 13/1/24, the central area was too boggy to complete, this was done on 17/3/24. We started the southern edge of the field, but this had only recently been ploughed and was too un-weathered to be worthwhile.

Lithics 61 today, including one polished axe.

Total for field 148

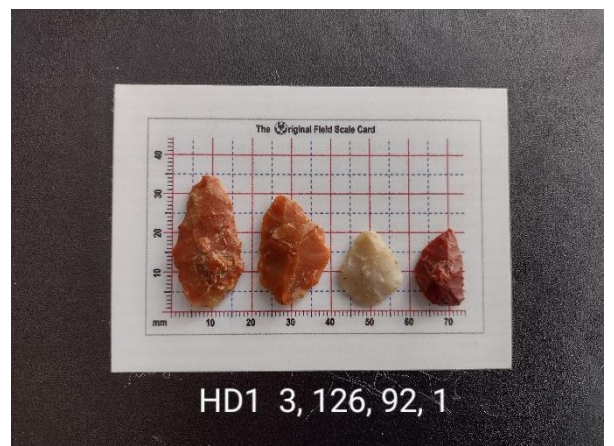
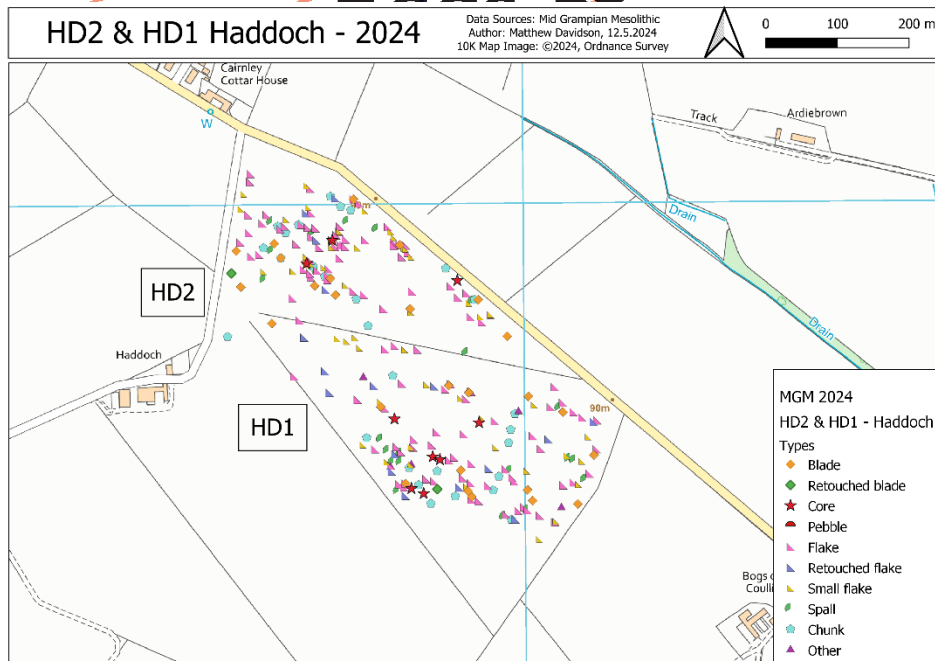


Red track = 13/1/24

Blue track = 17/3/24

Southern edge of red track

is at NJ70831 16593







Kirkton of Forbes, Alford **KF1**

23/3/24

North East BNG Ref NJ 52196 17033

South East BNG Ref NJ 52297 16823

South West BNG Ref NJ 51921 16707

North West BNG Ref NJ 51904 16933

Area 9.5ha

Canmore Forbes, Old Parish Church, **Canmore ID** 17578, **Site Number** NJ51NW 9
Medieval church and burial ground – Scheduled Monument.

Aberdeenshire HER As above. No records in the walked field.

BGS Bedrock Suie Hill Formation - Semipelite. Metamorphic bedrock
formed between 1000 and 541 million years ago between
the Tonian and Ediacaran periods.

BGS Superficial Alluvium - Clay, silt, sand and gravel. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 11.8 thousand years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

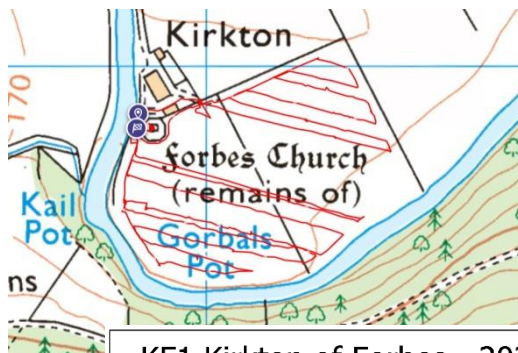
Underfoot Damp, slightly muddy in most low-lying areas.

Soil Reasonably weathered, sandy loam, small amounts of stone.

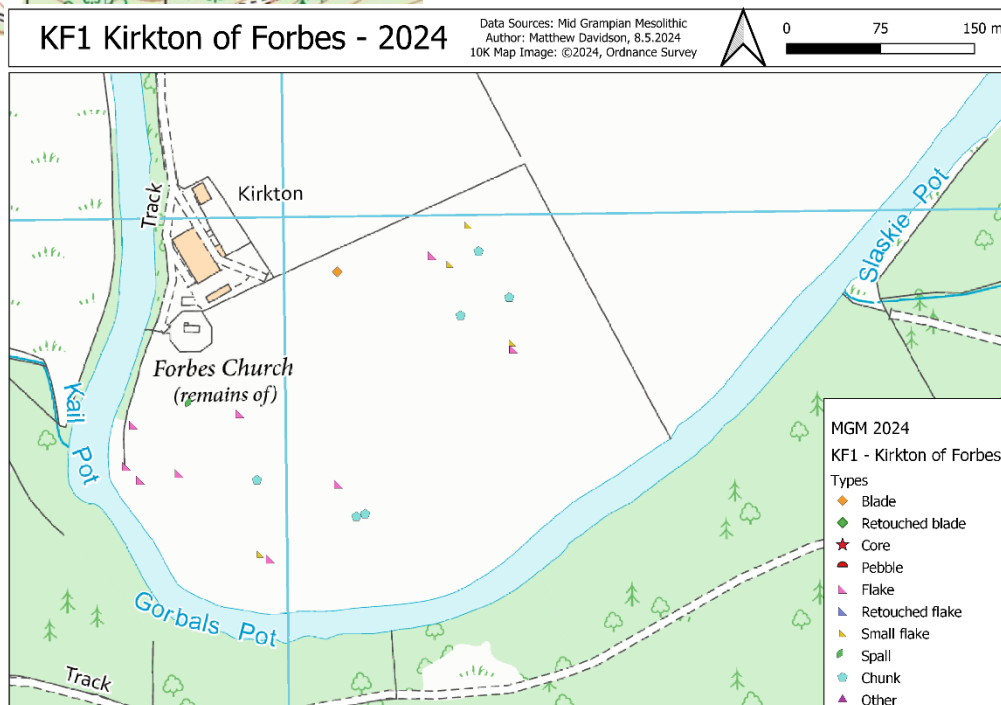
Weather Windy, occasional showers, generally overcast.

No. of Volunteers 7, walked down end rig at west end, then E/W with the plough. A strip across the central field was not completed (see map.)

Lithics 23



Western end of unwalked area from
NJ 51979 16932 to
NJ 51908 16871.



Haddoch2 HD2

31/3/24

North East BNG Ref **NJ 70738 17043**

South East BNG Ref **NJ 71064 16757**

South West BNG Ref **NJ 70581 16858**

North West BNG Ref **NJ 70613 17087**

Area 7ha

Canmore

Aberdeenshire HER NJ71NW0034 Cropmark of a rectangular feature. Possible site of a house.

BGS Bedrock Tillyfourie Pluton - Foliated tonalite and foliated granodiorite. Igneous bedrock formed between 485.4 and 443.8 million years ago during the Ordovician period.

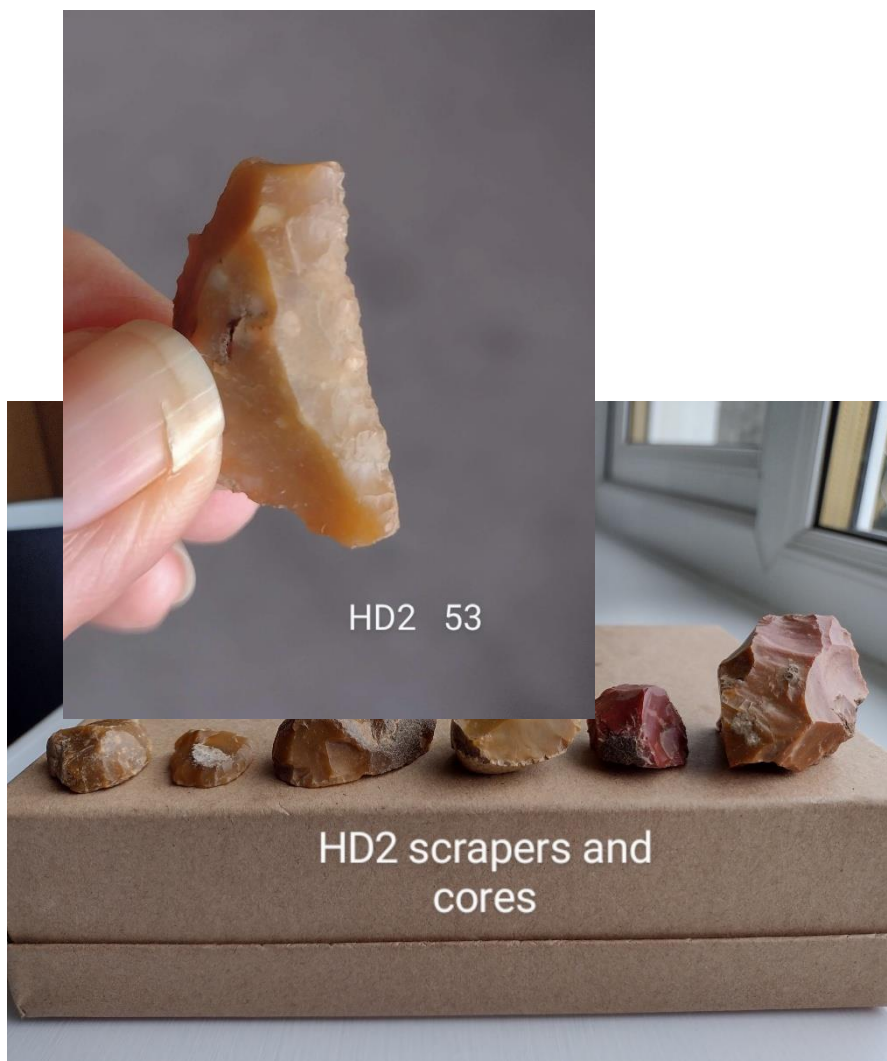
BGS Superficial	Banchory Till Formation - Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.
Underfoot	Soil damp, only muddy in lowest corners.
Soil	Well weathered, gritty, moderately stony.
Weather	clear sky, bright sun, warm
No. of Volunteers	10, walked with furrows NW/SE
Lithics	136



Track of walk 31/3/24.

For map of finds distribution see entry for 17/3/24.





Boatleys 2

BY2

20/4/24

North East

BNG Ref **NJ 72459 16328**

South East

BNG Ref **NJ 72585 16199**

South West

BNG Ref **NJ 71766 16100**

North West

BNG Ref **NJ 71699 16342**

Area

Total 16ha, walked 4 ha.

Canmore

Lists several crofts, and the Greatstone (glacial erratic.)

Aberdeenshire HER

As for Canmore

BGS Bedrock	Kemnay Pluton - Granite, foliated-muscovite-biotite. Igneous bedrock formed between 485.4 and 443.8 million years ago during the Ordovician period.
BGS Superficial	Glen Dye Silts Formation - Clay, silt and sand. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.
Underfoot	Well weathered, soil drying, only lowest areas a bit damp.
Soil	Gravelly, sandy soil.
Weather	Dry, cloudy, v cold wind.
No. of Volunteers	10, walked with furrows as on tracks image, covered 4ha.
Lithics	101



