

NORTH EDDIESTON FARM ABERDEEN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING



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Introduction

The site (NJ 7867 0296) lies in the parish of Peterculter, immediately adjacent to and just within the boundary of Aberdeen on its western edge. The site is within the curtilage of the complex of farm buildings. Part of it is formed of grass lawn adjacent to the farm house, while another portion supports a pre-fabricated structure which sits on an extended concrete apron. The development involves demolition of the pre-fabricated building, replacement of it, on a slightly extended footprint, with a new house and the formation of a large new soakaway adjacent to the existing house.

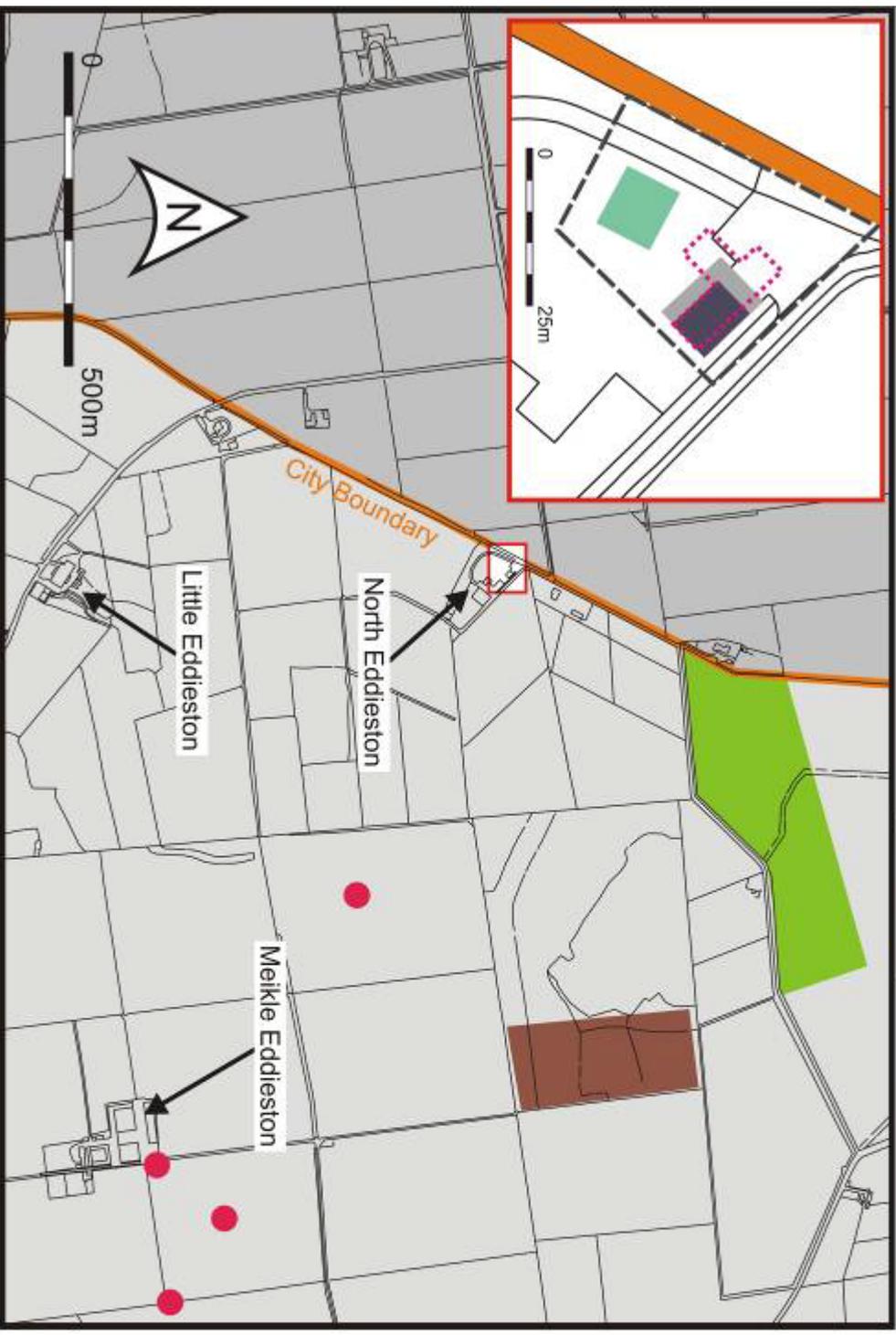
This report was carried out by the author whilst working for Aberdeen City Council Archaeological Unit (site code O518). The watching brief was carried out in June 2010 by Cameron Archaeology (see separate report).

Archaeological and historical background

The farm of North Eddieston is named on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867. William Alexander, in *Placenames of Aberdeenshire*, suggests that the name comes from the Scots 'Adie', meaning 'Adam' – hence 'Adam's town'. The settlement of Eddieston appears in the 1696 Poll Tax returns as part of the Lands of Drum, and is described as being one large village or hamlet, containing three tenant farmers, two subtenants, three servants, one weaver and four miscellaneous families, probably cottars. Presumably the three farms of North, Meikle and Little Eddieston developed out of that settlement at some point after 1696. From present evidence it is not possible to determine whether or not the existing farm of North Eddieston itself was predated by medieval or early modern settlement. Fieldwalking in adjacent fields as part of an assessment of Aberdeen's late medieval and early modern hinterland in 2001 provided a few sherds of pottery from within the date range 1500-1700.

There are a number of known archaeological features and sites within the general area of North Eddieston which may be of prehistoric or later date. For example, about 280 metres to the north east of the present site at Easterhill is an extended area of field systems with hut circles, thought to be of late bronze age or early iron age date and recently scheduled by Scottish Ministers as being of national importance. There is also an area of rig and furrow around 700 m to east of the present site, while several standing stones, some with cup marks, are recorded within the area, the nearest being some 400m to east of the North Eddieston development.

North Eddleston Farm : Archaeological Specification 2009



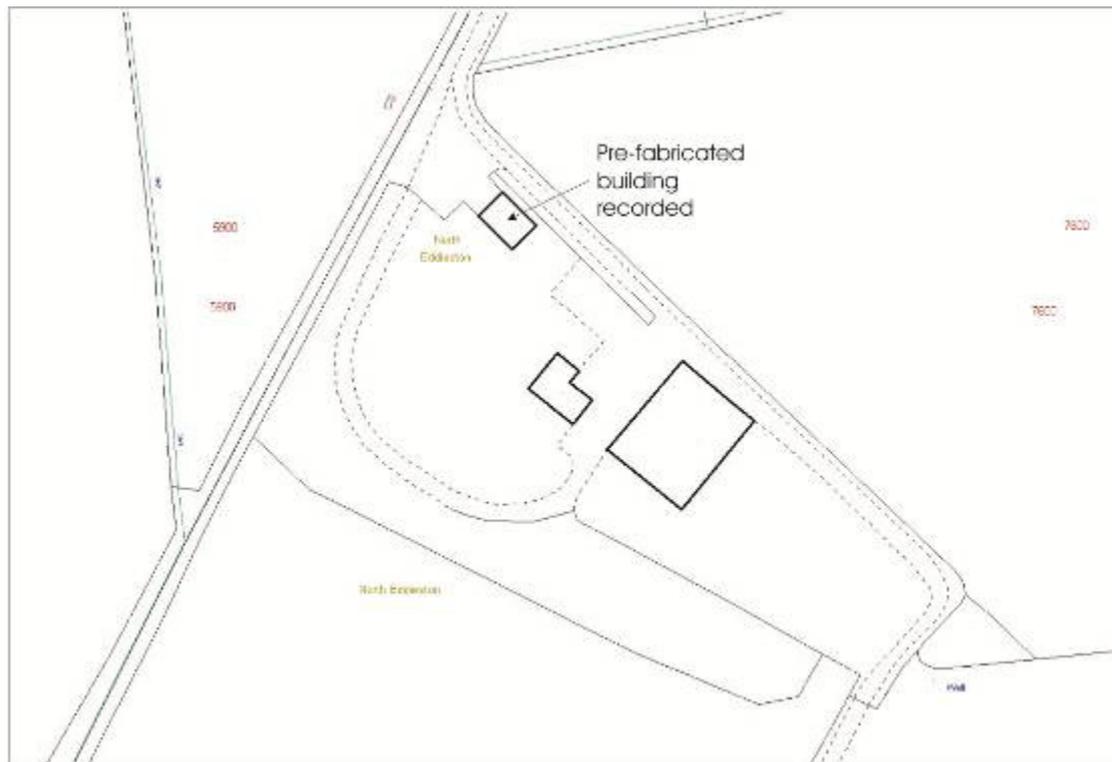
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- Main Map**
-  Rig and furrow
 -  Standing stones
 -  Field system with hut circles
- Insert map**
-  Existing building
 -  Concrete
 -  Proposed building
 -  Soakaway
 -  Site Outline



The building recording

On 6 November 2009 a Level 1 building survey was carried out. The building was 9.8m long and 6.5m wide externally. It was constructed on a slope with concrete base blocks for a foundation on a raft of concrete. The external surfaces of the walls were constructed of concrete panels 0.4m wide and a maximum of 2.3m long. These were set vertically; their width determined the spacing of the doors and windows as these panels had not been cut vertically but had been cut horizontally for the insertion of the windows.



Plan showing the building recorded



Facing N showing concrete base blocks to level the slope of the ground



Concrete panels cut horizontally for the insertion of a window; SW wall



Concrete panels cut horizontally for the insertion of a window; NW wall



SE gable facing NW showing narrow door and ridge detail

Add ridge detail shot – Helen



Detail of concrete panels cut horizontally for window



Detail of metal grill at SE end of SW wall

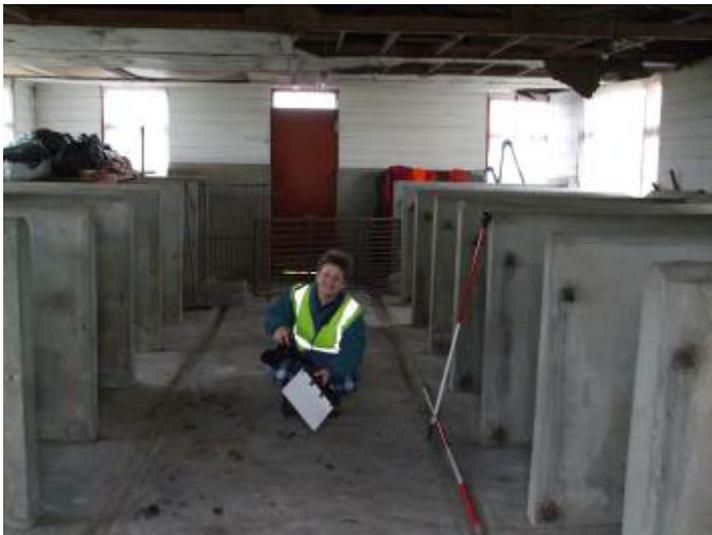
Internally the building had wood paneling and iron framed windows. The latest use of the building was probably for rearing calves and concrete stalls have been inserted.



Wood paneling and electrical fittings



The wood paneling was covered by concrete stalls, probably for calf rearing



Interior of the building showing the runnels or greeps

APPENDIX 1

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Development at North Eddieston Farm, Aberdeen Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

This specification gives an outline of the archaeological value of this site and indicates the works which will be required to ensure the recording of any remains that are revealed during development; and to ensure that an existing pre-fabricated building is recorded before demolition.

1.0 Site Location and Description

The site (NJ 7867 0296) lies in the parish of Peterculter, immediately adjacent to and just within the boundary of Aberdeen on its western edge. The site is within the curtilage of the complex of farm buildings. Part of it is formed of grass lawn adjacent to the farm house, while another portion supports a pre-fabricated structure which sits on an extended concrete apron. The development involves demolition of the pre-fabricated building, replacement of it, on a slightly extended footprint, with a new house and the formation of a large new soakaway adjacent to the existing house.

2.0 Planning Background

The request for this watching brief is made in the context of Scottish Government Planning Policy 23, Scottish Historic Environment Policies and Planning Advice Note 42.

3.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

The farm of North Eddieston is named on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867. William Alexander, in *Placenames of Aberdeenshire*, suggests that the name comes from the Scots 'Adie', meaning 'Adam' – hence 'Adam's town'. The settlement of Eddieston appears in the 1696 Poll Tax returns as part of the Lands of Drum, and is described as being one large village or hamlet, containing three tenant farmers, two subtenants, three servants, one weaver and four miscellaneous families, probably cottars. Presumably the three farms of North, Meikle and Little Eddieston developed out of that settlement at some point after 1696. From present evidence it is not possible to determine whether or not the existing farm of North Eddieston itself was predated by medieval or early modern settlement. Fieldwalking in adjacent fields as part of an assessment of Aberdeen's late medieval and early modern hinterland in 2001 provided a few sherds of pottery from within the date range 1500-1700.

There are a number of known archaeological features and sites within the general area of North Eddieston which may be of prehistoric or later date. For example, about 280 metres to the north east of the present site at Easterhill is an extended area of field systems with hut circles, thought to be of late bronze age or early iron age date and recently scheduled by Scottish Ministers as being of national importance. There is also an area of rig and furrow around 700 m to east of the present site, while several standing stones, some with cup marks, are recorded within the area, the nearest being some 400 metres to east of the North Eddieston development.

More extended details are available from the Keeper of Archaeology, Aberdeen City Council (01224) 523658: judiths@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

4.0 Previous Archaeological Work

There has been no previous archaeological work at this site.

5.0 Requirement for Work – Building Survey and Watching Brief over Groundworks

The prefabricated building must be recorded by an archaeologist acceptable to Aberdeen City Council. The recording must be done to at least the standard of English Heritage level 1, including both the interior and the exterior of the structure. The survey report must be produced within four weeks of completion of the fieldwork. The survey report should be sent to the Keeper of Archaeology, the applicant and the planning authority. A brief survey of results should be submitted to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, along with the appropriate fee. An OASIS report must also be provided.

All groundworks associated with the planned soakaway must be watched by an archaeologist acceptable to Aberdeen City Council, who must record any features and finds that are recovered. For further details of the watching brief requirements, see paras 9-12 below.

6.0 Timetable

A timetable must be agreed so that provision can be made for monitoring by the Keeper of Archaeology.

7.0 Staff Structure

A list of key project staff with qualifications and experience will be submitted by the contractor. The use of unwaged staff will not normally be acceptable.

8.0 Health and Safety /PLI

Such concerns and responsibilities are primarily a matter for the archaeological contractor who must submit evidence of conformity to the Health and Safety at Work Act and possession of public liability insurance to Aberdeen City Council.

9.0 Watching Brief

9.1 An appropriate machine must be used to minimise damage to underlying archaeological deposits

9.2 All machine work must be carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist acceptable to the planning authority and the Keeper of Archaeology.

9.3 All excavation, both by machine and by hand, must be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be worthy of preservation in situ.

9.4 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ. Their removal will be a matter of discussion with the Keeper of Archaeology (who must be notified within 12 hours of their discovery) and will comply with the provisions of Scots Law.

10.0 Recording Systems

These must be specified and should include the structure for site record.

11.0 Monitoring Arrangements

It is necessary for the planning authority to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the watching brief in order to ensure the proper execution of the specification and therefore conformity to the brief. Stages at which monitoring is appropriate will be agreed between the archaeological contractor and the Keeper of Archaeology. The possibility of random inspections should not be excluded.

12.0 Reporting Requirements for Watching Brief

Provision must be made for:

- 12.2 Specialist examination of animal and human bone and of any preserved or organic material.
- 12.3 Specialist conservation and examination of artefacts found during the watching brief.
- 12.4 Preparation of plans, sections and finds drawings to publication standards.
- 12.5 The sorting and analysis of records and the production of a written report on the work, published in a manner appropriate to its scale.
- 12.6 The preparation of a catalogued archive and its deposition in the City Council's Sites and Monuments record and the National Monuments Record of Scotland within six months of the end of the watching brief.
- 12.7 Copies of the archaeological report should be sent to the Keeper of Archaeology, the applicant and the planning authority. A brief survey of results should be submitted to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, along with the appropriate fee. An OASIS report must also be provided.

13.0 Small finds

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia and reported by the archaeological contractor to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel (Nicholas Holmes, National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.

14.0 Timescale

The watching brief report must be produced within four weeks of the end of the field work.

15.0 Further Information

Additional information about the site, or this specification, can be obtained from the Keeper of Archaeology, Whitespace, 60 Frederick Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5HY Tel (01224) 523658.

16.0 Conclusion

The standing building record and the watching brief are to be carried out in compliance with this specification. The selection of any contractor will be subject to approval of the Keeper of Archaeology. Work should be carried out in close liaison with the Keeper of Archaeology.

October 2009