

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
LOIRSBANK ROAD, CULTS,
ABERDEEN, AB15 9GB



CAMERON ARCHAEOLOGY
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Report on archaeological evaluation Loirsbank Road, Cults, Aberdeen, AB15 9GB

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation took place on 27th January 2011. Four trenches were excavated but no archaeological remains were identified. Modern plough marks were identified in every trench.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report is for works to be carried out at Loirsbank Road, Cults, Aberdeen, AB15 9GB. The work was commissioned by Dougal Morgan, William Cowie Partnership for Forbes Homes.

The work relates to Aberdeen City Council Planning reference P101384 for the construction of 8 homes; the permission was granted by Aberdeen City Council on 28/10/2010 with archaeology condition (no 2).

The field evaluation will be carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note 42 (PAN 42) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.

The site lies south of Loirsbank Road at its east end junction with Deeview Road South (Ill 1). It is located in the Dee river valley, on north side of the river at 15-20m above sea level. It lies on the opposite side of the river from the Haugh of Ardoe. The area of the development is approximately 8212m² (Ill 2).



Ill 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There have been no previous archaeological interventions in the area of the current development site. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the vicinity of the current site. However these riverine areas and haughs along the Dee have produced large numbers of prehistoric finds between Cults and Banchory. These include flint scatters in areas such as Maryculter Bridge (NJ80SE 36). On the opposite bank of the Dee a short cist (NJ80SE 28) containing an adult human skull and an urn was dug up whilst forming that part of the turnpike road which passes through the estate of Ardoe (House at NJ 8946 0167). A scheduled stone circle is also located at the NE edge of Cults (NJ80SE 25).

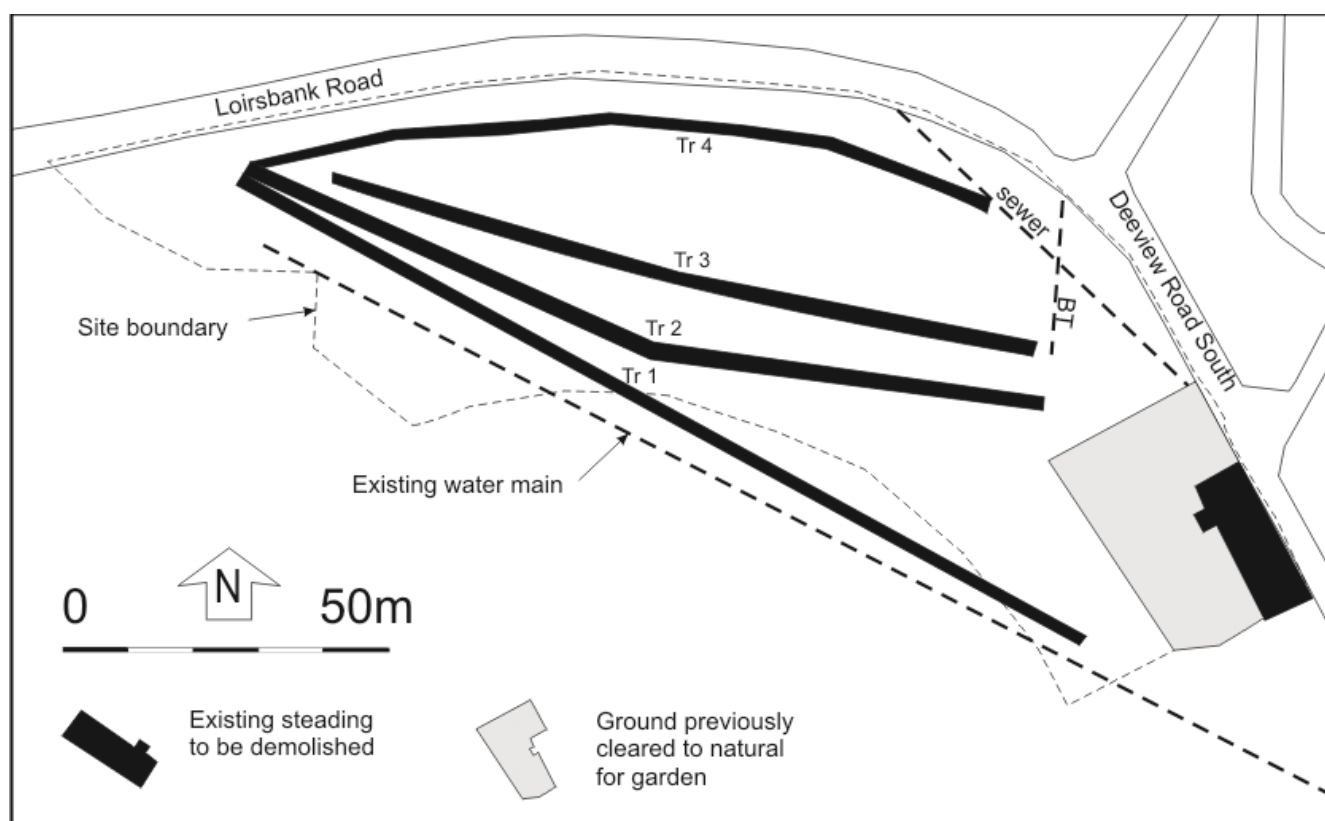
A scheduled cairn of probable Bronze Age date is located west of the current site (NJ80SE 24). Several other cairns were situated on the ridge above (north of) Cults prior to the urbanisation of this area including two on the site now occupied by Cults Academy (NJ80SE 22, 23). Several possible mottes (or early medieval castle mounds) are known in the area including Cults (NJ80SE 58), Camphill (NJ80SE 17) and to the east of the current site at Pitfodells (NJ90SW 1), all prominent positions overlooking the river Dee.

The site at Loirsbank lies to the south of the 'Mill of Pitfoddels (corn)' on the First Edition Ordnance Survey between the mill and Morrison's Bridge, the main crossing over the Dee in this area. Mill of Pitfoddels appears on the Pont maps of the late 16th century. 'Lorsbank' appears on Roy's maps of the mid-18th century.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

A 10% evaluation was carried out on 26 January 2010 using a wheeled excavator (rubber duck) with a 1.5m ditching bucket. Four trenches (Ill 2) were located across the development area totalling an area of 820 sq m. To the south of the site a water main cuts across the site and in the north-east a sewer and British telecom cables service the site. To the east a steading (to be demolished) is surrounded by an area levelled by the current owner several years ago.

No significant archaeological remains were uncovered during this evaluation. Modern plough marks were scored into the sand, gravel and clay natural subsoils, and these were associated with small amounts of 19th and 20th-century glass and ceramics. The current owner of the steading grew up in the building and his father farmed the field to be developed. It was shallow ploughed and part of the area was a market garden in the middle decades of the 20th century. Latterly the fields were leased out to a local farmer who deep ploughed the whole field, and it is these plough marks that were identified during the evaluation.



Ill 2 Location of evaluation trenches (copyright Forbes Homes)

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this current development. The final decision on the archaeological requirements at this site remains with Judith Stones, Aberdeen City Council.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Deryck Forbes, Cameron Forbes and Jim Gray, Forbes Homes; and Judith Stones, Aberdeen City Council.

Cameron Archaeology
45 View Terrace
Aberdeen
AB25 2RS
01224 643020
07581 181057
cameronarch@btinternet.com
www.cameronarchaeology.com

APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



PHOTO NO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
DSC 0601	Trench 1	W
DSC 0610	Trench 1	NW
DSC 0611	Trench 1	NW
DSC 0620	Trench 1	ENE
DSC 0621	Trench 1	NW
DSC 0630	Trench 1 with plough marks	N
DSC 0631	Trench 1 with plough marks	W
DSC 0640	Trench 1 with plough marks	WNW
DSC 0641	Trench 1	N
DSC 0650	Trench 1 with plough marks	W
DSC 0651	Trench 1 with plough marks	N
DSC 0660	Trench 1 showing trenches 2, 3 and 4 (left)	E
DSC 0661	Trench 1 showing trenches 2, 3 and 4 (left)	E
DSC 0670	Trench 1 (right), trenches 2, 3 and 4 (left)	E
DSC 0671	Trench 4 (left), Trench 3 (centre) Trench 2 (right)	E
DSC 0680	Trench 2 (centre), Trench 1 (right), Trench 3 (left)	E
DSC 0681	Trench 4	E
DSC 0693	Trench 4 (left), Trench 3 (centre) Trench 2, Trench 1 (right)	E
DSC 0699	Trench 4	W
DSC 0703	Trench 3	W
DSC 0711	Trench 2	W
DSC 0712	Trench 2 east end	SW
DSC 0717	End trench 1	S
DSC 0720	End trench 1	S
DSC 0722	Trench 2 (left) Trench 3 (right)	W
DSC 0731	Trench 2 (left) Trench 3 (right)	W
DSC 0732	Trench 4 (foreground)	SE
DSC 0733	Trench 4 (foreground)	S
DSC 0734	Trench 4 (foreground)	SW
DSC 0735	Trench 4 (foreground)	SW
DSC 0736	Trench 4 (left), Trench 3 (centre) Trench 2, Trench 1 (right)	E
DSC 0745	Trench 4 (left), Trench 3 (centre) Trench 2, Trench 1 (right)	E
DSC 0746	Trench 4 (left), Trench 3 (centre) Trench 2, Trench 1 (right)	E
DSCF9428	East end Trench 1	W
DSCF9431	Trench 1 modern plough marks	N
DSCF9432	Trench 1 modern plough marks	N
DSCF9433	Trench 1 modern plough marks	NE
DSCF9434	Trench 1 modern plough marks	N
DSCF9437	Trench 1 modern plough marks	N
DSCF9438	Trench 1 modern plough marks	N
DSCF9439	Trench 4	W
DSCF9440	Trench 4	W