

2-3 TRINITY QUAY ABERDEEN



- Archaeological Watching Brief -

Carried out 30TH – 31ST January 2013

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2013-9

by

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1. Background

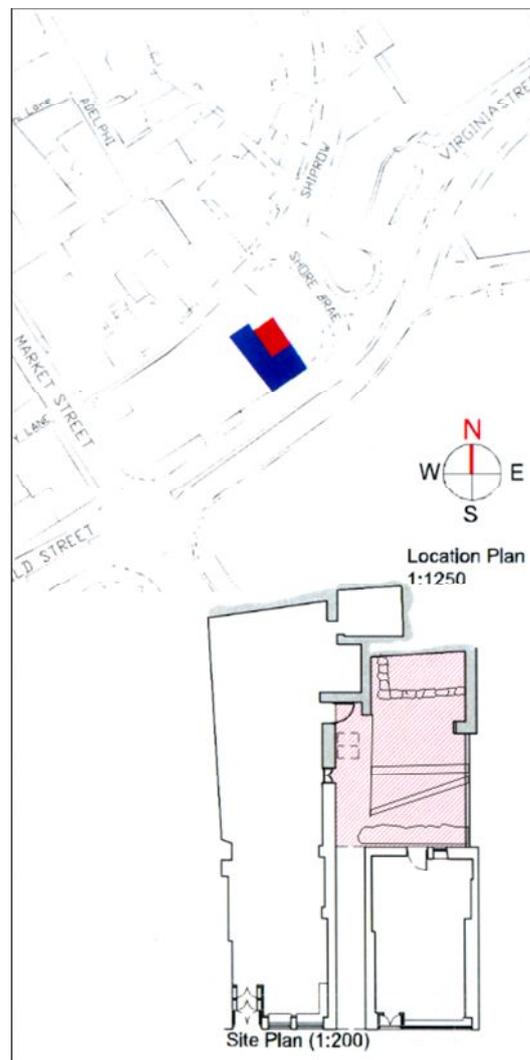
- 1.1 A planning application (Application No: 110884) for a proposed extension to the rear of 2-3 Trinity Quay, Aberdeen, was subject to a planning condition which required the applicant to secure a programme of archaeological work. In this instance it was deemed that an archaeological watching brief on all ground disturbance would be the appropriate response.
- 1.2 The Conditions were applied in the context of PAN (Planning Advise Note) 2/2011, SPP and SHEP.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by TCD Architects, on behalf of their clients Mr C Adams and Mr R Pinch, to undertake the watching brief which was carried out on the 30th and 31st January 2013.

2. Historical Background

- 2.1 The site is adjacent to the car park, which was formerly 4 Trinity Quay, on Shore Brae where archaeological excavations in 1974 (Brooks, 1982) revealed a stone-built late medieval harbour. Infill contained pottery dating to the late 15th and 16th century [NGR: NJ 9437 0612; NMRS No. NJ90NW 81].

3. The Watching Brief

- 3.1 The proposed extension measures c.11.6m (N-S) by between c.5.4m, at the N end and c.7.7m at the S end, and is located directly to the rear of No.3 Trinity Quay (Richard's Tattoo Studio) and on the E side of the Moorings Bar [Illus1].



Illus 1: Location and Site Plan

- 3.2 The area of the extension was covered by a 100mm layer of concrete and below that a 100mm layer of dark stoney soil. This in turn overlay a cobbled surface, surviving only in the NW corner of the site. Trampled into the

surface of the cobbles was a mixture of hard packed dark soil with some animal bone and a couple of sherds of 19th century pottery (not retained) [see Illus 2]. The cobbles were bedded in a c.70mm layer of clean sand which overlay a mixture of large stone and rubble mixed in dark earth. When this was removed, the foundations of two walls were uncovered.

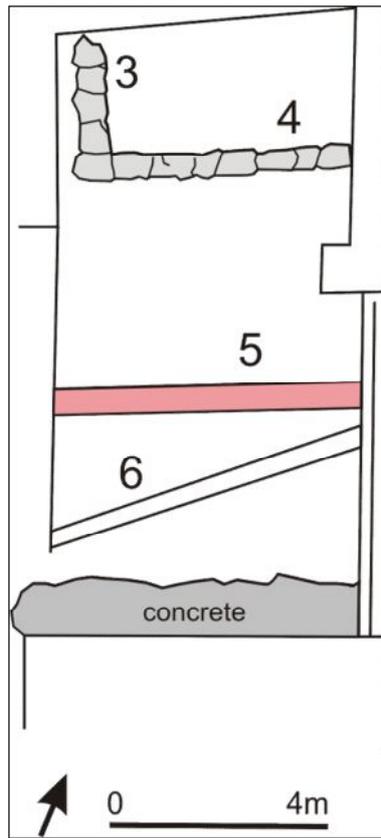


Illus 2: Area of cobbles, looking NW

- 3.3 Wall 4 was c.5m in length and ran E-W across the N end of the site. Wall 3 ran N-S for c.2.4m and butted up to the W end of Wall 4 [see Illus 3]. The walls, constructed of irregular roughly dressed granite blocks c.450-500mm, were bonded with pink clay. As the top of the walls were at the required depth for the new extension they were not disturbed, with the exception of two stones at the W end of Wall 4 which projected above this level

Examination of the 1st Edition Ordnance Sheet LXXX.11 (Survey Date 1867; Publication Date 1869) (<http://maps.nls.uk>), indicates that these walls may well relate to buildings fronting on the Shiprow in the 19th century.

- 3.4 About 4m S of the 19th century walls, a brick-built wall (5) 5.5m long by c.500mm wide ran E-W across the southern sector of the site to a depth of c.550mm [see Illus 3].



Illus 3: Plan of area of extension



Illus 4: Walls 3 & 4, looking NW (ranging rods on wall lines)



Illus 5: Wall 5, looking E

- 3.4 Between wall 5 and the N end of Richard's Tattoo Studio, a 'V' shaped drain (6) ran diagonally, SW to NE, across the full extent of the site. The 'V' sections were pre-cast and measured 200mm across and 130mm deep and up to 730mm long. They were bordered on either side by red bricks, 120mm wide by 230mm long and were capped by flat red tiles c.440mm across. In all probability the wall (5) and the drain date to the late 19th or early 20th century.



Illus 6: 'V' Shaped Drain (6), looking W

- 3.5 Following the removal of the wall (5) and the drain (6), the level was reduced to c.600mm below the surface, as at the N sector of the site. This general level was a dark grey, slightly silty and sandy soil mixed with charcoal, some animal bone and a couple of sherds of 19th century blue patterned china (not retained). As this was the required level, no attempt was made to see how far down this soil extended or at what level the natural lay. While nothing earlier than 19th or early 20th century was encountered, it does not preclude the possibility that evidence for medieval activity may survive at a lower level.
- 3.6 No medieval or post-medieval features or finds were evident.

4. Results

- 4.1 With the exception of the 19th/early 20th century features, no medieval or post-medieval features or finds were evident in the reduced ground levels.

5. References

Brooks, C M (1982) 'Shore Brae 1974', in Murray, J C *Excavations in the medieval burgh of Aberdeen 1973-81*, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph Series No.2, 37-45

Appendix 1

Catalogue of Digital Photographs (Supplied to Archive)

1-4	Cobbled surface, looking W
5-6	As above, looking N
7-9	Soil over cobbles and below concrete
10-11	Walls 3 and 4, looking NW
12-13	As above, looking W
14-15	Drain (6), looking SW
16	General view of site, looking NW
17	As 10 and 11 above
18-19	As 14 and 15, above
20-21	Wall 5, looking SE
22	As above, looking N