

**Hospitalfield House,
Arbroath,
Angus
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment**

May 2015



Document control sheet

Client: Caruso St John Architects on behalf of The Patrick Allan-Fraser Hospitalfield Trust
Project: Hospitalfield House, Arbroath, Angus Job No: 209
Document Title: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

Originator	Checked by	Reviewed by	Approved by
ORIGINAL	NAME Ross Cameron	NAME Alastair Rees	NAME Ross Cameron
DATE 24/02/15	SIGNATURE <i>Ross Cameron</i>	SIGNATURE <i>Alastair Rees.</i>	SIGNATURE <i>Ross Cameron</i>

Document Status: **FINAL**

This report contains historic maps, reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland (NLS). To view these maps online, see <http://www.nls.uk>.

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage LTD

This document has been prepared by ARCHAS Cultural Heritage LTD in its professional capacity as consultants in accordance with the terms and conditions of ARCHAS LTD contract with the commissioning party (the "Client"). Regard should be had to those terms and conditions when considering and/or placing any reliance on this document. No part of this document may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from ARCHAS LTD. If you have received this document in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify ARCHAS LTD.

Any advice, opinions, or recommendations within this document (a) should be read and relied upon only in the context of the document as a whole; (b) do not, in any way, purport to include any manner of legal advice or opinion; (c) are based upon the information made available to ARCHAS LTD at the date of this document and on current UK standards, codes, technology and construction practices as at the date of this document. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to ARCHAS LTD has been made. No liability is accepted by ARCHAS LTD for any use of this document, other than for the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided. Following final delivery of this document to the Client, ARCHAS LTD will have no further obligations or duty to advise the Client on any matters, including development affecting the information or advice provided in this document.

This document has been prepared for the exclusive use of the Client and unless otherwise agreed in writing by ARCHAS LTD, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of this document. Should the Client wish to release this document to a third party, ARCHAS LTD may, at its discretion, agree to such release provided that (a) ARCHAS LTD' written agreement is obtained prior to such release; and (b) by release of the document to the third party, that third party does not acquire any rights, contractual or otherwise, whatsoever against ARCHAS LTD and ARCHAS LTD, accordingly, assume no duties, liabilities or obligations to that third party; and (c) ARCHAS LTD accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage incurred by the Client or for any conflict of ARCHAS LTD interests arising out of the Client's release of this document to the third party.

Contents

Executive Summary

- 1 **Introduction**
 - 1.1 General
 - 1.2 Site Location and Setting
 - General
 - Study Area
 - Geology
- 2 **Methodology**
 - 2.1 The Development
 - 2.2 Desk Based Assessment
 - 2.3 Visual Inspection
 - 2.4 Aims and Objectives
- 3 **Historical Analysis**
 - 3.1 General Historical Background
 - General
 - Prehistoric
 - Medieval
 - Post-Medieval
 - 3.2 Previous archaeological or antiquarian work at Hospitalfield
 - General
 - Human Remains – 1860/1 - 1889
 - Red Lion Caravan Park - 1996
 - Westway Retail Park - 1999
 - Hospitalfield House – 2001-2003
 - 3.3 Map Regression
 - Pre-Ordnance Survey Maps
 - Ordnance Survey Maps
 - Conclusions
 - 3.4 Aerial Photography
 - 3.5 Visual Inspection
- 4 **Summary and Discussion**
 - 4.1 General
 - 4.2 Statement of archaeological potential
- 5 **Conclusions and Recommendations**
 - 5.1 General
 - 5.2 Recommendations

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Appendix A | Photographic Register |
| Appendix B | Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland entry |

Executive Summary

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by the Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) in advance of the potential redevelopment of Hospitalfield House in Arbroath. The Trust are proposing the construction of a number of structures and additions to the existing buildings in order to provide better access to and conservation of the collections held at Hospitalfield House.

The site proposed for development has long associations with the Chapel and Hospital of St. John, a religious house founded in the 14th century by the monks of nearby Arbroath Abbey. A large number of inhumations were revealed to the south of Hospitalfield House during works in the 19th century and again in 1996. It is suggested that these burials originate from the cemetery or graveyard associated with the hospital.

The history of the hospital and its subsequent development are unclear, but the site was already a high status dwelling by the middle of the 17th century. Patrick Allan-Fraser took possession of Hospitalfield House in 1843 and proceeded to undertake a programme of construction, alteration and development of the present buildings.

The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed as high with further potential for disturbing medieval remains and deposits.

ARCHAS Ltd recommend an archaeological watching brief be undertaken on all ground breaking works on site, while a pre-construction archaeological evaluation is proposed prior to any construction works on site.

A record of the desk based assessment has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-212431) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland (intended).

1 Introduction

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Lucy Byatt of the Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) in advance of potential redevelopment of Hospitalfield House in Arbroath (NGR: NO 62583 40431 centred). With the assistance of Caruso St John Architects (contact Amy Perkins), the client proposes to undertake construction and renovation work in and around Hospitalfield House. This work will be undertaken following the proposed excavation of a number of investigative trial pits.
- 1.1.2 Archaeological advice for proposed development within the Angus Council area is provided by the Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray and Angus (ASAMA). The site was identified by ASAMA as one with considerable archaeological potential. Through Angus Council, ASAMA recommended that an archaeological DBA be carried out in order to inform development and future ground breaking works. The DBA will allow the council to make an informed decision on any planning application and ensure the developer would be aware of any archaeological issues, allowing them to put in place appropriate mitigation should this be required.
- 1.1.3 The DBA investigated all readily accessible records for the development area, assessing known historical sites within a 1km buffer zone around the site as well as analysing general records within the wider area. The results of this assessment will be used to assist decision making as to the likelihood of archaeological deposits surviving within the proposed development boundary and any requirement for subsequent mitigation.
- 1.1.4 A visual inspection designed to complement the DBA was completed on the morning of Monday 11th May 2015 by Ross Cameron. Weather conditions were bright and dry.
- 1.1.5 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd. conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents. Data gathering and assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance on Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments (2014).

1.2 Site Location and Setting

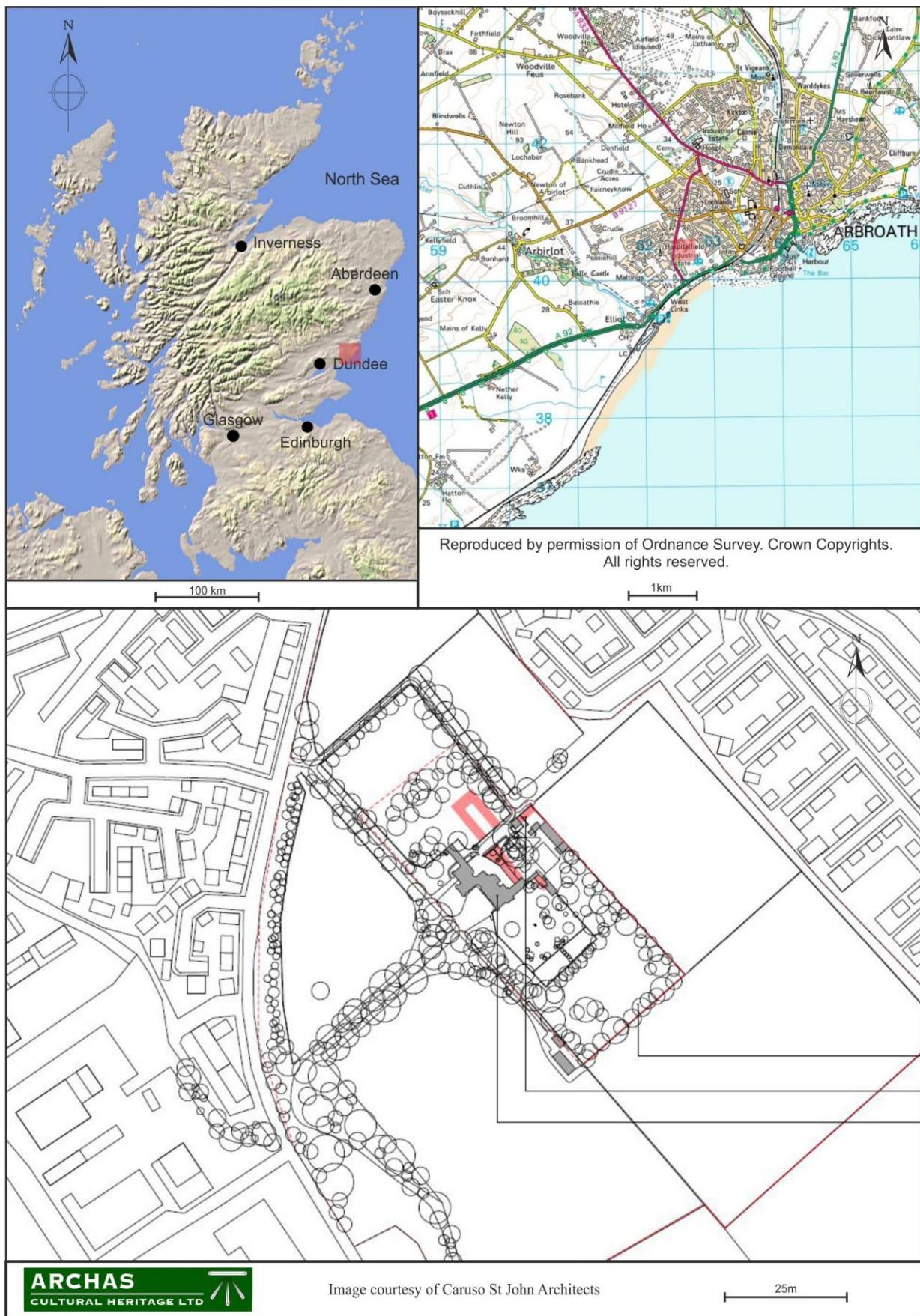


Figure 1: Site location

General

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site at Hospitalfield House is located within the town of Arbroath, in the region of Angus (centred on NO 62583 40431).

Study Area

- 1.2.2 The Hospitalfield complex sits within an enclave of arable fields and mature deciduous woodland surrounded on all sides by modern development. This area lay outside the town of Arbroath until its expansion in the late 20th century.
- 1.2.3 The House is accessed from the Westway to the north, a straight road lined with trees on either side. The eastern side of the road is bordered by the gardens and allotments run by Hospitalfield Arts, while the west contains one of the rich arable fields which surround Hospitalfield House. Another garden, this time walled, lies to the south of the house, with a gravel turning and parking area located to the front of the building. The area to the rear or east is occupied by numerous small outbuildings.
- 1.2.4 Hospitalfield House itself is a large, Baronial, two and three storeyed mansion house with turrets and ornate detail (Plate 1).



Plate 1: View of Hospitalfield House from the west (Photograph 004)

Geology

- 1.2.4 The drift geology of the proposed development site comprises Raised Marine Deposits of Devensian Age. This superficial deposit of clay, silt, sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period and is characteristic of a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. The underlying bedrock geology comprises sedimentary bedrock of the Auchmithie Conglomerate formed approximately 398-416 million years ago in the Devonian Period. This is characteristic of an environment once dominated by rivers and alluvial fans.¹

¹ www.bgs.ac.uk –25/02/15

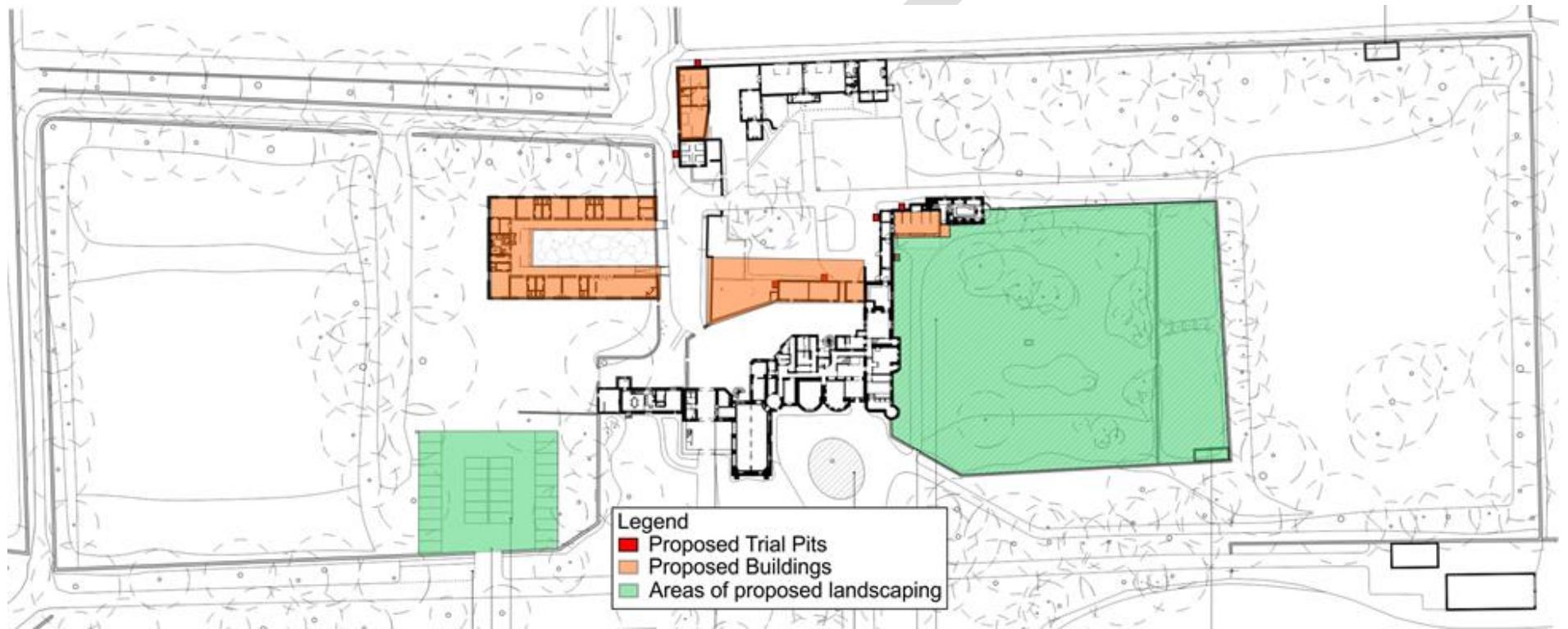


Figure 2: Proposed development in and around Hospitalfield House. ARCHAS Ltd after Caruso St John Architects

2 Methodology

2.1 The Development

- 2.1.1 The proposed development anticipates a number of structures and additions to the existing complex of buildings at Hospitalfield House (Figure 2). These will include a new accommodation building, a studio, a café and a Centre for Collection Development. These buildings will provide better access and conservation to the collections held by Hospitalfield House.
- 2.1.2 In addition a new car park is proposed to the west of Hospitalfield House, while soft landscaping is proposed for the walled garden east of the House.
- 2.1.3 Before any work can begin on the proposals, a number of engineering trial pits will also be dug around the complex.
- 2.1.4 These works all have the potential to impact upon buried archaeological remains.

2.2 Desk Based Assessment

- 2.2.1 The methodology for the DBA is designed to ensure that all known and, where possible, unknown archaeological remains in the vicinity of the proposed development are identified.
- 2.2.2 In order to define an historic environment baseline for the development, an area of approximately 1km around the proposed development was established and all records contained within this area were assessed. Sources consulted for this study included:
 - *National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) as held by The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS);*
 - *The Angus Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as held by The Archaeology Service of Aberdeenshire, Moray and Angus;*
 - *Early editions of Ordnance Survey and earlier mapping held by the Map Library of the National Library of Scotland (NLS);*
 - *Historic and current aerial imagery as displayed on readily available online platforms;*
 - *Published and unpublished archaeological reports, articles, journals and books.*
- 2.2.3 This DBA provides an exhaustive assessment of readily available historical and archaeological information. Whilst it is acknowledged that records relating to the burgh and abbey of Arbroath were lost in the 17th century, it remains possible that a search of national, regional and private archives may reveal information relating to the medieval history of Hospitalfield. Indeed it is acknowledged that the collections of Hospitalfield House itself may hold additional primary material relevant to the history of the site. However, such exhaustive research is beyond the scope of this DBA.
- 2.2.4 Additional information was gathered and examined for the wider surrounding area to place the baseline information in its local and regional context, and to assess the potential for unknown and buried archaeological remains.

2.3 Visual Inspection

2.3.1 Following completion of initial research a visual inspection of the site was completed by a qualified and experienced professional archaeologist. This assessment was not a walkover survey, but designed to familiarise the archaeological team with the development area and Hospitalfield House itself.

2.3.2 The site visit was recorded through photography.

2.4 Aims and Objectives

2.4.1 The objective of this study is to identify the archaeological and built heritage resource of the study area. The DBA will highlight known features of cultural heritage significance while identifying any further features previously undiscovered. The assessment will also look at a wider 1km buffer around the development area to allow any identified sites to be placed properly into their wider landscape context.

2.4.2 The evidence and conclusions presented is used to present a picture of historic human occupation of the proposed development area and provide a balanced judgement as to the likelihood of archaeological deposits surviving around Hospitalfield House. The DBA will offer a comprehensive base for further decisions on the future of the development to be made. It will also provide recommendations formulation of a strategy for mitigation of impact should this be required.

3 Historical Analysis

3.1 General Historical Background

General

3.1.1 Hospitalfield House and the surrounding area have a recorded history that is dominated by occupation of the site in the medieval period and connections with the nearby Arbroath Abbey. However, there is some evidence to suggest use of the land around Hospitalfield in prehistory, while the development of the original Hospital and Chapel of St John into the current complex brings the history of Hospitalfield to the present day.

3.1.2 The Hospitalfield House complex contains two sites protected by Statutory legislation. Hospitalfield House itself is a Category A Listed Building, while the Fernery on the north east side of the walled garden is Category B Listed. Any alteration to these buildings would require Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Scotland.

Prehistoric

3.1.3 The rich, fertile land around Arbroath would have attracted settlement from the earliest period. The area to the west of the site, beyond the Elliot Water, is a rich prehistoric landscape with enclosures, souterrains, settlements and ring ditches. Many of these are protected as Scheduled Monuments. There are also a number of cropmarks (alongside other evidence for prehistoric settlement) closer to Hospitalfield on the north east bank of the Elliot Water.

3.1.4 In the more immediate vicinity of Hospitalfield House there are two records for artefact findspots which may indicate some presence in prehistory. A spindle whorl was recovered a short distance to the south west of Hospitalfield House (NO 625 400) while the collections of the House itself hold two complete Bronze Age Food vessels as well as the fragment of a

third. Unfortunately, these Bronze Age artefacts are unprovenanced and it is not possible to say where they originated. This may have been far from the House itself. Equally spindle whorls are difficult to date and it is not possible to say whether this actually dates to prehistory without knowing the immediate context of the discovery.

Medieval

- 3.1.6 Arbroath Abbey was founded by King William the Lion in 1178, but it is not until 1325 or 1352 that there is the first recorded mention of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist.² The Hospital was founded by the monastic community of the Abbey, presumably as the hospital for pilgrims and travellers visiting the Abbey. However, in his study of medieval hospitals in Scotland, Derek Hall states that the function of the hospital is unknown although there was an almshouse in Arbroath at the time.³
- 3.1.7 There is little readily available information regarding the medieval hospitals of Scotland, and this is also true of the Hospital of St John. Hospitalfield House is believed to contain older fragments of the medieval hospital, in particular a piece of an arch from the hospital can be found built into the inside face of one of the ground floor bay windows. However, without a detailed assessment of the masonry of the building and removal of internal fittings, it is not possible to say how much of the earlier structures survives and whether architectural fragments such as the arch are *in situ*. There is certainly not enough apparent to gain an idea as to the style and nature of the medieval buildings.
- 3.1.8 Although little is known about the early history of the hospital, the site was clearly still operating in the late 15th century. In his mid 19th century work 'Arbroath and its Abbey' Dan Miller records an inquest of 22nd November 1464 which clearly stated the Hospital was not distinct from the property of the monastery. A chapel was consecrated and an altar dedicated on 23rd August 1485 by the Bishop of Dunmore while a record of 4th December 1490 describes the chapel of the infirmary 'as in danger of falling into ruin'⁴.

Post-Medieval

- 3.1.9 It is not clear when the Hospital and Chapel of St John the Baptist fell out of use, but this was likely to have occurred during the reformation of 1560.
- 3.1.10 In 1665 Hospitalfield was purchased and altered by Reverend James Fraser to act as his dwelling house. The site passed to a different branch of Frasers in the late 18th century. In 1809 the male Fraser line died out, but the heiress Elizabeth Fraser married Patrick Allan in 1843, with him taking the name Allan-Fraser. Patrick Allan-Fraser dramatically altered and re-designed the buildings between 1850 and 1890. When he died in 1890, he bequeathed Hospitalfield House to the Hospitalfield Trust.
- 3.1.11 The House as we have it today developed organically with no real strategy or plan. As a result it is a mix of Scottish, English and European architecture of different ages (Plate 2). Constructed from red sandstone and slate, Hospitalfield House is a large ornate building with

² The date 1352 is reported on NMRS, SMR and in Hall, D 2006 'Unto Yone Hospitall at the Tounis End: The Scottish Medieval Hospital' *Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal* 12: 89–105. This latter is the most in depth study of medieval hospitals in Scotland. Various other online sources quote the year 1325 and attribute this to *Inquisicio facta de domo elimosinaria*, from Reg. Nig. Fol. 59/ Regal.fol. 99. (Innes, Cosmo; Chalmers, Patrick, eds. (1848). Liber S. Thome De Aberbrothoc. Registrorum Abbacie De Aberbrothoc. Pars Altera. Registrum Nigrum Necnon Libros Cartarum Recentiores Complectens. 1329-1536 ii. Edinburgh: Bannatyne Club, 141.). The year 1325 is also quoted in Miller D 1860 'The History of the Abbey at Arbroath'

³ Hall, D 2006 'Unto Yone Hospitall at the Tounis End: The Scottish Medieval Hospital' *Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal* 12, 101

⁴ Miller, D. 1860 'Arbroath and its Abbey; or The Early History of the town and abbey of Aberbrothock including notices of ecclesiastical and other antiquities in the surrounding district', 126

towers, turrets and mock crenellations. Areas of the building are harled, masking relationships between earlier parts of the building and later developments.



**Plate 2: View of the south east facing elevation showing different building styles and harling
(Photograph 006)**

3.1.12 The main house gained some literary fame in the 19th century when Sir Walter Scott used Hospitalfield House as the basis for his 'Monkbarns' in his novel 'The Antiquary'.

3.1.13 Today Hospitalfield House is administered by the Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust and operates as a cultural organisation for artists and for education in the Arts.

3.2 Previous archaeological or antiquarian work at Hospitalfield

General

3.2.1 Predominantly due to the medieval history of the Hospitalfield area, there have been a number of archaeological investigations completed within the 1km study area around the site (Figure 3). The results of these can be used to guide the likelihood of archaeological deposits surviving within the footprint of the proposed development.

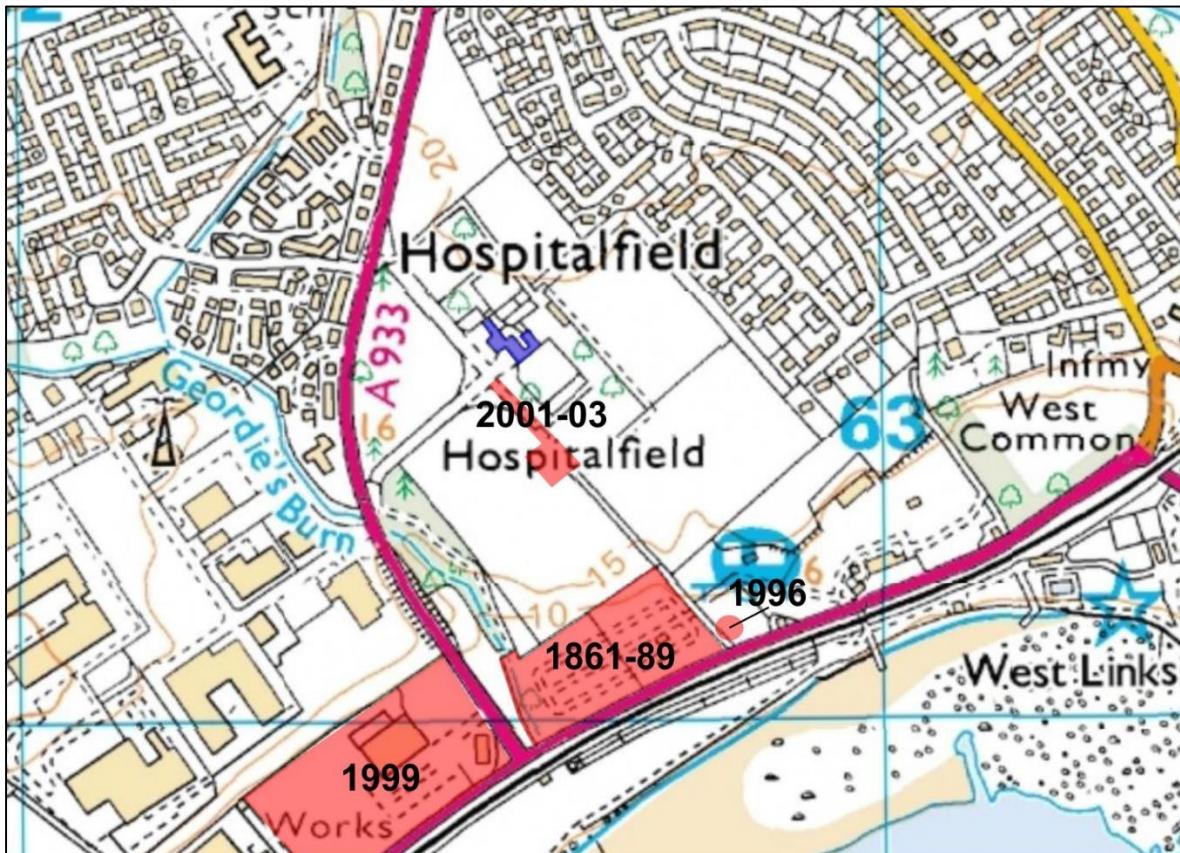


Figure 3: Map showing the archaeological interventions (indicated red) around Hospitalfield House (indicated blue). ARCHAS after Ordnance Survey. All Rights Reserved.

Human Remains – 1860/1 & 1889

- 3.2.2 On two occasions in the 19th century human remains were uncovered during estate improvement works. A substantial number of inhumations estimated at between 100 and 120 burials were recorded. Some of these were located only ‘six to twelve inches below the surface’.⁵ The investigations also revealed ‘foundations of old whinstone walls’.⁶ These have been located to an area to the south of Hospitalfield immediately north of the A92 (Figure 3).
- 3.2.3 Such a large number of burials can only be associated with the medieval Chapel and hospital of St John. The full extent and exact location of the excavations is unknown. Some of the bones were ‘carefully collected together and buried in a pretty deep pit’⁷, while others were left *in situ*.

Red Lion Caravan Park - 1996

- 3.2.4 During demolition of a 1960s building at the Red Lion Caravan Park in 1996 (Figure 3), six burials were disturbed by workers. These remains showed considerable evidence of infection and are likely part of the same graveyard population as those discovered in the 19th century (see above). Anecdotal evidence from the labourers on site indicated that more bones had been discovered, geographically separated from this deposit, but these had been accepted by the team as animal and abandoned.

⁵ Jervise, A. 1865 ‘Account of the discovery of the supposed cemetery of the hospital of St John the Baptist, at Hospitalfield, near Arbroath’, Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Volume 5, 1862-4, 136

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

Westway Retail Park - 1999

- 3.2.5 An evaluation in advance of the construction of the Westway Retail Park to the south east of Hospitalfield House (Figure 3) failed to reveal any archaeological deposits.

Hospitalfield House – 2001-2003

- 3.2.6 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to construction of a new dwelling to the south of Hospitalfield House in 2001 (Figure 3). The evaluation comprised a 4% sample of the site, but failed to reveal any significant archaeological deposits.
- 3.2.7 The 2001 evaluation was followed by a watching brief completed in 2003. This watching brief was associated with the construction of the new dwelling and associated infrastructure. No medieval features were recorded, although evidence of landscaping and the designed landscape from the 18th century onwards was revealed.

3.3 Map Regression

- 3.3.1 All relevant available maps as held by NLS were consulted in order to identify the recorded development of the site as well as any additional features that may previously have gone unrecorded within the site boundary. A summary of consulted maps is listed in the Bibliography.

Pre-Ordnance Survey maps

- 3.3.2 The earliest detailed maps of Scotland were produced by Timothy Pont who lived from the 1560s until c.1615. Pont's map of 'Lower Angus and Perthshire east of the Tay' still survives and provides us with the earliest view of the Arbroath area which could be described as in any way detailed. Pont's map does not show Hospitalfield House or the earlier Hospital and Chapel of St John. The burgh of Arbroath is clearly displayed to the north of the Brothick Burn, while the settlement marked 'Pessimill' is likely to correspond with either the modern farm 'Peasiehill' or at the very least the general area around this farm. The site should lie between the two, but is not shown by Pont (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Extract from Timothy Pont's 'Lower Angus and Perthshire east of the Tay'. Note the absence of Hospitalfield between Arbroath (right) and 'Pessimill' (left). NLS

- 3.3.3 Subsequent maps of the area west of Arbroath, such as those of Joan Blaeu and Robert Gordon, do not show the Chapel and Hospital of St John. Studies have indicated that the presence of a site on Blaeu's map in particular is a good indicator of whether a hospital was operating at the time the map was drawn up.⁸
- 3.3.4 The first map to specifically show occupation of the site is Robert Edwards's 'The Shire of Angus' which survives in an imprint of 1678.



Figure 5: Extract from Robert Edward's 'The Shire of Angus' which is the first to show 'Hospitalfeild'.
NLS

- 3.3.5 Edward's depiction of 'Hospitalfeild' is an idealised icon for an important site and does not give any detail as to the style and function of the buildings on site. This is also true of John Marr's map of 1734. However, clearly both Edward and Marr viewed Hospitalfield as significant enough to be depicted on his map alongside sites such as Kelly Castle.
- 3.3.6 William Roy's 'Military Survey of Scotland' conducted between 1747 and 1755 (Figure 6) provides much greater detail than shown on earlier maps. Roy's work revolutionised map making in Scotland, containing a lot more terrain detail than previously shown. Although the map was the result of 'rapid reconnaissance rather than a measured topographic survey'⁹, the various inaccuracies can be forgiven in providing us with the first cartographic view of Scotland with any level of detail – a snapshot of mid 18th century Scotland.

⁸ Hall, D 2006 'Unto Yone Hospitall at the Tounis End: The Scottish Medieval Hospital' Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal 12, 91

⁹ Fleet C., Wilkes M. & Withers, C. 2011 Scotland – Mapping the Nation, 88

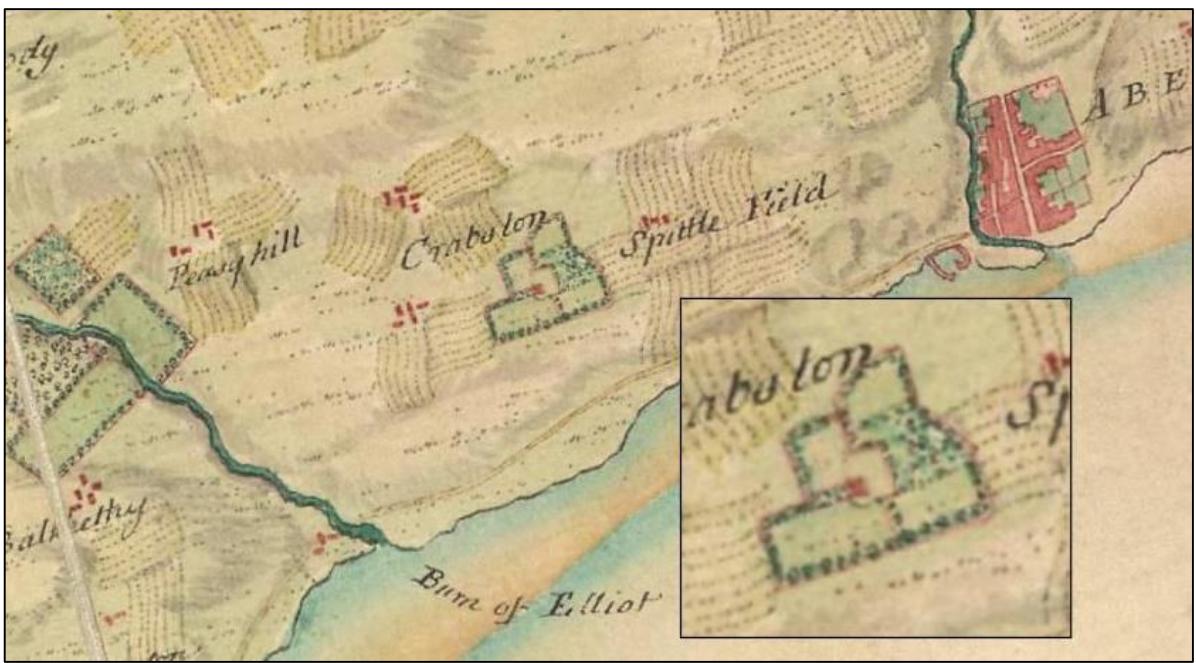


Figure 6: Extract from William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland showing 'Spittle Field' with the likely site indicated (inset). © The British Library Board. All Rights Reserved (Roy Military Survey of Scotland)

- 3.3.7 William Roy's map clearly shows an area marked as 'Spittle Field'. Although this seems to refer to a small cluster of three red buildings set within agricultural field systems, it is likely that the area of Hospitalfield House is shown to the west of this, within an area of established gardens. One small red square is used to depict the site. This area of more formalised gardens seems to be described, along with further agricultural settlements to the north and west, as 'Crabston'. At this stage Hospitalfield clearly was not a sprawling complex of buildings, but one significant structure set within formalised gardens.
- 3.3.8 An idea of the style of building is shown on subsequent maps. These maps (including Taylor and Skinner's map of 1776 and Ainslie's aps of 1785 and 1794) show 'Spittalfield' as an idealised country house. All of these maps provide little information as to the detail of the buildings themselves, but all agree that one main structure was positioned within a semi-formalised garden.



Figure 7: Extract from 'The Road from Edinburgh to Dundee, Aberbrothick, Montrose, Inverbervie & Stonehaven' produced in 1776 by Taylor and Skinner. This map is typical of the style of maps in this period. NLS

- 3.3.9 Although providing little new detail as to the buildings, these maps do provide some additional information, specifically relating to ownership of Hospitalfield. Taylor and Skinner's 1776 'The Road from Edinburgh to Dundee, Aberbrothick, Montrose, Inverbervie & Stonehaven' (Figure 7) provides the additional information of the site being owned by 'Fraser Esqr.'. By the production of 'The Great Reform Act Plan and Reports' in 1832, the area is recorded as belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Frazer Baker.

Ordnance Survey maps

- 3.3.10 The Ordnance Survey began their survey of the Arbroath area in 1859, producing their first map of the area in 1865. The most detailed maps produced in this 1st edition of the survey are the 25 inch to 1 mile maps. These maps provide the first truly detailed view of the building complex.
- 3.3.11 The 25 inch to 1 mile Forfar Sheet XLVI.14 (Combined) from 1865 (Figure 8) shows a much more extensive complex of buildings than survive today at Hospitalfield. The main building appears in much the same form as it does today. A series of buildings and courtyards lie to the immediate north of the main structure, while to the east, or rear of the House, isolated buildings are marked as 'kennel' and 'icehouse'. Beside the complex a legend records 'Hospitalfield on the site of the Hospital and Chapel of St John'.
- 3.3.12 By the production of the 2nd edition 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 in 1903 (Figure 9), the buildings and courtyards to the north of the main building have been removed. The last remnant of these (the north west to south east aligned arm which had run from the southern corner of the courtyard building) has been joined to the main Hospitalfield structure. In addition, some smaller buildings have been built to the rear of the House and more development has taken place around the walled gardens to the south.

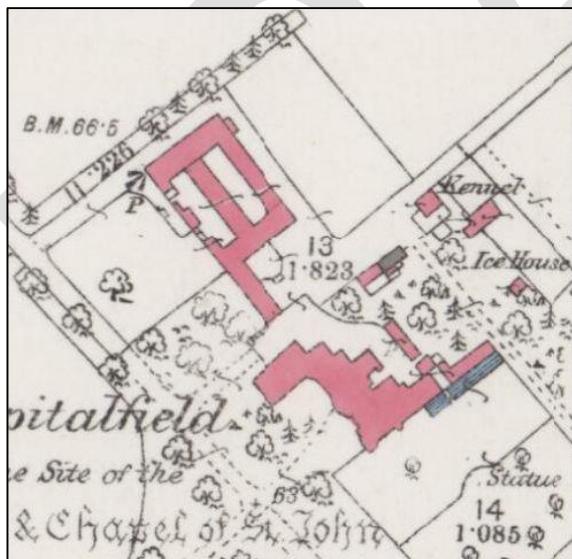


Figure 8: Extract from the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfar Sheet XLVI.14 (Combined) from 1865. NLS

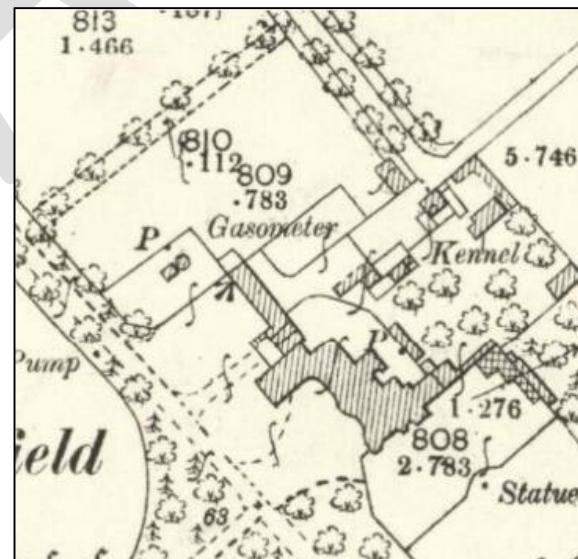


Figure 9: Extract from the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 from 1903. NLS

- 3.3.13 Little has changed in the 21 years between the 2nd edition and the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 of 1924 (Figure 10). The main Hospitalfield House building appears untouched by further development, but a larger building has been built to the rear of the house in the gap between two existing structures. This forms a terrace of buildings marked here as 'kennels'.

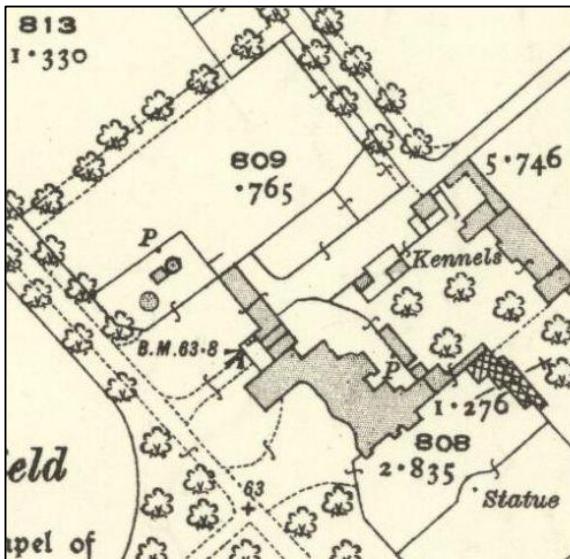


Figure 10: Extract from the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 from 1924. NLS

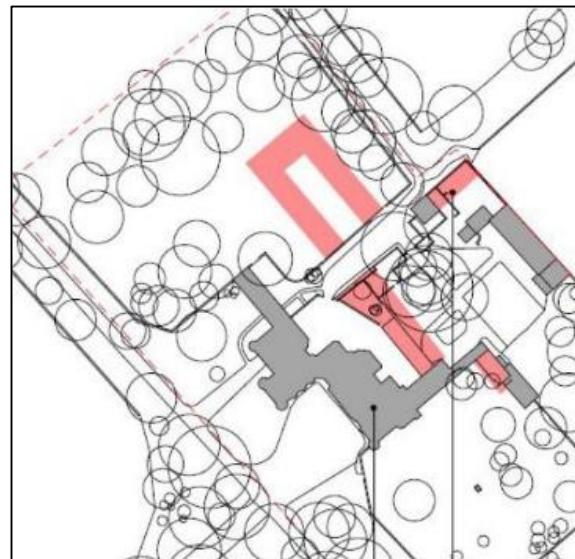


Figure 11: Modern view of Hospitalfield, with the proposed development areas indicated red. Caruso St John Architects

- 3.3.14 The picture presented in 1924 is essentially that which survives today (Figure 11). The only notable difference in the complex is the removal of some smaller buildings to the rear and north of Hospitalfield House.

Conclusions

- 3.3.15 The map regression has shown that the site was occupied and notable enough to be recorded in a map of 1678. What form the site took at this stage, is unclear but by this stage it was likely a high status dwelling.
- 3.3.16 The proposed development plans a number of new structures constructed around Hospitalfield House. The OS data shows the presence of a number of walls and small structures to the rear of Hospitalfield House which are likely to be affected by development.

3.4 Aerial Photography

- 3.4.1 Readily available aerial photographs of the proposed development area were consulted in order to assess the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological features to survive within the boundaries of the site. Although this was felt unlikely across the proposed development area itself, the surrounding fields are cultivated and have potential for revealing cropmarks should archaeological deposits survive. The photographic coverage of the site was extensive, covering various phases of growth and ploughing of the surrounding fields.
- 3.4.2 Six vertical aerial images were accessed from readily available online resources, but revealed no features of note.
- 3.4.3 In addition six oblique aerial images were accessed from the NMRS, but provided equally negative results.

3.5 Visual Inspection

- 3.5.1 The site is a complex one with many of the proposed development areas directly adjacent to, or in close proximity to the Hospitalfield House complex (Figure 2). It was felt highly unlikely that previously unidentified archaeological remains would survive across the development area. It was agreed that a full archaeological walkover was not merited in this case, but that a visual inspection of the site would facilitate a better understanding of the proposals.
- 3.5.2 The site visit accessed those areas proposed for development.

4 Summary and Discussion

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 Due to the nature of the landscape around Arbroath and the density of prehistoric occupation, it would seem likely that the area of Hospitalfield House was occupied in prehistory. However, the evidence for this from the site and immediate study area is weak. Only the Bronze Age pottery held by Hospitalfield House itself and a spindle whorl found a short distance away can be tentatively used to support prehistoric occupation of this area.
- 4.1.2 It is from the medieval period that occupation of Hospitalfield is best known. The documentary evidence for the medieval occupation of Hospitalfield is poor and under-examined, but it is clear that a Hospital associated with Arbroath Abbey was in existence from the 14th century. This seems to have been in a poor condition by the end of the 15th century and the land of Hospitalfield fell into lay hands after the Reformation of 1560.
- 4.1.3 The Hospital and Chapel complex may have been large, and the best evidence for the medieval occupation of the site comes from archaeology and antiquarian investigations. For development at Hospitalfield House, the results of these investigations provide mixed signals. On two occasions, human remains were discovered to the south of Hospitalfield House. However, archaeological investigations undertaken closer to the building in 2001 and again in 2003 revealed no *in situ* medieval archaeological deposits indicating that the focus of the hospital may have been to the south, or that the medieval remains were removed by the later 18th and 19th century works.
- 4.1.4 It is not clear what form Hospitalfield House took post-1560, but it was significant enough a site to be shown on Robert Edward's map of 1658. It is also unknown what form the dwelling of James Fraser took after he gained ownership in 1665. William Roy's military survey shows a singular square block, possibly interpreted as a tower set within designed gardens. It is unknown if this site replaced, or incorporated the remains of the medieval hospital.
- 4.1.5 Patrick Allan-Fraser took possession of the house in 1843, developing and re-modelling the complex to leave Hospitalfield House as it stands today. The development of the building complex is well documented by the Hospitalfield House Trust¹⁰ and can be seen to a lesser extent by detailed analysis of the OS maps.
- 4.1.6 The building has not undergone detailed architectural analysis by buildings archaeologists in order to assess whether earlier remains survive preserved within the fabric. However, this may not be possible as the important interiors and decoration of the building will mask structural relationships and wall construction.

4.2 Statement of archaeological potential

- 4.2.1 Although it is not possible to say with certainty where the medieval occupation of Hospitalfield was concentrated, it is certain that this took place in the vicinity of Hospitalfield House.
- 4.2.2 The subsequent occupation of the site is also likely to have left *in situ* archaeological deposits providing evidence for designed landscapes and post-medieval occupation.

¹⁰ Payne, W.W. Hospitalfield House - Guidebook

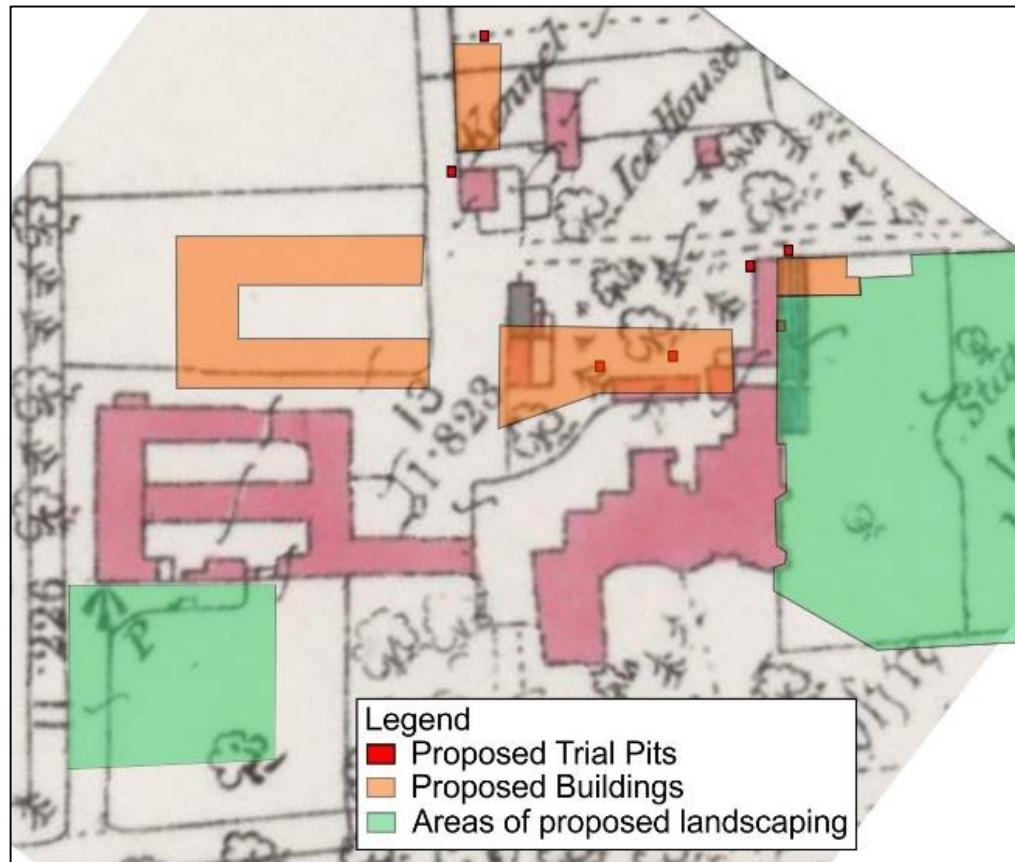


Figure 12: Extract from 25 inch to 1 mile Forfar Sheet XLVI.14 (Combined) from 1865 showing the proposed development overlaid. ARCHAS after NLS

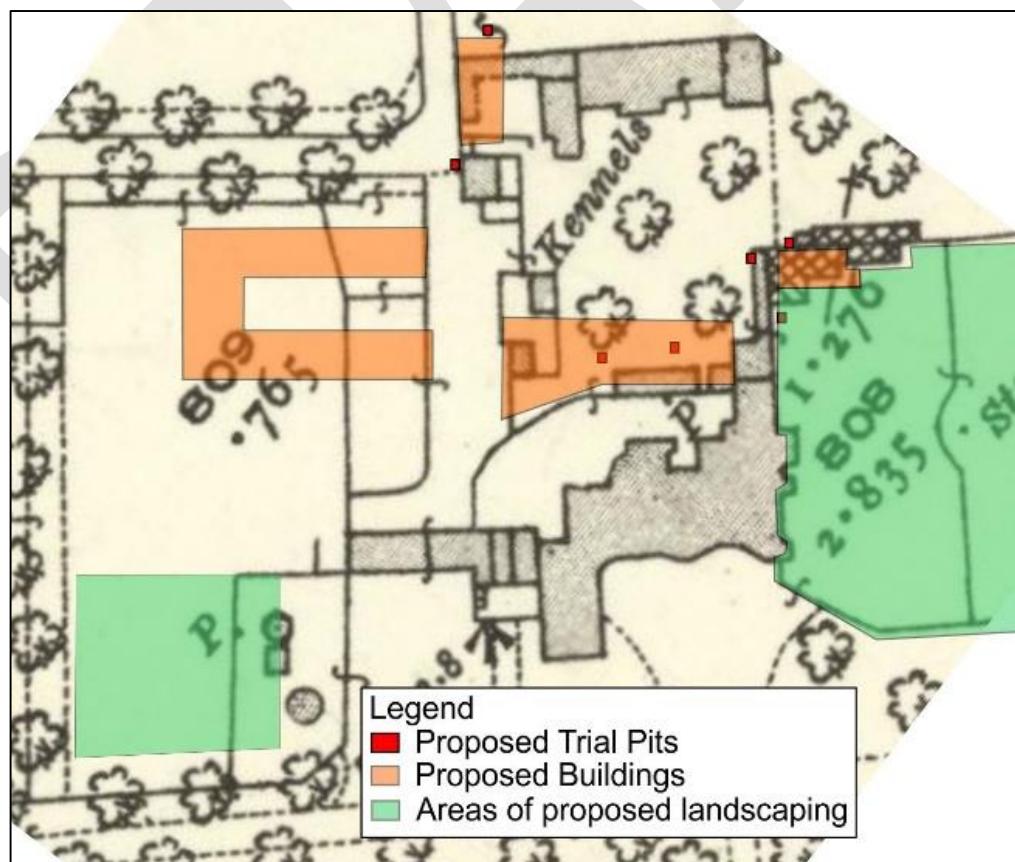


Figure 13: Extract from 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 from 1924 showing the proposed development overlaid. ARCHAS after NLS

- 4.2.3 Assessment of the OS maps in conjunction with the development proposals indicates that ground breaking works are likely to disturb the remains of numerous 19th century and earlier structures (

Figure 12 and

Figure 13).

- 4.2.4 The archaeological works undertaken in 2001-03 were geographically closest to Hospitalfield House and failed to reveal any significant (in particular medieval) archaeology. However in balance ARCHAS conclude that the chances of disturbing archaeological deposits is **high**, although there is only a **moderate** chance of medieval remains being encountered.

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 Although it is not possible to pinpoint the exact location of the Hospital of St John, it is clear that this lay in the immediate vicinity of Hospitalfield House. It is unclear whether the house preserves earlier *in situ* medieval fragments, but Hospitalfield has a history as a high status dwelling which stretches back until at least 1665.

5.2 General

- 5.2.1 In light of the historical evidence presented and the statement of archaeological potential, ARCHAS recommend a programme of archaeological works be completed in advance of, and during any ground breaking works on site.
- 5.2.2 The programme for the project comprises a number of phases. The first phase will involve the excavation of a number of engineering trial pits. The results of this investigation will be used to inform future development and archaeological mitigation.
- 5.2.3 ARCHAS recommend that these trial pits be excavated under watching brief conditions with the supervision of a suitably qualified archaeological professional. This will ensure that any archaeological remains are adequately recorded while the results can be used to guide future archaeological mitigation.
- 5.2.4 Prior to further development ARCHAS recommend the implementation of an archaeological evaluation on those larger, more accessible areas where ground breaking works may disturb buried archaeology. For those smaller, less accessible areas, the trial pits can act as a keyhole investigation to indicate the presence or absence of archaeological deposits. Although topography and ground conditions across the Hospitalfield Estate and the land to the south vary, it must be noted that the skeletons uncovered in the 19th century were recorded 6 inches (or c.15cm) below the surface. So detailed discussion and careful consideration must be given to landscaping in the walled garden and associated with the car park in order to ascertain the extent of archaeological monitoring required.

Acknowledgements

ARCHAS Cultural heritage Ltd. would like to thank Lucy Byatt of the Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust as well as Amy Perkins of Caruso St John Architects for commissioning us to undertake the project to on their behalf. Both parties deserve our gratitude for their understanding and commitment to ensuring the archaeological resource is securely protected for future generations.

DRAFT

Bibliography

Bibliographic References

Secondary Literature

- Aitken, J. 1799. "Parish of St Vigean's, County of Forfar" in Statistical Account of 1791-99, Volume 12, 165-186
- Benvie, R. 1996 'Red Lion Caravan Park , Arbroath (Arbroath and St Vigean's parish), human skeletons' in Discovery & Excavation in Scotland, 1996, 11
- Cathcart, R. 2001 'Hospitalfield House, Westway, Arbroath (Arbroath and St Vigean's Parish), evaluation' in Discovery & Excavation in Scotland, 2001, 12
- Cathcart, R. 2004 'Hospitalfield House, Westway, Arbroath (Arbroath and St Vigean's Parish), watching brief' in Discovery & Excavation in Scotland, 2004, 18
- Engl, E. 1999 'Westway Retail Park, Arbroath (Arbirlot parish), evaluation' in Discovery & Excavation in Scotland, 1999, 11
- Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons 1832. Aberbothwick (Forfarshire) – Report on the Burgh, available at <http://maps.nls.uk/towns/reform/page.cfm?id=2494>
- Groome, F. 1882. Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland, 274
- Hall, D 2006 'Unto Yone Hospitall at the Tounis End: The Scottish Medieval Hospital' Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal 12, 89-105
- Jervise, A. 1865 'Account of the discovery of the supposed cemetery of the hospital of St John the Baptist, at Hospitalfield, near Arbroath', Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Volume 5, 1862-4, 135-7
- Miller, D. 1860. 'Arbroath and its Abbey; or The Early History of the town and abbey of Aberbrothock including notices of ecclesiastical and other antiquities in the surrounding district' available: <https://archive.org/details/arbroathanditsa00millgoog>
- Muir, J. 1845. 'Parish of St Vigean's, County of Forfar' in Statistical Account of 1834-45, Volume 11, 489-518
- Payne, W.W. Hospitalfield House - Guidebook
- Ritchie, J N G. 1968 'Bronze Age pottery from Hospitalfield House, Arbroath, Angus', Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Volume 99, 1966-7, 256-8.
- Wood, J 1828. Descriptive account of the principal towns in Scotland, available at <http://archive.org/stream/descriptiveacc1828scot#page/22/mode/2up>

Websites

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrbpub/angus/
www.aircrashsites-scotland.co.uk
www.archive.org
www.bgs.ac.uk
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
www.hospitalfield.org.uk
www.nls.uk
www.parksandgardens.org
www.rcahms.gov.uk

Cartographic References

Maps consulted during the cartographic regression include:

- 1583-96 Timothy Pont (1560-1614)
- 'Lower Angus and Perthshire east of the Tay'. Imprint 1583-96
- 1654 Robert Gordon (1580-1661)
- 'Straloch's map of Scotland, and, The West coast from Glen Elg to Knap-dail'. Imprint c.1636-52
- 'A map of Eastern Scotland, including basins of Rivers Don, Dee, Tay, Forth and Tweed'. Imprint c.1636-52
- 'Anguss'. Imprint c.1636-52
- 'A map of Scotland, north of Glenmore in detail, and outline of the east coast to Dunbar, showing the courses of the chief rivers, and the positions of a few places'. Imprint c.1636-52
- 'A description of the East coast of Scotland drawn out of Wagoner and sumqt corrected, but it not perfyt and yet hath many errors'. Imprint c.1636-52
- 1654 Joan Blaeu (1596-1673) & James Gordon (1596-1673)
- 'The Sheriffdom of Fife'.
- 1678 Robert Edward (c.1616-1696)
- 'The Shire of Angus'. Imprint 1678
- 1734 John Marr (fl.1660-1720)
- 'A new and pertinent map of the eastern sea-coasts of Scotland... from the cost of Berwick till Bakaness'. Imprint 1734
- 1745 Herman Moll (d.1732)
- 'The Shire of Angus or Forfar'.
- 1755 William Roy (1747-1755)
- 'Military Survey of Scotland'.
- 1776 George Taylor (fl.1760-1788) & Andrew Skinner (fl.1760-1788)
- 'The Road from Edinburgh to Dundee, Aberbrothick, Montrose, Inverbervie & Stonehaven'.
- 'The Road from Aberbrothick to Brechine; Road from Montrose to Laurence Kirk; Road from Laurence Kirk to Old Mill of Hirn...'.
- 1785 John Ainslie (1745-1828)

- 'A chart of part of the South of Scotland, from Berwick upon Tweed to Skateraw Harbour in the County of Kincardine.'
- 1794 John Ainslie (1745-1828)
- 'Map of the County of Forfar or the Shire of Angus'.
- 1822 John Wood (c.1780-1847)
- 'Plan of the Town of Arbroath from actual survey'.
- 1825 John Thomson (1777-c.1840) & William Johnson (fl. 1806-1840)
- 'Northern Part of Angus Shire. Southern Part'.
- 1832 Great Britain Parliament. House of Commons
- 'Great Reform Act Plan and Reports - Aberbrothwick or Arbroath'.
- 1850 James Knox (fl. 1800-1856)
- 'Map of the Basin of the Tay, including the greater part of Perth Shire, Strathmore and the braes of Angus or Forfar'.
- Ordnance Survey
- 1865 25 inch to 1 mile Forfar Sheet XLVI.14 (Combined). Surveyed 1859. Published 1865
 - 1903 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14. Revised 1901. Published 1903
 - 1924 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14. Revised 1921. Published 1924
 - 1865 6 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire Sheet XLVI. Surveyed 1859. Published 1865
 - 1903 6 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire Sheet XLVI.SW. Surveyed 1901. Published 1903
 - 1926 6 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire Sheet XLVI.SW. Surveyed 1921. Published 1926

Appendix A: Photographic Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Taken from</i>	<i>Contexts No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>
001	SW	-	Main façade of Hospitalfield House	11/05/2015	RC
002	WSW	-	Main façade of Hospitalfield House	11/05/2015	RC
003	N	-	Hospitalfield House – North wing	11/05/2015	RC
004	W	-	Main façade of Hospitalfield House	11/05/2015	RC
005	S	-	Main façade of Hospitalfield House	11/05/2015	RC
006	SE	-	View of south east facing façade from walled garden	11/05/2015	RC
007	SE	-	View of south east facing façade from walled garden	11/05/2015	RC

Appendix B: Provisional Discovery & Excavation Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Hospitalfield House
PROJECT CODE:	209
PARISH:	Arbroath and St Vigean's
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ross Cameron
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd.
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Desk Based Assessment
NMRS NO(S):	NO64SW 65; NO64SW 9; NO64SW 9.6; NO64SW 9.2; NO64SW 9.3
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Chapel (possible), Country House, Hospital
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 62583 40431
START DATE (this season)	11/05/15
END DATE (this season)	11/05/15
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by the Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) in advance of potential redevelopment of Hospitalfield House in Arbroath. The Trust propose to construct a number of structures and additions to the existing buildings in order to provide better access and conservation to the collections held at Hospitalfield House.</p> <p>The site has long associations with the Chapel and Hospital of St. John, a religious house founded in the 14th century by the monks of nearby Arbroath Abbey. A large number of inhumations were revealed to the south of Hospitalfield House during works in the 19th century and again in 1996. These are thought to be the cemetery or graveyard associated with the hospital.</p> <p>The history of the hospital and its subsequent development are unclear, but the site was a high status dwelling by the middle of the 17th century. Patrick Allan-Fraser took possession of Hospitalfield House in 1843 and proceeded to construct, alter and develop the buildings now on site.</p> <p>The archaeological potential of the site is assessed as high, with moderate potential of disturbing medieval remains.</p> <p>ARCHAS Ltd recommend an archaeological watching brief be completed on any ground breaking works on site, with an evaluation undertaken prior to development.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Watching Brief, Evaluation
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage LTD Suite B Laws Close 339-343 High Street Kirkcaldy KY1 1JN
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ross.cameron@archas.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and Angus SMR (intended)