

**An archaeological watching brief at Ness Farm Gully,  
Tullos Hill, Aberdeen.**

**Data Structure Report**

**Prepared for:** Aberdeen City Council  
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**AOC Archaeology Project No:** 20693

**National grid reference:** NJ 9671 0381

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**Ness Farm Gully Waste Treatment System, Tullos Hill, Aberdeen:  
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**1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

1.1 This report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed waste treatment system at Ness Farm Gully, Tullos Hill, Aberdeen (centred on NGR: NJ 9671 0381). The work was commissioned by Aberdeen City Council and was designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, as advised by Mrs Judith Stones of Aberdeen City Council Neighbourhood Services Central Area. This work was in accord with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).

1.2 Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were revealed.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

**2.1 Background**

2.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Aberdeen City Council during ground-breaking works associated with the proposed development of a waste treatment system at Ness Farm Gully, Tullos Hill, Aberdeen.

2.1.2 The proposed development area lies within the administrative area of Aberdeen City Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mrs Judith Stones of the Aberdeen City Council Neighbourhood Services Central Area. The work required was in accord with NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a), in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

2.1.3 The proposed development area comprised 130 m<sup>2</sup>.

**2.2 Archaeological Background**

2.2.1 Prior to these works no archaeological sites were known within the proposed development area, however Tullos Hill is rich in archaeological remains ranging in date from 2000 BC to the later 1940s. These include four burial cairns: Cat Cairn, Baron's Cairn, Tullos Cairn and Crab's Cairn all of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Further prehistoric monuments including a barrow, hut circles, and numerous clearance cairns are also present. Second World War remains include the site of an anti-aircraft battery, prisoner of war camp and radar station.

**2.3 Site location**

2.3.1 The proposed development site is located adjacent to a decommissioned land-fill site on the extreme eastern slope of Tullos Hill (NGR: NJ 9671 0381), on

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the eastern side of Aberdeen. (Figure 1)

**3. OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were to:

- i)* monitor ground-breaking works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii)* undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that were disturbed by ground-breaking activities;
- iii)* should significant archaeological material be discovered, the preparation of a mitigation strategy compliant with Mrs Stones would be undertaken.

**4. METHOD**

4.1 The archaeological watching brief was designed to fully meet the requirements of the planning authority as advised by Mrs Stones, who required a watching brief during the excavation of a series of test pits spread across the proposed development area (Figure 2). All the ground breaking works were carried out by means of a mechanical excavator (JCB) which was equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was carried out under the direct supervision of an experienced field archaeologist.

4.2 The excavated areas were cleaned where necessary and were recorded according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practice. Digital photographs were taken during the course of the works.

**5. RESULTS**

5.1 The various data gathered from the evaluation are presented as a series of appendices:

- i)* Appendix 1: Test pit Register;
- ii)* Appendix 2: The Photographic Register;
- iii)* Appendix 3 reproduces the Discovery & Excavation entry.

5.2 The fieldwork was undertaken on the 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2007, the weather conditions consisted of a dry, bright day.

5.3 A description of the nature of the deposits encountered can be found in Appendix 1.

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6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were observed.

7 REFERENCES

NPPG 5 National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 5. Archaeology and Planning. January 1994. The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994.

PAN 42 *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994. The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994.

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APPENDIX 1: TEST PIT REGISTER (See figure 1)

**Test Pit No: 1**

Dimensions: 3.6 x 1.10 m

Topsoil depth: 0.30 m

Significant features: None

Other features: Landfill deposits to a depth of 3.30 m

**Test Pit No: 2**

Dimensions: 4.5 x 1.00 m

Topsoil depth: 0.10 m

Significant features: None

Other features: Landfill deposits to a depth of 3.30 m

**Test Pit No: 3**

Dimensions: 2.95 x 1.10 m

Topsoil depth: None

Significant features: None

Other features: Concrete over landfill deposits to a depth of 3.30 m

**Test Pit No: 4**

Dimensions: 4.5 x 1.10 m

Topsoil depth: 0.40 m

Significant features: None

Other features: Landfill deposits to a depth of 1.40 m

**Test Pit No: 5**

Dimensions: 4.25 x 1.00 m

Topsoil depth: 0.55 m

Significant features: None

Other features: Landfill

**Test Pit No: 6**

Dimensions: 4.30 x 1.00 m

Topsoil depth: 0.50 m

Significant features: None

Other features: None

**Test Pit No: 7**

Dimensions: 4.50 x 1.00 m

Topsoil depth: 0.60 m

Significant features: None

Other features: Service trench

**Test Pit No: 8**

Dimensions: 3.50 x 1.10 m

Topsoil depth: 0.80 m

Significant features: None

Other features: None

**Test Pit No: 9**

Dimensions: 3.90 x 1.00 m

Topsoil depth: 0.40 m

Significant features: None

Other features: None

**Test Pit No: 10**

Dimensions: 3.40 x 1.00 m

Topsoil depth: 0.90 m

Significant features: None

Other features: None

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**APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Frame no.	Detail
1	Test Pit 8 – Excavation - working shot
2	Test Pit 8 – Post excavation from north
3	Test Pit 8 – Post excavation from south
4	Test Pit 10 – Post excavation from north
5	Test Pit 10 – Post excavation from south
6	Test Pit 9 – Post excavation from south
7	Test Pit 9 – Post excavation from north
8	Test Pit 7 – Post excavation from north
9	Test Pit 7 – Post excavation from south
10	Test Pit 6 – Post excavation from north west
11	Test Pit 6 – Post excavation from south east
12	Test Pit 5 – Post excavation from east
13	Test Pit 5 – Post excavation from south
14	Test Pit 4 – Post excavation from north
15	Test Pit 4 – Post excavation from east
16	Test Pit 2 – Pre excavation from north east
17	Test Pit 2 – Excavation – working shot
18	Test Pit 3 – Post excavation
19	Test Pits 2&3 – General shot
20	Test Pit 1 – Post excavation

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APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeen City Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Ness Farm Gully Waste Treatment System
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 20693
<b>PARISH:</b>	Nigg (City of Aberdeen)
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alan Duffy
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NJ 9671 0381
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> August, 2007
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> August, 2007
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on site investigation works at a proposed waste treatment facility development at Ness Farm Gully, Tullos Hill, Aberdeen. Neither significant archaeological remains nor features were identified.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	n/a
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Aberdeen City Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
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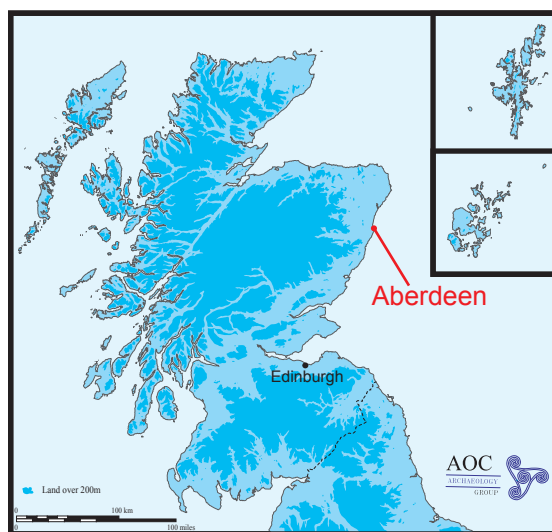


Figure 1: Site location



#### Key

- TP10 Trial Pit Location
- N42 Existing monitoring well location
- Electrical services

Figure 2: Location of test pits