

**LOWER ROSEWELL COTTAGE, SUMMERHILL, ABERDEEN  
REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

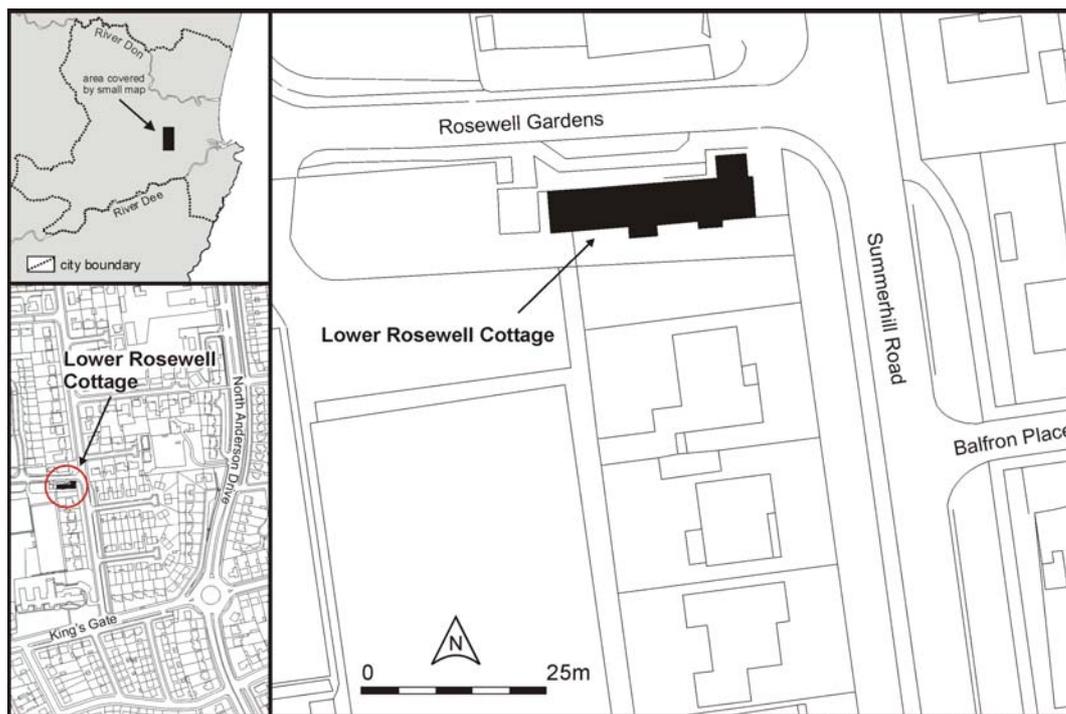


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City of Aberdeen Archaeological Unit  
February 2008

# LOWER ROSEWELL, SUMMERHILL, ABERDEEN REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

## INTRODUCTION

This cottage and associated agricultural buildings are located at the east end of Rosewell Gardens at its junction with Summerhill Road (NJ9085 0620). The buildings are being demolished by Cala Homes to make way for a development of flats and houses. Aberdeen Archaeological Unit were commissioned by Cala to record the buildings prior to and during demolition and this is the report on that work.



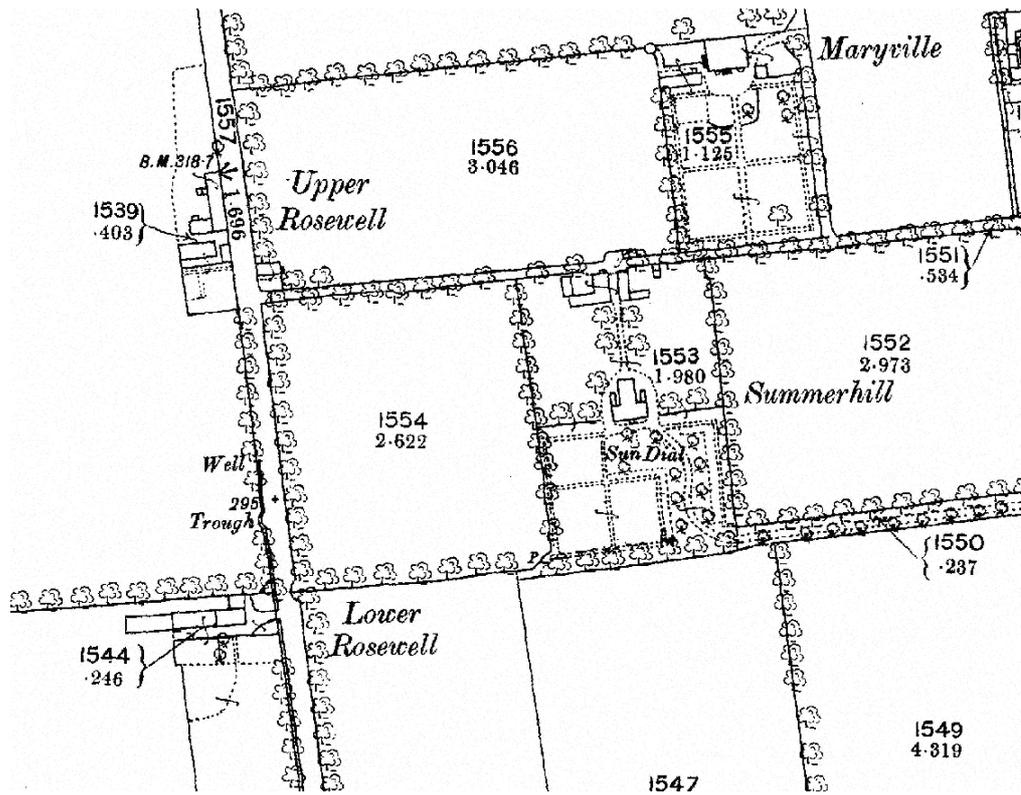
III 1 Location plan

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To record the buildings to a RCAHMS level 2 survey standard prior to demolition
- To observe the buildings during demolition to record any further features.

## HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

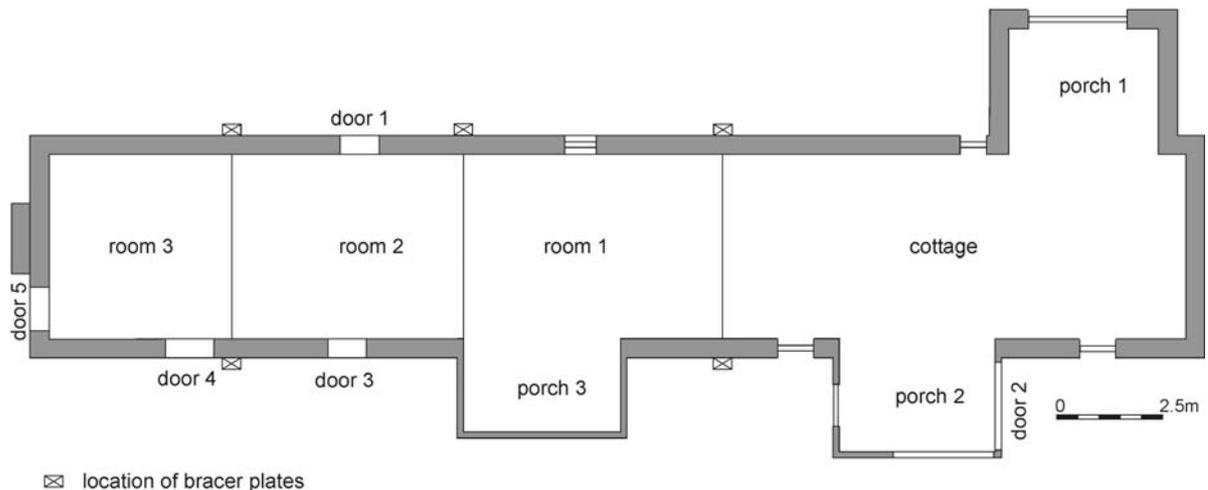
The buildings appear on the Ordnance Survey sheets since 1867. The origins of the property are unknown but they lie 125m SW of Summerhill House (OS 1867; III 2) and may have been agricultural buildings associated with this house. The buildings are owned by St Margaret's School for Girls at time of writing.



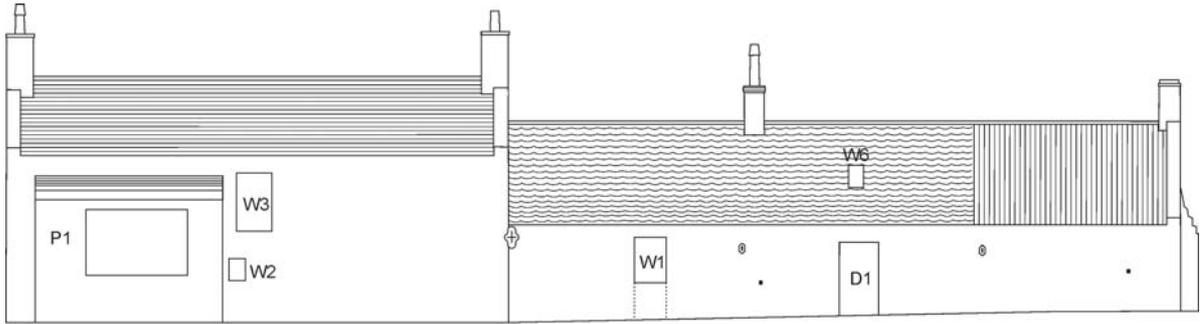
Ill 2 Ordnance Survey, 1867, showing Lower Rosewell, bottom left

## RESULTS

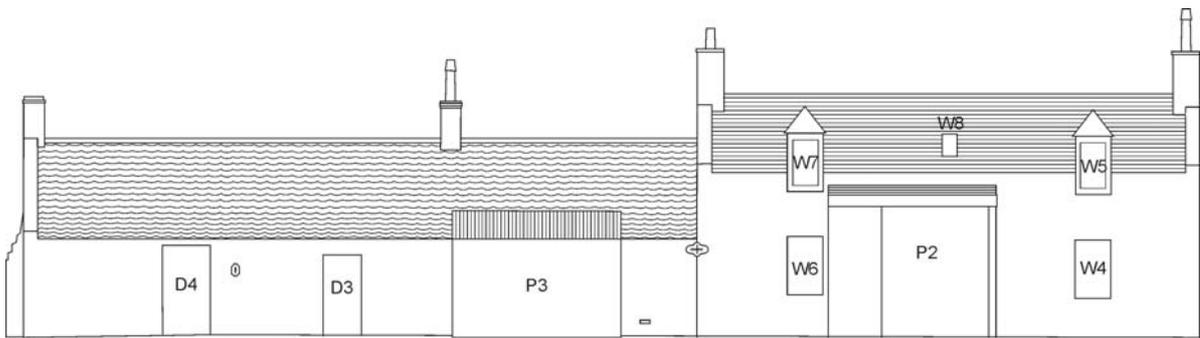
A measured survey of the buildings was undertaken (Ills 3, 4, 5, 6) and all features recorded. The buildings were originally (OS 1867; Ill 7) 18m longer to the west and a fireplace was recorded on the exterior wall of Room 3 (although it was difficult to record as an electricity sub station had been built less than 1m from the gable of the standing building, Ill 8).



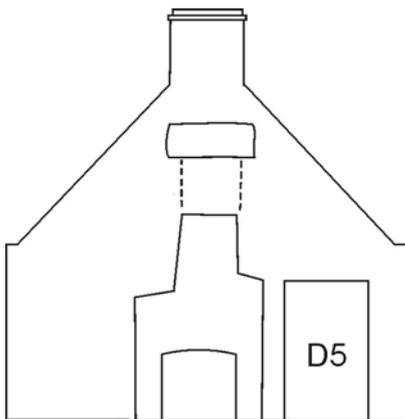
Ill 3 Ground plan; the fireplace is at the extreme left of the building, adjacent to door 5.



III 4 North facing elevation; W = window, P = porch, D = door



III 5 South facing elevation; W = window, P = porch, D = door



III 6 West facing elevation; D = door



Ill 7 Lower Rosewell Cottage (2008) overlain on 1867 Ordnance Survey extract, showing portion of building, probably a cottage, demolished and replaced by an electricity sub station.

### THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS (ROOMS 1, 2 AND 3)

Rooms 1, 2 and 3 formed the earliest phase of the standing building; in their original form none had windows or fireplaces although the door on the north wall of Room 1 had been converted into a window in a later phase. Room 1 was 5 x 5.8m internally; a porch (Porch 3) had been added on to the south side but this was probably a late extension. The room originally had a door in the north wall which was converted to a window in a later period (Window 1). Room 2 was 5 x 5.4m internally and had opposing doors in both the north and south walls (Doors 1 and 3 respectively). Room 3 was 5 x 4.6m internally and had a door in the south wall (Door 4) and one inserted later into the west wall (Door 5). This door had a wooden lintel and had been patched with brick rather than being formed of granite blocks like the other original door surrounds. Adjacent to Door 5, the brick fireplace discussed above could be seen. Presumably the living accommodation associated with the Phase 1 agricultural buildings has been in the demolished west end range of buildings.



Ill 8a Brick fireplace, door 5 and the electricity sub station (left), looking north

III 8b Brick fireplace from the wall of the electricity sub station, looking south



III 9: the west gable end showing fireplace flue and north facing roof



III 10 Granite fieldstone structure of the south wall of Room 3



III 11 The pan tiled roof on the south-facing roof of Roof 2



III 12 Interior of pan-tiled roof



III 13 West end of the Phase 1 structure, facing south-east



Ill 14 Door 1 showing the Phase 1 granite door surround



Ill 15 Window 1 showing scar where this had been a Phase 1 door



III 16 The north wall of Room 1 (right) showing the junction with the Phase 2 cottage (right of vertical ranging rod)



III 17 The Phase 1 building showing three different roofing materials, facing south-west



III 18 The black-glazed pan tiles on the north facing roof of Room 1



Ill 19 The junction between the Phase 1 agricultural buildings (right) and the Phase 2 cottage (left)

Immediately after the 'soft strip' and prior to the demolition, the floors of these rooms was recorded. The original floors were constructed of water-washed pebbles forming a cobbled surface.



Ill 20 The floor of Room 1

#### THE COTTAGE

A granite rubble-built cottage was added on to the east end of the agricultural buildings. At this time it is likely that metal bracers and bracer plates were added to strengthen the earlier structure (see Ill 19). The cottage was recorded after the 'soft strip' and immediately prior to demolition.



III 21 Cottage south facing front facade



III 22 Cottage fireplace, west wall



III 23 Cottage fireplace, east wall, showing original large stone lintel

## CONCLUSIONS

At least 2 phases of this building have been identified with the agricultural building probably being built and the cottage added on. The agricultural building originally had living accommodation attached to the west, which was demolished to make way for the electricity sub station. This building may date to the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century and the later cottage probably to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Recording of the buildings has allowed for a large amount of detail about these buildings to be recorded. Observation of the buildings after the 'soft strip' (after the removal of plasterboard, lath and plaster etc) allowed for many architectural details to be recorded.

Further historical research may reveal more about the origins and dates of this building which was used as a groundskeeper's cottage until the late 1980s/early 1990s.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

No further work is required at this site during the current phase of work by Cala Homes.

## ARCHIVE LOCATION

The archive is lodged with Aberdeen City Council; a copy will be lodged with RCAHMS.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Front cover The south face of the agricultural building, the black-glazed pantiles on the north face of the roof, one of the iron bracer plates.

III 1 Location map

III 2 Ordnance Survey, 1867, showing Lower Rosewell, bottom left

III 3 Ground plan

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## APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Specification for Archaeological Work, Judith Stones

Appendix 2a Photographs pre-demolition

Appendix 2b Photographs Post-demolition

# **ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL, NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CENTRAL**

## **MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**

### **Demolition and Redevelopment at Lower Rosewell, Aberdeen** **Specification for Building Recording**

#### **Summary**

This specification gives an outline of the archaeological value of this site and indicates the works which will be required to record the standing building which occupies part of the site.

#### **1.0 Site Location and Description**

The development site (NJ 9085 0620) lies on the south side of Rosewell Gardens, Aberdeen and is currently occupied by tennis courts and school playing fields. At the north east edge of the site, on the corner of Rosewell Gardens and Summerhill Road, are the surviving buildings of Lower Rosewell, a small farm or croft which appears on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867. The buildings are to be demolished as part of the development.

#### **2.0 Planning Background**

National Planning Policy Guideline 18, Planning and the Historic Environment, paragraph 52 states that 'in cases of demolition or significant alteration of historic buildings, structures or streetscape, planning authorities are encouraged to make it a condition of consent that applicants arrange suitable programmes of recording features that would be destroyed in the course of the proposed works...'

#### **3.0 Historical and Archaeological Background**

Little is known of the history of these buildings, part of which may pre-date their first known cartographic appearance by some time. It is likely that their first construction dates from 19<sup>th</sup>-century agricultural improvement of this area – and it is possible that Lower Rosewell had some relationship with Summerhill House, which lay within impressive gardens some 125 metres north east of the present site. At least part of the standing structure represents a characteristic example of local rural architecture, which should be recorded prior to demilition.

#### **4.0 Previous Archaeological Work**

There has been no previous archaeological work at this site.

#### **5.0 Requirement for Work**

##### **5.1 Building Recording**

All buildings associated with Lower Rosewell which are to be demolished must first be the subject of a standing building assessment equivalent at least to a Level 2 RCAHME Historic Building Survey.

##### **5.2 Watching Brief**

Provision must be made for the archaeological contractor who undertakes the building survey to be present during sufficient of the demolition work to permit recording of any building features which emerge during that process.

#### **6.0 Timetable**

A timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work 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 archaeological 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 Monitoring Arrangements**

It is necessary for the Planning Authority to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the fieldwork 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, Archaeology. The possibility of random inspections should not be excluded.

#### **10.0 Timescale**

The building recording report must be produced within four weeks of the end of the field work.

#### **11.0 Further Information**

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

#### **12.0 Conclusion**

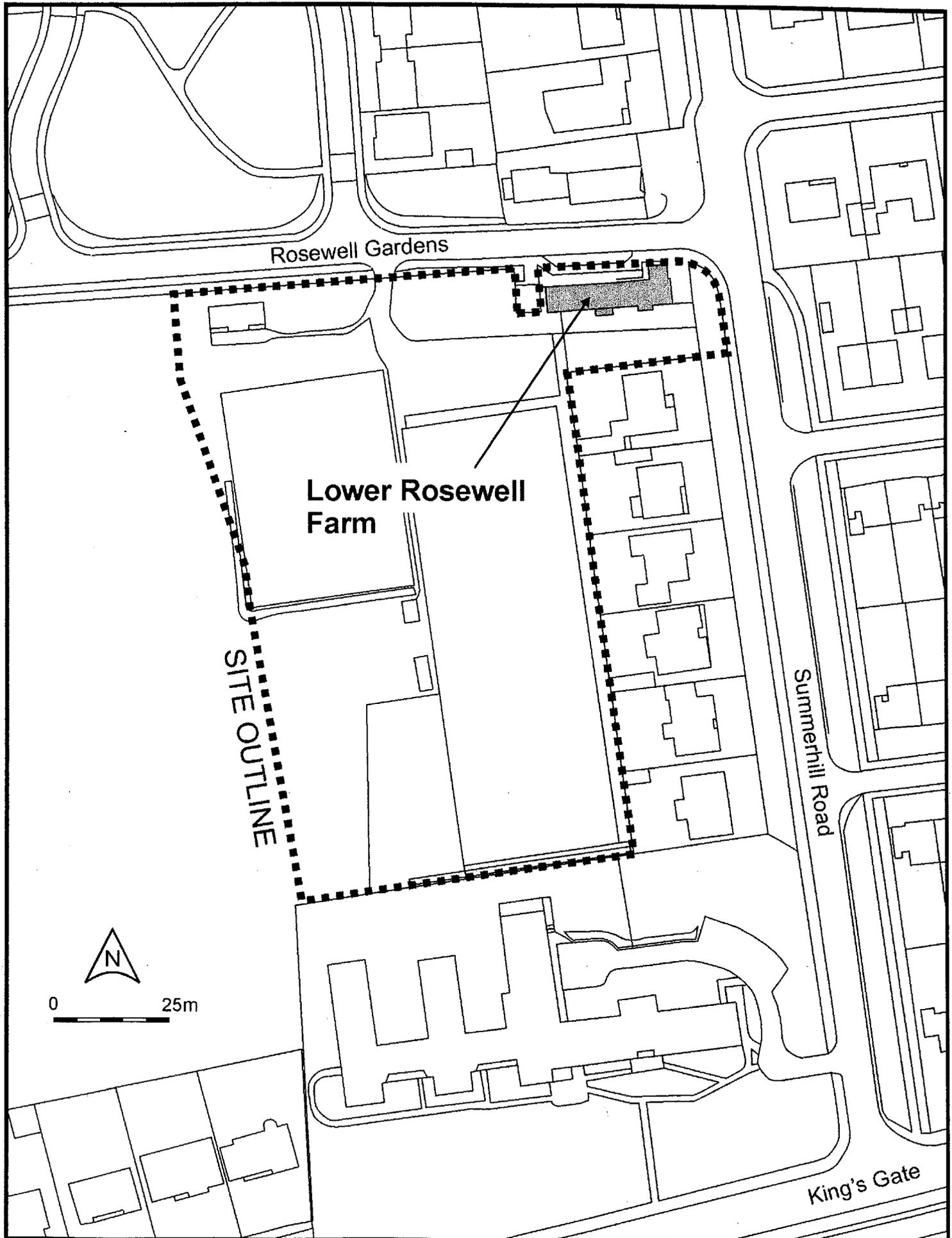
The recording work is to be carried out in compliance with this brief and in the context of NPPG 18.. The selection of any contractor will be subject to approval of the Keeper, Archaeology. Work should be carried out in close liaison with the Keeper, Archaeology.

November 2007

# Proposed Development at Rosewell Gardens, Aberdeen: archaeological specification



ABERDEEN  
CITY COUNCIL





bracer plate next to door 1



bracer plate next to door 1  
(1)



bracer plate next to door 4



bracer plate next to door 4  
(1)



chimney 1 right, chimney 2  
centre and chim 3 right



DSCF0153



DSCF0163



DSCF0173



DSCF0174



DSCF0175



front from NW



Lower Rosewell Farm



north face between door 1  
and window 1



north face black-glazed  
pantiles



north face black-glazed  
pantiles (1)



north face door 1



north face junction between  
old steading and newer co...



north face large bracer at  
junction of old and newer...



north face large bracer at  
junction of old and newer...



north face roof



north face roof (1)



north face west end



north face west end (1)



north face west of door 1



north face west of door 1 (1)



north face west of door 1 (2)



north face west of door 1 (3)



rosewell feb 2008



rosewell feb 2008 (1)



rosewell feb 2008 (2)



rosewell feb 2008 (3)



rosewell feb 2008 (4)



rosewell feb 2008 (5)



rosewell feb 2008 (6)



rosewell feb 2008 (7)



rosewell feb 2008 (8)



rosewell feb 2008 (9)



rosewell feb 2008 (10)



rosewell feb 2008 (11)



south face



south face door 3



south face door 3 (1)



south face door 3 (2)



south face door 4 (1)



south face between door 3 and porch 3



south face between door 3 and porch 3 (1)



south face door 4



south face door 4 (1)



south face west end



south face west end (1)



south face west end (2)



south face west end (3)



south face west end (4)



south side facing garden



south side facing garden (1)



south side porch 3



stewart measuring west gable chimney



stewart measuring west gable chimney (1)



stewart measuring west gable chimney (2)



stewart measuring west gable chimney (3)



stewart measuring west gable chimney (4)



stewart measuring west gable chimney (5)



stewart measuring west gable chimney (6)



stewart on top of electricity sub station photographing



west end gable, chimney and fireplace



west end gable, chimney and fireplace (1)



west end gable, chimney and fireplace (2)



west end gable, chimney and fireplace (3)



west end gable, chimney and fireplace (4)



west end gable, chimney and fireplace (5)



west end gable, chimney  
and fireplace (6)



west end gable, chimney  
and fireplace (7)



window 1



window 1 (1)



25 april demolition



25 april demolition (1)



25 april demolition (2)



25 april demolition (3)



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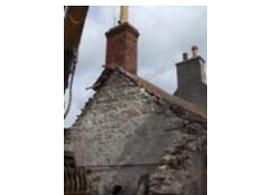
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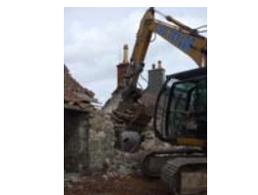
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