

ST JAMES HOUSE, ST JAMES ROAD,
FORFAR, DD8 0ZX
MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT



Cameron Archaeology
12 May 2011

ST JAMES HOUSE, ST JAMES ROAD, FORFAR MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT, DD8 0ZX

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SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out by Cameron Archaeology staff from 11 April - 3 May 2011. Several features relating to the former woollen mill were recorded but there was no evidence of earlier archaeological remains. It is recommended that no further work is required during the current development.

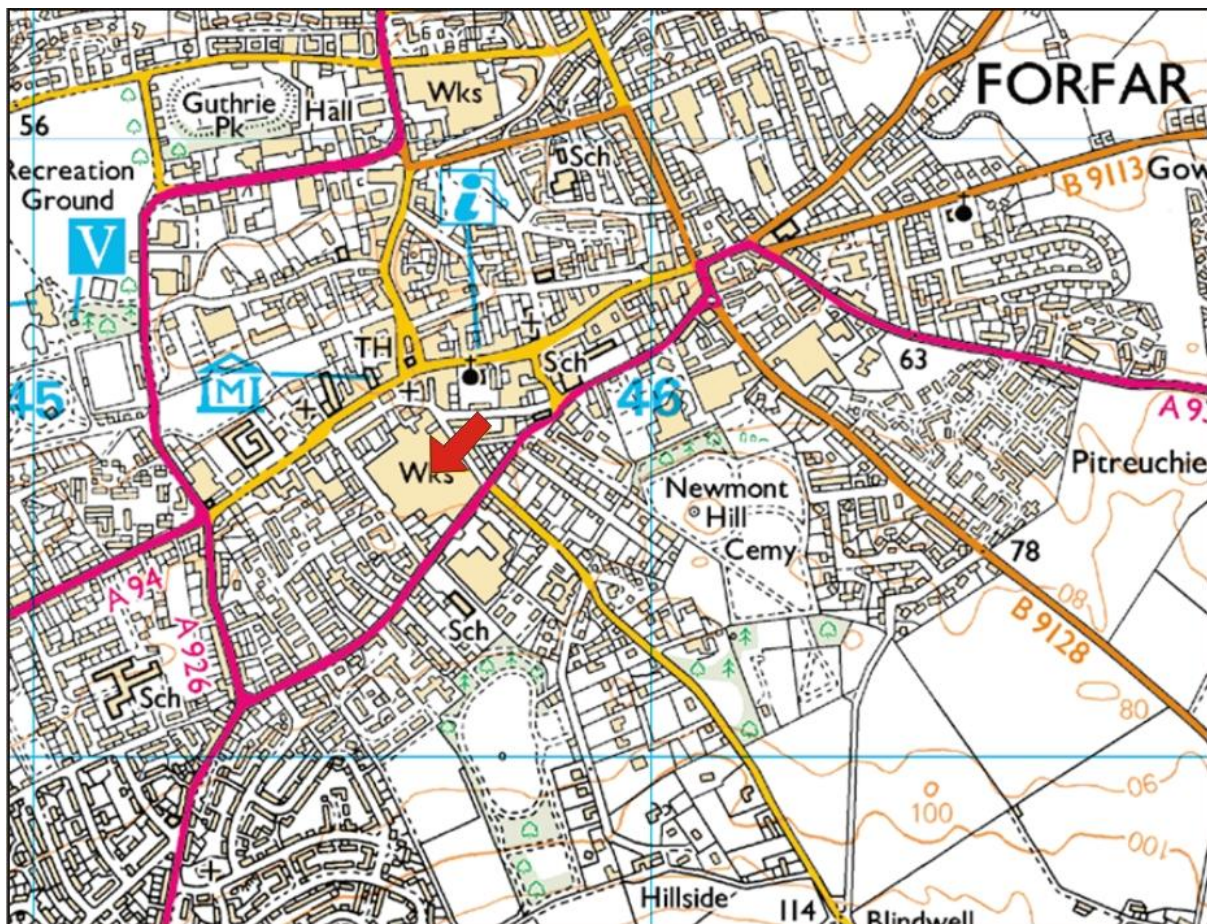
ST JAMES HOUSE, ST JAMES ROAD, FORFAR, DD8 0ZX

1 INTRODUCTION

The site of the proposed mixed use development is located at NJ 45641 50458 in the Parish of Forfar at a height of 68-80m OD. The Angus Council Planning reference is 10/00944/FULM which is full planning permission for the erection of a retail superstore (class 1) with associated car parking, ancillary works and housing. Condition 13 states that an archaeological watching brief must be undertaken by the developer during any ground disturbance.

Cameron Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by John Scott and Stephen Diack of Halliday Fraser Munro for ASDA Stores following the 'Scope and framework of an archaeological watching brief' prepared by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service'.

The watching brief took place from 11 April - 3 May 2011 and was 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.



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

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area of the proposed development lies on the southern edge of the historic core of Forfar.

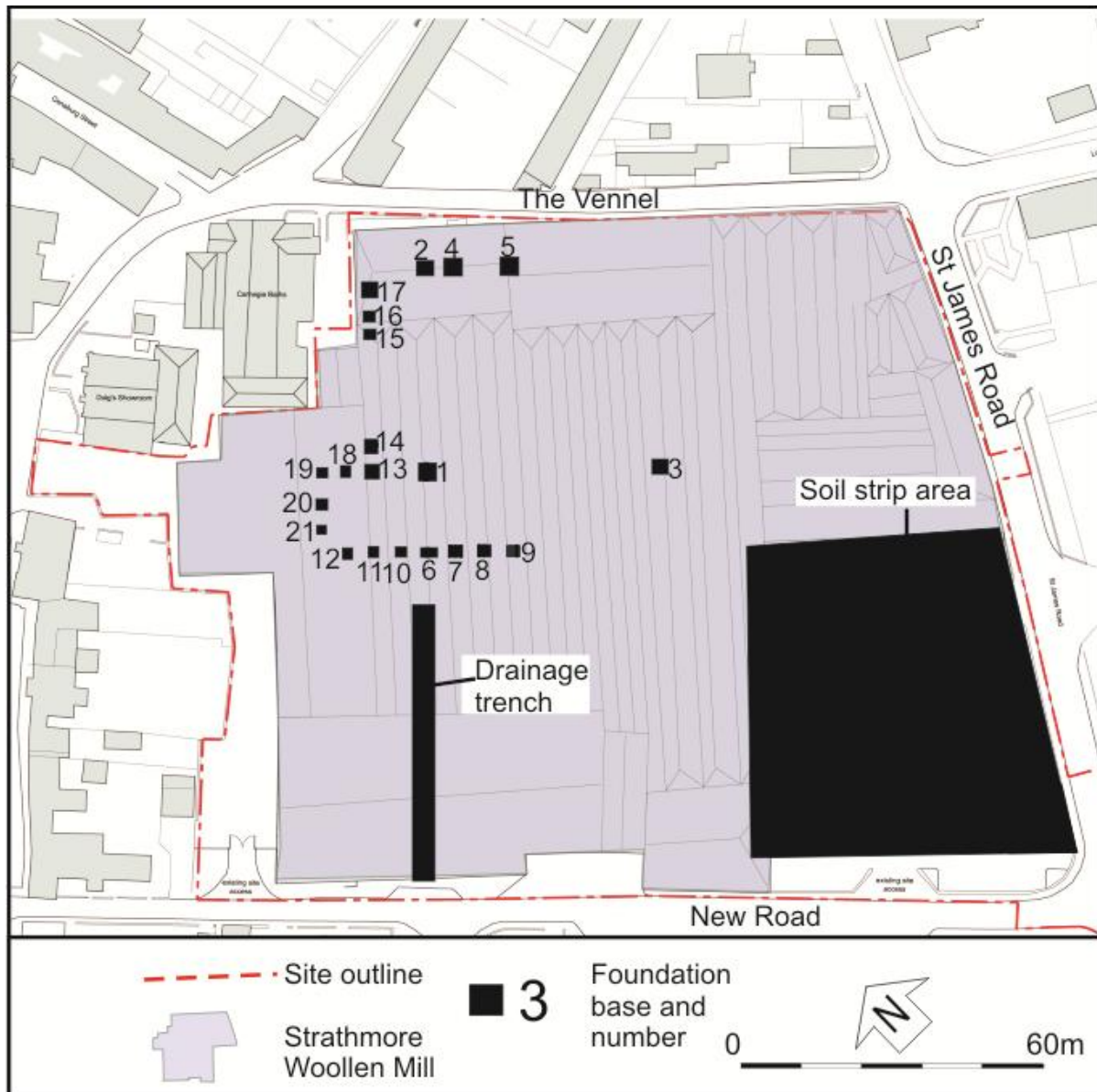
The site previously contained Strathmore Woollens (RCAHMS number NO45SE 104) which is shown on the OS maps from the (c.1888) 2nd edition onwards. On the (c.1846) 1st edition OS map the site is partially occupied by a linen handloom factory at the south-east of the site, a First Free Church at the north-west, a house called 'Sunnybank' at the east and assorted properties and gardens around the perimeter of the site. Hume, in 1974, described the site as being occupied by Strathmore Woollens and that the mill was -mid to late 19th century. A large group of 1-, 2- and 3-storey buildings, with a one-storey, 6-bay renaissance office block. The RCAHMS visited the site in 1998 and noted that the vast majority of the buildings were in sandstone and that part of the complex has been converted into premises for Angus Council's Planning Department. An application to demolish and redevelop the area required an archaeological desk-based assessment which was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Ltd in 2007

To the NW stood the West Port of medieval Forfar in the neighbourhood of the former West Church (now St Margaret's) in West High Street. It was removed in 1777.

To the north of the site was where the Forfar Market Cross stood. In the 19th century it was marked by a cross cut in a stone of the street paving. There is no detailed account of a Market Cross older than 1623. In 1683 the old Cross of Forfar was demolished, and in 1684 Ochterlony wrote that the town was then 'building a very stately cross'. The base was removed to Castle Hill when the Town Hall was built. The shaft has been lost, possibly reused in some building, but the finial - a rough representation of a tower or castellated building - is preserved in the Burgh Buildings. The earliest mention of a proclamation being made from Forfar Cross is in 1491. It is mentioned at various times throughout the 16th century.

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

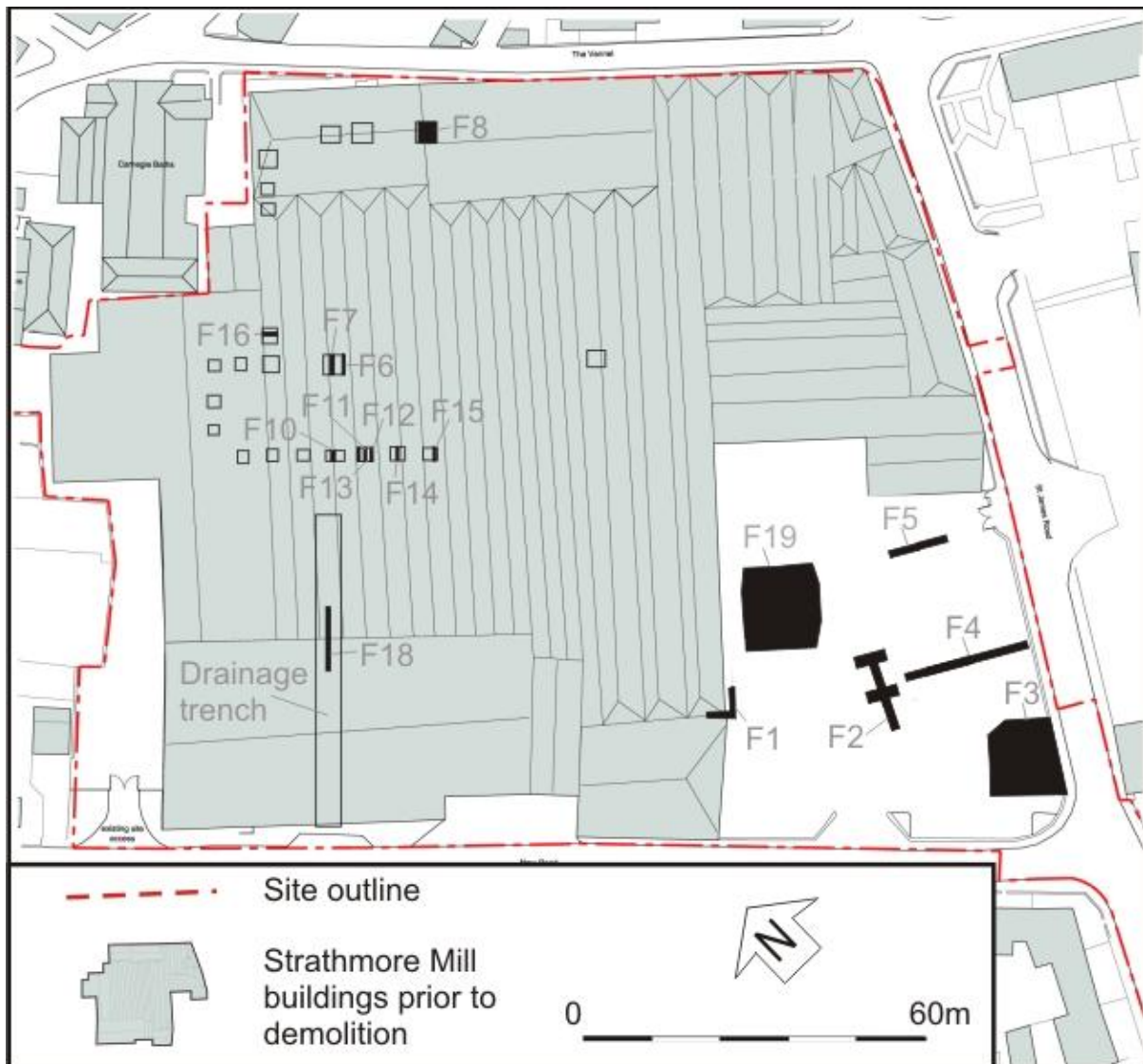
The watching brief took place from 11 April - 3 May 2011. Three areas were monitored including the soil strip area in the SE of the site (see III 2 below), foundation bases in the north-west (21 of 90 bases were observed) and a drainage trench in the south-west. The facade of the north-east corner of the factory has been retained and as this area had basements no observation was deemed necessary.



III 2 Plan showing areas monitored and footprint of Strathmore Woollens

SOIL STRIP AREA

An area approximately 70 x 80m in the SE of the site was observed during the soil strip. Wall F1 appeared to be a wall from the newly-demolished factory and walls F2, F4 and F5 were 20th-century in date and walls of former factory buildings. Brick surface and burning F19 is probably the former location of a chimney (local resident pers comm) and F3 appears to have been a building platform; local residents remembered a house being sited there in the mid to late 20th century.



III 3 Plan of main features recorded during the watching brief



III 4 Soil strip area



III 5 Soil strip area, walls F2 facing south



III 6 Soil strip area, wall F4 facing east



III 7 Soil strip area wall F5 in section, facing east



III 8 Brick floor F19

FOUNDATION BASES

Twenty-one foundation bases were observed; Features F6-F17 were walls and ducts associated with the newly-demolished factory. Further detail of these features appears in archive.



Ill 9 Foundation base 6 showing section through duct F10



Ill 10 Brick floor F8 and slate waste below (context 9)

Foundation base 5 contained a brick floor (Ill 10) c1m below the current ground surface. Sealed under this was a layer of broken slate which was probably waste from roofing the former factory.

DRAINAGE TRENCH

One drainage trench was observed during the archaeological watching brief (Il 3). At the south end of the trench up to 1m of loose rubble lay on top of natural subsoil. The rubble had been laid on the site in 2011 prior to the watching brief starting. At the north end of the trench a duct (F18) survived; it contained large fragments of cast iron pipe and fittings (Ill 12) associated with the former woollen mill



III 11 Drainage trench 1 facing north



III 12 Ironwork found in duct 18, drainage trench

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further work is required during the current development.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to John Scott and Stephen Diack of Halliday Fraser Munro, Tom Cornish and Ken Hutton, BAM Construction, Moira Grieg and Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

6 REFERENCES

Hume, J R 1977 The industrial archaeology of Scotland, 2, the Highlands and Islands London, 134-5.

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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



ASDA, Forfar, CA035 001



ASDA, Forfar, CA035 002



ASDA, Forfar, CA035 003



ASDA, Forfar, CA035 004



ASDA, Forfar, CA035 005



ASDA, Forfar, CA035 006



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ASDA, Forfar, CA035 067



ASDA, Forfar, CA035 068



DSC_1408



DSC_1414



DSC_1419



DSC_1428



DSC_1431



DSC_1440



DSC_1445



DSC_1446



DSC_1454



DSC_1455



DSC_1461



DSC_1475



DSC_1492



DSC_1496



DSC_1499



DSC_1504



DSC_1509



DSC_1514



DSC_1519



DSC_1520



DSC_1530



DSC_1532



DSC_1540



DSC_1546



DSC_1552



DSC_1557



DSC_1563



DSC_1571



DSC_1576



DSC_1581



DSC_1587



DSC_1598



DSC_1599



DSC_1607



DSC_1612



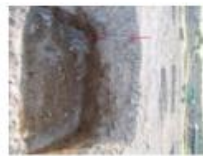
DSC_1619



DSC_1627



DSC_1633



DSC_1640



DSC_1647



DSC_1659



DSC_1664



DSC_1674



DSC_1679



DSC_1680



DSC_1685



DSC_1692



DSC_1693



DSC_1699



DSC_1704



DSC_1709



DSC_1710



DSC_1711



DSC_1712



DSC_1716



DSC_1718



DSC_1726



DSC_1731



DSC_1733



DSC_1745



DSC_1755



DSC_1764



DSC_1770



DSC_1773



DSC_1774



DSC_1781



DSC_1786



DSC_1788



DSC_1794



DSC_1795



DSC_1796



DSC_1801



DSCF0233



DSCF0234



DSCF0235



DSCF0236



DSCF0237



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DSCF0242



DSCF0244



DSCF0245



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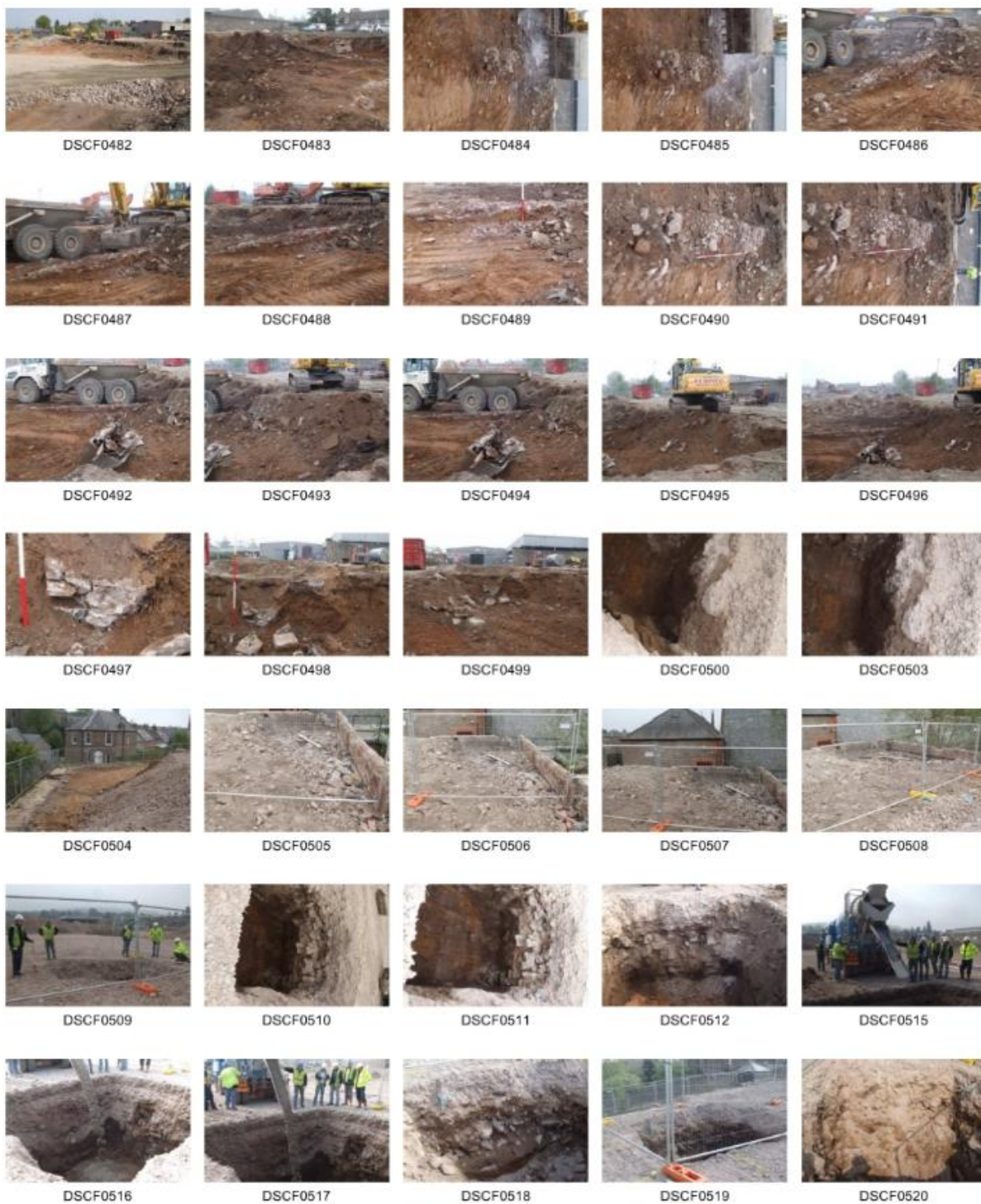
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Photo no	Description	Facing
DSC_1408	Foundation base 9 (right), Foundation base 8, Foundation base 7	N
DSC_1414	Foundation base 12	E
DSC_1419	Foundation base 12	E
DSC_1428	Foundation base 12	E
DSC_1431	Foundation base 11	E
DSC_1440	Foundation base 11	NE
DSC_1445	Foundation base 10	S
DSC_1446	Foundation base 10	S
DSC_1454	Foundation base 10	SW
DSC_1455	Foundation base 10	SW
DSC_1461	Foundation base 6 duct F10	S
DSC_1475	Foundation base 6 duct F10	SSW
DSC_1492	Foundation base 7 wall F11	W
DSC_1496	Foundation base 7 wall F11	W
DSC_1499	Foundation base 7 wall F11	W
DSC_1504	Foundation base 7 wall F12	E
DSC_1509	Foundation base 7 wall F11 (left) F12 (right) with infill (centre)	N
DSC_1514	Foundation base 8 F14	W
DSC_1519	Foundation base 8 F14	W
DSC_1520	Foundation base 8 F14	W
DSC_1530	Foundation base 8 F14	SW
DSC_1532	Foundation base 8 F14	SW
DSC_1540	Foundation base 8 F14	S
DSC_1546	Foundation base 8 F14	S
DSC_1552	Foundation base 8 F14	S
DSC_1557	Foundation base 9 F15	NE
DSC_1563	Foundation base 9 F15	E
DSC_1571	Foundation base 9 F15	SE

DSC_1576	Foundation base 9 F15	S
DSC_1581	Foundation base 13	W
DSC_1587	Foundation base 13	W
DSC_1598	Foundation base 14 F16	W
DSC_1599	Foundation base 14 F16	W
DSC_1607	Foundation bases 15 (foreground) Foundation base 16, Foundation base 17	N
DSC_1612	Base 14 about to be concreted (behind base with Theodolyte)	S
DSC_1619	Base 14 about to be concreted (behind base with Theodolyte)	S
DSC_1627	Base 18	S
DSC_1633	Base 18	S
DSC_1640	Base 19	E
DSC_1647	Base 20	E
DSC_1659	Base 21	E
DSC_1664	Drainage trench 1	N
DSC_1674	Drainage trench 1	E
DSC_1679	Drainage trench 1	NE
DSC_1680	Drainage trench 1	N
DSC_1685	Drainage trench 1	N
DSC_1692	soil strip area	W
DSC_1693	soil strip area	W
DSC_1699	soil strip area	NW
DSC_1704	soil strip area	NW
DSC_1709	soil strip area	N
DSC_1710	soil strip area	NNW
DSC_1711	soil strip area	W
DSC_1712	Drainage trench 1	N
DSC_1716	Drainage trench 1	N
DSC_1718	Drainage trench 1	NE
DSC_1726	Drainage trench 1	E
DSC_1731	Drainage trench 1	NNW
DSC_1733	Drainage trench 1	NNW
DSC_1745	soil strip area	N
DSC_1755	Drainage trench 1; metal fitting from duct F18	E
DSC_1764	Drainage trench 1	E
DSC_1770	Drainage trench 1	N
DSC_1773	Drainage trench 1; metal fitting from duct F18	
DSC_1774	Drainage trench 1	E
DSC_1781	Drainage trench 1; metal fitting from duct F18	
DSC_1786	Drainage trench 1	E
DSC_1788	Drainage trench 1	E
DSC_1794	Drainage trench 1; metal fitting from duct F18	NE
DSC_1795	Drainage trench 1	NE
DSC_1796	Drainage trench 1	NE
DSC_1801	Drainage trench 1	N
DSCF0233	Buried factory walls F1	ESE

DSCF0234	Buried factory walls F1	E
DSCF0235	N end of site showing cut and fill area	E
DSCF0236	Central area of site showing cut and fill area	NE
DSCF0237	Central area of site showing cut and fill area	NE
DSCF0238	Central area of site showing cut and fill area (from gate)	NE
DSCF0239	Central area of site showing cut and fill area and soil strip area (background)	SE
DSCF0240	West area of site showing filled area (right)	NW
DSCF0241	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0242	Soil strip area	NNE
DSCF0244	Soil strip area	S
DSCF0245	Soil strip area	S
DSCF0246	Soil strip area	S
DSCF0247	Soil strip area	W
DSCF0248	Soil strip area	W
DSCF0249	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0250	Soil strip area	W
DSCF0252	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0253	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0254	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0255	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0256	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0257	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0258	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0259	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0260	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0261	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0262	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0263	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0264	Sandstone pediment from top of gatepost?	
DSCF0265	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0266	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0267	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0268	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0269	Soil strip area	S
DSCF0270	Soil strip area	SE
DSCF0271	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0272	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0273	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0274	Soil strip area	SE
DSCF0275	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0276	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0277	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0278	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0279	Soil strip area	W

DSCF0280	Gate post - current entrance into site and possible source for gate pediment	W
DSCF0281	Gate post - current entrance into site and possible source for gate pediment	E
DSCF0282	Gate post - current entrance into site and possible source for gate pediment	
DSCF0283	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0284	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0285	Soil strip area	S
DSCF0286	Soil strip area	S
DSCF0287	Soil strip area	S
DSCF0288	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0289	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0290	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0291	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0292	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0293	Soil strip area - soil section at extreme south of area	S
DSCF0294	Soil strip area	NE
DSCF0295	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0296	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0297	Soil strip area	W
DSCF0298	Soil strip area	S
DSCF0299	Soil strip area	S
DSCF0300	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0301	Soil strip area	W
DSCF0302	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0445	Soil strip area wall F2	E
DSCF0446	Soil strip area wall F2	NE
DSCF0447	Soil strip area wall F2	NE
DSCF0448	Soil strip area wall F2	E
DSCF0449	Soil strip area wall F2	NNW
DSCF0450	Soil strip area wall F2	NNW
DSCF0451	Soil strip area wall F2	E
DSCF0452	Soil strip area wall F2	E
DSCF0453	Soil strip area wall F2	NE
DSCF0454	Soil strip area wall F2	NE
DSCF0455	Soil strip area wall F2	S
DSCF0456	Soil strip area wall F2	S
DSCF0457	Soil strip area wall F2	S
DSCF0458	Soil strip area wall F2	SE
DSCF0459	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0460	Soil strip area	NE
DSCF0461	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0462	Soil strip area	SE
DSCF0463	Soil strip area	E

DSCF0464	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0465	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0466	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0467	Soil strip area	NNE
DSCF0468	Soil strip area	NNE
DSCF0469	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0470	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0471	Soil strip area; stones	
DSCF0472	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0473	Soil strip area NE corner of site scarped to natural in basemented area	N
DSCF0474	Soil strip area NE corner of site scarped to natural in basemented area	N
DSCF0475	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0476	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0477	Soil strip area	NNE
DSCF0478	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0479	Soil strip area	SE
DSCF0480	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0481	Soil strip area	E
DSCF0482	Soil strip area	NE
DSCF0483	Soil strip area	SE
DSCF0484	Soil strip area wall F4	E
DSCF0485	Soil strip area wall F4	E
DSCF0486	Soil strip area wall F4	NE
DSCF0487	Soil strip area wall F4	NE
DSCF0488	Soil strip area wall F4	NNE
DSCF0489	Soil strip area wall F4	N
DSCF0490	Soil strip area wall F4	E
DSCF0491	Soil strip area wall F4	E
DSCF0492	Soil strip area wall F4	N
DSCF0493	Soil strip area	NE
DSCF0494	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0495	Soil strip area	NE
DSCF0496	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0497	Soil strip area wall F5 in section	E
DSCF0498	Soil strip area wall F5 in section	E
DSCF0499	Soil strip area wall F5 in section	E
DSCF0500	Foundation base 1 soil	W
DSCF0503	Foundation base 1 soil	W
DSCF0504	NW corner of site showing scarped area - area of bases 15, 16, 17	N
DSCF0505	Walls adjacent to baths (in background) at west of site	W
DSCF0506	Walls adjacent to baths (in background) at west of site	W
DSCF0507	Walls adjacent to baths (in background) at west of site	W
DSCF0508	Walls adjacent to baths (in background) at west of site	NW
DSCF0509	Foundation base 1 location	S
DSCF0510	Foundation base 1 wall F6 (right) duct F7 (centre)	N
DSCF0511	Foundation base 1 wall F6 (right) duct F7 (centre)	N

DSCF0512	Foundation base 1 wall F6 (right) duct F7 (centre)	N
DSCF0515	Foundation base 1 being cemented immediately after recording	SE
DSCF0516	Foundation base 1 being cemented immediately after recording	S
DSCF0517	Foundation base 1 being cemented immediately after recording	S
DSCF0518	Foundation base 2	N
DSCF0519	Foundation base 2	N
DSCF0520	Foundation base 2	W
DSCF0521	Foundation base 2	W
DSCF0523	Foundation base 3	E
DSCF0524	Foundation base 3	S
DSCF0525	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0526	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0528	Foundation base 2	N
DSCF0529	Foundation base 2	NW
DSCF0530	Foundation base 2	W
DSCF0531	Foundation base 2	S
DSCF0532	Foundation base 2	S
DSCF0533	Foundation base 2	S
DSCF0534	Foundation base 2 location	N
DSCF0535	Foundation base 3 location	E
DSCF0536	Foundation base 3 location	E
DSCF0537	Foundation base 3 location	E
DSCF0539	Foundation base 3	
DSCF0540	Foundation base 3	
DSCF0541	Foundation base 3	
DSCF0542	Soil strip area	W
DSCF0543	Soil strip area	N
DSCF0544	Foundation base 3	NW
DSCF0545	Foundation base 3	N
DSCF0546	Foundation base 3	N
DSCF0547	Foundation base 3	NW
DSCF0549	Foundation base 4	NW
DSCF0550	Foundation base 4	NE
DSCF0551	Foundation base 4	NNE
DSCF0552	Foundation base 4	N
DSCF0553	Foundation base 4	N
DSCF0554	Foundation base 4	
DSCF0555	Foundation base 4	N
DSCF0556	Foundation base 4	NNW
DSCF0557	Foundation base 4	NW
DSCF0558	Foundation base 4	NW
DSCF0562	Foundation base 5	W
DSCF0563	Concreting base 4	W

DSCF0564	Concreting base 4	W
DSCF0565	Foundation base 5	S
DSCF0566	Foundation base 5 west face	W
DSCF0567	Foundation base 5 south face brick floor F8 and slate chippings below (9)	SW
DSCF0568	Foundation base 5 south face brick floor F8 and slate chippings below (9)	S
DSCF0569	Foundation base 5 south face brick floor F8 and slate chippings below (9)	S
DSCF0570	Foundation base 5 south face brick floor F8 and slate chippings below (9)	S
DSCF0571	Foundation base 5 south face brick floor F8 and slate chippings below (9)	SW
DSCF0572	Foundation base 5	SW
DSCF0573	Foundation base 5	W
DSCF0574	Foundation base 5	W
DSCF0575	Foundation base 5	SW

APPENDIX 2 CONTEXTS

Context no	Location	Description
F1	Watching brief area	L-shaped fragment of breeze-block walls
F2	Watching brief area	Breeze block wall with two 'buttresses' in stone and brick
F3	Watching brief area	Compacted area, building base? in SW corner of site
F4	Watching brief area	0.85m wide stone wall foundation with hard white mortar
F5	Watching brief area	0.7m wide stone wall foundation with hard white mortar
F6	Foundation base 1	Concrete wall with footing at east side of trench 2m down from ground surface
F7	Foundation base 1	Duct: two parallel 0.3m wide stone walls separated by 1m gap loosely filled with rubble
F8	Foundation base 5	Brick floor on top of Context 9
9	Foundation base 5	Slate chippings, dump from roof slate working; under F8
F10	Foundation base 6	Duct probably = F7 but with large diameter metal pipe in situ in duct
F11	Foundation base 7	Stone and brick wall foundation 3m from F12, infilled with rubble
F12	Foundation base 7	Stone and brick wall foundation 3m from F11, infilled with rubble
F13	Foundation base 7	Stone wall foundation 0.4m wide
F14	Foundation base 8	Duct as F7, walls 0.4m wide
F15	Foundation base 9	Duct as F7, walls 0.4m wide
F16	Foundation base 14	Duct as F7, walls 0.4m wide
17	Foundation bases 13 and 14	Compact clays and soils around duct F16
F18	Drainage trench 1	Duct as F7, walls 0.4m wide
F19	Watching brief area	Brick floor