

**Report on the archaeological evaluation
Silverburn Phase 2, Corunna Road, Bridge of Don,
Aberdeen, AB23 8DA**



Cameron Archaeology Ltd

7 November 2011

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Silverburn Phase 2, Corunna Road, Bridge of Don on 3-4 November 2011. Six trenches totaling 7% of the available area were excavated but no significant archaeological remains were uncovered. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site during the current development although the final decision remains with Aberdeen City Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

This site is c 1.5 hectares in size and the client, Scotia Homes (North) Ltd (contact Denis Harper), has applied for planning permission for a proposed residential development of 15 units (Aberdeen City Council planning reference P110406). The site is in Old Machar parish, the NGR for the site is NJ 94966, 09959 and it lies at 15-20m OD. The site is 500m north of the new Bridge of Don and it is bounded on the south-east by Links Road, on the north-west by Corunna Place and on the west by The Gordon Barracks/Aberdeen College Gordon Centre. There are wide banks of trees on the east and the north of the site, a 20th-century building in the NW, a tennis court in the centre surrounded by bushes; this cut down the area available for the evaluation.



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

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There are no known sites of archaeological interest within the development area . The area appears to have been farmland prior to the 20th century. It is farmland in the mid 18th century (Ill 4) and there are no structures on the First, Second and Third Ordnance Survey maps (Ill 5).

2.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on a 40 hectare site at Findlay Farm (NJ91SE 43) just north of the Exhibition Centre. The site produced 840 flints, prehistoric pottery and slag as well as post-holes probably dating to the later prehistoric period (Cameron 2009, 13). Previous building on the current site may have damaged underlying deposits but there is potential that this land may also contain archaeological remains of this type as it also lies in the coastal zone.

2.2 The current site is adjacent to buildings belonging to the Gordon Barracks which was opened in 1935 and closed as barracks in the 1980's (NJ90NW 409.00; NJ 9470 0990).



Ill 2 Aerial photograph with site outline (copyright Google)

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

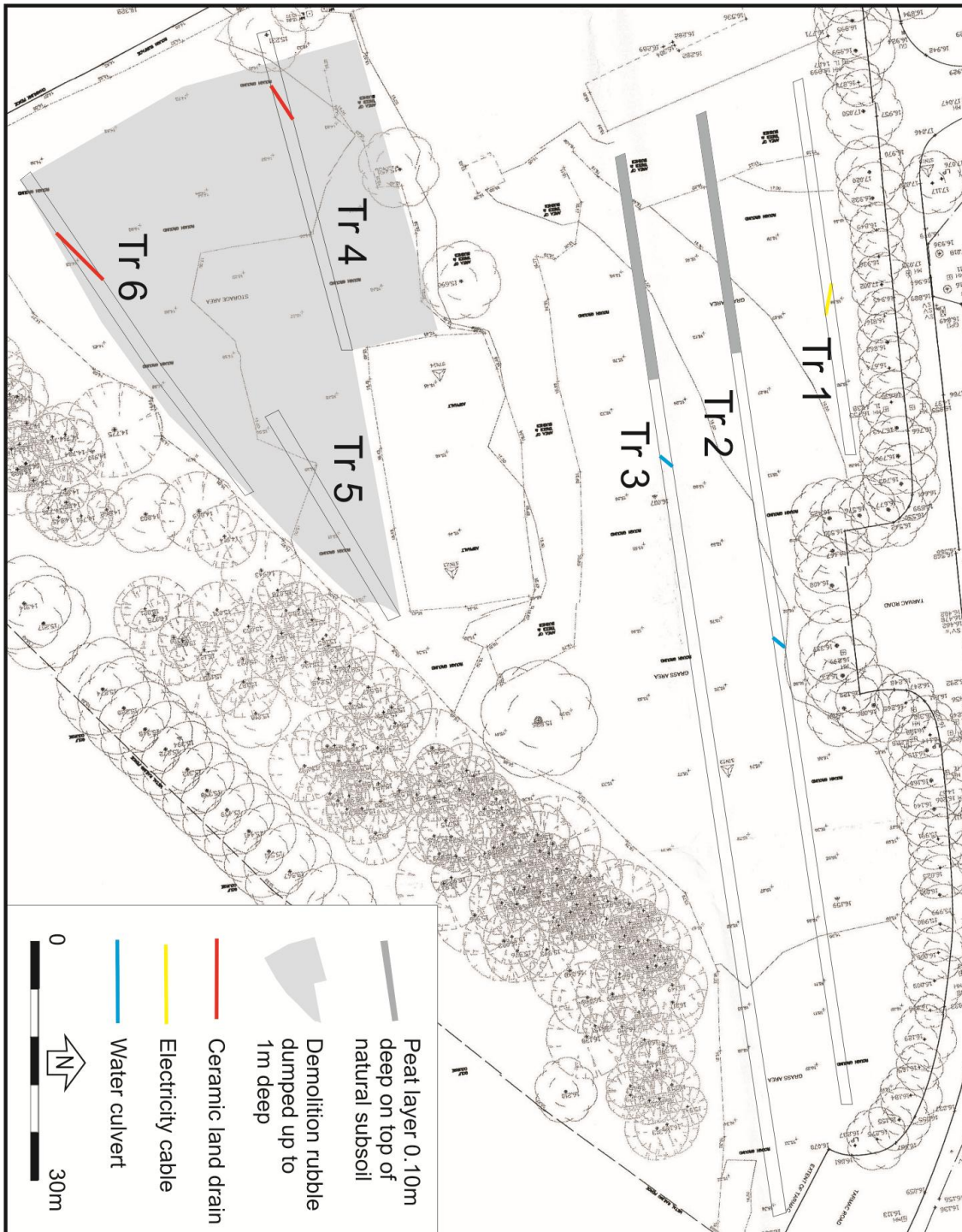
The archaeological evaluation took place on 3-4 November 2011. Six trenches (totaling 7% of the available area) were excavated with a tracked machine with 1.5m ditching bucket.



Ill 3 Existing layout with evaluation trenches

Trenches 1-3

Trenches 1-3 were excavated at the north end of the site opposite a range of buildings which were the Officers quarters of The Gordon Barracks. The topsoil was 0.2-0.25m deep and the natural subsoil was sand at the east end and gravel at the west. A thin (0.1m deep) layer of peat was recorded above the gravel natural at the west (Ill 4). An electricity cable was uncovered in Trench 1; it was probably associated with the site compound which previously occupied the site. The trench for a culvert was identified in Trenches 2 and 3; Scotia Homes had provided a plan for this service trench; the trench was 1m wide and was left unexcavated.



III 4 Trench plan showing features



Ill 5 Trench 2 showing sand natural (left; facing W), Trench 4 showing ceramic land drain F3 (right; facing W)

Trenches 4-6

Trenches 4-6 were excavated in the southern part of the site adjacent to a former tennis court. The ground appeared to have been disturbed, was hummocky and overgrown with nettles. The trenches revealed that up to 1m of modern building rubble (sewer pipe, stone, brick, plastic and wood) had been dumped in this area (Ill 4); in places the plough soil had been completely removed and the rubble dumped on the natural sand. In other places some plough soil remained; it was up to 20cm deep and waterlogged. Several land drains were identified including two ceramic drains in 0.5m wide trenches filled with small angular stones. Details of all features appear in archive.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site; this is subject to advice from Aberdeen City Council.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Denis Harper, Scotia Homes (North) Ltd, Andy Bonner, ASB Plant Hire and Judith Stones, Aberdeen City Council.

6 REFERENCES

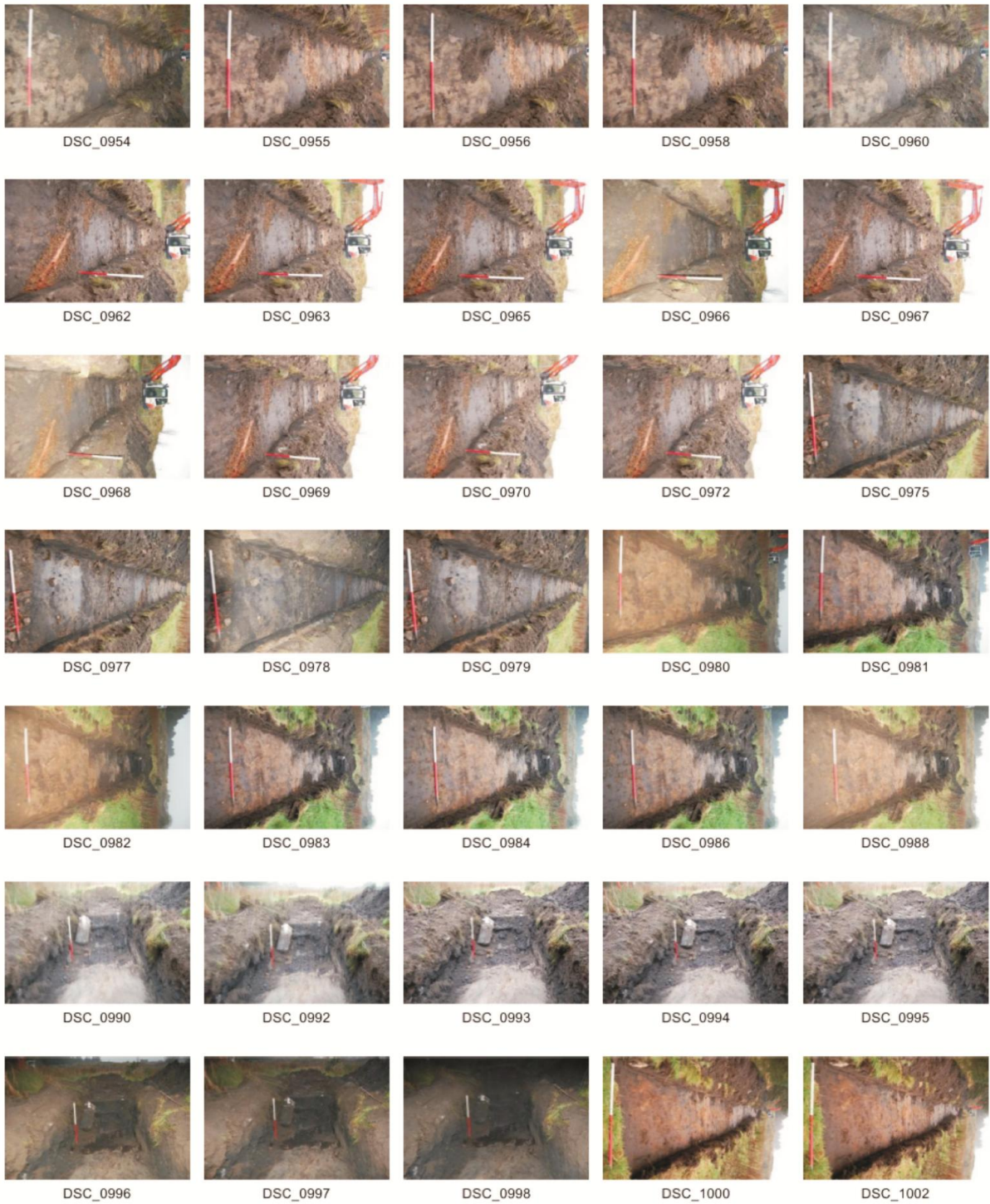
Cameron, A (2009) 'Findlay Farm (Kingfisher Industrial Estate), Aberdeen City (Old Machar parish), building recording, field evaluation and walkover survey', *Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol.10* Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.
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APPENDIX 1







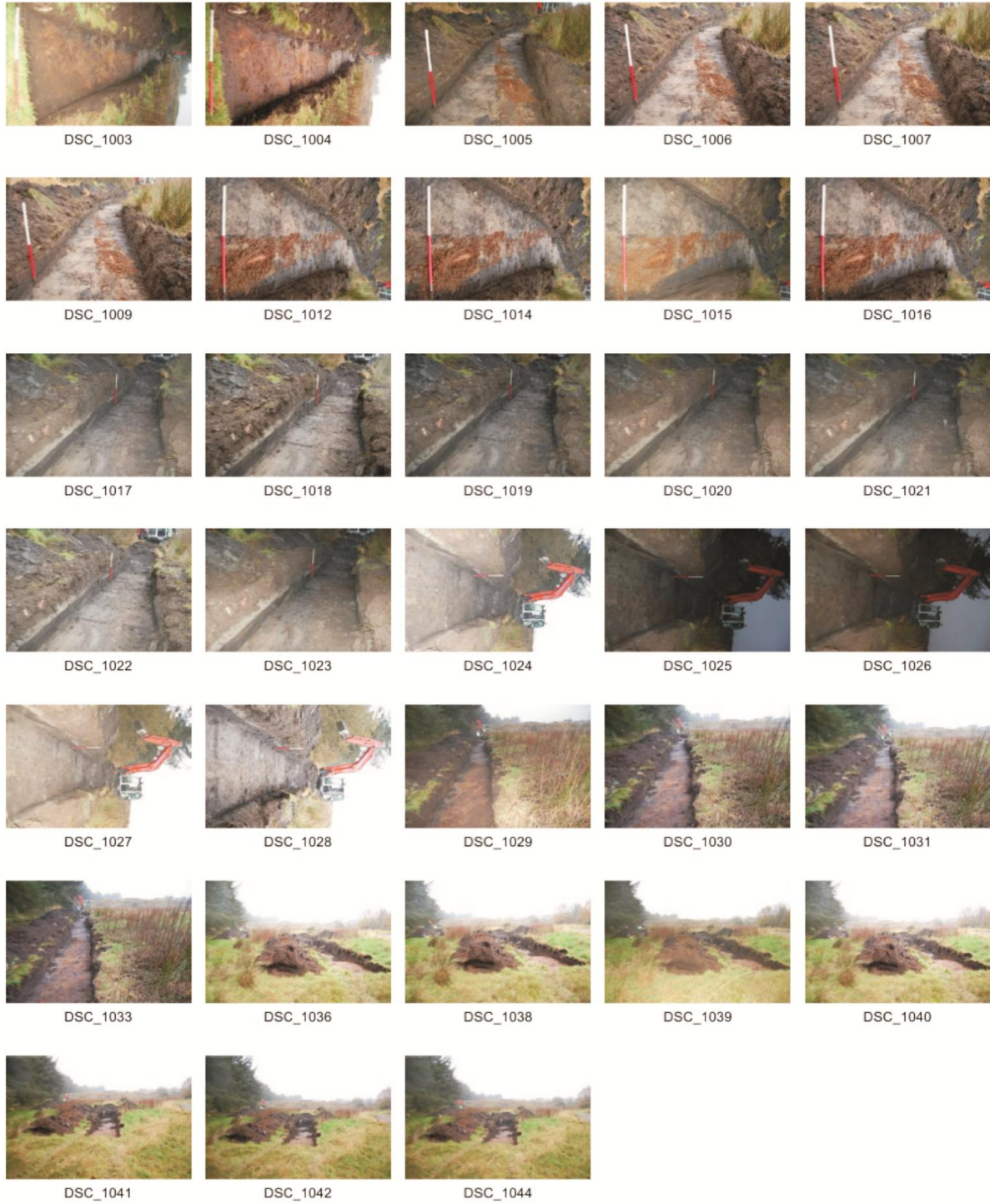


Photo number	Description	Facing
DSC_0843-846	Trench 1	W
DSC_0849-852	Trench 1 electric cable cut through	S
DSC_0853-856	Trench 1 electric cable cut through	N
DSC_0857-860	Trench 1	E
DSC_0863-866	Trench 1 (left) Tr 2 (right)	ESE
DSC_0867-870	Trench 2 (left) Tr 3 (right)	SE
DSC_0873-876	Trench 2	E
DSC_0877-881	Tr 2 F2 Culvert cut into natural subsoil	S
DSC_0886-887	Tr 2 Sand natural subsoil	S
DSC_0888-891	Tr 2	W
DSC_0894-898	Tr 3 (left) Tr 2 (middle)	WSW
DSC_0899-902	Tr 3	W
DSC_0905-909	Tr 3 (left) Tr 2 (right)	W
DSC_0910-914	Tr 3	WNW
DSC_0917-920	Tr 3 (left)	NW
DSC_0921-925	Tr 3 with ex Officers Quarters (background)	N
DSC_0928-931	Tr 3 & Tr 2 with ex Officers Quarters (background)	NNW
DSC_0932-935	Tr 3 (foreground) Tr 2 (background)	NE
DSC_0938-945	Tr 3	E
DSC_0948-953	Tr 4	W
DSC_0954-960	Tr 4 deep plough marks	W
DSC_0962-972	Tr 4 F3 ceramic drain in 0.5m trench filled with pebbles	W
DSC_0975-979	Tr 4	E
DSC_0980-988	Tr 5	W
DSC_0990-998	Tr 5 rubble dumped on natural subsoil	W
DSC_1000-1004	Tr 6	W
DSC_1005-1016	Tr 6 west end, ceramic drain F5	W
DSC_1017-1028	Tr 6 west end showing rubble on surface laid above plough soil	W
DSC_1029-1033	Tr 6	W
DSC_1036-1040	Tr 5 (right) Tr 6 (left)	W
DSC_1040-1044	Tr 5 (right) Tr 6 (left)	WSW