

# Report on watching brief South Kirkhill Farmhouse, St Fittick's Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9QT



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## SUMMARY

Earthworks associated with the construction of a community garden were observed by an archaeologist. At the SW of the site adjacent to the road rubble from the former farm was observed and at the NE natural subsoil was present under a shallow cover of topsoil. No archaeological features were identified. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this current development.

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Cover (top) Natural subsoil at north end of site (bottom) saddle quern built into wall on St Fittick's Road

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The site lies at NJ96094 05163 and at a height of 25-35m OD in the parish of Aberdeen. An application for Change of use from a former farm and Council depot to a community garden at South Kirkhill Farmhouse, St Fittick's Road, St Fittick's Depot (P110845) was passed conditionally by Aberdeen City Council on 18.8.11 with a standard archaeology condition (condition 10). The applicant was Mrs Lynn Smith, Aberdeen Forward, 2 Poynerook Road, Aberdeen, AB11 5RW.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012).

## 2 BACKGROUND

The site is on St Fittick's Road 200m NW of the medieval St Fittick's Church. A saddle quern is built into the wall of the farm and this is undisturbed by this development. Rig and furrow cultivation survives on the golf course to the east of this site and Torry Battery a coastal defence battery built in 1860 is located 200m to the NE. The site was occupied by South Kirkhill Farm until recently and this was demolished prior to this development.

In 2008 a watching brief was maintained on test pits (Peters 2008) but no significant remains were discovered during this work. The farmhouse and saddle quern were also recorded during this work.



Illus 2 Plan showing site outline in red and former farm (copyright Aberdeen City Council)

### 3. RESULTS

Natural subsoil was uncovered at the north of the development area and rubble from the former farmhouse at the west of the site near St Fittick's Road (Illus 3) were recorded during the watching brief on 20 June 2012.



Illus 3 Rubble from former farmhouse on St Fittick's Road



Illus 4 Natural subsoil at north of site

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

This site has been heavily disturbed by the construction of South Kirkhill Farm and associated sheds and garden and as a result no archaeological contexts or finds were recorded. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this current development.

#### **5 REFERENCES**

Peters, C 2008 'South Kirkhill Farm, Aberdeen, Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief (Site Code O446)'.  
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/details.cfm?id=4448>

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## APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



| Photo no     | Description  | Facing |
|--------------|--|--------|
| DSC_0334-343 | NE corner of site  | E      |
| DSC_0344-355 | NE corner of site  | S      |
| DSC_0356-366 | NW corner of site  | W      |
| DSC_0367-370 | NW corner of site  | NW     |
| DSC_0371-376 | east side of site  | NW     |
| DSC_0377-386 | South side of site showing rubble from former farmhouse                                | W      |
| DSC_0387-391 | North edge of site showing natural subsoils  | E      |
| DSC_0392-396 | Site of former farmhouse from SW of site   | SE     |
| DSC_0397-401 | Wall at west side of site showing SW corner of former farm garden                      | S      |
| DSC_0402-407 | Wall at west side of site showing NW corner of former farm garden on St Fittick's Road | N      |