

**Victoria House, 84 West North Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5HT**  
**Standing Building Survey and watching brief**



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30 November 2012

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Cover (top) the NE King Street facade showing Phase 1 house  
(bottom) Trial pit 4 showing F12 a dump of mortar, plaster, brick and stone rubble

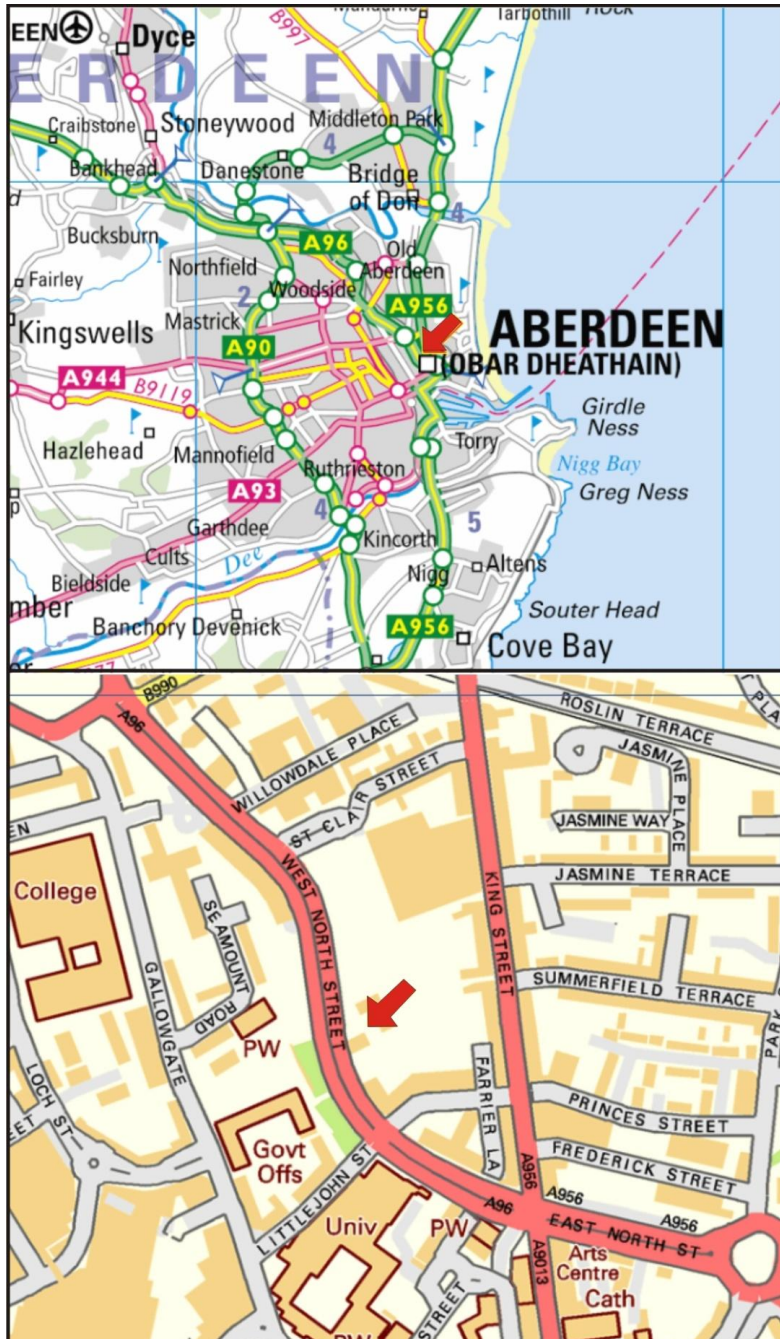
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

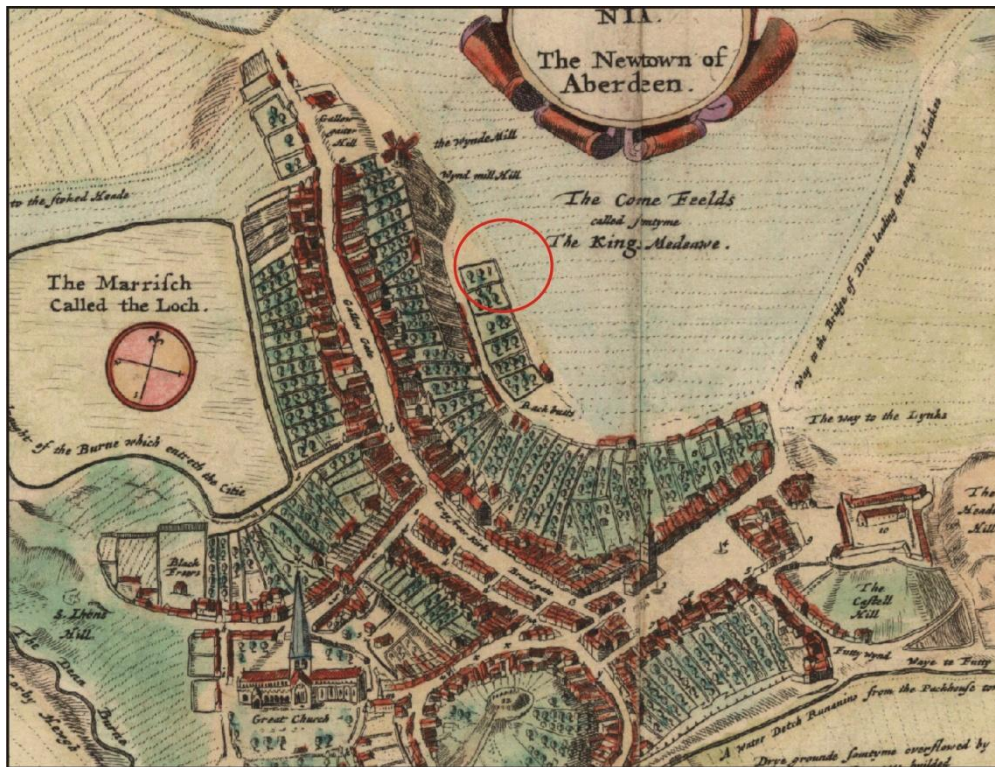
The client, Aberdeen City Council, is carrying out test pits at Victoria House, 84 West North Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5HY (Illus 1). The site is located on the east side of West North Street between the flats at the corner of Mealmarket Street/West North Street and Morrison's Superstore car park (Illus 1). The site is located at NJ 94416, 06554 at 10-15m OD and in the parish of Aberdeen. There are no current planning applications relevant to this work. The watching brief was commissioned by Gary Duguid, Senior Architect, Aberdeen City Council and the Standing building survey arranged through Judith Stones and Bill Watson, both Aberdeen City Council.



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

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies on the eastern edge of the burgh of medieval Aberdeen (Illus 2). Excavation at the site of the flats on Mealmarket Street revealed that this low-lying area between Broad Street/Gallowgate and the slightly higher ground (now King Street) had been a boggy area in the medieval period (Cameron 2002, 7). There have been many excavations in the adjacent streets including Gallowgate, Broad Street and Upperkirkgate which produced well-preserved waterlogged medieval material as well as earlier prehistoric remains.



Illus 2 Parson James Gordon's map of Aberdeen, 1661 showing approximate area of site (circled in red). (Copyright National Libraries of Scotland).

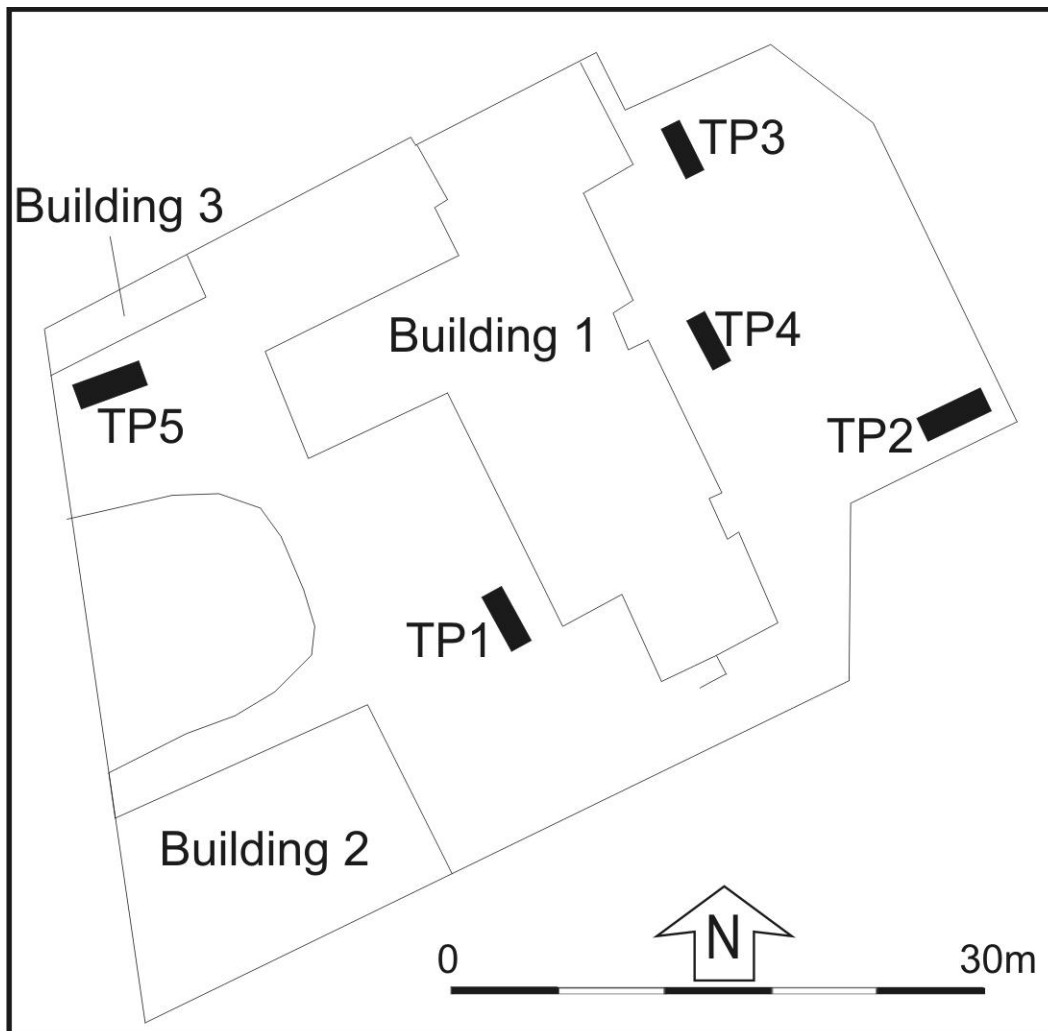
Victoria House (NJ90NW 2679) is a former Aberdeen City Council hostel. The building was the 'North Lodge' on the First Edition Ordnance survey map (Illus 3) and there is a substantial garden to the east and associated building to the south. There is a granite works to the north. Observation of two trial pits in June 2010 (Hall 2010) revealed that the garden area at the east of the Victoria House main building had been artificially raised using building rubble and glass bottles and clay pipe finds suggest an 18th to 19th-century date for these deposits.

### 3 WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was maintained by Cameron Archaeology staff on the digging of test pits on 12-15 November 2012. Five trial pits, three in the rear (east) garden and two at the West North Street side of the building (Illus 3) were observed.

In TP2-4 in the rear garden there was 0.7m wet garden soil above the clay natural subsoil but this did not contain any finds. Above this 0.8m very dark grey enriched light garden soil contained sparse 19th-20th-century finds including a dog skull and ceramic sherds. In TP3 a dump of brick, stone and mortar below the topsoil was probably from building or demolition work at the site; the north wing was partially demolished in the late 19th century as was part of the brick garden wall. TP4 contained a dump of stone, brick, mortar and plaster (7) including hand-made bricks 225 x 110 x 65mm in size in a pit cut down to the natural subsoil. This had also come from a building or demolition event at the site.

The garden soils contained few finds and non earlier than the late 18th/early 19th-century period and are deposits expected in a formal garden of this type where gardeners enriched topsoil to great depths. The lower level of waterlogged garden soil indicates that this site is on the very edge of medieval Aberdeen and confirms that development had not reached this area by the time of Parson Gordon's map in the late 17th century (Illus 2).



Illus 3 Plan showing test pit locations (from plan copyright Mott MacDonald)





Illus 4 TP 2 showing enriched garden soil above a heavy clay garden soil below



Illus 5 TP3 dump of brick, stone and mortar (7)



## 4 STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

The standing building survey was carried out on 15-16th November 2012. There was no access to Building 1 as it is in poor condition; it might be possible to access this during a soft strip during the demolition. Access was possible to Building 2. There were slight limits on the recording as the work took place during the digging of the boreholes; undergrowth had been cleared from much of the gardens at the NE side of the buildings and this allowed access to some of the boundary walls and an improved view of the building itself. Material had been piled next to SW side of the building allowing limited access to some of the walls.

### BUILDING 1

#### Phase 1

Building 1 was 16.3m long and 12.5m wide and the front (east) facade is constructed of roughly worked grey granite blocks with pink grey granite blocks around the windows. The side and rear walls are of plain grey granite blocks. The building has a two bay centrepiece and William Adam-style portico (Illus 6). The building had a single-storey wing at each end and one survives at the SE end. It is of brick and sandstone construction (Illus 8) and is entered from the SW by balustraded steps to the basement (Illus 10). This wing is constructed of a lean-to shed with a single-thickness wall facing onto the front (east) side which creates an impressive facade from King Street (Illus 9).

The facade of this building and the Georgian style chimney stacks suggest that the building might originate in the 18th century.



Illus 6 Building 1 with Door 2 (left) and Door 5 (right)





Illus 7 Building 1 NE 'front' facade facing on top King Street. Door 3 (left) and Door 4 (right) later converted to windows (W1/W2) after the insertion of poured concrete doors D2 and D5



Illus 8 Building 1 SE wing with D1

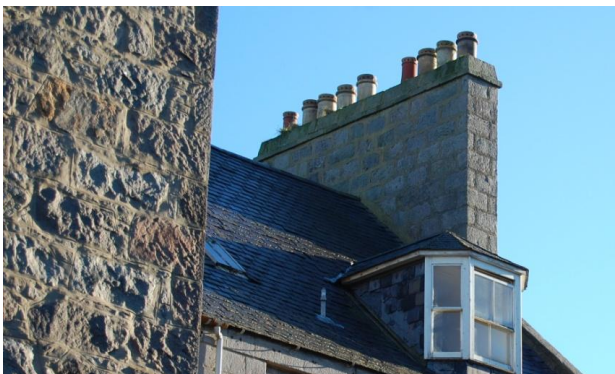




Illus 9 Building 1 SE wing showing facade wall (right) fronting on to the King Street front facade

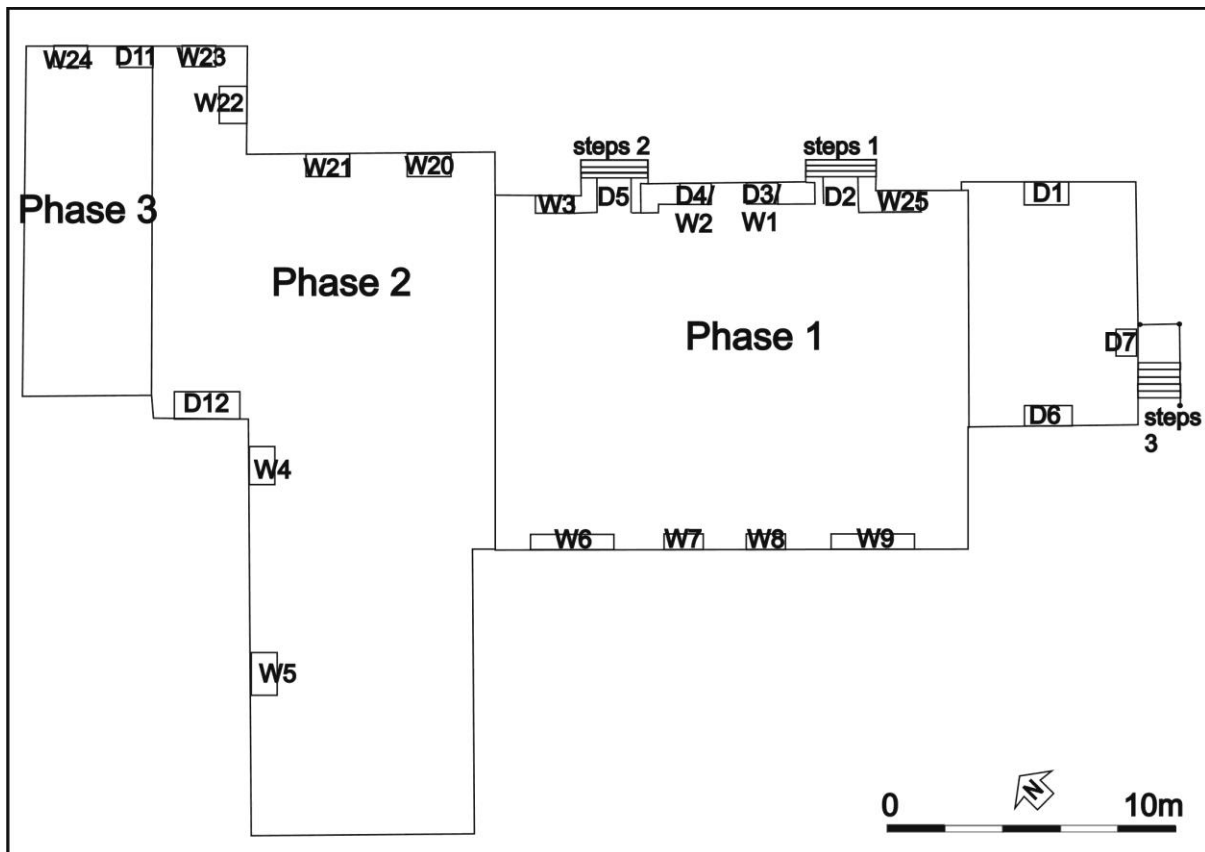


Illus 10 Building 1 SE wing with D7, steps and cast iron balustrade; this building is partly below ground level.

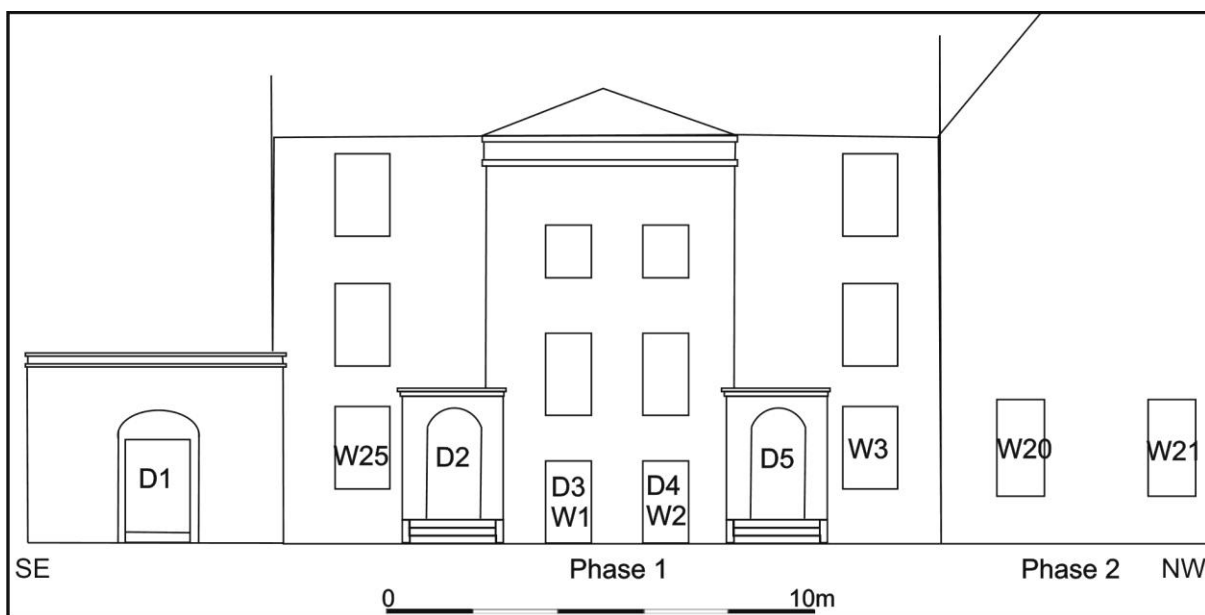


Illus 11 Georgian chimney on SE gable Building 1





Illus 12 Plan showing Building 1 main features



Illus 13 Building 1 NE front elevation facing King Street

### Phase 1a

During the first phase of the house two doors (D2 and D5) were added to the NE facade (Illus 14, 15) and Doors 3 and 4 which had been used for access to the garden were converted to windows and steps removed (Illus 7). Doors 2 and 5 are constructed of poured concrete on a metal frame (Illus 15) and probably date to the late 19th century. They appear to have been constructed to 'modernise' the front of the house and create impressive features of these doors.

There are several internal staircases and these doors may be associated with two of these (Judith Stones, Aberdeen City Council pers comm). It was not possible to view the interior during this work.



Illus 14 Door 2



Illus 15 Building 1 Door 2 detail showing metal frame (extreme left and right) into which concrete was poured before being smoothed.





Illus 16 Remnant of NW wing? Door 12

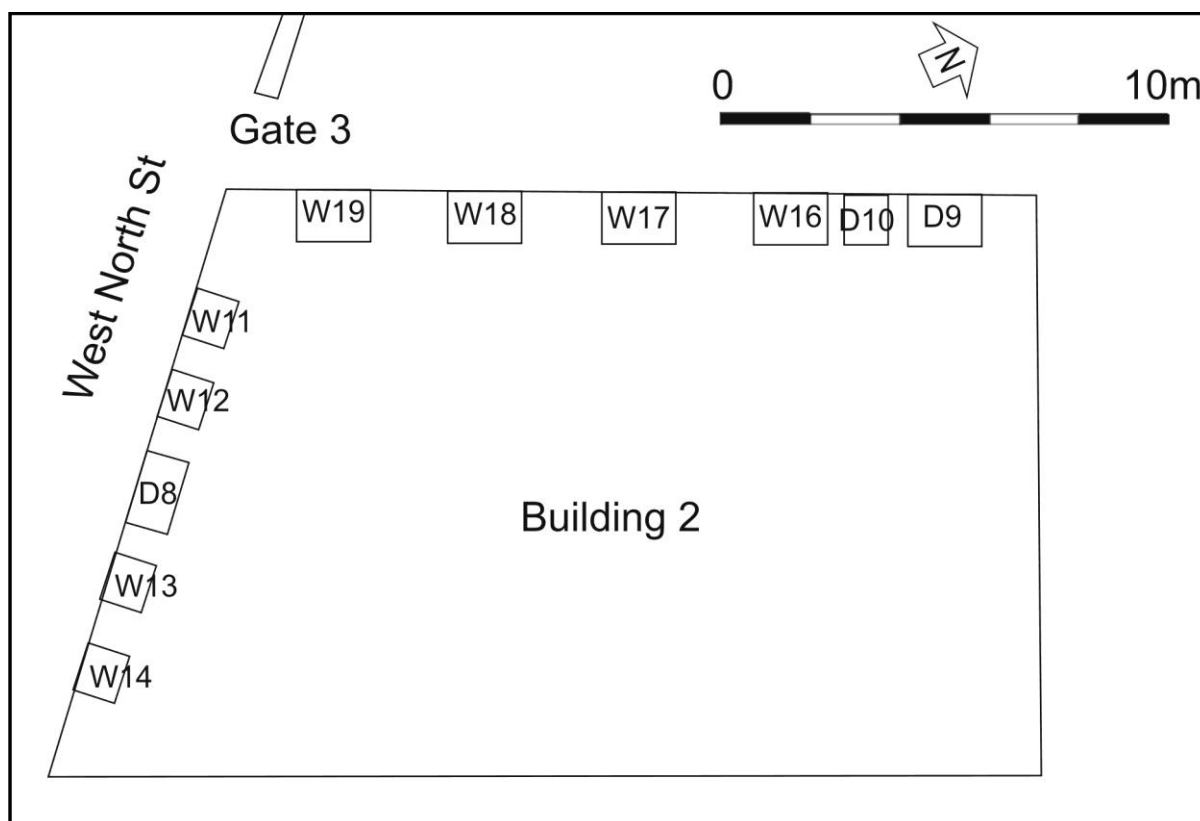
The L-shaped section of wall with Door 12 (Illus 16) at the NW end of the house may be part of an older wing which has been truncated by the later extension or, more likely, a door created in the late 19th-century, possibly at the same time as poured concrete doors D2 and D5.

### **Phase 3**

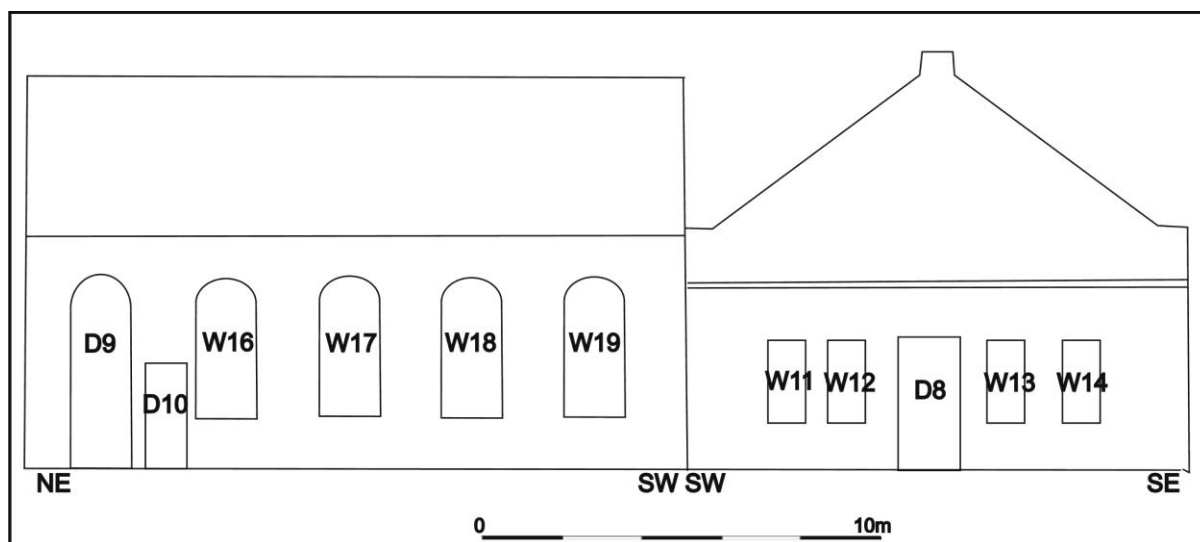
A further extension was added on to the NW of the house, probably in the 20th century (Illus 12).

## BUILDING 2

Building 2 is a hall and is on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. It is probably 19th century in date and is 15.4-20.5m long and 12m wide and is constructed of grey and red granite roughly dressed fieldstones with cherry cocking (Illus 19-20). The building has been constructed to fit into the corner of a trapezoid-shaped corner; the NW facade has four arched windows and one door constructed of fireclay bricks 220 x 100 x 80mm in size. The SW facade on West North Street is of grey granite blocks with a central door, flanking pairs of windows and a circular window near the top of the gable.



Illus 17 Building 2 plan showing main features



Illus 18 Building 2 NW and SW elevations





Illus 19 Building 2 NW facade



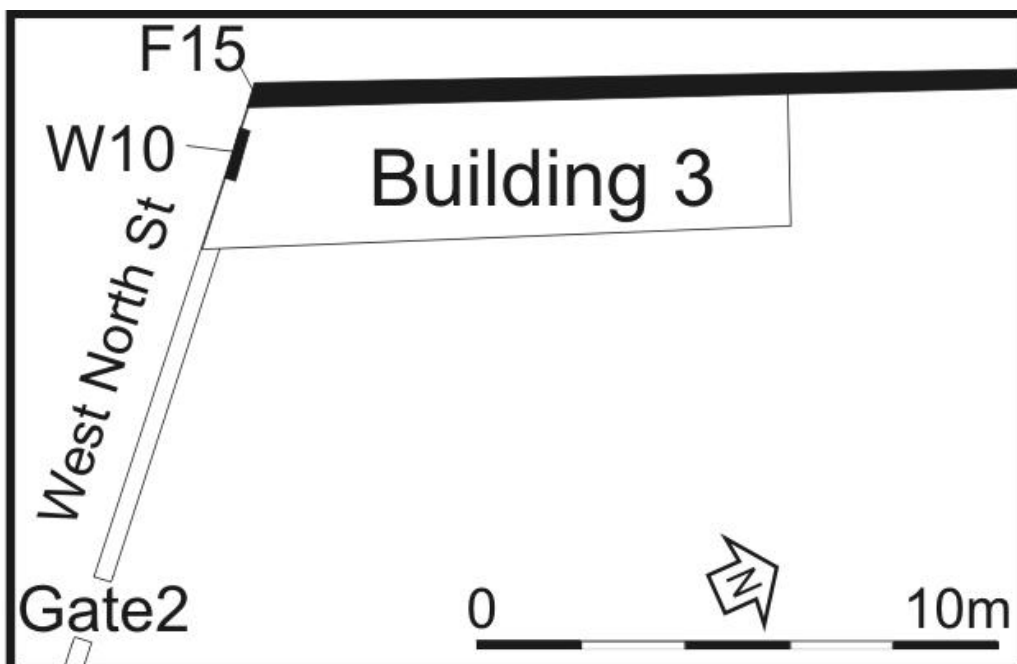
Illus 20 W17 exterior (left) and interior (right) showing red brick arch



Illus 21 Building 2 SW facade

### BUILDING 3

Building 3 is 10m long and 2.8m wide and is of harled brick and stone construction. It would have been in the rear garden of the original house and was probably a gardeners building. It is built against brick wall F15 and originally had a brick window in the SW wall (Illus 24) which is now blocked.



Illus 22 Building 3





Illus 23 Building 3 in rear (west North Street) garden; SE facade



Illus 24 Wall along West North Street showing 18th-century local hand-made brick wall (F15; left) with blocked window W10 (centre); facing NE



## BOUNDARY WALLS

Along the NW edge of the site (and only visible on West North Street) is a wall made from hand-made 18th-century bricks 200-220mm long, 70mm high and 100mm wide (Illus 24). Around the north and east of the site is a buttressed brick wall of machine made bricks 230mm long, 120mm wide and 70mm high (Illus 25). The buttresses are 0.47m long and 0.24m wide and the wall is 2m high.

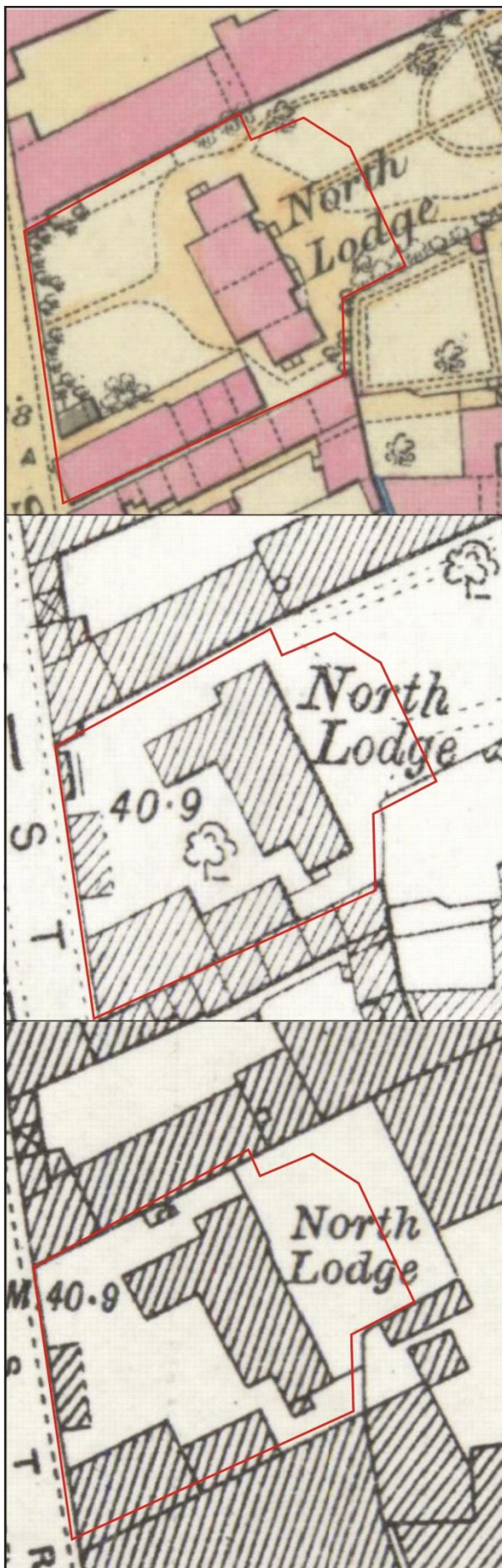
This is a replacement wall built in a tradition style when the garden was partitioned and split from properties on King Street.



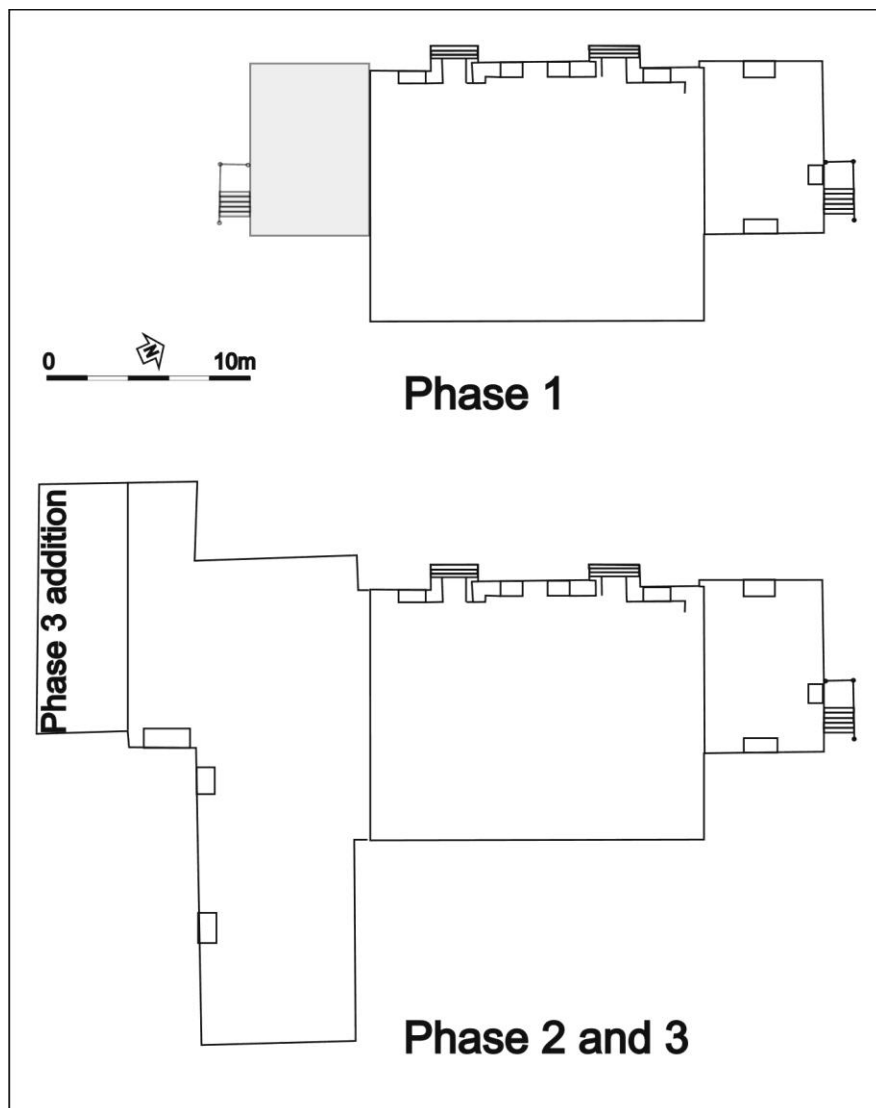
Illus 25 NE boundary wall with brick buttresses

## DISCUSSION

Three phases have been recorded in Building 1 (North Lodge) and these are reflected in the Ordnance Survey maps (Illus 26). A phase plan (Illus 27) shows the Phase 1 house, possibly 18th century in date and the additions added in the 19th and 20th centuries.



Illus 26 First (top), Second (middle) and Third (bottom) Edition Ordnance survey maps of North Lodge



Illus 27 Phase plan showing three phases of development of North Lodge

## 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The watching brief was commissioned by Gary Duguid, Senior Architect, Aberdeen City Council and the Standing building survey arranged through Judith Stones and Bill Watson, both Aberdeen City Council. The trial pits were organised by Kirsten Rae, Mott MacDonald and were carried out by Alan Samson, Soil Solutions and Palmaris Plant Hire.

## 6.0 REFERENCES

Cameron, A 2002 'Mealmarket Street'. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland for 2001, 7.

Hall, D 2010 Watching Brief at Victoria House, 84 West North Street, Aberdeen. Grey literature report.



## Appendix 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

### Watching brief



DSC\_0001



DSC\_0004



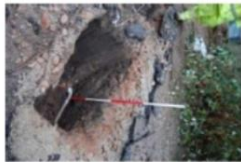
DSC\_0007



DSC\_0010



DSC\_0011



DSC\_0020



DSC\_0022



DSC\_0024



DSC\_0026



DSC\_0027



DSC\_0028



DSC\_0031



DSC\_0032



DSC\_0033



DSC\_0034



DSC\_0041



DSC\_0042



DSC\_0046



DSC\_0047



DSC\_0055



DSC\_0057



DSC\_0058



DSC\_0064



DSC\_0075



DSC\_0082



DSC\_0091



DSC\_0092



DSC\_0093



DSC\_0094



DSC\_0096



DSC\_0098



DSC\_0100



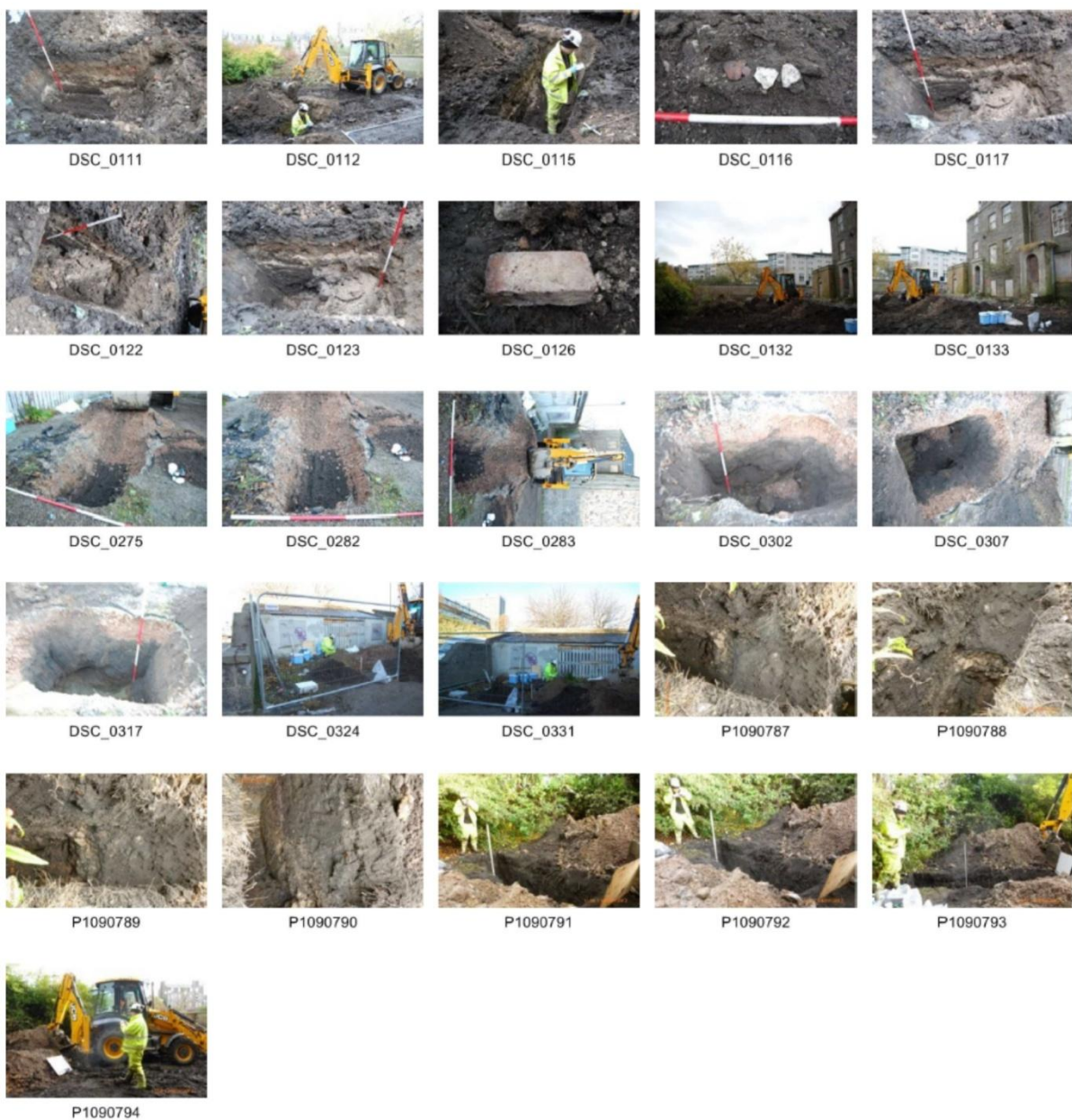
DSC\_0101



DSC\_0107



DSC\_0108



Photos nos	Description	Facing	Camera point
<b>Watching brief</b>			
DSC_0001-0003	TP1 location with Mealmarket St flats in background (site of deep peat deposits)	SE	
DSC_0004-0006	TP1	S	
DSC_0007-0010	TP1 soil testing	SE	
DSC_0011-0014	TP1	ESE	
DSC_0015-0020	TP1 garden soil in section	NNE	
DSC_0021-0024	TP1 location	NE	

DSC_0025-0026	TP1 location	N	
DSC_0027-0030	rear garden area after removal of some undergrowth	N/E	
DSC_0031	TP2	SW	
DSC_0032-0037	TP2	SE	
DSC_0038-0039	TP2	SW	
DSC_0040-0041	TP2	SW	
DSC_0042-0043	TP2	NE	
DSC_0044-0048	TP2	E	
DSC_0049-0054	various building details		
DSC_0055	TR2 dog skull		
DSC_0056-0057	TP3	NNW	
DSC_0058-0062	TP3	NNE	
DSC_0063-0070	TP3	NW	
DSC_0071-0079	TP3	SW	
DSC_0080-0082	TP3	NNW	
DSC_0083-0090	building details		
DSC_0091	TP3	NW	
DSC_0092-0094	TP3	ENE	
DSC_0095-0096	TP3	NE	
DSC_0097-0098	TP3	NNW	
DSC_0099	hall building	ESE	
DSC_0100	TP4	E	
DSC_0101-0105	TP4	NE	
DSC_0106-0107	TP4	WNW	
DSC_0108-0109	TP4 with 'pit' F12 (right)	NE	
DSC_0110-0111	TP4 with 'pit' F12 (right)	N	



DSC_0112-0115	TP4 soil testing	E	
DSC_0116	plaster, pottery and tile TP4 F12		
DSC_0117-0119	TP4 with 'pit' F12 (right)	NE	
DSC_0120-0122	TP4	SE	
DSC_0123-0125	TP4 with 'pit' F12 (right)	NE	
DSC_0126	brick 225 x 110 x 65mm		
DSC_0127-0133	TP4 location with North Lodge building	SSW	
DSC_0270-0288	TP5	NE	
DSC_0289-0305	TP5	NW	
DSC_0306-0313	TP5	NE	
DSC_0314-0323	TP5	NW	
DSC_0324-0333	TP5 location	NW	
P1090787-9	TP3 brick layer 7	SE	
P1090790	TP3	NE	
P1090791-4	TP3	NNW	

## Standing building survey



DSC\_0139



DSC\_0150



DSC\_0169



DSC\_0170



DSC\_0185



DSC\_0186



DSC\_0197



DSC\_0214



DSC\_0215



DSC\_0226



DSC\_0227



DSC\_0244



DSC\_0245



DSC\_0250



DSC\_0251



DSC\_0264



DSC\_0265



DSC\_0282



DSC\_0283



DSC\_0295



DSC\_0296



DSC\_0312



DSC\_0319



DSC\_0320



DSC\_0321



DSC\_0333



DSC\_0334



DSC\_0345



DSC\_0346



DSC\_0359



DSC\_0360



DSC\_0376



DSC\_0377



DSC\_0385



DSC\_0392



DSC\_0402



DSC\_0403



DSC\_0415



DSC\_0416



DSC\_0428



DSC\_0429



DSC\_0449



DSC\_0450



DSC\_0457



DSC\_0458



DSC\_0464



DSC\_0465



DSC\_0466



DSC\_0475



DSC\_0476



DSC\_0489



DSC\_0490



DSC\_0503



DSC\_0504



DSC\_0516



DSC\_0517



DSC\_0530



DSC\_0531



DSC\_0540



DSC\_0541



DSC\_0561



DSC\_0562



DSC\_0577



DSC\_0578



DSC\_0590



DSC\_0591



DSC\_0603



DSC\_0604



DSC\_0616



DSC\_0617





DSC\_0628



DSC\_0629



DSC\_1002



DSC\_1003



DSC\_1009



DSC\_1025



DSC\_1026



DSC\_1038



DSC\_1039



DSC\_1050



DSC\_1051



DSC\_1052



DSC\_1053



DSC\_1054



DSC\_1055



DSC\_1056



DSC\_1057



DSC\_1058



DSC\_1059



DSC\_1060



DSC\_1061



DSC\_1062



DSC\_1063



DSC\_1064



DSC\_1065



DSC\_1066



DSC\_1067



DSC\_1086



DSC\_1087



DSC\_1101



DSC\_1113



DSC\_1114



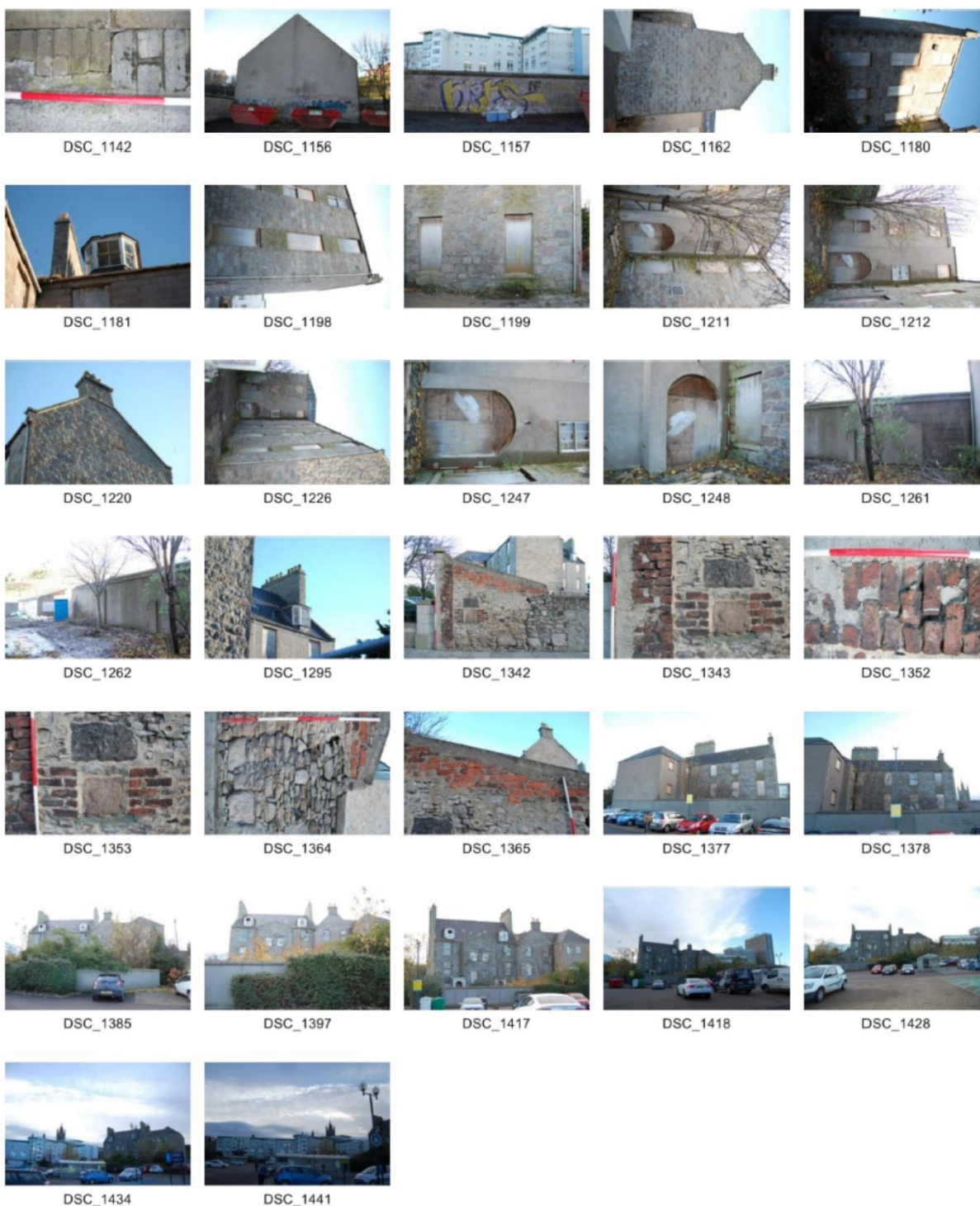
DSC\_1129



DSC\_1130



DSC\_1141



Photos nos	Description	Facing	Camera point
<b>Standing building survey</b>			
DSC_0139-0144	Building 3	NW	1
DSC_0145-0150	Building 3	NW	2
DSC_0151	Boring company BH6	NW	3



DSC_0152-0169	Building 3	WSW	3
DSC_0170-177	Boundary wall interior	SW	2
DSC_0178-192	Boundary wall exterior showing 18th century hand-made local brick wall F15 and W10 (right)	NE	4
DSC_0193-214	Boundary wall exterior showing 18th century hand-made local brick wall F15 and W10 (right)	NNE	5
DSC_0215-220	Gate 2 (left) with blocked gate 1 (right)	ENE	5
DSC_0221-226	Gate 2 (left) with blocked gate 1 (right)	NE	5
DSC_0227-232	Blocked gate 1	NE	6
DSC_0233-238	Blocked gate 1	NNE	7
DSC_0239-244	Blocked gate 1	NE	6
DSC_0245-250	Front wall with gate 2 (left) gate 1 (centre) gate 3 (right)	NNE	8
DSC_0251-257	Building1 (centre) Building 2 (right)	NE	9a
DSC_0258-276	Building1 (centre) Building 2 (right)	ENE	9a
DSC_0277-282	Building 2 SW facade W15	ENE	8
DSC_0283-289	Building 2 W11	ENE	8
DSC_0290-295	Building 2 NW facade	NE	7
DSC_0296-302	Building 2 SW facade	ESE	7
DSC_0303-313	Building 2 SW facade	ESE	6
DSC_0314-319	Building 1 NW addition with W22 (below left)	WSW	9
DSC_0320-327	Building 1 NW addition with W22 (below left)	NW	10
DSC_0328-333	Building 1 gable extension with granite and cherry cocking; W20 (left) W21 (right)	SW	10
DSC_0334-339	Building 1 gable extension with granite and cherry cocking; W20 (left) W21 (right)	SW	10
DSC_0340-345	Building 1 W21 detail	SW	10
DSC_0346-353	Building 1 D5 (left) W20 (centre) W21 (right)	SW	11
DSC_0354-382	Building 1 D2 (left) D3/W1, D4/W2, D5 (right)	WSW	11
DSC_0383-388	Building 1 D5	SW	12
DSC_0389-395	Building 1 D5	SSW	12a

DSC_0396-408	Building 1 D5 poured concrete in metal frame detail	SW	12
DSC_0409-415	Building 1 D3/W1 (left) D4/W2 (right)	SW	13
DSC_0416-421	Building 1 windows above D3/W1 (left) D4/W2 (right) showing grey granite blocks with red granite blocks around the windows		
DSC_0422-428	Building 1 Door 2	SW	14
DSC_0429-435	Building 1 Door 2	SW	15
DSC_0436-451	Building 1 Door 2	W	16
DSC_0452-464	Building 1 SE wing	SW	15
DSC_0465-475	Building 1 SE wing showing sandstone detail	SW	15
DSC_0476-483	Building 1 SE wing	WNW	18
DSC_0484-503	Building 1 SE wing showing facade wall facing onto front of house King Street frontage)	W	18
DSC_0504-509	Building 1 SE wing D 7, steps down and cast iron balustrade	NW	20
DSC_0510-516	Building 1 SE wing D 7, steps down and cast iron balustrade	WNW	19
DSC_0517-524	Building 1 SE wing D 7, steps down and cast iron balustrade	NE	24
DSC_0525-530	Building 1 SE wing D 7, steps down and cast iron balustrade	NE	24
DSC_0531-540	Building 1 SE wing D 7, steps down and cast iron balustrade	NW	20
DSC_0541-546	Building 1 SE wing S corner showing brick construction	NW	21
DSC_0547-561	Building 1 SE wing S corner with D7 (right)	N	22
DSC_0562-569	Building 1 SE wing S corner with D7 (right)	N	23
DSC_0570-590	Building 1 SE wing (right)	N	23
DSC_0591-603	Building 1 SE wing D6	NE	24
DSC_0604-609	Building 1 SE wing (right)	NW	24
DSC_0610-616	Building 1 SE wing (right)	NNW	22
DSC_0617-628	Building 1 W9 (right), W8, W7, W6 (left)	N	25
DSC_0669-630	Building 1 W9	NE	26
DSC_1001-1018	Brick wall NE boundary of site	NE	11
DSC_1019-1037	Brick wall NE boundary of site	NE	14



DSC_1038	Building 1 NE facade D2 (left) D5 (right)	SW	16
DSC_1039-1050	Building 1 SW facade with W6 (left) W77, W8, W9 (right)	NE	27
DSC_1051-1055	Building 2 interior	N	28/30
DSC_1056-1058	Building 2 interior	NW	29
DSC_1059-1061	Building 2 interior	SW	31
DSC_1062	Building 2 interior	SE	31
DSC_1063	Building 2 interior	WSW	31
DSC_1064	Building 2 interior	SE	31
DSC_1065	Building 2 interior W10	NW	32
DSC_1066	Building 2 interior W11	SW	32
DSC_1067-73	Building 2 NW facade	SE	33
DSC_1074-86	Building 2 NW facade W19	SE	34
DSC_1087-93	Building 2 NW facade W18	SE	35
DSC_1094-1100	Building 2 NW facade W17	SE	36
DSC_1101-1107	Building 2 NW facade W16	SE	37
DSC_1108-1113	Building 2 NW facade D10	SE	38
DSC_1114-1120	Building 2 NW facade D9 (left) D10 (right)	SE	38
DSC_1121-1129	Building 2 NW facade D9 (left) D10 (right)	SSE	38
DSC_1130-1141	Building 2 NW facade D9	SE	38
DSC_1142-1149	Building 2 NW facade D9 fireclay brick detail	SE	38
DSC_1150-1156	Building 2 NE facade	SW	24
DSC_1157-1161	Modern blockwork wall dividing current site from Mealmarket St flats		
DSC_1162-1167	Building 1 SW gable	NE	39
DSC_1168-1180	Building 1	NW	27
DSC_1181-1186	Building 1 NW Georgian chimney stack	NE	3
DSC_1187-1198	Building 1 W4 (left) W5 (right)	NE	1
DSC_1199-1204	Building 1 W4 (left) W5 (right)	SE	3
DSC_1205-1211	Building 1 W4 (right) D12 (left)	ESE	42
DSC_1212-1219	Building 1 W4 (right) D12 (left)	NE	3
DSC_1220-1225	Building 1 SW gable	NE	39
DSC_1226-1240	Building 1 W4 (right) D12 (left)	NE	1
DSC_1241-1247	Building 1 W4 (right) D12 (left)	NE	41
DSC_1248-1254	Building 1 W4 (right) D12 (left)	ENE	41
DSC_1255-1261	NW boundary wall - harled brick wall (see F15)	W	41
DSC_1262-1269	NW boundary wall - harled brick wall (see F15)	WSW	41

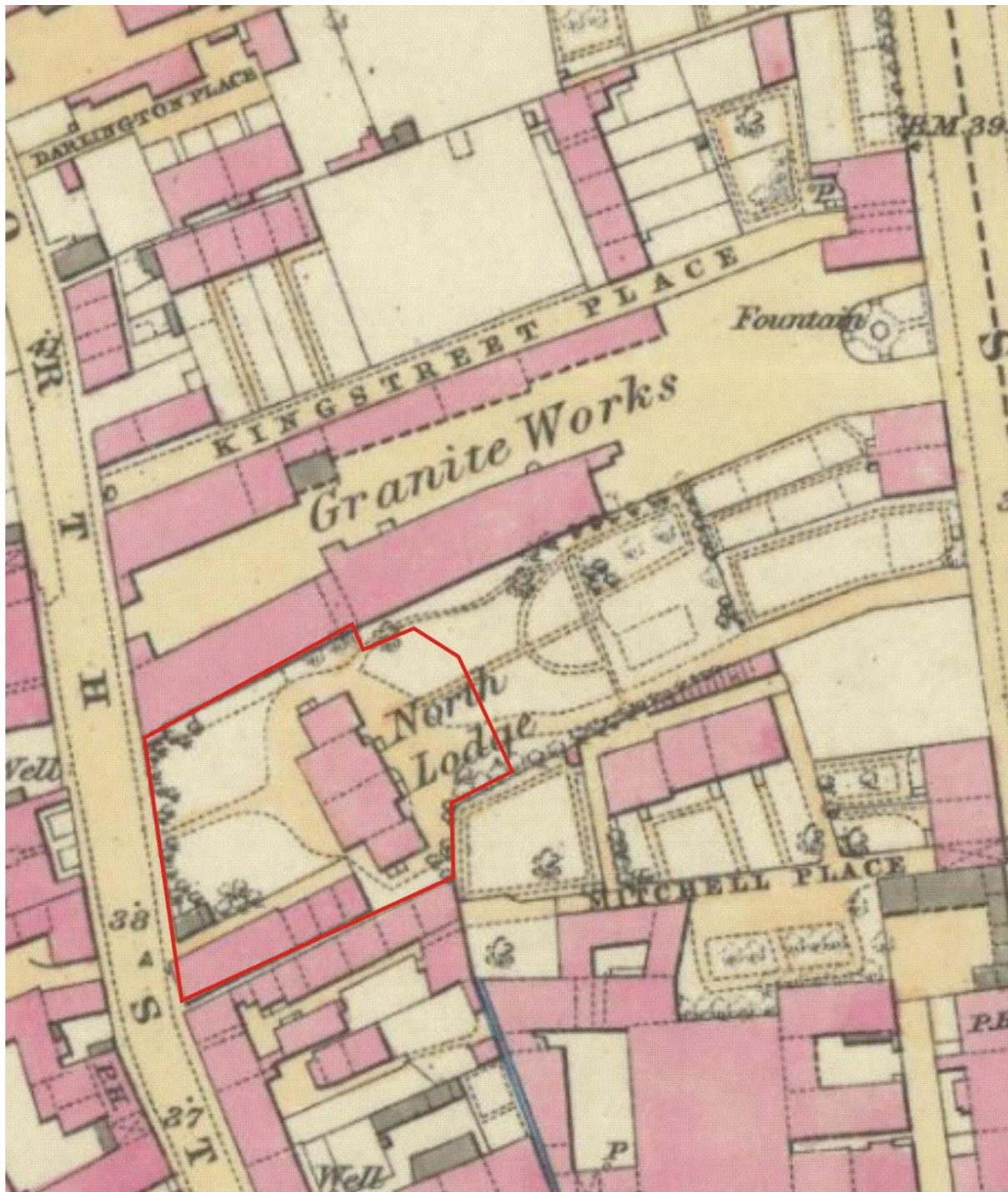
DSC_1289-1295	Building 1 NW Georgian chimney stack	NE	3
DSC_1337-1358	Wall F15 Building 3 blocked window W10	NE	4
DSC_1359-1364	Building 3 rubble section of boundary wall	NE	5
DSC_1365-1370	Building 3 later brick infill under roof line	NE	4
DSC_1371-1377	From supermarket car park	E	43
DSC_1378-1383	From supermarket car park	SE	44
DSC_1384-1433	From supermarket car park	SW	45
DSC_1434-1441	From supermarket car park showing Mealmarket St flats (left)		

## APPENDIX 2 CONTEXTS

Context	TP	Description
1	1	tarmac, granite chips 30cm thick
2	1	1.5m heavy clay garden soil
3	2	light garden soil 0.8m deep
4	2	heavy clay garden soil 0.7m deep
5	3	garden soil 1m deep
6	3	heavy garden soil 0.6m deep
7	3	brick, mortar and stone rubble 1-1.6m deep
8	4	loam, grass, rubbish 0.2m deep
9	4	dark brown loam 0.3m deep
10	4	mortar and small stone rubble 0.3m deep
11	4	heavy clay loam 0.7m deep under 10
F12	4	Pit under topsoil filled with brick (225 x 110 x 65mm) stone, mortar, plaster
F13	5	tarmac, granite chips 40cm thick
F14	5	Heavy clay loam with stones at base 1.1-1.3m deep
F15		NW boundary wall constructed of 18th-century hand made local bricks 200-220mm long, 70mm high and 100mm wide



## APPENDIX 3 MAPS



First Edition Ordnance Survey  
Aberdeen Sheet LXXV.11 (Old Machar)  
Survey date: 1867 Publication date: 1869  
showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)





Second Edition Ordnance Survey  
 Title: Aberdeenshire, Sheet 075.11  
 Publication date: 1902 Revised: ca. 1899/1900  
 showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)





Third Edition Ordnance Survey  
Aberdeenshire, Sheet 075.11  
Publication date: 1926 Revised: ca. 1924 Levelled: 1899/1900  
showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



## DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeen City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Victoria House, 84 West North Street
PROJECT CODE:	CA111-2012
PARISH:	Aberdeen
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alison Cameron
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NJ90NW 2679
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S) AND AGE (IF KNOWN):	19th century
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Garden Soil
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NJ 94416, 06554
START DATE (this season)	12.11.12
END DATE (this season)	13.11.12
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Hall, D (2010a) 'Victoria House, 84 West North Street, Aberdeen (Aberdeen parish), watching brief', <i>Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol.11</i> Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England. Page(s): 12
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained on five trial pits and a standing building survey carried out from 12-15 November 2012 prior to demolition of the standing buildings and construction of a new Aberdeen City Council hostel. The area appeared as gardens on Parson Gordon's map of 1661 and the area started to be developed in the 18th century with the construction of buildings on King Street towards the NE of the current building. There was 1.5m of garden soil over the whole site; in the front (King Street) garden the top 0.8m was heavily fertilised and contained finds of 19th-century date. The lower 0.7m is a heavy clay soil probably pre-dating the current buildings but no finds or other dating material was recovered from this layer. The standing building incorporated a house of probable 18th-century date surrounded by a buttressed garden wall constructed from 18th-century local hand-made bricks. A gardener's shed and a hall were also recorded in the rear (West North Street) garden of the property.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	no
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	1 The phase 1 building showing late 19th-century concrete entrances 2 The brick wall and blocked window of the gardeners building
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Aberdeen City Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	45 View Terrace, Aberdeen, AB25 2RS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cameronarch@btinternet.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS