

**Report on an Archaeological Watching  
Brief at Dungman's Tack,  
Montrose, Angus, DD10 8SJ**

**NGR NO 71770 59005**



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# **Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at Dungman's Tack, Montrose**

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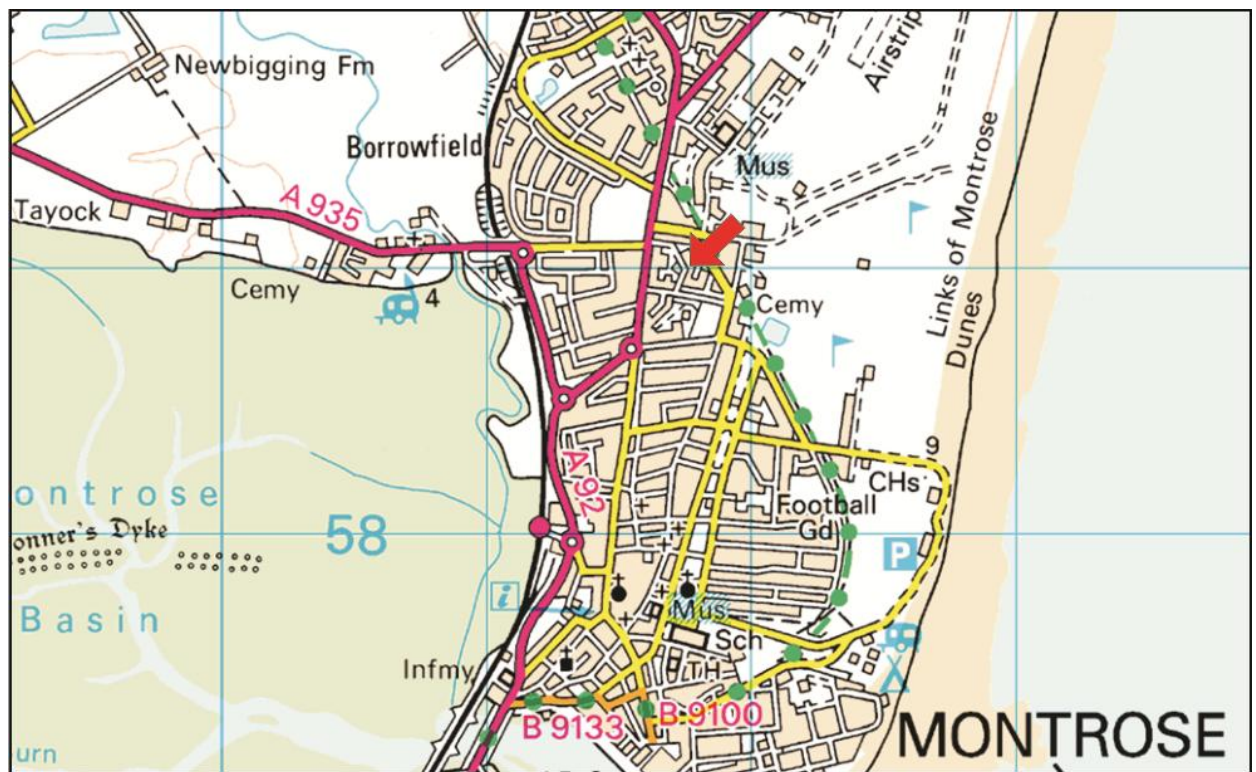
### **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks relating to the second phase of redevelopment; that covering the Wirren House area within the western boundary of the site at Dungman's Tack, Montrose. Specifically, all excavation works undertaken outside the footprint of the demolished building were subjected to a archaeological monitoring, including sewerage installation, the provision of a vehicular access route, and the excavations for foundations for the new housing plots. Only 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century evidence for land-use of the site was encountered during these works. Any future developments in the area may require further archaeological mitigation schemes, subject to advice from Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

# Report on an Archaeological Investigation at Berryhill Farm, Bridge of Don

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The site is part of a wider area designated for redevelopment to provide affordable accommodation at Dungman's Tack, Montrose, Angus, DD10 8SJ. The site (Illus 1) is located at NO 71770 59005 to the north of the town centre of Montrose. The site lies to the west of Wishart Gardens; to the south of Broomfield Road; and to the north of Gindera Road. An earlier evaluation in the eastern part of the site (Peters 2011), and central part of the site (Moloney and Millar 2000) had already occurred.



*Illus 1: Site Location Plan*

- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Jim Anderson, Senior Architectural Technician, Angus Council, and was undertaken between 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013. It was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note 42 (PAN 42) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP). The archaeological written scheme of investigation (Cameron 2012), approved by the Aberdeenshire County Archaeologist, was adhered to in full.

## **2. Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential To the west lies the Lochside Distillery (NO75NW49) and to the north, Montrose Airfield (NO75NW31). A railway line once ran in the vicinity, and, in addition, the development site lies close to the presumed location of the medieval hospital of St Mary the Virgin (Cameron 2012).
- 2.2 An evaluation undertaken of the central part of the wider site in 1999 by Headland Archaeology targeted a 5% sample of the area and located Victorian domestic waste pits and a 17<sup>th</sup> century boundary ditch, surviving beneath an existing 19<sup>th</sup> century earth bank. A further evaluation of the eastern part of the site, undertaken by Cameron Archaeology in 2011 encountered remains of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century archaeological remains.

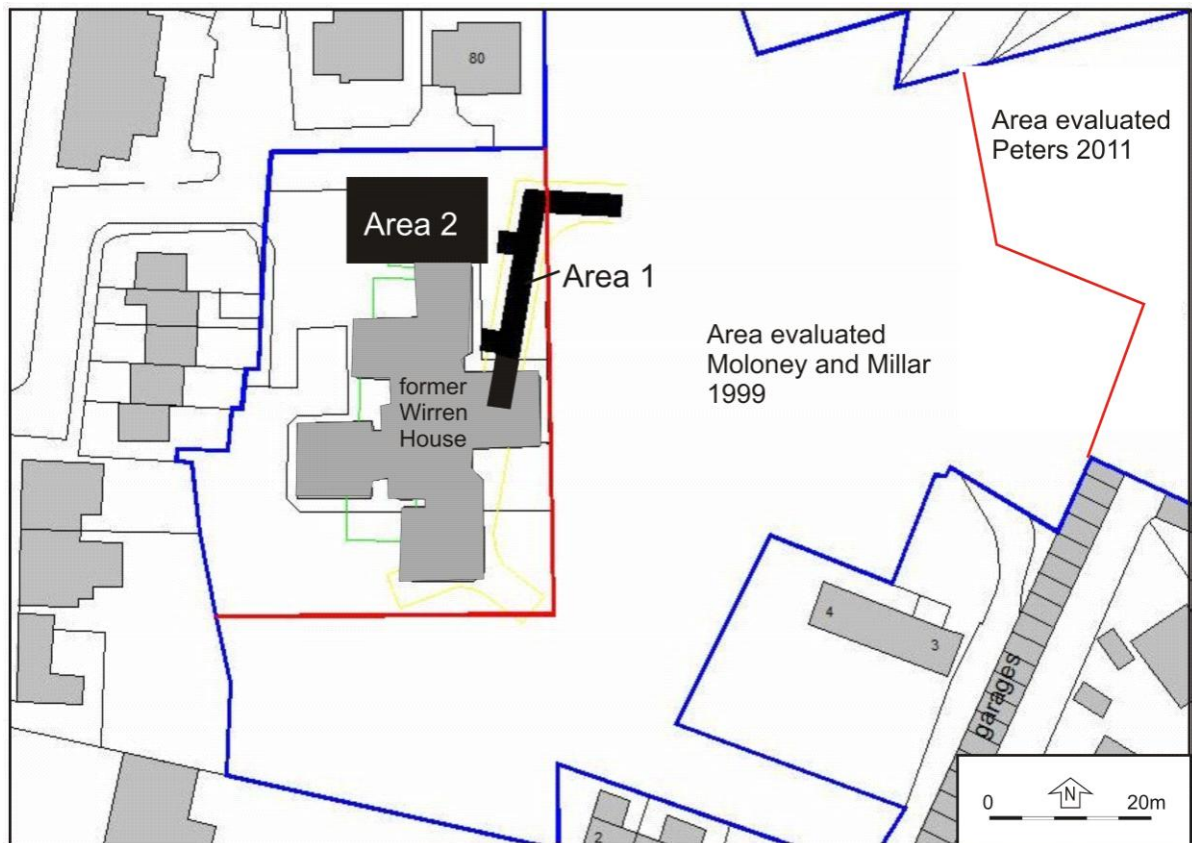
## **3. Methodology**

- 3.1 The archaeological work summarised by this report, was undertaken during Phase 2 of the works, during the redevelopment of the western part of the development site. Much of the other parts of the site were already built upon and largely complete. This investigation comprised a watching brief of the excavations undertaken in the westernmost area, outside the areas adversely affected by the now demolished Wirren House. The archaeological work was undertaken by Ali Cameron and Cat Peters of Cameron Archaeology, and the project was managed by Ali Cameron.

## **4. The Watching Brief**

- 4.1 Area 1  
The initial part of the watching brief was undertaken between Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 and focused on the new sewerage provision for the westernmost houses, due to be constructed on the plot. In order to reach the maximum final depth of 1.5m, an area of a maximum of 3m wide was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, the centre of this was excavated to the final depth, to give a stepped access route to the base of the dig (Illus 2). This was carried out along the centre of what will be the access route for these westernmost properties.





*Illus 2: Location of Works Monitored by Watching Brief*

The sewerage excavations revealed a mid-brown topsoil across the area of up to 0.2m thickness. Beneath this, on the east-west aligned part of the dig, was a loose sand. The topsoil in this area revealed 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragments, as well as some bricks with 'DEWAR' printed on them (Illus 3). This relates to the Dalmellington Iron Company, their Dunaskin Brickworks, established in the 1850s and closed in 1928.



*Illus 3: 'Dewar' inscribed brick*

Beyond the dog-leg of the sewerage route, to the north-east south-west aligned leg of the excavation, was a narrow band of made up ground, observed up to the second western short branch dig, consistent with recent use of the area for car parking/ hard standing. Beneath this was a dark-brown mixed deposit which included scrap metal debris, modern bricks and pottery and glass bottles of 20<sup>th</sup> century origin. This deposit was up to 0.7m thick, and directly overlay a loose sand (Illus 4). To the south of this western branch, the dark-brown deposit disappeared and only made-up ground and sand was revealed, showing the recent disturbance of the area by the recently demolished building.



*Illus 4: Dark-brown mixed deposit containing 20<sup>th</sup> century material*

#### 4.2 Area 2

Soil strip was recorded north of the former location of Wirren House. A former car park surface was noted as well as soil levels associated with the 19th-20th-century use of this site. No significant archaeological contexts were recorded and all details appear in archive.



*Illus 5: section through soil north of former Wirren House showing soil levels associated with later use of this site*

## **5. Recommendations**

As these groundworks comprise the final scheme of works, undertaken as part of the development, across all phases of development, no further recommendations are required.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

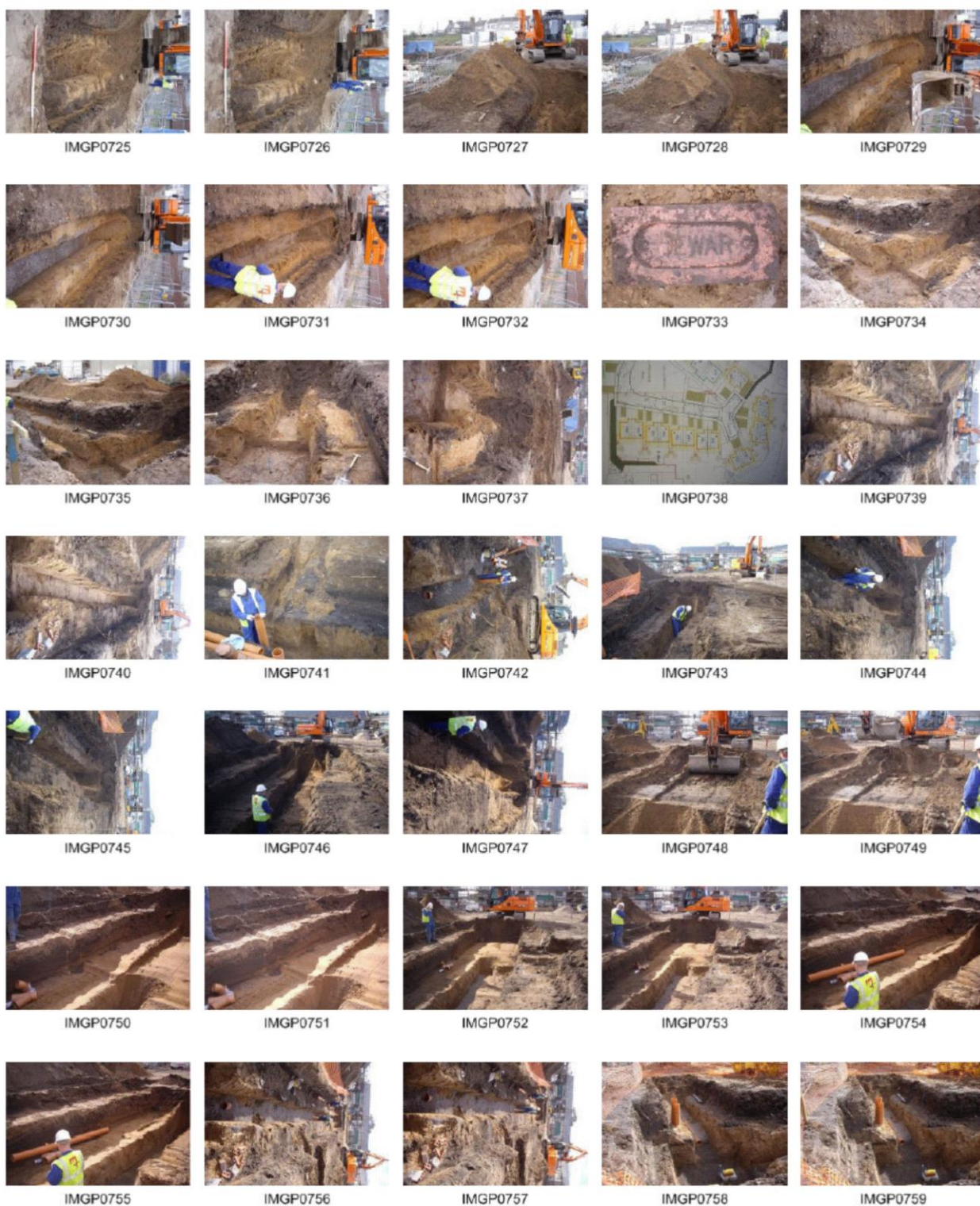
Thanks to Jim Anderson for commissioning the project; also to Bruce Mann for all advice, and to on-site staff from Bancon Construction and Martin Alan for all their assistance with the project.

## **7. References**

- Cameron, A. (2012) 'Dungman's Tack, Montrose, DD10 8SJ, Method Statement'. Unpublished report by Cameron Archaeology
- Moloney, C. and Millar, J. (2000), 'Dungman's Tack, Montrose, Angus', *Discovery Excav. Scot. Vol 1*, 13
- Peters, C. (2011) 'Dungman's Tack, Montrose, Archaeological Evaluation'. *Discovery Excav. Scot. Vol 12*, 2011, 31.



## Appendix 1 Photographs





## Area 1

Photograph Number	Direction Facing	Description
0725	W	Opening up sewerage trench
0726	W	Opening up sewerage trench
0727	WSW	General view of sewerage trench location
0728	WSW	General view of sewerage trench location
0729	W	Excavated first pipe length of trench
0730	W	Excavated first pipe length of trench
0731	W	Excavated next pipe length of trench
0732	W	Excavated next pipe length of trench
0733		'DEWAR' inscribed brick
0734	SE	Ninety degree turn in sewerage trench
0735	SE	Ninety degree turn in sewerage trench
0736	SSW	Ninety degree turn in sewerage trench
0737	SSW	Ninety degree turn in sewerage trench
0738		Photograph of planned works in area
0739	SSW	Excavation of sewerage trench
0740	SSW	Excavation of sewerage trench
0741	W	Second western leg of sewerage trench
0742	SSW	Second western leg of sewerage trench
0743	S	General view of sewerage trench location
0744	S	General view of sewerage trench location
0745	S	General view of sewerage trench location
0746	S	Continued excavation of sewerage trench
0747	S	Continued excavation of sewerage trench
0748	S	Continued excavation of sewerage trench
0749	S	Continued excavation of sewerage trench
0750	SE	Edge of recently disturbed ground
0751	SE	Edge of recently disturbed ground
0752	S	Edge of recently disturbed ground
0753	S	Edge of recently disturbed ground
0754	SE	Edge of recently disturbed ground
0755	SE	Edge of recently disturbed ground
0756	SSW	Progress of sewerage trench
0757	SSW	Progress of sewerage trench
0758	E	Backfilled initial sewerage trench excavation
0759	E	Backfilled initial sewerage trench excavation



## Area 2

Photo no	Description	Facing
DSCF2384	Area 2	W
DSCF2385	Area 2	W
DSCF2386	Area 2	W
DSCF2387	Area 2	W
DSCF2388	Area 2	W
DSCF2389	Area 2	N
DSCF2390	Area 2	N
DSCF2391	Area 2	W
DSCF2392	Area 2	W
DSCF2393	Area 2	W
DSCF2394	Area 2	W
DSCF2395	Area 2	NE
DSCF2396	Area 2	E
DSCF2397	Area 2	W
DSCF2398	Area 2	NW
DSCF2399	Area 2	W
DSCF2400	Area 2	SW
DSCF2401	Area 2	SW
DSCF2402	Area 2	SW
DSCF2403	Area 2	SE
DSCF2404	Area 2	SE