

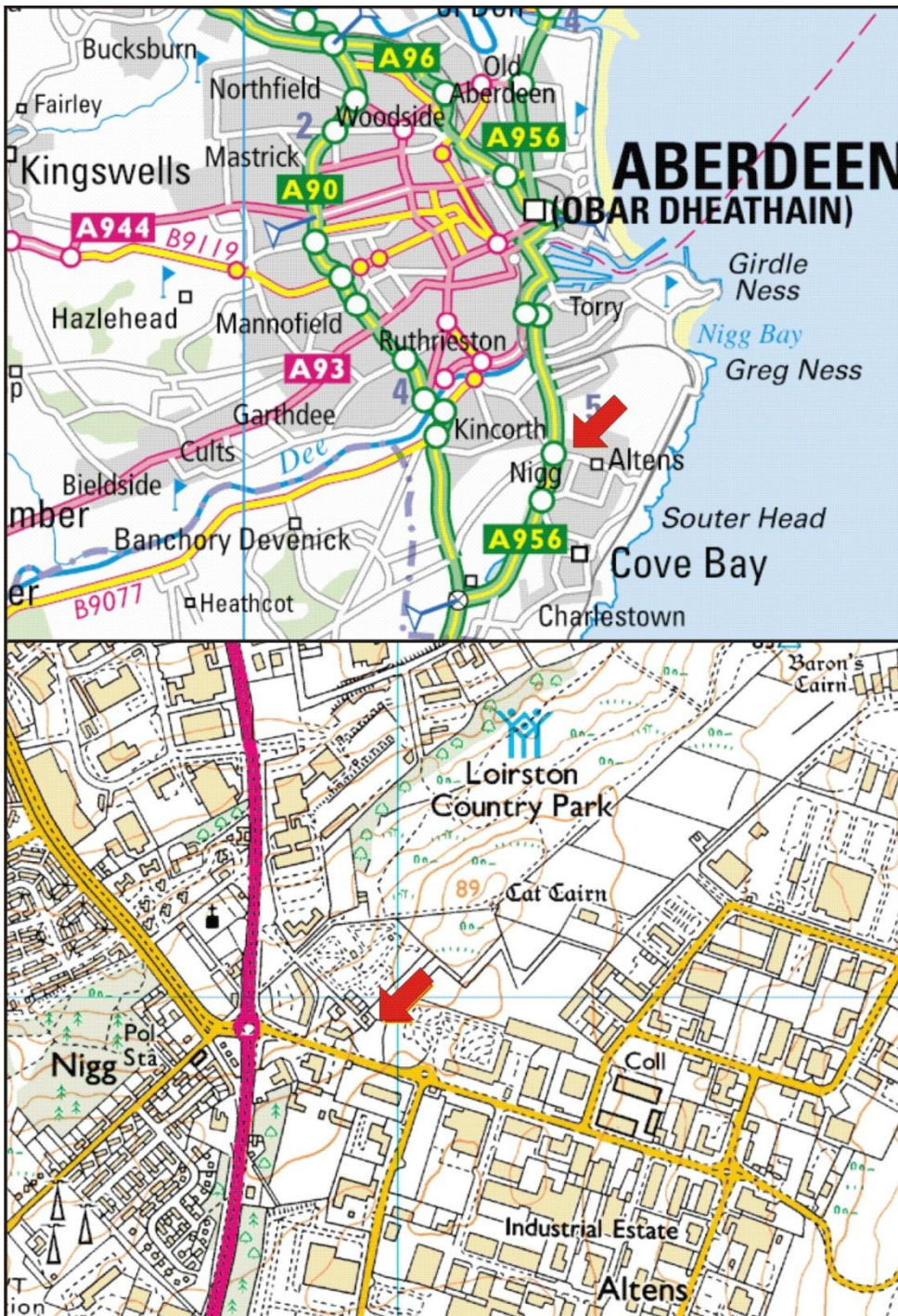
# HARENESS ROAD, ABERDEEN, AB12 3LB



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Cameron Archaeology Ltd  
26 August 2013**

# 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This evaluation has been carried out in advance of a proposed office development at Hareness Road (Illus 1) and has been completed pre-application to Aberdeen City Council for planning permission. The site is at NJ 94972 02948 (centred), in the parish of Aberdeen and at 70-80m OD. The work was commissioned by David Edwards, Michael Laird Architects for Argon Developments (North) Limited.



Illus 1 Site location (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013)

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The site is on the north side of Hareness Road, at the east end of Altens Farm Road with a major oil service company on the east. A car park occupies the SW corner of the site and there is a path from that car park to Loirston Country park which is to remain incorporated in the current development. Some earthmoving has taken place at the site and a bund created between the current site and the Hareness Road car park which allows access into Loirston Country Park. There are no obvious archaeological sites within the development area although the site is completely overgrown.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

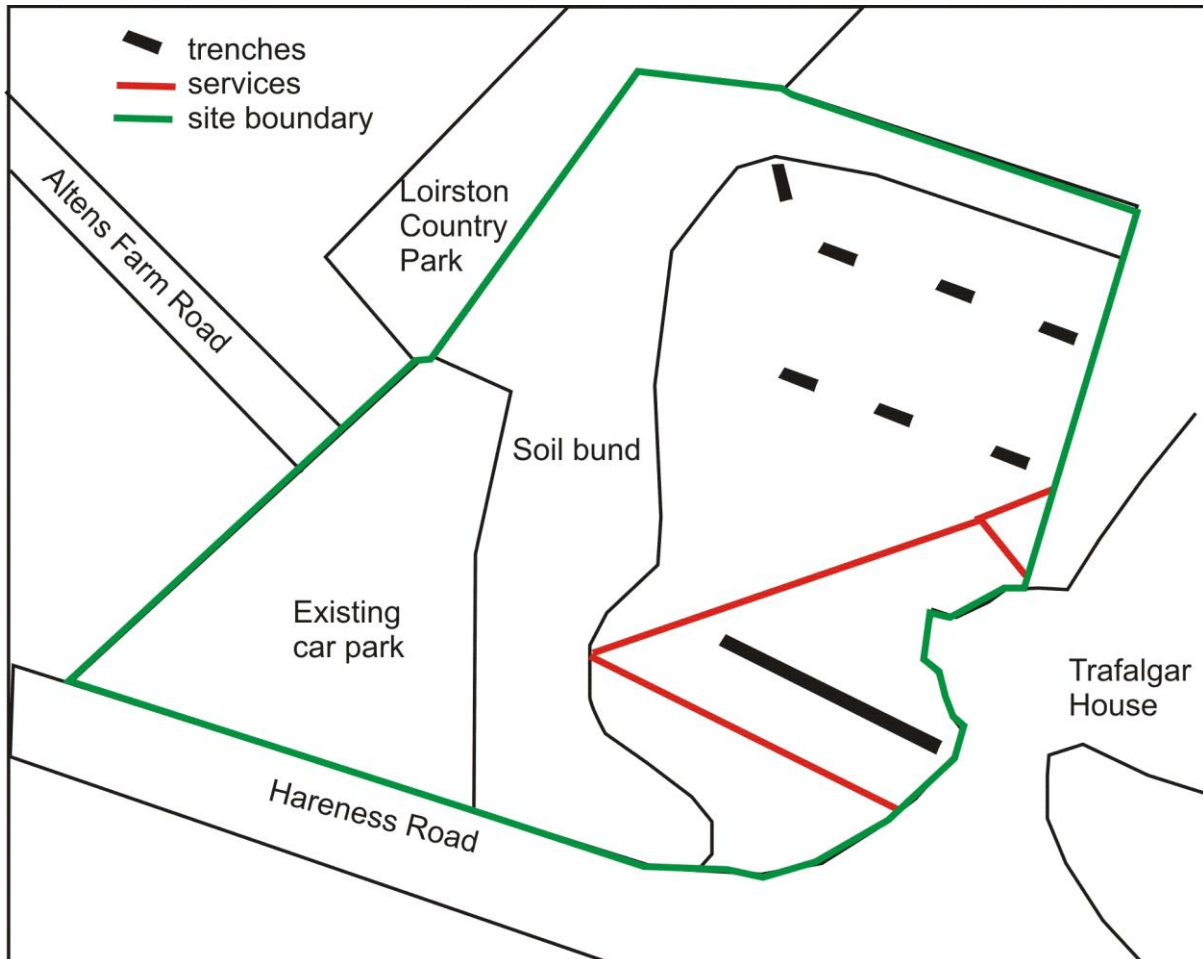
- 3.1 Within 1km of the current site are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Cat Cairn and a cairn and dyke 220m NE of Cat Cairn. There are several other sites of archaeological interest in the adjacent Loirston Country Park.
- 3.2 Cat Cairn (NJ90SE 5) is a monument which comprises the remains of a massive burial cairn of bare stones. The monument was first scheduled in 1978 but the boundary of the scheduled area was unclear: the present re-scheduling rectifies this. This massive stone-built burial cairn is situated on Tullos Hill, on a knoll at the SW end of an elevated ridge, at c.85m OD. Although mutilated, this roughly circular cairn measures c.20m in diameter and stands c.2.5m high. A raised 'platform' some 3m wide occurs on the N and S segments and may be an original feature. Another three cairns are located within the close vicinity, indicating that this monument may form part of a relict prehistoric funerary landscape. In particular, Cat Cairn and Baron's Cairn, which lie at the same altitude on knolls at either end of a single ridge, are likely to be associated. The scheduled area is a circle of diameter 60m centred on the centre of the cairn, to include the cairn and an area around it in which evidence relating to its construction and use may survive.

The cairn forms part of a cairnfield occupying the area north and east of the current site and there are over 100 other archaeological features on the hill.

- 3.3 Loirston Country Park, cairn and dyke 220m NE of Cat Cairn comprises a burial cairn of probable Bronze-Age date and part of a consumption dyke of post-medieval date. It survives as a prominent circular mound of turf- and gorse-covered loose stones and two sections of adjoining low dyke, each with rubble infill. The cairn and dyke are located on open recreational ground on a low ridge, running NE-SW and overlooking Nigg bay, approximately 1.5km inland from the coast. The cairn measures approximately 18m in diameter at its widest and is approximately 3m high. It is roughly circular in plan and is partly obscured (in its centre and eastern side) by the removal of stones and overgrown whin and gorse bushes. The two sections of consumption dyke, adjoining the NE and SW quadrants of the cairn, are each approximately 4m wide, 5m long and 1.5m high. They are each formed by two inwards-leaning retaining walls (built using selectively-sized and graded stones) and joined by a rubble core. These sections are part of a longer, isolated consumption dyke whose overall length is roughly 50m.

#### 4 THE EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological evaluation took place on 24 August 2013. Eight trenches were excavated over the site and each trench revealed that the topsoil had been previously stripped and the whole site prepared for development by laying down layers of sand and stones and then recovering with up to 0.5m topsoil. No archaeological deposits were recorded and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this development.



Illus 2 Plan showing trenches, services, bund and existing car park

## 5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Gordon Blackwood, Director, Argon Properties Ltd; David Edwards, Michael Laird Architects and Judith Stones, Aberdeen City Council.

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DSC\_7129



DSC\_7137



DSC\_7139



DSC\_7145



DSC\_7153



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DSC\_7191



DSC\_7199



DSC\_7202



DSC\_7204

<b>Photo no</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Facing</b>
DSC7129	Trench 1	WNW
DSC7137	Trench 1	WNW
DSC7139	Trench 1	WNW
DSC7145	Trench 1	ESE
DSC7153	Trench 1	ESE
DSC7154	Site from bund, existing car park	W
DSC7155	Site from bund, existing car park	NW
DSC7156	Site from bund	NE
DSC7157	Site from bund	ENE
DSC7161	Site from bund	E
DSC7163	Site from bund	E
DSC7168	Trench 1	ESE
DSC7171	Trench 1	ESE
DSC7177	Trench 2	WNW
DSC7180	Trench 3	WNW
DSC7185	Trench 4	WNW
DSC7190	Trench 5	SE
DSC7191	Trench 5	SE
DSC7199	Trench 6	NW
DSC7202	Trench 7	SW
DSC7204	Trench 8	SW