

**'The Willows', Land Adjacent To Beattie Lodge,
Frain Drive, Laurencekirk, AB30 1HJ
APP/2013/1723
NO 7162 7079**



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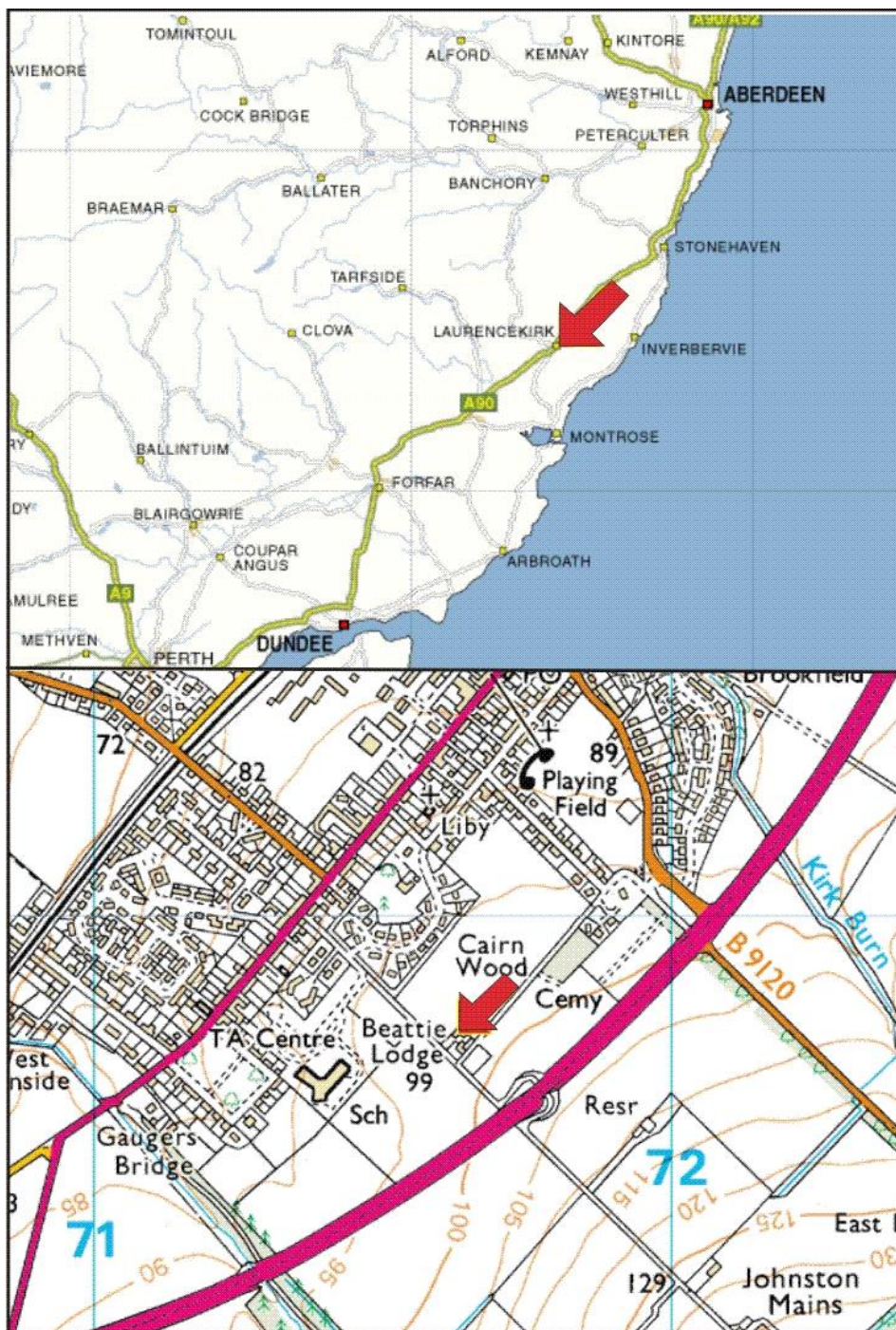
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SUMMARY

A watching brief was maintained over the digging of foundation trenches on 20 March 2014. The site had been previously cleared and the pre-OS First Edition buildings were cleared from the site several years ago. More recently Japanese knotweed over a quarter of the site had been removed to a depth of 1.5m. The remaining topsoil was removed from the site prior to 20.3.14 but the scraped trenches were examined and no archaeological features were identified. The digging of the foundations trenches into the clay and stone subsoil revealed no features and finds. Two possible foundations were recorded in the section of a cable trench, F1 a stone cobble possible foundation and F2, a brick foundation. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The proposed development site is centred on NGR NO 7162 7079, on land adjacent to Beattie Lodge, which was formerly partly occupied by the Lodge prior to its partial demolition, on relatively flat ground at c.100m OD. A Planning Application (Ref No APP/2013/1723) has been approved to erect Replacement Dwellinghouse and Garage, Siting of Caravans (Temporary) and Formation of Access. (Herbert 2014, Appendix 3)
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Fiona Moore, EnviroSurveying Ltd.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Beattie Lodge (or Mains of Johnston; NO77SW 6) is a dower house which dates from the seventeenth century. A stone lintel above the kitchen-door bears the date of 1679, which was probably the year in which the oldest part of the building was erected. A century afterwards the more recent portion was added (Fraser 1880, 169; Bogden and Bryce 1991, 33). A series of agricultural buildings occupied the site in 2009 (Illus 2).



Illus 2 Historical images showing agricultural buildings which occupied site in 2009 (copyright Google Earth)

- 2.2 During construction of the Laurencekirk by-pass, the low circular feature, situated 200m ESE of Beattie Lodge, noted by RCAHMS as a possible cairn was removed under archaeological supervision (NO77SW 22). It proved to have been a round cairn c. 9m in diameter and 0.9m high, overlying a central pyre-pit and two peripheral cremation deposits, one in a cordoned cinerary urn, the other containing a large barbed and tanged projectile point. The finds are located in the collections of Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums (RCAHMS 1982, 8; Shepherd 1984, 10).
- 2.3 600m SSE is Johnston Lodge (NO77SW 50) a two-storey Regency Mansion house with Greek doric portico and painted stucco and slate. A later addition was built in 1934. A stone inset at the back of the house is initialled and dated - DB 1642 ED (Bogden and Bryce 1991, 33).
- 2.4 The Roman coin found near Johnston Lodge '... was doubtless one of the denarii struck in the joint names of Pius and of Aurelius as Caesar,...' (NO77SW 8; Macdonald 1918, 247; OS Name Book 11, 131).
- 2.5 Cropmarks have been recorded in the fields west of Johnston Lodge (NO77SW 61). No further details are available.
- 2.6 Johnston Lodge Chalybeate Well (NO77SW 83; Illus 3) is a small classic well-head niche flanked by flute and panelled pilasters. Pediment with carved face finials. May date late 18th century (Historic Scotland website).



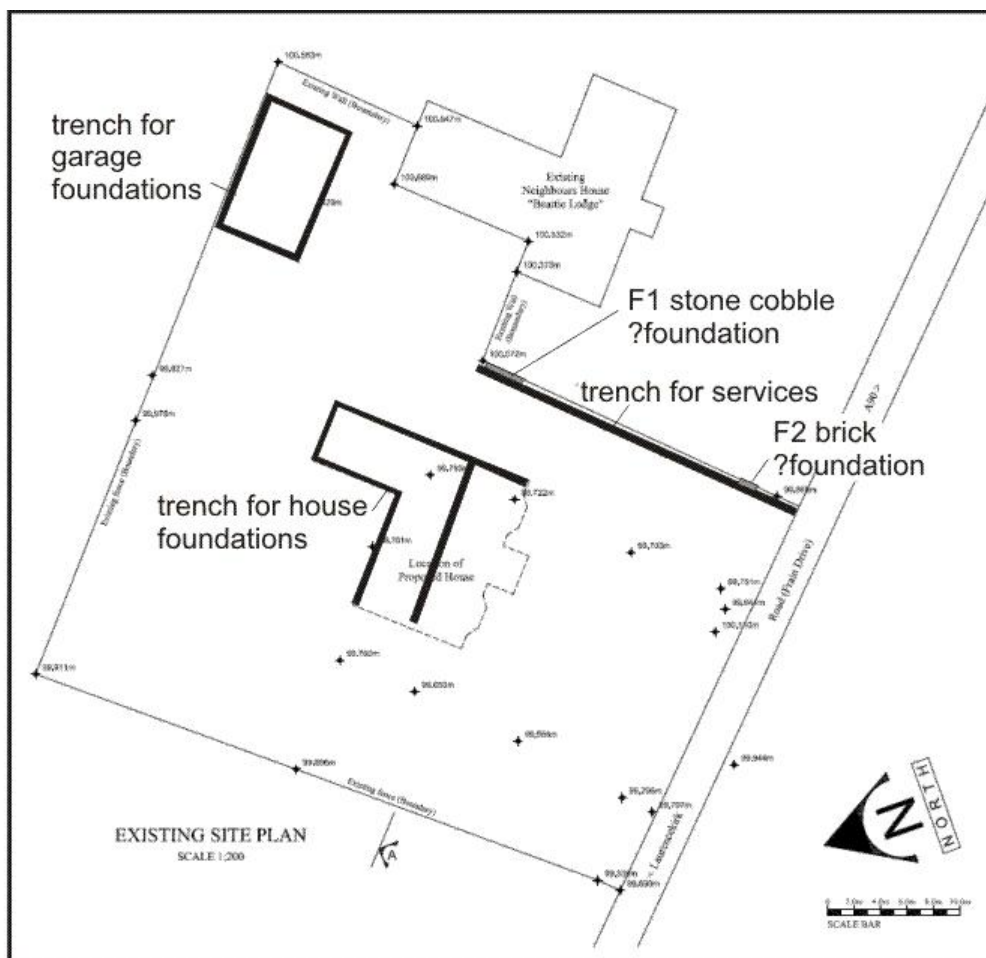
Illus 3 Chalybeate well-head NO 71987 70028

- 2.7 A possible enclosure at Johnston Mains (NO76NW 13) is visible on aerial photographs taken by the Royal Commission in 1992. A watching brief was carried out over the excavation of a cable trench at this site in April 2010 (NO76NW0100) but no finds or features of archaeological significance were revealed (Murray 2010). A ring ditch is also known from aerial photographs east of Johnston Mains (NO77SW 60).
- 2.8 A perforated stone disc (NO77SW 27) was found at Laurencekirk (Marshall 1979, 44).

- 2.9 Three Roman coins were found while excavating the site for a building, a few years before 1960, within a few miles of Laurencekirk (NO77SW 13). They were submitted to Miss Robertson by Dr Simpson, King's College, Aberdeen, on 18 April 1960 and are now in Aberdeen University Museum. The coins were a worn denarius of Otho (AD 69), a very slightly worn Alexandrian bronze of Aurelian (AD 270-275) and a slightly worn Alexandrian bronze of Diocletian (AD 291-2) (Robertson 1963, 142; O'Dell 1960, 28-9).
- 2.10 A Roman road, parts of which were later used as a drove road, may have ran from Menmuir to Aberdeen via Stonehaven (Don 1896, 42).

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was maintained over the digging of foundation trenches on 20 March 2014. The site had been previously cleared and the pre-OS First Edition buildings (Illus 2) were cleared from the site 5 years ago. More recently Japanese knotweed over a quarter of the site had been removed to a depth of 1.5m. The remaining topsoil was removed from the site prior to 20.3.14 but the scraped trenches were examined and no archaeological features were identified. The digging of the foundations trenches into the clay and stone subsoil revealed no features and finds (illus 4). Two possible foundations were recorded in the section of a cable trench (Illus 3), F1 a stone cobble possible foundation and F2, a brick foundation. They were both at the junction between properties (the new development, The Willows and Beattie Lodge) and may be associated with the property boundary or more likely garden features.



Illus 4 Plan showing watching brief areas and F1 stone cobble foundation and F2 brick foundation



Illus 5 Foundation trenches for garage with hand-made brick building (outwith current development) in background; facing south



Illus 6 F2 possible cobble foundation in edge of service trench

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service, to Fiona and Stephen Moore and to Billy and Kevin at W Marcus Groundworks.

6 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
DSC_2836-9	soil strip for garage	E
DSC_2840-43	soil strip for garage	N
DSC_2844-47	soil strip for garage	NW
DSC_2848	brick building at rear of Beattie Lodge	SSE
DSC_2849-52	soil strip for NE wing of house	W
DSC_2853-56	soil strip for NE wing of house	S
DSC_2857-62	soil strip for house	S
DSC_2863-66	soil strip for house	SW
DSC_2867-70	soil strip for house	SE
DSC_2871-72	service trench at boundary between The Willows and Beattie Lodge	SW
DSC_2873-75	F2 brick foundation	SE/SW
DSC_2876-77	F1 cobble ?foundation	
DSC_2878	F1 cobble ?foundation	NE
DSC_2879-80	service trench at boundary between The Willows and Beattie Lodge	SW
DSC_2881-95	Brick building on NE side of Beattie Lodge, outwith current development	
DSC_2896-2903	foundations for garage	
DSC_2904	hand-made bricks removed from adjoining wall	
DSC_2905-7	stone removed from trench on prior to 20.3.14	
DSC_2908-15	trenches for new house showing area of Japanese knotweed (grey type 1)	



DSC_2836



DSC_2843



DSC_2844



DSC_2848



DSC_2849



DSC_2854



DSC_2855



DSC_2856



DSC_2857



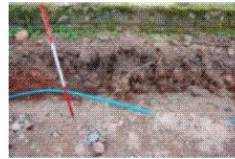
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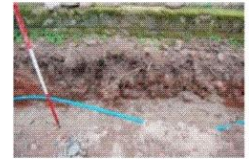
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DSC_2881



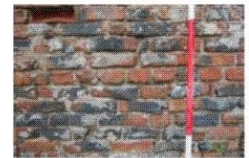
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DSC_2883



DSC_2884



DSC_2885



DSC_2886



DSC_2887



DSC_2888



DSC_2889



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DSC_2891



DSC_2892



DSC_2893



DSC_2894



DSC_2895



DSC_2896



DSC_2897



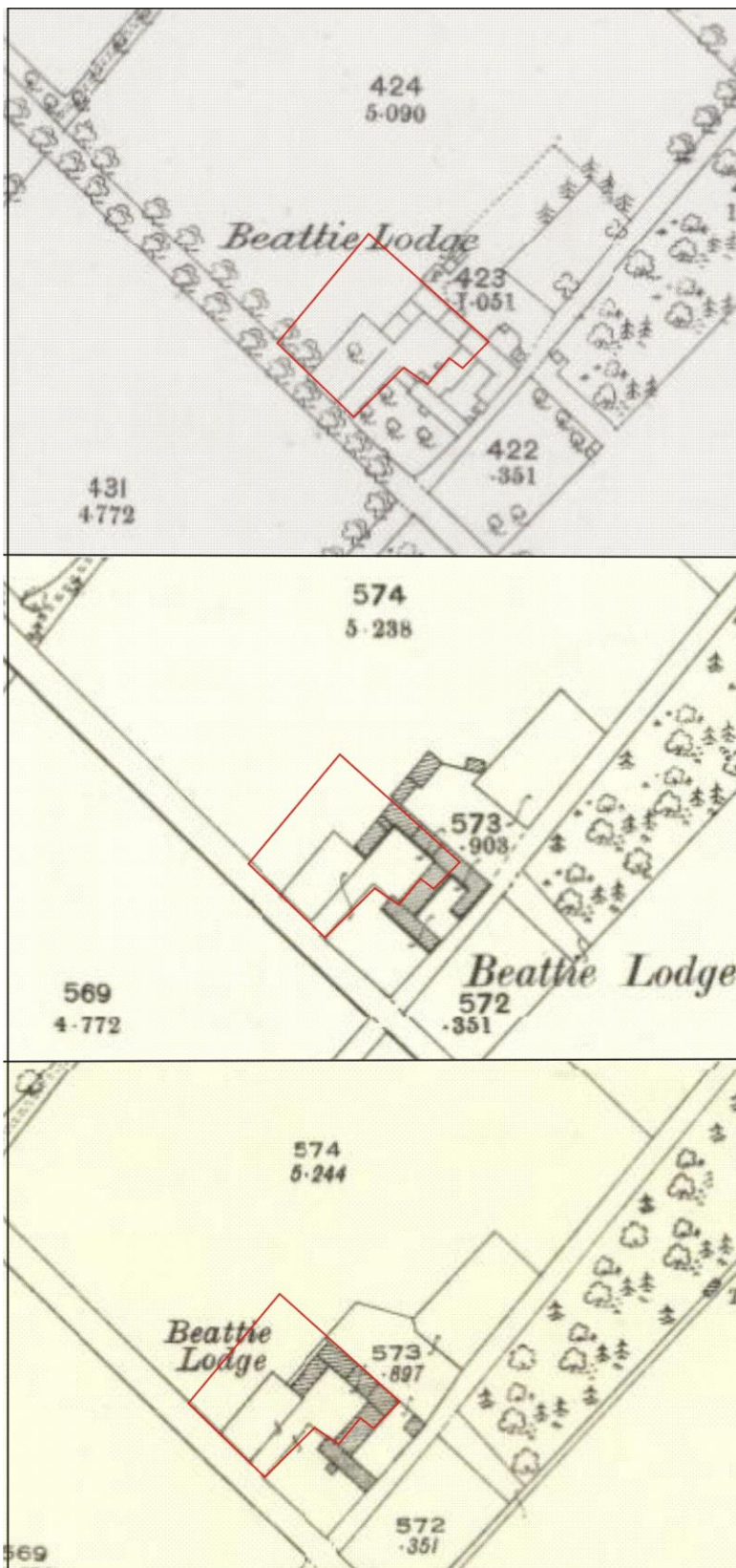
DSC_2898

APPENDIX 2 MAPS



Illus 7 Thomson's Atlas of Scotland 1832 showing approximate area of site in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)





Illus 8 Top: First edition OS map, Kincardine Sheet XXIV.5 (Combined) Survey date: 1864
 Publication date: 1868

Middle: Second edition OS map, Kincardineshire, Sheet 027.02 Publication date: 1904 Revised:
 ca. 1901

Bottom: Third edition OS map, Kincardineshire, Sheet 027.02 Publication date: 1924 Revised: ca.
 1923 Levelled: 1902
 (copyright National Library of Scotland)