

**Fairley Road (land to east of), Kingswells,
Aberdeen, AB15 8PQ
Report on the archaeological evaluation**



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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover Trench 5 showing boggy area at south of site with Kingswells Parish Church and hall in background; facing SSW

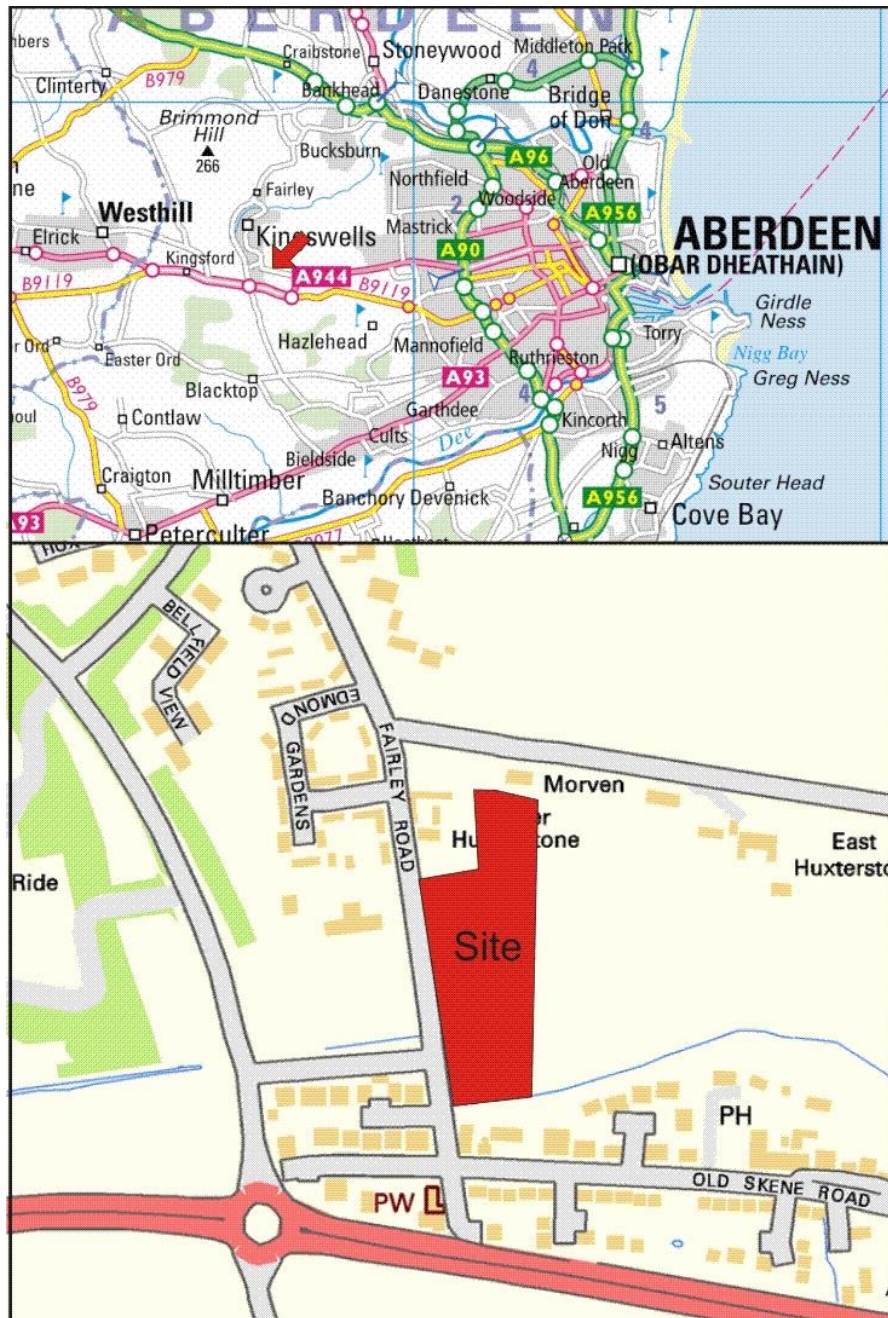
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SUMMARY

The archaeological evaluation took place on 22-23 May 2014. No archaeological finds or features were identified and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is bounded on the west by Fairley Road, the north by Morven and Wester Huxterstone, Lang Stracht, the east by a field boundary and the south by the Denburn. The site rises gently uphill to the north. The site is at AB15 8PQ, centred on NJ 87887 06625, at 130-155m OD and in the parish of Aberdeen (Illus 1).
- 1.2 Aberdeen City Council planning application P130288 for the construction of 7 detached units, 28 semi-detached units and 11 terraced houses was passed on 6.3.2014 with standard archaeology condition (condition 4).



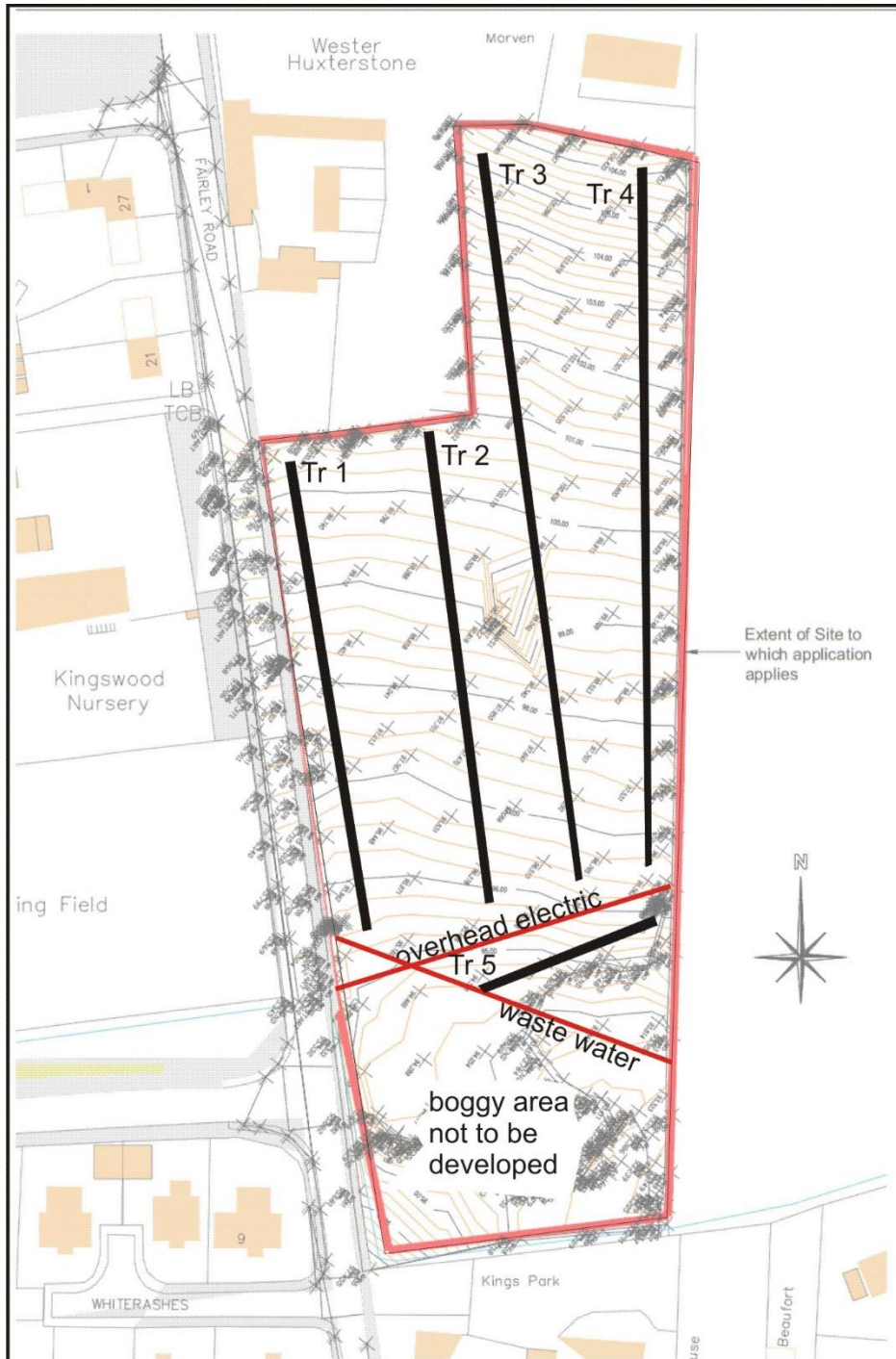
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is one group of Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the proposed site, Kingswells consumption dykes 415m N and 685m NNE of Home Farm. They are 0.6km NNW of the northern boundary of the proposed site. The monument comprises two separate clearance or consumption dykes dating to the mid-19th century AD. The dykes are visible as six upstanding, deliberately truncated drystone wall sections; the W group is surrounded by cultivated land, woodland and amenity paths; the E group survives among amenity parkland, residential boundaries and scrub woodland. The monument was first scheduled in December 1933 and is now being rescheduled to bring the scheduling to modern standards. The westernmost dyke (known as Broad Dyke) comprises four sections, each of which has dressed terminals that include access steps built into the structure of the dyke. In total, Broad Dyke measures approximately 440m long by 10m wide and 2m high and is generally oriented WSW-ENE. Each of the four sections comprises two inward-leaning side walls (built using progressively smaller stones) that contain a rubble core. The upper surface of this rubble core has been formed into a paved way that connects each set of end steps. The easternmost section of dyke (known as East Dyke) comprises two much smaller sections of walling that are roughly orientated E-W. In total this dyke is approximately 290m long by 2m wide (the E end is approximately 14m wide) and 1m high. A modern access path cuts across the dyke and each terminal facing this path contains the same stepped arrangement as in Broad Dyke. The W end of the W section has no distinctive terminal and fades into modern domestic walling. A bend in the wall to the S and rougher coursing mark the end of this section of the dyke. At the E end of the E section the dyke appears to splay outwards in a less formal, dispersed arrangement as if partly dismantled and the material spread sideways. The dyke's top paved way (which shares the same uncommon design as in Broad Dyke) converges with the surrounding landscaped ground at its E end, where it is visible at ground level. The six sections of consumption dyke survive in a well-preserved state with the majority of the structural elements intact.
- 2.2 There are three Listed Buildings within 1km of the current site Kingswells House, Kingswells Church of Scotland and Kingswells Old Manse.
- 2.3 The name Huxterstone is known from the area since the mid 19th century. 'Huxter Stone' has been used for a stone at an inn to enable riders to mount their horses (Milne 1912). The name Huxter does not appear in this location on the early maps of the area such as Pont 1583-1614 or Blaeu (1654).
- 2.4 One archaeological evaluation took place within 1km of the proposed site. In 2010 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at the development site at Newton south of the Four Mile Inn but no archaeological remains were identified (Cameron 2010).
- 2.5 There was a mill to the NW of the current study area (on the site now occupied by Kingswells School House) and a mill lade ran along the west edge of the current development into the Denburn and culvert which are visible today.
- 2.6 The field is under pasture at the current time but has been ploughed in the past. The south part of the field is waterlogged along the line of the Denburn.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The archaeological evaluation took place on 22-23 May 2014. Five trenches were excavated using a 13 ton wheeled excavator and 1.5m ditching bucket. The north half of the field had been regularly ploughed and the topsoil was 0.1m deep at the north end of the field to a maximum of 0.5m deep. The south half of the field is relatively unimproved and is boggy and waterlogged. There are also overhead electric and underground services at the south of the field (Illus 2). Areas of modern dumping were investigated with the mechanical excavator but all were found to be very modern.



Illus 2 Plan showing archaeological trenches (based on copyright Dandara)



Illus 3 Trench 4 showing unimproved ground at south end of trench; facing NNW

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological finds or features were identified and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

5 REFERENCES

Cameron, A 2010 'Report On Archaeological Evaluation For Newton, Kingswells, Aberdeen'.
http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-843-1/dissemination/pdf/aberdeen3-74894_1.pdf.

Milne J 1912 'Celtic Place-Names in Aberdeenshire With a Vocabulary of Gaelic Words Not in Dictionaries the Meaning and Etymology of the Gaelic Names of Places in Aberdeenshire',
 Aberdeen: Aberdeen Daily Journal. (accessed online 3.5.12
<http://archive.org/stream/celticplacenames>)

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Natasha Douglas, Dandara for initiating this project and to Judith Stones, Aberdeen City Council for her advice during the work.

APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

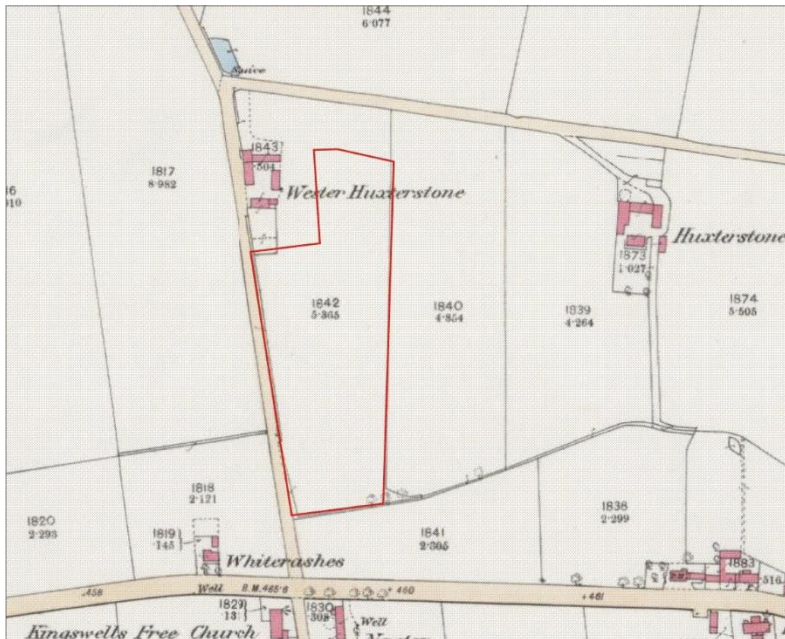
Photo no	Description	Facing
DSC_0465-9	Trench 1	NNW
DSC_0470-72	Trench 2	NNW
DSC_0473-75	Trench 3	NNW
DSC_0476-78	Trench 3 south end	NNW
DSC_0479-81	Trench 4	NNW/ NW
DSC_0482-85	Trench 5	SW
DSC_0486-88	Trench 5	SSW
DSC_0489-894	Services and boggy area at south end of site	NNW/ N



APPENDIX 2 MAPS



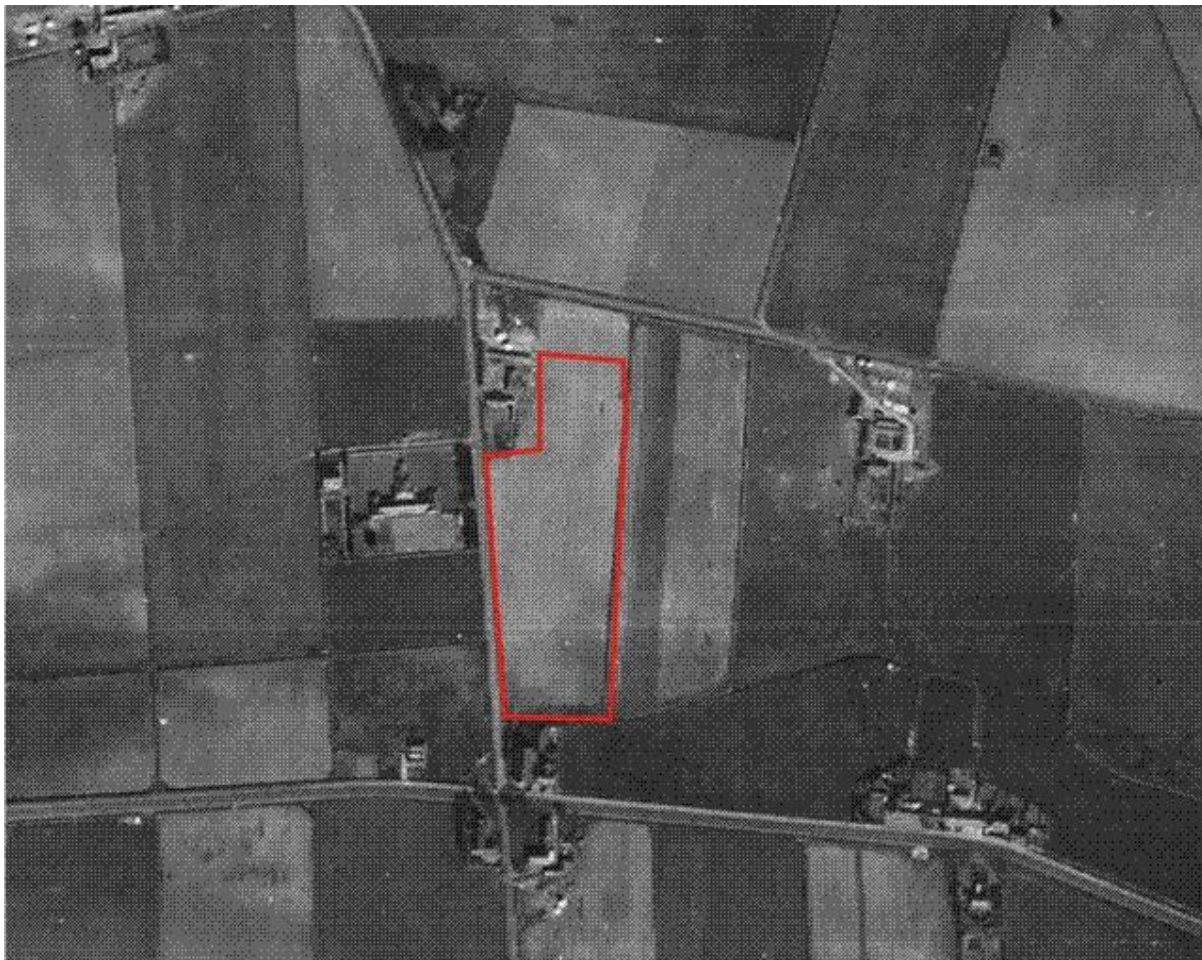
Illus 4 Pont map of 1563-1614 showing 'Kingswells' and 'Denn burn' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 5 First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1869 with site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeen Sheet LXXIV.12 (Combined) Survey date: 1864 Publication date: 1869



Illus 6 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire, Sheet 074.12 Publication date: 1901 Revised: ca. 1899



Illus 7 Aerial photograph showing approximate area of the proposed development.
Date: 16 April 1946 Location: Newpark, Newhills, ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND
UNI: NCAP-000-000-091-828 (copyright RCAHMS NCAP)

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