

**Wester Huxterstone, Fairley Road, Kingswells,  
Aberdeen, AB15 8PN**

**Report on Archaeological Evaluation**



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16 September 2015**

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Cover Trench 4; facing S

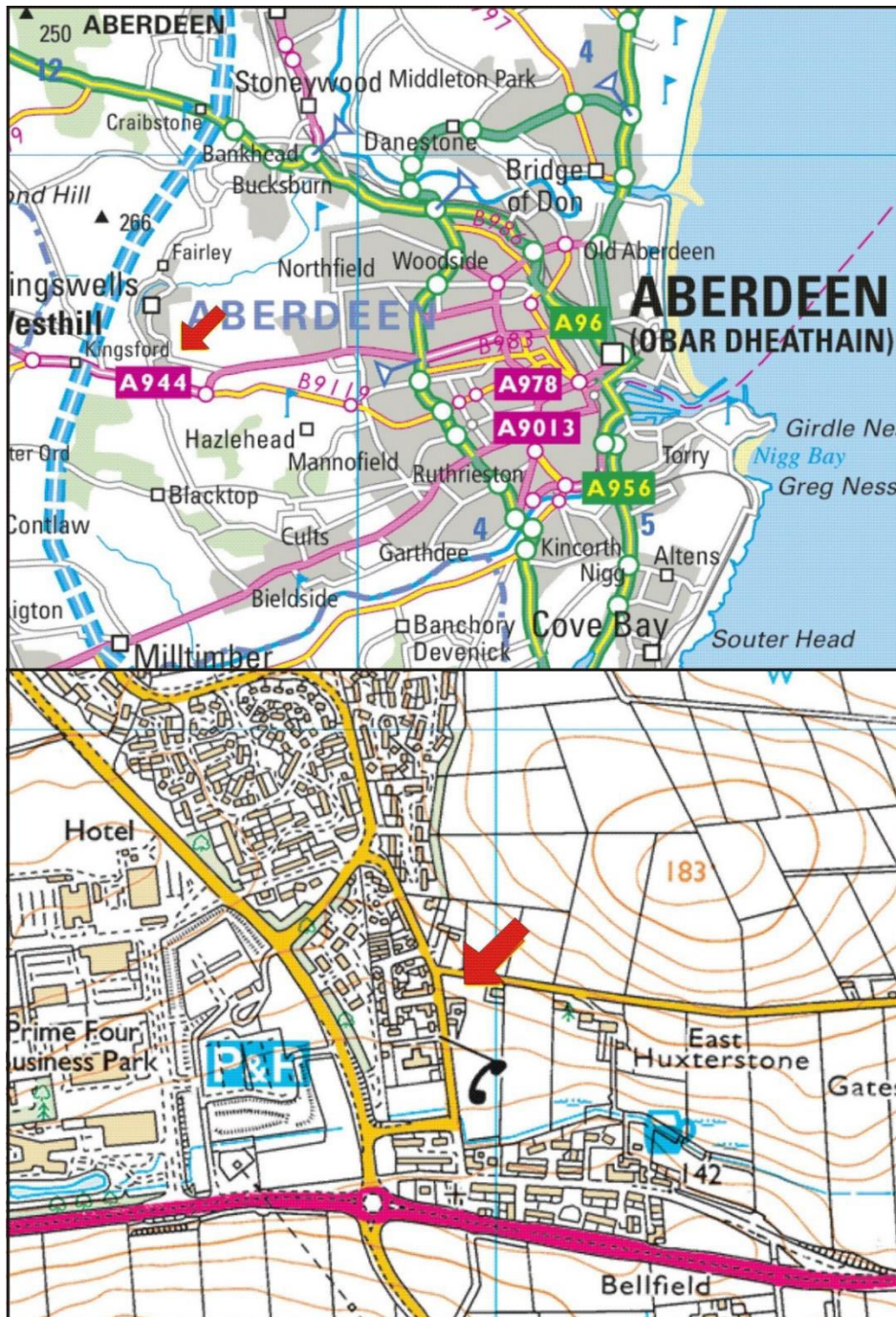
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## SUMMARY

A 10% archaeological evaluation was carried out on 16 September 2015. Five trenches were excavated and no archaeological finds or features were identified. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is bounded on the west by Fairley Road, on the north by Lang Stracht, on the east by Morven and on the south by Wester Huxterstone farm. The site is centred on NJ 86948 06582, at 145-150m OD and in the parish of Aberdeen (Illus 1).
- 1.2 Aberdeen City Council planning application P141156 for the construction of 4 new dwellings was determined on 1.9.2015 with standard archaeology condition (condition 4) and a requirement for a 7-10% archaeological evaluation.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015).



## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

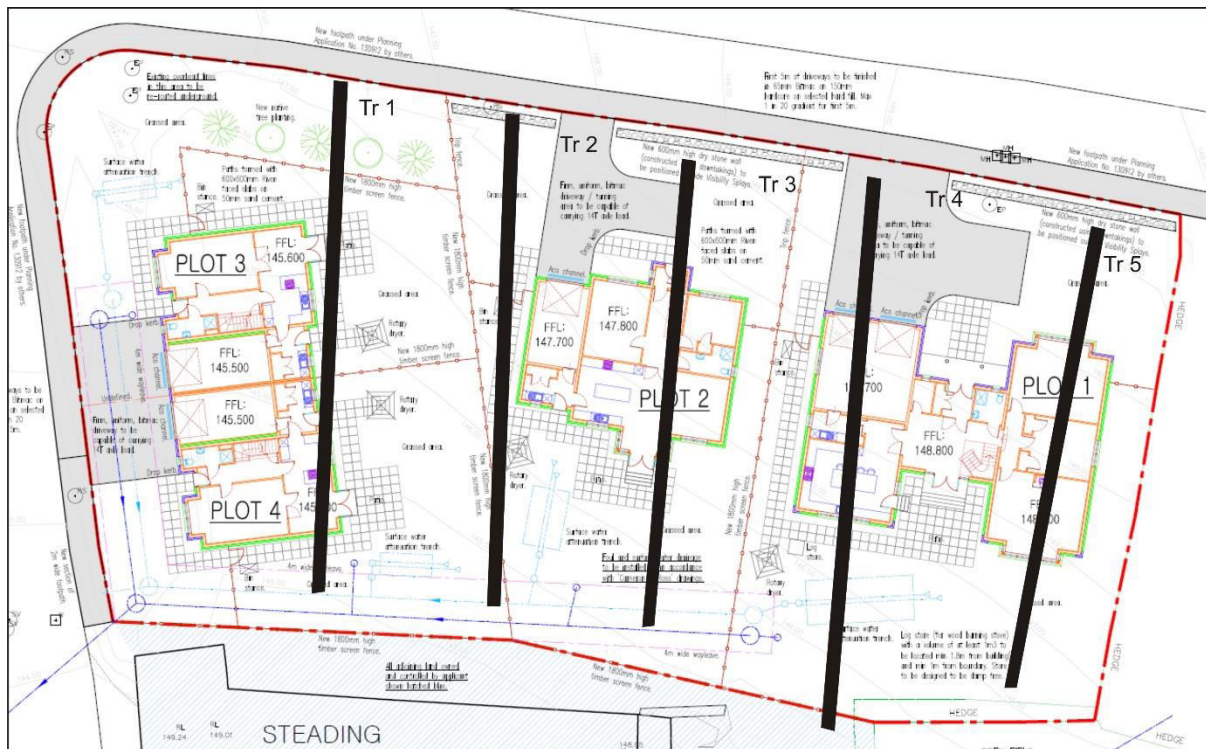
- 2.1 There is one group of Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the proposed site, Kingswells consumption dykes 415m N and 685m NNE of Home Farm. They are 0.6km NNW of the northern boundary of the proposed site. The monument comprises two separate clearance or consumption dykes dating to the mid-19th 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 is one known feature within the boundary of the proposed development; a mill lade ran down the west side of the site on the First and Second OS maps (Illus 4 and 5). The 1946 aerial photos show features within the proposed development area but they may represent agricultural works (Illus 6).
- 2.3 There are three Listed Buildings within 1km of the current site Kingswells House, Kingswells Church of Scotland and Kingswells Old Manse.
- 2.4 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).
- 2.5 Three archaeological evaluations have taken 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). An archaeological evaluation was carried out in 2013 (Savory 2014, 12) E of Morven but no finds or features were identified and no

archaeological remains were also recovered in 2014 (Cameron 2014, 12) during an evaluation south of Wester Huxterstone, both for proposed housing.

### 3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A 10% archaeological watching brief was carried out on 16 September 2015. The topsoil was 0.2-0.8m deep and the subsoil was clay and stones at the N end of the field and rusty brown sand at the S end. There was waterlogging at the SW corner of the field and there were areas where stones may have been dumped to drain the area. One stone drain ran NW-SE and two trenches were identified for water pipes.

No archaeological finds or features were identified during this work.



Illus 2 Plan showing evaluation trenches (copyright Cobban Architecture)

### 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A 10% archaeological watching brief was carried out on 16 September 2015. Five trenches were excavated and no archaeological finds or features were identified. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

## 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](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-843-1/dissemination/pdf/aberdeen3-74894_1.pdf).

Cameron, A 2014 'Fairley Road, Kingswells'. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, New series Vol 15, 12.

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> )

Savory, G 2014 'Wester Huxterstone' Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, New series Vol 15, 12.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## APPENDIX 1 LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES WITHIN 1KM OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

SITE NUMBER	NMRS NAME	CLASS
<b>NJ80NE.14.0</b>	ABERDEEN, KINGSWELLS, KINGSWELLS HOUSE. Alternative: GARDEN, HOUSE (17TH CENTURY), WELL	GARDEN, HOUSE (17TH CENTURY), WELL
<b>NJ80NE.14.2</b>	ABERDEEN, KINGSWELLS, HOME FARM, WINDPUMP. Alternative: WIND PUMP	WIND PUMP
<b>NJ80NE.17.0</b>	KINGSWELLS, CONSUMPTION DYKES. Alternative: DYKE(S)	DYKE(S)
<b>NJ80NE.38.-</b>	CORGARFF - ABERDEEN MILITARY ROAD - ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. Alternative: MILITARY ROAD	MILITARY ROAD
<b>NJ80NE.76.-</b>	ABERDEEN, KINGSWELLS, CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. Alternative: CHURCH (19TH CENTURY)	CHURCH (19TH CENTURY)
<b>NJ80NE.77.-</b>	KINGSWELLS, OLD MANSE. Alternative: MANSE (19TH CENTURY)	MANSE (19TH CENTURY)
<b>NJ80NE.68.-</b>	ABERDEEN, SKENE ROAD, CREMATORIUM. Alternative: CREMATORIUM	CREMATORIUM
<b>NJ80NE.14.1</b>	ABERDEEN, KINGSWELLS, HOME FARM. Alternative: FARMSTEAD	FARMSTEAD
<b>NJ80NE.164.-</b>	EAST MIDDLEFIELD, BOUNDARY STONE. Alternative: BOUNDARY STONE	BOUNDARY STONE
<b>NJ80NE.171.-</b>	PARKHEAD FARM. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
<b>NJ80NE.173.-</b>	UPPER FIFESHILL. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
<b>NJ80NE.176.-</b>	LONGSIDE. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
<b>NJ80NE.177.1</b>	NEWTON COTTAGE. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
<b>NJ80NE.161.-</b>	KINGSWELLS. Alternative: COTTAGE	COTTAGE
<b>NJ80NE.163.-</b>	WOODSIDE. Alternative: COTTAGE, CROFT	COTTAGE, CROFT
<b>NJ80NE.17.2</b>	KINGSWELLS, CONSUMPTION DYKES, EAST DYKE. Alternative: CONSUMPTION DYKE	CONSUMPTION DYKE

## APPENDIX 2 MAPS

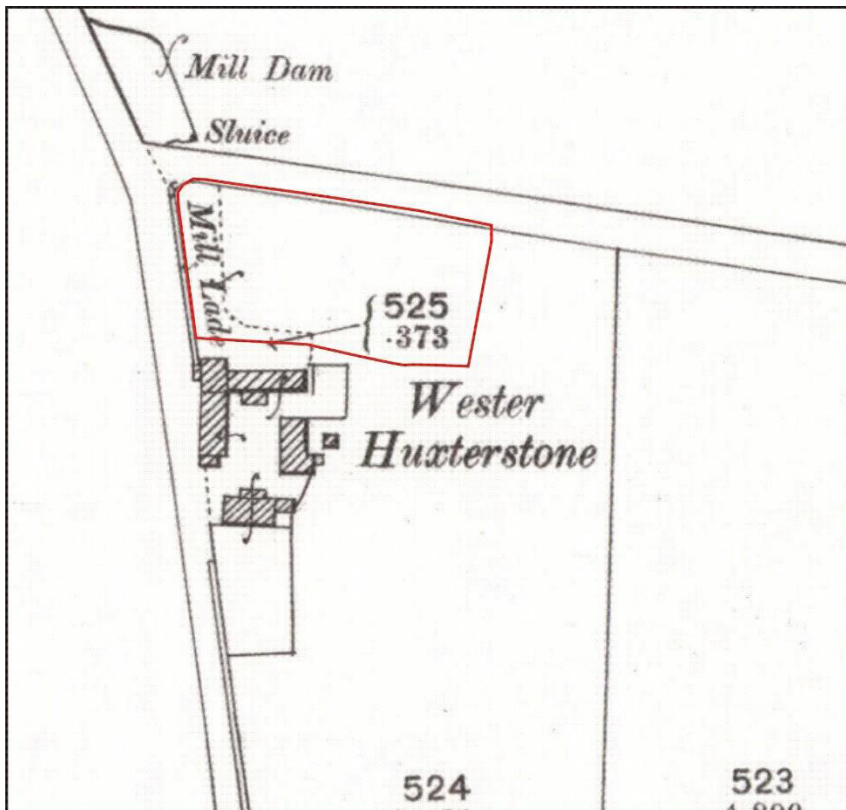


Illus 3 Pont map of 1563-1614 showing 'Kingswells' and 'Denn burn' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 4 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 5 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire, Sheet 074.12 Publication date: 1901 Revised: ca. 1899



Illus 6 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)

### APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
P9160019	Trench 1	N
P9160020	Trench 2	N
P9160021-3	Trench 1, 2	SSW/SW/W
P9160024	Trench 1	S
P9160025	Trench 2	S
P9160026-7	All trenches from N end Tr 2	SE/SW
P9160028-9	Trench 4	S
P9160030	Trench 5	S
P9160031-3	Tr 5 showing scores in natural, possibly from subsoiler	N
P9160034	Tr 5 showing scores in natural, possibly from subsoiler	NW
P9160035	Trench 4	N
P9160036	Trench 3	N
P9160037	Trench 2	N



P9160019.JPG



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