

ADEN COUNTRY PARK, MINTLAW, ABERDEENSHIRE AB42 5FQ
Report on archaeological watching brief



Alison Cameron
Cameron Archaeology
26 March 2016

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	BACKGROUND	4
3	THE WATCHING BRIEF	4
4	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
5	REFERENCES	6
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
	APPENDIX 1 MAPS.....	7
	APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS	8

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: top watching brief area S of track, facing S; bottom watching brief area N of track; facing N

Illus 1	Location plan	3
Illus 2	Plan showing watching brief areas (copyright tcd architects)	5
Illus 3	S watching brief area showing W-E linear furrow (centre) and tree boles.....	6
Illus 4	First Edition Ordnance Survey map with site outline in red.....	7
Illus 5	Second Edition Ordnance Survey map with site outline in red	7

SUMMARY

The watching brief was carried out on 21-22 March 2016. The deep topsoil contained 19th century and later finds and no archaeological features were recorded. The development is now progressing and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application. This is subject to approval from Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located within Aden Country Park on the W side of the walled garden for the former Aden House. It is centred on NGR NJ 9819 4784, at 60m OD (Illus 1) and in the parish of Old Deer.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Laura Fiddes, Morrison Construction. A Planning Application (Ref No APP/2015/2979) has been approved to erect a workshop and garage with ancillary office and there is a requirement for a watching brief during the soil strip for the proposed development (condition 2).
- 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 2016)

2 BACKGROUND

The Entrance to Aden Country Park is located half a mile west of the village of Mintlaw on the A950 New Pitsligo Road. The proposed site for development is located adjacent and West of the existing Garden Nursery in an area of existing woodland (NGR NJ 9819 4784) at circa 60m above sea level on a relatively flat area of land. The new facility is to incorporate garaging for the vehicles of the Landscape Department as well as a Day Services facility. Aden Country Park covers around 87 hectares of land, of which 40 hectares are of mixed woodland, 18 hectares of land leased for grazing, 14 hectares open parkland, 8 hectares of former agricultural land used as the field system for the Hareshowe Farm, and the remaining area comprises of river valley, mill pond, walled garden/nursery, the remains of the mansion house, Farming Museum and a Caravan and Camping park. The 230 acre Aden Country Park has a semi-circular farmstead Grade A listed building built around 1800 and a coach house built in 1832 which lies in the centre of the park. The area for the watching-brief lies adjacent to a walled garden and associated features dated to 1766 AD. Within the wider park landscape are several features of archaeological note, including an alleged Episcopal Meeting House which may have earlier origins (HER Reference NJ94NE0047) and a possible prehistoric settlement (NJ94NE0111). As such there is archaeological potential for features to survive within the development boundary relating not only to the designed landscape, but also to earlier activity on the site (Mann 2016).

The N part of the development site has a temporary building with a path leading to it on the First Edition OS map (Illus 4) with a path dividing the two areas running W-E; the S half is an open area. By the Second Edition OS map (Illus 5) the temporary building has been removed and trees planted over the whole area with a path still dividing the N and S areas.

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

The watching brief was carried out on 21-22 March 2016 (Illus 2). There were up to 100 60-year old trees which had been previously cut down to just above ground level and the roots of these were removed with tracked machine and grab hook. The area was then scraped to natural subsoil with a 2m toothless ditching bucket. The soil was initially going to be moved to the river bank but it was then decided to spread the soil over the areas adjacent to this development. The N and S areas were divided by an existing track which had already been stripped to natural subsoil and infilled with stone in the past.

The topsoil was up to 0.7m deep and the natural subsoil was compact sand with little stone. A number of potential archaeological features were examined and all turned out to be tree boles or stone holes. One W-E linear furrow was recorded in the S area as well as one field drain. A dump of clear window glass immediately on top of the natural subsoil probably represents the site of the temporary building seen on the First Edition OS map (Illus 4) which was presumably a glasshouse. A small selection of finds was recorded including 19th century ceramics, horse bones, glass and building materials.



Illus 2 Plan showing watching brief areas in red and existing track (copyright tcd architects)



Illus 3 S watching brief area showing W-E linear furrow (centre) and tree boles (foreground); facing N

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The watching brief was carried out on 21-22 March 2016. The deep topsoil contained 19th century and later finds and no archaeological features were recorded. The development is now progressing and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application. This is subject at approval from Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

5 REFERENCES

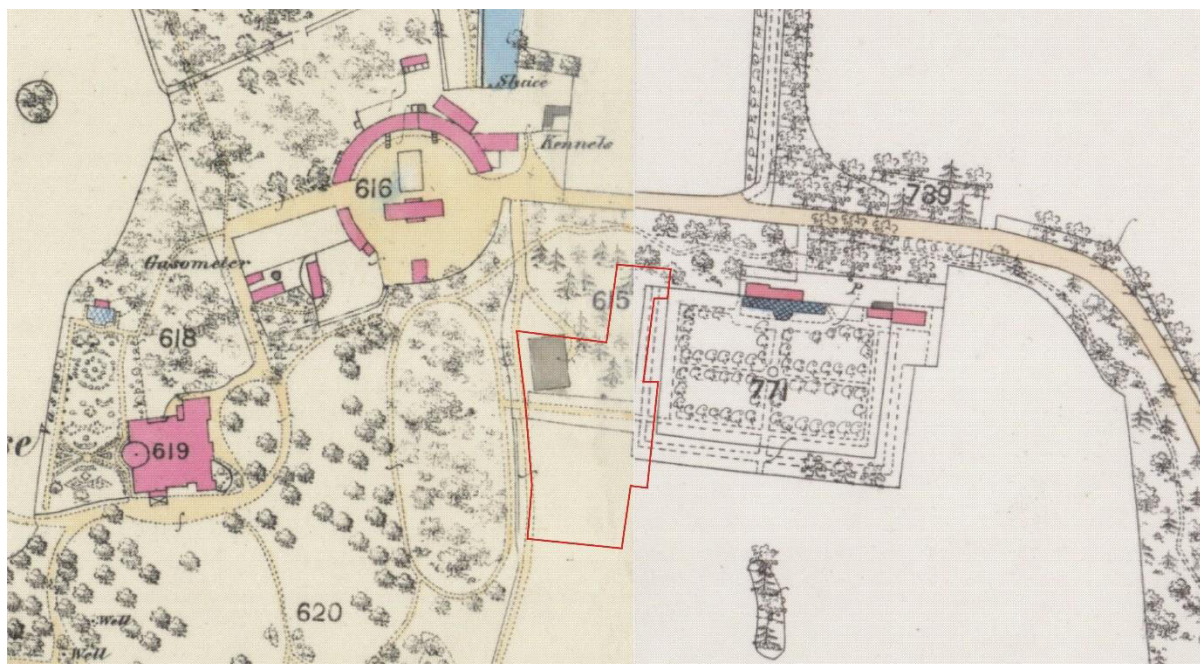
Mann, B 2016 Scope and Framework Of An Archaeological Watching Brief At Aden Country Park, Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

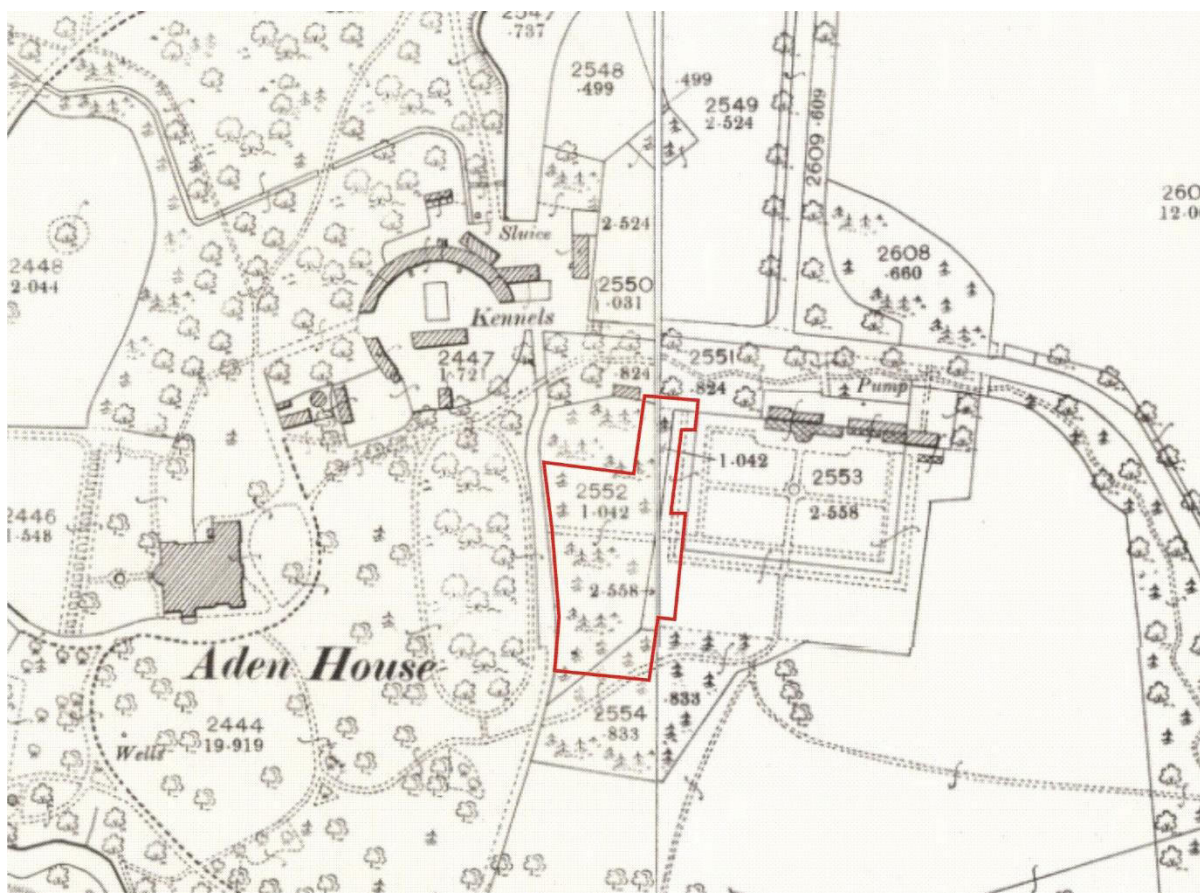
Thanks to Laura Fiddes and Andy Fraser, Morrison Construction for commissioning this project and staff of David Smith Contractors onsite and to Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service, Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus, and Aberdeen City Councils for his advice during the work.

Cameron Archaeology
45 View Terrace
Aberdeen
AB25 2RS
01224 643020
07581 181057
cameronarch@btinternet.com
www.cameronarchaeology.com

APPENDIX 1 MAPS



Illus 4 First Edition Ordnance Survey map with site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 5 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map with site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description
DSC_5601-5622	Tree stumps prior to watching brief being removed by machine and hook
DSC_5623-49	Watching brief N area
DSC_5650-1	Stoneware, glass, ceramic, horse bone from N area
DSC_5652-63	Watching brief S area
DSC_5664-6	Watching brief N area W extension
DSC_5667-74	Window glass in rectangular area of topsoil in natural subsoil N area
DSC_5675-76	Watching brief N area W extension
DSC_5677-91	Watching brief S area W extension including field drain, W-E furrow and tree boles



DSC_5601.JPG



DSC_5602.JPG



DSC_5603.JPG



DSC_5604.JPG



DSC_5605.JPG



DSC_5606.JPG



DSC_5607.JPG



DSC_5608.JPG



DSC_5609.JPG



DSC_5610.JPG



DSC_5611.JPG



DSC_5612.JPG



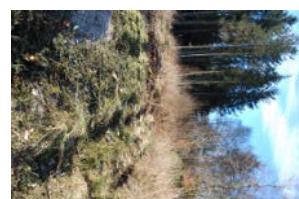
DSC_5613.JPG



DSC_5614.JPG



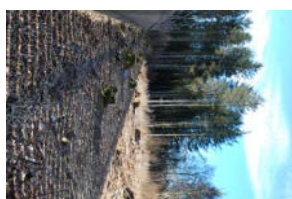
DSC_5615.JPG



DSC_5616.JPG



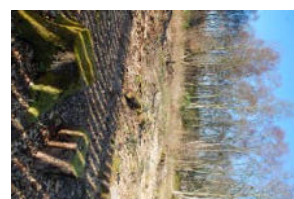
DSC_5617.JPG



DSC_5618.JPG



DSC_5619.JPG



DSC_5620.JPG



DSC_5621.JPG



DSC_5622.JPG



DSC_5623.JPG



DSC_5624.JPG



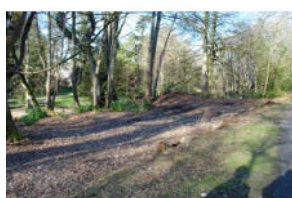
DSC_5625.JPG



DSC_5626.JPG



DSC_5627.JPG



DSC_5628.JPG



DSC_5629.JPG



DSC_5630.JPG



DSC_5631.JPG



DSC_5632.JPG



DSC_5633.JPG



DSC_5634.JPG



DSC_5635.JPG



DSC_5636.JPG



DSC_5637.JPG



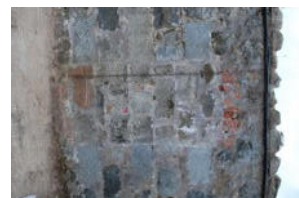
DSC_5638.JPG



DSC_5639.JPG



DSC_5640.JPG



DSC_5641.JPG



DSC_5642.JPG



DSC_5643.JPG



DSC_5644.JPG



DSC_5645.JPG



DSC_5646.JPG



DSC_5647.JPG



DSC_5648.JPG



DSC_5649.JPG



DSC_5650.JPG



DSC_5651.JPG



DSC_5652.JPG



DSC_5653.JPG



DSC_5654.JPG



DSC_5655.JPG



DSC_5656.JPG



DSC_5657.JPG



DSC_5658.JPG



DSC_5659.JPG



DSC_5660.JPG



DSC_5661.JPG



DSC_5662.JPG



DSC_5663.JPG



DSC_5664.JPG



DSC_5665.JPG



DSC_5666.JPG



DSC_5667.JPG



DSC_5668.JPG



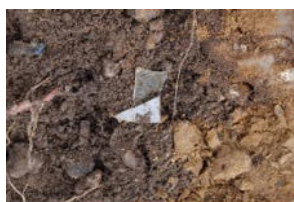
DSC_5669.JPG



DSC_5670.JPG



DSC_5671.JPG



DSC_5672.JPG



DSC_5673.JPG



DSC_5674.JPG



DSC_5675.JPG



DSC_5676.JPG



DSC_5677.JPG



DSC_5678.JPG



DSC_5679.JPG



DSC_5680.JPG



DSC_5681.JPG



DSC_5682.JPG



DSC_5683.JPG



DSC_5684.JPG



DSC_5685.JPG



DSC_5686.JPG



DSC_5687.JPG



DSC_5688.JPG



DSC_5689.JPG



DSC_5690.JPG



DSC_5691.JPG