

Marischal College City Centre District Heating Data Structure Report (DSR)



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Cover: location of the trench; facing N

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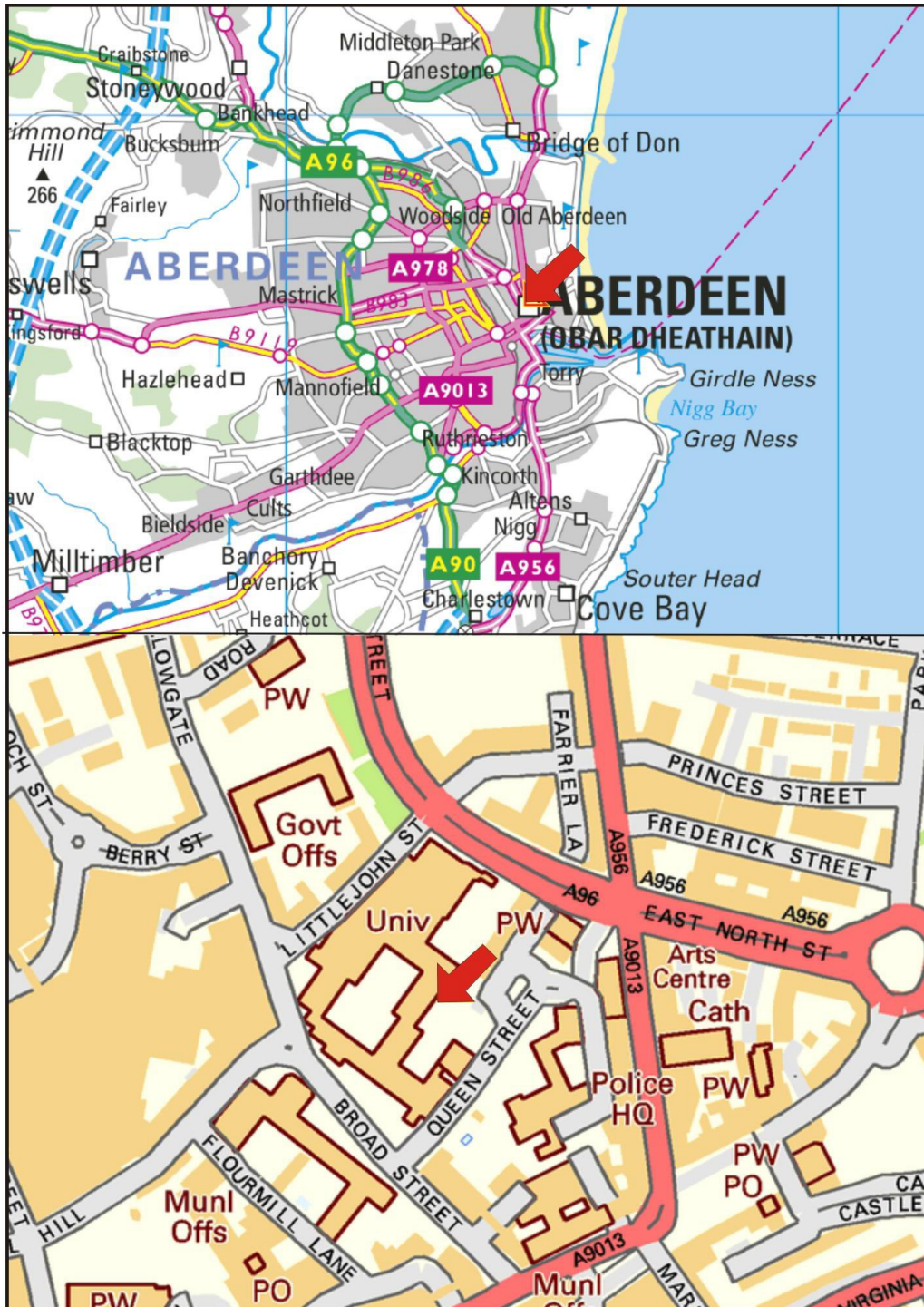
SUMMARY

A watching brief took place on 10 November 2017; a trench was excavated to a depth of 1m for the connection of Aberdeen Heat and Power cables into Marischal college. An iron pipe was located at the bottom of the trench and digging ceased. No further excavation is required in this location and the rest of the cabling is within an area already subjected to a watching brief in 1988 and therefore no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

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

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the south side of Marischal College between the college and Queen Street. It is centred on NGR NJ 94297 06499, at 15-20m OD in the parish of Aberdeen.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Aberdeen Heat and Power 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 Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) 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 2017).

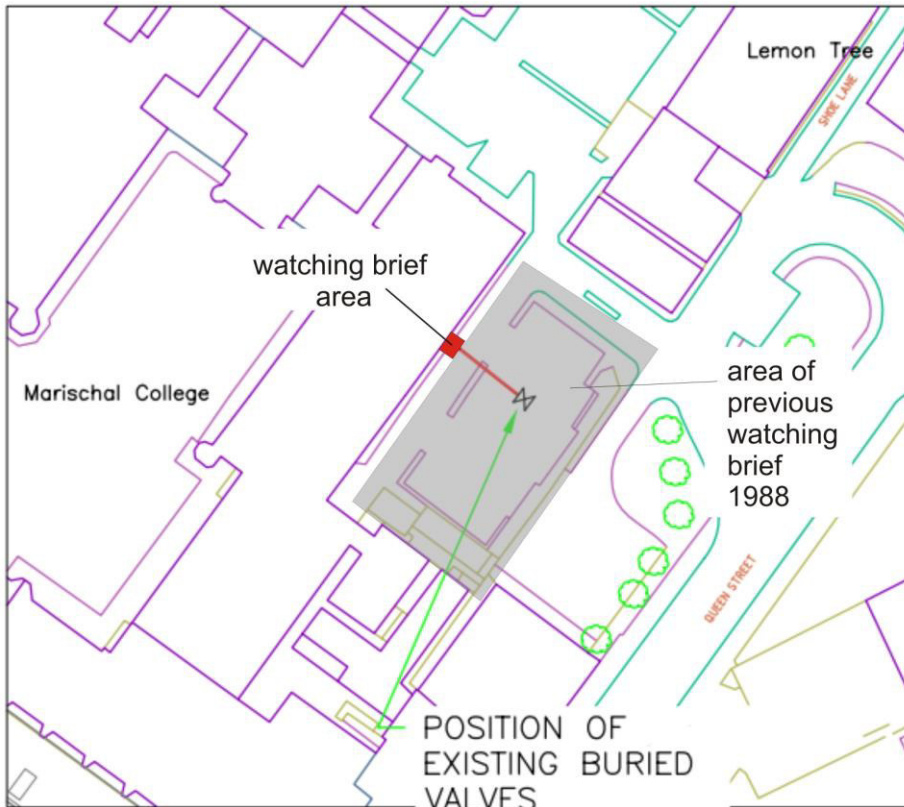
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There are many archaeological and historical sites along the line of the current work (see Appendix 1 below). A number which may have implications for the current work are highlighted below.

- 2.6 A number of archaeological interventions have taken place in Queen Street. A watching brief after the demolition of John Smith's Warehouse, 5 Queen Street in 1988 (NJ90NW 218) (Cameron and White 1988, 13). Machine trench was dug and development observed over the whole of the demolished warehouse site. Large amount (up to 1.20m deep) of garden soil, mainly undisturbed with small quantity of medieval pottery. Also there was an undisturbed layer over the natural subsoil containing heavily compacted organic remains. This seems consistent with an area which in the later 15th and 16th centuries may have been within the confines of the Franciscan friary (NJ90NW 26) and in the earlier medieval period was probably used for dumping, lying as it did at least 100m back from the Broad Street frontage. On this site in 1847 a hoard of coins of Mary Queen of Scots was found (NJ90NW 64).
- 2.7 Extensive excavation at Marischal College prior to and during the conversion of the building to the headquarters of Aberdeen City Council revealed that there was also undisturbed medieval garden soils and medieval rubbish in the area of the rear car park (now occupied by the multi-story car park) (NJ90NW 26, NJ 9425 0650) (Cameron 2009, 11).
- 2.8 12-26 Broad Street was a medieval site with prehistoric horizon excavated in 1973 (NJ90NW 115). Building evidence included remains of wattle and daub, half timbering, timber and clay-bonded stonework dating from between the 13th and 15th centuries. One oak corner post survived to a height of 1.3m. Three pits behind these houses produced French, Yorkshire and Rhineland pottery as well as native wares and animal bones, spindle whorls, leather, textiles, bronze and iron objects (Murray 1982, 26-37).
- 2.9 Excavation in Queen Street in 1973 (NJ90NW 115) revealed a large 14th century midden with large quantities of animal, fowl and fish bones, leather (boots and shoes), worked antler, textiles, heather, leaves, nuts and shells as well as two bone playing-dice and two finely-decorated spindle-whorls. Slightly earlier in date than the midden were a series of interrelated pits which had been infilled with 14th century rubbish after going out of use. One of them had the timber lining of a wooden vat. These were industrial pits and may have been a late 13th/early 14th century tannery. The rubbish fill of the pits produced much the same material as the midden plus a face-masked jug (Murray 1982, 17-26). A prehistoric horizon consisting of a thin layer of soil which covered the natural sand and gravel produced a large quantity of flint flakes and pebble cores which were possibly of late Mesolithic/early Neolithic date.

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief took place on 10 November 2017; a trench was excavated to a depth of 1m for the connection of Aberdeen Heat and Power cables into Marischal college. An iron pipe was located at the bottom of the trench and digging ceased. No further excavation is required in this location and the rest of the cabling is within an area already subjected to a watching brief in 1988 and therefore no further archaeological work is required during the current development.



Illus 2 Plan of location of watching brief (copyright Aberdeen Heat and Power Ltd)



Illus 3 Trench dug through old cable trenches and line of bricks marking 1m deep iron pipe; facing NE

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Substantial, well-preserved archaeological remains were found around Marischal College in previous archaeological projects, but the area excavated for this connection for Aberdeen heat5 and Power had been previously excavated and pipes laid. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

5 REFERENCES

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6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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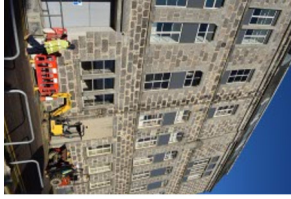
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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

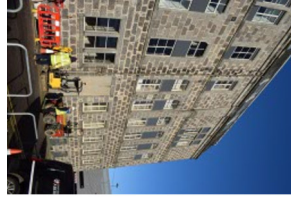
Photo no	Description	Facing
DSC_3804-6	Trench location with Marischal College in the background	NE
DSC_3807-12	Digging trench	NE/N
IMG_8681-83	Location shots	NE/N
IMG_8684-6	Iron pipe with bricks above	NE



DSC_3804.JPG



DSC_3805.JPG



DSC_3806.JPG



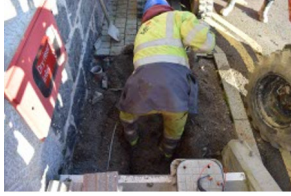
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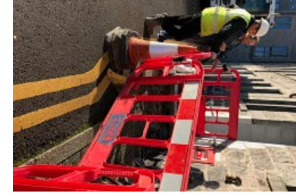
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