

**Site to the South of Myreside Cottage, Marykirk,
Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire, AB30 1XN**

Aberdeenshire planning application APP/2017/0892

Data Structure Report (DSR)



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CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3	THE WATCHING BRIEF	5
4	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	6
5	REFERENCES	6
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
	APPENDIX 1	7
	APPENDIX 2 MAPS	9
	APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS	14

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: the soil strip for the house; facing NNW

Illus 1	Location plan (<i>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018</i>)	3
Illus 2	Watching brief area (copyright John D Crawford Ltd)	5
Illus 3	Soil strip for house showing modern plough marks in natural sand; facing SSE	6
Illus 4	Gordon 1640 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>)	9
Illus 5	Roy Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>)	9
Illus 6	Thomson's map of 1822 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>)	10
Illus 7	Garden's map of 1797 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>)	10
Illus 8	Robertson's map of 1822 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (<i>copyright National Library of Scotland</i>)	11
Illus 9	First Edition OS map showing site outline in red	11
Illus 10	Second Edition OS map showing site outline in red	12
Illus 11	Third Edition OS map showing site outline in red	12
Illus 12	2013 aerial photograph with site outline in red; facing S	13

SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out on 10 May 2018; there are several cropmark sites known in the fields surrounding this proposed development but modern plough marks were seen over the entire area and no archaeological finds or features were recorded. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this current planning application.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located N of Marykirk on the SW side of Myreside Cottage. It is centred on NGR NO68326682, at 30-35m OD in the parish of Marykirk.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Suer. An application APP/2017/0892 to Aberdeenshire Council was approved on 26.5.17 with a standard archaeology condition (condition 5).
- 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 2018)

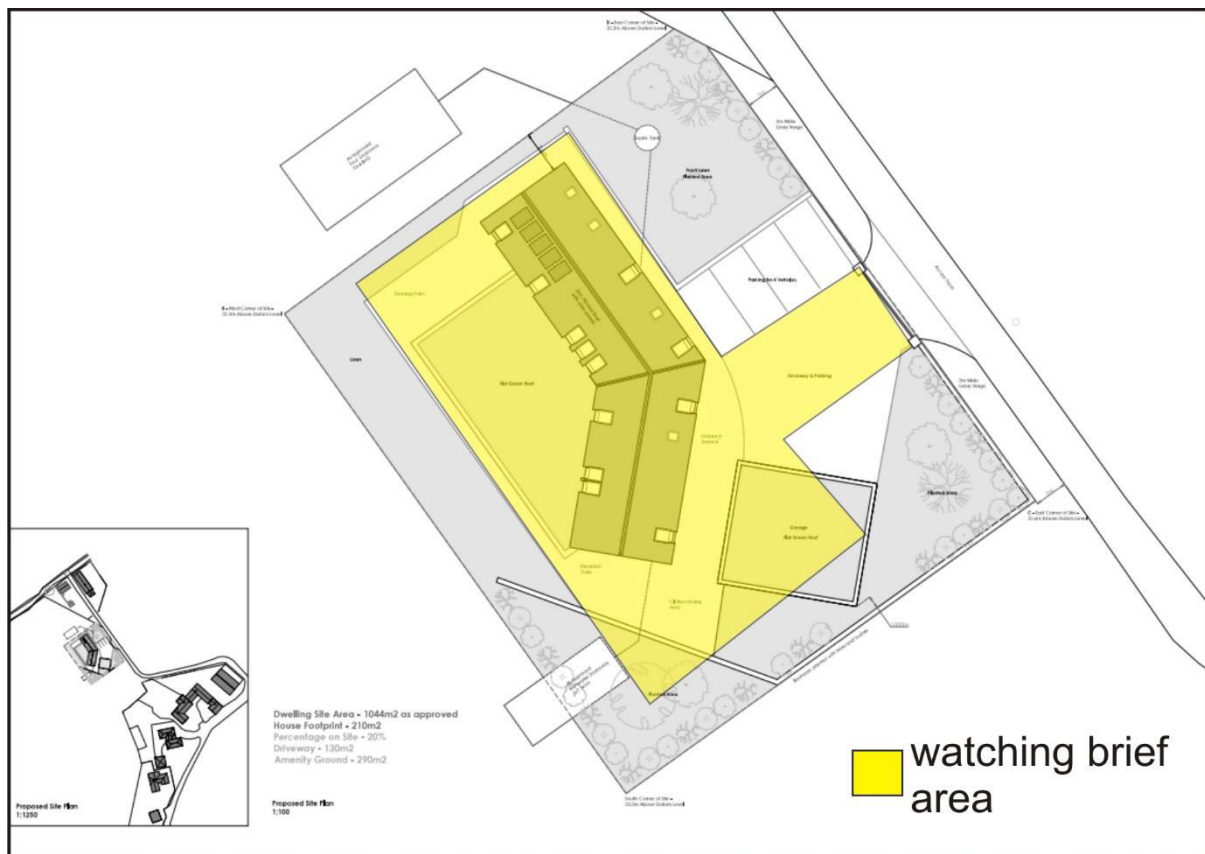
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the proposed development. There is a known site within the area of the proposed development. It is a cropmark of enclosure (HER NO66NE0158; Illus 11); a double concentric trace with internal feature and possible porch. Part of another circular enclosure is visible immediately to the W; also a segmented ditch.
- 2.2 The proposed development is surrounded on all sides by evidence of prehistoric settlement. Immediately to the SW is another cropmark of a possible homestead (HER NO66NE0030); NW of Myreside is a possible unenclosed settlement (NO66NE0028) represented by a cropmark of an oval enclosure with a gap in the east. There are other cropmarks of possible souterrains and other enclosures in same field (Aberdeen Archaeological Surveys. 1978, 11). To the E of Myreside is a cropmark showing a thin trace of an irregular-shaped enclosure surrounding polygonal and arcs of circular enclosures, some overlying others. Possibly part of an unenclosed settlement (HER NO66NE0042). SW of Myreside is an area of pits and possible traces of ring ditches showing as cropmarks (HER NO66NE0056). These probably represent an unenclosed settlement which may be a continuation of NO66NE0044, Cropmarks of an unenclosed settlement at Cobbleheugh. Pits and possible ring ditches are showing in the area along with a number of indeterminate features. Rig and furrow cultivation is showing as a cropmark overlying the area. SSE of Myreside on the edge of Marykirk is a number of ring ditches and other indeterminate cropmarks are visible on an aerial photograph (HER NO66NE0162). They could represent the remains of an unenclosed settlement of prehistoric date. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Headland Archaeology in September 2007 over a very small corner of the southern part of the cropmark area prior to housing development. No significant archaeological features were revealed in this southern area, however the majority of cropmarks are concentrated in the central and northern areas therefore archaeological remains may still survive. N of the proposed development at Dunthill is a cropmark of possible souterrain and arc of ditches to NE - a possible house site (HER NO66NE0174). E of Myreside at Balmanno Mains, two solid circular cropmarks, photographed during summer aerial reconnaissance, may represent the sites of hut stances (Greig 2003, 13).
- 2.3 To the E of Myreside is an extensive area of medieval rig and furrow (HES NO66NE 114).
- 2.4 Balmanno Country House (HES NO66NE 26) is of 18th or 189th-century date. Adjacent to the house is St John's well (HES NO66NE0178) which was a healing spring believed to cure rickets and sore eyes; now enclosed within a modern rectangular cistern and the water is piped to Smallbank (NO688 665). Also Mains of Balmanno (HER NO66NE0262), a farmstead, still in use, depicted on historic OS maps. The 1st edition shows a quadrangular steading, open to the south, and the west wing extended to the north. To the south is a garden enclosure and to the east a mill pond and sluice with a lade leading to the southeast corner of the steading. By the time of the 2nd edition map part of the steading court and been infilled and another building added to the east side of the steading, and a small rectangular building added to the south. Current maps show that this small building has since been removed, the pond infilled and further changes made to the steading.
- 2.5 There is an 18th-century dovecot at Hatton (HES NO66NE 23); it is lean-to with crow-stepped gables, now ruined.

- 2.6 Farmsteads in the area include Myreside (HES NO66NE 44), Marykirk Station, School and Schoolhouse (HER NO66NE0080) A former school Early/mid 19th century. Schoolhouse 2-storey L-plan entering by relatively modern 2-storey porch in re-entrant-angle, main frontage 3-window without a door, 2-window gable. Recorded on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. It is depicted on the 1st edition map as an L-shaped building and on the 2nd edition there is a garden shown to the north-west. The 2005 map shows that it survives in modified condition and is now residential.
- 2.7 The proposed development area has been farmland since the early maps (Illus 4-8) and the early Ordnance Survey maps (Illus 9-11).

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was carried out on 10 May 2018 with an 8 ton wheeled machine; the weather was sunny and windy. The area of the house and drive were cleared to sand and gravel subsoil (Illus 2, 3). The topsoil was sandy loam 0.2-0.25m deep over the house site and increasing in depth at the NE next to the road where 0.6m of soil as removed within a possible palaeochannel. This was the depth required for the driveway and the palaeochannel was not bottomed. The area around the house within the new plot will be set aside for agricultural use. Modern plough marks were seen over the entire area and no archaeological finds or features were recorded.



Illus 2 Watching brief area (copyright John D Crawford Ltd)



Illus 3 Soil strip for house showing modern plough marks in natural sand; facing SSE

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A watching brief was carried out on 10 May 2018. Modern plough marks were seen over the entire area and no archaeological finds or features were recorded. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this current planning application.

5 REFERENCES

- Aberdeen Archaeological Surveys.** (1978) *Aerial reconnaissance', Discovery Excav Scot*, 1978.
- Greig, M.** (2003) *Aerial Reconnaissance, (various parishes), aerial photography', Discovery Excav Scot*, vol. 4, 2003.
- RCAHMS.** (1982) *The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of South Kincardine, Kincardine and Deeside District, Grampian Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 15.* Edinburgh.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Suer for initiating this project and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during this work.

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APPENDIX 1

Archaeological and historical sites within 1km of the proposed site (HES and Aberdeenshire HER online)

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name	Details
HERABER	NO66NE0042	Myreside	-
HERABER	NO66NE0044	Cobbleheugh	-
HERABER	NO66NE0028	Myreside	-
HERABER	NO66NE0056	Marykirk	-
HERABER	NO66NE0006	Balmakewan	-
HERABER	NO66NE0144	Myreside	-
HERABER	NO66NE0030	Myreside	-
HERABER	NO66NE0158	Myreside	-
HERABER	NO66NE0174	Dunthill	-
HERABER	NO66NE0022	Cobleheugh	-
HERABER	NO66NE0162	Marykirk	-
HERABER	NO66NE0080	Dunthill	-
HERABER	NO66NE0128	Marykirk	-
HERABER	NO66NE0194	Balmanno Mains	-
HERABER	NO66NE0064	Balmanno Cottages	-
HERABER	NO66NE0178	St John's Well	-
HERABER	NO66NE0262	Mains Of Balmanno	-
HERABER	NO66NE0184	Balmakewan	-
HERABER	NO66NE0228	Balmakewan	-
HERABER	NO66NE0100	Myreside	-
HERABER	NO66NE0036	Hatton	-
HERABER	NO66NE0046	Hatton	-
HERABER	NO66NE0188	Hatton	-
HERABER	NO66NE0098	Myreside	-
RCAHMS	NO 68300 67700	Dubton	Rectilinear Enclosure (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NO 68410 67450	Dunthill	Cropmark(s) (period Unknown), Souterrain (prehistoric)(possible)
RCAHMS	NO 68592 67459	Dunthill House	School (period Unassigned), Schoolhouse (period Unassigned), Marykirk Station, School And Schoolhouse
RCAHMS	NO 68650 66860	Myreside	Field Boundary (period Unassigned), Rig And Furrow (medieval)
RCAHMS	NO 68800 67000	Balmanno Mains	Cropmark (period Unknown)
RCAHMS	NO 68281 66000	Cobleheugh, Railway Bridge	Railway Bridge (19-20th Century)
RCAHMS	NO 69090 66450	St John's Well	Spring (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NO 69137 66508	Balmanno House	Coach House (period Unassigned), Country House (period Unassigned), Garden (period Unassigned), Outbuilding(s) (period Unassigned), Wall(s) (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NO 69175 66582	Balmanno House, Cottage	Cottage (period Unassigned), Balmanno House Policies

RCAHMS	NO 68395 66756	Myreside	Farmhouse (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NO 68100 66100	Cobleheugh	Unenclosed Settlement (period Unassigned), Marykirk
RCAHMS	NO 68000 66100	Cobleheugh	Unenclosed Settlement (period Unassigned)(possible)
RCAHMS	NO 68000 66200	Cobleheugh	Pit(s) (period Unassigned), Ring Ditch(s) (period Unassigned)(possible), Marykirk
RCAHMS	NO 68070 66210	Cobleheugh	Cist(s) (period Unassigned), Marykirk
RCAHMS	NO 67400 66700	Myreside	Unenclosed Settlement (period Unassigned)(possible)
RCAHMS	NO 67900 66700	Myreside	Cropmark(s) (period Unknown), Enclosure(s) (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NO 68200 66700	Myreside	Settlement (period Unassigned)(possible)
RCAHMS	NO 67580 66950	Myreside	Enclosure (period Unassigned)(possible)
RCAHMS	NO 68050 66980	Myreside	Enclosure (period Unassigned), Souterrain(s) (prehistoric), Unenclosed Settlement (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NO 67553 67103	Hatton, Dovecot	Dovecot (18th Century), Hatton Dovecot
RCAHMS	NO 67651 67506	Hatton Mains, Garage And Garden Wall	Garage (modern), Garden Wall (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NO 67597 67541	Hatton Mains	House (18th Century), Mains Of Hatton, Mains House
RCAHMS	NO 68200 67800	Dubton	Barrow (prehistoric)(possible)
RCAHMS	NO 68150 65850	Cobleheugh	Farmhouse (period Unassigned), Farmstead (period Unassigned)

APPENDIX 2 MAPS



Illus 4 Gordon 1640 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 5 Roy Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



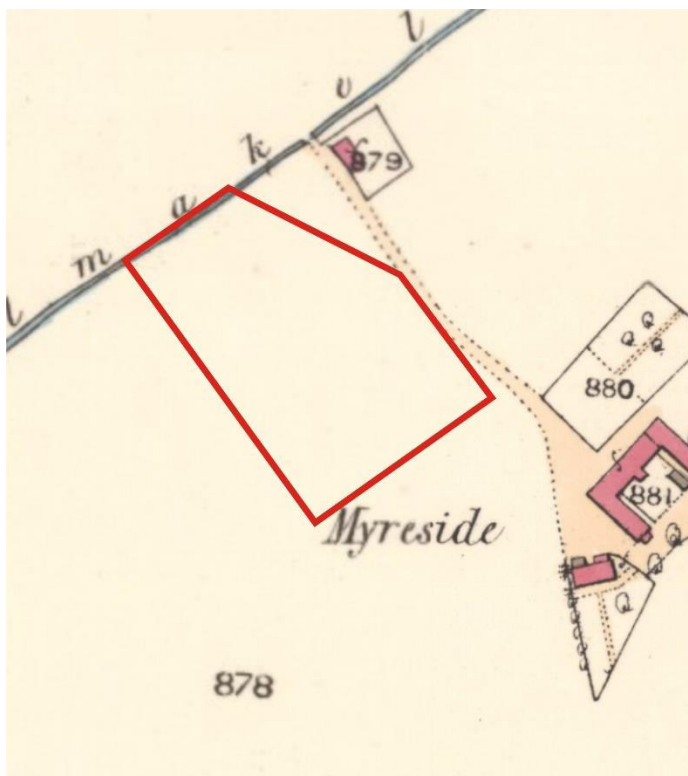
Illus 6 Thomson's map of 1822 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



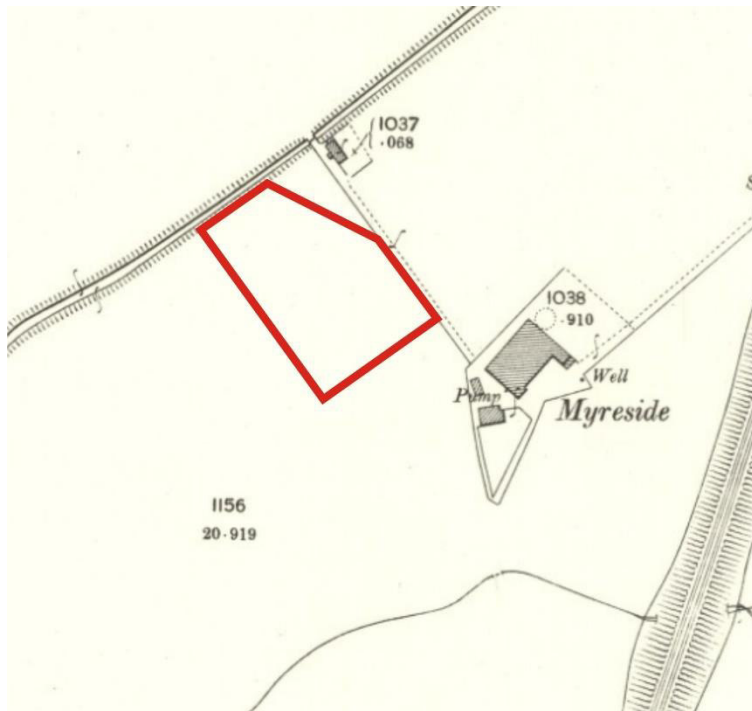
Illus 7 Garden's map of 1797 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



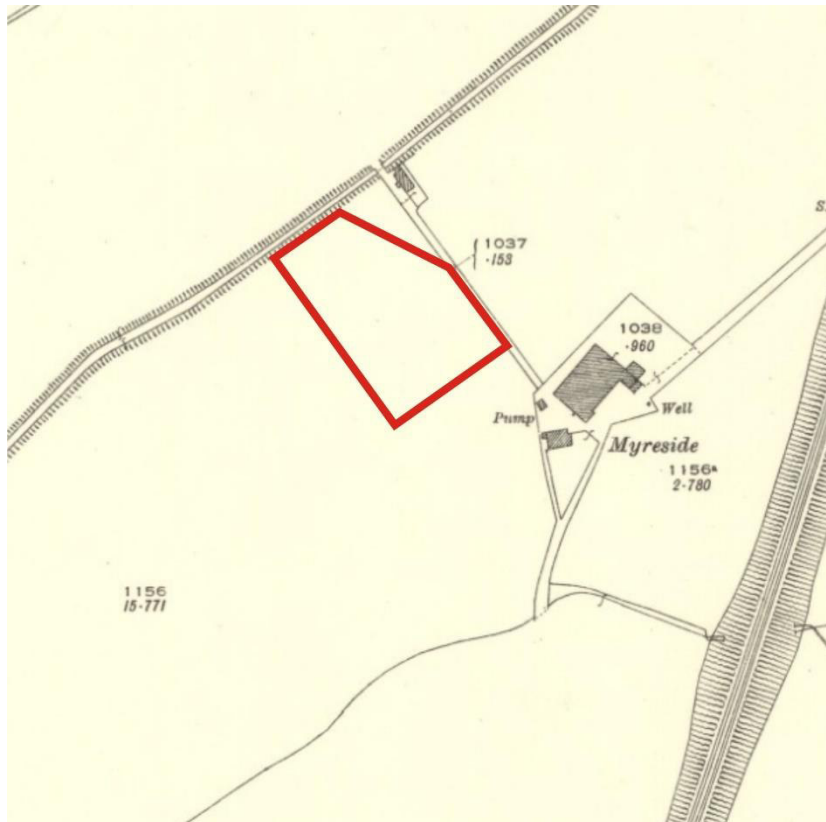
Illus 8 Robertson's map of 1822 with approximate area of proposed development outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 9 First Edition OS map showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Kincardineshire XXVI.4 (Marykirk)
Survey date: 1863 Publication date: 1864



Illus 10 Second Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Kincardineshire XXVII.13 (Logie-Pert; Marykirk)
 Publication date: 1904 Revised: 1901



Illus 11 Third Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Kincardineshire XXVII.13 (Logie-Pert; Marykirk)
 Publication date: 1924 Revised: 1923 Levelled: 1902



Illus 12 2013 aerial photograph with site outline in red; facing S (Copyright HES)
Description Oblique aerial view of the cropmarks at Myreside. Date 18/7/2013
Collection RCAHMS Aerial Photography DigitalCatalogue Number DP 167007

APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
P5100873	Soil strip starting	E
P5100874-92	House soil strip showing modern plough marks	NNW/E/SSE
P5100893-901	Driveway soil strip	SSE/WSW



P5100873.JPG



P5100874.JPG



P5100875.JPG



P5100876.JPG



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