

**112 High Street, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3HE
Data Structure Report**

**Aberdeen Planning Application no 170524/DPP
NGR NJ 93932 08474**



**Alison Cameron
Cameron Archaeology
12 September 2018**

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2 BACKGROUND.....	5
3 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY.....	5
4 THE WATCHING BRIEF	8
4.1 Post-hole F1.....	8
4.2 Pit F3.....	9
4.3 The Pottery	9
4.4 Electric cabling	10
4.5 Gas cabling	10
5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	10
6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	10
APPENDIX 1 MAPS.....	11
APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS	13

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: Ali Cameron excavating F3 with F1 in foreground; facing W

Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018)	4
Illus 2 Plan showing location of development (copyright Squire Associates)	5
Illus 3 Plan showing the building recorded and the gas and electricity trenches (copyright Squire Associates)	5
Illus 4 The West façade (exterior) with W1, D1, W2 (left to right); facing W	6
Illus 5 The West façade (interior) with W2, D1, W1 (left to right); facing W	6
Illus 6 SW corner showing S wall cut down prior to this survey	7
Illus 7 NW corner showing N wall cut down prior to this survey	7
Illus 8 Plans and section of pits F1 and F3.....	8
Illus 9 Pit F1 showing medieval pottery facing N	8
Illus 10 Pit F3 (foreground) and F1 (background); facing E	9
Illus 11 Medieval jug base from F1 context 2 showing pinched base and worn green lead glaze	9
Illus 12 Detail of the interior of the jug base showing finger impressions	10
Illus 13 Parson Gordon's map of 1661 showing site circled (copyright National Library of Scotland).....	11
Illus 14 First Edition Ordnance Survey map Aberdeenshire LXXV.7 (Old Machar, North, West and Greyfriars) Survey date: 1864 to 1867 Publication date: 1868 (copyright National Library of Scotland)	11
Illus 15 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map Aberdeenshire LXXV.7 (Aberdeen) Publication date: 1901 Revised: 1899 (copyright National Library of Scotland)	12
Illus 16 Third Edition Ordnance Survey map (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire LXXV.7 (Aberdeen) Publication date: 1926 Revised: 1924 Levelled: 1899	12
Illus 17 Camera points used in this survey	13

SUMMARY

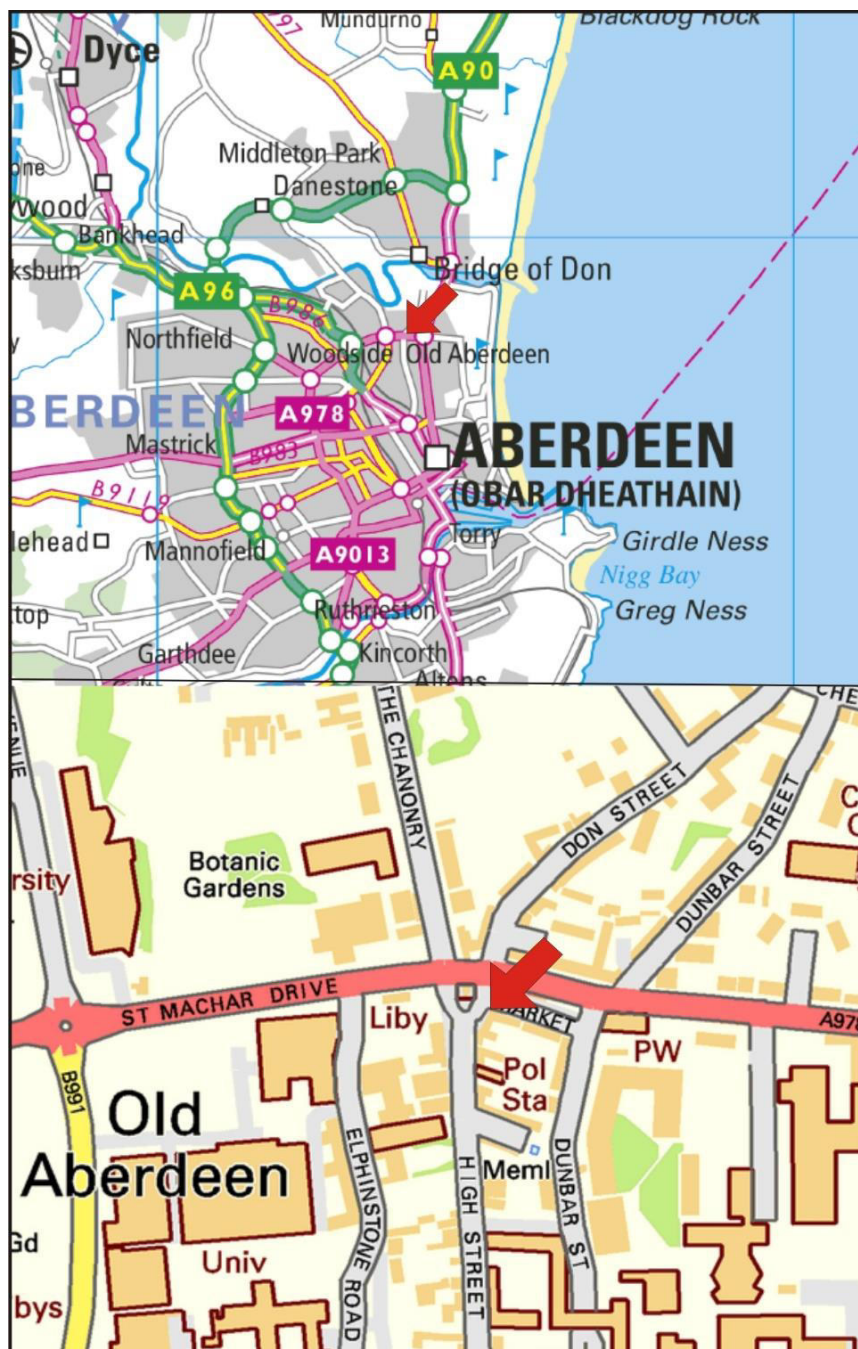
A visual inspection of the site was carried out on 4 April 2018 and a photographic survey was carried out on 20 April 2018 with watching briefs on the service trenches 30 August and 6 September 2018.

A pit and post-hole were excavated; it is possible that post-hole base F1 is medieval in origin but the pit F3 was backfilled in the late 19th or 20th century. This site is on the line of medieval High Street and the buildings may have been wood or this might have been the remains of an internal partition or fitting. Parson Gordon's map of 1661 (Illus 13) shows stone buildings along the frontage with rigs to the E. Medieval pottery of the type recovered on this site have been found all over Aberdeen and Old Aberdeen.

The building work is now complete and so it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

1 INTRODUCTION

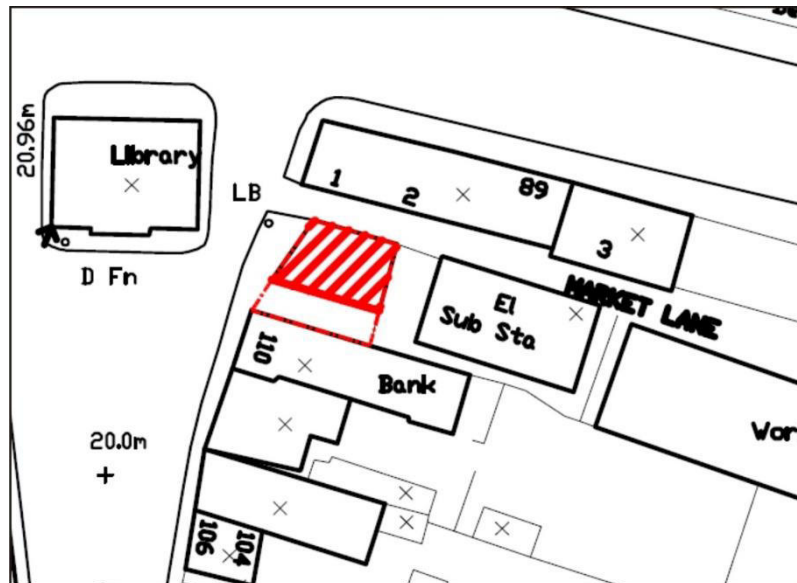
- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the E side of High Street, Old Aberdeen opposite the Old Town House. It is centred on NGR NJ 93932 08474, at 20-25m OD and in the parish of Aberdeen.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Andy Farquhar, Squire Associates for Harry Miller. An Aberdeen City Council planning application 170524/DPP for change of use from old public toilets to form new coffee house/café was approved on 20.7.17 with an archaeology condition and there is a requirement for a photographic survey and a watching brief during all ground disturbance.
- 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 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 BACKGROUND

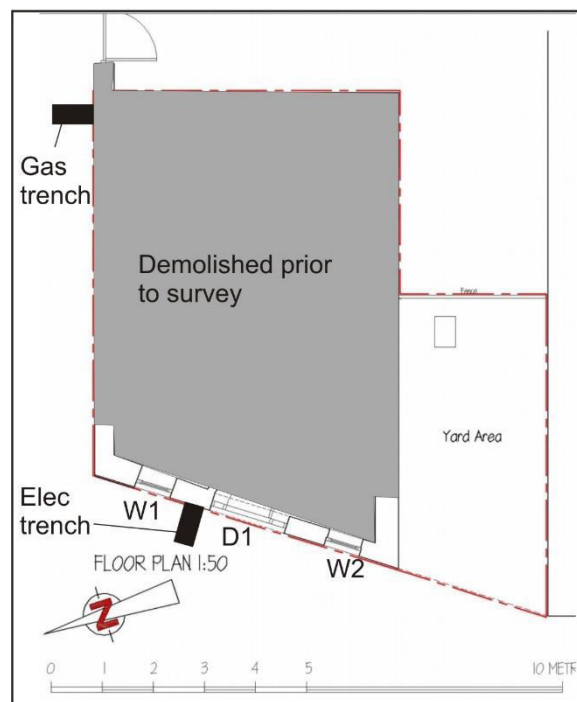
This single storey granite-fronted unlisted building dating from 1932 and formerly used as public toilets fronts onto 112 High Street to the W and Market Lane to the N. It is within Old Aberdeen Conservation Area. The front elevation is of ashlar granite and has the word 'SHELTER' engraved above the door. It is not on the Aberdeen Sites and Monuments Record or the National Monuments Record.



Illus 2 Plan showing location of development (copyright Squire Associates)

3 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

A photographic survey was carried out on 4th and 20th April 2018. The N, E and S walls of the building had been demolished by the date of the first visit and so the W front façade and the stumps of the N and S walls were photographically recorded.



Illus 3 Plan showing the building recorded and the gas and electricity trenches (copyright Squire Associates)



Illus 4 The West façade (exterior) with W1, D1, W2 (left to right); facing W



Illus 5 The West façade (interior) with W2, D1, W1 (left to right); facing W



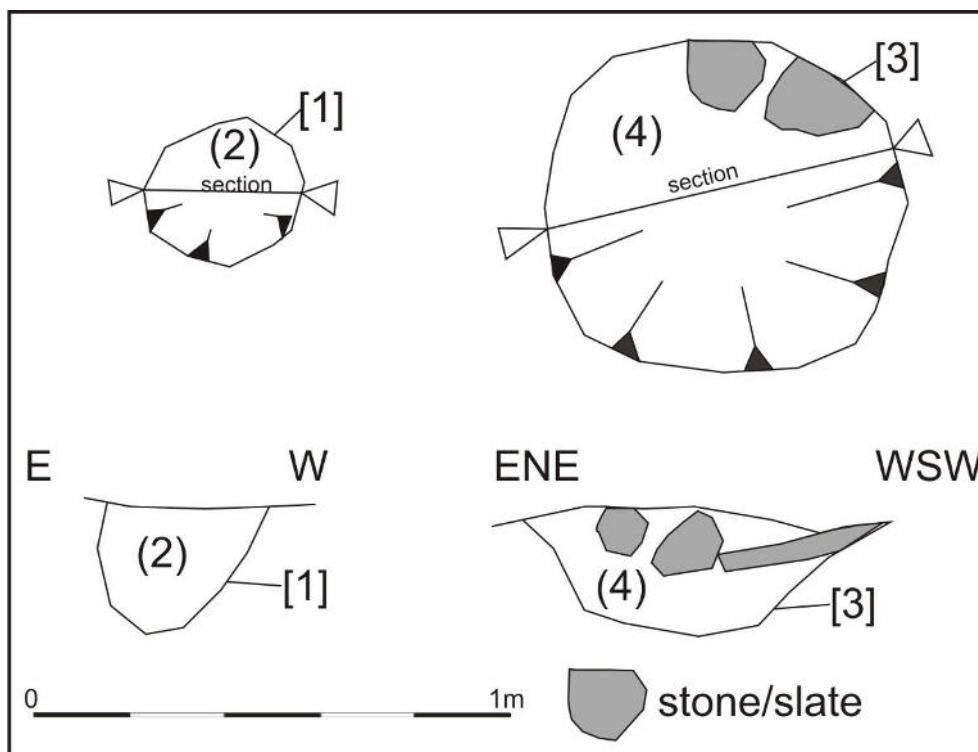
Illus 6 SW corner showing S wall cut down prior to this survey



Illus 7 NW corner showing N wall cut down prior to this survey

4 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A visual inspection was carried out on 4 April 2018 and an area which had been stripped of rubble was hand-cleaned. A pit and a possible post-hole base were uncovered and excavated.



Illus 8 Plans and section of pits F1 and F3

4.1 Post-hole F1

F1 was 0.3m diameter and 0.15m deep and had steep sides. The fill was 2 a black loam, gravel, modern wood fragments and late medieval pottery (Illus 8,9). It is possible that this is the remains of a medieval post-hole with modern material pressed into the top fill.



Illus 9 Pit F1 showing medieval pottery facing N

4.2 Pit F3

F3 was 0.9m diameter and 0.10m deep and had shallow sloping sides. The fill was 4, a black loam, gravel, mortar, stone and sherds of 19th/early 20th-century pottery (Illus 8, 10).



Illus 10 Pit F3 (foreground) and F1 (background); facing E

4.3 The Pottery

The base of a late medieval jug was found within the fill of F1. It has a pinched base, green lead glaze on the exterior and rilling and pinch marks on the interior of the base. It is local east coast redware typically made in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.



Illus 11 Medieval jug base from F1 context 2 showing pinched base and worn green lead glaze



Illus 12 Detail of the interior of the jug base showing finger impressions

4.4 Electric cabling

A trench was dug on the W façade of the building to connect the electricity to the mains on 30 August 2018 (Illus 3). The material excavated had been removed previously and no *in situ* deposits were recorded or finds recovered.

4.5 Gas cabling

A trench was dug on the N side of the building to connect the gas to the mains on 6 September 2018 (Illus 3). The material excavated had been removed previously and no *in situ* deposits were recorded or finds recovered.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is possible that post-hole base F1 is medieval in origin but F3 was backfilled in the late 19th or 20th century. This site is on the line of medieval High Street and the buildings may have been wood or this might have been the remains of an internal partition or fitting. Parson Gordon's map of 1661 (Illus 13) shows stone buildings along the frontage with rigs to the E. Medieval pottery of the type recovered on this site have been found all over Aberdeen and Old Aberdeen.

The building work is now complete and so it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Andy Farquhar and Harry Miller for commissioning this project and to Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service, Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus, and Aberdeen City Councils, for his advice during the work.

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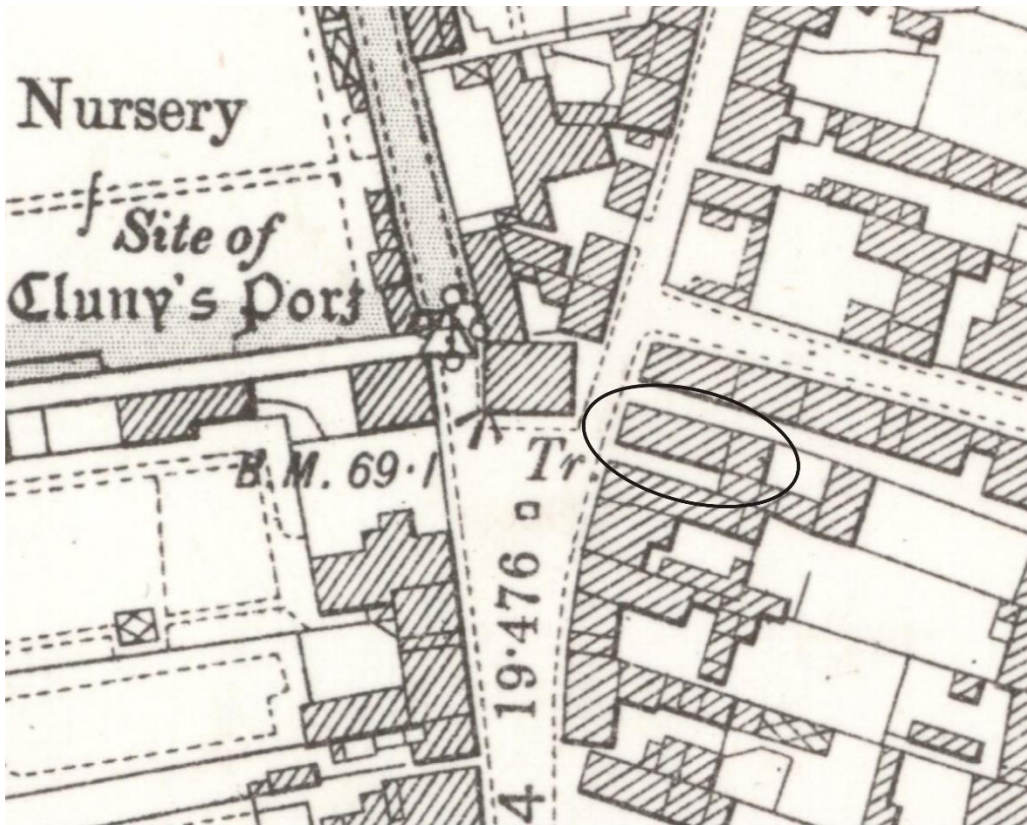
APPENDIX 1 MAPS



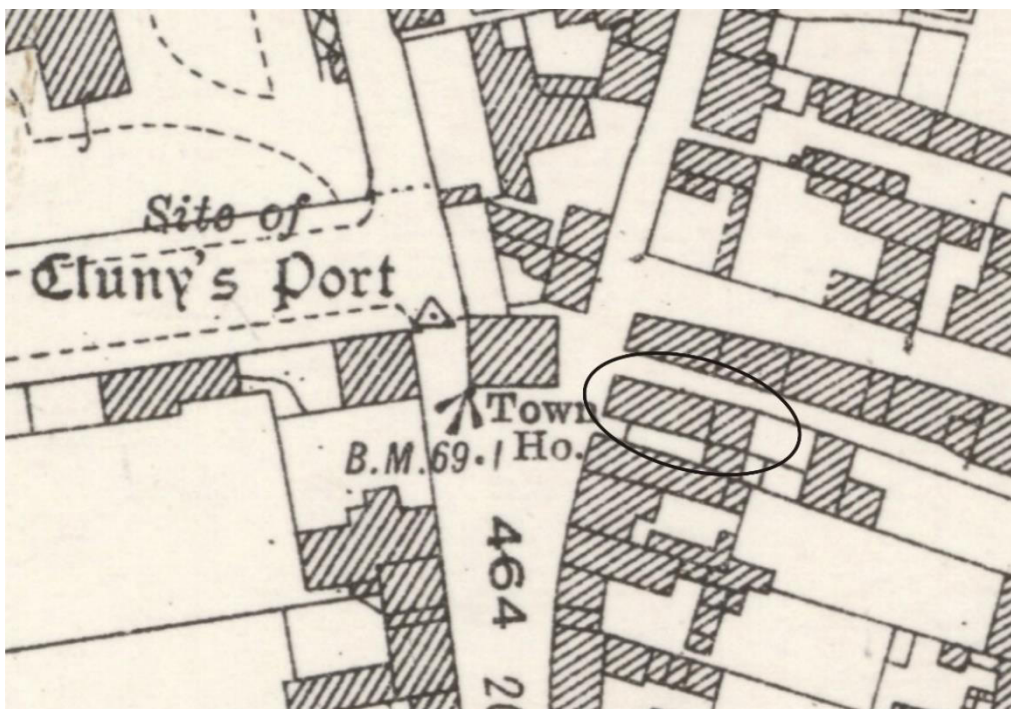
Illus 13 Parson Gordon's map of 1661 showing site circled (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 14 First Edition Ordnance Survey map Aberdeenshire LXXV.7 (Old Machar, North, West and Greyfriars) Survey date: 1864 to 1867 Publication date: 1868 (copyright National Library of Scotland)

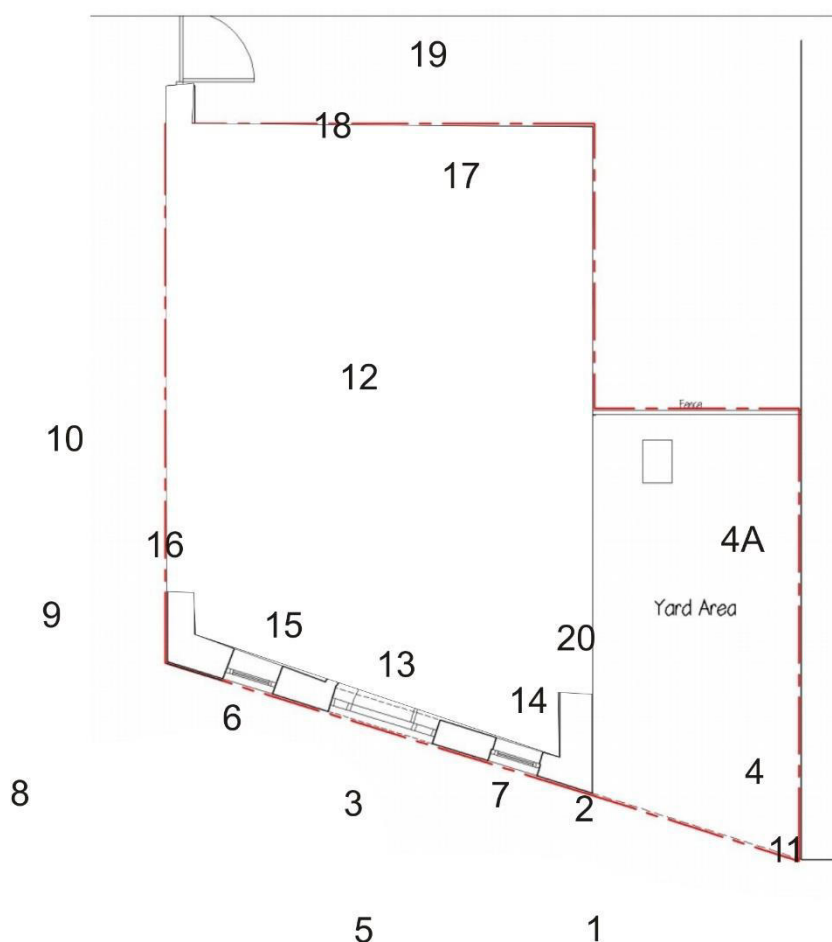


Illus 15 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map Aberdeenshire LXXV.7 (Aberdeen)
 Publication date: 1901 Revised: 1899 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 16 Third Edition Ordnance Survey map (copyright National Library of Scotland)
 Aberdeenshire LXXV.7 (Aberdeen) Publication date: 1926 Revised: 1924 Levelled:
 1899

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS



Illus 17 Camera points used in this survey

Photo no	Description	Facing	Camera point
1499-500	Electric connection trench 30.8.18	N/E	-
1501	Electric connection trench 30.8.18	NE	-
1502-4	Gas connection trench 6.9.18	E/S/E	-
7078-9	W facade	E	1
7080-5	W facade	E	1/2/3
7086-8	S wall remaining stub	N	4
7089-93	Watching brief area	W	
7094	F1 and F3 pre excavation	E	
7095	F1 and F3 pre excavation	S	
7096	F1 and F3 pre excavation	W	
7097	F1 and F3 pre excavation	N	
7098-7101	F3 half excavated	S	
7102	F3 half excavated	W	
7103	F3 half excavated	S	
7104	F3 half excavated	N	
7105	F1 half excavated	E	
7106	F1 half excavated	S	
7107	F1 half excavated	W	
7108-9	F1 half excavated	S	

7110-1	F1 half excavated	W	
7112	F1 (foreground) F3 (background)	W	
7113-6	F3 (foreground) F1 (background)	E	
7117-23	Location photos		
7818-9	West facade	E	5
7820	W1	E	6
7821	D1	E	3
7822	SHELTER above D1	E	3
7823	W2	E	7
7824-6	W façade	SE	8
7827	W facade	E	5
7828-9	N wall stub retained	S	9
7830-32	Foundations of N, E and S walls	S/SW	10
7833-4	Stub S wall	N	4
7835-6	Stub S wall	NE	11
7837	Stub S wall	NW	4A
7838	Stub S wall	N	4
7839	W façade interior	W	12
7840	D1	W	13
7841-2	W2	W	14
7843	W1	W	15
7844-5	N wall	W	16
7846-7	N, S and E wall demolished	E	13
7848	N and E wall foundations	NE	12
7849	E wall foundation	E	17
7850	E wall foundation	S	18
7851-3	E and S wall foundations	SE	17
7854-5	Interior SW corner	SW	14
7856-7	S wall	W	20
7858-61	drains		
7862-5	W façade interior	W	19
7866-9	W façade interior	NW	18
7869-72	Watching brief working shots		
IMG2929-43	Watching brief working shots		
3457-3474	Pot (2)		



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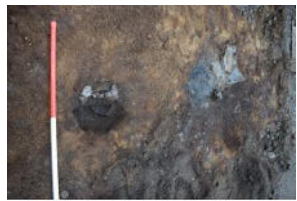
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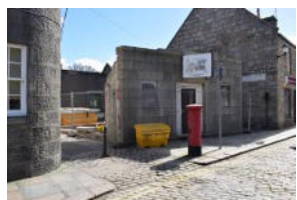
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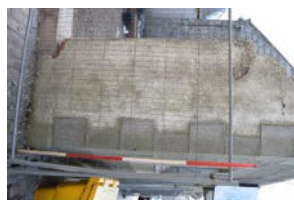
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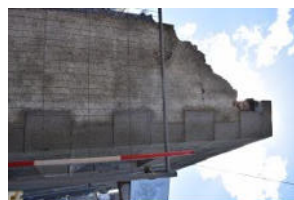
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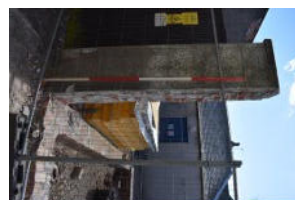
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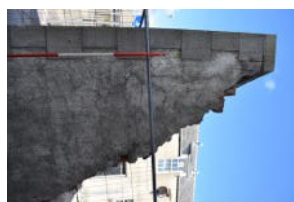
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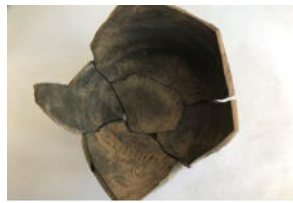
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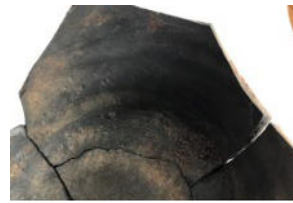
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