

# **Plot 2, Fordoun Road, Laurencekirk, AB30 1FB Data Structure Report**



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Cover: Soils strip nearing completion for Plot 2

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## SUMMARY

On June 21st, 2018 a watching brief took place during the soil strip for Plot 2, Fordoun Road, Laurencekirk. While no finds or features were noted, raw quartzite was identified which complements recent finds of worked lithics. While no further archaeological work is deemed necessary for Plot 2, it is recommended that additional watching briefs are maintained for the adjacent plots.

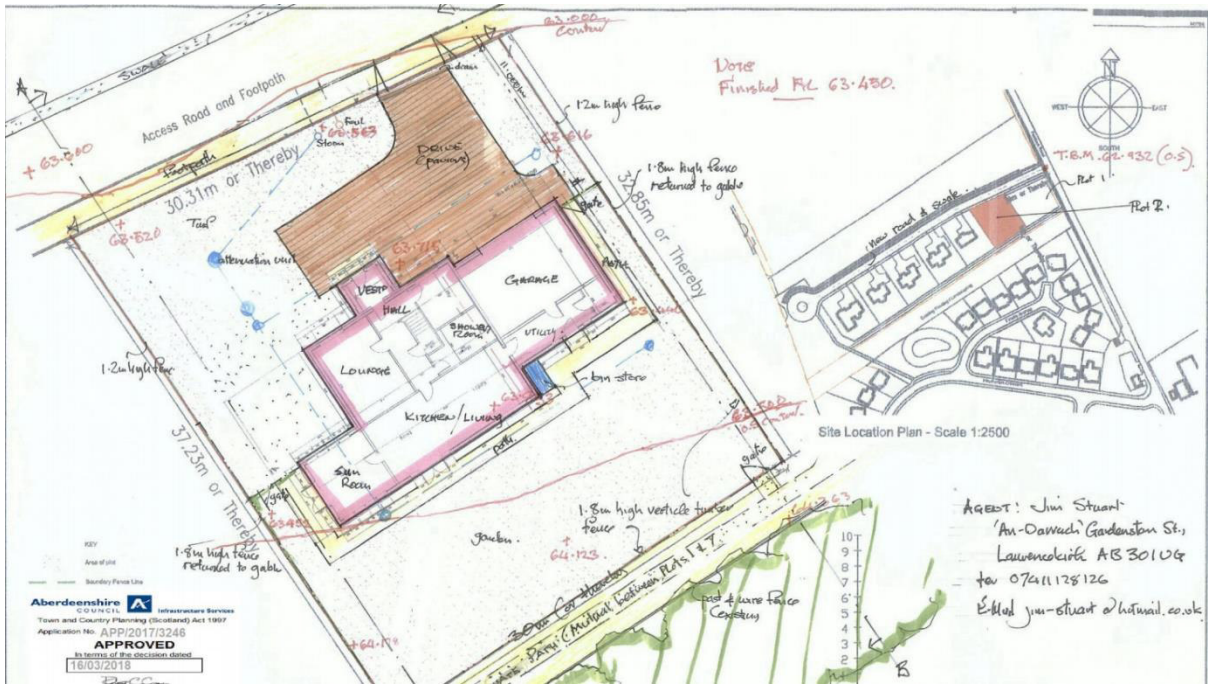
# 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the W side of Fordoun Road N of Haulkerton Cresc. It is centred on NGR NO 71348 72084, at 62-67m OD in the parish of Laurencekirk.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Mrs Kearney. A planning application APP/2017/3246 for a new house was decided on 16 March 18 with archaeology condition for a watching brief during all groundworks.
- 1.3 All archaeological works were 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)





Illus 2 Site plan showing proposed development (copyright Medlock and Medlock)



Illus 3 Location of soil strip for Plot 2 (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.

2.2 A cropmark of a square enclosure plus possible arc of a ditch (HER NO77SW0017) occupies much of the area adjacent to the proposed development area. It is a possible homestead moat seen on aerial photographs (Illus 10). A transcription of aerial photographs by RCAHMS in 2000 (Illus 5) revealed a number of linear features along with a series of pits in addition to the races of enclosures described. The pits are thought to be prehistoric in date, while linear features to the South are thought to be the remains of rig and furrow. Immediately SE of the proposed site on the opposite side of Fordoun Road, an area of rig and furrow was excavated and recorded in advance of a proposed housing development. Excavation of trenches revealed the remains of medieval rig and furrow cultivation initially identified from aerial photographs. Furrows that had been cut into the natural till were recorded and sampled. (NO77SW 21; Cachart 2000, 11; Illus 5).

A watching brief was carried out on 30-31 May 2018; furrows from medieval and later cultivation were recorded and three prehistoric quartzite cores were recovered (Illus 3-4; Cameron 2018).



Illus 4 Prehistoric quartzite core recovered from Cameron 2018





Illus 5 Prehistoric quartzite core recovered from Cameron 2018



Illus 6 Transcription of aerial photograph (copyright HES) with Catchart 2000 excavation (bottom) with proposed development outlined in red and area of soil strip for road in blue and self-build house plot numbers (orange).

2.3 Within the proposed development, a watching brief was maintained in September 2005 while work was carried out on two electricity poles. The poles were close to the cropmark site (NO77SW 21) but no archaeological features or finds were evident (Murray 2005, 17).

- 2.4 To the NE of the proposed development are cropmarks of a circular enclosure, field boundary, rig and furrow and possible souterrains (NO77SW 26) (Illus 7-8) 450m ESE of Mains of Haulkerton farmhouse (RCAHMS 1982, 26).
- 2.5 An evaluation was carried out by MAS in March 2012 on the site for a new Mearns Academy, followed by further excavation in April - May 2012 of features discovered at the south west end of the site. Eight evaluation trenches, all running roughly NE-SW, recorded the remains of a croft (NO77SW0066), rig and furrow, and medieval pottery associated with a possible cobbled area and occupation level. Excavation of this cobbled area recorded the remains of a small, possibly quite short lived, medieval farm. The excavated building may be the only surviving remnant of a larger group of structures which have been ploughed out by both medieval to late 18th century rig and furrow cultivation and post-improvement cultivation of the 19th and 20th centuries. Pottery from the excavation suggests the farm was in use at the end of the 13th to beginning of the 14th centuries. Details of the structure and presence of some imported pottery indicate a farm of some status, although not very wealthy. It can possibly be identified with the property in the lands of Conveth documented from the late 12th century. The building may have been in use for as little as 20 years. It is one of the rare examples in Scotland of the excavation of a rural medieval building associated with a small, apparently unenclosed manor. It is also a rare example of a probable clay walled building of this date. Subsequent rig and furrow cultivation may date from as early as the later medieval period; map evidence shows the area cultivated as rig and furrow in the 18th century. Finds from the excavation also included a flint blade of early prehistoric date, and from medieval contexts, two iron nails, two copper alloy fragments. Metal detecting as part of the evaluation recorded a silver sixpence of George V, a small brooch of probably 20th century date, and a 1915 'On War Service' badge with the number 82750K; the badges were given to men and boys who were working in vital industries (NO77SW 90; Murray 2012).
- 2.6 A First World War prisoner of war camp is listed under the name of Conveth Mains in the 1919 'List of Places of Internment' in Britain, its colonies and dominions. German soldiers, other than officers and senior NCOs, could be put to work that did not directly further the prosecution of the war. The camp at Conveth Mains was recorded as a work camp under the control of the chief camp in the Scottish system, at Stobs. It is likely to have been an agricultural camp (NO77SW 95).
- 2.7 500m north of the proposed site is the site of Castle of Haulkerton, which was probably a tower (NO77SW 1; RCAHMS 1982, 31) which stood 220m NNE of Mains of Haulkerton farm, where two stones built into the steading bear dates of 1648 and (probably) 1556. Traces of the foundations could be seen in the 19th century. Cramond (1894, 56) states that it was last used as a residence in the early 18th century, and was ruinous by 1790. Its stones were used to build dykes round Haulkerton Plantation, in Mains of Haulkerton steading, and when building the parish church (NO77SW 16; RCAHMS 1982, 31). Halkerton was erected burgh of barony in 1612 (Pryde 1965, 65). A resistivity survey and trial excavations were carried out (by Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust) in July 1993, prior to potential development of an area of about 2ha. In the NW corner of Mains of Haulkerton Wood, under a shallow topsoil profile of c0.3m, fragmentary foundation wall remains were located cut into the natural clay. From documentary evidence, the remains correspond to the supposed location of the late medieval Castle of Haulkerton. They demonstrate that the castle was extensively robbed out in the late 18th century and also partially disturbed by 20th-century dumping. The shallow foundation remains of a possible barmkin wall were also found. Three 19th-century linear agricultural field banks were observed in the southern half of the wood (MacKenzie 1993, 39).

- 2.8 SW of the proposed development at Blackiemuir Avenue an archaeological evaluation was undertaken of an area of rig and furrow (NO77SW 97) of probable 18<sup>th</sup>-century date (Murray and Murray 2016, 25).
- 2.9 NW of Mains of Haulkerton are cropmarks of a rectilinear enclosure (NO77SW 62)
- 2.10 Farmsteads in the area include Honeyhive (NO77SW0064), Keilburn (NO77SW 66) and Conveth Mains (NO77SW0065). The 19<sup>th</sup>-century road bridge at Mains of Haulkerton (NO77SW 30) takes the Fordoun road over the Luther Water is Listed Category C. At Muir of Blackiemuir there was a building on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map (NO77SW0072) which was probably a cottage.
- 2.11 The Aberdeen-Dundee railway line forms the south boundary of the proposed site. This intermediate station (NO77SW 40) on the Perth - Kinnaber Junction - Aberdeen (main) line of the former Caledonian Railway was opened on 1 November 1849 (by the Aberdeen Railway) and closed to regular passenger traffic on 4 September 1967. The line itself remains in regular use by passenger traffic. Following reconstruction, this station (Listed Category B) reopened to regular passenger traffic on 18 May 2009. RCAHMS surveyed the station in 2005 prior to reconstruction.
- 2.12 Laurencekirk North signal box (NO77SW 40.01) is situated about 400m NE of the station (NO77SW 40.00), on the up side of the railway. It is of brick construction with wooden upper works and the entrance is at the SW end.
- 2.13 St Lawrence's Church, Laurencekirk (NO77SW16; Listed Category B) was built on site of earlier church. In the 7th Century AD, a church dedicated to St Lawrence was said to have stood about a mile to the east of the village. Queen Margaret made a pilgrimage to it between 1073 and 1093. In the 13th Century, it was a Rectory belonging to St Andrews and was dedicated to Bishop David in 1244. No trace of this earlier church has been found. It is said that when the present church was erected in 1804, it took the place of an earlier one built in 1626 and that, when the older one was being taken down, a stone was found on which 'the figure of a man lying on a grid-iron was carved, representing, it was supposed, the martyrdom of St Lawrence'. This stone, which has been lost, may have been a Pictish monument. Some of the stones from the earlier church were inserted in the walls of the new church. The present church, still in use, was restored in 1895. In the northwest corner of the church, adjacent to the pulpit is a stained glass window, dedicated 17 May 1922, commemorating members of the congregation, and adherents, who died in World War 1. Some of the stones were inserted in the walls of the new church (RCAHMS 1982, 29). The present church, still in use, was built in 1804 and restored in 1895 and the manse, East View, is Listed Category C. There are several other historic buildings in the town including the Gardenstone Arms Hotel, High Street (The Boar's Head Inn; NO77SW 36) is Listed Category C; the armoury was B listed but demolished in 1963. Early 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings 1 Alma Place and 17 High Street and 4-6 Alma Place are Listed B and 11 Alma Place and 13-15 High Street are Listed Category C.
- 2.14 The site consists of agricultural fields from the date of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd OS maps (Illus 10-12) and a 1982 aerial photograph (Illus 13).

### **3 THE WATCHING BRIEF**

On Thursday, June 21st a soil strip and subsequent watching brief took place at Plot 2 – Fordoun Road, Laurencekirk. The area measured approximately 30m in width along the new track by 25m in length away from the track. A slight L-shaped extension was added to cover service corridor and housing plan. The topsoil remained consistent in depth throughout the site, overlying a reddish-brown silty clay loam with moderate gritty-gravel inclusions. Stone inclusions typically measured >0.15m in



width and consisted of rounded or sub-angular stones. No finds or features were noted, although several unworked quartzite pebbles or stones were noted. These fit in with the quartzite lithics recovered during the watching brief for the entrance track which was completed previously by Alison Cameron (Cameron 2018). No signs of the rig and furrow agriculture noted to the west were visible within plot 2.

#### **4 CONCLUSIONS**

Despite the relatively small area of the watching brief, the appearance of raw unworked quartzite fits in well with the discovery of quartzite cores nearby to the west (Cameron 2018) which were unearthed during the previous watching brief. As the housing plots here are self-build, additional individual watching briefs working towards the south-western portion of the site would reasonably be expected to reveal more evidence of this relatively unusual form of stone-tool production, which is typologically placed in the later Bronze Age quartzite industry located in and around the Montrose Basin (Ballin 2018). While no further archaeological mitigation is deemed necessary for Plot 2, it is recommended that additional watching briefs take place for each individual adjacent plot.

#### **5 REFERENCES**

- Ballin, T.B. 2018 'Fordoun Road, Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire' Unpublished client report on behalf of Cameron Archaeology.
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- 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 Mrs Kearney for initiating this project and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during this work.

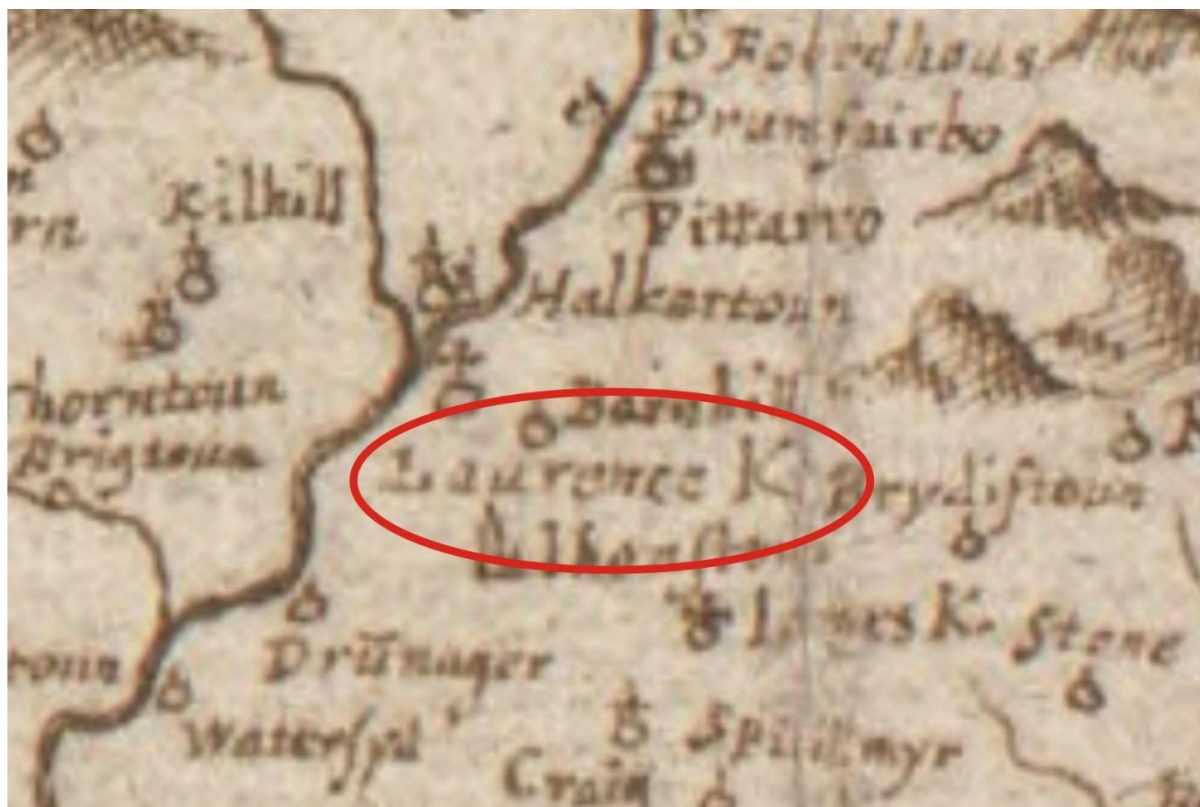
## APPENDIX 1

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

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name	Classification
HERABER	NO77SW0012	ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH	Regionally Significant
HERABER	NO77SW0017	FORDOUN ROAD, LAURENCEKIRK	Regionally Significant
HERABER	NO77SW0028	MAINS OF HAULKERTON	Regionally Significant
HERABER	NO77SW0064	HONEYHIVE	Standard
HERABER	NO77SW0065	CONVETH MAINS	Standard
HERABER	NO77SW0066	SPURRYHILLOCK	Standard
HERABER	NO77SW0067	SPURRYHILLOCK	Standard
HERABER	NO77SW0001	CASTLE OF HAULKERTON	Standard
HERABER	NO77SW0003	DRUMFORBER	Standard
HERABER	NO77SW0085	CONVETH MAINS	Standard
HERABER	NO77SW0084	LAURENCEKIRK FBM	Standard
HERABER	NO77SW0088	LAURENCEKIRK SIGNAL BOX NORTH	Standard
HERABER	NO77SW0087	CONVETH MAINS	Standard
RCAHMS	36531	LAURENCEKIRK, FORDOUN ROAD	CULTIVATION REMAINS, RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE
RCAHMS	36536	MAINS OF HAULKERTON	ENCLOSURE, FIELD BOUNDARY, PIT(S), RIG AND FURROW, SOUTERRAIN(S) (POSSIBLE)
RCAHMS	36541	MAINS OF HAULKERTON, BRIDGE	ROAD BRIDGE
RCAHMS	36547	LAURENCEKIRK, HIGH STREET, BOAR'S HEAD INN	HOTEL. ALTNAME = KIRKBURN, GARDENSTONE ARMS HOTEL
RCAHMS	36548	LAURENCEKIRK, EASTVIEW NURSING HOME	MANSE. ALTNAME = FORMER PARISH KIRK MANSE OF LAURENCEKIRK
RCAHMS	36549	LAURENCEKIRK, 60 HIGH STREET	HOUSE. ALTNAME = CHARTERS AVENUE
RCAHMS	36550	LAURENCEKIRK, 58 HIGH STREET	SHOP
RCAHMS	36552	LAURENCEKIRK, STATION ROAD, STATION	RAILWAY STATION. ALTNAME = LAURENCEKIRK STATION
RCAHMS	36554	LAURENCEKIRK, FORDOUN ROAD, GASWORKS	GAS WORKS
RCAHMS	36560	LAURENCEKIRK, FORDOUN ROAD	TRACK (POSSIBLE)
RCAHMS	36518	CASTLE OF HAULKERTON	TOWER HOUSE. ALTNAME = HAULKERTON CASTLE, MAINS OF HAULKERTON WOOD
RCAHMS	36525	LAURENCEKIRK PARISH CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD	BURIAL GROUND, CHURCH. ALTNAME = CONVETH PARISH CHURCH, LAURENCEKIRK PARISH KIRK, EAST CHURCH
RCAHMS	184567	LAURENCEKIRK, STATION ROAD, DICKSON MEMORIAL HALL	HALL

RCAHMS	184569	LAURENCEKIRK, 82-84 HIGH STREET, U.F CHURCH	CHURCH. ALTNAME = WEST CHURCH
RCAHMS	184570	LAURENCEKIRK, FROGFIELD	HOUSE (19TH CENTURY)
RCAHMS	184572	LAURENCEKIRK, 4-6 ALMA PLACE, ALMA HOTEL	HOTEL. ALTNAME = LAURENCE'S
RCAHMS	184573	LAURENCEKIRK, 48, 50 HIGH STREET	TERM PENDING. ALTNAME = CHARTER LANE
RCAHMS	184574	LAURENCEKIRK, 1 ALMA PLACE	SHOP (19TH CENTURY), TENEMENT (19TH CENTURY). ALTNAME = 17 HIGH STREET
RCAHMS	184575	LAURENCEKIRK, 11 ALMA PLACE	HOUSE (19TH CENTURY)
RCAHMS	184576	LAURENCEKIRK, 13, 15 HIGH STREET	TERM PENDING
RCAHMS	281396	LAURENCEKIRK, FORDOUN ROAD	NO CLASS (EVENT)
RCAHMS	300345	LAURENCEKIRK, LAURENCEKIRK SIGNAL BOX NORTH	SIGNAL BOX
RCAHMS	315684	LAURENCEKIRK FUNDAMENTAL BENCH MARK	FUNDAMENTAL BENCH MARK
RCAHMS	320341	NEW MEARN'S ACADEMY SITE, LAURENCEKIRK	MANOR (MEDIÆVAL)(POSSIBLE), UNIDENTIFIED POTTERY (MEDIÆVAL). ALTNAME = CONVETH MAINS
RCAHMS	331238	LAURENCEKIRK, HOUSE AT KIRK LODGE	HOUSE (21ST CENTURY)
RCAHMS	332956	CONVETH MAINS, PRISONER OF WAR CAMP	PRISONER OF WAR CAMP (FIRST WORLD WAR)

## APPENDIX 2 MAPS



Illus 7 Gordon's map of banff, Murey to inverness c 1636-52 showing Laurencekirk circles in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)





Illus 8 Garden's map surveyed 1774, published 1797 showing approximate area of proposed site circled in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 9 Thomson's map of 1822 showing approximate area of proposed site circled in red (copyright National Library of Scotland).





Illus 10 Robertson's map of 1822 showing approximate area of proposed site circled in red (copyright National Library of Scotland).

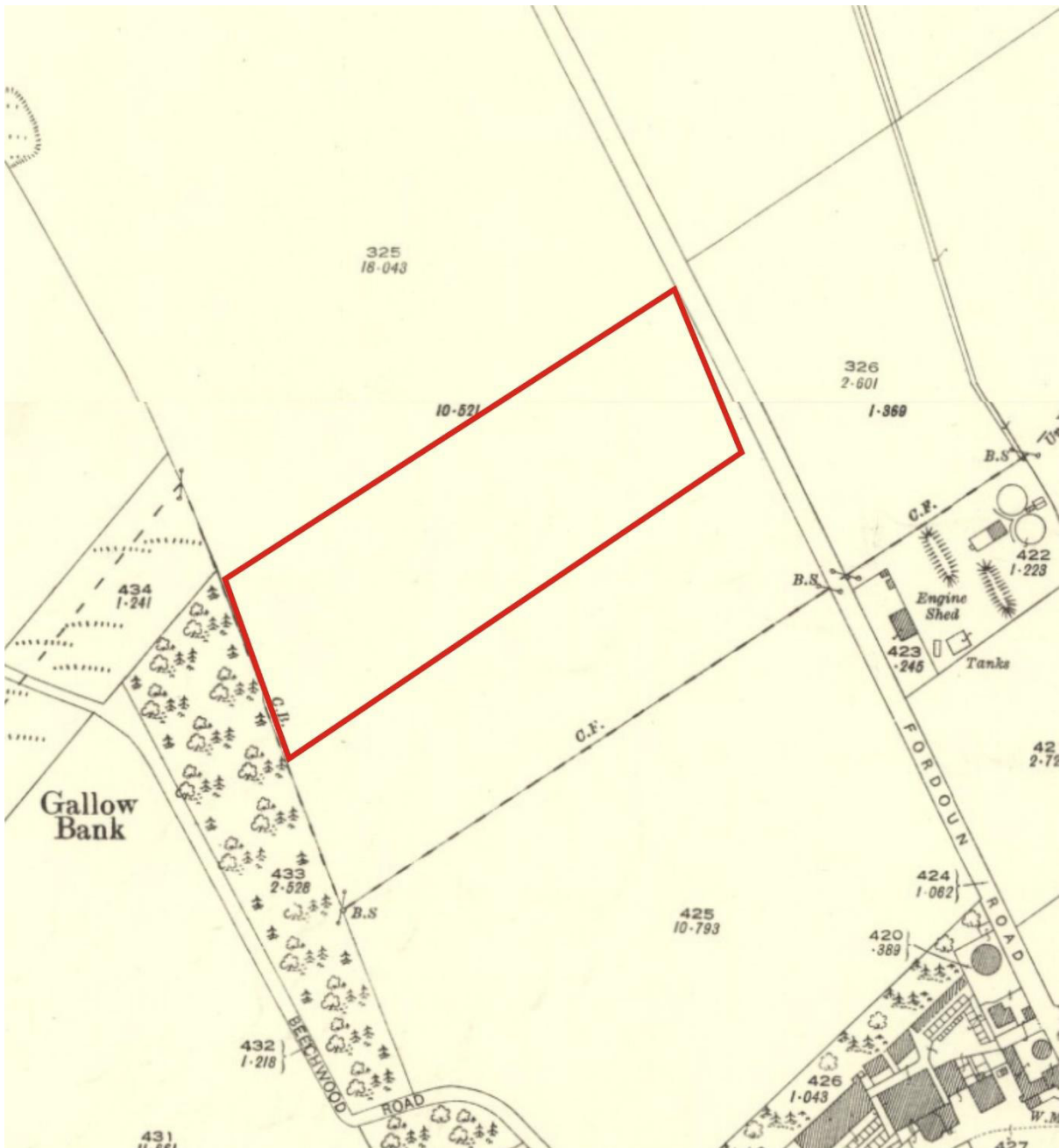


Illus 11 First Edition OS map showing site outline (whole development, 7 house plots and road) in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Kincardine Sheet XXIV.5 (Combined) Survey date: 1864 Publication date: 1868.





Illus 12 Second Edition OS map showing site (whole development, 7 house plots and road) outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Kincardineshire 027.02 (includes: Laurencekirk) Publication date: 1904 Revised: 1901



Illus 13 Third Edition OS map showing site (whole development, 7 house plots and road) outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Kincardineshire 027.02 (includes: Laurencekirk) Publication date: 1924 Revised: 1923 Levelled: 1902



Illus 14 1982 aerial photograph with site (whole development, 7 house plots and road) outline in red; facing SE (Copyright HES; IB Ralston Aberdeen Archaeological Surveys) Description Oblique aerial view centred on the cropmarks of the circular enclosur

### Appendix 3 Photographs

Photo ID	Direction Facing	Comments
DSC6070	SW	Commencing watching brief in plot 2
DSC6074	SW	Watching brief and soil strip underway
DSC6077	SW	Watching brief and soil strip underway
DSC6080	S	Watching brief and soil strip underway working away from new track
DSC6086	SSE	Watching brief and soil strip underway working away from new track
DSC6087	E	Watching brief and soil strip underway working away from new track
DSC6092	NW	Soil strip nearing completion for primary house and parking area
DSC6095	E	Soil strip clearing the final pass along rear of property
DSC6098	SSE	Soil strip nearing completion
DSC6100	ENE	Soil strip completed





\_DSC6070.jpg



\_DSC6074.jpg



\_DSC6077.jpg



\_DSC6080.jpg



\_DSC6086.jpg



\_DSC6087.jpg



\_DSC6092.jpg



\_DSC6095.jpg



\_DSC6098.jpg



\_DSC6100.jpg