

**Wellheads Road, Farburn Industrial Road, Dyce,
Aberdeen, AB21 7HG
Data Structure Report (DSR)**

**181050/DPP 4 blocks of flats providing 283 no. social
houses for Aberdeen City Council**



**Alison Cameron, Cameron Archaeology
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SUMMARY

Cameron Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on 10 October 2019. Three trenches were excavated in this very disturbed site which has large quantities of services. No trace of the Aberdeenshire Canal or any archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trenches. The canal may be to the west of this site, under an area of trees and services or under Stoneywood Road. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is located on the south side of Wellheads Road and the east side of Stonywood Road. The site is at AB21 7HG, centred on NJ 88949 11996, at 50-55m OD and in the parish of Newhills (Illus 1).
- 1.2 Aberdeen City Council planning application 181050/DPP flats providing 283 no. social houses for Aberdeen City Council.
- 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 of site (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)



Illus 2 Location of proposed development (copyright Ogilvie Construction Ltd).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development except the Aberdeenshire Canal. The canal was opened in 1805 and closed in 1854 and carried goods from Aberdeen Harbour to Port Elphinstone.

Several archaeological sites in the area have uncovered remains of the canal. In 2001 a section was excavated at 275 Great Northern Road (Cameron 2001, 7) and in 2007 Murray Archaeological Services carried out an evaluation at 10-12 Canal Street (Murray 2007, MAS 2007-30). A canal bridge survives at the junction of Station Road and Great Northern Road (Illus 3) and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument as are other remains along the line of the former canal. In 2005 the canal was recorded at the new BP Headquarters (Buchanan 2005), and also in Victoria Road at the former Lawson's of Dyce (Cameron 2005, 11). In 2011 the canal was uncovered in a field immediately south of Stoneywood Terrace during an evaluation prior to a housing development (Cameron 2012).

- 2.2 The line of the canal survives on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (Illus 3) in some areas but not at this location. A 'Plan of intended navigable canal from harbour of Aberdeen to bridge over River Don at Inverurie (Inverury) [Aberdeenshire Canal] 1796' (Aberdeen University MS 3175/RHP/31446) shows the line of the canal and an overlay of this shows the approximate line of the old canal bed. Several texts on the canal include Pearson 1986 and Graham 1967.



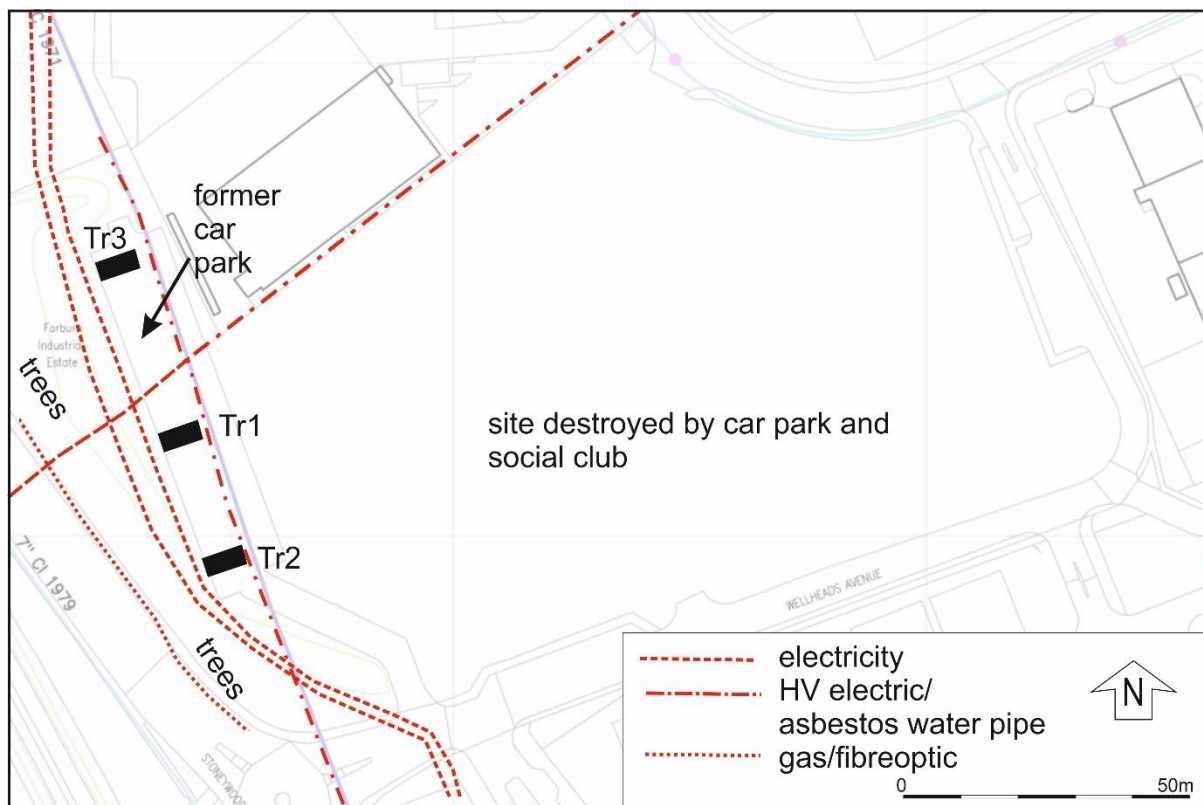
Illus 3 First Edition Ordnance Survey map showing approximate area of site in red and the possible line of the canal in blue (based on location of canal in Stoneywood Road sites; Cameron 2012). Aberdeen Sheet LXVI.13 (Combined) Survey date: 1864 Publication date: 1869 (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 4 Canal excavated in field south of Stoneywood Terrace (Cameron 2012).

3 THE EVALUATION

Cameron Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on 10 October 2019. The east side of the site had been completely destroyed by the construction of the former BP car park and social club. The west side of the site had been an open car park. Services were known in the area (HV electric and asbestos water pipe serving half of Dyce but electric cables (not on the service drawings) were located by CAT scanning. This left the area available for excavation to a very small area (Illus 5). Three 2 x 8m trenches were excavated; the car park level has been raised by up to 1.5m with redeposited natural clay and stone subsoil and then gravel and terram matting for the car park itself. No trace of the Aberdeenshire Canal or any archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trenches.



Illus 5 Plan showing trenches excavated and services (copyright Ogilvie Construction Ltd).

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cameron Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on 10 October 2019. Three trenches were excavated and no trace of the Aberdeenshire Canal or any archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trenches. The canal may be to the west of this site, under an area of trees and services. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

5 REFERENCES

Aberdeen University MS 3175/RHP/31446 Plan of intended navigable canal from harbour of Aberdeen to bridge over River Don at Inverurie (Inverury) [Aberdeenshire Canal] 1796.

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Cameron Archaeology
45 View Terrace
Aberdeen
AB25 2RS
01224 643020
07581 181057
cameronarch@btinternet.com
www.cameronarchaeology.com
Company registration no 372223 (Scotland)
VAT registration no 990 4373 00

APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
560-1	Trench 1	NNE
562-3	Trench 1	WSW
564-5	Trench 2	NNW
566-7	Trench 2	NE
568	Trench 2	NNW
569	Trench 3	ENE
570	Trench 3	SE
571	Trench 3	S
572	Trench 3	NNW



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DSC_0561



DSC_0562



DSC_0563



DSC_0564



DSC_0565



DSC_0566



DSC_0567



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DSC_0570



DSC_0571



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