

**Barnyards Farm, Tannadice, Forfar, DD8 3QA
Data Structure Report (DSR)**

Angus Council Planning application no 20/00385/FULL



**Alison Cameron
Cameron Archaeology Ltd
25 August 2020**

CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3	METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY	6
4	THE WATCHING BRIEF	6
5	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	7
6	REFERENCES.....	7
7	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
	APPENDIX 1 METAL-DETECTOR FINDS	8
	APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS	8

ILLUSTRATIONS

COVER: the watching brief completed, facing NW

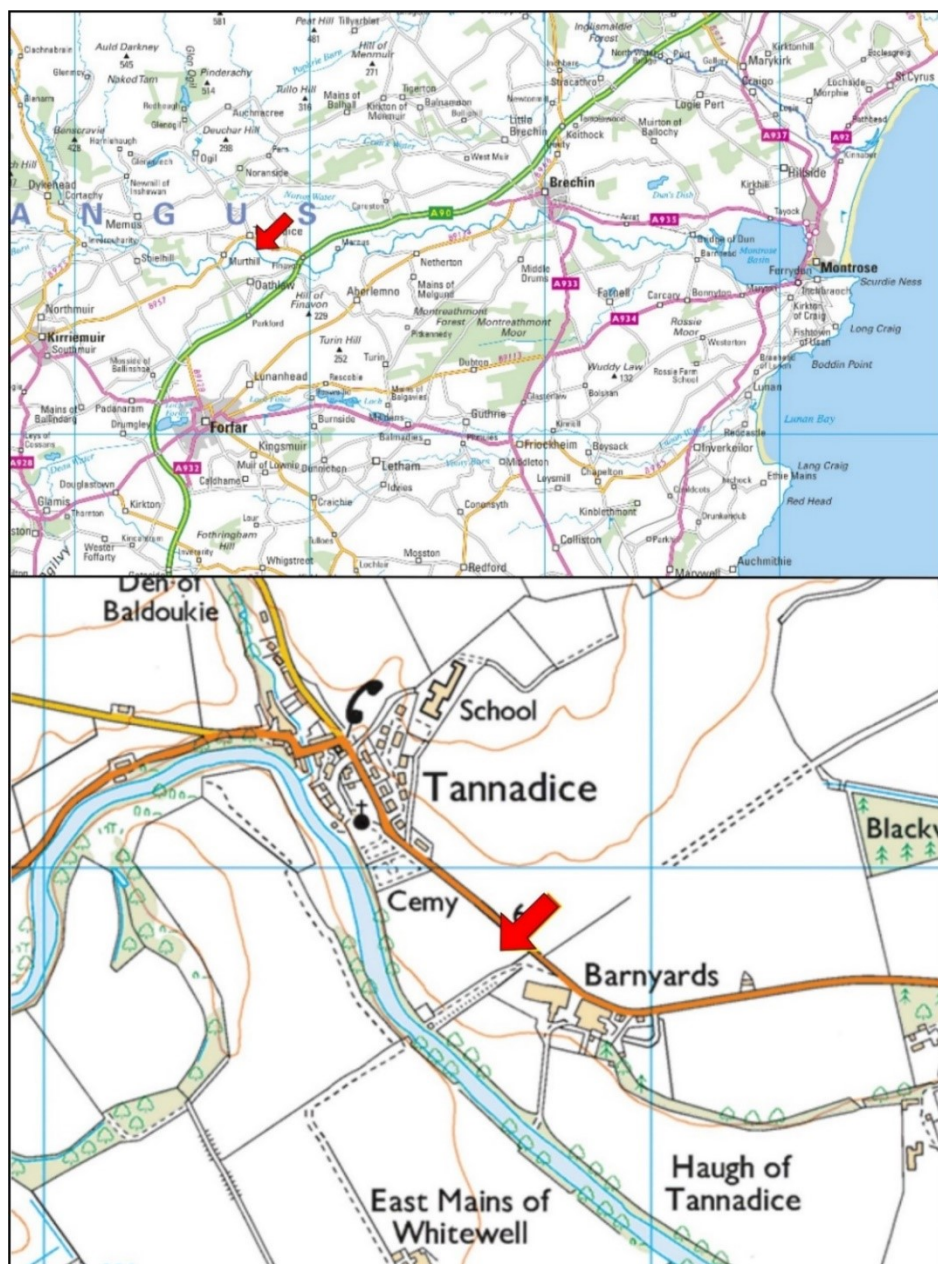
Illus 1	Location plan (<i>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020</i>).....	3
Illus 2	Site plan showing proposed development (<i>copyright Project Management Scotland Ltd</i>)	6

SUMMARY

A watching brief was maintained at Barnyards from 21-24 August 2020 during the soil strip for a new potato shed following a metal-detector survey which produced only modern ironwork. The subsoil was clay, gravel, sand and large sandstone boulders and the topsoil was heavy clay loam 0.25-0.4m deep. No archaeological finds or features were identified and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located NW of Barnyards Farm on the B957 SE of Tannadice village. It is centred on NGR NO4775457864, at 60-70m OD in the parish of Tannadice.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Phil Birse, Project Management Scotland Ltd. An Angus Council application 20/00385/FULL for erection of an agricultural shed was approved on 15 July 2020 and requires an archaeological metal detecting survey of the development site, followed by a watching brief over groundbreaking development works or a monitored topsoil strip of the development site
- 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 Policy Scotland (HEPS) 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 2020)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Historic Environment Record (HER) and Canmore (HES) were consulted online within 1km of the proposed development.

- 2.1 There are three Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the proposed development.
 - 2.1.1 On the opposite side of the B957 is Barnyards enclosure (SM6355; HER NO45NE0027) which are cropmarks of a probable settlement were revealed during aerial reconnaissance by CUCAP. The northeast part of an enclosure was visible on the northeast side of the public road 220m northwest of Barnyards farmhouse. It measures about 50m in length within a ditch up to 2m broad and there is an entrance on the northeast. There is a possible palisade trench eccentrically placed within the interior. A length of ditch extends for a short distance to the southeast from the east of the enclosure (RCAHMS 1983, 26).
 - 2.1.2 300m WSW of the proposed site is East Mains of Whitewell souterrains (SM6371; HER NO45NE0028) which are cropmarks recorded during aerial reconnaissance by CUCAP. Two crescentic cropmarks, about 450m NNW of East Mains of Whitewell steading probably indicate the presence of a small unenclosed settlement. A scatter of pits was also visible around the settlement extending to a point about 60m beyond a possible ring-ditch 140m to the NNW (RCAHMS 1983, 28).
 - 2.1.3 350m SW of the proposed development is East Mains of Whitewell barrow and pits (SM6372; HER NO45NE0025) which are cropmarks of a probable barrow, pits and pit-alignments recorded by CUCAP (reference undated) and by the RCAHMS from 1976 onwards. The round barrow measures 7m in diameter within its ditch. On the southwest the barrow overlaps a ring-ditch, and a cluster of about thirty pits around them may indicate the presence of a cemetery of flat graves. In 2004 aerial reconnaissance recorded further pits to the north and south of the round barrow that suggest at least two pit-alignments in these locations. To the north six pits, each no more than a metre across, run from east-northeast to west-southwest where the old rail track ran. That to the south comprises larger pits with wider gaps in between and a distinct curving alignment from north-northeast to south. Circular cropmarks to the south-southeast are likely to have been produced through agricultural processes (RCAHMS 1983, 9).
- 2.2 A single pit was recorded during a watching brief by CFA in November 2012 on excavation of a trench for a new water pipeline adjacent to the water treatment works (Her NO45NE0075) in the S corner of the field where the proposed development is to take place. The pit was oval, measuring 1.4 by 1m and 0.5m in depth. No finds were recovered, although a prehistoric date is most likely (Suddaby 2014, 36).
- 2.3 A 15th century gold ring (HER NO45NE0069) discovered with a metal detector in the S corner of the field which is the site of the proposed development. The ring is in the form of a decorated buckled belt with vestigial traces of white and black enamel. The hoop is inscribed in the interior with 'IN TO RAMENBERANS', the inscription being engraved and picked out in niello. This ring is a known medieval type with a confirmed Scottish provenance (Benvie 1998, 11).
- 2.4 Tannadice parish church and graveyard (HER NO45NE0005) is still in ecclesiastical use and immediately N of the proposed development. The current church was built in 1846 or 1866 on the site of its predecessor. A church is first mentioned on the site in 1187, and was dedicated to St Ernan in 1242. The NSA described the earlier church as being in 'a tolerable state of repair' in 1835. A medieval font remains in the current church. In circa 1797, what was probably a Pictish sculptured stone (now lost) was discovered in the foundations of a house which formed part of the wall of the burial-ground. It bore the figure of a person holding an animal by the mouth with one hand, and brandishing a dagger with the other. It was lost by 1885. On the 1st edition OS map, it is shown as a rectangular church with a projections on the east and west end elevations, set within an

irregular graveyard. On the 2nd edition OS map, the graveyard has been extended to the south, and current maps show the graveyard has since been further extended. It is an oblong Gothic church that is constructed from rubble with a slate roof. There is a corner bell-tower with a spire. The medieval font is within the porch, and is a green stone octagonal font 0.8 metres (2 feet 7 inches) high. Most of the interior features of the church are not original, having been re-used from other closed churches. This includes two Oathlaw war memorial stained glass windows taken from Oathlaw church (NO45NE0009) following its conversion to a private residence. A transcription of the memorial windows is held in the AAS Digital Archive. The Tannadice War Memorial (NO45NE0068) stands within the graveyard. A watching brief and salvage excavation was carried out in 2002 by SUAT Archaeology prior to the construction of a replacement vestry and service trenches. During the salvage excavation there were at least three phases of burials recorded, the earliest being possible cist burials, and the remains of walls and some slab flooring from the earlier church were also recorded. Pins, a coin, medieval pottery sherds and coffin nails were also recovered. During the subsequent watching brief on the service trenches the west wall and some paving from the earlier church was recorded, as were two shallow burials (Cachart 2002, 14).

- 2.5 Immediately SE of the proposed development is Barnyards Farm (HER NO45NE0050) a farmstead still in use. On the (c.1846) 1st Edition OS map it is shown as a U-shaped steading, with horsemill attached to the west wing, an L-shaped extension making a second court attached to the east wing, the court, open to the south, with an enclosure and building at the entrance and three other buildings, one of which is marked as ruinous. By the (c.1888) 2nd edition OS map both courts have been roofed, the larger having another structure within it. Two of the smaller buildings, including the ruinous one, have been removed and a small square building is shown to the west of the steading. The 2006 map shows that the small square building and the horsemill have been removed and the remaining buildings have been extended and that the building to the west, under which a cist was discovered in 1955 (Taylor 1955, 5), still stands. The farm had an egg-end boiler (HER NO45NE0061).
- 2.6 Barnyards is the site of a castle (HER NO45NE0010). According to the OSA and the antiquary Jervise (1853; 1882, 208), the site of a castle of the Lindsays, known as Castle of Barnyards, of which two archways remained standing at the end of the 18th century a little northwest of Barnyards farmhouse, which was built using stone from the castle ruins. The location of the ruins was pointed out by a Mr Smith, then aged more than 70 when visited by the OS in the 1860s. He indicated a spot near the well at the bottom of the farmhouse garden where he remembered ruins standing when he was a boy (i.e. circa 1800). Mr Fairweather (Tenant, Barnyards), in digging a hole in 1857, came upon lime-mortared foundations at the published site, but he did not excavate all of them. When revisited by the OS in 1977 no visible traces were observed nor could the farmer give any indication of its possible site. There are however several large dressed stones set in the walls of the farm buildings and these may have come from the castle ruins as suggested by Jervise. The remains of this castle were removed in the late 18th century, but until then 'several of the vaults were standing, and some of the walls, from five to seven feet in height'.
- 2.7 240m NE of the proposed development is the approximate findspot of a coin hoard (HER NO45NE0020). The OSA (1791-9, vol 19, 376) records that about 25 years previously, (i.e. c.1772) a considerable number of coins, both gold and silver was found -at Balgillo-. No further information as to country of origin, date or denomination.
- 2.8 At East Mains of Whitewell are cropmarks of pits recorded by CUCAP during aerial reconnaissance (HER NO45NE0038).
- 2.9 At West Mains of Whitewell are cropmarks of a pit-alignment of an irregular line of pits (HER NO45NE0029); recorded by CUCAP. From a point 100m N of the farmhouse it runs NNW along the side of the field for a distance of at least 90m. Other short lines of pits are visible to the S and E. (RCAHMS 1983, 33).

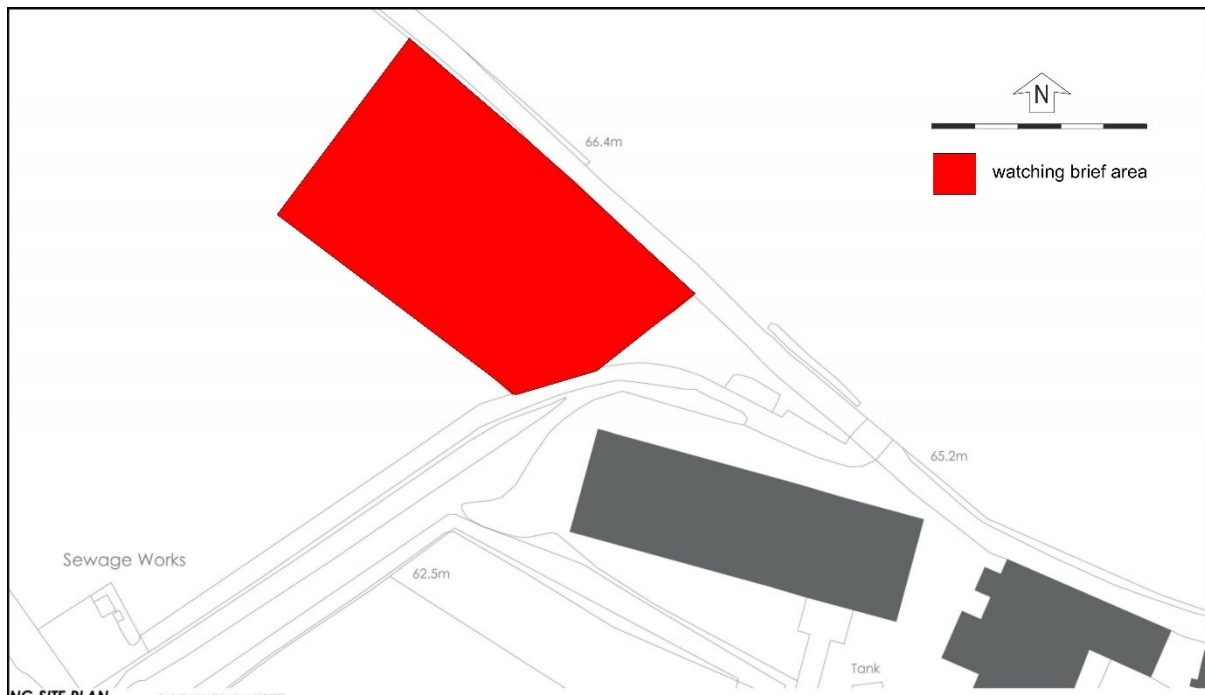
2.10 Barnyards Farm is on the mid 18th-century Roy mapping (Illus 3). On the early maps the site is shown as fields (Roy; Illus 3) and the 1st Edition OS (Illus 4). By the 2nd Edition OS map (Illus 5) the site is adjacent to the Forfar and Brechin Branch railway line and part of the site is within an embankment which took the B957 over the railway line.

3 METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY

A metal-detector survey was carried out on 15 August 2020 by Dr Robert Lenfert. The field had recently been harvested and was in winter wheat the previous week. Transects were made initially in a SE-NW orientation, then at a right angle during a second pass at a SW-NE orientation. Seven objects were detected within the approximately 3575m² project area (broadly 65m x 55m), consisting of modern plough fasteners, washers or tines (Appendix 1). No finds of archaeological significance were located. At the time of the survey, the landowner believed many of the fields surrounding the farm were previously investigated over the years by keen local detectorists; this may explain the lack of historic finds, although given the ambiguity surrounding which areas were actually detected, the survey was still useful in this situation.

4 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was carried out by Alison Cameron on 21-24 August 2020. An area 90 x 40m was stripped using a 20-ton tracked machine with ditching bucket. The subsoil was clay, gravel, sand and large sandstone boulders and the topsoil was heavy clay loam 0.25-0.4m deep. No archaeological finds or features were identified and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.



Illus 2 Site plan showing proposed development (*copyright Project Management Scotland Ltd*)

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A watching brief was maintained at Barnyards from 21-24 August 2020 during the soil strip for a new potato shed following a metal-detector survey which produced only modern ironwork. The subsoil was clay, gravel, sand and large sandstone boulders and the topsoil was heavy clay loam 0.25-0.4m deep. No archaeological finds or features were identified and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

6 REFERENCES

Benvie, R. (1998) '[Various finds (various parishes), made mainly with metal detectors, and reported to Angus Museums]', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 1998.

Cachart, R. (2002) 'Oathlaw and Tannadice Parish Church, Angus (Tannadice parish), medieval church and burial ground', *Discovery Excav Scot*, vol. 3, 2002.

Jervise, A. (1853) *The history and traditions of the land of the Lindsays in Angus and Mearns, with notices of Alyth and Meigle*. Edinburgh.

Jervise, A. (1882) *The history and traditions of the land of the Lindsays in Angus and Mearns, with notices of Alyth and Meigle*. 2nd. Edinburgh. Page(s): 208 RCAHMS Shelf Number: D.13.1.JER

OSA. (1791-9) *The statistical account of Scotland, drawn up from the communications of the ministers of the different parishes*, in Sinclair, J, Edinburgh.

RCAHMS. (1983) *The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Central Angus, Angus District, Tayside Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 18*. Edinburgh.

Suddaby, I. (2014) *Tannadice, Tannadice, Watching brief*, *Discovery Excav Scot, New*, vol. 14, 2013. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

Taylor, D B. (1955) 'Barnyards Farm, Tannadice', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 1955.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Phil Birse, Project Management Scotland for initiating this project, Geddes Group for their assistance on site and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during this work.

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

APPENDIX 1 METAL-DETECTOR FINDS

Object No.	NGR Coordinates	Object description	Retained?
1	NO 47775 57857	Square bolt head, plough	Yes
2	NO 47767 57866	Circular plough washer	Yes
3	NO 47772 57854	Bolt with square nut, plough	Yes
4	NO 47771 57842	Tine, plough	No
5	NO 47733 57865	Tooth, plough	No
6	NO 47749 57850	Bolt, plough	Yes
7	NO 47754 57838	Tine, plough	Yes

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
DSC_3861-3	Watching brief progressing	NW
DSC_3864	Watching brief progressing	SE
DSC_3865-70	Watching brief progressing	NW
DSC_3871-8	Watching brief progressing	SE
DSC_3879	Watching brief progressing	NW
DSC_3880-98	Views of Watching brief area from road	SW
DSC_3899-3901	Watching brief completed	NW



DSC_3861



DSC_3862



DSC_3863



DSC_3864



DSC_3865



DSC_3866



DSC_3867



DSC_3868



DSC_3869



DSC_3870



DSC_3871



DSC_3872



DSC_3873



DSC_3874



DSC_3875



DSC_3876



DSC_3877



DSC_3878



DSC_3879



DSC_3880



DSC_3881



DSC_3882



DSC_3883



DSC_3884



DSC_3885



DSC_3886



DSC_3887



DSC_3888



DSC_3889



DSC_3890



DSC_3891



DSC_3892



DSC_3893



DSC_3894



DSC_3895



DSC_3896



DSC_3897



DSC_3898



DSC_3899



DSC_3900



DSC_3901