



Haudagain Roundabout, Aberdeen
Watching Brief
Data Structure Report
Project 4677

Haudagain Roundabout, Aberdeen
Watching Brief
Data Structure Report

On behalf of: ERS


NGR: NJ 913091 (centred)

Project Number: 4677

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*This document has been prepared in accordance
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

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Figure 1:
Site and Test Pit Location

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Executive Summary

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by GUARD Archaeology Ltd during the excavation of geotechnical test pits on behalf of ERS, as part of the ongoing Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route development on a site occupied by post-war housing adjacent to the Haudagain roundabout in Aberdeen.
- 1.2 A total of 3 geotechnical test pits were monitored during the work. Topsoil and recent landscaping measuring up to 1.2 m deep was recorded overlying a sandy clay till. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded in any of the test pits.

Introduction

- 2.1 This data structure report sets out the results for the watching brief at the Haudagain roundabout in Aberdeen which was carried out as part of the ongoing Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route development and was undertaken following guidelines set down by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) working in collaboration with Transport Scotland.

Site Location

- 3.1 The development area is located to the north west of Aberdeen at the Haudagain roundabout on the junction between North Anderson Drive and Great Northern Road (NGR NJ 913091 centred, Figure 1). The locations of the test pits were within a current housing development.

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Although no known archaeological sites lie within the proposed locations of the test pits a number of archaeological sites are known from the immediate vicinity including boundary markers and a possible route for the 18th-century military road that coincides with the modern A96(T) public road. Therefore, there is the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits to survive in the area.

Aims, Objectives and Scope

- 5.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief were as follows:
 - establish the presence or absence of any yet unknown archaeological artefacts, features and deposits within the development area;
 - determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered;
 - move the location of the test pit if archaeological deposits are uncovered.
- 5.2 The objectives were therefore to:
 - Conduct an archaeological watching brief of topsoil stripping of the three test pits in order to identify and record any archaeological features encountered within each test pit;
 - Submit a report to data structure level for agreement with the client and Historic Environment Scotland on completion of the archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping and all ground disturbance.

Fieldwork Methodology

- 6.1 The proposed development area was photographed and a brief written description made prior to the commencement of ground-breaking works.
- 6.2 Archaeological monitoring of the machine excavation of three test-pits all measuring *circa* 2.5 m long by 0.6 m wide was carried out.

- 6.3 All topsoil and overburden was removed using a back-acting machine equipped with a c. 0.6 m wide flat-bladed (toothless) ditching bucket. All machine excavation was carried out under the supervision of the GUARD Project Archaeologist.
- 6.4 The topsoil across the study area was removed in spits to the natural subsoil.

Results

7.1 The summary of the results is outlined below. The full details of the results can be found in Appendices 1-4 and are illustrated in Figure 1 and Plates 1-6.

7.2 **Test pit 101** (Figure 1, Plates 1 and 2)

7.2.1 Test pit 101 was located on a lawn between the rear of two properties, on ground very gently sloping down from south to north. The test pit was aligned east to west and measured 2.6 m long by 0.6 m wide, topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.5 m, this overlay a pale yellow/brown clay with orange mottling. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.



Plate 1: General view of test pit 101, from the west.



Plate 2: Test pit 101, from the west.

7.3 **Test pit 102** (Figure 1, Plates 3 and 4)

7.3.1 Test pit 102 was located on a lawn between the rear of two properties, on ground sloping down from south to north. The test pit was aligned north to south and measured 2.4 m long by 0.6 m wide, topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.6 m, this overlay a pale yellow/brown clay with orange mottling. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.



Plate 3: General view of test pit 102, from the west.



Plate 4: Test pit 102, from the north.

7.4 Test pit 103 (Figure 1, Plates 5 and 6)

7.4.1 Test pit 103 was located on a lawn between the rear of two properties, on flat ground. The test pit was aligned north to south and measured 2.6 m long by 0.6 m wide, topsoil was removed to a depth of 1.2 m, this overlay a pale yellow/brown clay with orange mottling. No archaeological features were identified although a modern rim sherd of glazed stoneware pottery SF.001 possibly from a ink bottle or similar was recovered from the topsoil during excavation.



Plate 5: General view of test pit 103, from the west.



Plate 6: Test pit 103, from the south.

Discussion

8.1 No archaeological features were identified during the course of the work. The presence of deep topsoil across the site is possibly due to recent landscaping work after construction of the housing development that currently occupy the site.

Conclusions

9.1 The watching brief found no evidence of archaeological activity in any of the test pits, therefore it is recommended that no further work is required.

9.2 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for this project (OASIS Reference: guardarc1 – 286040) will be completed within 3 months. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, HES? will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

Acknowledgements

10.1 GUARD Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the staff at ERS for their help. Plant and driver were supplied by Buckhurst Plant Hire Limited via ERS. Technical support was from Aileen Maule and Clark Innes, with administration from Jen Cochrane. The project was directed by Alan Hunter Blair and was managed for GUARD by Bob Will.

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Section 2: Appendices



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Appendices

Appendix A: Trench register

Test pit No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Aligned	Topsoil/Overburden	Subsoil	Details
101	2.6	0.6	0.5	E-W	001	002	No archaeological features
102	2.4	0.6	3.2	N-S	001	002	No archaeological features
103	2.6	0.6	3.9	N-S	003	002	No archaeological features

Appendix B: Context register

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	TP101/TP102	Deposit: A moist, firm dark brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular stones 60 mm<>. Measured 0.6 m deep	Topsoil
002	TP 101/TP102/ TP103	Deposit: A moist, firm pale yellow/brown with orange mottling sand clay with small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. Becomes stonier with depth. Excavated up to a depth of 2.6 m	Natural sandy clay
003	TP/103	Deposit: A moist, firm mid-brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones 80 mm<>. Measured 1.02 m deep	Topsoil

Appendix C: Finds register

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Type	Description
1	TP103	003	1	Ceramic	Pottery	Modern stoneware rim sherd possibly from an ink bottle or similar

Appendix D: Photo register

Frame	Area	Subject	Taken from
1	-	Registration	-
2	TP102	North facing section test pit 102	N
3	TP102	General view showing location of test pit 2	W
4	TP102	West facing section test pit 102	W
5	TP103	South facing section test pit 103	S
6	TP103	General view showing location of test pit 103	W
7	TP101	West facing section test pit 101	W
8	TP101	General view showing location of test pit 101	W

Appendix E: Discovery and Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Aberdeen
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Haudagain Roundabout
PROJECT CODE:	4677
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Alan Hunter Blair
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	---
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	---
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	---
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 913091
START DATE (this season)	25 th May 2017
END DATE (this season)	25 th May 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by GUARD Archaeology Ltd during the excavation of geotechnical test pits on behalf of ERS, as part of the ongoing Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route development on a site occupied by post-war housing at the Haudagain roundabout in Aberdeen A total of 3 geotechnical test pits were monitored during the work. A reworked topsoil measuring up to 1.2 m deep was recorded overlying a sandy clay till. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	ERS
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	bob.will@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.

Appendix F: Archaeological Method Statement

HAUGAGAIN ROUNDABOUT, ABERDEEN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT

PROJECT 4677



Figure 1:
Site and Test Pit Location

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Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Method Statement (MS) outlines the precise scope and methodology for the archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the excavation of three ground investigation test pits the Haudagain Roundabout in Aberdeen.

Introduction

- 2.1 This MS outlines the methodology for the archaeological watching brief during geotechnical test pits at Haudagain Roundabout, Aberdeen. These archaeological works will be undertaken to establish the presence, extent and nature of any significant archaeological remains. Should significant remains be identified and it is not possible to preserve them *in situ* the test pits will be moved to a new location adjacent to the first.
- 2.2 This MS outlines the programme of archaeological works that is needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. It details the methodology to be employed in implementing these Stage 1 archaeological works. The mitigation methodology to be employed during Stage 2 excavation and Stage 3 post excavation analysis and publication, if required, will be specified in addenda documents. These addenda document, if required, will be submitted for the agreement of the client and then Historic environment Scotland acting on behalf of Transport Scotland, prior to the commencement of any such further archaeological work. All phases of work will be funded by the developer.

Site Location

- 3.1 The development area is located to the north west of Aberdeen at the Haudagain roundabout on the junction between North Anderson Drive and Great Northern Road (NGR NJS 913091 centred, Figure 1). The locations of the test pits are within a current housing development.

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Although no archaeologically significant sites lie within the proposed locations of the test pits a number of archaeological sites are known from the immediate vicinity including boundary markers. Therefore, the potential remains for the survival of any previously unrecorded sub surface archaeological features or deposits which are not listed on the NMRS.

Aims, Objectives and Scope

- 5.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief are as follows:
- establish the presence or absence of any yet unknown archaeological artefacts, features and deposits within the development area;
 - determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered;
 - move the location of the test pit if archaeological deposits are uncovered.
- 5.2 The objectives are therefore to:
- Conduct an archaeological watching brief of topsoil stripping of the three test pits in order to identify and record any archaeological features encountered within each test pit;
 - Submit a report to data structure level for agreement with the client and Historic Environment Scotland on completion of the archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping and all ground disturbance.

Fieldwork Methodology

- 6.1 The strategy to be employed during the watching brief will consist of the following:

- All ground disturbances will be monitored by an archaeologist assisted, where necessary, by further archaeologists under the overall guidance of an archaeological project manager. Additional archaeologists would only be deployed following consultation and agreement with the client.
 - The number of archaeologists required during the works will be dependent on the number of test pits being excavated simultaneously and the number of mechanical excavators being deployed.
 - All plant will be fitted with a toothless ditching bucket for removal of any previously undisturbed overburden layers to ensure the subsoil interface is not disturbed and any archaeological features can be clearly identified. A toothed bucket may be used for previously disturbed layers.
 - Overburden will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none is found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand to determine the date of the deposits, their character and extent. Such features will be recorded by written description on *pro forma* recording sheets, by photograph and by measured drawing.
 - Should significant archaeological remains be uncovered excavation will be stopped and the test pit moved to a new location in the immediate vicinity.
 - If it is not possible to move the test pit the significant archaeological features encountered will be excavated by the on-site archaeologist(s). Should negative-cut features be encountered they will be 100% excavated in order to determine their significance, date and function. In the event that they are deemed to be important discoveries, they will be fully excavated. Recording will include *pro forma* sheets, drawings and photographs.
 - Suitable down time will be allowed for the on-site archaeologists to fully recover any archaeological evidence from features encountered. It is envisaged that small features will require one to two hours down time with larger features requiring up to one day.
 - Should more substantial remains be encountered, additional downtime may be required and will be agreed in writing with the client and HES prior to proceeding.
 - In the event that particularly significant features, special finds or complex groups of features are encountered the client and HES will be alerted, so that a mitigation strategy can be agreed to deal with them.
 - All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site archaeological team. The general practice will be to bulk recover all artefacts by context which are recovered from the overburden or from nineteenth century or later layers or deposits. Should finds be encountered that are securely stratified from earlier occupation phases they will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to up-lifting.
 - All excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled for palaeo-environmental evidence. This may also include micromorphological sampling in order to address key issues on soil development.
 - A representative section will be recorded for each section of trench denoting depth of overburden, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information will be logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.
- 6.2 On completion of the watching brief phase of work, a report suitable for submission to the Planning Authority and the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) will be produced. This report will be accompanied by the post-excavation research design and costing in order to bring the results forward for analysis and publication should this be required.

Report Preparation and Contents

- 7.1 A report detailing the results of the archaeological fieldwork will be submitted to the client within two weeks of completion of fieldwork and, subject to client approval, then submitted to HES for agreement.
- 7.2 The report will take the form of a Data Structure Report and will contain an analysis of the results of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will include a full descriptive text that will characterise the

date and extent of any archaeological deposits. It will also include plans at an appropriate scale showing the area subjected to ground-breaking works, archaeological features and archiving lists of all finds, samples, field drawings and photographs.

7.3 The report will include the following:

- executive summary;
- a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with at least an 8-figure central grid reference;
- OASIS reference number; unique site code;
- Planning application number;
- contractor's details including date work carried out;
- nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details;
- description of the site history, location and geology;
- a site plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated;
- discussion of the results of fieldwork;
- context & feature descriptions;
- features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format;
- plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale;
- initial assessment of relevant finds/samples if appropriate;
- recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further Stage 2 or Stage 3 works;
- bibliography.

7.4 An appropriate number of hard copies and digital pdf copies of the report will be prepared for the client and HES for their records.

7.5 The report will be presented in an ordered state and bound within a protective cover/sleeve. The report will be page numbered and supplemented with section numbering for ease of reference.

Copyright

8.1 Unless otherwise agreed copyright for any report resulting from the archaeological work undertaken as part of the project will be deemed the intellectual property of GUARD Archaeology Limited.

Publication

9.1 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. In the event of minor archaeological remains being encountered during the archaeological fieldwork, it is proposed that a comprehensive report submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, will form the final publication of the site. A copy of this summary report will be included in the Data Structure Report.

Archive

10.1 The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within three months of completion of all relevant work.

10.2 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be completed within 3 months of completion of the work. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, HES will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

Finds Disposal

- 11.1 The arrangement for the final disposal of any finds made in connection with the archaeological work will be in keeping with Scottish legal requirements as set out in the Treasure Trove Code of Practice published by the Scottish Government in January 2016. The laws relating to Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia* in Scotland apply to all finds where the original owner cannot be identified. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork are claimed automatically by the Crown and must be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat, the Treasure Trove Unit. In the event of the discovery of small finds, a filled-out copy of the form "Declaration of an Archaeological Assemblage from Fieldwork" and two copies of the pertinent Data Structure Report will be submitted to the Panel at the conclusion of the fieldwork. The Panel will then be responsible for recommending to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer which museum should be allocated the finds. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD Archaeology Limited until a decision has been made by the panel.

Personnel and Liaison

- 12.1 The GUARD team will include the following qualified and experienced GUARD archaeologists:
- Project Manager: Bob Will
 - Project Director (Lead on-site Archaeologist): TBC
 - Finds and Environmental Support and Conservation: Aileen Maule
 - Illustrator: Gillian McSwan
- 12.2 The GUARD Project Manager will be the point of contact for the archaeological works. A full CV for individuals concerned can be made available on request.

Health & Safety and Insurance

- 13.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited adheres to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down by the ClfA. It is standard GUARD Archaeology Ltd policy, prior to any fieldwork project commencing, to conduct a risk assessment and to prepare a project safety plan, the prescriptions of which will be strictly followed for the duration of all archaeological fieldwork. Copies of the resultant project safety plan and of GUARD Archaeology Ltd's Fieldwork Safety Policy Statement may be viewed upon request.
- 13.2 GUARD Archaeology Limited also possesses all necessary insurance cover, proofs of which may be supplied upon request.

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