

# **Sunnyside Hospital,** *Montrose, Angus*

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*Archaeological Assessment and Walkover Survey – April 2013*

for

Jones Lang LaSalle

*April 2013*



*The Main Building at Sunnyside Hospital*



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# Sunnyside Hospital

## *Montrose, Angus*

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### *Archaeological Assessment and Walkover Survey 2032*

### Data Structure Report

*April 2013*

by Ross Cameron

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# Sunnyside Hospital

## Montrose, Angus

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### Archaeological Assessment and Walkover Survey – April 2013

#### *Executive Summary*

Simpson & Brown Architects were commissioned by Jones Lang LaSalle to complete a Conservation Plan of Sunnyside Hospital near Montrose in Angus. As part of this commission, Addyman Archaeology were to complete a short desk based assessment of the site to compliment the Conservation Plan, followed by a walkover of the grounds of the hospital, recording any archaeological features encountered.

No archaeological sites of note were recorded during the preliminary research of the site or during the walkover survey.

A record of the evaluation has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID addyman1-149309) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

#### *1. Introduction*

##### *i. General*

Simpson & Brown Architects were commissioned by Jones Lang LaSalle to complete a Conservation Plan of Sunnyside Hospital near Montrose in Angus. As part of this commission, Addyman Archaeology were to complete a short desk based assessment of the site to compliment the Conservation Plan, followed by a walkover of the grounds of the hospital, recording any archaeological features encountered.

The walkover survey was completed by Ross Cameron on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Weather conditions were bright and sunny, ideal for a detailed assessment of the grounds.

No archaeological sites of note were recorded during the preliminary research of the site or during the walkover survey.

##### *ii. Setting*

The site of Sunnyside Hospital is one which has undergone significant alteration and construction, with the majority of the site still occupied by a series of large hospital buildings and associated ancillary structures. Many of the buildings sit within what is clearly a much altered and developed landscape, with roads, car parks and recreation areas surrounding and interlinking the various buildings.

Sunnyside Hospital has undergone series of closures, with the final building going out of use in 2011. The grass and vegetation around the site is no longer managed and as such is long and essentially unkempt.

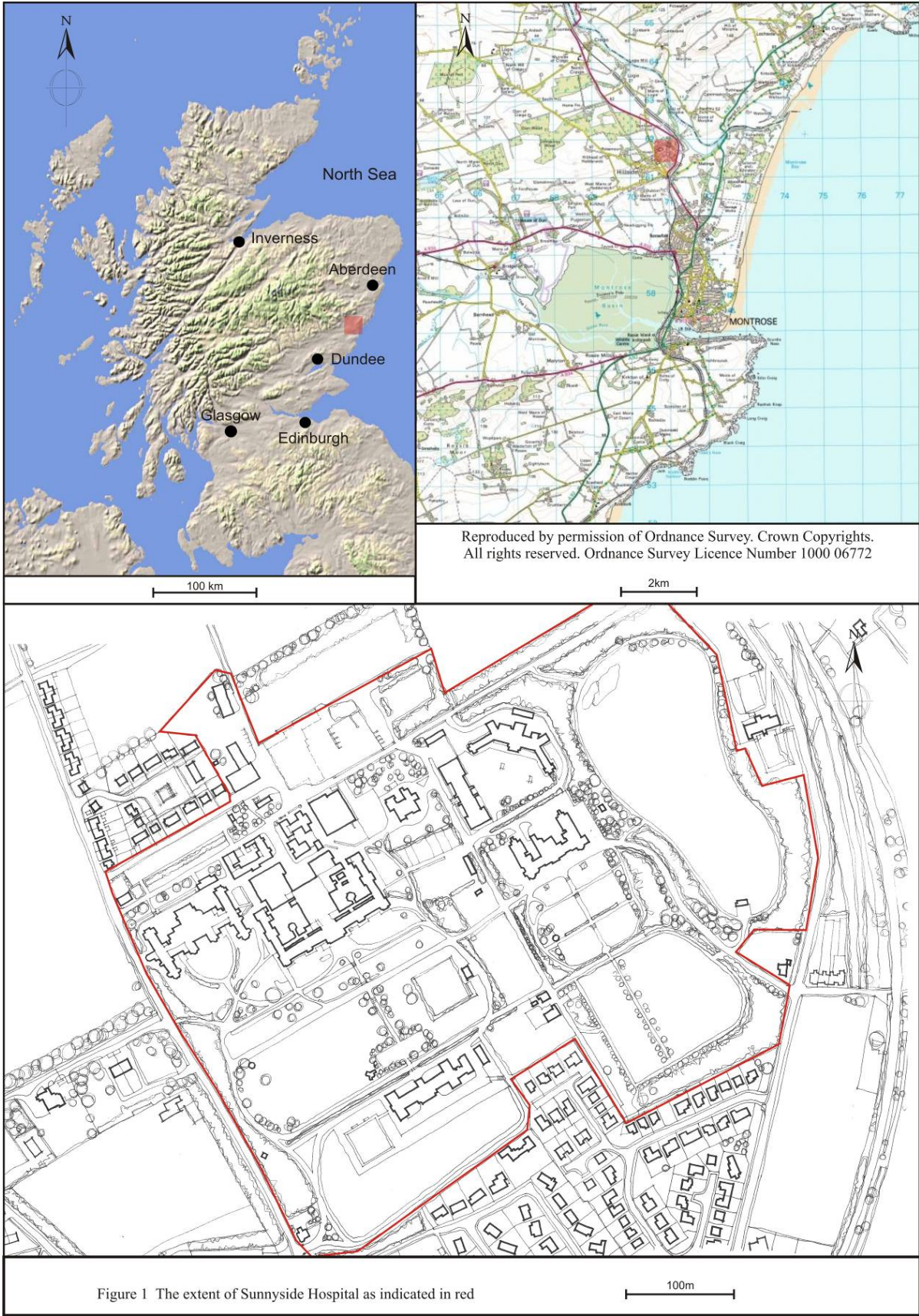
The underlying geology is mixed, with the site straddling the meeting point of three different bedrock formations. The S of the site contains sedimentary bedrock of the Glenvale Sandstone Formation, formed approximately 354-370 million years ago in the Devonian Period. To the N this is bordered by sandstone of the Dundee Flagstone Formation also formed during the Devonian period, but with an estimated age of 391 to 417 million years. Between these two sandstone formations an area of Andesite and Basalt of the Montrose Volcanic Formation stretches from the NE. This can be dated to 400 to 417 million years ago and is characteristic of an environment previously dominated by eruptions of silica-poor magma.

The superficial deposits across the site comprise Till, formed up to two million years ago in the Quarternary Period. This is characteristic of an environment previously dominated by the Ice Age.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk) – 29/04/13





## **2. *Brief Historical Summary***

### *i. General*

Sunnyside Hospital has its origins in the foundation of the Montrose Lunatic Asylum and Dispensary in 1781, which was located within the town of Montrose itself. In 1858 the hospital moved to a purpose built site on Sunnyside Farm to the NW of the town when the Main Building was constructed. Overcrowding led to continued expansion as Carnegie House was completed in 1899 and development continued through the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The hospital came under NHS control in 1946 and in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century underwent a series of phased closures, culminating in the final closure of the site to patients in 2011.

A detailed assessment of the site's history and development can be consulted in the accompanying *Sunnyside House: Conservation Plan*.

### *ii. Historical Potential*

The area around Sunnyside Hospital is a rich archaeological landscape with a large number of monuments recorded in both the National Monument Record Scotland (NMRS) as held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and the Angus Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as maintained by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

A series of cropmarks have been recorded in the immediate vicinity of Sunnyside, 8 different sites within 2km of the hospital. These sites have been variously interpreted as ring ditches, souterrains and unenclosed settlements and are indicative of a densely occupied prehistoric landscape.

To the immediate E of the Sunnyside site boundary a series of five flint flakes and a flint scraper were recovered in 2004 from a garden of a nearby property (CANMORE site number NO76NW 25). All were of local geological origin and demonstrate the existence of prehistoric people living and working nearby.

The rich density of prehistoric activity demonstrates that Sunnyside Hospital was built in an area where archaeological evidence may have existed. The areas of the site where no development has taken place thus have some potential for archaeological features to survive.

## **3 *Aerial Photographs***

Aerial photographs of Sunnyside Hospital were consulted in order to assess the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological features to survive in the vicinity. The photographic coverage of the site was extensive, presumably due to the close proximity of RAF Montrose which closed in 1952 and RAF Edzell to the NW which finally closed in 1997.

A wide variety of vertical aerial photographs were consulted with varying degrees of usefulness. A number of factors are important in revealing features on the ground in aerial photographs. The weather, cloud cover, time of day, time of year and height of the flight are all important factors affecting the usefulness of the picture, making it very important to view and assess as many images as possible. In addition the image itself may not be of great quality or sharpness, perhaps due to issues when the picture was taken or due to the conditions in which the photograph was subsequently stored.

From the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), Addyman Archaeology consulted the following aerial images:

<b>Sortie</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Frames</b>	<b>Comments</b>
106G_DY_0021	18/09/44	60001 – 60002	
106G_UK_0142	11/07/46	4114-4120	
540_0986	16/01/53	0284, 0286-0288	Images missing
82-1020	18/09/54	0051-0053	
543_1842	13/08/62	0112-0113	
58_5660	19/03/63	0016-0017, 0037-0038	
OS_67_048	22/04/67	004-005	
OS_67_287	27/07/67	021-023	Images missing
OS-69_170	05/06/69	039-041	Images missing
OS_69_351	15/07/69	000-002	
OS_71_085	20/04/71	001-004	
OS_71_104	20/04/71	005-007	Only images 007 and 008 present
OS_74_134	14/06/74	110-111	Images missing
C_0262	14/05/88	060-063	Images missing
C_0277	18/06/88	077-080	Images missing
C_0253	11/09/88	191-193	Images missing

In addition, readily available aerial views online were also analysed from both [www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com), and [www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk). Google Earth also provided aerial views dated from 13/09/12

The earliest flown sortie recorded across Sunnyside Hospital was undertaken in 1946 and the site was photographed extensively from the 1950s right through until 1988 as first the Royal Air Force and subsequently the Ordnance Survey sought to gain comprehensive coverage of the area. The satellite images available on the internet bring the coverage to the present day.

Although a large number of sorties were flown and images sought, a significant number of these were not available in the National Collection of Aerial Photography. Often the specific photographs that would have showed the hospital and its grounds were missing. Images were missing of the site from sorties in the 1950s right the way through until the latest examples in 1988. Initially it was presumed this may be as a result of the proximity of the site to RAF Montrose, but as this airbase closed in 1952, it is unlikely the area was still considered as sensitive as late as 1988. The absence of these images is a mystery, but it was felt more than enough were consulted to ensure no archaeological sites are unrecorded.

The images that were consulted revealed a number of features regarding the development of the site and the use of the large open areas unaffected by previous development. However, no features of any significant archaeological interest were recorded.

Area A is recorded as the site of the cricket pitch, with the pavilions dating to at least the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The most remarkable aspect to note from assessment of the aerial images is the presence of a tree located in the centre of this area, slightly offset to the S. No archaeological sites were visible, although the ‘pitch’ itself, or wicket was often seen to be located along the NW edge of the site, perhaps indicating the area was used more for informal recreational cricket than actual cricket matches.

All the images showed Area B to contain planted, and clearly laid out sections of land. The earliest images from 1944 are taken from very high, and the site is very small and details difficult to discern. However, it would appear that the pattern for planting the various sections of Area B is established, yet it does not appear to be heavily planted at this time. The area was clearly heavily planted from 1946 and this may be the result of planting on available land during the Second World War. Heavy planting is also visible at this time in Area C to the S of Carnegie House. This pattern of Area B, divided into separate sections containing different types of plant continues to varying degree through

all the images assessed, with only Sortie 58\_1366 from 02/03/54 seeming to show the planting in this area to be run down and not maintained. It is presumed that Area B was used by the hospital and subsequently in the war for the supply of food, but that this may have become more recreational or therapeutic for the residents after the establishment of the NHS.

From the images it is clear that Area C was used in a similar manner to Area B, although it is more likely this garden area was more decorative and laid out than Area B.

The largest undeveloped area of the site is Area D to the NE of the Sunnyside Hospital grounds. The aerial images showed little evidence for the use and development of this area. The current tree boundary surrounding the irregular shaped Area D was in place from the earliest images, while the southern half of this parcel of land is occupied by a football pitch from at least 1954. The northern section seems to remain a field, with evidence that crops were grown here, particularly in the images from Sortie 82/1020 from 18/09/54 where this area seems to contain a crop being harvested.



#### **4. Walkover Survey**

##### *i. Methodology*

The preliminary research indicated that certain areas of the site had survived free from development after the hospital had evolved from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although much of the area within the hospital had seen significant alteration, it was felt that particular areas of the site may reveal archaeological remains.

The walkover survey was designed to provide comprehensive cover of the site whilst specifically targeting those areas identified from earlier research as being of potential archaeological significance, or having survived free of recorded landscaping or development. The walkover was undertaken over one day, with all open areas of the site systematically assessed for archaeological survival. Special attention was paid to the verges and marginal land along the boundaries of the site and adjacent to the buildings and other features, as it was felt these areas may contain vestigial survival of any pre-existing sites.

The route of the walkover was tracked by a hand held GPS, with the intention that any sites recorded were to be accurately plotted, while a photographic record was maintained of all open areas.

##### *ii. Results*

The walkover survey at Sunnyside hospital failed to yield any previously unrecorded sites or sites of archaeological interest. As expected, much of the site was seen to have undergone significant alteration and landscaping.

Although the site is heavily occupied by buildings and landscape features, four large areas were essentially free of development. For ease of categorisation, these were assigned letters A-D as shown in *Figure 2*. Each of these areas will be discussed separately.



*Figure 2 Areas defined for those parts of the site which have historically been free of development*

Other small areas adjacent to buildings and along the periphery of the site also escaped recorded development, but no features were noted during the physical examination of these areas. Some of these marginal patches of land appeared to be undeveloped, yet the tree alignment indicated organised planting which showed the land had been worked to a degree.

*a. Area A*

Historically this area housed the cricket pitch, with pavilion established in both the NW and SE corners for both the home and the away teams. It was initially assumed that some degree of landscaping may have taken place in this area to ensure an acceptable playing surface for cricket, but the walkover showed it unlikely this was the case. No traces were visible for the cricket pitch and it must be assumed this has been out of use for some time. The most remarkable thing about this area is that it is located on ground which clearly slopes significantly to the SE and would be problematic upon which to play cricket. The lack of landscaping here is interesting on a cricket pitch which has been considered established enough upon which to build not one, but two pavilions.



*Plate 1 View looking NW towards the away pavilion (Photograph 017)*

*b. Area B*

Although much of the area around the Nurses Home had clearly been extensively landscaped, the sloping and undulating nature of the ground in this area indicated that this had undergone any significant alteration. The ground was traversed in a systematic and organised manner, but no sites were recorded.



*Plate 2 Area B with the Nurses Home to the NW (Photograph 005)*





*Plate 3 View SW towards across Area B (Photograph 008)*

*c. Area C*

Area C was located in a part of the site which had clearly been defined as a formal garden or orchard. Bordered by mature trees, Area C also contained what is now beaten pathway running NW-SE through a short avenue of apple trees.

No sites or features were located in this area during the walkover survey.



*Plate 4 Looking NW across the NE side of Area C (Photograph 011)*



*Plate 5 The SW half of Area C sloping to the SE (Photograph 014)*

*d. Area D*

Area D was the largest section of the site to have seen no known development. The aerial images had shown the southern part to have been the location of a football pitch, but the northern half had no recorded use and was the most likely place in which to find any surviving archaeological features.



*Plate 6 Area D looking SE (Photograph 028)*



*Plate 7 The northern end of Area D with Angus House in the distance (Photograph 029)*



## **5. Summary and Discussion**

The area around Sunnyside Hospital is rich with archaeological features and sites, yet no sites were recorded within the limits of the hospital grounds either from an assessment of the historical records, or from the assessment of aerial photographs and subsequent walkover survey.

Sunnyside Hospital moved to its present location in 1858 and the complex grew sporadically over the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries into the series of buildings and landscapes visible on site today. Although areas of the site can be seen as essentially free from development for the duration of this period, no evidence has been found to indicate that upstanding or buried archaeological remains are present therein.

Addyman Archaeology do not recommend any further archaeological mitigation with regard to buried remains on site.

## ***Bibliography***

<http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/>  
[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/angus/default.aspx](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/angus/default.aspx)  
[www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

**Appendix A:**  
**Photographic Register; Sunnyside Hospital – Walkover Survey**

Shot Num.	Direction facing	Description	Date	Initial
001	NE	View across Area A towards the Main Building	25/04/13	RC
002	S	Marginal land on the periphery of Area B	25/04/13	RC
003	ENE	Marginal land on the periphery of Area B showing planted trees	25/04/13	RC
004	SW	Marginal land on the periphery of Area B	25/04/13	RC
005	NE	Area B in front of the Nurses Home	25/04/13	RC
006	N	Area B in front of the Nurses Home	25/04/13	RC
007	N	The Nurses Home	25/04/13	RC
008	SW	Area B in front of the Nurses Home	25/04/13	RC
009	W	The Nurses Home	25/04/13	RC
010	SE	Marginal land adjacent to Area C	25/04/13	RC
011	NW	Area C from the SE	25/04/13	RC
012	SW	The eastern half of Area C	25/04/13	RC
013	SE	The eastern half of Area C	25/04/13	RC
014	SE	The western half of Area C	25/04/13	RC
015	SE	Undeveloped land to NW of Area C	25/04/13	RC
016	SW	The Home pavilion in Area A	25/04/13	RC
017	NW	Area A with the Away Pavilion visible	25/04/13	RC
018	N	The Main Building	25/04/13	RC
019	WSW	The Away Pavilion in Area A	25/04/13	RC
020	N	The Away Pavilion in front of the Main Building	25/04/13	RC
021	W	The ground in front of the Hospital Block	25/04/13	RC
022	NNE	The southern section of Area D	25/04/13	RC
023	NE	The Kinnaber Water Works	25/04/13	RC
024	E	The Kinnaber Water Works	25/04/13	RC
025	S	Marginal land to the E of Area D	25/04/13	RC
026	NW	Woodland to the N of Area D	25/04/13	RC
027	SW	The derelict Angus House	25/04/13	RC
028	S	Area D from the N	25/04/13	RC
029	W	The N half of Area D with Angus House visible through the trees	25/04/13	RC
030	WSW	Carnegie House	25/04/13	RC
031	NW	The open land in front of Angus House	25/04/13	RC
032	NW	The open land in front of Angus House	25/04/13	RC
033	NE	Derelict land on the N of the site	25/04/13	RC

**Appendix B:**  
**Photographic Thumbnails; Sunnyside Hospital – Archaeological Evaluation**



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