

EAST TULLOS BURN RESTORATION ST FITTICK'S COMMUNITY PARK ABERDEEN



- Archaeological Watching Brief -

Carried out 10th March – 1st April 2014

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2014-16

by

J C Murray & D I Harding

H K Murray BA, PhD, MIFA, FSA Scot
J C Murray BA, MIFA, FSA Scot, FMA
Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN
Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: cmurray@btinternet.com

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ST FITTICK'S COMMUNITY PARK
ABERDEEN**

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1. Background

- 1.1 Work on the restoration of the East Tullos Burn and its associated pathways was subject to an archaeological watching brief at the request of Judith Stones, Lead Curator (Local History & Archaeology), Aberdeen City Council.
- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Salix River and Wetland Services Ltd to undertake the work, which was carried 10th March – 1st April 2014.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site is located on the S side of St Fittick's Road and St Fittick's Church and N of the mainline East Coast Railway at Nigg Bay (NGR: NJ 96200 04670 (centre); Parish: Aberdeen. Illus.1) The Tullos Burn runs W – E to the N of the Nigg Waste Water Treatment Plant and enters the sea at Nigg Bay.
- 2.2 The remains of the former parish church lie to the N of the Burn. It was founded between 1189 and 1199 and dedicated to St Fittick [NJ 96270 04958; NMRS No. NJ90SE1]. Reconstructed and enlarged in the 18th century, it was abandoned in 1829.



Illus 1: Map, showing location of site in red. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved License No.100049810

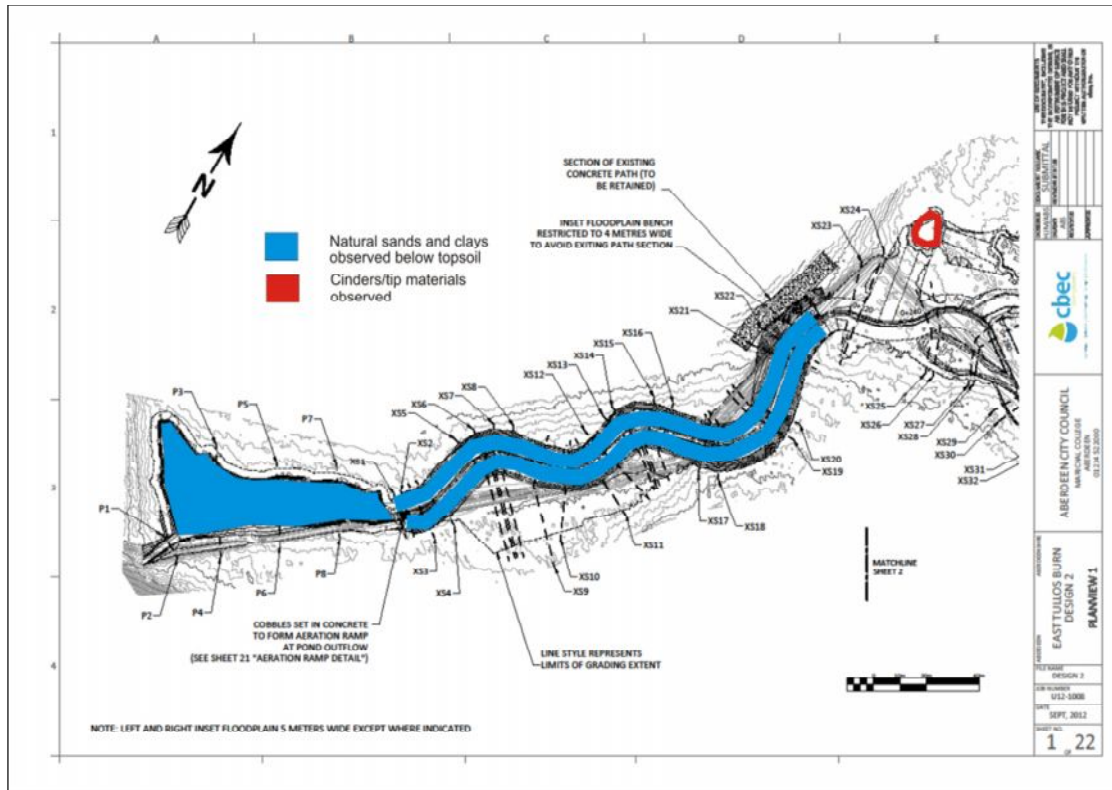
3. The Watching Brief

- 3.1 The work took the form of soil stripping along the new course of the burn to form a wide floodplain bench and excavating a new channel within this (Illus. 2 and 3). A new pond was dug at the W end of the project, N of the Tullos Burn (the Inline Pond), and five small ponds were dug, also N of the burn approximately half way between the W and E ends of the project.

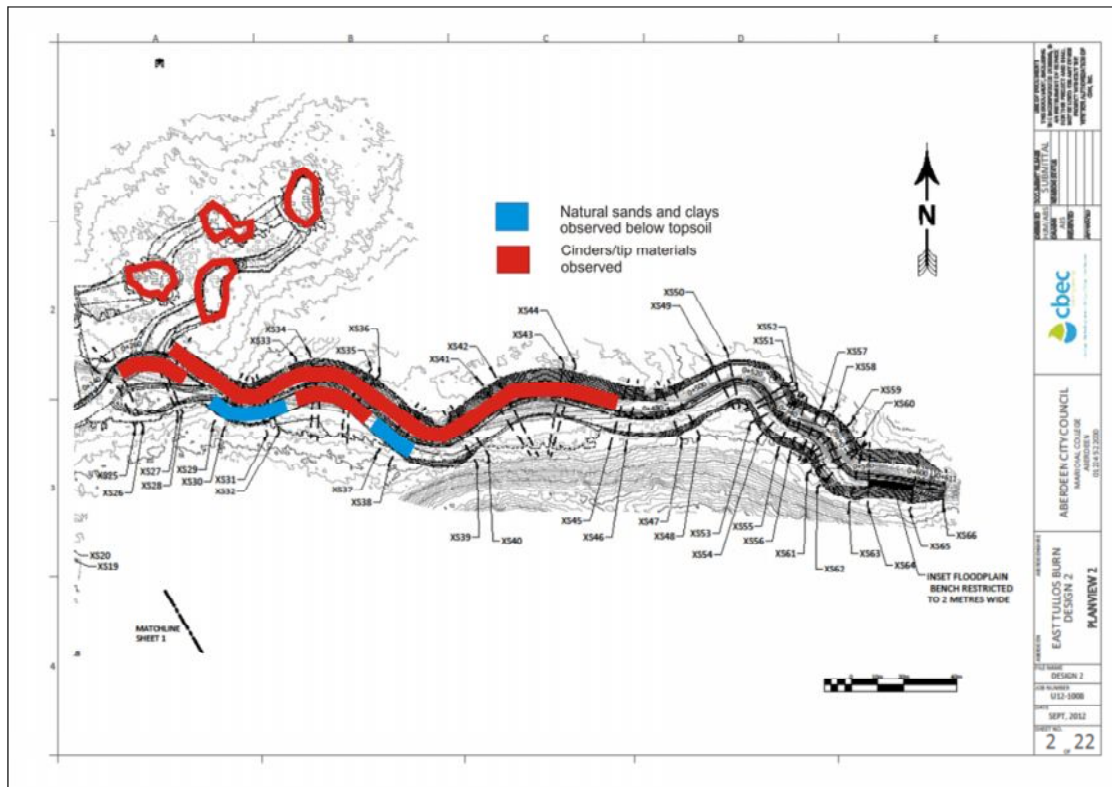
Removal of the topsoil at the Inline Pond revealed clean, smooth, compact fine grey-brown sands with patches of clay c.700mm down. This level was further reduced by 300-400mm with no change being evident.

Tile and stone drains were observed in this area and were removed during excavation works. The remnants of a modern gravel path foundation were observed at the W end but this also was excavated out.

No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus 2: Plan 1 - from W end to middle of project with Inline Pond at W end.



Illus 3: Plan 2 - from middle to E end of project.



Illus 4: View of Inline Pond, looking W

- 3.2 Excavation of the floodplain bench was observed from XS3 at the E end of the Inline Pond to XS23 at the mid point, mainly on the N side of the burn (see Illus.2). Topsoil depths on the N side of c.400mm and c.250mm on the S side, overlay clean, compact sandy natural.



Illus 5: New floodplain bench showing natural sands, looking E from XS5.

Between XS18 and XS24, topsoil depths on the N side of the burn were over 1m deep, possibly indicating modern landscaping.

- 3.3 From XS24 to approximately XS46 (see Illus.3), excavation on the N side went through tip material, characterized by an area of raised ground levels. The tip surface, below topsoil, was a layer of cinders over a mixture of glass bottles and clay and stoneware pots and bottles, dating to the c.late 19th/early 20th century. A series of five small ponds were excavated into this material on the N side of the burn (red on E side of Illus.2 and W end of Illus.3).



Illus 6: Tip profile at XS33, looking N.

The five small ponds on the N side of the burn were dug into the tip cinder covering but not into the underlying tip material.

No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus 7: The two most westerly small ponds, looking NE.



Illus 8: Small pond cut into cinder layer.

3.4 Given the nature of the deposits up to XS46, the watching brief was not continued beyond this point.

4. Results

- 4.1 A consistent layer of natural was observed below the topsoil during the course of the watching brief. The elevated area E of XS24 proved to be a former rubbish tip with a cinder cover, later covered with topsoil.
- 4.2 No archaeological features or finds were observed.

Catalogue of Digital Photographs (Supplied to Archive)

1. Area around XS20, new flood bench, facing N
2. Cinder layer around small pond
3. Cinders W of XS46
4. View N, from near XS14
5. View E, from XS3
6. Inline Pond, facing N
7. Inline pond, facing W
8. Mixed topsoil and cinders, S edge of tip, W of XS46
9. Natural sands and clay, N bank
10. Natural sands, N of XS15
11. New floodplain bench, facing E from XS5
12. As above, from XS towards W
13. As above, from XS5 Inline Pond
14. As above, XS8 to E
15. Realigned burn and Tullos Burn, towards N
16. Realigned burn between XS26 and XS22, facing W
17. Realigned burn channel, towards N
18. Realigned burn, XS25, towards W
19. S side of Tullos Burn, initial soil strip E of XS21
20. S side of Tullos Burn, about XS10
21. Small ponds, clinker/cinder layer
22. Soil profile, NW facing
23. Soil strip W of XS25
24. Soil, cinders, clay patches W of XS46, tip edge
25. Stone drain, XS13 area
26. Stratigraphy, XS13 area, facing N
27. Tip contents, N facing, XS33
28. Tip deposits, area of XS35, facing N
29. Tip edge profile, XS33, facing N
30. Tip material, XS43, facing N
31. Tip profile, XS31, facing NW
32. Tip, XS32, facing N
33. Topsoil, facing W from near XS14

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34. Two westmost of 5 small ponds, facing N
 35. XS13, stone drain, facing E