

**4-8 GEORGE STREET
HUNTLY,
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 13th April 2016
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



Report No: MAS 2016-14

by

H K Murray & J C Murray

H K Murray BA, PhD, MCifA, FSA Scot

J C Murray BA, MCifA, FSA Scot, FMA

Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN

Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: cmurray@btinternet.com

**4-8 GEORGE STREET
HUNTLY
ABERDEENSHIRE**

- Archaeological Watching Brief -

1. Background

- 1.1 Two Planning Applications to Aberdeenshire Council for the refurbishment of a cottage alteration and the refurbishment of a derelict cottage to form a dwelling at 8 George Street, Huntly (APP/2015/2621) and for alterations and extension to dwelling at 2, 4, 6 George Street, Huntly (APP/2015/2605) were granted permission subject to a condition (Condition 1) requiring an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during any groundbreaking work.
- 1.2 The Council's reason for imposing the condition was to observe and record any items of archaeological interest disturbed during the ground works. The Condition was applied in the context of PAN (Planning Advice Note) 2/2011, SPP and SHEP, which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological work to take place prior to development, in appropriate circumstances.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by John Wink Design to undertake the work, which was carried out on 13th April 2016.

2. The Site

2.1 The site is situated in George Street, Huntly, near to its junction with Deveron Street (A920).

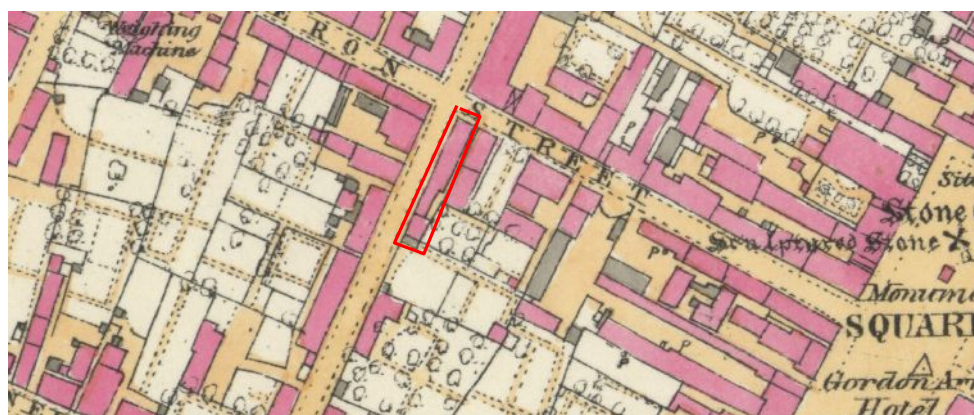
GPS: 352778, 840008 (centre of site)

Parish : Huntly

2.2 This part of Huntly is within the Conservation Area and is part of the grid pattern of 18th and early 19th century town planning (Aberdeenshire Council 2013).

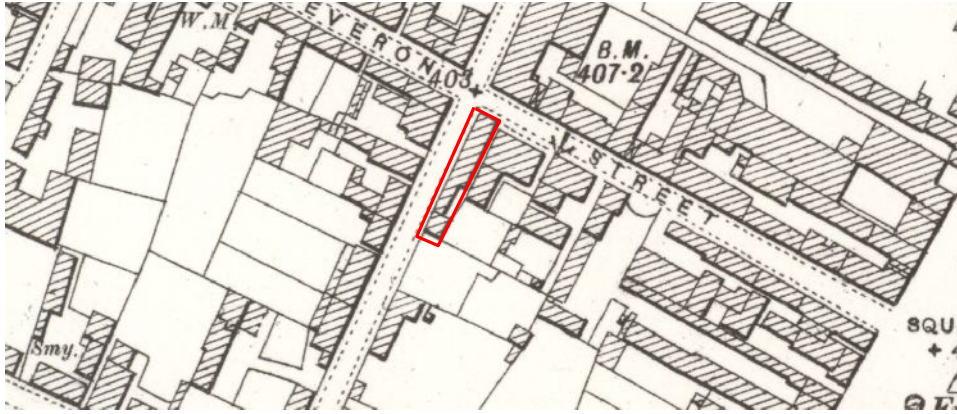
3. Documentary evidence

3.1 The 1st Ordnance Survey map of 1871 (Aberdeen sheet XXVI.6, published 1874) shows 2-4 George Street as a single block taking the full width of the plot. No 6 is narrower, only built over the side of the plot alongside the road with a small narrow yard behind. No 8 is an almost square building taking the full width of the plot.



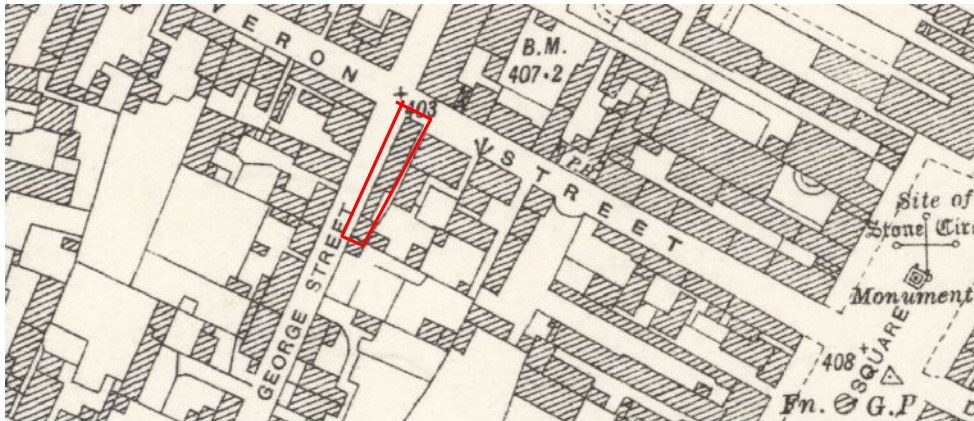
Illus 1 Aberdeen sheet xxvi.6 1871 (pub 1874). Site indicated in red. www.nls.ac.uk

3.2 The 2nd Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (Aberdeenshire 026.06, published 1901) shows no change in the footprint of the buildings.



Illus 2 Ordnance Survey Aberdeenshire 026.06. 1900 (pub 1901). Site indicated in red.
www.nls.ac.uk

3.3 The Ordnance Survey map of 1924 (Aberdeenshire 026.06, published 1926) shows no change in the footprint of the buildings.



Illus 3 Ordnance Survey Aberdeenshire 026.06. 1924 (pub 1926). Site indicated in red.
www.nls.ac.uk

3.4 By the time of the present work, No 6 was an unroofed open area, with the cottage wall along the street facade; this part of the wall was of concrete blocks, not stone.

4. The Watching Brief

4.1 No ground disturbance took place at No 4 George Street as the concrete floor was retained and the new floor poured on top of it. No watching brief was therefore necessary.

4.2 At No 8, the only ground disturbance was on the line of the new N gable wall. The floor concrete inside the structure was retained and the new floor poured on top. A trench 550mm wide and 400mm deep was dug by a mini-digger to remove the existing gable which had large boulders in the foundation, set in stoney gritty soil. At the W (street) end there was a stone and mortar foundation running N/S parallel to the street frontage towards No 6. This was constructed of very large stones and was c1.05m wide (E/W). Only some 0.70m length of the wall (N/S along the street) was exposed. It was 250-350mm below pavement level. The present street wall frontage was built directly on it. As the present wall of No 6 is at of concrete blocks, it would appear likely that this is the foundation of the original stone wall of No 6.



Illus 4 Looking N from No 8 George Street across the trench on the line of the removed N gable



Illus 5 Looking S into No 8 George Street across the trench where gable removed. Note small measuring rod is on the line of the front wall stone foundation.



Illus 6 Looking E from street. Detail of exposed wall foundation

5 References

Aberdeenshire Council. Huntly Conservation Area Review. Final Report 2013.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Catalogue of digital photographic supplied to Aberdeenshire SMR

Photographic catalogue	
Digital frame no	Content
1-3	Street view looking NE
4	Street view looking SE
5	Trench on line of gable of No 8, looking N
6	W end of trench showing wall foundation, looking W
7-8	W end of trench showing wall foundation, looking E
9-11	W end of trench showing wall foundation, looking SW towards No 8