

Hospitalfield House,
Arbroath,
Angus
Archaeological Watching Brief,
Monitoring Test Pits



**July 2015** 

### **Document control sheet**

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## Contents

### **Executive Summary**

- 1 Introduction
  - 1.1 General
  - 1.2 Site Location and Setting

General Study Area Geology

- 2 The Development
  - 2.1 The Proposed Development
  - 2.2 The Geotechnical Investigations
- 3 Historical Analysis
  - 3.1 General Historical Background

General Prehistoric Medieval Post-Medieval

3.2 Previous archaeological or antiquarian work at Hospitalfield

General Human Remains – 1860/1 - 1889 Red Lion Caravan Park - 1996 Westway Retail Park - 1999

Hospitalfield House - 2001-2003

3.3 Map Regression

Pre-Ordnance Survey Maps Ordnance Survey Maps Conclusions

- 4 Methodology
  - 4.1 The Watching Brief
  - 4.2 Aims and Objectives
- 5 Results
  - 5.1 General
  - 5.2 Trench 15 (TP8)
  - 5.3 Trench 18 (TP9)
- 6 Summary and Discussion
  - 6.1 General
- 7 Conclusions and Recommendations
  - 7.1 General

### Acknowledgements

### **Bibliography**

Appendix B Context Register
Appendix B Finds Register

Appendix C Photographic Register

Appendix D Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland entry

### **Executive Summary**

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by the Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works in advance of the potential redevelopment of Hospitalfield House in Arbroath. The works involved the excavation of a series of geotechnical trial pits and boreholes around the Hospitalfield complex and followed the completion of a Desk Based Assessment charting the known history and development of the site. The Trust are proposing to construct a number of structures and additions to the existing buildings in order to provide better access to and conservation of the collections held at Hospitalfield House.

The site proposed for development has long associations with the Chapel and Hospital of St. John, a religious house founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by the monks of nearby Arbroath Abbey. A large number of inhumations were revealed to the south of Hospitalfield House during works in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and again in 1996. It is suggested that these burials originate from the cemetery or graveyard associated with the hospital.

The history of the hospital and its subsequent development are unclear, but the site was already a high status dwelling by the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Patrick Allan-Fraser took possession of Hospitalfield House in 1843 and proceeded to undertake a programme of construction, alteration and development of the present buildings.

The excavations around Hospitalfield House were of limited scope and failed to reveal any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts. A total of 18 holes were excavated, with only one revealing buried structural remains, likely of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

A record of the desk based assessment has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-219222) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland (intended).

### 1 Introduction

### 1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Lucy Byatt of the Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief on all ground breaking works associated with the geotechnical investigations at Hospitalfield House in Arbroath (NGR: NO 62583 40431 centred). With the assistance of Caruso St John Architects (contact Amy Perkins), the client proposes to undertake construction and renovation work in and around Hospitalfield House.
- 1.1.2 Archaeological advice for proposed development within the Angus Council area is provided by the Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray and Angus (ASAMA). The site was identified by ASAMA as one with considerable archaeological potential. Through Angus Council, ASAMA recommended that an archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) be carried out at the earliest opportunity in order to inform development and future ground breaking works. This DBA was completed by ARCHAS in May 2015, confirming the site as one with significant archaeological potential.
- 1.1.3 Following approval of the DBA, ASAMA requested an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the excavation of boreholes and geotechnical test pits.
- 1.1.4 This watching brief was maintained on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of July by Ross Cameron. Weather conditions were predominantly bright and dry throughout, with occasional showers.
- 1.1.5 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd. conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents. This report includes much of the research completed as part of the DBA.

### 1.2 Site Location and Setting

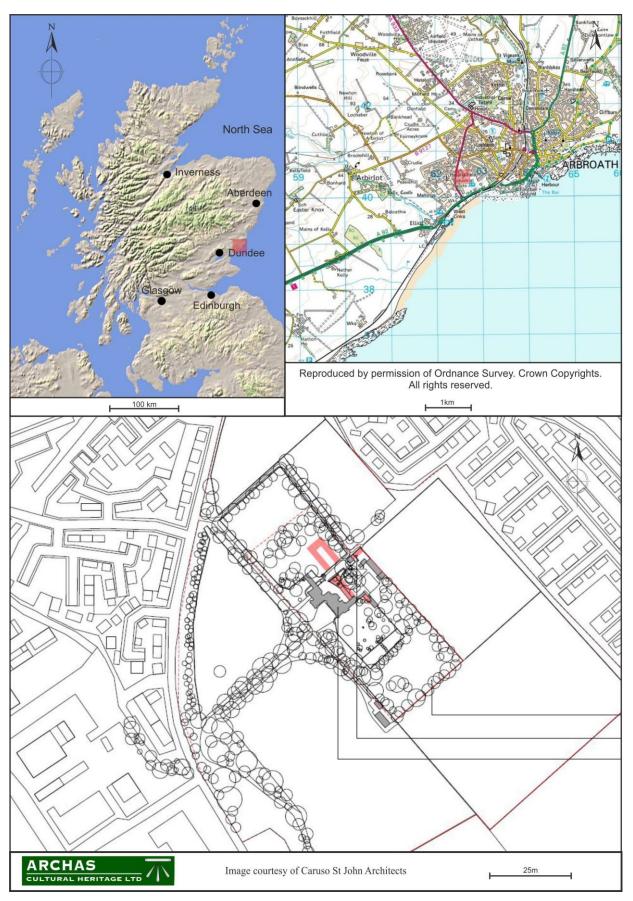


Figure 1: Site location

### General

1.2.1 The proposed development site at Hospitalfield House is located within the town of Arbroath, in the region of Angus (centred on NO 62583 40431).

### Study Area

- 1.2.2 The Hospitalfield complex sits within an enclave of arable fields and mature deciduous woodland surrounded on all sides by modern development. This area lay outside the town of Arbroath until its expansion in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1.2.3 The House is accessed from the Westway to the north, a straight road lined with trees on either side. The eastern side of the road is bordered by the gardens and allotments run by Hospitalfield Arts, while the west contains one of the rich arable fields which surround Hospitalfield House. Another garden, this time walled, lies to the south of the house, with a gravel turning and parking area located to the front of the building. The area to the rear or east is occupied by numerous small outbuildings.
- 1.2.4 Hospitalfield House itself is a large, Baronial, two and three storeyed mansion house with turrets and ornate detail (Plate 1).



Plate 1: View of Hospitalfield House from the west (DBA Photograph 004)

### Geology

1.2.4 The drift geology of the proposed development site comprises Raised Marine Deposits of Devensian Age. This superficial deposit of clay, silt, sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period and is characteristic of a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. The underlying bedrock geology comprises sedimentary bedrock of the Auchmithie Conglomerate formed approximately 398-416 million years ago in the Devonian Period. This is characteristic of an environment once dominated by rivers and alluvial fans.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> www.bgs.ac.uk –25/02/15

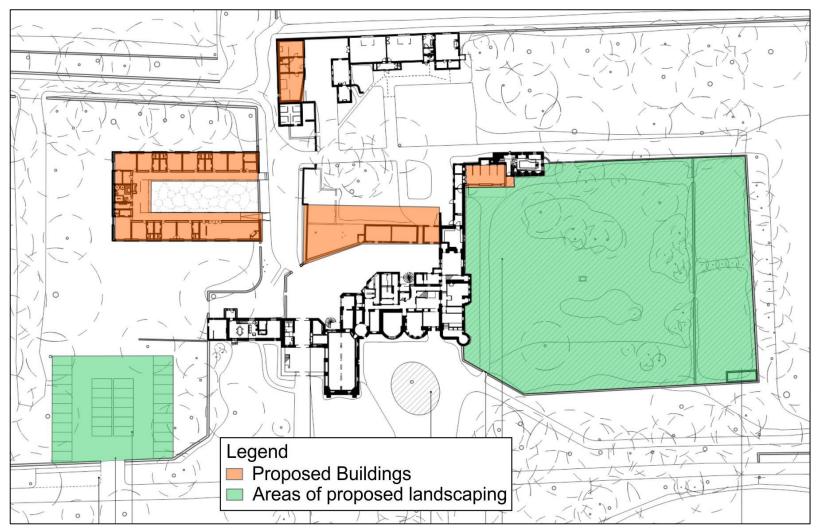


Figure 2: Proposed development in and around Hospitalfield House. ARCHAS Ltd after Caruso St John Architects

## 2 The Development

### 2.1 The Proposed Development

- 2.1.1 The proposed development anticipates a number of structures and additions to the existing complex of buildings at Hospitalfield House (Figure 2). These will include a new accommodation building, a studio, a café and a Centre for Collection Development. These buildings will provide better access and conservation to the collections held by Hospitalfield House.
- 2.1.2 In addition a new car park is proposed to the west of Hospitalfield House, while soft landscaping is proposed for the walled garden east of the House.
- 2.1.3 These works all have the potential to impact upon buried archaeological remains.

### 2.2 The Geotechnical Investigations

- 2.2.1 Before works can proceed and proposals be formalised, a series of geotechnical investigations are required. These involve the excavation of three boreholes, ten hand dug test pits and five hand dug pits for CBR tests.
- 2.2.2 The locations of these pits are specifically placed around the Hospitalfield complex in order to provide the geotechnical information required.

## 3 Historical Analysis

### 3.1 General Historical Background

General

- 3.1.1 Hospitalfield House and the surrounding area have a recorded history that is dominated by occupation of the site in the medieval period and connections with the nearby Arbroath Abbey. However, there is some evidence to suggest use of the land around Hospitalfield in prehistory, while the development of the original Hospital and Chapel of St John into the current complex brings the history of Hospitalfield to the present day.
- 3.1.2 The Hospitalfield House complex contains two sites protected by Statutory legislation. Hospitalfield House itself is a Category A Listed Building, while the Fernery on the north east side of the walled garden is Category B Listed. Any alteration to these buildings would require Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Scotland.

Prehistoric

- 3.1.3 The rich, fertile land around Arbroath would have attracted settlement from the earliest period. The area to the west of the site, beyond the Elliot Water, is a rich prehistoric landscape with enclosures, souterrains, settlements and ring ditches. Many of these are protected as Scheduled Monuments. There are also a number of cropmarks (alongside other evidence for prehistoric settlement) closer to Hospitalfield on the north east bank of the Elliot Water.
- 3.1.4 In the more immediate vicinity of Hospitalfield House there are two records for artefact findspots which may indicate some presence in prehistory. A spindle whorl was recovered a

short distance to the south west of Hospitalfield House (NO 625 400) while the collections of the House itself hold two complete Bronze Age Food vessels as well as the fragment of a third. Unfortunately, these Bronze Age artefacts are unprovenanced and it is not possible to say where they originated. This may have been far from the House itself. Equally spindle whorls are difficult to date and it is not possible to say whether this actually dates to prehistory without knowing the immediate context of the discovery.

#### Medieval

- 3.1.6 Arbroath Abbey was founded by King William the Lion in 1178, but it is not until 1325 or 1352 that there is the first recorded mention of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist.<sup>2</sup> The Hospital was founded by the monastic community of the Abbey, presumably as the hospital for pilgrims and travellers visiting the Abbey. However, in his study of medieval hospitals in Scotland, Derek Hall states that the function of the hospital is unknown although there was an almshouse in Arbroath at the time.<sup>3</sup>
- 3.1.7 There is little readily available information regarding the medieval hospitals of Scotland, and this is also true of the Hospital of St John. Hospitalfield House is believed to contain older fragments of the medieval hospital, in particular a piece of an arch from the hospital can be found built into the inside face of one of the ground floor bay windows. However, without a detailed assessment of the masonry of the building and removal of internal fittings, it is not possible to say how much of the earlier structures survives and whether architectural fragments such as the arch are *in situ*. There is certainly not enough apparent to gain an idea as to the style and nature of the medieval buildings.
- 3.1.8 Although little is known about the early history of the hospital, the site was clearly still operating in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. In his mid 19<sup>th</sup> century work 'Arbroath and it Abbey' Dan Miller records an inquest of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1464 which clearly stated the Hospital was not distinct from the property of the monastery. A chapel was consecrated and an altar dedicated on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1485 by the Bishop of Dunmore while a record of 4<sup>th</sup> December 1490 describes the chapel of the infirmary 'as in danger of falling intro ruin'<sup>4</sup>.

### Post-Medieval

3.1.9 It is not clear when the Hospital and Chapel of St John the Baptist fell out of use, but this was likely to have occurred during the reformation of 1560.

3.1.10 In 1665 Hospitalfield was purchased and altered by Reverend James Fraser to act as his dwelling house. The site passed to a different branch of Frasers in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1809 the male Fraser line died out, but the heiress Elizabeth Fraser married Patrick Allan in 1843, with him taking the name Allan-Fraser. Patrick Allan-Fraser dramatically altered and re-designed the buildings between 1850 and 1890. When he died in 1890, he bequeathed Hospitalfield House to the Hospitalfield Trust.

<sup>2</sup> The date 1352 is reported on NMRS, SMR and in Hall, D 2006 'Unto Yone Hospitall at the Tounis End: The Scottish Medieval Hospital' *Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal* 12: 89–105. This latter is the most in depth study of medieval hospitals in Scotland. Various other online sources quote the year 1325 and attribute this to *Inquisicio facta de domo elimosinaria*, from Reg. Nig. Fol. 59/ Regal.fol. 99. (Innes, Cosmo; Chalmers, Patrick, eds. (1848). Liber S. Thome De Aberbrothoc. Registrorum Abbacie De Aberbrothoc. Pars Altera.

Registrum Nigrum Necnon Libros Cartarum Recentiores Complectens. 1329-1536 ii. Edinburgh: Bannatyne Club, 141.). The year 1325 is also quoted in Miller D 1860 'The History of the Abbey at Arbroath'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Hall, D 2006 'Unto Yone Hospital at the Tounis End: The Scottish Medieval Hospital' Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal 12, 101

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Miller, D. 1860 'Arbroath and its Abbey; or The Early History of the town and abbey of Aberbrothock including notices of ecclesiastical and other antiquities in the surrounding district', 126

3.1.11 The House as we have it today developed organically with no real strategy or plan. As a result it is a mix of Scottish, English and European architecture of different ages (Plate 2). Constructed from red sandstone and slate, Hospitalfield House is a large ornate building with towers, turrets and mock crenellations. Areas of the building are harled, masking relationships between earlier parts of the building and later developments.



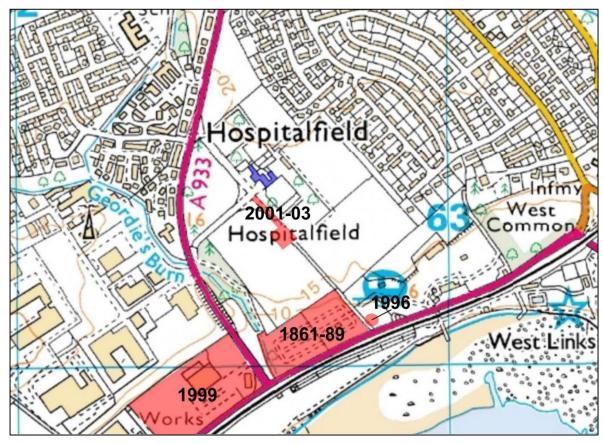
<u>Plate 2</u>: View of the south east facing elevation showing different building styles and harling (Photograph 070)

- 3.1.12 The main house gained some literary fame in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Sir Walter Scott used Hospitalfield House as the basis for his 'Monkbarns' in his novel 'The Antiquary'.
- 3.1.13 Today Hospitalfield House is administered by the Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust and operates as a cultural organisation for artists and for education in the Arts.

### 3.2 Previous archaeological or antiquarian work at Hospitalfield

### General

3.2.1 Predominantly due to the medieval history of the Hospitalfield area, there have been a number of archaeological investigations completed within the 1km study area around the site (Figure 3). The results of these can be used to guide the likelihood of archaeological deposits surviving within the footprint of the proposed development.



<u>Figure 3</u>: Map showing the archaeological interventions (indicated red) around Hospitalfield House (indicated blue). ARCHAS after Ordnance Survey. All Rights Reserved.

Human Remains - 1860/1 & 1889

- 3.2.2 On two occasions in the 19<sup>th</sup> century human remains were uncovered during estate improvement works. A substantial number of inhumations estimated at between 100 and 120 burials were recorded. Some of these were located only 'six to twelve inches below the surface'.<sup>5</sup> The investigations also revealed 'foundations of old whinstone walls'.<sup>6</sup> These have been located to an area to the south of Hospitalfield immediately north of the A92 (Figure 3).
- 3.2.3 Such a large number of burials can only be associated with the medieval Chapel and hospital of St John. The full extent and exact location of the excavations is unknown. Some of the bones were 'carefully collected together and buried in a pretty deep pit'<sup>7</sup>, while others were left *in situ*.

Red Lion Caravan Park - 1996

3.2.4 During demolition of a 1960s building at the Red Lion Caravan Park in 1996 (Figure 3), six burials were disturbed by workers. These remains showed considerable evidence of infection and are likely part of the same graveyard population as those discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (see above). Anecdotal evidence from the labourers on site indicated that more bones had been discovered, geographically separated from this deposit, but these had been accepted by the team as animal and abandoned.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Jervise, A. 1865 'Account of the discovery of the supposed cemetery of the hospital of St John the Baptist, at Hospitalfield, near Arbroath', Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Volume 5, 1862-4, 136

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

Westway Retail Park - 1999

3.2.5 An evaluation in advance of the construction of the Westway Retail Park to the south east of Hospitalfield House (Figure 3) failed to reveal any archaeological deposits.

Hospitalfield House – 2001-2003

- 3.2.6 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to construction of a new dwelling to the south of Hospitalfield House in 2001 (Figure 3). The evaluation comprised a 4% sample of the site, but failed to reveal any significant archaeological deposits.
- 3.2.7 The 2001 evaluation was followed by a watching brief completed in 2003. This watching brief was associated with the construction of the new dwelling and associated infrastructure. No medieval features were recorded, although evidence of landscaping and the designed landscape from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards was revealed.

### 3.3 Map Regression

3.3.1 All relevant available maps as held by NLS were consulted in order to identify the recorded development of the site as well as any additional features that may previously have gone unrecorded within the site boundary. A summary of consulted maps is listed in the Bibliography.

Pre-Ordnance Survey maps

3.3.2 The earliest detailed maps of Scotland were produced by Timothy Pont who lived from the 1560s until c.1615. Pont's map of 'Lower Angus and Perthshire east of the Tay' still survives and provides us with the earliest view of the Arbroath area which could not be described as in any way detailed. Pont's map does not show Hospitalfield House or the earlier Hospital and Chapel of St John. The burgh of Arbroath is clearly displayed to the north of the Brothick Burn, while the settlement marked 'Pessimill' is likely to correspond with either the modern farm 'Peasiehill' or at the very least the general area around this farm. The site should lie between the two, but is not shown by Pont (Figure 4).



<u>Figure 4</u>: Extract from Timothy Pont's 'Lower Angus and Perthshire east of the Tay'. Note the absence of Hospitalfield between Arbroath (right) and 'Pessimill' (left). NLS

- 3.3.3 Subsequent maps of the area west of Arbroath, such as those of Joan Blaeu and Robert Gordon, do not show the Chapel and Hospital of St John. Studies have indicated that the presence of a site on Blaeu's map in particular is a good indicator of whether a hospital was operating at the time the map was drawn up.<sup>8</sup>
- 3.3.4 The first map to specifically show occupation of the site is Robert Edwards's 'The Shire of Angus' which survives in an imprint of 1678.



Figure 5: Extract from Robert Edward's 'The Shire of Angus' which is the first to show 'Hospitalfeild'. NLS

- 3.3.5 Edward's depiction of 'Hospitalfeild' is an idealised icon for an important site and does not give any detail as to the style and function of the buildings on site. This is also true of John Marr's map of 1734. However, clearly both Edward and Marr viewed Hospitalfield as significant enough to be depicted on his map alongside sites such as Kelly Castle.
- 3.3.6 William Roy's 'Military Survey of Scotland' conducted between 1747 and 1755 (Figure 6) provides much greater detail than shown on earlier maps. Roy's work revolutionised map making in Scotland, containing a lot more terrain detail than previously shown. Although the map was the result of 'rapid reconnaissance rather than a measured topographic survey'9, the various inaccuracies can be forgiven in providing us with the first cartographic view of Scotland with any level of detail a snapshot of mid 18<sup>th</sup> century Scotland.

11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Hall, D 2006 'Unto Yone Hospitall at the Tounis End: The Scottish Medieval Hospital' Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal 12, 91

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Fleet C., Wilkes M. & Withers, C. 2011 Scotland – Mapping the Nation, 88



Figure 6: Extract from William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland showing 'Spittle Field' with the likely site indicated (inset). © The British Library Board. All Rights Reserved (Roy Military Survey of Scotland)

- 3.3.7 William Roy's map clearly shows an area marked as 'Spittle Field'. Although this seems to refer to a small cluster of three red buildings set within agricultural field systems, it is likely that the area of Hospitalfield House is shown to the west of this, within and area of established gardens. One small red square is used to depict the site. This area of more formalised gardens seems to be described, along with further agricultural settlements to the north and west, as 'Crabston'. At this stage Hospitalfield clearly was not a sprawling complex of buildings, but one significant structure set within formalised gardens.
- 3.3.8 An idea of the style of building is shown on subsequent maps. These maps (including Taylor and Skinner's map of 1776 and Ainslie's aps of 1785 and 1794) show 'Spittalfield' as an idealised country house. All of these maps provide little information as to the detail of the buildings themselves, but all agree that one main structure was positioned within a semi-formalised garden.

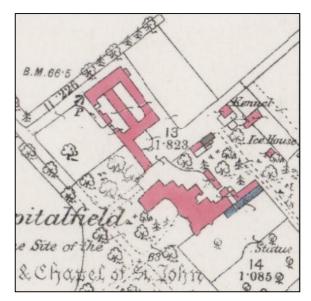


<u>Figure 7</u>: Extract from 'The Road from Edinburgh to Dundee, Aberbrothick, Montrose, Inverbervie & Stonehaven' produced in 1776 by Taylor and Skinner. This map is typical of the style of maps in this period. NLS

3.3.9 Although providing little new detail as to the buildings, these maps do provide some additional information, specifically relating to ownership of Hospitalfield. Taylor and Skinner's 1776 'The Road from Edinburgh to Dundee, Aberbrothick, Montrose, Inverbervie & Stonehaven' (Figure 7) provides the additional information of the site being owned by 'Fraser Esqr.'. By the production of 'The Great Reform Act Plan and Reports' in 1832, the area is recorded as belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Frazer Baker.

### Ordnance Survey maps

- 3.3.10 The Ordnance Survey began their survey of the Arbroath area in 1859, producing their first map of the area in 1865. The most detailed maps produced in this 1st edition of the survey are the 25 inch to 1 mile maps. These maps provide the first truly detailed view of the building complex.
- 3.3.11 The 25 inch to 1 mile Forfar Sheet XLVI.14 (Combined) from 1865 (Figure 8) shows a much more extensive complex of buildings than survive today at Hospitalfield. The main building appears in much the same form as it does today. A series of buildings and courtyards lie to the immediate north of the main structure, while to the east, or rear of the House, isolated buildings are marked as 'kennel' and 'icehouse'. Beside the complex a legend records 'Hospitalfield on the site of the Hospital and Chapel of St John'.
- 3.3.12 By the production of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 in 1903 (Figure 9), the buildings and courtyards to the north of the main building have been removed. The last remnant of these (the north west to south east aligned arm which had run from the southern corner of the courtyard building) has been joined to the main Hospitalfield structure. In addition, some smaller buildings have been built to the rear of the House and more development has taken place around the walled gardens to the south.

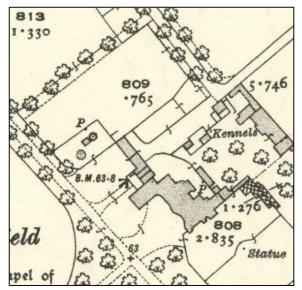


813 1.466 810 783 P. Gasopater Kennel C. 276 808 2.783 Statue

Figure 8: Extract from the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfar Sheet XLVI.14 (Combined) from 1865. NLS

Figure 9: Extract from the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 from 1903. NLS

3.3.13 Little has changed in the 21 years between the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition and the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 of 1924 (Figure 10). The main Hospitalfield House building appears untouched by further development, but a larger building has been built to the rear of the house in the gap between two existing structures. This forms a terrace of buildings marked here as 'kennels'.



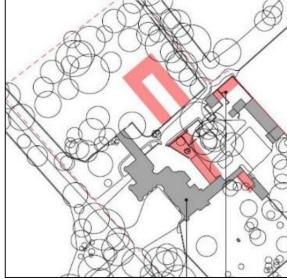


Figure 10: Extract from the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 from 1924. NLS

Figure 11: Modern view of Hospitalfield, with the proposed development areas indicated red. Caruso St John Architects

3.3.14 The picture presented in 1924 is essentially that which survives today (Figure 11). The only notable difference in the complex is the removal of some smaller buildings to the rear and north of Hospitalfield House.

### Conclusions

- 3.3.15 The map regression has shown that the site was occupied and notable enough to be recorded in a map of 1678. What form the site took at this stage, is unclear but by this stage it was likely a high status dwelling.
- 3.3.16 The proposed development plans a number of new structures constructed around Hospitalfield House. The OS data shows the presence of a number of walls and small structures to the rear of Hospitalfield House which are likely to be affected by development.

## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 The Watching Brief

- 4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief involves a qualified and experienced archaeologist monitoring the excavations on site in order to ensure that any archaeological features or deposits encountered are recognised, noted and properly recorded.
- 4.1.2 Each trench or pit excavated was numbered consecutively and the deposits encountered recorded on ARCHAS *pro forma* Trench record sheets. Appendix A provides a list of the contexts encountered as well as the trench numbers allocated by ARCHAS alongside those given by the contractor. A detailed photographic record of site works was also maintained.

### 4.2 Aims and Objectives

- 4.2.1 The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that no archaeological deposits are disturbed or artefacts removed without being adequately recorded.
- 4.2.2 The trenches and pits excavated are necessarily small and only provide a limited insight into the archaeological potential of the site. However, they give an indication as to the build-up of stratigraphy and the expected level of the natural subsoil.

### 5 Results

### 5.1 General

5.1.1 A total of 18 small trenches or Trial Pits were excavated at various locations around Hospitalfield House (see Figure 12). These measured 0.30m², with nine excavated in open ground away from existing buildings (Trenches 1-6 and 9-11) and nine dug against upstanding walls in order to assess the depth and strength of the foundations (Trenches 7-8 and 12-18). Natural subsoil was realised in the majority of the former, but in few of the latter due to the disturbance of the wall's foundation and construction. Depth of the excavations varied dependent upon their location and purpose.

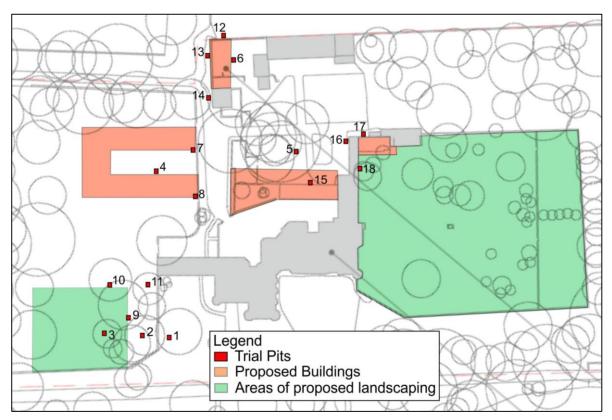


Figure 12: Location of Trial Pits excavated with Trench numbers as assigned by ARCHAS

- 5.1.2 On the whole the upper deposits comprised mid to dark brown sandy silt, with the natural subsoil a mid-orange/brown silty sand. Fragments of lime mortar were apparent in many of the upper deposits located against upstanding walls.
- 5.1.3 No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered, with only Trench 15 and Trench 18 providing archaeological deposits requiring further discussion.

### 5.2 Trench 15 (TP8)

- 5.2.1 Trench 15 was located in a flower bed against the north east facing wall of a range to the rear of Hospitalfield House. The soil here had clearly been worked and enriched comprising a mid to dark brown loam (1501).
- 5.2.2 Below this the material was a slightly mottled mid grey brown/black brown and dark brown silty sand abundant in small stones, with flecks of lime mortar and fragments of brick (1502). This deposit contained two fragments of 19-20<sup>th</sup> century green glass (SF001) and one fragment of white glazed ceramic (SF002). (1502) is likely to be packing material within and around the foundation of the existing wall. The base of the deposit contained a number of large packing stones.



<u>Plate 3</u>: Working shot looking SE showing the location of Trench 15 (Photograph 060)



<u>Plate 4</u>: Post-excavation view of Trench 15 (Photograph (057)

### 5.3 Trench 18 (TP9)

5.3.1 Trench 18 was excavated against the south east facing wall of the Hospitalfield House complex, within the walled garden to the east of the main building. The wall against which the trench was excavated is a confusing multi-phase mix of brick and stone (Plate 5).



Plate 5: Location of Trench 18.

Note the multi-phase nature of the adjacent wall (Photograph 067)



Plate 6: Post-excavation view of Trench 18. Note brick wall {1802} (right) and {1803} (left). Flagstone floor {1804} is faintly discernible between the two (Photograph 079)

- 5.3.2 The trench terminated at 0.80m with only one deposit being recorded. (**1801**) was a slightly mottled mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional fragments of lime mortar and brick.
- 5.3.3 However, at the base of the trench a number of structural elements were apparent despite the deep and constrained nature of the excavation. A north west to south east aligned brick 'wall' was revealed against the upstanding wall of Hospitalfield House. Recorded as {1802},

this was comprised three courses of bricks placed lengthways abutting the upstanding wall, with the area between the two bonded by lime mortar. The constraints of the trench meant that it was not possible to determine the length of the bricks, but these were hand made and had a width of 0.90m with a depth of 1.10m.

- 5.3.4 **{1802**} sat directly atop what may be a flagstone floor surface **{1804**}. Two slabs could be discerned, with the area between the two bonded by lime mortar.
- 5.3.5 The trial pit was extended 0.50m to the south east in order to ascertain the extent of {1804}. 0.32m from the brick alignment {1802}, a second parallel alignment of bricks {1803} was recorded at the edge of the trench. This was lower, seemingly consisting of only one course of bricks. These were essentially the same as {1802} and clearly form part of the same small structure. The surface {1804} seemed to continue beyond {1803} into the section.
- 5.3.6 The nature of these brick and sandstone structural elements is unclear, but it seems clear these post-date the initial build of the upstanding adjacent wall. The slight nature of the remains indicates they may be a brick lined channel or remains associated with formalised use of the garden. It is likely these remains are associated with a structure shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch to 1 mile Forfar Sheet XLVI.14 (Combined) published in 1865 (Figure 13), but absent by the production of the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14 published in 1903,

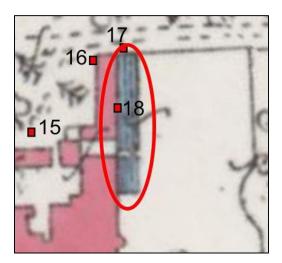


Figure 13: Location of Trench 18 as plotted against the 25 inch to 1 mile Forfar Sheet XLVI.14 (Combined) published in 1865. Note the linear building built against Hospitalfield House (now gone)

### 6 Summary and Discussion

#### 6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The investigations at Hospitalfield House were small scale and necessarily of limited archaeological scope. There was a good geographical spread of the trenches, but many of these were excavated against the footings of existing buildings and are likely only to reveal disruption caused when these walls were built, or deposits post-dating the buildings.
- 6.1.2 No significant archaeological artefacts were recovered. For an area of intense medieval occupation it would often be expected that ceramic sherds would be present, *ex situ* in the topsoil, but none were recovered.
- 6.1.3 Structural remains were recorded in Trench 18, within the walled garden. These seem to post-date the construction of the garden wall and are likely related to the use of the garden and ancillary structures.

### 7 Conclusions and Recommendations

### 7.1 General

- 7.1.1 The DBA concluded that although it is not possible to pinpoint the exact location of the Hospital of St John, it is clear that this lay in the immediate vicinity of Hospitalfield House. It is unclear whether the house preserves earlier in situ medieval fragments, but Hospitalfield has a history as a high status dwelling which stretches back until at least 1665.
- 7.1.2 The test pits excavated around Hospitalfield House were of too limited scope to ascertain the presence or absence of stratified archaeological deposits across the area proposed for development. However, the absence of any significant archaeological artefacts is notable.
- 7.1.3 Prior to further development ARCHAS recommend the implementation of an archaeological evaluation on those larger, more accessible areas where ground breaking works may disturb buried archaeology. Although topography and ground conditions across the Hospitalfield Estate and the land to the south vary, it must be noted that the skeletons uncovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were recorded 6 inches (or c.15cm) below the surface. So detailed discussion and careful consideration must be given to landscaping in the walled garden and associated with the car park in order to ascertain the extent of archaeological monitoring required.

## **Acknowledgements**

ARCHAS Cultural heritage Ltd. would like to thank Lucy Byatt of the Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust as well as Amy Perkins of Caruso St John Architects for commissioning us to undertake the project to on their behalf. Both parties deserve our gratitude for their understanding and commitment to ensuring the archaeological resource is securely protected for future generations.

Thanks also go to Ross Kirk of Geovia and Steve Wood of SWWS Ltd who undertook the project on the ground. The hard work and good humour of Ross and Steve was much appreciated and ensured the project was completed effectively and timeously.

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### Websites

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### **Cartographic References**

Maps consulted during the cartographic regression include:

- 1583-96 Timothy Pont (1560-1614)
  - 'Lower Angus and Perthshire east of the Tay'. Imprint 1583-96
- 1654 Robert Gordon (1580-1661)
  - 'Straloch's map of Scotland, and, The West coast from Glen Elg to Knap-dail'. Imprint c.1636-52
  - 'A map of Eastern Scotland, including basins of Rivers Don, Dee, Tay, Forth and Tweed'. Imprint c.1636-52
  - 'Anguss'. Imprint c.1636-52
  - 'A map of Scotland, north of Glenmore in detail, and outline of the east coast to Dunbar, showing the courses of the chief rivers, and the positions of a few places'. Imprint c.1636-52
  - 'A description of the East coast of Scotland drawn out of Wagoner and sumqt corrected, but it not perfyt and yet hath many errors'. Imprint c.1636-52
- 1654 Joan Blaeu (1596-1673) & James Gordon (1596-1673)
  - 'The Sherifdome of Fyfe'.
- 1678 Robert Edward (c.1616-1696)
  - 'The Shire of Angus'. Imprint 1678
- 1734 John Marr (fl.1660-1720)
  - 'A new and pertinent map of the eastern sea-coasts of Scotland... from the cost of Berwick till Bakaness'. Imprint 1734
- 1745 Herman Moll (d.1732)
  - 'The Shire of Angus or Forfar'.
- 1755 William Roy (1747-1755)
  - 'Military Survey of Scotland'.
- 1776 George Taylor (fl.1760-1788) & Andrew Skinner (fl.1760-1788)
  - 'The Road from Edinburgh to Dundee, Aberbrothick, Montrose, Inverbervie & Stonehaven'.
  - 'The Road from Aberbrothick to Brechine; Road from Montrose to Laurence Kirk; Road from Laurence Kirk to Old Mill of Hirn...'.
- 1785 John Ainslie (1745-1828)

- 'A chart of part of the South of Scotland, from Berwick upon Tweed to Skateraw Harbour in the County of Kincardine.'
- 1794 John Ainslie (1745-1828)
  - 'Map of the County of Forfar or the Shire of Angus'.
- 1822 John Wood (c.1780-1847)
  - 'Plan of the Town of Arbroath from actual survey'.
- 1825 John Thomson (1777-c.1840) & William Johnson (fl. 1806-1840)
  - 'Northern Part of Angus Shire. Southern Part'.
- 1832 Great Britain Parliament. House of Commons
  - 'Great Reform Act Plan and Reports Aberbrothwick or Arbroath'.
- 1850 James Knox (fl. 1800-1856)
  - 'Map of the Basin of the Tay, including the greater part of Perth Shire, Strathmore and the braes of Angus or Forfar'.

### Ordnance Survey

- 1865 25 inch to 1 mile Forfar Sheet XLVI.14 (Combined). Surveyed 1859. Published 1865
- 1903 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14. Revised 1901. Published 1903
- 1924 25 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire 046.14. Revised 1921. Published 1924
- 1865 6 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire Sheet XLVI. Surveyed 1859. Published 1865
- 1903 6 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire Sheet XLVI.SW. Surveyed 1901. Published 1903
- 1926 6 inch to 1 mile Forfarshire Sheet XLVI.SW. Surveyed 1921. Published 1926

# **Appendix A: Context Register**

No.	Trench	Geo number	Туре	Description	Dimension	Comments	Date	Initial
101	1	внз	Deposit	Moderately compact mid to dark brown clay silt with occasional to rare small stones.	D: 0.30m	Turf and topsoil	24/07/2015	RC
102	1	BH3	Deposit	Firmly compact mid-light brown silty clay	-	Natural subsoil	24/07/2015	RC
201	2	CBR5	Deposit	Moderately compact, mid brown, slightly gritty sandy silt with frequent small mortar fragments	D: 0.45m	Turf and topsoil	24/07/2015	RC
202	2	CBR5	Deposit	Firmly compact orange brown silty clay	-	Natural subsoil	24/07/2015	RC
301	3	CBR4	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions	D: 0.50m	Turf and topsoil	24/07/2015	RC
302	3	CBR4	Deposit	Firmly compact orange brown silty clay	-	Natural subsoil	24/07/2015	RC
401	4	BH1	Deposit	Moderately compact mid to dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small to medium stone inclusions	D: 0.30m	Turf and topsoil	24/07/2015	RC
402	4	BH1	Deposit	Light yellow brown silty sand	D: 0.10m	Natural subsoil	24/07/2015	RC
403	4	BH1	Deposit	Firmly compact orange brown silty clay	-	Natural subsoil	24/07/2015	RC
501	5	BH2	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional small stones and bioturbation	D: c.0.20m	Turf and topsoil	24/07/2015	RC
502	5	BH2	Deposit	Gradual change from brown grey sandy silt to a more light grey hue with a hint of orange	D: c.0.60m	Gradual change from (501) to (503). Likely caused by bioturbation.	24/07/2015	RC
503	5	BH2	Deposit	Mid orange brown silty sand	-	Natural subsoil	24/07/2015	RC

Context No.	Trench	Geo number	Туре	Description	Dimension	Comments	Date	Initial
601	6	HP3	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown gritty silt	D: <0.05m	Turf and topsoil	24/07/2015	RC
602	6	HP3	Deposit	Firmly compact mottled and mixed mid brown gritty silt with large stones and two modern bricks stamped 'Westfield'	D: 0.35m	Made ground/levelling	24/07/2015	RC
603	6	HP3	Deposit	Mid orange brown silty sand	-	Natural subsoil	24/07/2015	RC
701	7	HP5	Deposit	Moderately compact dark grey brown slightly gritty sand	D: c.0.30m	Turf and topsoil. Likely to be fill against upstanding wall.	28/07/2015	RC
702	7	HP5	Deposit	Mortar rich mid- light brown gritty sand	D: 0.35m		28/07/2015	RC
703	7	HP5	Deposit	Firmly compact mid red brown silty sand	-	Natural subsoil	28/07/2015	RC
801	8	HP6	Deposit	Moderately compact dark grey brown slightly gritty sand	D: c.0.20m	Turf and topsoil. Likely to be fill against upstanding wall.	28/07/2015	RC
802	8	HP6	Deposit	Mortar rich mid- light brown gritty sand	D: 0.30m		28/07/2015	RC
803	8	HP6	Deposit	Firmly compact mid red brown silty sand	-	Natural subsoil	28/07/2015	RC
901	9	CBR3	Deposit	Soft to moderately compact dark grey brown silty sand with fragments of brick and clinker	D: 0.38m	Turf and topsoil	28/07/2015	RC
902	9	CBR3	Deposit	Firmly compact orange/ light brown silty sand	-	Natural subsoil	28/07/2015	RC
1001	10	CBR1	Deposit	Soft to mid grey brown silty ash with rare flecks of stone	D: 0.34m	Turf and topsoil	28/07/2015	RC
1002	10	CBR1	Deposit	Soft to moderately compact mid grey brown silty sand with abundant bioturbation	D: 0.66m		28/07/2015	RC
1003	10	CBR1	Deposit	Firmly compact light orange brown/ yellow brown silty sand	-	Natural subsoil	28/07/2015	RC
1101	11	CBR2	Deposit	Soft to mid grey brown silty ash with rare flecks of stone	D: 0.34m	Turf and topsoil	28/07/2015	RC

Context No.	Trench	Geo number	Туре	Description	Dimension	Comments	Date	Initial
1102	11	CBR2	Deposit	Soft to moderately compact mid grey brown silty sand with abundant bioturbation	D: 0.66m		28/07/2015	RC
1103	11	CBR2	Deposit	Firmly compact light orange brown/ yellow brown silty sand	-	Natural subsoil	28/07/2015	RC
1201	12	HP1	Deposit	Moderately compact fine grain sandy silt/loam with rare small stone inclusions.	D: 0.25m	Topsoil. More clay with larger packing stones towards base.	28/07/2015	RC
1202	12	HP1	Deposit	Mortar rich deposit	D: 0.25m	Fill against upstanding wall.	28/07/2015	RC
1203	12	HP1	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown sticky silty sand	-	Natural subsoil	28/07/2015	RC
1301	13	HP2	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compact mid grey brown slightly gritty silty sand	D: 0.38m	Turf and topsoil. Likely to be fill against upstanding wall.	28/07/2015	RC
1302	13	HP2	Deposit	Moderately compact mid orange brown (slightly orange) fine grain silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions and occasional mortar fragments	D: >0.72m	Fill against upstanding wall. Handmade red brick at base of wall foundation.	28/07/2015	RC
1401	14	TP4	Deposit	Loosely compact mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones and roots.	D: 0.36m	Turf and topsoil.	28/07/2015	RC
1402	14	TP4	Deposit	Firmly compact grey brown slightly gritty silty sand with abundant angular fragments of sandstone. Gravelly	D: 0.50m	Fill against upstanding wall.	28/07/2015	RC
1403	14	TP4	Deposit	Mid brown silty sand with slight orange hue.	-	Possible old ground surface	28/07/2015	RC
1501	15	TP8	Deposit	Moderately compact mid to dark brown loam.	D: c.0.30m	Turf and topsoil	28/07/2015	RC

Context No.	Trench	Geo number	Туре	Description	Dimension	Comments	Date	Initial
1502	15	TP8	Deposit	Slightly mottled mid grey brown, black brown and dark brown silty sand abundant in small stones (with small fragments of brick, mortar and very rare mortar)	D: 0.70m	Garden soil. Fill against upstanding wall. Contains 19-20th century detritus SF001 and SF002	28/07/2015	RC
1503	15	TP8	Deposit	Moderately compact bright orange brown silty sand	-	Natural subsoil	28/07/2015	RC
1601	16	HP10	Deposit	Gravel and hardcore surface. Mid grey brown silty sand abundant in angular stones and hardcore	D: 0.35m	Surface and fill against upstanding wall	28/07/2015	RC
1701	17	HP11	Deposit	Cobbled surface of medium rounded stones	-	Cobbled surface	28/07/2015	RC
1702	17	HP11	Deposit	Very mixed and mottled mid grey brown, yellow brown and black silty sand (gritty) with occasional small stones	D: 0.32m	Fill against upstanding wall	28/07/2015	RC
1703	17	HP11	Deposit	Mid grey brown, slightly sticky sandy silt with frequent mortar and brick fragments	-	Fill against upstanding wall	28/07/2015	RC
1801	18	TP9	Deposit	Moderately compact slightly mottled mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional fragments of lime mortar and rare fragments of brick	-	Fill against upstanding wall	28/07/2015	RC
1802	18	TP9	Structure	NE-SW aligned brick wall. One course, placed lengthways against upstanding wall foundation (abutting) with mortar between the two. Three course visible, sitting atop {1804}	c.2.70m high	NW wall of channel abutting upstanding wall. Handmade bricks measuring 1.10m wide by 0.90m deep	28/07/2015	RC

No.	Trench	Geo number	Туре	Description	Dimension	Comments	Date	Initial
1803	18	TP9	Structure	NE-SW aligned brick wall. One course, placed lengthways parallel to {1802} (0.38m apart) and atop {1804}	-	SE wall of channel abutting upstanding wall. Handmade bricks measuring 1.10m wide by 0.90m deep	28/07/2015	RC
1804	18	TP9	Structure	Lime mortar bonded sandstone slabs. Two visible in trench, continues on both sides of {1803}	-	Flagstone surface?	28/07/2015	RC

# Appendix B: Finds Register

Finds No.	Context No.	Quantity	Material	Description	Comments	Date	Initials
001	1502	2	Glass	Fragments of green glass	19th or 20th century, including one base sherd	28/07/2015	RC
002	1502	1	Ceramic	White glazed ceramic sherd	19th or 20th century	28/07/2015	RC

# Appendix C: Photographic Register

Image No.	Taken from	Trench	Description	Date	Initials
001	NE	1	Pre-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
002	NE	1	Pre-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
003	Е	1	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
004	Е	1	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
005	Е	1	Working shot	24/07/2015	RC
006	W	1	Working shot	24/07/2015	RC
007	W	2	Pre-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
800	W	2	Pre-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
009	S	2	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
010	S	2	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
011	S	2	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
012	W	3	Pre-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
013	W	3	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
014	Е	3	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
015	Е	4	Pre-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
016	Е	4	Pre-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
017	NE	5	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
018	NE	5	Pre-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
019	NE	5	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
020	NE	5	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
021	Е	5	Working shot	24/07/2015	RC
022	S	-	Working shot - Hospitalfield House	24/07/2015	RC
023	SW	5	Working shot	24/07/2015	RC
024	SE	6	Pre-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
025	W	6	Post-excavation view	24/07/2015	RC
026	SE	6	Working shot - Location	24/07/2015	RC
027	Е	7	Pre-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
028	SW	7	Pre-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
029	SE	7	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
030	S	7	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
031	NE	8	Pre-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
032	SE	8	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
033	S	8	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
034	NE	9	Pre-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
035	NE	9	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
036	Е	10	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
037	Е	10	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
038	Е	10	Working shot	28/07/2015	RC
039	NE	11	Pre-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
040	-	11	Working shot - Soil change	28/07/2015	RC
041	NE	11	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
042	S	12	Location shot	28/07/2015	RC
043	S	12	Location shot	28/07/2015	RC
044	SW	12	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
045	SW	12	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
046	SW	12	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
047	SW	12	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
048	S	13, 14	Working shot - Trenches 13 and 14	28/07/2015	RC
049	E	13, 14	Working shot - Trenches 13 and 14	28/07/2015	RC
050	SE	13	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC

Image No.	Taken from	Trench	Description	Date	Initials
051	NE	13	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
052	-	13	Brick from (1302)	28/07/2015	RC
053	-	13	Brick from (1302)	28/07/2015	RC
054	SE	14	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
055	NE	14	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
056	NE	14	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
057	S	15	Pre-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
058	NW	15	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
059	NW	15	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
060	S	15	Location shot	28/07/2015	RC
061	W	16	Location shot	28/07/2015	RC
062	SE	16	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
063	Е	16	Location shot	28/07/2015	RC
064	S	17	Pre-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
065	SW/V	17	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
066	SW/V	17	Post-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
067	W	18	Pre-excavation view	28/07/2015	RC
068	W	-	Working shot - Hospitalfield House	28/07/2015	RC
069	NW	-	Working shot - Hospitalfield House	28/07/2015	RC
070	NW	-	Working shot - Hospitalfield House	28/07/2015	RC
071	NW	-	Working shot - Hospitalfield House	28/07/2015	RC
072	NW	-	Working shot - Hospitalfield House - Detail	28/07/2015	RC
073	SW	18	Post-excavation view showing {1802}	28/07/2015	RC
074	SW	18	Post-excavation view showing {1802}	28/07/2015	RC
075	SW	18	Post-excavation view showing {1802}	28/07/2015	RC
076	SW	18	Post-excavation view showing {1802}	28/07/2015	RC

# Appendix D: Provisional Discovery & Excavation Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Hospitalfield House
PROJECT CODE:	209
PARISH:	Arbroath and St Vigeans
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ross Cameron
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage ltd.
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Desk Based Assessment & Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO64SW 65; NO64SW 9; NO64SW 9.6; NO64SW 9.2; NO64SW 9.3
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Chapel (possible), Country House, Hospital
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 62583 40431
START DATE (this season)	11/05/15
END DATE (this season)	28/08/15
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works in advance of redevelopment of Hospitalfield House in Arbroath. The works involved the excavation of a series of geotechnical trial pits and boreholes around the Hospitalfield complex and followed the completion of a Desk Based Assessment charting the known history and development of the site.  The site proposed for development has long associations with the Chapel and Hospital of St. John, a religious house founded in the 14 <sup>th</sup> century by the monks of nearby Arbroath Abbey. A large number of inhumations were revealed to the south of Hospitalfield House during works in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century and again in 1996. It is suggested that these burials originate from the cemetery or graveyard associated with the hospital.  The history of the hospital and its subsequent development are unclear, but the site was already a high status dwelling by the middle of the 17 <sup>th</sup> century. Patrick Allan-Fraser took possession of Hospitalfield House in 1843 and proceeded to undertake a programme of construction, alteration and development of the present buildings.  The excavations around Hospitalfield House were of limited scope and failed to reveal any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts. A total of 18 holes were excavated, with only one revealing buried structural remains, likely of 19 <sup>th</sup> century date.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Evaluation
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Patrick Allan-Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage LTD Suite B Laws Close 339-343 High Street Kirkcaldy KY1 1JN
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ross.cameron@archas.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and Angus SMR (intended)