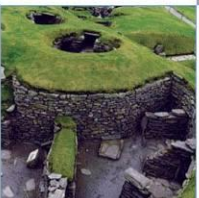
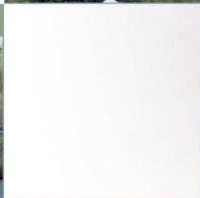
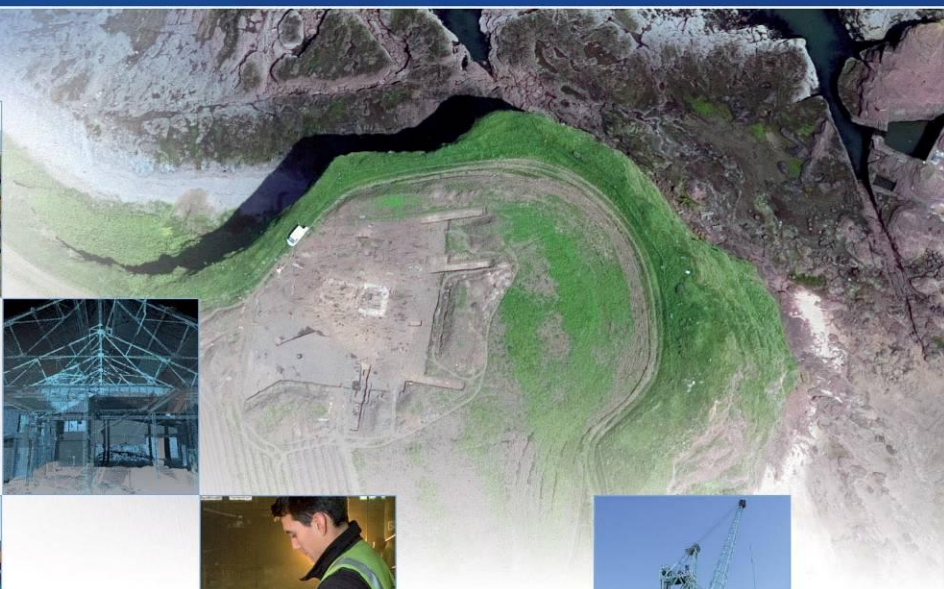


# 2 Market Gate, Arbroath: Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22199  
Oasis ID aocarcha1-132533  
27<sup>th</sup> August 2012



## 2 Market Gate, Arbroath:

### Data Structure Report

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On Behalf of:	Voigt Partnership
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NO 64304 40581
AOC Project No:	22199
Prepared by:	Jake Streatfeild-James
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Date of Fieldwork:	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Date of Report:	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2012

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Contents

	Page
List of illustrations .....	3
List of plates .....	3
List of appendices .....	3
Abstract.....	2
1 INTRODUCTION .....	3
1.1 Background .....	3
1.2 Location.....	3
1.3 Archaeological Background.....	3
2 OBJECTIVES .....	3
3 METHODOLOGY .....	4
4 RESULTS .....	4
5 CONCLUSION.....	5
6 RECOMMENDATIONS .....	5
7 REFERENCES .....	5
7.1 Bibliographic References.....	5
7.2 Cartographic References.....	5
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER .....	7
APPENDIX 2: DES ENTRY .....	8

## List of illustrations

Figure 1	Location Plan
Figure 2	Location of monitored works
Figure 3	Detail from John Slezer's Etching <i>The Prospect of ye Town of Aberbrothick</i> , 1693
Figure 4	Detail from John Wood's Survey of Arbroath, 1822
Figure 5	Detail from Ordnance Survey Forfar Sheet XLVI.15 (Arbroath), 1865
Figure 6	Detail from Ordnance Survey Forfarshire, Sheet 046.15, 1923

## List of plates

Plate 1	Work in progress at 2 Market Gate
Plate 2	Concrete Culvert Exposed

## List of appendices

Appendix 1	Photographic Record
Appendix 2	' <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> ' Report

## Abstract

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This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during ground breaking works on the site of the former Fisherman's Association, 2 Market Gate, Arbroath. The site covers an area which was developed as part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century harbour, built to replace the original 14<sup>th</sup> century harbour at Danger Point.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of Archaeological Works was required by Angus Council on ground-breaking works associated with the demolition of the old Fisherman's Association Buildings at 2 Market Gate, Arbroath; overseen by Voigt Partnership. The plot lies adjacent to the medieval core of Arbroath, and within the area developed as a new harbour during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The need for and scope of the archaeological works was determined by the Angus Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeen City Archaeology Service (ACAS).
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works specified by ACAS is in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The plot at 2 Market Gate is located between the wet dock and the tidal harbour, and is bisected by the Brothock Burn (Figure 1; centred NGR: NO 64307 40601)

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The site at 2 Market Gate is located on the site of two successive harbours. The first, of monastic origin dating to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 3), consisted of a breakwater starting at Danger Point, with an entrance to the south. This was destroyed in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and replaced by a rectangular dock and breakwaters, gradually developing into a tidal harbour and wet dock with substantial slipways and boat building facilities. Military surveys in the 18<sup>th</sup> century of the site record the location of a battery of naval guns protecting the approaches to Arbroath and this structure survived until at least 1822, when it was recorded by John Wood (Figure 4). The development plot is depicted on the 1865 25 inch OS sheet being bisected by the Borthock Burn (Figure 5), with a slipway and smithy on the north bank, and winding gear for a patent slip on the south bank. By 1921 the burn is recorded as having been covered over, and the plot levelled, to provide a flat yard or working area (Figure 6). During 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Fisherman's Association occupied the plot, and a large warehouse and ice factory dominated the site, with the buildings on the street frontage providing space for offices and a chandlery.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the development;
  - ii) to liaise with ACAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording;

- iii) to report on the results of the watching brief.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief was undertaken on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 2012 in fair weather conditions yielding good archaeological visibility. The groundworks involved the excavation of made ground along the line of the culvert, and one test-pit over the slipway to investigate the potential for contaminated ground. Excavation was undertaken using a 25 tonne tracked 360 excavator equipped with a toothed bucket.



Plate 1 - Work in Progress at 2 Market Gate

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The excavations (Figure 2) revealed a layer of made ground 0.5 m thick across the whole of the site. This consisted of tarmac 0.1 m thick, straight onto a mix of crushed demolition material (old red sandstone ashlar, mortar and sand) 0.4 m thick. The made ground sealed the concrete roof of the culvert, built to contain the Borthock Burn, and most likely relates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century re-surfacing of the plot.
- 4.1.2 On inspection the culvert was found to have been constructed in one phase, without reinforcement, or any form of internal frame. The most likely method of construction is thought to have involved the assembly of a timber mould, insinuating the interior surface of the arch, which was then filled with wet concrete, and removed when the structure had set. The concrete arch abutted the bridge on the east side of the site (see Figure 4), and also the outer wall of the pre-existing slipway on the north bank of the burn. On the south bank the concrete arch was set against a stone structure which could be a retaining wall or sea wall consolidating the land on which the 18<sup>th</sup> century naval battery was constructed.





**Plate 2 - Concrete Culvert Exposed**

- 4.1.3 Machine excavation of a test-pit over the slipway revealed a sequence of infilling to bring the ground surface level with that of the culvert. This layer of made ground was approximately 2.0 deep, although it was not possible to record this section in a safe manner. The infilling appeared to consist of a deposit of beach or dredged material, being made up of coarse sand and beech pebbles/stones, individually around 0.15 m x 0.20 m x 0.10 m in size. The north-facing section of the pit revealed a mortar-bonded red sandstone ashlar wall, which was thought to be the inner wall of the slipway. The surface of the slip was either not reached, or had been robbed out.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 A number of structures were encountered, and these were found to relate to the later development of the harbour, the development of which has been recorded by successive editions of the Ordnance Survey.

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by ACAS on behalf of Angus Council.

## **7 REFERENCES**

### **7.1 Bibliographic References**

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy* (February 2010)

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*

### **7.2 Cartographic References**

1693 John Slezer, *The Prospect of ye Town of Aberbrothick*, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh



- 1822 John Wood, *Survey of Arbroath*, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
- 1865 Ordnance Survey. *Forfar*, Sheet XLVI.15 (Arbroath) First Edition. Scale 1:2,500
- 1923 Ordnance Survey. *Forfarshire*, Sheet 046.15. Third Edition. Scale 1:2,500

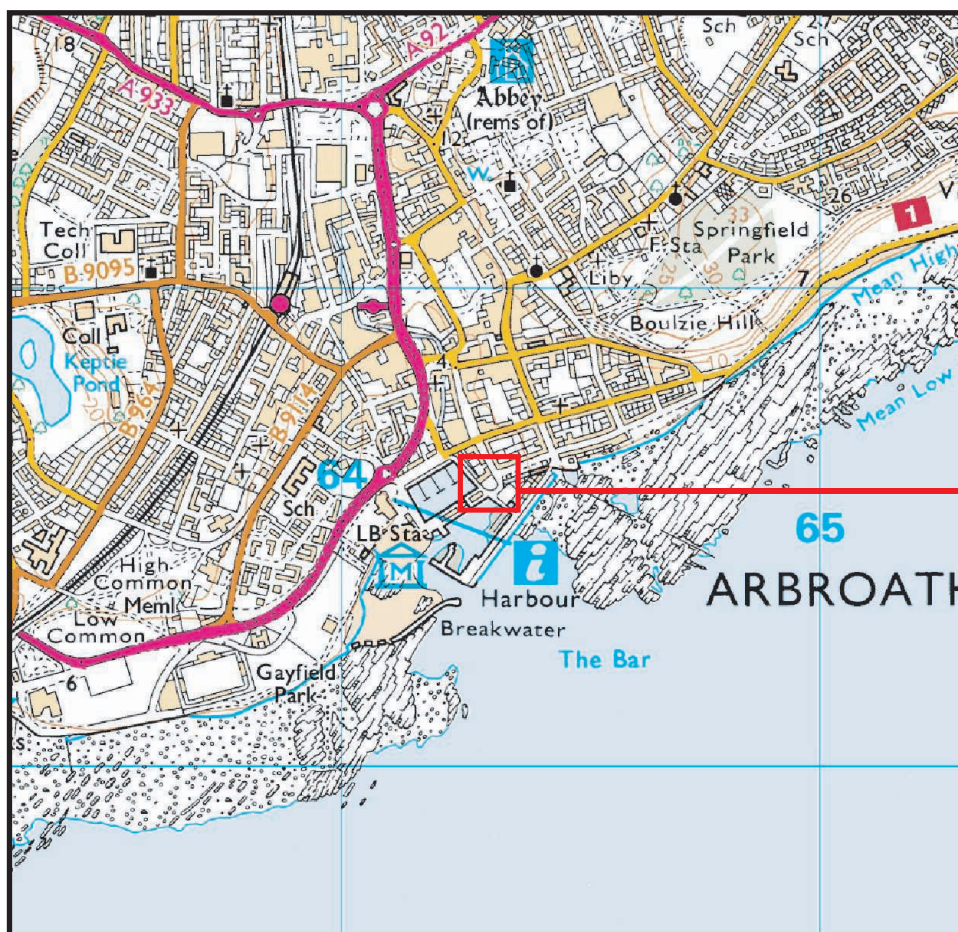
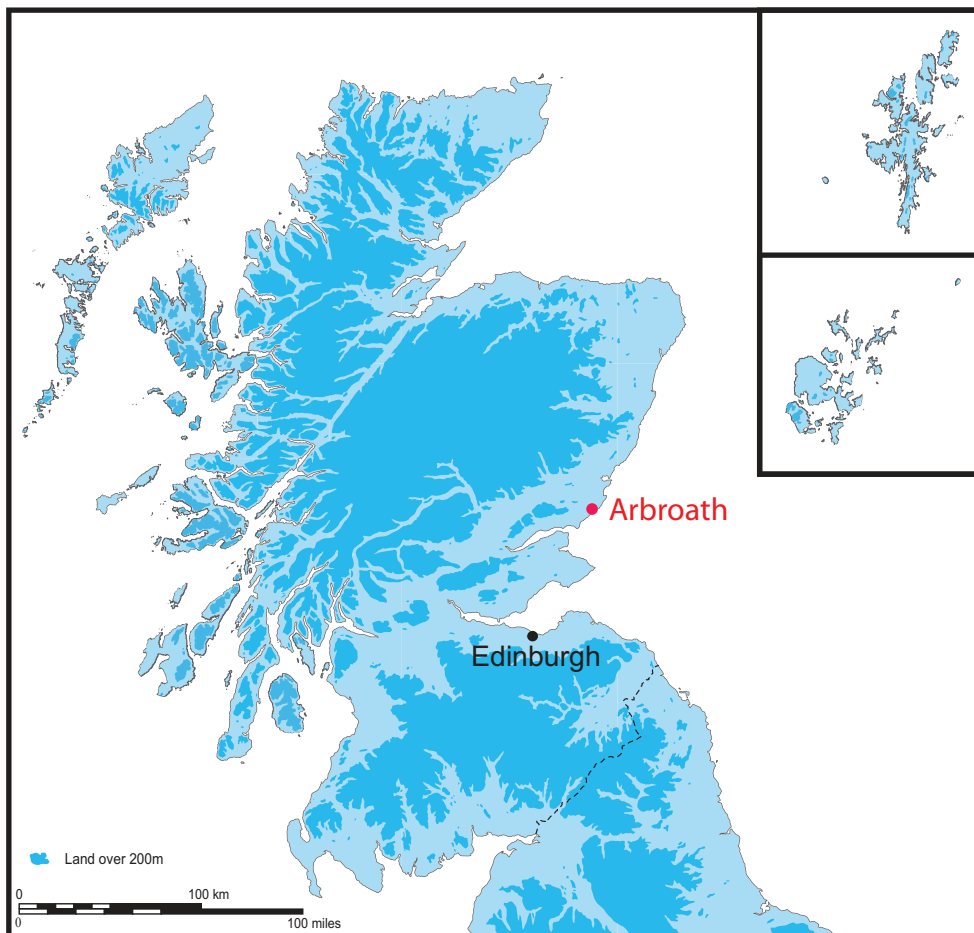
## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black & White and Digital

Frame	F. No	Description	From
1-2		Harbour Wall and Culvert	S
3-4		Test Pit Showing Made Ground	E
5-6		Registration Shots	
7-8		Culvert Exposed - Area 1	W
9-10		Culvert Exposed - Area 1	E
11-12		Working shot of machine excavating made ground	SE
13-14		Culvert Exposed - Area 1 + 2	W
15-16		Culvert Exposed - Area 3	S

**APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Angus
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	2 Market Gate, Arbroath
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	22199
<b>PARISH:</b>	Arbroath
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Jake Streatfeild-James
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NO 64304 40581
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	08/08/2012
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	09/08/2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during excavation of madeground and the removal of a late 19 <sup>th</sup> century concrete culvert which supported the yard surface of the old Fisherman's Association at 2 Market Gate, Arbroath. Remains of successive phases of the post medieval harbour were recorded within the development area. A slipway and sea walls on both sides of the Brothock Burn were visible as a site investigation test-pit was excavated and madeground was reduced. The concrete culvert was found to have been poured on site in one phase, without internal reinforcement. Further archaeological works were not thought to be necessary.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Angus Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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Figure 1: Location of the site at 2 Market Gate, Arbroath

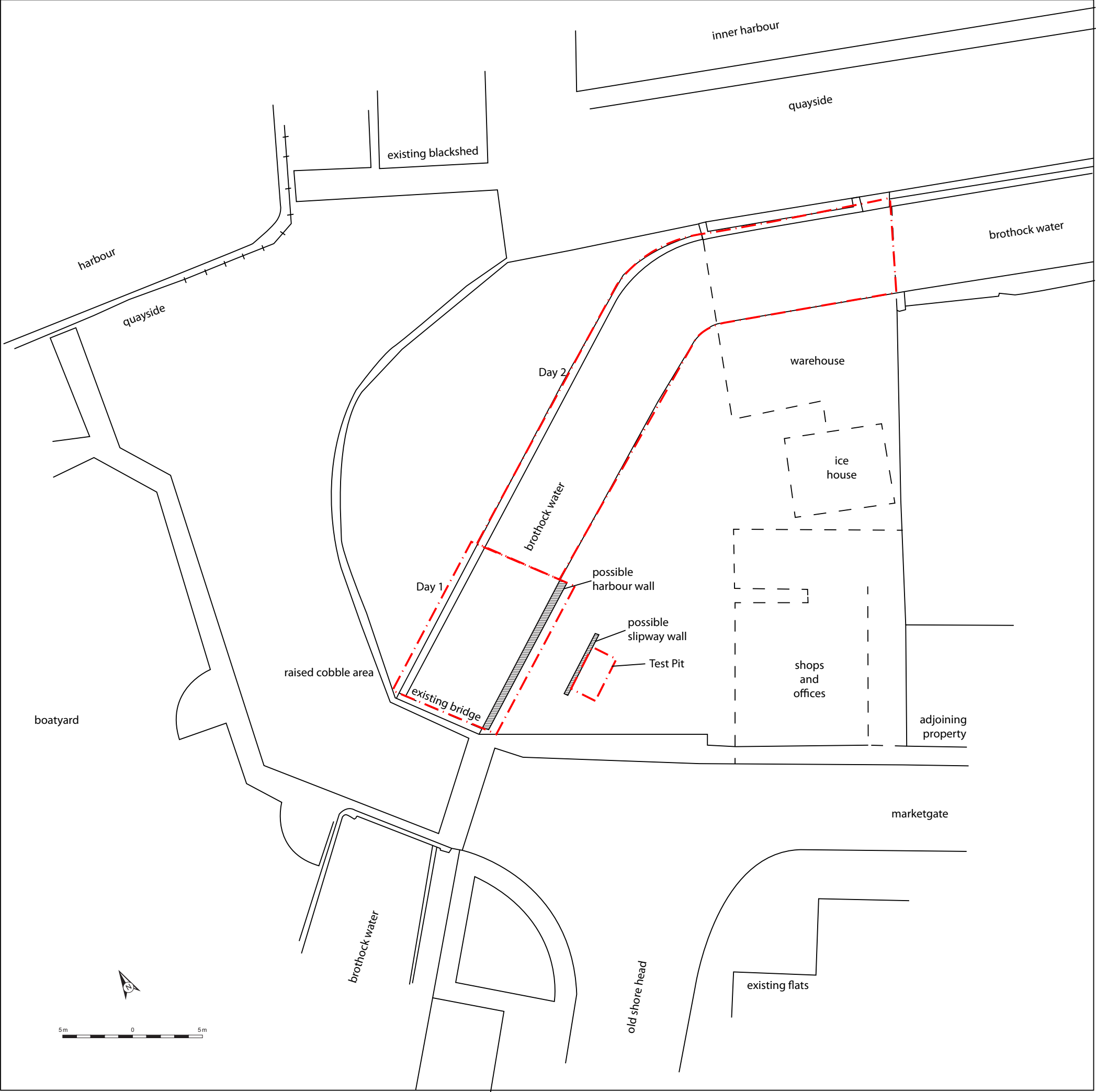
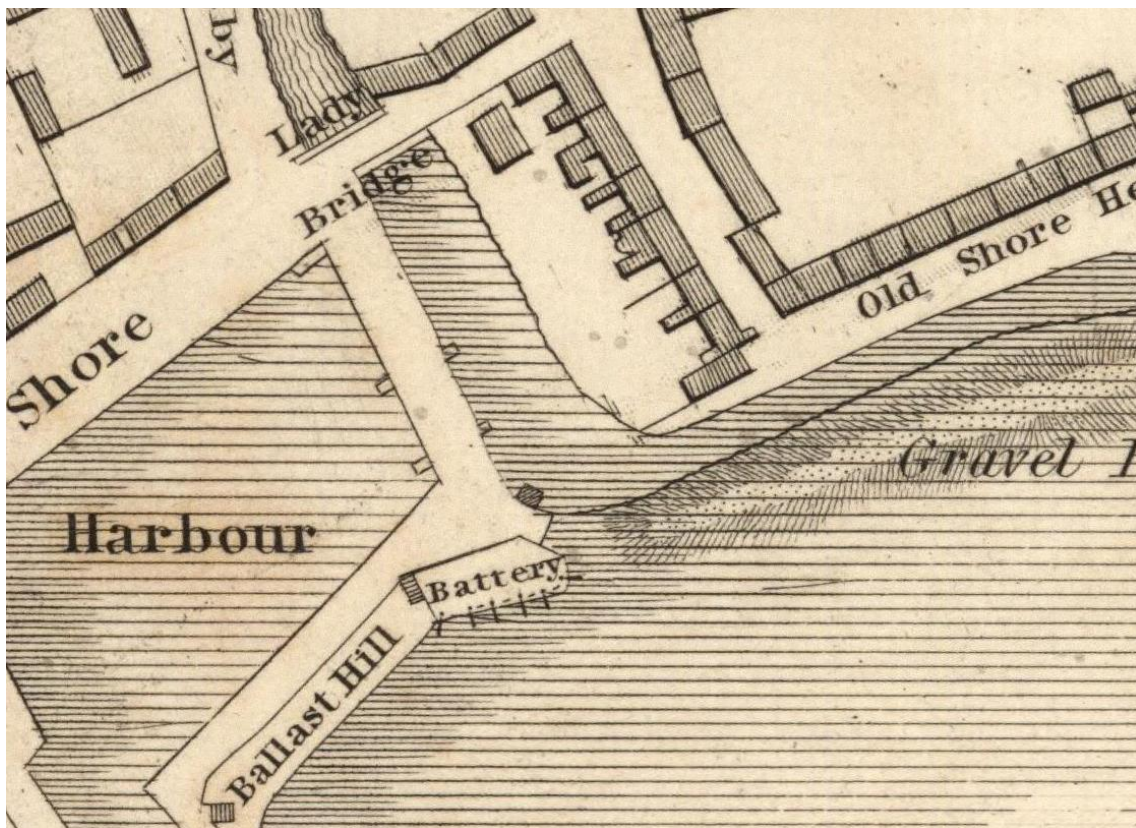


Figure 2: Location of monitored works at Arbroath Harbour



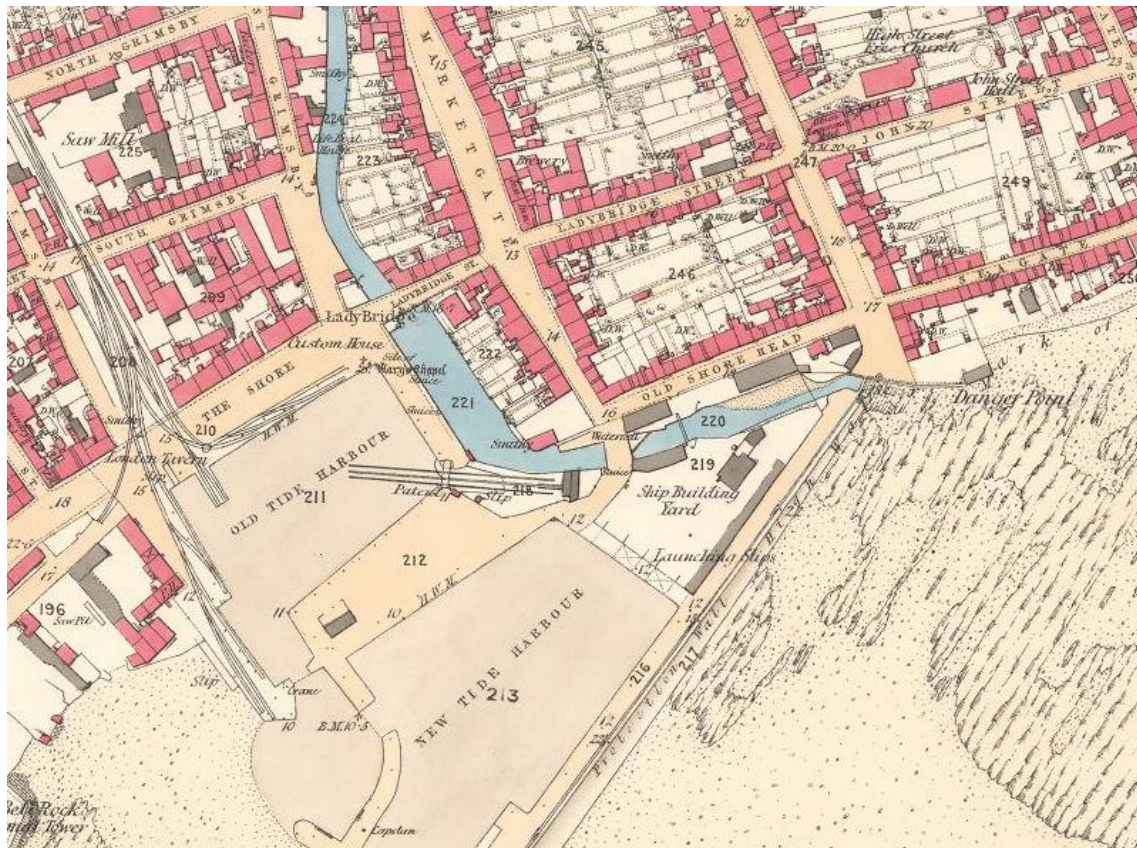


**Figure 3: Detail from John Slezer's Etching *The Prospect of ye Town of Aberbrothick***  
(By kind permission of the trustees of the National Libraries of Scotland)

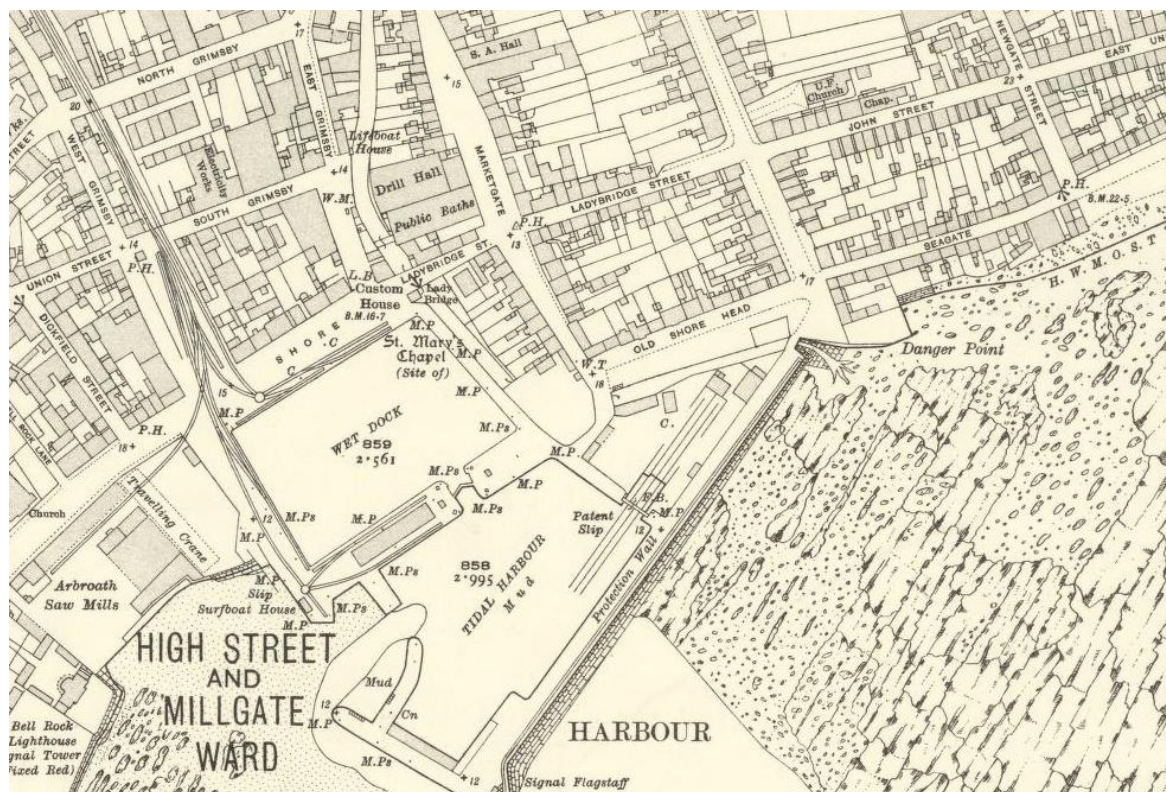


**Figure 4: Detail from John Wood's Survey of Arbroath, 1822**  
(By kind permission of the trustees of the National Libraries of Scotland)



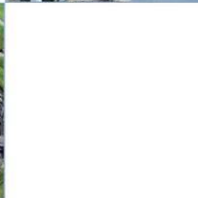


**Figure 5: Detail from Ordnance Survey Forfar Sheet XLVI.15 (Arbroath) 1865**  
(By kind permission of the trustees of the National Libraries of Scotland)



**Figure 6: Detail from Ordnance Survey Forfarshire, Sheet 046.15 1923**  
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