

Land at Woodside, Aberdeen

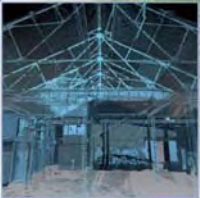
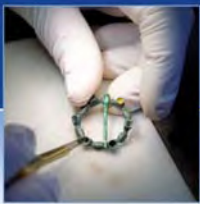
Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

Oasis Report No. 1-180637

29th May 2014

AOC22752



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Land at Woodside, Aberdeen Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Halliday Fraser Munro
Cardean Church
6 Cardean Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1UR

National Grid Reference (NGR): NJ 9150 0947

AOC Project No: 22752

Prepared by: Hana Kdolska, Rob Engl

Illustration by: Jamie Humble

Date of Fieldwork: 26th May – 29th May 2014

Date of Report: 30th May 2014

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

Author: Hana Kdolska, Rob Engl

Date: 30th May 2014

Approved by: Lindsay Dunbar

Date: 30th May 2014

Draft Report Stage: Draft

Date: 30th May 2014

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Halliday Fraser Munro to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Woodside, City of Aberdeen (NGR: NJ 9150 0947). The development encompasses three separate areas, used as playing fields, rough pasture and woodland. The development was surrounded by mature trees.

In total a 7% evaluation was required totaling some 3,250 linear meters of evaluation trenches. A total of 2,200 linear meters was achieved due to the presence of unmarked live services, ground slope and mature woodland.

Trenches placed within Area 1 provided evidence for significant ground alterations, including ground leveling and soil importation. Some evidence of top-soil introduction was also revealed in Area 2.

A possible field boundary was recorded within Area 2. No other significant archaeological features or material were identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Halliday Fraser Munro, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Woodside, City of Aberdeen. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of City of Aberdeen Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Judith Stones, Keeper of Archaeology. A programme of archaeological works had been specified by Ms Stones on behalf of City of Aberdeen Council and in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011).
- 1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological works was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a programme of trial trenching. A Written Scheme of Investigation outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with City of Aberdeen Council in advance of the evaluation being undertaken (AOC Archaeology 2014). The works were undertaken between 26th and 28th May 2014.
- 1.1.3 With the exception of a possible field boundary no significant archaeological features or material was observed.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area covers an area of approximately 9.3 hectares consisting of playing fields, rough pasture and mature woodland. The site is centred at NJ 9150 0947 and lies to the immediate south of the River Don on the northwest side of Aberdeen. The site lies to the northeast of the A90 and is accessed from Mugiemoor Road. The southern boundary is formed by the 'Aberdeen to Inverness Railway' and Mugiemoor Road. To the west lie the residential developments of Hutcheon Low Drive and Hutcheon Low Place. The eastern boundary is marked by a series of existing playing fields with the aforementioned River Don forming the northern edge of the development area (see Figure 1).

1.3 Historical background

- 1.3.1 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland notes a few sites within and enclosed by the development area. Firstly, there is a single site noted as lying within the development land take, namely Woodside Mill Lade running parallel to the River Don, (NMRS No. NJ09NW.396.01). Woodside Mill lies outwith the development area over 500 m to the east.
- 1.3.2 Enclosed by the development area lie three standing buildings. Firstly, there is Woodside Care Home, (NMRS No. NJ90NW 659) a B-Listed building described as from 1769 with main surviving elements from 1840/50. To the north lies an associated structure, a small cottage (NMRS No. NJ90NW 659.01). To the west there is a final structure, variously described as 'Persley Castle', and 'The Old Castle' this building (NMRS No. NJ90NW 658) is B-Listed and is believed to have been built c.1797 with crenellations and pepper pot turrets.
- 1.3.3 Outwith the limits of the development area there was 1st Edition Ordnance Survey farm steading lying close to the eastern site boundary, (NMRS No. NJ90NW 1688), which was demolished prior to the 20th century and of which all surface traces have been removed. To the southwest under Hutcheon Low Drive there was believed to have been late 19th century sand and gravel extraction works (NMRS No. NJ90NW 1687), as depicted upon the early 20th century 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey mapping.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material in situ, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* proposed the excavation of trenches equating to a 7% sample of the development area thus requiring the excavation of trenching up to 3,250 linear metres (AOC Archaeology 2014). A further 3% contingency was available should the initial 7% evaluation uncover significant archaeological remains.

3.2 The area available for evaluation was curtailed due to the presence of mature trees and recorded and unrecorded live services. The evaluation area was further limited by the topography of Area 3 which showed a pronounced slope in places. This reduced the area available for evaluation by approximately one third.



Plate 1: Mature trees within Area 3, also showing slope gradient.

3.3 In total the area evaluated through trial trenching totalled 2,200 linear meters. Given the on-site restrictions this amounted to 7% of the available area as specified within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014).

3.4 All 21 trenches were excavated with a tracked excavator using a 2.2m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching

was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014).

4 RESULTS

4.1 The various detailed data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices:

- Appendix 1 Trench Summaries;
- Appendix 2 Photographic Register;
- Appendix 3 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

4.2 Figure 2 identifies the position and orientations of all excavated trenches. The works were conducted between 26th and 29th May 2014. The weather conditions during the evaluation were favourable. Overall archaeological visibility was good.

4.3 The area of playing fields (Area 1) was covered by an imported topsoil of dark brown sandy loam. This varied from 0.10m to 0.50m in depth. The top-soil directly overlay natural drift geology of yellowish sands and gravels and boulder clay with no evidence of an interface between the two. Areas 2 and 3 were covered by thin agricultural topsoil between 0.20m and 0.30m deep. Pockets of sandy, red brown colluvium were also recorded within several natural depressions. The colluvial deposit ranged between 0.20m and 0.40m in depth.

4.4 Land drains were present in all areas of evaluation. Three types of drainage were identified within the area: the narrow cut with a ceramic drain; larger stone filled 'rubble' drains and narrow cut plastic drains.



Plate 2: Rubble drain within Tr. 10 (Area 2)

- 4.5 A linear cut was identified within Trench 14 (Area 2). This feature was 1.0m wide and 0.16m deep and ran across the trench from the north-west to the south-east for four metres. The feature contained a loose fill of medium brown sandy silt. This contained numerous small finds of modern white ceramics and glass. The linear feature is a possible field boundary or furrow. No further features were observed.



Plate 3: SE facing section through a possible modern furrow found in Tr. 14 (Area 2)

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features or finds were observed during the evaluation. This suggests that the development area is archaeologically sterile. The area has undergone significant by alteration in recent times. This is in particular evident in Area 1 where the creation of the playing fields would have removed any in situ deposits. In Area 3, most of the ground has a steep gradient, precluding activities other than pasture. The presence of modern drainage systems within all three evaluated areas suggests that the land was not well drained prior to more recent times and likely represent marginal land.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

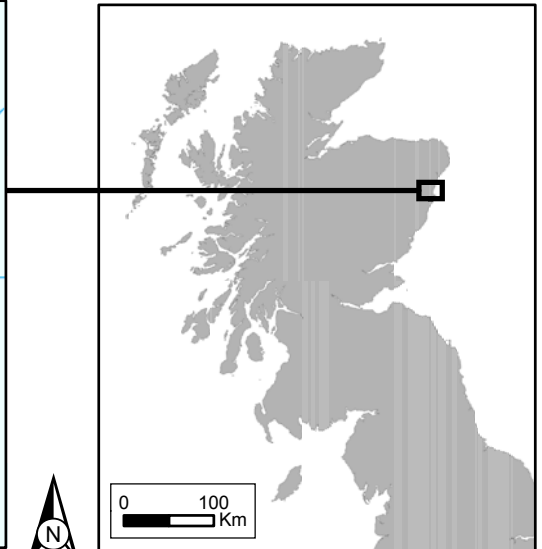
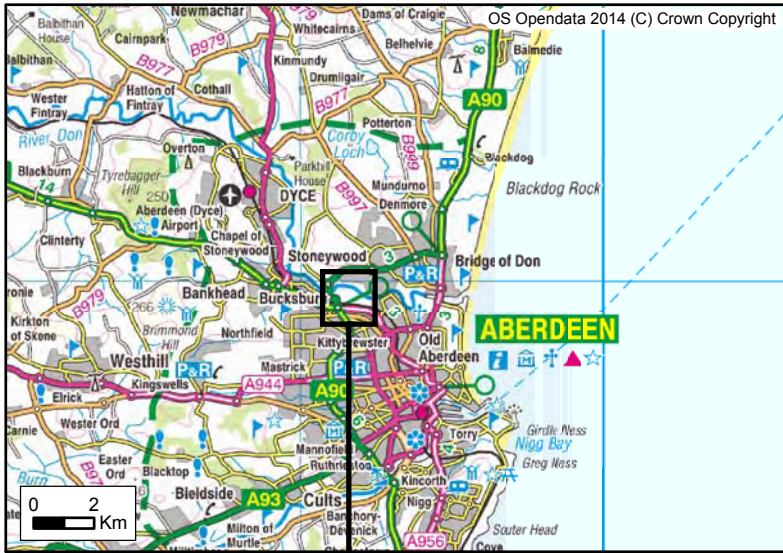
- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. The recommendation will require confirmation by Ms Judith Stones on behalf of City of Aberdeen Council.

7 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2014 *Land at Woodside, Aberdeen Archaeological Evaluation, Written Scheme of Investigation.*

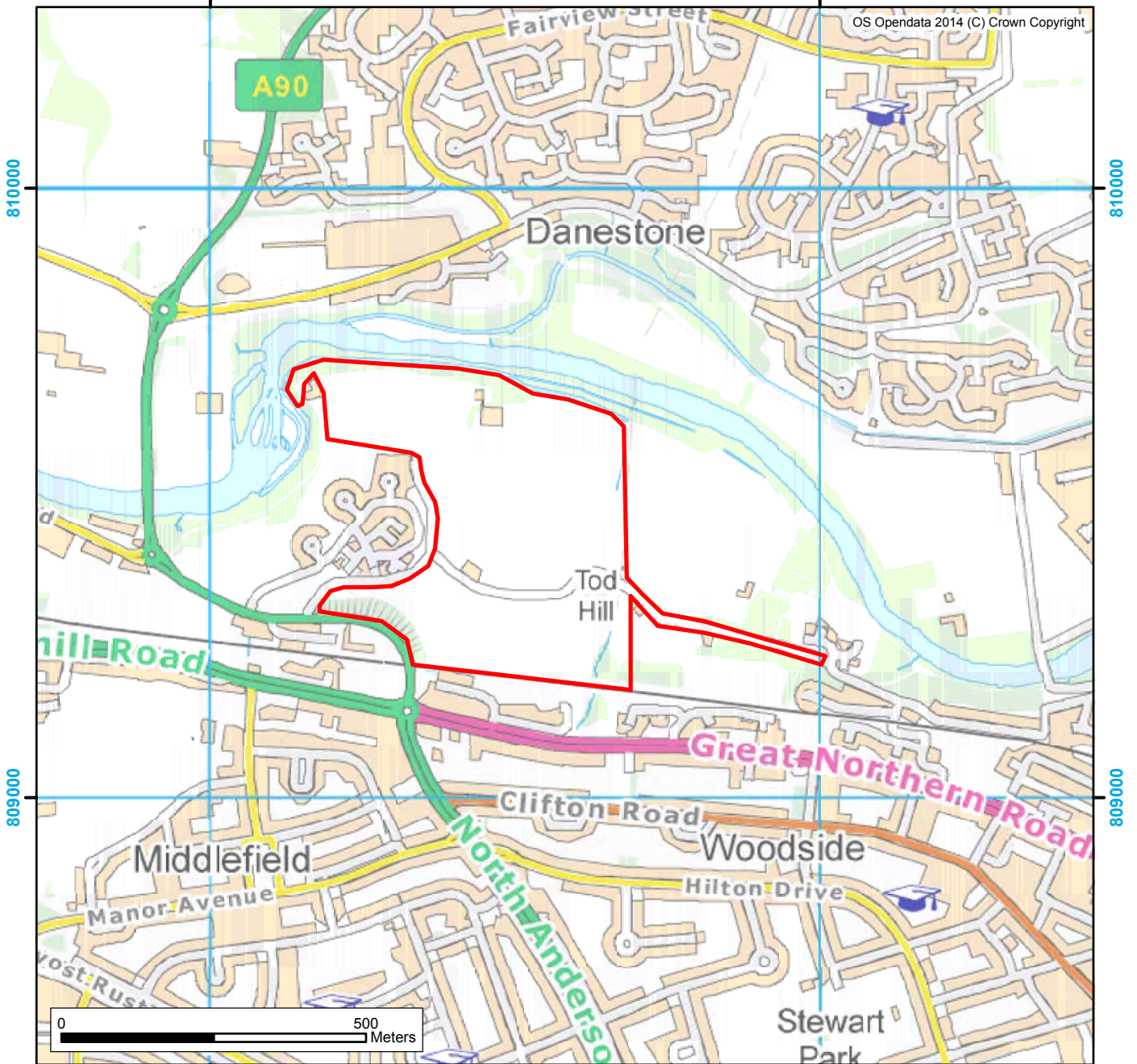
Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy.*

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.



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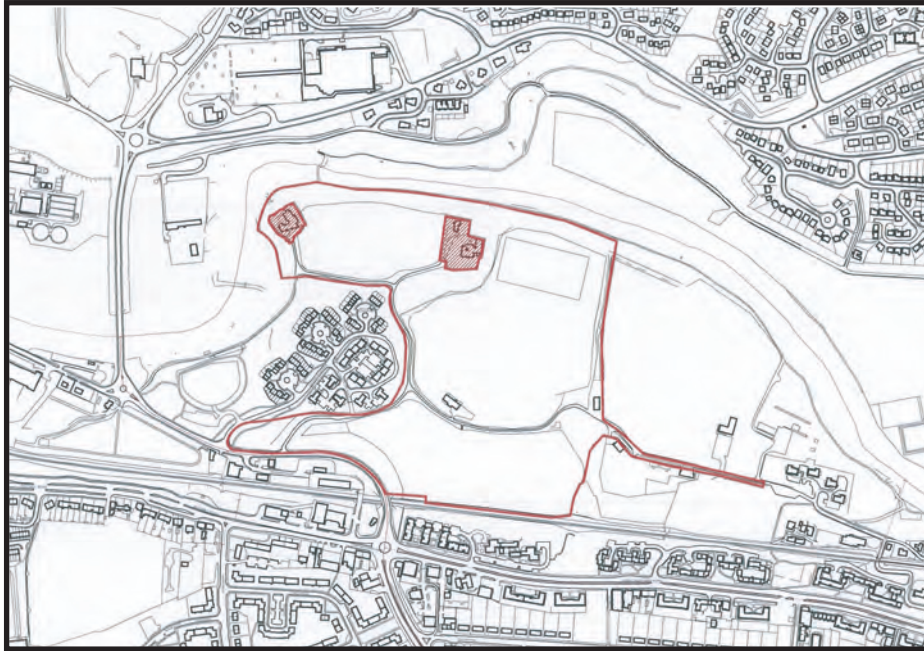
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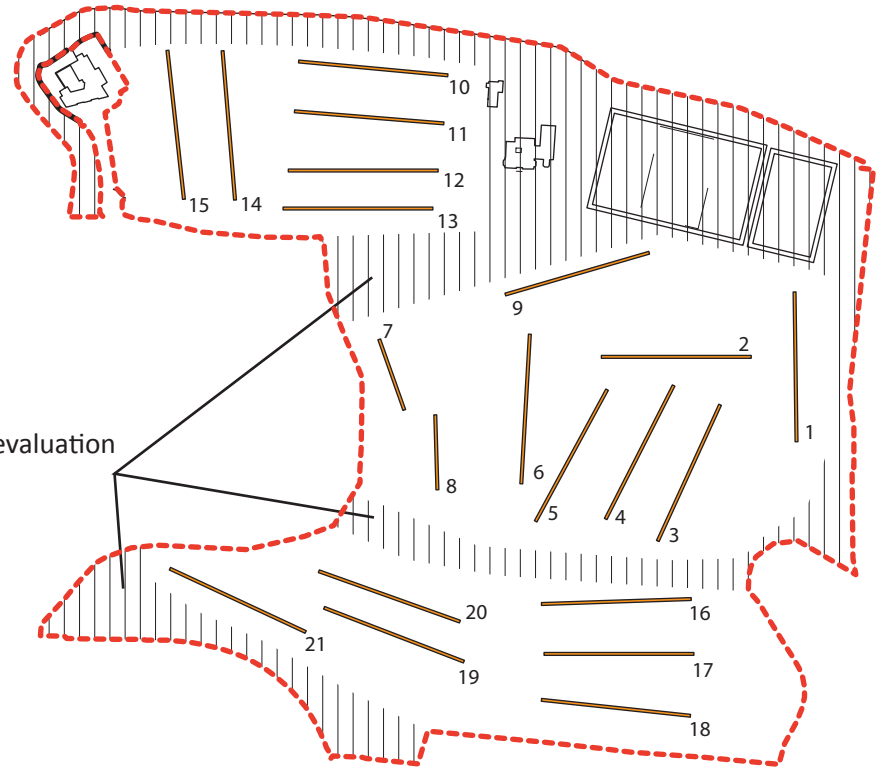
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Figure 1: Site Location



Development Area



Areas excluded from evaluation



Figure 2: Trench location plan

**Land at Woodside,
Aberdeen:
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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	S-N
Depth of Topsoil	0.32m
Features	Modern service cuts; imported dark brown sandy loam with no interface
Drains	Modern drains for playing fields
Subsoil	Yellowy brown/ beige sands & gravels
Finds	None

Trench 2

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.10m to 0.45m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Yellowy brown/ beige sands & gravels
Finds	White ceramics (u/s)

Trench 3

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange/ yellow boulder clay

Trench 4

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.10m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Yellow boulder clay, then orange sand
Finds	White ceramics (u/s)

Trench 5

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Yellow sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 6

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	S-N
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m to 0.50m
Features	None
Drains	Plastic drain at 25m E/W

Subsoil Yellow sands and gravels changing into grey boulder clay
 Finds White ceramics (u/s)

Trench 7

Dimensions 50m by 2.2m
 Orientation NW-NE
 Depth of Topsoil 0.40m
 Features Unmarked live power cable at 45.0m N/S
 Drains None
 Subsoil Pale brown sandy boulder clay
 Finds None

Trench 8

Dimensions 50m by 2.2m
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.25m to 0.50m
 Features None
 Drains None
 Subsoil Yellow sands and gravels
 Finds None

Trench 9

Dimensions 100m by 2.2m
 Orientation SW-NE
 Depth of Topsoil 0.40m
 Features None
 Drains None
 Subsoil Orange sands and gravels
 Finds None

Trench 10

Dimensions 100m by 2.2m
 Orientation E-W
 Depth of Topsoil 0.30m
 Features None
 Drains Rubble drain at 75m N/S
 Subsoil Fine orange sands and gravels with occasional large sub-rounded boulders
 Finds Occasional glass and white ceramic in topsoil

Trench 11

Dimensions 100m by 2.2m
 Orientation W-E
 Depth of Topsoil 0.20m
 Features None
 Drains Rubble drain at 20m N-S
 Subsoil Colluviums 0.20m- 0.40m deep
 Finds None

Trench 12

Dimensions 100m by 2.2m
 Orientation E-W

Depth of Topsoil	0.20m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Fine orange sands and gravels with occasional large sub-rounded boulders
Finds	None

Trench 13

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	W-E
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m (Colluvium 0.20-0.30m)
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 14

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Features	Probable modern plough furrow at 25m cutting NW-SE across trench, 1.0m wide and 0.16m deep includes white ceramics and glass.
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels.
Finds	White ceramics (U/S)

Trench 15

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.25m
Features	None
Drains	Rubble drain at 90m NE-SW
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 16

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m (colluvium 0.20-0.40m)
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels;
Finds	None

Trench 17

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	W-E
Depth of Topsoil	0.40m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Pale brown sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 18

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.40m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands
Finds	None

Trench 19

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.35m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 20

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.25m
Features	None
Drains	Rubble drain at 80m N/S; ceramic drain at 85m N/S
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 21

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

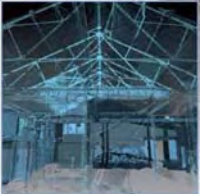
APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	Tr.1	PX view of Trench 1	N
2	Tr.2	PX view of Trench 2	W
3	Tr.3	PX view of Trench 3	SW
4	Tr.4	PX view of Trench 4	NE
5	Tr.5	PX view of Trench 5	SW
6	Tr.6	PX view of Trench 6	N
7	Tr.7	PX view of Trench 7	S
8	Tr.8	PX view of Trench 8	S
9	Tr.10	PX view of Trench 10	E
10	Tr.11	PX view of Trench 11	W
11	Tr.14	SE facing section through linear cut feature	SE
12	Tr.14	PX view of Trench 14	SE
13	Tr.15	PX view of Trench 15	SE
14	Tr.16	PX view of Trench 16	SE
15	Tr.17	PX view of Trench 17	W
16	Tr.18	PX view of Trench 18	E
17	n/a	General shot of mature trees in Area 3	E
18	n/a	General shot of mature trees in Area 3	SSE
19	n/a	General shot of mature trees in Area 3	W
20	Tr.21	PX view of Trench	WNW

APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' (DES) REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeen City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land at Woodside, Aberdeen
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22752
PARISH:	Aberdeen
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Hannah Kdolska & Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 9150 0947
START DATE (this season)	26 th May 2014
END DATE (this season)	29 th May 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p><i>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Halliday Fraser Munro to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Woodside, City of Aberdeen (NGR: NJ 9150 0947). The development encompasses three separate areas, used as playing fields, rough pasture and woodland. The development was surrounded by mature trees.</i></p> <p><i>In total a 7% evaluation was required totaling some 3,250 linear meters of evaluation trenches. A total of 2,200 linear meters was achieved due to the presence of live services, ground slope and mature woodland. Trenches placed within Area 1 provided evidence for significant ground alterations, including ground leveling and soil importation. Some evidence of top-soil introduction was also revealed in Area 2. A possible linear field boundary was recorded within Area 2. No other significant archaeological features or material were identified.</i></p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Halliday Fraser Munro
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead. Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Rob.Engl@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: edinburgh@aacarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com