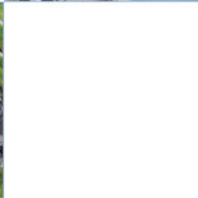
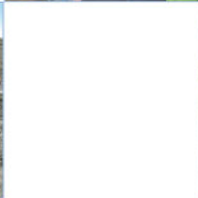
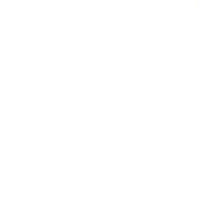
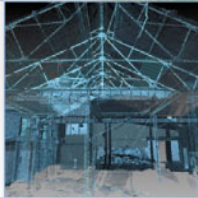
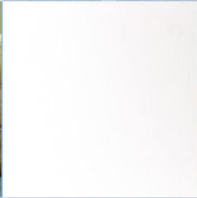


Blackdog, Bridge of Don, Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

20979
April 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Blackdog, Bridge of Don

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: WA Fairhurst & Partners
Spademill Studios
Spademill Lane
Aberdeen
AB15 4EZ

National Grid Reference (NGR): NJ 9595 1403

AOC Project No: 20979

Prepared by: Martin Cook

Illustration by: Graeme Carruthers

Date of Fieldwork: March 2008

Date of Report: May 2008

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

Author: _____ **Date:** _____

Approved by: _____ **Date:** _____

Draft/Final Report Stage: _____ **Date:** _____

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Figure 1 Site location and area monitored

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Appendix 1 Photographic Record

Appendix 2 *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Blackdog, Bridge of Don, Aberdeenshire. The work was commissioned by WA Fairhurst & Partners on behalf of their client.

The objective of the work was to monitor site investigation works and to prevent the destruction of any archaeological material prior to its recording.

The watching brief was carried out during March 2008. It revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.

A watching brief is recommended on all further ground breaking works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by WA Fairhurst & Partners to undertake an archaeological watching brief during site investigation works associated with the proposed redevelopment of a 102 West Port site at Blackdog, Bridge of Don, Aberdeenshire (Figure 1). The site is located within the Local Authority administrative area of Aberdeenshire Council. The work was undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the Conditions of Planning Consent (Ref: APP/2006/4731) as imposed by Aberdeenshire Council and was in accord with the planning guidelines as set out in NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development site lies on Hareburn Road, Blackdog, Bridge of Don. Located over the western part of the former Strathbathie Brick Works, it is bounded by open land to the east, south and west (centred NGR: NJ 9595 1403).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The proposed development occupies the western part of the former Strathbathie Brick and Tile Works (NMRS NJ91SE 9). The Strathbathie Works were owned by the Seaton Tile and Brick Company, who operated on the site between approximately 1888 and the 1930's in taking advantage of the natural clay deposits in the area. The complex comprised two Works blocks, two Hoffman kilns, a small-scale railway track and a large clay pit. A probable engine shed is shown on the 1929 Ordnance Survey edition.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to monitor site investigation works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by the development programme;
- iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that that would suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie preservation *in situ* is impractical), Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The details of the archaeological works undertaken are laid out below, and were designed to fully meet the requirements of planning authority as advised by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology

Service. The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of a programme of site investigation works.

3.2 Topsoil monitoring

- 3.2.1 All ground breaking works were monitored. These comprised the machine excavation of five test-pits of varying size, excavated to and then through the natural clay subsoil.
- 3.2.2 The ground breaking work was undertaken using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator using a 0.68 m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.2.3 All monitoring was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29).
- 3.2.4 Digital, Black and White print and colour slide photographic shots were taken during the watching Brief (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 25th March 2008 during a minor spell of snow. Despite the weather conditions, archaeological visibility was not compromised, the make up of the test-pits being clear and easily recorded.
- 4.2 The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3 and Figure 1
- 4.3 The material excavated within the test-pits generally comprised a 0.10 m layer of gravel, overlying 0.40 m of made ground, which directly overlay the natural subsoil, a red sandy clay. The made ground, which contained a mixture of modern detritus and building debris, including red brick was clearly used as a levelling deposit to create a flat surface. No evidence was identified for the brick works that formerly occupied the site.
- 4.4 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered on this site.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No material relating to the former Strathbathie Brick and Tile Works was identified within the test-pits. However, this may reflect the restricted nature of the ground-breaking works undertaken, rather than an absence of material. It seems possibly that any larger scale ground-works may reveal evidence relating to the works.
- 5.2 It is recommended that any future ground breaking works be subject to an archaeological watching brief.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

SOEnD 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG5. Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnD 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

Blackdog, Bridge of Don: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Photographic Record

Digital, Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shot	
3-4	TP 1	West-facing section through Test-Tit 1	W
5-6	TP 4	South-facing section through Test-Pit 4	S
7-8	TP 3a	East-facing section through Test-Pit 3a	E
9-10	TP2	West-facing section through Test-Pit 2	W
11-12		General shot of site	SW

APPENDIX 2

Test-Pit Record

Test-Pit 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 0.68 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.10 m
<i>Description</i>	Up to 0.50 m of made ground, overlying the red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of fragmented brick.

Test-Pit 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	3.30 m by 1.00 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	Up to 0.80 m of made ground overlying the red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of fragmented brick.

Test-Pit 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	3.20 m by 0.90 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.10 m
<i>Description</i>	Up to 0.52 m of made ground overlying the red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of fragmented brick.

Test-Pit 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.60 m by 0.60 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.40 m
<i>Description</i>	0.52 m of made ground overlying the red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of fragmented brick.

Test-Pit 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.68 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying the red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of fragmented brick.

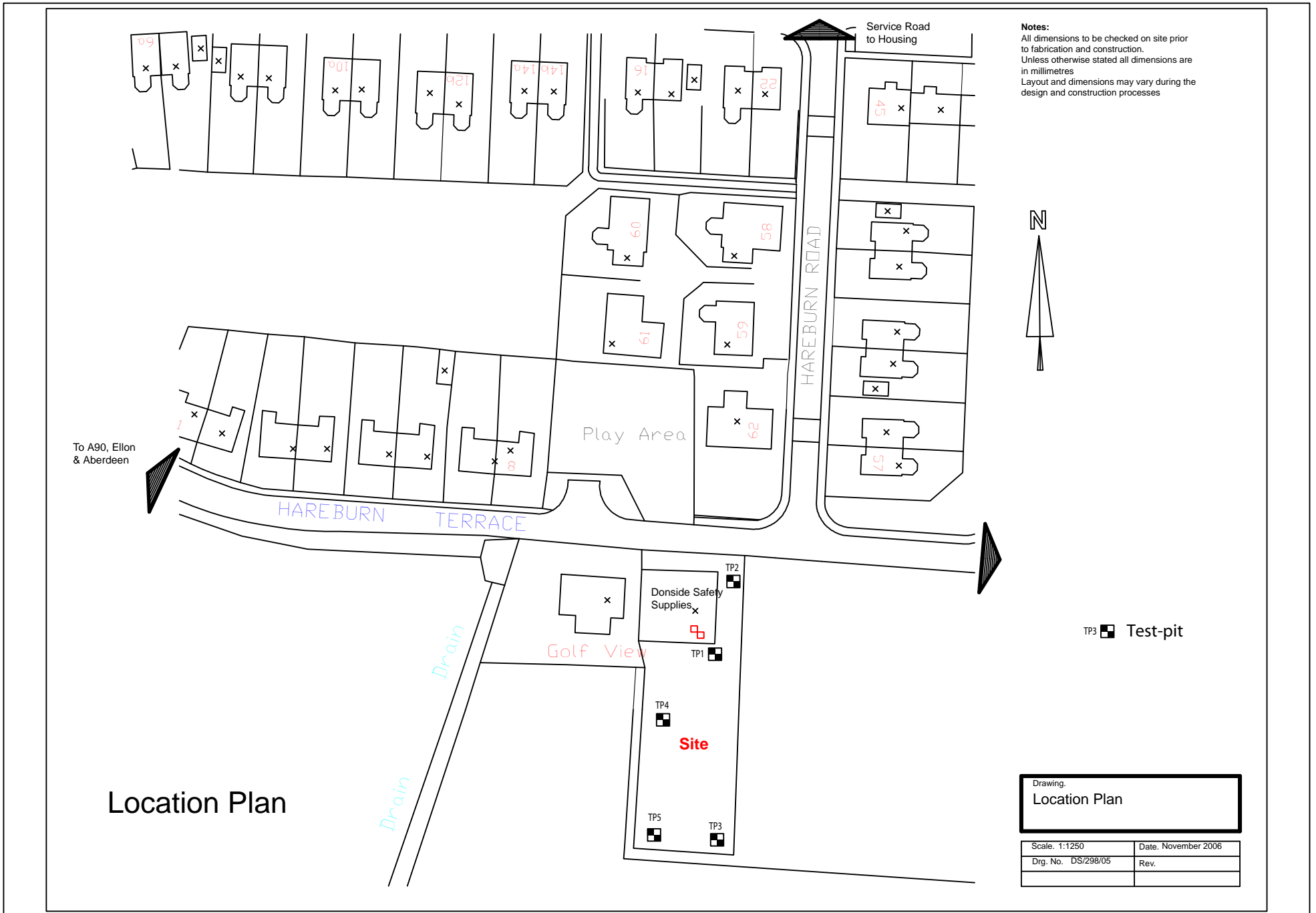
APPENDIX 3

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Blackdog, Bridge of Don Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20979
PARISH:	Belhelvie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Martin Cook
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	NMRS: NJ91SE9
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Industrial
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 9595 1403
START DATE (this season)	25 th March 2008
END DATE (this season)	25 th March 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief monitored the site investigation works associated with the proposed re-development of a brownfield site at Blackdog, Bridge of Don, due to the former presence of the 19 th century Strathbathie Brick and Tile Works on the site. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Watching brief on main ground-breaking phase associated with the development.
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	WA Fairhurst & Partners
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

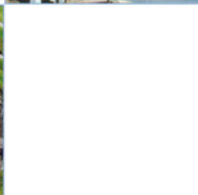
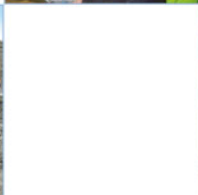
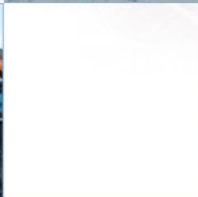
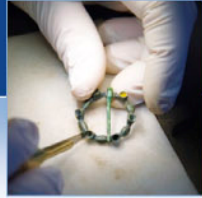


Figure 1: Site location plan



based on a drawing from the client

Figure 2: Location of Test-pits monitored during watching brief



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