

# Myrekirk Road, Dundee: Watching Brief Report

AOC 21425  
20<sup>th</sup> July 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Myrekirk Road, Dundee: Watching Brief Report

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<b>For:</b>	<b>Macdonald Estates</b>
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NO 3550 3200</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>21425</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> July 2009</b>

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

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## Abstract

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This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Myrekirk Road Dundee (former NCR site) (centred NGR: NO 3550 3200). The work was commissioned by Macdonald Estates to address the potential adverse archaeological impact of site investigation (SI) works. The archaeological works were designed in accordance with the principles inherent within SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994).

The objective of the work was to monitor all groundbreaking works, located outwith the footprint of the former NCR building, associated with SI works. The monitoring work, carried out during July 2009, did not identify any significant archaeological material.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological Watching Brief was required by Macdonald Estates during Site Investigation (SI) works at the former NCR site, Myrekirk Road Dundee (NGR: NO 3550 3200). The scope of the works was determined by City of Dundee Council Archaeology Service (CDCAS), the archaeological advisor to Dundee City Council. The work was in keeping with the policies outlined in PAN42 and SPP23 in order to safeguard unknown archaeological remains within ground impacted by the SI works.

### 1.2 Archaeological background

1.2.1 While there were no known archaeological sites or findspots within the development site, the juxtaposition of a late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age Stone Circle (MDH 171) presents a significant probability that associated archaeological material relating to a wider ritual complex may survive within the application boundaries. This has necessitated the requirement for a Watching Brief on the SI works.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, quality, date and condition of any archaeologically significant remains that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
- ii) to liaise with local authority's archaeological; advisor 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.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1. The details of the archaeological works were designed to meet the requirements of the planning authority as advised by CDCAS. The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of ground disturbance undertaken in order to conduct all SI works.

3.2 The excavation of all SI works was under constant archaeological supervision. It was a basic assumption that in the event of archaeological deposits being recognised that SI pits would be moved to allow preservation of archaeological material *in situ*. All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practice. A black and white print photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 1).

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by a single archaeologist in predominantly dry bright weather conditions between 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Overall archaeological visibility was good.

### 4.2 Test-pits

4.2.1 Twenty-three SI test pits were excavated by a JCB machine fitted with a toothed bucket with a width of 0.6 m in the open areas surrounding the buildings on the NCR site. Each trench measured approximately 2.0 m by 0.6 m (occasionally slightly wider in areas of deep excavation or where services were present).

### 4.3 Observations

4.3.1 The test pits were excavated through clay silt topsoil, commonly between 0.30 and 0.60 m in depth, or through existing tarmac, concrete or gravel hardcore surfaces. The topsoil contained occasional fragments of modern (late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century) glass and pottery. In the north of the site, to the north of the main existing NCR buildings (for example in Test Pits 1, 2 and 3) apparently imported clay silt with common boulders represented areas where extensive 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping of the site had occurred. The presence of modern ceramic material within these deposits supports the possibility that this material was moved in the recent past. Elsewhere, topsoil and surfaces generally overlay natural subsoil, commonly a light reddish brown clay silt with angular stones. In three test pits (10, 19 and 23) hardcore or imported gravel with angular stone cobbles overlay concrete surfaces. These lay between 0.5 and 0.8 m below the existing surfaces and may have represented 20<sup>th</sup> century foundation deposits. The flat concrete surfaces identified in Test Pits 10 and 19 in the west of the site lay adjacent to lorry loading areas of the NCR works, where concrete may have been used for consolidation. The concrete surface in Test Pit 23, which was more irregular and stepped down slightly from south to north, may have related to a former structure at the north-east corner of the main NCR building, or to the landscaping undertaken in this area.

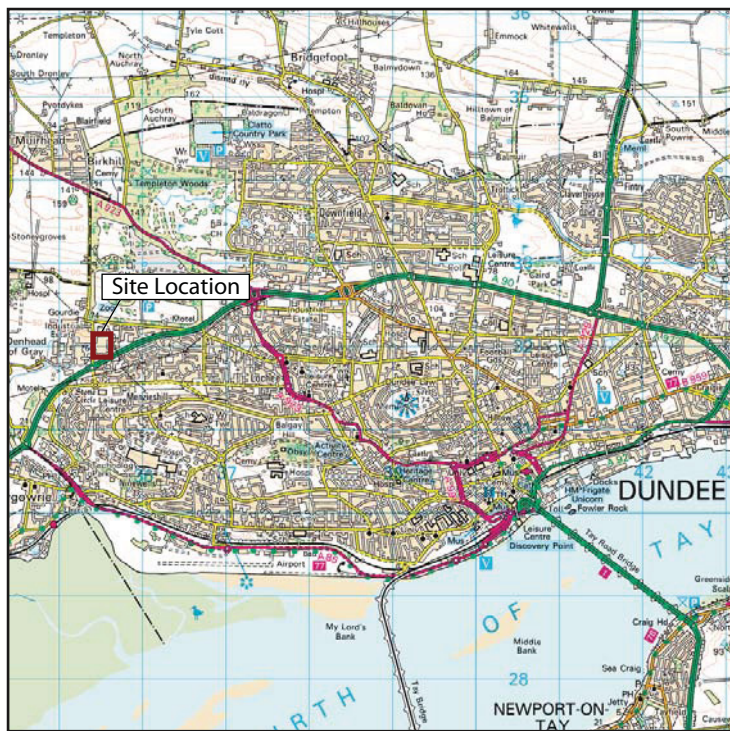
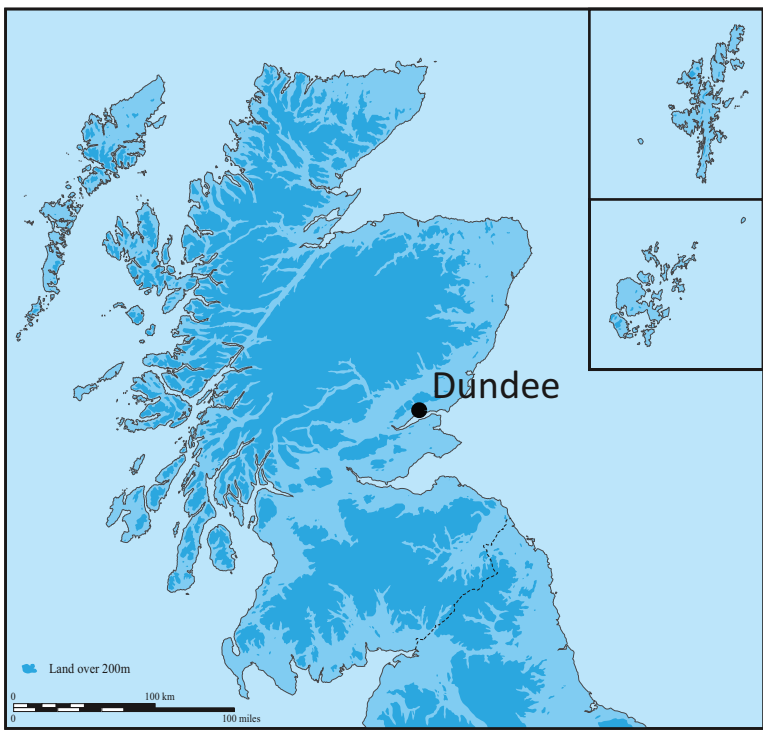
## 5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Neither significant archaeological features nor artefactual material were encountered by the watching brief.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

PAN42 1994 *Planning Advice Note 42; Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office.

SPP23 2008 *Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Government.



Key  
 13 ■ Test Pits

Figure 1 : Location of watching brief showing Test Pits



**Former NCR Site, Myrekirk Road, Dundee**  
**Site Investigation Works:**  
**Watching Brief Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**



## APPENDIX 1: TEST-PIT RECORD

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	1	
<b>Size (m)</b>	1.8 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	1.00	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt	0.15
2	Imported subsoil/topsoil – mid/light reddish brown clay silt with common angular/sub-rounded stones	0.65
3	Natural subsoil - light reddish brown clay silt with angular/rounded stones	0.15 +
4	Natural subsoil – Boulder clay	

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	2	
<b>Size (m)</b>	1.9 x 0.8	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	1.10	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt	0.10
2	Imported subsoil/topsoil – mid/light reddish brown clay silt with common angular/sub-angular stones	1.00
3	Natural subsoil – Boulder clay	

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	3	
<b>Size (m)</b>	1.9 x 0.8	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	0.80	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt	0.20
2	Possibly imported subsoil/topsoil – mid/light reddish brown clay silt with angular/sub-angular stones	0.60
3	Natural subsoil – Boulder clay	

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	4	
<b>Size (m)</b>	1.8 x 0.8	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.80	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – dark/mid reddish brown clay silt with moderate angular stones	0.30
2	Topsoil – dark reddish brown silty clay	0.25
3	Possibly imported subsoil/topsoil – mid/light reddish brown clay silt with angular stones	2.25 +

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	5	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.1 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.80	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil - mid reddish brown silty clay with ashy lenses	0.20
2	Topsoil - mid reddish brown silty clay	0.50
3	Possibly imported subsoil/topsoil - light reddish brown clay silt with angular/sub-rounded stones	0.30
4	Natural subsoil – light yellowish brown clay silt with moderate irregular stone, shattered rock at base	1.80 +

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	6	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	3.00	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – dark/mid reddish brown clay silt	0.25
2	Possibly imported subsoil/topsoil – mid dark red/brown clay silt with common angular/sub-rounded stones	0.50
3	Natural subsoil - light reddish brown clay sand with common sub-angular stones	1.80
4	Natural subsoil –sandy silt with gravel and boulders	0.45

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	7	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.2 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.40	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt	0.20
2	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt with common sub-angular/sub-rounded stones	0.20
3	Natural subsoil – light/mid reddish brown clay silt with gravel and sub-rounded/sub-angular stones	1.50
4	Natural subsoil – light/mid reddish brown clay silt with angular stones	0.50 +

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	8	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.45	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid/dark reddish brown clay silt	0.20
2	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt	0.20
3	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown clay silt with angular stones, sandy near base	2.05

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	9	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.10	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – dark reddish brown clay silt	0.12
2	Ash/cinder and sand	0.06
3	Topsoil (original) – mid reddish brown clay silt	0.27
4	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown clay silt with angular/sub-angular stones	1.65

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	10	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	0.80	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Reinforced concrete	0.18
2	Hardcore	0.62
3	Concrete slab	Unknown

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	11	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.40	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Tarmac surface	0.07
2	Hardcore with angular stone	0.38
3	Natural subsoil – gravel and light reddish brown clay silt with angular stones	1.95

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	12	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.10	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – dark reddish brown clay silt	0.20
2	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt	0.20
3	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown sandy silt clay leading to clay silt with sub-angular/angular stones	1.70 +

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	13	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.90	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid/dark reddish brown sandy clay silt	0.20
2	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt	0.25
3	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown clay silt with sub-rounded/angular stones, waterlogged and gravel-rich at base	2.25

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	14	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	3.00	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid reddish brown sandy clay silt	0.35
2	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown clay silt with sub-rounded/angular stones	2.65

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	15	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	1.20	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Tarmac surface	0.10
2	Gravel hardcore with angular stone	0.30
3	Natural subsoil, disturbed by services – light reddish grey sand and clay with sub-rounded/sub-angular stones	0.10
4	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown clay silt	0.70 +

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	16	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 1.0	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.10	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid/dark reddish brown clay silt	0.10
2	Topsoil – light/mid reddish brown clay silt with irregular stone	0.30
3	Imported material/service fill – Light reddish brown clay sand with sub-rounded/sub-angular stone	0.30
4	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown slightly clayey silt with gravel and irregular stones	1.40
5	Bedrock, boulder clay	

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	17	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.20	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Hardcore surface	0.30
2	Imported bedding material – light reddish brown sand and clay with gravel	0.30
3	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown clay silt with gravel and irregular stone	1.60
4	Shattered stone	

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	18	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	1.90	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Hardcore	0.28
2	Natural subsoil - light red/brown clay silt with gravel and angular stones	1.62
3	Angular stones, bedrock	

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	19	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	0.70	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Tarmac surface	0.10
2	Hardcore with angular stones	0.60
3	Concrete, possible foundation	Unknown

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	20	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.10	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt	0.30
2	Natural subsoil – light/mid reddish brown clay silt with angular stones	1.80
3	Shattered stone	

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	21	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.00	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt with irregular stones	0.40
2	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown clayey sandy silt with sub-rounded/angular stones	1.60

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	22	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	2.05	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Topsoil – mid reddish brown clay silt with gravel	0.40
2	Possibly imported subsoil/topsoil – light reddish brown clayey sandy silt with angular/sub-angular stones	0.20
3	Natural subsoil – light reddish brown sandy silt with angular stones	1.45

<b>Test Pit No.</b>	23	
<b>Size (m)</b>	2.0 x 0.6	
<b>Max depth (m)</b>	0.80	
<b>Soil/overburden Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>
1	Gravel surface	0.30
2	Imported material – light reddish brown sandy gravel and irregular stone	0.30 – 0.50
3	Concrete surface, possible foundation, stepped down from south to north end of pit	Unknown

## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

### Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1 -2	Registration	-
3-4	TP 1	South
5	TP 2	South
6-7	TP 3	South
8-9	TP 4	NW
10-11	TP 5	East
12-13	TP 6	West
14-15	TP 7	West
16-17	TP 8	SE
18-19	TP 9	SW
20-21	TP 10	North
22	TP 11	South
23	TP 12	East
24-25	TP 13	NE
26-27	TP 14	NE
26-27	TP 15	NW

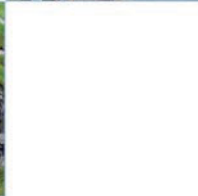
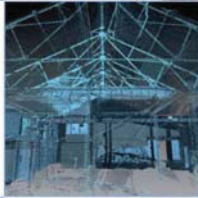
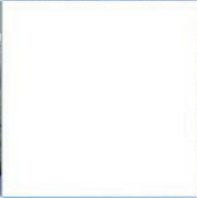
### Black & White Print Film 2

Frame	Description	From
1 -2	Registration	-
3	TP 16	SE
4-5	TP 17	SE
6-7	TP 18	East
8-9	TP 19	East
10	TP 20	East
11	Working shot of NE of site	South
12	Working shot of north of site	East
13	Working shot of east of site	North
14-15	TP 21	South
16	TP 22	South
17-18	TP 23	SE
19-20	TP 23	South
21-22	Working shot of south of site	East

### APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Dundee Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Former NCR Site, Myrekirk Road, Dundee
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21425
PARISH:	Dundee
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Mike Roy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 3550 3200
START DATE (this season)	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2009
END DATE (this season)	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was undertaken to address the potential negative archaeological impact of site investigation works (test-pitting) at the former NCR Site, Myrekirk Road, Dundee.  Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Macdonald Estates
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	c/o AOC Archaeology Group
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