

Forres Flood Prevention Scheme, Moray Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC 21000
28th October



Forres Flood Prevention Scheme, Moray Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Morrison Construction Forres Flood Alleviation Forres Moray IV36 2RE
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NJ 051 575 NJ 036 560 – NJ 042 566
AOC Project No:	AOC 21000
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Date of Fieldwork:	June – October 2008
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group during construction works associated with the Forres Flood Prevention Scheme. An archaeological watching brief was required by Morrison Construction on ground breaking works associated with the laying of a new water supply pipeline (centred NGR: NJ 051 575) and the creation of an access road close to/within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of Dallas Dhu Distillery (NGR: NJ 036 560 – 042 566). The scope of the works was primarily determined by the Aberdeenshire Council as advised by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), although the potential impact on the SAM at Dallas Dhu Distillery required Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Scotland.

The objective of the work was to monitor the line of a new water supply pipeline and the creation of an access track. The work was carried out between June and October 2008 and was conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2008) which was agreed by ACAS on behalf of the planning authority.

The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance. No further works are recommended.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Morrison Construction on ground breaking works associated with the laying of a new water supply pipeline and the creation of an access road close to/within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of Dallas Dhu Distillery. The scope of the works was primarily determined by the Aberdeenshire Council as advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), although the potential impact on the SAM at Dallas Dhu Distillery required Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Scotland.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The watching brief area lies to the south-east of Forres and north-west of Rafford, Moray (Figure 1). The area of the water supply pipeline monitored ran along the south of Wright's Hill (centred on NGR: NJ 051 575); the access road ran between the existing Manachie Road at NGR: NJ 036 560 and the farm at Sanquhar Mains at NGR: NJ 042 566. The areas were mainly arable and pastoral farmland.

1.2 Development Background

- 1.2.1 The project began in 2001 with Moray Council and Royal Haskoning (Formerly Posford Haskoning) establishing the Moray Flood Alleviation Scheme. This group was set up to alleviate flooding in the communities of Moray, using the Council's statutory powers to undertake Flood Prevention Order works in accordance with the Flood Prevention Order (Scotland) Act 1961 and the Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997. Since then Morrison Construction has also joined the partnership in the role of main contractor.

1.3 Curatorial control

- 1.3.1 This programme of works was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of the Council, as advised by ACAS. The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2008) outlined the entirety of the archaeological programme of work which may have been needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. It detailed principally the methodology to be employed in implementing the Phase 1a and 1b watching brief works.

1.4 Archaeological Background

- 1.4.1 The requirement for a watching brief was specified by ACAS on the basis of information garnered by earlier phases of work. In 2004 Headland Archaeology prepared a 'Cultural Heritage Assessment' for the entire Forres Flood Alleviation Scheme (Headland, 2004), which proposed areas requiring evaluation works. In October 2006 Headland Archaeology then completed evaluation works at a number of locations identified by the Cultural Heritage Assessment document. No archaeology of note was uncovered by the works (DES, 2007).

1.4.2 The Phase 1a watching brief was required to watch the cutting of a new service trench through greenfield areas close to the archaeological sites of 'Wright's Hill', NMRS NJ05NE 39 & 40. These sites consist of buildings and enclosures marked on the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps, but now no longer visible at ground level.

1.4.3 The Phase 1b watching brief was required to cover the construction of an access track at Sanquhar Mains. This had the potential to impact upon two sites. Firstly, it involved ground disturbance close to 'Burdyards' (now known as Sanquhar Mains Farm) NMRS NJ05NE 124, which is shown on the 1st edition OS map as a farmstead with mill pond and lade. Secondly the access track impinged upon the SAM of Dallas Dhu Distillery, NMRS NJ05NE 77. No works were undertaken in the SAM area until Final Scheduled Monument Consent has been obtained.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to monitor the line of a new water supply pipeline and the creation of an access track and thus prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that that will suffer an adverse impact from site investigation works (ie preservation *in situ* was impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with ACAS and/or Historic Scotland.

3 METHOD

3.1 All excavations were undertaken by an excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket operating under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was conducted between June and October 2008. The weather conditions during the evaluation were variable ranging from showers to dry and sunny; overall archaeological visibility was good.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 2 reproduces the *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* entry.

4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 Phase 1a (Figure 2) of the watching brief (the water supply pipeline) consisted of an area of ground approximately 280 m in length and between 8-10 m wide. The area was stripped of approximately 0.30 m of mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil containing frequent small rounded pebbles onto the underlying natural gravel and sand subsoil. Rubble field drains and service lines (feeder pipes to the distillery) were observed, but no archaeologically significant features or artefacts were identified.
- 4.2.2 Phase 1b (Figure 2) of the watching brief (the access road) consisted of an access road running between Manachie Road at the south-west and Sanquhar Mains Farm at the north-east, plus a smaller length of temporary access track around an area inhabited by badgers, and an area next to Manachie Road for a site compound. The area of the access road, approximately 6 m wide for its entire length, was stripped of between 0.30 m and 0.60 m of soft mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil containing small rounded stones and very occasional fragments of modern blue and white glazed pottery, onto the underlying natural subsoil of coarse sand and occasional gravel. Occasional rubble field drains were observed running across the watching brief areas but no other archaeologically significant features or artefacts were identified despite very briefly crossing the Scheduled Area of the Distillery.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief. The presence of modern blue and white glazed pottery in the topsoil across the watching brief areas suggests normal agricultural manuring practices rather than any significant archaeology within the development area.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The watching brief provided a comprehensive safeguard against the destruction of hitherto unknown archaeological deposits and of archaeological material associated with the known sites lying close to the development area. Neither significant archaeological deposits, features nor artefactual material were encountered during this watching brief.

7 REFERENCES

DES 2007 *Forres (Burn of Moffat) Flood Alleviation Scheme 2007* 111

Dunbar, L 2008 *Forres Flood prevention Scheme, Moray Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Headland 2004 *Forres (Burn of Moffat) Flood Alleviation Scheme, Moray Cultural heritage Assessment* Unpublished client report

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

SOEnd 1994a *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 5. Archaeology and Planning*. January 1994. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

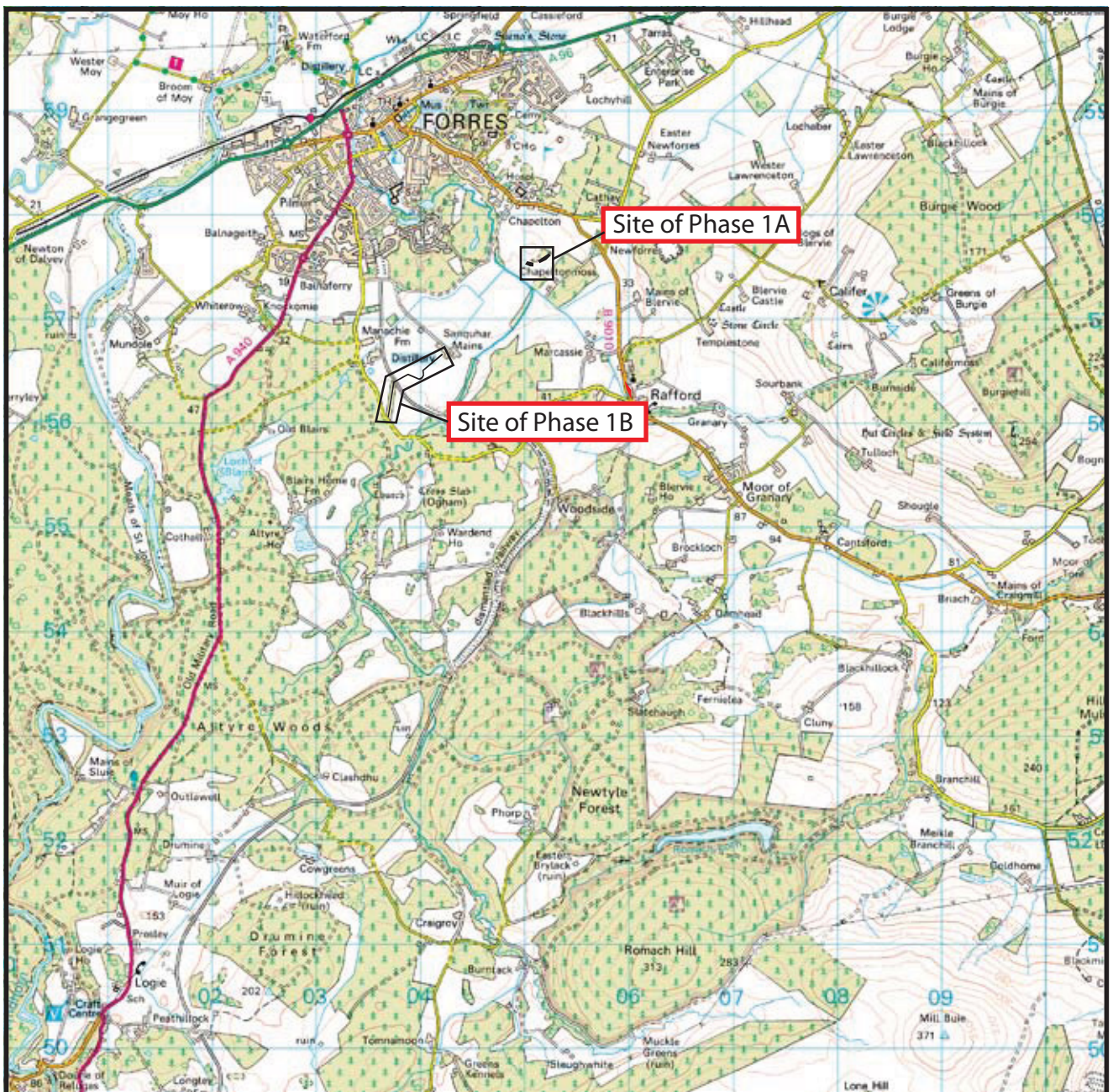
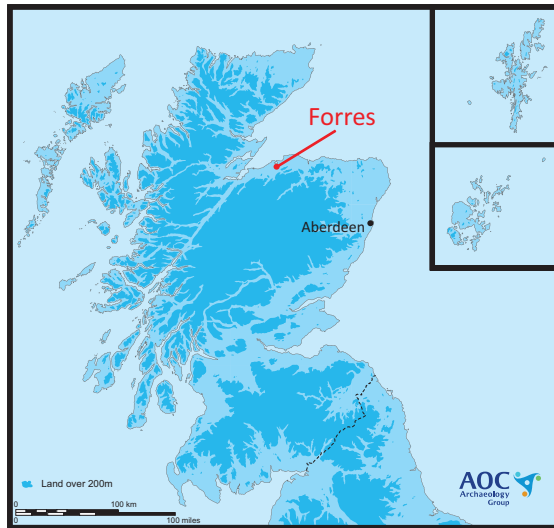
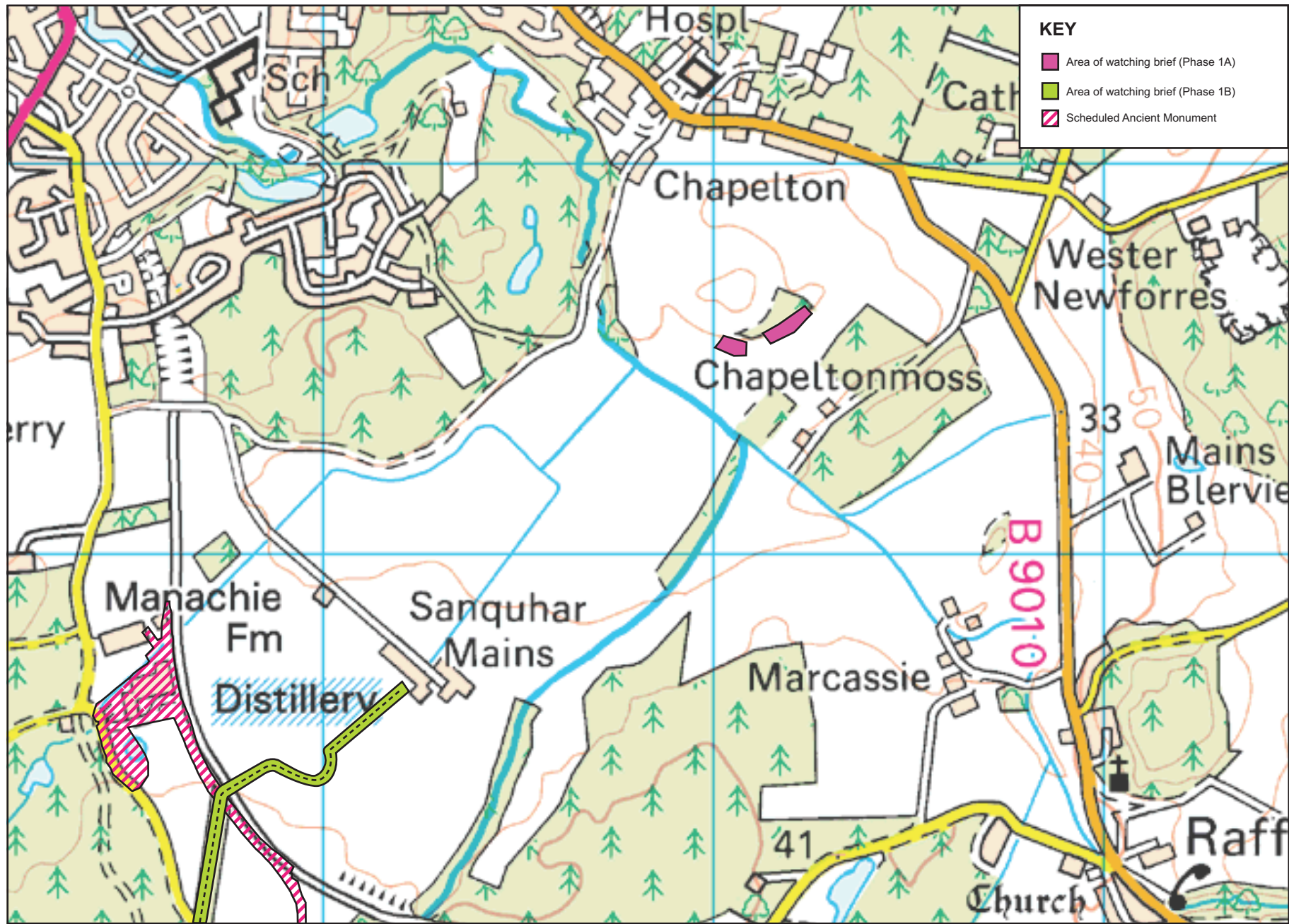


Figure 1: Site location



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 scale map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Officer. Crown copyright. AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH 20 9SY. OS Licence no. AL 100016114

Figure 2: Watching brief locations

Forres Flood Prevention Scheme, Moray Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black & White Print and Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Area stripped for water supply pipeline	E
3	Registration shot	
4-5	Area stripped for water supply pipeline	W
6-7	Area stripped for water supply pipeline	W
8-9	Field drain within watching brief area	E
10-11	Area pre-excavation	W
12-13	Area pre-excavation	E
14-15	Area stripped of topsoil	W
16-17	Area stripped of topsoil and end of pipeline corridor	W
18-19	Site corridor post-excavation and hill in background	NE

Black & White Print and Colour Slide Film 2

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	
3-4	Area stripped for site compound	S
5-6	Area of access road stripped 11/08/08	S
7-8	Area of access road stripped 12/08/08	SSE
9-10	Area of access road stripped 13/08/08	NNW
11-12	Area stripped next to road and compound	SE
13-14	Area stripped next to road and compound	NW
15-16	Trench excavated for water pipe for trough	W
17-18	South facing section of water pipe trench	S

Black & White Print and Colour Slide Film 3

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	
3-4	General shot of area stripped	SE
5-6	General shot of area stripped	E
7-8	General shot of area stripped	NW

Digital 1

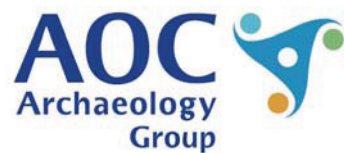
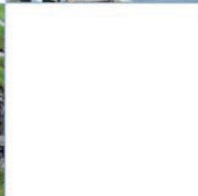
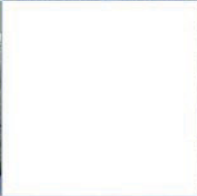
Frame	Description	From
1-2	Area stripped for water supply pipeline	E
3	Registration shot	
4-5	Area stripped for water supply pipeline	W
6-7	Area stripped for water supply pipeline	W
8-9	Field drain within watching brief area	E
10-11	Area pre-excavation	W
12-13	Area pre-excavation	E
14-15	Area stripped of topsoil	W
16-17	Area stripped of topsoil and end of pipeline corridor	W
18-19	Site corridor post-excavation and hill in background	NE
20	Hill next to pipeline corridor	S

Digital 2

Frame	Description	From
1	Area of access road pre-excavation	
2-3	Area of access road stripped	SE
4-5	Working shot	SW
6-7	General shot	S
8	General shot	N
9-10	Area of access road stripped	SW
11	General shot	NE
12-13	Area of access road stripped	SW
14	Area around badger set	NW
15	Area of access road stripped	NW
16-17	Working shot	W
18	Temporary access track	SE
19	Temporary access track	W
20	Area of access road stripped	W
21	General shot	
22	Field drain within area stripped	
23	General shot	
24-30	Areas of access road stripped	

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Forres Flood Prevention Scheme Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21000
PARISH:	Forres
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar & Victoria Clements
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NJ05NW77.01-05
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Dallas Dhu Whisky Distillery (SAM 90340)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NJ 051 575, NJ 036 560 – 042 566
START DATE (this season)	June 2008
END DATE (this season)	October 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during construction works associated with the Forres Flood Prevention Scheme. The work consisted of monitoring ground breaking works associated with a new water supply pipeline and a new access road. Although the access road impinged very slightly on the Scheduled Area of the Dallas Dhu Distillery (SAM 90340), no features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Morrisons Construction
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