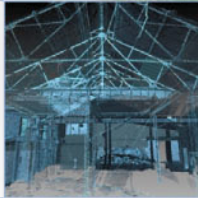
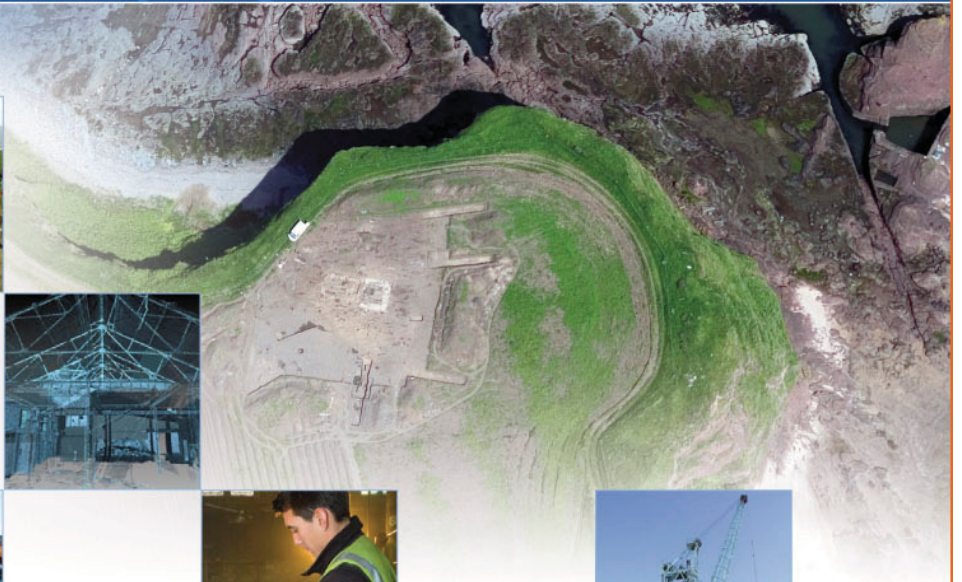
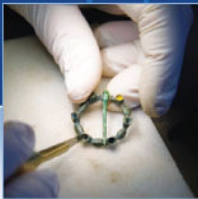


# Greyhope Road, Aberdeen Evaluation Data Structure Report

21068  
July 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Greyhope Road, Aberdeen Evaluation

## Data Structure Report

<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Turner and Townsend Construction and Management 33 Bothwell Street G2 6NL</b>
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NJ 9563 0537</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>21068</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Martin Cook</b>
<b>Illustration by:</b>	<b>Graeme Carruthers</b>
<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>July 2008</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>July 2008</b>

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

**Author:** Martin Cook

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008

**Approved by:** Lindsay Dunbar

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008

**Report Stage:** DRAFT

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008

**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](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)



## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
List of illustrations .....	1
List of appendices.....	1
Abstract.....	2
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Background .....	3
1.2 Location.....	3
1.3 Archaeological background (Aberdeen Council Specification 2008) .....	3
<b>2 OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4 RESULTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5 CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: Context Register .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: Photographic Record .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4: Sample Register.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5: <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> Report.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## List of illustrations

Figure 1      Location of evaluation trenches

## List of appendices

Appendix 1      Trench Descriptions  
Appendix 2      Context Register  
Appendix 3      Photographic Record  
Appendix 4      Drawing Register  
Appendix 5      *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* report

## Abstract

---

This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of the former Torry Research Centre, Greyhope Road, Aberdeen.

The objective of the work was to evaluate the archaeological potential of this re-development area. The work was carried out during July 2008 and consisted of six trenches totalling 148 m<sup>2</sup>.

Despite portions of the site being formerly occupied by parts of the village of Old Torry, a shipyard and an ironworks, no significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Turner & Townsend in meeting the terms of planning condition on planning consent (A7/2236), set by Aberdeen City Council for a development on an area of ground formerly occupied by the Torry Research Centre, Greyhope Road, Aberdeen (NGR: NJ 9563 0537; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The development area lies within the administrative area of Aberdeen City Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Ms Judith Stones, the Keeper of Archaeology. The work required was in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), NPPG 18 (SODD 1999) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008) highlighted the main issues raised in the archaeological brief set by Ms Stones. The site overlies the area formerly occupied by the former village of Lower Torry; a settlement with medieval origins. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the site was occupied by John Duthie's Shipbuilding Yards.
- 1.1.4 The proposed development was formerly occupied by the Torry Research Centre, which comprised a series of buildings with deep basements and associated infrastructure.

## 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR: NJ 9562 0537 and is bounded by Greyhope Road and Sinclair Road on the north, by Abbey Road to the south and on the west by Baxter Street (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The application area is irregular in plan and is divided into two main land parcels.

## 1.3 Archaeological background (Aberdeen Council Specifications 2008)

- 1.3.1 Although there are a number of historic features in the general area, the main issue associated with the development area rested in the fact that its western portion possibly lay within the area occupied by the medieval village of Lower Torry; one of the two hamlets from which modern Torry developed. The development site also covers the area formerly occupied by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century shipbuilding yard of John Duthie (Torry) Shipbuilding Ltd.
- 1.3.2 The settlements of Lower Torry and Upper Torry can be seen on Parson James Gordon's map of 1661. These formed part of a series of land-holdings stretching south as far as Cove which belonged to the Abbey of Arbroath from the 12<sup>th</sup> century until the Reformation of 1560. Lower Torry seems to have been the larger of the two settlements. In 1495 the Abbot received a charter from James IV erecting Torry into a Burgh of Barony, a means of assisting the development of services for travellers coming to Aberdeen from the south. The hamlets were composed of a number of different crofts. By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Lower Torry had begun to grow into what came to be known in more recent times as Old Torry. A moderate-sized settlement, named Torry Village, with a pier, can be discerned on Milne's map of 1789. Its location is indicated on the attached map, but that is very approximate, given the problems of

reconciling 18<sup>th</sup>-century and later maps evidence. The very approximate position of medieval Lower Torry, derived from Parson Gordon's map, is also shown on the attached plan.

- 1.3.3. The fishing community of Old Torry was reduced in size in 1871 when the course of the River Dee was diverted and much of the remainder of it was lost in the 1970s, as a result of oil-related harbour developments. However, some streets, such as Abbey Road survive, at least in part. None of the standing buildings is earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.
- 1.3.4. Cartographic sources show an ironworks occupying part of the development area from 1871 onwards.
- 1.3.5. Evidence from Ordnance Survey maps tends to suggest that the more easterly portion of the present site remained open ground for longer than the western end, although it should be borne in mind that the precise extent of medieval Lower Torry can only be conjectured from earlier, less accurately drawn maps. One small structure appears in the eastern part of the site on the 1901-3 Ordnance Survey map and it is not until the map of 1925-6 that the more easterly area is built up to a greater degree by the John Duthie's shipbuilding yard. That business operated from 1904 until 1925. John Duthie had been a partner at the Footdee yard, situated on the other side of the River Dee, but in 1904 set up in partnership with his brother-in-law, Walter G Jameson, and John Fiddes who had worked for the Footdee firm. The drifter *Choice*, launched by Lord Provost Walker on 31 March 1904, was the first vessel built by the company. During its career, the yard's output consisted almost entirely of fishing vessels, many for North East owners. The yard did not build engines and these were often supplied by local companies, such as J Abernethy and Clyne Mitchell. Relatively little is known about the structures which occupied the site at that date.
- 1.3.6. An aerial view of 1946 shows that same part of the site to be open ground once again. Latterly the Torry Research Station occupied the entire site until its closure in 1996. Most of its buildings have now been demolished. An underground bunker, of unknown purpose, survives below the car park on the southern side of the current SEPA building.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
  - i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
  - ii) 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 Six machine dug trenches were excavated across the site, focussing on the area formerly occupied by Old Torry and John Duthie's Shipyard. The trenches were positioned so as to evaluate the footprints of the new buildings while avoiding the areas of recently demolished buildings, particularly those with cellars/underground bunkers. The eastern fragment of the site was not evaluated due to the lack of archaeological potential within the area.



- 3.2 The trial trenching aimed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality, significance and date of any archaeological features present. The six trenches were of varying lengths and alignments (Figure 1). The fieldwork was undertaken with a field team of two archaeologists. Weather conditions during the evaluation were dry and fine with good archaeological visibility.
- 3.3 Stripping of the overburden was by means of a tracked 360<sup>0</sup> excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket approximately 2.00 m wide. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.4 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. Stratigraphy was recorded in all trenches even where no deposits of archaeological significance were discovered. The trenches were backfilled on completion of excavation.
- 3.5 Due to potential Health and Safety issues, the deeper trenches were backfilled, once they had been recorded, immediately after they were excavated. This was agreed with Ms Judith Stones prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Six trenches totalling approximately 148 m<sup>2</sup> were excavated (Figure 1).
- 4.2 The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1 - 5 and Figures 1, 3 and 4.
- 4.3 Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated across the north-eastern part of the proposed development site and both comprised between 0.50 - 1.00 m of made ground directly overlying the natural subsoil of sands and clays (Figure 1). The made ground comprised the crushed building debris (red brick, pipe and stone) created during the demolition works of the Torry Research Station.
- 4.4 Trenches 3-4 were excavated across the southern fragment of the proposed development site and comprised between 1.00 - 2.00 m of made ground overlying the natural subsoil of sand. A series of modern service cuts, a concrete surface and a fragment of a red brick wall identified within the trench were all thought to be 20<sup>th</sup> century. A deposit of buried black silt identified in the northern part of the trench contained a few sherds of Victorian pottery and glass and was found to be truncated by the modern services.
- 4.5 Trench 5 was excavated across part of the south-eastern fragment of the proposed development and comprised up to 1.50 m of made ground overlying the natural subsoil sands. The area was heavily truncated by modern services making any sort of interpretation difficult. Here, as with Trenches 1, 2 and 3-4, no evidence was identified for the iron works which are known to have occupied the area from around 1871.
- 4.6 Trench 6 was excavated across part of the western fragment of the proposed development and comprised up to 2.20 m of made ground overlying the natural sands. A 1.60 m deep deposit of black silt was identified within the trench and probably represents the same material recorded in Trench 3-



4. The whole area was heavily truncated by services, including a large red brick built man hole identified at the western end of the trench. No evidence was identified for either the iron works or John Duthie's Shipyard.

4.7 Neither significant archaeological features nor finds were encountered on this site.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

5.1 The archaeological evaluation completed at Greyhope Road, Aberdeen identified evidence for the 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation of the site, as well as residual material which relates to the Victorian period.

5.2 No structural evidence was identified for the village of Old Torry, John Duthie's Shipyard or the 19<sup>th</sup> century ironworks. The complete absence of any foundations may reflect the limitations of percentage evaluations, but is more likely to be as a result of the subsequent truncation of the site by successive developments.

5.3 No further archaeological works are recommended within area evaluated. This recommendation will require the confirmation of Ms Stones who ultimately will be the judge of its validity.

## **6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

AOC 2008 *Greyhope Road, Aderdeen: Written Scheme of Investigation*. AOC unpublished client document.

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5: 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.

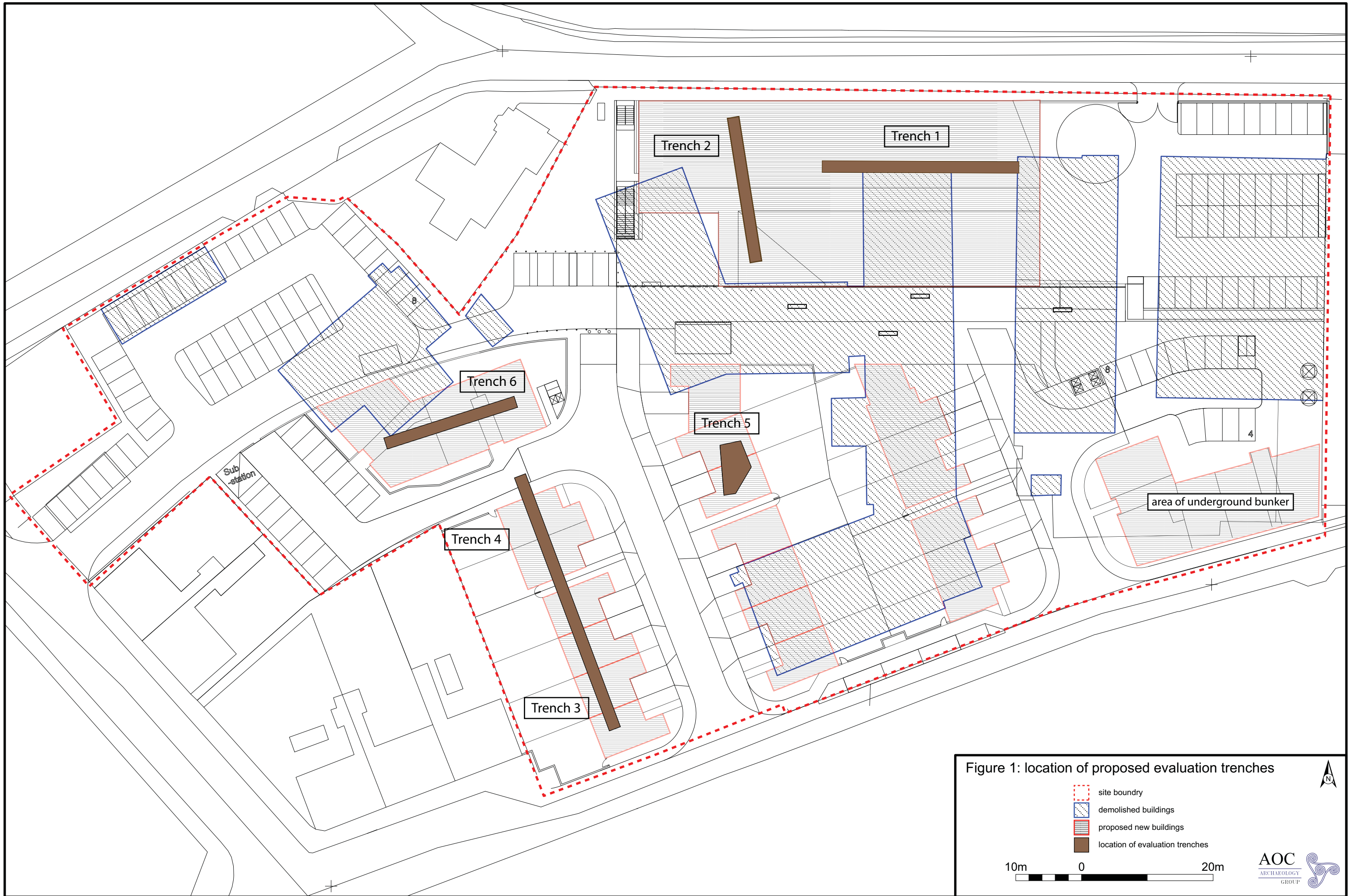






Figure 1: location of proposed evaluation trenches

-  site boundary
-  demolished buildings
-  proposed new buildings
-  location of evaluation trenches

10m 0 20m

---

**Greyhope Road, Aberdeen Evaluation:  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1

### Trench Descriptions

#### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	22 m by 2.00 m
<i>Orientation</i>	East to west
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.00 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	Recently crushed buildings debris
<i>Finds</i>	None

#### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	22 m by 2.00 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	Recently crushed building debris
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through out all deposits.

#### Trench 3-4

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2.00 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	None, tarmac covered the area
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.00 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	Approximately 0.65 m of tarmac and made ground overlay a series of modern features including a concrete floor, service cuts, a red brick wall and buried soil [103] containing Victorian pottery and glass.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through out all deposits.

#### Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	5.00 m by 5.00 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	None, tarmac covered the area
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	The area of excavation was heavily truncated by a series of modern services
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through out all deposits.

#### Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2.00 m
<i>Orientation</i>	East to west
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	None, tarmac covered the area
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.20 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	The area of excavation was heavily truncated by as series of modern services including a red brick built manhole.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through out all deposits.

## APPENDIX 2

### Context Register

Context	Description
101	Tarmac identified across Trench 3- 4.
102	Made ground identified in Trench 3-4, comprising up to 1.80 m of silt, building rubble, modern detritus.
103	Buried soil identified in Trenches 3-4, comprising silty material, with few sherds of Victorian pottery and glass.

## APPENDIX 3

### Photographic Record

Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shots	
3-4	Tr 1	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	E
5-6	Tr 1	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	W
7-8	Tr 2	General working shot through Trench 2	E
9-10	Tr 3	General working shot through Trench 3	N
11-12	Tr 3	General working shot through Trench 3	S
13-14	Tr 3	Detail of concrete feature, Trench 3	W
15-16	Tr 3	East facing section through Trench 3	E
17-18	Tr 3	Detail of red brick service cover, Trench 3	NE
19-20	Tr 4	Detail of red brick service encasement, Trench 4	S
21-22	Tr 4	Detail of red brick service encasement, Trench 4	NE
23-24	Tr 5	General working shot of Trench 5	E

## APPENDIX 4

### Sample Register

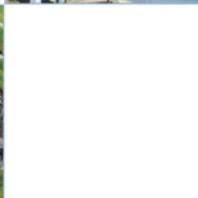
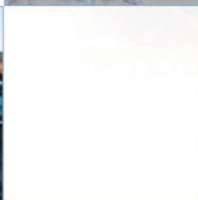
Context	Description	Tubs
1	Buried soil identified in Trench 1	1

## APPENDIX 5

### Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeen City Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Greyhope Road, Aberdeen Evaluation
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21068
<b>PARISH:</b>	Aberdeen
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Martin Cook
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	NJ90NE51
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Scientific Research Centre
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NJ 9562 0537
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential and office development. Five trenches (covering an area of 148 m <sup>2</sup> ) were excavated through up to 2 m of made ground. Portions of the site were formerly occupied by parts of the village of Old Torry, a shipyard and ironworks. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	--
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Turner & Townsend
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@ocscot.co.uk">admin@ocscot.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	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: [admin@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)