

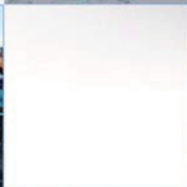
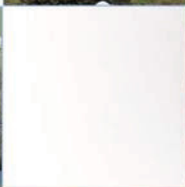
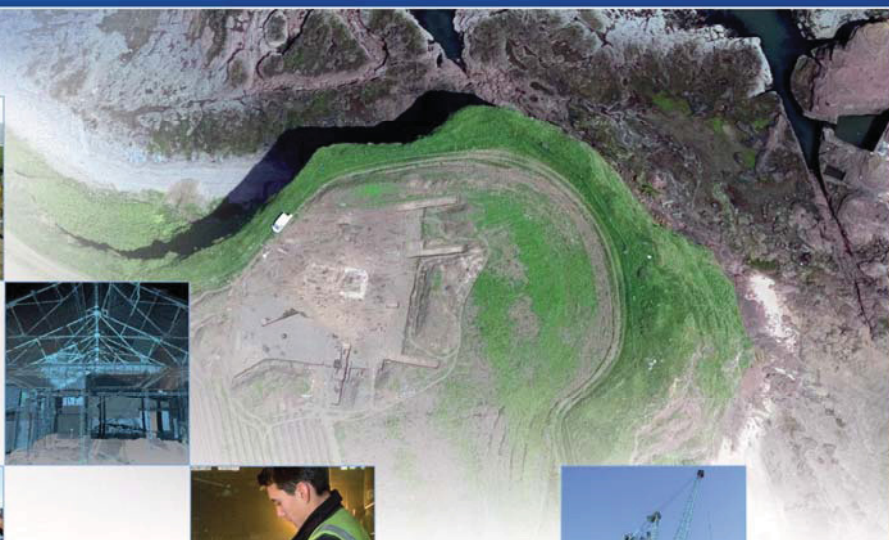
Carseburn, Forfar

Watching Brief:

Data Structure Report

AOC 21561

25th February 2010



Carseburn, Forfar: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Scotia Gas Networks,
Perrie Street,
Dundee
DD2 2RD

National Grid Reference (NGR): NO 4583 5108

AOC Project No: 21561

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Date of Fieldwork: 15th February 2010

Date of Report: 25th February 2010

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

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the insertion of a new gas governor by Scotia Gas Networks on a small parcel of land immediately south of Carseburn Road, Forfar.

The watching brief demonstrated that the development area had undergone severe recent disturbance and dumping of modern debris. The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Scotia Gas Networks during ground-breaking works associated with the construction of a new District Gas Governor on land at Carseburn Road, Forfar. The development area lies within the administrative jurisdiction of Angus Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). These archaeological works were required with regard to consent granted on a planning application and are in accordance with planning policies in respect to archaeology as set out in SPP (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994). The Watching Brief did not encounter any features or artefacts or archaeological significance.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The development site is situated to the south of Carseburn Road (NGR: NO 4583 5108), (Figure 1). The site was enclosed on three sides by a stone wall, with the stone wall acting as a retaining wall along the southern and south-western boundary to the site.

1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.3.1 This programme of works was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of the Angus Council, as advised by ACAS. The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2009) 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 Watching Brief.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 Two logboats have been unearthed in the general area. In 1952 it was noted that a 'dugout' (SMR: NO45SE0134) had been found in Forfar ninety years before 'near where Castle Motors Garage (in Castle Street) now stands'. It lay in Forfar cemetery until it disintegrated. The area is situated at an altitude of about 57m OD and had probably been occupied by a continuation of the Loch of Forfar to the east of the ridge upon which stood the core of the early burgh. On 11 November 1952 a logboat (SMR: NO45SE0022) was found at East Green or Greens. The discovery was made in a depression in clayland at an altitude of about 65m OD, and probably during drainage or construction operations. The timber was identified as 'oak' and the boat was 'filled with stones'. It was taken initially to Dundee Art Gallery and Museum and, in 1986, was transferred to Angus District Museums. After conservation it was taken to Forfar Library and Museum where it is in course of display preparation. As preserved, the remains comprise three large pieces (which have been divided by splitting along the length of

the boat) and numerous smaller fragments, some of which are little more than splinters. The boat has a radiocarbon date of 1090±50 AD.

- 1.3.2 Forfar Castle is said to have stood at NGR: NO 456 508. Forfar was possibly chartered in 1057 by Malcolm III. Chambers writing in the 1820s alleges that Forfar Castle was a residence of Malcom Canmore - where the King 'held the parliaments'. It was allegedly already a ruin, 'old and redundant', during the reign of William the Lion. By 1295 a second castle had been built on a new site; later slighted by Robert I in 1308 (Smith 1999, 358).
- 1.3.3 Witch hunting (and execution) in Forfar was prevalent in the mid 1660s. In the immediate area of the development, 'Witches Howe' (NMRS NO45SE127) was a small hollow where the execution stake was erected. Records indicate that nine Forfar women were burned in the period from 1650 to 1662 (www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz/towns/townhistory).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
 - i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed new gas governor;
 - ii) to liaise with ACAS 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 METHOD

- 3.1 All excavations were undertaken by a mini-excavator utilising a small bladed bucket operating under the constant monitoring of an experienced field archaeologist. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil until the required depth was reached.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The Watching Brief was carried out in fair and clear weather conditions on 15th February 2010. The weather conditions and nature of works undertaken meant that

had any significant archaeology been present the working practises utilised would have rendered any remains visible.

- 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 It was quickly apparent that the area had suffered from modern disturbance possibly associated with recent redevelopment works on the adjacent site, a little further north along Carseburn Road. The site consisted of rough, uneven ground that bore witness to recent disturbance with no vegetative cover present and the upper surface obviously recently witness to heavy machinery.



Plate 1: General view of watching brief area showing disturbed upper layers with plastic sheeting and modern debris over orange gravelly subsoil.

- 4.2.2 It was not possible to strip the entire area but sufficient trenching was opened to demonstrate the extent of the modern disturbance. The topsoil was almost nonexistent

with a mixed deposit consisting of wood, plastic sheeting and various other forms of modern debris including the remains of a lawnmower present.



Plate 2: General view of trench demonstration clear disturbance to watching brief area

- 4.2.3 The watching brief unearthed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 The watching brief provided a comprehensive safeguard against the destruction of hitherto unknown archaeological material during ground disturbances undertaken as part of this development.
- 5.1.2 Neither significant archaeological deposits, features nor artefactual material were encountered during this watching brief. No further works are recommended. This recommendation will require ratification by ACAS on behalf of Angus Council.

6 REFERENCES

Dunbar, L 2010 *Carseburn Road, Forfar, Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Planning Policy SPP. Scottish Parliament Feb. 2010

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

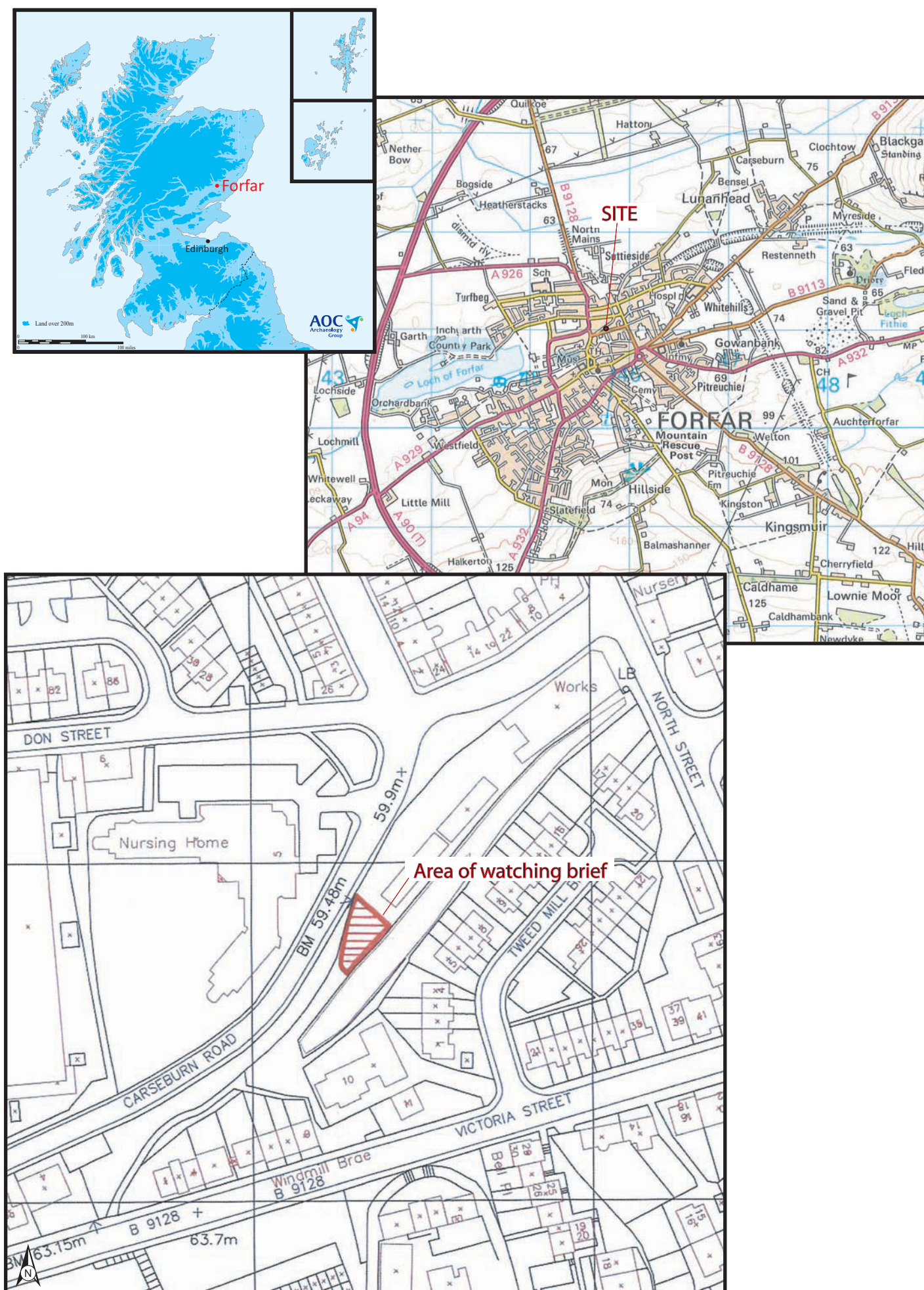


Figure 1: Site location plan showing area of watching brief

Carseburn Road, Forfar Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

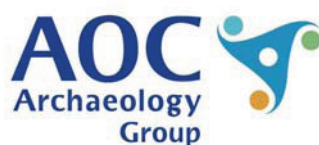
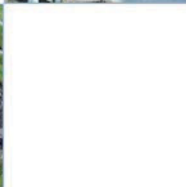
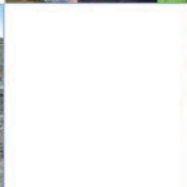
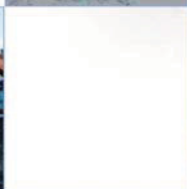
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Film

Frame	Description	From
1	General view of northern section of boundary wall prior to excavations starting	NE
2-3	View of northern section of boundary wall after reduction of brickwork and excavations completed	S
4	View of northern section of boundary wall after reduction of brickwork and excavations completed	NE
5	View of small brick structure and boundary wall after reduction of brickwork and excavations completed	SE
6	View of southern section of boundary wall after reduction of brickwork and excavations completed	NE

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Carseburn Road, Forfar Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	21561
PARISH:	Forfar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 4583 5108
START DATE (this season)	15 th February 2010
END DATE (this season)	15 th February 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the insertion of a new gas governor by Scotia Gas Networks on a small parcel of land immediately south of Carseburn Road, Forfar. The watching brief demonstrated that the development area had undergone severe recent disturbance and dumping of debris. The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scotia Gas Networks
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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