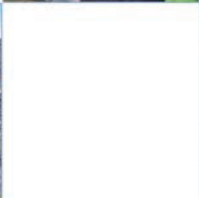
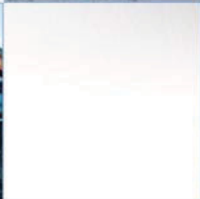
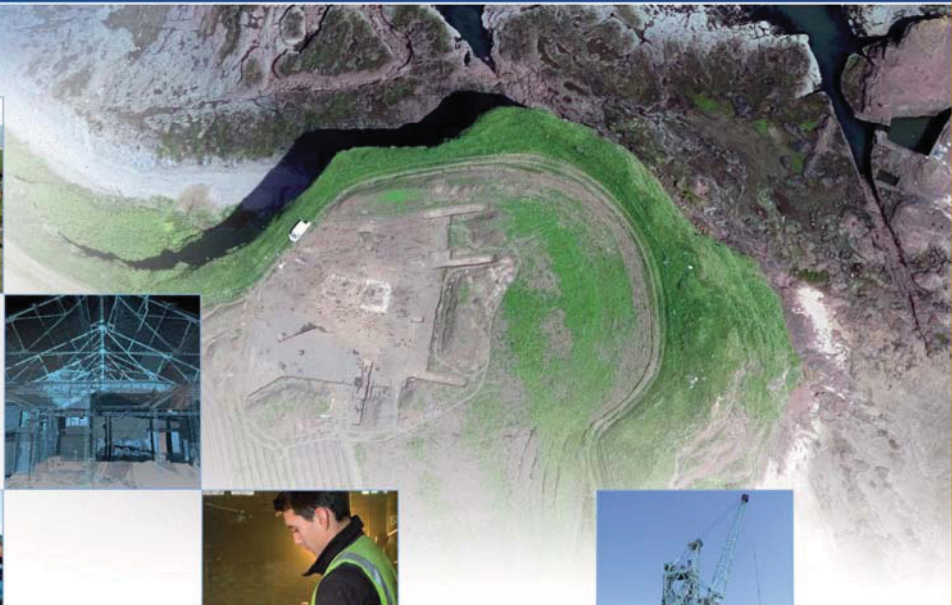


Rothes Flood Prevention Scheme, Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

AOC 21336
30th October 2009



Roths Flood Prevention Scheme Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Morrison Construction
37 Harbour Road,
Longman Industrial Estate,
Inverness
IV1 1UA

National Grid Reference (NGR): NJ 2773 4872

AOC Project No: 21336

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Illustration by: Douglas Park

Date of Fieldwork: September & October 2009

Date of Report: 30th October 2009

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

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Final **Date:** 30th October 2009

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Appendix 2: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Morrison Construction during construction works associated with the Roth's Flood Prevention Scheme. The scope of the works was primarily determined by Moray Council as advised by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), in keeping with the policies outlined in SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994), in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

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 Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme, specifically within the sections of work defined as 'Black Burn' and 'Burn of Rothes'. The scope of the works was primarily determined by the Moray Council as advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The Watching Brief did not encounter any features or artefacts or archaeological significance.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The main area of watching brief was centred on high ground (centred on NGR: NJ 2773 4858), lying to the south-west of Rothes on the western side of the A941. The works were primarily undertaken on arable and pastoral farmland between Black Burn (south of Rothes) and the Rothes Burn (in Rothes) (Figures 1 & 2).

1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.3.1 This programme of works was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of the Moray 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 Whilst there were no known archaeological sites immediately adjacent, there are important sites positioned within a 500 m radius. The closest of these is the possible site of a medieval chapel lying just beyond the limits of Rothes to the south-west. Chapel Hill, (NMRS NJ24NE 5) is reputedly the site of a 13th century chapel connected to Rothes Castle (NMRS NJ24NE 4).
- 1.3.2 In April 2009 AOC Archaeology was requested to attend at excavations at Land Street, Rothes undertaken as part of the Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme. These works lay outwith the areas that required the attendance of a Watching Brief Officer, however in the course of excavations previously completed by Morrison Construction a section of buried wall was unearthed. Discussion between the contractor, Morrison Construction, and Mr. Bruce Mann (ACAS), led to an AOC Field Officer attending site to assess the potential archaeological significance of the wall. On close inspection the presence of brick and building tiles in amongst the wall's roughly dressed granite blocks - bonded with lime mortar - is suggestive of a later 18th century to 19th century date. Positioned along the eastern side of Land Street, it is probable that the wall originally formed part of a

revetment support to an earlier incarnation of the present road or was part of a former field drainage ditch. No other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded and an interim Data Structure Report on these findings was prepared and submitted to ACAS (Dunbar & Engl 2009).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to monitor ground-breaking works 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 would be disturbed by the scheme, with the intention that works would be moved to allow preservation *in situ* where at all possible should the watching brief identify any archaeological material;
- iii) given the discovery of significant archaeological material in quantity that that will suffer an adverse impact from Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme (ie where preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with ACAS.

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 carried out intermittently under a mostly fair and clear weather conditions between in 17th August and 15th October 2009. The weather conditions and use of a ditching bucket 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 The Watching Brief works were all conducted by experienced field archaeologists and conducted according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (Dunbar 2009). The watching brief was focused on topsoil stripping of arable and pastoral farmland land between Black Burn (south of Roth's) and the Roth's Burn (in Roth's). The watching brief unearthed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance and nothing which could be linked to either the Castle or possible chapel site. A single rubble field drain and a modern sheep burial were the only features encountered during the works.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The watching brief provided a comprehensive safeguard against the destruction of hitherto unknown 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. No further works are recommended. This recommendation with require ratification by ACAS on behalf of Moray Council.

6 REFERENCES

Dunbar, L 2009 *Roth's Flood Alleviation Scheme, Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Dunbar, L & Engl, R. 2009 *Roth's Flood Alleviation Scheme, Watching Brief Written Interim Report – Excavations at Land Street, Roth's* Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning. Nov.2008.

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

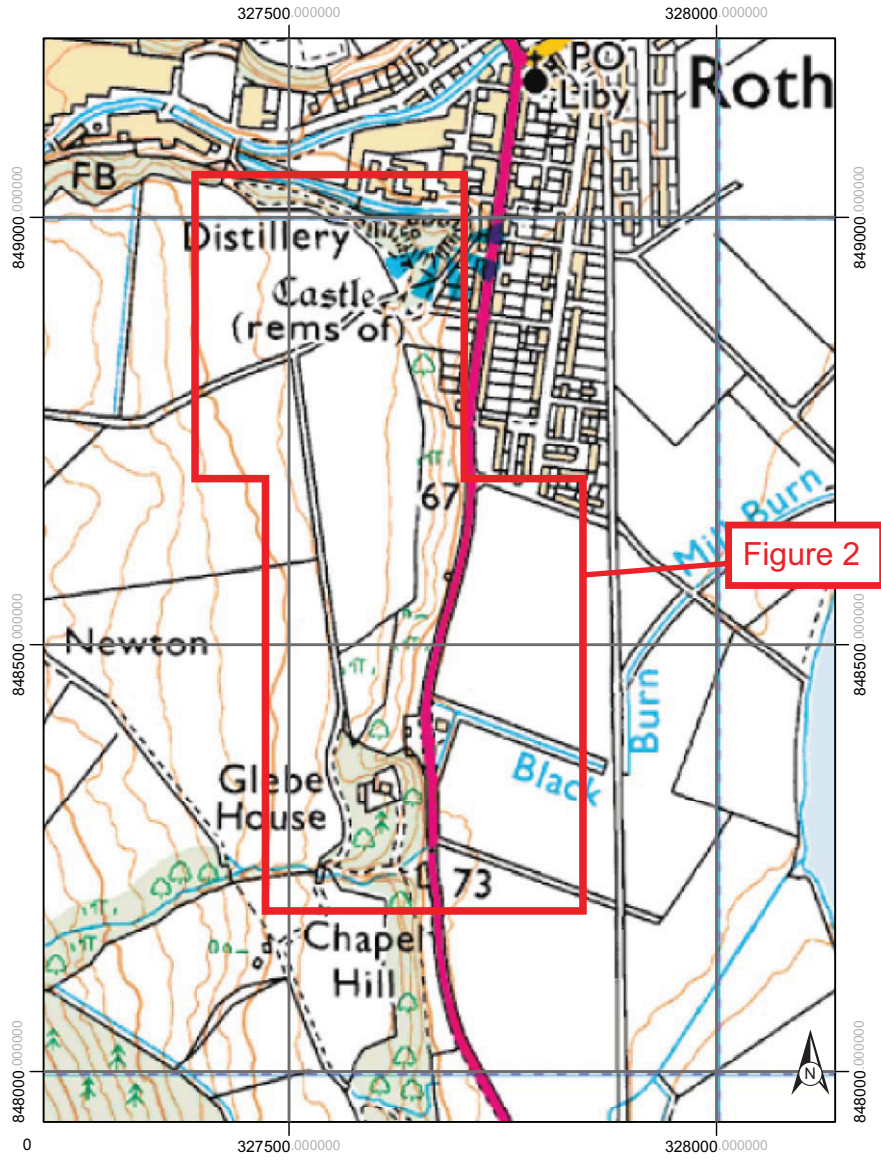
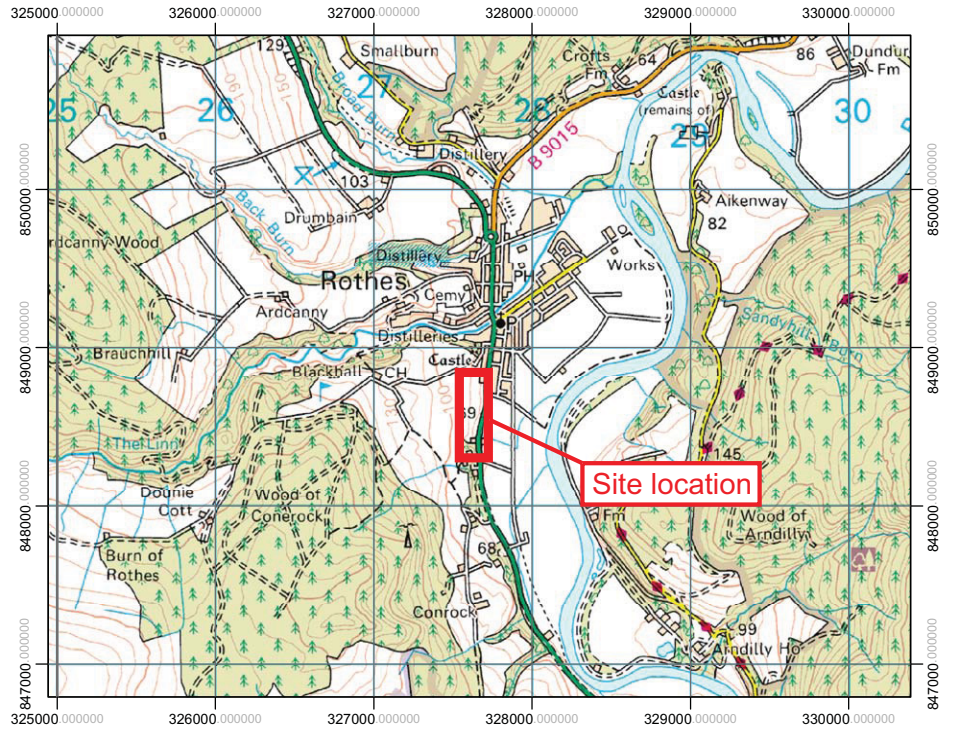
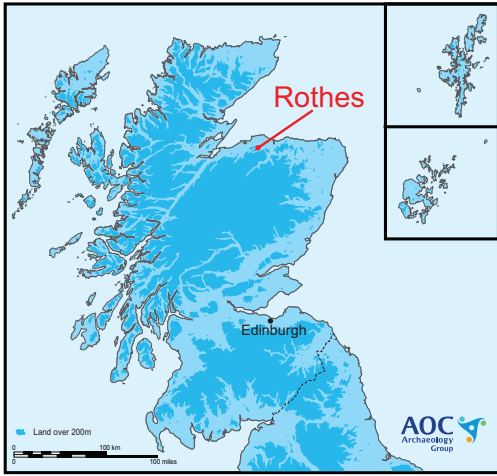


Figure 1: Site location

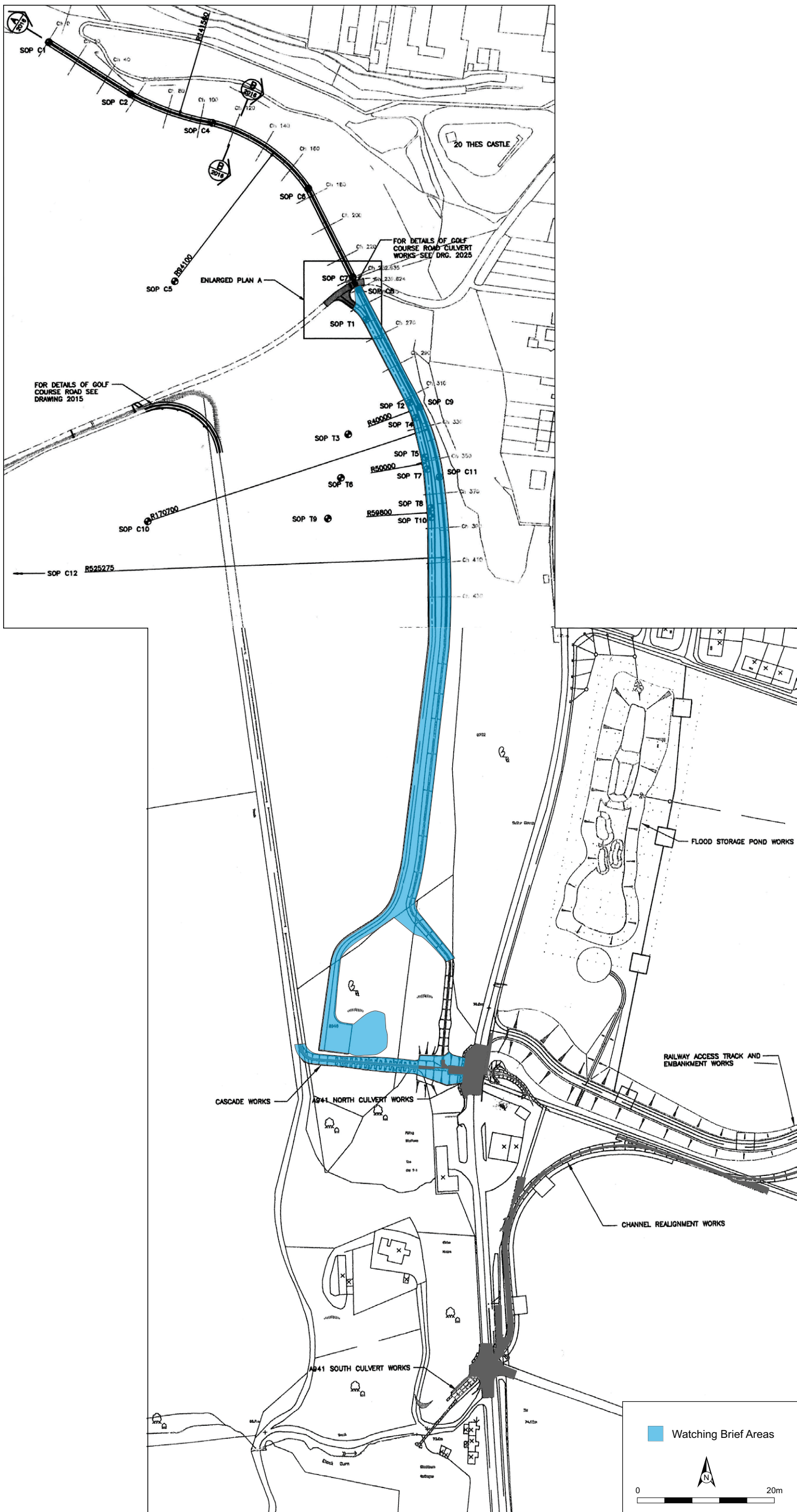


Figure 2: Watching Brief Areas

Roths Flood Alleviation Scheme

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

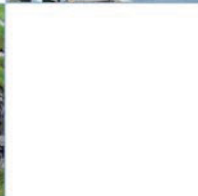
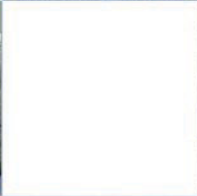
Frame	Description	From
1-2	Area stripped for water supply pipeline	E
3	Registration shot	
4-5	Area stripped for water supply pipeline	W
6-7	Area stripped for water supply pipeline	W
8-9	Field drain within watching brief area	E
10-11	Area pre-excavation	W
12-13	Area pre-excavation	E
14-15	Area stripped 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:	Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	21336
PARISH:	Rothes
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)	NJ 2773 4872
START DATE (this season)	17 th August 2009
END DATE (this season)	15 th October 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief was undertaken during construction works associated with the Rothes Flood Prevention Scheme. The main area of watching brief was centred on high ground (centred on NGR: NJ 2773 4858), lying to the south-west of Rothes on the western side of the A941. The works were primarily undertaken on arable and pastoral farmland between Black Burn (south of Rothes) and the Rothes Burn (in Rothes).</p> <p>The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Morrison Construction
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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