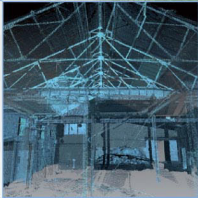
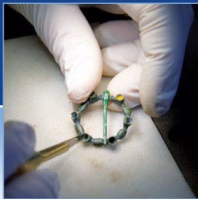


# Whitehill Road, Kinnaird South, Newcraighall Excavation:

## Data Structure Report

February 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Whitehill Road, Kinnaird South, Newcraighall: Excavation Data Structure Report

**On Behalf of:** South Yorkshire Pensions Authority  
18 Regent Street,  
Barnsley,  
South Yorkshire  
S70 2HG

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 3115 7143

**AOC Project No:** AOC 21226

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**Illustration by:** Alan Hunter Blair

**Date of Fieldwork:** January & February 2009

**Date of Report:** February 2009

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

**Author:** Victoria Clement, Rob Engl & John Gooder **Date:** February 2009

**Approved by:** John Gooder **Date:** February 2009

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft **Date:** February 2009

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## Abstract

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This report represents the results of an archaeological excavation commissioned by South Yorkshire Pensions Authority. The land excavated was situated within a land parcel contained within a proposed development area lying south of Newcraighall, close to the large retail development of Kinnaird Park. The excavation area lay wholly within Plot 2, in the south-west corner of the development area.

The excavation revealed the highly truncated remains of a late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century stone-built structure with associated areas of cobbled yard and drainage features. No significant artefactual material was recovered. The building is likely to have been a farm cottage or small agricultural building.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Development Background

1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was required by Thomas and Adamson, on behalf of their client, South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in order to mitigate the impact of a proposed retail development upon a range of features identified by an earlier field evaluation conducted by CFA Archaeology Ltd in August 2008 (Suddaby 2008). The need for, and scope of the archaeological excavation was determined by Edinburgh City Council who are advised on archaeological matters by Mr. John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The work required was in accord with current planning guidelines as set out in SPP23 (2008), SHEP1 (2007) and PAN42 (1994), and was attached as a condition of planning consent (08/00409/OUT).

## 1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area consists of five plots within a single parcel of land lying south of Newcraighall, close to the large retail development of Kinnaird Park (Figure 1; NGR: NT 3115 7143). The development area is situated in the Eastern Industrial Estate, Newcraighall. The site is generally south facing, at around 150 m OD and is bounded by the current alignment of Whitehill Road on the east, south and west, with existing industrial and storage units and wasteland to the north. The entire development area covers approximately 36 ha. The excavation area lies wholly within Plot 2, within the south-west corner of the development area.

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment was produced by CFA (Jones 2008) which identified three sites within the overall development area (Sites 1, 2, 8). Site 1 was a settlement which is shown on an 1828 map by Sharp *et al* which showed three possible roofed buildings annotated 'Niddery S Mains'. One roofed building is depicted in the same area by the Ordnance Survey in 1854. The former alignment of Whitehill Road forms Site 2 and Site 8 was an extensive area of strip cultivation depicted on General Roy's map (1747-55).

1.3.2 An evaluation of the entire development area conducted by CFA in August 2008 revealed very little across the majority of the site but within the southern portion of Plot 2 a series of truncated walls and the apparently *in-situ* but disturbed cobbled surfaces may represent the remains of structures shown on maps from 1828 and 1854 (Site 1 from Jones 2008). These uncovered remains appeared as only very poorly preserved with no internal floors apparent.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological excavation were:

- i) to record through drawn, written and photographic record the archaeological features present;
- ii) to recover artefacts/ecofacts that would characterise the archaeology present;
- iii) if necessary to develop a strategy for the analysis of the materials and information recovered to inform on the archaeological past of the development area.

## 3 METHOD

3.1 An archaeologically controlled topsoil strip of the greater part of Plot 2 (Figure 1) was undertaken. Ground was reduced by a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a wide ditching bucket in shallow units until natural subsoil or the first archaeological horizon was met. The excavation area covered approximately 0.6 ha. All machine excavation was supervised by a field archaeologist.

3.2 All hand excavation was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Appendix 9). All significant archaeological features were cleaned, fully defined and recorded by drawn, written and photographic record.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The excavation was conducted between 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The weather conditions during the excavation were variable ranging from rain showers to dry and cold; overall archaeological visibility was good. The excavation revealed the remains of a stone built building with associated external cobbled yard surfaces.

### 4.2 Building [003]

4.1.2 The principal feature unearthed was a poorly preserved stone-built structure with three extant walls. The long axis of Structure [003] was aligned approximately north to south, with an internal width, east to west of approximately 4.75 m . Each wall was set within a shallow foundation cut [010]. The eastern wall [007] at c.0.9 m wide with a traceable external cut length of 9 m was the best preserved but still only survived to a single course in height. Its construction, undressed stone outer faces with a rubble infill bonded by a lime mortar, was shared by the other walls. The southern wall [008], the most poorly preserved, was cut by a red ceramic field drain. The western wall [009] possessed a 0.70 m wide gap, interpreted as a possible entrance, at some 6 m from the southern end of the building. The northern

wall appears to have been effectively removed by ploughing together with the northern areas of walls [007] & [009]. No interior floor surfaces were present.



PLATE 1: WALL [007], FROM SOUTH-EAST



PLATE 2: COBBLES [011] ALONG WESTERN SIDE OF STRUCTURE [003], FROM SOUTH-EAST





PLATE 3: RECORDING STRUCTURE [003]

### **4.3 Cobbled surface**

4.3.1 The western wall, [009], and southern wall, [008], of Structure [003] were abutted by a cobbled surface comprising contexts [011], [012] and [006]. This area of hard-standing was composed of small to medium-sized sub-rounded cobbles, tightly packed in some areas, [006] and [011] immediately to the west of wall [009] and more diffuse in others, for example to the south of wall [008]. In the less immediate area of building [003] the presence of disperse scatters of cobbles to the west, [021], and south-west, [020], hints at originally a much more extensive area of hard-standing which has subsequently suffered from a higher degree of plough attrition. Modern (probably 20<sup>th</sup> century) white ceramics were recovered from the surface of cobbles [006] and [011].

4.3.2 Feature [017] was a limited area of small, tightly compacted, stones that occupied a slight elongated hollow lying alongside a ploughed-out area of wall [009]. It was thought to represent an initial area of hard-standing, perhaps underlying cobbles [011], or an original path or hardstanding area near entrance which was latterly enlarged upon.

### **4.4 Culverts**

4.4.1 A curvilinear sandstone culvert [005] ran along the eastern wall [007] of Structure [003]. Approximately 20.0 m in length with sandstone cap-stones visible alongside Structure [003]. The culvert was 0.50 m wide and 0.30 m in depth. The culvert was overlain by cobbles [011] and curved to the east upon passing Structure [003] directing water away from the cobbled area to the south of the structure.

- 4.4.2 The fragmentary remains to two ploughed-out stone culvert floors, [018] and [019], lay to the north of Structure [003]. Culvert [019] follows the approximate line of culvert [005] and would thus appear to represent a continuation of this drainage feature.



PLATE 4: CULVERT [005] WITH STRUCTURE [003] IN BACKGROUND

## 5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Cartographic evidence appears to show Structure [003] as deriving from a single rectangular building lying on the western side of the old line of Whitehill Road. Shown on Sharp *et al* (1828) the building as depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1857; surveyed 1851-56) (Extract shown as Plate 5) illustrates the structure lying in the corner of a field between the policies of Niddrie House and Whitehill Farm. With an origin in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, it subsequently disappears from the cartographic record sometime between the OS 1904 and 1924 editions. After this date the building's sub-surface elements have suffered greatly from plough damage, with only fragmentary single wall courses surviving and no internal floor architecture.
- 5.2 The immediate area of the area would have been well drained given the adjacent culverts and localised out-cropping bedrock. The cobbled yard would further serve in keeping dry the immediate area of the structure. This extensive cobbled yard perhaps suggests an agricultural function for the building, the cobbles acting in avoiding the ground being disturbed by animal trample. However, the lack of evidence for floors or internal divisions and no artefactual data makes the interpretation of the function of the building somewhat problematic. While the building's juxtaposition, and thus easy access, next to Whitehill

Road may denote a domestic usage, perhaps as a farm cottage tied to a local farm, the very absence of a discrete artefact assemblage (even disturbed within the local topsoil) again suggest an agricultural function. Ultimately, as with many rural properties, the building's use may have changed over time; for instance with the laying of a yard turning a former cottage into a byre, piggery or store.



PLATE 5: EXTRACT FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY (1857) SHOWING BUILDING MARKED

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 These works are considered an appropriate archive of the archaeology present within this land parcel and no further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require the approval of Mr John Lawson, Head of CECAS.

## 7 REFERENCES

Jones, C 2008 *Kinnaird South, Newcraighall, Edinburgh: Desk-Based Assessment*. Unpubl CFA Archaeology Ltd, Report No. 1498.

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# Whitehill Road, Kinnaird South, Newcraighall: Excavation Data Structure Report

## Section 2: Appendices

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context Number	Type	Description
001	Cut	Large roughly square feature in plan. Sharp sloping edges with flat base. Dimensions 3.0 m by 3.0 m by 0.15 m. Cut by modern rubble drain running E-W. Interpreted as a truncated modern pit, probably 19 <sup>th</sup> Century industrial workings (not illustrated).
002	Fill	Mid grey brown mix of top-soil, ash and re-deposited clay contains numerous sub-angular stones.
003	Structure	Heavily truncated structure consisting of three, 0.9 m wide mortar bonded walls of roughly faced sandstone [007-008-009] set within a shallow 0.15 m deep cut [010]. The northern wall appears to have been effectively removed by ploughing together with the northern areas of walls [007] & [009]. No interior floor surfaces were present. The structure was cut by a modern clay drain running N-S. Two slots were excavated through walls [008] & [009]. Dimensions 11.70 m (N-S) by 6.30 m (E-W).
004	Cut	Rectangular cut feature excavated during evaluation.
005	Cut	Curvilinear sandstone culvert running along the eastern wall [007] of Structure [003]. Approximately 22.0 m in length with sandstone cap-stones visible alongside Structure [003]. Culvert is 0.50 m wide and 0.30 m in depth. The culvert is overlain by cobbles [011]. The culvert is in turn cut by a modern service trench. The culvert curves to the east upon passing Structure [003] directing water away from the cobbled area to the south of the structure.
006	Structure	Cobbled area to the south-east of Structure [003]. Same as [011], cut by modern service trench.
007	Structure	Eastern wall of Structure [003]. Best preserved of the walls yet only a single course in height. Double course in width with a rubble core bonded by lime mortar. Wall 9.0 m in length and 0.90 m in width. Wall truncated to the north.
008	Structure	Southern wall of Structure [003]. 6.30 m in length with a single visible course. Same as [007] in form and make-up.
009	Structure	Western wall of Structure [003]. As [007] & [008] 11.70 m in length heavily truncated in the north. Wall is abutted by the cobbling [011] & [017]. 0.70 m wide gap visible at 6.0 m from south, this is a possible doorway. Slot cut through wall at 6.60 m. This showed a shallow 0.15 m deep cut [010].
010	Cut	Cut for Structure [003]. Cut was 0.15 m in depth and 0.95 m in width.
011	Structure	Cobbled area of hard-standing to the south and west of Structure [003]. Hard-standing composed of small to medium-sized sub-rounded cobbles. Abuts [009] & [008]. Cut to south-east by modern trench cut. Dimensions, context survives visibly 18.0 m east to west and 8.50 m north to south. Context to west of [003] overlies context [017]. Cut by two modern drain cuts running north to south. Dimensions 11.70 m north to south and 6.20 m east to west. Same as [006] & [012].
012	Structure	Same as [011] & [006]. Cobbled area to extreme east of [011] separated from [011] by truncation.
013	Structure	Heavily truncated sandstone boundary wall running east to west north of [003]. Survives only as a single course in height, two courses in width. Bonded by lime mortar. Survives only as stain or faint cut in places. Dimensions 4.0 m by 0.70 m.
014	Deposit	Infill of [011] consists of a mix of ash, top-soil and re-deposited natural 0.15 m in depth. Also makes up infill of [006] & [012].
015	Cut	Modern pit. Oval in shape with sharp steeply sloping sides and uneven flat base. Dimensions 0.80 m x 0.65 m. 0.20 m in depth. Filled by [016] (not illustrated).
016	Fill	Fill of [015]. Medium grey brown clay. Mix of re-deposited natural and topsoil.
017	Deposit	Initial area of hard-standing underlying [011] abutting western wall [009] of structure [003]. Extent unknown but does not appear to extend beyond three metres to the west. Probable original path or hardstanding near entrance. Latterly enlarged upon.
018	Structure	Ploughed-out stone floor of culvert.
019	Structure	Ploughed-out stone floor of culvert.

020	Structure	Loose distribution of small to medium-sized sub-rounded cobbles. Probably disturbed yard surface.
021	Structure	Loose distribution of small to medium-sized sub-rounded cobbles. Probably disturbed yard surface.

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

### Black & White Print and Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shot	
3-6	Post excavation shots Areas A & B	S
7-8	Post excavation shots Area B	S
9-10	Working shot at pit [001]	W
11-12	Working shot at Structure [003]	S
13-14	Strip at NW end of site	N
15-16	Strip at NW end of site	NW
17-18	Pre-excavation shot of Pit [001]	E
19-20	West facing section Pit [001]	W
21-22	Pre-excavation Pit [014]	S
23-24	South facing section Pit [014]	S
25-26	Culvert [005]	S
27	Cobbles [011] to south of Structure [03]	S
28	Structure walls [007]-[008] post-excavation	S
29	Structure walls [007]-[008] post-excavation	E
30	Structure walls [007]-[010] post-excavation	N
31	Structure walls [007]-[010] post-excavation	E
32	Cobbling [011] truncated by modern drains to west of Structure [003]	S
33	Wall [009] showing exterior cobbling	S
34	Cobbling [017] underlying [011]	S
35	Wall [009] showing truncated cut [010]	N
36	South facing section through [007]-[011]	S

### Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1	Working shot at Pit [001]	W
2	Working shot at Structure [003]	S
3	Strip at NW end of site	N
4	Strip at NW end of site	NW
5	Pre-excavation shot of Pit [001]	E
6	Culvert [005] / Modern Trench Cut	W
7	Modern Service Trench Cut	S
8	Cobbles [011] in front of Structure [003]	S
9	West facing section Pit [001]	W
10	West facing section Pit [001]	SW
11	Pre-excavation Pit [014]	S
12	South facing section Pit [014]	S
13	Culvert [005]	S
14	Cleaning of Structure [003]Wall [009]	W
15	Cobbles [011] to south of Structure [03]	S
16	Structure walls [007]-[008] post-excavation	S
17	Structure walls [007]-[008] post-excavation	E



18	Structure walls [007]-[010] post-excavation	N
19	Structure walls [007]-[010] post-excavation	E
20	Culvert [005] / Modern Service Trench Cut	N
21	Cobbling [011] truncated by modern drains to west of Structure [003]	S
22	Wall [009] showing exterior cobbling	S
23	Cobbling [017] underlying [011]	S
24	Wall [009] showing truncated cut [010]	N
25-27	South facing section through [007]-[011]	S

### APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

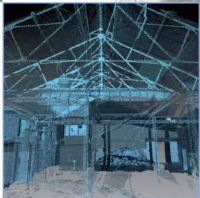
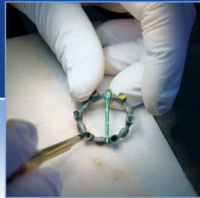
Drawing Number	Feature Number	Description	Scale
1	All	Plan of excavation area	1:50
2	[009-011-017]	South facing section through [009-011-017]	1:10

### APPENDIX 4: Small Finds Register

SF Number	Feature Number	Description
1	[006]	Ceramics (various)
2	[011]	Ceramics (various)

**APPENDIX 5: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT**

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Whitehill Road, Kinnaird South, Newcraighall Excavation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21226
PARISH:	Newton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Victoria Clements, Rob Engl & John Gooder
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Rural building - late 18 <sup>th</sup> or early 19 <sup>th</sup> century stone-built cottage or agricultural building
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR:	NT 3115 7143
START DATE (this season)	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2009
END DATE (this season)	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Suddaby, I 2008 DES entry for same site
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken on a land parcel contained within a proposed development area lying south of Newcraighall, close to the large retail development of Kinnaird Park</p> <p>The excavation revealed the highly truncated remains of a late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century stone-built structure with associated areas of cobbled yard and drainage features. The building is likely to have been a farm cottage or small agricultural building.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	n/a
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	South Yorkshire Pensions Authority
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	c/o AOC Archaeology Group
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