

ADSC/02



## 3-9 DUFF STREET, ABERDEEN

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*commissioned by Tulloch Homes*

P110499

March 2008



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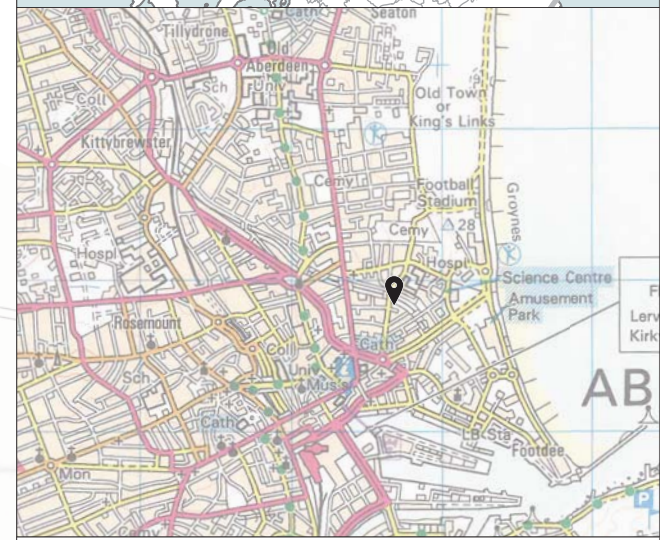
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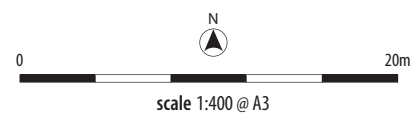


9 Duff St  
Aberdeen  
Aberdeen City



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- application boundary
- trench
- feature



**Illus 1**  
Site location

# 3–9 DUFF STREET, ABERDEEN

## *Archaeological Evaluation*

*Headland Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on behalf of Tulloch Homes at 3–9 Duff Street as part of the planning condition for a re-development of the site. The evaluation comprised three trial trenches totalling 100m in length.*

*The evaluation showed that the eastern part of the site had been disturbed by the construction and demolition of the previous buildings on site. However deepened garden soil developed when the area was used as allotments during the first half of the 19th century was found in Trench 1. This indicates that the western end of the site remained largely untouched by the late 19th century industrial development.*

*One shallow cut was uncovered in the trench to the west, probably linked to the 19th century horticultural activity in the area.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of trial trenching at 3–9 Duff Street, Aberdeen. Tulloch Homes has been granted planning permission (P110499), by Aberdeen City Council, for construction of a new housing development on the site. In order to meet a condition of the planning consent Tulloch Homes commissioned Headland Archaeology to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the site.

The proposed development covers an area of approximately 0.37ha. It is bounded to the north by a railway line leading south to the Regent Quay at the harbour, to the west by Park Street and to the south by Duff Street (**Illus 1**).

The evaluation was undertaken according to Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Headland Archaeology and agreed by the Lead Curator, Local History and Archaeology, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums who advise Aberdeen City Council on Archaeological matters.

The trial trench evaluation was carried out on the 17th September 2013.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Scottish National Monument Record (NMRS) and the regional Sites and Monument Record (SMR) record no known sites within the development boundary. The site does lie adjacent to the line of the old Aberdeenshire canal constructed in 1805 and superseded by the Great North of Scotland railway in 1854. Therefore there is potential that evidence for the canal and associated structures to survive below ground. Particularly along the northern edge of the site where hitherto unknown structures associated with the canal

may exist. Known structures associated with the canal include the Park Street Bridge immediately adjacent to the north-west corner of the site.

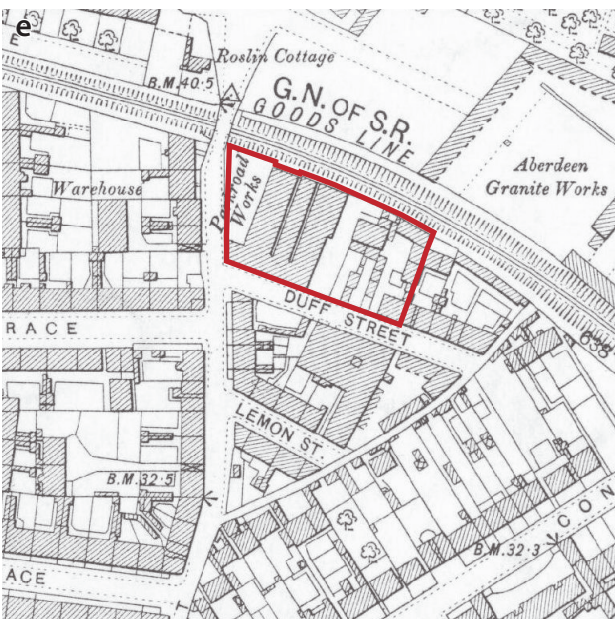
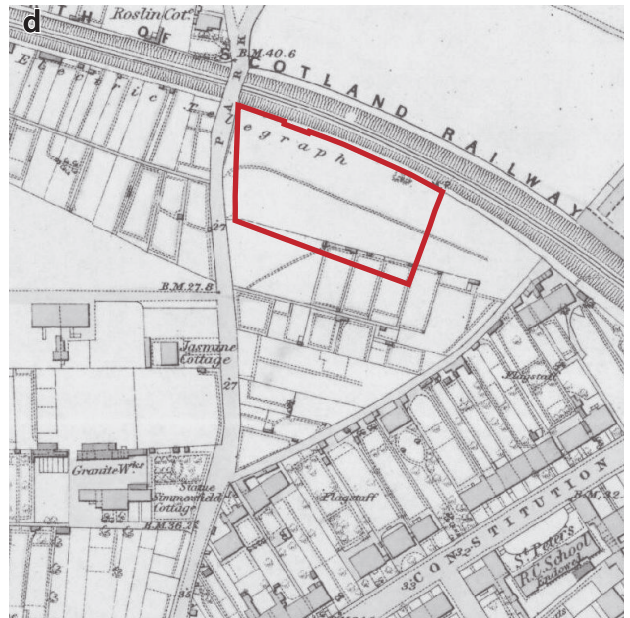
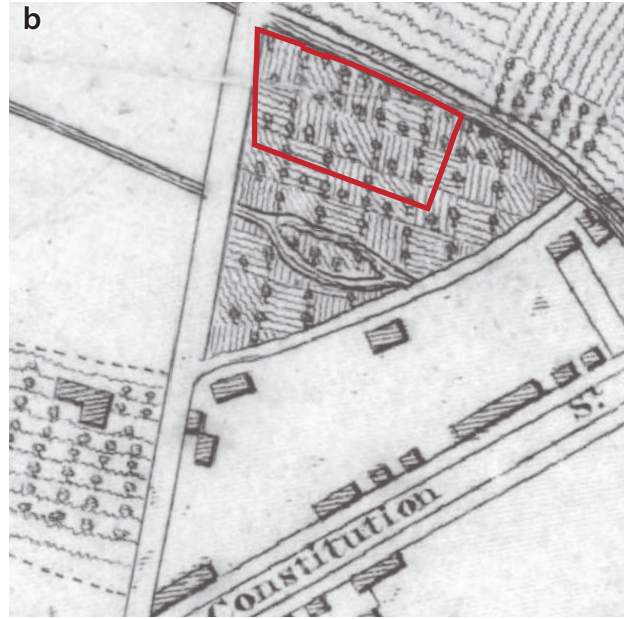
The development of the site is illustrated through a series of historical maps of this area (**Illus 2**). On Milne's map from 1789 (**Illus 2a**) the site lies at the south end of a triangular field bounded by a line of trees and labelled *Mr Duffs Parks*. The Park Road runs up along the west side of the field and the *Fow Creek* cut across the southern end of the field. Constitution Street lies to the south-east of the site. It runs towards the north-east parallel with the eastern boundary of Mr Duffs land.

On Woods's map published in 1828 (**Illus 2b**) the canal is depicted running along the former line of the creek to the north of the site. The outline of Duff's land is still visible with a new road (Lemon Place) running from Park Road up to the canal to the north-east and along the eastern boundary of the field. The triangular southern tip of what was Duff's land to the south of the canal is covered by small square plots, possibly allotments. There is a water feature running east to west cutting a cross the southern tip of the *allotments* forming an oval island within the area. The area between Lemon Place and Constitution Street has been developed and is no longer under cultivation.

On Keith and Gibb's map published in 1862 (**Illus 2c**) the canal has been replaced by a railway line. The map shows two parallel lines cutting across the area probably depicting narrow paths within the *allotment* area. The southern path is roughly in line with the future Duff Street.

The first edition OS map surveyed in 1866 shows the area in great detail (**Illus 2d**). A narrow path along the line of the future Duff Street leads into the area from Park Street to the west with regular





**Illus 2**

Old maps of the area

**a** 1789 – Milne

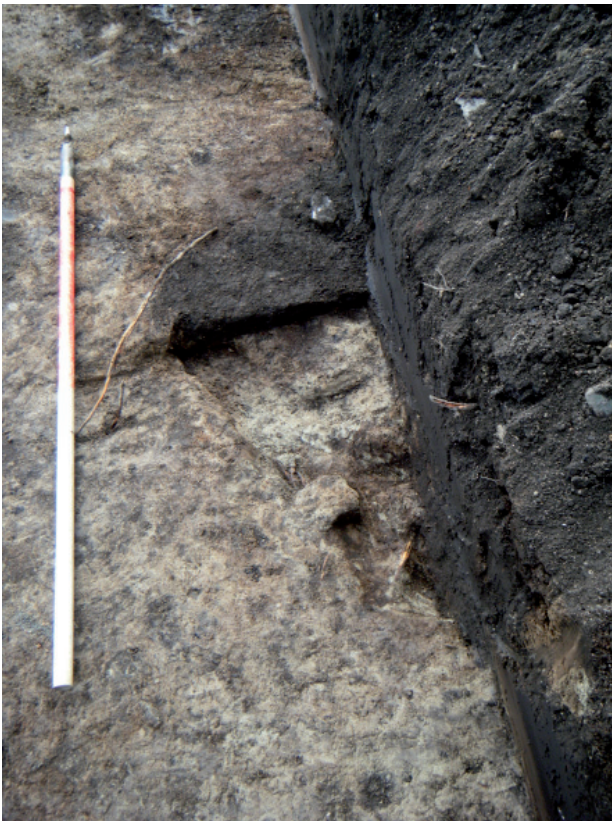
**e** 1828 – Woods

**c** 1862 – Gibbs

**d** 1867 – OS Map

**e** 1902 – OS Map





**Illus 3**  
*Pit [01] half sectioned. From the NE*



**Illus 4**  
*Deep demolition deposits in W-facing section at the south end of the Trench 3. From SW*

rectangular allotments plots on both sides with small sheds at the edges. There is no sign of the water feature depicted on Wood's map some 40 years earlier.

On the 2nd edition OS map published in 1902 (**Illus 2e**), the area has been developed with two new parallel streets running east to west; Duff street to the north and Lemon street to the south. A large industrial building labelled Parkroad Works is situated in the western part of the site.

### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the archaeological significance and potential of the proposed development site. The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

- establish the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas targeted for trenching
- establish the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas of the site.

The results of the evaluation will be used to inform a strategy for archaeological mitigation, if appropriate.

### 4 METHOD

The trenches were excavated using a wheeled 360° mechanical excavator with a 1.6m wide flat bladed ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. The machine was used to remove topsoil and deposits of modern make-up in controlled spits. Machine excavation ceased at the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. The stratigraphic sequence in each trench was recorded in full.

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance for undertaking archaeological evaluations (IfA 2008). All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on pro forma record sheets. Photographs were taken using a digital camera. An overall site plan was recorded using a differential GPS.

### 5 RESULTS

Three trenches were excavated (**Illus 1**). Prior to the works all buildings on the site had been demolished and the ground levelled. In Trench 1 a deposit of dark brown humic soil (03) 0.5m to 0.9m thick was encountered. The deposit was largely undisturbed by the construction and demolition of buildings in the area, with the exception of the south end where it was covered by a demolition deposit up to 0.4m thick (04).

The eastern end of a shallow pit [01] was exposed in Trench 1 (**Illus 3**). The feature was located in the northern half of the trench up against the west side. The pit extended 0.5m into the trench and was, at



**Illus 5**

*Concrete wall foundation in north half of Trench 3. From NE*

least 1.1m long and 0.08m deep. The cut had steep sides and a flat undulating base. Some areas of the cut has been disturbed by roots or burrowing animals. The fill of the pit was very similar in colour and composition to the overlying dark brown soil (03) covering the entire trench.

The deposits in the two trenches to the east (Trenches 2 and 3) comprised demolition rubble (04) mixed with gravels and sand generally 0.2m to 1m thick, with a deeper area 1.8m thick located at the south end of Trench 3 (**Illus 4**). A modern concrete wall foundation 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep, aligned parallel with Duff Street cut across the north half of Trench 3 (**Illus 5**).

The underlying geological deposit in all three trenches comprised orange-brown sand gravels.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The results of the evaluation suggest that most of the eastern half of the site has been heavily disturbed by the construction and demolition of buildings on site over the last 130 years. The deep disturbance seen at the south end of Trench 3 might indicate that there had been cellars or possibly a buried tank in this area.

Deepened topsoil seen in Trench 1, shows that the north-western part of the site has not been disturbed by the late 19th industrial development. The soil encountered in Trench 1 is deepened garden soil probably developed during the early to mid 19th century when the area was used as allotments. The pit [01] exposed in Trench 1 is likely to have been created during horticultural activity during this time.

Despite the proximity of the former line of the canal no evidence for the canal or related structures were found during the works.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Site registers

#### Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Area	Description
01	Tr1	The E end of a rounded cut protruding out from under the W side of the trench, at least 1.1m long by 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep. Steep sides and a flat undulating base. Some parts of the cut has been disturbed by roots or burrowing animals.
02	Tr1	Fill of cut [01]. Homogenous dark brown silty clay – very similar in colour and composition to the overlying garden soil (03).
03	Tr1	Dark brown silty clay with some sub-angular stones 0.05m to 0.1m across. It is an humic garden soil that covers the entire trench – 0.5m to 0.9m thick.
04	Tr1-3	Demolition deposit: very stony white sand and gravel with lumps of concrete, 0.2m to 1.7m thick.
05	Tr2	Dark brown to black sandy silt up to 0.35m thick. Extends across the NE half of the trench. Possibly re-deposited topsoil.
06	Tr3	Dark brown to black sandy silt up to 0.5m thick. Possibly re-deposited topsoil.

#### Appendix 1.2 Trench register

Trench	Alignment	Dimensions	Stratigraphy				
			Max. depth	Top deposit	Underlying deposit	Natural	Details
01	ENE-WSW	1.8m x 30m	1.3m	Demolition deposit: very stony white sand and gravel with lumps of concrete, up to 0.4m thick. Extends 10m into the trench from the S end (04).	Dark brown organic clay silt with some sub-angular stones – garden soil, 0.5m to 0.9 m thick (03).	Light yellow brown to grey silty sand and clay.	The W end of a rounded pit [01] was exposed along the W side near the middle of the trench.
02	NE-SW	1.8m x 41m	1m	Demolition deposit: very stony white sand and gravel with lumps of concrete, up to 0.9m thick (04).	Dark brown to black sandy silt up to 0.35m thick. Extends across the NE half of the trench. Possibly re-deposited topsoil (05).	Orange brown sandy silt and gravels.	A red tile drain and a 6 inch grey plastic pipe were exposed in the trench.
03	ENE-WSW	1.8m x 30m	1.8m	Demolition deposit: very stony light brown and red sand and gravels with lumps of concrete, 0.2m to 1.7m thick. Deepest at the S end (04).	Dark brown to black sandy silt up to 0.5m thick. Possibly re-deposited topsoil (06).	Orange brown sand and gravels.	A concrete wall foundation 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep, aligned parallel with Duff Street cut across the N half of the trench. The N half of the trench was shallow – up to 0.8m deep while 12m from the N end of the trench deepened to 1.8m, possibly indicating dug out cellars.

#### Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Picture	File name	Facing	Description	Picture	File name	Facing	Description
01	ADSL08-02-Pic01.JPG	NNE	Trench 3. S facing section of N end of trench.	08	ADSL08-02-Pic08.JPG	SE	Trench 2. NW facing section at the NE end of trench.
02	ADSL08-02-Pic02.JPG	E	Trench 3. W facing section at the N end of trench.	09	ADSL08-02-Pic09.JPG	SW	Trench 2. NE end.
03	ADSL08-02-Pic03.JPG	SSW	Trench 3. N end.	10	ADSL08-02-Pic10.JPG	SE	Trench 2. NW facing section at the SW end of trench.
04	ADSL08-02-Pic04.JPG	NNE	Trench 3. Concrete wall foundation in N half of trench.	11	ADSL08-02-Pic11.JPG	NE	Trench 2. SW end.
05	ADSL08-02-Pic05.JPG	SSW	Trench 3. S end.	12	ADSL08-02-Pic12.JPG	NW	Trench 1. Pre-excavation photo of Pit [01].
06	ADSL08-02-Pic06.JPG	SSE	Trench 3. Deeper demolition deposit in W facing section at S end of the trench.	13	ADSL08-02-Pic13.JPG	NW	Trench 1. Pit [01] part excavated.
07	ADSL08-02-Pic07.JPG	NE	Trench 3. Deeper demolition deposit in W facing section at S end of the trench.	14	ADSL08-02-Pic14.JPG	SW	Trench 1. Pit [01] part excavated.
				15	ADSL08-02-Pic15.JPG	NNE	Trench 1. S end.
				16	ADSL08-02-Pic16.JPG	SSW	Trench 1. N end.









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