



# CFA ARCHAEOLOGY

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## Inverurie WwTW Upgrade, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire

Archaeological Watching Brief  
Report No. 3612

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Commissioned by	Scottish Water
Date issued	January 2018
Version	1
Oasis No.	cfaarchal-300916
Planning Reference No.	APP/2016/1586
Grid Ref	NJ 7810 2042

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

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Inverurie, Aberdeenshire**

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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August and September 2017 at Inverurie Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW), Keithhall Road, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire (NGR: NJ 7810 2042) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Scottish Water.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 was produced by CFA on behalf of Scottish Water. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) on behalf of the planning authority, and was agreed by ACAS in advance of works.

## **1.2 Background**

Planning permission (Ref. No. APP/2016/1586) has been granted for the upgrading of the existing Waste Water Treatment Works at Inverurie. This upgrade consisted of the installation of a Nereda Tank and associated works. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief during groundbreaking works.

The watching brief was required because the WwTW lies within an area where evidence of medieval and earlier activity has previously been recorded. An excavation (HER No.NJ72SE 158) undertaken in 1998 in relation to the construction of the existing WwTW identified a number of natural channels which contained sherds of medieval pottery. Other nearby sites recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) include a scheduled Motte and Bailey Castle (HER No. NJ72SE 013, SM No.99), a prehistoric lithics working site (HER No.NJ72SE 49), and the site of a 1745 battle known as the Battle of Inverurie (HER No.NJ72SE 19).

The application area lies to the south of Keithhall Road and is situated on a flood plain at the confluence of the Rivers Urie and Don within an area known as The Stanners. Parts of this area had already been extensively landscaped with a considerable quantity of made-ground having been introduced in order to raise the existing WwTW above the level of the flood plain.

## **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the project were:

- To carry out a targeted watching brief during ground breaking works in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits within the development area, and propose mitigation measures where necessary.
- To report on the results.

## 2. WORKING METHODS

### 2.1 General

All required excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

### 2.2 Watching Brief

The topsoil strip was carried out using tracked excavators equipped with smooth-bladed ditching buckets under constant archaeological supervision.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 3.1 Watching Brief

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2.

The area stripped of topsoil for the WwTW extension lies to the north and east of the existing WwTW and is shown on Fig. 1. It included a parking area (Figs. 2-3), the Nereda tank area (Figs. 4-5), a soil storage area (Fig. 6) and a haul road (Fig. 7).

Where the parking area, soil storage area and haul road were constructed, the deposits predominantly consisted of c.0.4m of topsoil (**001**) overlying orangey-brown silty-sand subsoil (**003**). This part of the soil strip was fairly shallow and the natural substratum was not uncovered.

Deeper excavations were carried out within the Nereda area where the ground level had been raised during the construction of the existing WwTW. The deposits within this location consisted of c.0.4m of topsoil (**001**) overlying up to c.2.5m of made ground (**002**). Beneath the made-ground there was up to 1.1m of orangey-brown silty-sand subsoil (**003**), which overlay natural orange river sands and gravels (**004**).

There were no features identified, but a number of sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from subsoil **003**. These sherds were widely scattered across the application area with no particular concentrations identified. They are thought to represent activity within the general area rather than indicating the presence of post-medieval settlement on the flood plain itself.

### 3.2 Finds by Christina Hills

The only finds recovered on site were 12 sherds of pottery from subsoil **003**. All were post-medieval redware, the assemblage was from a variety of different vessels and included one base fragment and two glazed sherds.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground-works for the upgrading of the existing Waste Water Treatment Works at Keithhall Road, Inverurie on a flood plain at the confluence of the Rivers Urie and Don. A number of sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from a subsoil deposit overlying the natural river sands and gravels. These sherds are thought to represent residual activity within the general area rather than indicating the presence of post-medieval settlement on the flood plain. There were no other features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Record for the Historic Environment (NRHE) and copies of reports will be lodged with Aberdeenshire Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from
1-5	General working shots within car park area	Various
6	Trial trench excavated within compound area A	S
7	Trial trench excavation within compound area B	W
8	Compound Area B - general shot	E
9	Car parking area stripped to foundation level	SE
10-11	Location of NEREDA - pre excavation	NW
12	General working shots showing removal of tree stumps	SW
13	General working shot showing stripping for road	W
14	Trial trench excavated within NEREDA area	S
15	Trial trench excavated within NEREDA area	SE
16	Soil strip for storage area	E
17	Soil strip for storage area	W
18-19	Soil stripping for haul road	W
20	Soil stripping for haul road	SE
21	Soil stripping for haul road	SW
22	Soil stripping for storage area of flood plain	SW
23	Soil stripping for storage area of flood plain	W
24-27	General site shot from spoil heap	NE-NW
28	Soil stripping for haul road	NW
29	Area stripped for NEREDA	SW
30	Soil stripping within NEREDA area	S
31	NEREDA area within excavation	S
32	Soil profile within NEREDA area	W
33	NEREDA area under excavation	S
34	NEREDA area under excavation	SW
35	Eastward extension to NEREDA pre-ex	W
36	Eastward extension to NEREDA pre-ex	W
37	Eastward extension to NEREDA pre-ex	W
38	Eastward extension to NEREDA pre-ex	W
38	Main NEREDA area under construction	S
40	Eastward extension to NEREDA post-ex	E

## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Type	Description
001		Deposit	Topsoil: Dark brown silt – landscaping material
002		Deposit	Mixed made ground: sands, gravels and stone etc
003		Deposit	Subsoil: slightly orange brown silty sand
004		Deposit	Natural: Orange sand and gravel

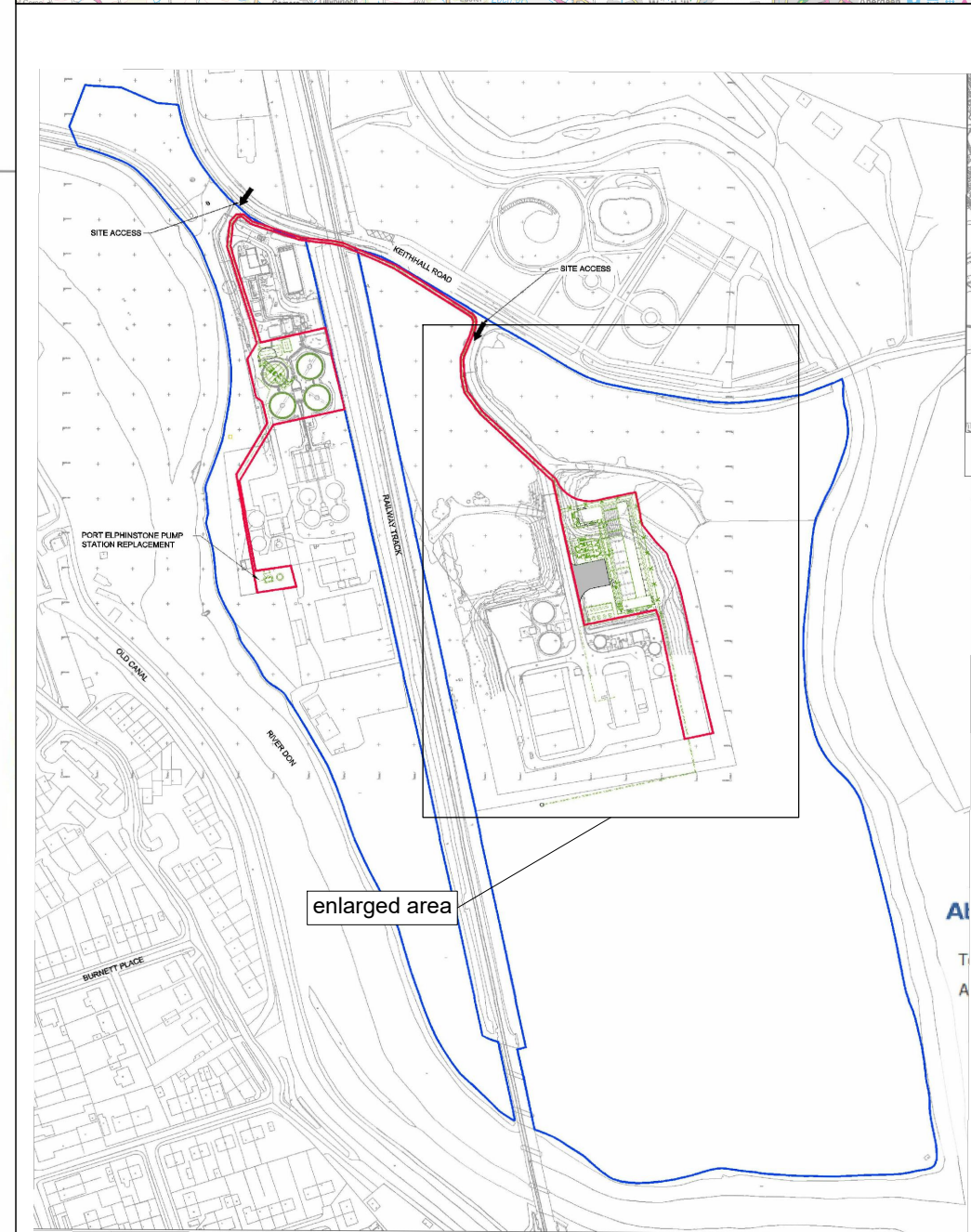
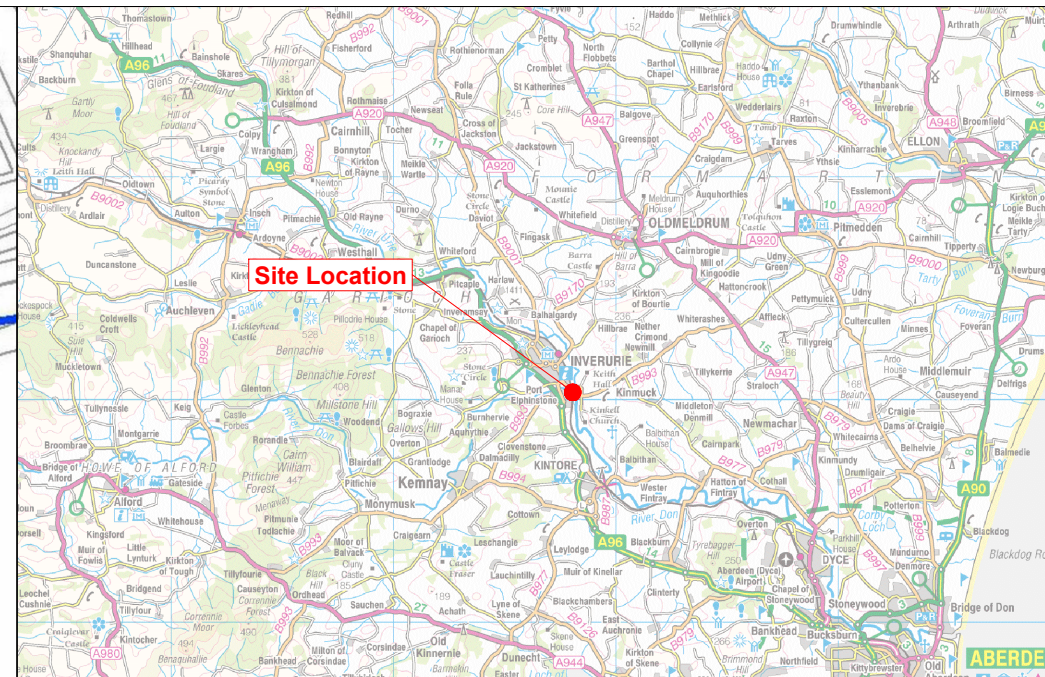
## APPENDIX 3: Finds Register

Context	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes	Spotdate
003	Pottery	12	64	All redware, 1 base fragment, 2 sherds with glaze on one side	Post-medieval

### APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Inverurie WwTW, Keithhall Road, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RURI
<b>PARISH:</b>	Inverurie
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Ian Suddaby
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NJ72SE 158
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Post-medieval Pottery
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NJ 781 204
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	August 2017
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	September 2017
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	Carter, S. 1998b, The Stanners, Inverurie (Inverurie Parish) old river channel; medieval artefacts; DES 1998, Pages 8-9
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried during ground-works for the upgrading of the existing Waste Water Treatment Works at Keithhall Road, Inverurie on a flood plain at the confluence of the Rivers Urie and Don. A number of sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from a subsoil deposit overlying the natural river sands and gravels. These sherds are thought to represent residual activity within the general area rather than indicating the presence of post-medieval settlement on the flood plain. There were no other features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Scottish Water
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk">cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited with NRHE, reports lodged with Aberdeenshire Council SMR.





- Key:**
- Area requiring planning permission
  - Land owned by Scottish Water
  - Watching Brief Area
  - Deep Excavations for Nereda Tank
  - Shallow Excavations for Soil Storage Area, Haul Road and Car Park

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Title:  
 Location map and the areas of the watching brief within the site

Project:  
 Inverurie WwTW Upgrade,  
 Inverurie, Aberdeenshire

Client:  
 Scottish Water

Scale at A3:  
 main inset: 1:1000

Drawn by: MP	Checked by: SW	Date: 15/01/2018
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Report No: 3612	Fig. No: 1
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Fig. 2 - The Parking Area after vegetation clearance



Fig. 3 - The Parking Area stripped to foundation level from the South-East

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Report No: <b>3612</b>		Fig. No: <b>2-3</b>



Fig. 4 - The NEREDA Tank area pre-excitation from the North-West



Fig. 5 - The northern end of the NEREDA Tank area from the West

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Fig. 6 - The Storage Area stripped from the East



Fig. 7 - The Haul Road during stripping from the South-West

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Report No: <b>3612</b>		Fig. No: <b>6-7</b>



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