

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF PLOT 19, PETERSEAT, ABERDEEN



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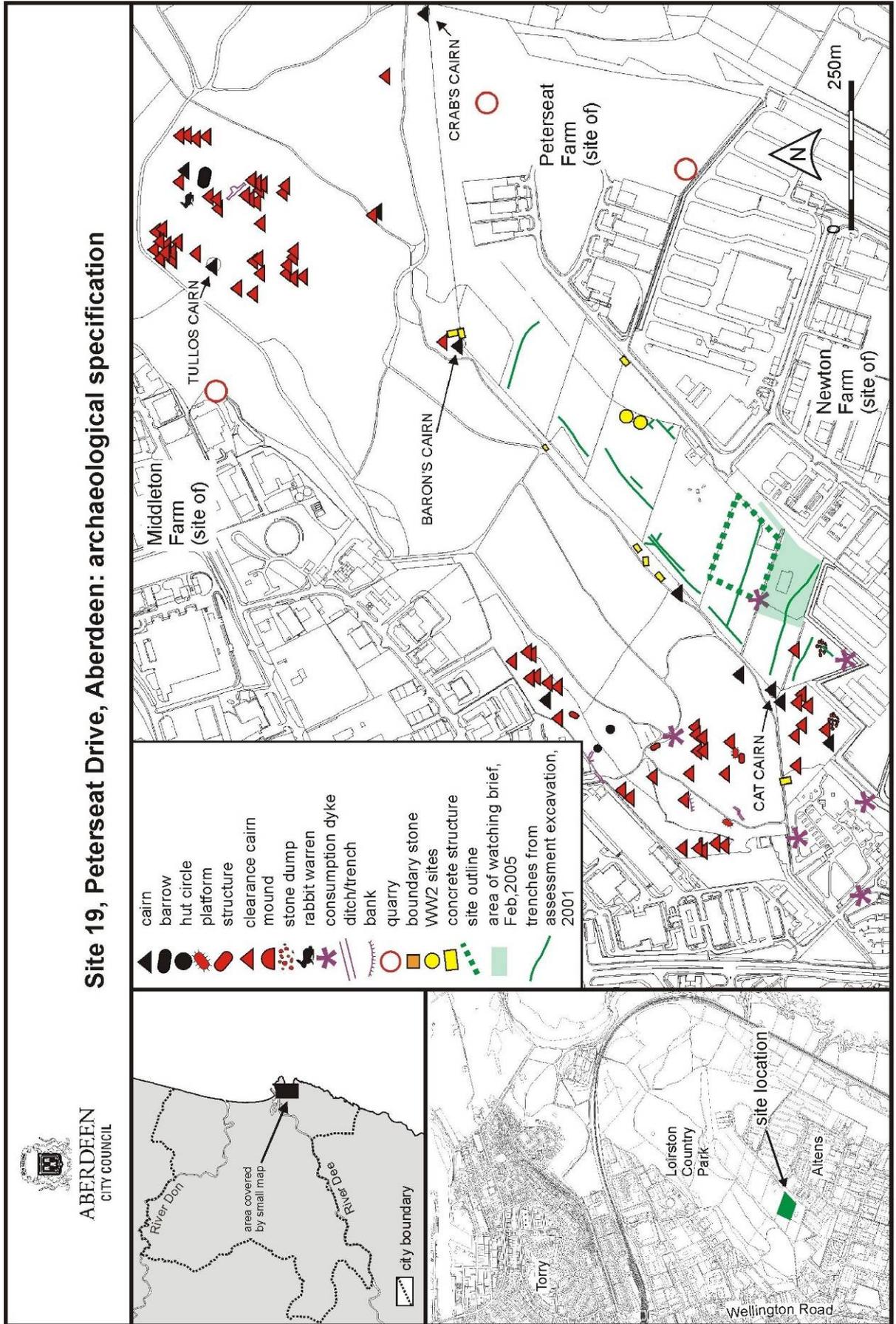
INTRODUCTION

The area of the site (NJ 9542 0322) was previously farmland. The key historic features of the area are the four known prehistoric cairns on Tullos Hill, which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and the World War 2 military camp, which lay partially within the present site. Tullos Hill, although used for landfill between the 1970s and 1990s, is a rich archaeological landscape. The site is bounded on the west by consumption dyke (NJ90SE 0027; Ill 1) which is to be protected during this development.



Ill 1 Consumption dyke NJ90SE 0027 facing south). The site is on the left.

Previous work in this area includes an archaeological evaluation in 2001 (Cameron, Aberdeen City Council, forthcoming) and a watching brief carried out immediately to the south of Plot 19 in 2005 (Murray Archaeological Associates) (see plan below).



III 2 Location of this site and known archaeological site in the area.

RESULTS

Phase 1: Trial pits

Phase 1 of the work at this site involved the monitoring of 10 trial pits and 3 soakaways on 8-9 May 2008 (III). Topsoil was recorded in all trial pits except TP5 where the topsoil had been removed previously. All topsoil was between 25cm and 50cm deep (see III 3). No features were found during this work.



III 3 TP10 facing west

Phase 2: Plot Preparatory Excavations

In January 2009 further archaeological monitoring was necessary at the site, including for the excavation of 26 pits at the entranceway to the site for fencing. They were excavated by a mini digger, to a maximum width of 0.4m, length of 0.6m and depth of 0.7m, spaced at 2.4m intervals, 17 to the south and nine to the north of the entrance (III 4). A further set of pits were excavated at a later date, 4m behind the first to provide support for the fencing. In addition, a new access route, 6m in width, was excavated on a north-west to south-east alignment across the centre of the site (III 8) to a maximum depth of 0.5m revealing a dark-brown loose topsoil overlying an orange sandy and clay natural. Immediately to the north of the access route, a north-west to south-east aligned new drainage channel was excavated to a depth of 1.5m, a width of 5m and a length of 52m. This revealed a made-up mixed deposit of 0.75m thickness overlying an orange sandy clay natural.



III 4 Pit excavated for fence posts, facing east

In addition, the removal of vegetation followed by a soil scrape of the areas to house the building and car park was monitored beginning at the southern edge of the site and progressing northwards, west to east in roughly 6m transects by excavator and bulldozer. A maximum of 0.8m was removed, consisting of a topsoil of dark-brown loose soil (of 0.4m depth), to reveal the natural, a pale orange sandy loam with darker orange clay inclusions. A further area, later housing the site compound, was soil scraped in the north-eastern corner of the site. No features were revealed.

A total of three linear features, 0.25m in width, the longest traced for 11m (the northern two, III 6 and III 7), the shortest 8m (the southernmost, III 6), were recorded within the footprint of the building (III 8). These were aligned north-west to south-east, running parallel with the field boundary, and contained stones. It is likely that these were field drains, common in post-medieval farming practices.

Recommendations

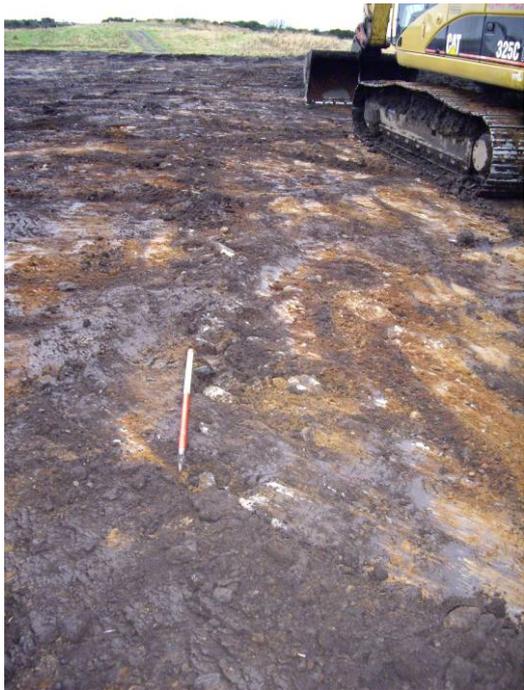
No further archaeological work is required during this development at Site 19.



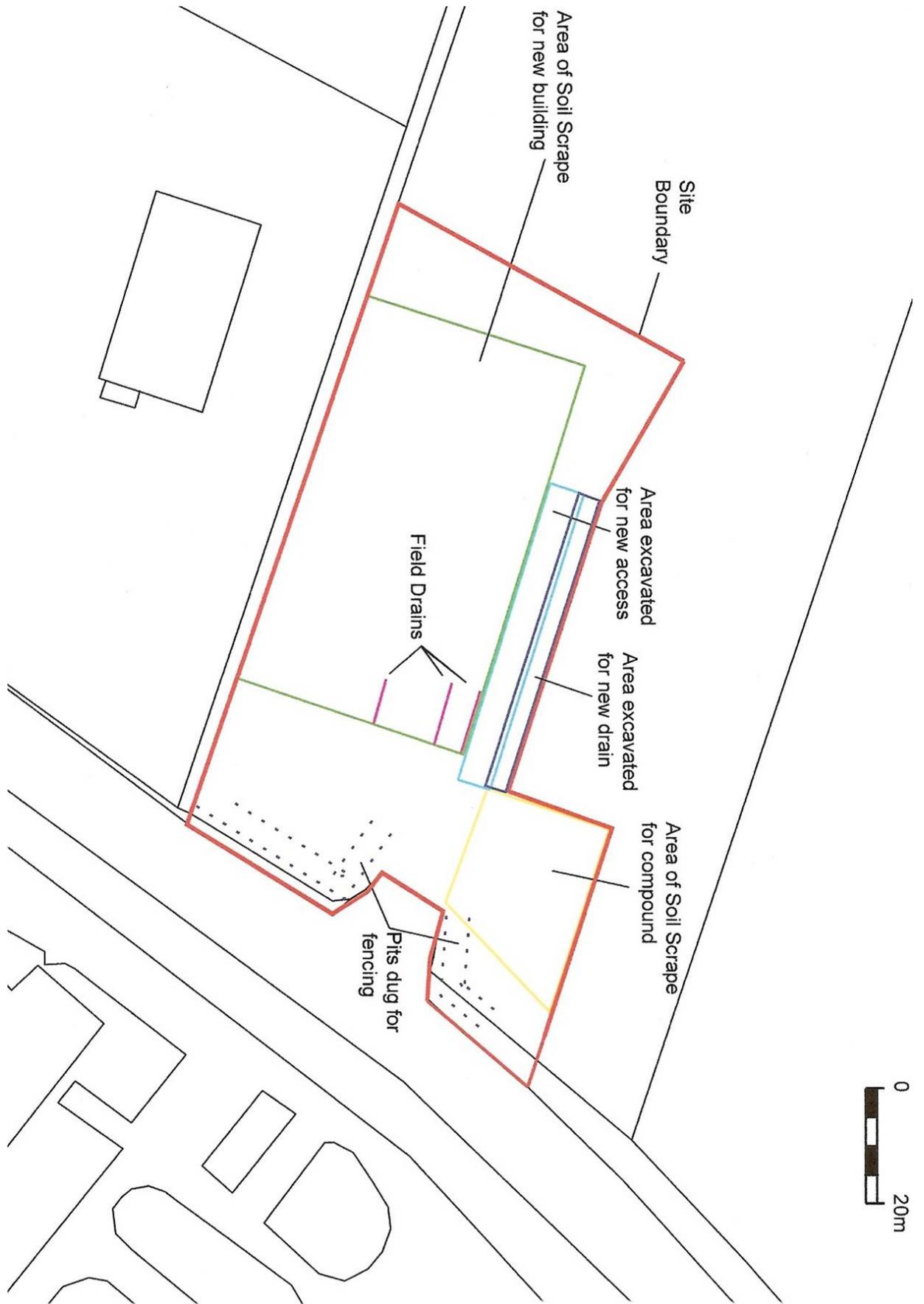
III 5 Southernmost field drain facing west



III 6 Central field drain facing west



III 7 Northernmost field drain facing west



III.8 Site Plan showing location of excavations monitored during Phase 2 of the watching brief, and the features located

RECOMMENDATIONS

No further archaeological work is required during this development.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Specification for archaeological watching brief

Appendix 2 Photographs

APPENDIX 1

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CENTRAL AREA MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Site 19, Peterseat Drive, Aberdeen

Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

This specification outlines the importance of this historic site and indicates the works which will be required to ensure that archaeological deposits are recorded and protected during development work.

1.0 Site Location and Description

The area of the site (NGR NJ 9542 0322) is shown on the enclosed map extract. At present the site is an open area of redundant farmland. The key historic features of the area are the four known prehistoric cairns on Tullos Hill, which are scheduled ancient monuments, and the World War 2 military camp, which lay partially within the present site. Tullos Hill, although used for landfill between the 1970s and 1990s, is a rich archaeological landscape. Survey work in 2004 by CFA, Edinburgh, recorded 150 'new' sites, ranging in date from prehistoric to mid-20th century. Some of the principal ones are indicated on the attached map.

2.0 Planning Background

The request for this watching brief is made in the context of National Planning Policy Guideline no 5, Archaeology and Planning, which states that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed. In paragraph 14, planning authorities are advised that they should ensure that archaeological factors are fully considered in both the development planning and development control processes. Paragraph 16 urges planning authorities to regard archaeological remains as a finite and often highly fragile resource vulnerable to needless or thoughtless damage or destruction. Paragraph 25 states that the implications of development proposals for ancient monuments and their settings should be considered at the outset of the development control process. It is appropriate for planning authorities to request, where appropriate, the prospective developer to arrange for archaeological fieldwork and ensure that relevant information on the cultural heritage is taken into account in any environmental assessment that may be necessary (paragraph 24).

3.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

The Tullos Hill area is well endowed with archaeological remains, ranging in date from 2000 BC to the later 1940s AD. Remarkable survivors in such close proximity to the City of Aberdeen are the Bronze Age burial cairns, which together form one of the best-preserved cairnfields in the North-East of Scotland. Four cairns, Cat Cairn, Baron's Cairn, Tullos Cairn and Crab's Cairn, are scheduled ancient monuments. The scheduled area of each covers a 60m diameter circle with the cairn at the centre. Historic Scotland is in the process of considering other sites for scheduling, among them an additional cairn which is partly incorporated into the boundary dyke to north of the area where the current site lies. Survey work in 2004 by CFA, Edinburgh, recorded 150 'new' sites, ranging in date from prehistoric to mid-20th century.

The area which includes the current site was partially occupied by a World War 2 military camp and battery, later used as an establishment for prisoners of war. It is clearly visible on aerial photographs taken immediately after the war. Concrete hut bases are still extant on Tullos Hill, to the north of the present site.

A stone 'consumption' dyke, probably associated with documented land improvements in the area in the 19th century, survives at the southern edge of the site.

An archaeological field evaluation undertaken in 2001 by Alison Cameron covered an area which included the present site. During the evaluation, evidence of the Second World War artillery base (later a prisoner of war camp) was found in the form of a tarmac road, the foundations of three gun emplacements, a larger structure (possibly the command post) and a foundation for one of the accommodation huts. A copy of the evaluation report is attached with this specification.

In 2005 a watching brief was maintained by Murray Archaeological Services over development in the field immediately to the south of the current site (see map). Although a number of features were recorded, they were identified as either stone holes or as drainage associated with 19th and 20th-century farming operations. A copy of the report is available from the Keeper of Archaeology, Aberdeen City Council.

4.0 Requirement for Work – Watching Brief and Dyke Protection

All earthworks associated with the development of this site, including soil stripping, digging of foundation trenches, road construction, landscaping and the excavation of service trenches, must be watched by an archaeologist acceptable to the planning authority and the Keeper of Archaeology, Aberdeen City Council. The archaeologist must record any features or finds which are revealed during the development process.

The consumption dyke must be protected from damage during the development.

5.0 Timetable

A timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work so that provision can be made for monitoring by the Keeper of Archaeology.

6.0 Staff Structure

A list of key project staff with qualifications and experience will be submitted by the contractor. The use of unwaged staff will not normally be acceptable.

7.0 Health and Safety /PLI

Such concerns and responsibilities are primarily a matter for the archaeological contractor who must submit evidence of conformity to the Health and Safety at Work Act and possession of public liability insurance to Aberdeen City Council.

8.0 Watching Brief

8.1 An appropriate machine must be used to minimise damage to underlying archaeological deposits

8.2 All machine work must be carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist acceptable to the planning authority and the Keeper of Archaeology.

8.3 All excavation, both by machine and by hand, must be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be worthy of preservation *in situ*.

8.4 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left *in situ*. Their removal will be a matter of discussion with the Keeper of Archaeology (who must be notified within 12 hours of their discovery) and will comply with the provisions of Scots Law.

9.0 Recording Systems

These must be specified and should include the structure for site record.

10.0 Monitoring Arrangements

It is necessary for the planning authority to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the watching brief in order to ensure the proper execution of the specification and therefore conformity to the brief. Stages at which monitoring is appropriate will be agreed between the archaeological contractor and the Keeper of Archaeology. The possibility of random inspections should not be excluded.

11.0 Reporting Requirements

Provision must be made for:

11.2 Specialist examination of animal and human bone and of any preserved or organic material.

11.3 Specialist conservation and examination of artefacts found during the watching brief.

11.4 Preparation of plans, sections and finds drawings to publication standards.

11.5 The sorting and analysis of records and the production of a written report on the work, and published in a manner appropriate to its scale,

11.7 The preparation of a catalogued archive and its deposition in the City Council's Sites and Monuments record and the National Monuments Record of Scotland within six months of the end of the watching brief.

11.8 Copies of the archaeological report should be sent to the Keeper of Archaeology, the applicant and the planning authority. A brief survey of results should be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, along with the appropriate fee. An OASIS report must also be provided.

12.0 Small finds

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia and reported by the archaeological contractor to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel (Dr Alan Saville, National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.

13.0 Timescale

The watching brief report must be produced within four weeks of the end of the field work.

14.0 Further Information

Additional information about the site, or this brief, can be obtained from the Keeper of Archaeology, Whitespace, 60 Frederick Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5HY Tel (01224) 523658.

15.0 Conclusion

The watching brief is to be carried out in compliance with this brief and in the context of NPPG 5. The selection of any contractor will be subject to approval of the Keeper of Archaeology. Work should be carried out in close liaison with the Keeper of Archaeology.

April 2008.

Appendix 2