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archaeological  
contractors



**Archaeological Evaluation  
199 High Street  
Perth**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**  
**199 HIGH STREET**  
**PERTH**  
**PE49**

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**Illustration 1:** Site location plan

**Illustration 2:** Evaluation trenches location plan

**Illustration 3:** Section of Trench 01

**Illustration 4:** Plan of Trench 02

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## **ABSTRACT**

*SUAT Ltd was commissioned by McLaren, Murdoch and Hamilton, Architects on behalf of their client Panther (VAT) Properties Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in the backland of 199-205 High Street, Perth in advance of an extension to the rear of the property. This (SUAT site code PE49) was the second stage of works designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development. The work took place over the period 9th-12th September 2008 using a mini-digger with ditching bucket.*

*The development area is located within the core of the medieval burgh. Nineteenth century plans show a free-standing building in the backland by the 1820's, later replaced by a one-storey brick building, recently demolished. The two evaluation trenches revealed archaeology relating to the early 19th century.*

*Trench 01, the south trench on the site's west side, revealed two blocked windows in the west basement wall of a demolished stone building. Between the site's west boundary and the basement wall, deeper excavation revealed buried stone vaults arranged north to south along the site's west boundary. Between the vaults and the building wall was a sunken passageway, backfilled with deposits containing 19th century pottery. Excavation on the east side of the wall inside the basement revealed stone rubble from the earlier building, overlain by brick rubble from the recently demolished brick building.*

*Trench 02 was located in the north part of the site, to the north of the infilled basement. This trench revealed a large stone-built bread oven which had been inserted into the north wall of the early stone building, and extended northwards towards the site's north boundary. The vaulted roof of the oven was partly removed, revealing details of the oven's interior which had not been backfilled. On the east side of the oven were infilling deposits approximately 2m deep containing 19th-century pottery.*

*Excavation continued to the west of the oven, and here stone roofing was found, abutting the west wall of the oven, and bridging over the sunken passageway which continued northwards from Trench 01. The stone roofing sealed an extensive void, up to 1m deep. Inspection through a hole in the roof revealed that the void continued to the site's west boundary, where there were vaults, presumably a continuation of those found in Trench 01. The north site boundary could be seen to comprise a stone wall. The ashlar corner of the stone basement was also clearly visible to the south.*

*The features were recorded at a basic level, but they were not entered or fully explored, because their stability was unknown.*

*Further work is recommended, especially at the site's north end where the bread oven was found, as this and other features may well be adversely affected by the development.*

# **1 Background**

## **1.1 Introduction**

McLaren, Murdoch and Hamilton, Architects, on behalf of their clients, Panther (VAT) Properties Ltd, commissioned SUAT Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation within the back lands at 199–205 High Street, Perth. This property is located on the north side of the High Street, a little west of Kinnoull Street, at NGR NO 1164 2364. The evaluation work was carried out during the period 9th–12th September in changeable weather conditions. The evaluation represented a second phase of work on this development, the first being a standing building record of the property standing on the frontage, undertaken during the period 3rd to 11th July 2008.

## **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area in the back land at 199–205 High Street Perth. It was hoped to investigate medieval or early modern deposits that had survived the 18th and 19th-century development of the backland. The results of this investigation will be used to inform future mitigation strategies for the proposed development.

## **1.3 Reporting**

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this evaluation. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record.

## **1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues**

This evaluation is the second part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust as advisers to Perth and Kinross Council.

## **1.5 Acknowledgements**

SUAT wish to thank Bill Miller of McLaren Murdoch and Hamilton, and Sarah Winlow of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. The work was entirely funded by Panther (VAT) Properties Ltd. Thanks are also due to the on site staff of Beveridge who carried out the excavations.

# **2 Details of Work**

## **2.1 The Site (Illus 1)**

The area to be evaluated was an open site to the north or rear of the property fronting High Street, measuring 11.5m east to west and 15m north to south. Access to the site was gained through a pend on the west side of the High Street standing property. The west and east sides of the site were defined by high brick walls. The north end of the

site was defined by the south wall of a one storey brick building with a doorway at the south end. The south end of the area was defined by the north side of the High Street buildings. At the time of the evaluation the High Street frontage buildings were being extensively renovated, and it was planned to build an extension into the back land. The last building to occupy this site was a one-storey brick construction.

## 2.2 Archaeological Potential

The development area was considered to have significant archaeological potential due to its location within the core of the medieval burgh. Originally the backlands here represented a double burgage plot extending northwards to Mill Street and the town's defensive wall and ditch (lade). A large free-standing building is shown at this location on Reid's plan 1808/9 plan, but not on the Rutherford plan of 1774. On the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS 1860 the free-standing building appears to be linked to the rear of the frontage property by a stair tower with a pend from High Street through the mid section of the frontage building to the stair tower at the rear. The OS edition 1932 shows some extension to the east side of the backlands building, and minor additions to the north side and to the east of the stair tower. It is considered that the 1932 OS map shows that by this time the stone backlands building had been replaced by the one-storey brick building, virtually on the same footprint. This plan also shows the distinctive curve to the east at the end of the later pend inserted on the west side of the High Street property. The brick building, latterly a D C Thomson delivery depot, was demolished in the early part of the 21st century.

## 2.3 Archaeological Method

The evaluation trenches were excavated by a small mechanical digger (mini-digger) equipped with a ditching bucket under archaeological supervision at all times. Archaeological deposits were then hand cleaned, investigated and recorded. Where possible datable finds were recovered and listed.

## 2.4 Results of Investigations

### *Trench 01 (Illus 02 and 03)*

Trench 01, the south trench on the site's west side, revealed a large blocked window in the west wall of a demolished stone building, evidently a basement. A southern extension to the trench revealed a further window. The window jambs (0113), were formed of fine dressed sandstone, with 0.05m wide rebated edges and cream painted interior plaster. Later, limited excavation found the top of jambs of a further window of the same construction 0.98m to the south of the first window. The windows would have extended to a height of at least 1.30m and were 0.93m and 0.96m wide. The sill was missing (0114) and it was seen that the wall below continued down at least a further 0.25m. However, excavation stopped due to safety considerations before the bottom of the wall below the window was reached.

Between the site's west boundary brick wall and the wall of the building, excavation revealed buried stone barrel-vaults arranged north to south along the site's west boundary. The vaults were orientated east-west, with a stone lintel across the exposed, eastern end of each vault. The lintel (0116) of the vaulting was 0.90m to the west of the face of the building wall. The vaulting was at least 1m deep but was not fully excavated. Further investigation of the vaults was prohibited by excessive depth

and the possible instability of the vaulting. Between the east face of the vaults and the building wall was a sunken passageway, 0.90m wide, backfilled with layered mixed deposits (0104-0111) containing 19th-century pottery. Excavation eastwards within the basement revealed stone rubble from the early building overlain by brick rubble from the recently demolished brick building. The stone rubble was not bottomed as it extended below the new build formation level, and it was known from excavating the west part of this trench that it was too deep to bottom safely.

### *Trench 02*

Trench 02 was located at the north end of the site, to the north of the backland building shown on the early plans. It was hoped that this would be an 'open area', with a better chance of uncovering archaeology predating the 19th century building. Towards the east end of the trench however, a large stone-built bread oven was revealed which had been inserted into the north wall of the early stone building and extended northwards towards the site's north boundary. The vaulted roof (0204) of the oven was partly removed revealing that the oven interior had not been backfilled. However, it was not considered safe to actually crawl into the opening. Details of the oven's interior could be distinguished.

The interior of the oven measured approximately 2.30m north to south and 2m east to west. Below the roof vaulting the low oven walls were of fine ashlar build with rounded corners. There was a small 'smoke hole' in the north-west corner of the oven. Cut into the stonework of the oven dome in the south-east corner was an oval opening formed by fire bricks (0219). The mouth or front of the oven (0212) was on the south side, built into the north wall (0208 and 0214) of the stone building but was not visible having been sealed over with bricks and rubble. From the inside it could be seen that the door opening had been blocked with rubble and that it seemed to have a metal lining. Some of the silt from the oven floor was cleared, revealing a flat polished stone surface. A cat skull and part of a leather boot were recovered from the surface of the silt. Part of a 19th century ovate glass bottle was also observed on the surface of the silt. On the east side of the oven east wall (0203) were layered infilling deposits (0202) approximately 2m in depth containing 19th century pottery. The east exterior wall (0203) of the oven contained an opening or passageway with a lintel towards its south end which for safety reasons due to depth could only partly be investigated. This opening appears to indicate that it was meant to be accessed externally. The infilling deposits (0202) blocked this opening which probably meant that the oven had gone out of use by the time they were dumped.

Excavation continued to the west of the oven, and stone vaulting (0206) was encountered at the same level as the oven roof, abutting the west exterior wall (0205) of the oven. The stone vaulting (0206) sealed an extensive void, up to 1m in depth, which was visually inspected by torchlight though a hole in the roof. Inspection revealed that the void continued to the site's west boundary where there were barrel-vaults, presumably a northward continuation of those found in Trench 01. The north site boundary could be seen to comprise a stone wall. The ashlar corner of the stone basement to the south was also clearly visible. It appears that the sunken passageway found in Trench 01 extended to the north of the stone basement and beyond, and its north end had been protected from backfilling by the stone vaulting bridging over it. To the west within the void, ceramic sewer pipes could be seen descending, having been inserted through the roofing and into the deposits below where they must have

joined a major sewer pipe possibly extending southwards below the blocked passageway and through to the High Street.

Apart from basic recording, no intrusive work was carried out on the oven or the features below the stone roofing.

### **3 Interpretation**

#### **3.1**

##### *Trench 01*

Excavation of this trench showed that the building initially occupying the site had been built within a sunken footprint which allowed high windows in the basement. The architectural features of the building revealed that it was of high status as shown by the fine window jambs. Use had been made of the space to the west of this building by the insertion of vaults which extended back to the site's west boundary. The space between the building and the vaulting was presumably used as a passage and lightwell. It is not clear how the space formed by the vaults was used, perhaps for storage.

Above the vaults must have been an open space to allow what light was available into the basement windows, and probably also serving as a footpath northwards into the backlands. Excavation failed to bottom the sunken passageway, or to find the depth of the building's foundation. The vaulting on the west side was also not fully defined. With time, as the area got more crowded, the building lost its status, the basement windows were blocked up and the passageway and vaulting were infilled. The basement could have remained in use as a storage space, although no longer lit by windows. This building was finally demolished in more recent times to be replaced by a one-storey brick building which was demolished in the early 21st century.

##### *Trench 02*

Excavation of Trench 02 revealed what was considered to be a bread oven. This appears to be the first excavated example of a 19th-century stone-built bread oven in Perth. The oven mouth had been inserted into the north wall of the original building indicating that it post-dated the construction of this building. The main body of the oven extended to the north, outwith the building. The fine ashlar oven walls, the metal surround for the oven door and the firebrick construction in the south-east corner would indicate quite a sophisticated construction and no doubt a commercial enterprise. When the oven went out of use it was blocked off but not backfilled. This may have occurred with the infilling of the area to the east of the oven and probably at the same time as the infilling of the passageway found in Trench 01.

The area to the west of the oven that had been roofed over was a northward continuation of the sunken passageway and vaulting found in Trench 01. On the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition a pathway is shown on the west side of the stone building which doglegged to the east over this area and continued northwards past the present day north boundary of the site, to access properties on either side of the path in the area where the North Church halls now stand. The roofing over the vaults and void would have been acting as a bridge, carrying this pathway to the north. As this bridge existed at the time the lower passageway and vaults to the south were backfilled this area would not need infilling and became instead a sealed chamber.

## **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **4.1 Conclusions**

SUAT concludes that the two evaluation trenches revealed evidence of a former high status building and a commercial bread oven within the backlands of 199 High Street. No finds, deposits, or structures could be dated from before the 19th century.

Excavation showed that virtually all of the backland site had been built on by 19th and 20th century development. Any archaeological layers from earlier periods will have been deeply truncated. It is possible that archaeological evidence dating from the medieval period could still survive below the basement levels of the stone building, but this level is well below the new build formation level, and should not require mitigation. The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological deposits containing medieval or late medieval pottery sherds, which is most unusual for a site located within the historic core of Perth.

### **4.2 Recommendations**

SUAT considers that further work is necessary on the bread oven, and the roofed area including the barrel vaults to the west of the bread oven, in order to fully record these features. Also recommended is further desk-based study of historic records such as Dean of Guild records, plans and street directories relating to 199-205 High Street in order to gain a better understanding of the site's development over the last two centuries. Such research will also complement the building survey record undertaken by SUAT on the frontage building.

The scope of further investigation will of course depend on how these features are to be affected by the development. As they stand, the features may present an obstruction to the piles and pile caps, and would also surround the new building with potentially unstable voids. Further investigation may be required for engineering as well as archaeological reasons, and engineering guidance will certainly be required to assess whether and to what extent the features can be preserved in situ.

Further recording of the oven will require access to the oven interior. If preservation is not possible, this could be accomplished by dismantling the vaulted roof. The same applies to the roofed area to the west of the oven. The removal of the blocking at the frontage and investigation of the oven door could be achieved from outwith the structure by simply dismantling the blocking.

Further discussion will be required between the developer's engineers, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and SUAT, in order to develop an appropriate and practicable mitigation strategy for the vaulted structures found on this site. A meeting of all the parties may be the best way forward. The final decision on any further works required rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

## **5 Bibliography**

Bowler, D 2008 *Archaeological Building Record, 199-205 High Street, Perth* SUAT unpublished archive report Perth



Ordnance Survey 1860 *Town Plan of Perth, Scale 1:500* Sheet XCVIII.5.8 Surveyed 1860 Southampton

Ordnance Survey 1932 *Perthshire, Scale 1:2500* Sheet XCVIII.5. Surveyed 1860-4, revised 1931. Southampton

Rutherford, A 1774 *A Plan of the Town of Perth*, Perth.

## Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Phase</i>
	<b>Trench 01</b>	
0101	Deposit, black silt, surface trample over cassies and concrete 0102	
0102	Deposit, concrete base for metal pillar holding up metal stairs	
0103	Structure, 0.15m thick pathway formed from square cassies and large cobbles, aligned N-S, down site W side, culvert and filled in passageway below	
0104	Deposit, 0.20m thick layer of fine sand, bedding for cassies	
0105	Deposit, 0.12m thick clay, below bedding sand 0104, fill for passageway between W wall 0113 of building and 0116 lintel for vault	
0106	Deposit, 0.32m thick grey silt small rounded stones, some brick fragments, infill below 0105	
0107	Deposit, 0.15m thick, light grey silt, infill below 0106	
0108	Deposit, 0.08m thick black silt, infill below 0107	
0109	Deposit, 0.10m thick crushed mortar below 0108	
0110	Deposit, at least 0.20m thick compacted clay and silty clay, brick fragments stone, some 19 <sup>th</sup> century pot, pantile fragments, lenses of silt coal fragments below 0109 infilling not bottomed	
0112	Structure, wall, stone, mortar bonded upper part of wall forming buried W wall of demolished building, where window edging stone is missing	
0113	Structure, wall, S edging for window, 0.05m wide rebate, plastered (cream) splayed interior face, edging on N side is the same	
0114	Structure, stonework below 0113, where window sill is missing	
0115	Structure, stonework below 0113, continuation of wall below window, for at least 0.24m	
0116	Structure, stonework, lintel for vaulting on W side of passageway opposite window, 0.30m high and 0.25m wide, some collapse behind this, 2.20m to W of	

	the E face of this lintel can be seen squared stonework representing the back of the vaulting, also voussoirs can be seen.	
	<b>Trench 02</b>	
0201	Deposit, site surface in this area, black silt with sand and black ash, of various thickness	
0202	Deposit, layers, mainly of grey silt, black loamy silt with mortar and stone fragments, infilling between wall 0203 and trench E end, makeup deposits, pottery indicates 19 <sup>th</sup> century	
0203	Structure, wall, on E side of dome over oven, outer E wall of oven stands to height of 0.90m but not fully excavated, rubble and mortar, dome stones sprung from this wall. There is a 'passageway' with lintel, partly exposed at the S end of this wall	
0204	Structure, domed stone roof, orange brown mortar, large rubble, flat stones, forms dome over oven and over wall 0203, max 0.90m high off the oven floor, measured from inside oven between inner face of dome and oven flooring, central dome stones maximum 0.34m thick	
0205	Structure wall, mortar bonded wall on W side of dome 0204, probably forming W outer wall of oven	
0206	Structure, mortar bonded roof, formed from large and medium sized stones, fitted but not domed. Covers large area to W of oven, former bridging for pathway to N extending beyond present N boundary.	
0207	Structure wall, 0.60m wide wall mortar bonded, aligned N-S, E wall of demolished stone building	
0208	Structure wall, 0.60m wide, wall, mortar bonded, aligned E-W, N wall of demolished building, forms with wall 0207 NE corner of demolished building	
0209	Deposit, loose, mainly sand and sandy mortar, some brick and stone fragments, fill in gap in wall	
0210	Cut, through wall 0208, fill 0209, bricks 0211 at W end of this fill	
0211	Structure, red bricks not mortared neatly set at W end of fill 0209, at least four bricks high	
0212	Structure, stonework feature with some bricks inserted, on W side of bricks 0211, crude stonework mortared with grey mortar, inserted into N gable end wall of demolished building, appears to be front of oven structure that has undergone alteration, a possible ventilation passage on the W side of this feature	
0213	Structure bricks incorporated into structure 0212	
0214	Structure, stonework 0.60m wide mortar bonded to W of 0212, considered to be part of the N gable wall of demolished building	
0215	Structure, medium to small flat stone fragments seemingly overlying N gable wall of demolished building to W of 0212, forming an elongated rectangle, noted for the very white mortar, possible levelling	
0216	Structure, large stone, mortar bonded in the NW corner of demolished building,	

	possible structure for stairway	
0217	Structure, wall 0.50m wide, large stone W wall of demolished building	
0218	Deposit, mainly black silt, accumulation over floor of oven after it was sealed off, cat skull and leather shoe recovered from surface but not excavated at this stage	
0219	Structure, brick work, fire bricks, forming arched chimney or flue within oven roof, in SE corner of oven, some clay bonding.	

## Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Digital</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
Set 01; 9Sept08		
0001	General of backland	NE
0002	Ibid	SW
0003	Ibid	SE
0004	Mini-digger working at Trench 01	S
0005	Lintel for vaults 0116	W
0006	Ibid, showing context 0116	W
0007	Window, context 0113, detail	E
0008	Ibid, context 0113, general	E
0009	Window, infilling or blocking and top of lintel	SE
0010	Window, infilling and lintel	NE
0011	Ibid	NE
0012	Infilling, window and lintel for vaults	S
0013	Ibid, general showing location	S
Set02; 10Sept08		
0014	Trench 02 E end showing wall 0203 E side of oven and collapsed vaulting over oven	W
0015	Ibid	W
0016	Trench 02 general working	W
0017	Trench 02 general working looking down from fire escape	NE

0018	Ibid	NE
0019	Detail inside oven	W
0020	Ibid	W
0021	Ibid	W
0022	Ibid	W
0023	Ibid	W
0024	Ibid	SW
0025	Void through roofing 0206	W
0026	Ibid detail	W
0027	Detail of inside of 'passage way' on S side of wall 0203, showing brick work held up by iron strap	W
0028	Ibid	SW
0029	Exterior of 'passage way' on S side of wall 0203 on W side of oven	SW
0030	Ibid, detail	W
0031	Ibid, general	W
0032	Trench 02, general	NW
0033	Ibid	NW
Set 03; 11Sept08		
0034	Oven interior, blocked oven door	S
0035	Ibid	S
0036	Ibid, detail of stonework of oven W wall	W
0037	Ibid, detail of vent in W wall of oven interior	W
0038	Detail of vent in W wall of oven interior, in NW corner	NW
0039	Detail of brickwork vent, interior of oven	SE
0040	Ibid	SE
0041	Ibid, general	SE
0042	Void below roofing 0206, showing pipes	W
0043	Ibid	W

0044	Void below roofing 0206, showing NW corner of now demolished building	S
0045	Void below roofing 0206, showing pipes	NW
0046	Detail of stonework for roof 0204 in section	W
0047	Ibid	W
0048	Detail of stonework for oven roof 0204 in plan	S
0049	Ibid	S
0050	Detail of stonework for for oven roof 0204 in plan	E
0051	Ibid, general	E
0052	Area 02 general from fire escape	NE
0053	Ibid	NE
0054	Fill in wall, context 0209, loose sandy infill to E of wall 0208	E
0055	Stone and brick work of build 0212	N
0056	Ibid	N
0057	Ibid	N
0058	Ibid	W
0059	Ibid, general	W
0060	Wall, 0205, wall on E side of roofed area	S
0061	Ibid	SE
0062	Ibid	SE
0063	Roofing over large void 0206	SE
0064	Ibid	SE
0065	Ibid	S
0066	Flat stone fragments with white mortar 0215 over N gable end wall of demolished building, detail	E
0067	Ibid, general	E
0068	Cleaning stonework of 0216	E
0069	Stonework 0216	E
0070	Ibid	E

0071	Ibid, detail	N
0072	Ibid, general	N
0073	General of features on S side of area 02	NW
0074	Trench 01 expanded, revealing another window to the S of 0113, looking down from fire escape	E
0075	Ibid, detail	E
0076	Detail of window N architrave	N
0077	Ibid	N
0078	General of window	W
Set 5; 15Sept08		
0079	SE corner of demolished building, ashlar coins, detail	NW
0080	Ibid, general	N

### Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Section of Trench 01, plan of Trench 01	1:10 and 1:20
2	Plan of features in Trench 02	1:20

### Appendix 4 PE49 Finds List

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material type</i>	<i>Details</i>
0111	Pottery	1 tin-glazed earthenware body sherd (blue and white transfer print)
0111	Glass	1 green bottle base
0111	Pottery	1 tin-glazed earthenware body sherd 1 stoneware body sherd
0201	Pottery	5 tin-glazed earthenware body sherds 2 tin-glazed earthenware rim sherds 2 tin-glazed earthenware base sherds

0201	Clay pipe	Bowl, with impressed harp design 4 stems (1 with trace of glaze)
0201	?CBM	1 glazed ?tile fragment (blue and white transfer print)
0201	Animal bone	Cat: R femur; adult, entire Cat: R tibia; adult, entire
0202	Pottery	1 tin-glazed earthenware teapot spout (blue and white transfer print) 1 tin-glazed earthenware base sherd 1 tin-glazed earthenware body sherd
0218	Animal bone	Cat: skull; entire, adult Cat: L femur; entire; adult Cat: L & R innominate; entire
0218	Leather	Sole and 3 pieces upper from shoe/boot
0219	CBM	Brick; no frog
fill of oven	Glass	Ovate bottle; body and neck present, lip absent. Delaminated surface

### Note on the finds from 199 High Street

The ovate glass bottle found in the fill of the oven is of a type used to contain carbonated mineral or soda water. Ovate bottles were designed to lie flat in storage, thus keeping the cork damp and so less likely to shrink and allow the gas to escape from the bottle. Ovate bottles of this type were in use in the late 19th century. Some ovate bottles remained in production until about 1916 (Wills 1974, 53-4).

The cat bones (a right femur and tibia from Context 0201 and a skull and left femur from Context 0218) probably originate from different animals, since the left and right femora are of different sizes. The bones from Context 0201 are from the more robust individual of the two. The bones are intact and show no signs of cut marks associated with skinning and one possible explanation is that they came from animals which had hidden away to die.

### Reference

Wills, G 1974 English Glass Bottles for the Collector. Edinburgh.

## Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Evaluation 199-205 High Street Perth
PROJECT CODE:	PE49
PARISH:	Perth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	SUAT Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Burgh medieval backlands
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	19 <sup>th</sup> Century building, 19 <sup>th</sup> Century bread oven
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NGR NO 1164 2364
START DATE	09 September 2008
END DATE	12 September 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Building record of frontage-Bowler, D 2008 <i>Archaeological Building Record, 199-205 High Street, Perth</i> SUAT unpublished archive report Perth
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>SUAT Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in the backland of 199-205 High Street, Perth in advance of an extension to the rear of the property. The development area was considered to have significant archaeological potential due to its location within the core of the medieval burgh. Originally it represented a double burgage plot extending northwards to Mill Street and the town's defensive wall and ditch. Two trenches revealed archaeology relating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century built environment.</p> <p>Trench 01 the south trench on the site's west side revealed a large blocked window in the west basement wall of a demolished stone building. A southern extension to the trench revealed a further window. Between the site's west boundary and the wall of the building, deeper excavation revealed buried stone vaults arranged north to south along the site's west boundary. Between the vaults and the building wall was a sunken passageway backfilled with deposits containing 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Excavation on the east side of the wall inside the basement revealed stone rubble from the earlier building, overlain by brick rubble from the recently</p>



	<p>demolished brick building. This rubble was not bottomed as it extended below the new build formation level.</p> <p>Trench 02 was located in the north part of the site, to the north of the infilled basement. This trench revealed a large stone-built bread oven which had been inserted into the north wall of the early stone building and extended northwards towards the site's north boundary. The vaulted roof of the oven was partly removed revealing details of the oven's interior which had not been backfilled. The interior of the oven measured approximately 2.30m north to south and 2m east to west. Below the roof vaulting the low oven walls were of fine ashlar build with rounded corners. The mouth of the oven was on the S side, built into the north wall of the stone building. The doorway or mouth had a metal lining. Some of the silt from the oven floor was cleared revealing a flat polished stone surface. On the east side of the oven were infilling deposits approximately 2m deep, containing 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The east exterior wall of the oven contained an opening or passageway towards its south end which for safety reasons due to depth could only partly be investigated.</p> <p>Excavation continued to the west of the oven and here stone roofing was found abutting the west wall of the oven, bridging over the sunken passageway which continued northwards from Trench 01. The stone roofing sealed an extensive void, up to 1m in depth, which was visually inspected by torch light though a hole in the roofing. This revealed that the void continued to the site's west boundary where there were vaults, presumably a continuation of those found in Trench 01. The north site boundary could be seen to comprise a stone wall. The ashlar corner of the stone basement to the south was also clearly visible.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be determined
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Developer funded
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	SUAT Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	<a href="mailto:Director@suat.co.uk">Director@suat.co.uk</a>

## Appendix 6 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

### 6.1 Recording Methodology

SUAT employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

### 6.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

### 6.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

### 6.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. SUAT will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

### 6.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

### 6.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

SUAT adheres to the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

SUAT has public liability insurance of £5,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

SUAT operates a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. SUAT undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

All SUAT representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.