

SUAT Ltd

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**Archaeological Watching Brief
Peggy Scott's Restaurant
FINAVON
ANGUS**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
PEGGY SCOTT'S RESTAURANT
FINAVON
ANGUS
FF12**

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Illustration 1: Site location plan
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ABSTRACT

During the period 17-18 March 2009 and again on 23 June 2009, SUAT Ltd carried out a watching brief (SUAT site code FF12) on groundworks for an extension to Peggy Scott's restaurant at Finavon, Angus centred on NGR NO 4959 5747. The development site was of archaeological interest because the restaurant and new extension is situated within the site of a c 15ha Roman temporary camp identified by aerial reconnaissance in 1962.

Ground stripping and foundation cuts for the new build walls covered an area of 323.75m² on the NW side of the existing restaurant. Ground stripping to formation level did not require the complete removal of the subsoil deposits but deeper trenching for the construction of walls and pillars intruded into the natural fluvioglacial deposits. The ground works revealed topsoil/ploughsoil 0.40m in depth over subsoil 0.15m thick. Within the NW part of the new build site was a spread of lighter soil below the topsoil which contained occasional sherds of modern pottery. In the central area was a deposit of disturbed subsoil containing abundant modern pottery and glass. The area on the SE side was cut by a plastic drain in gravel and a yellow plastic domestic gas pipe. The 2 x 9m excavation for a septic tank in a field on the E side of the restaurant and the associated drain trench revealed topsoil/ploughsoil containing some fragments of ceramic field drain and modern pottery over subsoil to a combined depth of 0.37m. A plastic field drain crossed the septic tank excavation on a N-S line and an early modern field drain comprising field cobbles in a matrix of silt crossed the cut for the septic tank drain on a N-S line.

No deposits or features that could be associated with the Roman temporary camp were identified.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Gary Sinclair Architecture on behalf of his client, Dawn Buick of Peggy Scott's Restaurant commissioned SUAT to undertake an archaeological watching brief (SUAT site code FF12) on the site of an extension and septic tank installation at Peggy Scott's Restaurant, Finavon, Angus. The watching brief was required because the site lies within the boundaries of a Roman temporary camp. The new extension on the N side of the restaurant was within a green field site and measured 18.5 x 17.5m, centred on NGR NO4959 5747. The septic tank excavation was located in a field on the E side of the restaurant. The work for the extension was undertaken during the period 17-18 March and for the septic tank on 23 June 2009, in good weather conditions. The watching brief was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 08/00233/FUL, dated 27 February 2008.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this watching brief was to record the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area. It was considered that there was a good possibility that remains associated with the Roman temporary camp might be revealed.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the Angus Council Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This watching brief report is the final part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition placed on the planning consent for this development by Angus Council.

1.5 Acknowledgements

SUAT wish to thank Moira Greig Archaeologist, Planning and Environmental Services, Aberdeenshire Council, Archaeological Advisor to Angus Council, and Gary Sinclair Architecture for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. The watching brief was entirely funded by Dawn Buick, Peggy Scott's Restaurant.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

Peggy Scott's restaurant is located at NGR NO 4960 5748 on the N side of the A90 approximately 325m to the NE of Finavon Bridge which crosses the River South Esk. This is within an area of land occupying the ancient flood plain of the river, and the site sits within the interior of a Roman temporary camp which guarded the crossing of the River South Esk. The new development is an extension on the N side of the existing restaurant covering an area of approximately 18.5 x 17.5m. The development

also includes the insertion of a new septic tank in a field on the E side of the restaurant.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The site of Peggy Scott's Restaurant sits within a Roman temporary camp. The following information relating to the camp has been extracted from the Angus Sites and Monuments Record. NO45NE0021: NO4959 5747. Cropmarks of a Roman temporary camp, were discovered during aerial reconnaissance in 1962 by CUCAP and subsequently all of its sides have been determined by continued reconnaissance and trial trenching. The camp is situated on a level terrace on the River South Esk immediately to the NE of Finavon Bridge. Rectangular on plan, it measures about 420m NW-SE x 360m transversely. Two gates have been recorded, on the NE and SE respectively, both guarded by a *titulum*. The SE ditch, investigated by J K St Joseph, was 1.37m wide and 0.76m deep, the south-west was also investigated. The east ditch was again examined during the summer of 1987, immediately south of the A94 in advance of road-widening. It was found to be *c* 2m wide, flat-bottomed and 0.30m deep, below ploughsoil 0.4m thick. At some period the ditch had been recut to a width of 0.8m and a depth of 0.30m. No trace of the SE gateway was found; this probably lies a little further north beneath the A94 (now the A90) and had been covered during the road widening in the 1970s after St Joseph's investigations.

The grouping of this camp into a series was proposed by St Joseph and placed in his 30 acre category, but Halpin argues that it should be reclassified into the '63 acre' class because of its similar plan, position of gates and location with regard to other camps in this series like Keithock and Eassie. The current line of the A94 (A90) appears to respect the southern gateways on the east and west of the camp. The siting of the camp is probably related to a fording of the River South Esk.

2.3 Archaeological Method

The archaeological watching brief was conducted on the general ground reduction, and the cutting of foundation trenches for walls and columns required for the restaurant extension. A further watching brief was carried out on the excavation for the septic tank and associated drain trench. The machine was under constant archaeological supervision while working and relevant deposits and features were cleaned and recorded.

2.4 Results of Investigations (Illus 2 and Illus3)

A rectangular area measuring 18.5 x 17.5m to the N of the existing restaurant was reduced in level by a maximum of 0.40m which left the basal ploughsoil (18) mixed with subsoil (19) across the site. Wall foundation trenches were cut on the N, E and W edges of the site and two pads or column bases were inserted, one in the mid part of the N foundation trench and the other in the middle of the site. The foundation and pad cuts were deep enough to cut into the natural deposits. An area of tarmac (13) over loose sand, gravel and river cobbles (14), 0.50m thick over natural clay remained along the S edge of the site.

Within the NW part of the site a spread of lighter soil (12) below the topsoil contained occasional sherds of modern pottery. In the central area was a disturbed subsoil (06) containing abundant modern pottery and glass (not all collected). The area on the SE

side was cut by a plastic field drain (07) in gravel and also by a yellow plastic domestic gas pipe (02). On the S side of the plastic field drain was an area of clean undisturbed subsoil (04), to the W of which was a slightly disturbed subsoil (03). A small area of disturbed subsoil with modern inclusions was located to the S of (03).

After general ground reduction a small 0.40 x 0.50m and 0.30m deep hand-dug sondage was made close to the site edge in the W part of the site. This revealed a deposit of black silty loam (09) with small stones and modern pottery sherds and a clay pipe fragment, over grey silty loam sub soil (10), over natural brown clay (11). Deposit (10) was an extension of subsoil (03).

Deeper excavation required for the strip foundation revealed natural fluvioglacial deposits (15), (17) comprising sand, silt gravel, clay etc below the subsoil around the edges of the site. It was noted that the interface of the black subsoil and fluvioglacial deposits was a well-defined horizontal line. The topsoil was seen to be 0.40m in depth and the subsoil was 0.14m in depth. In mid site (after ground reduction) the excavations for the column base revealed the remaining subsoil was 0.20m in depth. Deep excavation in the SE corner of the site revealed topsoil and subsoil to be 0.68m in depth where the field to the E was higher and on the boundary of the restaurant site.

The excavation for the septic tank in the field on the E side of the site measured 2 x 9m being 1.06m deep at the N end and 0.96m at the S end. A 0.90m wide drain trench was cut from the N end which doglegged for a length of 18m toward the restaurant new build to the NW. These excavations revealed topsoil/ploughsoil containing some fragments of ceramic field drain and modern pottery to a depth of 0.37m over subsoil. A plastic field drain cut into natural (22) crossed the septic tank excavation and the drain excavation on a N-S line. An early modern cobble filled field drain aligned NE-SW was found at a depth of 0.60m crossing the cut for the septic tank drain. The field drain had been cut into the natural deposits and comprised large and small field cobbles (23) in a matrix of silt. The cobble fill had a width of 1m and the cut (23) was 0.14m wide and observed to a depth of 0.14m into the natural. Above the natural the cut could not be distinguished. The cobbles were not fully excavated due to the rapid ingress of water. It was considered that this field drain was early modern and predated the later ceramic drains, fragments of which were found in the plough soil.

3 Interpretation

3.1 The Restaurant Extension Ground Reduction

The area measuring 18.5 x 17.5m comprising the restaurant extension revealed topsoil/ploughsoil and subsoil to a depth of approximately 0.40m over fluvioglacial deposits. In general natural deposits were not reached over this area. The lower deposits of ploughsoil and subsoil remained in-situ over this area as they were at new build formation level, but it could be determined that there was some disturbance into these deposits as they contained fragments of modern pottery, glass and a pipe stem fragment. This disturbance was no doubt caused by agricultural/horticultural activity and manuring during the 19th century. Deeper excavations for foundations revealed only natural deposits below the subsoil. No features or deposits that could be associated with the Roman temporary camp were identified.

3.2 The Septic Tank Excavations

The excavations for the septic tank again revealed topsoil/ploughsoil to a depth of 0.37m over fluvioglacial deposits. Of interest was a cobble field drain which was probably inserted for land improvement in the late 18th or early 19th centuries. No features or deposits relating to the Roman temporary camp were identified.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

The watching brief confirmed the use of the land here during the 18-19th centuries with agricultural/horticultural disturbance into the subsoil and drainage in the form of a cobble field drain. The watching brief did not however preclude the possibility that features/deposits relating to the Roman occupation of the site may underlie the basal ploughsoil/subsoil that remained in-situ within the 18.5 x 17.5m area of the new build.

4.2 Recommendations for Further Work

As the groundworks for this project are now complete and nothing of archaeological significance was found SUAT recommends that no further archaeological intervention is required on this site.

However the final decision with regard to further work rests with the local authority archaeologist.

5 References

CUCAP: In 1945, J.K. St Joseph, who was then a lecturer in Geology, began a programme of aerial reconnaissance for Cambridge University which was to result in the establishment of the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP).

Halpin, E 1992 'The Roman temporary camps at Marcus and Finavon, Angus: excavations 1987 *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 122 (1992), 171-182

Appendix 1 Context Register

No:	Description	Phase
	Site reduction and foundation cuts for new extension	
01	Deposit, area with brown, mixed with darker silty loam inclusions of modern pottery and plastic, disturbed subsoil/topsoil	
02	Domestic sized gas pipe, yellow plastic running on W side of restaurant	
03	Deposit homogenous dark brown silty loam subsoil, only lightly disturbed	
04	Deposit, homogenous dark brown silty loam subsoil, undisturbed	
05	Deposit, modern gravel over plastic field drain (07)	
06	Deposit, similar to 01, disturbed top soil/subsoil, with dark areas/patches of dark silty loam generally much disturbed contains abundant modern pottery and glass, mainly mid site	
07	Modern white plastic field drain below gravel 05, runs N-W across E side of site	
08	Archaeological sondage 0.40 x 0.50m and 0.25m deep	
09	Deposit, section in sondage shallow patch of black silty loam abundant small stone/gravel 0.10m thick, 19th-20th century pottery and clay pipe stem	
10	Deposit, section in sondage, grey brown silty clay loam moderate stone, undisturbed subsoil max depth 0.20m; equivalent to subsoil deposit 03	
11	Deposit, orange brown clay, natural	
12	Deposit, homogenous silty loam, bottom of topsoil at W side of site, moderately stony, occasional 19th-20th century pottery serds, no areas of black silty loam disturbance	
13	Deposit, tarmac surface, car parking area adjacent to W side of restaurant, 0.08m thick over sand and gravel bedding (014)	
14	Deposit, loose sand and gravel with abundant river cobbles, 0.50m deep, bedding for tarmac surface (13) over natural clay, SE corner of site showing in new build E-W wall trench	
15	Deposit, light brown clay/sandy clay natural same as (17)	
16	Deposit, mid brown silty, clay loam subsoil	
17	Deposit, orange brown sandy clay, stony natural, lower part of (15)	
18	General topsoil ploughsoil c 0.40m thick, black silty loam, moderate amount of stone 19th century pottery and glass (not all collected)	
19	General subsoil c 0.20m thick, similar to 18 but less dark moderate amount of	

	stone	
	Excavations for septic tank	
20	Deposit, topsoil/turf, 0.14m thick dark loam with moderate amount of small stone over ploughsoil	
21	Deposit, loam with moderate amount of small stone, some modern pottery and field drain fragments (not recovered) plough soil below context 20, 0.23m thick	
22	Modern black plastic field drain surrounded by grave, cut into natural, top at 0.40m below site surface	
23	Structure, field drain large and small rounded cobbles in matrix of dark-grey-black silty loam, not fully excavated due to ingress of water into feature, c 1m wide	
24	Cut for field drain context 23, cut only observed through natural to depth of 0.16m gently sloping, maximum width 1.40m	

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
	17 March 2009	
001	General topsoiling for solum of new build	NE
002	General topsoiling detail of formation level	N
003	General topsoiling	NE
004	General of site working with machine	SE
005	General of site location	SW
006	General working on site	SW
007	Small sondage into formation level deposits to underlying natural clay	S
008	Location of sondage	SW
009	General of site working	NE
010	General of site working	SW
011	Peggy Scott's restaurant frontage	NE
012	General site location	SW
013	Detail of subsoil deposit	N
014	Location of subsoil deposit	N

015	General of site mainly stripped down to subsoil	NE
	18 March 09	
016	Excavation for wall foundation trench at site SE corner	E
017	Detail of foundation trench at site S side near SE corner	SE
018	General of foundation trench S side	NW
019	General of site	SW
020	Detail of digging section in W foundation trench	N
021	Detail of section in W foundation trench showing interface of natural clay and subsoil	NW
022	Ditto	SW
023	Context 17; detail of section of excavation for concrete foundation pad mid W foundation strip, showing interface with natural clay	W
024	Context 17; general of section of excavation for concrete foundation pad mid W foundation strip, showing interface with natural clay	NW
025	Context 17; detail of section of excavation for concrete foundation pad mid W foundation strip, showing interface with natural clay	SW
026	General of W foundation trench	NE
027	General of S foundation trench	SW
028	Ditto	SW
029	General of part of N foundation strip	NE
030	General of dismantling of ramp and stair on W side of restaurant	E
031-032	Detail of interface with natural silty clay NE corner of site, gas pipe on E side	NE
033	Location shot of site NE corner	E
034	Detail of N foundation strip showing exposed white plastic field drain crossing site	NE
035	General from N edge of Roman Camp NW corner of field	SW
036	General from N edge of Roman Camp SE corner of field, next to Toll House	SW
037	Start of excavation of foundation pad, centre of site	NW
038	Detail of interface of natural clay and subsoil in foundation pad excavation in centre of site	SE
039	Location of foundation pad excavation in centre of site	SE

	Septic tank excavation	
040	General of new build	SW
041-042	General views of field in area of septic tank	SE
043	General view of Peggy Scott's with new build	E
044	General view of machine in area of septic tank	SW
045	Start of excavation for septic tank N part of W facing section	SW
046	General location shot of start of excavation	W
047	Excavation in progress ingress of water due to cutting of field drain	S
048	General of excavation	S
049	W facing section showing cut plastic filed drain	W
050	Excavated trench cut well into natural deposits	S
051-052	General location shots of excavation	NW-W
053	Cut for pipe leading into septic tank	NW
054	General of pipe trench location	NW
055	Pipe trench showing rubble field drain	W
056	Location shot for pipe trench showing rubble field drain	W
057-058	Detail of field drain context 23	W
059	As above	S
060-061-062	As above	SW-E-W
063	General location of pipe trench leading to septic tank	SW
064	General of septic tank excavation filling with water	S
065	As above	N

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Section, small sondage N facing section, context 09, 10 and 11	1:10
2	Section, foundation pad site W side, E facing section site W side	1:20
2	Section, foundation pad centre of site W facing section	1:20

Appendix 4 Finds Register

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material Type</i>	<i>Details</i>
04	Fe	2 fragments
09	Pottery	2 rim sherds
09	Clay pipe	1 stem fragment

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Watching Brief, Peggy Scott's Restaurant, Finavon, Angus
PROJECT CODE:	FF12
PARISH:	Tannadice & Oathlaw parish
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	SUAT Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO45NE0021
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Roman Temporary Camp
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NO 4959 5747
START DATE	17 March 2009
END DATE	23 June 2009

PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	DES 1987 Tayside Marcus & Finavon Two Roman Temporary Camps, Cropmarks
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>During the period 17-18 March 2009 and again on 23 June 2009 SUAT Ltd carried out a watching brief (SUAT site code FF12) on groundworks for an extension to Peggy Scott's restaurant at Finavon, Angus centred on NGR NO 4959 5747. The development site was of archaeological interest because the restaurant and new extension is situated within the site of a c 15ha Roman temporary camp identified by aerial reconnaissance in 1962. Ground stripping and foundation cuts for the new build walls covered an area of 323.75m² on the NW side of the existing restaurant.</p> <p>Ground stripping to formation level did not require the complete removal of the subsoil deposits but deeper trenching for the construction of walls and pillars intruded into the natural fluvioglacial deposits. The ground works revealed topsoil/ploughsoil 0.40m in depth over subsoil 0.15m thick. Within the NW part of the new build site a spread of lighter soil below the topsoil contained occasional sherds of modern pottery. In the central area was disturbed subsoil containing abundant modern pottery and glass. The area on the SE side was cut a plastic drain in gravel and a yellow plastic domestic gas pipe. The 2 x 9m excavation for a septic tank in a field on the E side of the restaurant and the associated drain trench revealed topsoil/ploughsoil containing some fragments of ceramic field drain and modern pottery over subsoil to a combined depth of 0.37m. A plastic field drain crossed the septic tank excavation on a N-S line and an early modern field drain comprising field cobbles in a matrix of silt crossed the cut for the drain on a N-S line. No deposits or features that could be associated with the Roman temporary camp were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The watching brief was entirely funded by the developer
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	SUAT Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@suat.co.uk

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 for 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.