

**Proposed new build house
Land adjacent to 3 Whitemyres Holdings, Lang Stracht, Aberdeen,
AB15 6NB**

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

National Grid Reference: NJ 88815 06660

Parish: Aberdeen

Height: 115-120m OD

Written and researched by:

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Commissioning client:

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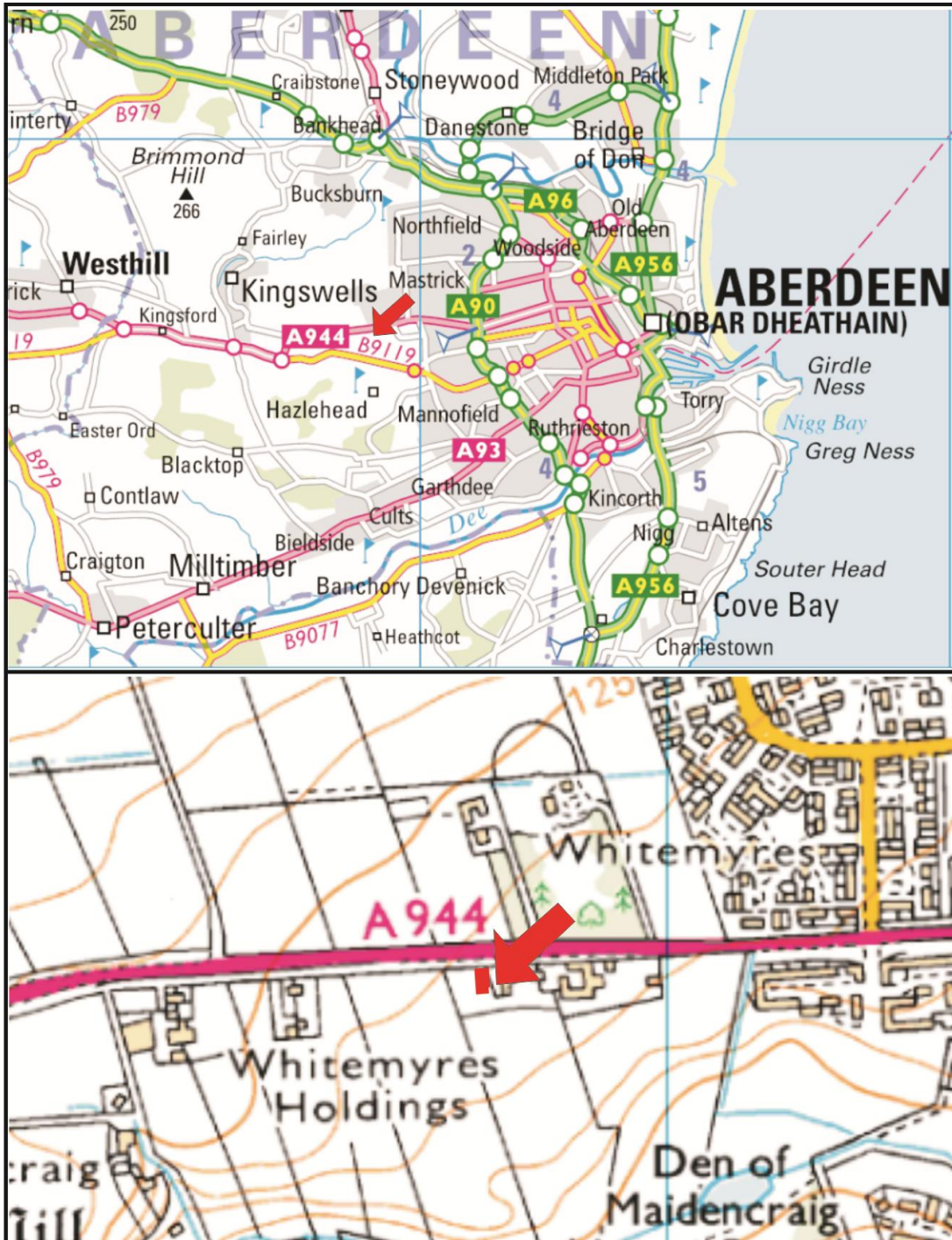
Contractor:

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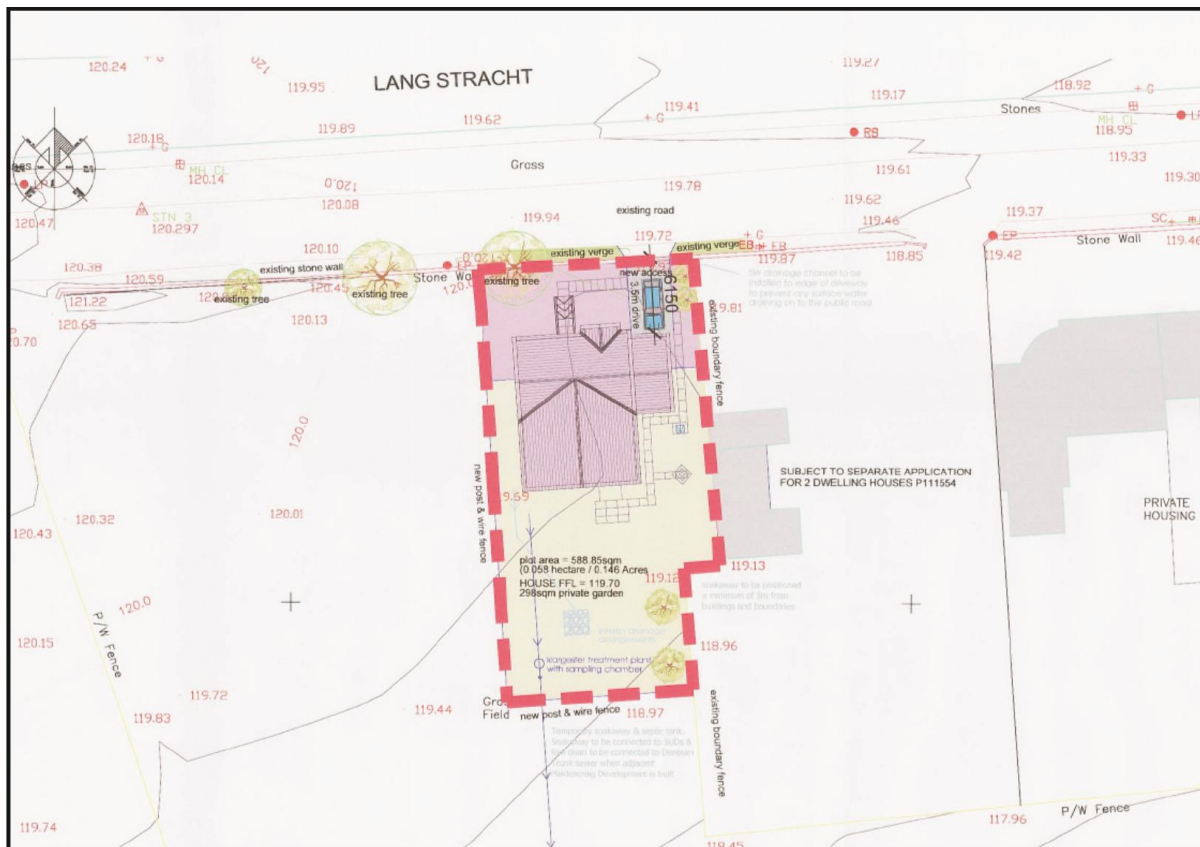
Date: 21 December 2012

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is located on the south side of Lang Stracht west of 3 Whitemyres Holdings, Aberdeen. The site is at AB15 6NB, NJ 88815 06660, at 115-120m OD and in the parish of Aberdeen (Illus 1).
- 1.2 Aberdeen City Council planning application P120026 for the proposed erection of a single house (Illus 2) was passed by Aberdeen City Council on 14.12.12 with a standard archaeology condition (condition 1). There is a requirement for a 7% archaeological evaluation prior to construction and this work is planned for 3 January 2013.



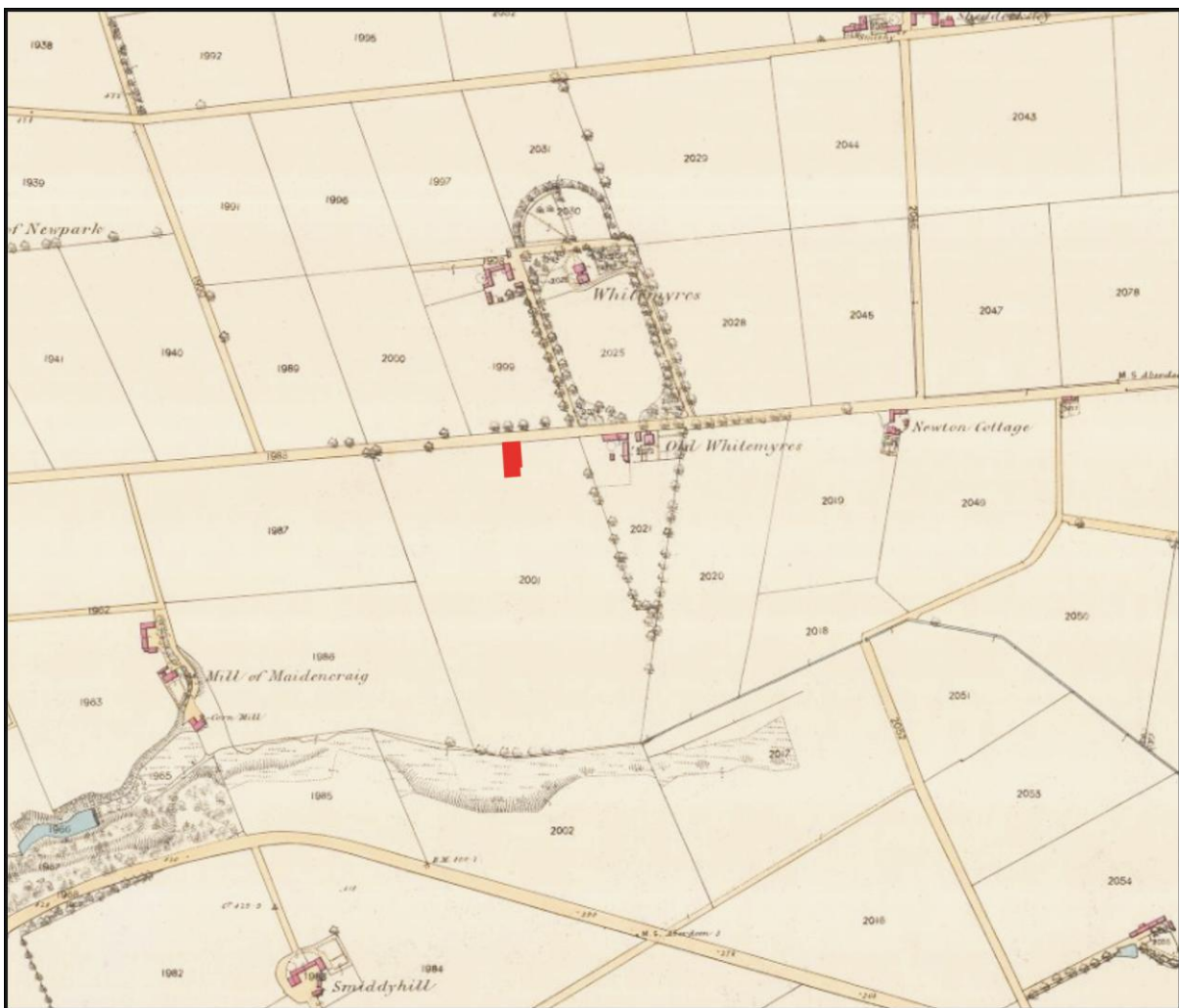
Illus 1 Location plan of site (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012)



Illus 2 Proposed single dwellinghouse (*copyright William Lippe Architects*)

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is in a cultivated field. There are no known archaeological sites within the development area and no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the vicinity. The site was occupied by cultivated fields on the First, Second and Third Edition Ordnance Survey maps (Illus 3).
- 2.2 The adjacent Old Whitemyres (NJ80NE 41.01) is dated 1704 and the steadings date to the mid 18th century (PASTMAP). There is no evidence that buildings continued west into the current development area.
- 2.3 The medieval Mill of Maidencraig is 300m WSW from the current site. The meal-mill at Maidencraig was built by the Town of Aberdeen in 1616 and known as the Newmill. It was burned down towards the end of the 19th century (Cruickshank 1959, 22).



Illus 3 First Edition OS map Aberdeen Sheet LXXV.9 (Newhills) Survey date: 1867
(copyright National Library of Scotland) with site in red and showing Mill of Maidencraig
(bottom left).

3.0 METHOD STATEMENT

- 3.1 Cameron Archaeology will carry out a 7% archaeological evaluation of the proposed development area (Illus 2).

Reporting and finds

- 3.5 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 (National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.
- 3.6 Any human remains which are encountered will initially be left *in situ*. Their discovery will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal and the client. Aberdeen City Council will also be informed. Their removal will comply with the provisions of Scots Law.

Access and Safety

- 3.7 Cameron Archaeology will inform Lead Curator, Local History and Archaeology, Aberdeen City Council prior to the start of fieldwork.
- 3.8 All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of conduct will be respected. The watching brief will be carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.
- 3.9 Staff will wear steel toe-capped boots, hard hats and hi-viz vests at all times and they will carry CSCS cards.
- 3.10 The archaeologist will hand clean and record any features and some will be part excavated to determine nature and depth.

Recording Systems

- 3.11 A Cameron Archaeology fieldwork number (CA116-2012) has been allocated to this site. This number will appear on all site records and finds and all post-excavation material. Cameron Archaeology recording systems will be used on this project.
- 3.12 A site location plan will be produced which will tie in to National Grid and will locate Ordnance Survey bench marks and TBMs used on the site.
- 3.13 Plans of contexts will be produced at 1:20 (or other scale as appropriate) and sections of features at 1:10. All site drawings will be on polyester-based drawing film
- 3.14 The OD height of contexts will be calculated and recorded on plans, sections and level book.
- 3.15 For complex stratification, a Harris matrix will be prepared to record stratigraphic relationships.
- 3.16 A photographic record will consist of high quality digital images for all main contexts as well as working and general site and location photographs.

Treatment of finds and samples

- 3.17 Sampling strategies will depend on the perceived importance of the deposit or feature under excavation. Bulk samples for sieving will be taken as necessary. A selection of samples will be sent for analysis by specialist archaeological soil analysts.
- 3.18 Finds will be exposed, recorded, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in line with archaeological guidelines. All metalwork will be x-rayed and selected for conservation.
- 3.19 Organic samples will be collected or sampled and subjected to conservation, dendrochronology, carbon 14 sampling or other analytical technique as necessary.
- 3.20 Cameron Archaeology can confirm that arrangements are in place to cover all necessary processing, conservation, specialist analysis and subsequent storage of finds and samples.
- 3.21 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 (Nicholas Holmes, National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.

Post-excavation and publication

- 3.22 A report will be prepared for the client within 2 weeks of the end of fieldwork.
- 3.23 If archaeological remains are discovered which cannot be dealt with under this WSI, a discussion will take between Lead Curator, Local History and Archaeology, Aberdeen City Council and the client and a mitigation strategy produced. This may require further excavation of archaeological remains which cannot be left in situ, and a timescale and costings for this work will then be produced.
- 3.24 Following further fieldwork a Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) will be produced which will outline costs for post-excavation analysis and publication.
- 3.25 Publication will take place in a suitable journal.

Archive

- 3.26 Copies of the fieldwork report will be sent to the applicant and the Local Authority archaeologist and Planning Authority.
- 3.27 If archaeological remains are uncovered a brief survey of results should be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, along with the appropriate fee.
- 3.28 An OASIS report will be completed for this site within 4 weeks of the end of fieldwork.
- 3.29 The site archive will be lodged with RCAHMS.

4.0 REFERENCES

Cruickshank, J 1959 'Kingswells valley', *The Deeside Field, 2nd, vol.3, 22.*

APPENDIX 1
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE AREA OF THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT

SITE NUMBER	NMRS NAME	CLASS
<u>NJ80NE.18.-</u>	ABERDEEN, NEWHILLS, MAIDENCRAIG, MEAL MILL. Alternative: MILL	MILL
<u>NJ80NE.41.0</u>	OLD WHITEMYRES FARMHOUSE. Alternative: FARMHOUSE (18TH CENTURY)	FARMHOUSE (18TH CENTURY)
<u>NJ80NE.75.-</u>	WHITEMYRES HOUSE. Alternative: HOUSE (18TH CENTURY), RIG AND FURROW (POST MEDIEVAL)	HOUSE (18TH CENTURY), RIG AND FURROW (POST MEDIEVAL)
<u>NJ80NE.102.-</u>	MAIDENCRAIG. Alternative: FARMSTEAD	FARMSTEAD
<u>NJ80NE.131.-</u>	HOME FARM OF SHEDDOCKSLY. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
<u>NJ80NE.132.-</u>	HOME FARM OF SHEDDOCKSLY, SMITHY. Alternative: SMITHY	SMITHY
<u>NJ80NE.136.-</u>	NEWTON COTTAGE. Alternative: COTTAGE	COTTAGE
<u>NJ80NE.137.-</u>	LANG STRACHT. Alternative: COTTAGE	COTTAGE
<u>NJ80NE.139.-</u>	DEN SEAT. Alternative: COTTAGE	COTTAGE
<u>NJ80NE.41.1</u>	OLD WHITEMYRES STEADING. Alternative: FARMSTEAD (18TH CENTURY)	FARMSTEAD (18TH CENTURY)