

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
Loirsbank Road, Cults, Aberdeen, AB15 9GB**

**National Grid Reference:** NJ 89628 02743

**Parish:** Peterculter

**Height:** 15-20m OD

**Written and researched by:**

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**Commissioning client:**

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**Date:**

21 January 2011

# 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation is for works to be carried out at Loirsbank Road, Cults, Aberdeen, AB15 9GB.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Dougal Morgan, William Cowie Partnership for Forbes Homes and this WSI has been compiled by Alison Cameron, Cameron Archaeology on 20-21 January 2011.
- 1.3 The work relates to Aberdeen City Council Planning reference P101384 for the construction of 8 homes; the permission was granted by Aberdeen City Council on 28/10/2010 with archaeology condition (no 2).
- 1.4 The Archaeological evaluation is expected to commence on Thursday 27th January 2011.
- 1.5 The field evaluation will be carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note 42 (PAN 42) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



III 1 Location plan (*Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010*)

- 1.6 The site lies south of Loirsbank Road at its east end junction with Deevie Road South. It is located in the Dee river valley, on north side of the river at 15-20m above sea level. It lies on the opposite side of the river from the Haugh of Ardoe. The area of the development is approximately 8212m<sup>2</sup> (III 2).



III 2 Site outline (Forbes Homes)

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There have been no previous archaeological interventions in the area of the current development site.
- 2.2 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the vicinity of the current site. However these riverine areas and haughs along the Dee have produced large numbers of prehistoric finds between Cults and Banchory. These include flint scatters in areas such as Maryculter Bridge (NJ80SE 36).
- 2.3 On the opposite bank of the Dee a short cist (NJ80SE 28) containing an adult human skull and an urn was dug up whilst forming that part of the turnpike road which passes through the estate of Ardoe (House at NJ 8946 0167). A scheduled stone circle is also located at the NE edge of Cults (NJ80SE 25).
- 2.4 A scheduled cairn of probable Bronze Age date is located west of the current site (NJ80SE 24). Several other cairns were situated on the ridge above (north of) Cults prior to the urbanisation of this area including two on the site now occupied by Cults Academy (NJ80SE 22, 23).
- 2.5 Several possible mottes (or early medieval castle mounds) are known in the area including Cults (NJ80SE 58), Camphill (NJ80SE 17) and to the east of the current site at Pitfodells (NJ90SW 1), all prominent positions overlooking the river Dee.
- 2.6 The site at Loirsbank lies to the south of the 'Mill of Pitfoddels (corn)' on the First Edition Ordnance Survey between the mill and Morrison's Bridge, the main crossing over the Dee in this area. Mill of Pitfoddels appears on the Pont maps of the late 16th century. 'Lorsbank' appears on Roy's maps of the mid-18th century.

### **3 METHOD STATEMENT**

- 3.1 Cameron Archaeology will carry out a 10% archaeological evaluation of the area in Ill 2. Forbes Homes will supply a slew machine and ditching bucket.

### **4 Reporting and finds**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Any human remains which are encountered will initially be left *in situ*. Their discovery will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal and the client. Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service will also be informed. Their removal will comply with the provisions of Scots Law.

### **5 Access and Safety**

- 5.1 Cameron Archaeology will inform Lead Curator, Local History and Archaeology, Aberdeen City Council prior to the start of fieldwork.
- 5.2 All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of conduct will be respected.
- 5.3 Staff will wear steel toe-capped boots, hard hats and hi-viz vests at all times. They will carry CSCS cards and present these during site induction. A health and safety risk assessment will be made and will be made available to all staff and contractors.
- 5.4 A machine with a flat-edged ditching bucket will be used at all times. Trenches will be opened and excavated down to the level of the first archaeological layer and to the natural subsoil if no archaeological remains are encountered. An archaeologist will not enter the trench unless the sides are safe; if there is a depth greater than 1.2m, the sides of the trench will be battered or stepped. In sandy conditions the trench edges will be stepped or battered at a lesser depth than 1.2m.
- 5.5 The archaeologist will hand clean and record any features and some will be part excavated to determine nature and depth.

## **6 Recording Systems**

- 6.1 A Cameron Archaeology fieldwork number (CA026-2011) 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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
- 6.4 The OD height of contexts will be calculated and recorded on plans, sections and level book.
- 6.5 For complex stratification, a Harris matrix will be prepared to record stratigraphic relationships.
- 6.6 A photographic record will consist of high quality digital images for all main contexts as well as working and general site and location photographs.

## **7 Treatment of finds and samples**

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 Organic samples will be collected or sampled and subjected to conservation, dendrochronology, carbon 14 sampling or other analytical technique as necessary.
- 7.4 Cameron Archaeology can confirm that arrangements are in place to cover all necessary processing, conservation, specialist analysis and subsequent storage of finds and samples.
- 7.5 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 (Nicholas Holmes, National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.

## **8 Post-excavation and publication**

- 8.1 A report will be prepared for the client within 2 weeks of the end of fieldwork.
- 8.2 If archaeological remains are discovered which cannot be dealt with under this WSI, a discussion will take place 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.
- 8.3 Following further fieldwork a Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) will be produced which will outline costs for post-excavation analysis and publication.
- 8.4 Publication will take place in a suitable journal.

## **9 Archive**

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

## Appendix 1

### List of NMRS entries around Loirsbank Road, Cults

NMRS SITE NUMBER	NMRS NAME	CLASS
<b>NJ80SE.20</b>	WEST CULTS.	ROTARY QUERN
<b>NJ80SE.25</b>	CULTS.	STONE CIRCLE
<b>NJ80SE.28</b>	COTBANK, ARDOE. Alternative: ARDOE ESTATE	CIST
<b>NJ80SE.31</b>	CULTS.	AXEHEAD (STONE)
<b>NJ80SE.33</b>	CULTS.	ARROWHEAD(S) (FLINT), AXEHEAD(S) (STONE), HAMMER (STONE), SPINDLE WHORL(S) (STONE), STONE BALL (STONE), UNIDENTIFIED FLINT(S) (FLINT)
<b>NJ80SE.34</b>	CULTS.	LITHIC IMPLEMENT(S) (FLINT)
<b>NJ80SE.35</b>	CULTS.	AXEHEAD (FLINT)
<b>NJ80SE.43</b>	ABERDEEN, CULTS, ST DEVENICK SUSPENSION BRIDGE. Alternative: ST DEVENICKS BRIDGE , MORRISON'S BRIDGE, MORISON'S BRIDGE, RIVER DEE, THE SHAKKIN' BRIGGIE	SUSPENSION BRIDGE (19TH CENTURY)
<b>NJ80SE.45</b>	CULTS MILL. Alternative: MILLDEN ROAD, MILL OF CULTS	WATERMILL (19TH CENTURY)
<b>NJ80SE.47</b>	ABERDEEN, CRAIGTON ROAD, BOUNDARY MARKER 12. Alternative: ABERDEEN, MARCH STONE 12, CULTS DAM	BOUNDARY STONE(S)
<b>NJ80SE.18</b>	CULTS HOUSE.	CAIRN (POSSIBLE), CIST(S)
<b>NJ80SE.58</b>	CULTS	MOTTE (POSSIBLE)
<b>NJ80SE.0.1</b>	ABERDEEN, CULTS, GENERAL.	GENERAL VIEW
<b>NJ80SE.57.0</b>	ABERDEEN, CULTS, CULTS AVENUE, CULTS HOUSE. Alternative: 11 CULTS AVENUE	COUNTRY HOUSE (18TH CENTURY)



<b>NJ90SW.49</b>	TOLLOHILL WOOD, PARKNOOK.	OBELISK
<b>NJ90SW.50</b>	CULTS, NORTH DEESIDE ROAD. Alternative: CULTS, 216 ARNLEE LODGE, NORTH DEESIDE ROAD, BAIRNS RD	PILLBOX (20TH CENTURY)
<b>NJ80SE.64</b>	WEST CULTS STATION.	RAILWAY STATION
<b>NJ80SE.68</b>	CULTS, NORTH DEESIDE ROAD, EAST CULTS PARISH CHURCH. Alternative: CULTS PARISH CENTRE	CHURCH
<b>NJ80SE.69</b>	CULTS, NORTH DEESIDE ROAD, CULTS EAST MANSE.	MANSE
<b>NJ80SE.61</b>	CULTS STATION. Alternative: STATION ROAD	RAILWAY STATION
<b>NJ80SE.74</b>	ABERDEEN, CULTS, INCHGARTH ROAD, FAIRVIEW. Alternative: WATERWORKS	ENGINE HOUSE (19TH CENTURY), WATERWORKS (19TH CENTURY)
<b>NJ80SE.75</b>	CULTS, 268 NORTH DEESIDE ROAD.	STONE
<b>NJ90SW.88</b>	ABERDEEN, GATHDEE ROAD, INCHGARTH. Alternative: INCHGARTH FARM	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
<b>NJ80SE.57.1</b>	ABERDEEN, CULTS, CULTS AVENUE, CULTS HOUSE, GARDEN WALL. Alternative: -	WALL (18TH CENTURY)
<b>NJ80SE.80</b>	CULTS.	FARMSTEAD, MILL
<b>NJ80SE.94</b>	ABERDEEN, LOIRSBANK ROAD, GENERAL.	GENERAL VIEW
<b>NJ80SE.96</b>	ABERDEEN, DEN OF CULTS, GENERAL.	GENERAL VIEW
<b>NJ90SW.128</b>	ABERDEEN, NORTH DEESIDE ROAD, WELLWOOD UNIT (WOODLANDS HOSPITAL). Alternative: CULTS, WELLWOOD HOUSE, WELLWOOD HOSPITAL	HOSPITAL
<b>NJ80SE.99</b>	ABERDEEN, CULTS, CULTS HOTEL.	HOTEL

<b>NJ80SE.97</b>	ABERDEEN, CULTS, ABBOTHALL.	TERM PENDING
<b>NJ90SW.139</b>	CRAIGHEAD FARMSTEADING. Alternative: BADENTOY ESTATE	FARMSTEAD
<b>NJ80SE.162</b>	WEST CULTS FARM, SAND PIT. Alternative: BRADLEY CAIRNS	SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS
<b>NJ80SE.116</b>	CULTS.	CARVED STONE BALL
<b>NJ80SE.117</b>	CULTS.	CUP (STONE)
<b>NJ80SE.118</b>	'LILY LOCH, WEST CULTS'.	ROTARY QUERN
<b>NJ80SE.119</b>	MAINS OF CULTS.	SADDLE QUERN
<b>NJ80SE.137</b>	WEST CULTS FARM, BOUNDARY STONE. Alternative: RIVER DEE	BOUNDARY STONE
<b>NJ80SE.138</b>	WEST CULTS FARM, BOUNDARY STONES. Alternative: RIVER DEE, DEESIDE GOLF COURSE	BOUNDARY STONE(S)
<b>NJ80SE.170</b>	CLIFF HOUSE, QUARRY.	QUARRY
<b>NJ80SE.159</b>	DAMHEAD. Alternative: CULTS, NORTH DEESIDE ROAD	COTTAGE, CROFT, SMITHY
<b>NJ80SE.160</b>	WEST CULTS FARM, GRAVEL PIT.	SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS
<b>NJ80SE.161</b>	WEST CULTS FARM, GRAVEL PIT.	SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS
<b>NJ90SW.238</b>	BANCHORY-DEVENICK, OLD MANSE. Alternative: MANSEFIELD HOUSE	MANSE
<b>NJ80SE.191</b>	ABERDEEN, CULTS, 14-25 NORTH DEESIDE ROAD. Alternative: CULTS OLD SCHOOL	SCHOOL (19TH CENTURY)