



**MILL OF FOREST
STONEHAVEN**

**Archaeological Desk
Based Assessment**

**BARRATT EAST
SCOTLAND LTD**

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RSK GENERAL NOTES

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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the Quality Management System of RSK Environment Ltd.

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1 SUMMARY

An archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) for the footprint of a proposed housing development at Mill of Forest, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, was undertaken in June 2009.

Documentary, photographic and cartographic sources were consulted, identifying 48 sites within 500m of the proposed site boundary. The development has a potential impact on three of the identified sites.

Recommendations are made with regard to the potential impact to these sites. Generic recommendations are also made with regard to mitigating any potential impact on currently unknown archaeological sites.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 General aims

The general aim of this report is to provide an archaeological assessment in the form of a DBA of the proposed development in order to inform any following stages of archaeological work.

2.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of this report are to:

- Identify and define the known archaeological and heritage resources within the development footprint;
- Establish, from existing evidence, the likely archaeological potential of the development footprint;
- Provide a preliminary assessment of the importance of the known archaeological and heritage resources;
- Assess the likely significant impacts of the development on the known and potential archaeological resources; and
- Make recommendations on the need for (and scope of) any further evaluation and/or mitigation, as necessary.

3 LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 Statutory protection

Table 3.1 summarises the statutory legislation relating to the historic environment and relevant to this report.

Table 3.1: Statutory legislation

Legislation	Jurisdiction	Key Issues
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	Historic Scotland/ Scottish Government	Provides statutory protection of ancient monuments. It is a criminal offence to carry out any works on or near a Scheduled Ancient Monument without Scheduled Monument Consent
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act (1997)	Scottish Office/ Aberdeenshire Council	Establishes framework for determining planning applications, the role of the local planning authority and the role of Development (Structure and Local) Plans within the process
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act (1997)	Scottish Office/ Aberdeenshire Council	Provides for statutory protection of listed buildings and conservation areas. No works can be carried out in relation to a listed building without listed building consent. In conservation areas, designation introduces general controls to conserve their character and appearance
Treasure Trove ' <i>bona vacantia</i> '	Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (Q<R)/ Scottish Government	According to the historic Scottish Treasure Trove laws, all discoveries (whether precious metal or not) must be reported to the Q<R
Protection of Military Remains Act (1986)	Ministry of Defence	Outlines the criteria for designating a military crash site. Certain activities are prohibited at protected sites, without the authority of the Ministry of Defence
Scots Common Law	Procurator Fiscal/ Police	The movement or disturbance of human remains without lawful authority is illegal. Any human remains should be reported to the local police or Procurator Fiscal's office. Further disturbance must cease until permission to continue has been granted by the legal authorities

3.2 Non-statutory protection

Various documents also provide non-statutory protection for the historic environment in Scotland. These have been recently compiled as Scottish Planning Policy 23 (SPP23), described in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2: Non-statutory protections

Document	Jurisdiction	Key Issues
Scottish Planning Policy 23, <i>Planning and the Historic Environment</i> , and <i>Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology</i> (PAN 42)	Scottish Government/ Aberdeenshire Council	Government policy on planning and the historic environment (e.g. listed buildings, conservation areas, world heritage sites, historic parks and gardens and battlefields) within the existing legislative framework; sets out government policy on how archaeological remains and discoveries are dealt with within the existing development plan and development control processes

3.3 Development plan policy

The study area falls within Aberdeenshire Council. In accordance with national guidance referenced above, policies are included in the Aberdeenshire Local Plan to provide for the consideration of archaeology and cultural heritage (Environment (Env)/18, Env/19, and Env/20). Guidance and policy on archaeology and cultural heritage is included in the North East Scotland Together (NEST) approved Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan (Policy 20, paragraphs 4.10 and 4.11).

4 METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

This archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*, (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008a) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2008b).

The study area consisted of the proposed development footprint along with a 500m buffer either side of it (see Figure 1).

4.2 Data sources

Archaeological data was collected for the study area. The following sources were consulted:

- The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service: the SMR contains details of archaeological sites and monuments (both scheduled and non-scheduled), listed buildings and archaeological events in the study area. Aerial photographs and unpublished archaeological literature were also consulted;
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS): the NMRS contains details of archaeological sites and investigations. In addition, oblique aerial photographs held by the NMRS were viewed;
- Historic Scotland's web-accessible Spatial Data Warehouse provided information on Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Gardens and Designed Landscapes in the study area;
- The National Library of Scotland: its web-accessible digital map library provided a large resource of historical mapping;
- Old-maps.co.uk provided Ordnance Survey mapping of the area; and
- Geology maps were accessed from RSK's collection.

4.3 Gazetteer

A gazetteer has been compiled, based on information provided from the sources listed in Section 4.2 above. The gazetteer includes a summary of the known archaeological and cultural heritage resource within the study area and is included as Appendix A. All

sites in the gazetteer have been allocated a unique reference number. In addition, the gazetteer presents an assessment of impact, based on the criteria outlined below.

4.3.1 Assessment of impact

The potential impact of the proposed development has been assessed by comparing the land-take needed for the proposed development to the location and importance of the known archaeological resources.

The grading of importance of a non-scheduled archaeological site is an initial, arbitrary classification, based on the criteria in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Criteria for determining importance of sites

	High	Medium	Low	Negligible	Uncertain
Description	Internationally and nationally important resources, legally protected and non-scheduled	Regionally important resources not legally protected of a well-defined extent, nature, date and significance	Locally important resources of low or minor importance	Resources that have little or no archaeological value, or where remains have been previously destroyed	Resources whose archaeological importance is unknown; sites are of uncertain character or date
Examples	Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings	Burial sites, Deserted Medieval Villages, dense scatters of finds	Field systems, ridge and furrow	Modern field boundaries, drains and ponds	Single find spots; unidentified features on aerial photographs

4.3.1.1 Impact

The magnitude of any impact has been assessed according to the scale set out below:

- Large: Complete or almost complete destruction of deposits
- Medium: A high proportion of deposits damaged or destroyed
- Small: A small proportion of the surviving deposits damaged or destroyed
- Negligible: Deposits will not be affected, because of distance from the development or method of construction
- Uncertain: The extent or nature of the deposits is unknown, or construction techniques have not yet been determined.

4.3.1.2 Significance

The significance of any impact has been assessed by comparing the importance of the known archaeological resources to the magnitude of the impact upon them. The significance of impact has been quantified according to Figure 1.

Very significant Severe to minor impact on sites of High importance

Significant	Severe to minor impact on sites of Medium importance
Moderate	Severe to medium impact on sites of Low importance or small impact on sites of High to Medium importance
Slight	Minor impact on sites of Low importance
None	No impact
Unknown	Significance cannot be determined as impact on the resource or its importance is unknown

4.4 Limitations of the assessment

4.4.1 Data sources

Generally, information held by public data sources is considered reliable. Certain limitations, however, should be borne in mind:

- The SMR may be limited because it depends on random opportunities for research, fieldwork and discovery. There can often be a lack of dating evidence for sites;
- Documentary sources are rare before the Medieval period, and many historic documents are inherently biased;
- Primary sources, especially older records, often fail to accurately locate sites and can be subjective in any interpretation; and
- The usefulness of aerial photographs depends upon geology, land use and weather conditions when the photographs were taken. Some types of remains do not produce crop, soil or vegetation marks. Aerial photographs necessarily involve some subjective interpretation of the nature of sites.

4.4.2 Impact assessment

The limitations of an impact assessment of the proposed development include:

- The lack of clarity surrounding the extent of some sites. This makes it difficult to provide a precise assessment of potential impact; and
- The possibility that unknown sites will be encountered during construction.

These points have been taken into consideration during the development of mitigation strategies.

5 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5.1 Location, topography, land use and geology

The proposed development lies on the gently sloping north east-facing lower slopes of the Hill of Seabeg, overlooking the town of Stonehaven to the northeast. It is bounded by the A90 to the east, the Perth – Aberdeen railway to the north, and rectangular field systems around the farms of Middle Toucks to the west and Glasslaw to the south. Toucks Burn runs through the southern part of the proposed development site.

The topography consists of rolling countryside and contains the farmsteads of Nether Toucks and Feathers. Around the farmsteads are rectilinear field systems. Current land use is primarily arable, with areas of pasture. Discrete areas of mature established woodland are present in a fringe in the south-eastern corner of the proposed development, now separated from the Woods of Dunnottar by the A90 and A92 roads. The proposed development area lies between 87m and 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

The solid geology of the area consists of Lower Old Red Sandstone conglomerates in the western part of the site. East of the farms of Feathers and Nether Toucks the solid geology is of Downtonian – era Old Red Sandstone dictyocaris shale, with extrusions of quartz-porphry and felsite near Mill of Forest. The drift geology consists of 2nd terrace freshwater alluvia along the banks of Carron Water. Elsewhere the drift geology is Glacial boulder clay with areas of sands and gravels around the farm of Nether Toucks (Scotland Sheet 67 Drift and Solid Geology 1:50,000).

5.2 Historic background

5.2.1 *Mesolithic period (12000–4001 BC)*

Aberdeenshire contains a high number of Mesolithic period sites, with 41 Sites and Monuments Records in the wider area containing a Mesolithic element. This includes a pit containing charcoal and a flint flake dated to the Mesolithic period at Farrochie (SMR No. NO88NE0051) discovered during works on the A92.

5.2.2 *Neolithic period (4000–2001 BC)*

The study area lies in the parishes of Fetteresso and Dunnottar. In addition to the Mesolithic dating for the site at Farrochie (above), Unstan ware pottery dating to the Neolithic was also found at the same location. Ten findspots entered into the Sites and

Monuments record for Fetteresso and Dunnottar have been dated to the Neolithic, including carved stone balls, axes, a spearhead and other lithic artefacts such as a whetstone and arrowheads.

5.2.3 Bronze Age (2000–601 BC)

The division between the Neolithic and the Bronze Age is defined by the appearance of Beaker pottery in the region (Edwards and Ralston, 2003). 65 sites dating to this period have been identified in the parishes of Fetteresso and Dunnottar. These include the remains of a cairn at Gallow Hill (SMR Site NO88SE0002) to the east of the proposed development area as well as burial cists at Malcolm's Mount to the northeast of the site (RSK Site 27). Findspots of Bronze Age pottery such as beakers and Food Vessels are present in both parishes.

5.2.4 Iron Age (600 BC–79 AD)

Differentiation of an Iron from Bronze Age settlement in Scotland can prove difficult because of the paucity of Iron Age pottery at sites; it has been suggested that at many sites, it is possible to see continuity of occupation from one period to the next (Phillips and Bradley, 2004). Finds positively dating to this period are few in number, although it has been suggested that Dunnottar Castle (SMR Site NO88SE0007) located on the coast to the east of the study area, occupies the site of an Iron Age fort. A findspot of a Greek coin from Raedykes (SMR Site NO89SW0009) is also present, as are 3 cropmarked sites that may date to the Iron Age.

5.2.5 Roman period (80–410 AD)

The Romans undertook military campaigns in Aberdeenshire under Agricola (84 AD) and Emperor Septimius Severus (208 –210 AD). Roman remains in the area are characterised by military installations, such as the Roman camp at Raedykes (SMR Site NO89SW0002) to the north of Stonehaven. Crawford (1949) has suggested that the hills around Raedykes were the site of the famous battle of Mons Graupius between Agricola's army and the Caledones, led by Calgacus. However, other Romanists are of the opinion that Raedykes represents later, Severan military activity (St Joseph 1969). However, no archaeological sites dating to this period are located the study area.

5.2.6 Early Medieval (411–1123 AD)

The early Medieval period begins with the withdrawal of Roman troops from the British Isles. Aberdeenshire formed part of the Pictish kingdoms to the north of the Forth Estuary (Sutherland, 1994). Evidence for early Medieval occupation of the area is relatively well-attested, in the form of ecclesiastical centres such as at St. Ciaran's Church (RSK Site 1), and symbol stones such as Lang Stane (SMR Site

NO89SW0008) and Nether Dunnottar (RSK Site 33). The castle of Cowie (SMR Site NO88NE0019) may date from the later part of this period, and Dunnottar Castle (SMR Site NO88SE0007) has been dated to the 5th century onwards on the basis of literary evidence. In all, 13 sites dating to this period have been identified in the parishes of Dunnottar and Fetteresso.

5.2.7 Medieval (1124–1500 AD)

Secular power during the Middle Ages in the area rested on the castles of Dunnottar (SMR Site NO88SE0007) and Cowie (SMR Site NO88NE0019), located to the east and northeast of the study area, which controlled land and maritime traffic between the south and Aberdeen. Fetteresso Castle (SMR Site NO88NW0002) dates to the end of the Medieval period. In all, 32 sites have been dated to the Medieval period. These include lower-status sites such as the village of Cowie (SMR Site NO88NE0054) and ecclesiastical centres such as St. Ciaran's Church (RSK Site 1).

5.2.8 Post-Medieval period (1501–1900 AD)

There are close to 300 archaeological sites dated to the post-Medieval period within the area. These include settlements, places of worship, industrial sites and evidence of agricultural activity.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE

6.1 Introduction

The known archaeological and heritage resources of the study area are discussed below. The sites listed are presented in the gazetteer of sites in Appendix A, and shown on Figure 1.

6.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) in the study area. The old parish church of St Ciaran (RSK Site 1) is located 180m north of the proposed development. The current structure is primarily post-Medieval in date, but with Medieval elements. The site is thought to date back as far as the early Medieval period. The second SAM is the cairn at Gallow Hill (RSK Site 2), a probable prehistoric burial monument. It is located 420m east of the proposed development site.

6.3 Listed Buildings

There are eight Listed Buildings (LBs) in the study area. St Ciaran's Church (RSK Site 1), described above, is Grade B listed as well as a SAM. The kirkyard walls of St Ciaran's Church (RSK Site 5) are also Grade B listed and date to the post-Medieval period.

St Bridget's Church, which is the parish church of Dunnottar (RSK Site 3) dates to the Medieval period and is Grade B listed twice: both the kirk and the kirkyard are listed. It is located 440m east of the proposed development site. The manse for Dunnottar parish church (RSK Site 40) is Grade C(S) listed and located 410m east of the proposed development site.

The bridge over Carron Water at Fetteresso (RSK Site 4) is a Grade B Listed Building and may also have its origins in the Medieval period. It is located 100m north of the proposed development site. Old Kirkton Inn, a house in Kirkton of Fetteresso and Kirkton Inn Bridge (RSK Sites 16 – 18) are all located in Kirkton of Fetteresso, 200m north of the proposed development and are Grade B listed.

6.4 Registered Historic Gardens or Designed Landscapes

There are no registered historic gardens or designed landscapes (HGDLs) in the study area.

6.5 Non-scheduled archaeological sites and monuments

Thirty six unscheduled sites were identified in the study area from the SMR and NMRS. These are discussed by period below.

Archaeological events

Two archaeological events have been recorded in the study area. The first is a condition survey of the SAM of St. Ciaran's Church (RSK Site 1) undertaken in 2003. The second was archaeological works taken in advance of development near the site of a short cist at Malcolm's Mount (RSK Site 29) in 1997. The cist was restructured but no additional archaeological features were found.

Prehistoric period

Three archaeological sites have been identified to a non-specific prehistoric period. These are a ring ditch cropmark at Middle Toucks (RSK Site 6). A similar cropmark has been observed at Fetteresso (RSK Site 7). Finally, a possible prehistoric burial was discovered during the 19th century at Farrochie (RSK Site 21).

The earliest archaeological sites in the study area are likely to be the claystone axehead findspot at Kirkton of Fetteresso (RSK Site 14) and the cup-marked stone at Dunnottar Woods (RSK Site 44). Confirmed or possible Bronze Age sites are located at Camp Hill, where a cist (RSK Site 22) and beaker (RSK Site 24) have been found, as well as at Malcolm's Mount, where a second cist (RSK Site 27) as well as a large Food Vessel (RSK Site 31) have been found.

Roman period

No archaeological sites dating to this period have been identified in the study area.

Early Medieval period

The SMR records that the carved stones at Nether Dunnottar (RSK Site 33) may date from the early Medieval period.

Medieval period

It is possible that the village of Fetteresso, also known as Kirktown of Fetteresso, originates from the Medieval period, having sprung up around the ecclesiastical centre. The same may be true of the holy well dedicated to St. Ninian at Dunnottar (RSK Site 32). The only confirmed Medieval site is the findspot of a lead seal matrix found at Stonehaven in 2004 (RSK Site 10). However, Medieval occupation sites in the study area may be masked by continuous occupation of settlements or farmsteads through to the post-Medieval period.

Post-Medieval period

The post-Medieval period accounts for the majority of the recorded sites in the study area, twenty-five in total. This is due in part to increasing levels of documentation and preservation of post-Medieval sites compared to earlier period sites.

The sites include the farmsteads of Toucks, Middle Toucks and Nether Toucks (RSK Sites 8 – 9; 12), Glasslaw (RSK Site 26); Mill of Forest (RSK Site 30) and Dunnottar Square (RSK Site 35). Other kinds of residential dwellings are recorded, such as the house at Dunnottar (RSK Site 41) and cottages at Douglas (RSK Site 36). Dunnottar Square contained a number of ancillary structures such as kennels and a designed landscape (RSK Sites 34 and 37). Higher status occupation of the area is indicated by the gate lodge at Fetteresso Castle, as well as the icehouse at Dunnottar (RSK Site 19 and 45).

Water-related sites include the reservoir at Dunnottar (RSK Site 26) as well as the Minister's Well (RSK 41) and Lady Kennedy's Bath (RSK Site 45). Industrial development is visible in terms of infrastructure through the bridges and viaducts of Feathers, Kirkton Inn and Fetteresso (RSK Sites 13, 19 and 24) as well as by the workshop at Malcolm's Mount and the quarry at Gallow Hill (RSK Sites 21 and 46).

Unknown Period

The SMR records three sites of unknown date within the study area. These are cropmarks located at Beattie's Hill, Nether Toucks and Dunnottar House (RSK Site 11, 28 and 38).

6.6 Map regression

The map regression exercise relied on two main sources of information: Ordnance Survey mapping of the study area, available through www.oldmaps.co.uk, and historical mapping of Scotland and the region, viewed through the National Library of Scotland's website.

The earliest map to portray the area is Ptolemy's map of Britain (c.140 AD). This shows the whole of Scotland, and the River Dee is marked as *Deva Ostia*. Aberdeenshire is shown as belonging to the *Tæzali* tribe, with their capital of Devana on the north bank of the Dee inland.

Roy's maps (1747-1755) show many of the settlements later identified on the Ordnance Survey maps. These include "Kirk of Foteresy" (St Ciaran's Church: RSK Site 1); Mill of Forest (RSK Site 30); Feathers (RSK Site 48); Mid Kirkland (RSK Site 47); "Kirk of Dunotyn" (Dunnottar parish church: RSK Site 3); and "Glashly" (Glasslaw: RSK Site 27). The proposed development footprint incorporates two unlabelled settlements which probably correspond to Toucks (RSK Site 8) and Nether Toucks

(RSK Site 12). The land is shown as under arable agriculture, and Toucks Burn is depicted running along its present course. Two tracks are shown close to the development: one along the Carron Water, crossing near Mill of Forest, and one along the southern boundary of the development towards Dunnottar.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of Kincardineshire, published in 1867, shows the Caledonian Railway running between Perth and Stonehaven for the first time. The farmstead of Bankhead is shown also (RSK Site 46). The northern part of the proposed development site is shown as slightly more open, with tracks criss-crossing the area along the routes of later field boundaries. The Bridge of Fetteresso is depicted for the first time (RSK Site 4). The southern part of the development site shows more extensive land divisions, and a belt of trees is shown separating the properties of Feathers and Nether Toucks. The farmstead of Mid Kirkland (RSK Site 47) is depicted as a series of roofed and unroofed structures, one of which may intrude into the proposed development area. The part of Dunnottar designed landscape (RSK Site 37) lying within the proposed development area is depicted as a quadrant, with the preserved belt of trees labelled a "rough belt" of woodland. By the time of the Second Edition (published in 1903) more field boundaries have been removed from the southern part of the proposed development.

Modern maps of the study area depict a substantial expansion of Stonehaven and the construction of the A90 road, running along the eastern boundary of the site, splitting the designed landscape of Dunnottar in two (RSK Site 37).

6.7 Aerial photography

Sources of aerial photographs covering the study area were examined. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) provided oblique aerial photographs for RSK Site 28, Nether Toucks. The Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) provided vertical aerial photographs covering the whole of the study area.

No new archaeological sites were identified from aerial photographs. Site 28, Nether Toucks, is shown on vertical and oblique photography as a very regular cropmark measuring approximately 140m along its longest axis, and 65m wide. It is oriented east- southeast to west- northwest and forms a neat symmetrical kidney shape in plan (see Plate 1). The cropmark is located in the exact centre of a field which forms part of Dunnottar designed landscape (RSK Site 37). Given the neatness in which the cropmarked feature sits within the designed landscape, it is suggested that the feature is of post-Medieval or modern origin. However, an earlier period enclosure cannot be discounted at this stage.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Prehistoric

There are 11 prehistoric or suspected prehistoric sites in the study area (RSK Sites 2; 6 –7; 14; 21 – 22; 24; 27; 29; 31 and 44). The density and type of prehistoric sites suggests that the area has been settled since at least the Bronze Age, and both funerary and settlement sites are present. Therefore, the potential for the recovery of archaeological remains in the development footprint is considered to be moderate.

Roman

Roman activity in the area is suspected owing to the presence of the Roman occupation in the wider vicinity. However, no signs of activity have been identified in the study area. Therefore, the overall potential for Roman archaeological finds is considered to be low.

Medieval

Four known sites have been identified in the study area dating to the Medieval (RSK Sites 3; 10; 15 and 32). Despite the relatively low numbers of sites positively identified as being of Medieval origin in the study area, there are indications of continuity of occupation from the Medieval into post-Medieval period (see Sections 5 and 6), assuming that the farmsteads depicted in Roy's Map were not of recent foundation. Nether Toucks, Glasslaw, Mid Kirkland and Feathers (RSK Sites 13; 27; 47 and 48) may all have their origins in the Medieval period. The potential for the discovery of Medieval archaeology is moderate around these sites. Elsewhere it is considered to be low to moderate.

Post-Medieval

The cropmark site of Nether Toucks (RSK Site 28) is suspected to have formed part of the post-Medieval designed landscape of Dunnottar, so the potential for the discovery of post-Medieval remains in its vicinity is considered to be moderate to high. Similarly, the likelihood of encountering post-Medieval remains is moderate to high around farmsteads close to the development footprint, namely Nether Toucks (RSK Site 12), Mid Kirkland (RSK Site 47) and Feathers (RSK Site 48). There is a moderate to high potential for post-Medieval remains around the Caledonian railway (between RSK Sites 13 and 23) relating to the construction of the railway in the early nineteenth century. Elsewhere the potential for the discovery of unrecorded remains dating to the post-Medieval period is considered to be low.

8 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Generic assessment of impact and mitigation

8.1.1 Introduction

The following principles for mitigation, in relation to the archaeological and cultural heritage resource, will be applied as appropriate and necessary:

- Preservation *in situ*: the preservation *in situ* of sensitive archaeological remains can be achieved through minor variations in the design of the proposed development; and
- Excavation: where preservation *in situ* is not feasible or desirable the alternative mitigation is pre-construction archaeological excavation, or excavation and recording during construction. This consists of a detailed programme of archaeological fieldwork to record the archaeological value of the site.

8.1.2 Generic impacts of the proposed development

The following activities associated with the construction of the proposed housing development could impact on known or potential archaeological remains:

- Topsoil stripping;
- Excavation work (including foundation excavation and installation of drainage and services);
- Landscaping work; and
- Movement of heavy machinery.

At this stage, it is expected that the proposed development will include the disturbance of any buried archaeological remains within the development boundary.

8.2 Specific impacts of the proposed development

Of the 48 sites of known archaeological interest recorded within the study area, direct impacts are expected on three of them, with indirect impacts on a further five. In addition to the recorded sites, field boundaries in the proposed development footprint will be impacted on. Map regression indicates that the majority of these field boundaries date from the post-Medieval period and can be considered to have low (local) importance.

The significance of impact level described in Table 8.1 below has been determined prior to any further assessment or mitigation.

Table 8.1: Assessments of archaeological impacts

Site No.	Assessment of Impact
Field boundaries	The field boundaries which will be removed as part of the development are considered to be of low (local) importance, with an impact rated as small. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'slight'.
1	St Ciaran's Church SAM and LB: a negligible indirect impact on the setting of the monument is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'negligible'.
2	Gallow Hill Cairn SAM: a negligible indirect impact on the setting of the monument is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'negligible'.
3	Dunnottar Church LB: a negligible indirect impact on the setting of the building is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'negligible'.
4	Fetteresso Bridge LB: a negligible indirect impact on the setting of the structure is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'negligible'.
5	Kirkyard Walls, Fetteresso: a negligible indirect impact on the setting of the walls is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'negligible'.
16	Old Kirkton Inn LB: a negligible indirect impact on the setting of the walls is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'negligible'.
17	Kirktown Of Fetteresso, House To South Of Kirkton Inn LB: a negligible indirect impact on the setting of the walls is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'negligible'.
18	Kirkton Inn Bridge LB: a negligible indirect impact on the setting of the walls is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'negligible'.
40	Dunnottar House manse LB: a negligible indirect impact on the setting of the walls is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'negligible'.
28	Nether Toucks cropmark: The site is considered of regional/national importance, and a large impact is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'significant or very significant'.
37	Dunnottar House designed landscape: The site is considered of regional importance, and a small impact is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'moderate'.
47	Mid Kirkland: The site is considered of medium (regional) importance, and a small impact is expected. Therefore, the significance of impact is considered 'moderate'.

There is not expected to be any significant indirect impacts on those receptors identified within 500m of the proposed development and summarised above. The proposed development site is bordered on its eastern side by the A90 south of Stonehaven, and by the Caledonian Railway along the northern part of the site. All the SAMs and LBs are located to the north and east of the proposed development. Therefore these two linear features, in addition to the proposed shelterbelts around the development's boundaries, will substantially mask views between the Scheduled

Monuments of St. Ciaran's Church and Gallow Hill (RSK Sites 1 and 2) as well as Dunnottar Church, Fetteresso Bridge, the Kirkyard Walls at Fetteresso, Old Kirkton Inn, the listed house in Kirkton, Kirkton Inn Bridge and Dunnottar House manse (RSK Sites 3 – 5; 16 – 18 and 40).

In terms of direct impacts, significant impacts to the Dunnottar House designed landscape and Mid Kirkland farmstead (RSK Sites 37 and 47) are not expected. The design and layout of the proposed development preserves the wooded areas of the designed landscape as an area of set-aside. It is likely that the majority of the structures and features which originally formed the farmstead of Mid Kirkland were destroyed during the construction of the A90. RSK Site 28, Nether Toucks cropmark, is the only site likely to be significantly impacted from the development.

8.3 Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies

Given the geographical size and nature of the proposed development, as well as the predicted impacts on known archaeological sites detailed above, it is likely that Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service will request that a negative suspensive condition be placed on a planning application for the development requiring the implementation of an appropriate programme of archaeological works to be undertaken. This is likely to include archaeological trial trenching of a sample of the surface area of the development (typically 5 - 10%). It is likely that RSK Site 28 will require trial trenching as a part of this phase of works.

Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service has not been consulted during the preparation of this report, except in order to provide Sites and Monuments Record information. Therefore, the extent and nature of the archaeological requirements is based on professional judgement. It is recommended that ACAS be consulted in order to confirm the likely requirements for archaeological works that would be necessary for the project.

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Archives:

RCAHMS Archive No(s).	RSK Site No(s)	Description
KC1068 KC1069 KC1070 KC1071	28	Oblique aerial photographs of cropmarked enclosure

**Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service Sites and Monuments Record
Aerial Photographs**

Code	Date	Scale
BKS 2714160	27/05/1977	1:11,000
BKS 2714175	27/05/1977	1:11,000

**Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service Sites and Monuments Record Grey
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National Library of Scotland Digital Map Library

Cartographer(s)	Map Name	Date
Roy, William	Roy Military Survey of Scotland	1747-1755

FIGURES

Figure 1: Proposed development site and archaeological sites

PLATES



Plate 1. Vertical view of RSK Site 28. Reproduced with permission of ACAS. The photograph is oriented northwards.

APPENDIX A: GAZETTEER OF KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

RSK ID	Data Source	Designation(s)	Name	Description	Period	Easting	Northing	Importance	Impact	Magnitude of Impact
1	SAM and LB	SAM: 5555 LB: 9365 NMRS: NO88NE.1.0 SMR: NO88NE0001	ST CIARAN'S CHURCH, OLD PARISH CHURCH, FETTERESSO.	SAM and Grade B listed burial ground and church. The ruins of the former parish church of Fetteresso, dedicated in Mat 1246 and used until 1813, probably stand on the site of the church of St Ciaran (515-549).	Early Medieval and Medieval	385293	785662	High	Negligible indirect, no direct	Negligible
2	SAM	SAM: 4849 NMRS: NO88SE.4 SMR: NO88SE0002	GALLOW HILL, CAIRN	Gallow Hill, an artificial earth-and-stone mound, is probably a cairn, and stands on the highest point of a natural hillock, in a cleared plantation. It is circular on plan, measuring 14.5m in diameter by 1.2m in height, with a flat top 10.0m in diameter. There is no visible ditch. In the SW quadrant is a concrete block, sunk flush with the ground, marking a survey station. The name is still used locally.	Bronze Age?	386400	784800	High	Negligible indirect, no direct	Negligible
3	LB	LB: 2914 and 2915 NMRS: NO88NE.15.0 ; NO88NE.15.1 SMR: NO88NE0014	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH. ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH, CHURCHYARD AND MARISCHAL AISLE	Grade B LB. Dunnottar Church, dedicated to St Bridget, was consecrated in 1387. The old church, with the exception of the Marischal Aisle, was pulled down in 1782, when the present church was built. The Marischal Aisle, bearing the date 1582, seems to have been a private chapel, with a burial vault below. After being allowed to become derelict, it was roughly restored between 1885 and 1897.	Medieval to Post-Medieval	386287	785195	High	Negligible indirect, no direct	Negligible
4	LB	LB: 9370 NMRS: NO88NE.317	FETTERESSO BRIDGE OVER CARRON WATER	Road Bridge. Category B LB	Post-medieval	385284	785565	High	Negligible indirect, no direct	Negligible
5	LB	LB: 9366 NMRS: NO88NE.1.1	KIRKYARD WALLS	Churchyard Walls of Fetteresso parish church. Category B LB	Post-medieval	385294	785688	High	Negligible indirect, no direct	Negligible

RSK ID	Data Source	Designation(s)	Name	Description	Period	Easting	Northing	Importance	Impact	Magnitude of Impact
6	Site	NMRS: NO88SW.51. SMR: NO88SW0040	MIDDLE TOUCKS	Faint cropmark of a possible ring ditch and other indeterminate cropmarks are visible on the aerial photograph.	Prehistoric	384660	784100	Medium	None	None
7	Site	SMR: NO88NW0036	FETTERESSO	Cropmark of a possible ring ditch which appears to lie between two parallel lines at the northern end. The lines run north-west/south-east and do not appear to continue into other fields. The placing may simply be fortuitous, and these lines may be agricultural rather than archaeological. They appear to run along the top of a low ridge. Slight possibility of a cursus.	Prehistoric	384694	785711	Medium	None	None
8	Site	NMRS: NO88SW.58	TOUCKS, DUNNOTTAR ESTATE	Farmstead. First shown on 1st Edition OS of 1867	Post-medieval	384780	784610	Medium	None	None
9	Site	NMRS: NO88SW.59	MIDDLE TOUCKS, DUNNOTTAR ESTATE	Farmstead. First shown on 1st Edition OS of 1867	Post-medieval	384780	784360	Medium	None	None
10	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.366	STONEHAVEN	Medieval lead seal matrix findspot. Chance find. Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 105/03) and allocated to Aberdeenshire Heritage.	Medieval	385000	786000	Medium	None	None
11	Site	SMR: NO88NE0043	BEATTIE'S HILL	Various indeterminate cropmarks are visible on the aerial photograph.	Unknown	385092	786024	Unknown	None	None
12	Site	NMRS: NO88SE.50	NETHER TOUCKS, DUNNOTTAR ESTATE	Farmstead	Post-medieval	385140	784670	Medium	None	None
13	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.94 SMR: NO88NE0024	FEATHERS, RAILWAY BRIDGE. FETTERESSO	Railway bridge; opened c1849 by the Aberdeen Railway; an underbridge with a tall ribbed segmental arch. The 6-arch ribs are of dressed stone, and the spandrels and abutments are rubble.	Post-medieval	385262	785480	Medium	None	None
14	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.27 SMR: NO88NE0078	KIRKTON OF FETTERESSO	A claystone axe findspot from Fetteresso is in Aberdeen University Anthropological Museum, Marischal College, Aberdeen	Neolithic	385299	785600	Low	None	None
15	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.107	FETTERESSO	Village possibly dating to Medieval	Medieval?	385300	785600	Medium	None	None

RSK ID	Data Source	Designation(s)	Name	Description	Period	Easting	Northing	Importance	Impact	Magnitude of Impact
16	Site	LB: 9367 NMRS: NO88NE.315	OLD KIRKTON INN	Inn. Grade B Listed	Post-medieval	385344	785709	High	Negligible indirect, no direct	Negligible
17	Site	LB: 9368 NMRS: NO88NE.316	KIRKTOWN OF FETTERESSO, HOUSE TO SOUTH OF KIRKTON INN	House Grade B Listed	Post-medieval	385348	785692	High	Negligible indirect, no direct	Negligible
18	Site	LB: 9369 NMRS: NO88NE.314	KIRKTON INN BRIDGE, CHEYNE BURN	Road Bridge. First shown on 1st Edition OS of 1867. Grade B Listed	Post-medieval	385364	785710	High	Negligible indirect, no direct	Negligible
19	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.92	FETTERESSO CASTLE, EAST LODGE	Gate Lodge. For Fetteresso Castle (NO 8426 8548) and related buildings.	Post-medieval	385370	785740	Medium	None	None
20	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.309	MALCOLM'S MOUNT, WORKSHOP	Workshop	Post-medieval	385400	786000	Low	None	None
21	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.43	FARROCHIE	In the 19th century what may have been a prehistoric burial was found in a pit near the cist NO88NE 10. The pit, which measured 'several feet in diameter and about three feet (0.9m) in depth', contained 'vegetable charcoal' and 'portions of half burnt human bones'. The site of this burial has probably been destroyed during the construction of the Stonehaven bypass.	Prehistoric	385500	785900	Medium	None	None
22	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.10. SMR: NO88NE0009	CAMP HILL / FARROCHIE	CIST. 'On the 18th February 1864 there was found...a stone cist composed of six freestone slabs, and measuring 18 inches in length by 15 inches in breadth, at the bottom of the cist resting on a flat stone were found several portions of charred human bones and ashes, but no urn. The longitudinal position of the cist was East and West'. Name Book 1865.	Bronze Age?	385571	785910	Medium	None	None
23	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.93. SMR: NO88NE0127	FETTERESSO VIADUCT/ STONEHAVEN BY-PASS; STONEHAVEN VIADUCT	This viaduct carries the Glasgow-Aberdeen line of the former Caledonian Rly. Over the deep valley of the Carron Water, which is now occupied by the Stonehaven by-pass section of the A92 (T) public road. The viaduct is approached by a large embankment on the W side. It is depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps.	Post-medieval	385586	785649	Medium	None	None

RSK ID	Data Source	Designation(s)	Name	Description	Period	Easting	Northing	Importance	Impact	Magnitude of Impact
24	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.9 SMR: NO88NE0008	CAMP HILL	Beaker findspot recorded in OS Name Book, 1865	Bronze Age?	385624	785975	Low	None	None
25	Site	NMRS: NO88SE.27	DUNNOTTAR RESERVOIR	Reservoir	Post-medieval	386530	784650	Low	None	None
26	Site	NMRS: NO88SE.48 SMR: NO88SE0047	GLASSLAW, DUNNOTTAR ESTATE	Farmstead still in use that is depicted on the 1867 1st edition OS map. The map shows a U-shaped steading and two rectangular buildings. To the west are two rectangular artificial ponds with sluices and a lade system that probably fed a mill located on the north side of the steading block. By the 1888 2nd edition OS map the steadings have become one large rectangular block and another two rectangular buildings have been built to the east. The ponds are still shown with the closer one larger than before. Both have dams controlling the water flow. The outline remains of this mill system can still be seen on the 2005 map. Depicted on Roy's Map of 1747-55.	Post-medieval	385630	784140	Medium	None	None
27	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.8 SMR: NO88NE0007	MALCOLM'S MOUNT	A cist was found in November 1837 'measuring 3 feet in length, 2 feet in breadth, and 20 inches in depth. It contained the remains of a human body which had been laid on its right side with the face towards the south. The limbs had been bent upwards... An urn about six inches in depth and 28 inches in circumference was found lying in the tomb. Upwards of a hundred jet beads were discovered over the breast of the corpse..'. Name Book 1865.	Bronze Age?	385809	786070	Low	None	None
28	Site	NMRS: NO88SE.22. SMR: NO88SE0017	NETHER TOUCKS	Judged to be of National Importance by the SMR. Cropmark of possible enclosure; showing as a broad kidney-shaped trace enclosing a substantial area. A possible round mound c 40m in diameter lies on the N boundary. Nothing is visible on the ground. The character of these cropmarks suggests that the feature may be modern (NMRS record)	Unknown	385810	784640	Medium or High	Large	Significant or Very Significant
29	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.6 SMR: NO88NE0006	MALCOLM'S MOUNT	Cairn, cist, Food Vessel urn. The site of this cairn, which stood on a prominent knoll 250m SE of Farrochie farmhouse, is marked by a large cist. The cairn, which had a wall 0.6m high around its base, was removed about 1795, and 'some sepulchral urns' were found in it.	Bronze Age	385885	786111	Medium	None	None

RSK ID	Data Source	Designation(s)	Name	Description	Period	Easting	Northing	Importance	Impact	Magnitude of Impact
30	Site	SMR: NO88NE0105	MILL OF FOREST FARM	The farmstead of Mill of Forest is depicted on the OS maps of 1867 & 1888 as a roughly L-shaped building with a smaller U-shaped building to its west. The house lies to the east. A corn mill lies to the south, with a lade leading from a weir near the viaduct on the Carron Water in the west, to the mill then continues on the rejoin the burn again. New houses now lie where the farmstead was. The mill has gone, or been partially renovated to a house. Part of the lade still appears to survive. Shown on Roy's Map of 1747-55	Post-medieval	385900	785472	Medium	None	None
31	Site	SMR: NO88NE0060	MALCOLM'S MOUNT	Enlarged food vessel; found after machine-scraping and bonfire. Urn stood base uppermost in red silty material. In lifting out the urn broke and the bones within spilled out. Some were recovered by finder, others by IAGS. Mr Wilson (finder) is sure that no stone, slab or pebbles lay under the mouth of the urn. Urn bears three cordons and applied herringbone decoration. The urn was definitely set into the slope of the mound, not on the crest or summit.	Bronze Age	385920	786099	Low	None	None
32	Site	NMRS: NO88NE.82.	ST NINIAN'S WELL, DUNNOTTAR	Holy Well. St Ninian's Well: on the road off the A94 towards Woodcot Hospital but turning to the left up the hill, the well being on the left side of the lane to Dunnottar Church (these directions are for coming south from the town). The well is capped with a very small stone structure with a triangular pediment with gravel, but no water, in the trough. It was used as a wishing well, visited on May 1 morning, with pins as the tribute to the saint.	Medieval?	386000	785000	Medium	None	None
33	Site	NMRS: NO88SE.5 SMR: NO88SE0025	NETHER DUNNOTTAR	Carved stones; recorded in Nether Dunnottar Gardens, but now lost; may have been some of those recorded from Dunnicaer NO88SE001, the others of which are now at Banchory House. Precise location not recorded	Early Medieval and Medieval	386000	785000	Medium	None	None
34	Site	SMR: NO88SE0083	DUNNOTTAR SQUARE	Remains of kennels, shown on the OS maps from the 1st edition map (c.1846) onwards. The 2006 map shows them to be disused. No further information. FC SMR notes the foundations of a rectangular structure with ancillary reinforced structures which appear to be 2nd World War foundations, apparently on the same site as the kennels.	Post-medieval	386163	784618	Low	None	None

RSK ID	Data Source	Designation(s)	Name	Description	Period	Easting	Northing	Importance	Impact	Magnitude of Impact
35	Site	SMR: NO88SE0084	DUNNOTTAR SQUARE	Former farmstead now in use as residences. The former Home Farm for Dunnottar House. It is shown on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps (c.1867 & c.1888) as a square quadrangular steading with an extension at the north-east corner and a rectangular range to the east. The 2006 map shows that the steading has been converted to individual dwellings and the range to the east to garages. The extension at the north-east corner of the former steading has been removed.	Post-medieval	386216	784684	Low	None	None
36	Site	SMR: NO88SE0048	DOUGLAS COTTAGES	Site of a now destroyed rectangular building that is depicted on both the 1867 1st edition and the 1888 2nd edition OS maps.	Post-medieval	386220	784276	Low	None	None
37	Site	SMR: NO88SE0086	DUNNOTTAR HOUSE	Remains of a designed landscape dating from the 17th-19th century. Area in development footprint described as a rough belt in 1868 OS mapping. The field bounded by a wooded belt are shown divided into quadrants with a track running from Toucks Burn to Dunnottar House.	Post-medieval	386252	785019	Medium	Small	Moderate
38	Site	SMR: NO88SE0089	DUNNOTTAR HOUSE	Remains of an enclosure with earthen bank recorded by Forestry Commission. The bank runs from NO 8627 8442 to 8621 8447 to 8627 8457 to 8633 8437 and back to the start.	Unknown	386277	784426	Unknown	None	None
39	Site	SMR: NO88NE0132	MINISTER'S WELL	Site of a well, called -Minister's Well- which is shown on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps (c.1867 & c.1888). The site is currently afforested and the well is not marked on the 2006 OS map. No further information.	Post-medieval	386284	785056	Medium	None	None
40	Site	LB: 2916 NMRS: NO88NE.106	DUNNOTTAR HOUSE	MANSE. Dunnottar House is depicted as a 'Manse' on the OS 2nd Edition map (Kincardineshire, sheet XVI, 1902). Not to be confused with Dunnottar House, demolished in 1959 (RSK Site 41). Grade C(S) LB	Post-medieval	386293	785143	High	Negligible indirect, no direct	Negligible
41	Site	NMRS: NO88SE.47.0 SMR: NO88SE0082	DUNNOTTAR HOUSE	Site of a country house. The former Dunnottar House is shown on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps (c.1867 & c.1888). On both maps it is shown as a rectangular main block with wings enclosing a courtyard open to the WNW. The house was demolished in August 1959.	Post-medieval	386311	784838	Medium	None	None
42	Site	SMR: NO88SE0085	LADY KENNEDY'S BATH	Remains of an oval stone structure; known as Lady Kennedy's Bath, this is alleged to be the remains of a bathing chamber for the wife of a local laird. It is shown on the OS maps from the 1st edition map (c.1867) onwards.	Post-medieval	386348	784582	Unknown	None	None

RSK ID	Data Source	Designation(s)	Name	Description	Period	Easting	Northing	Importance	Impact	Magnitude of Impact
43	Site	SMR: NO88SE0081	GALLOW HILL	Remains of a quarry, shown on the 1st edition OS map (c.1867) and as disused on the OS maps from the 2nd edition (c.1888) onwards.	Post-medieval	386390	784921	Low	None	None
44	Site	SMR: NO88SE0044	DUNNOTTAR WOODS	Cup-marked stone; sandstone, with 12 cup-marks ranging from 40mm -70mm in diameter and from 5mm - 40mm deep. Found on slope below a cairn. In Arbutnott Museum, Peterhead but shortly to be moved to Stonehaven Museum.	Neolithic	386399	784803	Medium	None	None
45	Site	SMR: NO88SE0088	DUNNOTTAR HOUSE	Ice-house. Possibly early modern in date - it is not shown on the OS 1st or 2nd edition maps.	Post-medieval	386437	784852	Medium	None	None
46	Site		BANKHEAD	Farmstead marked on 1868 1st Edition and 1904 2nd Edition OS	Post-medieval	385080	785340	Medium	None	None
47	Site		MID KIRKLAND	Farmstead labelled as "Kirkland Barbadoes" marked on 1867 1st Edition OS, not marked on 2nd Edition of 1903 except by a single structure. Comprises roofed and unroofed structures. 1 structure extended into the proposed development site Site is now under the A90 road. First shown on Roy's map as "Mid Kirkland".	Post-medieval	385900	785030	Medium	Small	Moderate
48	Site		FEATHERS	Farmstead marked on Roy's Map (1747-55) and subsequently	Post-medieval	385200	785180	Medium	None	None

Chronology Key

Palaeolithic (450,000–12,000 BC)

Mesolithic (12,000–4001 BC)

Neolithic (4000–2001 BC)

Bronze Age (2000–601 BC)

Iron Age (600 BC–79 AD)

Non-specific prehistoric period

Roman (80 AD–410 AD)

Early Medieval (411 AD–1123 AD)

Medieval (1124 AD–1500 AD)

Post-Medieval (1501 AD–1900 AD)

Modern (1900 AD–present)