

**INVERCOWIE HOUSE  
BARCLAY STREET, STONEHAVEN  
ABERDEENSHIRE**

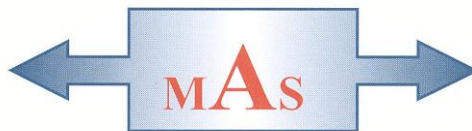


**- Archaeological Watching Brief -**

Carried out 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008

by

**Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2008-7**

by

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**- Archaeological Watching Brief -**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of eight terraced houses at Invercowie House, Barclay Street, Stonehaven, required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the soil strip and ground preparation for the development.
- 1.2 The archaeological condition was applied in the context of the National Planning Policy Guideline No.5, Archaeology and Planning, which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological fieldwork to take place prior to the development, in appropriate circumstances.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Jack Developments Ltd to undertake the work which was carried out between 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

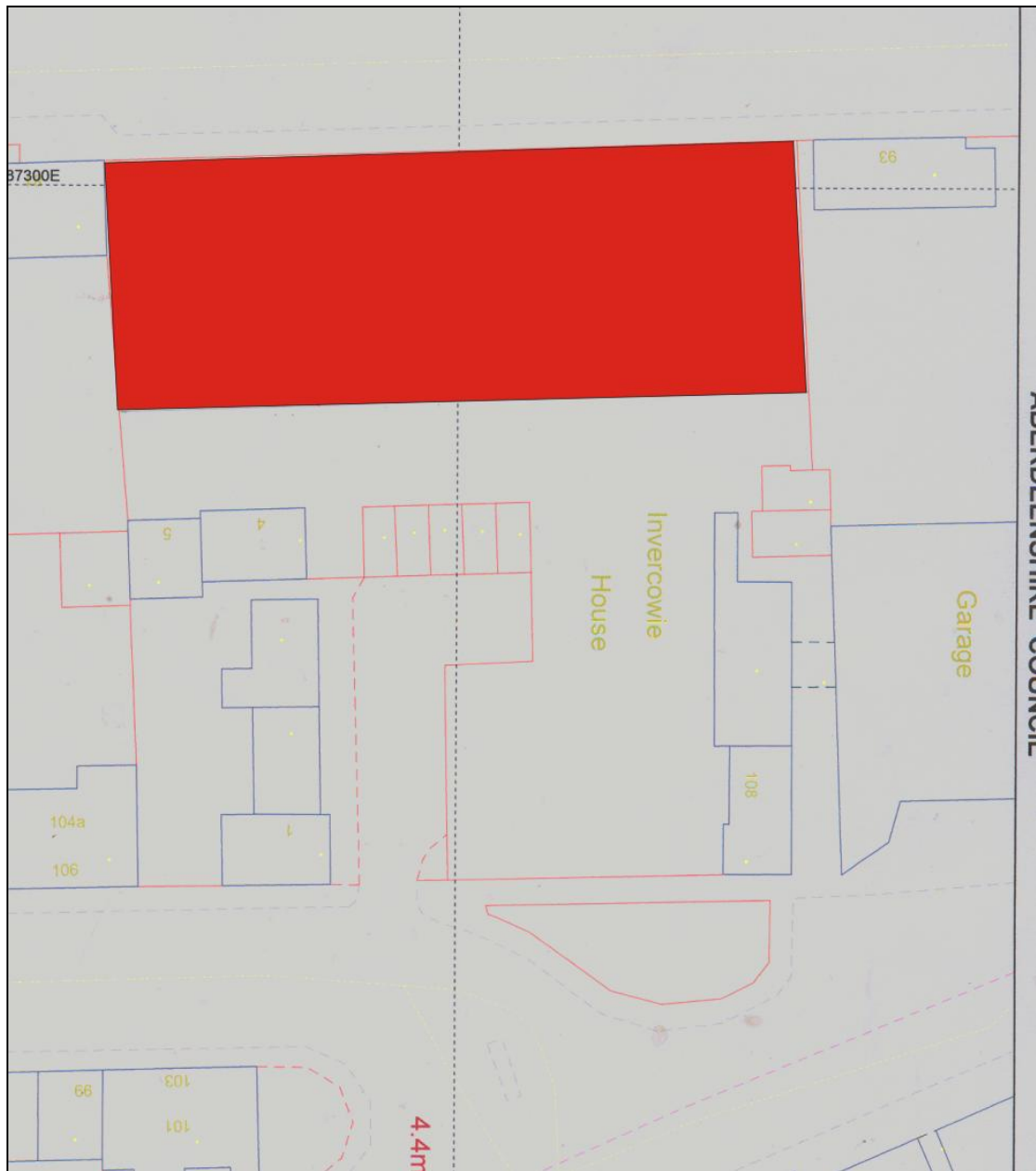
**2. The Site**

- 2.1 Invercowie House is located at the N end of Barclay Street, Stonehaven [NGR: NO 8733 8622; NMRS No: NO88NE 166; Parish: Fetteresso].
- 2.2 Built sometime before 1823, it is a fine two story Georgian house with basement and dormer windows. To the W of the house is a terraced walled garden that extends up a steep slope and is bounded by Ann Street.
- 2.3 Directly N of the house is the site of a former brewery [see Illus.2, p.3]. Nothing now remains of the brewery but structural evidence associated with it was uncovered during road works in recent years.

**3. The Watching brief**

- 3.1 The area of the walled garden observed during the soil strip measured 55m (N-S) x 20m (W-E) down the slope of the garden [see Illus.1, p.2]. A number of mature trees were felled and uprooted prior to the watching brief. John Wood's survey of 1823 [Illus.2, p.3 – National Library of Scotland ([www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk))] shows a rather formal layout to the garden with planted trees, a path leading up from the house to a central circular path and an exit onto Ann Street. The 1864 large scale Ordnance sheet [National Library of Scotland ([www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk))] also shows a similar arrangement with additional paths around

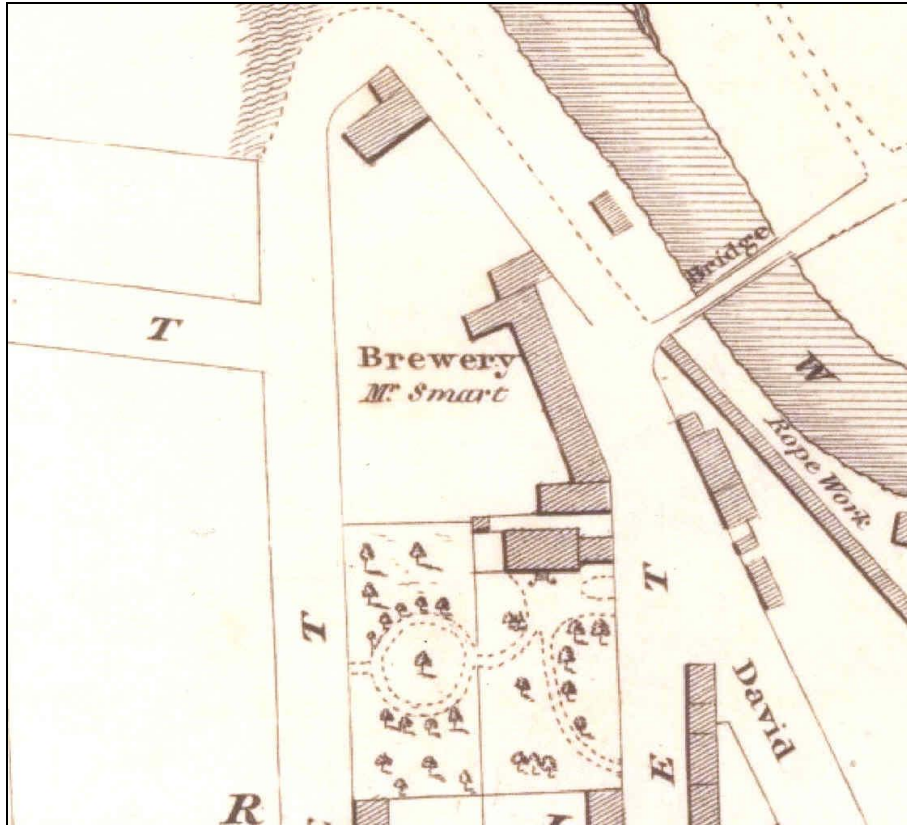
the edges of the garden, possible bordering flower and vegetable beds [see Illus.3, p.3].



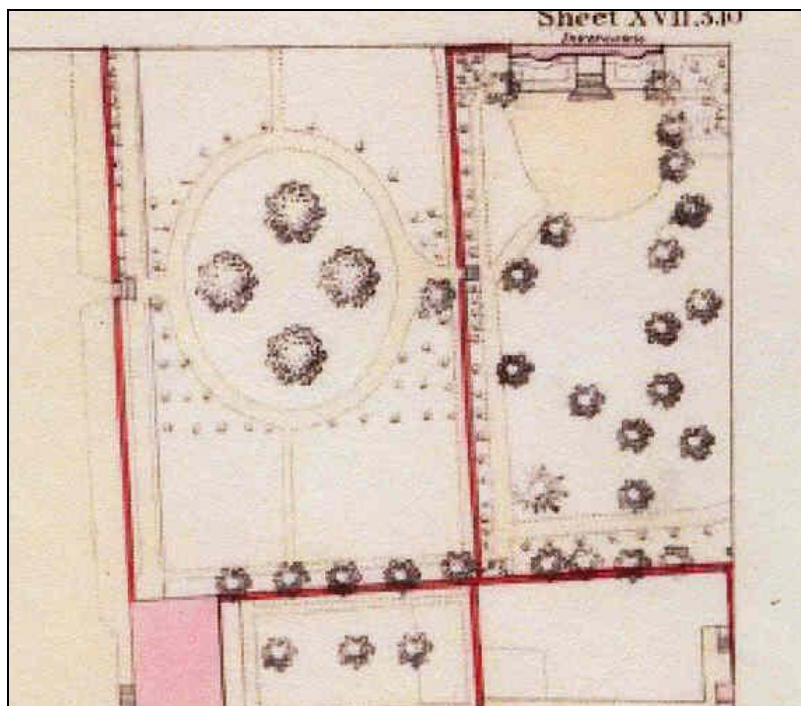
**Illus. 1: Plan showing area observed in red.**

3.2 The soil strip began c.2m E of the inner face of the W boundary retaining wall at a depth of c.1.5m below the level of Ann Street. At the SW corner of the site the garden soil was c.500mm deep, overlying 1m of natural gravel, over natural yellow clay [see Illus.4 & 5, p.4]. There had been considerable tree root disturbance in this sector.

3.3 At the base clay level there was a small but steady seepage of ground water coming from the gravel ridge.



Illus. 2: Detail of John Wood survey of 1823, showing Invercowie House and garden and the brewery to the N.



Illus. 3: 1864 Ordnance Survey Large Scale town plan, showing Invercowie House and gardens.





**Illus. 4: View, S, of SW sector of the site.**



**Illus. 5: Detail of SW section**

3.4 A similar strata of garden soil over gravel was observed in the N sector of the site, but the base level of clay was not revealed [see Illus: 6, p.5].

3.5 No archaeological features or finds were evident in the soil strip, nor was there any indication that the brewery, bordering Invercowie House to the N, impinged in any way into the garden area.

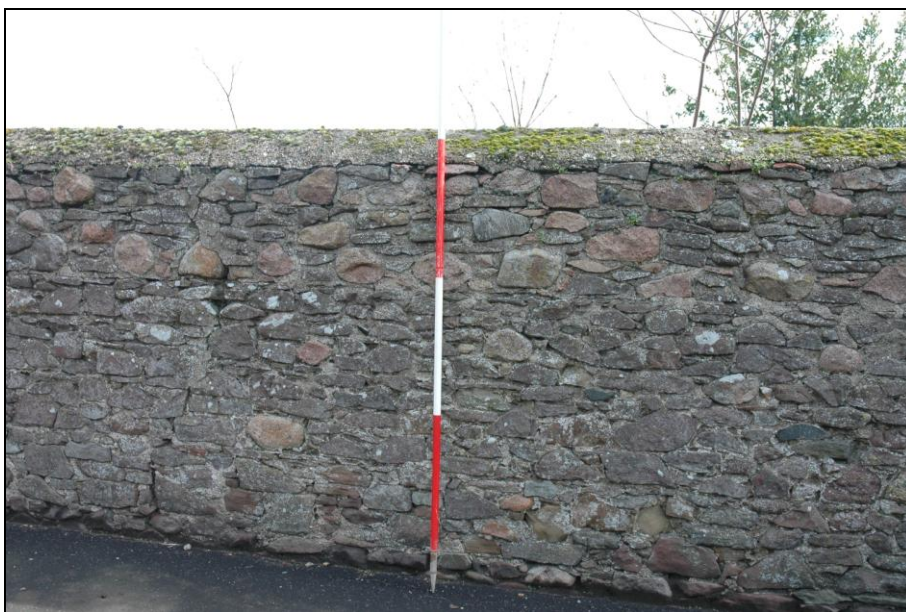


**Illus. 6: View, NW, of N sector of the garden.**

### **3.5 Garden Wall**

The wall that forms the W boundary with Ann Street is currently c.1.2m high. It is to be reduced in height by c.750mm and topped with black iron railings.

It is probable that the wall is contemporary with the house and also dating to before 1832. It is c.300mm thick and constructed with small rubble granite stone. It is capped with red brick, set in concrete, which overlap the interior face, with a concrete finish on the exterior [see Illus. 7 & 8, below].



**Illus. 7: Exterior face of boundary wall.**





**Illus. 8: View, S, of the wall construction.**

The upper boundary wall is set into the top of the interior garden revetting wall, which is 1.5m high (visible) and c.300mm wider than the upper wall [see Illus.9, below]



**Illus. 9: Inner face of boundary wall and revetting wall.**

#### **4. Summary**

4.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the soil strip and reduction of ground levels of the sloping garden of Invercowie House.

4.2 No archaeological features or finds were evident, nor was there evidence that the adjacent brewery to the N impinged in any way on the garden area of the House.

