

PRSE15/03

Planning Application Reference 16/00522/FULL

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

Pow Burn Restoration, River South Esk

Client: Envirocentre

Draft V.1

23/08/16

**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An application for development (16/00522/FULL) by Esk River and Fisheries Trust for restoration of the lower Pow Burn has been passed by Angus Council, subject to a series of conditions. One of the conditions relates to the requirement for archaeological works and this document outlines the scope of the works.
- 1.2 The client has commissioned Headland Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief, with the scope of the works outlined within a written scheme of investigation (WSI - this document). The WSI must be submitted for agreement with the Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus & Aberdeen City Councils prior to work commencing on site.
- 1.3 The archaeological works will ensure that any significant remains are fully excavated, recorded and analysed.
- 1.4 This WSI takes into account relevant ClfA Standards and Guidance (2014a and b).

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

- 2.1 The site is located at NGR NO 64901 57359 (see northernmost area in attached figure). It is currently occupied by tree cover and arable farmland.
- 2.2 The site lies around 11 m OD and is underlain by sandstone bedrocks overlain by superficial deposits of sand, silt and clay (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A desk-based assessment was undertaken in 2015 in relation to this development (Headland Archaeology 2015). The full results are not repeated here, however they established that there was prehistoric activity in the area, in the form of cropmarks. One cropmark (Powmouth Settlement, SM 6400) is a Scheduled Monument. There was also evidence of activity in the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 3.2 The area of the site has also been subject to extensive agricultural activity throughout its known history. Therefore there is the potential that any subsurface remains which might be present may have been truncated through this activity. However, as the site is also within a floodplain, archaeological assets may also be deeply buried and hence both protected and masked by alluvium.

4 OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 In general, the purpose of the watching brief is to record any archaeological remains revealed by the development works and report on the results.
- 4.2 More specific aims of the evaluation include:
 - Establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas affected by the development.
 - Ensure that any significant archaeological features or deposits are fully excavated, recorded and analysed.
- 4.3 The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited in the Scottish National Record of the Historic Environment to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

5 PROJECT TEAM

- 5.1 The project will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Kirsty Dingwall (Project Manager); the watching brief will be undertaken by an experienced archaeologist from Headland Archaeology. *Curricula vitae* of key personnel can be supplied on request. The project team will familiarise themselves with the background to the site and will be aware of the project's aims and methodologies.
- 5.2 Specialist artefact analyses will be managed by Julie Franklin who is Headland's Finds Manager. Environmental analysis will be managed by Dr Tim Holden.
- 5.3 Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is a Registered Organisation and abides by the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Institute for Archaeologists. The company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the evaluation.

6 INSURANCE & COPYRIGHT

- 6.1 Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is fully indemnified and all necessary insurances can be presented on request.
- 6.2 Copyright will be retained by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Headland will licence the client, curator and other bodies as necessary for use in matters relating to the project and for use of the project archive by NRHE. This licence will also extend to non-commercial use.

7 HEALTH & SAFETY

- 7.1 All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation. A risk assessment and method statement will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All staff will wear appropriate PPE and this will include high-visibility clothing, hard hats and safety footwear. Suitable site welfare facilities will be provided.

8 METHOD

FIELDWORK

- 8.1 Monitoring of all ground-breaking work associated with the development will be undertaken. Excavation of sub-surface material will be carried out by machine, equipped with a flat-edged bucket. Where necessary, removal of hard surfaces (e.g. concrete/tarmac) may be carried out with a toothed bucket following discussion with the monitoring archaeologist.
- 8.2 Machine excavation under archaeological supervision will continue until either formation level is reached, significant archaeological deposits are encountered or undisturbed geological deposits are exposed; whichever is encountered first.
- 8.3 If significant archaeological features, artefacts or deposits are encountered, the monitoring archaeologist will be allowed the opportunity to investigate and record any exposed archaeological remains.
- 8.4 Where archaeological features are uncovered in construction trenches which are deemed unsafe to enter, recording will take place from the surface. Deep or unsafe trenches will not be entered by staff.

RECORDING

- 8.5 All recording will follow ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological watching briefs (2014a). All contexts, small finds and environmental

samples will be given unique numbers. All recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. In the event that stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled. Digital photographs will be taken; a graduated metric scale will be clearly visible.

- 8.6 A plan of the development area in relation to the National Grid will be supplied by the client. Significant archaeological features will be recorded on this plan by use of hand measurements where appropriate and related to the National Grid. Where appropriate, sections through individual features and stratigraphic sequences will be drawn by hand at an appropriate scale and hand drawn plans of complex features and structures completed at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections).
- 8.7 Headland maintains a digitally-based library of guidance documents that includes information on field evaluation and recording. Relevant parts can be forwarded on request.

SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

- 8.8 Finds will be routinely recorded by context and recorded 3-dimensionally where appropriate (ie. where their position within a context can provide further significant information or the find is of particular significance). Any artefacts retrieved during the watching brief will be cleaned using appropriate techniques and packaged and stored in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998). All artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be cleaned, marked and catalogued. Headland's in-house finds specialists will be available to provide advice remotely or on site if necessary. Conservation will be undertaken by Scottish Conservation Studio (for metalwork) and AOC Ltd (for organics).
- 8.9 Deposits identified as archaeologically significant will be sampled for environmental material and other finds (e.g. bone, pottery etc.). Bulk samples will be taken from selected deposits for wet sieving and floatation in order to recover any environmental material. A bulk sample will typically be 40 litres. However, where large deposits are encountered more than one bulk sample may be taken. Similarly, small deposits such as the fill of postholes may contain less than 10 litres of sediment and will be fully sampled. A sample register and an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains shall be included in the Data Structure Report if appropriate.

9 MONITORING

- 9.1 Access to the site will be afforded to the curator for monitoring purposes.

10 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

- 10.1 On completion of the evaluation Headland will produce a site archive and a Data Structure Report (DSR) that includes all relevant specialist assessments of excavated material. An online OASIS report will be completed and will be accompanied by a pdf report and boundary file. An additional summary report will be submitted for inclusion in *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*.
- 10.2 DSR report contents and format will be in line with ClfA standards & guidance and curator requirements. Copies of the report will be sent to the client for onward transmission to the local planning authority; copies (paper & electronic) will also be submitted to the curator, to be deposited in the HER. A draft version of the DSR will be submitted within 4 weeks of the completion of fieldwork.
- 10.3 The project archive will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007 and 2014b). The documentary and digital archive will be

submitted to NRHE (National Record of Historic Environment) within six months of completion of all work on this project. All finds will be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel, which will determine the ultimate destination of the material archive. Once this is determined, and within three months, arrangements will be made with the specified museum for transfer of material and title.

11 HUMAN REMAINS

- 11.1 All finds of human remains will be reported to the client, curator and local police. None will be excavated during the course of the present program of work.
- 11.2 An on-site meeting will be arranged with the client, curator and Headland Archaeology to decide on an appropriate method for dealing with the remains.
- 11.3 If human remains are to be excavated during subsequent work all excavation and treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains will be undertaken in cognisance of ClfA Technical Paper Number 13 (Brickley & McKinley & 2004) and relevant Historic Environment Scotland policy on the treatment of human remains.

12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (published by the IfA 2007).

Brickley M & McKinley J 2004 Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains (IfA Paper No 7).

British Geological Survey website (accessed 23/08/16)
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

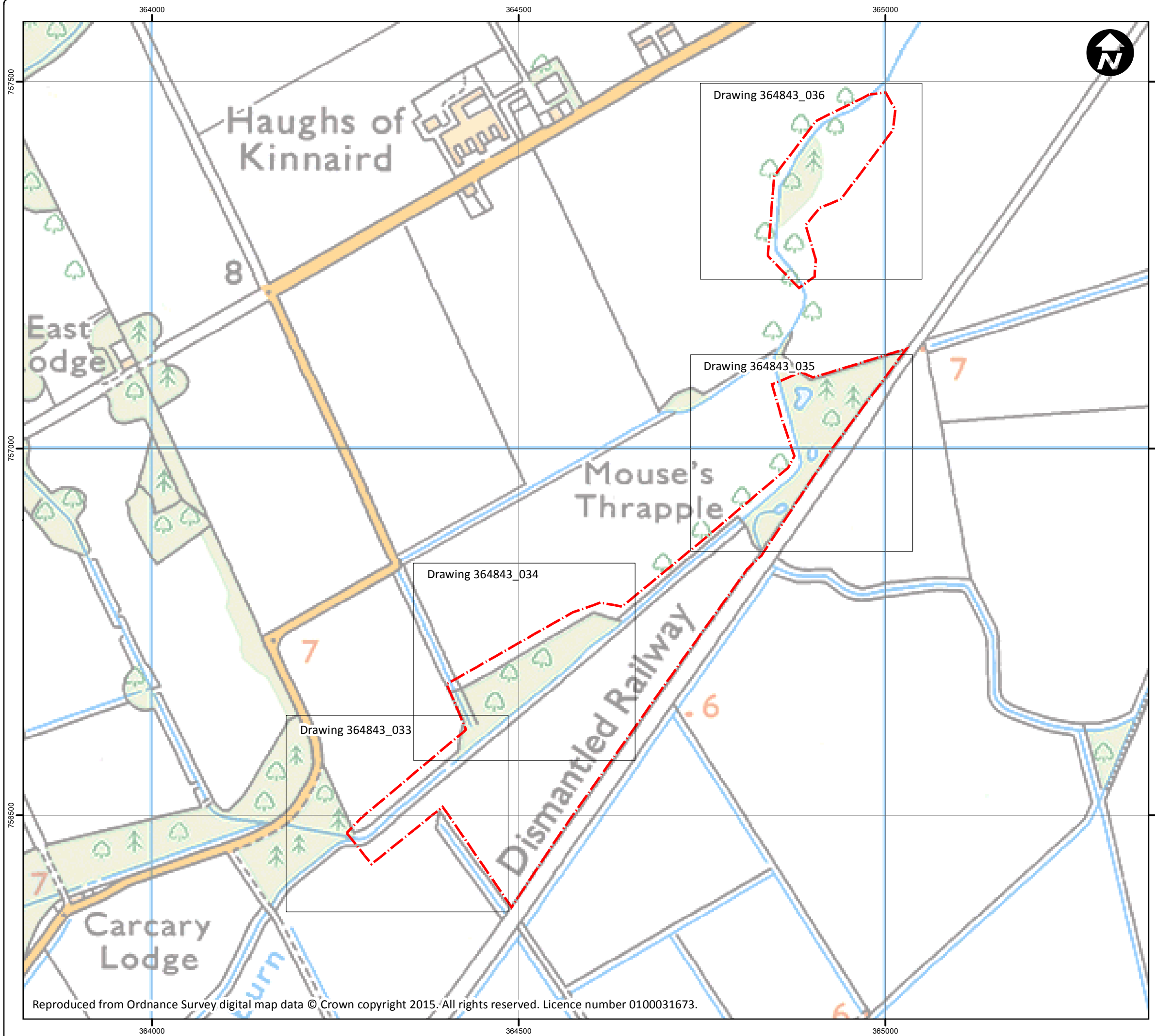
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.



Headland Archaeology 2015 Pow Burn Restoration, River South Esk, Angus: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Unpublished Client Report.

SPP: Scottish Planning Policy (February 2010;
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/0>)

Watkinson D & Neal V First aid for finds, (Third Edition 1998).



Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  Areas shown in detailed design plan drawings

Notes:

1. The footprint of proposed works shown in detailed design plans (Drawing 364843-033 - 364843-036) is less than 1.5ha. This includes the second stage channel, woodland surface scrape, relict feature reconnections, set-back bunds and the area of channel where in-channel measures are proposed.
2. The full area within site boundary is 13.8ha. A larger site boundary is used as exact locations for sub-soil to be placed (in low points within adjacent fields) still to be confirmed with the landowners.

Do not scale this map

Client
Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust

Project
Pow Burn Restoration

Title
Site Location Plan
For Proposed Works in Reach 4 and 5

Status
FINAL

Drawing No. 364843-039	Revision
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Scale 1:5,000	A3	Date 06/07/2016
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Drawn HR	Checked JP	Approved KMD
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