
3 PROGRAMME OF WORK

3.1 Aims

Most of the development site was to be reduced in level with the result that archaeological remains could not be preserved in situ. All of the sites therefore had to be preserved by record and the fieldwork aimed to achieve that.

3.2 Watching brief

The topsoil was removed during the early part of the work by a tracked 360° excavator with a flat-bladed bucket and, later, after discussions with HCAU, by a bulldozer. Topsoil removed in this way was banded along the east and north of the development area. All areas topsoiled by bulldozer were then cleaned using a tracked 360° excavator with a flat-bladed bucket.

3.3 Excavation

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard archaeological procedures, principally by drawing, photography and

by completing recording forms. Surveying was carried out using industry-standard total station equipment.

Where archaeological remains were identified by the watching brief, the subsoil surface was further cleaned by a combination of hoe and trowel. All pre-modern features (F) were allocated sequential numbers and were fully excavated by hand. Bulk soil samples were collected through judgement sampling (Jones 1991). Further soil (profile and Kubiena tin) sampling was undertaken with a view to radiocarbon dating, pollen, phosphate, depositional and magnetic susceptibility analyses. All stratified artefacts were retained, as were a large number of artefacts, predominantly lithics, but also including ironworking debris and a medieval silver half-groat which were recovered from the banded topsoil after rainfall.

In the following sections, discussion centres on those features that are part of coherent feature groups, those that contained interesting artefacts/ecofacts or were of an unusual morphology. Information concerning all other features forms part of the site archive to be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.