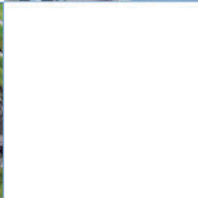
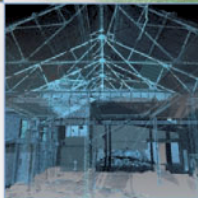
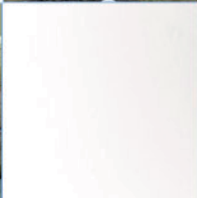


Upper Castlewalk, Stirling: Watching Brief Report

21096
August 2008



Upper Castlewalk, Stirling: Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	DCT Civil Engineering Ltd
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 1314 7727
AOC Project No:	21096
Prepared by:	Rob Engl
Illustration by:	Graeme Carruthers
Date of Fieldwork:	4 th & 5 th August 2008
Date of Report:	September 2008

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Rob Engl

Date: 8th September 2008

Approved by: John Gooder

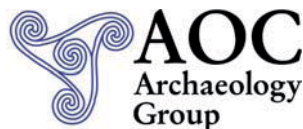
Date: 8th September 2008

Final Report Stage:

Date: 8th September 2008

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Upper Castlehill, Stirling during construction of a temporary site compound.

The work was carried out over the 4th and 5th August 2008 and monitored the topsoil stripping of approximately 900 m² of level ground at approximately 70 m OD.

The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance. No further archaeological works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by DCT Civil Engineering Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works associated with the creation of a temporary site compound at Upper Castlehill, Stirling (centred NGR: NT 1314 7727; Figure 1). The requirement and scope of the works was determined by Stirling Council, attached as a condition on planning consent (08/00226/DET), on the advice of Ms Lorna Main, Archaeology Officer to the Council.
- 1.1.2 This work was undertaken in keeping with the policies outlined in PAN 42 and NPPG 5, in order to prevent the inadvertent destruction of any archaeological remains lying within the development area.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken on a triangular parcel of relatively level ground currently given over to municipal use (Figure 2). The development area lies at 70 m OD and covers an area of approximately 900 m². The area is bounded to the north and west by Upper Castlehill. Occupied properties bound the site to the east and south.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The development area lies within the historic core of the City of Stirling. No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the development site.
- 1.3.2 The boundary of the site incorporates the frontage area onto Upper Castlehill. This is higher than the remainder of the site and probably reflects the former presence of buildings along this edge. Buildings both along here and in the area behind the Castlehill frontage are known from maps (Laye 1725; Ordnance Survey 1860).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to observe the removal of topsoil from across the site and the groundworks associated with the construction of an access route from the compound to Upper Castlehill (Main 2008, 4.2) and thereby prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
 - ii) to record all archaeological features uncovered by the topsoil strip with emphasis on preservation *in situ* where at all possible;
 - iii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered that cannot be left *in situ* to prepare and implement a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The details of the archaeological works undertaken are laid out below, and were designed to fully meet the requirements of the local planning authority. The archaeological works consisted of a programme of topsoil strip monitoring undertaken on all ground breaking works across site. This included the access route from the compound to Upper Castlehill (Figure 2).

3.2 Watching Brief

- 3.2.1 All ground breaking work was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. An area of approximately 900 m² (Figure 2) was stripped of topsoil using a 13 tonne tracked excavator equipped with a two metre wide toothless ditching bucket. The Watching Brief ceased once clean natural subsoil or the client's required level had been reached. Any archaeological remains revealed by the Watching Brief were to be preserved *in situ* wherever possible and following recording covered with geotextile.
- 3.2.2 All monitoring was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29). Black and White print, colour slide and digital photographic shots were taken during the watching brief (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 4th and 5th August 2008. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-2 and Figures 1 & 2.
- 4.3 The topsoil stripping began with the entrance area onto Upper Castlehill. A buffer zone between six and nine metres wide was set up along Upper Castlehill and the eastern perimeter (Figure 2). This was to protect both the probable location of house foundations shown on Laye's map of 1725 and to prevent the slippage of stripped topsoil down-slope.
- 4.4 The initial stripping revealed an extremely shallow (0.10 m thick) imported topsoil directly overlying previous service cuts running along the edge of the verge. Away from the verge the topsoil was generally 0.30 m in depth, however it reached a maximum depth of 0.50 m within the south-east corner. Where exposed the natural subsoil was orange/brown sand with occasional out-croppings of bed-rock.
- 4.4 The topsoil was a dark brown, well sorted loam. It contained large quantities of Victorian midden material including white and coloured ceramics, clay pipe stems, glass, animal bone and iron. A small proportion of the topsoil contained demolition material such as brick, tile and ceramic pipe. No earlier artefactual material was observed.
- 4.5 Ground reduction was largely limited to the depth of the topsoil / subsoil interface and so possibly significant negative features cut into the subsoil were not affected. The stripping uncovered the tops of two lime mortar bonded foundation walls (Figure 2). Wall 1, roughly 0.5 m wide, was aligned west to east and was visible for 20 m. Wall 2 ran north to south for three metres. As with Wall 1, Wall 2 was 0.50 m wide and lime mortared. These walls are either boundary walls or foundations for buildings shown on the 1860 OS map.



Plate1: Wall 1 Exposed Foundation



Plate 2: Stripped Area to South of Site

5 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified. No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation from Ms Main.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Laye 1725 *A Plan of the Town and Castle of Sterling.*

Main L. 2008 *Terms of Reference for Archaeological Watching Brief, Upper Castlehill, Stirling*. Stirling Council Environmental Services. Unpublished client Report.

SOEnD 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG5. Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

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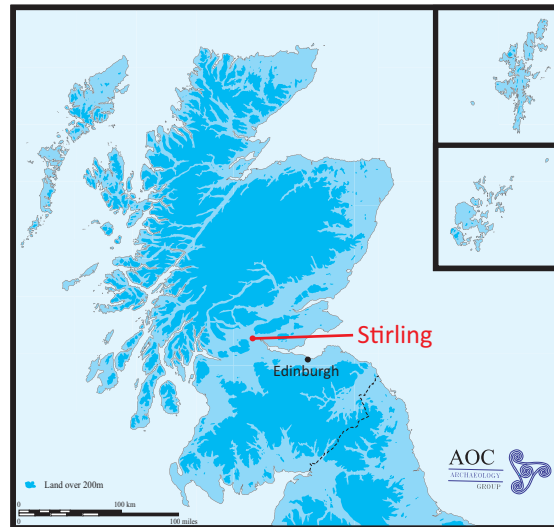
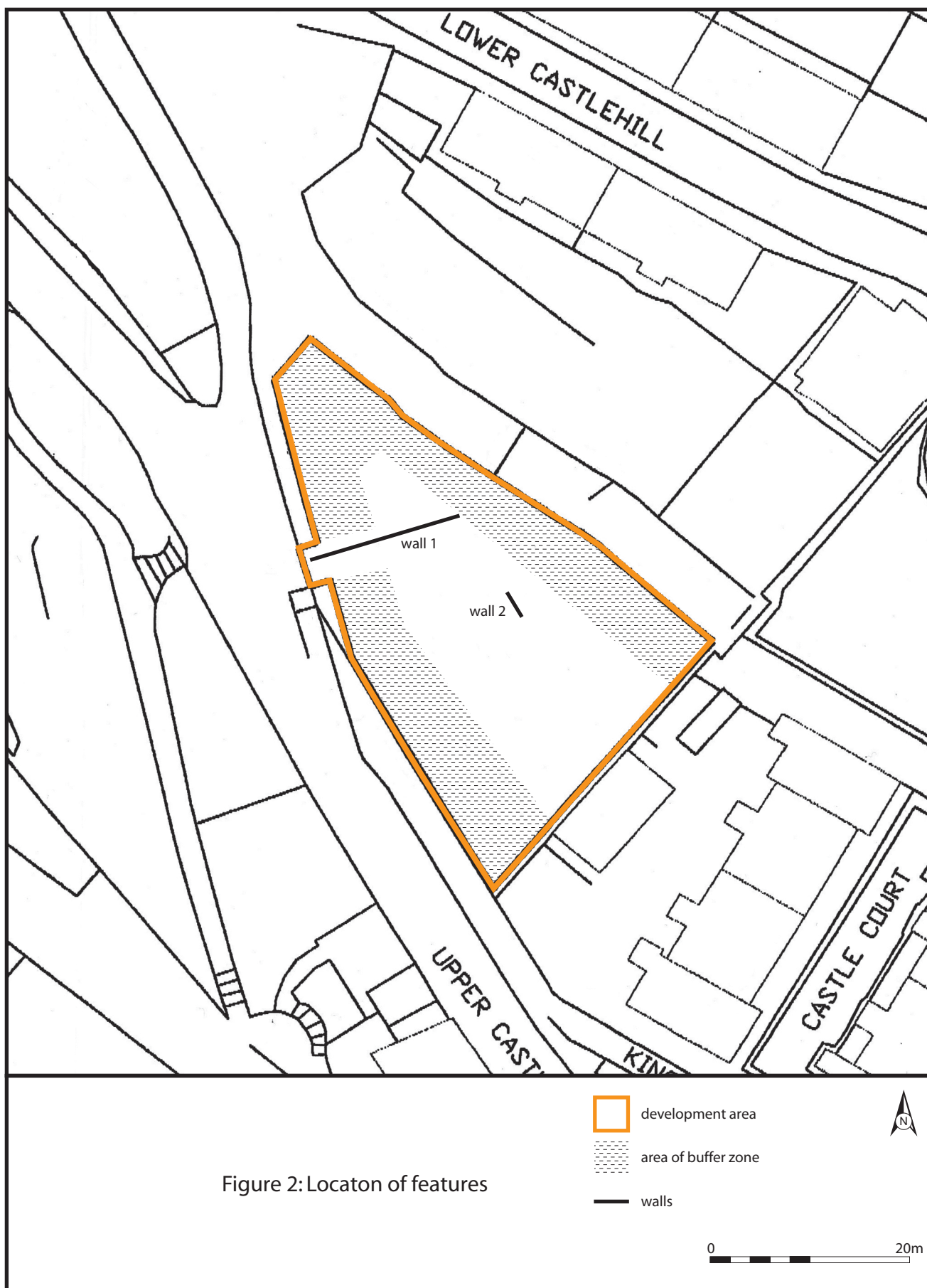


Figure 1: site location



Upper Castlehill, Stirling: Watching Brief Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Photographic Record

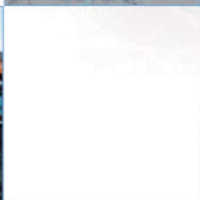
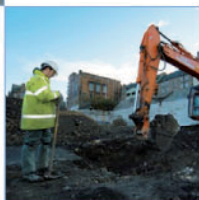
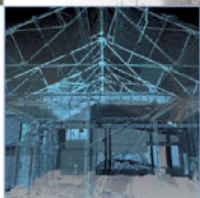
Black & White Print/Colour Slide & Digital Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
0-2		Registration shot	
3-4		Site pre-strip	W
5		Test pit at verge Upper Castlehill	S
6		Stripping of compound entrance	S
7		Stripping of compound to west of entrance	N
8		South of area post-strip	W
9-10	Wall 1	Foundations running east to west	W
11-12	Wall 2	Foundations running north to south	N
13		Stripping to north in site	SE
14-15		Site post strip	N

APPENDIX 2

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Upper Castlehill, Stirling
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21096
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 1314 7727
START DATE (this season)	4 th August 2008
END DATE (this season)	5 th August 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of a Temporary Site Compound.</p> <p>The watching brief monitored the topsoil stripping of approximately 900 m². This work revealed two 19th century walls; either boundary walls or foundations for buildings shown on the 1860 OS first edition map.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	DCT Civil Engineering Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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