

Archaeological Watching Brief
Frankfield Loch
Stepps

SP03

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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Watching Brief Areas

Illustration 3: Plan of 19th c brick building

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ABSTRACT

In April and August 2010 Alder Archaeology undertook monitoring of topsoiling on two areas of archaeological concern on a residential development site to the east of Frankfield Loch, Stepps, site code, SP03. The work was in response to recommendations made by SUAT in 2007 after the initial evaluation of the site. The two areas of concern were an L shaped linear ditch feature in the mid part of the development site and the foundations of a 19th century brick building shown on the Ordnance Survey plan, 1898.

The watching brief on the area of the linear ditch feature found no evidence of associated features which could date the ditch or shed light on its exact function. It is considered that the feature was probably a boundary ditch as its eastern arm followed the hill slope down to Frankfield Loch. The full ground plan for the 19th c building, was obtained, however, its function could not be ascertained. As it was set beside a narrow gauge mineral railway and a quarry on the E side of railway track it may well have been associated with the working of those operations.

No further archaeological work is required on this site.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Taylor Wimpey commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake archaeological monitoring on the site of residential development to the east of Frankfield Loch, Stepps. The site is 4.9ha in size and centred on NGR NS 6580 6790. The work (Alder site code SP03) was undertaken in good weather conditions during the periods 21-23 April and 02-03 August, 2010.

An initial evaluation (SUAT Site code SP02) of the site took place during the period 29th October and 6th November 2007. On the evaluation two archaeological features were found that were recommended for further work in the form of a watching brief when topsoiling of those areas took place. The two features comprised an L shaped linear ditch feature, located at NS 65806 67902, possibly representing a large rectilinear enclosure or field boundary possibly medieval or earlier, and the brick foundations of a 19th century building at NS 65936 67995, possibly associated with a mineral railway line and quarry immediately to the east of the building.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to monitor the topsoiling operations on and around the two features to obtain further information regarding their form, function and dating and in the case of the L-shaped feature to look for any similar associated features.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the local authority Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

The watching brief was advised by SUAT in their evaluation report. The requirement for the watching brief was confirmed by WoSAS (West of Scotland Archaeology Service, the archaeological advisor to North Lanarkshire Council at the time of the evaluation).

The work was agreed by the current archaeological consultant to the planning authority for North Lanarkshire Council, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

The monitoring or watching brief on the topsoiling was the final part of a programme of archaeological works designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference N/06/00345/FUL.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Steve Campbell, site manager for Taylor Wimpey for his on site advice and help and Thomas Rees, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, archaeological consultant to the planning authority for North Lanarkshire Council, for his assistance

and guidance throughout the project. The Watching Brief was entirely funded by Taylor Wimpey.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1 and II)

The development area comprises a cleared L-shaped piece of land 4.9ha in size and centred on NGR NS 6580 6790 to the east of Frankfield Loch. To the N and N-E the site is bordered by a narrow pedestrian tarmac track called Loch Road. In the N-W area of the site a main access road has been inserted and, at the time of the watching brief, residential units and a road system were being constructed on the site. The site slopes gently down from ordnance survey datum of 91m in mid site towards Frankfield Loch to the W and Loch Road and boggy ground to the N, on the 85m contour line. In the middle of the site lay a wide, double ditched field boundary running NE-SW, where the L shaped ditch was located. The NE corner of the site, the location of the brick building, is bounded on the N and E sides by Loch Road. The part of Loch Road that forms the E boundary of the site was previously part of the course of a narrow gauge mineral railway.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The main potential for previously undiscovered archaeology on this site lay in the possibility of finding prehistoric remains in areas topographically suited to settlement or ritual use, which were likely to be plough-truncated through later land use. This pattern has been known to occur in other parts of the Glasgow conurbation, and the undulating terrain in the less immediate vicinity of the site has produced a range of sites and artefacts dating from the Mesolithic to Early Historic periods in the past.

The evaluation by SUAT in 2007 recorded an L shaped ditch and a brick building which were recommended for further archaeological investigation in the form of a watching brief on topsoiling operations when the development groundworks commenced.

2.2.1 L-shaped Feature

The L-shaped ditch underlay a later major double ditched field boundary shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1861 and partly still extant at the time of the SUAT evaluation. It was located in trenches 20 and 22 of the evaluation. The L-shaped ditch feature was considered too large to be the footprint of a building or structure; instead it was considered to represent a field enclosure or an L-shaped boundary. One problem of interpreting the feature as an enclosure was the fact that both arms ran downhill, whilst an enclosure would be expected to follow the contours of the hill. It is possible that a gap found in the northern extension might reflect an entrance into the enclosure. Analysis of samples taken of the fills revealed nothing of its date or function.

2.2.2 19th c Brick Building

It was considered that the brick building found on the SUAT evaluation in Trench 23 probably related to the “Mineral Railway” which ran along the course of the present

Loch Road pathway that forms the E boundary of the site. The building may have been used for storage of equipment, materials or even water for use on the railway. The building first appears on the Ordnance Survey 1898 Lanarkshire 1:2,500 plan and is shown on successive plans including the 1933, 1:2,500 plan. It is uncertain when the building was demolished.

2.3 Archaeological Method

The two areas of archaeological concern were subject to monitoring in the form of a watching brief. Continuous monitoring of topsoil removal, by machine equipped with a smooth edged ditching bucket, down to the top of natural was carried out. The natural deposits were inspected for cut features. Some features found were partly excavated, and recorded. In the case of the brick building excavation ceased when the top of the truncated brick walls were reached except for the N part of the building which was partially machine excavated internally.

2.4 Results of Investigations

2.4.1 L-shaped Feature (Illus II)

Part of the N side of the area that was to be monitored had been recently been developed with the insertion of a roadway.

The area monitored around the L shaped feature revealed modern field drains about 5m apart running down to the loch and some modern plough scars. The N and S ditches of the major field boundary running across the top of the site were observed. The complete L shaped feature was uncovered and a 7m length of the E-W arm was excavated. The terminus of the N arm was excavated and here the curved end of the cut was shown to have shallow sloping sides. Nothing substantially different from that recorded on the 2007 evaluation was found. At the W end of the feature, close to the loch, the cut feathered out into the natural silts of the loch shoreline about 12m beyond the end of the original evaluation trench with no identifiable terminus. No other features were observed that could be associated with this feature. No further evidence regarding the function or date of this feature was obtained.

2.4.2 19th c Brick Building (Illus III)

The brick building remains underlay a modern dump of mainly tarmac up to 1.25m thick which contained various discarded items of metal, plastic and wood. Below the dumping was a spread of black gritty cinders partly infilling the demolished building and forming a thin surface over the remains.

The ground plan of the building was entirely exposed below floor level and some machine excavation took place in the northern part. The building was T shaped in plan with the long axis on a NNW-SSE alignment. The outer walls were very thick, varying between 0.85m and 0.75m. The bricks mainly used in the construction measured 23cm long, 10.5cm wide and 8.5cm high and were stamped ALLAN & MANN GLASGOW with a shallow square frog on the opposite face.

The northern part or horizontal arm of the building appeared to be one large room, measuring 12m long and 5.70m wide, externally, and with a small central porch abutting the N wall. When excavated by machine the walls of the northern room interior revealed that brickwork had survived to a maximum height of 0.68m. The brick foundations were constructed upon a lower foundation of large irregular shaped blocks of off white sandstone forming a scarcement. In the central area of the room some brickwork (disturbed and partly removed) was set upon stonework which may have represented dwarf walls for flooring, although no proper flooring had remained in-situ. Excavation here also revealed that the solum bottom comprised natural deposits of soft black silty clay indicating the boggy nature of the original ground and the need for deep wide foundations. An external room measuring 3m long and 1.60m wide was located in the angle of the horizontal and vertical arms on the E side of the building.

The southern part of the building or the vertical arm was 9.60m in length and 5.30m wide, divided vertically and horizontally into six rooms, two of which on the E side were sub divided by thin brick walls. The two mid rooms had upright stone slabs edging the brickwork on their N side. Five rainwater down pipes were found around the building and a lead water pipe entered one of the small rooms at SW corner.

No doubt functioning with the main building were two adjacent brick floored 'sheds' located to the SE of the building. To the N of the sheds was a soakaway. A major manhole for drainage was located 9.50m to the N of the building.

Unfortunately nothing was found that could positively identify the main function of the building.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Conclusions

Alder Archaeology concludes that in general the monitoring was successful in that it allowed the relevant areas to be examined in more detail under controlled conditions. The monitoring however, was unable to shed further light upon the dating and exact function of the the L shaped ditch.

Further information regarding the internal layout of the 19th C brick building was obtained although the function of the building was not established. Further research into locally sourced records could well shed light on the function and demise of this prominent building.

3.2 Recommendations for Further Work

The monitoring for the ground stripping on the two sites of archaeological significance for this development is now finished and there is no requirement for further work.

4 References

An Archaeological Evaluation East of Frankfield Loch Stepps Glasgow SP02 SUAT
unpublished report, 2008

OS 1861-1884 Lanarkshire 1:2,500

OS 1898 Lanarkshire 1:2,500

OS 1933-1934 Lanarkshire 1:2,500

SUAT, Frankfield Loch: Environmental Statement on desk-based and walkover assessment
2003

Appendix 1 Context Register

No:	Area of L shaped feature
01	Dposit, silty loam in cut feature initially found on evaluation (SP02)
02	Deposit, fill of field drain, silty loam mixed with natural clay, not bottomed
03	Deposit, fill of E boundary ditch
04	Cut, for E boundary ditch
05	Cut, for W boundary ditch
06	Cut, for Field Drain
	Area 19th c brick building
10	Deposit, modern dumping, mainly tarmac mixed with soil, modern finds such as plastic, tyres, brick, all very recent, council dumping to level up over sloping ground, up to 1.25m thick
11	Deposit, shallow spread of loose gritty cinders and ash, forming surface below 10, up to 0.06m deep, deeper where it lies within founds of building, spread after demolition of building
12	Deposit, topsoil, at periphery of area of WB mid brown silty loam 0.11m deep (truncated), below ash of 11
13	Structure, N wall of building mortared brick, 0.83m wide, interior 0.68m high, bricks set upon large/medium faragmented sandstone forming scarcement (20)
14	Structure, E wall of bldg, 0.54, wide
15	Structure, bottom section of cast iron down pipe in bldg NE corner
16	Structure, brick manhole to 9.40m N of bldg, 0.88 X 0.91m c 1.25m deep, cast iron pipe, 0.07m dia, running N-S across the top of the brickwork
17	Deposit, white loose lime, deepest in NW corner of bldg, 0.13m thick, part of infilling
18	Structure, 'porch' 1.48 N-S, 2.40 E-W with central doorway on N side 0.80m wide, walls 0.35m thick and in sondage shown to be at least 0.40m high, abutting centrally exterior of N wall
19	Deposit, black gritty sandy ash, 0.17m thick over white lime deposit thickest in NW corner of bldg, upper deposit of infilling over bldg after demolition, spreads outwith bldg as ctx 11
20	Structure, scarcement of very light brown/buff sandstone within N part of bldg
21	Structure, irregular shaped large stones within solum of N end of bldg, infill of solum and part of scarcement (20)

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
	Area of Linear Feature	
	21 April 10	
01-03	General topsoiling on W side of area	SSE
04-05	General topsoiling on W side of area	E
06	General topsoiling on W side of area	E
07	General of moxy tracks	E
08	General of moxy tracks	N
09	General of ctx 01	NW
10	General of ctx 01	N
11	General of part of stripped area	SSE
12	General of part of stripped area	E
	22 April 10	
13-14	General topsoiling moving to E of area	E
15	General of topsoilin moving to E of area	E
16-17	Field boundary ditch with field drain, ctx 02 and 01	NNW
18-19	Field boundary ditch with field drain ctx, 02 and 01	SSE
20	General working	NE
21	General working	E
22-23	General working	SE
24-28	General working	SE and S
	23 April 10	
29-31	General views of new road on E side of loch	S
32-33	General working	N and NE
34	E boundary ditch ctx 04	SE
35	E boundary ditch ctx 04	NW
36-37	General working	E and SE

38-39	General of moxy tracks	E
40	Detail of L shaped linear feature ctx 01	W
41	General of L shaped linera feature ctx 01	W
42	Detail of ctx 01 at its N terminus	NNW
43	General of ctx 01 at its N terminus	NNW
44-46	Entrance to Taylor Wimpey development	S
	Area of Building	
	02 Aug 10	
47-48	General	NW
49-50	Removing general dumping ctx 10	S
51-52	Removing general dumping ctx 10	SE
53	N wall of bldg ctx 13	SSW
54	Ctx 13	NNE
55-56	General of spoil removal ctx 10 and exposing bldg	NW
57-58	Detail of bottom of cast iron drain pipe	SW and SSW
59	General excavation over wall ctx 13	W
60	Manhole ctx 16	SE
61	Manhole ctx 16	SSW
62	Lime deposit ctx 17 against N wall of bldg	NNW
63	'portch' ctx 18 abutting N wall of bldg	SSE
64	General of N wall of bldg ctx 13	NE
65-66	Scarcement foundation stones ctx 20	NNW
67	General of ctx 20 and ctx 13	NNW
	03 Aug 10	
68	General of bldg foundations	E
69	General of bldg foundations	NE
70	General of bldg foundations	NNE

71-74	General of bldg foundations	NNE
75	General of bldg foundations	E
76	General of bldg foundations	NE
77-79	General of bldg foundations	N
80	Ctx 21, sandstone block in solum	N
81	Ctx 21 and brick in solum	SSE
82	Dividing wall showing stone lining	NE
83	Small divided annex on NE corner of building	NE
84	Two brick floored 'sheds'	NE
85	Soakaway pit	N
86	General of stripped area	N

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Permatrace sheet.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	GPS co-ordinates for WB at L shaped ditch, section drawing of field boundary ditch, context descriptions and observations	1:20
2	Context descriptions for 19 th c brick building	
3	Field sketch plan for 19 th c brick building	Not to scale

Appendix 4 Finds Register

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material Type</i>	<i>Details</i>
13	CBM	Brick; 23cm long, 10.5cm wide and 8.5cm high stamped ALLAN & MANN GLASGOW with a shallow square frog on the opposite face.

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Lanarkshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Watching Brief , Frankfield Loch, Stepps
PROJECT CODE:	SP03
PARISH:	Barony
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS66NE 15 Stepps NS66NE 59.08 Monkland Canal, Frankfield Loch NS66NE 75 Stepps Railway Station
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Undated ditch and 19 th c brick building
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NGR NS 6580 6790
START DATE	21 April 2010
END DATE	03 August 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation East of Frankfield Loch Stepps Glasgow SP02</i> SUAT unpublished report, 2008
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>In April and August 2010 Alder Archaeology undertook monitoring of topsoiling on two areas of archaeological concern on a residential development site to the east of Frankfield Loch, Stepps, site code, SP03. The work was in response to recommendations made by SUAT in 2007 after the initial evaluation of the site. The two areas of concern were an L shaped linear ditch feature in the mid part of the development site and the foundations of a 19th century brick building shown on the Ordnance Survey plan, 1898.</p> <p>The watching brief on the area of the linear ditch feature found no evidence of associated features which could date the ditch or shed light on its exact function. It is considered that the feature was probably a boundary ditch as its eastern arm followed the hill slope down to Frankfield Loch. The full ground plan for the 19th c building, was obtained, however, its function could not be ascertained. As it was set beside a narrow gauge mineral railway and a quarry on the E side of railway track it may well have been associated with the working of those operations.</p> <p>No further archaeological work is required on this site</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING	Taylor Wimpey

BODY:	
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

Appendix 6 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

6.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

6.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

6.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

6.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

6.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

6.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.