

GUARD



University of Glasgow

Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division



Consultancy - Desk Assessments - Fieldwork - Surveys



Buildings - Post-Excavation - Research & Teaching - Specialised Services

Lomond Quarry Extension, Fife

Data Structure Report

Project 3060



www.guard.arts.gla.ac.uk

Lomond Quarry Extension, Fife

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: Skene Group Ltd

NGR: NO 24226 02297

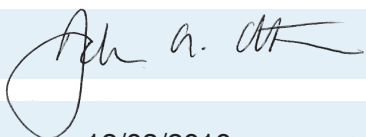
Project Number: 3060

Project Manager: Ronan Toolis

Report by: Iraia Arabaolaza

Illustrations: Fiona Jackson

Approved by:



12/03/2010

Date:

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

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GUARD

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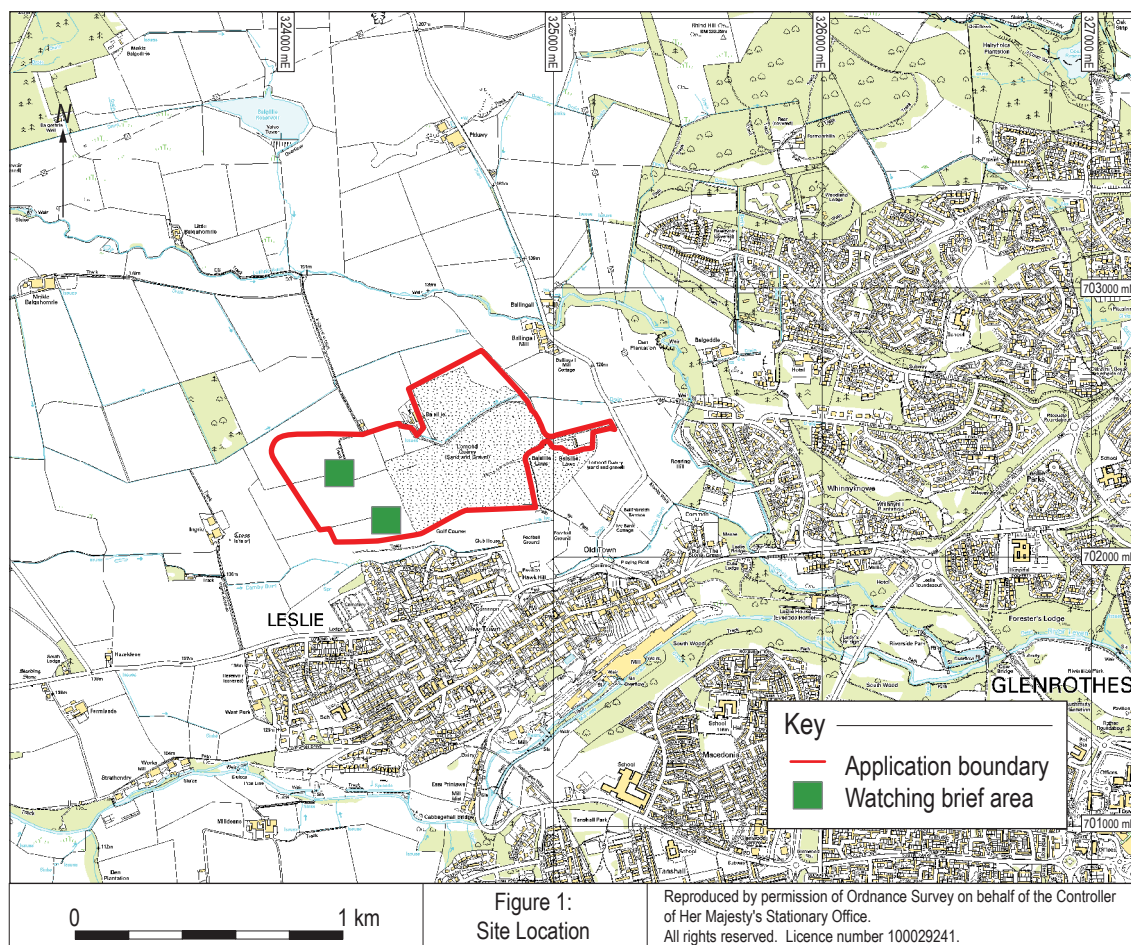
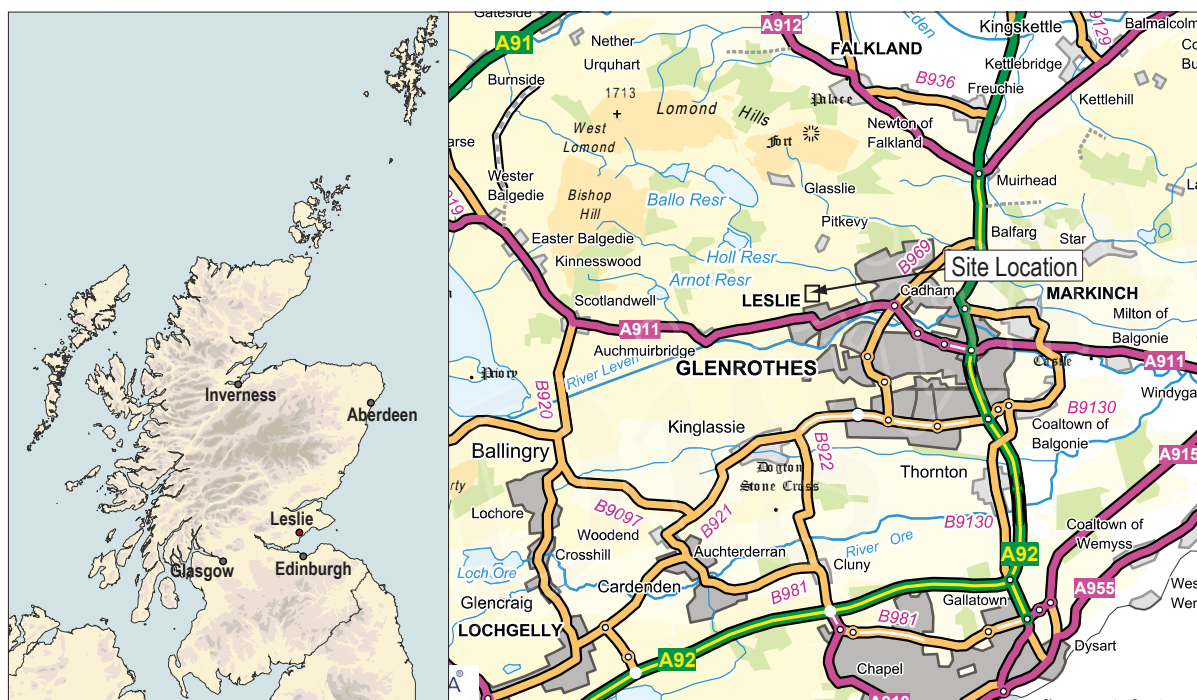
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Executive Summary

- 1.1 Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) were commissioned by Skene Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief for the Lomond Quarry Extension to the north of Leslie in Fife. This work was undertaken between 17 - 19 February 2010 and revealed no significant archaeological remains.

Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by GUARD, on behalf of Skene Group Ltd, during ground-breaking works associated with the western extension of the existing Lomond sand and gravel quarry at Leslie, Fife. This report is submitted in accordance with planning condition 28 (Ref 09/01492/CEIA).

Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The proposed development location lies to the north of Leslie in Fife (NGR NO 24226 02297).
- 3.2 The site is bounded by farm fields to the north and west, the existing quarry to the east and a housing estate within Leslie and golf course to the south (Figure 1). The site currently consists of ploughed flat fields used for agricultural purpose (Plate 1).
- 3.3 The underlying drift geology consists of glacio-fluvial deposits, while the solid geology consists of Midland Valley sill complex of unknown bedrock type <http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/>.



Plate 1: Pre-ex shot of Area 1 showing Area 2.

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The Environmental Impact Assessment identified, just outwith the quarry extension boundary to the west, the nominal location of a prehistoric findspot of bronze swords, stone axes and flint arrowheads. While these artefacts were found within Leslie parish, the exact location of the findspot is unknown. The Hon Mrs Douglas of Strathendry had some of these, and a spearhead, in the nineteenth century. However, Strathendry has since changed ownership and the present whereabouts of the finds can no longer be ascertained. Nevertheless, it is conceivable that they were found within close proximity

of the quarry extension area, as the excavation of a prehistoric cist on an eminence at Balsillie Farm was noted in the New Statistical Account, which attributes other grave mounds to the Balsillie Laws to the immediate north of Leslie. While most of these mounds have since been impacted by the current quarry, it was observed during the walkover survey that one small knoll still survives within the southernmost field of the quarry extension area, from which relatively large, albeit unworked, stones had recently been ploughed up. The southernmost watching brief area (Figure 1) accords with this area of potential archaeological interest.

- 4.2 There is one early modern site recorded within the quarry extension area, an un-named building depicted on Sharp, Greenwood and Foster's map of 1828 and the Ordnance Survey maps of 1856, 1867 and 1897. This building would appear to have been demolished by 1903, after which it is no longer depicted on maps. Though un-named, it was probably associated with Balsillie Farm on which land the quarry lies, which is depicted on Gordon's map of 1642 and all maps from 1775 onwards, just outside the quarry extension boundary. Other than these details, the earliest maps of the area, from the 17th and 18th centuries, are not at a sufficient scale to depict the nature of land use of the precise quarry extension area, though it is assumed that this was agricultural. The northernmost watching brief area (Figure 1) accords with this area of potential archaeological interest.
- 4.3 The watching brief thus had the potential to encounter archaeological remains related to a possible prehistoric cist burial and an early modern building within two specific and discrete areas of the Lomond Quarry Extension.

Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aim of the watching brief was:
- to ensure that any surviving archaeological remains, encountered during the machine excavation of topsoil, were recorded to an appropriate level.
- 5.2 The objectives were therefore to:
- Conduct an archaeological watching brief during the machine excavation of topsoil in two specific areas (Figure 1), given the proximity of known or potential archaeological remains, to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving; determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered; and excavate and salvage any information possible from any significant features encountered;
 - On completion of the watching brief, and any resulting excavation works if archaeology is encountered, submit a data structure report to Fife Council;
 - If excavation works were required, submit an accompanying post-excavation research design (PERD) and costing alongside the data structure report, and which will outline arrangements for final publication.

Methodology

- 6.1 Topsoil was stripped using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The topsoil was removed in spits to the surface of the subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon. All on-site written, drawn and photographic recording was carried out to the specification agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix C).
- 6.2 Conditions for the watching brief were sunny but very cold.

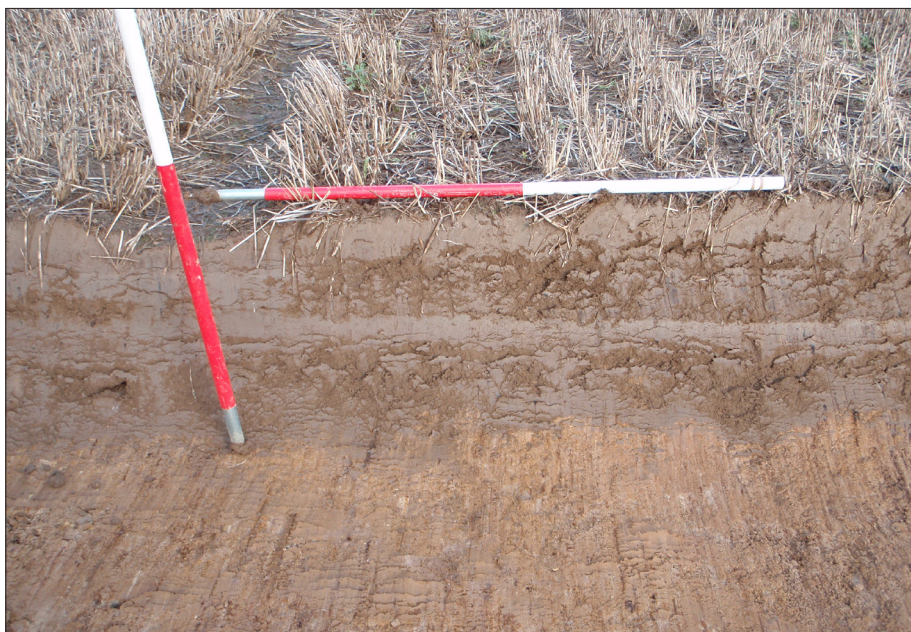


Plate 2:
West facing section in Area 2.

Results

- 7.1 GUARD undertook the watching brief between 17 and 19 February 2010. A total area of 4,608 square metres was stripped of topsoil to reveal light orangey brown loose gravely sand subsoil with some patches of clay sand on the knoll in Area 1. Over the majority of the southernmost area (Area 1) mid brown loose sandy loam topsoil deposits 0.05 to 0.4 m thick were noted ([Appendix A](#)). In the northernmost area (Area 2) the same topsoil deposit 0.35m thick was recorded (Plate 2).
- 7.2 While a background scatter of modern china was identified from topsoil deposits across both watching brief areas, no features of archaeological significance were encountered.

Discussion

- 8.1 The watching brief encountered no significant archaeological remains.

Recommendations

- 9.1 The watching brief demonstrated that no archaeologically sensitive deposits or features exist within the development area. In consequence, it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required. The final publication of the watching brief will be in the annual round up of archaeological fieldwork in Scotland, in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2010* ([Appendix B](#)).
- 9.2 GUARD would stress that these recommendations are intended for guidance only. Final decisions on the nature and extent of any future archaeological work rest with the planning authority, Fife Council.

Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD would like to thank Skene Group Ltd, Ironside Farrar Ltd and the Fife Council Archaeologists Douglas Speirs and Stephen Liscoe, for their assistance. Plant and drivers were supplied by the client, Skene Group Ltd. Technical support was from Aileen Maule and John Kiely. The illustrations were produced by Fiona Jackson. The report was desk top published by Jen Cochrane & Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD by Ronan Toolis.

Lomond Quarry Extension, Fife
Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices



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Appendices

Appendix A: Site Records

List of Photographs

Film No 001

Frame	Area	Subject	Taken From
1	1	ID shot	
2	1	Pre-ex shows knoll	N
3	1	Pre-ex shows knoll	N
4	1	Pre-ex from top of knoll	E
5	1	Pre-ex from top of knoll	E
6	1	Pre-ex from top of knoll	E
7	1	Pre-ex shows quarry's spoil head	W
8	1	Pre-ex shows quarry's spoil head	W
9	1	Pre-ex shows other site	S
10	1	Working shot	S
11	1	South facing section	S
12	1	Working shot	S
13	1	Post-ex showing knoll	S
14	1	Post-ex	S
15	1	Post-ex	SW
16	2	Pre-ex of area 2	S
17	2	Pre-ex of area 2	W
18	2	East facing section	E
19	2	West facing section	W
20	2	Post-ex	S
21	2	Working shot	N

List of Contexts

Context No	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	1 and 2	Loose mid brown sandy loam with occasional cobbles and fragments of china	Topsoil
002	1 and 2	Loose gravely sand light orangey brown	Subsoil
003	1	Moderate clay sand with moderate inclusion of cobbles and occasional boulders	Subsoil

Appendix B: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Lomond Quarry Extension
PROJECT CODE:	3060
PARISH:	Leslie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Iraia Arabaolaza
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 24226 02297
START DATE (this season)	17/02/2010
END DATE (this season)	19/02/2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Due to previous documentary and cartographic records for a potential prehistoric cist burial and an early modern building within the western extension area of Lomond Quarry to the north of Leslie in Fife, GUARD were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping works. No significant archaeological remains were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Skene Group Ltd
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	i.arabaolaza@archaeology.gla.ac.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.

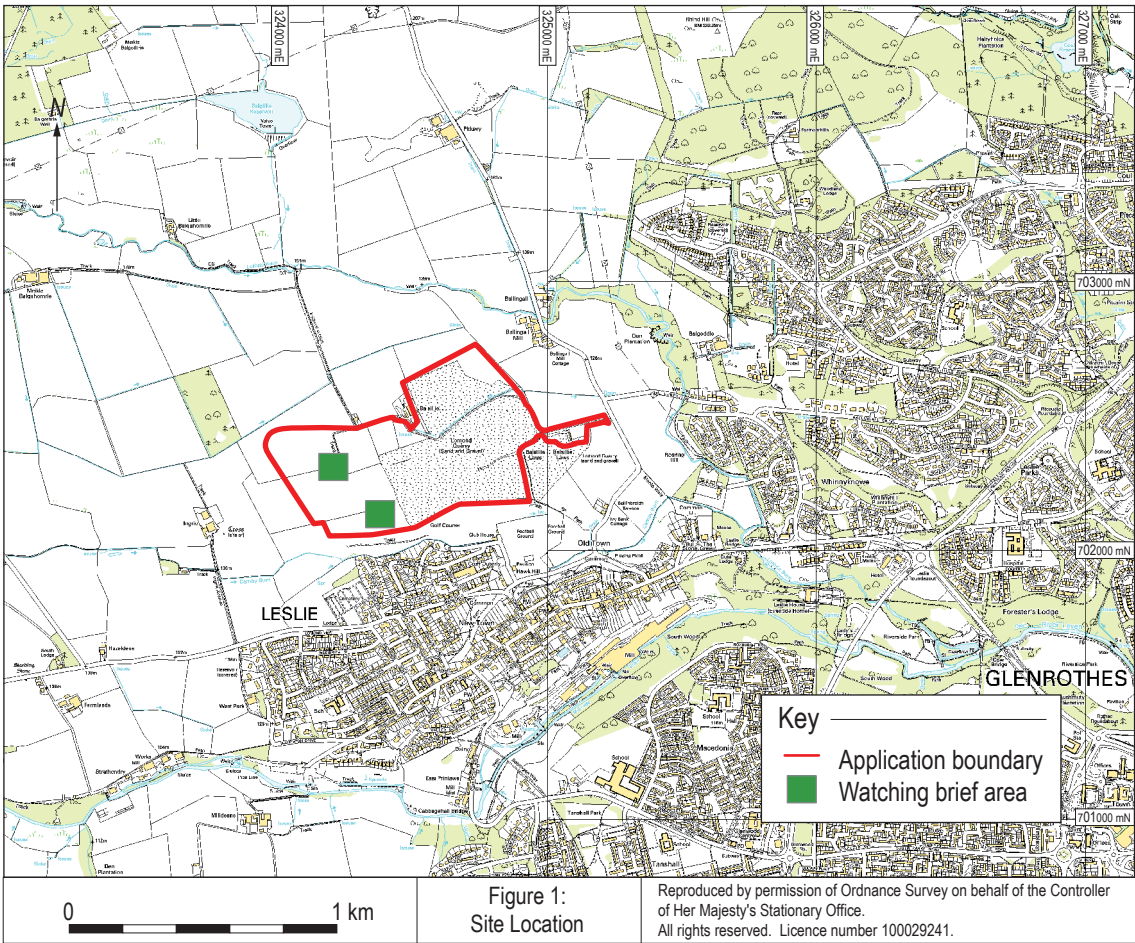
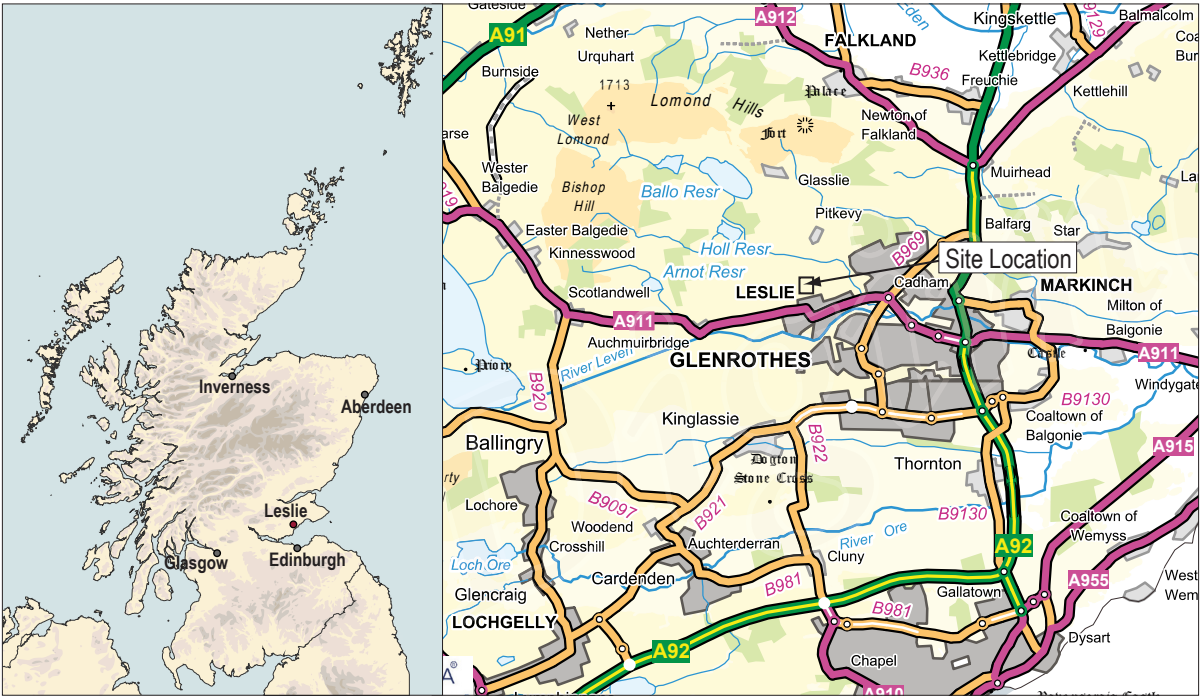
Appendix C: Written Scheme of Investigation

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1.0 Executive Summary

This written scheme of investigation was commissioned by Ironside Farrar, acting on behalf of Skene Group Ltd, to meet planning consent condition 28, related in this instance to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief of two specific areas of the Lomond Quarry Extension. This written scheme of investigation outlines the watching brief methodology. Should significant archaeology be encountered during the watching brief, the strategy outlines the methodology to be adopted for excavation and recording and the provision of a costed post-excavation plan that will take the results of the excavation to publication if necessary.

2.0 Introduction

This written scheme of investigation sets out the methodology for an archaeological watching brief during the machine excavation of topsoil from two specific areas of the Lomond Quarry Extension. This written scheme of investigation is submitted in accordance with planning condition 28 (Ref 09/01492/CEIA).

3.0 Site Location

The two watching brief areas lie to the west of the existing quarry, which lies to the north of Leslie, Fife (Figure 1).

4.0 Archaeological Background

The Environmental Impact Assessment identified just outwith the quarry extension boundary to the west, the nominal location of a prehistoric findspot of bronze swords, stone axes and flint arrowheads. While these artefacts were found within Leslie parish, the exact location of the findspot is unknown. The Hon. Mrs Douglas of Strathendry had some of these, and a spearhead, in the nineteenth century. However, Strathendry has since changed ownership and the present whereabouts of the finds can no longer be ascertained. Nevertheless, it is conceivable that they were found within close proximity of the quarry extension area, as the excavation of a prehistoric cist on an eminence at Balsillie Farm was noted in the New Statistical Account, which attributes other grave mounds to the Balsillie Laws to the immediate north of Leslie. While most of these mounds have since been impacted by the current quarry, it was observed during the walkover survey that one small knoll still survives within the southernmost field of the quarry extension area, from which relatively large, albeit unworked, stones had recently been ploughed up. The southernmost watching brief area (see Figure 1) accords with this area of potential archaeological interest.

There is one early modern site recorded within the quarry extension area, an un-named building depicted on Sharp, Greenwood and Foster's map of 1828 and the Ordnance Survey maps of 1856, 1867 and 1897. This building would appear to have been demolished by 1903, after which it is no longer depicted on maps. Though un-named, it was probably associated with Balsillie Farm on which land the quarry lies, which is depicted on Gordon's map of 1642 and all maps from 1775 onwards, just outside the quarry extension boundary. Other than these details, the earliest maps of the area, from the 17th and 18th centuries, are not at a sufficient scale to depict the nature of land use of the precise quarry extension area, though it is assumed that this was agricultural. The northernmost watching brief area (see Figure 1) accords with this area of potential archaeological interest.

The watching brief thus has the potential to encounter archaeological remains related to a possible prehistoric cist burial and an early modern building within two specific and discrete areas of the Lomond Quarry Extension.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the watching brief is:

- to ensure that any surviving archaeological remains, encountered during the machine excavation of topsoil, are recorded to an appropriate level.

The objectives are therefore to

- Conduct an archaeological watching brief during the machine excavation of topsoil in two specific areas (see Figure 1), given the proximity of known or potential archaeological remains, to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving; determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered; and excavate and salvage any information possible from any significant features encountered.
- On completion of the watching brief, and any resulting excavation works if archaeology is encountered, a report to data structure level will be submitted for agreement to Fife Council.
- If excavation works are required, an accompanying post-excavation research design (PERD) and costing will be submitted alongside the data structure report, and which will outline arrangements for final publication.

6.0 Watching Brief Methodology

- 1 The watching brief areas will be photographed and a brief written description made prior to the commencement of ground-breaking works.
- 2 A watching brief will be carried out during the machine excavation works to ensure that no significant archaeological remains are disturbed, without first being recorded. The watching brief will include the monitoring of all topsoil and/or over-burden stripping operations by machine and excavation and recording of any feature encountered.
- 3 One watching brief archaeologist per machine will be required during these operations. The machine excavator will be fitted with a c. 1.8m wide flat-bladed (toothless) ditching bucket.
- 4 The topsoil will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none was found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand by the Watching Brief Archaeologist to determine the date of the deposits, their character and extent. Such features will be recorded by written description on *pro forma* recording sheets, by photograph and by measured drawing.
- 5 Any significant archaeological features encountered will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. Should negative-cut features be encountered they will be 50% excavated in order to determine their significance, date and function. In the event that they are deemed to be important discoveries, they will be fully excavated. Recording will include *pro forma* sheets, drawings and photographs.
- 6 Suitable down time will be provided to the Watching Brief Archaeologist in order to fully recover any archaeological evidence encountered on site. If any archaeology encountered is sufficiently significant or complex to require more than one day to excavate and record, an on-site meeting would be arranged that same day between the GUARD Project Manager, the client's agent and the Fife Council Archaeologist to agree appropriate mitigation measures.
- 7 All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. The general practice will be to bulk recover all artefacts by context.
- 8 All excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled, using bulk soil samples, for palaeo-environmental evidence. This may also include micromorphological sampling in order to address key issues on soil development at the site.
- 9 A representative section will be recorded denoting depth of topsoil, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information will be logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.
- 10 Should Human Remains be revealed by the excavation, the local police will be informed immediately. Any human remains will be recorded but left in situ, pending the agreement of the client and the Fife Council Archaeologist on an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 11 On completion of the watching brief phase of work, a report suitable for submission to the Fife Council Archaeologist will be produced.

7.0 Report Preparation and Contents

A report detailing the results of the investigation will be submitted to the client within four weeks of completion of fieldwork and, subject to client approval, then submitted to the Fife Council Archaeologist. The report will take the form of a Data Structure Report and will contain an analysis of the results of the watching brief. The report will include a full descriptive text that will characterise the date and extent of any archaeological deposits. It will also include plans at an appropriate scale showing the area subjected to ground-breaking works and archiving lists of all finds, samples, field drawings and photographs.

If appropriate, the report will also include a costed PERD for archaeology encountered, in order to bring the results forward for analysis and publication should this be required.

8.0 Copyright

Unless otherwise agreed copyright for any report resulting from the archaeological work undertaken as part of the project will be deemed the intellectual property of University of Glasgow.

9.0 Publication

A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*. In the event of minor archaeological remains being encountered during the watching brief, it is proposed that a comprehensive report submitted to *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*, will form the final publication of the site.

10.0 Archive

The archive for the project will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within three months of completion of the fieldwork. The online OASIS archive forms will also be completed for the project.

11.0 Finds Disposal

The laws relating to Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia* in Scotland apply to all finds where the original owner cannot be identified. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork are claimed automatically by the Crown and must be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat, the Treasure Trove Unit. In the event of the discovery of small finds, a filled-out copy of the form "Declaration of an Archaeological Assemblage from Fieldwork" and two copies of the pertinent Data Structure Report will be submitted to the Panel at the conclusion of the fieldwork. The Panel will then be responsible for recommending to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (QLTR) which museum should be allocated the finds. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD until a decision has been made by the panel.

12.0 Personnel and Liaison

The project will be managed for GUARD by Mr Ronan Toolis, who will be the point of contact for the archaeological works. The Watching Brief Archaeologist will be a suitably qualified and experienced GUARD archaeologist. A full CV for individuals concerned can be made available on request.

13.0 Monitoring

The Fife Council Archaeologist will be informed 14 days before the watching brief works start so that monitoring visits can be arranged.

14.0 Health & Safety and Insurance

GUARD, operating through the University of Glasgow, adhere to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists approved Health and Safety in Field Archaeology document, prepared under the aegis of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. It is standard GUARD policy, prior to any fieldwork project commencing, to conduct a risk assessment and to prepare a project safety plan, the prescriptions of which will be strictly followed for the duration of all archaeological fieldwork. Copies of the resultant project safety plan and of GUARD's Fieldwork Safety Policy Statement may be viewed upon request.

GUARD, operating through the University of Glasgow, also possess all necessary insurance cover, proofs of which may be supplied upon request.

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