

# GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



## Braehead Community Garden Data Structure Report Project 3700

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## Braehead Community Garden

### Data Structure Report

**On behalf of:** Braehead Community Council

**NGR:** NS 81712 91148

**Project Number:** 3700

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**Project Manager:** John Atkinson

**Approved by:**



**Date:**

21/11/2013

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

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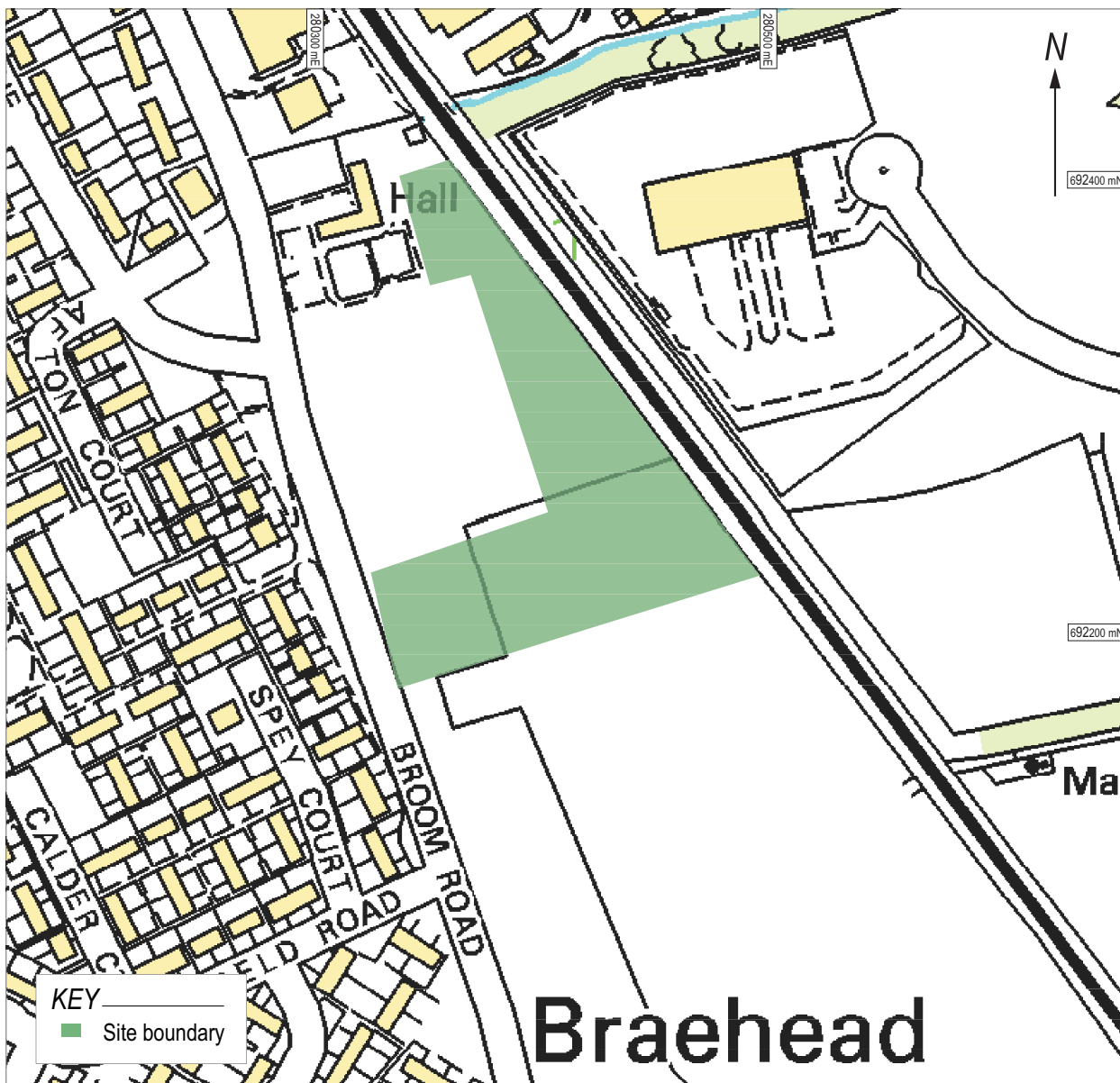
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**KEY**  
 Site boundary

Figure 1:  
Site location.

0 100 m

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## Executive Summary

- 1.1 In advance of the creation of a community garden at Braehead by the Community Council in 2014 archaeological investigations were carried out by GUARD Archaeology Limited, in collaboration with Stirling Council. These investigations consisted of a metal detecting survey (Plate 1) and the excavation of test pits (Plate 2) and took place on 13th and 14th September 2013. The aim of the project was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and metal artefacts that may relate to the Battle of Bannockburn ahead of the construction of the Community Garden. The work was achieved with the help of volunteers from the local community, including 350 school children from the nearby Braehead Primary School and Nursery (Plates 3 and 4). The metal-detecting survey was conducted across the entire site by members of the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group (SARG) and Detecting Scotland working alongside GUARD Archaeology staff. In this way 21 test pits were excavated during the course of the project. The investigations were carried out in accordance with the Excavation Method Statement (Baillie 2013, appended).



*Plate 1: Volunteers metal detecting for artefacts.*



*Plate 2: Volunteers excavating test pits across the Braehead Community Garden area.*



*Plate 3: Braehead Primary School braving the elements to find the battlefield.*



*Plate 4: Braehead Primary School being briefed by Murray Cook, Stirling Council Archaeologist.*

## Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of the archaeological investigations undertaken by GUARD Archaeology Limited at Braehead Community Garden (Figure 1) with assistance from Stirling Council Archaeologist, Murray Cook. The work was undertaken on 13 and 14 September 2013 under the direction of Warren Baillie.

## Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 Braehead is located to the north-west of Millhall Road and to the south-east of Broom Road (NGR NS NS 80491 92006) on the east side of Stirling. The gently undulating field is currently in rough tussocky grass and it is frequented by dog walkers. (Figure 1).

- 3.2 The superficial geology at Braehead consists of Raised Tidal Flat Deposits of Flandrian Age, while the bedrock geology consists of Limestone Coal formation. (Geology of Britain <http://bgs.ac.uk/>).

## Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The Braehead site lies within the wider margins for the battlefield site of Bannockburn (NS89SW.11) as defined by the Historic Scotland Inventory of Battlefields. The Battle of Bannockburn is one of the most significant and influential events in Scottish history and was fought over 23 and 24 June 1314 between the armies of Robert the Bruce and Edward II (SMR: 1183.03). The exact location of the battle remains inconclusive and various historians have suggested at least five different locations. The current investigations builds on recent work to try and define the location of the core of the battle and the wider boundary (Pollard and Oliver 2003; Sneddon 2006; Robertson 2006, Banks, Ferguson and Arabaolaza 2011; Bailie 2011; 2012a & 2012b). Another key area of the battle is where the English army was largely destroyed was the large ditch of Bannockburn, where the fleeing English army was routed, with many drowning in the water (Foard and Partida, 2005).
- 4.2 There are areas of high ground such as Balqhiggerock overlooking the Braehead and the wider Carse area to the north-east. Areas of high ground such as this were potentially used by Bruce's army on the eve (23 June 1314) of the second day of the battle (24 June 1314). The army may have camped on these naturally defensive areas before the advance onto the Carse early on the second day. We cannot be certain if these areas were forested at the time of the battle without an environmental study of the area analysing the vegetation changes through time. The Braehead site is situated on the Carse itself, an expansive floodplain associated with the River Forth and its many tributaries which include the Pelstream and Bannockburn.
- 4.3 In addition to the battle site other sites or artefacts have been recovered from the immediate area that may relate to the battle. To the south-west of the areas investigated there is the 'bore stone' (SMR:783; NMRS NS79SE 15.01) situated at the top of Brock's Brae and described in 1859 as having been nearly circular, 3' in diameter and 2' thick, with a 3" wide hole in the centre. Little is known about the origin of the stone or the purpose of the hole, but the tradition that Bruce's standard was set in it at the Battle of Bannockburn does not appear in written accounts before 1723. It was thought that the bore stone was removed in the 1960s and fragments from it incorporated into the nearby cairn. However there is no physical evidence of this in the construction of the cairn. A small trial trench was excavated in 2001 (SMR No 783.01) over the site of the original bore stone to determine if anything survived in situ. Excavation revealed the remains of a concrete foundation for what appears to have been a low wall which surrounded the stone and is shown on photographs of the site.
- 4.4 A possible iron arrowhead (NMRS: NS79SE 879; SMR: 5394) with a pinched-in waist was found in topsoil during evaluation trenching work just down slope and to the south of the bore stone; 35 mm in length and weighing 4 g. Interpreted as the head of an iron arrowhead, which is missing its socketed end which may have broken-off. It is thought to be a bodkin arrowhead, which had no barbs and was used for penetrating armour. This type of arrowhead was current at the time of the Battle of Bannockburn (Alexander 2004). A single pit was also found during this archaeological field evaluation (SMR: 5718.02) conducted during the filming of the "Two Men in a Trench" archaeology programme about the site, which also included a geophysical survey of the area (SMR: 5718.02).
- 4.5 The rest of the sites found in the vicinity of the investigated areas include the Polmont to Stirling railway (NMRS: NS89SW 84) and its associated junction (NMRS: NS89SW 45) and bridge (NMRS: NS89SW 84.01). Several buildings are also found nearby: Skeoch farmstead (NMRS: NS89SW 52); Easter Livilands house (NMRS: NS89SW 87) depicted on the OS 2nd Edition map (Stirlingshire, sheet XVII, 1900), it has since been demolished, and its stables (NMRS: NS89SW 87.01), depicted on Epoch 4, 1942, 1:2500 but now demolished.
- 4.6 A metal detector survey was undertaken on 17 March 2007 on the site of a proposed extension

and associated external works at Bannockburn High School (NMRS: NS89SW 92), which is south of Balqhidderock Wood area and approximately 1 km south-west of Braehead. The site is considered to be within the general area of engagement of the Battle of Bannockburn and the work was undertaken to satisfy a planning condition. The survey did not recover any finds that are likely to have been deposited prior to the second half of the 20th century. It is likely that the area was terraced before the construction of the standing school building and is not likely to contain any significant archaeological remains (Stronach, 2007).

## Project Objectives

5.1 The aims and objectives of archaeological trenching are as follows:

- establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date, extent and significance if surviving,
- establish the presence or absence metal artefacts through detection creating a distribution map of their position across the site,
- excavate and record any significant features and recover any significant artefacts and ecofacts for subsequent analysis.

## Methodology

6.1 The strategy employed during the excavation consisted of the following:

- The 1 metre square test pits were laid out at regular intervals across the 1.5 hectare site dependant on topographic conditions.
- Test pits were placed to investigate and characterise the nature of each location and to reveal any significant archaeological remains relating to the area and its use through time.
- Test pit locations, where necessary were modified to avoid services, public access or obstructions.
- Excavation were by hand and undertaken by volunteers under the constant supervision of professional archaeologists at all times.
- Areas of test-pitting were demarcated by canes and flags to restrict unaccompanied public access and reduce the likelihood of accidents.
- The topsoil was removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none is found, to the natural subsoil.
- All turf and spoil was stored separately by material on tarpaulins, so that reinstatement could be achieved adequately at the end of the project.
- All archaeological features encountered were dealt with by the on-site archaeologists. Recording included pro forma sheets, drawings and photographs.
- All archaeological finds were dealt with by the on-site archaeological team. The general practice was to bulk recover all artefacts by context.
- The test pit locations were surveyed using a sub-metre GPS. This information will inform any further work that may be required.
- All trenches were backfilled with turf re-laid on completion of recording and no trench was left open unless this was instructed by the Braehead Community Council.



- A metal detecting survey was also conducted across the area proposed for the community garden. Transects were laid out in 10 m intervals and find positions were recorded using a sub-metre GPS.

## Results

- 7.1 The investigations involved a metal detecting survey covering 1.5 hectares and 21 hand-excavated 1 m<sup>2</sup> test pits (Figure 2). A prefix of MD was used for all metal-detector finds to distinguish them from the test pit excavation finds.

### Test-pit results

- 7.2 There were a total of 21 test pits excavated across the Braehead site (Figure 2). All of the test pits showed evidence of a very firm dark grey brown silty clay topsoil overlying heavily compacted natural grey brown clay. None of the test pits revealed archaeological features. The artefacts recovered were predominantly of nineteenth to twentieth century date although there were some earlier artefacts in the form of one sherd of fifteenth century medieval green glazed redware pottery SF 1 (Plate 5). There were also two sherds of unglazed pottery which are also of possible late medieval date. A copper alloy thimble was also recovered from test pit 1 (Plate 5).



Plate 5: 3700 Selection of finds, from top left MD SF 64, SF 01, MD SF 29, MD SF 84, bottom left SF 05, MD SF 92 and MD SF 43.

### Metal detecting results

- 7.3 There were a total of 96 finds recovered from the metal detecting survey. The metal-detecting survey revealed the presence of material probably from the eighteenth through to the present day. Notable finds (Plate 5) included a musket ball MD SF 54, a decorative copper alloy buckle/shoe fitting MD SF 92, a metal button with crowned lionhead MD SF 84, a copper alloy button MD SF 29 and a small pointed copper object MD SF 43. Some of the iron material was not readily identifiable but is likely to be associated with post-medieval farming practices in the area.

## Discussion

- 8.1 The investigations show that there is scant evidence of the Battle of Bannockburn at these locations. The ephemeral nature of the material left behind after battles and the fact that this material has to survive the inevitable looting that would have ensued thereafter, potentially leaves little for the archaeologist. This site has also been disturbed in recent decades by a former caravan park. The three medieval pottery sherds do demonstrate the possible use of





Figure 2:  
Site location.



these areas in the medieval period. The state of the cultural material found varied considerably from the two very heavily worn unglazed sherds to the quite sharp-edged glazed rim sherd. This suggests that at least some material may not have been disturbed to any great extent since the medieval period. The artefactual evidence suggests that that the areas investigated were probably cultivable during the medieval period for the material to have accumulated.

## Recommendations

- 9.1 The investigation revealed that there is a high volume of artefacts of nineteenth to twentieth century date present in the topsoil levels across the sites along with some medieval pottery sherds. There is potential for earlier material to survive here and for that reason It may be a worthwhile exercise to test-pit and metal-detect the spoil from any areas of future ground-works proposed on or in the vicinity of these areas.

## Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited would like to thank Stirling Council Archaeologist Murray Cook and CBA Community Archaeology Training Placement Fiona Watson for volunteering their time to assist with the project. Technical support was from Aileen Maule, John Kiely and Jen Cochrane. The investigations were directed by Warren Bailie with assistance from Beth Spence and volunteers from the local and wider community. Thank you to GUARD's Medieval pottery expert Bob Will who assisted in the identification of key artefacts. The metal-detecting was conducted by SARG and other experienced local detectorists from Detecting Scotland. The illustrations were produced by Fiona Jackson, who also conducted the survey of the site. The report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD by John Atkinson.

**Braehead Community Garden  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**



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### Appendix A: References

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### Appendix B: Test pit records

Area	Test Pit No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Artefacts	Details
Braehead, Bannockburn	1	-	-	-	Topsoil – grey brown slit loam – depth reached ?	Various- Sherds of modern glazed ceramics and glass	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	2	-	-	0.3	Topsoil- grey brown silty loam – c.0.2m deep. Redeposited – red shale/ pink clay layer – 0.05-0.1m excavated. Subsoil not reached	None	Redeposited material from housing/ railway?



Area	Test Pit No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Artefacts	Details
Braehead, Bannockburn	3	-	-	0.25	Topsoil- grey brown silty loam – c.0.2m deep. Redeposited – red shale stone/pink clay layer – 0.05m excavated. Subsoil not reached	1 x fragment of CBM – square drain fragment	Redeposited material from housing/ railway?
Braehead, Bannockburn	4	-	-	0.65	Topsoil – grey brown silty loam – 0.2m deep. Redeposited – silt with red shale, stone fragments – 0.1m deep. Subsoil – grey clay – 0.3-0.35m excavated	Fragments of slag. Modern white ceramic. Glass. Possible wood fragment with green colouring?	Redeposited material from housing/ railway?
Braehead, Bannockburn	5	1	1	0.2	Topsoil- brown soil, then 2-3cm's of gravel and soil. Stopped at uneven layer of red clay.	Burnt flint, flint-like rock, coal and 2.6inches of iron, unidentified	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	6	-	-	0.25	Topsoil – grey brown silty loam – 0.2-0.25m deep. Pink clay layer, possible subsoil but contains shale etc. so may be redeposited and not subsoil.	2 x ceramic sherds	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	7	1	1	0.2?	Grass roots. Then soil mixed with red waste rocks. Then grey clay.	Modern glass and coke/ coal fragments	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	8	-	-	0.2	Topsoil – Grey brown silty loam – depth reached 0.2m	None	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	9	-	-	-	Topsoil – dark brown, stony, charcoal. Then red clay	White piece of pottery under turf layer	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	10	-	-	-	Topsoil – grey brown silty clay – 0.25m thick. On to the red stone then grey brown clay	Modern pottery	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	14	-	-	-	Topsoil – dark brown – 0.3m thick. Then lighter coloured layer before layer of clay. Orange colour	All artefacts were from the top layer. Clay pipe stem, sherds of white glazed pottery, sherds of blue and white and red and white pottery. Sherds of dark green glass. Rusted iron nail head.	2 sheets for test pit 14
Braehead, Bannockburn	14	-	-	0.2	Topsoil was dark brown and moist to the touch – 0.15m deep. Then went down to hard compacted clay which was greyish in colour.	Glazed and coloured pottery. Glass. Building rubble. Most artefacts found in the topsoil.	2 sheets for test pit 14
Braehead, Bannockburn	15	-	-	-	-	-	-

Area	Test Pit No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Artefacts	Details
Braehead, Bannockburn	16	-	-	-	Topsoil – dry friable dark brown – 0.1m thick. Subsoil – silty clay, increasingly compacted – 0.2m deep. Overlying homogeneous orange brown clay.	Modern pottery, glass from layer below topsoil and onto the underlying clay	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	17	-	-	-	-	Blue and white china, white pottery, glass, flint – 10 cms down	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	19	-	-	-	Open field, clay soil	White glazed pottery. Clay pipe stem. Broken glass. Burnt lime. Terracotta fragments	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	20	-	-	0.2	Topsoil – grey brown silty loam. Subsoil not reached to a depth of c.0.2m	-	-
Braehead, Bannockburn	21	-	-	-	Topsoil – dry friable brown -0.1m deep over subsoil – silty clay reddish brown – 0.1m deep. Overlying compacted light brown clay	1 small sherd of glazed pot and 1 small sherd of glass	-

## Appendix C: List of Finds

### Metal Detecting finds

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
1	-	-	1	Iron	Lump
2	-	-	1	Iron	Lump
3	-	-	2	Pottery/Iron	Sherd/nail
4	-	-	1	Silver	Coin – 10p
5	-	-	2	Silver	Coin – 10p and 20p
6	-	-	1	Lead	Small ball
7	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Ring – small
8	-	-	1	Iron	Bolt
9	-	-	1	Iron	Nail end/tip
10	-	-	1	Iron	Strip – bent
11	-	-	1	Iron	Sheet – curved
12	-	-	1	Iron	Nail – tack
13	-	-	1	Iron	Bracket
14	-	-	1	Iron	Nail end/tip
15	-	-	1	Iron	Coin – 2p
16	-	-	1	Iron	Lump
17	-	-	2	Flint/Iron	Worked flint/Lump
18	-	-	1	Silver	Coin – 10p
19	-	-	1	Iron	Lump – square
20	-	-	1	Iron	Horseshoe fragment – small
21	-	-	1	Iron	Pin – long
22	-	-	1	Iron	Nail
23	-	-	1	Iron	Nail
24	-	-	1	Iron	Bolt
25	-	-	2	Iron	Nail Fragments
26	-	-	1	Iron	Thick rectangular strip

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
27	-	-	1	Iron	Strip
28	-	-	1	Iron	Hoop – trailer stay end
29	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Button
30	-	-	1	Iron	Large screw and bolt
31	-	-	1	Iron	Lump
32	-	-	1	Iron	Object
33	-	-	1	Iron	Lump
34	-	-	1	Silver	Tea spoon
35	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Coin
36	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Cap badge/hollow button?
37	-	-	1	Iron	Nail
38	-	-	1	Copper	Strip
39	-	-	1	Iron	Plate/bracket
40	-	-	1	Iron	Curled fragment
41	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Small threaded cog
42	-	-	1	Iron	Nail
43	-	-	1	Copper	Point
44	-	-	1	-	-
45	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Coaster wheel
46	-	-	1	Iron	Nail Fragments
47	-	-	1	Iron	Large peg
48	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Coin – 1p
49	-	-	1	Iron	Nail fragment
50	-	-	1	Iron	Sheet
51	-	-	1	?	Chain link
52	-	-	1	Iron	Tac
53	-	-	1	Iron	Nail
54	-	-	1	Iron	Musket Ball
55	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Bracket
56	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Coin – 10p
57	-	-	1	Silver	Odd object
58	-	-	1	?	Pipe
59	-	-	1	Iron	Painted object
60	-	-	1	Iron	Object
61	-	-	1	?	Bottle cap
62	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Strip
63	-	-	1	Iron	Lump
64	-	-	1	Iron	Large sheet
65	-	-	1	Iron – steel	Object
66	-	-	1	Iron	Fragment
67	-	-	1	Iron	Rod
68	-	-	1	Iron	Plough piece
69	-	-	1	Iron	Object
70	-	-	1	Lead	Strip
71	-	-	1	?	Small strip
72	-	-	1	Iron	Hinge fragment
73	-	-	1	Steel/lead	Lump
74	-	-	1	Iron	Sheet fragment
75	-	-	1	Iron	Object – cap?
76	-	-	1	Iron	Nail
77	-	-	1	Clay Pipe	Stem fragments
78	-	-	1	Iron	Strip
79	-	-	1	Iron	Peg
80	-	-	1	Steel	Lump/slag

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
81	-	-	1	Iron	Nail head
82	-	-	1	Iron	Lump
83	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Band
84	-	-	1	Iron	Plated button
85	-	-	1	Steel	Machine/tap part
86	-	-	1	Iron	Nail
87	-	-	1	Lead	Lump
88	-	-	1	Iron	Object/cap
89	-	-	1	Iron	Hinge piece
90	-	-	1	Iron	Nail
91	-	-	1	Iron	Lump
92	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Decorative buckle fitting
93	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	1957 Shilling
94	-	-	1	Brick	Brick fragment
95	-	-	1	Cu Alloy	Penny?
96	-	-	1	Iron	Nail

### Test Pit finds

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
1	TP1	1	1	Ceramic	15th century green glazed pottery sherd
2	TP1	1	3	Lithic	Natural flint pieces
3	TP1	1	1	Ceramic	Possible medieval non glazed orange earthenware
4	TP1	1	3	Ceramic	White glazed pottery
5	TP1	1	1	Cu Alloy	Small copper alloy thimble
6	TP14	1	1	Ceramic	Possible medieval non glazed grey fabric
7	TP14	1	9	Ceramic	Misc postmedieval sherds and modern
8	TP4	1	1	Glass	small modern sherd
9	TP4	1	1	Ceramic	Postmedieval cream glazed and decoration
10	TP6	1	1	Ceramic	white glazed stoneware sherd, cracked
11	TP7	1	3	Glass	3 sherds of modern
12	TP15	1	9	Ceramic	9 misc postmedieval and modern
13	TP15	1	2	Clay Pipe	1 stem and 1 bowl
14	TP15	1	2	Glass	2 bottle sherds
15	TP17	1	5	Ceramic	Misc postmedieval sherds and modern
16	TP17	1	1	Glass	very small – 2-3mm diameter blue glass bead. Date unknown but most likely modern
17	TP17	1	5	Glass	5 modern sherds
18	TP18	1	3	Glass	1 bottle and 2 pane sherds
19	TP18	1	5	Ceramic	Body sherds and handle, postmedieval and modern
20	TP18	1	1	Clay Pipe	Bowl fragment
21	TP16	1	2	Ceramic	2 white glazed sherds
22	TP16	1	1	Clay Pipe	Stem fragment
23	TP14	1	7	Ceramic	Postmedieval and modern, misc
24	TP14	1	2	Glass	2 modern sherds

### Appendix D: List of Digital Photographs

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	-	-	ID Shot	-
2	-	-	Working shot	-
3	-	-	Working shot	-
4	-	-	Working shot	-



Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
5	-	-	Working shot	-
6	-	-	Working shot	-
7	-	-	Working shot	-
8	-	-	Working shot	-
9	-	-	Working shot	-
10	TP13	-	Post excavation shot TP13	E
11	TP13	-	East facing section	E
12	TP19	-	Post excavation shot TP19	W
13	TP20	-	Post excavation shot TP20	N
14	TP15	-	Post excavation shot TP15	E
15	TP15	-	Post excavation shot TP15	N

## Appendix E: Discovery And Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Braehead Community Garden
PROJECT CODE:	3700
PARISH:	St. Ninians
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Warren Bailie
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd.
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal-detecting and Test pits
NMRS NO(S):	NS89SW.11; SMR:1183.03
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Battle of Bannockburn Battlefield
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	15 <sup>th</sup> C Medieval pottery, musket ball, copper alloy decorative shoe/buckle piece, iron plated button with crowned lion design, copper alloy button and a small copper pointed object (possible part of a writing implement), small blue glass bead.
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 81712 91148
START DATE (this season)	13/09/13
END DATE (this season)	14/09/13
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	<i>Discovery Excav Scot</i> , 129; GUARD Projects: 3438, 3357, 3520; Two Men in a Trench 2002, and 2003.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>The investigations at the Braehead Community Garden was achieved with the help of volunteers from the local community, including 350 school children from the nearby Braehead Primary School and Nursery. The metal-detecting survey was conducted across the 1.5 hectare site by members of the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group (SARG) and Detecting Scotland working alongside GUARD Archaeology staff. 21 test pits were excavated during the course of the two day project. This work was carried out ahead of the construction of a Community Garden at Braehead.</p> <p>The metal-detecting survey retained a total of 97 finds. The discard included modern picnic refuse in the form of bottle tops and ring pulls. The retained finds included a musket ball, a copper alloy decorative shoe/buckle piece, an iron plated button with crowned lion design, a copper alloy button and a small copper pointed object (possible part of a writing implement). Many of the corroded iron objects are unidentifiable but are likely to be debris form post-medieval agricultural machinery.</p> <p>From the 21 test pits excavated across the three areas the material culture included medieval ceramic dating from thirteenth through to the fifteenth century. The assemblage included one sherd of reduced green-glazed 15th Century pottery as well two unglazed sherds of similar date. A copper alloy thimble and a small blue glass bead were also recovered from the test pits.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Uncertain
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Braehead Community Council
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	warren.bailie@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

## Appendix F: Method Statement

# GUARD 3700: Braehead Heritage Garden, Stirling Investigation Method Statement

### 1.0 Introduction

This document sets out GUARD Archaeology's excavation methodology and is provided as a written scheme for the investigation of an area proposed for a Community Heritage Garden off Broom Road, Braehead, Stirling (Appendix). This method may be varied dependant upon knowledge and understanding of the site and the needs and requirements of the Braehead Community Council during the project. The strategy will involve the hand excavation, with the use of volunteers from the local community and students from local schools, of a series of 1 metre square test-pits. In addition a metal-detecting survey will be conducted across the site by detectorists from the local community.

On completion of all investigations, a report to data structures level and an accompanying post-excavation research design (PERD) and costing will be submitted for agreement with the Stirling Council Archaeologist, Murray Cook. The PERD will also outline arrangements for final publication of the site.

### 2.0 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of archaeological trenching are as follows:

- establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date, extent and significance if surviving,
- establish the presence or absence metal artefacts through detection creating a distribution map of their position across the site,
- excavate and record any significant features and recover any significant artefacts and ecofacts for subsequent analysis.

### 3.0 Methodology

The strategy to be employed during the excavation will consist of the following:

- The 1 metre square test pits will be laid out at regular intervals across the 1.5 hectare site (Appendix) dependant on topographic conditions.
- Test pits will be placed to investigate and characterise the nature of each location and to reveal any significant archaeological remains relating to the area and its use through time.
- Test pit locations may be modified to avoid services, public access or obstructions.
- Excavation will be by hand and undertaken by volunteers under the constant supervision of professional archaeologists at all times.
- Areas of test-pitting will be demarcated by road irons and hazard tape to restrict unaccompanied public access and reduce the likelihood of accidents; individual test-pits will be covered by gazebo if weather permits.
- The topsoil will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none is found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand 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.
- All turf and spoil will be stored separately by material on tarpaulins, so that reinstatement can be achieved adequately at the end of the project.

- All archaeological features encountered will be dealt with by the on-site archaeologists. Should negative-cut features be encountered they will be 50% sample 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.
- All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site archaeological team. The general practice will be to bulk recover all artefacts by context which date from the later phases of activity (eg modern waste materials). Should finds be encountered from the earlier occupation phases of the site they will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to up-lifting.
- All excavated feature fills and horizons may be sampled for palaeo-environmental evidence. This will also include micromorphological sampling in order to address key issues on soil development at the site.
- The trench locations will be surveyed using a sub-centimetre or sub-metre GPS or total station EDM. This information will inform any further work that may be required.
- All trenches will be backfilled with turf re-laid on completion of recording and no trench will be left open unless this is instructed by the Braehead Community Council. If a trench is left open it will be demarcated with hazard tape to restrict access.

On completion of the excavation phase of work, a report suitable for submission to the Planning Authority and the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) will be produced. This report will be accompanied by the post-excavation research design and costing in order to bring the results forward for analysis and publication should this be required.

#### 4.0 Products

The products of a programme of work will be:

- a preliminary data structure report, after completion of all fieldwork suitable for submission to the Planning Authority, the NMRS and the local Sites and Monuments Record;
- a brief summary of results of the fieldwork will be submitted to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland and included within the OASIS online database;
- Post-excavation research design;
- Preparation and disposal of the site archive and finds.

#### 5.0 Copyright

Copyrights of the reports and all other information, including electronic information will rest on the client but the consultant will have the right to use the report and the survey results free of charge in relation to non-commercial activities or to promote its work.

#### 6.0 Archive Arrangements

Once all fieldwork is completed, all materials from the programme of work will be prepared to the appropriate archive standard. GUARD Archaeology will undertake to deposit the resultant archive to the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) on completion of the report for publication.

All finds will be reported to the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel, and GUARD Archaeology will undertake to ensure their safe deposition within the designated museum at the appropriate time.

#### 7.0 Timetable

Works will commence on site on Friday 13 September 2013 and be completed by Saturday 14 September 2013 at the very latest. A draft data structures report will be submitted for comment by 4 October 2013.

#### **8.0 Staffing**

The excavations will be led by Warren Bailie, one of GUARD Archaeology's experienced project staff. A full CV for Warren can be made available on request. Assisting Warren will be Stirling Council's Archaeologist, Murray Cook.

#### **9.0 Health and Safety and Insurance**

##### **9.1**

All archaeological working practices will be subject to a risk assessment prior to commencement of the work where likely health and safety issues associated with the site will be highlighted.

##### **9.2**

GUARD Archaeology adheres to all standard Health and Safety regulations governing fieldwork projects. We also possess appropriate insurance cover, proof of which may be supplied upon request.

#### **10.0 Appendix**

See following page - Location of proposed area of metal-detecting survey and test-pits for the Braehead Heritage Garden.



<h2 style="margin: 0;">LEASE PLAN, COMMUNITY GARDEN SITE, BROOM ROAD, BRAEHEAD, STIRLING.</h2>						<p>Stirling Council Housing Services Springkerse Complex Kerse Road Stirling, FK7 2TE Tel: 01786 443589</p> 			
Drg. No.	1571 R	Scale	1:2,000	Area	1.5 Ha	Drawn	Name	Date	05/2012



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