

GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



Dumfries House Stables, Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report Project 4098

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Dumfries House Stables, Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On behalf of: The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust

NGR: NS 5390 2050


Project Number: 4098

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Approved by:



Date:

30/04/2015

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

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Figure 1:
Site location.

Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited were commissioned by The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations and ground preparation works required for the extension to the Stables at Dumfries House Estate. This work was undertaken between 20th and 21st April 2015 and revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest with only modern overburden deposits and natural subsoil encountered.

Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by GUARD Archaeology Limited, on behalf of The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust on the site of the proposed extension to the existing stables and coach house buildings at Dumfries House Estate, Cumnock, East Ayrshire. The work was carried out to address conditions in relation to Planning reference 2014/0714/PP as stipulated by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), archaeological advisors to East Ayrshire Council. During the course of the watching brief no features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered with only overburden deposits and natural subsoil encountered. GUARD Archaeology undertook this programme of work between 20th and 21st April 2015.

Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The development area is located adjacent to the existing Stables and Coach House to the north-west of Dumfries House, Cumnock, East Ayrshire. The proposed extension of the Stables will form a link with the Coach House and lead to both buildings becoming part of a single structure (Figure 1, plate 1).



Plate 1: Pre-excitation.

- 3.2 The development area lies close to the site of the castle or Ward of Lochnorris (NS 5390 2051), said to have been built by the Crawford family sometime prior to 1440 and part excavated by Lord Bute in 1897 (Canmore ref: NS52SW 7). Recent archaeological work has also been conducted to the north and north-east of the Stables and Coach House by GUARD Archaeology (Spence 2014), however little of archaeological note was encountered. The Coach House is a B-Listed building (Ref:14420).
- 3.3 The underlying drift geology consists of glacial till while the solid geology consists of Scottish Upper Coal Measures Formation (British Geological Survey Map Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to identify:
- the presence or absence of previously unknown archaeological deposits, built remains or artefacts relating to the early occupation of the site;
 - the extent and nature of previously unknown archaeological features within the development area;
 - to ensure that any surviving archaeological remains, encountered during the ground-

works are recorded in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards.

4.2 The objectives were therefore to:

- Conduct a watching brief on any and all ground-breaking or ground level reduction work associated with the proposed development to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving;
- Submit a report to data structure level for approval to WoSAS, on completion of the archaeological fieldwork, which includes an outline of the scope of any further excavation works should any significant archaeology be encountered.

Methodology (Figure 1)

- 5.1 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all hand/machine-excavated foundation trenches, service trenches and all other ground preparation works including the removal of existing overburden.
- 5.2 The topsoil and/or overburden for each foundation and service trench location were removed in spits to the sterile, undisturbed, natural subsoil.
- 5.3 A representative section was recorded denoting depth of topsoil/overburden, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information was logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.

Results

- 6.1 A total area of 58 square metres (approx) was stripped of topsoil/overburden to reveal a subsoil (005) comprising a stiff orange/brown silty clay with occasional pebble and cobble inclusions (plate 2). Above was located a firm pink/brown sandy clay deposit (004) containing inclusions of building debris including brick, stone, concrete, tile and coal fragments. It measured 80 mm in depth. Several ceramic salt ash drains and modern plastic pipes were noted truncating both deposit 004 and subsoil 005. Above was located a modern mid-grey sub-angular stone type 1 deposit (003), which measured 0.28 m in depth. This provided bedding material for modern sandstone paving (001), which occupied the area prior to its recent removal. A topsoil (002) comprising a mid-orange/brown silty sand was located at the southern end of the site and was covered with grass turf (plate 3).



Plate 2: Post-excavation.



Plate 3: NW-facing section of deposits at grass.

- 6.2 No features or finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the present work programme.

Discussion

- 7.1 The watching brief identified no features or finds of archaeological interest during the present work programme and any deposits encountered relate to more recent building works at the site including the insertion of plastic drainage and erection of a wooden fence line.
- 7.2 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. A copy of this is included in Appendix D. The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months of the completion of all fieldwork.
- 7.3 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for this project (OASIS Reference: guardarc1 – 209619(1)) will be completed within 3 months. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, the archaeological advisor to East Ayrshire Council will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

Recommendations

- 8.1 The watching brief work has proved that no archaeologically sensitive deposits or features exist within the development area. In consequence, it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required
- 8.2 GUARD Archaeology would stress that these recommendations are intended for guidance only. While the recommended mitigation strategy was developed following consultation with Martin O’Hare of WoSAS, final decisions on the nature and extent of any future archaeological work rest with the planning authority.

Acknowledgements

- 9.1 GUARD Archaeology would like to thank The Great Steward of Scotland’s Dumfries House Trust, in particular Oliver Middlemiss and also Keith Ross of Dovecot Architects. Plant and drivers were supplied by Sam Templeton Builders. Technical support was from Aileen Maule. The illustrations were produced by Fiona Jackson. The report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Limited by John Atkinson.

**Dumfries House Stables,
Archaeological Watching Brief
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices



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Appendices

Appendix A: Bibliography

British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home/html> [accessed 17th April 2015].

National Monuments Record for Scotland, www.rcahms.gov.uk [accessed 17th April 2015].

West of Scotland Archaeology Services Sites and Monuments Record, www.wosas.net/search.php [accessed 17th April 2015].

Appendix B: List of Contexts

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Sandstone slabs measuring 0.7 m x 0.47 m (average) and 60 mm depth. Rectangular shaped. Concrete bedding material below (depth 0.1 m)	Modern pathway
002	-	Moderately compacted mid orange/brown silty sand with inclusions of plant roots and pebble sized stones. Depth 0.13 m - 0.25 m.	Topsoil deposit with grass
003	-	Loose mid-grey sandy matrix with sub-angular pebble sized stones. Depth 0.28 m.	Type 1 hardcore
004	-	Firmly compacted pink/brown sandy clay with inclusions of brick and tile fragments, coal, stones. Depth 80 mm.	Disturbed natural subsoil
005	-	Firm/stiff orange/brown silty clay with occasional pebble and cobble sized stone inclusions.	Subsoil

Appendix C: List of Photographs

Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
1	-	-	General Shot	W
2	-	-	General Shot	W
3	-	-	General Shot	W
4	-	-	General Shot	SE
5	-	-	Close-up of existing pathway	NW
6	-	003, 004	Working shot	S
7	-	003, 004	Working shot	SE
8	-	-	Iron rings on gable wall of stables	E
9	-	-	Foundation of coach house wall	S
10	-	005	Subsoil	SE
11	-	005	Subsoil	S
12	-	002-005	SW-facing section of deposits	SW
13	-	005	Post-excavation	E
14	-	005	Post-excavation	SE
15	-	005	Post-excavation	S
16	-	005	Post-excavation of stables	NE
17	-	005	Post-excavation of coach house	SE
18	-	005	Post-excavation of coach house	SE
19	-	005	Post-excavation of coach house	SE
20	-	-	Shot of stables elevation	SE
21	-	-	Salt ash drains (not in situ)	-
22	-	-	Shot of coach house elevation	S
23	-	-	Shot of coach house elevation	S
24	-	001-005	Section of deposits at in situ modern path and grass	E
25	-	001-005	Section of deposits at in situ modern path and grass	NW
26	-	005	Post-excavation	SE
27	-	005	Post-excavation	S
28	-	005	Post-excavation	N
29	-	005	Post-excavation	N

Frame	Area	Context	Subject	Taken from
30	-	005	Post-excavation	S
31	-	002-005	SE-facing section at proposed building entrance	SW
32	-	-	Close-up of horse tether ring on stable wall	N
33	-	005	Post-excavation	S
34	-	005	Post-excavation	S
35	-	004-005	Post-excavation at stables	N
36	-	005	Post-excavation	N
37	-	005	Post-excavation	N
38	-	005	Post-excavation	SE

Appendix D: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dumfries House Stables Archaeological Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	4098
PARISH:	Old Cumnock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Maureen C. Kilpatrick
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	--
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	--
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	--
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 5390 2050
START DATE (this season)	20 th April 2015
END DATE (this season)	21 st April 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	GUARD Archaeology Limited were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations and ground preparation works required for the extension to the Stables at Dumfries House Estate. This work was undertaken between 20 th and 21 st April 2015 and revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest with only modern overburden deposits and natural subsoil encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Dumfries House Estates
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	GUARD Archaeology Limited, 52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	bob.will@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive will be deposited with the NMRS

Appendix E: Method Statement

DUMFRIES HOUSE STABLES, EAST AYRSHIRE

WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT

PROJECT 4098

Executive Summary

- 1.1 This archaeological watching brief method statement is applicable to the proposed excavation of foundations and other ground preparation works required for the extension to the Stables at Dumfries House Estate (Planning Reference: 2014/0714/PP). This method statement was prepared in consultation with WoSAS.

Introduction

- 2.1 This Method Statement sets out the methodology for the archaeological watching brief required for the ground-works associated with the extension of existing stables and coach house buildings at Dumfries House Estate, Cumnock, East Ayrshire. The watching brief will be undertaken to establish the presence, extent and nature of any significant archaeological remains. Should significant remains be identified and it is not possible to preserve them *in situ* a further requirement for archaeological works to ensure their preservation through record is likely to be required in consultation with WoSAS.
- 2.2 This method statement outlines the programme of archaeological works that may be needed to mitigate the effects of the development. It details the methodology to be employed in implementing an archaeological watching brief where any archaeological discoveries will be fully excavated and recorded. If archaeological remains are discovered that cannot be fully investigated within the terms of a watching brief further work may be required. Any additional work on site and post-excavation analysis and publication of the results of the watching brief, will be specified in a separate document that will be submitted for the approval of WoSAS, prior to the commencement of any further archaeological site work or post-excavation programme.

Site Location and Background

- 3.1 The development area is located adjacent to the existing Stables and Coach House to the north-west of Dumfries House, Cumnock, East Ayrshire. The proposed extension of the Stables will form a link with the Coach House and lead to both buildings becoming part of a single structure.
- 3.2 The development area lies close to the site of the castle or Ward of Lochnorris (NS 5390 2051), said to have been built by the Crawford family sometime prior to 1440 and part excavated by Lord Bute in 1897 (Canmore ref: NS52SW 7). Recent archaeological work has also been conducted to the north and north-east of the Stables and Coach House by GUARD Archaeology (Spence 2014), however little of archaeological note was encountered. The Coach House is a B-Listed building (Ref:14420).

Aims, Objectives and Scope

- 4.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief is to identify:
 - the presence or absence of previously unknown archaeological deposits, built remains or artefacts relating to the early occupation of the site;
 - the extent and nature of previously unknown archaeological features within the development area;
 - to ensure that any surviving archaeological remains, encountered during the ground-works are recorded in accordance with CifA Standards.
- 4.2 The objectives are therefore to:
 - Conduct a watching brief on any and all ground-breaking or ground level reduction work associated with the proposed development to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving;

- Submit a report to data structure level for approval to WoSAS, on completion of the archaeological fieldwork, which includes an outline of the scope of any further excavation works should any significant archaeology be encountered.

Watching Brief Methodology

- 5.1 The watching brief will comprise the monitoring of all hand-excavated foundation trenches, service trenches and any other ground preparation works to include the removal of any existing foundations or overburden.
- 5.2 The topsoil and/or overburden for each foundation and service trench location will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none was found, to the sterile, undisturbed, natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand by the on-site Archaeologist to determine their character and extent.
- 5.3 Any significant archaeological features encountered will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. Should negative-cut features be encountered, these will be fully excavated (100%) in order to determine their significance, date and function. A full record of excavated features will be made using a single context recording system using pro forma sheets, drawings and photographs. All archaeological features will be photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:10, and plans at 1:20. All trenches will be accurately surveyed using a sub-metre GPS and located within the National Grid.
- 5.4 All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. Finds and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples by context. Significant small finds will be three dimensionally located prior to collection. All finds will be processed to MAP2 type standards and subject to appropriate specialist assessment. If necessary, conservation of finds will be appraised to allow for specialist study.
- 5.5 All excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled as appropriate, using bulk soil samples, for palaeo-environmental evidence.
- 5.6 A representative section will be recorded denoting depth of topsoil/overburden, 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.
- 5.7 Should human remains be revealed by the excavation, the local police, the client and WoSAS will be informed immediately. Any human remains will be accurately recorded, but left *in situ*, pending the agreement of the police, the client and WoSAS on an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 5.8 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered during the watching brief, requiring more than limited excavation and recording, the remains will be largely left *in situ* pending the agreement of the client and WoSAS on a site specific methodology with an appropriate scope of excavation (Stage 2) and Post-excavation design including scope of finds analysis, conservation & publication (Stage 3).

Report Preparation and Contents

- 6.1 A report detailing the results of the archaeological fieldwork will be submitted to the client within three weeks of completion of all fieldwork and, subject to client approval, then submitted to WoSAS. 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, archaeological features and archiving lists of all finds, samples, field drawings and photographs.
- 6.2 If appropriate, the report will also include any additional methodologies issued for further archaeological fieldwork, should significant archaeology have been encountered that could not be fully investigated as part of a watching brief.
- 6.3 The report will include the following:

- executive summary;
 - a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with at least an 8 figure central grid reference;
 - OASIS reference number; unique site code;
 - contractor's details including date work carried out;
 - nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details;
 - description of the site history, location and geology;
 - a site plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated;
 - discussion of the results of field work;
 - context & feature descriptions;
 - features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format;
 - plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale;
 - initial assessment of relevant finds/samples if appropriate;
 - recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work such as excavation (Stage 2) and Post-excavation finds analysis, conservation & publication (Stage 3);
 - bibliography.
- 6.4 A hard copy of the report will be prepared for the client and a further one including a digital PDF copy sent to WoSAS.
- 6.5 The report will be presented in an ordered state and contained within a protective cover/sleeve or bound in some fashion. The report will be page numbered and supplemented with section numbering for ease of reference.

Copyright

- 7.1 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 GUARD Archaeology Ltd.

Publication

- 8.1 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. In the event of minor archaeological remains being encountered during the archaeological fieldwork, it is proposed that a comprehensive report submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, will form the final publication of the site. A copy of this will be included in the Data Structure Report. Should more significant material be found, publication of the findings in a journal or as a monograph may be required and will be produced within 12 months of completion of fieldwork and approval by WoSAS.

Archive

- 9.1 The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within three months of completion of all relevant work.
- 9.2 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be completed within 3 months of completion of the work. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, WoSAS will validate the OASIS form(s) thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.
- 9.3 A copy of the archive contents will be included in the Data Structure Report which will be provided to WoSAS for inclusion in the planning file and HER archive in order that any relevant conditions can be discharged.

Finds Disposal

- 10.1 The arrangement for the final disposal of any finds made in connection with the archaeological work, will be deposited in keeping with Scottish legal requirements as set out in the Treasure Trove Code of Practice published by the Scottish Government in December 2008. 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 which museum should be allocated the finds. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD until a decision has been made by the panel.

Personnel and Liaison

- 11.1 The GUARD team will comprise the following qualified and experienced GUARD archaeologists:
- Project Manager: John Atkinson
 - Project Director (on-site Archaeologist): TBC
 - Finds and Environmental Support and Conservation: Ms Aileen Maule
 - Illustrator: Ms Gillian McSwan
- 11.2 The GUARD Project Manager, John Atkinson, will be the point of contact for the archaeological works. A full CV for individuals concerned can be made available on request.

Monitoring

- 12.1 The proposed start date for the archaeological works has still to be confirmed. WoSAS will be informed of the site mobile phone number prior to the start date so that monitoring visits can be arranged. It is envisaged that the archaeological watching brief will take 2 days to complete.

Health & Safety and Insurance

- 13.1 GUARD Archaeology Ltd adheres to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists approved Health and Safety in Field Archaeology document. 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.
- 13.2 GUARD Archaeology Ltd also possesses all necessary insurance cover, proofs of which may be supplied upon request.

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