

1703 Dumfries House – Memorial Garden works
Dumfries House Estate, near Cumnock, East Ayrshire

Archaeological Watching Brief: March 2016

for

The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust

March 2016



The Temple under restoration

Addyman Archaeology
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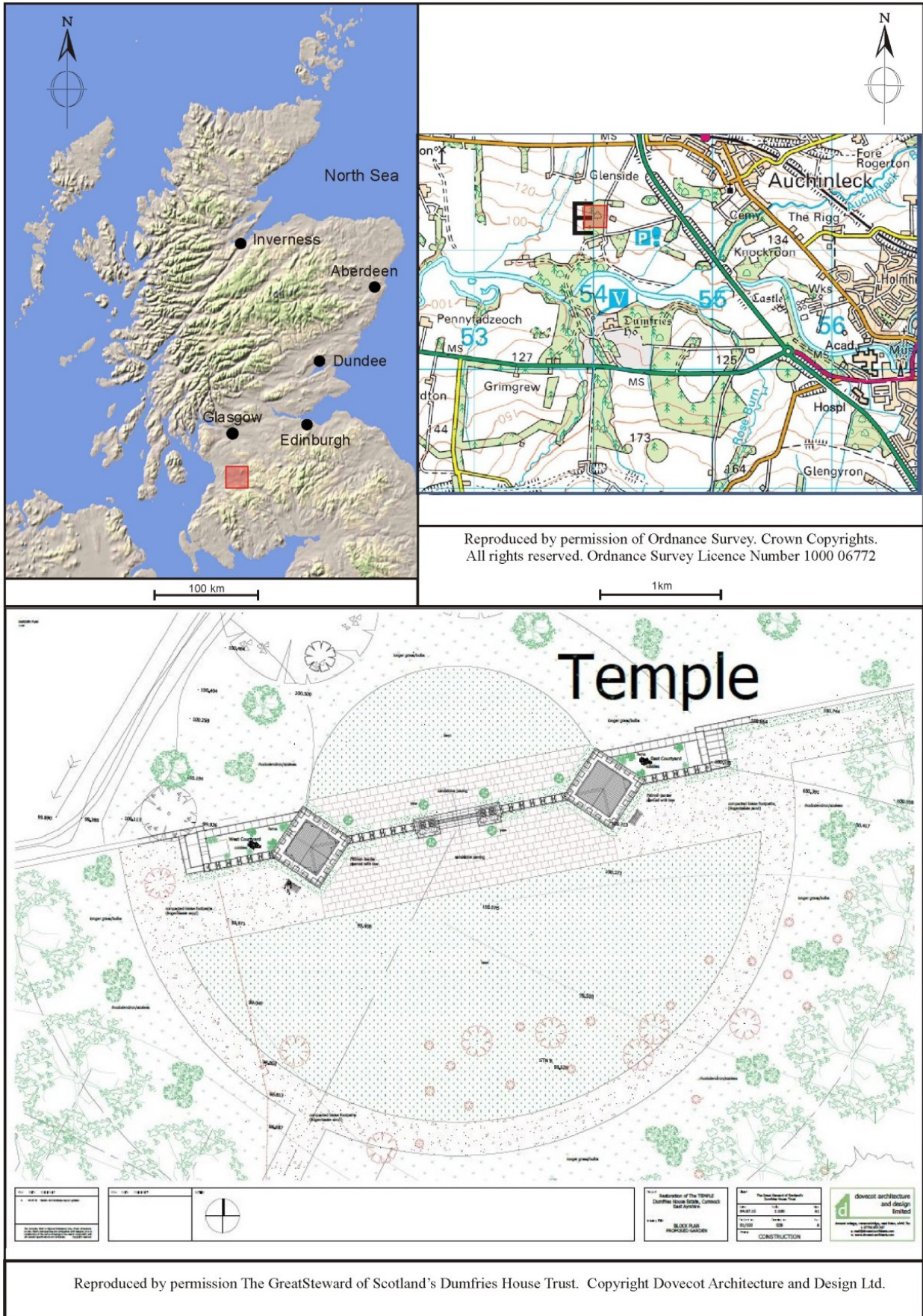


Figure 1 Site Location – area of watching brief is the semi-circular path

1703 Dumfries House – Memorial Garden works

Dumfries House Estate, near Cumnock, East Ayrshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Executive Summary

Addyman Archaeology undertook a Watching Brief at The Temple, Dumfries House Estate as part of works associated with the creation of a Memorial Garden, for The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust. The project is part of the proposals to restore the Category A Listed Temple. The development is located within the boundary of a known World War II Prisoner of War Camp.

The works for the semi-circular path in front of The Temple extended across the northern end of one of the Nissen Hut bases within the camp. The rear steps on the west side of the hut were partially truncated and finds including glass bottles and a fork were recovered. The bricks were stamped 'DICO', made locally by the Dalmellington Ironworks Company. The full extent of the hut was recorded with the remainder preserved *in situ* in the woodland to the south of the path. A second hut was recorded perpendicular to the south, with only the northern edge exposed, following the removal of some trees to the south of the path. The work was undertaken in conjunction with work at a new Farm Education Centre immediately to the south of the site, which to date has exposed the bases of over 40 huts.

1. Introduction

i. General

Addyman Archaeology were contracted by Dovecot Architecture and Design Limited on behalf of The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief on all ground-breaking works associated with the creation of a Memorial Garden adjacent to The Temple within the Dumfries House Estate (planning ref 14/0420/PP). The project is part of the proposals to restore the Category A Listed Temple and its use as an interpretative point and garden store (Addyman Archaeology & Simpson and Brown Architects 2008).

West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who act as archaeological advisors to East Ayrshire Council, recommended that a programme of archaeological works was undertaken in relation to the development because of its location within the bounds of a known World War II Prisoner of War Camp (Canmore ID:158790). The aim of the archaeological works was to ensure ensure that an adequate record of any surviving material relating to the occupation of the camp was made prior to its removal. The planning condition required that a watching brief was maintained during all groundbreaking works in order to mitigate the impact of the development against any previously unknown sites of potential archaeological interest. The watching brief was undertaken between 29th February and 1st March 2016.

A record of the watching brief (*OASIS ID: addyman1-246017*) has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service and with *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

ii. Site Location

The proposed development area is located within the grounds of Dumfries House Estate, Auchinleck, East Ayrshire (*figure 1*). The site is situated on the west side of the village to the north of the Lugar

Water and is centred on NGR NS 5410 2114. The site is located in the north-west corner of an area of woodland directly in front of the Temple. The underlying geology belongs to the Scottish Coal Measures group, comprising mudstones, sandstones, siltstones and coal with the overlying drift geology comprising Diamicton Glacial Till.

The area monitored during the present works comprised the stripping of the semi-circular pathway in front of The Temple and recording of structures exposed during tree removal in the area immediately to the south.

2. *Archaeological Background*

The proposed development area is located within the boundary of the garden and designed landscape of Dumfries House (GDL00149). The designed landscape dates from the 17th century and forms the setting for the Category 'A' listed Dumfries House, designed by Adam. Other features within the estate include The Temple (HB96), to the north-east corner of the woodland; Category 'A' listed linked lodges designed by John Adam in 1760 for the 5th Earl of Dumfries.

The estate is considered to have outstanding historical value because part of the pattern of the designed landscape dates from before General Roy's map of 1750 and outstanding architectural value as the setting for Dumfries House, The Temple and the Avenue Bridge.

A Prisoner of War Camp was located adjacent to the temple, within the grounds of Dumfries House Estate during World War II. Information from RCAHMS records that this was first identified from aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1945 (figure 3). The photographs reveal over 100 huts within the compound, several of which have 'formal gardens' to the rear. In the central area of the camp is a group of larger huts, presumably the mess, kitchen and recreation buildings.

The camp was still extant in November 1945, but by 1951 the camp had been almost totally demolished, with only a few huts surviving at the north end and the Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map shows no evidence of the camp. Remains of the camp buildings survive 30m from the Temple itself (O'Hare 2015).

A number of previous investigations within the surrounding area of the proposed development have revealed evidence for the survival of the camp. Evaluation of the area immediately east of the present site prior to the construction of an adventure playground revealed the remains of at least five buildings, a network of pathways and ancillary structures belonging to Camp 22 (Dunbar 2009). In 2012 an evaluation and subsequent watching brief to the south-east of the proposed development area revealed remains of the basal walls, foundations and floors of the camp (Arabaolaza 2012). A further phase of watching brief at Drill Hall and Cottage to the east of the present development revealed a further seven buildings, a central road, pathways and fencing (Rennie 2014). Work at Woodland and Farm Cottages, immediately south of the present development revealed brick foundations and associated paths belonging to the camp (Mooney 2014).

The location of the proposed development site within the Dumfries House Estate and the absence of development up until the 20th century, as demonstrated by the map regression, also indicated that should unknown earlier prehistoric or medieval remains exist on the site, they would be likely to survive.

3. Method

Prior to any groundbreaking works commencing, the visible upstanding remains relating to the WWII Camp buildings were photographed and recorded.

The groundbreaking works were undertaken by the contractor and monitored by an archaeologist. Soil was stripped using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, until the required depth was obtained. In a number of cases this was above the level of natural subsoil.

All contexts were given individual numbers and recorded on *pro-forma* record sheets. Hand drawn plans and sections were recorded where appropriate and digital photographs were taken. Survey drawings were made of the buildings uncovered and in order to place the site within National Grid coo-ordinates.

Addyman Archaeology adheres to the *CI/A*'s principal codes of conduct.

4. Watching Brief Results

A list of all contexts and site registers can be found in Appendices A and B.

The topsoil within the semi-circular pathway at the front of The Temple was removed by machine from west to east (*plate 1*). Topsoil comprised dark brown soft clayey silt [1001], 0.2-0.3m in depth. On the west side of the path this overlay lighter brown clayey silt [1002] up to 0.1m in depth; this formed the limit of excavation on the western side. The centre of the path was excavated through a former spoilheap and consequently much of the soil in this area had been redeposited and natural subsoil [1003] was not exposed. This area contained numerous roots.

The eastern part of the path coincided with the northern end of a well-preserved Nissen hut [1004] at the northern extent of the Prisoner of War camp (*figures 2 and 3, plate 1*).



Plate 1 Path under excavation. Building [1004] can be seen to the rear of the machine, behind the trees.

Building [1004] comprised a rectangular brick-built foundation. The bricks were mortar bonded and covered with a concrete floor, approximately 0.05m thick. The structure measured 11.4m north to south, by 5.9m east to west and was upstanding to 0.55m high (5 courses) at the southern end; at the northern end it was 0.1m below the turf (*plate 2*). The bricks were laid in stretcher bond, with the top course laid side to side. There were metal folded strips at the north-west corner of the building, thought to have been for attaching the wooden superstructure to the concrete base. The building was covered in moss but clearly visible among the trees, with a number of semi-mature trees growing close to its edges. The northern part of the building was partially removed during excavations for the path. The bricks were marked 'DICO', which refers to the Dalmellington Iron Company, located around 12 miles to the south of the site. Two complete glass bottles and a metal fork were recovered during the removal of the walls.



Plate 2 Building [1004] as exposed during excavation of path.

There were a set of three steps set centrally at the south end of [1004], 1.8m wide, presumably forming the main entrance (*plate 3*). A second set of steps along the western wall [1005] were partially truncated by the new path. These steps would have led to a small side door and comprised two double-skinned brick walls with two steps in between (*plate 4*). The bottom step had been surfaced with compacted mortar; the mortared surface was absent from the top step but would presumably have been the same. The steps were 1.1m wide and of six courses in height, with each step 0.25m high. The steps were laid on a concrete base, which was left *in situ*. To the north of the steps was a small gap in the brickwork, possibly for drainage (*plate 2*).

At the north end of building [1004] was a layer of thick concrete [1006], forming an area of hard-standing (*plate 5*). The upper surface of this was 0.05m thick and smooth, but was broken off in chunks to reveal rough-cast concrete with aggregate beneath, up to 0.2m thick. There was a small gap between the concrete and the wall of [1004].

Approximately 2m to the south of [1004] and perpendicular to it was the northern wall of a second Nissen hut [1007]. This was revealed after the removal of tree stumps in the area and was 0.1m

beneath the topsoil. The brick base was mortar-bonded with a concrete floor laid on top. Only two courses of brick were visible. The full extent of the building was not revealed but it was at least 11m in length (*figures 2 and 3*).



Plate 3 Steps at south end of Building [1004].



Plate 4 Steps [1005] on west side of Building [1004].

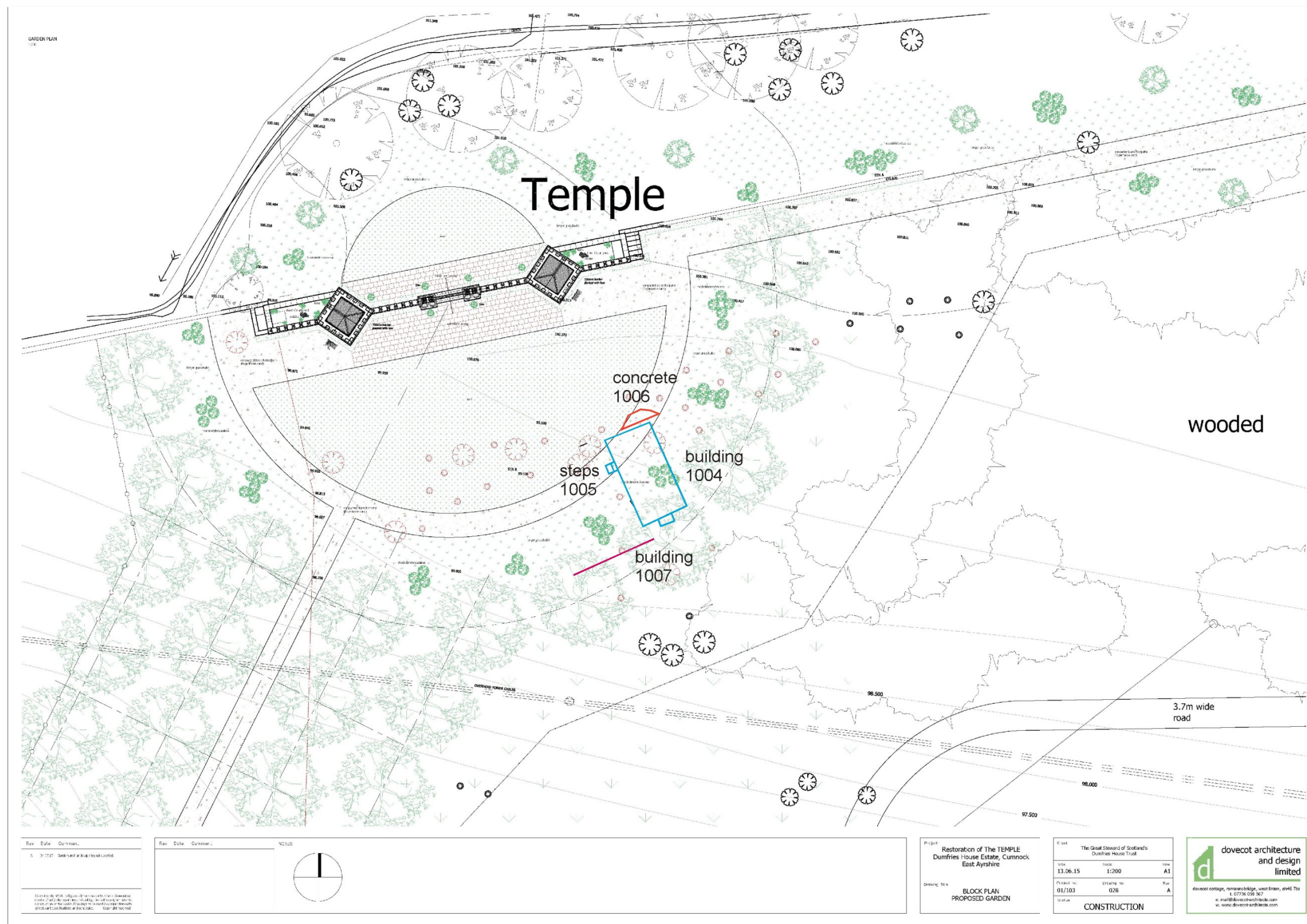


Figure 2 Plan of buildings revealed during the watching brief

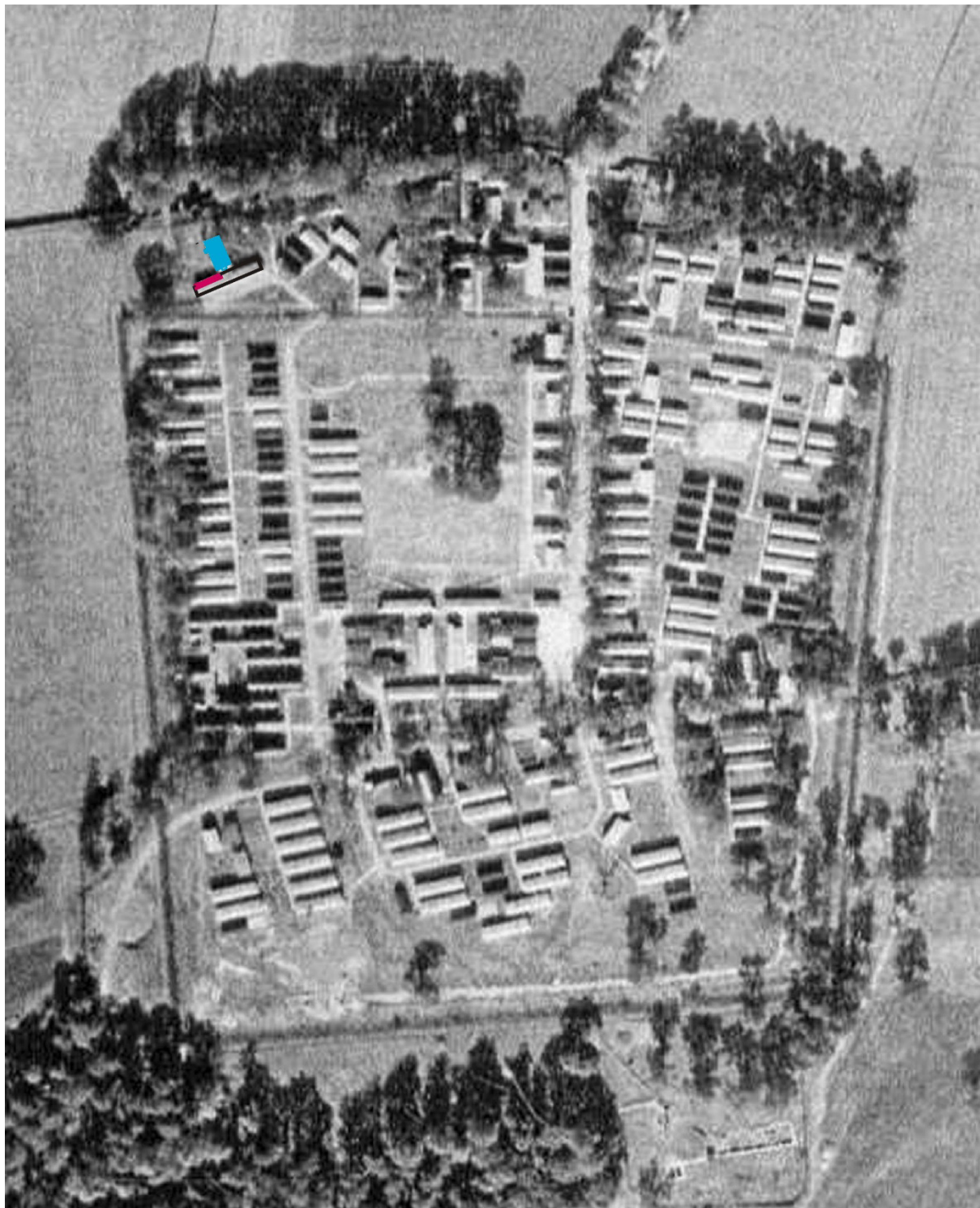


Figure 3 Aerial photograph of camp, showing buildings discovered south of The Temple during the Memorial Garden works (building 1004 in blue, building 1007 in red)



Plate 5 Concrete [1006] on north side of Building [1004].

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The Watching Brief undertaken at The Temple recorded the upstanding remains of a well-preserved Nissen hut at the northern end of the Prisoner of war camp, the majority of which will be preserved *in situ* within the woodland to the south of the Memorial Garden. The wall of a second hut to the south revealed during the removal of tree stumps in the area also demonstrates the preservation of these structures within the vicinity of The Temple. Both of these structures are visible on the aerial photographs of the site (*figure 3*). Although few finds were recovered, the recording of the construction details from these buildings can be compared to the other excavations across the camp to provide a more detailed picture of both the construction of the camp and life within it. It is recommended that the results from this work are combined with the results from the current excavation at the Farm Education Centre, which to date has recorded over 40 huts within the camp in the area immediately to the south of the Memorial Garden.

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Appendix A Context Register

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with roots, D: 0.2-0.3m.
002	Deposit	Former ploughsoil	Mid brown clayey silt in western part of trench, D: 0.01m.
003	Deposit	Natural subsoil	Pale yellow brown clay/gravels
004	Structure	Nissen hut base	Brick built, mortar bonded rectangular walls, 5 courses upstanding in stretcher bond, top course side to side, concrete floor on top. Bricks marked 'DICO'. L: 11.4m, W: 5.9m, H: 0.55m. At S end abutted by set of 3 brick steps with concrete skin over, W: 1.8m, step width: 0.32m, step depth: 0.17m. Survives 0.1m beneath turf at N end, upstanding at S. Gap in brickwork on W face 1 brick width.
005	Structure	Steps on W side of [1004]	Brick built steps bonded with mortar, 6 courses high, abutting [1004] on W side. Two double-skin brick walls with 2 steps formed between them. Bottom step retains compacted mortar surface within. W: 1.1m, extend 1m from building, side walls W: 0.25m, each step 0.25m high. On removal of steps concrete base exposed below and to N.
006	Structure	Concrete on N side of [1004]	Concrete slab parallel to N end of [1004]. Upper surface smooth up to 0.05m thick, rough cast concrete 0.2m thick below.
007	Structure	Nissen hut base	Brick built mortar bonded wall with concrete floor above, only partially exposed 0.1m below topsoil after tree removal. Perpendicular to [1004], 2m to S.

Appendix B Photographic Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Direction Facing</i>	<i>Description</i>
1001	E	Area of path to be stripped, pre-excavation
1002	NW	The Temple under restoration
1003	E	After tree removal to south of path
1004	E	View showing building footprint [1004] after removal of trees
1005	SE	Stripping on west side of path
1006	SE	Looking towards central part of path
1007	-	unused
1008	E	Central part of path
1009	N	Steps at south end of [1004]
1010	N	View of building [1004] looking north
1011	N	View of building [1004] looking north
1012	NE	View of [1004] along trench
1013	E	View of [1004] and [1005]
1014	SE	General view of [1004]
1015	E	Small gap in wall [1004]
1016	E	View of [1005]
1017	S	View of [1005]
1018	S	North edge of building [1007]
1019	SE	Steps [1005] and area to the south showing tree disturbance
1020	N	Metal plate at corner of [1004]
1021	SW	Concrete base [1006] to north of [1004]
1022	S	Close up of building [1007] bricks
1023	-	Finds associated with [1004]
1024	-	unused
1025	E	Removal of building by machine
1026	E	Concrete base below steps [1005], left in
1027	W	Trench after removal of [1004]