

## Dundas Farm, City of Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure report



August 2016

## **Document control sheet**

Client: Mr David Nimmo

Project: Dundas Farm Job No: 244

Document Title: Archaeological Evaluation DSR

Originator Illustration by Reviewed by Approx	ved by
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## **Executive Summary**

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were contracted by Mr David Nimmo to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation in advance of the construction of a dwelling house at Dundas Home Farm on the western periphery of the City of Edinburgh.

The archaeological works followed the placement of a planning condition upon the proposed development by City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service. The condition required that the site be investigated through the placement of archaeological evaluation trenches across the footprint of the building. The results of this phase of works would be used to guide any requirement for future archaeological mitigation on site.

The archaeological evaluation involved the mechanical excavation of 2 evaluation trenches across the footprint of the proposed development.

Excavation of the trenches revealed the site to be archaeologically sterile. A deep deposit of mixed topsoil was removed to reveal an undisturbed firm clay subsoil. While a quantity of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century glass and ceramic fragments were recovered, no archaeological artefacts or features of significance were recorded.

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the planning condition can now be discharged.

A record of the work has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-259247) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

## 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Mr David Nimmo to undertake archaeological mitigation in advance of the proposed construction of a dwelling house within the grounds of Dundas Dairy, Dundas Home Farm on the western periphery of the City of Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT 12613 77036). The client proposes to erect a single 4 or 5 bedroom house with a garage.
- 1.1.2 The site was identified by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (hereafter CECAS) as being located in an area considered as having archaeological potential. CECAS provide the archaeological service to the City of Edinburgh Council and through Planning Condition 4 of Planning Application 15/05159/PPP, recommended that a programme of archaeological mitigation be carried out prior to development. The condition states:

'No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (excavation, historic building recording, analysis & reporting, publication) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.'

- 1.1.3 The CECAS response indicated the need for a programme of archaeological works to take place on site. This is considered necessary as the site may contain evidence for earlier farm structures.<sup>2</sup> The condition did not stipulate the nature of the archaeological mitigation required, but through discussions with CECAS it was agreed to open two trenches across the footprint of the proposed development. These were excavated in advance of construction works commencing on site.
- 1.1.4 In line with the planning condition, ARCHAS produced a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation outlining the background to the project and the methodology to be followed. This was submitted to CECAS on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016 and accepted via email the following day.
- 1.1.5 Site works were completed over one day on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 by Ross Cameron, Joe Doran and Alastair Rees. Weather conditions throughout were damp and overcast.
- 1.1.6 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd. conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> City of Edinburgh Council, 15/05159/FPPP Decision Notice: Review – 25/04/16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service, 15/05159/PPP Report of Handling, page 8

## 1.2 Site Location and Setting

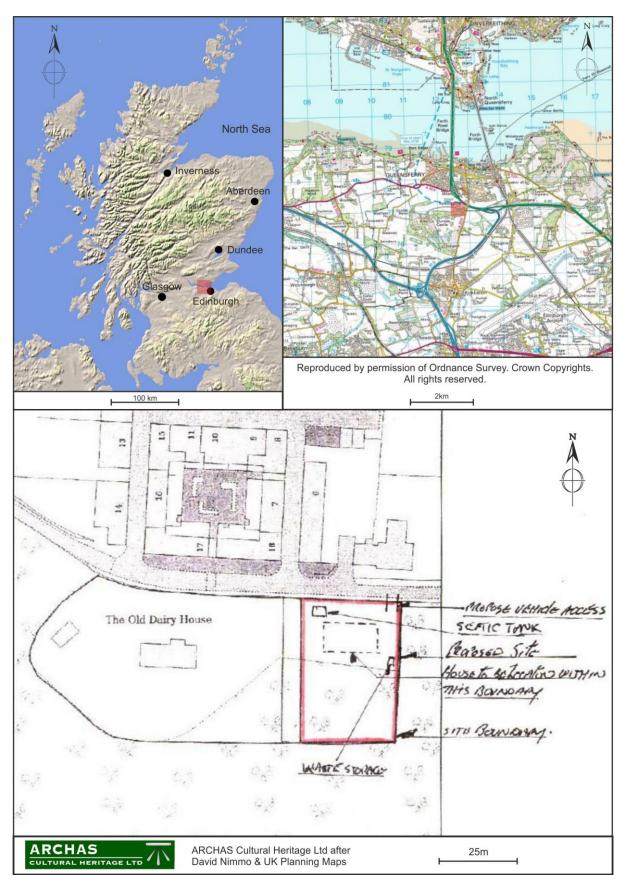


Figure 1: Site location with the wider area of the property marked red and the footprint of the property requiring archaeological investigation shown by a broken line

#### General

1.2.1 The proposed development is located to west of the City of Edinburgh, immediately south of the town of South Queensferry and the access to the new Forth Crossing (Figure 1). The proposed development area is centred on NGR: NT 12613 77036, with the footprint of the proposed dwelling house extending to 80.73m<sup>2</sup>.

## Study Area

- 1.2.2 The proposed development area comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land to the east of The Old Dairy House at Dundas Home Farm. The Dundas Home Farm complex lies immediately to the north of the proposed development site, on the other side of the minor road which links the B800 with Dundas Home Farm and Dundas Mains.
- 1.2.3 The site itself is bordered to the west, south and east by mature deciduous woodland, with a large hedge separating the site from the access road and Dundas Home Farm to the north. The topography of the site is flat, with short grass and turf (Plate 1).

## Geology

- 1.2.5 The drift geology of the proposed development site comprises Till, Devensian Diamicton. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period and are characteristic of a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions.
- 1.2.6 The underlying bedrock geology comprises Sedimentary Rock Cycles, Strathclyde Group Type of the Hopetoun Member. These were formed 326-335 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period and are characteristic of a local environment previously dominated by lakes and lagoons.<sup>3</sup>



Plate 1: Looking east across the proposed development site (Photograph 005)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> www.bgs.ac.uk - 19/07/16

## 2 Archaeological & Historical Background

#### 2.1 General

2.1.1 Readily accessible historical and archaeological records were consulted in order to gain an understanding of the relevant history of the development area. These resources included the National Monuments Record of Scotland, the Map Library as held by the National Library of Scotland and the Statistical Accounts of Scotland. Consultation of these resources for the wider area allows the archaeological team to better appreciate the likelihood of the archaeological deposits likely to exist in the area.

## 2.2 Gardens and Designed Landscape

2.2.1 The proposed development area sits within the Dundas Castle Designed Landscape (GDL00151). This nationally important designed landscape is well-documented from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with significant re-modelling from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. This area is recognised as of 'outstanding' archaeological significance in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes maintained by Historic Environment Scotland.

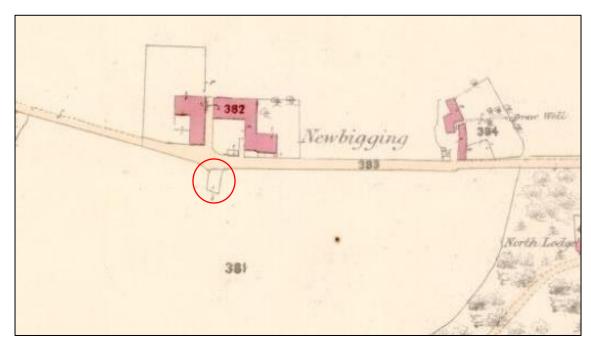
## 2.3 Brief Historical Summary

- 2.3.1 The Dundas family have occupied the Dundas Estate from at least the 1120s, when the family were given licence to build the tower of Dundas. The core of the present castle dates to c.1416 although this is much altered and added to subsequently.
- 2.3.2 There is no evidence of any clear occupation of the proposed development area in the historical record, although the proximity of the site to Dundas Home Farm makes accurately stating this impossible.
- 2.3.3 'The Earlier name for Dundas Home Farm is Newbigging. 'Newbigging' is first depicted on John Adair's 'Mappe of Wast Lothian commonly called Linlithgowshire' produced in 1684.
- 2.3.4 William Roy's 'Military Survey of Scotland' conducted between 1747 and 1756 is the most detailed early map of Scotland, containing a lot more terrain detail than earlier maps (Figure 2). Roy's map clearly shows both Dundas Castle with surrounding designed landscape, and 'Newbigging', modern day Dundas Home Farm to the immediate north of the proposed development site. Due to the proximity of the site to 'Newbigging'/Dundas Home Farm, it is not possible to accurately pinpoint the proposed development area on a map of this scale. If Dundas Home Farm has been heavily re-worked and rebuilt post-18th century so it is not possible to say whether it occupies the exact footprint of the earlier structures. Despite this, it is clear the proposed development site sits in close proximity to occupation dating to at least the 17th century as shown on Adair's map. The area around 'Newbigging' is shown as worked farmland.



Figure 2: Extract from William Roy's 'Military Survey of Scotland' from c.1750 with 'Newbigging' and the general site area indicated red. © The British Library Board. All Rights Reserved (Roy Military Survey of Scotland)

- 2.3.5 By the production of the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch to 1 mile Linlithgow Sheet VI.4 (Dalmeny, Cramond and Queensferry) in 1856, the site area is shown as wholly unoccupied with Newbigging/Dundas Home Farm yet to take its modern form (Figure 3). The access road is in place however, allowing the general area of the proposed development to be accurately pinpointed.
- 2.3.6 The 1<sup>st</sup> edition does show a small, possible structure in the area immediately west of the proposed development. This sub-rectangular 'building' is shown as unroofed.



<u>Figure 3</u>: Extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch to 1 mile Linlithgow Sheet VI.4 (Dalmeny, Cramond and Queensferry) from 1856 showing Newbigging Farm, the possible unroofed 'structure' and the general area around devoid of development. NLS

## 2.4 Archaeological Evidence

- 2.4.1 A number of archaeological projects have been undertaken in both the immediate, and general area around the proposed development site. The results of these investigations can provide a general indication as to the likelihood of occupation evidence surviving in the area from various periods.
- 2.4.2 A large scale archaeological evaluation was completed by Headland Archaeology in 2011 along the route of the access to the new Forth Replacement Crossing immediately north of the proposed development area.
- 2.4.3 This survey along with that undertaken in advance of the M8 extension, revealed evidence for medieval rig and furrow and a possible medieval cobbled surface as well as numerous post-medieval agricultural features.
- 2.4.4 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd completed a large scale archaeological evaluation and metal detecting survey of a greenfield site a short distance to the west of the proposed development area in May 2016.<sup>4</sup> This programme of works failed to reveal any significant archaeological features.

## 2.5 Conclusions

- 2.5.1 Although no archaeological deposits have been located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, and no features have been previously recorded within the limits of the site boundary, the proposed development lies within an important historical landscape with strong evidence for historical occupation in the vicinity.
- 2.5.2 Newbigging Farm is on record from at least 1684. The exact locations of these earlier structures is not known and it is possible that settlement or occupation extended into the proposed development area. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map provides tentative indications of an unroofed structure on the south side of the road, in the vicinity of the proposed development.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Cameron R 2016 Dundas Dairy, Dundas Home Farm, City of Edinburgh – Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report, ARCHAS Cultural Heritage unpublished grey literature report

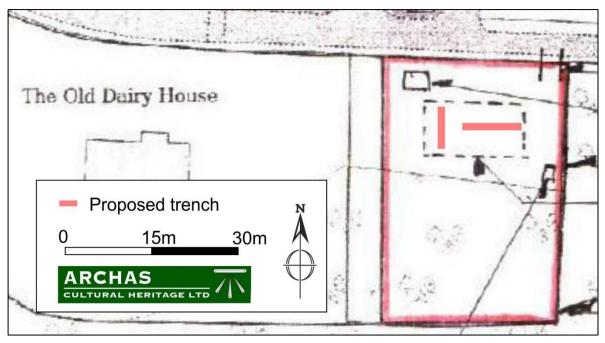
## 3 Methodology

## 3.1 The Development

3.1.1 The development proposal involves the construction of a four or five bedroom house and garage on a plot of undeveloped land. The footprint of the structures have potential to disrupt buried archaeological features.

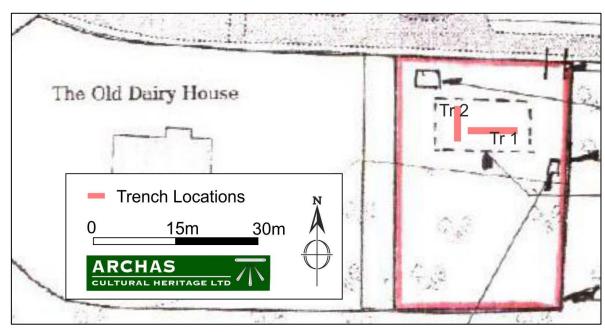
#### 3.2 Field Evaluation

- 3.2.1 Through discussion with CECAS it was agreed to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to construction work commencing on site.
- 3.2.2 The purpose of evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological potential of a site in order to meet any requirements of City of Edinburgh Council through CECAS. The results of the evaluation are used to decide whether further archaeological mitigation is required. In practice, this requires a small number of trenches to be opened, placed strategically across the site in order to gain good spatial coverage for assessing the potential of archaeological survival.
- 3.2.3 The results of this phase of works and subsequent recommendations by ARCHAS allow CECAS to make an informed decision as to whether the site should be investigated further or the planning condition discharged. ARCHAS will provide recommendations relating to any future archaeological mitigation or otherwise, but the decision for any further archaeological intervention rests with CECAS and ultimately City of Edinburgh Council.
- 3.2.4 An archaeological evaluation investigates only a certain percentage of the development area through a series of carefully placed trenches. For the proposed development CECAS did not stipulate a percentage of the site to be investigated due to the relatively small and constrained nature of the proposed development area. Instead CECAS will expect the trenching coverage to be comprehensive in order to provide an accurate view of archaeological survival.



<u>Figure 4</u>: Proposed indicative trench plan. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd after Mr David Nimmo and UK Planning Maps

3.2.5 The overall area of the site to be investigated is 80.73m². The trench plan as planned in the WSI provided for 2 trenches placed in a west to east aligned 'T' shape (Figure 4) and measuring 10m and 7m long. In the event two trenches were excavated (Figure 3), the first measuring around 9m and the second 6m long. These trenches account for nearly 19% of the proposed development area.



<u>Figure 5</u>: Location of trenches as excavated. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd after Mr David Nimmo and UK Planning Maps

- 3.2.6 All trenches were excavated using a 1 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1m wide toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist.
- 3.2.7 In both trenches, natural subsoil was identified. Where any features of archaeological potential were encountered these were investigated by the ARCHAS on site team. Any archaeological deposits or artefacts recovered were recorded to ARCHAS Ltd and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*ClfA*) standards and relevant details noted down on ARCHAS *pro forma* sheets.

## 4 Results

#### 4.1 General

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at Dundas Farm failed to reveal any archaeological remains or artefacts of any significance. A number of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic and glass fragments were recovered, particularly from the east end of the site, but no features were recorded.



Plate 2: Working shot looking NW showing Trench 1 being opened

- 4.1.2 A description of all trenches and the key deposits and features identified in both trenches is provided below. In each case the initial letter applied to a context define the trench in which it was located. For example (101) would be the first deposit recorded in Trench 1. All context numbers are recorded in **bold**.
- 4.1.3 Details and dimensions of trenches excavated can be viewed in Appendix D.

#### 4.2 Trenches

Trench 1

- 4.2.1 Excavation of Trench 1 revealed the turf and topsoil (**101**) to be moderately compact very grubby black brown gritty clay abundant in flecks of stone. A quantity of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century lass and ceramic fragments were recovered from this deposit.
- 4.2.2 Removal of (**101**) revealed the natural subsoil (**102**) to be firmly compact mottled and grubby grey brown clay with a slight orange hue.





Plate 3: Post-excavation view of Trench 1 looking W (Photograph 019)

Plate 4: S facing section of Trench 1(Photograph 020)

4.2.3 No archaeological features were noted during the excavation of Trench 1.

Trench 2

- 4.2.4 Trench 2 was opened running perpendicular to Trench 1, a short distance from its western end (Plate 5).
- 4.2.5 The deposits recorded in Trench 2 mirrored those in Trench 1. The grubby, black brown gritty clay (201) was removed to reveal a firmly compact grey brown clay subsoil (202). No archaeological features were noted and very few artefacts recovered from Trench 2.



Plate 5: Opening Trench 2 perpendicular to Trench 1. Looking WSW. (Photograph 021)

## 5 Summary and Discussion

#### 5.1 General

- 5.1.1 Although located in close proximity to Dundas Castle and its surrounding designed landscape, the site at Dundas Dairy was shown to be devoid of any identified significant archaeological features or *ex situ* artefacts.
- 5.1.2 The predecessor to Dundas Home Farm was known as Newbigging, and was occupied form at least 1684 when it is depicted on John Adair's map of West Lothian. While the actual extent of these early farm buildings cannot be accurately plotted, the proximity of the development area to Dundas Home Farm means that occupation evidence (whether *ex* or *in situ*) dating to this period could be expected in the immediate area. In spite of this, no evidence dateable to the early farm was recorded.
- 5.1.3 In addition, no evidence was found of the possible building noted in the area of the proposed development on the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century OS data.
- 5.1.4 It is possible that there was no previous occupation of the proposed development area. However, the lack of any negatively cut features and mixed, grubby nature of the topsoil suggest a degree of landscaping has taken place. While the site will have been worked to a degree by the development of the Designed Landscape around Dundas Castle, the presence of an abundance of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century artefacts in the topsoil suggests a later re-working of the site. The proposed development currently sits within the well maintained grounds of Dundas Dairy and it is possible that a degree of the landscaping relates to the creation of this area.

## 6 Conclusions and Recommendations

## 6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The results of both the archaeological evaluation and the building assessment revealed no evidence of deposits or features and no ex situ artefacts pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.1.2 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the proposed development be allowed to proceed and the planning condition be discharged.
- 6.1.3 While ARCHAS can provide recommendations as to any future work on site, the final decision for any further archaeological mitigation rests with City of Edinburgh Council as advised by CECAS.

## **Acknowledgements**

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd would like to thank Mr David Nimmo for commissioning us to undertake the work.

We must also note the assistance and understanding provided by John Lawson of City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Unit in the planning and execution of the project.

## **Bibliography**

#### **Electronic References**

www.bgs.ac.uk www.dundascastle.co.uk www.pastmap.org.uk www.rcahms.gov.uk

## **Cartographic References**

Maps consulted during the cartographic regression include:

Robert Gordon (1580-1661)

- 'A map of Eastern Scotland, including basins of Rivers Don, Dee, Tay, Forth and Tweed'. Imprint c.1636-52

Joan Blaeu (1596-1673) and Cornelius Blaeu (d.1644)

- 'Lothian and Linlitquo / Joh. Et Cornelius Blaeu exc.'. Published 1654

William Roy (1726-1790)

- 'Military Survey of Scotland'. Published 1747-1755

John Thomson (1777 – ca.1840) and William Johnson (fl. 1806 – 1840)

- 'Linlithgowshire. Imprint: Edinburgh: J. Thompson & Co., 1820

Ordnance Survey (1854-present)

- 25 inch to 1 mile Linlithgow Sheet VI.4 (Dalmeny, Cramond & Queensferry). Surveyed 1854. Published 1856
- 25 inch to 1 mile Linlithgowshire 006.04. Surveyed 1895. Published 1897
- 6 inch to 1 mile Edinburghshire, Sheet 1. Surveyed 1852. Published 1853
- 6 inch to 1 mile Linlithgowshire Sheet VI.NE. Surveyed 1895. Published 1898

## **Documentary References**

Cameron, R. 2016 "Dundas Dairy, Dundas Home Farm, City of Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation – Data Structure Report" ARCHAS Cultural Heritage unpublished Grey Literature Report

# Appendix A Context Register

Context No.	Trench	Туре	Description	Dimension	Comments	Date	Initial
101	1	Deposit	Moderately compact very grubby black brown gritty clay abundant in flecks of stone.	D: <0.45m	Turf and topsoil. Same as (201).	02/08/16	RC
102	1	Deposit	Firmly compact mottled and grubby grey brown orange clay with a slightly orange hue.	-	Undisturbed natural subsoil. Same as (202).	02/08/16	RC
201	2	Deposit	Moderately compact very grubby black brown gritty clay abundant in flecks of stone.	D: <0.45m	Turf and topsoil. Same as (101).	02/08/16	RC
202	2	Deposit	Firmly compact mottled and grubby grey brown orange clay with a slightly orange hue.	-	Undisturbed natural subsoil. Same as (102).	02/08/16	RC

# Appendix B Photographic Register

Image No.	Direction facing	Trench	Contexts No.	Description	Date	Initials
001	SW	-	-	Pre-excavation view of site	02/08/16	RC
002	SW	-	-	Pre-excavation view of site	02/08/16	RC
003	SE	-	-	Pre-excavation view of site	02/08/16	RC
004	NE	-	-	Pre-excavation view of site	02/08/16	RC
005	E	-	-	Pre-excavation view of site	02/08/16	RC
006	W	-	-	Site access	02/08/16	RC
007	Е	-	-	Site access	02/08/16	RC
800	W	-	-	Site access	02/08/16	RC
009	W	-	-	Site access	02/08/16	RC
010	E	-	-	Pre-excavation view of site	02/08/16	RC
011	NE	-	-	Pre-excavation view of site	02/08/16	RC
012	N	-	-	Pre-excavation view of site	02/08/16	RC
013	SW	1	(101)	Working shot - Stripping topsoil	02/08/16	RC
014	WNW	1	(101)	Working shot - Stripping topsoil	02/08/16	RC
015	NW	1	(101)	Working shot - Stripping topsoil	02/08/16	RC
016	W	1	(101)	Working shot - Stripping topsoil	02/08/16	RC
017	WSW	1	(101)	Working shot - Stripping topsoil	02/08/16	RC
018	NW	1	(101)	Working shot - Stripping topsoil	02/08/16	RC
019	W	1	(102)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1	02/08/16	RC
020	N	1	(101), (102)	S facing section of Trench 1	02/08/16	RC
021	WSW	2	-	Working shot - Opening Trench 2	02/08/16	RC
022	N	2	(202)	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	02/08/16	RC
023	E	2	(201), (202)	W facing section of Trench 2	02/08/16	RC
024	NW	2	-	Working shot - Backfilling Trench 2	02/08/16	RC
025	NW	2	-	Working shot - Backfilling Trench 2	02/08/16	RC
026	NW	2	-	Working shot - Backfilling Trench 2	02/08/16	RC
027	NNE	2	-	Working shot - Backfilling Trench 2	02/08/16	RC
028	NNE	2	-	Working shot - Backfilling Trench 2	02/08/16	RC
029	NNE	2	-	Working shot - Backfilling Trench 2	02/08/16	RC
030	NNE	2	-	Working shot - Backfilling Trench 2	02/08/16	RC

# Appendix C Finds Register

Finds No.	Context No.	Quantity	Material	Description	Comments	Date	Initials
001	101	4	Ceramic	20th century ceramic sherds	White glazed crockery and 1 rough red sherd. A small representative sample retained	02/08/16	RC
002	101	4	Glass	Shards of blue green bottle glass	20th century. Including one neck. A small representative sample retained	02/08/16	RC
003	201	1	Ceramic	Large decorated ceramic sherd.	One 20th century decorated sherd.	02/08/16	RC

# Appendix D Trench Register

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Orientation
1	8.8	1	W-E
2	6.2	1	N-S

# Appendix F Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dundas Farm, City of Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	244
PARISH:	South Queensferry
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ross Cameron
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NM RS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 12613 77036
START DATE (this season)	12/0816
END DATE (this season)	12/08/16
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were contracted by Mr David Nimmo to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation in advance of the construction of a dw elling house at Dundas Home Farm on the western periphery of the City of Edinburgh.  The archaeological works followed the placement of a planning condition upon the proposed development by City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service. The condition required that the site be investigated through the placement of archaeological evaluation trenches across the footprint of the building. The results of this phase of works would be used to guide any requirement for future archaeological mitigation on site.  The archaeological evaluation involved the mechanical excavation of 2 evaluation trenches across the footprint of the proposed development.  Excavation of the trenches revealed the site to be archaeologically sterile. A deep deposit of mixed topsoil was removed to reveal an undisturbed firm clay subsoil. While a quantity of 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century glass and ceramic fragments were recovered, no archaeological artefacts or features of significance were recorded.  ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the planning condition can now be discharged.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	n/a
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr David Nimmo
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd Suite B2 Laws Close 339-343 High Street Kirkcaldy KY1 1JN
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ross.cameron@archas.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Unit (intended)