

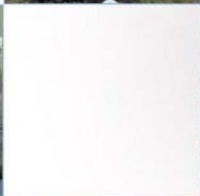
Eastwood High School 2011: Watching Brief and Evaluation Data Structure Report

Planning Ref: 2011/0492/TP

AOC Project 21856

OASIS ID: aocarchaeology1-111822

18th October 2011



Eastwood High School Evaluation and Watching Brief 2011: Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Bam Construction Ltd
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 5417 5723
AOC Project No:	21856
OASIS Number:	aocarchaeology1-111822
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Date of Fieldwork:	September to October 2011
Date of Report:	18 th October 2011

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

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation and watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a new high school at Eastwood High School, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Bam Construction Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological works prior to the construction of a new high school, within the grounds of the existing Eastwood High School, Newton Mears, East Renfrewshire. The development lies within the administrative area of the East Renfrewshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (2011) and in accordance with East Renfrewshire requirements as advised by WOSAS.
- 1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological works was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a programme of trial trenching and watching brief during ground breaking works. A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with WOSAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site lies wholly within the grounds of the existing Eastwood High School, Capelrig Road, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire (centred NGR: NT 5417 5723; Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment of the development site has already been completed. This concluded that there is evidence for archaeological remains within local area, notably to the east, dated as far back as the prehistoric period (Roberts 2010).
- 1.3.2 Medieval sites include a possible early medieval ecclesiastical site somewhere near the site of Barcapel Holm Farmstead. Others include a cross and dovecote. However, as the DBA notes, none are closer than 200 m distant. The post - medieval and modern periods saw the application area as part of small estate. The late 18th century was a large bleachworks to the south of the site. In the 20th century most of the application area has been subject to built development, notably the existing school buildings in the north with several playing fields to the south (Roberts 2010).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
- ii) to liaise with WoSAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and /or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

- 2.2 The objectives of the evaluation were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;

- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All groundworks were supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. The watching brief comprised monitoring the development's groundworks in the south-eastern part of the development area. This involved the monitoring of the removal of turf, topsoil or other site clearance/preparation works associated with the creation of the hockey pitch and running track (WoSAS memo 7/3/4/Cons 24674). Monitoring ceased when the sterile natural subsoil or the formation level was reached.
- 3.3 Following an on site meeting between the WoSAS, Bam Construction Ltd and AOC Archaeology Group the evaluation was limited to the excavation of trenches (Figure 3), where it was felt that previous development had resulted in minimal ground disturbance. Subsequently trench location was amended in the field in avoiding utility services.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices

- i) Appendix 1 contains the trench summaries
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register
- iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry

4.2 Watching Brief

- 4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief (centred NGR: NT 54173 57236) was undertaken over three days in August and September. Overall the weather conditions were overcast, with slight showers. Good archaeological visibility was present throughout the watching brief. Generally, the soil profile comprised between 0.10 m to 0.15 m of imported topsoil overlying a deposit of cinder and hardcore, used as a draining or levelling deposit (Figure 2). Neither archaeological features nor unstratified artefacts were found.



Plate 1: Ha-ha / bank from west

- 4.2.2 A post-medieval ha-ha or field bank identified on the 1st Edition OS Map (Plate 2, Figure 4) was photographed prior to its removal during construction works.

4.3 Evaluation

- 4.3.1 The evaluation area was centred on NGR: 54075 57328). Three trenches totalling 290 m² (combined basal area) were excavated (Figure 3). Generally the trenches were excavated through a maximum of 0.30 m of topsoil which directly overlay a red or brown/blue clay natural subsoil. Only in Trench 2, where a deposit of building debris was identified did this pattern vary. Neither significant archaeological remains nor artefacts were identified by this trenching.



Plate 2: Trench 1 from west

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Despite the presence of significant archaeological remains within both the immediate vicinity of the development area and more generally within the wider area neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered by the evaluation or watching brief.
- 5.2 The significant balance of probability is that the development area is archaeologically sterile.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by WOSAS on behalf of East Renfrewshire Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Roberts, M 2010 *Eastwood High School, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire: Archaeological Appraisal*. Unpubl Headland Archaeology client report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Archaeology and Planning 2/2011*.



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Figure 2: Location of watching brief area at Eastwood High School




 evaluation trench

Figure 3: Evaluation trench layout at Eastwood High School

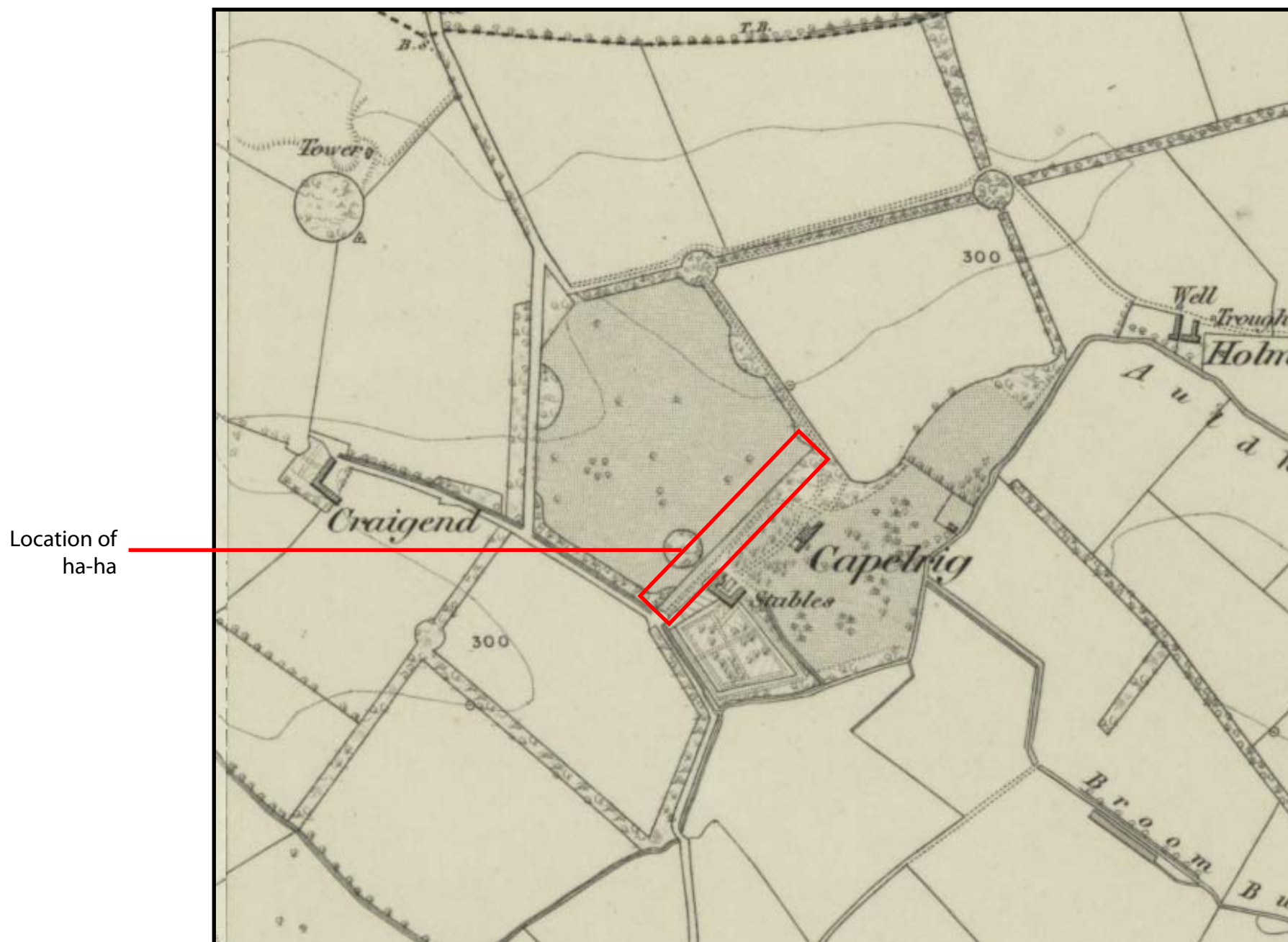


Figure 4: Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Eastwood High School 2011: Watching Brief and Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	15 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	East to West
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Building debris
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 20 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1		Registration Shot	
2	WB	General shot of disturbed natural in SE corner	S
3	WB	Detail of section through area	N
4	WB	Detail of turf overlying hardcore	NW
5	WB	General shot of site	N
6-16	WB	General working shots of site	Var

Digital Film 2

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	1	South facing section through Trench	S
2	1	Detail of east end of trench	S
3	2	West facing section through trench	W
4-6	N/A	Detail of ha ha	W
7	3	Detail of trench	W

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Renfrewshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Eastwood High School 2011
PROJECT CODE:	21856
PARISH:	Mearns
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl & Martin Cook
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 5417 5723
START DATE (this season)	11 th October 2011
END DATE (this season)	11 th October 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation (centred at NGR: NT 54075 57328) and watching brief (centred at NGR: NT 54173 57236) was undertaken on the site of a new high school development at Eastwood High School, Newton Mearns.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	BAM Construction Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS



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