

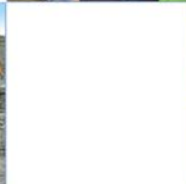
# Forth House Temporary Car Park, Pirnhall, Stirling:

## Evaluation Data Structure Report

OASIS No. aocarchaeology1-113469

AOC Project 21988

9<sup>th</sup> November 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Forth House Temporary Car Park, Pirnhall, Stirling.

### Evaluation: Data Structure Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>W.A Fairhurst &amp; Partners 225 Bath Street Glasgow G2 4GZ</b>
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NS 8010 8950</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>21988</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> October 2011</b>
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## **Abstract**

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An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed temporary car park at Forth House, Pirnhall, Stirling.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of both hand-dug test-pits and machine excavated trenches. A comprehensive metal detecting survey was also undertaken across the development area.

No archaeological material was encountered during the evaluation. The northern half of the site had undergone extensive alteration consisting of modern dump deposits from the initial construction of Forth House.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by W.A Fairhurst & Partners on behalf of their client, FES Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological works consisting of an archaeological evaluation and metal detecting survey in advance of a proposed temporary car park at Forth House, Pirnhall, Stirling (Planning Application No. 11/00335/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) and were designed to meet the requirements of Mr. Murray Cook, Planning Officer (Archaeology) and advisor to Stirling Council.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2010) outlining the programme of archaeological works was agreed with Mr Cook in advance of the evaluation being undertaken.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development area covers approximately 2000 m<sup>2</sup>. The area lies immediately to the west of the existing Forth House car park which in turn lies to the west of the A872 Glasgow Road. To the north, south and west lie pasture fields.
- 1.2.2 The site is underlain by solid geology of Carboniferous Sandstones. The drift geology is comprised of Pleistocene deposits of reddish brown clay tills.

### 1.3 Historical & Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The development area was potentially crossed by a Roman Road (Murray Cook pers comm.). This road whilst of importance as a Roman feature is also of interest due to its connection with the Battle of Bannockburn (1314). It is identified in Historic Scotland's Battlefield Gazetteer (Appendix A) as a key feature of the battle as it was used by the English army as they marched northwards towards the battle and, most likely, used again during their retreat.
- 1.3.2 In addition as the development is located on a greenfield site there also existed the possibility that the site may contain further as yet unanticipated buried archaeological features or artefacts.
- 1.3.3 Prior to the evaluation there were no recorded instances of archaeological interventions within the development area.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) To undertake a close contour survey of the development area;
- ii) To determine the location, character, condition, quality and date of any archaeologically significant artefacts by means of a test-pit survey;
- iii) To determine the location, character, condition, quality and date of any archaeologically significant metal artefacts by means of a metal detector survey;
- iv) determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the defined subject area through evaluation trenching (specifically across the possible Roman Road) totalling a 5% sample of the development area;
- v) report on the results of the various elements of work outlined above within a single report.
- vi) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Archaeological Evaluation

3.1.1 The evaluation was achieved through the excavation of linear trenches using a mechanical excavator (wheeled JCB 3CX) equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket. The evaluation involved trenching covering a 5% sample of the 0.2 ha development area; thus a 5% sample equated to a minimum of 100 m<sup>2</sup> (total basal trench dimensions). The evaluation trenches were targeted over the line of the possible Roman Road, thought to be aligned between N-S and NE-SW. A trenching plan is provided see Figure 1.

3.1.2 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

### **3.2 Test Pitting**

- 3.2.1 A small test-pit survey took place alongside the evaluation with ten 0.5 m by 0.5 m test-pits being excavated across the development area. Each test-pit was excavated by hand with all spoil from the test-pits sieved using a 5 mm mesh sieve in aiding artefacts recovery. The position of all test-pits was recorded by survey.

### **3.3 Metal Detecting Survey**

- 3.3.1 The metal detector survey was undertaken using Whites M1 metal detectors (primary detector and smaller unit for detailed location). The metal detecting area was walked in transects no greater than 3 m wide. This allowed for a degree of overlap between transects ensuring ground was not missed. Transects were marked out prior to the survey beginning. Two local members of the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group (SARG) assisted during the survey.

### **3.4 Baseline Survey**

- 3.4.1 A baseline survey of the development area in the form of a topographic survey was conducted prior to any fieldwork or development work being undertaken.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The archaeological works were undertaken on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011. Overall weather conditions were good with good archaeological visibility throughout. The extent and position of the trenches had to be amended due to the presence of a new access track.

### **4.2 Evaluation Trench 1 (25 m by 2.0 m)**

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was positioned across the southern end of evaluation area (Figure 2). Aligned west to east it was excavated to a depth of 0.60 m. This revealed a 0.35 m deep agricultural topsoil which in turn overlay a natural subsoil of heavy clay till with small pockets of gravel. Two field drains (rubble & ceramic) were encountered, both aligned north to south. The eastern end of the trench was very poorly drained with standing water covering approximately a third of the trench.

### **4.3 Trench 2 (25 m by 2.0 m)**

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 was positioned west to east across the northern end of the site close to the raised area of made ground. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.60 m and revealed a 0.35 m deep agricultural topsoil which in turn overlaid a 0.30 m thick deposit of made ground. This deposit ran from seven metres to the eastern end of the trench. No archaeological deposits were observed.





Plate 1: Trench 1 Post-excavation from East



Plate 2: Trench 2 Post-excavation from East

#### **4.4 Test-pitting**

- 4.4.1 Ten 50 cm by 50 cm trial pits were excavated within the proposed development area (Figure 2). The pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50 m. No archaeological material was observed. The pits were immediately back filled on completion and the turf replaced.

#### **4.5 Metal Detecting Survey**

- 4.5.1 The metal detecting survey produced numerous modern finds such as scaffolding feet, nails and other industrial detritus. These were removed from the area. No archaeologically significant material was recovered.

#### 4.6 Topographic Survey

- 4.6.1 The topographic survey was completed across the entire field. No significant archaeological features were identified. However, the recorded heights demonstrate that while the field is generally flat, it rises steadily from the southern end to the northern end by 1 m (Figure 2).

### 5 CONCLUSION

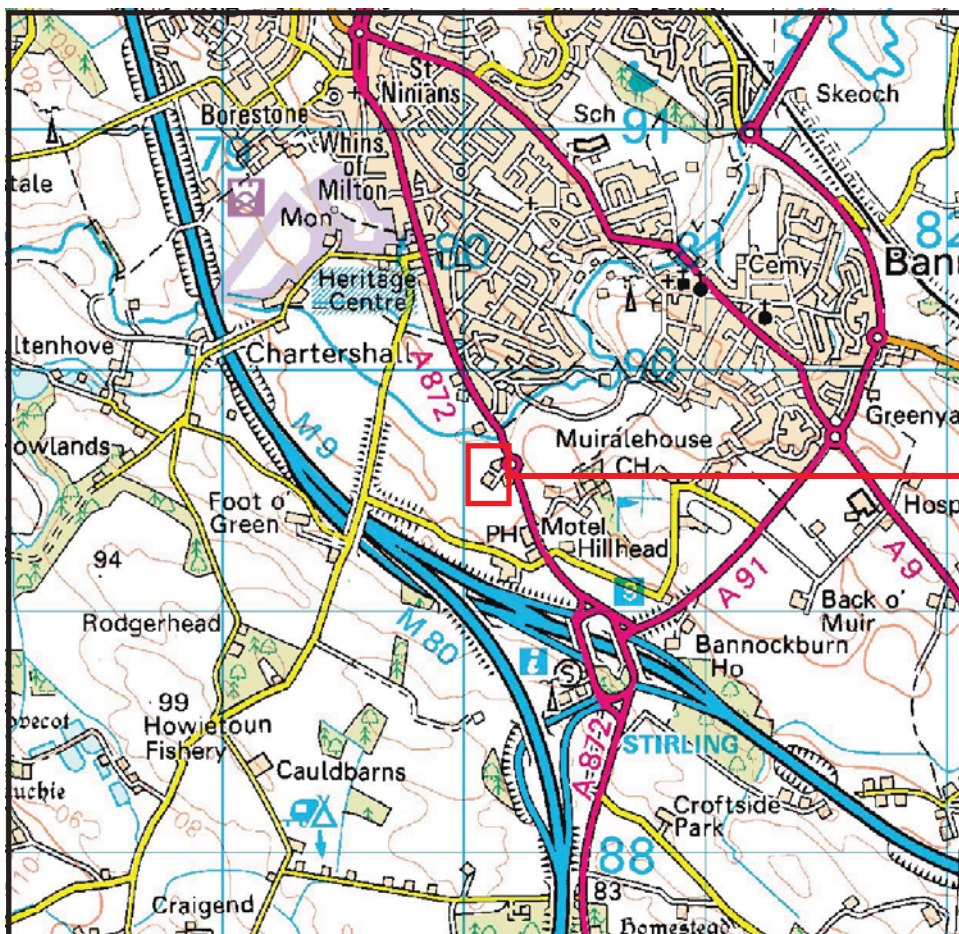
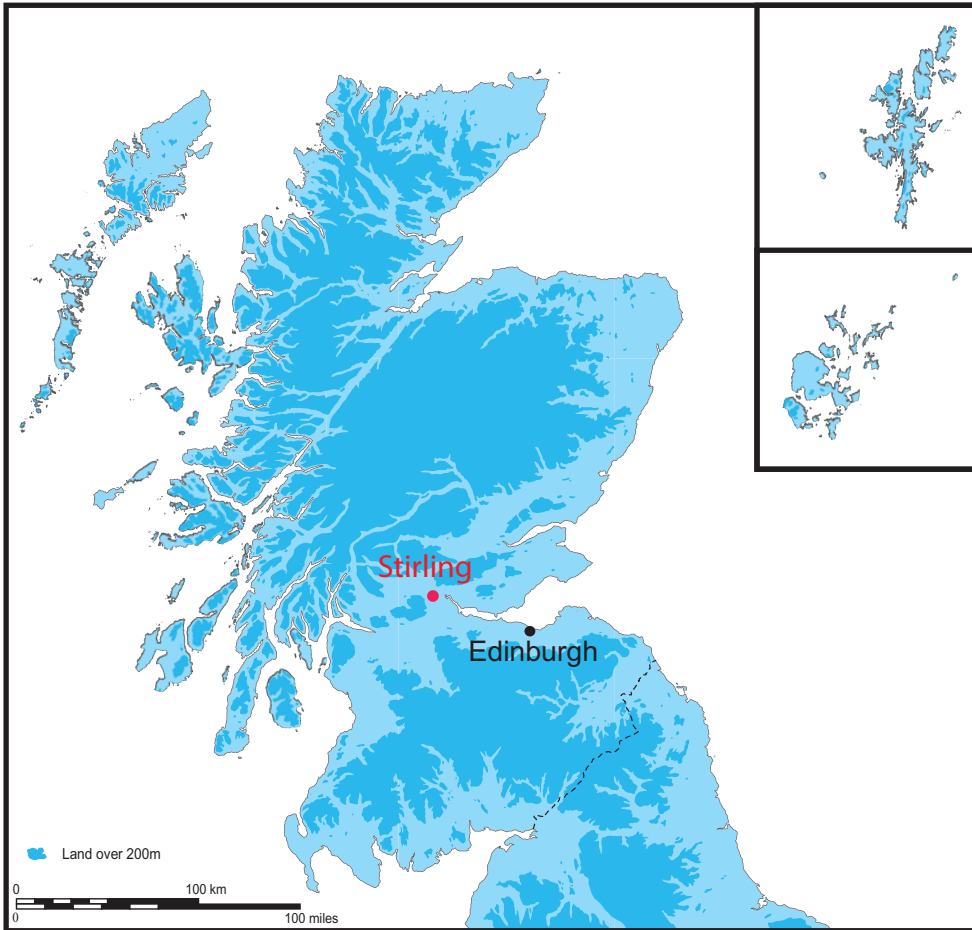
- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation and metal detecting survey revealed neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts. However, evidence of battles and in particular, artefactual material related to the Battle of Bannockburn is notoriously difficult to identify (Murray Cook pers comm.). Therefore the absence of any structural or artefactual material relating to the battle does not confirm the absence of the battle, but rather emphasises the difficulty in identifying remains, despite a more complete and comprehensive archaeological search.
- 5.2 No further archaeological work is considered necessary. This recommendation will require ratification by Mr Murray Cook, Planning Officer (Archaeology), on behalf of Stirling Council,

### 6 REFERENCES

<http://data.historicscotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2500:15:0::NO::BATTLEFIELD:BA nnockburn>

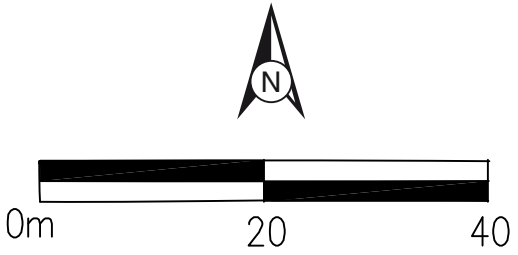
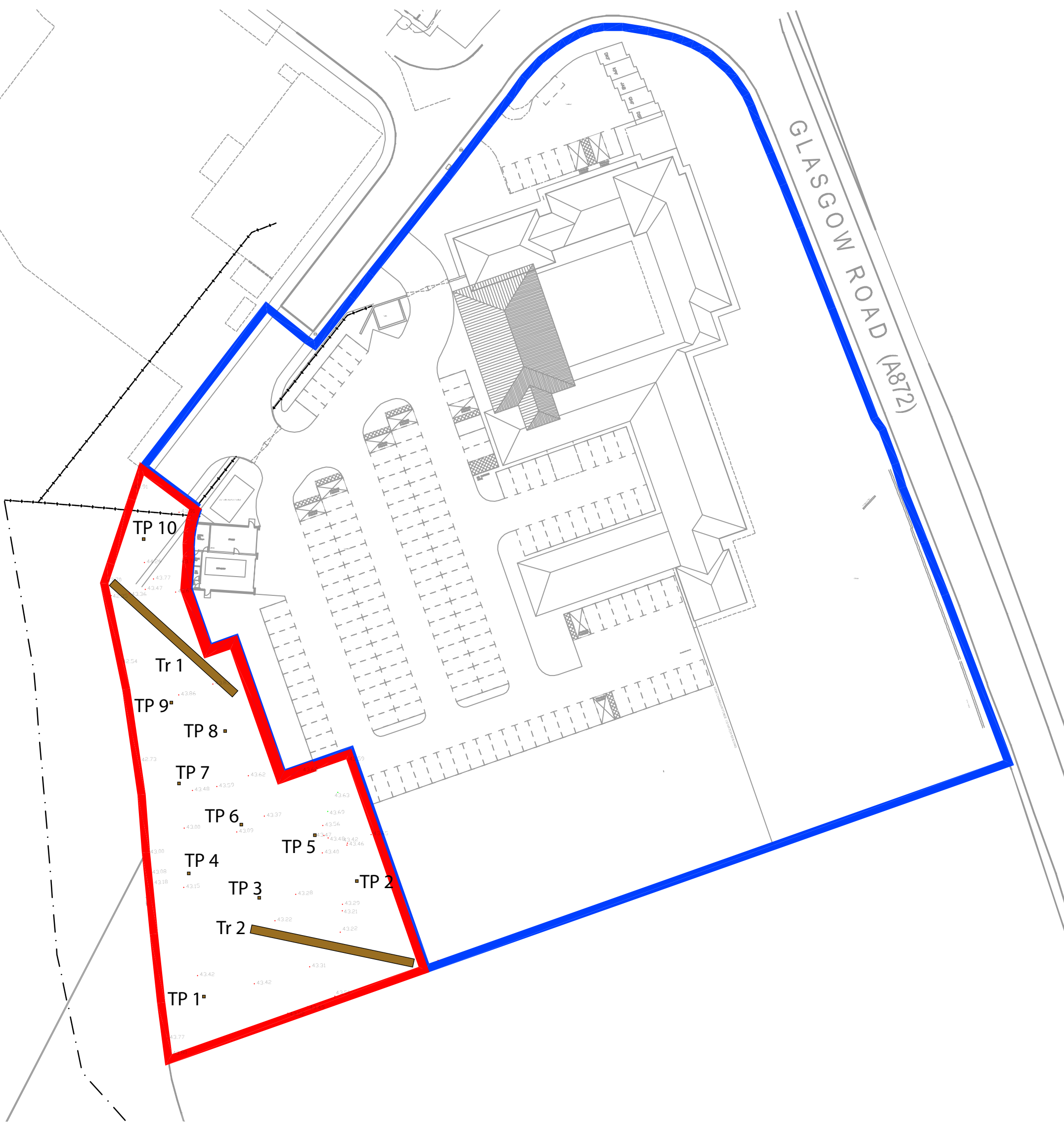
Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Pirnhall Car Park, Stirling



**Legend**

- Development Area
- Evaluation trench
- Test-pit (0.5m x 0.5m)

Based on a drawing supplied by the client

Figure 2: Evaluation trench and test-pit layout, Pirnhall Carpark

**Forth House Temporary Car Park,  
Pirnhall, Stirling:  
Evaluation Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Colour Print/ /Digital Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2		Registration shot	
3	1	Post excavation shot Trench 1	E
4	1	Post excavation shot Trench 1	W
5	2	Post excavation shot Trench 2	E
6	2	Post excavation shot Trench 2	W

## APPENDIX 2: THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN (as reproduced from Historic Scotland's Inventory of Battlefields)

By 1314 Robert the Bruce was in control of large parts of Scotland. This position had been gained after a long struggle to take control of the Kingdom of Scotland, firstly against Edward I, and after the latter's death in 1307, against his Scottish enemies and the castles held by the English. Edinburgh Castle and Roxburgh had been taken from the English and Stirling Castle was under siege. A pact had been made that the castle would be surrendered to the Scots if the siege were not raised by midsummer 1314. Bruce gathered a large army to defend against any English relief force, and had time to drill the schiltrons to a high state of preparedness. Edward II raised a far larger army of the greatest of English chivalry, thousands of men-at-arms and archers. He marched on Stirling from Falkirk along the line of the Roman road.

The events of the battle took place over two days. On the first day, 23rd June, the action took place around the New Park (a royal parkland) located to the south-west of St Ninians on the road from Falkirk to Stirling. The Scots were drawn up here in a naturally defended position that was improved by the digging of pits filled with sharpened stakes to defend against a frontal cavalry charge. The fighting was between the English vanguard of c. 4,000 men and Robert the Bruce's slightly larger army. According to John Barbour's later account (a 14th century Scottish poet who wrote *The Brus*, a long narrative poem celebrating the First War of Scottish Independence), as the English vanguard came in sight of the Scots Henry de Bohun (nephew of the Earl of Hereford, who was joint commander of the vanguard) saw Bruce isolated and forward of the Scottish lines and charged at him. Bruce avoided his charge and killed him as he passed with a blow of his axe that broke the haft, an incident commemorated on the old Clydesdale Bank £1 note. After this initial encounter, the English vanguard charged the Scottish lines, but could not break through and had to retreat; the lack of archers in the English vanguard undoubtedly contributed to the success of the Scottish schiltrons in this engagement.

A small detachment of around 300 English under Sir Robert Clifford and Henry de Beaumont attempted to reach Stirling Castle by skirting the high ground to the east along the edge of the Carse, but they were intercepted by the Earl of Moray's schiltrons and driven off with heavy losses. Repeated charges were unable to disrupt

the schiltrons; at this point, Sir James Douglas appeared with a second schiltrons, while Moray started to advance his schiltrons on the English. The English force broke, some heading for Stirling Castle and the remainder returning to the main army, which now moved down onto the Carse of Stirling (the marshland to the south-east of the castle) for the night.

On the second day, 24th June, the Scots advanced to meet the English, who had spent the night on the low ground and were not expecting a Scottish assault; rather, Edward II seems to have been convinced that the Scottish army would avoid battle, and many of his actions on the first day make most sense in terms of preparing to intercept Bruce when he tried to escape. Instead, Bruce marched out of the shelter of the woods (presumed to be Balquhidderock Wood) and began to march steadily forward in three battles.

The English cavalry responded with a charge led by the Earl of Gloucester. However, they seem to have mounted up with little formation, while the rest of the army were ill prepared for the battle, according to Barbour. These actions appear to reflect the strength of Edward II's belief that the Scots would not fight. The charge was unsuccessful, partly because of the lack of organisation of the cavalry and partly because part of Bruce's strategy appears to have been to reduce the amount of ground available to the cavalry and therefore the effectiveness of any charge.

There was also a great deal of tension in the English command. As the Scots began their advance, there was a bad-tempered exchange between Edward II and the Earl of Gloucester, partly over tactics and partly in recrimination of the English vanguard's failures on the previous day. The impression given by the primary sources is that Gloucester was angry with Edward II and acting rashly as he charged the Scottish line. Gloucester was amongst the English losses as the schiltrons held.

There seems to have been little contribution from the English archers, normally such an important part of English military tactics. The only source to talk about archery was Barbour, who referred to the English archers attempting to break up the Scottish ranks and beginning to have some success, before Bruce sent Sir William Keith at the head of the 500 strong Scottish cavalry to disperse them. If this happened, then it would be one of the few successes that Scottish cavalry ever recorded. However, there is no other record of this element of the fighting and it has been argued that at the time Barbour was writing, Keith's family were still important members of the Stewart court and therefore his participation in the battle was embellished to enhance his status. The archers would not have shot once the two armies had closed, which implies that the archers were never brought into action. If this argument is correct, then there was virtually no archery during the battle. The Scottish schiltrons continued to advance and drove the English cavalry back, while the English men-at-arms were unable to come into the fighting because they were enclosed by the burns and bogs on both sides and the vanguard in front of them. As the vanguard was

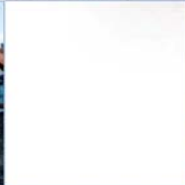
driven back, they collided with their own infantry, causing the English lines to collapse in confusion. At the same time, Bruce ordered in his reserve of Highland troops and the English broke. The tradition of the Sma' Folk relates to this, when the camp followers who were watching came running down the slopes to finish off the armoured soldiers who were struggling in the mud of the Carse; the English thought that they were fresh reserves, increasing the panic in their ranks.

Edward II's army collapsed and began fleeing in several directions. Edward went to Stirling Castle, but then turned aside and headed for Falkirk and Linlithgow, eventually reaching Dunbar, pursued all the way by a small force under Sir James Douglas; he was taken in a small open boat to Bamburgh and then to Berwick, from where he was able to get a ship that took him away to safety. Many of the English army fled towards Stirling Castle as well, but were denied access and taken prisoner. A group under the Earl of Hereford headed to Bothwell Castle near Hamilton, where they were taken prisoner and handed over. Others tried to reach the Forth, with some apparently drowning in the river. Many were caught in a great ditch and slaughtered; this ditch has caused a great deal of the controversy over the location of the battle as attempts have been made to identify it. Many writers have assumed that it is the gorge through which the Bannock Burn emerges onto the Carse, but it could instead be any part of the Pelstream Burn or the Bannock Burn as they cross the Carse towards the river. There is also a location known as Bloody Fould, which is traditionally in the vicinity of Bannockburn House and is the supposed location of a massacre of English fugitives. However, according to the English *Annals of Trokelowe*, those who were taken prisoner were apparently well treated on Bruce's orders.



**APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Stirling Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Forth House Temporary Car Park, Pirnhall, Stirling
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21988
<b>PARISH:</b>	Stirling
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rob Engl
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation & Metal Detecting Survey
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 80100 89500
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2011
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b>	None
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of a proposed temporary car park at Forth House, Pirnhall, Stirling. The evaluation consisted of both hand-dug test pits and machine excavated trenches. A comprehensive metal detecting survey was also undertaken across the development area.</p> <p>No archaeological material was encountered during the evaluation. The northern half of the site was found to have undergone extensive alteration consisting of modern dumped deposits from the initial construction of Forth House.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	WA Fairhurst and Partners
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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