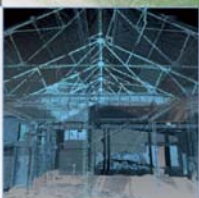


Alexander Court Student Residences, Stirling University, Stirling Archaeological Works: Data Structure Report

OASIS No. aocarcha1- 127892

AOC 22152

15th June 2012



AOC
Archaeology
Group

ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Alexander Court Student Residences, Stirling University, Stirling

Archaeological Works:

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Faithful & Gould

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 8154 9667

Planning Application No: 12/00041/FUL

AOC Project No: 22152

OASIS Number aocarcha1 - 127892

Prepared by: Rob Engl

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Date of Fieldwork: 29th May 2012

Date of Report: 15th June 2012

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

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Abstract

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Faithful & Gould, on behalf of their client, to undertake a programme of archaeological works prior to the construction of new student residences at Alexander Court, Stirling University, Stirling (Planning Ref 12/00004/FUL). The development area consists of approximately 4300 m² of managed grounds situated within Stirling University Campus.

Eleven trenches totalling 215 m² metres were excavated. No significant archaeology was found as the proposed development area had obviously undergone significant previous disturbance associated with the construction of the existing student residences.

Limited photographic and metal detecting surveys were undertaken as conditions of the works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Faithful & Gould, on behalf of their client, to undertake a programme of archaeological works including evaluation by trial trenching and photographic and metal detecting surveys prior to the construction of new student residences at Alexander Court, Stirling (Planning Ref 12/00004/FUL). The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Stirling Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mr. Murray Cook of the Stirling Council Archaeology Service (SCAS). A programme of archaeological works had been specified by SCAS in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The development area covers approximately 4300 m² and is centred on NGR NS 8154 9667. It lies within the grounds of Stirling University immediately to the south of the existing Alexander Courts Halls of Residence. The development area is bounded to the west, east and south by open greenfield and trees.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 No archaeological sites were previously known to lie within the development area though there are a number in the immediate vicinity. The development area lies less than 500 m east of Airthrey Castle (NMRS NS89NW 29) a large B-Listed country house designed by Robert Adam and built in the late 18th century. The development area also lies within the 154 ha of the designed landscape associated with the castle. To the south lies the B-Listed Airthrey Castle East Lodge (NMRS NS89NW 29.01). About 200 m to the east, just outwith the limit of the designed landscape, is situated the B-Listed Logie Parish Church (NMRS NS89NW 51). This building dates to the early 19th century.
- 1.3.2 Early archaeological remains lying in the local landscape include two separate standing stone sites; a single stone, (NMRS NS89NW 12) lies to south-west approximately 300 m away and this has been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 1730). Slightly closer and due west lies a group of three closely set stones (NMRS NS89NW 11). Local Roman activity is attested by the recent find by a metal detectorist of a trumpet brooch, (NMRS NS89NW 93) approximately 200 m to the south of the development area.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching (specifically across the footprint of the new build and any associated areas of disturbance) totalling a 5% sample of the development area;

- ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (Scottish Government 2011).

3 METHOD

- 3.1 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) proposed the excavation of trenches equating to a 5% sample of the development area. The site covered approximately 0.43 ha resulting in evaluation trenching with a minimum total basal area of 215 m². The trenches were targeted over the proposed footprints of the new builds
- 3.2 All trenches were excavated with a 16 tonne tracked excavator using a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. All spoil was scanned by metal detector to recover any unstratified finds. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012).



Plate 1 Site pre-excitation from viewed from the South



Plate 2 Site pre-excitation viewed from the North looking down-slope

- 3.3 Prior to the evaluation phase a limited photographic survey was undertaken using both black & white print and digital film.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The works were conducted on 29th March 2012. The weather conditions during the evaluation were clear and dry. Overall archaeological visibility was good. In total eleven trenches were opened totalling 215 m² (Figure 2).



Plate 3 West facing section Trench 1 showing top-soil & made-ground

- 4.2 In general the soil profile within the proposed development comprised an imported garden topsoil, 0.30 m - 0.50 m in depth. This would appear to have been re-deposited as no interface was observed with the natural subsoil. It is likely that the original topsoil was removed during construction works for the existing residences. The natural subsoil comprised pink clay and bands of sands and gravels within several of the trenches, elsewhere it was a mottled red-brown sandy clay.
- 4.3 A five metre long deposit of type 1 hardcore was observed within Trench 5. This deposit was 0.20 m in depth and lay directly over natural. The deposit is 0.70 m below the existing ground surface and immediately underlies 0.30 m of made ground. It is probable that the hardcore is the remains of an area of hard-standing associated with the construction of the existing residences.



Plate 4 Hardcore deposit within Trench 5

- 4.4 The metal detecting survey produced numerous modern finds including wire, nails, ring-pulls and tin cans etc. These were removed from site and disposed of.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeology was revealed during the works. It would appear that the area has undergone significant disturbance associated with the construction of the existing University residences.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Mr. Murray Cook of the Stirling Council Archaeology Service (SCAS)

7 REFERENCES

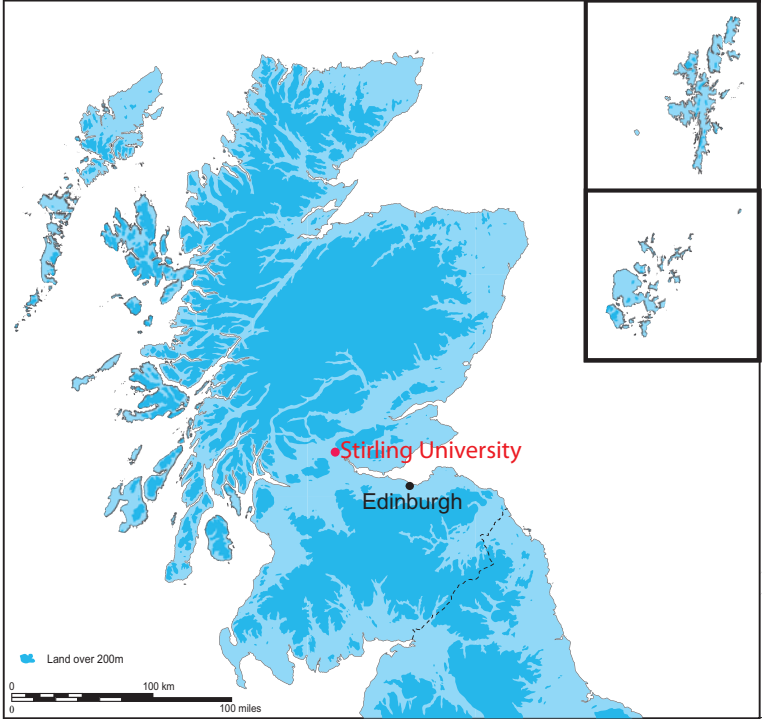
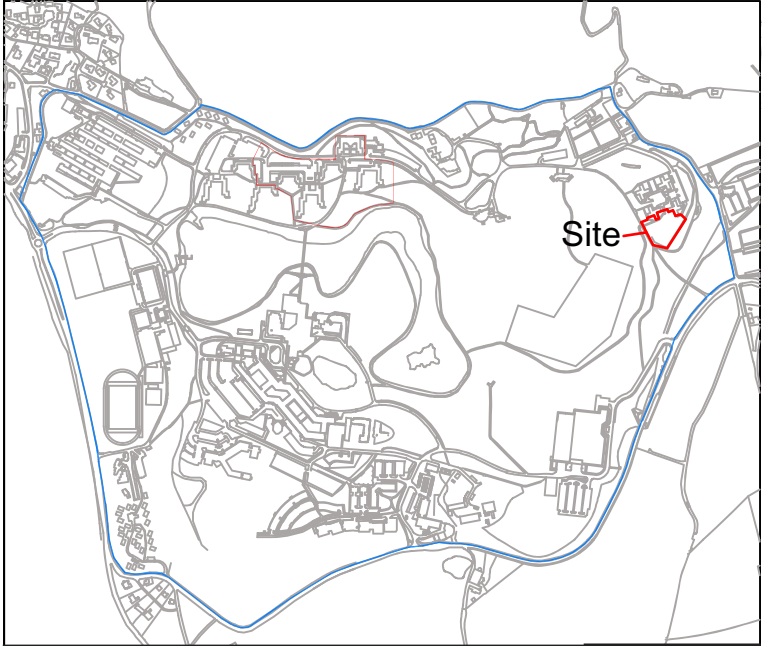
AOC Archaeology 2012 *Alexander Court, Stirling University, Stirling: Archaeological Works Written Scheme of Investigation* AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

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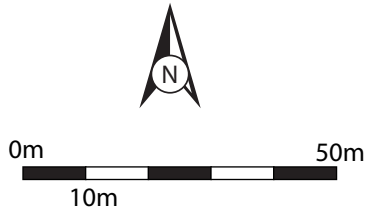
Figure 1: Evaluation trench layout, Stirling University Student Residences



KEY:

- Construction site compound boundary. Hoarding to be agreed with Architect prior to installation. Min 2.4m high solid Heras fencing and to include provision for signage.
- Potential area for storage and site offices, to be agreed with Architect prior to use.
- Footpath to site to be used by small vehicles only.
- Access Paths to existing accommodation be maintained at all times
- Potential for site visitor parking, area to be agreed with University of Stirling, and bollards used to restrict access
- Trees to be removed before works on site begin
- Evaluation Trench

Based on a drawing supplied by the client



Alexander Court, Stirling Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m to 0.55 m
Made Ground	0.40 m to 0.65
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Sands and gravels
Finds	Modern ceramics throughout top-soil

Trench 2

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m to 0.40 m
Made Ground	None
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 3

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m to 0.50 m
Made Ground	None
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 4

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m to 0.40 m
Made Ground	None
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 5

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m to 0.40 m
Made Ground	0.30 m

Features	Five metre long section of Type 1 hardcore (c. 20 m thick). Probable former construction compound surface.
Drains	None
Subsoil	Sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 6

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m
Made Ground	0.80 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 7

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m
Made Ground	0.80 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 8

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m
Made Ground	None
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Pink clay
Finds	None

Trench 9

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Made Ground	None
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Pink clay
Finds	None

Trench 10

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	S-N
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m
Made Ground	None
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Pink clay
Finds	None

Trench 11

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m
Made Ground	None
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Pink clay
Finds	None

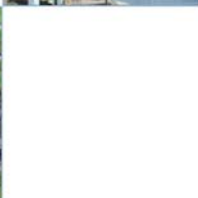
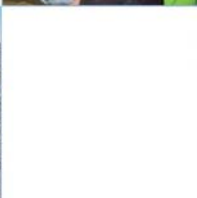
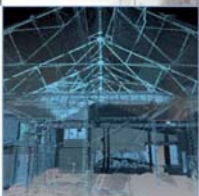
APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black & White Print Film 1 & Digital

Frame	Trench	Description	From
0-2	-	Registration	-
3-6	-	Site pre-excavation looking down-slope from existing buildings SW, S, SE & E	N
7-9		Site pre-excavation looking towards existing buildings NE, N & NW	S
10	T1	T1 (Post-ex)	N
11	T1	T1 west facing section	W
12	T2	T2 (Post-ex)	NE
13	T3	T3 (Post-ex)	SW
14	T4	T4 (Post-ex)	NE
15	T5	Layer of hardcore <i>in situ</i>	SW
16	T5	T5 (Post-ex)	SW
17	T6	T6 (Post-ex)	SW
18	T7	T7 (Post-ex)	SW
19	T8	T8 (Post-ex)	SW
20	T9	T9 (Post-ex)	NE
21	T9	T10 (Post-ex)	SW
22	T11	T11 (Post-ex)	E

APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Alexander Court Student Residences, Stirling University, Stirling
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22152
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation & Photographic Survey
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 8975 0658
START DATE (this season)	29 th May 2012
END DATE (this season)	29 th May 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of new student residences at Alexander Court, Stirling University. The development area consisted of approximately 4300m² of managed grounds situated within Stirling University Campus.</p> <p>Eleven trenches totalling 215 m² metres were excavated. No significant archaeology was found as the proposed development area had obviously undergone significant previous disturbance associated with the construction of the existing student residences.</p> <p>Limited photographic and metal detecting surveys were undertaken as conditions of the works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Faithful & Gould
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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