

Blawlowan, Bridge of Allan:

Archaeological Evaluation

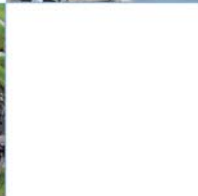
Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22269

Oasis No. aocarcha1-139372

Planning Application No: 12/00453/FUL

14th December 2012



Blawlowan, Bridge of Allan

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	ZM Architecture 62 Albion Street Glasgow G1 1NY
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 8045 9697
AOC Project No:	22269
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Date of Report:	14 th December 2012

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 undertaken in relation to a proposed single house plot lying wholly within the walled garden of Blawlowan East Lodge, Bridge of Allan, Stirling.

The evaluation required 5 trenches measuring 5m by 2m, positioned mainly throughout the south of the development area and varying in alignment from NW-SE to N-S.

A single modern feature was revealed but neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by ZM Architecture on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a consented single house plot at Blawlowan, Bridge of Allan, Stirling (Planning Application No. 12/00453/FUL). The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Stirling Council who are advised on archaeological matters by Mr. Murray Cook, Planning Officer (Archaeology). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) approved on behalf of Stirling Council by Mr. Cook and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011). An entry for the project has been added to the Archaeological Data Service's OASIS catalogue under the reference aocarcha1-139372.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site (centred on NGR NS 8045 9697) is located within the grounds of Blawlowan, lying to the southeast of Blawlowan East Lodge and is wholly contained within a 20th Century walled garden. The garden is enclosed by a very steep slope to the north and east, the lodge lawn to the west and the lodge driveway, a public right of way, and a small field of pasture to the south which is bounded by Sheriffmuir Road (Figure 1). The development area was still used as a landscaped garden prior to the start of the development works (Plate 1).



Plate 1 - View of walled garden prior to evaluation works

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The East Lodge at Blawlowan lies on the approximate site of the earlier village of Pathfoot, which is shown on Roy's mid-eighteenth century maps (Cook, M. 2012). The Stirling Sites and Monuments Record for Pathfoot (No.1228) notes that the slightly later map of Stobie's from 1783, shows Pathfoot as a cluster of houses but by 1817, Grassom's map shows only two buildings and the smart new manse built by the owner of the Airthrey estate Sir Robert Abercromby for the minister of Logie Kirk. An apparently benign clearance of the village was carried out in this period by Sir Robert Abercromby, and almost all the villagers of both Pathfoot and Logie were re-housed in Causewayhead (or Causeyhead), a village to the south of the estate. There is no upstanding trace of the village of Pathfoot in the area around Blawlowan.

- 1.3.2 The East Lodge of Blawlowan (B-listed: Listed Building number 22622) is the only remaining building that may have formed part of Pathfoot. It has a date stone of 1731 and whilst the exact age of the building is unclear the building has clearly undergone early 19th century additions and modifications. The walled garden itself is not mapped at any point through to 1950 and is assumed to be a mid 20th century construction (ZM Architecture 2012).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the defined development area through evaluation trenching;
 - ii) 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 The evaluation comprised machine trenching of 5 trenches measuring 5m by 2m. Total trenching consisted of 50m² (total basal trench dimensions), with trenches being set on varying orientations (Figure 2). The evaluation was undertaken by a 2.5 tonne excavator with a 1.3 m wide bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012). The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 13th December 2012. Weather conditions were dry and overcast making archaeological visibility good throughout the evaluation. In total 25m of trenching was opened and were aligned north west to south east and north to south with the main bulk situated close to the southern boundary wall (Figure 2).



Plate 2 - View of Trench 3

- 4.2 Topsoil within the development area was a dark brown clayey silt ranging in depth from 0.35m in the northern half of site to 0.8m in the southern half, mainly within the existing flower bed. The natural subsoil was a pale orangey brown clayey sand with frequent stone inclusions (Plate 2). A single linear feature (probable modern drain) running NNE-SSW and measuring 0.3m wide and 0.15m deep and filled with topsoil was revealed within Trench 4 (Plate 3). Trench 2 revealed a gravel deposit under the topsoil that was sitting directly on the natural subsoil, measuring 0.05m thick.



Plate 3 - View of modern drainage gully in Trench 4

- 4.3 An abundance of 19th and 20th century ceramic and glass fragments were noted within the topsoil throughout the site with a particular concentration within Trench 1 which was located in the flower bed.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the evaluation. The gravel deposits and topsoil make up throughout the trenches indicate that the area had most likely been stripped prior to the creation of the landscaped and walled garden. The ceramics found within the topsoil are also an indication that the soil used in the flower bed and elsewhere has been imported.
- 5.2 The significant balance of probability is that the site is free of archaeological material. No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Mr. Murray Cook on behalf of Stirling Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2012 '*Blawlowan, Bridge of Allan: Archaeological Works Written Scheme of Investigation*'
Unpublished project design

Cook, M. 2012 '*Archaeological Consultation regarding Planning Application No. 12/00453/FUL*'
Unpublished document

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

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

ZM Architecture 2012 *Design Statement – New Single House at Blawlowan* Unpublished design statement

Blawlowan, Bridge of Allan: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	5m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	10m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil to 0.33m / 0.53m onto a rooted interface of topsoil and natural to 0.63m / 0.78m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.78m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orangey brown clayey sand
<i>Finds</i>	19 th and 20 th century ceramic and glass fragments (none retained)

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	5m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	10m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil consisting of dark brown clayey silt with abundant mortar fragments throughout to a depth of 0.73m onto a thin layer of orange gravel to 0.78m overlying the natural subsoil
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.8m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orangey brown clayey sand
<i>Finds</i>	19 th and 20 th century ceramic and glass fragments (none retained)

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	5m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	10m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil to 0.75m (south edge) or 0.4m (north edge) onto natural subsoil
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.75m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orangey brown clayey sand
<i>Finds</i>	19 th and 20 th century ceramic and glass fragments (none retained)

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	5m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	10m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil to 0.35m / 0.5m onto natural subsoil
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Linear running NNE-SSW measuring 0.3m by 0.15m and filled with topsoil – modern gully
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orangey brown clayey sand
<i>Finds</i>	19 th and 20 th century ceramic and glass fragments (none retained)

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	5m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	10m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N

<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil to 0.41m onto natural subsoil
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.41m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orangey brown clayey sand
<i>Finds</i>	19 th and 20 th century ceramic and glass fragments (none retained)

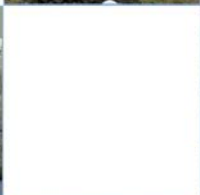
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-3	Pre ex shots of walled garden	W	13/12/12
4	Working shot of Trench 1	NW	13/12/12
5	S-facing section of Trench 1	S	13/12/12
6	Post ex Trench 1	W	13/12/12
7	Post ex Trench 2	NW	13/12/12
8	Post ex Trench 3	E	13/12/12
9	Post medieval ditch	W	13/12/12
10	Post medieval ditch	S	13/12/12
11	N-facing section of post medieval ditch	N	13/12/12
12	Post ex Trench 4	W	13/12/12
13	Post ex Trench 5	SE	13/12/12
14	Area backfilled	W	13/12/12

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Blawlowan, Bridge of Allan
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22269
PARISH:	Logie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 8045 9697
START DATE (this season)	13 th December 2012
END DATE (this season)	13 th December 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in relation to a proposed single house plot lying wholly within the walled garden of Blawlowan East Lodge, Bridge of Allan, Stirling.</p> <p>The evaluation required 5 trenches measuring 5m by 2m positioned mainly throughout the south of the development area and varying in alignment from NW-SE to N-S.</p> <p>A single post medieval feature was revealed but neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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