

Dasher Farm, Kippen: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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Dasher Farm, Kippen: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Mr & Mrs M. Turner Dasher Farm Kippen FK8 3HT
Planning Application No.	14/00359/PPP
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 6602 9441
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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 development of three house plots and associated infrastructure at Dasher Farm, Kippen, Stirling.

The evaluation required a 5% trenching sample of the western half of the development area. A total of five trenches of varying lengths and alignments were excavated. The northern most trench encountered the remains of a 19th century building, which had previously been demolished to foundation level. The other trenches revealed various modern and earlier ceramic field drains.

After consultation with Mr. Murray Cook, Planning Officer (Archaeology), heritage advisor to Stirling Council, no further works are considered necessary within the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mr. & Mrs. M. Turner to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed development of three house plots and associated infrastructure situated within fields to the N of Dasher Farm, Kippen, Stirling. The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Stirling Council. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014) approved by Stirling Council and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development lies to the E of Kippen, Stirling. The development is centred on NGR: NS 6602 9441 (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the N by a road named Burnside, with the access to Dasher Farm to the E, Glentirran Cottage to the W and open fields to the S.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 According to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland there are no known sites of archaeological significance within the development area. Two sites nearby are identified as cottages related to Glentirranmuir (NMRS No. NS69SE 51 and NS69SE 52) and Dasher Farm is also listed as a Farmstead (NMRS No. NS69SE 60).

1.3.2 The Scheduled Monument of Boquhan Burn earthwork (NMRS No. NS69 SE 4), believed to be a fort of unknown date lies to the SE of the development area, on the other side of the hill to where Dasher Farm sits. Furthermore, the remains of a possible Dun dating to the Iron Age (NMRS No. NS69SE 5) is situated further east of the site. These two sites indicate the potential for prehistoric and early historic activity in the area.

1.3.3 Looking at the post medieval period, maps dating from 1861 (Ordnance Survey 1861) show a dwelling to the immediate south of the Burnside road in an area labelled as Glentirranmuir. A second dwelling is situated to the SE corner of the development area (and most likely lies out with the site boundary) of a similar size. These small buildings/cottages are most likely of similar date to the buildings listed by RCHAMS. These buildings were demolished prior to mapping of the area in 1895.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to create a photographic record of the current site conditions;
- ii) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- iii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a 13 tonne tracked excavator with 2 m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon. 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 2014). The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 25th November 2014. Weather conditions were fair but foggy, allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the evaluation, but making it impossible to create the photographic record of the site until after the evaluation was conducted (Plates 1-6). In total, 51 m of linear trench was opened, varying in alignment and length, with trenches being placed over areas of greatest archaeological potential (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The topsoil throughout the development area was a consistent dark grey sandy silt, varying in depth from 0.26 m to 0.40 m. The natural subsoil was a mixed pale grey sand and red sand with frequent stone inclusions. A mixture of modern and earlier ceramic drains were encountered within Trenches 2 to 5.
- 4.3 In Trench 1, located over the position of a known 19th century building, a red sandstone wall [101] with associated truncated floor surface [102] was revealed (Plate 7). The wall was aligned N-S and measured 0.68 m wide, but only survives to one course in height. The sandstone flagstone floor [102] abutted the western face of the wall and sat on a sand and lime bedding layer [103]. Only 1.1 m by 1 m of floor survived in the trench, with the remainder having been removed presumably during demolition.
- 4.4 Among the sandstone rubble covering the building remains, some 19th century white ceramic and glass was found indicating that the building most likely dates to the first half of the 19th century, going out of use in the latter half of the same century according to the cartographic evidence. Unlike the cottages to the west of the site, this building appears to have been built during a possible short lived time of prosperity for the village, with the expansion into this area along Burnside indicating a temporary increase in the village population that does not last into the 20th century.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 From the trenches excavated it has been demonstrated that the development area does contain the remains of a 19th century building. However, due to the poor level of preservation of the wall and floor surfaces revealed in the evaluation, it is unlikely that any significant features of the building will remain.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the development area. This recommendation has been approved by the heritage advisor for Stirling Council, Mr. Murray Cook.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2014, *Dasher Farm, Kippen, Stirling: Written Scheme of Investigation*
Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*



Plate 1 - View along Burnside showing N edge of development area



Plate 2 - View along E edge of development area



Plate 3 - View of development area from NE corner (1)



Plate 4 - View of development area from NE corner (2)



Plate 5 - View along W edge of development area



Plate 6 - View of development area from NW corner



Plate 7 - General view of wall [101] and floor [102]

Dasher Farm, Kippen: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	11 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	22 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark grey sandy silt – max depth 0.36 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.56 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Wall [101], Floor [102], Bedding [103], Early soil horizon [104], Rubble [105]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale grey sand and red sand with frequent stone inclusions.
<i>Finds</i>	19 th century ceramics (x3) and glass (x2) – not retained

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	11 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	22 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark grey sandy silt – max depth 0.4 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Drain at 3.7 m to 4.9 m aligned N-S; Modern drain at 5.2 m to 6 m aligned NW-SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale grey sand and red sand with frequent stone inclusions.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	12 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	24 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark grey sandy silt – max depth 0.36 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.36 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Drain at 8.1 m to 9 m aligned N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale grey sand and red sand with frequent stone inclusions.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	8 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	16 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark grey sandy silt – max depth 0.3 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Drain at 0 m to 1 m aligned N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale grey sand and red sand with frequent stone inclusions.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	9 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	18 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark grey sandy silt – max depth 0.27 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.27 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None

Natural Subsoil

Pale grey sand and red sand with frequent stone inclusions.

Finds

None

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
[101]	Tr.1	Red sandstone wall aligned N-S measuring 0.68 m wide(2 courses) and 0.24 m high (one course). Abutted by floor surface [102] and bedding layer [103] on its west face, and abutted by rubble [105] on its east face. Constructed on top of old ground surface [104]. East wall of 19th century cottage
[102]	Tr.1	The remains of a red sandstone flagstone floor measuring 1.1 m by 1 m by 0.03 m and abutting the west face of wall [101]. Sits on top of bedding layer [103]. Internal floor of 19th century building
[103]	Tr.1	Sand and lime mortar deposit under flagstone floor [102]. Surviving layer is 1.2 m by 2 m and is 0.01 m to 0.02 m thick. Sits on top of old ground surface [104]. Bedding layer for floor [102]
[104]	Tr.1	Dark brown sand with occasional small stones and coal flecks up to 0.24 m thick. Lies directly under bedding [103] and wall [101]. Former ground surface
[105]	Tr.1	Red sandstone and mortar abutting E face of wall [101] and sitting on deposit [104] measuring 0.4 m wide by 0.2 m thick. Rubble from demolition of 19th century building

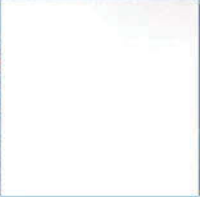
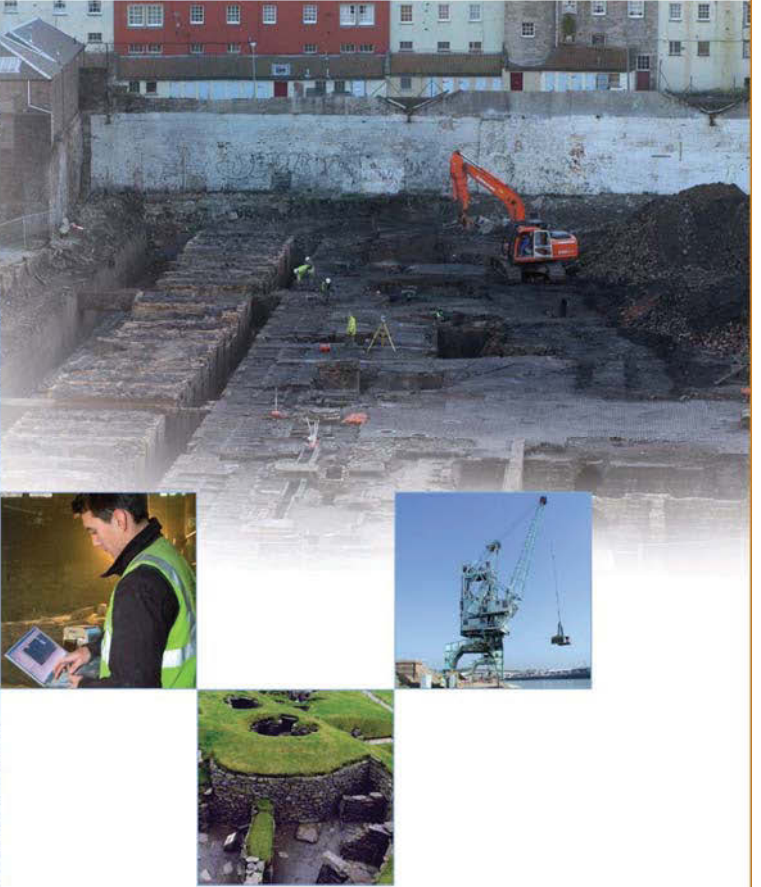
APPENDIX 3: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Post ex Tr.2	SW	25/11/14
2	Modern duct in Tr.2	SE	25/11/14
3	Post ex Tr.3	SW	25/11/14
4	Post ex Tr.4	NE	25/11/14
5	Post ex Tr.5	SW	25/11/14
6	Wall [101]	N	25/11/14
7	Floor [102] and bedding [103]	NW	25/11/14
8	General shot of wall [101] and floor [102]	NW	25/11/14
9	Post ex Tr.1	E	25/11/14
10	Shot showing one course of wall [101]	E	25/11/14
11	View along Burnside with N edge of site	E	25/11/14
12	View along E edge of site	N	25/11/14
13-15	General views from NE corner	NE	25/11/14
16	View along W edge of site	N	25/11/14
17	View from NW corner	NW	25/11/14

APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Dasher Farm
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22901
PARISH:	Kippen
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 6602 9441
START DATE (this season)	25 th November 2014
END DATE (this season)	25 th November 2014
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 development of three house plots and associated infrastructure at Dasher Farm, Kippen, Stirling.</p> <p>The evaluation required a 5% trenching sample of the western half of the development area. A total of five trenches of varying lengths and alignments were excavated. The northern most trench encountered the remains of a 19th century building, which had been demolished to foundation level. The other trenches revealed modern and earlier ceramic field drains.</p> <p>After consultation with Mr. Murray Cook, Planning Officer (Archaeology), heritage advisor to Stirling council, no further works are considered necessary within the development area.</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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