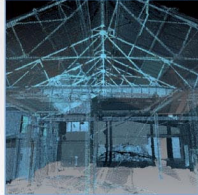
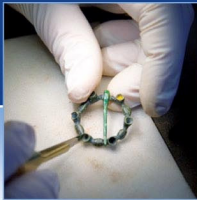


Lower Back Walk, Stirling Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

AOC 23736

03rd February 2017



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Lower Back Walk, Stirling Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Stirling Council,
Localities & Infrastructure, Environment & Place,
Endrick House,
Kerse Road
Stirling
FK7 7SG

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 78871 94046

AOC Project No: 23736

OASIS No. aocarcha1-275883

Prepared by: Rob Engl

Date of Fieldwork: 1st February 2017

Date of Report: 3rd February 2017

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

Author: Rob Engl

Date: 3rd February 2017

Approved by: Martin Cook

Date: 3rd February 2017

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 3rd February 2017

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Abstract

Archaeological works including the investigation and recording of an exposed section of post medieval road and a limited programme of metal detecting was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to improvement works on the Lower Back Walk situated below Stirling Castle (NGR: NS 78871 94046).

The improvement works included the construction of a new path. This exposed a 13.0 m long section of truncated cobbled road relating to the John Bog passage (1531) from Stirling Castle to the Park. Hand cleaning revealed the road to be composed of large sub rounded cobbles, with occasional patches of metalling and a drainage ditch running along its eastern edge

The cleaning revealed a number of 19th century ceramics and pipe stems. These were not recovered.

The metal detecting recovered no significant archaeological material.

No further works are considered necessary within the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Stirling Council in respect to improvements undertaken on the Lower Back path system Stirling. The path system lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Stirling Royal Gardens including King's Knot and Stirling Castle (SM90288 & SM90291).
- 1.1.2 The works have obtained Scheduled Monument Consent (AMH/90291/1/1 & AMH/90288/1/1).
- 1.1.2 The works were specified in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) 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 scope of the improvements.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site (NGR: NS 78871 94046) (Figures 1 & 2) is located along an existing path running between Ballengeich Road, Stirling to the north and Kings Knot/Haining path to the south. The location is part of the existing Lower Back Walk path system which runs parallel to the east. A pasture field and dyke form the paths western boundary

1.3 Archaeological Background (taken from Historic Scotland 'Stirling Castle Palace')

- 1.3.1 The treasurers Accounts record a payment of £5 to John Bog to make a passage from Stirling castle to the Park in 1531. Bog appears to have been a senior official of the stables at Stirling.
- 1.3.2 A route is clearly visible on the South Brae cutting diagonally down-slope from where the High Back walk cuts the Haining Dyke. The route is mentioned in a number of 17th century documents and is clearly shown on all military maps of Stirling and Wood's map of 1820. Plans indicate that at the foot of the brae the road crossed Butt Park. A modern access road known as the Minister's Path is clearly the remains of the route.
- 1.3.3 The route became redundant as firstly the stables went out of use, and second the High and Low Back Walks were constructed and thirdly better roads were constructed via Ballengeich and Raploch Road.



Plate 1 Wood 1820 map showing the course of Lower Back Walk



Plate 2 Laye 1725 map showing the course of Lower Back Walk

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to undertake the hand cleaning and recording of an exposed section of road;
- ii) to conduct a metal detecting survey during the evaluation trenching of the development area;
- iii) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within exposed road area after hand cleaning;
- iv) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered;
- v) to prepare a final Data Structure Report and project archive.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The metal detecting survey was conducted on all spoil created during both the initial exposure of the path and during the archaeological cleaning. The survey was undertaken using a Minelab x terra.

3.2 The exposed section of road was to be hand cleaned, planned and photographed. No further excavation of the road was to be undertaken as the feature was to be preserved in situ beneath a new pathway upon completion of the recording. All works were undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures.

4 RESULTS

4.1 The archaeological works were undertaken on 1st February 2017. The metal detecting survey did not encounter any significant archaeological material, with numerous modern artefacts such as bottle tops, foil, wire and tin cans being located by the survey work.

4.2 A total of 13.0 m of road was exposed during the improvement works to the existing path. The excavation of the path was 1.5 m in width. Initial deposits of hard standing and topsoil had been removed during initial construction. This revealed a deposit of numerous medium to large sub rounded cobbles. Hand cleaning revealed further stonework and patches of gravel metalling. The road exhibited a slight camber and cleaning along the west facing section revealed a narrow drainage gully running parallel to the road.

4.3 The road was heavily truncated with disturbance visible at both the northern and southern ends. At 11.0 m the drainage gully ran up against further stonework appearing to run off upslope in a south-easterly direction. This follows the known route of the original early post medieval road.

- 4.4 No significant archaeological material was recovered during the works. Numerous sherds of 19th century ceramics including willow pattern and plant pot were observed alongside other relatively modern detritus such as clay pipe stems, glass and clay marbles.



Plate 3 - General view of road from north



Plate 4 – Road showing termination of drainage ditch and turn of road surface to the south-east



Plate 5 - Road view from south

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological works revealed and recorded a short section of John Bog's road of 1531. This work showed the road turning up-slope to the south-east. Given the nature of the project and the level of recording employed, no further archaeological works are deemed necessary.

6 REFERENCES

Harrison, J 2008 *Stirling Castle Palace Archaeological & Historical Research 2004-2008 Kings of the Castle: Stirling Castles Landscape Setting*. Historic Scotland

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

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Wood, J 1820 *Plan of Stirling from actual survey*. Edinburgh: T Brown 1820

Laye, J (copyist) 1725 *A Plan of the Town and Castle of Sterling*

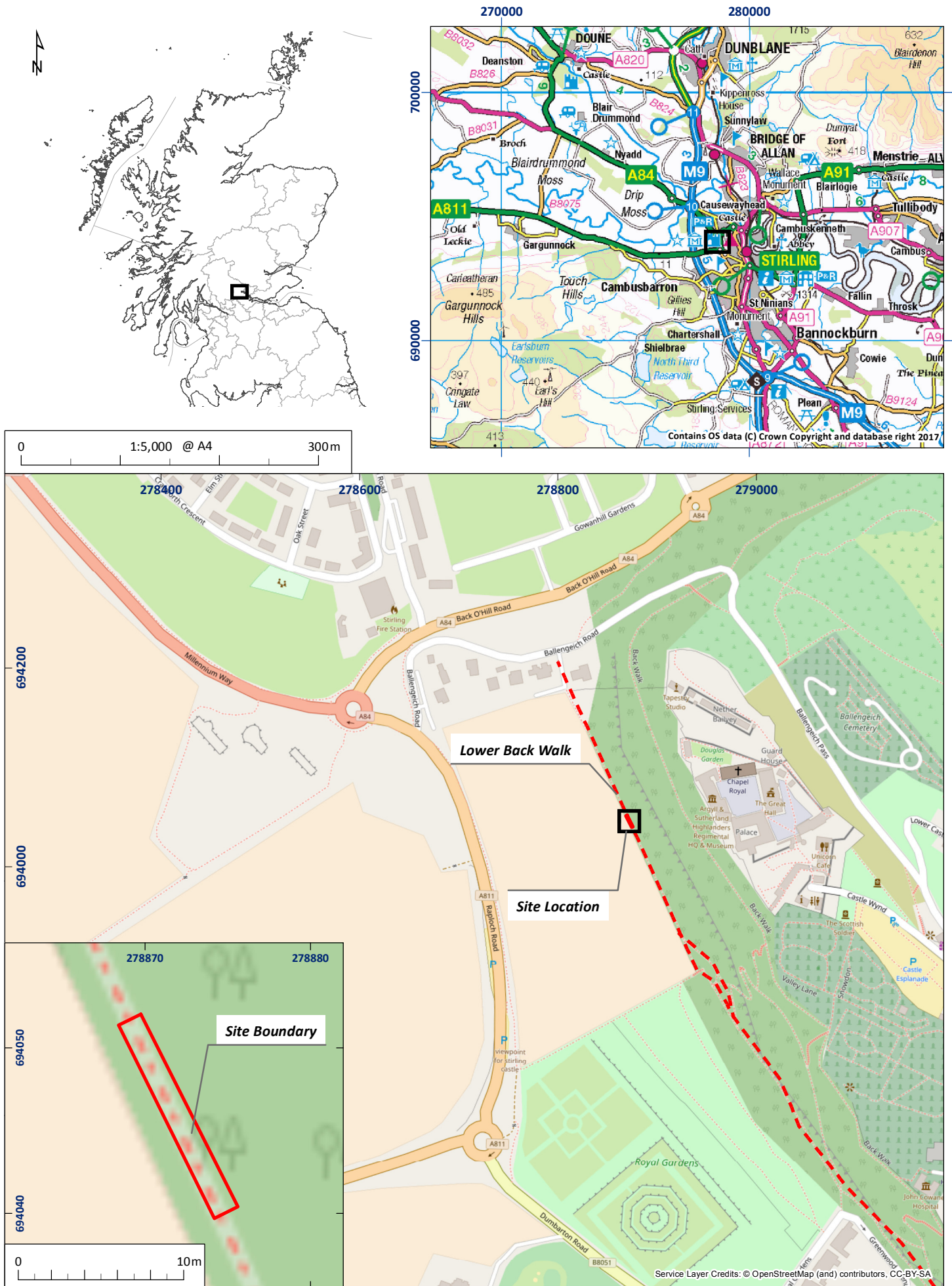


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

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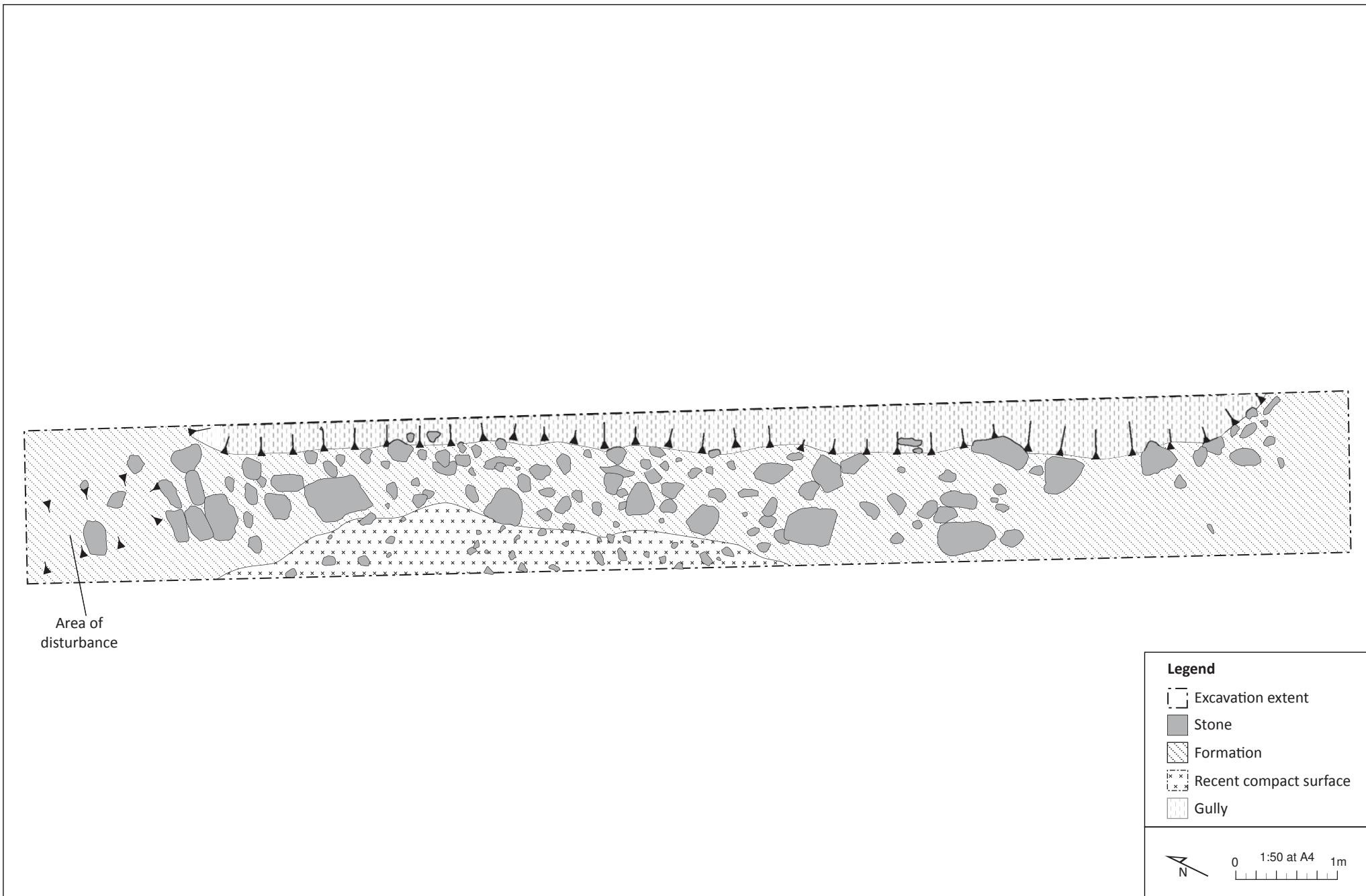


Figure 2: Detail Road Plan

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Lower Back Walk, Stirling Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

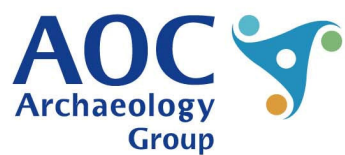
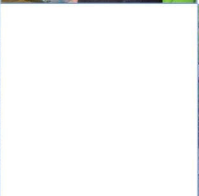
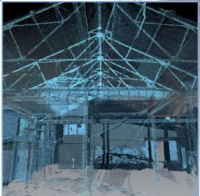
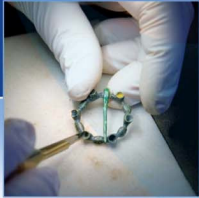
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital Photographs

No.	Trench	Description	Taken From
1		Record Shot	SW
2		General view of exposed road	N
3		Road showing termination of drainage ditch and turn of road surface to the south-east	S
4		General view of exposed road	S
5-8		General shots of road post clean	NE

APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Lower Back Walk, Stirling
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23736
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Recording & Metal Detecting
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Post Medieval Road
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 78871 94046
START DATE (this season)	1 st February 2017
END DATE (this season)	1 st February 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p><i>Archaeological works including the investigation and recording of an exposed section of post medieval road and a limited programme of metal detecting was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to improvement works on the Lower Back Walk situated below Stirling Castle (NGR: NS 78871 94046).</i></p> <p><i>The improvement works included the construction of a new path. This exposed a 13.0 m long section of truncated cobbled road relating to the John Bog passage of 1531 between Stirling Castle and the Park. Hand cleaning revealed the road to be composed of large sub rounded cobble, with occasional surviving patches of metalling and a drainage ditch running along its eastern edge</i></p> <p><i>The cleaning revealed a number of 19th century ceramics and pipe stems. These were not recovered.</i></p> <p><i>The metal detecting recovered no significant archaeological material.</i></p> <p><i>No further works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation requires the approval of Mr Murray Cook Stirling Council Archaeologist.</i></p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Stirling Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology, Edgefield Industrial estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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