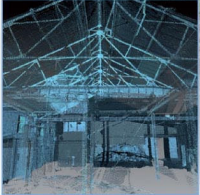
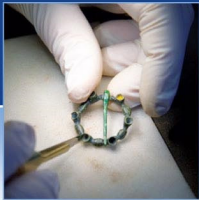


Glenoran Road Road, Helensburgh, Argyll & Bute Archaeological Evaluation Report

*AOC Project 23322
December 2017*



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Glenoran Road, Helensburgh, Argyll & Bute Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	Persimmon Homes Ltd 180 Findochty Street Garthamlock Glasgow G33 5EP
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 28220 83486 (centred)
AOC Project No:	24163
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Date of Fieldwork:	7th March 2018
Date of Report:	9th March 2018

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

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft	Date: 9th March 2018

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation prior to the development of land at Glenoran Road, Helensburgh (NS 28220 83486).

The evaluation was undertaken within a single land parcel measuring 6.7 acres in size. The scope of the works was agreed in a WSI approved by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The scope of the evaluation was restricted by the presence of Japanese Knotweed, mature trees and live services.

The evaluation revealed a thin unimproved clay topsoil directly overlying a subsoil of mixed glacial clay.

No archaeologically significant features or material was recovered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological trial trenching, was required by Persimmon Homes Ltd ahead of a proposed residential development on land adjacent to Glenoran Road, Helensburgh, Argyll & Bute (NS 28220 83486 centred). The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Argyll & Bute Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeological Service (hereafter referred to as WoSAS). A programme of archaeological works is required as part of a planning condition (planning reference: 17/00837/PP) and with best practice, outlined in current planning guidelines *Scottish Planning Policy (2014) & Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)*.
- 1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a programme of trial trenching; this covered an 8% sample of the available development area.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area (6.74 acres) is comprised of a former garden centre and a greenfield. The latter currently containing immature woodland. The site is located east of Glenoran Road, Helensburgh, Argyll & Bute (centred NGR NS 28220 83486; Figure 1) and is bounded to the south by Rhu Road Higher and to the east by Duchess Wood. Further greenfield land lies to the north.



Figure 3 Roy Map 1747-1755



Figure 4 1st Edition OS Map 1843-1882

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 There are no recorded archaeological features recorded within the development area. However, there was potential for previously unknown sub-surface archaeological remains to be present within the development area.
- 1.3.2 No prehistoric features were known within the immediate vicinity of the site. Heritage assets appear restricted to the medieval and post medieval periods. In 2008 an archaeological evaluation (WoSAS event 4340) was undertaken by Firat Archaeology to the south-east of the development area at Lomond School (Baker 2010c). The evaluation revealed evidence of rig and furrow agriculture, together with numerous drainage features and 19th century ceramics.
- 1.3.3 To the south-west of the development area lies the A listed building of Dalmore House (LB34849). This baronial style mansion was designed by the architect William Leiper in 1873.
- 1.3.4 Further to the south of the development lies the reworked castle of Ardencaple (LB34703). Ardencaple Castle was originally the seat of the Clan MacAulay, who settled in the area in the 13th century. In the 17th century they sold off most of their land and eventually abandoned the castle as a roofless ruin. It was purchased by the 4th Duke of Argyll around 1765. The castle was substantially altered by the addition of a west wing made up of circular, banded towers with corbelled parapets probably by Robert Mylne in 1786. The architects Peddie and Kinnear carried out further alterations in 1877, probably adding to Tudor details and parapet to this tower (Irving 1992).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;

- ii) 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

3.1 The council required a 8% trial trench evaluation on the c. 6.74 acre development site. However, the southern part of the site previously occupied by a garden centre had been excluded from investigation after consultation with WoSAS. A 10m wide landscape strip along the northern boundary was also to be excluded as a council requirement. An area of Japanese Knotweed was present within the eastern site boundary. This reduced the area available for evaluation to 4.77 acres. A 20m wide buffer was put in place around the knotweed and no plant movement was undertaken within this buffer in order to avoid any possible disturbance of the rhizomes. A low-pressure gas pipe ran along the western site boundary and an artificial drainage channel had been cut through the site north east to south west.

3.2 Evaluation trenching

Despite the restrictions affecting the evaluation a total of 480 linear metres was excavated and good coverage of the available area was achieved (Figure 2). The evaluation was carried out with a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a 2.2 m wide flat bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in 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 2018). The trenches were fully recorded before being backfilled and compacted.



Plate 1: Pre-excavation shot of evaluation area.



Plate 2: Areas of Japanese Knotweed from south-west

3 RESULTS

3.1 All archaeological works were conducted on the and 7th March 2018. Weather conditions were mostly dry and clear. Archaeological visibility remained good throughout the works. The following results should be read in conjunction with the appendices:

Appendix 1: Evaluation Trench Descriptions

Appendix 2: Photographic Register

Appendix 3: *'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'* (DES) Report

3.2 The evaluation was comprised of 7 trenches (480 linear metres) of between 50m and 70 metres in length. The trenches were set on varying alignments (figure 2). The fields at the time of excavation were under rough pasture and had been heavily disturbed during recent tree clearance.

3.3 The area of the proposed development sloped gradually from 23m OD along the northern boundary to 17m OD at the start of the former garden centre to the south. The evaluation revealed a layer of brash across the site associated with the tree clearance. Underlying this was a thin, poorly drained topsoil of clay loam ranging from 0.15m to 0.30m in depth. The topsoil in turn overlay a natural of orange/ yellow boulder clay. The natural was cut by several ceramic field drains orientated downslope north to south.

3.4 The remains of a layer of hard-standing was revealed in Trench 1. This was pressed into the natural and is probably associated with the former garden centre.

3.5 No archaeologically significant material or features were recorded.



Plate 3: Post-excitation shot of Trench 1



Plate 4: Drainage channel



Plate 5: Post excavation shot of Trench 4

4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Despite the on-site restrictions, the proposed development site was subject to a comprehensive archaeological investigation. No significant archaeological remains or small finds were recorded or observed, and the area appears archaeologically sterile. The OS map of shows the field to have been relatively poorly drained even in the mid-19th century. Taken together with the thin, unimproved nature of the topsoil, and the relative lack of drainage it would appear that the development area had undergone little or no cultivation.
- 4.2 Given the absence of significant archaeological remains uncovered during the evaluation it is recommended that no further works be undertaken. This recommendation will require confirmation by WoSAS on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.

5 REFERENCES

Baker, F. (2010c) *Lomond School, Argyll and Bute (Rhu parish), evaluation', Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 11, 2010*. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England. Page(s): 50

Irving, J. 1992 BOOK OF DUMBARTONSHIRE Vol 111, plate 111. Frank Arneil Walker with Fiona Sinclair North Clyde Estuary and Illustrated Architectural Guide.

OS Six-inch map 1843-1882 Lanarkshire

Roy, W 1747-1755 Military Survey of Scotland

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

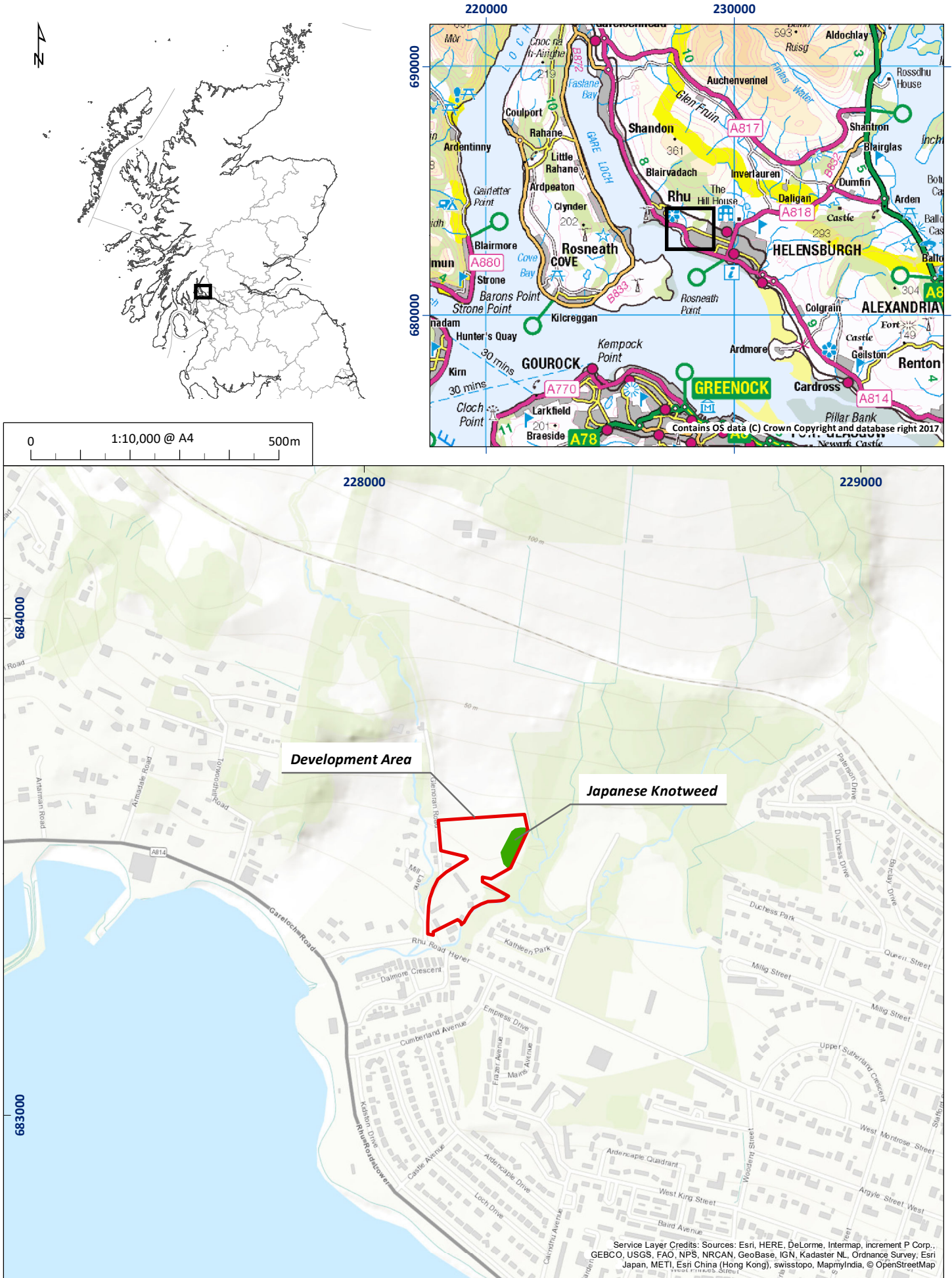
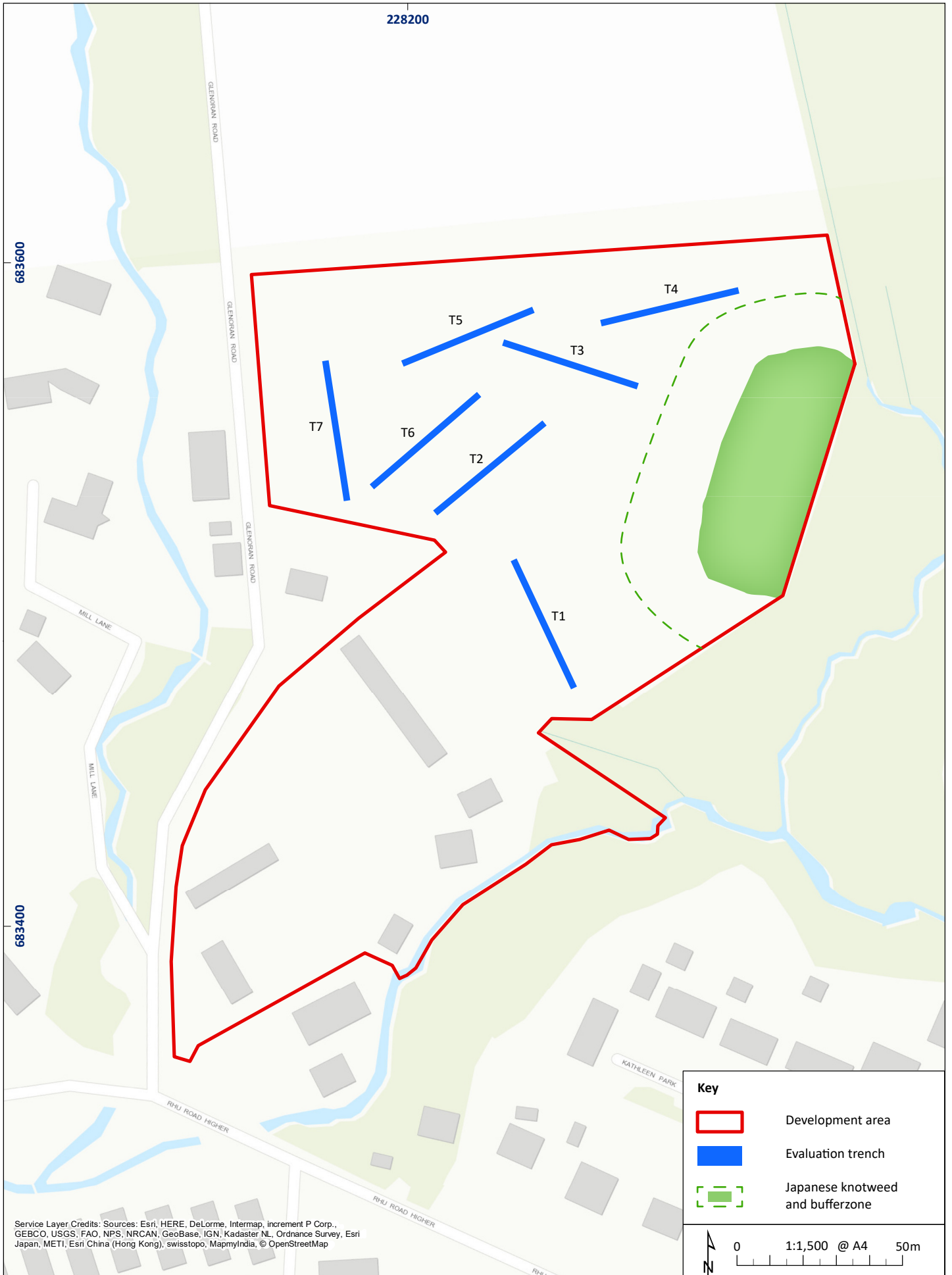


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/24163/REP/01/01



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap

Figure 2: Trench location plan

01/24163/REP/02/01

**Glenoran Road, Helensburgh,
Argyll & Bute:
Archaeological Evaluation
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Evaluation Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m to 0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.27 m to 0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Thin Layer of Type 1 Hardstanding overlying trench, natural; Ceramic Drain at 1.5 m N-S.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW/NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.15 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.15 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Heavily disturbed by tree felling. Very poorly drained with surface run off.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/ Yellow boulder clay.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.15 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.15 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Very disturbed due to forestry works.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/ Yellow boulder clay.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/ Yellow boulder clay – heavily truncated by tree roots.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	70 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE/SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.15 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.20 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/ Yellow boulder clay.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	70 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE/SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/ Yellow boulder clay.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

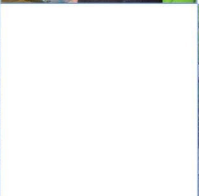
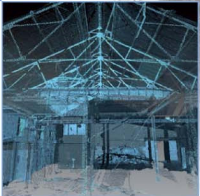
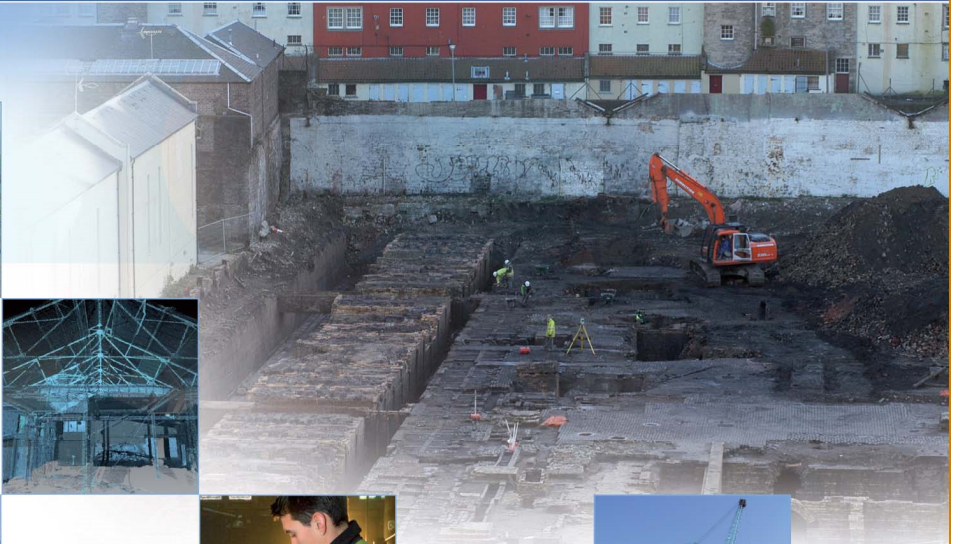
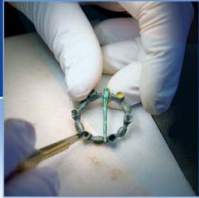
<i>Dimensions</i>	70 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW/NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/ Yellow boulder clay.
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description		Taken From
1-5	-	Pre-ex shots	
6	Tr.1	Px shot T1	SE
5-7		Areas of knotweed	S
8	Tr.2	Px shot T2	N
9		Pre-ex shot	
10	Tr.3	Px shot T3	W
11	Tr.4	Px shot T4	W
12	Tr.5	Px shot T5	SW
13	Tr.6	Px shot T6	NW
14	Tr.7	Px shot T7	SE

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll & Bute Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Glenoran Road, Helensburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24163
PARISH:	Rhu
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NS 28220 83486
START DATE	7/03/18
END DATE	7/03/18
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation prior to the development of land at Glenoran Road, Helensburgh (NS 28220 83486).</p> <p>The evaluation was undertaken within a single land parcel measuring 6.7 acres in size. The scope of the works was agreed in a WSI approved by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The scope of the evaluation was restricted by the presence of Japanese Knotweed, mature trees and live services.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed a thin unimproved clay topsoil directly overlying a subsoil of mixed glacial clay.</p> <p>No archaeologically significant features or material was recovered during the evaluation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Persimmon Homes
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS



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