Kincardine Bridge Refurbishment: Archaeological Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

AOC Project: 24303 05th July 2018 Archaeology Group ARCHAEOLOGY HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Kincardine Bridge Refurbishment: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Bo	ehalf of:	SOCOTEC UK Limited 139 Summerlee Street, Queenslie Glasgow G33 4DB			
Natio	onal Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 92113 86931			
AOCI	Project No:	24303			
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Appendix 1: *'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'* Report

Summary

This report presents the results of a watching brief requested to monitor the ground investigation works required for the Kincardine Bridge Refurbishment. The watching brief required the monitoring of 17 test pits, hand dug to the north and south of the Kincardine Bridge.

Excavation was undertaken to a maximum depth of 1.20m and revealed a very organic deposit. No archaeological features or materials were observed during the works.

It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required on the site. This will need to be confirmed in writing by the Keeper of Archaeology and Local History, Falkirk Museum.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by SOCOTEC UK to provide an archaeological watching brief on the monitoring of all ground investigation (GI) works required for the Kincardine Bridge refurbishment.
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works was in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2001) in order to determine the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The area of the proposed bridge refurbishment is the plied viaduct on the southern approach of the Kincardine Bridge and incorporates the single-track road (A985) aligned NE-SW from Higgins Neuk Roundabout the Kincardine Bridge (NGR: NS 92113 86931 (centred) Figure 1)
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS, 2018) records the bedrock on the site as Scottish Lower Coal Measures Formation, which is composed of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. Superficial deposits across the Site include:
 - Reclaimed intertidal deposits.
 - Post glacial raised beach deposits.
 - Bothkennar gravels.
 - Late glacial raised beach deposits, and
 - Glacial till (Jacobs, 2018, page 7)
- 1.2.3 This area of the Kincardine Bridge lies within the local authority area of Falkirk Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the Keeper of Archaeology and Local History, Falkirk Museum. The project also falls within the remit of Transport Scotland and therefore Transport Scotland's Historic Environment Advisor will also be advised of works.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 This section provides a brief outline of the archaeological and historic background of the Site. Information is taken from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the Scottish National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) formerly the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). Historic maps held by the National Library of Scotland (NLS) were also consulted.
- 1.3.2 Kincardine Bridge (LB50078) is a Category A Listed Bridge with a now fixed swing span. The bridge was constructed between 1933 and 1936. Kincardine Conservation Area is located on the north bank of the bridge, east of the Site.
- 1.3.3 There are no prehistoric or Roman remains recoded by the NRHE in the vicinity of the Site.
- 1.3.4 The area east of the piled viaduct has been identified as having the potential for remains associated with a medieval/post medieval dock (NS98NW 344; NS98NW312.02; NS98NW 312.01) associated with a medieval/post medieval drove road (NS98NW 312). A post medieval public house (NS98NW 345) is also recorded north of the Site.
- 1.3.5 Historic maps held by the NLS indicate that the area around the bridge was occupied from at least the mid-18th century. Roy's military map of Scotland (1747-52) annotated Higgins Neuk, to the west of the Site and indicates a number of buildings in the area. Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps depict the site occupying land annotated as mudflats and saltings prior to the land being reclaimed and these maps also depict a pier (NS98NW 312.01) to the north of the site from 1862 until the mid-20th century.

- 1.3.6 The NRHE records two 20th century pillboxes (NS98NW 299 & NS98NW 300) in the southern area of the Site by Higgins Neuk Roundabout. Another second world war defence was recorded north of the Site; a loopholed wall (NS98NW281) recorded by GUARD Archaeology in 2002.
- 1.3.7 An Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) desk-based study was undertaken by Zetica Ltd. During the second world war, anti-invasion defences were located in the vicinity of the Site and in 1997 500 cartridges were discovered in the area. However, Zetica Ltd concluded that there was a low risk for piling/borehole operations within the Site to impact UXO's.

2 **OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
 - to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation works to evaluate the underlying deposits for the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.
 - to undertake an appropriate level of recording of any significant archaeological remains encountered in order to determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits uncovered.
 - to mitigate any adverse impacts arising from the ground investigation activities, and
 - on completion of the watching brief, submit a data structure report to the client.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological Works

- 3.1.1 The watching brief involved the monitoring of all hand dug trial pits by SOCOTEC UK on behalf of Amey, undertaken in stages until either the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits was encountered.
- 3.1.2 A record was made of the location, layout, depth and general stratigraphy of all trial and inspection pits, irrespective of whether archaeological remains are identified.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was conducted on the 2nd July 2018 and the 4th July 2018. The weather conditions were good with good visibility. The excavated areas included seven test pits to the south and ten test pits to the north of the Kincardine Bridge (Figure 2).
- 4.2 Seventeen test pits, measuring roughly 0.40m by 0.40m and to a depth of 1.2m, were hand excavated in advance of the excavation of boreholes. The topsoil consisted of a greyish brown clay silt, about 0.20m in depth. The excavation of the test pits revealed at least 1m of dark greyish brown peaty deposit with grass fibres visible.
- 4.3 Test pits 17BH03 and 17BH01, which were located further from the river, presented a mid-yellowish-brown clay silt deposit with shells, roots and stones. Three test pits, located on the road were not monitored (17BH20, 17BH02, 17BH04)
- 4.4 No archaeologically significant features or material was observed.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The watching brief revealed a peaty deposit below the topsoil. No archaeologically significant features or materials were observed.
- 5.2 It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required within the development area. This will need to be confirmed in writing by the Keeper of Archaeology and Local History, Falkirk Museum. The project also falls within the remit of Transport Scotland and therefore Transport Scotland's Historic Environment Advisor should also be advised of the completion of works.

6 **REFERENCES**

British Geological Survey, https://www.bgs.ac.uk/home.html, Accessed 2018

Jacobs, A985, Kincardine Bridge refurbishment, Transport Scotland, Ground Investigation Technical Specification, B2020209-GE-0600-SP-001 | 4, 07 February 2018

Roy's military map of Scotland (1747-52)

Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy 2014

Scottish Government 2011 Planning and Archaeology 2/2011

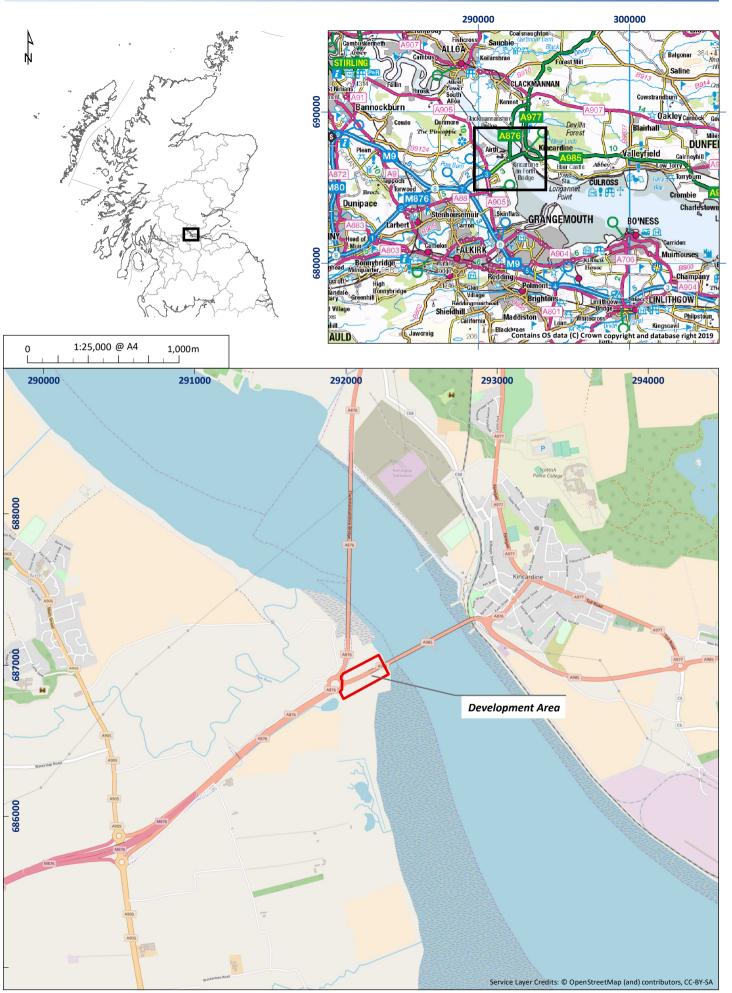


Figure 1: Site location plan

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Figure 2: Location of Test Pits

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Section 2: Appendices

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Falkirk Council	
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Kincardine Bridge Refurbishment	
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24303	
PARISH:	Tulliallan	
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Anne-Aymonne Marot	
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group	
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief	
NMRS NO(S)	None	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Category A listed Bridge	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A	
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 92113 86931	
START DATE (this season)	02 nd July 2018	
END DATE (this season)	04 th July 2018	
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	VORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	This report presents the results of a watching brief requested to monitor the ground investigation works required for the Kincardine Bridge Refurbishment. The watching brief required the monitoring 17 test pits, hand dug to the north and south of the Kincardine Bridge. Excavation was undertaken to a maximum depth of 1.20m and revealed a very organic deposit. No archaeological features or material were observed during the works. It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required on the site. This will need to be confirmed in writing by the Keeper of Archaeology and Local History, Falkirk Museum.	
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:		
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS	

APPENDIX 1: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

