

**An Archaeological Evaluation at the site of the
proposed Falkirk Gateway (Phase 1)
Development, Falkirk District:**

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: Macdonald Estates Group Plc
112 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4LH

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 901 814

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20635

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Timing: Fieldwork September 2007
Report September 2007

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Macdonald Estates Group Plc at the site of the proposed Falkirk Gateway (Phase 1) Development, Falkirk District.
- 1.2 No features or small finds of archaeological significance were encountered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 Macdonald Estates Group Plc commissioned AOC Archaeology Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of the proposed Falkirk Gateway (Phase 1) Development. These works were designed to meet the requirements of Falkirk Council Planning Department as advised by Mr Geoff Bailey, the Keeper of Archaeology and Local History.

2.2 Location

- 2.2.1 The Phase 1 development area lies on the north eastern outskirts of Falkirk, to the west of Middlefield Industrial Estate. NGR: NS 901 814. It is bounded to the west by Universal Road, to the north by Etna Road, to the east by the A9 trunk road, and to the south by open fields. (Figure 1).
- 2.2.3 The site is currently open fields, frequented in the main by dog walkers.

2.4 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.4.1 No known archaeological features or finds are known within the development area, however The Forth & Clyde Canal lies a short distance to the north, and two Roman coins have been recovered from ground immediately adjacent to the development area. A number of Roman sites, including the Antonine Wall (a scheduled ancient monument) are known in the wider area.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological monitoring works were to include:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any as yet undiscovered archaeological remains within the proposed development area;

- ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

4. METHOD

- 4.1 A series of 17 trenches were excavated by a 360° tracked, mechanical excavator across the proposed development area. The trenches were of varying lengths and laid out on varying orientations. (Figure 2 & Appendix 1). The trench locations had previously been agreed with Mr Bailey, however the positions of some of the trenches on the western side of the development area were changed slightly to preserve the integrity of a modern open drain feature. These changes did not compromise the horizontal coverage.
- 4.2 Black and white print and colour sides photographs were taken during the course of the works. (Appendix 2)
- 4.3 The total area covered during the course of the works was 2,280 m². This equates to a 5 % sample of the Phase 1 development area.
- 4.4 The works were carried out 3rd–6th September 2007.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features or small finds were recorded during the course of the works.
- 5.2 A number of field drains and two modern services were recorded during the course of the works. One of the modern services was seen as broad (c2m wide) strip, and was noted in trenches 2, 14a and 15 and appeared to run in an east-west direction across the development area. Modern brick and pieces of wood were noted in the fill. This feature was not excavated due to the unknown nature of the service. A second modern service was noted in Trench 14a, and consisted of a manhole cover revealing a c3m deep “live” sewer. The sewer appeared to run in a south-easterly direction from this point. Neither of these services were noted on modern service plans. Both have been annotated onto the trench location plan along with the field drains (Figure 2).

6 REFERENCES

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning*.
Scottish Office Environmental Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environmental Department.

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH RECORDS

Trench 1

Orientation: SW/NE
Dimensions: 50 x 2 m
Total Area: 100 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.35 m
Significant features: None
Other: Field drain

Trench 2

Orientation: NW/SE
Dimensions: 102 x 2 m
Total Area: 204 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.25 m
Significant features: None
Other: Modern service trench, field drains x 2

Trench 3

Orientation: NW/SE
Dimensions: 45 x 2 m
Total Area: 90 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.25 m
Significant features: None
Other: Modern service trench, field drains x 2

Trench 4

Orientation: SW/NE
Dimensions: 100 x 2 m
Total Area: 200 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.25 m
Significant features: None
Other: None

Trench 5

Orientation: SW/NE
Dimensions: 100 x 2 m
Total Area: 200 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.25 m
Significant features: None
Other: Field drains x 2

Trench 6

Orientation: E/W
Dimensions: 100 x 2 m
Total Area: 200 m²

Depth of Topsoil: 0.25 m
Significant features: None
Other: Field drains x 2

Trench 7

Orientation: SW/NE
Dimensions: 30 x 2 m
Total Area: 60 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.30 m
Significant features: None
Other: None

Trench 8

Orientation: N/S
Dimensions: 100 x 2 m
Total Area: 200 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.30 m
Significant features: None
Other: None

Trench 9a

Orientation: N/S
Dimensions: 34 x 2 m
Total Area: 68 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.30 m
Significant features: None
Other: None

Trench 9b

Orientation: N/S
Dimensions: 70 x 2 m
Total Area: 140 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.30 m
Significant features: None
Other: Field drain

Trench 10

Orientation: SE/NW
Dimensions: 100 x 2 m
Total Area: 200 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.25 m
Significant features: None
Other: Field drain

Trench 11

Orientation: NW/SE

Dimensions: 50 x 2 m
Total Area: 100 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.30 m
Significant features: None
Other: None

Trench 12

Orientation: N/S
Dimensions: 50 x 2 m
Total Area: 100 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.23 m
Significant features: None
Other: Field drain

Trench 13

Orientation: NW/SE
Dimensions: 94.5 x 2 m
Total Area: 189 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.23 m
Significant features: None
Other: Field drain

Trench 14a

Orientation: N/S
Dimensions: 16.5 x 2 m
Total Area: 33 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.30 m
Significant features: None
Other: Modern service trench, Manhole for “live” sewer

Trench 14b

Orientation: N/S
Dimensions: 25 x 2 m
Total Area: 50 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.30 m
Significant features: None
Other: None

Trench 15

Orientation: N/S
Dimensions: 72 x 2 m
Total Area: 144 m²
Depth of Topsoil: 0.35 m
Significant features: None
Other: Modern service trench

APPENDIX 2 – PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

No.	Detail
1&2	Registration
3&4	Development area looking west from north-east corner
5&6	Development area looking south from north-east corner
7&8	Development area looking north from south-east corner
9&10	Development area looking north-west from south-east corner
11&12	Development area looking west from south-east corner
13&14	Development area looking north from south-west corner
15&16	Development area looking east from south-west corner
17&18	Modern service trench in Trench 15

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Falkirk Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Falkirk Gateway (Phase 1)
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20635
PARISH:	Falkirk
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
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 (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 901 814
START DATE (this season)	3rd September 2007
END DATE (this season)	6th September 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	During an archaeological evaluation no features or small finds of archaeological significance were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Macdonald Estates Group Plc
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY

Falkirk Gateway (Phase 1) Development: Data Structure Report

EMAIL ADDRESS:	ronant@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

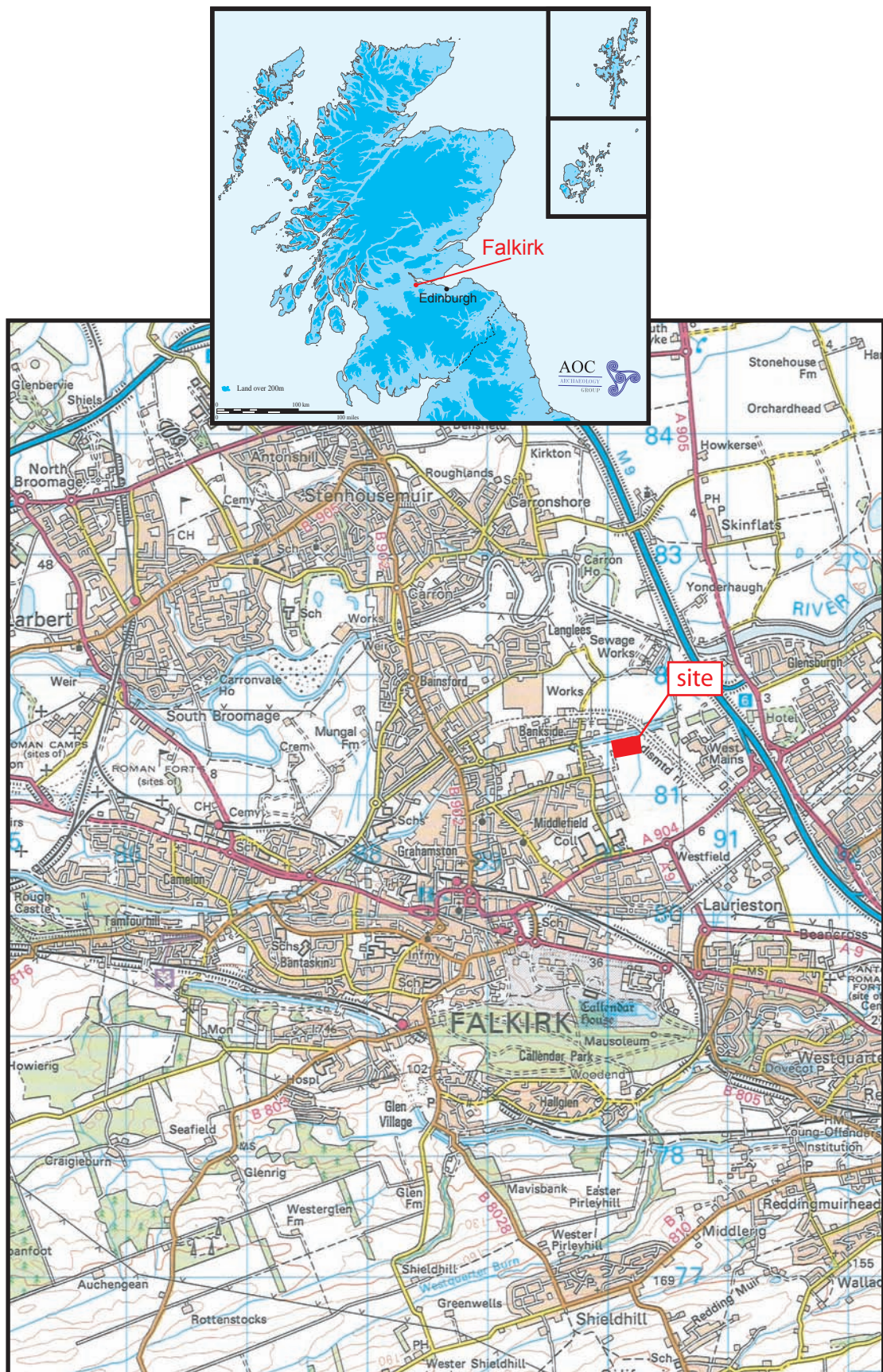


Figure 1: Site location

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