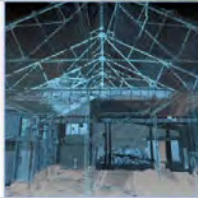


Strathleven SUDS Pond Development, Dumbarton, West Dumbartonshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project No 21077

June 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Strathleven SUDS Pond Development

Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Walker Group, Westerwood House Royston Road Deans Industrial Estate Livingston West Lothian EH54 8AH
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 3952 7680
AOC Project No:	21077
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Date of Fieldwork:	June 2008
Date of Report:	June 2008

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

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Draft Report Stage:	Date: 19th June 2008

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Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	1
List of appendices.....	1
Abstract.....	2
0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY.....	3
1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Site Location	3
1.2 Archaeological background	3
2 OBJECTIVES.....	3
3 METHOD	4
4 RESULTS	4
4.1 Introduction	4
4.2 Overview	4
5 DISCUSSION	4
6 CONCLUSION.....	5
7 REFERENCES	5
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER	6
APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT	6

List of illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Area of watching brief observed

List of appendices

- Appendix 1 Photographic Register
- Appendix 2 DES entry

Abstract

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Walker Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundbreaking works associated with the Strathleven SUDS Pond Development, Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire. No archaeology was encountered during the groundbreaking works.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Walker Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundbreaking works associated with the Strathleven Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) Pond Development, at Strathleven, Dumbarton, West Dumbartonshire. The work was required in response to a planning condition set by West Dumbartonshire Council (Planning ref: DC/08/099).
- 0.2 West Dumbartonshire Council is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The works were required in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a), in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The development is centred on NGR: NS 3952 7680, and lies on the north-western fringes of Dumbarton. It is bounded to the east by a former warehouse site, to the west by the River Leven, to the north by the A82 trunk road, and to the south west by Dumbarton Common Golf Club (Figure 1). The greater part of the development area occupies open, flat ground on the floodplain of the River Leven. The western periphery includes made ground to a depth of c. 2 m.
- 1.1.2 The natural geology consists of red and white sandstone and red-brown, gree-spotted silty mudstone arranged in upward-fining fluvial cycles of the Kinnesswood Formation, part of the Inverclyde Group of the Lower Carboniferous (Paterson et al 1990).

1.2 Archaeological background

- 1.2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment recorded no sites of archaeological significance within the development area (Oleksy 2008). However extensive human activity in the past within the wider environs, especially in the medieval period, and that the development area has remained undisturbed for several centuries, indicated the possibility of encountering hitherto unknown archaeological remains during groundbreaking works associated with the development.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the development area;
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), proposed an archaeological watching brief during all groundbreaking works (AOC 2008). However, it was agreed that once 50% of the area subject to groundbreaking works had been monitored, that if at this point no significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts had been recorded, then AOC would approach WoSAS with a view to curtailing the watching brief.
- 3.2 All groundbreaking works were carried out by a 360° tracked excavator using a 2.10 m wide, flat bladed ditching bucket, which was monitored at all times by an experienced archaeologist.
- 3.4 Excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through the overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits.
- 3.5 Black and white print and colour slide photographs were taken during the course of the works (Appendix 1).
- 3.5 At all times the watching brief was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures detailed within the WSI.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The works were conducted on the 9th/10th June 2008. The weather conditions during the watching brief were predominantly dry and sunny. Overall archaeological visibility was good.

4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the initial c 50% of the groundbreaking works. Examination of the spoil did not lead to the recovery of any significant unstratified artefacts. Occasional fragments of 19th/20th pottery and glass were noted. In light of this WoSAS agreed to the curtailment of the watching brief.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil depth across the development area was recorded at between 0.13 m and 0.50 m deep. The natural subsoil across the development area was recorded generally as a mixture of light brown and very light brown sands, and light brown clay. Within the subsoil horizon evidence for rabbits were noted as well as numerous small brown patches denoting plant roots.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1. The watching brief monitored a total of c.65% of the area within the development area subject to groundbreaking works. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered. The lack of finds from the spoil would also suggest that no significant archaeology lies within the development area.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 It is recommended that given the scale of the watching brief works undertaken to date and the complete absence of any sort of archaeological remains, that no further works are required.

7 REFERENCES

AOC 2008 *Strathleven SUDS Pond Development Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished AOC Archaeology document.

Oleksy, V 2008 *Strathleven SUDS Pond Development Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*. Unpublished AOC Archaeology Report.

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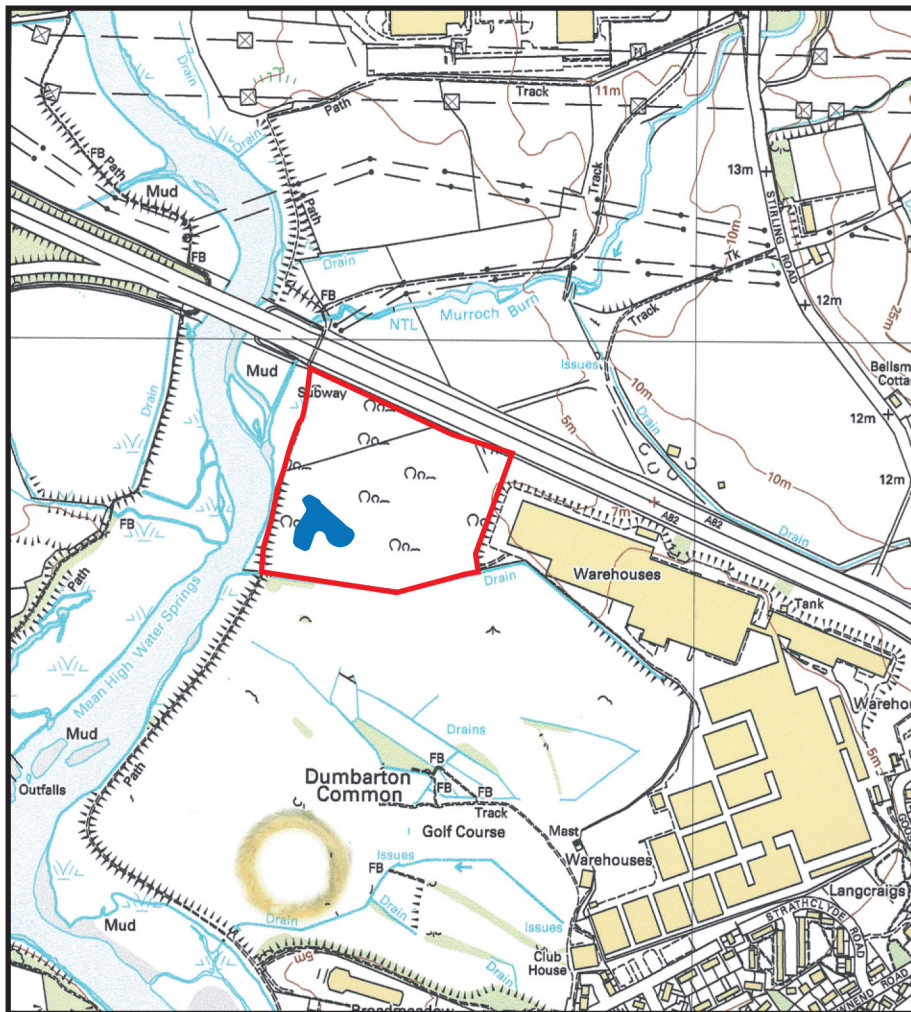
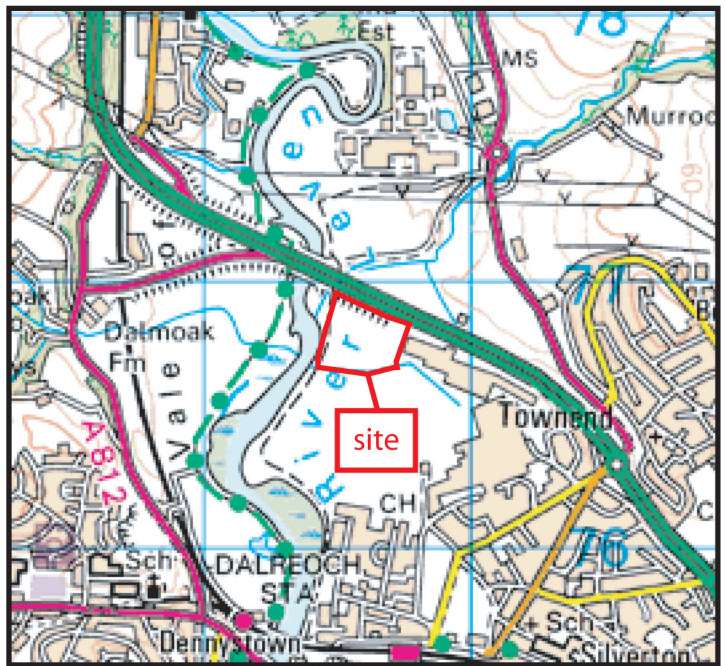
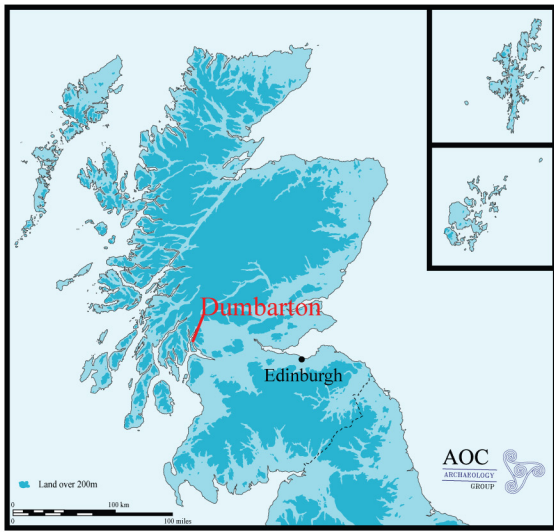
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Colour Slide and Black & White Print – Film No.1

Shot No.	Area	Description	From
1&2		General shot – pre excavation from W corner looking SE	W
3&4		Registration shot	
5&6		Working shot – stripping and loading	W
7&8		General shot – post excavation from SW looking E	SW
9&10		General shot – post excavation from W looking E	W
11&12		General shot – post excavation from SE looking SW	SE

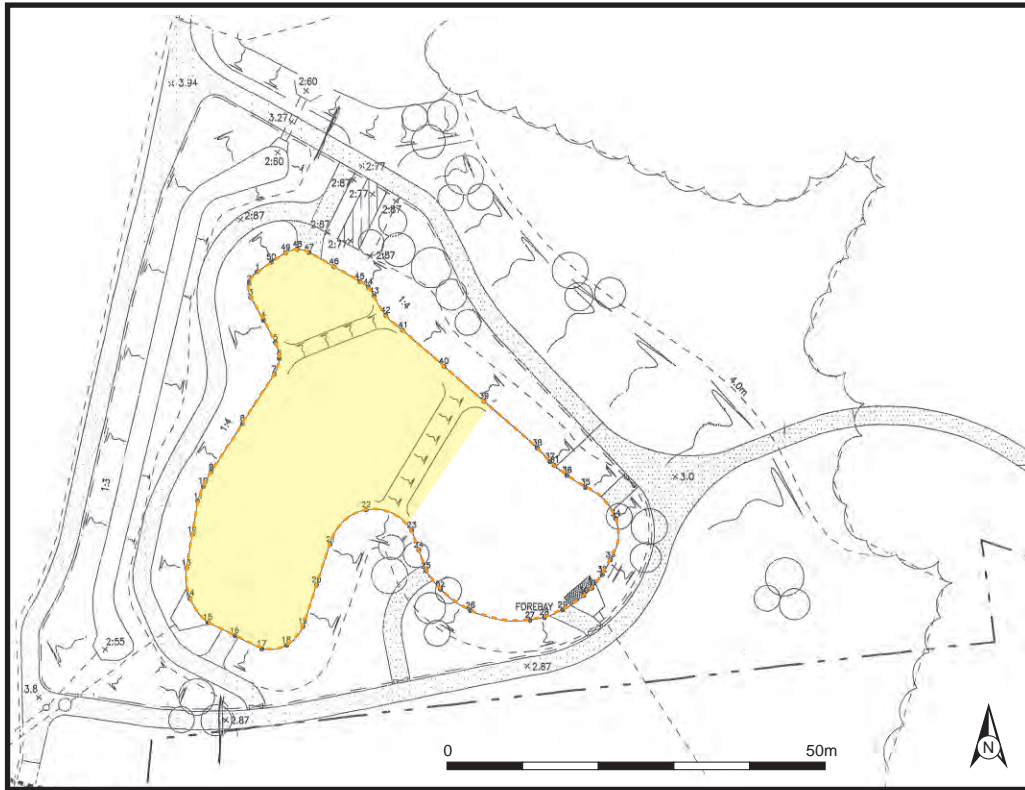
APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Dunbartonshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Strathleven SUDS Pond Development, Dumbarton.
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21077
PARISH:	Dumbarton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 3952 7680
START DATE (this season)	9th May 2008
END DATE (this season)	10th May 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AOC Archaeology Group during groundbreaking works associated with the Strathleven SUDS Pond Development, Dumbarton. No archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Walker Group
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Ronan.Toolis@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.



- development area
- watching brief area

Figure 1: Site Location





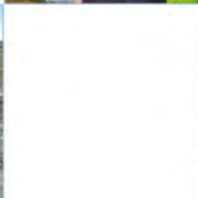
-  watching brief area
-  area observed

Figure 2: Area of watching brief observed



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