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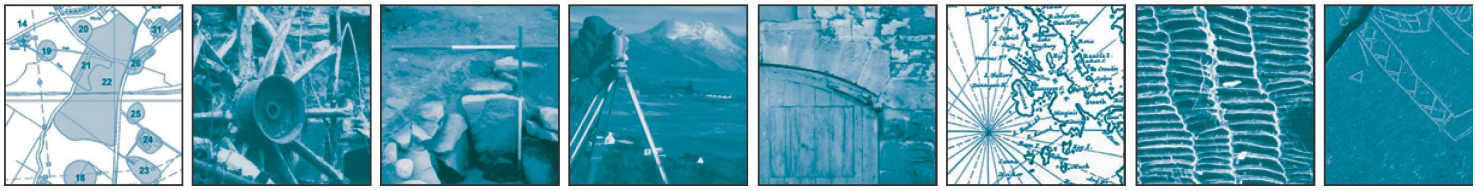

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation at Uddingston Grammar School Site

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (USU06)

Data Structure Report. Results of Archaeological Evaluation

Client	WSP Environmental on behalf of Morgan Ashurst for South Lanarkshire Council.
National Grid Reference	1:10,000 Map Sheet NS66SE Centred on NS 69050 60825
Project Manager	Mark Roberts
Text	Kate Bain
Illustrations	
Evaluation	Kate Bain & John McCarthy
Schedule	
Fieldwork	19th-21st February 2008
Report	February 2008

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Summary

Headland Archeology was commissioned WSP Environmental for Morgan Ashurst on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council to undertake an additional archaeological evaluation at the Uddingston Grammar School as a condition of planning consent for the construction of a new sports pitch associated with the newly constructed school.

Historically, and from map evidence, the study area appears to have remained undeveloped, being under fields even since the establishment of the original grammar school building to the east of the site in the latter part of the 19th century. A desk-based assessment (Headland Archaeology 2006) highlighted the existence of a former medieval chapel immediately to the west of the study area and together with a number of chance finds; these comprised prehistoric pottery, Roman copper coins and an intaglio recovered from ground works carried out intermittently since 1885. A walkover survey identified a large, horseshoe-shaped mound at the northern end of the study area which appeared comprised elements of dressed masonry. The proximity of the mound to the suggested location of the medieval chapel led to the study area being regarded as of potential archaeological significance.

A previous evaluation (Headland Archaeology 2006) failed to identify any features of archaeological significance, but surface finds of pottery indicated possible medieval activity on, or close to, the site. Two large, rectilinear pits were identified in the eastern portion of the site, thought to be the result of works associated with the adjacent, category A listed, viaduct and 20th century site clearance. The evaluation did not identify any further features or deposits of an archaeological nature.

1 Introduction

This report presents the results of an intrusive archaeological evaluation carried out on the site of a new sports pitch, adjacent to Uddingston Grammar School, South Lanarkshire. The evaluation was carried out as part of a planning condition imposed by South Lanarkshire Council pending development of the site. The evaluation sought to investigate the potential of there being buried archaeological remains on the site that might require further mitigation to be carried out in advance of or during the development process.

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a specification submitted and previously agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) who are advisors to South Lanarkshire Council.

2 Background

The site consisted of the western part of an area proposed for redevelopment as a sports pitch associated with the newly constructed school. The western site boundary was formed by the River Clyde, whilst the northern extent was restricted by a high pressure gas main, beyond which was a 19th century sandstone wall, at the base of a railway embankment. The boundary to the east was defined by a low iron fence flanked by the gas main. The study area lies immediately to the west of the newly constructed school on a patch of ground recently cleared of scrub planting and immature deciduous trees.

The site was subject to an earlier Desk-based assessment and walk-over survey (Headland Archaeology 2006) and a programme of trial trenching on the plot immediately to the east, on the site of the recently constructed school. The desk based study identified the area as being of archaeological potential, with the possible site of a medieval chapel immediately to the north and various find spots of both prehistoric and Roman artefacts nearby. Whilst the trenched evaluation did not reveal any features or deposits of archaeological significance, surface finds of pottery

indicated possible medieval activity nearby. The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, character, extent and quality of any remains threatened by the proposed development.

3 Methodology (Figure 1)

The brief required that 5% of the designated 0.15ha of land that comprised the study area should be sampled as part of the evaluation equating to approximately 40 linear metres. Trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket. A Digicat Cable Detector was used before trenching commenced to offset the possibility of disturbing any unmarked services. A total of three trenches were excavated, ranging from approximately 15m to 10m in length. All trenches were reinstated after being recorded.

The location of all trenches was plotted to Ordnance Survey National Grid coordinates. Individual trenches, features and deposits were recorded on pro-forma record sheets, the data being presented in abbreviated form in Appendix 1 – Trench Statistics. The locations of all modern features were plotted as a matter of course.

4 Results

A preliminary walkover was carried out prior to trenching commencing to ascertain any potential areas for targeted excavation. A horseshoe-shaped mound, approximately 22m in diameter, was identified at the northern edge of the study area. Although covered with humic topsoil and with some tree cover, numerous stone fragments could be seen, protruding from its surface.
In order to establish the nature of the mound it was consequently identified for trenching.

Trenches 1 &3

Trenches 1 and 3 were excavated to an average depth of 0.4m with a maximum depth of 0.6m being recorded in the case of Trench 3. In both trenches, reddish-orange, coarse sand and gravel natural, was revealed, sloping down to the south. A shallow layer of mid-brown silt-clay subsoil was observed, sealing the natural, which was, in turn sealed by a fine lens of crushed brick and cinder (101 & 301), gradually shallowing to the south. This was overlain by an undulating layer of topsoil which varied in depth from 0.2m up to 0.6m, the deepest deposits being recorded in the immediate vicinity of the sites of former trees.
No features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified in either trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located across the western end of the horseshoe-shaped mound at the northern end of the site. The natural was encountered at a depth of 0.40m from the modern ground surface and consisted of coarse, sand and gravel with elements of outcropping sandstone. Two large, vertical sided, rectilinear pits [204 & 207] were identified, cut through the natural. Each measured in excess of 4m wide and 1.3m deep. The pits were infilled with similar redeposited natural material mixed with mid-brown silt-clay with small inclusions of coal (203 & 206), from which fragments of 20th century pottery were recovered.
Sealing the pits was a 0.10m deep layer of crushed brick and cinder (203), very similar to that identified in Trenches 1 & 2, which continued for the entire length of the trench. This layer was sealed by a heavily tree disturbed subsoil comprising mid-brown slightly humic sand (202). This was seen throughout the trench, except in the immediate footprint of the horseshoe-shaped mound [205]. The mound comprised a large heap of stones, approximately 12m wide and 1.3m high, sealed by humic topsoil (200). The mound was positioned immediately over layer (203). It had no discernable cut and was thought to be the result of modern activity.
The topsoil in Trench 2 was the same as that seen in Trenches 1 &3 and ranged from between 0.2 and 0.4m deep.

No other features of archaeological significance were revealed within the trench

5 Conclusion

The evaluation indicated that the site had been subject to a certain element of intrusive activity at its northern extent during the 20th century, possibly associated with bridge works or site clearance. The compacted layer of crushed brick and cinder, which in some places overlay the natural, suggested that an element of levelling had occurred across the evaluated area, prior to the build up of the present ground surface. The horseshoe-shaped mound was also thought to be the result of site clearance associated with the levelling of the area.

No further features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified during the evaluation.

6 References

Dutton A. 2006*: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation at Uddingston Grammar School Site* Headland Archaeology unpublished report

Roberts M. 2005: *Archaeological Assessment Report, South Lanarkshire Schools* Headland Archaeology unpublished report.

7 Appendices

Trench Statistics - Uddingston Grammar School Site, South Lanarkshire

Trench 1

Length: 9.1m Alignment: NNW – SSE
Average depth: 0.45m
Maximum depth: 0.6m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit
100	Turf and topsoil	<0.50m
101	Mixed ashy rubble, limited to north edge of trench	0.10m
102	Thin lens of mid-brown coarse sand subsoil	0.10m
103	Coarse red/orange sand, fine gravel/ medium gravel with small angular stones – natural, probable river terrace	

Trench 2

Length: 16m Alignment: N – S
Average depth: 0.4m
Maximum depth: 1.7m

Context No. Description Depth of deposit

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit
200	Humic dark organic material	<0.45m
201	Mixed compact subsoil, mid-brown, flecked with coal/rubble	0.12m
202	Crushed compact brick/ash layer	0.12m
203	Mixed banded clay/sand infill of large probable rectilinear cut at N end of trench	1.30m
204	Large rectilinear cut	-
205	Mound of stones in horseshoe formation mixed with topsoil, overlies 202 which continues throughout, becoming progressively shallower. Various loose large gray stones, un-worked.	1.20m
206	Mixed infill of rectilinear cut , banded sand and clays	1.30m
207	Cut, very similar to 204 but to south of mound	-
208	Natural, varies from very clean orange coarse sand to mixed sand and gravel with occasional sandstone outcrops	-

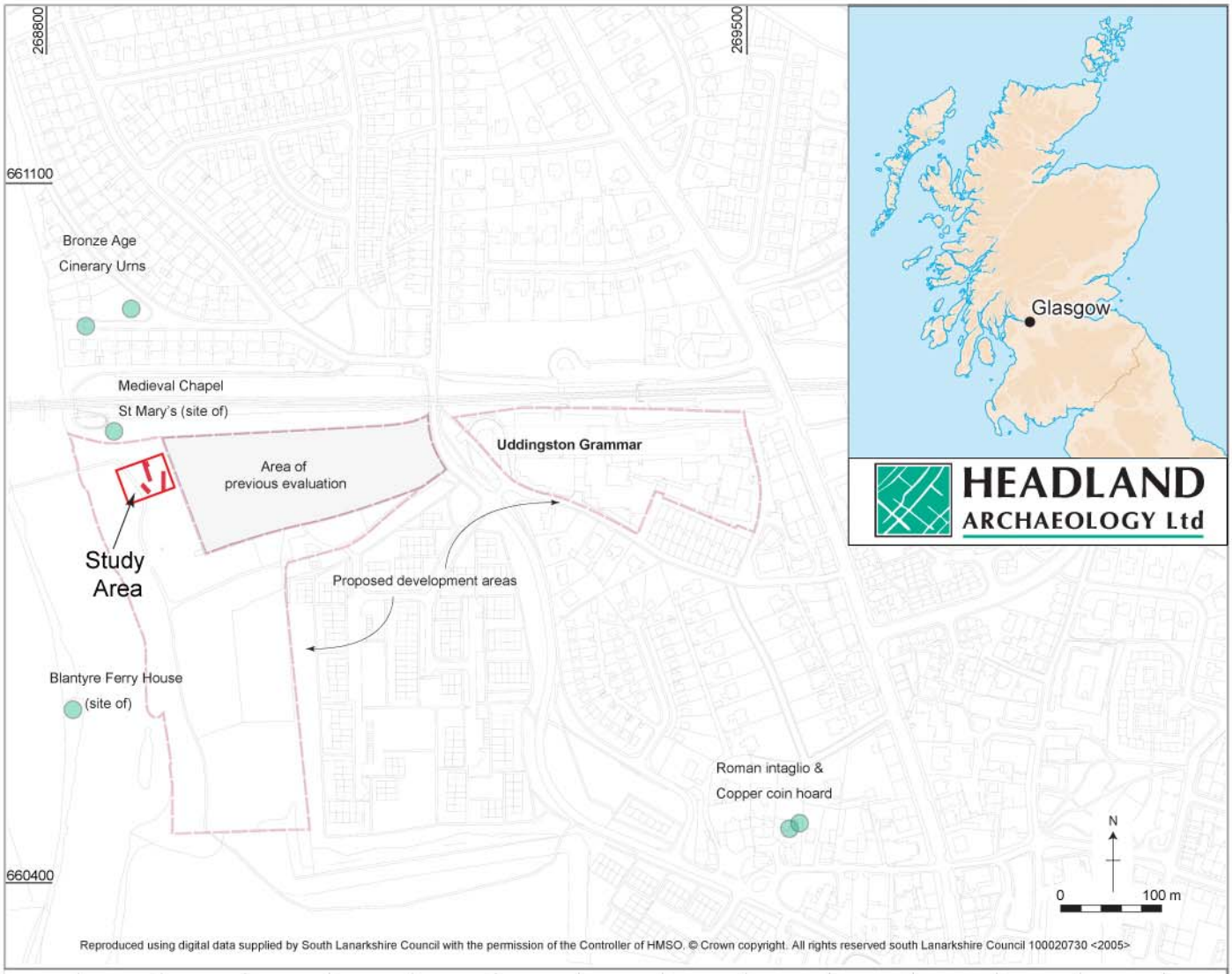
Trench 3

Length: 15m **Alignment: NE – SW**
Average depth: 0.40m
Maximum depth: 0.6m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit
300	Humic dark organic leaf mould	<0.2m
301	Compact thin layer of crushed brick/cinder	<0.1m
302	Mixed natural with sandstone outcrop, becoming gravelly to east	
303	Mixed clayey subsoil below topsoil to east where 301 peters out	0.3m

Photographic Register

Shot No.	Direction facing	Description	Initials & Date
1	NE	General site shot	JKM 19/02/08
2	NE	General site shot	JKM 19/02/08
3	SE	Trench 1	JKM 19/02/08
4	S	Trench 2	JKM 20/02/08
5	W	East facing section through pit [204] Trench 2	JKM 20/02/08
6	SE	West facing section through bank (Oblique) Trench 2	JKM 20/02/08
7	E	West facing section through pit [207] Trench 2	JKM 20/02/08
8	SW	Trench 3	JKM 21/02/08
9	S	Modern sandstone kerb to east of Trench 3	JKM 21/02/08



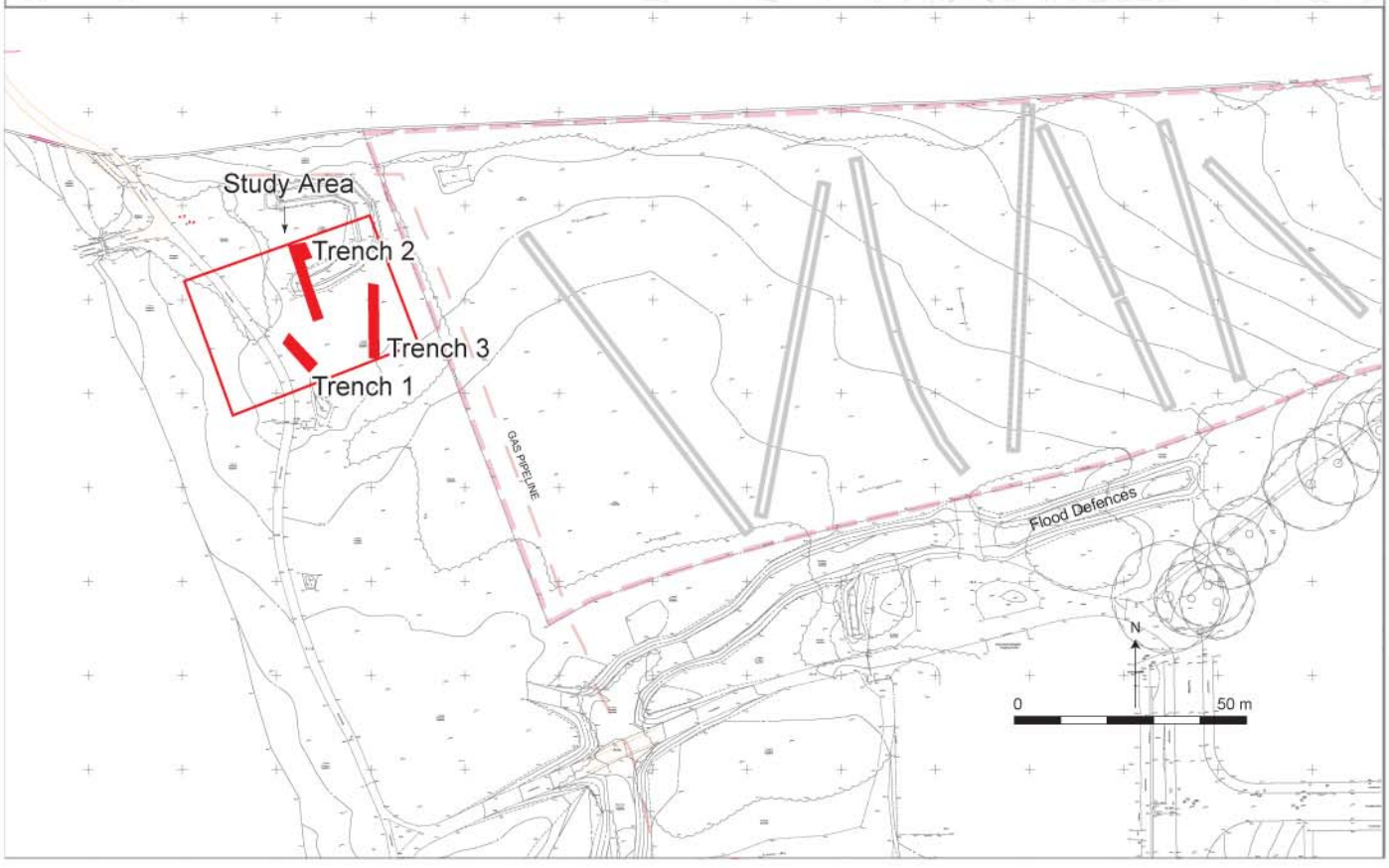


Figure 1: Site and Trench locations

Plate 1
Trench 2: looking south

Plate 2
Trench 2: rubble mound 205