

Duneaton Quarry, Abington: Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

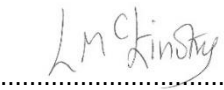
issued 5th February 2016

on behalf of Hodge Plant Ltd

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed  Date ..5th February 2016....

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked  Date ..5th February 2016....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Liam McKinstry		
Date of Issue	5 th February 2016	Version	1.0
Commissioning Body	Hodge Plant Ltd		
Event Name	Duneaton Quarry, Abington		
Event Type	Watching Brief		
Event Date(s)	January 2016		
Rathmell Archaeology Code	RA06082	OASIS Ref	rathmell1-239190
Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : South Lanarkshire		
NGR	NS 91954 25364	Parish	Crawfordjohn
Designation(s)	None		
Canmore IDs	289873		

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Introduction

1. A programme of archaeological mitigation works was required by Dalgleish Associates on behalf of Hodge Plant Ltd in support of the consented works at Duneaton Quarry, Abington. The mitigation required the stripping by machine of an archaeologically sensitive area within the quarry, this area having been determined by a preceding evaluation.
2. South Lanarkshire Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken as a requirement of the issued planning consent (CL/07/0070). The West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who advise South Lanarkshire Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on site during excavation works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed by the client, Hodge Plant Ltd, to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works prior to the consented works at the quarry. The project works were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2008) with a later addendum attached (Rees 2016), which was agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. An initial evaluation of the quarry carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd in 2008 identified a cluster of features at coordinates NS 91940 25337 (Gordon 2008). These features consisted of one pit, three postholes and a stake hole. Two sherds of what appeared to be Neolithic grooved wear pottery were recovered from the pit and it seemed probable that the other features were also Neolithic in date. An addendum to the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2016) required that, prior to the quarry being further extended, a monitored topsoil strip be carried out around this archaeologically sensitive area.
5. The archaeologically sensitive area was located to the immediate north of the quarry and Dod Wood (a small plantation) within a ridge of slightly higher ground. The area was within a field primarily utilised for pasture with the boundaries consisting of wire and post fencing. The archaeologically sensitive area, the fields to the north and the quarry itself lay within a relatively low lying area surrounded by a series of high hills. Further to the east and northeast ran the M74 and to the south was the B7078.
6. The archaeologically sensitive area was not shown in detail within historic mapping sources until the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1863 and 1912 respectively (Figures 1a and 1b), which clearly depict field boundaries very similar to those found in the area today. The Ordnance Surveys also show that Dod Wood, which sat to the immediate southwest of the archaeologically sensitive area, dated to at least the middle part of the 19th century. Other nearby sites of 19th century date also lie close to the area, such as the farmstead at Netherton (Site No. NS92NW 43), which lay approximately 1km to the west, and another farmstead and building 0.5km to the north (Site No. NS 92NW 44 and 45), which were shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey as ruined and were completely gone by the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey.
7. A number of prehistoric sites lay close to the archaeologically sensitive area. Several of these were identified during the Clydesdale Survey Project (carried out by the Biggar Archaeological Group) which ran from 2004 to 2012. One of the sites identified was at Craighead Hill where a group of three burnt mounds (Site No. NS92SW 73-75) were situated 1km to the south of the archaeologically sensitive area. Another identified site was a group of six cairns (Site No. NS92NW 68) at Moor Plantation, located 900m to the northeast of the archaeologically sensitive area. Another cairn site (Site No. NS92NW 14) was located close to the summit of the nearby Knock Leaven, to the northwest of the area. Further to the southwest of the area are two scheduled monument sites at Black Hill. The first of these scheduled sites consists of a fort and palisaded enclosure with associated cultivation remains (Site No. NS92SW 1), while the second site consisted of a cairn and barrow (Site No. NS92SW 30). Close to these sites were two unscheduled, possible, hut platforms (NS92SW 35 and 47).

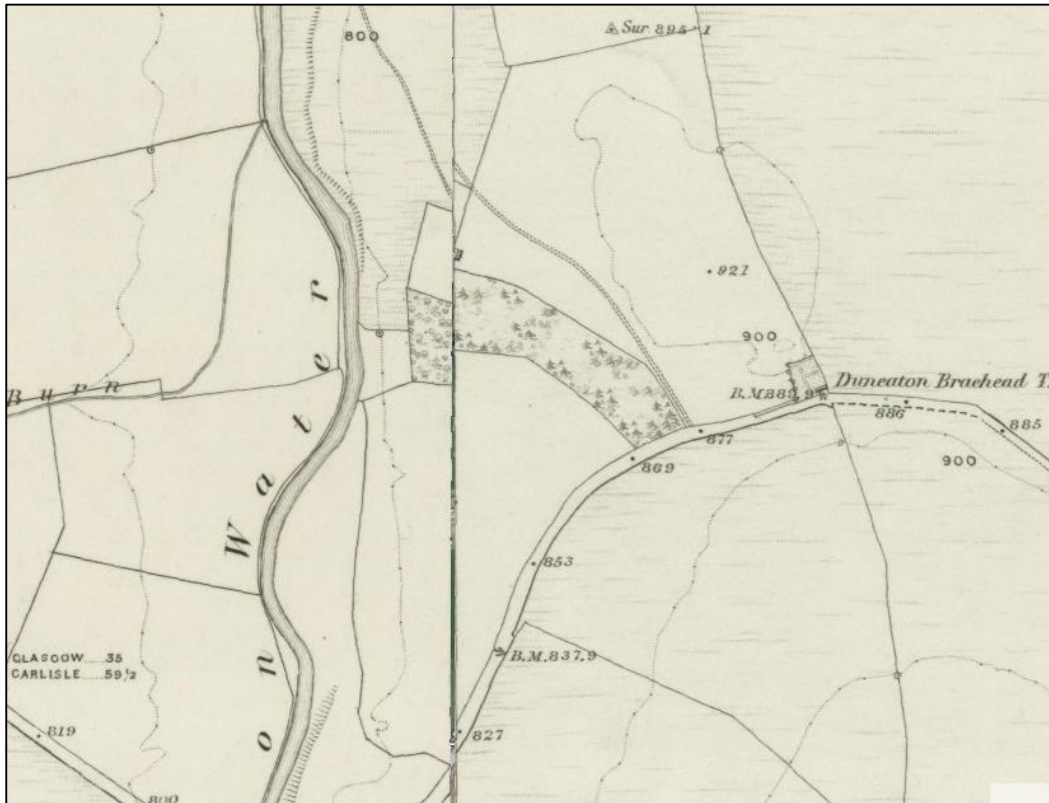


Figure 1a: 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, 25 inch.

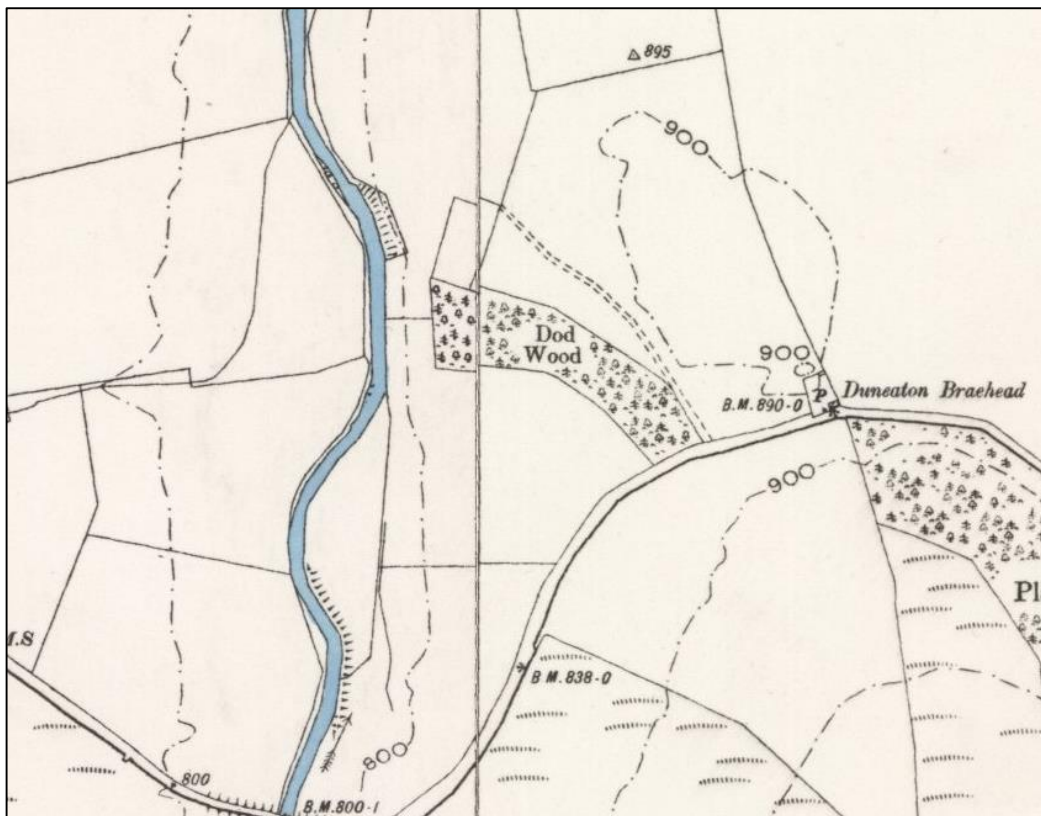


Figure 1b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 25 inch.

Project Works

8. The programme of works comprised the topsoil strip of a large archaeologically sensitive area (Figure 2 and 3a) centred on a number of archaeological features (NS 91940 25337) identified during the initial evaluation carried out by Rathmell Archaeology in 2008 (Gordon). The area to be stripped measured 100m from east to west and 60m from north to south, giving a total area of 6000m² (Figure 2). The corners of the area were located at grid coordinates NS 91902 25370, NS 92002 25370, NS 92002 25310 and NS 91902 25310. The area was stripped down to subsoil level by a 360° tracked excavator using a broad, toothless bucket (2m wide). The works were carried out in compliance with the terms agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2008) as amended by the recommendations within the evaluation Data Structure Report (Gordon 2008).
9. Any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place between the 25th and 27th of January 2016. All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

10. The topsoil (001) across the archaeologically sensitive area, though covered with grass, upon excavation appeared to have been ploughed or harrowed recently. The topsoil had a depth range throughout the area of 0.17m-0.23m. It consisted of loose to moderately compact mid grey-brown, silty sand with moderate small stone and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.
11. There were several variations in the naturally occurring subsoil throughout the excavated area. The majority of the area consisted of the low ridge and the subsoil located around it (003), which consisted of firmly compacted light to mid orange, silty sand with frequent small to medium sized stone/pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.
12. On the lower parts of the area, the subsoil (002) consisted of moderate to firmly compacted mid orange/orange-brown, silty sand with moderate to frequent small stone/pebble/gravel and occasional medium sized stone inclusions. Smaller, naturally occurring, patches of subsoil were identified throughout the two main subsoils (002) and (003). These patches (004) consisted of moderately compacted mid grey, silty sand with occasional small stone/pebble/gravel inclusions.
13. In the southwestern part of the area the character of the subsoil (007) changed to a very compact light to mid orange-brown, silty sand with very frequent light grey/orange coloured stone fragments. These stone fragments within the subsoil seemed to represent an interface between the subsoil and underlying bedrock of which several protrusions could be observed in the southwestern part of the area.
14. During the stripping of the archaeologically sensitive area, the pit and one of the postholes, identified as [e015] and [e017] respectively from the original 2008 evaluation were relocated. Only one new feature, a pit, was identified and fully excavated. This pit (Figure 3b and 4a) was located 14m to the northeast of the original feature group at grid coordinates NS 91943 25351. The pit's cut [005] was oval shaped in plan with a north to south orientation and measured 0.83m by 0.54m and was 0.21-0.23m deep. The pit had a moderate break of slope at the top with moderate to steeply sloping sides. The break of slope at the base was moderate to gradual with the base itself being concave to irregular base. The pit's fill (006) comprised of moderately compacted dark grey/black, sandy silt with frequent small stone/pebble and occasional charcoal fleck/chunk inclusions.
15. No other features were identified within the stripped archaeologically sensitive area.

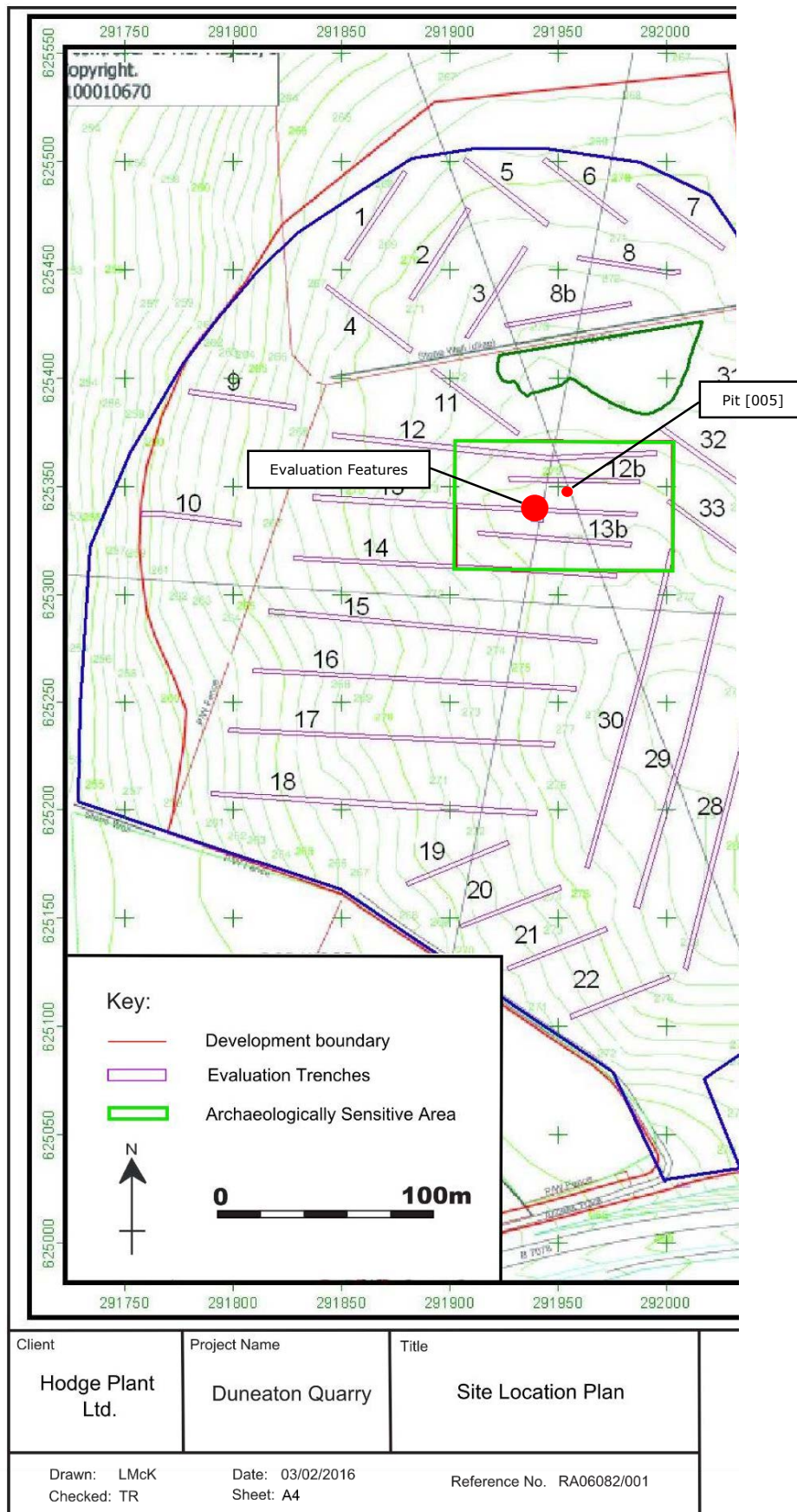


Figure 2: Site Location Plan.



Figure 3a: Pre excavation view of the archaeologically sensitive area, from the south.



Figure 3b: Pre excavation view of pit [005], from the north.



Figure 4a: Mid excavation view through pit [005]. From the north.



Figure 4b: Post-Excavation view of the site showing consolidation of spoil bunds, from the southwest.

Discussion

16. The features identified in both the 2008 evaluation and the monitoring of the archaeologically sensitive area may represent the remains of prehistoric settlement. It is unclear if this settlement was a small temporary site or merely the ploughed out remains of a larger site. The odds that the latter is the case are high as suggested by the disturbed nature of the topsoil on site. Its overall depth and composition, seem to hint that the area has undergone extensive agricultural activity such as ploughing or harrowing which would have removed many sub-surface features (especially occupation layers and hearths). The features identified both in the initial evaluation and the recent works also appeared to have suffered disturbance from agricultural activity (Douglas 2008).
17. The morphology and fill within the newly identified pit [005] would strongly suggest that it was contemporaneous to the pit found in the 2008 evaluation, though further analysis of the bulk soil sample taken from the pit may be necessary to confirm this. The two sherds of pottery recovered from the evaluation pit have been provisionally identified as grooved ware which would give a tentative Neolithic date for all of the features.

Recommendations

18. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works undertaken in support of the consented works at Duneaton Quarry, Abington, South Lanarkshire. The recommendations put forward in this document will be contributory to any final recommendations made on the completion of the works and also have a bearing on the 2008 evaluation works.
19. The features discovered during both the evaluation and this phase of monitoring works, are known to be significant archaeological features and have produced prehistoric artefacts and bulk samples. It is recommended that a small programme of post-excavation works be carried out which includes specialist analysis of the pottery and securing, if possible, a radiometric date from the feature cluster.
20. No additional on-site works are recommended. However should the quarry extension reveal further features or artefacts then they would need to contact either Rathmell Archaeology Ltd or WoSAS in order to have an archaeologist attend site.
21. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with South Lanarkshire Council, and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeological Service.

Conclusion

22. A programme of archaeological mitigation works was required by Dalgleish Associates on behalf of Hodge Plant Ltd in support of a consented works at Duneaton Quarry, Abington. The mitigation required the stripping by machine of a large archaeologically sensitive area within the quarry.
23. A previous evaluation in 2008 identified a pit, three postholes and a stakehole. Two pottery sherds recovered from the pit dated the features to the prehistoric period. The monitoring of the larger area centred on these features, identified another pit similar in morphology and fill to the one identified in the evaluation phase. Overall, the features may represent the ploughed out remains of a prehistoric structure or settlement. No other significant features or artefacts were identified within the monitored area.

Acknowledgements

24. The author would like to thank Alistair Hodge of Hodge Plant Ltd and his on-site team for their support throughout the project and Thomas Rees, Company Director within Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, for his kind input and editing.
25. The West of Scotland Archaeological Service has been represented by Paul Robins, who has given guidance and direction throughout.

References

Documentary

Rees, T	2008	Duneaton Quarry, South Abington: Archaeological Mitigation, Written Scheme of Investigation.
Gordon, D	2008	Duneaton, Abington, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation, Data Structure Report.
Rees, T	2016	Duneaton Quarry, South Abington: Archaeological Mitigation, Addendum to the Written Scheme of Investigation.

Internet

www.canmore.rcahms.gov.uk

http://www.biggarrarchaeology.org.uk/mp_clydesdale.shtml

Cartographic

1863	Ordnance Survey	1 st edition Map of Lanarkshire 1:2500
1912	Ordnance Survey	2 nd Edition Map of Lanarkshire 1:2500

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the watching brief:-

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Deposit	Loose to moderately compact mid grey-brown, silty sand with moderate small stone and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.	Topsoil which appeared to have been recently ploughed or harrowed.
002	-	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compacted mid orange/orange-brown, silty sand with moderate to frequent small stone/pebble/gravel and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil on the lower parts of the site.
003	-	Deposit	Firmly compacted light to mid orange, silty sand with frequent small to medium sized stone/pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil on the higher ridge within the site.
004	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid grey, silty sand with occasional small stone/pebble/gravel inclusions.	Patches of natural subsoil which occur within the other naturally occurring layers.
005	-	Cut	Oval shaped in plan. Measured 0.83m by 0.54m and was 0.21-0.23m deep. The pit had a moderate break of slope at the top. Moderate to steeply sloping sides. Moderate to gradual break of slope at the base. Concave/irregular base. The pit was orientated from north to south. Its fill was (006).	Cut of oval shaped pit. Located on a ridge of high ground within the archaeologically sensitive area close to where the features identified during the 2008 evaluation were located.
006	-	Fill	Moderately compacted dark grey/black, sandy silt with frequent small stone/pebble and occasional charcoal fleck/chunk inclusions. Extent was 0.83m by 0.54m and thickness was 0.21-0.23m.	Fill of oval pit [005].
007	-	Deposit	Very compact light to mid orange-brown, silty sand with very frequent light grey/orange coloured stone fragments.	Natural subsoil surrounding fragmented bedrock protrusions. Located mainly in the south eastern part of the site.

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
001	1	-	Section	1:10	North facing section of pit [005]	LMcK	26/01/2016
002	1	-	Plan	1:10	Mid excavation plan of pit [005]	LMcK	26/01/2016

Sample Register

Sample No.	Area/ Trench	Context	Sample Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	-	(006)	Bulk soil	1 bag from pit [005]	LMcK	26/01/2016

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	4049	Pre excavation view of the archaeologically sensitive area	S	25/01/2016
02	4050	Post excavation view of 1 st strip across area	S	25/01/2016
03	4051	View of section through topsoil in 1 st strip	W	25/01/2016
04	4052	Post excavation view of 2 nd strip across area	S	25/01/2016
05	4053	View of section through topsoil in 2 nd strip	W	25/01/2016
06	4054	Post excavation view of 3 rd strip across area	S	25/01/2016
07	4055	View of section through topsoil in 3 rd strip	W	25/01/2016
08	4056	View of spoil bunds being consolidated for the first three stripped areas	S	25/01/2016

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
09	4057	View of previously excavated pit from the 2008 evaluation	E	25/01/2016
10	4058	Post excavation view of 4 th strip across area	S	25/01/2016
11	4059	View of section through topsoil in 4 th strip	W	25/01/2016
12	4060	View of previously excavated posthole from the 2008 evaluation	N	25/01/2016
13	4061	Post excavation view of the upper (northern) part of the 5 th strip across area	S	25/01/2016
14	4062	View of section through topsoil in 5 th strip	W	25/01/2016
15	4063	Post excavation view of the Lower (southern) part of the 5 th strip across area	S	26/01/2016
16	4064	Pre excavation view of pit [005], found in the 6 th strip	N	26/01/2016
17	4065	Post excavation view of the upper (northern) part of the 6 th strip across area	S	26/01/2016
18	4066	North facing section through pit [005]	N	26/01/2016
19	4067	Post excavation view of pit [005]	N	26/01/2016
20	4068	Post excavation view of the Lower (southern) part of the 6 th strip across area	S	26/01/2016
21	4069	View of section through topsoil in 6 th strip	W	26/01/2016
22	4070	Post excavation view of 10 th strip across area	S	26/01/2016
23	4071	View of section through topsoil in 10 th strip	W	26/01/2016
24	4072	Post excavation view of the Lower (southern) part of the 9 th strip across area	S	26/01/2016
25	4073	Post excavation view of the upper (northern) part of the 9 th strip across area	S	26/01/2016
26	4074	View of section through topsoil in 9 th strip	E	26/01/2016
27	4075	Post excavation view of 8 th strip across area	S	26/01/2016

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
28	4076	View of section through topsoil in 8 th strip	E	26/01/2016
29	4077	Post excavation view of 7 th strip across area	S	27/01/2016
30	4078	View of section through topsoil in 7 th strip	W	27/01/2016
31	4079	Post excavation view of 11 th strip across area	S	27/01/2016
32	4080	View of section through topsoil in 11 th strip	W	27/01/2016
33	4081	Post excavation view of 12 th strip across area	S	27/01/2016
34	4082	Post excavation view of 14 th strip across area	S	27/01/2016
35	4083	Post excavation view of 13 th strip across area	S	27/01/2016
36	4084	View of site fully stripped with spoil bunds being consolidated by machine	SW	27/01/2016

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Duneaton Quarry, Abington
PROJECT CODE:	RA06082
PARISH:	Crawfordjohn
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 91954 25364 (Centred)
START DATE (this season)	25 th January 2016
END DATE (this season)	27 th January 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Evaluation (Canmore ID 289873)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological mitigation works was required by Dalgleish Associates on behalf of Hodge Plant Ltd. in support of consented works at Duneaton Quarry, Abington, South Lanarkshire. The mitigation required the stripping by machine of a large archaeologically sensitive area within the quarry.</p> <p>A previous evaluation in 2008 identified a pit, three postholes and a stakehole. Two pottery sherds recovered from the pit dated the features to the prehistoric period. The monitoring of the new area identified another pit similar in morphology and fill to the one identified in the evaluation phase. The features may represent the ploughed out remains of a prehistoric structure or settlement. No other significant features or artefacts were identified within the monitored area.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Hodge Plant Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to HES Collections

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