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Field Evaluation & Excavation


Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**The Kilns
6 Fairfields, Moss Road
Dunmore, Falkirk
Monitored Topsoil Strip
Report No. 1621**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

**The Kilns
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Dunmore, Falkirk**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a monitored topsoil strip undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in April 2009 at The Kilns, 6 Fairfields, Moss Road, Dunmore, (NGR: NS 8726 8841) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Tom Smith.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA on behalf of Mr Smith. The WSI was agreed in advance by the Falkirk Council Archaeologist.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Planning permission has been granted by Falkirk Council (Ref No. P/07/1226/FUL) for an extension to a dwelling at 6 Fairfields (Fig. 2), subject to a condition requiring an archaeological investigation. The extension will house an indoor swimming pool.
- 1.2.2 The site is located on the small housing development of Fairfields (Fig. 1), which is situated on the eastern edge of Dunmore Moss, west of Dunmore Estate and adjacent to the Moss Road. Constructed in 2000, Fairfields occupies the site of the former Dunmore pottery works (NMRS No. NS88NE 44). The First Edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (1865) (Fig. 6) suggests that the pottery works consisted of one unroofed building, seven roofed buildings and one enclosure. A complex of buildings annotated 'Kilns' is depicted immediately to the west and south of 6 Fairfields. The location of the proposed extension is situated to the north-east of the kilns.
- 1.2.3 The Dunmore pottery works was situated on the estate of the Earl of Dunmore and is understood to have begun production c. 1790. Originally, it appears to have been a typical estate pottery works, producing bricks and tiles for building works, and domestic pottery for local use. All the early items produced appear to have been made from the local carse clay dug on the estate, and they do not appear to have been particularly distinctive (www.instirling.com/whatson/dunmore.htm).
- 1.2.4 In 1866, Peter Gardner (1835-1902) took charge of the works following the death of his father. Peter Gardner was constantly experimenting with unusual shapes, glazes and finishes, producing a distinctive Dunmore style, which is now much sought after and highly collectable. The Dunmore pottery works became something of a tourist attraction and was even visited by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) in 1887. Following Gardner's death in 1902, the pottery works were sold and continued in production until 1914. The last bottle-kiln is understood to have been destroyed in 1974 (www.lynnpearson.co.uk/Scotland), but the manager's house and workers' cottages appear to have survived up until the construction of the current housing development.

- 1.2.5 A previous watching brief (Cruickshank 2001) carried out on the site during the construction of the Fairfields development in 2000 identified a quantity of pottery and other associated wares. The pottery largely consisted of country redware, with the remainder of the assemblage consisting of white earthenware, caneware and stoneware. Typical Dunmore Ware was notable by its dearth, with only two sherds being recovered. Plaster moulds, pieces of kiln brick and kiln furniture were also identified.
- 1.2.6 Two test pits excavated by CFA within the footprint of the proposed extension in June 2008 did not identify any features, deposits or artefacts associated with the former Dunmore pottery works.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 The aims of the monitored topsoil strip were:

- To record any evidence associated with the former Dunmore pottery works
- To record in detail all archaeological remains encountered and to provide a full archive of such remains for future reference.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork.

2.2 Watching Brief

2.2.1 A large pit for the swimming pool measuring 9m by 6m by 1.5m deep was excavated using a 360° mechanical mini-digger equipped with a smooth bladed ditching bucket. The modern overburden was initially removed and the area hand cleaned and checked for archaeological features prior to the pit being cut down into the subsoil. Foundation trenches measuring c. 0.9m wide by 0.9m deep for the footprint of the extension were also monitored. The extension measured 16.7m by 6.54m overall. All groundbreaking works were carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

2.2.2 The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Monitored Topsoil Strip

3.1.1 Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

3.1.2 The modern overburden (**001**) across the area largely consisted of made-ground with a depth of 0.4m – 0.6m overlying yellowish and orange brown sticky clay (**002**).

Context (003)

3.1.3 Intermittent patches of dark silt (**003**) were identified in the exposed surface of the subsoil. Fragments of early pottery were recovered from these deposits (see Section 3.2).

Pit (004/005)

3.1.4 Pits (**004/005**) (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4) were recorded in the south-facing section of the cut for the swimming pool. The upper cut (**005**) was shallow sided and measured 3.4m by 0.4m deep. It had been excavated into the clay subsoil (**002**), was mostly filled with a deposit of grey clay (**007**) with a small inclusion of dark brown silt (**008**), and was sealed by both a deposit of re-deposited clay subsoil (**009**) and a deposit of dark brown modern overburden (**001**). Pit (**005**) appeared to overlay an earlier pit (**004**) which measured 1.4m by 0.4m deep and was filled with a deposit of dark brown silt (**006**) containing pottery fragments (see Section 3.2). Pottery fragments and a soil sample from deposit **006** were retained for analysis.

Pit (010)

3.1.5 Pit (**010**) (Fig. 5) measured 3.5m by 1.6m deep and was recorded in the north and west-facing sections of the foundation trench (Fig. 2). The pit was cut into the undisturbed clay subsoil (**002**) and was sealed by a deposit of re-deposited clay subsoil (**012**), the same as (**009**), and the modern overburden (**001**). The pit had a single fill of black ash and charcoal (**011**) containing pottery identified as fragments of probable flowerpots (see Section 3.2).

3.2 Finds, by Sue Anderson

3.2.1 Table 1 shows the total quantities of finds recovered from the site, and a full list by context is included in Appendix 5.

Find type	No	Wt (g)
Pottery	119	5660
CBM	3	607
Fired clay	2	78
Glass	9	559
Stone	1	251

Table 1. Finds quantification.

Pottery

3.2.2 Table 2 presents a preliminary quantification of pottery by fabric.

Description	Fabric	No	Wt (g)
Scottish post-medieval oxidised	SPMO	33	1058
Scottish post-medieval reduced	SPMR	77	3051
Late blackwares	LBW	1	37
Late glazed red earthenwares	LGRE	1	149
Late post-med unglazed earthenwares	LPME	1	560
Late slipped redwares	LSRW	4	631
Refined factory-made whitewares	REFW	2	174

Table 2. Pottery quantification by fabric.

3.2.3 The majority of sherds recovered from contexts **003** and **006** comprised green-glazed Post-medieval Oxidised and Reduced Wares (SPMO, SPMR) – these two wares are only distinguishable based on their colour and hardness, the reduced wares tending to be harder than the oxidised variety, although the former often have oxidised surfaces and the latter may have reduced cores. Several rims, bases and handles are present in the group, allowing for the identification of several jugs, a possible skillet and two or more jars. The forms are comparable with a 17th-century assemblage from Edinburgh (Thoms 1976), and with examples from the production site at Throsk (Caldwell & Dean 1992). A number of sherds are clearly wasters, including unglazed and warped fragments, and pieces with bubbled or spoilt glaze.

3.2.4 Seven sherds of ‘country pottery’ redwares (LBW, LGRE, LPME, LSRW) including slipware bowls, a blackware base, a deep bowl with brown glaze, and a flowerpot were recovered. Most of these sherds were collected from pit fill **011**, dating it to the late 18th/19th century. The blackware base was from context **003**.

3.2.5 Two fragments of biscuit-fired (unglazed) whitewares (REFW) were recovered from **003**. One was a near-complete teapot lid with a curving handle and the other was a foot-ring base. The latter was in a harder-fired fabric than the former. These are likely to be wasters from the 19th-century Dunmore pottery.

Other ceramics

3.2.6 Three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were collected from context **003**. One small, abraded fragment appeared to be a piece of pantile and was in the same soft, oxidised fabric as the SPMO pottery. The other two pieces were overfired and deformed, one with large air bubbles in the core. These may be either CBM wasters or possibly kiln furniture waste.

3.2.7 Two fragments recorded as ‘fired clay’ in pit fill **006** were probably fragments of kiln waste, perhaps parts of saggars or props. Both were oxidised and covered in splashes of green glaze.

Glass

- 3.2.8 A bottle fragment in uncoloured glass with a partial moulded label (...C & W.S. D... / ...ACINT...) was found in **003** and is likely to be of 19th/20th-century date.
- 3.2.9 Eight fragments of a large, handblown emerald green bottle or flask with a kick base were found in pit fill **006**. The fragments were thin and well-preserved, with no hint of the iridescent oxidisation normally associated with post-medieval wine bottles.

Stone

- 3.2.10 A large piece of natural conglomerate stone with one flat face was recovered from **003** and is likely to be post-medieval or modern building stone.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 A monitored topsoil strip carried out at 6 Fairfields, on the site of the former Dunmore pottery works, identified three pits, two of which (**004** and **010**) contained a quantity of post-medieval pottery. The pottery recovered from pit **004** mainly comprised green-glazed Post-medieval Oxidised and Reduced Wares (SPMO, SPMR). This material is thought to date to the 15th-18th century and probably represents some of the earliest material produced on the site. The material from pit **010** was rather later, probably dating to the late 18th/19th century.
- 4.2 Two of the pits (**004** and **005**) showed a closely stratified relationship with pit (**005**) directly overlying (**004**). Whether or not (**005**) cut (**004**) could not be determined through excavation, and the possibility remains that cuts (**004/005**) represented a single pit albeit with two different fills.
- 4.3 Previous work on the site produced wasters of both 'country pottery' redwares and whitewares (Cruickshank 2001), but does not appear to have recovered any evidence for earlier pottery production. The current assemblage, although small, is very important for the study of post-medieval ceramics in Scotland as it is only the second production site of SPMO/R to be located, the other being at Throsk, Stirlingshire.
- 4.4 The final decision regarding any post-excavation mitigation lies with the Falkirk Council Archaeologist.
- 4.5 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Falkirk Council Sites and Monuments Record.

- 4.6 A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* on completion of the fieldwork (Appendix 6).

5. REFERENCES

Bibliographic

Caldwell, D & Dean, V 1992 'The pottery industry at Throsk, Stirlingshire, in the 17th and early 18th-century', *Post-medieval Archaeol.* 26, 1-46.

Cruikshank, G. 2001 'Dunmore Pottery, Falkirk (Airth parish), post-medieval pottery'. *Discovery Excav Scot*, vol 2, 45.

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch map (1865) *Stirlingshire, Sheet XVIII.*

Thoms, L 1976 'Coarse pottery', in Schofield, J 'Excavations south of Edinburgh High Street, 1973-4', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 107, 190-206.

Websites

www.instirling.com/whatson/dunmore.htm

www.lynnpearson.co.uk/Scotland

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Description
001	Modern overburden
002	Subsoil
003	Intermittent patches of dark silt within the subsoil (002)
004	Cut of pit
005	Cut of pit
006	Fill of pit 004
007	Fill of pit 005
008	Patch of dark silt underlying 007
009	Redeposited natural overlying 007
010	Cut of pit
011	Fill of pit 010
012	Re-deposited clay subsoil

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Colour Slide: Film 1 and Digital Images

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Pre-excavation shots of area	East	Sun
3-6	General working shots	East	Sun
7-14	Pit 004/005, south facing section	South	Overcast
15-16	Post-excavation shots of pit for swimming pool	East	Overcast
17-18	Pit 010 north facing section	North	Rain
19	Pit 010 west facing section	West	Rain
20	Pit 010 west and north facing sections	Northwest	Rain
21-22	Pit 010 west facing section	West	Rain

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

No	Description / Section	Sec / Plan	Scale
1	Pit 004/005 south facing section	Section	1:20
2	Pit 010 north and west facing section	Section	1:20

APPENDIX 4: Samples Register

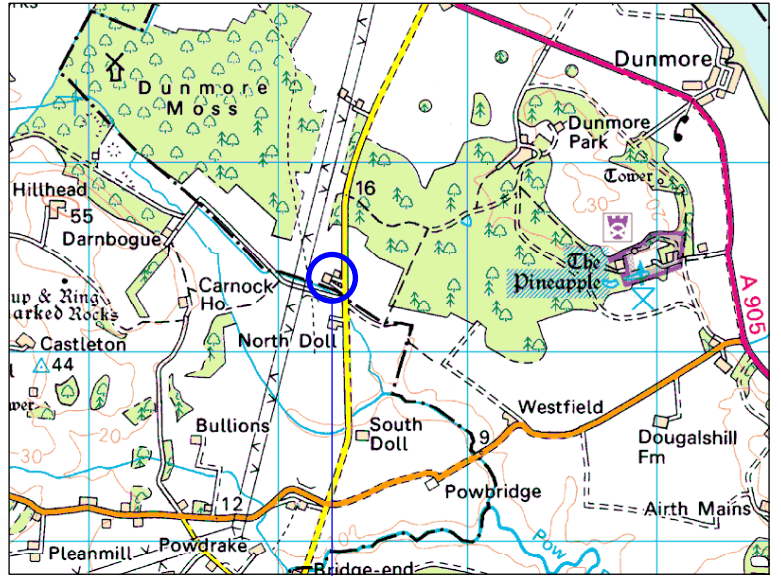
Sample no.	Context	Feature	Comment	Size
1	006	004	Bulk sample containing some pottery	2 bags

APPENDIX 5: Finds Catalogue

Context	Find type	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Notes	Date
003	Pottery	6	327	SPMO	including 2 bases, mostly unglazed	15-18
		14	866	SPMR	mostly oxid ext, GG, jug rims, handle, bases	15-18
		1	93	REFW	unglazed teapot lid in soft fabric	L.18-19
		1	81	REFW	unglazed footing base	L.18-19
		1	37	LBW	base	L.18-19
	CBM	2	561		kiln waste or wasters	pmed?
		1	46		?pantile frag in same fabric as SPMO	pmed
	Stone	1	251		worked (1 flat edge) natural conglomerate	
	Glass	1	70		uncoloured moulded bottle C & W.S. D... / ...ACINT..	19/20
006	Pottery	12	1045	SPMR	complete base & body sherds, poss 1 vessel	15-18
		1	13	SPMO	abraded	15-18
		15	517	SPMR	prob all 1 jug	15-18
		3	186	SPMR	unglazed, prob wasters	15-18
		33	437	SPMR	burnt glaze on several, poss wasters	15-18
		18	529	SPMO	jars & jugs, some poss wasters	15-18
		8	189	SPMO	abraded, unglazed	15-18
	Fired clay	2	78		kiln waste, GG	pmed
	Glass	8	489		large green vessel with kick base, poss flask	pmed
011	Pottery	1	560	LPME	near-complete plantpot	19-20
		3	551	LSRW	bowl rim, large body & base, int white slip	L.18-19
		1	149	LGRE	rim of plant-pot-shaped deep bowl	L.18-19
		1	80	LSRW	stripe of slip int	L.18-19

APPENDIX 6: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Falkirk
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	The Kilns, 6 Fairfields Moss Road, Dunmore
PROJECT CODE:	KILN
PARISH:	Airth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS88NE 44
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Dunmore Pottery Works
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Post-medieval pottery
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NS 8726 8841
START DATE (this season)	April 2009
END DATE (this season)	April 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Cruickshank, G. 2001, 'Dunmore Pottery, Falkirk (Airth parish), post medieval pottery', <i>Discovery Excav Scot</i> , vol 2 45
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A monitored topsoil strip carried out at 6 Fairfields, on the site of the former Dunmore pottery works, identified three pits, two of which contained a quantity of post-medieval pottery. The pottery recovered from one of the pits mainly comprised green-glazed Post-medieval Oxidised and Reduced Wares (SPMO, SPMR). This material is thought to date to the 15th-18th century and probably represents some of the earliest material produced on the site. The material from the second pit was rather later, probably dating to the late 18th/19th century.</p> <p>Previous work on the site produced wasters of both 'country pottery' redwares and whitewares (Cruickshank 2001), but does not appear to have recovered any evidence for earlier pottery production. This assemblage, although small, is very important for the study of post-medieval ceramics in Scotland as it is only the second production site of SPMO/R to be located, the other being at Throsk, Stirlingshire.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Possible post-excavation analysis and publication
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Tom Smith
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland Falkirk Council Sites and Monuments Record



Site Location - Fairfields

New extension containing swimming pool

6 Fairfields, existing house

Key:
 Area monitored

Scale: 1:200 @ A4

Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Mr Tom Smith

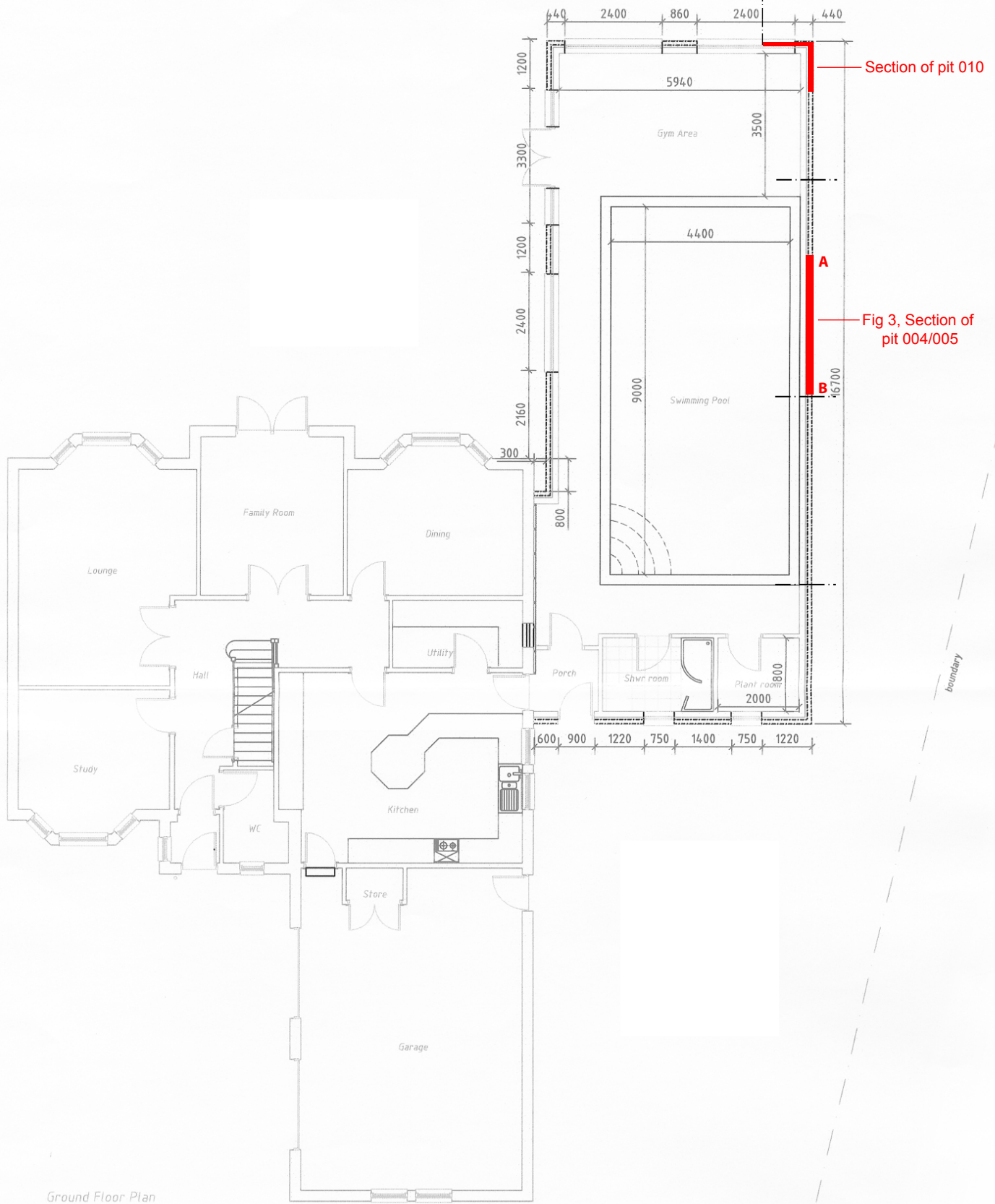
Title:
 Location Map

Project:
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Key:



 Section of Archaeological Feature

Scale: 1:75 @ A4

Fig. No: 2	Revision: A	Client: Mr Tom Smith
Title: Plan of 6 Fairfields showing the existing house and new extension		
Project: The Kilns, 6 Fairfields, Moss Road, Dunmore, Falkirk Monitored Topsoil Strip		

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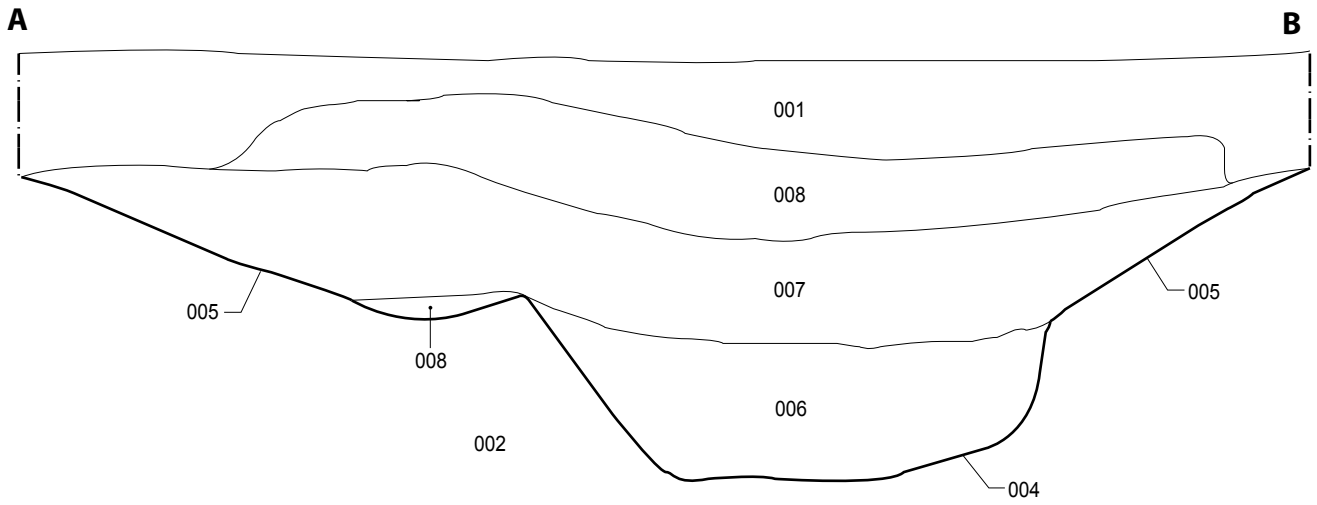


Fig 3 - South facing section of pit 004/005

Key:

Fig. No: **3**

Revision: **A**

Client: **Mr Tom Smith**

Title:

Project:

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Fig 4. South-facing section of pit 004/005

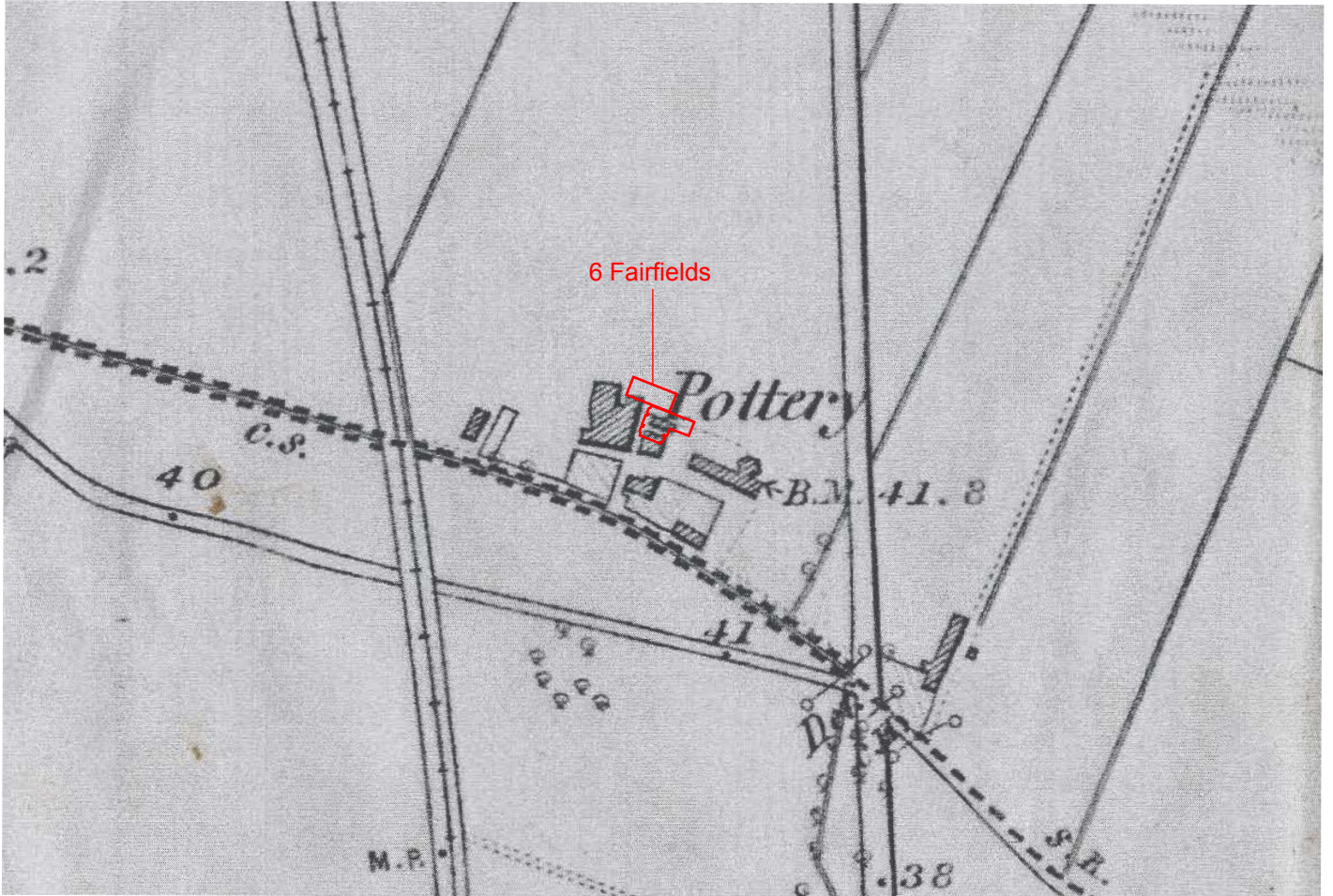


Fig 5. West-facing section of pit 010

Key:	Fig. No:	4,5	Revision:	A	Client:	Mr Tom Smith
	Title:					
Scale:	Project:	The Kilns, 6 Fairfields, Moss Road, Dunmore, Falkirk Monitored Topsoil Strip				
	Drawn by:	LW	Page No:		Report No:	1621



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Key:

Fig. No: 6

Revision: A

Client: Mr Tom Smith

Title:

OS 1st Edition map (1865) overlaid with plan of 6 Fairfields

Project:

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