

HUBB/01



PRIMARY SCHOOL, HOWATSHAWS ROAD, DUMBARTON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by Morgan Sindall
on behalf of HUB West Scotland

DC14/193

June 2016

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project info

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NGR NS 240960 676780
PARISH Dumbarton
LOCAL AUTHORITY West Dunbartonshire Council
OASIS REF. headland1-218718

project team

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 **HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY**

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological works associated with the development of the new Bellsmyre Primary Schools building, Dumbarton in order to fulfil a condition of planning consent (ref: DC14/193). The programme took place on the 22nd July 2015 and comprised eight evaluation trenches located in a green field area to the north-west of the site. No features of archaeological significance were encountered. The results of the trenching indicated that the area had been levelled to create a flat surface for a playing field, meaning any archaeological remains have been removed.

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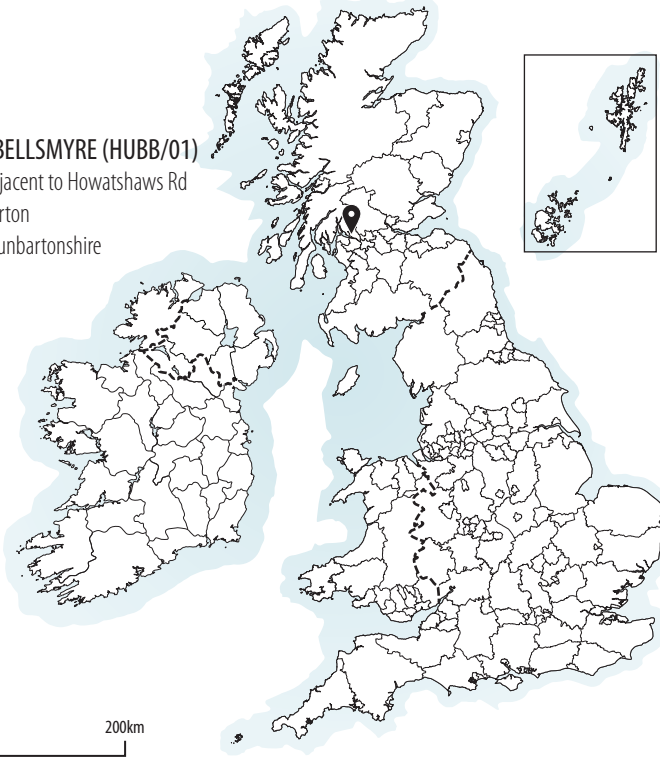
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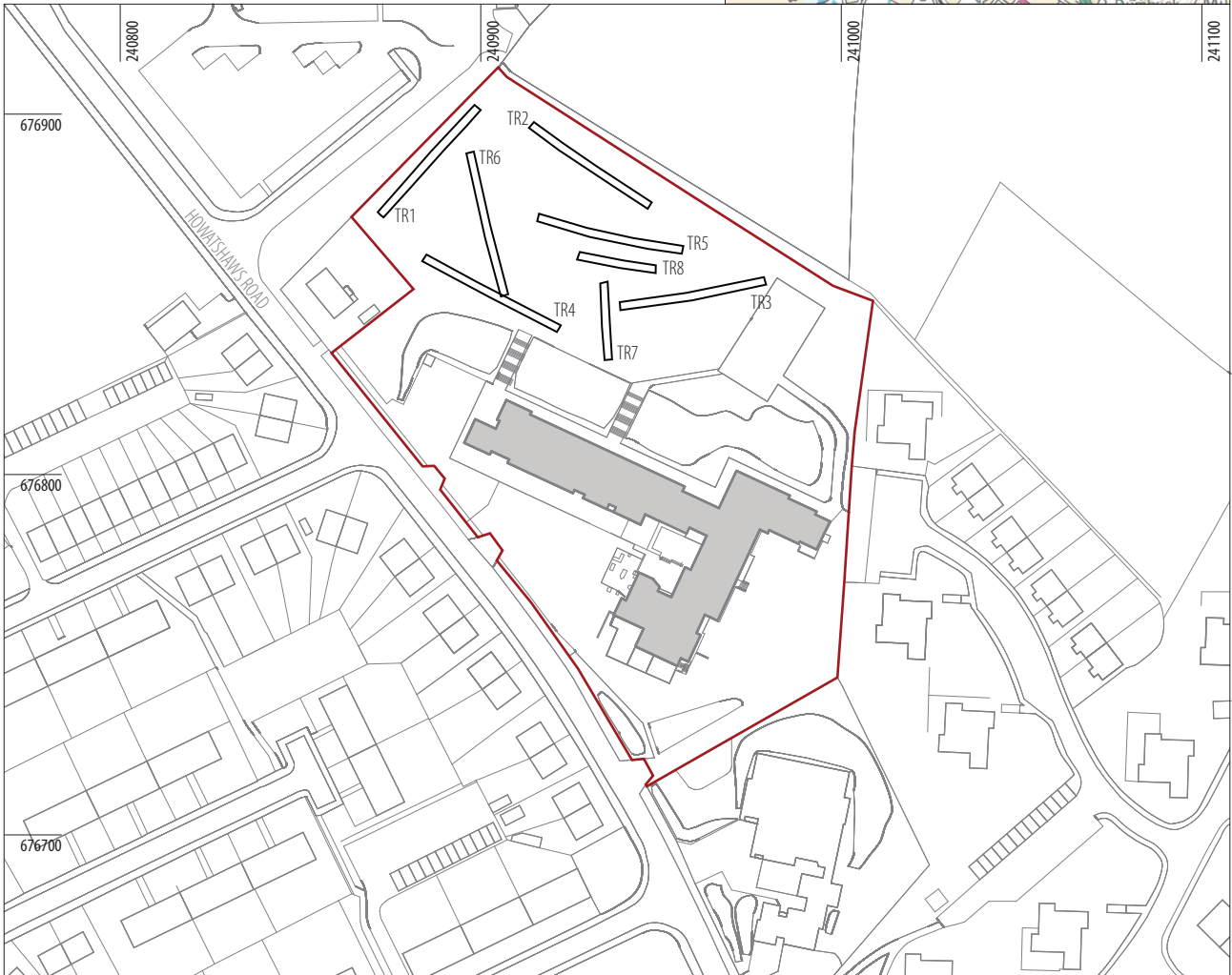
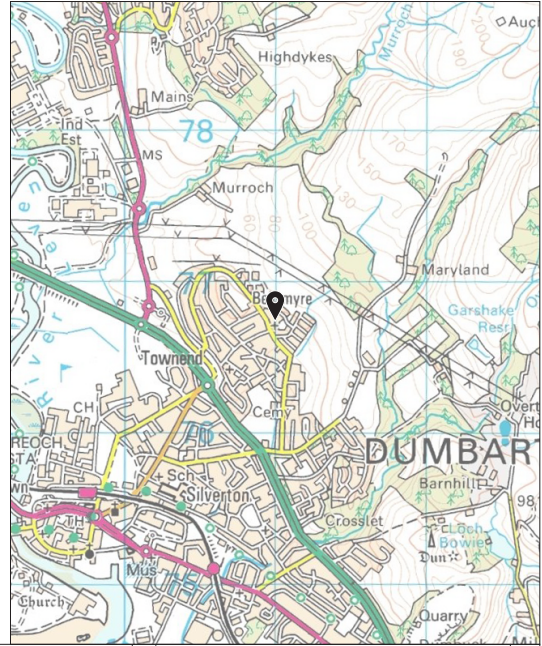
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HUB, BELLSMYRE (HUBB/01)

land adjacent to Howatshaws Rd
Dumbarton
West Dunbartonshire



0 200km



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KEY

-  development boundary
-  trench location

0 100m

scale 1:2,000 @ A4



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological works associated with the development of the new Bellsmyre Primary Schools building, Dumbarton. The works were required to fulfil a condition (no. 24) attached to the planning consent (ref: DC14/193) which states: No development shall take place within the development site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and approved by the planning authority.

Morgan Sindall acting on behalf of the client commissioned Headland Archaeology to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation which was submitted to and agreed with West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS; advisers on archaeological matters to West Dunbartonshire Council the LPA).

The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas targeted for trenching.

The site is located at Howatshaws Road, Bellsmyre (NGR: NS 240960 676780) on the northern limit of Dumbarton at the edge of the Kilpatrick Hills. The site is between 50m and 60m OD and is underlain by Devensian Till which itself overlays sedimentary bedrock comprising Ballagan Formation – Agrillaceous Rock, Dolostone and Sandstone (British Geological Survey). The immediate environs consisted of rough ground and woodland to the north and residential areas to the south, west and east.

Fieldwork took place on the 22nd July 2015 and this report presents the findings.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No known heritage assets were located within the development area itself, however the topographic position would have been an attractive location for prehistoric settlement. The north-west corner of the site appeared to be the area least disturbed by modern development and therefore had the best potential for archaeologically significant remains to survive.

3 METHOD

The work was undertaken as specified in the approved WSI, and in accordance with current Health and Safety legislation. In total eight trenches, equating to 8% of the green field area, were excavated using a JCB equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. All excavations were carried out under direct archaeological supervision with deposits being removed in controlled spits. All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. After recording all trenches were backfilled and the spoil compacted.

4 RESULTS

Full trench details are tabulated in Appendix 1.1.

The topsoil (001) comprised mid brownish grey silty sand 0.25m – 0.40m thick overlying mid pink silty clay natural subsoil (003). Occasional patches of mid yellow sandy clay natural subsoil were exposed in trenches one, four and six – the western part of the site. A make-up deposit (002) of compact grey clay 0.35m thick containing brick fragments and planks of wood was identified at the northern end of the trench one, underlying the topsoil. This make-up deposit also occurred in patches in the northern half of trench six where it was observed to be between 0.10 and 0.20m deep.



ILLUS 2 W facing view of site ILLUS 3 Trench 1, NE facing view ILLUS 4 Trench 6, SE facing view ILLUS 5 Trench 7, SE facing view

A number of modern plastic drains oriented north – south or north-east to south-west were observed in each trench (except trench one). No ceramic field drains were observed.

5 CONCLUSION

The evaluation did not reveal any deposits of archaeological significance. It seems likely that the area was subjected to levelling at the time of the construction of the Primary School in order to provide a flat surface for a playing field. The presence of a large number of modern drains indicates that the area was susceptible to water retention, most likely as a result of the levelling itself

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

TR	ORIENTATION	DIMENSIONS	MAX. D	DESCRIPTION
1	NE - SW	40 x 1.5m	0.70m	Mid brownish grey silty sand, overlying made ground (containing bricks and wood planks) then mid pink silty clay (occasionally mid yellow sandy clay)
2	NW - SE	40 x 1.5m	0.35m	Mid brownish grey silty sand, overlying mid orangey pink compact silty clay
3	NE - SW	40 x 1.5m	0.40m	Mid brownish grey silty sand, overlying mid orangey pink compact silty clay
4	NW - SE	40 x 1.5m	0.40m	Mid brownish grey silty sand, overlying mid orangey pink compact silty clay
5	E - W	40 x 1.5m	0.35m	Mid brownish grey silty sand, overlying mid orangey pink compact silty clay
6	N - S	40 x 1.5m	0.50m	Mid brownish grey silty sand, overlying occasional thin made ground layer then mid orangey pink (occasionally mid yellow) compact silty clay
7	N - S	20 x 1.5m	0.45m	Mid brownish grey silty sand, overlying mid orangey pink compact silty clay
8	E - W	20 x 1.5m	0.50m	Mid brownish grey silty sand, overlying mid orangey pink compact silty clay

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

PHOTO	DIRECTION FACING	DESCRIPTION
01	—	ID Shot
02	NE	Trench 1
03	SW	Trench 1
04	SE	Trench 2
05	NW	Trench 2
06	E	Trench 3
07	W	Trench 3
08	W	Trench 4
09	E	Trench 4
10	W	General view of site
11	—	General view of site
12	SE	General view of site
13	SE	General view of site

PHOTO	DIRECTION FACING	DESCRIPTION
14	S	Trench 5
15	N	Trench 5
16	NW	Trench 6
17	SE	Trench 6
18	N	Trench 7
19	S	Trench 7
20	E	Trench 8
21	W	Trench 8
22	E	General view of site
23	SE	General view of site
24	S	General view of site
25	E	General view of site
26	S	General view of site

Appendix 1.3 Context register

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
1	Topsoil - mid brownish grey silt sand
2	Made- ground - grey clay brick fragments and wooden planks
3	Natural subsoil - mid pink silty clay, occasionally mid yellow sandy clay



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