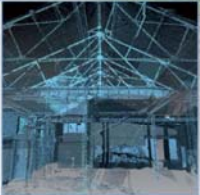


Dalgety Bay, Fife: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Oasis No. 1-167104
AOC 22515
18th December 2013



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Dalgety Bay, Fife: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Springfield Property Services
Springfield House
3 Central Park Avenue
Larbert
FK5 4RX

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 1610 8427

OASIS No: 1-167104

AOC Project No: 22515

Prepared by: Rob Engl

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Date of Report: 18th December 2013

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

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Date: 18th December 2013

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Draft Report Stage: Draft

Date: 18th December 2013

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Springfield Properties PLC to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development of a brownfield site set within the grounds of the former Donibristle Airfield, Dalgety Bay, Fife (NGR: NT 1610 8427).

Works consisted of an archaeological evaluation of eight trenches totalling 505 linear metres.

The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains. It was apparent that the area available for archaeological evaluation had been heavily truncated by recent landscaping. No further archaeological investigations are therefore recommended. This will require confirmation by, and be at the discretion of, Mr Douglas Spears of the Fife Archaeology Unit (FCAU).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology was commissioned by Springfield Properties PLC to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the residential development of a brownfield site within the grounds of the former Donibristle Airfield, Dalgety Bay, Fife (13/01582/PAN). The site lies within the administrative area of the Fife Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Fife Council Archaeological Unit (FCAU). A programme of archaeological works is required in keeping with best practice requirements outlined in current planning guidelines *Scottish Planning Policy (2010) & Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)* in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The development area is located within the Hillend Industrial Estate, Dalgety Bay, and is bounded by the existing estate on all sides. The site ranged from 50.0 OD to 40.0 OD in height and the topography slopes from north to south. The centre of the development area is centred on NGR: NT 1610 8427 (Figure 1).

1.3.1 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The site lies within the grounds of the former Donibristle Airfield (NMRS: NT18SE30). Donibristle aerodrome was developed from September 1917 to cater for the expansion of naval flying in southern Scotland. It lay close to the naval base at Rosyth, on an emergency landing ground previously established by No. 77 Home Defence Squadron (although it was never used by the squadron).

1.3.2 At the time of the 1918 RAF survey of aerodromes, the main station covered an area of 53 hectares (measuring 1005 m by 550 m), with its technical buildings in its north-west corner and the accommodation area in the north-east. The technical area included four aeroplane sheds measuring 61 m by 30 m and an erecting shed and a stores shed of the same size; there was a further, smaller, stores shed, as well as a range of workshops and ammunition stores. The establishment of the aerodrome had not been finalised at the time of the 1918 survey, but extensive accommodation for men and women was under construction.

1.3.3 The main site was linked to the shore by a railway line 2.6 km long, connected at its NE end to the main railway line that ran along the northern boundary of the aerodrome. The route of the line was mapped on the 1926-7 edition of the OS 25-inch map of the area. At its SW end the railway ran out onto a pier for the seaplanes, which survives.

1.3.4 Donibristle was one of only two Scottish aerodromes that continued in active military use after the First World War and then through the Second World War. Since its closure in 1959 most of the main part of the aerodrome has been occupied by Donibristle Industrial Estate, but about 16 buildings of

the First World War accommodation complex survive as commercial premises at the south-east corner of the estate.

- 1.3.5 In addition, there are known prehistoric monuments in the area, specifically the Aberdour Lodge Standing Stone, to the north of the development (NMRS: NT18SE 4).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of the archaeological works were to
- i) assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching;
 - ii) To advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC Archaeology 2013) was agreed with FCAU which proposed the excavation of trenches equating to a 5% sample of the development area. The site covered approximately ca. 2.2 ha resulting in required evaluation trenching with a total basal area of ca. 1150m² (575 linear metres) However, the presence of upstanding buildings, active car parks and previously unknown services restricted access significantly reducing the available area for evaluation. Nevertheless a trenching total of 505 linear metres was achieved.
- 3.2 All trenches were excavated with a 17 tonne tracked excavator using a 2.2 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through the overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The entire available evaluation area was covered with municipal turf and an imported topsoil of a well sorted, medium brown, clay loam 0.30 m to 0.40 m thick. This in-turn overlay a natural subsoil of grey/brown boulder clay with occasional small boulders and stone drags. A re-deposited subsoil 0.20 m to 0.30 m deep was recorded in Trenches 3 and 5. This was relatively loose and contained wire and building detritus. This is most probably the result of previous landscaping within the area. A

rubble drain was recorded in Trench 6 aligned north to south. The position of the trenches can be found in Figure 2. No significant archaeology was observed.



Plate 1: Post-excitation shot of Trench 8 from east



Plate 2: North facing section of Trench 8

5 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

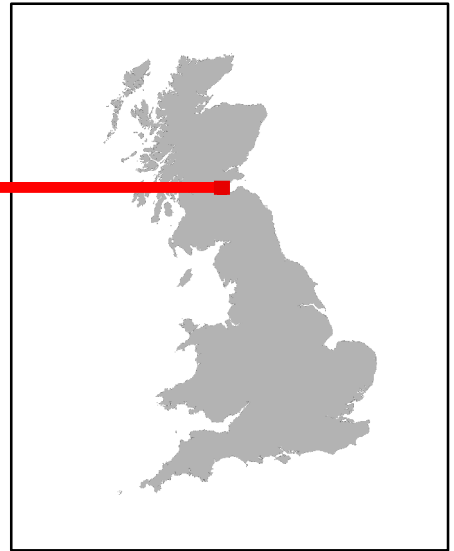
- 5.1 The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains. Given the nature of the existing topography and the extensive development which has already been undertaken within the associated industrial estate, it is probable that no *in situ* deposits remain within the proposed area. No further archaeological investigations are therefore recommended. This will require confirmation by, and be at the discretion of, Mr Douglas Spiers of the Fife Archaeology Unit (FCAU).

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2013 *Dalgety Bay, Fife: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client method statement

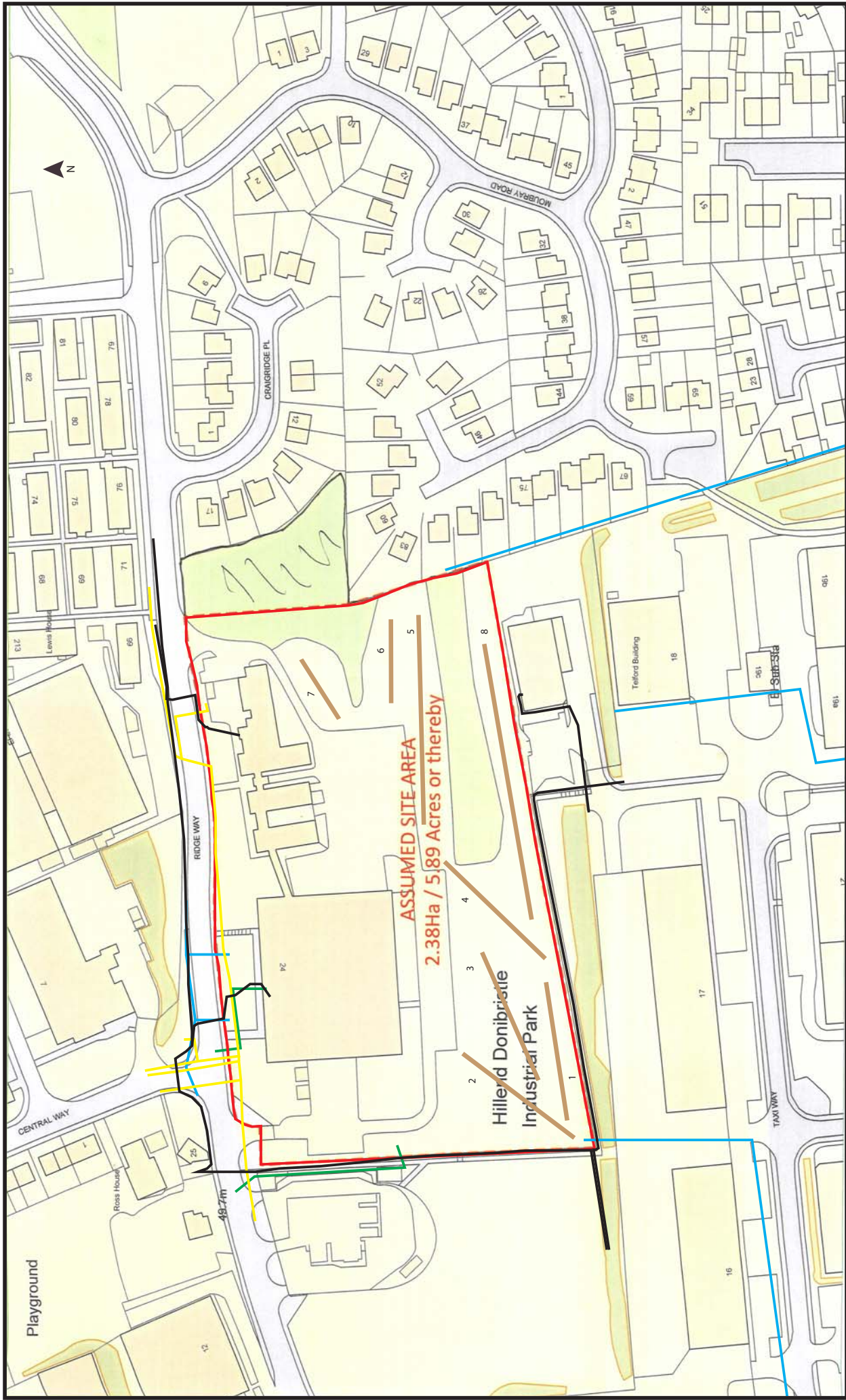
Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning. Scottish Government Nov.2008.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011*



0 200 400 600 800 Meters

Figure 1: Site Location Plan



Based on a drawing provided by the client

- Site Boundary
- Evaluation Trench
- Gas
- BT
- Water
- Electric

Figure 2 - Trench Location Plan

Dalgety Bay, Fife Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.2 m
Orientation	W-E
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m – 0.40 m
Depth of Made Ground	None
Features	None
Subsoil	Grey/brown boulder clay
Finds	White ceramics observed within topsoil

Trench 2

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.2 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m – 0.40 m
Depth of Made Ground	None
Features	None
Subsoil	Grey/brown boulder clay
Finds	White ceramics observed within topsoil

Trench 3

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.2 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m – 0.40 m
Depth of Made Ground	0.30 m (re-deposited natural)
Excavation Depth	0.70 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Grey/brown boulder clay
Finds	White ceramics observed within topsoil

Trench 4

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.2 m
Orientation	SSW-NNE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m – 0.40 m
Depth of Made Ground	None
Excavation Depth	0.50 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Grey/brown boulder clay
Finds	White ceramics observed within topsoil

Trench 5

Dimensions	75.0m by 2.2 m
Orientation	W-E
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m – 0.40 m
Depth of Made Ground	0.20 m (re-deposited natural)
Excavation Depth	0.60 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Grey/brown boulder clay
Finds	White ceramics observed within topsoil

Trench 6

Dimensions	30.0m by 2.2 m
Orientation	W-E
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m – 0.30 m
Depth of Made Ground	None
Excavation Depth	0.50 m
Features	Rubble drain at 10.50 m N/S
Subsoil	Grey/brown boulder clay
Finds	White ceramics observed within topsoil

Trench 7

Dimensions	25.0m by 2.2 m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Depth of Made Ground	None
Excavation Depth	0.40 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Grey/brown boulder clay
Finds	White ceramics observed within topsoil

Trench 8

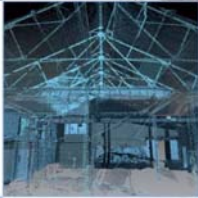
Dimensions	100.0m by 2.2 m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Depth of Made Ground	None
Excavation Depth	0.40 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Grey/brown boulder clay
Finds	White ceramics observed within topsoil

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER**Digital Register**

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration	-
2	5	Trench post-excavation	W
3	1	Trench post-excavation	E
4	2	Trench post-excavation	SW
5	3	Trench post-excavation	SW
6	4	Trench post-excavation	W
7	6	Trench post-excavation	NW
8	7	Trench post-excavation	W
9	8	North facing section	N
10	8	Trench post-excavation	E

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dalgety Bay, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22515
PARISH:	Dalgety Bay
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Military Airfield
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 1610 8427
START DATE (this season)	11 th December 2013
END DATE (this season)	12 th December 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by their client Springfield Properties PLC to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development of a brownfield site set within the grounds of the former Donibristle Airfield, Dalgety Bay, Fife (NGR: NT 1610 8427).</p> <p>Works consisted of an archaeological evaluation of eight trenches totalling 505 linear metres.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains. It was apparent that the area available for archaeological evaluation had been heavily truncated by recent landscaping.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Springfield Properties PLC
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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