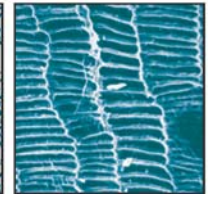


AWM07

Date: February 2007

Client: Scottish Water



Allandale Water Main, Falkirk: An Archaeological Watching Brief

Dan Atkinson



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (AWM07)

Client	Scottish Water
Project Manager	Andrea Smith
Text	Dan Atkinson
Illustrations	Craig Williams
Fieldwork	Dan Atkinson
Schedule	
Fieldwork	February 2007
Report	February 2007

Summary

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Scottish Water to conduct an archaeological watching brief near Allandale, Falkirk. Scottish Water are conducting remedial works on the mains water supply in the area around Allandale. Part of the works impacted on existing services located in close proximity to the line of the Antonine Wall (ditch, bank & military way), a Scheduled Ancient Monument. As a section of the works impacted within a Scheduled area (SAM 7742), Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Scotland was necessary and groundbreaking works were to be monitored in the event of the uncovering of significant archaeological remains. The excavation of six test-pits within the area of the works (5 within the Scheduled area and 2 outwith) confirmed the presence of existing water mains pipes. In all cases the works impacted upon the infilled service trenches with minimal peripheral impact on the natural subsoil. The works did not encounter any archaeological remains, other than vestiges of land drainage dating to the agricultural improvements of the recent past.

(AWM07) RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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1. INTRODUCTION (Figure 1)

This document is presented in connection with an archaeological Watching Brief during remedial works to the water main near Allandale, Falkirk. The terms of reference and extent of the areas that required monitoring were set out in a Brief prepared by Dr George Findlater of Historic Scotland (email 02/07) as the proposed works impacted upon an area in close proximity to the Antonine Wall which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). The purpose of the work was to monitor excavations in archaeologically sensitive areas, particularly the easternmost section which lies within the bounds of the Scheduled Monument (SAM No. 7742). The works were carried out in concordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (06/02/07) approved by Historic Scotland.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The area of the Watching Brief was located within pastoral farmland immediately to the south of the B816 between the road to Dalnair Steading and Underwood Cottage. The area of works lies in the vicinity of the Antonine Wall (ditch, bank and military way) and the site of Seabegs Wood to the east. The Forth and Clyde Canal is located immediately to the north of the B816, both of which are thought to follow the line of the Antonine Wall in the locality of the works. A ridge of high ground is located to the south of the area of works.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives were:

- To evaluate the nature of the deposits to be removed as part of the works.
- To record any significant archaeological remains uncovered by the works, particularly those associated with the Antonine Wall.

4. METHOD

The test-pits were excavated using a 360 degree mini-excavator under direct supervision by the archaeologist. The test-pits were located, measured and located in relation to the Ordnance Survey. Records of the test-pits were produced using the standard Headland Archaeology recording procedures. Written notes were produced and digital and colour print photographs were taken of all relevant site features.

5. RESULTS (Figure 1)

The following presents the results of the Watching Brief.

WATCHING BRIEF

Test-pit 1

Test-pit 1 was located within the Scheduled area in the northeast corner of the field adjacent to the road to Dalnair steading. The test-pit measured approximately 3m by 1m. The excavation revealed mixed topsoil back-fill of an existing water mains pipe at approximately 1.20m below the present ground surface. The topsoil was particularly deep at this location, probably the result of the gradual build up of hill wash from the sloping ground immediately to the south. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

Test-pit 2

Test-pit 2 was located in the northwest corner of the Scheduled area and measured approximately 3m by 2m. The excavations revealed mixed rubble and back fill for two existing water mains at approximately 1.40m below the present ground surface. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

Test-pit 3

Test-pit 3 was located within the Scheduled area immediately to the east of the Skipperton Burn. The test-pit measured approximately 2m by 2m. The excavations revealed mixed back fill for an existing water main at approximately 1.20m below the present ground surface. The deposits were particularly mixed as a result of the presence of a concrete anchor block associated with the existing services. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

Test-pit 4

Test-pit 4 was located approximately 3m to the east of Test-pit 3 and measured approximately 4m by 0.5m. The excavation revealed natural subsoil above a dark silty deposit. The north end of the test-pit revealed a previous service while at the southern end a further service and field drain were seen to cut the natural deposits. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

Test-pit 5

Test-pit 5 was located approximately 3m to the south of Test-pit 4 and measured approximately 2m by 0.5m. The excavation revealed service backfill above the existing water main. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

Test-pit 6

Test-pit 6 was located in the northwest corner of the field immediately to the west of the Skipperton Burn outwith the Scheduled area and measured approximately 2m by 2m. The excavations revealed mixed rubble and back fill for the existing water main at approximately 1.20m below the present ground surface. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

Test-pit 7

Test-pit 7 was located outwith the Scheduled area on the south verge of the main road opposite Underwood Cottage and measured approximately 3m by 1m. The excavation revealed service backfill above the existing water main. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

6. DISCUSSION

The Watching Brief failed to identify any finds or features of archaeological significance during the remedial works, particularly in relation to the Antonine Wall. This may be explained due to the location of the works above the existing water mains. The projected line of the Antonine Wall to the north of the area of works is likely to have been truncated or destroyed by the modern B816 trunk road and the Forth and Clyde Canal. This may also account for the lack of archaeological evidence.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Scottish Water and Historic Scotland for their assistance.

APPENDIX 1: Registers

Test-pits

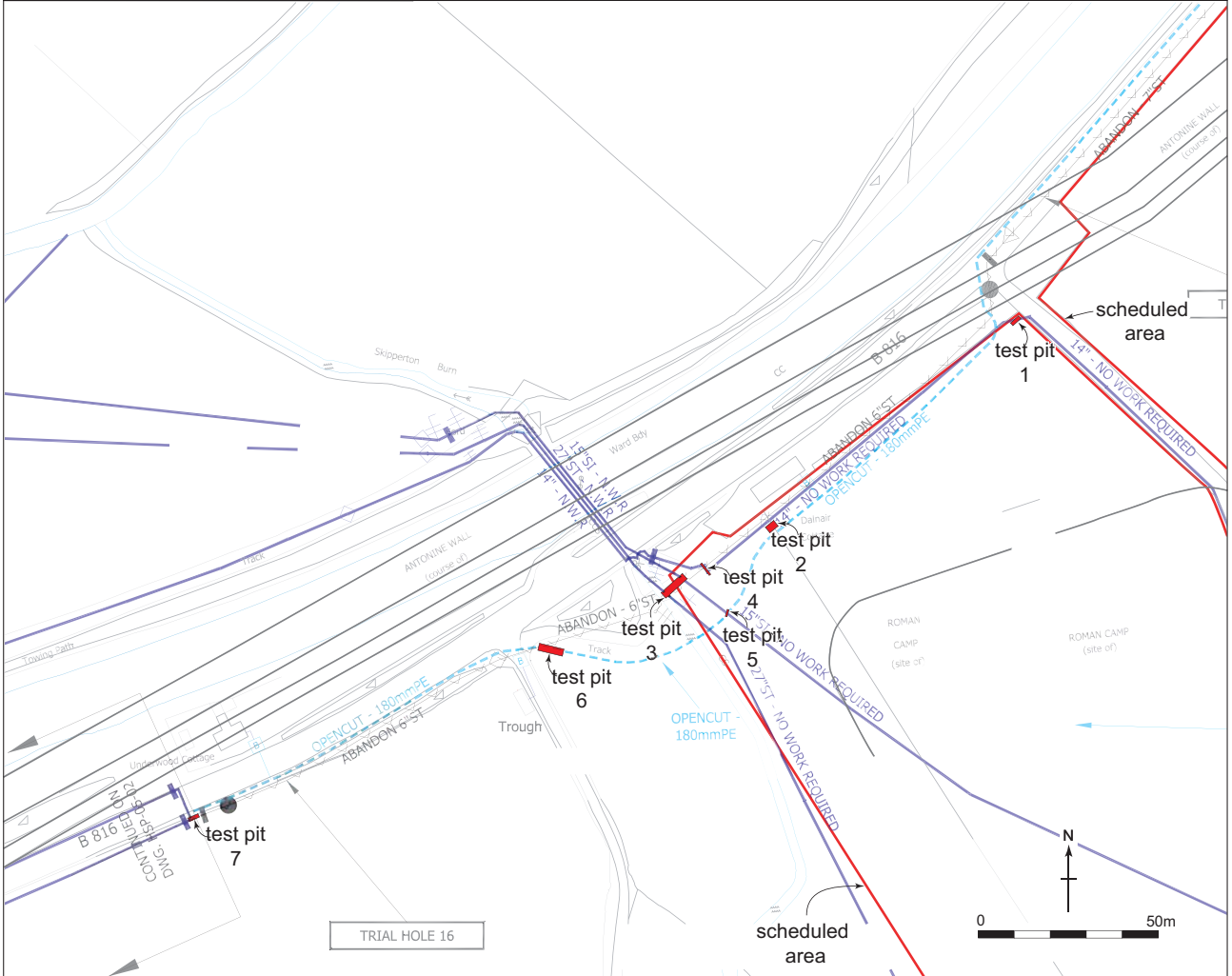
Test-pit	Description	Dimensions (m)	Av.Topsoil/subsoil Depth (m)
1	Topsoil (hill wash) fill, service back fill. Water pipe located. No finds or features	3 x 1	1.20
2	Topsoil above rubble service back fill. 2 water pipes located. Modern finds. No features.	3 x 2	0.10
3	Topsoil above mixed back fill. Water pipe and anchor block located. No finds or features	2 x 2	0.30
4	Topsoil above natural subsoils. Water pipe in the north of the pit and a ceramic field drain and service pipe in the south of the pit. No finds or features	4 x 0.5	0.25
5	Topsoil above service back fill. Water pipe located. No finds or features	2 x 0.5	0.25
6	Topsoil above service back fill. Clean natural subsoil in the southern half of the trench. Water pipe located in the north half. No finds or features.	2 x 2	0.20
7	Topsoil above service back fill. Water pipe and service conduit located. No finds or features	3 x 1	0.10

Photograph Register

Shot	Print	Slide	Direction facing	Description
1	Y	-	W	Test-pit 1
2	Y	-	W	Test-pit 1
3	Y	-	E	Test-pit 2
4	Y	-	E	Test-pit 2
5	Y	-	N	Test-pit 2
6	Y	-	N	Test-pit 2
7	Y	-	NW	Test-pit 3
8	Y	-	N	Test-pit 3
9	Y	-	NE	Test-pit 4
10	Y	-	NE	Test-pit 4
11	Y	-	-	General shot of Test-pits 3, 4 & 5
12	Y	-	-	General shot of Test-pits 3, 4 & 5
13	Y	-	W	Test-pit 6
14	Y	-	W	Test-pit 6
15	Y	-	W	Test-pit 6
16	Y	-	S	Test-pit 7



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AWM07 : Figure 1 - Site location and location of test pits