

# Anderston, Glasgow Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

AOC 20598  
September 2009



## Anderston, Glasgow: Evaluation Data Structure Report

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**On Behalf of:** Mast Architects  
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**AOC Project No:** 20598

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

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## Abstract

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A programme of archaeological works was required by Mast Architects on behalf of their client, Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association, in respect of a planning application on a housing development at Anderston, Glasgow. The proposed development comprises an area of recently demolished 20<sup>th</sup> century housing.

A programme of archaeological works was required in keeping with the policies outlined in SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994), in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

The evaluation was undertaken by means of a series of machine and hand excavated trenches and test-pits. Evidence for the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation of the site was identified in the form of demolition rubble.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.

## 0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Mast Architects on behalf of their client, Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association, to undertake a programme of archaeological works on a proposed housing development at Anderston, Glasgow. The proposed development consists of an area of recently demolished 20<sup>th</sup> century residential buildings covering approximately 1 ha, to the north and south of Argyll Street (Figure 1). The proposed development lies within the administrative area of City of Glasgow Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). A programme of archaeological works was required in keeping with the policies outlined in SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994), in order to gauge the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The proposed development site (subject to evaluation) is comprised of two land parcels, located within the City of Glasgow (centred on NGR: NS 5770 6551). The north-east land parcel is bounded by Argyll Street to the south and by Elderslie Street to the west. The south-east land parcel is bounded by Argyle Street to the north, by McIntyre Street to the west by Little Street to the south and by Oak Street to the west.

### 1.2 Development proposal

- 1.2.1 The development involves the creation of a residential development together with associated access roads and landscaping. The following report presents the results of the evaluation of the southern-eastern land parcel (Figure 1).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 Cartographic and bibliographic sources indicate the development area has been the site of substantial activity in the past, including numerous phases of late urban development. Documentary research has suggested that Argyle Street was the focus for the medieval development of settlement in the Anderston area and as such may contain archaeological evidence for this development. Although the north-east and south-east areas have witnessed substantial modern development and disturbance, there is a possibility that pockets of relatively undisturbed areas will preserve earlier archaeological remains. A map regression exercise comparing spot heights across the proposed development area has revealed that land immediately north and south of Argyle Street was raised in height by approximately 1 m between the first edition OS maps c.1850 and the second edition OS map in 1899. Changes in spot heights since 1899 have been relatively minimal and as such it was considered possible that deeper deposits relating to the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier remains fronting Argyle Street may have survived relatively undisturbed within the development area (AOC 2007).

## 1.4 Curatorial control

- 1.4.1 National planning policies and planning guidance, SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994), as well as the local plan policies, require a mitigation response that is designed to investigate the potential for archaeological sites within the development area and thence allow the preservation or recording of any significant remains.
- 1.4.2 The site is located within the Local Authority administrative area of City of Glasgow Council. The Council is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service. A programme of evaluation works that fully met the requirement rendered by WoSAS was undertaken.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a sample field evaluation;
  - ii) whilst the over-riding aim of the development was to provide information allowing preservation *in situ* of specifically identified archaeological sites, the evaluation was also designed to inform a mitigation scheme involving an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication should less significant archaeological remains be encountered.

## 3 METHOD

- 3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2007a) proposed the investigation of the 1 ha site through a combination of a watching brief and evaluation. Due to the occurrence of a combination of existing residential buildings and a considerable number of live utility services, the evaluation trenches were excavated only where it was safe to do so. The evaluation comprised both machine excavated trenches and hand excavated test-pits. Evaluation of the south-eastern land parcel was also constrained by the identification of Japanese Knotweed in the north-west and a demolition bund to the east.
- 3.2 All machine excavated trenches were excavated with a 13 tonne tracked excavator using a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2007a).

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The works were conducted over five separate visits between December 2008 and September 2009. The weather conditions during the evaluation were mixed, dry and sunny in parts with heavy

showers and snow. Overall archaeological visibility was nevertheless generally good. In total three machine and two hand excavated trenches were opened (Figure 2).

4.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1 contains trench summaries;

Appendix 2 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* entry.

4.3 The whole of the south-eastern land parcel was covered by made ground of varying depth, reflecting the recent residential use of the land and subsequent demolition. Trenches 1-3 were excavated across the footprint of a demolished building and on adjacent areas of raised garden and handstanding. The demolished buildings date to the 1960s and 1970s (AOC 2007).

4.4 Trench 1 was excavated across the footprint of the square residential building that formerly occupied the central area of the site (Figure 2). Prior to the excavation of the trench the building had been demolished and the foundations grubbed up under the supervision of a Watching Brief Officer (see below). The trench was aligned north to south, and measured 20 m in length by 2 m in width. The trench was excavated through between 0.80 m and 1.20 m of made ground comprising demolition rubble spread across the site during the demolition process. The natural subsoil comprised a yellow boulder clay. No significant archaeological remains were identified.

4.5 Trench 2 was excavated across the location of a former raised flower bed associated with the tenement to the immediate west. The trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 25 m in length by 2 m in width. The trench was excavated through 2.5 m of made ground comprising demolition rubble from earlier phases of development. No significant archaeological remains were identified.

4.6 Trench 3 was excavated across the footprint of the northern part of the partially demolished residential building to the east of the site (Figure 2). The trench was aligned east to west across the site and measured 20 m in length by 2 m in width. The trench was excavated through 2.5 m of made ground comprising demolition rubble from at least two phases of work. Elements of the foundation of the recently demolished tenement were identified as well as earlier sandstone rubble. No significant archaeological remains were identified.

4.7 Two test-pits were hand excavated within the grassed area to the north of the site, where the considerable presence of live utility services meant machine excavated was inappropriate (Figure 2). Test-pit 1 measured 3 m north to south by 1 m east to west. The test-pit comprised up to 0.40 m of topsoil and made ground, overlying a concrete foundation which was dug into the natural clay soil (Plate 1). The foundation probably represents an element of the now demolished sandstone tenements which formerly occupied the site. Test-pit 2 measured a 2 m by 2 m and comprised 0.40 m of topsoil and made ground overlying the natural clay. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified in either test-pit.





**Plate 1: Detail of Test-pit 1, showing concrete foundation**

## **5 DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 The evaluation demonstrated that the whole of the site has been truncated by subsequent phases of occupation and demolition through the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Unfortunately successive phases of development appear to have truncated and destroyed the structural evidence for the earlier occupation of the site. Generally, the areas most disturbed by the occupation are those which were occupied by the most recent 1960s and 1970s developments. These buildings possessed deep foundations and possible basements, excavated deep into the underlying natural soils.
- 5.2 The triangular area of former public parkland to the north was also truncated by the earlier occupation of the site. The excavation of the two test-pits reveal that even those areas relatively undeveloped in the 1960s and 1970s were heavily affected by earlier occupation, the foundations having been cut in to the underlying boulder clay.

- 5.3 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified and the site appears archaeologically sterile.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The significant balance of probability is that the development's south-eastern land parcel is archaeologically sterile. No further works are considered necessary. However this recommendation will require confirmation by Glasgow City Council as advised by WoSAS.

## **7 REFERENCES**

AOC 2007 *Anderston, Glasgow: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* AOC Archaeology Client Report

AOC 2007a *Anderston, Glasgow: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* AOC Archaeology Client Report

SOEnD 1994 Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

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

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

### Trench 1

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Overburden	0.25 m to 0.30 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Yellow clay
Finds	None

### Trench 2

Dimensions	15 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Overburden	2.50 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Gravel
Finds	None

### Trench 3

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.25 m to 0.30 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Orange gravel and silt
Finds	None

### Test-pit 1

Dimensions	3 m by 1 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.40 m
Features	Concrete foundation
Subsoil	Clay
Finds	None

### Test-pit 2

Dimensions	2 m by 2 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.40 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Clay
Finds	None

## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

### Black & White Print & Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Trench	Detail	From
1-2	-	Registration	
3-4	Tr.3	Post-excavation shot of trench	E
5-6	Tr.3	Post-Excavation shot of trench	W

### Black & White Print & Colour Slide Film 2

Frame	Trench	Detail	From
1-2	-	Registration	
3-4		General shot of spoil bund and knotweed obstruction	N
5	TP 1	Pre-excavation shot of test-pit	E
6	TP 1	North facing section through test-pit	N
7	TP 2	North facing section through test-pit	N
8	TP 1	North facing section through test-pit	N
9	TP 1	West facing section through test-pit	W

### APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Glasgow Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Anderston Archaeological Works
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20598
PARISH:	City of Glasgow
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Martin Cook
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 5770 6551
START DATE (this season)	December 2008
END DATE (this season)	August 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An evaluation was required in respect to a proposed residential development at Anderston, Glasgow. The proposed development comprised a brownfield site covering c 1 ha.</p> <p>In total three machine and two test-pits were excavated across the site. The evaluation revealed the heavy truncation that had occurred across the site due to successive housing development in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were recovered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mast Architects
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Martin.Cook@aocarchaeology.com



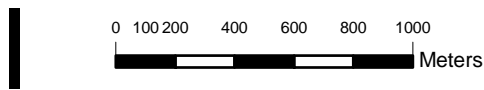
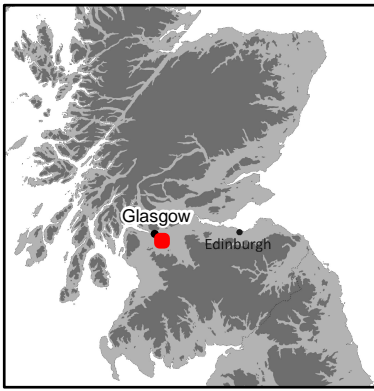


Figure 1: Site Location



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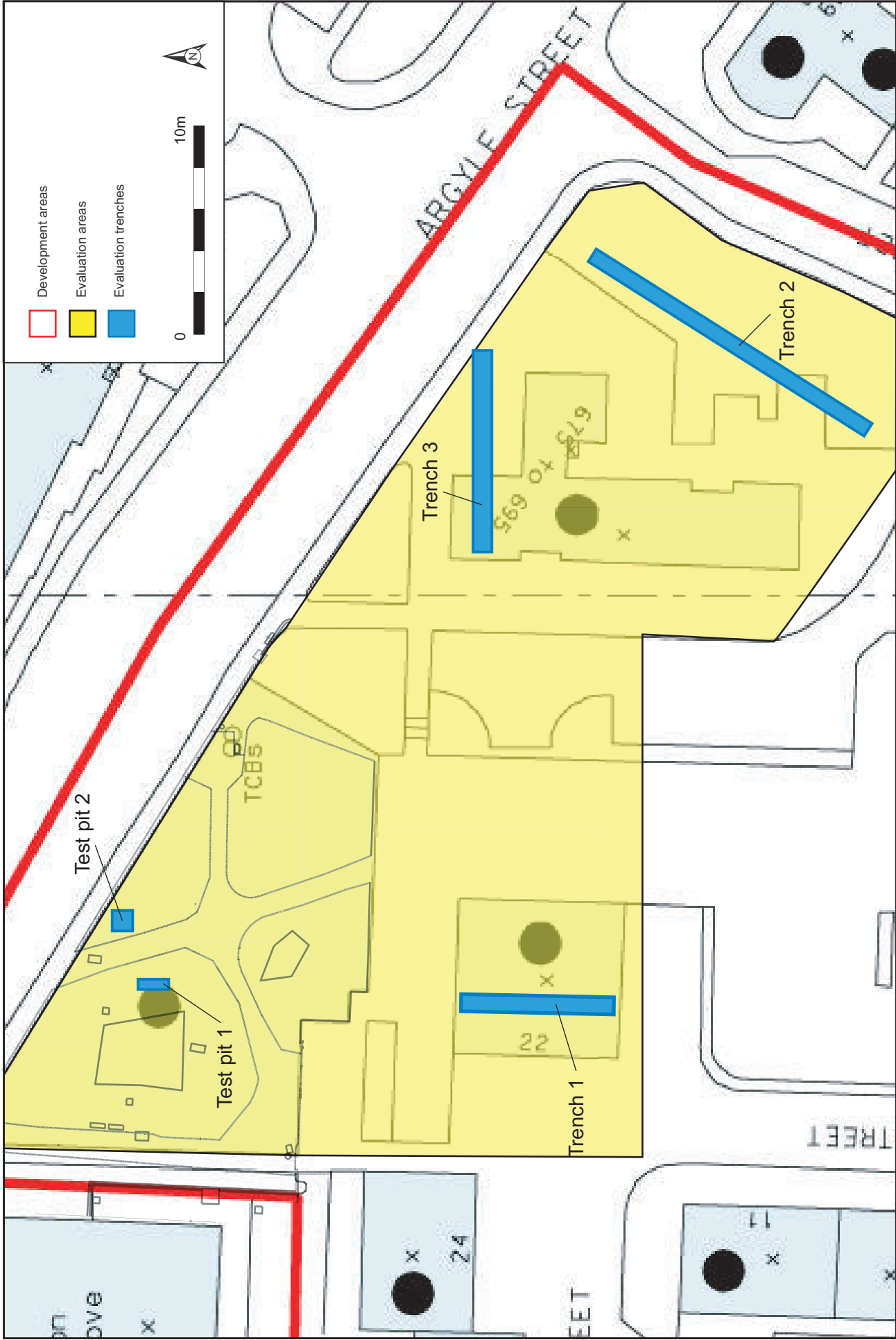
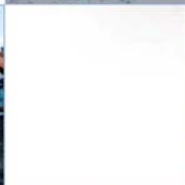


Figure 2: Detailed trench location plan





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