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Planning application reference number: 06/01014/DET
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New Livestock Auction Market, Stirling

Archaeological Watching Brief

Malcolm Corney

Project summary sheet

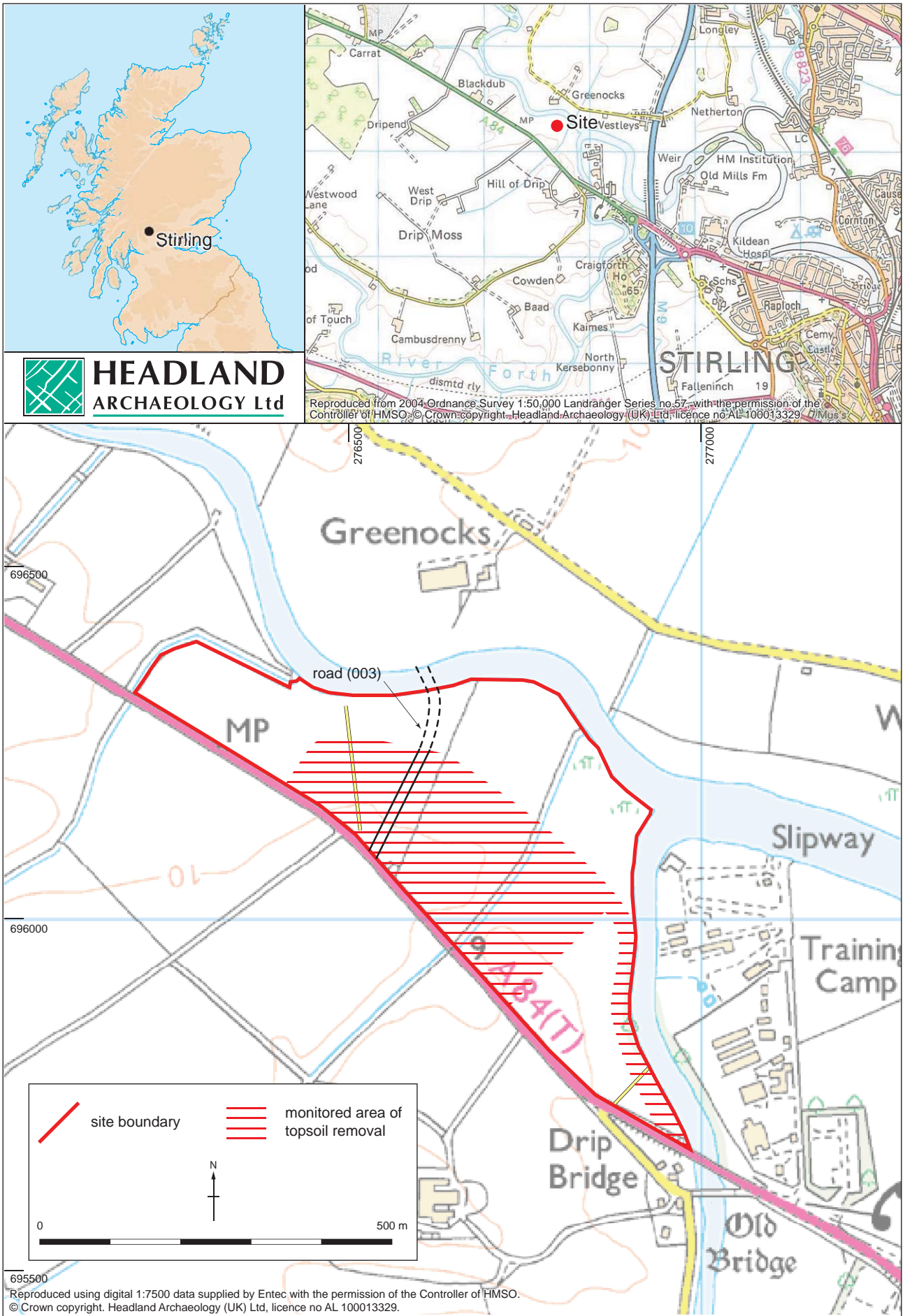
<i>Client</i>	UNITED AUCTIONS
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NS 76678 96116
<i>Address</i>	NEW LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET, NORTH OF HILL OF DRIP FARM, STIRLING
<i>Parish</i>	DUNBLANE & LECROPT PARISH
<i>Council</i>	STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL
<i>Planning Application No</i>	06/01014/DET
<i>NMRS No</i>	N/A
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Illus 1
Site location

New Livestock Auction Market, North of Hill of Drip Farm, Stirling

By
Malcolm Corney

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the site of a new livestock auction market, north of the Hill of Drip farm, Stirling. The work was commissioned by Entec UK, for Elphinstone Land Ltd on behalf of United Auctions, to meet the requirements of planning consent issued by Stirling Council. An area of the site was stripped of topsoil using 360° mechanical excavators under archaeological monitoring. A WWII approach road and two sets of post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation remains were encountered.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a watching brief at the site for a new auction market, north of the Hill of Drip Farm, Stirling. The work was commissioned by Entec UK for Elphinstone Land Ltd, on behalf of United Auctions. The project was undertaken according to a specification prepared by Entec UK to comply with the conditions of planning consent as determined by Stirling Council.

The site comprises several enclosed fields bounded by the A84(T) road on the south-west and the Forth and Teith Rivers on the east and north respectively (Illus1, centered on NGR NS 76678 96116). The

proposal included the creation of a livestock market, vehicle parking, associated retail buildings and a scheme of landscaping on a series of fields formerly utilised for agricultural purposes.

The site forms part of the Carse of Stirling, an area of low lying alluvial flood plains underlain by boulder clays. This area was formerly covered by raised peat bogs which were drained and cleared from the mid 18th century onwards as part of agricultural improvements.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The Council planning condition stated that developer should provide access at all reasonable times to



Illus 2
Road (003) looking north-east

an archaeologist retained by him and approved by the council. This access was to allow the archaeologist to observe the work in progress and record any items of interest.

Entec UK drew up a written scheme of investigation detailing the parameters under which the watching brief and any subsequent excavations would be conducted. The objective of the watching brief was to monitor all areas of the site that were being stripped of topsoil and to record, or leave in situ, any archaeological deposits or features encountered (Illus 1).

The topsoil was removed from site by a number of 360° mechanical excavators using toothless ditching buckets. Initially a number of 10m wide strips (over 100m in length and 0.5m deep), orientated south-west to north-east, were excavated with the spoil being temporarily stored to the side of the strip. Once the first phase of the topsoil removal had been completed the remaining spoil and topsoil between the strips was removed. Approximately half of the second phase of the area to be stripped was monitored.

The site was recorded using the Headland Archaeology standard method. Colour transparencies and colour prints photographs were taken and all recording was undertaken on pro forma sheets.

RESULTS

Road

The remains of a road (003) were encountered within the initial phase of the topsoil removal. This road consisted of a linear bed of compacted angular, small pebble (2mm) to small boulder (300mm) sized stone lying directly over the subsoil (Illus 2). This hardcore was between 2.4m to 2.6m wide and up to 0.50m in depth, orientated south-west to north-east and over 100m in length. Across the upper surface of the hardcore were occasional pockets of tarmac.

Cultivation Furrows

Two sets of closely spaced cultivation furrow remains were evident across the site (Illus 3). To the north-west of a stream and field boundary the cultivation remains were orientated south-west to north-east. The width of the ridge varied between 2.1m and 2.4m and the spacing between the ridges (measured from centre of ridge to centre of next ridge) was approximately 7m. To the south-east of the stream and field boundary the cultivation furrow remains were



Illus 3
Cultivation furrows looking north

orientated east to west. The width of the ridges varied between 2.1m and 2.4m and the spacing between the ridges was approximately 5m. Sherds of post-medieval pottery and glass were observed across the surface of the exposed natural geology.

DISCUSSION

A shallow linear depression was observed leading from the remains of General Drew's Bridge (NMRS No. NS79NE 76) on the river bank and up towards the road (003) at the edge of the excavation. The road is presumably the approach road to the World War 2 emergency bridge across the River Teith.

The cultivation ridge and furrow remains appear to be from post-medieval agricultural activities probably related to the two former farmsteads of Staners and Lochtavel recorded on early 19th century maps (Johns, 2008). It is possible that the remains of these farmsteads lie in the unexcavated areas to the north-west and south-east of the site but it is more likely that they lie to the south-west of the A84.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Rob Johns of Entec UK, Alison Kilgour of Elphinstone Land Ltd and the staff of Ogilvie Construction for their assistance during fieldwork.

REFERENCES

Johns, Robert 2008. *New Livestock Auction Market, North of Hill of Drip Farm, Stirling: Written Scheme for Archaeological Investigation*. Unpublished technical note by Entec UK.

APPENDIX 1: REGISTERS

1.1 Context register

Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Subsoil
003	Approach road to General Drew's Bridge
004	Cultivation Furrows
005	Cultivation Furrows
006	Cultivation Furrows

1.2 Photograph Register

Photo No.	Colour Print	Colour Slide	Facing	Description
1	1-1			Registration Shot
2		2-1		Registration Shot
3	1-2		E	Furrows Area A
4		2-2	E	Furrows Area A
5	1-3		N	Furrows Area A
6		2-3	N	Furrows Area A
7	1-4		N	Furrows Area A
8		2-4	N	Furrows Area A
9	1-5		NE	Furrows Area B
10		2-5	NE	Furrows Area B
11	1-6		N	Furrows Area B
12		2-6	N	Furrows Area B
13	1-7		N	Furrows Area B
14		2-7	N	Furrows Area B
15	1-8		NE	Area B Approach road to General Drew's bridge
16		2-8	NE	Area B Approach road to General Drew's bridge
17	1-9		W	Furrows Area A
18		2-9	W	Furrows Area A