

Project Code: SRDM08  
Planning application reference number: 08/00084/FUL  
Date of report: May 2008  
Client: Barr Holdings Ltd on behalf of Midlothian Council

Salters Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian  
An Archaeological Evaluation

Mike Kimber  
AIFA

## Project summary sheet

<i>Client</i>	BARR HOLDINGS LTD ON BEHALF OF MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	334450,667900
<i>Address</i>	SALTERS ROAD, DALKEITH, MIDLOTHIAN
<i>Parish</i>	DALKEITH
<i>Council</i>	MIDLOTHIAN
<i>Planning Application No</i>	08/00084/FUL
<i>NMRS No</i>	NT36NW80
<i>SMR No</i>	N/A
<i>HB/SAM No</i>	N/A
<i>Listing Category</i>	N/A
<i>Project Manager</i>	SIMON STRONACH
<i>Text</i>	MIKE KIMBER
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<i>Fieldwork</i>	MIKE KIMBER; RACHEL KERSHAW; DEAN WILLIAMS
<i>Specialists</i>	N/A
<i>Schedule</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	16TH-18TH APRIL 2008
<i>Report</i>	22 MAY 2008

Signed off by:.....

Date:.....

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# Salters Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian

## An Archaeological Evaluation

By Mike Kimber

*An archaeological evaluation with a sample size of five per cent was carried out on the site of a proposed primary school at Salters Road, Dalkeith adjacent to Dalkeith Schools Campus. The development area had been covered with one to one and a half meters of overburden and was heavily disturbed in places. The presence of a post-medieval furrow system was confirmed within the development area, but no significant archaeological features were located.*

### INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation of land at Salters Road, Dalkeith, adjacent to Dalkeith Schools Campus. The client has applied for planning permission for a primary school with vehicular access (08/00084/FUL), and an archaeological evaluation was requested by Midlothian Council in order to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area.

### Archaeological background

There are a number of known archaeological sites in the surrounding area. A scheduled cropmark (SAM 6203) lies to the west of the development area. Cropmarks indicating substantial prehistoric settlement to the north of the development area (NT36NW 51) and rig-and-furrow cultivation within the development area (NT36NW 80) are visible on aerial photographs dated prior to 2000.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Headland Archaeology Ltd in 2000 (Stronach & Connolly 2000), covering the development area and the land to the north (currently occupied by playing fields) and to the west (currently lying fallow). The evaluation covered approximately two per cent of the current development area and confirmed the preservation of rig-and-furrow cultivation furrows. Additionally the presence of a large prehistoric settlement was confirmed to the north of the development area.

Since the evaluation was carried out in 2000, a high school has been constructed to the north-east of the development area, and playing fields have been constructed to the north. Archaeological work associated with this construction located a number of features yet recovered no dating evidence (Duffy & Cook 2002: 80).

### METHODOLOGY

The evaluation carried out in 2000 had a sample size of two per cent of the development area, as per a specification agreed at that time. In response to the current application Midlothian Council requested that additional trenching be carried out to increase the sample size to eight per cent of the development area. This equated to 820 linear metres of trench ex-

cavated with a 1.8 m wide ditching bucket. However it was not possible to achieve this sample size due to conditions on the ground. Excess surface water in the area between Trenches four and seven (see Figure 1) prevented trial trenching in this area. Additionally, large volumes of groundwater trapped within modern overburden around Trenches four and five and in the area to the east of these rapidly flooded any excavations and prevented examination of underlying deposits for archaeological remains. These issues were discussed with the Midlothian Heritage Officer and a variation agreed, allowing the excavation of 700 linear meters of trial trenching. This equates to an additional five per cent sample, giving a total sample, including the previous evaluation, of seven per cent of the development area.

Trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator, controlled by an archaeologist and equipped with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation continued to the first significant archaeological deposit or undisturbed subsoil. The only archaeological features encountered were post-medieval furrows, and several of these were investigated by hand.

### RESULTS

A tabulated list of results from all evaluation trenches has been compiled in Appendix 1. This section summarizes the results of the evaluation and describes the general character of archaeological remains across the development area.

The entire evaluation area had been covered with overburden to a depth of between 0.5 and 1.5 m on top of the previously existing ground surface. The original topsoil, which remained intact in many parts of the development area, had an average depth of 0.4 m. Natural drift deposits throughout the development area consisted of sandy glacial clay.

The overburden consisted of redeposited topsoil in the western half of the site, and a mix of hardcore, blaes and demolition rubble in the southern and eastern area. In the north-eastern part of the site, around Trench one, the eastern end of Trenches two and eight and the northern ends of Trenches nine and ten the overburden overlay natural deposits on a layer of terram matting. This suggests that this area had been stripped when the school was under construction.

There was evidence of two different furrow systems within the development area. One system of

furrows appeared to be confined to the northern part of the site, and was observed in Trenches two and eight. These furrows were aligned north-south, and were widely spaced. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from one of these furrows. The second apparently more recent system of furrows was more common in the southern and eastern parts of the development area, and was observed in Trenches one, three, six, seven, nine and ten. These furrows were aligned north-east to south-west, and contained occasional fragments of blue and white china. Both alignments of furrows were shallow (<0.2 m), and their widths varied between 0.5 and 2 m. These furrow systems are recorded on transcriptions of aerial photographs held in NMRS (SC 566136).

## DISCUSSION

The results of the recent evaluation would appear to bear out those of the evaluation carried out in 2000, and the evidence from earlier aerial photographs from the site. The prehistoric settlement that formerly existed to the north of the development area does not appear to have extended south to within the site boundary. The post-medieval furrow systems that could be seen on the aerial photographs appear to be the only existing archaeological remains within the area. These types of furrow systems are a common indicator of recent land-use and are of limited archaeological significance.

The overburden covering the site, which was not present in 2000, is most likely to derive from the construction of the school to the north-east and the construction of site facilities such as compounds within the development area. The large deposits of redeposited topsoil in the western parts of site may derive from the area cleared to make way for the school playing fields. It is likely that large bunds of material were stored on site and then leveled out to give the appearance of an open field once construction activities were complete.

## REFERENCES

- Duffy, A & Cook, M 2002. *"Salters Road, Dalkeith"*. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 3: 80.
- Stronach, S & Connolly, R 2000. *"Results of an archaeological evaluation at the proposed Schools Community Campus, Salters Road, Dalkeith"*. Headland Archaeology Ltd client report.

### **National Monuments Record of Scotland**

SC 566136. *"Transcription of the cropmarks of the ring-ditch, possible enclosure, cropmarks and rig"*

## APPENDIX 1

## APPENDIX 1.1: TRENCH REGISTER

Trench No.	Description	Length	Depth
1	Area landscaped, natural appeared bulldozed although a single furrow aligned east-west (1003) was present Deep deposits of hardcore were encountered at the southern end of the trench	50 m	Max 1 m; Avg 0.4 m
2	Contained modern pit (1005) at western end of trench and redundant cast-iron water pipe; single furrow aligned north-south (1006) also noted; eastern 75 m of trench heavily disturbed with modern demolition materials and evidence of modern compound with services	150 m	Max 1 m; Avg 0.75 m
3	Dense system of furrows aligned north-east to south-west; Overburden consisted of redeposited topsoil to a depth of 0.8 m	90 m	Max 1.1 m; Avg 0.6 m
4	Trench abandoned due to groundwater; apparently consisted of <1.5 m hardcore overburden on top of intact soil profile	6 m	Max 2 m
5	Trench abandoned due to groundwater; apparently consisted of <1.5 m hardcore overburden on top of intact soil profile	4 m	Max 2 m
6	Dense system of furrows aligned north-east to south-west; Overburden consisted of redeposited topsoil to a depth of 1.1 m	80 m	Max 1.5 m; Avg 0.8 m
7	Contained furrows aligned north-east to south-west, substantial deposits of topsoily overburden on top of old topsoil to max depth of 0.5 m	52 m	Max 0.9 m Avg 0.7 m
8	Contained north-south aligned furrows at western end, 50 m of trench at eastern end disturbed by modern activity	150 m	Max 1.3 m; Avg 0.8 m
9	Contained furrows aligned north-east to south-west, substantial deposits of overburden on top of old topsoil	70 m	Max 1.26 m; Avg 1.15 m
10	Contained occasional shallow furrows aligned north-east to south-west, overburden a mix of topsoil and hardcore	55 m	Max 1.1 m; Avg 1 m

## APPENDIX 1.2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
1001	All	Topsoil formed above modern overburden
1002	All	Natural drift - sandy clay, few stones
1003	1	Cut of east-west aligned furrow, w = 2.0 m; d = 0.18 m
1004	1	Fill of 1003
1005	2	Large oval pit partially exposed in west end of Tr 2, contained modern pottery
1006	2	Cut of north-south aligned furrow in Tr 2, w = 1.6 m d = 0.13 m
1007	2	Fill of 1007, contained single sherd of post-medieval pottery
1008	3	Group of north-east to south-west aligned furrows, widths 0.55 - 1.17 m; depths 0.07 - 0.19 m
1009	3	Group number for fills of furrows 1008 - dark brown silty clay containing blue and white china
1010	6	Group of north-east to south-west aligned furrows
1011	6	Group number for fills of furrows 1010
1012	8	Group of furrows with average width 1.50 m, average depth 0.10 m; aligned north-south
1013	8	Subcircular feature filled with demolition rubble 1015
1014	8	Fills of furrows 1013 - dark brown sandy clay with occasional small stones
1015	8	Modern demolition material

## APPENDIX 1.3: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Scale	Description
1	1:10	Section of furrow 1003
2	1:10	Section of furrow 1006

## APPENDIX 1.4: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Shot No.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID Shot
2	N	Tr 1 general shot
3	S	Tr 1 general shot
4	W	South end of Tr 1 showing deep section
5	W	South end of Tr 1 showing deep section
6	W	Section of furrow 1003
7	W	Tr 2 general shot from east end
8	E	Tr 2 general shot from west end
9	SE	Tr 3 general shot
10	NW	Tr 3 general shot showing furrows
11	N	Section of furrow 1006
12	N	Section of furrow 1006
13	S	Tr 3 general shot
14	N	Tr 3 general shot
15	E	Section through furrow 1008.1, Tr 3
16	E	Section through furrows 1008.2 & 3, Tr 3
17	N	Tr 6 general shot
18	S	Tr 6 general shot
19	W	Section of furrow 1010, Tr 6
20	E	Section of furrow 1010, Tr 6
21	N	General shot of modern feature 1013
22	SE	General shot Tr 7
23	SW	General shot Tr 8
24	NE	General shot Tr 9
25	N	General shot Tr 10
26	S	General shot Tr 10

## APPENDIX 2

## APPENDIX 2.1: DIGITAL ARCHIVE METADATA

LF - Linked Files (list below)  
 V. - version  
 3PD - 3rd Party data

File name	Description	Folder	LF	Software	V.	3PD
SRDM08-Salters_Road-Trench_Locations.dxf	Georeferenced evaluation trench locations	P:\1projects\SRDM08\SRDM08-Evaluation\East_Lothian_requirement		ProgeCad 2008		N
SRDM08-Report.pdf		P:\1projects\SRDM08\SRDM08-Evaluation		Adobe CS3		N
SRDM08_Report_text.doc		P:\1projects\SRDM08\SRDM08-Evaluation		MS Office 2003		N
SRDM08-EV_report_summary-mk-v01.doc		P:\1projects\SRDM08\SRDM08-Evaluation		MS Office 2003		N
srdm08-appendices_and_metadata-mk-v01.xls		P:\1projects\SRDM08\SRDM08-Evaluation		MS Office 2003		N
SRDM08_fig_01_3_in_1_afp.ai		P:\1projects\SRDM08\SRDM08-Evaluation\Illustrations		Adobe CS3		Y

## APPENDIX 2.2: DES ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Salters Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian
PROJECT CODE:	SRDM08
PARISH:	Dalkeith
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Mike Kimber
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Trial Trenching
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Agricultural
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	334450 667900
START DATE (this season)	16/04/2008
END DATE (this season)	18/04/2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Two percent evaluation of the area in 2000 (Stronach; DES 2000)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	A five percent sample of trial trenching was undertaken on this site in advance of a new primary school. A previous evaluation (DES 2000) located a prehistoric settlement in the field to the north of the development area, and post-medieval furrows within the evaluation area. The aims of the evaluation were to improve the sample of land investigated and clarify the results of the previous evaluation.
(May include information from other fields)	The only archaeological remains located were two distinct cultivation furrow systems - a post-medieval system orientated north-south and a 19th century system orientated north-east to south-west
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.
	Reports to be deposited with NMRS and WoSAS
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Barr Holdings Ltd on behalf of Midlothian Council
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
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