

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF SITE ADJACENT TO
A708 (SELKIRK ROAD), MOFFAT**

SITE: Proposed housing development

NGR: NT 0938 0583

PLANNING REF: 18/0967/MCE

DATE: 26th March 2019

PREPARED FOR: Hartfell Homes

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

JAF Ltd has been requested by Hartfell Homes to provide a cost and written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological evaluation as a condition of a planning application (ref: **18/0967/MCE**) for the construction of approximately 200 homes in accordance with both Dumfries and Galloway local development plan and Scottish national planning policy.

The proposed development covers an area of approximately 24.5 hectares and is located within the Moffat Hills Regional Scenic Area, with the present town of Moffat on its western flank.

To the north of the proposed site is the scheduled ancient monument of Auldton Motte (HER ref: MDG255). Although this is the only known archaeological site within the development site boundaries, there are a significant number of known prehistoric, medieval and post medieval sites located within the surrounding area. It is not unlikely that further previously undiscovered archaeology may be present, particularly along the alignment of the Crosslaw Burn which passes through a significant portion of the proposed housing development.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The aim of this investigation is to evaluate whether previously unknown archaeological artefacts or structures are present within the area of the proposed construction site. Where archaeological remains are discovered they will be investigated to a level where their nature and significance can be determined in order to inform the ongoing process of planning the development.

The discovery and identification of archaeological remains will require a further consultation between the client and the county archaeologist to determine the course and extent of further investigation works, or the alteration of the planned development in order to leave the remains in situ and undisturbed. Any necessary larger scale excavation or other archaeological intervention beyond initial identification ,dating and mapping of remains are not covered by this WSI and should be determined by all interested parties through later discussion.

3.0 PROGRAMME OF WORK

Initial archaeological evaluation will take the form of the opening of a series of trenches using a 360 tracked excavator with a 2m wide toothless bucket to provide the least probability of damage to potential subsoil features. These trenches will be strategically placed across the proposed housing site in a pattern designed to give the best possible chance of discovery of any archaeological remains across the whole site. In compliance with the stipulated pre-planning conditions indicated by the county archaeologist, a minimum of 8% of the total proposed construction site area will be opened by trenches and this will equate to an area of not less than 9000m².

Work will begin at the southern limits of the site and continue in a phased manner in a northerly direction. A site plan showing the exact positions of all trenches is provided at Fig 1.

All trenches will be numbered and accurately positioned using National Grid co-ordinates and dug to the depth of the first archaeological horizon or natural subsoil level where no archaeology is present.

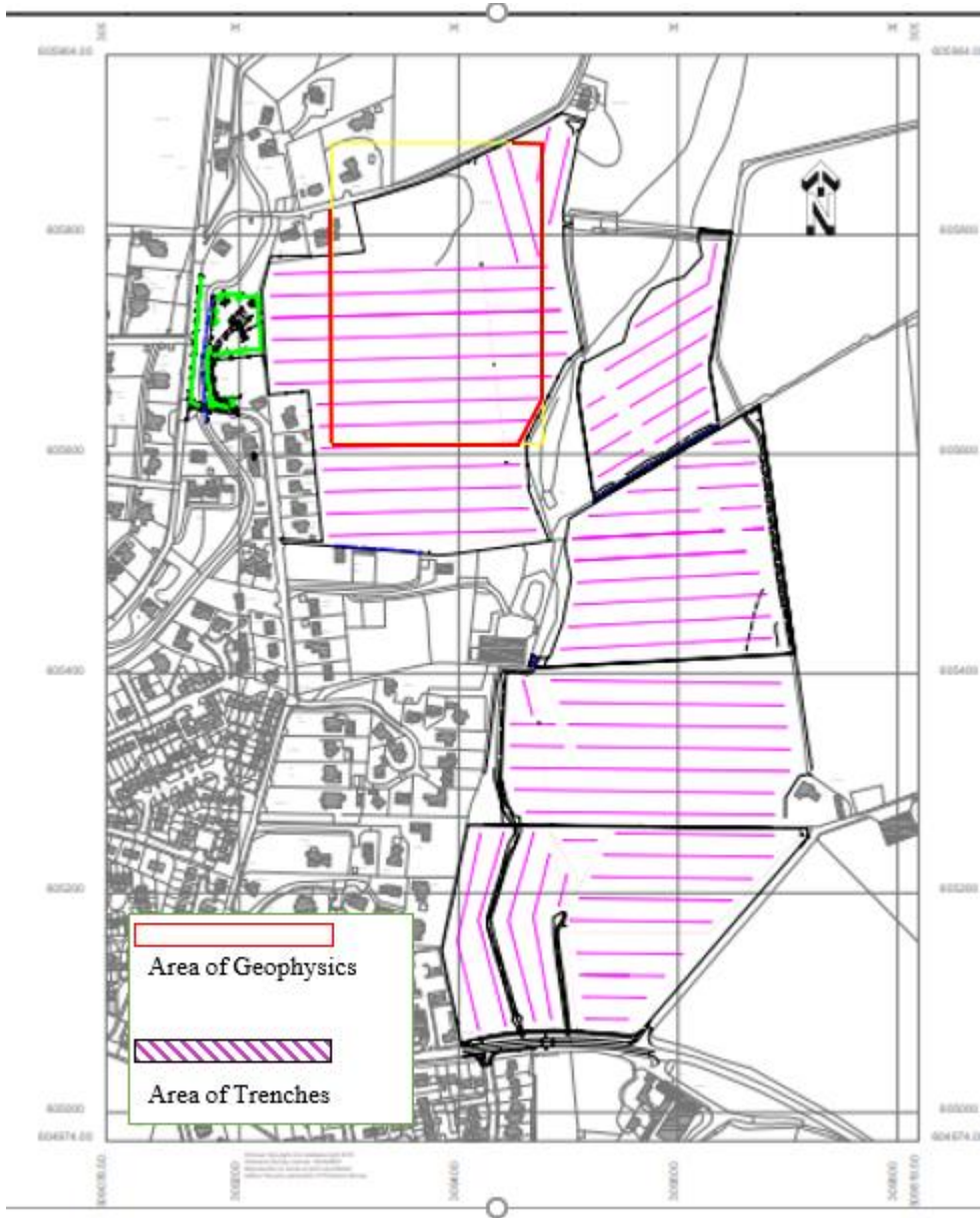


Fig 1

The opening of all trenches will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist working for JAF Ltd and on the discovery of any archaeological feature, machine excavation will cease on that trench. Excavated material from any trench containing significant archaeology will be examined to allow the retrieval of related artefacts.

The discovery of archaeology within a trench will initiate a secondary level of investigation to be carried out by the on-site archaeologist and other qualified personnel to be provided as required by Wardell Armstrong Ltd.

Exposed artefacts or structures will be photographed with indicated orientation and an accurate grid reference and level obtained for each feature using Leica total station and National Grid co-ordinates. Surfaces and artefacts will be hand cleaned and significant finds will be three dimensionally logged in situ for position and depth before recording and removal. Relevant features will be 25 – 50% excavated in order to identify typology and date and all features will be recorded using a single context recording system. Sections and plans will be drawn to an appropriate scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively.

All artefacts will be processed in accordance with MAP2 guidelines and standards and where appropriate will be sent to relevant specialists for assessment and conservation.

Before the trenching of the northerly section of the site can commence a secondary phase of investigation will be made of the area immediately adjacent to the scheduled monument which is most likely to contain previously unrecorded subsoil artefacts and features. This investigation will take the form of a magnetometry survey using Bartington 601-602 fluxgate gradiometers. The survey will be carried out in designated and accurately plotted 30m grid squares, although these may require adjustment as terrain and surface features dictate. In conjunction with this, a topographic survey may be carried out using Leica total station in order to map all visible surface variations and features. Analysis and refinement of data will be carried out using Geoplot 3 or equivalent software. Note : Work within the area of the scheduled ancient monument will only be carried out with the issue of appropriate permissions.

4.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

This WSI relates only to the evaluation of the site in archaeological terms. The works it outlines are designed to establish the presence or absence of previously unknown archaeology. Where archaeology is discovered, investigation will proceed in order to establish the date, nature and significance of any remains and a report provided documenting the findings. The report provided on completion of the work should be used to inform the requirement for further investigation in the forms of geophysical survey, coring, environmental sampling or larger scheme excavation. It is the consideration of the county archaeologist which should determine through consultation with the client, what further works should be undertaken (if any).

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

Environmental samples of up to 40 litres in volume will be collected from suitable deposits. These will be retained for off-site examination by relevant specialists.

6.0 HUMAN REMAINS

The discovery of any recognisable human remains will result in the immediate notification of the police and all site activity will cease which is the response set out in *Policy 3.4 of Historic Scotland Operational Policy Paper 5*. As a courtesy the county archaeologist will also be informed of the development at the earliest possibility.

7.0 ARTEFACTS

Any artefacts discovered during the opening of evaluation trenches will be pinpointed in situ using Leica total station, photographed and then treated in accordance with CIfA guidelines 3.6.8 which deals with discovery and ownership of archaeological artefacts under Scottish law. Finds will be documented and then reported where necessary to the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel.

8.0 REPORT PRODUCTION

Following the guidelines set out in principle 4 of the CIfA code of conduct, results of the archaeological evaluation will be made available with 'reasonable despatch'. While respecting and understanding any confidentiality requirements of the client it is to remain clear that any results which may contribute to an advancement of knowledge will be made available to the wider archaeological community within a reasonable time-frame.

The report will contain: Background/Introduction

Project Design

Methodology

Results

Summary and Conclusions

The results will contain a detailed plan of all evaluation trench positions with any discovered archaeological features or artefacts positioned within them by use of National grid co-ordinates and accurate depths. The full results of the geophysical survey will be included along with samples of the raw trace plot and shade plot data and the grids for this accurately positioned on the site plan.

In acknowledgement of the importance of data sharing to the wider community and its interested parties, results will also be submitted using the OASIS digital reporting protocols. In addition, a summary report on the works carried out and its findings will be submitted to 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'. It is a sincere aim of the contractor carrying out these investigations that any information gained will be made readily available to further our understanding of archaeology around Moffat and add to the overall picture of settlement and land use in Scotland as a whole.

9.0 CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The client will be responsible for providing site access and security and ensuring that no work takes place that is not under the supervision of the qualified person appointed by JAF Ltd. The client should take all reasonable measures to ensure that the site is not open to vandalism or ground disturbance outside of working hours.

Archaeological evaluation/investigation will only commence when supported by a written agreement with the client.

10.0 MONITORING

All work outlined within this WSI will be supervised by a qualified person employed by JAF Ltd. Monitoring of the project by the county archaeologist will be welcomed, with an assumption that visits are pre-arranged for mutually convenient times.

11.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY/ INSURANCE

It will be expected of all staff working on the project that they adhere to safe standards of work. PPE including High Visibility jackets and safety helmets will be worn on site and observers will make themselves known to machine operators before approach.

It is expected that any opened evaluation trenches containing no archaeology will be closed again at the earliest opportunity to avoid the hazards which open excavations entail. Any trenches left open for any reason will be clearly marked with posts and mine-tape to avoid trip and fall hazards.

JAF Ltd Liability Insurance: - QBE Insurance Ltd, *policy number 00004107CPP*

12.0 PERSONNEL

The geophysical survey detailed in this WSI and the opening of all evaluation trenches will be conducted or supervised by Sean Hamer.

Sean received his BA (Hons) 2:1 Archaeology degree in 2014 from Durham University. He has worked on sites including the excavation of Binchester Roman Fort, The Trypillia Mega-sites project in Nebelivka, Ukraine, and Topographic and geophysical investigation of Ewe Close Romano-British settlement in Cumbria.

Sean also has 9 years of experience as a site engineer and surveyor working on a wide range of infrastructure, commercial and housing projects.

