

Camp 22 Pennylands

Dumfries House, Cumnock, East Ayrshire

Community Excavation: March 2017

for

Cumnock History Group

Report Date: August 2017



Addyman Archaeology

Archaeology

Heritage Consultancy

Architecture

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Job number 2254

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by Elizabeth Jones

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Executive Summary

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The community excavation was focused on the last surviving section of the camp, located in the south-east corner. Over the two days nine buildings were surveyed and recorded, comprising five accommodation blocks, two possible stores, a shower/washing block and a probable toilet block. One building was fully uncovered and drawn; this was revealed to be a former wash house, containing 30 sets of sinks/showers and a number of drains on the south side. In addition an accommodation block was partially uncovered. Once the buildings had been recorded, the site was backfilled and reinstated.

Around 30 volunteers participated in the excavation over two days, with about the same number of passing visitors, including four who had lived at the camp as children. The results of the excavation will be integrated into the proposed publication report for the site, which will combine the results of the archaeological excavations with the archival research and oral history to produce a comprehensive history of the site.

1. Introduction

i. General

Addyman Archaeology undertook a two day community excavation at Camp 22 Pennylands, a military camp comprising a former WWII training and prisoner of war camp in the grounds of Dumfries House, near Cumnock East Ayrshire. The excavation was undertaken as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded (HLF) Camp 22 Pennylands project, which is a community history project focusing on oral history, archive research and archaeology of the camp.

The community history project was initiated following the excavation of a large part of the military camp by Addyman Archaeology between February and June 2016 as part of a condition for planning permission to develop the site as a Farm Education Centre (Karsgaard & Jones 2017). The interest in the excavation site by contractor's staff and visiting locals led to the development of a project, led by Cumnock History Group and with the support of Addyman Archaeology and Sue Morrison to develop a bid to HLF. The project also includes oral history, archive research, and an exhibition and is due to conclude in December 2017. The community excavation took place on 25th and 26th March 2017 over a weekend of sunny weather.

A record of the community excavations (OASIS ID: addyman1-289143) will be deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service and with *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

ii. Site location

The community excavation area was located within the grounds of Dumfries House Estate, Auchinleck, East Ayrshire (*figure 1*). The military camp is situated on the west side of the village to the north of the Lugar Water. The excavation was focused on the last surviving section of the camp, located in the south-east corner of the military camp (NGR NS 54177 21114). The site itself was located within an area of woodland adjacent to the estate road (*plate 1*).

The underlying geology belongs to the Scottish Coal Measures group, comprising mudstones, sandstones, siltstones and coal with the overlying drift geology comprising Diamicton Glacial Till.



Plate 1 View of site in January 2017, looking north-east

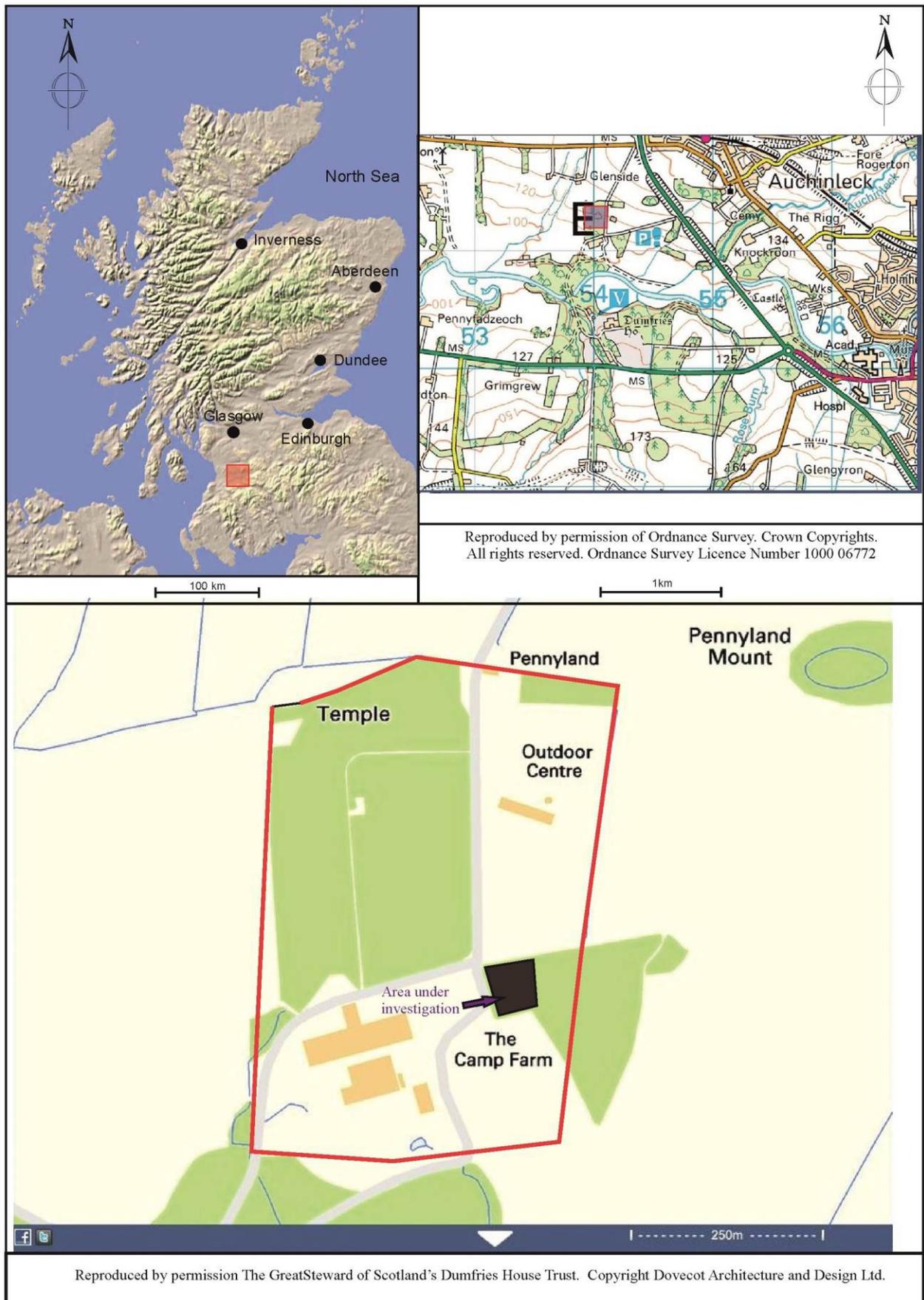


Figure 1 Site location

2. Archaeological Background

i. General

The military camp is located within the boundary of the garden and designed landscape of Dumfries House, which dates from the 17th century and forms the setting for the Category 'A' listed Dumfries House. The estate is considered to have outstanding historical value because part of the pattern of the designed landscape dates from before General Roy's map of 1750 and outstanding architectural value as the setting for Dumfries House, The Temple and the Avenue Bridge.

The Military Camp was located adjacent to The Temple during World War II and is recorded on aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1945 (*figure 2*). The photographs reveal over 100 huts within the compound, several of which have 'formal gardens' to the rear. In the central area of the camp is a group of larger huts, presumably the mess, kitchen and recreation buildings. The military camp was built in 1941 and latterly became a Prisoner of War Camp in 1943. After the war it was used for allied troops awaiting repatriation and from the late 1940s/early 1950s as social housing.

By 1951 the camp had been almost totally demolished, with only a few huts surviving at the north end and the Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map of this date shows no evidence of the camp.

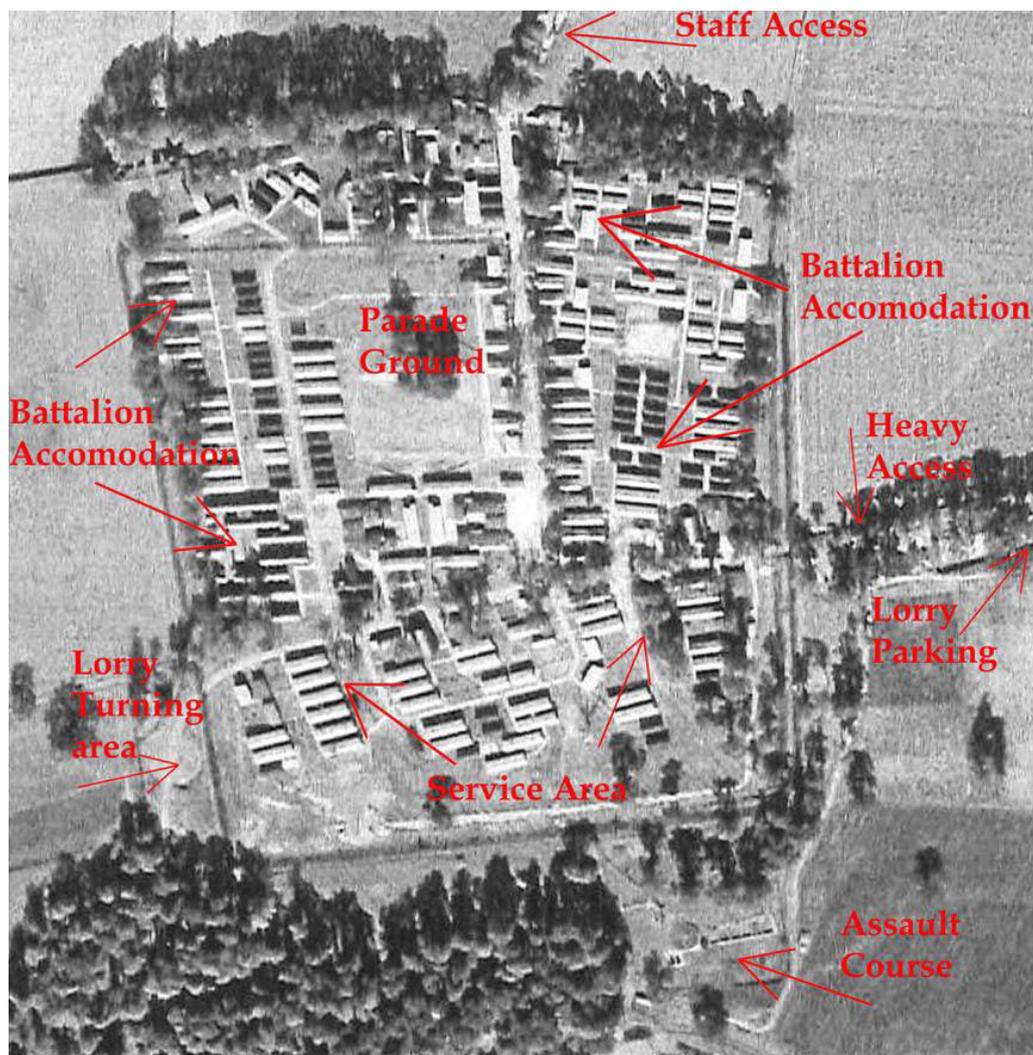


Figure 2 Aerial photograph of camp taken in 1945, annotated by NMRS (north to top).

ii. Archaeological excavations

A number of previous archaeological excavations have been undertaken within the camp. Excavation prior to the construction of an adventure playground revealed the remains of at least five buildings, a network of pathways and ancillary structures belonging to Camp 22 (Dunbar 2009) and in further excavations revealed the remains of the basal walls, foundations and floors of the camp (Arabaolaza 2012). Work at Drill Hall and Cottage revealed a further seven buildings, a central road, pathways and fencing (Rennie 2014), while work at Woodland and Farm Cottages revealed brick foundations and associated paths belonging to the camp (Mooney 2014).

From February to June 2016 Addyman Archaeology undertook excavations as part of a planning condition for the site of the Farm Education Centre, which covered the north-western part of the military camp. Over 80 buildings were recorded, with brick foundations, concrete floors, pathways and shower blocks excavated; recreation areas and more formal garden areas were also identified. The finds from the site include metal badges, NAAFI crockery and cutlery, concrete moulds and children's toys (Karsgaard & Jones 2017).

In conjunction with the work at the Farm Education Centre, Addyman Archaeology monitored works for a semi-circular path in front of The Temple associated with the creation of a Memorial Garden at The Temple. This revealed the remains of two hut bases and recovered finds including glass bottles and a fork; the bricks were stamped 'DICO', made locally by the Dalmellington Ironworks Company (Jones 2016).

3. Method

A survey at 1:100 was made of all the visible upstanding remains relating to the military camp buildings and associated levels were taken.

All excavation was undertaken by hand. The site was reinstated and backfilled following completion of the excavations.

All contexts were given individual numbers and recorded on *pro-forma* record sheets. Hand drawn plans and sections were recorded where appropriate and digital photographs were taken. Survey drawings were made of the buildings in order to place the site within National Grid co-ordinates.

Addyman Archaeology adheres to the *CIfA*'s principal codes of conduct.

4. Results

i. General

Nine huts were surveyed in the woodland area under investigation. The layout has been superimposed on the aerial photograph of the site, showing those huts which were identified (*figure 4*). Of the two huts in the western row, the first (Hut 1) was cleared of vegetation and recorded (see below). The evidence suggests that this was a shower/washing block, with rows of basins set out. The adjacent hut (Hut 2) is thought to have been a toilet block, by association.

On the eastern row, the first 5 huts (Huts 3 – 7) are of similar dimensions and are thought to have been accommodation blocks (*plates 2 and 3*). These were of similar size to those uncovered during the excavation in 2016 (Scott Coulter pers comm). The larger gap between huts 5 and 6 is likely to be due to topography. The accommodation blocks measured 21m by 6m. All the huts had been built

into the slope so that the northern elevations only survived as high as the concrete floor, with the southern elevations between 0.63 - 1.05m in height, with around 7-8 courses of bricks on average; Hut 5 survived to the greatest height of 1.05m with 12 courses exposed (for more detail on each hut, see *Appendix 1*).



Figure 3 Aerial photograph of camp showing buildings identified in bottom right hand corner. The area of the previous excavations is outlined in red (north to top).

Further down the slope were two additional huts (Huts 8 and 9; *plates 4 and 5*). Their smaller size suggests they were used for something different and it is suggested that they may have been stores or workshops. Hut 8 was very overgrown and only identified by its corners protruding through the grass (*plate 5*). It measured 11m by 3m and was 0.24m in height on the southern side, with three brick courses visible at the highest point in the south-west corner. It was only one metre north from Hut 9, which measured 11m by 5m and was 0.5m high with six courses and was far clearer (*plate 4*). A further hut (Hut 10) was identified 3m to the east of Hut 3 (*plate 6*). The north side of Hut 10 was not

found, but the southern side ran on the same line as the southern side of Hut 3 and was 11m in length. The southern side was 0.87m in height and 10 courses high and the wall had partially collapsed; the hut was partially buried and the sides were also not clearly visible. The dimensions are similar to Hut 9 so it is likely to have had the same purpose, perhaps as a workshop associated with the blocks at the top of the slope.



Plate 2 Hut 4, with Hut 3 in the Background, looking north-west



Plate 3 Huts 5, 6, 7 and 8, General View, looking north-east



Plate 4 Hut 9 looking north-west



Plate 5 Surviving south-west corner of Hut 8 looking north-east



Plate 6 Partly buried south wall of Hut 10, looking north-west

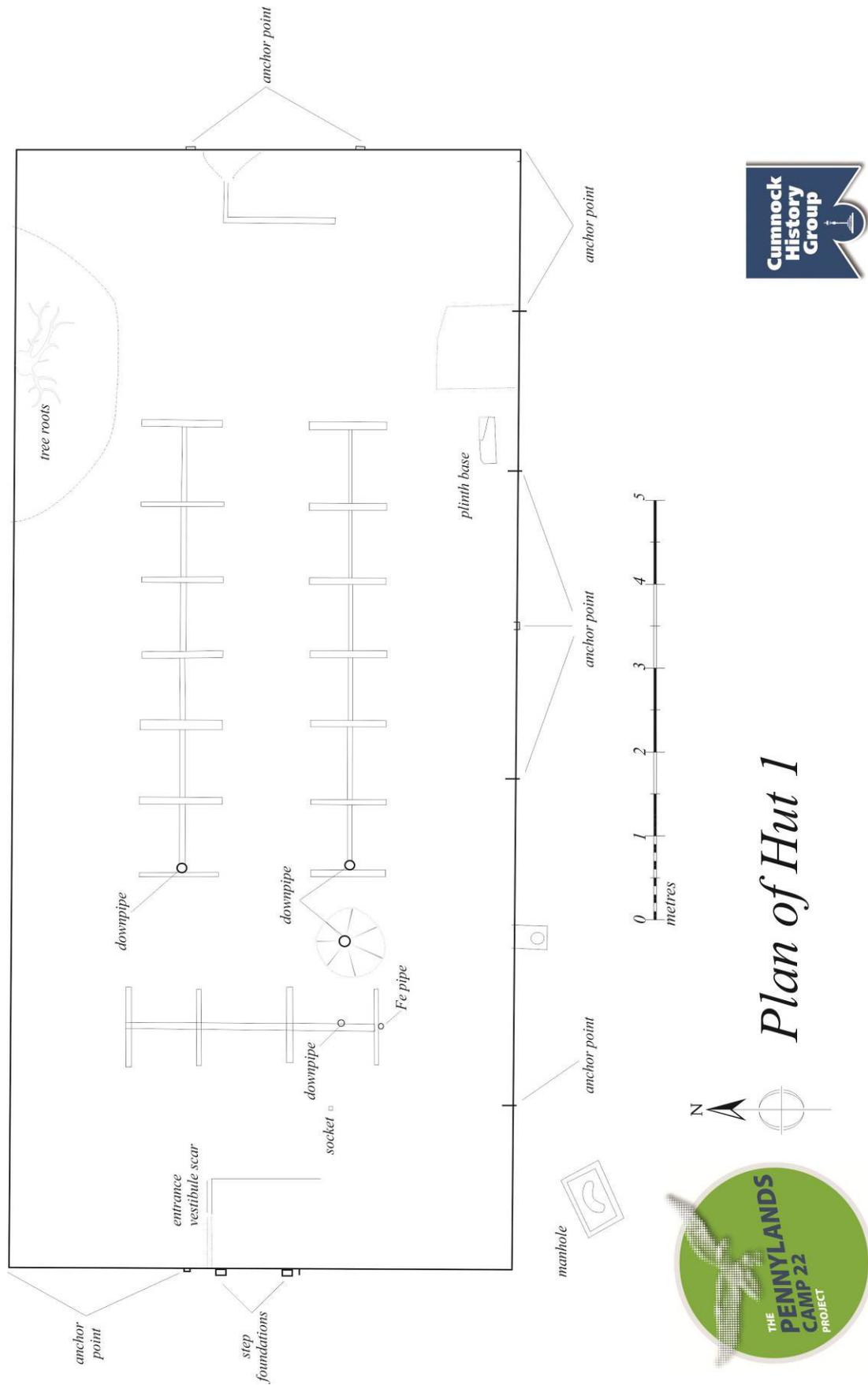


Figure 4 Plan of Hut 1

ii. *Hut 1: Washing Block*

Hut 1 measured 13.30m by 5.75m and stood 0.60m high (*figure 4*). It was built of a brick base, of which six courses were visible, with an upper concrete floor 0.12m thick [2003]. There was evidence for the stands for 30 wash basins as well as a series of drains and pipes on the southern side (*plate 8*). A small area in the north-eastern part of the building had been obscured by tree roots.

The concrete screed floor had been poured after the construction of the brick basins as the concrete abutted the brickwork. The screed was recessed 0.07m from the exterior wall face, indicating the thickness of the walls. At each end of the building was an L-shaped recess in the concrete, indicating the location of the entrance vestibule (*plate 7*). There were also a series of anchor points located around the building. These were of concrete and measured 0.25m square, some of which had surviving iron brackets still attached. These were for fastening the superstructure to the base of the building.



Plate 7 Hut 1, East Entrance

Within the floor were three sets of brick-built basin supports, two aligned east to west [2006, 2007] and one at the west end aligned north to south [2008]. The brickwork for the supports was one brick wide. The location of four downpipes were also identified – one associated with each of the banks of basins and one with a drainage point in the floor [2005]. This separate drain was surrounded by a circular dip in the floor approximately 1.50m in diameter (*plate 8*). The associated pipework would have been above floor level.

There were a number of associated drains on the southern side of the building. Near the south-west corner was a rectangular brick-built drain with internal dimensions of 0.60 x 0.50m and 0.40m deep [2002]. The interior was rendered and there was a kidney-shaped silt trap in the base (*plate 9*). The drain was filled with a mixture of silt and rubble [2001], containing a number of fragments of white ceramic sanitary wares stamped 'Adamsez Ltd Scotswood on Tyne' (*plate 10*). Adamsez was originally established in York as *Adams and Co* making automatic cisterns and tanks. In 1902 Adams and Co took over *W. C. Gibson and Co* of Scotswood and moved the sanitary ware arm of the business to Scotswood, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne; the Gibson takeover included the Scotswood Fireclay Works and collieries which led Adamsez to diversify into firebrick manufacture (<http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Adamsez>). The need of the camp for both firebricks and sinks may have made them a useful supplier.

To the east was a further brick structure extending perpendicular from the building, which measured 0.4 x 0.25m [2004]. This was rendered externally and contained an orange ceramic pipe. The pipe extended from the building 0.45m below the concrete floor and in line with drainage hole [2005]. Towards the east end of the building was a further drainage hole beneath the floor [2009]. This feature had been put in at a later date than the original construction and so may be associated with the secondary use of the hut during the prisoner of war, repatriation or civilian settlement phases.



Plate 8 Hut 1, Detail of Westernmost Basin, Brickwork and Drain, looking south



Plate 9 Hut 1, Brick Drain [2002] looking north



Plate 10 Fragments of 'Adamsez' sink found in drain [2001]

iii. *Hut 3: Accommodation block*

The accommodation block was only partially excavated, primarily to expose the western elevation and a curious concrete structure that was up against it (*plate 11*). The western wall of the building survived up to 0.46m in height, with 4-5 courses exposed. In the centre of the side elevation were parallel brick piers, which would have supported concrete or wooden steps to the entrance, as seen on a number of the previously excavated huts. The concrete structure was approximately the width of the building (6m), although it did not appear to be *in situ*. It was formed of a single piece of cast concrete, tapering at both ends from a width of 0.3m in the centre. The uppermost side was recessed to form a shallow rectangular basin, separated by a series of concrete 'bars' across the basin. This appeared to relate to drainage or run off and may have been formerly located at the side of the building to drain the water away downslope.



Plate 11 Hut 3, looking south



Plate 12 Hut 3, concrete drainage feature, looking south

iv. Hut 5: Accommodation Block

An elevation drawing was made of the southern elevation of Hut 5; the elevation was identical to those of Huts 3 and 4 but was most clearly exposed at Hut 5. The elevation exposed walls of at least 0.8m in height and was 21m in length. A series of brick piers were visible at approximately 2m intervals along the length of the elevation; these were a single brick wide (0.2m) and six bricks high, which had been laid on their sides (*plate 13*).



Plate 13 Hut 5, south elevation, looking north-west

5. Conclusions

The community excavation has recorded the final surviving huts from the WWII military camp at Dumfries House. The comparatively good survival of the buildings in the woods, compared to those exposed during the excavations on the west side of the camp, has enabled a clearer picture of the function and use of the buildings to be seen. This small group of huts in the south-east corner of the camp could be seen to have operated as a single unit, with accommodation and ablution blocks accompanied by smaller workshop buildings. In the aerial photograph of the camp the buildings are clustered in woodland and separated from the other areas by paths and roadways. The detailed record of Hut 1 is also comparable with the huts recorded elsewhere on the camp and will allow for comparison of form across the whole of the camp. The way the buildings were set out within the local topography was also clear, as they were built into the south facing slope; a similar use of topography was evident in the excavations to the west, where the buildings were better preserved further down the slope.

Together with adding to our knowledge and understanding of the camp and how it functioned during its various phases, the project provided an opportunity for the volunteers and those who visited the site to be involved in a practical way in helping to uncover the story of Pennylands Camp. The volunteers were able to learn more about the various skills involved in archaeological excavation, from drawing and photography to emptying a wheelbarrow. It allowed local people the chance to feel more connected with the project as the uncovered finds, some of which may have been familiar to them from their childhoods, buildings and stories were revealed. Added to the records from the earlier excavations at the camp the results form part of the record of the remains that survived after the camp was finally abandoned in the 1950s. The results of the excavation will be added to the oral testimony, archive research and artefacts from the community project to generate a complete story of the camp. It is proposed that the results of the excavation will be presented as an exhibition at the Baird Museum, Cumnock in early 2018. It is also hoped that the results from the community project as a whole will be combined with the excavation results from all phases of work at the camp into an accessible publication.

References

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- Karsgaard, P & Jones, E 2017 ‘Dumfries House - Farm Education Centre Watching Brief and Excavation’, *Discovery & Excavation Scotland*, vol 17, 54-55, 2016.
- Mooney, K 2014 *Woodland & Farm Cottages, Dumfries House, Cumnock: Data Structure Report*. Guard Archaeology unpublished report no.3877.
- Rennie, C 2014 *Drill hall and Cottage, Dumfries House policies: Data Structure Report*. Guard Archaeology unpublished report no.3863.

Appendix 1: Site registers

1.1 Context register

Context no	Hut no.	Description
2001	1	Mixed blackish brown silt and rubble. D: 0.4m. Fill of drain [2002]
2002	1	Brick drain in SW corner of [2003] L: 0.6m, W: 0.5m, D: 0.4m.
2003	1	Hut 1 structure. L: 13.30m, W: 5.75m, H: 0.53m, 6 courses.
2004	1	Brick drain to S of [2003] L: 0.4m, W: 0.25m
2005	1	Drain hole in floor of [2003] D: 0.2m
2006	1	Brick outline of wash basins in [2003] L: 5.5m, W: 1m
2007	1	Brick outline of wash basins in [2003] L: 5.5m, W: 1m
2008	1	Brick outline of wash basins in [2003] L: 3m, W: 1m
2009	1	Drainage hole in S wall of [2003] – possibly secondary feature.

1.2 Hut dimensions

Hut no	Dimensions	Interpretation
1	13.30 x 5.75 x 0.48m – 6 courses.	Wash House
2	11 x 5.75 x 0.47m, 5 courses.	Toilet block
3	21 x 6 x 0.46m, 5 courses.	Accommodation block
4	21 x 6 x 0.68m, 8 courses.	Accommodation block
5	21 x 6 x 1.05m, 12 courses.	Accommodation block
6	21 x 6 x 0.63m, 7 courses.	Accommodation block
7	21 x 6 x 0.68m, 8 courses.	Accommodation block
8	11 x 3 x 0.24m, 3 courses.	Workshop/store?
9	11 x 5 x 0.5m, 6 courses.	Workshop/store?
10	11 x 6? x 0.87, 10 courses.	Workshop/store?

1.3 Photo register

Number	Direction Facing	Description
01		Working Shots, Day 1
02		Working Shots, Day 1
03		Working Shots, Day 1
04		Working Shots, Day 1
05		Working Shots, Day 1
06		Working Shots, Day 1
07		Working Shots, Day 1
08		Working Shots, Day 1
09		Working Shots, Day 1
10		Working Shots, Day 1
11		Working Shots, Day 2
12		Remains of Sink, Fragments
13		Remains of Sink, Fragments, Close-up of the Manufacturer's name
14		Remains of Asbestos Roof
15		Remains of Asbestos Roof
16	NE	Brick Drain [2002]
17	SE	Brick Drain [2002]

18		Working Shots, Day 2
19		Working Shots, Day 2
20		Working Shots, Day 2
21	E	Brick Drain with Ceramic Pipes [2004]
22	W	Hut 1, Final Cleaning
23	W	Hut 1, General View, Post-ex
24	W	Hut 1, General View, Post-ex
25	W	Hut 1, General View, Post-ex
26	W	Hut 1, East Entrance
27	W	Hut 1, Central Features
28	W	Hut 1, SE Corner
29	W	Hut 1, possible Secondary Drainage Feature, SE Corner
30	N	Hut 1, possible Secondary Drainage Feature, SE Corner
31	S	Hut 1, General View
32	S	Hut 1, General View
33	S	Hut 1, General View
34	S	Hut 1, General View
35		Hut 1, Detail of Westernmost Basin, Brickwork and Drains
36		Hut 1, Detail of Westernmost Basin, Brickwork and Drains
37	W	Hut 3, West End
38	W	Hut 3, West End
39	W	Hut 3, West End
40	S	Hut 3, West End
41	S	Hut 3, Drain on the West Side
42	S	Hut 3, Drain on the West Side
43	S	Hut 3, Drain on the West Side
44	NE	Hut 3, South Elevation
45	N	Hut 1, possible Secondary Drain, as (29-30)
46	N	Hut 1, possible Secondary Drain, as (29-30), Close-up
47	N	Hut 1, Metal Fitting and Concrete
48	N	Hut 1, Metal Fitting and Concrete, to the West
49	N	Brick Drain with Ceramic Pipe [2004]
50	E	Brick Drain with Ceramic Pipe [2004]
51	NW	Brick Drain [2002]
52	NW	Brick Drain [2002], Close-up
53	E	Hut 1, Entrance at the West End
54	E	Hut 1, Washstand Area [2007]
55	S	Hut 1, Washstand Area [2006]
56	S	Hut 1, Washstand Area [2006]
57	S	Hut 1, Washstand Area [2006]
58	S	Hut 1, Washstand Area [2006]
59	S	Hut 1, Washstand Area [2006]
60	S	Hut 1, Washstand Area [2005], Detail at the West End
61	E	Hut 3, West Elevation
62	E	Hut 3, West Elevation
63	E	Hut 3, West Elevation
64		Team Photo
65		Team Photo
66	NW	Hut 4, with Hut 3 in the Background
67	NW	Hut 10, Partly Buried, 3 Courses at the South Side

68	NE	Hut 10, Partly Buried, 3 Courses at the South Side
69	NW	Hut 3
70	NW	Hut 5
71	NW	Hut 5
72	NW	Hut 6
73	N	Hut 6, Detail of Wall
74	NW	Hut 7
75	W	Hut 9
76	NW	Hut 9
77	W	Hut 8
78	NE	Hut 8
79	NE	Huts 5, 6, 7 and 8, General View
80	NE	Huts 5, 6, 7 and 8, General View
81	E	Hut 6
82	N	Backfilling of Hut 1, Hut 2 in the Foreground
83	NE	Backfilling of Hut 1, General View
84	NW	Backfilling of Hut 1, Hut 2 in the Foreground
85	NW	Backfilling of Hut 1, General View
86	NE	Backfilling of Hut 1, General View

Appendix 2: DES entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Camp 22 Pennylands
PROJECT CODE:	AA 2254
PARISH:	Auchinleck
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Elizabeth Jones
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Addyman Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	canmore ID 158790
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	WWII military camp
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 54177 21114
START DATE (this season)	25/03/2017
END DATE (this season)	26/03/2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	DES 2016 vol 17, 54-55, 2016
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Addyman Archaeology undertook a two day community excavation at Camp 22 Pennylands, a former WWII training and prisoner of war camp in the grounds of Dumfries House, near Cumnock East Ayrshire. The excavation was undertaken as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Camp 22 Pennylands project, which is a community history project focusing on oral history, archive research and the archaeology of the camp. The Camp 22 Pennylands project was initiated following archaeological excavation by Addyman Archaeology of buildings on the west side of the camp in advance of building a new Farm Education Centre on the site.</p> <p>The community excavation was focused on the last surviving section of the camp, located in the south-east corner. Over the two days nine buildings were surveyed and recorded, comprising five accommodation blocks, two possible stores, a shower/washing block and a probable toilet block. One building was fully uncovered and drawn; this was revealed to be a former wash house, containing 30 sets of sinks/showers and a number of drains on the south side. In addition an accommodation block was partially uncovered. Once the buildings had been recorded, the site was backfilled and reinstated.</p> <p>Around 30 volunteers participated in the excavation over two days, with about the same number of passing visitors, including four who had lived at the camp as children. The results of the excavation will be integrated into the proposed publication report for the site, which will combine the results of the archaeological excavations with the archival research and oral history to produce a comprehensive history of the site.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	Hut 1 under excavation
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Heritage Lottery Fund
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Printworks, 77a Brunswick Street, Edinburgh EH7 5HS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	lizjones@addyman-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NRHE (intended)