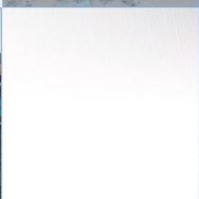
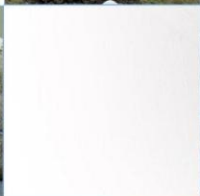
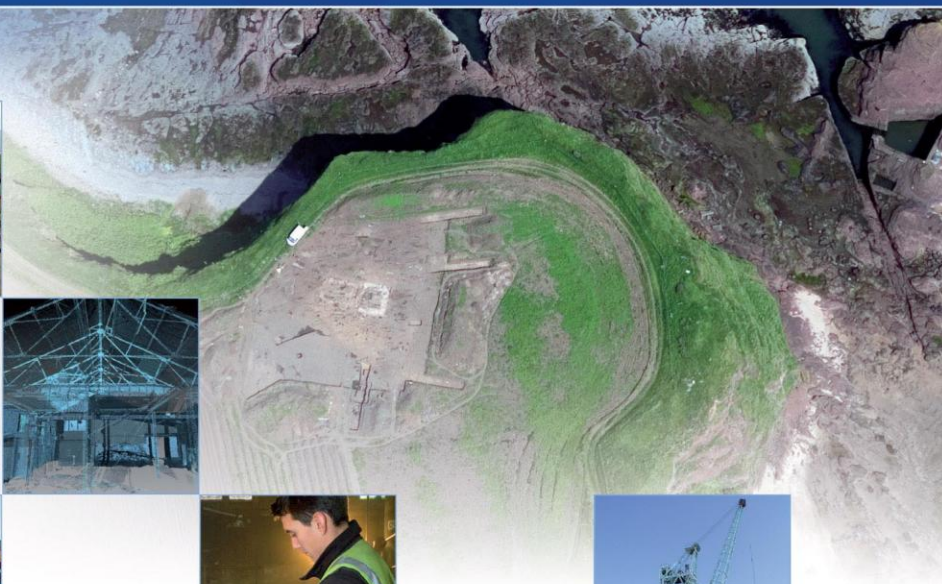


Airhouse Plot 3, Oxton, Lauder, Scottish Borders Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22040
OASIS ID – aocarcha1-117269

18th January 2012



Airhouse Plot 3, Oxton, Lauder, Scottish Borders: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Martin and Carol Houghton Airhouse Oxton Lauder Scottish Borders TD2 6PX
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 482 536
AOC Project No:	22040
Prepared by:	Kevin Paton
Illustration by:	Stefan Sagrott
Date of Fieldwork:	12 th January 2012
Date of Report:	13 th January 2012

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

Author: Kevin Paton

Date: 18th January 2012

Approved by: John Gooder

Date: 18th January 2012

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 18th January 2012

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Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	3
List of appendices	3
Abstract.....	4
1 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Location.....	5
1.3 Archaeological background	5
2 OBJECTIVES	5
3 METHODOLOGY	6
4 RESULTS	6
5 CONCLUSION.....	6
6 RECOMMENDATIONS	6
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY	7
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record	9
APPENDIX 2: ' <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> ' Report.....	10

List of illustrations

Figure 1	Location of the site at Airhouse Plot 3, Oxton
Figure 2	Location of the topsoil strip at Airhouse Plot 3
Plate 1 -	Post-excavation shot of driveway

List of appendices

Appendix 1	Photographic Record
Appendix 2	<i>'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'</i> Report

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip of the footprint of a single house plot development within Airhouse Farm at Oxton, Scottish Borders.

The development footprint included a house plot measuring 19 m by 15 m, a turning area measuring 7 m by 7 m and a driveway measuring 30 m by 3 m. Soil samples from five areas within the footprint were taken and sieved with a view to recovering unstratified finds.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Martin and Carol Houghton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the topsoil strip of a house plot and associated driveway and turning area at Airhouse Farm, Oxtton, Lauder. The watching brief was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Scottish Borders Council (SBC) who are advised on archaeological matters by Dr. Chris Bowles, Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) approved on behalf of SBC by Dr. Bowles and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred at NGR: NT 482 536 (Figure 1) and lies to the north-west of a farm track within Airhouse Farm (Figure 2). The development site contains an avenue and grove of trees and is on sloping ground with open fields forming the wider landscape. The nearest farm buildings lie to the east.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development area contains no known archaeological sites or findspots. More generally, Airhouse Farm (NMRS: NT45SE69) contains a series of significant archaeological sites, which include both monuments; such as an enclosure (NMRS: NT45SE28) and a cist (NMRS: NT45SE31), as well as findspots (NMRS: NT45SE15; NT45SE34 and NT45SE40).
- 1.3.2 The findspots are of particular note, demonstrating the prehistoric occupation of the site of Airhouse Farm from at least the Neolithic period. The main group (NMRS: NT45SE15) includes a flint axe, eight stone axes, stone hammer, anvil stone, perforated stone, five stone whorls (one being of shale or jet), a bead, a small fragment of a jet armband, a spearhead, forty arrowheads, six borers, a saw, ten long narrow implements, forty-two triangular implements of peculiar form, ninety-four scrapers, nineteen triangular implements, some of which may have been arrowheads, five knives, and a considerable number of flakes and blades showing secondary working - all being of flint except a very few which are of chert.
- 1.3.3 The recovery of such a large and significant assemblage suggested the possibility of recovering similar material.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
 - ii) to liaise with Dr. Christopher Bowles and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and /or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The works involved an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip of a development footprint for a new house and driveway at Airhouse Farm. Excavation was conducted by a tracked 360° excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket. All ground breaking was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The development footprint required the excavation of a house plot measuring 19 m by 15 m, a turning area measuring 7 m by 7 m and a driveway measuring 30 m by 3 m (Plate 1).
- 4.2 The topsoil across the watching brief area was dark brown clayey silt varying from 0.1 m in depth within the driveway to 0.3 0m in depth within the house plot. Natural subsoil across the excavations consisted of an orange and red stony, sandy clay, and an orange sandy silt.
- 4.3 The dry sieving (5 mm mesh) of five 30 litre soil samples failed in recovering any significant artefactual material.



Plate 2 - Post-excavation shot of driveway

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered during the watching brief, the development area proving to be archaeologically sterile.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

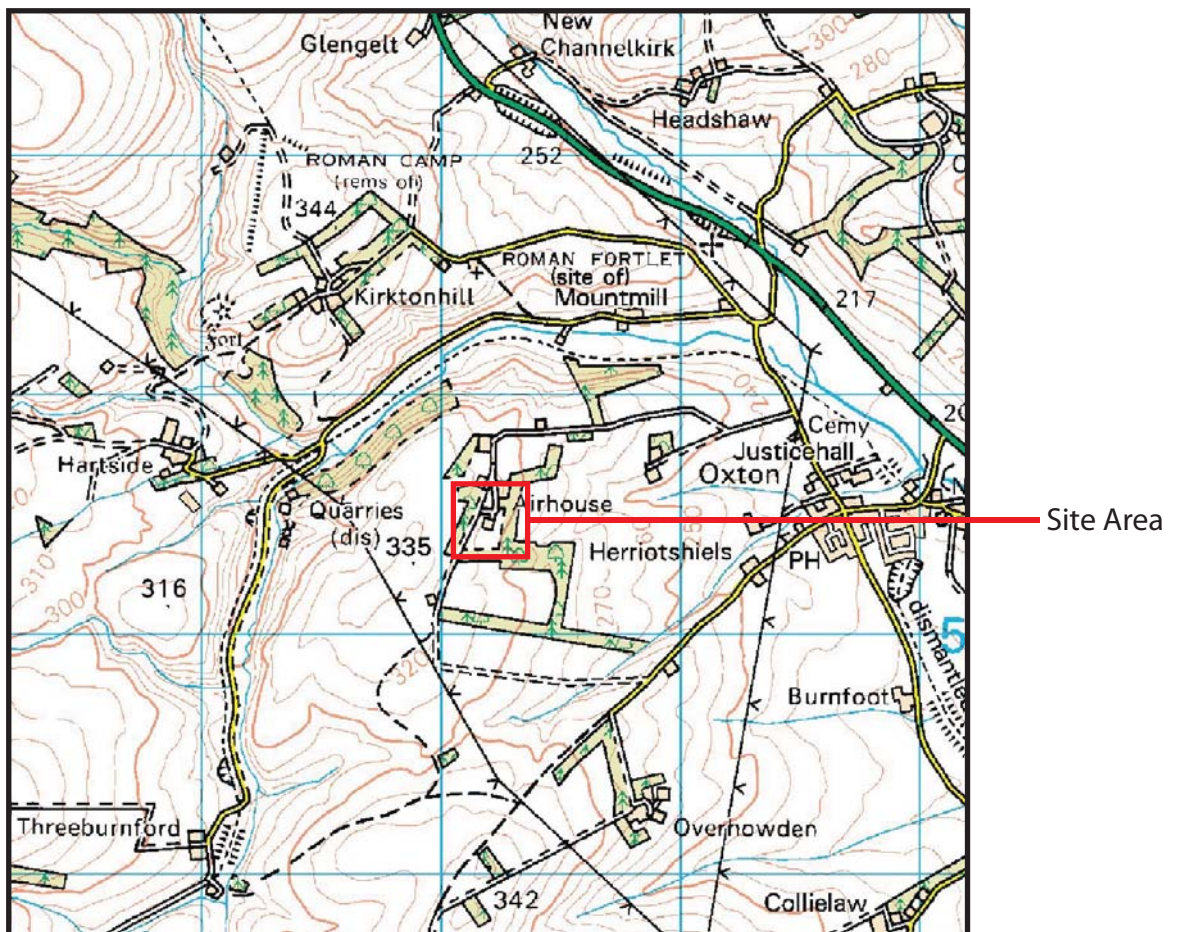
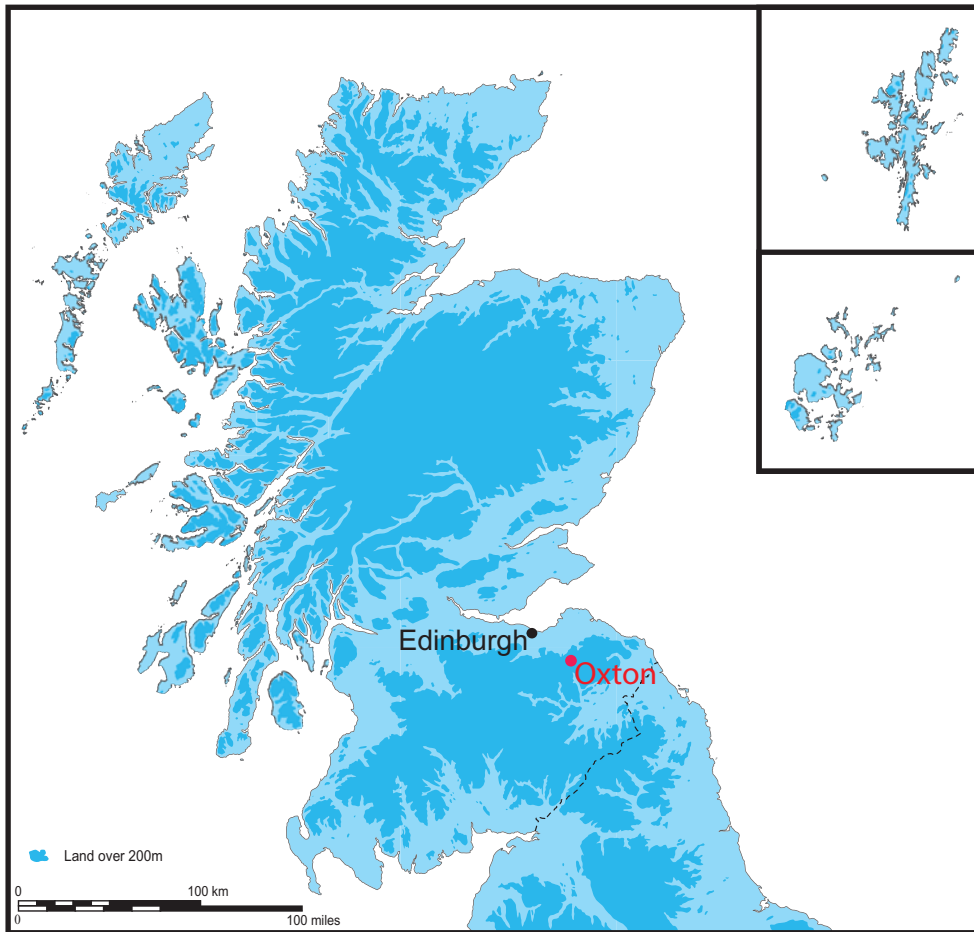
- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Dr Bowles on behalf of Scottish Borders Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2011 *Airhouse Plot 3, Oxton, Lauder, Scottish Borders: Written Scheme of Investigation (10th January 2012)*. Unpublished AOC Method Statement.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Airhouse Plot 3, Oxton

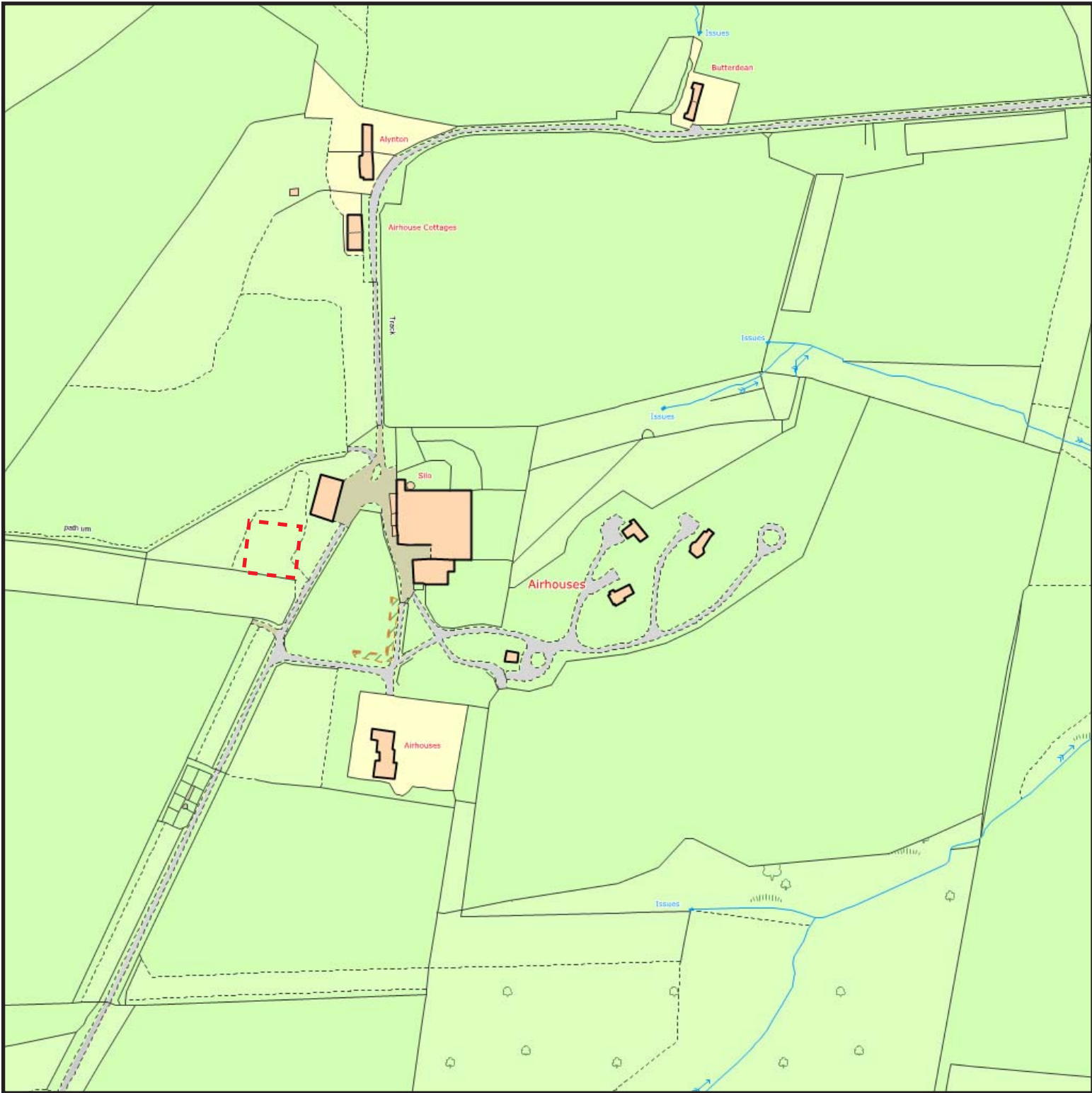


Figure 2: Location of the topsoil strip at Airhouse Plot 3, Oxton

Airhouse Plot 3, Oxton, Scottish Borders: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

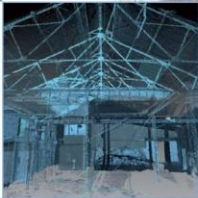
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Digital

Frame	Description	From
1	House Plot Pre-ex shot	N
2	House Plot Pre-ex shot	N
3	Driveway pre-ex shot	NW
4	Working shot	NE
5	Tree trunks within house plot	SW
6	Section showing topsoil depth in house plot	S
7	House Plot Post-ex shot	N
8	House Plot Post-ex shot	NE
9	House Plot Post-ex shot	NE
10	Driveway Post-ex shot	NW

APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Airhouse Plot 3, Oxtan, Lauder
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22040
PARISH:	Lauder
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	Centred on NT 482 536
START DATE (this season)	12 th January 2012
END DATE (this season)	12 th January 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the topsoil strip for a single house plot development within Airhouse Farm.</p> <p>The development footprint included a house plot measuring 19 m by 15 m, a turning area measuring 7 m by 7 m and a driveway measuring 30 m by 3 m. Soil samples from five areas within the footprint were taken and sieved with a view to recovering unstratified finds.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered during the watching brief</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Martin and Carol Houghton
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	kevin.paton@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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