

**An Archaeological Evaluation along the route of
RP13 Spine Road (SEW Development):**

Data Structure Report

For: Ironside Farrar
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Edinburgh
EH7 4NW

on behalf of

Turner Townsend

National Grid Reference (NGR): NGR: NT 3166 6922 and NT 3184 6927

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20628

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Timing: Fieldwork September 2007
Report September 2007

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on two areas of a proposed new road scheme associated with the South Eastern Wedge (SEW) development near Danderhall, Midlothian. Eight trenches totalling 360 m² were excavated in two discrete areas adjacent to known or possible archaeological remains (Figure 1).
- 1.2 Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were unearthed.
- 1.3 A watching brief is to be undertaken on ground-breaking works associated with the other areas of the RP 13 scheme.

2. INTRODUCTION

Project Background

- 2.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Ironside Farrar on behalf of Turner Townsend in meeting the terms of a condition on planning consent (05/00863/FUL) in respect to a proposed new road associated with the SEW development near Danderhall, Midlothian (NGR: NT 3166 6922 and NT 3184 6927; Figure 1). The application area is bounded by agricultural land in all directions (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The development area lies within the administrative area of Midlothian Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Mr. David Connolly, Assistant Archaeological Officer with Community Services, East Lothian Council. The work required was in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), NPPG 18 (SODD 1999) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the development area.
- 2.1.3 The development area comprises two undulating fields which were presently used for arable crops. The fields were under stubble during the evaluation.

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.2.1 The archaeological potential of the overall SEW development has been set out in an environmental impact assessment (Part 3, Chapter 9 *Cultural Heritage*) (Headland 2002). Three known sites lie near the proposed road line:

Site 19 Cropmarks show a possible enclosure (NMRS NT36NW 192) at NGR: NT 3161 6928. A recent up-date of the National Pastmap database has re-interpreted these cropmarks as probably ploughed-out field boundaries (March 2007)

Site 20 *Woolmet* Mains Farmstead, now demolished (OS 1853)

Site 21 *Claybarns* miners cottages, now demolished (OS 1853)

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any as yet undiscovered archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

4 METHOD

- 4.1 The scale of the trenching was determined at a minimum 360 m² (*Written Scheme of Investigation - AOC 2007*). The trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard evaluation practice. Ground reduction was by means of one JCB excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket with a width of 2.0 m. Excavation was carried out in shallow spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was encountered. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 4.2 Mr. David Connolly, Assistant Archaeological Officer with Community Services, East Lothian Council, was notified prior to the commencement of works. Mr. Connolly was unable to visit the site but continued to be kept informed of the progress of the archaeological works throughout.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The fieldwork was undertaken between 5th and 7th September 2007. Generally the weather conditions remained dry. A total of eight evaluation trenches were excavated exposing a total basal area of 360 m². Trenches 1 - 3 were excavated in an area between Sites 20 and 21. Trenches 4 - 8 were located in proximity (immediately to the south west) of Site 19.
- 5.2 The topsoil across the site generally 0.30 to 0.50 m in depth comprising a rich black silt overlying the natural subsoil. The natural subsoil generally consisted of orange sand and gravel with small stone inclusions. The summary trench descriptions can be read in Appendix 1 with trench locations illustrated in Figure 1.

- 5.3 The various data gathered from the evaluation and excavation is presented in the Appendices; trench descriptions (Appendix 1); photographic record (Appendix 2) and *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry (Appendix 3).
- 5.4 The truncated remains of a possible post medieval mine shaft were identified within Trench 7 (Figure 2). The feature, measuring 4.5 m in length was backfilled by mining debris and is reflective of features identified by AOC Archaeology Group in excavation works across Midlothian (for example Stobbs Farm, Gorebridge, AOC 2007 b). It is also worth noting that there is a known colliery site located across the road from the from the development area.



Figure 2: Evidence of Coalmining activity within Trench 7

- 5.5 Despite good archaeological visibility in the exposed subsoil surface no other significant archaeological features were observed. Similarly no significant artefactual material was unearthed.
- 6 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS
- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation completed in advance of the proposed new road development associated with the SEW development near Danderhall, Midlothian identified neither significant archaeological remains nor artefacts.

- 6.2 As per the terms of the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* a watching brief is required on the remaining areas of the RP 13 land take.

7. REFERENCES

AOC 2007 *SEW RP13, Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished AOC document.

AOC 2007b *Stobbs Farm, Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished AOC document

Headland Archaeology 2002 Part 3 Impact Assessment: Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage in *SE Wedge – Environmental Statement*, Ironside Farrar, Sept 2002.

SODD 1999 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 18, Planning and the Historic Environment*. Scottish Office Development Department.

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning* Scottish Office Environmental Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environmental Department.

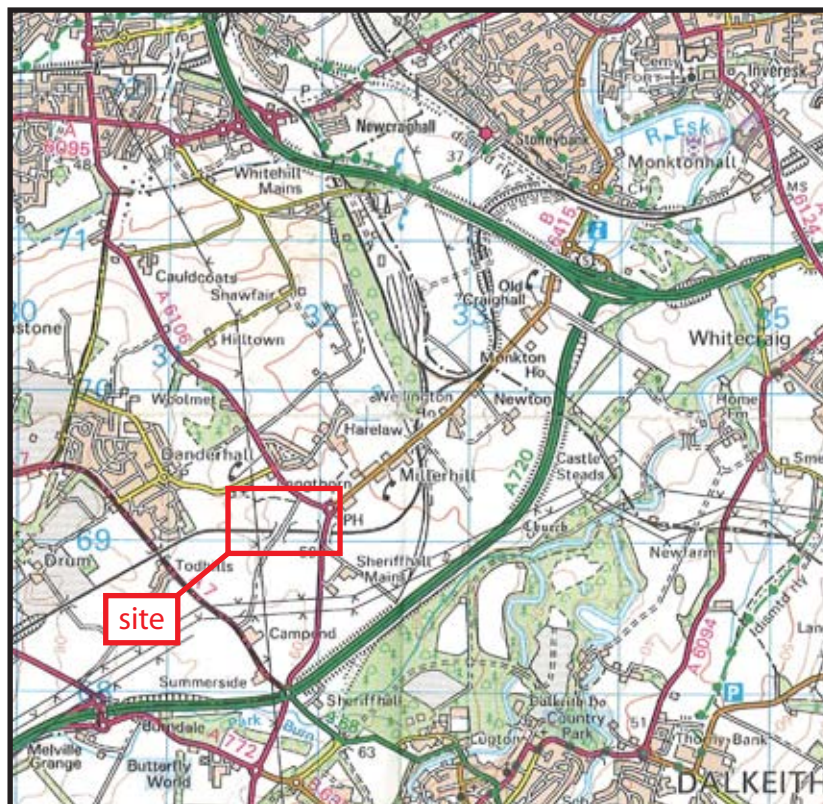
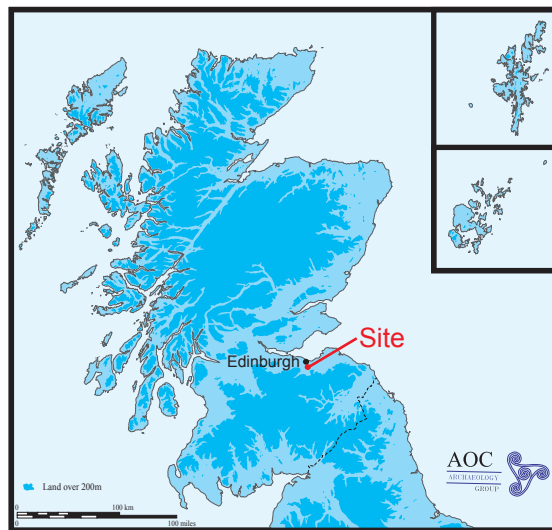


Figure 1: Site location

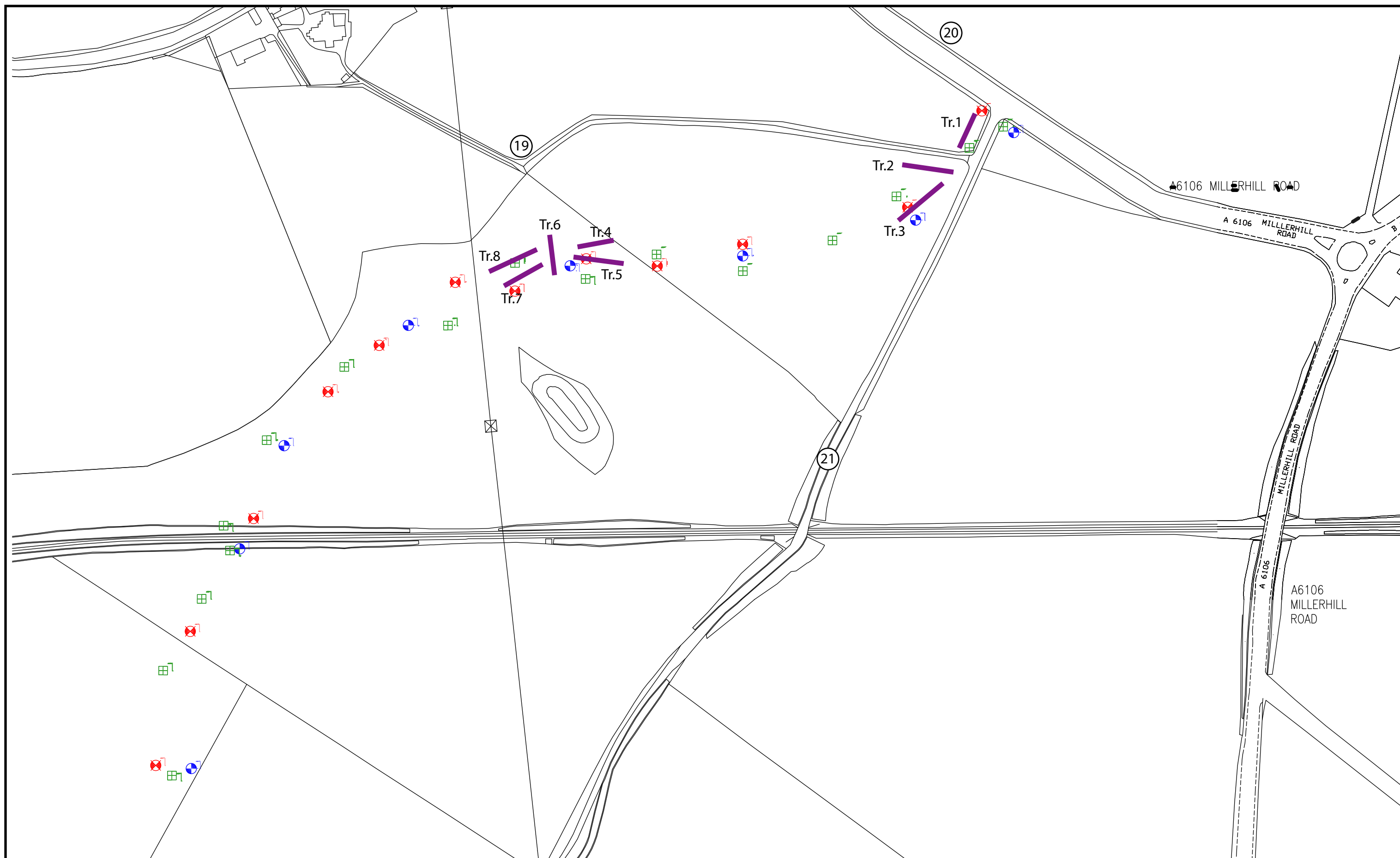


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches

- evaluation trenches
- site investigation works
- along length of proposed
- new road
- sites mentioned in text

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

<i>Orientation:</i>	North-east to south-west
<i>Size:</i>	25 m x 2.0 m
<i>Topsoil depth:</i>	0.50 m
<i>Excavation depth:</i>	0.55 m (max)
<i>Subsoil:</i>	Orange sand/gravel
<i>Modern features:</i>	None
<i>Significant features:</i>	None
<i>Artefacts:</i>	None
<i>Interpretation:</i>	No significant archaeology present

Trench 2

<i>Orientation:</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Size:</i>	25 m x 2.0 m
<i>Topsoil depth:</i>	0.40 - 0.50 m
<i>Excavation depth:</i>	0.55 m (max)
<i>Subsoil:</i>	Orange sand gravel
<i>Modern features:</i>	Ceramic drains
<i>Significant features:</i>	None
<i>Artefacts:</i>	None
<i>Interpretation:</i>	No significant archaeology present

Trench 3

<i>Orientation:</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Size:</i>	25 m x 2.0 m
<i>Topsoil depth:</i>	0.50 m
<i>Excavation depth:</i>	0.55 m (max)
<i>Subsoil:</i>	Orange sand gravel
<i>Modern features:</i>	None
<i>Significant features:</i>	None
<i>Artefacts:</i>	None
<i>Interpretation:</i>	No significant archaeology present

Trench 4

<i>Orientation:</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Size:</i>	20 m x 2.0 m
<i>Topsoil depth:</i>	0.40 - 0.50 m
<i>Excavation depth:</i>	0.60 m (max)
<i>Subsoil:</i>	Orange sand/gravel
<i>Modern features:</i>	None
<i>Significant features:</i>	None
<i>Artefacts:</i>	None
<i>Interpretation:</i>	No significant archaeology present

Trench 5

<i>Orientation:</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Size:</i>	20 m x 2.0 m
<i>Topsoil depth:</i>	0.40 m
<i>Excavation depth:</i>	0.45 m (max)
<i>Subsoil:</i>	Orange sand/gravel
<i>Modern features:</i>	None
<i>Significant features:</i>	None
<i>Artefacts:</i>	None
<i>Interpretation:</i>	No significant archaeology present

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Trench 6

<i>Orientation:</i>	North-east to south-west
<i>Size:</i>	20 m x 2.0 m
<i>Topsoil depth:</i>	0.50 m
<i>Excavation depth:</i>	0.60 m (max)
<i>Subsoil:</i>	Orange sand/gravel
<i>Modern features:</i>	None
<i>Significant features:</i>	None
<i>Artefacts:</i>	None
<i>Interpretation:</i>	No significant archaeology present

Trench 7

<i>Orientation:</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Size:</i>	20 m x 2.0 m
<i>Topsoil depth:</i>	0.30-0.40 m
<i>Excavation depth:</i>	0.45 m (max)
<i>Subsoil:</i>	Orange sand/gravel
<i>Modern features:</i>	Circular feature representing remnants of coal mining activity
<i>Significant features:</i>	None
<i>Artefacts:</i>	None
<i>Interpretation:</i>	No significant archaeology present

Trench 8

<i>Orientation:</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Size:</i>	20 m x 2.0 m
<i>Topsoil depth:</i>	0.30-0.40 m
<i>Excavation depth:</i>	0.45 m (max)
<i>Subsoil:</i>	Orange sand/gravel
<i>Modern features:</i>	None
<i>Significant features:</i>	None
<i>Artefacts:</i>	None
<i>Interpretation:</i>	No significant archaeology present

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Evaluation Black & White Print and Colour Slide 1

Frame	Detail	From
1-2	Registration	
3-4	General pre-excavation shot of evaluation area	W
5-6	General shot of Trench 1, post-excavation	W
7-8	General shot of Trench 2, post-excavation	S
9-10	Working shot of Trench 3, under excavation	SE
11-12	Working shot of Trench 4, under excavation	SE
13-14	Working shot of Trench 6, under excavation	SE
15-16	General shot of Trench 7, post-excavation	SE
17-18	Detail of mining works	SE

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	South-Eastern Wedge (RP13) Danderhall
PROJECT CODE:	20628
PARISH:	Danderhall
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Cook, Martin
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPES(S) OF PROJECTS:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NT 36 NW 192
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cropmark – field boundaries
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR:	NT 3184 6927 to NT 3166 6922
START DATE:	05/09/2007
END DATE:	07/09/2007
PREVIOUS WORK:	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION:	<p>A programme of archaeological works was required by Ironside Farrar on behalf of Turner Townsend in meeting the terms of a condition on planning consent (05/00863/FUL) in respect to a proposed new road associated with the SEW development near Danderhall, Midlothian (NGR: NT 3166 6922 and NT 3184 6927). The application area is bounded by agricultural land and roads in all directions. AOC Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a 5% sample archaeological evaluation. The evaluation consisting of eight trenches totaling 360 m² was conducted between 5th and 7th September 2007. A 4.5 m long circular feature/pit associated with the coal mining industry was identified but left unexcavated. The evaluation uncovered no features or artefacts of archaeological significance.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING	Ironside Farrar on behalf of Turner Townsend
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	<p>AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Industrial Estate Edgefield Road Loanhead Midlothian EH20 9SY</p>
EMAIL ADDRESS:	martine@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION:	NMRS