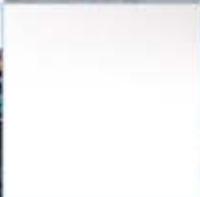


52 High Street, Linlithgow Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

21179

September 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

52 High Street, Linlithgow Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **TB Michie**
1 Kingsburgh Road
Edinburgh
EH12 6EG

National Grid Reference (NGR): **NT 003 771**

AOC Project No: **21179**

Prepared by: **Victoria Clements**

Illustration by: **Graeme Carruthers**

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

Author: Victoria Clements **Date:** October 2008

Approved by: John Gooder **Date:** October 2008

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Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	1
List of plates	1
List of appendices	1
Abstract.....	2
1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Background	3
1.2 Location.....	3
2. OBJECTIVES	3
3 METHODOLOGY	3
4 RESULTS	4
5 CONCLUSION.....	8
6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX 1: Context Register	10
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record	11
APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register	12
APPENDIX 4: Finds Register	12
APPENDIX 5: <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> Report.....	13

List of illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Plan of Area of Watching Brief
Figure 3	Sections of Wall 102

List of plates

Plate 1	Sandstone Wall 102 from west
Plate 2	Stone Drain 106 from north
Plate 3	Cobbled Surface 107 from east

List of appendices

Appendix 1	Context Register
Appendix 2	Photographic Record
Appendix 3	Drawing Register
Appendix 4	Finds Register
Appendix 5	<i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> Report

Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on an extension to Livingston's Restaurant, 52 High Street, Linlithgow. The work was commissioned by TB Michie on behalf of Mr and Mrs Livingston. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, as advised by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).

The objective of the work was to monitor all groundbreaking works associated with the construction of the extension. The work was carried out during September 2008 and was conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2008), which was agreed by WoSAS, and approved by the planning authority. The extension covered an area totalling 63 m².

The watching brief identified several features including a brick floor surface, three sandstone walls, a sandstone drain and part of a cobbled surface all of which have been identified as post-medieval in date due to the modern nature of the associated finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by TB Michie on behalf of Mr and Mrs Livingston to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Livingston's Restaurant, 52 High Street, Linlithgow. The development involves the construction of a 63 m² extension to the existing restaurant.
- 1.1.2 The site is located within the Local Authority administrative area of West Lothian Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The programme of archaeological works fully met the requirements of the Conditions of Planning Consent were undertaken as per NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a), in order to safeguard the archaeological resource.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development area lies within the medieval core of Linlithgow (chartered by David I sometime between 1124 and 1138) in a location where evidence of backland activity within burgage plots might well be expected. Throughout the medieval period, Linlithgow served as an ecclesiastical centre, military stronghold, royal residence and economic hub. It was also burnt on at least three occasions by the English during the Anglo-Scots Wars of the 14th and 15th centuries (Smith 1999, 605).

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to monitor ground-breaking works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
 - ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by the development programme;
 - iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that will suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie, preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with WoSAS.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All groundbreaking works undertaken within the development area (Figures 1 and 2) were carried out using a mini-digger or by hand. All excavation was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.
- 3.2 A black and white and colour slide photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 2).

- 3.3 All features of possible archaeological significance were cleaned and fully defined within the boundaries of the site before being fully recorded.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by a single archaeologist in mixed weather conditions between 24th and 30th September 2008. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-4, Figures 1-3 and Plates 1-3.
- 4.2 The groundbreaking works involved the excavation of foundation trenches and service trenches, along with two test-pits to identify services (Figure 2). Overall the area of the extension was reduced by a maximum depth of 0.50 m.
- 4.3 The first test-pit was excavated at the north-west corner of the site (Figure 2) and was 0.90 m wide, 2.00 m long and 1.14 m deep. The test-pit revealed 0.10 m of turf overlying 0.10 m of red gravel material, which in turn overlay 0.94 m of dark brown black firm clay silt (Context 100) with frequent medium stones, occasional fragments of modern brick and occasional fragments of modern (19th-20th century) pottery. Two ceramic drain pipes were identified running roughly north/south at depths of 0.67 m and 1.05 m from the ground surface. No other significant features or finds were observed.
- 4.4 The second test pit was excavated in the south-west corner of the site adjacent to the corner of the existing restaurant building (Figure 2). Approximately 1.00 m wide, 1.50 m long and 0.80 m deep, the test pit revealed only modern sand and rubble backfill below the monoblock surface. This area had already been previously heavily disturbed by the quantity of services in this area. Several service pipes were identified including live water and gas. No archaeologically significant features or finds were observed.
- 4.5 The foundation and service trenches (Figure 2) were excavated to a depth of 1.20 m and varied between 0.36 m and 0.50 m wide. All of the trenches revealed approximately 0.10 m of turf and 0.10 m of topsoil over approximately 1.00-1.10 m of dark brown black firm clay silt (Context 100), with frequent medium stones, occasional fragments of modern brick, occasional fragments of modern (19th-20th century) pottery and fragments of animal bone. Occasional large fragments of sandstone and traces of mortar were observed but these were not *in situ* and appeared to be simply mixed in with the rest of the material. Context 100 appears to be a very thick layer of mixed make-up soil used to level up this area. In some very small areas a mid orange brown sandy clay natural subsoil was exposed.
- 4.6 The excavation of the foundation and service trenches along with the reduction of the entire area of the extension by approximately 0.50 m revealed a number of post-medieval features including sandstone walls and brick and cobble surfaces (Figure 2). The initial feature identified was an east/west aligned sandstone wall (Context 102), constructed of irregularly shaped sub-angular boulders and sandstone bonded with a cream mortar (Figures 2 and 3). It was observed for a length of 3.9 m from the western edge of the service trench. The wall was between 0.58 m and 0.65 m wide and observed to a maximum depth of 0.50 m in the service trench section. The wall was revealed at a depth of only 0.20 m below the original

ground surface and its foundation cut (Context 104), where visible on the north side of the wall, was found to cut into the make-up soil (Context 100). The uppermost course of the wall was removed following full recording but the lower courses were left *in situ*.



Plate 1: Sandstone Wall 102 from west

- 4.7 A north/south return of the sandstone wall was also identified (Context 103, Figure 2), running from the eastern end of wall 102 for a visible length of 2.22 m until it ran under the existing restaurant path. The wall was 0.58 m wide with a maximum depth visible of 0.20 m constructed of the same boulder and sandstone mix with the same creamy mortar as wall 102.
- 4.8 On the north side of wall 102 a modern brick floor surface (Context 101, Figure 2) was observed constructed from very regular bricks (0.23 by 0.10 by 0.08 m), brown in colour, bonded with a fine cream mortar. The surface was 2.5 m long (north/south) and 1.52 m wide (east/west) but only one course thick with a small hole left at the northern end. The brick surface abuts wall 102 to the south.

- 4.9 To the north-east of surface 101 the remains of a sandstone structure (Context 106, Figure 2) was uncovered running NNW/SSE in a slight curve. The structure was formed of sub-angular stones bonded with a rough creamy brown mortar. Only one course of the structure was visible with a length of 1.70 m and width of 0.60 m. The feature seems to be part of a drain running through this area as it is connected to a modern ceramic drain.



Plate 2: Stone Drain 106 from north

- 4.10 At the very southern extent of the site a cobbled surface (Context 107, Figure 2) was revealed running 2.25 m east/west before being truncated to the east by modern services, with a width of approximately 1.00 m north/south visible from the southern edge of the site. The surface consisted of rounded cobbles of varying size and shape set into a layer of hard compacted clinker material (Context 113), which in turn overlay a layer of decayed sandstone (Context 114) which overlay the make-up soil 100. Fragments of modern nails, pottery and glass were found within surface 107 and the clinker material 113 below. At the northern edge of 107 a line of kerb stones (Context 108) formed a boundary to the edge of the surface. The kerb stones had an average length of 0.35 m each and a total length of

approximately 2.5 m north/south; the stones were bonded together with a creamy brown mortar.



Plate 3: Cobbled Surface 107 from east

- 4.11 A further fragmentary sandstone wall (Context 109, Figure 2) was observed running east/west for 1.94 m and appears to return to the north for a visible length of 1.70 m. The wall is heavily mortared and in a poor state of survival with only one course surviving to a maximum depth of 0.34 m. The southern extent continues beyond the area of excavation, and to the west the wall is truncated by the service trench but continues as wall 112 (Figure 2). Wall 112 is the continuation of 109 to the west which is just visible in the western section of the site and shows that two courses of the wall survive further west under the current garden.
- 4.10 The final feature observed was the remnant of a cobbled surface (Context 110, not illustrated) to the north of 108. Only a small patch of approximately 0.50 m by 0.60 m survives; it may form a continuation of surface 107 but so little remains that it is difficult to ascertain any relationships or full dimensions.

- 4.11 All of the features were discovered no more than 0.20 m below the initial ground surface and were covered only by turf and topsoil. The features were all found to be either cut into or built on top of the same make-up soil (Context 100) which was observed over the entire site to a depth of at least 1.00 m. Given the very shallow depth at which all the features were uncovered it seems very likely that they are post-medieval and relatively modern in age.
- 4.12 In addition, the finds from the make-up soil below the features, contained frequent fragments of modern pottery, including china and stoneware (a large deposit of broken stoneware bottles was observed in one spot – one fragment with a date of 1940 printed on it), glass and metal. No earlier material was recovered. Frequent fragments of animal bone were also observed scattered throughout the make-up soil.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The features found within the watching brief area were fully defined and recorded. The features were identified at a very shallow depth with a large depth of make-up soil below them. The finds associated with both the features and the make-up soil they were constructed on were modern in date. The overall impression is that these features are of relatively modern (19th century and later) date.
- 5.2 Given the nature and condition of the archaeological features and the level of recording undertaken it is considered that no further work is required.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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52 High Street, Linlithgow

**Watching Brief:
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context Number	Type	Description
100	Layer	Dark brown black firm clay silt with frequent medium stones, occasional fragments of modern brick, pottery, glass and fragments of animal bone. Lies below everything else and above natural subsoil.
101	Structure	Brick floor, constructed of regular bricks (0.23 x 0.10 x 0.08 m), brown in colour, bonded with creamy fine mortar. 2.5 m north/south x 1.52 m east/west. One course thick, with hole to northern end. Abuts wall 102 to south. Lies under topsoil and over 100.
102	Structure	East/west aligned sandstone wall. Irregular boulders and sandstone bonded with creamy mortar, 2 courses deep visible. 3.9 m east/west, 0.58-0.65 m wide, up to 0.50 m depth visible. Truncated by service trench. Lies under 105 and over 104.
103	Structure	North/south aligned sandstone wall; return of 102, constructed in exactly same manner. 2.22m north/south, 0.58 m wide and 0.20 m depth visible. Runs under existing path to south. Lies under topsoil and over 100.
104	Cut	Construction cut for wall 102 visible on north side of wall for 1.53 m, approximately 0.10 m wider than wall. Lies under 102 and cuts through 100.
105	Fill	Backfill of construction cut 104, consisting of fragments of sandstone and dark brown soil. Lies under topsoil and over 102.
106	Structure	Sandstone structure running NNW/SSE in a slight curve. Irregular sandstone blocks bonded with rough creamy brown mortar. One course visible, 1.7 m N/S x 0.60 m wide. Appears to be part of a drain as joins onto ceramic drain to north. Lies under topsoil and over 100.
107	Structure	Cobbled floor surface, formed of rounded cobbles set into 113. Measures 2.25 m E/W x 1 m wide. Truncated to east by modern service cut. Abuts 109 to west and 108 to north. Cut by service cut 111, lies over 113.
108	Structure	Kerbstones. Forms a linear boundary to 107 to the south, average length of kerbs = 0.35 m, length in total = 2.5 m. Stones are smooth on surface and bonded with a creamy brown mortar. Lies under topsoil and over 100.
109	Structure	Sandstone wall aligned east/west for 1.94 m with a return north/south of 1.70 m. Heavily mortared and in poor condition, only 1 course remaining to depth of 0.34 m. Truncated by service trench but continues as 112 to west. Lies under topsoil and over 100.
110	Structure	Cobbled floor surface? Remains of a cobbled floor to north of 108 and 109. Only 0.50-0.60 m surviving. Lies under topsoil and over 100.
111	Cut	Service trench for modern services running 1.50 m north/south and truncates 107 to west. Lies under topsoil/monoblock path and cuts 107.
112	Structure	Remains of sandstone wall, same as 109, visible in western section of site. Two courses visible, same construction as 109. Lies under topsoil and over 100.
113	Layer	Layer of hard compacted clinker which cobbled surface 107 is set into. Lies below 107 and over 114.
114	Layer	Layer of decayed/crushed sandstone. Possible levelling layer for cobbled surface 107. Lies below 113 and over 100.

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	
3-4	Test pit 1 excavated to identify drains	NE
5-6	Diagonal drainage trench	WSW
7-8	North facing section of drainage trench	N
9-10	Manhole at WSW end of drainage trench	N
11-12	N/S drainage trench	N
13-14	E/W drainage trench	W
15-16	Possible stone wall in N/S trench	N
17-18	Possible stone wall in N/S trench	N
19-20	Possible stone wall in N/S trench	W
21-22	Stone wall 102 in N/S trench	N
23-24	Stone wall 102 in N/S trench	W
25-26	Stone wall 102 in N/S trench	S
27-28	N/S return 103 of E/W stone wall	N
29-30	Wall 102 in section	W
31-32	Stone drain 106	NNW
33-34	Overview of cobbled floor 107	E
35-36	Overview of cobbled floor 107	W

Black & White Print Film 2

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration shot	
2-3	Sandstone wall 109 running E/W	S
4-5	Remains of wall 112 in trench to east	E
6-7	Foundation trench N/S	S
8-9	Service trenches E/W	W
10-11	North facing section under 107	N
12-13	W/E service trench	W
14-15	N/S foundation trench	N
16-17	Site overview	S

Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	
3-4	Test pit 1 excavated to identify drains	NE
5-6	Diagonal drainage trench	WSW
7-8	North facing section of drainage trench	N
9-10	Manhole at WSW end of drainage trench	N
11-12	N/S drainage trench	N
13-14	E/W drainage trench	W
15-16	Possible stone wall in N/S trench	N
17-18	Possible stone wall in N/S trench	N
19-20	Possible stone wall in N/S trench	W
21-22	Stone wall 102 in N/S trench	N
23-24	Stone wall 102 in N/S trench	W
25-26	Stone wall 102 in N/S trench	S
27-28	N/S return 103 of E/W stone wall	N
29-30	Wall 102 in section	W
31-32	Stone drain 106	NNW

33-34	Overview of cobbled floor 107	E
35-36	Overview of cobbled floor 107	W

Colour Slide Film 2

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration shot	
2-3	Sandstone wall 109 running E/W	S
4-5	Remains of wall 112 in trench to east	E
6-7	Foundation trench N/S	S
8-9	Service trenches E/W	W
10-11	North facing section under 107	N
12-13	W/E service trench	W
14-15	N/S foundation trench	N
16-17	Site overview	S

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

Drawing Number	Feature Number	Description	Scale
1		Plan of area of watching brief showing features	1:50
2	102	North-facing elevation of wall [102]	1:10
3	103	West-facing elevation of wall [103]	1:10
4	102	South-facing elevation of wall [102]	1:10
5	102	Section through E/W wall [102]	1:10
6	107	Plan of cobbled surface [107]	1:50

APPENDIX 4: Finds Register

Find Number	Context	Description	Material Code
1	100	Fragments of 19 th /20 th Century stoneware	CE
2	113	Fragments of modern pottery	CE
3	113	Fragments of modern glass	GL
4	114	Strip of iron	FE

APPENDIX 5: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report*

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	52 High Street, Linlithgow Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21179
PARISH:	Linlithgow
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Victoria Clements
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 003 771
START DATE (this season)	24 th September 2008
END DATE (this season)	30 th September 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief was carried out on the groundbreaking works associated with a small extension (totalling 63 m²) to a restaurant at 52 High Street, Linlithgow.</p> <p>The watching brief identified several features including a brick surface, three sandstone walls and small areas of cobbling overlying a very thick deposit of make-up soil. All of the features have been identified as post-medieval, probably 19th century or later in date.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	T B Michie
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

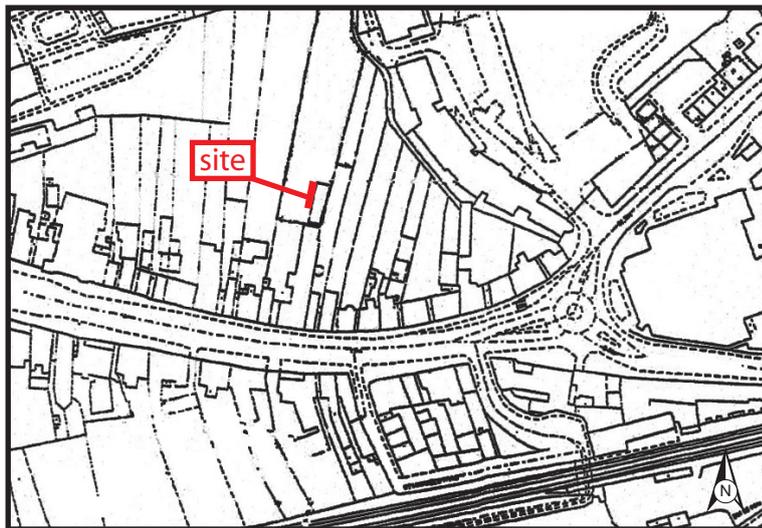
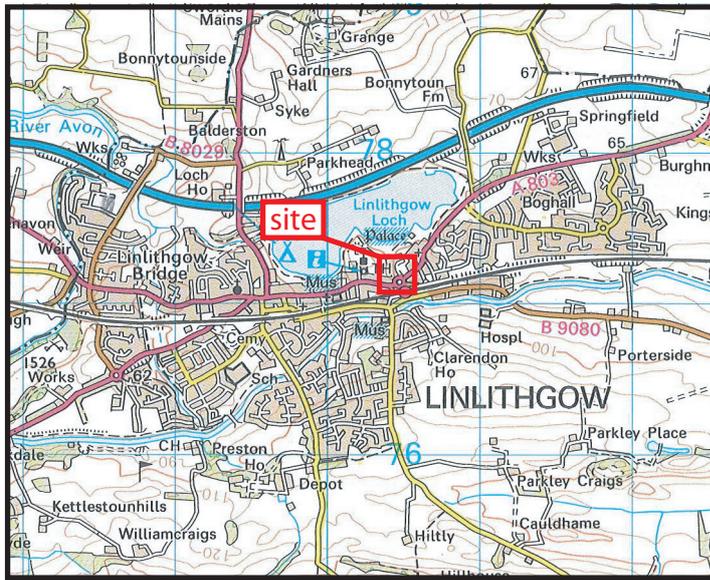
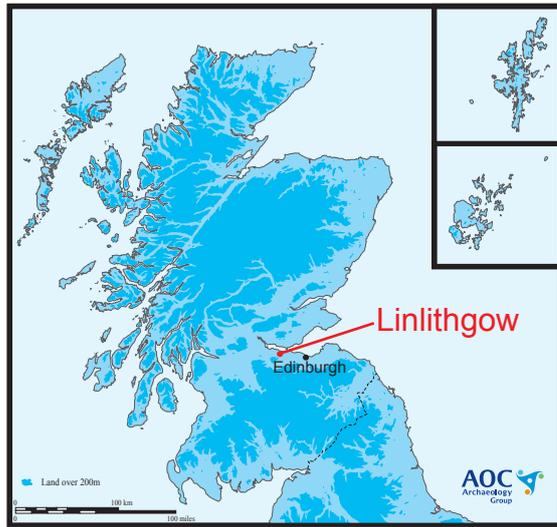


Figure 1: site location

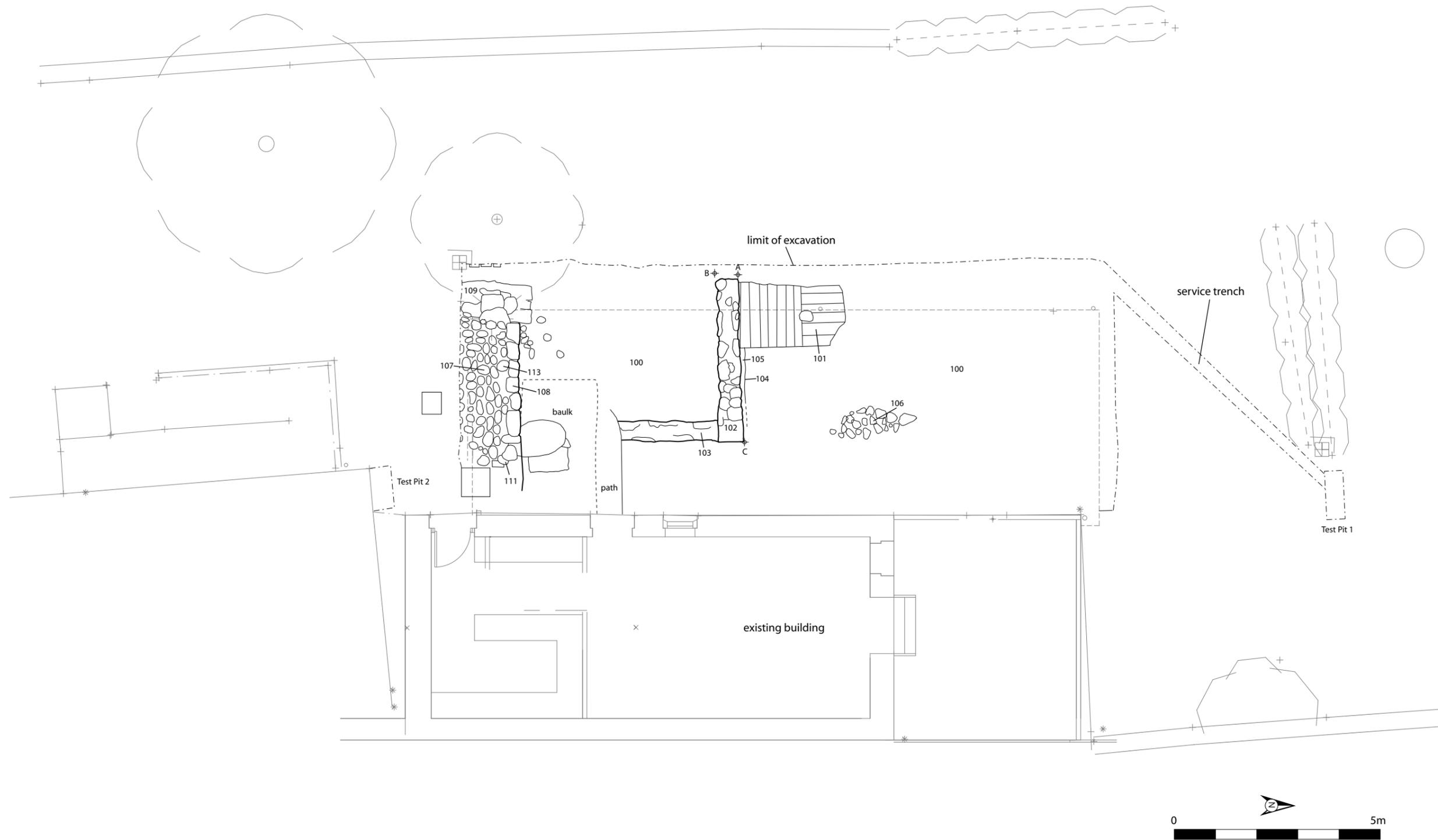


Figure 2: Plan of area of watching brief

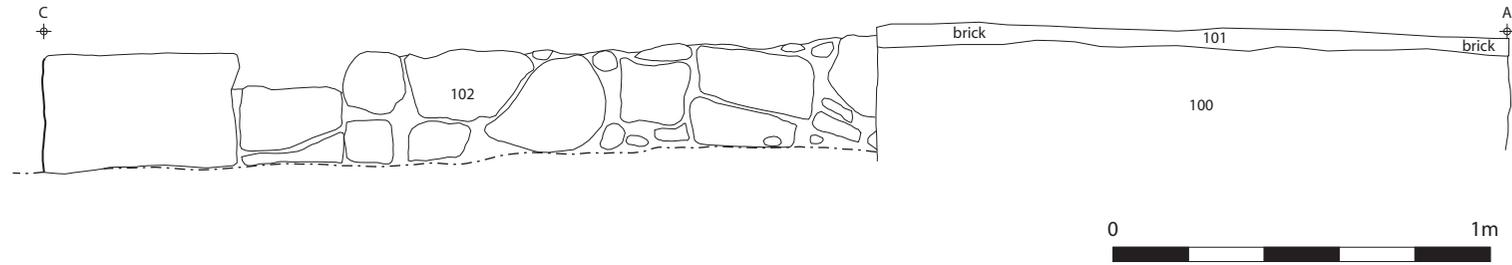
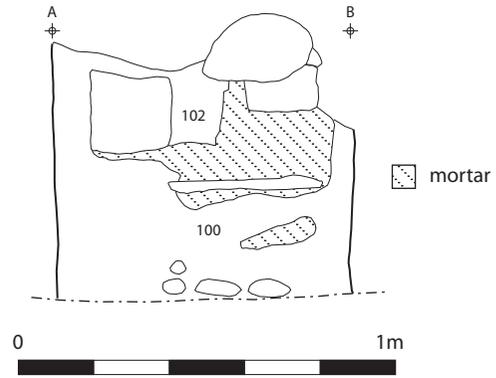


Figure 3: Sections of wall 102



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com