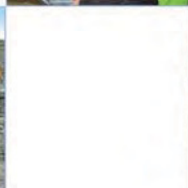
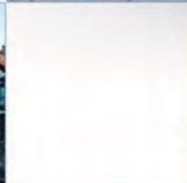
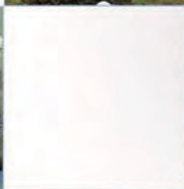
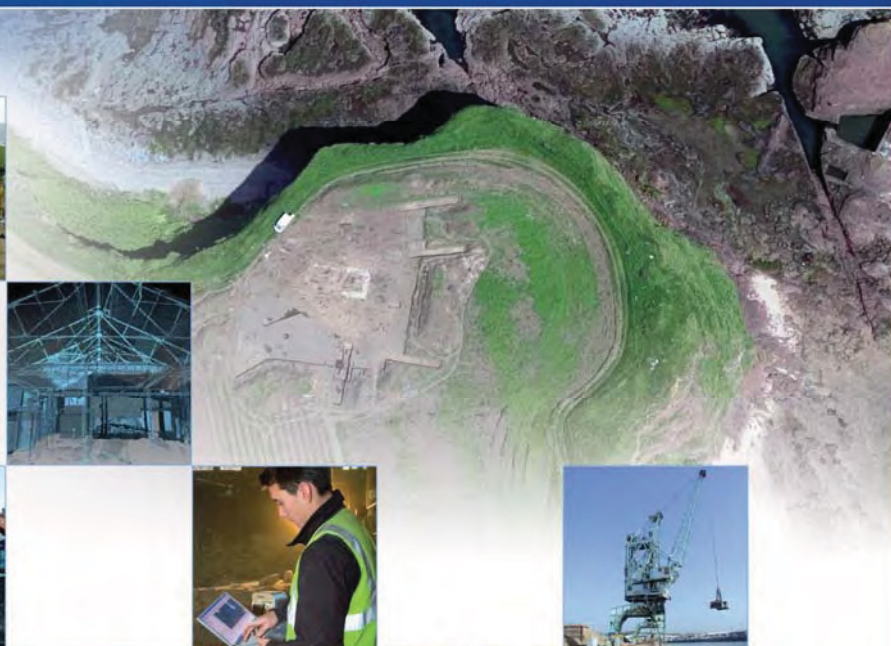


# Low Port Education Centre, Linlithgow

## Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

AOC 21458

25<sup>th</sup> January 2010



## Low Port Education Centre, Linlithgow: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

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**On Behalf of:** Low Port Education Centre,  
1 Blackness Road,  
Linlithgow,  
West Lothian  
EH49 7HZ

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 0038 7723

**AOC Project No:** 21458

**Prepared by:** Lindsay Dunbar

**Illustration by:** Gemma Hudson

**Date of Fieldwork:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Date of Report:** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010

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

**Author:** Lindsay Dunbar

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Approved by:** John Gooder

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Draft Report Stage:**

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010

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## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>List of illustrations</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>List of plates</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>List of appendices</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Abstract</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>4</b>
1.1 Site Location .....	4
1.2 Curatorial control.....	4
1.3 Archaeological Background .....	4
<b>2 OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3 METHOD</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4 RESULTS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	5
4.2 Overview .....	6
<b>5 CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>6 REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT</b> .....	<b>11</b>

## List of illustrations

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Watching Brief Area

## List of plates

Plate 1: General view of boundary wall

Plate 2: General view of southern excavation

## List of appendices

Appendix 1: Photographic Register

Appendix 2: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

## Abstract

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This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Low Port Education Centre during the development of an educational resource and field studies centre (Planning Ref: 0375/FUL/09).

The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance. No further works are recommended.

## 0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Low Port Education Centre on ground breaking works associated with a proposed development at the educational resource and field studies centre (Planning Ref: 0375/FUL/09). The scope of the works was primarily determined by the West Lothian Council as advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The Watching Brief did not encounter any features or artefacts or archaeological significance.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The development area lies within the northern backland of properties Nos. 56, 58 & 60 High Street, Linlithgow (centred on NGR: NJ 2773 4858). The Bell Burn forms the north-west boundary of the site with the southern edge of the scheduled area around Linlithgow Palace and Peel forming the northern boundary. Neighbouring land plots of 46 High Street and 64 High Street marked the eastern and western edges of the site respectively (Figures 1 & 2).

### 1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.3.1 This programme of works was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of the West Lothian Council, as advised by WoSAS. The *Method Statement* (Dunbar 2009) outlined the entirety of the archaeological programme of work which may have been needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. It detailed principally the methodology to be employed in implementing the Watching Brief.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 From about 685 AD the Anglians of Lothian occupied a small fort at Linlithgow. It was captured in 960 by King Indulf of Abta and incorporated in the Kingdom of the Scots. It was later chartered as a royal burgh by King David I sometime between 1124 and 1138. The knoll formerly occupied by the Anglian fort was used as an English fortification during the Wars of Independence (captured by the Scots in 1313) with the burgh subsequently, a various times throughout the medieval and early post-medieval periods, the site of a castle, royal residence and a number of religious establishments (Smith 1999, 604-605).
- 1.3.2 The development site (centred NGR: NT 0038 7723) lies within an area of backlands, stretching northwards from the High Street frontage, within the medieval burgh. The northern limit of the development is immediately adjacent to the scheduled area of Linlithgow Palace, Peel and Royal Park. Archaeological works in the local area include watching briefs at 46 High Street (NMRS NT07NW 289; Clapperton 2005) and the Low Port Centre (NMRS NT07NW 262; Clapperton 2003), both of which failed in observing

any significant archaeological material. An evaluation at St Michael's Wynd recovered residual medieval potter sherds but no *in situ* features (WoSAS Event ID 1276). Nevertheless given the common occurrence of the differential preservation of backland archaeology as isolated islands of survival, the possibility remains that as yet buried archaeological material may persist within the development area.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
- ii) to liaise with WoSAS 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 METHOD

3.1 All excavations were undertaken by a mini-excavator utilising a small bladed bucket operating under the constant monitoring of an experienced field archaeologist. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil until the required depth was reached.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The Watching Brief was carried out in fair and clear weather conditions on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The weather conditions and nature of works undertaken meant that had any significant archaeology been present the working practises utilised would have rendered any remains visible.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.



## 4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 The watching brief was focused on excavations required to repair the existing stone and brick boundary wall between the backlands of the site (properties No. 56, 58 & 60 High Street) and the neighbouring backland of No.64 High Street. The boundary wall consisted of stone-built lower courses (five or six courses high) which directly overlay a further six or seven brick courses topped with large coping stones.
- 4.2.2 In two areas, either side of a small brick structure which was demolished during the watching brief, the brick wall was in disrepair, partially collapsed with coping stones dislodged. Also in these areas the stone foundation wall required some consolidation work prior to the rebuilding of the brick wall. Plate 1 shows the general condition of the boundary wall with the small brick structure and the northern portion of wall requiring repair.



**Plate 1 General view of boundary wall**

- 4.2.3 The ground level of the site was some 0.5 m to 0.8 m lower than that of the neighbouring property of No.64 High Street. These ground level differences therefore required the excavation and temporary removal of some topsoil material to facilitate the required repairs to the boundary wall.
- 4.2.4 A small mechanical excavator was used to remove the remains of the brick wall in two areas (either side of the demolished small brick structure), with the usable bricks to be salvaged and reused for the new wall. The excavator also removed a c.0.5 m to 0.7 m wide of strip topsoil material immediately behind the revetted boundary wall to allow the wall repairs. This material was an extremely humic dark gritty topsoil of which up to 0.5 m was removed in spits as necessary to expose the stone wall head. This material contained modern material such as plastics, modern glass and ceramic sherds.





**Plate 2 General view of southern excavation**

- 4.2.5 The watching brief unearthed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1.1 The watching brief provided a comprehensive safeguard against the destruction of hitherto unknown archaeological material during the most significant ground disturbances undertaken as part of this development of a previously undeveloped land parcel.
- 5.1.2 Neither significant archaeological deposits, features nor artefactual material were encountered during this watching brief. No further works are recommended. This recommendation with require ratification by WoSAS on behalf of West Lothian Council.

## **6 REFERENCES**

*Clapperton, K 2003 West Port, Linlithgow (Linlithgow parish) watching brief, Discovery Excav Scot, Vol 4.*

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*Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures.*  
January 1994.

# **Low Port Education Centre, Linlithgow**

## **Watching Brief: Data Structure Report**

### **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

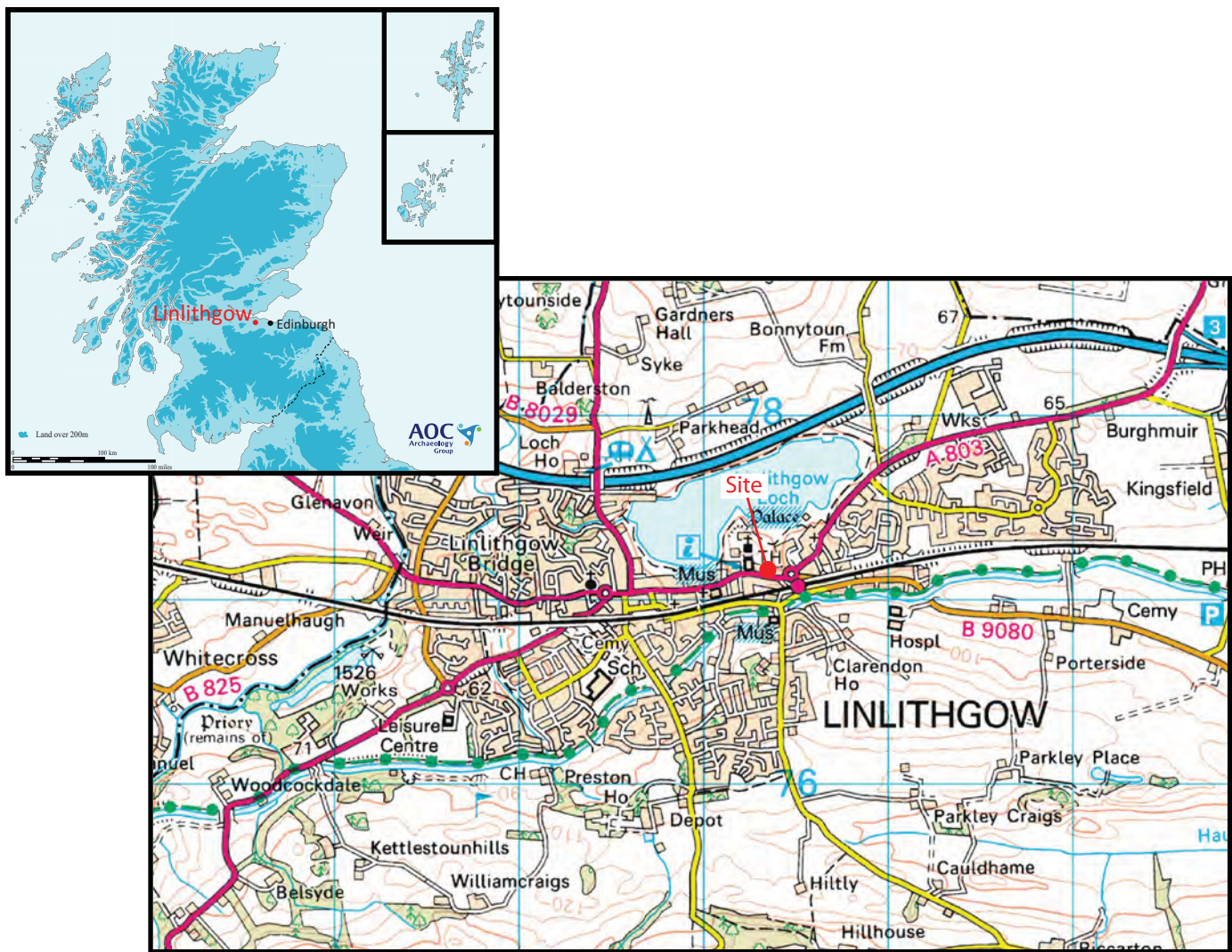
Digital Film

Frame	Description	From
1	General view of northern section of boundary wall prior to excavations starting	NE
2-3	View of northern section of boundary wall after reduction of brickwork and excavations completed	S
4	View of northern section of boundary wall after reduction of brickwork and excavations completed	NE
5	View of small brick structure and boundary wall after reduction of brickwork and excavations completed	SE
6	View of southern section of boundary wall after reduction of brickwork and excavations completed	NE

**APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	West Lothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Low Port Centre Linlithgow Watching Brief
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	21458
<b>PARISH:</b>	Linlithgow
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Lindsay Dunbar
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 0038 7723
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2010
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2010
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with an educational resource and field studies centre development at Low Port Education Centre, Linlithgow. The watching brief was focused on excavations parallel to the western site boundary wall necessary for the wall's repair.  The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Low Port Education Centre
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:lindsay.dunbar@aocarchaeology.com">lindsay.dunbar@aocarchaeology.com</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS





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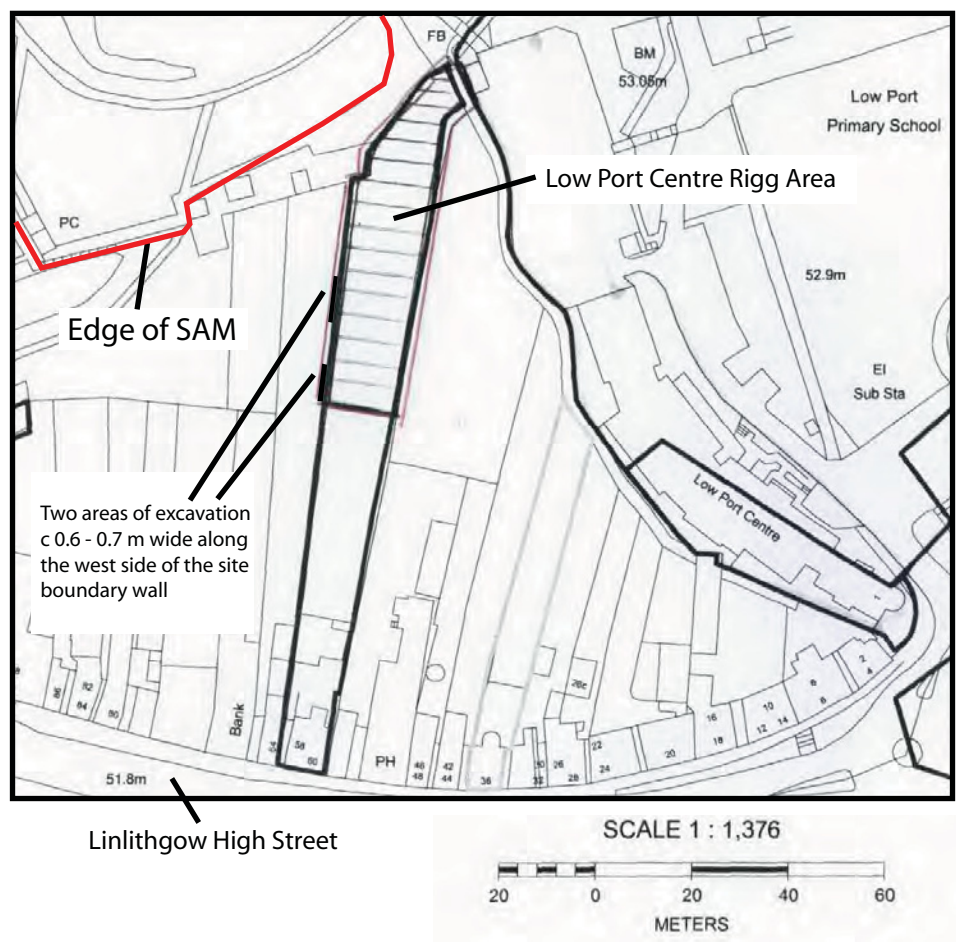
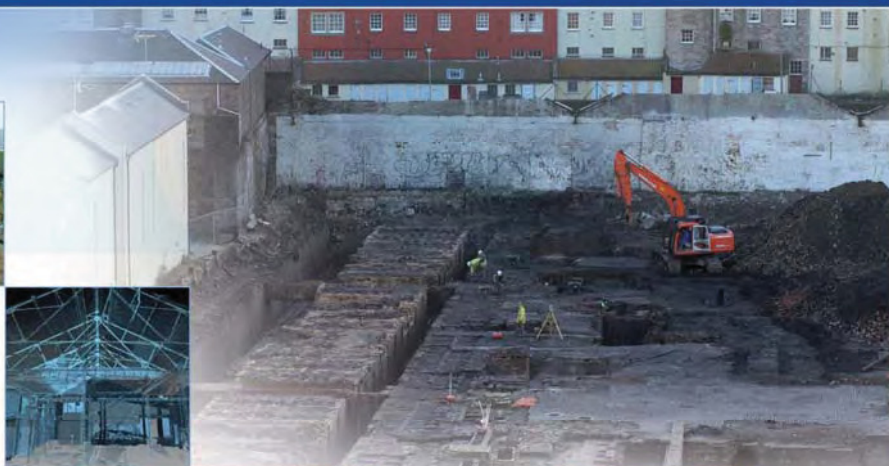


Figure 1: Site location map with plan showing areas of excavation



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