





Houstoun Road, Eliburn, Livingston Desk-Based Assessment Project 5006



Houstoun Road, Eliburn, Livingston: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

On behalf of: Bellway Homes Limited (Scotland)

NGR: NT 02909 68226

Project Number: 5006

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This document has been prepared in accordance with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.

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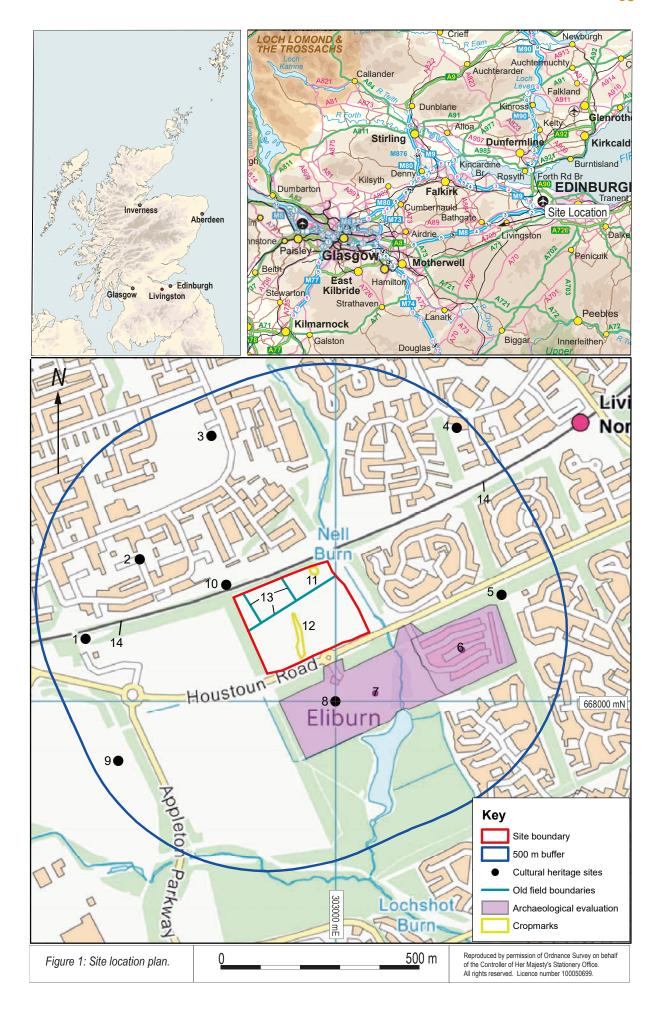




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Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited undertook an archaeological desk-top study of an area proposed for development at Houstoun Road, Eliburn in Livingston, West Lothian. The aims of the study were to assess evidence for the past human use of the area, its archaeological sensitivity, and the potential impact of any development upon the archaeological resource.
- 1.2 The assessment found that there are three known cultural heritage sites within the proposed development area, all of which are undesignated. These are the locations of a circular cropmark, which may be the remains of a prehistoric house, an amorphous cropmark and relict field boundaries. While the proposed development area is not considered to be especially archaeologically sensitive, the presence of these cropmarks and, in particular the possible prehistoric dwelling, may indicate the survival of hitherto undiscovered sub-surface archaeological remains
- 1.3 The proposed development area was within the policies of Livingston House in the mideighteenth century and has been used for agriculture from at least the mid nineteenth century until the late twentieth century. Consequently, there has been little disturbance of subsoil deposits over the Site.
- 1.4 Given the potential for the survival of sub-surface archaeological remains, GUARD Archaeology Limited would advise that West Lothian Council may require the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation works that would aim to establish the presence or absence of significant remains within those areas of the proposed development that would be subject to groundworks. The specification for any such works would be determined by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service but may comprise trial trench evaluation of the available undisturbed ground, with the cropmarks being specifically targeted

Introduction

- 2.1 In June 2018, Bellway Homes Limited (Scotland) commissioned GUARD Archaeology Limited to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of an area proposed for development at Houstoun Road, Eliburn in Livingston, West Lothian (NGR: centred at NT 02909 68226). The Site is located within Livingston and comprises scrubland (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The Site is bounded to the north by the Glasgow to Edinburgh via Airdrie railway and to the south by Houstoun Road. Existing housing lies to the east of the Site and scrubland lies to the west. The area proposed for development is about 5.75 ha in extent.
- 2.3 The main bedrock over the Site is Calders Member Sedimentary Rock Cycles, Strathclyde Group Type, a sedimentary rock type that formed approximately 331 to 337 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was dominated by lakes and lagoons. The superficial deposits are Till, Devensian Diamicton. (British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain Viewer).

Legislative Background

National Planning Legislation

- 3.1 The statutory framework for heritage in Scotland is outlined in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act, and The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, both of which are modified by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act (2011).
- 3.2 Cultural heritage resources consist of designated and non-designated sites, including individual monuments, related settings and the wider cultural landscape. Sites with statutory designations are defined in the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement 2016, and comprise:



- Scheduled Monuments;
- Listed Buildings;
- Conservation Areas;
- Marine Protected Areas;
- Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and
- Historic Battlefields.

National Planning Policy and Guidelines

- 3.3 The implications of the acts noted above with regard to local government planning policy are described within Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014), Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (HESPS) (2016), the National Planning Framework (2014) and Planning Advice Note 2/2011 (2011). SPP and HESPS deal specifically with planning policy in relation to heritage.
- 3.4 One paragraph of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014: Valuing the Historic Environment are pertinent to this assessment of the proposed development.

Archaeology and Other Historic Environment Assets

SPP paragraph 150 states: "Planning authorities should protect archaeological sites and monuments as an important, finite and non-renewable resource and preserve them in situ wherever possible. Where in situ preservation is not possible, planning authorities should, through the use of conditions or a legal obligation, ensure that developers undertake appropriate excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving before and/or during development. If archaeological discoveries are made, they should be reported to the planning authority to enable discussion on appropriate measures, such as inspection and recording."

3.5 National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) and the local Historic Environment Record (HER)

Other cultural heritage and archaeological sites, not subject to other designations, are recorded within the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and the local Historic Environment Record (HER), and many such sites have not yet been identified or recorded. Such undesignated sites are frequently assigned to regional, local or lesser categories of significance. The regional or local importance of such a site is established on the basis of professional judgement, although the criteria for identifying nationally important sites (as outlined in SHEP 2011 Annex 1) will often be referred to in making such judgements. Some sites are also, variously, classed as of lesser importance, unknown importance or other importance. Unknown or other importance usually refers to examples where insufficient information exists to assign importance.

Local Planning Policy and Guidelines

- 3.6 Local planning policy is defined in the West Lothian Local Plan (2009), the proposed West Lothian Local Development Plan (2015) and in SESplan, The Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (2013).
- 3.7 The West Lothian Local Plan (2009) includes the following policies relating to cultural heritage that are pertinent to this assessment.

Policy HER 15

Significant archaeological sites will be protected from development which will have a detrimental effect on the sites or their settings.



Policy HER 16

Applicants will be required to provide an archaeological assessment in advance of determination of a planning application where the council considers this appropriate. Where preservation of archaeological remains proves unfeasible, archaeological investigation and recording to the highest professional standards will be required at the developer's expense, prior to the implementation of the development.

3.8 The proposed West Lothian Local Development Plan (2015) includes the following policies relating to cultural heritage that are pertinent to this assessment.

POLICY ENV 32 Archaeology

Development will not be permitted where it would adversely affect an identified regionally or locally important archaeological or historic site or its setting unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a. the proposal has been sited and designed to minimise damage to items or sites of archaeological and historic interest; and
- b. there is no alternative location for the proposal.

Archaeological remains should be preserved in situ. Where this is not possible, archaeological investigation and recording will be required and must be to the highest professional standards. These investigations will be carried out at the developer's expense, prior to the implementation of the development to include archaeological excavation, recording, analysis and publication of findings

3.9 SESplan (2013) is the Strategic Development Plan for West Lothian. Detailed consideration of the historic environment falls beyond the remit of the Strategic Development Plan. However, it clearly adheres to SPP and one of the aims of Policy 1B is to "Ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts on the integrity of international and national built or cultural heritage sites in particular World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Royal Parks and Sites listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes". The plan also aims to "Conserve and enhance the natural and built environment" (SESplan 2013, 5).

Other considerations

3.10 The proposed development area is located within the local authority area of West Lothian which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of this study were to assess the known or potential archaeological resource within the Site and the likely impact of any development on the archaeological resource, and to recommend a strategy for mitigating this impact upon any known or potential archaeological remains.
- 4.2 The specific objectives of the assessment were:
 - to identify any previously known archaeological monuments present within the Site area through a search of the National Record of the Historic Environment and the local Historic Environment Record;
 - to identify any previously unknown archaeological sites through the examination of documentary and cartographic evidence;
 - to carry out a walkover survey of the Site;
 - to assess the potential impact of any development on the archaeological resource, taking into account its varied significance; and



• to suggest appropriate mitigation measures for the protection of the archaeological resource or, where necessary, the investigation and recording of any sites likely to be affected by development where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved.

Methodology for baseline assessment

- 5.1 The desk-based assessment examined the Site and a radius of approximately 500 m beyond its boundary (the Buffer Zone). Study of the surrounding landscape was necessary to establish the local archaeological and historical context, in order to provide a broader understanding of the historical development of the Site and the potential for as-yet-unidentified archaeological remains within the Site.
- 5.2 The desk-based assessment of the Site and Buffer Zone employed the following methodology:
 - GIS data on Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Battlefields, Conservations Areas and Listed Buildings was obtained from Historic Environment Scotland (HES);
 - GIS data on cultural heritage sites was obtained from the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), maintained by HES;
 - GIS data on the local Historic Environment Record was obtained from the WoSAS;
 - Pre-Ordnance Survey maps of the Site, held by the National Library of Scotland (NLS), were identified and consulted on-line. Relevant maps, including manuscript maps, range in date from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries;
 - First, second and subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey maps of the area of interest, were identified and examined via NLS;
 - Vertical aerial photographs were viewed at The National Collection of Aerial Photography online facility to identify any unknown sites or features of archaeological interest: Three series of vertical photographs, ranging in date from 1949 to 1988 were viewed;
 - Readily accessible primary and secondary historical sources were consulted for information relating to the area's historical past, including details relating to earlier land-use;
 - A walkover survey of the Site was carried out on 20th June 2018.

Baseline Assessment

- 6.1 The NRHE and West Lothian HER were checked on 18th June 2018. Any additions to these records made after that date have not been included in this assessment.
- 6.2 The baseline assessment found that there are three undesignated cultural heritage sites within the proposed development area. These are the locations of a circular cropmark, an amorphous cropmark and relict field boundaries.
- 6.3 A further ten cultural heritage sites, including the possible location of a prehistoric spindle whorl, are located within 500 m of the Site. This total includes the sites of two previous archaeological investigations.
- 6.4 In the following assessment, the reference in parenthesis (CHS and number) refers to the cultural heritage sites noted at Appendix B and Figure 1.

Prehistoric, Roman and early Medieval sites (8000 BC - AD 600)

6.5 There are no known Roman or early medieval sites within the Site.



- 6.6 In 1949, a circular cropmark (CHS 11) was recorded at the north-east of the Site by aerial photography. This feature is about 19 m in diameter and has the appearance of a prehistoric ring-groove dwelling. It is slightly flattened on its north side, possibly due to truncation from the creation of the woodland plantation and/or construction of the railway
- 6.7 Within the 500 m buffer, a prehistoric spindle whorl (CHS 8) is recorded as having been found to the south of the Site. However, the actual find-spot of the object is not known and the NGR recorded on NRHE is merely the south-west corner of the relevant National Grid square.
- 6.8 Within the 500 m buffer, a prehistoric spindle whorl (CHS 8) is recorded as having been found to the south of the Site. However, the actual find-spot of the object is not known and the NGR recorded on NRHE is merely the south-west corner of the relevant National Grid square.

Medieval sites (AD 600 - AD 1600)

- 6.9 There are no known sites of medieval date within the Site or within the surrounding 500 m buffer.
- 6.10 The Site is within the policies of the former Livingston House, and the nineteenth-century account of Livingstone parish noted that:

About the beginning of the sixteenth century this estate [of Livingston] became the property of a family of the name of Hamilton. In 1604 it was again acquired by the family of Linlithgow. In 1633 it was transferred to that of Murray, a branch of the Elibank family (Robertson and Laing 1845, 13)

Post-Medieval and Modern sites (AD 1600- Present)

- 6.11 There is one known cultural heritage site of post-medieval or modern date within the proposed development area. This consists of the cropmark remains of relict field boundaries (CHS 13).
- 6.12 A further seven cultural heritage sites from the post-medieval and modern periods are located within the 500 m buffer surrounding the Site. Two archaeological evaluations have been recorded within 500 m of the Site.
- 6.13 The earliest maps consulted did not specifically record the Site although settlements such as Dechmont and Knightsridge were recorded on Pont's late sixteenth century map and Adair's 1684 map recorded what may have been Livingston House.
- 6.14 Roy mid-eighteenth century Military Survey of Scotland (Figure 2) demonstrated that the Site was uncultivated at that time and that it lay within the policies of Livingstone [sic] House. The linear bands of hedges and/or trees to the west and south of the Site had been planted and Nell Burn was recorded on the east side of the Site. Barracks farmstead (CHS 9) lay to the south-west of the Site.
- 6.15 By the early nineteenth century, the cottages at Bogyates (CHS 5) had been built (Forrest 1818).
- 6.16 The 1856 Ordnance Survey six-inch map (Figure 3) is the earliest to accurately record the proposed development area and its surroundings. This map demonstrated that the Site was an enclosed agricultural field and that the woodland to the west and south was intact. Livingston railway station (CHS 1) had been built and a signal post (CHS 10) lay to the north-east of the Site. Bathgate branch railway (CHS 14), which appears to have been a single-track railway, defined the northern extent of the site. The map also recorded a mile post within or close to the site bearing the legend "Edinburgh. . .15, Ratho. . .6¾". It is unclear if this refers to the distance by rail or by road; the location of the milepost was not recorded on the map.





Figure 2: Excerpt from Roy's 1747-55 Military Survey of Scotland with approximate Site location. Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of The National Library of Scotland.

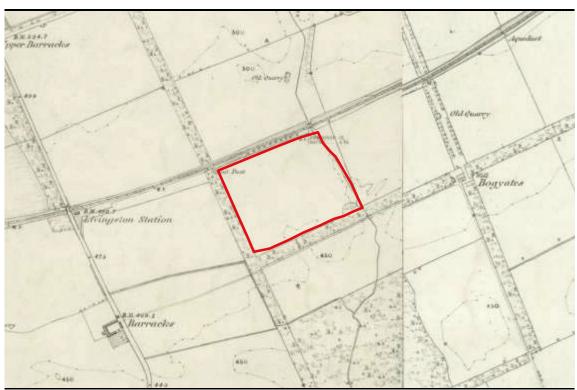


Figure 3: Excerpt from 1856 Ordnance Survey 6-inch map Linlithgowshire, Sheet 9 with Site location.

Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of The National Library of Scotland.



6.17 Subsequent Ordnance Survey map did not record any changes to the land-use over the Site or any further cultural heritage remains within the site or the 500 m buffer twentieth century.

Vertical Aerial Photographs

- 6.18 Three sets of aerial photographs from the twentieth century were consulted for this assessment (see Appendix A).
- 6.19 In 1949, two cropmarks, consisting of a circular cropmark (CHS 11) located at the north-west of
 - the Site and an amorphous cropmark (CHS 12) at the south centre, were recorded on the Site. The circular cropmark (CHS 11) is about 19 m in diameter and appears to have been truncated on its north side, possibly during construction of the railway. From its morphology, this is a cut feature and may represent the subsurface remains of a prehistoric ring-groove house. The amorphous cropmark (CHS 12) measures approximately 115 m north/south and approximately 17 m east/west. This mark could have an archaeological or natural origin. The same photograph showed that the belt of woodland to the immediate west of the Site had been felled.
- 6.20 Cropmarks are the result of differential ripening of crops and can form in particular circumstances that, in general, require a period of parching during the growth cycle of the crop. In simple terms, cut features such as pits or ditches can retain more moisture than the surrounding soil with the result that crops lying over these features tend to grow more thickly and ripen later. Over buried walls or stone-filled features, where access to moisture is restricted, the crop will become parched and ripen earlier. At certain times during the growth cycle, these contrasts in growth and colour can be visible, particularly so from the air, and identification of cropmarks during aerial reconnaissance flights is one of the ways in which previously unrecorded archaeological sites are recognised.
- 6.21 A series of linear features recorded in 1971 appear to be the remains of old field boundaries (CHS 13).
- 6.22 The Site remained in agricultural use throughout the period 1949 to 1988. No other previously unrecorded cultural heritage sites were noted on any of the aerial photographs.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 6.23 No previous archaeological investigations are known to have been carried out within the Site although two are known within the surrounding 500 m buffer zone.
- 6.24 A trial trench evaluation carried out at Eliburn Park in 2008 (CHS 7) uncovered no significant features or artefactual material (Duffy 2008).
- 6.25 A trial trench evaluation carried out at Oldwood Place, Eliburn in 2010 (CHS 6) also uncovered no significant archaeological features or artefacts (Dunbar 2010).

Walkover survey

- 6.26 A walkover survey of the Site was carried out on 20th June 2018 in overcast conditions. The Site was systematically walked in parallel transects spaced about 25 m apart
- 6.27 The terrain over the Site generally sloped down from north to south and a ridge lay at the east of the Site. The Site was covered with mature vegetation including shrubs and trees (Plate 1).



Plate 1: General view of the Site from south-west.



- 6.28 The locations of the three known cultural heritage sites were visited, although no upstanding remains were noted (Plate 2).
- 6.29 The belts of trees at the west, north and east of the Site were of recent date and comprised a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees.
- 6.30 No previously unrecorded cultural heritage remains were noted during the walkover.



Plate 2:Location of possible prehistoric ring-groove house (CHS 11).

Conclusions

- 7.1 The cultural heritage assessment of the proposed Houstoun Road development area has shown that the Site was within the policies of Livingston House in the mid-eighteenth century and may have been so since the sixteenth century. Thereafter, the Site was agricultural land from at least the mid nineteenth century until the late twentieth century and has seen no recorded development during that time.
- 7.2 The circular cropmark of what may be a prehistoric round-house (CHS 11) and an amorphous cropmark (CHS 12) were recorded within the Site by aerial photography in 1949. Relict field boundaries (CHS 13) were recorded within the Site by aerial photography in 1971. While the proposed development area is not considered to be especially archaeologically sensitive, the presence of the cropmarks and, in particular the possible prehistoric dwelling (CHS 11), may indicate the survival of hitherto undiscovered sub-surface archaeological remains.
- 7.3 Given this potential, West Lothian Council may require the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation works that would aim to establish the presence or absence of significant remains within those areas of the proposed development that would be subject to groundworks. The specification for any such works would be determined by WoSAS but may comprise trial trench evaluation of the available undisturbed ground, with the cropmarks being specifically targeted.
- 7.4 The proposed development would have no significant indirect effect upon the settings of 14 designated cultural heritage sites located within 100 m of the Site. Historic Environment Scotland may require an assessment of potential indirect effects upon the setting of Crichton Peel & Sanquhar Castle Scheduled Monument.

Technical Information

- 8.1 The paper and digital archive for the desk-based assessment will be lodged with the National Record of the Historic Environment. The list of archive material can be found at Appendix C.
- 8.2 As far as can be ascertained, there are no current management plans for the proposed development area.
- 8.3 All elements of the assessment have been undertaken in line with the following policies and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists of which GUARD Archaeology Ltd is a Registered Organisation.
 - Code of Conduct (2014);
 - Standards and Guidance for commissioning work on, or providing consultancy advice on, archaeology and the historic environment (2014), and



- Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (2017).
- 8.4 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists requires that information pertaining to archaeological assessments is made publicly available via the OASIS project. The project aims to provide an on-line index to otherwise inaccessible archaeological grey literature, such as this desk-based assessment. The online OASIS form for this project (OASIS Reference: guardarc1-320141) has been completed. Once the Planning Application has been determined by West Lothian Council, and with the consent of Bellway Homes Limited (Scotland), the desk-based assessment will be uploaded to OASIS. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service will then validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain. OASIS can be accessed at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ Service will then validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain. OASIS can be accessed at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/



Houstoun Road, Eliburn, Livingston Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Section 2: Appendices





Appendices

Appendix A: References

Documentary Sources Consulted

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Other sources

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Vertical aerial photographs consulted

| Sortie | Date | Frame(s) |
|------------|------------|----------|
| 541/A/0467 | 26/4/1949 | 4308 |
| MER/162/71 | 28/10/1971 | 0170 |
| ASS/50888 | 27/5/1988 | 0092 |
| ASS/62188 | 10/6/1988 | 0166 |

Appendix B: Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Sites

CHS No: 1

Name: Livingston station

NGR: NT 02367 68158

NRHE No: NT06NW 32

HER No: -

Significance: Lesser

Description: The station was part of the Edinburgh and Bathgate Railway. It probably opened on

12th November 1849 and closed to passengers on 1st November 1948.

CHS No: 2

Name: Deans South housing estate

NGR: NT 02504 68360

NRHE No: NT06NW 94

HER No: -

Significance: Lesser

Description: The NRHE does not contain any further information about this housing estate.

CHS No: 3

Name: Lodge St Andrew masonic hall

NGR: NT 02686 68672

NRHE No: NT06NW 93

HER No: -

Significance: Lesser

Description: The masonic hall was recorded by HES for a data upgrade project to record war

memorials.

CHS No: 4

Name: St Peter's RC church, Carmondean Centre Road, Deans



NGR: NT 03307 68692

NRHE No: NT06NW 76

HER No: -

Significance: Lesser

Description: St Peter's RC church dates from 1949 and was designed by Orphoot and Lindsay.

CHS No: 5

Name: Bogyates, cottages

NGR: NT 0342 6827 NRHE No: NT06NW 20

HER No:

Significance: Local

Description: This is a row of single storey cottages with gardens attached. In 1855, they were

occupied by agricultural labourers and were the property of the Earl of Rosebery.

CHS No: 6

Name: Oldwood Place, Eliburn East Phase 1: archaeological evaluation

NGR: NT 0332 6813 NRHE No: NT06NW 88

HER No: WoSAS Event ID 4445

Significance: Lesser

Description: An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2010 uncovered no significant

archaeological features or artefacts.

CHS No: 7

Name: Eliburn Park, Livingston: archaeological evaluation

NGR: NT 0310 6802 NRHE No: NT06NW 88

HER No: WoSAS Event ID 3820

Significance: Lesser

Description: An archaeological evaluation carried out in 2008 uncovered no significant features or

artefactual material.

CHS No: 8

Name: Deans, spindle whorl

NGR: NT 03 68

NRHE No: NT06NW 16

HER No: -



Significance: Local

Description: A prehistoric spindle whorl found on a building site at Deans, Livingston, West Lothian

was donated to what is now the National Museum of Scotland in the mid-1980s.

CHS No: 9

Name: Barracks farmstead

NGR: NT 0245 6785 NRHE No: NT06NW 15

HER No: WoSAS Pin 17989

Significance: Local

Description: Barracks farmhouse and farmsteading is depicted roofed on the 1856 first edition of

the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (Linlithgowshire, sheet 9). It is shown as an L-shaped steading with separate house with garden to the south. The depiction of the steading shows evidence of a horse-engine house on its west side. The Ordnance Survey Name Book states 'this is a small farm steading with dwelling house of one storey and garden attached, occupied by Mr Robert Gibson, the Earl of Rosebery is proprietor (ONB 1855). It is shown on Johnston's County map, but it is not depicted on the 1992 edition

of the OS 1:10000 scale map.

CHS No: 10

Name: Livingstone, signal post

NGR: NT 02723 68295

NRHE No: -HER No: -

Significance: Lesser

Description: A signal post is shown at this location on the Ordnance Survey 1856 map (Linlithgowshire,

Sheet 9).

CHS No: 11

Name: Houstoun Road, cropmark

NGR: NT 02945 68329

NRHE No: -

Significance: Unknown

Description: A circular cropmark was recorded at this location by aerial photography in 1949 (Sortie:

541/A/0467; Frame: 4308).

CHS No: 12

Name: Houstoun Road, cropmark

NGR: NT 02913 68109 to NT 02891 68219



NRHE No: -

HER No: -

Significance: Unknown

Description: An amorphous cropmark was recorded at this location by aerial photography in 1949

(Sortie: 541/A/0467; Frame: 4308).

CHS No: 13

Name: Houstoun Road, field boundaries

NGR: NT 02778 68177 to NT 03000 68316

NRHE No: -

HER No: -

Significance: Lesser

Description: A series of linear cropmarks that are likely to be the remains of relict field boundaries

was recorded in 1971 by aerial photography (Sortie: MER/162/71; Frame: 0170).

CHS No: 14

Name: Edinburgh and Bathgate railway

NGR: NT 02253 68151 to NT 03426 68582

NRHE No: -

Significance: Lesser

Description: The railway was constructed as the first section of an alternative route between

Glasgow and Edinburgh. It opened in 1849 and ran from the Glasgow and Edinburgh railway near Ratho to the Wilsontown, Morningside and Coltness railway. The line

remains in use.

Appendix C: Archive material

| | Description | Format | Number |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Digital archive | Digital photographs | JPEG | 5 |
| | Report | PDF | 1 |
| | Shapefiles (ArcMap) | .cpg | 1 |
| | | .dbf | 1 |
| | | .prj | 1 |
| | | .sbn | 1 |
| | | .sbx | 1 |
| | | .shp | 1 |
| | | .shx | 1 |

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