



**Erection of a Domestic Garage/Tack Room,
The Smiddy,
Lamington,
Biggar,
South Lanarkshire,
Watching Brief
Data Structure Report**







April 2017

Document control sheet

Client: Mr Finlay McColl
Project: The Smiddy, Lamington
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Document Status: FINAL				

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Executive Summary

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Mr Finlay McColl to undertake an archaeological watching brief associated with the erection of a garage and tack room adjacent to The Smiddy, near Lamington in South Lanarkshire.

The proposed development area lies adjacent to the suspected route of a Roman Road. While it was felt the remains of the road are likely to underlie the existing A702, the possibility that associated evidence such as quarry pits could be recorded within the proposed development area was recognised.

The watching brief failed to reveal any features or artefacts of archaeological interest.

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd confirm the site to be archaeologically sterile and recommend the planning condition be discharged.

A record of the work has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-282155) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1 Introduction

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Mr Finlay McColl to undertake a watching brief during all ground breaking works associated with the erection of a domestic garage and tack room at Lamington, near Biggar in South Lanarkshire. The site is centred on NGR: NS 98788 31326.
- 1.1.2 Following submission of a planning application for the new development, the site was identified as archaeologically sensitive by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (hereafter WoSAS) in their role as archaeological advisers to South Lanarkshire Council. The archaeological potential of the site is identified primarily due to proximity of the proposed development to the suspected route of a Roman Road
- 1.1.3 Through Planning Condition 9 of planning application CL/16/0392, WoSAS requested that:
- 'the developer shall secure the implementation of an archaeological watching brief, to be carried out by an archaeological organisation acceptable to the Council as Planning Authority, during all ground disturbance. The retained archaeological organisation shall be afforded access at all reasonable times and allowed to record and recover items of interest and finds. A method statement for the watching brief will be submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved by the Planning Authority prior to commencement of the watching brief.'*¹
- 1.1.4 Prior to commencing work, ARCHAS completed a Method Statement (hereafter MS) in line with the requirements of the planning condition. This document outlined the programme of work and standards adhered to by ARCHAS and was accepted by WoSAS on 04/04/17.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief was completed by Ross Cameron on Thursday 06/04/17 in bright and sunny conditions.
- 1.1.6 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (hereafter ClfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents produced by the ClfA.

¹ South Lanarkshire Council, Decision Notice CL/16/0392 – 25/11/16

1.2 Site Location and Setting

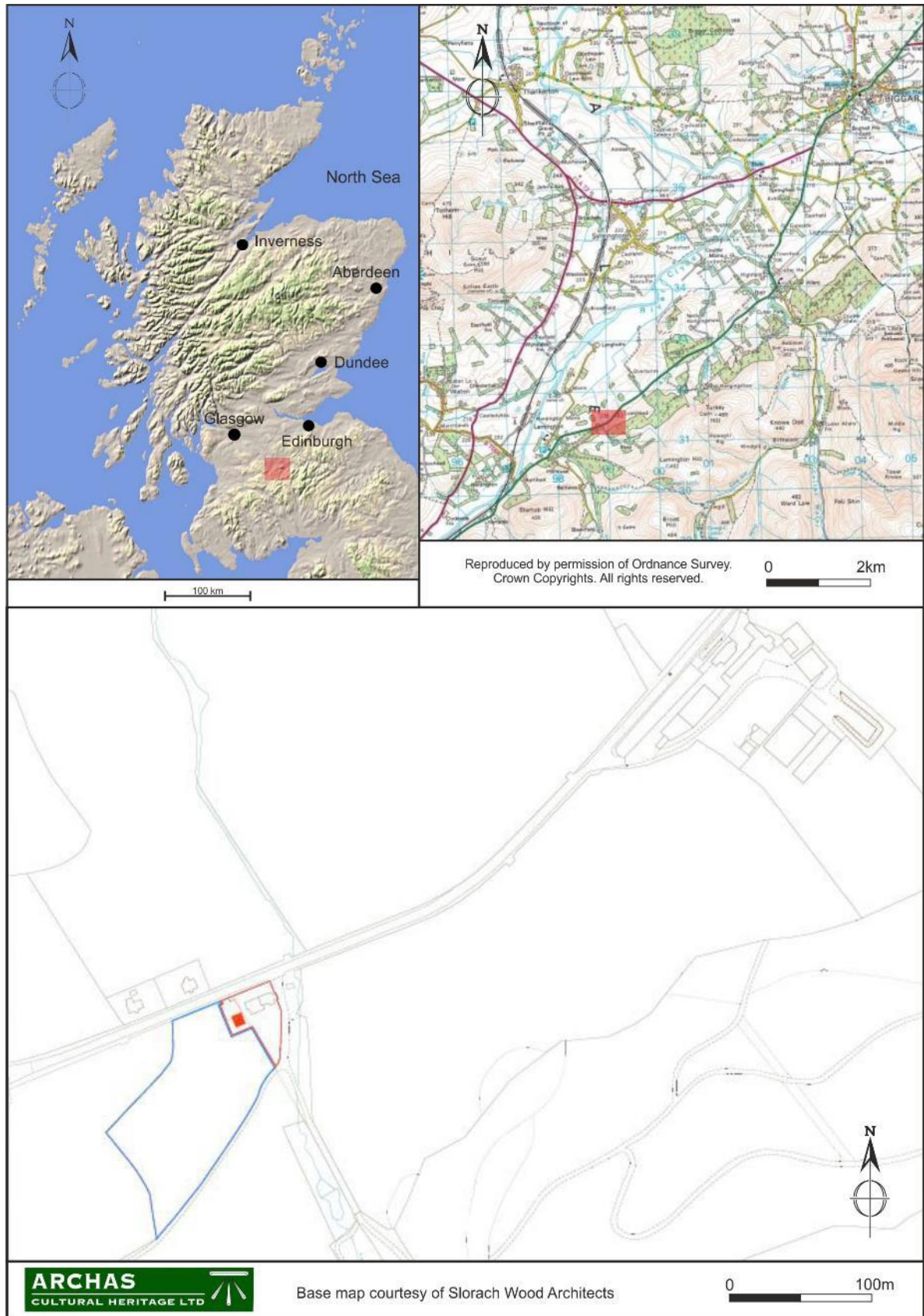


Figure 1: Site location showing the extent of the proposed development

General

- 1.2.1 The proposed development lies on the southern side of the A702, around a kilometre to the east of Lamington in South Lanarkshire (Figure 1). The development is associated with the existing property at The Smiddy, and is located a short distance to the west.
- 1.2.2 The proposed development area is centred on NGR: NS 98788 31326.

Study Area

- 1.2.3 The proposed development area is located directly adjacent to The Smiddy in an area currently occupied by rough grazing. The ground gently slopes towards the north east, with the proposed garage and tack room terraced into this slope (Figure 2).

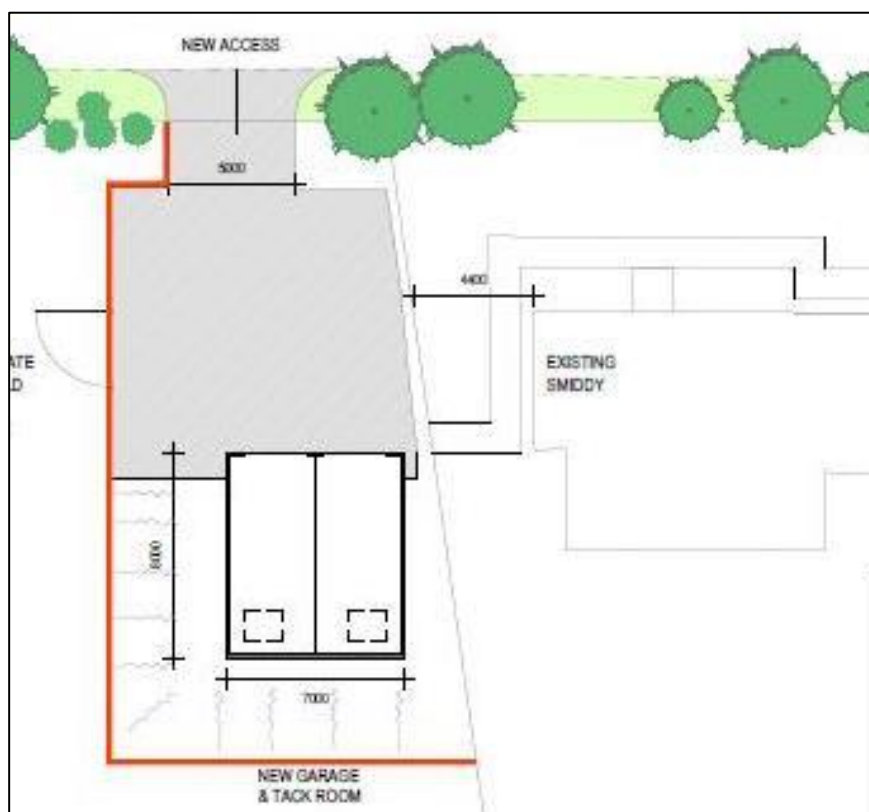


Figure 2: The proposed development area with the new garage/tack room and access road

Geology

- 1.2.4 The superficial drift geology across the proposed development is recorded as Till, Devensian – Diamicton. These deposits formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period and are characteristic of a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions.
- 1.2.5 The underlying bedrock geology is Leadhills Supergroup - Wacke, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 444 to 467 million years ago in a local environment dominated by deep seas.²

² www.bgs.ac.uk –28/03/17

2 Background

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 Prior to completing the archaeological watching brief it is necessary to briefly assess the history and recorded archaeology of the proposed development area and the surrounding landscape in order to provide context for the site and an understanding of the likelihood of archaeological deposits surviving.
- 2.1.2 In completing the background archaeological assessment, ARCHAS access a number of available sources, including:
- the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS);
 - the South Lanarkshire Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as held by WoSAS; and
 - historic maps as held by the National Library of Scotland (NLS).
- 2.1.3 Where sites are discussed in the text, the numbers that follow are the CANMORE IDs from the NMRS and the SMR number from the WoSAS SMR.

2.2 Historical Background

Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 A number of sites in the general vicinity of the proposed development have been identified and assessed as of being prehistoric in date. These include a sub-circular enclosure of 50m diameter with access to the east at Lamington Mains (ID: 47550, WoSAS pin 10635) a short distance to the north (NGR: NS 98855 31605).
- 2.2.2 A ring ditch has also been identified from oblique aerial photographs at Lang Knowe (ID: 68450, WoSAS pin 11751) to the south of the proposed development area (NGR: NS 98910 30860).

Roman

- 2.2.3 The primary archaeological concern related to the proposed development is the proximity of the site to the recorded line of the Border, Crawford and Inveresk Roman road (WoSAS pin 12071).³ The course of the road is recorded as underlying the modern A702, although this has not been tested by excavation and it remains entirely possible the Roman road may lie alongside or be partly overlain by the modern A702.
- 2.2.4 Due to the proximity of the site to the likely route of the road, the possibility remains for ancillary or other features associated with the road to be located within the area affected by the proposed development. These may include ditches or quarry scoops.

Medieval

- 2.2.5 Medieval occupation of the immediate vicinity and the Lamington area is attested by the presence of the Easterton Burn motte (ID: 47528, WoSAS pin 10613) a short distance to the south east of The Smiddy (NGR: 99250 31000). Heavily disturbed by agricultural activity, the altered natural mound has a flat top and the remnants of a ditch.

³ West of Scotland Archaeology Service CL/16/0392 Consultation Response – 06/10/16

2.3 Map Regression

General

- 2.3.1 A number of historic maps were consulted to assess whether the site may have evidence for previously unrecorded structures or development.

Pre-Ordnance Survey Maps

- 2.3.2 As the proposed development area is relatively small, often the scale of the earlier historic maps is insufficient to reveal detail as to whether the site is occupied or exploited in any way.
- 2.3.3 Joan Blaeu's map of 'The Upper Ward of Clyds-dail' from 1654 is the first to clearly show the settlement of Lamington. This map acknowledges the use of earlier data compiled by Timothy Pont, who lived in the late 16th century.
- 2.3.4 The first map to show the area to the east of Lamington in any level of detail is William Roy's 'Military Survey of Scotland' from c.1750. This map clearly shows the line of the Roman Road matching that of the modern A702 (Figure 3). The proposed development area to the south of the road is shown as undeveloped, with no indication of occupation or agricultural usage.



Figure 3: Extract from William Roy's 'Military Survey of Scotland' from c.1750 showing the area of the proposed development circled in red. © The British Library Board. All Rights Reserved (Roy Military Survey of Scotland)

- 2.3.5 A different level of detail is shown on Ross Charles 'A map of the shire of Lanark' from 1773. This map shows 'Lonhead' (sic. – modern Loanhead) a short distance to the east of The Smiddy, allowing the site to be better pinpointed in undeveloped ground adjacent to, or occupied by a large plantation of trees (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Extract from Ross Charles 'A map of the shire of Lanark' with the location of the proposed development circled red. ARCHAS after NLS

Ordnance Survey Maps

- 2.3.6 The Ordnance Survey first compiled maps of the Lamington area in 1859, publishing their 25 inch to 1 mile Lanark Sheet XXXIX.11 (Lamington and Wandel) map in 1864. This map clearly shows The Smiddy, as well as the arrangement of field boundaries and vegetation to the west of The Smiddy that still exists today.

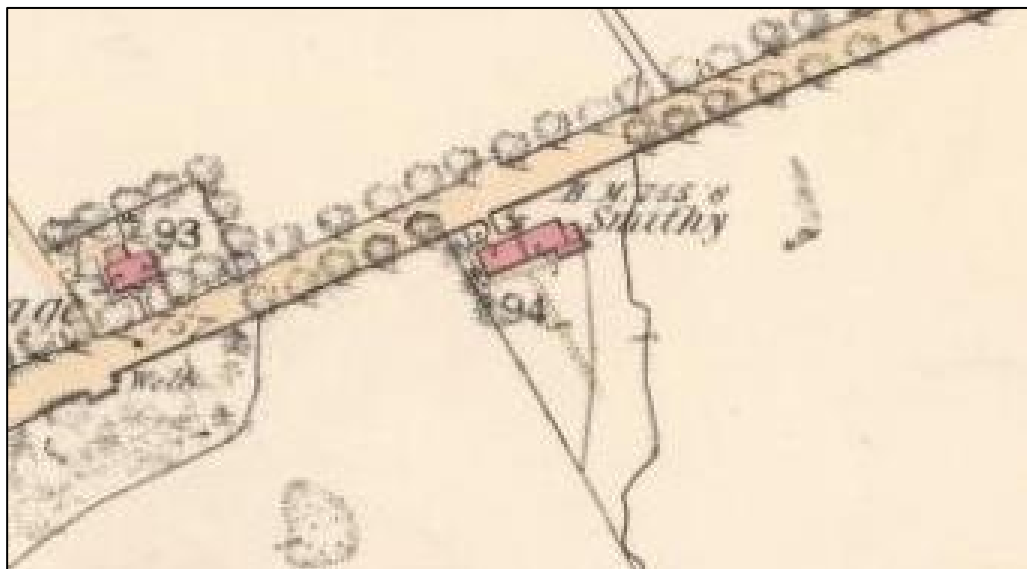


Figure 5: Extract from the 25 inch to 1 mile Lanark Sheet XXXIX.11 (Lamington and Wandel) from 1864 showing the Smiddy. NLS

- 2.3.7 By the production of the 25 inch to 1 mile Lanarkshire 039.11 map from 1896 the only real change is the introduction of a track running in a west to east direction immediately south of the proposed development area.

3 Methodology

3.1 Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 The watching brief as required by the planning condition involved the monitoring of *all* ground breaking works associated with the proposed development. In practice this involved the removal of topsoil from across the footprint of the site to reveal the undisturbed natural subsoil.
- 3.1.2 All ground-breaking works were undertaken by the contractor using a 7.5 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 1). This was monitored at all times by a trained archaeologist under watching brief conditions. Soil was removed in spits of c.0.10m until undisturbed natural subsoil became apparent.



Plate 1: Working shot showing the topsoil being removed (Photograph 012)

- 3.1.3 The contractor began by establishing the western limits of the site by excavating a trench to the natural subsoil along the perimeter of the proposed development. This trench allowed the archaeologist to see a cross section of the site, running perpendicularly to the suspected route of the Roman Road on the A702. This section was cleaned and photographed.
- 3.1.4 Following completion of the trench, all of the topsoil was removed working uphill in a southerly direction.
- 3.1.5 Records were compiled on ARCHAS Ltd *pro forma* context sheets of all stratigraphic soil layers identified during the excavations.
- 3.1.6 A comprehensive photographic record was maintained of all ground breaking works on site.

4 Results

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief on the proposed development adjacent to The Smiddy failed to reveal any archaeological evidence or features of archaeological interest.
- 4.1.2 The area of greatest archaeological sensitivity given the proximity to the suspected route of the Roman road was directly adjacent to the A702. However, this area had recently been visited by Scottish Water who had removed and replaced existing services parallel to the road. This area was much disturbed, but assessment of the deposits revealed no *ex situ* evidence of archaeological material.
- 4.1.3 A description of stratigraphic layers excavated is provided below. Detail of the contexts encountered can be viewed in Appendix A. All context numbers for layers and features are recorded in bold within curved parentheses (**xxx**).

4.2 Stratigraphy & Observations

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphy of the proposed development area was simple and consistent across the site (Plate 2).



Plate 2: Oblique view of East facing section across site with the A702 visible (Photograph 018)

- 4.2.2 The upper deposit of turf and topsoil (**001**) comprised homogenised mid grey brown loam with occasional small rounded stones.
- 4.2.3 The topsoil (**001**) was removed to reveal the undisturbed natural subsoil (**002**). This proved to be firmly compact mid orange brown and light grey clay sand with frequent angular stones.
- 4.2.4 The area of disturbance caused by service work along the edge of the A702 was recorded as (**003**) and composed of softly compact dark grey brown silty gravel. This material was abundant in fragments of brick, concrete and red ceramic pipe.
- 4.2.5 While a number of 19th-20th century ceramic sherds were recovered as well as a 20th century glass bottle marked 'Lumsden & Son – Motherwell, Lanark' (none retained), the site was remarkable for its lack of artefacts considering the proximity of the proposed development to the 19th century Smiddy building.

5 Summary and Discussion

5.1. General

- 5.1.1 While the area most likely to reveal remains associated with the Roman Road was already disturbed by the service work completed by Scottish Water, the proposed development site was shown to be archaeologically sterile. The natural subsoil was revealed across the development footprint and was both consistent and undisturbed (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Post-excitation view of site (Photograph 025)

- 5.1.2 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts (either *in situ* or *ex situ*) were recorded during the watching brief at The Smiddy.
- 5.1.3 The watching brief demonstrates that the line of the Roman Road clearly does not cross the main bulk of the proposed development site, with only the northern edge where disturbance had been caused by service installation left un-investigated.

6 Recommendations

6.1. General

- 6.1.1 Archaeological monitoring during excavation of the proposed garage, tack room and parking area at The Smiddy failed to reveal any indication of pre-existing or disturbed archaeological deposits.
- 6.1.2 The area of greatest archaeological sensitivity along the perimeter of the A702 had already been much disturbed by the installation and replacement of services by Scottish Water. Despite this, inspection of the mixed deposits here failed to reveal any indication of disturbed archaeological deposits associated with the Roman Road.
- 6.1.3 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage do not recommend any further archaeological mitigation with regards to the current development and believe the archaeological obligations have been met and the planning condition can be discharged.
- 6.1.4 Whilst ARCHAS can provide recommendations as to any future work on site, the final decision for any further archaeological mitigation rests with the South Lanarkshire Council as advised by WoSAS.

Acknowledgements

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage would like to thank Mr Finlay McColl for commissioning us to undertake the work. Mr McColl has our gratitude for his commitment to ensuring any archaeological features were appropriately recorded, while providing his company and good humour during the works themselves.

Gratitude also goes to Walter Wood of Slorach Wood Architects for his help in commissioning the project.

The mechanical excavator was operated by Duncan of DW Lyon. Duncan was highly skilled and made the watching brief prompt and painless.

Our thanks also go to the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and in particular Martin O'Hare for his time and his advice during the completion of the project.

Bibliography

Bibliographic References

Documentary

South Lanarkshire Council, Decision Notice CL/16/0392 – 25/11/16

West of Scotland Archaeology Service CL/16/0392 Consultation Response – 06/10/16

Websites

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www.bgs.ac.uk

www.canmore.org.uk

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

www.nls.uk

www.pastmap.org.uk

www.wosas.net

www.stataccscot.edina.ac.uk

Cartographic References

Maps consulted during the cartographic regression include:

Pre-Ordnance Survey

Date	Cartographer	Map
1583-96	Timothy Pont (c.1560-c.1614)	- Glasgow and the County of Lanark
1636-52	Robert Gordon (1580-1661)	A map of the Clyde and Tweed basins
1654	Timothy Pont (c.1560-c.1614) & Joan Blaeu (1596-1673)	The Upper Ward of Clyds-dayl
1732-1745	Herman Moll (d.1732)	The Shire of Clydesdale or Lanerk Tweddale alias, The Shire of Peebles & c.
1773	Ross Charles (1722-1806)	A map of the shire of Lanark
1816	William Forrest (fl. 1799-1832)	The county of Lanark from actual survey
1821	John Ainslie (1745-1828)	Ainslie's map of the southern part of Scotland
1822	John Thomson (1777-c.1840) William Johnson (fl.1806-1840)	Northern Part of Lanarkshire. Southern Part

Ordnance Survey

Date	Cartographer	Map
1859-1864	Ordnance Survey	Lanark Sheet XXXIX.11 (Lamington and Wandel)
1896-1897	Ordnance Survey	Lanarkshire 039.11 (includes: Lamington and Wandel; Symington; Wiston and Robertson)
1909-1910	Ordnance Survey	Lanarkshire 039.11 (includes: Lamington and Wandel; Symington; Wiston and Robertson)

Appendix A Context Register

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimension</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initial</i>
001	Deposit	Slightly mixed and homogenised moderately compact mid grey brown slightly sticky clay/loam with occasional small rounded stone inclusions.	D: 0.30-0.45m	Turf and topsoil.	06/04/17	RC
002	Deposit	Firmly compact mid orange brown and light grey clay sand (more clay element) to grey, with frequent to abundant angular stones.	-	Undisturbed natural subsoil.	06/04/17	RC
003	Deposit	Mixed and mottled softly compact dark grey brown silty gravel abundant in bricks, concrete and red ceramic pipe fragments.	W: 2-5m adjacent to road.	Mixed and disturbed soil associated with installation of Scottish Water pipes.	06/04/17	RC

Appendix B Photographic Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Direction Facing</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>
001	NW	-	Pre-excavation view of proposed development area	06/04/17	RC
002	NE	-	Pre-excavation view of proposed development area	06/04/17	RC
003	NE	-	Pre-excavation view of proposed development area	06/04/17	RC
004	SW	-	Pre-excavation view of proposed development area	06/04/17	RC
005	SSW	(001)	Working shot - Stripping the western limits of the excavation area	06/04/17	RC
006	SSE	(001)	Working shot - Stripping the western limits of the excavation area	06/04/17	RC
007	SW	(001)	Working shot - Stripping the western limits of the excavation area	06/04/17	RC
008	NE	(003)	Working shot - adjacent to road	06/04/17	RC
009	SE	(003)	Working shot - adjacent to road	06/04/17	RC
010	NE	-	Working shot - General view	06/04/17	RC
011	NE	-	Working shot - General view	06/04/17	RC
012	S	(001)	Working shot - Stripping footprint	06/04/17	RC
013	SW	(001)	Working shot - S end of site	06/04/17	RC
014	SW	(001)	Working shot - S end of site	06/04/17	RC
015	SW	(001)	Working shot - S end of site	06/04/17	RC
016	S	(001)	Working shot - S end of site	06/04/17	RC
017	W	(001)	East facing section across development site	06/04/17	RC
018	NW	(001)	East facing section across development site - Oblique	06/04/17	RC
019	W	(001)	East facing section across development site	06/04/17	RC
020	SW	(001)	East facing section across development site - Oblique	06/04/17	RC
021	NW	(001)	East facing section across development site - Oblique	06/04/17	RC
022	SE	(001)	Working shot - N end of site	06/04/17	RC
023	NE	(001)	West facing section across development site - Oblique	06/04/17	RC
024	S	(002)	Post-excavation view of main part of proposed development site	06/04/17	RC
025	NE	(002)	Post-excavation view of main part of proposed development site	06/04/17	RC
026	NW	(002)	Post-excavation view of main part of proposed development site	06/04/17	RC
027	-	-	Bottle recovered during excavation (not retained)	06/04/17	RC
028	S	(001)	Working shot - Stripping east side of site	06/04/17	RC
029	NE	(002)	Post-excavation view - east side of site	06/04/17	RC
030	SW	(002)	Post-excavation view - east side of site	06/04/17	RC

Appendix C

Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	The Smiddy, Lamington
PROJECT CODE:	271
PARISH:	Lamington and Wandel
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ross Cameron
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 98788 31326
START DATE (this season)	06/04/17
END DATE (this season)	06/04/17
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Mr Finlay McColl to undertake an archaeological watching brief associated with the erection of a garage and tack room adjacent to The Smiddy, near Lamington in South Lanarkshire.</p> <p>The proposed development area lies adjacent to the suspected route of a Roman Road. While it was felt the remains of this are likely to underlie the existing A702, the possibility that associated remains such as quarry pits could be recorded within the proposed development area was recognised.</p> <p>The watching brief failed to reveal any features or artefacts of archaeological interest.</p> <p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd confirm the site to be archaeologically sterile and recommend the planning condition be discharged.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Private Client
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd Evans Business Centre, John Smith Business Park, 1 Begg Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 6HD
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ross.cameron@archas.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and WoSAS SMR (intended)