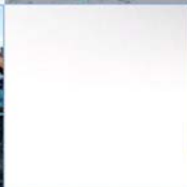
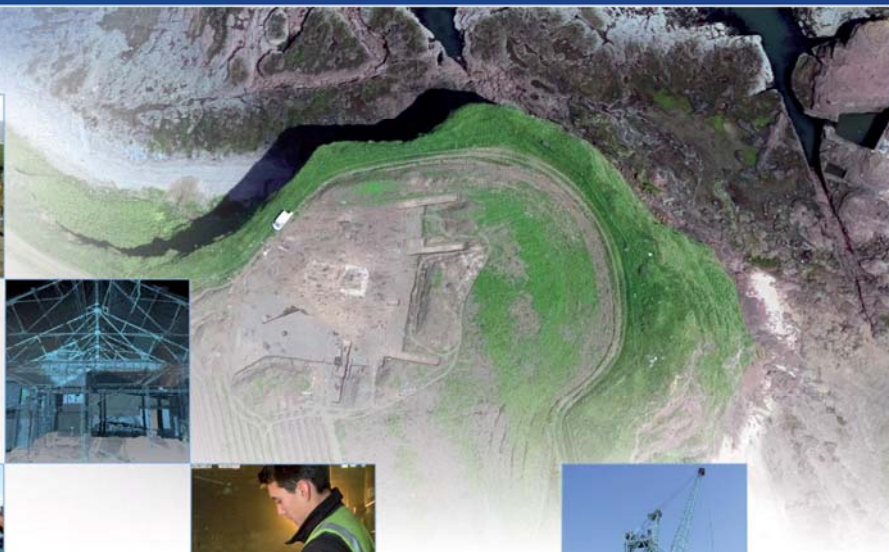


32 Green Street, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire, Archaeological Woks:

Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21780

26th January 2011



32 Green Street, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire Archaeological Works

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Wylie Developments Ltd.
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 2464 4129
AOC Project No:	21780
Prepared by:	Lindsay Dunbar & Kevin Paton
Illustration by:	Stefan Sagrott
Date of Fieldwork:	10 th January – 11 th January 2011
Date of Report:	26 th January 2011

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

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Abstract

A programme of archaeological works comprising a watching brief on the removal of existing building foundations followed by an evaluation was undertaken on the site of a proposed mixed retail and residential development at 32 Green Street, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire. The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to assess the potential for survival of archaeological deposits along the Green Street frontage and to inform the placing of evaluation trenches. The evaluation consisted of trenching with combined basal dimensions of 33.5 m² equating to just a little more than the required 10% sample.

Both the watching brief and evaluation revealed the presence of up to 1.6 m of relatively modern made ground over natural geology. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Wylie Developments Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological works in advance of a proposed mixed retail and residential development at 32 Green Street, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of North Ayrshire Council, (Figure 1), which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). WoSAS recommended a programme of phased archaeological works in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010) and *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) and the protocols set out in the West of Scotland Archaeology Service's 'Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork'.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2010) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with WoSAS in advance of the archaeological works being undertaken. The archaeological works were twofold; firstly, a watching brief was required on the removal of the existing foundations to aid the positioning of a subsequent evaluation. Secondly, the undertaking of an intrusive evaluation comprising a 10% trenching sample.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area at 32 Green Street covers an approximately rectangular land parcel amounting to approximately 300 m² (Figure 1; centred at NGR NS 2464 4129). This site was until recently partially occupied by buildings fronting onto Green Street, which are now reduced to ground level with areas of open ground. The development site is bounded by existing properties to either side.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 There were no confirmed archaeological sites within the development area. Immediately outwith the limits of the development area, RCAHMS records the presence of a number of B Listed and C Listed properties including the Town Hall built in the early 19th century.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as evaluation, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief was undertaken on the removal of the foundations of recently demolished buildings on the site. The purpose of the watching brief was to establish the potential within this area for the survival of archaeologically significant deposits and thus to inform the placing of the evaluation trenches. A small tracked excavator was used for this task and all machine excavation was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The watching brief was undertaken as per the methodology within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Dunbar 2010).
- 3.2 The evaluation trenching was designed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality, significance and date of any archaeological features present within the site area. The evaluation comprised machine trenching of a 10% sample of the development area. Overall the development area amounted to c.300 m²; thus trenching consisted of 30 m² (total basal trench dimensions). Trenches were 1.2 m wide, between 5 m and 13 m in length and set on varying orientations (Figures 2 & 3).
- 3.3 Stripping of the overburden was by means of a small tracked excavator equipped with a 1.0 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.4 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures and as per the methodology within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Dunbar 2010). The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.



PLATE 1 South facing section of Trench 4

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 10th January 2011 with the archaeological evaluation undertaken the following day on 11th January 2011. Overall weather conditions were generally fair, and good archaeological visibility was present

throughout the evaluation. In total 33.5 m² of trenching was opened. Nothing of archaeological significance was found in any of the trenches.

- 4.2 The watching brief revealed that the site frontage was covered by a depth of at least 0.80 m of madeground, consisting of yellow brown silty sand. The upper layers of this deposit were dominated by sandstone rubble whilst within this deposit there were occasional lenses of ashy material. Throughout the madeground modern white glazed ceramics was noted, alongside, modern glass and one or two pieces of slag within the ashy material. The watching brief did not reach natural geology.
- 4.3 The evaluation consisted of four trenches (Figure 2), variously aligned, which extended from the site frontage on Green Street across the entire length of the proposed building footprint. A similar stratigraphy was found in each trench with sandstone rubble composing the upper deposit up to a maximum of 0.5 m to 0.80 m thick. This in turn overlay a madeground, consisting of dark brown silty sand, which as shown during the watching brief contained lenses and dumps of ashy material sometimes containing slag, modern white ceramics and glass. These deposits reached a depth of up to 1.70 m in Trench 3 and generally more than 1.3 m across the site as a whole. The natural subsoil consisted of yellow/grey clay and sandstone bedrock.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered by either the watching brief or the evaluation.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

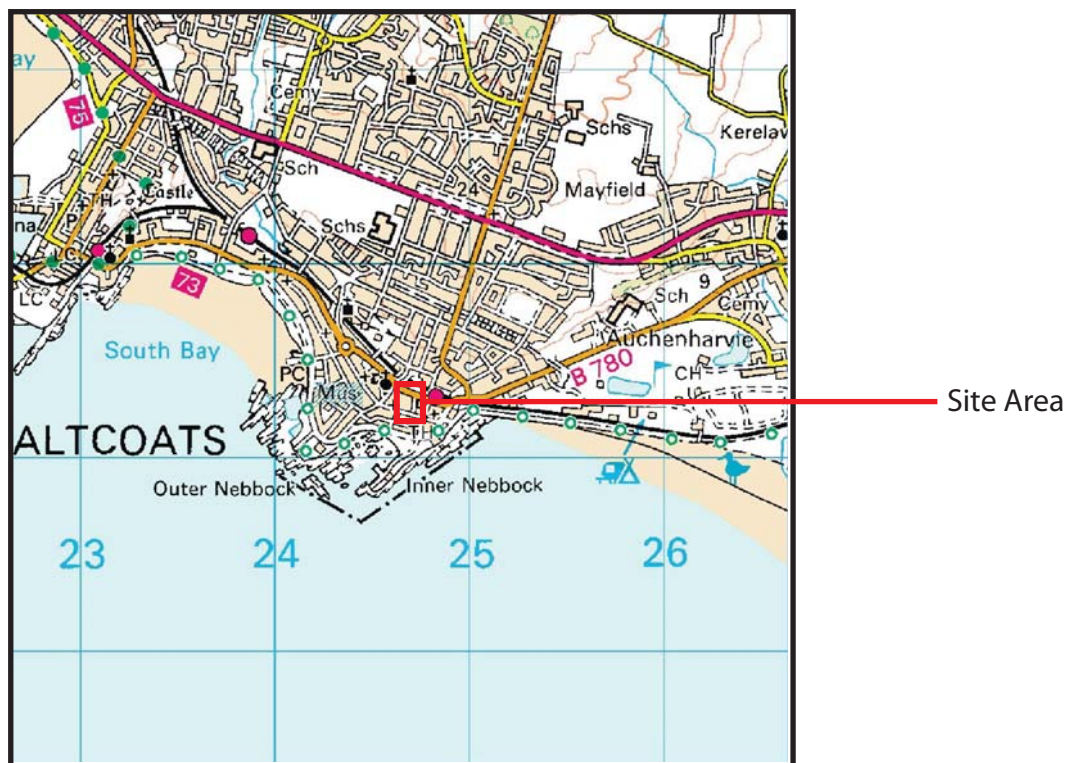
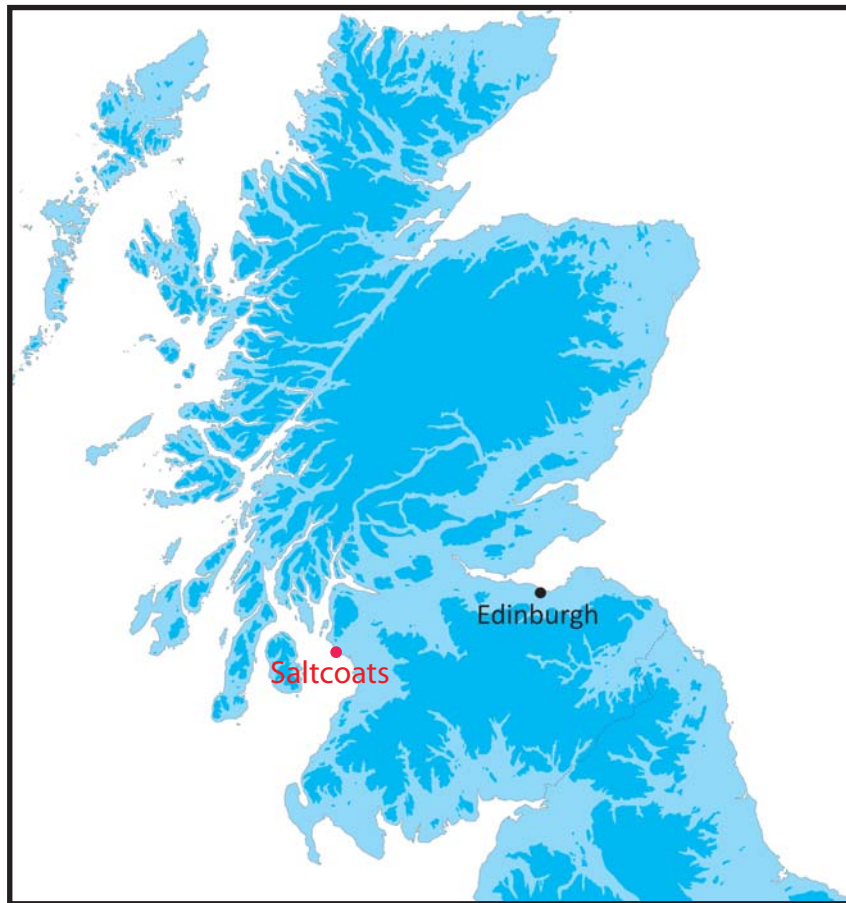
- 6.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during these works. The significant balance of probability is that the site is free of archaeological material. No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) on behalf of North Ayrshire Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dunbar, L 2011 '32 Green Street, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire Written Scheme of Investigation' Unpublished client report

SOEnD 1994 Planning advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning. Scottish Office Environment Department.

Scottish Government 2010 Scottish Planning Policy. (February 2010)



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Figure 1: Location of the site at 32 Green Street, Saltcoats

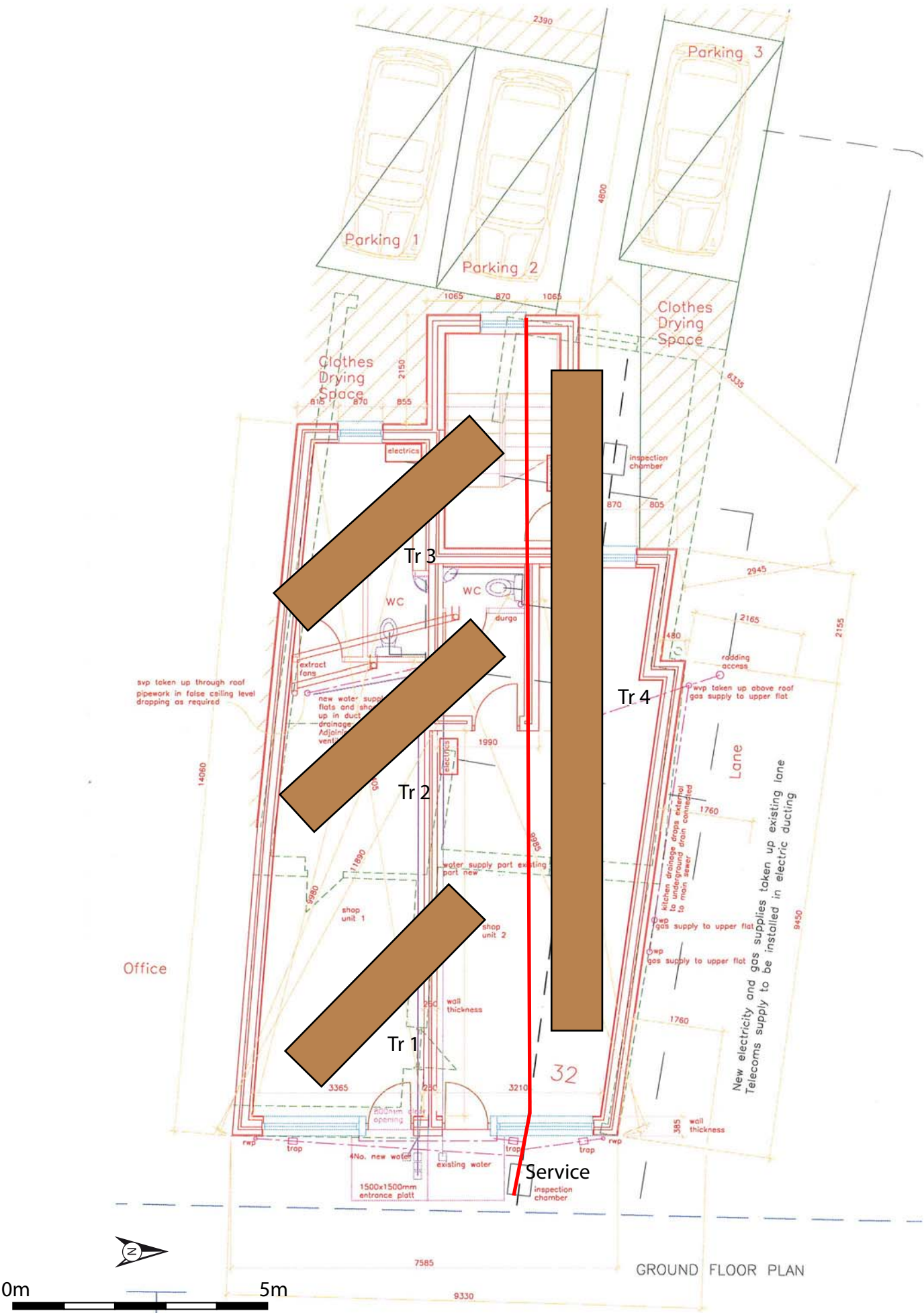


Figure 2: Area of monitored works

Trench 1

0m

4.6m

Yellow Sandstone
Bedrock

Grey Sandstone
Bedrock

Trench 2

0m

5.10m

Clay

Trench 3

0m

5.20m

Clay

Trench 4

0m

13m

Bedrock

Clay

50 cm 0 1 m

Figure 3: Plan of trenches 1-4

32 Green Street, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire, Archaeological Works: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	4.6 m by 1.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	5.5 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	No Topsoil present
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.6 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Up to 0.8 m of sandstone rubble within yellow brown sand matrix over dark brown sand with lenses of industrial ash/black soot up to depth of 1.6 m
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/grey clay and sandstone bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	Modern white ceramics, glass and ash noted

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	5.1 m by 1.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	6.1 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	No Topsoil present
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Up to 0.4 m of sandstone rubble within yellow brown sand matrix over dark brown sand with lenses of industrial ash/black soot up to depth of 1.0 m with a further 0.3 m of dark brown silty clay with brick/CBM inclusions
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/grey clay
<i>Finds</i>	Modern white ceramics, glass and ash noted

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	5.2 m by 1.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	6.25 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	No Topsoil present
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.6 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Up to 0.5 m of sandstone rubble within yellow brown sand matrix over dark brown sand with lenses of industrial ash/black soot up to depth of 1.6 m including a dump of ash containing large amounts of modern white ceramics
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/grey clay
<i>Finds</i>	Modern white ceramics, glass and ash noted

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	13.0 m by 1.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	15.6 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	No Topsoil present
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.7 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Up to 0.7 m of sandstone rubble within yellow brown sand matrix with pieces tar/hardstanding over dark brown sand with lenses of industrial ash/black soot up to depth of 1.7 m
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow/grey clay and sandstone bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	Modern white ceramics, glass and ash noted

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Film – Watching Brief

Frame	Description	From
1-6	General shots of the site	Various
7	Modern manhole in carpark area	E
8	Elevation view of neighbouring building	N
9-10	Watching brief working shots	S
11	Section through Green Street pavement	W
12-13	Flooded trench	S
14	Foundations removed	E
15	General shots of site after watching brief	SE

Colour Film - Evaluation

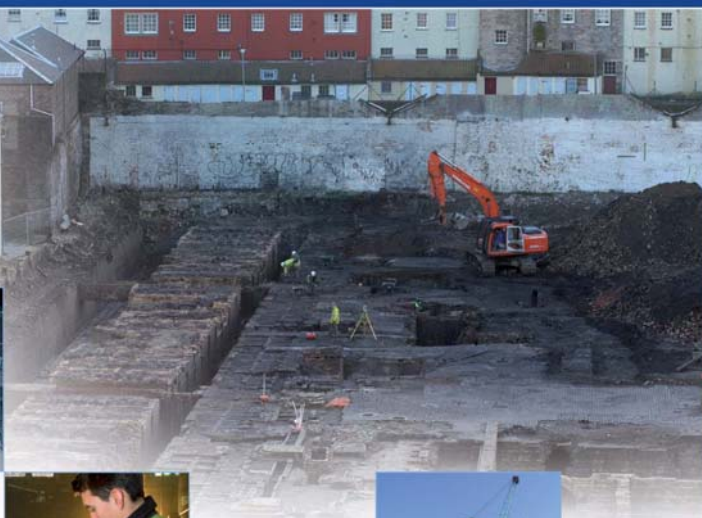
Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shot	-
3-4	Tr.1	NE-facing section of Trench 1	NE
5-6	Tr.1	General post-excavation view of Trench 1	NW
7-8	Tr.2	NE-facing section of Trench 2	NE
9-10	Tr.2	General post-excavation view of Trench 2	SE
11-12	Tr.3	SW-facing section of Trench 3	SW
13-14	Tr.3	General post-excavation view of Trench 3	SE
15-16	Tr.4	S-facing section of Trench 4	S
17-18	Tr.4	General post-excavation view of Trench 4	E

Digital Film - Evaluation

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2	Tr.1	NE-facing section of Trench 1	NE
3-4	Tr.1	General post-excavation view of Trench 1	NW
5-6	-	General evaluation working shots	Various
7		Shot of subsoil prior to flooding	SE
8-9	Tr.2	NE-facing section of Trench 2	NE
10-11	Tr.2	General post-excavation view of Trench 2	SE
12	-	General evaluation working shots	SE
13-14	Tr.3	SW-facing section of Trench 3	SW
15-16	Tr.3	General post-excavation view of Trench 3	SE
17-18	Tr.4	S-facing section of Trench 4	S
19-20	Tr.4	General post-excavation view of Trench 4	E

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	32 Green Street, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21780
PARISH:	Livingston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar & Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS2464 4129
START DATE (this season)	10 th January 2011
END DATE (this season)	11 th January 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works comprising a watching brief, on the removal of existing building foundations, and subsequent evaluation was undertaken on the site of a proposed mixed retail and residential development at 32 Green Street, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire. The evaluation consisted of trenching with combined basal dimensions of 33.5 m² equating to just a little more than the required 10% sample.</p> <p>Both the watching brief and evaluation revealed the presence of up to 1.6 m of relatively modern made ground over natural geology. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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