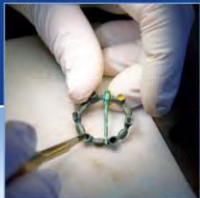


Williamson South, Phase 1: Watching Brief Report

AOC Project 22200
Oasis ID aocarcha1-132541
22nd August 2012



Williamson South, Phase 1: Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: **West Lothian Council**
West Lothian Council Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston
EH54 6FF

National Grid Reference (NGR): **NT 07214 65418**

AOC Project No: **22200**

Prepared by: **Jake Streatfeild-James**

Illustration by: **Jake Streatfeild-James**

Date of Fieldwork: **20th August 2012**

Date of Report: **22nd August 2012**

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

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Date: 22nd August 2012

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Date: 22nd August 2012

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 22nd August 2012

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken for West Lothian Council. The watching brief involved the monitoring of groundbreaking works on a greenfield site at Williamson South, Livingston, West Lothian. Groundworks involved the stripping of topsoil and overburden in preparation for the widening of the road entrance to a new development and the construction of the initial 30 metres of road into the building plot.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works (watching brief) was required by the West Lothian Council on ground-breaking works associated with the construction of an entrance to a development plot located off Oakbank Park Road, Livingston. The need for and scope of the archaeological works was determined by West Lothian Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works specified by WoSAS was in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) in order to safeguard the archaeological resource.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development site (centred NGR: NT 07214 65418) is located off Oakbank Park Road, Livingston to the west of plots which have previously been developed as industrial units (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The development area is currently greenfield, which is assumed to be previously undisturbed by modern development.

1.3.2 A denarius of Antoninus Pius (AD 138 - 161) was found at Blackraw (c. NGR: NT 081 651) to the east of the development area. It was subsequently donated to the former National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS) in 1928 (NMRS NT06NE 16).

1.3.3 To the west of the development area is a carved stone dated 1636 and bearing the initials */W* built into the wall of the modern farm steading of Nether Williamston (NGR: NT 063 652; NMRS NT06NE 22; WoSAS PIN 17964). The initials are those of James Williamsoun of Williamstoun.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the development;
- ii) to liaise with WoSAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed and to identify the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, or, if at all feasible, by archaeological recording;
- iii) to report on the results of the watching brief.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 20th August in fair weather conditions yielding good archaeological visibility. The groundworks involved the removal of an artificial bund blocking access to the site, followed by topsoil and madeground stripping. Soil was stripped using a 20 tonne tracked 360° excavator equipped with a bladed bucket.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 Having stripped the topsoil (Figure 2), a large deposit of red blaze and madeground was observed extending 15m from the edge of the tarmac road of Oakbank Park Road West into the development area. Beyond this spread of madeground, a clean natural subsoil was observed consisting of orange/yellow clay, which was waterlogged, but which would have clearly shown archaeological features had they been present. A test-pit was excavated, with the machine bucket, through the madeground, to gauge its depth. The total depth of made ground was found to be 0.83m, with 0.23m of overburden and 0.45m of red blaze directly onto a dark, humic layer.



Plate 1: Natural subsoil at the western end of the topsoil strip



Plate 2 - North-facing section of machine test-pit

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No archaeological features were encountered and no further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by WoSAS on behalf of the West Lothian Council.

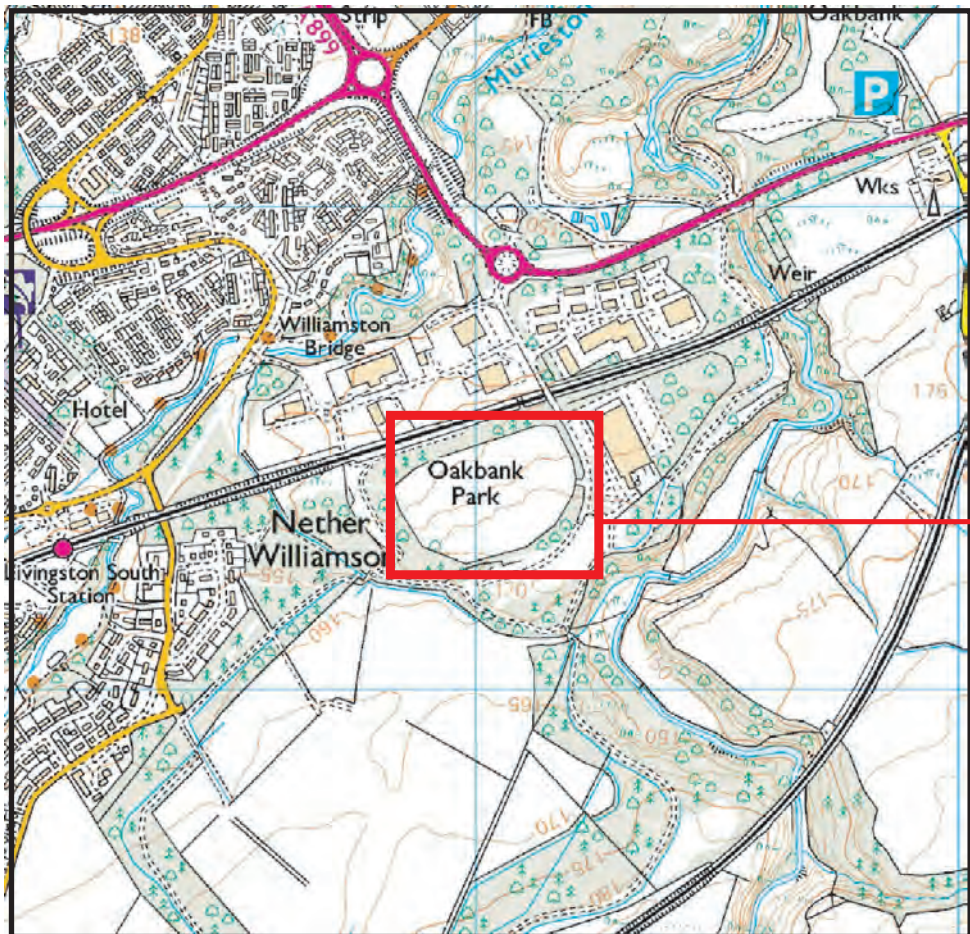
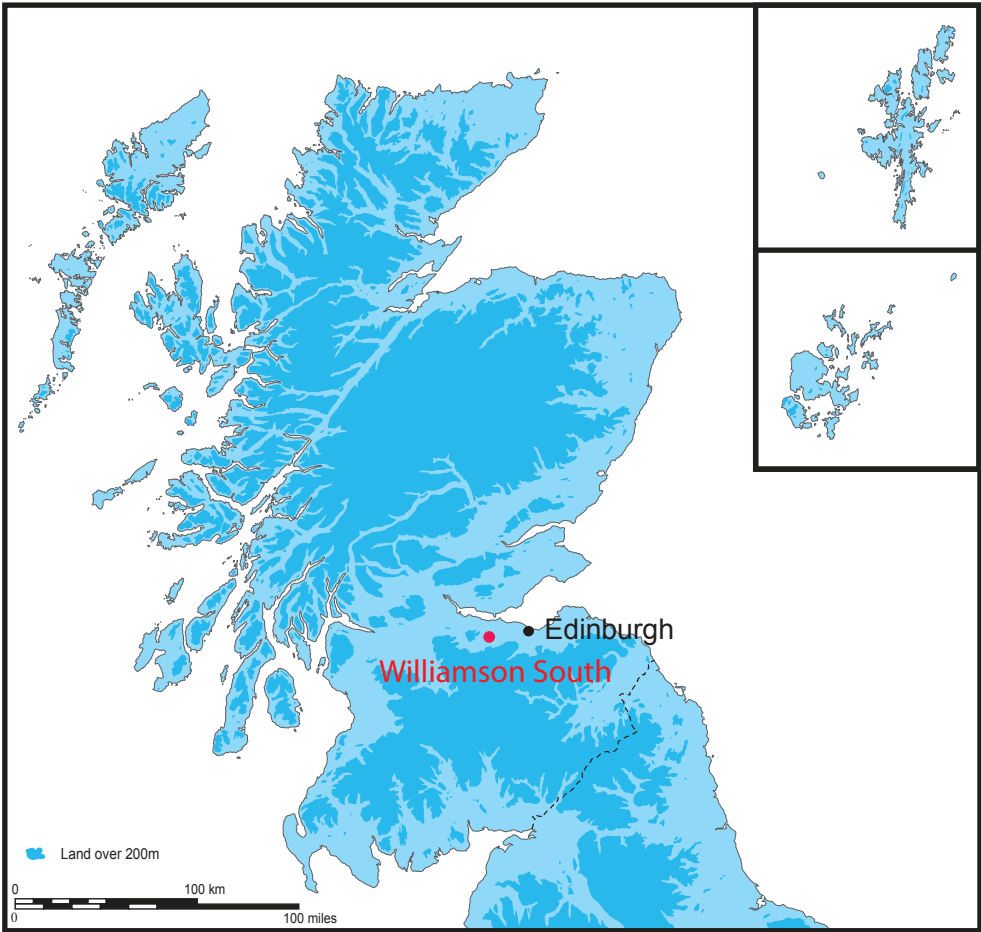
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*

APPENDIX 1: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry*

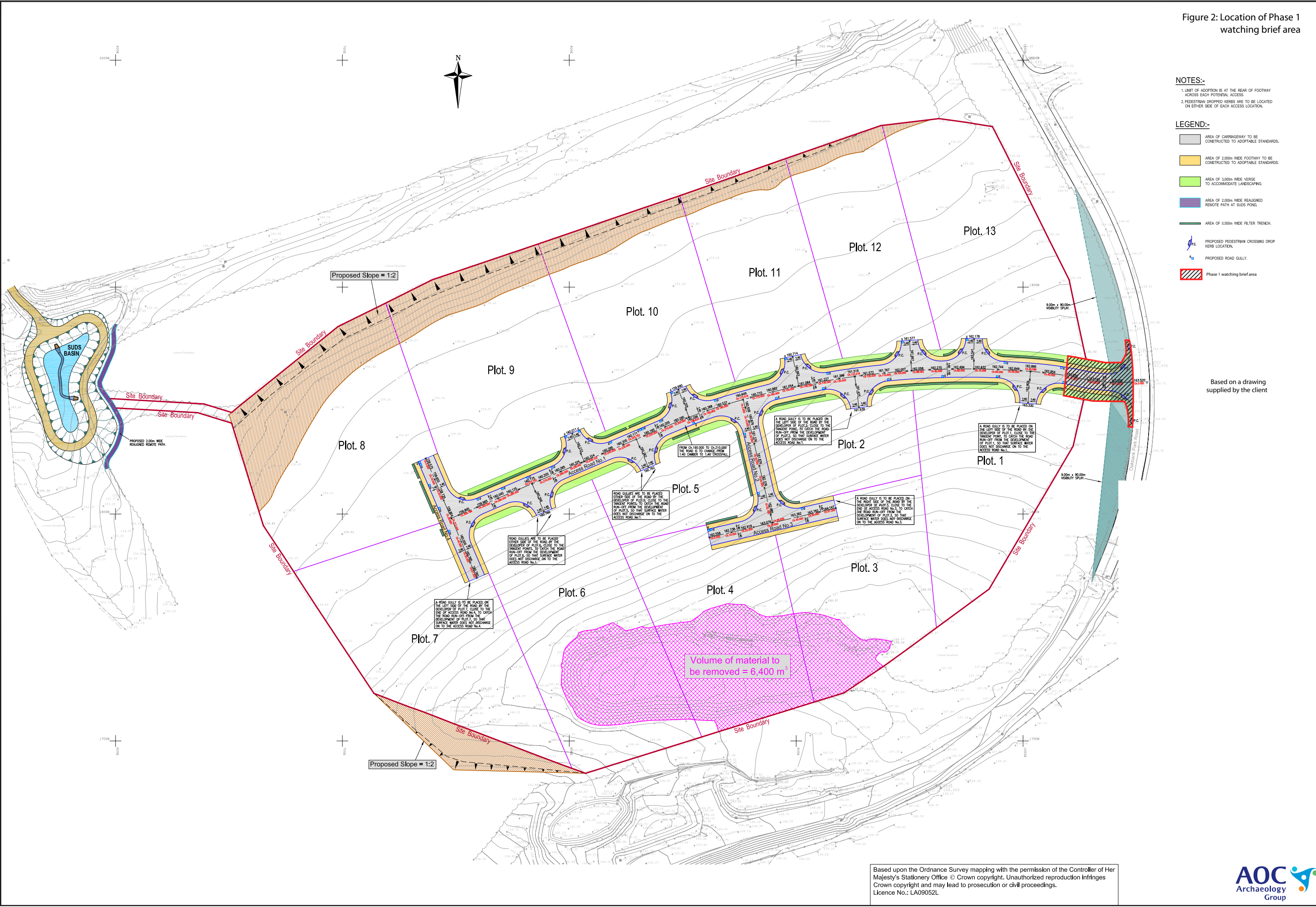
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Williamson South, Phase 1
PROJECT CODE:	22200
PARISH:	Mid Calder
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jake Streatfeild-James
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 07214 65418
START DATE (this season)	20/08/2012
END DATE (this season)	20/08/2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief monitored groundbreaking works on this greenfield site at Williamson South. Groundworks involved stripping topsoil and overburden in preparation for widening the entrance to a new development plot and the construction of the initial 30m of road into the plot. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	West Lothian Council
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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Figure 1: Location of the site at Williamson South

Figure 2: Location of Phase 1 watching brief area

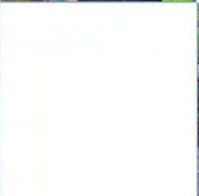
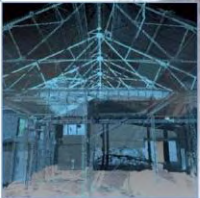
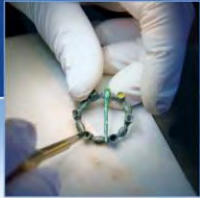


- NOTES:-**
- LIMIT OF ADOPTION IS AT THE REAR OF FOOTWAY ACROSS EACH POTENTIAL ACCESS.
 - PEDESTRIAN DROPPED KERBS ARE TO BE LOCATED ON EITHER SIDE OF EACH ACCESS LOCATION.

- LEGEND:-**
- AREA OF CARRIAGEWAY TO BE CONSTRUCTED TO ADAPTABLE STANDARDS.
 - AREA OF 2.00m WIDE FOOTWAY TO BE CONSTRUCTED TO ADAPTABLE STANDARDS.
 - AREA OF 3.00m WIDE VERGE TO ACCOMMODATE LANDSCAPING.
 - AREA OF 2.00m WIDE REALIGNED REMOTE PATH AT SUDS POND.
 - AREA OF 0.50m WIDE FILTER TRENCH.
 - PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING DROP KERB LOCATION.
 - PROPOSED ROAD GULLY.
 - Phase 1 watching brief area

Based on a drawing supplied by the client

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