

242 Main Street, East Calder, West Lothian: Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

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AOC Project 22329

26th March 2013



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

242 Main Street, East Calder, West Lothian Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	SAYAK UK Ltd 175 Cocklaw Street Kelty Fife
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 08440 67837
AOC Project No:	22329
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to the construction of a retail development at 242 Main Street, East Calder, West Lothian (Planning Reference No. 0177/FUL/12), (NGR NT 08440 67837).

The area (0.8 ha) was subject to a 10.0% sample evaluation to comprise 60.0 linear metres. However the presence of numerous live services restricted the evaluation to 40.0 linear metres. Access was especially restricted along the frontage with Main Street which led to a subsequent Watching Brief on excavations within this area.

The evaluation revealed a circular stone well of probable medieval/post-medieval date constructed of un-bonded rectangular sandstone. The well was known to local residents and had apparently been discovered during the construction of the Public House car-park which currently occupies the site. The well had been covered by a metal drain cover and is currently in a good state of preservation. The well was subsequently filled with Type 2 hardcore and sealed under tarmac.

Four foundation footings were observed during the watching brief along the frontage bordering Main Street. These revealed approximately one metre of demolition material directly overlying natural. No *in situ* deposits were revealed.

Given the subsequent protective treatment of the well and the lack of significant archaeology within the remainder of the site area, no further archaeological works are considered necessary. These findings will need to be confirmed by WoSAS on behalf of West Lothian Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by SAYAK UK Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a retail development, at 242 Main Street, East Calder, West Lothian (Planning Reference No. 0177/FUL/12), (NGR NT 08440 67837). The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, West Lothian Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy (2010) & Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)* and protocols set out in the West of Scotland Archaeology Service's 'Standard Conditions for archaeological fieldwork' (Appendix 28).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation revealed a previously a previously un-recorded circular well of probable post-medieval date. This was known to local residents. The well was in good repair with the water table evident at two metres. The well was covered by a metal drain cover and had probably been discovered during the construction of the Public House car-park which currently occupies the site. No other archaeologically significant material was observed.
- 1.1.4 A watching brief was undertaken during ground reduction works at the front of the development. Neither new archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area (NGR NT 08440 67837) comprises a broadly rectangular shaped land parcel that amounts to approximately 0.8 ha (Figure 1). This brown-field site is currently occupied by a now derelict public house and associated car-park and garden. It is situated on Main Street, which runs from east to west through the village. Residential housing lies further to the north, east and west.
- 1.2.2 The site area is relatively flat lying at 118 m OD in height.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 There are no confirmed archaeological sites within the development area. However, the site is located within the medieval core of the village, and to the immediate east of the historic church of St. Cuthbert's (NMRS: NT06NE 4). East Calder parish church, which was dedicated to St Cuthbert, is now ruinous, and measures 53' x 17' internally. The N wall has been removed to give access to the burial places which now occupy the interior. The S wall and gables are entire. The W gable is surmounted by a 17th century belfry, from which the bell has been removed. In the E gable are the remains of a late Gothic window. The old doorways and windows have been built up. A cross slab, bearing a Maltese cross, 20" x 14", has been incorporated in the W gable. East Calder (Calder-Clere) was disjoined from Calder Comities (Mid and W Calder) in 1641, this church then becoming the parish church. It fell into neglect after the union of the parish with Kirknewton in 1751.

- 1.3.2 More generally, the earlier medieval part of East Calder is a long main street stretching from St Cuthbert's church to the east to the gates of Almondell (NMRS: NT06NE 4).
- 1.3.3 There are no recorded instances of archaeological interventions either within the development area or within the immediate area surrounding the development area.

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 through evaluation trenching;
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as 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 evaluation comprised machine trenching of a 10% sample (120 m²) within the development area (0.8 ha). Total trenching was initially to consist of 60 linear metres. However, the presence of numerous live services to the front and rear of the site necessitated a slight reduction to 40 linear metres. No trenches were able to be excavated to the front of the existing building. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on subsequent ground-works within this area.
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a JCB excavator equipped with 2.0 m wide bladed ditching buckets. Excavation was undertaken in units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013). The trenches were then backfilled.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 21st January 2013. Overall weather conditions were poor, however archaeological visibility remained good. Three trenches were excavated within the car-park to the north of the site. Unfortunately no trenches could be excavated across the frontage of the site due to the proximity of live services.
- 4.2 The excavated trenches were sterile of archaeology. A former garden-soil [001] lay directly underneath a 0.20 m deep layer of tarmac and type 2 hardcore across the north of the site. This

garden-soil was 0.30 m to 0.1.10 m in depth and in turn overlay orange sandy clay sub-soil [002]. Occasional tile and rubble drains were observed across the site. A certain amount of levelling had been undertaken along the northern perimeter of the site probably during the creation of the car-park.



Plate 1 West facing section Trench 2

4.3 The Well [03]

- 4.3.1 A circular, sandstone well was revealed within the car-park to the rear of the Public House. The location of the well was known to local residents who mention that the well was uncovered during the construction of the car-park. The well was 0.90 m in diameter and had a visible depth of two metres. A water table was observed at this level. Sandstone rubble and modern building detritus partially filled the well. The feature was constructed of ten courses of rough rectangular blocks of un-bonded sandstone. Four courses of modern bricks were cemented along the top of the top of the well bringing it up to the level of the current ground surface. The well was covered by a 0.75 m diameter metal man-hole cover.
- 4.3.2 The site is located within the medieval core of East Calder and it is likely that the well is of a similar medieval/post-medieval date.
- 4.3.3 Upon completion of recording the well was in-filled with Type 2 hardcore and sealed with tarmac.



Plate 2: Well [003] from south-west



Plate 3; Well [003] from south

4.3 The Watching Brief

- 4.3.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on groundbreaking works undertaken along the frontage with Main Street on 21st March 2013. Four 1.5 m by 1.5 m foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of one metre. This revealed demolition material consisting of sandstone, brick and concrete. No in situ deposits were revealed.



Plate 4; Foundation pit along frontage from south

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

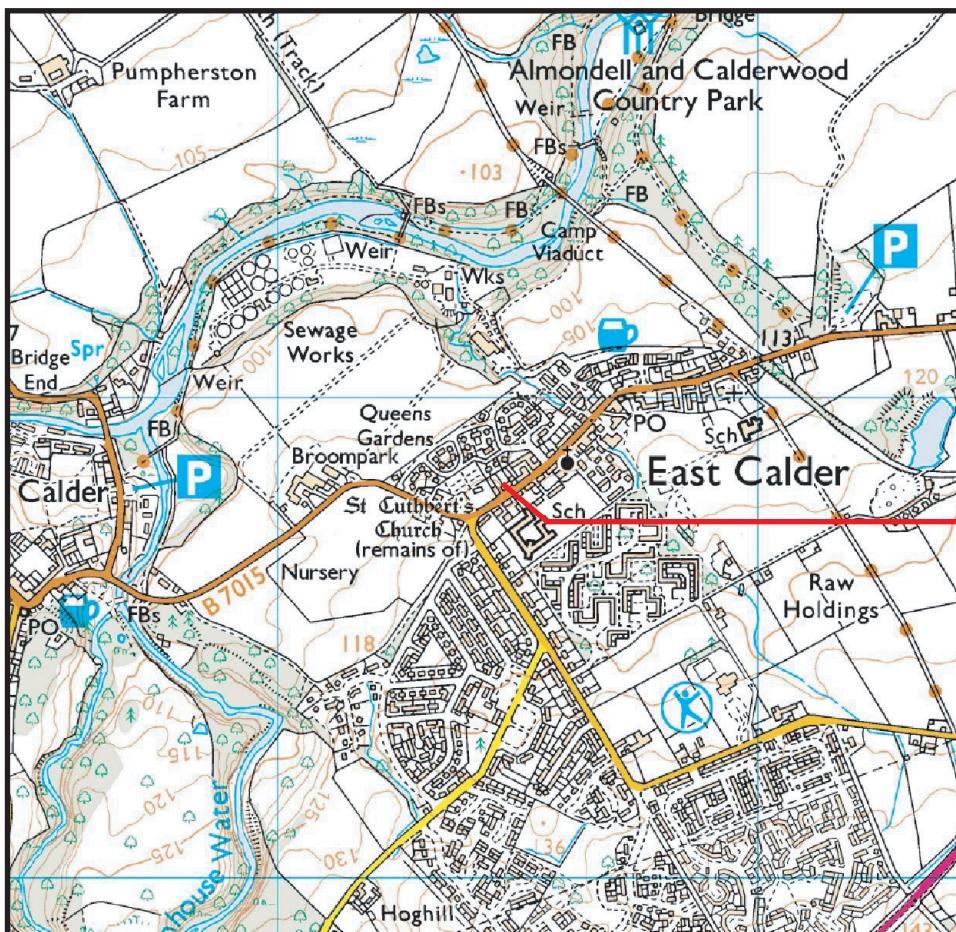
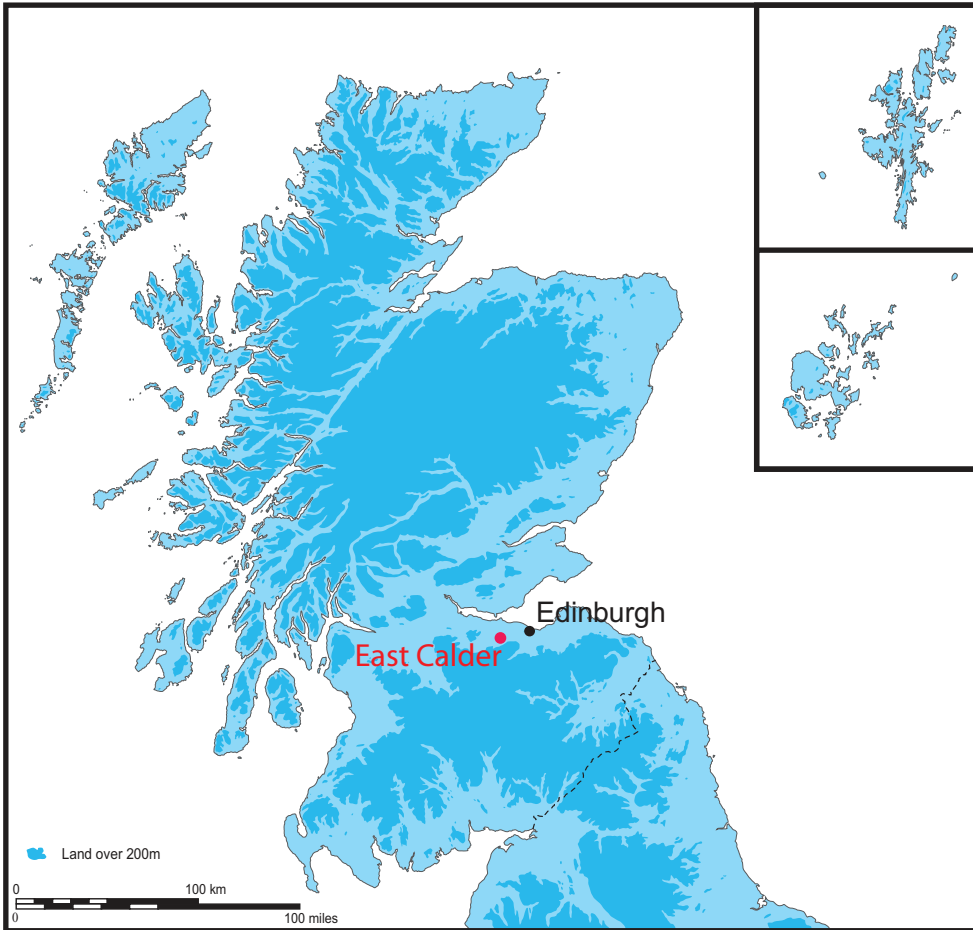
- 5.1 Given the subsequent protective treatment of the well and the lack of significant archaeology within the remainder of the site area, no further archaeological works are considered necessary. These findings will need to be confirmed by WoSAS on behalf of West Lothian Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2013 *242 Main Street, East Calder, West Lothian: Written Scheme of Investigation*
Unpublished client report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*.



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Main Street, East Calder

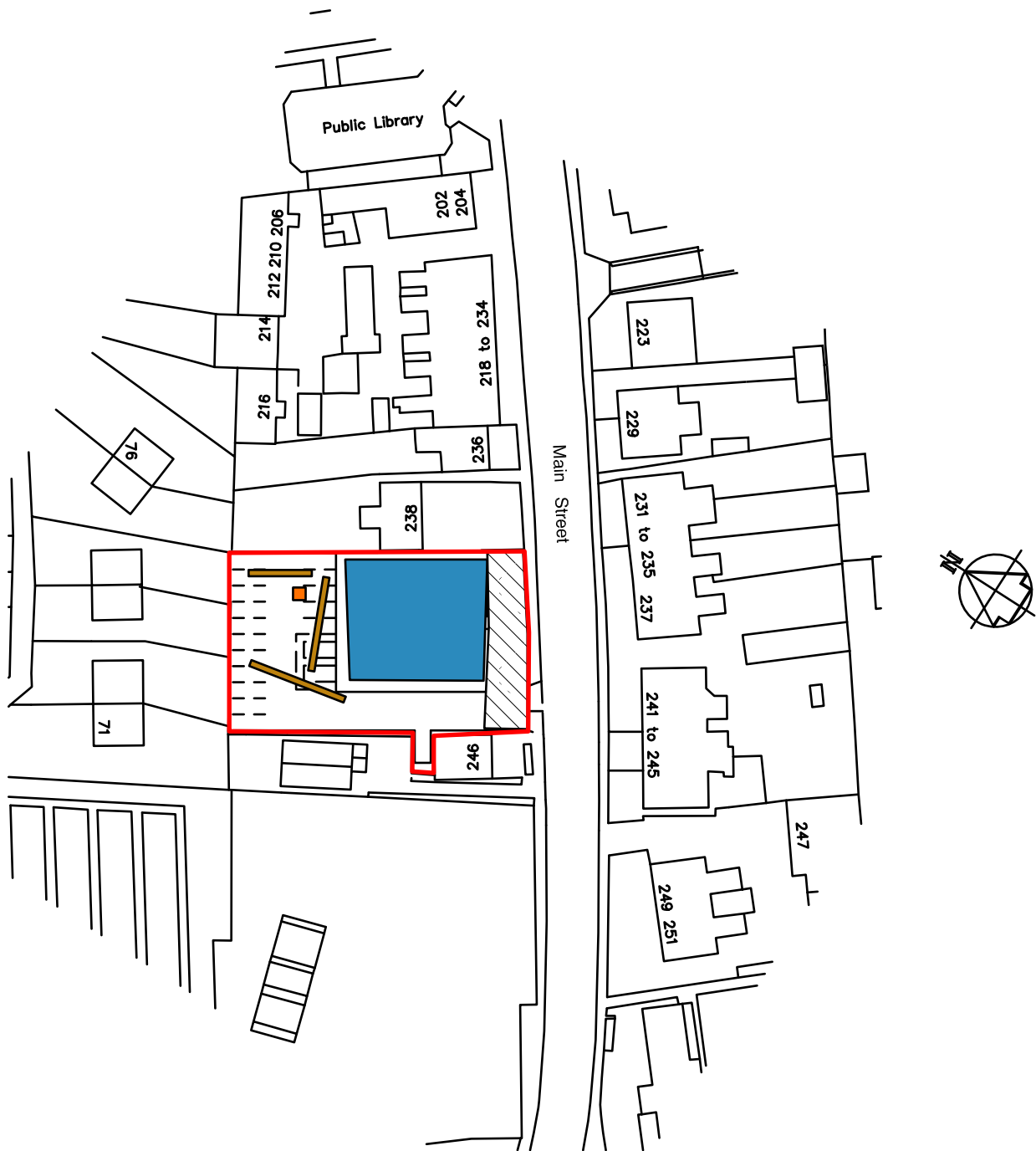


Figure 2: Location of Trenches
 (Based on a drawing supplied by the client)

Scale: 1:1000

-  Trial Trench
-  Stone Lined Well
-  Existing Building
-  Site Boundary
-  Watching Brief Area

242 Main Street, East Calder, West Lothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	16.0 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	32.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 – 0.60 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Tile drain at 5.0 m east to west
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	15 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	30.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m -1.10 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	10.0 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.40 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

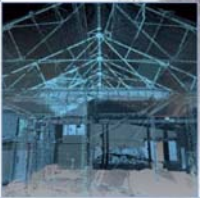
Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2-5	Well [003]	Var
6-7	Trench 1 Post ex	N
8-9	Position of Well [003] on site	N-S
10	Trench 2 west facing section	W
11-12	Trench 2 Post ex	N
13	Trench 3 Post ex	E
14	Foundation pit 1	S
15	Foundation pit 2	S
16	Foundation pit 3	S
17	Foundation pit 4	S

APPENDIX 3: Context Record

Context	Description	Trench
[001]	Top-soil (Garden-soil) – Well sorted clay loam – 0.30 m to 0.60 m in depth	All
[002]	Sub-soil – Orange sandy boulder clay	All
[003]	Well – Circular structure 0.90 m in diameter and with a visible depth of 2.0 m to the water table. The well is constructed of ten visible courses of roughly fashioned sandstone blocks which appear un-bonded. The sandstones are approximately 0.30 m by 0.18 m in size. The well is partially filled with rubble. Four courses of modern bricks have been cemented to the top course of the well bringing its level up to the tarmac level of the car-park. A square metal man-hole cover has been fitted over the feature.	N/A

APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	242 Main Street, East Calder, West Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22329
PARISH:	Livingston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 08440 67837
START DATE (this season)	21 st January 2013
END DATE (this season)	21 st March 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a retail development at 242 Main Street, East Calder, West Lothian (Planning Reference No. 0177/FUL/12), (NGR; NT 08440 67837).</p> <p>The area (0.8 ha) was subject to a 10.0% sample evaluation to comprise 60.0 linear metres. However the presence of numerous live services restricted the current works to 40.0 linear metres.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed a circular stone well of probable medieval/post-medieval date constructed of un-bonded rectangular sandstone. The well was known to local residents and had apparently been discovered during the construction of the Public House car-park which currently occupies the site. The well had been covered by a metal drain cover and is currently in a good state of preservation.</p> <p>A subsequent watching brief was undertaken during the ground reduction of the development frontage. The ground was found to have been disturbed and contained neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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