

Wellhead Farm, Murieston, Livingston, West Lothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOCarcha1-152183

AOC Project 22436

10th June 2013



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Wellhead Farm, Murieston, Livingston, West Lothian

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: CALA Group Ltd
Adam House,
5 Mid New Cultins,
Edinburgh
EH11 4DU

National Grid Reference (NGR): NGR; NT 0593 6426

AOC Project No: 22436

Prepared by: Rob Engl

Illustration by: Kevin Paton

Date of Fieldwork: 3rd June – 7th June 2013

Date of Report: 10th June 2013

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

Author: Rob Engl **Date:** 10th June 2013
Approved by: Martin Cook **Date:** 10th June 2013
Draft/Final Report Stage: **Date:** 10th June 2013

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	3
List of plates	3
List of appendices	3
Abstract.....	4
1 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.4 Archaeological background	5
2 OBJECTIVES	5
3 METHODOLOGY	6
4 RESULTS	6
5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	8
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY	8
APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions	10
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record	14
APPENDIX 3: ‘Discovery and Excavation in Scotland’ Report.....	16

List of illustrations

- Figure 1 Site Location
Figure 2 Trench Location Plan

List of plates

- Plate 1 Trench 15 post-excavation from south-west
Plate 2 Trench 5 post-excavation from north-west

List of appendices

- Appendix 1 Trench Descriptions
Appendix 2 Photographic Record
Appendix 3 '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' Report

Abstract

AOC Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a residential development at Wellhead Farm, Murieston, Livingston, West Lothian (Planning Application No 0780/FUL/12.), (NGR; NT 0593 6426).

The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Cala Homes (East) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a residential development, at Wellhead Farm, Murieston, Livingston, West Lothian (Planning Ref: 0780/FUL/12), (NGR; NT0593 6426). The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, West Lothian Council (WLC) who are advised on archaeological matters by 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).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area comprises a rectangular shaped land parcel that amounts to approximately 4.85 ha (Figure 1). This greenfield site is currently open pasture, and is centred at NGR NT 0593 6426. The site lies to the immediate south of Murieston Road and is bounded to the east, west and south by existing agricultural land (see Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The site area is slightly undulating with several natural drainage channels running to the northern boundary. The site ranges between 175.0 m OD to 170.0 m OD in height.

1.4 Archaeological background

- 1.4.1 There are neither known archaeological features nor find-spots recorded within the proposed development and no previous archaeological investigations appear to have taken place.

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 archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation initially required the machine excavation of an 8% sample (3880 m²) within the proposed development area (4.85 ha). However, the presence of a sizeable area of unstable ground, inaccessible to the plant, within the south-east of the site and live services in the form of overhead power-lines and water pipes reduced the scope for trenching and excluded approximately 4400 m² from the evaluation area. Nevertheless, a total of 3360 m² was excavated.
- 3.2 The evaluation trenches were positioned in order to avoid existing services consisting of overhead power-lines and water pipes (Figure 2). Trenches were not placed within the south-east of the site due to unstable ground conditions.
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a tracked 360 excavator equipped with a 2.2 m wide bladed ditching bucket. 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 backfilled once recording had been undertaken.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 3rd– 7th June 2013. Weather conditions were good and archaeological visibility was excellent.
- 4.2 The excavated trenches appeared sterile of archaeology. A medium brown clay loam top-soil [01] was recorded directly overlying a sub-soil [02] of yellow boulder clay. Numerous rubble drains were observed. These appeared to be draining down-slope to the north of the site. Sherds of modern white ceramics were observed within the topsoil.



Plate 1: Trench 15 post-excitation from south-west



Plate 2: Trench 5 post-excitation from north-west

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the evaluation. No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) on behalf of West Lothian Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2013 *Wellhead Farm, Murieston, Livingston, 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*.

**Wellhead Farm, Murieston, Livingston, West
Lothian:
Archaeological Evaluation
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	100.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 – 0.40 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drain at 5.0 m intervals N/S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed in top-soil

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drain at 43.0 m, 52.0 m, 62.0 m & 72.0 m NW/SE
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed in top-soil

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m – 0.40 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	25.0 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	W-e
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.40 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m – 0.90 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Peat deposit at 10.0 m 0.50 m thick
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	100.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.40 m – 0.50 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m – 0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drains at 2.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	100.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drains at 8.0 m, 23.0 m, 42.0 m, 48.0 m & 63.50 m
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.40 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	100.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 m – 0.40 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30 m – 0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble and clay drains at 5.0 m intervals north to south
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	100.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 m – 0.40 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drain at 3.0 m N/S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	100.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drains at 15.0 m, 19.0 m & 26.50 m NW/SE
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 13

<i>Dimensions</i>	100.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 14

<i>Dimensions</i>	100.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SSW-NNE
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 15

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	110.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SSW-NNE
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 16

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	S-N
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 m - 0.30
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 17

<i>Dimensions</i>	100.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	240.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble at 5.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 18

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	S-N
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2	Trench 1 post-excavation	NW
3	Trench 2 post-excavation	S
4	Trench 4 post-excavation	W
5	Trench 3 post-excavation	W
6	Trench 5 post-excavation	W
7	Trench 6 post-excavation	E
8	Trench 7 post-excavation	E
9	Trench 8 post-excavation	NW
10	Trench 9 post-excavation	SW
11	Trench 10 post-excavation	NW
12	Trench 11 post-excavation	NW
13	Trench 12 post-excavation	SE
14	Trench 13 post-excavation	NE
15	Trench 14 post-excavation	NNE
16	Trench 15 post-excavation	SSW

17	Trench 16 post-excavation	S
18	Trench 17 post-excavation	SW
19	Trench 18 post-excavation	S

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Wellhead Farm, Murieston, Livingston West Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22436
PARISH:	Mid Calder
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
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)	NT 0593 6426
START DATE (this season)	3 rd June 2013
END DATE (this season)	7 th January 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 residential development at Wellhead Farm, Murieston, Livingston, West Lothian (Planning Application No 0780/FUL/12.), (NGR; NT 0593 6426).</p> <p>The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Cala Homes
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Rob.Engl@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com