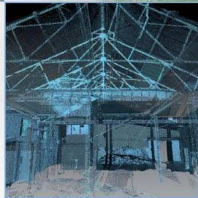
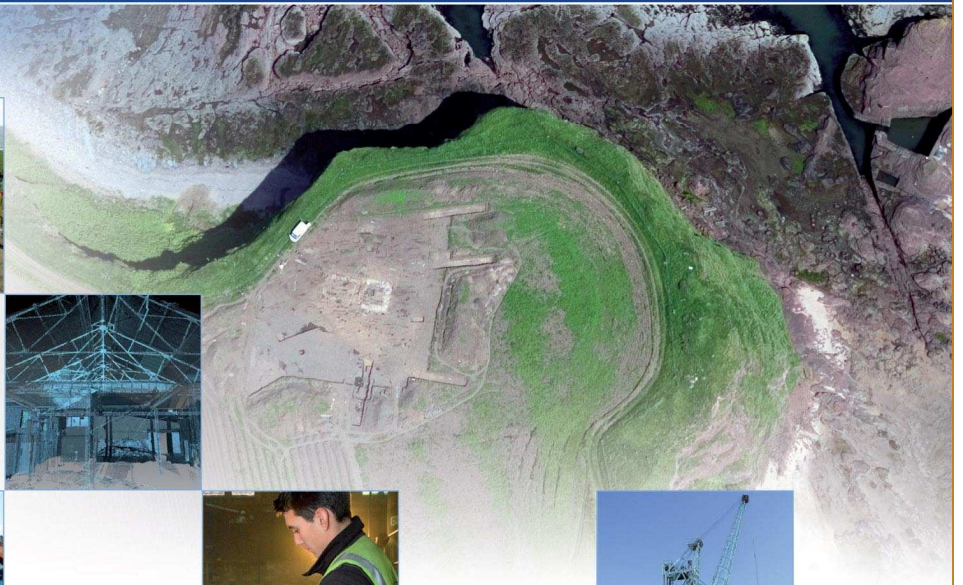
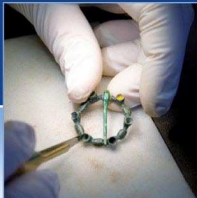


Sheriff Hall Spine Road Edinburgh, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOCarcha1-170766

AOC Project 22660

6th February 2014



Sheriff Hall, Midlothian; Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **Greene King Ltd**
The Belhaven Group
Atrium House
6 Back Walk
Stirling
FK8 2QA

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 3160 6750

AOC Project No: 22660

Prepared by: Rob Engl

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Date of Fieldwork: 31st January 2014

Date of Report: 2nd February 2014

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

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Date: 2nd February 2014

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Date: 6th February 2014

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to the construction of an access road (Planning Application No. 13/00849/DPP) associated with the proposed restaurant/public house at Gilmerton Road, Sherriff Hall, Midlothian (Planning Application No. 13/00848/DPP). The development area consists of a green-field site centred on NGR: NT 3160 6750.

The site was subject to a 10% evaluation (130 Linear metres) of the 0.5 ha development area.

The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Greene King Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of an access road associated with the proposed restaurant/public house at Gilmerton Road, Sheriff Hall, Midlothian (Planning Application No. 13/00849/DPP). The access road area consists of an 'L' shaped green-field site covering approximately c.0.5 ha, centred on NGR: NT 3160 6750. It lies within the administrative area of Midlothian Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS). The archaeological works had been specified by ELCAS in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011), to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may have been present within the development area.

1.1.2 The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The development area lies to the immediate north of Gilmerton Road (A772) directly opposite Dobbies Garden Centre. The site is centred on NGR: NT 3160 6750 and is bounded to the north, east and west by agricultural land and to the south by the site of the proposed restaurant (NGR: NT 3145 6759).

1.2.2 The site area is relatively flat and is 50.0 m OD in height.

1.3 Development background

1.3.1 The proposed development area comprises 0.5 ha of agricultural land, (Figure 1). A 10% archaeological evaluation sample of this area equated to a minimum of 130 linear metres of trenching.

1.4 Archaeological background

1.4.1 The area surrounding the proposed development is rich in Roman remains, most notably Elginhaugh Roman temporary camp, native fort and palisaded enclosure (SAM 119) and Elginhaugh Roman fort, annexe and bathhouse (SAM 1236) which lie to the east of the development area. Both are designated scheduled ancient monuments.

1.4.2 Whilst neither the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) or the local Site and Monuments Records (SMR) record the presence of a known archaeological site within the development boundaries, both list numerous sites lying within a few hundred metres of it. The closest of these are two sites named as 'Lugton Bogs' which lie immediately to the east of the site. The smaller of these was excavated in 1989 and consists of a prehistoric cropmark site which was proved to be a prehistoric palisaded enclosure measuring about 50 m by 40 m with an entrance on the SEE and a 12 m ring-ditch in the centre (NMRS No: NT36NW 60; SMR No: MEL8401). The other site marked as Lugton Bogs is a larger area of 'rig and furrow' which also encompasses the

other site (SMR No: MEL10014). Less than 100 m further east, now on both the eastern side of the A7 road as well as north and south of the A772, cropmarks identify what is believed to be the remains of a Roman road, ring-ditch and pit alignment (NMRS No: NT36NW 102; SMR No: MEL10015 & MEL8327).

- 1.4.3 On the south side of the A772 are several other sites of archaeological interest, including 'Melville Nurseries'. This was evaluated and excavated ahead of an extension to the Dobbies Garden Centre car park in 2007 and covered an area of 5300 m². It identified over 30 pits, two linear ditches (interpreted as the ditches of two enclosed Roman field systems) and three Roman ovens (NMRS No: NT36NW 566; SMR No: MEL9564).
- 1.4.4 Given the amount of prehistoric and Roman activity present to the east and south of the development area there was a strong possibility that this activity may have extended into the development area.
- 1.4.5 The previous archaeological evaluation of the associated restaurant site (Planning Application No. 13/00848/DPP) (AOC 2014) also undertaken during January 2014 revealed no significant archaeological material.

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 comprised machine trenching of a 10% sample of the available land. A 10% sample of the area equated to a minimum of 130 linear metres of trenching undertaken with a machine bucket of 2.0 m.
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a tracked 360 excavator equipped with a 2.0 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 2014). The trenches were then immediately backfilled.



Plate 1: Trench 2 North facing section showing colluvium

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 31st January 2014 Overall weather conditions were fair and archaeological visibility remained good.



Plate 2: Trench 3 post excavation shot from east

- 4.2 The excavated trenches were sterile of significant archaeology. A medium brown friable sandy loam top-soil [001] overlay a sub-soil [002] of orange silty sands and gravel. Trenches 2 and 3 revealed deposits of colluvium up to 0.30 m in depth. No evidence of drainage was observed. Occasional plough scars and animal burrows were revealed within the natural. Occasional sherds of modern white ceramics were observed within the top-soil.

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 East Lothian Archaeology Service (ELCAS) on behalf of Midlothian Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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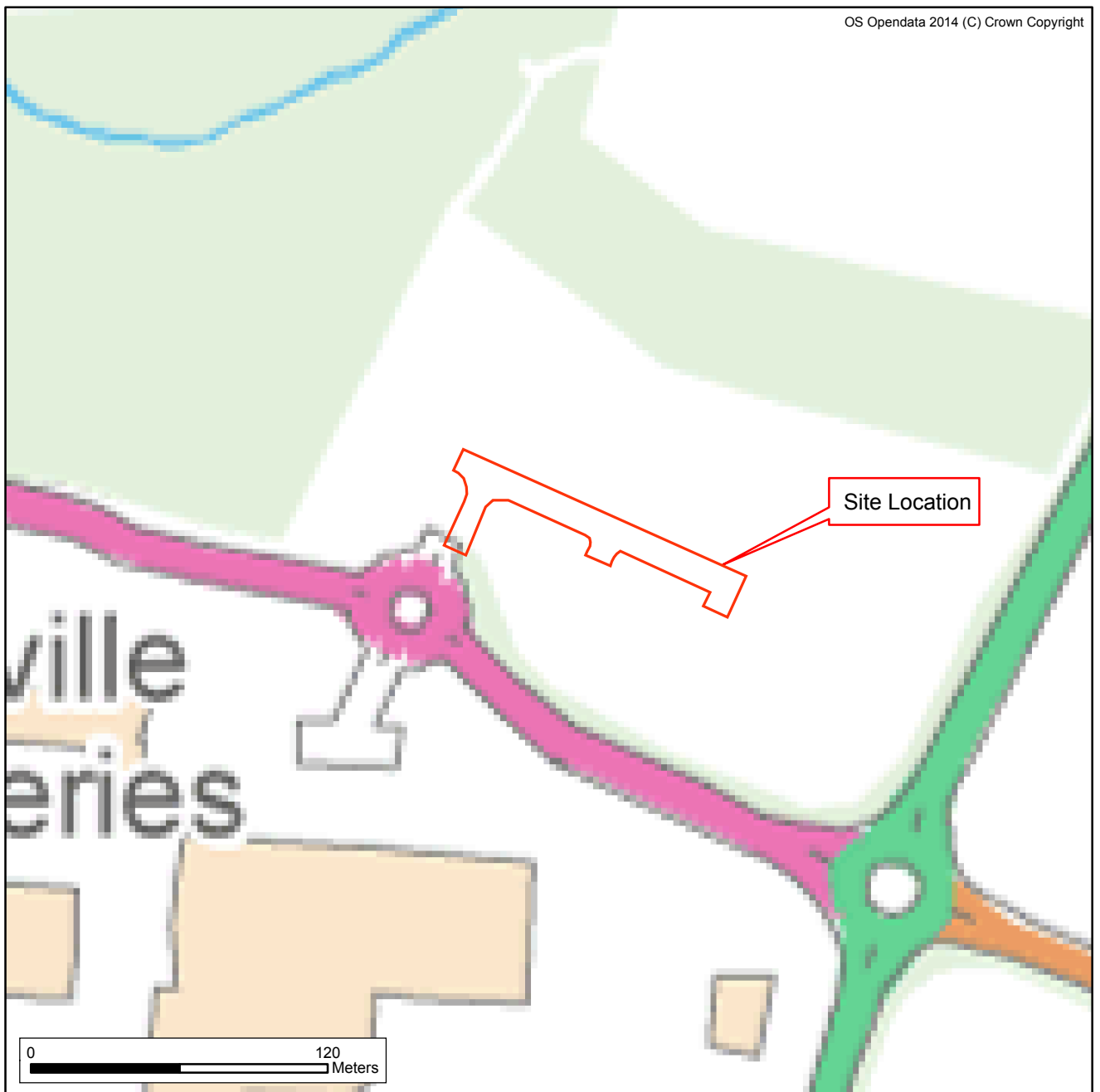
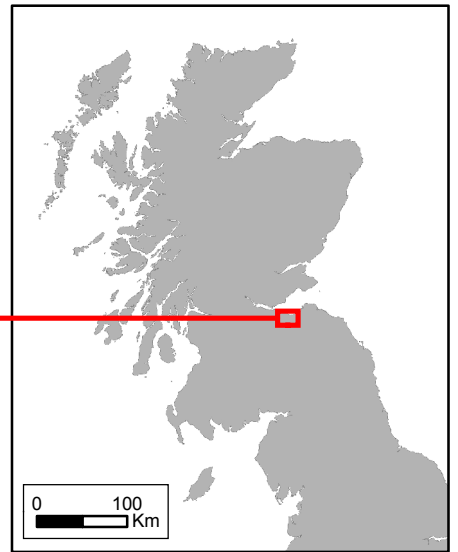
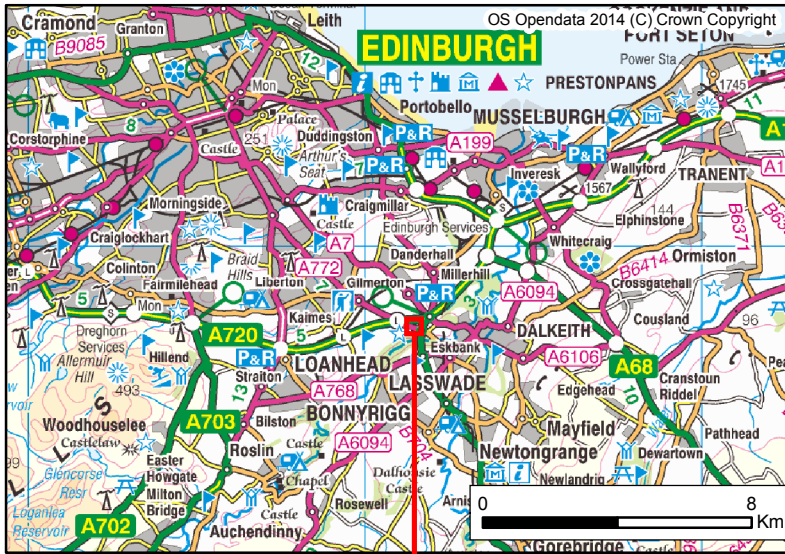


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

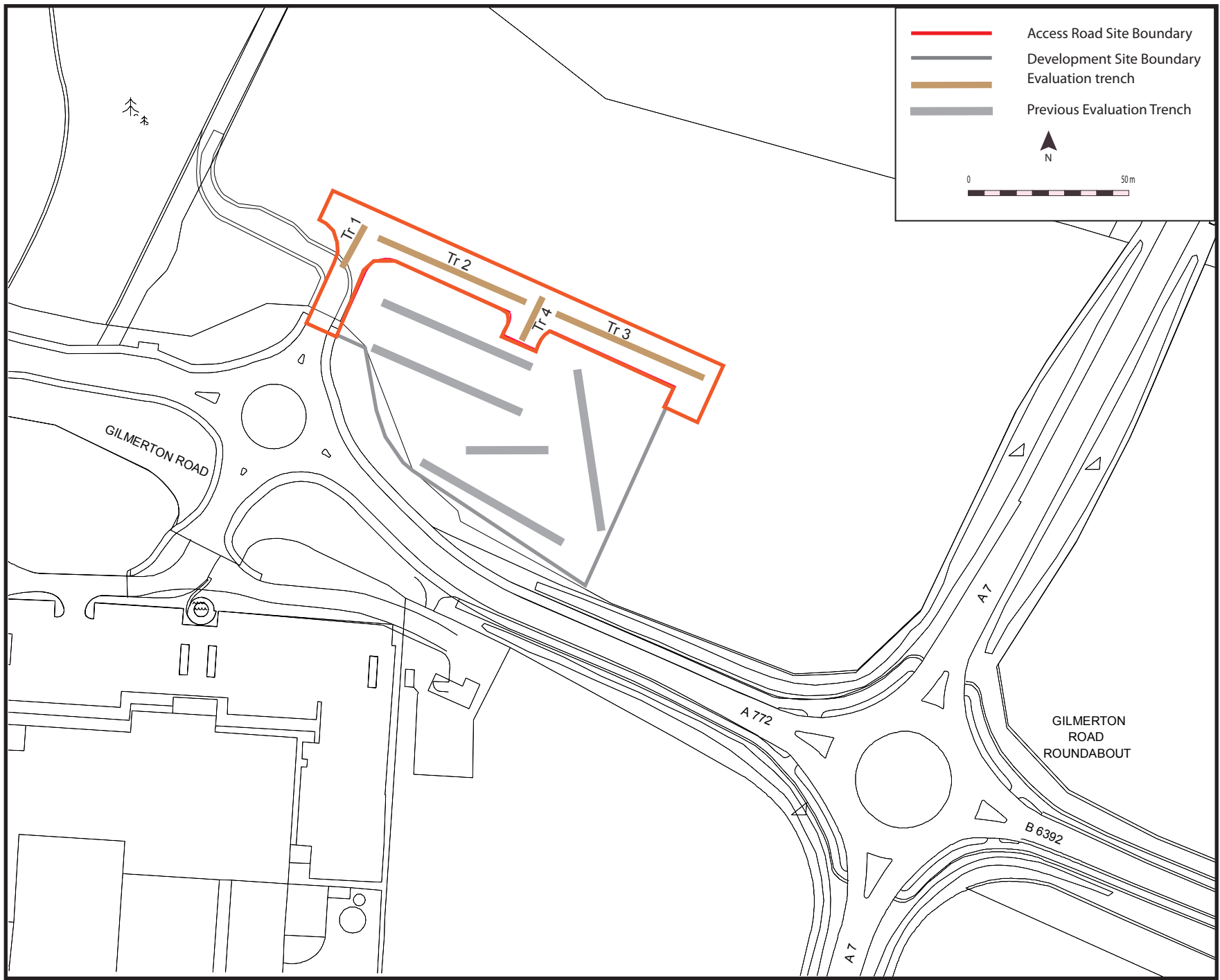


Figure 2: Trench location plan

**Sheriff Hall Spine Road, Edinburgh,
Midlothian:
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Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	15.0 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	S-N
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.40
<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>	Orange silty sandy and gravel
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional white ceramics observed

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.40 m
<i>Depth of Colluvium</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.75 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange silty sandy and gravel
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional white ceramics observed

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Colluvium</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange silty sandy and gravel
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	15.0 m by 2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange silty sandy and gravel
<i>Finds</i>	None

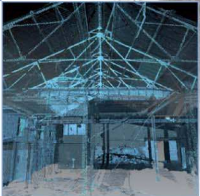
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2	Trench 2 north facing section	N
3	Trench 2 post-excavation	E
4	Trench 3 post-excavation	E
5	Trench 4 post-excavation	S

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Sheriff Hall Spine Road, Edinburgh, Midlothian
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22660
PARISH:	Lasswade
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 3160 6750
START DATE (this season)	31 st January 2014
END DATE (this season)	2 nd February 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of an access road (Planning Application No. 13/00849/DPP) associated with the proposed restaurant/public house at Gilmerton Road, Sherriff Hall, Midlothian (Planning Application No. 13/00848/DPP). The development area consists of a green-field site covering approximately c.0.5 ha, centred on NGR: NT 3160 6750.</p> <p>The site was subject to a 10% evaluation (130 Linear metres) of the development area (0.5 ha).</p> <p>The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material.</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:	Rob.Engl@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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