

Linburn, Kirknewton, West Lothian: Archaeological Evaluation Report

AOC 22722
16th April 2014



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Linburn, Kirknewton, West Lothian: Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of: Page \ Park Architects
20 James Morrison Street
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G1 5PE

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 1225 6835

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

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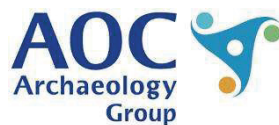
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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation for Page and Plant Ltd on behalf of their client ahead of development of land at Linburn, Kirknewton, West Lothian. A total of seven evaluation trenches were excavated with a total area of 324 m² were excavated in the 0.3 ha proposed development area representing slightly over a 10% sample. The evaluation revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence of thin topsoil overlying sandy clay glacial till subsoil.

Archaeological features identified during the evaluation included a shallow ditch running north-east/south-west, likely the remains of a canalised water course depicted on historic mapping in the 18th century, along with a number of rubble and ceramic field drains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation by Page \ Park Architects, on behalf of their client, ahead of proposed development of land at Linburn, Kirknewton, West Lothian. The scope of the works was determined by West Lothian Council who are advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014) approved by WoSAS on behalf of the West Lothian Council and in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Site location

1.2.1 The development area comprises a total area of approximately 0.3 ha is centred at NGR: NT 1225 6835 (Figure 1). It is situated in an area of open grassland to the south of the village of Wilkieston and to the west of the Centre for Scottish War Blinded.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The junction to the north of the development area at the A71 and the B7030 (see Figure 1) appears to be an historic one, to the south of which was Old Linburn House, built in prior to 1852 which was later demolished in 1955. The development area itself to the south of the house appears to be open land, although probably formed part of the wider landscape the Linburn estate. It was therefore possible that features and elements forming part of this designed landscape could have been present.

1.3.2 To the north of the development area there also lies the site of Hatton House one of the great Renaissance houses of Scotland, which was expanded from an original 15th century L-Shaped tower house with a later Renaissance courtyard by Lord Charles Maitland Its surrounding policies were equally imposing including parterres, formal gardens and wilderness, some traces of which such as the ogee-roofed pavilions at each end remain. It is possible that towards the north and eastern ends of the development area, some lost elements of this designed landscape of Hatton House could have survived.

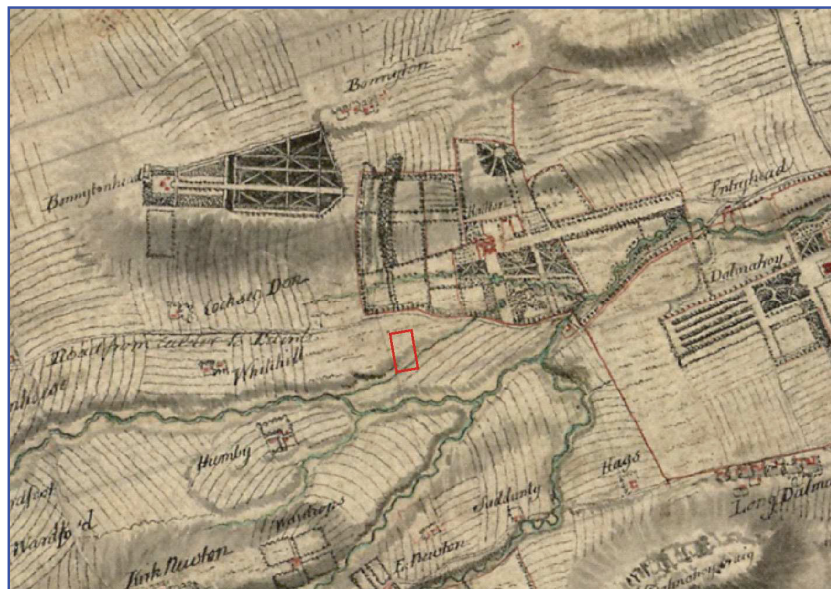


Figure 2: Extract from Roy's *Military Map of Scotland* showing the canalised water course and approximate site boundary outlined in red

- 1.3.3 Also relating to Hatton House, William Roy's 18th Century Military Map of Scotland there is depicted a canalised water course carrying water from Gogar Burn to one of the ponds in the Hatton House gardens and designed landscape (Figure 2).
- 1.3.4 As always given that much of development area appears from cartographic evidence to have been undeveloped parkland, there existed the possibility of uncovering previously unrecorded prehistoric or early historic features.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation was 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.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Archaeological evaluation

- 3.1.1 The development area comprised a total of 3,121 m² in total area however the presence of a number live services reduced the area available for evaluation to 2,351 m². WoSAS had requested a 10% to 12% sample of the total development area be evaluated, a total of 324 m² was excavated representing a 10.5% sample of the total development area and 13.5% of the available area.
- 3.1.2 The evaluation phase consisted of 7 trenches excavated by an 8 tonne 360° machine equipped with a flat bladed ditching bucket operating under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. Each trench was recorded using AOC *pro forma* trench record sheets and any potential features investigated further to assess their character and date.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were placed to ensure comprehensive coverage of the development area and to investigate areas of potential better survival of archaeological deposits.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All archaeological works were conducted on the 4th April 2014 in overcast weather conditions with occasional showers. The archaeological visibility was good.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the evaluation and excavations are presented as a series of appendices:

- Appendix 1: Evaluation trench descriptions
- Appendix 2: Context Register
- Appendix 3: Photographic Register
- Appendix 4: Drawing Register
- Appendix 5: reproduces the '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' (DES) entry

4.2 Archaeological evaluation

- 4.2.1 The evaluation comprised seven trenches set on a variety of alignments with a total area of 324 m² representing a 13.5% sample of the 2,351 m² development area (Figure 3). It revealed a generally thin topsoil of dark brown humic sandy clay, typically around 0.35 m in depth. This directly overlay an orange grey sandy clay glacial till (Plate 1). The southern half of the evaluation area had been terraced at some point in the recent past with a slight cut visible on the ground surface immediately to the north of Trench 5. To the south of this was cut there was a layer of imported coal fragments

which underlay the topsoil. This may have been an attempt to enhance the drainage of the terraced area.



Plate 1: General view of Trench 4 post-excavation from east.

4.2.2 The archaeological features exposed in the evaluation were limited to a shallow ditch [201] in Trench 2 and a number of rubble and ceramic drains across the evaluation area (see Figure 4; Plate 2). Ditch [201] extended across Trench 2, measuring 1.03 m wide and 0.13 m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Ditch [201] was filled by a single deposit of dark grey compact sandy clay (202) representing natural silting up of the ditch. The alignment and position of ditch [201] correspond well with the canalised water course depicted on Roy's 1752-55 *Military Survey of Scotland* and it is likely that this feature represents the silted up course of the canalised stream. A number of rubble and ceramic field drains on a north/south and east/west alignment were also recorded, which may represent attempts to drain the designed landscape around Old Linburn House.



Plate 2: Detail of ditch [201] from the south east.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The evaluation identified the line of the canalised water course depicted on Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland* from the mid-18th century.
- 5.2 No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified and no further works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by WoSAS.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographic references

AOC Archaeology, 2014 *Linburn, Kirknewton, West Lothian: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished AOC Project Design

Scottish Government 2010 Scottish Planning Policy.

Scottish Government 2010 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology.

6.2 Cartographic references

Roy, W 1752-55 *Military Survey of Scotland*.

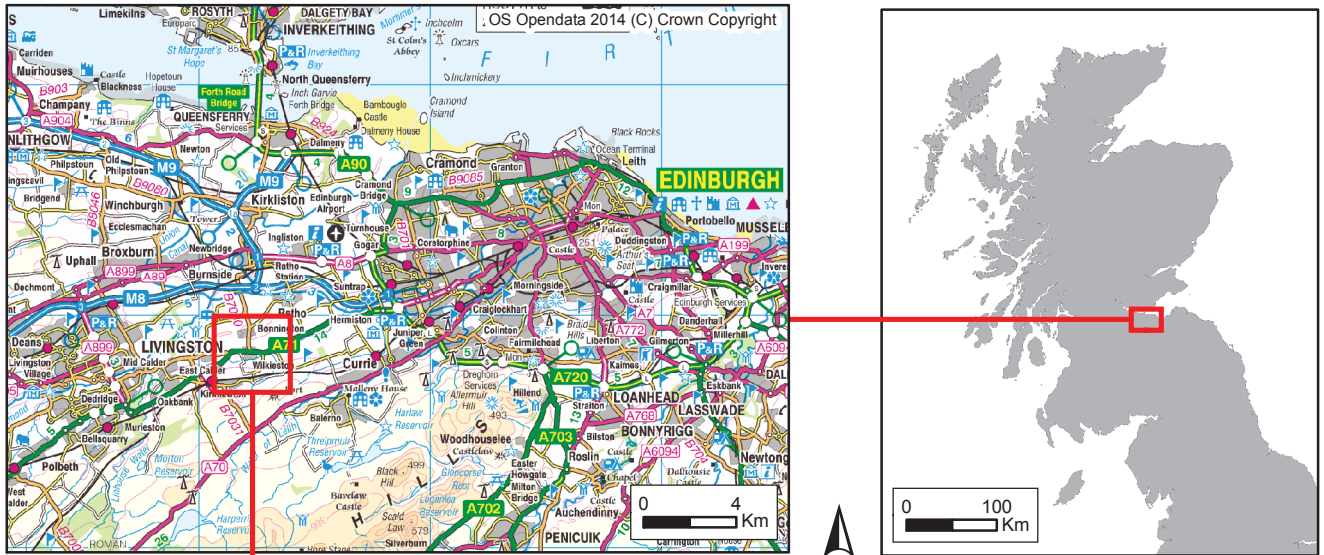
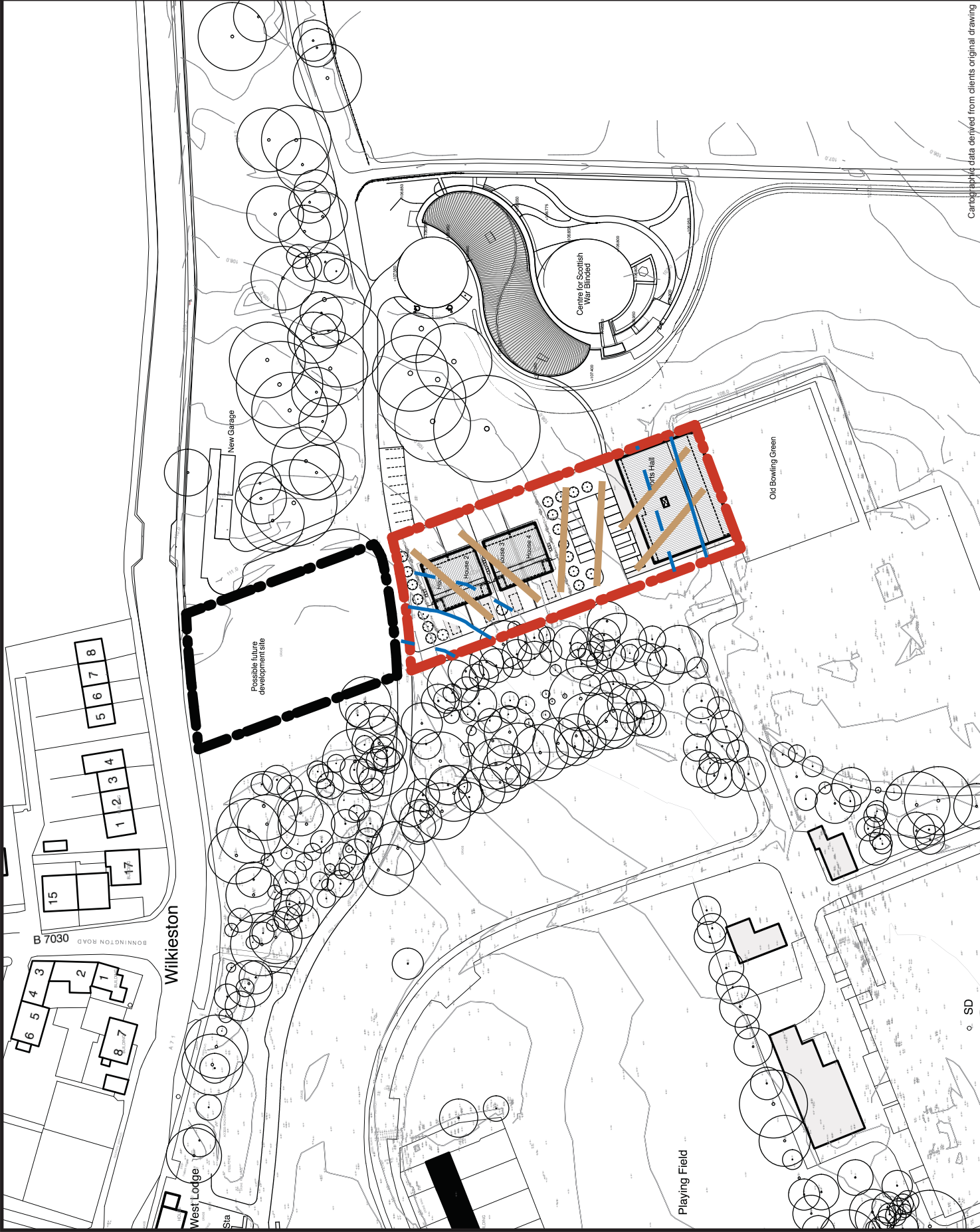


Figure 3 - Trench location plan

Evaluation trench (30m)

Development area



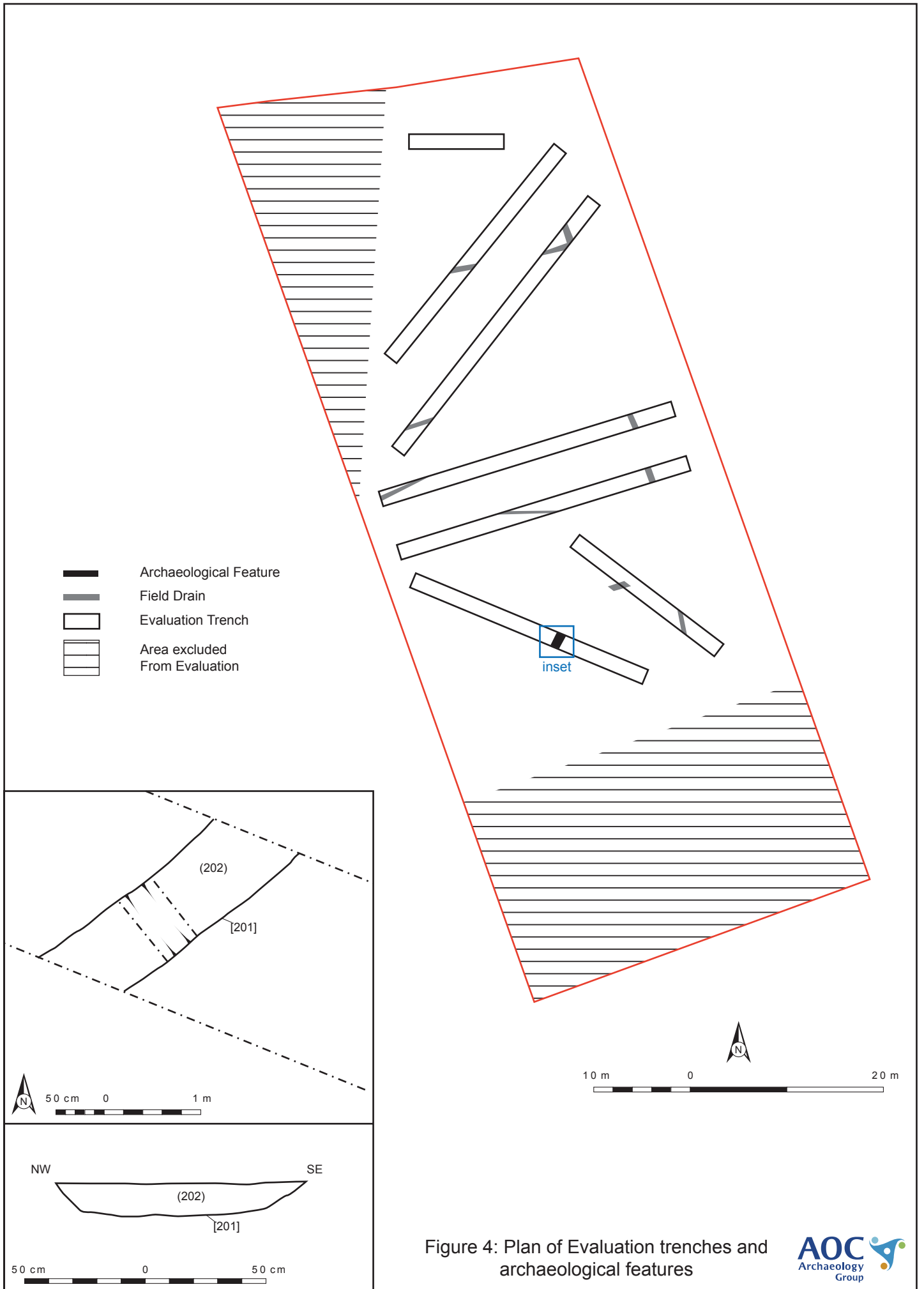


Figure 4: Plan of Evaluation trenches and archaeological features

APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	27m by 1.8m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Non-Significant features</i>	From NE: Rubble filled drain 0.5m wide running E-W @16m.
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil of mid orange brown humic sandy clay
<i>Natural</i>	Orange grey sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	27m by 1.8m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35m
<i>Significant Features</i>	[201] Linear cut oriented NE-SW and fill (202)
<i>Non-Significant features</i>	From SE: Service cut running N-S @ 0m; Test Pit @ 8m
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil of mid orange brown humic sandy clay with layer of coal fragments below topsoil.
<i>Natural</i>	Orange grey sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	18m by 1.8m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Non-Significant features</i>	From SE: N-S rubble filled drain 0.5m wide @ 5m; E-W rubble filled drain @ 12m
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil of mid orange brown humic sandy clay with layer of coal fragments below topsoil.
<i>Natural</i>	Orange grey sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	32m by 1.8m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Non-Significant features</i>	From E: N-S rubble filled drain 0.5m wide @ 4.5m NW; E-W Ceramic field drain @ 10-21m.
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil of mid orange brown humic sandy clay with layer of coal fragments below topsoil.
<i>Natural</i>	Orange grey sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	32m by 1.8m
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Non-Significant features</i>	From W: E-W rubble filled drain 0.5m wide @ 0-5m; N-S rubble filled drain 0.5m wide @ 24m.
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil of mid orange brown humic sandy clay with layer of coal fragments below topsoil.
<i>Natural</i>	Orange grey sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	34m by 1.8m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW

<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Non-Significant features</i>	From SE: E-W rubble drain 0.8m wide @ 0-11m; N-S rubble drain 0.7m wide @ 21m; NE-SW rubble drain 0.5m wide @ 21-29m
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil of mid orange brown humic sandy clay.
<i>Natural</i>	Orange grey sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	10m by 1.8m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.3m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Non-Significant features</i>	None.
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil of mid orange brown humic sandy clay.
<i>Natural</i>	Orange grey sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
201	Tr 2	Linear cut oriented NE-SW, extending across trench 2 1.03m wide and 0.13m deep with steep sides and flat base. Shallow ditch extending NE-SW, possibly the canalised water course shown on Roy's ca. 1747 - 55 map.
202	Tr 2	Dark grey compact sandy clay with rare gravel, filling cut [201]. Solitary fill of ditch [201].

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

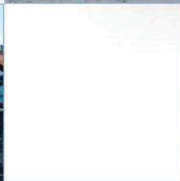
Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
1	-	Registration	-	4/4/14
2	Tr 2	Trench 2	NW	4/4/14
3	Tr 2	Ditch [201] Post-excavation	SW	4/4/14
4	Tr 3	Trench 3	NW	4/4/14
5	Tr 4	Trench 4	E	4/4/14
6	Tr 5	Trench 5	E	4/4/14
7	Tr 6	Trench 6	NE	4/4/14
8	Tr 1	Trench 1	SW	4/4/14
9	Tr 7	Trench 7	NW	4/4/14

APPENDIX 4: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Area	Feature No.	Details	Scale
1	T2	201	Plan of SE end of trench 2	1:50
2	T2	201	NE-Facing section	1:10

APPENDIX 5: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' (DES) REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Linburn, Kirknewton, West Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	22722
PARISH:	Kirknewton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jamie Humble
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Ditch
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 1225 6835
START DATE (this season)	4 th April 2014
END DATE (this season)	4 th April 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology Group undertook an archaeological evaluation for Page and Plant Ltd on behalf of their client ahead of development of land at Linburn, Kirknewton, West Lothian. A total of seven evaluation trenches with a total area of 324 m² were excavated in the 0.3 ha proposed development area representing slightly over a 10% sample. The evaluation revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence of thin topsoil overlying sandy clay glacial till subsoil.</p> <p>Archaeological features identified during the evaluation comprised a shallow ditch running northeast to southwest, that is probably remains of a canalised water course depicted on Roy's map of 1752-55, along with a number of rubble and ceramic field drains.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish War Blinded
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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