

Garnock Campus, Longbar, North Ayrshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

AOC Project 22524
24th September 2014



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Garnock Campus, Longbar, North Ayrshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	Keir Construction Campsie House, Buchanan Business Park Cumbernauld Road Stepps Glasgow G33 6HZ
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 3240 5280
AOC Project No:	22524
Prepared by:	Rob Engl
Illustration by:	Jamie Humble Diana Sproat
Date of Fieldwork:	15 th September – 18 th September 2014
Date of Report:	24 th September 2014

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

Author: Rob Engl

Date: 24th September 2014

Approved by: Diana Sproat

Date: 24th September 2014

Draft/Final Report Stage:

Date: 24th September 2014

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

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to a proposed school campus development at Garnockside, Longbar, North Ayrshire (NGR: NS 3240 5280).

The evaluation revealed uniformly thin top-soil overlying boulder clay subsoil. A boggy area covered the north of the site with modern attempts at drainage identified. The southern half of the site revealed extensive attempts at improvement with numerous drains and large quantities of Victorian period ceramics occurring throughout the top-soil. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Keir Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation which was required as a condition of planning consent prior to the development of a site at Garnock Campus, Longbar in North Ayrshire (Planning Ref: 14/00284/PPM). The site lies within the administrative area of the North Ayrshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles as set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The development area lies to the immediate north-west of Longbar, North Ayrshire and is located at NGR NS 3240 5280 (Figure 1). The entire site encompasses approximately 10 hectares of rolling rough pasture with several boggy areas. The eastern half of the site was later removed from the current proposed development reducing the area of evaluation to 5 ha. The site is bounded to the north by a rail line and to the south by the B777 Beith Road. Residential housing lies to the south-west and east of the area with Longbar Farm situated within the south-east corner.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The RCAHMS and the local Sites and Monuments Records does not list any archaeological sites within the development area, but - as a green-field site - there existed the possibility of unknown buried archaeological sites lying with the development boundaries.

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 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 initial area of development amounted to approximately 10 ha. However the eastern half of the site was later taken out of the current proposed development reducing the available area of evaluation to 5 ha. Areas of steeply sloping ground also reduced the area available for evaluation still further. Nevertheless, trenching totalling 2,500m was achieved.

3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by two 13 tonne excavators equipped with 2m 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 2014). The trenches were immediately backfilled upon completion.

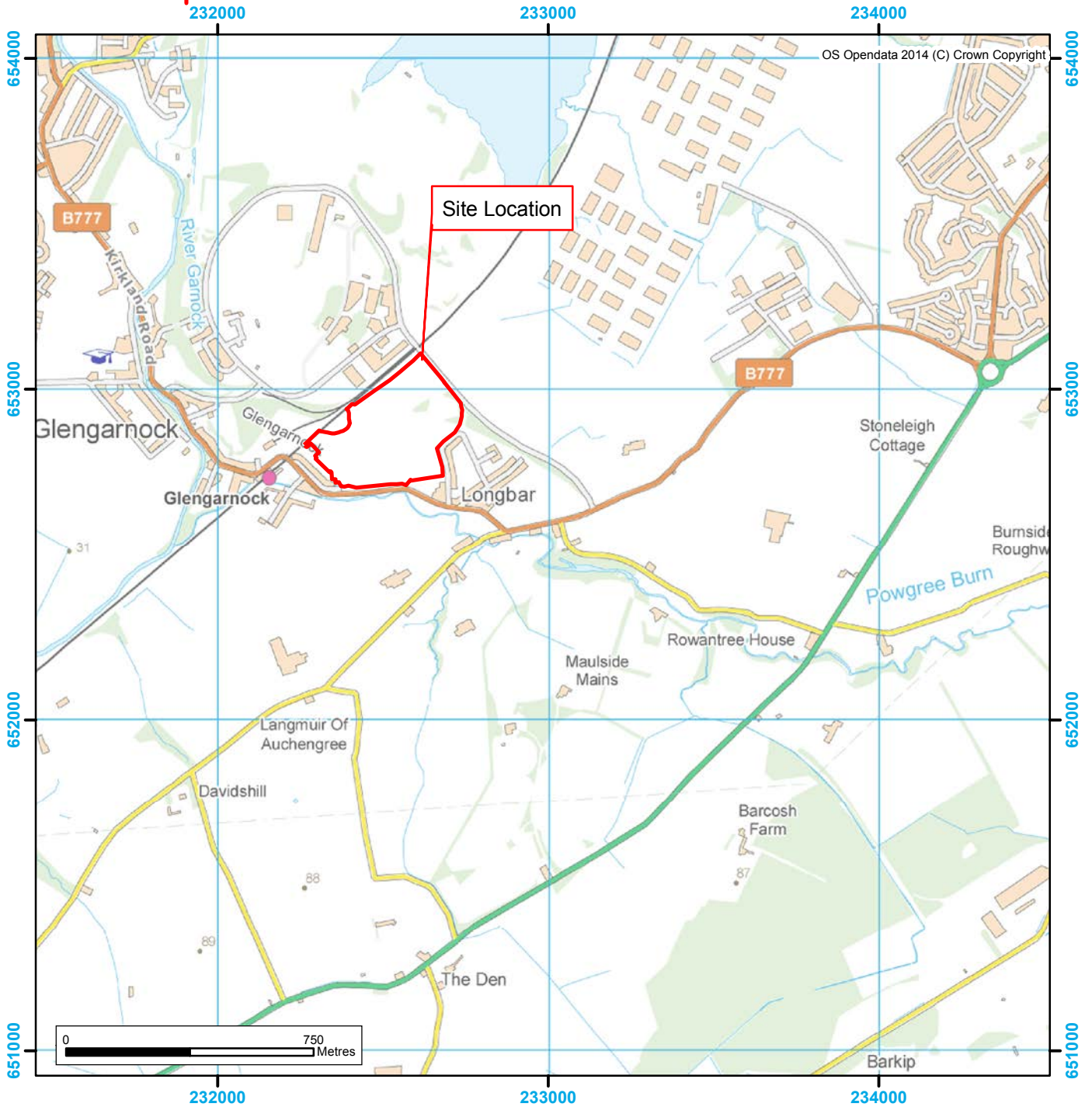
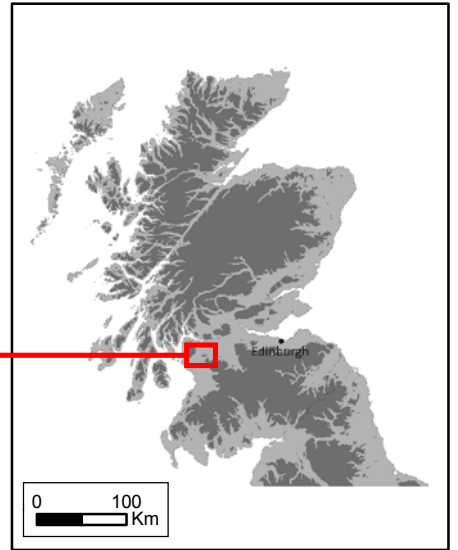
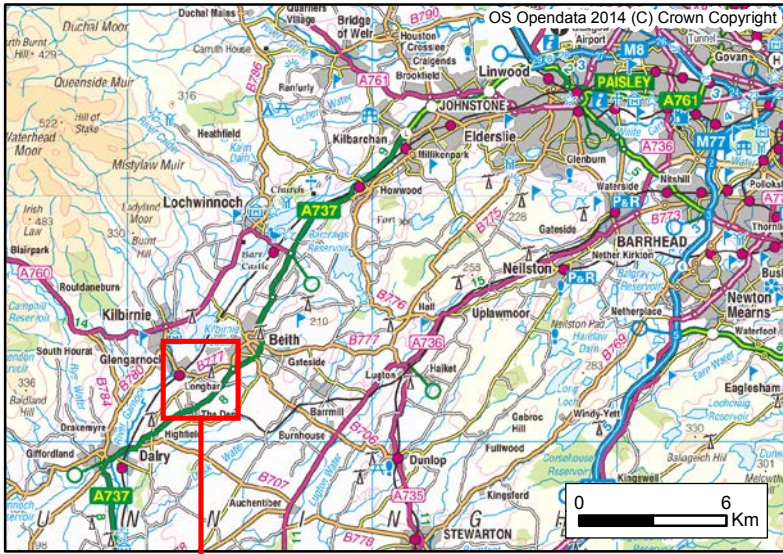


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken during the 15th September – 18th September 2014. Overall weather conditions were generally dry and archaeological visibility was good.
- 4.2 Trenches 1 - 21 were located in the northern half of the site which was relatively low lying land with poor drainage (Figure 2). The trenches in this area exposed greyish-brown clay topsoil 0.15m to 0.35m in depth. This immediately overlaid a sub-soil of pale orangish-brown and grey boulder clay. The sub-soil was scarred by plough marks and stone holes. Recent attempts to drain the area by the installation of ceramic and plastic field drains had been only partially successful with some standing water in the trenches.
- 4.3 Trenches 22 - 51 were excavated on rising ground to the south of the site. The topsoil was again relatively thin ranging from between 0.20m to 0.35m in depth. This in turn overlay a thin paler brown former plough-soil up to 0.10m in depth. The subsoil again consisted of orangish-brown boulder clay scarred by ploughing. Attempts at improvement were observed with field drains again in evidence. Numerous modern ceramics were also observed throughout the topsoil. No significant archaeological material was encountered.



Plate 1: Trench 47, detail of the east-facing section



Plate 2: General view of the site looking north showing boggy ground



Plate 3: Trench 3, general view of post-excitation from the north-west

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed development site was subject to a full and comprehensive archaeological evaluation. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified. Further works are therefore considered unnecessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) on behalf of North Ayrshire Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology Group 2014 *Garnock Campus, Longbar, North Ayrshire: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client method statement.

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

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

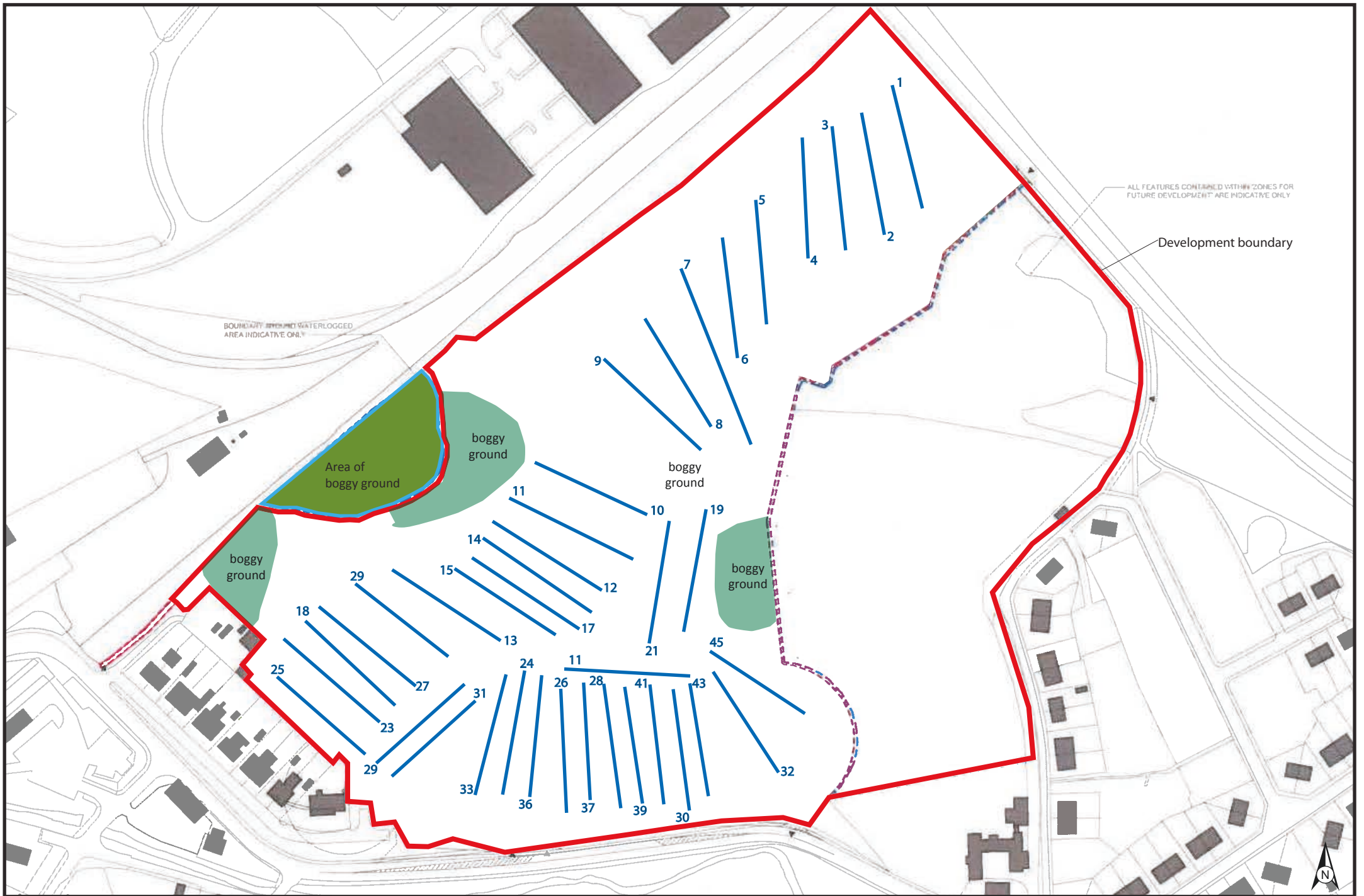


Figure 2: Trench location plan

Garnock Campus, Longbar, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m – 0.35 m
Depth of Excavation	0.40 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Plastic drain at 45.0 m,
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	None

Trench 2

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	NW-SE
Top-soil Depth	0.22 m – 0.35 m
Depth of Excavation	0.45 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown and grey boulder clays
Finds	occasional white ceramics

Trench 3

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m – 0.30 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Rubble drain at 14 m E-W
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	None

Trench 4

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.22 m
Depth of Excavation	0.25 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	None

Trench 5

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Grey brown boulder clay
Finds	None

Trench 6

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m – 0.25
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Grey boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramics

Trench 7

Dimensions	70 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.15 m – 0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.20 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Grey boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramics

Trench 8

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	E-W
Top-soil Depth	0.15 m – 0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.20 m – 0.25 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Grey boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramics

Trench 9

Dimensions	75 m by 2 m
Orientation	E-W
Top-soil Depth	0.15 m – 0.20
Depth of Excavation	0.20 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Rubble at 37 m N-S
Subsoil	Grey boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramics

Trench 10

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Top-soil Depth	0.30 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	None

Trench 11

Dimensions	65 m by 2 m
Orientation	E-W
Top-soil Depth	0.15 m – 0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.25 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Grey boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 12

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.22 m – 0.35 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m – 0.40 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 13

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m – 0.30 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 14

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Top-soil Depth	0.26 m – 0.35 m
Depth of Excavation	0.40 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 15

Dimensions	60 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 16

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.30 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 17

Dimensions	60 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.25 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 18

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.30 m – 0.35 m
Depth of Excavation	0.40 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 19

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 20

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	E-W
Top-soil Depth	0.28 m – 0.35 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 21

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	N-S
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.25 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Grey brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 22

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Top-soil Depth	0.30 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Grey brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 23

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	E-W
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Grey brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 24

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 25

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	E-W
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 26

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	E-W
Top-soil Depth	0.32 m – 0.37 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m – 0.40 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 27

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	W-E
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 28

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	W-E
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m – 0.35 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 29

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	W-E
Top-soil Depth	0.27 m – 0.34 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 30

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	E-W
Top-soil Depth	0.30 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 31

Dimensions	100 m by 2 m
Orientation	S-N
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 32

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m – 0.23 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 33

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	S-N
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 34

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m – 0.40 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m – 0.40 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Clay drain at 42 m N-S
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic and clay pipe bowl

Trench 35

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	S-N
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 36

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.40 m
Depth of Excavation	0.45 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Clay drain at 5.0 m NE-SW
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 37

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	S-N
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 38

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.37 m – 0.45 m
Depth of Excavation	0.45 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Rubble drain at 0.0 m, 7.3 m & 46.0 m NE-SW
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 39

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.25 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 40

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.23 m – 0.35 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m – 0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Rubble drain at 6.0 m, 25.3 m, 28.0 m & 43.0 m NE-SW
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 41

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.25 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 42

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Top-soil Depth	0.19 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Rubble drain at 6.0 m N-S
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 43

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Clay drain at 7.0 m N-S
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 45

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Top-soil Depth	0.30 m
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Clay drain at 4.0 m, 14.5 m N-S
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 47

Dimensions	60 m by 2 m
Orientation	N-S
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 49

Dimensions	60 m by 2 m
Orientation	N-S
Top-soil Depth	0.25 m
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 50

Dimensions	65 m by 2 m
Orientation	N-S
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.25 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

Trench 51

Dimensions	60 m by 2 m
Orientation	N-S
Top-soil Depth	0.20 m
Depth of Excavation	0.25 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	None
Subsoil	Orange brown boulder clay
Finds	Occasional white ceramic

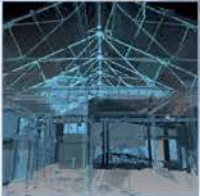
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	Taken From
1	Registration	-
2	Trench 1 Post excavation shot	NE
3	Trench 2 Post excavation shot	NE
4	Trench 3 Post excavation shot	NE
5	Trench 4 Post excavation shot	NE
6	Trench 5 Post excavation shot	NE
7	Trench 7 Post excavation shot	NE
8	Trench 8 Post excavation shot	NE
9	Trench 9 Post ex	SW
10	Trench 47 East facing section	W
11	Trench 11 Post ex	W
12	Trench 13 Post ex	NE
13	Trench 15 Post ex	SW
14	Trench 17 Post ex	NE
15	Trench 19 Post ex	NW
17	Trench 21 Post ex	S
18	Trench 23 Post ex	E
19	Trench 25 Post ex	E
20	Trench 27 Post ex	E
21	Trench 29 Post ex	E
22	Trench 31 Post ex	N
23	Trench 33 Post ex	N
24	Trench 35 Post ex	N
25	Trench 37 Post ex	N
26	Trench 39 Post ex	NE
27	Trench 41 Post ex	NE
28	Trench 43 Post ex	NW
29	Trench 45 Post ex	NW
30	Trench 47 Post ex	S
31	Trench 49 Post ex	N
32	Trench 50 Post ex	S
33	Trench 51 Post ex	S
34	Site under evaluation looking north	S

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' (DES) Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Glengarnock Campus, Longbar
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22524
PARISH:	Kilbirnie
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):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 3240 5280
START DATE (this season)	15 th September 2014
END DATE (this season)	18 th September 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect of a proposed school campus development at Garnockside, Longbar, North Ayrshire (NGR: NS 3240 5280).</p> <p>AOC Archaeology excavated an 8% sample of the available area totalling 2,500 linear metres.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed uniformly thin top-soil overlying boulder clay subsoil. A boggy area covered the north of the site with relatively modern attempts at drainage. The southern half of the site revealed extensive attempts at improvement with numerous drains and large quantities of Victorian period ceramics occurring throughout the top-soil. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered.</p> <p>No further works are considered necessary.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Keir Construction
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