

Archaeological Evaluation at the site of the new Newbattle High School, Dalkeith, Midlothian: Data Structure Report

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ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Newbattle High School

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Morrison Construction

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 3435 6545

AOC Project No: 22895

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Date of Fieldwork: 6th – 9th October 2014

Date of Report: 10th October 2014

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

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was required by Morrison Construction Ltd, on behalf of their client prior to the construction of a new High School, at Newbattle, Dalkeith, Midlothian.

The evaluation comprised ten 2m wide linear trenches totalling 3600 m², which equated to a 5% sample of the development area. No significant archaeological remains were noted during the course of the works.

No further archaeological works are anticipated.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by Morrison Construction Ltd, on behalf of their client, prior to the construction of a new High School, at Newbattle, Dalkeith, Midlothian. The work was required in response to a planning condition (Planning Permission Ref:14/00388/DPP), set by Midlothian Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Andrew Robertson of East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014) approved by ELCAS and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (Scottish Government 2011), in order to determine the nature of any archaeological remains within the proposed area.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area comprises existing public park and playing fields to the immediate northeast of the existing Newbattle High School, in Easterhouse on the southern outskirts of Dalkeith, Midlothian (NGR: NT 3435 6545). The development is bounded by existing residential developments to the east, west and north, and the existing school to the south (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The development area can be divided into two main areas, the area to the east, where the new High School will be built, which is an area of long grass gently sloping from east to west, and the area to the west which contains the playing field, which is a flat grassy area lying between 2.5 – 4m below the area to the west at the base of a steep grassy bank.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The site lies on the western edge of an area of known prehistoric remains, mostly recorded as cropmarks. These prehistoric remains include the forts at Lawfield (NMRS no. NT36NE 29); and Campwood (NMRS no. NT63SE 1), along with a cropmark site at Lawfield (NMRS no. NT36NE 55); and a pit alignment (NMRS no. NT36NE 126). Rig and furrow is also recorded at Lawfield (NMRS no. NT36NE 124). These sites lie around 1.5km to the west of the development area in areas of farmland and higher ground. While no cropmarks have been recorded in the area of the development itself, there was always the possibility that the evaluation would uncover some hitherto previously unknown archaeological remains.

- 1.3.2 There are neither known archaeological features or findspots recorded within the proposed development area, and no recorded previous archaeological investigations have taken place.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
 - 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 archaeological works were carried out 6th – 9th October 2014. Weather conditions were mainly good, and good archaeological visibility was maintained throughout the evaluation. The total area excavated was 3600 m² representing a 5% sample of the development area. The data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices.

- i) Appendix 1 contains the trench records
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register
- iii) Appendix 3 contains the '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' report

- 3.1 The ground breaking works were carried out by means of a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 2.0 m wide toothless, ditching bucket. Excavation was in shallow units/spits which stopped at the first recognisable archaeological horizon or natural. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. The trenches were of differing lengths and set on differing orientations (Appendix 1).

- 3.2 The bulk of the evaluation trenches, trenches 1 – 8, were positioned in the area of the development where the least amount of recent disturbance appears to have taken place. Also the trenches in this area were positioned to maintain the integrity of the many paths that were frequented by dog walkers. Similarly the trenches in the area of the playing fields, trenches 9 & 10, were positioned to avoid marked out sports pitches, and also a sewer which ran in a north south direction to the west of these trenches (Figure 2). Trench 9 was specifically placed across the area where a new SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage System) pond is to be excavated.

3.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation (Appendix 2).

4 RESULTS

4.1 During the evaluation no significant archaeological remains were noted. Overburden in the form of topsoil and below that in some places, redeposited topsoil and recently imported material, generally overlay natural, this was noted as a grey/brown clay, with numerous small to medium sized angular and rounded stones. Fragments of modern pottery were also noted in the most recent topsoil deposit.

4.2 The relative depths between the two areas described above indicates that the area of the playing fields has almost certainly been truncated, and despite the lack of trenches in this area in comparison to the eastern area, it is unlikely that any archaeological remains would have survived such truncation.

5 REFERENCES

AOC 2014 *Newbattle School, Dalkeith, Midlothian Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation* – Unpublished Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.

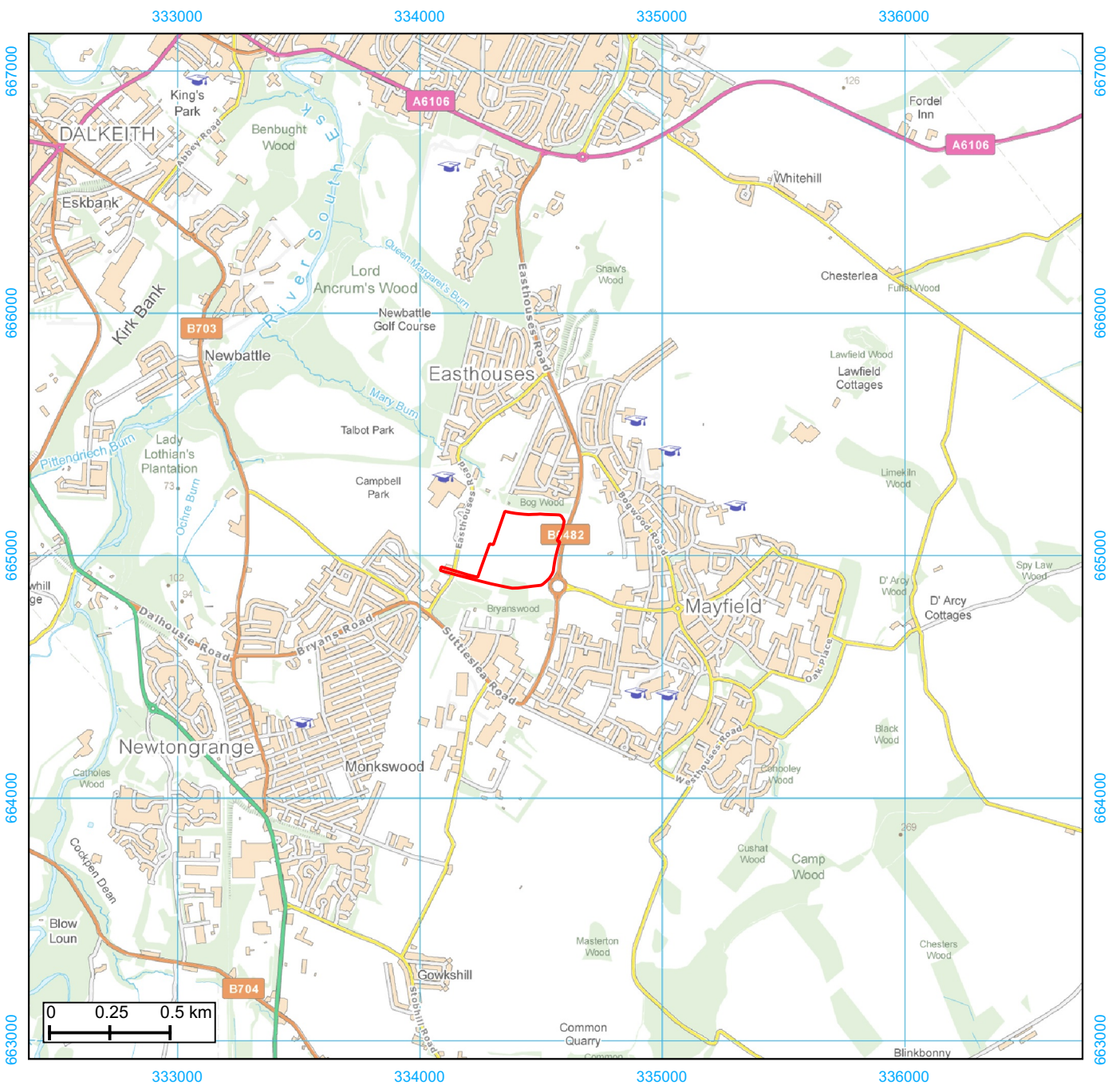
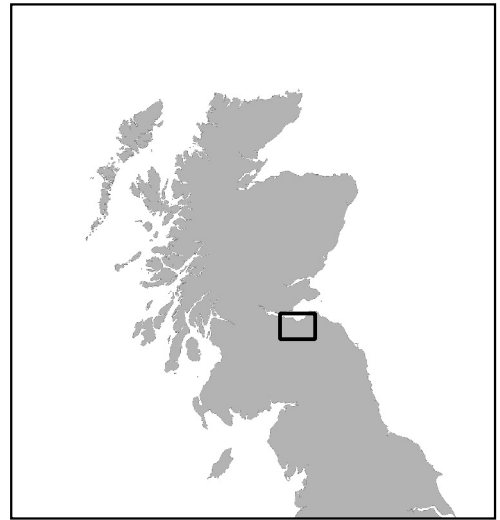
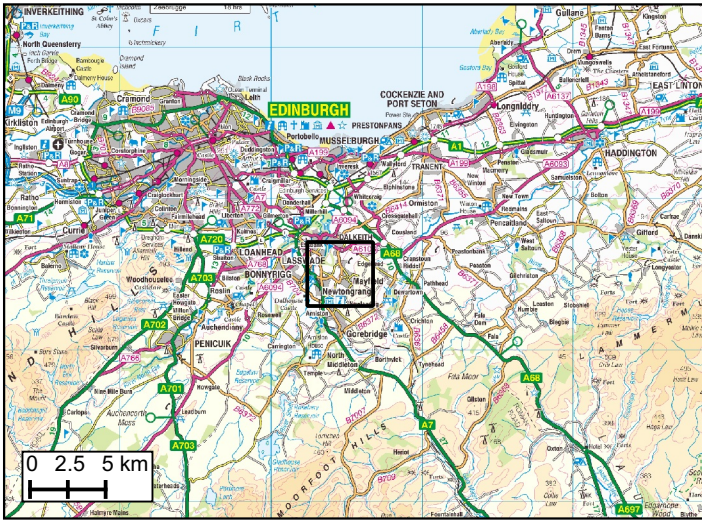


Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2 - Trench location plan

Newbattle High School: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Records

Trench 1

Length: 90m

Width: 2m

Orientation: E - W

Topsoil depth: 0.26 – 0.33m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 9 & plough marks.

Trench 2

Length: 100m

Width: 2m

Orientation: SW - NE

Topsoil depth: 0.10 – 0.38m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 4

Trench 3

Length: 111m

Width: 2m

Orientation: SW - NE

Topsoil depth: 0.25 – 0.40m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 2

Trench 4

Length: 80m

Width: 2m

Orientation: NNE - SSW

Topsoil depth: 0.40 – 0.47m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 2 and plough marks

Trench 5

Length: 122m

Width: 2m

Orientation: NNE - SSW

Topsoil depth: 0.35 – 0.44m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 10

Trench 6

Length: 82m

Width: 2m

Orientation: N - S

Topsoil depth: 0.32 – 0.42m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 5

Trench 7

Length: 82m

Width: 2m

Orientation: SE - NW

Topsoil depth: 0.30 – 0.40m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 1

Trench 8

Length: 78m

Width: 2m

Orientation: N - S

Topsoil depth: 0.34 – 0.44m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 10

Trench 9

Length: 74m

Width: 2m

Orientation: SE - NW

Topsoil depth: 0.30m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 4

Trench 10

Length: 81m

Width: 2m

Orientation: SE - NW

Topsoil depth: 0.26 – 0.29m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x 6

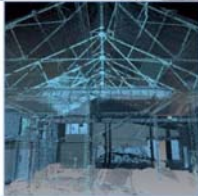
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Black and White Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1 - 2	Registration shot	-
3 - 4	General view – Pre excavation	N
5 - 6	Trench 1 – Post excavation	E
7 - 8	Trench 2 – Post excavation	N
9 - 10	Trench 3 – Post excavation	N
11 - 12	Trench 4 – Post excavation	S
13 - 14	Trench 5 – Post excavation	S
15 - 16	Trench 6 – Post excavation	N
17 - 18	Trench 7 – Post excavation	SW
19 - 20	Trench 8 – Post excavation	S
21 - 22	Trench 9 – Post excavation	NW
23 - 24	Trench 10 – Post excavation	NE
25 - 26	General view – Trenches 9 & 10 – post backfilling	N
27 - 28	General view – Trenches 1 to 8 – post backfilling	N

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Newbattle School, Dalkeith, Midlothian.
PROJECT CODE:	22895
PARISH:	Newbattle
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
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]	NT 3435 6545
START DATE [this season]	6 th October 2014
END DATE [this season]	9 th October 2014
PREVIOUS WORK [incl. DES ref.]	None
MAIN [NARRATIVE] DESCRIPTION: [May include information from other fields]	An archaeological evaluation was required by Morrison Construction Ltd, on behalf of their client prior to the construction of a new High School, at Newbattle, Dalkeith, Midlothian. The evaluation comprised ten 2m wide linear trenches totalling 3600 m ² , which equated to a 5% sample of the development area. No significant archaeological remains were noted during the course of the works. No further archaeological works are anticipated.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION[S] FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Morrison Construction
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aacarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION [intended/deposited]	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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