

# Kelso High School, Kelso, Scottish Borders: Archaeological Evaluation Report

AOC 22895

24<sup>th</sup> October 2014



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Kelso High School, Kelso, Scottish Borders: Archaeological Evaluation Report

**On Behalf of: Morrison Construction**  
Scotland Central,  
Grange House,  
Mains Road,  
West Mains Industrial Estate,  
Grangemouth  
FK3 8YE

**National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 7244 3530**

**AOC Project No: 22786**

**Oasis No: aocarcha1-193465**

**Prepared by: Alan Duffy**

**Illustration by: Nick Johnstone**

**Date of Fieldwork: 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014**

**Date of Report: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

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

**Author: Alan Duffy**

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**Approved by: Martin Cook**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**Draft/Final Report Stage:**

**Date:**

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

Tel. 0131 440 3593  
Fax. 0131 440 3422  
e-mail. [edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com)



## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>List of illustrations</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>List of appendices</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>4</b>
1.1 Project Background .....	4
1.2 Site Location.....	4
1.3 Archaeological Background.....	4
<b>2 OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3 METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4 RESULTS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5 CONCLUSIONS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>6 REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>8</b>

## List of illustrations

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Site plan showing position of evaluation trenches

## List of plates

Plate 1 – Feature [1305] - Trench A9

Plate 2 – Possible Rig & furrow remains – Trench A13

## List of appendices

Appendix 1: Trench Register

Appendix 2: Context Register

Appendix 3: Photographic Register

Appendix 4: *'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'* (DES) Report

## Summary

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An archaeological evaluation was required by Morrison Construction Ltd, on behalf of their client prior to the construction of a new High School, at Kelso, Scottish Borders, as part of a condition of the planning consent for the development.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of forty-four linear trenches between 2.00 m and 2.40 m wide. A total of 7,071 m<sup>2</sup> was evaluated which equated to a c.10.8% sample of the available development area. The recorded remains are considered to be of a fairly modern date, relating to cultivation, changes in field boundaries and/or agricultural improvements, none of which are considered significant.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by Morrison Construction Ltd prior to the construction of a new High School, at Kelso, Scottish Borders. The work was required in response to a planning condition set by Scottish Borders Council. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014) approved by Scottish Borders Council 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 farmland to the north of Kelso, Scottish Borders (NGR NT 7244 3530). The development is bounded by farmland to the north-west and south-west, Kelso Racecourse to the north-west and residential developments to the south-east (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The development area comprises 7.56 ha of greenfield land. Scottish Borders Council has requested that the site be subject to a 10% evaluation, equating to a minimum of 7,560 m<sup>2</sup>.

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 There are no known archaeological features or find spots recorded within the proposed development area. Study of the aerial photographs ranging in date from 1945 to 1989 indicate that only structures visible are small square structures, which appear to be for livestock feeding (e.g. Sortie OS/75/031, Frame 024, where livestock surround such a feature in the south-west field). Although the images occasionally show parching of the ground, with a south-east/north-west ridge line apparent as a darker area, and numerous livestock and vehicle tracks, there are few signs of possible archaeological cropmarks. In the west of the south-western field dark marks of two connected ovals could feasibly represent enclosures, though a geological origin is perhaps more likely (Sortie ASS/60789, Frame 122, dated 1989) A light square mark is visible on images from 1988 (Sortie ASS/51688, Frame 185) in the north of the north-east field. However, this feature follows the same alignments as the surrounding field boundaries, and may represent relatively recent activity. Neither of these features is visible over multiple years.

1.3.2 Ordnance survey maps indicate that the area has been open land, divided into north-west/south east aligned fields since at least the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, where the First Edition Ordnance Survey map indicates a similar system of fields to that present today, though with a the site under three parallel fields rather than two. The northern boundary of the burgh has passed west/east across the site at the time of the Second Edition 1:10,560 map of 1899 and the map of 1924. The map of 1924 indicates the division of the site

into two fields as at present. On all these maps the proposed development area is part of a field system bounded by roads labelled 'Nethershot'.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014. Weather conditions were mainly favourable and good archaeological visibility was maintained throughout the evaluation. The data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices.

- i) Appendix 1 contains the Trench Register
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the Context Register
- ii) Appendix 3 contains the Photographic Register
- iii) Appendix 4 contains the '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' (DES) report

3.2 The ground breaking works were carried out by means of two 360° mechanical excavators equipped with 2.0 m to 2.4 m wide toothless, ditching buckets. A total of forty-four trenches were excavated, and the total area excavated was 7,071 m<sup>2</sup>, representing a 10.8% sample of the available development area. 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 (see Appendix 1).

3.3 The trenches were laid out evenly over the development area, on various orientations, though two areas in the north-western part of the development area were specifically avoided. These were a 50 m radius area around the location of a badger set, and also a

10 m corridor along the north-western boundary due to the presence of a telecommunications service. This reduced the available area to be evaluated by c. 1 ha.

- 3.4 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation (see Appendix 2).

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The most substantial features recorded during the evaluation were two linear 'ditch' like features. Linear feature [1305] ran virtually all the way through Field A, from Trench A16 along its north-western edge to Trench A3 towards the south-eastern edge. Linear feature [1301] was located at the north-eastern end of Trench A13 and extended in a south-westerly direction towards [1305], but was not noted to extend beyond it. Both features were similar in size and shape, and in Trench A13 had similar fills. Both also contained modern artefactual material.
- 4.2 Linear feature [1301] was recorded as 1.40 m wide, by 0.40 m deep with steeply sloping sides. Linear feature [1305] was recorded up to 1.60 m wide by 0.60 m deep, with steeply sloping sides. Where these features were recorded in Trench A13, both contained upper and lower fills. Feature [1301] contained [1302] a medium/dark brown silty clay containing pockets of redeposited natural, and [1303] a layer of light grey/brown silty clay, with animal bones and modern glass. [1305] contained [1306] a layer of red/brown silty clay, and [1307] also a red/brown silty clay with modern ceramics, clay pipe frags and animal bone. Where linear feature [1305] was recorded photographically in Trench A8, this feature was noted to be predominately filled with stone, similar to that noted filling adjacent field drains. This was also noted in plan in various trenches.



Plate 1 – Feature [1305] - Trench A9



- 4.2 By far the most common feature recorded during the evaluation were field drains. A combination of both ceramic tile drains and stone filled drains were present in virtually every excavated trench. Also a sub rectangular shallow, stone-filled pit was noted in Trench B5. It was noted that this feature post-dated an adjacent ceramic field drain. A linear feature was recorded in a number of trenches adjacent to the north western edge of Field B. Two slots were dug across this feature from which fragments of modern pottery were retrieved.
- 4.3 At the south-western end of Trench A12 to A15 in Field A, and the northern end of Trenches B11, B12, B14-B18 and B22 in Field B, a series of broad, shallow, linear features were noted, these have been identified as the probable remnants of rig and furrow.



Plate 2 – Possible Rig & furrow remains – Trench A13

- 4.4 Topsoil across the area was recorded as being between 0.21 m and 0.65 m, with numerous fragments of modern pottery noted. The underlying natural was generally a very light brown silty sand, with many small to medium sized rounded stones.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

The requirements of the archaeological brief were met, with a greater than required % sample being excavated of the available area. A number of 'cut' features were recorded during the evaluation, virtually all of which produced post-medieval or later artefactual material. These features are almost certainly associated with either changes in the field layout as described above and/or agricultural improvements, none of which are considered significant. Therefore no further archaeological works are considered necessary.

## 6 REFERENCES

AOC 2014 *Kelso High School, Scottish Borders Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation* – Unpublished Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

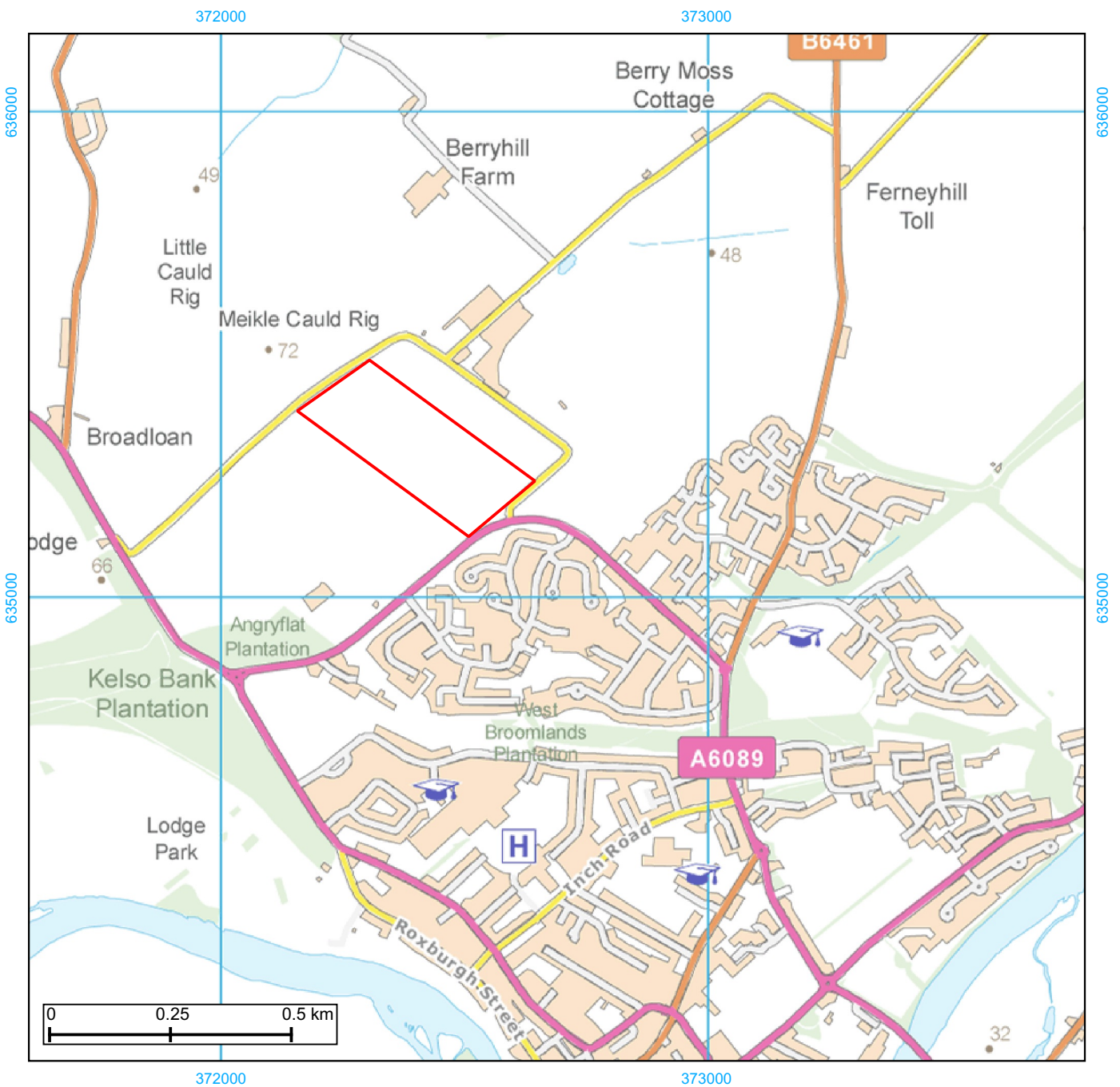
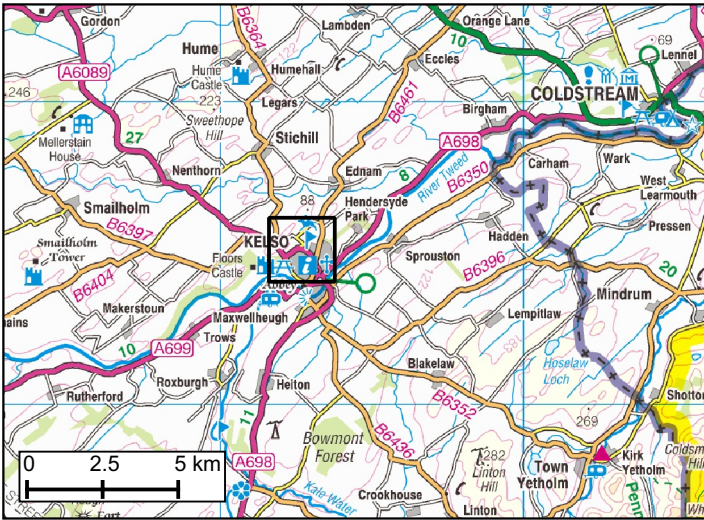


Figure 1: Site location

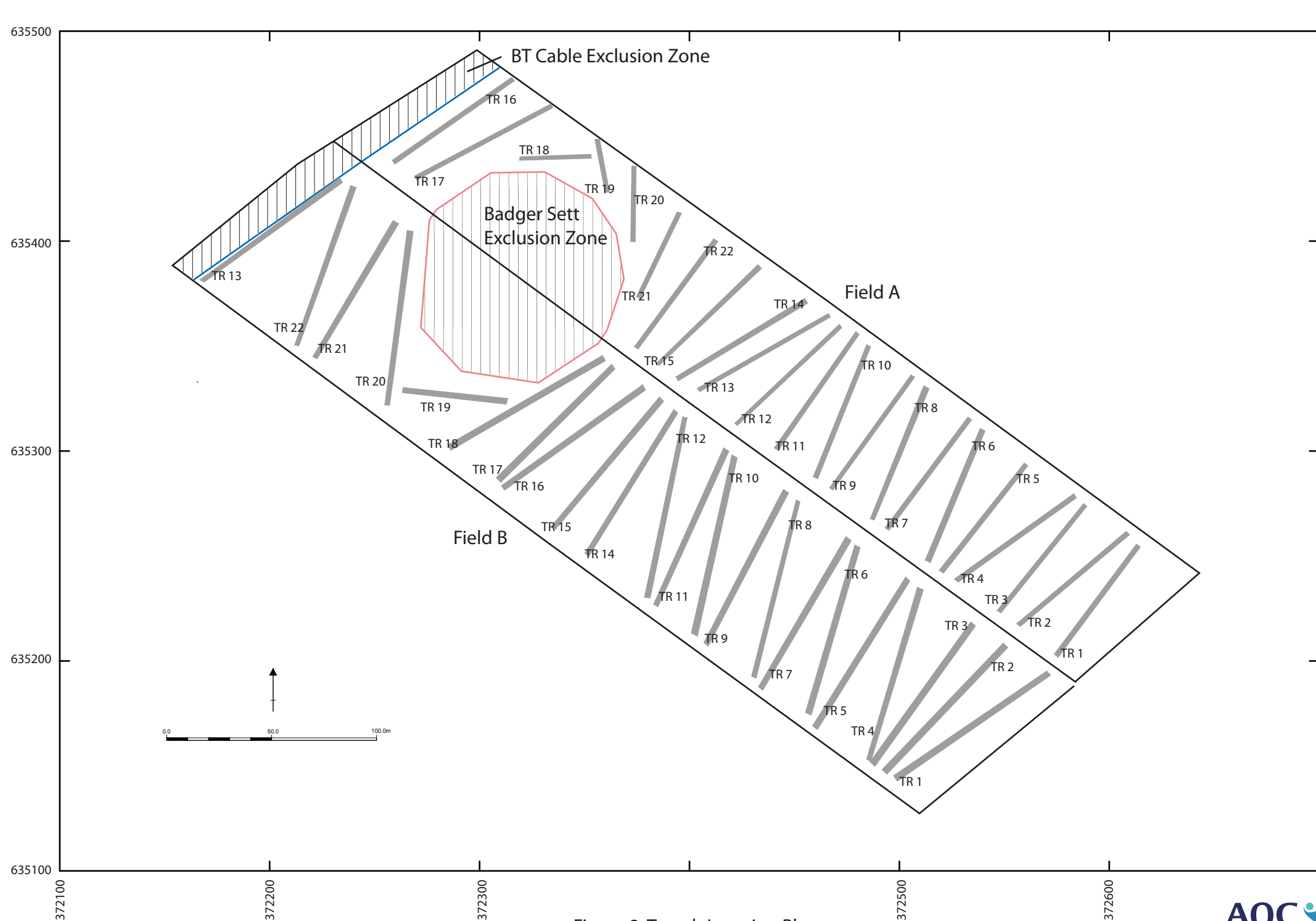


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

# **Kelso High School: Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Records

### Field A:

#### Trench A1

Length: 68.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NNE- SSW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.25 – 0.40 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drain x1

#### Trench A2

Length: 68.5 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NE - SW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.25 – 0.30 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features : Field drains x2

#### Trench A3

Length: 66.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NE-SW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.30 – 0.40 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x4

#### Trench A4

Length: 68.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: WSW-ENE  
 Topsoil depth: 0.30 – 0.50 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Subrectangular pit, field drains x8

#### Trench A5

Length: 66.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: SSW-NNE  
 Topsoil depth: 0.55 – 0.65 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x6

**Trench A6**

Length: 68.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: N - S  
 Topsoil depth: 0.43 – 0.65 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x10, plough marks

**Trench A7**

Length: 64.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NW-SE  
 Topsoil depth: 0.30 – 0.40 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x4

**Trench A8**

Length: 67.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NNE - SSW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.38 – 0.40 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Linear feature, field drains x5

**Trench A9**

Length: 68.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NE-SW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.38 - 0.50 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x5

**Trench A10**

Length: 67.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: N-S  
 Topsoil depth: 0.50 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Linear feature, Field drains x5

**Trench A11**

Length: 65.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NE-SW

Topsoil depth: 0.38m-0.50m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drain

**Trench A12**

Length: 67.5 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: WSW-ENE  
 Topsoil depth: 0.36m-0.50m  
 Archaeological features: None (from South): Linear feature/ ditch [1305] at 37.70m-39m  
 Other features: Linear feature

**Trench A13**

Length: 71.5 m  
 Width: 2m  
 Orientation: WSW-ENE  
 Topsoil depth: 0.33 - 0.50 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Linear feature x2, plough marks

**Trench A14**

Length: 71.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: WSW-ENE  
 Topsoil depth: 0.27 - 0.64 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Linear feature, plough marks

**Trench A15**

Length: 67.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NE-SW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.30 - 0.50 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Linear feature

**Trench A16**

Length: 68.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: WSW-ENE  
 Topsoil depth: 0.38 - 0.50 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x5



### Trench A17

Length: 74.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: WSW-ENE  
 Topsoil depth: 0.50 - 0.70 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x7

### Trench A18

Length: 33.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: E-W  
 Topsoil depth: 0.35 - 0.50 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x2

### Trench A19

Length: 25.5 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NNW-SSE  
 Topsoil depth: 0.35 - 0.40 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: None

### Trench A20

Length: 36.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: N-S  
 Topsoil depth: 0.40m-0.50m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drain

### Trench A21

Length: 68.0 m  
 Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NNE-SSW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.30 - 0.40 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Linear feature at 16m

### Trench A22

Length: 24.0 m

Width: 2.0 m  
 Orientation: NE-SW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.35 - 0.40 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Linear feature

**Field B:**

**Trench B1**

Length: 95.5 m  
 Width: 2.4 m  
 Orientation: NE-SW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.21 - 0.26 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Linear feature, SI pits x2

**Trench B2**

Length: 90.1 m  
 Width: 2.4 m  
 Orientation: NNE-SSW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.30 - 0.45 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Linear feature

**Trench B3**

Length: 83.0 m  
 Width: 2.4 m  
 Orientation: NNE-SSW  
 Topsoil depth: 0.46 - 0.56 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x3

**Trench B4**

Length: 88.5 m  
 Width: 2.4 m  
 Orientation: N-S  
 Topsoil depth: 0.38 - 0.63 m  
 Archaeological features: None  
 Other features: Field drains x10

**Trench B5**

Length: 81.0 m  
 Width: 2.4 m  
 Orientation: NNE-SSW

Topsoil depth: 0.38 - 0.50 m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features: Subrectangular pit, field drains x6, SI pit, plough mark

**Trench B6**

Length: 88.3 m  
Width: 2.4 m  
Orientation: N-S  
Topsoil depth: 0.48 - 0.53 m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features: Field drains x2, plough mark

**Trench B7**

Length: 83.2 m  
Width: 2.4 m  
Orientation: NNE-SSW  
Topsoil depth: 0.26 - 0.34 m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features: Plough mark

**Trench B8**

Length: 90.0 m  
Width: 2.4 m  
Orientation: N-S  
Topsoil depth: 0.38 - 0.50 m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features: Field drains x2

**Trench B9**

Length: 83.8 m  
Width: 2.4 m  
Orientation: NNE-SSW  
Topsoil depth: 0.33 - 0.55 m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features: Field drains x6

**Trench B10**

Length: 90.9 m  
Width: 2.4 m  
Orientation: N-S  
Topsoil depth: 0.30 - 0.55 m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features: Field drains x5

**Trench B11**

Length: 83.0 m

Width: 2.4 m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Topsoil depth: 0.33 - 0.40 m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Furrow, field drains x3

**Trench B12**

Length: 90m

Width: 2.4m

Orientation: N-S

Topsoil depth: 0.35m-0.53m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Furrow, field drains x3

**Trench B13**

Length: 81m

Width: 2.4m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Topsoil depth: 0.35m-0.44m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Furrow

**Trench B14**

Length: 80m

Width: 2.4m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Topsoil depth: 0.29m-0.40m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Furrow, modern pits x2

**Trench B15**

Length: 85m

Width: 2.4m

Orientation: NE-SW

Topsoil depth: 0.28m-0.40m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Furrow

**Trench B16**

Length: 80m

Width: 2.4m  
Orientation: ENE-WSW  
Topsoil depth: 0.30m-0.52m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features: Furrows, field drains x4

Trench **B17**

Length: 81m  
Width: 2.4m  
Orientation: NE-SW  
Topsoil depth: 0.34m-0.38m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features:Furrow

Trench **B18**

Length: 85m  
Width: 2.4m  
Orientation: ENE-WSW  
Topsoil depth: 0.40m-0.51m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features:Furrow, modern pit

Trench **B19**

Length: 50m  
Width: 2.4m  
Orientation: E-W  
Topsoil depth: 0.38m-0.50m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other feature): None

Trench **B20**

Length: 85m  
Width: 2.4m  
Orientation: N-S  
Topsoil depth: 0.34m-0.54m  
Archaeological features: None  
Other features: Field drains x4

Trench **B21**

Length: 75m  
Width: 2.4m  
Orientation: NE-SW  
Topsoil depth: 0.42m-0.54m  
Archaeological features: None

Other features: Field drains x6

**Trench B22**

Length: 80m

Width: 2.4m

Orientation: NE-SW

Topsoil depth: 0.43m-0.46m

Archaeological features: None

Other features: Furrow, field drains x4

**APPENDIX 2: Context Register**

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
1301	V shaped cut, 1.40m wide, 0.55m deep. Relatively modern field boundary or agricultural improvement feature.
1302	Layer of medium/dark brown silty clay. Inclusions include pockets of redeposited natural. Primary fill of 1301.
1303	Layer of light grey/brown silty clay. Inclusions include, charcoal flecks, modern roots, small stones, animal bone and modern glass.
1304	Layer of very light brown clay. Natural
1305	V shaped cut, 1.60m wide, 0.60m deep. Relatively modern field boundary or agricultural improvement feature.
1306	Layer of red/brown silty clay. Inclusions include, charcoal flecks and sub-angular small stones.
1307	Layer of red/brown silty clay. Inclusions include, small stones, charcoal flecks, modern ceramics, clay pipe and animal bone.

**APPENDIX 3: Photographic Record**

Digital

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Field A: TR1 post-ex	SW
3-4	Field A: TR2 post-ex	SW
5-6	Field B: TR1 post-ex	E
7-8	Field A: TR3 post-ex	SW
9-10	Field A: TR4 post-ex	SW
11-12	Field A: TR5 post-ex	SW
13-14	Field B: TR2 post-ex	ENE
15-16	Field B: TR3 post-ex	ENE
17-18	Field B: TR4 post-ex	ENE
19-20	Field A: TR6 post-ex	SW
21-22	Field B: TR5 post-ex	ENE
23-24	Field A: TR11 post-ex	SW
25-26	Field A: TR10 post-ex	SW
27-28	Field A: TR9 post-ex	SW

29-30	Field A: TR7 post-ex	SW
31-32	Field A: TR6 post-ex	SW
33-34	Field B: TR10 post-ex	E
35-36	Field B: TR9 post-ex	NE
37-38	Field B: TR8 post-ex	N
39-40	Field B: TR7 post-ex	NE
41-42	Field B: TR6 post-ex	N
43-44	Field A: TR7 linear feature	SE
45-46	Field A: TR9 stone filled drain	SW
47-48	Field A: TR8 SE-facing section through linear feature	SE
49-50	Field A: TR8 general shot of linear feature with slot through it	SE
51-52	Field B: TR5 linear feature- SE-facing section	SE
53-54	Field B: TR5 linear feature NW-facing section	NW
55-56	Field B: TR5 stone filled pit- general shot	N
57-58	Field B: TR5 stone filled pit- general shot	NW
59-60	Field B: TR5 stone filled pit and ceramic drain- general shot	NW
61-61	Field B: TR5 NE-facing section through stone lined pit	NE
63-64	Field B: TR11 post-ex	NE
65-66	Field A: TR13 post-ex	SW
67-68	Field A: TR12 post-ex	NE
69-70	Field A: TR14 post-ex	NE
71-72	Field B: TR16 post-ex	SW
73-74	Field B: TR15 post-ex	SW
75-76	Field A: TR16 post-ex	NE
77-78	Field A: TR15 post-ex	NE
79-80	Field B: TR12 post-ex	N
81-82	Field B: TR14 post-ex	NE
83-84	Field B: TR13 post-ex	NE
85-86	Field A: TR13 post-ex	SE
87-88	Field A: TR13 S-facing section through ditch [1301]	S
89-90	Field A: TR13 general shot of linear feature [1301] with slot through it	S
91-92	Field B: TR22 post-ex	N
93-94	Field B: TR21 post-ex	NE
95-96	Field B: TR20 post-ex	N
97-98	Field A: TR17 post-ex	W
99-100	Field A: TR18 post-ex	W
101-102	Field A: TR19 post-ex	S
103-104	Field A: TR20 post-ex	S
105-106	Field A: TR21 post-ex	S
107-108	Field A: TR22 post-ex	SW
109-110	Field B: TR19 post-ex	E
111-112	Field B: TR18 post-ex	E

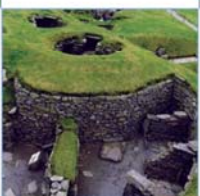
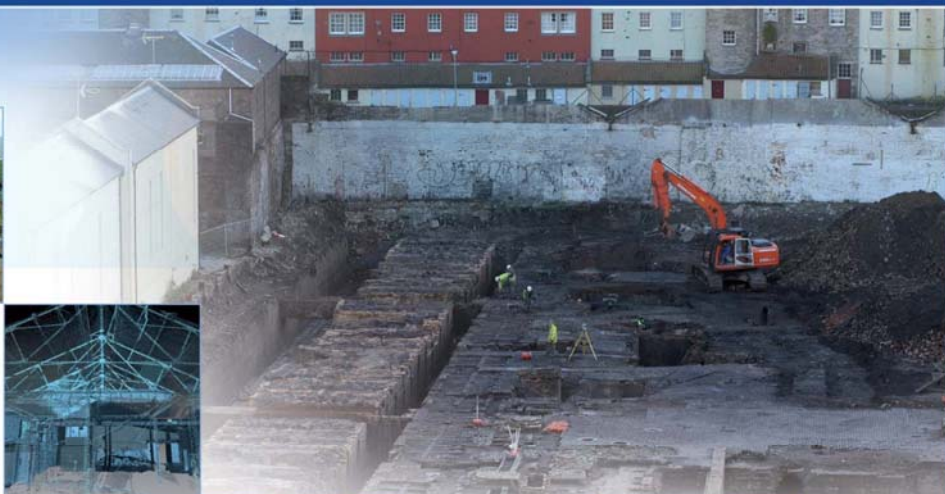
113-114	Field B: TR17 post-ex	NE
115-116	Field A: TR13 W-facing section through linear feature [1305]	W
117-118	Field A: TR13 general shot of linear feature [1305] with slot through it	SW
119	Field B- general shot of backfilled trenches	NW
120	Field B- general shot of backfilled trenches	SE
121	Field A- general shot of backfilled trenches	NW
122	Field A- general shot of backfilled trenches	SE

#### APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Kelso High School, Kelso Scottish Borders
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	22786
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kelso
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alan Duffy
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE[S] OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO[S]</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE[S]:</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR [2 letters, 6 figures]</b>	NT 7244 3530
<b>START DATE [this season]</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
<b>END DATE [this season]</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK [incl. DES ref.]</b>	None
<b>MAIN [NARRATIVE] DESCRIPTION:</b> [May include information from other fields]	<p>An archaeological evaluation was required by Morrison Construction Ltd, on behalf of their client prior to the construction of a new High School, at Kelso, Scottish Borders, as part of a condition of the planning consent for the development.</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of forty-four linear trenches between 2.00 m and 2.40 m wide. A total of 7,071 m<sup>2</sup> was evaluated which equated to a c.10.8% sample of the available development area. The recorded remains are considered to be of a fairly modern date, relating to cultivation, changes in field boundaries and/or agricultural improvements, none of which are considered significant.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION[S] FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Morrison Construction
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@aacarchaeology.com">admin@aacarchaeology.com</a>



<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> [intended/deposited]	Archive to be deposited in NMRS
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**AOC Archaeology Group**, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY  
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: [edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com)

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)