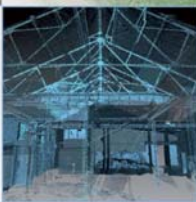


# Totleywells Cottage Steadings, Newton Village, West Lothian: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC 22809

OASIS No. aocarcha1-203495

11<sup>th</sup> February 2015



# Totleywells Cottage Steadings, Newton Village, West Lothian: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

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Invoco

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 0976 7664

AOC Project No: 22809

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Illustration by: Kevin Paton

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Date of Report: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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

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Date: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Draft/Final Report Stage:

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## ABSTRACT

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This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Invoco during initial ground breaking works for a residential development at Totleywells Cottage, Newton Village, West Lothian.

The watching brief revealed that the former livery yard had previously truncated the entire development area, resulting in up to 0.5 m of made ground deposits overlying the clay geology.

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by West Lothian Council during the initial ground breaking works for a residential development at Totlewells Cottage Steadings, Newton Village, West Lothian. The scope of the works was determined by West Lothian Council as advised on archaeological matters by the 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 West Lothian Council and in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

### 1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The development area is situated to the immediate N of the current upstanding Totlewells Cottage (NGR: NT 0976 7664), which is approximately 1 km S of Newton Village (Figure 1). The development area is bounded by fields of crops to the N, and by gardens of the neighbouring cottage to the E, and a working yard to the W.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 There are no Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments sites, local SMR records or Scheduled sites within the development area or even within 500m of the edge of the development area.

1.3.2 The RCAHMS records show that the Scheduled Monument of Duntarvie Castle (SM No.1905, NMRS No. NT07NE 9, WoSAS PIN No. 18089) lies c. 700 m to the west of the development area. Undergoing a slow paced renovation Duntarvie Castle is a fairly large late 16th century house, though its style would suggest a date of at least a century later. It consists of an oblong main block, four storeys high, with square towers of five storeys attached to its N angles. In the re-entrant angles thus formed, tall stair-turrets are corbelled out about first-floor level. These rise higher again than the tower roofs, to which they give access, and end in stone-roofed cap-houses. It was probably built for James Durham who was granted the lands of Duntarvie in 1588; later acquired by the Hopes and added to Hopetoun Estate.

1.3.3 To the South, about 600 m away close to Swineburn Woods there are some linear cropmarks of unknown date (WoSAS PIN No. 18084). Also, towards the East there are the remains of a WWII Anti Aircraft Battery (NMRS No. NT17NW 189). This four gun battery include ammunition huts and barrack style accommodation and lay c. 700 m to the west of the development area. Most of the remains are now no longer visible.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed ground breaking works associated with the wind turbine development;
- ii) to liaise with West Lothian Council, WoSAS and the client, in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed, as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.
- iii) to report on the results of the Watching Brief.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All excavation was undertaken by a JCB 3CX excavator with 1.6 m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or to a depth of 250 mm below the current ground surface. 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).

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was carried out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015. Weather conditions were fair allowing for good archaeological visibility. The initial ground breaking works involved the stripping of the development area to the required construction level (approximately 250 mm below the current ground surface). Initial excavations were conducted in four strips from N-S and one along the S edge aligned E-W (Figure 2). The strips were approximately 3 m wide and exposed over 50% of the development area (Plate 1). The remainder of the strip was due to take place once the initial spoil had been removed.
- 4.2 The initial excavations revealed the area had been previously levelled and built up with 0.1 m of concreted type 1 stone overlying a mixture of clay, red blaes, concrete, brick and stone rubble (Plate 2). This made ground impacted into the underlying geological deposit of yellow clay where it was exposed. The natural slope of the ground meant that only the southern half of site was exposed to the underlying geology to a distance of approximately 10 m N of the current cottages. A test pit excavated in the NE corner of the site revealed the made ground was 0.5 m deep in this area, overlying similarly truncated geological deposits.

### 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The results of the initial strip indicated that the development area had previously been impacted and truncated by the former livery yard that was located in this area. After consultation with WoSAS it was determined there was no need to continue the watching brief.
- 5.2 No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief and no further archaeological works are deemed necessary.

### 6 REFERENCES

AOC 2014 *Totleywells Cottage Steadings, Newton Village, West Lothian: Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation* AOC client project design

Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy.

Scottish Government 2010 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology.

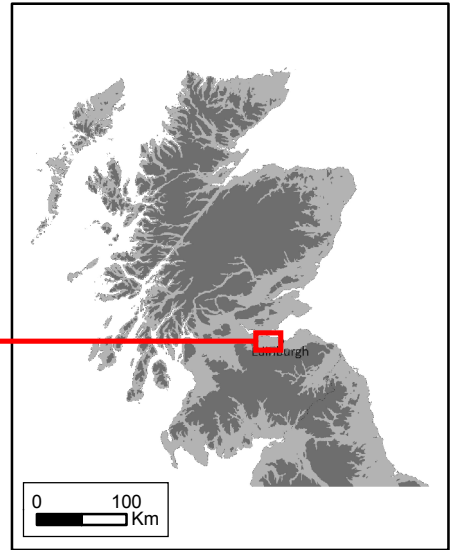
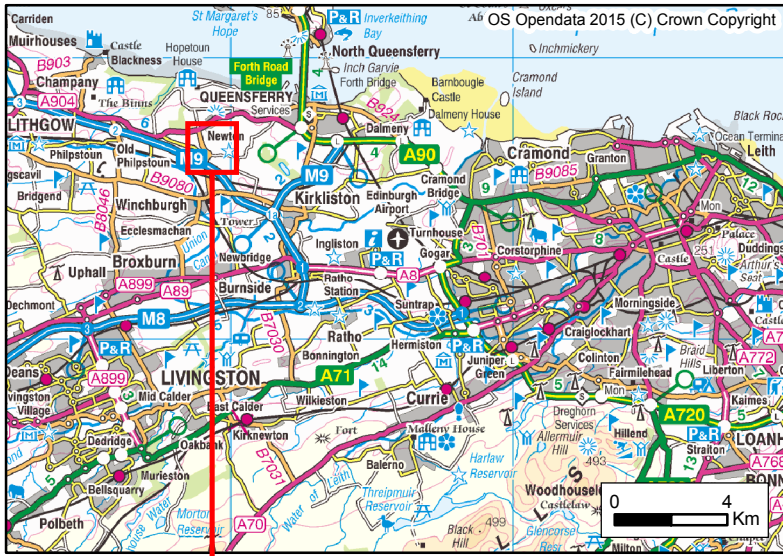


Plate 1 - General view of stripped area showing disturbed clay



Plate 2 - View of made ground over clay geology





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Figure 1: Site Location Plan

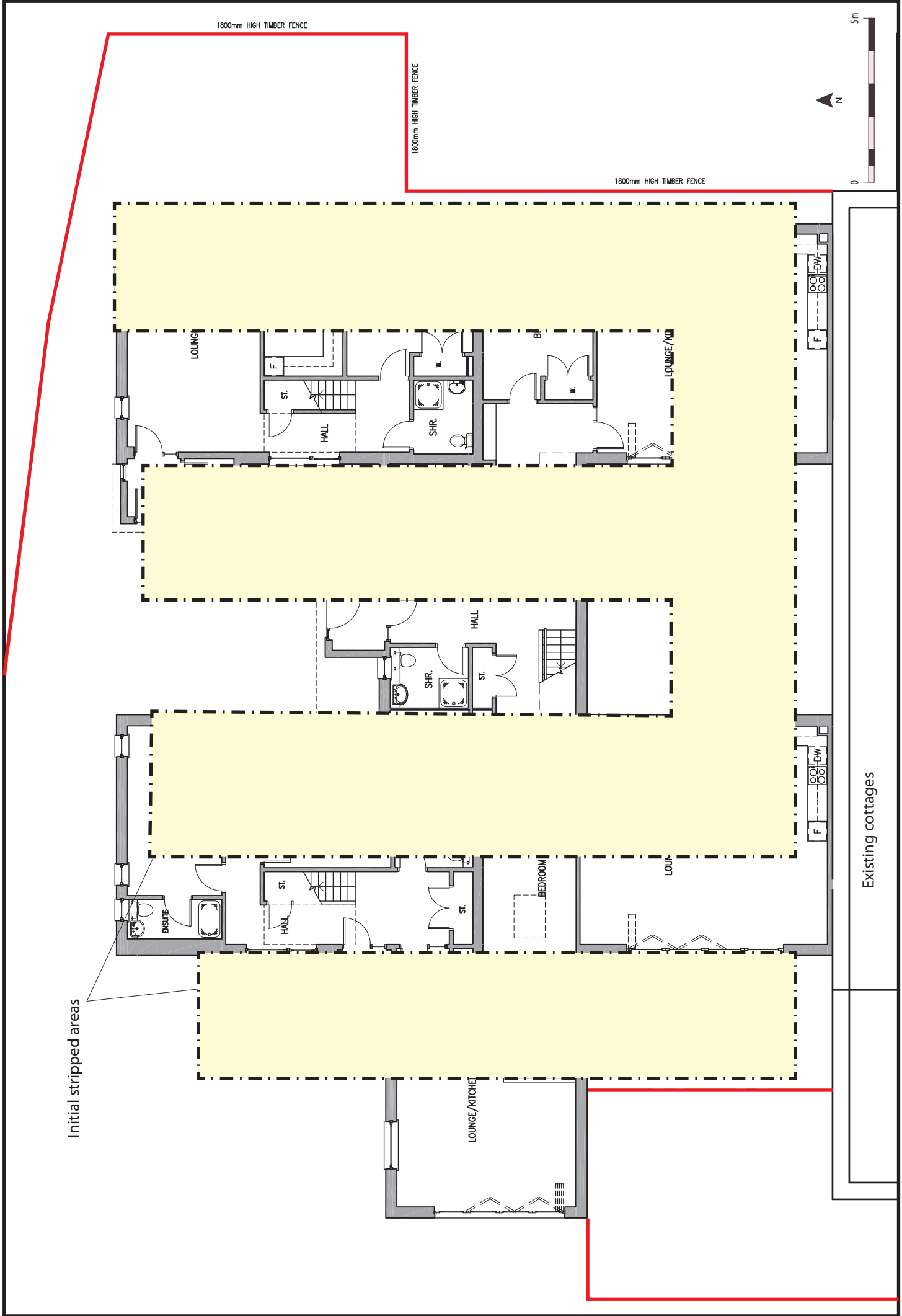


Figure 2 - Watching brief area

**Totleywells Cottage Steadings, Newton  
Village, West Lothian:  
Watching Brief  
Data Structure Report**

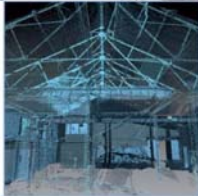
**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-6	View of site from centre (S, E, N etc)	Var	2/2/15
7	Shot showing probable cut from earlier levelling of site	N	2/2/15
8	Made ground in NE corner at 0.4 m	E	2/2/15
9	Disturbed subsoil at 0.25 m along E edge	SE	2/2/15
10	Disturbed subsoil at 0.15 m along S edge	E	2/2/15
11	Red blaes onto natural	S	2/2/15
12	Subsoil directly under made ground	S	2/2/15
13	Concrete foundation along S edge	SW	2/2/15
14	Made ground compacted into natural	S	2/2/15
15-16	Concrete foundation parallel to cottage	N	2/2/15
17-20	General views of areas stripped so far	Var	2/2/15
21	Subsoil at 0.05 m along W edge	S	2/2/15
22	View of subsoil under made ground	N	2/2/15

**APPENDIX 2: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	West Lothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Totleywells Cottage Steadings, Newton Village
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	22809
<b>PARISH:</b>	Abercorn
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Kevin Paton
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<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>	NS 0976 7664
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Slorach Wood Architects during initial ground breaking works for a residential development at Totleywells Cottage, Newton Village, West Lothian.</p> <p>The watching brief revealed that the former livery yard had previously truncated the entire development area, resulting in up to 0.5 m of made ground deposits overlying the clay geology.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Invovo
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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