

Almond Link Road, Livingston, West Lothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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AOC Project 23037

27th April 2014



AOC
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Group

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CONSERVATION

Almond Link Road, Livingston, West Lothian Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Lovell Partnerships Ltd,
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NGR; NT 0593 6723
AOC Project No:	23037
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Date of Fieldwork:	1st April 2015
Date of Report:	27th April 2015

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

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Abstract

AOC Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on a land parcel amounting to approximately 4000 m² prior to a housing development at Almond Link Road, Livingston West Lothian (NGR; NT 0593 6723).

The proposed development area was subject to an 8.0% sample evaluation (160 linear metres). The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material. The area had undergone significant previous landscaping which had removed all *in situ* deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Lovell Partnerships Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a proposed development at Almond Link Road, Livingston, West Lothian (Planning Ref: to be submitted). The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, West Lothian Council (WLC) who are advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) & *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011), and protocols set out in the West of Scotland Archaeology Service's 'Standard Conditions for archaeological fieldwork' (Appendix 28).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material. The area had undergone significant landscaping which had removed the previous *in situ* deposits.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area lies immediately SE of the roundabout junction where Almond Link Road meets Howden South Road, Livingston. The site is currently municipal park land with pathways and some woodland areas next to the River Almond. The site is bounded by Almond Link Road to the N, the River Almond to the S, Howden South Road to the W and the B7015 to the E. The site is 4000 m² in area and is centred at NGR: NT 0593 6723 (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The site area is poorly drained with some shallow standing water. The area ranges between 100 m OD to 102 m OD in height.
- 1.2.3 The proposed development consists of the construction of housing, access roads, associated infrastructure and landscaping.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 According to the RCAHMS database there are no known archaeological sites within the development area, and cartographic evidence from 1852 (Ordnance Survey) shows the site is a field situated between the River Almond and the road (current B7015). No buildings are situated on the site at any point from the first edition maps until the present day.
- 1.3.2 Bounding the immediate E of the site, Howden Bridge is a B-listed structure dating from 1764 (Ref: 14163) that formed part of the main road (now B7015) from Howden. Other post medieval sites nearby include a paper mill to the East with the weir and lade used to feed the mill situated on the other side of Howden Bridge.

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 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 evaluation initially required the machine excavation of an 8% sample (160 linear metres) within the proposed development area (4000 m²). Live services in the form of a water mains running across the northern portion of the site slightly reduced the scope for trenching (Figure 2). Nevertheless, the required total of 160 linear metres was excavated.
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a JCB excavator equipped with a 2.0 m wide bladed ditching bucket. 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 2015). The trenches were backfilled once recording had been undertaken.



Plate 1: Trench 4 post-excavation from north-east

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 1st April 2015. Weather conditions were variable and archaeological visibility was excellent.
- 4.2 The excavated trenches appeared sterile of archaeology. A shallow imported, medium brown clay loam top-soil was recorded directly overlying a sub-soil of mottled yellow brown boulder clay. Occasional modern plastic drains were observed.

- 4.3 The development area is located within a designed landscape of municipal parkland. As such it appears that all previous *in situ* deposits have been removed by modern landscaping.



Plate 2: Trench 3 west facing section

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

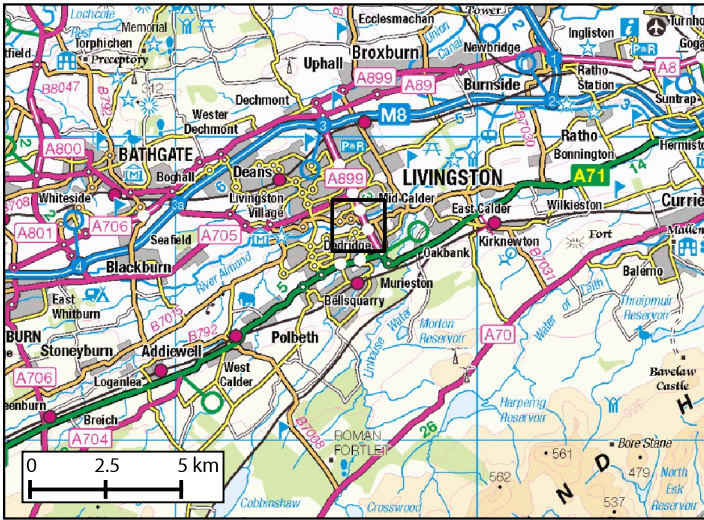
- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the evaluation, and no further works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) on behalf of West Lothian Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

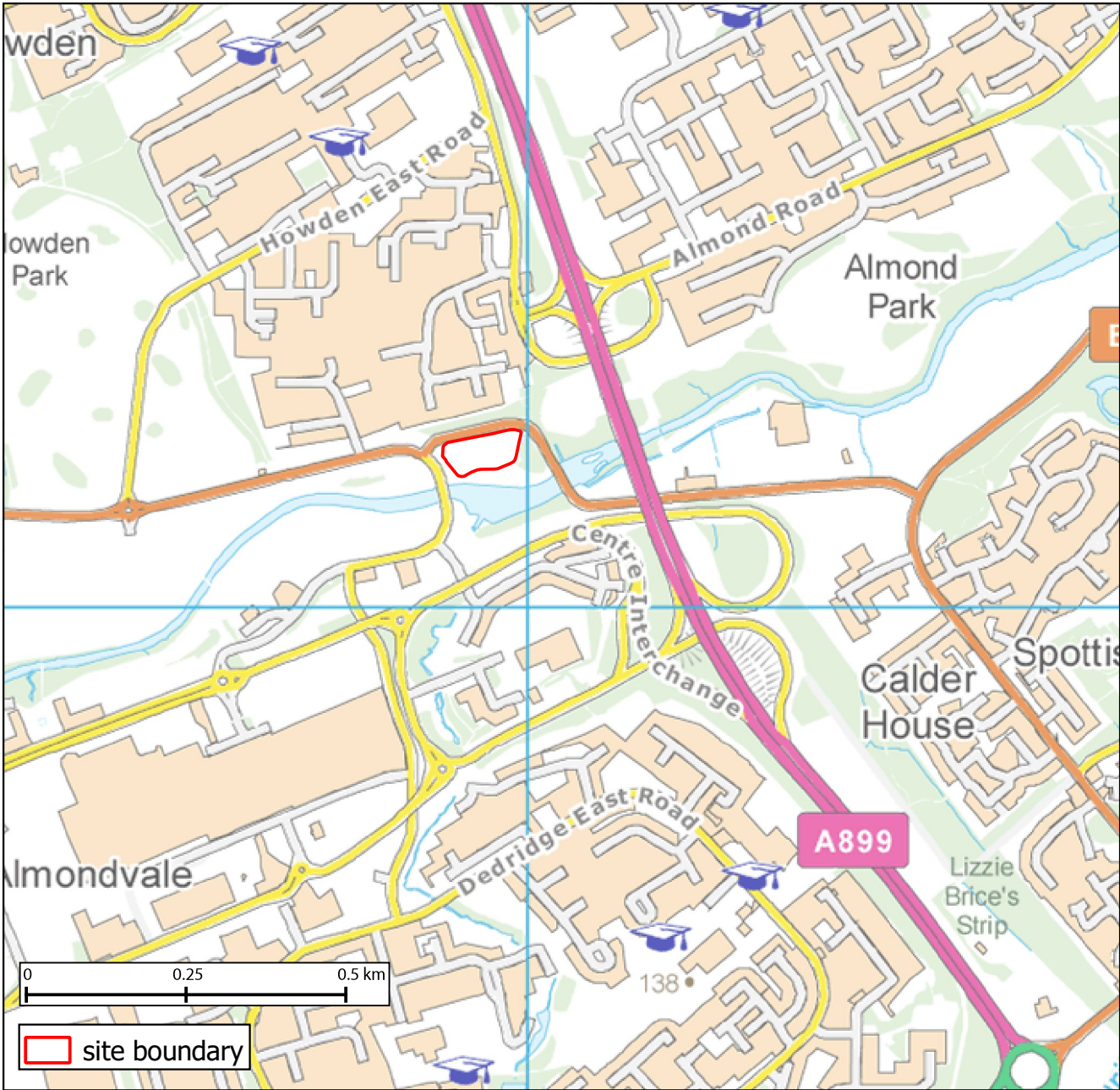
AOC 2014 *Almond Link Road, Livingston, West Lothian: Written Scheme of Investigation*
Unpublished client report

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

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

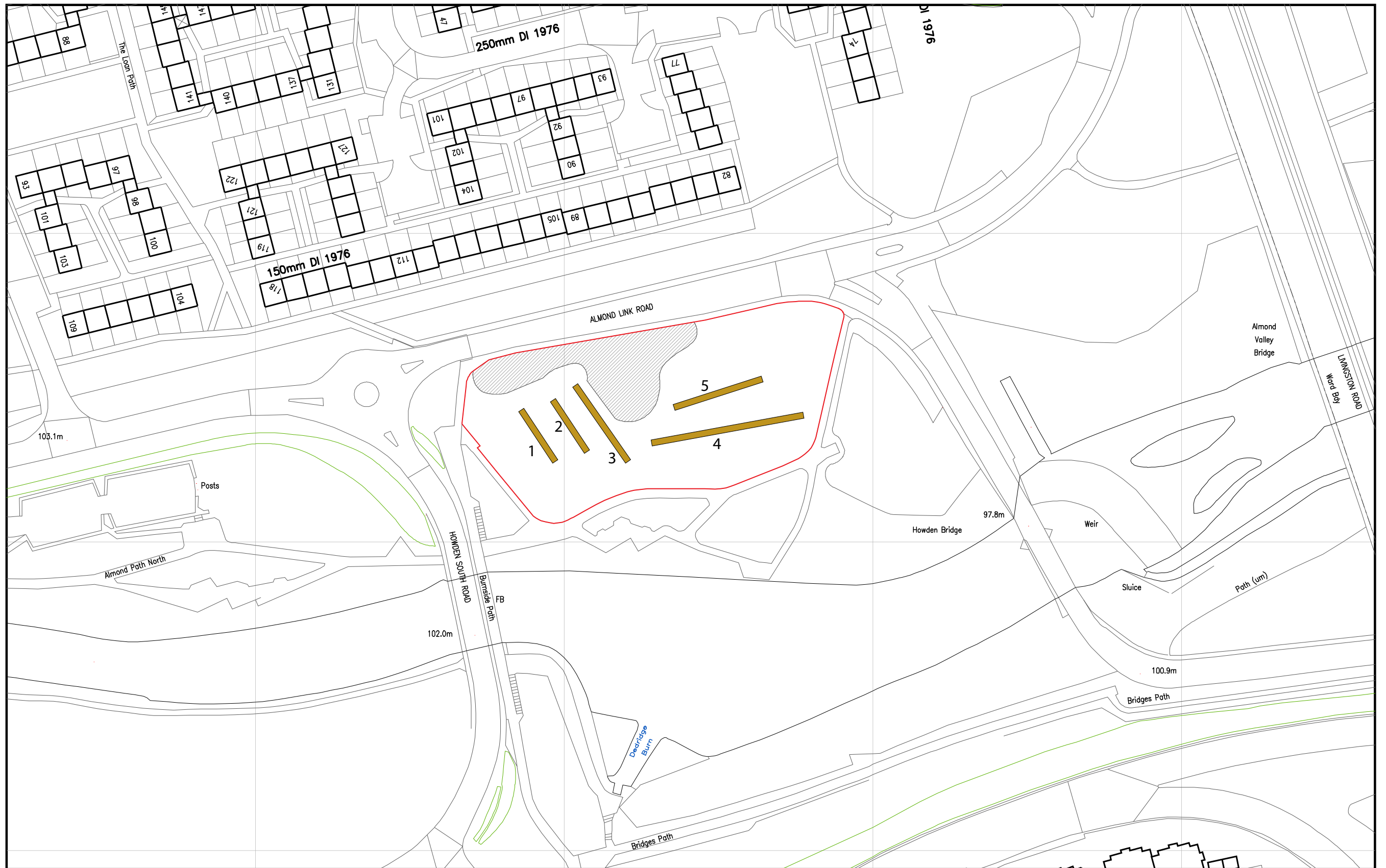


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Figure 1: Site location



— Site boundary ▨ Area of Planting — Archaeological trench



Figure 2: Location of archaeological trenches

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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	20.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.15 – 0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.20 m – 0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed in top-soil

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	20.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed in top-soil

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	30.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 – 0.40 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m – 0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed in top-soil

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Plastic drains at 5.0 m intervals NW-SE
<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics observed within top-soil

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	30.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Top-soil Depth</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Plastic drains at 5.0 m intervals NW-SE

<i>Subsoil</i>	Yellow boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

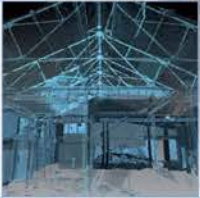
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2-3	Pre-excavation shots of area	W
4	Trench 1 post-excavation	SE
5	Trench 2 post-excavation	SW
6	Trench 3 west facing section	W
7	Trench 3 post-excavation	SW
8	Trench 4 post-excavation	NE
9	Trench 5 post-excavation	NE

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Almond Link Road, Livingston ,West Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23037
PARISH:	Livingston
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):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 0593 6723
START DATE (this season)	1 st April 2015
END DATE (this season)	1 st April 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on a land parcel amounting to approximately 4000 m² prior to a housing development at Almond Link Road, Livingston West Lothian (NGR; NT 0593 6723).</p> <p>The proposed development area was subject to an 8.0% sample evaluation (160 linear metres). The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material. The area had undergone significant previous landscaping which had removed all <i>in situ</i> deposits.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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