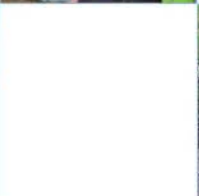


Old Brae, Lesmahagow: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

AOC Project 23124

4th June 2015



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Old Brae, Lesmahagow: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| On Behalf of: | Graham Gormley 2 Ellisland Square Kirkmuirhill ML11 9QL |
| National Grid Reference (NGR): | NS 81245 39744 |
| AOC Project No: | 23124 |
| Planning Reference: | CL/12/0577 |
| OASIS Entry No: | 212883 |
| Prepared by: | Kevin Paton |
| Date of Fieldwork: | 3 rd June 2015 |
| Date of Report: | 4 th June 2015 |

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

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Author: Kevin Paton | Date: 4 th June 2015 |
| Approved by: Diana Sproat | Date: 4 th June 2015 |
| Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft | Date: 4 th June 2015 |

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

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarcaeology.com



Contents

| | Page |
|--|------|
| List of Figures..... | 2 |
| List of Plates | 2 |
| List of Appendices..... | 2 |
| Summary | 3 |
| 1 INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| 1.1 Background | 4 |
| 1.2 Location..... | 4 |
| 1.3 Archaeological Background | 4 |
| 2 OBJECTIVES..... | 4 |
| 3 METHODOLOGY | 4 |
| 4 RESULTS..... | 6 |
| 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 7 |
| 6 REFERENCES..... | 7 |
| APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record..... | 8 |
| APPENDIX 2: <i>'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'</i> Report | 9 |

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Extract from Roy's map, ca. 1747 – 55

Figure 3: Extract from 1853 Ordnance Survey

List of Plates

Plate 1: General view of stripped development area showing disturbance

Plate 2: General view of difference in ground level from plots to N

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Photographic Record

Appendix 2: *'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'* Report

Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on all ground-breaking works undertaken in relation to a proposed single house plot at 7 Old Brae, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire.

The development plot was situated on a relatively steep north/south slope which showed signs of having previously been truncated and landscaped. The initial strip of the area revealed a very thin rubble filled topsoil directly overlying the underlying clay subsoil. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.

No further works are considered necessary within the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mr Graham Gormley to undertake an archaeological watching brief on all ground-breaking works in relation to a single house plot at Old Brae, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire. The watching brief was conducted in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, South Lanarkshire Council who are 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 2015) approved on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council by WoSAS and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR NS 81245 39744, situated to the south end of the main street of Lesmahagow, and west of Nos 1-5 Old Brae (Figure 1). The site is steeply sloped north to south with landscaped and terraced ground to the west, houses to the east and north and a steep drop to a small burn and another house to the south.

1.3 Archaeological Background

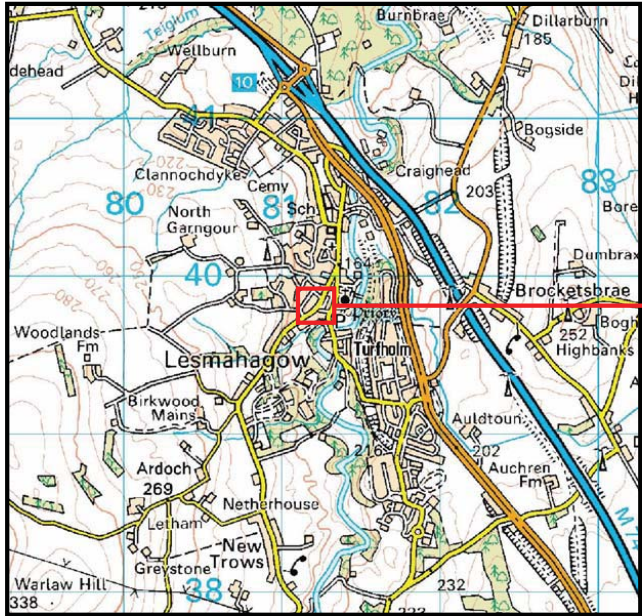
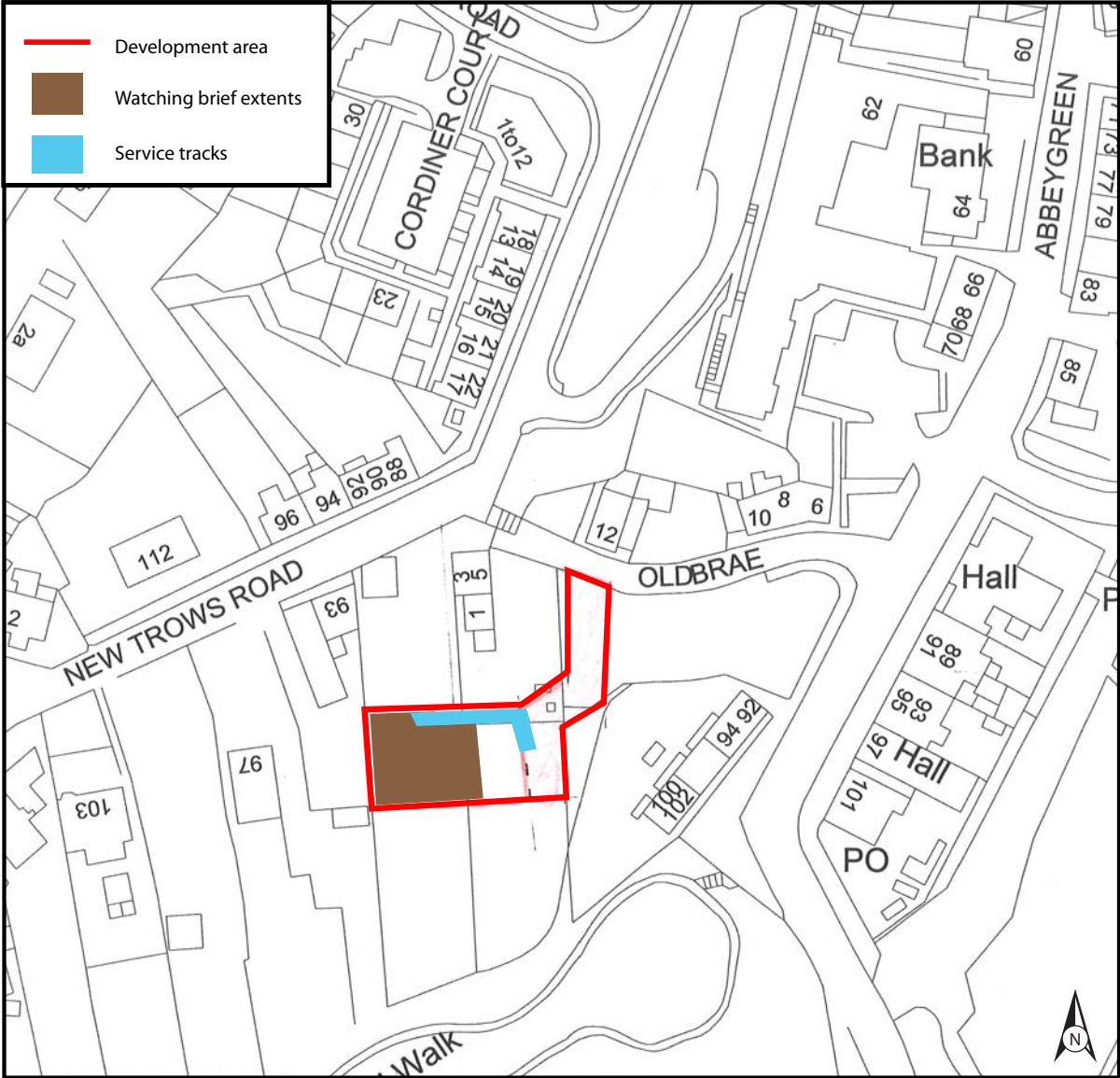
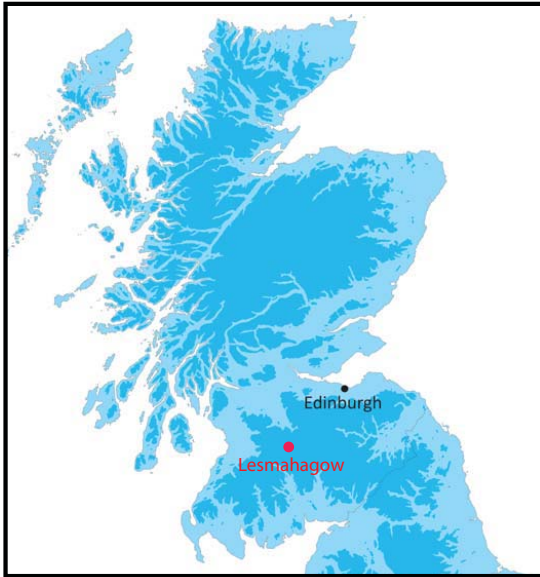
1.3.1 The historic core of Lesmahagow is located around the Priory and, by the 18th century, was a fairly small settlement as can be seen in Roy's map of ca. 1747 – 55 (Figure 2). By the 19th century, the 1853 Ordnance Survey map, and indeed subsequent maps throughout the 19th and early 20th century show the development area to be undeveloped land forming the gardens of adjacent properties (Figure 3). Interestingly, however, the proposed driveway into the property looks to be located in the position of a former building. It survives into the early 20th century mapping, so was probably demolished sometime in the mid-late 20th century.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by the development works and to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication if significant archaeology is found and it is infeasible to preserve the archaeological material *in situ*.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The watching brief was undertaken by a 7 tonne tracked excavator with 1.6m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil. 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).



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 scale map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY OS License No.: 100016114



Figure 2: Extract from Roy's map, ca. 1747 – 55



Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1858 (development area outlined)

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 3rd June 2015. Weather conditions were fair allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the works. In total, an area measuring 16m by 16m was stripped to the level of the natural subsoil (see Figure 1).
- 4.2 The topsoil throughout the development area was a dark brown clay loam with an abundance of modern rubble, varying in depth from 0.1m to 0.15m. The natural subsoil was a mixture of orange clay and a mottled orange and brown sandy clay with frequent large stone inclusions. The subsoil showed extensive signs of possible 19th, 20th and 21st century truncation with compacted topsoil compressed within it throughout the development area (Plates 1 & 2). Furthermore, an area 5m wide along the eastern boundary had recently been excavated for services related to an earlier house plot at the top of Old Brae.



Plate 1: General view of stripped development area showing disturbance



Plate 2: General view of difference in ground level from plots to the north

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 From the ground-breaking work conducted it is clear that the area had previously been excavated and the slope graded from the north end of site. The ground level of the gardens to the north was significantly higher than the development area ground level (see Plate 2). The lack of topsoil depth throughout and the presence of a large amount of disturbance in the subsoil suggest that the development area is now archaeologically sterile. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the watching brief.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the development area. These recommendations will have to be approved by WoSAS on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2015, *Old Brae, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation*
Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*

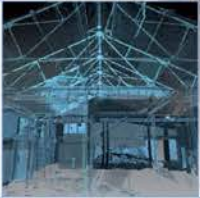
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

| Frame | Description | From | Date |
|-------|---|------|--------|
| 1-7 | Views of site access | Var | 3/6/15 |
| 8-11 | General shots of site prior to work starting | Var | 3/6/15 |
| 12 | Service trench area | N | 3/6/15 |
| 13 | Working shot of strip in NE corner | SW | 3/6/15 |
| 14 | N edge stripped | E | 3/6/15 |
| 15 | Depth of N edge topsoil | S | 3/6/15 |
| 16 | E edge stripped to service track | N | 3/6/15 |
| 17 | View of development area during stripping | W | 3/6/15 |
| 18-20 | Views of development area after stripping | S | 3/6/15 |
| 21 | Line of service trench previously excavated | NE | 3/6/15 |
| 22 | Line of services along E edge | S | 3/6/15 |
| 23 | Hardcore material over service trench | S | 3/6/15 |
| 24-25 | Views of stripped area from NW corner | NW | 3/6/15 |
| 26 | Depth of ground level reduction from plots to N of site | S | 3/6/15 |
| 27-28 | General view of excavated terrace | W | 3/6/15 |

APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | South Lanarkshire Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME | Old Brae, Lesmahagow |
| PROJECT CODE: | AOC 23124 |
| PARISH: | Lesmahagow |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Kevin Paton |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological Watching Brief |
| NMRS NO(S) | None |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | N/A |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | N/A |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NS 81245 39744 |
| START DATE (this season) | 3 rd June 2015 |
| END DATE (this season) | 3 rd June 2015 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | An archaeological watching brief on all ground-breaking works was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to a proposed single house plot at Old Brae, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire. The development plot was situated on a relatively steep N-S slope which showed signs of having previously been truncated and landscaped. The initial strip of the area to be further reduced revealed a very thin rubble filled topsoil directly overlying the underlying clay subsoil. No significant archaeological features nor artefacts were revealed. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | --- |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Mr Graham Gormley |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | admin@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