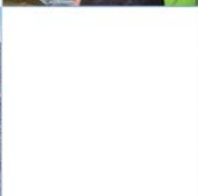
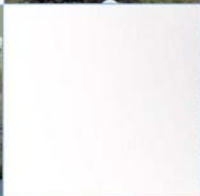


Roslin Primary School, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22995
9th July 2015



Roslin Primary School, Midlothian:

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	AHR Architects Floor 9 1 Cadogan Square Glasgow G2 7HF
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 26882 63142
OASIS No:	217195
AOC Project No:	22995
Prepared by:	Kevin Paton
Date of Fieldwork:	6 th July 2015
Date of Report:	9 th July 2015

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

Author: Kevin Paton

Date: 9th July 2015

Approved by: Martin Cook

Date: 10th July 2015

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date:

Enquiries to: 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

Contents

	Page
List of Illustrations	3
List of Plates	3
List of Appendices	3
Abstract.....	4
1 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Location.....	5
1.3 Archaeological Background.....	5
2 OBJECTIVES	5
3 METHODOLOGY	5
4 RESULTS	6
5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
6 REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions	10
APPENDIX 2: Context Register	10
APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register	10
APPENDIX 4: Drawing Register	11
APPENDIX 5: Finds Register	11
APPENDIX 6: Sample Register.....	11
APPENDIX 7: ' <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> ' Report.....	12

List of Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Evaluation trench locations
Figure 3	Plan and sections of pit [004] and ditch [006]

List of Plates

Plate 1	View of soil horizon [002] and pit [004] within Trench 1
---------	--

List of Appendices

Appendix 1	Trench Descriptions
Appendix 2	Context Register
Appendix 3	Photographic Record
Appendix 4	Drawing Register
Appendix 5	Finds Register
Appendix 6	Sample Register
Appendix 7	<i>'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'</i> Report

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a new school development at Roslin Primary School, Roslin, Midlothian.

The evaluation required a 5% trenching sample of the proposed development area, currently the school playing fields. Due to the depth of soils found within the evaluation area the number of trenches was reduced. From the two trenches excavated, a soil horizon containing medieval ceramic was encountered that appears to be bounded by a linear ditch along the SW edge of the development area. One small pit was also encountered within Trench 1.

The presence of both features and artefacts demonstrates the presence of anthropogenic activity on site and which require further works. This will be decided by Mr. Andrew Robertson of East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS) who advise Midlothian Council on archaeological matters.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by AHR Architects to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a new school development at Roslin Primary School, Midlothian. The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Midlothian Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015) approved by ELCAS on behalf of Midlothian Council 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 primary school is located within a residential estate to the W of Roslin town centre, and the development area is to the immediate SE of the current school building, centred on NGR: NT 26882 63142 (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the SE and SW by residential housing and to the NE by local playing fields.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 According to the National Monuments Record Scotland, the development area is immediately NW of a possible fort (NMRS No. NT26SE 26). The fort was seen in aerial photographs consisting of three ditches enclosing an area that is now covered in residential housing. The NW edge of the fort may encroach into the SE edge of the development area. Near to the forts location there is also mention of a Deer Park (NMRS No. NT26SE 45) having been constructed in the 15th century (Anderson 1967). These parks were game reserves constructed of a bank and ditch with a palisade on top, and the one at Roslin supposedly belonged to a gentleman named Oliver Sinclair in 1476 (Gilbert 1979).
- 1.3.2 Further archaeological sites in proximity to the development area include the find spot of a Class 1 stone axe hammer (NMRS No. NT26SE 31), and a long cist (NMRS No. NT26SE 5) measuring 9 foot long, found by a farmer during ploughing in 1746 (NSA 1845).

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;
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation was undertaken by a JCB 3CX back hoe excavator with 1.8 m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon. 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).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 7th July 2015. Weather conditions were fair allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the works. In total, 77 m of linear trench was opened, mainly focussed at the NW edge of the development area (Figure 2). This amount of evaluation trench had been reduced from the original 200 m required due to the presence of both services and the depth of soils and overburden exceeding 0.9 m in places throughout Trench 1 & 2.
- 4.2 The soil make-up throughout the development area consisted of 0.65 m of imported modern topsoil [001] covering approximately 0.3 m of an earlier soil horizon [002] (Plate 1). Several fragments of medieval ceramic (George Haggarty pers comms) were found within this layer during machine excavation, and a hand dug test-pit measuring 0.5 m² through the deposit encountered further fragments. A small pit [004] of unknown provenance and a linear ditch [006] were also revealed within Trench 1 (Figure 3). The ditch [006] was also seen in Trench 2, aligned NW-SE and measuring 1.05 m wide and 0.26 m deep.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Along with the ditch and small pit found within Trench 1, the presence of a number of medieval ceramics found within an earlier soil horizon is of archaeological significance. As no later artefactual material was found within this soil horizon, and the deposit is covered by a later topsoil containing abundant white ceramic and glass from the post medieval and modern era, the likelihood of locating further medieval activity within the development area is high.
- 5.2 After consultation with Mr. Andrew Robertson of ELCAS, further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the development area. The nature of these works will be determined by ELCAS acting on behalf of Midlothian Council.

6 REFERENCES

Anderson, M.L. 1967 *A history of Scottish forestry*, 2v. Edinburgh. Page(s): Vol.1, 235

AOC Archaeology 2015, *Roslin Primary School, Roslin, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC project design

Gilbert, J M. 1979 *Hunting and hunting reserves in medieval Scotland*. Edinburgh. Page(s): 215

NSA. 1834-1845 *The new statistical account of Scotland by the ministers of the respective parishes under the superintendence of a committee of the society for the benefit of the sons and daughters of the clergy*, 15v. Edinburgh. Page(s): Vol.1 (Edinburgh), 352

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology* 2/2011



Plate 1 - View of soil horizon [002] and pit [004] within Trench 1

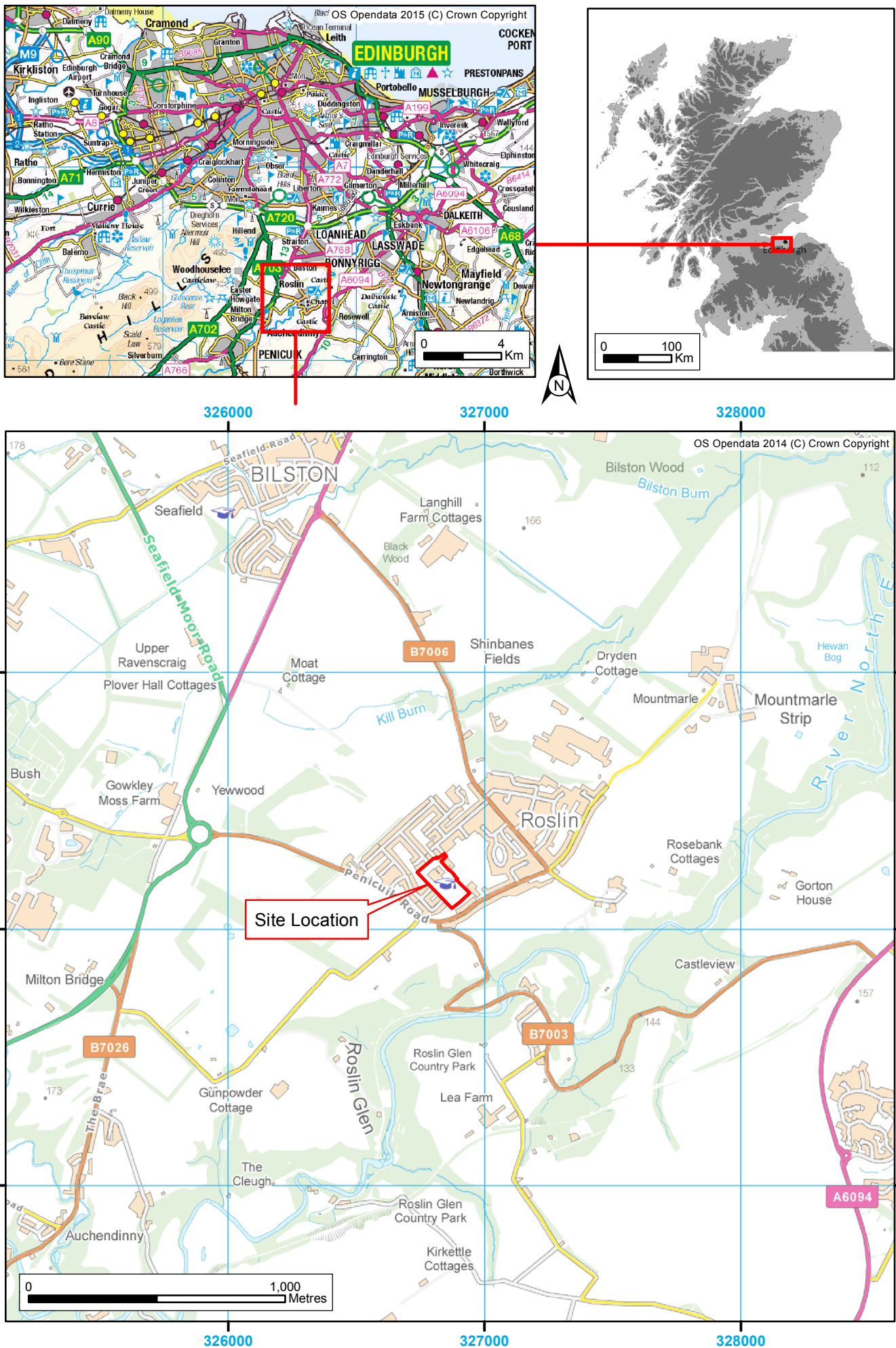
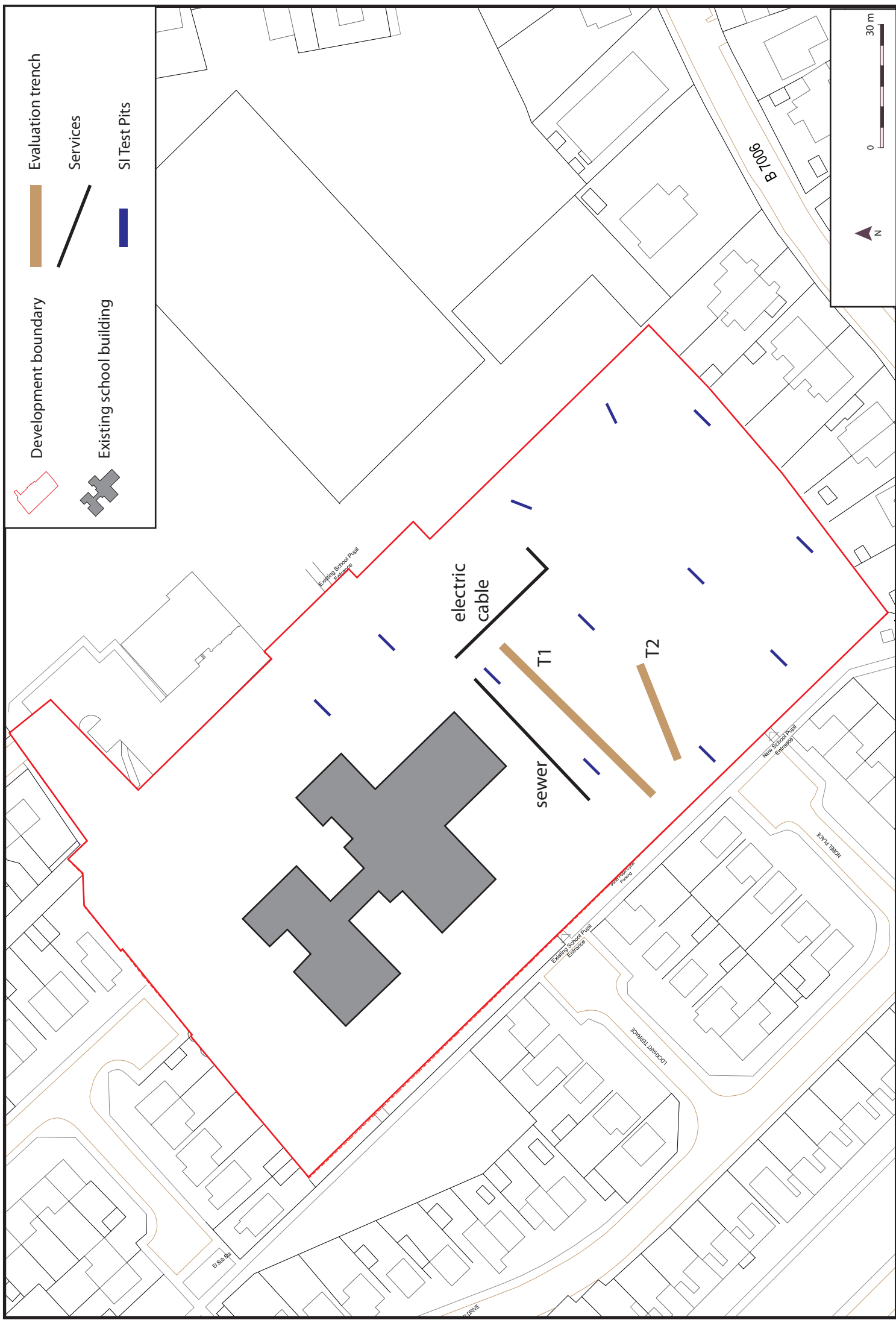


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



(Based on a drawing provided by the client)

Figure 2 - Trench location plan

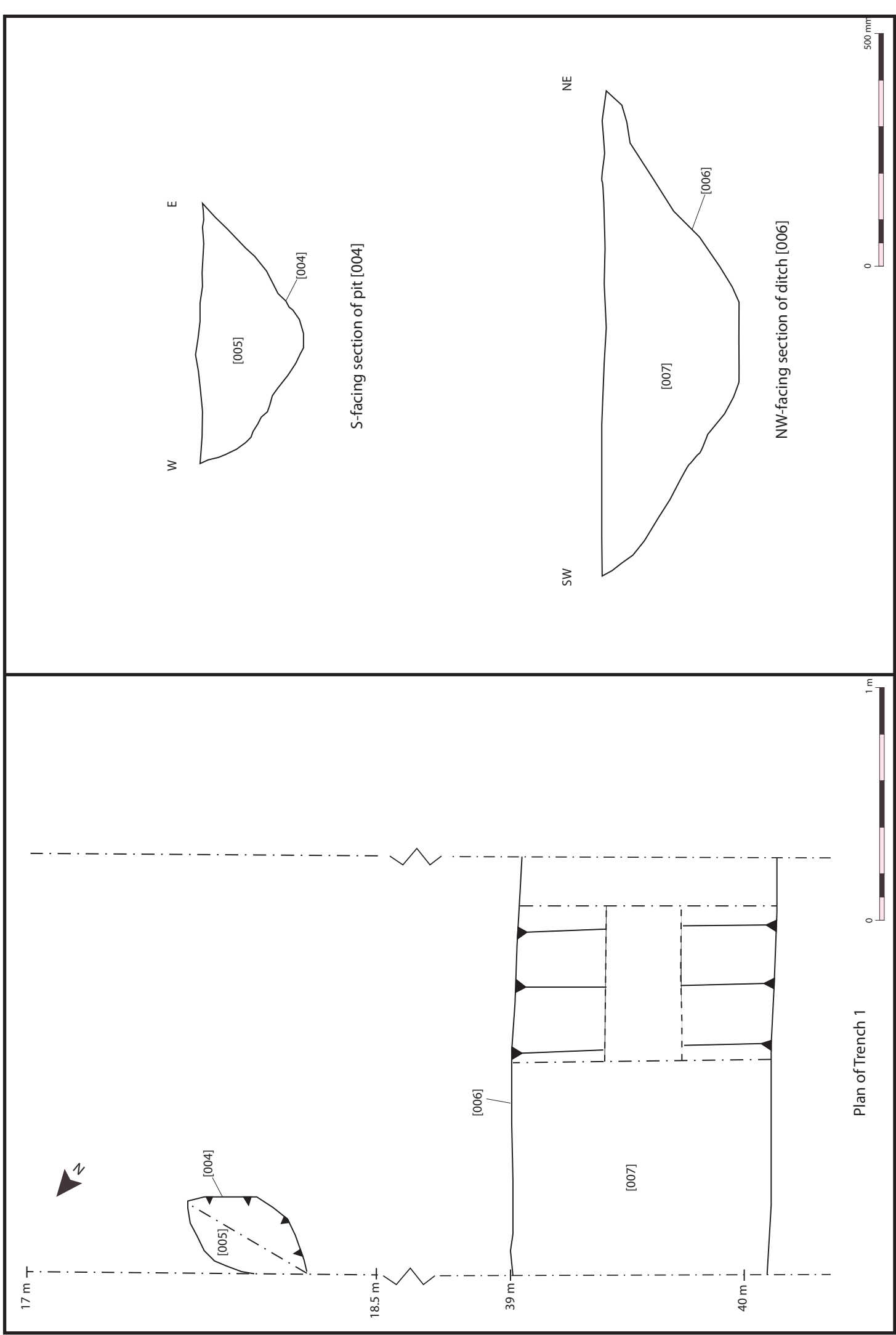


Figure 3 - Plan and sections of pit [004] and ditch [006]

Roslin Primary School, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	52 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	93.6 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil [001] – dark greyish brown sandy loam with frequent stone and coal flecks – max depth 0.7 m B-horizon [002] – Orangey brown silty sand with abundant rounded stone inclusions – max depth 0.32 m. Does not exist to SW of ditch [006].
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.95 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Small pit [004] and linear ditch [006]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange sand and gravel
<i>Finds</i>	Medieval ceramics within B-horizon [002]

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	45 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	WSW to ENE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil [001] – dark greyish brown sandy loam with frequent stone and coal flecks – max depth 0.64 m B-horizon [002] – Orangey brown silty sand with abundant rounded stone inclusions – max depth 0.36 m. Does not exist to WSW of ditch [006].
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.9 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Continuation of linear ditch [006]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange sand and gravel
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
001	-	Dark greyish brown sandy loam with frequent stone and coal flecks. Depth between 0.54 and 0.7 m. Modern topsoil
002	-	Orangey brown silty sand with abundant rounded stone inclusions. Depth varies from 0.28 m to 0.36 m. Contains medieval ceramics. Early soil horizon (medieval)
003	-	Orange sand and gravel. Natural subsoil
004	T1	Oval shaped pit with very steep sides to a concave base. Long axis is E-W and it measures 0.56 m by 0.29 m by 0.24 m. Apparently isolated within T1. Filled by deposit [005]. Small pit of unknown date
005	T1	Mid to dark brown sandy silt with frequent rounded stone inclusions measuring 0.56 m by 0.29 m by 0.24 m. Fill of pit [006]
006	T1&2	Linear cut aligned NW-SE with moderate sides and a flat base. Measures 1.05 m wide by 0.29 m deep. Visible in Trenches 1 & 2. Filled by deposit [007]. Ditch – possible field boundary
007	T1&2	Dark grey clayey sand and stone and coal flecks measuring 1.05 m wide by 0.29 m deep. Fill of ditch [006]

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-3	View of area from NE corner	Var	7/7/15
4-6	View of area from SE corner	Var	7/7/15
7	S-facing section of pit [004]	S	7/7/15
8	Plan view of pit [004]	E	7/7/15
9	NW-facing section of ditch [006]	NW	7/7/15
10	Post ex view of T1	SW	7/7/15
11	Post ex view of T2	ENE	7/7/15
12	View of T2 backfilled	SW	7/7/15
13	View of T1 backfilled	SW	7/7/15

APPENDIX 4: Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Feature No.	Details	Scale
1	[004]	S-facing section of pit [004]	1:10
2	[004]/[006]	Plan of pit [004] and ditch [006] within T1	1:20
3	[006]	NW-facing section of ditch [006]	1:10

APPENDIX 5: Finds Register

Finds No.	Context No.	Description
1	001	Copper buckle
2	002	Ceramic fragments

APPENDIX 6: Sample Register

Context No.	Quantity (litres)
005	8
007	10

APPENDIX 7: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Roslin Primary School, Midlothian
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22995
PARISH:	Penicuik
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Medieval ceramics
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 26882 63142
START DATE (this season)	7 th July 2015
END DATE (this season)	9 th July 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group in relation to a new school development at Roslin Primary School, Roslin, Midlothian.</p> <p>The evaluation required a 5% trenching sample of the proposed development area, currently the school playing fields. Due to the depth of soils found within the evaluation area the number of trenches was reduced. From the two trenches excavated, a medieval soil horizon was encountered that appears to be bounded by a linear ditch along the SW edge of the development area. One small pit was also encountered within Trench 1.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	AHR Architects
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