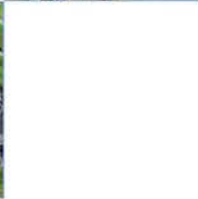
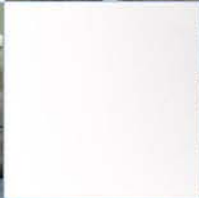


# 60a High Street, Linlithgow Archaeological Watching Brief Report

AOC 23161  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2015



# 60a High Street, Linlithgow: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Mr & Mrs M Swithenbank  
60a High Street  
Linlithgow  
West Lothian  
EH49 7AQ

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 00367 77168

Planning Application No: 0778/H/13

OASIS NO: 228675

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

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Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015

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Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015

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## SUMMARY

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*AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Swithenbank to undertake an archaeological watching brief as part of a condition of the planning consent on an extension to the rear of No 60A High Street, Linlithgow in West Lothian.*

*The excavations included the foundations for the extension and its related services and exposed a former stone-built wall which was identified on the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping for the site. A much more modern brick wall enclosure was also located. A number of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragments were also located in the made ground during the excavations.*

*No further archaeological works are recommended on the site. This will have to be confirmed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service on behalf of the West Lothian Council.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required on all ground-breaking works as a condition of planning consent during the excavations for a new extension at No 60A High Street in Linlithgow, West Lothian. The site lies within the administrative area of the West Lothian Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (hereafter referred to as WoSAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles as set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

### 1.2 Site location

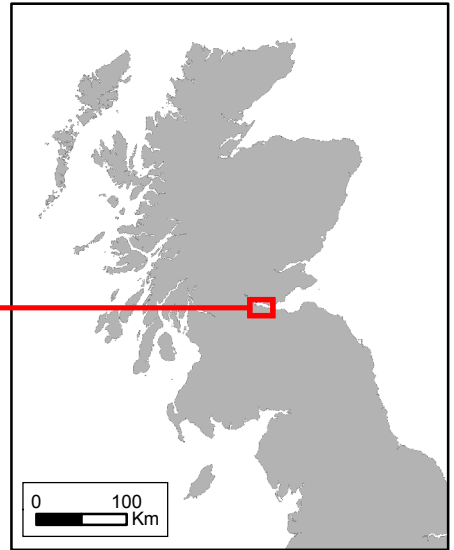
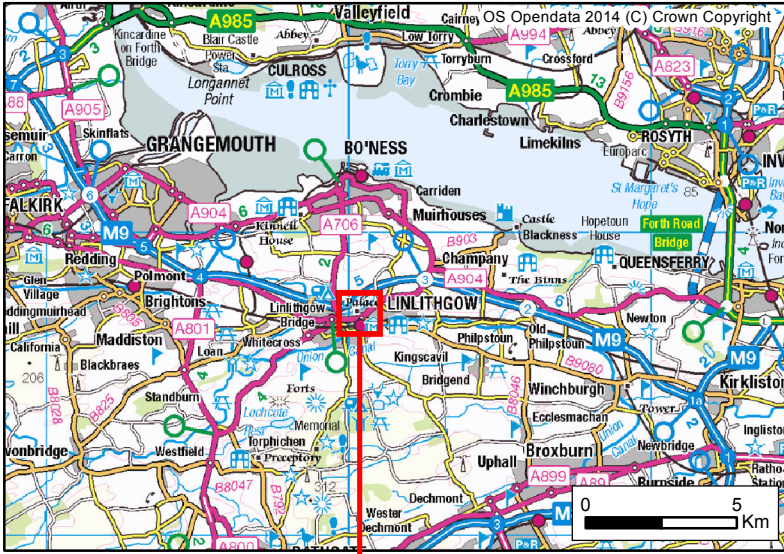
1.2.1 The development area is located to the north of the existing property at 60A High Street, Linlithgow, West Lothian and is centred on NGR: NT 00367 77168 (Figure 1). The main house dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century although has a 1970s extension to the west side.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Buildings along the High Street in Linlithgow can be seen on maps as early as Roy's map, ca. 1747 – 1755 (Figure 2). The map is not detailed enough to show any layout of buildings, although houses are shown all along the High Street and further to the west along Main Street. Armstrong's 1773 also shows the buildings in a little more detail, although is still a schematic representation of the buildings here (Figure 3).

1.3.2 It is John Wood's 1820 Town Plan of Linlithgow that shows a more detailed layout of the houses, including the names of the owners/occupiers of the dwellings and businesses there (Figure 4). Here, the land at No 60 and No 60A is depicted as a large square building fronting the High Street with a smaller annexe to the rear (north). There is then another larger building to the rear garden, and the entire appears to be either owned or occupied by a Mr Goodlett.

1.3.3 By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 and the Town Plan of 1856 shows us more detail of the house plot (Figures 5 – 7). The house fronting the High Street has the projection to the rear with a small annexe to the west side. The square rectangular building further to the north is also depicted as in the 1820 map, although there is also a smaller building – which looks to be unroofed – to the north-west of it. There is a slightly formal garden, although the trees – as with the surrounding properties – appears undeveloped and sparsely populated by trees up to the grounds of Linlithgow Palace. The 1856 Town Plan also clearly shows the origins of the house with two small outbuildings to the north, and an east/west boundary wall with a small gate to the immediate north of this.



300000

301000



300000

301000

Figure 1: Site location plan





Figure 2: Extract from Roy's map, ca. 1747 - 1755



Figure 3: Extract from Armstrong's map, 1773





Figure 4: Extract from Wood's map, 1820

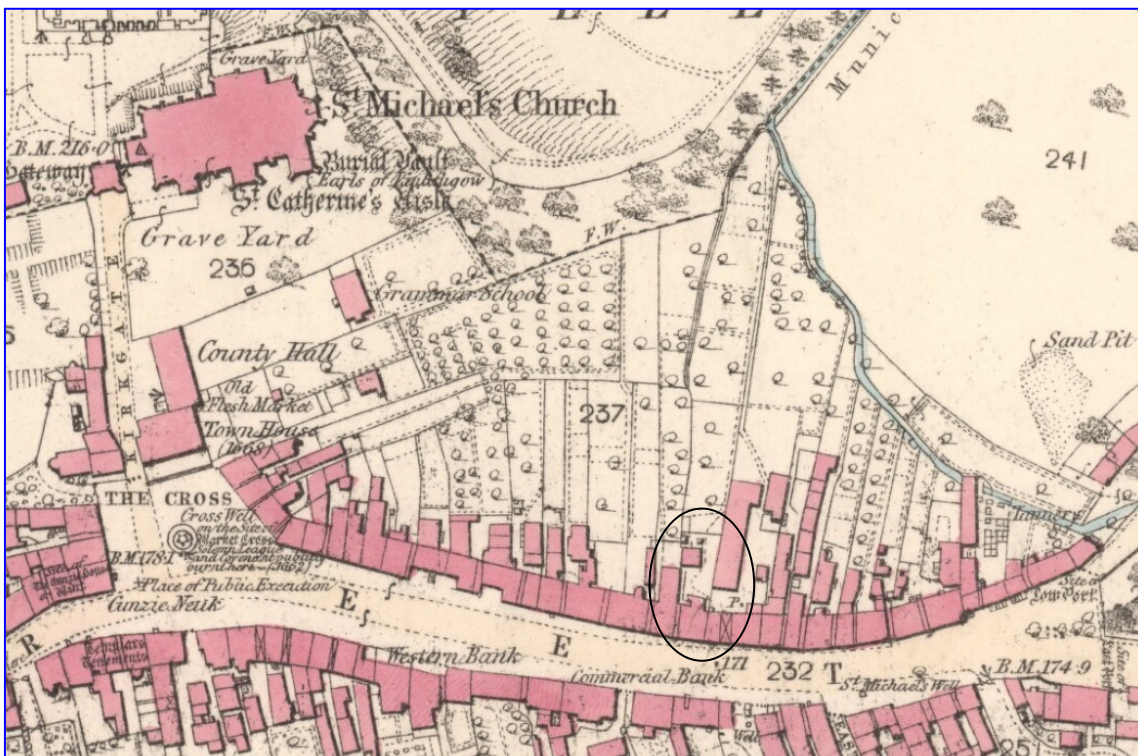


Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1854

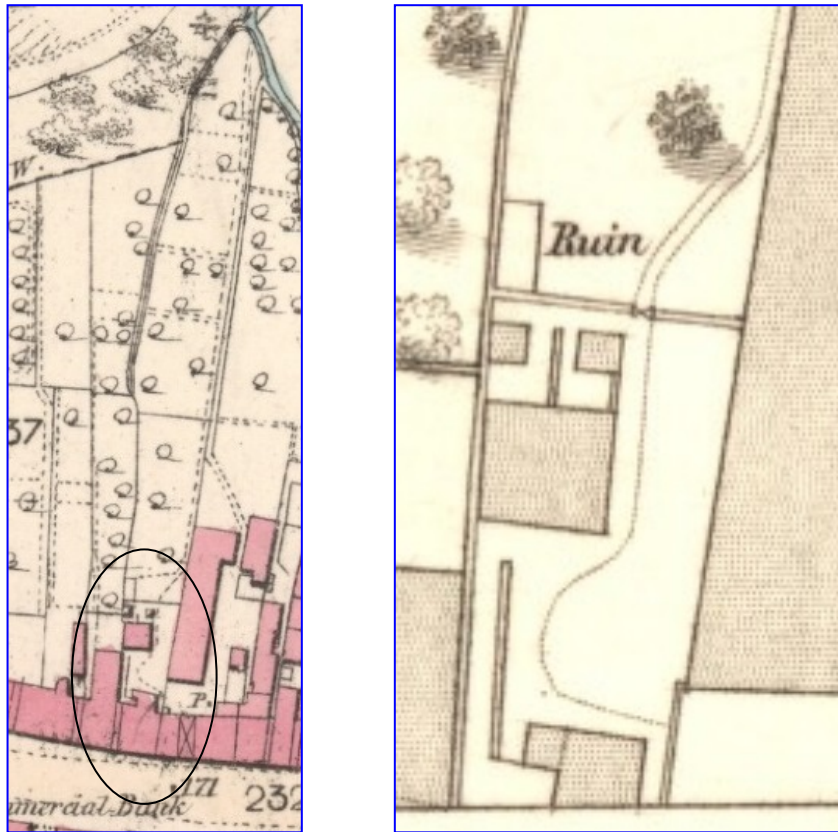


Figure 6 (left): Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1854; Figure 7 (right): Extract from Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Linlithgow, 1856

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed ground-breaking works associated with the excavations in relation to the new extension;
- ii) (in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed) to identify the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The watching brief was undertaken in one visit on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015. An area to the immediate north of the house was excavated by hand and with a mini digger using a smooth ditching bucket in preparation for the extension, a detailed site plan of which can be found in Figure 8.



## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The following results should be seen in conjunction with Figure 8, which shows a detailed plan of the features after the removal of the initial made ground context (101) and the context register (Appendix 2) which provides a detailed record of the contexts encountered on site.
- 4.2 After the removal of the concrete slab to the rear of the house, the made ground level (001) was excavated to expose three short linear sections of WINCHBURGH brick [003] (Figure 8; Plates 1 & 2). The wall to the east of the excavated area was two courses wide, 2.15m in length and very compacted with some frogged pieces. The wall to the centre of the plot was only 1.20m in length and probably contemporary with [003]. A small thinner section of single course bricks also ran adjacent to the easternmost wall. All walls were located just below the surface of and constructed within context (001) by 250mm and were all set in a slightly lighter sandier fill (006).



Plate 1: General view of brick wall [003] to the west of the plot from the east



Plate 2: General view of the excavation of context (001) after the hand removal of brick wall [003] (see far right)



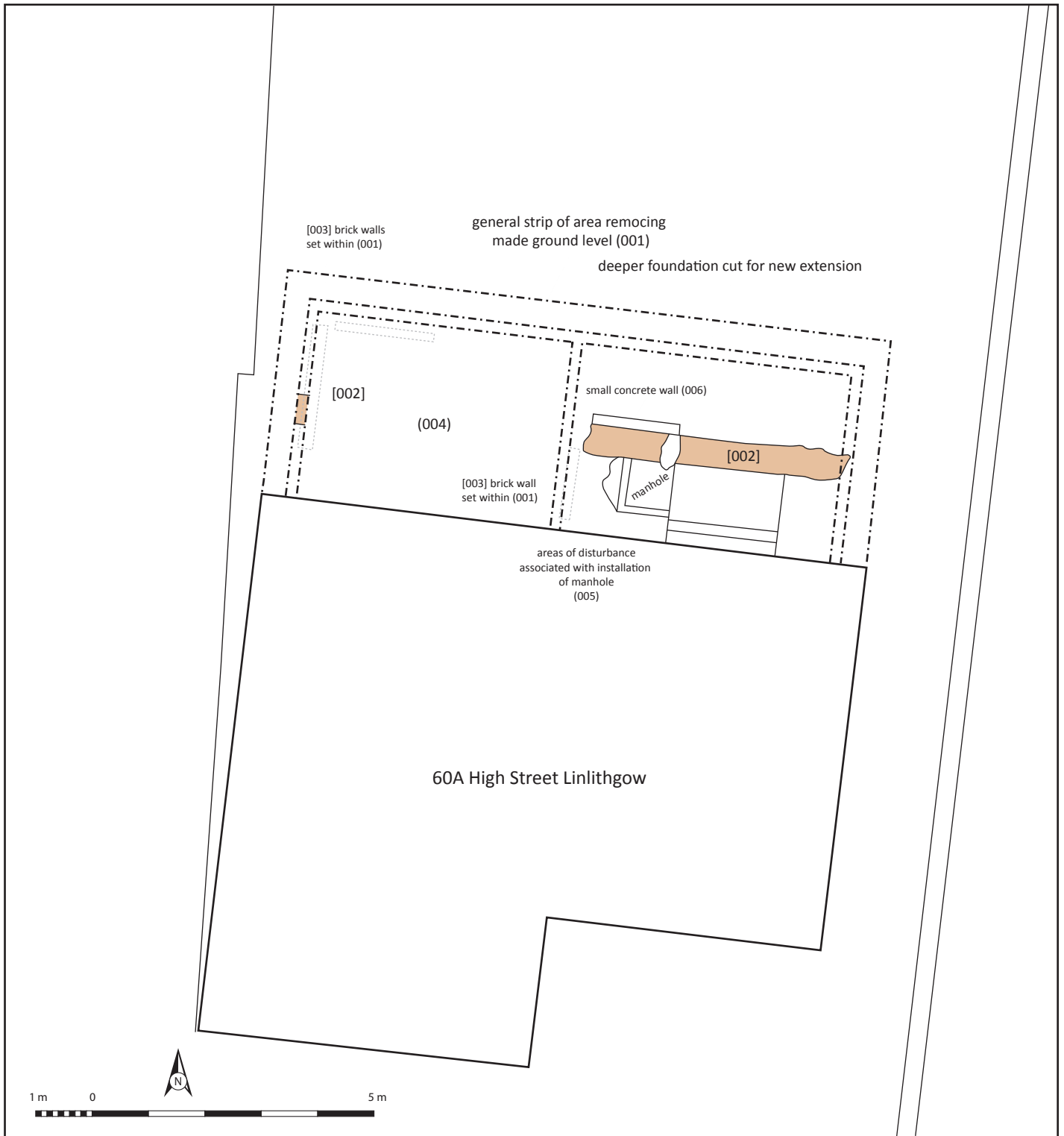


Figure 8: Site plan showing areas subject to watching brief and features encountered after removal of (101)

- 4.3 To the west side of the excavated area, a set of modern steps and a concrete slab were set slightly to the south of the foundations for a former stone rubble wall [002] orientated east/west. It was first exposed adjacent to the step (Figure 8; Plate 3), although once excavations continued, it was soon found to have survived to the east and west of this, albeit largely truncated on the west side by a modern manhole (Plates 4 - 6). The deeper foundation trenches for the foundations for the new extension also identified part of this wall to the far west side (Figure 4; Plate 7). Indeed, the former position of the wall was also identified on the eastern boundary wall as a mortar mark (Plate 8).



Plate 3: Remnants of stone wall [002] first exposed beneath and to the north of the concrete step to the east of the plot, from the north-east



Plate 4: More of the sandstone stone wall [002] exposed to the west side of the manhole (and truncated by it) surviving below context (101)





Plate 5: Detail of partially surviving wall [002] to the east of the plot from the north



Plate 6: Wall [002] to the east of the plot from the east





Plate 7: Small section of wall [002] exposed in the western foundation trench for the new extension from the east



Plate 8: Detail of the boundary wall to the east side showing the mortar scar of the former position of the boundary wall, from the west

- 4.4 In terms of finds, made ground deposit (001) contained a number of glazed pottery fragments, many with different manufactured patterns, together with a few animal bones and metal fragments (see Appendix 3). The excavation of made ground (101) (which was around 200mm – 250mm in depth) exposed another more compact bedding deposit (004) with more mortar fragment inclusions.

## 5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The surviving stone wall [002] appears as foundations only and corresponds with the east/west boundary wall seen on the historical mapping of 1856 (see Figure 7). As it is set in very compacted mortar, it may have been taken down to this level then made over with new ground. The brick walls [003] appear to be much later and do not correspond with the 'ruin' also seen on the 1856 map (see Figure 7). It is likely this belongs to a more temporary structure or porch/rear extension to the house after this date. Context (101) appears to have been a made ground deposit to take the more modern concrete lean-to extension and other patio slabs that were present just prior to the works for the new extension. It may well have been a redeposited dump of material left over from the 1970s extension to the house to the west side. The deposit (104) slightly below this appears to have been a bedding layer for this context. Excavations did not exceed this level.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are recommended, although this will need to be confirmed by the West Lothian Council Archaeology Service on behalf of the West Lothian Council. Any further ground-breaking works associated with the development should also be monitored by a professional archaeologist, and the subsequent results incorporated into this report as a final report on the works.

## 6 REFERENCES

### 6.1 Bibliography

AOC Archaeology 2015 60a High Street, Linlithgow, West Lothian: Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished method statement for Client.

Scottish Government 2010 Scottish Planning Policy.

Scottish Government 2010 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology.

### 6.2 Cartographic References

1747 -1755	William Roy	<i>Military Map of Scotland</i>
1773	Andrew Armstrong	<i>Map of the Three Lothians</i>
1820	John Wood	<i>Plan of the Town of Linlithgow</i>
1854	Ordnance Survey	<i>Linlithgow Sheet V.3</i>
1856	Ordnance Survey	<i>Linlithgow Sheet 2</i>

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

### Colour Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	Taken From	Date
1 – 2	Detail of Wall [002] first exposed to the E of the plot adjacent and below the concrete steps	N	14/10/2015
3 - 5	Detail of Wall [002] first exposed to the E of the plot adjacent and below the concrete steps	NE	14/10/2015
6 – 7	Detail of exposed brick wall to the W of the plot	E	14/10/2015
8 – 9	Detail of exposed brick wall to the W of the plot	NE	14/10/2015
10 – 11	Excavations of context (101) after removal of the brick wall [003]	N	14/10/2015
12 – 14	Excavations of context (101) after removal of the brick wall [003]	NW	14/10/2015
15	Context (004) exposed after removal of context (101) to the W of the plot	NW	14/10/2015
16 – 17	Exposed stone wall surviving albeit truncated by manhole during excavation of context (101)	W	14/10/2015
18 – 20	Exposed stone wall surviving albeit truncated by manhole during excavation of context (101)	N	14/10/2015
21 – 22	Detail of exposed wall [102] to the E of the plot	E	14/10/2015
23 – 25	Detail of exposed wall [102] to the E of the plot	NE	14/10/2015
26 – 28	Detail of E end of exposed wall [102]	N	14/10/2015
29	Detail of mortary 'scar' on the E boundary wall showing the original position of the stone wall [102] prior to its removal	W	14/10/2015
30 – 31	General view of stone wall [202] and manhole exposed after removal of context (101)	NW	14/10/2015
32 – 34	Detail of small section of Wall [102] located in the foundation cut for the new extension to the W of the plot	E	14/10/2015
35	Detail of small section of Wall [102] located in the foundation cut for the new extension to the W of the plot	N	14/10/2015
36 – 37	General view of excavations of the foundation cut for the new extension to the W of the plot	S	14/10/2015
38	General view of excavations of the foundation cut for the new extension to the W of the plot	SE	14/10/2015

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Description & Interpretation
[000]	<b>Concrete slab and Modern concrete steps</b>
(001)	Mid-dark brown made ground deposit immediately beneath concrete foundations of modern lean-to conservatory. Frequent inclusions of small pebbles, occasional red tile fragments. Brick wall [003] sits within the deposit. Large quantity of glazed pottery fragments and glass fragments, including some animal bone (see above). Depth between 0.20m – 0.25m. <b>Made ground to take concrete slab [000].</b>
[002]	Sandstone wall exposed to the east and (partially within the foundation cut for the new extension) to the W. Light beige wall foundation, 0.52m in with and surviving to a length of 4.70m orientated east/west to the E of the plot. It has been truncated on the W side of this section by a modern manhole. The foundations to the immediate north of the concrete steps (associated with the 1970s extension to the main house) show it to have survived to at least a depth of 0.30m. It is bedded in a very compact light beige mortar. More of the wall may survive to the west of the plot, although current excavations did not exceed the depth at which it was located. <b>Sandstone Wall. Located on the 1856 OS map, so probably dates to at least the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly earlier.</b>
[003]	Two-course wide red brick wall orientated north/south seen to the W of the plot, very compacted bricks with a WINCHBURGH stamp with some frogged pieces. Another single course of the same wall survives to the north of this orientated east/west, with another smaller two-course wide section surviving to the centre of the building plot, also orientated north/south. <b>Brick Wall associated with a relatively modern former outbuilding/shed.</b>
(004)	Deposit located below deposit (001). Softer light beige clayey silt with abundance of charcoal flecks. A very mixed matrix. <b>Bedding layer for made ground layer (001).</b>

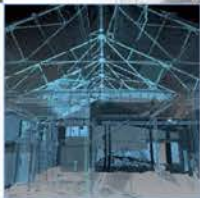
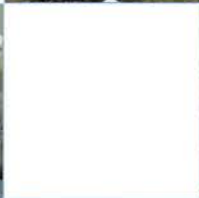
## APPENDIX 3: FINDS REGISTER

Find No	Context	Description
01	(001)	A mixed collection of finds from this made ground context, including a number of glazed pottery sherds, mostly willow pattern, but some other patterns and plain glazing also. Some thicker ceramic and a fragment of thick ceramic jug. Animal bones finds less frequent, but of those retrieved, show very clean butcher's mark cuts. At least one tin lid from a First Aid box from later 20 <sup>th</sup> century and occasional plastic finds in the upper part of the deposit suggests very much a dump of material rather than an historical/archaeological context.



**APPENDIX 4: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' (DES) REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	West Lothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	60A High Street, Linlithgow
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	23161
<b>PARISH:</b>	Linlithgow
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Diana Sproat
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NT07NW 206
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	House (ca. 18 <sup>th</sup> century); garden wall
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Former garden wall ca. late 18 <sup>th</sup> /early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 00367 77168
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b>	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mr &amp; Mrs Swithenbank to undertake an archaeological watching brief as part of a condition of the planning consent on an extension to the rear of No 60A High Street, Linlithgow in West Lothian.</p> <p>The excavations included the foundations for the extension and its related services and exposed a former stone-built wall which was identified on the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century mapping for the site. A much more modern brick wall enclosure was also located. A number of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragments were also located in the made ground level during the excavations.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mark Swithenbank
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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