Maxholm Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 22534 1st December 2015





Maxholm Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Springfield Properties PLC

Springfield House 3 Central Park Avenue

Larbet FK5 4RX

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 42195 36250

AOC Project No: 22534

OASIS Number 232356

Prepared by: Kevin Paton

Date of Fieldwork: 24th & 25th November 2015

Date of Report: 1st December 2015

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

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Abstract

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Springfield Properties PLC to undertake a programme of archaeological works at Maxholm Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire. The area evaluated comprised former agricultural land to the W of Maxholm Road.

Thirty linear trenches totalling 3130 m² were excavated throughout the evaluation works. Drainage in the form of a few rubble drains and frequent ceramic tile drains were encountered that relate to post-improvement agricultural activity. Indications of some possible furrows were also noted.

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered throughout the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Springfield Properties PLC to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the application for planning related to a proposed residential development at Maxholm Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of East Ayrshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). A programme of archaeological works had been specified by WoSAS in keeping with the policies outlined in Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

1.2 **Site Location**

1.2.1 The development area is located within an area of open agricultural land south of the A71, Hulford Road (centre NS 42195 36250). To the east is the current edge of the residential development of Kilmarnock along Maxholm Road, to the south is the edge of Kilmarnock residential development along Darnley Drive and Caprington Golf Course. The River Irvine and further open land can be found to the immediate west of the proposed development area (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The National Monuments Record Scotland (NMRS) record the site of the 'battle' of 'Bickering Bush' to the W of the proposed development site. Legend holds that William Wallace defeated 5 English soldiers at the bush. The 'battle' is not included on Historic Scotland's Inventory of Historic Battlefields and given its scale, it is arguably unlikely to be in the future.
- The park of Caprington Castle immediately west of the proposed development is included on Historic 1.3.2 Scotland's Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes. The Category A listed castle, in reality an 1820 mansion, stands c.750m west of the proposed development, although other lower grade listed buildings associated with the castle stand closer. Although aerial photographic mapping indicates a thick tree buffer between the park and the proposed development, given its designation Historic Scotland may wish to see evidence that the proposed housing will not be visible from within the park.
- 1.3.3 A single Scheduled Monument 'Blacksyke Colliery' lies approximately 1km south of the proposed development. Its setting is unlikely to be an issue given its industrial nature and the intervening presence of trees and buildings. A closer site to the SW is noted as a possible motte, consisting of a tree covered mound known as Castle Hill.
- 1.3.4 The only archaeological finds reported within the vicinity of the proposed development are an ard or paddle recovered from gravel extraction works to the N of the proposed development in 1914. Crop marks of an enclosure are also known to its west on the opposite side of the River Irvine.
- The proposed development site is recorded in detail on the 1st edition 6 inch to the mile of 1860. 1.3.5 Although the site is shown as open fields, a single building 'Maxholm' is recorded at the extreme eastern end of the site adjacent to the Maxholm Burn, with a well within its interior. Subsequent Ordnance Survey's show the situation unaltered.

2 **OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
 - i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
 - ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government 2010) and Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (Scottish Government 2011).

3 **METHODOLOGY**

3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2015) proposed the excavation of trenches equating to an 8% sample of the approximate 5.5 ha development area. However, due to the presence of overhead and underground services to the S of the former farmstead, the required trenching was reduced to 3100 m². All trenches were excavated with a 20 tonne tracked excavator using a 2 m / 2.4 m wide ditching bucket. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed within the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2015).

4 **RESULTS**

- The works were conducted on the 24th and 25th November 2015. The weather conditions during the 4.1 evaluation were variable, but overall archaeological visibility was good. In total, thirty evaluation trenches were excavated covering 3130 m² (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The soil profile across the development area comprised a thin layer of topsoil averaging between 0.35 m in depth, up to a maximum of 0.53 m in places. This overlay a combination of yellow and grey clays, orange sandy clay and stone, and some areas of orange gravel and clayey sand (Plates 1 & 2). Ceramic field drains were present throughout the entire area, mainly aligned E-W, with Trenches 16, 19 and 29 containing rubble drains on similar alignments.
- 4.3 Along the S edge of the development area, two alignments of furrows were noted suggesting a possible field change. Trench 2 indicated that furrows were aligned N-S whereas the scant remains of furrows in Trenches 4 and 7 suggest they were aligned E-W in this area (see Figure 2).



Plate 1 - View of Trench 8



Plate 2 - View of Trench 21

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The evaluation has identified that the development area to the S of the former farmstead is archaeologically sterile. After consultation with WoSAS, no further on-site works are considered necessary in this area.
- 5.2 However, as it was not possible to evaluate the farmstead buildings due to the presence of live services, WoSAS have recommended that further archaeological works would be required to the N of the underground electric cable if proposed plans cannot preserve the farmstead in-situ.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2015 Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 Scottish Planning Policy

Scottish Government 2011 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology.

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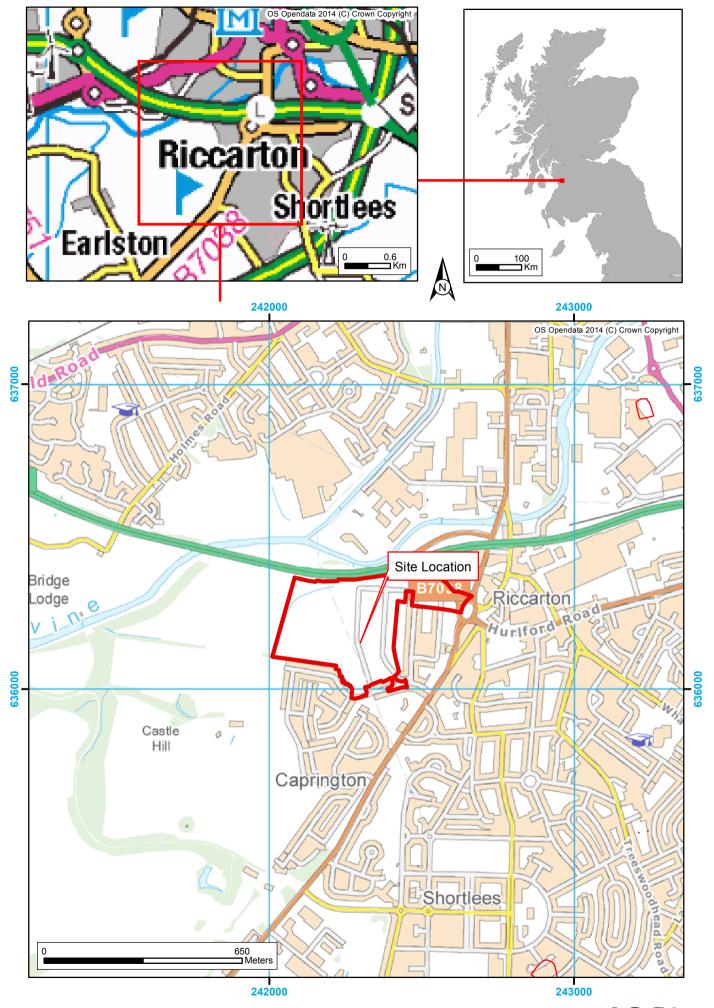


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



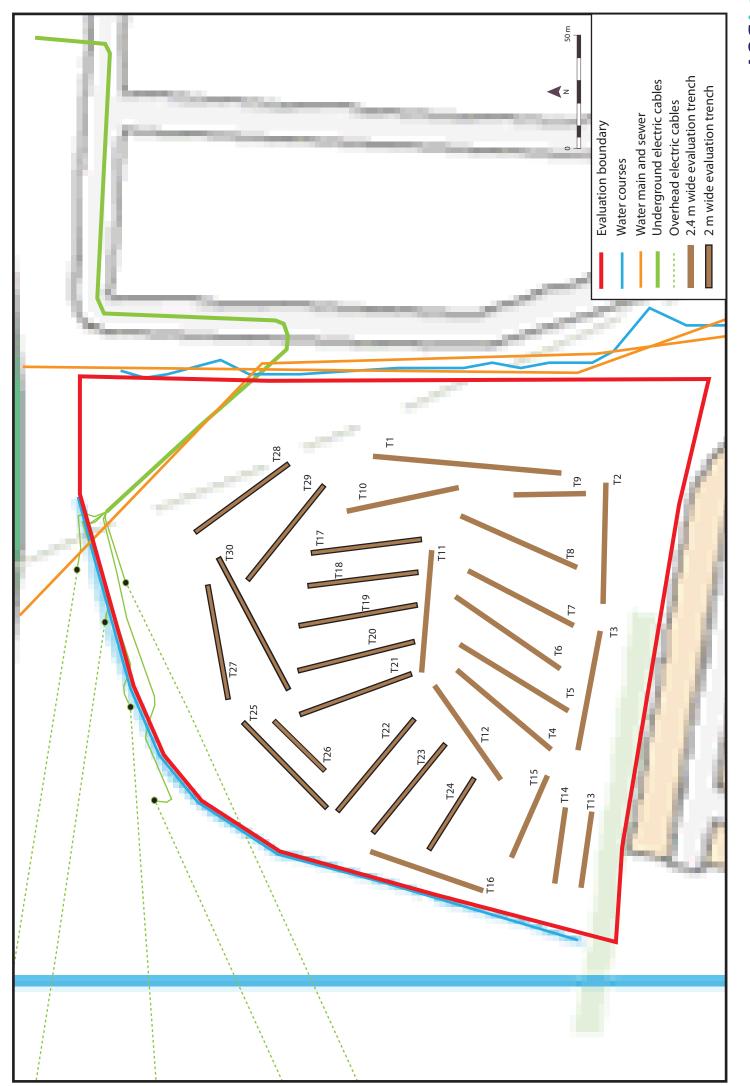


Figure 2 - Trench location plan

Maxholm Road, Kilmarnock, East **Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions 75 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 180 m² Excavated Orientation N to S

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.34 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 23 m, 33.6 m, 40.1 m, 68 m

Natural Subsoil Orangey brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 2

Dimensions 50 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 120 m² Excavated Orientation E to W

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.34 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 8 m to 25 m. Furrows aligned N-S at 3 m, 8 m and 13 m.

Natural Subsoil Orangey brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 3

Dimensions 50 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 120 m²
Excavated Orientation E to W

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.35 m

Significant Features None Other Features None

Natural Subsoil Orangey brown sandy clay until 6 m then orange clayey sand with abundant stone until 22 m

then orangey brown sandy clay.

Finds None

Trench 4

Dimensions 50 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 120 m²
Excavated Orientation SW to NE

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.53 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 1.6 m, 6.6 m, 11.6 m, 20.4 m, 25 m, 31.6 m, 37 m. Furrow

aligned E-W at 8 m to 9.2 m measuring 1.4 m wide and 0.05 m deep.

Natural Subsoil Orange clayey sand until 35 m then orangey brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 5

Dimensions50 m by 2.4 mTotal Area120 m²Excavated OrientationSW to NE

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.5 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 0.5 m, 6.5 m, 12.5 m, 17.5 m

Natural Subsoil Orange clayey sand until 40 m then orangey brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 6

Dimensions 50 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 120 m² **Excavated Orientation** NE to SW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.55 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 31 m, 43 m

Natural Subsoil Orangey brown sandy clay until 38 m then orange clayey sand

Finds None

Trench 7

Dimensions 50 m by 2.4 m

120 m² Total Area **Excavated Orientation** SW to NE

Topsoil - dark grey brown clay loam - 0.5 m Soil Make-up

Significant Features

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 25 m, 30 m, 35 m, 40 m 45 mm. Furrows aligned E-W at 15

m and 25 m.

Natural Subsoil Orangey brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 8

Dimensions 50 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 120 m² **Excavated Orientation** NE to SW

Soil Make-up Topsoil - dark grey brown clay loam - 0.5 m

Significant Features None Other Features None

Natural Subsoil Orangey brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 9

Dimensions 25 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 60 m² **Excavated Orientation** SE to NW

Soil Make-up Topsoil - dark grey brown clay loam - 0.37 m

Significant Features None Other Features None

Natural Subsoil Orangey brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 10

Dimensions 50 m by 2.4 m Total Area 120 m² **Excavated Orientation** SE to NW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.45 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 6.9 m, 30 m

Natural Subsoil Yellow clay until 18 m then reddish brown sandy clay and stone

I 11

Finds None

Trench 11

Dimensions 50 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 120 m² Excavated Orientation E to W

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.42 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 7 m to 40 m

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 12

Dimensions50 m by 2.4 mTotal Area120 m²Excavated OrientationNE to SW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.42 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 7.2 m, 14.8 m, 22.8 m, 38.8 m. Furrow aligned E-W at 28

m to 29.7 m measuring 1.2 m wide.

Natural Subsoil Orangey brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 13

Dimensions 30 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 72 m² Excavated Orientation E to W

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam with abundant coal lumps – 0.51 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at from 0 m to 12.6 m then joins SE-NW aligned drain.

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown clayey sand until 4 m then yellow clay

Finds None

Trench 14

Dimensions 30 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 72 m²
Excavated Orientation E to W

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam with abundant coal lumps – 0.44 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at from 0 m to 30 m then

Natural Subsoil Yellow clay Finds None

Trench 15

Dimensions 40 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 96 m²

Excavated Orientation ESE to WNW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.47 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at from 0 m to 9.5 m; 11 m to 16.2 m; 20.6 m to 26.8 m.

Aligned NE-SW at 31 m.

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown clayey sand until 10 m then yellow clay until 32 m then reddish brown clayey

sand.

Finds None

Trench 16

Dimensions 50 m by 2.4 m

Total Area 120 m²
Excavated Orientation S to N

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.37 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Rubble drain aligned E-W at 17.7 m. Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 29.4 m, 35.2 m, 39 m

Natural Subsoil Orange and brown gravel in a slightly clayey sand matrix until 18 m then grey and yellow clay

until 34 m then orange and brown gravel

Finds None

Trench 17

Dimensions50 m by 2 mTotal Area100 m²Excavated OrientationSSE to NNW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.37 m

Significant Features None Other Features None

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown sandy clay until 25 m then reddish brown clayey sand until 29 m then yellow

clay

Finds None

Trench 18

Dimensions50 m by 2 mTotal Area100 m²Excavated OrientationSSE to NNW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.34 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 41.2 m

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown sandy clay until 21 m then yellow clay until 40 m then reddish brown clayey

sand

Finds None

Trench 19

Dimensions50 m by 2 mTotal Area100 m²Excavated OrientationSSE to NNW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.42 m

Colluvium from 34 m - mid brown silty clay - 0.24 m thick

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 57.2 m. Rubble drain aligned ENE-WSW at 57 m.

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown sandy clay until 30 m then yellow and grey clays

Finds None

Trench 20

Dimensions 50 m by 2 m
Total Area 100 m²

Excavated Orientation SSE to NNW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.35 m

Colluvium from 20 m to 40 m- mid brown silty clay - 0.28 m thick

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 19.5 m, 25.8 m.

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown sandy clay until 26 m then grey clay

Finds None

Trench 21

Dimensions50 m by 2 mTotal Area100 m²Excavated OrientationSSE to NNW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.34 m

Colluvium from 11 m to 35 m – mid brown silty clay – 0.27 m thick

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 15 m, 21.6 m, 28 m

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown sandy clay until 12 m then reddish brown clayey sand until 18 m then yellow

and grey clay until 41 m then reddish brown clayey sand

Finds None

Trench 22

Dimensions50 m by 2 mTotal Area100 m²Excavated OrientationSE to NW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.37 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 11.2 m to 14.4 m, 22 m to 24.4 m.

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown sandy clay until 7 m then reddish brown clayey sand until 16.3 m then grey

clay until 27 m then orange sandy clay and gravel

Finds None

Trench 23

Dimensions40 m by 2 mTotal Area80 m²Excavated OrientationSE to NW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.4 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 15.6 m to 19.4 m, 29 m to 32 m

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown sandy clay until 9.2 m then reddish brown clayey sand until 17.8 m then grey

clay until 30 m then orange sandy clay and gravel

Finds None

Trench 24

Dimensions35 m by 2 mTotal Area70 m²Excavated OrientationESE to WNW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.42 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned NE-SW at 2.2 m. Aligned E-W at 15.4 m to 18.5 m.

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown and grey sandy clay until 9.8 m then reddish brown clayey sand until 23 m

then grey and yellow clay

Finds None

Trench 25

Dimensions50 m by 2 mTotal Area100 m²Excavated OrientationSW to NE

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.4 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drain aligned E-W at 42.5 m

Natural Subsoil Orange gravels until 15 m then reddish brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 26

Dimensions 25 m by 2 m

Total Area 50 m²

Excavated Orientation SW to NE

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.35 m

Significant Features None Other Features None

Natural Subsoil Orange gravels until 12 m then reddish brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 27

Dimensions 50 m by 2 m

Total Area 100 m²

Excavated Orientation W to E

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.38 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 2.2 m to 6.9 m, 17.5 m to 22.6 m

Natural Subsoil Orange gravels until 9 m then reddish brown sandy clay to 25 m then yellow clay to 30 m then

reddish brown sandy clay

Finds None

Trench 28

Dimensions50 m by 2 mTotal Area100 m²Excavated OrientationNW to SE

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.56 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 3.2 m, 19 m, 26.4 m, 35 m.

Natural Subsoil Orange and yellow clay

Finds None

Trench 29

Dimensions50 m by 2 mTotal Area100 m²Excavated OrientationSE to NW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.46 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned ESE-WNW at 1.9 m to 4.3 m, 22.5 m to 25.3 m. Rubble drains

aligned E-W at 4.9 m, 38.6 m.

Natural Subsoil Reddish brown clayey sand until 6 m then greyish brown clay until 20 m then reddish brown

clayey sand until 30 m then grey clay until 45 m then orange clay

Finds None

Trench 30

Dimensions65 m by 2 mTotal Area130 m²Excavated OrientationENE to WSW

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark grey brown clay loam – 0.4 m

Significant Features None

Other Features Ceramic tile drains aligned E-W at 0 m to 2.8 m, 19.3 m to 21.4 m, 25 m to 27.4 m.

Natural Subsoil Orange boulder clay until 50 m then orange gravels

Finds None

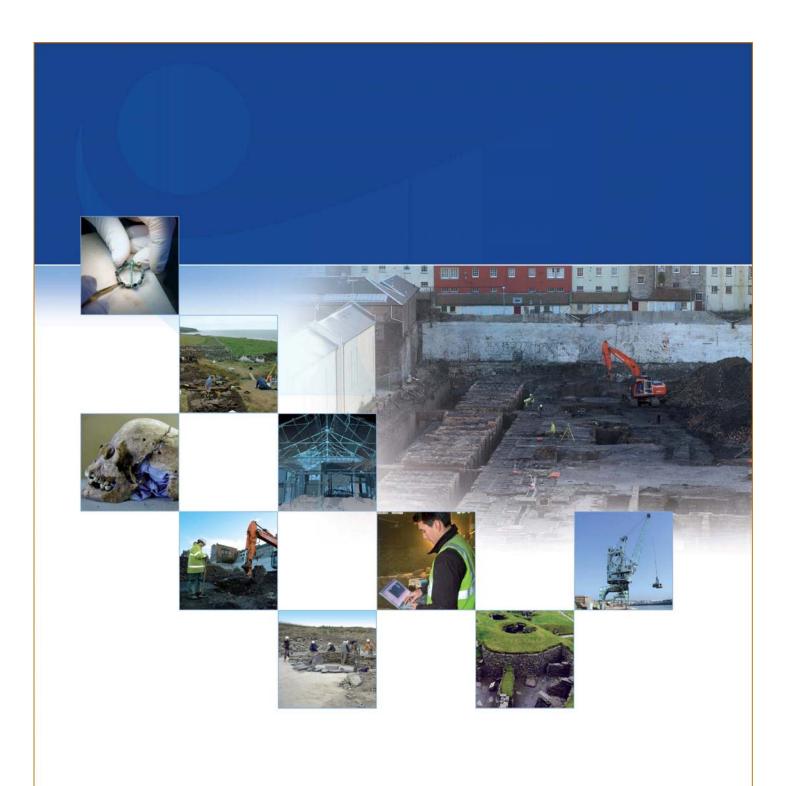
APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Trench 1 post-ex	S	24/11/15
2	View of steep bank to burn	SW	24/11/15
3-4	Views of hilltop from T1 S end	Var	24/11/15
5	Trench 2 post-ex	W	24/11/15
6-8	Views of hilltop from T2 W end	Var	24/11/15
9	Trench 3 post-ex	W	24/11/15
10	Trench 4 post-ex	NE	24/11/15
11	Trench 5 post-ex	NE	24/11/15
12	Trench 6 post-ex	SW	24/11/15
13	Trench 7 post-ex	NE	24/11/15
14	Trench 8 post-ex	SW	24/11/15
15	Trench 9 post-ex	SE	24/11/15
16	T4 waterlogging	SW	24/11/15
17	Trench 10 post-ex	NW	24/11/15
18	Trench 12 post-ex	W	24/11/15
19	Trench 12 post-ex	SW	24/11/15
20	Trench 13 post-ex	W	24/11/15
21	Trench 14 post-ex	W	24/11/15
22	Trench 15 post-ex	WNW	24/11/15
23	Trench 16 post-ex	N	24/11/15
24	Trench 17 post-ex	NNW	25/11/15
25	Trench 18 post-ex	NNW	25/11/15
26	Trench 20 post-ex	NNW	25/11/15
27	Trench 21 post-ex	NNW	25/11/15
28	Trench 22 post-ex	NW	25/11/15
29	Trench 24 post-ex	WNW	25/11/15
30	Trench 25 post-ex	NE	25/11/15
31	Trench 26 post-ex	NE	25/11/15

32	Trench 27 post-ex	Е	25/11/15
33	Trench 28 post-ex	SE	25/11/15
34	Trench 29 post-ex	NW	25/11/15
35	Trench 30 post-ex	WSW	25/11/15
36-38	Views of trenches to N of site	Var	25/11/15

APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Maxholm Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22534
PARISH:	Kilmarnock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 42195 36250
START DATE (this season)	24 th November 2015
END DATE (this season)	25 th November 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES	None
ref.) MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Springfield Properties PLC to undertake a programme of archaeological works at Maxholm Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire. The area evaluated comprised former agricultural land to the W of Maxholm Road. Thirty linear trenches totalling 3130 m² were excavated throughout the evaluation works. Drainage in the form of a few rubble drains and frequent ceramic tile drains were encountered that relate to post-improvement agricultural activity. Indications of some possible furrows were also noted. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered throughout the evaluation.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Springfield Properties
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS





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