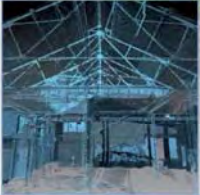


Site 51B, Stobhill, Gorebridge, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23307
21st January 2016



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Site 51B, Stobhill, Gorebridge, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Hackland + Dore Architects Ltd
16 Annandale Street
Edinburgh
EH7 4AN

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 3427 62920

OASIS No: 1-239716

AOC Project No: 23307

Prepared by: Rob Engl

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

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed housing development at Site 51B, Stobhill, Gorebridge, Midlothian (NGR: NT 3427 62920).

The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample of the proposed 1 hectare development area, formerly used as playing fields associated with the now demolished Greenhall High School. A significant level of ground reduction and levelling had been undertaken during the creation of the playing fields. This had removed all formerly in situ deposits.

Trenching revealed a natural of glacial clays cut by modern drains set at 2.0 m intervals. The natural was overlain by deposits of re-deposited clay, cinder and red bleas.

No archaeologically significant features or material was recovered during the evaluation. No further works are considered necessary. This will be decided by Ms Helena Grey 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 Hackland + Dore Architects Ltd, on behalf of their clients, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed residential development on land at 51 B, Stobhill, Gorebridge, 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 proposed development area lies to the north of the built up area of Gorebridge, immediately north of St. Andrews RC Primary School. The site measures ca 1 hectare in size and is located within the former grounds of the now demolished Greenhall High School. The site is centred on NT 3427 62920.

1.3 Site Background

1.3.1 A brief examination of records of both designated (Scheduled) and non-designated assets within the vicinity of the proposed development held by Historic Environment Scotland within the National Monuments Record Scotland (NMRS). Two Scheduled Monuments are recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development:

- **SM 6337:** Gowkshill, 300m southeast of; An enclosed prehistoric settlement known from cropmarks
- **SM 6336:** Gowkshill, 300m southeast of; An enclosed prehistoric settlement known from cropmarks

1.3.2 The first enclosure SM337 is located c.20 50m north of the proposed development and consequently there is a moderate potential for remains or artefacts of late prehistoric date being encountered during the course of the development.

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 2.0 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 2016).



Plate 1: Site area pre excavation from south-east

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 21st January 2016. Weather conditions were overcast and dry allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout. In total, 300 linear metres were opened across of the proposed development area (Figure 2). The presence of steeply sloping ground at the eastern perimeter reduced the area available for evaluation. Initially the evaluation was

to consist of a 10% sample (1,000m²) of a one hectare area. The area was in fact approximately 0.6 of a hectare reducing the required metrage to 600 m².



Plate 2: Trench 3 post-excitation from west



Plate 3: Trench 3 south facing section

- 4.2 The evaluation trenches revealed no original top-soil or other in situ deposits. These were most probably removed during the creation of the playing fields. The overburden throughout the development area consisted of 0.20 m of red blaes and cinder (01), this in turn overlay a deposit of made ground consisting of re-deposited top-soil and clay natural (02). This deposit ranged from 0.4 m at the eastern end of the site to 0.60 m in the west. The deposit would appear to have been introduced in order to level the area after initial truncation..
- 4.3 The overburden lay directly on a natural of pale orange boulder clay (03). Numerous narrow plastic and clay drains were observed at 2.0 m intervals cutting the natural and aligned NW-SE across the site area.
- 4.4 No archaeologically significant features or materials were observed.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed development area was composed of an area of playing field associated with the now demolished Greenhall High School. The creation of the playing field involved the truncation and removal of all in situ deposits and the subsequent building up and levelling of the area for the playing surface.
- 5.2 Given the negative findings produced by the evaluation no further archaeological works associated with Site 51B are considered necessary. This will be decided by Ms Helena Gray of East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS) who advise Midlothian Council on archaeological matters.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2016, *51B Stobhill Gorebridge, Midlothian, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*

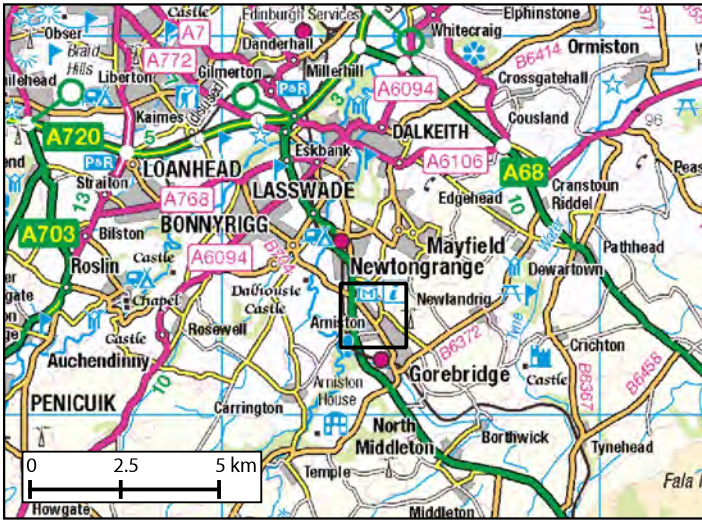


Figure 1: Site Location

334200

334300



334200

Figure 2 Trench layout

334300

Site 51B, Stobhill, Gorebridge, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N to S
<i>Overburden</i>	Cinder & Red Blaes – 0.20 m over re-deposited natural and topsoil 0.40 m in depth.
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Plastic and ceramic drains at 2.0 m intervals aligned NW-SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Overburden</i>	Cinder & Red Blaes – 0.20 m over re-deposited natural and topsoil 0.50 m in depth.
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.8 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Plastic and ceramic drains at 2.0 m intervals aligned NW-SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Cinder & Red Blaes – 0.20 m over re-deposited natural and topsoil 0.50 m in depth.
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.8 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Plastic and ceramic drains at 2.0 m intervals aligned NW-SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Overburden</i>	Cinder & Red Blaes – 0.20 m over re-deposited natural and topsoil 0.60 m in depth.
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.8 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Plastic and ceramic drains at 2.0 m intervals aligned NW-SE
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Overburden</i>	Cinder & Red Blaes – 0.20 m over re-deposited natural and topsoil 0.60 m in depth.
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.7 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Plastic and ceramic drains at 2.0 m intervals aligned NW-SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
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<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Overburden</i>	Cinder & Red Blaes – 0.20 m over re-deposited natural and topsoil 0.60 m in depth.
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.7 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Plastic and ceramic drains at 2.0 m intervals aligned NW-SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
0-4	Pre-excavation shots of area	SE	21/1/15
5	East facing section Trench 1	E	21/1/15
6	Post ex shot of Trench 1	N	21/1/15
7	North facing section Trench 2	N	21/1/15
8	Post ex shot of Trench 2	W	21/1/15
9	South facing section Trench 3	S	21/1/15
10	Post ex shot of Trench 3	W	21/1/15
11	North facing section Trench 4	N	21/1/15
12	Post ex shot of Trench 4	W	21/1/15
13	North facing section Trench 5	N	21/1/15
14	Post ex shot of Trench 5	W	21/1/15
15	West facing section Trench 6	W	21/1/15
16	Post ex shot of Trench 6	S	21/1/15
17	West facing section Trench 6	W	21/1/15
18	Post ex shot of Trench 7	S	21/1/15

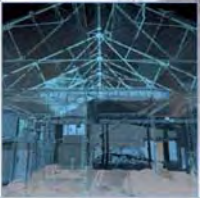
APPENDIX 3: Context Register

Context	Description
01	Cinder & red blaes 0.0 m to 0.20 m in depth
02	Re-deposited natural & top-soil 0.20 m to 0.60 m in depth
03	Natural – pale orange boulder clay

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Site 51B, Stobhill, Gorebridge, Midlothian
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23307
PARISH:	Cockpen
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
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:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 3427 6292
START DATE (this season)	21 st January 2016
END DATE (this season)	21 st January 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation in relation to a proposed housing development at Site 51B, Stobhill, Gorebridge, Midlothian (NGR: NT 3427 6292).</p> <p>The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample of the proposed 1 hectare development area, formerly used as playing fields associated with the now demolished Greenhall High School. A significant level of ground reduction and levelling had been undertaken during the creation of the playing fields. This had removed all formerly in situ deposits.</p> <p>In total, 300 linear metres were opened across of the proposed development area. The presence of steeply sloping ground at the eastern perimeter reduced the area available for evaluation. Initially the evaluation was to consist of 1,000m² of the one hectare area. The area was in fact approximately 0.6 of a hectare reducing the required metreage to 600 m².</p> <p>Trenching revealed a natural of glacial clays cut by modern drains set at 2.0 m intervals. The natural was overlain by deposits of re-deposited clay, cinder and red bleas.</p> <p>No archaeologically significant features or material was recovered during the evaluation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Hackland+Dore Architects Ltd
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



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