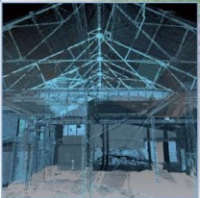
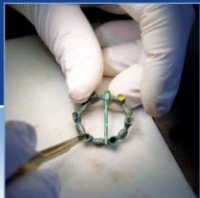


# Almondbrae, Charlesfield Lane, Livingston Old Village: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project No: 23349

8<sup>th</sup> September 2016



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Almondbrae, Charlesfield Lane, Livingston Old Village: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

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**National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 03821 66857**

**AOC Project No: 23349**

**OASIS ID: 261955**

**Planning Application No: 0777/H/15**

**Prepared by: Alexander Wood**

**Date of Fieldwork: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**Date of Report: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

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

**Author: Alexander Wood**

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft**

**Date:**

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

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## Summary

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*AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Copping to conduct an archaeological watching brief in respect to ground-breaking works associated with an extension to the existing property at Almondbrae, Charlesfield Lane, Livingston Old Village.*

*The excavation uncovered a dark grey silty clay loam topsoil to a depth of 0.7 m over natural subsoil which consisted of a mid yellowish brown clay with frequent stone inclusions, sloping from north to south towards the river.*

*No significant archaeological features or finds were revealed.*

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Mr and Mrs Copping in respect to ground-breaking works associated with an extension to the existing property at Almondbrae, Charlesfield Lane, Livingston Old Village (Planning Reference No. 0777/H/15). The need for and scope of the archaeological works was determined by West Lothian Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) & *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

## 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The development area was a single small extension to the southeastern corner of an existing building which lies on the eastern side of Charlesfield Lane, Livingston Old Village centred on NGR: NT 03821 66857 (Figure 1).

## 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The development area lies within the old core of Livingston village (Historic Environment Record WoSASPIN 18254, NMRS No NT06NW 33) which can be seen to date from first half of 12<sup>th</sup> century and was probably centered around a medieval parish church.

1.3.2 Whilst no known archaeological sites lie close to the development area the bulk of old Livingston village survives to the north and west of the development area with more than 17 Listed buildings within a few hundred metres. These include, most notably, the B-Listed Parish Church (NMRS No. NT06NW 13) which dates to 1732, the associated graveyard (NMRS No. NT06NW 13.2) and the B-Listed Manse (NMRS No. NT06NW 13.1).

1.3.3 The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance survey maps (Figures 3 & 4) from 1856 and 1895 respectively both show the development area clearly, firstly as a large formal garden and then as an open field.



Figure 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map, Linlithgowshire, Sheet 10, 1856

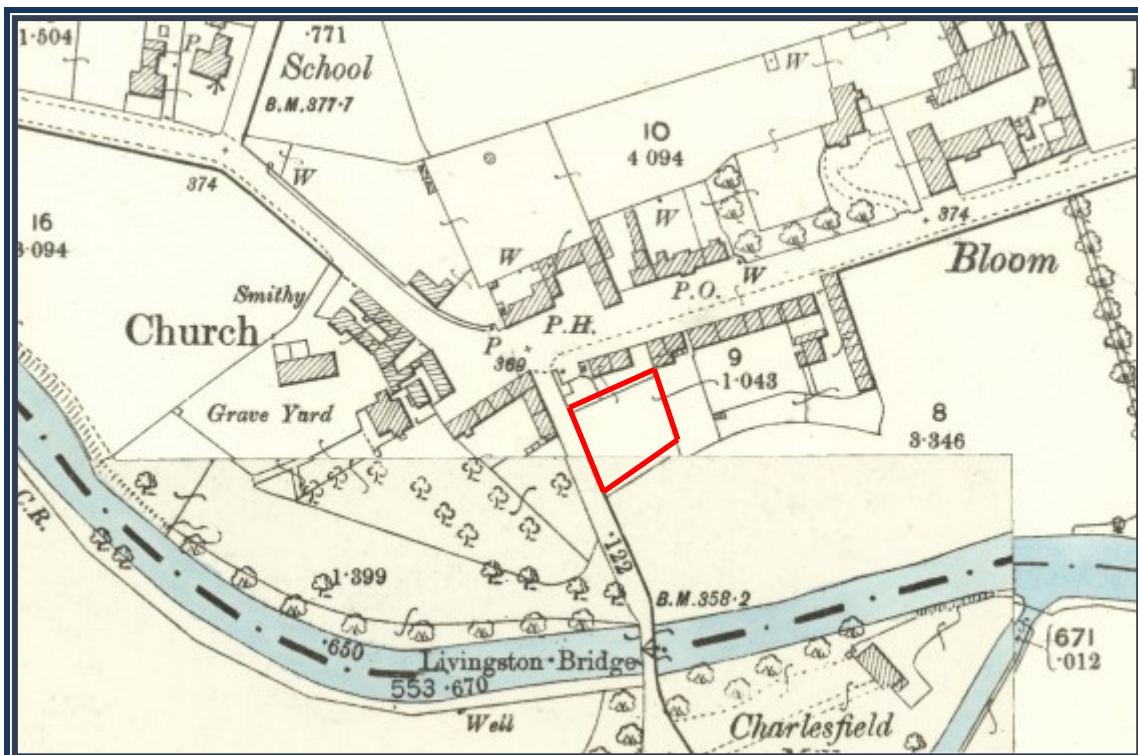


Figure 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map, Linlithgowshire, Sheet 10, 1895

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## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the development;
- ii) to liaise with WoSAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to 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 involved the monitoring of all ground-breaking works associated with the extension and decking footprint covering a 5.0 m by 3.0 m foundation footprint. The works were conducted utilising a 1 tonne mine excavator with a bladed ditching bucket. All An experienced Watching Brief Officer oversaw all excavations and where machine excavation was undertaken a toothless ditching bucket was utilised with ground reduction undertaken in shallow spits.

## 4 RESULTS

4.1 All archaeological works were conducted on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Weather conditions were overcast and dry and the archaeological visibility remained good throughout.

4.3 The excavation of the 5 m by 3 m area uncovered a dark grey silty clay to a depth of 0.2 m over a dark grey clay loam with occasional coal flecks 0.5 m deep. The maximum excavation depth was 0.7 m onto natural subsoil which consisted of a mid yellowish brown clay with frequent stone inclusions, sloping from north to south towards the river. No archaeological features were uncovered.



Plate 1 - General view of excavation area



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## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed extension area was subject to a full and comprehensive archaeological watching brief in which no significant archaeology was found. No further archaeological works are deemed necessary. This recommendation will require the approval of West of Scotland Archaeology Service on behalf of West Lothian Council.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC, 2016, *Almondbrae Charlesfield Lane, Livingston Old Village: Archaeological Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished client report.

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**Almondbrae, Livingston Old Village:  
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Data Structure Report**

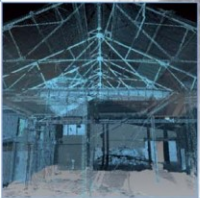
**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

No.	Description	Taken From	Date
1-4	General views of site – pre-excavation	Var	6/9/16
5-7	Working shots	Var	6/9/16
8	View of S edge stripped	N	6/9/16
9	Working shot	W	6/9/16
10	View of N end of site stripped	E	6/9/16
11	View of retaining wall and ground level outside of garden	SW	6/9/16

## APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	West Lothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Almondbrae, Livingston Old Village
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	23349
<b>PARISH:</b>	Livingston
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alexander Wood
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 038 668
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Copping to conduct an archaeological watching brief in respect to ground-breaking works associated with an extension to the existing property at Almondbrae, Charlesfield Lane, Livingston Old Village.</p> <p>The excavation uncovered a dark grey silty clay loam topsoil to a depth of 0.7 m over natural subsoil which consisted of a mid yellowish brown clay with frequent stone inclusions, sloping from north to south towards the river.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or finds were revealed.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr. and Mrs. Copping
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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