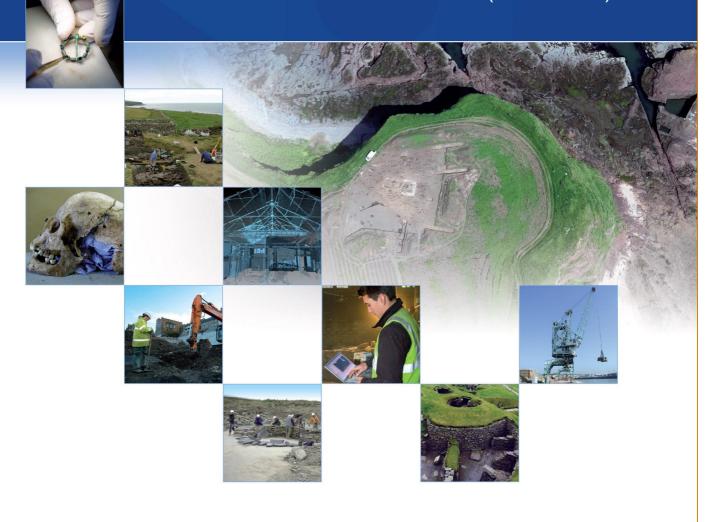
No 8 Silvermuir Holdings, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-330694 AOC Project 24575 10th October 2018 Plan Ref CL/10/0031(CL/13/0072)





No 8 Silvermuir Holdings, Ravenstruther, South Lanarkshire:

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Lawrie Construction Ltd

23 Station Road Biggar

ML12 6BW Phone: 01899 220647 Mobile: 0780 153 2814

Email: john@johnlawriebuilders.co.uk

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 921 451 (centred)

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Prepared by: Alex Wood

Illustration by: Sam O'Leary

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Author: Alex Wood Date: 10th October2018

Approved by: Rob Engl Date: 10th October2018

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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

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect of a proposed development at Silvermuir Holdings, Ravenstruther, South Lanarkshire (centred on NGR: (NS 921 451).

The evaluation was undertaken within a single land parcel of 0.93 ha. An 8% (250 linear metres) sample of the evaluation area was investigated by trial trenching, once existing 20th century buildings and the southern tree line were taken into account. The scope of the works was agreed in a WSI approved by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

The evaluation revealed modern disturbance in the form of made ground and demolition from the 20th century structures. A shallow linear field boundary was revealed in Trench 6.

Given the lack of significant archaeological findings, with most material on site dating to the 20th century, it is advised that no further archaeological mitigation is required. This will require verification by WoSAS on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological trial trenching was required by Lawrie Construction ahead of a proposed residential development at No 8 Silvermuir Holdings, Ravenstruther, South Lanarkshire (NS centred). The proposed development lies within the administrative area of South Lanarkshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeological Service (hereafter referred to as WoSAS). A programme of archaeological works was required as part of a planning condition (planning reference: CL/13/0072 (CL/13/0072) and with best practice, outlined in current planning guidelines Scottish Planning Policy (2014) & Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011) and The South Lanarkshire Local Plan Vol.1 (2006).
- 1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a programme of trial trenching; this covered an 8% sample of the available development area (Stage 1). Secondary works (Stage 2), if necessary, was to involve the implementation of appropriate archaeological mitigation measures, which may consist of further fieldwork (such as excavation) or provision by the development proposals which would allow preservation in situ of any buried archaeological material. Stage 3 will include suitable post-excavation analysis and publication of discovered archaeological remains, if appropriate.
- 1.1.3 WoSAS, on behalf of South Lanarksire Council, will determine the need for further stages of the proposed archaeological programme, as set out in this Written Scheme of Investigation. All such further works will be undertaken to the satisfaction of South Lanarkshire Council as advised by WoSAS. This Written Scheme of Investigation details how the requirements of the project will be met. The first part is site specific while the Appendices detail AOC Archaeology Group's operating procedures and standards.

1.2 **Site Location (Figure 1)**

The proposed development area (0.93 hectares) (NS 921 451 centred) lies within the Silvermuir 1.2.1 Holdings and is currently comprised of enclosed agricultural land ranging from 207.3m to 210.63m OD. The development area lies at the junction of the Silvermuir Road and the A745. Further agricultural land bounds the site to the north and east.



Figure 3 Extract from the Roy Map 1747-1755



Figure 4 Extract from Arrowsmith 1807

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 There are no recorded archaeological features recorded within the development area. However, there is potential for previously unknown sub-surface archaeological remains to be present. The development area lies within an area of dense Roman military activity.
- 1.3.2 The findspot of a number of carved stones (NS94NW 58) is recorded to the immediate north-east of the development area. These were recovered during the demolition of some late 18th-century properties at Ravenstruther. The stones include: half a Norman bucket font, the top covered with cream and green paint, the interior with cream paint on a reddish background; a roughly square piece of door or window, of freestone and decorated with a couple of stars; ?15th century; a rebated stone of pinkish sandstone; a damaged octagonal font of the 15th century, with two decorated panels. On the upper panel are the following: a lion rampant; a saltire; a rose and star. Under the lion there is a sprig, under the saltire there is a scallop shell and finally under the rose and star is a fleur de lys. There are other decorative features in the bottom registers and they include another sprig, a fan-type decoration and an inverted heart, as well as an inverted human face.
- 1.3.2.1 A photographic record of the site shows a pillar about 4-5ft long. Unfortunately, the pillar was cleared away. In addition, part of a Roman quern was also found which turned out to be flat on one side and ridged on the other, with seven ridges in one segment and three in the remaining segment. Some of the finds may have come from St Mary's Wellbent Church, Carstairs (Camp and Archer 2001).
- 1.3.3 To the south of the development area lies a Roman temporary camp (WoSAS Pin 10802), visible onair photographs, is situated on comparatively level ground 200m NW of Corbiehall farmhouse. It originally measured approximately 550m from E to W by 445m transversely, thus enclosing an area of about 24.5 ha (60.5 acres). Gates are visible, protected by an external clavicula and oblique traverse. This type of defence is characteristic of Flavian camps built by one of the legions employed in the Agricolan campaigns of about AD 78-84. At some later date in the same period, probably being required to accommodate a smaller force, the lines of the E and W sides were moved inward about 120m and 55m respectively.(This camp is part of the complex at Castledykes see also NS94SW 7.00- 7.01 and 7.03- 7.06 and 16. NS94SW 7.00 (general field) and 7.01 (fort) give air photograph reference numbers and a plan (made before all of this camp had been revealed). NS94SW 7.04 describes another camp, which falls within that described here, hence the OS publication) (Robertson 1964).
- 1.3.4 An access road to a new British Coal Depot cut through the defences of the Camp at its N gateway, already identified from aerial reconnaissance and seen to be of the Stracathro type. The butt end of the clavicula lay in its path, but the 'oblique traverse' lay clear of the development. Across the gate passage was an independent length of ditch 1.5m wide and 0.25m deep. It was 15.5m long and served to mask the broad gap in the camp defences. Other shallow channels which had been dug out while the camp defences were still visible, seemed likely to belong to a Roman field system. Two

stakeholes set into the butt end of the clavicula may be evidence of fencing at that time. There were no finds of Roman date to confirm the likely dating of the camp. (Keppie and Walker 1987).

- 1.3.5 To the east of the temporary camps lies the Roman fort of Castledykes which lies just above the River Clyde, east of Lanark. It was extensively excavated from the 1930s to the 1950s and successive Flavian and Antonine forts were recognised (Robertson 1964a; RCAHMS 1978a:124–7).
- 1.3.5.1 Annexes are visible to the south and west of the fort, and several lie to the east. One enclosure here was proposed as a labour camp for the Antonine fort, dated by its finds (Robertson 1964a: 150–1). It also appears to have been used as an annexe, possibly for an extra-mural settlement or working area (RCAHMS 1978a: 127).
 Surrounding the fort, some four temporary camps have now been identified through cropmarks (two demonstrating at least two phases of occupation), with three further camps nearby, at Cleghorn and Carstairs Mains. Camp I, lying north-west of the fort, has at least two phases of occupation (A and B), evidenced by reducing ditches on both the east and west sides of the camp. It was first discovered in 1946 by St Joseph from the air (1951a: 57), with its secondary use recognised in the 1960s. The camp measures some 548m from north-west to south-east by 437m transversely, enclosing almost 24ha (59 acres).
- 1.3.5.2 Additional linear cropmarks running NNE to SSW across the south-east and north-west end of the camp presumably represent a reduction in its size for a second phase, but it is unclear whether the two cropmarks relate to contemporary occupation or to successive phases of use. If contemporary, then the reduced camp measures 357m by 437m and enclosed 15.7ha (almost 39 acres).
- 1.3.5.3 The larger camp (IA) is equipped with Stracathro-type gates on its north-east and south-east sides. Excavations at the north-east gate in 1987 recorded that the ditch of the camp was 1.95m wide and 0.6m deep; that at the clavicula was 1.1m wide and about 0.5m deep; and the ditch extending across the west part of the gateway was 1.5m wide and 0.25m deep. The entrance itself was 10m wide. Three stake holes were dug into the end of the clavicula ditch, which were interpreted as evidence of fencing (Keppie 1996b: 81) and may relate to the field systemclearly visible across the Castledykes area. It is assumed that a secondary use of the camp (IB) would have also utilised the north-eastern entrance, but there was no clear evidence of any recutting of the camp defences in the small area excavated (Keppie 1996b: 81).
- 1.3.5.4 Camp II lies to the north of the fort and also has two phases of occupation, with a reducing ditch on its west side. Another linear cropmark within the camp, east of centre, could indicate further phases of use. The camp was first recorded in 1952 by St Joseph from the air (1955: 85) with the secondary phases noted in the early 1960s (1965: 80). Phase one (camp IIA) measures 260m from north-west to south-east by 204m transversely, enclosing almost 5.2ha (13 acres). The reduced camp (II B) probably measures 260m by 153m, enclosing almost 4ha (9.6 acres), but if the linear cropmark represents a further camp, then this could measure some 260m by 137m and enclose 3.5ha (8.6

- acres). Entrances for the larger camp (IIA) are visible in its south-west and north-west sides, both protected by tituli; that on the north-west lies in the centre of the reduced camp (IIB).
- 1.3.5.5 An extensive field system is visible in the vicinity, elements of which must be later than this camp, owing to the way that its defences are utilised by the fields (see above, section 7h).
- 1.3.5.6 Camp III lies within camp I with its perimeter intersecting a reducing ditch of camp IB, but the relationship between the two is unknown. First recorded in the mid-1950s by St Joseph from the air (1958: 89), it measures 122m from north-west to south-east by 81m transversely, enclosing almost 1ha (2.4 acres). No entrances are known. Partially overlapping the eastern part of camp II, and possibly also the north-eastern corner of the fort, lies camp IV, the most recent discovery on the plateau (by RCAHMS in 1989: Frere 1990: 312). It is irregular in form, measuring about 440m from west to east by at least 320m, although its southern perimeter is unconfirmed. It therefore enclosed at least 14ha (35 acres). Keppie and Maxwell (1991) speculated that it could enclose in excess of 19ha (48 acres), but it seems likely on grounds of topography and its relationship to the fort location that it enclosed some 15.7ha (39 acres). An entrance gap is recorded in the north side where there is a change of alignment. Excavations on the ditch in 1991 recorded that it averaged 2.5m wide (Keppie and Maxwell 1991). The western side of the camp intersects camp II, but their relative chronology is unknown. Castledykes IA is usually interpreted as being the earliest feature on the site (St Joseph 1964: 257) owing to its Stracathro-type gates, but its relationship with camp III has not been determined. Keppie and Maxwell suggested that camp IV might be Flavian because of the potential overlap with the nearby fort (1991: 69); indeed, one of the ditches running eastwards from the north-east corner of the fort may be associated with this camp rather than one of the annexes. No dating evidence has yet been produced from any of the camps.
- 1.3.6 In 2016 a watching brief was undertaken during development work on land at Ayr Road. Topsoil stripping prior to the construction of an agricultural shed, access track and hard standing, revealed a fairly clean fine silty topsoil containing occasional post-medieval or early modern sherds of roof tiles or field drains.
- 1.3.7 To the immediate south of the fort and camp complex are the remains of a Roman Road Leaving Castledykes fort (NS94SW 7.01) by the W gate, traces of this road may be seen through the woodland strip forming the avenue connecting Corbiehill with the public road. Emerging from the wood some 500m W of the fort rampart, slight traces may be discerned in the contour of the adjacent field. It crosses the road from Ravenstruther to Hyndford Bridge (A70) just S of its junction with the Westbank farm-road, along the S margin of which traces of the causeway may be seen beneath the hedge and fence. From this point its course is still fairly clear. It cuts across the corner of the Westbank farm steading and picks up the farm-road again beyond it, where its course is marked by a row of beech trees between some cottages. The line is well marked by a dilapidated fence between two fields of the adjacent farm of Huntlybank, and again by a dry-stone dyke, which is crossed S of the farm. It maintains the line of the farm-road as far as the Ravenstruther-Lanark road (A743) then passes along the SW side of the Silvermuir Wood, till a marshy hollow is reached; this is avoided by

a slight curve, then the line is resumed as far as the railway, where there is a slight change in direction as far as sheet edge (RCAHMS 1978).

- 1.3.7.1 Two superimposed Antonine roads lay under the modern cart-track through the Antonine gateway of Castledykes fort. The upper road (Antonine II) was very close to the modern surface and had been uprooted at many points. It was 20ft wide, flanked by gutters 3ft wide and had a hard gravel surface over cobble-bottoming. It was traced westwards for almost 80ft and even in that short distance was found to be inclining towards the NW. It lay on 1ft of earth below which was the Antonine 1 road, which had a surface of large cobbles and gravel, and rested on the natural sand. The Flavian W gateway lay 15ft S of the Antonine (Robertson 1964).
- 1.3.8 During a watching-brief in advance of house-building 150m W of the W gate of the fort, the stone bottoming of a road running E-W was plotted, overlying a buried plough soil. Its date remained unclear (Keppie 1994).

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 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 details of the archaeological evaluation, laid out below, were designed to meet the requirements of South Lanarkshire Council as advised by WoSAS, and agreed through the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC Archaeology 2018).
- 3.2 The original area covered by the proposed development area was c.0.93 ha. An 8% sample of the area was stipulated equating 372 linear metres of trenches when excavated with a 2.0 m wide bucket. Upon arrival on site it was established that the south west corner of the site was covered by trees and two 20th century structures. In addition, the central part of the field was covered by the founds and some upstanding walls relating to 20th century greenhouses. As a result, 250 linear metres of trenching was excavated over 7 trenches.

- 3.3 The evaluation trenches were distributed in order to achieve greatest coverage of the available area (see Figure 2).
- 3.4 The trenches were opened by a single tracked excavator equipped with 2.0 m wide bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or geological deposits were reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and the methodology within the agreed WSI.

4 **RESULTS**

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 9th October 2018. Weather conditions consisted of light rain throughout the day. Despite the conditions, visibility remained good.
- 4.2 A total of 7 linear trenches were excavated (Figure 2) giving a total of 250 linear metres.
- 4.3 The site consisted of a single a field, overgrown from abandonment. The field was fairly level to the west with a gradual incline to the east, forming terracing for the 20th century greenhouses. The topsoil consisted of a loose greyish brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal. The plough soil ranged from 0.3 to 0.5m in depth. Underlying the topsoil across the site was a natural subsoil of loose reddish orange sand and gravels, with occasional outcrops of manganese.



Plate 1: General view of site conditions



Plate 2: NE facing section of Trench 5 - showing wall/structure [503]

- 4.4 Clay field drains were observed in trenches 2 and 3 at the lowest part of the field. These were aligned northeast-southwest and east-west.
- 4.5 Trench 4 uncovered 0.5 m of 20th century made ground consisting of brown clay, demolition rubble and abundant glass. Beneath this made ground was modern cut and fill (comprised of black tarmac, brick and abundant glass), also likely from the same time, 12 m the east trench end.
- 4.6 Trench 5 was placed through the middle of the surviving walls for the large 20th century structure (interpreted as a greenhouse complex) to ensure coverage across the site. 4 m from the east end a substantial brick wall/surface [503] over large stone foundation stones and friable black concrete was uncovered with a 3 m wide cut [502]. This was identified continuing north and south out-with the trench as a bank under the vegetation. This likely formed east extent of the greenhouse complex.
- 4.7 In Trench 6 a shallow east-west orientated cut [602] was uncovered. This measured 0.7-0.75 m wide and 0.12 m deep with gradually sloping sides onto a flat base. This fill (063) consisted of a loose mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. This was very similar in composition to the topsoil across the site and the linear likely is the shallow traces of a field boundary.



Plate 3: W facing section of linear [602]

5 **CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The proposed development site was subject to an archaeological evaluation as per the agreed WSI (AOC Archaeology 2018) under conditions set out by WoSAS. The evaluation revealed modern disturbance in the form of made ground and demolition from 20th century structures. A shallow field boundary linear was revealed in Trench 6.
- 5.2 Given the lack of significant archaeological findings, with most material on site dating to the 20th century, it is advised that no further archaeological mitigation is required. This will require verification by WoSAS on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

6 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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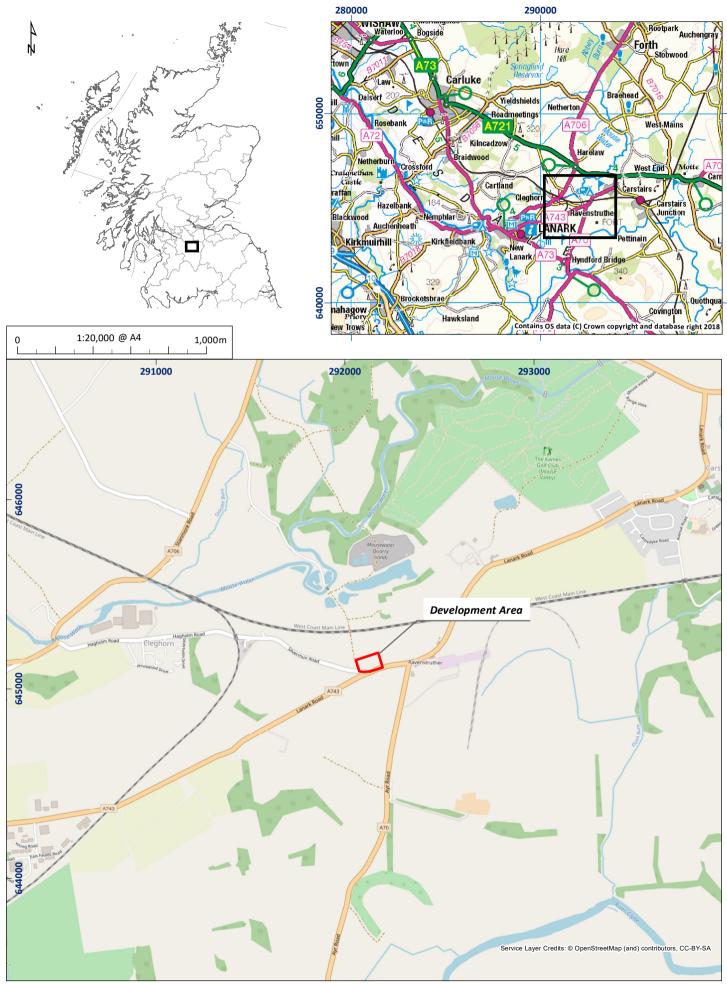


Figure 1: Site location plan



Figure 2: Trench location plan and west facing section of linear [602]

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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

Dimensions 50 m by 2 m Total Area 100 m² **Excavated Orientation** SW-NE Excavation Depth 0.3-0.4 Significant Features None

Natural Subsoil Loose reddish orange sand, becoming sandy gravel towards NE

Unstratified Finds None Drains None

Trench 2

Dimensions 30 m by 2 m 60 m² Total Area **Excavated Orientation** NE-SW Excavation Depth 0.5-0.65 Significant Features None

Natural Subsoil Pale greyish yellow clayey sand Unstratified Finds Demolition infill within topsoil

Drains CE NE-SW at 3 m, E-W at 8 m, NE-SW at 16 m

Trench 3

Dimensions 50 m by 2 m Total Area 100 m² SE-NW Excavated Orientation

Excavation Depth 0.5 - 1.05 (at 26 m onwards due to 0.55 tarmac and rubble infill)

Significant Features

Natural Subsoil Loose reddish orange sand

Unstratified Finds None

Drains CE NE-SW at 25m

Trench 4

Dimensions 30 m by 2 m 60 m² Total Area **Excavated Orientation** SE-NW

Excavation Depth 0.8 (0.3 topsoil, 0.5 made ground) – 1 (0.3 topsoil, 0.7 made ground)

Significant Features Modern cut and fill at 12m. Natural Subsoil Loose reddish orange sand

Unstratified Finds None Drains None

Trench 5

Dimensions 30 m by 2 m Total Area 60 m² **NE-SW Excavated Orientation** Excavation Depth

Cut [502] filled with concrete, large foundation stones and 20th century brick [503] Significant Features

Natural Subsoil Loose reddish orange sand.

Unstratified Finds None Drains None

Trench 6

Dimensions 40 m by 2 m Total Area 80 m² **Excavated Orientation** SW-NE Excavation Depth 0.3-0.6

Significant Features E-W orientated linear [602] filled by loose brown silty sand (603) Natural Subsoil Loose reddish orange sand, becoming sandy gravel towards NE

Unstratified Finds None Drains None.

Trench 7

Dimensions 20 m by 2 m Total Area 40 m² **Excavated Orientation** NW-SE Excavation Depth 0.35 Significant Features None

Natural Subsoil Loose reddish orange sand, becoming sandy gravel towards NE

Unstratified Finds None Drains None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

No.	Description	Taken From	Date
1-6	-6 General shots of site pre-excavation		09/10/18
7-8	7-8 Post excavation shots of Trench 1		09/10/18
9	9 General shot of rubble in NE corner of site		09/10/18
10	10 "Coltness" brick from rubble on site		09/10/18
11	Post excavation shot of Trench 2	NW	09/10/18
12-13	Post excavation shots of Trench 3	SE-NW	09/10/18
14	N facing section of Trench 4 showing modern "cut and fill"	N	09/10/18
15-16	Post excavation shots of Trench 4	E-W	09/10/18
17-23	Wall [503] in Trench 5	Var.	09/10/18
24-25 Post excavation shots of Trench 5		NE-SW	09/10/18
26-27	Plan view of linear [602]	S	09/10/18
28	E facing section of linear [602] in Trench 6 SE facing side	SE	09/10/18
29	W facing section of linear [602]	W	09/10/18
30-31	Post excavation shots of Trench 6	SW-NE	09/10/18
32	Post excavation shots of Trench 7	NNW	09/10/18

APPENDIX 3: Context Record

No.	Description	
501	Loose dark greyish brown sandy loam	
	Topsoil	
502	3 m wide NW-SE orientated wall cut.	
503	Wall constructed of concrete, rough foundation slabs and three courses of brick,	
	surviving to 0.8 m in height. Set within cut [502]	

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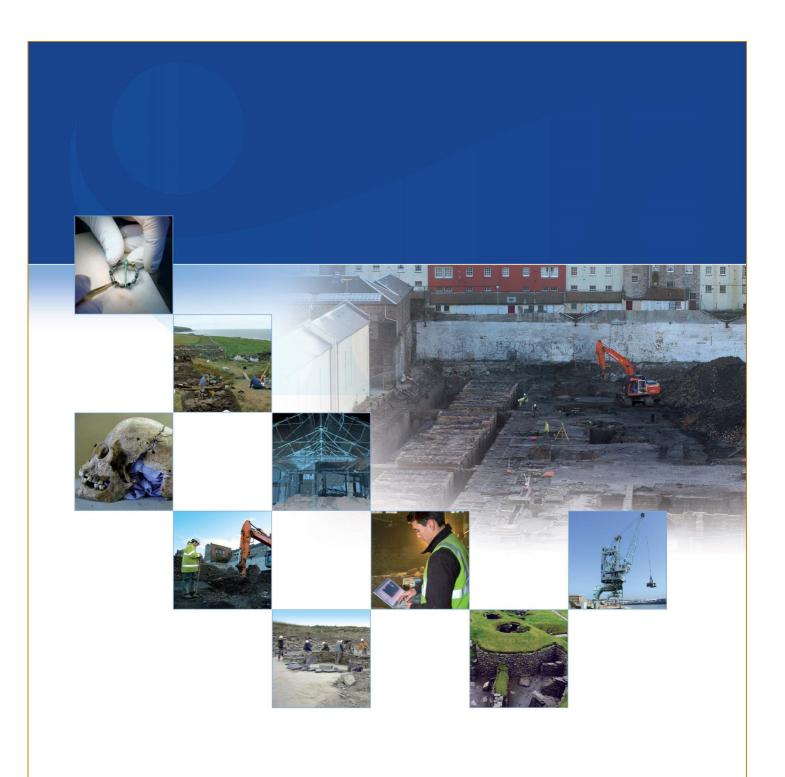
	20 th century wall
601	Loose dark greyish brown sandy loam
	Topsoil
602	0.7-0.75 m wide E-W orientated linear cut. Gradually sloping sides onto a flat base.
	Field boundary
603	Loose mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of linear [602]

APPENDIX 4: Sample Register

No.	Quantity
603	101

APPENDIX 5: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	No 8 Silvermuir Holdings, Ravenstruther, South Lanarkshire
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24575
PARISH:	Lanark
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alex Wood
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 921 451
START DATE (this season)	9 th October 2018
END DATE (this season)	9 th October 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect of a proposed development at Silvermuir Holdings, Ravenstruther, South Lanarkshire (centred on NGR: (NS 921 451). The evaluation was undertaken within a single land parcel of 0.93 ha. An 8% (250 linear metres) sample of the evaluation area was investigated by trial trenching, once 20th century buildings and the southern tree line were taken into account. The scope of the works was agreed in a WSI approved by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The evaluation revealed modern disturbance in the form of made ground and demolition from the 20th century structures. A shallow linear field boundary was revealed in Trench 6. Given the lack of significant archaeological findings, with most material on site dating to the 20th century, it is advised that no further archaeological mitigation is required. This will require verification by WoSAS on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Lawrie Construction Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Alex.Wood@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