

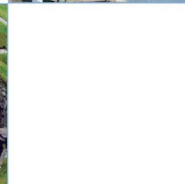
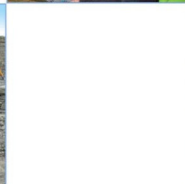
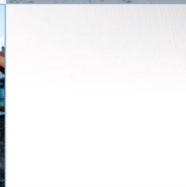
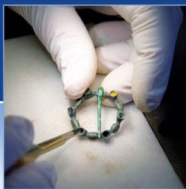
Hadfast Road, Cousland, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

17th January 2019

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AOC Project No. 24670



Hadfast Road, Cousland, Midlothian Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Almondbranch Developments,

National Grid Reference (NGR): centred on NT 3796 6844

AOC Project No: 24670

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect to a proposed development at Hadfast Road, Cousland (centred on NGR: NT 3796 6844).

The evaluation was undertaken within a single land parcel of 0.25 ha. A 5% (53 linear metres once overhead services and a focus on Plots 3-6 were taken into account) sample of the evaluation area was investigated by trial trenching. The scope of the works was agreed in a WSI approved by East Lothian Archaeological Service (ELCAS).

The evaluation revealed modern disturbance in the form of made ground. This deposit consisted of shattered brick/mortar at the north and west of site relating to levelling for the school/carpark built in the 1970's.

No archaeologically significant features or materials were recovered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works comprising an evaluation was required by Almondbranch Developments prior to the construction of a proposed residential development of five dwellings on land at Hadfast Road, Cousland, Midlothian (Planning Ref: 17/00996/DPP). The need for, and scope of, the archaeological works has been determined by the Midlothian Council who are advised on archaeological matters by Helena Gray of the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service, ELCAS.

1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works was required in keeping with best practice requirements outlined in current planning guidelines Scottish Planning Policy (2014) & Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area. This Data Structure Report (DSR) details how the requirements outlined in Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2018) were met.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development lies to the south of Hadfast Road, Cousland and encloses the site of the former Cousland Primary School (centred on NGR: NT 3796 6844 Figure 1). The site is comprised of the former school playground, carpark and grassed areas. Existing properties lie to the east and west with Hadfast Road to the north and open fields to the south.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 No known sites lie within the immediate development area according to Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) records and the Historic Environment Record (HER) barring the former 1970s Cousland Primary School which has now been demolished. However, a few sites are known within the vicinity of the development area.

1.3.2 Directly to the west of the site lies the site of the 1800s Cousland Primary School (HES No. NT36NE 104). This went out of use when its replacement was built in the 1970s (within the development area). The 1800s schoolhouse is now refurbished as a residential property.

1.3.3 To the southwest of the site about 200 m away a watching brief was conducted in 2013 on a new driveway and garage development to an existing property at 2 Hillside Cottages (HES No. NT36NE 144). During these works no features or artefacts of archaeological significance were uncovered.

1.3.4 To the west within the centre of Cousland lie the remains of Cousland Castle; a tower house, a later building that adjoined it to the south, and part of a garden wall. (HES No. NT36NE 9). The tower house survives above ground as an unroofed ruin with upstanding walls to the north, west and south. The style of the architecture indicates that it may date to the later 15th century.

- 1.3.5 To the northwest there are two Listed Buildings, the smiddy and smiddy cottage (Listed Building No. 776, HES No. NT36NE 81). These buildings are late 18th century and can be seen on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map as shown on the extract below, Figure 3. Also shown within the western portion of the development area are some late 19th century buildings and associated garden/yard of which remains may survive.

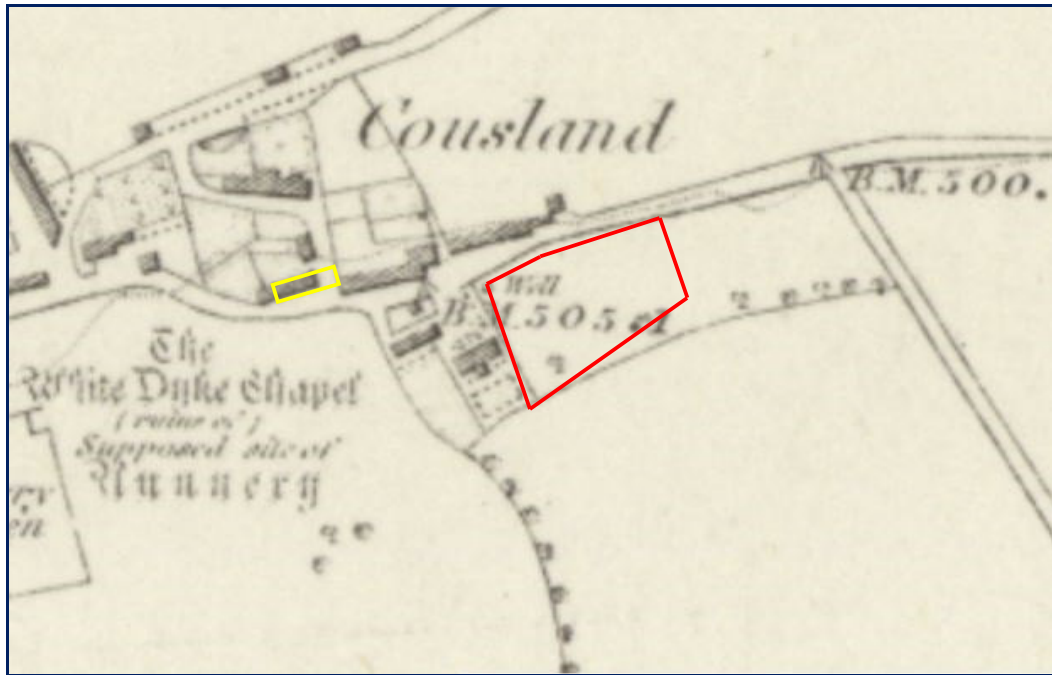


Figure 3: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map extract c. 1855 showing development in red and listed 'Smiddy and Cottage' in yellow

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 0.25 ha proposed development area through a 5% field evaluation targeting the new house plots;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011), such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.
- iii) to prepare a final 'Data Structure Report' and project archive.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The details of the archaeological evaluation, were designed to meet the requirements of East Lothian Council as advised ELCAS, and agreed through the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2018). All works were undertaken using the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards and procedures (CIfA 2014)
- 3.2 The available area within the proposed development area, covers c.0.1ha. A 5% sample of the available area amounted to 53 linear metres of trenches excavated with a 1.6 m wide bucket.
- 3.3 The evaluation trenches were distributed primarily at the northern end of the site (Trenches 1-3) targeting the new house plots. Trench 4 ran E-W across the planned gardens for the greatest possible coverage.
- 3.4 Trenches were opened by a single JCB excavator equipped with 1.6 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 (AOC 2018).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 11th January 2019. Weather conditions remained sunny and dry, and therefore archaeological visibility remained good.
- 4.2 A total of 4 linear trenches were excavated (Figure 2) giving a total of 53 linear metres.
- 4.3 The site consisted of a single grass field encompassing the demolished remains of the former school with associated playground and carpark. The top-soil consisted of a heavily improved, and likely imported dark grey/ brown plough-soil (001). The plough-soil ranged from 0.2 m to 0.8 m in depth. The topsoil overlaid a heavy compact boulder clay (004).
- 4.4 Within Trenches 2 and 3, lay a deposit of made ground consisting of shattered brick, mortar and Type 1 (002). This ranged from 0.2m to 0.7m in depth (see Plate 1). The made ground was likely a levelling deposit for the former school carpark/playground existing in the 1970s. The made ground covered a deposit of dark grey brown peaty loam 0.2 to 0.4 m in depth (003). This is likely the previous topsoil/disturbed ground existing before the ground level was raised for the school.
- 4.5 Trench 4 contained a NE-SW orientated field drain cut at 9 m from the ENE end and 0.05 m of made ground at 19 – 20 m.

- 4.6 No archaeologically significant small finds or features were uncovered during the evaluation.



Plate 1: NNW facing section of Trench 2 showing made ground (002)



Plate 2: Trench 4 post-excitation

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The proposed development site was subject to an archaeological evaluation as per the agreed WSI (AOC 2018). The evaluation revealed modern disturbance in the form of shattered brick and mortar and Type 1 levelling deposits associated with the 1970s school.
- 5.2 Given the findings of the evaluation it is advised that no further mitigation measures will be required. This will need confirmation of Helena Gray of the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service, ELCAS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology 2018 Hadfast Road, Cousland, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished client report.

ClfA 2014 Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation

Scottish Government 2011 Planning and Archaeology 2/2011

Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy

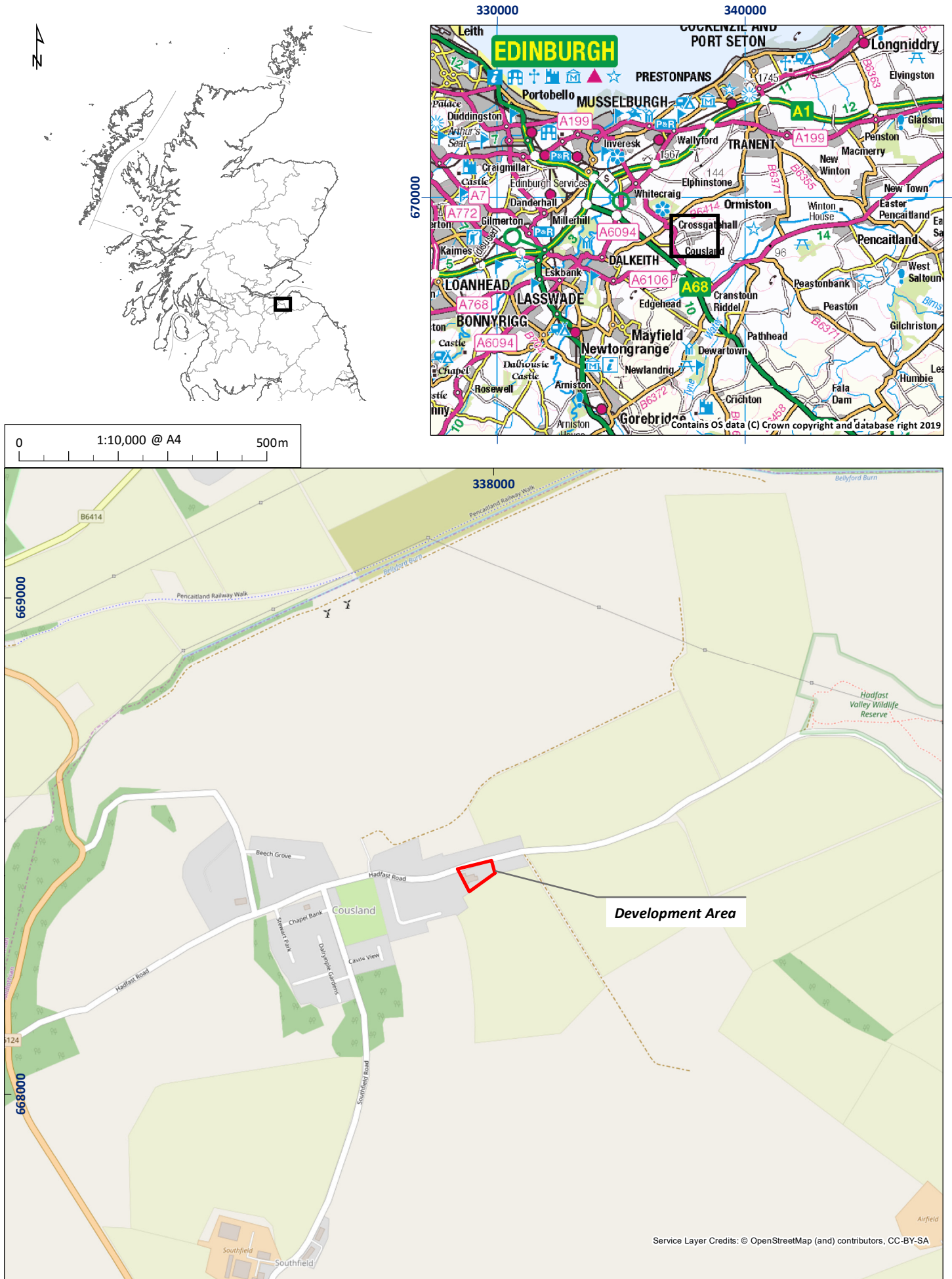


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/24670/DSR/01/01



Figure 2: Trench location plan

01/24670/DSR/02/01

Hadfast Road, Cousland, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	12 m by 1.6 m
<i>Total Area</i>	19.2 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	ENE – WSW
<i>Topsoil Depth</i>	0.45 m – 0.8 m
<i>Excavation Depth</i>	0.5 m – 0.8 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Compact pale pinky orange boulder clay
<i>Unstratified Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 1.6 m
<i>Total Area</i>	16 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	ENE – WSW
<i>Topsoil Depth</i>	0.2 m – 0.4 m
<i>Excavation Depth</i>	0.6 m – 1.15 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Mixed shattered brick and mortar made ground and type 1 levelling material 0.2 - 0.7 m in depth
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Compact pale pinky orange boulder clay
<i>Unstratified Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	11 m by 1.6 m
<i>Total Area</i>	17.6 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NNW – SSE
<i>Topsoil Depth</i>	0.1 m – 0.15 m
<i>Excavation Depth</i>	0.6 m – 1.1 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Mixed shattered brick and mortar made ground and type 1 levelling material 0.15 - 0.9 m (becoming increasingly shallow at S end of site) in depth
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Compact pale pinky orange boulder clay
<i>Unstratified Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 1.6 m
<i>Total Area</i>	32 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	ENE – WSW
<i>Topsoil Depth</i>	0.3 m – 0.35 m
<i>Excavation Depth</i>	0.4 m – 0.65 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	9 m from ENE end – NE-SW orientated field drain cut. 19 – 20 m from ENE end - mixed shattered brick and mortar made ground and type 1 levelling material 0.05 m in depth
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Compact pale pinky orange boulder clay becoming increasingly grey and compact at WSW end
<i>Unstratified Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

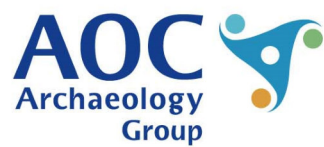
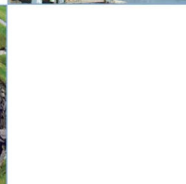
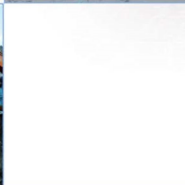
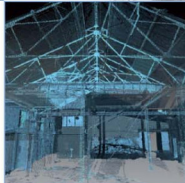
No.	Description	Taken From	Date
1	Trench 1 post-excavation	WSW	11/01/19
2	Trench 2 post-excavation	WSW	11/01/19
3	NNW facing section of Trench 2	NNW	11/01/19
4	Trench 3 post-excavation	NNW	11/01/19
5	ENE facing section of Trench 3	ENE	11/01/19
6	Trench 4 post-excavation	WSW	11/01/19
7-8	Backfilled trenches	Var.	11/01/19

APPENDIX 3: Context Register

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
(001)	Heavily improved dark grey/ brown plough-soil. 0.2 m to 0.8 m in depth. Topsoil
(002)	Shattered brick, mortar and Type 1. 0.2m to 0.7m in depth. Made ground
(003)	Dark grey brown peaty loam. 0.2 to 0.4 m in depth Previous topsoil
(004)	Heavy compact boulder clay. Natural

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Hadfast Road, Cousland, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24670
PARISH:	Cranston
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)	NT 379 684
START DATE (this season)	11 th January 2019
END DATE (this season)	11 th January 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect to a proposed development at Hadfast Road, Cousland (centred on NGR: NT 3796 6844).</p> <p>The evaluation was undertaken within a single land parcel of 0.25 ha. A 5% (53 linear metres once overhead services and a focus on Plots 3-6 were taken into account) sample of the evaluation area was investigated by trial trenching. The scope of the works was agreed in a WSI approved by East Lothian Archaeological Service (ELCAS).</p> <p>The evaluation revealed modern disturbance and deposition in the form of made ground consisting of shattered brick/mortar at the north and west of site relating to levelling for the 1970s school/carpark.</p> <p>No archaeologically significant small finds were recovered during the evaluation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NRHE



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