

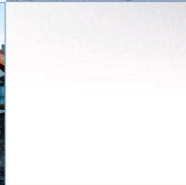
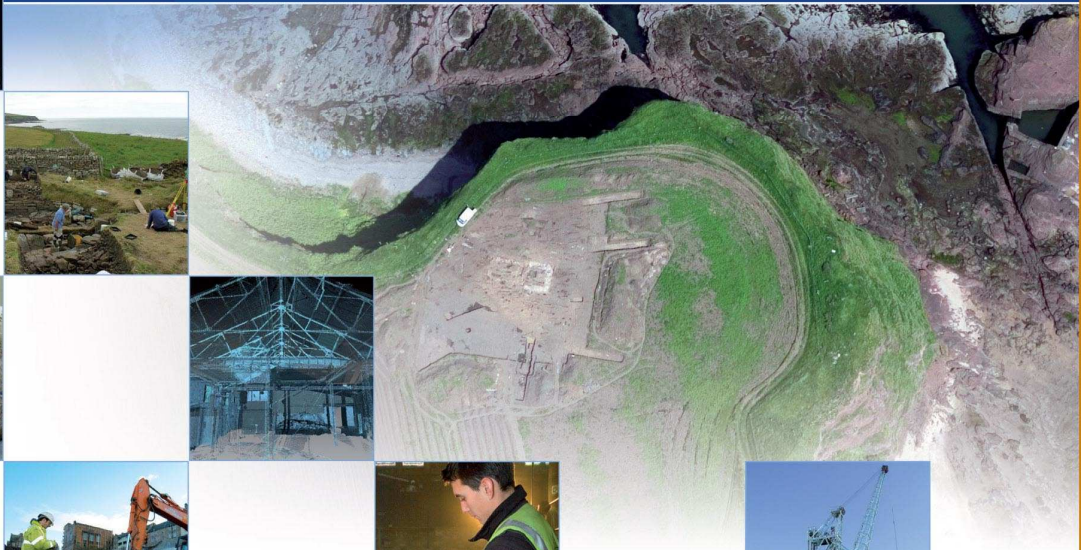
Pentland Grove, Bilston, Midlothian: Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip Data Structure Report

22nd January 2019

Planning Ref No. 16/00865/DPP

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-340050

AOC Project No. 24500



Pentland Grove, Bilston, Midlothian Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Mr. Anthony Edwards

National Grid Reference (NGR): centred on NT 2545 6479

AOC Project No: 24500

Prepared by: Alex Wood

Illustration by: Sam O'Leary

Date of Fieldwork: 16th January 2019

Date of Report: 22nd January 2019

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 monitored topsoil strip undertaken in respect to a proposed development at Pentland Grove, Bilston (centred on NGR: NT 2545 6479).

Monitoring was focused on the footprint of the proposed new house development.

The topsoil strip revealed a brown sandy silt topsoil 0.4m in depth. This overlaid a compact pale yellow natural boulder clay. The natural was cut by NW-SE orientated field drains.

No archaeologically significant features or small finds were recovered during the archaeological works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works comprising a monitored topsoil strip was required by Mr. Anthony Edwards prior to the construction of a proposed residential development on land at Pentland Grove, Seafield Moor, Bilston, Midlothian (Planning Ref: 16/00865/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 is 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 west of the village of Bilston, Midlothian and immediately west of the A703 Bilston Moor Road centred on NGR: NT 2545 6479 (Figure 1). The site is comprised of gardens belonging to Pentland Grove House and contains numerous mature trees.

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 local Historic Monument Records, HER. However, three sites are known within the vicinity of the development area.
- 1.3.2 Two hundred and fifty metres to the SW lies the 18th century Seafield House (HES No. NT26SE 140, HER No. MEL5772) and a little further southeast an early 20th century cottage (HES No. NT26SE 92, HER No. MEL5270). The final site lies about 400 m to the northwest and comprises 'broad rig' agricultural remains noted during a watching brief conducted in 2009-2011 and date to the pre-1800's, (HER No. MEL10204).
- 1.3.3 The mid 19th century 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map shows both Pentland Grove House and Seafield House as well as showing the modern garden of Pentland Grove House to have been extended to the mid 19th field boundary to the southwest post 1900 (see Figures 2 and 4). A path extending from the house and aligned northwest to southeast crosses the route of the proposed new access road.



Figure 2 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map extract c. 1855



Figure 4 1900s Ordnance Survey map extract

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 through a monitored topsoil strip of the house footprint, access route, service tracks and areas of hard landscaping;

- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such 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 works, laid out below, were designed to meet the requirements of East Lothian Council as advised by ELCAS, and agreed through the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2018).
- 3.2 ELCAS on behalf of Midlothian Council required that a monitored topsoil strip of the house footprint, service tracks and access route was to be undertaken.
- 3.3 The site was found to contain red brick and concrete greenhouse bases/foundations which were located to the northeast of the proposed new house and a pre-existing drive located in the footprint of the proposed drive. The pre-existing drive was in place prior to Mr. Anthony Edwards' ownership of the land. It was clear from the topography and a small slot through the gravel drive that the area had been stripped when it was constructed. As such, the topsoil strip was focused on the new house footprint as this was undisturbed.
- 3.4 The topsoil strip was undertaken 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 works were undertaken on the 16th January 2019. Weather conditions remained sunny and dry and archaeological visibility remained good.
- 4.2 The site consisted of a single grass field with numerous trees forming part of the previous gardens of Pentland Grove House. This contained brick and concrete foundations belonging to two greenhouses [003] in the northwest corner of the development where the drive in front of the new house is to be located. These greenhouses do not appear on any maps. However, the boundary for the estate seems to have been extended since the 1900s Ordnance Survey, bringing the proposed development area and location for subsequent greenhouses into the Pentland Grove House gardens. As such it would seem likely that these greenhouses were constructed after 1900.

- 4.3 The monitored strip revealed a garden loam topsoil (001) 0.4 - 0.5m in depth. This overlaid a natural of compact pale yellowish boulder clay (002) (see Plate 1). The only features uncovered were the cuts for northwest-southeast orientated field drains, which contained rubble and ceramic pipes.
- 4.5 Four test pits were excavated by Christie Gillespie Consulting Engineers Ltd for ground porosity and geological purposes. These were monitored, confirming a further absence of archaeological features and confirming the drain type discovered across the stripped areas (see Plate 2).
- 4.6 No archaeologically significant small finds or features were uncovered during the archaeological works.



Plate 1: Central strip of house footprint



Plate 2: Field drain in geological test hole



Plate 3: Red brick walls of 1900s greenhouses



Plate 4: Existing drive

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The proposed development site was subject to an archaeologically monitored topsoil strip as per the agreed WSI (AOC 2018) where ground had not already been disturbed by building foundations and tracks. No significant archaeological features or finds were observed during the monitored strip.
- 5.2 Given the findings of the evaluation it is advised that no further mitigation measures will be required. This will need confirmation by Helena Gray of the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service, ELCAS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology 2018 Pentland Grove, Bilston, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished client report.

Scottish Government 2011 Planning and Archaeology 2/2011

Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy

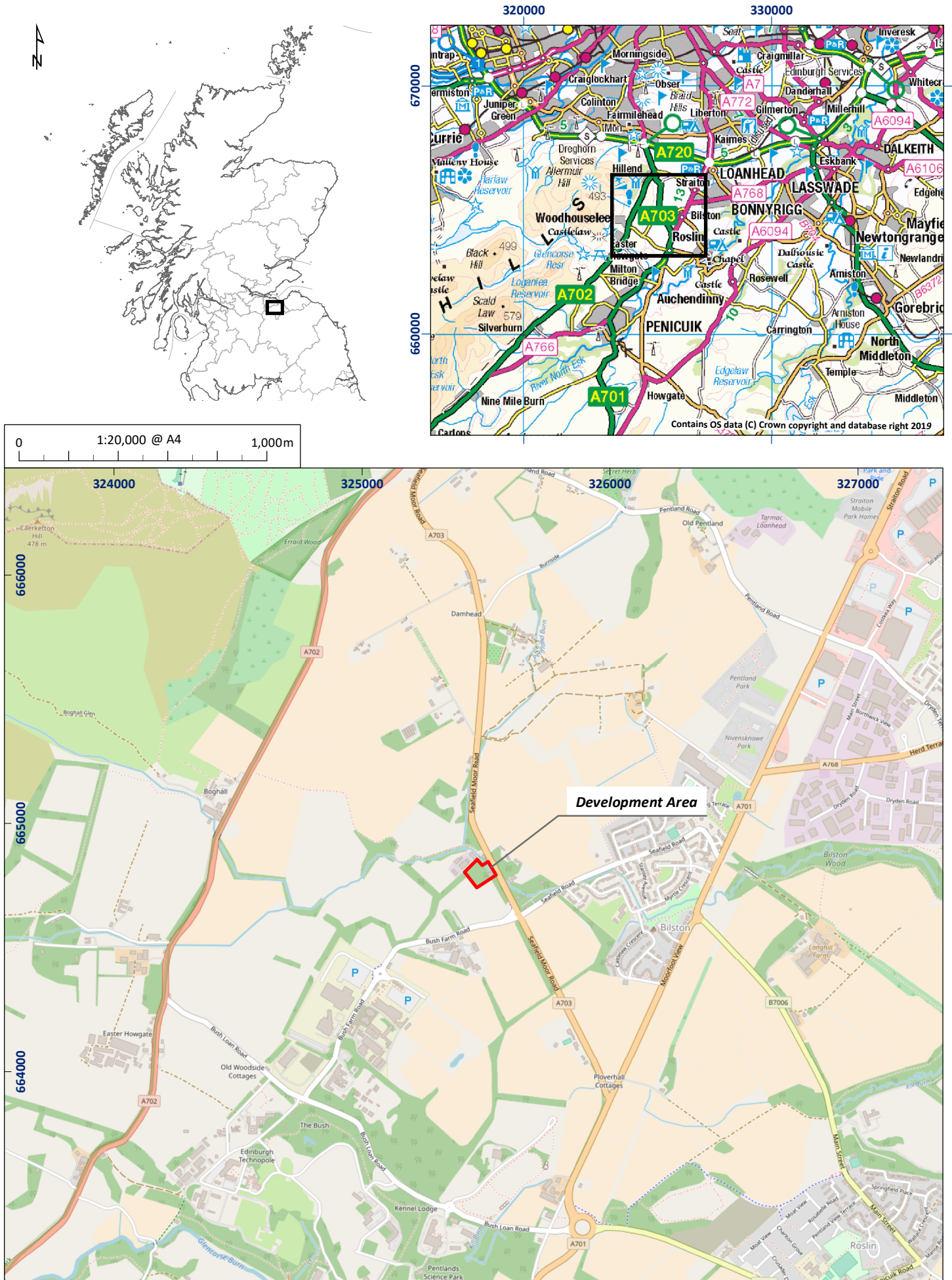


Figure 1: Site location plan

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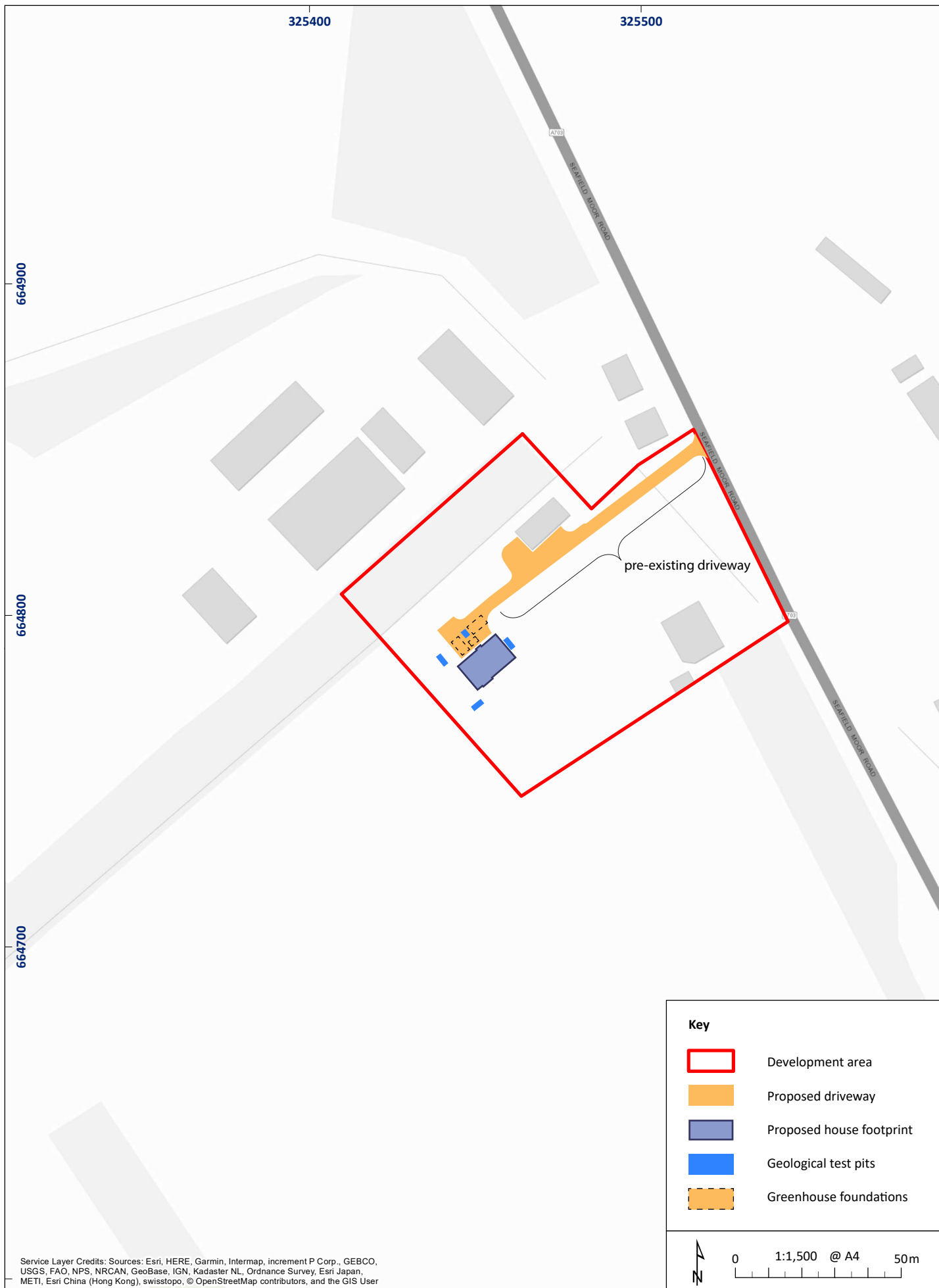


Figure 3: Showing area subject to topsoil monitoring

01/24500/DSR/03/01

Pentland Grove, Bilston, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

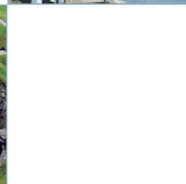
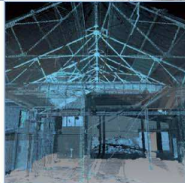
No.	Description	Taken From	Date
1-2	Southwest strips of house footprint post-excavation	SW	16/01/19
3	Red brick walls of 1900s greenhouses	E	16/01/19
4	Northwest strip of house footprint post-excavation	SW	16/01/19
5	Existing drive	SW	16/01/19
6-7	Central strips of house footprint post-excavation	SE-NW	16/01/19
8-9	Red brick walls of 1900s greenhouses and inaccessible area from vegetation	Var.	16/01/19
10-11	Eastern strips of house footprint post-excavation	NW	16/01/19
12	Existing drive below topsoil level	N	16/01/19
13	Existing drive – northeast extent	SW	16/01/19
14	Field drain in geological test hole	NE	16/01/19
15	Northeast facing section of test hole amongst greenhouse walls	NE	16/01/19

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
(001)	Mid greyish brown garden loam topsoil. 0.4 to 0.5m in depth. Topsoil
(002)	Heavy compact boulder clay. Natural
[003]	Red brick greenhouse foundations consisting of 4 courses of red brick bedded into concrete. Likely 1900s in date based on cartographic evidence. 1900s Greenhouses

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Pentland Grove, Bilston, Midlothian: Monitored Topsoil Strip
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24670
PARISH:	Lasswade
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alex Wood
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitored Topsoil Strip
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 254 647
START DATE (this season)	16 th January 2019
END DATE (this season)	16 th January 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological monitored topsoil strip undertaken in respect to a proposed development at Pentland Grove, Bilston (centred on NGR: NT 2545 6479).</p> <p>Monitoring was focused on the footprint of the proposed new house development.</p> <p>The topsoil strip revealed a brown sandy silt topsoil 0.4m in depth. This overlaid a compact pale yellow natural boulder clay. The natural was cut by NW-SE orientated field drains.</p> <p>No archaeologically significant features or small finds were recovered during the archaeological works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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