

## Melville Nurseries Excavation: Data Structure Report

### 0. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 This report presents the results of the excavation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground subject to re-development at Melville Nurseries, Dalkeith, Midlothian(NGR NT 314674). The work was commissioned by GVA Grimley (Figure 1).
- 0.2 The excavation was designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Midlothian Council, as advised by their archaeological officer, and is in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a). The objective of this phase of the archaeological works was to fully excavate and record the suite of archaeological features within an archaeologically sensitive area identified by earlier evaluation works completed in March 2007 (Lynchehaun 2007). A further objective was the excavation of further evaluation trenches in areas in which access had been limited during the evaluation phase of works.
- 0.3 The excavation exposed and recorded putative prehistoric pits, Roman ovens and the Roman linear trackway, consisting of two parallel ditches, previously identified by Raisen and Rees (1995).

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed development at Melville Nurseries, which lies to the immediate east of Dobbies Garden World, Dalkeith, Midlothian.
- 1.1.2 The excavation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology on behalf of GVA Grimley. The proposed development required a programme of archaeological fieldwork, culminating with the excavation which is the subject of this report. The development area (Figure 1) lies within the administrative area of Midlothian Council, who, advised on archaeological matters by their resident archaeological officer Mr David Connolly, attached a number of conditions to planning consent. AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by GVA Grimley to produce an excavation *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* (2007), after an archaeological evaluation revealed evidence of significant archaeological features within the development area (Lynchehaun 2007). The WSI was produced following discussions with Mr Connolly and was subsequently approved by Midlothian Council in complying with the archaeological condition attached to planning consent.

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### 1.2 Site location and geology

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area consists of approximately 1.5 ha of disused land to the immediate east of Dobbies Gardenworld, Dalkeith (centred on NGR: NT 3145 6750, Figure 1). The site which lies due north of the River Esk, is bounded to the east by the A7, to the north by the A772 and to the south by the horticultural nursery associated with Dobbies.
- 1.2.2 The drift geology is derived from the local Darvel Association consisting of interbedded sands and gravels of fluvioglacial origin derived from Carboniferous rocks. The topsoils are generally sandy loams with moderate sub-angular blocky or crumb structure and pass down into sandy loam or loamy sand subsoils (Bown & Shipley 1982).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

The proposed development lies within an area rich in archaeological remains including enclosed and unenclosed settlement, pit alignments and medieval roads (Raisen & Rees 1995). These works follow on from an archaeological evaluation (Lynchehaun 2007) that identified a trackway (Feature 1) of unknown date and a possible prehistoric roundhouse (Feature 2).

- 1.3.1 Feature 1 comprised two parallel ditches running north to south over 100 m in length and present in Trenches 1, 3, 9 and 10 but not Trench 11. It was assumed, due to both the alignment and comparative width and form of the ditches that the features were the same entity in each of the trenches. The ditches were approximately 6 m apart and generally measured between 0.90 m and 2.40 m in width by up to 0.60 m in depth. Both ditches were V-shaped in profile.
- 1.3.2 Feature 2 comprised an irregularly shaped curvilinear cut, which extended from the southern to the northern edges of Trench 8. The cut which measured at least 2 m in width by 8 m in length, and up to 0.20 m in depth was filled by a homogenised silty clay fill. It was plausibly interpreted at the time as an element of an unenclosed roundhouse.
- 1.3.3 Feature 1 was identified as the 'west linear cropmarks' documented in Raisen and Rees (1995) and for which no dating evidence was recovered. However, a similar trackway at Inveresk (Bishop 1999) was dated to the Roman period. Given the location of the Roman fort of Elginhaugh (Hansen 1987) to the south this may be a credible association.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation trenching were:

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- i to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within areas under investigation;
- ii to integrate the excavation and recording of these features within the excavation being undertaken concurrently;

2.2 The objectives of the excavation were:

- iii the identification, excavation, soil sampling and recording of all significant archaeological features within the identified zone of archaeological importance (as identified in the Written Scheme of Investigation);
- iv. the retrieval of a representative artefact assemblage;

2.3 And following the submission of this data structure report:

- v. the preparation of a post-excavation research design (*PERD*) to be agreed with Midlothian Council. This work will begin with an assessment stage of the potential of the materials (soil samples & all artefact categories) recovered from the excavation. This assessment will be used to determine the relevance, scope and scale of the post-excavation analyses to be used in addressing issues arising from the excavation. The *PERD* will be pertinent to the quantity, quality, character, date and condition of retrieved small finds and soil samples when considered against a series of research questions raised by the excavated features;
- vi. the undertaking of the post-excavation analysis of material recovered;
- vii the publishing of results of the excavation and post-excavation analyses bringing the findings of these works into the public and academic domains.

## 3. METHOD

### 3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 The details of the archaeological works, laid out below, were designed fully to meet the requirements of Midlothian Council.

3.1.2 The excavation was designed to encompass the area defined by Figure 1 in the WSI - the extent of the archaeological features identified by the evaluation plus a 10 m buffer zone. The archaeological remains were subsequently found to

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extend beyond these limits resulting in the excavation area being increased to some 5300 m<sup>2</sup> in allowing the excavation and recording of the full suite of features present.

- 3.1.3 The stripping of the overburden was undertaken by means of a 360<sup>0</sup> excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. All significant archaeological features were cleaned and fully defined. All small significant archaeological features (< 1.5 m diameter) were subject to 100% excavation in order to recover a full artefact and ecofact assemblage and ensure adequate 'preservation by record'. Linear ditches and gullies relationships were defined, investigated and recorded. All terminals were excavated. This was achieved by a minimum 10% sample of each feature (usually a 1 m section every 10 m). Small negative features were subject to 100% excavation by hand.
- 3.1.7 Finds or archaeological features readily demonstrable as being of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date were not considered archaeologically significant.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken with a field team of up to five archaeologists between 3<sup>rd</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The weather conditions during the excavation were generally dry and sunny with occasional rain.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of Appendices:
- i. Appendix 1 contains the context register;
  - ii. Appendix 2 lists the finds recovered;
  - iii. Appendix 3 lists the samples recovered;
  - iv. Appendix 4 contains the drawing register;
  - v. Appendix 5 contains the photographic record;
  - vi. Appendix 6 Evaluation trench summaries;
  - vii. Appendix 7 *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Entry.
- 4.1.3 Topsoil was a dark brown silty clay. The topsoil also contained a large quantity of modern road fill as well as wood chippings to soak up lying water in the centre of

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the site. The subsoil was loose well draining yellow and light brown sand and gravel.

- 4.1.4 Due to the relatively uncomplicated stratigraphy, the features were easily defined and overall site and archaeological visibility was extremely high.

### 4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 The features identified during the excavation have been assigned three specific categories:

- Linear features (2)
- Pits (33)
- Ovens (3)

### 4.3 The Two Linear Features

- 4.3.1 The two parallel ditches (Figure1); the western Linear 1 [01]/[03] and eastern Linear 2 [02]/[04] extend from the southernmost limit of the excavation area for a distance of 110 m. At this point the Linear 1 turns 90° forming a return and continues due west slightly curving out of the excavation area. Linear 2 exhibits the same pattern after running 110 m linear it turns 90° to the east and continues for a further 40 m, again extending beyond the limit of the site. The ditches were roughly 6 m apart. No artefacts were recovered from either ditch. These ditches are tentatively interpreted as Roman field system boundaries analogous to those found to the east of Inveresk at Lewisvale Park (Leslie 2002).
- 4.3.2 Linear 1 was constructed of one continuous cut possessing sharp-sloping west edges to a rounded base averaging 0.45 m deep joined to a second round bottomed cut at a higher level averaging 0.09 m deep on the eastern edge (Figure 3). The fill from the 15 slots (slots A to O) were homogeneous. There were a number of notable truncations to this feature including drains, a shallow animal burial [88], three Pits [81], [76] and [77]. Due to the modern debris present on the site during the earlier evaluation stage the nature of Linear 1 was not determined. Additional evaluation trenching, undertaken simultaneously with the excavation, was carried in establishing the course of this feature – see below.
- 4.3.3 Linear 2 was about 1.8 m wide and was constructed with a slight variety in the execution of the cut in comparison to Linear 1 (Figure 2). The style of the cut changes throughout from being a regular ‘V’ shaped to a ‘W’ shaped cut (which

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could represent a possible re cutting) with a depth averaging at 0.6 m. Fifteen slots (slots A to O) were excavated through Linear 2 with, again, a homogenous fill throughout. Modern disturbances included field drains.

- 4.3.4 As postulated by Raisen and Rees (1995) it seems probable that the 6 m gap between Linear 1 and Linear 2 served as an informal access route or track in providing access through a field system.

### **4.4 The pits**

- 4.4.1 In total 33 simple pits containing a single homogenous fill were unearthed. The majority (23) were located in the northern area of the site with the rest scattered evenly between the west of Linear 1 and the east of Linear 2. There was no indication of any pits in the southern 20 m of the excavation area. There is no sign that the pits respected the Two Linear features. The observation that pits 76, 77, and 81 were cut by Linear 1 highlights that the pits predated the linear features. The dimensions varied greatly – see Appendix 1. No coherent structure is immediate apparent in the ground plan of these features.

### **4.4.2 The ovens**

- 4.5.1 The excavations led to three Roman ovens being uncovered (Figure 3), all are of Roman bi partite style and form as seen previously at Melville Nurseries (Raisen and Rees 1995), Inveresk (Hanson 2002) and Kintore, (Cook, M pers comm). Roman Ovens are generally key-hole shaped in plan with a deep rectilinear end and a shallow circular end. The examples from this site vary considerably from this standard style for any number of reasons; the nature of the subsoil, slope, not to mention the effort of the individual. The ovens were concentrated to the centre of the site. Oven [54] located east of Linear 2, oven [56] lying between Linear 1 and Linear 2, and oven [58] was located east of Linear 1. The longitudinal axis of the three ovens was orientated north to south.

### **4.6 Artefacts**

- 4.6.1 Infrequent modern metal fragments were found in the upper strata from the fills of the Linear 1 and 2. Elsewhere finds were rare, despite spoil being scanned by a metal detector. All finds retrieved by the excavation are listed in Appendix 2.
- 4.6.2 The ‘Possible Hammer Stone’ (from pit fill [21]) will require specialist analysis to determine type and authenticity. Two unstratified sherds of pottery (that are considered to be Roman) will also require specialist examination.

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### 5 DISCUSSION

#### 5.1 The Two Linear Features

- 5.1.1 It is unfortunate that the full extent of the linear features were not uncovered in their entirety. It is also unfortunate that the work undertaken in 1995 was not able to view these features within their larger contemporary setting. Hopefully by combining the data set from this excavation, the 1995 Raisen & Rees published excavation and also the Elginhaugh works (Hansen 1986) a clearer understanding of the Roman occupation of the area may be revealed.

#### 5.2 The Pits

- 5.2.1 Given the lack of finds, these features are difficult to date, and to assign a possible function. All that can be said with great certainty is that some predate the linear features as pits [76], [77] and [80] were truncated by Linear 1. It is hoped that through the post excavation analysis of the samples that there may be further understanding and therefore interpretation of these features as a whole. Because they were uncovered at the northern limits of the development area, it is at least possible that the pits may have been part of a larger, more extensive suite of features now lost by the A772.

#### 5.3 The Ovens

- 5.3.1 The three ovens excavated at Melville Nurseries provide the main relative dating evidence from the site. Specifically the existence of the ovens in such close proximity to the linear features allows the chronology of the features to be analysed. Ovens [54] and [58] are in the location of the internal bank of the linear ditches, suggesting that the ovens either predate or post date the linear features, and oven [56] is in the very centre of the track or 'access route' running between Linear 1 and Linear 2. It is impossible to determine the chronology of these features at this stage. The ovens were supposedly temporary; however, as observed with oven [54] there was evidence of two or three firings. These firings represent a cooking event (most likely bread) therefore the more ovens present means there was evidence for more cooking. Unfortunately it is unclear at this stage what their actual duration was. The samples retrieved from these ovens will hopefully aid to the interpretation of this multi-phased site and provide a date of the chronological sequence.

### 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The excavation has unearthed a highly significant data set relating to Roman and earlier occupation of the area. The lack of artefacts creates difficulties in

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dating the features found. Linears 1 and 2 are likely to be the previously recorded 'west linear cropmarks' documented in Raisen and Rees (1995). A similar trackway at Inveresk (Bishop 1999) also had Roman origins. Given the location of the Roman fort of Elginhaugh (Hansen 1987) to the south this may be a credible association.

- 6.2 The date and function of the group of pits has still to be determined. These and other issues raised by the fieldwork results will be addressed through post-excavation examination.
- 6.3 This DSR report is both preliminary and provisional, with many issues raised by the excavation data still to be addressed. In ascertaining a fuller knowledge of the excavation results, a post-excavation research design will be prepared for approval by the planning authority's archaeological advisor. This will describe all necessary and appropriate assessment processes and consequent post-excavation analyses together with publication proposals for the final report. This report will integrate the stratigraphic, contextual and descriptive data from the excavation with specialist post-excavation analyses covering dating, palaeoenvironmental and economic issues, culminating in an article fit for academic publication.

## REFERENCES

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### APPENDIX 1: CONTEXTS REGISTER

Context No	Type	Description
01	Fill	Fill of Linear 1 was a homogenous mid brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal/carbon/decaying stones and with frequent inclusions of small rounded stones.
02	Fill	Fill of Linear 2 was a homogenous mid brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal/carbon/decaying stones and with frequent inclusions of small rounded stones.
03	Cut	The cut of Linear 1. Filled with [01]. The cut measures 150 m long with a width averaging 1.9 m and a depth averaging 0.55 m. It is oriented NNE / SSW for 110 m then turns 90° forming a return extending westwards for a further 30 m before turning SSW and running for a further 10 m. The cut has steep sloping west edges, a soft rounded base and a second round bottomed cut at a higher level in the eastern edge. (eg. Stepped)
04	Cut	The cut of Linear 2. Filled [02]. The cut measures 150 m long with a width averaging 1.8 m and a depth averaging 0.6 m. It is orientated NNE / SSW for 110m then the cut turns 90° forming a return orientated E / W for a distance of 40 m. The profile of the cut changes throughout from being a regular 'V' shaped cut to 'W' shaped cut.
05		Not allocated
06		Not allocated
07	Natural	Yellow/ Light brown sand and gravel.
08	Fill	Pit fill. 1.55 m x 0.75 m (full extent not established as the pit was extended beyond the limit of the site) and 0.80 m deep. The fill was mid brown silty sand with irregular inclusions of rounded pebbles and occasional flecks of charcoal. Fills [27].
09	Fill	Pit fill. 0.65 m x 0.55 m and 0.19 m deep. Charcoal rich grey silty sand pit fill. Very occasional rounded pebbles/ gravels at the base of the fill. Fills [28].
10	Fill	Pit fill. 1.7 m x 2.2 m and 0.56 m deep. The fill consisted of mid brown silty sand. There appeared to be a cluster of small founded stones at the western edge but they appeared to be natural gravels that had slipped into the fill. Fills [31].
11	Fill	Pit fill of a 'figure-of-eight' cut. Measures 4.7 m x 2.05m and 0.55 m (max) depth. No charcoal came out of this oven-like feature seen as analogous to Roman types. The fill consisted of mid brown silty sand with occasional rounded pebbles throughout. Fills [32].
12	Fill	Pit fill. 1.0 m x 1.20 m and 0.36 m deep. Medium to light brown silty sand. Fills [34]. NNE end of the pit has been truncated by [33] and filled

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		with grey-white sand.
13	Fill	Pit fill. 0.62 m x 0.58 m and 0.12 m deep. Charcoal rich grey silty sand pit fill. Very occasional rounded pebbles/ gravels at the base of the fill. Close in proximity and fill type and size to [09] and [28]. Fills [29].
14	Fill	Pit fill. 3.70 m x 1.25 m and 0.26 m deep. A very shallow mid brown silty sand. Localised 0.05m lens of charcoal 0.05 m from the surface. Fills [30].
15	Cut	Cut of pit. 3.0 m x 2.5 m and 0.64 m deep. The cut in to the natural sand and gravel was very regular in plan, the western and southern edges were moderately inwardly sloping sides to slightly undulating base. Filled by [23].
16	Cut	Cut of large circular pit. 2.05 m x 1.75 m and 0.42 m deep. Regular on plan. The west and north edges were very similar with two breaks in the edge of the cut, eastern edge was much shallower. Filled by [21].
17	Fill (Modern)	Sand fill of modern pit [34] truncation. 1.25 m x 0.50 m the depth exceeded 1.25 m so had to be abandoned for H&S reasons. Completely sterile.
18	Fill	Pit fill. 1.85 m x 1.3 m and 0.55 m deep. It consists of mid brown silty sand. Fills [35].
19		Not allocated
20	Fill	Pit fill. Located within Evaluation Trench 18. Modern.
21	Fill	Pit fill. 2.05 m x 1.75 m and 0.42 m deep. The fill consists of mid brown silty sand and with irregular inclusions of rounded pebbles. Fills [16].
22	Cut	Cut of pit. Located with in Evaluation trench 18. Modern
23	Fill	Fill of pit. 3.0 m x 2.5 m and 0.64 m deep. The fill consists of mid brown silty sand with occasional rounded pebble inclusions. The Fill was cut in the east by pit [24]. Fills [15].
24	cut	Cut of pit truncating pit [23/15]. Measures 0.8 m x 0.7 m and 0.25m deep. Filled by [25] and [26].
25	Fill	Secondary fill of cut [24]. It measured 0.61 m long and 0.29 m deep (width undetermined). It was a mid brown sand.
26	Fill	Primary fill of cut [24]. It measured 0.21 m long and 0.18 m deep (width undetermined). It was a brownish black sandy silt.
27	Cut	Cut of pit. 1.55 m x 0.75 m (full extent not established as the pit was extending into the limit of the site) and 0.8 m deep. Filled by [8]
28	Cut	Cut of pit. 0.65 m x 0.55 m and 0.19 m deep. Regular in plan. The profile of the pit was a wide 'U' shape with a slightly pointed base. Filled by [09].
29	Cut	Cut of pit. 0.62 m x 0.58 m and 0.12 m deep. Regular in plan. The western edge was round and gradually steep continuing to the base but the eastern edge was very straight and there was a second break of slope for the beginning of the flat base. Filled by [13].
30	Cut	Cut of pit. 3.70 m x 1.25 m and 0.23 m(max) deep. Could almost be disguised as a natural silting up of an undulation in the natural. In plan it appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan, abrupt edge with steeply sloping sides sharply breaking to a flat base. Filled by [14].
31	Cut	Cut of pit. 1.7 m x 2.2 m and 0.56 m deep. 'V' shaped profile. Filled with [10].
32	Cut	Cut of pit with Figure-of-eight plan. 4.7 m x 2.05 m and 0.55 m (max) depth. In profile the cut was observed as being a wide and rounded 'W'. Filled with [11].
33	Cut	Cut of modern pit. Truncates pit [12/34]. 1.25 m x 0.5 m the depth exceeded 1.25 m so had to be abandoned for H&S reasons. Completely sterile. The cut is rectangular in plan with vertical edges. Function unknown. Filled with [17].

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34	Cut	Cut of pit. It measured 1.0 m x 1.20 m and 0.36 m deep. Circular in plan. Profile was a wide round based 'U' shape. Filled by [12].
35	Cut	Cut of pit. 1.85 m x 1.30 m and 0.55 m deep The cut into the natural sand and gravel was oval in plan. 'U' shape profile. Filled by [18].
36	Fill	Fill of pit. 0.80 m and 0.25 m deep (full dimensions unable to be established as it runs into the site edge.) The fill consists of mid brown silty sand and contained occasional rounded pebble inclusions. The plough zone disturbance altered the considered shape of the pit as it was dragged to the west. Fills [37].
37	Cut	Cut of pit. 0.8 m and 0.25 m deep (full dimension unable to be established as it runs into the site edge.) Angular cut, vertical edges with a sharp corners forming a flat base. Filled by [36].
38	Fill	Fill of pit. 1.32 m x 1.86 m and 0.42 m deep. The fill consists of mid brown silty sand containing occasional rounded pebble inclusions. Root disturbance throughout the fill. Fills [39].
39	Cut	Cut of pit. 1.32 m x 1.86 m and 0.42 m deep. Sub-oval in plan with wide 'U' shaped profile. Filled by [38].
40	Fill	Located about 4 m north of the return of Linear 2. Fill of pit. 2.26 m x 2.19 m and 0.50 m deep. The fill consisted of mid brown silty sand and contained occasional rounded pebble inclusions (concentrated mainly in the eastern limit of the fill). Fills [41].
41	Cut	Located about 2 m north of the return of Linear 2. Cut of pit. 2.26 m x 2.19 m and 0.50 m deep. Circular in plan and in profile the eastern edge had a much deeper and steeper curve in comparison to the shallower western end. Filled by [40].
42	Fill	Fill of pit. 0.62 m x 0.53m and 0.09 m deep. A very light brown sandy silt. Fills [43].
43	Cut	Cut of pit. 0.62 m x 0.53 m and 0.09 m deep. Near circular in plan, profile was a wide 'U' shape to a slightly undulating base. Filled by [42].
44	Fill	Located 1 m to the south of the return of Linear 2. Fill of pit. 0.51 m x 0.71 m and 0.20 m deep. Amid brown silty sand containing frequent rounded pebble inclusions. Fills [45].
45	Cut	Cut of pit. 0.51 m x 0.71 m and 0.2 m deep. Oval in plan, profile varied in east and west. The east edge had two breaks of slope, with the lower slope was substantially rounded. The west in contrast was a steep cut with only one break of slope culminating in a flat base. Filled by [44].
46	Fill	Located to the east of Linear 2. Fill of pit. 1.78 m x 1.52 m and 0.34 m deep. A mid brown silty sand containing frequent rounded pebble inclusions at the lower fill in the eastern edge. A few larger rounded stones located at the top and bottom of the fill. Fills [47].
47	Cut	Cut of pit. 1.78 m x 1.52 m and 0.34 m deep. Oval in plan, profile with rounded east edge, west edge was an angled slope. The base was very slightly pointed. Filled by [46].
48	Fill	Located to the east of Linear 2. Fill of pit. 0.73m x 0.69 m and 0.34 m deep. A mid brown, ashy grey silty sand containing occasional rounded and angular pebble inclusions as well as two lenses of yellow sand at the east and west (0.02 m thick). Fills [49].
49	Cut	Cut of pit. 0.73m x 0.69 m and 0.34 m deep. A boxed angular cut, vertical edges with a sharp corners to flat base. Filled by [48].
50	Fill	Fill of pit. Located to the immediate east of Linear 2. 0.80 m x 0.60 m (max) and 0.40 m deep. A grey brown silty sand with a high concentration of charcoal on the eastern edge of the fill. Fills [51].
51	Cut	Cut of pit. 0.8 m x 0.6 m (max) and 0.4 m deep. The cut appears to be tripartite in plan with vertical edges cut into sand and gravel. The base is

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		sloped from north to south. Filled by [50].
52	Fill	Upper fill of 'Figure-of-Eight' oven. 2.8 m x 1.15 m and 0.4 m deep. The fill consists of very mixed material, mid brown silty sand with frequent rounded stones. Fills [54]
53	Fill	Charcoal rich fill of oven [54]. Measuring 2.1 m x 0.75 m and 0.28m deep. The charcoal is concentrated centre of the oven where it has been raked across from the south 'oven' area.
54	Cut	Cut of 'Figure-of-Eight' oven. 2.8 m x 1.15 m and 0.40 m deep. Very wide rounded 'W' shape profile. Filled by [52], [53], [85] and [86].
55	Fill	Fill of oven. Located in between Linears 1 and 2 This uppermost fill consisted of mid brown silty sand with frequent charcoal rich areas of concentration. Associated cut [56].
56	Cut	'Figure-of-Eight' oven. 3.30 m x 2.50 m was 0.47 m deep. Very wide rounded 'W' shape profile. Filled by [55], [82], [83] and [84].
57	Fill	Fill of oven located to the west of Linear 1. 1.67 m x 1.10 m and 0.24 m deep. This was a relatively shallow deposit with frequent patches of charcoal located mainly in the southern part of the deposit. Fills [58].
58	Cut	Cut of oven. 1.67 m x 1.10 m and 0.24 m deep. Increases in depth from the north to the south. Quite rounded edges but with a sloping flat base. Filled by [57].
59	Fill (Natural)	Fill of pit. 1.40 m x 0.70m and 0.07 m deep. Probably just a natural layer of carbon.
60	Cut	Cut of pit. See above. Not considered to be a pit.
61	Fill	Fill of pit Located to the west of Linear 1. 1.9 m x 1.10m and 0.22 m deep. Charcoal rich on surface then fading through a medium brown silty sand lower fill. Fills [62].
62	Cut	Cut of pit. 1.9 m x 1.10m and 0.22 m deep. Difficult to determine the cut edge at the west and south edges - but the east edge was a gentle sloped cut with a rounded base. Filled by [61].
63	Fill	Fill of a pit. 0.32 m x 0.48 m and 0.15 m deep. A mid brown silty sand. Considered to be a naturally silted undulation in the natural subsoil. Fills [64].
64	Cut	Natural feature. 0.32 m x 0.48 m and 0.15 m deep. Very narrow and uneven - see above. Filled by [63].
65	Fill	Fill of pit located at the western limit of the site. 0.9 m x 0.45 m and 0.12 m deep. Charcoal rich with occasional patches of mid brown silty sand and frequent rounded pebbles throughout. Fills [67].
66	Cut	Cut of pit. 0.9 m x 0.45 m and 0.12 m deep. The edges of the cut are almost imperceptible except for the deeper area in the north. Filled by [65].
67	Fill	Fill of natural feature located to the west of Linear 1. 1.10 m x 0.8 m and 0.08 m deep. Very shallow and consisted of grey brown pebbly grit - appears to be very mixed natural. Fills [68].
68	Cut	Cut of natural feature. It measured 1.10 m x 0.8 m and 0.08 m deep. Undulation in natural subsoil. Filled by [67]).
69	Fill	Fill of pit. 0.5 m x 0.37 m and 0.23 m deep. A medium brown silty sand with charcoal frequent throughout and inclusions of rounded pebbles. Fills [70].
70	Cut	Cut of pit. 0.5 m x 0.37 m and 0.23 m deep. A sharp vertical cut with a slightly rounded (almost flat) base. A slight lip at the edge of the cut which could indicate ploughzone disturbance. Filled by [69].
71	Fill	Fill of pit. It measured 2.10 m x 1.20 m and 0.43 m (max) deep. A medium brown silty sand - quite gritty with occasional rounded small

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		pebbles, and frequent charcoal flecks. Fills [72].
72	Cut	Cut of pit. Located east of Linear 2. 2.10 m x 1.20 m and 0.43 m (max) deep. There appears to be 2 cuts associated with this pit It was a regular oval cut with a gentle slope to a rounded base. Filled by [71]. Second fill [89] and cut [90]
73	Fill	Fill of pit. 1.14 m x 0.80 m and 0.24 m deep. A homogenous silty sand with charcoal at the upper level, rounded pebbles throughout. Fills [74].
74	Cut	Cut of pit. 1.14 m x 0.8 m and was 0.24 m deep. Oval in plan. It was a regular cut with a gentle slope to a rounded base - although the eastern end did appear to be more angular. Filled by [73].
75	Deposit	Charcoal rich layer in Slot Q. 1.10 m long and 0.04 m deep. The fill of a pit that was truncated by Linear 2 and Evaluation Trench 8. Cut by [77]. Fills [76].
76	Cut	Cut of a pit that was observed in the section of Slot Q. Steep regular cut that is truncated by the later cut [77]. Filled by [75].
77	Cut	Cut that was observed in the section of Slot Q. It cuts through (79), (75), and [76] at an angle into the sandy gravel then forming a point it undulates upwards. Within the section it measured 2.3 m long and was 0.4m deep. Filled by [78].
78	Fill	Fill that was observed in the section of Slot Q. It consisted of mid brown silty sand with frequent rounded pebbles throughout. Fills [77].
79	Fill	Fill of pit that was observed in the section of Slot Q. It consisted of mid yellowish brown silty sand with frequent rounded pebbles throughout. It was cut by [77]. Associated cut [76].
80	Fill	Fill of pit that was observed in the section of Slot P. It consisted of a mid brown silty sand. 2.3 m long and 0.37m deep. Truncated by Evaluation Trench 8. Fills [81].
81	Cut	Cut of a pit that was observed in the section of Slot P. 2.30 m long and was 0.37m deep. Steeply sloped at the eastern edge curving into a rounded base. The eastern edge was cut by the evaluation trench 8. Filled by [80].
82	Fill	Upper fill of oven. 1.72 m x 0.9 m and 0.12 m deep. A black charcoal rich silty sand. Fills [56].
83	Fill	Lower fill of oven. 2.50 m x 0.95 m and 0.23m deep. Mixture of burnt sand layers and charcoal layers - evidence of the repeated use of the oven. Fills [56].
84	Fill	Lower fill of oven. 0.75 m x 0.65 m and 0.09 m deep. Charcoal located at the very base of the cut. Associated cut [54]
85	Fill	Fill of oven. 1.50 m x 1.2 m and 0.25m deep. Sequence of layering - burnt sand layer over charcoal layer repeated 3 times. - evidence of the repeated use of the oven. Associated cut [54].
86	Fill	Fill of oven. 0.55m 0.48m and 0.08m deep. Primary fill/mixed layer between natural sand that has burnt <i>in situ</i> and charcoal. Fills [54].
87	Fill	Fill of animal burial. 1.50 m x 0.75 m and 0.56 m deep. Fills [88].
88	Cut	Cut of animal burial. Measured 1.50 m x 0.75 m and 0.56 m deep. Truncated the cut of Linear 1. The edges were steep gradual slopes culminating in a flat but slightly undulating base. Filled by [87].
89	Fill	Fill of secondary cut. It measured 0.33 m x 0.43 m and was a further 0.25 m depth. A medium brown silty sand - quite gritty with occasional rounded small pebbles, and frequent charcoal flecks.-imperceptible change of the fills. Associated fill [71], cut [72], and within [90].
90	Cut	Secondary cut, measuring 0.33 m x 0.43 m and was 0.25 m deep. It cut through the base of [73] at the northern end of the pit base. It was a small circular cut further cut into the sand and gravel. Associated fill [71], cut [72], and within [89].

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### APPENDIX 2: FINDS REGISTER

Find #	Context	Material
1	Unstrat	Ceramic
2	Unstrat	Ceramic
3	2	Iron object
4	2	Iron object- corroded blade?
5	2	Iron object
6	21	Poss Hammer stone?
7	Unstrat- metal detected	Iron nail
8	Unstrat- metal detected	Iron nail
9	Unstrat	Ceramic
10	87	Animal bone

### APPENDIX 3: SOIL SAMPLES

(Macroplant bulk samples & soil chemistry)

Context	Linear	Slot	Quantity (10L tubs)
02	2	B	2
02	2	A	2
02	2	C	2
02	2	D	2
02	2	E	2
02	2	F	2
02	2	G	2
02	2	H	2
02	2	I	2
02	2	J	2
02	2	K	2
02	2	L	2
02	2	M	2
02	2	N	2
01	1	A	2
01	1	B	2
01	1	C	2
01	1	D	2
01	1	E	2
01	1	F	2
01	1	G	2
01	1	H	2
01	1	I	2
01	1	J	2
01	1	K	2
01	1	L	1
01	1	M	2
01	1	N	2
23			2

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08			2
21			2
09			1
13			1
14			2
10			2
11a			2
11b			2
17			2
12			2
18			2
36			2
38			2
40			2
42			1
44			2
46			2
48			2
50			2
52			4
53			3
55			2
57			4
59			1
61			2
65			1
67			1
69			1
71			2
73			2
75			2
78			2
79			2
26			1
25			1
82			2
83			2
84			2
52			2
85			2
86			2
87			2

APPENDIX 4: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No	Details	Scale
1a	Pre Ex plan Linear 1 Slot A	1:20
1b	Post Ex plan Linear 1 Slot A	1:20
2	Pre excavation plan of the entire site – in 4 parts	1:50
3	Linear 2 Slot G. North east facing section	1:10
4	Linear 2 Slot A. South facing section	1:10
5	Linear 2 Slot B. South facing section	1:10

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6	Linear 2 Slot C. North facing section	1:10
7	Linear 2 Slot D. North facing section	1:10
8	Linear 2 Slot E. South facing section	1:10
9	Linear 2 Slot F. North facing section	1:10
10	Pit. Cut [15] fill [23]. West facing section	1:10
11	North facing section at the eastern most site limit	1:10
12	Pit. Cut [35] fill [18]. N facing section	1:10
13	Pit. Cut [34] fill [12]. N facing section	1:10
14	Linear 1 Slot P. NW facing section	1:10
15	Linear 1 Slot Q. SE facing section	1:10
16	Pit. Cut [49] fill [48]. NW facing section	1:10
17	Pit. Cut [47] fill [46]. N facing section	1:10
18	Pit. Cut [51] fill [50]. SE facing section	1:10
19	Pit. Cut [45] fill [44]. NW facing section	1:10
20	Pit. Cut [43] fill [42]. NNW facing section	1:10
21	Pit. Cut [41] fill [40]. N facing section	1:10
22	Pit. Cut [39] fill [38]. S facing section	1:10
23	Pit. Cut [37] fill [36]. S facing section	1:10
24	Pit. Cut [30] fill [14]. NW facing section	1:10
25	Pit. Cut [32] fill [11]. W facing section	1:10
26	Pit. Cut [31] fill [10]. NW facing section	1:10
27	Pit. Cut [66] fill [65]. NE facing section	1:10
28	Pit. Cut [72] fill [71]. N facing section	1:10
29	Pit. Cut [68] fill [67]. E facing section	1:10
30	Pit. Cut [70] fill [69]. NNE facing section	1:10
31	Pit. Cut [74] fill [73]. NNE facing section	1:10
32	Pit. Cut [62] fill [61]. SW facing section	1:10
33	Pit. Cut. [64] fill [63].N facing section	1:10
34	Pit. Cut. [60] fill [59]. NE facing section	1:10
35	Oven. Cut [54] fill [52],[53],[85],[86]. SE facing section	1:10
36	Oven. Cut [56] fill [55], [82],[83],[84]. SE facing section	1:10
37	Oven. Cut [58] fill [57]. W facing section	1:10
38	Plan of Evaluation Trench 16	1:50
39	Plan of Evaluation Trench 17	1:100
40	NE facing section of the southern limit of the site	1:10
41	Plan of Evaluation Trench 18	1:20
42	Linear 1 Slot F. South facing section	1:10

APENDIX 5: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Colour Slide and Black and White Film No.1

Photo No	Subject	From
1-2	Registration	
3-4	Detail Pre-ex Linear 1	S-W
5-6	[01] removed [03] exposed showing [07]	S
7-8	Detail Pre-ex Linear feature 2	S
9-10	South Facing section Linear 1 slot A	S
11-12	North Facing section Linear 1 slot A	S
13-14	Pre-ex Context [08] pit	S
15-16	Pre-ex Context [09]	S
17-18	Pre-ex Context [08] pit	S



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19-20	Pre-ex Context [09]	S
21-22	Pre-ex Context [13]	S
23-24	Pre-ex Context [10]	S
25-26	Pre-ex Linear 2- General overview	E
27-28	Pre-ex Linear 2- General overview	W
29-30	Pre-ex Context [16]	S
31-32	Pre-ex Context [15]	S
33-34	Pre-ex Context [11]	S
35-36	Pre-ex Context [12] and [17]	S

#### Colour Slide and Black and White Film No.2

Photo No	Subject	From
1-2	Registration	
3-4	Pre-ex Context [18]	S
5-6	Pre-ex Linear 1 overview	E
7-8	Pre-ex Linear 2 overview	W
9-10	Pre-ex Linear 1 and 2 overview	SE
11-12	Pre-ex Linear 1 and 2 overview	NW
13-14	Working shot Linear 1 and 2	S
15-16	Working shot Linear 1 and 2	N
17-18	Linear 2 Slot B; SW facing section	SW
19-20	Linear 2 Slot A; SW facing section	SW
21-22	Linear 2 Slot A; Post ex	SE
23-24	Linear 2 Slot B; Post ex	SE
25-26	Linear 2 Slot G; Post ex. N facing section	N
27-28	Linear 2 Slot G; Post ex. Plan	W
29-30	Linear 2 Slot F; Post ex N facing section	N
31-32	Linear 2 Slot F; Post ex overview	E
33-34	Linear 2 Slot G; Post ex. S facing section	S
33-34	Linear 2 Slot G; Post ex. Overview	

#### Colour Slide and Black and White Film No.3

Photo No	Subject	From
1-2	Registration	
3-4	Linear 2 Slot H; S facing section	S
5-6	Linear 2 Slot H; overview	W
7-8	Linear 2 Slot H; overview	W
9-10	Linear 2 Slot G; N facing section	N
11-12	Linear 2 Slot G; overview	W
13-14	Linear 2 Slot I; N facing	N
15-16	Linear 2 Slot I; overview	W
17-18	Linear 2 Slot A; S facing section	S
19-20	Linear 2 Slot A; overview	E
21-22	Evaluation Trench 11	E
23-24	Evaluation Trench 12	W
25-26	Evaluation Trench 13	W
27-28	Evaluation Trench 14	W
29-30	Evaluation Trench 15	W
31-32	Evaluation Trench 16 plus Linear feature 1	W
33-34	Evaluation Trench 16 plus Linear feature 1	N

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35-36	Evaluation Trench 17 plus Linear feature 1	
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Colour Slide and Black and White Film No.4

Photo No	Subject	From
1-2	Registration	
3-4	Cut [32] showing W facing section of fill [11b]	W
5-6	Cut [32] showing W facing section of fill [11a]	W
7-8	Cut [31] showing NW facing section with fill [10]	N
9-10	S facing section of [17]	S
11-12	Cut [34] showing N facing section with fill [12]	N
13-14	Cut [28] E facing section with fill [09]	E
15-16	Cut [29] E facing section with fill [13]	E
17-18	Cut [27] SW facing section with fill [08]	SW
19-20	error	
21-22	Cut [16] SE facing section with fill [21]	SE
23-24	Cut [35] N facing section with fill [18]	N
25-26	Cut [30] E facing section with fill [14]	E
27-28	Cut [37] W facing section with fill [36]	W
29-30	Cut [39] S facing section with fill [38]	S
31-32	Cut [41] N facing section with fill [40]	N
33-34	Cut [43] N facing section with fill [42]	N

Colour Slide and Black and White Film No.5

Photo No	Subject	From
1-2	Registration	
3-4	Cut [45] NNW facing section with fill [44]	NNW
5-6	Cut [51] SE facing section with fill [50]	SE
7-8	Cut [47] N facing section with fill [46]	N
9-10	Cut [49] E facing section with fill [48]	E
11-12	Oven. Cut [54] S facing section with fills [52], [53], [85], [86]	S
13-14	Oven. Cut [56] SE facing section with fills [55], [82], [83], [84]	SE
15-16	Oven. Cut [58] NW facing section with fill [57]	NW
17-18	Cut [64] N facing section with fill [63]	N
19-20	Cut [60] NE facing section with fill [59]	NE
21-22	Cut [62] W facing section with fill [61]	W
23-24	Cut [70] E facing section with fill [69]	E
25-26	Cut [68] S facing section with fill [67]	S
27-28	Cut [72] N facing section with fill [71]	N
29-30	Cut [74] E facing section with fill [73]	E
31-32	Linear 1 Slot L; N facing section	N
33-34	Linear 1 Slot O; E facing section	E
35-36	Linear 1 Slot F; SSW facing section	SSW

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Colour Slide Film No.6

Photo No	Subject	From
1-2	Registration	
3-4	Linear 2 Slot H; SSW facing section	SSW
5-6	Linear 2 Slot M; N facing section	N
7-8	Linear 1 Slot Q; SSE facing section	SSE
9-10	Oven. Cut [54]. Post Ex	E
11-12	Oven. Cut [56]. Post Ex	E
13-14	Oven. Cut [56]. Post Ex	W
15-16	Oven. Cut [58]. Post Ex	E
17-18	Work in Progress	E
19-20	Work in Progress	W
21-22	Work in Progress	S
23-24	Work in Progress	N
25-26	Site Overview	SW
27-28	Site Overview	W
29-30	Site Overview	N
31-32	Site Overview	S
33-34	Site Overview	SE
35	Site Overview	S

### APPENDIX 6: EVALUATION TRENCH RECORD SUMMARIES

#### Trench 11

*Dimensions:* 34.6 m by 2 m  
*Orientation:* West to East  
*Depth of Topsoil:* On average 0.36 m  
*Significant Features:* None  
*Modern Features:* One modern drain in the western end of the trench.  
*Finds:* Nil

#### Trench 12

*Dimensions:* 24 m by 2 m  
*Orientation:* North-west to south-east  
*Depth of Topsoil:* On average 0.50 m  
*Significant Features:* The continuation of linear 1. C1 and C3 orientated NE/SW, C3 measures 2.25 m (width). The same fill is present  
*Modern Features:* Modern road debris deposit  
*Finds:* Nil

#### Trench 13

*Dimensions:* 29 m by 2 m  
*Orientation:* North-west to south-east  
*Depth of Topsoil:* On average 0.46 m  
*Significant Features:* None  
*Modern Features:* small plastic pipe  
*Finds:* Nil

#### Trench 14

*Dimensions:* 29.1 m by 2 m  
*Orientation:* West to East  
*Depth of Topsoil:* On average 0.35 m

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*Significant Features:* None  
*Modern Features:* Modern drain present in the middle of the trench on a north - south axis  
*Finds:* Nil

### Trench 15

*Dimensions:* 37 m by 2 m  
*Orientation:* West to East  
*Depth of Topsoil:* On average 0.33 m  
*Significant Features:* None  
*Modern Features:* Modern drain present in the middle of the trench on a north – south axis  
*Finds:* Nil

### Trench 16

*Dimensions:* 24.1 m by 2 m  
*Orientation:* North-west to south-east  
*Depth of Topsoil:* On average 0.28 m  
*Significant Features:* The continuation of Linear 1. C1 and C3 orientated E/W, C3 measures 2.4 m (width). The same fill is present  
*Modern Features:* None  
*Finds:* Nil

### Trench 17

*Dimensions:* 11.3 m by 2 m  
*Orientation:* North-west to south-east  
*Depth of Topsoil:* On average 0.45 m  
*Significant Features:* None  
*Modern Features:* None  
*Finds:* Nil

### Trench 18

*Dimensions:* 10 m by 6 m  
*Orientation:* North to south  
*Depth of Topsoil:* On average 0.34 m  
*Significant Features:* The continuation of linear 1. C1 and C3 orientated E/W, C3 measures 2.4 m (width). The same fill is present  
 Also the charcoal rich pit (20) [22] was located immediately to the south of linear 1. After the extension of the trench further analysis showed this pit to be a modern refuse pit.  
*Modern Features:* None  
*Finds:* Modern white ceramic was observed

## APPENDIX 7: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Midlothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Melville Nurseries Excavation
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	20475
<b>PARISH:</b>	Lasswade
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Sarah Lynchehaun
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Excavation

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<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Roman enclosed field systems, Roman ovens, Multiple pits
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Roman pottery
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 31 4674
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2007
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	20th April 2007
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	Raisen, P C 1989 'Melville Nurseries, ring ditch, palisaded homestead and pair of ditches', Discovery Excav Scot, 1989, 53,
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	AOC Archaeology were commissioned by GVA Grimley to undertake an excavation of a site that was evaluated in March 2007. The archaeological excavation consisted of the opening of an area totalling 5300 m <sup>2</sup> . The excavation identified over thirty pits of unknown function, two linear ditches interpreted as the ditches of two enclosed roman field systems and three Roman ovens.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	Post-excavation analyses & publication
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	GVA Grimley
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY.
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:Sarahl@aocscot.co.uk">Sarahl@aocscot.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS