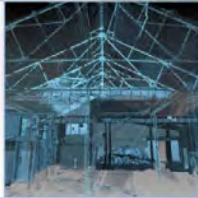


Land to the South of Old Schoolhouse, Lempitlaw: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 21121
September 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Land to the South of Old Schoolhouse, Lempitlaw

Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: T H Brewis
Lempitlaw Farm
Lempitlaw
Kelso
TD5 8BN

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 7868 3269

AOC Project No: 21121

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Date of Fieldwork: 15th September 2008

Date of Report: 17th September 2008

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 evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on a proposed residential development at Lempitlaw, near Kelso. The evaluation identified the presence of a single recent waste pit, but found no remains of archaeological significance within any of the trenches.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by MacDavid Projects Ltd on behalf of their clients Messers T H Brewis to undertake a programme of archaeological works on a proposed housing development (Planning ref: 07/010117/FUL) on land to the south of the Old School House, Lempitlaw, Kelso, Scottish Borders. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Scottish Borders Council. The works consisted of an intrusive evaluation and were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008) approved by the Council. The works were also carried out in accordance with the principals inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a and NPPG 18 (SODD 1999).

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area (centred NGR: NT 7868 3269) lies to the south of the Old School House, in the hamlet of Lempitlaw, Kelso, Scottish Borders (Fig 1). The site is currently laid to on ground which slopes gently to the south at a height of approximately 200m OD. It is bounded to the south-west by a farm track and a stone built garage to the north-west with arable pasture to the south-east.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1. Modern Lempitlaw is a residential hamlet possessing a farmsteading at either end. The earliest recorded archaeological activity in the immediate area is represented by the findspot of a Neolithic polished stone axe (*NMRS NT73SE 3*), a Cumbrian import from the Lake District, due west of the development area.

1.3.2 In the north-east of the hamlet lies the site of a medieval church. A slight hollow is all that remains of the church which probably stood until the 18th century. A hogback tombstone in its associated graveyard suggests a somewhat earlier origin to the church than the 12th century document recording the granting of the church to the Holy Trinity of Soutra (*NMRS NT73SE 1*).

1.3.3 In September 2007 a programme of historic building recording and evaluation carried out by Headland Archaeology, investigated Lempitlaw Farm, an area immediately adjacent to the development area to the south-west. This recorded 19th century up-standing agricultural building remains and the sub-surface survival of walls and cobbled areas seen to correspond to structures depicted on first edition OS mapping (*NMRS NT73SE 31*).

2. Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the evaluation were:

- i) to determine the character, condition, extent, quality and date of any archaeologically significant remains in the proposed development area;

- ii) given that significant archaeological deposits were discovered, the preparation of a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5, NPPG 18 and PAN 42 will be undertaken.

3. Method

- 3.1 The evaluation consisted of three trenches, each measuring 15 m by 2 m wide and at different orientations dug by means of a 360 type mechanical digger fitted with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation and was carried out under the direct supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. A total of 90 m² was excavated representing a 10% sample of the total development area (Figure 2) and was carried out in shallow spits until the first archaeological horizon or drift geology was reached.



Plate 1: Trench 1 from West

4. Results

- 4.1 The evaluation was carried out on 15th September 2008 in fair weather conditions which rendered good archaeological visibility. The various data gathered from the evaluation are presented as a series of appendices:
- i) Appendix 1 contains the trench and context summaries;

- ii) Appendix 3 contains the photographic register;
- iii) Appendix 4 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry.



Plate 3: Trench 2 showing modern pit (03) from South-West

4.2 All three trenches showed similar results with turf and dark brown silty clay topsoil (01) varying in depth from 0.28 m to 0.3 m overlying the natural drift geology of reddish stony clay (02). Fragments of recent pottery and glass were noted in the topsoil but not retained (Plate 1). No finds, deposits or features of archaeological significance were seen or recovered from Trenches 1 and 3. However at a point 1.4 m from the south-western end of Trench 2 and protruding from the south-eastern baulk of the trench was the remains of a pit (03) (Plate 2). The pit was sealed by topsoil (01) and seen to cut the underlying natural subsoil (02) and measured 2.3 m by 0.8 m with a depth of 0.2 m. This pit was filled by a silty clay (04) slightly darker than the overlying topsoil and contained frequent fragments of charcoal and fragments of white glazed ceramics reflecting the recent date of this feature.



Plate 3: Trench 3 from North-West

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The evaluation showed no evidence relating to features, deposits or finds of any archaeological significance within the footprint of the development.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require the confirmation of Scottish Borders Council.

Bibliography

The Scottish Office Development Department 1999. *National Planning Policy Guideline 18. Planning and the Historic Environment.*

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The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994a. *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monuments Procedures.*

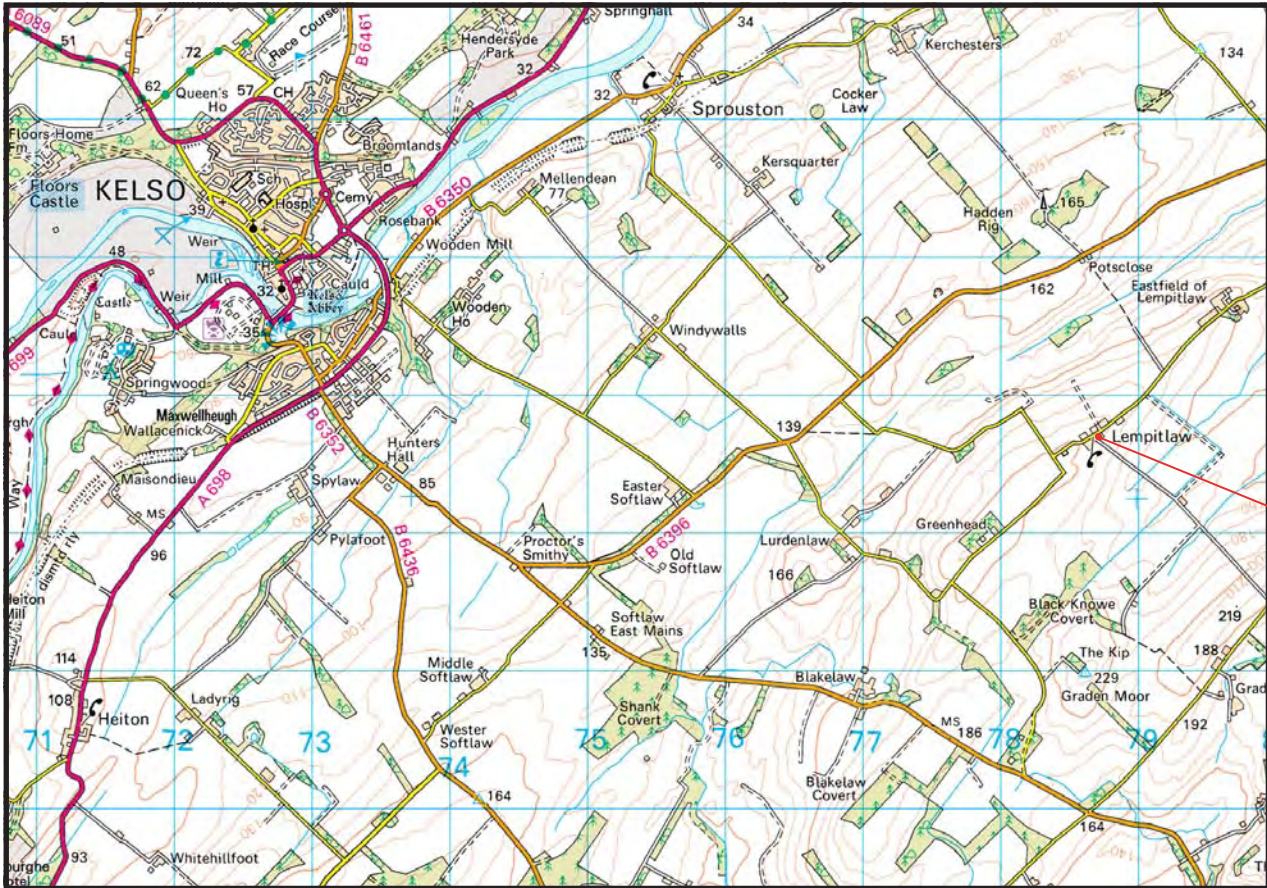
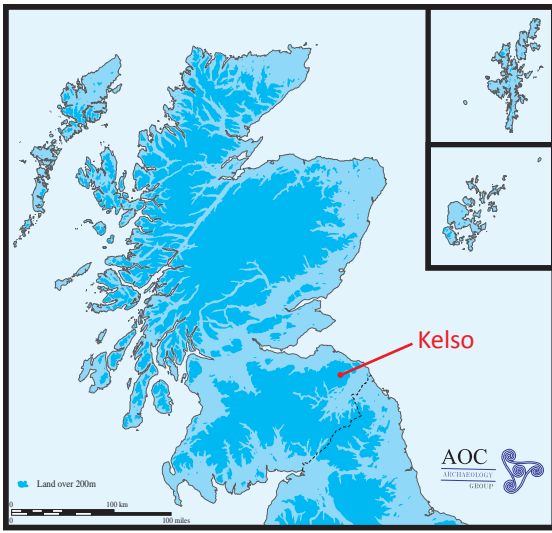
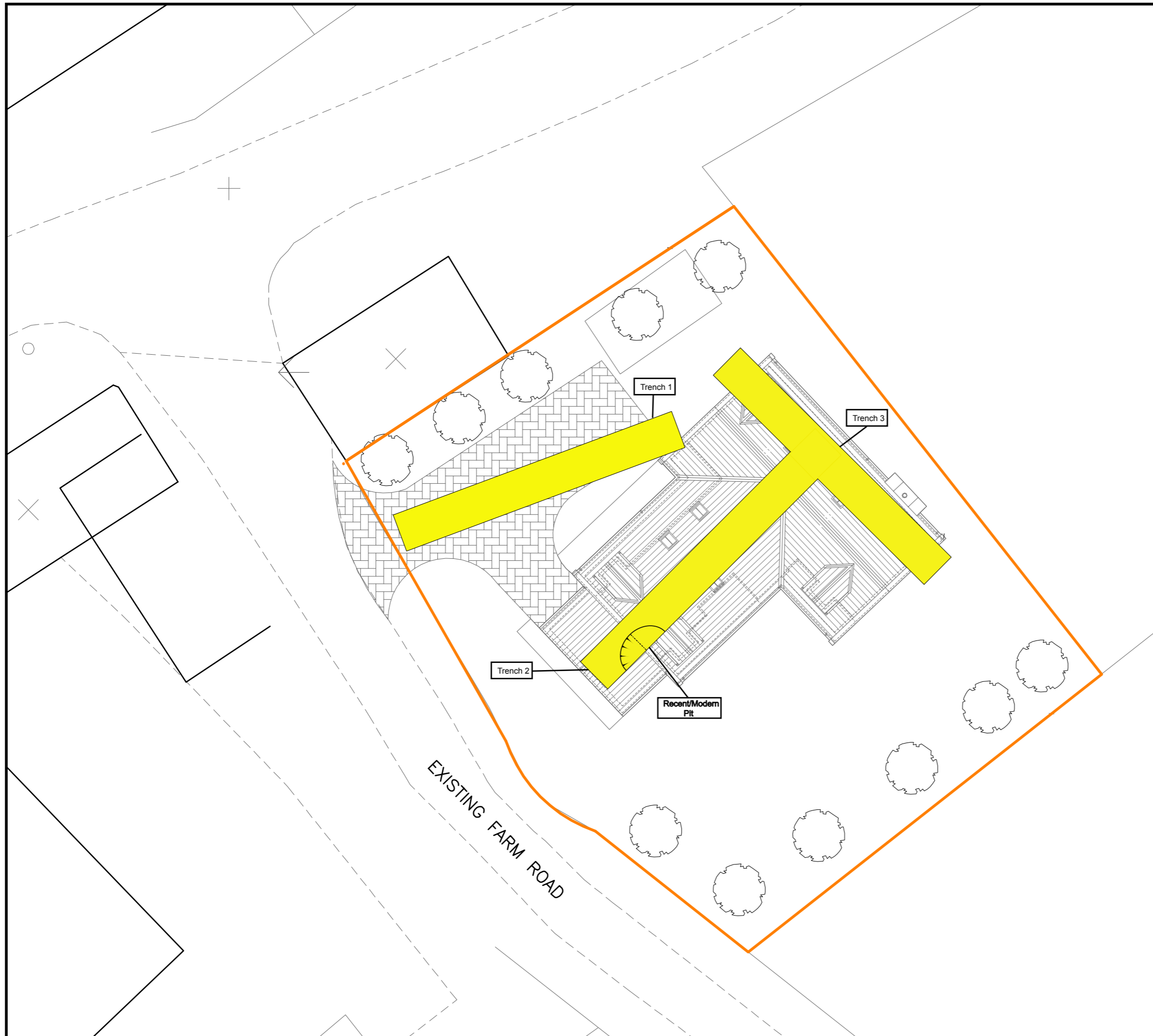




Figure 1: Site location

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Figure 2: evaluation trenches over proposed development footprint



-  proposed development area
-  evaluation trenches



**Land to the South of Old Schoolhouse, Lempitlaw
Evaluation Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

Appendix 1

Trench and Context Summaries

Trench 1						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	15.0	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.3
<i>Total Area (m²)</i>	30					
<i>Orientation</i>	East to West					
<i>Topsoil</i>	(01) Moderately compact dark brown silty clay				Depth (m)	0.28
<i>Subsoil</i>	N/A				Depth (m)	
<i>Natural</i>	(02) Compacted red clay with very frequent medium rounded and angular stones					
<i>Significant features</i>	None					
<i>Finds</i>	Recent white glazed pottery fragments and glass within the topsoil were noted but not retained					

Trench 2						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	15.0	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.3
<i>Total Area (m²)</i>	30					
<i>Orientation</i>	South-West to North-East					
<i>Topsoil</i>	(01) Moderately compact dark brown silty clay				Depth (m)	0.3
<i>Subsoil</i>	N/A				Depth (m)	N/A
<i>Natural</i>	(02) Compacted red clay with very frequent medium rounded and angular stones					
<i>Significant features</i>	(03)The remains of a small concave pit. The exposed remains measured 2.3 m x 0.8 m x 0.2 m and was sealed by the topsoil and cut the underlying natural. (04) Fill of pit (03). Moderately compact dark brown silty clay containing frequent charcoal flecks and small fragments of recent white glazed pottery reflecting the recent date of the pit and hence its low archaeological significance.					
<i>Finds</i>	Recent white glazed pottery fragments and glass within the topsoil were noted but not retained. Similar pottery was recovered from the fill of the pit (04) but was also not retained.					

Trench 3						
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length (m)	15.0	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.3
<i>Total Area (m²)</i>	30					
<i>Orientation</i>	North-West to South-East					
<i>Topsoil</i>	(01) Moderately compact dark brown silty clay				Depth (m)	0.28
<i>Subsoil</i>	N/A				Depth (m)	
<i>Natural</i>	(02) Compacted red clay with very frequent medium rounded and angular stones					
<i>Significant features</i>	None					
<i>Finds</i>	Recent white glazed pottery fragments and glass within the topsoil were noted but not retained					

Appendix 2

Photographic Register

Colour slide film 1

No.	Trench	Description	From
1		Registration	
2		General site shot pre excavation	SW
3		General site shot pre excavation	NE
4	1	General shot	W
5	1	General shot	W
6	3	General shot	NW
7	3	General shot	NW
8	2	General shot	NE
9	2	General shot	NE
10	2	Pit (03)	NW
11	2	Pit (03)	NW
12	2	General shot	SW
13	2	General shot	SW

Black and white print film 1

No.	Trench	Description	From
1		Registration	
2		General site shot pre excavation	SW
3		General site shot pre excavation	NE
4	1	General shot	W
5	1	General shot	W
6	3	General shot	NW
7	3	General shot	NW
8	2	General shot	NE
9	2	General shot	NE
10	2	Pit (03)	NW
11	2	Pit (03)	NW
12	2	General shot	SW
13	2	General shot	SW

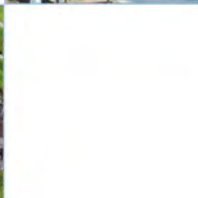
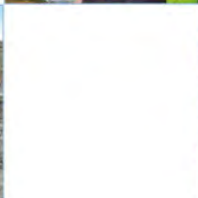
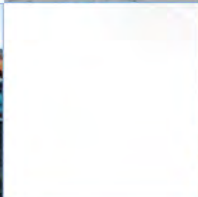
Digital images

No.	Trench	Description	From
1		Registration	
2		General site shot pre excavation	SW
3		General site shot pre excavation	NE
4	1	General shot	W
5	1	General shot	W
6	3	General shot	NW
7	3	General shot	NW
8	2	General shot	NE
9	2	General shot	NE
10	2	Pit (03)	NW
11	2	Pit (03)	NW
12	2	General shot	SW
13	2	General shot	SW

Appendix 4

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land south of Old School House, Lempitlaw
PROJECT CODE:	21121
PARISH:	Sprouston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Erlend Hindmarch
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 7868 3264
START DATE (this season)	15 th September
END DATE (this season)	15 th September
PREVIOUS WORK (Incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation prior to a proposed residential development on land to the south of Old Schoolhouse, Lempitlaw, Kelso found no deposits, features or finds of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	T H Brewis, Lempitlaw Farm
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead Midlothian EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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