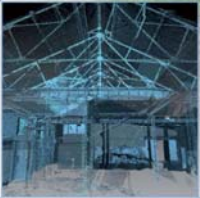


White Sands Road Extension, Barns Ness, Dunbar, East Lothian: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

21211
April 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

White Sands Road Extension, Dunbar: Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Lafarge Cement UK,

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 717 772 to NT 709 712

AOC Project No: 21211

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Date of Fieldwork: February 2009

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	2
List of Plates.....	2
List of appendices.....	2
Abstract.....	3
0. Non Technical Summary	4
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Objectives.....	4
3. Method.....	4
4. Results.....	4
5. DISCUSSION	6
6. CONCLUSION.....	6
7. REFERENCES	6
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER	8
APPENDIX 2: SAMPLE REGISTER	8
APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER.....	8
APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER	8
APPENDIX 5: <i>DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND</i> REPORT	9

List of illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Location of Pit Feature 01/02

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Pit showing north-facing section
- Plate 2 Pit showing east-facing section

List of appendices

- Appendix 1 Context Register
- Appendix 2 Sample Register
- Appendix 3 Drawing Register
- Appendix 4 Photographic Register
- Appendix 5 *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

Abstract

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Lafarge Cement UK to undertake a watching brief during topsoil stripping for a westerly extension of White Sands Road, Dunbar, East Lothian. The work required was in response to a planning condition set by East Lothian Council. During the course of the works an isolated sub- rectangular pit was recorded. The fill of this pit contained small fragments of burnt bone and charcoal, and possibly represents the remains of a hearth feature.

0. Non Technical Summary

- 0.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Lafarge Cement UK to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping for a westerly extension of White Sands Road, Dunbar, East Lothian. The watching brief also included areas for a temporary compound and access road. The works were required in response to a planning condition (planning ref: 06/01026/FUL) set by East Lothian Council (ELCAS).
- 0.2 The work was required in accordance with SSP23 (SG 2008) and PAN42 (SOEnd 1994), in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains uncovered during the watching brief works.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 White Sands Road, Dunbar is located to the west of Dunbar, near Barns Ness (Figure 1). The road extension lies between NGR: NT 717 772 and NT 709 712. It is bounded to the south by the Lafarge Cement Works and to the north by the White Sands and the North Sea. The road extension was approximately 600 m long.
- 1.2 In recent years archaeological works within the adjacent NE Quarry extension have unearthed a range of highly significant archaeological features (Gooder 2001, 2002 and Cook & Gooder 2005); (Figure 1) therefore there was a possibility that the watching brief had the potential to uncover hitherto unknown archaeology.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to provide suitable archaeological mitigation during the topsoil stripping associated with the construction of the new road extension and thus prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
 - ii) where preservation *in situ* was impractical, to record all archaeological features and interpret them in an archaeological and historic framework.

3. Method

- 3.1 All ground-breaking works were carried out by a 360° tracked excavator using a 1.8 m wide toothless ditching bucket. All ground breaking works were constantly monitored by an experienced archaeologist. Colour photographic slides and black and white prints were taken during the course of the works (Appendix 4).

4. Results

- 4.1 The archaeological works were conducted over a 6 day period during 9th February to 23rd March 2009. The weather conditions during the watching brief were predominantly dry with occasional short

showers in the early part. Due to the nature of the subsoil (light brown sands and gravels) overall archaeological visibility was good.



Plate 1 Pit (01/02) showing north-facing section

- 4.2 During the watching brief single, isolated, sub rectangular pit (01) was recorded, approximately to the east of Cat Craig Cottage (Figure 1). The pit measured 1.44 m by 0.72 m with the long axis aligned N/S. It was up to 0.26 m deep at its northern end and tapered up to the level of the subsoil at its southern end (Figures 2 - 4 & Plates 1 & 2). The fill (02) consisted of a light brown sandy soil, with very light brown and dark brown lenses. Inclusions included small and medium sized stones, as well as small fragments of charcoal and burnt bone. A 60 litre sample of the fill was retained. Topsoil sections adjacent to the pit feature were examined for artefactual or ecofactual material, neither were present.
- 4.3 The recorded topsoil depth was recorded as anywhere between 0.20 - 0.45 m. Very little in the way of modern material was noted within the topsoil horizon.



Plate 2 Pit (01/02) showing east-facing section

5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1. During the watching brief a single pit feature was recorded. Due to the burnt nature of the material within the fill of this feature it has been interpreted as the remains of a hearth. Unfortunately the form of the hearth feature is undiagnostic in terms of any specialist function or chronology and there appeared to be neither associated artefacts nor features in the immediate area.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Settlement in the immediate area is well attested from the Mesolithic onwards and the feature could derive from any period of prehistory until up modern times. A soil sample has been retrieved from the feature, and given the significance of the archaeology in the local area, there may well be some merit in processing the sample for the retrieval of any artefactual or ecofactual material. Given the absence of modern material in the soil sample, and suitable organic material being present, a radiocarbon date should be obtained for the pit.

7. REFERENCES

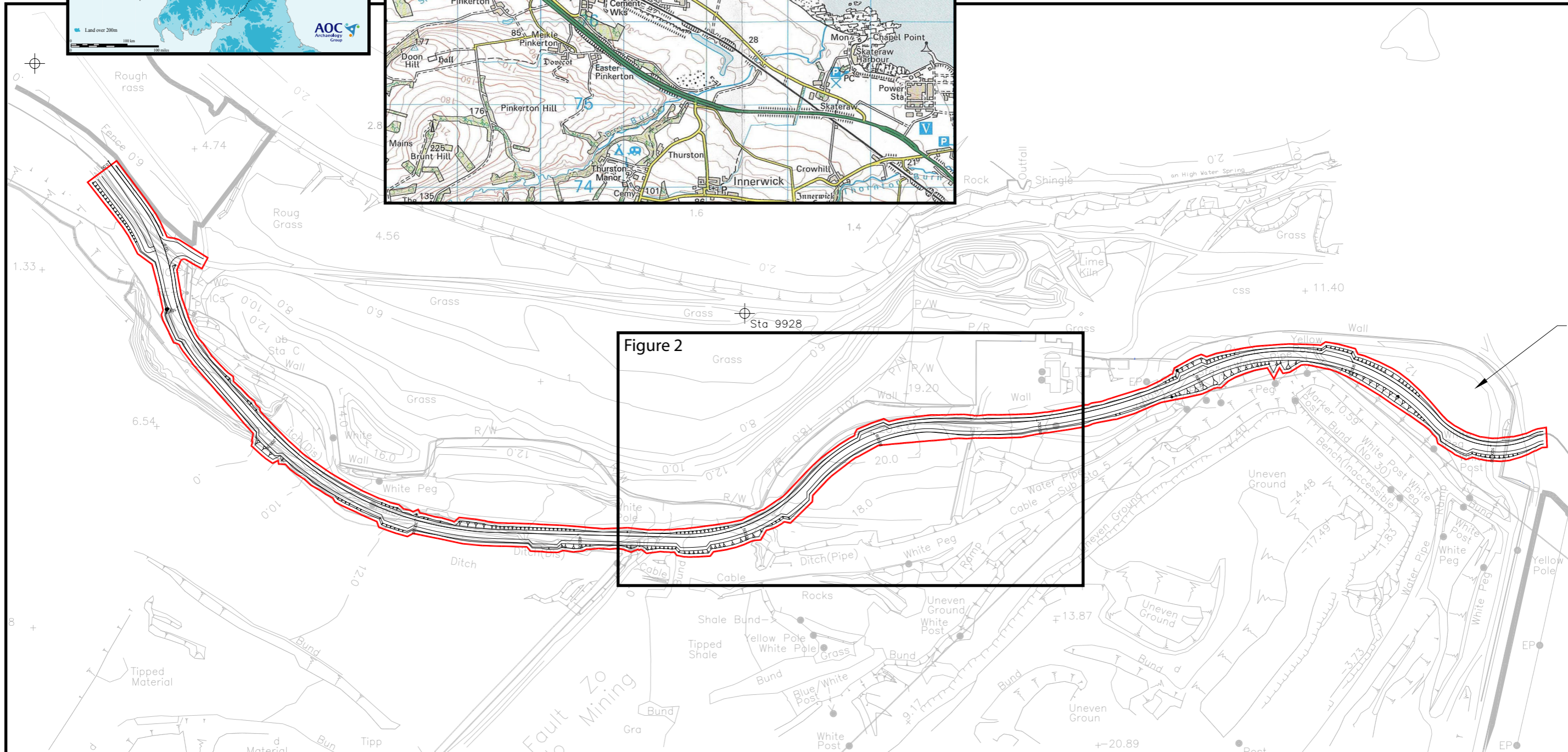
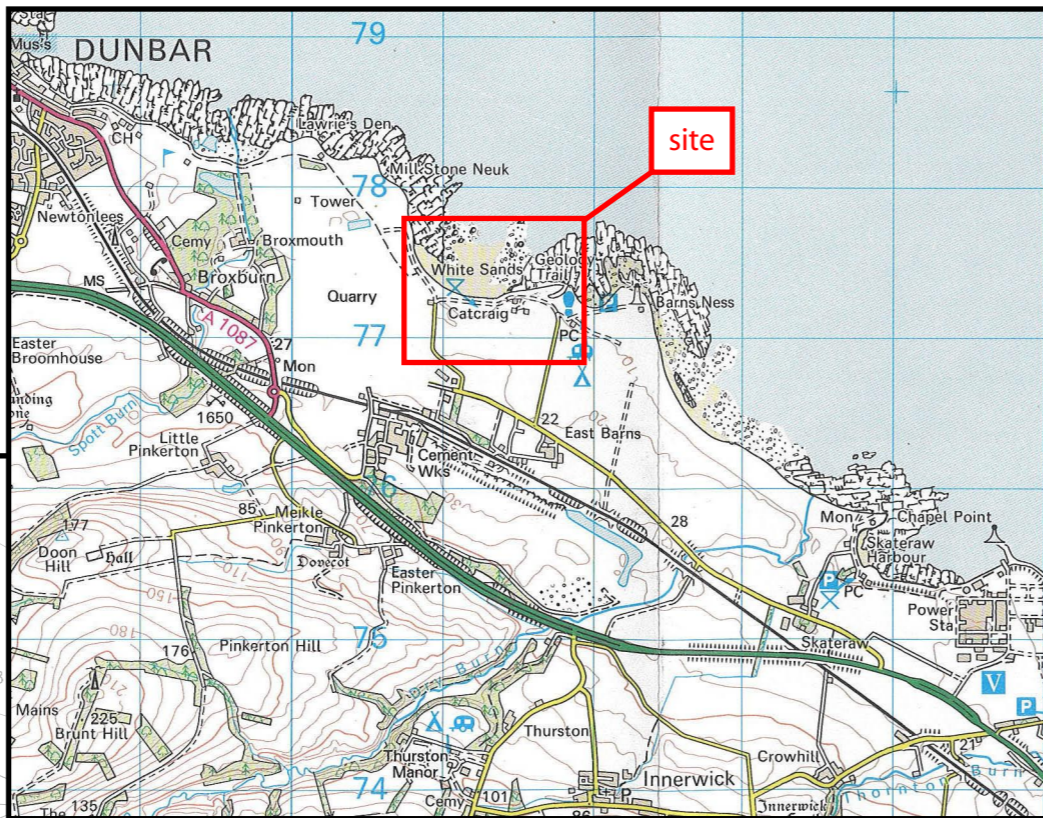
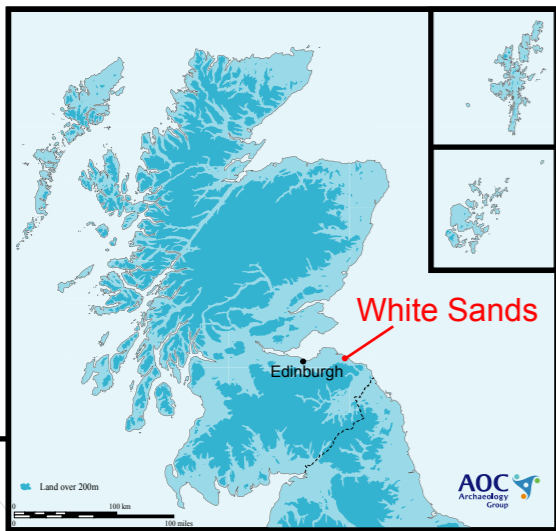
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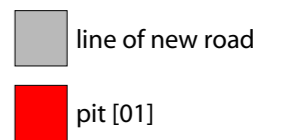


area of new road

Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Location of pit [01]



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context 01 – Cut of sub-rectangular pit, 1.44 m up 0.72 m, aligned N/S, up to 0.26 m in depth. Steeply sloping sides at northern end, gently sloping to the south. Flat bottomed at north end.

Context 02 – Fill of light brown sandy soil with very light brown and dark brown lenses. Lenses probably represent layers of burning. Inclusions include small fragments of charcoal and burnt bone as well as small to medium rounded stones.

APPENDIX 2: SAMPLE REGISTER

Sample 1 - Context 02 (60 litres bulk sample)

APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.1: North facing section across Feature 01/02 – Scale 1:10

Drawing No.2: East-facing section and profile across Feature 01 – Scale 1:10

Drawing No.3: Plan of Feature 01/02 – Scale 1:20

APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Colour Slide and Black & White Print – Film No.1

Shot No.	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	-
3-4	Feature 01/02 – Plan and north-facing section	N
5-6	Feature 01/02 – North-facing section	N
7-8	Feature 01/02 – Plan and east-facing section	E
9-10	Stripped area adjacent to Cat Craig Cottage	W
11-12	Stripped area at west end of road	W
13-14	Stripped area at east end of road	E

APPENDIX 5: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	White Sands Road Extension, Dunbar
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21211
PARISH:	Dunbar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Possible Hearth Feature
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 717 772 to NT 709 712
START DATE (this season)	9 th February 2009
END DATE (this season)	23 rd March 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping for a westerly extension of White Sands Road, Dunbar, East Lothian. During the course of the works an isolated sub rectangular pit was recorded. The fill of this pit contained small fragments of burnt bone and charcoal, and possibly represents the remains of a hearth feature.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Possible post-excavation works
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Lafarge Cement UK
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