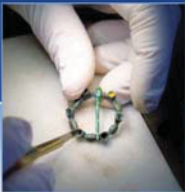


House plot by Mavisbank, Polton: Data Structure Report

21731

14th October 2010



House plot by Mavisbank, Polton: Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Harley Weston
Mavisbank Walled Garden
Polton

(NGR): NT 2888 6501

AOC Project No: 21371

Prepared by: Martin Cook

Illustration by: Stefan Sagrott

Date of Fieldwork: 8th and 14th September 2010

Date of Report: 14th October 2010

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

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

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Abstract

This report documents the results of a watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground breaking works associated with the erection of a house and associated infrastructure by the walled garden of Mavisbank House, Polton, Midlothian. No deposits, features or small finds of archaeological significance were found.

No further works are considered necessary.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Harley Weston to undertake a watching brief on ground breaking works associated with the construction of a house by the walled garden of Mavisbank House, Polton, Midlothian. The need for, and scope of archaeological works has been determined by Midlothian Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

1.2 Project Background and Location

1.2.1 The development proposals (09/00156/FUL; Figure 1) involve the construction of a single dwelling house and associated infrastructure.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The site lies within the designed landscape of Mavisbank House though outwith the Scheduled Ancient Monument area associated with Mavisbank House (SAM No.4921). Mavisbank House (NMRS No.NT26NE 54) lies to the north-west of the house plot.

1.3.2 There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development.

2 Objectives

2.1 Archaeological works were in the form of a Watching Brief on the excavation of building foundations at a house plot by Mavisbank, Polton, Midlothian. The aims of the archaeological Watching Brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by the development's groundworks;
- ii) to liaise with ELCAS (on behalf of Midlothian Council) and the client, in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed, as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.
- iii) to report on the results of the Watching Brief.

3 Method

3.1 The site was stripped of topsoil prior to AOC's arrival on site. Following a meeting between the client, Mr. Andy Robertson of East Lothian Council and AOC, it was decided that the watching brief should comprise the monitoring of foundations in the northern fragment of the development (Figure 1).

- 3.2 The foundations were stripped under constant archaeological control was undertaken by machine plant equipped with a wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All monitoring was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures.

4 Results

- 4.1 The watching brief was conducted over two days on the 8th and 12th September 2010. The weather conditions during the works were dry and sunny which rendered good archaeological visibility. The various data gathered from the watching are presented as a series of appendices:

- i) Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;
- ii) Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

- 4.2 The total area monitored comprised the excavation of foundations measuring 15 m by 30 m. The topsoil comprised up to 0.40 m of silty sandy material, overlying an orange sandy subsoil. No significant archaeological material was identified.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 No features, deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

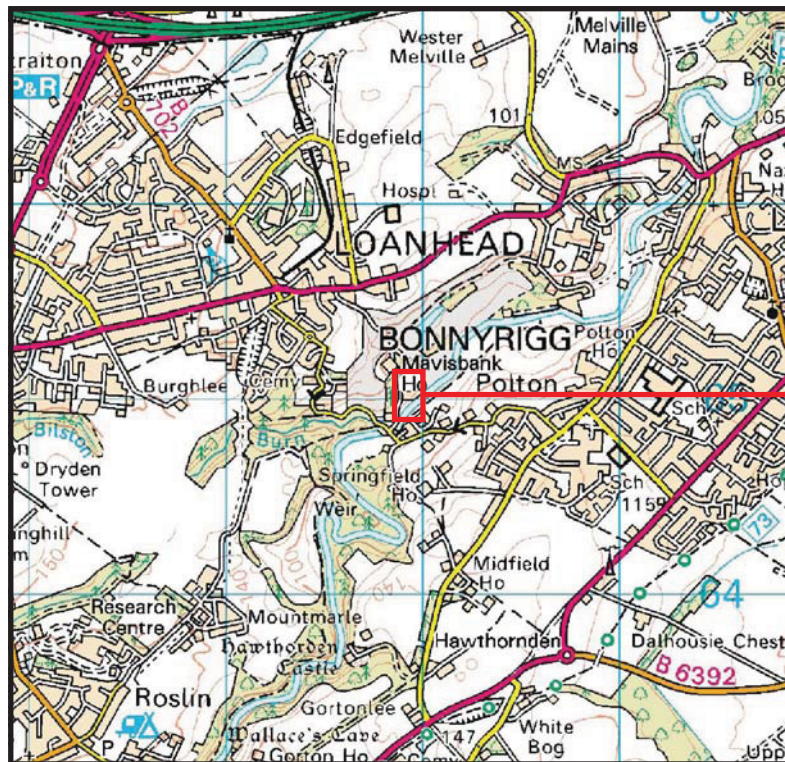
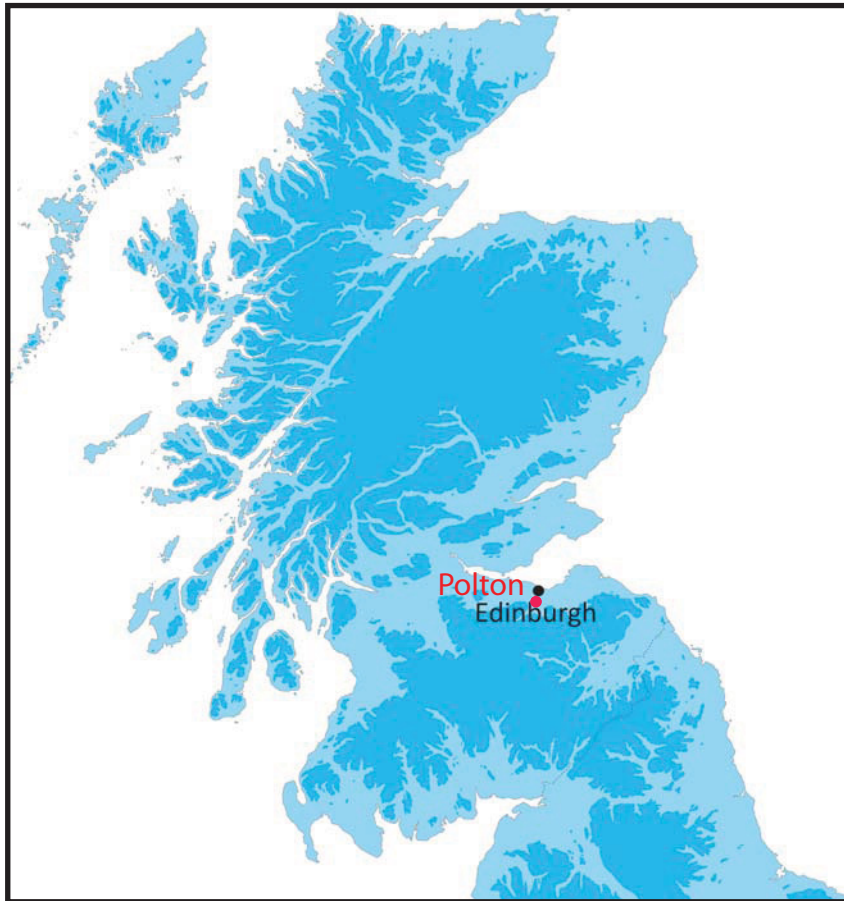


Plate 1: Working shot of area under excavation

6 References

SOEnd 1994 *Planning Advice Note 42: Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994. The Scottish Office Environment Dept.

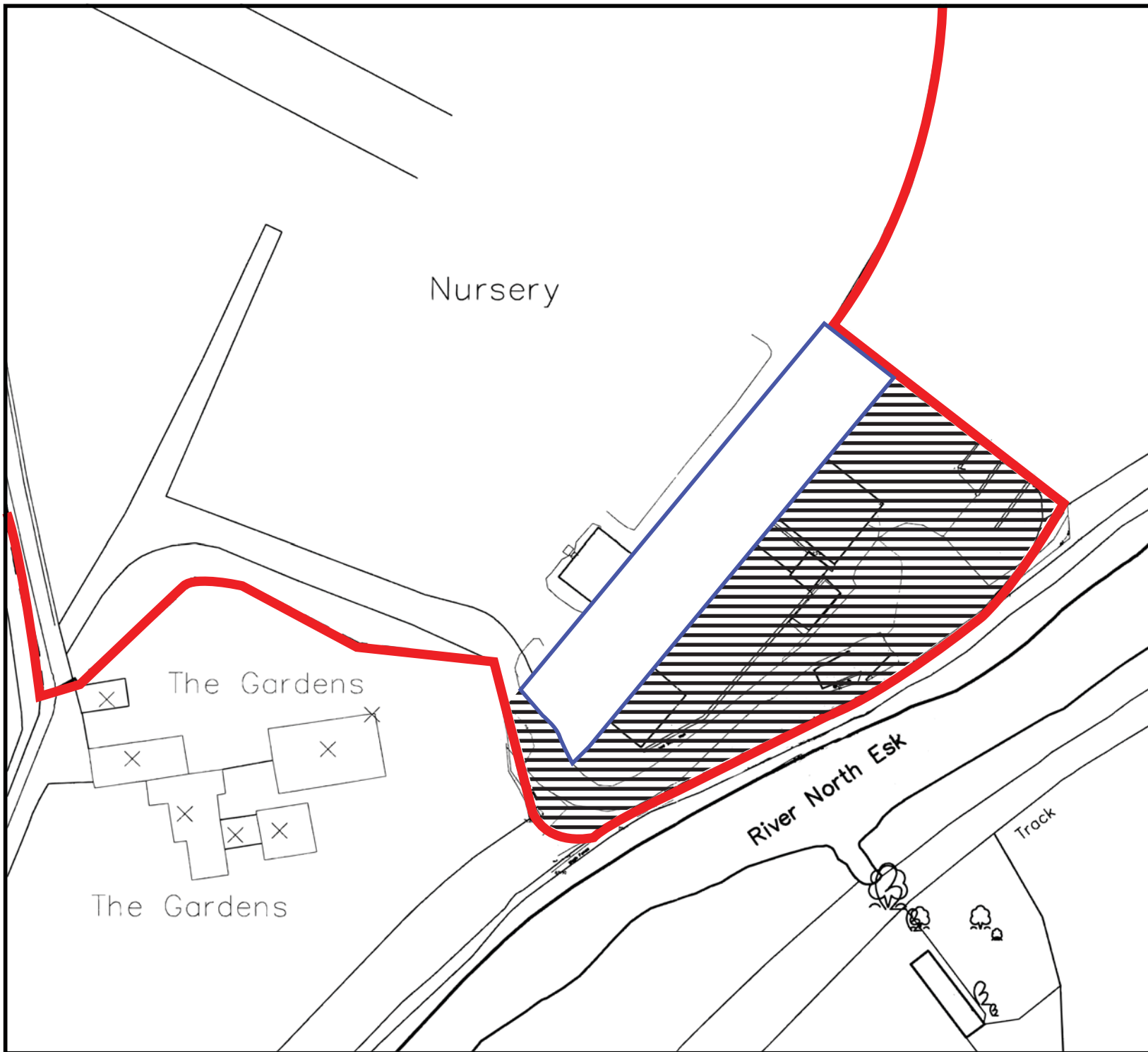
SPP23 2008 *Scottish Planning Policy 23: Planning & the Historic Environment*. The Scottish Government.






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Figure 1: Location of the site at Mavisbank Walled Garden, Polton

Figure 2: Area of watching brief at Mavisbank Walled Garden, Polton



-  Site Boundary
-  Total area subject to monitoring
-  Area of watching brief



**House plot by Mavisbank House, Polton,
Midlothian:
Watching Brief Report**

Section 2: Appendices

Appendix 1: Photographic Register

Number	Description	From
1	Registration	
2	Working shot during excavation	S
3	Working shot during excavation	S
4	Working shot during excavation	N
5	Working shot during excavation	E

Appendix 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	House plot by Mavisbank House
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21731
PARISH:	Lasswade
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Martin Cook
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2888 6501
START DATE (this season)	8 th September 2010
END DATE (this season)	12 th September 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was completed during ground breaking works associated with the construction of a single dwelling house by Mavisbank, Polton, Midlothian. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr. Harley Weston
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	martin.cook@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	House plot by Mavisbank, Polton



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