

Inchwood Business Park, Bathgate, West Lothian:

Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21764

18th January 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed Business Park development at Inchwood, Bathgate, West Lothian.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of the machine trenching of some 1,560 m² representing an 8% sample of the development area.

No archaeological material was encountered. A drained pond occupied the south-west corner of the site. There was also evidence of modern agricultural improvement activity in the form of occasional ceramic field drains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by C & W Assets Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed Business Park development at Inchwood, Bathgate, West Lothian (Planning Reference No. 0496/FUL/10).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of West Lothian Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). WoSAS recommended a programme of phased archaeological works in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010), *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) and the protocols set out in the West of Scotland Archaeology Service's 'Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork'.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2010) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with WoSAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The evaluation was designed around an 8% trenching sample (1,560 m²).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site amounting to some 1.95 ha (centred NGR: NS 9896 6765) is located to the immediate north of the A7066 Bathgate to Broxburn Road. Service roads for nearby industrial units bound the site to the north and east. The mature woodland of 'Inchwood' borders the site to the west. The site is generally flat with two low lying knolls at the south and northern ends respectively.
- 1.2.2 The site is underlain by solid geology of Lower Carboniferous Limestone of the West Lothian oil shale formation (Mitchell & Mykura 1962, 3). The drift geology is comprised of Pleistocene deposits of reddish brown clay tills.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 Prior to the evaluation there were no known archaeological sites within the proposed development. The closest RCAHMS listed archaeological site - the find-spot of a polished stone axe (NMRS No. NS96NE 13) - lies approximately 500 m to the north-east of the development area.
- 1.3.2 Prior to the evaluation there were no recorded instances of archaeological interventions either within the development site or within the immediate area.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;

- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as evaluation, 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 Evaluation Trenching

- 3.1.1 The trenching was designed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality, significance and date of any archaeological features present within the site area. Trenching totalled 1560 m² (basal dimensions) were excavated. Trenches were between 40 m and 100 m in length (2 m wide) and set on varying orientations (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Stripping of the overburden was by means of a single tracked excavator equipped with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.1.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were carefully backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 10th and 12th January 2011. Overall weather conditions were poor, with a thin ground covering of snow. Good archaeological visibility was present throughout the evaluation. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3, Figure 1 and Plates 1-2.
- 4.2 The excavation of the trenches revealed a poor unimproved and marshy topsoil of soft, dark brown sticky clay loam with a high organic content. The topsoil was completely lacking any modern detritus such as white ceramic or glass. Local information revealed that a pond took in majority of the south-west of the site. This was drained over the past forty years. A thin peat deposit appeared to be forming in this area. Natural subsoil was a sandy yellow/brown boulder clay with numerous sub-rounded glacial erratics.
- 4.3 Ceramic field drains were occasionally encountered. The drains ran approximately north to south. Hand dug slots were excavated through drains which were not immediately identifiable as such.
- 4.4 No significant archaeological material, features or artefacts, was observed.



Plate 1: Trench 6 From the West



Plate 2: Trench 5 From the West

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Neither significant archaeological remains nor artefacts were identified during the evaluation. On the basis of the evaluation works undertaken the development area has proven archaeologically sterile.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Given the scale of the works and purely negative results obtained it is suggested that no further archaeological works are considered necessary within the proposed development

area. This recommendation will require confirmation by WoSAS on behalf of West Lothian Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

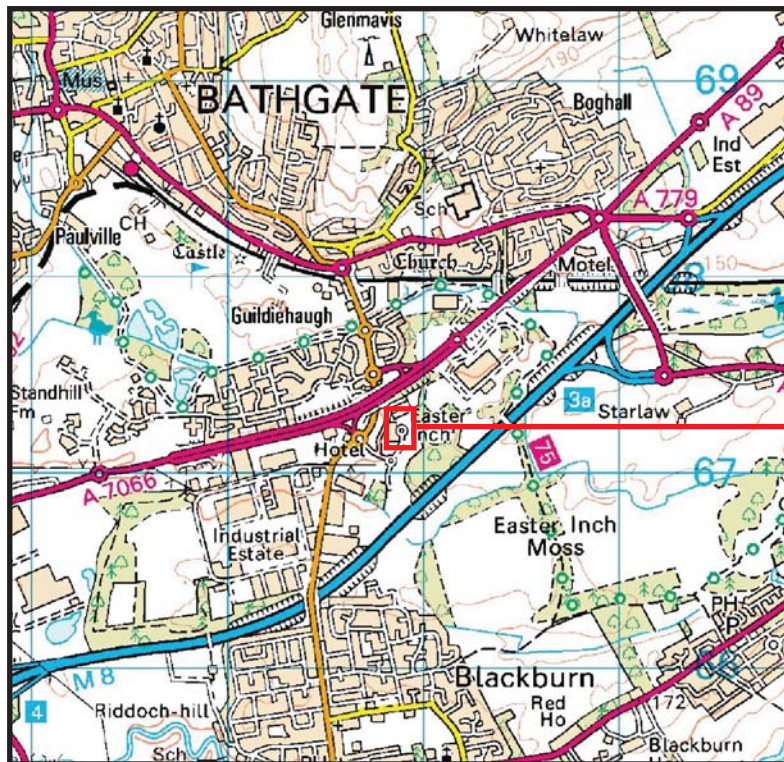
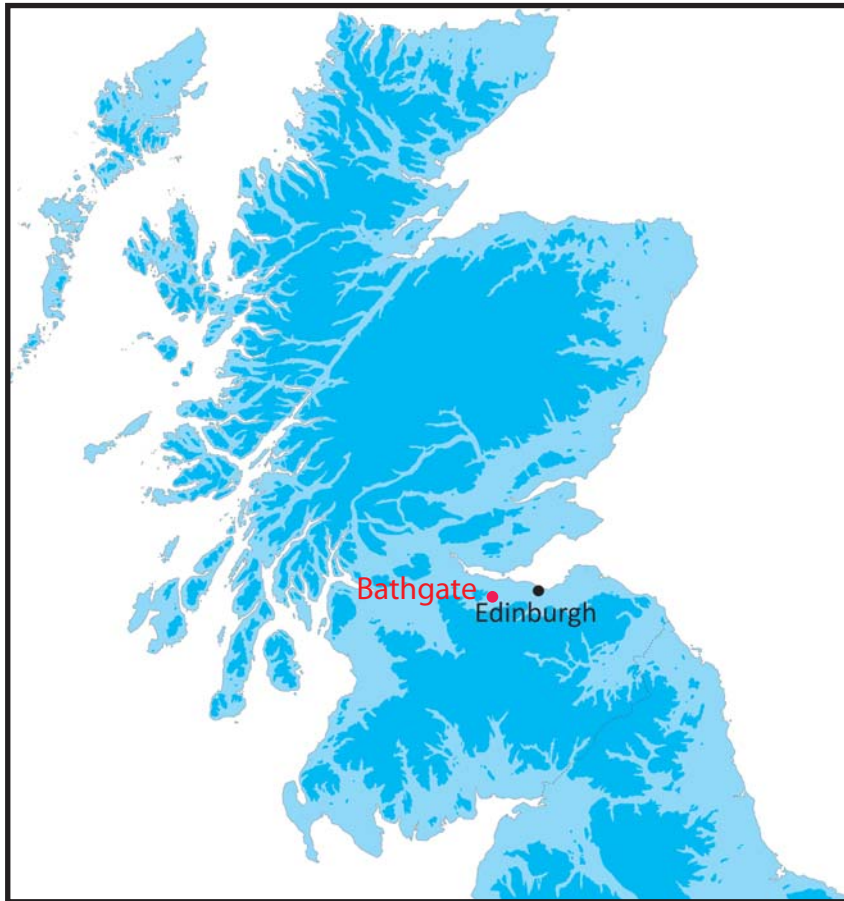
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Mitchell G H & Mykura W 1963 *The Geology of the Neighbourhood of Edinburgh (Third Edition)*. Natural Environment Research Council, Memoirs of the Geological Survey Scotland. Edinburgh

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy* (February 2010)

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

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Site Area

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OS License No.: 100016114

Figure 1: Location of the site at Inchwood Business Park, Bathgate

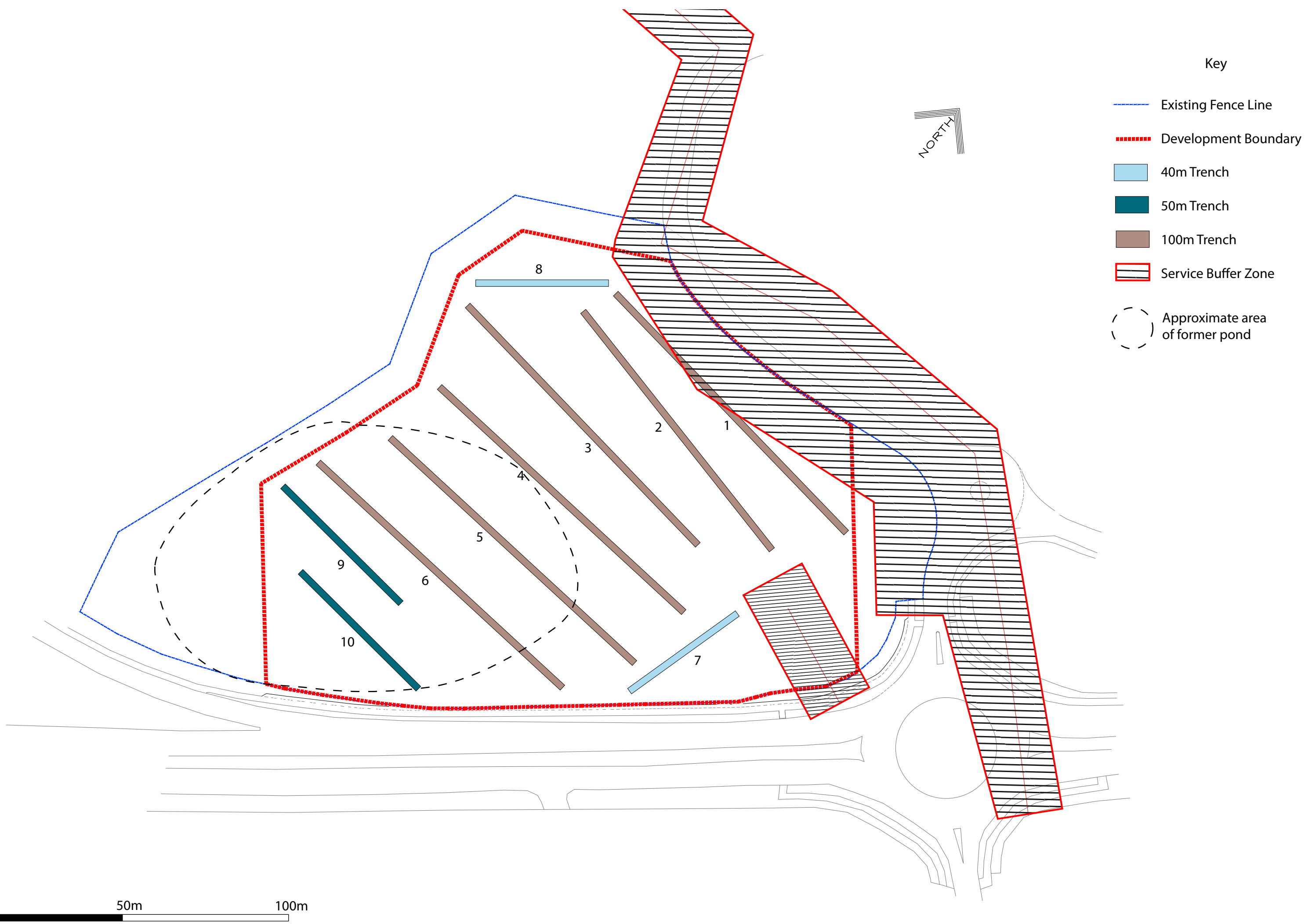


Figure 2: Evaluation Trench Layout at Inchwood Business Park, Bathgate

**Inchwood Business Park, Bathgate, West Lothian:
Evaluation Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m – 0.45 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Clay drain at 20 m N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled pale yellow/grey brown boulder clay with numerous large boulders
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.32 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled yellow/grey sandy boulder clay with numerous small to large sub-rounded glacial erratics.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled orange sandy boulder clay with numerous small to large sub-rounded glacial erratics.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m – 0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Clay drain at 50 m N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled yellow/grey sandy boulder clay with numerous small to large sub-rounded glacial erratics.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E

<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m – 0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled grey sandy boulder clay with numerous small to large sub-rounded glacial erratics.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled orange sandy clay with numerous small to large sub-rounded glacial erratics.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	S/N
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m – 0,30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled orange sandy clay with numerous small to large sub-rounded glacial erratics.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	110 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	220 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	S/N
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m – 0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled grey sandy clay with numerous small to large sub-rounded glacial erratics.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	W/E
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.15 m – 0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled yellow sandy boulder clay with numerous small to large sub-rounded glacial erratics.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²

<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Clay drain at 40 m NW/SE
<i>Subsoil</i>	Pale yellow brown clay with numerous small to large sub-rounded glacial erratics.
<i>Finds</i>	None

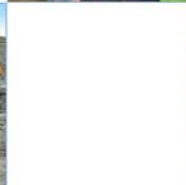
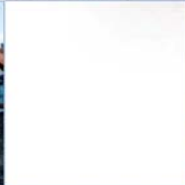
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Colour Print/ /Digital Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1		Registration	
2	7	General post-excavation shot. Trench 7	S
3	10	General post-excavation shot. Trench 10	W
4	9	General post-excavation shot. Trench 9	E
5	6	General post-excavation shot. Trench 6	W
6	5	General post-excavation shot. Trench 5	E
7	4	General post-excavation shot. Trench 4	W
8	3	General post-excavation shot. Trench 3	W
9	2	General post-excavation shot. Trench 2	E
10	8	General post-excavation shot. Trench 8	N
11	1	General post-excavation shot. Trench 12	W
12-17	-	General shots of site	W-N-E

APPENDIX 3: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report*

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Little Boghead, Bathgate, West Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21764
PARISH:	Bathgate
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 9896 6765
START DATE (this season)	10 th January 2011
END DATE (this season)	12 th January 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to a proposed Business Park development at Inchwood, Bathgate, West Lothian.</p> <p>The archaeological evaluation consisted of the machine trenching of 1,560 m² (8% sample)</p> <p>No archaeological material was encountered. A drained pond occupied the south-west corner of the site There was also evidence of modern agricultural improvement in the form of occasional ceramic field drains.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	C & W Assets Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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