

Well Wynd, Tranent, East Lothian: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21843
8th March 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

Well Wynd, Tranent, East Lothian: Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	East Lothian Council Housing & Property Management, Penston House, Macmerry Industrial Estate, Macmerry, EH33 1EX
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Well Wynd, Tranent, East Lothian.

The archaeological evaluation comprised excavation of a 5% trenching sample of the 626 m² development area.

The site was covered by a layer of modern building rubble which overlay a deposit of soft sediment that contained 19th/20th pottery which overlay natural subsoil. In Trench 1 there was a shallow pit cut into the natural subsoil containing an articulated horse skeleton. The skeleton was well preserved but the fill also contained 19th/20th pottery so the burial could not have been more than 100 years, probably less. No older, residual earlier finds were noted within any of the mixed soft sediments.

In summary neither significant archaeological artefacts nor features were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by East Lothian Council in respect to a proposed residential development and associated works at the site of the former Labour Club, Well Wynd, Tranent, East Lothian.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of East Lothian Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS). ELCAS recommended a programme of archaeological works in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010) and *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2011) was agreed with ELCAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The evaluation was designed around a 5% trenching sample, of the 626 m² development area.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation identified neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development area lies within the centre of Tranent, to the southside of the High Street (NGR: NT 4051 7270) within a fully urban setting. Well Wynd and Loch Road form the southern boundary of the site whilst existing buildings lie on the other three sides the northern of which fronts onto the High Street.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 Tranent is first noted from a 12th Century charter and it may have had a church from the 14th Century with Falside Castle being built in the 15th Century. Tranent became a burgh of barony in 1541 with a parish school by 1594 (Smith 2001). Coal mining has always been a main commercial concern at Tranent and coal was being shipped from the Forth from the 1600s and in 1722 a wagonway was laid to carry coal to the docks at Cockenzie. The mining and transport of coal dominated Tranent and its development over the coming centuries.
- 1.3.2 Prior to the evaluation, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland databases showed that the proposed development site did not contain any known sites.
- 1.3.3 Prior to the evaluation no archaeological remains were definitively known within the development area. However, the fact that the majority of the site had no history of significant development meant that subsurface remains may have existed within the site, especially given the area's medieval history.

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 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 Trenching comprised the excavation of two trenches of varying size and orientation located across the site. The distribution was in close agreement with WSI's trenching plan (Dunbar 2011).
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by means of a JCB 3CX wheeled excavator equipped with a 1.8 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.
- 3.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 1st March 2011. Overall weather conditions were good; comprising overcast but dry conditions yielding good archaeological visibility. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3 and Figure 1.
- 4.1.2 The 'Labour Club' buildings previously present on the site had been recently demolished to ground level and both trenches revealed its remains with an initial layer of building rubble and debris, [101], up to 0.32 m thick. Below this modern layer of crushed stone, concrete, brick material lay a relatively homogeneous dark brown soft sediment, [102]. This clay rich sandy matrix contained a variety of inclusions including modern white glazed ceramics, oyster shell, bone, glass and small amounts of burnt material such as ash and cinder. A wall, [106], with associated concrete flooring was found in Trench 1 covered by the building debris, [101] and cut into [102]. Alongside the wall, also cut into [102], was a drainage pipe and another service, possibly a water feed, both of which presumably belonged to the former 'Labour Club'.
- 4.1.3 The soil [102] contained 20th century pottery and modern artefacts and has therefore obviously been reworked and disturbed recently. Careful examination of this material as it was stripped did not reveal any residual, older artefacts. In Trench 1 this context was up to 0.65 m thick at the northern end and 0.35 m in the southern end; whilst in Trench 2 it measured between 0.30 m and 0.40 m. In both trenches soil [102] lay directly over a thin

layer of dirty natural subsoil [103], probably re-deposited which contained some modern finds, charcoal, oyster shell and sandstone fragments. This deposit measured no more than 0.20 m thick and overlay the natural clay subsoil [107].

- 4.1.4 The two trenches revealed a very similar stratigraphy was present across the entire site.



Plate 1: Trench 1, showing wall [106] along left side of the trench with an associated drainage pipe. Trench also crossed by a further service.

- 4.1.5 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the evaluation. The only artefacts (ceramics and glass sherds) noted during the evaluation were modern in date, the majority dating from the latter part of the 19th Century and the 20th Century. These modern finds were identified in all contexts and even though there was careful examination of these contexts no older, residual finds were noted within the mixed soft sediments.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Whilst the evaluation has demonstrated that the development area contains some soft sediment below the building debris that covers the site it has also shown unequivocally that this material is of a relatively modern probably late 19th Century and 20th Century date. No residual finds were recovered that could indicate the presence of any earlier material. The presence of the well preserved probable 20th century horse burial indicates that the area was not built upon within the last 100 years.
- 5.2 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were confirmed during the evaluation. The significant balance of probability is that the site is free of significant archaeological material.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by ELCAS on behalf of East Lothian Council.

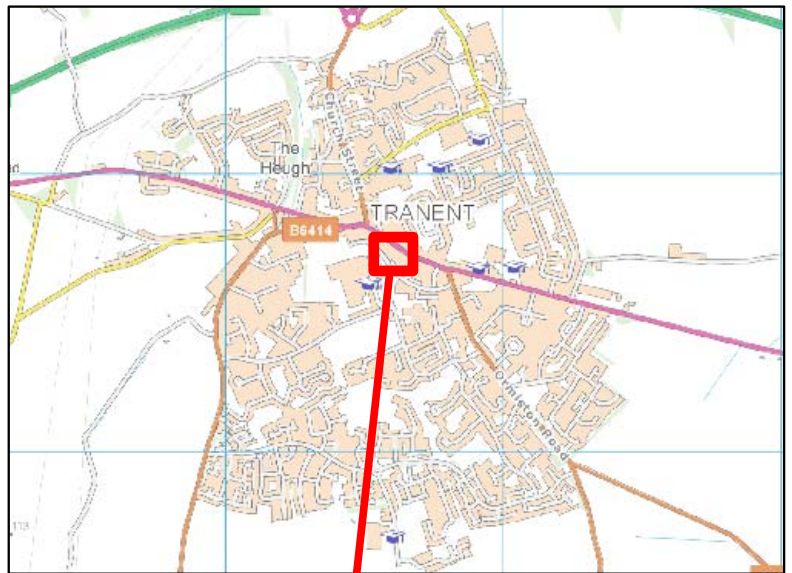
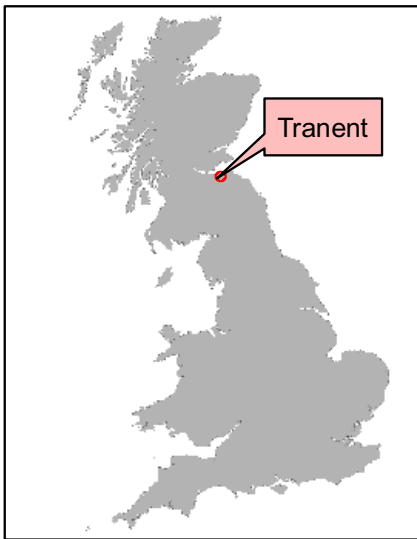
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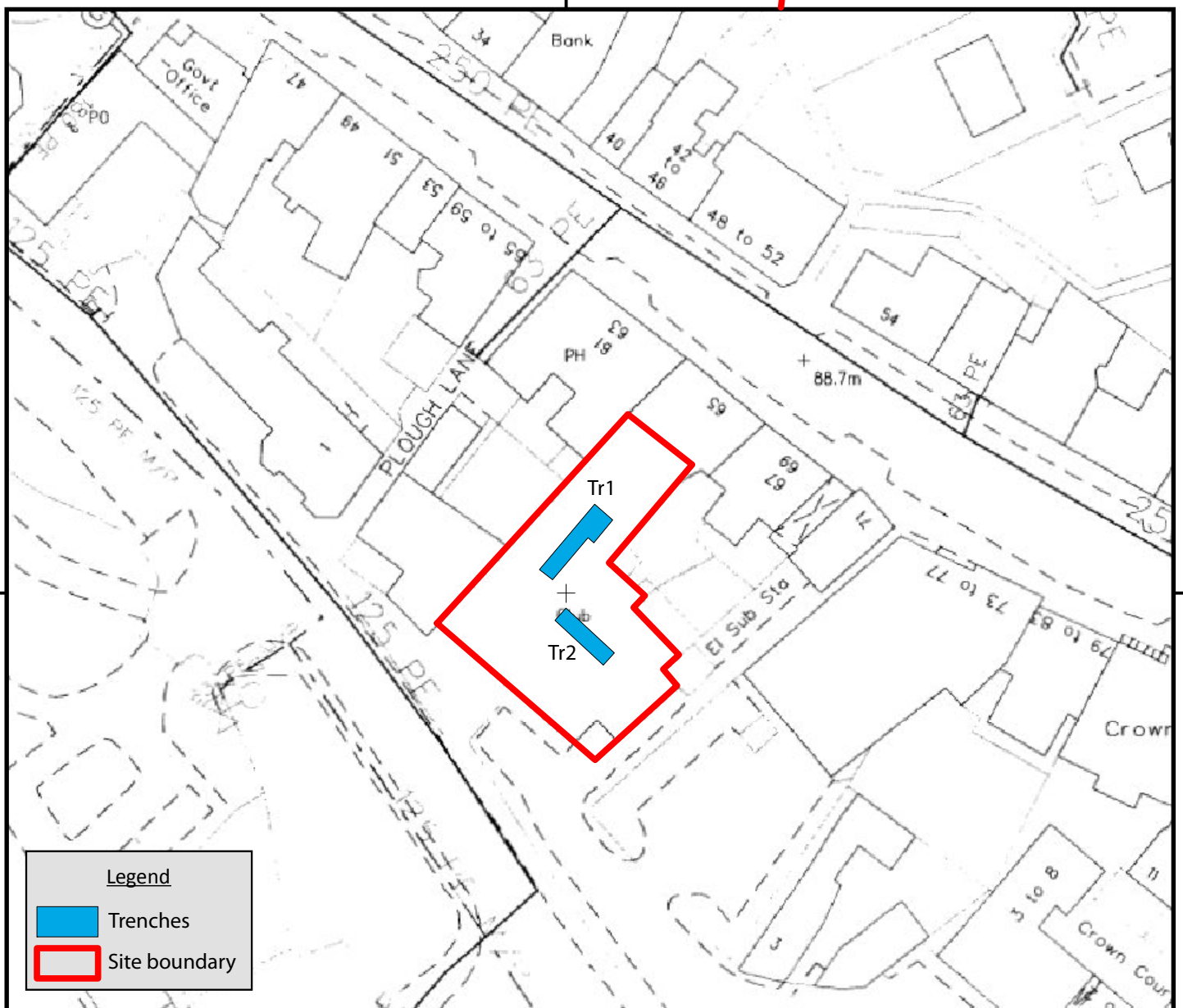
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The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994. *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994.



340600.000000



340600.000000



0 7.5 15 22.5 30
Meters
Scale 1:750 at A4

Figure 1: Site and Trench Location Plan



(c) AOC Archaeology 2010

Cartographic data derived from OS OpenData, Crown Copyright

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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	10.5 m by up to 2.6 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Up to 1.3 m
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	An initial layer of building rubble and debris, [101], up to 0.32 m thick. Below this modern layer of crushed stone, concrete, brick material there was present a relatively homogeneous dark brown soft sediment, [102]. This clay rich sandy matrix contained a variety of inclusions including modern white glazed ceramics, oyster shell, bone, glass and small amounts of burnt material such as ash and cinder. This deposit was between 0.35 m (southern end of trench) and 0.65 m deep (northern end of trench) and overlay a thin layer of dirty clay with inclusions of oyster shell, charcoal and stone. Context [103] was no more than 0.20 m thick and overlay the natural geology, an orange clay subsoil, [107].
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	Mortared brick wall, [106], aligned N-S along eastern side of the trench. Alongside the wall [106] running parallel was a ceramic drainage pipe. Cut into the natural [107] was a large pit [104] which contained a single fill, [105] around an articulated horse skeleton.
<i>Finds</i>	19 th /20 th Century ceramic and glass noted within soft sediments [102], [103] and within pit fill [105]

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	10.5 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Up to 0.90 m
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	An initial layer of building rubble and debris, [101], up to 0.25 m thick. Below this modern layer of crushed stone, concrete, brick material there was present a relatively homogeneous dark brown soft sediment, [102]. This clay rich sandy matrix contained a variety of inclusions including modern white glazed ceramics, oyster shell, bone, glass and small amounts of burnt material such as ash and cinder. This deposit was between 0.30 m (eastern end of trench) and 0.40 m deep (western end of trench) and overlay a thin layer of dirty clay with inclusions of oyster shell, charcoal and stone. Context [103] was no more than 0.15 m thick and overlay the natural geology, an orange clay subsoil, [107].
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	19 th /20 th Century ceramic and glass noted within soft sediments [102] and [103].

APPENDIX 2: Context Record

Context No	Trench	Context Type	Description
[101]	Tr.1/Tr.2	Deposit	Building and demolition rubble and associated debris. Present across the site up to 0.25 m deep. Lay over [102].
[102]	Tr.1/Tr.2	Deposit	A relatively homogeneous dark brown soft sediment, [102]. This clay rich sandy matrix contained a variety of inclusions including modern white glazed ceramics, oyster shell, bone, glass and small amounts of burnt material such as ash and cinder. Up to 0.65 m thick. Lay over [103].
[103]	Tr.1/Tr.2	Deposit	Redeposited natural. A dirty orange/grey clay with patches of sand and inclusions of charcoal, oyster shell and stone. Up to 0.20 m thick. Lay over [107].
[104]	Tr.1	Pit Cut	A large pit cut, not fully exposed within Trench base. Over 1.2 m wide and longer than Trench width of 2.0 m. Steep sides up to 0.25 m deep. Single fill.
[105]	Tr.1	Pit Fill	Fill of pit [104]. Contained backfilled material as [103] and [102] with modern white ceramics present. The pit contained the articulated remains of a horse. Bones well preserved.
[106]	Tr.1	Wall	Brick mortared wall. Modern wall presumably belong to former 'Labour Club' along its western side there was an associated concrete floor and drainage pipe. Surrounded by [102].
[106]	Tr.1/Tr.2	Natural	Natural geology. Orange clay.

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Record

Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shot	-
3-4	Tr.1	Trench 1 under excavation	N
5-6	Tr.1	Trench 1, view of horse burial within pit [104]	N
7-8	Tr.1	Trench 1 post-excavation from South	S
9-10	Tr.1	Trench 1 E-Facing section	E
11	Tr.1	Trench 1 post-excavation from North	N
12-13	Tr.2	Trench 2 post-excavation from East	E
14-15	Tr.2	Trench 2 post-excavation from West	W
16-17	various	General view of site after trenches backfilled	SE

Digital Film

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration shot	-
2	Tr.1	Trench 1 under excavation	N
3-4	Tr.1	Trench 1, view of horse burial within pit [104]	N
5	Tr.1	Trench 1 post-excavation from South	S
6	Tr.1	Trench 1 E-Facing section	E
7	Tr.1	Trench 1 post-excavation from North	N
8	Tr.2	Trench 2 post-excavation from East	E
9	Tr.2	Trench 2 post-excavation from West	W
10	various	General view of site after trenches backfilled	SE

APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Well Wynd, Tranent, East Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21843
PARISH:	Dunbar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
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:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 4051 7268
START DATE (this season)	1 st March 2011
END DATE (this season)	1 st March 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Prior to a residential development an archaeological evaluation, comprising of a 5% trenching sample, was undertaken on the site of the former Labour Club at Well Wynd, Tranent, East Lothian.</p> <p>The site was covered by a layer of modern building rubble which overlay a deposit of soft sediment that contained 19th/20th pottery which overlay natural subsoil. Trench.1 contained a shallow pit containing an articulated horse skeleton. The skeleton was well preserved but the fill also contained 19th/20th pottery so the burial could not have been more than 100 years old, probably less. No residual earlier finds were noted within any of the soils encountered on the site.</p> <p>In summary neither significant archaeological artefacts nor features were observed.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	East Lothian Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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