

TPDH17/001

***TORPHICHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL DINING HALL
EXTENSION***

Archaeological Watching Brief

for West Lothian Council

0317/FUL/17

August 2017

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HA Job no.: TPDH17/001

NGR: NS 96752 72501

Parish: Torphichen

Council: West Lothian Council

OASIS ref.: headland1-291850

Archive will be deposited with: NRHE

Project Manager: Candy Hatherley

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Fieldwork: Josh Gaunt

Graphics: Rafael Maya-Torcely

Approved by: Candy Hatherley – Project Manager

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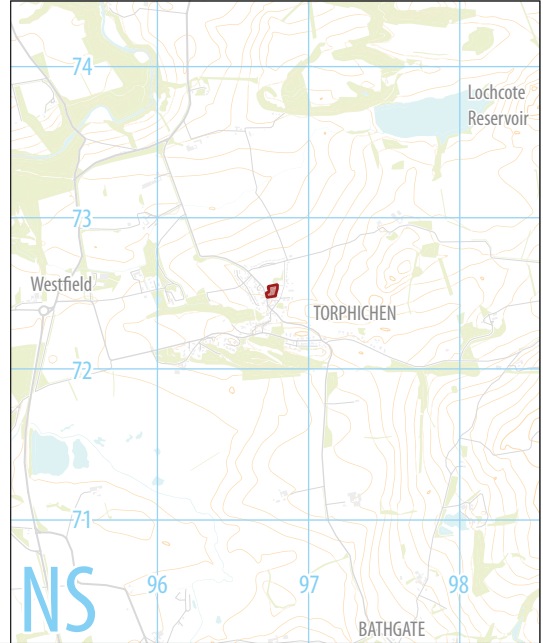
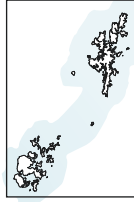
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TPDH/01

Torphichen Primary School
The Loan
Torphichen
West Lothian

0 200km
1:10,000,000 @ A4



0 20m
1:1,000 @ A4

development boundary
watching brief area

HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY

SCOTLAND

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ILLUS 1 Site location

TORPHICHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL DINING HALL EXTENSION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by West Lothian Council to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with a building extension to the dining hall at Torphichen Primary School. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by West Lothian Council to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with a building extension at Torphichen Primary school.

Planning permission for the development was granted by West Lothian Council (App.no. 0317/FUL/17) subject to a number of conditions, including one relating to archaeological works:

The developer shall secure the implementation of an archaeological watching brief, to be carried out by an archaeological organisation acceptable to the Planning Authority, during all ground disturbance. The retained archaeological organisation shall be afforded access at all reasonable times and allowed to record, recover and report items of interest and finds. A method statement for the watching brief will be submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved by the Planning Authority prior to commencement of the watching brief. The name of the archaeological organisation retained by the developer shall be given to the Planning Authority and to the West of Scotland Archaeology Service in writing not less than 14 days before development commences.

Reason: to minimise any potential impact on sub-surface archaeological deposits associated with the early development of the village.

In order to fulfil this condition a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland

Archaeology on the 19th of July 2017 on behalf of West Lothian Council setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological mitigation.

The WSI was submitted to and agreed with WoSAS (West of Scotland Archaeological Services) curator who advise the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters. This report details the results of the work.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located at Torphichen Primary School (NGR NS 96765 72517; Illus 1). The site lies around 150 m OD and is underlain by a Midland Valley Sill-complex containing Quartz microgabbro, which is igneous bedrock formed 299 to 326 million years ago in the Carboniferous period (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

No previous archaeological works had been undertaken on this site prior to the monitoring undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd during ground breaking works associated with the extension to the side of the main school (February – July 2017). The results of this phase of works (Project Code TPPS17) will be submitted as a separate Data Structure Report.

Torphichen occupies an area with a rich archaeological background. Castlethorn Hillfort and standing stones (SAM Index No. 11242) are located roughly 500m to the east of the village. Bowden Hillfort (SAM Index No. 2283) is located to the north, near Linlithgow, containing stone and earth ramparts and architectural remains. Nearby Cairnpapple Hill prehistoric henge and burial ground (SAM Index No. 90053) has dates spanning from the Neolithic through to the Iron Age. These sites suggest a significant prehistoric occupation of the area around Torphichen.

The Torphichen Preceptory (SAM Index No. 90305) is located on the eastern side of the village. Founded by the Knights Hospitaller in the 12th century, this is the only such foundation in Scotland and as such provides an important insight into medieval ecclesiastical architecture. Torphichen Parish Church was constructed in 1756 on the same site, incorporating aspects of the original architecture into its structure. Additionally an associated gatehouse is located nearby. There would undoubtedly have been associated structures and activity in the immediate surrounding area, which would include the site of the current primary school.

Limited archaeological work has taken place in the vicinity of the Primary School. Geophysical survey conducted on open ground of the Glebe gardens to the south of the Preceptory and confirmed the probable location of a tower base.

3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In line with the WSI the main objectives of archaeological works were:

- To monitor all ground breaking works relating to the dining hall extension.
- Establish the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features and deposits present within areas subject to ground-breaking and preserve them by record.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Site works

The work was undertaken as specified in the WSI. The watching brief comprised of monitoring all groundworks associated with the development.

The main contractor undertook all ground breaking works under direct archaeological supervision. All soft deposits were removed in spits using a flat bladed ditching bucket.

Archaeological sub-surface remains were subject to a programme of excavation and recording. This provided information of any previously unrecorded features of archaeological interest at risk from the ground works.

4.2 Recording

All aspects of the work were undertaken in accordance with the current relevant Standards and Guidance for Watching Briefs of the Institute for Archaeologists (DBA 2011, Evaluation 2009, standing buildings and structures 2008, WB 2008).

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological watching briefs. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. In the event that stratified deposits were encountered, a 'Harris' matrix was compiled. Digital photographs of all features were taken and a graduated metric scale is clearly visible.

4.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. (If fieldwork) A summary report has been prepared for submission to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and the OASIS database (headland1-291850).

The complete project archive will be deposited with the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum.

5 RESULTS

Foundation trenches were excavated on the 1st August 2017, adjacent to the existing dining hall building at Torphichen Primary School (Illus 2).

The trenches formed a rectangle, measuring 12 x 5m in plan, with the trenches measuring 0.6m wide and reaching a depth of 0.7m (Illus 3-6). Natural geological deposits were not encountered.

The topsoil consisted of 0.3m brown sandy silt with occasional small poorly sorted subangular stone inclusions. A layer of red and black demolition rubble measuring 0.3m in depth laid underneath this deposit. The final deposit encountered was a mid brownish yellow silty clay with occasional mixed rubble throughout (Illus 7). This is likely a levelling deposit.

No archaeological remains were encountered during excavations.

The lack of archaeological remains is likely due to the proximity to the existing building, and shallow depth of excavation for the trenches.

6 REFERENCES

- Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF) 2011
Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (2nd edn) [online document]
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA): Reading, available from
www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) Paper No 7: Reading, available from
[www.archaeologists.net/publications/papers/ClfA_Standards_and_Guidance_for_an_archaeological_watching_brief_\(2014\)\)](http://www.archaeologists.net/publications/papers/ClfA_Standards_and_Guidance_for_an_archaeological_watching_brief_(2014))).

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Photographic register

Photo No.	Direction	Description
01	E	Shot of northern foundation trench
02	W	Shot of northern foundation trench
03	N	Shot of western foundation trench
04	E	Shot of southern foundation trench
05	E	Shot of southern foundation trench
06	W	Shot of southern foundation trench
07	N	Shot of eastern foundation trench
08	NW	General shot of foundations
09	W	East-facing section of eastern foundation trench
10	S	Shot of school extension

7.2 Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

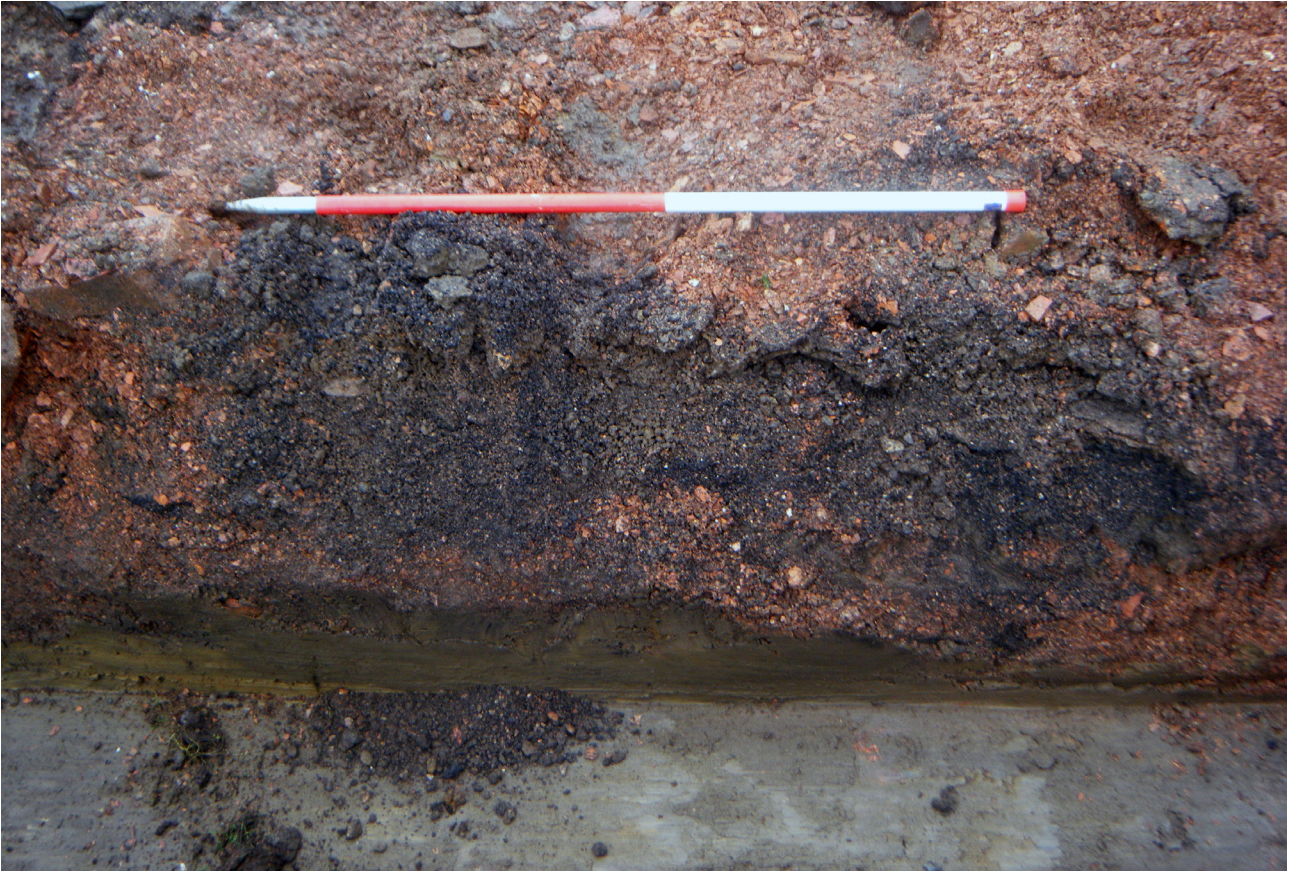
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Torphichen Primary School Dining Hall Extension
PROJECT CODE:	TPDH17
PARISH:	Torphichen
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Josh Gaunt
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd.
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 96752 72501
START DATE (this season)	01/08/17
END DATE (this season)	01/08/17
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	TPPS17 Oasis Ref: headland1-291724
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<i>Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by West Lothian Council to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with a building extension to the dining hall at Torphichen Primary School. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.</i>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	-
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	West Lothian Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh, EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	josh.gaunt@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS



ILLUS 2 NW facing general shot of foundation trench area



ILLUS 3 E facing shot of northern foundation trench **ILLUS 4** N facing shot of western foundation trench **ILLUS 5** W facing shot of southern foundation trench **ILLUS 6** E facing shot of eastern foundation trench



ILLUS 7 E facing section of eastern foundation trench