

SGLM19



# SCHOOL GREEN, LASSWADE

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING REF. 17/00672/DPP

commissioned by Colin McClung

July 2020



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#### PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **SGLM19** / NGR **NT 30167 66012** / Parish **Lasswade** / Local Authority  
**Midlothian** / OASIS Ref. **headland1-398555** / Archive Repository **National Record of the Historic Environment**

#### PROJECT TEAM:

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological works in advance of construction of a single dwelling at 20 School Green, Lasswade, Midlothian. This comprised a watching brief of groundworks associated with the development, undertaken on the 7th of July 2020. This exposed the geological subsoil with no archaeological features or artefacts recorded. A natural terracing of the geological subsoil was noted during excavation, which may have been considered desirable topography if the land was ever used as a market garden, as was common in the Lasswade area, although no features survive to confirm this purpose.

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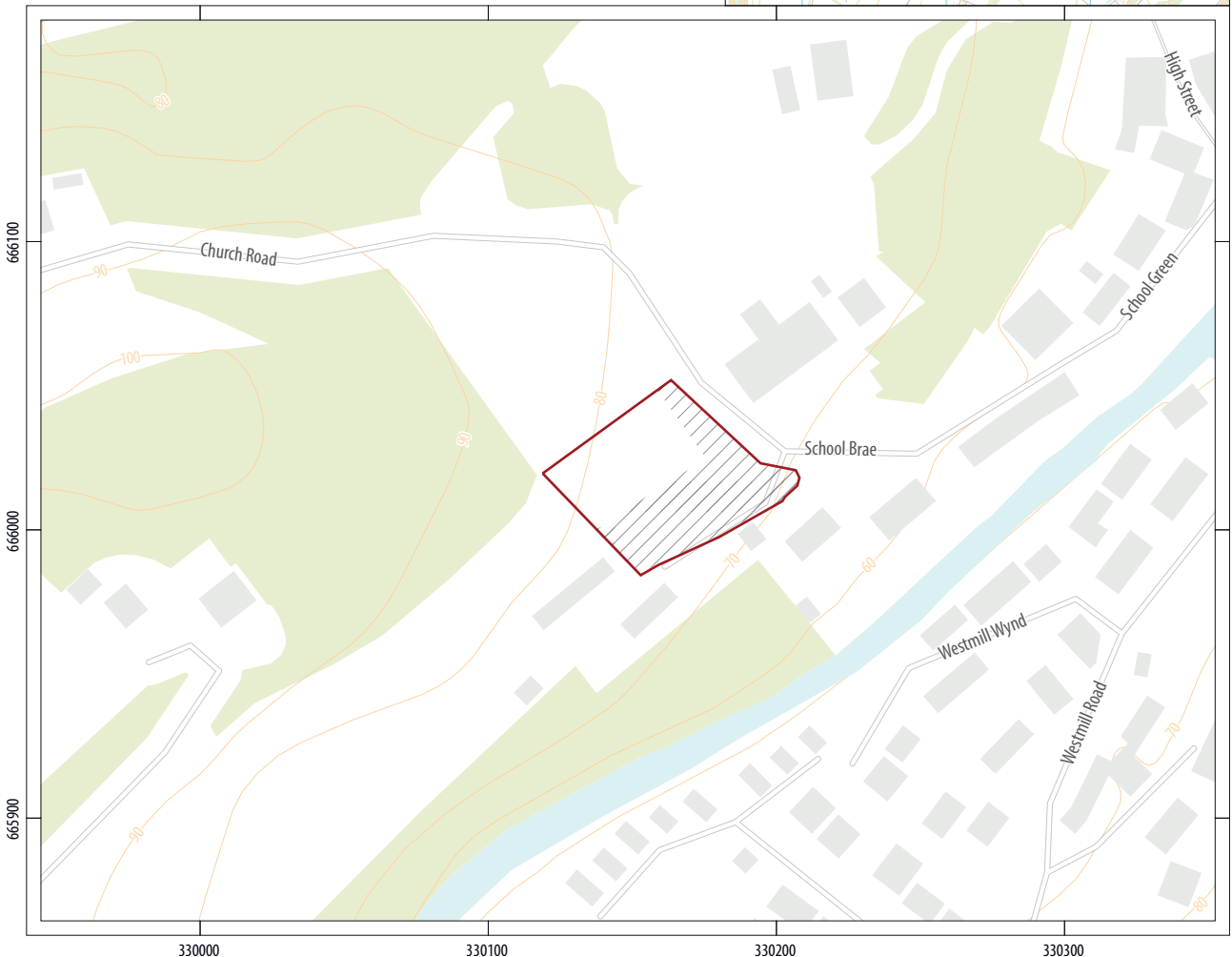
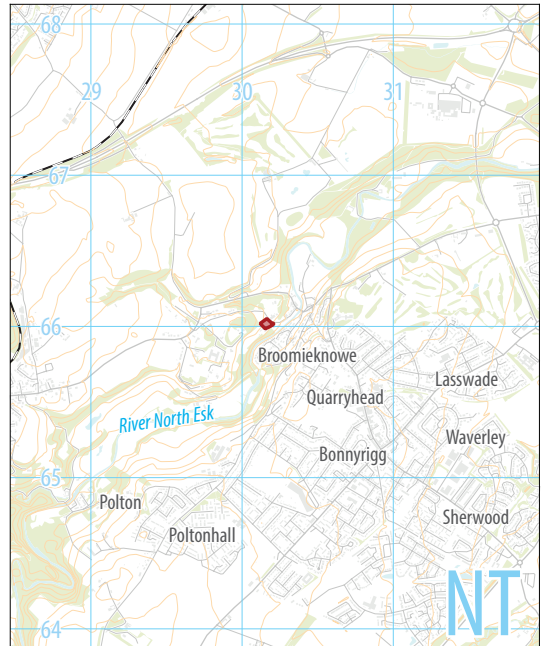
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Land at 20 School Green  
Lasswade  
Midlothian



0 200km  
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 50m  
1:2,500 @ A4

▭ development boundary  
▨ monitored area



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ILLUS 1 Site location



# SCHOOL GREEN, LASSWADE

## WATCHING BRIEF

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Midlothian Council has granted planning consent (Ref 17/00672/DPP) which proposed for the erection of a dwelling house at (20) School Green, Lasswade.

As a part of the condition the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS), advisor on archaeological matters to Midlothian Council (the Local Planning Authority), requested that a programme of archaeological work and investigation was submitted to and approved by the planning authority and that the approved programme was carried out prior to the commencement of development.

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Colin McClung (the client) to undertake a watching brief ahead of the proposed development. The programme of work adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Headland Archaeology (2019) and agreed with ELCAS.

#### 1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development is located at Sunnybrae Gardens (Illus 1), 20 School Green, Lasswade, Midlothian, EH18 1NB (centred on NT 30167 66012). At present the land is unoccupied pasture. The land slopes significantly uphill from the road to the SE.

Published geological mapping indicated that the site was on the boundary between Glacial Till (sandy gravelly clay) and Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits (sand and gravel) formed up to 2–3 million years ago in the Quarternary Period. No made ground was recorded on the site. Bedrock formed of Passage Group sandstone. Depth to bedrock was not known.

#### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No previous archaeological works were undertaken on the site. The site did lay close to the location of the old parish church of Lasswade (NRHE: NT36NW 24.00). This was built in the early 13th century and was dedicated to St Edwin. By the 18th century the church had become ruinous and a new parish church was constructed in 1793. The ruinous church was demolished in 1954. Two medieval sculptured stones have also been found on the site (NRHE: NT36NW 24.01).

The historic mapping of the development site indicates that the site has remained undeveloped land since the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey in the mid-19th century. However at the beginning of the nineteenth century a substantial acreage of land on the banks of the North and South Esks, particularly around Lasswade is reported as being used as market gardens for Strawberry crop and the development site may have been used for this function at this time.

#### 1.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the watching brief was to mitigate the effects of the development on sub-surface archaeological deposits.

More specific aims of the watching brief included:

- › To have monitored all ground-breaking works which related to the construction of the dwelling; and
- › To have established the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits which were present within areas subjected to ground-breaking and to have preserved them by record.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited in the National Record for the Historic Environment to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.



**ILLUS 2** North-west of Excavated Area facing south-west    **ILLUS 3** South-east of Excavated Area facing south-west

## 2 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 SITE WORKS

As specified in the WSI provided by Headland Archaeology (2019), the archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks prior to the construction of the dwelling. This included the south-east half of the development plot where the dwelling will be constructed, as the area to the north-west is to remain natural meadow and will not be subject to any groundworks associated with this development. Areas which included a Tree Protection Order (TPO) were also not subject to groundworks. Monitoring in this context referred to the active control of excavation operations by a suitably experienced field archaeologist.

All monitored excavations were carried out using an 3.5-ton tracked mechanical excavator working with a toothless blade under direct archaeological supervision. The monitoring followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for Watching Briefs (ClfA 2014b). The monitored excavation continued until either the sterile subsoil was reached or when the maximum required excavation depth was reached.

### 2.2 RECORDING

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance (2014a & b). All contexts were given unique numbers and were undertaken on pro forma record sheets. A photographic record of all contexts was taken using digital photography and a graduated metric scale was clearly visible. The digital photographs will be submitted to HES for archive within the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE).

### 2.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

This report collates the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined above. The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to Discovery & Excavation in Scotland (Appendix 2) and the Archaeology Data Service OASIS database (headland1-355463). The complete project archive will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland 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 (2011).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The primary aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any unknown archaeological remains threatened by the development. The topsoil across the garden area was found to be between 0.11 and 0.20m deep comprising a dark greyish-brown coarse sandy-silt with occasional small stone inclusions. Occasional modern pot sherds were observed within this deposit. The removal of the topsoil to the north-east of the monitored areas (Illus 2) exposed a subsoil of mid-brownish-grey gravelly-coarse sand c 0.13m thick with frequent small stone inclusions very similar to the geological subsoil. Toward the southern corner of the site (Illus 3) a modern dump deposit was present containing bricks, bone, glass and CBM. Across the development area the geological subsoil exposed was a mid-greyish-brown gravelly-coarse sand, consistent with previously recorded natural glacial till. The topography of this subsoil formed natural terraces on the slope.

No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded. One modern trench 8.00m x 2.00m on a NE-SW alignment was identified filled with a deliberate modern backfill containing tarmac fragments and modern pot sherds. A test pit from earlier ground testing was also identifiable. The banked area adjacent to the road showed signs of being highly disturbed, likely by both the road cut and its debris and the water service which was identified as being present in that area.

## 4 DISCUSSION

The lack of archaeological features on the development site are consistent with historical information about the use of the land since the 19th Century. The modern features encountered are likely the result of more recent roadworks and development and renovations of the surrounding properties. The natural terracing of the glacial till may have been desirable if the land was ever used as a market garden, although no features survive to confirm this purpose.

## 5 REFERENCES

- Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF) 2011 *Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2nd edn) (ClfA: Reading) [http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf\\_archaeological\\_archives\\_2011.pdf](http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf) accessed 26 April 2019
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) 2014b *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* [online document] [http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS&GWatchingbrief\\_2.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf)
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- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2016 *British Geological Survey* [online] <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> accessed 8 July 2020
- Scarlett R (1950) 'The development of market gardening in the Lothians' *Scientific Horticulture* 10, 193–201 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45128350> accessed 8 July 2020
- Scottish Government (2014) *Scottish Planning Policy* <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/> accessed 8 July 2020

## 6 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SITE AND CONTEXT REGISTERS

#### Appendix 1.1 Context register

SGLM19		DEPTH TO GEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY:	0.10–0.34M
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS	DIMENSIONS
001	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish-brown coarse sandy-silt. Inclusions: occasional sub-rounded stones	0.20m thick
002	Subsoil	Compact mid-brownish-grey gravelly-coarse sand. Inclusions: frequent sub-angular stones, frequent sub-rounded stones	0.13m thick
003	Modern Dump	Compact dark greyish-brown gravelly-coarse sand. Inclusions: frequent sub-angular stones, frequent sub-rounded stones, occasional bone, occasional pot, rare fired clay/cbm, rare mortar/plaster, rare glass. Fill of 0003	3.00x1.00m
004	Geological Subsoil	Compact mid-greyish-brown gravelly-coarse sand. Inclusions: frequent sub-angular stones, frequent sub-rounded stones	—
005	Modern Trench	Rectangular in plan	8.00x2.00m
006	Deliberate Backfill	Cemented mid-orangish-brown clayey-coarse sand. Inclusions: frequent sub-angular stones, frequent sub-rounded stones, rare pot, rare fired clay/cbm. Fill of 0005	—

#### Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

SITE	PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
SGLM	0001	House Area Turf Strip	NW
SGLM	0002	House Area Turf Strip	W
SGLM	0003	Excavated Area	SW
SGLM	0004	Excavated Area	SW
SGLM	0005	Context 0005, modern trench. Also shows Contexts 0006	SW
SGLM	0006	Excavated Area	NW
SGLM	0007	Bank from Road Turf Strip	SW
SGLM	0008	Turf Strip	SW

## APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY	Mid Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	20 School Green, Lasswade
PROJECT CODE	SGLM19
PARISH	Lasswade
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR	Kimberley Nash
NAME OF ORGANISATION	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S)	Pastoral land
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 30167 66012
START DATE (this season)	07/07/2020
END DATE (this season)	07/07/2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl .DES ref)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological works in advance of construction of a single dwelling at 20 School Green, Lasswade, Midlothian. This comprised a watching brief of groundworks associated with the development, undertaken on the 7th of July 2020. This exposed the geological subsoil with no archaeological features or artefacts recorded. A natural terracing of the geological subsoil was noted during excavation which may have been considered desirable topography if the land was ever used as a market garden, as was common in the Lasswade area, although no features survive to confirm this purpose.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRs	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY	Colin McClung
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh, EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS	office@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Historic Environment Scotland







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