

**Livingston Retail Park,
West Lothian:
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

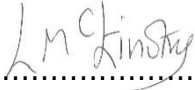
issued 7th March 2016

on behalf of Henry Boot Developments Ltd

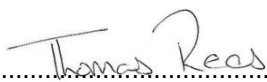
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Signed  Date ...7th March 2016.....

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked  Date ...7th March 2016.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Zander Planning Ltd, on behalf of their client Henry Boot Developments Ltd in support of a proposed retail park development in Livingston, West Lothian. The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. West Lothian Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of the development works as an element of granted consent (0673/FUL/15). West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise West Lothian Council on archaeology matters provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required and the mitigation of the proposed development works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited were appointed by Henry Boot Developments Ltd to undertake the implementation of archaeological investigative works prior to the development of the site. The project works were specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2016), which was agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
4. This report details the findings from the intrusive evaluation undertaken within the development area in keeping with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

Historical and Archaeological Background

5. The development area is relict agricultural land in the southern part of the urban sprawl of Livingston. The area is surrounded by open spaces, industrial units and commercial buildings. Almondvale Way exists to the north of the site, Almondvale Place to the east and Almondvale Road to the south. To the east is the Almondvale Shopping Centre.
6. Examination of historical mapping shows the site first as open, then as enclosed agricultural land. William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-1755) (Figure 1) shows the area as cultivated fields. Several farms or small dwellings surround the development area. 'Andersonmill' is to the north, 'Dedrick' to the immediate east and several other small dwellings to the south and west. The village of 'Livingston' is also depicted on Roy's survey further to the north on the other side of River Almond.
7. 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1853) (Figure 2) depicts the development area as enclosed agricultural land. The land to the northwest of the area is marked as 'Graves Knowes' and to the northeast 'Adam Brae', with Adambrae farm to the immediate east and Alderston House within its immediate designed landscape to the southwest. Few of the place names repeat from the depiction of the area on Roy's survey.
8. No historical or archaeological sites are known to exist within the development area. Alderston House (WoSAS Site ID: 17995) and its Dove Cot (Canmore ID 49071) are recorded as historic environment assets. The primary trigger for the archaeological works is the historical record of the uncovering human remains, buried within cists, approximately 500m to the north and northwest of the development area. These graves are associated with two low mounds as named 'Graves Knowes' and 'Adam Brae'.
9. Based on this information, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service identified a potential for funerary remains within the development area. It should be noted, however, that trial trenching carried out by SUAT further north (WoSAS Site ID: 18000 & 17983) in 1994 failed to locate any burials. However, these works did uncover a shallow rectangular feature which was interpreted as the base of a robbed out cist.



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1752-1755, Lowlands



Figure 1b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1853, Edinburghshire, Sheet 4

Project Works

10. This archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken between the 29th February and the 2nd March 2016, was carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2016) and the supporting Safety Plan & Risk Assessment (SPRAS) (Matthews 2016).
11. It consisted of the excavation of a series of intrusive trenches (Figure 2) to expose an 8% sample of the initial phase of the development area (a minimum sample of 1280m²) to be archaeologically examined. Due to the presence of large areas of standing water (Figure 2 and 3a) in the central and north eastern parts of the site as well as buried gas and sewage pipes, it was agreed with WoSAS that it would not be necessary to trench those areas, as in addition to being dangerous for the machine to excavate, it would also be difficult to spot archaeological features within flooded trenches. As such Trenches 2, 4 and part of 3 were not excavated and several of the other trenches had to be moved or shortened. Because of this a total of 1047.8m² was excavated which was under the proposed 8%.
12. All works were conducted in accordance with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

13. In total, 11 evaluation trenches were excavated across the available portion of the development area (Figure 2), using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless 2m ditching bucket.
14. The site had been divided by a northwest to southeast running hedgerow and both fields appeared to be heavily waterlogged with areas of standing water in the central and north eastern parts of the site. The trenches revealed that the fields had suffered extensive disturbance in recent years with the topsoil in the north eastern field (001) and in the south western field (003) consisting of moderately compacted mid brown or grey-brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of modern detritus such as building materials or refuse.
15. These topsoil layers overlay substantial spreads of made ground (002) and (005) which comprised of very firmly compacted mid brown-grey silty and yellow-brown clay with very frequent inclusions of modern detritus, mainly building material though sherds of post medieval and modern pottery were recovered from this layer in Trench 13 These layers were present in a number of the trenches (Figure 3b), particularly near the edge of the site, and had a thickness range of between 0.3-1.2m.
16. Underneath these layers of made grounds was the naturally occurring subsoil (Figure 4a). For most of the site the subsoil (006) consisted of firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions. Within Trench 6 the natural subsoil (004), which had suffered from disturbance, consisted of firmly compacted light brown clay with occasional small sub rounded stone and construction and building material inclusions.
17. No significant archaeological features were identified though a number of modern features of an agricultural or utilitarian nature were identified.
18. A shallow ditch (008) which ran along the north eastern side of the hedgerow was observed in Trench 6. This ditch measured 1-1.5m wide and had a depth of between 0.2-0.25m and its fill consisted of a mid grey clay with occasional small stone inclusions. Further observations of the ditch were impossible due to that part of the ditch flooding almost immediately.
19. A series of ceramic drains (Figure 4b) were identified in trenches 7, 9 and 10 which were spaced 5m apart and were orientated in a northwest to southeast direction. The pipes were orange/buff coloured with a diameter of 0.2m diameter. The pipes were placed within narrowly cut trenches which were filled with mid to dark grey clay with no inclusions. The width of trench was 0.25m but the depth was unknown as the pipes were still in use with water still flowing through them so they could not be fully excavated without flooding the

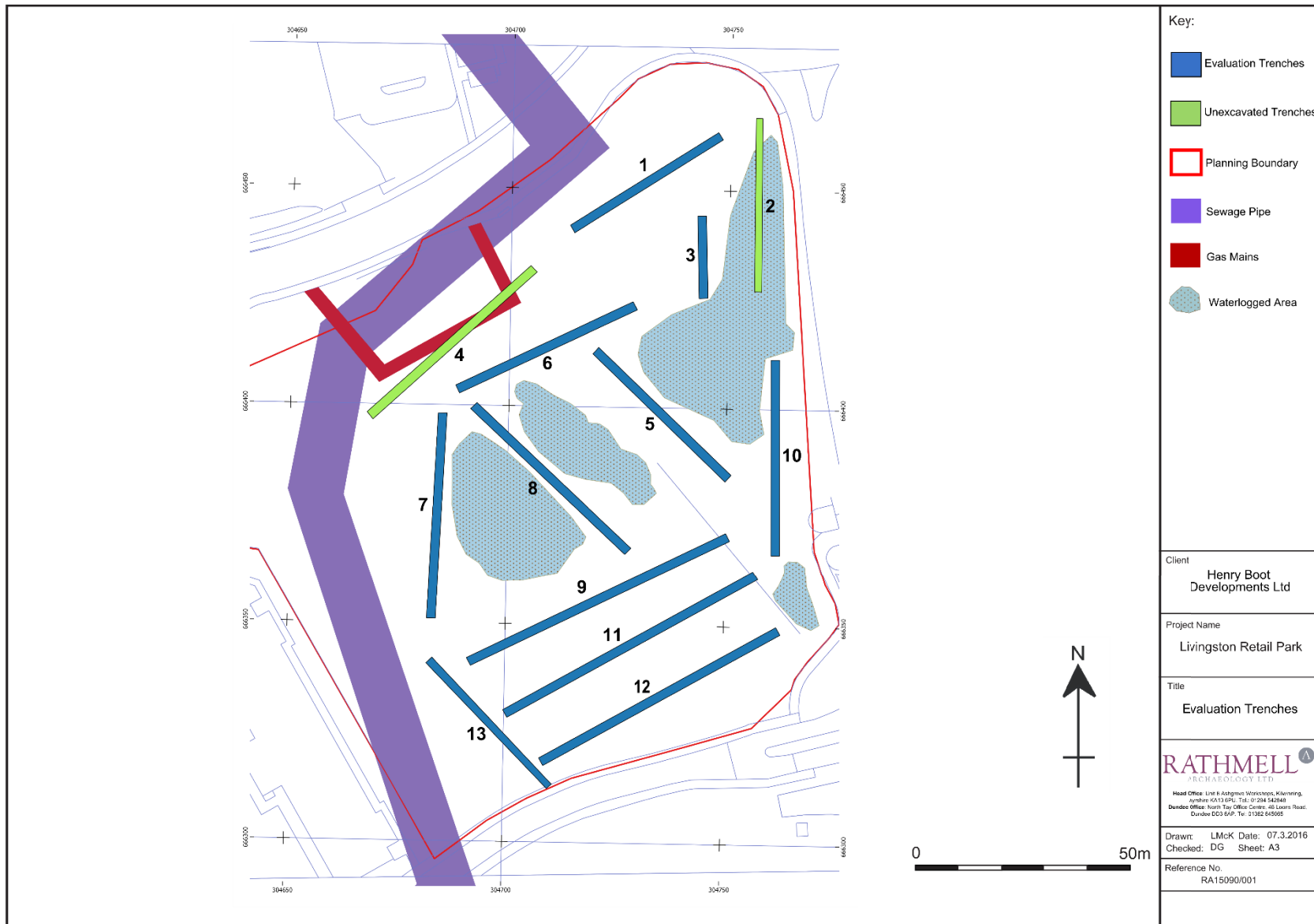


Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trench layout



Figure 3a: Pre excavation view of the site from the north showing waterlogged area.



Figure 3b: View of Trench 1 from the southwest showing made ground (002).



Figure 4a: View of Trench 9 showing the natural subsoil (006) from the east.



Figure 4b: View of ceramic drain (007) within Trench 9 from the north.

trenches.

20. Two narrow service trenches (010) were identified within Trenches 1 and 5. These trenches both had a width of 0.3m wide. They were filled a loose grey gravel (most likely type 2 hard-core). The orientation within Trench 1 was from north to south and within Trench 5 from ENE-WSW. Another similar service trench was identified within Trench 12 which measured 1m wide and had a north to south orientation. Its fill consisted of a loose light grey gravel (most likely type 2 hard-core).
21. The finds assemblage was limited in quantity. Within Trench 9 a large base fragment of a reduced ware vessel and a small sherd of white glazed pottery were recovered from within the topsoil layer (003). Within in Trench 13 a smaller sherd of reduced ware (with a thumb print within it) and another sherd of white glazed pottery were recovered from the made ground layer (002).

Discussion

22. From the mapping evidence the development area would appear to be relatively unchanged from the middle of the 18th century onwards. The hedgerow crossing the site could be observed in the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps but the excavated trenches showed that the fields on either side of the hedgerow had been heavily disturbed.
23. The original topsoil and part of the underlying subsoil covering the fields on either side of the hedgerow seemed to have been removed during the latter part of the 20th century most likely during the construction of the surrounding Almondvale Business Park. At the same time most of the ditch (008) on the north eastern side of the hedgerow also seems to have been removed as it was only identified in Trench 6. This suggests that the disturbance within the two fields took the form of machine stripping which was carried out close to the edge of the hedgerow though leaving it intact.
24. The site then seems to have been used to store material which was probably a mixture of topsoil and subsoil from the construction of nearby buildings with waste from that construction process. This deposition of this material or made ground, (002) and (005), served the purpose of raising the level of the fields, particularly near the surrounding roads.
25. Modern service trenches, (009) and (010), were cut into this made ground and may have been an attempt to use these fields as an outlet for the drainage from the surrounding buildings and roads within the Business Park. The earliest features identified were the series of ceramic field drains cut into the natural subsoil which most likely dated to the 19th or early 20th century. Only a few of these drains seemed to have survived and it seems likely that many were destroyed at the same time the original topsoil was removed.
26. A small quantity of artefacts were recovered from the site. These included a large base fragment from a vessel and smaller sherd (with a thumb print in it) of reduced ware which were of late medieval or post medieval date. These artefacts however were not recovered from a secure context but from the made ground and topsoil layers. These artefacts were also found alongside more modern white glazed pottery sherds so they were most likely brought to the site during the surrounding building works at Almondvale in the late 20th century.

Recommendations

27. As the site has suffered from severe modern disturbance during the nearby construction works of the surrounding Almondvale Business Park and that none of the trenches identified any features dated to before the 19th century, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommend that no further works should be carried with regards to the Livingston Retail Park.
28. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with WoSAS and West Lothian Council.

Conclusion

29. A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Zander Planning Ltd, on behalf of their client Henry Boot Developments Ltd in support of a proposed retail

park development in Livingston, West Lothian (0673/FUL/15). The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.

30. The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess an 8% sample of the proposed development area. The works were carried out between 29th February and the 2nd March 2016, with a total of 11 trenches excavated. The works identified only 19th century agricultural features or modern service trenches. A small number of artefacts recovered from the site were of late medieval or post medieval date but were found alongside modern pottery and within modern layers of deposition.

Acknowledgements

31. The author would like to thank Andrew Young, for the opportunity to carry out these works and also to Paul Robins at the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who gave support and guidance throughout. We would also like to thank Douglas Gordon for his editing of this report.

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Documentary

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Cartographic

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Ordnance Survey, 1853, 1st edition map sheet VI

Ordnance Survey, 1898, 2nd edition map sheet X

Appendix 1: Trench Details & Test Pits

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.

All measurement distances quoted along the trench measure based on the quoted orientation of the trench.

Trench Summary

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	NE-SW	2m by 40m 80m ²	100- 200mm	Made ground consisted of moderately compacted mid brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of modern detritus. (002). Subsoil not reached.	Modern, ENE-WSW orientated, service trench (010).	None	None
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	SW-NE	2m by 18.5m 37m ²	120- 300mm	Subsoil was firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (006). Made ground consisted of firmly compacted mixed yellow/yellow-brown clay with moderate C.B.M. inclusions (005) and moderately compacted mid brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of modern detritus. (002).	None	None	None
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	NW-SE	2m by 42m 84m ²	400- 580mm	Subsoil was firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (006). Waterlogged in places.	Modern, N-S orientated, service trench (010).	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
6	SW-NE	2m by 45.2m 90.4m ²	300-500mm	Made ground consisted of firmly compacted mixed yellow/yellow-brown clay with moderate C.B.M. inclusions (005). Disturbed natural subsoil consisted of firmly compacted light brown clay with occasional small sub rounded stone and C.B.M. inclusions (004).	Shallow ditch which ran along the north eastern side of a hedgerow. The line of the hedgerow most likely dated to the 19 th or 20 th century (008).	None	None
7	N-S	2m by 47m 94m ²	120-300mm	Subsoil was firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (006).	NW-SE orientated 19 th or 20 th ceramic field drain (007).	None	None
8	NW-SE	2m by 52.4m 104.8m ²	420-480mm	Subsoil was firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (006). Waterlogged in places.	None	None	None
9	W-E	2m by 65.9m 131.8m ²	420-480mm	Subsoil was firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (006). Waterlogged in places.	Series of 3 NW-SE orientated 19 th or 20 th ceramic field drains (007).	None	1 x sherd of post medieval pottery and 1 x sherd of modern pottery (Find No. 2).
10	N-S	2m by 45.3m 90.6m ²	300-460mm	Subsoil was firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (006).	NW-SE orientated 19 th or 20 th ceramic field drain (007).	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
11	W-E	2m by 65.6m 131.2m ²	470-600mm	Subsoil was firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (006).	None	None	None
12	W-E	2m by 62m 124m ²	420-470mm	Subsoil was firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (006).	Modern, NE-SW orientated, service trench (009).	None	None
13	SE-NW	2m by 40m 80m ²	470-600mm	Subsoil was firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (006). Made ground consisted of moderately compacted mid brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of modern detritus. (002).	None	None	1 x sherd of post medieval pottery and 1 x sherd of modern pottery (Find No. 2).

Appendix 2: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the evaluation.

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	1-3 and 10	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of modern detritus. Layer had a thickness of between 0.1-0.38m.	Topsoil within the north eastern field. Layer is a very recent one as it overlies deposits of made ground (002), (005) and (004) both of which contain modern C.B.M.
002	-	Deposit	Very firmly compacted mid brown-grey silty clay with very frequent inclusions of modern detritus. Layer had a thickness range of between 0.3-1.2m.	Made ground layer located between the topsoil layers (001) and (003) and the natural subsoil (006). Most likely 20 th or 21 st century in date.
003	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent C.B.M. inclusions. Layer had a thickness range of between 0.3-0.5m.	Topsoil in south western field. Layer is a very recent one as it overlies deposits of made ground (002) both of which contain modern C.B.M.
004	6	Deposit	Firmly compacted light brown clay with occasional small sub rounded stone and C.B.M. inclusions.	Disturbed (20 th or 21 st century disturbance) subsoil layer.
005	-	Deposit	Firmly compacted mixed yellow/yellow-brown clay with moderate C.B.M. inclusions.	Made ground layer located between the topsoil (003) and the natural subsoil (006). Most likely 20 th or 21 st century in date.
006	-	Deposit	Firmly compacted light to mid orange brown clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil within both fields of the site.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
007	7 and 9-11	Cut and Fill	Orange/buff coloured ceramic pipe (0.2m diameter) within narrow cut trench. The trenches fill was a mid to dark grey clay with no inclusions. Width of trench was 0.25m. Depth unknown as the pipes were still in use and contained water flow so they could not be fully excavated without flooding the trench. NW-SE orientated where observable as a series, in Tr9, were spaced 5m apart.	19 th or 20 th ceramic field drains which were cut into the natural subsoil (006) and lay under the layer of made ground (002).
008	6	Cut and Fill	Cut of ditch measured 1-1.5m wide and had a depth of between 0.2-0.25m. The fill consisted of a mid grey clay with occasional small stone inclusions. NW-SE orientation. Further observations were impossible due to that part of the ditch flooding.	Shallow ditch which ran along the north eastern side of a hedgerow. The line of the hedgerow most likely dated to the 19 th or 20 th century. At the time of the excavation the hedgerow had been cut down and most of the shallow ditch was also gone most likely because of the same activities which led to the deposition of the made ground (002).
009	11	Cut and Fill	Linear feature whose cut measured 1m wide. N-S orientation. The fill consisted of a loose light grey gravel (most likely type 2 hard-core).	Most likely a modern service trench (possibly for drainage or sewage).
010	1 and 5	Cut and Fill	Linear features whose cuts measured 0.3m wide. ENE-WSW in Tr.1 and N-S in Tr.5 orientation. The fill consisted of a loose light grey gravel (most likely type 2 hard-core).	Most likely a modern service trench (possibly for drainage).

Finds Register

Find No.	Area Trench	Context no.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	9	003	Ceramic	1 x post medieval and 1 x modern pottery sherds	DG	1/3/16
002	13	002	Ceramic	1 x post medieval and 1 x modern pottery sherds	DG	1/3/16

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
1	1	Tr.1	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 1
2	1	Tr.6	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 6
3	1	Tr.3	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 3
4	1	Tr.7	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 7
5	1	Tr.10	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 10
6	1	Tr.5	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 5
7	1	Tr.8	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 8
8	1	Tr.9	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 9
9	1	Tr.13	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 13
10	1	Tr.11	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 11
11	2	Tr.12	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 12

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	0970	View of Trench 1	SW	29/02/16
002	0971	Section of made ground (002) at NE end of Tr.1	S	29/02/16
003	0972	View of Trench 3	S	29/02/16
004	0973	View of Trench 7	S	29/02/16
005	0974	General view of trenching on site	SW	29/02/16
006	0975	General view of backfilled trenches on site	SSW	29/02/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
007	IMAG0705	View of waterlogged area in NE part of site	SW	01/03/16
008	IMAG0706	View of waterlogged area in NE part of site	S	01/03/16
009	IMAG0707	View of waterlogged area in central part of site	SE	01/03/16
010	IMAG0708	View of Trench 10	SSW	01/03/16
011	IMAG0709	View of Trench 5	SE	01/03/16
012	IMAG0710	View of Trench 8	SE	01/03/16
013	IMAG0711	View of Trench 9	E	01/03/16
014	IMAG0712	View of Trench 9	E	01/03/16
015	IMAG0713	View of Trench 13	NW	01/03/16
016	IMAG0714	View of Trench 11 (1 st part)	E	01/03/16
017	IMAG0715	View of Trench 11 (2 nd part)	E	02/03/16
018	082128	View of waterlogged area in central part of site	SE	01/03/16
019	082144	View of site after 1 st day of backfilling	S	01/03/16
020	085723	View of site after 1 st day of backfilling	SW	01/03/16
021	145520	View of ceramic drain in Trench 9	N	01/03/16
022	134719	NE facing section of Trench 13 at its SE end. Shows Topsoil (003) and Made ground (002).	NE	01/03/16
023	084825	Modern service trench in Trench 12	N	02/03/16
024	092638	View of Trench 12	E	02/03/16

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Livingston Retail Park
PROJECT CODE:	RA15090
PARISH:	Livingston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Unstratified pottery
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 04715 66388
START DATE (this season)	29 th February 2016
END DATE (this season)	2 nd March 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	No
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Zander Planning Ltd, on behalf of their client Henry Boot Developments Ltd in support of a proposed retail park development in Livingston, West Lothian. (0673/FUL/15). The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess an 8% sample of the proposed development area. The works were carried out between 29th February and the 2nd March 2016, with a total of 11 trenches excavated. The works identified only 19th century agricultural features or modern service trenches. A small number of artefacts recovered from the site were of late medieval or post medieval date but were found alongside modern pottery and within modern layers of deposition.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Henry Boot Developments Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU

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