

**1b Union Road,  
West Lothian:  
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report



by Peter Klemen

issued 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016

on behalf of Mr H. Lynch

**RATHMELL**   
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Quality Assurance

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Signed  ..... Date .....11/02/2016....

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 .....11/02/2016.....

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## Quality Assurance Data

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared in support of the construction of an extension at 1b Union Road, Linlithgow (Planning Ref: 0532/H/10). These archaeological works are designed to comply with planning conditions and to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. West Lothian Council require a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken. West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise West Lothian Council on archaeology matters has provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Mr H. Lynch to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the project.

## Archaeological Context

4. West Lothian Council has required that archaeological works be carried out in relation to this development and to comply with planning conditions (0532/H/10). The site currently exists as an area of garden directly adjacent and on the north side of existing house; 1b Union Road. From the surrounding landscape it is clear that there is potential for medieval archaeology relating to the town of Linlithgow, although this potential is untested in this area.
5. The High Street, to the immediate north of the development area, is the original core of the medieval burgh with burgage plots running off to the north and south and with buildings fronted onto the street. Historic mapping demonstrates that the area in which 1b Union Road is sited has been an open garden area for some time.
6. The development area is within an existing infilled area of housing that originally was part of the sequence of burgage plots leading north of the High Street. This can be illustrated by examination of Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland* (1752-55) (Figure 1a) which provides the first detailed survey of the area although is insufficiently detailed to identify the specific area relating to the development. Wood's *Plan of the town of Linlithgow* (1820) (Figure 1b) shows the area in more detail and identifies the owner(s) of specific plots, and the development area as a garden.
7. On the 1<sup>st</sup> edition *Ordnance Survey, 25-inch* (1856) (Figure 2a), the *large-scale Ordnance Survey* (1856) (Figure 2b) and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition *Ordnance Survey, 25-inch* (1897) the location of 1b Union Road is still open and used as the garden for the houses fronting onto the High Street.
8. By the time of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition *Ordnance Survey, 25-inch* (1916) there has been an increased infilling of the surrounding garden/burgage plots to the east and north. However, the area that forms 1b Union Road and the development area is still an open garden.

## Project Works

9. The programme of mitigation consisted of the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trench for an extension on the north side of the existing house. Works were undertaken by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd and consistent with the terms described in the Method Statement (Rees 2016). Monitoring, recording and excavation were carried out in conjunction with the terms of this document.
10. Archaeological monitoring works were undertaken over one afternoon. Site investigation works consisting of the excavation of the existing ground to the required depth and for wall foundations were undertaken on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016.



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-55)

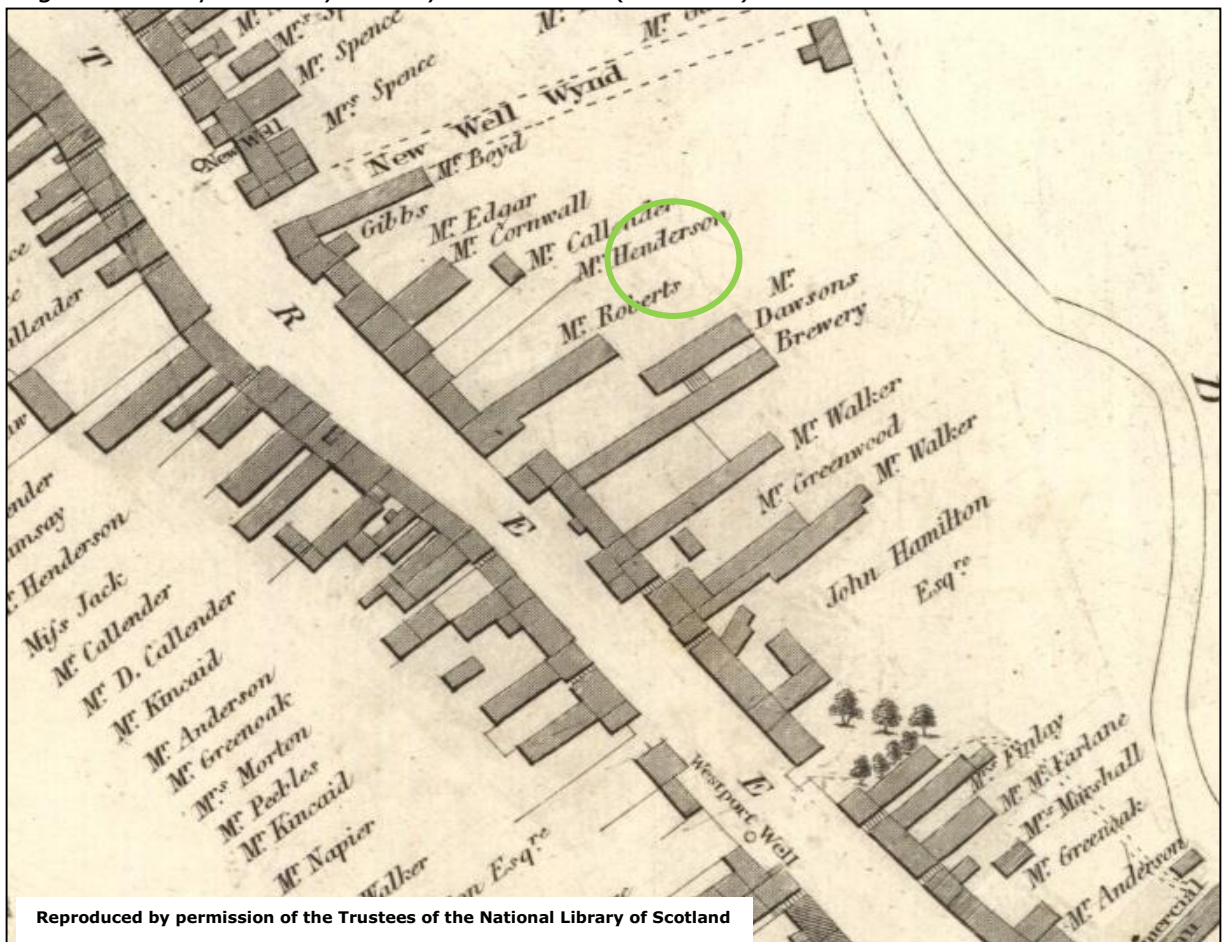


Figure 1b: Wood's Plan of the town of Linlithgow (1820)

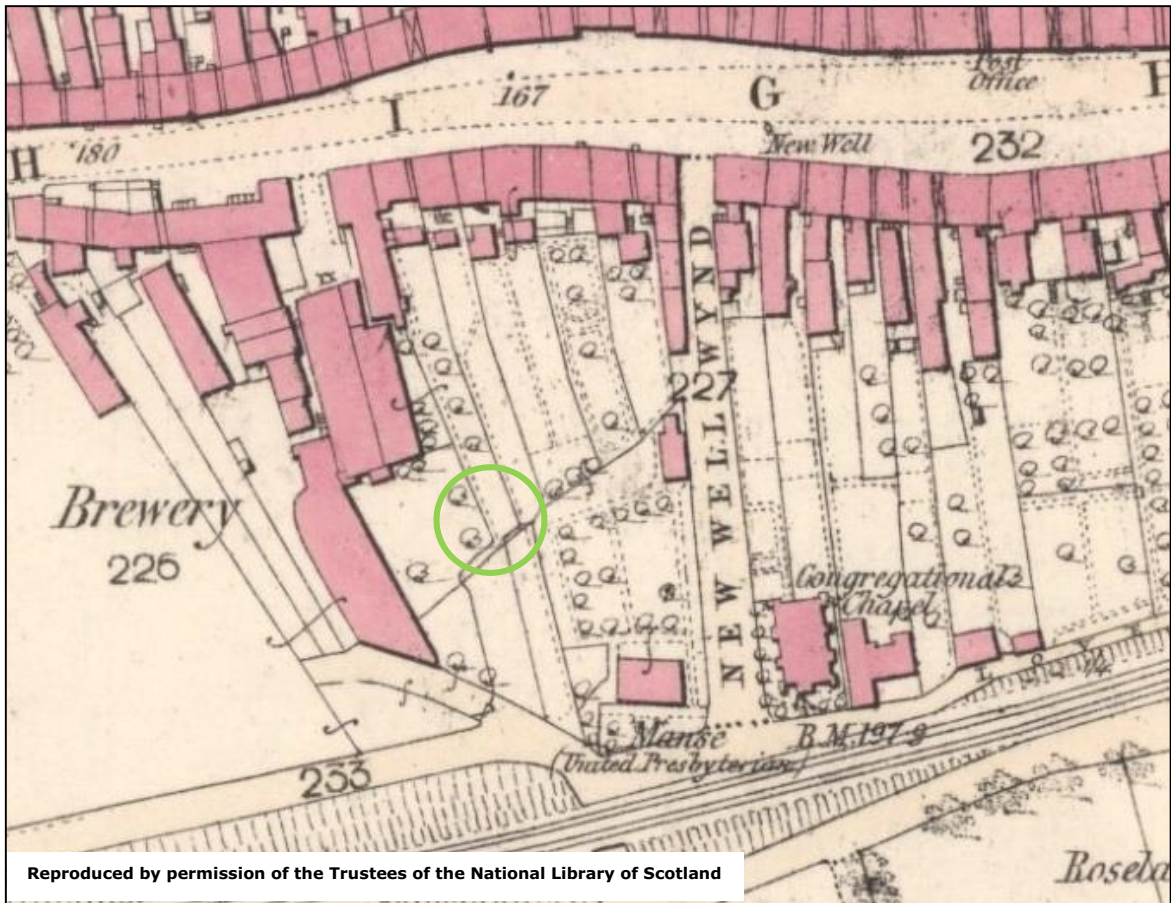


Figure 2a: 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 25-inch (1856)

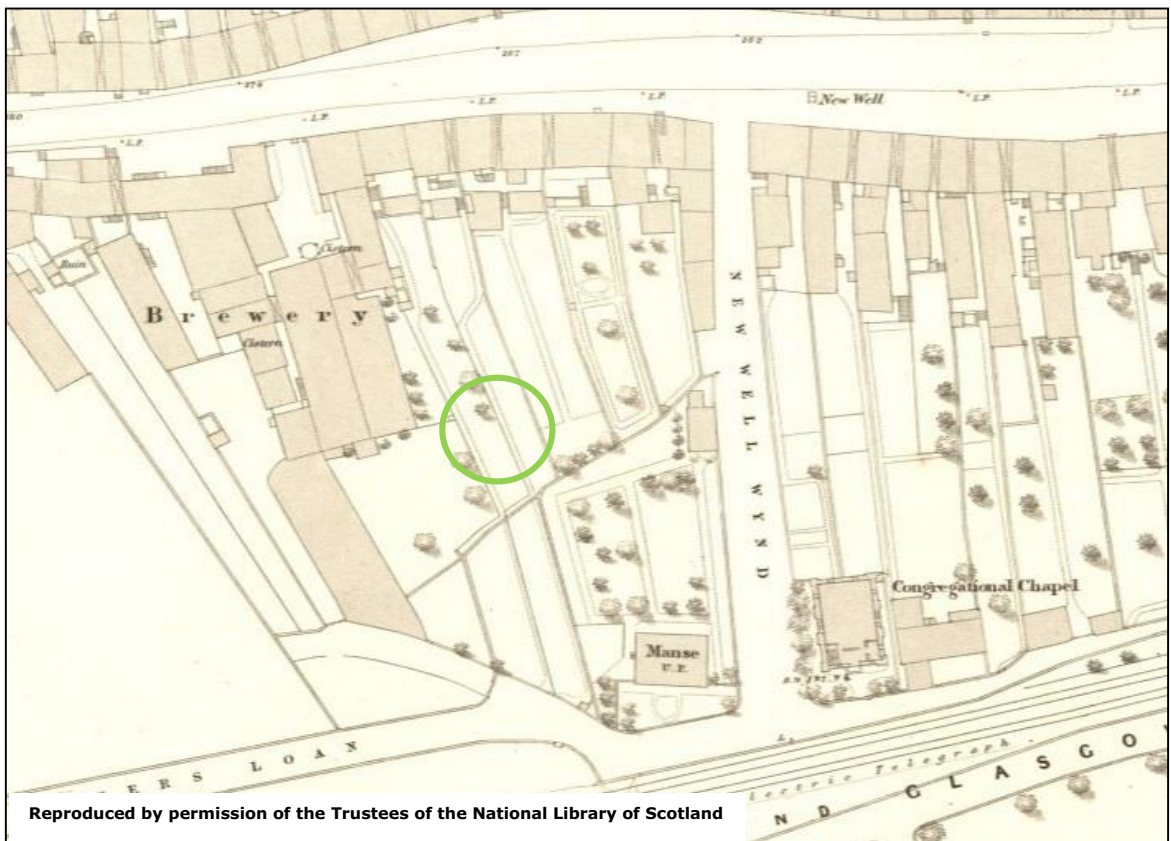


Figure 2b: large-scale Ordnance Survey Town Plan (1856)

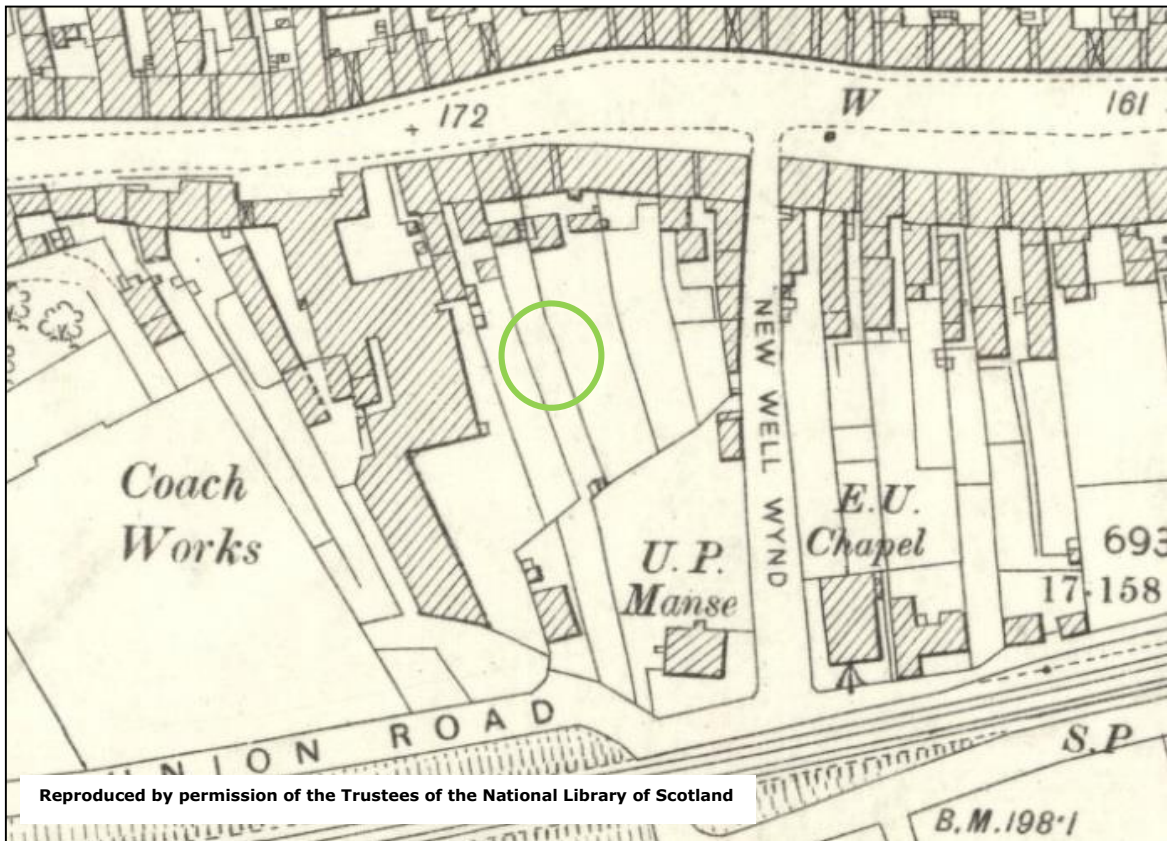


Figure 3a: 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 25-inch (1897)

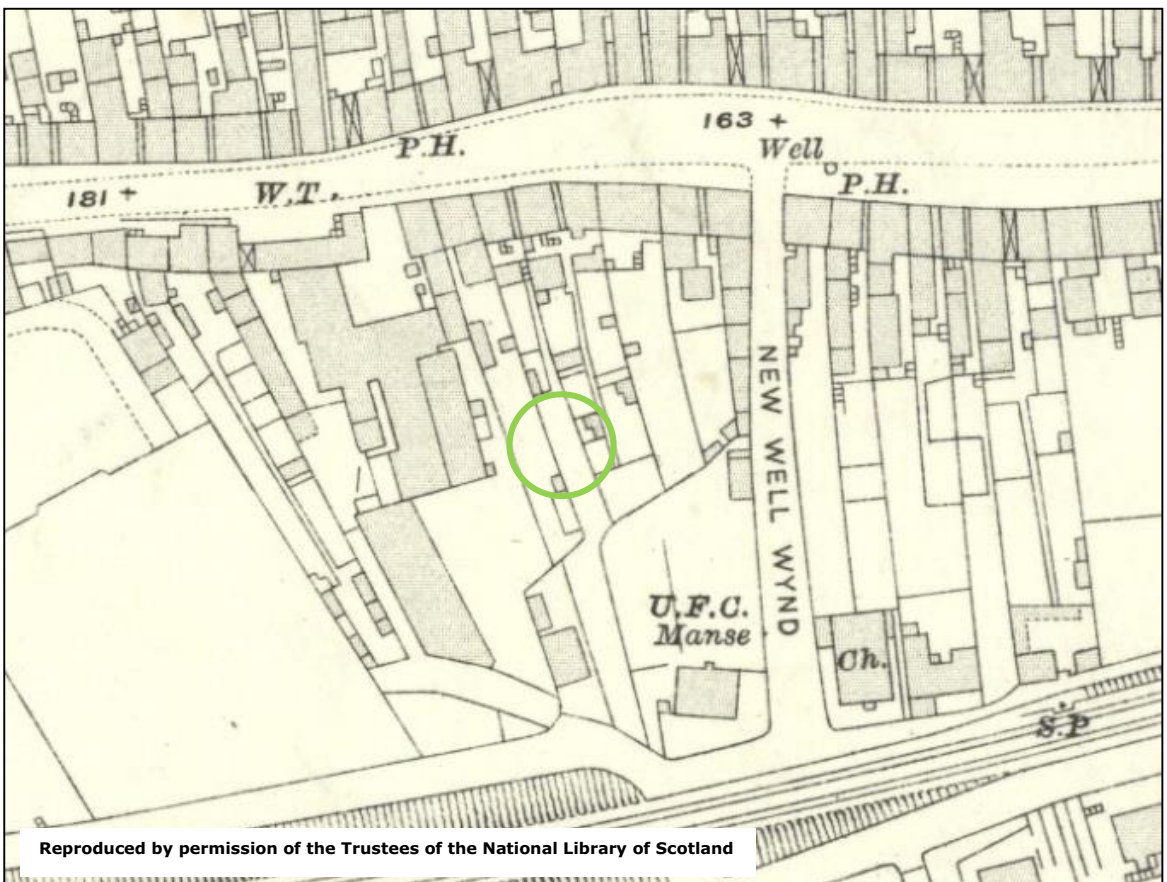


Figure 3b: 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 25-inch (1916)

11. Any potentially significant archaeological features, structures or deposits encountered were recorded by the archaeologist on site, using Rathmell Archaeology Ltd standard methods. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers with bulk finds collected by context.
12. All works complied with West of Scotland Archaeology Service Standard Conditions who also visited the site on two occasions, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statement.

## Findings

13. The extension and associated foundation trench is located on the north side of the existing house and is 10m east-west, 700mm in width and 800mm in depth (Figure 4a & 4b).
14. On arrival any previous existing topsoil and grass had been removed exposed a moderately compacted sand & gravel with gravel the primary inclusion (001) (Figure 5a). The stones are rounded and range in size from 10mm-100mm. Along the length of the foundation trench the thickness of (001) changed from 700mm in the west end of the trench to 400mm in the east of the trench.
15. Below (001) was a moderately to loose compacted yellow brown sand with no inclusions (002) (Figure 5a). This ranged in thickness along the foundation trench from 300mm in the west end to 600mm in the central area and 800mm at the east end. The changes in thickness possibly suggests an original undulating surface.
16. Located at the east end of the foundation trench and directly adjacent to the house was a an area of moderately compacted, mid brown sandy clay with natural rounded stones; 50mm-100mm in size, and fragments of red brick and cement (003) (Figure 5b).

## Discussion

17. The location of 1b Union Road lies within the medieval core of the burgh and the garden/burgage plots running north off of the High Street were until relatively recently open areas with little development. As a result any undeveloped areas have the potential to yield medieval remains.
18. However, in this instance the only anthropic remains recorded was in the form of (003) which most likely represents 'made-ground' from waste material left over from the construction of 1b Union Road. On conversation with the client and homeowner of 1b Union Road, the present house was constructed in 1989. The remains of (003) are most likely from this period of the sites development.
19. Contexts (001) and (002) represent natural deposits and are similar to the orange yellow sandy gravel recorded during a watching brief carried out at 1a Union Road located approximately 100m to the southeast (Farrell 2012).

## Recommendations

20. The archaeological mitigation works revealed only natural deposits and the presence of modern red brick and cement which is possibly the remains of waste material from when 1b Union Road was constructed in 1989. No other significant archaeological features were uncovered during the archaeological monitoring.
21. As such it is the recommendation of Rathmell Archaeology Ltd that no further works are appropriate. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with WoSAS on behalf of West Lothian Council.





Figure 4a: Looking east along foundation trench



Figure 4b: Looking west along foundation trench



Figure 5a: Demonstrating contexts (001) and (002)



Figure 5b: Demonstrating context (003)

## Conclusion

22. A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 on behalf of Mr H. Lynch in support of the construction of an extension at 1b Union Road, Linlithgow (Planning Ref: 0532/H/10). This Data Structure Report covers the monitoring works requested by WoSAS who advise West Lothian Council on archaeological matters.
23. In the course of the archaeological monitoring the deposits recorded; (001) and (002) were of natural origin, with (003) representing modern activity in the form of 'made-ground' and possibly resulting from waste material produced during the original construction of 1b Union Road in 1989.

## Acknowledgements

24. The author would like to thank West of Scotland Archaeology Service for their guidance on the structure of these archaeological works. We are grateful to Mr H. Lynch who provided us the opportunity to carry out these works and for ensuring that the on-site works ran smoothly.

## References

### *Documentary*

Farrell, S. 2012 *Archaeological Watching Brief of a Development at 1a Union Road, Linlithgow, West Lothian* by Rubicon Heritage Services.

Rees, A. 2016. *1b Union Road, Linlithgow, West Lothian: Archaeological Mitigation: Method Statement*. Unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

### *Cartographic*

Roy, W.	1747-52	<i>Military Survey of Scotland Lowlands</i>
Woods, W.	1820	<i>Plan of the Town of Linlithgow</i>
Ordnance Survey	1855	<i>25-inch 1<sup>st</sup> edition sheet V.3</i>
Ordnance Survey	1856	<i>25-inch large scale sheet 3</i>
Ordnance Survey	1897	<i>25-inch 2<sup>nd</sup> edition sheet 005.03</i>
Ordnance Survey	1916	<i>25-inch 3<sup>rd</sup> edition sheet n003.11</i>

## Appendix 1: Registers

### Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Whole foundation trench	Deposit	Moderately compacted sand & gravel, sand approximately 10% of mix with gravel the primary inclusion. Stones are rounded and range in size from 5mm-100mm. Changes in thickness from 700mm in the west of the trench to 400mm in the east of the trench.	Natural deposit
002	Whole foundation trench	Deposit	Moderately to loose compacted yellow brown sand with no inclusions. Ranges in thickness from 300mm in the west end to 600mm in the central area and 800mm at the east end. Possibly suggestive of an undulating surface.	Natural deposit
003	East end of foundation trench	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid brown sandy clay with natural rounded stones; 50mm-100mm in size, and fragments of red brick and cement. Located at the east end of the trench, directly adjacent to the north of the house.	Made-ground

### Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	4005	View to the east over the foundation trench	W	08/02/16
02	4006	View to the west over the foundation trench	E	08/02/16
03	4007	Area of disturbance for drain connection	NW	08/02/16
04	4008	Context (003); made ground	N	08/02/16
05	4008	Context (002); natural sand deposit	N	08/02/16
06	4010	NW facing section showing (001) & (002)	W	08/02/16
07	4011	South facing section showing (001)	S	08/02/16

<b>Image No.</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Date</b>
08	4012	South facing section showing line of charcoal with (002)	S	08/02/16
09	4013	West end/side of foundation trench	E	08/02/16
10	4014	East end/side of foundation trench	W	08/02/16

## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	West Lothian
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	1b Union Road, Linlithgow, West Lothian
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA16011
<b>PARISH:</b>	Linlithgow
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Peter Klemen
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Monitoring
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NS 9975 7695
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	08 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	08 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out in support of the construction of an extension at 1b Union Road, Linlithgow (Planning Ref: 0532/H/10). In the course of the archaeological monitoring no significant archaeological remains were encountered.</p> <p>In the course of the archaeological monitoring the deposits recorded; (001) and (002) were of natural origin, with (003) representing modern activity in the form of 'made-ground' and possibly resulting from waste material produced during the original construction of 1b Union Road in 1989.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr H. Lynch
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Report to WoSAS and archive to HES Collections.

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