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Geophysical Survey

**Whiteside Pipeline Diversion,
Bathgate, West Lothian**
Archaeological Watching Brief
Report No. 1828

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between August and September 2010 during topsoil stripping operations for a gas pipeline and its associated access track near Bathgate, West Lothian (NS 953682 to NS 956673) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by RSK Environment Ltd (RSK) on behalf of Murphy Pipelines Ltd.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the watching brief was produced by RSK. The WSI was produced following consultation with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) by RSK.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 A new section of gas pipeline was to be installed, re-routing the pipe from an existing gas pipeline and travelling underneath the new Airdrie to Bathgate railway. A work access track was also to be constructed. These works were situated within farmland to the west of Bathgate. This land is south of the B708 and to the east of and running approximately parallel to the A801.
- 1.2.2 During the preparation of the Environmental Review (RSK 2009) and addendum (RSK 2010) for the pipeline on behalf of Scotland Gas Networks (SGN), the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who advise West Lothian Council on archaeological matters, advised that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundbreaking works. This recommendation was incorporated into the Environmental Review, which was submitted in support of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening request by SGN to the Scottish Government.
- 1.2.3 The desk-based Environmental Review (ER) for the pipeline was carried out by RSK in March 2010. Numbers in the following text prefixed with RSK refer to sites identified in the ER.
- 1.2.4 The ER identified fourteen potential sites along the route of the pipeline. These included a large area of rig-and-furrow (RSK Site 1). This may present evidence of medieval or post-medieval activity in the area. All the other sites relate to 19th century land use such as the development of the railways (RSK Sites 2, 3, 8, 10, 13 and 16), farmsteads and cottages (RSK Sites 4, 5, 6 and 9) and pits (RSK Sites 7, 11 and 12).
- 1.2.5 Previous archaeological mitigation works in the vicinity were carried out in 2009 by CFA on ground works along the route of the Airdrie to Bathgate railway. No archaeological remains were uncovered during the course of these works in the vicinity of the works presented within this report.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The aims of the project were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits within the watching brief area and propose mitigation measures where necessary.

2. WORKING METHODS

- 2.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- 2.2 The removal of soil deposits was carried out using 360° tracked excavators equipped with smooth-bladed ditching buckets under constant archaeological supervision. All further works required to fulfil the terms of the brief were carried out by hand.
- 2.3 All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The area monitored including the access track was 1.2km in length; the new pipeline re-routing was 240m in length and had a working width of 20m (Fig. 1).
- 3.1.2 Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts, a list of which is contained in Appendix 1.
- 3.1.3 A number of sites identified by the ER were not observed during the fieldwork. The tramline, RSK Site 14, is thought to have been removed by plough truncation. The rig-and-furrow that makes up RSK Site 1 was not observed at any point during the works even though the access track work entered the eastern edge of the site. RSK Site 4, a railway which appears on the Ordnance Survey First Edition Map of 1856 but then disappears by the Second Edition Map of 1898, was not observed at any point above or below the modern ground level.

3.2 Archaeological Features

- 3.2.1 The access track which ran from the B708 to the area of the pipeline diversion on the north side of the Airdrie to Bathgate railway ran along the length of RSK Site 13. This is a former railway embankment which first appears on the Ordnance Survey Second Edition map of 1898. The topsoil (**001**) along the route of the track consisted of 0.1m – 0.2m depth of mid grey-brown sandy

silt. This overlaid a railway formation layer consisting of a purple-red gravel, crushed stone and shale (003).

- 3.2.2 A linear turf field bank, 2.9m wide and 0.6 high (005-007), was found to the east of RSK Site 2 and appears to be cut by RSK Site 2, meaning it at least predates 1898, the date at which RSK Site 2 first appears on the Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map.
- 3.2.3 A second linear field bank (013) (Fig. 3) was cut by the access track. Where it was cut, the bank was degraded and only measured 1.1m wide by 0.35m in height, although further along its length it does remain upstanding at 1.8m wide and 0.7m high. The bank was made from a core of topsoil with a turf covering.
- 3.2.4 A third linear field bank (014) (Fig. 4) was truncated by a 4m wide wayleave for the access track. The bank was 1.2m wide and 0.6m high and consisted of large stones set within a topsoil bank. It is probably the remains of a heavily degraded drystone wall.
- 3.2.5 A fourth field bank (017) measured 1.4m wide by 0.3m high and consisted of a topsoil core containing flecks of coal and white ceramic inclusions.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 An archaeological watching brief carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd during soil stripping for a gas pipeline diversion and access track at Whiteside identified the remains of railway formations and denuded field banks. All of the identified features are thought to be post-medieval in date.
- 4.2 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the West Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.3 A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4).

5. REFERENCES

August 2010, Whiteside Pipeline Diversion, West Lothian Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief, RSK Group PLC.

RSK 2009 *Environmental Review: Whiteside Pipeline Diversion*. Unpublished report for Scotland Gas Networks.

RSK 2010 *Environmental Review: Whiteside Pipeline Diversion Addendum*. Unpublished report for Scotland Gas Networks.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context no.	Site	Description
001	All	Topsoil, mid brown silty sand
002	Compound	Crushed red brick/tile and gravel, made ground
003	Access track	Railway formation, red purple gravel with crushed stone
004	All	Natural subsoil, mid grey orange clay and sandy silt
005	Access track	Re-deposited natural used in field bank
006	Access Track	Re-deposited topsoil used in field bank
007	Access Track	Pinkish crushed stone cutting field bank
008	Access track	Upper fill of railway make up, purple coarse gravel and shale
009	Access track	Secondary level of railway make up, purple coarse gravel and shale
010	Access track	Third level of railway make up, grey white shale and coal
011	Access track	Lower level of railway make up, mid brown orange clay
012	Access track	Made ground in area of RSK Site 12 imported during construction of nearby A801
013	Access track	Field bank material, orange brown sandy silt
014	Access track	Field bank material, orange brown sand and medium to large sandstone clasts
015	Access track	Made ground, red and blue blaes material
016	Access track	Mid brown silt topsoil under (015)
017	Pipeline diversion	Field bank material, grey brown silty sand with inclusions of coal , small angular stones and occasional white china sherds

APPENDIX 2: Drawings Register

Location	Drawing No	Scale	Section/Plan	Contexts
Sheet 1	1	1:20	Section	Field bank 005-007 , north-facing section
Sheet 1	2	1:10	Section	Railway formation 008-011 , east north east-facing section
Sheet 1	3	1:10	Section	Field bank 013 , south-west-facing section
Sheet 1	4	1:10	Section	Field bank 014 , north-east-facing section
Sheet 1	5	1:10	Section	Field boundary 017 south-south-east-facing section

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

Digital

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Registration shot		
3	De-turfed area of RSK Site 2	N	Over cast
4	North extent of access track showing de turfing	S	Overcast
5	De-turfed area for site compound	SSE	Overcast
6	Section through field bank 005	N	Overcast
7	Section through field bank 005	E	Overcast
8	General shot of access track	N	Overcast
9-10	General shot of stripping before the track joins onto the railway again	NNW	Overcast
11	General shot of stripping along railway line	N	Overcast
12	Stripping along line of railway showing possible line of tracks	S	Overcast
13	Section showing upper levels of railway formation	ENE	Overcast
14	General shot of stripping along railway	SSE	Overcast
15	General shot of stripping to the S of RSK Site 12	SE	Sunny
16-17	General working shots	Various	Sunny
18-20	Field bank 013 section	SW	Sunny
21-22	Field bank 014 section	NE	Sunny
23-24	RSK Site 8	NNE	Overcast
25	Access track post stripping	WSW	Overcast
26	Access track stripped down to natural	E	Sunny
27-29	Collapsed dry stone wall	Various	Sunny
30	Shot of site down to natural	N	Sunny
31	Section through field bank 017	SSE	Overcast
32	Initial strip around pipe	NW	Overcast
33	Post-ex of area around pipe after more reduction	SE	Overcast

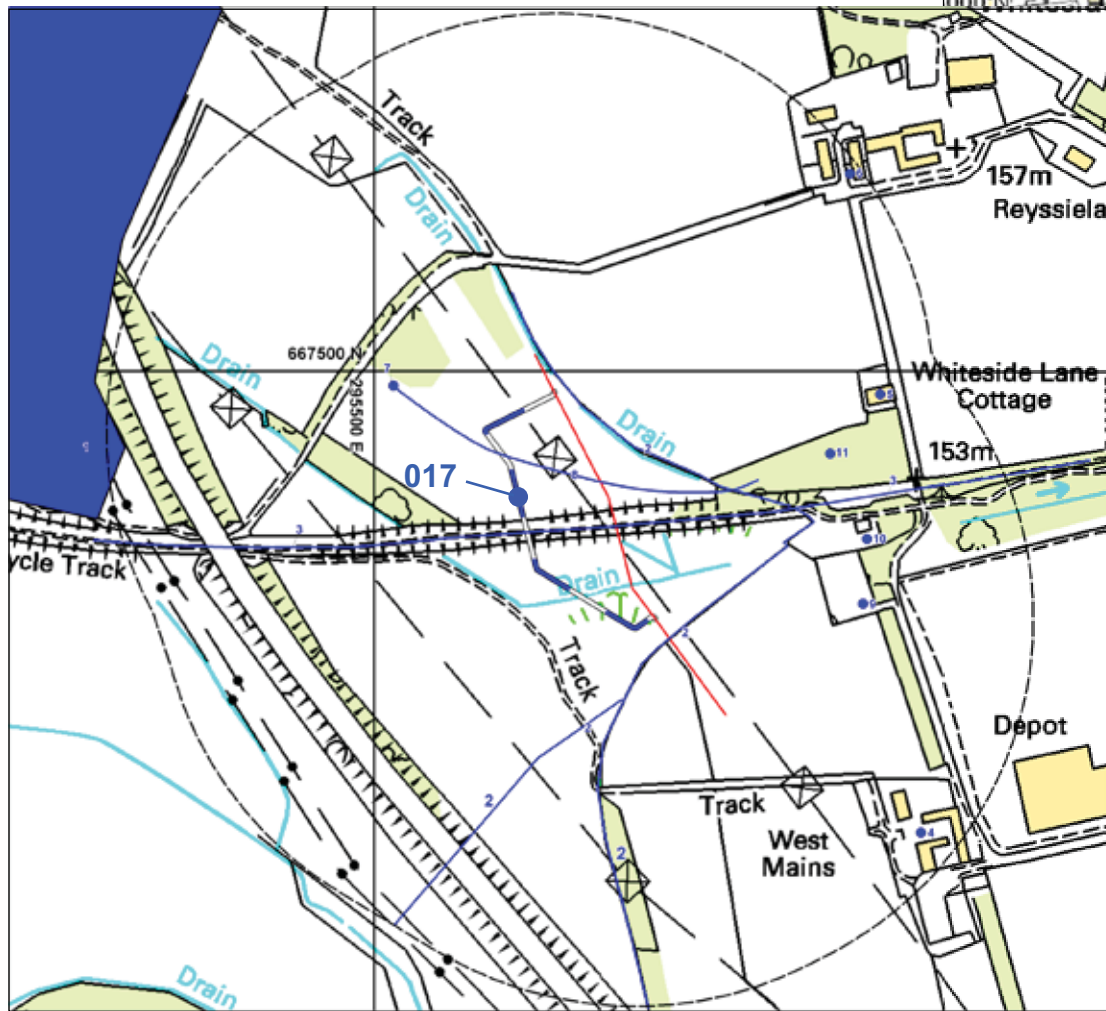
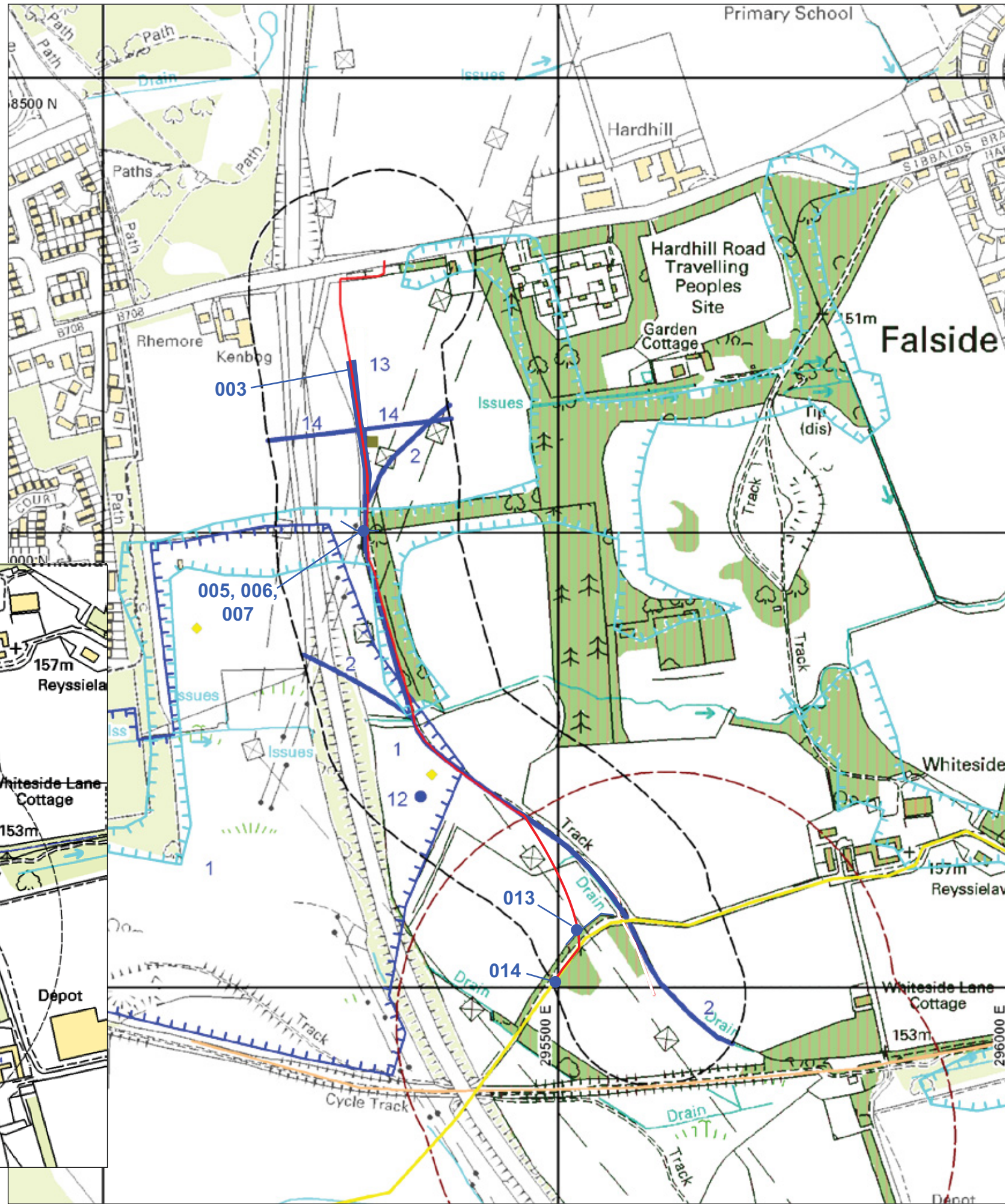
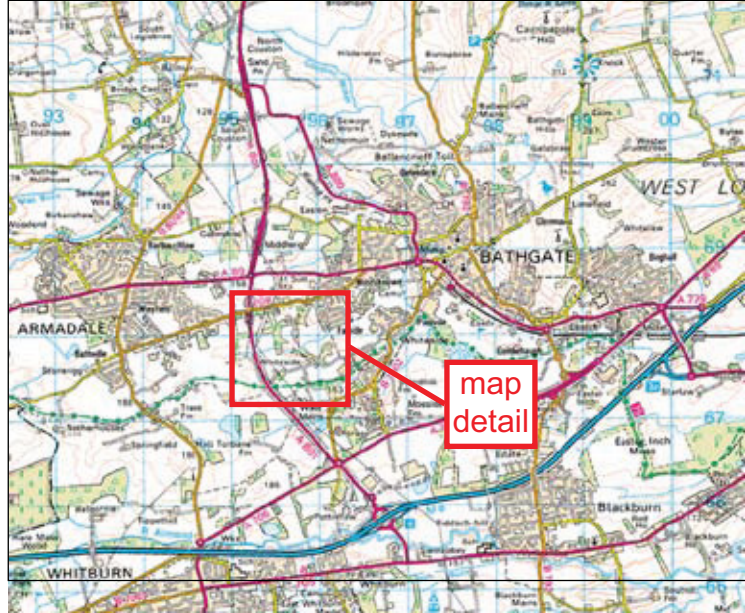
APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Whiteside Pipeline Diversion, Bathgate, West Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	WHID
PARISH:	Bathgate
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Graeme Carruthers
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 953682 to NS 956673
START DATE (this season)	August 2010
END DATE (this season)	September 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd during soil stripping for a gas pipeline diversion and access track identified the remains of railway formations and field banks. All of the identified features are thought to be post-medieval in date.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	RSK Environment Ltd on behalf of Murphy Pipelines Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) West Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)



Key:

- sites of archaeological or Heritage interest
- line of access track
- line of pipeline re-route



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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title: Location map

Project: Whiteside Pipeline Diversion

Scale: 1:1000 @ A3

Client: RSK Environment Ltd

Drawn by: GC Report No: 1828



Fig. 2 General pre-excitation view of the site



Fig. 3 View of access track with exposed railway formation level on RSK Site 13



Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	RSK Environment Ltd	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4360 f: 0131 273 4361 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>				
	Title:										
	Project:	Whiteside Pipeline Diversion									
Scale:						Drawn by:	GC	Page No:		Report No:	1828



Fig. 4 NE-facing section through field bank **014**



Fig. 5 SSE-facing section through field bank **017**

Key:	Fig. No:	4-5	Revision:	A	Client:	RSK Environment Ltd	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4360 f: 0131 273 4361 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>				
	Title:										
	Project:										
Scale:	Whiteside Pipeline Diversion					Drawn by:	GC	Page No:		Report No:	1828