

**Libberton Mains Farm, South Lanarkshire:**

**Watching Brief Report**

**On behalf of:** FM Developments Ltd

**National Grid Reference (NGR):**

**AOC Archaeology Project No:** 20339

**Prepared by:** Gavin Davies

**Illustration by:** Graeme Carruthers

**Timing:** Watching Brief – 29<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007  
Report – June 2007

**Enquiries to:** AOC Archaeology Group  
Edgefield Industrial Estate  
Edgefield Road  
Loanhead  
Midlothian  
EH20 9SY

*Tel.* 0131 555 4425  
*Fax.* 0131 555 4426  
*Email.* admin@aocscot.co.uk

## 1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group during construction work for the Libberton Mains Farm housing development, Libberton, South Lanarkshire (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned by FM Developments Ltd. and was undertaken in accord with National Planning Policy Guidance Note 5 (NPPG5) and Planning Advice Note 42 (PAN42).
- 1.3 The groundbreaking works comprised the machine excavation of foundation and service trenches, and preparations for the access road.
- 1.4 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed as a result of the watching brief.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The proposed development site lies within the administrative area of South Lanarkshire Council. The planning authority is advised on archaeological and heritage issues by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WOSAS) who recommended (and prepared a specification for) the undertaking of the archaeological watching brief as a condition on planning consent. This work was as recommended by NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).
- 2.1.2 The development site, a roughly square area, measuring approximately 58 m by 58 m was bounded by existing farm buildings to the west, the B7016 road to the south, barns to the north, and open fields to the east (NS 9893 4322; Figure 1). The development encompassed elements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead of Libberton Mains (NMRS NS94SE 80)
- 2.1.3 The development consisted of the conversion of existing farm buildings into five houses and the erection of eleven houses with parking areas and an access road leading from the adjacent B7016.

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
  - i) to determine the presence, character, extent and significance of any archaeological features or artefacts within the area affected by the development;

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- ii) to allow a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42 to be developed should an adverse archaeological impact be identified.

### 4 METHOD

- 4.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation and service trenches for two of the proposed houses in Area 1 and, preparations for the access road leading from the B7016 (Figure 2). Excavation for the foundation and service trenches was conducted using a JCB excavator equipped with a toothless bucket measuring 0.3 m wide. Excavation for the access road was conducted using the same JCB with a toothless bucket measuring 1.0 m wide.
- 4.2 In addition to the monitoring of groundbreaking works all previously excavated and disturbed areas within the project boundaries were inspected for archaeological features and artefacts. This included the foundation trenches for three houses in Area 2, all of which were excavated prior to the beginning of the watching brief. The monitored work was carried out over four days between 29<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

### 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of approximately 77.5 linear m of foundation and service trenches in Area 1. The foundation and service trenches measured between 0.55 and 0.75 m in depth and were approximately 0.80 m wide (Figure 2). The trenches were located in areas already reduced to natural subsoil or, in disturbed areas previously occupied by farm buildings. During the excavation of trenches in Area 1, the foundations of recently demolished farm structures and a ceramic drain running E-W were observed. Modern construction debris such as brick and glass was also observed lying on the farmyard surface.
- 5.2 The watching brief also monitored the excavation of a portion of the access road measuring approximately 20.0 m long and 6.0 m wide. Excavation in this area extended to a maximum depth of 0.8 m below the existing ground surface. The area excavated for the access road followed the alignment of a previous access/haul road and was located entirely in disturbed and made up ground.
- 5.3 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified as a result of the watching brief.

### 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

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### REFERENCES:

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environmental Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environmental Department.

### APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

#### Black & White Print & Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Area	Detail	From
0-2		Registration	
3		Access road looking NW	SE
4		Access road looking SE	NW
5		Site overview shot	N
6		Site overview shot	NE
7		Site overview shot	E
8	2	Foundation trenches looking S	N
9	2	Foundation trenches looking E	W
10		Soil profile in undisturbed area	W
11		Access road looking NE	SW
12	1	Area for proposed houses	E
13	1	Trenching in progress	E
14	1	Foundation trenches running N-S	S
15		Overview of farmyard area	SE
16	1	Typical soil profile in Area 1	S
17	1	Trench overview showing ceramic drain and foundations	N
18	1	Foundation trench profile	W

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### APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Lanarkshire Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 20339
<b>PARISH:</b>	Carnwath
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Gavin Davies
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NS94SE 80
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Farmsteading
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NGR: NS 9893 4322
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2007
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2007
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group during construction work for the Libberton Mains Farm housing development, Libberton, South Lanarkshire. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	FM Developments Ltd.
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Admin@aocscot.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS