

Linlithgow Leisure Centre: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC 23126
16th September 2015



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Linlithgow Leisure Centre: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: CRGP Limited
26 Herbert Street
Glasgow
G20 6NB

National Grid Reference (NGR): Car Park NS 98706 76163

AOC Project No: 23126

Planning Ref: 0177-FUL-15

Prepared by: Jessica Lumb

Illustration by: Diana Sproat

Date of Fieldwork: 15th June 2015

Date of Report: 15th June 2015

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out By AOC Archaeology for the development for the new Linlithgow Leisure Centre (Planning Refs: 0177-FUL-15 & 0248-FUL-15).

The sites under investigation consisted of a proposed new car park and proposed pavilion However, only the proposed car park site was reduced during the works.

No significant archaeological remains were discovered.

Further work may be required if the pavilion works are to commence.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development Background

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief is required as a condition of planning consent during the development for the new Linlithgow Leisure Centre (Planning Refs: 0177-FUL-15 & 0248-FUL-15). The site lies within the administrative area of the West Lothian Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works will be conducted in accordance with the principles as set out in *Scottish Planning Policy (2010)* and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)*.

1.1.2 The two separate sites are located within the vicinity of the supposed location of the Battle of Linlithgow (thought to be to the north-west of the site) and are included on the Inventory of Battlefields by Historic Scotland. They are also located to the north of the Union Canal, a Scheduled Monument.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The sites under investigation consisted of a proposed new car park and proposed pavilion, both located to the south-east of the Linlithgow Leisure Centre and are centred on NGRs NS 98706 76163 (proposed car park) and NS 98676 76276 (pavilion) (Figure 1). However, only the proposed car park site was developed during the works. Further work may be required if the pavilion works are to commence.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.2.1 During an evaluation and metal detecting survey by Headland Archaeology in 2013 at Kettlestoun Mains to the west of the proposed development, several prehistoric remains were uncovered to the west of the site (Dalland 2013). This included a group of six pits and post-holes and two cremation pits, which were located on a low mound.

1.3.2 The Battle for Linlithgow Bridge took place in 1526 between the Earl of Lennox (10,000 men) and James Hamilton, 1st Earl of Arran (2,500 men) as part of a power struggle for control of young James V. The site lies to the north-west of the proposed development area and Leisure Centre, although the area within the vicinity (including the Leisure Centre site) has been included in the Inventory of Historic Battlefields due to the likely spread of possible remains left during and after the battle.

1.3.3 The housing development to the east of the development area overlies the former settlement of Kettlestoun Mains which has origins in the 17th century, as it is depicted on John Adair's 1684 map (Figure 2). The site continues into the 19th and 20th centuries, with a steading depicted by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1856 (Figure 3), now a large farmstead arranged around a courtyard. The Ordnance Survey maps into the 1950s also note a 'Lennox Cairn' to the north of the site near to the Lodge for Avontown House. The HER records this as the spot where the Earl of Lennox was killed by Sir James Hamilton after the Battle of Linlithgow Bridge. No other

development can be seen from this period in the historical mapping within the proposed development sites.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological inspection were to

- i) determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area and also to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered compliant with Scottish Planning Policy (2010) and Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011).

3 METHOD

3.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on all ground-breaking works associated with the proposed car park in the form of monitoring by a competent field archaeologist. The works comprised the reduction of an area 32m x 32m using a 360° mechanical tracked excavator equipped with a 2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was carried out on the 15th June 2015. Weather conditions were overcast and dry and good archaeological visibility was achieved.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as two appendices:

Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.2 Overview

4.2.1 The development area measured 32 m x 32 m and was situated to the southeast of the leisure centre.

4.2.2 No archaeologically significant material was observed during the inspection.



Plate 1: Stripping complete in car park area

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The sites under investigation consisted of a proposed new car park and proposed pavilion. However, only the proposed car park site was reduced during the works. However, only the proposed car park site was reduced during the works. No significant archaeological remains were discovered.
- 5.2 Further work may be required if the pavilion works are to commence. This recommendation will require ratification by WoSAS on behalf of the West Lothian Council.

6 REFERENCES

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.

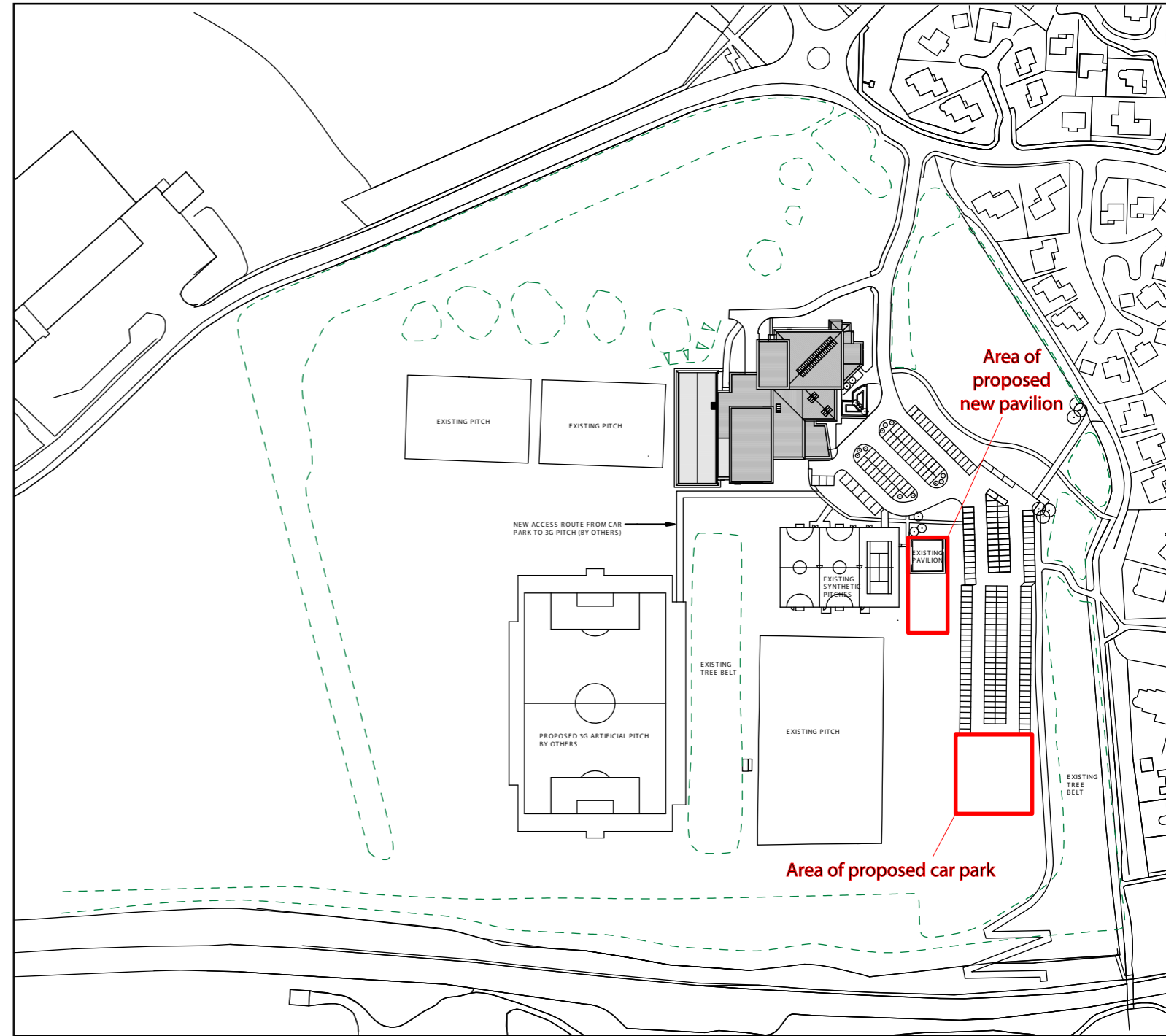
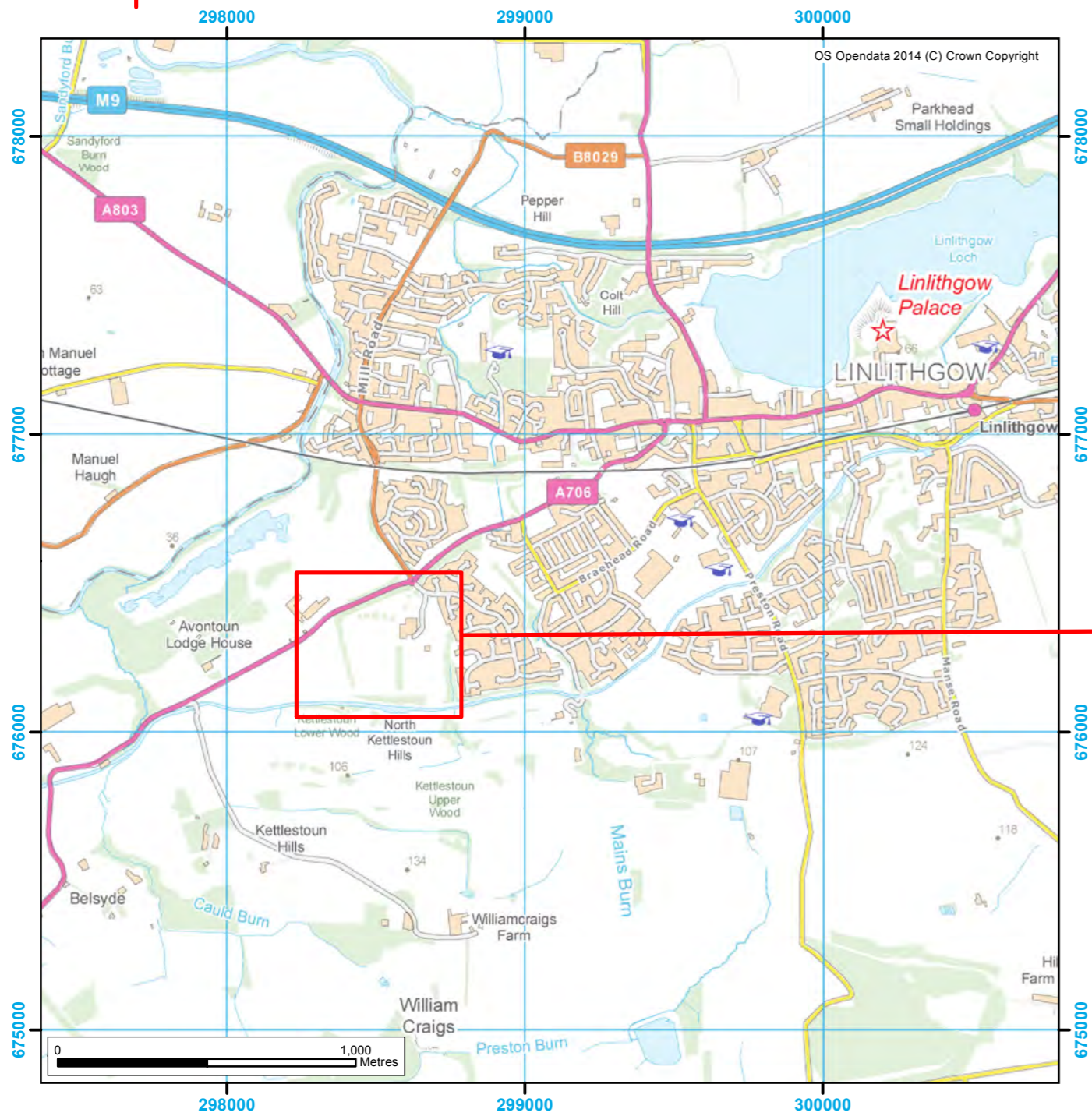
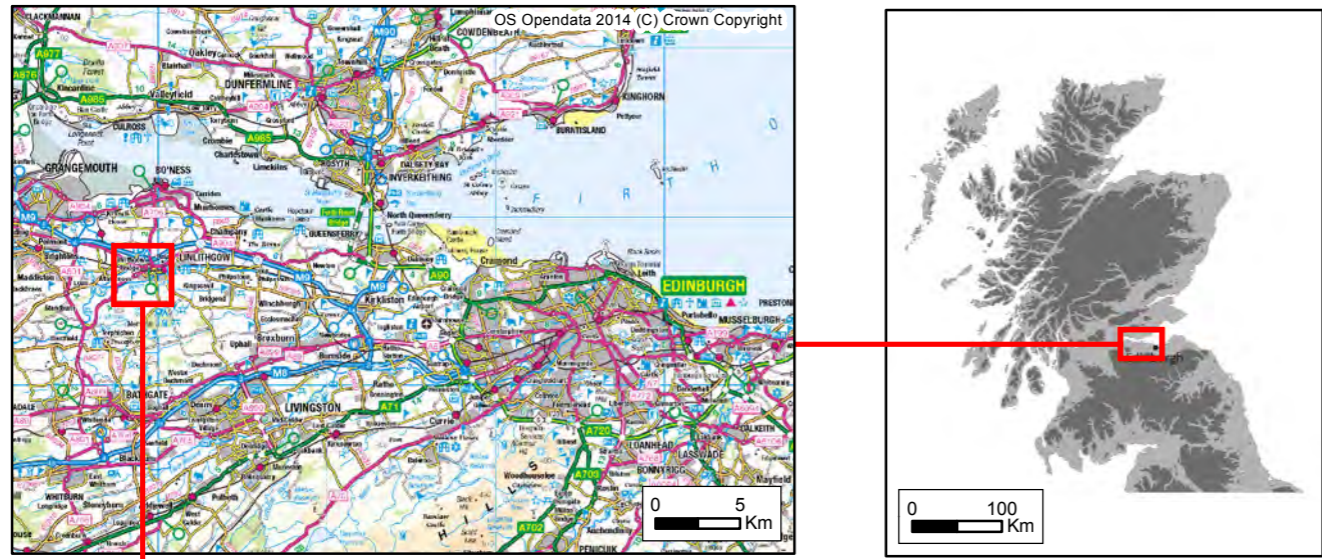


Figure 1: Site location plan, including site plan outlining areas subject to archaeological watching brief

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Section 2: Appendices

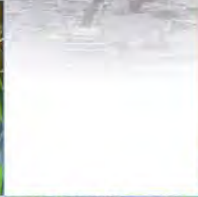
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Film 1 Digital

| Frame | Description | From |
|-------|-------------------------------|------|
| 1-3 | Carpark – Getting started | NE |
| 4-5 | Modern drain - carpark | SW |
| 6-7 | Car Park – Stripping Complete | SW |

APPENDIX 2: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

| | |
|---|--|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | West Lothian Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Linlithgow Leisure Centre |
| PROJECT CODE: | 23126 |
| PARISH: | Linlithgow |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Jessica Lumb |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological watching brief |
| NMRS NO(S): | NA |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | NA |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NS 98706 76163 |
| START DATE (this season) | 15 th June 2015 |
| END DATE (this season) | 15 th June 2015 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out By AOC Archaeology for the development for the new Linlithgow Leisure Centre (Planning Refs: 0177-FUL-15 & 0248-FUL-15).</p> <p>The sites under investigation consisted of a proposed new car park and proposed pavilion However, only the proposed car park site was reduced during the works.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains were discovered.</p> <p>Further work may be required if the pavilion works are to commence.</p> |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS: | N/A |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | CRGP Limited |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | AOC Archaeology Group |
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| ARCHIVE LOCATION | Archive to be deposited in NMRS |



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