

Ochiltree Place Farm, Linlithgow, West Lothian: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Roseberry Estate Partnership
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National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 03307 74707

AOC Project No: 23313

Planning Application: 0637/FUL/15

OASIS Ref: 242872

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Date of Fieldwork: 1st – 2nd and 10th February 2016

Date of Report: 17th February 2016

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

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Date: 11th February 2016

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Date: 17th February 2016

Draft Report Stage: Draft

Date: 17th February 2016

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Roseberry Estate Partnership to monitor ground breaking works at Ochiltree Place Farm, Linlithgow, West Lothian as part of planning consent for new farm sheds. The site is located beside Ochiltree Castle, where the location of an apparent chapel is unknown.

The watching brief consisted of a large area strip and subsequent excavation of foundation pits. This revealed a heavy clay loam topsoil over natural boulder clay.

No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development background

1.1.2 An archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent during the development of a new farm shed at Ochiltree Place Farm, Linlithgow, West Lothian (Planning Ref: 0637/FUL/15). The site lies within the administrative area of 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* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

1.2 Site location

1.2.1 The development site is located to the east of the current farm buildings of Ochiltree Place Farm (centred on NGR: NT 03317 74719 (Figure 1). The area is currently part of an agricultural field with further fields to the north, south and east.

1.3 Historical background

1.3.1 The development area is located next to the site of Ochiltree Castle (Canmore ID: 49298), which is a still upstanding as an L-shaped house dating to the late 16th - early 17th century. This Lairds house was altered and added to in the late 17th century and is three storeys high with an attic, and has been altered externally and internally since its construction with it now being utilised as a private dwelling.

1.3.2 The farm at Ochiltree Place is also the supposed location of Ochiltree Chapel (Canmore ID: 49307). The medieval chapel was founded in 1285 by Alexander, son of William of Ochiltree, and is later mentioned in a charter of 1290. The exact location of the chapel is unknown.

1.3.3 Further afield, there are remains of prehistoric settlements to the north and south of the development area in the form of Peace Knowe fort (Canmore ID: 49312), a possible enclosure at Nancy's Hill (Canmore ID: 49246) and a ring ditch at Bridgend (Canmore ID: 112992). Although not close to the development area, these sites indicated the potential for prehistoric archaeology surrounding the farm.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief was to 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* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The watching brief consisted of machine excavation in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. This was achieved using a 13 tonne tracked excavation with ditching bucket to a depth of 0.3m. The watching brief was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the *Method Statement* (AOC 2016).

4 RESULTS

4.1 The various detailed data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices:

- Appendix 1 Photographic Register;
- Appendix 2 Context Register;
- Appendix 3 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES) Entry

4.2 The watching brief occurred on the 1st – 2nd and 10th February 2016, with wet weather conditions and archaeological visibility good.

4.3 An area of 40m x 35m was excavated, revealing a mid brown heavy clay loam topsoil (000), with occasional white ceramic fragments. This was over a natural of mid grey boulder clay (001). No archaeological finds or features were uncovered during the watching brief.



Plate 1 General view of stripped area

4.4 Subsequent to the area strip, foundation pits were then observed. These constituted of 24 2m x 2m pits of varying depth (0.5m - 1m). In all cases, the boulder clay (001) was consistently encountered.

5 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The ground works at Ochiltree Place farm revealed no archaeological finds or features.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary prior to development. Any further decision on further archaeological works, however, will need to be confirmed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service as advisors to the West Lothian Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2016 *Ochiltree Place Farm, Linlithgow, West Lothian: Archaeological Watching Brief Method Statement*, Unpublished client report

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital

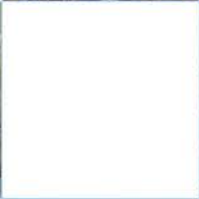
Frame	Description
1-2	General view of stripped Area
3	View of NE corner where natural encountered
4	View of eastern edge
5	Working shot
6	Working shot
7-9	Topsoil strip complete
10-12	General view of foundation pits

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Description
000	Mid grey boulder clay. Natural Subsoil
001	Mid brown heavy clay loam with occasional white ceramic fragments. Topsoil

APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' (DES) REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ochiltree Place Farm, Linlithgow, West Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	23313
PARISH:	Ochiltree
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Steven Watt
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
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)	NT 03307 74707
START DATE	1 st February 2016
END DATE	10 th February 2016
PREVIOUS WORK	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Roseberry Estate Partnership to monitor ground breaking works at Ochiltree Place Farm, Linlithgow, West Lothian as part of planning consent for new farm sheds. The site is located beside Ochiltree Castle, where the location of an apparent chapel is unknown. The watching brief consisted of a large area strip and subsequent excavation of foundation pits. This revealed a heavy clay loam topsoil over natural boulder clay. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Roseberry Estate Partnership
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead. Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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