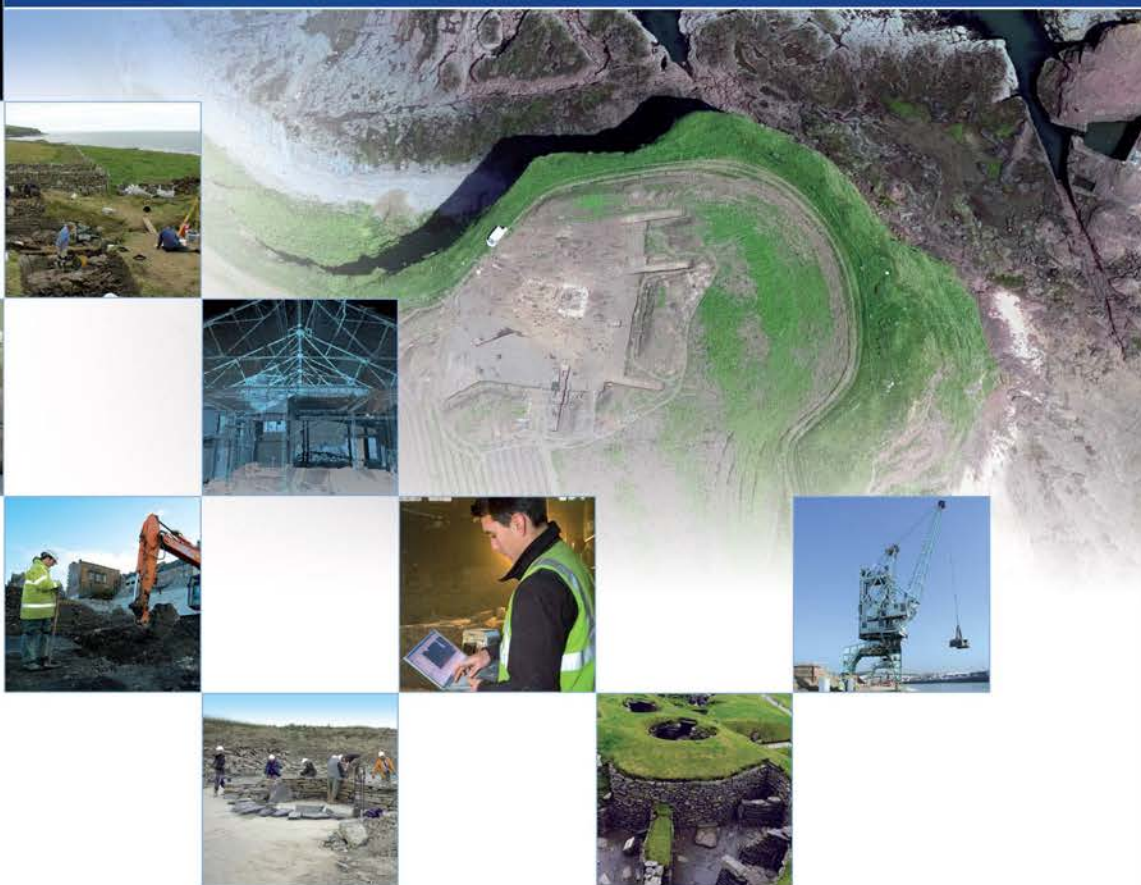


Almondvale Stadium, Livingstone: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23210
28th August 2015



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Almondvale Stadium, Livingstone: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Lovell Partnerships Ltd.
Lovell House
Parkway Court
271 Springhill Parkway
Glasgow
G69 6Ga

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 0474 6685

AOC Project No: 23210

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

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in relation to a proposed residential development at Almondvale Stadium, Livingstone.

Due to the large amount of cist burials reported in the surrounding area and the potential that the development area may be within a cemetery noted in the Old Statistical Account, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) stipulated that an archaeological watching brief of geological test pits required for engineering purposes would be carried out.

A series of 20 geological test pits were excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed in any of the test pits however the test pits revealed the presence of extensive deposits of made ground across the development area with a maximum depth of 4.20 m and which contained layers of made ground. Natural subsoil was not reached in any of the test pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Lovell Partnerships Ltd in respect to a proposed residential development at Almondvale Stadium in Livingstone. The archaeological works were necessary as part of the planning condition on the development (Planning Reference No: 0544/FUL/15 and 0553/FUL/15). The need for and scope of the archaeological works was determined by the West Lothian Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works were in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may have been present within the development area.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The development area is located at Almondvale Stadium in Livingstone (Figure 1). The development is split into two sites in an area of green parkland. Site A (NGR: NT 0476 6703) is situated to the north of Almondvale Stadium Road and bounded to the north by the River Almond. Site C (NGR: NT 0474 6685) is to the west of Alderstone Road and just south of Lidl Supermarket.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The development lies within an Archaeological Consultation Trigger (ACT) area, in this instance relating to an area where cist burials were found in the 18th and 19th centuries. According to the Old Statistical Account (OSA) of 1798, four large irregular mounds formerly lay on the southern bank of the River Almond, directly opposite the site of Livingston House. A large number of cists were found near the surface of two of these mounds, some containing inhumation burials. Many of the cists had no cover stone, perhaps suggesting that they had been opened previously. The OSA recorded that several other cists of the same size and type had been found in the neighbourhood, but that the main concentration was in the vicinity of the mounds noted above.
- 1.3.2 On the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1852, the area annotated as 'Graves Knowes' was located to the west of that proposed for development under the current application, in the area now occupied by Kaims Drive, Kaims Court, Kaims Brae, Kaims Grove and Kaims Gardens. The OS Object Name Book (ONB) of the same year stated that this applied to a slight elevation on partly plantation and partly ploughed land, and that the name derived from the fact that a number of graves had been discovered upon it. The ONB quotes a Mr Bishop of Livingston, who stated that cists had been discovered when planting trees 60 years ago (c.1792), and that more had been dug during subsequent ploughing and draining. The landowner at the time, a Mr Buchanan of Alderstone Mains, stated that over 100 cists had been found. These were usually composed of 7 or 8 stones, hammer-dressed, and arranged two on edge for each side, one at each end and one or two laid on for the lid. He further stated that in some of the cists, a portion of the bones was quite perfect, particularly mentioning the small bones of the fingers, vertebrae, etc. In others, the bodies from the abdomen downward had been burned and the ashes and remains of the body placed in the cist, though no

human remains were found in the majority of cases. The reference to cremations may indicate a Bronze Age date for some of the cists, possibly associated with a later long cist cemetery.

- 1.3.3 After describing the cists found at Graves Knowes, the ONB also noted that other cists had been found around ½ mile to the east, on Adam Brae Farm, though their exact find-spot could not be ascertained. Adam Brae was shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1852, its position lying on the eastern side of the modern Alderston Road, in the area currently occupied by the West Lothian College, Almondvale Stadium, and the current Lidl store. There is therefore some possibility that the cemetery noted in the Old Statistical Account may have extended into this area.
- 1.3.4 There have been several archaeological investigations in the area in recent year including an evaluation and watching brief to the west of Alderstone Road in 2012 (AOC Project 21709) and an evaluation to the east of the road previous to the construction of the Lidl store in 2014 (AOC Project 22851). Neither of these series of archaeological works yield any significant archaeological features or artefacts. The archaeological works showed that the majority of the development area had been subjected to considerable recent dumping and most of the ground breaking works did not reach the base of the made ground. The only evidence of archaeological features was the vestigial remains of rig and furrow cultivation found to exist in a single trench during the evaluation to the west of Alderstone Road.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts associated with the test pit survey;
 - ii) to liaise with WoSAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording;
 - iii) to report on the results of the archaeological watching brief.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A series of 12 SI test pits and 8 smaller UK test pits were excavated for geological testing required for engineering purposes at the site. They were well distributed across the site in order to test as much of the area as possible.
- 3.2 All excavation was undertaken by an 8 ton JCB excavator with a 0.6 m wide toothed bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits and was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was conducted over two days on 27th and 28th August 2015. Weather conditions were fair and did not influence the visibility of any potential archaeology throughout the archaeological watching brief.
- 4.2 Details of all the test pits can be found in the Appendices to this report. In general the SI and UK test pits excavated were typically 2.5 m by 0.60 m although the UK test pits excavated were slightly shallower. A very shallow turf varying in depth from 0.1 m to 0.60 m covered very mixed layers of made ground with demolition materials and rubble which extended to a depth of 4.20 m. A natural subsoil was not reached in any of the test pits and no archaeological features or artefacts were recovered.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief of these geological test pits revealed no significant archaeological features or artefacts. The residential development is in an area which has made ground up to a depth of 4.20 m.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the development area. This recommendation will require the approval of the WoSAS on behalf of the West Lothian Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2013, *Alderstone Road West, Livingston: Evaluation & Watching Brief Data Structure Report* Unpublished AOC client report

AOC Archaeology 2014, *Alderston Road, Livingston: Archaeological evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC project design

Cachart, R 1994 'Graves Knowes / Adam Brae, Livingston: Cist Burials', *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, 1994, 49.

Name Book 1852 Name Book of the Ordnance Survey.

NSA 1845 *The new statistical account of Scotland by the ministers of the respective parishes under the superintendence of a committee of the society for the benefit of the sons and daughters of the clergy.* Edinburgh.

RCAHMS 1929 *The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions of Scotland. Tenth report with inventory of monuments and constructions in the counties of Midlothian and West Lothian.* Edinburgh

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*



Plate 1: SI Test Pit 4 showing modern debris material



Plate 2: UK Test Pit 105 showing made ground layers

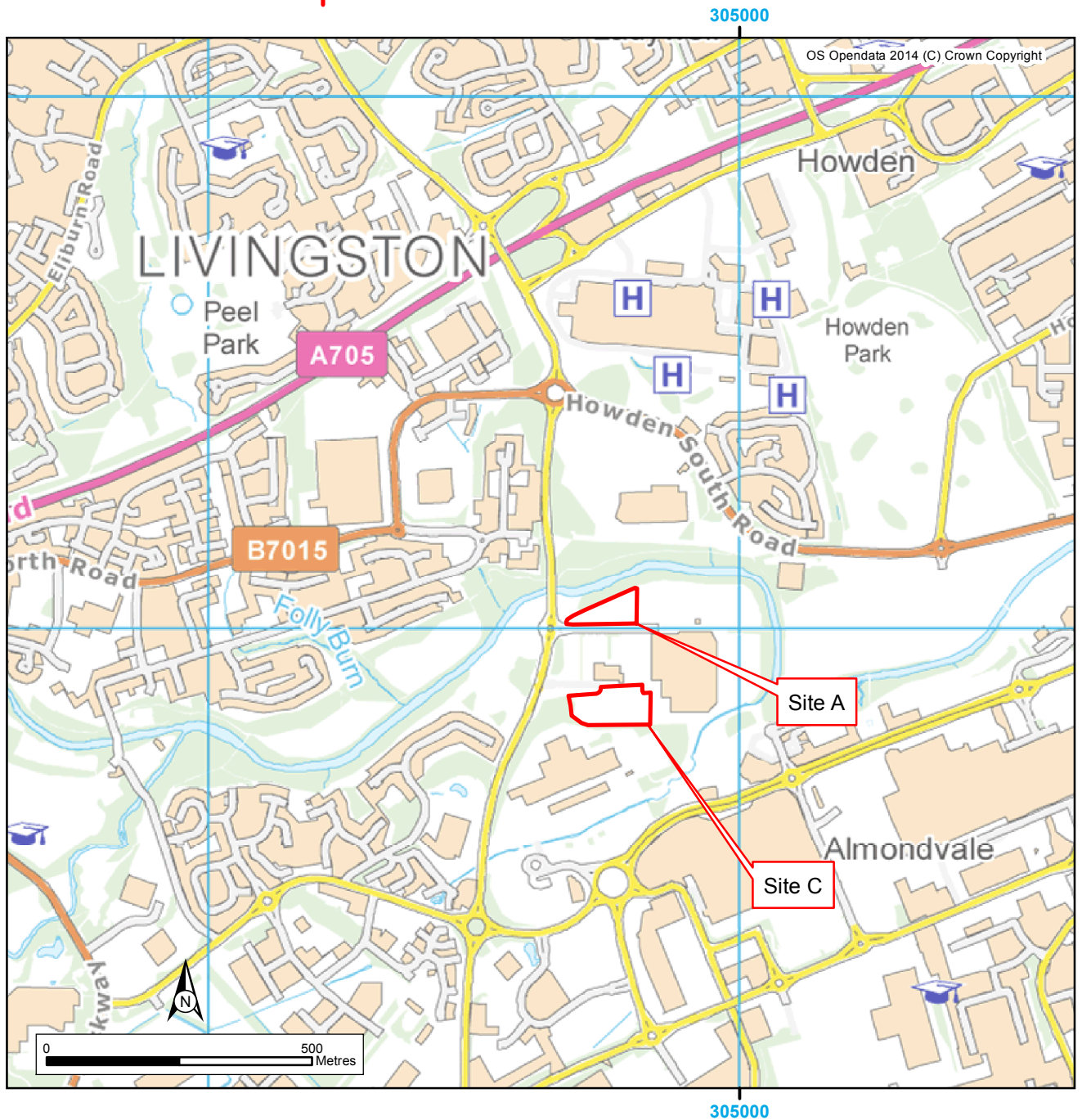
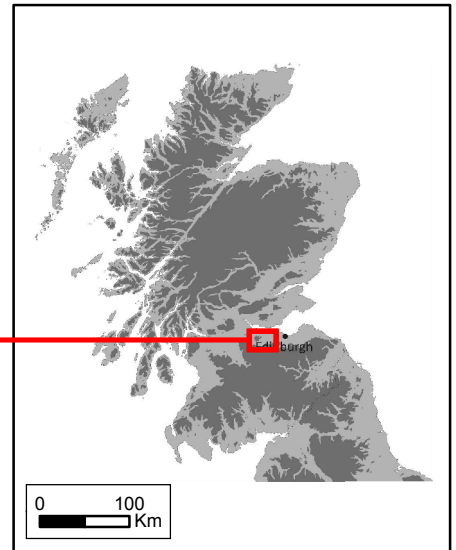
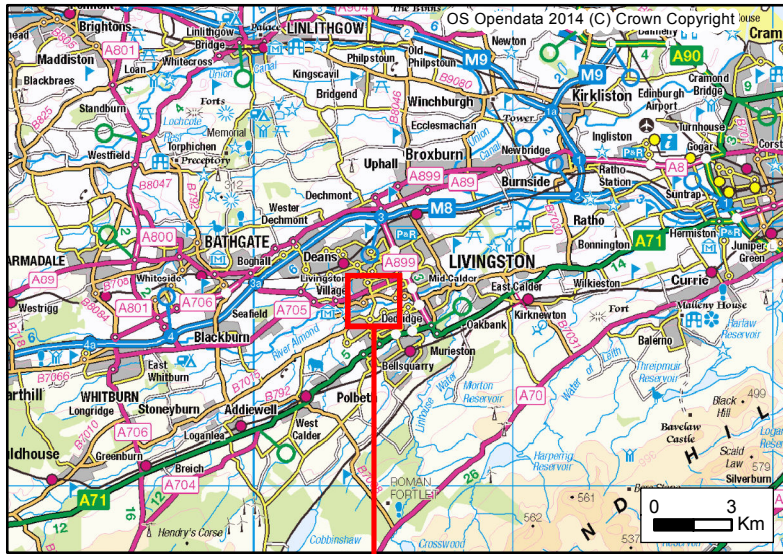



Figure 1: Site Location Plan 

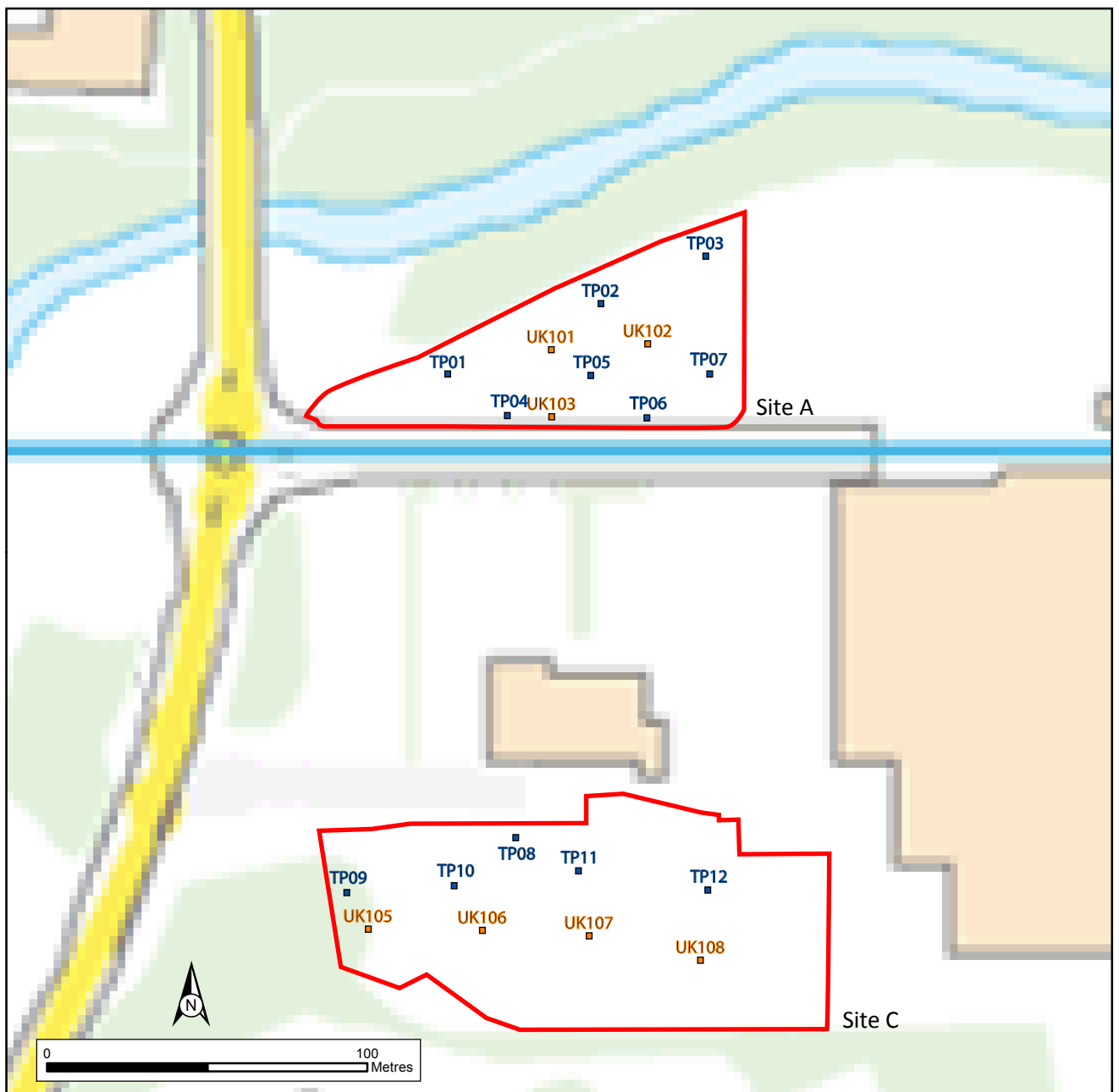
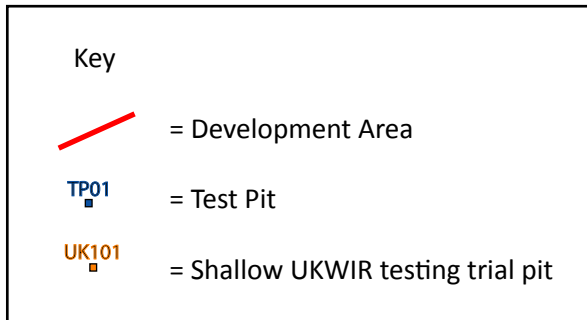


Figure 2: Site plan of Site A and Site C showing the location of the test pits monitored as part of the watching brief

Almondvale Stadium, Livingstone: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Test Pit Descriptions

SI Test Pits

Test Pit 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	3.0 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 3.50 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 3.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 3.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 1.20 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 2.80 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.35 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 2.60 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	3.0 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.60 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 2.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	3.0 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 4.00 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	4.20 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.0 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 2.80 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	3.0 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 2.80 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 2.90 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 3.0 m

<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.20 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery

Test Pit 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	3.0 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.30 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 2.80
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	20 th century pottery and glass

UK Test Pits**Test Pit 101**

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 0.80 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test Pit 102

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 0.80 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test Pit 103

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.15 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 0.85 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test Pit 105

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.0 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 2.80 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None

<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test Pit 106

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.0 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 2.60 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test Pit 107

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.50 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.20 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 1.60 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test Pit 108

<i>Dimensions</i>	2.0 m by 0.60 m
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Turf/Topsoil – 0.12 m Made ground – layers of gravel, rubble, brick and modern demolition material – 1.88 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

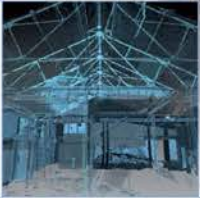
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
1-2	A	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 1	NNE	26/08/15
3-5	A	General shots of Site A	Various	26/08/15
6-7	A	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 7	E/W	26/08/15
8	C	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 12	E	26/08/15
9-10	C	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 11	E	26/08/15
11-12	C	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 8	S	26/08/15
13	C	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 10	E	26/08/15
14-15	A	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 6	W	26/08/15
16	A	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 5	W	26/08/15
17	A	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 2	E	27/08/15
18	A	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 3	E	27/08/15
19	A	Post excavation view of SI Test Pit 4	E	27/08/15
20-21	A	Post excavation view of UK Test Pit 103	S/E	27/08/15
22	A	Post excavation view of UK Test Pit 101	E	27/08/15
23	A	Post excavation view of UK Test Pit 102	W	27/08/15
24	C	Post excavation view of UK Test Pit 108	E	27/08/15
25	C	Post excavation view of UK Test Pit 107	E	27/08/15
26	C	Post excavation view of UK Test Pit 106	W	27/08/15
27	C	Post excavation view of UK Test Pit 105	W	27/08/15

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Almondvale Stadium
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23210
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Yvonne Robertson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 04760 67030
START DATE (this season)	27 th August 2015
END DATE (this season)	28 th August 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in relation to the proposed construction of a residential development at Almondvale Stadium, Livingstone.</p> <p>A series of 20 geological test pits were excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed in any of the test pits however the test pits revealed the presence of extensive deposits of made ground across the development area with a maximum depth of 4.20 m and which contained layers of made ground. Natural subsoil was not reached in any of the test pits.</p> <p>No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the watching brief. No further works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation requires the approval of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Lovell Partnerships Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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