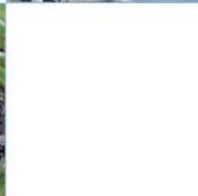


# Edgehead Farm, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23264  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

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# Edgehead Farm, Midlothian:

## Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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**On Behalf of:** Richmond Homes (Scotland) Ltd.  
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KY11 8PB

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 37215 65295

**OASIS No:** 231304

**AOC Project No:** 23264

**Prepared by:** Kevin Paton

**Date of Fieldwork:** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Date of Report:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

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

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**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

**Approved by:** Martin Cook

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft

**Date:**

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Appendix 2    Photographic Record  
Appendix 3    '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' Report

## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a new housing development at Edgehead Farm, Midlothian.

The evaluation required a 5% trenching sample of the proposed development area. Due to area restraints a total trenching of 54m<sup>2</sup> was achieved. This revealed the area to mainly consist of made ground over a disturbed clay natural. One of the trenches revealed the former topsoil suggesting some survival of previous soil horizons.

No significant archaeological remains were uncovered and no further work is recommended.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Richmond Homes (Scotland) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a new housing development at Edgehead Farm, Midlothian. The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Midlothian Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015) approved by ELCAS on behalf of Midlothian Council and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

## 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development is a small rectangular area in plan associated with Edgefield Farm. The site is bounded by Edgehead Road to the southwest and arable farmland around the remainder of its boundary. The site covers c. 1 ha of land and is centered at NGR: NT 37215 65295 (Figure 1).

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The site lies in the Edgehead Conservation Area and has several sites associated with it. According to the RCAHMS database, the farmhouse at Edgehead Farm is a Category C listed building (NT36NE 131) and is noted as an 'Earlier 19th century. 2-storey, 3-bay rectangular-plan farmhouse with single storey piended porch. Harled and painted with sandstone ashlar margins, skews and slightly projecting sills'. It is listed as a good example of a little altered farmhouse. To the NW lies Edgehead lodge (NT36NE 132) also a Category C Listed building associated with Oxenfoord Castle Estate for the forester. The Old Windmill (NT36NE 44) and 29 Edgehead Road (NT36NE 123) also lie within the conservation area.

# 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

# 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The evaluation was undertaken by a tracked excavator with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015).

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The initial evaluation called for a 5% investigation, totalling 500m<sup>2</sup> of trenching. However, due to the site compound and some of the initial building works being already in place this was not achievable. Instead four trenches were excavated, equating 54m<sup>2</sup>, covering as much open area as accessible (Figure 2).
- 4.2 Trenches 1, 2 and 3 revealed there to be up to 1.1m of made ground in places consisting of mixed rubbish material and grey sandy clay overlying an orange brown clay natural. Trench 3 revealed a B-horizon of former topsoil, suggesting that there may be other areas where this survives.
- 4.3 Trench 4 was located to the edge of the tree line and consisted of a clay loam topsoil overlying the natural subsoil. Two ceramic pipes were also visible within the trench aligned N-S.
- 4.4 No significant archaeological features were uncovered.

## **5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The evaluation at Edgehead farm suggests a heavily disturbed area of land use with no significant archaeological remains in the area. The presence of the former topsoil in Trench 3 suggests that there is potential for a less disturbed area of ground to exist along the NW edge, but the likelihood is that there would be little potential for archaeological features to be present.
  
- 5.2 It is therefore suggested that no further archaeological work is required at Edgehead farm. This recommendation will need confirmation by ELCAS on behalf of Midlothian Council.

## 6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2015, *Edgehead Farm, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*

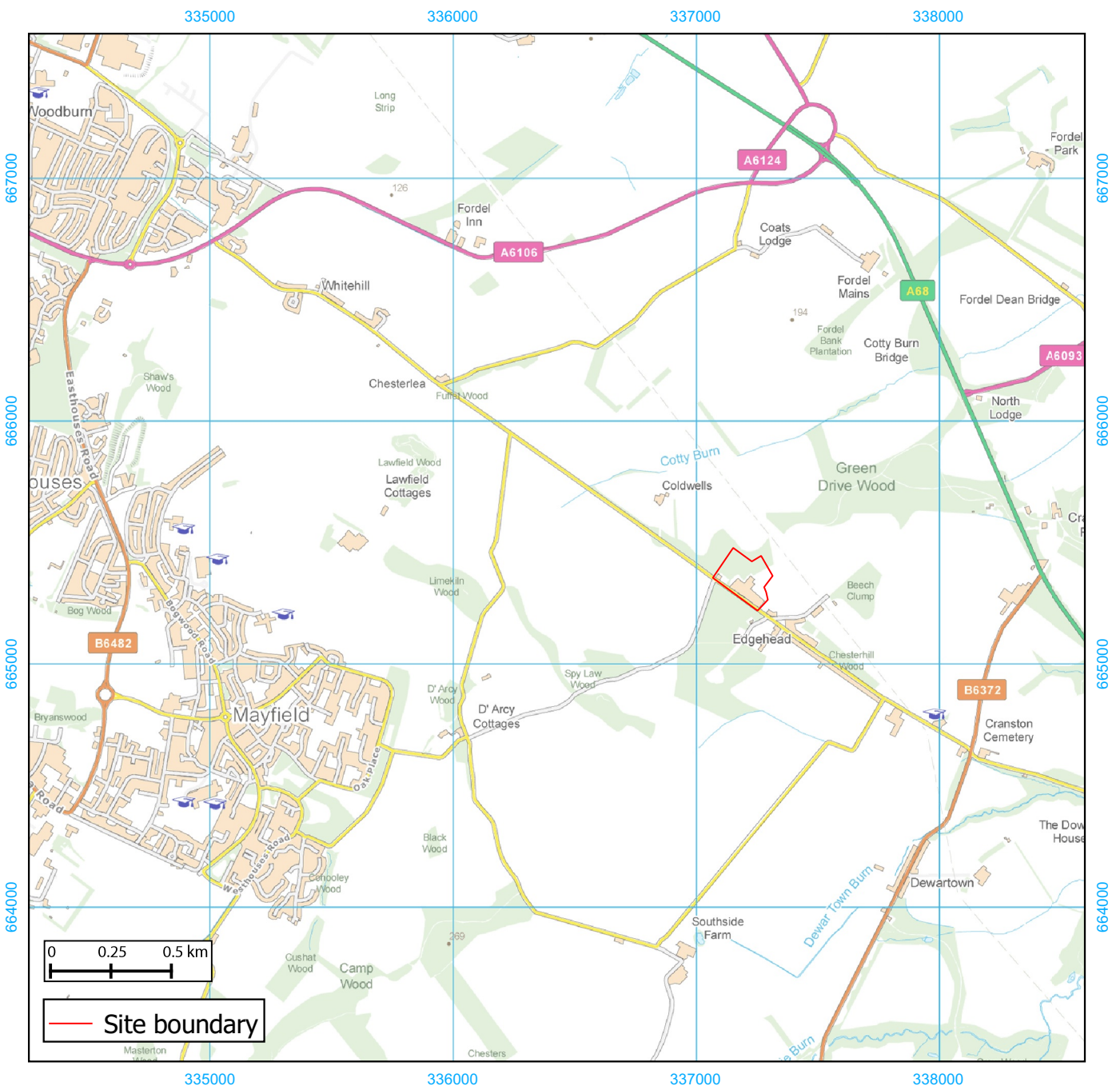
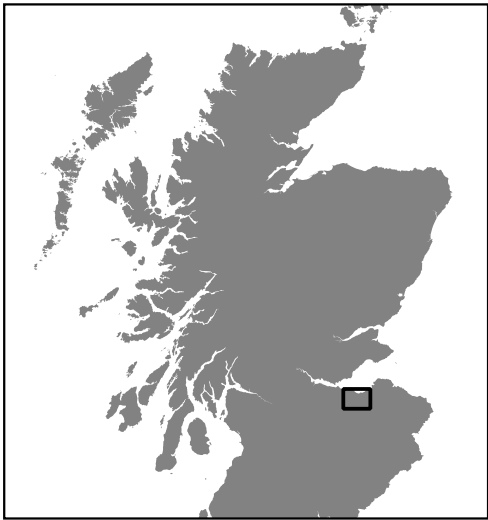
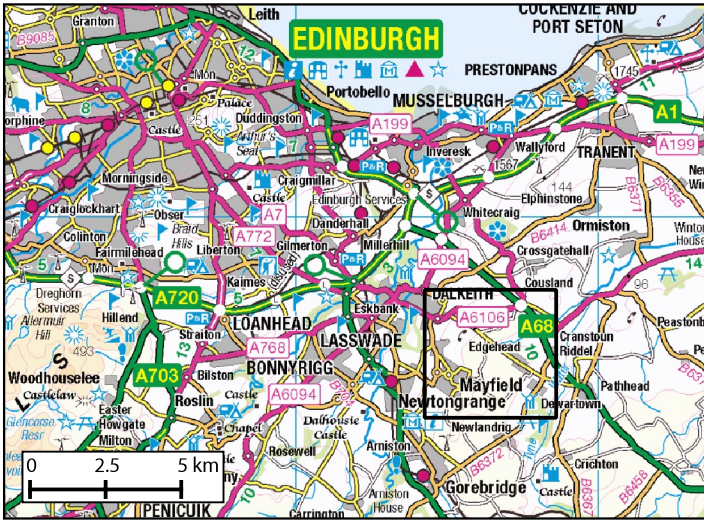


Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2 - Trench location plan

(based on a drawing provided by the client)

# **Edgehead Farm, Midlothian: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	18 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made Ground (001) – Grey sandy clay with brick, sandstone, plastic, metal, rope etc
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Modern Pit at 1m to 3m – plastic, iron beam fragments within
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown clay – disturbed and previous stripped prior to building works
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	4 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	7.2 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made Ground – Grey sandy clay with brick, sandstone, plastic, metal, rope etc
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown clay - disturbed
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	6 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	10.8 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made Ground – Grey sandy clay with brick, sandstone, plastic, metal, rope etc B-horizon – Farmer topsoil – dark brown clay loam 0.5m depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.1 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellow brown clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	18 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Mid brown sandy loam
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic pipe, 0m, N-S; Ceramic pipe, 3m, N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown clay - disturbed
<i>Finds</i>	None

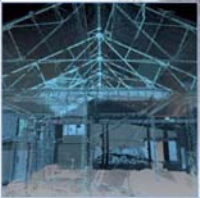
## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

### Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-2	View of compound area	Var	5/11/15
3-6	Views of site from compound	Var	5/11/15
7-12	Views of bunds and storage areas to NW	Var	5/11/15
13-14	Views from houses already being built	Var	5/11/15
15-17	Views of built up material for house	Var	5/11/15
18-20	Views of site from houses	Var	5/11/15
21	Shot showing made ground	NW	5/11/15
22	Modern pit in Trench 1	NW	5/11/15
23	Post-excavation Trench 1	NW	5/11/15
24	Post-excavation Trench 2	NW	5/11/15
25	View of made ground in Trench 3	NW	5/11/15
26	SW-facing section of made ground in Trench 3	SW	5/11/15
27	Post-excavation Trench 3	NW	5/11/15
28	Post-excavation Trench 4	E	5/11/15
29	Location view of Trench 4 to NE of bund	NE	5/11/15

**APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Midlothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Edgehead Farm, Midlothian
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 23264
<b>PARISH:</b>	Cranston
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Kevin Paton
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	NT36NE 131
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Category C listed Farmhouse
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 37215 65295
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to a new housing development at Edgehead Farm, Midlothian.</p> <p>The evaluation required a 5% trenching sample of the proposed development area. Due to area restraints a total trenching of 54m<sup>2</sup> was achieved. This revealed the area to mainly consist of made ground over a disturbed clay natural. One of the trenches revealed the former topsoil suggesting some survival of previous soil horizons.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains were uncovered and no further work is recommended.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Richmond Homes (Scotland) Ltd.
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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