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Client: BHC Ltd



LUFFNESS MAINS, EAST LoTHIAN

Archaeological Evaluation

Laura Scott
MA(Hons) AIfA

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

<i>Client</i>	BHC LTD
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NT 4840 7990
<i>Address</i>	LUFFNESS MAINS ABERLADY EAST LOTHIAN
<i>Parish</i>	ABERLADY
<i>Council</i>	EAST LOTHIAN
<i>Planning Ref No</i>	10/00286/P
<i>Oasis No</i>	HEADLAND1-82111
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<i>Schedule</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	6TH -8TH JULY 2010
<i>Report</i>	AUGUST 2010

Signed off by:

Dr Sorina Spanou MA(Hons) PhD, Project Manager

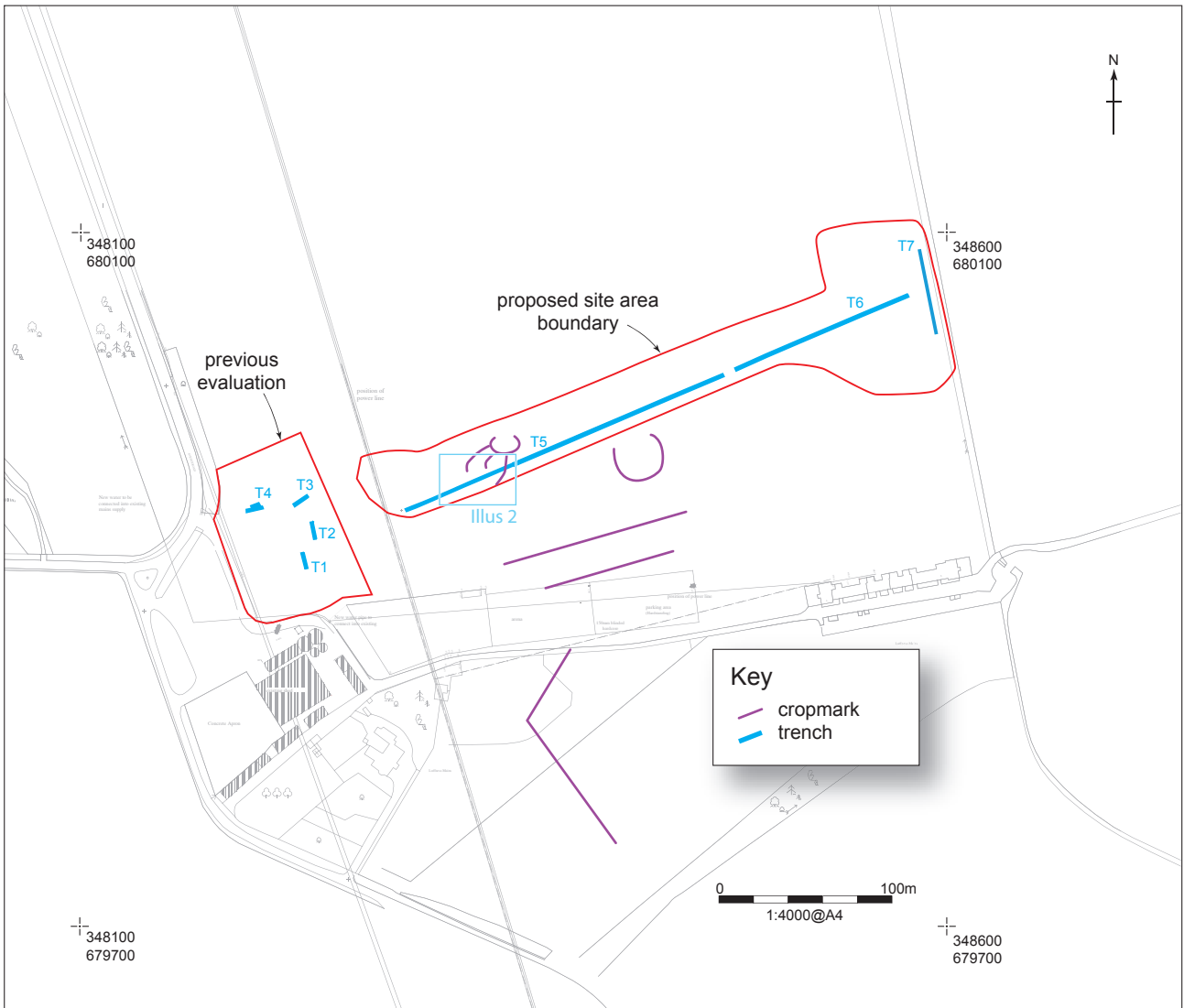
Date:.....

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Illus 1
 Site Location Plan

LUFFNESS MAINS, EAST LoTHIAN

Archaeological Evaluation

by Laura Scott

Headland Archaeology conducted an evaluation at Luffness Mains, Longniddry, East Lothian to test the archaeological potential of an area of land and establish the location and extent of archaeological remains associated with crop marks identified on aerial photographs. The work was commissioned by BHC Ltd and undertaken in response to a planning condition in advance of development for the erection of wind turbines.

Three trenches were excavated across the development area with additional targeted trenching along the line of the proposed cable run. Archaeological features including ditches and groups of pits were uncovered within one of the trenches located on an area of relatively high ground with natural sand and gravel subsoil. Although limited finds and environmental evidence was obtained from the features, the recovery of a prehistoric pottery fragment from one of the ditches suggests that the features may be evidence of settlement activity in the prehistoric period. Although the features could not be directly related to the identified crop mark it is probable that the features do relate to the putative prehistoric activity evidenced by the crop marks.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by BHC Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Luffness Mains Farm, East Lothian. The works were carried out in response to a planning application (10/00286/P) for the erection of two wind turbines and a trench for associated cabling. The proposed development area contains several undesignated crop marks recorded through aerial photography and interpreted as the remains of an enclosure, ring ditches and pits of possible prehistoric date (NT47NE 25). East Lothian Council required that a programme of archaeological work was undertaken on the site as part of the planning condition. The evaluation was intended to provide further information concerning the archaeological potential of the area in question.

1.1 Archaeological Background

The site is situated to the east of Luffness Mains in Aberlady parish, East Lothian (Illus 1). The proposed development covered an area of 14, 153m² and at the time of evaluation was under crop.

An evaluation was previously undertaken by Headland Archaeology on the site of a new agricultural building in the area to the west of the site (March 2010). Features including ditches, furrows, field drains and an animal burial, relating to post-medieval land use, were encountered during the evaluation (Humble,

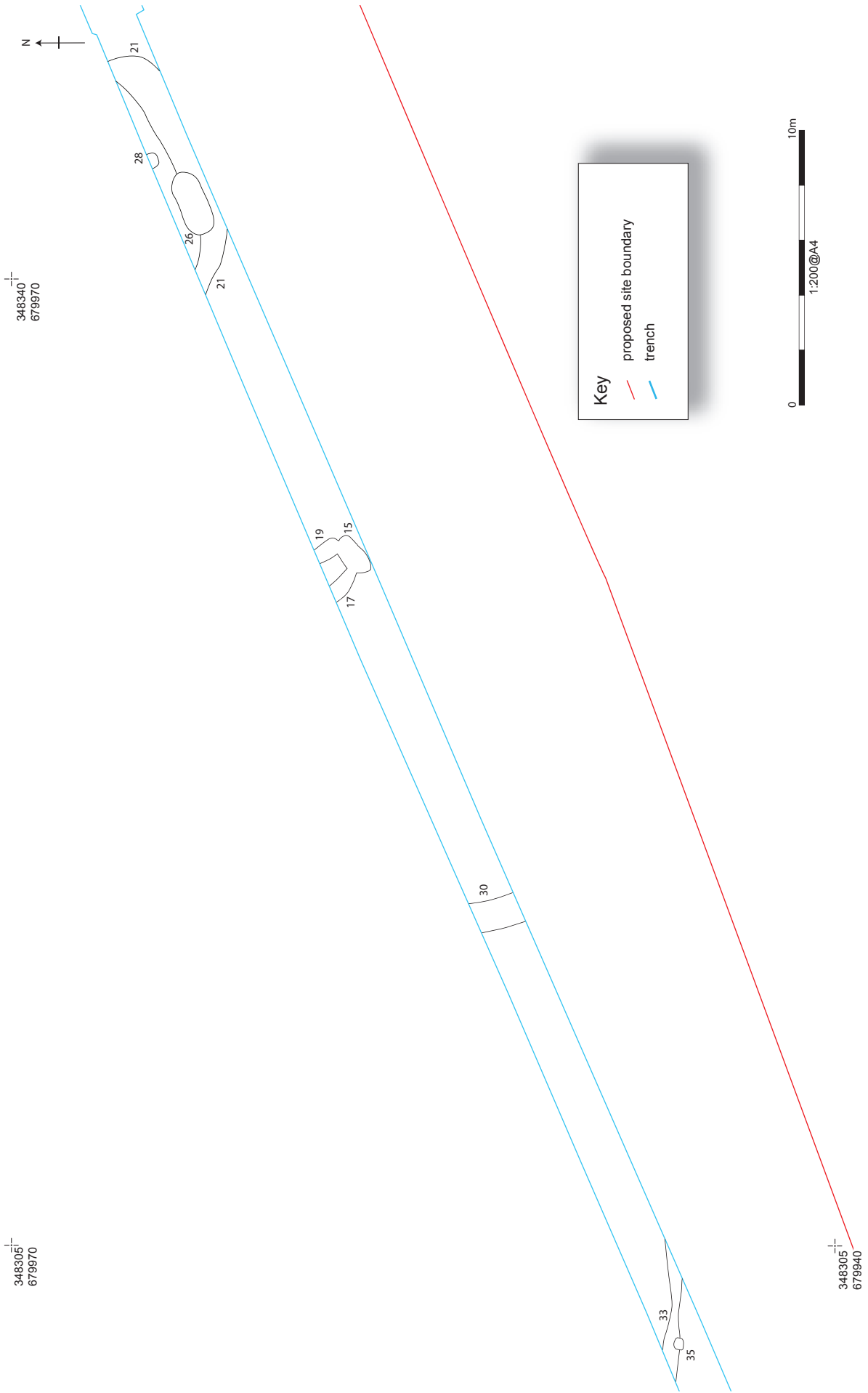
2010). However, there was no evidence to suggest that the putative prehistoric settlement, evidenced by the cropmark, extended into the evaluation area.

The present site itself lies in an area with recognised archaeological potential. Several cropmark sites that provide evidence of prehistoric settlement lie within the development area. These include enclosed and unenclosed settlement (NT47NE 72) and a ring ditch (NT47NE 25). The land appears to have been divided in the prehistoric period with enclosures (NT47NE 25, 43) and a pit alignment (NT48SE 55).

Three prehistoric cist burials were also reportedly found below the entrance hall (NT48SE 1.1) at Luffness House. A fourth cist was also found 300 yards to the east of the house (NT48SE 4). A food vessel (NT48SE 17) was discovered in 1882 in Luffness, although the circumstances of the discovery are not known.

Luffness House (NT48SE 1.0) is a 16th century tower house that may incorporate elements of an earlier castle of probable 13th century date. Earlier remains (NT48SE 1.2), which consist of a square fortification defined by a partially infilled ditch, may not relate to this 13th century castle and may have been raised by the French in 1549 to block English supplies to their garrison at Haddington.

Traces of rig and furrow cultivation also appear on aerial photography of Luffness Mains (NT47NE 25).



Illus 2
Detail of west end of Trench 5

1.2 Objectives

The overall objectives were:

- To establish if deposits or features of archaeological interest are present on the site; and if so to assess the nature and condition of any such remains
- To test the locations of the recorded cropmarks and establish if archaeological remains are associated with them; and if so to assess the nature and condition of any such remains
- To provide enough information on any remains to recommend further mitigation measures and establish their likely scope.

1.3 Methodology

A rapid archive assessment was undertaken prior to site work. This comprised consulting existing archaeological databases for the site and surrounding area to inform the trenching. Aerial photographs showing the cropmarks were transcribed and plotted on the OS plan to assess their location in reference to the site of proposed development.

Trial trenching was required to cover 5% of the total site area. The site covered an area of 14,153m², therefore a 5% sample comprised some 707m², equivalent to 353m of linear trench using a 2m wide bucket.

The location of trenches was informed by on-site factors. The field was in crop during the evaluation so trenches were repositioned slightly to coincide with the cable location and minimise damage to the crops. Trenches were positioned along the proposed line of the trench for cabling, which also allowed part of the known cropmarks to be targeted, which would allow the limits of the underlying features to be established.

A 360° tracked excavator with a 2m wide, flat-bladed, ditching bucket was used to remove topsoil under direct archaeological control. Excavation continued until either clean geological sediments or significant archaeological deposits were encountered. The resulting surfaces were hand cleaned as necessary and investigated for archaeological features. A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified features were investigated by hand and all identified features were recorded. Features directly affected by the excavation of the cable trench were fully hand excavated. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.



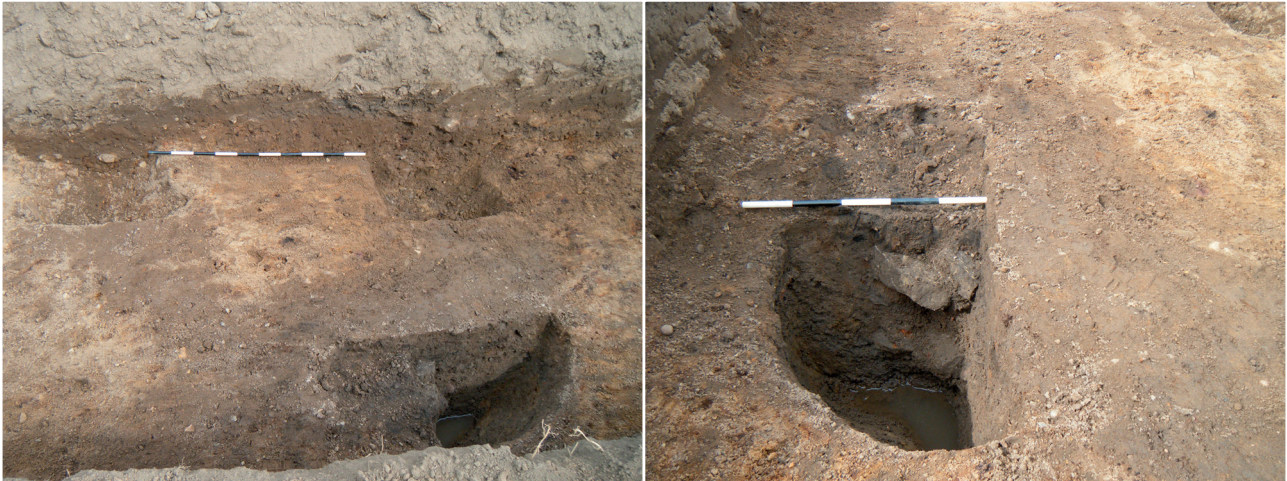
Illus 3 (top)
Trench 5, Facing W

Illus 4
Trench 5, Eastern end, Facing E

The recording conformed to Headland Archaeology Ltd standard method. All contexts and environmental samples were given unique numbers. Colour transparency, print and digital photographs were taken and recorded in a photographic register. An overall site plan was recorded using Total Station survey and related to the National Grid. The survey was complemented by hand-drawn plans and sections at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50 respectively. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record sheets. Site registers are provided in Appendix 1.

2. RESULTS

Archaeological features were present at the west end of **Trench 5** (Illus 2), (the trench numbering follows on from the previous evaluation in the wider area (Humble



Illus 5 (left)

Features [015], [017] and [019], Facing N

Illus 6 (right)

East facing section of [015]

2010) on the higher ground, within the vicinity of the cropmark. Subsoil in this area consisted of sand and gravel with charcoal patches (Illus 3). Approximately 50m from the eastern end of the trench there was a change in subsoil coinciding with a drop in ground level. Here, natural geology comprised stiff, orange, sandy clay (Illus 4).

A series of intercutting pits [015, 017 and 019] were located approximately 45m from the west end of Trench 5 (Illus 5). Pit [015] was located on the southern side of the trench (Illus 6). It was oval in plan, with steep vertical sides and a rounded base. The break of slope at the top was sharp and there was a moderate break of slope at the base. It measured 1.65m long, 0.80m wide and 0.55m deep. It was filled with compact, mid yellowish grey, sandy, gravely silt [016]. Dark organic silty lenses were observed towards the top of the fill. Pits [017] and [019] were of a similar oval shape in plan. Both pits overlapped with pit [015] at the southern ends. The full extents of these features were not established as they extended beyond the northern edge of the trench. Pit [017] was 1.2m long, 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep. It had moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. The fill [018] was mid greyish brown sandy, gravely silt, very similar in nature to [016]. Pit [019] was 1.0m long, 0.55m wide and 0.20m deep. It also had steep sides, a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break of slope at the base and a rounded base. The fill [020] was the same as deposits [016] and [018]. It was not possible to determine the relationship between the pits as all the fills were rather similar.

The southern edge of a curvilinear ditch [021] was encountered approximately 65m from the western end of Trench 5; approximately 10m east of the pit group (Illus 7). The cut [021] was 9.5m long, up to 1.5m wide and 0.40m deep. It had a U-shaped profile, with steep sides and a flat base. The fills from all four slots excavated through the feature [022, 023, 024 and 025], comprised mid-greyish brown coarse, silty sand. A fragment of pottery was recovered from the ditch fill [025].

An oval pit [026] 2.5m long, 1.15m wide and 0.32m deep cut through the ditch on the northern edge. The pit had concave sides and an irregular base. It was filled with a loosely compacted, mid brown topsoil [027] containing



Illus 7

General shot of [021]

disarticulated animal bones (Illus 8).

Remains of circular pit [028] lay directly to the north of the ditch. The pit was 0.70m long, 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep, its exact extents were unclear as it extended beyond the limits of excavation. It was filled with greyish brown sandy silt [029].

A second ditch [030], aligned north to south, was encountered 32m from the western end of Trench 5, approximately 18m west of the group of pits. The length of the ditch was unknown as it extended beyond the limit of excavation. It was 1.05m wide and 0.45m deep. The sides of the cut were moderately sloping and the base was gently rounded. There were gradual breaks of slope at the top and bottom. The primary fill [031], was 0.30m thick, it comprised mid yellowish grey, sandy, gravely silt containing occasional charcoal inclusions. The secondary fill [032] was similar in nature to the underlying deposit [031] and also consisted of mid yellowish brown, sandy, gravely silt containing occasional charcoal fragments.

A small ditch [033] on a northwest-southeast alignment was located 15m from the western end of Trench 5 (Illus 9). It was 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep. It was not possible to establish the length of the ditch as it extended beyond the limits of excavation. The ditch was filled with a mid yellowish grey sandy silt [034] containing occasional charcoal fragments. A posthole [035], sub-square in plan, with vertical sides and a flat base, cut in to the eastern site of the ditch. It was filled with a mid yellowish grey sandy silt [036] containing occasional charcoal fragments. The relationship between the features was not clear as the fill of the post-hole was indistinguishable from the ditch fill.

No archaeology was encountered in **Trenches 6 or 7.**

3. FINDS ASSESSMENT

Julie Lochrie

A very small group of finds was collected from the evaluation at Luffness Mains, East Lothian. These included 1g of possible iron slag and three sherds of coarse pottery. The pottery appears to be later prehistoric in date and the possible iron slag is presumably Iron Age or later. The pottery is thick, coarse and with large granite inclusions. It is likely all three sherds are from the same vessel. The only feature of note is that the larger sherd is slightly everted, but there are no features which would



Illus 8

E facing section [021] at Slot B, showing the fill of pit [025]

help refine its dating.

4. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

Davie Masson

4.1 Introduction

Ten samples were taken during the evaluation at Luffness Mains, six of which were processed for palaeoenvironmental assessment. The samples were taken from a curvilinear feature, pits and ditches identified during the evaluation. The assessment aims to look to see what potential there is for palaeoenvironmental analysis of the material and radiocarbon dating.

4.2 Method

Samples were processed in laboratory conditions using a standard floatation method (*cf. Kenward et al., 1980*). All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x 10 and up to x 100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al.* (2006).

4.3 Results

The results of the sample processing are provided in Tables A4.1 (Retent finds) and A4.2 (Flotation finds).

Suitable material for AMS dating is also identified within each table. All plant remains were preserved through charring.

Plant remains

Wild Taxa

Only two wild taxa, *Persicaria sp.* (knotweed) and *Chenopodium sp.* (goosefoot) were found, which were present in three samples (04, 05 and 10). A small quantity of charred hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments were also recovered within one sample (01).

Charcoal fragments

Charcoal was found in all six samples, with all samples with the exception of one (sample 05) containing fragments of a size suitable for identification and AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) radiocarbon dating. No samples were found to contain abundant charcoal fragments and preliminary identification of fragments showed three samples (01, 04 and 10) to contain oak charcoal and two samples (07 and 09) to contain non-oak charcoal.

4.4 Discussion

Palaeoenvironmental potential

The palaeoenvironmental potential of the material recovered from Luffness Mains is rather poor. The presence of only a small number of wild taxa in the samples provides only a limited amount of data and is likely to relate to material being accidentally burnt in the same events producing the charcoal fragments present in the samples. The charcoal fragments from the site are again present in small quantities with only a rare amount

of fragments suitable for identification. Thus there is little potential for further charcoal analysis and plant macrofossil work, which could provide any meaningful interpretations of activities at the site.

Available material for AMS radiocarbon dating

There is material available for radiocarbon dating from five of the samples (01, 04, 07, 09 and 10), which contained suitable sized charcoal fragments. However, the presence of only small quantities of charcoal suggests caution should be exercised in selecting material for dating as the charcoal may reflect secondary material washed or blown into features. Sample 04 was found to contain the largest quantity of charcoal and is therefore suggested to represent the most secure dating material.

4.5 Conclusion

- The material recovered from the samples was found to offer limited palaeoenvironmental potential.
- There is material available for AMS radiocarbon dating for the site with charcoal fragments from Sample 04 offering the best choice for dating.

5. DISCUSSION

Laura Scott

Archaeological remains were only present in Trench 5. It appears that the change in natural geology was probably a significant factor in the location of the archaeology in this area. The remains appear to be concentrated on slightly higher ground where fine sandy gravel subsoil prevails.

No archaeological features could be directly related to the identified cropmark. However, it is probable that the features do relate to the putative prehistoric activity evidenced by the cropmarks.

The function and date of the intercutting pit group is not known. No dating material was present within the fill of any of the pits though charcoal and small pieces of iron slag were recovered from the environmental samples.

The recovery of a fragment of coarse pottery suggests a prehistoric date for the curvilinear ditch. The presence of pottery within the feature suggests that there may have been domestic activity in the area during the prehistoric period. It appears that the pit [026] cutting the ditch may represent a later phase of agricultural activity within the area.



Illus 9
Ditch [033] (and Posthole [035])

Although no dating evidence was obtained from the pit fill [027], the nature of the deposit filling the pit and the appearance of the animal bone suggests that the animal bone may be of fairly recent date. Wild taxa and possible iron slag were also recovered from this deposit.

It is possible that ditch [030] may form the west side of a large enclosure. The primary fill of the ditch was interpreted as natural silting within the open ditch. The secondary fill may reflect the final levelling and filling of the ditch due to ploughing.

Ditch [033] also appears to have silted up naturally. The lack of domestic debris or finds within the ditch may suggest that they relate to types of features such as agricultural ditches that have gradually silted up.

The archaeological features encountered during the evaluation yielded very little artefactual evidence, the only finds being fragments of prehistoric pottery from the fill of ditch [021]. This lack of finds may be an indicator of the date of settlement activity. If the activity was early prehistoric it is likely that there may have been more domestic debris, such as flint and pottery. It is therefore possible that the settlement activity dates to the later prehistoric period although this is largely conjectural at this stage.

6. CONCLUSION

The evaluation recorded features that may be related to domestic settlement on the higher levels of ground in the areas with sand and gravel subsoil.

The features will be preserved *in situ* and all appropriate measures will be taken in order to ensure that intrusive groundworks will not impact upon the unexcavated features. This has been agreed with the client and ELCAS.

7. REFERENCES

- Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker, R.M. and Jans, J.E.A., 2006, *Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands*. Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library: Groningen.
- Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, 2010, *Luffness Mains, East Lothian: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological Investigation*. Unpublished client report, Edinburgh
- Kenward, H.K., Hall, A.R. and Jones, A.K.G., 1980, 'A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal microfossils from waterlogged archaeological deposits' *Science and Archaeology*. [22] 3-15.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context register

Context no.	Area	Description
001–014	–	Previous evaluation (Job 001)
015	Trench 5	Steep-sided oval pit
016	Trench 5	Fill of [015]
017	Trench 5	Shallow feature intercutting with [015]
018	Trench 5	Fill of [017]
019	Trench 5	Shallow feature intercutting with [015]
020	Trench 5	Fill of [019]
021	Trench 5	Cut of curvilinear feature
022	Trench 5	Fill of [021] in Slot A
023	Trench 5	Fill of [021] in Slot B
024	Trench 5	Fill of [021] in Slot C
025	Trench 5	Fill of [021] in Slot D
026	Trench 5	Cut of oval pit
027	Trench 5	Fill of [026]
028	Trench 5	Cut of small pit
029	Trench 5	Fill of [028]
030	Trench 5	Ditch
031	Trench 5	Primary fill of [030]
032	Trench 5	Upper fill of [030]
033	Trench 5	Ditch
034	Trench 5	Fill of [33]
035	Trench 5	Post-hole cut into side of [33]
036	Trench 5	Fill of [35]

Sample register

Sample no.	Context no.	Description
01	022	Fill of [021] Slot A
02	023	Fill of [021] Slot B
03	024	Fill of [021] Slot C
04	025	Fill of [021] Slot D
05	027	Fill of [026]
06	029	Fill of [028]
07	016	Fill of [015]
08	018	Fill of [017]
09	031	Primary fill of Ditch [030]
10	034	Fill of Ditch [033]

Photo Register

Photo no.	Colour print	Colour slide	Digital	Facing	Description
1-12	-	-	1	-	Previous evaluation (Job 1)
13	4/24	3/36	-	-	ID Shot
14	4/23	3/35	-	-	ID Shot
15	4/22	3/34	2	NE	Working shot – trenching
16	-	3/33	3	NE	Working shot – trenching
17	4/21	3/32	4	E	Trench 5
18	4/20	3/31	5	W	Trench 5 (standing in middle)
19	4/19	3/30	6	E	E end of Trench 5
20	4/18	3/29	7	W	E end of Trench 5
21	4/17	3/28	8	E	Trench 6
22	4/16	3/27	9	W	Trench 6
23	4/15	3/26	10	S	Trench 7
24	4/14	3/25	11	N	Trench 7
25	4/13	3/24	12	N	Features [015, 017 and 019]
26	4/12	3/23	13	W	[015] E facing section
27	4/11	3/22	14	N	[015] S facing section
28	4/10	3/21	15	S	Features [015, 017 and 019]
29	4/9	3/20	16	E	General Shot [021]
30	4/8	3/19	17	W	General Shot [021]
31	4/7	3/18	18	S	N-facing section [021] at Slot D
32	4/6	3/17	19	W	E-facing section [021] at Slot C
33	4/5	3/16	20	W	E-facing section [021] at Slot B
34	4/4	3/15	21	N	Ditch [030]
35	4/3	3/14	22	W	Ditch [030]

Photo no.	Colour print	Colour slide	Digital	Facing	Description
36	4/2	3/13	23	E	N-facing section of pit [028]
37	4/1	3/12	24	SE	NW-facing section [021], Slot A
38	5/24	–	–	–	ID Shot
39	5/23	3/11	25	S	N-facing section of Pit 026
40	5/22	3/10	26	NW	Ditch [033] (and Post-hole [035])
41	5/21	3/9	27	N	Ditch [033] (and Post-hole [035])

Drawing Register

Drawing no.	Scale	Description
1	1:100	Plan of Trench 5 (3 sheets)
2	1:100	Plan of Trench 6 (2 sheets)
3	1:100	Plan of Trench 7 (1 sheet)

Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Luffness Mains, East Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	LMLY09
PARISH:	Aberlady
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	L. Scott
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NT47NE25
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Ditches and pits
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	–
NGR	NT 4844 7999
START DATE (this season)	5/7/10
END DATE (this season)	8/7/10
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	J. Humble (2010)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology conducted an evaluation at Luffness Mains, Longniddry, East Lothian, to test the archaeological potential of an area of land and establish the location and extent of archaeological remains associated with crop marks identified on aerial photographs. The work was commissioned by BHC Ltd and undertaken in response to a planning condition in advance of development for wind turbines. Three trenches were excavated across the development area with targeted trenching along the line of the proposed cable run. Several features including ditches and groups of pits were uncovered within one of the trenches, located on an area of relatively high ground with natural sand and gravel subsoil. Although limited finds and environmental evidence was obtained from the features, the recovery of a prehistoric pottery fragment from one of the ditches suggests that the features may be evidence of settlement activity in the prehistoric period. Although the features could not be directly related to the identified cropmark it is probable that the features do relate to the putative prehistoric activity evidenced by the cropmarks.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	–
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/ deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	BHC Ltd
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	–
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	laura.scott@headlandarchaeology.com

Appendix 3 – Finds Catalogue

Context no.	Sample no.	Material	Qty	Weight (g)	Object	Description	Period
025	4	MWD	–	0.5	Slag	A very small amount of some possible Fe Slag fragments	–
016	7	MWD	–	0.5	Slag	A very small amount of some possible Fe Slag fragments	–
025	–	Pottery	3	–	Prehistoric	Coarseware. Large, thick, slightly everted body sherd and two smaller sherds which conjoin. Fabric is coarse with large granite inclusions	Prehistoric

Appendix 4 – Environmental Tables

Table A4.1 Retent sample results

Context no.	Sample no.	Feature	Sample vol (l)	Charred plant remains (nutshell)	Charcoal		Material available for AMS dating	Comments
					Qty	Max size (cm)		
022	01	Fill of a curvilinear feature[021] in Slot A	10	+	+	1	Charcoal +, charred nutshell +	The charcoal was oak
025	04	Fill of a curvilinear feature [021] in Slot D	10	-	+++	1	Charcoal +	The charcoal was oak
027	05	Fill of a small pit [028]	10	-	-	-	-	-
016	07	Fill of a steep-sided oval pit [15]	10	-	+	1	Charcoal +	The charcoal was non-oak
031	09	Primary fill of ditch [030]	10	-	+	1	Charcoal +	The charcoal was non-oak
034	10	Fill of ditch [033]	10	-	+	1	Charcoal +	The charcoal was oak

Table A4.2 Flotation sample results

Context no.	Sample no.	Feature	Total flot vol (ml)	Other charred plant remains	Charcoal qty	Charcoal max size (cm)	Comments
022	01	Fill of a curvilinear feature[021] in Slot A	<10		+	<1	Charcoal too small to identify
025	04	Fill of a curvilinear feature [021] in Slot D	15	Persicaria sp +	++	<1	Charcoal too small to identify
029	05	Fill of a small pit [028]	10	Chenopodium sp +	+	<1	Charcoal too small to identify
016	07	Fill of a steep-sided oval pit [15]	20		+	<1	Charcoal too small to identify
031	09	Primary fill of a ditch [030]	<10		+	<1	Charcoal too small to identify
034	10	Fill of a ditch [033]	10	Chenopodium sp +	++	<1	Charcoal too small to identify

Key
 + rare
 ++ occasional
 +++ common
 ++++ abundant

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating