

LSEA19



LAND BETWEEN LAINSHAW STABLES AND LAINSHAW MAINS, STEWARTON, EAST AYRSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PLANNING REF. 19/0649/PP

commissioned by Gladman Scotland

November 2019

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PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **LSEA19** / NGR **NS 4095 4548** / Parish **Stewarton** / Local Authority **East Ayrshire** / OASIS Ref. **headland1-369718**

PROJECT TEAM:

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part of the **RSK** Group



PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land between Lainshaw Stables and Lainshaw Mains, Stewarton, East Ayrshire in support of a planning application for development of the site by Gladman Scotland. Trial trenching of 52 trenches amounting to 2,432m linear revealed evidence for post-medieval/19th century agricultural activity in the form of plough furrows and drainage. No features of archaeological interest were present.

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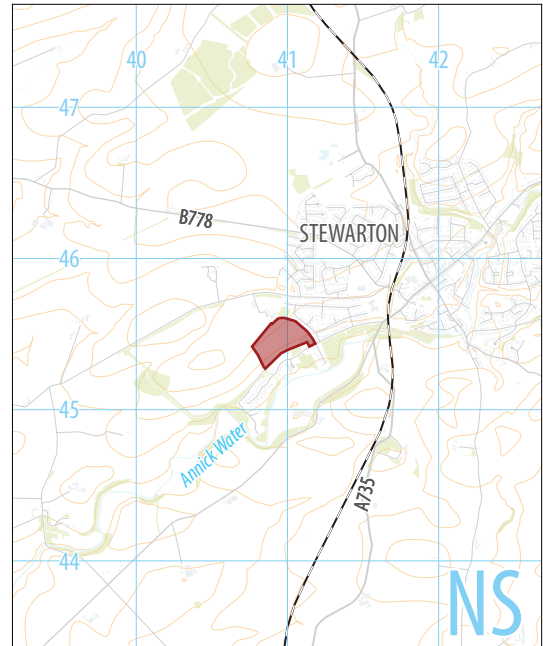
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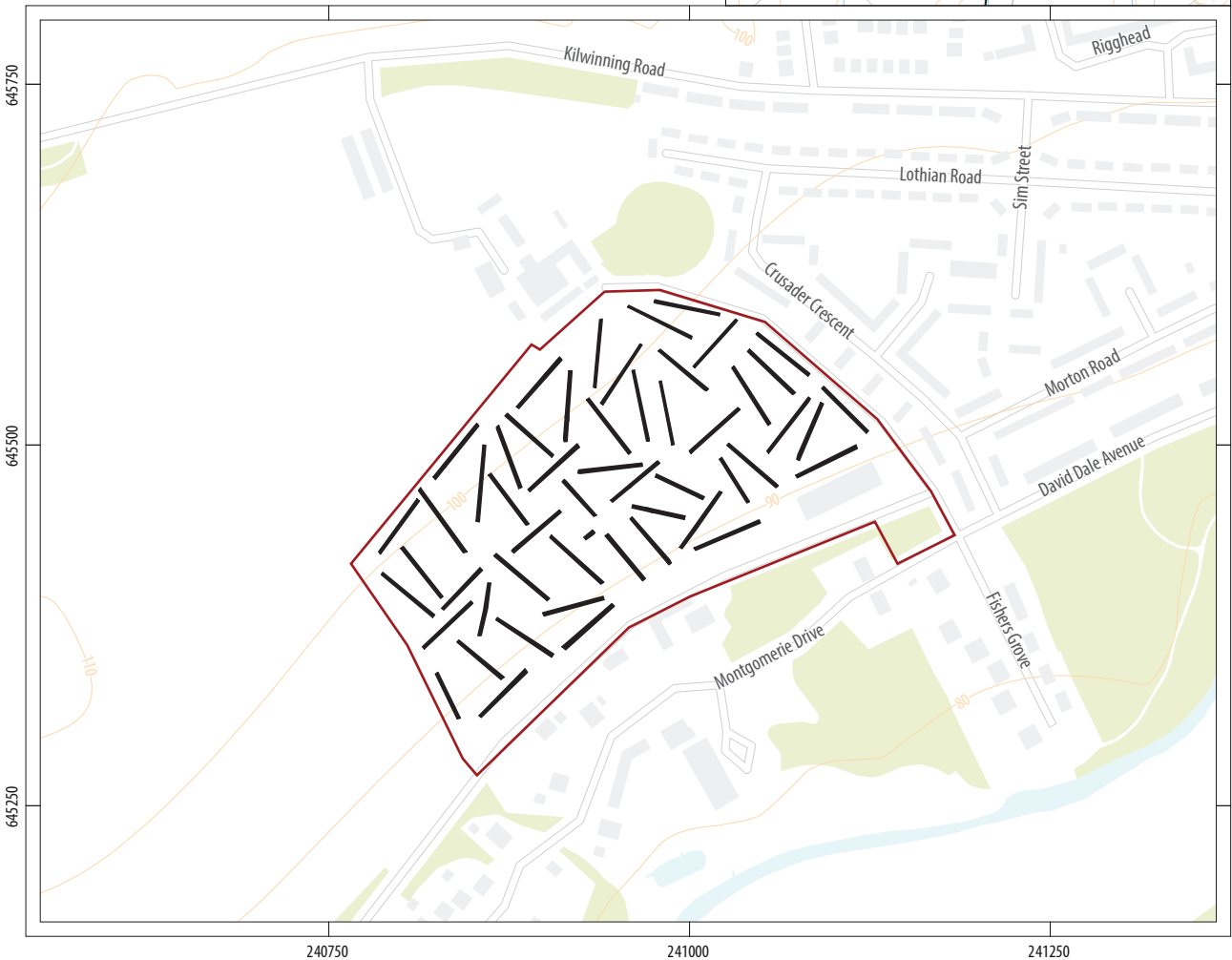
Land between Lainshaw Stables
and Lainshaw Mains,
Stewarton
East Ayrshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



NS



645750
645500
645250

240750 241000 241250

0 100m
1:5,000 @ A4

development boundary
trench location

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ILLUS 1 Site location

LAND BETWEEN LAINSHAW STABLES AND LAINSHAW MAINS, STEWARTON, EAST AYRSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Gladman Scotland (the developer) to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching. This was to support a planning application for the construction of a housing development on land between Lainshaw Stables and Lainshaw Mains, Stewarton, East Ayrshire. The work was carried out in accordance with the approach recommended in paragraph 20–22 of Planning Advice Note 2/2011 (PAN 2/2011) in order to satisfy a condition of planning permission in principal (ref: 19/0649/PP). The programme of archaeological work constitutes the first phase of archaeological works.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (CFA 2019) defined the scope of the evaluation and this was submitted for agreement with West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS), the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (East Ayrshire Council). The aim of this evaluation was to determine the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, and to quantify the likely costs of appropriate mitigation measures should the application be approved. The results of the field evaluation will be submitted to the planning authority before it reaches a decision regarding the application.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development site covers 5.6ha of land located on the western outskirts of Stewarton, East Ayrshire (centred on NGR: NS 4095 4548). The area is bounded to the south by a lane north of Montgomerie Drive and to the east by a field boundary running parallel with Crusader Crescent. To the north is Lainshaw Mains and a hedge lined track and to the west was a field boundary (Illus 1).

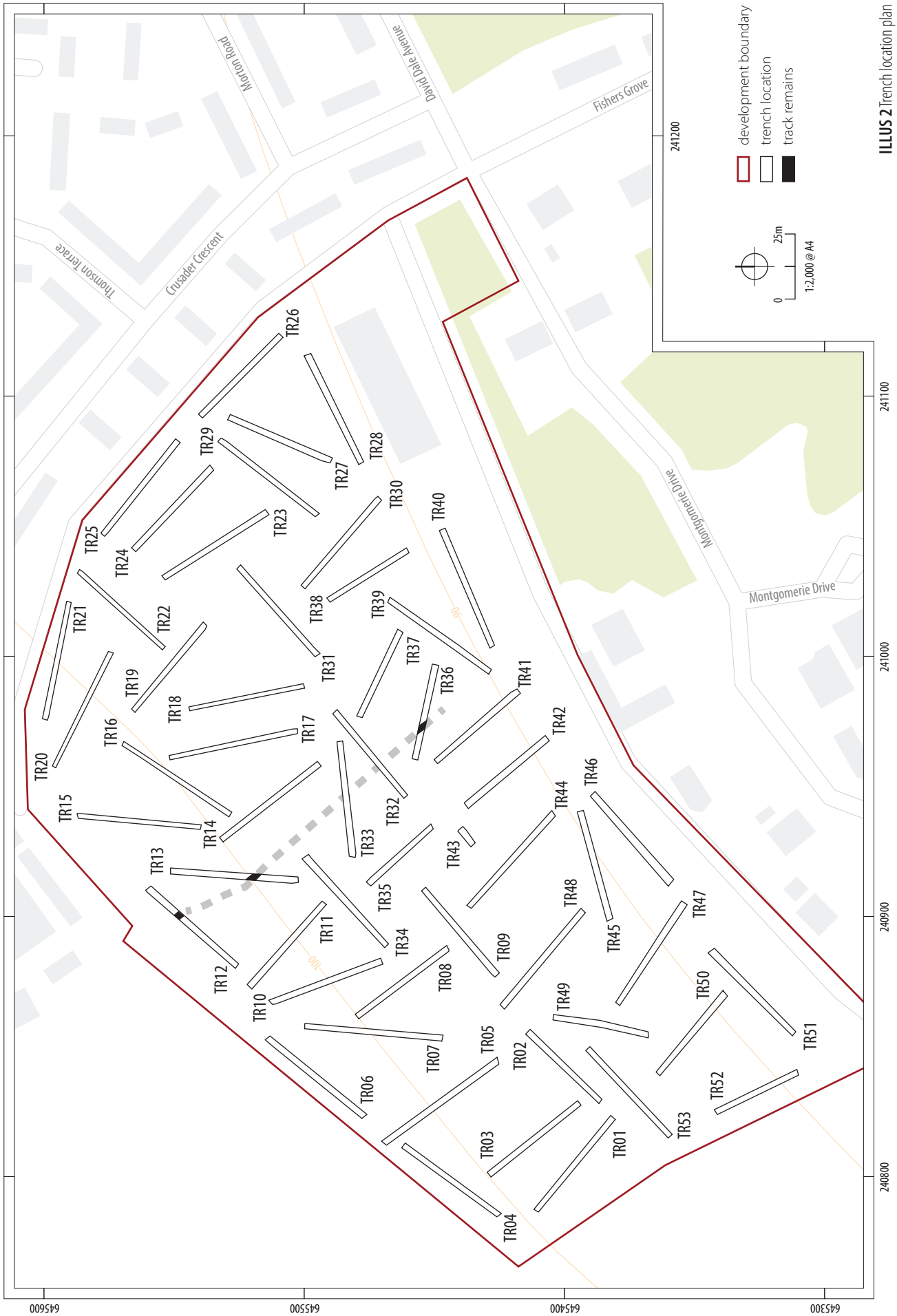
Prior to works commencing the proposed development area comprised a large arable field. The topography of the site displayed a gradually inclining north to south aligned slope, with the site lying between 100m AOD and 85m AOD. The geology of the area consisted of superficial deposits of glacial till, comprising clay, silt and sand underlain by sedimentary rock of the Kilbirnie Mudstone member (NERC 2019).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the boundaries of the former designed landscape associated with Lainshaw House. Although this is not included in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes maintained by Historic Environment Scotland, it was identified in the survey of gardens and designed landscapes in Ayrshire, conducted by the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan in 2007. This suggested that the origins of the landscape could be traced to at least the mid-18th century.

The proposed development site is positioned between Lainshaw Stables (Canmore 42918, LB 41078) to the south and Lainshaw Mains (Canmore 203914, LB 41079) to the north. These both have entries in the National Record of the Historic Environment (www.pastmap.org.uk) and are also both listed buildings. These two buildings are both associated with Lainshaw House (Canmore 42917, LB 41076) which has its origins in the 15th/16th century. The stables and farm are likely to date to the late 18th century after the house was leased to Sir William Cunningham who had made his fortune in America from tobacco.

The farm is an important post-improvement period farm, one of many constructed after the 1740's when the era of improvement farming began. The New Statistical Account of 1845 (www.stataccscot.edina.ac.uk) notes that 'little wheat is raised in the parish, except by Mr Cunninghame of Lainshaw, who cultivates



ILLUS 2 Trench location plan



ILLUS 3 View of the wet conditions

it to a considerable extent.' This may account for the difference in the plan of this farm from the more usual U-plan dairy farms of the surrounding area, in that more storage space would be required. The New Statistical Account also notes that 'by far the best system of cultivation practiced here, was introduced and is still carried on by Mr Cunninghame of Lainshaw.

Lainshaw is depicted on Roy's Military map of 1752–55 and Armstrong's New map of Ayrshire (1775) but neither depict the farm or stables. Roy's map implies the land north of the house was being cultivated at this time. Lainshaw Stables and Lainshaw Mains is first depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1857). This map shows a track dissecting the field between the two buildings. Later maps show little change from this period onwards.

No previous archaeological interventions have been carried out across the proposed development area. A program of targeted archaeological investigation works was carried out across the grounds of Lainshaw House in 2005/2006 (Gordon 2006). This included a 5% evaluation consisting of 12 trenches. These revealed a number of relatively modern drainage features including rubble and tile drains. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded during the works.

2 METHOD

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the trial trench evaluation was to obtain useful information concerning the presence, character, date and level of preservation of surviving archaeological remains. The results would then enable the curatorial authority to determine the impact of the proposed development on any recorded archaeological resource and to discuss the necessity for the preservation or recording where necessary of any archaeological features or finds identified.

2.2 FIELD METHODOLOGY

The trial trench evaluation comprised an approximate 8% sample of 5.6 hectares of arable land. This equated to 2,500m linear (or 5,000m²). All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Excavation continued until clean geological sediments or archaeological deposits were encountered. Excavation of archaeological features and deposits within the trench continued by hand until the objectives of the evaluation were satisfied. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

All recording was in line with the ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations (ClfA 2014), and in accordance with the approved WSI. All trenches and contexts were given unique numbers, and all recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards (Appendix 1). An overall site plan at an



ILLUS 4 Trench 19 showing the underlying geology

appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey using a differential GPS. A full photographic record comprising digital photography was taken and a graduated metric scale was clearly visible in all images. A full list of the photographs can be found in Appendix 1.

2.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

This report collates the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined above. The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to Discovery & Excavation in Scotland (Appendix 2) and the Archaeology Data Service OASIS database (headland1-369718).

The complete project archive will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum (2011).

3 RESULTS

3.1 FIELDWORK

The fieldwork was carried out between the 1st and 8th October 2019 during spells of mixed weather conditions.

Full trench descriptions, including orientation, length and depth are presented in Appendix 1. A total of 53 trenches were planned (Illus 2) although one trench had to be abandoned (Trench 22) due to the wet conditions in this area (Illus 3). The trenches were evenly spread across the proposed development site providing good coverage of the area as a whole. The majority of these were between 40 and 50m long although several had to be slightly shortened due to limitations of space and the need to move trenches from their planned positions. One of the trenches also had to be abandoned (Trench 43) after the initial 10m due to the wet conditions. The total excavated area therefore amounted to 2,432m linear (or 4,864m²).

All the trenches contained deposits of topsoil overlying geological sediments. The thickness of the topsoil was relatively even across the site, being largely between 0.30m and 0.40m, with a maximum depth of 0.60m. The topsoil was generally thicker in the lower lying areas of the site to the south. The undisturbed geological sediments mainly comprised mottled mid-yellow/grey compact sandy clay with moderate to frequent small stone inclusions (Illus 4) although areas of a darker blue/grey clay were also encountered. Across the higher ground to the north a coarse sand was recorded.

In Trench 12 a north/south aligned deposit of darker sandy clay with broken concrete lumps was recorded (Illus 5). This was 3m wide and 0.30m below the surface. In Trenches 13, 32, and 36 further deposits of dark grey brown material were recorded on the same alignment as the deposit in trench 12, although in these other trenches no concrete lumps were identified. These deposits



ILLUS 5 Remains of the track identified in Trench 12 **ILLUS 6** Trench 27 Showing one of the rubble drains

were thought to represent the remains of a track known to have been present in this area.

Several of the trenches recorded plough furrows from rig and furrow cultivation. These were all aligned roughly north/south and were predominately recorded to the southern half of the site, particularly in the south-west corner. Where they were visible these were generally 1.5m wide and between 2.5m and 5m apart. Additional agricultural activity was observed in the form of field drains. These were spread across the entire field but seemed to be more prevalent within the central section of the field. The drains were a mix of rubble and tile drains. The rubble drains predominated and may relate to several phases of drainage of the field as different styles were identified. Several of the rubble drains incorporated smaller rounded cobbles and at least two included larger masonry rubble. The majority were of poorly sorted angular stone (Illus 6). The tile drains were all the same style.

4 DISCUSSION

A track had been depicted on the 1st edition ordnance survey aligned north/south across this field. The darker sandy clay deposits identified in trenches 12, 13, 32 and 36 are on a similar alignment to this track and are likely to represent the remains of this feature. The fragmentary remains of these deposits would imply that it has been heavily truncated by modern ploughing.

The cartographic evidence implies that the fields in this area had been under cultivation from at least the late 18th century. Although no dating evidence was recovered the occasional evidence of rig and furrow ploughing and the predominance of field drains attest to a prolonged period of agricultural activity up to the present day. It is likely that many of the drains were inserted during the period of improvement initiated after the establishment of Lainshaw Mains in the late 18th century.

No evidence for former a former designed landscape was evident during this investigation.

5 REFERENCES

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- Cartographic sources*
- Armstrong Andrew 1775 *A new map of Ayrshire* <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74400947>
- Roys military map 1752–55 <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15&lat=55.6804&lon=-4.5141&layers=4&b=1>

Ayrshire XII.12 (Stewarton) *Survey date 1856 Publication 1857* <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74963638>

Ayrshire XII.12 (Stewarton) *Publication date 1897 revised 1895* <https://maps.nls.uk/view/82866876>

Ayrshire XII.12 (Stewarton) *Publication date 1910 Revised 1908* <https://maps.nls.uk/view/82866879>

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

TRENCH	ALIGNMENT	L (M)	DESCRIPTION OF FEATURES	MAX D (M)
01	N/S	45	Two rubble drains cutting geology	0.5
02	E/W	40	One rubble drain, one tile drain and two field drains	0.45
03	N/S	45	No features	0.4
04	E/W	45	One field drain and two N/S aligned furrows	0.5
05	N/S	50	One rubble drain	0.5
06	E/W	50	Five rubble drains, one tile drains and a clay filled drain	0.45
07	NE/SW	50	Four rubble drains, one tile drain and one clay filled drain	0.45
08	N/S	50	Three field drains and one tile drain	0.45
09	E/W	45	Three field drains including one tile and one rubble	0.5
10	N/S	50	Two field drains including one tile drain	0.4
11	N/S	50	Two field drains	0.5
12	E/W	50	A 2m wide N/S aligned sand filled with broken concrete lumps plus one rubble drain	0.4
13	NE/SW	50	A 2m wide N/S aligned sand filled area of darker clayey sand plus one rubble drain	0.35
14	N/S	50	No features	0.35
15	NE/SW	50	Two rubble drains	0.4
16	E/W	50	Two rubble drains, one tile drain and a field drain plus two N/S aligned furrows	0.4
17	NE/SW	50	Three field drains including one rubble and one tile	0.4
18	NE/SW	50	One rubble drain and one N/S aligned furrow (possibly a field drain)	0.45
19	N/S	50	One field drain	0.35
20	N/S	50	One rubble drain	0.3
21	N/S	50	One field drain	0.35
22	–	–	Abandoned due to wet conditions	–
23	N/S	50	No features	0.35
24	N/S	45	One field drain	0.35
25	N/S	45	No features	0.3
26	N/S	50	Two field drains	0.3
27	NE/SW	45	Two field drains and six N/S aligned furrows 1m wide and approximately 3m apart	0.3

TRENCH	ALIGNMENT	L (M)	DESCRIPTION OF FEATURES	MAX D (M)
28	E/W	50	No features	0.25
29	E/W	45	Two field drains and six N/S aligned furrows 1m wide and approximately 2.5m apart	0.3
30	N/S	50	One rubble drain and one tile drain	0.2
31	E/W	50	Three rubble drains	0.35
32	E/W	45	Three rubble drains and a small area of broken stone in the south edge of the trench	0.45
33	NW/SE	47	One rubble drain	0.35
34	E/W	50	Three field drains including two rubble plus three furrows 1.5m wide and 3m apart	0.35
35	N/S	40	Two field drains and one rubble drain	0.4
36	NW/SE	40	Area of dark soil aligned N/S, possibly associated with the track	0.3
37	N/S	40	Four rubble drains and one tile drain	0.4
38	N/S	45	One rubble drain	0.35
39	NE/SW	50	Five rubble drains and one tile drain	0.5
40	E/W	50	Four rubble drains and one tile drain	0.4
41	N/S	45	One field drain	0.4
42	N/S	45	One rubble drain	0.4
43	E/W	10	Abandoned due to wet conditions	0.3
44	N/S	50	Two rubble drains	0.4
45	NW/SE	50	Three rubble drains	0.45
46	E/W	50	No features	0.4
47	N/S	50	No features	0.4
48	N/S	50	No features	0.4
49	NE/SW	40	Two field drains (including one rubble drain)	0.45
50	N/S	40	Three field drains including one rubble	0.4
51	E/W	50	One rubble drain and five furrows 2m wide and approximately 10m apart	0.5
52	N/S	45	No features	0.4
53	E/W	50	Two rubble drains	0.4

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

PHOTO	FACING	DESCRIPTION
LSEA-01	W	Trench 51
LSEA-02	N	Trench 50
LSEA-03	N	Trench 52
LSEA-04	W	Trench 53
LSEA-05	N	Trench 1

PHOTO	FACING	DESCRIPTION
LSEA-06	N	Trench 3
LSEA-07	W	Trench 4
LSEA-08	N	Trench 5
LSEA-09	W	Trench 2
LSEA-10	SW	Trench 49
LSEA-11	N	Trench 47
LSEA-12	E	Trench 46
LSEA-13	SE	Trench 45
LSEA-14	—	Working shot
LSEA-15	—	Working shot
LSEA-16	N	Trench 48
LSEA-17	W	Trench 6
LSEA-18	NE	Trench 7
LSEA-19	N	Trench 8
LSEA-20	E	Trench 9
LSEA-21	N	Trench 44
LSEA-22	N	Trench 41
LSEA-23	N	Trench 42
LSEA-24	N	Trench 35
LSEA-25	W	Trench 34
LSEA-26	SW	Trench 10
LSEA-27	—	View of trench excavations
LSEA-28	—	View of trench excavations
LSEA-29	S	Trench 11
LSEA-30	W	Trench 12
LSEA-31	N	View of path remains in Tr 12
LSEA-32	E	View of path remains in Tr 12
LSEA-33	NE	Trench 13
LSEA-34	N	View of path remains in Tr 13
LSEA-35	N	Trench 14
LSEA-36	SW	View of trench excavations
LSEA-37	SE	Trench 33

PHOTO	FACING	DESCRIPTION
LSEA-38	E	Trench 40
LSEA-39	NE	Trench 39
LSEA-40	NW	Trench 36
LSEA-41	W	Trench 32
LSEA-42	E	Stone in Trench 32
LSEA-43	S	Stone in Trench 32
LSEA-44	NW	Trench 33
LSEA-45	N	Trench 37
LSEA-46	N	Trench 38
LSEA-47	E	Trench 28
LSEA-48	NE	Trench 27
LSEA-49	N	Trench 26
LSEA-50	S	Trench 25
LSEA-51	E	Trench 29
LSEA-52	E	Trench 31
LSEA-53	N	Trench 24
LSEA-54	NE	Trench 23
LSEA-55	W	View of trenches
LSEA-56	—	View of wet area of field
LSEA-57	S	Trench 21
LSEA-58	S	Trench 20
LSEA-59	N	Trench 19
LSEA-60	NE	Trench 18
LSEA-61	NE	Trench 17
LSEA-62	W	Trench 16
LSEA-63	NE	Trench 15
LSEA-64	SE	View of trenches
LSEA-65	S	View of trenches
LSEA-66	NE	View of trenches
LSEA-67	N	View of trenches

APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land between Lainshaw stables and Lainshaw Mains, Stewarton, East Ayrshire
PROJECT CODE:	LSEA19
PARISH:	Stewarton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/a
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 4095 4548
START DATE (this season)	01st Oct 2019
END DATE (this season)	08th Oct 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an archaeological trial-trench evaluation on land between Lainshaw Stables and Lainshaw Mains, Stewarton, East Ayrshire in support of a planning application for development of the site by Gladman. Trial trenching of 52 trenches amounting to 2,432m linear revealed evidence for post-medieval/19th century agricultural activity in the form of plough furrows and drainage.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Gladman
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Historic Environment Scotland



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