

Cramond Walled Garden Test-Pitting: Report

1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological test-pitting was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group within the Scheduled Area (Index No.2526, scheduling date 21st January 1998) of Cramond Roman Fort (NMRS: NT17NE 3.00), in advance of the extension of an existing play park (Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr. John Lawson (City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service) on behalf of the Historic Cramond Management Group and the City of Edinburgh Council (Culture and Leisure Department). The archaeological works were designed to meet fully the requirements of the project brief as prepared by Mr Lawson of CECAS in consultation with Historic Scotland.
- 1.3 As the construction of the new play park was to be undertaken within the Scheduled area of Cramond Roman Fort (SAM 2526), a nationally significant site afforded statutory protection as defined re AMAA (1979), Scheduled Monument Consent (AMH/2526/1/1) was applied for resulting in *Final Consent* being granted prior to the work commencing.
- 1.4 The four test-pits were excavated over the precise location of the support posts for the play park play equipment.
- 1.5 Neither significant archaeological feature nor artefacts were unearthed by this work.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The programme of test-pitting was undertaken on behalf of Historic Cramond Management Group and the City of Edinburgh Council (Culture and Leisure), within the former Cramond Walled Garden (NGR: NT 1909 7677). The work was instigated as part of the Cramond Management Plan and was undertaken in identifying the potential for unrecorded archaeological features lying within the area of a proposed play park extension.
- 2.1.2 This most recent work follows on from a programme of works undertaken in the area by AOC Archaeology in 2006, as part of the Historic Cramond Management Plan. These included the evaluation of specific areas including the ground within stone-built 19th century kennels, the previously excavated Roman bath-house and within local authority owned ground adjacent to Cramond Kirk which had been subject to earlier archaeological investigation (Cook 2006; Engl 2007).
- 2.1.3 All fieldwork proposals within the Scheduled Area of Cramond fort were approved by Historic Scotland prior to the works being initiated. The

Cramond Walled Garden Test-Pitting: Report

development site lies within the administrative area of City of Edinburgh Council. The planning authority is advised on archaeological and heritage issues by Mr Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

2.2 Archaeological background

- 2.2.1 All the test-pitting works were located within the Scheduled Area of the fort, within grounds forming part of the 18th and 19th century designed landscape associated with Cramond House (NGR: NT 1902 7688). A Roman site had been long suspected at Cramond because the area had yielded a succession of finds, such as coins, pottery and inscribed stones (Stuart 1845). Early Ordnance Survey maps also indicated that some Roman remains were known here, and it is possible that they may have been upstanding to some degree until fairly recently. The Roman fort was eventually re-discovered during excavations in 1954. Several other archaeological excavations undertaken at Cramond since this time have revealed further evidence of the fort and of associated Roman activity. The western part of the fort is now occupied by residential houses on the west side of Cramond Glebe Road (Figure 1), while the east side is overlain by Cramond Kirk and Kirkyard, the Manse and other open ground in which some of the Roman foundations have been exposed and consolidated. The recently evaluated Roman bath-house (Cook 2006) is located about 100 m north of the fort and was first excavated in the mid-1970s.
- 2.2.2 A number of other excavations have been undertaken around the Roman fort at Cramond, in private gardens, on the college campus and in the parkland in which the current drainage works are set. These have found a variety of remains, including defensive ditches, building remains and sections of the Roman road approaching the fort from the south-east (Holmes 2003).

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The objectives of the test-pit survey were:
- i)* to determine the presence, character, extent and significance of any archaeological features or artefacts in areas subject to the placement of new play equipment;
 - ii)* to allow a mitigation strategy compliant with AMAA (1979) to be developed should an adverse archaeological impact be identified.

4. METHOD

- 4.1 The four test-pits were hand excavated over the location of the proposed play park equipment; their locations marking the intended position of supporting posts.

Cramond Walled Garden Test-Pitting: Report

- 4.2 The test-pits measured 1 m by 1 m in size, and were excavated in accordance with AOC Archaeology Standard Procedures (Appendix 6, Written Scheme of Investigation 2007). All the excavated material was sieved through a 10 mm mesh and the artefacts recovered by class.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out between Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th November, 2007 in a combination of wet and cold conditions.
- 5.2 The test-pits were excavated through an initial layer of turf up to 0.20 m in depth. The topsoil was composed of a dark brown, friable sandy clay with frequent inclusions of grit, shell and modern white ceramic between 0.35 - 0.45 m in depth. This overlay a B-horizon measuring between 0.25 - 0.35 m in depth which comprised a light brown clay silt with rare inclusions of modern white ceramic.
- 5.3 The total depth of the test-pits varied little, measuring between 0.70 - 0.98 m. The natural subsoil encountered comprised light brown sands and gravels. The base and sections of the test-pits were inspected for features but none were identified.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Given the absence of significant features or stratified artefacts, no further archaeological works are considered necessary.

7 REFERENCES:

AAMA 1979 *Archaeological Areas and Monuments Act*

Cook, M 2006 *Historic Cramond Management Plan: Evaluation Data Structure Report*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Group archive report.

Cook, M 2007 *Cramond Walled Garden Test-Pitting Survey: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Group archive report.

Engl, R 2007 *Cramond Management Drainage Scheme: Watching Brief Report*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology archive report

Holmes, N 2003 *Excavation of Roman Sites at Cramond, Edinburgh*. Soc Antiq Scot Monog 23, Edinburgh.

Cramond Walled Garden Test-Pitting: Report

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning*.
Scottish Office Environmental Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish
Office Environmental Department.

Stuart, R 1845. *Caledonia Romana*. Edinburgh & London.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Test-Pit 1

Dimensions: 1 m x 1 m
Max Depth: 0.98 m
Topsoil Depth: 0.45 m
Topsoil description: Dark brown friable sandy clay with frequent gritty inclusions and ceramics
'B' Horizon: 0.45 m – 0.95 m
'B' Horizon Description: Light brown clay with infrequent carbon flecking and ceramics
Natural Description: Sand and gravels
Finds: Ceramics of as yet undetermined period or type

Test-Pit 2

Dimensions: 1 m x 1 m
Max Depth: 0.75 m
Topsoil Depth: 0.30 m
Topsoil description: Dark brown friable sandy clay with frequent gritty inclusions, carbon flecking, occasional oyster shells and ceramics
'B' Horizon: 0.30 m – 0.75 m
'B' Horizon Description: Light brown clay silt with infrequent carbon flecking and ceramics
Natural Description: Very light brown sand and gravels
Finds: Ceramics of as yet undetermined period or type

Test-Pit 3

Dimensions: 1 m x 1 m
Max Depth: 0.70 m
Topsoil Depth: 0.35 m
Topsoil description: Dark brown friable sandy clay with frequent gritty inclusions, carbon flecking, occasional oyster shells and ceramics
'B' Horizon: 0.35 m – 0.70 m
'B' Horizon Description: Very compact brown clay with infrequent carbon flecking and ceramics
Natural Description: Very light brown sand and gravels
Finds: Ceramics of as yet undetermined period or type

Test-Pit 4

Dimensions: 1 m x 1 m
Max Depth: 0.75 m
Topsoil Depth: 0.40 m
Topsoil description: Dark brown friable sandy clay with frequent gritty inclusions, carbon flecking, occasional oyster shells and ceramics
'B' Horizon: 0.40m – 0.75 m
'B' Horizon Description: Mid brown clay silt with infrequent carbon flecking and ceramics
Natural Description: Very light brown sand
Finds: Ceramics of as yet undetermined period or type

Cramond Walled Garden Test-Pitting: Report

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Black & White Print & Colour slide Film 1

Shot No	Description	From
1-2	Registration	
3-4	General shot of site	SW
5-6	General shot of site	E
7-8	General shot of site	S
9-10	South facing section of Test-Pit 4	S
11-12	Stone layer and west facing section Test-Pit 1	W
13-14	East-facing section. Test-Pit 1	E

Cramond Walled Garden Test-Pitting: Report

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cramond Walled Garden Test-Pitting
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20529
PARISH:	City of Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Martin Cook & Sarah Lynchehaun
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological test-pitting
NMRS NO(S):	NMRS: NT17NE3.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cramond Roman Fort Scheduled Ancient Monument (Index No.2526)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 1909 7677
START DATE (this season)	19 th November 2007
END DATE (this season)	20 th November 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	See DES - Cook, M 2006
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological test-pitting was carried out in advance of the extension of a proposed play park at the site of the Cramond Walled Garden. The site lay within Cramond Roman Fort (NMRS: NT17NE3.00), a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Index No.2526, scheduling date 21st January 1998).</p> <p>The works were commissioned as part of the Historic Cramond Management Plan by the City of Edinburgh Council (Culture and Leisure).</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Cramond Management Group
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS