

**An archaeological evaluation at the site of the former  
Tartan Club, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh.**

**Data Structure Report**

**On behalf of:** Allan Murray Architects  
on behalf of:  
Buredi Limited  
Dolphin House  
4 Hunter Square  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1QW

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 24528 72791

**AOC Archaeology Project No:** 20443

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**Timing:** Fieldwork      September/October 2007  
Reporting      October 2007

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## 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group undertook an archaeological watching brief and evaluation on behalf of Buredi Limited at the former Tartan Club, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh.
- 1.2 No features or small finds of archaeological significance were encountered.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 Allan Murray Architects on behalf of Buredi Limited commissioned AOC Archaeology Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation on the site of the former Tartan Club, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh. These works were designed to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) as advised by Mr John Lawson in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), and Pan 42 (SOEnd 199a).

### 2.2 Location & Geology

- 2.2.1 The development area is located on the south-western side of Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT 24528 72791). It is bounded to the north by Fountainbridge and to the south by the Union Canal, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (temporary SAM No. AMJ/4507/2/1). A modern development has been built to the east, and the remains of the former McEwans Brewery lie to the west (Figure 1).
- 2.2.2 The drift geology at the proposed development site is comprised of boulder clay overlying solid geology belonging to the Cementstone Group. The Cementstone Group consists of mudstones, sandstones, cementstone bands and dark carbonaceous shales. At its base are Craiglockhart Volcanic Rocks. To the south, an east-west aligned intrusion of igneous rock hems in the proposed development area. This late Carboniferous quartz-dolerite dyke roughly follows the line of Gilmore Place (Bown & Shipley 1982).

### 2.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.3.1 Early plans by Cooper (1759), Ainslie (1780) and Kincaid (1784) depict the general area as unenclosed and under agricultural (orchard) use. A plan of the City of Edinburgh by Wood and Brown (1831) shows the development of the Union Canal along the southern side of development area with the area still remaining under orchard. By the time of Kay's Plan of Edinburgh (1836) the development area is still largely undeveloped. Buildings including a timber yard are shown to

the north-west bordering Fountainbridge, and paths or passage-ways are shown crossing the site area, both north to south and east to west. The Ordnance Survey (OS) Town Plan of Edinburgh (1849-53 shows two rope walks on either side of the development area running east to west.

- 2.3.2 The period 1850-1875 saw the intensive development of the site. The Town Plan of Edinburgh (1876-77) shows Freer Street together with numerous buildings. These structures are unnamed and information as to their exact purpose and function remains uncertain. It is probable that they represent both industrial and domestic buildings. The western rope-walk had by now disappeared and development now enveloped the remaining rope-walk. The development to the east of this rope-walk appears to follow the line of an old passage-way shown on earlier maps. An un-named road runs parallel to the canal before joining Freer Street. This is heavily built-up on both sides with numerous courtyard entrances.
- 2.3.3 By the issue of the Town Plan of Edinburgh (1893-4) the previously un-named road adjoining Freer Street is called Gilmore Park Lane. The development along the south of this lane runs along the canal tow path with their courtyards facing Gilmore Park Lane. In addition to the rope-walk, the northern side of this lane had a large engineering works of which two smithies were within the present limits of the development area. Apart from some small and ephemeral re-development, the lay-out of the site area remained the same as that shown in the Town Plan of 1876-77.
- 2.3.4 The early 20<sup>th</sup> century saw little further change. Bartholomew (1912) shows that a large rubber works (Castle Mills) had taken over the buildings to the north-west of the development area. By the time of the issue of the OS revision of 1931, Gilmore Park Lane had disappeared and the entranceway on Gilmore Park appeared sealed. Little change was noted in the layout of the buildings within the development area although a mission hall is now named at the south-western end of Freer Street.
- 2.3.5 Between 1951 and 1973 extensive demolition was undertaken within the development area with buildings on both sides of Freer Street and within the development area being cleared. Indeed Freer Street is no longer named by the issue 1973 Ordnance Survey Map. The present layout of the site has changed little to the present day. The remaining buildings are linked to the use of the development area by Scottish and Newcastle Brewery since the 1960s.
- 2.3.6 In summary until 1850 the development area is undeveloped and under agricultural (orchard) use. The period 1850-1875 saw the intensive development with buildings of a probable industrial and domestic use being built within the development area. A map from 1893-4 shows a large engineering works including two smithies within the development area.

## **2.4 Archaeological Potential**

- 2.4.1 It appeared probable that the remains of the Victorian engineering works, notably the smithies were likely to underlie the development area, especially underneath the northernmost part of the existing building. It also seemed likely that the foundations of other Victorian buildings, such as those used by the Castle Mills Rubber Works, could be encountered over the entirety of the development area.
- 2.4.2 Similarly the area's reputation as a market place and slaughtering site made it possible that, in the pre-18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century consolidation phases when the meat markets became regulated, the remains from livestock processing could have been dumped in the vicinity of the proposed development site.
- 2.4.3 Finally the possibility arose that foundations relating to use of the Union Canal may be encountered along the southern portion of the development area. However recent site investigations (Faber-Maunsell 2004) undertaken on behalf of Buredi Ltd have confirmed the presence of a large concrete machine base and brick retaining wall within the vicinity of the 'Tartan Club' portion of the building bordering the canal edge.

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
  - i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any in-situ archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
  - ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

## **4. METHOD**

- 4.1 A watching brief was undertaken on the lifting of the concrete slab associated with the demolished Tartan Club building. This was undertaken by 360° mechanical excavators using toothed ditching buckets and a breaker (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The evaluation trenches were limited to a specific area of archaeological interest within the development area. This focus took in both the possible survival of the Victorian smithies and the culverted burn. Due to the nature of the overburden the trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator using a mixture of toothed and bladed ditching buckets, under constant archaeological supervision (Figure 2 & Appendix 1).

- 4.3 The total basal trench area undertaken by the evaluation amounted to 462m<sup>2</sup>. Black & white print and colour slide photography were taken during the course of the works (Appendix 2).

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The works were carried out from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were recorded during the course of the works.
- 5.2 The trenches in the southern half of the site, to the south of the culverted burn show this area to have been heavily truncated by brick walls and concrete walls and slab down to a depth of up to 2.5 m below the present ground level. This truncation probably occurred during the period of re-development between 1951 to 1973. This period of redevelopment has thus eradicated evidence of the Victorian smithies.
- 5.3 Trench 6 to the north of the culverted burn revealed the remains of two parallel sandstone walls at its eastern end, the area between them contained a possible garden soil. These sandstone walls are apparently depicted on the OS maps of 1876-77 and 1893-94 as buildings with a small “open” space between them.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological works identified neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts. Given the negative findings no further works are considered necessary.

## 7. REFERENCES

### 7.1 Bibliographic references

Bown, CJ & Shipley, BM 1982 *South-East Scotland. Soil Survey of Scotland*. The Macauley Institute for Soil Research. Aberdeen.

Easton, D 1988 *By the Three Great Roads: A History of Tollcross, Fountainbridge and the West Port*, Aberdeen University Press.

Faber-Maunsell 2004 Geo-environmental Interpretative 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.

## 7.2 Cartographic references

1759? Cooper R *A plan of the city of Edinburgh with adjacent grounds*.

1780 Ainslie J *City of Edinburgh*

1784 Kincaid A *A Plan of the City and suburbs of Edinburgh. Edinburgh Map of Midlothian*. Edinburgh.

1831 Wood J & Brown T *Plan of the City of Edinburgh including all the Latest and Intended Improvements*. Edinburgh: Brown & Nelson.

1836 Kay J *Kay's Plan of Edinburgh*. Edinburgh.

1912 Bartholomew JG *Plan of Edinburgh and Leith*. Edinburgh: The Edinburgh Geographical Institute.

1896 OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition Edinburghshire. Sheet 111.11. scale: one inch/1:2500

1908 Edinburghshire. Sheet 111.11. scale:1:2500 Edinburgh

1931 OS Midlothian. Sheet 111.11 scale 1:2500

1948 OS Edinburgh. NT 2472 NE scale 1:1250

1951 OS Edinburgh. NT 2472 NE scale 1:1250

1973 OS Edinburgh. NT 2472 NE scale 1:1250

Soil Survey of Scotland, Sheet 7, 1982.

Geological Survey of Great Britain (Scotland) 1965 (with amendments 1999) *Sheet NT27SW*, 1:10000.

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH RECORDS

### Trench 1

Orientation: E/W  
 Dimensions: 25 x 2 m  
 Total Area: 50 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Depth of Trench: 2-2.5m.  
 Significant features: None.  
 Other: Demolition rubble; cleared to reveal concrete and brick structures including several walls and a large piece of concrete slab.

### Trench 2

Orientation: E/W  
 Dimensions: 20 x 9 m  
 Total Area: 180 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Depth of Trench: 2 m  
 Significant features: None  
 Other: Demolition rubble; cleared to reveal several concrete and brick structures including two brick manholes, a brick wall, an arrangement of cement walls, an extensive concrete base and a large expanse of reinforced concrete.

### Trench 3

Orientation: E/W  
 Dimensions: 30 x 2.5 m  
 Total Area: 75 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Depth of Trench: 0.28- 1.75 m  
 Significant features: None  
 Other: Section profile revealed a 0.07 m thick surface layer of tarmac situated above clearly defined layers of dark grey rubble (0.30 m thick), pinkish-red gravel (0.08 m thick), brick/cement building material (0.65 m thick) and blackened rubble (0.35 m thick) at the base.  
 Excavation revealed a series of modern structures: an E/W concrete wall (0.30 m in height) atop an extensive concrete layer, a 3 m long concrete slab, two parallel N/S brick and concrete walls (0.90 m and 0.85 m in height, respectively) and another dense concrete layer at the eastern terminal. Modern service trenches were also recorded.

### Trench 4

Orientation: E/W  
 Dimensions: 30 x 2.5 m  
 Total Area: 75 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Depth of Trench: 0.52-1.90 m  
 Significant features: None  
 Other: Section profile revealed a 0.07 m thick surface layer of tarmac situated above clearly defined alternating layers of loose grey rubble and pinkish-red gravel (between 0.07 m and 0.52 m below surface level), deposited on top of a 1.20 m thick layer of very loose building material (with large brick and stone inclusions) and a base layer of very fine black sooty material (0.25 m thick).  
 Excavation revealed a series of modern structures: a layer of cement and rubble atop an extensive concrete slab (>15 m in length), an E/W brick and concrete wall (0.60 m wide, 0.75 m in height) adjoining a N/S brick and concrete wall (0.75 m wide, 0.85 m in height). Modern service trenches were also recorded.

### Trench 5

Orientation: E/W  
 Dimensions: 10 x 2.5 m

Total Area: 25 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Depth of Trench: 2 m  
 Significant features: None  
 Other: Section profile revealed a layer of tarmac (0.10 m thick) situated above clearly defined layers of grey rubble (0.20 m thick), pinkish-red gravel (0.20 m thick) and a dark greyish-black rubble with stone and brick inclusions (1.10 m thick) which sits directly above the natural. Modern service trenches were also recorded.

#### **Trench 6**

Orientation: E/W  
 Dimensions: 22.80 x 2.5 m  
 Total Area: 57 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Depth of Trench: 1.75 m  
 Significant features: None  
 Other: Section profile revealed a grey hard-core layer (0.15 m) situated above a purple hard-core layer (0.30 m thick), a layer of demolition rubble (0.55 m thick) and a layer of possible garden soil (0.40 m thick) containing 20<sup>th</sup>C pottery.  
 Excavation revealed a series of structures: a dense concrete layer at the western terminal, a red brick wall running E/W in the northern baulk (3.0 m in length, 1.0 m in height), a red brick and concrete wall running N/S (0.70 m wide, 0.60 m in height), and two parallel sandstone walls running N/S (separated by a distance of 3.4 m). The western sandstone wall was 0.60 m wide and 1.35 m in height, whilst the eastern sandstone wall was 0.80 m wide and 0.95 m in height, uncovered at the eastern limit of the trench. Modern services were also recorded.

### **APPENDIX 2 – PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER**

#### **Film 1**

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Detail</b>  |
|------------|--|
| 1&2        | Registration   |
| 3&4        | Trench 1; looking towards east end from south-east   |
| 5&6        | Trench 1; central wall from south  |
| 7&8        | Trench 1 looking towards west end from west  |
| 9&10       | Area of Trench 2 from west.  |
| 11&12      | Watching brief – south-west corner of excavation; general view of demolition work in progress from south-west  |
| 13         | Watching brief – south-west corner of excavation; general view of demolition work in progress from south   |
| 14         | Watching brief – south-west corner of excavation; uncovered brick walls at western limit of excavation from west   |
| 15         | Watching brief – south-west corner of excavation; uncovered brick structures running E/W in uncovered demolition area  |
| 16         | Watching brief – south-west corner of excavation; general view of demolition work in progress (area parallel to limits of south-western corner of excavation) from west. |
| 17         | Watching brief – south-west corner of excavation; uncovered brick walls at western limit of excavation from south [B/W film only].                                       |
| 18         | Watching brief – south-west corner of excavation; general view of demolition work in progress in south-western corner of excavation from east [2 slides on colour film]. |
| 19&20      | Area of Trench 3 (mid-excavation) from west  |
| 21&22      | Area of Trench 3 (mid-excavation) from east  |
| 23&24      | Mid-excavation north-facing section from Trench 3 (19 m from western terminal) from north  |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 25&26 | Mid-excavation north-facing section from Trench 4 (16 m from western terminal) from north  |
| 27&28 | Area of Trench 6 from eastern terminal   |
| 29&30 | Area of Trench 6 from western terminal   |
| 31&32 | Area of Trench 3 (post-excavation) from west   |
| 33&34 | Post-excavation north-facing section from Trench 3 (19 m from western terminal) from north |
| 35&36 | Area of Trench 3 (post-excavation) from east   |

## **Film 2.**

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Detail</b>  |
|------------|--|
| 1&2        | Post-excavation north-facing section from Trench 4 (16 m from western terminal) from north |
| 3&4        | Area of Trench 4 (post-excavation) from west   |
| 5&6        | Area of Trench 4 (post-excavation) from east   |
| 7&8        | Registration   |
| 9&10       | Area of Trench 5 from west   |
| 11&12      | East-facing section of westerly wall at east end of Trench 6 from east                     |
| 13&14      | South-facing section between sandstone walls in Trench 6 from south                        |
| 15&16      | West-facing section of easterly wall at east end of Trench 6 from west                     |

## APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>                      | Edinburgh City Council  |
| <b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>              | Tartan Club, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh  |
| <b>PROJECT CODE:</b>                         | AOC 20443   |
| <b>PARISH:</b>                               | City Parish of Edinburgh  |
| <b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>                  | Alan Duffy  |
| <b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>                 | AOC Archaeology Group   |
| <b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>                   | Archaeological watching brief and evaluation  |
| <b>NMRS NO(S):</b>                           | None  |
| <b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>                | None  |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>                    | None  |
| <b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>            | NT 528 791  |
| <b>START DATE (this season)</b>              | 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2007   |
| <b>END DATE (this season)</b>                | 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2007  |
| <b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b> | None  |
| <b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b>         | A watching brief and evaluation were undertaken prior to the re-development of the former Tartan Club, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh. Neither the watching brief on the removal of floor slab, nor the subsequent evaluation trenching (total trench basal area amounting to 462m <sup>2</sup> ), identified either significant archaeological features or artefacts. |
| <b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>                 | None  |
| <b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>              | None  |
| <b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>              | Buredi Limited  |
| <b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>          | Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY  |
| <b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>                        | ronant@aocscot.co.uk  |
| <b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b> | Archive to be deposited in NMRS   |

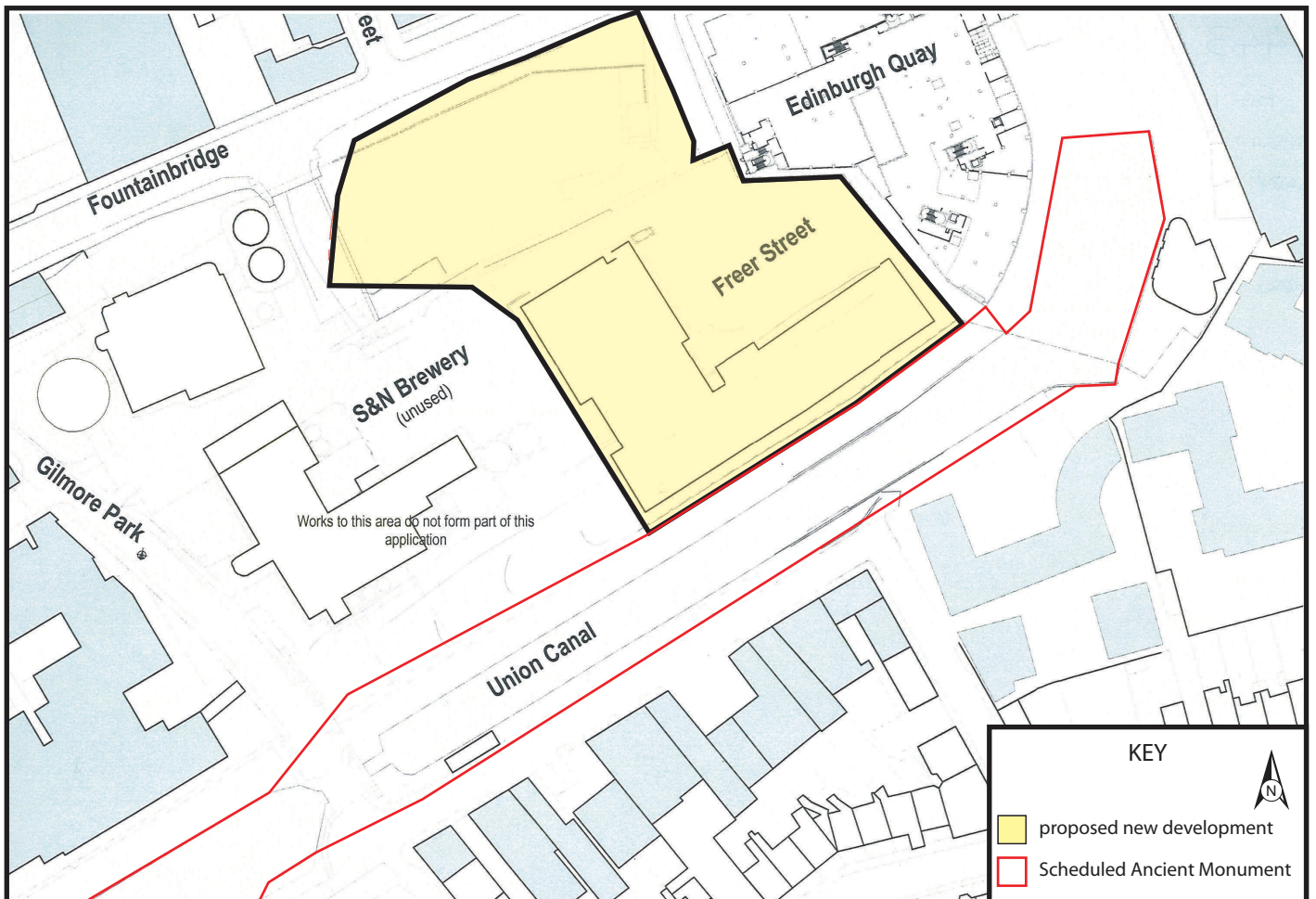
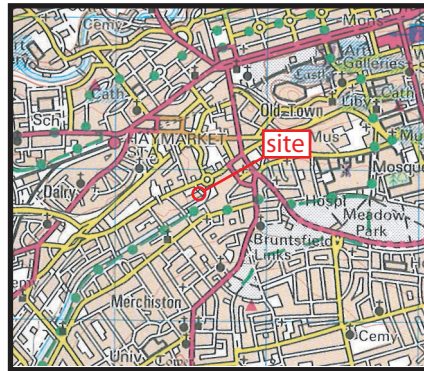
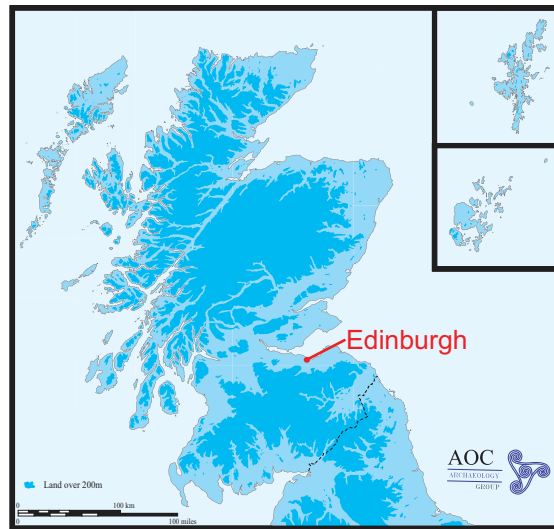


Figure 1: Location map

