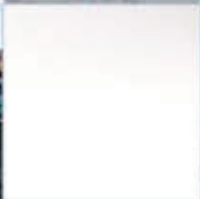


Liberton Road Evaluation Data Structure Report

20923
31st March 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

Liberton Road Evaluation

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Applecross Properties Ltd 7 Lochside view Edinburgh EH12 9DH
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 271 704
AOC Project No:	20923
Prepared by:	Martin Cook
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Date of Fieldwork:	March 2008
Date of Report:	March 2008

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

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Liberton Road, Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT 271 704). The work was commissioned by Applecross Properties Ltd in advance of the redevelopment of an area of ground. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, as advised by City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS), and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).

The objective of the work was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area. The work was carried out during March 2008 and was conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008) which was agreed by Mr John Lawson of CECAS, and approved by the planning authority. The evaluation consisted of two trenches totalling 100 m² and thereby comprising a 5% sample of the development area.

The evaluation identified evidence for a mill lade recorded on the 1st Edition Survey Map (1855), but revealed no other significant archaeological features nor artefacts. No further archaeological works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Applecross Properties Ltd in meeting the terms of planning condition on planning consent (07/01555/FUL & 07/00352/FUL) for a residential development on an area of ground formerly occupied by a fuel garage, Liberton Road, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 271 704; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The development area lies within the administrative area of City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mr John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service. The work required was in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), NPPG 18 (SODD 1999) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.1.3 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008) identified the presence of a former mill lade which may have ran across the centre of the site.
- 1.1.4 The development area comprises a combination of hard standing concrete which formerly housed a garage and a landscaped area of grassland. It is now overgrown, although the area has been subject to both bore-holing and some level of stripping in the recent past.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site at Liberton Road is centred on NGR: NT 271 704 with western boundary fronting onto Liberton Road. To the north and south are existing properties whilst the remaining eastern boundary is a steep grass covered embankment (see Figure 1). Until recently the majority of site has been in use as a petrol station.
- 1.2.2 The application area, amounting to some 4230 m² is irregular in plan, and is divided in to two main land parcels. The western fragment of the site was formerly occupied by the garage and contains hard standing ground, building debris and lies at the same height as Liberton Road. The eastern part of the site is lower lying, containing young trees and shrubery. The location and extent of the site is shown in Figure 1.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (RCAHMS) database did not show any known archaeological sites within the development area or within the immediate environs. However, it is entirely possible that previously unknown archaeological remains were present within the development area.
- 1.3.2 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map from 1855 (Figure 2) shows a Mill Lade which appeared to connect the Braid Burn with the area to the north-east of the proposed development area. Cartographic evidence from the 17th century records the presence of the mill lade from at least the 18th century (Adair 1682). Grain mills were the most numerous processing plants in Scotland in the

19th century, and by far the greatest number would have been water powered (Hume 1976, 14). The mill would have been built next to an existing water supply, or the water would have been channeled along the man-made lade from an existing source to power the water wheel.

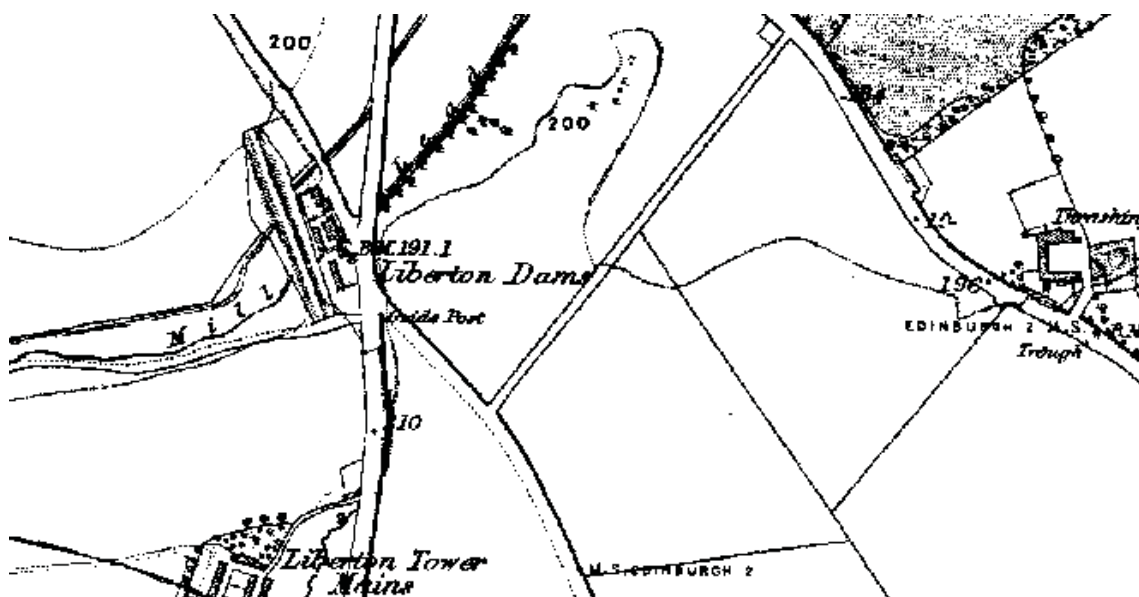


Figure 2: 1st edition OS Map

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine the presence or absence of the mill lade identified on the 1st Edition OS Map;
- ii) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- iii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as 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 Two machine cut trenches were excavated across the eastern fragment of the site. The western part of the site was unsuitable for evaluation purposes due to the former presence of large fuel tanks which would have truncated the existing ground level, destroying any underlying archaeology.
- 3.2 The trial trenching aimed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality, significance and date of any archaeological features present. The two trenches were of varying lengths and positioned to best locate the mill lade (Figure 1). The total area excavated was reduced from that required in the WSI due to the location of live services, existing foliage and the presence of contaminated ground. The reduction was agreed in consultation with Mr John Lawson of CECAS. The fieldwork was

undertaken with a field team of two archaeologists. Weather conditions during the evaluation were dry and fine with good archaeological visibility.

- 3.3 Stripping of the overburden was by means of a wheeled JCB excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket approximately 2.00 m wide. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.4 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. Stratigraphy was recorded in all trenches even where no deposits of archaeological significance were discovered. The trenches were backfilled on completion of excavation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 25th and 27th March 2008. Two trenches totalling approximately 120 m² were excavated (Figure 1).
- 4.2 The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3 and Figures 1, 3 and 4.
- 4.3 The two trenches were excavated across the eastern fragment of the site, to the immediate east of the former garage (Figures 3 and 4). The trenches were excavated through 0.40 m to 0.60 m of topsoil, which overlay a levelling deposit of made ground, which contained 19th century building debris and modern detritus.
- 4.4 Evidence for the mill lade was identified in both trenches, and comprised a shallow cut measuring up to 0.60 m in depth (Figure 2). The mill lade contained only a single fill comprising a sticky black silt, with frequent inclusions of rusted metal and sacking. Nineteenth and twentieth century white ceramic was identified within the fill of the feature suggesting the feature was already out of use by the middle of the last century at the latest. Clearly, as demonstrated by the 1st Edition Map (Figure 3), only a fragment of the mill lade was identified, the remainder of the feature being truncated by the construction of the former garage that occupied much of the western portion of the site closest to Liberton Road. No other features associated with the mill were identified.



Figure 4: North facing section showing cut of mill lade

- 4.5 No evidence was identified for the mill complex associated with the mill lade. However, this probably reflects the absence of the mill in this area. It seems likely therefore that the mill would have been located further down stream, where the water would have had a chance to build up some speed and subsequently move the wheel.
- 4.6 Field drains, both clay and rubble, were observed cutting the natural subsoil. The low-lying and very damp nature of the ground in these areas accounts for the presence of these drains.
- 4.7 Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic and modern glass were observed scattered throughout the topsoil in all of the trenches.
- 4.8 No other significant archaeological features or finds were encountered on this site.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The evaluation was successful in identifying the mill lade recorded on the 1st Edition Map, but no other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified. No further works are recommended.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

AOC 2008 *Liberton Road: Written Scheme of Investigation*. AOC unpublished client document.

Hume, JR., 1976 *The Industrial Archaeology of Scotland: 1. The Lowlands and Borders*. Batsford.

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5: Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – The Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

1st Edition OS Map, Edinburghshire, 1855

Adair's Map of Edinburgh 1682.

Liberton Road Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	The trench bisected a mill lade that had been backfilled with 19 th and 20 th century rubbish. The feature was cut through the natural subsoil and measured at least 11 m in length (although not fully excavated) by 0.60 m in depth.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through out all deposits.

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	40 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	North-west to south-east
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	The trench bisected a mill lade that had been backfilled with 19 th and 20 th century rubbish. The feature was cut through the natural subsoil and measured at least 3 m by 0.60 m in depth.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through out all deposits.

APPENDIX 2

Context Register

Context	Description
001	Topsoil identified across site, comprising between 0.40-0.60 m of black silt with numerous inclusions of modern detritus, tree roots and rubble.
002	Made Ground identified in Trench 1, comprising up to 1.80 m of silt, building rubble, modern detritus. Underlying the topsoil [001] and overlying the natural [004]. Same as [006].
003	Cut of mill lade in Trench 1, filled by [002]. Measuring 0.60 m in depth. Only the eastern edge was identified, the remaining section being truncated.
004	Natural clay identified in Trenches 1 and 2.
005	Cut of mill lade in Trench 2, filled by [006]. Measuring 0.60 m in depth.
006	Made ground identified in Trench 2, comprising up to 1.35 m of silt, with frequent inclusions of building debris, rusted metal and modern detritus. Same as [002], underlying [001].

APPENDIX 3

Photographic Record

Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shots	
3-4		General pre-excavation shots of site	W
5-6		General pre-excavation shots of site	N
7-8		General pre-excavation shots of site	E
9-10	TR 1	Detail of south facing section through trench	E
11-12	TR 1	Detail of south facing section through trench	SE
13-14	TR 2	Working shot of trench	E
15-16	TR 2	Detail of north facing section through trench	N
17-18	TR 2	Detail of trench, post-excavation	E

APPENDIX 4

Drawing Register

Dr No	Description	Scale
1	Plan of Trench 1 showing cut [003]	1:50
2	South facing section through cut [003]	1:50
3	North facing section through cut [005]	1:50
4	Plan of Trench 2, showing cut [005]	1:50

APPENDIX 5

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Liberton Road Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20923
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Martin Cook
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	19 th century mill lade
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 271 704
START DATE (this season)	25 th March 2008
END DATE (this season)	27 th March 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of proposed residential development. Two trenches (covering an area of 100 m ²) were excavated through up to 2 m of made ground. The eastern edge of a mill lade identified on the 1 st Edition OS Map was identified, but no trace of the associated mill complex was revealed. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Applecross Properties Ltd
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

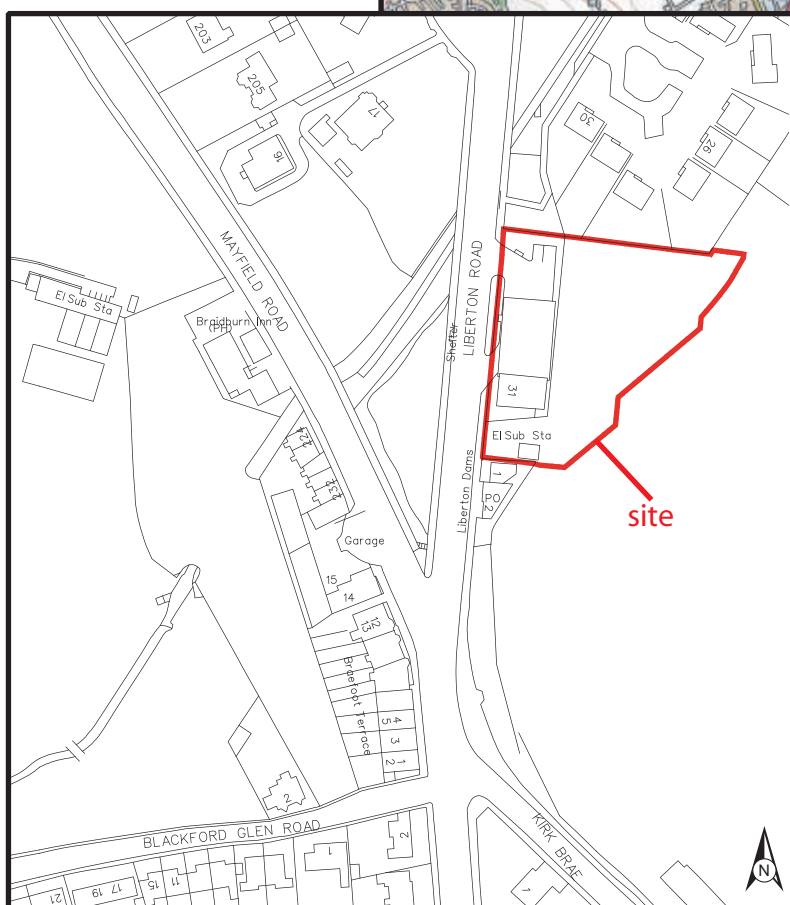
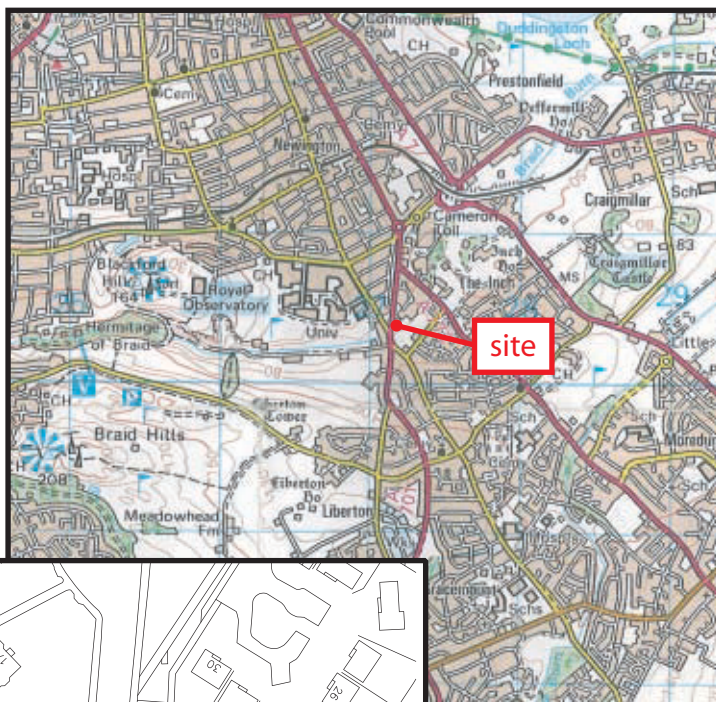
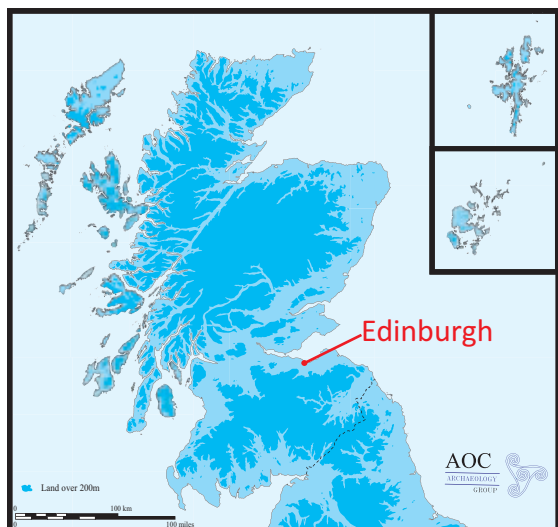


Figure 1: Site location

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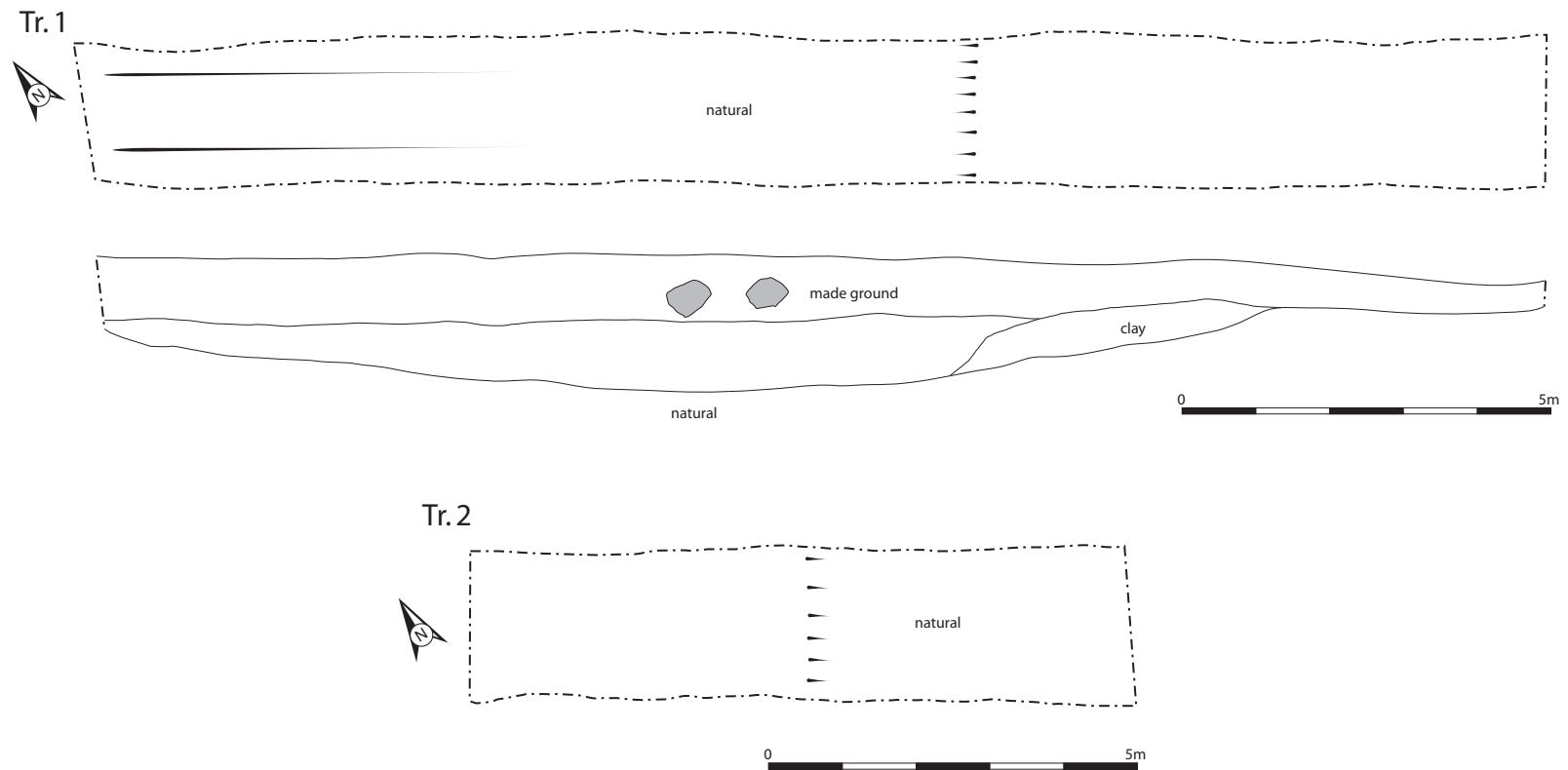


Figure 3: Plans and section of Trenches 1 and 2



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