

**Greenside, Edinburgh:**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
**Data Structure Report**

**On behalf of:**

City of Edinburgh Council  
City Chambers  
High Street  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1YP

**National Grid Reference (NGR):**

NS 261 743

**AOC Archaeology Project No:**

4663

**Prepared by:**

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**Timing:**

Watching Brief – November 2006  
Report – November 2006

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## 1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Edinburgh Council on all groundbreaking works associated with test pit investigations at Greenside, Edinburgh between 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006. No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the investigation.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 As part of a programme of archaeological works, AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Edinburgh Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief on all groundbreaking works associated with investigative test pits at Greenside, Edinburgh. The works comprised the excavation of trial trenches with the removal of dumped overburden adjacent to a car park at Greenside Row and the removing of setts and made ground at Greenside End. This work was required by Mr John Lawson, archaeological advisor to the City of Edinburgh Council and is in full accord with the policies inherent within NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a) and NPPG 18 (SODD 1999).
- 2.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken on areas of Greenside End and Greenside Row, City of Edinburgh. The area under scrutiny was situated in central Edinburgh. The area on Greenside Row was situated on a grassy slope adjacent to Greenside Row and Calton Hill. The area on Greenside End was bounded on its northern side by residential housing and to the south by a small wall and Calton Hill.

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
- i) to determine the presence, character, extent and significance of any archaeological features or artefacts that may be disturbed by ground-breaking works;
  - ii) to present and undertake a mitigation strategy allowing works to proceed should an adverse archaeological impact be identified.

## 4 METHOD

- 4.1 All ground-works were carried out by hand, whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Trial Trenches, measuring between 0.5 m x 0.5 m and 2.0 m x 1.0 m were excavated.
- 4.2 The work was undertaken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> and on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

## 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The test pits were excavated to a depth of between 600 mm and 1300 mm. The deposits identified in the test pits are described in Appendix 1 below. In general, shallow topsoil or road surfaces covered hardcore and ashy deposits. Test Pits 1, 3 and 4 each had some form of sandstone at the southern end of the trench which under further investigation turned out to be naturally formed. Within Test Pit 2 a series of large sandstone cut blocks lay on top of each other (two courses high) with no obvious mortar, but upon investigation down to a depth of 600 mm they covered large fragments of drain pottery, suggesting the sandstone blocks were used as a drain cover. This was confirmed by the discovery of a hole running west to east at a depth of 600 mm in trench 3. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological remains were recorded *in situ* during the watching brief. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.



## APPENDIX 1: Test Pit Details

*Test Pit No 1* (2.0 m x 1.0 m; NW/SE-aligned; Located 55 m from north end, along east side of the road)

200 mm – The upper eastern corner formed of decayed sandstone, with the rest of the area made of compacted ash layer.

400 mm – The north end of the trench made of red type 1 hardcore with the rest of the area formed of the compacted ash layer.

600 mm – Area formed of compacted ash layer

*Test Pit No 2* (2.0 m x 1.0 m; NW/SE-aligned; Located 70 m along east side of the road)

200 mm – Compacted ash layer. To the south is an area of large rectilinear sandstone blocks (0.40 m by 0.40 m) sitting on top of one another, forming a roughly built structure.

400 mm – The north end of the trial trench is formed of red type 1 hardcore road surfacing material; the rest of compacted ash material

600 mm – Area formed of compacted ash layer. Upon further investigation, the sandstone structure suggests it may have been a stone lined drain as the context contained fragments of drain-like ceramic.

*Test Pit No 3* (2.0 m x 1.0 m; NW/SE-aligned; Located 41 m along east side of the road)

200 mm – The upper south-east corner contains a large sandstone boulder. This may have been part of the wall that had once stood there or part of the stone-lined drain further to the east.

400 mm – Small area of red sand on the south-west edge with the rest of the area formed of mixed ash.

600 mm – Mixed ash and earth.

*Test Pit No 4* (2.0 m x 1.0 m; NW/SE-aligned; Located 70 m along west side of the road)

200 mm – The south end of the trench is formed of decayed sandstone with the rest of the area made up of earth mixed with compacted ash.

400 mm – The north and south parts of the trench are formed of red sand and type 1 hardcore. The southern end is truncated by a modern gas service running west to east at a depth of 300 mm.

600 mm – The north-eastern part of the trench is truncated by modern services with the northern side formed of an earth and ash mix.

*Test Pit No 5* (2.0 m x 1.0 m; NW/SE-aligned; Located 55 m along east side of the road)

200 mm – Southern end is formed of decayed sandstone with the rest of the trench of brown earth and ash mix.

400 mm to 600 mm – Again the northern end of this trench is heavily truncated by modern services, with the southern end mixed with sand and type 1.

*Test Pit No 6* (2.0 m x 1.0 m; NW/SE-aligned; Located 41 m along east side of the road)

200 mm to 400 mm – The southern end of the trench is made up ash mixed brown earth with the northern part made of red sand, suggesting the edge of a further service.

600 mm – The main area is formed of brown earth mixed with ash.

*Test Pit No 7* (2.0 m x 1.0 m; NW/SE-aligned; Located 28 m along east side of the road)

200 mm – The southern end is formed of type 1 hardcore with the rest of the trench formed of red building sand.

400 mm – The southern end is formed of type 1 with the rest of the trench formed of red building sand. The lower northern end is further truncated by a service pipe running west to east with a small disused gas mains protruding from the northern edge of the trench.

600 mm – The southern end of the trench is formed of red sand with an electric service in the northern area of the trench.

*Test Pit No 8* (1.0 m x 0.6 m; N/S-aligned; Located south of car park building)

200 mm – 150 mm dark grey brown silty loam topsoil over type 1 hardcore and rubble.

200 mm to 900 mm – Type 1 hardcore and rubble. Concrete pavement foundation to 350 mm on south side of trench.

*Test Pit No 9* (1.5 m x 0.5 m; NW/SE-aligned; Located south-east of car park building)

200 mm – Dark grey brown silty loam topsoil.

400 to 1300 mm – Concrete spread to 300 mm in east of trench over dark grey rubble and type 1 hardcore with silt.

*Test Pit No 10* (0.5 m x 0.5 m; N/S-aligned; Located at top of grass slope, in south of area)

200 mm – 100 mm dark grey brown silty loam topsoil over modern paving slab

400 to 1000 mm – Dark reddish grey silty loam and rubble.

## Greenside End, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Report

### APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Edinburgh City Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	Greenside End, Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 4663
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Mike Roy
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<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 261 743
<b>START DATE</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2006
<b>END DATE</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2006
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b>	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Edinburgh Council on all ground-breaking works associated with test pit investigation at Greenside, Edinburgh between 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2006 and 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2006. No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the investigation.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Edinburgh Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:Admin@aocscot.co.uk">Admin@aocscot.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.





Figure 1: Site location and position of test-pits monitored during watching brief