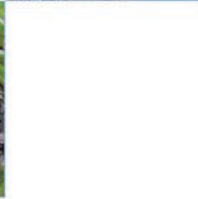
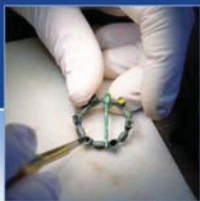


# 1-5 Baxter's Place, Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 21136  
December 2008



# 1-5 Baxter's Place Evaluation

## Data Structure Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>GVA Grimley Ltd</b> Sutherland House 149 St. Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5SG
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NT 2616 7447</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>AOC 21136</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> December 2008</b>

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

**Author: Martin Cook** **Date: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

**Approved by: John Gooder** **Date: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

**Report Stage: Draft** **Date: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

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Appendix 2: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

## Abstract

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This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group in advance of the proposed redevelopment of an existing office block and associated backland. The scope of the works was determined by the City of Edinburgh Council as advised by City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS).

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of a 10% sample of a 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> land parcel. The work was carried out during December 2008 and was conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008) approved by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

The evaluation identified neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts. No further works are recommended.

## 0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by the Fitzpatrick Design Company to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed redevelopment of a former office block and associated backlands at 1-5 Baxter's Place, Edinburgh. The scope of the works was determined by the City of Edinburgh Council as advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The proposed development area lies to the rear of 1-5 Baxter Place, at the south-western end of Leith Walk, Edinburgh (Figure 1; NGR: NT 2616 1447). The development comprises 1-5 Baxter's Place and an area of associated backland ground.

### 1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.2.1 This programme of works was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of the Council, as advised by CECAS. The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008) outlined the entirety of the archaeological programme of work which may have been needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. It detailed principally the methodology to be employed in implementing the archaeological evaluation.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The site lies at the north-western foot of Calton Hill within a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. The frontage buildings are A-listed Georgian townhouses built *circa* 1798 as part of the expansion of the New Town (NMRS: NT27SE2983, NT27SE2932 and NT27SE2982). The development area is located immediately north of Edinburgh's medieval town along the main thoroughfare to the port of Leith. The proposed development area is also situated on or near the late medieval Carmelite Friary at Greenside (NMRS: HT27SE 36). The friary was established between 1518 and 1526 on the site of the earlier Rude Chapel, founded in 1456 by James II. In 1591 the chapel was converted into a Leper Hospital which was apparently demolished sometime before the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1.3.2 It was thus considered possible that the development has the potential to impact on possible sub-surface remains associated with 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century ecclesiastical establishments and/or human burials either related to these foundations or derived from the later Leper Hospital.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

### 3 METHOD

- 3.1 All excavations were undertaken by an excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket operating under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008, with cold and dry weather conditions yielding good archaeological visibility throughout. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1 – 3 and Figures 1 & 2.
- 4.1.2 Three trenches totalling 120 m<sup>2</sup> were excavated across the site (Figure 2). The location and orientation of the trenches was altered in the field from those illustrated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2008) due to the presence of a steep gradient, live services (drains) and existing shrubs.
- 4.1.3 Despite comprising a relatively small area, the proposed development site varied greatly. The northern and eastern fragments of the site comprise a grass embankment/garden that falls steeply to the south and west to the existing road surface. The western fragment of the site comprises an access road in to the site and the southern part is flat and paved. The site had clearly been the subject of various stages of development and subsequent truncation resulting in the existing topography.
- 4.1.4 Three trenches were excavated north to south across the site where it was possible to fit them (Figure 2). Trenches 1 and 2 comprised a thin layer of topsoil overlying a combination of made ground and natural clay (Plate 2). The made ground comprised a combination of silt, building debris and modern detritus. Trench 3 was excavated through the tarmac road and up to 0.80 m of made ground, comprising crushed stone and brick. The natural subsoil was not identified due to the presence of a concrete covered drain running north to south through the trench.





Plate 1: Post-excitation shot of Trench 2

- 4.1.5 Despite the former juxtaposition of the Carmelite Friary (NMRS: HT27SE 36) to the south of the site, no evidence was identified for it. It seems likely that the previous development of the site has removed evidence of any earlier occupation of the site.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The evaluation provided a comprehensive intrusive survey of the area to the specification already agreed with the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (AOC 2008). Neither significant archaeological feature nor artefacts were identified. Given the entirely negative findings of the evaluation no further works are considered necessary.

## 6 REFERENCES

AOC 2008 *1-5 Baxter's Place, Edinburgh Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

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

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



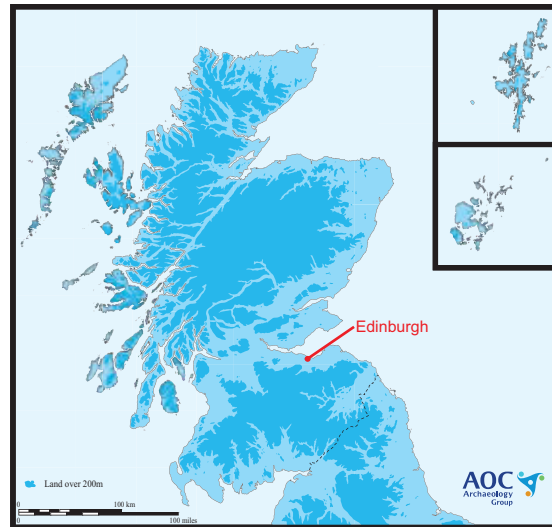


Figure 1: Site location

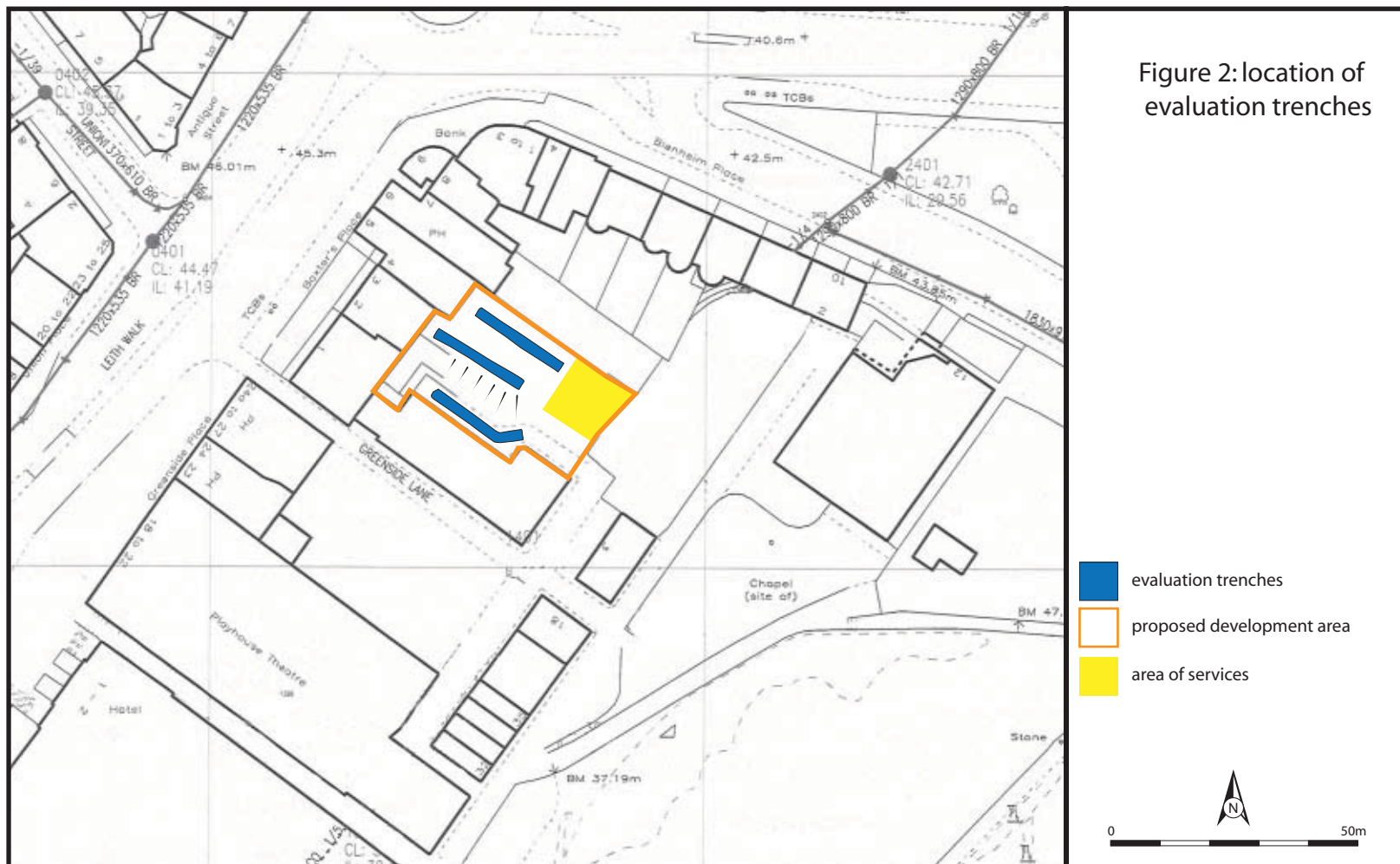


Figure 2: location of evaluation trenches

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# **1-5 Baxter's Place, Evaluation Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black & White Print and Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration	
4-5	General post-excavation shot of Trench 2	N
6-7	General post-excavation shot of Trench 3	N

## APPENDIX 2: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2.00 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m average
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2.00 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Between 0.25 m and 0.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2.00 m
<i>Orientation</i>	North to south
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m of tarmac
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

## APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	1-5 Baxter's Place
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21136
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Martin Cook
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NT27SE2983, NT27SE2932 and NT27SE2982
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT 2616 7447
START DATE (this season)	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2008
END DATE (this season)	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed redevelopment of a former office block and associated backlands at 1-5 Baxter's place, Edinburgh. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of three trenches totalling 120 m <sup>2</sup> representing a 10% sample of the area. The whole of the backland area was found to have been seriously truncated by the development of Baxter's Place and the later extension and it seems likely that any earlier deposits have been removed by this action. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	GVA Grimley Ltd
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