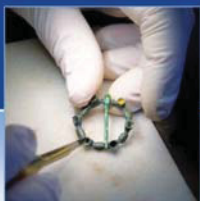


15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston, Edinburgh: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 21451
August 2009



15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston, Edinburgh

Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Mrs. Cruickshank, 27 Argyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH15 2QE
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 2829 7264
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Date of Fieldwork:	27 th August 2009
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Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	1
List of plates	1
Abstract.....	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Background	3
1.2 Location.....	3
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	3
2. OBJECTIVES	4
3. METHOD	4
4. RESULTS	4
4.1 Introduction.....	4
4.2 Trench 1	5
4.3 Trench 2	6
4.4 Trench 3	6
5. Conclusion	7
References.....	7
Appendix 1.....	9
Trench Register	9
Appendix 2.....	10
Photographic Register	10
Appendix 3.....	11
Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report	11

List of illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Trench Location

List of plates

Plate 1	Trench 1 from south showing bedrock and gravel rich subsoil
Plate 2	Trench 3, view of sloping bedrock and gravel rich subsoil

Abstract

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation at 15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston, Edinburgh. The evaluation opened 45 m² of trenching within the footprint of a proposed extension to an existing house. The trenches showed the presence of bedrock at between 0.3 m and 1.4 m. The present level garden of the existing dwelling has been created through the dumping of crushed sandstone building rubble underlying an imported shallow garden topsoil. It is believed that the levelling of the garden was completed at the time of the construction of the existing dwelling between 1915 and 1920. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were uncovered during the works.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mrs. Cruickshank to undertake a programme of archaeological works within the gardens of 15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston ahead of a proposed extension to the existing property (Planning Reference 09/01343/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Edinburgh City Council, who are advised on cultural heritage issues by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service, (CECAS). CECAS recommended a programme of archaeological works consisting of an intrusive 10% sample evaluation of the development area, the results of which are detailed here.
- 1.1.3 The works were conducted under the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2009), approved by CECAS. The works were carried out in accord with the principals inherent in SPP 23 (Scottish Government 2008) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The entire development area lies within the grounds of 15 Old Church Lane, situated on the very southern edge of the Holyrood Abbey Palace Gardens and Park. The garden occupies rising ground immediately east of Duddingston Loch and is the last plot heading west out of Duddingston Village.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development site lies within the village of Duddingston, Edinburgh. A settlement has existed at Duddingston village, a designated Conservation Area, since the 12th century church (Gifford *et al* 1991, 554). The site, which comprises the garden of 15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston, contains no known archaeological sites or monuments but lies within close proximity to a series of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and findspots.
- 1.3.2 The site lies on the south-western edge of Duddingston village, and is bounded to the south and west by the grounds of Holyrood Abbey Palace Gardens and Park, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 90131). The Scheduled Area comprises an abbey founded by King David 1 in 1128, the palace gardens and the entire royal park, which was first enclosed in 1541.
- 1.3.3 More generally, the surrounding area has produced evidence of occupation dating from Early Prehistoric period. A Neolithic polished stone axe was recovered from the approximate area of Duddingston Church Gate (NMRS: NT27SE114). Survey in Holyrood Park itself has also revealed evidence of prehistoric occupation in the form of a fort (NMRS:

NT27SE93), a cist (NMRS: NT27SE119) and various stray prehistoric artefacts (a flint knife, (NMRS: NT27SE251), a socketed axe (NMRS: NT27SE413) and a stone lamp (NMRS: NT27SE125). Duddingston Loch, which lies at the end of the proposed development, was found to contain a Late Bronze Age hoard (NMRS: NT27SE113) when dredged in 1778.

1.3.4 No sub-surface archaeological activity was previously known within the development site

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works 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 A total of three trenches were excavated within the development area (Figure 2), totalling a combined basal trench area of 45.3 m². The positions of the trenches was determined in part by the topography of the site and areas of obvious landscaping, but mostly by the presence of the existing building, associated live services and mature trees.
- 3.2 The evaluation trenches were excavated using a 5 tonne 360° type tracked mini-digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. Excavation of the trenches was carried out in shallow spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil. All potentially significant features were cleaned and fully defined to enable a full written, drawn and photographic record to be taken.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken on 27th August 2009 in generally fair weather conditions which rendered good archaeological visibility. The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices

- i) Appendix 1 contains trench summaries;
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the Photographic Register;
- iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 This trench was aligned north to south parallel to the front of the existing building, approximately 4 m away. It was obvious that the garden had seen a certain amount of landscaping and terracing to create borders, paths and the lawn. It was also clear that ground closer to the building would have suffered from disturbance directly associated with the buildings foundations.



Plate 1: Trench 1 from south showing bedrock and gravel rich subsoil

- 4.2.2 The topsoil measured between 0.24 m and 0.35 m deep. Across almost all of the trench it overlay over a dumped mixed material consisting of a dark brown sandy matrix which was dominated by crushed and broken sandstone with frequent lime mortar inclusions. Other

inclusions included rare brick fragments and a few oyster and mussel shells. Both dumped material, and in places the topsoil, directly overlay the natural subsoil and bedrock.

- 4.2.3 The bedrock was present at depths of between 0.3 m and 1.4 m. At the southern end the bedrock was close to the surface and directly underlay the imported topsoil. Moving north the bedrock fell away very sharply to depths of up to 1.4 m before gradually rising to about 0.4 m at the northern end of the trench. Across the base of the trench the bedrock sloped sharply from the east to west downwards towards Duddingston Loch. On the surface of the bedrock there were varying patches of a red brown friable sharp fractured gravel natural subsoil.

4.3 Trench 2

- 4.3.1 This trench had to be abandoned due to the presence a still live water pipe aligned along what would have been the long axis of the trench. A third trench, Trench 3, was subsequently opened.



Plate 2: Trench 3, view of sloping bedrock and gravel rich subsoil

4.4 Trench 3

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 displayed a very similar stratigraphy to Trench 1, topsoil over dumped levelling deposits over natural subsoil/bedrock. The sequence from Trench 1 was repeated with the

natural bedrock continuing to slope away from east to west downwards towards Duddingston Loch.

- 4.4.2 The topsoil varied from between 0.24 m deep to a maximum of 0.34 m and contained modern inclusions such as white glazed ceramics, glass, plastic and metal. The dumped material consisted of a dark sandy matrix with crushed and broken sandstone with occasional lime mortar pieces adhering to some of the sandstone fragments. No dressed stone was noted. Within this dumped material were rarer inclusions of ceramic building material. This deposit was up to 0.75 m thick.
- 4.4.3 The bedrock was present at depths of between 0.4 m and 1.0 m. At the southern end the bedrock was closer to the surface at 0.4 m before sloping down to nearly 1.0 m and finally rising towards the end of the trench where it was encountered at a depth of 0.7 m. From the midpoint of the trench, the bedrock was characterised by *in situ* fractured stone infilled with a red brown friable sharp fractured gravel natural subsoil.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The evaluation trenches at 15 Old Church Lane have demonstrated that the original house was built over a 'clean' site. No traces of any early activity have been found. No residual pottery, garden soils or any other hint at activity having occurred on site before the construction of the present house c.1915 to 1920 was observed. The only material noted during the excavations was of 20th century date.
- 5.2 The evidence from the trenches excavated during this evaluation would appear to indicate that the site has seen only a single phase of activity, namely that associated with the construction of the existing dwelling. The dumped deposits of crushed, broken sandstone with mortar have been used to level natural variations in the underlying bedrock to create a suitable garden. The presence of 20th century ceramics and glass within this dumped *in-fill* would seem to confirm this conclusion.

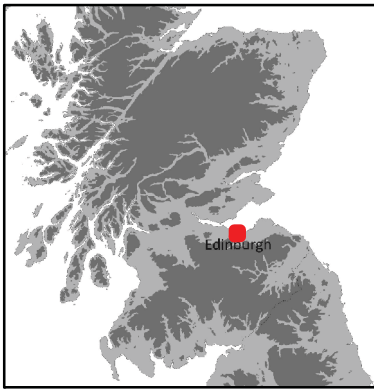
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AOC 2009 *15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston, Edinburgh; Written Scheme of Investigation*, AOC Archaeology Unpublished Client report

Gifford, J *The Buildings of Scotland*, Edinburgh. Penguin 1991.

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

SPP 23 2008. Scottish Planning Policy Archaeology and Planning. Scottish Government Nov.2008.



0 10 200 400 600 800 1000
m

Figure 1: Site Location



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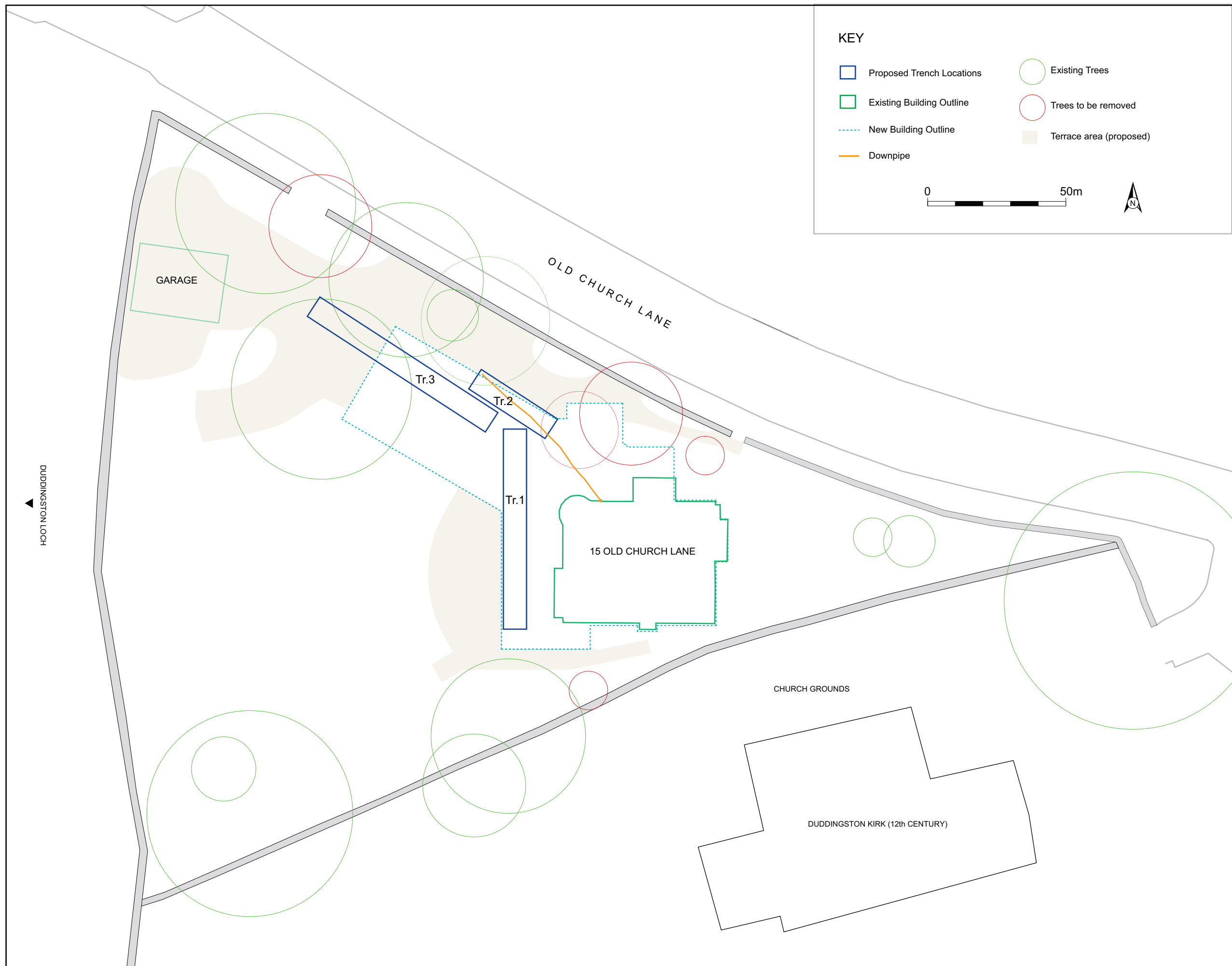


Figure 2: Trench Locations

**15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston,
Edinburgh:
Evaluation Data Structure Report**

Appendices

Appendix 1

Trench Register

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	14.2 m by 1.3 m
<i>Total Area</i>	18.5 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.24-0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Stratigraphy</i>	Topsoil, over dumped in-fill material over subsoil/bedrock. Subsoil/bedrock at depths of 0.3 m at S to 1.4 m in middle and 0.4 m at N.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Bedrock present across most of trench base, sloping from east to west downwards towards Duddingston Loch as well as natural undulations in depth north to south. Some weathered <i>in situ</i> bedrock present with a subsoil of red brown friable sharp fractured gravel with moderate small (0-0.10 m) angular and occasional medium angular (0.10-0.30 m) stones.
<i>Finds</i>	Within the topsoil there was some modern inclusions, white glazed ceramics, glass, plastic and metal. The dumped levelling material contained rare fragments of brick/ceramic building material, with lots of crushed sandstone pieces and lime mortar.

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	7.5 m by 1.3 m
<i>Total Area</i>	9.8 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.23-0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Stratigraphy</i>	Topsoil over dumped in- fill material over subsoil/bedrock – assumed as, bedrock not reached in this trench due to presence of a live water pipe (drainage from existing house).
<i>Subsoil</i>	As Trench 1 & 3
<i>Finds</i>	Within the topsoil there was some modern inclusions, white glazed ceramics, glass, plastic and metal.

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	13.1 m by 1.3 m
<i>Total Area</i>	17 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.26-0.34 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Stratigraphy</i>	Topsoil, over dumped in-fill material over subsoil/bedrock. Subsoil/bedrock at depths of 0.4 m at SE to 1.0 m in middle and 0.7 m at NW.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Bedrock present across most of trench base, sloping from east to west downwards towards Duddingston Loch. Lots of weathered <i>in situ</i> bedrock present especially towards the western end of the trench, fractured <i>in situ</i> . The subsoil where present is a red brown friable sharp fractured gravel with moderate small (0-0.10 m) angular and occasional medium angular (0.10-0.30 m) stones.
<i>Finds</i>	Within the topsoil there was some modern inclusions, white glazed ceramics, glass, plastic and metal. The dumped levelling material contained rare fragments of brick/ceramic building material, with lots of crushed sandstone pieces and lime mortar.

Appendix 2

Photographic Register

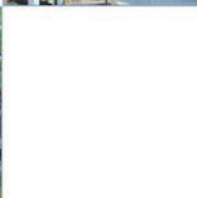
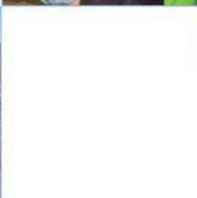
Digital Photographic Register

Photo No	Description	From
1-2	General view of evaluation area prior to opening trenches	SW
3	General view NW along path prior to opening Tr.2 & Tr.3	NE
4	General view S along path prior to opening Tr.1	N
5	View N along Tr.1 after excavation	S
6-7	View of Tr.1 showing detail of sloping bedrock	S
8	View of Tr.1 showing detail of sloping bedrock & dumped infill material	S
9	View S along Tr.1 after excavation	N
10	View of Tr.1 from SW before backfilling	SW
11	View of Tr.2 showing live drainage service	NW
12-13	View of Tr.2 showing live drainage service	SE
14	View S along Tr.1 after backfilling	N
15	View NW along Tr.2 after backfilling	SE
16-17	View NW along Tr.3 after excavation	SE
18	View of SE end of Tr.3 showing detail of sloping bedrock	NW
19	View of middle of Tr.3 showing detail of fractured bedrock	SE
20-21	View SE along Tr.3 after excavation	NW
22	View SE along Tr.3 after backfilling	NW
23	General view of evaluation area showing backfilled trenches	SW

Appendix 3

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston
PROJECT CODE:	21451
PARISH:	Duddingston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2829 7264
START DATE (this season)	27 th August 2009
END DATE (this season)	27 th August 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation at 15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston, Edinburgh. The evaluation opened 45 m ² of trenching within the footprint of a proposed house extension. The trenches showed the presence of bedrock at between 0.3 m and 1.4 m. The present level garden of the existing dwelling had been created through the dumping of crushed sandstone building rubble lying under a thin garden topsoil. It is believed that the leveling of the garden was completed at the time of the construction of the existing dwelling between 1915 and 1920. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were uncovered during the works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mrs. A. Cruickshank
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Lindsay.dunbar@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.



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