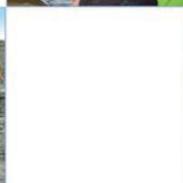
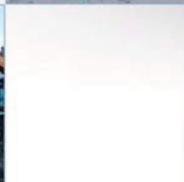
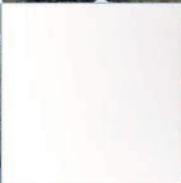


6 The Glebe, Cramond: Watching Brief Report

AOC 21455
28th September 2009



6 The Glebe, Cramond; Watching Brief Report

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Date of Fieldwork:	September 2009
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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 watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 6 The Glebe, Cramond, Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT). The watching brief monitored the excavation of three foundation trenches for the construction of a new conservatory to the rear of the property. The site is located within the immediate vicinity of Cramond Roman Fort.

A small cobbled area of unknown date was revealed within Foundation Trench 1. No small finds of archaeological significance were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology on ground breaking works associated with the construction of a conservatory at 6 The Glebe, Cramond, Edinburgh (NGR; NT18975 76608). The watching brief was undertaken at the behest of Mr Paul Graham of Barr Holdings Ltd. The work was required by the City of Edinburgh Council as advised by Mr John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with SPP23 (SG 2008) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994) in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The area is located within the immediate vicinity of the Scheduled area of Cramond Roman Fort (SAM 2526). This is a nationally significant site afforded statutory protection as defined re AMAA (1979).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief identified a fragment of cobbled surface in Foundation Trench 1. No small finds of archaeological significance were recovered.

1.2 Archaeological background

- 1.2.1 A Roman site had been long suspected at Cramond because the area had yielded a succession of finds, such as coins, pottery and inscribed stones (Stuart 1845). Early Ordnance Survey maps also indicate that some Roman remains were known here, and it is possible that they may have been upstanding to some degree until fairly recently. The Roman fort was eventually re-discovered during excavations in 1954. Several other archaeological excavations undertaken at Cramond since this time have revealed further evidence of the fort and of associated Roman activity. The western part of the fort is now occupied by residential houses on the west side of Cramond Glebe Road, while the east side is overlain by Cramond Kirk and Kirkyard, the Manse and other open ground in which some of the Roman foundations have been exposed and consolidated. A Roman bath-house located about 100 m north of the fort was excavated in the mid-1970s.
- 1.2.2 It is likely that the earliest Roman settlement at Cramond comprised timber buildings, as at other contemporary sites, eg Vindolanda, although no trace of these has yet been identified during excavations. However, evidence of the later stone phases has survived well. The fort covered an area of about 4.8 acres and was of the usual sub-rectangular plan. Its perimeter was defined by a rampart of clay and turf with at least two outer (contemporary) encircling ditches, dating from the Antonine period. A section of a third outlying ditch has also recently been uncovered beneath the Kirk Hall, possibly of 3rd century date. The Roman ditches on the north side are not thought to have survived the 18th and 19th century landscaping, which may have removed sediments to a depth of up to 2 m. Similarly no Roman ditch has been found on the west side of the fort (although there have been few opportunities for investigations in this area). An annexe, defined by an extra ditch, was attached to the east side of the fort, contained evidence of contemporary industrial activity possibly representing a *vicus*. Although part of the Roman fort has been excavated, most of the remains are thought to still survive underground, under woodland, lawn, and standing buildings.
- 1.2.3 The early excavations between 1954 and 1966 concentrated on the fort (see Rae & Rae 1974). These early excavations established the approximate line of the fort rampart on the north, east and south sides, and showed that there were remains of some contemporary activity on the east side of

the fort. Evidence of two occupational phases during the Antonine period was observed during these excavations (compared with three phases of Antonine occupation at the nearby Inveresk Fort). There was evidence for the partial re-cutting of the inner ditch with the insertion of a slot or 'ankle-breaker', and also for similar re-cutting of the outer ditch, however the date of these re-cuttings has not been established. In 1971 further archaeological investigation took place during the construction of a housing estate in the former Glebe, just beyond the south-east corner of the fort. Excavated features in the fort comprise the remains of stone buildings that were interpreted as the *principia*, workshops, granaries, and a latrine. Another building interpreted as a bath house was excavated in the north-west corner of the fort, near to what was believed to be the fort commander's house (*praetorium*). Evidence was also found of the roads which traversed the interior of the fort and led out through the ramparts to areas beyond the fort. However, as only a small proportion of the fort has been excavated, the internal layout has not been fully investigated and the type of military unit that was stationed at Cramond (whether Roman legionaries or auxiliaries) is thus still unclear. Three inscriptions recovered from Cramond refer to the 2nd Legion Augusta (normally stationed at Caerleon Fort in South Wales) and two auxiliary regiments – the 5th Cohort of Gauls (from France) and the 2nd Cohort of Tungri (from Lower Germany), commanded by a legionary centurion. As Cramond probably performed an important role as a supply base for other forts and camps further north, the granaries must have been a significant feature of the fort, and there may have been relatively fewer combatants in comparison to other forts, and greater numbers of craftsmen, administrative and other supportive personnel. The discovery of the finely carved Cramond Lioness and of evidence for the manufacture of some finely carved luxury wooden items suggest that high status items were being supplied to, and perhaps from, Cramond Fort (Hunter pers com).

- 1.2.4 Other excavations between 1975 and 1981 are reported in a recently published monograph and, in particular, they have shown evidence of the extra-mural settlement to the south-east of the fort, enclosed by a ditch (Holmes 2003). This was a large annexed area containing evidence for contemporary industrial activity (see also Gooder 2003). This area may have formed part of a *vicus*, a civilian settlement commonly found outside Roman forts, inhabited by people servicing or associated with the fort. Excavation in the south half of the Walled Garden between 1975-8 found Roman material between 0.5 m and 1.0 m below the ground surface. This indicated multi-period occupation, including varied industrial activity during at least one phase of the Roman military occupation. The features contemporary with the fort were foundation trenches for timber structures, post-holes, pits, ditches, a well, a stone-lined drain and two probable metal-working furnaces. Some organic material and artefacts were preserved in waterlogged deposits in the well and pits. These features were filled with and sealed by a spread of destruction material. No phasing of the Roman period features was apparent and it is now thought that the industrial activity in this area is related to the Severan occupation of the fort (Holmes 2003). Industrial activity included the manufacture of leather footwear, carpentry and iron-working, and much of the manufactured material was presumably transported on to the forward base at Carpow Fort. Later occupation remains overlay the back-filled Roman site, representing evidence of native civilians who built stone structures and laid a cobbled surface, although the scale and duration of this post-Roman phase remains unclear.
- 1.2.5 A number of other excavations have been undertaken around the Roman fort at Cramond, in some private gardens, on the college campus and in the parkland to the east. These have found a variety of remains, including sections of the Roman road approaching the fort from the south-east (Hoy 1979; Gooder 2003). In 2008 a programme of archaeological works was undertaken on behalf of the Cramond Management Group and the City of Edinburgh Council to enable the identification of an appropriate mitigation strategy for the future protection, conservation and interpretation of the known

Roman remains (Cook 2008). The works consisted of three elements involving the re-excavation of two barrack blocks, the evaluation of the granary building and the evaluation of the eastern entrance within Cramond Roman Fort. The work unearthed *in situ* deposits within Barrack Block A and Trenches B and C. Fresh evidence for the phasing of the buildings was recovered, and a large selection of artefacts was recovered including metalwork, coins and ceramics all relating to the Roman occupation, as well as Medieval ceramic and metalwork (Cook 2008).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from inadvertent destruction by development impacts;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by construction activities;
- iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that that would suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie preservation *in situ* was impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with CECAS.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 All ground breaking works associated with the development were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The Watching Brief stopped when the required levels or clean natural subsoil was observed. The foundation trenches were hand excavated due to space limitations.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 2nd September 2009. The weather was overcast with rain showers, nevertheless archaeological visibility was good. The ground-works consisted of two hand-dug foundation trenches.

4.2 Foundation Trenches

4.2.1 Foundation Trench 1

The excavation of this trench (measuring 3.70 m by 0.60 m) involved the removal of the existing foundations of a Victorian brick-built shed. Once removed the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.60 m below the existing ground surface. The excavated deposits consisted of a made ground of re-deposited top-soil and building rubble overlying grey boulder clay. The excavation revealed that the area closest to the house had also been truncated by modern drainage pipes. At a distance of 1.50 m to the north of the house the made ground directly overlaid a 0.70 m wide cobbled surface. This consisted of small sub-angular cobbles (avg size; 0.15 x 0.10 m) set within the boulder clay. No cut could be discerned and the cobbles did not continue within the trench. At the northern end of the trench the boulder clay and made ground was again truncated, by a large iron fence post.



Plate 1 Position of Cobbled Surface within Foundation Trench 1

4.2.3 Foundation Trench 2

This trench (measuring 4.20 m by 0.60 m) ran east to west from the northern end of Trench 1 terminating at an existing house wall. As with Trench 1 the excavation revealed made ground to a depth of 0.50 m. Excavation ceased before clean, natural boulder clay was observed and no further features were recorded. Several white ceramic sherds of 19th / 20th century date were noted.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken at 6 The Glebe, Cramond identified the survival of a cobbled surface of unknown date and function.
- 5.2 The works have confirmed the location and depth of a fragment of cobbled surface which possibly relates to the presence of the nearby Roman Fort, although no small finds of Roman date were recovered from the surface. Given the common construction of the feature and absence of associated chronologically diagnostic artefactual material it is entirely possible that the cobbled surface is derived from a later, or even relatively recent, period.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Given the size and nature of the archaeological deposits found during the watching brief, and the level of recording undertaken, no further works are considered necessary.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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6 The Glebe, Cramond; Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Black & White Print/ Digital Film 1

Frame	Area/Context	Description	From
0-2		Registration shots	
3-4	Trench 1	Removal of Shed wall	N
5-7	Trench 1 & 2	Working shots	N
8-9	Trench 1	Cobbled Surface	W

APPENDIX 2: Drawing Register

Drawing Number	Scale	Description
1	1:20	Plan of Cobbled Surface

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	6 The Glebe, Cramond
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21455
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Cobbled Surface
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NGR: NT 18975 76608
START DATE (this season)	September 2 nd 2009
END DATE (this season)	September 2 nd 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief monitored the excavation of two foundation trenches for the construction of a new conservatory to the rear of the property. A small area of cobbles of unknown date was revealed within Foundation Trench 1. No small finds of archaeological significance were recovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	
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

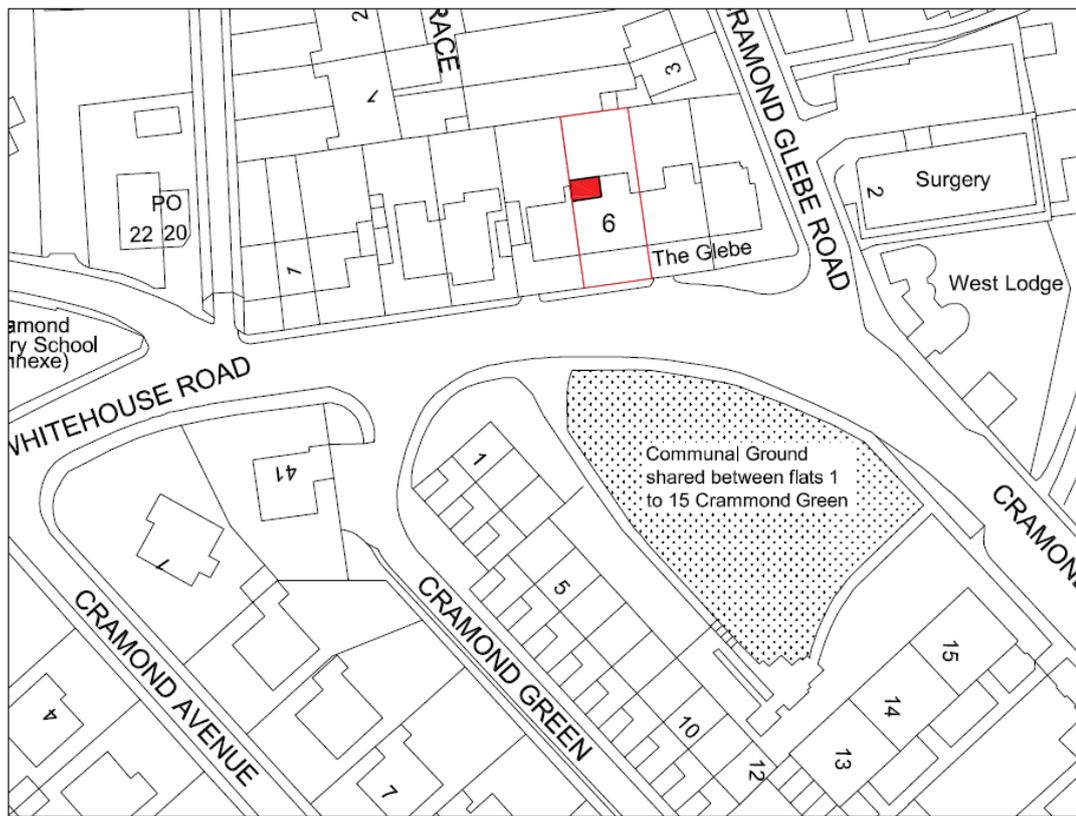
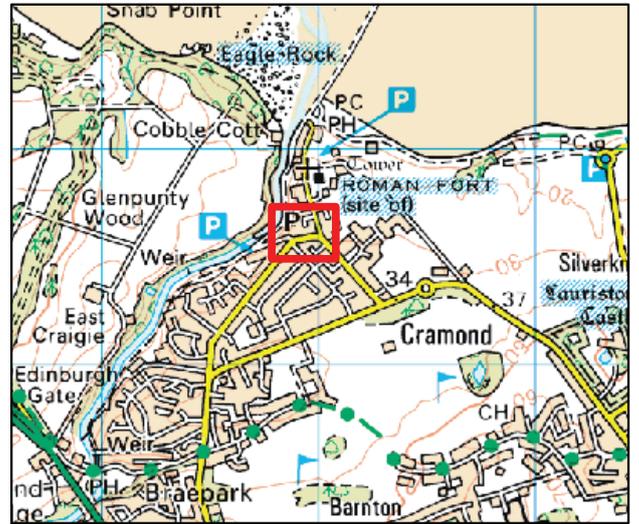


Figure 1: Site Location and Location of Ground Works

N.B. Street map provided by Planning, Design & Graphics Limited



(c) AOC Archaeology 2009

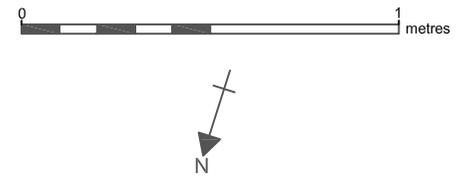
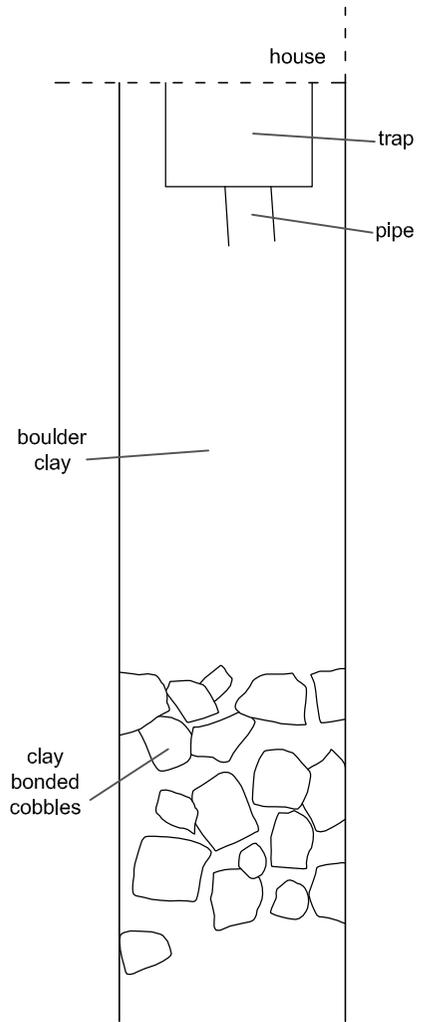
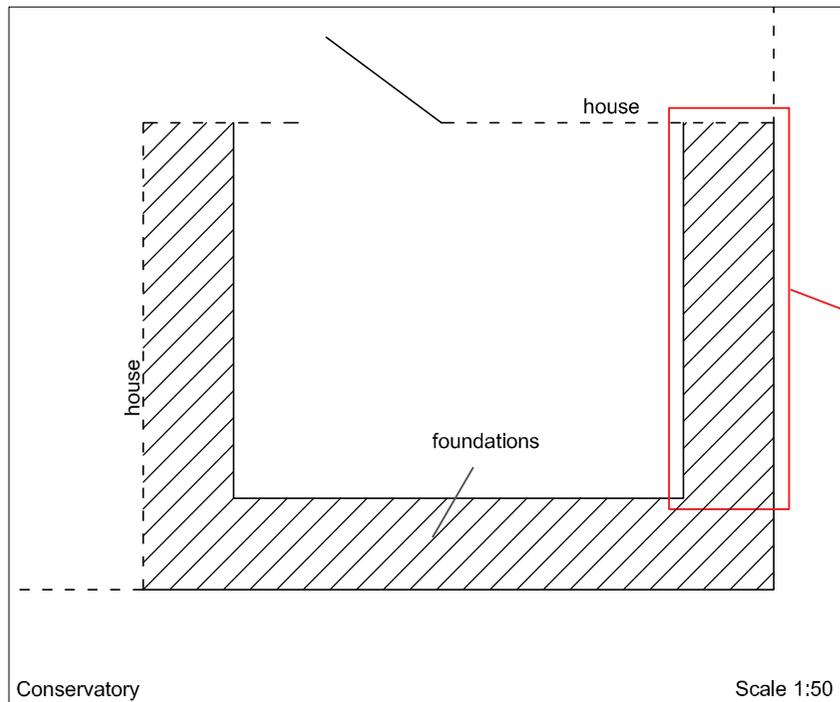
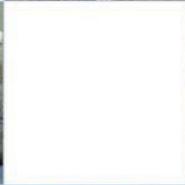


Figure 2: Plan of Cobbled Area within Foundation Trench 1



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