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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHICAL AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



MORRISON CONSTRUCTION

STOCKBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, EDINBURGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

August 2017





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MORRISON CONSTRUCTION

Stockbridge Primary School, Edinburgh

Archaeological Evaluation

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CONTENTS

SUMMA	RY1				
ACKNOW	/LEDGEMENTS2				
1 INTR	ODUCTION				
1.1	Project Circumstances and Planning Background3				
1.2	Project Documentation				
2 MET	HODOLOGY4				
2.1	Standards and Guidance4				
2.2	Documentary Research4				
2.3	The Field Evaluation4				
3 BAC	GROUND				
3.1	Location and Geological Context7				
3.2	Historical and Archaeological Background7				
3.3	Map Regression8				
4 ARCI	HAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS9				
4.1	Introduction9				
4.2	Results9				
4.3	Environmental Sampling10				
5 FIND	PS11				
5.1	Introduction11				
5.2	Post-medieval Ceramics11				
5.3	Ceramic Building Material11				
5.4	Glass12				
5.5	Plaster12				
5.6	Animal Bone12				
5.7	Statement of Potential12				
6 CON	6 CONCLUSIONS				
6.1	Interpretation14				
6.2	Significance14				
6.3	Conclusions14				
7 BIBL	IOGRAPHY15				
APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS16					
APPEND	X 2: PLATES				
APPEND	X 3: FIGURES				



PLATES (APPENDIX 2)

Plate 1; Trench 1, after cleaning: facing east, north-east (2.00m and 0.40m scales)
Plate 2; Sondage in Trench 1 showing natural substrate (101): facing south, south-east (2.00m scale)
Plate 3; Trench 1, showing foundation wall (104): and brick structures (105) and (106): facing west, south-west (2.00m and 0.40m scales)
Plate 4; Trench 1, showing foundation wall (104) and roofline 'scar' on the north- western boundary wall: facing north, north-west (1.00m scale)
Plate 5; Trench 2, after cleaning: facing north, north-west (2 x 1.00m scales)
Plate 6; Trench 3, after cleaning: facing west, south-west (2 x 1.00m scales)

FIGURES (APPENDIX 3)

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Trench location plan
- Figure 3: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1853 (6 inches to 1 mile scale)
- Figure 4: Ordnance Survey large scale Scottish town plan, Edinburgh and its Environs, 1876 (5 feet to 1 mile scale)
- Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1896 (25 inches to 1 mile scale)
- Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Map, 1948 (25 inches to 1 mile scale)
- Figure 7: Trench 1; plan and section



SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong (WA) was commissioned by Morrison Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Stockbridge Primary School, 17 Hamilton Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5BA (NGR: NT 24706 74693). The evaluation was required as a condition of planning consent. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to advice given by John Lawson, Edinburgh City Council Archaeologist, acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of Edinburgh City Council.

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches within and adjacent to the proposed development footprint of an extension to existing buildings. This took place over three consecutive days between the 17th and 19th July 2017. One trench contained the foundation remains of a post-medieval wall, part of a lean-to building, once standing against the northern boundary wall of the site. The two other trenches contained no archaeological features.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong (WA) thanks Morrison Construction for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WA thank John Lawson, Archaeology Officer, at Edinburgh City Council for his assistance.

Wardell Armstrong also thanks AB2000 for the hire of plant and Ross Smith for his operation of it and general help during the project.

The evaluation was undertaken by Kevin Mounsey and Cat Peters and supervised by Kevin Mounsey. The research was undertaken and written by Ariane Buschmann. The evaluation was written by Kevin Mounsey. The finds assessment was undertaken and written by Megan Stoakley. The figures were produced Helen Phillips. The project was managed by Frank Giecco and the report edited by Cat Peters.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Circumstances and Planning Background**

- 1.1.1 In July 2017, Wardell Armstrong (WA) undertook an archaeological evaluation at Stockbridge Primary School, 17 Hamilton Place, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 24707 74681). It was commissioned by the Client who intends to construct an additional school building in the north of the site for which a planning application is about to be submitted. During pre-planning consultation (EAS182497 Planning Pre-Application advice Stockbridge Primary 17 Hamilton Place) it became evident that the proposed development was in a location of high archaeological potential. As a result of this John Lawson, Edinburgh City Council archaeologist, requested that no development take place on the site until a scheme of archaeological investigation was carried out. In this case, a trial trench evaluation.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development is to the immediate south-east of a site which, in April 1823, was found to have cists and cinerary urns within it of prehistoric date. (Canmore 52660). These possibly date to the Bronze Age. There is therefore a strong possibility that archaeological remains of prehistoric date may be present within the proposed development site.

1.2 **Project Documentation**

- 1.2.1 The project conforms to a brief which was prepared in consultation with the archaeological planning advisor John Lawson, Edinburg City Council Archaeologist. A WSI (WA 2017a) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the brief for a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation. This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of postfieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological evaluation.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 **Standards and Guidance**

- 2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a), and in accordance with the WA fieldwork manual (2017b).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014a) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b).

2.2 **Documentary Research**

2.2.1 A rapid archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared, which set out the archaeological and historical background of the site, and provided an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets up to 0.1km from the area of investigation.

2.3 **The Field Evaluation**

- 2.3.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches across the proposed development area, which measured 0.327 hectares in size. Due to the nature of the site, its confined space and numerous school play obstacles within it, the trenches were placed where feasibly possible. All trenches measured 1.70m in width. Trench 1 measured 7.60m in length and Trenches 2 and 3 measured 8.00m in length. The general aims of these investigations were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

And, specifically to:

• establish the presence of any cists and cinerary urns of a prehistoric date.



- 2.3.2 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand. All possible features were inspected and selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples. Once completed all features were recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2017b).
- 2.3.3 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Carlisle office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (*ibid*). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):
 - unstratified material;
 - modern pottery
 - material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.
- 2.3.4 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014) and by the RCAHMS.
- 2.3.5 On completion, the evaluation trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material. Any removed black asphalt fragments were piled in one single area in order to facilitate its later removal from site.
- 2.3.6 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with RCAHMS in Edinburgh. It is understood that once the report has been signed off and accepted by John Lawson, Archaeologist at Edinburgh City Council, the report will become a publically assessable document



within the Sites and Mouments Record maintained by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **ED12043, STO-A/17**.

2.3.7 Wardell Armstrong supports the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the Index of Archaeological Investigation**S** (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: **wardella2-291340**



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site lies to the north of Edinburgh City centre (Figure 1) and is located at Hamilton Place, Edinburgh (NT 24705 74701). The site's environs comprise a mixture of residential and commercial properties. The site is bound by Hamilton Place to the south-east, Dean Bank Lane to the south-west and the backs of residential properties along Saxe Coburg Terrace. The area of investigation lies at a height of *c*. 21m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).
- 3.1.2 The site is approximately 0.327 hectares in size and is of irregular shape. It currently operates as a primary school which comprises two main buildings and several open play areas (Figure 2).
- 3.1.3 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as pale sandstone interbedded with grey to dark grey mudstone and siltstone of the Gullane Formation deposited during the Carboniferous Period, which formed approximately 335 to 352 million years ago. This is overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Devensian Raised Marine Deposits, deposited up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017). The natural substrate observed during the current phase of works comprised of light brown sandy gravel which is consistent with the mapped geologies above.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment was produced to summarise the known historical and archaeological background of the site and the surrounding landscape to a distance of 0.1km.
- 3.2.2 The research has identified that Stockbridge Primary School itself is a known heritage asset (Canmore 138411). In addition, there are a further 32 heritage assets within the wider 0.1km search radius.
- 3.2.3 Thirty-two non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. They comprise mainly buildings. To the immediate north-west of the site, cists and cinerary urns were found in April 1823 (Canmore 52660), possibly dating to the prehistoric period. There was, therefore, a reasonable likelihood that archaeological remains of prehistoric date may be present within the proposed development site.



- 3.2.4 No previous archaeological works have been undertaken within the development area.
- 3.2.5 No Romano-British or medieval find of archaeological significance have been found within the search radius.
- 3.2.6 The site and its environs remained undeveloped until the 18th century. The earliest documented heritage asset, Deanbank House (Canmore 84004), is a villa dating from the 18th century. The greater part of the documented heritage assets originate from the 19th century. They include Silvermills House (Canmore 148665), Nelson Hall (Canmore 138410), Stockbridge Public Library (Canmore 138409), Kartro House (Canmore 238042) buildings of 2-4 Saxe Coburg Terrace (Canmore 237881, 237882, 237883), Deanbank Cottage (Canmore 238404), 29-35 and 42-94 Hamilton Place (Canmore 138393, 138404, 138405, 138406, 138407, 138390, 128391, 235648, 138392), and several buildings at Clarence Street (Canmore 138345, 138350, 138351, 138352).

3.3 Map Regression

- 3.3.1 Until the mid-19th century, the site remained largely undeveloped. By 1853 (Figure 3), the Dean Bank Lodge (Canmore 238404) was built to the north-west of the site, and was surrounded by an ornamental garden. The evaluation site was within the garden at this time. The school was in existence by 1876 (Figure 4), the main building constructed to the south of the site. The building is annotated as a boys and girls school.
- 3.3.2 The school building appears to have been extended at its southern wing and several smaller outbuildings associated with the school were built by 1896 (Figure 5). At this time, the evaluation site was still part of the garden of Dean Bank Lodge to the west (Canmore 238404), and two linear buildings are shown along the north-west and north-east boundary of the development site (Figure 5). By 1908, the public library had been established on Hamilton Place, to the south-west of the site.
- 3.3.3 By 1948, Stockbridge Primary School had expanded, occupying the former domestic dwelling of Deanbank Lodge (Canmore 238404) and associated garden, including the present evaluation site (Figure 6). The linear buildings occupying the north-west and part of the north-east boundary were retained, though have since been demolished (Figure 2).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken over three consecutive days between the 17th and 19th July 2017, with three trenches excavated across the proposed development site. Due to the nature of the site, its confined space and numerous play obstacles within it, the trenches were placed where feasibly possible (Figure 2).

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 **Trench 1** was situated in the northern part of the site (Figure 2; Plate 1) within the footprint of the proposed development. The trench was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. It measured 7.60m in length and 1.70m in width. Ground level was 21.58m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the natural substrate (**101**), which consisted of a brown, sandy/gravel, was 0.35m below ground level at 21.23m aOD. A sondage measuring 1.70m below ground level was excavated at the west-south-west end of the trench (Figure 7; Plate 2) in order to confirm the natural substrate (**101**).
- 4.2.2 At the east-north-east end of the trench, a foundation wall (**104**) was uncovered running parallel to the site north-west boundary wall (Plate 3). This was 0.23m below ground level (21.35m aOD). The foundation wall measured 3.25m in length and had an average width of 0.40m. It consisted of grey sandstone blocks, some of which showed evidence of former use. Overlying this foundation course (**104**) was a brick course (**106**), the surviving length of which measured 0.84m (Plate 3). Mortar deposits on the upper surface of the foundation wall (**104**) suggested that the brick wall had once continued along the full length of it. Adjacent to walls (**104**) and (**106**) at the east-north-east end was a brick structure (**105**) measuring 0.48m square and containing a vertical, ceramic drain (Plate 3). All three structures (**104**), (**105**) and (**106**) were ascribed a post medieval date.
- 4.2.3 The structures were encompassed by several made ground deposits (103), (107), and (108) which sealed the natural substrate (101). At the east-north-east end of the trench, a made ground deposit (107) and the square brick structure (105) were sealed by a grey, sub-base deposit (102). A layer of black asphalt (100) sealed the entire trench.
- 4.2.4 On the north-west boundary wall of the site was evidence of a former roof line which suggested that the structures (104), (105) and (106) may be the remains of a building that was once built up against this wall (Plate 4). This is supported by the cartographic



evidence, which had indicated a building at this location by 1896 (*confer* 3.3.2) and removed after 1948 (*confer* 3.3.3).

- 4.2.5 Trench 2 was situated in the western section of the playground area (Figure 2; Plate 5). The trench was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. It measured 8.00m in length and 1.70m in width. Ground level was 21.56m aOD at the north-north-west end and 21.33m aOD at the south-south-east end. The natural substrate (201), which consisted of a brown sandy/gravel, was 0.36m below ground level.
- 4.2.6 At the northern end of the trench the natural substrate (201) was sealed by a deposit of dark brown, mixed, made ground (203) measuring 0.02m in depth and similar to deposit (103) in Trench 1. This in turn was sealed by deposits of modern sub-base (202) and black asphalt (200).
- 4.2.7 At a distance measuring c. 2.68m from the northern end of Trench 2 there was a distinct change in the stratigraphic sequence observed in the trench section. Here the natural substrate (201) was sealed by a deposit of dark brown, silty topsoil (205) measuring 0.02m in depth. This in turn was sealed by two layers of black asphalt (204) and (200). No archaeological features were observed in the trench.
- 4.2.8 Trench 3 was situated in the central, southern section of the playground area (Figure 2; Plate 6). The trench was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. It measured 8.00m in length and 1.70m in width. Ground level was 21.16m aOD at the east-north-east end and 21.32m aOD at the west-south-west end. The natural substrate (301), which consisted of a brown sandy/gravel, was 0.46m below ground level.
- 4.2.9 The natural substrate (301) was sealed by a deposit of topsoil (303) measuring 0.30m in depth and similar to deposit (205) in Trench 2. This in turn was sealed by two layers of black asphalt (302) and (300). The cut and fill of a modern drain track was observed crossing the trench diagonally. No archaeological features were observed in the trench.

4.3 Environmental Sampling

4.3.1 All deposits were deemed unsuitable for environmental samples therefore, no samples were taken during the archaeological evaluation.



5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks. A total of 33 artefacts, weighing 8,574g, were recovered from six deposits during the archaeological investigation. Quantification of finds by context is shown in Table 1.

Cxt	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments	
203	Animal Bone	1	1	PM	Gallus sp. Femur	
205	Animal Bone	1	238	PM	Bos sp. Femur with chop-mark to distal portion	
					Fragments of tile (one glazed), fragment of	
103	CBM	3	574	PM	brick with mortar	
106	СВМ	1	3400	PM-Mod	'VOGRIE' stamp Midlothian 1850-1910	
					Fragments of roofing tile plus three glazed	
107	CBM	9	1107	PM	fragments	
					ETNA' stamp - Etna Brickworks, Armadale,	
U/S	CBM	1	3015	PM-Mod	West Lothian, 1860-1950s	
					Base sherd of a stoneware jam / preserve jar	
107	Ceramic	1	29	PM	'STLE' engraved on base	
203	Ceramic	1	7	PM	Victorian TP scalloped plate rim	
					Fragments of window glass plus shards of a	
					clear St Cuthbert's milk bottle (Edinburgh)	
107	Glass	13	191	PM-Mod	dating to the 1950s	
203	Glass	1	4	PM	Clear window glass	
103	Plaster	1	8	PM-Mod	Fragment of plaster - white and blue	
Total		33	8574			

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Context

5.2 **Post-medieval Ceramics**

- 5.2.1 A total of two sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 36g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The sherds are in good condition and display little evidence of abrasion / post-depositional damage.
- 5.2.2 Fabric types include Transfer Print and white stoneware. The vessel types comprise a scalloped plate rim sherd and the base of a jar, likely used for preserves.
- 5.2.3 The pottery is of late 19th century date. No further analysis is necessary on this assemblage.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 A total of 14 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 8096g, were recovered from four deposits (Table 1). The fragments are in moderate to good condition and



display some evidence of post-depositional damage.

- 5.3.2 Fragments of roofing tile, pantile and partial brick fragments were recovered from deposits (**103**) and (**107**). Two complete bricks were recovered from deposits (**106**) and U/S and the stamps 'VOGRIE' and 'ETNA' are visible on them. The former originates to a Midlothian brick-makers based in Gorebridge and dates to 1850-1910 (<u>http://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/vogrie-2/</u>) and the latter originates from a West Lothian brick-makers based in Armadale and dates from *c*. 1860-1950s (<u>http://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/etna-2/</u>). No further analysis is necessary.
- 5.4 Glass
- 5.4.1 A total of 14 shards of later post-medieval to modern glass, weighing 195g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The fragments are in good condition and display little evidence of post-depositional damage.
- 5.4.2 The shards comprise largely window glass, although several fragments originate from one clear St Cuthbert's milk bottle which dates to the 1950s. No further analysis is necessary.

5.5 Plaster

5.5.1 A single, cuboid fragment of later post-medieval to modern blue and white plaster, weighing 8g, was recovered from deposit (**103**). It is in moderate condition and displays some evidence of post-depositional damage. No further analysis is required.

5.6 Animal Bone

- 5.6.1 Two fragments of animal bone, weighing 239g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The bones are in excellent condition; no accretions are evident any of the surfaces and both the cortical and trabecular bone are not worn.
- 5.6.2 The bones comprise a chicken (*Gallus sp.*) femur and a shaft-and-distal portion of cattle femur (*Bos sp.*) which exhibits a chop / saw-mark through the distal portion, possibly for marrow extraction.
- 5.6.3 Given the date of the other finds, it is likely that these bones are of later post-medieval to modern date and comprise generic domestic food waste. No further analysis is necessary.

5.7 **Statement of Potential**

5.7.1 The finds, although providing dating evidence for the site, are of low archaeological potential and no further analysis will be conducted on the assemblage. It is



recommended that the finds are not retained with the archive.



6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Interpretation

6.1.1 Archaeological remains were found in Trench 1, the northernmost trench. These took the form of a truncated post-medieval wall which ran parallel to the current north-western boundary wall. The wall probably represents the remains of a 'lean to' building. A roofline 'scar' on the north-western boundary wall, along with cartographic evidence encountered during the research indicating that a building was in this location by 1896 and demolished post 1948, further support this idea.

6.2 Significance

- 6.2.1 The structures uncovered in Trench 1 are post-medieval in date and are of low archaeological significance. The finds recovered during the archaeological evaluation are also of post-medieval date and are considered to be of low significance.
- 6.2.2 The evaluation has also found areas in the school playground that have not been adversely impacted by post-medieval and modern services, and thus the potential for earlier deposits to survive within the site boundary cannot be ruled out.

6.3 Conclusions

6.3.1 There remains the possibility of archaeological features being encountered during future groundworks on the school extension. It is therefore possible that further archaeological mitigation may be required, dependent on advice from John Lawson, Archaeology Officer at Edinburgh City Council.



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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Length: 7.60m

Width: 1.70m Orier

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Average Depth: 0.40m Maximum Depth: 1.70m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
100	Deposit	Black Asphalt	0.05-0.08m	Modern playground covering
101	Geology	Brown, sandy/gravel	N/A	Gravel was coarse up to 120mm in size
102	Deposit	Grey, 20mm Sub-Base	0.12m	Modern, at east-north east end of trench only
103	Deposit	Brown, mixed made ground deposit	0.30m	Post-Medieval
104	Structure	Grey stone, foundation wall	0.12m	Post-Medieval
105	Structure	Square, brick structure	0.30m	Post-Medieval
106	Structure	Brick Wall	0.20m	Post-Medieval
107	Deposit	Stoney bedding layer	0.20m	Post-Medieval
108	Deposit	Brown, silty deposit	0.20m	Post Medieval

Trench 2

Length: 8.00mWidth: 1.70mOrientation: NNW-SSEAverage Depth: 0.46mMaximum Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
200	Deposit	Upper black asphalt surface	0.05-0.08m	Modern playground covering
201	Geology	Brown, sandy/gravel	N/A	Gravel was coarse up to 120mm in size
202	Deposit	Grey/brown, 20mm Sub- Base	0.10m	Modern, at north-north- west end of trench only
203	Deposit	Brown, mixed made ground deposit	0.30m	Post-Medieval at north- north-east end of trench only
204	Deposit	Lower black asphalt surface	0.10m	Modern
205	Deposit	Dark brown, silty, topsoil	0.30m	Post-Medieval



Trench 3

Length: 8.00mWidth: 1.70mOrientation: ENE-WSWAverage Depth: 0.50mMaximum Depth: 0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
300	Deposit	Upper black asphalt surface	0.05-0.08m	Modern playground covering
301	Geology	Brown, sandy/gravel	N/A	Gravel was coarse up to 120mm in size
302	Deposit	Lower black asphalt surface	0.08m	Modern
303	Deposit	Dark brown, silty, topsoil	0.30m	Post-Medieval



APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; Trench 1, after cleaning: facing east-north-east (2.00m and 0.40m scales)



Plate 2; Sondage in Trench 1 showing natural substrate (101): facing south-south-east (2.00m scale)





Plate 3; Trench 1, showing foundation wall (104): and brick structures (105) and (106): facing west-south-west (2.00m and 0.40m scales)



Plate 4; Trench 1, showing foundation wall (104) and roofline 'scar' on the north- western boundary wall: facing north-north-west (1.00m scale)





Plate 5; Trench 2, after cleaning: facing north-north-west (2 x 1.00m scales)



Plate 6; Trench 3, after cleaning: facing west-south-west (2 x 1.00m scales)



APPENDIX 3: FIGURES



Figure 1: Site location.



Figure 2: Trench location plan.



Figure 3: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1853 (6 inches to 1 mile scale).



Figure 4: Ordnance Survey large scale Scottish town plan, Edinburgh and its Environs, 1876 (5 feet to 1 mile scale).



Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1896 (25 inches to 1 mile scale).



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Map, 1948 (25 inches to 1 mile scale).



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	Wardell Armstrong 2017
	PROJECT: Stockbridge Primary School, Edinburgh
	CLIENT: Morrison Construction
	SCALE:Plan 1:40/Section 1:30 at A3DRAWN BY:HPCHECKED BY:ABDATE:August 2017KEY:KEX
21.64mAOD	(101) Context number Height mAOD Section location Limit of excavation
<u>1</u> m	REPORT No: ED12043

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