

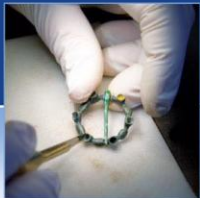
Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21932

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Planning reference no. 11/01509/FUL

1st August 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh: Evaluation Data Structure Report

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| For: | Montagu Evans LLP |
| On Behalf of: | Mary Erskine School 19 Canning Street Edinburgh EH3 8EG |
| National Grid Reference (NGR): | 220 742 |
| AOC Project No: | 21932 |
| Prepared by: | Erlend Hindmarch |
| Illustration by: | Stefan Sagrott |
| Date of Fieldwork: | 13th July 2011 |
| Date of Report: | 1st August 2011 |

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

Author: Erlend Hindmarch

Date: 1st August 2011

Approved by: John Gooder

Date: 1st August 2011

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 1st August 2011

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



www.aocarchaeology.com

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Abstract

This report presents the results of a 5% sample archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the construction of new tennis courts at the Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Montagu Evans LLP on behalf of Mary Erskine School to carry out a programme of archaeological works prior the construction of new tennis courts within the school grounds (Planning Reference No.11/01509/FUL). The development lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principals set out in Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government, February 2010) and Planning Advice Note 42 (SOEnD 1994) and in accord with City of Edinburgh Council requirements as advised by CECAS.

1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological works was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a programme of trial trenching. A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with CECAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred on NGR NT 220 742 (Figure 1) and is located within the grounds of the Mary Erskine School, Ravelston, Edinburgh. It lies on ground immediately to the north and west of existing tennis courts and covers an area of approximately 0.4 ha. The north-eastern section of the site is relatively flat and is separated from the western area by an outcrop of bed rock.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The development site lies within ground associated with Ravelston House and its estate. Ravelston has been occupied since at the least the mid 14th century at which point it comprised the centre of a medieval estate. Ravelston House (designed by George Foulis in 1790) is the existing residence, having replaced a country mansion of 1624 date which in turn succeeded a medieval tower house. Little is known of the early buildings occupying the area, however two 17th openings within the nearby walled garden almost certainly originated from the time of the earlier country mansion (Lawson per comm.).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess 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 mitigation, such as, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation was achieved by means of the excavation of linear trenches using a tracked 360 excavator equipped with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. The development area extended to approximately 4000 m² and trenching, covering a 5% sample, equated to 200 m². The trenches were 2 m wide, between 20 m to 50 m in length, and set on varying orientations (Figure 2).
- 3.2 Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were carefully backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices
 - i) Appendix 1 contains the trench summaries
 - ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register
 - iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry
- 4.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 13th July 2011 in good weather conditions providing good archaeological visibility.
- 4.3 Trenching revealed only shallow topsoil overlying natural boulder clay with occasional bedrock intrusions. Neither archaeological features nor deposits were found in any of the trenches. No unstratified residual artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed.



Plate 1: Trench 1 from the north-east



Plate 2: Trench 3 from the south-west

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered by the evaluation. The significant balance of probability is that the development site is archaeologically sterile.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

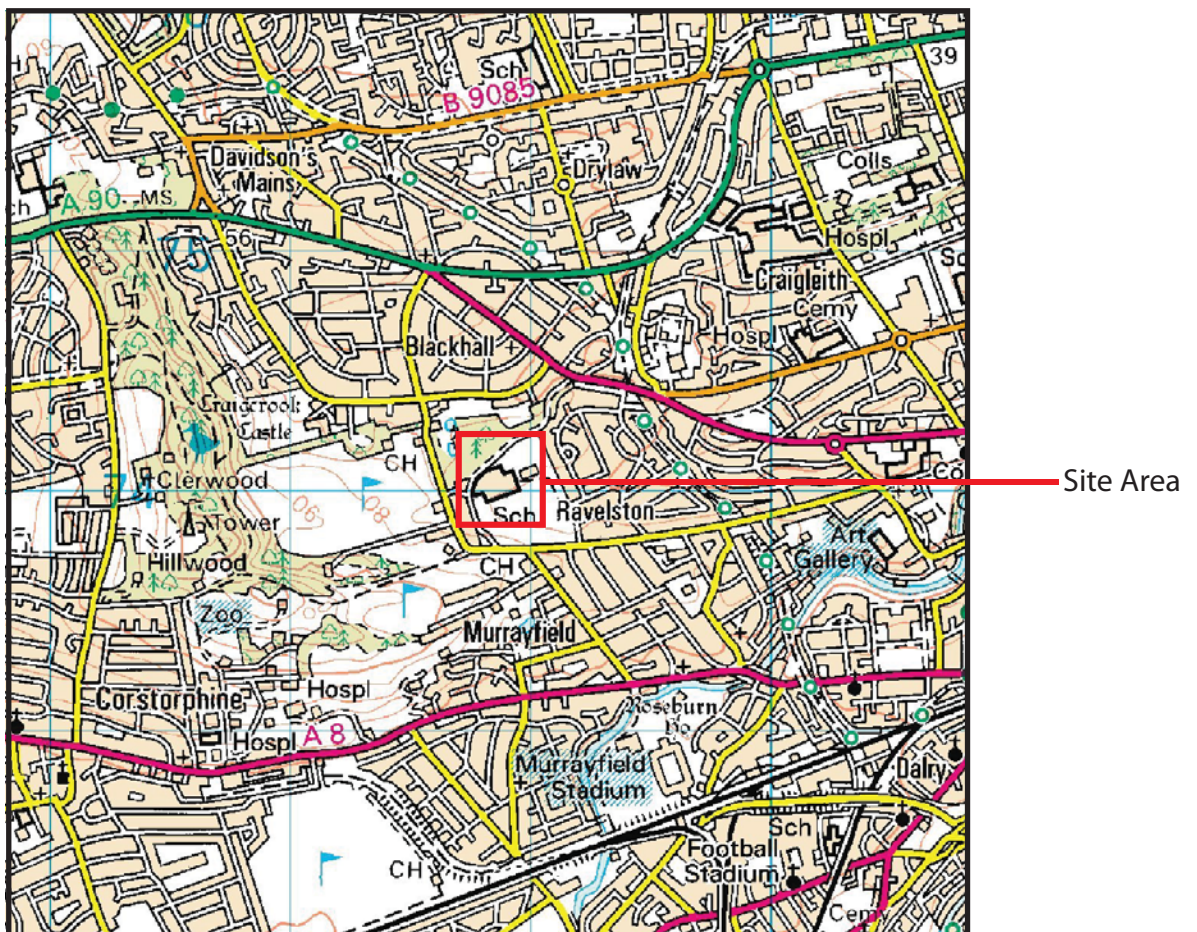
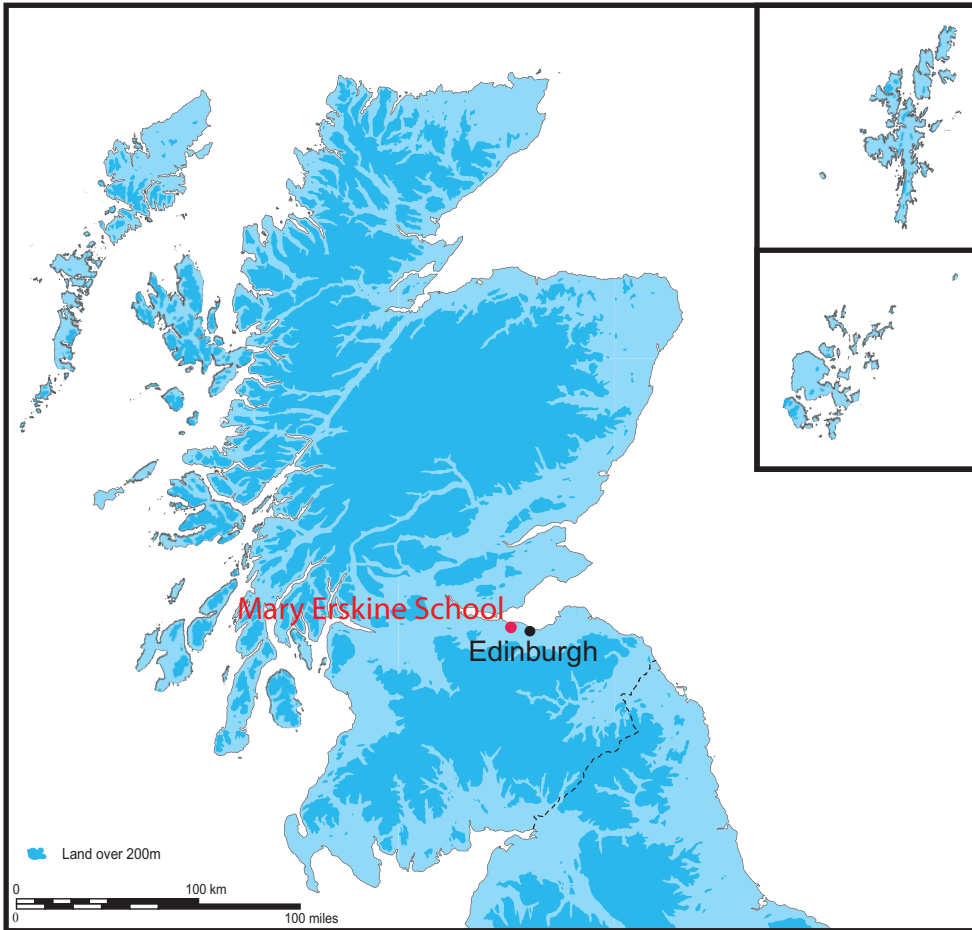
- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS on behalf of Edinburgh City Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2011 *Mary Erskine School New Tennis Courts: Written Scheme of investigation*, Unpublished AOC Method Statement.

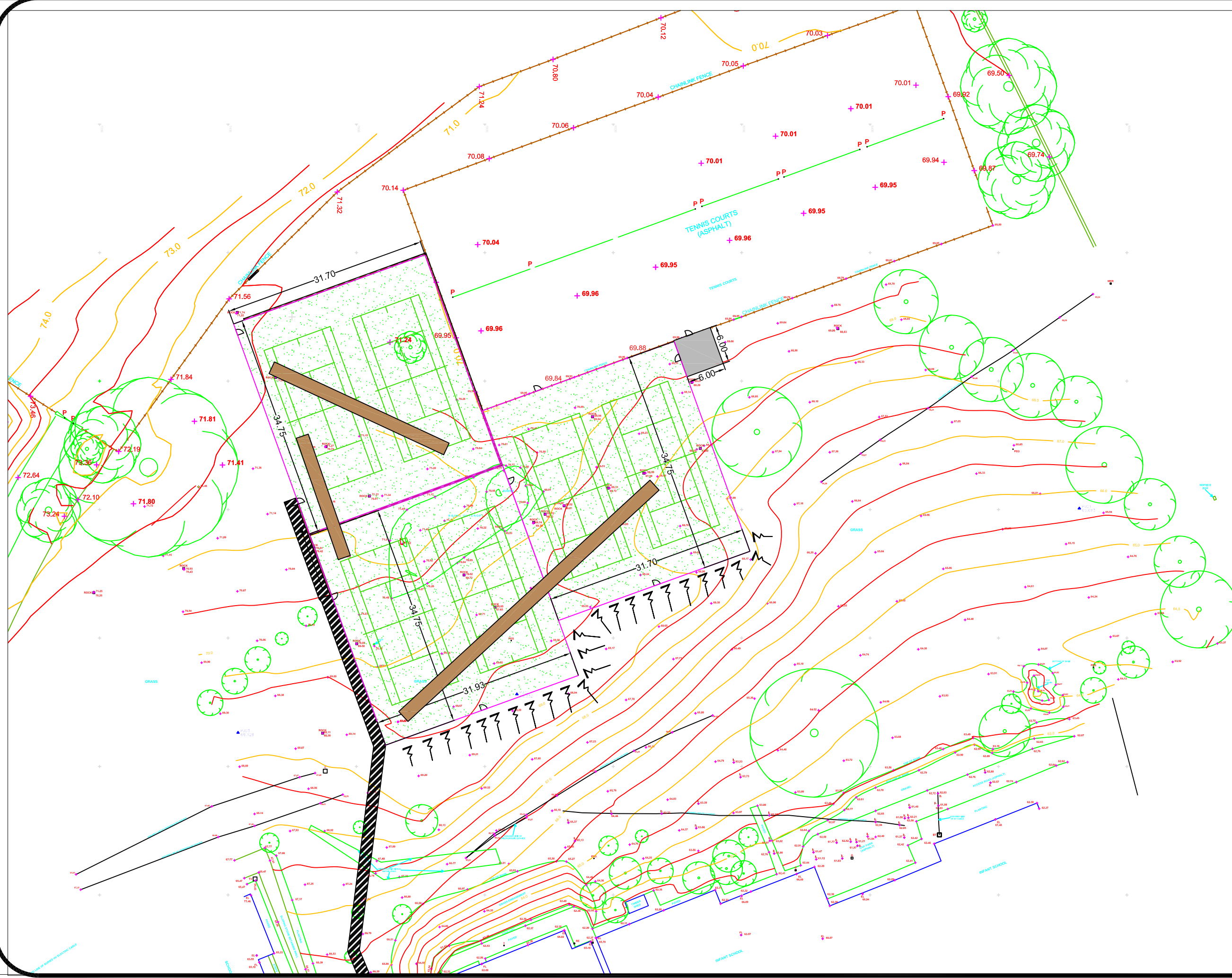
SOEnD 1994 *Planning advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environment Department.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*. (February 2010)



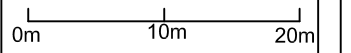
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Figure 1: Location of the site at Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh



General Notes

Figure 2:
Evaluation
trench layout for
Mary Erskine
School



| No. | Revision/Issue | Date |
|-----|----------------|------|
| | | |

Firm Name and Address

Project Name and Address
Mary Erskine School Tennis
Courts, Edinburgh

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Project 21932 | Sheet |
| Date 28/07/11 | |
| Scale | |

Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh: Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 30 m by 2 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 60 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | NE/SW |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.3 m -0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | None |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Boulder clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 2

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 20 m by 2 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 40 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | ENE-WSW |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.35 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | None |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Boulder clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 3

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 50 m by 2 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 100 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | NW-SE |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.5 m SE rising to 0.2 m at NW |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.5 m max |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | None |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Boulder clay at SE changing to rising bed rock at NW |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Film 1

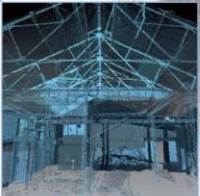
| Frame | Trench | Description | From |
|-------|--------|-------------------|------|
| 1 | - | Registration shot | - |
| 2 | 1 | General view | NE |
| 3 | 2 | General view | NE |
| 4 | 3 | General view | SE |

Black and White Film 1

| Frame | Trench | Description | From |
|-------|--------|-------------------|------|
| 1 | - | Registration shot | - |
| 2 | 1 | General view | NE |
| 3 | 2 | General view | NE |
| 4 | 3 | General view | SE |

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | City of Edinburgh Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME | Mary Erskine School Tennis Courts Evaluation |
| PROJECT CODE: | 21932 |
| PARISH: | Edinburgh |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Erlend Hindmarch |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological Evaluation |
| NMRS NO(S) | N/A |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | N/A |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | N/A |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NT 220 742 |
| START DATE (this season) | 13 th July |
| END DATE (this season) | 13 th July |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | A 5% sample evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of new tennis courts at the Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | --- |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Mary Erskine School |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | admin@aocarchaeology.com |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | Archive to be deposited in NMRS |



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com