

Fettes College Boarding House, Edinburgh: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21892

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18th October 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Fettes College Boarding House: Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Page \ Park Architects 20 James Morrison Street Glasgow G1 5PE
For	Fettes College
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 2320 7518
AOC Project No:	21892
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Date of Fieldwork:	13th October 2011
Date of Report:	18th October 2011

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

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a new boarding house at Fettes College, Edinburgh

The archaeological evaluation consisted of the machine trenching of 200 m² equating to a 5% sample of the development area.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Page \ Park Architects to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Fettes College, Edinburgh. The development (Planning Ref number 11/01036/FUL) consists of the demolition of a number of existing houses (built late 1960) followed by the construction of a new boarding house within the grounds of Fettes College. The site 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). A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was prepared by AOC and was agreed with CECAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) and in accord with City of Edinburgh Council requirements as advised by CECAS.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred on NGR NT 2320 7518 (Figure 1) on the west side of the Fettes College estate. The site is bounded to the west by Crewe Road and to the south by the college's west drive. The land immediately to the east is currently occupied by an all weather sports pitch.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 Fettes College (NMRS NT27SW 35) was built between 1864 and 1870 with much of the college now listed. The First Edition Ordnance Survey (1854) shows that the site chosen for the new college consisted mainly of farmland, though a single small farmstead, named 'Werter' lay close to what is now the west lodge (NMRS NT27SW 35.02.). The west lodge lies adjacent to the SW corner of the development area and therefore the remains associated with the Werter farmstead may have survived within the development area. In addition, much of the development area has only ever been recorded as farmland and the survival of hitherto unknown archaeological material was considered a significant possibility by CECAS.

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) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 CECAS required a 5% evaluation sample of the total development area, which amounted to 5000 m². However due to some areas having been previously disturbed (four houses recently occupied the site) and some areas being retained under existing trees, the total area for evaluation was reduced to 3800 m². Therefore the 5% sample equated to 190 m² (total basal trench dimensions). The position of the trenches (Figure 2) was approved by CECAS prior to the evaluation.
- 3.2 The trenching was achieved using a mechanical excavator (JCB) equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket, with excavation carried out in shallow spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 13th October 2011. Overall, the weather conditions were good and good archaeological visibility was present throughout the evaluation. The various data gathered from the evaluation are 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 Trenches 1 and 3 (Figure 2; Plates 1 and 2) were dug through ground that had previously been subjected to demolition works and the overburden in these two trenches consisted of disturbed ground directly overlying the natural subsoil at depths varying from 0.5 m to 1.2 m (Appendix 1).
- 4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 2; Plate 3) was excavated through the same disturbed ground (0.8 m in depth) at its northern end, but after 8.5 m from the north, it was excavated through undisturbed ground. The overburden at this point and beyond consisted of turf and moderately compact mid grey clay silt 0.5 m in depth overlying a B horizon of dark grey silty clay, 0.3 m thick. This deposit directly overlies natural subsoil comprising boulder clay.
- 4.4 Trench 4 (Figure 2; Plate 4) was also excavated through both disturbed and undisturbed ground. The undisturbed ground at the southern end of the trench consisted of the same topsoil (0.2 m in depth) encountered in Trench 2, but with no B horizon present with the topsoil directly overlying natural boulder clay. In the north of the trench, recent made ground had a depth of 0.4 m to 0.6 m.
- 4.5 Neither archaeological features nor unstratified artefacts were found in any of the trenches.



Plate 1: Trench 1 from north-east



Plate 2: Trench 3 from south-west



Plate 3: Trench 2 from north



Plate 4: Trench 4 from south

5 CONCLUSION

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

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

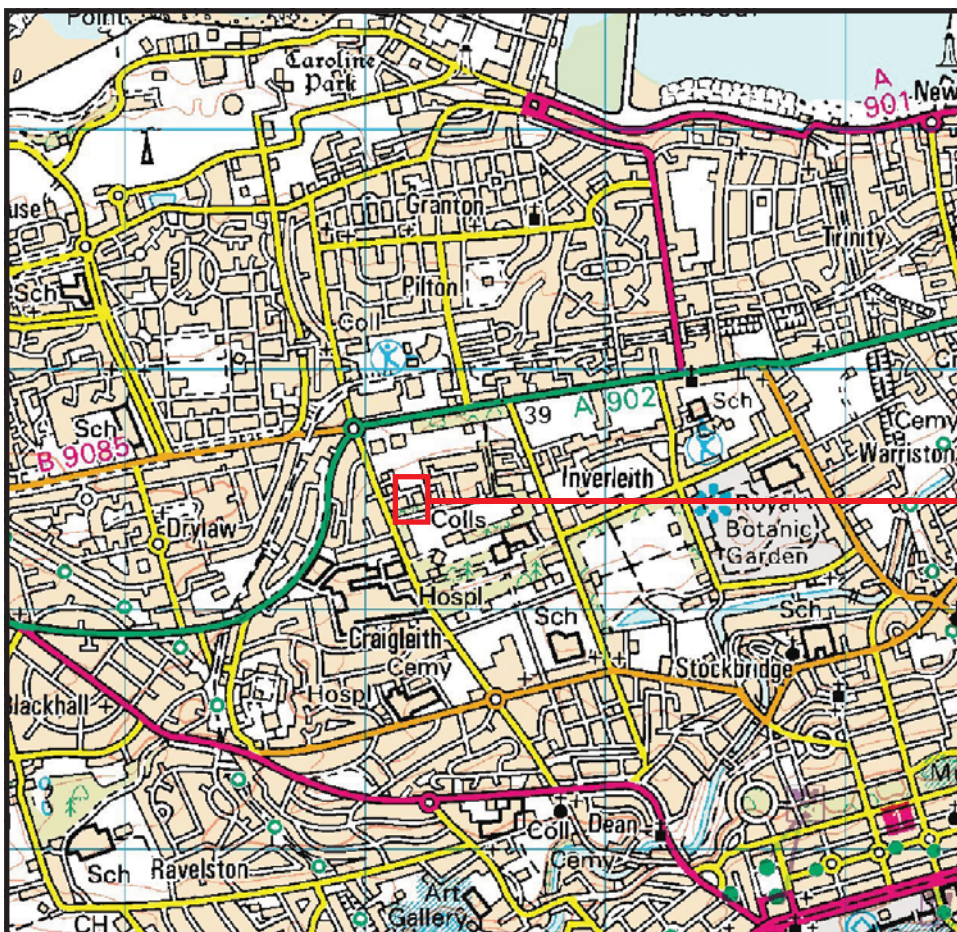
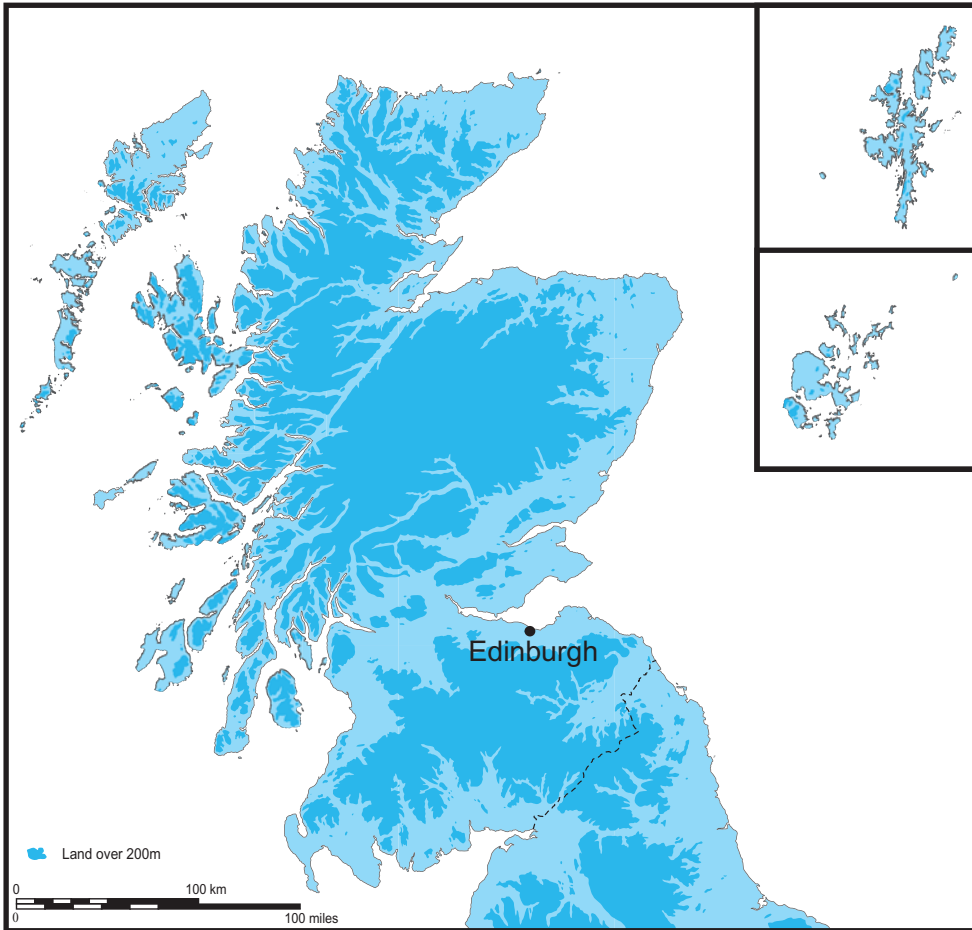
- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS on behalf of Edinburgh City Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2011 *Fettes College Boarding House Evaluation, Edinburgh: Written Scheme of Investigation* (12th May 2011). Unpublished AOC Project Design.

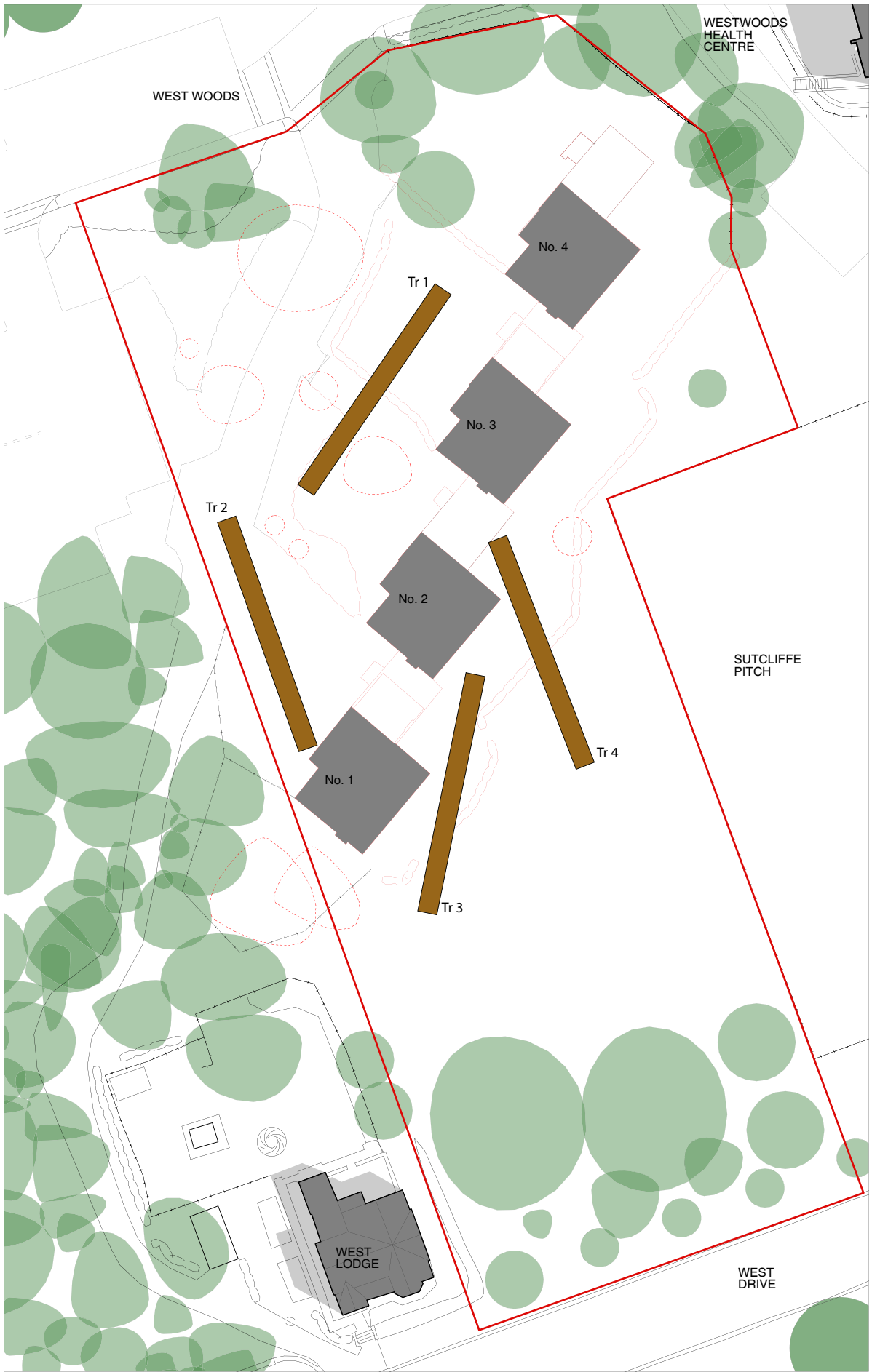
Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*. (February 2010)

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Fettes College, Edinburgh



- DEVELOPMENT SITE BOUNDARY
- - - OUTLINE OF EXISTING STAFF HOUSING TO BE DEMOLISHED
- () OUTLINE OF TREES IDENTIFIED FOR REMOVAL
- 25m evaluation trench



Based on a drawing supplied by the client

Figure 2: Evaluation trench layout at Fettes College boarding house

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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NE/SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	1.2 m at NE; rises sharply to 0.9 m after 12 m from NE
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.9 m -1.2 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>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NNW – SSE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	From 0.0 m from NNE to 8.5 m trench dug through disturbed ground, depth 0.8 m. Thereafter dug through turf and topsoil, depth 0.7 m - 0.8 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.9 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>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NNE – SSW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.5 m increasing to 0.8 m after 12 m from SW.
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.6 m – 0.9 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NNW – SSE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Trench dug through turf and topsoil for first 18 m from S end, depth 0.2 m. Thereafter dug through disturbed ground, depth 0.6 m - 0.4 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.2 m – 0.6 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Black and white images

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration shot	-
2	1	General post-excavation shot	NE
3	1	General post-excavation shot	SW
4	2	General post-excavation shot	NNE
5	3	General post-excavation shot	SW
6	4	General post-excavation shot	S

Digital images

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration shot	
2	1	General post-excavation shot	NE
3	1	General post-excavation shot	SW
4	2	General post-excavation shot	NNE
5	3	General post-excavation shot	SW
6	4	General post-excavation shot	E

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Fettes College Boarding House, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC
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 2320 7518
START DATE (this season)	13 th October 2011
END DATE (this season)	13 th October 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior a new boarding house development at Fettes college, Edinburgh</p> <p>The archaeological evaluation consisted of the machine trenching of 200 m² equating to a 5% sample of the development area. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Fettes College
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