

# 7 The Glebe, Cramond: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21866

OASIS ID: aocarchaeology1-112232

18<sup>th</sup> October 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## 7 The Glebe, Cramond Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

---

**On Behalf of:** Urban Creatures  
Chartered Architects  
134 Queensferry Road  
Edinburgh  
EH4 2BG

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 18903 76603

**AOC Project No:** 21866

**OASIS Number:** aocarchaeology1-112232

**Prepared by:** Martin Cook

**Illustration by:** Stefan Sagrott

**Date of Fieldwork:** 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

**Date of Report:** 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011

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

**Author:** Martin Cook

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**Approved by:** John Gooder

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Final

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> October 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](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)



## Contents

	Page
List of illustrations.....	1
List of Plates.....	1
List of appendices .....	1
Abstract.....	2
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Background.....	3
1.2 Location .....	3
1.3 Archaeological background.....	3
<b>2 OBJECTIVES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3 METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 RESULTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5 CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6 RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: ‘Discovery and Excavation in Scotland’ Report.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## List of illustrations

Figure 1      Location Map

## List of Plates

Plate 1      Post excavation photograph of foundation trench

## List of appendices

Appendix 1      Photographic Record

Appendix 2      *'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'* Report

## Abstract

---

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed extension to an existing property at 7 The Glebe, Cramond, Edinburgh.

The archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of a single foundation pit through made ground. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Urban Creatures to carry out a watching brief during construction works associated with an extension to a property, at 7 The Glebe, Cramond, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 1891 7658). The development lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mr. John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principals set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (2011) and in agreement with the City of Edinburgh Council requirements as advised by CECAS.
- 1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological works was to safeguard the archaeological resource from any inadvertent physical impact deriving from the development's groundworks.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area (NT 18903 76603) is located within the grounds of 7 The Glebe, Cramond, and is surrounded on all sides by residential properties (Figure 1).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 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 (Rae and Rae 1974). 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 (Holmes 2003).
- 1.3.2 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 3<sup>rd</sup> century date. The Roman ditches on the north side are not thought to have survived the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 1.3.3 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Legion Augusta (normally stationed at Caerleon Fort in South Wales) and two auxiliary regiments – the 5<sup>th</sup> Cohort of Gauls (from France) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

- 1.3.4 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.
- 1.3.5 In November 2007 a programme of archaeological test-pitting was carried out in advance of the proposed Walled Garden play park development. A series of four test-pits were excavated over the proposed location of the play facilities, however neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified (Cook & Lynchehaun 2007).
- 1.3.6 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). More recently a programme of archaeological works adjacent to Cramond Kirk 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. 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 was hugely successful identifying previously known features within Barrack Block B, but more importantly unearthing *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). The most recent work, a watching brief at 6 The Glebe, Cramond, identified 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 (Engl 2009).

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
  - ii) to liaise with CECAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and /or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief comprised monitoring the groundworks involved in the construction of an extension to an existing outhouse at the back of the property. This involved the removal, by hand of the internal foundation material of the building. When the sterile natural subsoil or the formation level was reached the monitoring stopped.
- 3.2 All groundworks were supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices
- i) Appendix 1 contains the photographic register
  - ii) Appendix 2 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry
- 4.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011. Overall the weather conditions were overcast, with slight showers. Good archaeological visibility was present throughout the watching brief.
- 4.3 The foundation trench was excavated through 0.67 m of made ground, redeposited natural clay. The existing natural subsoil was not encountered.





*Plate 1: Post-excavation photograph of foundation trench*

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Despite the presence of significant archaeological remains within the immediate vicinity of the development area, neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered by the watching brief. However, as the ground breaking works did not encounter the natural subsoil, the possibility remains that as yet unidentified Roman remains exist below the development.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2009 5 *Cramond Glebe Terrace Archaeological Works: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Project Design.

AMAA 1979 *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act*.

Cook, M 2008 *Cramond Management Plan Excavation: Data Structure Report*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Archive Report.

Cook, M & Lynchehaun, S 2007 *Cramond Walled Garden Archaeological Works: Data Structure Report*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Archive Report.

Engl, R 2009 5 *The Glebe, Cramond: Watching Brief Report*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Archive Report.

Gooder, J.W. 2003 *Cramond Campus Excavation: Data Structure Report*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Archive Report.

Hoy, C. 1979 *Cramond, Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society, report on excavation 1979*, Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society.

Holmes, N. 2003 *Excavation of Roman Sites at Cramond, Edinburgh*. M. Collard & J. Lawson (eds). Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph 23.

Lawson, J.A. 1995 '23 Cramond Glebe Road (City parish of Edinburgh), Roman road and ditches, prehistoric artefacts and features', *Discovery Excav Scot*, p.53.

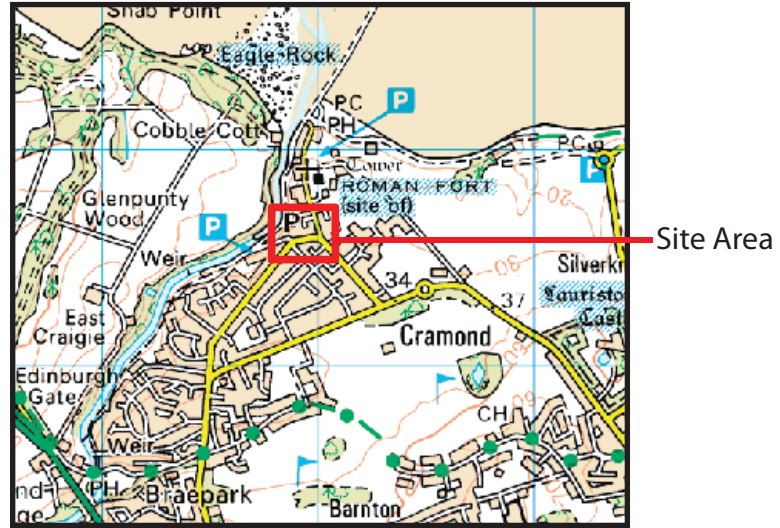
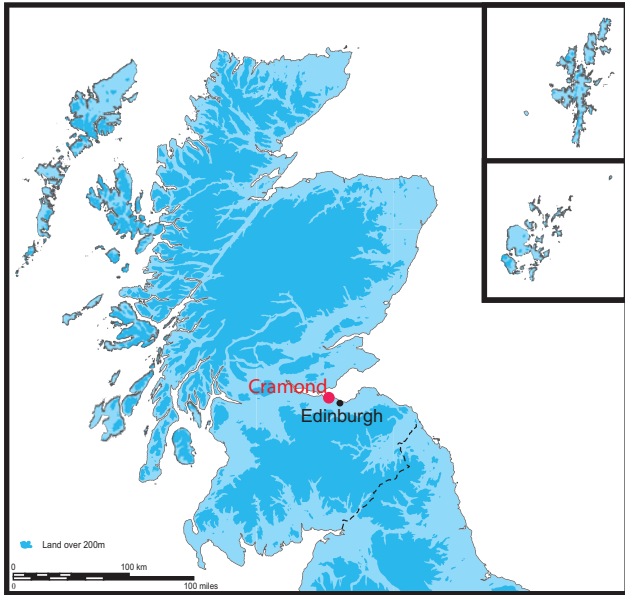
Stuart, R 1845. *Caledonia Romana*. Edinburgh & London.

Rae, A. & Rae, V. 1974 The Roman Fort at Cramond, Edinburgh: Excavations 1954-66. *Britannia*, 5 (1974), 163-224.

Wilson, D.R. 1984 *Defensive Outworks of Roman Forts*

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 scale map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright.  
 AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY  
 OS License No.: 100016114

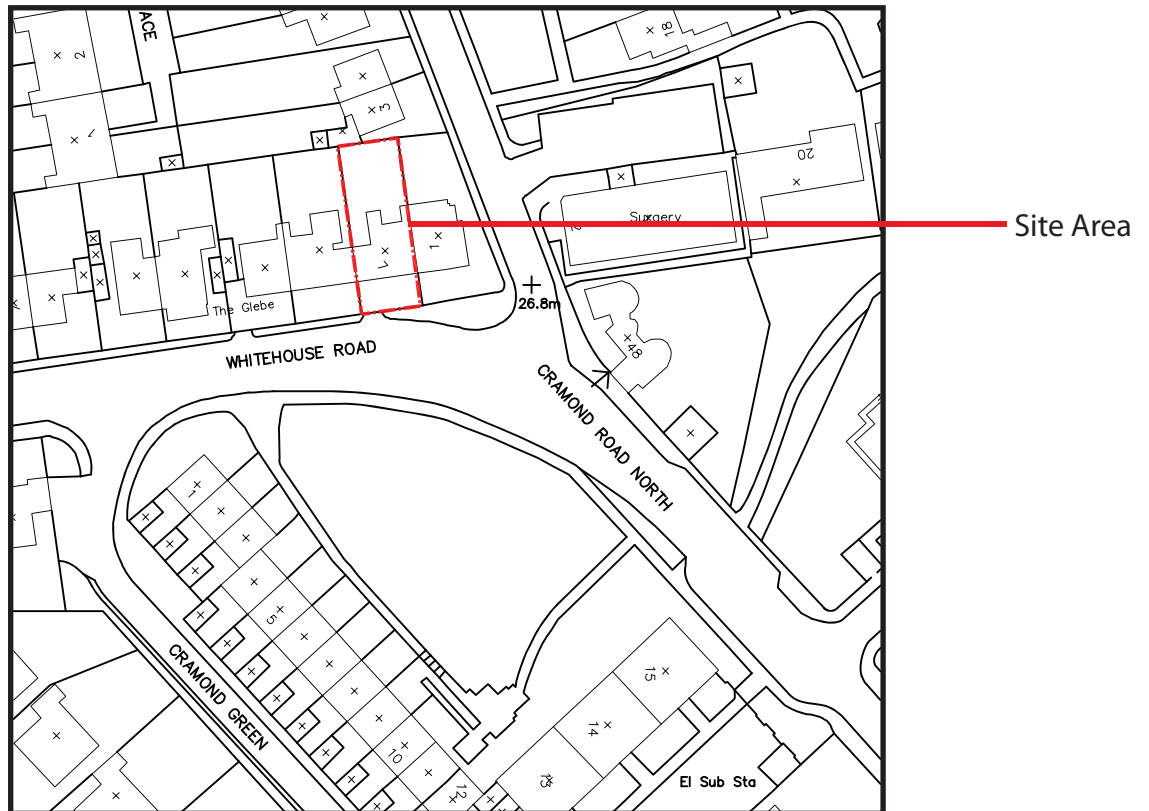
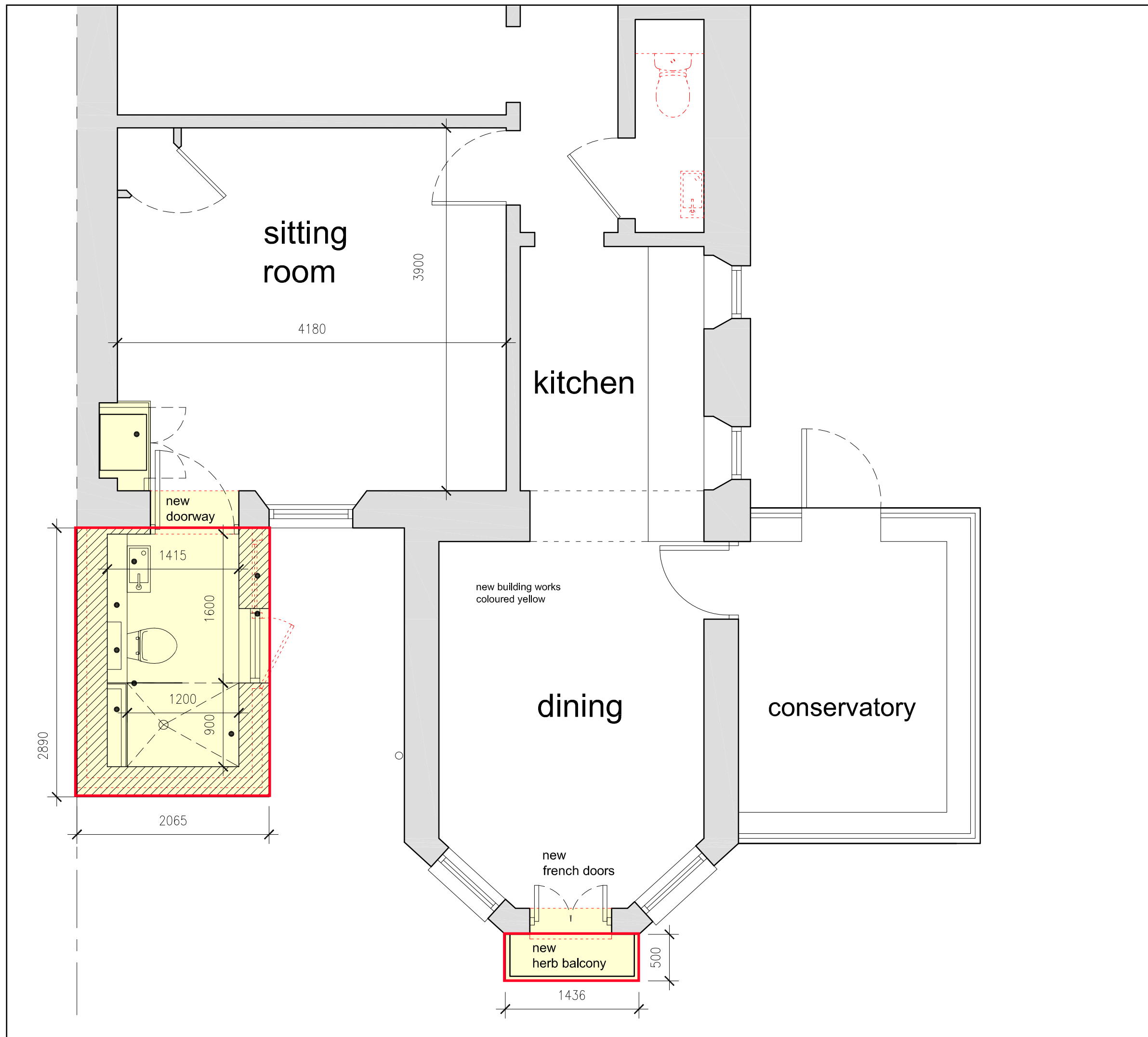
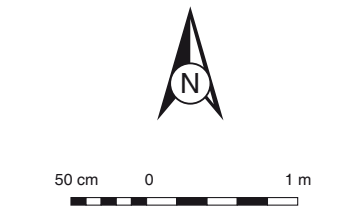


Figure 1: Location of the site at No.7 The Glebe, Cramond

Figure 2: Location of watching brief areas at No. 7, The Glebe, Cramond



 Area of monitored works



Based on a drawing supplied by the client

---

# **7 The Glebe, Cramond: Watching Brief Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

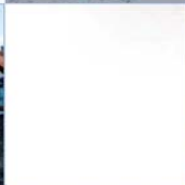
### Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1	Working shot of site	N
2	Registration shot	
3	General working shot	N
4	General working shot	NW
5	West-facing section of trench	W
6	General working shot	N

**APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	7 The Glebe, Cramond
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	21866
<b>PARISH:</b>	Cramond
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Martin Cook and Tom Bradley Lovekin
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 18903 76603
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2011
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2011
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was undertaken during ground breaking works associated with the construction of an extension to the existing building at 7 The Glebe, Cramond, which is within the area of Cramond Roman fort. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified. However, as the ground breaking works did not encounter the natural subsoil, the possibility remains that as yet unidentified Roman remains exist below the development.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Urban Creatures
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	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](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)