

Ravelrig Wynd, Balerno, Edinburgh: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21834
9th March 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

Ravlerig Wynd, Balerno, Edinburgh:

Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	CALA Homes (East) Ltd Cairnlee House Callendar Business Park Callander Road Falkirk FK1 1XE
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 1593 6686
AOC Project No:	21834
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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 proposed residential development at Ravelrig Wynd, Balerno, Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT 1593 6686).

The development area (Planning Reference 10/02465/FUL) totals 0.76 ha, but more than half the site is covered by mature trees that are protected and will be retained by the development therefore the land under threat by the development and thus available for trial trenching was 0.38 ha. The archaeological evaluation comprised excavation of a 10% trenching sample, equating to 380 m².

In total seven trenches were excavated. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by CALA Homes (East) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed residential development at Ravelrig Wynd, Balerno, Edinburgh. The proposed development takes in an area of existing green space with mature trees within a greater area of residential properties (Planning Reference 10/02465/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). CECAS recommended a programme of archaeological works in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010) and *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2011) was agreed with CECAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The evaluation was designed around a 10% trenching sample, although the footprints of existing buildings were excluded. The presence of a number of live services and public footpaths also affected the distribution of the evaluation trenches.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation identified neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development area lies within Balerno on the western outskirts of the City of Edinburgh, at Ravelrig Wynd (NGR: NT 1593 6686). The development area is currently an area of rough grassland with a bank of mature trees within what is now a fully residential setting. Ravelrig Drive forms the eastern and southern boundaries of the site with properties from Ravelrig Gait forming the western boundary. To the north a stone wall fronts onto Lanark Road West.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The development area lies within the grounds of the converted Ravelrig House (NMRS NT16NE 60). The estate of Ravelrig first appears in charters dating to 1454 though its origins may date back to the mid-14th century when its twin estate, Pilmuir, is first mentioned in the Register of the Great Seals. Archaeological works between 2002 & 2005 established that historic core of Ravelrig House dates to the late-16th/ early-17th centuries, perhaps two hundred earlier than previously suspected. This work along with historic research and associated excavations established a broad chronological development (five main phases were recorded) from an original semi-fortified Laird's House, a three-storied 17th century mansion, with subsequent major redevelopment's taking place during the late-18th and later-19th centuries before the western half of the current building was added in the 1920s. Much of the remaining (listed) estate buildings and walls have been dated to the early part of the 18th century, though the remains of the single storey block attached to the western side of the stables may date from the late 17th century. The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland also list the farmstead, kennels, stables and garage as NMRS NT19NE 60.02 with the gatepiers NMRS NT19NE 60.03, walled garden NMRS NT19NE 60.04 and the doocot NMRS NT19NE 60.05.

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 Trenching comprised the excavation of eight trenches of varying size and orientation located across the entire site. The distribution was in close agreement with the WSI's trenching plan (Dunbar 2011).
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by means of a JCB 3CX excavator equipped with a 2.0 m wide toothless ditching bucket. 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 backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken on 2nd and 3rd March 2011. Overall weather conditions were good, comprising overcast but dry conditions yielding good archaeological visibility. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3 and Figure 2.
- 4.1.2 The generally flat development area was a mixture of rough grassland, mature trees and some discreet planting of young trees. The north-eastern half of the site contained almost all of the mature trees and was subject to a 'Root Protection' order, thus it was excluded from trenching as the proposed development was not going to impact upon that part of the development area.
- 4.1.3 In total seven trenches covering 384 m² were opened across the site. Trenches Tr.1 and Tr.4 revealed a typical greenfield site stratigraphy of topsoil over natural subsoil. This was repeated in the western end of Trenches Tr.2 and Tr.3. However the remainder of trenches Tr.2 and Tr.3, as well as the entirety of Trenches Tr.5, Tr.6 and Tr.7, revealed a different history of landuse. Here, underlying the topsoil, was found made ground consisted of two

main layers. The upper layer, covering the largest area, consisted of compacted hardcore varying in thickness from a few centimetres up to 0.45 m. This was relatively clean and had obviously been deliberately dumped and rolled into place to create an area of hardstanding. Below this was a more patchy and variable layer of general building site debris including cabling, fencing, wood, plastic, and a whole variety of brick, tile, paving and kerbing fragments. Some of this material had been buried in machine dug pits in Tr.2 and Tr.7. All of this material was modern in date probably from the last decade or so.



Plate 1: Southeast-facing section of Tr.3 showing extent of compacted hardcore layer

- 4.1.4 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the evaluation. The only artefacts (ceramics and glass sherds) noted during the evaluation were modern in date, the majority dating from the latter part of the 19th Century and/or early part of the 20th century.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 From examination of recent aerial images of the site it is clear that the development area has seen recent use as a 'site compound' when the surrounding residential properties were constructed. The findings of the evaluation confirm this with the rolled hardcore providing an area of hardstanding probably for vehicles or site welfare units. This has resulted in the site being severely disturbed. Given the amount of hardcore and presence of buried building site debris it appears the area may have been used either over a prolonged time or on more than one occasion.

- 5.2 Regardless of the exact extent of recent landuse the result is that the site has been extensively disturbed, and more importantly, no significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the evaluation. The significant balance of probability is that the site is free of significant archaeological material.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

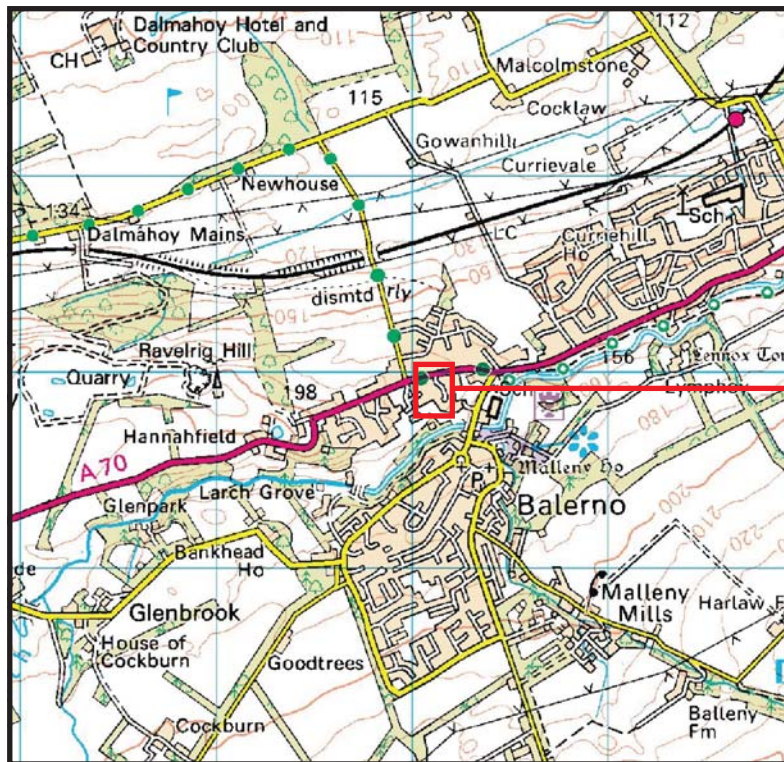
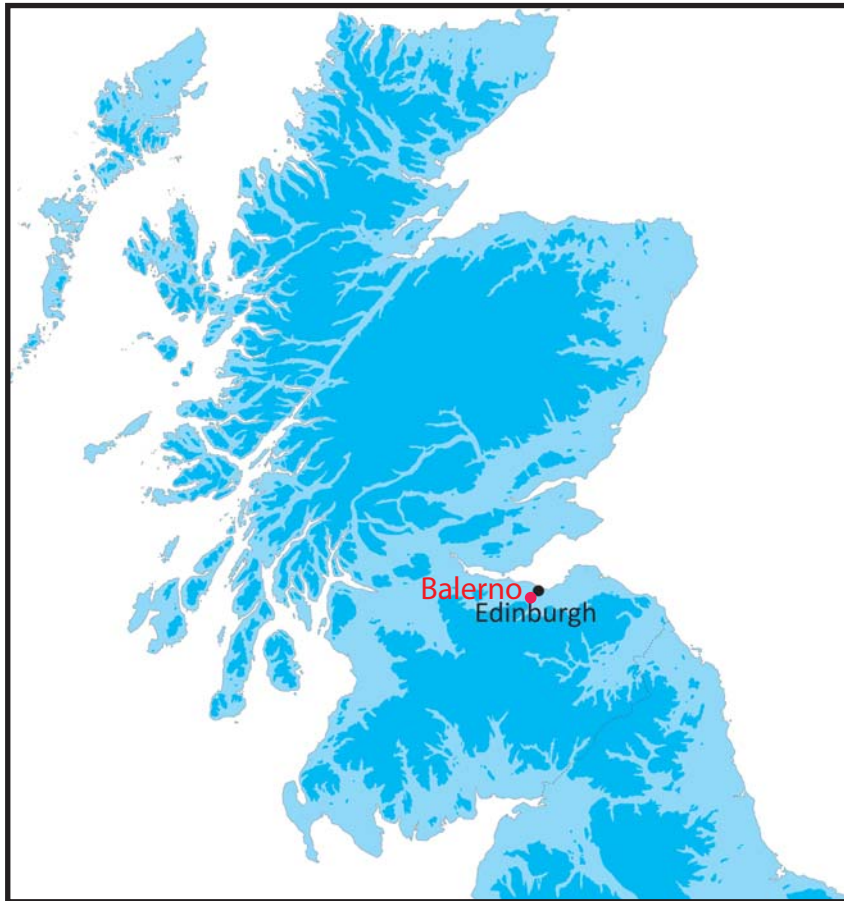
- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS on behalf of Edinburgh City Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Dunbar, L. 2011 Ravelrig Wynd, Balerno, Edinburgh: *Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Archive Document.

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

The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994. *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994.



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Ravelrig Wynd, Balerno

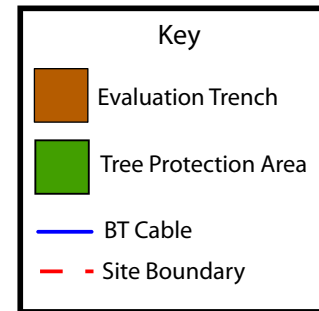
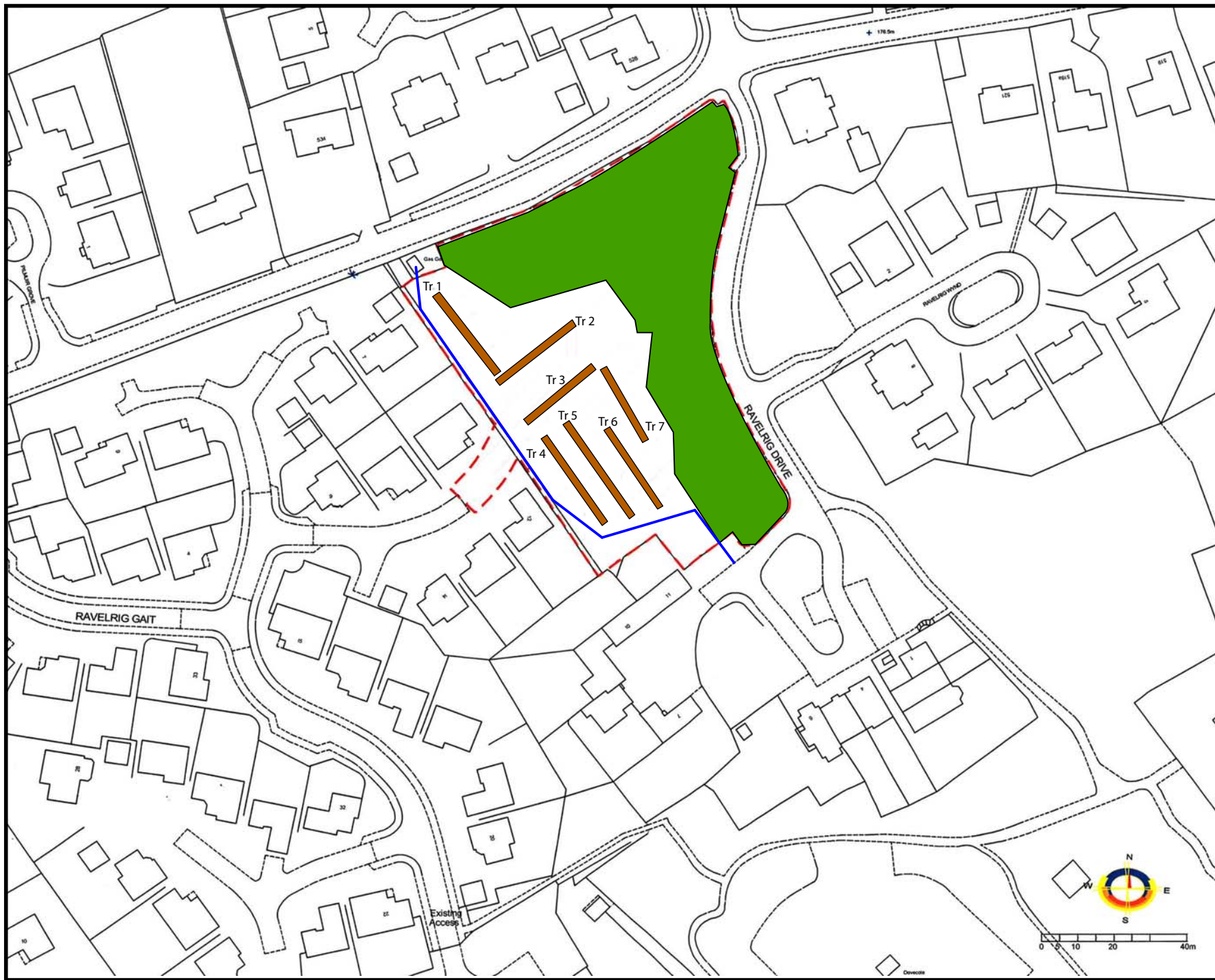


Figure 2: Evaluation trench location at Ravelrig Wynd

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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	28.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Up to 0.50 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Up to 0.55 m
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	Topsoil consisted of an organic rich sandy matrix between 0.34 m and 0.50 m thick which lay directly overlay the natural geology.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/Brown sandy clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	No features
<i>Finds</i>	Small quantities of modern ceramic and glass noted within topsoil along with building debris such as fragments of tile, brick and wood

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	26.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Up to 0.36 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Up to 0.65 m
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	The first 8 m of the trench from the SW end followed the same pattern as Tr.1 with topsoil consisting of an organic rich sandy matrix between 0.25 m and 0.36 m thick lying directly overlying the natural drift geology. From this point onwards the topsoil thinned to on average of 0.20 m and was underlain by a layer of compacted hardcore up to 0.25 m thick. In places the hardcore overlay another layer of modern crushed building debris including stone, brick, tile, paving and more general building site debris such as plastic, metal, cabling. In total this context and the hardcore layer above was up to 0.45 m deep. They both overlay the natural geology.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/Brown sandy clay
<i>Modern Features</i>	At between 3.0 m and 5.5 m there was a straight sided modern machine dug pit extending from the NW facing section. The pit was filled with modern building debris such as brick, paving, kerbstones and tiles.
<i>Finds</i>	Small quantities of modern ceramic and glass noted within topsoil along with building debris such as fragments of tile, brick and wood.

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	27.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Up to 0.31 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Up to 0.70 m
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	The first 4 m of the trench from the SW end followed the same pattern as Tr.1/Tr.2 with topsoil consisting of an organic rich sandy matrix between 0.15 m and 0.31 m thick lying directly over the natural drift geology. From this point onwards the topsoil thinned to on average 0.15 m and was underlain by a layer of compacted hardcore up to 0.25 m thick. In places the hardcore overlay another layer of modern crushed building debris including stone, brick, tile, paving and more general building site debris such as plastic, metal, cabling. In total this context and the hardcore layer above was up to 0.50 m deep.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/Brown sandy clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	No cut features
<i>Finds</i>	Small quantities of modern ceramic and glass noted within topsoil along with building debris such as fragments of tile, brick and wood.

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	30.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Up to 0.45 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Up to 0.50 m
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	Topsoil consisted of an organic rich sandy matrix between 0.34 m and 0.45 m thick which lay directly over the natural geology.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/Brown sandy clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	No features
<i>Finds</i>	Small quantities of modern ceramic and glass noted within topsoil along with building debris such as fragments of tile, brick and wood

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	32.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Up to 0.21 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Up to 0.75 m
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	The first 6 m of the trench from the SE end were dominated by a large cut feature mostly filled with the remains of a felled tree, braches and pieces of trunk but also containing cabling, wire and plastic. The pit extended over the entire trench base and was at least 0.70 m deep but was not bottomed. From this point onwards the trench followed the pattern of Trenches 2 and 3 with topsoil, on average 0.15 m deep, underlain by a layer of compacted hardcore up to 0.25 m thick. In places the hardcore was over another layer of modern crushed building debris including stone, brick, tile, paving and more general building site debris such as plastic, metal, cabling. In total this context and the hardcore layer above was up to 0.10 m deep.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/Brown sandy clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	No cut features
<i>Finds</i>	Small quantities of modern ceramic and glass noted within topsoil along with building debris such as fragments of tile, brick and wood.

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	26.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Up to 0.25 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Up to 0.65 m
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	All of this trench followed the pattern of Trenches 2 and 3 with topsoil, on average 0.18 m deep, underlain by a layer of compacted hardcore up to 0.45 m thick. In places the hardcore was over another layer of modern crushed building debris including stone, brick, tile, paving and more general building site debris such as plastic, metal, cabling. In total this context and the hardcore layer above was up to 0.50 m deep. They both overlay the natural drift geology.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/Brown sandy clay with patches of sand
<i>Significant Features</i>	No cut features
<i>Finds</i>	Small quantities of modern ceramic and glass noted within topsoil along with building debris such as fragments of tile, brick and wood.

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	23.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Up to 0.15 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Up to 0.70 m

<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	All of this trench followed the pattern of Trenches 2 and 3 with topsoil, on average 0.12 m deep, underlain by a layer of compacted hardcore up to 0.45 m thick. In places the hardcore was over another layer of modern crushed building debris including stone, brick, tile, paving and more general building site debris such as plastic, metal, cabling. In total this context and the hardcore layer above was up to 0.55 m deep.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange/Brown sandy clay with patches of sand
<i>Modern Features</i>	At between 6.5 m and 9.0 m from SE end there was a straight sided modern machine dug pit extending across the trench. The pit was filled with modern building debris such as brick, paving, kerbstones and tiles. The trench was also crossed by a plastic drainage pipe and a cable.
<i>Finds</i>	Small quantities of modern ceramic and glass noted within topsoil along with building debris such as fragments of tile, brick and wood.

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Black & White Print/ /Digital Film 1

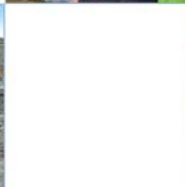
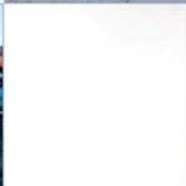
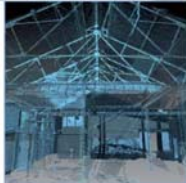
Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2	-	General view of the site from NW corner of site	NW
3-4	Tr.1	Tr.1 during excavation	NW
5-6	Tr.1	Tr.1 Post excavation	SE
7-8	-	Registration shot	-
9-10	Tr.2	Tr.2 Post excavation	SW
11-12	Tr.3	Tr.3 during excavation	SW
13-14	Tr.3	SE-Facing section of Tr.3	SE
15-16	Tr.3	NW-Facing section of Tr.3	NW
17-18	Tr.3	Tr.3 Post excavation	SW
19-20	Tr.4	Tr.4 during excavation	SE
21-22	Tr.4	Tr.4 Post excavation	SE
23-24	Tr.5	Tr.5 during excavation	SE
25-26	Tr.5	Tr.5 Post excavation	SE
27-28	Tr.6	Tr.6 during excavation	SE
29-30	Tr.6	Tr.6 Post excavation	SE
31-32	Tr.7	Tr.7 during excavation	SE
33-34	Tr.7	Tr.7 Post excavation	SE

Digital Film

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	General view of the site from NW corner of site	NW
2	Tr.1	Tr.1 during excavation	NW
3	Tr.1	Tr.1 Post excavation	SE
4	-	Registration shot	-
5	Tr.2	Tr.2 Post excavation	SW
6	Tr.3	Tr.3 during excavation	SW
7	Tr.3	SE-Facing section of Tr.3	SE
8	Tr.3	NW-Facing section of Tr.3	NW
9	Tr.3	Tr.3 Post excavation	SW
10	Tr.4	Tr.4 during excavation	SE
11	Tr.4	Tr.4 Post excavation	SE
12	Tr.5	Tr.5 during excavation	SE
13	Tr.5	Tr.5 Post excavation	SE
14	Tr.6	Tr.6 during excavation	SE
15	Tr.6	Tr.6 Post excavation	SE
16	Tr.7	Tr.7 during excavation	SE
17-19	Tr.7	Tr.7 Post excavation	SE

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Ravelrig Wynd, Balerno, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21834
PARISH:	Currie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
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:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 1593 6686
START DATE (this season)	2 nd March 2011
END DATE (this season)	3 rd March 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to a proposed residential development at Ravelrig Wynd, Balerno, Edinburgh.</p> <p>The development area totalled 0.76 ha but approximately half the site was covered by protected trees; thus land available for trial trenching amounted to 0.38 ha. The archaeological evaluation comprised excavation of a 10% trenching sample, equating to 380 m².</p> <p>In total seven trenches were excavated with the two along the south-western boundary both revealing a typical greenfield section of topsoil over natural subsoil. The remaining trenches all contained layers of compacted hardcore, temporary service ducts, building debris, fencing, cabling and general detritus.</p> <p>No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the evaluation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	CALA Homes (East) Ltd
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



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