

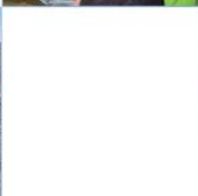
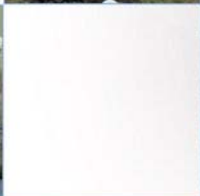
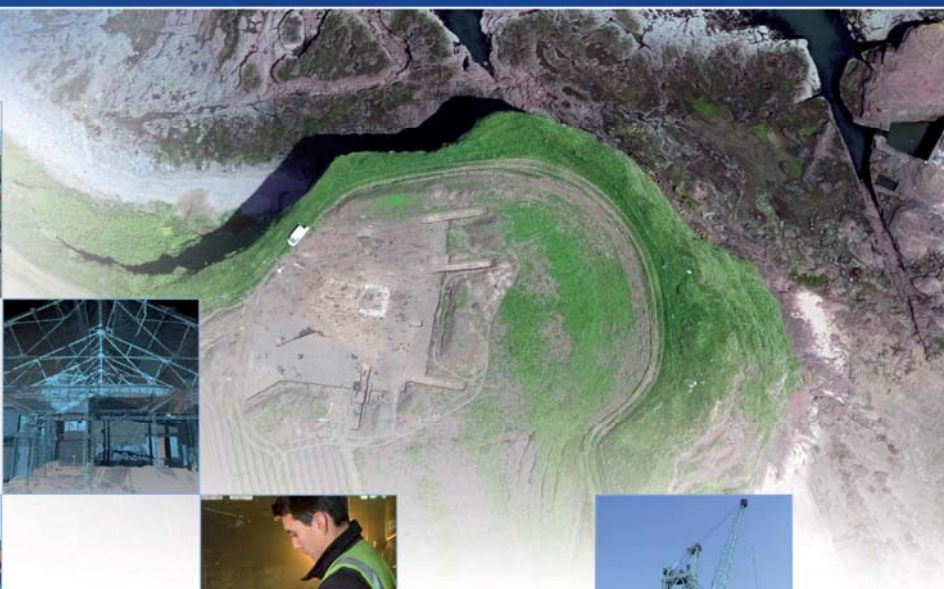
Peffermill Playing Fields, Peffermill Road Edinburgh:

Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22095

16th July 2012

OASIS Number: aocarcha1-129891



Peffermill Playing Fields East, Peffermill Road, Edinburgh.

Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **University of Edinburgh**
Old College,
South Bridge,
Edinburgh
EH8 9YL

National Grid Reference (NGR): **NT 2792 7146**

AOC Project No: **22095**

Prepared by: **Alan Duffy**

Illustration by: **Jake Streatfeild-James**

Date of Fieldwork: **29th May - 6th July 2012**

Date of Report: **16th July 2012**

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

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Date: 16/07/2012

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Date: 16/07/2012

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Abstract

An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground breaking works associated with the installation of a synthetic rugby pitch at Peffermill Playing Fields, Peffermill Road, Edinburgh (NT 2792 7146).

The watching brief works were undertaken across the full extent of the installation due to the proximity of the scheduled areas of Holyrood Abbey, Palace Gardens & Park and Craigmillar Castle which lie to the north and south respectively.

No significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the Watching Brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by the University of Edinburgh's Estates & Buildings Department to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during topsoil stripping works associated with the installation of a synthetic rugby pitch at Peffermill Playing Fields, Peffermill Road, Edinburgh (Planning Ref No:11/04052/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) and were designed to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service, CECAS, who advise the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) outlining the programme of archaeological works was agreed with CECAS in advance of the watching brief being undertaken.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the south of the western end of Peffermill Road within land currently in use as playing fields by Edinburgh University. It is centred on NGR: NT 2792 7146.

1.3 Historical & Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 There are no known archaeological sites within the installation area, however the scheduled areas of Holyrood Abbey, Palace Gardens & Park and Craigmillar Castle lie to the north and south respectively.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
 - i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the creation of the new synthetic rugby pitch;
 - 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 All ground breaking works associated with the installation were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The ground-breaking works were undertaken with a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a 2.20 m toothless ditching bucket. The area was stripped in a series of north-south linear strips. The Watching Brief was halted when clean natural subsoil was observed across the entire installation area. A digital photographic record was kept during the ground breaking works (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

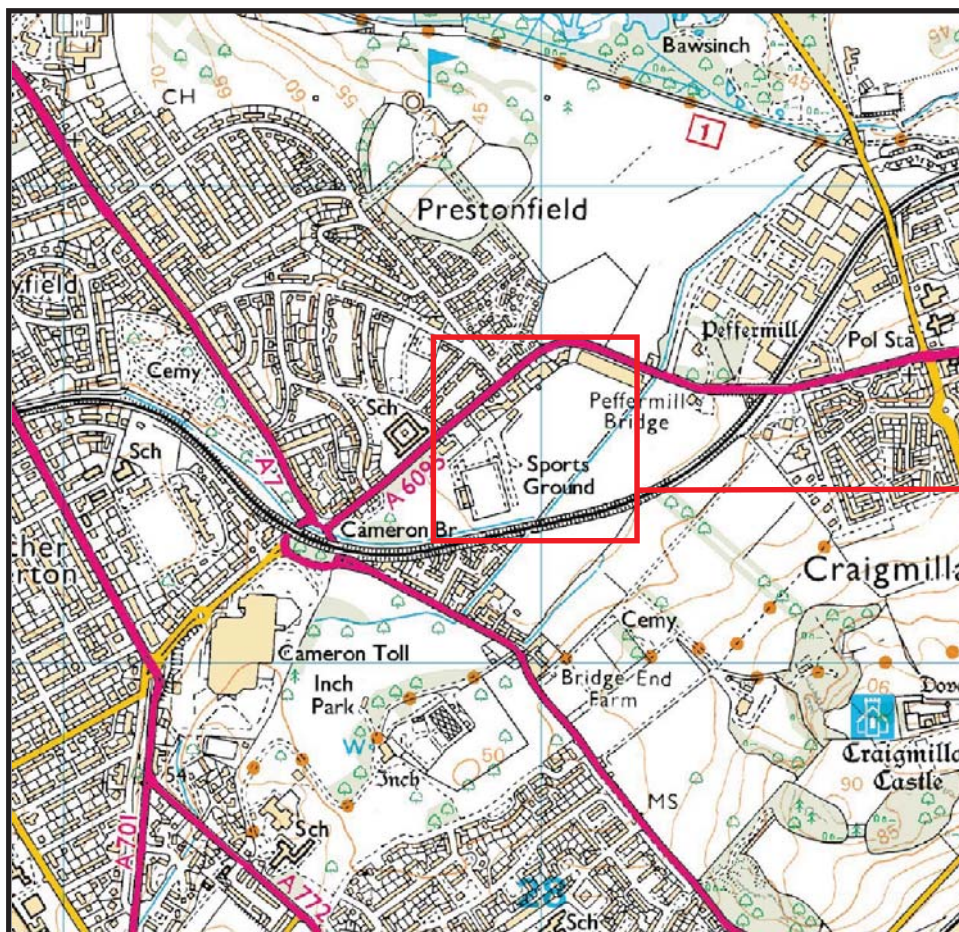
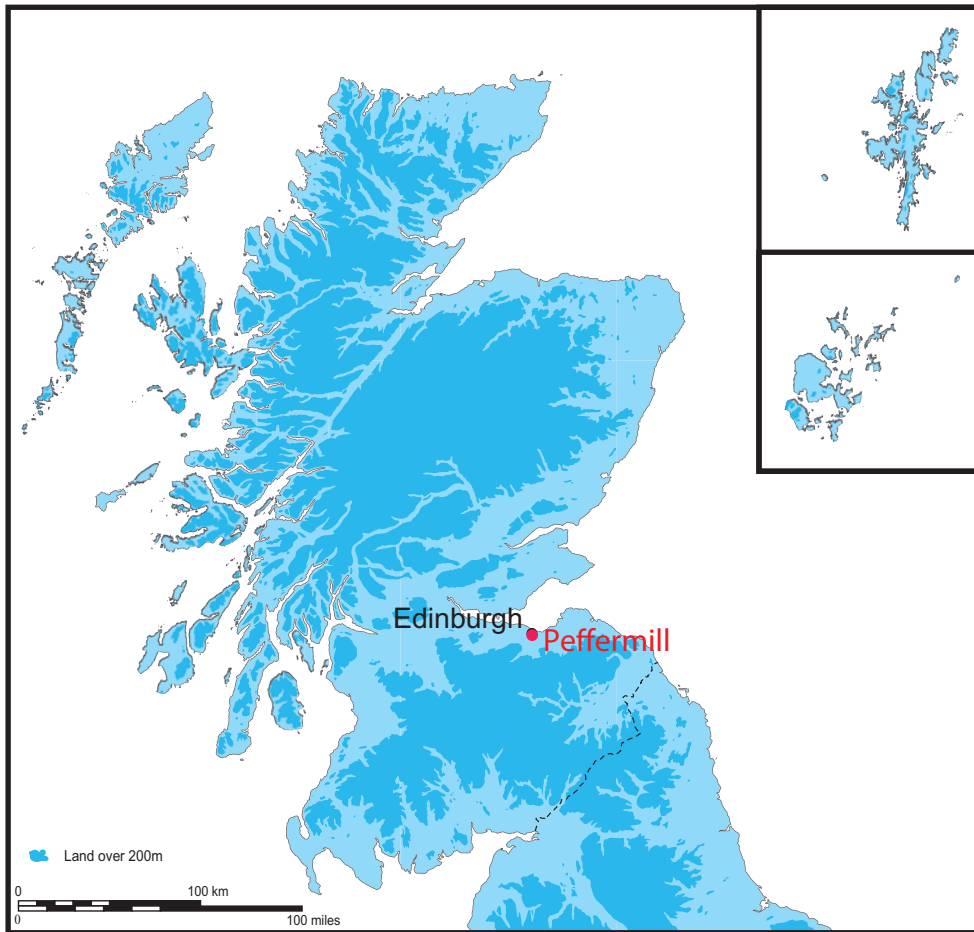
- 4.1 The watching brief was undertaken on an intermittent basis between 29th May and 6th July 2012 in mixed weather conditions. Archaeological visibility was nevertheless good.
- 4.2 The watching brief monitored the reduction of topsoil by mechanical excavator across the entire installation area. The topsoil consisted of a brown organic sandy soil between 0.20 to 0.45 m in depth. The natural subsoil was, in the main, a yellow/brown clay which was cut by numerous intercutting drainage features.
- 4.3 Neither significant structural remains nor negative features were observed during the watching brief. Likewise no unstratified artefactual material was observed.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The watching brief revealed neither significant archaeological features, deposits nor artefacts.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

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



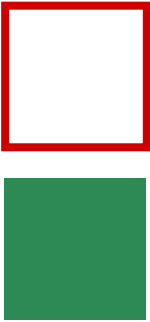
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2012 All rights reserved. Licence number 100023757.

Figure 1: Location of the site at Peffermill



Produced 26/10/2011 from the Ordnance Survey National Geographic Database and incorporating surveyed revision available at this date. © Crown Copyright 2011

Serial number: 001007206



Development Area

Sports pitch footprint

Based on a drawing supplied by the client

Figure 2: Area of monitored works Peffermill, Edinburgh

Peffermill Playing Fields East, Peffermill Road, Edinburgh:

Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Frame	Description	From
1-4	Pre excavation shots	N
5	Soil Strip 1	S
6	Soil Strip 1	S
7	Soil Strip 2	S
8	Soil Strip 2	S
9	Soil Strip 3	S
10	Soil Strip 3	N
11	Soil Strip 4	S
12	Soil Strip 5	S
13	Soil Strip 6	s
14-15	Soil Strip to south of main area	S
16	Soil Strip 8 in progress	S
17	Drainage digging at south end	E
18-20	Post excavation shots	N

APPENDIX 2: Archive Location

The project archive is currently held at;

AOC Archaeology Group

Edgfield Road Industrial Estate

Edgefield Road

Loanhead

Edinburgh

EH20 9SY.

The project archive will eventually be deposited with;

The National Monuments Record

Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland

John Sinclair House

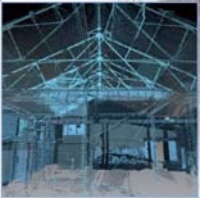
16 Bernard Terrace

Edinburgh

EH8 9X

APPENDIX 3: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Peffermill Playing Fields East.
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22095
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2792 7146
START DATE (this season)	29 th May 2012
END DATE (this season)	6 th July 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on ground breaking works associated with the installation of a synthetic rugby pitch. No significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the Watching Brief.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	University of Edinburgh
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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